Polycom PathNavigator™

Technical FAQ

Is Polycom PathNavigator a hardware or software solution?

Polycom PathNavigator is a software application that runs on a Windows® NT/2000 operating system.

What are the system requirements?

Server Requirements

- 512 MB RAM (or more)
- 2 GB free free hard drive space

License specific Database and Hardware Requirements

Licensed Endpoints	Database Type	PathNavigator Server Hardware
25-seat	Microsoft Access Microsoft SQL	Pentium® III 500 MHz
100-seat	Microsoft SQL	Pentium III 650 MHz
500-seat	Microsoft SQL	Pentium III 1.4 GHz
1500-seat	Microsoft SQL	Pentium III 1.4 GHz
3000-seat	Microsoft SQL	Pentium IV 1.9 GHz

One if the following operating systems:

- Windows NT® 4.0 with Service Pack 6 or 6a
- Windows 2000 Server (Service Pack 2 optional but recommended)
- Windows 2000 Advanced Server with Service Pack 1
- Microsoft® Internet Information Services™ 4.0 with Service Pack 2 or Microsoft Internet Information Services™ 5.0
- Microsoft Access™ or SQL 7.0 or higher*

* SQL must be installed on a separate server

Client Requirements

One of the following operating systems:

- Windows 98
- Windows ME
- Windows 2000
- Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher

What pack sizes does Polycom PathNavigator come in?

Polycom PathNavigator come in 25, 100, 500 and 3000 pack sizes.

How many concurrent calls can the 25 pack provide?

The 25-pack works a little different than the 100, 500 and 3000 pack sizes. As an ongoing promotional offer, the first 25-pack offers 12 concurrent calls when it is working in conjunction with a MGC. When two 25-packs are added together to make a 50-pack, the number of concurrent calls increase to 15. Three 25-packs added together offer 22 concurrent calls. If a MGC is not deployed in the same environment, a single 25-pack only offers eight concurrent calls.

Does Polycom PathNavigator work with other manufacturer's endpoints, gatekeepers, MCUs and gateways?

Polycom PathNavigator uses industry standards to ensure interoperability with third party products. Any endpoint can be registered and managed as a resource. Since it can see all the resources in a network it will utilize existing gatekeepers as 'neighbor gatekeepers' and can work with any MCU or gateway. Polycom PathNavigator also works with and compliments the Cisco® Proxy Server.

What features are or will be specific to the Polycom solution?

- Conference on-demand from Polycom endpoints
- Simplified dialing with Polycom gateways
- Automatically configure Polycom endpoints for Polycom OneDial™ on IP or ISDN networks.
- Endpoints seamlessly set up call forwarding

Does Polycom PathNavigator replace the need for Cisco's MCM?

No. Polycom PathNavigator creates a much higher level of utilization optimizing previous infrastructure investments in networks built by Cisco, Nortel®, Microsoft, Lucent®, etc. Polycom PathNavigator uses such products as resources in its network.

Do I need both Polycom Global Management System and Polycom PathNavigator to deploy H.323 devices?

No. Polycom PathNavigator is all that you need, although both will be beneficial to deployment in an enterprise. They compliment each other. Polycom PathNavigator is focused on call routing and control while Polycom Global Management System is focused on device management, monitoring and has a Global Directory Server.

Polycom PathNavigator has features that include conference on-demand, alternate routing, least-cost routing, automatic E.164 and DID assignment.

Polycom Global Management System includes management and monitoring of endpoints both proactively and remotely, provisioning of endpoint settings and schedulable software updates.

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What is the difference between alternate gatekeeper and redundant server?

In an alternate gatekeeper environment, two servers are processing calls separately. If one of the PathNavigator servers were to go down, the "Alternate" Path Navigator would take on the additional load of the other PathNavigator. The endpoints that were registered with the "downed" server will register with the active "Alternate" PathNavigator. One major difference between an alternate gatekeeper and redundant server feature is that with an alternate gatekeeper, the endpoints register with an entirely different system with a different setup. In the redundant server situation, the server configuration information is the same between the primary and backup PathNavigator since the information is drawn from the same database. Furthermore, one server always acts as backup where no endpoints register with it if the primary PathNavigator is functioning; it only becomes active when the primary PathNavigator server fails.

How does a customer get a demo key?

The customer has to request a PathNavigator demo version from a Polycom Systems Engineer. The SE will provide the customer with a demo key and will also assist with the installation of and demonstration of PathNavigator. This process is not related with a Purchased key a customer may buy.

Is Polycom PathNavigator an Audio IP PBX?

No. Although Polycom PathNavigator can supply rudimentary H.323 audio call processing and call forwarding, it was not designed as an audio IP PBX. Polycom PathNavigator is more like an IP and ISDN video PBX that complements both IP and circuit switched PBXs.

How does auto assignment of DID numbers work in Polycom PathNavigator?

A Trunk DID number range is obtained from the CO and entered into Polycom PathNavigator, assigning the appropriate E.164 to enable DID dialing. The administrator can then assign these numbers in a logical number range based on network topology.

What is the maximum number of registration and concurrent calls that Polycom PathNavigator can manage?

Currently Polycom PathNavigator can address up to 3000 registrants and 600 concurrent sessions in a direct mode. Later releases of Polycom PathNavigator will allow pooling of resources increasing these figures across additional Polycom PathNavigator servers.

How does Polycom PathNavigator compare to the ECS, NGK or the Cisco gatekeeper?

See chart below.

	Non-PLCM Equipment	Polycom Equipment
Gatekeepers	**Manage Bandwidth across the network** - Register any manufacturer's endpoints - Authorize calls - Dial with number, H.323 ID, E.164 - Uses any Gateway or MCU	**Same features as for Non-PLCM equipment**
Polycom PathNavigator Call Processing Server	**All the above features +** - Manage Bandwidth based on specific network topology for LAN, WAN, and Groups - Automatic Alternate Routing over IP and ISDN - Simple Least Cost Routing - Polycom OneDial* – hiding complex ISDN gateway prefixes - Dial with name, email addr., URL, WINS, DNS - On-line CDR and network performance monitoring - Join or leave hunt groups from endpoint	**All the features from the non-Polycom product column +** - Polycom OneDial* – Hiding area and country codes, dialing from directory, multipoint on demand - Endpoint interface integration for Polycom OneDial & call forwarding - Automatically collect all ISDN information on endpoints - Automatically provision ISDN (DID) and E.164 extensions

**Polycom OneDial™ capabilities enhance Polycom and non-Polycom endpoints*

POLYCOM®
www.polycom.com

Polycom, Inc.: 4750 Willow Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588 (T) 1.800.POLYCOM (765.9266) for North America only.
For North America, Latin America and Caribbean (T) +1.925.924.6000, (F) +1.925.924.6100

Polycom EMEA: 270 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4DX, (T) +44 (0)1753 723000, (F) +44 (0)1753 723010

Polycom Hong Kong Ltd: Polycom Hong Kong Ltd., Rm 1101 MassMutual Tower, 38 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, (T) +852.2861.3113, (F)+852.2866.8028

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