NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AND VIDEO FURNACE PROVIDE LIVE C-SPAN/C-SPAN2 BROADCASTS OVER INTERNET2 NETWORKS

EVANSTON, Ill. - May 19, 2003 - Northwestern University and Video Furnace, in collaboration with C-SPAN and Internet2, have announced the availability of live, high-quality C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 broadcasts 24 hours a day to anyone with an Internet2 network connection that is multicast capable. This experimental, research broadcast project is made possible through Northwestern University’s high-performance networking, a cooperative partnership with C-SPAN, and Video Furnace’s IP video technology.

Video Furnace’s software technology and scalable IP multicast technology enable anyone with a notebook or desktop computer connected to a multicast-capable Internet2 network to watch C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 live. The live C-SPAN signals originate from Video Furnace servers located at Northwestern.

“We believe this to be one of the world’s first successful live broadcasts over Internet2, and it showcases the capabilities and reality of converging live video to the desktop utilizing high speed, multicast-enabled IP networks,” said Mort Rahimi, vice president and chief technology officer for Northwestern. “Advanced networking makes this kind of multimedia transmission possible because it’s designed to deliver large bandwidth and has a multicast backbone. It’s a terrific demonstration of what can be done using the latest networking technology.”

“Video Furnace’s unique technology lets users watch this or any other Video Furnace-enabled streams without having to install any players, browser plug-ins or other software on their computers,” said Howard Weinzimmer, Video Furnace CEO. “No other IP video solution allows computer users to enjoy a television-like experience without the encumbrance of proprietary-installed and difficult-to-maintain media players.”

All common operating systems are supported for viewing. The only requirement is a current Java-enabled browser to accept the end-user license agreement necessary to receive the appropriate Video Furnace InStream content viewer at www.i2-multicast.northwestern.edu.
The C-SPAN broadcast over Internet2 networks uses the same Video Furnace technology that powers Northwestern’s NUTV service. NUTV delivers 20 on-air and extended television channels to students’ desktop and notebook computers in Northwestern University’s undergraduate residence halls through the University’s existing IP network.

C-SPAN is also continuing to work with Northwestern University’s International Center for Advanced Internet Research (iCAIR) on another research project with C-SPAN, established in 2000 as part of the Internet2 Digital Video initiative.

About Northwestern University: Founded in 1851, Northwestern University is one of the country’s leading private research and teaching universities with an enrollment of approximately 7,700 full-time undergraduate students and approximately 17,000 total undergraduate, graduate and professional students on campuses in Evanston and Chicago. For more information about Northwestern University, see http://www.northwestern.edu.

About C-SPAN: C-SPAN, created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service to the nation, offers commercial-free round-the-clock coverage of public affairs via cable and satellite and on the Internet. For more information about C-SPAN, see http://www.c-span.org.

About Internet2®: Led by over 200 U.S. universities, working with industry and government, Internet2 is developing and deploying advanced network applications and technologies for research and higher education, accelerating the creation of tomorrow’s Internet. Internet2 recreates the partnerships among academia, industry, and government that helped foster today’s Internet in its infancy. For more information about Internet2, see http://www.internet2.edu/.

About Video Furnace: Video Furnace is a leading developer of mission-critical enterprise IP video solutions. The company has developed the only end-to-end solution that brings live video to a computer without requiring the user to install any resident player software or hardware. Founded in 2002, Video Furnace is headquartered northwest of Chicago in Libertyville, Ill. Its technical team has extensive experience in digital video delivery systems and a long history of development in media, gaming and broadband video solutions. For more information about Video Furnace, see http://www.videofurnace.com.
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