

## **How to Use Wechat (or Weixin)**

### **Complete Guide**

For those who still are not familiar with, WeChat (微信, Weixin, which means “micro-letter” or “micro-message” in Chinese) is a social network: it’s sort of halfway between WhatsApp and Facebook, with the dual purpose of dividing content on your dashboard besides communication via chat.

WeChat is all this and much more. On this platform you can also meet new friends, make online payments to obtain services, or send money to other users.

WeChat can be used both by private individuals or companies through an “account subscription”. This article will only deal with the use of the application for a private user, allowing for the discovery of the functions it has available.

Installation and use are easy, through this article you’ll discover how to make the best possible use of its potential.

Here are the subjects we’ll cover in this guide:

- How to install Wechat
- Create an account
- Communicating with Wechat
- Adding friends
- Scan QR code
- Chat

### **How to install WeChat**

The app was developed by Tencent, and it will be in a folder with this name that you’ll find its contents in case you need to go through your telephone’s memory.

Installing this app is really easy, and it can be found in practically all marketplaces including Play Store, App Store, and various Chinese markets. The platform runs on all the most popular operating systems such as Android, IOS, Windows phone and others.

### **Download and Install**

To download WeChat on your cell, you’ll have to open the store on your smartphone, and simply type in the search bar the word “WeChat”, and get started.

Once your search is complete, choose the right application by selecting it from the list of results, which is unequivocally identifiable by its icon depicting two stylized and rounded

little white clouds (like something out of a cartoon) with eyes, on a white background (you could also find a little green cloud and a white one depending on the version).

Choose the heading for installation and wait until the download is complete.

### **Creating an account**

Once you finish with this procedure, choose the heading for opening the app and start by creating an account, which is essentially your own personal section inside the platform, through which you can take advantage of the various services available.

After opening the application, you'll encounter a page that will ask you if you want to log in or sign up.

If you're a new user you'll have to register. If, instead you already have an account, just log in with your personal information: user name and password (if you forgot your password, you can also access your account through your user name or telephone number, following the guided procedure).

Going back to the registration: after having clicked the registration button, the app will ask you to insert some of your personal information, specifically the area in which you live and your telephone number (to which your prefix will automatically be added).

It is very important that you enter your telephone number correctly, because after entering it, you'll be sent an sms with a 4 digit verification code, which you'll have to enter into the app to be able to continue using it.

If you have a problem receiving the sms, WeChat also has a telephone service that through a registered disc will transmit your verification code via telephone so that you can enter it into the provided spaces.

Now you'll have to configure your profile by choosing the complete name that will appear in your contacts, and eventually an image to attach to your profile.

At this point the app will ask you if you want your devices contacts to be scanned, because by means of the telephone numbers you can also find all your contacts that are already using WeChat and add them automatically.

If you don't agree, you can add them from your contacts one by one.

Congratulations, you're ready to use WeChat!

### **Communicating with WeChat**

One of the main purposes of WeChat is communication, putting you in contact with your friends. To have a list of friends to contact, you'll have to add them or be added.

## **Adding friends**

If your friends sends you a friend request, you'll receive a notice on your phone.

Choosing it, the phone will automatically take you to the "contacts" section and then "new friends", where you'll see that contact that wants to have you in their network.

If you're interested in having them in your contacts, add them. Otherwise, just ignore them.

How do you send a request? Go first to the "contacts" section, and then "new friends". Here, in the search bar, enter your friend's user name, telephone number, or account's QQ and hit search.

After you see their profile, choose it and send a friend request.

Alternatively you can also choose the heading "add contacts" in the upper right hand part of the section "new friends", and add friends through one of the following buttons.

## **Friend radar**

Activating the radar at the same time, you and your friend will be able to find and add each other.

## **Scan the QR code**

This will open your camera with a central square where you can scan the QR code of the person you want to add.

To call up the QR code and have your friends scan it, all you have to do is go to "my ID WeChat" on the same page, or go through "Me", clicking on your own profile, "my QR code". Each profile has its own personal and unique code.

## **Chat**

Now that you have a full list of contacts, it's time to start chatting.

To contact a person, you can choose different ways. Here are the main ones: write, record an audio message (with a limit of 60 seconds each), or make a call.

Opening the contact list, choose the person you want to contact and choose the method you prefer.

To write all you have to do is type in your text through the keyboard that will appear in the box. If you want to send an audio message, you'll have to press the volume symbol on the bottom left and then keep holding the button during the whole message. To call someone click on "+" on the lower right, and choose the function.

Once you open a friend's WeChat page from your contacts, on the top right there are three vertical dots which open a conversation menu with the person.