GENERAL

Period: from February 2006
SW-Version Polycom PVX 8.0.1
Device Class
Software client Polycom PVX 8.0 is a video conference solution for PCs and laptops in LAN, usable with a USB 1.x or 2.x webcam or the ViaVideo camera. The USB webcams recommended by Polycom are to be found in the Release Notes for PVX 8.0.1.
Scope of Delivery
The software client is available on CD or on the websites of the producer with the PVX licence key.
Bandwidths
The software client facilitates LAN video conferences up to 1920 kbps.

INSTALLATION

Its installation is identical with that of the Polycom PVX 6.0 version. The PVX License Key is required for installation in order to register the software at the producer's and to show the activation code on the Polycom website. It is worth knowing that the processor load of the PC is lower when a ViaVideo camera is used, since the hardware codec integrated into the camera is used for audio and video. The PVX 8.0 used with a ViaVideo camera, however, does not have the video standard H.264. This is only activated with a USB camera.

TEST

Operation
The setup was comprehensively revised. The menu items General, Video, Network and Safety were rearranged. They are now more clearly arranged and some of them contain more information. Some options, which were hard to be found with version PVX 6.0, are now much better detectable. The menu items were extended with the newly introduced SIP function. It is now possible to choose between H.323, SIP and ISDN in the menu list.

Audio/Video
Audio and video quality were good up to very good in tests with other H.323 devices. The test with EmblazeVCON HD4000, however, is an exception. Here the audio quality was unstable; there were hissing and rushing background noises on both sides.

H.264
H.264 was tested successfully with the devices Emblaze VCON HD3000 and HD4000, TANDBERG 990 and Sony PCS-G70. Sony PCS-G70, Emblaze VCON HD4000 and TANDBERG 990 used the maximum bandwidth of 1920 kbps, allowed by Polycom PVX 8.0. Video quality ranged from good to quite good.
H.239

The transmission of the desktop of the PVX 8.0 worked in tests with most of the VC systems. There was a very good quality in the test with the Sony PCS-G70. Fonts to 8 pt are readable. Emblaze VCON HD4000 has a very good H.239 quality as well. Tested with Emblaze VCON vPoint HD PVX 8.0 receives a well readable H.239 data stream. Unfortunately, with Emblaze VCON vPoint HD the H.239 data stream is shown instead of the image of the opposite side and is thus not readable, since it is much too small.

T.120

Standard T.120 continues to be supported. In a connection between two PVX 8.0 devices chat, whiteboard, application-sharing and data transmission are most reliably if both programs are started with Windows administrator rights. When chat or whiteboard are started for the first time the program is started on the other side automatically. In further usage, however, every participant has to start them himself. Application-sharing works only with administrator rights, but also here not always at first attempt. Overall the implementation of the T.120 standard is a little flawed, but absolutely usable.

Camera Remote Control

Remote control of the camera was possible in both directions if there were the technical preconditions.

MCU

In three different video conference connections with RadVision MCU of the DFNVideoConference service there were very good audio qualities permanently. The video quality was good up to very good.

Gatekeepers

Cooperation with the gatekeepers GNU-GK 2.0.7 and CISCO MCM worked without problems.

CONCLUSION

Software client Polycom PVX 8.0 meets the requirements of a VC system for PCs and laptops with H.239 functionality. Polycom PVX may be the only system which supports both data standards in the IP area.

Technical Data

Manufacturer: Polycom
Distributor: MVC

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