Area of Interest ICT in Parliament

Sharing Experiences and Solutions for an ICT Based Parliament

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ECPRD

The Milli Mejlis (Parliament)
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Legislative Information Management Applications: Technology Infrastructure to Support the Implementation of E-Parliament

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Conference management system

Bill tracking system

Legislative information system

Events held in Parliament recording system

Legislative Information Management Applications

Some of the results of LIMA include:

- Verbatim recordings in real time
- E-minutes of the meetings in real time
- A complete legislative information and documentation tracking system
- An MP’s workplace inside the Plenary hall
- Indexed video of the plenary sessions
- A bill tracking system

LIMA is a work in progress, we have some ideas, like, for example, making interfaces for:

- Displaying the status of the bill
- Displaying video of the speakers
- and several others ….



Legislative Information Management Applications

When did it start?

In 2006, with the reconstruction of the Plenary hall

What did the AZMM have at that time?

- Incomplete legislative information (it lacked elements of the lawmaking process)
- An elementary electronic voting system that dated back to 1991, made by Philips

What do we have now?

A database that holds the entire lawmaking process in digital format and that contributes to transparency, greater access to information for lawmaking, improved quality of the legislation and modernization and institutional strengthening of the AZMM.

How did we get here?

In 2006, we chose the Bosch DCN Next Generation conference systems because:

- It was a continuation of the former Philips system and it was a very reliable system
- It had a wide range of microphone units
- It was modern and smart
- It allowed the AZMM to build its own in-house system that could grow and adapt to our needs versus buying an off the shelf application

Our demand at that time was:

In the Bosch system the agenda and proposals of voting were mixed together. In parliaments, voting is done by individual articles in discussion by MPs. Meaning, voting can consist of a number of proposals or motions on every agenda issue, each of which will be voted upon.

Agenda and Proposals	
on Bosch System	on our system
1. pass “the title of bill1” in the first reading 2. pass article number 5-10 of “the title of bill 2” 3. pass article number 11-15 of “the title of bill 2” 4. pass article number 16-20 of “the title of bill 2” 5. pass “the title of bill2” in the second reading	1. The title of the bill 1 pass the bill in the first reading 2. The title of the bill 2 pass article number 5-10 pass article number 11-15 pass article number 16-20 pass the bill in the second reading

Agenda

1. The title of the bill_1





- ☑ ☒ ☐ let the time limit on speeches will be 5 min
- ☑ ☒ ☐ stop discussion
- ☑ ☒ ☐ pass the bill in the first reading

2. The title of the bill_2





- ☑ ☒ ☐ pass article number 5-10
- ☑ ☒ ☐ pass article number 11-15
- ☑ ☒ ☐ add new article into the bill

- The second problem was that the Bosch software did not support Unicode symbols. In the Azerbaijani language, some letters have only two byte codes and they don’t have equivalent in a single byte code.

- Bosch did not use Database like MSSQL and Oracle, it exported its information directly into files. It could export List of speakers, list of voting results – etc.

- There was a limit in the numbers of symbols that could be used: the name of a bill was limited to 100 symbols and the name of the MP or delegate was limited by 60 symbols.

The first version of the system conducted the following functions:

- Received and handled the information from the CCU
- Registered some of the information in MSSQL databases. This information included:
  - The voting results
  - The agenda of the meetings
- Moved the cameras to the place where the microphone is turned on to enlarged on a screen the image of the person speaking (in and outside the meeting room)
- Displayed speakers list and the request-to-speak list on a screen (in and outside the meeting room)

The structure of the first system











Audio recording software was added to system







NETWORK

RS 232





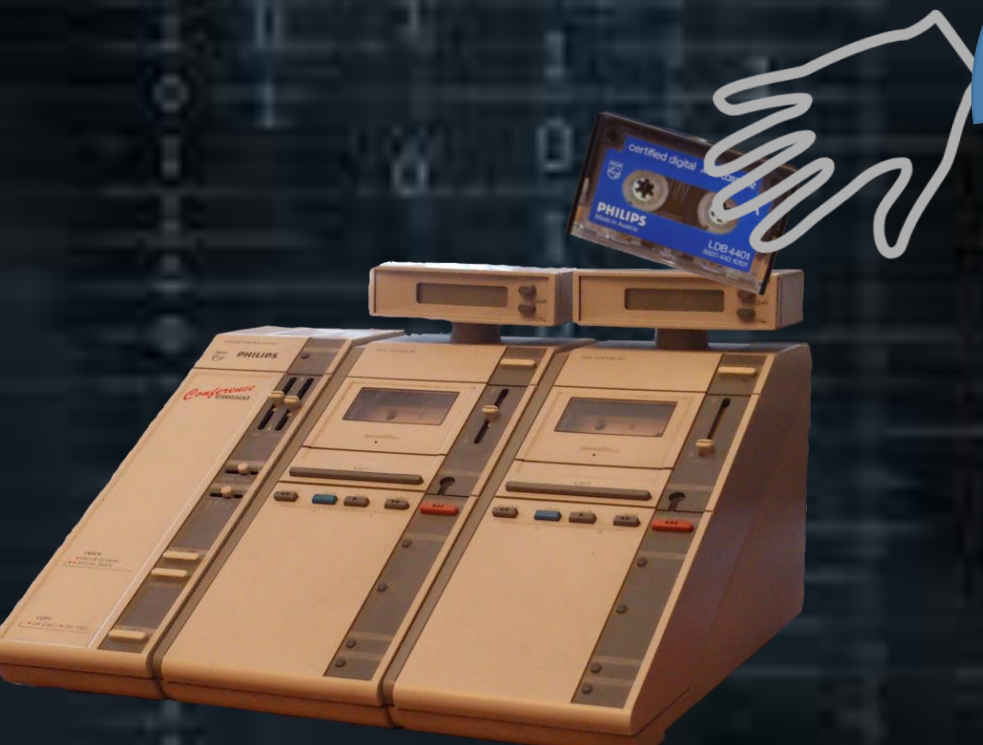


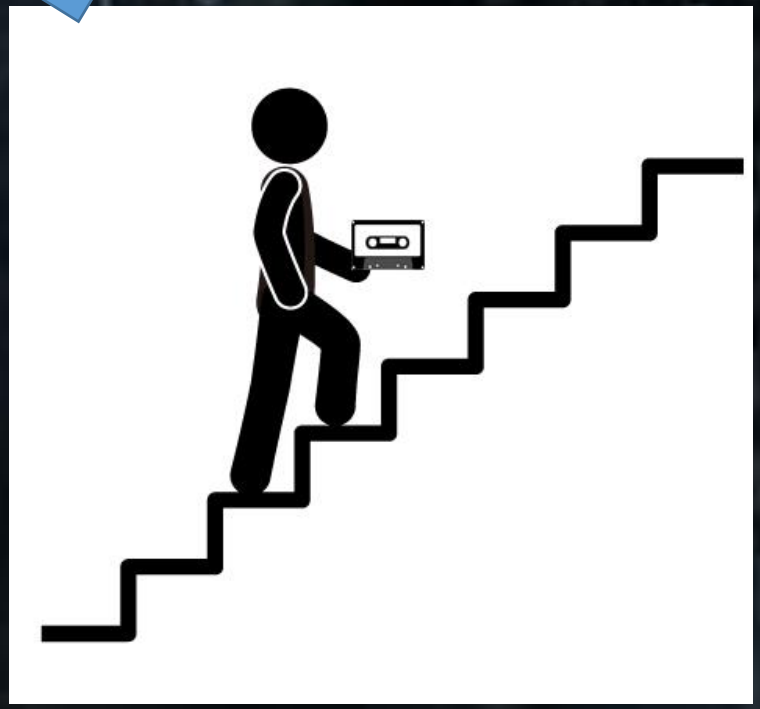
Some of the functions of the audio recording system are:

1. Full audio recording of meetings in Parliament
2. Audio recording on any given time interval, by stenographers

Old system

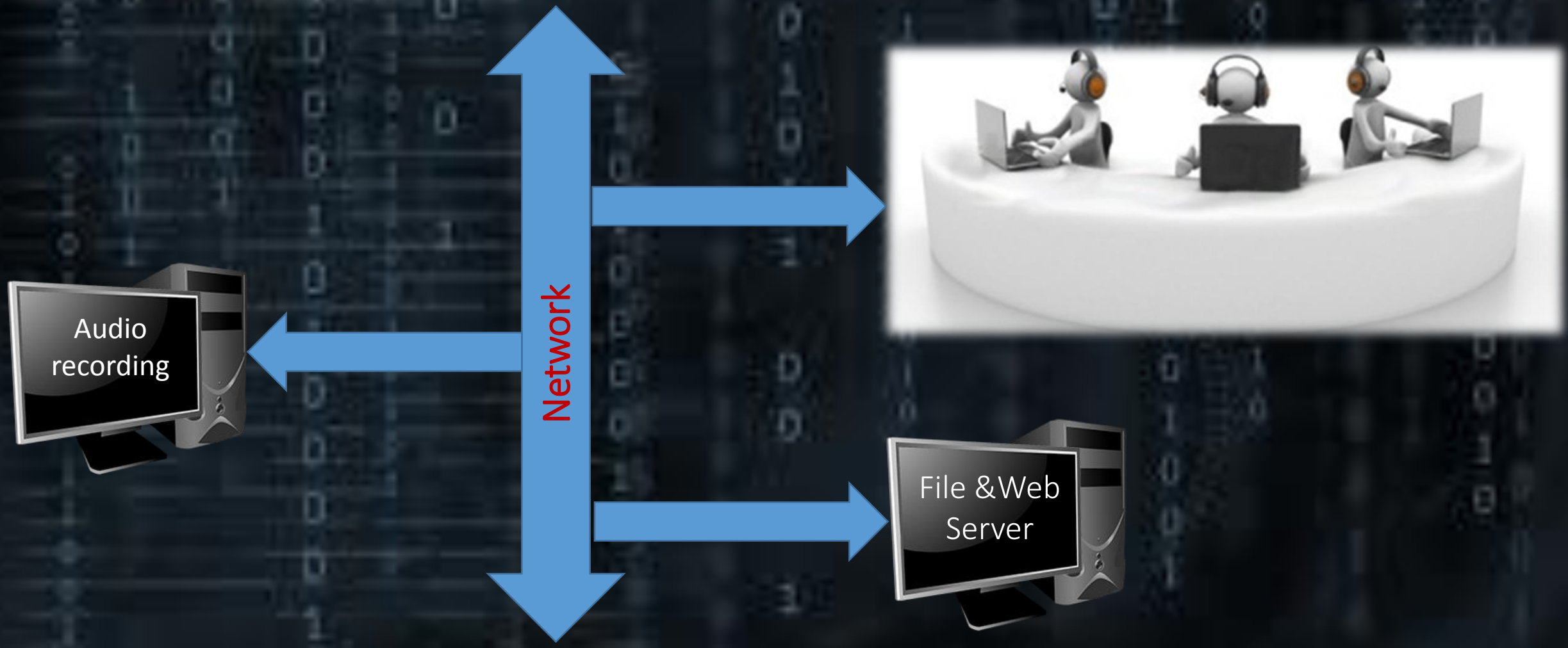
Every 20 minutes a cassette was delivered stenographer



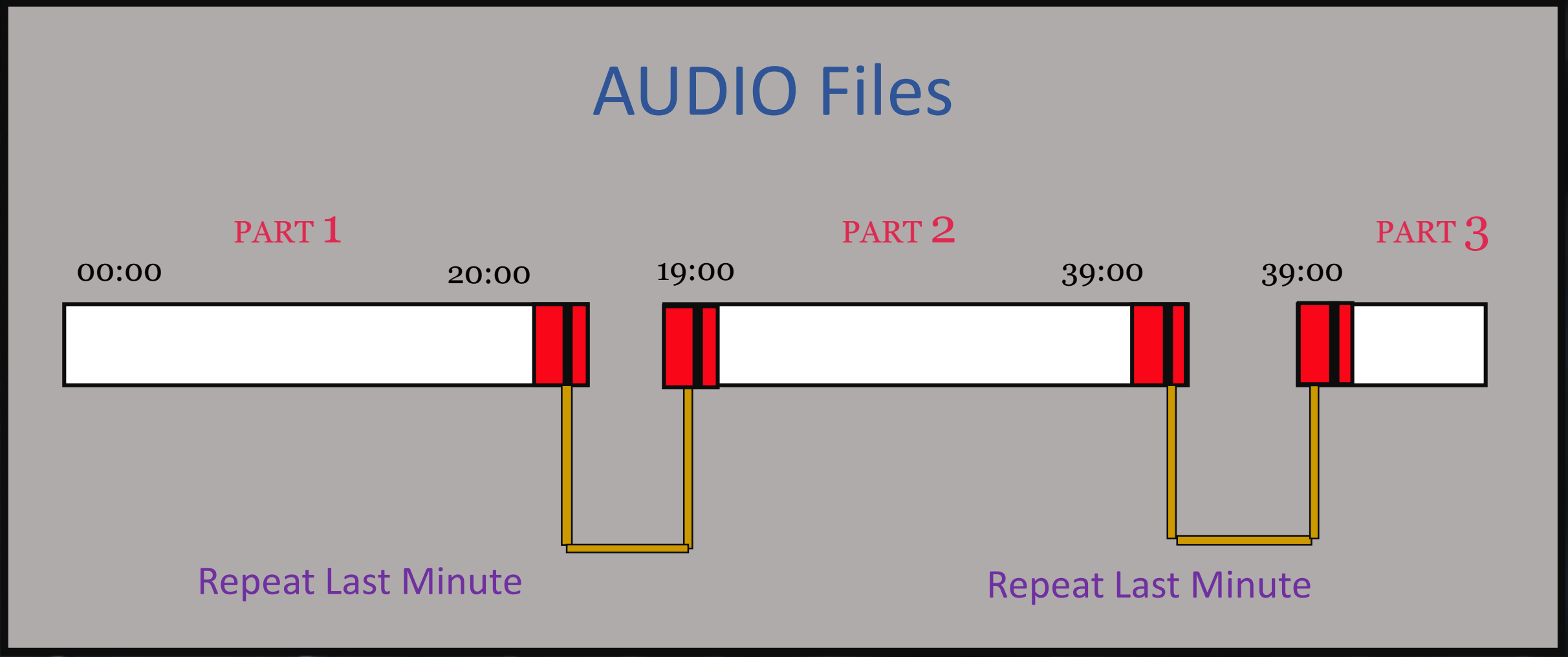


New system:

Every 20 minutes a audio file was delivered to the stenographer through the network it is automatic



One more feature of this software is that the last minute of an audio file overlaps with the first minute of the next audio file to ensure complete information by connecting both audio files. This process is similar to the Philips hardware.



3. Making audio recordings by MP names as long as the microphone is turned on

- This function works along with a control conference software which sends a message((start/stop)) to the software to make a recording for the person who's microphone is turned on/off.
- At the same time, it is able to make audio recordings for 5 MP's whose microphones are turned on
- Registered the time when microphone in turned on(Currently, we use this information to make indexed video)
- Registered length of the audio record

Video recording software was added to system



Network

Audio recording

RS 232



conference control



Video recording



The video recording software:

- Makes full video recording of the meeting
- Allows for combining the video record with the meeting background

In order to be flexible in video the recording process, and to control monitors in and outside the meeting rooms, we made a new software(Kramer Control) and added it to our system. This software controls:

- Kramer devices,VS-1616A 16x16 Balanced Stereo Audio
- Matrix Switcher,VS-162V 16x16 Video Matrix Switcher
- VP-8x8 8x8 VGA/UXGA Matrix Switcher
- Allegiant 32 X 6 CCTV Matrix Switcher

This software allows the system to register the following things on video:

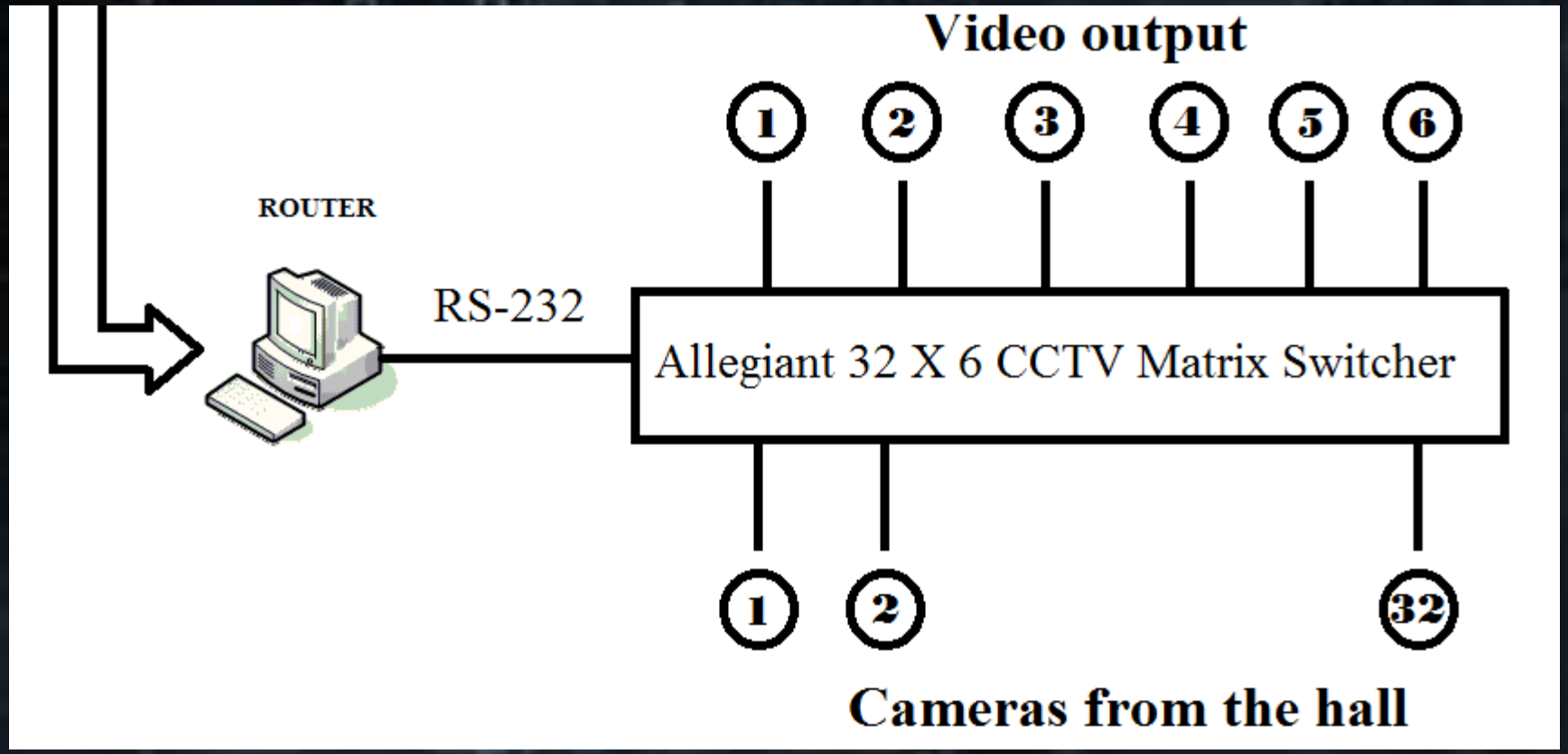
- Automatically registers all information that is displayed on the screen inside the meeting room on our video recording. The information includes:
  - Voting results
  - Registration of information
  - Video the individual speaking – and other ..
- Flexible interface to control these devices by hand

With the arrival of the new meeting rooms(5 additional rooms) we had to make a new software for controlling Allegiant 32 X 6 CCTV Matrix Switcher.

Why did we do it?

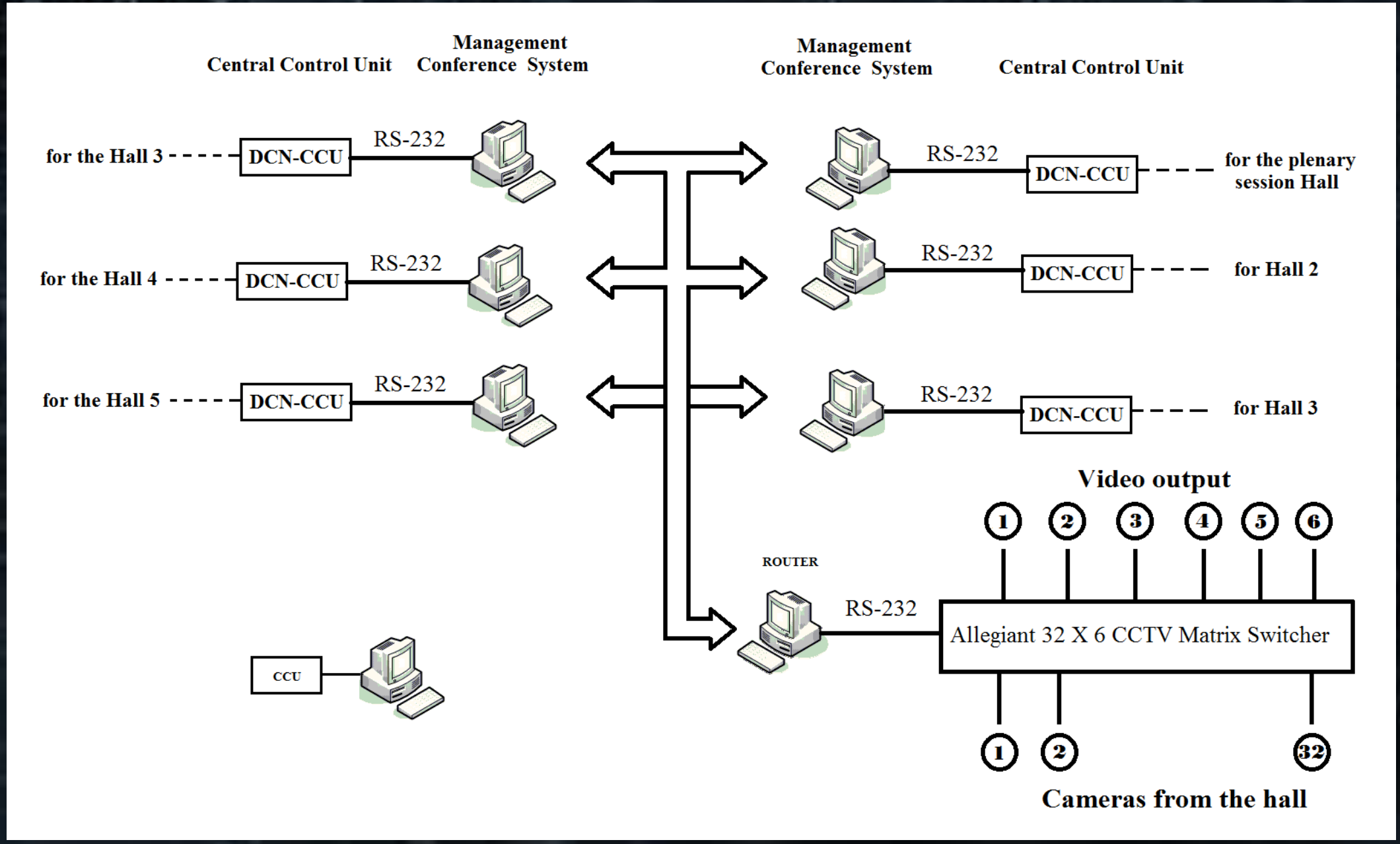
- Every meeting room has several cameras and its own Bosch CCU(Central Control Unit)
- Allegiant has one RS 232 ports, for every meeting we must buy allegiant and its keyboard. 5 allegiant and 5 keyboards.
- Therefore, we would have used switches ineffectively. The maximum number of cameras in these meeting rooms is 5, some less. Therefore, the other inputs will be unused and wasted.
- It will be difficult to manage these cameras by hand with a keyboard when it will be several different meeting on different meetings room.

We called this software a Router because of its appearance.



- Software controls the input and output of Allegiant
- Very flexible with management
- The data can be controlled automatically
- It is very fast
- It is handy
- No additional cost was needed
- No place for the keyboard and the allegiant needed

Overview


Central Control Unit
Management Conference System
Management Conference System
Central Control Unit
for the Hall 3
DCN-CCU
RS-232
RS-232
DCN-CCU
for the plenary session Hall
for the Hall 4
DCN-CCU
RS-232
RS-232
DCN-CCU
for Hall 2
for the Hall 5
DCN-CCU
RS-232
RS-232
DCN-CCU
for Hall 3
Video output
1
2
3
4
5
6
ROUTER
RS-232
Allegiant 32 X 6 CCTV Matrix Switcher
CCU
1
2
32
Cameras from the hall

Features of the conference control software include:

- Turns off and on the microphone using the request list and also by MP's name.
- Manages information which is displayed in and outside the meeting room.
- Manages the basic settings like "speech time limit".
- Prepares the meeting agenda. Now, it receives the agenda from the **Bill Tracking System.**
- Chooses the issues of the agenda when the Chairman announces them. It allows us to make indexed video and audio records on the subject of the agenda.
- Gives voting results including of motions.
- Prints information.
- Allows for the possibility of sending messages to the Chairman on his screen.
- Sends messages to the audio and video recordings, Router and Kramers softwares.

Benefits of the Control Management System:

- The ability to register every event in our database and video.
- Fast and accurate verbatim records. After the microphone is switched on/off, the speech of the speaker appears in verbatim records. We called it E-verbatim records.
- Video and audio recording in indexed by MP's and by the subjects of the agenda.
- Fast and accurate minutes. After events like voting, registrations, an image of the speaker and microphones switching is accruing in minutes. We called it E-minutes.
- All of these benefits contribute to transforming legislative processes into digital format.
- By using these applications, and integrating them into a more complete system, the AZMM has organized and systematized legislative information and documentation. This information and documentation is pure institutional memory that can be used during all phases of the lawmaking process and the interpretation of the law by MPs, staff, and external actors – including Parliaments that are members of the ECRPD network.

THANKS FOR
YOUR KIND ATTENTION