MEETINGHOUSE TECHNOLOGY
Newsletter

April 2011

Introduction
Welcome to another edition of our monthly *Meetinghouse Technology Newsletter!* Remember that the most current information can always be found on our "Meetinghouse Technology Wiki" (mhtech.lds.org).

Featured Topic
Satellite Basics and Troubleshooting
One of the stake technology specialist's responsibilities is to set up the necessary equipment for Church broadcasts. The satellite system is a major component in the broadcast, but what exactly is the stake technology specialist responsible for, and how much does he or she need to know about satellite technology? Here are a few common questions and answers regarding the setup and maintenance of the satellite system:

How big is the Church's satellite system? The Church's satellite system comprises just over 8,000 remote sites across six continents, using seven transponders. This is why you may be on hold for a while if you ever try to contact the support desk during a broadcast.

What do those flashing lights mean? As a general rule, a green light is good, a yellow light is a warning that things are acceptable but could get worse, and a red light means there is a problem that must be fixed before you can watch the broadcast.

My light is green, but the broadcast still doesn't work. How do I fix it? Generally, a green light indicates that the satellite receiver

Tips and Tricks
Do you have a difficult time connecting the audio from your stake center to the webcasting device when broadcasting your stake conference? In some buildings, it is difficult to find a good output from the sound system that can be used for this purpose. Most meetinghouses in the United States and Canada (and some in other countries) have an assistive listening system (ALS) installed that includes at least two receivers (available in the meetinghouse library). You may be able to solve your problem by using one of these receivers. Connect the receiver to the webcast laptop using a cable with 1/8-inch jacks. Since the assistive listening system earphone acts as an antenna, using it in addition to the cable may improve performance. Using the earphone also allows you to monitor the audio going into the webcast device. This is accomplished by using a Y-adapter to connect to the earphone and to the webcast device.

Local Highlight
Note: Guidelines for technology vary by area, and not all solutions are appropriate in all areas. Please be sure to check with your area office before implementing any new solutions.

Training Stake Technology Specialists in Africa
In preparation for an area-wide implementation of meetinghouse Internet connections, the **Africa West Area**, which spans five countries, has focused on identifying and training stake and district technology specialists. The training, sponsored by the area's Information and Communications Systems (ICS) staff, was delivered in person to each of the 60 stakes and districts in the area between October 2010 and January 2011. In the past, stakes and districts relied heavily upon area ICS employees to assist with Internet and technology needs in the meetinghouse, but this method is costly and unsustainable with the rapid growth of the Church in west Africa.

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(Continued from page 1)

and dish are functioning correctly. If there is still a problem, it is most likely with some of the other equipment in your building. Check your cables, connections, and viewing devices.

Who takes care of my satellite system? The satellite system is cared for by the local facilities management (FM) group. It is primarily the responsibility of the ward leaders to report problems to the FM group for repairs. In some circumstances (such as during a broadcast), it may be necessary for the stake technology specialist or another member to make temporary repairs; however, this should be done only as directed by those trained to maintain the satellite system.

What if I want to change the way the system works in my building? We recommend that you let your FM group make any changes to your satellite system. The satellite and video systems in Church buildings adhere to standard plans, meaning that every building's system is similar in form and function. While changes may increase a single system's functionality, they may also decrease its ability to be supported by Church headquarters.

If I can't fix my satellite system, are there other ways I can watch the broadcast? Most broadcasts are available through online streaming or through audio backup over the telephone. As a wise man once said, "Be prepared." You should have a backup plan in place for every broadcast, just in case you encounter problems with your satellite system. For more viewing options, see the "Viewing Church broadcasts" wiki page (https://tech.lds.org/wiki/Viewing_Church_broadcasts_ (meetinghouse)).

(Continued from page 1)

The training focused on understanding the role of the stake technology specialist, Church technology policies, and technical training on common technologies, such as the meetinghouse firewall.

The support of priesthood leaders has been crucial to success in this effort. The Area Presidency sent a letter to priesthood leaders emphasizing the need for a stake technology specialist and a backup specialist to be called in each stake and district. As a result, 100 percent of stakes and districts in the area now have a stake technology specialist.

The foundation of technological knowledge has now been laid in each stake and district in the area. The development of technologically self-sufficient stakes and districts will help ensure a successful area-wide implementation of meetinghouse Internet connections in 2011. It will also encourage the adoption of further technology to build faith and move the work of the Lord forward!

How has your stake or ward used technology to bless the Saints in your area? Share your story with us at MHTechNewsletter@LDSChurch.org, and we may include it in an upcoming newsletter!

Subscription Information
To receive this newsletter directly to your inbox, subscribe to "Meetinghouse Technologies" with your LDS Account. For instructions on how to do this, see "Meetinghouse technology e-mail list" page on the "Meetinghouse Technology Wiki" (mhtech.lds.org).

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