

Online Worship

Elements, Interaction & Technology

Jeremy Fackenthal, 18 August 2020

REMC Webinar



What We'll Cover

- Thinking about worship during our present reality
- Online worship options — totally online and hybrid
 - Video conferencing software
 - Streaming software and platforms
- Ways to include music
- Timeframe, order of worship, and interactive components

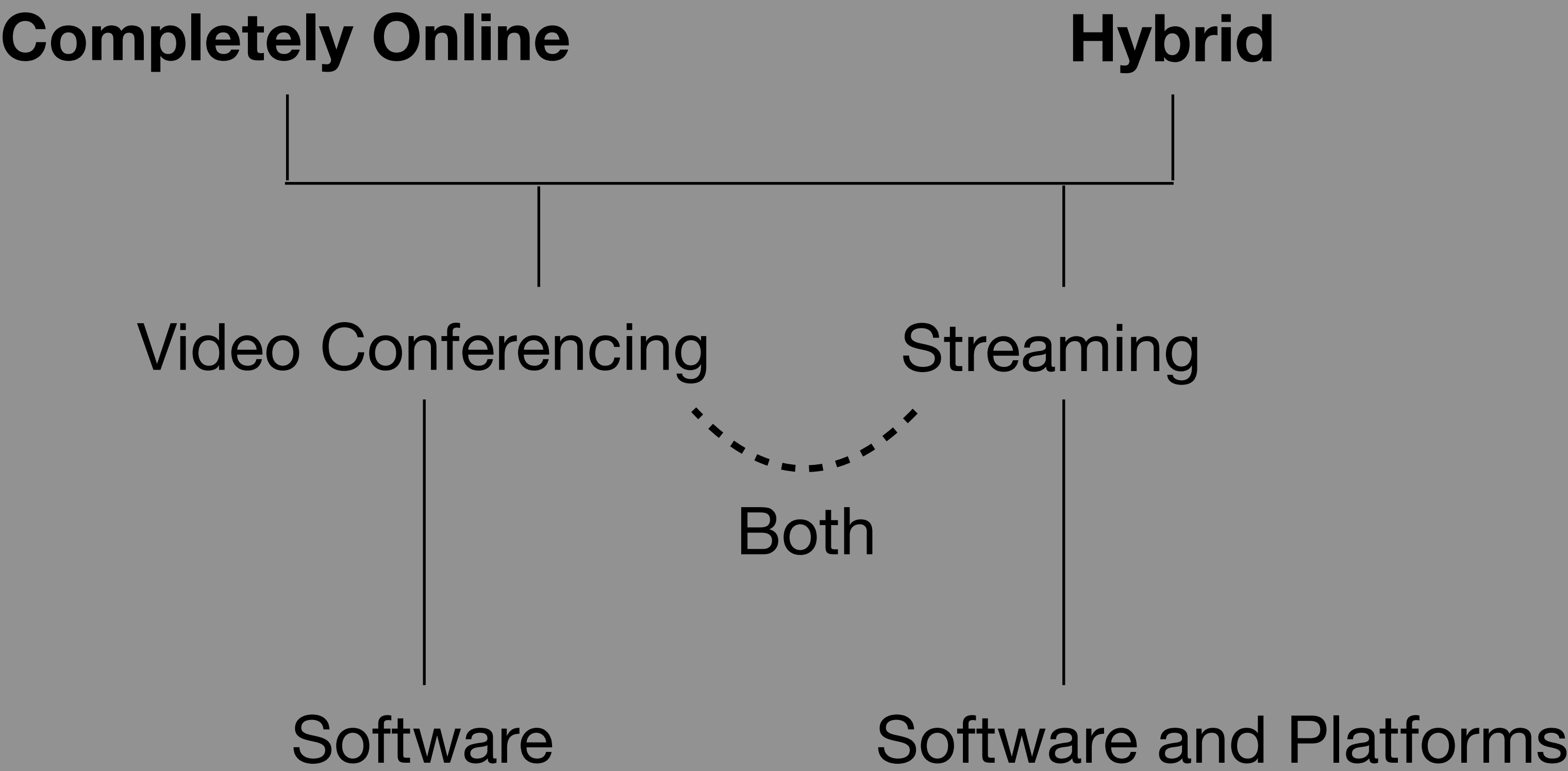
Thinking about Worship

Encourage churches to come up with a **theology of worship** or their own **definition of worship**.

A theological description or definition can help with decisions about what kind of online worship is best right now.

There are no right answers, but each church may need to determine its own understanding of what worship means and why they worship.

Online Worship Options



Online Worship Etiquette

Some worshippers are less familiar with online meetings. So it's ok to remind people about some of these:

- **Muting** your audio when you're not talking or during the sermon
- Turning your **camera on or off** as needed or as you feel comfortable
- When your camera is on, people can see you and most likely can see what is behind you
- Talk through online tips at the beginning of worship every week if need be.



Video Conferencing Software

There are a LOT of options...

- Zoom
- BlueJeans (by Verizon)
- Webex (by Cisco)
- GoToMeeting
- Microsoft Teams
- Google Meet

zoom



Streaming Software

Variety of options at varying prices

- OBS (free, Mac and PC)
- eCamm Live (monthly fee, Mac only)
- Wirecast (\$600 one-time fee, Mac and PC)
- VMix (\$60 and up, PC only)
- Zoom (stream free with any paid account)



Streaming Platforms

Determine what is best for the congregation

- Facebook Live
- YouTube
- Vimeo
- Multiple platforms via Restream



Ways to include music

And how to do it without those awkward Zoom singing moments.

- Use a **USB audio interface**. Lots of options available, most around \$150
- Connect vocal mic(s), keyboard, guitar to your computer via USB and use these as a single audio input in Zoom or other software
- If doing hybrid worship: use the USB audio interface to get sound from your in-person sound system to your computer for Zoom or streaming.



Thinking about Worship

Based on their theology or definition of worship, churches can make decisions about:

- **Timeframe** - how long should online or hybrid worship last?
- **Order of worship** - how much can you include or should you include from a normal in-person service?
- **Interactive** components - how can we foster connection via online interaction?

