



The Meeting Place

Products- tools to connect

Zoom Video Call



Being the current most popular video call service in the market, Zoom has got all the features and quirks one would demand. Everything works fine except for the virtual background feature, which needs you to have uniform lighting and an easily distinguishable background.

Usage: Zoom can be used by anyone, ranging from friends and family to small office meetings and large enterprise conferences.

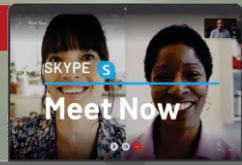
Cost: Zoom is free to use, with the basic plan having certain limitations.

Video Call Limit: The free plan allows up to 100 participants in a meeting with a time limit of 40 minutes.

Account Creation: You don't need an account to join a Zoom meeting unless you're connecting through the web client.

Secure: Zoom has introduced several new security features to prevent unwanted intrusions like Zoom bombing. The company is currently working on rectifying privacy and security issues.

Skype Meet Now



With the introduction of the Meet Now feature, Skype has become one of the strongest competitors for Zoom. It has a highly intuitive UI with most of the features at your fingertips.

Usage: Skype is suitable for casual family video calls and small office meetings.

Cost: Skype Meet Now is entirely free to use and doesn't offer any paywall or subscriptions. You only need to pay if you want to make international long-distance phone calls.

Video Call Limit: Skype Meet Now supports a maximum of 50 participants with a limit of four hours per individual video call, after which you need to redial. The free usage policy allows up to 100 hours of calls per month with no more than 10 hours per day.

Account Creation: Neither of the participants nor the host requires any signup or app download to create or join a meeting. One can participate through the web or app as a guest by just providing their names.

Secure: Yes, Skype uses 256-bit AES keys for each session.

Features: Skype offers features like group chat, file sharing, background blur, cloud call recording, and live emoji reactions. There's a built-in voice translator that translates conversations in up to ten different languages in real-time. You also get the ability to disable incoming video to hide other people or save internet bandwidth.

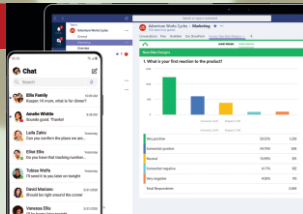
Available Platforms: Skype is available on Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, iOS, and Microsoft Xbox. It also has a web client for instant meetings.

WhatsApp Messenger



This is currently the most popular smartphone communication service available with over 2 billion users worldwide. The Facebook-owned messaging platform offers a secure messaging option with a major focus on privacy. WhatsApp also offers the most simple mobile interface, as to activate it one has to just start the application, hit the call button, select the participants and click on the camera icon.

Microsoft Teams



Microsoft Teams provides advanced and feature-rich workspace with integrated video conference functionality. It's comparatively difficult to use

Usage: Microsoft Teams is primarily intended for business communication in schools and offices.

Cost: It comes in both free and paid plans. However, due to Coronavirus lockdown, the company is currently offering a free six-month trial of premium plans.

Video Call Limit: Teams currently allows up to 250 members in traditional virtual meetings and 10,000 for live streaming events. In video meetings, you can see only up to nine participants in the feed.

Account Creation: It is mandatory to have a Teams account if you want to use its services. **Secure:** Yes, it employs enterprise-grade security, including teamwide and organization-wide two-factor authentication, single sign-on through Active Directory, and encryption of data.

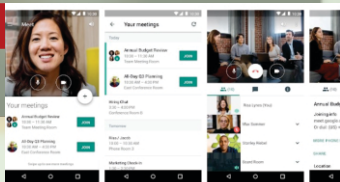
Features: Microsoft Teams is equipped with features like chats with collaboration tools, background blur in video calls, channel meetings, and screen sharing. It also integrates seamlessly with other Microsoft apps, including Office 365, Skype, OneDrive, and Outlook. Dial-in is available with the costliest plan.

Available Platforms: Microsoft Teams can be downloaded on Windows, iOS, Android, and Linux. It's also available as a web version.

Google Meet



Google Meet



Google Meet is an advanced version of Hangouts, targeted at businesses and organisations with a G-Suite subscription. It's highly intuitive and simple to use but falls short in terms of advanced features and doesn't offer a free plan.

Usage: It is suitable for business communication like webinars and video conferencing. Though, you can also use it to connect with family and friends.

Cost: Google Meet comes bundled with a G-Suite subscription, which starts at \$6 per month for the basic plan. Due to lockdown, Google is currently offering free access to premium features to all G Suite customers until Sep 30, 2020.

Video Call Limit: With the basic G-Suite subscription, one can add up to 100 participants in a meeting. The business plan increases it to 150, while the enterprise lets you chat with 250 people at a time.

Account Creation: The host must have a G-Suite account to create a meeting. Others can join without a Google account, but an invitation is mandatory for participation.

Secure: Yes, video meetings are encrypted in transit.

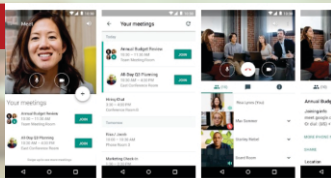
Features: Google Meet comes with essential features like screen sharing, in-conference messaging, call recording, and free phone dial-in facility. It also gets live-captioning, which makes it easier to follow what's being said in meetings. Unfortunately, there's no built-in option for changing the background or adding bokeh.

Available Platforms: Google Meet doesn't have a dedicated app for desktop and can only be accessed through a web browser. It can be downloaded on Android and iOS.

Google Duo



Google Duo



Google Duo is a video calling app, similar to WhatsApp and Apple's Facetime. It offers excellent quality and features at the same time but only suits casual use cases. It even works fine on slow connections.

Usage: Google Duo is meant only for friends, family, and other quick, informal video chats.

Cost: It's entirely free to use application.

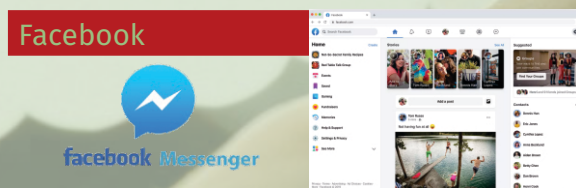
Video Call Limit: After a recent update, Google Duo now allows a total of twelve participants at a time. Google is planning to increase the limit further in the coming time.

Account Creation: It requires you to sign up with your phone number.

Secure: Yes, supports end-to-end encryption

Features: Google Duo comes with several nifty features such as new AV1 video codec technology, use of AI to reduce radio interruptions, knock knock, Duo moments, and background bokeh. Moreover, you get a dedicated low-light and portrait mode, both of which worked quite well in our usage. Duo also lets you send personalized video and voice messages with AR effects.

Available Platforms: Google Duo is available for Android, iOS, and web browsers on Windows, Mac, and Chrome OS. It can also be used on Smart Displays like Google Nest Hub and Lenovo Smart Display.



Facebook Messenger: This Facebook's messaging service is hailed by its users for its simple interface and group messaging features. However, one cannot access this service unless they have a Facebook account. FB Messenger supports up to eight people in video calls with no limit on duration. Additionally, when making a two-person call, it provides a peer-to-peer structure for better security and potentially avoiding congestion.

Messenger Rooms  is Facebook's latest addition to its messaging platform, where you can create a room to have a group chat with friends and family. However, in our usage, we found several connectivity issues alongside audio and video lag. It's quite buggy, for now, to be used as a daily video chat app. Now available on Instagram as well.

Usage: It's primarily meant for your Facebook friends. Others, too, can join in through links.

Cost: It's free to use, just like Facebook.

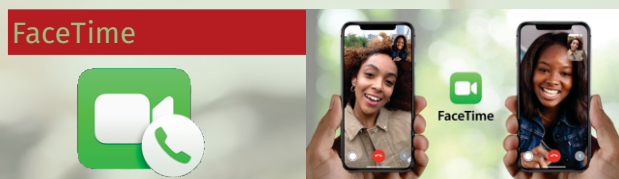
Video Call Limit: Messenger allows you to hang out with up to 50 people at a time. There's no time limit whatsoever.

Account Creation: You don't need to have a Facebook account to join a video chat.

Secure: Yes, secured by Messenger's encryption and privacy controls.

Features: On joining a messenger room, you get to play with new AR effects and features like immersive backgrounds and mood lighting. You can choose who can see and enter the room and can remove anyone from the call at any time. It also lets you lock the room, preventing anyone else from joining in.

Available Platforms: Messenger Rooms is available on Android, iOS as well as desktop.



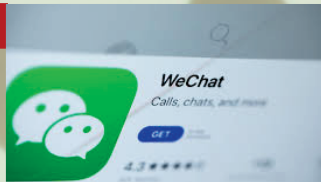
FaceTime is designed with simplicity in mind. You can make video or audio calls over Wi-Fi or cellular data just by pulling up the name of someone in your contacts (so long as they use an Apple device).

The app allows a maximum of 32 people on any one call and you can automatically include everyone on a Messages thread simply by opening the conversation, tapping on the profile icon at the top and then selecting FaceTime.

The interface has little in the way of options and there's no in-built chat as you're meant to use Messages. iPadOS and Mac users can either use split screen mode or have the two apps open side-by-side so that chat is available, but the iPhone experience requires switching between FaceTime and Messages if you want to exchange texts during the call.

Another missing feature is the ability to share your screen with other people on the group call, although Apple does include the ability for those with Face ID-equipped iPhones and iPads to use Memoji and Animoji as their onscreen avatars. If all participants are using iOS 12.14 or later, or iPadOS, then you can also capture Live Photos of the call.

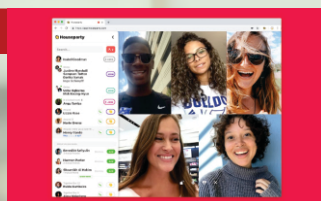
WeChat



WeChat is more than a messaging and social media app – it is a lifestyle for over one billion users across the world. Chat and make calls with friends, read news and use local services in Official Accounts and Mini Programs, play fun games with friends, enjoy mobile payment features with WeChat Pay.

- MORE WAYS TO CHAT: Message friends using text, photo, voice, video, location sharing, and more. Create group chats with up to 500 members.
- VOICE & VIDEO CALL: High –quality voice and video calls to anywhere in the world. Make group video calls with up to 9 people.
- REAL -TIME LOCATION: Not good at explaining directions? Share your real -time location with the press of a button.
- MOMENTS: Share your favouritemoments. Post photos, videos, and more to your Moments stream.
- TIME CAPSULE (NEW!): Share glimpses of your day. Record short videos to post in your Time Capsule before they disappear in 24 hours.
- STICKER GALLERY: Browse thousands of fun, animated stickers to help express yourself in chats, including stickers with your favouritecartoon and movie characters.
- CUSTOM STICKERS: Make chatting more unique with custom stickers and the new Selfie Stickers feature.
- OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS: Tons of accounts to follow with original content and news for your reading pleasure.
- MINI PROGRAMS: Countless third-party services all within the WeChat app that don't require additional installation, saving you precious phone storage and time.
- TOP STORIES: See the latest articles your friends are reading and discover all kinds of interesting content.
- GAMES: Have fun and compete with friends in a huge selection of WeChat Mini Games and Tencent Games (*only available in certain regions).
- WECHAT PAY: Enjoy the convenience of world-leading mobile payment features with WeChat Pay and Wallet (*only available in certainregions).
- WECHAT OUT: Make calls to mobile phones and landlines around the globe at super low rates (*only available in certain regions).
- LANGUAGE SUPPORT: Localized in 20 different languages and can translate friends' messages and Moments posts.
- BETTER PRIVACY: Giving you the highest level of control over your privacy, WeChat is the only messaging app to be certified by TRUSTe.
- AND MUCH MORE: Exercise with friends on WeRun, scan QR codes, and much more.

Houseparty



See who is on Houseparty even when you're not online. Say Hi to your friends as you browse the web.

Houseparty is the face-to-face social network where you can connect with the people you care about most. The app makes video chat effortless, alerting you when your friends are “in the house” and ready to chat so you can jump right into the conversation. The same goes for you opening the app! Your friends will know you're in the app and ready to talk (because calls are so last year). Houseparty is truly the next best thing to hanging out in person. See your friends more often on Houseparty. Want to know who's online while you're doing other things? Move to “around” so you never miss out.

Netflix Party



Netflix Party is a new way to watch Netflix with your friends online. Netflix Party synchronizes video playback and adds group chat to your favourite Netflix shows. Join over 10,000,000 people and use Netflix Party to link up with friends and host long distance movie nights and TV watch parties today

Rec Room

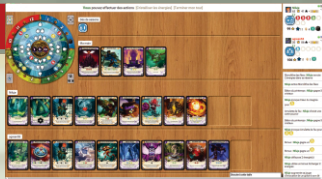


The online universe where you play and create games with friends from around the world. Meet up with friends or make new ones. Party up and explore Rec Room together. No matter your friend's location or device, Rec Room makes it feel like you're in the same room.

Explore millions of different rooms, where each room is a new experience. There's paintball, dodgeball, parkour courses, escape rooms, high seas adventures, haunted castles and more.

Create together with your friends using Rec Room's simple but powerful tools. No coding knowledge required. You can build a massive virtual world, a cosy clubhouse for your friends, or publish a game for the whole world to play.

Board Game Arena



The largest boardgame table in the world, for free
No download necessary - play directly from your web browser
With your friends and thousands of players from the whole world.
4 433 000 opponents to challenge on 212 games.
3 180 000 games played each month.
Available in 41 languages and more than 300 countries.

