**Screener, A Shared Media Player**

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**Project Overview**

Screener is a cross-platform media player which enables geographically dispersed participants to enjoy media together as if they were all at a “screening party.” Screener enables participants to have a synchronized experience such that if one participant pauses the media then the media is paused for all participants; if one participant seeks to a certain time, all participants seek to that time, et cetera. All participants can also communicate through text using the open Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP). Synchronization is ensured by having an authoritative host periodically send their current playtime to all participants, which use it to calculate offsets and adjust playback accordingly.

Screener allows participants to use local media or any media accessible through a URI. Screener supports a variety of features. Screener can play a wide variety of formats; it supports N-way synchronization, text chat, and image overlays. Screener utilizes open source libraries and open standards such as the GStreamer media framework, XMPP through the library xmpppy, and the Python programming language.