

# The ViDe MPEG-4 Working Group

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October 23, 2001



# The Video Development Initiative (ViDe)

- Founded in 1998 to promote digital video in higher education
- Focusing on Video-over-IP
- Current Workgroups:
  - ViDeNet
  - VideoAccess
  - Data Collaboration
  - I2 Commons
  - MPEG-4



# ViDe MPEG-4 WG

- Grace Agnew (GA Tech)
- Markus Bucchorn (ANU)
- Chris Hodge (UT)
- Doug Pearson (IU)
- Ed Price (GA Tech)

# MPEG-4 Features

- Object-oriented
- Scalable, adaptive, good error correction
- Profiles, layers
- Support for synthetic as well as natural video
- Superior audio
- Protection of IPR

# Goal

Promote and accelerate the deployment of MPEG-4 in higher education through development of early and model applications

# Our Application Interests

- E-Learning
- E-Medicine and Telemedicine
- Virtual Reality
- Equitable Access

# Our Development Interests

- Testing of MPEG-4 encoders, decoders, and editing tools
- Standards-based annotations and bookmaking
- Robust use of MPEG-4 text tracks
- Rights and access management
- Interoperability with videoconferencing technologies
- Collaborative data management

# ViDe MPEG-4 WG RFI/SOI

- *Goals:*
  - To ascertain the state of MPEG-4 technology development
  - To invite industry to partner with us to develop MPEG-4 applications
- Released January 8, 2001

# Respondents

- IBM
- Starbak
- Enquad
- Real
- 4DTV/NextG
- PowerJam

# Discovered so Far ..

- MPEG-4 is patent-encumbered
- Thus, many products are only partially standard compliant
- Proprietary" MPEG-4 implementations
- Interactive tools not yet available, but in the works

# Discovered So Far ..

- May need to leave RFI/SOI permanently open
- Great interest from higher ed IT community

# Next Steps

- Funding from The Southeastern Universities Research Association for:
  - WG development
  - Meetings with industry

# Next Steps

- Working on three deliverables:
  - An overview of the state-of-the-art of MPEG-4 development;
  - A directory of MPEG-4 players, technologies and developments;
  - An MPEG-4 Discussion list

# Some URLs

- ViDe: <http://www.vide.net>
- The ViDe MPEG-4 WG:  
<http://www.vide.net/vod/mpeg4/>
- The ViDe MPEG-4 RFI/SOI:  
<http://www.vide.net/vod/mpeg4/rfi1.html>
- Overview of the MPEG-4 Standard (Rob Konen):  
<http://www.csel.it/mpeg/standards/mpeg-4/mpeg-4.htm>
- The MPEG-4 Industry Forum:  
<http://www.m4if.org/>

