

# Video Broadcasts of City Government Meetings Keep Citizens Up-to-Date

**Customer:** City Government, City of South Miami

**Application:** IP Video Encoding and Distribution

**Products:** MGW FlashStreamer

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### The Challenge: Tearing the Veil

The City of South Miami is a suburban college town with a population of 10,500 adjacent to the main campus of the University of Miami. This close-knit community values an open government. The Sunshine Laws of Florida protect the right of citizens to conveniently access government records, whether printed or electronic, and participate in meetings of boards and commissions and other governing bodies. These laws have whetted an appetite for processes that enable the public to keep up-to-date on the issues facing them and help keep the City Government accountable.

The Florida Government, at the state and local level, is now required to hold open meetings of its governing bodies scheduled in such a way as to not impede the public from participating. If decisions are taken at such meetings and compliance to open meetings requirement is in dispute, the courts can direct city governments to conduct the meetings over again.

A video broadcast provides an opportunity for citizens to participate even if they can't be physically present. Video broadcasts can enable greater civic participation and create a public record that can be accessed at any time ensuring transparency in the governmental process. The City of South Miami, having a limited budget, could not afford dedicated broadcasting facilities or costly installation and operation of professional broadcasting equipment. Additionally, the City wanted something easily transported and used in any of the myriad of locations across the city where public government meetings will be held.

### Meeting the Challenge: Rolling it all in a Box

Optibase MGW FlashStreamer is a self contained video broadcasting appliance. It can be readily plugged into the Internet or any internal IP network for streaming a video broadcast on the fly. The Optibase MGW FlashStreamer provides:

- An easy-to-use appliance for streaming live events over the Internet using the popular Adobe® Flash® technology
- Compact and a portable design. Easily moved from location to location as needed.
- Support for various resolutions and bit-rates allows optimization of the video streams to the available bandwidth
- Effortless integration with the existing Internet website
- Compliance with large-scale media distribution services (CDNs) for high-traffic applications

The City of South Miami now offers its citizens real-time access to Government functions live from a link on its web site. This allows those citizens that are limited due to time constraints or physical disability to virtually attend the City functions. The live feed is also captured automatically by Optibase MGW FlashStreamer, allowing for replay at a later time. This automatic archiving of the video record of city governmental functions creates a permanent record accessible and readily retrieved when needed.

## Benefits

**Compatibility:** Adobe®Flash® Player is the most widely available media player on personal computers already preinstalled on 98% of online PCs. It is supported on all of the major PC operating systems: Microsoft Windows, Apple OS X and most distributions of the Linux Operating System.

**Low Cost:** MGW FlashStreamer saves on cost of installation, operation and space, needed for non-integrated video broadcasting equipment.

**Convenience:** Live Internet broadcasts are as simple as plugging in a camera and connecting to the Internet. No special training is necessary.

**Reliability:** MGW FlashStreamer was specifically designed to function continuously, ensuring a smooth, failure-free operation

**Flexibility:** MGW FlashStreamer's portability and built-in streaming server for video distribution over IP networks allow for a broadcast from almost any location.

**Scalability:** MGW FlashStreamer can be used stand-alone or integrated with an existing IT/Web server or media farm to support higher traffic.

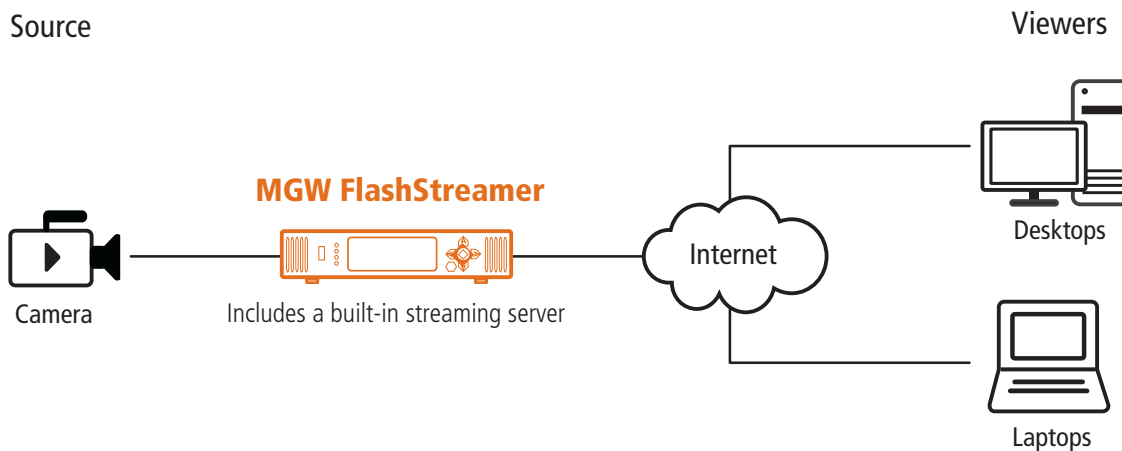
**Manageability:** MGW FlashStreamer can be managed from a simple administrative web page. No special software installation necessary.

## Key Benefits

- Encodes video and audio in real-time for playback in Adobe Flash Player.
- Built-in streaming server can handle up to 200 concurrent viewers.
- Uses standard web technologies and as such, is compatible with all popular operating systems and browsers.
- Web-based management application for centralized administration and configuration.
- Internal hard drive to save content and make it available at a later date and for archiving purposes.



## Flow Diagram



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