Expanding the Space of Face-to-Face
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	MSN/Windows Live Messenger	SightSpeed
Video quality	640x480, up to 30fps	Up to full-screen; 30 fps; several video "views" (user doesn't have view his/her own video stream); lags less than MSN
File sharing	Yes	No
Multi-conferencing	No	Up to four parties may video conference if the conference host is on a paid plan
Text Editing (e.g. changing font color, font weight, etc.)	Can change font, color, weight; has custom emoticons	Cannot format text
Cost	Free	Free, with paid options ($4.95/month)
Integration with recording programs	Works with ZD Soft Screen Recorder, Camtasia	Works with ZD Soft Video Recorder, Camtasia; SightSpeed also includes a record option for paid users
Cross-platform?	No	Yes, works on PCs and Macs
Video mail	No	Yes, free version lets you send a 30-second video email; paid version lets you send a 2-minute video email
Speed	Kind of bulky. Lags, freezes, kicks you off.	Comparatively fast. No video or audio deterioration.
Ease of use	Can be complicated. Requires several steps to add contacts and to initiate a video conversation. Also has more ads and more buttons, which can be confusing.	Tabbed interface can be initially confusing, as can adding contacts. Very simple, though, to log in and start a video chat.
User icons	Yes, large	Yes, small
User profiles	Yes—extended.	Yes, but limited. Full range of profile options only available to paid users.
Saving chat (text) transcripts	Yes, either through copy and paste or through options in "Preferences."	Somewhat. Text stays in conversation box weeks after chat has taken place. Lists all received video emails under "inbox."