

## Blackboard Collaborate vs. Echo360

### What are they?

Echo 360 and Blackboard Collaborate (BBC) are lecture capture/video streaming services that can be used to deliver synchronous content and record the synchronous content for later use in an asynchronous format.

Both Echo 360 and Blackboard Collaborate work well with OWL. BBC has a direct plug-in to OWL and students can access Blackboard with one button through OWL.

Echo 360 integrates into OWL but when students click on the button they will be taken to an external website outside of OWL.

	<b>Blackboard Collaborate (BBC)</b>	<b>Echo360</b>
Synchronous lecture streaming?	Yes	Yes
Asynchronous lecture capture?	Yes	Yes
Integration into OWL?	Yes	Yes- but will be taken to an external website
Centrally supported?	Yes- Blackboard Collaborate is supported through the ITRC	No- but we have expertise within Schulich who have been using Echo360 for years
Cost?	BBC is free and is supported centrally. It is a plug-in for OWL.	ACB has secured a science student donation fund to pay for Echo360. They still have some seats available (at no cost), but if additional seats are needed they are bought in blocks of 1000 and units will have to pursue cost-sharing.
Instructor ease of use?	BBC is fairly simple to use and has a similar "feel" to Zoom.	Echo 360 takes a little more potential set-up (instructor needs to upload the files beforehand) but overall has less potential for technical glitches during the actual session.
Viewing format?	You can share files with participants and when you do this you can still see the presenter in a very small window.	Students have a variety of options of how they choose to view. If they want to see the instructor they can in a large window, or they can simply view the slide presentation.
Video resolution	BBC has fairly standard resolution that is appropriate for most lecture types.	Echo360 has better resolution and video streaming abilities which make it preferable for courses like histology.
Interactivity?	BBC allows for breakout rooms, discussion, multiple-choice questions and polling questions.	Echo360 offers a variety of question types (multiple choice, short answer, identify "hot spot"), but does not offer

		breakout rooms. There is also a discussion feature.
Student Notes?	Faculty can provide a PDF or PPT of notes for the session beforehand. Students can use another application during the lecture to make their notes.	Faculty can upload their notes directly to Echo360 and students can take notes directly within the platform.
File types?	While BBC can play Powerpoint, PDF files are preferred as the streaming capacity of BBC is limited. Animations do not work well in BBC.	Echo360 can play Powerpoint and PDF or Keynote. There is no issue playing animations in Echo360.
Learning Analytics?	BBC does not provide additional learning analytics (such as when a student accessed the video or how many times they viewed it); this might be able to be determined through OWL but would be challenging.	Echo360 provides learning analytics so that the instructor can see how many students are logged in, how many times students have accessed the video, and whether or not there were challenging parts of the lecture.
Closed captioning?	BBC does not have closed captioning but you can assign a participant to provide captioning. This captioning will show up in "real time" during the presentation.	Echo360 has closed captioning capabilities.
Future use?	BBC is centrally supported and videos are downloaded onto OWL. There should be no issue in accessing videos from previous years. This can be helpful with the ongoing pandemic for future planning as well.	In order to access previous lectures from Echo360, Schulich will need to maintain its license for Echo360. If we do not renew the license for Echo360 then we will lose videos that were captured previously through this platform. They are not accessible through other means.
Use for office hours?	It is simple to set-up meetings in BBC to facilitate virtual office hours	Echo360 is not ideal for office hours.