The Computerworld Honors Program

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Final Copy of Case Study

Status:
Laureate

Year:
2013

Organization Name:
Net Power & Light

Organization URL:
www.getspin.com

Project Name:
Global Live Classroom powered by Spin Live Studio

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry:
Mobile Access

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

This Fall, Net Power & Light and Harvard University's Michael Sandel teamed up to take on an audacious, seemingly impossible challenge: create the world's first Global Live Classroom to bring students across towns and across the world truly together in learning. A space intimate enough to host honest, live debate yet expansive enough to unite even the two furthest points of the globe. A space that could live up to the world-class acoustics and famed history of Harvard's Sanders Hall, yet flexible enough to be popped up anywhere and by anyone. With the revolutionary Spin Live Studio by Net Power & Light, Professor Sandel was able to turn this vision of an immersive, global classroom into a reality, bringing together students from five countries to wrestle with the most important questions

of our time. Over the course of the Fall Semester, Spin Live Studio extended the walls of Sanders Hall around the world -- over 11,500 miles -- to bring students from Tokyo, Shanghai, Sao Paolo, New Delhi, and Cambridge truly together in discussion on justice, morality and citizenship. Designed for mobility, and requiring no hardware outside of a few iOS devices, Spin Live Studio was simple to pop up and remix in each location. And with Spin Live Studio, Professor Sandel could easily bring in breaking news clips to amplify his presentation or even host guest lecturers in debate from across the Ivy League.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

This project took place over the course of the Fall semester (September 2012-December 2012) in a series of lectures. The Global Live Classroom was powered by Spin Live Studio technology. Spin Live Studio truly gave Professor Sandel and Harvard all the power of a pop-up TV studio: *With ListenUp, a dynamic audio mixing and attention management system, each location in the global classroom could see and hear what they were most interested in. ListenUp connects people deeply with extremely high quality audio, and allows each space to manage attention just as in real life. The VideoMic feature allowed TAs-turned-crew-members to bring cameras into the stands and find the best angle of engagement. With VideoMics, it was possible to engage students in conversation from even the back rows of the theater. With LiveConduct, presenters have dynamic control to amplify events even further. Professor Sandel used LiveConduct to bring in breaking news, video clips, and backdrops to make his presentations even more engaging.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

The Fall Semester's Global Live Classroom sessions are complete. We have some exciting things planned with Harvard and Professor Sandel in 2013 and will be lighting up more live events for partners with Spin Live Studio in the coming months.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

In a 2011 New York Times piece, Sandel said, "My dream is to create a video-linked global classroom, connecting students across cultures and national

boundaries to think through these hard moral questions together, to see what we can learn from one another."
(http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/15/opinion/15friedman.html) Sandel tried many technical solutions to turn this dream of an immersive global classroom into a reality. However, it was only with Spin Live Studio's value, flexibility, and ease of use that he could achieve this vision. According to Professor Sandel, "Spin Live Studio makes it possible to discuss some of the most vexing moral dilemmas we face. The global classroom takes the distance out of distance learning. It enables us to learn from one another, and gives us a glimpse of what global public discourse might be." For more on the local and global impact of Spin Live Studio and the Global Classroom project, please refer to the Harvard Gazette article and video: http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/12/a-class-open-to-the-world/

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

Yes. Net Power & Light will be lighting up more groundbreaking, live events in 2013 with Spin Live Studio for learning, media, sports, and broadcast.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

For more information on Net Power & Light and the Spin platform, please visit www.getspin.com