

PodReview: Portable Review of Research Meeting

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Abstract: This paper proposes PodReview, which is a portable review of research meeting. The goal of PodReview is to encourage novice researchers to review research meeting with portable media player such as iPod to have a deeper understanding of the meeting contents. This paper also describes a PodReview system, which enables the portable review in a location-free and time-free manner.

Keywords: PodReview, portable review, video-podcasting, meeting contents

Introduction

Research activity consists of various sub-activities, which include related work survey, idea refinement, system design/development, meeting, etc. Among them, research meeting particularly plays a crucial role in producing beneficial findings indispensable for other sub-activities. For example, findings obtained from a meeting could give the researchers the next step for refining the concepts/ideas included in the research work.

On the other hand, it is not so easy for novice researchers to follow and understand the presentation and discussion conducted in the meeting. They often fail to obtain beneficial findings produced from the meeting, which senior researchers could obtain. It is accordingly necessary for the novices to review the meeting afterwards.

Meeting review is usually conducted with the handouts annotated with short notes taken during the meeting. However, such handouts could not always allow the novices to review the contents they have failed to hear. In case the reviewer has been a presenter in the meeting, in addition, he/she would often have difficulty in precisely recollecting and understanding the comments that have been made during the meeting [1].

The main issue addressed in this paper is how to encourage novice researchers to review research meeting. The meeting review is not always conducted since it is hard to spare the time to review in the daily research activity. Our approach to the meeting review is to provide the novices with portable review, called PodReview, which enables them to review the meeting with portable media player anytime and anywhere.

1. Framework

Figure 1 shows the framework of PodReview. PodReview consists of two stages, which are PodReview contents generation stage and review stage. In the PodReview contents generation stage, the slide image and audio data to be obtained from the presentation and discussion in the meeting are recorded in a synchronized way. In order to generate the contents suitable for PodReview, which is called PodReview contents, the recorded image and audio data are then divided into segments in transition of presentation slides. Each segment accordingly includes the presentation and discussion conducted in regard to the corresponding slide, which is also attached to a metadata representing the title of the slide.

Such segmentation allows reviewers to review the meeting with random access. The generated PodReview contents are uploaded to the file server on the Web.

In the review stage, a reviewer can select some segments, which he/she wants to review, from the PodReview contents on the file server. The selected segments are then transferred to iPod. He/she can review them with iPod. The reviewer can make some comments on the reviewed segments to upload them to the file server. Such comments could promote additional discussion and produce additional benefits.

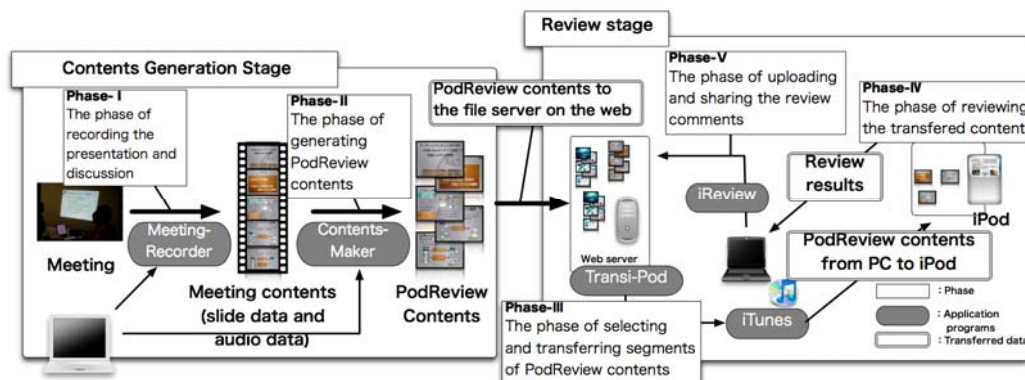


Figure 1. Framework of PodReview.

2. PodReview System

We have developed Meeting-Recorder and Contents-Maker for the PodReview contents generation. Meeting-Recorder captures the screen image of the presentation slides and the voices obtained from a microphone during the meeting, and also records the slide transition. Contents-Maker divides the meeting contents into segments in the slide transition.

We have also developed Transi-Pod and iReview for reviewing the PodReview contents. Transi-Pod generates a RSS file for Podcast including the URLs on which the segments selected by the reviewer are located. He/she registers the RSS file on iTunes, and then the selected segments are automatically downloaded and transferred to iPod. iReview allows the reviewer to make some comments on the reviewed contents and to upload them to the file server on the Web. In making comments, iReview also allows him/her to view and share the comments other reviewers have made.

3. Conclusion

This paper has proposed PodReview whose goal is to help novice researchers to review research meeting with portable media player in a location-free and time-free manner. We believe that the PodReview system works well for novice researchers although we need to evaluate it. In future, we will refine the functions the system possesses according to the results of the evaluation.

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References

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