

New Tools for Collaborative Media Production

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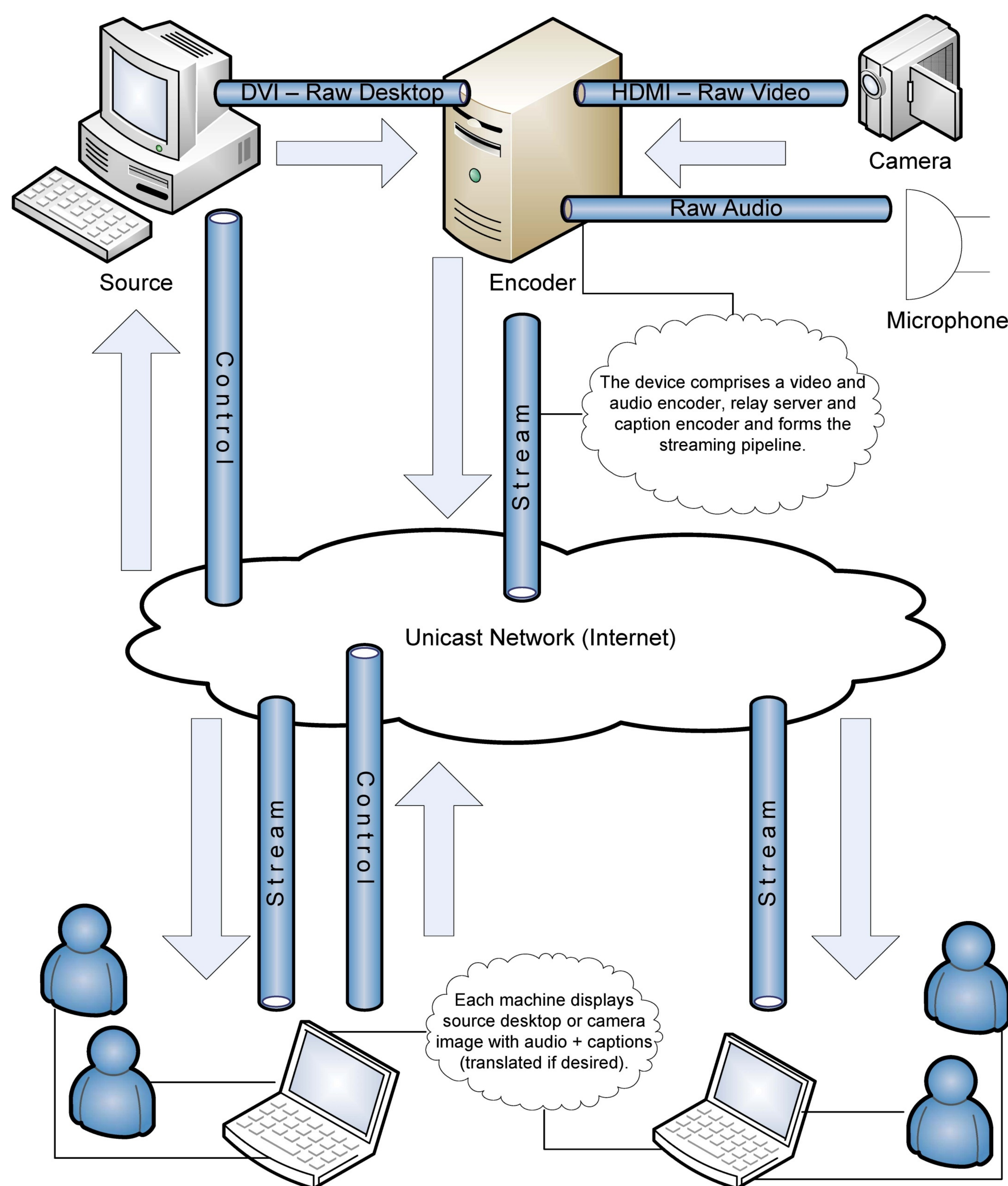
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Introduction and Objectives

The AccessFabrik Lab's **New Tools for Collaborative Media Production** offer a high-definition, low bandwidth, streamlined experience for transmedia content creation. These tools enable both media researchers and practitioners to work more effectively in a coproduction environment. They include: a shared desktop and videoconferencing utility, remote mouse control, and captioning and translation services. A practical implementation of these tools would allow video post-production houses to receive instantaneous feedback from participants while working across geographic divides. This reduces the need to transfer large video files between facilities, making workflows more efficient.



Above: A sample output from the extended AccessGrid node that forms the HD visualization environment at the core of our new collaborative tools.



Above: An illustration of the remote visualization and mouse control mechanisms. Also shown are the remote captioning and translation services, both of which enhance our new collaborative tools.

Approach

Until now, shared desktop environments were accomplished primarily with commercial software that shared graphical content with significant latency. As well, open-source videoconferencing and shared space applications like the AccessGrid (AG) have traditionally allowed for only lower-fidelity configurations (H.261 video stream at 352 x 288 resolution). By leveraging prior work in developing new services for the AccessGrid, we devised solutions to extend and advance the state of the art of distributed collaborative visualization over the AG.

Objectives for this project include:

- Creating new tools to facilitate HD shared visualization and remote desktop control
- Experimenting with real-time captioning and translation services as part of the visualization process
- Enhancing shared interactive media production tools

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