

# AGORA: Workshop Exercises and Activities

## Exercise 2: Hardware and Software Requirements

### Group discussion

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In this session the whole group will provide feedback and comments on their hardware, software and Internet connection resources for using AGORA. A knowledgebase of problems and solutions will be established (which the facilitator may wish to include in the workshop report).

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### Document Notes

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#### Summary

On completion of this session the workshop participants will have:

1. Discussed their hardware, software and Internet connection capabilities
2. Identified potential needs and problems
3. Thought about possible solutions and material and personnel resources

### Step 1

Participants will spend 15 minutes thinking about which requirements for AGORA--hardware, software and Internet connection --they have already, or if they are not well acquainted with their institution's technical capacity, who they may need to contact to verify that the required elements are in place. If they are already using AGORA, they should consider the technical issues that have arisen in using the resource. Finally, if they have found solutions to some of these issues, they will note this as well. Then, as a whole group, the facilitator will lead a 15-minute round-room discussion. The facilitator will ask a series of questions of all workshop participants and ask them to feedback to the whole group. Participants' observations of their technical capability and issues will be recorded by the facilitator and used to form a common resource on the challenges and potential issues that will need to be addressed in further training and outreach.

### Step 2



Think about the technical requirements for AGORA and your institution's capacity to meet those requirements. Identify any potential issues, possible solutions, and the key personnel needed to implement the resource. Make a note of your observations in the spaces provided below. The facilitator will then work around the room and get each person to provide feedback on the questions.

Remember that there is only 30 minutes for this exercise; this should be enough if people don't get carried away!

Thinking of the requirements for AGORA discussed during the presentation, i.e.:

- Computers capable of Internet connection
- Current Web browser
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

answer the following questions:

1. Do you have all of the above requirements? If not, which ones are you missing? If you do have all of the requirements, how up-to-date is your equipment?
  
2. How many computers with Internet connections do you have available? Will this number be enough to meet the demand for the service? Are there other places in your institution that users might be able to use Internet-accessible computers?
  
3. What speed is your institution's Internet connection? If you do not know the exact speed (i.e. 56K, cable, T1) give an approximation of how the connection usually responds (fast, adequately, very slow)?
  
4. Who at your institution is designated to deal with technical matters?
  
5. If you are using AGORA (or any other Internet resource) already and have had issues, what difficulties have you encountered and how have you dealt with them?