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Technology Instruction Page

Web Conferencing
Webinars and Webcasts

Web conferencing refers to a service that allows conferencing events to be shared with remote locations. Most vendors also provide either a recorded copy of an event or a means for a subscriber to record an event. The service allows information to be shared simultaneously, across geographically dispersed locations in nearly real-time. Applications for web conferencing include meetings, training events, lectures, or short presentations from any computer. A participant can be either an individual person or a group. System requirements that allow individuals within a group to participate as individuals (e.g. when an audience participant asks a question) depend on the size of the group. Handling such requirements is often the responsibility of the group. In general, system requirements depend on the vendor. The service is made possible by Internet technologies, particularly on IP/TCP connections.

The term **webinar** is short for Web-based Seminar, a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the Web. Some argue that webinars might be one-way, from the speaker to the audience with limited audience interaction, so one-way broadcasts are perhaps more accurately called webcasts. Webinars themselves may be more collaborative and include polling and question & answer sessions to allow full participation between the audience and the presenter. In some cases, the presenter may speak over a standard telephone line, while pointing out information being presented onscreen, and the audience can respond over their own telephones, speaker phones allowing the greatest comfort and convenience. There are web conferencing technologies on the market that have incorporated the use of VoIP (voice over Internet protocol) audio technology, to allow for a completely web-based communication. Depending upon the provider, webinars may provide hidden or anonymous participant functionality, making participants unaware of other participants in the same meeting.

Each of the websites pictured above all offer free webinar seminars. Many other sites offer free webinars as well such as PBS Teachers, Google Apps for Education, and Apple Education to name a few. To earn your square on the TECHNO Board, please take part in at least 2 webinars throughout the year. You can use Discovery Education, iStation, or the Scholastic sites or you can choose one of your own. Document the days and times these were accessed and the notes you took from your webinar.

Name_____Date_____

Grade Level_____

Documentation Page

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I have participated in 2 webinars or webcasts this school year. I took part in these webinars on the following dates:

_____   _____
Date   Time

_____   _____
Date   Time

I have attached my notes to these web conferences.

Signature_____