Dear fellow interpreters!

As announced by Arturo Bobea in his July 14, LinkedIn post - Translation Commons Interpreting Think Tank - Interprefy co-founder and CRM manager Jacob T. Høgh delivered a demonstration about the remote simultaneous interpreting platform Interprefy to us. He answered patiently to a whole host of questions we as interpreters of course would ask.

WebRTC

We have learned from Interprefy that the last study about voice over internet sound quality dates back to 2005 and does not take into account that new WebRTC based communication technologies have emerged. Interprefy uses this technology - together with a worldwide server network - to provide high quality 20KHz audio, as well as to achieve Lip sync by audio-to-video synchronization. WebRTC is supported by Google, Mozilla, Opera and others. According to Interprefy, the sound quality on their platform is often better than in traditional booths, due to the lack of need to transform digital signals into analogue and back.

Interprefy recommends working in a studio setting and to have a max. of 50 ms Ping and at least 2Mbps upload/download internet bandwidth. This is sufficient to stream the video and audio at the 20kHz frequency range (so-called full band) - plus to allow remote 1st hand-tech-support from Interprefy to monitor the event and the interpreters. Furthermore, until now the interpreters should use a fast Ethernet cable connected to the router as Wi-Fi can suddenly drop drastically. It is Interprefy's business idea, though, that Internet will become more stable in the future, and not less stable.

Of course as interpreters, one of our first questions was what would happen in the case of an internet drop? There is an automatic line monitoring and auto-reconnect in the event of the internet connection being interrupted. Also, there is the option Hybrid Plus with lower requirements on the Internet connection as it needs only one audio stream from server to venue: the distribution of audio to participants on site is then handled through IR or radio system.

How it works

On a laptop, you go to the Interprefy website and log in with your received token. On smartphones and tablets, the platform can be accessed via the “Interprefy Connect” mobile app, which can be downloaded free for both iOS and Android devices.

Participants use their smartphones, tablets and/or laptops, and listen to real interpreters via Wi-Fi or mobile data networks. If needed, traditional headsets with standard IR/radio transmitters may also be used to listen to simultaneous interpretation. For large events with hundreds of participants requiring interpretation, Interprefy recommends to use laptops (no app needed) or a Hybrid Plus version, combining the Interprefy platform to traditional IR or radio headsets. Smartphones or laptops can still be used in parallel, for example if the number of headsets is insufficient. In its slimmest version, Interprefy merely needs a stable Wi-Fi connection or mobile network - e.g. for one interpreter working for a small lawyer’s office - no on-site booths or audio equipment are required.
Speakers may either be present or deliver remotely. Interpreters can also either work from booths at the organiser’s premises or interpret remotely. At events with multiple languages, on-site interpreters can work in parallel with remote counterparts.

The Interprefy software is compatible with traditional audio equipment and software: Dante, Bosch, Sennheiser, etc.

**Jacob T. Høgh and his FB Self Supporting Interpreter group**

An interpreter, Jacob Høgh has created - jointly with COPYGRAL - a new Facebook group on language technology and remote simultaneous interpreting. Posts relate to everything about remote interpreting - raising the profile of the interpreter around the world. No blah-blah, no unnecessary training, no spam. Cf. aiic.net’s blog on RSI, where the posts sometimes are four to eleven years old: [http://kortlink.dk/aiic/hhbb](http://kortlink.dk/aiic/hhbb)

**Pilot projects and proof-of-concept: Interprefy providing remote interpreting for war zones**

Thanks to the Interprefy platform, military interpreters at the Danish Defence Academy in Copenhagen have been able to work from safe places; while Interprefy has also sourced extra interpreters into Mali local languages like Soninke and Bambara for the Danish UN Peace Mission in Mali.

Another user example is Hélène Pielmeier from Common Sense Advisory speaking remotely from New York at the Globalization and Localization Association (GALA) in Amsterdam this year with remote simultaneous interpreters from English into French working from two separate studio offices in California and Oregon.