

## Online Meetings and Video Collaboration

### Skype



<http://www.skype.com>

The World's Most Popular Video Calling Software. If at least one person on the call has a Premium account, it is possible to arrange a group video call for up to 10 people.

*NOTE: Skype recommends calls with up to five people.* According to the Skype website, you can "make internet calls for free and cheap online calls to phones and mobiles with Skype."

Note: Check out the group call video for a nice introduction.

Cost: Free trial membership for one week. Prices vary with international rates and subscriptions. Highest package is \$4.99 a month for Skype Premium.

### Google+ Hangouts

<http://www.google.com/+/learnmore/hangouts/>

Video Chatting on Google+ ... Within the social networking world of Google+, users can connect with friends and "hang out" online. The Hangout feature is described as a fun way to video chat and group chat with family and friends. Google+ is not LinkedIn, nor is trying to be, but that doesn't mean the Google+ Hangout cannot be used as a professional collaboration tool. Indeed, Google+ Hangouts tout that "you can even make a video call with up to 10 friends at once."

Cost: Google+ Hangouts are free with a Google+ account. Set up an account for free.

### Collaborize Classroom – "Education to the Power of We "

<http://www.collaborizeclassroom.com>

Collaborize Classroom is a free online collaborative education platform that allows students and teachers to transcend the boundaries of their physical classroom to engage in an online collaborative learning environment.

Collaborize Classroom offers a variety of compelling and intuitive structures for online discussion that are designed to support innovative teaching and promote higher level thinking.

From Collaborize Classroom FAQs: "Why Collaborize Classroom?"

- Do more with less. Allow your students to participate on their own time

with an easy-to-use private platform.

- Enrich your curriculum with multimedia. Embed Microsoft Office documents, videos, pictures, and PDFs.
- Give every student a voice. Teach students how to have productive, respectful and supportive discussions online.
- Publish discussions to a results page so students can see tangible outcomes of their conversations.
- Access detailed student participation reports that make grading easy!

Download FREE lesson plans to help get you started.”

NOTE: Website also includes Collaborize Classroom Topic Library, a “free resource where teachers can download, share and archive the lessons that are most effectively engaging students today. Here you can find thousands of peer-reviewed topic-based lessons shared by teachers from around the world.” Topics include: English & Language Arts, History & Social Studies, Math, Science & Technology, Foreign Languages, Health & Life Skills, Business & Economics, Philosophy & Religion, Visual & Performing Arts, and Cross Curricular.

Cost: Free. According to the information on the website, In the future, Collaborize Classroom plans to add optional “premium components” that may involve some costs, but the basic Collaborize Classroom platform will remain free.

### **OoVoo**



“ooVoo is a Free video chat and instant messaging app for desktop mobile, tablets and Facebook. ooVoo lets you chat with up to 12 people for Free anytime.”

Cost: Basic ad-supported chat is free. Premium video chat removes the ads and gives you screen sharing and video storage. Costs of premium video is \$2.99 per month or \$29.99/year.

<https://222.oovoo.com>



### ***Tinychat***

***"Tinychat is an online video chat community."***

Video chat with friends and meet new ones from all around the world. You can create "your own personalized group chat room."

This is a perfect platform for a quick, free, impromptu hello or quick run through of a presentation with a new member of a group. Use this tool if you are working with a team member with an old computer or an inability to download software.

Cost: Free (However, it is possible to upgrade to "Tinychat Pro" for a cost. "Pro" has high-quality fullscreen video, no advertisements, camera filters & effects, and more. It is also possible to create personalized video chat rooms.)



### ***GoToMeeting***

<http://www.gotomeeting.com>

From the website: "GoToMeeting is the extremely simple, extraordinarily powerful way to hold unlimited online meetings with up to 25 attendees. Start a meeting and share your screen with just a click

- Collaborate face to face with HDFaces video conferencing.
- Save with built-in audio (via VoIP and telephone)
- Attendees can join from a Mac, PC, tablet, or phone."

"Easy web conferencing and online meeting tools."

By simply sending a URL to your meeting, you invite attendees to participate. Features of GoToMeeting include the ability to collaborate on a single document on a shared screen.

Cost: Free trial for 30 days, then a monthly flat rate after 30 days of \$49 a month (or \$468/year) for meetings with up to 25 attendees; \$69 a month (or \$662/year) for meetings with up to 100 attendees.



### ***Anymeeting***

<http://www.anymeeting.com>

“Free web conferencing and webinar service. No time limits or restrictions. Up to 200 attendees per meeting, screen sharing, conference calling or more.”

“Meet with anyone, anywhere, for free!”

For a team, this would be a great way to put together a final presentation or to present your ideas to a large audience.

Cost: Free to all users unless the presenter wants the ad-free platform. Cost for the ad-free platform is \$17.99/month for up to 25 attendees or \$69.99/month for up to 200 attendees.



### **Vyew**

<http://www.vyew.com>

“Continuous meeting rooms for real-time and anytime visual collaboration”

“Vyew allows you to meet and share content in real-time or anytime. Upload images, files, documents and videos into a room. Users can access and contribute at any time. Everything you would want in video conferencing minus the video conferencing minus the video. This is a free collaboration tool that allows users to add files from their computers, capture screens, and support up to 10 people. As an open forum, users can access the service anytime (preferably their most productive times of day) to edit the idea board. Think of it as a virtual and collaborative smart board.

The Vyew website describes some of most popular functions as follows: “review & annotate, meet & present, and teach & tutor.”

Cost: Free, supported by ads (There are paid “advertising free” packages available for as low as \$6.95 per month.)

**JoinMe** <https://joinme.com>

“Free Screen Sharing and Online Meetings”

“The meeting app for the masses”

From the website: “JoinMe combines instant screen sharing and powerful meeting tools in an app that anyone can use to present, train, demo or concept. Join.me is “designed to be intuitive and accessible, providing features that you’ll use every day for everything from show-and-tell to formal presentations.”

Join.me Free includes up to 10 meeting participants, screen sharing, internet calling, share control, multi-monitor, chat, send files; and viewer: iPad, iPhone or Android

Join.me Pro Includes everything in free, plus up to 250 meeting participants, recording, annotation, unified audio and international conference lines, presenter swap, pro desktop app, personal link & background, meeting scheduler, meeting lock, user management & reporting, window sharing, presenter: iPad 14-day free trial available; \$19 a month or \$149 a year

### **ScreenLeap**

<http://www.screenleap.com>

“Free Screen Sharing and Online Meeting Software” “The fast, simple, and free way to share your screen instantly for online meetings, sales demos, and collaboration.”

Site offers easy directions for getting started and sharing your screen.

Choices include sharing the entire screen or just what is within the box. Directions include options for just audio sharing. Free account access offers up to 2 hours of screen sharing time per day.

NOTE: This site includes advertising.

In the Classroom: Screen share with students in a computer lab to demonstrate how to locate information on websites, or when learning tech tools. This is a great alternative if an interactive whiteboard or projector is not available. Use this tool to collaborate with other teachers when creating lesson plans or student documents. Have students with laptops share their screen with you during presentations to make information easier to view. Share this site with students to use at home when collaborating on projects. Help a homebound student by sharing your class computer screen and opening an audio connection over the phone. Offer "extra help" sessions via screen share at predetermined "office hours" or during a snow day or on certain evenings. Have students teach tech skills to their peers using this free sharing app. Share a student's work using a screenshare during a parent phone conference. Show a parent how to navigate a practice site you want the family to use at home.

<http://www.screenleap.com>

*Sources: multiple, including online article, "20 Collaboration Tools for College Students" from ScholarshipExperts.com, interviews with and recommendations from teachers, online search for collaboration tools, etc.*