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Vice-Rector for Academic and International Affairs

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**News on the activities of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching (ZiLL) / Centre for Information Services and High Performance Computing (ZIH) regarding video conferences and virtual classrooms / 2**

Dear colleagues,

All four new video conferencing services are now up and running, in time for the beginning of teaching at our university. The overview of the conference tools on the website <https://tu-dresden.de/zih/dienste/videokonferenz> is being updated continuously. The following is a brief overview:

BigBlueButton (**BBB**) can be entered via the [Self Service Portal](#) of the Centre for Information Services and High Performance Computing (ZIH).

An increase in capacity was implemented today, and the flexibility of the booking periods is planned. The service supports up to 50 participants (including external guests) in one room as well as screen sharing, whiteboard and breakout rooms, e.g. for small teaching groups and grade meetings. Therefore, it is suitable for seminars, examinations, defences and internal consulting/committees including sensitive content.

- Unit 3.5 Information Security provides the Jitsi service at <https://jitsi.tu-dresden.de>. The initialisation of a conference is done with ZIH login and password. The service currently supports up to 6 participants (including external guests) for video conferences, from the 10<sup>th</sup> participant on, audio is currently muted automatically. It is suitable for ad-hoc meetings in small groups including sensitive content. An integration into the Matrix platform of TU Dresden is planned.
- 1000 licenses were acquired for the cloud service **GoToMeeting**, the distribution is handled exclusively by the Schools and has already started. A further 2,000 licenses are available for a limited period of time until at least the end of June 2020 and will be issued on a "first come, first serve" basis via the [Self Service Portal](#). The licenses are personal. The service supports up to 250 participants (including external guests) and is suitable for lectures and seminars without sensitive or personal content.
- 1,000 licenses were also acquired for the **Zoom** cloud service, which are being distributed by the Schools. The licenses are personal. This service is also suitable for lectures and seminars without sensitive or personal content with up to 300 participants. Due to current frequent negative reports on data protection problems, it is possible that some students are critical of the use of this service.

Recommendations for lecturers and students will be formulated shortly (e.g. no

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obligation to provide real names). Please make sure that only courses that are not critical in terms of data protection are held here. If possible, discuss the situation with your students in the first course and explain the current situation.

On the [ZiLL tool overview](#), you will find further information, also on asynchronous teaching formats, which are currently recommended rather than synchronous formats, among other things due to possible overloads of individual systems, especially for larger groups and courses with little exchange among participants. Recommendations for action and individual advice can be found at: <https://tu-dresden.de/elearning/corona>. In addition, you can discuss your questions, application scenarios and suitable solutions in the [ZiLL chat room](#).

Furthermore, we would like to point out that, according to the decision of the Crisis Management Team, applications for the procurement of other software solutions or the activation of decentralised IT systems on the internet for video conferences/groupware solutions or similar cannot be approved at the moment. If there is a demand that is not covered by the current solutions, I would ask you to communicate this as a request to the ZIH, initially collected by the IT Advisors, in order to evaluate how these requests can be met.

With kind regards on behalf of the University Executive Board

Hans Georg Krauthäuser

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