

The KZO Platform

Education & Training for the 21st Century

The KZO Network
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Highlights

Company

KZO Networks

www.kzonetworks.com

ISV Overview

Provider of open-source Flash video training and communication applications for corporate, higher-education and government solutions.

Key Industry Needs

Reducing complexity and cost of recording live lectures and presentations for communications and training.

Solution

Cutting-edge video delivery platform based upon open-source Flash code and written in Java which allows customization for adding dynamic and interactive features.

Key Business Benefits

Low-cost and scalable solution for executive briefings, product updates, reseller/partner training and research collaboration.

Sun and KZO

KZO Platform's streaming video engine is open-source, its tools are 100% written in Java, and operates on OpenSolaris.

Products

KZO Platform

KZO Capture

KZO Hosted Solutions



KZO Networks (KZO) has been developing real-time collaboration-based digital tools over the past five years for web casting applications. KZO has incorporated its unique digital tools into an interactive, collaboration-based video platform to assist organizations with their e-Learning, training, and communications demands.

The market for e-Learning is transforming the educational landscape because advanced technology allows students to remotely attend virtual classes to pursue degrees rather than commuting to physical classrooms. Disruptive technologies are emerging as hosted solutions and new "open-source" products gaining traction in the higher education market are increasingly being adopted in other major e-Learning market segments.

Solution Overview

KZO's unique technology provides organizations with the ability to deliver lectures and presentations to remote audiences. It employs both live and recorded video in an interactive, easy-to-use platform combined with simple yet sophisticated video hardware, streaming video and the internet. All are controlled by the presenter at the presentation level, without the need for additional technology or video resources.

In addition to being capable of web casting live lectures, presentations can be integrated into the customer's registration system and LMS. The platform also has the ability to track user metrics and push live poll and quizzes to the online audience. Once the platform is custom-coded for the customer, administrator functionality built into the platform allows the presenter to manage his or her courses.

KZO Platform

Applications are written in Java™ and employ Flash technology to allow media to stream through the browser—not a video player—making the KZO application simple, easy to use and eliminating the need for third party applications such as Windows Media, RealVideo or QuickTime.

KZO Capture

The principal components for the mobile content creator are a compact computer loaded with KZO's proprietary software, a codec license, and an encoder card. This encoder card takes the video and audio signal from the live presentation, digitizes it, then transmits the data in real-time to a KZO Platform over an internet connection. The video is recorded on a broadcast-quality, 3 chip robotic camera that can be pre-set for a variety of shots: for example, tight and wide views of the presenter, left side of the audience, and right side of the audience. This allows the presenter to easily include participation in the web cast. The product also comes with four wireless microphones: a lavalier for the presenter and three hand-helds for audience participation.

KZO's polling technology drives a number of interactive and collaborative features between the presenter and the viewers. When presenting to a virtual audience, collaboration and interactivity become critical components for effective communication and learning. This polling feature allows the presenter to deliver polls and questions to the viewers to gauge general comprehension, receive feedback, and evaluate the effectiveness of the lecture.

“The KZO Platform is enabling educators across California to access video segments demonstrating how to deliver instruction using The Real Game California™ curriculum materials (curriculum that helps middle school and high school students prepare for their future beyond high school). The video segments and corresponding presentations (an archived version of a live training session) were created with relative ease thanks to this incredible software program. Their availability online through the KZO Platform addresses a major need for professional development opportunities for The Real Game California™ users.”

Stephanie Couch

Director of Curriculum, Outreach and Collaboration,
California Education Technology Collaborative

Benefits

- “Anyplace, anytime” learning.
- Quick, simple and immediately usable e-Learning and communications content.
- Valuable lectures and presentations can be produced quickly and inexpensively.
- Real time simultaneous posting of content allowing for subsequent video-on-demand (VOD).
- Ease of integration with existing registration systems and Learning Management Systems (LMSs).

- Look and feel customized for customer brand and standards.
- Eliminates technology resources, video — editors, and camera operators.
- Only e-Learning or collaboration product available today capable of producing live high-quality Flash streaming video including Hi-Definition video.
- Dual-screen, synced to presentation slides with real-time chaptering, “Chat”, “Who’s Online”, and “Polling” features.
- Real-time chaptering into Learning Objects created from a “wizard” to assist the presenter.
- Administrator functionality built into the platform for presenter to edit and manage.
- Features are database-driven with results searchable from a digital repository.
- Seamless integration of blogs, wikis, and other interactive Web 2.0 features.

KZO Platform on Sun

Sun Microsystems, a leading proponent of open-source software solutions, has partnered with KZO to provide infrastructure support and enhance the performance of the Flash open-source video server. Sun’s research laboratory is performance testing the KZO technology on OpenSolaris which offers a secure and robust enterprise solution. KZO believes that there will be numerous opportunities for expansion and growth whereby it can offer services and support in the ecosystem surrounding OpenSolaris™. The open-source Flash server provides opportunities beyond the sale of the product by providing services and value delivered around the product. KZO’s management believes that a combination of open-source and proprietary solutions may be the answer for creating an infrastructure stack of services based upon the customer’s requirements.

KZO’s streaming solution has been tuned to take full advantage of the Sun Fire™ T1000 and T2000 servers. Solaris™ was the ideal operating environment choice for several reasons. Sun designed the Solaris 10 operating system for chip multithreading giving Ultra™SPARC T1-based systems new functionality for optimized utilization, relentless availability, unparalleled security, and extreme performance. Containers/zones provide a secure, isolated, virtual environment for separating KZO’s application framework; the Solaris ZFS file system takes the complexity out of volume management by using pooled storage. Finally, since security was a chief concern to KZO and their customers, process rights management profiles were created to reduce the privileges associated with each KZO application. Application high availability was achieved through the use of SMF manifests to automatically restart services and dependant services.

Sun Education and Research

Sun seeks to help customers build the Digital Campus, a unified campus network in which individuals can interact and collaborate in a seamless, secure personalized environment. We’ve dedicated ourselves to providing people with all the tools they need to participate in the environment—no matter where they are—allowing them to reap the benefits of the Participation Age.

To find out more about Sun’s technology and solutions for Education and Research, visit www.sun.com/edu or send email to edu-enterprise@sun.com

