

opinion

Why Discord would have worked better than Zoom

Seth Ho
Reporter

Zoom has been one of the key applications in use during the pandemic due to it being the most familiar and most schools have it installed into their system already. But, with zoom being as old and outdated as it is, there have been many issues.

It is not just how hard to navigate in the software itself but nationwide, Zoom has been the center for internet trolls to attack.

Many trending videos on social media tell the story. I have witnessed it myself when at the URCA symposium this past spring.

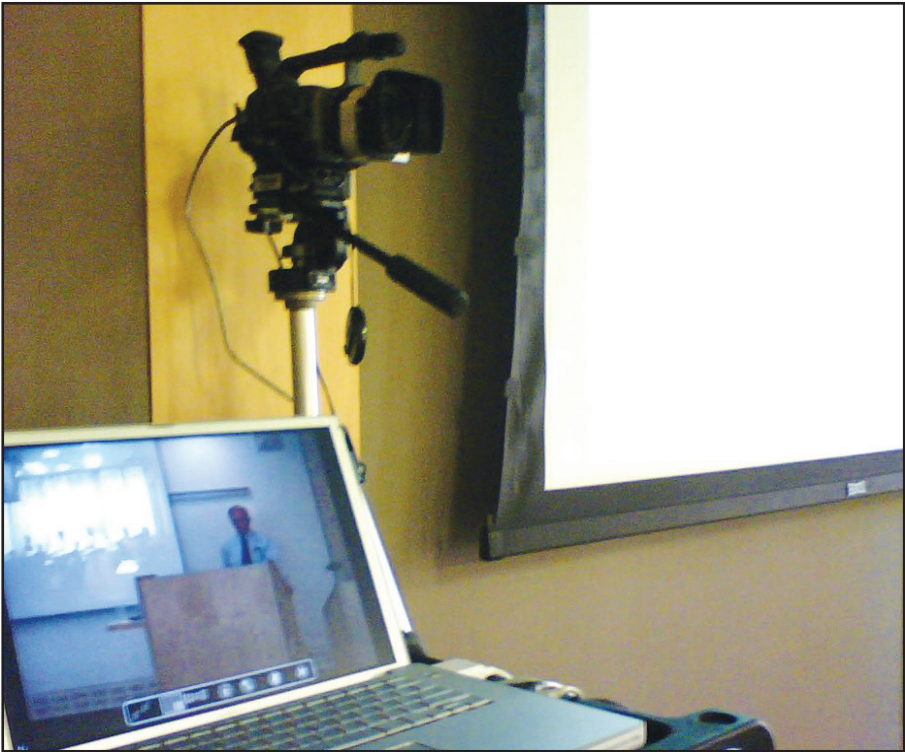
Before the first presentation was even complete, over 30 non-student users joined the call and would shout racial slurs, harassing the presenter and even opening up the share screen option and showing pornography.

It was a horrendous incident and should have never happened in the first place.

Zoom meeting's I.P. addresses for free public meetings are easy to gain access to and you have to pay an annual fee yearly to host your own private call which is not that much of a minimum fee of 149 dollars for the base membership, but Discord is completely free.

Discord is an easy to use application for both mobile and computer users. There is a paid membership called Discord Nitro that includes upgrades to the channels that are completely optional and use more aesthetics than anything.

Discord has many different features that



"VIDEO CONFERENCE CLASS TO CLASS" BY SHAWNZAM IS LICENSED UNDER CC BY 2.0.

are more updated and convenient than the difference is night and day.

First things first is that in Zoom breakout rooms only the moderator can move everyone to their separate rooms. In Discord you can make as many channels as you want and students can join them manually instead of the professor having to invite each

individual student.

You can also have individual text chats for information and updates and could potentially post all of the classroom information in one of your server channels as it is easy to check and easy to create.

Another detail that is small but nice to have is that you can have multiple share

screens at a time unlike Zoom where whoever is presenting takes up the whole screen, making it clunky and annoying to maneuver.

One of the underrated features is that students off campus have poor internet connection. Discord was directly made for that issue when many had troubles with other applications such as skype.

If students need to get in contact with faculty or other students Discord is a more convenient way to do it instead of exchanging numbers or emailing all the time.

The biggest thing that sets Discord apart is the ability to choose who to invite. People can say "well, Zoom you send out the link through email and it is safe." However it is still a public server and very easy to get access to.

As for Discord, it is a server link that you copy and paste. It is also easy to kick unwanted users in case that problem ever occurs because there is a default chat that shows who joins.

Lastly, if you are a moderator, you can change names on the apps to better help recognize the user. Discord is more user friendly, more updated and the future of online learning in my opinion. It is primarily used in the gaming world but I feel as if it could have more uses during the pandemic.

Discord can be found in the Apple or Android app store and can be downloaded on any search engine available with Windows 10.

A time of togetherness, wherever that may be

EVAN LAUX
News Editor

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and it will be the first family-focused holiday being celebrated since the Coronavirus pandemic began to heighten earlier this year in March.

This Thanksgiving, however, will look different from past years.

The pandemic will undoubtedly change how students spend their holiday break away from school and with their families and friends, as social distancing has caused issues with usual gathering plans.

In some cases, celebrations have been cancelled altogether.

"We usually have my aunt and uncle over for the holidays, but this year it may just have to be our immediate family," AU junior Andrew Villers said. "My brother was supposed to get married in Michigan the weekend of Thanksgiving, but now we are unable to have gatherings of more than 50 people so they had to move the wedding to next summer."

The CDC stresses that celebrating with immediate family or people you live in the same household with is the only "truly safe" way to celebrate with people over the holidays.

It also encourages families to opt to virtual celebrations rather than large gatherings.

If you are to meet face-to-face, gatherings should be held outside if weather permits.

Campbell Holben, a junior at Bowling Green State University, is heeding this advice.

"Because of COVID, I won't be able to see my grandparents which is very unfortunate," Holben said. "Our usual tradition for Thanksgiving is to head over to their house in Pittsburgh and spend the holiday weekend with them. Instead, we're all ordering some pumpkin rolls and having a zoom call so we are able to eat something together on the holiday, even though we're not together."

We were supposed to go out and visit my sister in Arizona, but we changed our plans and now we're staying home for Thanksgiving. It wasn't necessarily strictly for COVID reasons though. Some of my family is still coming though and we're going to have a lowkey family Thanksgiving meal. Can't let COVID steal the traditions!

- Stu Brdicka, student

I plan on visiting my family for Thanksgiving and we will have everyone get together for it the same as last year. COVID won't have an effect on it. I also plan on attending my boyfriend's Thanksgiving, but they are changing theirs up a little.

- Sarah Shearer, student

Have your Thanksgiving plans changed this year?

Every year we have everyone from both sides of the family come over to our house to eat, play games, and enjoy each other's company. Due to Covid, this year's Thanksgiving will be very different from previous years. We plan on having just our immediate family together to celebrate this year. Although this is a difficult decision, it is something we have to do to protect the ones we love.

-Tom McCallister, student

I normally spend Thanksgiving with friends/family, but this year we are limiting who we are around, especially as cases continue to rise. This year my roommates and I decided to spend Thanksgiving together with just our immediate family to limit the spread. Normally over Thanksgiving break my group of friends and I all get together as we haven't seen each other in awhile, however due to Covid I'll only be coming in contact with a few friends. Hopefully I will be able to see others after a confirmed negative tests or after a two-week quarantined period being home.

-Alden Bodak, student

the Collegian

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