

# An Argo Telecollaboration Session

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## ABSTRACT

The goal of the Argo system[1] is to allow medium-sized groups of users to collaborate remotely from their desktops in a way that approaches as closely as possible the effectiveness of face-to-face meetings. In support of this goal, Argo combines high quality multi-party digital video and full-duplex audio with telepointers, shared applications, and whiteboards in a uniform and familiar environment. The shared applications can be unmodified X programs shared via a proxy server, unmodified groupware applications, and applications written using our toolkit. Workers can contact each other as easily as making a phone call, and can easily bring into a conference any material they are working on. They do so by interacting with an object-oriented, client/server conference control system. The same conference control system is used to support teleporting, i.e. moving the desktop environment from one workstation's display to another (for example, from office to home).

This video tape provides a user's point of view for a single session with the Argo system. This session shows a variety of applications in use, displaying all of the different sharing mechanisms.

The tape starts from Hania's point of view, as she places a call to Rob. They share a Trestle-based user interface editor, and then add Mark to the conversation. Mark brings an X-based editor into the conference, and discusses the content of the editor buffer with Rob and Hania, using his telepointer to indicate points of interest. They get interrupted by a call from Dave, and Hania puts Rob and Mark on hold to talk to Dave. When she is done with Dave, Hania returns to the conference with Rob and Mark, and then they all join the conference that holds their weekly project meeting. In this conference, they use a shared whiteboard to discuss the meeting agenda. They also use the whiteboard to view and annotate a PostScript file.

The tape was shot off the screen of a DEC Alpha/AXP-based workstation; the participants are on Alphas or on DEC-manufactured MIPS R3000-based workstations.

The tape was shot and produced by Ken Beckman of the Systems Research Center, and features our 1994 summer intern, Rob DeLine, from Carnegie-Mellon University.

## REFERENCES

1. H. Gajewska, J. Kistler, M. Manasse, and D. Redell. Argo: A System for Distributed Collaboration. In Proceedings of Multimedia '94, San Francisco, CA. October 1994.