ViewCast®

Profile

Profile:
At all levels of government, there is a growing effort to enhance citizens' visibility into the decision-making processes that shape public policy. This movement toward greater government transparency has benefited tremendously from the rise of streaming media technology, which enables live and on-demand coverage of government proceedings accessible to anyone with internet access.

Swagit Productions, LLC is a leading provider of hosted audio/video streaming services for government agencies, with a fast-growing client roster that includes municipalities across the United States and Canada. Distinguished for its ability to provide automated, or 'hands free', streaming and content management capabilities that preclude the need for onsite A/V staffing resources, Swagit provides municipalities with a cost-effective, convenient means to engage the local community in government processes. To ensure high performance, flexible streaming services, Swagit counts on ViewCast's Osprey® video capture cards and SimulStream® software to underpin its streaming media hardware and software infrastructure.

Industry

Government

ViewCast Corporation

3701 West Plano Parkway
Suite 300
Plano, TX 75075-7840
800-250-6622
www.viewcast.com

ViewCast Osprey® Video Capture Cards and SimulStream® Software Enable Swagit to Deliver High Performance, Multi-format Streaming Services for Government Agencies

The Challenge

Streaming with EASE
Swagit's popular Extensible Automated Streaming Engine (EASE) solution is designed to provide government agencies with a comprehensive streaming media framework that automates and offloads labor intensive workflows. Through a mixture of onsite streaming media encoders, management software, and offsite support personnel, Swagit provides municipalities with the ability to record official meetings and events, index and cross-link content with documents for easy navigation, and stream this content to constituents live and on demand without the need for additional city staff responsibilities.

To ensure optimal system operation, Swagit required a high performance video capture card platform that it could utilize within its custom-built streaming servers for the government sector. Swagit also needed the capability to stream content in the broadest possible range of formats – simultaneously – in order to provide constituents with the best possible viewing experiences regardless of their supported media playback environment.

The Solution

ViewCast Osprey® Video Capture Cards and SimulStream® Software
Swagit selected ViewCast's Osprey video capture cards to underpin its streaming servers, achieving a seamless PCI Express® interconnect for high-speed throughput and unmatched system performance. Providing professional-grade reliability and audio/video capture quality in a low-profile design format for easy integration within Swagit's customized hardware, Osprey cards enable advanced features such as hardware audio gain control, closed-caption extraction and rendering, cropping and bitmap overlay to ensure maximum management flexibility and control.

Swagit also implemented ViewCast's advanced SimulStream technology, which enables a single Osprey card to generate several video streams simultaneously across a range of formats, including Windows Media™, VC-1, Silverlight™, Flash™, H.264, 3GPP mobile and more. SimulStream allows Swagit to deliver full-frame video to high-speed Internet users; smaller, lower-rate video to DSL and dial-up subscribers, and optimized video for several different mobile device standards, all while saving the same content to a storage device for post-processing and other applications.

The Result

High Performance, Multi-format Streaming Increases Civic Participation
Having standardized its encoding hardware on ViewCast's Osprey and SimulStream technology, Swagit is able to deliver professional-quality, high-performance streaming services for its clients, with the flexibility to stream content in all of the leading media formats. The popularity of Swagit's 'hands free' streaming services continues to grow, as more and more government agencies embrace the technology as a cost-effective means to connect with their citizens and increase civic participation without adding additional staff or responsibilities.

Swagit clients, including the cities of Galveston and Southlake, Texas, White Plains, New York, and Wilmington, Delaware, have recently implemented the company's streaming services with great success, providing live and on-demand streaming of council meetings and municipal channel programming to residents, business owners and property owners throughout the city and beyond. On-demand meeting coverage is indexed and time-stamped by Swagit according to the corresponding meeting agenda, enabling viewers to search for and quickly locate the content in which they're most interested.

"Our clients in the government sector count on Swagit to provide affordable, flexible streaming media services that promote accessibility, transparency and accountability," said Bryan R. Halley, President, Swagit Productions LLC. "ViewCast's solutions afford us an elegant, feature-rich streaming media platform upon which we'll continue to build the digital infrastructure for Democracy 2.0."