

WHITE PAPER SUBMISSION - 2004 NMCI Industry Symposium

**AUTHOR:** First Virtual Communications ([www.fvc.com](http://www.fvc.com))

**TITLE:**

The Defense Collaboration Tool Suite (DCTS)

**ABSTRACT:**

The Defense Collaboration Tool Suite (DCTS) is a suite of commercial, off-the-shelf products endorsed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Joint Staff (OSD/JS) that provides collaborative services including audio, video, chat, whiteboard and application sharing. By Department of Defense (DoD) mandate, all collaborative products not included in DCTS must have been certified as “interoperable” with DCTS by October 1, 2003, or are “not authorized on DoD networks”.

This mandate produced a rush of vendors announcing their certification of interoperability with DCTS. However, there are three levels of certification, system, component and enhancement, each with dramatically different profiles in terms of usability and marketability. Understanding the certification process and levels is critical to making informed decisions when acquiring collaboration technology. This White Paper explores the certification process and