



Raindance Meeting Edition, Seminar Edition

THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE TO TECHNOLOGY

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The last time we reviewed Raindance Meeting Edition, we were very impressed by the great leap the service interface had made from functional but uninspiring to the best and easiest we'd seen for small-meeting use. Since then, Raindance has added a few features to Meeting Edition and released a Seminar Edition with the same outstanding interface and additional top-notch seminar setup tools. As before, the emphasis is on ease of use and, as with Meeting Edition, Seminar shines in this area. What you don't get is the ability to launch a meeting from an Office application or document.

Meeting Edition has added a few nice features, including polling, easy recording, and good post-meeting reports. There's also a dedicated Q&A capability that allows a moderator to delegate questions to a co-moderator. Recordings of the entire meeting, including multimedia, are activated by hitting a Record button. Then, moderators can store recordings on a central site and provide users with password-protected access, download the recordings, and e-mail them, or just send them on CDs. Moderators can also store meeting documents on a central server and provide participants with password access.

As before, the first-rate Windows interface and task panes make it a breeze to create, join, run, and participate in meetings.

When you join a Web meeting, Raindance asks for your phone number and dials you up. The program's unique Follow Talker feature switches the live video to whoever is talking at

users' names. Uploaded PowerPoint presentations show transitions, but not integrated audio and video. Presenters can force a full screen during a presentation and even zoom

registration process that requires participants to answer questions and get approval before registering, and can

generate the appropriate e-mails automatically. You can create reusable question sets for this process or for meeting polling. There's also a practice mode that allows moderators to log on at any time and run a practice version of the conference, which is locked to participants until the moderator decides to unlock it.

One appealing new feature: There's also a "lite" version of both services. The stripped-down offerings allow participants to join a meeting or event without installing any Raindance software. Instead, they load a browser-based Java applet and are given limited access to features.

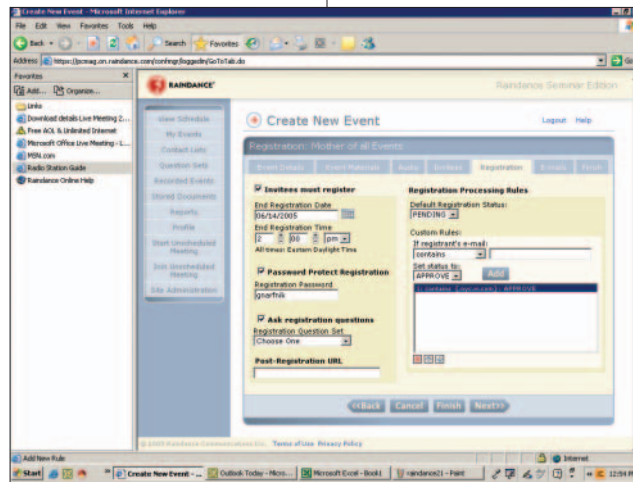
In all, Raindance is the service for you if ease of use and video conferencing are high on your list of requirements. You don't get the ability to activate conferences from Office or to use VoIP, but you may not care.

Raindance Meeting Edition

30 cents per minute (or \$100 per month) per seat.

Raindance Seminar Edition

38 cents per minute (or \$125 per month) per seat. Raindance Communications Inc., www.raindance.com.



RAINDANCE Seminar Edition has the same great interface as Meeting Edition, plus a useful seminar setup wizard that takes the anxiety out of setting up large conferences.

the time, making it feel as if conference attendees are actually talking in person. Audio/Web and Outlook integrations are also superb, allowing you to mute and unmute callers from the Web and create meetings in Outlook while off-line.

Meeting controls are excellent, with very fine-grained control over the rights of moderators, presenters, and participants, and the ability to assign presenters and grant access to shared applications simply by right-clicking on

in on a piece of the presentation for participants during the conference.

Seminar builds on all these features, though it drops the Follow Talker feature. To take the anxiety and frustration out of setting up large conferences and seminars, the program provides an excellent Web-based conference setup wizard that walks you step by step through the process of setting up the conference, audio bridge, and meeting materials.

The program also guides you through a more advanced



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