TeChat!
A picture is worth a thousand words

Abstract: This project is meant to expand upon the concept of "draw chatting" and bring it into a real-time environment, without sacrificing the features of an instant messaging client.

Motivation: Instant messaging has been established as an essential method of communication over the internet. However, many aspects of person-to-person communication are lost through plain-text messaging. Oftentimes, concepts cannot be conveyed through words alone, and the participants may want to better "illustrate" their points. Drawings can be immensely more effective for communication than text (given a rudimentary amount of artistic ability) and can give interactions a personal touch.

The message sending process (in a nutshell):

Drawing on canvas is converted into a bitmap, then encoded, sent over the Internet via a chat network, received, then decoded back to a bitmap image, then displayed in the recipient's chatlog.

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more information at www.seas.upenn.edu/~naph/techat