Why things were used:

* Ruby On Rails – Provides a quick start to any web project with built-in admin features and such.
* Flash – For the website, Flash is the only ubiquitous way to get video streaming done on the browser.
* Wowza Media Server – A server is needed to process flash video and save it. Other alternatives included Red5 (open source and free) and Adobe Media Server (commercial). Wowza is a cross in that it is free for up to 10 simultaneous connections (10 people recording a video at once) and beyond that you have to pay a onetime $900 license. Wowza was chosen because it came recommended by people who had worked in the lab earlier and had examples and documentation specific to what was being done. Red5 while free did not have as much documentation.
* FFMPEG – FFMPEG is a command-line tool run on the server. It is called only by Rails to generate thumbnails of videos and transcode uploaded videos.