

VIDEO CALLING OPTIONS

Video calling can be a great way to keep in touch, especially when meeting in person is not an option. There are many different platforms and apps to choose from, in this guide we have compared the ones which are easy to use and free.

When you are the host of a video call - the person who organised or started the call - you will need an account and an app or software, but in some cases the people you chat with on the call won't need that.

It's important to consider who is going to join your call and what you want to do during it. Some apps offer built in games, some have time limits and they differ on how many people you can see at the same time.

The aim of the Families Wellbeing project is for people to feel more connected, sharing ideas to encourage people to maintain and build connections and friendships in their communities. More information about the project can be found at <https://otbds.org/projects/families-wellbeing>

Platform	Max number of people	Chat	People you can see on phone	People you can see on PC or tablet	Dial in	Software or app needed	Account needed	Fully encrypted	What information is shared with others	Other things
WhereBy	4	✓	4	4	x	x	x	x		
Zoom	100	✓	4	49 max	✓	x	x	x		40min max
FaceTime	32	✓	32	32	x	x	x	✓	Phone number/ email	Only for Apple devices
Skype	50	✓	4	9	✓	x	✓	x	Phone number	
Google Meet	100	✓	4	16	✓	If	On mobile	x		1hr max (24hrs until Oct 2020)
Messenger	8	✓	8	8	x	✓	✓	x	Facebook profile	
Messenger Rooms	50	x	8	16	x	x	x	x	Facebook profile	
WhatsApp	8	✓	8	x	x	✓	✓	✓	Phone number	No video calls on PC
House Party	8	✓	8	8	x	✓	✓	x		In built games

KEY

- **MAX PEOPLE** The number of people who can join a video call.
- **CHAT** The availability of the option to write messages instead of video calling.
- **PEOPLE YOU CAN SEE ON PHONE** The number of people who you can see when video calling on a mobile device.
- **PEOPLE YOU CAN SEE ON PC** The number of people you can see when video calling on a PC or tablet.
- **DIAL IN OPTION** This is the option to dial in from any phone to a video call – useful if someone doesn't have internet.
- **SOFTWARE OR APP NEEDED** The requirement to download software or app in order to join a video call. Most platforms require the host to download software/app.
- **ACCOUNT NEEDED** Do you need to set up an account in order to join a call. If you are hosting the call you will need an account.
- **FULLY ENCRYPTED** Built in end to end encryption: this is a safety measure which ensures only the people in the video call or chat group can see, hear and read what's being said, no one else can gain access to it. It's helpful to ensure confidentiality.
- **INFO SHARED** What information other people on the call/chat can see about you, in addition to your user name.