



CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF VIRTUAL ORGANIZATIONS

Technology Tip: Choosing the Right Headset for Virtual Meetings

When working from home it is important to minimize distractions and background noise, especially when there are kids and/or pets present in the home. A good headset can help you in tuning out noise for better focus in your meetings. It can also help to isolate sound so others in your meeting cannot hear what is happening in your home and those in your home cannot hear your meeting.

Before purchasing a headset, there are a number of considerations including:

Quality: Perhaps the most importance consideration is the quality of the mic and speakers in the headset. You certainly want be heard with clarity and to hear others the same.

Comfort: Perhaps equally as important to quality is the comfort of wearing the headset, especially if you will have them on long periods of time. Wearing an uncomfortable headset can be miserable.

Style: The options here are on the ear, over the ears, or earbuds. On the ear are designed with small pads for comfort that set against the ear. Over the ear design covers the entire ear with thick pads for comfort. Of course, earbuds are inserted inside the ears. These choices are purely based on preference.

Noise cancelling: Some headsets offer noise cancellation mics. These are especially helpful where background noise is a problem. If you work in noisy places including public locations such as cafés or coffee shops, consider this feature.

Wired or wireless: If you like to move around during conference calls you should consider a wireless connection. However, keep in mind wireless headsets need to be charged while wired sets do not and they are prone to more static and interference.

Type of connection: The majority of headsets will connect to your laptop or device through USB or an auxiliary port. Check the connection ports for all devices on which you plan to use the headset to ensure connectivity.

A simply Internet search reveals many webpages offering advice and recommendations on headsets, but strive for those which offer unbiased reviews. Of course, there are reviews on

Amazon, but there is talk of fake reviews. Look for headsets with the highest number of reviews as this may be more indicative of the real quality of the headset.

There are many good headsets available from a wide variety of prices, although it is easy to be sucked into the research abyss. It is important to remember that no one product is perfect and your time is valuable. The amount you have to spend will help you narrow down your choices and from there you can peruse reviews.

Below are sites offering recommendations to consider:

<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/best-headsets-4171273>

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-wireless-headset-for-the-office/>