

## Creating the Buddy System: Networking Program for Large Collaboration Meetings

*Monday 1 September 2025 17:30 (20 minutes)*

The “Buddy System” Program is a networking initiative that encourages new connections between collaborators to be formed during collaboration meetings. A survey is sent before upcoming meetings, asking both in-person and virtual attendees who are interested to fill out the form to be matched with 1-2 other collaborators. Based on the responses, including a ranking system for how they want the match to be made, participants are emailed before the collaboration meeting and encouraged to set up their own coffee or zoom chat with their match during the meeting week. This program has been successfully run at 5 collaboration meetings where about 10% of the total 300 meeting attendees have been taking advantage of the program.

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