

FirstClass

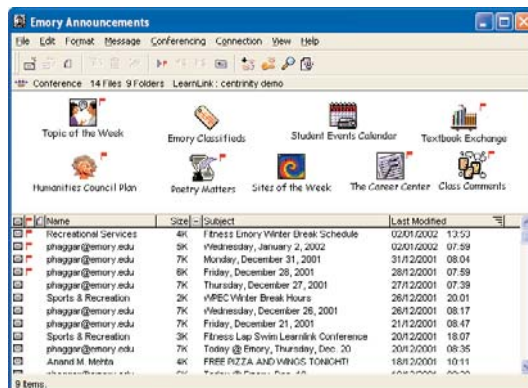
It Just **WORKS**

Connect your school community with one unified system - FirstClass

The digital divide is a key issue in classrooms around the world. Educators are looking for a cost-effective solution that is easy to understand to help them further bridge the gap and provide accessibility of information and Internet resources to ALL students and peers - while improving communications within and outside of the classroom. Educators are also looking for a powerful collaboration tool that will help them to share best practices, resources and course outlines with colleagues.

The Education Edition of Centrinity's FirstClass communications platform helps bridge the digital divide between schools and communities by providing them with a barrier free communications tool to collaborate, respond and share information more efficiently and effectively.

FirstClass is the industry's first and only Communications Platform that works on multiple platforms (Windows, Mac, UNIX and handheld) and provides a single, cost-effective open infrastructure for faculty collaboration, messaging and the Internet. And, even though it has some of the most powerful features available, FirstClass is easy-to-use and does not require an expensive commitment of hardware or personnel.



Example of a FirstClass conference

FirstClass offers educators and students a broad learning environment that is not limited by physical boundaries. Any user can connect to FirstClass via a local network, modem, or the Internet using the FirstClass client software or a web browser. The ease with which users can log in and begin working is one of the major assets of this Communications Platform.

What are the Benefits?

For Teachers and Support staff

- a method for ensuring ongoing professional development in the use of ICT
- secure collaborative areas for sharing knowledge such as work schemes
- simpler administrative systems e.g. customisable forms for lesson planning, evaluation, timetabling etc

For Pupils

- a motivational learning tool for developing pupils' levels of ICT literacy which can be used across the curriculum
- multimedia messaging, where pictures, sounds and video clips can be incorporated into the body of messages.
- Communicate and collaborate with colleagues, friends and teachers in a secure environment

For the School Administration

- a simple permissions system which enables groups of users to be granted access to specific areas of your network e.g. you can determine access for the PTA, governors, Year 11 pupils, excluded pupils etc
- a system that will grow and develop organically with constantly renewed content
- reduced paper-based communications and administrative costs through online information dissemination
- an effective tool for evaluating ICT usage which can be used for school inspections

For the Community

- a secure means, to open your network to the wider community to promote lifelong learning
- in-house web-hosting for showcasing examples of your organisations' best practice on the Grid, including web-publishing on-the-fly without the need for any knowledge of HTML
- a gateway to the Grid's rich resources and to local resources including libraries, museums, galleries and community centres
- Communicate, collaborate, communities within communities, workgroups