Experiences Using Webex Virtual Event Capability
by
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To stay active with IEEE"s educational objectives here in New Hampshire, we used Webex capability, for which IEEE has an institutional license. We ran a first event April 21st with a short notice, and with a new spin on leveraging activities from other regions that are enabled within the virtual model.

We picked a real time webinar event - in this case one sponsored by the Brooking's Institute on "Public health surveillance, AI bias, and risks to privacy in the fight against COVID-19" (recorded and available on YouTube)

Public Health Surveillance AI Etc..

Folks watched this and we immediately followed it with a NH focused discussion (inviting members of CS, ComSoc, Life Members, EMBS and WIE/YP with very short notice -- my apologies).

Our post- webinar discussion expanded on the technology issues involved, the work IEEE USA is doing on privacy, and even clarification from some of our IEEE experts on the concepts involved. The feedback from the participants was very positive, and it is clear we should pursue similar types of events in the future.

Brookings, and the panelists in this case, had their own spin -- but still lots of good information and questions about the viability of phone apps for contact tracking, who has access to the data, other technological approaches, etc. Please share relevant pointers with our Chapter Chairs (See list on our website, including contact information)

On a related note -- virtual meeting tools vary in their security, privacy, etc. Our IEEE NH events are open to the public, and if our colleagues in other countries want to join/monitor our discussions they are welcome. We do not deal with secret or confidential information. As with any technology, different users will have different needs. We used a "password" to control participation in our event where voice and video were available and a very respectful dialog took place.
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Is it better than Zoom or Teams or JITSI or WhatsApp or Houseparty or Skype or etc.   I'm not sure.

 Does it work, YES.