

Virtual Classroom over Pidgin

Usage Manual

→ Account Settings

- 1) First install the software on 2 machines - instructor & student
- 2) On the instructor's side:
 - a) Go to Accounts->Add/Edit
 - b) Create the following sample Yahoo account

* Login: pidginteacher , Password: vigil123
Thus, the instructor's account is online now.

4 sample students viz. eclassroom1, eclassroom2, eclassroom3 and eclassroom4
had already been added to this account.

- 3) On the student's side:
 - a) Go to Accounts->Add/Edit
 - b) Create the following sample Yahoo account

* Login: eclassroom1, Password: vigil123
Thus, the student's account is online now. As soon as the student comes online his
name will be shown in the instructor's buddy list

- c) If some new student wants to join the classroom he will add the instructor as his
buddy. If instructor accepts his request the student will be added to the classroom
Yahoo group in Pidgin otherwise not.

- 4) Thus, now both the students and the instructor are online and the instructor is ready to start
the classroom.

→ Whiteboard

To start the classroom instructor has to perform the following steps:

- 1) Go to Accounts->pidginteacher->Start Class

This will open up 2 kinds of whiteboards. One on the instructor's side and one on each of the
student's side who are online.

Instructor's whiteboard has tools like eraser, pencil, fill, text, line, arc, multiline, oval,
rectangle, brush, fill on/fill off, line width, font, video etc.

Student's whiteboard has tools like pencil, save, clear, watch video

- 2) Now whatever the instructor will draw or write on his board will get appeared on all the students' boards. If he clears the board all the boards get cleared. Note that here vice versa is not true. Currently, the student has only read-only access to the board. This means that he can't edit the board but he can write and clear locally for himself.

→ Video

- 1) If the instructor wants to show a .flv video he uploads that video at a particular http URL, writes that URL in URL entrybox and presses Start Video
- 2) For the very first time the video will be played only on his side. This is just a sort of check. When he closes the video, it will get opened on all the students' side. From now onwards the students can play video by clicking on the 'Start Video' button.
- 3) Note that currently only .flv videos are supported by Swfdec. Some of simpler .swf files are also playable.

→ Group Discussion

If the instructor wants to initiate a group discussion he will do the following:

- a) Go to Accounts->pidginteacher->Start Discussion
- b) This will send a conference invitation to all the students in the class who are currently online.
- c) The instructor can see all the students in his window and as such his messages will be sent to all students. But the students can only see the instructor in their conference window. Thus, their message will only go to the instructor.

→ Separate Class Groups

To create separate class groups, in your buddy list right click the group that you want to select/deselect and select 'Add to Class' or 'Remove from Class'. The whiteboards will be sent only to the buddies in the groups selected.