JITSI: AN OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING

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Video-conferencing

- For interacting with a large number of people through video and audio, like this webinar
- Also used for online teaching
- Relevance skyrocketed at times of pandemics like this.

- Which is the best video conferencing tool by the way?
- Super-popular app is Zoom

- Biggest issue is privacy, Zoom stores the contents and you will never know how they use it for, the so called "digital-hoarding"
- Another major issue is with security. Zoom has several security exploits, the most infamous one is called zero-day vulnerability. Another issue is zoombombing where an intruder broadcasts obscene content to the audience!

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Taiwan joins Canada in banning Zoom for government video conferencing

Zoom's daily users ballooned to more than 200 million in March

Thomson Reuters · Posted: Apr 07, 2020 9:00 AM ET | Last Updated: April 7

Zoom is facing a backlash from users worried about the lack of end-to-end encryption of meeting sessions and 'Zoom-bombing,' where uninvited guests crash meetings, often posting offensive material. (Dado Ruvic/Illustration/Reuters)

Taiwan's cabinet has told government agencies to stop using Zoom Video Communications Inc.'s video conferencing app, the latest blow to the company as it battles criticism of its booming

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German government restricts use of Zoom over security concerns - reports

The German foreign office has joined Google and other large organizations in limiting the use of video conferencing app Zoom over security concerns. Zoom is seeing a high level of traffic owing to global lockdowns.

Date 08.04.2020

Author Elliot Douglas

Related Subjects Germany, Coronavirus

Keywords Germany, zoom, coronavirus

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US Senate, German government tell staff not to use Zoom

The two organizations now join a list that also includes the Taiwanese government, the Australian government, SpaceX, Google, and New York state area schools.

By Catalin Cimpanu for Zero Day | April 9, 2020 -- 17:56 GMT (23:26 IST) | Topic: Government

Image: Zoom, ZDNet

The US Senate and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs have become the latest organizations to advise staff against using the Zoom video conferencing

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dated April 12, 2020

Advisory-Zoom use for meetings, trainings etc.

Use of online meeting platforms like Zoom and Cisco Webex etc have seen a tremendous jump in conducting conferences, remote meetings and imparting education in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown across the world. Most of the users of these platforms are not aware of the correct way to configure these platforms to ensure security.

2. Recently various vulnerabilities and weaknesses have been reported in one of the most popular platform zoom. In present

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Info-tech

Hackers are selling Zoom exploits on the dark web for up to $30,000, says report

Hemani Sheth | Mumbai | Updated on April 13, 2020 | Published on April 13, 2020

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Hackers are zeroing in on the video-conferencing app Zoom, selling Zoom exploits on the dark web, according to a report by tech website *Motherboard*.

The video-conferencing app which has gained massive popularity over the past few months owing to global shutdowns in light of the coronavirus pandemic has recently been under the scanner for multiple privacy and security issues. Hackers are cashing in on Zoom's 'zero-day' vulnerabilities and selling data stolen from the app on the dark web.

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Hacked Zoom meeting exposes up to 50 elementary school students to pornography

By the Associated Press Apr 9, 2020

Grovecrest Elementary School in Pleasant Grove, Utah
Courtesy photo

A video meeting hosted by Utah's Alpine School District was hacked, revealing pornographic images to dozens of elementary school students last week.

The incident happened April 1 on a call with Grovecrest Elementary School Principal Kyle Hoopes, district spokesperson Kimberly Bird told KUTV-TV. The district, which is the primary school district in northern Utah County south of Salt Lake City, was using the video conferencing service Zoom.

The images were on the screen for a few seconds, exposing up to 50 students, district spokesman David Stephenson told The Salt Lake Tribune.

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- By the way, free version of Zoom has limits too. It can support maximum 100 participants, and only up to 40 minutes.
- If you want, for example, to host a webinar with a modest 500 participants, shell out 20 USD (approx. Rs. 1500) per month.
- Biggest disadvantage is that Zoom is now massively popular severely limiting the server bandwidth, so quality is getting worse day by day. By the way Zoom has recently admitted that they are routing the data through China.

- So, what are the other options?
- Google meet supports up to 100 participants, but no finer control like ability to mute the participants or record the video
- Microsoft teams too support only 100 participants and that need Office 365 subscription

- Namaste is yet another app, from India but this is in nascent stages (beta), supports just 25 participants, and is a private company (no guarantee against data-privacy). Most of the time namaste server is down too, rendering it ineffective.

Fake News!

Sushil Chandanani
last Tuesday
NAMASTE beta
Create new meeting
Join existing meeting
भारतीय सरकार ने चीनी ऐप zoom के खिलाफ एक सुचना जारी की थी जिसमे कहा गया था की ज़ूम एप इस्तेमाल करना खतरनाक हो सकता है क्युकी यह आपके निजी डाटा का गलत इस्तेमाल कर रहा है। आज सरकार ने खुदका वीडियो कालिंग प्लेटफार्म नमस्ते लांच किया है।
Govt of India had launched its own App- "Namaste" against "Zoom Chinese app", it's in beta version & is on trial basis & working on its features, will be available in Playstore soon.
#Boycott all Chinese Apps & products whichever u can in future. 🇮🇳🇮🇳
(Currently many of us had bought Chinese mobiles including me. It's we had already paid our hard earned money to China. Let's not buy in future any Chinese mobiles/gadgets)... See More
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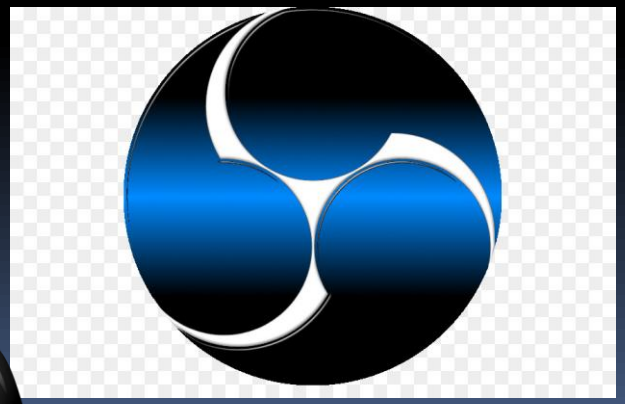
- Here comes Jitsi, my recommendation. Have you ever heard of this? Jitsi is a gem I tell you.

- Jitsi is an open source software, that means the code is open to all. If you are a programmer, you can make the jitsi even better! Many Indian volunteer programmers contributed in the development of Jitsi, so Jitsi is a made in India software. Of course, Jitsi is completely free.
- Open source software is an ethical choice, because no money involved, it is free for all (altruism), community sharing and improvement, and is part of “access to knowledge” movement

- By the way I am a huge fan of open source softwares. Gimp instead of Photoshop, InkScape vs. Illustrator, OBS and da vinci resolve vs. Camstasia and FCP, firefox vs. edge, Linux vs windows/apple.

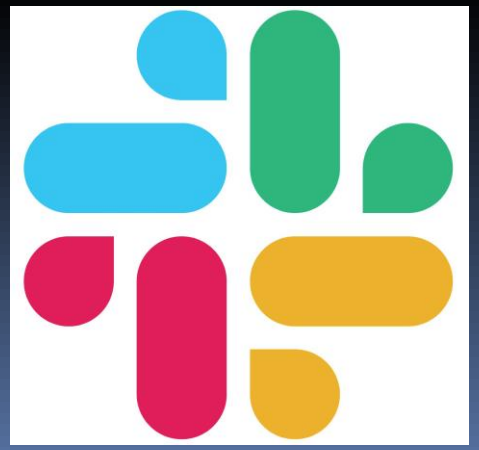


- Jitsi has no limits whatsoever it is. No limits about the time of recording. You can host a big webinar with 1000s of participants. You can record for as long as you can (even 24 hrs!).
- You don’t need any account to use jitsi. No need to install any software as well. Just go to Jitsi website and that’s all.
- By the way, if you want to participate in videoconferencing via mobile phone, you would need to install their light-weight and well-rated app ‘Jitsi Meet’ though. Again, no need of creating any accounts.

- Another advantage of jitsi is that you can force-mute all participants; if you are hosting a big webinar this feature comes very handy. Even there is an option to 'throw out' some participants, for example, you know, those problem creators.
- Participants can click an icon to “raise their hand” too to grab the attention of speaker. For example, if they need to ask a question. Speaker can then decide to entertain their questions or not.

- Jitsi even allows you to stream the entire videoconferencing to youtube live streaming! Of course you can record the whole program for archival, something zoom cant do.
- Jitsi also allows to share the screen, for example, to make a PowerPoint presentation.
- Jitsi uses end-to-end digital encryption, highly secure

- If you are like me and use workplace communication tool ‘slack’ often, jitsi perfectly integrates within the slack.
- So how to use jitsi? It is so very easy, come with me. I will show you now.



- Please visit the following link to watch a trainer video on how to use Jitsi, which also includes a mock conference plus review of Jitsi meet on android with screencast tutorial.
- http://bit.ly/bastf

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