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Subject: Technology Success Stories: Videoconferencing and Faronics Insight
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Success Stories

Technology Services has been asking faculty and staff to share how they incorporate technology into their classes. Below are two additional stories we would like to share. If you have a success story you would like to share, please [submit a COBIS request](#).

Videoconferencing

Many instructors use guest lecturers to give their students a chance to learn from and interact with subject matter experts (SME's). Management instructor Scott Christianson believes that the incorporation of videoconferencing in the classroom is a great way to make SME's more accessible to students widening the perspectives delivered during class. Videoconferencing reduces both the monetary and temporal difficulties of using guest speakers, allowing it to be done more frequently and with less hassle. Christianson also notes that incorporating a guest speaker through videoconferencing enables instructors to use more speakers in a single class period as the barriers are greatly reduced. When compared to using YouTube videos, Christianson finds videoconferencing superior because it allows for more spontaneity and interaction, which he believes makes students pay more attention in class.



Christianson uses a videoconferencing system called [Lifesize](#) to allow his students to interact with SME's. Lifesize allows him to record the sessions, as well as stream them out. He uses this for his course that discusses unified communications to show students what they can expect to encounter in the workplace and how to manage virtual teams using technology. Instead of just hearing a guest speaker talk about technology uses in the business world, students actually get to see it in use firsthand during class. The new generation of videoconferencing makes the technology easier, more flexible, and provides higher quality.

Technology Services is investigating purchasing a Lifesize system but it should be noted that many of the same features can be found in many software tools

including Skype or Lync. To discuss implementation in your classroom, please [submit a COBIS request](#).

Faronics Insight

Faronics Insight is a lab-monitoring software that also promotes collaboration in the classroom. It allows instructors to see all of their student's screens in a classroom; control what students can access during class; interact with them through polls or chat; display a student's screen to the whole class to show what they are working on; as well as push information to a student's screen. Insight is currently installed in Cornell labs 003, 004, and 005. Scott Christianson is one of the instructors currently using Insight in his classes and he believes it is a very useful teaching tool.

Christianson believes this software provides a more effective way for students to learn by allowing screen and file sharing between the instructor and the students. He says this is a great way to keep everyone together and avoid some students lagging or others working too far ahead. Instructors can see what students are having trouble with, and what might need more explanation if several students are having the same problems. "I think it helps the student make faster progress through the exercises," said Christianson.

Christianson cited Insight's learning curve as the only drawback he has identified and he believes that "the time you invest in learning it will more than pay off in greater efficiency in the computer classroom." Technology Services is available for training sessions to assist with Insight adoption. To get started, please [submit a COBIS request](#).