White paper

The State of Webinars

The Video Marketing Handbook

www.twentythree.com



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State of Webinars

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Section

The Year of Webinars

Welcome to The State of Webinars

2020 has brought fundamental changes to the way that we communicate as human beings. Meetings, conferences and other physical events have been cancelled in the wake of the global pandemic. Meanwhile, webinars have become organisations' answer to digitally bringing people together in a human way.

When physically being together is not an option, it's essential to be pushing your webinar efforts forward. But before you can plan for where you're going, it's good to be able to see where you stand. We need a clear picture of the State of Webinars. TwentyThree does this research to give organisations the kind of information that they need to make strategic decisions about what's next for their webinars. Whether you've just started making webinars and are looking to scale up, or if you've been making webinars for a while and are curious about how others are leveraging them, the State of Webinars will give you answers and bring new insights to light. Use the Benchmarking sheet to quickly and easily compare your efforts to other organisations.

And then get to work driving webinars as an essential part of your oganisation. We're here to help along the way.

Halle JarviCommunications Manager, TwentyThree



Section

The Year of Webinars

The Report Highlights



Budgets will keep growing.

51% of marketers expect to spend more on webinars over the next 12 months — a huge nod to the long-term nature of webinar efforts.



We made more webinars.

89% of marketers reported an increase in the number of webinars they made this year compared to last.



The market has doubled.

On top of that our numbers show that the market has nearly doubled this year with 45% of our respondents saying that they are new to webinars as of 2020.



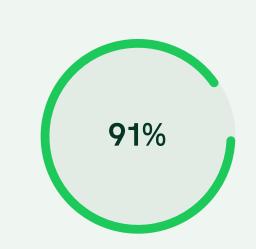
There's room to grow.

Webinar tools are not perfect. 40% of respondents are looking to change webinar tools — a challenge and an opportunity for tool makers.



Teams are expanding.

41% of companies have a programme manager or team in place responsible for their webinars.



Live video wins out.

91% of webinars today are live, video-based and participatory experiences.



Section
Welcome to The State of
Webinars

The Year of Webinars

Video has been changing how we connect and how we market for a long time.

But for long, video has been an easily overlooked technological phenomenon in organizational contexts. Even though our kids are growing up on video and video is more or less half of all engagement for most brands.

This year we saw just how much video and webinars can support our society and organisations during a global pandemic. Video is the human touchpoint in the digital world. The missing human element in all the automation and transactional lonely self service.

At TwentyThree we're building the tools that make it possible to video enable a whole organisation with video on every platform, webinars and personal video for each employee to connect with the market. Every day our product is used by thousands of the world's best digital marketers.

We run the State of Webinars annually to get a comprehensive picture of the quickly-maturing webinar world — and then to share the best practices, opportunities and trends that emerge. We also do it so that we can deliver the best webinar tool to our customers; TwentyThree Webinars is our answer to creating more engaging, professional and impactful webinars that can drive business forward.

We hope you'll make use of this year's report to progress your webinar efforts in the next year. To benchmark your organisation. Celebrate the wins and hard data to back you as a change agent. With better data, new inspiration and insights into what could come next.

If we can support you in your webinar journey with any of our tools, or if there is ever anything we could work on together, please don't hesitate to contact us or one of our team members.

Thomas Madsen-Mygdal
CEO & Co-Founder, TwentyThree

Steffen Fagerstrom Christensen CTO & Co-Founder, TwentyThree

"The digital revolution has been ongoing and slowly changing everything for the past couple decades. But in the first few months of 2020, we've seen webinars mature 7 years in 7 weeks."

Thomas Madsen-Mygal
CEO & Co-founder, TwentyThree



Webinars Within
Organisations

Webinars Within Organisations

Webinars are a flexible and invaluable tool in an organisation's toolkit — they can be set up and run in many different ways. Especially in times of ever-changing needs and possibilities, the humble webinar has become the way for organisations to get a message out, interact with their audience and even communicate internally. In fact, 90% of organisations are making webinars. Despite the fact that many organisations are employing the same media, each organisation is different in their set up and execution of webinars.

We wanted to get an overview of just how dramatically webinars have been used by organisations in 2020. Here are our findings.



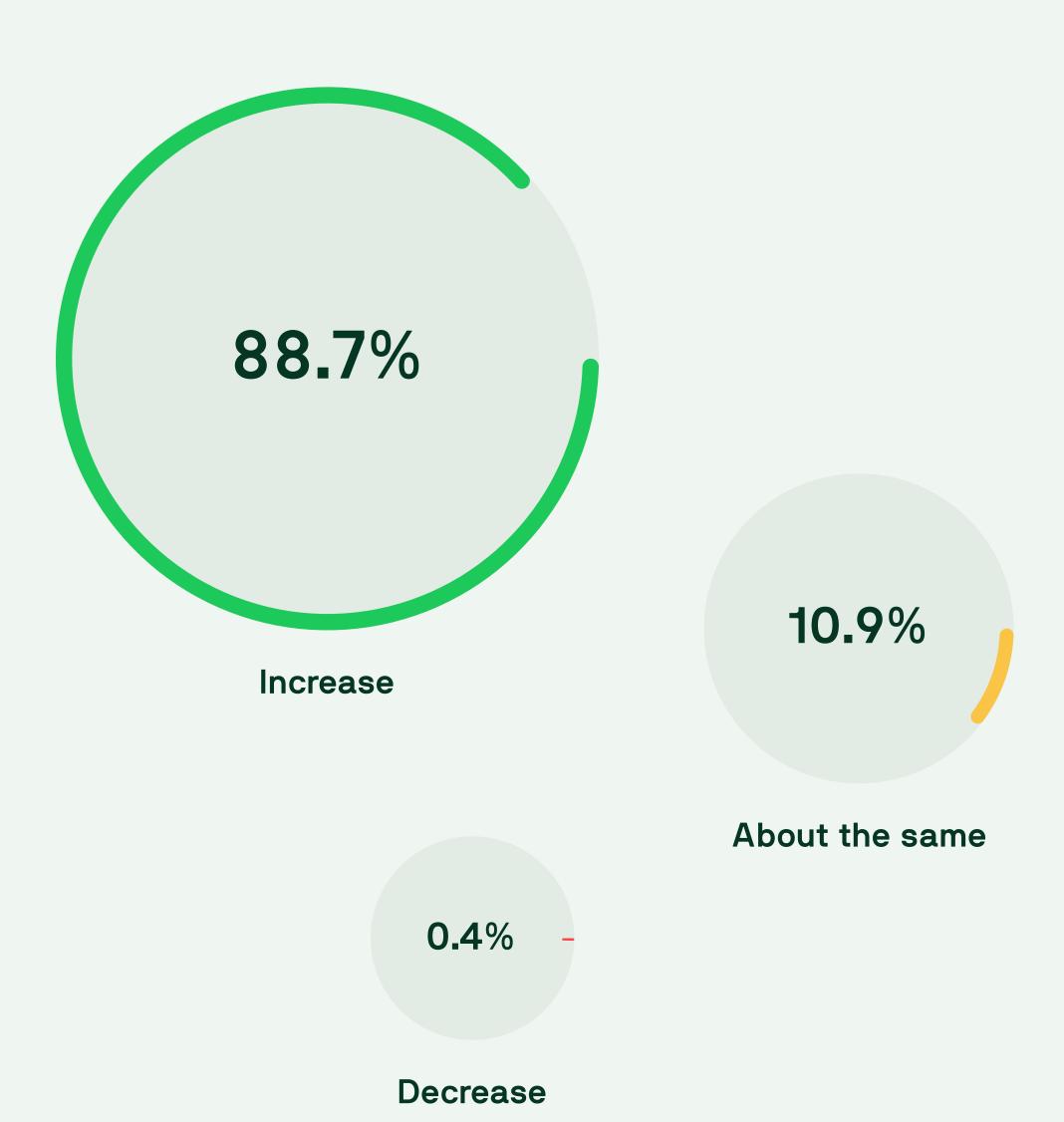
O1 How many webinars does your organisations run in a year?



State of Webinars 09/42



02 Is that an increase or decrease from last year?



Webinars exploded with 89% of organisations running more webinars this year than last year.

All in all, 89% of organisations are making webinars with some frequency. The majority of organisations are running between 20-49 webinars in a year.



Section
Webinars Adoption

Webinar Adoption

Webinars have matured at speed as a reaction to our new global reality. We found that the market has grown at least 82% in 2020. With such a growth in the market, it's required organisations to quickly figure out how to enable themselves to do webinars. But this has been a process organisations are taking on themselves, quickly adopting new ways of working and engaging their audiences through webinars.

We wanted to get an overview of just how much the market for webinars has grown this year, and how organisations are adopting them internally. Here are our findings. State of Webinars 11/42



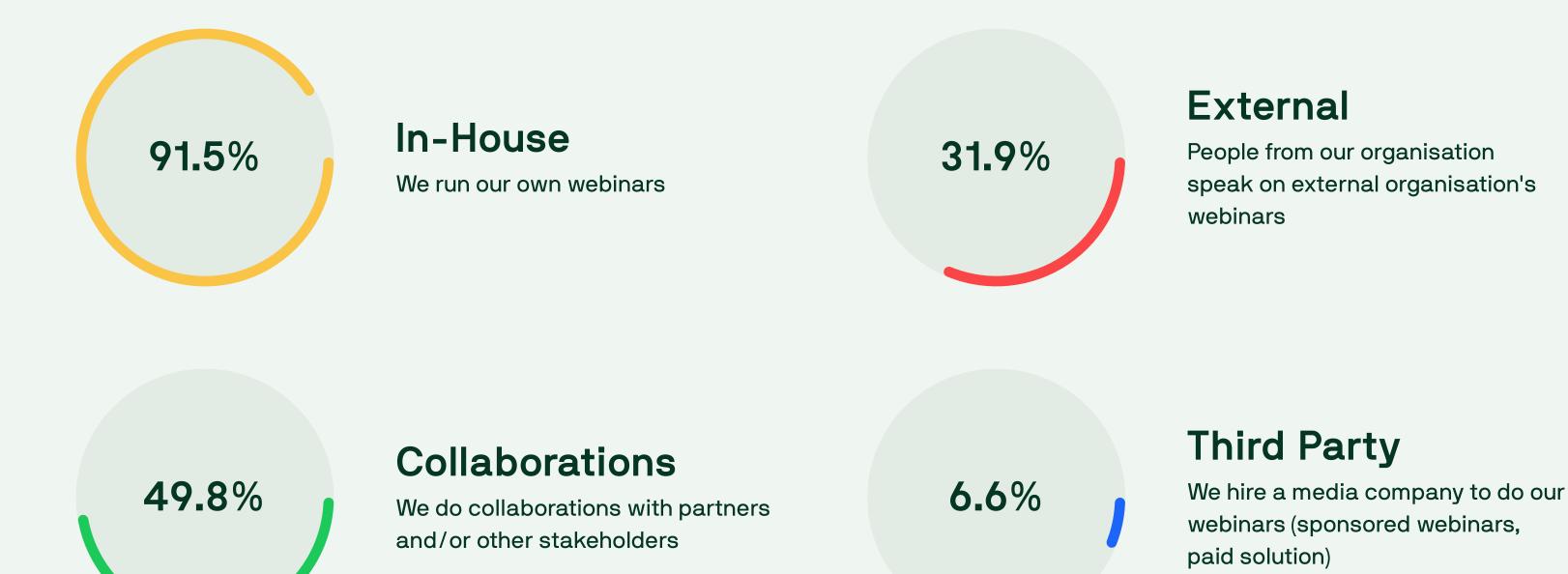
O3 How do you execute on webinar strategy?

Organisations are focused on their own webinar initiatives.

91% of marketers run their own webinars with the majority of focus on in-house initiatives.

As we move into the future, more

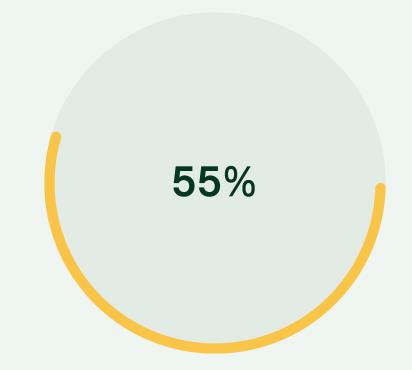
mature webinar programmes will need to hold space for a mix of all types of execution strategies in order to be most effective and drive meaningful results across the business.



12/42 State of Webinars

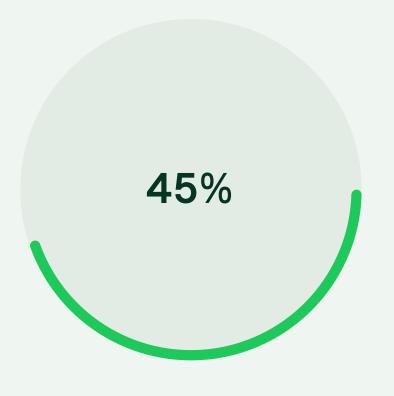


Are webinars a relatively new initiative for your organisation?



Before 2020

More than half the market is experienced webinar makers.



Began in 2020

But the other half is made up of new webinar makers.

Almost half of organisations are new to webinars.

The market has doubled with 45% of respondents beginning their efforts with webinars just in 2020, showing just how much the industry reacted to the new normal.

Due also to our respondents being self-identified webinar makers, we'd expect that, in actuality, this number is most likely even higher.

Whether the market has doubled or even quadrupled, it presents new challenges that require hiring new team members, bringing in consultants and production help, buying new gear, learning new software and generally creating new strategies to grow a webinar programme.

Overall, it's been a fast period of maturation for the market and there is a lot of room for learning, sharing best practices and growing into 2021.



05 What is your organisational setup to execute webinars?

Already now, 46% of organisations have a webinar manager or team.

We've also found that 32% of respondents are running their webinars as an ad hoc process across teams. Meanwhile 46% have a dedicated person or team in place to handle the webinar programme. We can also see that smaller organisations are

the ones working with the ad-hoc approach, while more mature programmes tend to be more systematised.

Part of organisation's journeys to professionalise their efforts will be

implementing the change-agent role of webinar programme manager — a development in the industry that will have implications for the future of marketing teams and the job market more generally.

Company Size	We have a dedicated webinar program manager	We have a dedicated webinar team	It's an ad hoc process across teams	We don't have a specific setup	One team is responsible for our webinar program
1–50	14%	14%	26%	16%	30%
51–250	13%	21%	37%	3%	26%
251-500	21%	28%	10%	14%	28%
501-5000	11%	22%	36%	14%	17%
5000+	15%	25%	30%	25%	5%
Total	19.2%	26.7%	36.9%	17.8%	31.5%



Section
Webinar Strategy

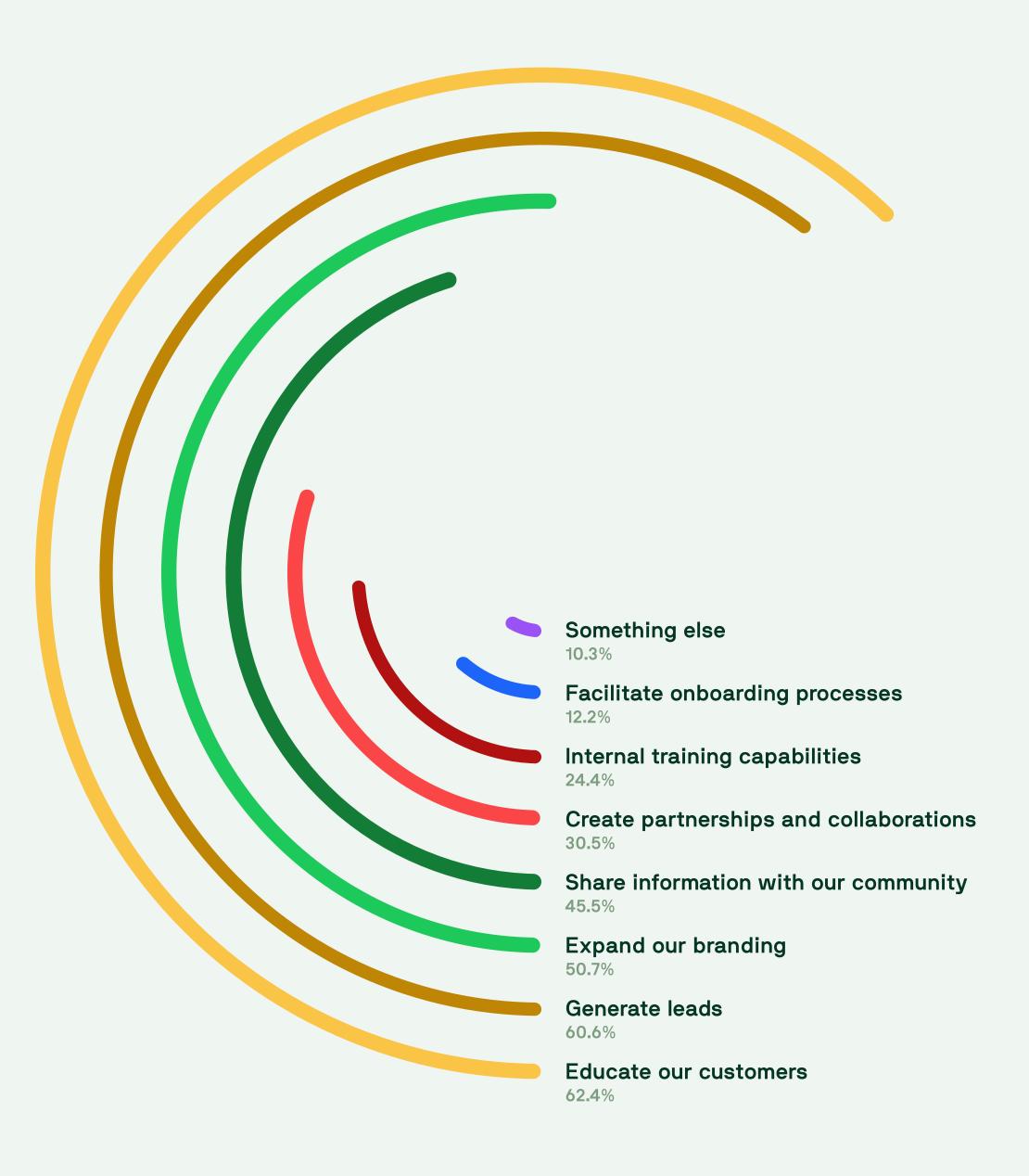
Webinar Strategy

Webinars can help companies achieve many goals — from increasing brand awareness to generating leads and increasing their customer success capabilities. But to do that, webinars must be leveraged with a concrete strategy in mind, which calls for more holistic thinking around webinars and webinar programmes. Marketing teams will maintain the most influence within organisations to drive webinar efforts.

To gather some insights about how organisations are currently approaching webinars, we asked questions concerning webinar strategy. Here are our findings.



What are the main reasons your organisation makes webinars?



Education and lead generation are still the major focus areas.

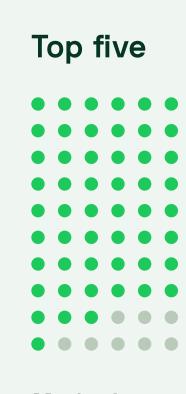
62% of respondents use webinars to educate customers, and 60% are using them for lead generation. That's an interesting split between webinars that are for nurturing existing business and webinars that are for capturing new business.

Expanding branding comes in third with 50%, rounding out the top three purposes with a more broad, content marketing approach to webinars.

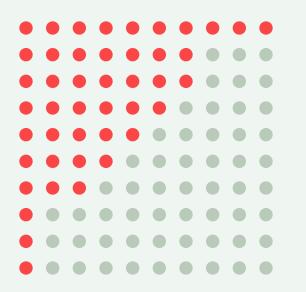
State of Webinars 16/42



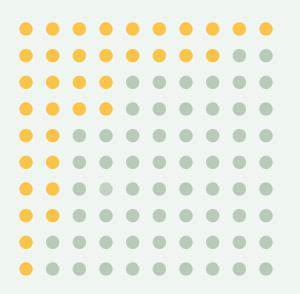
07 What teams across your organisation are leveraging webinars?



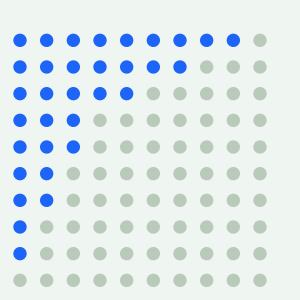
Marketing 69.3%



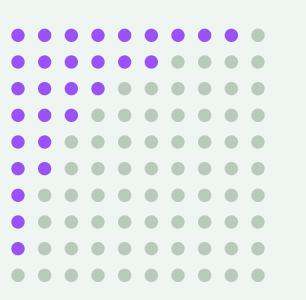
Communication 45.8%



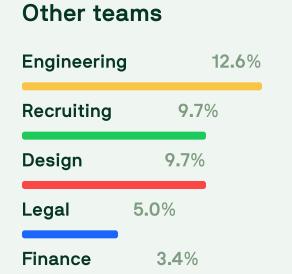
Event 37.8%



Account Management 34.0%



Internal Communications 30.7%



Webinars are still mainly a marketing team initiative.

Over and above, marketing teams are still leading the pack in terms of making webinars — making them the change agents in an organisation.

This presents a challenge for marketing teams to drive this digital transformation across teams, but at the same time that challenge is an opportunity for marketing teams to make an impactful change within their organisations.

"Globally in content marketing, webinars are expanding beyond the simple lead generation construct and are now being used across the marketing spectrum in many interesting and different ways."

Ann Handley

Digital Marketing Pioneer, Partner, MarketingProfs



Section
Webinar Formats

Webinar Formats

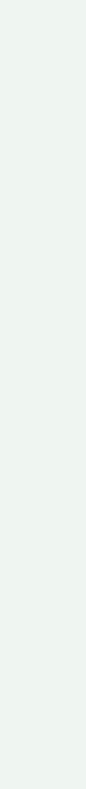
In line with the increase overall in the number of webinars, we have found a decent spread in the types of webinars organisations are making. Still, stand-alone webinars lead the pack as 71% of webinars made. The flexibility of webinars as a media means that there is a lot of potential for knowledge sharing to formulate best practices across formats and inspire new use cases.

We wanted to know something about the maturity of the world of webinars in terms of formats. With some being easier to adopt, we wanted to know whether emerging formats were gaining any ground this year. Here are our findings.

State of Webinars



09 What types of webinars does your organisation run?







Stand-Alone Webinars

Episodic Webinars

seasons.

A series with different content

Collaboration Webinars

in co-marketing initiatives.

With external partners, often used

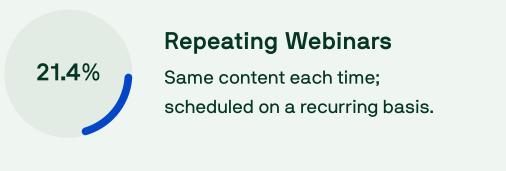
each time, often also runs in

One-offs run on an ad hoc basis.

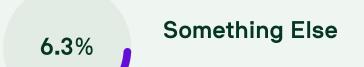












9.7%

Organisations are still getting started with their webinar programmes.

This year called for companies to jump into webinars if they weren't making them before, so the majority of marketers are using their webinars for formats like stand alone, episodic and collaborations. These types of formats have stronger ties to physical events like launches and conferences that companies have been forced to make digital.

But in the next year, there is a lot of room to go professional and start thinking of more ways to utilise emerging webinar formats like repeating webinars and relationship-based webinars to drive business.



Section
Webinar Experience

Webinar Experience

In the era of customer experience, digital initiatives have to be produced with special attention to engagement so that they stand out among the crowd and hold the viewer's attention. With the frequency of webinars increasing so dramatically this year, care for the experience of it all helps fight off webinar fatigue and give viewers better experiences through real participation. In line with this trend, 93% of marketers are producing live video and audio webinars.

We wanted to know more details about what is actually happening in webinar rooms in 2020 in terms of creating engaging experiences. Here are our findings.

State of Webinars 21/42



What features do you use to create an engaging experience?

We utilise the chat functionality	60.8%
We make sure the landing pages and emails are on-brand 54.	3%
We frequently poll the audience 52.3%	
We showcase audience questions during the webinar 52.3%	
We mix live content and pre-recorded video 41.2%	
We upload handouts 32.2%	
We ask the audience questions before the webinar 30.6%	
We direct our audience to different pages after the webinar ends	28.6%
We customise the waiting room experience 24.6%	
Something else 10.1%	

Webinar makers are focused on making engaging experiences.

Within webinar tools themselves, people are utilising various features to create an engaging experience. While it's somewhat more expected to pay careful attention to what happens during the actual live webinar, the next level is more holistic thinking about the experience of a webinar — from waiting rooms to branded emails and landing pages.

State of Webinars 22/42



How does your org. usually run a webinar?





5.9% Fully pre-recorded

The era of pre-recorded audio-and-slides webinars is over.

Webinars today are live, video-based and participatory. We have officially left behind the era of non-video webinars which were principally audio and slides only and had very little attention paid to the experience.

Webinar tools have had to play some catch up in these times of video meetings to better adress the participation and engagement side of digital events. Still, mature webinar programmes will need to continuously consider how to mix all these ways of running webinars to successfully do webinars at scale.



Section
Webinar Performance
& Data

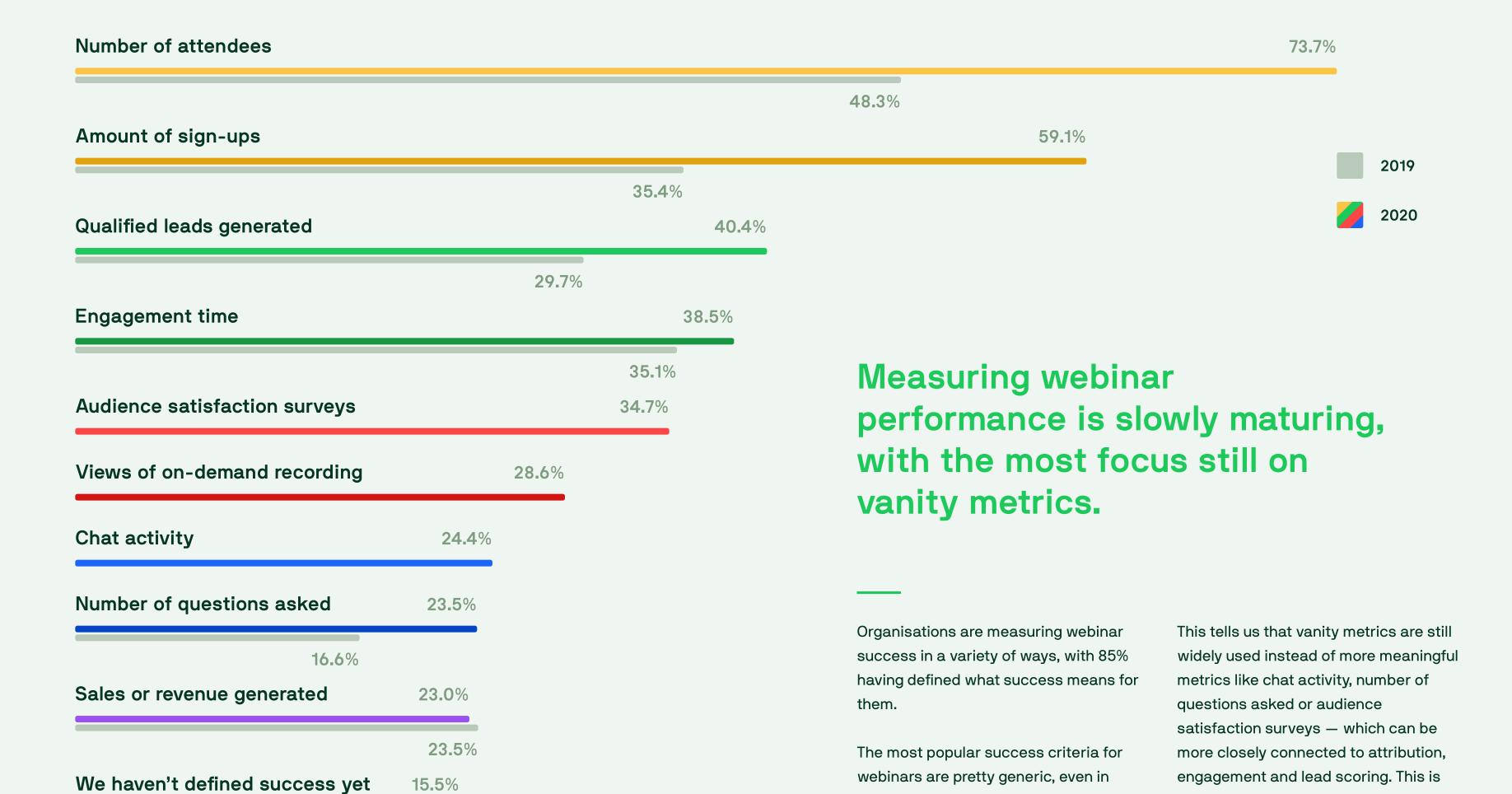
Webinar Performance & Data

If webinars are going to work in the long term for organisations, they've got to be measured. And that measurement should be directly connected to specific strategies so that they can have a clear understanding of what drives business. The most popular success metrics are vanity metrics, leaving a lot of room for more strategic approaches. The marketing machine is great at collecting data, but what about webinars? Since they are a new media to many, organisations are still maturing when it comes to tracking performance.

We wanted to understand how well organisations are set up to track the performance of their webinars and what metrics they are prioritising. Here are our findings. State of Webinars 24/42



How do you currently measure webinar success?



15.8%

6.6%

Something else

relationship to the diverse strategic

with this media.

goals organisations are trying to reach

an area where there is a lot of room for

reflection and improvement as webinar

programmes mature.

State of Webinars 25/42



How do you currently collect data from webinars?

Only 27% of of organisations have their webinar software integrated into their marketing stack.

Due to disconnects between martech tools and webinar tools, webinars are perhaps the most ineffecienty measured marketing activity. This is a natural consequence of using video meeting software for webinars or legacy webinar tools.

Less meaningful metrics that are harder to access means it is a persistent challenge for marketers and managers to accurately attribute success to webinar programmes. The future will see better integrated tools offering better metrics to drive business.

27.1%

CSV

We manually download CSV files, etc.

23.6%

Built-in

We use the built-in analytics features in my webinar tool

27.1%

Automation

Our webinar tool is integrated with our CRM and/or marketing automation

22.1%

Not tracking

We aren't currently tracking or analysing the performance of our webinars



Section
Webinar Budgets

Webinar Budgets

2020 has been a year that's forced many to adapt to a new normal. Due to the unfortunate circumstances of the global pandemic that's made physical meetings and events hard if not impossible, many companies found themselves forced to pivot to digital. But looking at how organisations plan to spend their money going forward, we can see that webinars are here to stay. 51% of marketers are planning to spend more on webinars in 2021.

We wanted to get an idea about whether organisations are seeing value and how they plan to develop their webinar programmes going forward. Here are our findings.

State of Webinars 27/42



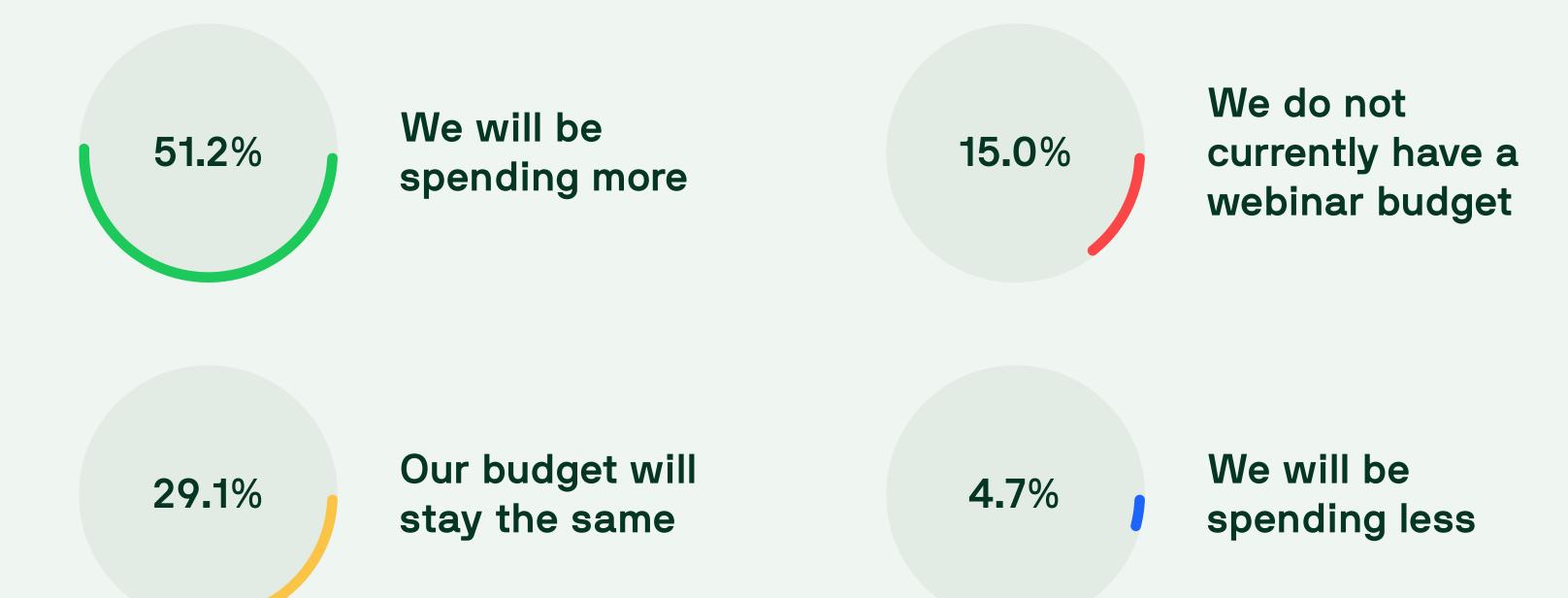
How do you expect your webinar budget to change over the next year?

Webinars are here to stay.

51% of respondents expect to spend more on webinars over the next 12 months — a huge testament to the long-term nature of webinar efforts.

in 2021 people will be expecting more returns, after the initial investment and lots of exploration with the format.

Now is the time to integrate webinars into the core promotional strategy of organisations and work to take them from an early-phase initiative into a regular marketing activity.



State of Webinars 28/42



What do you find to be the most challenging part of making webinars?

The costs associated 2.8% Complicated software 9.9% Lack of actionable strategy 10.8% Finding speakers 11.3% **Creating content** 12.2% The amount of time it takes 20.7%

53% of marketers see the human side of being on camera and producing webinars as the major barrier.

When asked the most challenging part of making webinars, the majority reported that they feel hosting is the biggest barrier.

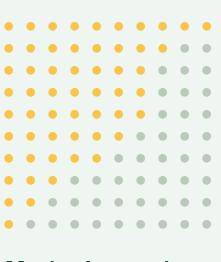
Being confident and relatable on camera comes easy to some, but it's a skill that organisations could nurture more with training and tools could nurture more with efficient design to feel more comfortable running webinars at scale.

Especially considering that organisations are planning to spend more money on the marketing and tooling side, this discrepancy calls for a more balanced approach between the human elements and the technological elements of making webinars.

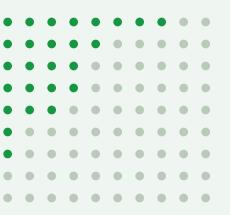
State of Webinars 29/42



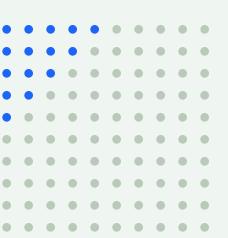
What do you expect you'll spend your webinar budget on?



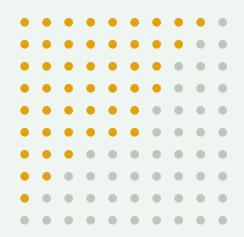
Marketing and promotions 55.9%



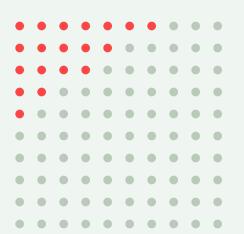
Buying more gear 26.3%



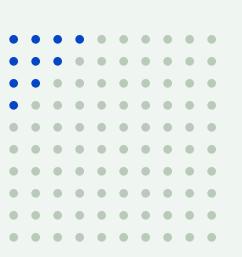
External services (consultations, etc.) 15.5%



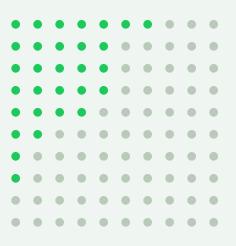
Creating content 49.3%



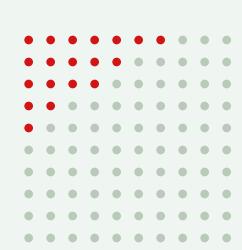
Setting up a studio 19.2%



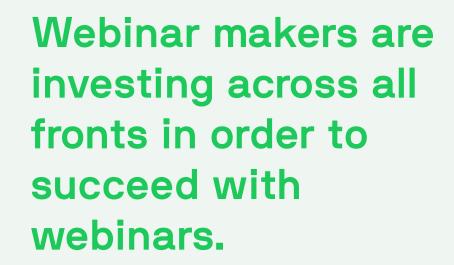
Something else 10.3%



Upgrading your webinar software 30.0%



Growing the team 19.2%



Here's what they expect to spend that extra money on:

- Marketing and promotion
- Creating content
- Upgrading webinar software / opting for a new solution

What is interesting to note here is that content creation, one of the most challenging parts of making webinars is also a key area where they plan to spend more.



Section
Webinar Tools

Webinar Tools

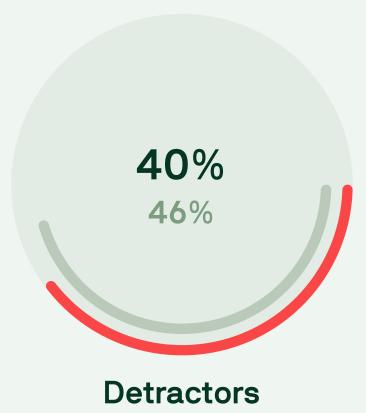
With almost as many products as there are use cases, webinar makers are still struggling to get the proper tool. Only 17% of marketers would recommend their current webinar tool. It's resulted in many organisations opting to use a couple different solutions for external webinars and others for internal. Whatever use case, leveragingthe best webinar tool is not just an important choice in terms of viewer experiences, but also in terms of internal time invested and returns on those investments.

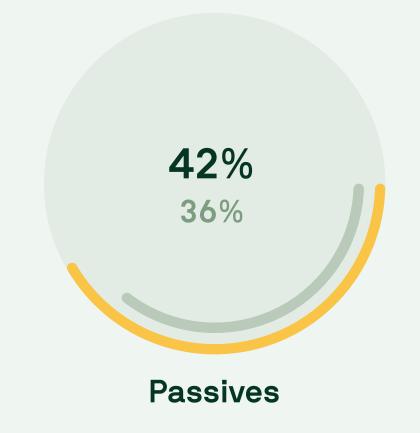
As a video company making video products, we are curious about how satisfied organisations are with their webinar tools. Numbers like these can illuminate opportunities as we build the future tools. Here are our findings. State of Webinars 31/42

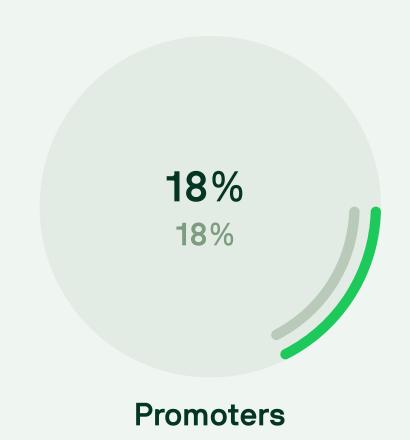


How likely is it that you would recommend your current webinar tool?









2019

NPS
-23
-28

Only 18% of marketers would recommend their webinar tool.

And 40% are looking to change their tool immediately.

This trend embodies a call for marketers to shift from using video meeting software for their webinars to actual webinar software. It also signals that the market category is still open — it's not just for the big, legacy companies.

State of Webinars 32/42



How likely is it that you would recommend your current webinar tool?

Video Meeting Software

Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, Google Meet

Promoters

13%

Passive

42%

Detractors

45%

NPS

-33

Legacy Webinar Software

On24,WebEx, Adobe Connect, GoToWebinar

Promoters

9%

Passive

54%

Detractors

37%

NPS

-28

New Webinar Software

TwentyThree Webinars and others

Promoters

38%

Passive

45%

Detractors

17%

NPS

21

Video meeting software is not webinar software. Plus a significant differnce between legacy and new webinar tools.

Digging into the numbers a bit more shows a spread between different types of software.

The majority of detractors who are looking to change are using video meeting software or are still stuck on legacy webinar tools.

New webinar tools have a much larger group of promoters but there is still plenty of room to improve customer experience throughout 2021.

"These numbers are telling us that people are just getting started, leaving a lot of room to grow the strategy and the execution. But when webinars are done right, the potential for gains is huge."

Steffen Christiansen
CTO & Co-founder, TwentyThree



Benchmarking

In 2020, we found that the state of webinars is stronger than ever. The general trend is up. But it is not a passing fad – webinars are a long term initiative. In order for you to clearly see where your efforts are hitting the average, where you're ahead of the curve and where you might want to step it up.

Use this form to mark your answers to the questions and go back through to see how your efforts compare with other organisations.



Across your organisation, about how many webinars do you run in a year?
1 -5
16-10
11-19
20-49
50-99
100-249
250-499
500-999
1000+
Is this an increase or decrease in the number of yearly webinars from the previous year?
Increase
About the same
Decrease

•	How do you execute on your webinar strategy? (Choose as many that apply.)			
		We run our own webinars		
		We do collaborations with partners and/or other stakeholders		
		People from our organisation speak on external organisation's webinars		
		We hire a media company to do our webinars (sponsored webinars, paid solution)		
•	Are webinars a relatively new initiative for your organisation or have you been making them for a while?			
		We have been making webinars before 2020 We began making webinars in 2020		



•	What is your organisational set-up to execute webinars? (Choose as many that apply.)			
		We have a dedicated webinar programme manager		
		We don't have a specific set-up		
		We have a dedicated webinar team		
		One team is responsible for our webinar programme (please specify which team)		
		It's an ad hoc process across teams		
		nat are the main reasons that your janisation makes webinars?		
		Educate our customers		
		Generate leads		
		Expand our branding		
		Share information with our community		
		Create partnerships and collaborations		
		Internal training capabilities		
		Facilitate onboarding processes		
		Something else		

•	What teams across your organisation are leveraging webinars? (Choose as many that apply.)			
		Finance		
		Legal		
		Design		
		Recruiting		
		Engineering		
		Internal Communications		
		Account Management		
		Event		
		Communication		
		Marketing		
•		nat type of webinars does your		
	organisation run? (Choose as many that apply.)			
		We have a dedicated webinar programme manager		
		We don't have a specific set-up		
		We have a dedicated webinar team		
		One team is responsible for our webinar programme (please specify which team)		

It's an ad hoc process across teams



9.	What features do you use to create an engaging experience in your webinar tool? (Choose as many that apply.)	11.	success? (Choose as many that apply.)		
	 We customise the waiting room experience We direct our audience to different pages after the webinar ends We ask the audience questions before the webinar We upload handouts We mix live content and pre-recorded video We showcase audience questions during the webinar We frequently poll the audience We make sure the landing pages and emails are on-brand We utilise the chat functionality Something else 		Number of attendees Amount of sign-ups Qualified leads generated Engagement time Audience satisfaction surveys Views of on-demand recording Chat activity Number of questions asked Sales or revenue generated We haven't defined success yet Something else		
10.	How does your organisation usually run a webinar? Audio only Live video only Fully pre-recorded A mix of all the above Live video, audio and slides	12.	How do you currently collect data from your webinars? We manually download CSV files, etc. Our webinar tool is integrated with our CRM and/or marketing automation We use the built-in analytics features in my webinar tool We aren't currently tracking or analysing the performance of or		
			webinars		

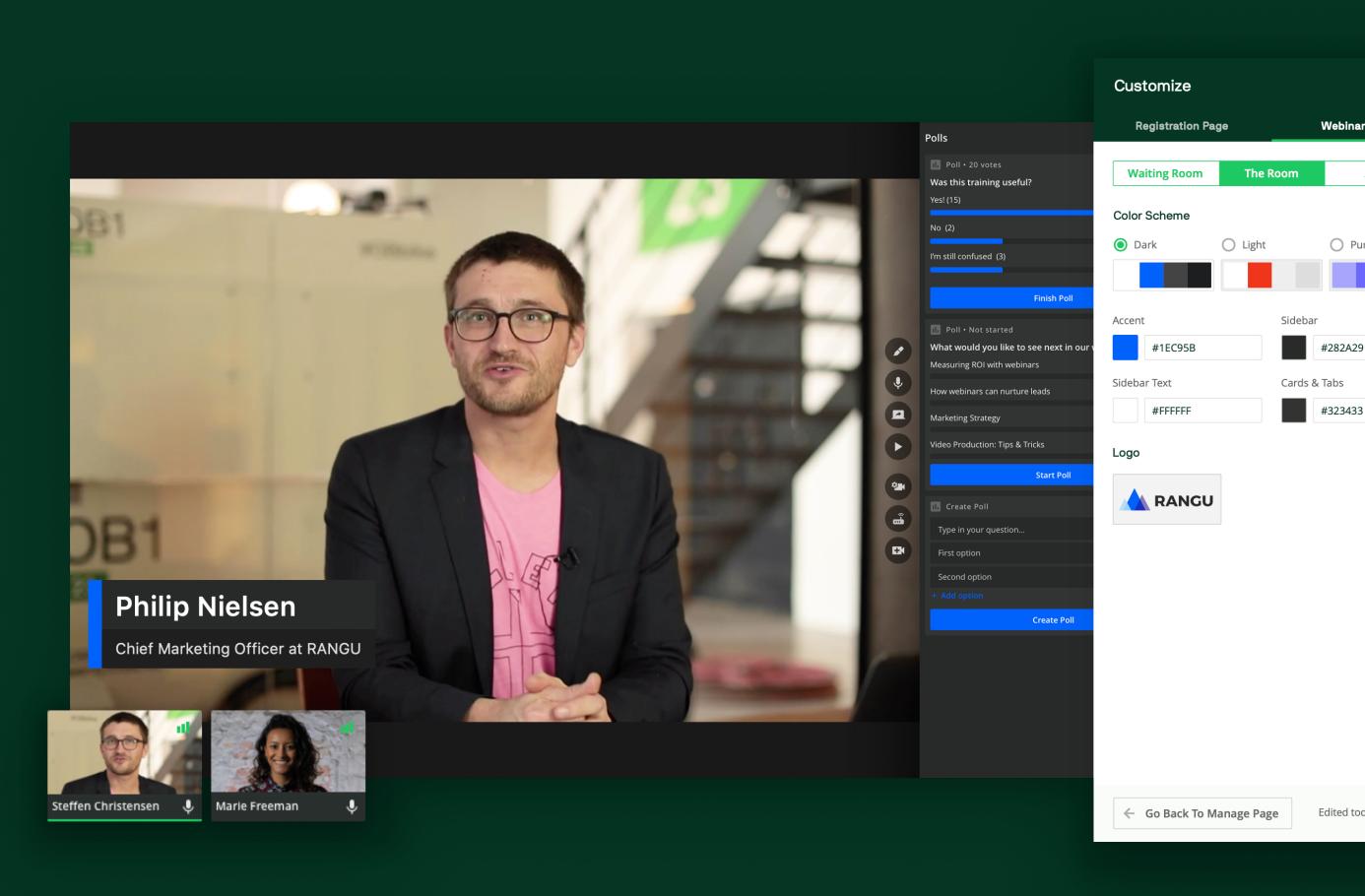


3.		w do you expect your webinar budget to ange over the next 12 months? We will be spending more	16.	Do you feel your webinar tool is on par, in terms of quality, functionality and integrations, with the other tools in your marketing stack?
		Our budget will stay the same		☐ Yes
		We do not currently have a webinar budget		
		We will be spending less		□ No
4.		nat do you find to be the most allenging part of making webinars?		
		The costs associated		
		Complicated software	17.	3
		Lack of actionable strategy		your current webinar software to a friend o
		Finding speakers		colleague?
		The amount of time it takes		O - Not likely
		Hosting in an engaging way		□ 1
				2
				3
5.	Wh	nat do you expect you'll spend your		□ 4
		binar budget on? (Choose as many that		5
	app	oly.)		□ 6
		Marketing and promotions		7
		Creating content		8
		Upgrading your webinar software / opting for a new solution		9
				10 - Very likely
		Buying more gear		
		Setting up a studio		
		Growing the team		
		External services (consultations, etc.)		
		Something else		

Professionalise Your Webinars With the Most Powerful Webinar Tool

TwentyThree Webinars is everything you need to succeed with your webinars. It's the most powerful tool with comprehensive capabilities to engage your audience, create an on-brand experience, scale to fit you as you grow and provide analytics to help you drive better results.

twentythree.com/webinars





About the State of Webinars

About the State of Webinars

The State of Webinars is an annual survey that we run to get a clearer picture of the quickly-maturing webinar world. Using the responses of webinar makers all over the world, the report exists to help you situate yourself and make more informed decisions as you move forward with webinars.

Take a look at the <u>TwentyThree homepage</u> for more information about our webinar tool and more resources like this one to support you on your journey to professionalise your webinars.



About the State of Webinars

State of Webinars was conducted and compiled by TwentyThree.

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Methodology

The data compiled in this report was from 338 respondents, conducted over a 9 week period between September and November of 2020. Shared digitally and collected from respondents mainly from Northern Europe and the UK. All respondents are webinar makers.

The nature of our network and subsequently, the respondents of this survey, have a bias towards digitally mature markets in the US, UK and Northern Europe, We also knowingly have a bias towards respondents who are mature in their webinar efforts, meaning that some numbers may be higher than reported here when applied to an even wider sample of the industry.