I'm not a bot

The Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today’s most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors’ Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered CreativityThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today’s most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors’ Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered CreativityThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to today’s most recent coverage.Discover The CollectionCurated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of Editors’ Picks.Browse Editors' FavoritesExperience AI-Powered Creativity Even if you think your Facebook messages are gone, there are a few tricks you may be able to use to recover them. Thiago Prudêncio/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images This story is available exclusively to Business Insider subscribers. Become an Insider and start reading now. You can recover deleted messages from Facebook Messenger by downloading them or checking old email notifications. You can also recover them by looking in the cache of the Messenger app, if you use Android. You can also check your archived messages or ask the person you were messaging with for a copy. It happens to everyone: You've scoured your message history, but the one message you're looking for just isn't there. For one reason or another, you deleted it. But now you want it back. Once you delete a Facebook message, it's gone for good — at least, from a strict Facebook Messenger perspective. But there are things you can do to get those messages back from other sources, like your app cache, archives, or previous Facebook messenger downloads. Here are a few methods you can use to recover deleted Facebook messages, as well as back up your messages so you don't lose them in the future: How to recover deleted Facebook messages Here are five methods that could help you retrieve those messages: Check your archived conversations If you archived the messages instead of deleting them, you can easily recover them, as Facebook always keeps your archived chats. 1. Open the Messenger desktop, web, or mobile app. 2. From the chats section of the app, type the name of the person you were talking to in the search bar. 3. Then simply click or tap their name to open the conversation and view everything. Tap on the name of the recipient in the search results. Devon Delfino Quick tip: If you don't want to see certain chats in your inbox on Messenger, but you're not sure if you should delete them, consider archiving the messages instead of deleting them. Ask the recipient for a copy, or screenshot, of the message or conversation When you delete a message, it only happens on your end. The person you're talking to will still be able to see it, so they can help you fill in the gap if they didn't delete them on their end as well. Check if your Facebook messages were sent to your email This only works if you have all email notifications enabled for your account. But if it's enabled, you should be able to search for the conversation or message within your email account. Use Android file manager If you're using an Android device and you have Messenger installed, your device could have those deleted messages in the app's cache. You can access it using any Android file manager, and if you don't have one installed, you can find plenty of them on the App Store. 1. Open the file manager app on your Android device. 2. Navigate to the Internal Storage > com.facebook.katana > fb_temp 3. Here you'll find messages from your recent history, and with any luck, your deleted ones will be among them. Quick tip: If you're using an iOS device, you can't recover your deleted Facebook messages using any file app — however, you can download your messages by backing them up beforehand. Download your Facebook information Backing up your Facebook information, including your messages, is a good idea if you don't ever want to lose any of it. 1. Using the desktop app or browser version, go to your Facebook settings.You can also access these settings in the Messenger app on iOS. 2. Within the Your Facebook Information tab on the left sidebar, click Download your information. You can download your information from the "Facebook Information" settings page. Stefan Ionescu 3. Under the Select file options heading, make sure you've selected a date range in the last dropdown. Don't forget to select a date range, as this is required. Stefan Ionescu 4. To only get your messages, click Deselect All under the Select information to download heading and recheck the box next to Messages. You have to deselect everything and then reselect Messages. Stefan Ionescu 5. Scroll all the way down to the Start your download heading and click Request a download. Facebook will email you the file once it's ready for viewing. Click on the "Request a download." Stefan Ionescu It is a frustrating situation to know that your important messages on Messenger are somehow deleted. The fear of never accessing back those important chats is awful. The worst situation is when you don't even know how those messages got deleted. You still have a strong chance to retrieve those deleted messages if you adopt the right strategies. Here we will discuss multiple ways on how to retrieve deleted messages on Messenger in Android. So, let's start discussing them right away! Method 1. Retrieve Deleted Messages on Messenger by Unarchiving It is likely that you didn't find your messages just because you mistakenly archived the chats not deleted them. In that case, you simply have to unarchive the chats. Follow the below steps to get back the messages by unarchiving them: Open the Messenger app. Tap on your profile picture from the top left corner. Tap Archived chats. There you will see all the chats that are archived. Look for the chat you want to restore. Long press the chat and then tap Unarchive. This way, the chat will go back to the main interface of Messenger. Method 2. Retrieve Deleted Messages on Messenger by Downloading Data from Facebook You can download a copy of your Facebook data to retrieve the deleted messages in Messenger. Follow the below steps to learn how to recover deleted Facebook messages on Android by downloading data from Facebook: Go to from your PC browser. Go to Settings and then click the Your Facebook information option from the left sidebar. Click Download your information. Select the format, media quality, and date range till when you want to extract and download the data. Now you have to select the information to download. First, click Deselect All and then tick the checkbox next to Messages. Scroll down and click Request a download. Afterward, wait till Facebook creates a copy of your information. Once the file is ready to download, click the Download button. You might even be asked to enter the Facebook password before downloading. After downloading the file, unzip the folder, go to the Index file and select Messages. Method 3. Retrieve Deleted Messages on Messenger from Internal Storage For Android users, the cache file can also be helpful to recover deleted Messenger messages. Messenger keeps a copy of messages in your phone's internal storage. So, you can go to that storage location to extract the backed-up messages. Follow the below steps to learn how to retrieve deleted messages on Messenger Android from internet storage: Install a File Explorer app from Google Play Store. Open the File Explorer app, go to internal storage and tap Android > Data > com.facebook.orca > Cache. Look for the folder fb_temp. It is the folder that contains all the backup files related to messages that are saved by Messenger. This way, you can restore the messages by restoring one of the backup files in the fb_temp folder. Bonus: How to Recover Lost/Deleted Data on Android Without Backup WooTechy iSeeker for Android is the best solution to recover lost/deleted data on Android without backup or root. iSeeker for Android is an Android data recovery tool that can recover 11+ data types, including photos, videos, audio, attachments, etc. Moreover, it can also retrieve WhatsApp chats and attachments, along with selective backup from Google Drive. Overall, iSeeker for Android is a powerful and complete Android data recovery tool that has made its name in the industry by offering the highest recovery success rate. Download NowSecure DownloadDownload NowSecure Download Follow the below steps to use WooTechy iSeeker for Android to recover lost data on Android: Step 1. Download and launch iSeeker Android on your computer and also connect your phone to the computer. Afterward, select Recover Phone Data. Step 2. Choose Quick Scan or Full Scan according to your need. Step 3. Once the scan is completed, preview and select the data you want to recover and click Recover. Conclusion Losing important messages on Messenger is a common situation faced by thousands of users every month. So, instead of grieving about losing messages, you should immediately try out the above-listed proven methods on how to retrieve deleted messages on Messenger in Android. However, if you want to instantly recover deleted data on Android, then iSeeker for Android should be your first pick. Its powerful deep scanning, user-friendly interface, and preview-based selective recovery make it a perfect tool to recover lost/deleted data in no time. Don’t hesitate to download and enjoy a free trial now! Download NowSecure DownloadDownload NowSecure Download In 2025, Messenger ranks as one of the top 3 most-used messaging apps globally, with users spending an average of 30 minutes a day on the platform. With that much activity, it’s no surprise that users delete messages often—sometimes by accident, sometimes on purpose.You may be a parent worried about your child's private conversations, or a partner noticing that messages are missing. You could also simply attempt to retrieve information that was lost during a crucial conversation. The big question is: Can you really see deleted messages on Messenger?Even though Facebook doesn’t make it easy, there are a few reliable methods you can try to uncover those deleted Messenger messages. We'll show you how to see deleted messages on Messenger in this guide.Part 1. Top 4 Ways to See Deleted Messages on MessengerNow that you know not all “deleted” messages are gone forever, how can you retrieve deleted messages on Messenger? Let's discuss the four best ways to view them.Way 1. Use a monitoring app-Msafely (Best for parents and relationships)If you’re serious about seeing deleted messages on Messenger—especially in situations involving your child’s safety or concerns in a relationship—Msafely is one of the most effective tools you can use.Msafely is an efficient monitoring app that gives you full access to someone’s Messenger activity, including messages that have been deleted or unsent. You can also see the other person’s phone location, texts, calls, emails, and more.Because Msafely works silently in the background, the person using the phone won’t even know it’s running. It’s cloud-based too, which means you can access everything from your own phone or computer without needing to physically touch their device once connected. And yes, it works on both Android and iOS. Key features of MsafelyMsafely is packed with features designed specifically to help you monitor Facebook Messenger activity, even if someone tries to cover their tracks:Msafely captures Messenger messages before they’re deleted or unsent, giving you access to the original content.Whether it’s private one-on-one chats or group messages, you can read every conversation—even hidden ones.See any stories the person posts on Messenger, including content that disappears after 24 hours.Get insights into Messenger call logs, including who they called, when, and for how long.Know exactly when each message was sent or received.Depending on the phone and settings, you may even see screenshots of chat activity for extra visibility.Steps to use Msafely to see deleted messages on MessengerStep 1. Go to the Msafely website and register for a free account. Step 2. Choose Android or iPhone depending on what you need to monitor. Step 3. Choose the plan that fits your needs, and complete the setup process.Step 4. Log in to your control panel to remotely monitor all activities on the target phone, including deleted Messenger messages as well as other social media apps like WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, and more. Find the best monitor solution-MsafelyWay 2. Check archived conversationsSometimes, what you think is “deleted” may have just been archived—especially if you're using Messenger regularly. Archiving is like hiding a chat without removing it completely. This often happens by accident, and people don’t even realize the conversation is still there.How to find Messenger archived chats on mobile:Step 1. On your Android or iPhone, launch the Messenger app.Step 2. Tap Your Profile Icon in the top-left corner (or the three-line menu).Step 3. Select “Archived Chats” from the menu.Step 4. Browse Archived Messages—if the conversation you’re looking for is there, swipe left on it.Step 5. Unarchive the Chat by tapping “Unarchive,” and it’ll return to your main chat list.On Desktop:Step 1. Go to Messenger website and log in.Step 2. Choose “Archived Chats.” from the left menuStep 3. Browse through your archived messages and restore the ones you need.Way 3. Download Facebook dataIf a message isn’t in your archives and you’re still trying to figure out how to recover deleted messages on Facebook Messenger, don’t worry—there’s another trick you can try.Facebook also includes a "Download Your Information" feature that enables you to request a full copy of your account, including Messenger conversations. Even though this won’t recover messages that were permanently deleted or unsent, it may still help you find older ones you thought were gone.Here is How to download Facebook data on Mobile and Desktop:Step 1. Open Messenger app on your phone or go to Messenger website.Step 2. Tap the menu (three lines), scroll down, and select Settings.Step 3. Select “See More in Accounts Centre”Step 4. Download Your Information under Your Information and Permissions.Step 5. Click on DownloadStep 6. Select only Messages as the data you want to download.Step 7. Choose a timeframe or select All time.Step 8. Set to HTML and medium or low media quality.Step 9. Tap Create File and wait for Facebook to notify you.Step 10. When it’s ready, download the ZIP, extract it, and open the messages folder to read your chats.Way 4. Ask the other personSometimes, the easiest solution is the one we don’t think about. If a message was only deleted from your side, it might still be visible to the other person in the chat. Facebook Messenger only removes messages completely from both sides if someone uses the “Unsend” option.So if you’re dealing with a lost message and it’s appropriate, consider reaching out and asking the other person directly. This could be especially helpful in these situations:You accidentally deleted a chat with a coworker and you need to double-check what was said.You’re trying to recover a personal message shared with a friend or partner.You’re a parent who noticed your child deleted a message and wants to ask the sender for clarity.Just keep it respectful—how you ask matters. A simple message like, “Hey, I think I deleted our Messenger chat by accident—could you resend that message?” can go a long way.Part 2. Bonus Tip: What If Messages Are Permanently Gone?What do you do if you know a Messenger message is lost forever? Unfortunately, once messages are unsent, deleted by both, or lost due to a technical issue, there is not much you can do to retrieve them. However, there are a few things you can do so that you do not lose important messages in the future.When messages can't be recovered:There are certain cases where recovery isn't possible:Unsending: If the other person unsends a message, it’s gone for both of you.Permanent deletion: If you or the other person manually deletes messages and they’re wiped from both devices, they cannot be retrieved.What you can do to prevent future losses:Make sure your messages are securely kept by regularly backing them up.. On Facebook, you can download your information periodically, as mentioned earlier, and save a copy of your conversations to keep them accessible.Use monitoring tools in advanceTools like Msafely can help you monitor and archive your messages before they’re ever deleted. This is especially helpful for parents or anyone who needs to keep an eye on critical communications in real time.Archive important conversationsInstead of deleting messages, archive them. This keeps them hidden from your main chat list but still accessible whenever you need them. This way, you won’t lose track of important chats down the line.Part 3. Summary: What’s the Best Option for You?There is no doubt that when it comes to recovering deleted messages on Messenger, Msafely is by far the best option.Other methods, like downloading your Facebook data or checking archived chats, can work in certain situations but aren’t always reliable and can take a lot of time. Msafely, however, offers a simple, effective, and ongoing way to monitor messages and other activities without the other person knowing.Msafely is perfect for parents wanting to keep track of their kids' messages or anyone who needs a discreet way to monitor conversations. If you’re looking for the most reliable solution to track deleted messages on Messenger, Msafely is definitely the way to go.Part 4. FAQsQ1. How to recover deleted messages on Messenger?You can recover deleted messages by using monitoring tools like Msafely or downloading your Facebook data. Another option is checking your archived chats.Q2. Can you retrieve deleted messages from Messenger, including permanently deleted ones?It’s tough to retrieve permanently deleted messages, but some data might still be accessible through Facebook’s “Download Your Information” tool or monitoring apps.Q3. How can I see chats that have been deleted or made hidden on Messenger?To view deleted or secret conversations, try checking your archived chats or using a monitoring app like Msafely to track all message activity.Q4. How to restore deleted messages on Messenger?Restoring deleted messages isn’t always possible, but you can try downloading your Facebook data or using tools that monitor messages before they’re deleted.Q5. Can I recover deleted messages without the other person knowing?Yes, using tools like Msafely allows you to track messages discreetly without alerting the other person. Ir radusies problēma saistībā ar šo pieprasījumu. Mēs strādājam, lai to pēc iespējas ātrāk atrisinātu. In this follow-up to our earlier article about removing messages from Facebook’s or rather Meta’s app, this quick guide will take you through the process of restoring deleted messages from the Messenger app. If you or a loved one have accidentally deleted messages from the Meta Messenger app and wish to retrieve them, these tips and tricks might prove useful in recovering your deleted messages based on the time elapsed since their deletion. Regrettably, in some cases, it may be unfeasible to restore messages that have been deleted for a considerable duration. Following up on our previous article on how to delete messages from Messenger app in this quick guide will show you how to recover deleted messages. If you or a family member have inadvertently deleted messages from the Meta Messenger app and would like to recover them, theses tips will show how to recover those deleted messages depending on how long it is been since the original message was deleted. Unfortunately sometimes though it is impossible to recover those messages that been deleted for quite some time. 3 quick ways to delete messages from Facebook Messenger If you have accidentally deleted messages from the Messenger app, the first thing to do is to check whether your message has been mistakenly moved to the message archive area within the app, rather than fully deleted. This is a long shot but might be worth checking as it is quite easy to do my mistake and could save you a lot of heartache. It is possible to do accidentally by sliding your finger on a conversation. Options will then appear for “Archive” and “More”. Under More you will find the option for permanently deleting messages. Recover deleted messages from Messenger To check the Messenger app archive for possibly mistakenly archived and recover deleted messages : 1. Open up the Messenger app on your phone or tablet and select your profile picture. 2. Once you are viewing your profile, select “Archived Chats” from the list. 3. A list of all your archived messages will be displayed, allowing you to easily recover any you have inadvertently moved or tried to delete. 4. To unarchive a message, swipe across it with your finger from right to left and your pre-presented with the “Unarchive” option. Selecting this will return it to your active conversations and recover the message. If you would prefer to carry out the recovery operation using a browser on your computer or laptop, this can be done by visiting the official Facebook or rather Meta website in your referred browser. 1. Simply open Facebook/Meta in your browser and login. 2. Then select the official “Messenger” icon in the top right-hand corner of the page. 3. A list of all your conversations will be presented with an option at the bottom to “See All in Messenger”, select this option. 4. Once in your Chats window, select the three dots “...” icon next at the top of the main chat list on the left-hand side 5. Another menu will appear and approximately halfway down you will see an option to select “Archived Chats”. Select this. 6. A full list of all your archived messages will be presented, allowing you to respond to the chat and move it once again to the active conversation list in Messenger. If you have checked your archive, and the deleted message is not listed. You will be pleased to know that Facebook keeps deleted messages, allowing you to recover them. Although they do not confirm how long, they will keep deleted messages before they are permanently deleted. Final way to recover deleted messages from Messenger is to download your Facebook data before they are removed from the server completely. This is accomplished by asking the Facebook and Meta support team to send you a copy of all your data on its website or, if possible, just the messages that have been deleted. It is a long shot but hopefully the deleted message you are trying to recover from the Messenger app will be included in one of these backups. To request profile image data from Facebook using iOS : iOS Messenger data recovery 1. Open the Messenger app and once again select your profile image at the top of the page. 2. This will open your profile page and near the bottom will be an option to access your “Account Settings”. 3. On the account settings page, you will see an option to “Download Profile Information”. Select this and on the new options page that appears select “Messages”. 4. If you do not want to download all your Facebook Messenger app data uncheck anything else that might be selected. 5. Now scroll to the bottom of the page and tap “Create File”. This will send a request to the servers to export your data and a “Pending” status will be assigned to the file. 6. Once the file export has been completed, you will be able to examine its contents to recover your deleted messages if they are still available and have not been permanently deleted by Facebook. Using a browser If you would prefer to download your Facebook Messenger app data via a browser: 1. Once again, open the Facebook website in your preferred browser 2. Tap on the down arrow in the top right-hand corner of your browser window and select “Settings and Privacy” 3. Within the settings and privacy area, the option for “Settings” at the top. 4. On the next window on the right-hand side select the option for “Privacy” 5. In the Privacy window select “Your Facebook Information” 6. On the section in the centre of your browser labelled “Download Profile Information” select “View” on the right-hand side. 7. Then select “Messages” and take anything that you do not want to download to speed up the process of export. 8. Once you have everything selected, click the blue “Create File” button above the check boxes on the right-hand side in the center of the screen. 9. Once the export of your deleted messages has been completed, Facebook will send you a notification and you can then view the file to recover the deleted Messenger app chat or conversation. If you are still experiencing problems trying to recover deleted messages from the Messenger application, it is always worth contacting the official Facebook support team to see if they can help you recover those important items. Before they are automatically permanently desleted from the servers. Filed Under: Guides, Top News Latest Geeky Gadgets Deals Disclosure: Some of our articles include affiliate links. If you buy something through one of these links, Geeky Gadgets may earn an affiliate commission. Learn about our Disclosure Policy. For the kids version, see Messenger Kids. For other uses, see Messenger (disambiguation). Instant messaging app by Meta Platforms MessengerLogo used since 2025Developer(s)Meta PlatformsInitial releaseAugust 9, 2011; 13 years ago (2011-08-09) April 2020; 5 years ago (2020-04)Stable release(s) [±]Preview release(s) [±] Operating systemWeb, Android, iOS, Windows 10, Windows 11, Windows Phone, macOS, WatchOS, Wear OSSize53.33 MB (Android)[1] 124.1 MB (iOS)[2] 169.4 MB (Windows 10 and Windows 11)[3] 91.3 MB (macOS)[4]Available in111[5] languagesList of languagesAfrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Assamese, Azerbaijani, Basque, Belarusian, Bengali, Bosnian, Breton, Bulgarian, Burmese, Catalan, Cebuano, Corsican, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Dutch (België), English (UK), English (US), English (upside down), Esperanto, Estonian, Faroese, Filipino, Finnish, French (Canada), French (France), Frisian, Fula, Galician, Georgian, German, Greek, Guarani, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Japanese (Kansai), Javanese, Kannada, Kazakh, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Korean, Kurdish (Kurmanji), Kyrgyz, Lao, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malay, Malayalam, Maltese, Marathi, Mongolian, Nepali, Norwegian (bokmal), Norwegian (nynorsk), Oriya, Pashto, Persian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Sardinian, Serbian, Shona, Silesian, Simplified Chinese (China), Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Somali, Sorani Kurdish, Spanish, Spanish (Spain), Swahili, Swedish, Syriac, Tajik, Tamazight, Tamil, Tatar, Telugu, Thai, Traditional Chinese (Hong Kong), Traditional Chinese (Taiwan), Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Welsh and ZazaTypeInstant messaging, VoIPLicenseFreeware, proprietaryWebsitemessenger.comfacebook.com/messenger/ This article is part of a series aboutMeta Platforms History Instagram WhatsApp Acquisitions Products and services Facebook 2021 outage Features Dating Feed Like button Reels Other products Instagram Threads Messenger Kids Meta AI Meta Portal Quest Quest 2 Quest 3 Quest 3S Quest Pro Supernatural Ray-Ban Stories WhatsApp People Executives and board members Mark Zuckerberg Sheryl Sandberg Notable employees Adam Mosseri Related organizations Oversight Board Business Criticism Privacy concerns Content management Censorship of Censorship by Cambridge Analytica data scandal 2020 ad boycotts 2021 company files leak WhatsApp security and privacy features WhatsApp snooping scandal Litigation Young v. Facebook, Inc. (2011) Fraley v. Facebook, Inc. (2016) Force v. Facebook, Inc. (2019) FTC v. Meta Platforms (ongoing) Related Facebook, Inc. IPO vte Messenger,[6] formerly known as Facebook Messenger, is an American proprietary instant messaging service developed by Meta Platforms. Originally developed as Facebook Chat in 2008, the client application of Messenger is currently available on iOS and Android mobile platforms, Windows and macOS desktop platforms, through the Messenger.com web application, and on the standalone Facebook Portal hardware. Messenger is used to send messages and exchange photos, videos, stickers, audio, and files, and also react to other users' messages and interact with bots. The service also supports voice and video calling. The standalone apps support using multiple accounts, conversations with end-to-end encryption, and playing games. With a monthly userbase of over 1 billion people it is among the largest social media platforms.[7] Messenger Icon from 2011 to 2013 Messenger Icon from 2013 to 2018 Messenger Icon from 2018 to 2020 Messenger Icon from 2020 to 2025 Messenger Icon since February 2025 Following tests of a new instant messaging platform on Facebook in March 2008,[8][9] the feature, then-titled "Facebook Chat", was gradually released to users in April 2008.[10][11] Facebook revamped its messaging platform in November 2010,[12] and subsequently acquired group messaging service Beluga in March 2011,[13] which the company used to launch its standalone iOS and Android mobile apps on August 9, 2011.[14][15] Facebook later launched a BlackBerry version in October 2011.[16][17] An app for Windows Phone, though lacking features including voice messaging and chat heads, was released in March 2014.[18][19] In April 2014, Facebook announced that the messaging feature would be removed from the main Facebook app and users will be required to download the separate Messenger app.[20][21] An iPad-optimized version of the iOS app was released in July 2014.[22][23] In April 2015, Facebook launched a website interface for Messenger.[24][25] A Tizen app was released on July 13, 2015.[26] Facebook launched Messenger for Windows 10 in April 2016.[27] In October 2016, Facebook released Messenger Lite, a stripped-down version of Messenger with a reduced feature set. The app is aimed primarily at old Android phones and regions where high-speed Internet is not widely available. In April 2017, Messenger Lite was expanded to 132 more countries.[28][29] In May 2017, Facebook revamped the design for Messenger on Android and iOS, bringing a new home screen with tabs and categorization of content and interactive media, red dots indicating new activity, and relocated sections.[30][31] Facebook announced a Messenger program for Windows 7 in a limited beta test in November 2011.[32][33] The following month, Israeli blog TechIT leaked a download link for the program, with Facebook subsequently confirming and officially releasing the program.[34][35] The program was eventually discontinued in March 2014.[36][37] A Firefox web browser add-on was released in December 2012,[38] but was also discontinued in March 2014.[39] In December 2017, Facebook announced Messenger Kids, a new app aimed for persons under 13 years of age. The app comes with some differences compared to the standard version. In 2019, Messenger announced to be the 2nd most downloaded mobile app of the decade, from 2011 to 2019.[40] In December 2019, Messenger dropped support for users to sign in using only a mobile number, meaning that users must sign in to a Facebook account in order to use the service.[41] In March 2020, Facebook started to ship its dedicated Messenger for macOS app through the Mac App Store. The app is currently live in regions including France, Australia, Mexico, Poland,[42] and many others. In April 2020, Facebook began rolling out a new feature called Messenger Rooms, a video chat feature that allows users to chat with up to 50 people at a time. The feature rivals Zoom, an application that gained a lot of popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic.[43] Privacy concerns arose since the feature uses the same data collection policies as mainstream Facebook.[43] In July 2020, Facebook added a new feature in Messenger that lets iOS users to use Apple's Face ID or Touch ID to lock their chats. The feature is called App Lock and is a part of several changes in Messenger regarding privacy and security.[44] The option to view only "Unread Threads" was removed from the inbox, requiring the account holder to scroll through the entire inbox to be certain every unread message has been seen.[45] On October 13, 2020, the Messenger application introduced cross-app messaging with Instagram, which was launched in September 2021.[46] In addition to the integrated messaging, the application announced the introduction of a new logo, which should be an amalgamation of the Messenger and Instagram logo.[47] The following is a table of features available in Messenger, as well as their geographical coverage and what devices they are available on. In addition there is a vanishing message feature. In addition there is an audio recording feature which allows audio recordings of up to one minute which may or may not be vanishing: Feature Added Description Platforms Availability Sign up without a Facebook account December 2012 (discontinued)[41] Android users can sign up to the app without a Facebook account, requiring only a name and phone number.[48][49] Mobile Global Direct messaging October 2013 Users can send messages to other users without the requirement of being friends, as long as the user has the phone number of the other user in their contact list.[50][51] All Global Chat Heads April 2013 Android users can use round icons with a contact's profile photo, appearing on the screen regardless of which app is open.[52][53] Mobile Global Money transfer (Messenger Pay) March 2015 A feature for U.S. users to send money to friends.[54][55] In April 2017, the feature was expanded to support group payments.[56][57] Mobile U.S. Calls January 2013 In January 2013, Facebook added voice calling to Messenger users in Canada,[58][59] expanding the feature to users in the United States a few days later.[60][61] In April 2015, Facebook introduced video calling in select countries.[62][63] In April 2016, group voice calling was introduced, with a maximum number of 50 call participants.[64][65] The following December, Facebook enabled group video calling for up to 50 people.[66][67] In June 2017, Facebook updated video chats to give users the ability to add animated versions of Facebook's reactions on top of their face, such as tears for a crying face and an exploding halo of hearts around the head when sending heart emoji. Additionally, users are able to capture screenshots, and live filters can change the color or lighting in the feed.[68][69] All Global Location sharing June 2015 Users can tap on a "Location" button and are then shown a map with the ability to pinpoint any location, even if the user themselves is not present at the place.[70][71][72] In March 2017, it introduced live location sharing, letting users temporarily share their location with a friend or group of friends for one hour at a time.[73][74][75] Mobile Global Business interaction At the Facebook F8 conference on March 25, 2015, Facebook announced that Messenger would start letting users interact with businesses, including track purchases and receive notifications, and have personal conversations with company customer service representatives.[76][77][78] Third-party app integration Users are able to open compatible third-party apps inside Messenger, such as a movie ticketing service or GIF generators, and then share those details with the other chat participants.[76] Mobile Global Transportation requests December 2015 Messenger integrated with Uber to let U.S. users request a car directly from the app.[79][80][81] Support for Lyft was added in March 2016.[82][83] Support for UberPOOL was introduced in July 2016.[84][85] Mobile U.S. SMS support 2012 Facebook implemented support for SMS texting within the Messenger Android app.[86][87] However, the feature was dropped in 2013 due to "extensive reworking" of the app, with a Facebook product manager stating that the SMS feature "just didn't take off".[51] SMS was once again introduced in testing in February 2016,[88][89] before the official global rollout started in June.[90] SMS support in Messenger was again removed in September of 2023.[91] Android Global Multiple accounts February 2016 Facebook added support for multiple accounts in the apps.[88][89] Mobile Global Bot platform April 2016 2016 launch In April 2016, Facebook announced a bot platform for Messenger, including an API to build chat bots to interact with users. News publisher bots "message subscribers directly with news and other information",[92][93] while ride-sharing apps can offer a transportation option, hotel chains can answer questions about accommodations, and air travel companies can allow for check-ins, flight updates and travel changes.[94] 2017 enhancements At the 2017 Facebook F8 conference, Facebook announced a range of enhancements for bots: Bots in group chats: Bots can participate in group chats – not by conversing with the chat participants — but by injecting notifications such as news updates, receipts, sports progress, and more.[95][96] Chat extensions: Users can interact with dedicated apps, including play games, collaborate on music playlists, and book flights. In addition, Facebook announced a "Discovery" tab, featuring recently used bots, bot categories, trending experiences and search functionality. A preview screen lets users see what each chat would do in a conversation.[97][98] QR scan: Users can scan special, branded QR codes through Messenger's camera functionality, that take the user directly to a specific bot.[97][98] The slightly renamed "Discover" tab was officially launched in the United States in late June 2017.[99][100] All Global "M" assistant April 2017 (terminated) In August 2015, Facebook announced M, an artificial intelligence virtual assistant for use in Messenger that is capable of automatically completing tasks for users, such as purchase items, arrange gift deliveries, book restaurants, and arrange travels.[101][102][103] In April 2017, Facebook enabled M for users in the U.S. M scans chats for keywords and then suggests relevant actions. For example, writing "You owe me $20" will make M offer its payments system.[104][105][106] The rollout of M suggestions was made official at Facebook's F8 conference on April 18, 2017.[97][98] In January 2018 it was announced that M would be discontinued at some future date. All U.S. "Home" messages panel June 2016 Facebook announced a "Home" button as a central location for sending and receiving messages. The Home button features the most recent messages, as well as a "Favorites" section for the contacts with the most frequent communication.[107] Mobile Global Secret Conversations October 2016 Messenger users can send each other end-to-end encrypted messages through an optional mode called "Secret Conversations", which uses the Signal Protocol. Users can also choose to send each other "self-destructing" messages; messages that are removed permanently following an optional time period. This feature is only available in mobile apps, not in the web version.[108][109] Originally planned in 2022, end-to-end encryption by default is delayed to 2023.[110] Mobile Global Instant Games November 2016 Allows users to quickly play games including Pac-Man, Space Invaders, EverWing and Words with Friends Frenzy inside Messenger. Games are asynchronous through high scores rather than directly at the same time, and are built on HTML5 rather than apps.[111][112] In May 2017, Facebook announced the global rollout of Instant Games.[113][114] Mobile Global Messenger Day March 2017 Following an initial test in Poland in September 2016,[115][116] Facebook launched "Messenger Day" in March 2017. Messenger Day, similar to Snapchat's Stories feature, gives the user the ability to share photos and videos with friends that automatically disappear after 24 hours.[117][118][119] Mobile Global Reactions and Mentions March 2017 Reactions let the user tap and hold on a message to add a reaction through an emoji, while Mentions let the user type @ in a group chat to give a particular user a direct notification.[120][121][122] All Global Augmented reality effects December 2017 "World Effects" lets users add 3D augmented reality effects into their photos and videos.[123][124] Mobile Global AI Chatbots in messengers January 2018 Facebook started allowing messenger AI bots after 2 steps of verification. All Global Replies March 2019 Facebook added the ability to quote and reply to specific messages in a conversation.[125] All Global Messenger Rooms April 2020 A video chat feature that allows users to chat with up to 50 people at a time.[43] All Global It is a video conferencing feature of Messenger.[126] It allows users to add up to 50 people at a time.[127][128][129] Messenger Rooms does not require a Facebook account.[130] Messenger Rooms competes with other services such as Zoom.[131] Back in 2014, Facebook introduced an unrelated, stand-alone application named Rooms,[126] letting users create places for users with similar interests, with users being anonymous to others.[132] This was shut down in December 2015.[126] In April 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Facebook revealed video conferencing features for Messenger called Messenger Rooms.[133] This was seen as a response to the popularity of other video conferencing platforms such as Zoom and Skype in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.[128][133][134] Messenger Rooms allows users to add up to 50 people per room, without restrictions on time.[135] It does not require a Facebook account or a separate app from Messenger. When used, it only prompts the user for basic information. Users can add 360° virtual backgrounds, mood lighting, and other AR effects as well as share screens. To prevent unwanted participants from joining, users can lock rooms and remove participants.[136] Some have voiced concerns in regards to Messenger Room's privacy and how its parent, Facebook, handles data. Messenger Rooms, unlike some of its competitors, does not use end-to-end encryption.[137] In addition, there have been concerns over how Messenger Rooms collects user data.[138] In January 2017, Facebook announced that it was testing showing advertisements in Messenger's home feed. At the time, the testing was limited to a "small number of users in Australia and Thailand", with the ad format being swipe-based carousel ads.[139][140][141] In July, the company announced that they were expanding the testing to a global audience. Stan Chudnovsky, head of Messenger, told VentureBeat that "We'll start slow ... When the average user can be sure to see them we truly don't know because we're just going to be very data-driven and user feedback-driven on making that decision".[142][143] Facebook told TechCrunch that the advertisements' placement in the inbox depends on factors such as thread count, phone screen size, and pixel density.[144] In a TechCrunch editorial by Devin Coldewey, he described the ads as "huge" in the space they occupy, "intolerable" in the way they appear in the user interface, and "irrelevant" due to the lack of context. Coldewey finished by writing "Advertising is how things get paid for on the internet, including TechCrunch, so I'm not an advocate of eliminating it or blocking it altogether. But bad advertising experiences can spoil a perfectly good app like (for the purposes of argument) Messenger. Messaging is a personal, purposeful use case and these ads are a bad way to monetize it."[145] In November 2014, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) listed Messenger (Facebook chat) on its Secure Messaging Scorecard. It received a score of 2 out of 7 points on the scorecard. It received points for having communications encrypted in transit and for having recently completed an independent security audit. It missed points because the communications were not encrypted with keys the provider didn't have access to, users could not verify contacts' identities, past messages were not secure if the encryption keys were stolen, the source code was not open to independent review, and the security design was not properly documented.[146][147][148] As stated by Facebook in its Help Center, there is no way to log out of the Messenger application. Instead, users can choose between different availability statuses, including "Appear as inactive", "Switch accounts", and "Turn off notifications".[149] Media outlets have reported on a workaround, by pressing a "Clear data" option in the application's menu in Settings on Android devices, which returns the user to the log-in screen.[150][151] After being separated from the main Facebook app, Messenger had 600 million users in April 2015.[62] This grew to 900 million in June 2016,[90] 1 billion in July 2016,[152][153] and 1.2 billion in April 2017.[154][155] In March 2020, total messaging traffic increased by 50% in countries that were on quarantine due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Group calls grew by more than 1,000%.[156] In early 2018, the US Department of Justice went to court to attempt to force Facebook to modify its Messenger app to enable surveillance by third parties so that agents could listen in on encrypted voice conversations over Messenger.[157]:1 The court decided against the Justice Department, but sealed the case.[158]:1 In November 2018, the ACLU and EFF filed suit to have the case unsealed so that the public can be informed about the encryption/surveillance debate.[159][160][161]:1 This motion was denied in February 2019, and an appeal was filed in April 2020.[162][163] The appeals court confirmed the original denial on July 22, 2020.[164] Internet portal Messenger Kids Comparison of cross-platform instant messaging clients Comparison of VoIP software ^ "Facebook Messenger – Text and Video Chat for Free APKs". APKMirror. Archived from the original on June 21, 2023. Retrieved November 18, 2022. ^ "Facebook Messenger". App Store. 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You checked your chat history but can't find the message you're looking for. You likely deleted it, but there are ways to retrieve the message. Here are a few solutions to find and retrieve deleted Facebook messages through your smartphone and your go-to Chromebook or laptop. Check if you archived the Facebook Messenger message If you're looking for a missing Facebook message but can't locate the chat, you may have archived it. Since the buttons for Archive and Delete are one below the other, it's possible you archived the message thread instead of deleting it. In this case, it's possible to retrieve the message. Here's what you'll do when using a laptop or PC: Launch Facebook in your browser. Click the Messenger icon in the upper-right corner of the web page. Select See all in Messenger. Click the three horizontal dots under the Chats pane. Select Archived chats. You can view all the archived chats. When you find the one you need, click the three-dot icon beside the recipient's name and select Unarchive. You can also find archived messages through the Messenger app. Here's what you'll do: Launch the Messenger app on your phone. Type the name of the person whose chat you may have archived. The archived chat appears below. You can now view the archived message on your smartphone. If you can't locate a message and didn't archive the chat, consider reaching out to the recipient. While deleting a message removes it from your Messenger history, the person you were chatting with may still have the message. This isn't the most reliable way to source deleted messages. The recipient can selectively share messages that you deleted and may refuse to share them with you. Android devices usually retain the cache data from apps on your phone. By tapping into this, you may be able to recover deleted chats. Here's how to access the cache: If you own an iPhone, you may be unable to download a third-party file manager app. Download a file manager app from the Google Play Store (check the reviews and ratings to ensure the app is authentic and helpful). Launch the app and select Main Storage. Select the Android folder. Select Data and then tap the com.facebook.orca folder. Select cache and fb_temp. You'll find the deleted messages in this folder. Related Clearing your Facebook cache can make the app run smoother Not finding a message you need is frustrating. To keep this from happening to you again, back up your Facebook messages from time to time. The process is similar to downloading your Facebook data. Here are the steps to follow to back up your Facebook messages: Launch Facebook in your browser. Click your profile icon in the upper-right corner of the web page. From the drop-down menu, select Settings & privacy. Click the Settings tab. Select the Accounts Center box that shows up in the left pane. On the redirected page, select Your information and permissions. Select Download your information. Click the Download or transfer information button in the pop-up box. Select Specific types of information and ensure the Messages tab has a checkmark. Follow the on-screen prompts and select Submit request at the end to download your Facebook messages. Doing this can let you access your messages even if you delete them from your Messenger. If you're like most people, you likely receive messages you don't want to retain in your Messenger but would like to access in the future. Instead of deleting them, consider archiving them. This works similarly to Gmail's archive function, where the messages remain accessible but aren't in your primary inbox. You can use the archive function on your Facebook Messenger app and the Facebook website.