

# Comparing Online Meeting Platforms

Due to the increased need for Support Groups to transition to online meeting platforms, ConnectGroups has developed this comparison document to assist its groups in choosing a suitable platform. The document compares platform features, pricing, audio and visual specifications, security, and ease of use.



If you would like further guidance in transitioning your Support Group meeting to an online platform, please contact ConnectGroups on **(08) 9364 6909** or email [info@connectgroups.org.au](mailto:info@connectgroups.org.au)

## Disclaimer





The information presented in this document has been provided only as an introductory guide, and ConnectGroups encourages you to conduct your own research when choosing an online platform. ConnectGroups does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.



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ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS	 ZOOM	 Microsoft Teams	 Google Hangout	 Skype	 WhatsApp
<b>Features</b>	Raise hand, breakout rooms, emoji reaction and can record meeting	Can record meetings, sync calendars and set notifications	Automated captions for the hearing impaired	Can record meetings and automated captions for the hearing impaired	More of a messaging application - can cater for very large group chats
<b>Price</b>	Restricted free account <b>or</b> \$20.99 for premium (use for large groups) <i>Calls can only be 40 minutes without premium</i>	Restricted free account <b>or</b> is comes with Office365 (use for large groups) <i>Wouldn't recommend getting Office365 for just this purpose</i>	Restricted free account that can cater for up to 10 people (use for small/medium groups)	Free with up to 10 people in a video conference (use for small/medium groups)	Free with up to 10 people in a video conference (use for small/medium groups)
<b>Audio &amp; Visual</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>
<b>Security</b>	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption	End-to-end encryption	End-to-end encryption
<b>Ease of Use</b>	5/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5
<b>Screen Share</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Chat</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Mobile Support</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS	 FaceTime	 House Party	 GoToMeeting	 Slack
Features	Lots of fun filters and effects to choose from	Users can play many different games together <i>(Make sure to lock your group)</i>	Option to automatically take the minutes from a meeting	File sharing, notifications to group and unique workflow feature
Price	Only available on Apple smart devices <i>(only use when contacting one person)</i>	Free on all available app stores <i>(use for groups of 8 or less)</i>	Starting from \$17.33 a month for 150 participants <i>(use for large groups if a scaleable platform is required)</i>	Restricted free account <b>or</b> \$6.67 for standard <i>(use for small/medium groups) Calls can only be made to 1 person with free account</i>
Audio & Visual	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>	<b>HD video and Audio</b>
Security	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption	Safe and robust encryption, however not end-to-end encryption
Ease of Use	5/5	4/5	NA	4/5
Screen Share			✓	✓
Chat		✓	✓	✓
Mobile Support	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Encryption

## What is encryption?

Encryption turns your data into a muddled version of itself in an attempt to make it impossible for any outside parties to read or understand. When it reaches the intended recipient, the muddled data is transformed back to its original form, making itself accessible and/or readable for only the users it was sent to.

## What is end-to-end encryption?

End-to-end encryption is essentially a form of maximum protection for your data, in which only recipients can access what has been sent to them. End-to-end encryption gives users the comfort of knowing no-one will have unauthorised access to their data. Online meeting platforms that don't use end-to-end encryption don't necessarily allow 3rd parties to intercept your data, however granting the platform potential access.