

Document Header

- **Doc name 50:50 Online The Blank Canvas Octet live online**
- Document location - System 50:50 GD acc > folder 040 projects
- Shared status
 - Yes, specific people with edit rights
 - Link to the project web page, with view only rights
 - Edit rights are available on request.
- Author - Phil Morton, March 2020
- Forum - No
 - Forum LINK to follow
 - Permission status:
 - Guests/public can view the forum content.
 - To edit & contribute the viewer needs to be registered with the discussion board and assigned to the `system 50:50` user group.
- Signed off:
 - NO
 - version 1.07 PM

The Blank Canvas Octet Live Online A system 50:50 distance project

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Introduction.

The Blank Canvas Octet live online.
A System 50:50 project exploring collaboration over distance in real time.

Short Version:

The Blank Canvas Octet Live online is a collaborative project for improvisers at a distance from each other, employing System 50:50. The process involves playing, improvising in real time in the web application Zoom. Zoom is a virtual-host venue, it is online, the event and its content is supported and framed by the web application Zoom.

Background.

At the time of the COVID-19 in 2020 Phil Morton received an email from Martin Hackett of Oxford Improvisers, opening up the possibility of distance collaborations over the internet as a relief from social isolation. One process mentioned was online, telematic improvisations, supported by the web application Zoom.

Known examples: The Oxford Improvisers have live sessions online using Zoom with up to 18 people involved. The project OscilloScope in North Wales has a 'show and tell' format that has an audience of twenty or more people.

The Blank Canvas Octet live online

(This account excludes notes on the software to be used, and how the audio is assembled.)

- Target 8 participants, minimum is 4, maximum is 12
- They are connected online using the application Zoom
- System 50:50 provides the framework for performance
- A suggested setting
 - Duration 10 minutes
 - Freeplay 5`
 - Tacet 5`
 - Density index = 4, that is the sound mass is the same as 4 people playing constantly for 10 minutes.
- Subs: There will be subs arranging from £1.00 - £3.00
- That is it

The settings stated are an example, other settings can be used.

The name

The word octet is not an absolute value. In practice the numbers may vary from 4 - 12

SWOT Analysis of the `The Blank Canvas Octet live online

- Strength
 - Subs: This is an accumulative asset that can support the project using Zoom and also in the concert hall. There will be subs ranging from £1.00 - £3.00.
 - The process supports improved mental health by relieving the the tedium of self-isolation during COVID-19
 - Frequency playing, once a week is not unrealistic
 - Strangers can join in
- Weakness
 - This is all theory . The method has not been tested
 - Quality of internet connection to participants in rural areas
 - Every Improviser's home set-up i.e. microphones, their instrument , any amplification, other family members and pets, will affect the overall sound of the piece. How can potentially detrimental effects be moderated during performances? (Sound Check? Live mixing?)
 - New participant is unfamiliar with System 50:50
 - Participants may have to organise their own `chess clock`
- Opportunity & Interesting
 - This may have a use in a post COVID-19 world as it develops a wider network of improvisers and strengthens ties and ambitions
 - A tool for practising and rehearsing for those interested in free improv
 - To try alternatives to Zoom
 - This can be streamed online in facebook, social media and website.
- Threat
 - **Speculation: This will require a paid Zoom account type. Who pays?**
 - **The tyranny of technology: improvisers may be alienated by Zoom**
 - Privately owned technologies are incompatible
 - 3% of the participants will ignore the system 50:50 settings as a decision.
 - Participants will not pay the subs.
 - The timing of the event clashes with other online activities coordinated by other parties.

Technical process

- A `pro-zoom` account: **Citation needed.**

Tools and support.

- Suggested software: zoom.us.pro account.
- The improvisers networks online has a framework that can support all aspects of this project if a framework by providing
 - Web page
 - Mailchimp newsletter
 - Glossary of terms
 - Discussion board

- Our time maybe limited.

Challenges and obstacles.

- The theory and practice of using Zoom at home may be a mystery to participants
- Uneven sound levels in different recordings/solo audio tracks
- Uneven room tones and spatial signatures when recording.
- Latency and time delay
- Maybe unsuitable for some instruments and their recording environment
- Two people (or more) are required to have oversight of the process
- All projects have obstacles and a resulting frustration, it is the duty of the project management process to resolve, solve and remove obstacles.

Summary and unexpected outcomes.

Plus points:

- We are living in and at variable levels of self isolation, This project could be a relief.
- System 50:50 maximises the potential for this project to work because it supports a framework of cohesion, the creation of space for others, and a composition design (we know when it ends) that enables.....**citation needed**
 - It maybe prove to be an unproductive use of time- let us find out
- Unexpected outcomes:
 - Distant collaboration to produce a work driven by free improvisation with its sub-text of being in the moment, creating relational collaborations etc. is a challenge, if not a contradiction. The project might work. It might also deliver unexpected outcomes and variations that we experience as a productive use of time.

What happens next.

- Create a web page /article: **done**
- Mailchimp newsletter - introduce and recruit, **not done**
- Doodle poll survey - `I am in` options: done, link available on request. **not done**
- Do it.
- Reflect and share feedback
- Do it again, or change and rearrange, and do it again : repeat the cycle

Personal specifications.

- Desirable, knowledge and experience of `System 50:50`
- Each player needs their own clock:
 - Standard mechanical
 - Digital app on a device [a return of this idea]
- Access to audio playback equipment
 - This may involve the use of headphones

- Access to audio recording equipment
 - This may require direct recording to the device and not via microphones
- The ability to share information about obstacles experienced with others: especially those with oversight of the project.

Project requirements

- The use of a pro zoom account and a host.
- To create a project management team.
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Key Links

- Web articles,
 - A web article, version of this document : LINK
- Audacity, link to follow - or use google search
- Zoom, link to follow - or use google search
- Related project: Sound on Sound Octet [LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)
- If you need more information about System 50:50, it is here: [follow this link](#)

Communications

- Project Sound on sound email - system5050@improvisersnetwork.co.uk
 - Personal email philmorton@improvisersnetwork.co.uk
 - It may be messy to know which one to use
- Zoom web application & app, zoom is used for online meetings and webinars.
 - Zoom site link - [URL LINK](#)
- Skype account, available on request.

Admin & office support

- How to share [google documents](#)
- Notes on how to comment and share to follow

Document admin footer

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