

Wycliffe Associates DOT Equipment Guide

Basic kit rundown

The specific equipment that is used is not crucial to the DOT process, and we do not insist that our national partners and churches continue to use only the equipment that we show them. DOT events have used a variety of equipment as they've progressed, from iPhones to high quality cameras and editing software. At this point, we prefer to use Android tablets for both filming and editing.

Here is an example breakdown of equipment that a team leader would organize for a Wycliffe Associates DOT event:

- Final filming tablets – two per studio
- Drafting tablets – one per translator
- Tablet carry cases – one per tablet
- Green screens with support frames – one per studio
- Extra clamps for the green screen
- Tripods with tablet holders – one per studio
- Lighting kits – one per studio
 - Replacement lightbulbs may be needed if the voltage in the country of the event is not the same as the country in which the lights were purchased
- Power strips/plug adaptors
- Steamer for the green screens
- Tape and markers

Now we will take a closer look at some of the equipment Wycliffe Associates uses and our reasons for why we use it.

Tablets

We currently use Android tablets and the film editing app, PowerDirector for all Wycliffe Associates DOT workshops.

A few reasons why we use tablets:

- We can easily train the translators and interpreters how to use the tablets during the event so that they will be able to carry on the same quality of work when the event is over
- Drafting, editing (to the extent that we use in DOT), final filming and producing of the videos can all be done directly on the tablet
- The same tablets can be used through the entire DOT process
 - When we have used higher quality cameras in the past, the translators and interpreters were only exposed to the cameras during final filming, limiting how well they could all learn how to use it.
 - The video files also had to be transferred to a computer and any editing had to be done in editing software, which we were not able to easily teach during the workshop.
 - In many cases, we would need to also provide the cameras, computer, and software to leave with the partners, so the overall cost of the events was increased.

The tablets and apps that we use are limited in their editing capabilities. If the national church wants to do things like replace the green screen background with other images, they won't be able to do that with the apps that we use and train them with. They can add text to the videos using the equipment that we give them, but it may be time consuming and difficult.

Our goal with DOT is not to give a flashy product that will impress the world with video quality and fancy effects, but to allow the deaf to translate and capture the Word of God on video in their heart language in a clear, easily accessible way.

We do record the final films in front of a green screen so that later, the church will be free to add maps, or texts, or otherwise edit the videos in ways that they desire for their scripture.

There are two different tablets that we currently utilize in the DOT Program:

Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 9.7"

- This is the tablet that we use for final filming at DOT events.

- Android tablets aren't typically known for being excellent video cameras, and every other tablet that we have considered has had an auto-focus feature which randomly makes the videos blurry as it detects movements closer to the camera and tries to compensate. The 9.7" Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 is the only Android tablet that we know of that does not do this.
- Due to the price of this tablet, it is not practical for us to be able to take one for each translator to use at an event.
- These are left with the partners after the event.

Samsung Galaxy Tab E 9.6"

- We use these as drafting tablets at DOT events, but any Android device that can download and run PowerDirector could be used.
 - Drafting can be done on any device. Recently at a DOT event, the equipment was held up at the airport and drafting was initially done on the translator's phones.
 - We use android tablets for drafting so that the translators can become familiar with PowerDirector and how to use it throughout the DOT steps.
- They are lower in price than the S2s, so we can bring enough for each translator to use exclusively during the event.
- Since these tablets have the auto-focus feature which can't be turned off, we don't leave them with the partners because we do not want them used for final filming. We keep these at the Wycliffe Associates headquarters so that we can re-use them at future events.

Tablet set up

These steps should be taken with all the tablets before they are taken to a workshop.

- Install PowerDirector
 - PowerDirector can easily be found and downloaded from the Google Play store. All the tablets should have the purchased version of the app installed, but the final filming tablets *must* have the purchased version. The final quality of the free version of PowerDirector is not as good as the videos that can be produced with the purchased version, and the free version contains a watermark that we do not want to have on the scripture translations.
- Remove distracting apps

- The only thing that the DOT tablets should be used for is DOT. Web browsers, games, email, news and weather apps, or anything else that is not related to the functions used for DOT can be distracting or cause clutter and should be removed. Apps should be uninstalled if they can be, and should be removed from the home page if they can't be uninstalled
- Set language on drafting tablets
 - The language on the drafting tablets should be set to the source language of the translation, or the official written language of the country that the event is taking place in.
 - This does not need to be done with the final filming tablets. The drafting tablets will be used by the interpreters and translators from the beginning, but the final filming tablets will be mostly under the charge of whoever oversees the equipment at the event.

A note to anyone using DOT without Wycliffe Associates

This guide is intended to be helpful and offer one option for equipment that can be used for DOT events. The use of tablets and PowerDirector is a good fit for the way Wycliffe Associates holds workshops. If you have access to different types of equipment and you can utilize people in your midst with knowledge and skills in these areas, please do not feel limited by what you are reading here.

In some locations there will be people with good cameras and video editing software, and we encourage you to use what works best for your situation. The order of the DOT steps and strictly following them is important if an event is to be considered a DOT event, but the equipment can be flexible.