

CAI Shabbat Zoom Services -- Setting Up Your Computer

Friends -- Cantor Caplan here. First, I'm no tech maven; I've just spoken with some other people who know more about this than I do. If you are tech-wise, please let me know your suggestions!

For those of us who want to connect to Zoom before Shabbat and leave our computers on during Shabbat, I've heard a couple of different opinions on how to get this done.

First Way: Before Shabbat beings, just click into the Shabbat davening link (for Friday night and on). Leave your computer on till Shabbes is over. That's it.

"Won't my computer go to sleep?" No, I don't think so. Being in a Zoom meeting sends constant input into your computer, even if your computer is in a dark, silent room. The result is that your computer shouldn't go to sleep, and shouldn't revert to Screen Saver. I've tried this overnight, and it works with my laptop. (But if you want to be sure, see below about disabling Sleep mode and Screen Saver.)

Remember, though -- your computer is now seeing and hearing through Shabbes. We can ask Royce, our non-Jewish Administrator, to mute all of us between services (and overnight), but to play it safe, I plan to keep my computer in a place reserved for davening. You could put a cover over the computer, or over its camera, if you like.

"And won't this hurt my computer, leaving it on for so long?" All I can tell you is that mine seems to be fine after my overnight experiment. If you're concerned, you might want to use Settings to dim the brightness of your screen.

(Thanks to Eliot Alter, Avi Eisen, and Cantor Hinda Labovitz for their advice about this way.)

Second Way: Thanks to Jennifer Karan and Rabbi Larry Sebert, Town and Village Synagogue, NYC, for creating and sharing the following pointers.

Given what I wrote about the First Way, above, I'm not sure that we need to do the following. But here is their advice:

How to configure Zoom and your computer
so that you can log into Shabbat services before Shabbat starts

Basic set-up notes:

You might want to make sure that your video camera shows you sitting and standing, since we stand and sit during services.

During services, if the audio or video becomes choppy or freezes, normally this is a temporary bandwidth issue. Just sit tight; it normally resolves itself without you needing to do anything.

Zoom:

You want to set up Zoom so that it turns on computer audio and video by default.

To do this, you must download the Zoom client (as opposed to using a browser to log into Zoom. If you need to download the Zoom application, the link is here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/download> and choose the download for meetings.

Changes can be made under Preferences (the cog wheel icon).

1. Within Preferences, go to Video and uncheck "Always show video preview dialog when joining a video meeting".
2. Within Preferences, go to Audio and check "Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting".

Disabling Screen Saver and Sleep Mode: If you're leaving your computer on all through Shabbat, you don't want it to go into Sleep Mode, or revert to your Screen Saver.

You'll need to have your computer/tablet plugged in to be able to do this.

PC:

Go to your Settings → System → Power & Sleep

Scroll to the section that is for the Screen. There will be a setting that says something similar to "When plugged in turn off after:" There will be a drop-down menu to choose a duration. Choose Never.

Scroll to the section for Sleep settings. There will be a setting that says something similar to "When plugged in turn off after:" There will be a drop-down menu to choose a duration. Choose Never.

Mac:

Go to System Preferences → Energy Saver. Your System Preferences can be found under the Apple icon.

Find the Computer Sleep slider and drag the slider until you reach Never.

Find the Display Sleep slider and drag the slider until you reach Never.