



Virbela

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# BEYOND REMOTE

Tools for a Hybrid Worklife

2021

# the WHY

In 2020, a group of curious people met regularly to explore VR- and 3D-worlds with the emphasize on virtual meetings and events.

In 2021, the journey of the #VRExplorer team continues; now testing new tools.

Our approach is to test new possibilities for online meetings and collaboration. While the world got used to meet in 2D-tools like Zoom, Webex, MS Teams etc. during the pandemic, we think the next step will follow soon: To gather, communicate and collaborate in VR- and 3D-environments.

**We are passionate explorers of new possibilities with the aim to share our knowledge - because #sharingiscaring.**

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# VR / 3D?

While we carry the term “VR” already in our name, we don’t exclude 3D solutions at all.

Why? Because the use of VR tools is still linked to special hardware like VR headsets; equipment not every company or person can easily afford to buy.

For that, 3D tools are a welcome alternative: No extra equipment, mostly running on desktops/ mobile devices, and due to easy handling providing a low barrier of entry to use.

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# what to expect

## Interested in taking your meetings and events beyond video conferencing?

Then this Guidebook is for you.

You will find an introductory overview of VIRBELA, containing the following infos:

- Name of provider
- URL
- Description with features (incl. infos from homepage)
- The use cases the tool could be applied for
- Pros and cons of tool
- Screenshots with short descriptions
- Key Facts

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# THE TOOLS

Overview of Various 3D and VR tools

3D

VIRBELA

# VIRBELA

<https://www.virbela.com/>

Time of testing: September 2021

### Use Cases:

- Training
- Socializing
- Sharing of content
- Talking/Exchanging in small groups
- Meetings
- Barcamps
- Conferences

**VIRBELA** is a virtual world specifically built to solve the challenges of virtual collaboration.

The **environment** is set up as an island with multiple facilities to enable different collaboration scenarios such as normal office spaces, informal set-ups with small tables for coffee chats, a beach environment, a soccer field for engaging in a soccer game, a theater, a rooftop terrace for dancing etc.. Speed boats enable you to circle around the island while having a private chat.

The office rooms provide different options for set up, based on the needs of the user and can be rearranged by a simple click. Pre-installed spatial audio zones provide space for 1:1 or small group discussions.

In the free version, the island is open for everyone so that you will meet people from all over the world. Within the team suite version or the private campus version you can set up your own office spaces to collaborate in a private setting.

**The avatars** have a human appearance and can be customized with gender, hairstyle, make-up, clothing etc.. They are easy to navigate via mouse or arrow keys on the keyboard or touchpad. Long distances can be easily managed by marking the destination.

**Accessibility:** A client needs to be installed on the desktop to enter Virbela.

**Administration:** No administration needed; all users are having the same rights and same possibilities while using the Virbela world.

# VIRBELA

## Pros and Cons

### PROS

- Free version offers the full environment
- Easy to move the avatars, very user-friendly
- Easy to navigate long distances by just marking the destination and then move
- Many different collaboration scenarios
- Fun environment with gaming, speed boat rides, dancing etc.
- Good audio; public and private chat available
- Lots of pre-installed spatial audio zones
- Easy to find a special person by searching the name and “go to” option
- Room setting with tables, chairs etc. easy to adjust to different scenarios
- Created by organizational psychologists with strong focus on team collaboration and best practices

### CONS

- Client has to be downloaded to access Virbela
- Free world is open for everyone (there will be others joining the world, not belonging to your group)
- In free version, screens can not be used to share content
- In free version, no collaboration via whiteboards/sticky notes available

# VIRBELA Screenshots



Arrival at Virbela



Gathering of avatars in collaboration room



Orientation via map



Speed boat ride



Playing soccer



Different options for room settings available



The hidden path game



Dancing on the rooftop



Rooms for group discussions and collaboration

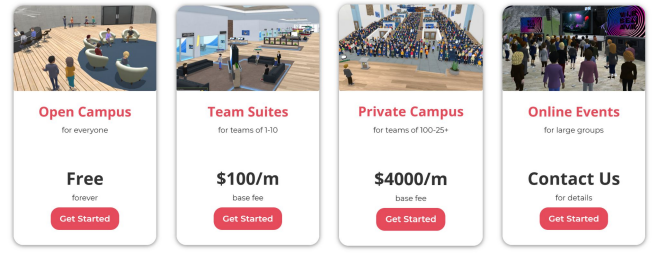


Avatar look



# VIRBELA: Key Facts

## at a glance

Type of tool	System requirements	Access	Devices	Server/ Data Security	Maximum number of participants	Pricing Model (October 2021)*
3D	Windows or Mac  Keyboard, mouse or touchpad for navigation	Access to Virbela via client pre-installed on desktop only  No owner is needed (only if private space is required)	Windows or Mac Desktop  Compatible for iPhone and iPad, but app offers limited features only	Server located in USA  Company based in California	<b>Free version:</b> no limit  <b>Team Suites:</b> 1 - 10  <b>Private Campus:</b> 100 - 25k  <b>Online event:</b> Large groups	 <p>The screenshot displays four pricing models for Virbela:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Open Campus:</b> for everyone, Free forever, with a "Get Started" button.</li> <li><b>Team Suites:</b> for teams of 1-10, \$100/m base fee, with a "Get Started" button.</li> <li><b>Private Campus:</b> for teams of 100-25+, \$4000/m base fee, with a "Get Started" button.</li> <li><b>Online Events:</b> for large groups, Contact Us for details, with a "Get Started" button.</li> </ul>

\*Screenshot "Pricing Model" has been taken on October 16th, 2021