MUX

How Daily.co, the first browser-based video calling platform, uses Mux

COMPANY
Daily.co

PRODUCT
Video calling

LOCATION
San Francisco, CA

INDUSTRY
Tech

Daily.co

Conference calling has come a long way. We all remember a time when you had a beep announce your presence and tolerated awkward pauses or interruptions throughout the conversation due to a lack of visual cues. (Remember this relatable video?) Thankfully, video came along and saved us!

However, video conferencing introduced some complexities of its own– expensive hardware, a frustrating software, and enterprise pricing plans, to name a few. These challenges are what inspired the creators of Daily.co. Daily. co is the first video conferencing system built specifically to be easy to use with 1-click calls and a primary focus on small companies. From providing browser-based video calls to a complete hardware kit, they're making video conferencing flexible and accessible.

Building the first browser-based video calling platform
When first building Daily.co, the team knew they wanted to provide a cloud-enabled video conferencing service for users that have demanding video use cases, such as distributed product development, always-on video portals, and shared conference rooms in co-working spaces. Since a primary goal was to make Daily.co affordable for users, the product itself needed to be built affordably. The Daily.co team planned on solving this by leveraging emerging browser-centric video standards.
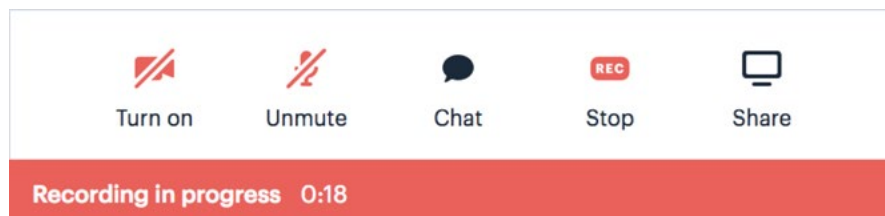
When it came to their feature set for recording video calls, they wanted to provide both local and cloud recording and, again, needed a solution that would be both easy and affordable for their users. Since they didn't have the infrastructure for hosting and streaming video in the cloud, the Daily.co team

had to decide if they wanted to set it up themselves or find a partner to do transcoding, hosting, and streaming.
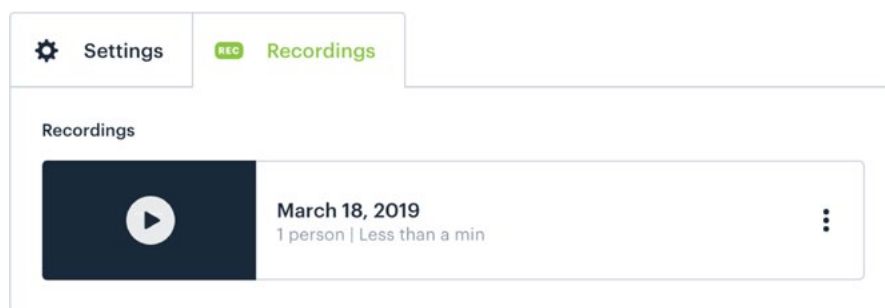
"We know the Mux team and there's nobody better at transcoding and live streaming. It was not only easy to get exactly the functionality we needed but, just as important, they provided a great developer experience. We have 100% confidence in the Mux platform," said co-founder Kwindla Hultman Kramer.

With Mux, Daily.co is able to offer their users a variety of options when it comes to their recordings. With local recording, users receive a webm file that can only be played through the Chrome browser, but by recording to the cloud, users get the option of receiving different quality ABR renditions or an mp4 that they can download anywhere.

Using the Mux Video API, Daily.co lets their users record video calls to the cloud with just a click.

The recordings are then stored in the user's Dashboard for playback or access whenever they need.

Creating a 1-click call service from a browser was especially challenging because the development environment is more limited than for a desktop application. The Daily.co team was able to make the experience seamless for live video calls and, with Mux, they were able to extend that ease of use to cloud video.

Results

Mux made it possible for Daily.co's development team to focus on what they do best which is the live video call. By relying on Mux for transcoding and streaming, Daily.co was able to ship a high quality cloud feature set with a small team.

"Mux was critical to our ability to ship affordable, flexible meeting recording. Having Mux allowed us to be feature competitive with native applications and we can duplicate and, in some cases, improve on their functionality with a tool that runs right in your browser," said Kwin.

What's Next

The Daily.co team continues to focus on innovation. They've recently announced the launch of their API for embedding video calls into any website or mobile application. The Daily.co API makes it easy to integrate high-quality video calls that work across browsers and devices. It includes various features, such as support for calls with up to 50 people, multiple devices, dial-in numbers, recording, screen sharing, and more. Check out their documentation for details and see how you can provide a seamless video calling experience to your users.

MUX

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