

Zoom vs. Big Blue Button for Sections

Go to: <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/dcewebconf> or
contact webconference@dce.harvard.edu for training and more information

	Zoom	Big Blue Button
Recommended for	Video interaction, community building, presentations and office hours	Small group collaboration, presentations and office hours
Selling Points	Stable connections, clear video	No account needed if you have a Canvas site and recordings automatically appear in Canvas

Feature Description	Zoom	Big Blue Button
Participant Maximum	100 (25 per screen)	100 (quality decreases as number of people increases)
Use with Canvas	Completely separate from Canvas	Integrated into Canvas
Account	Get from web Conference support team	Not needed if used with Canvas
Session Creation	Teaching staff creates 1 session for entire semester	Teaching staff creates session for each section meeting or office hour
Getting Session Links	Find link in Zoom account profile and paste into Canvas for students	Teaching staff sees join button in Canvas after session is created and students receive an email when session is created and can join via Canvas.
Breakout room	Must be in room to hear and see what's happening	Can listen without entering room
Co-host	Can start session and do most things hosts do	Not available
Layout	Everyone can choose gallery view or speaker view, no way to lock down	Everyone can rearrange own layout but Presenter can lock for participants
Desktop Client or Web Browser	Desktop client with frequent updates and one-time audio plug-in	Web browser based with no user updates install but occasional download for screen share

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Tools	Zoom	Big Blue Button
Video	✓	✓
Audio	✓	✓
Chat	✓	✓
Screen Share	✓	✓
Application Share	✓	✗
Share computer sound	✓	✓
Record	✓	✓
Whiteboard	✓	✓
Annotate Shared Documents	✓	✓
Breakout Rooms	✓	✓
Co-hosts	✓	✗
Polling	✓	✓
Virtual Hand Raise	✓	✓
Status Emoticons	✓	✓
File Transfer	✓	✗
Dial in with phone if needed	✓	✓