

/ Teleconferencing and the MARRS Computer Conferencing System /

by

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B. S. E. E., The University of Toledo, 1980

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Computer Science

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1986

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Acknowledgements

I would like to dedicate this work to my wife, Maggie, and daughter, Laura. Their love and understanding allowed all this to be possible. I would especially like to thank my advisor, Dr. Rich McBride, for the many hours of time spent in suggesting ideas and guiding this work.

1. Introduction

This paper provides a detailed overview of teleconferencing and discusses the design of an asynchronous computer teleconferencing system, MARRS (MAster's Report Reviewing System). This system is applicable to automating the process of collecting, reviewing and presenting of Master's projects.

An asynchronous computer teleconferencing system was chosen over other forms of teleconferencing because 1) a computer system was readily available, 2) a computer system is easily applicable to such a teleconferencing system, and 3) computer teleconferencing allows for asynchronous, "store and forward" communication, where all participants need not be present at the same time for the same conference. The use of an asynchronous computer teleconferencing system allows meetings, discussions, reviews, etc., without gathering people at one place at one time.

The main focus of this paper is on the various roles of the participants in a MARRS conference. Prior to this discussion, teleconferencing and its various types are discussed so that the reader will be familiar with a variety of teleconferencing forms and applications.

This paper is organized in four chapters. The introduction highlights the main issues in this paper. Chapter 2 is a review of literature containing a detailed overview of teleconferencing in its many forms. Audio, audiographics, video, and computer teleconferencing

are discussed. Examples of actual uses of each type are given.

MARRS, an asynchronous computer teleconferencing system is described in chapter 3. The various roles of each participant in a conference are discussed.

The final chapter discusses conclusions, enhancements, and the future work related to the MARRS teleconferencing system and others.