

# How to use the Big Blue Button (video conferencing)

## HOW TO USE THE BIG BLUE BUTTON

Big Blue Button, or BBB, is an alternative to Zoom. It is free to use, and there are no time limits on using it. You can read more about the advantages of BBB, especially for security, [here](#). (It also includes a link to [this video guide](#) if you prefer visual learning). Note, the video guide refers to an icon in Mattermost to start a Big Blue Button call without an account. Unfortunately, this is no longer available.

### REQUESTING A BBB Account

The advantages to having an account for your XR group are that anyone (irrespective of whether they have a Hub log in or not) can access a BBB meeting. Once you have an account, you can create as many 'rooms' as you like within your account (giving each room a name such as Anchor Group, M&M, Actions etc) and each room has a unique URL. You copy the URL for the room and send that with the date and time of the meeting. Then attendees click on the link at the start of the meeting, add their name and the BBB will open in a windows tab in the same way as it does within MM. So a LG can have a BBB account and then run their XR meetings on it and not worry about using MM - good for new members, or if you have a visitor!

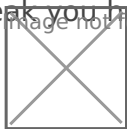
To get an account --

- Email: [bbb@organise.earth](mailto:bbb@organise.earth) Use your XR group's email address and not a personal email address, to email from. Tell them which group you are. Once the account's created, they'll email the account details. Your group's email address will be the log-in/sign-in name and the password they give you can be changed to one you want.

Note BBB is at [meet2.organise.earth](https://meet2.organise.earth)

### Joining a call

When you click the link to join the call you will be asked to connect your audio and webcam. Select **Microphone**, and check that if you speak you hear yourself coming back through your device.



Don't worry, no-one else can hear this!

Welcome to BBB! This large Welcome screen takes up most of the window, but if you click the blue box in the top right corner it will go away and there will be more space to see other people on the call. Down the left hand side you can see who else has joined, and if they are connected to video and audio, and the Public Chat column.

If you can't see the columns on the left that look for the little person icon in the top left corner and



click that to open them up.

In the main window you will see a few blue buttons, and this is where you can control your **Audio** and **Video**. Click the microphone to mute or un-mute yourself.



The button that looks like a video camera is to turn on your webcam. Like your audio when you first use it there will be a pop-up window where you can choose your settings, and give you a preview screen. It will automatically detect your camera, so unless you want to choose a different webcam,



just click **Start Sharing**

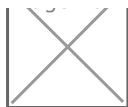


To screen share on BBB you have to follow a couple of steps. Unlike Zoom where one person is the host and has control over the whole call, everyone is equal on BBB. Look for the blue button at the bottom of the screen with a + in it. Click this, and you will get the option to **Take Presenter**. Once you have done this you will get an extra option next to your video and audio buttons to **Share your screen**.



Once screen sharing begins it will give you a delightful "rabbit hole" effect of windows within windows -- don't worry, once you switch to a different tab or window this will disappear -- **just don't use the BBB tab to open the website you want to share, or you will automatically**

come out of the session!



**Note that you cannot seem to screen share on a mobile device.**

There are a few other options if you click the three vertical dots in the top right hand of the window.



At the end of the meeting you can go here to **End meeting** or **Leave meeting** -- or you can just close the tab in your browser and you will have left! Once everyone has left the meeting, even if no-one clicks End, it will automatically finish.

You can have a meeting on BBB for as long as you like, there is no time limit.

### **BIG BLUE BUTTON ON A MOBILE**

You will need to confirm your microphone and camera settings -- it will detect them automatically from your device, so you don't need to change anything.



Get rid of the Welcome screen to make more space to see the other folks on your call!

To pull up the list of the other people on the call and the **Public Chat** click the little person icon in the top left hand side of the screen. Click the same icon to minimise this column so you can see who you are speaking to again.



Click on the three vertical dots on the top right hand of the screen, or close the internet browser to leave the call.

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