Now introducing “v-Courts”

Phil Farrelly, Potter Farrelly Consulting

Definition of a v-Court

“Multi-media computer and communications based virtual court environment designed to allow the participants to interact and exchange information with multiple geographically dispersed parties.”

Components of a successful v-Court

- “SuperBand” communications
  - Multi-channel quality video conferencing
- Hosted information services to provide –
  - remote recording of hearing (full A/V)
  - remote transcription of hearing
  - provision and management of digital documents/evidence
- Physical facilities to enhance the “remote digital experience” – Immersive experience
Video Conferencing – “Next Gen”

- Adoption and use of “Telepresence” systems
- Systems to provide “back channels” to distribute documents and allow participants to communicate “privately” during the session. (IM)

Personal teleconference/meeting systems

Internet based “personal” systems such as…
- Skype
- WebEx
- GotoMeeting (allows remote control of documents)

(Quality improving as computers/comms develop – now possible on most mobile phones etc.)

Hosted information systems and A/V hubs

- Provision of scalable data systems to store and manage large volumes of multi-format data
- A/V hubs that allow aggregation of sessions – e.g. Virtual meeting space.
  - Secure remote access via “SuperBand” data pipes
Remote recording and transcription

- Full digital capture of A/V and evidence
- Realtime or delayed transcription – full or partial on-demand transcription
- Hosted systems to allow secure access, playback, search, linking and annotation of transcript and A/V material
- Capture of materials created during meeting – e.g. Whiteboard capture

Physical support and environment

- Facility to support single or multiple participants
- Screen and system layout – easy to use and sympathetic to process – supports line of sight
- Integrated information sharing with computer support
- Digital whiteboards, touch screens etc.
- Shared workspaces (e.g. MS-SharePoint)
- Portable systems
The future “Avatar” world

- Development of “immersion” technologies – interactive digital existence.
  http://www.t-immersion.com

- Hosted v-spaces configured to the needs of the participants – sitting in a virtual room with the sights and sounds of a real room.

- You can even look better in the v-Room!

- Can you recreate the formality and presence of a courtroom?

---

Rules and Rights

- Development of protocols and procedures required to support and protect participants.

- Do we need to maintain the right to appearing “in the flesh”?

- Acceptance of the digital record as the official record.

---

Potter Farrelly Consulting
Vendor independent consultants specialising in:

- **eCourts**
  - Document management, databases, transcript management and hosted systems
  - Protocol development

- **eFiling and Case Management**
  - design, implementation and change management

- **Litigation Technology Support** – for law firms and their clients

- Strategic advice, training and education.