



SKYPE

Skype works across smartphones, tablets, PC's, Apple Mac computers or any web browser, with a single login. Free video calls for up to 50 participants, plus the ability to share presentations, pictures and text on your display with other callers. You can even blur the background behind you to cover up sensitive material for greater privacy. Free: iOS, Android, PC, Mac, Web



WHATSAPP

Straightforward for smartphones, WhatsApp keeps features to a minimum, forgoing advanced settings in favour of a reliable connection. You can mute your microphone, switch to the rear camera or cancel video altogether to make a voice call. Tap the video camera icon for a one-on-one chat, or in a group conversation with up to 3 people. Free: iOS, Android



ZOOM

The basic Zoom plan is free with a host of features. A whopping 100 people can dial into the same call, with tools including simultaneous screen sharing and virtual backgrounds, so you can pretend you're somewhere exotic. Video quality and time is limited on the free package but generous enough. Free: iOS, Android, PC, Mac, Web



GOOGLE DUO

Duo is also made by Google but focuses on quality video calls. Built simple of all sorts of devices, Duo is designed for smartphones, tablets, Google Nest smart displays and Google's Chrome web browser on desktop and laptop computers. Up to eight faces can join at once and calls are end-to-end encrypted to stop people spying. Free: iOS, Android, Chrome, Nest



HOUSEPARTY

Houseparty alerts you when your friends are online and lets you strike up a chat. The twist is that their friends can drop in on your calls and you can do the same to them. Up to eight people can join at any one time. You can lock your chat to keep out unwanted drop-ins. Free: iOS, Android, Mac, Chrome



JITSI MEET

A click and go conference call app for easy video calling. Jitsi Meet doesn't require you to sign up for an account or download anything. It's open-source, which means you're not tied to a social-media platform or specific web browser, and it won't share you data. The platform is encrypted for security, supports up to 75 participants, and hosts can even eject troublemakers! Free: iOS, Android, Web



FACEBOOK MESSENGER ROOMS

This a new service within Facebook, so if you're a member, it's at your disposal. It supports up to 50 participants and Zoom-style backgrounds. Facebook say it'll be adding messger Rooms to another of it's social networks, Instagram, so if you use both this could be for you.

Free: iOS, Android, PC, Mac, Web



MICROSOFT TEAMS

Teams is geared towards subscribers of Microsoft software under its 'Office 365' umbrella. However, a free version can host a quite unbelievable 300 people at once! Great for talks.

Free: iOS, Android, PC, Mac, Web