

Equipment You Need for Your Chatroom

1. Reliable Computer



Reliable PC or Mac
Laptop or Desktop

As you can imagine it is important that you have a reliable and stable PC that won't freeze or crash on a regular basis. It is important that you have a PC with a processor speed of at least 1 GHz and 500mb of RAM. If you run Windows operating system XP is better as Vista tends to be unstable, Macintosh is without a doubt the most stable and reliable of them all.

2. Webcam or Camcorder



Blue Microphone Eyeball
Webcam with Microphone

Webcam: For optimal presentation for your client experience we recommend purchasing one of the following webcams.

- **Blue Microphones Eyeball Webcam with Microphone (PC or Mac)**
- **Logitech QuickCam Orbit AF**
- **Logitech Quickcam Vision Pro (Mac)**
- **Logitech QuickCam Pro 9000 Hi-Speed USB**
- **Logitech QuickCam Pro 5000 Hi-Speed USB**
- **Apple iSight Video Conferencing Webcam with Autofocus (Mac)**

Please note: It is also advisable to use an external microphone, any cheap external microphone will provide better quality than an in-built microphone on your PC. Alternatively you could purchase the EyeBall Webcam which combines both.



Apple iSight with Autofocus

Camcorder: For superior performance we recommend a digital camcorder as they provide high resolution imaging and features remote zoom control which allows members to get a closer look. Depending on your PC you will need either a video card or firewire connection. We recommend you use a quality camcorder like Sony, JVC or Hitachi but just about any camcorder will do the job.



JVC Everio Camcorder

- **Sony DCR-HC36 MiniDV Digital Camcorder w/20x Optical Zoom**
- **JVC Everio S GZ-MS100 Camcorder w/35x Optical Zoom**

3. Video Card

A video card allows you to connect your camcorder to your PC, just about any video card will do, and most PC now have video cards installed as standard, however we do recommend the Osprey 100.

4. High Speed Internet Connection

Video streaming requires a lot of bandwidth so the faster your internet connection the better, preferably Cable or High-Speed ADSL, the faster your internet connection, the better customer satisfaction which reflects on the amount of money you will make.

5. Lighting



Good lighting is a crucial part of participating in a chat-room and reflects on the output of your video to your client. It is recommended that you have at least 400 – 600 watts of lighting in your room, you can achieve this by purchasing some professional lighting stands most commonly used in photography, do not rely on natural light. When positioning the additional lighting be sure not to set-up too close to your webcam as sunspots may appear on your webcam screen and of course keep any lighting stands out of camera view.

Do some research on how to set up and position in your chat room, there are several lighting options available and all are relatively inexpensive, but as a general rule of thumb the more you spend the more professional your set-up and the results pay for themselves.

- **Adorama Adorlite Junior Studio Photoflood Lighting Kit with Light Stands, 2 - 10" Reflectors, Socket Kits & 2 500 watt ECT Tungsten Bulbs**