



Martina Pumpat
Anne Koch
Florian Purps
Kathrin Bischoff
Henning Behrens
Michael Baas

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 GLUE, containing the following infos:

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

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THE TOOLS

Overview of Various 3D and VR tools

3D
GLUE

GLUE

<https://www.glue.work/>

Time of testing: September and
November 2021

Use Cases:

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

GLUE has the mission to “help people and teams around the world collaborate in more human, productive and sustainable ways”.

Eleven different settings offer multiple facilities to enable different collaboration scenarios such as office spaces and meeting areas for collaboration. The beach set-up allows a more informal gathering and private conversations “under water”. Spatial audio provides a natural understanding of where the other users are around.

While using Glue via desktop already allows a lot of interaction like picking up things and playing games like chess and backgammon, the VR version comes with lip sync, eye contact and gestures via the controllers.

Whiteboard with drawing function, sticky notes and embedding 3D objects are available in the desktop version. The VR version additionally allows 3D drawing.

The avatars have a human appearance and can be customized with gender, hairstyle, make-up, clothing etc. Navigation on the touchpad or via mouse is easy and intuitive.

In the free version, all settings are available for up to ten users for a maximum of 30 minutes, then the session has to be re-entered.

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

Administration: One owner is needed to set up the team spaces and invite the team members. Within Glue, all users are having the same rights and possibilities.

PROS

- Free version offers the full environment with 11 different rooms/settings
- Great graphics/resolution and audio
- When logging out, rooms will remain as left
- Needs less bandwidth than a usual video-conference, as no video streaming is needed
- When using a VR headset, lipsync, eye contact and gestures can be noticed
- Lots of external tools (Miro, Mural, Browser etc.) can be integrated; 3D objects available
- Clear menu, navigation and intuitive control (the escape-button is the trick!)
- Whiteboard with drawing function and sticky notes available
- Mixed use PC/VR headset works well
- Different games available (chess, dices, etc.)

CONS

- Client has to be downloaded
- Free version offers 30 minutes of using, then you have to log in again
- Spatial audio zones only available in meeting rooms
- When using PC, the use of sticky notes is tricky as they cannot be anchored to an object
- Integration of external tools is still work in progress, and we had varied results in our testing



Arrival setting in Glue before entering the spaces



Social gathering at the cinema



Avatar look

GLUE Screenshots



Whiteboard function



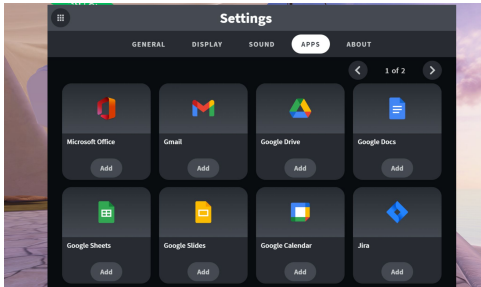
Mont Matiz - one of the several available settings



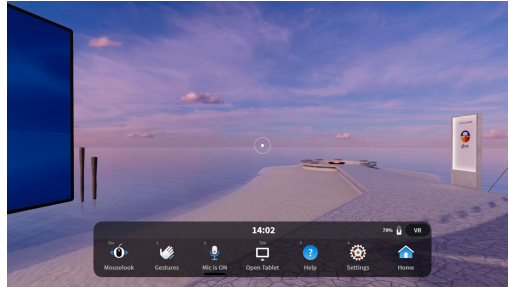
Huge screens for sharing presentations and desktops



Close up with an avatar



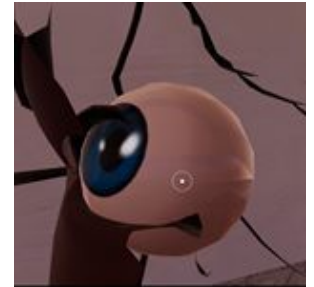
The menu with lots of possibilities



Beach scenario



Different games available like dices, Backgammon and Chess



Even closer :-)

GLUE: Key Facts

at a glance

Type of tool	System requirements	Access	Devices	Server/ Data Security	License Tiers	Pricing Model (December 2021)*
VR/3D	Windows or Mac Desktop Keyboard, mouse or touchpad for navigation	Installation of client needed	PC, Oculus Quest & Q2, Pico Neo 2&3, HTC VIVE Focus 3 Windows or Mac Desktop	Server located in Europe and AWS	<p>Free: 10 members 10 team spaces 30 minutes 2 GB storage</p> <p>Professional: Unlimited team spaces, session time, storage; with max. 30 people per space</p> <p>Enterprise: Customized</p>	<p>The screenshot shows three pricing cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free: 0€ /user/month. All Features Included +. Free Tier Properties: 10 Glue Team Members, 10 Team Spaces, 30 minutes Session Time per one session, 2GB Team File Storage. Sign Up button. Professional: 50€ /user/month. All Features Included +. Professional Tier +: Unlimited Team Spaces, Session Time and Team File Storage. *When billed yearly, 60€/user/month when billed monthly. Order Glue button. Enterprise: Enterprise offering customized to your needs. Professional Tier +: Branded & Custom Team Spaces, Customizes hosting options, Single Sign on, Browser only sessions, Service Level Agreement, Premium Onboarding, Priority Support. Contact Sales button.

*Screenshot "Pricing Model" has been taken on December 19th, 2021