

Department of Computing, Telecommunications and Video Networks

Some common terms used in Video connectivity

1. MCU -- Multiple Conferencing Unit.
2. Multipoint -- Term used when more than one site is part of a video conference.
3. Codec -- The device that connects one point to another site or other site(s) via an MCU.

MCU modes of Connectivity

1. Voice Activation
2. Broadcast Mode
3. Continuous Presence
 - Pure
 - Instructor/Lecture Mode

Mode Request Procedures**

To request this service, please follow the process below at least TWO working days before your request.

- Send an e-mail to **DT_Confsched** (this is located in exchange) clearly stating your NAME, CLASS SESSION NUMBER, TIME and DATE for your request.
- One of us will send you a confirmation of whether the request has been approved or not.

****** Continuous Presence is only available on request and on a first come, first serve basis. At this point in time, the UH Network can only support two simultaneous connections in this mode.

Explanation of each mode

Voice Activation

TV at UHD

UHD sees 2
and 3 at full
screen

TV at Site 2

2
2 sees UHD
and 3 at full
screen

TV at Site 3

3
3 sees UHD
and 3 at full
screen

Voice: Whoever speaks last has the default picture.

Example: If Site 2 speaks, both UHD and Site 3 see Site 2 on their screens.

Broadcast Mode (not offered by UH MCU)

TV at UHD

Full Screen.
Sees site 2
and 3 in an
alternate
fashion.

TV at Site 2

Full Screen.
Sees UHD at
all times.

TV at Site 3

Full Screen.
Sees UHD at
all times.

In this mode, one site is designated as the broadcaster. The other sites will always see the broadcaster. On the other hand, the broadcaster sees the other sites at a designated time interval.

Example: UHD is set as broadcaster. UHD sees 2 for 30 seconds, then 3 for another 30 seconds then 2 for yet another 30 seconds, and so on. The duration is defined. Both 2 and 3 see UHD at all times.

Continuous Presence Pure

TV at UHD

Site 2	Site 3

UHD

TV at Site 2

UHD	Site 3

2

TV at Site 3

UHD	Site 2

3

All sites see each other at all times. Each site occupies a sector of the screen, resulting in a smaller image.

Example: UHD sees 2 and 3. Notice that the sites will not see themselves in any of the quadrants in this mode.

Continuous Presence Instructor/Lecture Mode

TV at UHD (host)

Site 2	Site 3

UHD

TV at Site 2

Always sees UHD in full screen

2

TV at Site 3

Always sees UHD in full screen

3

In this mode, one site is designated as the host site (this is normally the site where the lecturer will be). The host site will see the other sites in each of the quadrant. The host site will not see themselves in any of the quadrants. The other sites will see the host site in a full screen and will always hear each other. They will, however, hear each other.

Example: UHD is selected as the host site. UHD sees 2 and 3 in the quadrants while sites 2 and 3 see UHD in full screen.