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**Logitech® QuickCam® Pro 9000
and
Logitech® QuickCam® Pro for Notebooks**

Reviewer's Guide



Logitech Reviewer's Guide

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Additional Resources

Supporting Documents

- Press Release
- Product Fact Sheets
- Expert's Guide to Webcams (article)
- Innovation Brief: Image Quality
- How to Choose and Use a Webcam (article)
- Logitech QuickCam family line-up
- Background on Carl Zeiss Tessar® lens

Images and additional resources are available online at
<http://www.logitech.com/pressroom>, or from the Logitech contact listed below.

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Part 1: Product Overview

1.1 Introduction: A New World of Communications

As of 2007, more than 250 million people worldwide were enjoying a broadband connection, according to research firm Parks Associates. Broadband penetration is driving the adoption of new technologies for new applications.

One such development is innovative webcams for video calling and sharing. With more bandwidth, people are increasingly able to send and receive larger amounts of data.

Because of video communications, now friends and colleagues can connect with each other from all around the world – while enjoying conversations as if they were in the same room.

1.2 Brief Market Summary

Logitech has been a driving force in the webcam market for more than 10 years. Way back in 1995, Logitech marketed its first webcam, the VideoMan. In 1998, the company introduced the first webcam with an integrated microphone.

Logitech has provided audio and video technology for Windows Live® Messenger since March 2003. And as of January 2007, Logitech has supported over 11.3 billion Windows Live Messenger sessions.

In May 2007, Logitech shipped its 50 millionth webcam. The world's leading manufacturer of webcams, Logitech's success is a result of the company's ability to bring innovative, user-friendly webcams to market, while driving innovative applications that allow webcam users to make the most of their investment.

1.3 Key Features: Carl Zeiss optics, Autofocus, Two-megapixel sensor

Logitech thoroughly evaluates each webcam's individual components, always delivering compelling new technologies with the best-possible value for the consumer. The company is scrupulous when testing new sensor technology and the latest optics, ensuring premium performance.

The new Logitech QuickCam Pro-series webcams set a new standard in webcam image quality by bringing together Carl Zeiss® optics and a premium autofocus system.

Carl Zeiss Optics

The Logitech® QuickCam® Pro 9000 and Logitech® QuickCam® Pro for Notebooks webcams are the first webcams to incorporate Carl Zeiss optics.

Carl Zeiss is a global leader in optics with a 160 year history driving lens innovation. Working with Carl Zeiss, Logitech can ensure that the new QuickCam Pro-series webcams meet Zeiss's high standards for lens design and manufacturing.

Autofocus

Logitech incorporated a premium autofocus system, which allows people to get razor-sharp images – even in extreme close-ups (up to 10 cm from the webcam lens).

Logitech used a premium voice coil motor (VCM) system to create a webcam that refocuses quickly and quietly. Unlike a stepper motor, which uses a gear system, the VCM is gearless and can refocus on extreme close-ups usually within three seconds.

Two- Megapixel Sensor

The QuickCam Pro-series webcams comes with a true two-megapixel sensor, which helps create images with better resolution. For quick snapshots, the webcams have the ability to capture true two-megapixel images that, with Logitech software, can be enhanced to eight megapixels.



Images taken using Logitech QuickCam Pro 9000 and Logitech QuickCapture (960 by 720 pixels).

1.4 Other Features

HD Video

The Logitech QuickCam Pro-series webcams allow people to call and share HD-quality video. At 960 by 720 pixels, images have never been so clear. And the webcams can record to disc at up to 1600 by 1200 pixels (at five frames per second), which means it's possible to record and e-mail HD video messages to friends and colleagues, or even upload video clips to Web sites such as YouTube.

Logitech RightLight 2 Technology – Better Low-Light and Backlight Performance

Logitech RightLight® 2 technology is a system of hardware and software technologies that improves a webcam's image quality under a wide variety of lighting conditions, particularly in low light. Logitech RightLight technology consists of premium sensors,

advanced firmware and the very best lenses that work together to deliver great video performance.

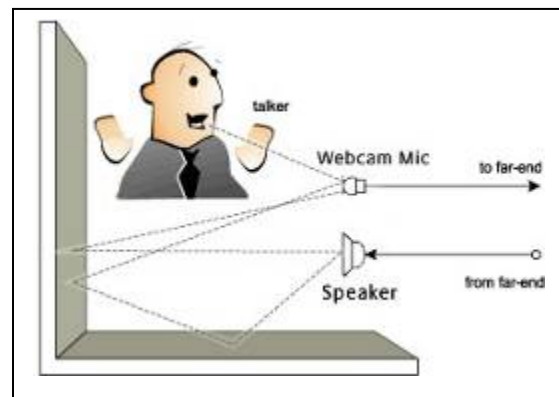
Webcams with RightLight technology feature next-generation, higher-performance CMOS sensors that, when combined with Logitech firmware, maximize the amount of light a webcam can capture in any situation. The Logitech RightLight system is able to capture and process additional light; as a result, areas that are not well-lighted – whether it's a shadowed face or an entirely dark image – will appear brighter and more detailed.

Logitech RightLight technology also optimizes color performance to produce natural-looking skin tones. During the development process, Logitech webcams are thoroughly tested to ensure they reproduce a spectrum of colors, with an emphasis on skin tones. Adjustments to color hues and saturation are made within camera firmware before mass production to ensure skin tones appear as natural as possible. Other webcams on the market prioritize brighter colors, which can make facial colors overly saturated – sometimes even awkwardly tinted. For those who would like to increase the saturation of colors, Logitech QuickCam software includes a color-boost option within the camera settings panel. This gives colorful items, such as shirts or background, a deeper color – though it may negatively impact the color of a face.

Logitech RightSound Technology

Many webcams include an integrated microphone. However, because of the microphone's sensitivity and close proximity to computer speakers, people using live video calling applications commonly experience an echo that can disrupt conversations.

Logitech RightSound® technology features advanced acoustic echo cancellation (AEC) software, part of the Logitech webcam drivers, that eliminates echo. The RightSound technology AEC algorithm analyzes sound waves and identifies repeated noises/voices, then filters out the redundant sound so that people can experience clear conversations without echo. Naturally, because echo is caused by circumstances on both ends of a video call, both parties need to use either a webcam with AEC or a headset to eliminate any chance of echo. When someone doesn't use a headset or a webcam with AEC, it is the person on the other end of a video call who will actually hear the echo.



Because of echo, using a webcam with a live video-calling application required wearing a headset – until now. With Logitech RightSound technology, people can communicate freely without a headset – a more natural way of interacting – just as if they were in the same room with a friend or family member. RightSound technology allows the whole family to join the conversation without creating echo for the person on the other end of the video call, or without having to pass a headset from person to person.

In addition to eliminating echo, Logitech RightSound technology in the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks also suppresses unwanted background noise to further ensure crystal clear video calls. For example, noise from an air conditioner running constantly in the background can be reduced and, in many cases, eliminated by the noise suppression technology.

Logitech Video Effects: Avatars, Face Accessories and Fun Filters

The innovative Logitech Video Effects software allows people to completely transform themselves. And Logitech Video Effects software works with all popular webcam applications, including MSN® Messenger Video Conversation, AOL® Instant Messenger™ (AIM®) and Yahoo!® Messenger.

Logitech Avatars

Avatars have become popular in some instant messaging applications, allowing people to build characters that become their online identity. These characters can be commanded to make certain expressions, such as smiling or frowning, with keystrokes on the computer. Video Effects avatars are different – Logitech's avatars mimic the physical movement of the webcam user during a live video communications session.



The innovation behind Video Effects avatars starts with Logitech's advanced face tracking software. The software identifies 22 points on a face based on algorithms that spot various shapes, colors and movements. Those 22 points – around the eyebrows, eyes, nose and mouth – are then translated into coordinates that become instructions for the animated avatars. The actual video of the webcam user is then replaced with the output of a three-dimensional avatar. The entire process takes place in a matter of milliseconds.

Logitech Face Accessories

Video Effects face accessories use the same fundamental technology as the avatars – with a few variations. Instead of using 22 points to identify expressions, the software tracks 14 or 8 points on a face. Those points become anchors for the various animated accessories – a hat, for example, would use anchor points around the eyebrows to define its location, whereas a mustache would use anchor points around the mouth. The animated accessories are then scaled and rotated, depending on the position of the anchor points. Unlike the avatars, the original source video is kept intact and the animated accessory is overlaid on top of the image. The combination is then sent to the video application.



Logitech Fun Filters

Logitech Fun Filters create an outline around any object visible in the image, such as the caller's face, chair or office furniture. With the simple click of a button, people can change their image to one of twelve fun filters, giving their image a fish eye, neon light or chalkboard-looking effect.

1.5 Product Specifications

Price

The suggested retail price of both webcams is \$99.99 (U.S.).

Warranty

Two-year limited hardware warranty.

System Requirements

Windows® XP

- Pentium® P4 (or compatible) processor 1.4 GHz (2.4 GHz recommended)
- 128 MB RAM (256 MB recommended)
- 200 MB available hard disk space
- 16-bit color display adapter
- Windows®-compatible sound card and speakers (full-duplex sound card recommended)
- USB port
- CD-ROM drive

Windows Vista™

- Pentium® P4 (or compatible) processor, 2.4 GHz (2.8 GHz recommended)
- 512 MB RAM (1 GB recommended)
- 200 MB available hard disk space
- 16-bit color display adapter
- Windows®-compatible sound card and speakers (full-duplex sound card recommended)
- USB port
- CD-ROM drive

Note: System requirements apply to the use of Logitech® RightLight™ 2, RightSound™, or Video Effects.

Technical Specifications

- Carl Zeiss Tessar® lens
- Autofocus system
- True two-megapixel sensor
- Color depth: 24-bit true color
- Video capture: Up to 1680 by 1200 pixels (960 by 720 pixels at HD quality)
- Frame rate: Up to 30 frames per second
- Still image capture: 8 million pixels (with software enhancement)

Part 2: Image Quality

A good image reproduces its subject as close to reality as possible. Qualities of a good image include clarity, detail, sharpness, color accuracy and tonal range. Usually, the higher the resolution, the better the image. But if the lens doesn't capture the light accurately, the image may still be speckled or washed-out or have any number of other aberrations.

For webcams, good image quality is a product of several systems working in concert to deliver a crystal clear image to your monitor. The major elements of the image system include the lens and the sensor.

Logitech's new QuickCam Pro-series webcams use Carl Zeiss optics and a premium autofocus system to deliver unparalleled image quality.

2.1 Carl Zeiss

The new Logitech QuickCam Pro-series webcams are the first to incorporate Carl Zeiss optics. These webcams meet the specification of the Carl Zeiss Tessar® lens system, a design renowned for image sharpness.

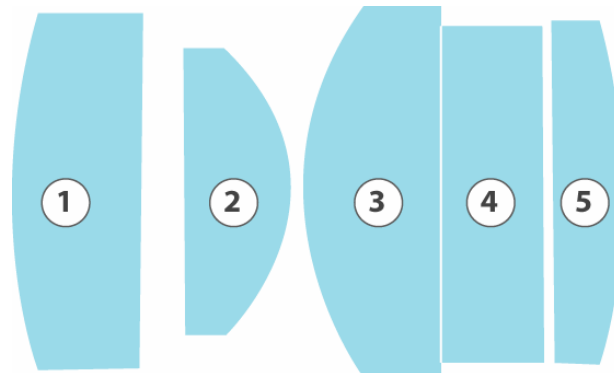
Elegant and precision-engineered, the Carl Zeiss® family of companies has a storied history of producing lens designs that are used for a variety of applications, including high-end and consumer cameras, electron microscopes and space photography.

Though the original Tessar lens had a four-element design, the Tessar lens used in the Logitech webcams is a further technological development.

The Logitech webcams use a five-element lens arranged into four optical elements.

That is, two of the lenses (Number 3 and 4) in the lens stack are cemented together. As a result, the lens focuses the light onto the sensor with maximum detail and minimal aberrations.

Elegant and simple, the compact and lightweight Tessar design makes it the perfect choice for Logitech webcams, which must conserve on weight and bulk.



1. Aspheric lens
2. Aspheric lens
- 3 & 4. Doublet lens
5. Aspheric lens

2.2 Autofocus

Current webcams often have a tough time automatically focusing on moving or close-up subjects. The resulting image usually looks hazy and out-of-focus.

Logitech addressed this problem by building an autofocus system into its newest webcams: Logitech® QuickCam® Pro 9000 and Logitech® QuickCam® Pro for Notebooks.

Logitech's autofocus system zeroes in on the subject—such as a person's face or even a business card—in the center of the frame. When the subject moves, the webcam

automatically tracks the motion and refocuses the image in less than three seconds. Even if the subject is only 10 centimeters from the camera, the webcam focuses in and out automatically with precision and speed. The result: Transitions are fluid, and the image is clear and sharp.

2.3 True Two-Megapixel Sensor

Once light is captured by a webcam lens, the webcam's sensor needs to transform the physical qualities of the light into digital information. While higher-megapixel sensors can produce pictures and videos of higher resolution, multi-megapixel sensors do not always equal high-quality images.

Logitech's combination of a high-quality Carl Zeiss Tessar lens, a premium autofocus system and a two-megapixel sensor ensures that people will be able to capture two-megapixel images, and greater, with amazing clarity and detail.



Image taken using Logitech QuickCam Pro 9000 and Logitech QuickCapture software at 960 by 720 resolution.

With the introduction of the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams, Logitech utilized a premium two-megapixel sensor. For photos and video clips, this high-resolution sensor can capture video at 960 by 720 pixels. That's equivalent to HDTV-quality video. With software interpolation, a method of adding pixels to an existing image, people can capture and print up to eight-megapixel photos.

(For more information on Carl Zeiss and the Logitech autofocus system, please read the "Innovation Brief: Image Quality.")

Part 3: Installation and Use

3.1 Installation/Setup

Installation of the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams is a simple process, and takes just a few minutes. The user's guide included in the product provides clear step-by-step instructions. Here are a few additional suggestions for reviewers:

- Position the QuickCam Pro 9000 or QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam at the top-center of your monitor so that the camera lens is close to the video screen, improving eye contact.
- For optimal performance, the built-in microphone should be approximately three feet away from you.
- Bend the flexible monitor clip to secure the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam to your monitor.
- Insert the supplied CD into an available drive and follow the on-screen instructions.
- Do not connect the cameras until prompted to do so by the installation software.
- If the software installation process doesn't start automatically, from the Windows **Start** menu, select **Run** and type in **D:\setup.exe**. (Where D: is the drive letter of your optical drive. If your optical drive is assigned to a different letter, substitute that letter in the run command.)
- Be sure to complete the audio-tuning wizard that runs the first time you launch the QuickCam software. This wizard helps you to adjust your speakers and microphone for optimal audio performance.

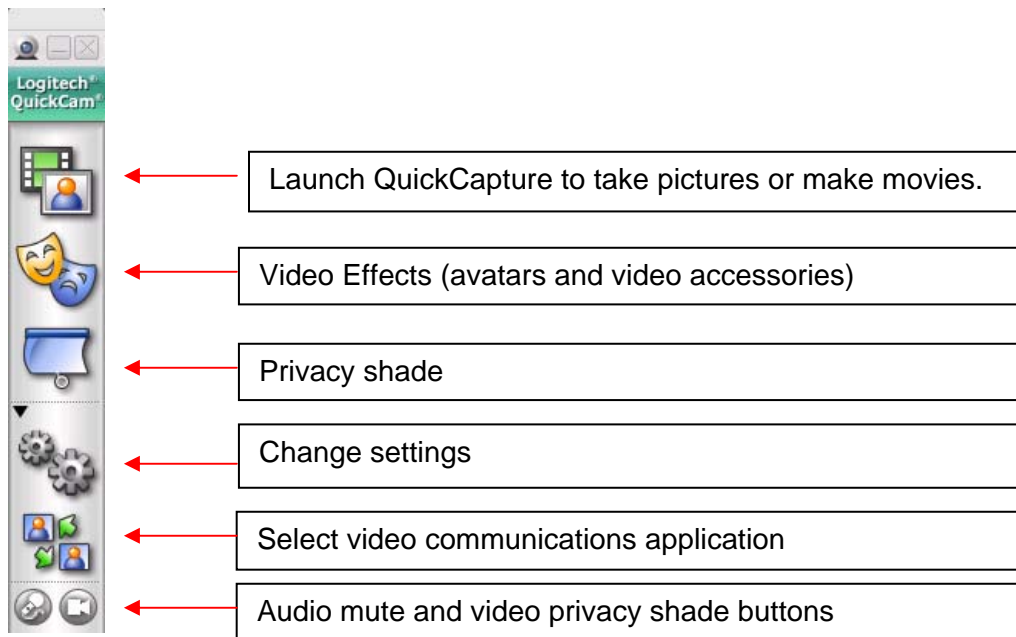
3.2 Common Usage Scenarios/Examples

To fully appreciate the amazing image quality of the Logitech QuickCam Pro-series webcams, please try these simple scenarios.

- **Record a video clip or take a photo.** Open QuickCapture and click Take Photo or Record Video. Notice how clear and detailed the images are. Notice how rich the colors are.
- **E-mail a photo or a video clip.** After you've recorded something, right-click on an image in your gallery and send it to a friend or colleague. People can even upload a clip to YouTube.
- **Adjust the image size.** With QuickCapture open, click the drop-down menu just to the bottom right of the image. You can take up to eight-megapixel still photos and HD video (at 960 by 720 pixels).
- **To get the camera to perform at its best, your monitor resolution should be at a minimum of 1280 by 1024 pixels.** If you don't do this, when you set QuickCapture to use HD resolution or higher, you may see some image artifacts on your screen.

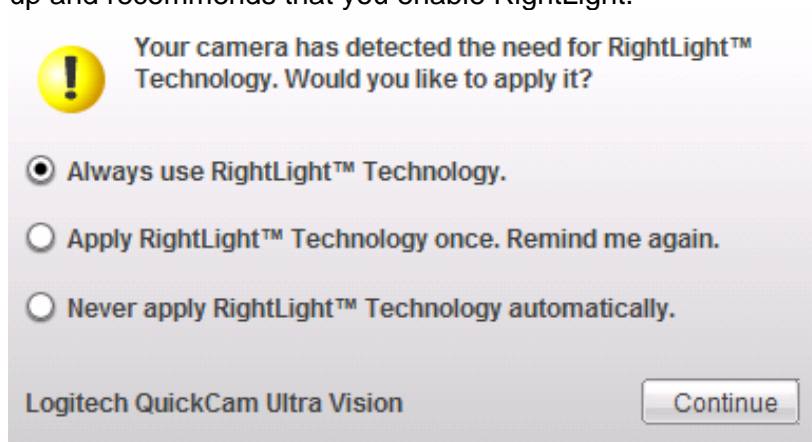
To explore the many features of the Logitech QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam, launch the QuickCam software by clicking on the QuickCam shortcut on the desktop (or in the system tray).

The QuickCam Control Panel will appear:



3.3 Exploring QuickCapture

The first time you launch QuickCapture interface, the QuickCam Pro 9000 or QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams will evaluate the lighting conditions. If you have a lighting environment that will benefit from Logitech's RightLight 2 Technology, a dialog box pops up and recommends that you enable RightLight.



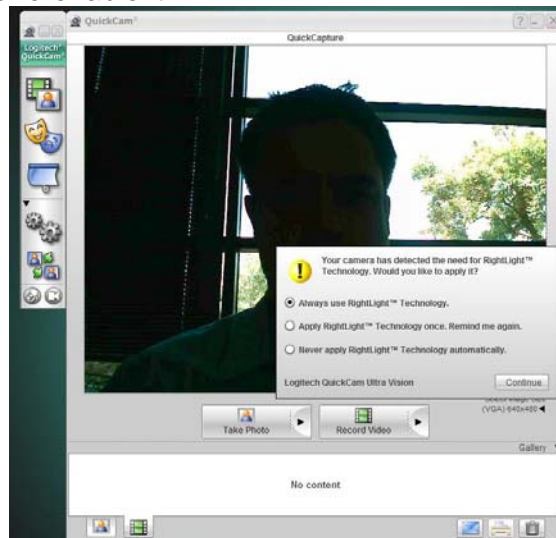
Accept the recommended selection and click on **Continue**.

3.3.1 Explore RightLight 2 Technology

Logitech's RightLight 2 Technology is a system of hardware and software that delivers superior image quality in challenging lighting situations such as a dimly lighted or harshly backlit room.

Example 1 – Using RightLight 2 Technology with Backlighting

To better illustrate how RightLight 2 Technology works, the next two examples guide you through disabling RightLight 2, so that you can see how much the image improves when you allow the wizard to re-enable it.

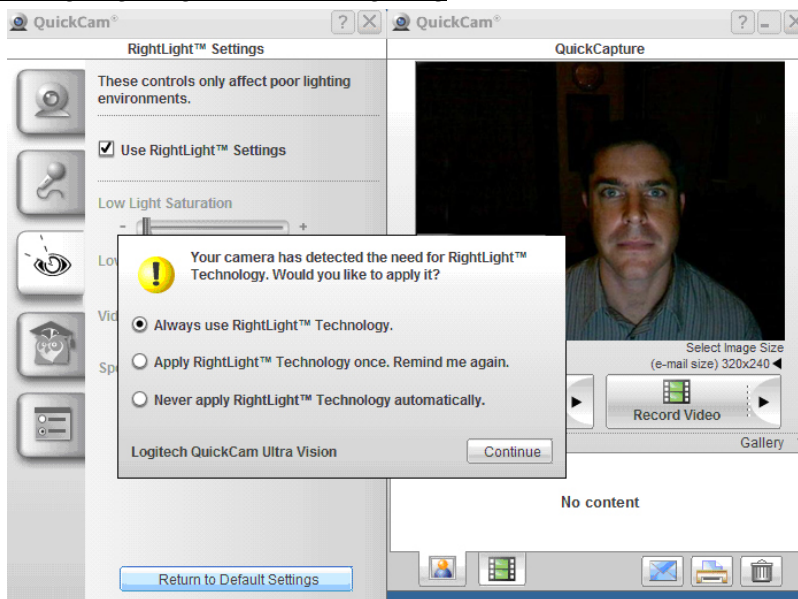


- Position yourself so that there is a light source behind you.
- Click the **QuickCapture** icon to activate your camera.
- Click the **Change Settings** icon on the QuickCam Control Panel.
- Click the **RightLight 2** icon to access the RightLight 2 settings.
- Uncheck **Use RightLight 2 Settings** to disable RightLight 2.
- Click **Return to Default Settings**. You'll see your face in shadows. The camera detects that you can benefit from RightLight 2 Technology and prompts you to enable it.
- Accept the default and click **Continue**.

The result will look something like this:



Example 2 – Using RightLight 2 in Low Lighting



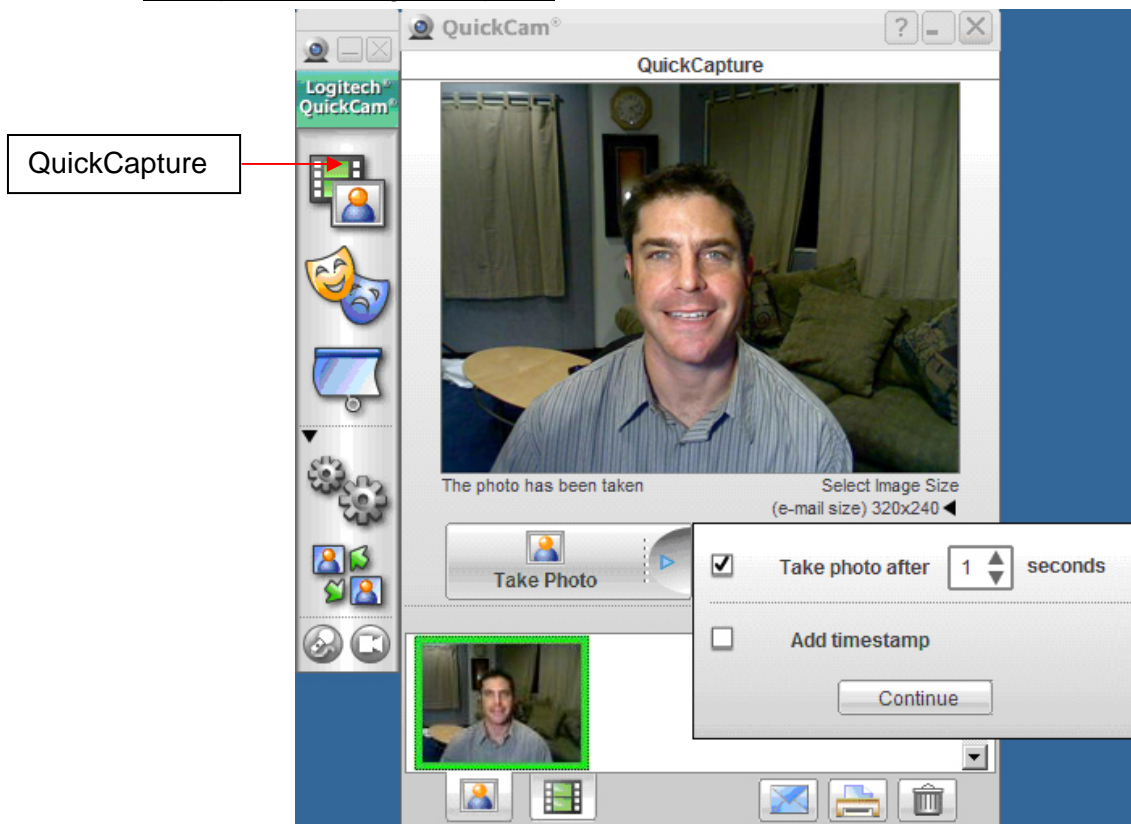
- Darken your room to a low lighting level.
- Click the **QuickCapture** icon to activate your camera.
- Click the **Change Settings** icon on the QuickCam Control Panel.
- Click the **RightLight 2** icon to access the RightLight 2 settings.
- Uncheck **Use RightLight 2 Settings** to disable RightLight 2.
- Click **Return to Default Settings**. You'll see your face in shadow. Immediately the camera detects that you can benefit from RightLight 2 Technology and prompts you to enable it.
- Accept the default and click **Continue**. RightLight 2 Technology automatically adjusts the settings to improve the lighting on your face.

The results will look something like this:



Note how RightLight 2 adjusted the settings for low-light saturation, low-light boost and video noise.

Example 3 – Taking a snapshot



- Click the **QuickCapture** icon in the Logitech QuickCam Control Panel.
- If prompted, allow the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam to use RightLight Technology and click **Continue**.
- Click the arrow on the right of the **Take Photo** button to select your photo options, including the photo timer. The default photo timer is set to zero. Note that if you adjust the timer, the activity light blinks as the timer counts down before taking your picture. You'll hear a shutter click when the picture has been taken, and a thumbnail of your picture will appear in your photo gallery.
- Similarly, you can make your first video by clicking the **Record Video** button.

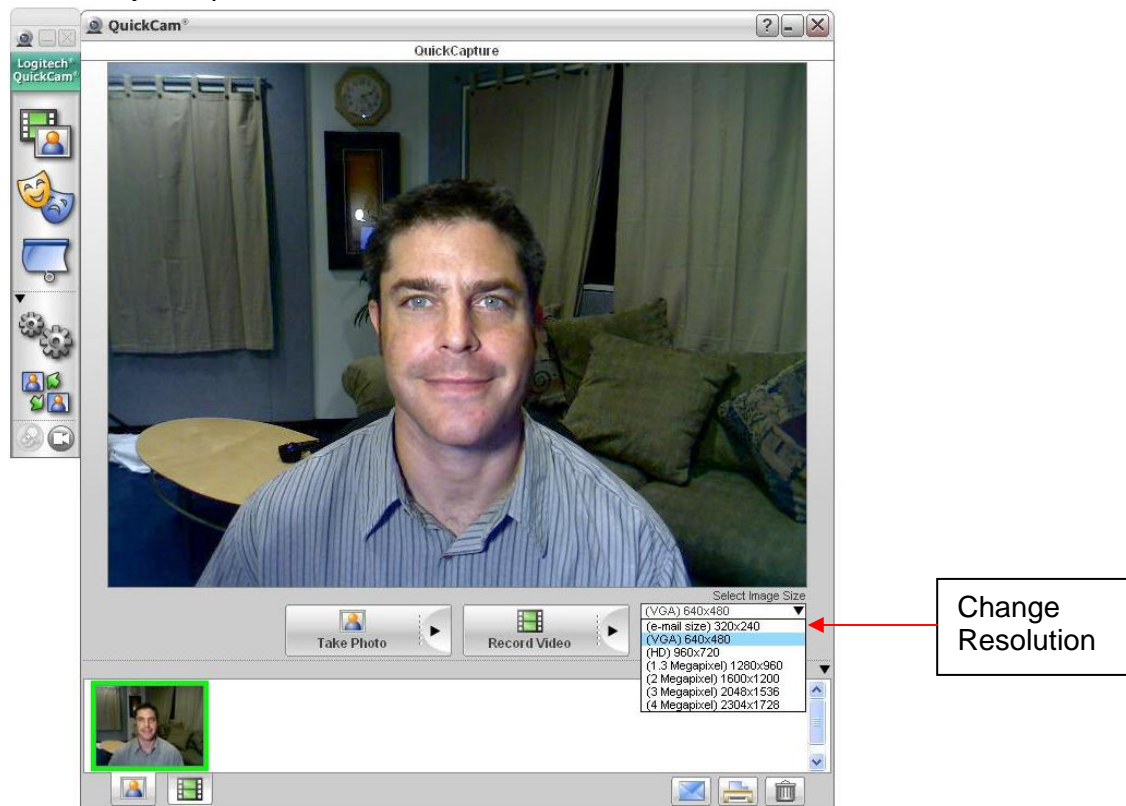
The icons across the bottom of the screen let you toggle between your photo and video gallery, send e-mail, print photos from your gallery, or delete photos or movies.

Tip: You can also take a snapshot by pushing the button on the right end of the camera. Taking a picture with the snapshot button is equivalent to clicking on the Take Photo button. As noted above, if you have configured the QuickCam Pro 9000 or QuickCam Pro for Notebooks to delay taking the snapshot, you will experience the same delay when you push the snapshot button.

Example 4 – Changing the Video Resolution

Logitech's QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam defaults to a video resolution of 640 by 480 pixels. However, with its true two-megapixel sensor, the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams are capable of much higher resolutions. To really see the high resolution and fine detail provided by the precision-engineered glass lens, increase the resolution to 640 by 480 pixels or higher.

In addition, the QuickCam software enables you to write to a disk at a high-definition resolution of 960 by 720 pixels.



- In the lower-right-hand corner of the video frame, click **Select Image Size**. A dropdown box appears. Choose a resolution of at least 640 by 480 pixels.
- Examine the larger image and look for fine details such as strands of hair and details in the background of the image.

Tip: Be sure your computer's screen resolution is set to 1280 by 1024 pixels or higher in order to see the best sharpness from the web cameras.

3.3.2 Fun with Video Effects

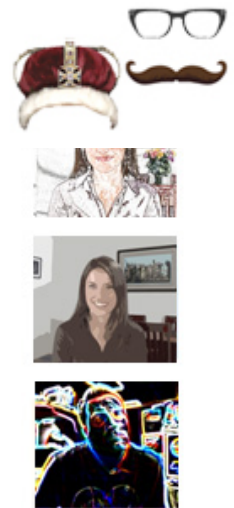
Logitech Video Effects software, included with the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams, provides fun and entertaining enhancements to the user's video experience. When activated, it alters the video stream created by the camera independently of the webcam application, thus ensuring that the Video Effects work with any application that supports live video.

There are three types of video effects:

- **Avatars:** Avatars are models that completely replace the video image. Based on Logitech's face-tracking software that tracks 22 points on the face, avatars can assume the movements of the person in the video. The avatar's eyes blink, and its mouth and head move to reflect the movement of the person in the video.

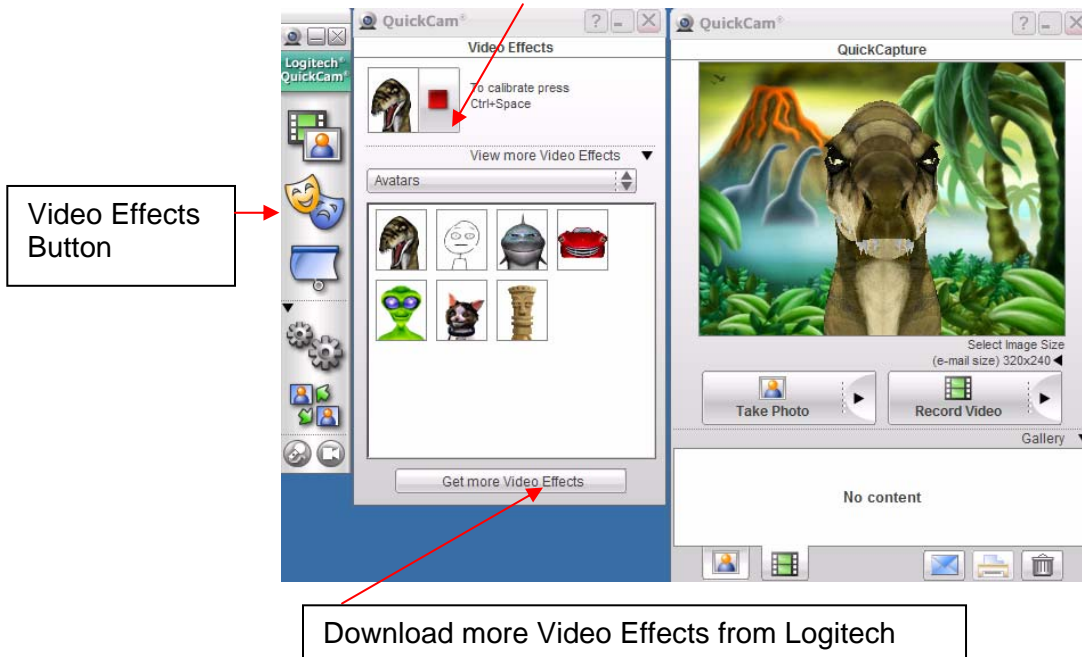


- **Face Accessories:** These are video accessories are two-dimensional video effects that are applied on top of the live video stream. These accessories include hats, a poker visor, a moustache/goatee, and more. As the subject in the video moves, face-tracking software ensures that the selected video accessory stays attached to the subject.
- **Fun Filters:** Fun Filters apply photographic filters or manipulate the images you capture with your Logitech QuickCam. Don't just take pictures using fun filters; use them with your favorite video messenger, or make a movie to share. Neonize or polarize your appearance, make your image seem drawn with chalk or colored pencils, go retro with the 50's Movie Reel, or make yourself appear ghostly.

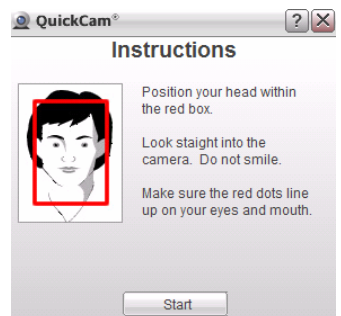


Example 5 – Turn Yourself into an Avatar

Toggle between live video and video effects.



- Click the **QuickCapture** icon to activate your camera.
- Click the **Video Effects** icon on the **QuickCam Control Panel**.
- Select the avatar you want to become.
- The first time you choose an avatar, a calibration wizard pops up (pictured right). Click the **Start** button and position your face within the red square so that the software can calibrate the avatar to your face.
- After completing the wizard, click the green **Start** button next to your selected avatar to toggle live video to the avatar.
- Nod your head, blink your eyes and open your mouth to see how the avatar mimics your actions.
- With the avatar active, you can take a photo or record a movie.



Tip: Leave the Video Effects window open so that you can easily change to an avatar or apply a video accessory during a video call or video chat session.

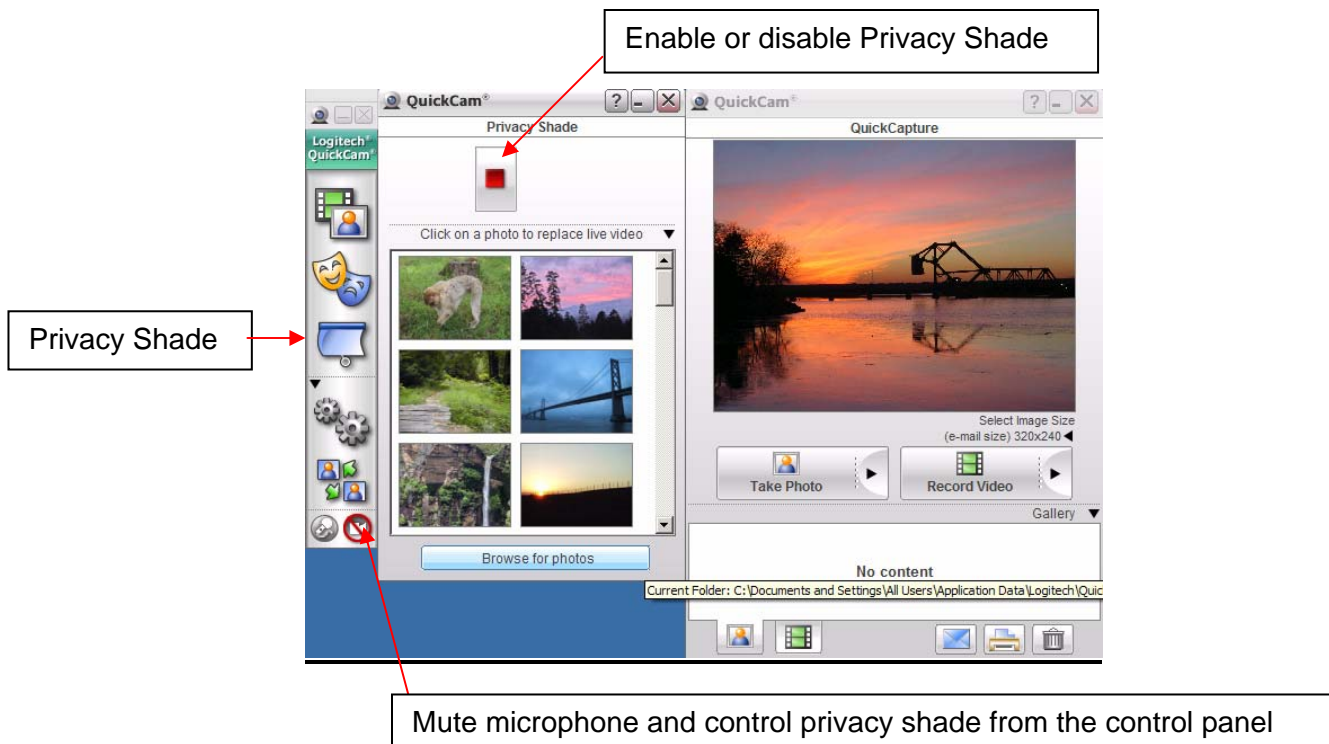
During use, if you notice problems with models or accessories tracking your facial features, try increasing the amount of light in the room, or try recalibrating the camera by clicking on the Video Effect Options button, then selecting Calibrate Avatars.

Logitech frequently adds new avatars, face accessories and fun filters, available free for download at www.logitech.com/videoeffects.

3.3.3 Privacy Shade

There are times when you might prefer not to send live video. Unlike some cameras that merely block the camera lens with a piece of plastic, thereby sending a black video frame, the QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams are equipped with a software-enabled privacy shade. If you want privacy, the privacy shade substitutes a still image for the live video stream. You can choose photos from the photo gallery supplied by Logitech, or use one of your own favorite pictures.

Example 6 – Enable Privacy Shade



- Click the **QuickCapture** icon to activate your camera and preview your privacy shade.
- Click the **Privacy Shade** icon on the **QuickCam Control Panel**.
- Select a photo from the supplied photo gallery, or click **Browse for Photos** to select one of your own.

- Click the green **Start** button to replace live video with your selected photo. The icon becomes a red **Stop** button. To return to live video, click the **Stop** button.

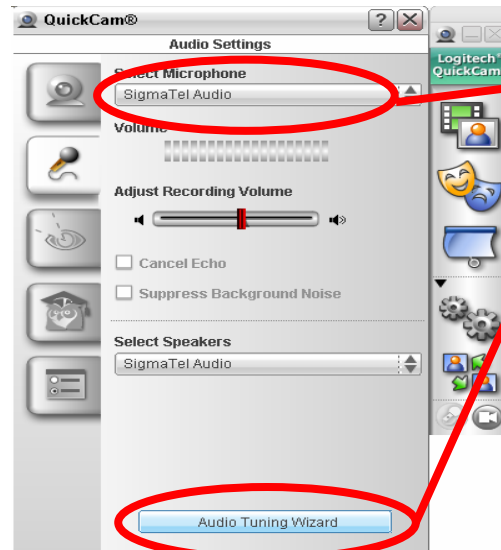
3.3.4 Change Settings

The **Change Settings** menu lets you control virtually all of the settings on your QuickCam Pro 9000 or QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam. Many settings, such as exposure control, brightness, contrast and white balance have been optimized for you through RightLight 2 Technology, and overriding the default settings is rarely required. There are some settings that you may wish to adjust, such as automatic face tracking to match your personal preferences.

3.4 Testing Considerations

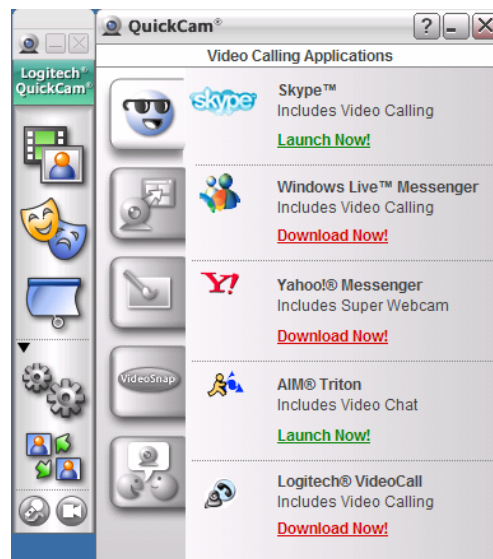
- The Logitech QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcams have been optimized to work in incandescent or halogen-illuminated environments. This is the type of lighting most frequently found in the home.

- The first time you launch QuickCam, you will see the audio tuning wizard. You must complete this process or your audio will not be configured properly. If you are experiencing audio problems or need to rerun this wizard (for example, if you chose to cancel it at first launch), you can access it in the Audio Settings tab.



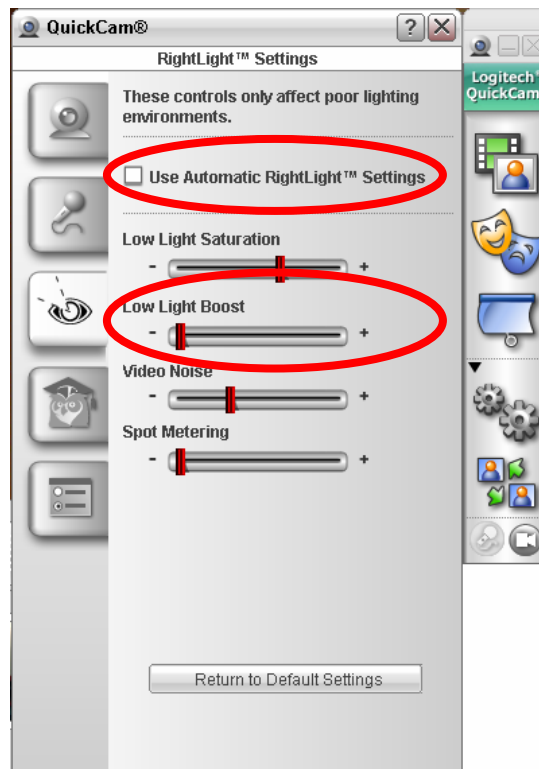
- Logitech Video Effects use a sophisticated face-tracking technology that tracks 22 points on your face. The tracking engine is more accurate with better lighting conditions. If the face-tracking engine determines that it is having problems tracking your face, a dialog box appears, prompting you to increase lighting, and to position lights to uniformly illuminate your face.

- The Logitech QuickCam Pro 9000 and QuickCam Pro for Notebooks webcam is designed to work with all of the popular video calling applications. The **Video Calling Applications** tab on the **QuickCam Control Panel** provides instant access to the five most popular video calling applications. From this control panel, you can download any of the video



calling applications, or, if you already have them installed, launch the application.

- RightLight Technology will reduce the video frame rate in dim light to ensure proper exposure on your face. If you prefer to maximize frame rate instead, either disable RightLight completely or move the “low light boost” slider to the left after un-checking “Use Automatic RightLight Settings”
- Logitech's RightSound Technology is not compatible with 7.1 channel or SPDIF audio. If your system has this audio setup, you must disable both Echo Cancellation and Noise Suppression in RightSound settings for your audio to work properly.



Part 4: Using Video Calling Applications

4.1 Using a Webcam with Instant Messenger Applications

It is simple to get up close and personal with instant messaging (IM). Now you can add video to your IM and be seen and heard with a video call. All you and your friends and family need is a webcam and speakers (or a headset for privacy) and a broadband connection.

Here's how you can get started with the four most popular IM applications.



Skype®

Use your computer to call other Skype users for free — anywhere in the world. Skype offers free unlimited computer calls using just your Internet connection and the power of free Skype software. And now you can also add video to those free calls and see your friends face-to-face! Here's how:

1. Visit www.skype.com to download the latest Skype software.
2. Once you've downloaded the software, simply click the **Add Contact** button to enter your friends' Skype Names in your personal phone book.
 - a. You can search for friends by name, email address or Skype ID.
 - b. Once you find the person you are looking for, click their name to add them to your contact list.
3. Select the Skype name of the person you want to call from your contact list.
4. Press the **Green Phone** button at the bottom of the Skype contact list screen.
5. Once they answer your call, if your friend has the latest Skype application (plus a properly configured webcam and microphone), they will see and hear you in seconds.



Windows Live™ Messenger

Getting started with Windows Live Messenger takes just minutes with the following steps:

1. Download Windows Live Messenger at www.get.live.com/messenger.
2. Launch Windows Live Messenger.
 - a. If you need an account you can sign up for one free when you launch the application – all you need is an email address.
3. To make a call, click the **Video Call** icon (up top) or right-click a contact in your list.
4. Click **Video** as the communication option.
5. Select **Start a Video Call**.

6. A window will appear while you wait for your friend to connect on the other end.
7. Once your contact accepts your invitation, the video conversation will begin.
 - a. If the person you are calling has a webcam, you will be able to see them.
 - b. If the person you are calling does not have a webcam, they will be able to see you but you will not be able to see them.



Yahoo!® Messenger

Yahoo! Messenger also supports video calling. Here's how to get started.

1. Download Yahoo! Messenger at <http://messenger.yahoo.com>.
2. Install Yahoo! Messenger by following the prompts.
3. Launch Yahoo! Messenger from your desktop.
4. To make a video call, click the **Messenger** menu in Yahoo! Messenger and select the **Start My Webcam** option.
5. Select the person you want to call from you list of buddies.
6. Other ways to start a video call (depending on which version of Yahoo! Messenger you are using) include:
 - a. Click the **camera** icon located on the IM window toolbar.
 - b. Click the contact menu located on the IM window and select **Invite to View**.



AOL Instant Messenger (AIM®)

AIM Video is growing and it's easy to get started.

1. Download AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) at www.aim.com.
2. Launch the AIM application on your desktop.
3. Double-click your buddy's name from your buddy list.
 - a. To add or find a buddy, select the **Find a Friend** option from the pull down menu.
 - b. You can find friends by name or email.
4. To make a Video Call, in the AIM window click **Video**.
5. Then select a friend to call.
6. Once they accept your request, your webcams will connect. Simply start talking and you can see and hear each other.
7. To use AIM Video, both you and your buddy will need a microphone, speakers and a webcam.
 - a. If you hover your mouse pointer over your buddy's Screen Name on your buddy list, you can check your buddy's Capabilities and see if your buddy can Video IM with you.

4.2 Sharing Videos Online

Making and sharing videos online is the cool, new thing to do. And fun sites like YouTube and Grouper are fueling the video-sharing craze. If you haven't tried this yet, here's how to get started:



1. Shoot your video using your webcam and QuickCam® software.
2. Go to www.youtube.com to sign up for an account (if you don't already have one).
3. Click **Upload Videos** in the upper-right-hand corner of any YouTube page.
4. Enter as much information about your video as possible, including Title, Description, Tags and Category. The more information you include, the easier it is for people to find your video.
5. Click the **Continue Uploading** button.
6. In the next window, click the **Browse** button to search for the video file. Select the file you want to upload.
7. Set your video to Public or Private and click the **Upload Video** button.

TIP: Make sure your edited video is less than 10 minutes, smaller than 100MB and in a YouTube-acceptable format.



Grouper.com

1. Shoot your video using your webcam and QuickCam® software.
2. Go to www.grouper.com and sign up for an account (if you don't already have one).
3. Click **Upload** at the top of the Grouper.com home page.
4. Login to your account.
5. Pick a video to upload from your computer.
6. Click the **Upload** button.
7. Set your video to Public or Private and click the **Upload Video** button.

Note: Grouper.com also offers one-click posting to MySpace, Friendster, Blogger, WordPress, and many more.