

Implement Microsoft Office Communications Server (OCS)

April 28, 2009

Rationale

The University needs a secure, online chat system to replace the dozens of *insecure* third party chat systems currently in use, as well as a simple and easy to use desktop video and audio conferencing system. Finally, the University needs a simple desktop sharing capability for collaboration and workstation support. OCS provides these capabilities fully integrated with the UF Exchange email system, including UF Exchange at the HSC. UF Exchange serves over 9,000 faculty and staff.

Goals

1. Implement OCS in a “proof of concept” configuration integrated with UF Exchange and UF Exchange at the HSC. This configuration provides low-cost service for up to 5,000 users.
2. Provide information to end users and support staff regarding requirements for the following OCS services:
 - **Presence indicators:** users elect to provide information to other UF Exchange users regarding their workstation presence. The system indicates whether or not a user is at their workstation.
 - **Secure, integrated chat:** the chat service uses GatorLink authentication and is fully integrated with UF Exchange.
 - **Audio services:** during a chat session, users can switch to audio and conduct voice conversations over their computers without using a phone.
 - **Video services:** during a chat session, users can switch to video, providing desktop video conferencing.
 - **Desktop Sharing:** during a chat session, users can share their desktop with others in the chat session supporting collaboration and workstation support.

Project Sponsors

Dr. Mike Conlon

Impact

UF Exchange users have the option to use the new OCS services. No change to existing operations is required. The optional services include desktop presence, secure, integrated desktop chat, and desktop audio and video conferencing. Requirements to access these services include:

- An enterprise client access license, available for approximately \$9 per year per user.
- To access audio services, users need speakers and a microphone on their computer or a headset.
- To access video services, users need a web camera in addition to the audio services described above. Web cameras are available for under \$100.

2009 Timeline

- May 2009: test environment is available
- June 2009: testing integration with existing PolyCom and other video conferencing technologies
- July 2009: production OCS services for UF Exchange and UF Exchange at the HSC is available