

Chat and collaboration guide for moderators in Blackboard

Last Modified on 03/11/2025 7:41 pm IST

 This article is designated for moderators and hosts

About

The **Chat and Collaboration (C&C)** feature empowers moderators to engage participants, manage interactions, and monitor session performance in live (webcast) and Kaltura Room entries.

Moderators can manage the C&C per session via the media edit page (Chat tab), tailoring the experience to meet specific needs. Check out our article [Manage chat settings for the New Room](#) for details.

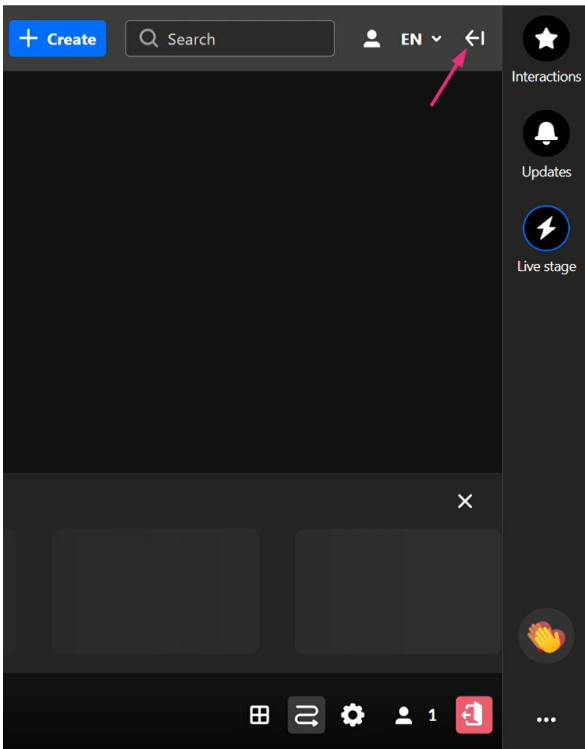
Key features

- **Group chat:** Pin or delete messages, block users, and connect with attendees in real-time.
- **Q&A management:** Respond to attendee questions in a structured format.
- **Interactive tools:** Launch polls, quizzes, and share real-time updates via the Interaction tab.
- **Backchannel:** Collaborate privately with other moderators during live sessions.
- **Participants tab:** Shows everyone in the room, and as a host or moderator, you can manage their capabilities.
- **Session management:** Configure chat settings, view participant lists, and customize the widget's theme to align with your branding.
- **Reports and analytics:** Download chat transcripts, track user participation, and review moderator activity post-session.

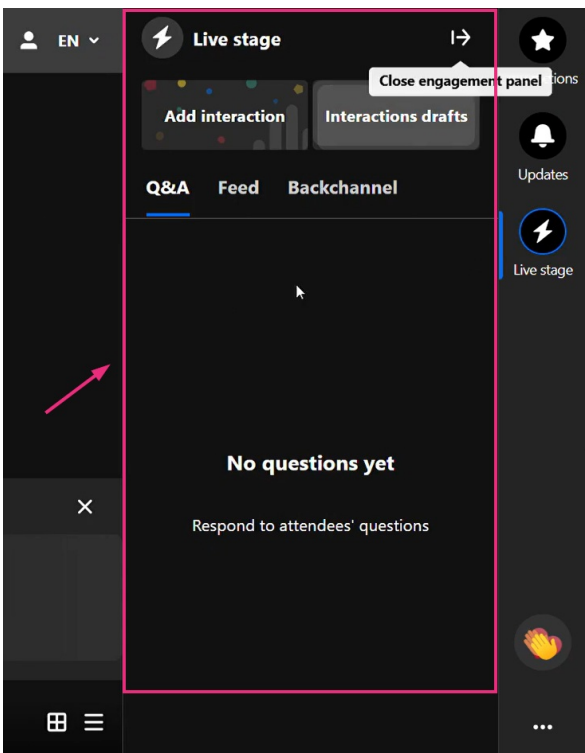
C&C transforms sessions from passive viewing into active participation, enhancing engagement and collaboration.

Open the C&C panel

The C&C menu is located on the right sidebar in desktop and on the bottom of the screen in mobile. In your New Room, click the expand button (arrow icon) in the upper right corner of the screen.



The C&C engagement panel opens.

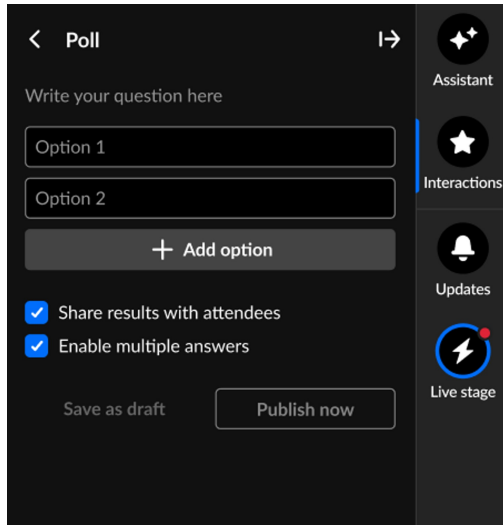


Interactions tab

The **Interactions** tab lets moderators create and publish tools like polls, quizzes, rating scales, crowd votes, open-ended questions, reactions, and announcements. This tab is only visible to moderators.

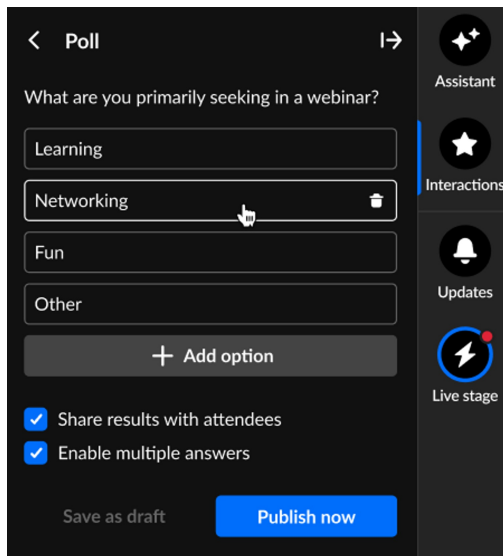
Poll

1. Click **Poll** to start.



2. Type your question and options.

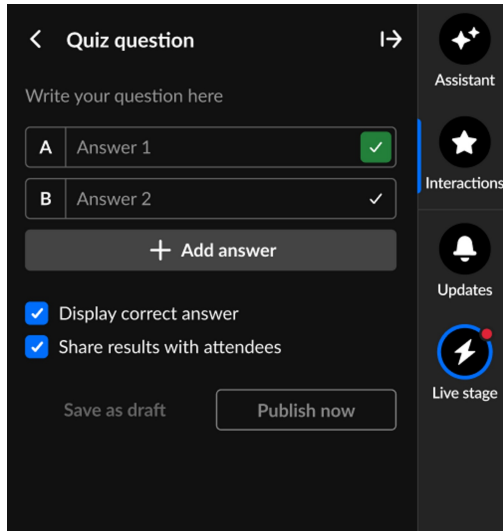
Click **+ Add option** to add more options (up to five total). To remove an answer, hover over it and click the **trashcan icon**.



3. Decide whether to share results with attendees.
4. To allow participants to select multiple answers, check **Enable multiple answers**.
5. Choose **Save as a draft** or **Publish now**:
 - **Save as Draft**: Saves your poll for later. You can access it from the Interactions tab to edit or publish whenever you're ready.
 - **Publish Now**: Immediately displays the poll as a toast popup and adds it to the **Feed** sub-tab in the **Live Stage** tab.

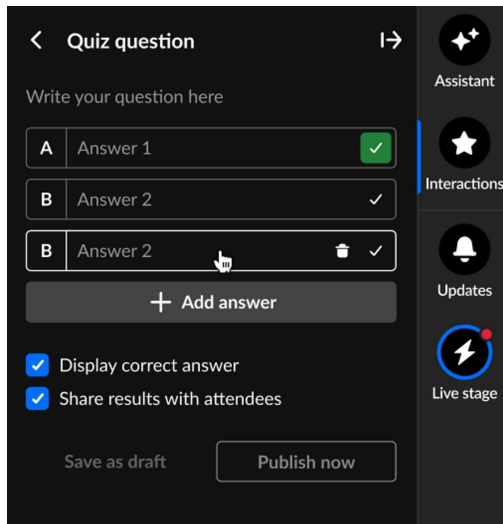
Quiz question

1. Click **Quiz question** to begin.

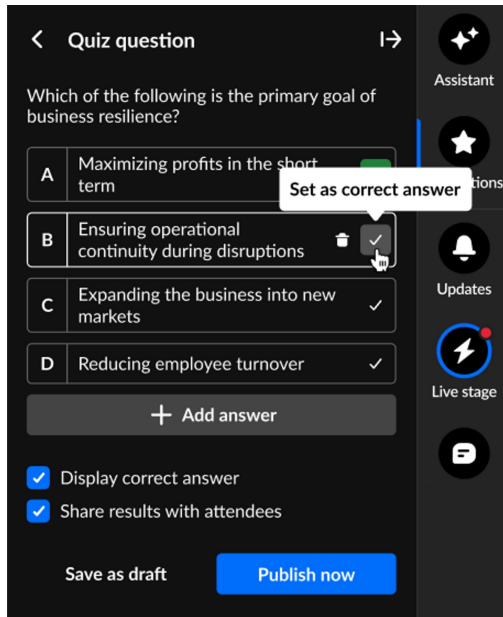


2. Type your question and answers.
3. Click **+ Add answer** to add more answers (up to five total).

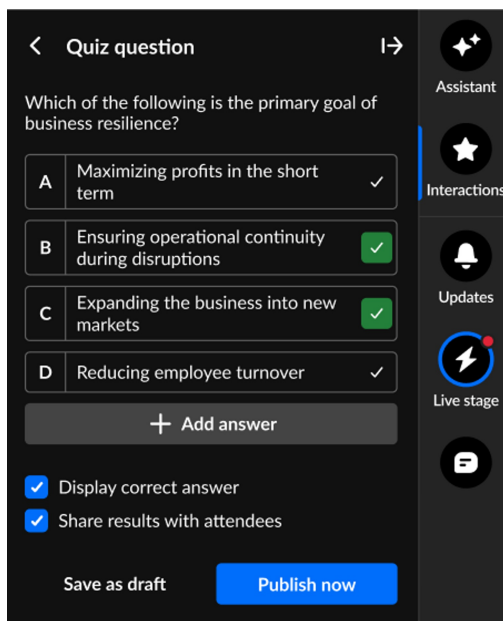
If you want to remove an answer, hover over the answer and click the **trashcan icon**.



You can set up your quiz to allow multiple correct answers by clicking the check mark next to each correct option. You can mark all answers as correct if needed, but at least one must be selected.



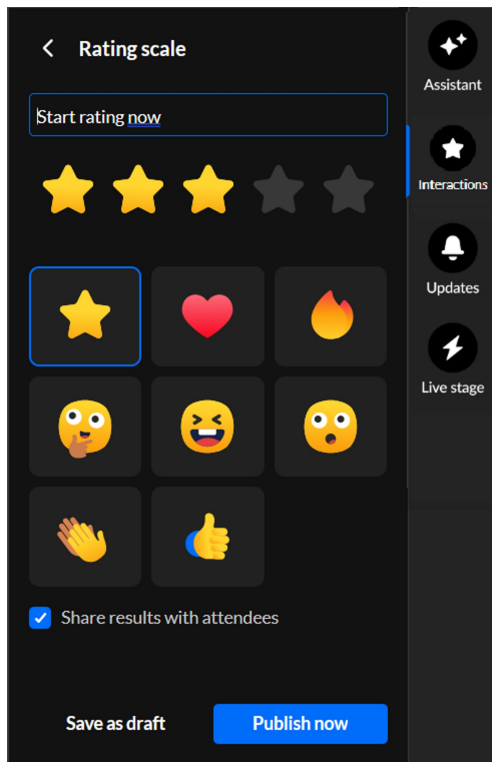
The answers you mark as correct will display in green.



4. Decide whether to **display the correct answer** or **share results with attendees**.
5. Choose **Save as draft** or **Publish now**:
 - **Save as Draft:** Saves your poll for later. You can access it from the Interactions tab to edit or publish whenever you're ready.
 - **Publish Now:** Immediately displays the poll as a toast popup and adds it to the **Feed** sub-tab in the **Live Stage** tab.

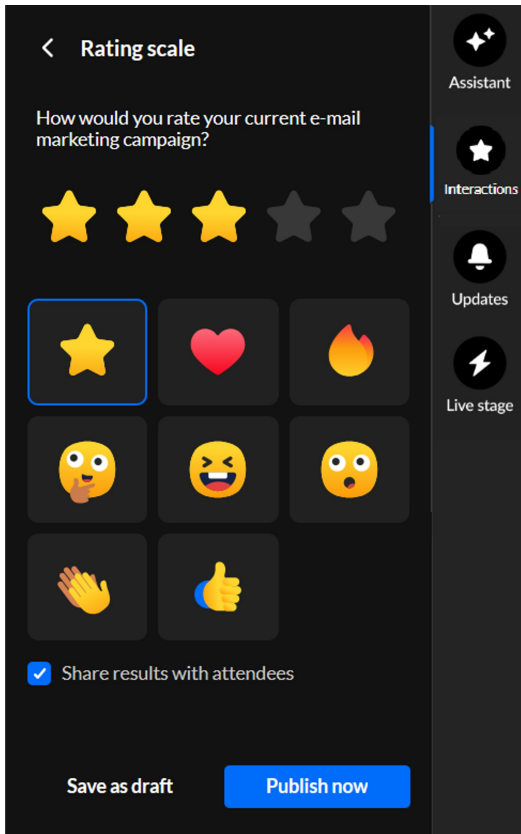
Rating scale

1. Click **Rating scale** to begin.



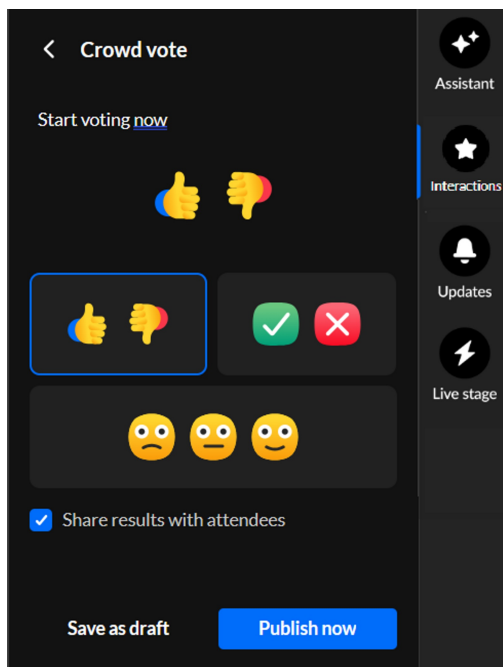
2. Type your question/statement.
3. Choose your rating scale emoji.
4. Decide whether to share results with attendees.
5. Choose **Save as a draft** or **Publish now**.

- **Save as Draft:** Saves your poll for later. You can access it from the Interactions tab to edit or publish whenever you're ready.
- **Publish Now:** Immediately displays the poll as a toast popup and adds it to the **Feed** sub-tab in the **Live Stage** tab.



Crowd vote

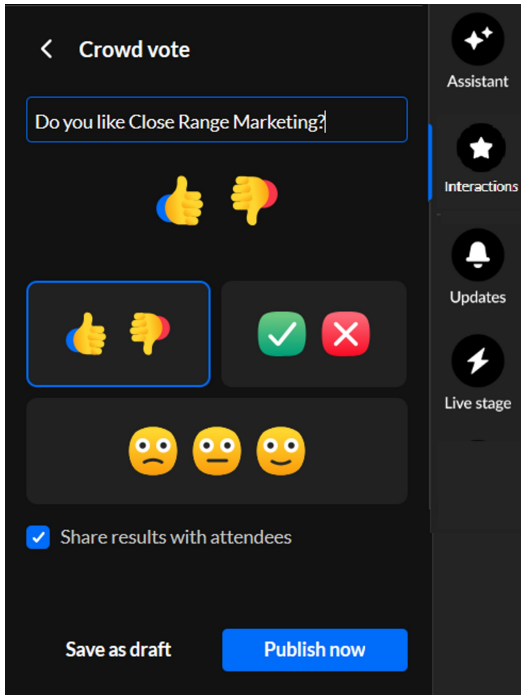
1. Click **Crowd vote** to begin.



2. Type your question/statement.
3. Choose your crowd vote emoji.
4. Decide whether to share results with attendees.

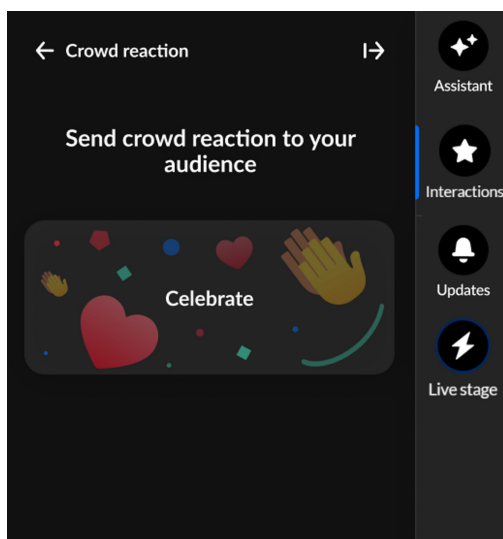
5. Choose **Save as a draft** or **Publish now**.

- **Save as Draft:** Saves your poll for later. You can access it from the Interactions tab to edit or publish whenever you're ready.
- **Publish Now:** Immediately displays the poll as a toast popup and adds it to the **Feed** sub-tab in the **Live Stage** tab.

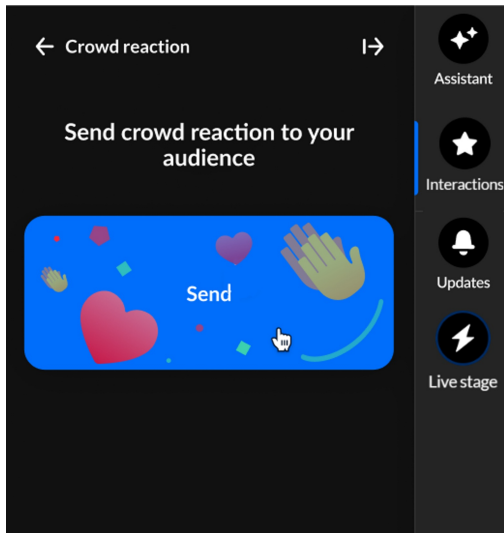


Crowd reaction

1. Click **Crowd reaction** to begin.

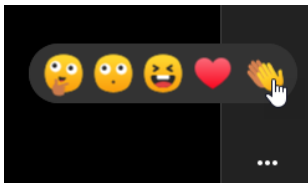


2. Hover over the desired crowd reaction to highlight it, and a **Send** button will appear.

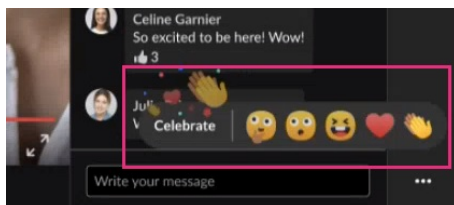


3. Click to send the crowd reaction.

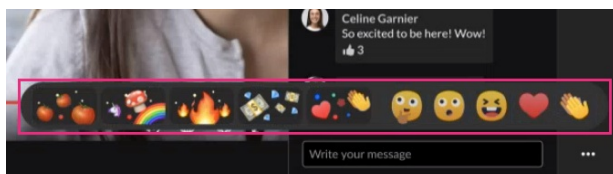
All users can choose from a set of five reactions that display horizontally at the bottom of the Chat and Collaborate widget. See [Reactions](#) for more information.



For **moderators**, this horizontal list of reactions also contains those reactions that are available to them in the Interactions tab.

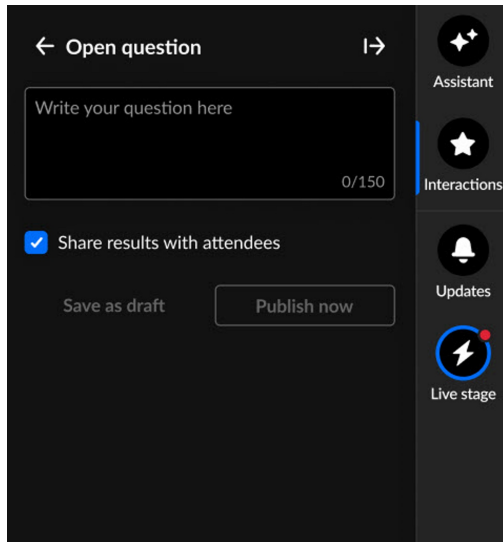


Moderators can click to expand the list of all available crowd reactions.



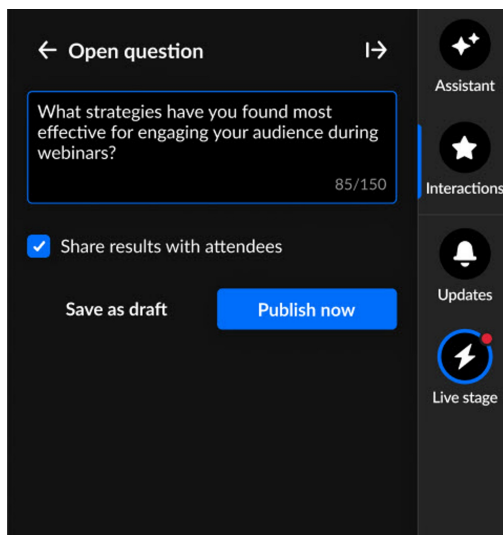
Open-ended question

1. Click **Open-ended question** to begin.



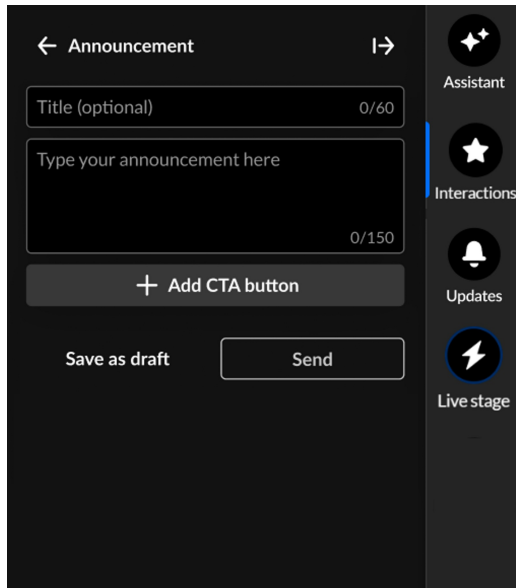
2. Type your question in the text field.
3. Decide whether to share results with attendees.
4. Choose **Save as a draft** or **Publish now**.

- **Save as Draft:** Saves your poll for later. You can access it from the Interactions tab to edit or publish whenever you're ready.
- **Publish Now:** Immediately displays the poll as a toast popup and adds it to the **Feed** sub-tab in the **Live Stage** tab.



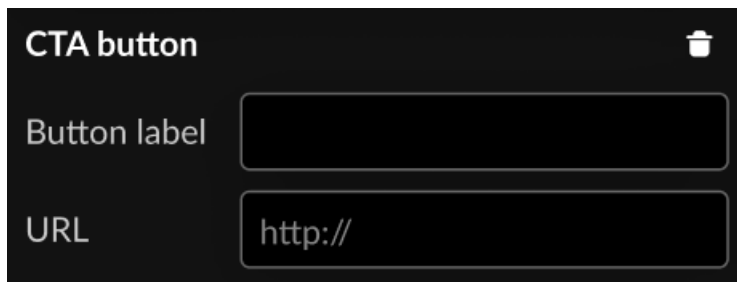
Announcement

1. Click Announcement to begin.



2. Type a **title** for your announcement (optional), such as *Mid-webinar alert!*
3. Then type the announcement itself, such as *Get your questions ready for the upcoming Q&A session!*
4. Click **+ Add CTA button**.

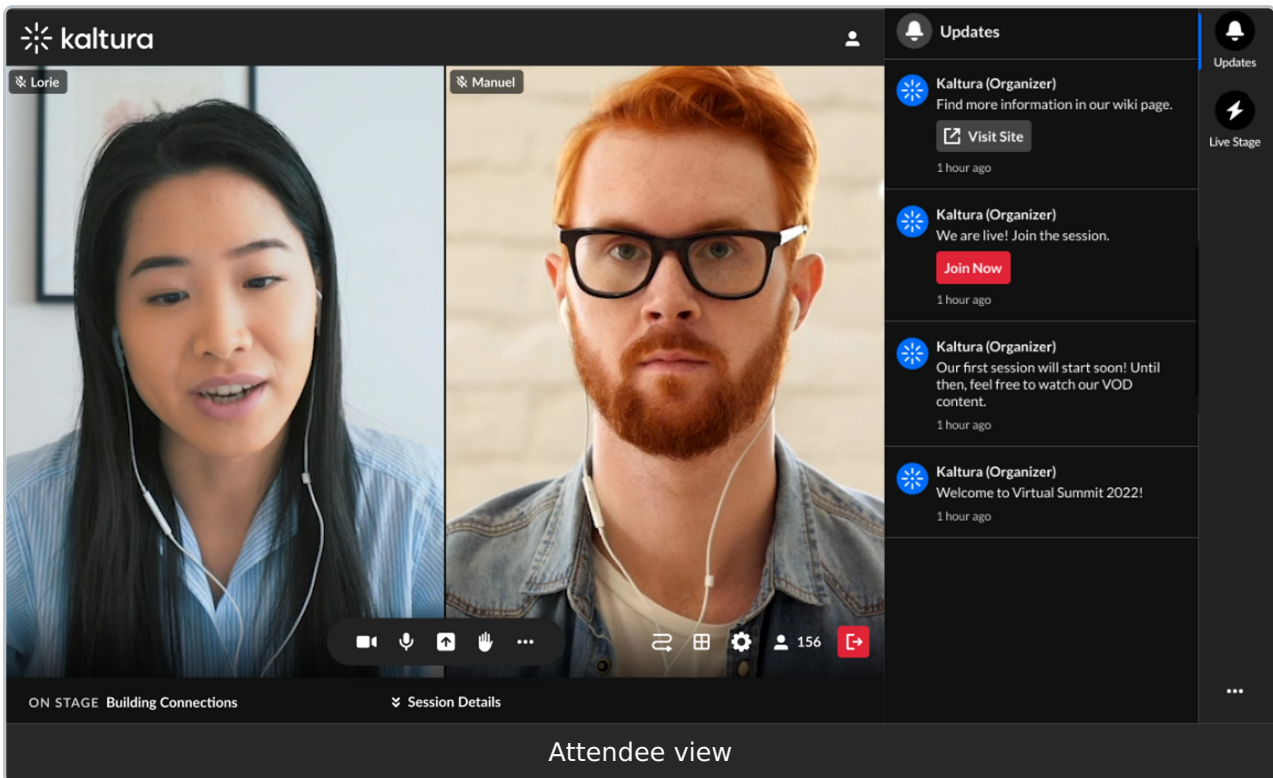
Additional options display.



5. Enter a **label** for your CTA button and the URL users will be directed to when they click it. If you decide not to include a CTA, simply click the **trashcan icon** to remove it.
6. Choose **Save as a draft** or **Publish now**.
 - **Save as Draft:** Saves your poll for later. You can access it from the Interactions tab to edit or publish whenever you're ready.
 - **Publish Now:** Immediately displays the poll as a toast popup and adds it to the **Feed** sub-tab in the **Live Stage** tab.

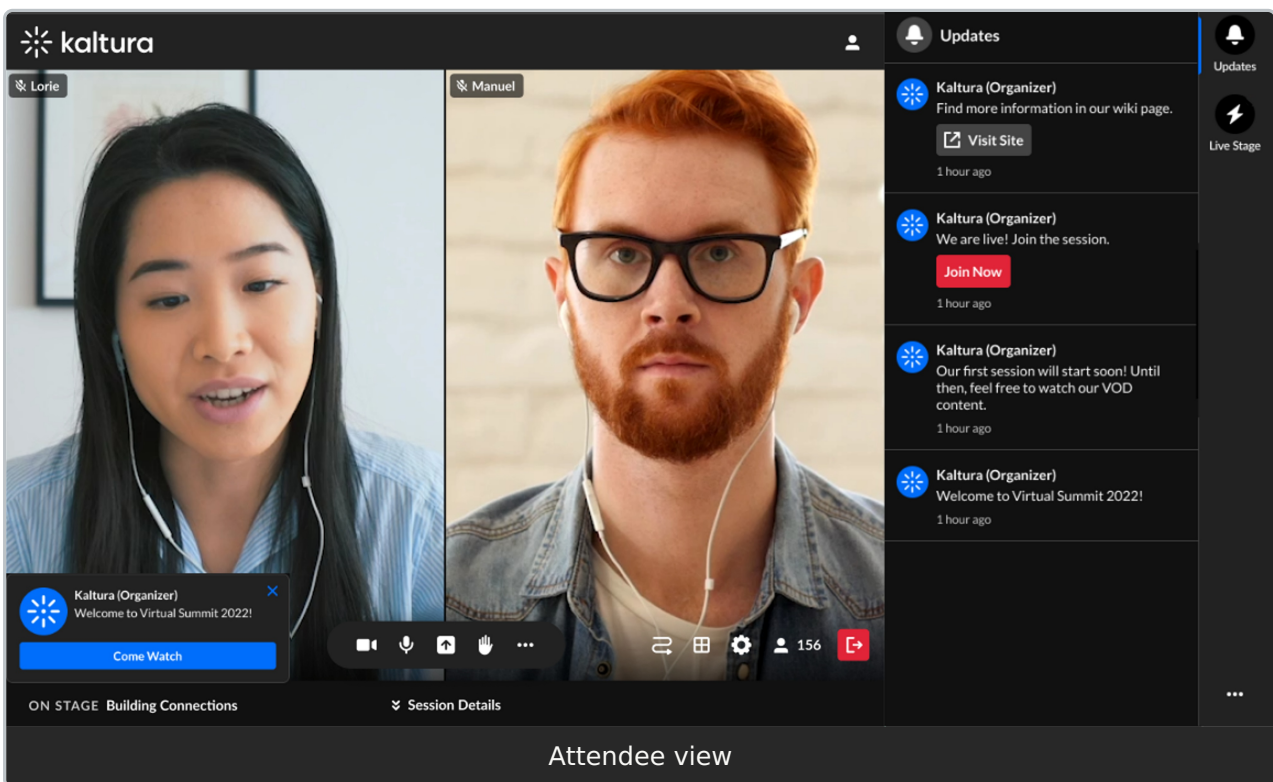
Updates tab

The Updates tab displays the notifications sent from the moderator to all participants during the session. The Updates tab displays the same to an attendee and a moderator.



Attendee view

The following shows the Updates tab with a small toast popup in the lower left corner of the screen.



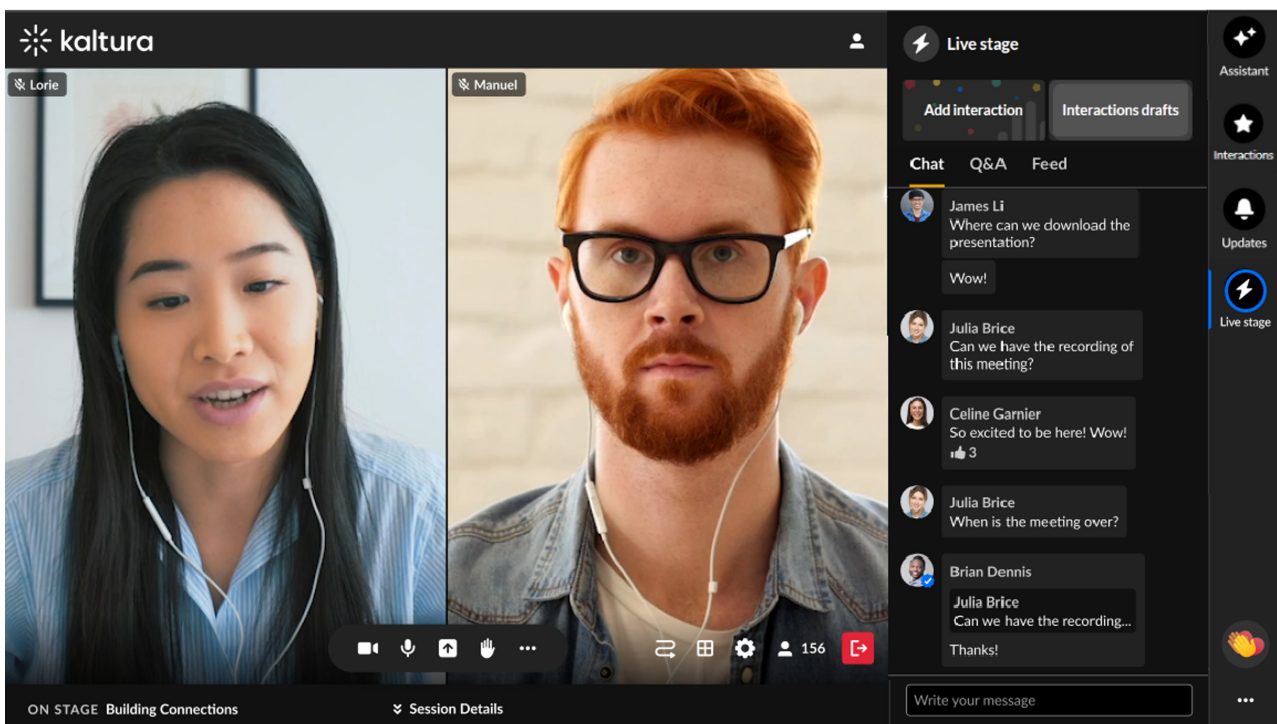
Attendee view

Live Stage tab

The Live Stage tab is only for a specific context, for example, a specific session, and includes tabs for **Chat**, **Q&A** and **Feed**.

Chat tab

The Chat tab provides a space for group chat within a specific session or context. Attendees can write, like, and reply to messages, as well as delete their own messages. Moderators have enhanced capabilities, including pinning messages, deleting all messages, blocking users, and accessing interaction tools. The interface and options differ slightly between attendees and moderators.



- Type your message in the text field to start chatting.
- Hover over any message to:
 - Select the **Like icon** to like the message.
 - Select the **Reply icon** to reply to the message.
 - Select the **Trashcan icon** to delete any message.
 - Select the **Pin icon** to pin the message to the top of the list. (Pinned messages can be unpinned by a moderator.)
 - Select the **Block icon** to block the user from the group chat.
- Use the interaction cards at the top of the screen to access additional interaction capabilities.

Q&A tab

The Q&A tab enables attendees to ask questions directly to moderators, who can

respond to them within the session.

Single thread versus multi-thread (multiple question threads) capability

The Q&A tab supports two configurations for managing questions, determined by your admin:

Single thread (default):

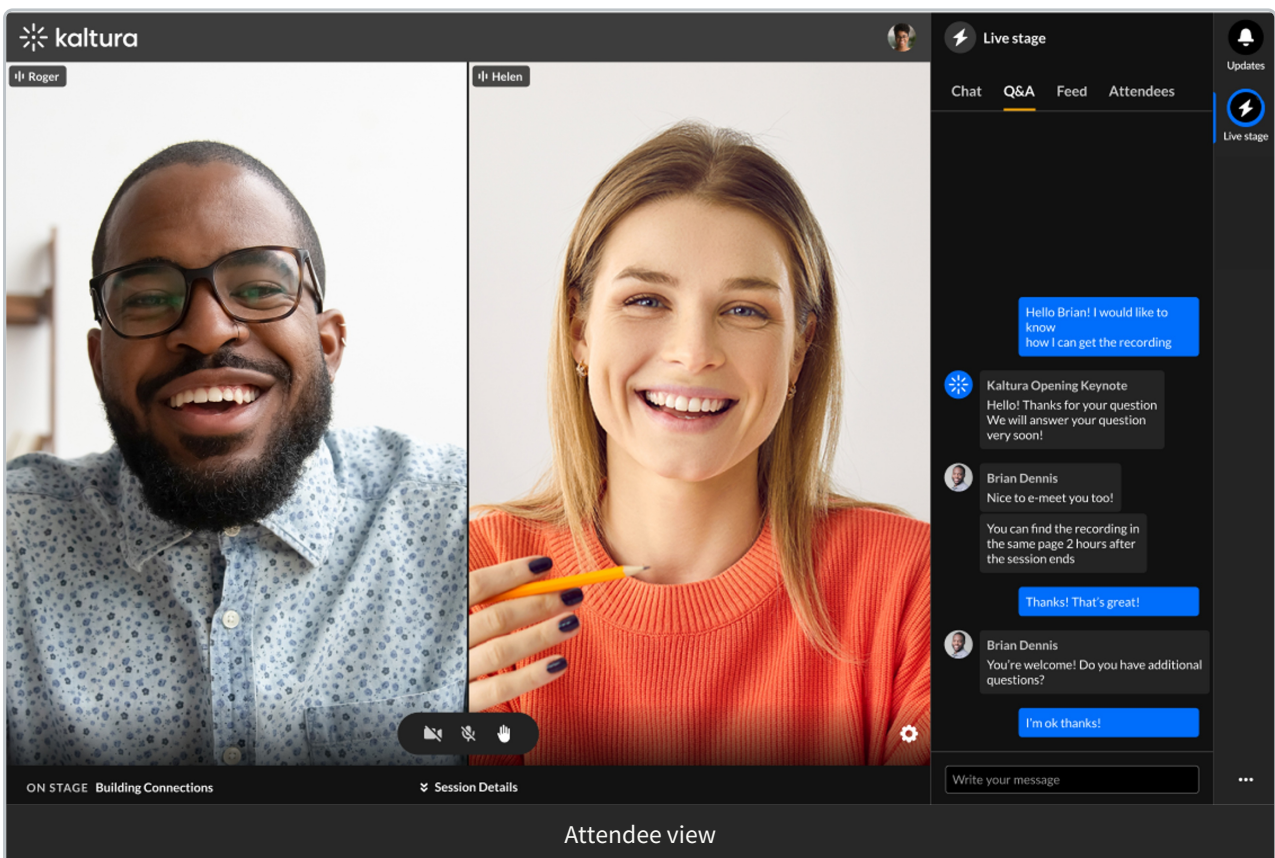
All questions from a specific attendee are grouped into a single thread. This creates a unified conversation flow between the attendee and moderator.

Multi-thread:

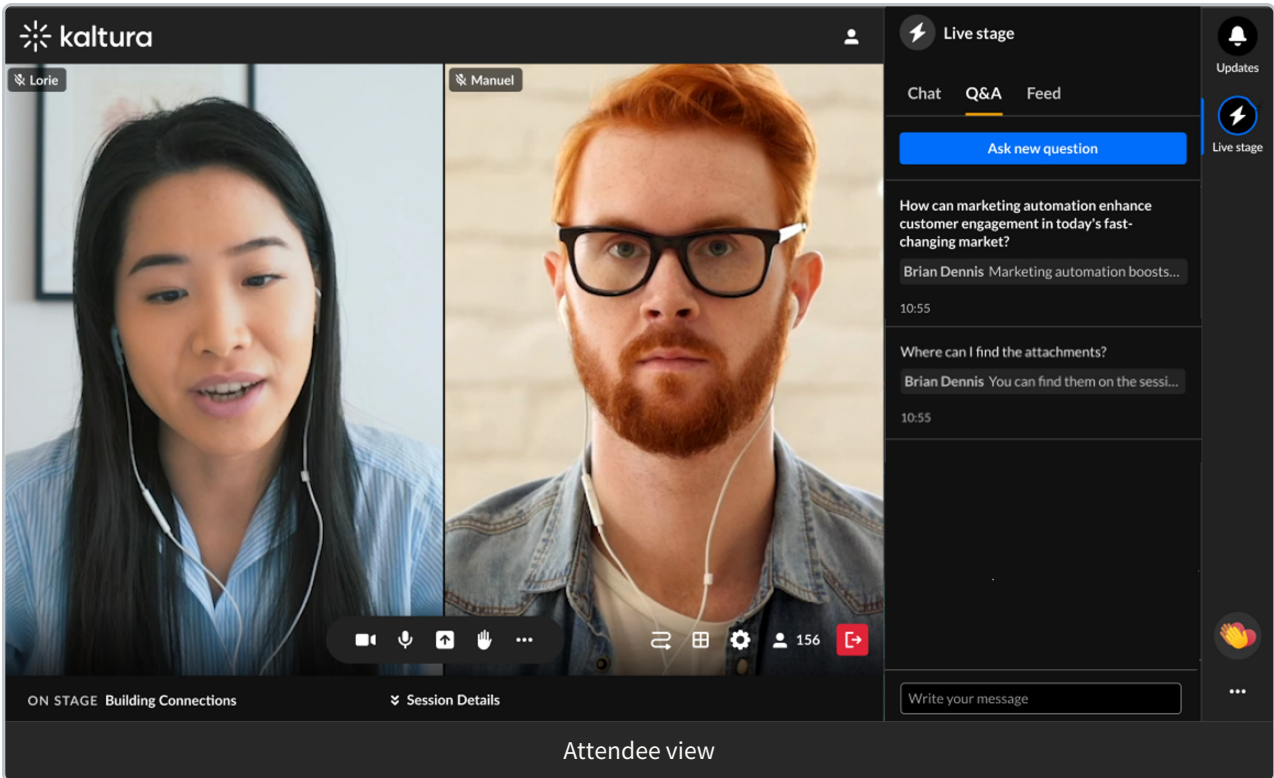
Each question asked by an attendee is displayed as its own separate thread. This allows attendees to have multiple threads open with the moderator, making it easier to organize questions by topic or context.

Admins can select the configuration that best suits the session's needs for clarity and efficiency.

Single thread example:

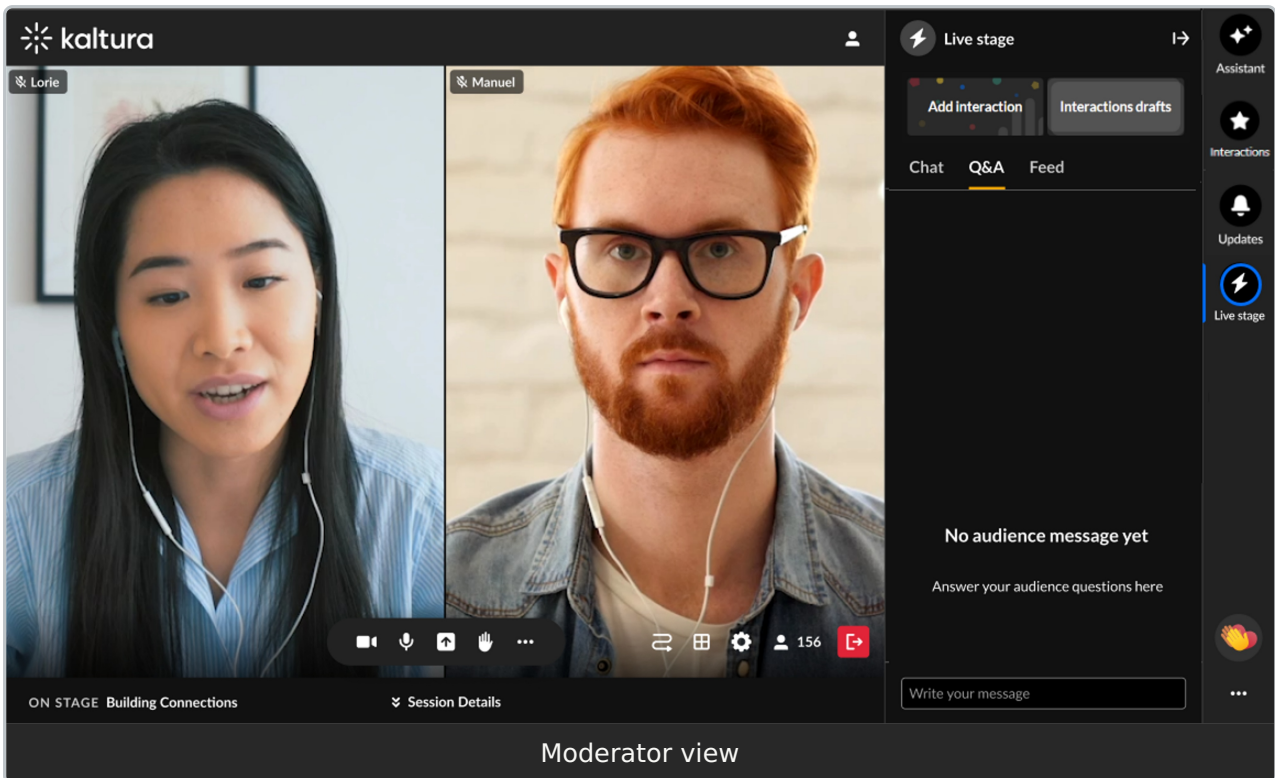


Multi-thread example:

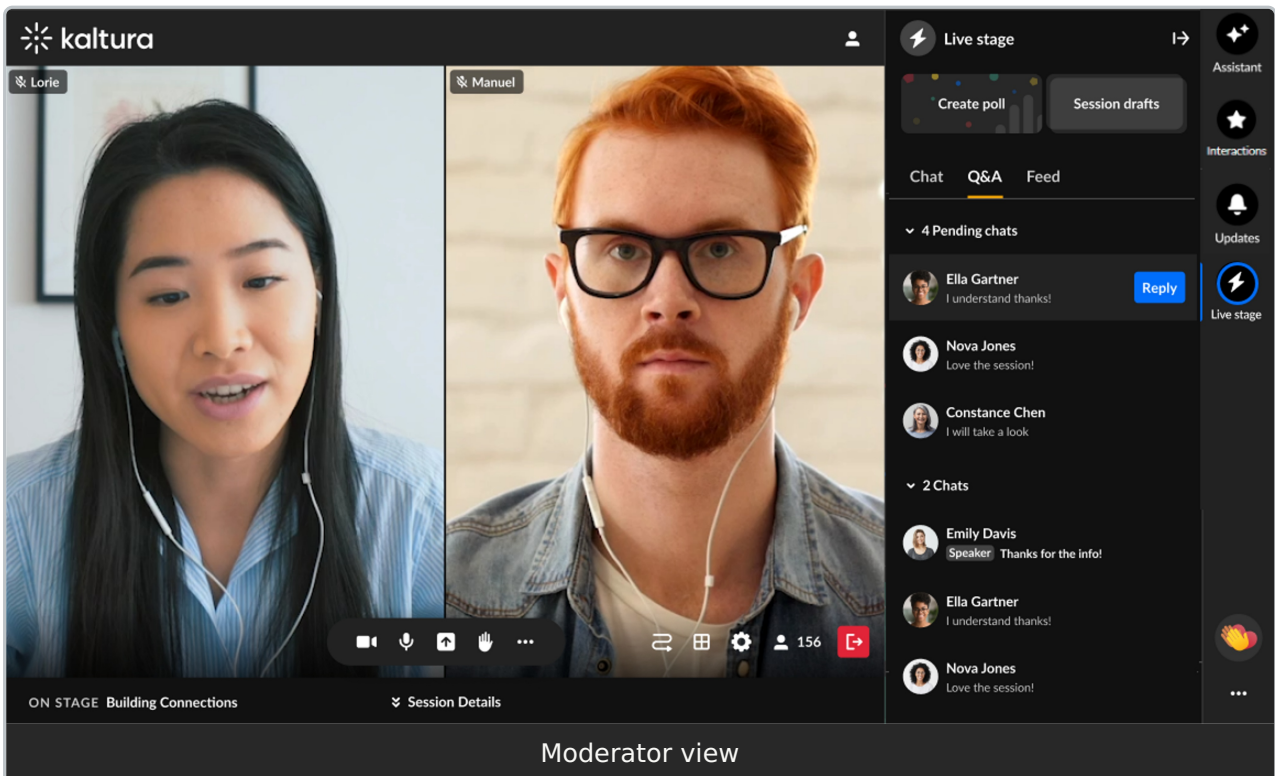


We will be demonstrating the multi-thread capability in this article. Please contact your Kaltura representative for additional information.

If there are no messages from attendees, the following is displayed.



If there are messages from attendees, the following is displayed.

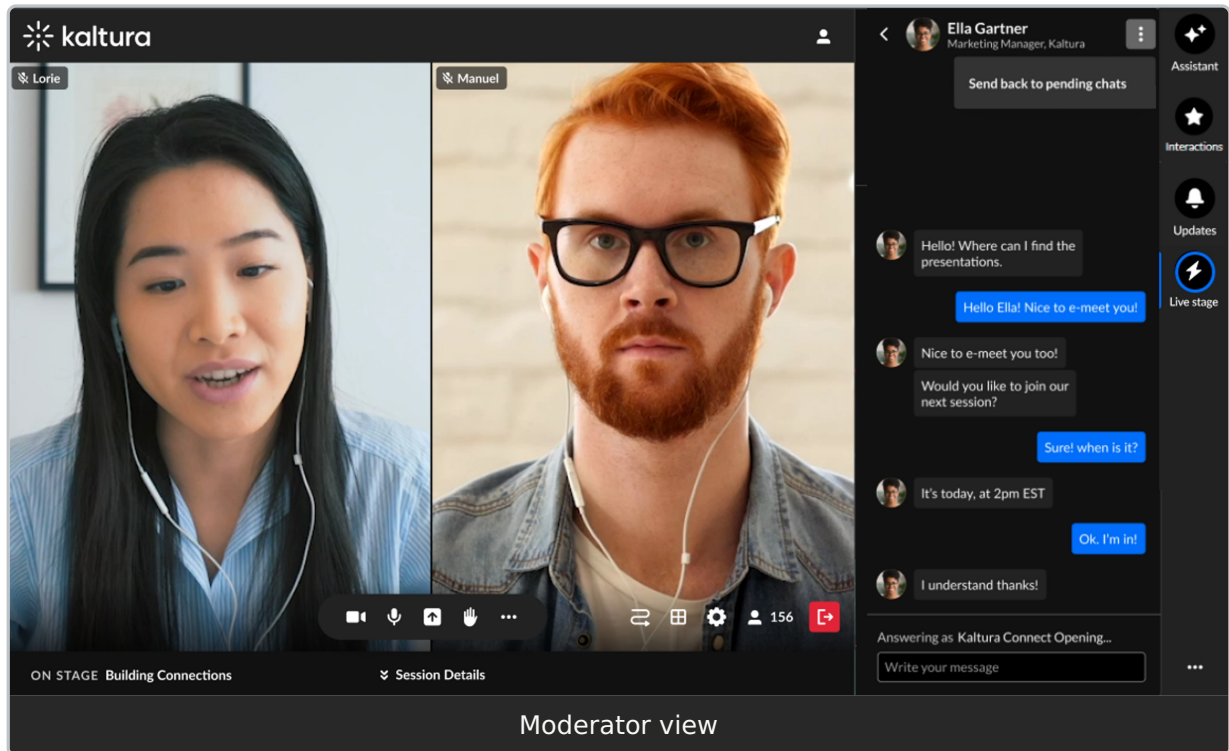


The number of pending chats and claimed chats are displayed, along with arrows allowing you to either expand or collapse both lists.

To read a pending or claimed chat, click on the chat (*not* the **Reply** button).

To claim a pending chat and begin a one-on-one conversation with that attendee -

1. Click the **Reply** button to the right of an attendee's name. A one-on-one conversation is initiated with that attendee.



2. Type your message in the text field. Notice a message above the field reads "Answering as [Session Name]", indicating that you are talking in the chat as a moderator, and you are *not* in a private chat.

To navigate back to the Q&A tab, click the back arrow.

To un-claim and send the chat back to pending chats, click the **three dots** and choose **Send back to pending chats** button.

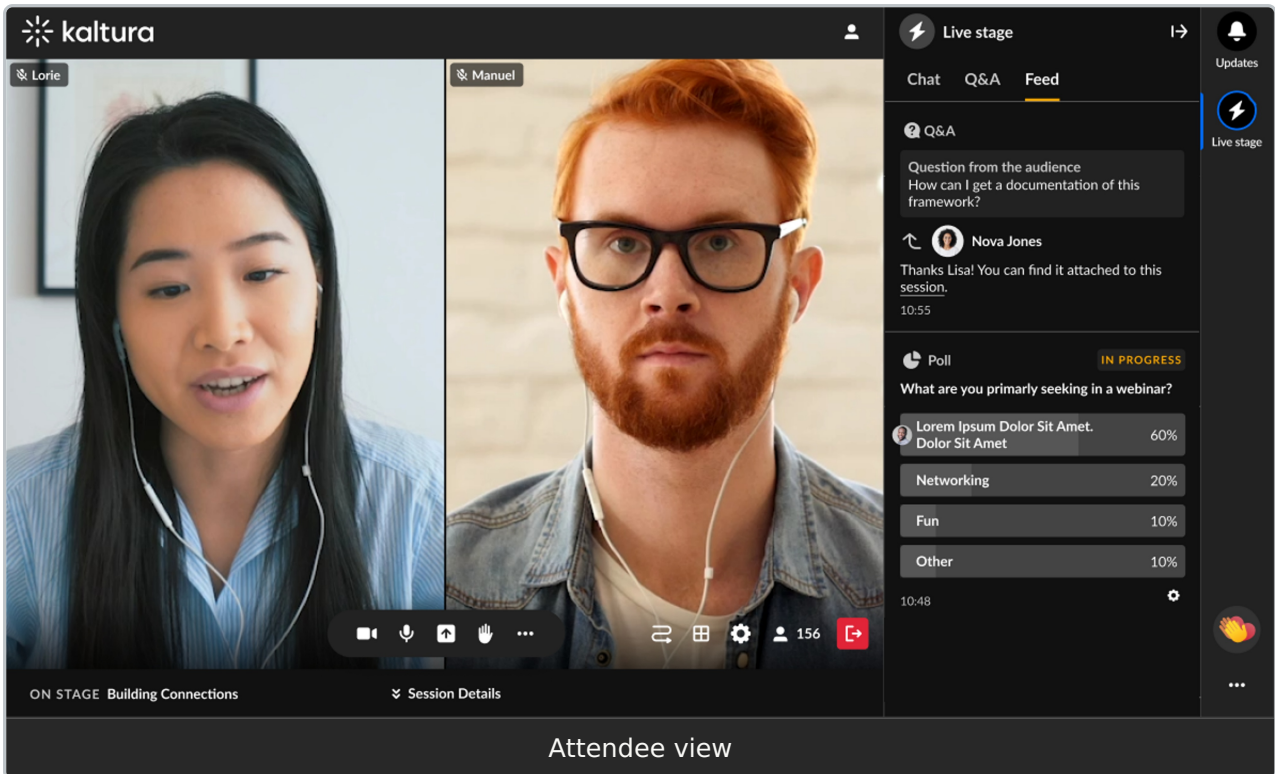
Moderators have the following additional capabilities in the Q&A tab, just as they do in the Chat sub-tab.

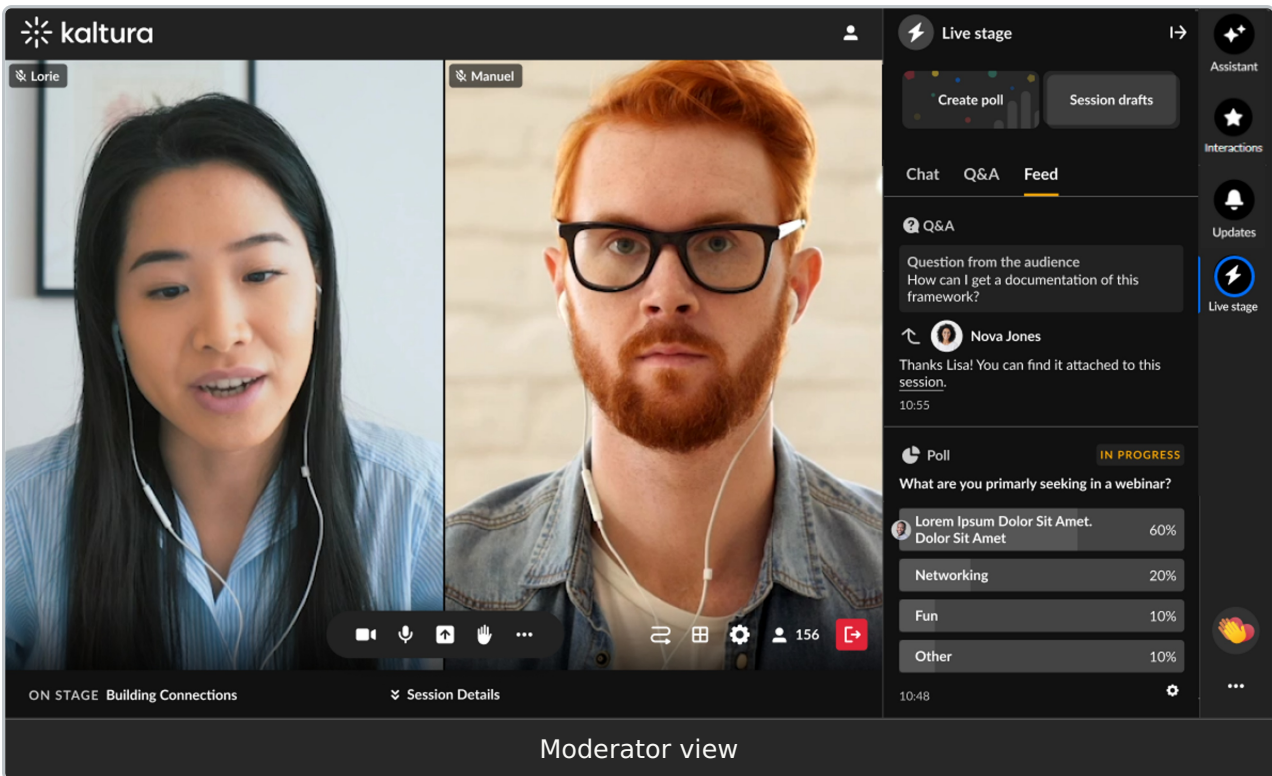
- Hover over any message to:
 - Select the **Like icon** to like the message.
 - Select the **Reply icon** to reply to the message.
 - Select the **Trashcan icon** to delete any message.
 - Select the **Pin icon** to pin the message to the top of the list. (Pinned messages can be unpinned by a moderator.)
 - Select the **Block icon** to block the user from the group chat.

- Click one of the interaction 'cards' at the top of the screen to access interaction capabilities.

Feed tab

The Feed tab functions like a social media feed, displaying various session components. Both attendees and moderators use this tab to view items such as pinned messages and interactions, including polls, rating scale polls, and crowd vote polls. The Feed tab layout and functionality differ for attendees and moderators.





Moderator view

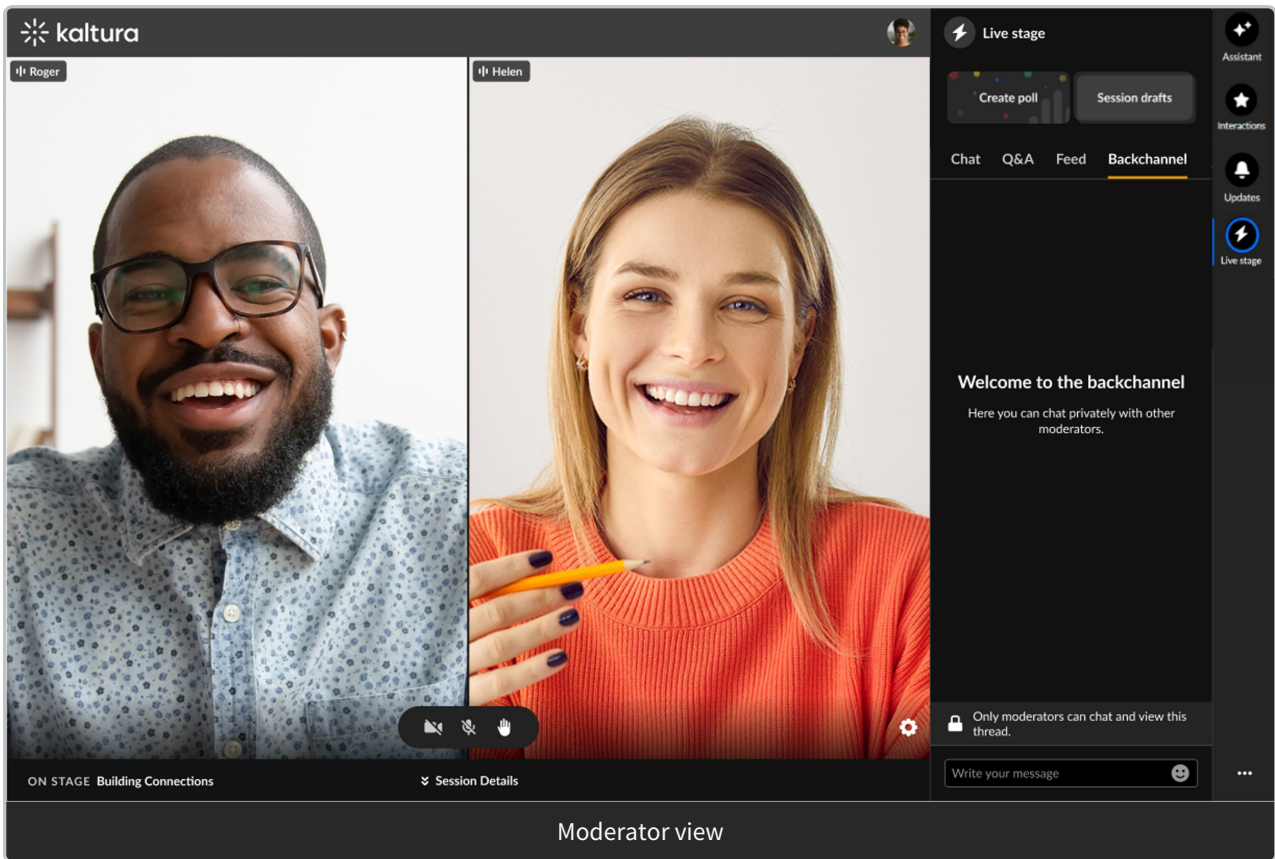
Moderators can:

- Hide results of a poll, end polls, and unpublish polls on the Feed tab.
- Pin a message from the Chat tab and Q&A tab and it will display on the Feed tab as a "pinned message". (A message that was pinned can also be unpinned by a moderator.)
- Click one of the interaction "cards" at the top of the screen to access interaction capabilities.

Backchannel tab

The Backchannel tab provides a private space for moderators to communicate with each other during a specific session. This tab functions similarly to the Chat tab but is exclusive to moderators designated for that session.

The following figure depicts a Backchannel tab with no messages posted.



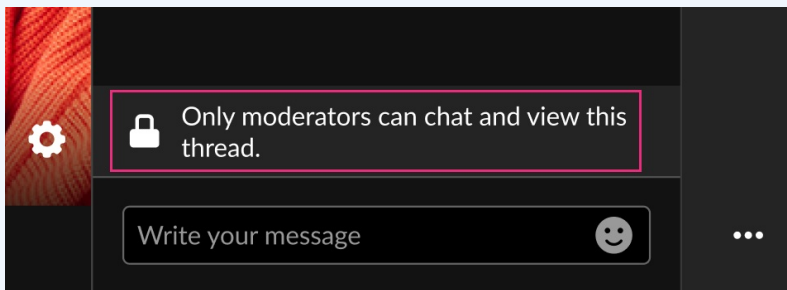
The following figure depicts a Backchannel tab populated with moderator messages.



- Type your message in the text field to start chatting with other moderators.
- Hover over a message and select the **Like icon** to like a message.
- Hover over a message and select the **Reply icon** to reply to a message from another moderator.
- Hover over any one of *your* messages and select the **trashcan icon** to delete the message.
- Click one of the interaction **cards** at the top of the screen to access interaction capabilities.



Note the alert at the bottom of the Backchannel tab. Because the Backchannel and Chat tabs function similarly, this alert helps remind moderators that they are in a "Moderator-only" area.



Participants tab

The participants tab is where you can see all the users in the room and as a host/moderator, you can also manage user capabilities.

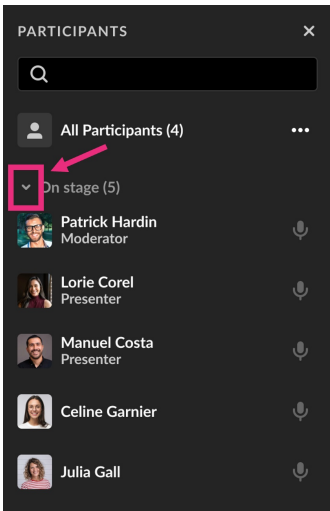
Sections

On the Participants list, users are listed under the following section(s):

1. Raised hands
2. On stage
3. Viewers

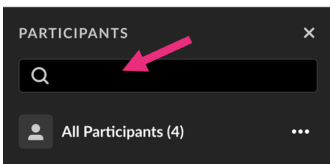
Each section indicates the number of users in that section, as well as the names of the users, with a label for moderator, host, or custom permissions. Icons for raised hand and microphone are displayed when relevant, to the right of each name.

You can click on the **v** to the left of each section name to collapse the section, and then the **>** to expand it. When there are many users listed in a section, you will also see the clickable options to **See more** and then **See less**.



Search

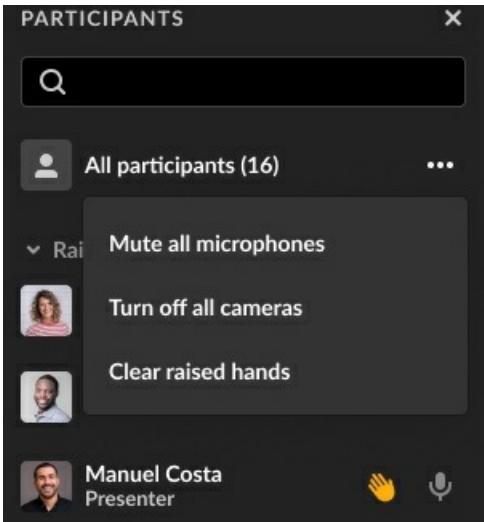
Wondering if someone is in your room? Or who is on stage? The search bar is a handy tool to navigate the Participants list. You can start typing in the search bar, and the list will display results for the text you've entered as well as in which section the user(s) appear.



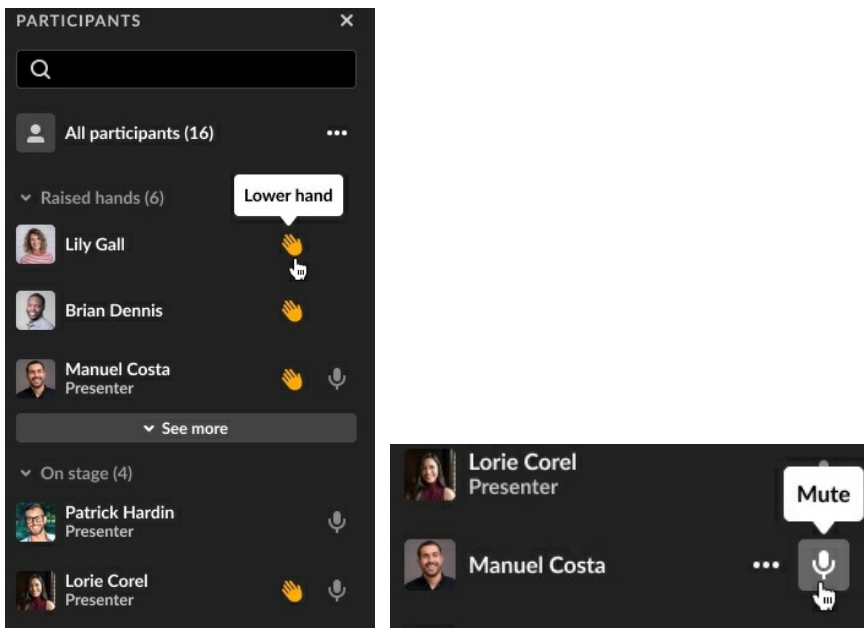
Managing participants

At the top of the list, you'll see **All participants** with the number, and a **three dots menu**. Clicking the three dots menu will offer the following options:

- Mute all microphones (except yours)
- Turn off all cameras (except yours)
- Clear raised hands

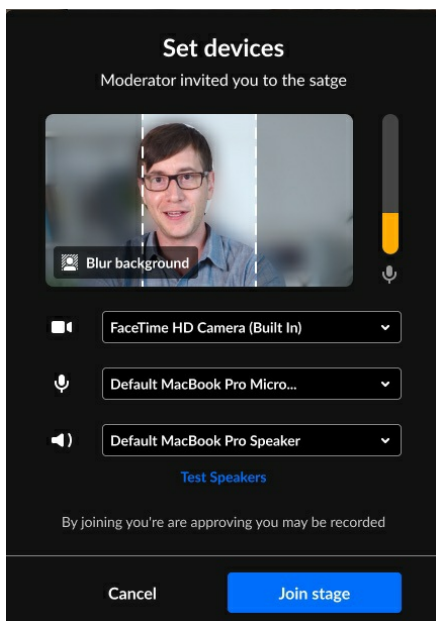


You can manage users individually by navigating to a name in the list, and hovering to click a **raised hand** icon to lower it, or clicking a **microphone** icon to mute or unmute a user (when the user is on stage).

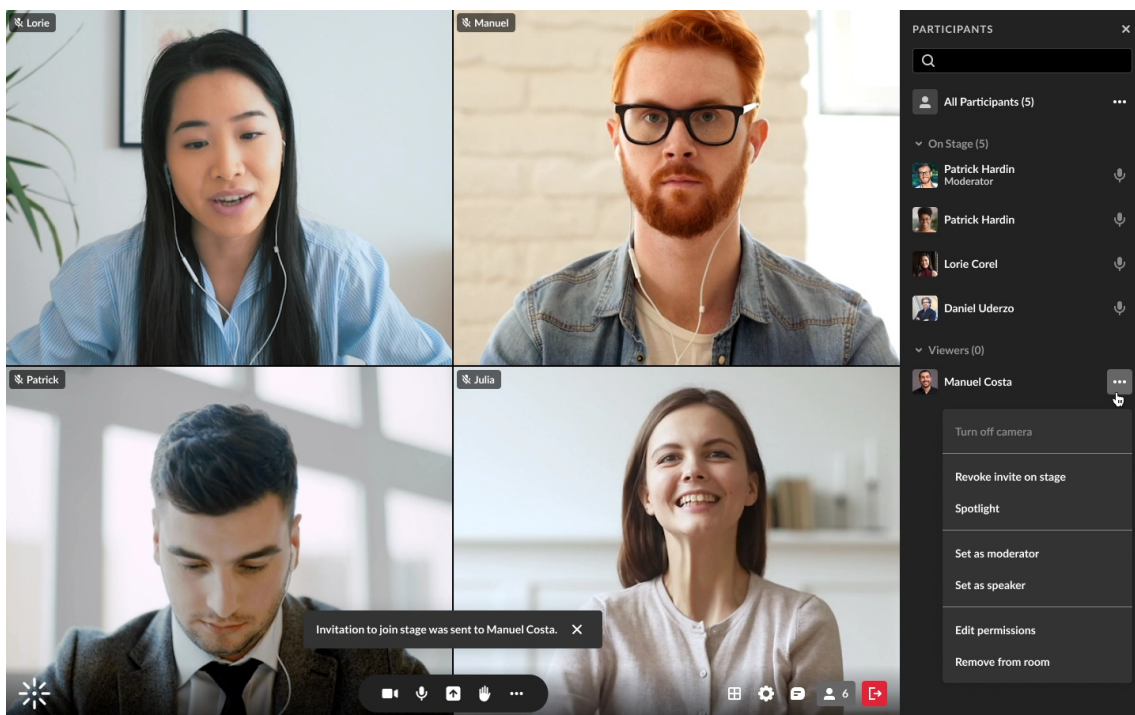


There is also a **three dots menu** next to each name which offers more actions:

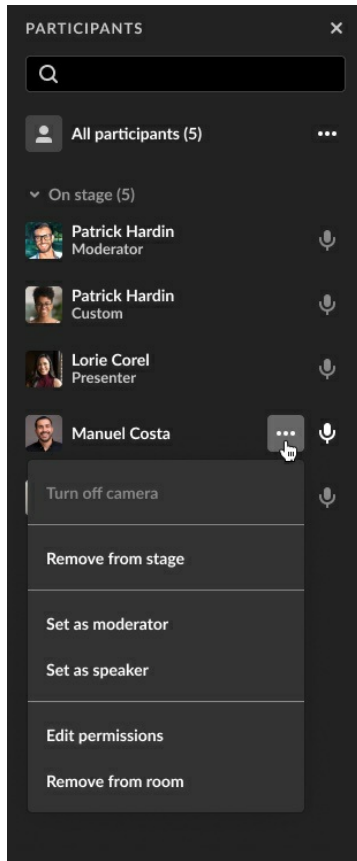
- **Invite to stage/Remove from stage**
 - **Invite to stage** send the user a *Set devices* popup window where they can **Decline invitation** or **Join stage**.



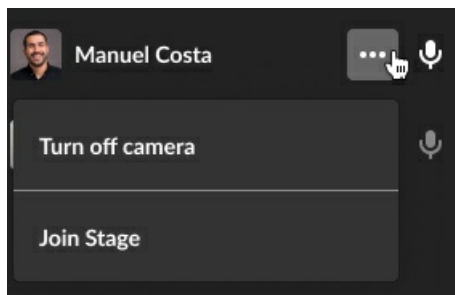
- Until the participant responds to an invitation, you'll have the option to **Revoke invite on stage** (even if another moderator initiated the invitation).



- **Spotlight**
- **Set as moderator**
- **Set as speaker**
- **Edit permissions** (see [Users' Permissions](#))
- **Remove from room**



- When clicking the **three dots menu** next to your own name, you'll have the options to **Turn off camera** if on stage, and **Join stage/Remove from stage**.

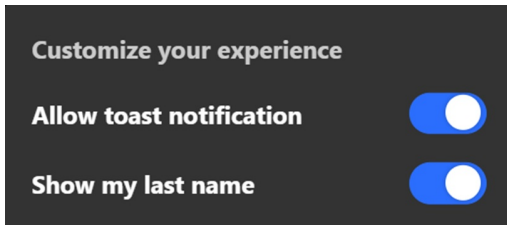


Items available in the three dots menu depend on user relevant capability and only those with relevant capability can manipulate participants' streams.

- **Turn off camera** - Turns off the participant's camera.
- **Remove from stage** - Adds/removes the participant from the stage. That participant can always join the stage again if enabled by a moderator.
- **Set as moderator** - Sets that participant as a moderator.
- **Set as speaker** - Sets that participant as a speaker.
- **Edit permissions** - Edits the participant's user permission. See User permissions.
- **Remove from room** - Removes the user from the room.

Settings

A participant can configure their own settings. Click the **three dots** at the bottom of the right panel to display the options.

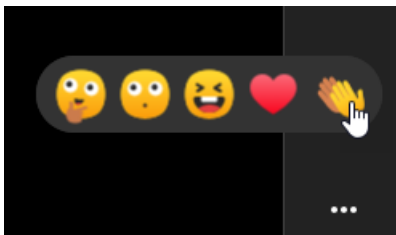


Toggle on the desired item to enable it.

- **Allow toast notification** - Some examples of toast notifications include new polls, messages sent specifically to you, or updates.
- **Show my last name** - Displaying your full name, not just your first name.

Reactions

1. The possible reaction types display horizontally. Click on the **Reactions icon** (clapping hands emoji).



2. Click on the desired reaction emoji.

The reactions you initiate will display to everyone in the session.

