

Choosing the right software to deliver remotely

With so many webinar and video calling platforms to choose from, making the right choice can be tricky. Here's a list of things to consider when selecting a platform to deliver your sessions.

Price

Webinar software can range from free to quite expensive, so budget will be important in narrowing down the list of options. You shouldn't base your choice only on price, as providers are competitive and offer products at similar prices.

Ease of use

Your learners might be completely new to attending sessions online, so try to choose a platform that is easy for them to use. Some providers allow people to join without registering or having to download software. Keep the needs of your community in mind and aim to make the experience easy and accessible for them.

Interactivity

Delivering sessions online brings with it challenges, one of these is making sure participants can take an active part in the session. Most platforms allow for activities such as screen sharing. Others can produce a whiteboard for everyone to write on or boxes for people to type in. As you become more experienced you may want to try polls to quiz your learners or use popups to take learners to a webpage or document.

Ability to record

This may not be a factor but, some Online Centres will want to record their sessions so people can watch them later. Most webinar platforms can record sessions but some charge extra for this feature.

Accessibility

Online Centres that support learners with additional support needs might need accessibility features. Platforms vary from no assistance at all to being able to add closed captions and use keyboard shortcuts.

Support for other languages

All options are available in English, some support other languages. Some allow participants to choose their own language for easier understanding. This will be a big factor if your organisation works with people from CALD backgrounds.

Privacy and security

Before choosing any digital platform or program, it's important to check how secure it is. Most providers will have information on their website about the security of their platforms. You should make sure they're in line with your organisation's security policy. If the provider doesn't have any information about security or privacy, be very wary.

Creating and setting up sessions

Most webinar platforms come with the standard ability to choose the time, length and description of your webinar. Other providers allow you to also customise the look and feel of the webinar and invitation. This can be time consuming and might need more knowledge of how to use the platform. Make sure you not only consider what is best for your learners but also what works for you.