

I diot's Guide to Videoconferencing: The VRVS System

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<http://www.vrvs.org/>

- Variable cost, variable bandwidth system
- Works across all platforms

Capabilities

- Video
- Audio
- VNC sharing
 - Display or control
- Camera control
 - Control of host camera by remote observer

Cost

- Low-end, personal system
 - Webcam
 - Mic/speaker headset
 - ~\$70
- High-end, meeting room system
 - Analog camera
 - Speakerphone with echo cancellation
 - Projection television
 - ~\$4000

Bandwidth

- Full quality, 30 fps broadcast requires 1 Mbs of bandwidth per person
- By decreasing video quality this can be cut by a factor of 10

Security

- Requires a large number of ports to be opened through lab firewall
- Virtual rooms can be reserved with a password

Use at BNL

- New idea for RHIC 2003 run
 - Station in MCR for Operations Coordinator
 - Station in large conference room for 9am meeting broadcast
 - Station in experimenter control rooms for broadcast of experimenter meetings (PHENIX, STAR(?))
 - Station at Tandem for MCR/Tandem communication

Use at BNL

- Stumbling blocks
 - No VNC
 - VNC Proxy server will be online ‘soon’(?!)
 - Camera control
 - Playing with ports to find an open port