# Conversa

## Multimedia Communications and Networking Lab, HP Labs Palo Alto

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Conversa is a mobile video conversation system that operates like an online discussion group, but in video form. Traditional online social groups allow users to only speak with the group via text. Conversa enables users to communicate in the same forum using video.

Conversa users can use either a 3G phone or the website to browse conversations and provide responses. The Conversa website has all of the features users expect, such as RSS video podcast support, video playback in the browser and an open HTTP API to support creative developers.

Conversa is a hybrid of an interactive, user-facilitated website and a streaming mobile video service that uses the HP OpenCall Media Platform. Sold to mobile operators around the world, the HP OpenCall Media Platform allows users to dial a number on their 3G phone, make a video phone call to a service, and play and record streaming video. This is a service that is commonplace in Asia and Europe where the 3G infrastructure supports video phone calls.

Conversa is running as a limited pilot in France where users can exchange streaming 3G video. Conversa was recently launched in the United States as an invitation-only beta. A Windows Mobile Smartphones client has been created for use in the United States, where the 3G infrastructure does not yet support video phone calls.