

# Preparing for a Virtual Event

## Presenter/Participant Checklist

- Power:
  - If using a laptop, ensure the computer is plugged into a power outlet
- Internet:
  - Wired (Ethernet) connection is preferred – consider using your office computer
  - If using Wi-Fi, make sure other users are not watching movies or playing games online
- Audio/Video:
  - Use an external quality microphone
    - Headphone set with noise-canceling microphone preferred
  - Use a good webcam that delivers a minimum 720p (ideally 1080p)
  - The camera should be at or slightly above eye level
- Other:
  - Turn off / silence your cell phone
  - Run a test of your setup to ensure quality

## Environment & Wardrobe

- Record from a private room or location (Consider using your BAS Office)
- No harsh lighting on your face or behind you – do not sit in front of a window
- Optionally: Consider using a stand-alone photo or LED light
- The backdrop should be natural but uncluttered
- Chose a professional background. Consider one of the [MTSU backgrounds](#)
- Solid or subtle pattern shirt appropriate for your audience
- Avoid busy pattern, all-white or grass-green shirts (for green screen effects)
- Make sure no external noises around: air conditioning kicking in, or ceiling fan, etc.
- Put a sign on your door to avoid interruptions

## Personal Computer

- If presenting:
  - Clean up desktop:
    - Right-click on the desktop, Display settings, View, Uncheck Show Desktop Icons
  - Hide the taskbar if showing desktop
  - Use a high screen resolution, i.e., 1920X1080
  - Turn off all notifications
- Use the latest browser (Chrome or Firefox)
- Close unnecessary applications
- Update your computer before the event date or disable updates
- Update your web meeting software (Zoom or Teams) before the event

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## Presentation Tips

- Identify your central message
- Have a clear call to action within your presentation
- Do not read your slides to the audience
  - Use a bullet point format and add value with your expertise
- Use the PowerPoint Presenter Coach to evaluate your presentation delivery
- Review settings under the Slide Show menu (if using PowerPoint) to customize your defaults
- Rehearse timing to ensure you can adequately cover your content in the time provided (Slide Show | Rehearse Timings command)
- Consider putting housekeeping and resource slides at the beginning when you have people's attention, so you do not disrupt Q&A toward the end of your session
- Ask your organizer how and where to share your final materials with your audience
- Backup of materials should be on your local computer
- Rehearse enough to be comfortable with your material so your personality will shine through
- Avoid reading your slides to the audience

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Sources:

Adapted from Microsoft Virtual Event Playbook, August 2020.