

# LOGITECH RALLY BAR FOR MICROSOFT TEAMS ROOMS ON WINDOWS 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 USB mode with a dedicated in-room PC for Microsoft Teams. 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, an Intel NUC running Microsoft Teams Room software on top of Windows 10, and a 42" Samsung 4K television as the room display. We placed the Rally Bar, display and NUC on a standard-height shelf approximately 7' from the meeting table. The Tap controller was placed on the meeting table. We required no extension microphones or additional speakers in our midsize meeting space. Our shipment containing Tap, Rally Bar and NUC was well-packaged with all components and cables boxed firmly with packing material for protection

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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  $\pm 25^\circ$
- Tilt: Motorized  $\pm 15^\circ$

## Field of View Camera

- Zoom: 15X HD zoom (5X optical, 3X digital available with upcoming software update)
- Diagonal field of view (FoV):  $90^\circ$
- Room coverage:  $82.1^\circ$  horizontal FOV;  $52.2^\circ$  vertical FoV

Total room coverage (FoV + PTZ):  $163^\circ$  horizontal x  $110^\circ$  vertical

## Audio - Speakers

- Drivers: 2 x 70 mm / 2.7"
- Output: 92dB SPL @1W, 99dB SPL @8.0W, both  $\pm 2$ dB at  $\frac{1}{2}$  meter
- Sensitivity: 90 $\pm$ 3dB SPL at 1W,  $\frac{1}{2}$  meter
- THD: 1kHz < 2%
- Speaker Sampling Rate: 48 kHz

Source: Frost & Sullivan

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## 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

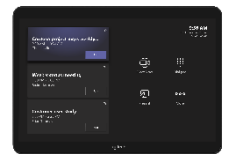
## Connectivity

- 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 140 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

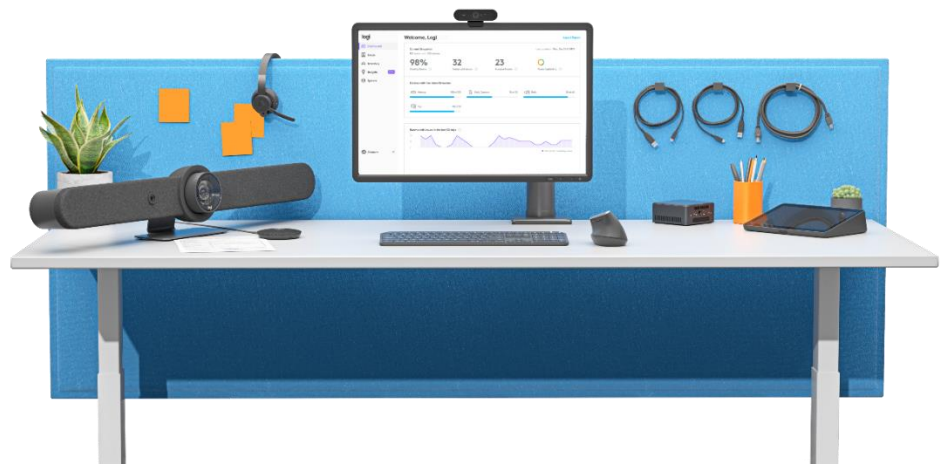


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## Administrator Experience

- The Logitech Rally Bar, with its all-in-one endpoint form factor, reduces the number of components that need to be 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 and Tap Controller made our installation clutter-free. However, because there are multiple Rally Bar deployment options (in-room Windows PC, Appliance, USB, BYOD, single or dual monitor), there are also numerous installation guides on Logitech web pages. As a result, it took more time to find and confirm the correct installation diagram to use for our configuration than to perform the install itself (which took less than 20 minutes).
- The Microsoft Teams certified Windows 10 compute incorporated in this curated solution offers more consistent reliability and performance compared to BYOD, which would rely on an array of different end user devices. When accessed via Tap, Windows also provides administrators with a familiar navigation experience.
- Admins variously use the Tap controller, the included Rally Bar remote control, Logitech Sync management utilities and Microsoft Teams Admin Center portal to configure, control, update and adjust Rally Bar and Teams Room capabilities. This mix of interfaces can provide experienced staff with management efficiencies, but can add a bit of complexity for less experienced administrators that will need to navigate multiple interfaces, each with multiple menus.

### Administrator Experience Analysis



Source: Frost & Sullivan

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Pro



- The curated solution that we evaluated, comprised of a dedicated in-room PC, Rally Bar and Tap, is certified to deliver consistent installation, configuration, management and performance in mid and large-size Microsoft Teams Rooms.
- 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 a PC-based browser that is accessed through Tap, from a USB storage drive inserted into the NUC, or Teams Room system pairing over Bluetooth with user mobile devices and computers.
- 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.

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## Pro



- Logitech's suite of RightSense AI technologies built into Rally Bar automates people tracking and framing, lighting adjustments and enhances speech clarity for 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



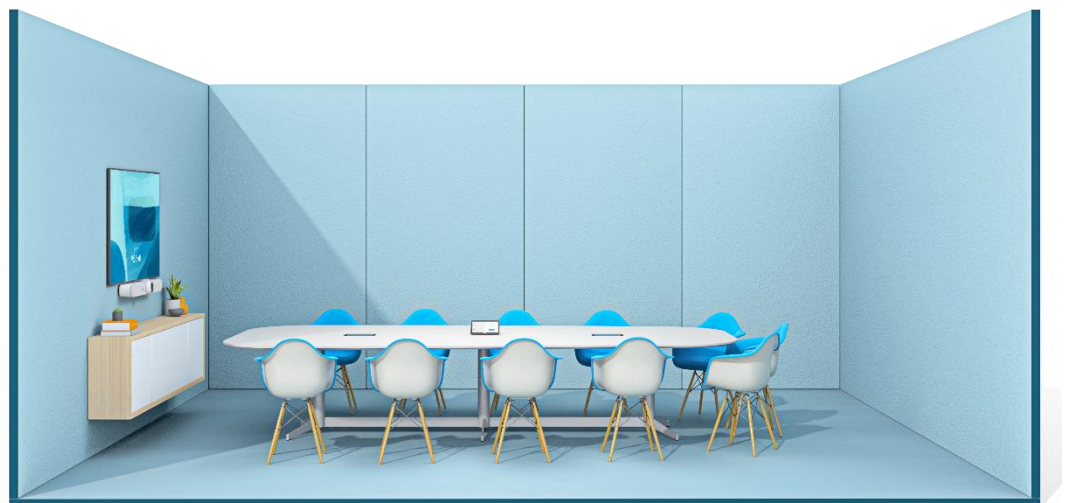
- New in-the-box Logitech products typically include installation or instruction manuals, however ours were missing. As admins, we had to carefully search Logitech web pages for correct instructions and documentation for installation, provisioning and specifications for our configuration
- The sheer 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.

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## User Experience

- Rally Bar delivered superb 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.). However, the Teams user interface on Tap differs significantly from the desktop Teams UI, resulting in a learning curve for meeting room hosts. Our set up also had certain limitations common to all Teams Rooms. For example, support full-feature interactive chat and whiteboard functionality in the room is accessible from end user devices rather than from the room controller (e.g., in this instance, Tap). That said, these limitations are easily overcome by pairing the room system with macOS, Windows or Chrome devices in the meeting room, and should not present sustained notable challenges for most users as they gain experience.

### User Experience Analysis



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## 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 technologies allow 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 & framing presets, manage participants & more.
- Although there are some inherent feature access and usage inconsistencies (e.g., interactive chat and virtual whiteboard) to all Teams Rooms, this solution ensures computing performance and makes user devices available for note-taking, content sharing, chat and more from their devices.

## Con



- A known compromise for Microsoft Teams Rooms solutions, and not a shortcoming of Rally Bar itself, is that whiteboard and interactive chat are not supported by computers that power the room. Pairing with another room computer or user device is required. We did not find this process seamless, particularly in the first several uses.
- Another known issue with Teams Rooms leveraging a dedicated room PC is that the in-meeting chat is read-only for in-room participants unless they additionally join the session from their own devices. Without joining from an additional device, in-room users cannot post or reply to chat messages, or click on links posted to the meeting chat displayed on the Tap controller or on the room monitor.



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## 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 integration and performance for Microsoft Teams Rooms offer the assurances that organizations need to support their mission-critical collaboration needs. These attributes and consistent software enhancements, from Logitech and in partnership with Microsoft, allow organizations to future-proof their collaboration investments now.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Logitech Rally Bar Microsoft Teams Rooms on Windows.