

Providing Visimeet Mobility to Traditional Videoconferencing

IOCOM's Visimeet service provides users with the ability to bring a fully functional videoconferencing endpoint with them on the go in order to stay in touch for those important meetings without needing to be tied to a specific location. Visimeet software is installed on Windows/MacOS/mobile systems and may be used from any location that has adequate network and system resources such as home, hotel, Wi-Fi hotspot, or via wireless broadband (e.g., 4G) networks. This flexibility is well known and well regarded though less known is Visimeet's ability to meet with traditional videoconferencing (VC) systems such as Tandberg and Polycom endpoints which are typically much more restricted.

Visimeet is a client/server based application, much like web browsing or email, where the client connects over a standard computer network connection using standard IP infrastructure. This capability provides greater flexibility than traditional systems that use call based technologies that were originally designed for phone networks. These call based systems often require opening of specific ports on a firewall in order for calls to take place. Network administrators are typically hesitant to open such ports for various security reasons and as such tend to lock them down so calls are only allowed to/from specific locations. This of course will not be very practical when the user is mobile as the network manager will not know where the call would be coming from or going to. This is not the case for the Visimeet service as only single port, 46000, is needed to be available to operate. This port is typically open when connecting from most network locations or can be easily, safely, and securely opened for endpoints connecting via more secure sites such as private internal corporate networks.

One of the more overlooked features in Visimeet is its' ability to quickly and easily meet with traditional and legacy video conferencing systems from anywhere. The Visimeet client connects to the Visimeet server and the server places the videoconference calls to these Polycom/Tandberg/LifeSize endpoints on behalf of the client. The end user connects from anywhere but the call is actually initiated by a public Visimeet server that is at a fixed IP address and likewise available to all endpoints. This allows the network manager to allow a single network location access to bring in all the connected Visimeet users.

A user running a Visimeet client can easily dial to a traditional video conferencing endpoint or service using the Dialer tool. <http://www.iocom.com/features.php#h323> The Visimeet user simply specifies an IP address or hostname for the video conferencing system to place a call. The user may subsequently share full video, audio and data as if it were any other endpoint in the meeting. Some Visimeet specific features such as IM chat and file sharing are not available but the video/audio/data sharing streams are available as they would from a traditional system.

Traditional video conferencing endpoints may conversely call into a Visimeet meeting by specifying the Visimeet server IP/hostname and meeting code. The calls are then placed to the open and publicly available Visimeet server. Many traditional video conferencing endpoints are allowed to dial without restriction, so most may simply meet with the Visimeet users by dialing into the meeting on the

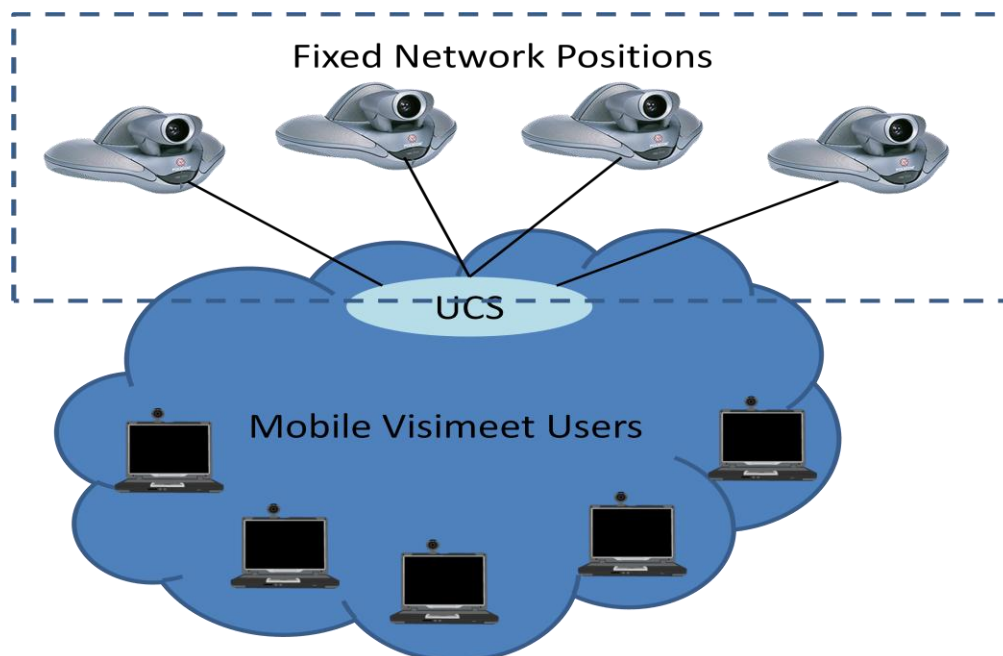
Visimeet server. For those locations that require special permission be granted for outbound calls, the network administrator need only allow connectivity to the Visimeet server IP/hostname rather than requiring firewall exceptions for each and every network location where a distant user might potentially be working. This greatly simplifies the processes for granting access and helps to keep the network secure.

This ability to call the traditional systems provides the mobile user with the ability to simultaneously meet with traditional video conference endpoints and/or standard Visimeet endpoints from any location with the sufficient network resources. This allows Visimeet user to cost effectively meet virtually anywhere at any time - from home, office, and while traveling - via an easy to use interface.

For more information on the Visimeet service with an option to download a free version of the Visimeet client software and begin a free full featured 30 day trial, please visit our web site at <http://www.iocom.com>

For those a little more technically inclined –

IOCOM's Visimeet service is configured by default to use a single port, TCP port 46000, to communicate between the client and server. In lieu of TCP port 46000 connectivity, Visimeet may optionally be configured to connect using Real Time Streaming Protocol (i.e., RTSP) via networks that support it. The Visimeet public UCS is likewise accessible via the public Internet and facilitates video collaboration sessions to/from the server from virtually any Internet connected endpoint. The Visimeet server may also optionally act as a gateway for calling H.323/SIP endpoints residing on private networks.



Since the IP/hostname for public Visimeet servers remains static, they may be granted access to the H.323/SIP endpoints residing on a corporate network. The Visimeet public service uses a federated network of servers located worldwide so the actual connection point may vary depending on the user's geographic location. Every Visimeet user is provided with an H.323/SIP publically accessible IP/hostname of the server to which they are connected via the Moderator tool. They may optionally provide this information to any legacy video conferencing site to allow them to dial into the meeting. The video conferencing endpoint calling into a Visimeet meeting may optionally dial into the server closest to them geographically and all audio/video/data streams between Visimeet and these endpoints will be managed over a high speed backbone network connection. This allows, for example, a Visimeet endpoint in Taiwan to connect to the Singapore Visimeet server while a US based Tandberg endpoint residing in Texas may connect to the meeting via a Visimeet server in Houston.