Zooming Marvellous

11.45 am Thurs 31st May 2018 – Alice Childs

Ed Tech conference (ILTA)

For six years I've had the dubious experience of testing and supporting four online classroom systems. Each have had different features to offer and the technology has improved over that time. This whistle–stop tour points up the pros and cons of virtual communications and showcases the strengths of this evolving tool, and how it can be harnessed for pedagogical advantage.

From the toggle choice of "speaker view" to "gallery" to the joys of icon-conversations (thumbs up, slow-down etc.) not to mention the distractions of the chat box, the virtual classroom can be a law unto itself. Lecturers need to assume the *officer* role and set the pace and tone for their tutorial sessions. Learning or Educational Technologists are crucial to facilitating online classrooms from training, advising on headsets and webcams, helping to trouble shoot during the webinar and posting links to recordings after the event.   Our online classroom of choice at Griffith College is Zoom Pro and we have dynamic live sessions on a weekly basis, making full use of break-out rooms, screen-share, whiteboard graphs and dashboard tracking. Our regular eLearning committee meetings have also had a boost from Zoom's high resolution, robust signal and the democratising ease of connecting with our colleagues in Griffith College Limerick (GCL) and Cork (GCC). We don't use Zoom technology for lectures but prefer to play to its strengths as an e-tutorial platform, perfect for synchronous Q&A sessions after the learners have viewed and re-played their e-Lectures online. Google Chrome is our choice of browser and Learning Technologists advise participants using the private chat option when they encounter technical issues. Increasingly our learners choose to join the tutorial via iPad and mobile phone making this a very movable e-learning feast.
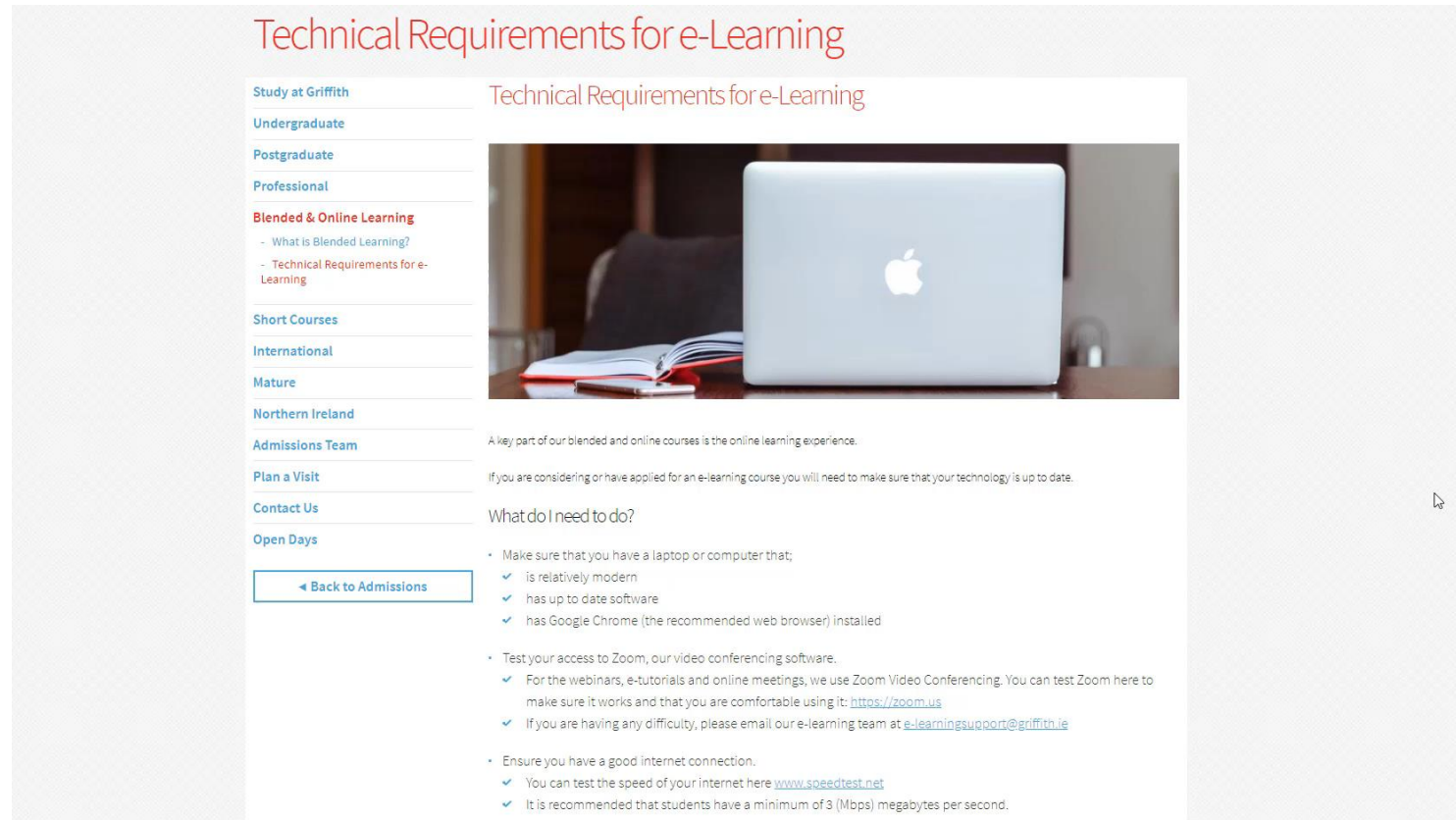
Gang of Four

- Adobe Connect

- Blackboard Collaborate

- Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

- ZOOM

Uses

- eTutorials
- Office Hours
- Committee meetings

Set up

- Testing for broadband speed

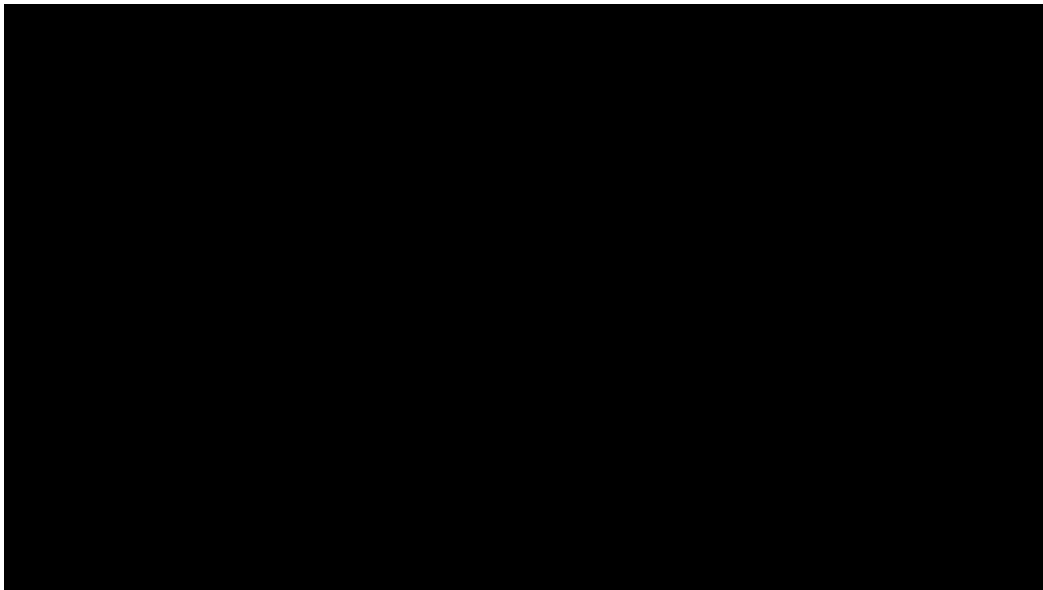- Set up – The Digital Learning Department offer 1:2:1 set up/support

Hardware

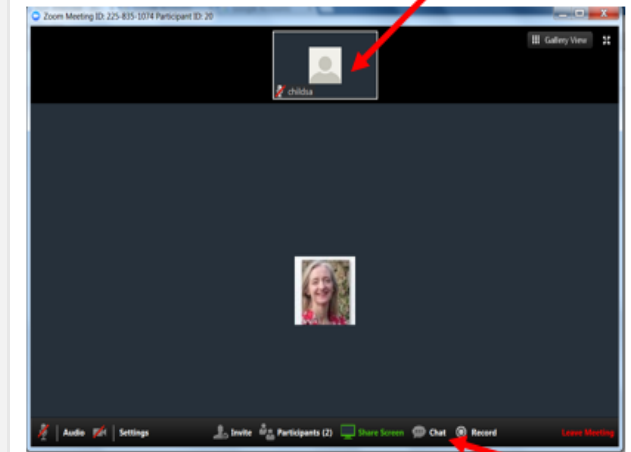- Hard ware – Logitech C920 webcam and H390 Headset recommended
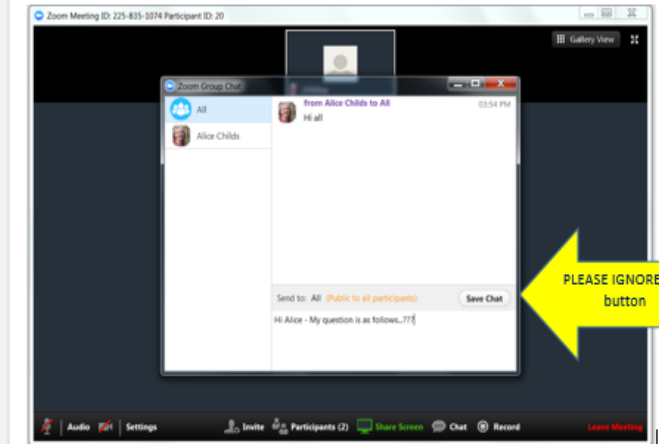
Software

- Launching Zoom on PC/mobile devices provided
- Logitech c920 software for camera set-up

3. You will now enter the online classroom and in the centre of the screen you will see the lecturer and the screen behind them – (as this is a test guide you are only seeing a profile photo). You will also see your own ID box at the top of the screen.
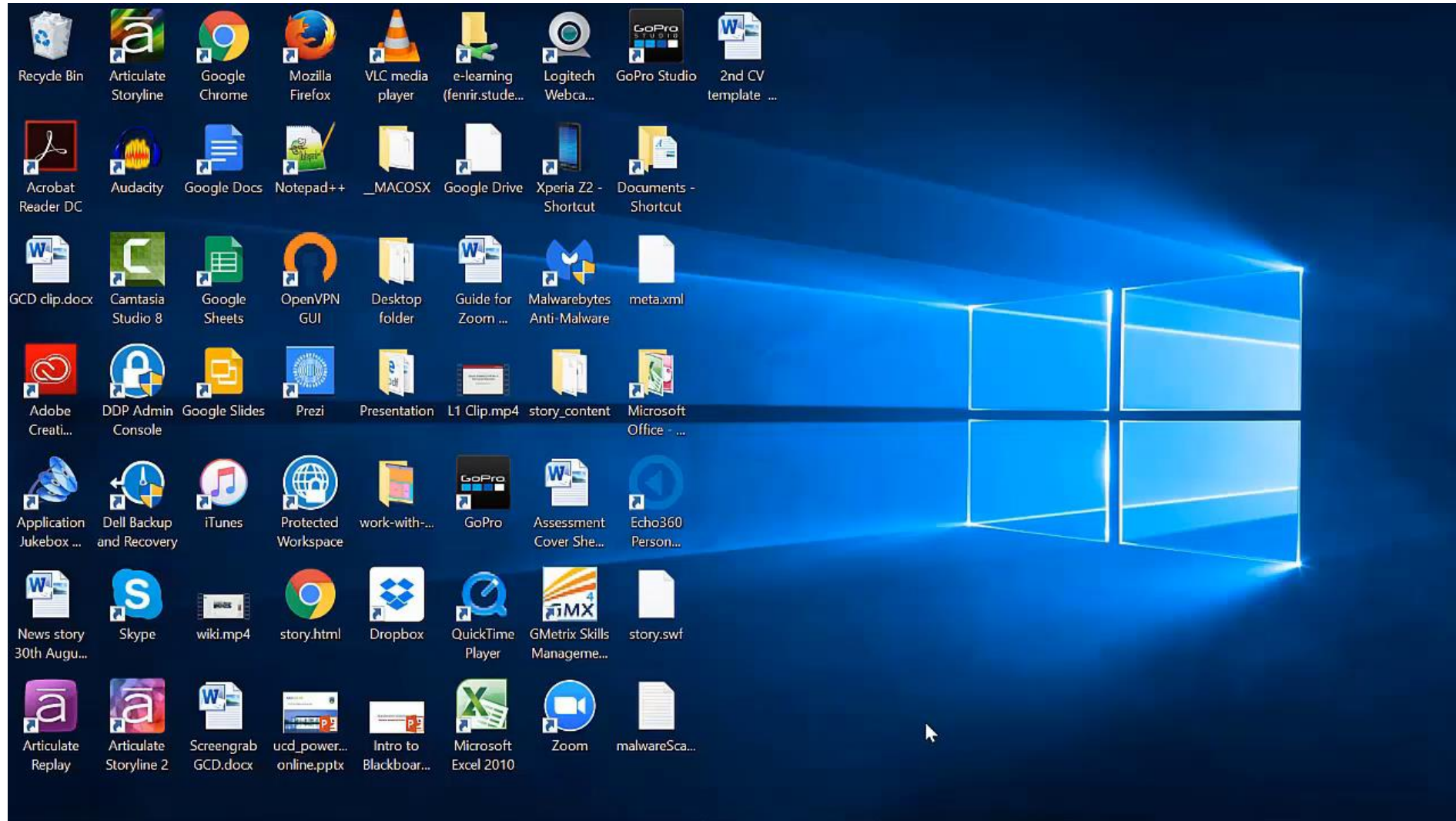
4. Your audio and video options have been disabled but students may click on the **Chat** bubble to ask a question. The chat block will open mid screen. Write question and click on return to send. Everyone in the online classroom will see the text once sent.
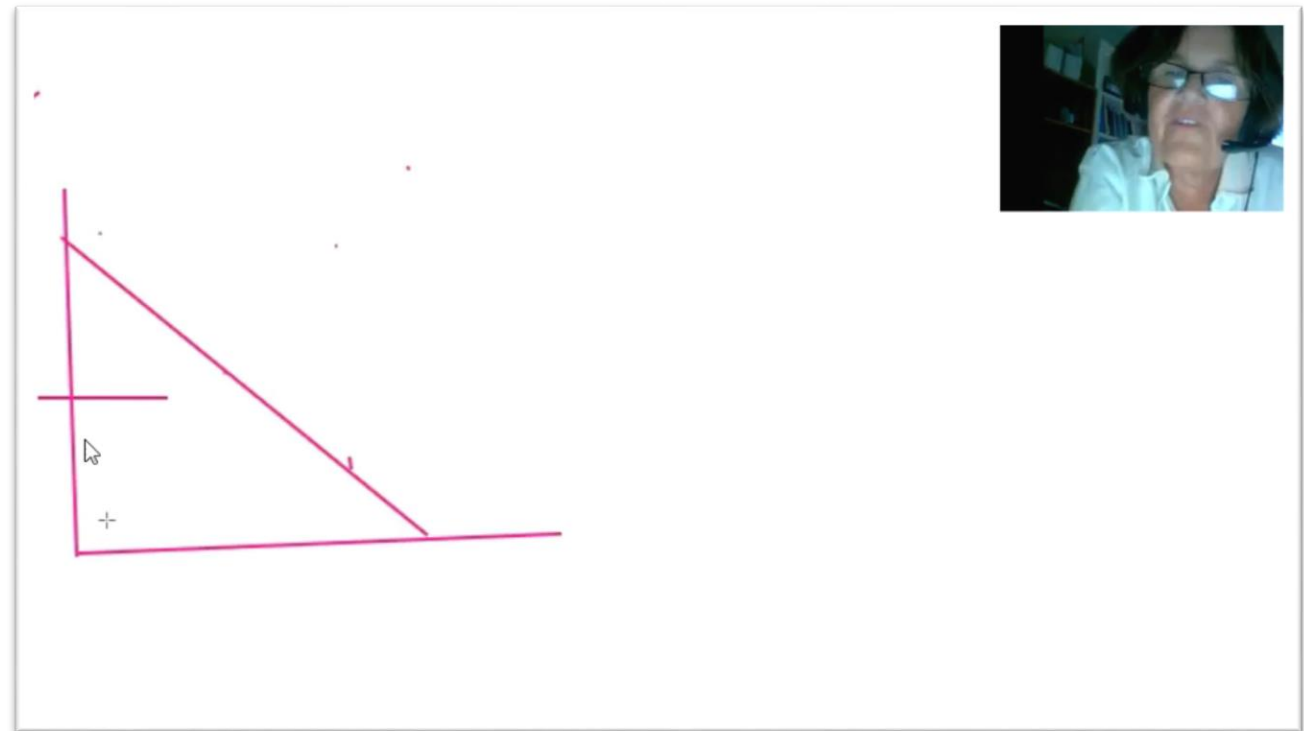
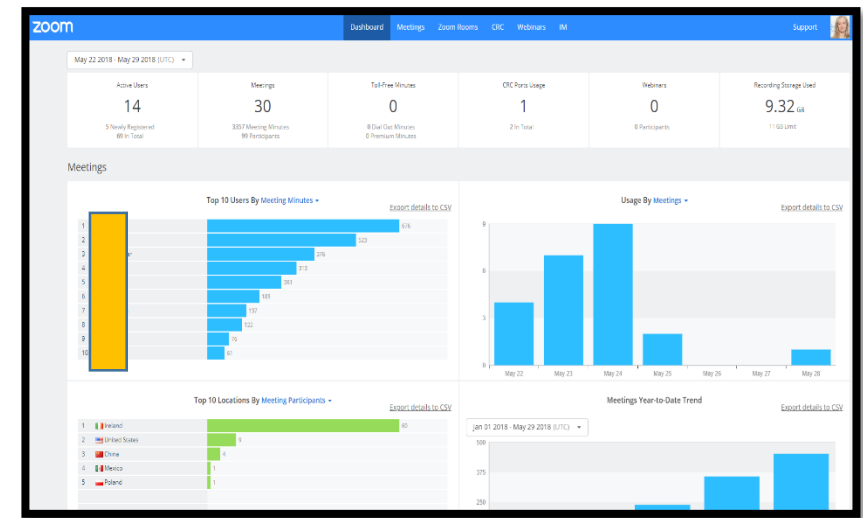PLEASE IGNORE this button

Guides

Features

- Features – Record to the cloud and share links, breakout rooms, interactive icons, chat – including private chat option, share screen whiteboard features, and tracking meetings via Zoom dashboard
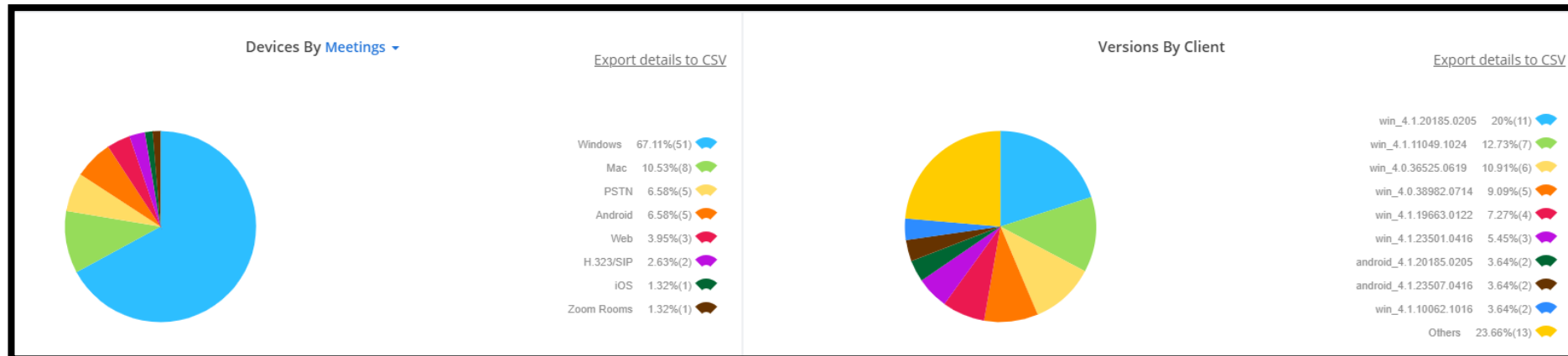
Zoom Analytics

Future

- Going forward – spreading the word through testing, positive experience, continued technical support and word of mouth.