The software client Polycom PVX 6.0 is a video conference solution for PC and laptop in the LAN area, which can be used with a standard USB camera. Three Logitech cameras (QuickCam Pro 4000, QuickCam for Notebooks Pro, QuickCam Orbit) are supported by the producer. In addition it is working with the ViaVideo II camera and the former camera of ViaVideo. The software client is running under Windows 2000 from SP 4 and Windows XP from SP1. DirectX 9.0b and Windows Media Player 9.0 are required.

The software client (version: 6.0: 6.0.1.1315) was tested with a ViaVideo II camera, a ViaVideo camera and a Logitech QuickCam Pro 4000 in December 2004.

If no ViaVideo camera is used the producer suggests setting up the audio first. The user can choose between loud speaker, ear phone and headset, which will be connected to the PC. Afterwards the USB camera has to be installed and in the third step the Polycom PVX 6.0 software. If a ViaVideo camera is used, the Polycom PVX 6.0 software has to be installed first and afterwards - when using it for the first time - the ViaVideo camera. The minimum requirements suggested by the producer according hard- and software have to be taken into account necessarily.

The software client Polycom PVX 6.0 was installed without problems with a ViaVideo, a ViaVideo II and a Logitech camera, provided that the by the minimum requirements are satisfied. The software can also be installed without problems if the hardware of the PC does not satisfy the requirements, a video conference connection, however, cannot be established. All buttons associated with a connection setup are deactivated. Only the menu item "warning" (German: Warnung) misgives the reason. Here it would be desirable to get a corresponding advice during the installation process.

The software client Polycom PVX 6.0 enables the usage of the symbol *. Other participants can be invited via dial-in in the conference. Password protected multipoint conferences are possible directly using the call input line. In the software version ViaVideo 5.x these features couldn't be used anymore, in the software version 3.x they were available. Unfortunately the dial strings of dialed MCU calls in the directory "last calls" cannot be used again. If repeating a call only the IP address of the MCU is offered. But with it is not possible to dial in to the corresponding conference.

The PVX 6.0 enables bandwidths up to 1920 kbps in the LAN area.

The user interface was revised software ergonomically and structured functionally slightly better. The menu item "warning" (German: Warnung) is new. Here useful advice can be found considering components not working correctly. The standard T.120 can be activated using the menu item "data". If the field "activate application" which is to be shared with the remote station is grey, the program should be restarted with administrator privileges. Afterwards these options can be activated, still it is possible that not all applications can be shared. The deinstallation routine has become more user friendly. The user can chose between three options now: changing the programm, repairing the programm and removing the programm.
The audio and video quality with other VC devices can be regarded between good and very good. The video quality of connections with the standard version (up to 384 kbps) of France Télécom eConf is very bad. Connections with MS Netmeeting have a bad video and audio quality. The MCU conferences of the DFNVideoConference service operate with good up to very good quality.

CONCLUSION

The software client Polycom PVX 6.0 achieves the requirements of a VC-system concerning the PC and laptop area with T.120 functionality. Still application sharing is only available with restrictions.

Technical Data
Producer: Polycom
Distributor: MVC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>supported standards</th>
<th>H.323, T.120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sound coding</td>
<td>G.711, G.722, G.722.1, G.728, G.729, Polycom Siren 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video compression</td>
<td>H.261, H.263, H.263+, H264 using USB-cameras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bandwidth</td>
<td>IP up to1920 kbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to Polycom for supplying the software.