

AGSC Demonstration Workshop – 15 July 2009

The Access Grid Support Centre (AGSC) held a demonstration workshop of collaborative technology and its implementation within FE colleges to improve student teaching and learning. Five participants from three different colleges attended the event which took place on 15 July.



The workshop commenced with an open discussion session to discover participants' video conferencing needs, current infrastructure at their institutions and their understanding of video collaboration tools such as Access Grid. This discussion was followed by two presentations given by the AGSC which detailed the fundamentals of collaborative technology and described services and support offered by the AGSC.

Demonstrations of collaboration software ICOM, Access Grid and EVO were given during and after the presentations, highlighting their collaborative tools such as desktop sharing and data sharing.

After lunch, participants split into three groups to take part in a hands-on session. The groups spread across three different nodes within the University enabling them to get a feel for different aspects of the technologies and see how different types of node work.

The day concluded with a final discussion session where participants were encouraged to think about possible uses and implementation of the technology at their colleges. Some of the uses suggested were:

- Management and departmental meetings over a split-site campus
- Setting up and facilitating collaborative projects and links
- Distance learning (seminars and lectures)

Overall, feedback from the participants was positive, and they were very impressed with the technology. All attendees were given temporary IDs and licence keys to enable them to try the technologies at their respective colleges. The AGSC will remain in close contact with those who attended the workshop, with the aim of encouraging and supporting implementation of the technologies in their institutions in the future.

These demonstration workshops will be held monthly as part of the AGSC Outreach Strategy to publicise our services to the JANET community and beyond.