

LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

Frost & Sullivan's Analyst Gauntlet is a structured program wherein participating vendors and service providers give industry analysts deep dives and demonstrations of their collaboration solution. The analyst then uses the collaboration solution over a period of time and provides candid feedback based on his/her user experience with the specified tool.

The Frost & Sullivan Connected Work research team has evaluated the new Logitech Rally Bar video conferencing device. Rally Bar, which began shipping in February 2021, is an all-in-one video bar incorporating cameras, microphones, speakers and processing software. Rally Bar fills the mid-range of the new Logitech Rally intelligent endpoint family, with Rally Bar Mini addressing small rooms and Rally Plus for large rooms.

Logitech positions Rally Bar as a state-of-the-art solution that tightly integrates with popular video conferencing services in three deployment modes:

- Appliance mode, a standalone Android-based solution
- USB mode, connecting with in-room Windows PCs and Macs
- Bring your own device (BYOD) mode

In this review, we detail our experiences configuring, installing, managing and using Rally Bar in BYOD mode with a range of cloud conferencing services. We are remote users without technical training and without local IT support. Our setup was comprised of Rally Bar, a Logitech Tap touch-based meeting room controller, a Dell laptop PC running Windows 10 on Intel Core i7 processors, and a 42" Samsung 4K television as the room display. We placed the Rally Bar and display on a standard-height shelf approximately 7' from the meeting table. The Tap controller and Dell PC were placed on the meeting table. We required no extension microphones or additional speakers in our midsize meeting space. Our shipment containing Tap and Rally Bar was well-packaged with all components and cables boxed firmly with packing material for protection.

LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST’S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Highlighted components of our evaluation included:

Rally Bar	Rally Bar unit dimensions are 6.46” H x 2.99” W x 5.14” D; lens depth is 1.13” • Weight is 15.6 lbs. • Integrated AI viewfinder and PTZ camera • Embedded audio includes 2 speakers and 6 beamforming microphones with 15’ pickup range Remote control	
PTZ Camera	• Resolution: up to 4K support and SD at 30fps • Pan: Motorized ±25° • Tilt: Motorized ±15°	
Field of View Camera	• Zoom: 15X HD zoom (5X optical, 3X digital available with upcoming software update) • Diagonal field of view (FoV): 90° • Room coverage: 82.1° horizontal FOV; 52.2° vertical FoV	
Total room coverage (FoV + PTZ): 163° horizontal x 110° vertical		
Audio - Speakers	• Drivers: 2 x 70 mm / 2.7” • Output: 92dB SPL @1W, 99dB SP @8.0W, both +/- 2dB at ½ meter • Sensitivity: 90+/-3dB SPL at 1W, ½ meter • THD: 1kHz < 2% • Speaker Sampling Rate: 48 kHz	

Source: Frost & Sullivan

LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST’S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Audio – Microphones

- Frequency response: 90Hz – 16kHz
- Sensitivity: >-36dBFS +/-1 dB @ 1Pa
- Microphone data rate output: 48 kHz
- Pickup Range of 15’ / 4.5m
- Beamforming elements include 6 omnidirectional digital MEMS microphones forming 5 adaptive acoustic broadside beams
- Audio processing via AEC (Acoustic Echo Cancellation), VAD (Voice Activity Detector)
- Noise suppressing AI filter
- Supports up to 3 additional Rally Mic Pods for extended room coverage

Connectivity

- 2 HDMI Out ports, 1 HDMI in
- 3 USB-A and 1 USB-C ports
- 1 100/1G Ethernet port
- 802.11a/b/g/n/ac WiFi
- Proprietary external mic input for Logitech Rally accessories
- Remote control with Bluetooth Low Energy



Tap Room Controller

- Dimensions: 2.28” H x 9.6” W x 7.0” D; 1.25 kg weight
- Touch screen: 10.1” diagonal with 14o display angle; 1280 x 800 resolution
- OS support: Windows 10, Chrome 80 and higher, Logi CollabOS
- Interfaces: USB 2.0/3.0/3.1 Type C to Rally; USB 2.0 to accessories; HDMI for video and content; 3.5mm headset jack



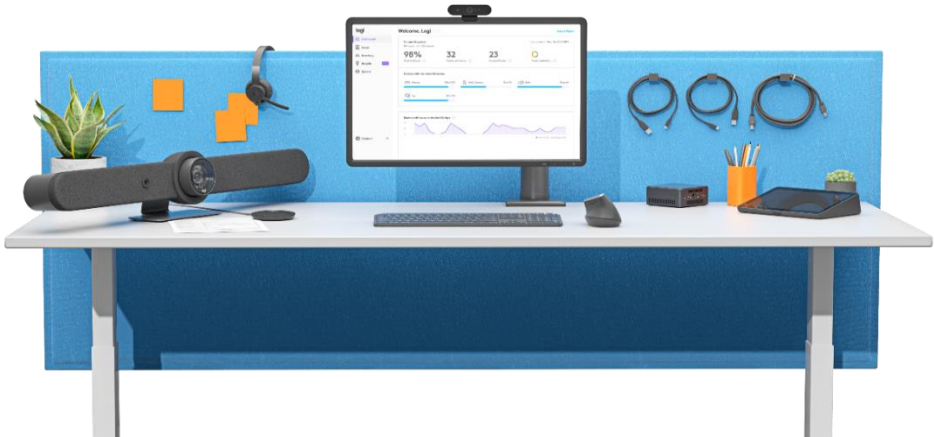
LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Administrator Experience

- Administrators variously use Logitech Sync management utilities, web-based video conferencing room management tools and Tap controller to configure, control, update and adjust Rally Bar capabilities. Because there are multiple Rally Bar deployment options (in-room Windows PC, Appliance, BYOD, single or dual monitor, and more), there are also numerous installation guides on Logitech web pages. Although our equipment shipment did not include installation manuals, we were able to perform the install in less than 20 minutes, which was less time than we needed to find and confirm the correct installation diagram on Logitech web pages.
- Overall, our Rally Bar installation and administration for BYOD meeting rooms was fairly smooth. The ability to choose the room computing device enables buyers to select from a wide range of form factors, price points and suppliers. It is absolutely critical to deploy appropriate processing power to support processor-intensive multimedia applications with high levels of quality and performance. The administrator and user experiences can be enhanced by deploying an appropriate computer with a familiar OS, which will also reduce help desk tickets. Further, Rally Bar's all-in-one endpoint form factor reduces the number of components that need to be procured, installed, configured and managed compared to stand-alone cameras, microphones and speakers in the meeting room. This form factor and Logitech's focus on excellent cable management built into the Rally Bar made our deployment clutter-free.

Administrator
Experience
Analysis



Source: Frost & Sullivan

LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Pro



- Rally Bar deployed with BYOD enables choice of a wide range of computing: form factors; operating systems; price points; and brands. This enables businesses to standardize on their preferences, source from preferred suppliers and drive cost efficiencies.
- Ports and interfaces on Rally Bar are well-marked. Minimal cables required in our set-up as well as clever cable management capabilities in both Rally Bar and Tap offer a clean set up in the meeting room
- Logitech Rally Bar is big and powerful. Even without extension mic pods or additional speakers, it has the appropriate audio pickup and delivery range to address a variety of midsize room dimensions and seating configurations.
- Rally Bar supports an array of Logitech accessories that are also supported by Rally Bar Mini and Rally Plus, which enables standardization across rooms of varying sizes and streamlines inventory requirements.
- Content sharing can be performed directly from the BYO computer's browser, hard drive or cloud services, or via Rally Bar pairing over Bluetooth with other computing devices in the room. The familiar capabilities will reduce help desk tickets for administrators.
- A total of 5 camera presets are supported (2 on the remote and 3 on Tap) so that administrators do not need to worry about meeting room participants physically touching the camera to adjust field of view or framing. Users can easily adjust PTZ or program settings to their specific needs using Tap or the remote control.

LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Pro



- Logitech's suite of RightSense AI technologies built into Rally Bar automates people tracking and framing, lighting adjustments and enhances speech clarity in-room and remote meeting participants. RightSense AI enhances the user experience by limiting the need to adjust settings for varying room capacities and reduces routine support requests for administrators.

Con



- BYOD, in general, creates potential for poor performance if the selected compute does not support the specifications (e.g., processing, OS version) required for the video conferencing service that is used.
- The sheer size and weight of Rally Bar may require professional installation services for wall-mounting, which adds to cost and decreases flexibility of where it can be installed in rooms.

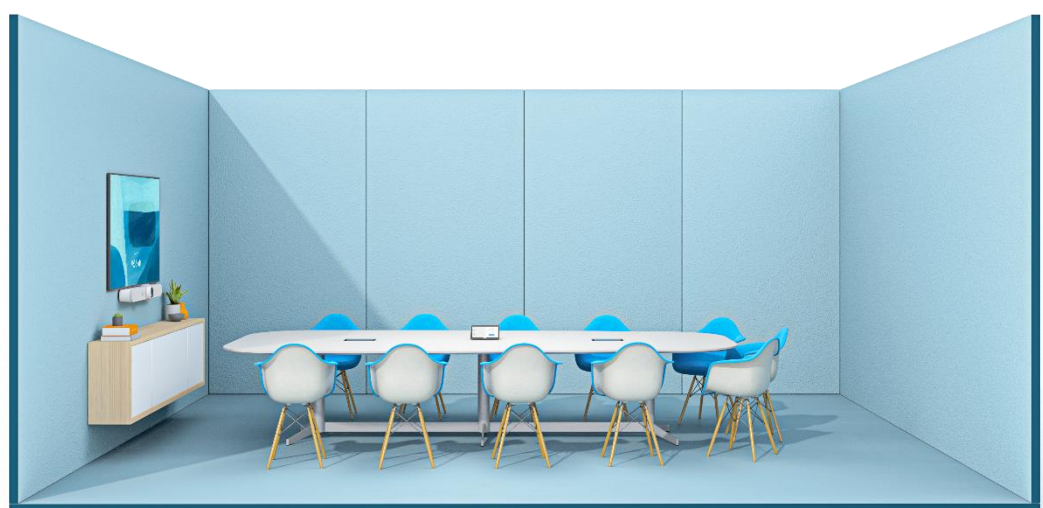
LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

User Experience

- Rally Bar demonstrated first-rate audio and video clarity for both room-based and remote meeting participants. This is the direct result of Logitech's use of the latest industry standards, a well-thought-out design and the innovative RightSense AI automation suite that makes meetings seamless with this high-end device.
- As meeting hosts, we found the Tap Controller to be easy and intuitive to schedule, initiate, join and end meetings as well as for feature control (mute audio, stop video, adjust volume, manage meeting participants, etc.).
- The ability to choose your own device empowers a familiar user experience. Meeting hosts will be more confident when using a computer with a familiar OS, menus, folders, browsers and network drives when they navigate to share, collaborate on and save content, chat, whiteboard and fully control their room-based meeting.

User Experience Analysis



LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Pro



- The audio quality of the solution is excellent. Beamforming microphone arrays, acoustic echo cancellation, voice activity detection, noise suppressing AI filter and other audio technology allows users to hear and be heard clearly.
- Automated camera PTZ using Logitech RightSense technology provides smooth camera transitions. The system relies on the field of view camera to enable the PTZ camera to continuously frame people in the room.
- From the Tap Controller, room-based meeting hosts have easy, intuitive access to a range of meeting control and collaboration features, including: direct meeting initiation, invite participants, join meetings via meeting ID or personal link, presentation, list of meetings, contacts and calendar, and audio-only calling (point-to-point and multi-party). In meetings, the host can mute audio and video, record, access Rally Bar PTZ camera control and framing presets, manage participants and more.
- When configured correctly, BYOD can improve the user experience by offering familiar devices to navigate settings, chat, find and share content, and fully control the meeting from their own computer if they choose not to use Tap.

Con



- All BYOD room conferencing solutions bring the risk of user-error, such as unintentional security incidents (malware, exposure of sensitive information, etc.), incorrect connection to the room system and use of compute devices that do not meet specific room system requirements.

LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR BYOD MEETING ROOMS RUNS THE ANALYST'S GAUNTLET

CONTD.

Analysis Summary

- Video conferencing is top of mind for many business leaders that want to enhance the internal and external collaboration capabilities across their organization. Overall this Rally Bar's engineering, design, functionality and quality make it difficult to compare with alternatives from a pricing perspective (Rally Bar lists for \$3,999). With its unique dual cameras, mic and speaker arrays, AI and automation, and numerous deployment options, Rally Bar has no direct comparisons in the market however we do believe it is priced appropriately.
- Rally Bar's certified integrations with room systems from several leading video conferencing providers offers the assurances organizations need to support their mission-critical collaboration needs. These capabilities additionally give businesses the opportunity to either standardize their video conferencing service to a single provider or have the flexibility to use several services. This impressive solution represents the future of meeting room functionality and offers businesses the opportunity to future-proof their solutions today.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Logitech Rally Bar in BYOD mode.