



Hybrid Meetings

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Context

- The past years probably do not need an introduction (C-word)
- Clear need for a mixture of face-to-face meetings with virtual meetings
 - Sounds easier than it is to organise!
- Disclaimer:
 - I am not a specialist; just someone that ended up in a mix of hybrid meetings with a desire to get these to a higher level
 - This presentation is not a course on how to organize hybrid meetings, rather an invitation to exchange experiences and thoughts
 - Work in progress

Concrete cases identified

- Small-scale hybrid meetings (eg this one)
 - All participants around a table
 - Sometimes up to 40 participants
- Full conference (eg the upcoming CLARIN annual meeting)
 - Typical stage + audience setting
 - Up to some hundreds of participants
- First focus: **small-scale meetings**

Wishlist, in the ideal world

- A setup that is:
 - Intuitive to use
 - Portable
 - Inclusive for the remote participants
 - Easy to follow what is happening
 - Easy to interact with the on-site participants
 - Dependable
 - Extendable (eg for large rooms, or unusual room shapes)
 - Cheap
- Dream scenario: name tag with e-ink and a wireless mic built in for each participant
 - For a start-up, someone?

What did *not* work

- Just bringing a laptop
 - Microphone does not capture all speakers
- Bringing two (or more) laptops
 - Multiple mics > echoes for the remote participants
- Basic speakerphones such as the Sennheiser SP20
 - Microphone not sensitive enough
- A webcam at a different location than the main presentation screen or presenter
 - Lack of “eye contact” towards the remote participants

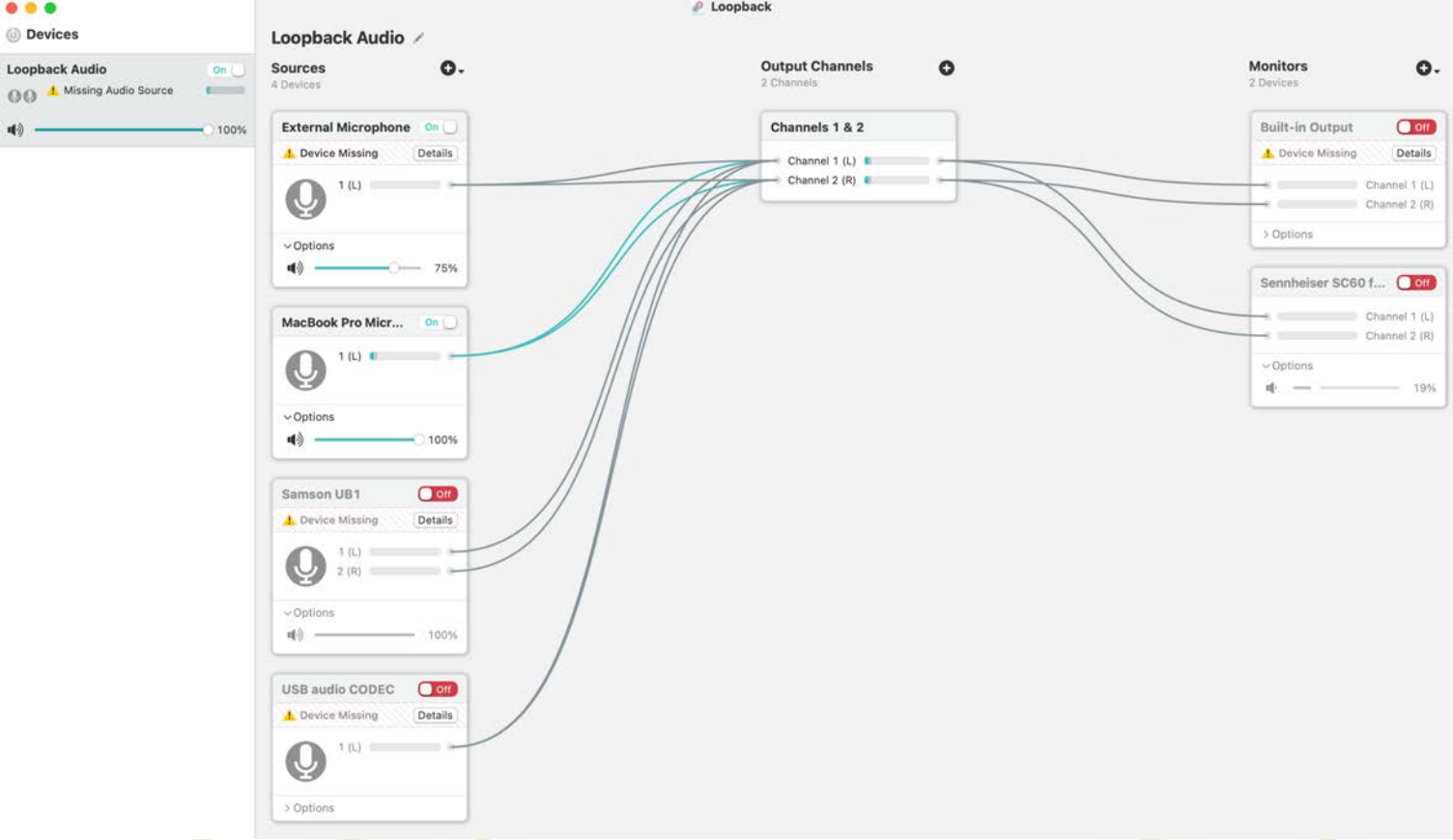


What *did* work

- Using a single, dedicated laptop to mix all incoming microphone streams with a software mixer
- Using one or more [boundary microphones](#), e.g.
 - Samson UB1 (omnidirectional = 360 degrees)
 - MXL AC-404 (directed for 180 degrees)
- Using a [lavalier mic](#) for individual speakers (e.g. meeting chair or presenter)
- A simple USB-based bus to connect all microphones and a USB speaker if needed
 - With extension cords
 - Works well for mics (not requiring too much power)

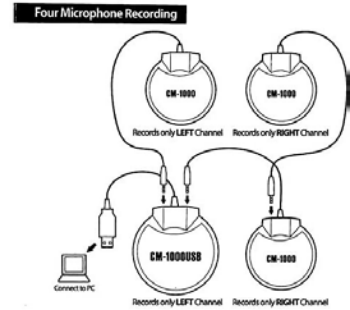


What *did* work



Further investigation

- Webcam setups
- Daisy chain microphones
- All-in-one devices, eg
 - Meeting Owl Pro (OEAW and HuC have one)



Thank you for your attention!

Do you have input or ideas? Want to access all links?

See the [Hybrid meeting scratchpad](#)