

Video-Chatting App Versions

*These pages detail
some of the differences
in versions of video
chatting apps.*

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About App Versions

Video chatting apps are very versatile in that the same app can be used on several different types of devices, and with different operating systems. This results in some variations for each video-chatting app, depending on which device and operating system is being used.

In general, the variations of video-chatting apps occur in the interface of the app, in terms of what the user sees on the screen. As far as the functionality of the apps is concerned, this is similar regardless of the version of the app being used, but the functions may be accessed from different locations in the different versions of the app.



Several video-chatting apps, including all of their variations, use the terminology “meeting” for video or audio chatting.

As shown in Chapter Two, page 22, of **Video Chatting for Seniors in easy steps**, the best option for devices for video chatting, in terms of screen size and mobility, is using a tablet computer. This can either be an Apple iPad, or a tablet using the Android operating system. The examples in **Video Chatting for Seniors in easy steps** generally cover using tablets, and these pages detail any major differences using versions of the apps for laptops, desktop computers, and smartphones.

Windows and macOS versions

In general, the versions of video-chatting apps have the same interface on laptops and desktop computers using Windows 10 and the Apple equivalents using macOS. Any differences will be noted on the following pages for the relevant video-chatting apps.

Smartphones

As with Windows 10 and macOS devices, smartphones using iOS (iPhone), and devices using Android have the same interface for video-chatting apps, and any differences will be noted as appropriate.

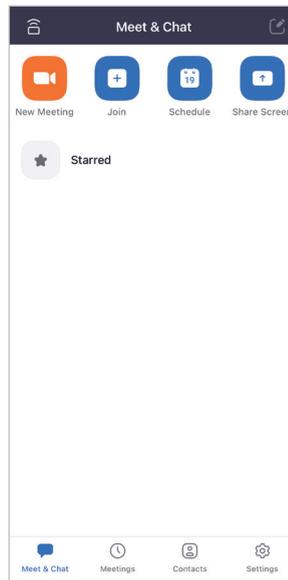
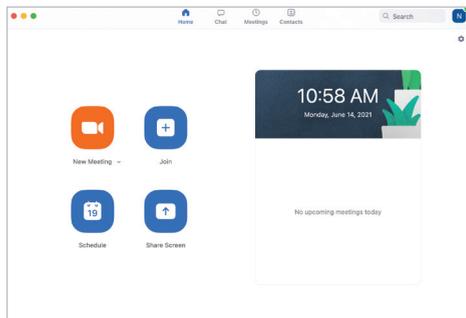
Video-chatting apps

These pages will look at the four major video-chatting apps that are used in **Video Chatting for Seniors in easy steps**: Zoom; Skype; FaceTime; and Messenger.

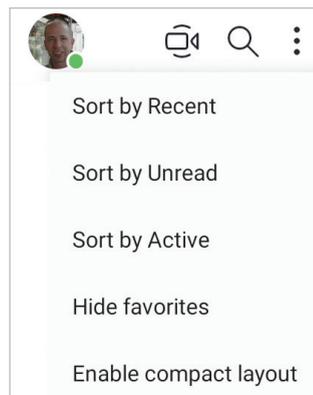
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Screen orientation

The most visually obvious difference between versions of video-chatting apps is in the screen orientation – i.e. whether the app appears, by default, in landscape or portrait mode. The one significant variation in this respect is using a smartphone, which is naturally used in portrait mode. This means that there is less room along the top and bottom of the screen than using a video-chatting app, for instance, on a laptop. This can result in the toolbars and buttons being located in different places from versions that are naturally used in landscape mode.



Menu buttons are used by all versions of video-chatting apps, to provide more options when there is not sufficient room on a screen or a toolbar. Click or tap on a menu button to view its options.



Menu buttons can also be three horizontal dots, as well as three vertical ones.





The laptop and desktop versions of Zoom have the same interface for Windows 10 and macOS on Apple laptops and desktops.



The screen in Step 1 is the Home screen, which is the first one that is seen when the app is opened.

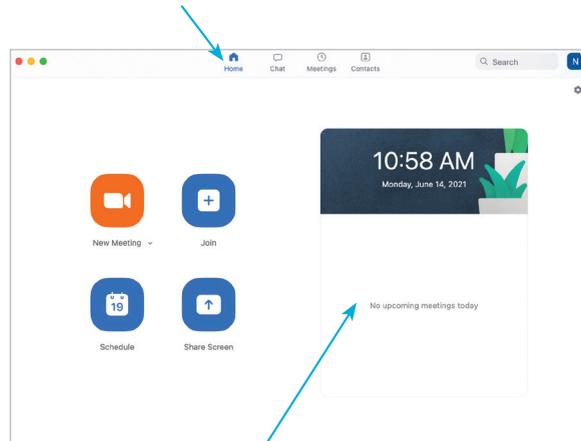
Zoom

The versions of Zoom, other than the one used for tablets, are for laptops and desktop computers, and smartphones.

Laptops and desktop computers

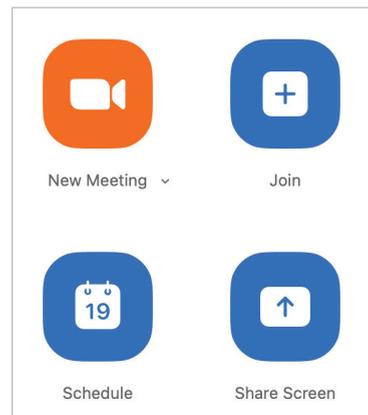
The interface for the laptop and desktop versions of Zoom have the following controls and functions:

- 1 The top toolbar, containing options for: returning to this **Home** screen; accessing the **Chat** section; accessing the **Meetings** section; and accessing the **Contacts** section



- 2 A list of meetings that have been scheduled

- 3 In the middle of the left-hand side of the screen, buttons for: starting a **New Meeting**; **Join** an existing meeting; **Schedule** a meeting; and **Share Screen**, during a meeting

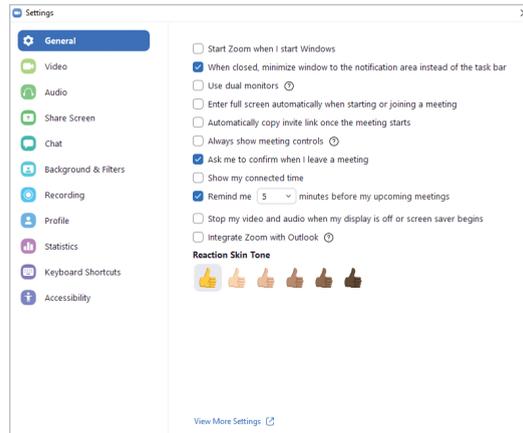


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- 4 Click on the **Settings** button in the top right-hand corner of the home screen



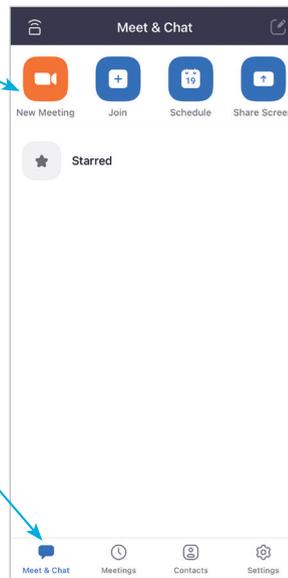
- 5 Select the **Settings** categories in the left-hand panel to apply the required settings for Zoom, accessed in the main window



Smartphones

The interface for the smartphone version of Zoom has the following controls and functions:

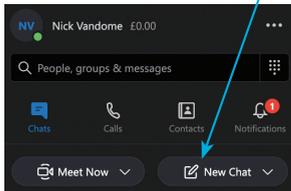
- 1 The main function buttons, as shown in Step 3 on the previous page
- 2 The bottom toolbar, containing options for: **Meet & Chat** for starting video or text chats; accessing the **Meetings** section; accessing the **Contacts** section; and the **Settings**



The smartphone versions of Zoom have the same interface for the iPhone (iOS) and smartphones using the Android operating system.



The laptop and desktop versions of Skype have the same interface for Windows 10 and macOS on Apple laptops and desktops, except that the macOS version has two buttons below the options in Step 2, for: starting a new meeting (**Meet Now**); or for starting a new text chat (**New Chat**).



Once a recent chat has been selected as in Step 2, the participant(s) of the chat are shown in the main window.

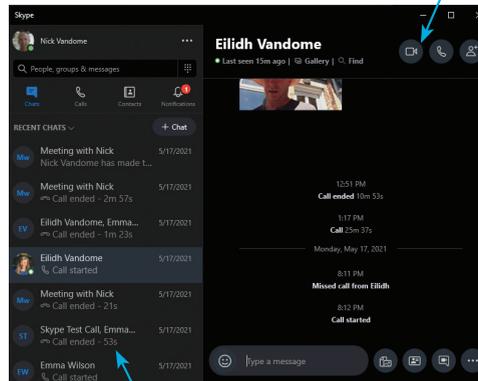
Skype

The versions of Skype, other than the one used for tablets, are for laptops and desktop computers, and smartphones.

Laptops and desktop computers

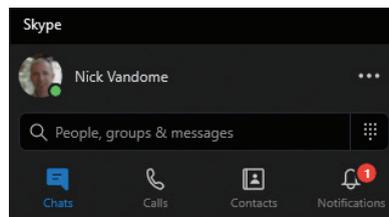
The interface for the laptop and desktop versions of Skype have the following controls and functions:

- 1 The main window, where video chats and text chats can be viewed. This includes buttons for: starting a video call; starting an audio call; and adding another person to the conversation



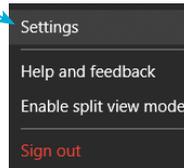
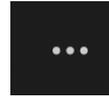
- 2 A list of recent chats that you have undertaken. Click on one to start a video, voice or text chat again

- 3 The top left-hand corner contains: your own account icon, a Search box for finding contacts or messages; and buttons for **Chats**, **Calls**, **Contacts** and **Notifications**

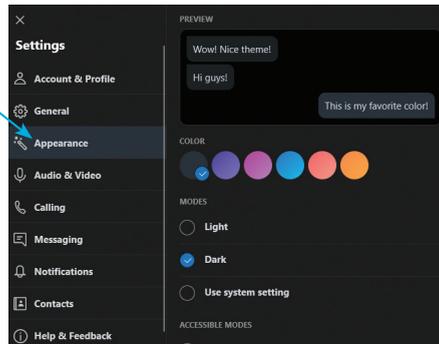


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- 4 Click on the menu button in the top left-hand corner of the Home screen and click on the **Settings** option



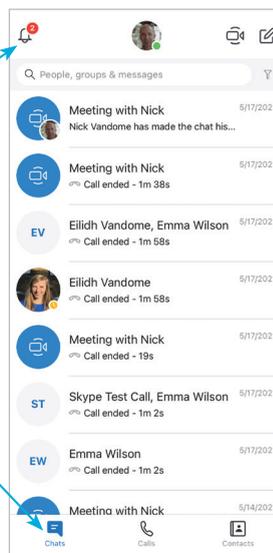
- 5 Select the **Settings** categories in the left-hand panel to apply the required settings for Skype, accessed in the main window



Smartphones

The interface for the smartphone version of Skype has the following controls and functions:

- 1 The top toolbar, containing options for: Skype notifications; your own account Settings; start a video chat; and start a text chat
- 2 The bottom toolbar, containing options for accessing **Chats, Calls** and **Contacts**



The smartphone versions of Skype have the same interface for the iPhone (iOS) and smartphones using the Android operating system, except that the Android version has a Search icon and a menu button on the top toolbar.



Also, the option for starting a new text conversation is accessed from this button towards the bottom of the screen.



FaceTime

The versions of FaceTime, other than the one used on an iPad, are for MacBooks, iMacs and Mac Pros (Mac computers using macOS), and for the iPhone.

Mac computers using macOS

The interface for FaceTime on Mac computers using macOS has the following controls and functions:



Click on this button to the right of the control buttons at the bottom of the screen in Step 2 to take a photo of the current video call.



- 1 When FaceTime is opened, the main window displays your own video feed. The left-hand panel shows recent FaceTime calls. Click in Search box at the top of the panel to find more contacts



- 2 When a call is connected, the other person's video feed is displayed in the main window and yours is a thumbnail at the top of the window



- 3 The control buttons, at the bottom of the screen, can be used for: displaying the left-hand panel; muting or unmuting a call; ending a call; hiding or showing your video feed; and using FaceTime in full screen mode



If the left-hand panel is accessed during a call by clicking on this button in Step 3, this can be used to add more people to the call, by clicking on the **Add Person** button.

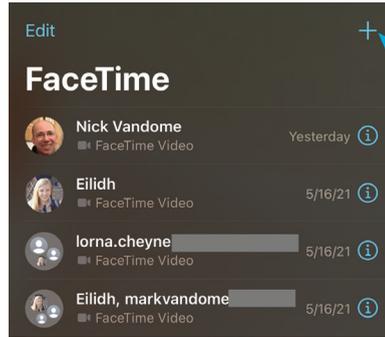


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iPhones

The interface for FaceTime on the iPhone smartphone has the following controls and functions:

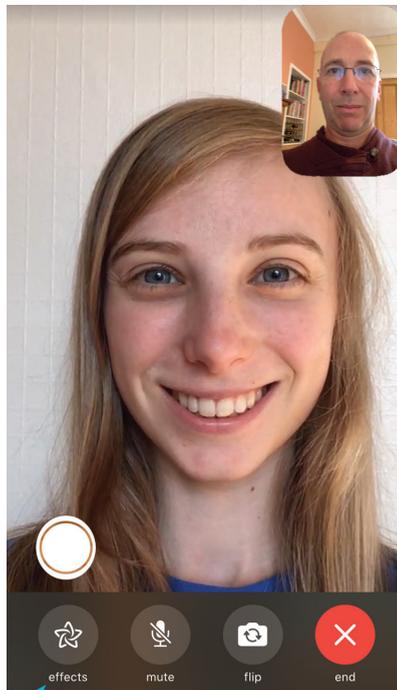
- 1 When FaceTime is opened, a list of previous calls is displayed. Tap on one to start another call with that person



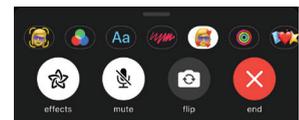
Tap on this button to access someone from your contacts and make a call to them.



- 2 When a call is connected, the other person's video feed is displayed in the main window and yours is a thumbnail at the top of the window



The **effects** button in Step 3 can be used to add a range of artistic effects, animated images and text.



- 3 The control buttons, at the bottom of the screen can be used for: accessing special effects; muting or unmuting a call; switching between front-facing and back-facing cameras; and ending a call

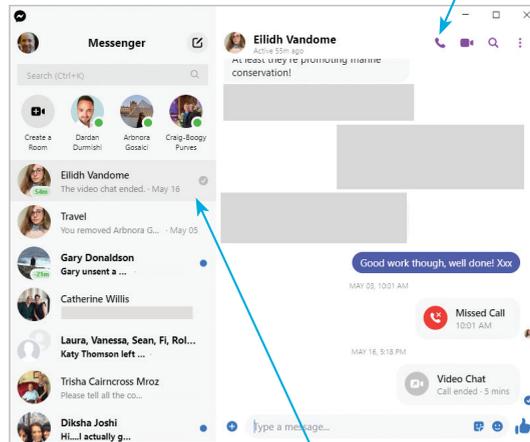
Messenger

The versions of Messenger, other than the one used for tablets, are for laptops and desktop computers, and smartphones.

Laptops and desktop computers

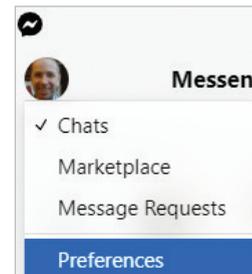
The interface for the laptop and desktop versions of Messenger have the following controls and functions:

- 1 The main window, where video chats and text chats can be viewed. This includes buttons for: starting an audio call; starting a video call; and searching for contacts to add to the conversation



- 2 A list of recent chats that you have undertaken. Click on one to start a video, voice or text chat again

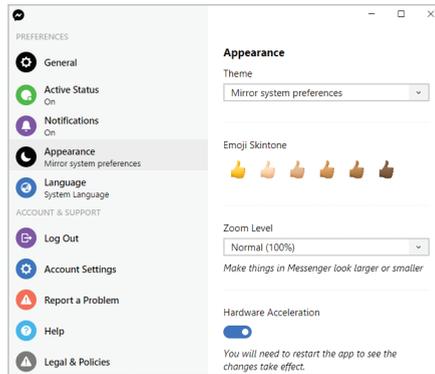
- 3 Click on your own account icon in the top left-hand corner of the main window and click on the **Preferences** button



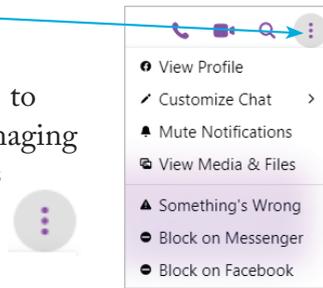
Once a recent chat has been selected as in Step 2, the participant(s) of the chat are shown in the main window.

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- 4 Select the **Preferences** categories in the left-hand panel to apply the required settings for Messenger, accessed in the main window



- 5 Click on the menu button to the right of the icons in Step 1 on the previous page to access more options for managing your Messenger interactions

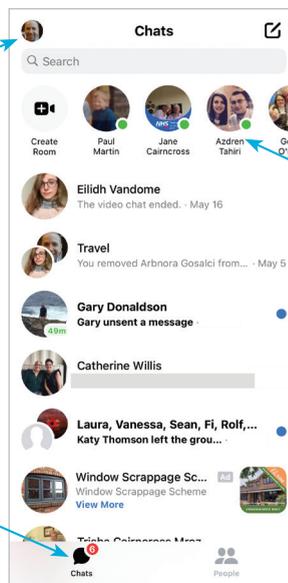


The smartphone versions of Messenger have the same interface for the iPhone (iOS) and smartphones using the Android operating system.

Smartphones

The interface for the smartphone version of Messenger has the following controls and functions:

- 1 The top toolbar, containing options for: your own account icon for accessing account preferences; and starting a text chat
- 2 The bottom toolbar, containing options for accessing **Chats**, and **People**



The contacts in the Messenger app are from your Facebook account. Contacts who are currently online and using Facebook, or Messenger, are shown at the top of the window.

