



Community Crime Alert

Alert: 2020-015

Case #: USF200FF000246

Date of Alert: May 12, 2020

Offense: Zoom Calls

Synopsis: On 5/11/2020, the University Police Department was advised of a disruption to a video teleconference (VTC) for prospective USF Students. During the teleconference, an unknown subject screen-shared disturbing pornographic images to participants. This incident appears consistent with reported VTC Hijacking cases nationwide and is under investigation.

As we continue to use video conferencing platforms to conduct regular business, VTC hijackers are emerging. The FBI has received multiple reports of "Zoom-bombing" where conferences are disrupted by pornographic and/or hate images and threatening language are suddenly displayed in a call.

USF IT recommends, and supports, Microsoft TEAMS as its preferred VTC platform. **USF IT does NOT recommend the use of Zoom for VTC.**

They have provided the following guidelines for creating a VTC using TEAMS:

- For faculty and staff: <https://www.usf.edu/it/documentation/office365/msteams-facultystaff.pdf>
- For students: <https://www.usf.edu/it/documentation/office365/msteams-student.pdf>

If you become a victim of teleconference hijacking, contact the University Police for assistance (813-974-2628). Victims can also report the incident directly to the [FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center](#).