Making and Enjoying Videos Shared via Zoom

Zoom is a great tool for staying connected. We continue to excellent meetings, programs, and training with the help of this service. But using the tool is not without its challenges. When the speaker is sharing a PowerPoint slide, you are seeing a static image that probably looks very good with lots of detail. Viewing videos is usually not as satisfying. The reason is that Zoom samples the shared screen, compresses it, and sends it to all the participants. There is a lag between the time the screen is sampled and the participant sees the image. Since a PowerPoint is static, this works fine. But with video, the screen is not sampled frequently enough to show a smooth image. For the type of shows we typically do, the only time this is a problem is during slide-to-slide transitions and during special effects such as panning and zoom.

Sharing hints: If you are sharing your screen and showing a video, follow these suggestions.

- Update to the latest version of the Zoom application for your device.
- When starting sharing, enable "Optimize for Full Screen Video"
- Use the Zoom Video Player under "Share Screen – Advanced"

Viewing hints: If you are watching a shared video, and the image is not sharp, it may be because the sampled screen is being enlarged too much.

- For high resolution monitors, view the shared material in a less than full screen mode.
- The viewing option "Side by side" works for me.

Preparing a Slideshow Video:

- Avoid special effects such as pans and zooms and scrolling text. (This is generally a good idea for photography shows anyway. We want to see the photo.)

- Keep the slide transition time as short as possible and use a fade effect.
- Render MP4 at HD at least (1920X1080).
- I render at QHD (3840X2160) to future proof the show.

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