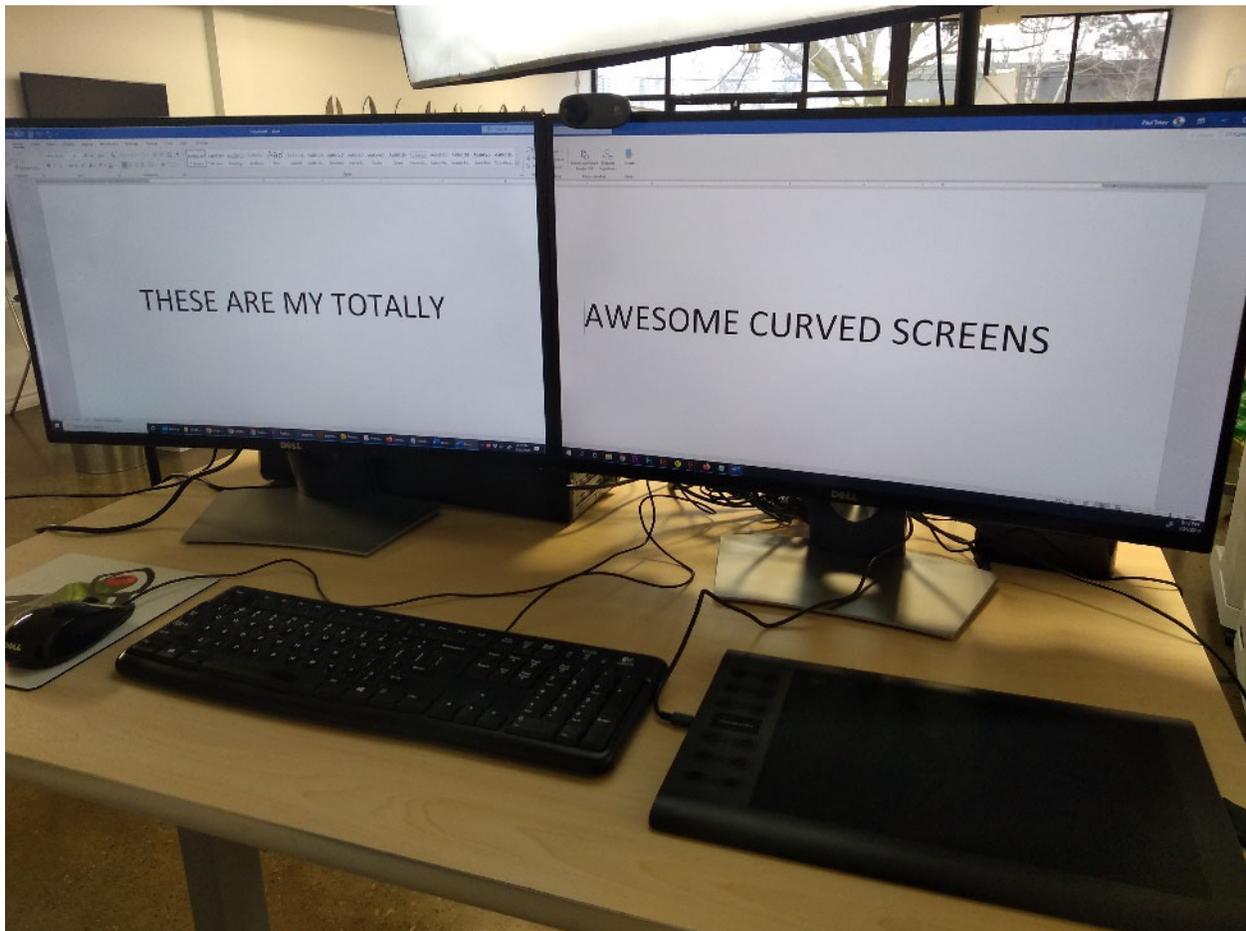# LESSON #11 the online presenters' tech stack

Video & Livecast Production Hardware

2 Screens

An extra screen helps you organize presentation assets on one screen while using the other screen as the display area.

Microphone

It is recommended that you purchase a good quality USB microphone that plugins into your computer directly. Headset microphone are typically of poor sound quality.

The microphone in this example is a Samson G-Track, but you can purchase a relatively decent replacement for around $100 such as this USB microphone in Amazon.

A pop-filter to remove the pops that your p's and b's make is also important. You can go with a microphone boom stand as shown in the photo, or you can get a sturdy desk boom like the one in the link to Amazon above.

Whatever you decide to go with, make sure that the mic you chose is a "condenser" microphone for recording vs a dynamic mic used for live vocal performances.

Headset/Headphones

Because you will be communicating with your online audience in real time, it's not a good idea to allow the sound to play from your computer speakers because it bleeds into your microphone and sometimes causes feedback or echoes. A good headset or set of headphones can be purchased for $50 to $100. I use a simple paper stack clip to hang them on the side of my desk so they're out of the way. I love that little organizational hack!

Drawing Pen Tablet

I have found plenty of use over time for my drawing tablet. You can use it to take screenshots of whatever you are presenting and highlight items, add comments, diagrams etc. Also, you can use a whiteboard to take notes, explain concepts and do pretty much anything you like with it. I find that a drawing pen tablet is infinitely useful! Ugee is a good brand, check on Amazon.
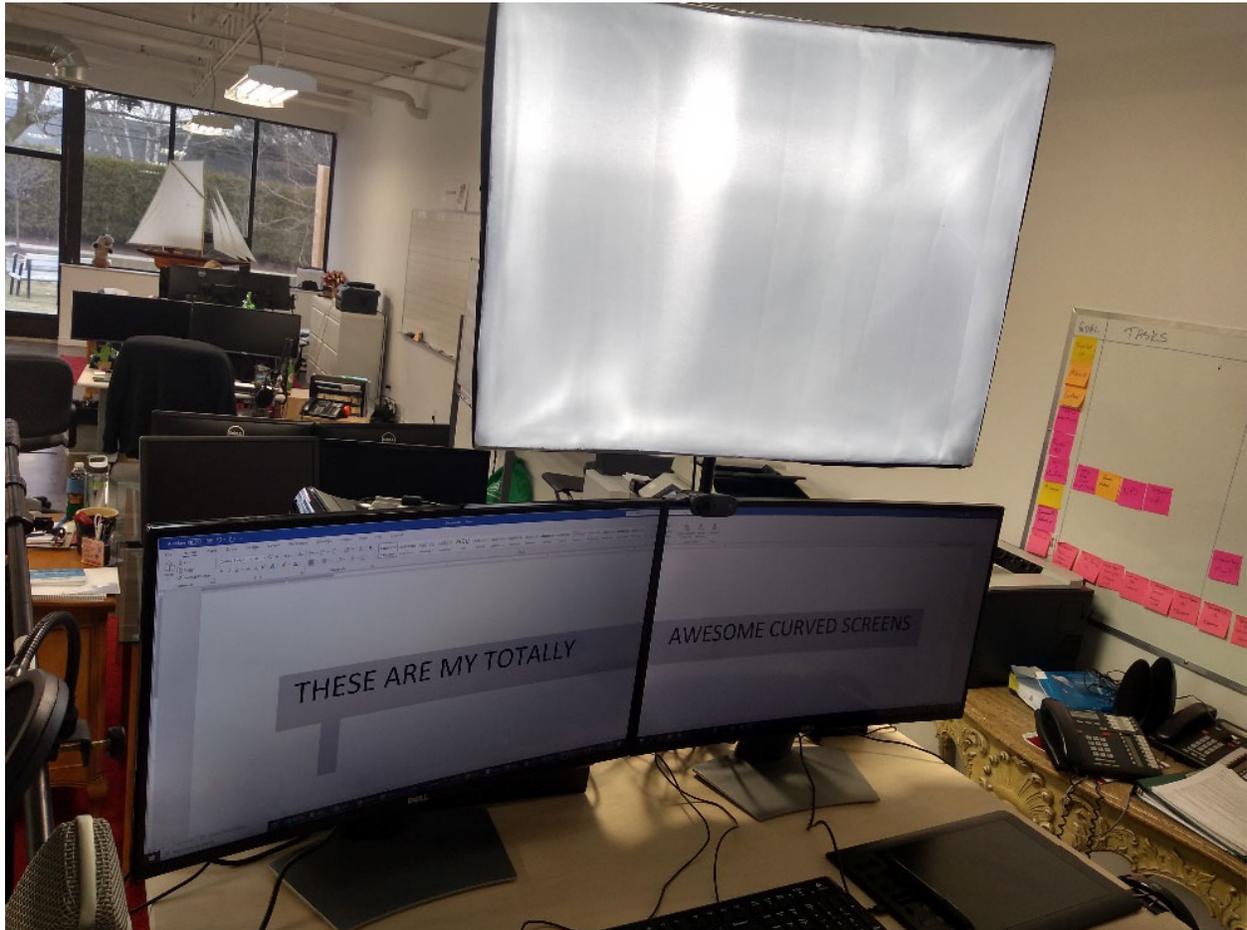
Automatic Standing Desk

This is one of my favourite things! I find that because energy is everything, when you present online it is good to be standing. It allows you to move freely while keeping your energy high! It' a bit pricey but well worth the money.

Lightbox

A lightbox gives you great lighting without shadows. Video quality depends on good light. You can purchase 2 Geekoto lightboxes for $100 on Amazon.

HD Webcam

Webcams have come a long way in the past year, partly because of the massive surge in online video production, especially in places like Youtube. HD is now the norm and a 1080p webcam like the Logitech C922 in the photo is a good example. It's a great low light, auto focus, and widescreen option.

*Important: These are very hard to find right now and many retailers have them on back order, including Amazon. I suggest requesting companies like Bestbuy or Staples to send you notifications when they have some in stock. A good price is $130 but for the C922 I've seen it as high as $230 because they're in hot demand.

Green Screen

A green screen and stand are great for when you want to cut out backgrounds and display only your image on top of whatever presentation screen you're using.

Computer Hardware

Yes, you can present using your laptop as long as you have an extra screen extension. However, computing power is important for good quality video. I recommend using a desktop computer with at least 16 GB of ram memory. Any less than that and your videos may record jumpy.

I also suggest a portable solid-state hard drive to share big video files between computers. Why solid state? No moving parts and can take somewhat of a beating. Drop a regular swing arm hard drive and it is toast!

Software For Presenters

Zoom Meeting or Zoom Webinar

	Meeting	Webinar
Description	Zoom meetings are ideal for hosting more interactive sessions where you'll want to have lots of audience participation or break your session into smaller groups.	Think of webinars like a virtual lecture hall or auditorium. Webinars are ideal for large audiences or events that are open to the public. Typically, webinar attendees do not interact with one another. Though Zoom provides options for you to get more social with your attendees, your average webinar has one or a few people speaking to an audience.

OBS Studio – FREE!

Open Studio is a free, open-source solution for game recording and live streaming. The application is expertly designed to enable users to work with multiple sources and mix between them to create a seamless broadcast.

I love this software for:

- Recording quick tutorials

- Live streaming to Facebook or any livestream service
- Green-screen Chroma Key
- Multi source video casting
- Capture multiple audio sources including computer audio outputs

PowerPoint

If you are going to use PowerPoint, please keep in mind the following recommendations:

- Max 1 sentence to 3 bullet points per slide
- Use photos when necessary to display an emotion
- Try to "set up" slides with comments as much as possible
- Reveal one line or bullet at a time
- Try not to use PowerPoint as a "what am I doing next" crutch.
- Limit your "style design" ideas
- Keep it simple

Adobe Suite

Premiere Pro – Video editing software

Photoshop – Image editing

Adobe Acrobat DC – Use it in conjunction with a word editor to create interactive course materials.

Bannersnack

A cloud-based, easy-to-use, professional design maker with which you can create fully responsive designs that will look perfect on all screen sizes, on any device.