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By Victor Ashiedu Published July 29, 2019 WhatsApp web is a WhatsApp service that allows you to use WhatsApp from a browser on your computer. You do not need to install any software on your computer to WhatsApp web. Using WhatsApp from your computer has some benefits. Here are some of the benefits of using WhatsApp via a browser: Unlike using WhatsApp PC App, to use WhatsApp web you do not need to install any software on your computer. You can type faster using the keyboard on your computer With WhatsApp web you can download media (video and images) directly to your computer. You can also share video and photos from your computer You can use keyboard shortcutsFollow the steps below to connect WhatsApp on your phone to WhatsApp Web on your computerFrom your computer, open web.whatsapp.com (link opens in a new browser tab). The page below with the QR code will load. Open WhatsApp app on your phone. Then click the 3 dots on the top right of the App (highlighted in the previous image). Next, click WhatsApp Web. When you click WhatsApp Web, it will load a QR code scanner. Point the scanner on your phone to the WhatsApp QR code on your computer browser. WhatsApp on your computer will connect to WhatsApp on your phone! Below is a detailed list of the things you can do with WhatsApp web:Type and send messages using your keyboard Download media files (photos and videos) directly to your PC Read and respond to messages or start a new chat Respond directly or forward a message Start a new group Participate in group chats View the profile of your contacts Share documents, media files and contacts Send emojis, GIFs, stickers or recorded voice messages Mute notifications Select multiple messages to star, delete or forward Delete or clear all chats for a particular contact Search for messagesClick the new chat icon highlighted in the image below: The New chat window will load. You can do any of the following on the new chat window:Select a contact to chat with. Use the scroll button to scroll down to find more contacts. You can also use the search box to search for a contact you wish to chat with. Finally, you can create a group. Here is how:Click on the contact or group you wish to share files with. Then, click the file share icon (highlighted in the image above). File share options shown below will load. To share media files (videos or photos), click the icon labelled 1. Icon 2 will start the camera on your computer so you can take pictures and share them immediately. Use icon 3 to share documents (Excel, PDF, text, or Word). The last icon, labelled 4 is used to share contacts. Follow the steps below to reply a message directly, delete a message, forward or star a message. Hover over the message to highlight a drop-down arrow. Click on the arrow to display actions you can take on the chat. You can reply directly to the message by clicking Reply. Back to the chat options, to forward, delete or star a message, click the relevant buttonFollow the steps below:As usual, the first step to click on the chat or group. Then, click the 3 dots on top of WhatsApp Web. The options shown in the second image will be displayed. This section will demo how to send Emojis, GIFs and recorded messages with WhatsApp Web.Here are the steps:Click on the chat or group. To send Emojis, GIFs or stickers, click the icon on the left. Going back to the previous image, to record and send a voice message, click the icon on the right. If it is the first time you want to record voice message using WhatsApp Web, the app will request access to your microphone. A message similar to the image below will pop up. Check the box Remember this decision. Then click Allow. WhatsApp will start recording immediately. Start speaking. To cancel you message, click the icon labelled 2 below. When you finish recording, click icon labelled 1. When you click this icon, WhatsApp will send your recorded voice message immediately. If you may wish to disconnect your WhatsApp from the computer, here are the steps: Open WhatsApp on your phone. Next, click the 3 dots on top right of the App (highlighted in the previous image). Next, click WhatsApp Web. All devices you are currently connected to via Web or PC App will be listed here. To log out from all devices, click Log out from all devices. WhatsApp Web is a very great tool that allows you connect and use WhatsApp from a browser. As I said at the beginning of this guide, you do not need to install any application on your computer to do this. If like me you use WhatsApp to communicate with your team you will find this feature very useful. You can chat with your team right from your computer while getting on with other tasks. I hope this guide made life easier for you. If you have any questions or comments, use the "Leave a Reply" form at the end of this page. Better still, respond to the "Was this page helpful?" question below. Was this page helpful? Yes (14)No (3) Victor Ashiedu We're committed to writing accurate content that informs and educates. To learn more, read our Content Writing Policy, Content Review Policy, Anti-plagiarism Policy, and About Us. However, if this content does not meet your expectations, kindly reach out to us through one of the following means: Respond to "Was this page helpful?" above Leave a comment with the "Leave a Comment" form below Email us at [email protected] or via the Contact Us page. WhatsApp has become the most popular messaging app in the world, but it has also leaped off mobile devices and onto our browsers. Many of us value seeing our messages come onto our computer screens in real-time as we work, and WhatsApp gives us the option to reply more easily and quickly using our computer keyboards. Here's everything you need to know about WhatsApp Web and how to get started using it. Editor's note: We used a Google Pixel 7 running Android 14 to develop these steps. We also verified the steps work on Apple devices using an iPhone 12 Mini running iOS 17.2. What is WhatsApp Web, and how does it differ from the desktop app?Edgar Cervantes / Android AuthorityWhatsApp Web is the online browser version of the mobile app. It enables you to receive your messages on your computer screen in real time, reply by typing on your keyboard, start new conversations and groups, and search chat histories. You can receive message notifications from your browser if you have them enabled in the browser settings.However, unlike desktop and mobile apps, it doesn't allow you to make telephone and video calls. You also can't change your status. So there are a few shortcomings with the browser version — but nothing that would be a deal-breaker. What are the differences between WhatsApp Web and the mobile app?Edgar Cervantes / Android AuthorityThe differences between the web version and the mobile app are the same as the desktop app. The mobile app gives you the full WhatsApp experience with all the bells and whistles. The browser version misses things like calling, video calls, and status updates. Setting up the browser version of WhatsApp is very quick and easy. The following steps assume you already have an account on the mobile app. If not, you need to do that first. On your computer, launch your browser and go to web.whatsapp.com. Now, launch WhatsApp on your phone. On Android, tap on the three-dot menu icon and select Linked devices. On iPhone, tap on the Settings tab and select Linked devices. Tap on Link a device. Use the phone's camera to scan the QR code on the browser. That's it. After a few seconds, your chats will be accessible through WhatsApp Web. You need to bear in mind a security vulnerability when using the browser version. When you close the browser tab — or the browser completely — it doesn't log you out of your WhatsApp account. If you're worried about your privacy, it's essential to sign out of your WhatsApp account before closing the browser. On your smartphone, launch WhatsApp. On Android, tap on the three-dot menu icon and select Linked devices. On iPhone, tap on the Settings tab and select Linked devices. Tap on the linked computer. Hit Log out. One of the most common complaints people make about WhatsApp is the lack of an iPad version. Until Facebook rectifies that problem, WhatsApp Web is an excellent alternative to use on the tablet. The process is very similar. Open a browser on the iPad and go to web.whatsapp.com. You will see the QR code on the screen. Follow the same smartphone steps mentioned above to connect your iPad to WhatsApp. If you're using the Safari browser, you can even make an icon for the screen by tapping the Share button and choosing Add to Home Screen. The only downside to using WhatsApp on an iPad is that the notifications are pretty terrible. You're relying on the browser to deliver the notifications, not WhatsApp. So unless you don't need to reply to messages immediately, you would need to keep the browser open and the iPad window awake to see incoming new messages.FAQs Can you video chat on WhatsApp Web?No, video calls are unavailable on WhatsApp Web. Can I update my status on WhatsApp Web?No, you can't update your status on WhatsApp Web. Download Article A user-friendly guide to set up and use WhatsApp on your computer Download Article Do you want to use WhatsApp on your computer? You can easily access your WhatsApp messages on a computer by using WhatsApp Web or the desktop client. You'll just need to connect your account by scanning a QR code with your phone. All messages will be synced, so you can seamlessly continue conversations from your mobile device on your computer. This wikiHow will show you how to open and use WhatsApp on your Windows, Mac, or Linux computer. Go to WhatsApp's website or download a desktop version of the program. Open the WhatsApp mobile application, and go to "Settings" → "Linked Devices" → "Link a Device". Scan the QR code on your computer screen. 1 Navigate to access WhatsApp on the web. You'll be able to use WhatsApp in any web browser on your desktop or laptop computer, including Safari, Chrome, and Edge.[1] You'll see instructions along with a QR code. This code needs to be scanned by the WhatsApp mobile app to link your devices.[2] If preferred, you can download the desktop client and launch the app. You'll only be able to use either WhatsApp Web or the desktop client at a time; if you launch another version, any active session will end and transfer to the new one. 2 Open WhatsApp on your mobile device. This looks like a white phone with a green background. WhatsApp is available for iOS in the App Store and for Android in the Google Play Store. You cannot sign up for WhatsApp for the first time using a computer; you must create an account using a mobile device. Advertisement 3 Tap Settings. This is at the bottom-right corner, next to a cog icon.[3] 4 Tap Linked Devices. You'll find this underneath Started Messages.[4] 5 Tap Link a Device. You may need to provide your device's passcode to proceed. Your camera will open on a new page.[5] Tap OK to clear any instructions from the screen. 6 Scan your QR code. Point your camera at the code on your computer screen.[6] If your device isn't scanning the code, close the WhatsApp app and open it again. When the QR code has been read, you will be logged into WhatsApp on your computer. Advertisement 1 View the WhatsApp Web or desktop interface. The interface is split into two panels. The left panel contains all your messages or chats, much like your inbox, and the right panel is where you can find your current chat room. 2 Click a message to read. The list of your messages can be found in the left panel. Scroll through them, and click the one you'd like to read. 3 Read message. The selected conversation will be displayed on the right panel via a chat window. You can scroll through the exchanges to read the past messages or restore chat history to retrieve old messages. To manage your chats, find the chat in the left panel. Click the down arrow icon and select Archive chat, Mute, Delete, or Mark as unread.[7] Advertisement 1 Select a contact. Type the name of the contact you want to talk to in the search field. The search field is found on the top of the left panel. From the results, click on the name. You can also continue a conversation from one of your existing messages. Just select a message to continue chatting on as described in the Reading Messages section. 2 View the chat window. The chat window will appear in the right panel. The name or names of the people you're talking to are displayed on the header bar. 3 Send a message. The message box is located on the bottom of the right panel. Type your message here, then press Enter to send your message. You can also click the paper airplane icon to send your message.[8] You'll see your message displayed in the chat log. To send a picture, click the clip icon to the left of the chat field. Click the purple Photos & Videos icon to browse your computer. You can also send a Poll, Contact, Document, Sticker, or use your camera. If you want to send a voice message, click the microphone icon to the right of the text field. You must have a connected microphone to do so. 4 Read messages. All messages exchanged during the conversation will be displayed in the chat log. Each message is lagged with the sender's name and timestamp. You can read through them as they appear. 5 Delete a chat (optional). If you don't want to save your current conversation, you can delete it. While still on the chat window, click the button with three vertical dots in the top-right corner. In the pop-up menu, click Delete chat. You can also select Clear messages if you want to keep the conversation in your activity, but clear any messages from the chat log. Advertisement 1 Click . This will be in the left panel, next to New chat. A drop-down menu will open. 2 Click Log out. This will log you out of WhatsApp Web or the desktop client.[9] Alternatively, you can log out of WhatsApp using your mobile device. To do this, open the WhatsApp app. Click Settings → Linked Devices → select your session. Click Log Out → Log Out. You can resume using WhatsApp on your mobile device. Advertisement Add New Question Question Can two different contact numbers on WhatsApp be paired with a laptop? Yes, you can pair two different WhatsApp numbers with the same laptop. You can open one of them in the current window while the other either needs to be open in Incognito/Private mode or a different browser. Question Can we do a video call or an audio call on WhatsApp Web? No, WhatsApp doesn't support audio or video calls on its web version currently. Question How do I add a new contact in web WhatsApp? The official WhatsApp Web version doesn't support adding a new contact. But you can use some tricks with a third-party extension InTouchApp to add new contacts. Ask a Question Advertisement Reviewed by: Computer & Tech Specialist This article was reviewed by Luigi Oppido and by wikiHow staff writer, Rain Kengly. Luigi Oppido is the Owner and Operator of Pleasure Point Computers in Santa Cruz, California. Luigi has over 25 years of experience in general computer repair, data recovery, virus removal, and upgrades. He is also the host of the Computer Man Show! broadcasted on KSQD covering central California for over two years. This article has been viewed 756,068 times. Co-authors: 10 Updated: December 25, 2024 Views: 756,068 Categories: WhatsApp Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 756,068 times. As one of the most popular messaging services, you've already heard of WhatsApp. From its humble beginnings in 2009—two years before Apple introduced iMessage—to its acquisition by Facebook (now Meta) in 2014, WhatsApp has become the dominant messaging platform around the globe. In recent years, it's grown even more potent with new features like video messages, self-destructing voice messages, the ability to edit sent messages, and more. We even finally got an WhatsApp iPad app in May 2025. As popular as the WhatsApp mobile apps are for iPhone and Android, it's easy to forget that you can also use WhatsApp on a desktop or laptop computer. The company provides native apps for Macs and Windows PCs, plus a web-based version that works in any modern web browser on nearly any platform. WhatsApp Web is a great way to keep in touch with friends, family, and colleagues when your smartphone is not handy or you prefer not to type messages on a smaller touchscreen keyboard. Moreover, you can now use WhatsApp Web even when your phone is offline. At one time, WhatsApp needed to be running on your smartphone to relay messages between WhatsApp's servers and the browser-based version of the app. Thankfully, WhatsApp added a multi-device feature a few years ago that lets you directly link up to three other devices to your account. One small catch is that you'll still need to use WhatsApp on your iPhone or Android smartphone to link those devices to your account. Since your WhatsApp profile is tied entirely to your phone number, there's no username or password to log in; instead, you must authenticate WhatsApp Web through its mobile apps. This could be a problem if you want to access WhatsApp Web from a new computer and your phone is dead. Otherwise, once logged in with your web browser, you can chat away even when your phone's battery is dead or offline. How to sign in to WhatsApp Web from an iPhoneUsing WhatsApp Web from your iPhone is easy; just launch WhatsApp Web in Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Safari, or Edge and scan the QR code on the computer with the WhatsApp mobile app from your phone. WhatsApp Web automatically launches in the browser and remains active until you log out from it on your computer or phone. Step 1: In your computer's browser, navigate to . Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 2: Launch WhatsApp on your iPhone. Step 3: On the iPhone, select the Settings tab in the bottom-right corner, and then choose Linked devices. Jesse Hollington / Digital Trends Step 4: Select the Link a device button and authenticate with Face ID or Touch ID as needed. The camera view will open in WhatsApp. Step 5: Hold your phone up to the code on your screen to pair it up. The WhatsApp page in your browser should refresh immediately to log into WhatsApp and show your current list of chats. How to sign in to WhatsApp Web from an Android phoneFor Android phones, here are the steps to follow after opening the WhatsApp website on your computer: Step 1: On your Android phone, launch WhatsApp and select the three dots in the upper-right of the Chat page. Step 2: Select Linked devices and then select Link a device. Use your fingerprint or enter your device passcode if prompted. Jesse Hollington / Digital Trends Step 3: Hold your phone up to the QR code on your computer to pair it. Step 4: Your smartphone account is now linked to the web version of the app. The WhatsApp page in your browser should refresh immediately to log into WhatsApp and show your current list of chats. How to sign in to WhatsApp Web without a QR codeSigning in to WhatsApp Web is typically done by scanning a QR code on your iPhone or Android phone. If that's not doable, you can also link by entering the phone number of your WhatsApp account, which will give you an eight-digit code to key into WhatsApp on your phone to authenticate the link instead. However, the steps are otherwise the same in either case. Step 1: From the WhatsApp Web sign-in page, select Log in with phone number. Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 2: On the next screen, enter the phone number of your WhatsApp account and select Next. Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 3: You'll be shown an eight-digit code to enter into WhatsApp on your phone. Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 4: Open WhatsApp on your smartphone, and select You > Linked devices on an iPhone or three-dot menu and Linked devices on an Android phone. Jesse Hollington / Digital Trends Step 5: Select Link a device. Jesse Hollington / Digital Trends Step 6: From the QR code screen, choose Link with phone number instead and enter the eight-digit code from WhatsApp Web when prompted. Jesse Hollington / Digital Trends Step 7: The WhatsApp page in your browser should refresh immediately and show your current list of chats. Digital Trends WhatsApp Web is as easy to use as the mobile app, and the interface will look familiar. Step 1: To send a message from your desktop, click on an existing chat or click on the New chat icon and select the contact you wish to interact with. Here, you can see previous chats, if they are saved, or alternately see the message bar at the bottom. Step 2: Click on the Type a message bar and start chatting. Step 3: When you're done with your message, click the Enter key on your keyboard to transmit — or just click on the Send icon. Step 4: If you want to include documents, images, or recordings, just attach the files from your desktop and send them as you would any other message by clicking on the paper clip Attach icon at the bottom of the current chat. Jesse Hollington / Digital Trends How to secure WhatsApp Web with a passwordOnce you've logged into WhatsApp Web, your browser will remain logged in and associated with your account until you explicitly log out. However, since logging out will require you to use your phone to sign back in, you should keep it as is unless your smartphone is available and online. Fortunately, you don't need to sign out to keep your private messages away from prying eyes. Instead, you can enable an App Lock feature in WhatsApp Web that will keep your browser signed in and linked to your account while requiring a password to unlock it. Step 1: In WhatsApp Web, select Settings with the gear icon above your profile picture in the lower left corner. Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 2: From the Settings menu, select Privacy, and then scroll down and select App lock (formerly Screen lock). Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 3: Select the check box beside App lock to enable this feature. Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 4: When prompted, enter and confirm the password you'd like to use to secure WhatsApp Web, and select OK. Jess Reyes / Digital Trends Step 5: Choose the period of inactivity that needs to elapse before WhatsApp automatically locks the screen. Once app lock is enabled, you can also lock the screen at any time by selecting Lock app from the main three-dot menu. App lock replaces the Log out option on this menu; you can still log out from the Settings menu if you need to log out of your WhatsApp Web session entirely. Note that an app lock password applies only to the current WhatsApp Web session in whatever browser you're using. It's not shared with other devices, and will need to be set up again if you log out and log back in later. WhatsApp Web featuresAfter scanning the QR code, you can view your WhatsApp chat list directly on the web page. On the left, you can see your chats by clicking a contact to open the chat and your message history, if you saved it. On the top-left of the web page, three icons are available: Status, New chat, and Menu, which offers a list of nested options. The Status option reveals all statuses posted by your contacts, along with the ability to respond from the reply area at the bottom of the pane. Clicking New chat opens the contacts list on the left side of the page. From here, you can create a new group or begin a conversation. The three-dot drop-down menu lets you create a new group, change information in your profile, search archived chats, view starred messages, change settings like notifications and chat wallpaper, or log out. Jesse has been a Mobile Writer for Digital Trends since 2021 and a technology enthusiast for his entire life — he was...