

Tips for Working Virtually – Week of 5.11.2020 (**Maximizing Internet Connections**)

Good Morning DOR Colleagues!

You may have noticed that you did not get a WFH tips email in your inbox last week. As we have all settled into the remote work routine during the last 8 weeks, we have decided to shift these emails to a biweekly schedule. We hope you still find them useful and look forward to your continued suggestions for topics to cover!

At the suggestion of several of you, this week we are focusing on practical tips for maximizing your internet/technology options. Over the last few months, many of us have struggled with slow or unreliable connections as we share our internet with everyone else in our households and our neighborhoods who are also working remotely. Below are some easy solutions that may help you improve your connection:

- **Time-shift video chats.** If you know you're going to be using video in your meetings, consider starting them on the :10's or :15's rather than right on the hour. This slight delay means that less people will be trying to sign on at the exact same time that you are and hopefully help you establish a better connection.
- **Turn off internet-connected devices that you aren't using.** You may think that your phone or tablet isn't doing much in idle mode, but system updates may be downloading in the background, eating up valuable bandwidth.
- **Don't hide your router.** Hiding it in the back of your entertainment center or in the spare bedroom on the other side of the house means a degraded connection strength and range.
- **Plug it in.** If you are able to work in the same room as your router, plug it in! Wired connections (like we have on our desktops at DOR) are always faster.
  - **For more tips and FAQs, remember you can always visit the DOR IT COVID-19 page for more information at [https://divisionofresearch.kaiserpermanente.org/Pages/covid19\\_it.aspx](https://divisionofresearch.kaiserpermanente.org/Pages/covid19_it.aspx)**

Reference: <https://time.com/5813011/faster-internet/>

We also want to send a huge thank you to our whole DOR IT department for all of their hard work during this time. We know that providing technological support has only been complicated by the department-wide work from home model and we are so appreciative of their help during this SIP!

Stay healthy!  
The PC Advisory Group