

Avaya IP Video Telephony solution makes desktop video conferencing as simple as a phone call

The solution integrates broadcast-quality video and office phone functionality into a single, easy-to-use interface, enabling business users to initiate videoconferences on their PC or laptop. This helps organisations quickly and cost-effectively deploy enterprise-class videoconferencing across a business, paving the way for enhanced collaboration and greater organisational efficiencies.

The new solution - The Avaya Video Telephony Solution: Desktop Edition - makes face-to-face collaboration convenient and easy. For example, office and home-based employees, as well as remote and mobile workers, can simply log onto the business network and make video calls that can be transferred, muted, or placed on hold - just like a phone call. To initiate desktop videoconferences, a user only requires a colleagues phone number, unlike typical desktop video implementations, which also require knowledge of an IP address or separate video calling number. Videoconferences can be held over broadband or wireless LAN (WLAN) connections.

The solution also delivers higher resolution video, offering broadcast-quality images at 30 frames per second and significantly reducing jitter and lag issues typical of many web-cam videoconferencing solutions. It uses the Polycom (NASDAQ: PLCM) ViaVideo II camera - featuring an internal processor and compression algorithms - that transmits continuous, clear video images without taxing a computers performance. This lets users utilise multiple applications at once, while retaining high-quality videoconferencing.

The end result is a powerful tool to enhance collaboration among a distributed workforce, enabling co-workers to instantly see and more effectively communicate with colleagues around the globe. Organisations can boost efficiencies through reduced travel - saving both time and money - and decrease costs by introducing video over a converged IP infrastructure. A converged IP network reduces the labour and equipment expenses associated with managing separate voice and data networks. The solution can also be implemented on existing PCs, further lowering costs by leveraging existing investments.

With more businesses seeking to improve their collaborative capabilities for greater competitive advantage, the growth opportunities in desktop videoconferencing are significant. According to Gartner, in 2004 there are more than 340 million professional desktop PCs available around the globe, representing PCs in the business workplace, as well as government and educational offices (Source: Gartner, George Shiffler III, Principal Analyst, 2004).

The Avaya Video Telephony Solution delivers on a joint development, sales and marketing initiative between Avaya, the market leader in IP Telephony (According to a recent study from Synergy Research Group, second quarter of 2004) , and Polycom, Inc., the leading provider of unified collaborative communications solutions. It integrates the Avaya IP Softphone, an application that works as an office phone on a computer, with the Polycom ViaVideo camera and microphone, resulting in a unified communication solution incorporating voice, video, instant messaging and presence.

"Communicating more effectively is necessary for enterprises to remain competitive in today's global economy," said Brent Kelly, senior analyst and partner at Wainhouse Research. "By incorporating video into everyday workflow tools already on the desktop - like a soft phone, instant messaging and presence - enterprises can realise significant improvements in how they plan, coordinate, and execute. Integrating Avaya's highly-regarded IP telephony products with Polycom's market-leading video systems gives enterprises a rich and compelling communications solution."

The Avaya Video Telephony Solution is available globally and is sold by Avaya with joint marketing from the two companies. Avaya will also continue to expand its sales of Polycom conferencing products beyond North America direct sales channels to include North America indirect channels, as well as global markets.

Businesses are facing a tidal wave of shifting demands, as a new generation of video-savvy workers enters the workforce, and more employees require instant communications from any location, said Micky Tsui, Avayas vice president and general manager, communications systems division. Avaya is helping companies overcome these challenges through easy-to-use collaboration tools that incorporate audio, data and video. By providing a simple, cost-effective way to weave IP video throughout an organisation, Avaya and Polycom are removing the barriers to deploying enterprise-class desktop videoconferencing.

Video communications is a natural, powerful extension to an enterprises IP communications platform, extending the rich media collaboration capabilities for Avaya customers, said Hans Schwarz, chief systems architect for Polycom. As a result of our joint development efforts, Avaya customers can now make a video call by dialing the phone - a simple, intuitive process for anyone. The integration also ensures a smooth deployment and management environment for IT administrators.

The Avaya Video Telephony Solution is part of Avayas strategy to accelerate the development of IP communications applications that integrate conferencing into business processes. Video adds an essential component to Avayas suite of converged solutions, enabling businesses to access a range of IP-based multi-modal collaboration tools blending audio, data and video technologies.

About Avaya

Avaya Inc. designs, builds and manages communications networks for more than 1 million businesses worldwide, including over 90 percent of the FORTUNE 500. Focused on businesses large to small, Avaya is a world leader in secure and reliable IP telephony systems and communications software applications and services. Driving the convergence of voice and data communications with business applications - and distinguished by comprehensive worldwide services - Avaya helps customers leverage existing and new networks to achieve superior business results. For more information visit the Avaya website: <<http://www.avaya.com>>.

About Polycom

Polycom, Inc. is the world's technology leader of high-quality, easy-to-use video, voice, data and web conferencing and collaboration solutions. The Polycom Office is our continued commitment to make distance communications as natural and interactive as being there by providing best-in-class conferencing solutions that are interoperable, integrated and intuitive to the user. The Polycom Office is based on industry standards and supported by an open architecture that promotes interoperability in multi-vendor environments and complements leading network infrastructure platforms. The NASDAQ-listed company is based in Pleasanton, California, USA, and has Asia-Pacific offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, New Delhi, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo. For additional information, visit the Polycom site at www.polycomasia.com <<http://www.polycomasia.com/>>.

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Note to Editors:

The Avaya Video Telephony Solution: Desktop Edition powered by Polycom is the first product in a family of videoconferencing solutions. This fully integrated package includes the following:

Avaya IP Softphone R5.1 - The new release of an IP application that emulates ones office phone on a PC or laptop.

Polycom ViaVideo II v5.1.1 - A fully integrated video system with a high-quality camera, microphone and multimedia processor, which connects to the USB port of a PC.

Avaya Integrator for Polycom Video - A software module adding Polycom ViaVideo II to the Avaya IP Softphone.

Avaya Video Directory Server - A software application that registers video endpoints on an enterprise network.

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