Zoombombing

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What is Zoombombing?

When an someone not invited to, or intended to be part of, an online meeting (or webinar, or video conference) joins the session with the intent to cause disruption, that is Zoombombing. Zoombombing activity commonly includes:

- using screen sharing to show pornographic materials
- showing pornographic materials in place of their webcam video
- drawing obscene or offensive shapes or words using whiteboard or annotation tools
- putting obscene or offensive language in the text chat
- sharing malicious web links or files

Though the term Zoombombing derives from attacks made in the Zoom web conferencing tool, other non-Zoom online meeting tools can, and have, been Zoombombed.

For more information please see:

- Zoombombing on Wikipedia
- Zoombombing in the news

How do Zoombombers find meetings?

- They find meeting information (e.g. a join link or a meeting number) that has been shared publicly on the Internet.
- They get meeting information that has been forwarded or passed along, person to person or in organized online groups.
- They use computer algorithms or random guessing to discover meetings.

That last point means that keeping your meeting link or number private is not sufficient. Zoombombers can find your meetings even if you and your intended participants never share meeting information beyond your group.

How can I protect my meetings?

Do not share your meeting link or access number more widely than necessary.

If your meeting is for a class, share information for joining the meeting through, for example:

- your corresponding D2L course space
- your corresponding Microsoft Teams space
- email to members of the class

Do not post meeting information publicly on the Internet unless absolutely necessary.

Do not allow people to enter the meeting before you do.

Disable Join Before Host.

1. Go to the Zoom portal.
2. Click Manage.
3. Click Settings.
4. Choose the Meeting tab.
5. Scroll down to the Join Before Host option.
6. Make sure the option is switched off (disabled).

Use the Waiting Room.

Please see these articles by Zoom:

- Enabling the Waiting Room for your account
- Enabling the Waiting Room for an individual meeting
• Using the Waiting Room

Password protect your meetings.

Please see these articles by Zoom:
• Enabling passwords for your own meetings
• Editing the password for a meeting
• Editing the password for your Personal Meeting Id

What can I do during a meeting?

Use the Security menu.

As a host or co-host in a meeting, you have a Security button in the Zoom client's toolbar. Click the Security button to open a menu of actions you can take:

• lock your meeting
• enable the waiting room
• enable/disable your participants' ability to:
  • share their screens
  • chat
  • rename themselves
  • annotate on content being shared
• remove a participant

Please see this article by Zoom:
• In-meeting security options

Mute all the participants.

1. Click the Manage Participants button.
2. Click the Mute All button.
3. Uncheck Allow participants unmute themselves.
4. Click the Continue button.

Please see this article by Zoom:
• Mute All And Unmute All