


**Desktop videoconferencing** was launched at RISQ in 2004 through a pilot project involving five founding members: Université Laval, Université de Sherbrooke, Université de Montréal, Ericsson Research Canada and Victoriaville Cegep. Since the overall experience was satisfactory, RISQ is now offering this service to its entire membership.

- An **inexpensive** and flexible application, usable on any moderately powerful IBM-compatible or Macintosh computer – **700 MHz and faster** – equipped with a simple webcam and/or a microphone and a Web browser.
  - Synchronous communication in three modes: text, **audio**, **video**.
  - **Presentations** of PowerPoint, JPG and other documents thanks to the Macromedia Flash Player extension included with the application.
  - **Whiteboard** functionality, file sharing, personal Web sharing.
  - Sharing of desktops and/or **remote applications**.
  - **No charge** for data transmission for RISQ and its members, provided connections are established entirely within the RISQ network.
  - Participants from **outside the RISQ network** can be invited to join sessions, as long as they have at least a standard high-speed connection (ADSL, cable, etc.).
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- The technology's purpose is not to replace the high-end videoconferencing equipment already in use by certain organizations: this is a complementary system since it **broadens and facilitates access** to remote meeting and collaboration tools.
  - The primary use for the technology is **remote meetings and collaboration**. It can also be used to support **distance learning and instructional or technical support** without the need for any special technical adaptations.

## General operation

- The subscription package (minimum duration: one year) includes a usage quota of **100 licence-hours per week**.

**Example : five hours of videoconferencing x 10 simultaneous connections = 50 licence-hours.**  
For rate information, call **514-845-7181, ext. 247**, or write to **[sam@risq.qc.ca](mailto:sam@risq.qc.ca)**

- **Three-level privilege hierarchy**: “**Local Administrator**” for oversight of institutional accounts and the creation of organizer accounts; “**Organizer**” for staff, professors or students allowed to launch videoconferencing sessions and create guest accounts; and “**Guest**” for everyone else, both within and outside the RISQ network, including participants from outside Canada.
- **Online reservation system** (<http://breeze.risq.qc.ca>) on a first come, first served basis, available 24/7.

- **Information and technical support extranet**, helping build a community of users and open to all, featuring FAQs, tutorials, etc.
- **The only software required** is a Web browser that supports Macromedia Flash.
- **Equipment cost**: consumer-grade webcams costing about \$60 give entirely satisfactory results. Note that the **camera is not required** for use of the other collaboration tools or for silently observing a session. A simple microphone adds voice functionality. Finally, the camera provides the rich visual presence of a videoconference.

## General terms

- Partners and subscribers may not use the videoconferencing system **as session host** for more than 100 licence-hours in one week (Monday–Sunday).
- Only **RISQ members** may subscribe to the service and host videoconferencing sessions; they cannot delegate “Organizer” user privileges to persons from outside their institution. However, at any time they may invite persons from **outside the RISQ network** to join a videoconference. If substantial commercial Internet traffic is generated as a result, RISQ reserves the right to bill the hosts involved for commercial bandwidth, at current RISQ rates.
- Subscription fees are applied to covering the **service’s recurring expenses**, including the RISQ resources required to maintain the service and provide support to users, and the costs of applying updates and providing technical support.
- RISQ may decide, at its discretion, to purchase **licences for additional seats** if it deems it necessary and if the purchase can be financed through the subscription fees generated by the service, without any request by the partners for reinvestment.

For more information, call  
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**It would be our pleasure  
 to run a demonstration  
 of the system for you!**

