



PRACE - RedCLARA - SCALAC

Workshop on Online Teaching

Experiences from VSC / TU Wien, Austria

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- ▶ **VSC-4 (2.7 Pflop/s) & VSC-3 (~1 Pflop/s)**
- ▶ PRACE Training Centre
- ▶ vsc.ac.at/training

*Train the Trainer
program* 
→ hirs.de/training/2021/TtT





Delivering LIVE Online Courses

- ▶ There is no one size fits them all !
- ▶ Depends on: content, trainers, audience; hands-on labs
- ▶ Also important: time to adapt a course to the online format

Select a
video-conferencing system
→ @VSC: Zoom (BR)

Lectures delivered
live or pre-recorded
→ @VSC: both

Hands-on labs
and/or demos
→ @VSC: both

Hosting & Lecturing Online ???

▶ My first setup did not work well for me...

- ▶ 1 laptop + big screen & pptx
- ▶ overwhelming, lost contact to audience

▶ **New setup → Works great for me !**

- ▶ 2 laptops: 1 Host, 1 Presenting
- ▶ As Host: 1st laptop + big screen, muted, no webcam,

Zoom with side-by-side gallery, chat, participants, BR

- ▶ As Trainer: 2nd laptop with audio, with my webcam & pptx





Hands-on Labs → Need Supercomputer Access ?

- ▶ Supercomputer access is not always needed → own laptops
- ▶ **Challenges: restricted IP range, participant's identity**
- ▶ Our solution:
 - ▶ Offer choices whenever possible !
 - ▶ Provide trainee users for the courses.
 - ▶ Dedicated jump host (with proper setup).
 - ▶ Two-factor authentication to login (already implemented before).
 - ▶ Clear communication about login process & trouble shooting before.
 - ▶ Pre-assignment to be done before the course starts.



Hands-on Labs → Our Success !

- ▶ Demos for shorter exercises
- ▶ Breakout rooms for longer exercises (~5 participants per BR)
 - ▶ Pro: participants can interact
 - ▶ Con: need more trainers/tutors
 - ▶ Explain/demo afterwards in the main room for all !
- ▶ Basic exercise + optional advanced exercises
 - ▶ Very positive feedback from participants !



Online & Offline Communication

- ▶ Zoom chat has major drawbacks...
 - ▶ Need for communication with participants or with/among trainers.

- ▶ Set up a separate communication channel outside of Zoom !
 - ▶ Slack works well during and outside the course hours !



Adaptions → To Fit Online Format !

- ▶ Less hours in online courses !
- ▶ Stick to the timetable !
- ▶ Shorter talks alternating with other activities (demos, labs, ...)
- ▶ Basic + optional advanced exercises

→ Offer choices !!!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

www.prace-ri.eu

