

Blackboard >>
collaborate™

Audio and Video Equipment

Device Guide



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Chapter 1 Preface

Overview

While these devices are known to work well with Blackboard Collaborate software offerings this list is provided for informational purposes only. In no manner does this list imply endorsement of the products or companies listed, nor does it provide any guarantee of compatibility or support for the devices listed.

Audience

This document is intended for Blackboard Collaborate users on supported operating systems. [Click here](#) to see the list of currently supported Operating Systems for your version of Blackboard Collaborate.

This document also applies to Blackboard Collaborate users on Windows operating systems.

Operating system support varies based upon Blackboard Collaborate version, device, manufacture, and driver availability. Blackboard Collaborate is unable to provide compatibility information for these devices based upon your operating system. Before purchasing a device you must ensure it is compatible with your computer operating system.

Chapter 2 Audio and Video Best Practices

The following suggestions will help you ensure an optimal experience in Blackboard Collaborate Sessions whether you are a Moderator or a Participant.

Audio Best Practices

For All Session Attendees

1. Try all new equipment prior to joining a live session.
 - a. Visit our [“Configuration Room”](#)
2. Run the “Audio Setup Wizard” prior to all live sessions to ensure optimal microphone and headset volume.
3. Use a good quality, USB headset with a noise cancelling microphone when interacting in a live session.
4. Use a good quality headset or speakers when reviewing recordings.

For Moderators

Apply the following best practices in addition to those for all session attendees (see above).

1. Make a test recording with your equipment to ensure your voice is recorded and plays back with optimal clarity and volume.
2. If an echo is present in the room, do the following:
 - a. Request anyone using a microphone with speakers to disable their “Talk” button while not speaking.
 - b. Remove the “Audio” permission from all Participants, re-enabling the feature as needed until you are able to determine the source of the echo.
 - c. Reduce “Maximum Simultaneous Talkers” to “1” from the “Audio” menu.
 - d. Ensure you do not have your speakers turned on while using a headset.

For Conference Rooms

Apply the following best practices in addition to those for all Moderators (see above).

1. Ensure equipment has adequate pickup range for the conference room.
2. Read and follow the manual included with your conference room device when configuring the product. Some conference room equipment requires special consideration for Participant placement to provide optimal microphone pickup.
3. Ensure other conference room equipment is turned off or does not interfere with the device. External speakers, laptop speakers, and other audio devices are all possible sources of feedback in a conference room setting.

Video Best Practices:

1. Ensure adequate lighting.
2. Try all new equipment prior to a live session.
3. Use a good quality camera.
4. Ensure the camera is mounted securely.
5. Use the “Preview” button to ensure your camera is focused correctly.
6. If you experience lag while using your webcam try lowering the quality to “Fine Grays” or “Medium Color”.

Chapter 3 Audio Devices

The following devices are intended for personal use.

Califone 3084-ELB

<http://www.califone.com/headsets.php>

Creative Labs Fatal1ty Gaming Headset

<http://us.store.creative.com/Creative-Fatal1ty-Gaming-Headset/M/B002DS4HTM.htm>

Comments:

“At home I use a set of Creative “Fatal1ty” gaming/noise cancelling headphones with a mic....they work great in an Elive session.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Cyber Acoustics AC-840

<http://www.cyberacoustics.com/retail/Headsets/AC-840>

Dynex 1.3 MP Webcam

<http://www.dynexproducts.com/products/computers/DX-WEB1C.html>

Comments:

“The webcam and mic work well with both Mac OS X and Windows (XP SP3 or higher).” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Lenovo Circumaural Multimedia Headset

<http://www.newegg.com/product/product.aspx?Item=N82E16826509002>

Logitech ClearChat™ PC Wireless

http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam_communications/internet_headsets_phones/devices/4226

Logitech ClearChat™ Comfort USB

<http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam-communications/internet-headsets-phones/devices/3621>

Logitech Laptop Headset H555

<http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam-communications/internet-headsets-phones/devices/6810>

Comments:

“Works tremendously well, no complaints.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

“Works extremely well and I’ve been very happy with it.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Logitech ClearChat™ Stereo

<http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam-communications/internet-headsets-phones/devices/349>

Logitech USB Headset H360

<http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam-communications/internet-headsets-phones/devices/6526>

Comments:

“I love them and they work great with Blackboard Collaborate” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Logitech USB Headset H530

<http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam-communications/internet-headsets-phones/devices/7115>

Microsoft LifeChat LX-3000

<http://www.microsoft.com/hardware/en-us/p/lifechat-lx-3000/JUG-00001>

Comments:

“I’ve used an USB Microsoft Lifechat LX-3000 in both Windows and Ubuntu...it works pretty well in Ubuntu.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Phonix Audio Technologies Duet Executive

http://www.phnxaudio.com/index.php?option=com_djcatalog&view=showItem&id=7&cid=3&Itemid=14

Comments:

“We also use the Phoenix Audio Duet Professional in our conference room. It is great!” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Phonix Audio Technologies Duet PCS

http://www.phnxaudio.com/index.php?option=com_djcatalog&view=showItem&id=26&cid=3&Itemid=14

Comments:

“The duets work well in a small office area, where 2 or 3 people are around the speaker in close proximity.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Plantronics .Audio 470 USB

http://www.plantronics.com/north_america/en_US/products/computer/multi-use-computer-headsets/audio-470-usb

Comments:

“I’ve always used a Plantronics dual earpiece headset for audio which has worked really well” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

“The USB analog audio adapter can be used with nearly any mic or headset.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Plantronics MX500i 3-in-1 VoIP Headset

http://www.plantronics.com/north_america/en_US/products/home/cordless-phone-headsets/mx500i

Comments:

“One of the most comfortable headset I have worn for extended use (8 hours +) because of the under ear design.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Tritton AX Pro

http://www.trittontechnologies.com/index.php/products/gaming_audio_technology/ax-pro/

Comments:

“These work great in eLive sessions and are very comfortable as well!” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Chapter 4 Conference Audio Devices

The following devices work well in a conference room setting.

Phoenix Audio Technologies Quattro2

http://www.phnxaudio.com/index.php?option=com_djcatalog&view=show&cid=2&Itemid=13

Yamaha PJP-25UR

<http://www.yamaha.co.jp/english/product/projectphone/products/25ur/>

Comments:

“Superior mic for desktop and small conference room (15’ x 15’) coverage. XP and Vista no issues.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

“External echo canceling device: Yamaha PJP-25UR” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Yamaha PJP-50R

<http://www.yamaha.co.jp/english/product/projectphone/products/50r/>

Yamaha PJP-100UH

<http://www.yamaha.co.jp/english/product/projectphone/products/100uh/>

Comments:

“We use this for most of our team meetings with 10+ people spread around a 20’ table and the sound from each person comes through great!” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Chapter 5 Video Devices

The following devices are intended for personal use.

Creative Labs Live! Cam Notebook

<http://us.store.creative.com/Live-Cam-Notebook/M/B001KA9UBE.htm>

Dynex 1.3 MP Webcam

<http://www.dynexproducts.com/products/computers/DX-WEB1C.html>

Comments:

“The webcam and mic work well with both Mac OS X and Windows (XP SP3 or higher).” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Logitech QuickCam Deluxe for Notebooks

http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/435/2989?WT.z_sp=Image

Logitech QuickCam® Deluxe for Notebooks

http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/435/217?WT.z_sp=Image

Logitech QuickCam® Orbit AF

http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam_communications/webcams/devices/3480

Comments:

“Logitech Orbit AF webcam is my favourite cam for educators. I’ve used it successfully in classrooms around the world, and at my desk.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Logitech® Webcam C905

http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam_communications/webcams/devices/5868

Comments:

“Works tremendously well, no complaints.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Logitech® Webcam Pro 9000

http://www.logitech.com/en-ca/webcam_communications/webcams/devices/5867

Comments:

“The Logitech 9000 pro’s work really well for an inexpensive, good quality camera.”
– *Blackboard Collaborate*

“I love them and they work great with Blackboard Collaborate” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

“Works GREAT for Collaborate on XP and Vista” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

“I use the Logitech 9000 webcam, and it works well” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

“Works extremely well and I’ve been very happy with it.” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Microsoft LifeCam Cinema

<http://www.microsoft.com/hardware/digitalcommunication/ProductDetails.aspx?pid=008>

Comments:

“Works ok for Collaborate on XP and Vista” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Sony DCR-SX45

<http://www.sonystyle.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?storeId=20153&catalogId=&langId=200&productId=8198552921666294285>

Comments:

“Must be used with a USB capture device, but works great!” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Startech SVID2USB2

<http://www.startech.com/product/SVID2USB2-USB-S-Video-and-Composite-Video-Capture-Cable-with-Audio>

Comments:

“Works great to convert a camcorder into a webcam!” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

Kworld VS-USB2800D

http://www.kworld-global.com/main/prod_in.aspx?mnuid=1248&modid=6&prodid=104&flag=1

Comments:

“Works great to convert a camcorder into a webcam!” – *Blackboard Collaborate*

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