Remote Recording
Basic Equipment
Remote Equipment Considerations

• It is difficult to make a remote interview not sound/look like a remote interview

• Most of the equipment we currently have on hand that enables remote interviews is very basic (most smartphones have eclipsed basic laptop cameras)

• Your experience/investment in equipment will not always equal your interviewee’s

• Internet speeds/bandwidth can affect quality too
Using a Smartphone for Audio

- Consider purchasing a microphone attachment ($100-200)
- Which app will you use?
- Does it record in WAV?
- Does it crash?
- Do you have enough storage?
- How will you share the files?
- Airplane Mode!
USB Microphones

- Blue Snowball (not iCE)
  - ~$70 in a number of flavors!

- Blue Yeti
  - ~$100 for smaller “Nano”
  - ~$125 for USB
  - ~$250 for “Pro” – USB + XLR

You may want to also consider a pop filter ($10) or desktop/arm stand ($25)
USB Webcams

- “Basic” Logitech HD Webcam C615 $30
- “Advanced” Logitech C920S HD Pro Webcam $70
- “Pre-Lit” Razer Kiyo Streaming Webcam $100

**Webcams are almost impossible to find right now, with prices through the roof (hundreds of dollars)**
USB Headset

- Headphones suggested for video calls to eliminate echo and recording overlap
- Basic headset microphone > on-board
- Start at around $30
- A bit hard to find right now too
- Might want to consider gaming varieties
Remote Audio Interviews
Landline Options

- Easiest = JK Audio Quicktap (~$50)
- Audio Mixers can provide quality ($200+)
- Many models require a recorder in addition
- Will still sound like a phone interview without major $$ investment
Cellphone Options

• Many apps to choose from, but most only record in mp3 (Rev)

• Google Voice: for both iOS and Android, create an account/number, easily share, but mp3 only...

• iOS WAV options:

• Android WAV options: Call Recorder – ACR (free), RMC: Android Call Recorder (free)
Cellphone Options

Physical option #1
JK Audio CellTap 4C
Wireless Phone Audio Tap Adapter ($99)

Physical option #2
Olympus TP-8 Telephone Pick-up Microphone ($20)
FreeConferenceCall.com

• “Pay what you can” price model

• Tools for both standard phone calls and video conferences

• Audio calls available in WAV, video in MP4
Remote Video Interviews
Remote Video Recording Tips

• Screen capture or in-app?

• Light Source -> Computer -> Participant

• Stay away from variable/backlit sources

• Keep internet bandwidth open

• Test with friends/Confirm with participants first!
Screen Capture Apps

PC: Xbox Game Bar

Mac: Quicktime
Zoom

• Two options: Local & Cloud (only for paid accounts)
• 40-minute limitation on free accounts
• Variety of layouts based on the recorder’s choice (mobile can add black bars)
• Multiple participants can record at the same time
Skype

- Only available for Skype-to-Skype calls
- Quality of recording = quality of equipment on both ends
- MP4 file saved to the cloud
- Remember to download after the call is over (file link will be in your chat window)
- Can record from both Desktop and Mobile, Mac or PC
Facetime

• Records only on Mac
• Utilizes Quicktime screen recording (useful for other apps too!)
• Capture the app window on screen, save afterwards (.mov)
• Interviewee can use a phone or tablet
Ecamm

- Free trial, or one-time $40 charge

- Third-party solution for recording both Skype and Facetime calls on a Mac

- Ability to choose specific audio/video input sources and record in files both separate and together

- Great way to create both oral history preservation master and extra production files
Ecamm