

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a [freeware](#), [cross-platform](#), [centralized instant messaging](#) (IM) and [voice-over-IP](#) (VoIP) service owned by United States tech conglomerate [Meta Platforms](#).^[14] It allows users to send [text](#), [voice messages](#) and video messages,^[15] make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other content.^{[16][17]} WhatsApp's [client](#) application runs on [mobile devices](#), and can be accessed from computers.^[18] The service requires a [cellular mobile telephone number](#) to sign up.^[19] In January 2018, WhatsApp released a standalone business app called WhatsApp Business which can communicate with the standard WhatsApp client.^{[20][21]}

The service was created by WhatsApp Inc. of [Mountain View, California](#), which was acquired by Facebook in February 2014 for approximately [US\\$19.3 billion](#).^{[22][23]} It became the world's most popular messaging application by 2015,^{[24][25]} and had more than 2 billion users worldwide by February 2020.^[26] By 2016, it had become the primary means of Internet communication in regions including Latin America, the Indian subcontinent, and large parts of Europe and Africa.