

# SOFTWARE ROUNDUP

## Can You See Me Now?

A few years ago, Web-based conferencing was nothing more than text messages posted in centralized forums. But in a short time, the scramble to increase Web-conferencing capabilities has produced several products that set new standards for participant interaction and usability. Now with the addition of live video, these products offer a cost-effective alternative to meeting clients and colleagues in person, while still interacting face-to-face.

The latest crop of Web-conferencing software enables live audio- and videoconferencing, whiteboards,

participant feedback, and document sharing.

A Web-based collaboration suite can be used for product or sales training, online seminars, or even e-learning. Most are scalable, allowing as few as two or as many as 200 (or more) participants, and many require minimal peripheral and software installation.

Here's a look at four applications that are changing the way we see Web-conferencing.

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Product	Key Features	Minimum System Requirements	Cost
<b>uCentra Conference 5.0</b> Centra Software 430 Bedford Street Lexington, MA 02420 781.861.7000 <a href="http://www.centra.com">www.centra.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● live video- and audioconferencing</li> <li>● PowerPoint content import</li> <li>● polling, instant surveys, public and private text chat</li> <li>● multiple presenters</li> <li>● session recording and playback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Windows 95/98/NT/2000</li> <li>● Java-enabled browser</li> <li>● 28.8 Kbps network connection</li> <li>● 64MB RAM</li> <li>● 800x600, 16-bit color display resolution</li> <li>● digital video camera</li> <li>● 16-bit sound card, speakers/microphone or headset</li> <li>● Perpetual-use configuration</li> </ul>	Begins at US\$55,000. Contact Centra for other pricing options.
<b>WebEx Meeting Center</b> WebEx 307 West Tasman Drive San Jose, CA 95134 408.435.7000 <a href="http://www.webex.com">www.webex.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● live video- and audioconferencing</li> <li>● application sharing</li> <li>● hard-document sharing through fax</li> <li>● file transfer</li> <li>● polling</li> <li>● whiteboard</li> <li>● hosted service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Windows 95/98/NT/2000</li> <li>● Netscape 4.x or IE 4.x</li> <li>● 64MB RAM</li> <li>● 56 Kbps or faster Internet connection</li> <li>● digital video camera</li> <li>● 16-bit sound card, speakers/microphone or headset</li> </ul>	Subscription-based, starting at US\$100 per user/seat per month for unlimited meetings.
<b>CUseeMe Pro</b> CUseeMe Networks 542 Amherst Street Nashua, NH 03063 603.886.9050 <a href="http://www.cuseeme.com">www.cuseeme.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● live video- and audioconferencing</li> <li>● multiple video windows</li> <li>● document sharing</li> <li>● text chat</li> <li>● whiteboard</li> <li>● conference monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Windows 95/98/NT/2000</li> <li>● 32 MB RAM</li> <li>● 33.6 Kbps Internet connection</li> <li>● digital video camera</li> <li>● 16-bit sound card, speakers/microphone or headset</li> </ul>	Contact CUseeMe Networks for pricing information.
<b>Meeting Center 2000</b> PlaceWare 295 North Bernardo Avenue Mountain View, CA 94043 888.526.6170 <a href="http://www.placeware.com">www.placeware.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● streaming audio and video</li> <li>● meeting access controls</li> <li>● whiteboard</li> <li>● polling and Mood Indicator</li> <li>● moderated Q&amp;A and private audience chat</li> <li>● scalability</li> <li>● hosted service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Windows 95/98/NT/2000</li> <li>● Pentium 133 MHz processor</li> <li>● 28.8 Kbps Internet connection</li> <li>● 800x600, 16-bit color display resolution</li> <li>● Java- and JavaScript-enabled browser</li> </ul>	Begins at US\$900 per quarter. One-time setup and branding fee US\$3,000.