

# Custom Pod Development: Adobe Connect 8 Closed Captioning Pod



**Challenge.** Adobe Systems, industry leader in internet and creative software tools, enlisted eSyncTraining to develop a custom pod to help deliver and manage Closed Captioning services for the new release of Adobe Connect 8, their industry-leading web conferencing solution. Given their longstanding relationship with key members of the eSyncTraining development team, the Chief Product Evangelist for Connect contacted eSync with initial specs and concepts for the custom pod development. The pod was required to correspond with the release of Adobe Connect 8, which recently underwent a series of upgrades, which included a migration from ActionScript 2.0 to ActionScript 3.0, necessitating a full overhaul in the pod framework and development architecture. In addition to new functionality, eSync was challenged to implement a more versatile user interface and user experience, while also improving overall source flexibility.

**Strategy.** eSyncTraining chose a development strategy for the project which combined the Flex 3.5 Framework, Cairngorm MVC Microarchitecture, and ActionScript 3.0. The team also tested and showcased a proof of concept feature for custom user controls which allows attendees to easily rewind and fast-forward captions in real time, much like popular Digital Video Recording (DVR) devices used for television. The eSyncTraining solution represented a complete overhaul and upgrade of all the pod features and functionality, delivering a new engine to integrate Closed Captions into the Adobe Connect 8 classroom.

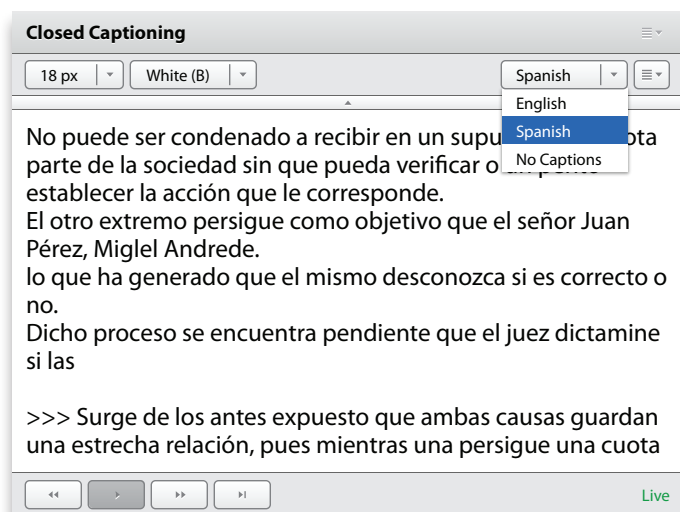
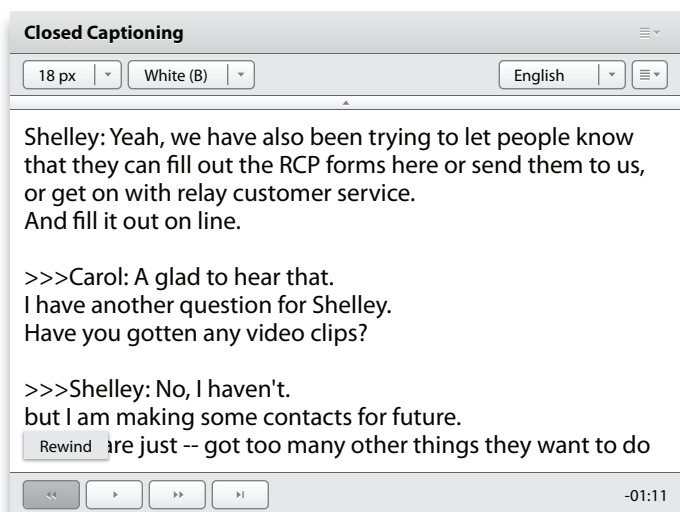
The solution included a wide range of new features, including:

- ▶ Developed in conjunction with and for the all new Adobe Connect 8
- ▶ Integration with multiple caption provider services, including Caption Colorado, Caption First, StreamText, and WGBH
- ▶ XML socket integration for multiple Caption providers and supporting multiple languages
- ▶ Incorporation of web-standard tabs for meeting Host to navigate between multiple Closed Captioning connections
- ▶ Ability for users to choose and toggle between multiple caption streams and customize their viewing options
- ▶ Functionality for multiple Hosts and connection failsafe for the seamless “passing off” of connections between Hosts
- ▶ Save-As function also allows both users and hosts to save the captioning stream as plain text or HTML
- ▶ The flexible framework also allows for complex on-the-fly resizing and pod relocation without disrupting the captioning stream



**User Interface Design.** The design team set out to create a seamless user experience between navigating the Connect UI and integrating a closed captioning pod into the room. Incorporating a clean and sophisticated design scheme, the custom pod feels like part of the connect room and is easy to use and navigate for any attendee. New design features in the custom pod include:

- ▶ Variable display options (font, size, color, background, and visibility)
- ▶ DVR style time-based controls (rewind, fast forward and speed control features) that also work in the recording archives
- ▶ Multi-state color and icon coded connection display for disconnected, connected, and broadcasting states
- ▶ Ability to hide and show menu to maximize usable space



**Results.** With the new closed captioning pod, Adobe is able to ensure that the Adobe Connect 8 web conferencing solution is accessible to all users, regardless of accessibility constraints. The custom pod is available on Adobe's website.

## eSyncTraining Professional Services

eSyncTraining offers a broad spectrum of professional services for our clients' development needs. Our expert team is experienced in Adobe Flex applications, Adobe Connect 8 custom pods, eLearning courses with a specialized focus on the Flash Platform, Rich Internet and mobile Applications, and can execute on all types of user interface design. We have developed applications and web assets for firms of all sizes, from simple branding websites through cutting-edge Flex applications, custom shopping solutions, and integrated data visualization and dashboard solutions for some of the world's leading companies.

To find out more eSyncTraining's services for your firm's specific development needs, please call **1.888.77E.SYNC (888.773.7962)** or email at **support@esynctraining.com**.