



Using VidSoft in Conference  
Rooms  
- *Additional Equipment* -

Version: 1.1

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## Introduction

Using VidConference in a conference room, we have to make a difference between small user groups with 2-3 people and larger groups with 4-10 people. For even larger audiences, as for instance for lectures, individual solutions are required. Nevertheless VidConference is used also for such applications for several years rather successfully.

The basic difference from using VidConference on your desktop is, that for conference room usage you will need adapted components for:

- Video capture
- Video playback
- Audio recording and playback

## Video Capture

### 2-3 People

Use of camera with wide-angle lens, which is capable to take in all participants at once. This implies that all should ideally sit side by side facing the camera.

*Products:*

Highend USB-Camera located far enough away from the group:

- Philips SPC 900NC Camera,
- Logitech Quickcam 5000 Pro

Alternatively

- Creative Live!Cam Voice, which features a very wide lens angle and thus can capture larger audiences even from a closer distance.

or analogous Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) Camera

- Sony EVI-D70P,
- Sony EVI-D100P (both featuring serial Visca-interface for far end camera control)

These cameras are in the Range of over € 1000

Here an additional frame grabber is required. This is normally a PCI board or an external USB device in case you want to use this solution with a Notebook. We recommend

Hauppauge Impact VCB

### 4-10 People

Use of Pan-Tilt-Zoom Camera featuring remote control, either locally using IR remote control or from far end with VidConference

*Products:*

Sony EVI-D70P, Sony EVI-D100P (both featuring serial Visca-interface for far end camera control)

Here an additional frame grabber is required. This is normally a PCI board or an external USB device in case you want to use this solution with a Notebook.

Available from [www.vcu.de](http://www.vcu.de), Price for both approx. € 1.100

## ***Video playback***

### **2-3 People**

Large computer display, video projector

### **4-10 Personen**

- video projector
- Large screen LCD or plasma display – for use data sharing check that the resolution is high enough (at least 1280x720)

### **Video projector**

Advantage: often already present in the conference room, high resolution, ideally suited for data conference.

Drawback: noisy, sometimes not enough luminous intensity, so blinds or curtains are required.

### **TV, Plasma display**

Advantage: no noise, image more brilliant and more luminous than beamer

Drawback: low resolution, thus not optimal for data conference

### **Large computer display (>= 18“)**

Advantage: no noise, image more brilliant and more luminous than beamer, good resolution for data conference

Drawback: small size, only for small groups

## ***Audio record and –playback***

The main issues here are the optimal recording of every participants voice, the playback in a way so that everyone can clearly understand and the suppression of any echo, which might be produced by recording des signal which comes from the speakers.

### **Playback**

Active speaker, positioned in a way that the sound comes from the direction where the image of the speaker is.

### **Record**

- Directed microphone pointing at the speaker
- Interfacial microphone at the table
- Several microphones distributed in a way so that all speakers are near to at least one microphone, automatic mixer opening only the microphones spoken to.

### **Echo cancellation**

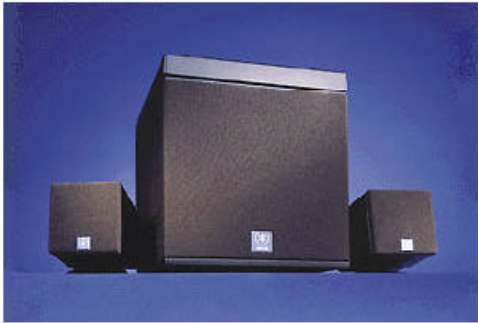
With Windows XP you may use the built in echo cancellation, which is supported by VidConference. This is fine for smaller groups using one single microphone.

For larger groups you should use more than one microphone. Here an external echo canceling together with an automatic mixer are the recommended solution.

## Audio Solution

### 2-3 People

- Desktop Microphone with integrated echo cancellation (Solo USB Mikrofon, <http://www.vcu.de>)
- Active speaker, i.e. Yamaha YSTMS30 or any other PC Speaker system with good sound quality – do not use any digital enhanced sound systems like dolby surround 5.1 or similar – the echo cancellation might not work with them.



Overall costs approx. € 180

As an alternate to the microphone mentioned above you might use a

- uni-directional microphone like the Logitech USB Microphone and
- Windows XP internal Echo cancellation

This is more an entry level solution as it gives not such a good voice pickup if people are sitting in different distances from the mic.

### 4-10 People

ClearOne AccuMic II (Unit with 3 integrated microphones, automatic mixer and echo cancellation) (no longer produced, only available in small quantities at [www.vcu.de](http://www.vcu.de). Price € 650)

This unit needs external speaker.

Clearone Chat 150 (Unit with 3 integrated microphones, automatic mixer, echo cancellation and speaker) Available from [www.prodytel.de](http://www.prodytel.de). Price € 499

