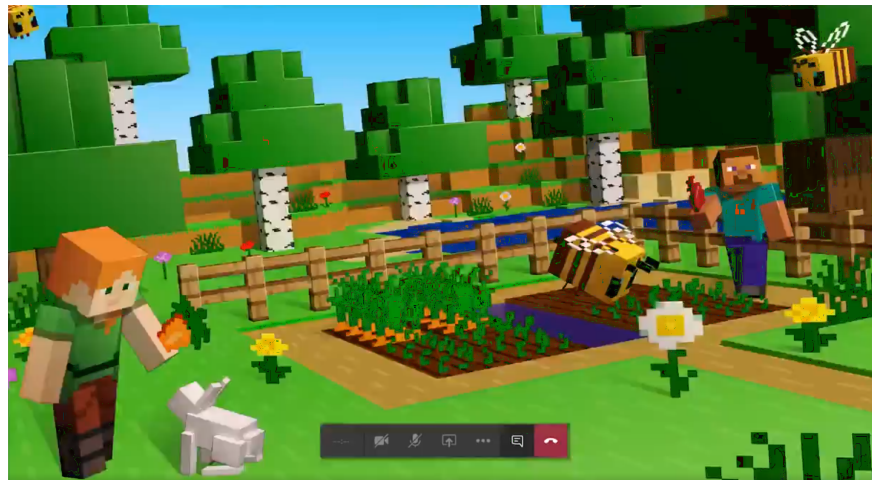


Microsoft Teams backgrounds: How to customize yours now

Just like in Zoom meetings, you can add your own custom background for a video chat in Teams.

If you'd like to be somewhere else, at least digitally, you can now add your own background of a tastefully decorated room, for example, or a Minecraft farm to Microsoft Teams video chats. Designed for business and education, Teams includes group chat, video calling and collaboration tools, and has seen a spike in use since more people began working from home as a response to the spread of the novel the spread of the coronavirus.



With the update to Microsoft's collaboration tool, you can now pick a custom image as your video chat background. The Zoom video chat service also lets you pick your own custom background images for calls. But with recent concerns about Zoom security, some users are starting to look to other services such as Teams for their chats.

How to change your video chat background in Microsoft Teams

Important catch: This feature is only available for scheduled meetings, according to Microsoft.

1. Start or join a Teams meeting, from the Windows or Mac application (you can't change your background on the web app at this point).
2. At the bottom of the screen, click or tap the three dots to go to your **Meeting controls**.
3. Select **More actions** > **Show background effects**. Either select **Blur** to blur your background, or choose from the available images to replace it.

4. You'll be able to preview your background to see how it looks. If you like it, hit **Apply**. That's it!

In the future, you'll also be able to create your own images, upload them to Teams, and then select them as a background image for your video chats, Microsoft said.

You can have video chats with up to 250 people in Microsoft Teams, and if your workplace or school has access to Office 365, you already have access to it. You can also check out a free version of Microsoft's communication tool.

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