

Buyer's guide to the perfect audiovisual lab



Buyer's guide to the perfect audiovisual lab

What is an audiovisual lab?

What do you need to complete
your setup?

How does an audiovisual lab
help you answer your research
questions?

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A woman with curly brown hair, wearing a light blue sweater and gold jewelry, is smiling and shaking hands with a man in a blue shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

INTRODUCING THIS BUYER'S GUIDE



WHY A BUYER'S GUIDE?

Audiovisual (AV) recordings are becoming more important in the fields of education, professional skills training, and medical simulation. AV data strengthens the learning experience in a myriad of ways and helps teachers and trainers to work more flexibly. That's why more and more institutions are using video in their teaching sessions.

But what are the right AV tools for you? It can be a challenge to choose from the many different AV solutions that are available. Although seemingly simple in design, you will find huge differences in quality, ease of use, scalability, annotation options, price, and/or services. Choosing the wrong setup could cost you a lot of money and time, whereas the right solution could help your project to really flourish.

The goal of this buyer's guide is to assist in finding the right AV solution for your training or research project. We'll guide you through the different considerations of choosing an AV lab and show you which options are available. At the end, you'll know exactly what you need and what kinds of questions you should ask to get the right tool.

MEET VISO

Viso is the easy-to-use, complete solution for creating video and audio recordings. It's flexible and scalable, enabling you to capture and study behavior in the way you need.

With Viso, you can...

- record independent sessions in multiple rooms
- immediately play back sessions for debriefing
- work with multiple users at the same time, even from different departments
- remotely schedule and view recordings
- combine AV data with facial expression analysis, screen captures, eye-tracking, and more
- securely record, store, and share your sessions

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ABOUT NOLDUS

Noldus Information Technology is the world-renowned leader in behavioral solutions and is mentioned in thousands of publications each year. We have over 30 years of experience in providing customers with the exact solution they need. Our consultants have scientific backgrounds, and we know research. With Noldus, you benefit from high-quality tools, turn-key solutions, and excellent support.

"I am fascinated by new technologies to measure brain, body, and behavior. Building high-quality research tools that allow our customers to advance science, thus contributing to sustainable development and quality of life, fills me with pride. And doing this with a global team of professionals is a daily source of joy!"

Prof. Dr. Lucas Noldus, founder of Noldus Information Technology bv

WHAT IS IN THIS BUYER'S GUIDE

This buyer's guide will walk you through the different steps of choosing your AV solution. This includes learning about the essentials and different options of an AV lab, as well as how to get the most out of your solution. You'll also find information about costs and benefits, practical considerations, and a comparison of different vendors. By the time you've read this guide, you should feel confident to move forward with a vendor that can help you achieve your goals.

ESSENTIALS OF AN AUDIOVISUAL LAB



In this chapter, you'll learn which factors to take into consideration when choosing your audiovisual setup.

USE AUDIOVISUAL DATA FOR BETTER INSIGHTS

Audiovisual data can greatly enhance your research, education, and training projects. By incorporating both audio and visual elements in your data, you can capture a wider range of information and better understand your participants. For example, audiovisual data may help you gain insight into learning processes, teamwork, communication, and user experience.

Moreover, students or professionals learn much faster when they can see what they do and immediately receive personalized feedback on their performance. This is also referred to as evidence-based learning. It strengthens their knowledge and skills, as well as builds their confidence. This works especially well for soft skills such as interviewing, listening, or giving a presentation, and for improving your teamwork or clinical skills.

ONE LAB FOR ALL YOUR RESEARCH NEEDS

At its most basic, an AV lab consists of a microphone and camera, combined into a single digital source. But what kind of lab do you need? Ask yourself some practical questions. How many people do you want to observe at the same time? Do you need multiple rooms? What kind of cameras and microphones work best? The best approach is to look for a scalable solution with a wide range of options.

Meet the researcher

DR. AUDREY ERVIN

Dr. Audrey Ervin is a psychologist and teacher at Delaware Valley University, and is part of the counseling psychology team.



“Our goal was really to develop a great clinical space where we could train our undergraduates and our graduates in counseling techniques and be able to give them the skills and real-time feedback to develop competent counseling skills.”

Dr. Ervin went looking for the most suitable tool that met her wishes:

- Having students learn counseling skills by doing
- Helping students to strengthen their confidence
- Being able to carry out mock counseling sessions in multiple rooms simultaneously
- Providing teachers with the opportunity to give students real-time feedback
- Having an easy-to-use tool
- Standing out as a university with a special and fully equipped training space

The team took an outdated laboratory facility and turned it into a multi-room, fully equipped training space. They provide highly interactive skill-based courses, where students role-play, practice, and learn through hands-on experience to become professional counselors. Using Viso, practice sessions are observed, recorded, and reviewed to provide authentic feedback and growth opportunities.

“We had such a great experience with Noldus. When we had questions or concerns, somebody just got back to us right away and competently solved any problems that we had.”

[DISCOVER MORE](#)

10 CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING YOUR AV SETUP

1 Cameras

Consider how many cameras you want to use, as well as the quality, focus, and streaming options you need. You may want a solution that allows you to combine multiple cameras for one room or location, to capture behavior from different angles. For example, this will enable you to capture the behavior of student and teacher, as well as the interaction between the two.

2 Microphones

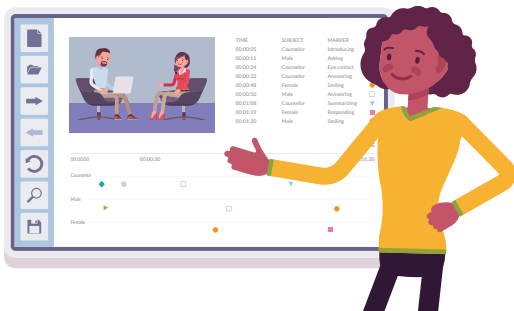
You can choose to use the audio features from your camera or connect additional (omni)directional microphones. Make sure you have the right settings to catch the sound you need, even when your participants are talking softly or all at the same time.

3 Speakers or headphones

Consider whether you need to be able to communicate live with one or more participants, via speaker or headphones.

4 Review and debriefing

When you're working in an educational or medical simulation setting, you need to be able to review your recordings immediately for debriefing. That way, all the information is still fresh in everyone's minds, improving the learning process.



5 Annotation and synchronization

Whether you're doing a study or training students and professionals, you'll want to mark the recording when participants do something interesting. And to get the best insights, it's important to see your annotations in relation to what's happening in the room. AV solutions with a synchronized timeline will help you gain more context for people's behaviors.



6 Rooms

When you need to study multiple participants at once, or even follow a participant through multiple rooms, you should look for a setup that supports this. Another option to keep in mind is whether you'd like to combine separate sessions into one composite recording.

7 Remote control

Need to be somewhere else? With remote control, you can record your participants in the lab while working in another location. Some solutions even offer the possibility of scheduling your sessions beforehand.

8

Data analysis

After recording, reviewing, and debriefing your sessions, you may also want to analyze your annotated data in more detail. Make sure your AV setup enables you to export data to the statistical or behavioral analysis program of your choice.

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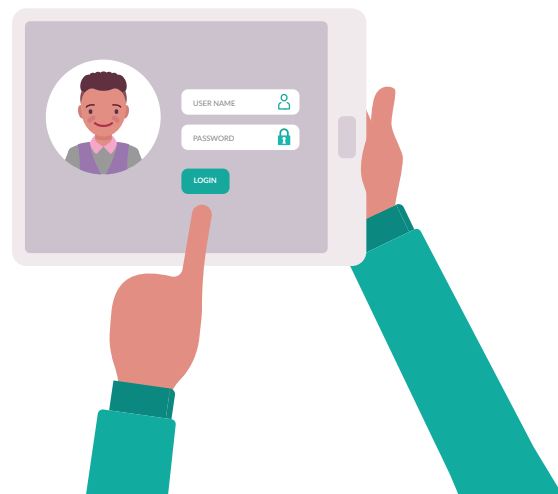
Privacy and security

When you're working with participants, you need to protect their privacy. Choose an AV solution that makes it easy to secure your data, helping you to comply with GDPR or HIPAA regulations.

10

Multiple users

Whatever your project, you're never working alone. That's why you should look for a setup where you can easily work together and safely share your results.



Feedback is an essential part of effective learning. Using audiovisual data will greatly enhance your success in education, training, and research. After reading this chapter, you know what you need to consider to choose the perfect AV lab for your projects. Next, you'll learn more about how to set up a successful lab.



SETTING UP A
SUCCESSFUL
AUDIOVISUAL LAB



Building an audiovisual lab requires careful planning and consideration. You need a clear understanding of your goals and the necessary equipment to make your project a success. Once you've figured all this out, where do you actually start? Here you'll learn about the basics and practical considerations of an AV lab, as well as how to ensure your participants' privacy.

START SIMPLE

How do you start with your AV lab? The best way is to start small and simple. What basic components do you need to get started on your project? First, you need a room. Do you need multiple rooms right away, or are you able to manage with one? And what about cameras? Maybe you're not sure yet what kind of camera (mounting) works best for your purposes.

Get started, learn from your experiences, and expand your lab as your project progresses. That way, you can keep building on your successes.

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Especially when working with personal data like audiovisual recordings, you need to make sure your data is secure. Protecting your participants' privacy is essential, as well as required by law. Make sure the solution you choose works in accordance with GDPR, HIPAA, and other privacy regulations.

Look for features like secure data storage, regulated data sharing, and responsible user management. This will help you to ensure that only authorized users can access your data, and that every user can only access what they need.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AUDIOVISUAL LABS

White paper: How to build an audiovisual lab
Learn more about setting up the perfect AV lab for your project.



[DOWNLOAD](#)

White paper: Video feedback in skills education
Discover 10 reasons why video is essential in skills education.



[DOWNLOAD](#)



PERSONNEL

You should also think about the staff you need when running an AV lab. First of all, you'll need someone to oversee the operations in your lab, like a coordinator or lab manager. This person is responsible for scheduling sessions, ordering any supplies you need, maintaining security protocols, and working with IT or technicians to fix any issues. This way, your lab will always run smoothly. Depending on your project and the size of your lab, you may also need additional assistants to help run your studies or lessons.



Noldus has been building AV labs for over twenty years. During that time, we've discovered that a typical solution consists of two or three cameras, a ceiling-mounted microphone, recording equipment, and a computer. However, all labs and spaces are different, which is why it's always possible to customize our solutions. Installers range from in-house Noldus specialists to one of our many partners, like Coitcom or MVCC.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Finally, it's also valuable to make a list of practical considerations. Include topics like soundproofing, air circulation, lighting, and preventing disturbances during an observation. Also consider whether you need a one-way mirror and a waiting room, and make sure to provide your participants with drinks and a nearby restroom.

In this chapter, you learned about privacy and security, the power in starting small, and practical considerations when starting your lab. Are you excited to get started? Read on to find out more about the equipment and software you need.

EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE



Read this chapter to discover more about your options for data collection and recording, as well as the technical specifications for your hardware.



When choosing your AV solution, it's important to have the support of your IT department. The best way to do this is to make sure you involve them from the start.

They will know exactly what you need to make your AV lab work the way you want it to, and how to manage your solution.

This includes setting up the right network for your cameras, giving advice about secure user management, and enabling you to share recordings with people outside of your lab.

WHAT DATA DO YOU NEED?

An audiovisual lab offers many options for data collection. What do you need to create the best study or learning experience?

■ Audio

How do participants work together or interact with others during a simulation session? Capture every part of a conversation, even when there are multiple people in the room or when someone is speaking softly.

■ Video

What's happening in the room, what actions are people taking, what do you see in someone's body language, and do people make eye contact? Video offers a wealth of information to learn from.

■ Annotations

How often does a student smile or look away? What went well and what can still be improved? By choosing software that allows

Meet the researcher

DR. ANIL MATHUR

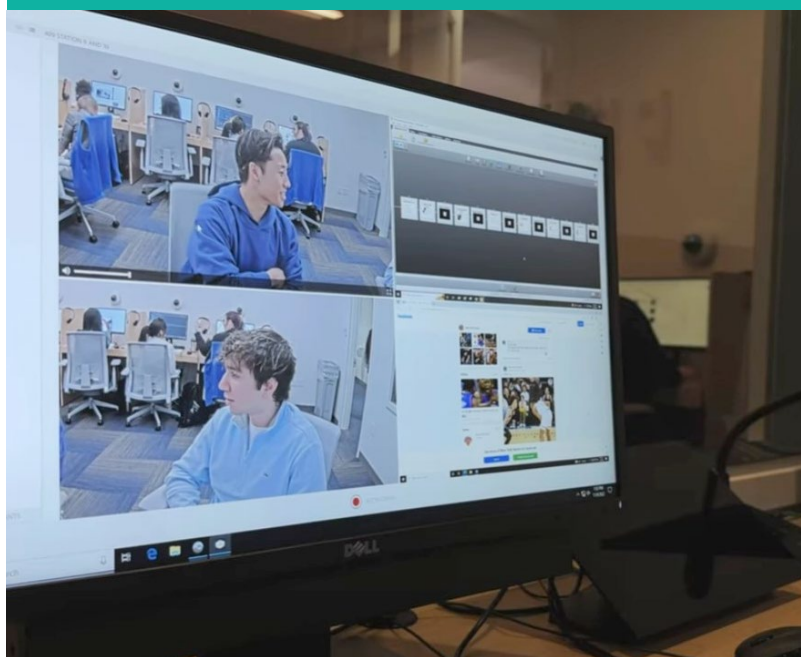
The Behavioral Research in Business Laboratory at Hofstra University is a state-of-the-art facility that was specifically designed to conduct multi-disciplinary behavioral research. The Business Lab has been fitted with advanced software and hardware to design and conduct human behavior studies, and analyze the research data. Dr. Anil Mathur tells about his experiences with Viso.



"We have also been using Viso in our lab. We have cameras installed in all lab rooms: conference room, individual meeting rooms, and those video cameras feed into our control room, and Viso is a very valuable tool that we find in recording video feeds from all these cameras.

It so happens that from all workstations we are also able to capture screens that are present in those lab rooms. So simultaneous capture of screen and video recording of the subject enables us to match the expression of the subject and what the subject is seeing at that very moment on the screen. So that synchronization between screen capture and video recording is a valuable tool that we find of use to us."

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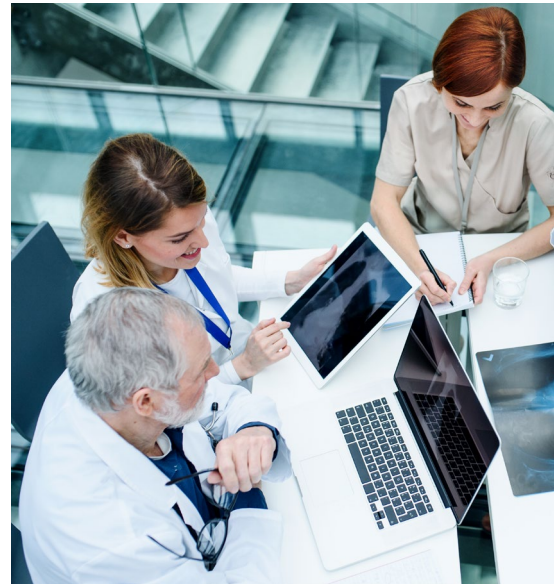
you to mark and annotate behaviors of interest, you gain more insights for the review and learning process.

- **Screen Recordings**

Some learning processes take place on a desktop, tablet, or mobile device. For example, students may need to learn how to do digital patient consults or to practice with medical procedures and devices (like a laparoscopy). That's when you need an AV solution that supports the import and analysis of screen recordings.

- **Data Integrations**

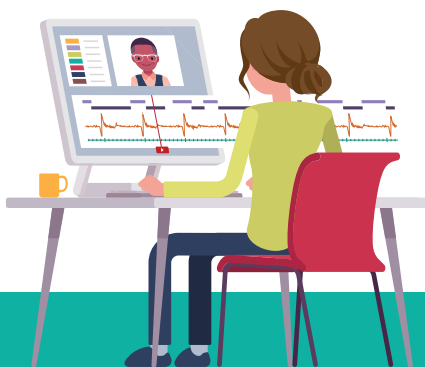
To gain a more complete picture, combine your AV setup with other data streams. Physiological data, eye-tracking, and facial expression analysis provide you with additional information to enrich your study or learning experience.



RECORDING OPTIONS

Depending on your project, you may want to record single sessions or capture multiple sessions at the same time. For example, if you want a group of students to practice delivering bad news to a patient, you can record all of them at the same time, in different rooms. This helps you to work more efficiently and gives you the chance to provide personalized feedback to a greater number of students.

Another option is to compose one session from multiple recorded sessions. This allows you to create one chronological session of multiple recordings. This can be valuable when you want to track a participant through different rooms. For example, a medical student who performs an intake in one room, discusses their results with a colleague in the next room, and treats a patient in the final room.



Want to gain even more in-depth insights in your data? Combining Viso with **The Observer XT** supports you in coding behaviors on a timeline, logging and analyzing your data in more detail, and integrating different data modalities.

[READ MORE](#)



When you want to include facial expression analysis in your project, combining Viso with **FaceReader** is the way to go. FaceReader is the most robust automated system, offering you accurate data, flexibility, and easy integration with other data streams.

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SCHEDULING AND REMOTE CONTROL

What if you want to record a session, but it starts at a time when you can't be at your lab? With some audiovisual solutions, you can schedule your recordings in advance. This means that you can automatically start and stop a session at a pre-defined time. As a result, a participant or student can simply enter the recording room and perform their tasks while their session is recorded automatically.

To make your work even easier, you can choose a solution where you have remote control over your recordings. This way, you can record and review your sessions from any location and any device, making you more flexible. Also, this helps you comply more easily with the “four eyes principle” in educational settings. In other words, remote viewing enables you to schedule your teachers more flexibly, while still being able to review sessions with (at least) two people.



“The Viso system makes it possible for us to remotely control a simulation room from a central control room or multiple control rooms. Debriefings are supplemented with qualitative visual material that can be quickly consulted on the basis of the markers that can be applied, so that participants in a simulation obtain a better learning effect.”

Dieter Vyt - Artevelde University of Applied Sciences, Belgium

CAMERAS

To capture each behavior from every relevant angle, you need the right cameras. What should you look for?

▪ Flexible or fixed focus

For most purposes, a Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) camera is the way to go. PTZ cameras allow you to follow your participants when they move, which helps you gain the full picture. Looking to reduce costs or working with facial expression analysis? Then a fixed focus camera could be the solution for you.

▪ Mounting your camera

You have different options for camera mounting, depending on your research or educational needs. You can choose a solution with a wall mount for a wide view of the room, go with a wall rail that allows you to lower your camera viewpoint, or record from the ceiling for a view from above. Most solutions also allow you to use a tripod.

▪ Streaming your video

If you want access to a live video stream and watch your videos from different devices, you need a camera that supports streaming. To accomplish this, look for solutions with an IP camera that includes Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP).

▪ Quality of video

How much detail do you need? It might seem tempting to consider a security camera or USB webcam-like device. However, many of these types of cameras do not provide research-grade quality recordings. Therefore, we recommend that you look for a solution that allows you to choose whether you want an HD (720p image resolution), full HD (1080p image resolution), or even a 4K camera.

▪ Audio

You can use your camera's built-in audio options, but you may want to consider choosing a higher quality option. A microphone in your ceiling, on the table, or a combination of different (omnidirectional) microphones helps you to capture audio in more detail. Even when your participants are talking softly or all at the same time.

COMPUTERS AND NETWORKING

For optimal performance and functionality of your AV lab, we strongly recommend using an up-to-date, professional workstation. This includes a powerful processor, the right graphics card, enough internal memory (RAM), enough space on your hard disk, and modern USB ports. It's also vital that your AV solution has enough bandwidth available. This way, you'll get recorded videos of high quality, without suffering from any transmission problems.



VISO TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Learn more about program components, equipment, and system configurations.

[CONTACT US!](#)

Now that you know about the equipment you need, it's time to dive a little deeper into the types of audiovisual labs you can choose. Learn what makes a basic or complete AV lab, and discover the benefits of a portable lab. You'll also meet the companies that offer audiovisual solutions, including a detailed overview of their features.

TYPES OF AUDIOVISUAL LABS



What kind of labs can you choose? And which vendors fit with your needs for an AV lab? In this chapter, you'll learn everything about different types of audiovisual labs, including a detailed feature overview of different vendors.

VISO BY NOLDUS

Viso by Noldus is the easy-to-use turn-key solution for creating video and audio recordings. The software enables you to capture behaviors and interactions of your participants, which you can use to educate, train, and improve skills of students and professionals.

With Viso, you can make independent recordings in multiple rooms at once. The multiple high-end cameras allow you to view your participants from different angles and get the best overview. You can record and play back your sessions simultaneously, schedule recordings remotely, and easily annotate and share your data. Importantly, Viso also offers various features to guarantee data protection.



NOT SURE WHAT TO GET?

All of our consultants have a background in behavioral research and are eager to help you find the best solution for your project.

[CONTACT US!](#)

BASIC LAB

- One room
- Two cameras with a microphone
- Software + computer
- Record and play back sessions for review, debriefing, or analysis

COMPLETE LAB

- Multiple rooms
- Multiple cameras
- Software + computer(s)
- Record and play back sessions for review, debriefing, or analysis
- Remote control and scheduling
- Annotation
- Synchronization across all rooms and cameras
- Integrated data streams from other sources

PORTABLE LAB

- Multiple locations
- Two or more cameras
- Software + laptop
- Lightweight and easy to move
- Set up within minutes



Meet the researcher
SEAN ROONEY



Sean Rooney is the Scientific Officer at the Behavioural Lab for Teaching and Research, which is part of the London School of Economics. When designing the lab, their goal was to support and facilitate a wide range of psychological and behavioral research. Among other systems and solutions, the lab uses Noldus products Viso, FaceReader, and The Observer XT.

“To support the Viso system we have installed high-definition optical cameras in all of our rooms. We have four focus group rooms where you can have group interactions. And we also have three smaller interview rooms with different setups. We can control the cameras and audio in and out of the room.

The features of the product such as the multiple room setup, a simple user interface, the ability to have remote access, the level of support, and the ease of integration with other products and hardware made it a clear choice.”

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VALT

VALT from Intelligent Video Solutions (IVS) has a similar client base compared to Noldus: education, training, and research. The company describes their product as simple, secure, and scalable. VALT powers on-premises and mobile solutions, allowing users to observe, record, review, and manage audio and video. VALT employs enterprise-class streaming technology.

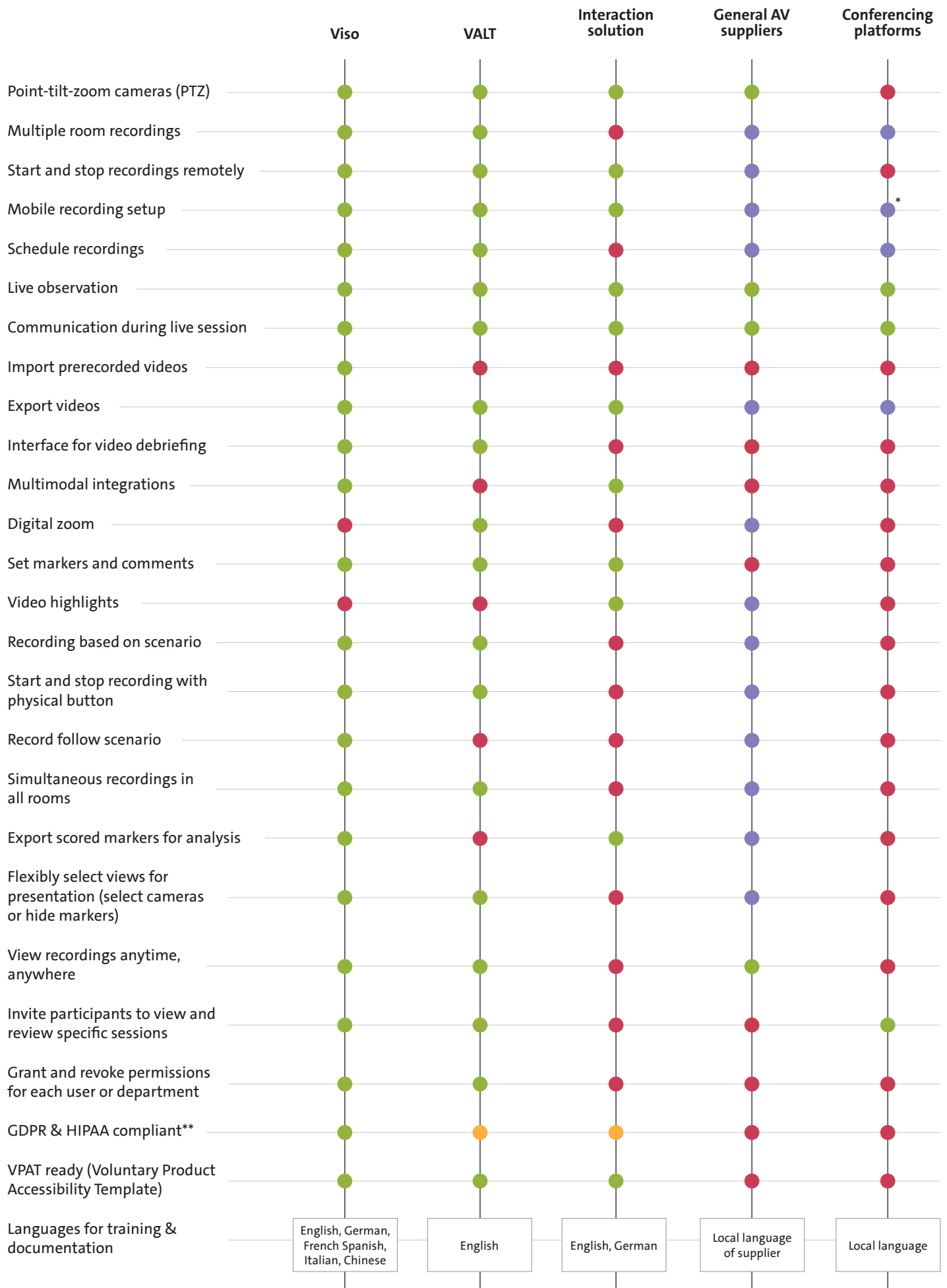
INTERACT SOLUTION

Interact Solution is an audio-video simulation learning management system developed for higher education and (military) medical simulation. Instructors can use it to record, organize, annotate, and debrief student simulations. They can also create and/or upload student rubrics, bookmark and annotate simulation videos, and deliver immediate feedback for formative development. Interact Solution is focused on content storage, accessibility, and dissemination.

GENERAL AV SUPPLIERS

You can also find audiovisual solutions at general AV suppliers. Depending on your needs, they provide the option to simply record and view sessions, or to purchase complete turn-key labs or customized solutions. Often, they offer various technological extras, like LCD screens, touch screens, or a wall of sound. However, keep in mind that your recording options, coding features, and data security may be limited.





* Only if connected to the internet

** Including audit reports, data encryption, data retention, and user permissions



A NOTE ON VIDEO CONFERENCING TOOLS

Many teachers in educational institutions use platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, GoTo Meeting, or Skype to connect with students and share files. You might think "Why not simply record and share sessions with these tools?" However, when using video conferencing tools, you're not compliant with GDPR or HIPAA privacy requirements.

Security limitations

- It's not possible to set user permissions for specific sessions
- Students are able to download recordings
- You have no control over retention policies
- There is no centralized sharing of recordings

Other limitations

- Moving the camera during a session is difficult
- No multi-angle video capture
- No annotation possible

By now, you probably have a clearer idea of the type of AV lab you need. Next, you'll learn more about the costs of an audiovisual lab.



THE COST OF
ACCURATE
AUDIOVISUAL DATA



Of course, building an audiovisual lab also requires an investment from your company or (educational) institution. What are your costs and benefits, what is your return on investment (ROI), and how do you make sure your AV lab fits the budget?

SAVE TIME AND RESOURCES

When deciding about the best products for your needs, you need to consider different pros and cons. Do you want a complete setup that's easy to use? The right solution helps you to quickly play back sessions for review and add markers to a recording, saving you a lot of time. You may even choose remote scheduling and recording, removing the need for a teacher or researcher to be present during the session. Another option is to save costs with a more limited solution, only expanding when necessary. This may be the solution for you if you are starting a pilot or if you have more time for manual analysis of your recording.

HIGH-QUALITY DATA

With the right investment, you'll benefit from high-quality data for your study, skills training, or educational project. After all, you want to capture every relevant behavior and make sure you're recording audio for every part of a conversation or simulation session. Easy-to-use annotations and immediate debriefings of a session are essential as well. This way, you'll know you have the most accurate data for your study or the best learning experience for your students and employees.



MEDICAL SIMULATION TRAINING WITH VISO

Medical students need to practice their skills, but it can be challenging to find enough clinical placements. That's where simulation experience comes in. A simulation offers a safe environment to apply theory to practice.

Researcher Betts and her colleagues studied how an interactive digital simulator (IDS) could strengthen their students' learning experiences. With the IDS, students are able to practice with a range of medical scenarios.

The research team used Viso to record their sessions and analyzed student behaviors with The Observer XT. They observed actions like administering medication, as well as assessing lung sounds or vital signs. This allowed them to gain better insights in students' clinical skills and learning process.

Betts, L.; Schmid, J.; Sivaramalingam, S.; Verkuyl, M. (2019). Using Virtual Interactive Digital Simulator to Enhance Simulation Experiences for Undergraduate Nursing Students. Nursing Education Perspectives, 41, 3.

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YOUR INVESTMENT

A professional-grade solution with two IP cameras, synchronized recording and reviewing, installation, and microphones could cost you around 8,000 to 10,000 euros/dollars. For an even more complete AV lab, including more rooms, cameras, or audio options, prices may vary from 15,000 to 25,000 euros/dollars. Depending on the extra options you choose for your software and hardware, as well as the size of your lab, your investment increases. Other variables to take into consideration are costs for location, staff, network, installation, and maintenance.

AN AV LAB FOR EVERY BUDGET

Not sure yet if you need a complete lab? You can always start small, with one room and one camera, and expand your AV lab as your project progresses. This helps you to build on your successes, which is a valuable tool in gaining more budget for your project. Get started with the AV lab that fits your budget, learn from your experiences, and grow as you go.



When buying your product at Noldus, all your software maintenance and upgrades are free during the first year after your purchase.

In this chapter, we discussed your investment, budget, and growth plan. Next, you'll learn more about how to get the most out of your audiovisual setup.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR AUDIOVISUAL LAB



Of course, you not only want the best solution right now, but you also want to be ready for the future. In this chapter, you'll learn about the importance of ongoing support and innovation in building a successful AV lab.

ALWAYS GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED

How do you make sure you have the perfect setup? Who will install your AV lab? And what do you do when you have technical issues, questions about the product, or updates that need to be installed? When choosing your solution, you should also consider the amount of support you need. Here's what to check with your potential vendor:

- What are their response times?
- When are they available?
- Do they help with installation?
- What's their expertise in AV setups?
- Are there any charges for repairs or replacements?
- Are updates and upgrades included?
- Do they offer training or other resources?

FUTUREPROOF SOLUTIONS

Video technology is always rapidly developing. That's why you need a vendor that can provide you with proven and tested solutions you can use today, while constantly innovating to be ready for tomorrow.



NOLDUSCARE

Maintenance and support are vital to any product, especially when you and your colleagues rely on them on a daily basis. In combination with software and hardware, Noldus offers you NoldusCare:

- **The latest software upgrades and updates**

You will receive the latest version of the software. This version includes new features and/or new functionalities, based on input from our worldwide customer base. Updates, upgrades, and new releases are available for free. Feel free to plan a meeting, where you can discuss new features with a Noldus consultant.

- **Extended warranty on your hardware**

Noldus has researched and tested the best hardware to use with Viso, in order to enable best quality data. Noldus consultants are also available to provide recommendations for hardware settings, lighting, and positioning of equipment. In the rare case of failing equipment, you get a quick repair or replacement, free of charge. That way, you can continue your project as soon as possible.

- **Express personal support**

Always let us know if you run into problems or questions. We have a dedicated support team in multiple time zones, who are ready and able to assist you. Our technical support team is very experienced with Noldus products and is able to quickly advise you on any question you have. Within 24 hours, you will receive a personal and useful answer to your question. Our worldwide support staff is highly qualified and available via e-mail, phone, Teams, and Teamviewer meetings.

- **Flexible subscription time**

Your NoldusCare contract can range from 2 to 5 years. The choice is yours. The longer the contract term, the better your value for money.

- **Free access to Noldus webinars and tutorials**

You'll regularly find new free webinars for you to enjoy and learn from. This includes Q&A sessions with our experienced consultants. Within Viso, you are guided through the software by a free tutorial.

Noldus consultants are always available to advise on updates that can be made to your setup, answer questions on implementing new technology, and discuss new projects.



[READ MORE](#)

With the right vendor, you'll have a partner to support you and provide you with a futureproof solution. Finally, it's time to make your decision. Discover our tips on how to choose the right AV lab in the final chapter of this buyer's guide.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT AUDIOVISUAL LAB



You've done your research and know exactly what kind of AV lab you need. You also know what to look for in a high-quality AV solution. In this final chapter, we'll summarize all we've discussed in this buyer's guide and provide you with a handy checklist to help you with your decision.



Essentials of an audiovisual lab



Setting up a successful audiovisual lab



Equipment and software



Types of audiovisual labs



The cost of accurate audiovisual data



How to get the most out of your audiovisual lab

SUMMARY OF THIS BUYER'S GUIDE

The goal of this buyer's guide was to assist you in finding the right AV solution for your project. You've read about different considerations when choosing an AV lab and learned more about which options are available. What are the most important lessons from each chapter?

- ✓ **Essentials of an audiovisual lab**
Feedback is an essential part of effective learning. Using audiovisual data will greatly enhance your success in education, training, and research. This chapter included an overview of 10 considerations when choosing your AV setup.
- ✓ **Setting up a successful audiovisual lab**
This chapter dealt with the basics and practical considerations of an AV lab. This included a growth plan for your lab, as well as features to look for when ensuring privacy and security.
- ✓ **Equipment and software**
An audiovisual lab offers many options for data collection. Consider the types of data you want to include (like annotations and screen recordings), whether you want to combine different data streams, and the options you need for recording and scheduling sessions.
- ✓ **Types of audiovisual labs**
In this chapter, you learned about the different types and sizes AV labs you can build. A detailed overview of features allowed you to compare different vendors of AV labs.
- ✓ **The cost of accurate audiovisual data**
Building an audiovisual lab also requires an investment from your company or (educational) institution. Here, you learned about costs and benefits, as well as how to choose an AV lab that fits your budget.
- ✓ **How to get the most out of your audiovisual lab**
You need the best solution right now, while also being ready for the future. That's why ongoing support and innovation are so important when choosing your solution.

READY FOR YOUR DECISION?

Use this checklist to gain a clear overview of what you need for your AV lab, and to know which questions to ask potential vendors.

- How many rooms do you need?
- Do you need to record in multiple rooms or locations simultaneously?
- Do you need a portable lab?
- How many cameras do you need?
 - HD / full HD / 4K
 - PTZ / fixed focus
 - Type of mounting
(*wall, wall rail, ceiling, monitor, tripod, or other*)
 - RTSP necessary?
- What type of microphone do you need?
(*built-in, wall, ceiling, table, omnidirectional*)
- Remote options?
 - Recordings
 - Viewing
- Do you want to combine multiple recordings into one session?
(*for example, to do a follow scenario*)
- Do you need to debrief immediately?
- Need to record and debrief at the same time?
- Do you need flexible viewing options for debriefing, presentations, and other situations?
- Do you want the option for comments and markers?
- Do you need to show other data streams?
(*like physiological data or facial expressions*)
- Do you need to include screen recordings?
- Do you need to synchronize video with annotations and/or data streams?
- Do you need to export your data to a statistical program?
(*like R, SPSS, or Python*)
- How many people will use the product?
- Need to grant and revoke permissions for different users or departments?
- Need to invite users for specific sessions only?
- What laws do you need to comply with?
(*GDPR, HIPAA, or other*)
- Do you need VPAT?
(*Voluntary Product Accessibility Template*)
- In what languages do you need training and documentation?
- What is your budget?
- What amount of support do you need?
 - Required response times and availability
 - Support with installation
 - Help with technical issues
 - Updates and upgrades
 - Training, advice, or other resources

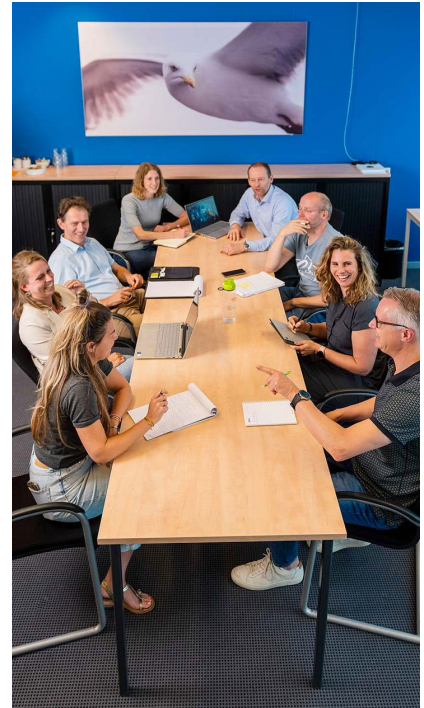


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Noldus Information Technology is the world-renowned leader in behavioral solutions. We have over 30 years of experience, using the latest technologies to develop cutting-edge tools for science and practice. These allow customers to measure a wealth of modalities, from behavior and physiology to emotion, cognition, and UX. Our portfolio includes The Observer XT, FaceReader, Viso, and NoldusHub, our brand-new all-in-one platform for human behavior studies. At Noldus, you'll benefit from high-quality tools, easy-to-use turn-key solutions, and ongoing innovation and support.

We hope you enjoyed reading this buyer's guide and that it will help you make the right decisions for your audiovisual lab. Need some more guidance? Let us know how we can help!

Team Noldus





Essentials of
an audiovisual
lab



Setting up
a successful
audiovisual lab



Equipment
and
software



Types of
audiovisual
labs



The cost
of accurate
audiovisual data



How to get the
most out of your
audiovisual lab

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