

Video group calls

# The Question

To contact the grandchildren with a video group call, I started to ask them, what type of system they were using. After going through names, youngest said " Oh you mean Face time". Today her sister said " Google meet". The other family's parent said probably Duo. My question is What Face time platforms are 11 - 15 year olds most likely to use?

# The Answer

- How long is your piece of string?
  - Or is it rope?
  - Or is it a chain?
- 
- Depends on a number of variables

# The variables

What devices do people have?

PCs

Tablets

Phones

If they are the last two – Android or Apple

# What Operating system?

- Android,
- iOS,
- macOS
- Web browser
- Windows
- Alexa
- Kindle Fire
- Linux
- Xbox
- Facebook portal

## Other considerations

- **Number of participants and how many visible at one time**
- **Call Duration**
- **Cost**

# Suggested applications in the question

## FaceTime

1. Apple to Apple only
2. Android devices don't have the app. So **basically incompatible**
3. Newer versions of Apple operating systems can create a link for an Android device. Described as "***catchy.***"
4. Appears to be one way

## Google Meet

1. Android, iOS, World Wide Web
2. built for secure, high-quality business meetings,

## Duo

- simple video-calling service
- supports up to 32 people in a group video call
- available [for Android](#) and iOS
- It can also be used with the Google Chrome browser on desktop and laptop computers
- Google's answer to Apple's FaceTime
- Simple interface
- end-to-end encryption
- Free app
- Data charges may apply



# Alternatives

## WhatsApp

- WhatsApp from Facebook is a FREE messaging and video calling app
- Make secure video and voice calls with up to 8 people for free
- All you need is your phone number, no user names or logins
- End-to-end encrypted group chats let you share messages, photos, videos and documents
- Apple and Android
- All the tools are very easy to use.
- Some concerns exist re sharing data/privacy. Manageable
- Addictive - allow children to use for fixed set duration

# Facebook Messenger

- free\* all-in-one communication app, complete with unlimited text, voice, video calling and group video chat features.
- Compatible across platforms
- no limit to the number of files photos & videos you want to share with your friends.
- Kids version available – adults need to control access

# Zoom

- Android Apple and Windows
- up to 3 users free for unlimited time
- Paid subscriptions available
- Otherwise limited to 40 minutes free
- Stellar performance
- Easy to use
- Mixed track record for company response to privacy and security concerns
- For its stability and reliability, however, Zoom remains a go-to app for personal get-togethers.
- Not immune from criticism re encryption and Zoom bombing
- HOWEVER remains PC Mag's editor's choice

# Signal

- Free
- End-to-end encryption secured with open-source technology
- Multiplatform support
- Group chat
- Voice and video chats
- More secure than many other systems
- PC Mag editor's choice

# *Zoom Alternatives: Best Free Services for Group Video Chatting During the Pandemic*

<https://au.pcmag.com/video-conferencing-software/83691/zoom-alternatives-best-free-services-for-group-video-chatting-during-the-pandemic>

# Considerations

- Know the type of device to be used at both ends of the conversation.
- Are the devices and software compatible
- Does the person with whom you are communication with have the same application
- Will WiFi be used?
- Possible data charges
- Is security an issue?
- The software listed here are just a fraction of those available.
- Skype, Telegram and Viber and many, many more not addressed here!

# What do I use

- Duo
  - Facebook Messenger
  - WhatsApp
  - Zoom
- 
- N.B. Sorted alphabetically

# Which is the most popular messaging app in the world?

Looking at the monthly active users of the top 3 most popular messaging apps speaks for the popularity of these chat applications:

The top 3 apps WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and WeChat (*a Chinese app*) combine together more than 4 billion active monthly users.

There are only 25 countries in the world where WhatsApp is not the market leader.