



Multipoint Control Units (MCUs)

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Multipoint Control Units: Hardware vs Software

■ Hardware

- Dedicated, real-time operating system
- Generally works well
- RADVISION
- Accord (Polycom)
- Tandberg

■ Software

- Based on Windows operating system in a server
- Historically don't work as well
- White Pine
- PictureTel

MCU Control Functions

- Defining a conference
 - Speed
 - Number of users
 - Multiple windows
- Operating a conference
 - Dial out
 - Dial in
- Monitoring a conference
- Monitoring an MCU
- Cascading MCUs

- Continuous Presence
- Video-switching algorithms
- Remote control of far end
- Testing endpoints in advance

MCUs available in the market

- **RADVision H.323**
 - 9 ports at 384Kbps
 - \$18K
 - Small, simple, includes Gatekeeper
- **RADVision ViaIP**
 - 50 ports at 384Kbps, expandable
 - \$150K
 - Powerful, reliable; ECS Gatekeeper
- **Accord/Polycom NGK**
 - 48 ports at 384Kbps, Expandable multi Format capable
 - \$450K
 - Many advanced features; no Gatekeeper necessary
- **Tandberg**
 - 16 ports at 384Kbps
 - Many advanced features

RADVISION MCU-323

- 9 Users @ 384Kbps (5 @ 768Kbps, 15 @ 128Kbps)
- Built-in Web server. Provides operational control of who is in a conference and who has the floor. Also controls application sharing and MCU Cascading.
- Built-in Telnet server. Provides optional remote control and monitoring.
- PC remote configuration software. Provides conference definitions, names, and software updates.
- List price \$22.5K. Discounts as low as \$10K.

Tandberg MCU

- 16 users, 3 simultaneous conferences
- Support for H.264
- Embedded Encryption
- Supports ISDN and IP
- Embedded webserver for control and configuration
- Small 1U form factor, 19" Rackmountable

Polycom MGC

- 3 Flavors, 25, 50 and 100
- Capacity varies by configuration
- Support for H.264
- Can support ISDN, IP and ATM
- Separate Software control
- Priced by configuration

- 4 flavors 15, 30, 60, 100
- 384Kbps capacity by type
 - 15 → 12
 - 30 → 24
 - 60 → 42
 - 100 → 70
- Support for SIP
- Can add gateway cards
- Chassis based system, expandable
- Gatekeeper based dialing

Commons MCU Test Facility

- Three MCUs are available for testing and discussion.
 - Web interface
 - Telnet interface
 - PC interface
- The Commons will support remote or onsite (you come to Ohio) testing.
- Useful for assisting in evaluations for your own purchases.