Using the Mersive Solstice Pod Wireless Display and Collaboration Appliance

The Mersive POD is a wireless collaboration device that enables multiple users to share their device’s content with the entire class on the classroom’s projector. A major benefit of this system is that multiple users can connect and wirelessly project simultaneously and with different types of devices including tablets, mobile phones, and computers running Android, iOS, OSX, or Windows. It is possible to share pictures, videos, audio, web pages, screen/desktop mirroring, applications, and more. Also, the instructor is able control who can display and what is displayed.

The Mersive Pod is currently installed in:
- Sharpless Auditorium
- Stokes Auditorium

Connecting your device to the Mersive POD:

1. To connect your device to the POD you must first download the Mersive software or app to your device:
   - PC or Mac computer/tablet: Go to https://www.mersive.com/get-solstice/
   - Android phone/tablet: Choose the “Solstice” app in the “Google Play” store.
   - iOS (iPhone): Choose the “Solstice” app in the “App Store”.

2. Connect your device to the POD: Open up your device’s wireless network (WiFi) settings and connect your device to either “Stokes Auditorium POD” or “Sharpless Auditorium POD”. The password is “Haverford”.

3. If you are using the Solstice app or software for the first time: Open the “Solstice” app or software and choose the “Enter IP” tab. Enter the following IP address: 192.168.43.1

After you have entered the IP address, in order to join the POD session you may be prompted to enter an on-screen alphanumeric code or you may have to be accepted by the session’s moderator (see “Choosing the type of POD session” below).

Starting a Mersive Pod Session:

On the lectern’s AV control panel select the “Press Here to Begin” button to turn on the AV system
Select “Video Sources”

Select “Solstice Pod.”

Select the projector that you wish to view your Mersive POD session on by selecting either “Send to Main Projector” OR “Send to Right Projector.” This action:
1. Turns on the projector.
2. Lowers the projection screen.
3. Routes the Mersive POD to the projector for display.

Choosing the type of POD session: Open, Screen Key or Moderated:

There are three ways to run a POD session; Open, Screen Key, or Moderated:
- In an Open session anyone with the IP address (even people outside of the room itself) can connect to the session and each user has the same amount of control over how, when, and what content is displayed.
- In a Screen Key session a unique alphanumeric code appears on the projection screen that participants must enter into their device in order to join the current session. In a “Screen Key” session everyone is a moderator and can control what content is displayed and how it is displayed. Anyone connected can post content without approval.
- In Moderated session the moderator has control over who can join the session and how and when each connected device’s content is displayed.

For security purposes we recommend that all sessions be run by the instructor and as either a Screen Key or Moderated Session (With an Open Session you run the risk of an outsider displaying content in your classroom from a remote location on campus.)
Create a Moderated session:

In order to run a moderated session it is recommended that the instructor be the first person to create a session and to make the session moderated (because any and all devices that connect before the instructor does would also have the ability to moderate.) Once the instructor becomes the moderator, any additional participants will connect as a “Guest” and must be approved by the moderator before they can join the session.

To create a moderated session select “Settings”

Select “Moderated.”

All additional participants will connect as a “Guest”, as displayed here in this picture of a guest’s device.

A guest will not be able to join (or “Connect”) to the session until the moderator(s) approves the guest, which appears in the moderator’s “Alerts” area.

To accept guest devices into your Moderated session select “Approve” for each participant.
A guest will not be able to display their content (or “post media”) until the moderator selects “Approve” for each new piece of content.

**Moderator control features:**

Through the control tab the moderator can control how, when, and what content is displayed. Content from guests must be approved prior to being displayed. Content that is displayed by the moderator can immediately be displayed without approval.

When you move content to the main display area (pictured as the largest box) “Aligns to (a) Grid” by default. This gives each piece of content an equal amount of screen space.

You are not bound by this however and are able to control the size of each piece by selecting “Freeform” mode, located in the “Media Operations” menu. This menu is accessed by right clicking or long pressing in an area away from the posts in the main display area.

You can return to the “Align to Grid” mode by returning to the the “Media Operations” menu. Once again, this menu is accessed by right clicking or long pressing in an area away from the posts in the main display area.
Create a Screen Key session:

To start a Screen Key session it is recommended that you be the first person to connect. A screen key session can be started later but only if you have moderator permissions.

To create a Screen Key session select “Settings”

Select “Screen Key”

The screen key will appear on lower left hand side of the projected image.

Anyone who joins the session after you have set up the screen key session must enter the screen key displayed in the lower right corner of the projected screen.

Note: This screen key will change with every new session.
**Stacks in the control environment:**

“Stacks” is representation of multiple posts made by an individual device that is connected.

If a user has submitted multiple pieces of content to the session they are put into stacks. This is represented by the stacks icon.

When you click this icon you are able to flip through thumbnails of the submitted content. And bring whatever you choose to the front of the stack by clicking it.

**Sharing content:**

There are number of ways that you can share content from your device. These include sharing a media file, your camera, a video, and mirroring your screen. In a moderated session the moderator has control over how your material is presented. Generally you just click or touch the button that corresponds to the type of media you wish to display. This may involve you selecting the files or programs after clicking or touching the button.

Android: Note, that if you don’t have Android version 5.0 or newer you will not be able to use the “Mirror Screen” option. Users of older android versions will see a “Webview” option.

iOS:

The “Mirror Screen” option is only available in iOS 7 or newer. Users of older iOS versions will see a “Webview” option.

To share a live view of your screen with iOS 7 or newer you must share it via Airplay. Select the Solstice POD device from the list of available devices on your device’s Airplay feature.

**Mirroring the screen:**

1. Swipe upward from the bottom of your screen to open the iOS Control Center.
2. Tap the AirPlay button, select the desired Solstice display, and enable mirroring.
3. If prompted, enter the screen key visible on the projection screen.
To stop sharing: To stop sharing your content simply press the “Stop Sharing All” button. This will stop sharing your content but keep you connected to the session.

To disconnect and leave a session: Press or click the “Disconnect” button.

Ending a session: To end a session every device in the current session has to disconnect from the POD.

Other Mersive Solstice Pod Resources:

- A reference guide with more in depth directions on Solstice POD’s capabilities
- Mersive Video Tutorial