

Messaging Apps Top 10?

Marc Servant, 22 June, 2020

App Criteria

- Before you download an app, you want to know it will match your needs instead of just adding more clutter to your mobile device. Ask yourself these important questions:
 - Does this app allow me to video and voice chat?
 - Can I use it on my desktop?
 - Will it be loaded with annoying ads?
 - Can I create group chats?
 - Will I be able to send and accept files?
 - How secure will my discussions be?
 - Is it free to use?

Contenders

- WhatsApp
- Facebook Messenger
- Line
- SnapChat
- WeChat
- Skype
- Viber
- Telegram

WhatsApp

- **WhatsApp lets you make free voice calls, video calls, and send instant messages iOS and Android devices.**
- Android, iOS, MacOS
- Popular in : Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Finland, Spain, United Kingdom, Morocco, Indonesia, Germany, Yemen, Oman, Israel, Chad, South Africa, Nigeria, Niger, Tanzania
- Free, other than the cost of using data when not connected to WiFi
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption
- File transfers

Facebook Messenger

- **With Messenger, you can connect for free with anyone who has a Facebook account. You don't even have to be a Facebook user to use the app – just download it and create a Messenger account.**
- Android, iOS, Windows, MacOS
- Popular in United States, Canada, Algeria, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Australia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Portugal, Ireland
- Free, other than the cost of using data when not connected to WiFi
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption (?)
- File transfers
- Includes annoying ads

Line

- **Line has made quite the name for itself in East Asia. With more than 200 million users, this is the chat app of choice in Thailand, Taiwan, and Japan**
- Android, iOS
- Popular in Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, Turkmenistan
- Free, other than the cost of using data when not connected to WiFi or Premium Features
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption
- File transfers
- Many add in functions not found elsewhere (Taxi, Food, News)

SnapChat

- **Used mostly by business brands, Celebrities, Influencers**
- Android, iOS
- Popular in United States, France, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, India, Mexico, Germany, Brazil, Canada, Australia
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption (?)
- File transfers
- Short lived messages for greater security (screen shot)

Wechat

- **With more than a Billion Users – Most other apps are blocked throughout China**
- Android, iOS, Windows, macOS
- Popular in China, Mongolia
- Referred as an App for everything includes mobile payments
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption(?)
- File transfers
- Many features not useable outside China

Skype

- **It has a business focus but is available for landline calls in 27 countries**
- Android, iOS, Windows, macOS, Linux
- Free to voice or video message other Skype users, other than the cost of using data when not connected to WiFi. There are costs associated with some of Skype's premium features, such as dialing a landline and non-Skype members (costs depend on location)
- Popular in Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption
- File transfers

viber

- **One of the most used chat apps within the Eastern European market.**
- Android, iOS, Windows, macOS, Linux
- Free to voice or video message other Viber users. There are costs associated with some of Viber's premium features, such as Viber Out (Landline)
- Popular in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Tajikistan, Moldova, Armenia
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption(?)
- File transfers

Telegram

- **Telegram allows its users to create massive groups of up to 200,000 members, far more than most other chat apps**
- Android, iOS, Windows, macOS, Linux
- Free other than the cost of using data when not connected to WiFi.
- Popular in Iran, Uzbekistan
- Voice, Video, Group, End to End encryption(?) – secret chats only
- File transfers
- Never and ads

Honourable Mentions

- Houseparty – Teen, Gaming, 8 people
- Band – Less formal, small groups, neighborhood sports teams
- Signal – Open source military grade end to end encryption
- GroupMe – group messages, SMS support
- Discord – Mostly gamers, in game streaming, most features are free
- Voxel – more voice than chat, walkie talkie style messaging
- Dust – Formerly Cybe-Dust, Self destructing messages, heavy open source encryption
- Wire – Swiss based, adheres to European GDPR
- Silent Phone – Circle of trust, Self destructing messages
- Kik – most anonymous

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