Virtual Communications for BC courses

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Our session today

- Pedagogical uses
- Programs
  - Skype
  - Adobe Connect
- Best practices
- Getting started and support

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Pedagogical Uses

- Virtual office hours
- Virtual presentations
- Virtual instruction
- Peer learning

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Skype: Office Hours

- Time/location flexibility
- Share documents
- Text chat
- Virtual supervision

Skype: Virtual Presentation

- Show guest presenter live
- Allow presenter to see the classroom
- Record the presentation (optional)
- Instruct from remote location

Peer Learning

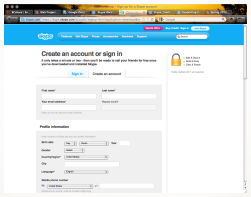
- Language practice
- Collaborative work
- Field work

Premium Skype

- Up to ~ 6 participants
- Connectivity concerns
- Cost
  - $10 per month, $4 per year
  - Department purchases

Getting started: Skype

https://login.skype.com/account/signup-form



Adobe Connect overview

- Developed for education
- Differentiated roles
- Extensive features
  - Presentation
  - Interaction

Adobe Connect status options

- Roles:
  - Host
  - Presenter
  - Participant
- Access:
  - Login by passcode
  - Login as guest

Adobe Connect: Presentation

- Content:
  - Files
  - Screensharing
  - URLs
- Interaction
  - Chat
  - Participation options
  - Optional audio and video

Adobe Connect: Discussion

- Multiple video
- Poll
- Q&A
- Break-out rooms

Adobe Connect: Collaboration

- Whiteboard
- Notes
- Files

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Getting started: Adobe Connect

- Install Presenter add-on
- Run audio wizard
- Set up room layout

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Best practices

- Combine resources
  - Preview content
  - Use hand-outs in class
- Focus the discussion
  - Send questions ahead of time
  - Plan flow of communication
- Record the exchange

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Getting started: support

- eteach@bc.edu
- Assessment
- Test call
  - Replicate event conditions
  - 1 week or more in advance
- Back-up plan

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Getting started: hardware

- Built-in mic or headset
- Web cam
- High-speed internet connection

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Skype Documentation

- From IDeS staff:
  - Resource sheet for getting started
  - Checklist for classroom use
- From Skype:
  - https://support.skype.com/en-us/
  - Excellent documentation, limited live help

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Adobe Connect Documentation

- From IDeS staff:
  - Best practices document
  - Checklist for classroom use
- From Adobe Connect:
  - http://www.adobe.com/support/connect/gettingstarted/index.html
  - Lists number for 24/7 in meeting support

Pedagogical Resources

Skype: 15 Resources

http://www.educause.edu/Resources/Browse/Skype/30739

- 7 Things you should know about Skype
- Blog from instructor's perspective

Adobe Connect

http://its.psu.edu/training/handouts/TFT_connectpro.pdf

Review of use cases