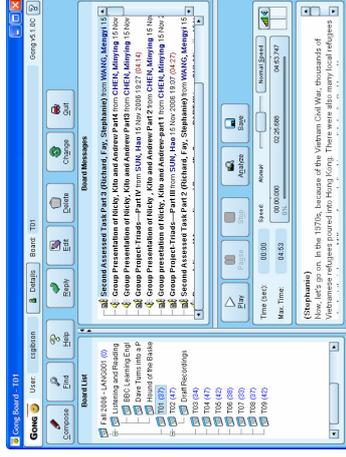## What is Gong?

Gong is a free system for voice communication on the Web. It allows groups of people such as students and teachers to participate in discussion groups using their computers, using both synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous chat. It is commonly used by schools and universities for providing a 'voice board' for teaching purposes.

An example of discussion board in the Gong system

Basic Operations

Overview

- Gong can be used as a text and/or audio board
- People can read/listen to messages, and reply to them
- People can chat in the system in real-time and the conversation can be recorded
- Can be used on any machine that supports Java (PC, Mac, Linux, Sun, etc)
- Boards can have different levels of read/write permission, i.e. completely open to all, password protected, or various mixtures
- Various statistics can be generated from the discussion boards and the server
- Can be executed as an application or through a web browser as a Java applet
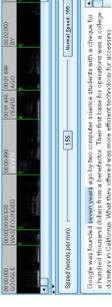
From the Point of View of the User

- Very easy to use
- Basically, just double-click on a message to hear/read it
- User can adjust the speed of voice play-back
- User can submit a message containing text and/or audio in multiple languages
- User hears automatic sound notification when there is a new message posted
- User can see who is currently on the system
- Some users can change their preferences such as the message color and the language of the user interface

The message composition window

From the Point of View of the Administrator

- Very easy to use
- Can set up multiple boards
- Can set up different levels of user
- Can group users together
- Can assign different groups to different boards
- Can search (filter) board/ user details
- Can sort fields in alphabetical order
- Can automatically create users, boards or groups by importing details from a text file

Description of Features

Podcasting of Discussion Boards

Discussion boards can be exported as podcast feeds. There are various programs and devices which can read the feed so that voice messages can be listened to anytime and anywhere.

Selective Word/Phrase Playback

Given an English voice recording and its script, the Gong system allows a user to play a single word or phrase inside the recording just by clicking on the words. This is useful for English learning.
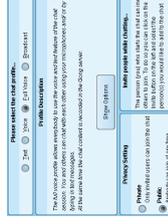
Voice Speed Up/Slow Down

In addition to the normal voice playback of a message, the Gong system allows users to change the speed of the playback played faster or slower without changing the pitch.
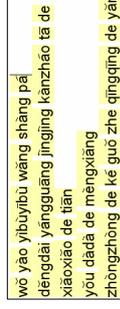
Real-Time Text/Voice Chat

Two or more than two persons can participate in a text/voice chat on the Gong system. The chat is configurable. For example, you can choose whether or not to use text chat and/or audio chat, and whether or not to record the chat.

Support for Mandarin Pinyin

The Pinyin romanization system is one form of Mandarin. It is often used to teach the pronunciation of the language. The Gong system supports the input, storage and display of this representation.

Gong Moodle Module

The Gong system can be easily integrated into Moodle, the open source learning management system. A Moodle module is created for the Gong system so that the operation of integration is transparent to the user.

GONG 5

Real-time Web Voice Communication Tool

A Voice for the Web World – *Free!*

THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
計算機科學及工程學系

香港科技大學
THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Gong Project

A Voice for the Web World – Free!

Requirements

Hardware Requirements

Platform	Any system that supports Java 2 Runtime Environment (PC is needed for generating indexing information for selective word / phrase playback)
Free Hard Disk Space	100Mb or more
Memory	128Mb or more
Sound System	Sound system with speakers and microphone
Internet Connectivity	56k modem connection or faster (broadband recommended)

Software Requirements

Operating System	Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP, Unix based OS, Macintosh (Microsoft Windows is needed for generating indexing information for selective word / phrase playback)
Java Version	*Gong Application* - No Java installation is required (Java is embedded)
	Gong Applet - Java 2 Runtime Environment 1.4.2 or above
	Admin Module - Internet Explorer 5.5 or above
Supported Browser	*Gong Applet* - Internet Explorer 5 or above, Netscape 4.7 or above

Availability

The Gong system is *FREE* software. You are welcome to download the entire system and use it for non-profit purpose.
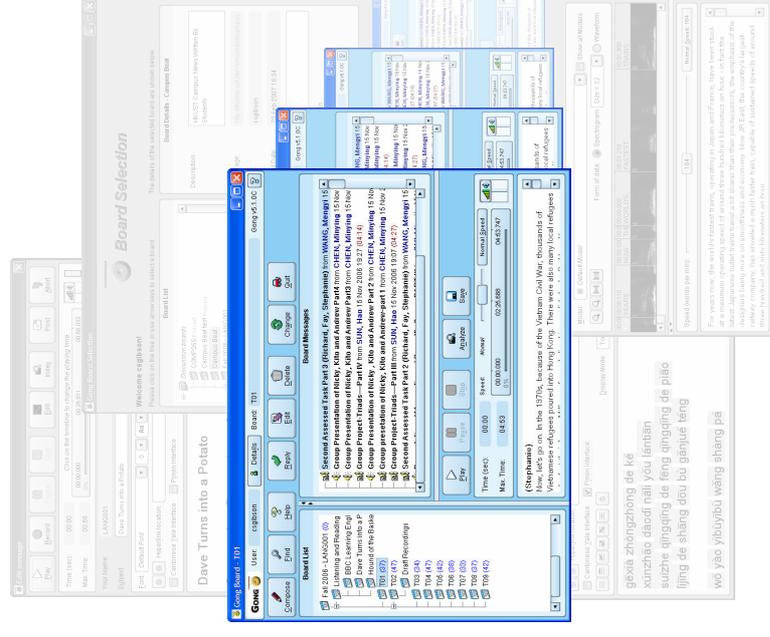
Please visit our website

http://gong.ust.hk

to download the latest version of the Gong system.

About Us

The Gong project was developed at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. If you have any questions about the Gong Project, please email at

gong@ust.hk

Compact Version - MiniGong

MiniGong is the compact version of the Gong system. Its compact size (480 x 115) means that it can be put in a webpage easily. To the user it acts like a software CD player, but all the sound is accessed through the web, and more recordings can be added.

For more details on these features please visit our website at

http://gong.ust.hk

Summary of Features

- Gong as a Standalone Application
  - Hierarchical board organization
  - Streamed voice playback
  - Styled text editing for message content
  - Voice data editing
  - Selective playback of words/phrases
  - Voice speed up/slow down
  - Advanced voice data analysis
  - Linking of useful web resources
  - Advanced voice message search
  - Real-time recordable voice chat
  - Personal messaging
  - Multilingual interface: English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Japanese
  - Support for input, storage and display of multiple languages
  - Support for Chinese Mandarin Pinyin
  - Support for Chinese Cantonese Yale
- Gong as an Integrated Component
  - Gong startup parameters
  - Gong real-time scriptable control
  - Podcasting of discussion board
  - Gong and Moodle integration with Gong Moodle module
  - Support for CAS and LDAP authentication system
- Gong Administration
  - Event and error logging
  - Server and discussion board statistics generation