

Compare 20 transcript capture tools

Keep the conversation going.
Find a capture tool that fits your day.

CHOOSE A STARTING POINT

Where will you capture the conversation?

Start with a conversation you want to keep. Choose where it happens, then explore the tools that can come along.

01

Online meetings

Compare a dedicated meeting assistant when you need recurring call capture.



Fathom



Granola



Otter



Fireflies



tl;dv



Tactiq

Tactiq

02

Inside your workspace

Check whether your current plan already includes the capture features you need.



Zoom



Notion



Google Meet



Microsoft Teams

03

Your own thinking

Capture a reflection or dictate into a document. Label a later reflection as such.



Apple Voice Memos



Wispr Flow



Google Pixel Recorder

04

Audio that stays local

Choose a local model and check where backups and later AI processing send the files.



MacWhisper



Vibe



Aiko

05

A recorder you carry

Test whether a physical button makes capture easier. Budget for processing as well as the device.



Plaud



Genspark SecondBrain Note

06

Specialist conversations

Evaluate Zocks for financial-advisor work and Heidi for clinical notes within the organization’s permitted workflow.



Zocks



Heidi

Keep the full conversation

Before relying on a tool, save a complete transcript and check a passage against the audio when available. A shared summary can leave out the exchange you want to examine.

Which tool fits the conversations you have?

Documented features and practical tradeoffs. Accuracy and reliability haven’t been tested side by side.

TOOL	CAPTURE AND DEVICES	USEFUL WHEN	MAIN STRENGTH	LIMITATION TO WEIGH
 Fathom	Online meetings; bot capture and a Mac beta without a bot	You want a free starting point for recurring calls	Unlimited recording and transcription on Free	Capture without a bot is marked beta for Mac; advanced AI features depend on tier. Plans
 Granola	Desktop microphone and system audio; mobile capture also offered	You take your own notes during meetings	Combines your notes with a transcript, without a meeting bot	Free history is limited; a shared note link shows summarized notes, so copy the transcript separately. Transcription , Sharing , Plans
 Otter	Meeting capture, file imports, iOS and Android recording	You need a mix of meetings and mobile audio	Live transcription, speaker identification, and playback	Recording minutes and file imports have separate allowances. Pro caps meetings at 90 minutes. Plans
 Zoom cloud audio transcription	Native cloud recording of Zoom meetings	You already have an eligible paid Zoom account	A timestamped transcript accompanies the recording	Requires cloud recording and transcription enabled; the documented feature supports English. Computer recording is a separate path. Requirements
 Notion AI Meeting Notes	Desktop, browser, and mobile, with capture differences	Meeting notes belong in your existing Notion workspace	Notes and transcript live together with citations	Speaker labeling works best for desktop one-to-one calls; group and mobile capture can be less reliable for attribution. Help
 Wispr Flow dictation	Speech entered into a text field on supported desktop and mobile devices	You're talking through an idea or writing aloud	Fits into the document you're already using	Dictation formats your speech. Preserve original source wording separately when exact phrasing matters; this row evaluates dictation only. Getting started , Devices
 Apple Voice Memos	In-person audio and personal voice notes on supported iPhones	You want to start with your phone	Built-in recording with full-transcript copying	Transcription requires iPhone 12 or later and a supported language/region. This row doesn't evaluate phone-call recording. Instructions
 MacWhisper	Mac app for recorded files and supported capture workflows	You want local transcription with a graphical interface	Local models and text/subtitle exports	Performance depends on the Mac and model; some features require Pro. Check that optional cloud services are disabled for a local workflow. Product , Local processing
 Vibe	Local audio/video transcription on Windows, macOS, and Linux	You need a free local option across operating systems	Open-source offline transcription and file export	Initial model downloads and computer resources are your responsibility; test speed and speaker handling on your own files. Project , Features
 Plaud Note / NotePin family	Phone-attached recorders and wearable devices, depending on model	A dedicated button or wearable makes in-person capture easier	Purpose-built hardware paired with transcript export	Device purchase plus processing allowance; confirm the exact model's call-recording support. AI processing uses cloud services. Devices , Processing
 Genspark SecondBrain Note	Physical recorder paired with the Genspark mobile app	You want recordings available within Genspark	Records independently, then syncs for processing	Current documentation says transcription follows recording. Independent full-transcript export needs account testing. Help
 Zocks	In-person, virtual, and phone conversations for financial advisors	You need advisor-specific CRM and archival workflows	Financial-services integrations and configurable transcript handling	Higher cost; firm policy determines appropriate use. “No recording” describes audio handling and still allows transcript processing. Compliance , Integrations
 Fireflies	Meeting assistant, desktop/mobile capture and file uploads	You want a searchable library across many calls	Several ways to capture and organize meetings	Transcript downloads are a Pro feature; storage and AI allowances differ. Plans

TOOL	CAPTURE AND DEVICES	USEFUL WHEN	MAIN STRENGTH	LIMITATION TO WEIGH
 tl;dv	Online meeting recording and uploaded files	You revisit calls and share selected moments	Recordings with transcripts and timestamped notes	Free recordings move to archived storage after 3 days. Free limits
 Tactiq	Browser meeting transcription; desktop capture also offered	You want transcript capture within supported meeting apps	Live transcript and highlights without a meeting bot	Support varies by browser and meeting app; test your exact setup. Product
 Google Meet	Native transcription in eligible Workspace meetings	Your organization already works in Google Workspace	Transcript saved in the organizer's Drive	Requires an eligible edition, supported language, storage and host permissions. Help
 Microsoft Teams	Native live meeting transcription	Your organization already uses Teams	Speaker names and timestamps in meeting recap	Organizer and admin policies determine access. Help
 Google Pixel Recorder	Voice recordings on supported Pixel phones and Pixel Tablet	You want capture on the Android device you already carry	Standard transcription uses an on-device service	Device and language affect features; inspect sync and optional processing. Help
 Aiko	Recorded audio transcription on iPhone, iPad and Mac	You want local transcription on an Apple mobile device	Transcribes directly on the device	No live transcription or automatic speaker recognition; processing speed varies. Product
 Heidi	Clinical conversation transcription and note generation	You need documentation for a healthcare workflow	Turns a consultation into a structured clinical note	Clinical notes condense the conversation; review the original transcript separately. First session

Where your data goes and how to get the transcript

Local capture, cloud processing, and transcript storage are separate questions. Export tests are still needed where marked.

TOOL	PROCESSING AND STORAGE	FULL TRANSCRIPT ACCESS	STATUS FOR A CF SOURCE
 Fathom	Hosted meeting workflow; inspect account retention and sharing controls	Copy transcript to clipboard. Instructions	Documented copy route; test speaker labels and timestamps
 Granola	Cloud transcription/AI providers; review model-training and deletion settings. Security	Copy all from transcript panel. Instructions	Documented copy route; save before retention removes it
 Otter	Cloud service; account access and sharing govern stored conversations	Basic exports TXT; other formats depend on plan. Export	Documented text export
 Zoom cloud audio transcription	Recording and transcript are in the cloud workflow	Separate VTT file. File formats	Documented text file with timestamps
 Notion AI Meeting Notes	Cloud subprocessors transcribe audio; retention differs by capture and failure path	In-app transcript documented; completeness of a standalone export needs testing. Help	Verify export before using as the default capture method
 Wispr Flow dictation	Privacy Mode and cloud-storage settings control different uses of data. Don't equate these controls with offline transcription. Privacy controls	Dictated text is inserted into the destination document	Useful for reflections; preserve its status as an edited account
 Apple Voice Memos	Check iCloud sync and any later AI features; local-only processing wasn't audited in this pass	Copy Transcript copies the entire transcript. Help	Documented copy route; verify attribution in group conversations
 MacWhisper	Local transcription available; optional cloud engines and AI services change the route	TXT, SRT, VTT and other exports; exact plan gates vary by format. Export documentation	Documented local file route
 Vibe	Offline transcription; choose local analysis for later AI work too	TXT, SRT, VTT and other formats. Features	Documented local file route
 Plaud	AI processing is cloud-based; cloud storage has a separate sync setting. Trust	Transcript exports include TXT, SRT, DOCX, PDF. Export	Documented file export
 Genspark SecondBrain Note	Recording stays on the device until sync; processing follows sync to Genspark	Transcription documented; standalone export format unverified. Help	Hold recommendation until an export test passes
 Zocks	Vendor describes no-recording capture with transcript redaction and archiving	Transcript archiving documented; individual full-text export and firm permissions need testing. Integrations	Evaluate with the firm's permitted workflow
 Fireflies	Hosted meeting library; inspect retention and sharing settings	Transcript downloads listed on Pro. Plans	Documented paid export; test the saved file
 tl;dv	Hosted recordings; Free storage has archival and deletion rules	Copy route requires the owner and downloader to have Pro or Enterprise, per help article. Export	Verify current account eligibility before relying on export

TOOL	PROCESSING AND STORAGE	FULL TRANSCRIPT ACCESS	STATUS FOR A CF SOURCE
 Tactiq Tactiq	Hosted transcript workspace; review sharing and AI settings	PDF or TXT download. Export	Documented text export; check the start and end are complete
 Google Meet	Cloud workflow; transcript inherits Drive access controls	Transcript saved in Google Drive. Help	Documented saved transcript; verify your download permissions
 Microsoft Teams	Hosted meeting transcript; organization controls access and retention	Organizers/co-organizers can download DOCX or VTT by default. Export	Documented file export; check your meeting role
 Google Pixel Recorder	On-device standard transcription; optional account backup changes storage	Share transcript as a file or to Google Docs. Sharing	Documented transcript sharing; test speaker attribution
 Aiko	On-device transcription; later sharing or AI editing is a separate route	Copy text or save exports including SRT. Help	Documented local export; speaker labeling needs review
 Heidi	Clinical service; evaluate organization policy and data handling before use	Transcript tab is documented; independent complete export needs testing. Help	Specialist evaluation only; keep patient material out of general Lab exercises

What you'll pay and which limits apply

Checked September 6, 2026. USD before taxes. Annual equivalents require annual billing; unresolved billing details remain marked.

TOOL	STARTING COST / ALLOWANCE	WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE PAYING
 Fathom	Free with unlimited recording/transcription; Premium \$20 monthly or \$16/month annually. Pricing	Whether you need the paid AI features
 Granola	Basic free with limited history; Business displayed at \$14/user/month. Pricing	Billing cadence at checkout; the retrieved card doesn't specify it
 Otter	Basic free with 300 monthly minutes and 3 lifetime file imports; Pro \$16.99 monthly or \$8.33/month annually before promos. Pricing	Per-meeting cap and monthly import allowance
 Zoom	Eligible paid account required; no incremental cost if your existing plan already covers the needed feature. Requirements	Account eligibility, cloud storage, and host/admin settings; exact plan price not verified
 Notion	Business includes AI Meeting Notes; page displays \$20/member/month. Pricing	Billing selection and whole-workspace seat cost; exact checkout cadence not verified
 Wispr Flow	Free tier; Pro \$15/user/month or \$12/month annually. Plan details	Free dictation limits and device support
 Apple Voice Memos	Included app on a supported iPhone. Help	Whether your existing device and language support transcription
 MacWhisper	Free version and paid Pro; direct-store Pro is a one-time purchase. Exact current amount unverified. Direct store	Store/channel differences and required Pro features
 Vibe	Free, open source. Project	Model storage and whether your computer is fast enough
 Plaud	Note \$159; Note Pro \$189; NotePin \$159; NotePin S \$179. Note includes 300 transcription minutes/month. Device page	Selected device, allowance, and additional AI plan; paid processing-plan prices not verified
 Genspark SecondBrain Note	Device price unverified; hardware includes 300 processing minutes/month. Paid membership and credits affect additional use. Billing details	Hardware checkout price, credits, and fair-use limits
 Zocks	Essentials \$80/user/month or \$67/month annually; Professional \$140 or \$117 annually; Ultimate \$220 or \$184 annually. Pricing	Required integrations and firm permissions
 Fireflies	Free tier; Pro \$10/seat/month billed annually. Pricing	Free storage is 400 minutes/team; check AI credits and download access
 tl;dv	Free recording/transcription; paid price and billing cadence need checkout verification. Limits	Free has 5 manual uploads; export has separate paid-plan requirements

TOOL	STARTING COST / ALLOWANCE	WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE PAYING
 Tactiq Tactiq	Free 10 transcripts/month; Pro \$12 monthly or \$8/month annually. Plans	AI credits are a separate allowance; transcript export is included on Free
 Google Meet	Included with eligible editions such as Business Standard/Plus and Workspace Individual. Eligibility	Check your existing edition before buying; exact plan price unverified
 Microsoft Teams	Check the existing account and admin configuration; exact eligible plan price unverified. Help	Separate ordinary transcription from paid translated transcription and AI recap
 Google Pixel Recorder	Recorder app on supported Pixel hardware. Product	Confirm device compatibility; buying hardware solely for transcription needs a separate decision
 Aiko	Paid app; 14-day trial through TestFlight. Current App Store amount unverified. Trial	Check OS/device requirements and how long your recording takes to process
 Heidi	Free includes unlimited transcription and standard-template notes; paid amounts unverified. Plans	Check template, integration and organization requirements

What I use and why

Yes, the author realizes he may have a problem. But it's also kind of his job.

I get excited about how much of a conversation we can keep working with after it ends. A question from a workshop can become something to explore. An explanation you gave a client can help you see how you think. These are the tools I use to bring that material with me, whether I'm at my computer or carrying my phone into a conference.



Granola

Granola runs in the background

Granola runs quietly in the background while I have my meeting. Nobody has to admit another bot to the call or wonder who invited it. I like being able to get on with the conversation.

Then I get to do something with what we talked about. Recipes are reusable prompts you can run against your notes, and there's a whole collection to explore from Granola, the community, and recognizable people sharing their own prompts. I like seeing how someone else approaches a conversation. Their question might send me back into my own notes looking for something I hadn't thought to look for.

The connection to Claude Code and Codex is a big part of the appeal for me. MCP and API access let me bring my meeting notes into the AI tools where I'm already working. Think about being able to ask, 'What did we decide about that?' with the conversation available to help answer. That's the kind of thing that makes me want to keep connecting these tools.

They keep adding ways to use it, too. There are iPhone and Apple Watch apps now, so capture can come along when I leave my computer. Their funding round also made me feel more confident about sticking with them.

If you're starting with online meetings, this is where I'd start. Granola has a useful free plan, and I found the setup easy. You can get a feel for why I like it with a conversation you were going to have anyway.

[Recipes](#) · [MCP and API](#) · [Mobile capture](#) · [Funding announcement](#) · [Free plan](#)

PLAUD

Plaud Note

Plaud comes to conferences and workshops

My Plaud Note is the slim recorder attached to the back of my phone. I use it for in-person meetings when I may not have my computer, especially conferences and workshops. I also use it for quick voice notes in the car.

I love that the thing I need is right there on the phone I'm carrying. Picture a workshop where someone gives a surprisingly good explanation in response to a question. With permission to record, you can keep the whole exchange and come back to the wording afterward. There's often something in how they answered that's worth another listen.

Plaud recently added MCP and CLI connections as well. That gives those in-person conversations a route into my AI workflow. A little recorder on the back of a phone starts to feel a lot more interesting when you can work with what it captured.

[MCP and CLI](#)



Wispr Flow

Wispr Flow is how I dictate

Everywhere, all the time. That's the honest answer to where I use Wispr Flow.

I dictate into whatever I'm working on. If you've got an explanation in your head, try saying it into a document and watching the words appear. You can keep talking long enough to get the thought out, then go back and work on the wording. That ability to talk my way into the work is why I get so enthusiastic about this one.

For me, it's one of the biggest improvements to everyday workflow speed. It's useful across so much of the day that a little less effort each time matters.

They've also added a live meeting Notetaker on Mac. The recommendation I'm making here comes from using dictation; the new meeting tool deserves its own test.

[Mac Notetaker](#)



MacWhisper

MacWhisper handles my large MP4s

MacWhisper gets the large MP4 files sitting on my computer. I want the words inside them, and this is what I use to get them out.

Once I've got a transcript, I can read through an explanation, find a passage, and bring that text into the next piece of work. A video file I already have becomes easier to work with. Pretty basic, but it gets the job done.



Zoom

Zoom gives me a backup

Zoom stays in the setup partly because I like having another copy of the conversation. If Granola doesn't start and I don't notice, I want a backup waiting for me.

In my experience, Zoom also does a better job of identifying who's speaking. That matters when I go back through an exchange and need to follow who asked the question and who gave the answer. The speaker labels are part of what makes the conversation useful later.

No meeting left behind!

Personal experience shared September 6, 2026. This describes my setup; the comparison tables cover the wider selection.

Based on official product documentation. Features and prices can change. Export access remains unverified where marked. Brand marks identify the compared products; they don't imply endorsement.