

Transition from WebEx Meeting Center to CarmenConnect:

In 2012, many of you participated in a pilot project of the Adobe Connect web conferencing platform for the Office of the Chief Information Officer at Ohio State. The pilot has come to an end and the OCIO has purchased Adobe Connect (OSU licensed as CarmenConnect) for use by all colleges and departments in the university.

For the past several years, OSU Extension has contracted with Cisco for use of the WebEx *Meeting* Center (less than 25 participants) and WebEx *Event* Center (more than 25 participants). The contract for WebEx *Meeting* Center will expire on April 28, 2013; and the decision has been made to adopt the CarmenConnect platform as the webconferencing tool for use by the organization. WebEx *Event* Center (more than 25 participants) will remain available through November 28, 2013.

To begin the transition from WebEx *Meeting* Center to CarmenConnect, please request your CarmenConnect account no later than April 19, 2013. You may request your account by sending a request by email to: CarmenConnect@osu.edu.

Besides realizing a financial savings, this transition will provide other benefits to the organization:

- Scheduling a webconference with CarmenConnect is very flexible. There is no need to have an approved scheduler create a conference for you. You can create conferences yourself and use them at anytime.
- CarmenConnect utilizes Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) as its primary audio delivery mode but also allows the integration of VoIP with a variety of telephone conferencing providers. Users can setup an account for a toll free 800 number through the university (<http://ocio.osu.edu/services/view/audio-conferencing>) or utilize other providers such as FreeConferenceCall.com
- CarmenConnect offers a wide variety of graphical layouts which allows users to customize their conference to help reach their educational goals as well as provide rich collaboration tools for work on projects, documents, etc.
- CarmenConnect is the web conferencing platform that eXtension uses for its programs. Using CarmenConnect will allow ease of integration of OSUE personnel into eXtension web conferences.

Further details regarding training opportunities, FAQs and Tips & Tricks videos which will assist you in becoming a proficient CarmenConnect user will be forthcoming.

To learn more about CarmenConnect, go to:

<http://ocio.osu.edu/elearning/services/tools/carmenconnect/>

If you have immediate questions about CarmenConnect as it relates to an upcoming program or event, please contact Ken Kulka at 614-292-2012 or kulka.1@osu.edu.

March 4, 2013