



BETTER FEATURES, MANAGEMENT, AND INSIGHT.

Upgrading from BYOD to Native Microsoft Teams Rooms



Introduction

Through our conversations with IT teams, we have discovered a recurring theme. Many organizations provision some or all of their meeting rooms with limited hardware – a display and basic plug-and-play conference camera. This setup requires employees to furnish their own devices (usually a laptop) for meetings in those rooms.

This situation has some clear limitations for hybrid work. Managing the equipment in these basic meeting rooms is not simple – it usually requires an IT tech to “make the rounds” and verify that everything is working correctly, or

wait until someone notifies IT that a room is not working. And second, the experience for meeting participants on both ends of a call is not ideal (or equitable).

There is a better way. In this article, we explore the advantages of transitioning from bring-your-own device (BYOD) rooms to native Microsoft Teams Rooms. We explain the monitoring and management benefits for IT teams while enabling end-user experiences that are productive and equitable. Let’s take a dive into the features and benefits of a native Microsoft Teams Room.



First, Why Set Up a Meeting Room for BYOD?

In BYOD rooms, users and their portable laptops play a central role in running the meeting. In these rooms, the user's laptop takes on the role of the meeting host and camera controller. By relying on the user's laptop, these rooms offer platform versatility, accommodating a diverse range of collaboration platforms beyond Microsoft Teams.

From a hardware perspective, BYOD rooms typically include the following: a television display; a conference room camera such as the Logitech MeetUp, Rally Bar, Rally Bar Mini, or Rally Bar Huddle; a USB-C to USB-A cable

for camera control; and an HDMI cable for display extension or mirroring.

While BYOD rooms offer flexibility, upgrading to native Microsoft Teams Rooms introduces benefits that extend beyond what BYOD can provide. Teams Rooms empower end users with enhanced controls and features, while also providing IT teams with greater management capabilities. In the following sections, we outline the advantages that accompany this transition.



What is a Native Microsoft Teams Room?

A "native" Microsoft Teams Room is one that is provisioned to natively run in a Microsoft Teams environment. This is achieved through one of two means:

Teams Rooms on Windows: This entails setting up a dedicated PC running the Microsoft Teams Rooms app on Windows. The dedicated PC is connected to key components in the room including the meeting room controller, television display, and conference room camera.

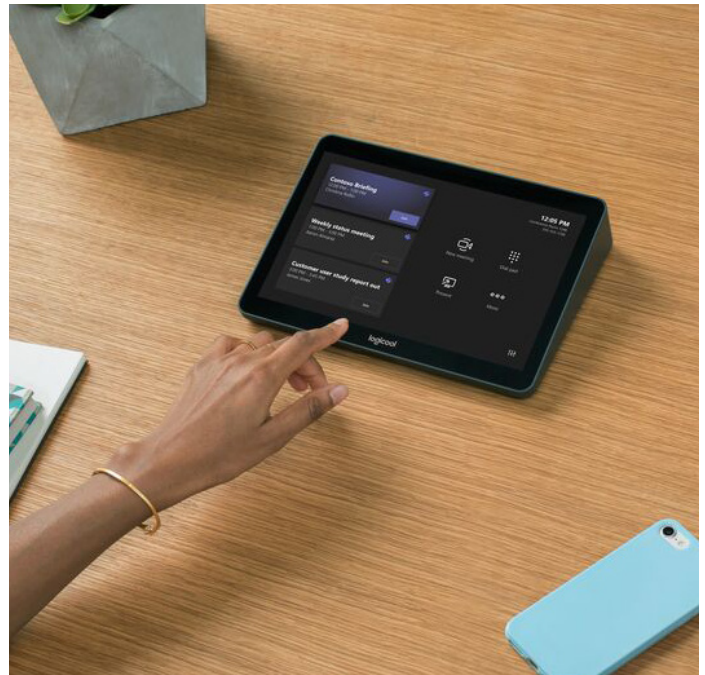
Teams Rooms on Android: This room utilizes a video bar, like Logitech Rally Bar, with a built-in computer directly connected to the television display. The meeting room controller is either directly connected to the Rally Bar

camera or used as a standalone device that is paired wirelessly to the camera through Microsoft Teams.

Logitech offers a range of Android-based devices also known as appliance devices, including Rally Bar, Rally Bar Mini, and Rally Bar Huddle. For rooms with a non-appliance device like Logitech Rally Camera or Rally Plus System, you can add an Android-based computer with Logitech RoomMate. Regarding room controllers, you have a choice between Logitech Tap for USB-based connections and Tap IP for IP-based connections, providing adaptable solutions suitable for various room types and configurations.

Features of Native Microsoft Teams Rooms

For IT administrators and end users, native Teams Rooms have benefits ranging from room management to in-meeting features.



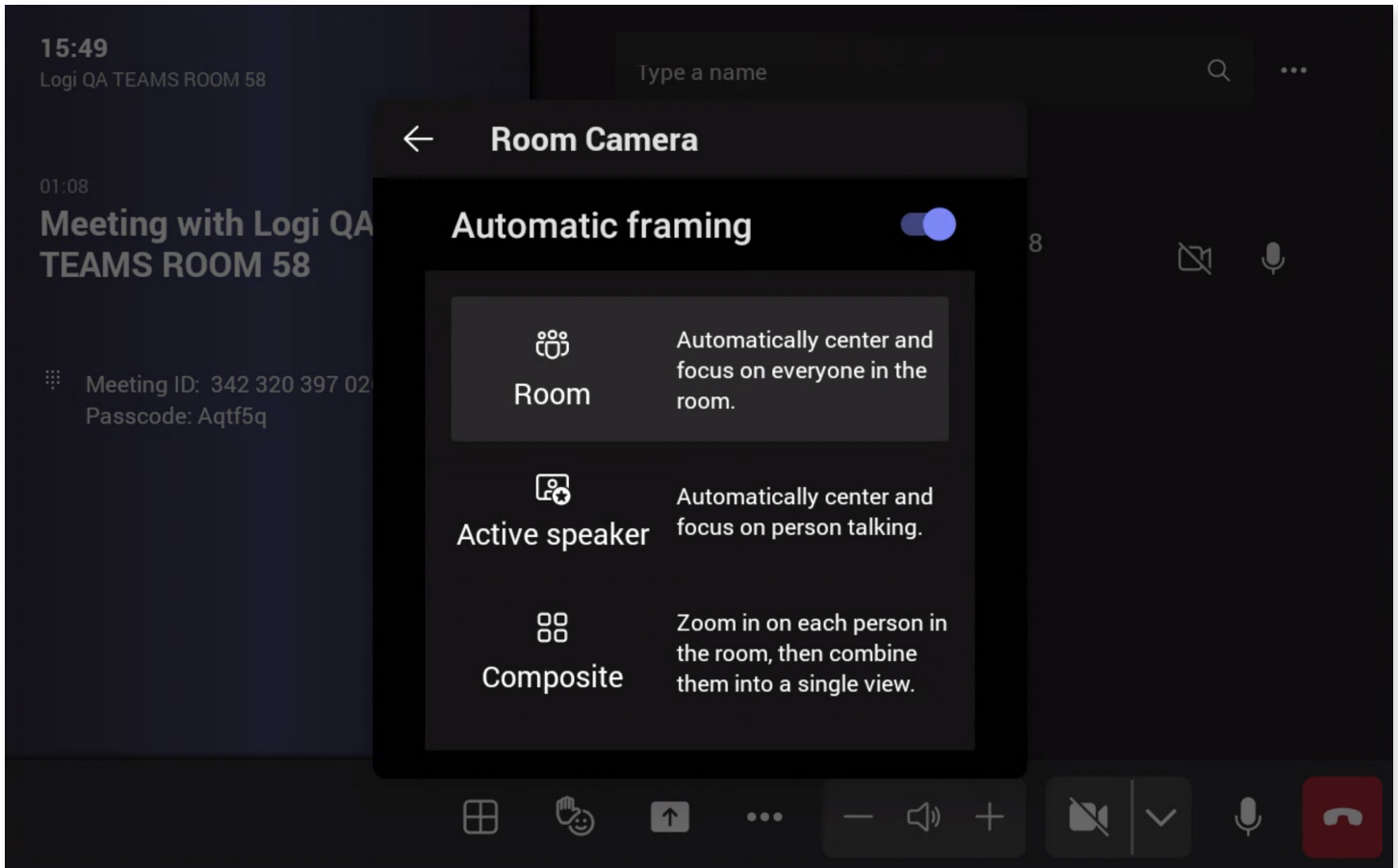
ROOM BOOKING

Native Teams Rooms are inherently "bookable," offering users the convenience to not only schedule meetings but also reserve the room for their intended use. These reservations are readily visible on both the television display and the Tap device within the room, indicating room availability. For rooms equipped with a Tap Scheduler Teams panel, this information is extended to the room's exterior, aided by red and green illuminating cues that indicate room occupancy. The advantage is a simpler process for end users when locating and reserving meeting spaces.

STREAMLINED MEETING ENTRY

The simplicity of a native Teams Room extends to meeting entry. Booked meetings appear on the Tap controller for one-touch join while ad hoc meetings can be started with the "meet" button. Users can even join existing, unbooked meetings with the "Join by Meeting ID" feature. These features eliminate the need for extra cables and personal laptops in meeting rooms; employees can simply enter a room and join or start a meeting directly from the Tap controller.

Moreover, with Direct Guest Join, when users reserve a room and specify Zoom or Webex, the meeting will appear on the Tap controller and users can use one-touch join to enter cross-platform meetings on these platforms.

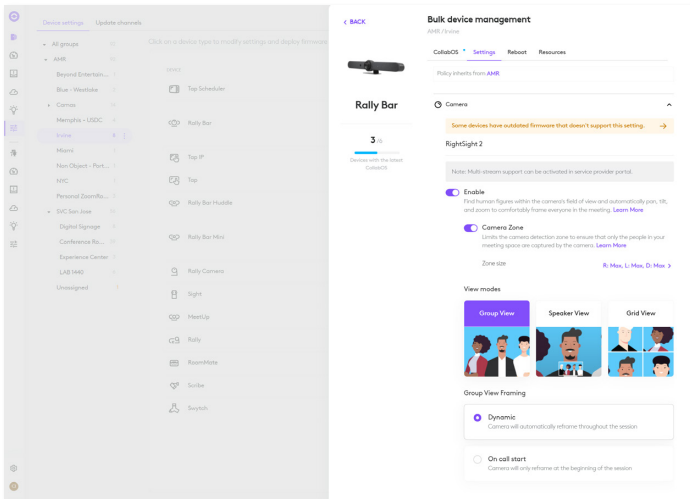


ENHANCED CAMERA CONTROLS

Native Teams Rooms bring a trio of camera views that play a pivotal role in elevating the equity for remote participants during hybrid meetings. These views include:

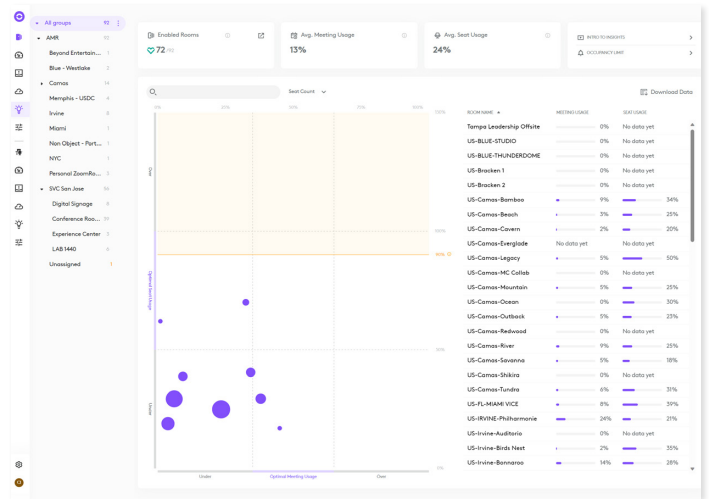
- ✓ **Active Speaker View:** This view automatically focuses on the current single active speaker
- ✓ **Room View:** Auto-framing encompasses the entire room, providing a holistic view of all participants
- ✓ **Composite View:** The camera will multi-stream up to four individuals, each showcased within their own individual gallery image

One size doesn't fit all. These three camera views offer employees the flexibility to choose the best camera style for a meeting that is productive and where representation is equitable.



FINE-TUNED DEVICE SETTINGS

Beyond the advantages for employees, a myriad of benefits await IT administrators, particularly concerning device management. By utilizing CollabOS settings or Logitech Sync, administrators gain the capability to configure advanced device settings, from speaker and microphone to camera adjustments. Our latest settings feature called “Camera Zone” allows administrators to designate specific boundaries for camera framing, particularly useful in rooms with glass walls or expansive windows. This heightened level of customization enhances the flexibility of Logitech devices for spaces of all shapes and sizes.

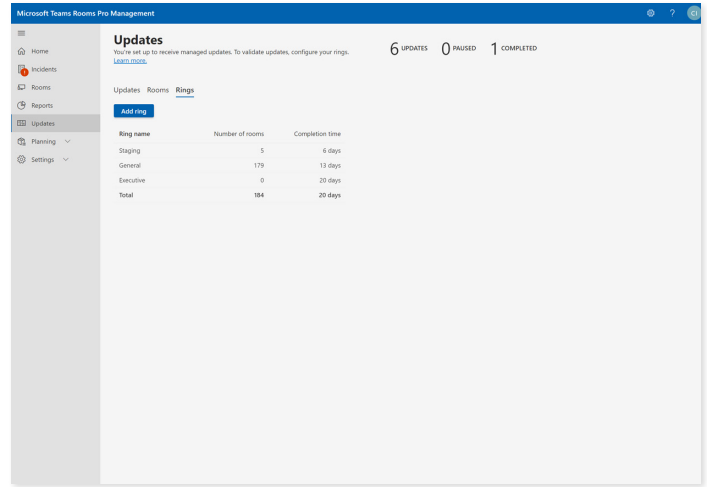
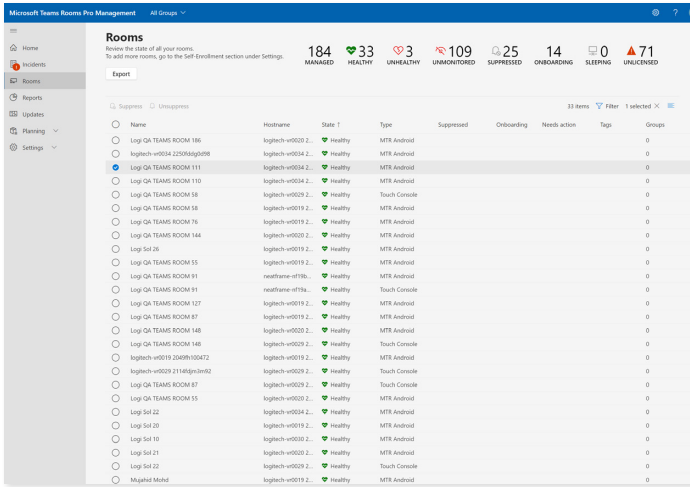


INSIGHTS

Native Teams Rooms also offer a wealth of data about device and room usage. IT administrators and adjacent teams like facilities can leverage this data to better understand how employees use platforms, devices, and real estate.

Through Teams Pro Management, administrators can use virtual meeting analytics to help them understand the types of tickets and issues being submitted by users, as well as a snapshot of room health and reliability. This helps IT teams to understand their overall room performance and set benchmarks for future improvement.

Through Logitech Sync, administrators are provided an overview of room usage patterns, when the device is both on and off. This helps IT and facilities teams gain an understanding of how their rooms are being used and what real-estate decisions and technology investments should be made as a result.



REMOTE DEVICE MONITORING

Device monitoring for native Microsoft Teams Rooms is facilitated by Teams Room Pro Management, a remote management tool that provides an overview of room health and additional details on issues and errors. Teams Rooms Pro Management empowers administrators to conduct comprehensive room monitoring from a single-pane view, eliminating the need for manual checks in each room.

Additionally, Teams Rooms Pro Management offers a dashboard of metrics on room health and group measurements in the reports tab. These reports provide key information to help IT teams identify where general improvement is needed.

UPDATE MANAGEMENT

Software updates for appliance-based devices are essential as updates will often bring new features and functionalities to devices. With native Teams Rooms, administrators can manage their device update process through Microsoft's Ring system. This system empowers teams to define a sequence by which rooms and devices receive updates.

Administrators simply create rings in the Teams Pro Management portal, declare the wait and rollout period for updates, and then designate devices to those rings. As updates are made available, they'll cascade through each of the rings based on the timing that was declared by the administrator.



Getting the Best of Both Worlds with Logitech Swytch

We've covered the extensive benefits of upgrading your BYOD Rooms to native Teams Rooms. But just because you upgrade doesn't mean you lose the BYOD versatility that was previously mentioned. Native Teams Rooms can be easily switched between native and BYOD modes with Logitech Swytch, a single cable solution utilizing DisplayLink technology to switch a room into BYOD mode when plugged into a laptop. This allows for native Teams Rooms to still offer users the ability to join platforms beyond Zoom and Webex by plugging in a single cable, delivering the best of both worlds.

Upgrading from BYOD to native Teams Rooms offers a significant step forward for hybrid collaboration in conference rooms. With native Teams Rooms, organizations gain the benefits of advanced room management, while also providing employees with seamless, productive, and more equitable meeting experiences. As you navigate the evolving landscape of hybrid work, transitioning to native Teams Rooms becomes not just a technology upgrade, but an investment in an ever-improving set of devices and software.

