

memetic

End User Partner Information Pack

Meeting Memory Technologies Informing Collaboration

memetic
www.memetic-vre.net

Introduction

Meetings pervade the life of almost all researchers, and increasingly, these take the form of telephone and videoconferences amongst geographically dispersed colleagues. Supporting distributed meetings that are as productive as face-to-face meetings is a primary challenge for research and development in this field. This is the motivation for this project. The specific aim of Memetic is to support asynchronous collaboration on the Access Grid.

In this pack we want to provide a plan of end user activities and introduce the Memetic technologies. The pack gives information on how you can be involved in the Memetic project and how the Memetic toolkit can work in your organisation.

Evaluation Researchers

If you have any questions about becoming an end user partner in Memetic, you might like to contact:

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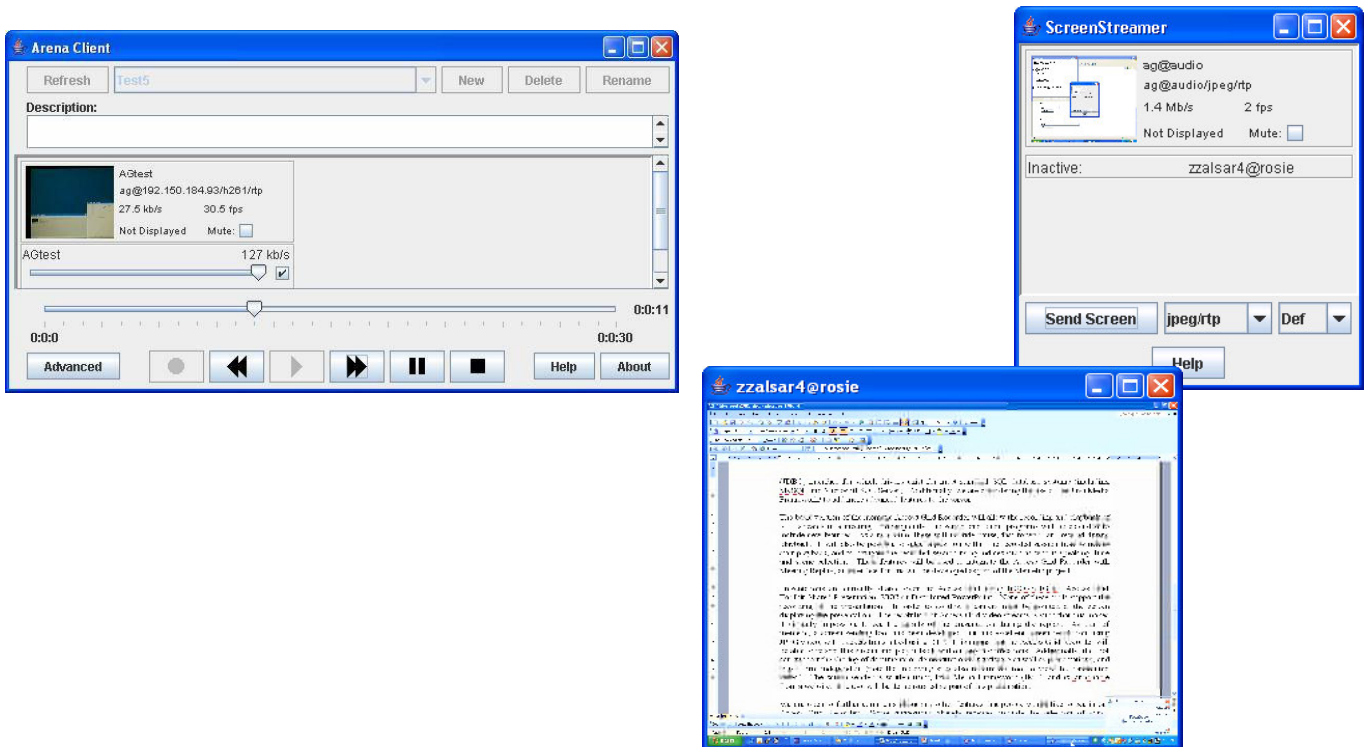
Timeline

The project is divided into a series of phases:

1. Definition of core requirements and initial development (April 2005 - January 2006)
2. Using Memetic technologies I (June 2005 - January 2006) - informal usage of technologies in development
3. Using Memetic technologies II (January 2006 - September 2006) - briefing workshop to be held in January 2006; debrief in June 2006.

End user partners are welcome to use the Memetic technologies at any time during the project, but it should be noted that the opportunity to contribute to requirements is limited: these will be mostly defined by July 2005. The main focus for the project is for partners to use the technologies and to discuss how they find them in their everyday work practice. This information will feed into an evaluation of usage from 2 and 3 above.

Arena and ScreenStreamer



Top Left: The Access Grid Recording and Playback Client.

Top Right: Screen Streamer. Bottom Right: Screen being transmitted

What Arena and ScreenStreamer Can Do

Arena (Activity Recorder and Navigator) is a new tool to allow the recording and playback/navigation of Access Grid meetings. Access Grid meetings often include an application sharing element, such as presentation sharing. Arena supports the recording of shared applications, and allows high-quality screen capture to be shared between Access Grid sites.

ScreenStreamer: The Arena recording software can only record media streams. Generally, application sharing software for Access Grid does not produce media streams. As a solution to this, ScreenStreamer was developed. This allows the user to send a copy of their screen as a media stream into an Access Grid session. Other users with the ScreenStreamer software can see this stream and display it on their Access Grid node. Arena can record and play back this stream. This means that users can watch the slides of a presentation, for example, alongside the presenter during the playback of a meeting.

Further Information

Arena: <http://www.memetic-vre.net/software/Arena>

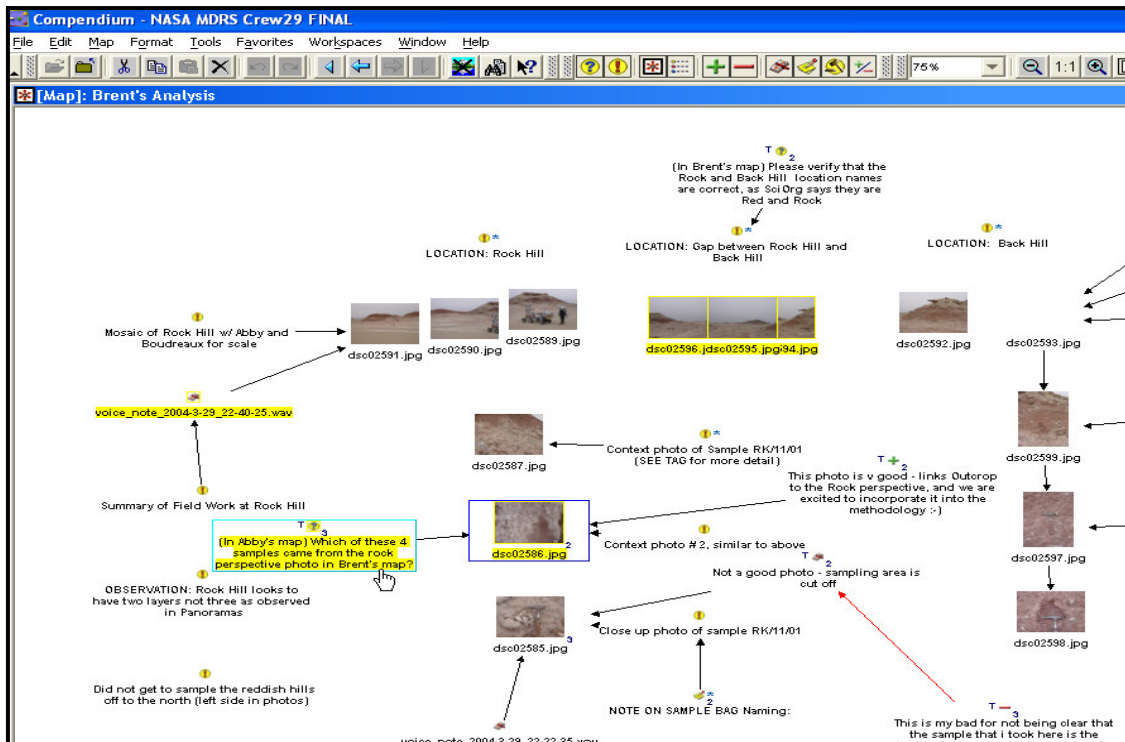
Arena User Guide: <http://memetic-vre.net/software/Arena/UserGuide/current/>

ScreenStreamer: <http://www.memetic-vre.net/software/ScreenStreamer>

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Compendium



A Compendium conceptual network. Example from the CoAKTinG project's testbed with NASA: geologists at one site (a Mars simulation) arranged photos of rock samples for analysis.

What Compendium Can Do

The Compendium tool, developed at the Open University, allows one to map discussions and documents into a conceptual network that grows during a meeting, and across meetings, as a collective memory resource. Compendium's three distinguishing features are its *visual notation*, *user interface*, and *hypermedia database*. Its visual notation of nodes and links, used to map key issues, possible responses and relevant arguments, is a powerful aid in questioning assumptions, recognising and integrating different perspectives, and building collective ownership of decisions and their rationale. Compendium's user interface is optimised for real time use in meetings, to capture and reflect back to participants the structure of ideas as they emerge, in maps that can be used as time-based semantic annotations if the meeting is being recorded. These maps are not 'flat' drawings, but views onto a relational database which can be rendered in multiple formats. A node can appear and be updated in multiple views, and be assigned user-defined semantic tags, providing a flexible medium for managing connections between nodes across different contexts. Nodes can link to any application document or URL dragged and dropped into a map, so an external document can be linked into a discussion.

Further Information

Compendium download: <http://www.compendiuminstitute.com>

Compendium showcase: www.compendiuminstitute.org/community/showcase.htm

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Meeting Replay

The screenshot displays the Meeting Replay client interface. The main window shows a map titled "Lith Canyon EVA Segment 1 Crew Planning Meeting 05/03/04" with several waypoints (WayPoint0 to WayPoint4) and annotations. Annotations include questions like "Where should Boudreaux take Panoramas?" and "Where should Boudreaux take Pictures?", and instructions like "Start Boudreaux Watch me when descending into the canyon starting at Fossil Hill". A video thumbnail in the top right shows a meeting in progress. Below the map, there is a metadata section with "Title: Lith Canyon EVA Segment 1 Planning Meeting - 3rd May 2004", "Date: Tue May 4 00:37:00 2004", and "Participants: Maarten, Brent, Abigail, John". A "Current Speaker: Maarten" section contains a note: "Make sure that Boudreaux is in line of sight from AstroOne. Thus move it to WP 2 and 3 at appropriate times". At the bottom, there is an agenda/compendium bar for participants (Abigail, Brent, John, Maarten) and a control panel with "Video Playing" (00h 20m 00s), "Group Sync" (Offline/Online), "Mode" (Master/Slave), and "Receiving" (Yes/No) options.

The web-based Meeting Replay client.

What Meeting Replay Can Do

Meeting Replay is a tool that enables the revisiting of specific ideas and topics discussed in a meeting. It allows annotation of video from a meeting and has a web-based replay client that replays the video streams in synchronisation with the annotations. These annotations are also used as an index to allow navigation of the recorded video. Annotations we have used so far include speaker identification, agenda items, presentation slides and creation of Compendium nodes.

One of the key benefits of Meeting Replay is that the annotations allow users to select high-level points of reference (e.g. Compendium nodes) from the recorded meeting and then "zoom in" to view detailed records such as video. This is in contrast to traditional forms of meeting record, such as minutes, which are typically brief and serve only as an aid to memory, or full video logs which are verbose, making it difficult to locate sections of interest.

Future developments include integration with the Arena record/playback tool and more automated generation of annotations.

Further Information

To view Meeting Replay examples: <http://www.aktors.org/coacting/mars/>

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