



The Gong System



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What is Gong?

- A web board is a system where people can leave messages through the Internet
- Gong is a system which lets you set up one or more web boards – for example, you could set up a web board for every class you teach
- Students use their browser to access the boards
- Can record and playback text and/or voice
- If you want, you can put the Gong system on your own computer – complete control

Why the Name 'Gong'?

- Cantonese – 'gong' means 'speak' 講
- English – a gong is a musical instrument that makes a big sound



- Nice hard sound, easy to remember

Gong - People



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Supporting Web Site

- Web site at <http://www.cs.ust.hk/gong>
- Everything needed to get going with Gong
- Software available for download
- Clear instructions, many screen shots

- FAQ and complete source code to be released on the web site within a week

Supporting Web Site

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "The Gong Project Homepage - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar contains "http://www.cs.ust.hk/gong/". The browser's menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Favorites", "Tools", and "Help". The toolbar shows "Back", "Forward", "Home", "Search", "Favorites", "Media", "Print", "Stop", "Refresh", and "Go". The search bar contains "Google" and "Search Web". The main content area has a blue sidebar on the left with the "The GONG Project" logo and a list of menu items: "Introduction", "Features", "Screen Shots", "Using a Board", "Making Boards", "Try It!", "Requirements", "Downloads", "Using a Board", "Making Boards", "Java Test Page", "Setup Instructions", and "People". The main content area has a "Welcome to Gong!" heading with a gong image. Below the heading is a paragraph: "This website provides information on the Gong project, which is an Internet-based voice communication tool for education." Below the paragraph is a list of menu items: "Introduction", "Features", "Screen Shots", "Try It!", "Downloads", "Java Test Page", "Setup Instructions", and "People". The footer contains the text "Copyright © 2003 All Rights Reserved - The Gong Project".

The Gong Project

Introduction

Features

Screen Shots

Using a Board

Making Boards

Try It!

Requirements

Downloads

Using a Board

Making Boards

Java Test Page

Setup Instructions

People

Welcome to Gong!

This website provides information on the Gong project, which is an Internet-based voice communication tool for education.

Click on the menu items on the left to get more information:

Introduction	This page
Features	An overview on what the Gong project is and what it can do
Screen Shots	Screen shots of the Gong project
Try It!	You can click on the link on this page to try using the tool
Downloads	All necessary downloads for the Gong project
Java Test Page	A Test on whether your browser is capable of running the Gong applet
Setup Instructions	The instructions that are required to setup a Gong server
People	The people working on the Gong project

You are welcome to send any comments or suggestions to us at gong@ust.hk

[Introduction](#) | [Features](#) | [Screen Shots](#) | [Requirements](#) | [Downloads](#) | [Setup Instructions](#) | [People](#)

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Gong Leaflet

- If you just want a printed overview a simple leaflet is available at the web site

From the View of the Administrator . . .

- Very easy to use
- Can set up multiple boards
- Boards can be published to an HTML file with ease
- Can set up different levels of user who can have different levels of permission
- Can automatically create users by importing details from a text file
- Can group users together
- Can assign different groups to different boards
- Can search (filter) board/ user details

Requirements . . .

Hardware Requirements . . .

Platform	Any system that supports Java 2 Runtime Environment
Free Harddisk Space	100Mb or more
RAM	64Mb or more
Sound System	Sound system with speakers and microphone
Internet Connectivity	56k modem connection or faster

Software Requirements . . .

Operating System	Windows based OS Unix based OS Macintosh
Supported Browser	Internet Explorer 5 or above Netscape 4.7 or above

Where to Download Gong? . . .

The Gong Project is **freely** distributed at the following website:

<http://www.cs.ust.hk/gong>

You are also welcome to send any enquiries or comments to:

gong@ust.hk

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GONG
An Internet-based Voice Communication Tool for Education

Can be obtained FREE from <http://www.cs.ust.hk/gong>

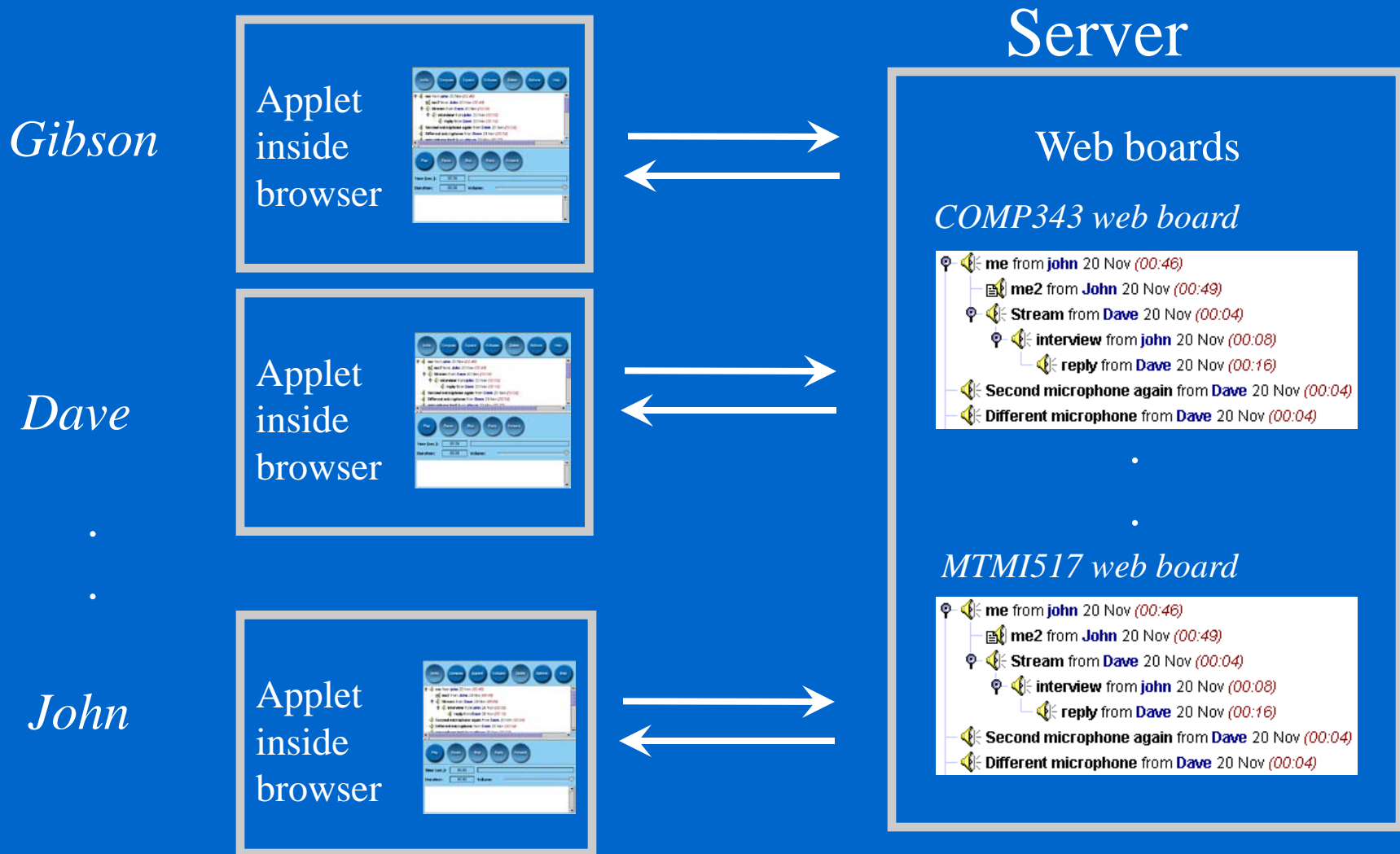
- *Handed out at the World Conference on Computer Aided Language Learning, Banff, Canada, May 2003*

Gong – Two Areas

- You can think of Gong as having two ‘areas’
- One area is the Gong server
- All the messages (text/ audio) get stored here

- The other area is the student machines
- Students use their browser to access the server

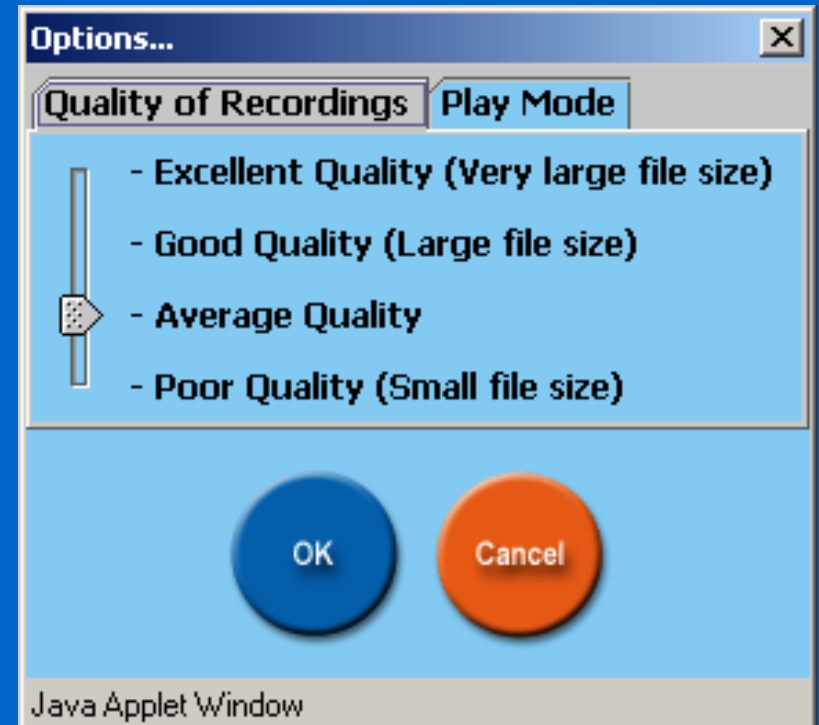
Basic Operation of Gong



- All communication goes through the server

Quality of Audio Recordings

- The user can select the quality of the audio recording in a message
- With the best quality, only a short message can be recorded
- Choose poor quality if you want to have a long message



Demonstration

Welcome to **Gong!**

Current User: Gong v1.3.2 ?

User List:

📧 test from guest **paola** 6 May 2004 (00:07)
📧 Re: test from guest **paola** 6 May 2004 (00:10)
📧 Hi from guest **Lo** 15 Feb 2004 (00:24)
📧 atestest from guest **adsfa** 4 Feb 2004 (00:00)
📧 test from guest **haha** 4 Feb 2004
📧 Hello! from **gibson** 4 Feb 2004

Time (sec.):

Duration: Volume:

Hi there!

Gong Server Installation

- One installation can provide the base for many chat rooms
- Someone else may have already installed it somewhere – you could simply use their system and add classes to it

Where Can I Install the Server?

- Basically, the Gong server can be put on any system
- It needs Java and a special library called JMF (Java Media Framework) which handles the transmission of multimedia

What About the Students?

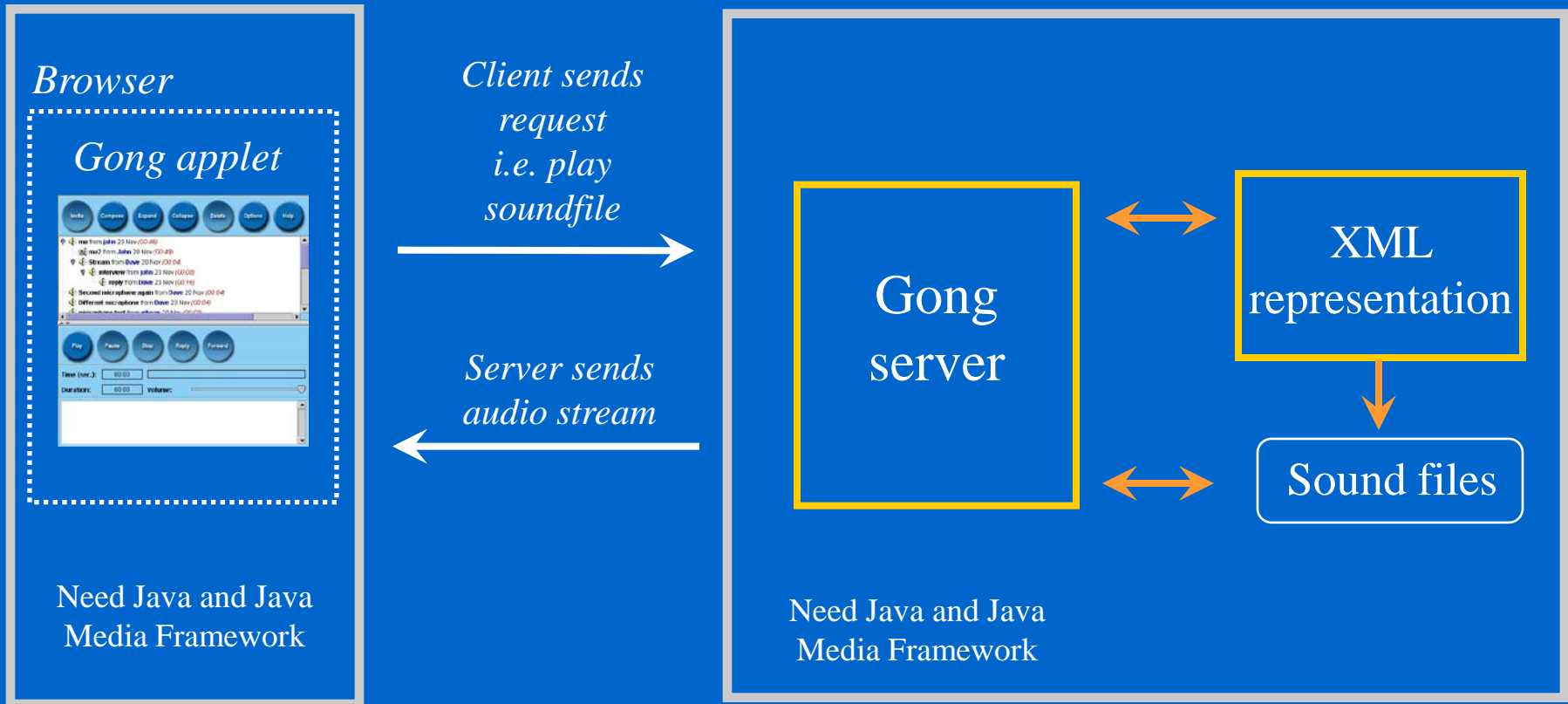
- To use the browser to access Gong, students also need Java and the JMF library
- These are easy to download and install

Gong Communication

(Just one student shown using the board)

Client n

Server



Real-life Testing - Dec 2002



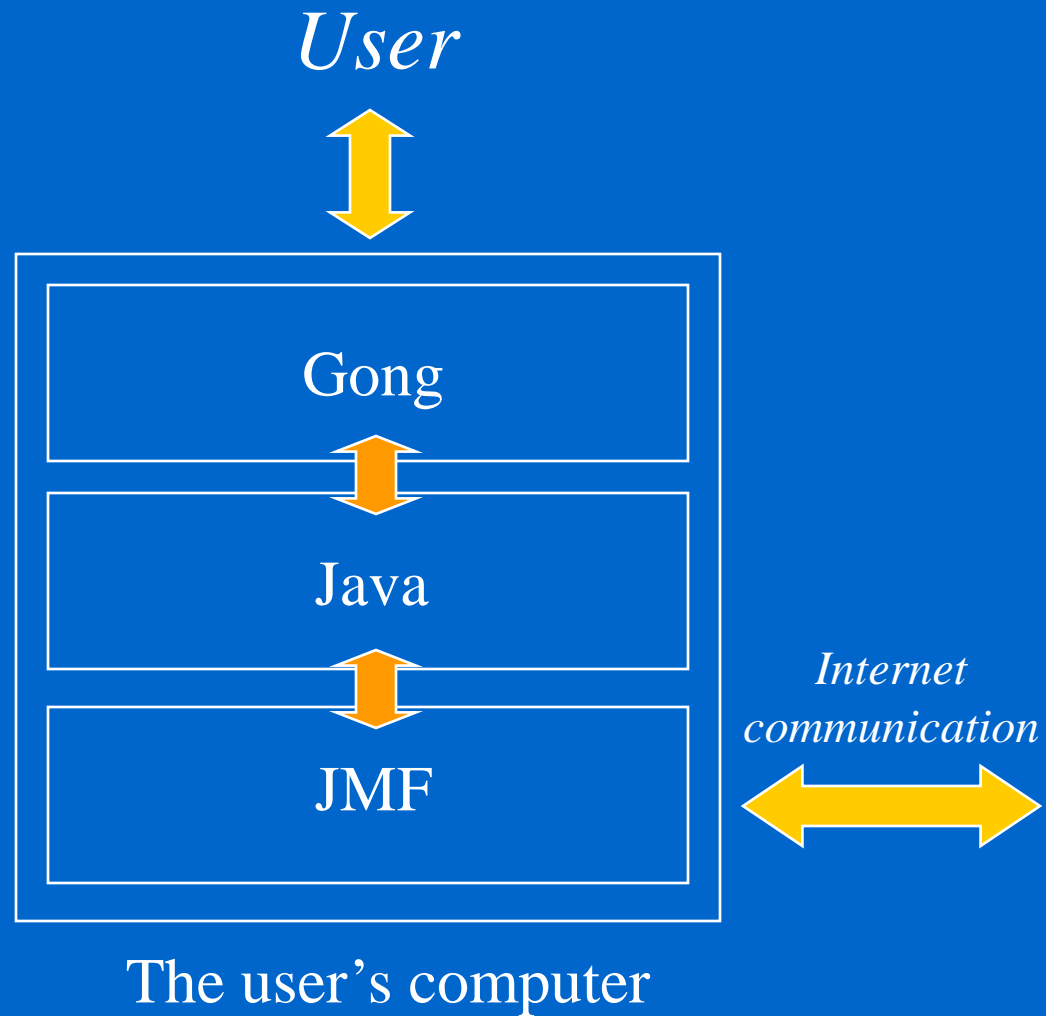
- Gong was tested with CL3 students, on campus, in an ITSC lab environment
- For all 50 students the system worked perfectly
- However, this was a controlled environment (ITSC Barn A teaching room)

Real-life Testing - April 2003

- Gong was tested with students on a distance learning course – using their home computers
- These were ‘real world’ environments – students may have any possible configuration
- Out of 70 students, there were 10 students who had problems successfully running Gong

Problems Encountered

- One problem was the library code used by Java for sending and receiving information does not work consistently
- Also, a Java library sometimes cannot be correctly installed



Java Test Page

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "The Gong Project Homepage - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar contains "http://www.cs.ust.hk/gong/". The page content is as follows:

Java Test Page

This page is used for testing whether your browser has the capability to run a Gong board over the Internet. There are two tests below. The first one is testing whether Java 2 Runtime Environment is properly installed and the second one is to test the version of Java Media Framework. If your browser can run the Gong board, a **blue** message saying "**Your browser should be able to run the Gong applet!**" will be displayed in both test areas. Otherwise, either one or both will display a **red** message saying "**The Gong applet will not be able to run on your browser.**". When you have this problem, please follow the instruction under the *Trouble Shooting* section to configure the browser.

Test 1. Java 2 Runtime Environment

Java 2 Runtime Environment Version Test

Your browser should be able to run the Gong applet!

(Java version = 1.4.2_03)

Test 2. Java Media Framework

Java Media Framework Version Test

The Gong applet will not be able to run on your browser!

(Java Media Framework does not exist)

Applet: JMFTest started

- We added a test page to our web site so that people can check their software environment

Current Situation

- There are two possible approaches:
 1. Create our own code to replace the bad code which others wrote
 2. Create an *application*, not an applet
 - An application can have exact control over the Java environment
 - Hopefully will be released within a few weeks

Gong – Real-time Discussion

- We added a feature so people could also do synchronous (real-time) audio and text chat
- The audio and text can be automatically recorded and put into the board as messages
- Students or teachers can then reply to/ annotate the messages

Online User List

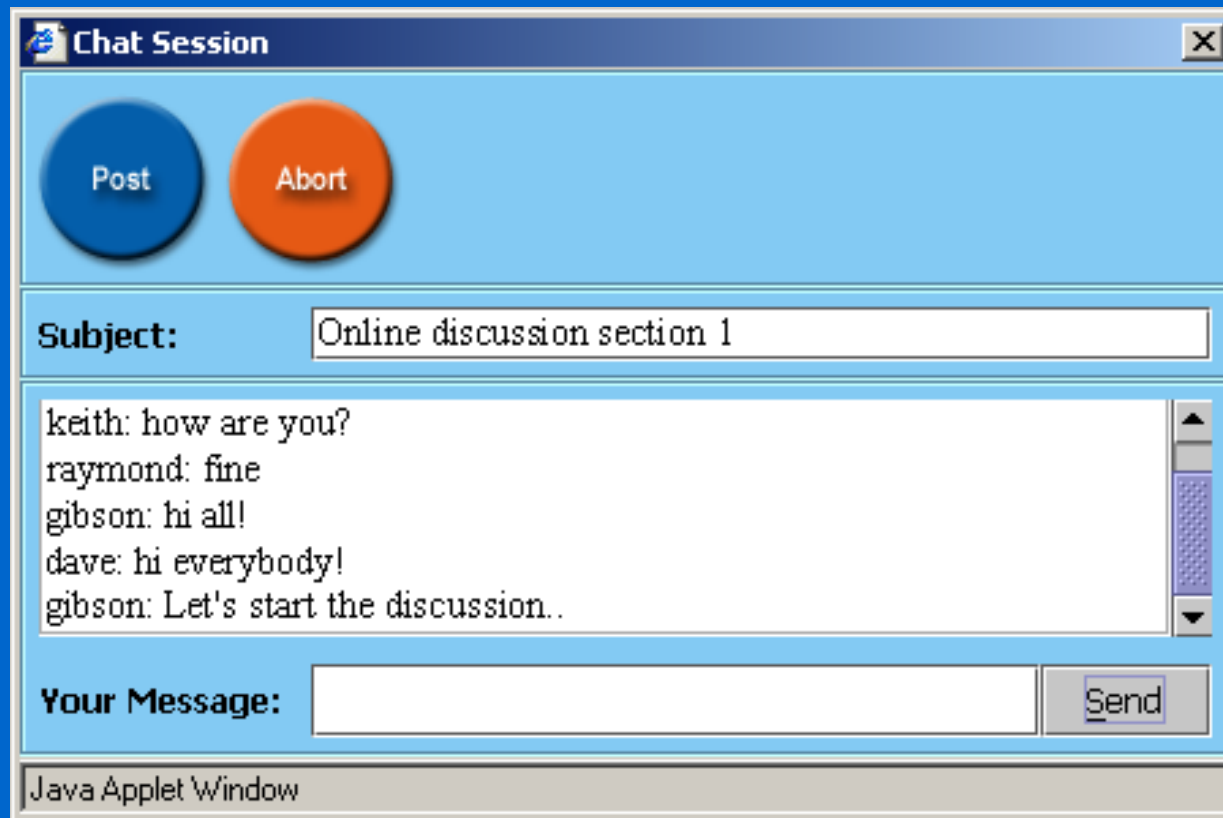
- A user list can be used to show who is currently logged on to the board
- You can select who you want to talk to, and then press ‘Chat’ to talk to them in real-time

User List:

 dave
 gibson
 john
 keith
 raymond

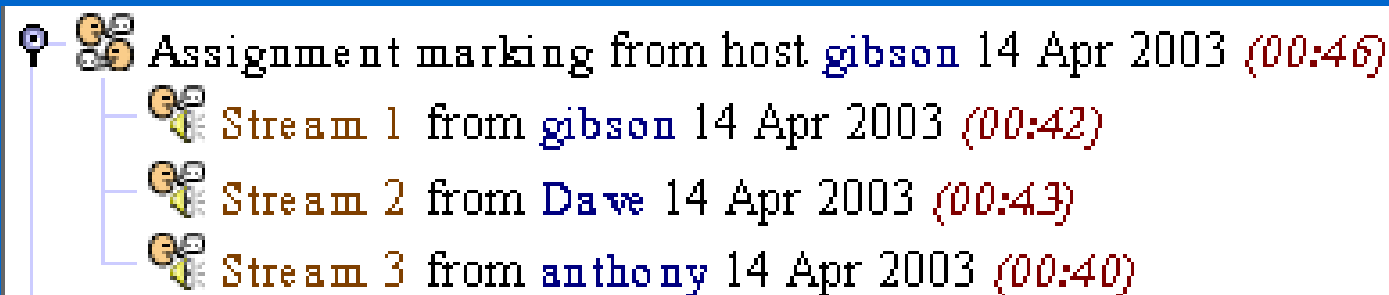
Chat

Real-time Discussion



Real-time Discussion

- The speech in a real-time chat session is recorded separately for each student
- Then the teacher can choose to listen to the recording of the students one by one



Current Situation

- Again, we have had problems with the Java support
- Currently, this feature has been relegated to unsupported status

Administrator Support

- There is a strong level of support for the administrator (i.e. the teacher)

Gong Administrative Structure

Administrator

Can do anything.



Power user

Can add and delete a board. Can edit the properties of any board.
Can't create any accounts.



Tutor

A teacher. They use the system, and can go to the administration area to see all the details about the board. They cannot change any properties.



Member

A user e.g. a student

Import of Student Details

- A teacher doesn't want to type in all students details into the Gong system one by one
- A user import function was developed
- Student details in a variety of formats can be automatically imported into the system
- Takes a few seconds to import all student details for a class

Import of Student Details

Gong User Management - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Gong User Management

Board Management User Management Group Management


Upload New Users

User File: Browse... [Example User File](#)

Field Delimiter: Comma

Text Qualifier: "

Header Row: Yes

 Upload users

Back Logout

Done Internet

Various Access Permissions

- Any teacher/student can register as a user in the system with different access levels
- They can change their user details easily in the discussion board and the admin module
- If desired, a board can be setup such that only the teachers can delete a message or edit the content of a message

Access Permission

- Board access is controlled for three different classes of users:
 - Guest user
 - Registered user
 - Registered user in the groups of the discussion board
- For each class of users, the access level can be selected from:
 - Not authorized
 - Read-Only
 - Full Access

Gong Board Management

Board Management

User Management

Group Management

Create New Board

General Information

Name:

comp343

Description:

Display guest with prefix of:

guest

Show online user list:

No

Create a group with the same name:

Yes

Permissions

Groups for this board:

Read and compose

Other users in the Gong system:

Read and compose

Guest users:

Read and compose

User level permitted to edit messages:

Tutor

User level permitted to delete messages:

Tutor

Email Notification

Notification of new messages:

No

End of Talk

- Thanks for listening!
- Any questions?