

Home Office Setup Tips from Michael Murray



The attached photo shows my home office setup for teaching online. The hardware on my desk consist of (from left to right):

- iPad that is logged into the Zoom session to show what the students are actually seeing in Zoom
- Tablet PC that doubles as a co-host and as a whiteboard for the classroom
- Main laptop that is controlling the Zoom session and has all the software I need to present the courses
- Separate hi-res webcam/microphone elevated to eye level so that I can address the class “face-to-face” rather than looking up or down at the laptop webcam
- Display extension (24”) that gives me additional screen space to prepare upcoming windows for Zoom

It’s hard to see in the background but I also have a digital clock to keep me apprised of the time and other assorted office supplies to make notes, etc. My course material is in the notebook under the yellow pad in front of the display extension, and I use the pull-out leaf from my desk to support it during class.

I mentioned that I also have 2 ISP’s for my home which provides me with a network backup in case one has problems. From time to time I have received Zoom warnings that my Internet connection is “unstable”, but I don’t know if that is system-wide or limited to my wifi networks. If it gets bad I do have the ability to move a modem into my office and make a direct connection by cable.