MS Teams - managing the chat list

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The list of chats in Teams can quickly fill up, making it trickier to find what you’re looking for. Although it’s not possible to delete a whole conversation, there are various ways to search for and manage the amount of information on display so it’s easier to work with.

Manage the chat list

Filter recent chats

You can filter by keyword or by different types of chat, e.g. **Unread**, **Meetings** or **Muted**

- Click **Chat** in the App bar at the left of the window
- Click **Chat** drop-down arrow at the top to see recent Chats or Contacts
- Click the **Filter** button

Filter by keyword

- Type a keyword to search within the title of a chat. The keyword can be a word in the title, or the name of a person mentioned in the title or within the chat
- The chat list displays only messages containing the keyword

Filter by types of chat

- Click the ellipsis (…) at the top right of the search area
- Click **Unread**, **Meetings** or **Muted** from the shortcut menu

You can also use the **type** option to apply a second level of filtering if your keyword search returns a lot of results.

- Click the **X** in the top right corner of the search area to clear the search

Pin a chat to the top of the list

- Find the chat you want to pin and hover the mouse over the chat title
- Click the **ellipsis** (…) to the right of the title or **right-click** the title
- Click **Pin** from the shortcut menu
- The chat will remain at the top of the list under the Pinned heading
Save a chat

- In the main message window, hover over the message you want to edit. The reactions toolbar appears
- Click the More options ellipsis (…)
- Click Save this message from the shortcut menu

Find a saved chat

- Click your profile picture in the title bar at the top of the window
- Click Saved. Saved messages appear in a panel at the left of the screen, with a bookmark icon to the right.
- Click a saved message in the list. The main window shows you the saved message and the other messages close to it in the timeline
- To unsave a message, hover over the message in the main message area until the Reactions toolbar appears. Click the ellipsis (…) and choose Unsave this message

Hide or mute a chat

- Find the chat you want to pin and hover the mouse over the chat title
- Click the ellipsis (…) to the right of the title or right-click the title
- Click Hide or Mute from the shortcut menu as appropriate

If you hide a chat, it disappears from the list and remains hidden until someone reactivates it by posting a new message to the thread.

If you mute a chat, it remains visible in the list but you don’t receive notifications of new items in the conversation.
To unmute, right-click the chat and choose Unmute from the shortcut menu.
Muted message have a scorethrough icon

Name a group chat

- Click a group chat in the list to select it
- Click the Pencil icon alongside the title of the chat in the main window
- Type a name for the chat and click Save

Edit a message in a chat

Note: You can only edit your own messages within a chat; you can’t edit other people’s messages
- Hover over the message you want to edit. The reactions toolbar appears
- Click the More options ellipsis (…)
- Click Edit from the shortcut menu
Delete a message in a chat

**Note:** You can only delete your own messages within a chat; you can’t delete other people’s messages

- Hover over the message you want to edit. The reactions toolbar appears
- Click the **More options** ellipsis (…)
- Click **Delete** from the shortcut menu

Pop out a chat

You can open a chat in a separate **pop out window** which means you can multitask:

- moving between multiple ongoing conversations
- participating in a conversation whilst continuing with other work
- checking something in a chat with colleagues whilst attending a completely separate meeting

**Note:** You don’t have the option to open a Meeting chat in a separate pop out window.

You can open chats in separate pop out windows in a number of ways:

From the chat list

- **Double-click** on the chat name to pop it out in a new window immediately.
- **Hover** over the chat name and click on the **Pop out chat icon** that appears.
- **Click** on the chat name, select **More options ...** and click **Pop out chat**.

From the chat itself

- In the top right corner of the chat click on the **Pop out chat icon**.

From a profile picture

- Anywhere in Teams chats/conversations, **double-click** on the **profile picture** of the person you want to have a conversation with to open a chat in a new window.

During a meeting you can double click on another participant’s profile picture in the Chat or People panel, to open a separate **private chat** pop out window.

**Note:** this will not work for external guests.

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1 **Note:** The Pop out chat feature is currently available in the desktop app for Windows and Mac only. It is not yet supported for Teams on the web, Linux, or mobile.
From command box
– Type /pop in the command box at the top of Teams. Pick the person from the suggested list or type in a name to find the person that you want to chat to. The chat will open in a new pop out window.

Close a Pop out chat window
– Click on the X to close a Pop out chat window.

Search for chats and messages
– Click into the Search box at the top of the Teams window

Search for a chat with a contact or group:
– Type the name (or part of the name) of a contact or group in the search box
– The results list appears, displaying the name of the contact or group and the name of any chats they are part of
– Click the item you want to open

Search for a keyword from the content of a chat
– Type a keyword from the contents of a chat
– Click the Search for [keyword] at the top of the results list
– The results appear in a panel at the left of the window

Note: if your search results in a long list, use the filter options at the top of the panel to refine it. You can filter on ‘From’, ‘Type’ or more detailed options via More filters

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