

BroadData Web Visuals Web Conferencing vs. WebEx® Meeting Center

COMPETITIVE COMPARISON

At BroadData, we pride ourselves on being a leading provider of integrated audio, web and video conferencing services that make everyday meetings more productive. Our focus on exceptional customer service and innovative, reliable technology sets us apart from other conferencing providers. Below is a side-by-side comparison of BroadData Web Visuals Web Conferencing and Webex in three aspects of remote meetings – planning, accessing and conducting.

PC Magazine's review of Web Visuals Web Conferencing in their June 8, 2004 article Ways to Meet There When You're Here states, "Web Visuals is the best of the products we've tested for small, impromptu meetings (even better than WebEx, in fact)".

Raindance	Features
Planning	
	Outlook® integration is at the client level, which allows individuals the option of integrating Outlook with Raindance Meeting Edition without involving IT or network support.
	With Outlook integration, planning meetings is as simple as creating a meeting request within Outlook and checking 'This is a Raindance Meeting'.
	Participants receive a standard Outlook meeting request, automatically populated with your meeting information containing a one-click link into your meeting.
	Your Outlook contacts are available to you during your meeting, making ad-hoc meetings simple to plan.
	With Raindance's truly integrated audio conferencing, you never have to schedule your audio conferences with up to 125 participants or involve a third-party vendor.
Accessing	
	For moderators, the Raindance Meeting Edition icon resides on your desktop for one-click access to your virtual meeting room. Just click the Raindance icon, then 'Start Meeting'. A Raindance meeting can be initiated in about 20 seconds.
	Participants simply click on the link in their meeting e-mail invitation or Outlook calendar request to join your meeting. Raindance's unique OpenGo™ audio conferencing feature automatically calls the moderator and participants when the meeting begins, eliminating the need to remember call-in and access numbers.

WebEx	Features
Planning	
	Outlook integration is at the enterprise level, which means installation requires IT and network support. The hassle involved with installing software on the network often means that WebEx users cannot use this feature.
	Without Outlook integration, planning meetings requires going to a designated URL, creating a topic and password, designating start/stop times and inviting attendees by individually entering their names and email addresses.
	Without Outlook integration, the meeting invitation is a plain text e-mail that doesn't appear in your or your participants' calendars. With Outlook integration, the e-mail invitation is confusing with multiple hyperlinks and separate web and audio IDs and passwords.
	With or without Outlook integration, phone numbers in your Outlook contacts are not available to dial out to participants; moderators must input individual phone numbers delaying the start of ad-hoc meetings.
	WebEx does provide a limited form of audio integration. However, if more than 50 participants are invited, a separate audio conference must be scheduled with a third party audio vendor.
Accessing	
	To initiate a meeting, moderators must go to their designated URL, login, either select a prescheduled meeting or enter a meeting topic, set the meeting password and confirm the password.
	Participants must enter their name, e-mail and password in order to join the web portion of the meeting. The audio portion of a WebEx meeting must be accessed separately unless participants' phone numbers are entered ahead of time.

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Raindance	Features
Conducting	
<i>Document Viewing</i>	View slide notes to make sure you get your points across.
	Resize thumbnails to easily view your slide deck.
	View the Meeting History for easy access to previously shared documents.
	Know everyone is on the same page by receiving alerts when all participants are viewing your document.
<i>Application Sharing</i>	Raindance's Meeting Bar stays in place while you share applications, allowing you to see if there are questions, view/broadcast video, chat, grant control to others and access all of the meeting features.
	Leverage all of the annotation tools while sharing your desktop, region or application.
	Have your participants choose Toggle Scale View to see everything you're sharing without scrolling.
<i>Browser Sharing</i>	Raindance's Meeting Bar stays in place during browser sharing, allowing you to see if there are questions, chat, view/broadcast video and access all meeting features.
	Share web content without allowing participants to surf independently.
	Leverage all of your annotation tools while Browser Sharing to easily emphasize important points.
	Being able to access your Favorites allows you to quickly and easily share web sites.
<i>Video</i>	Conveniently view video from the ever present Meeting Bar.
	Anyone can choose who they want to view by clicking on that person's picture in the private viewing area.
	Focus attention on the speaker by taking the podium.
	View your video while viewing someone else's with Picture-in-Picture to gauge your body language.
	Keep track of who is speaking by choosing to follow the talker.
	Know the name and company name of the person whose video you are viewing.

WebEx	Features
Conducting	
<i>Document Viewing</i>	Slide notes are not available, which means that separate print outs have to be made.
	The inability to resize thumbnails doesn't allow you to preview content or easily skip around in a presentation.
	The lack of meeting history means only the original presenter can access previously shared documents.
	Asking everyone in your meeting if they see your document is the only way to know what everyone is viewing and detracts from the flow of the presentation.
<i>Application Sharing</i>	When application sharing, the entire interface disappears making it difficult to access features, preventing the viewing/broadcasting of video and removing participants' ability to request control.
	Only one annotation tool is available (marker) making it difficult to distinguish between annotations.
	Participants with different desktop settings are forced to scroll left and right to view shared applications.
<i>Browser Sharing</i>	The entire interface disappears when browser sharing making it difficult to access features and preventing the viewing/broadcasting of video.
	When browser sharing, a separate browser is launched allowing participants to surf independently.
	Only one annotation tool is available (marker) making it difficult to distinguish between annotations.
	Your Favorites aren't accessible within WebEx, meaning you have to individually type in web site addresses.
<i>Video</i>	In order to view video, you must select the video tab, which is not part of the main interface and doesn't allow you access to chat or polling.
	The moderator chooses whose video is displayed, which means participants can't select who they view.
	Only the moderator can select whose video is viewed.
	Unless your video is selected, you cannot view your own video.
	If you're not familiar with the people in your meeting, it can be difficult to keep track of the person speaking.
	It's easy to lose track of the person you are viewing when no contact information is associated with video.

*The latest versions of both Meeting Edition and WebEx Meeting Center were evaluated on 5/24/04.