

Using Vibe and/or Buzz: AI-Driven Transcription Software

AUT staff and research students have access to Vibe and Buzz, AI-driven transcription tools that can save you time transcribing your recorded research interviews and focus group sessions.

Is my data safe in Vibe and Buzz?

When using AI-driven tools in your research, it's important to consider many factors: including what your participants consented to, what your ethical approval allows, data privacy and security, and so on.

Both Vibe and Buzz are open-source tools powered by OpenAI's Whisper.

As at the time of writing (November 2025), Vibe's privacy policy ([found here](#)) states:

Vibe operates fully offline. After the initial setup, where the model files are downloaded, all transcription happens entirely on your local device. No data is ever sent outside the app... Vibe does not collect any data or analytics. There is no automatic data reporting or tracking of any kind.

Buzz does not have a privacy policy, but [further information is available here](#).

Vibe and Buzz have both been assessed by AUT's IT team as "very high trust" AI tools, though note that this assessment is subject to change.

Installing Vibe and/or Buzz

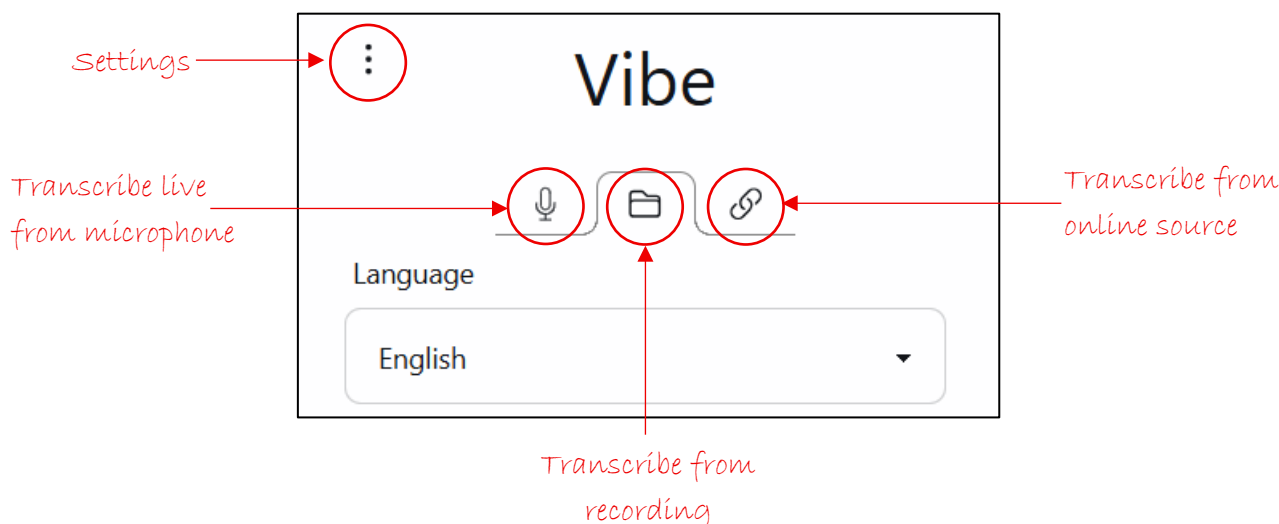
Using an AUT device? On your device, go to the Software Centre (for Windows users) or AUT Self-Service (for Mac users) and search for the software you'd like to install.

Using your own device? Go to the [Tech Central website](#) and navigate to the [IT downloads](#) link.

It is not recommended for AUT researchers to download either tool from GitHub.

How to use Vibe

Note: This guide was written for version 3.0.5 in November 2025. Content was compiled by Andrea Cu, Ben Elliott, and Anaise Irvine.



Transcribe live from microphone

1. Switch to the mic tab.
2. Pick your microphone and (optionally) speakers.
3. Select whether to save the audio file or not.
4. Press Record and transcribe; stop when finished – transcription starts instantly.
5. When the transcript has been produced, you can click the icons to:
 - change the output format
 - copy the transcript
 - save the transcript
 - right-align the transcript

Transcribe from existing audio/video files

1. Click Select File and pick the audio/video.
2. Hit Transcribe – progress shows in the queue.

(If you have multiple files to transcribe, click Advanced, set any desired options, then click Select folder)

When the transcript has been produced, you have the same options as with Live Recording above.

Transcribe from a public link

Paste a public URL (e.g., YouTube). Vibe will download the audio locally, then transcribe it.

More Options

Open options by clicking More Options. The options will be displayed below.

Speaker Recognition

To enable speaker recognition:

1. Toggle Recognise speakers on.
2. (Optional) If known, select the maximum number of speakers in the file being transcribed to provide more precise recognition.
3. (Optional) Alter the Speaker recognition threshold. I.e., if set at 0.5, if the model is at least 50% confident that the speaker is someone it has already detected, it will assign that label. If less, it will assign a new speaker ID (e.g. Speaker 2). Higher thresholds are more cautious, but might split one speaker into several IDs.

IMPORTANT: Summarize must be disabled and is not approved for use. Leave it toggled off.

Model Options

Translate to English must be disabled and is not approved for use. Leave it toggled off.

(Optional) You can alter other parameters if you are comfortable doing so.

FFmpeg options

Normalising loudness can be useful for recordings with varying speaker volume. Custom FFmpeg syntax may be given as commands.

Settings

Open Settings by clicking on the ellipsis and then 'Settings'.

Basic settings

The Language and the Theme style of the app can be customised. By default, when transcription finished, the app will play an alert and bring the window to the front of your screen.

Model Customisation and Selection

The default model is ggml-medium. To download alternative models, click "Download Models" and then use the "Magic Setup" link.

You can also view your models folder in the File Explorer and change where it is stored on your computer.

URL Transcription Options

Vibe uses a command-line tool called yt-dlp to download audio and videos from websites.

Leave Check yt-dlp for updates off.

General

It is not expected that you will need to engage with these.

GPU

If your machine has a graphics processing unit, Vibe can utilise it. Toggle Use GPU to on, and select the device number.

Other

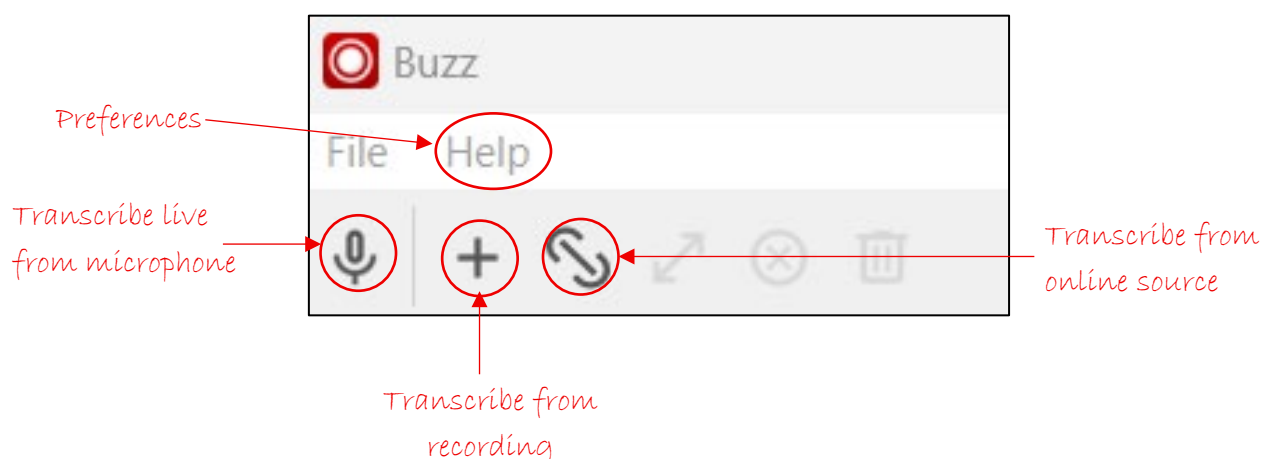
The most important button here is Temporary Files. Once you have finished transcribing, ensure you delete the temporary files by clicking Temporary files and deleting them.

Deleting local copies

Item	Where it lives	How to delete
Audio/video source (if needed)	Folder you imported from	Shift-Delete (Windows) / Move to Bin then Empty Bin (macOS)
Transcript export	Your output folder	Move to approved storage, then delete local copy & empty recycle bin
Buzz temporary files	Inside Vibe Settings ▶ Advanced ▶ Temporary files	Shift-Delete (Windows) / Move to Bin then Empty Bin (macOS)

How to use Buzz

Note: This guide was written for version 1.2.0 in November 2025. Content was compiled by Andrea Cu, Ben Elliott, and Anaise Irvine.



Transcribe live from microphone

1. Click on the microphone icon.
2. Model: This defaults to Tiny. Select other models if needed.
3. Task: Select Transcribe.
4. Language: Change this as needed.
5. Advanced...: If you are comfortable setting temperatures and prompts you may customise these settings. Enable AI translation must remain deselected.
6. Microphone: Pick your microphone.
7. Press Record; then Stop when finished – transcription starts instantly.
8. When the transcript has been produced, you can right click, select all, and then copy and paste it to a word document.

IMPORTANT: By default, once you close the recording box, the recording and transcription is lost so you need to make sure you save it first. Alternatively, navigate to Preferences -> General, and click 'Enable live recording transcription export', and set the Export folder to your desired location.

Transcribe from existing audio/video files

1. Click the + icon
2. Browse and select your file and click Open
3. Follow the guidance in Live Recording regarding Model, Task, Language, and Advanced... .

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4. Choose the format you want to your export to be in; you can also leave the export format unselected at this point.
5. Click Run.
6. Your list of transcribed recordings will show in Buzz as in the screenshot. Double click on an item to view the transcription.
7. Once the transcript is open, you can:
 - a. click on View to change the level of detail you see on the transcript.
 - b. click on Export, then choose where to save the file, to save a copy of the transcript outside of Buzz.
8. Once you've exported the transcript from Buzz, you can click the bin icon to delete the item but note that this action cannot be undone.

Transcribe from a public link

Click this link icon and paste a public URL
(e.g., YouTube). Buzz will download, then transcribe it.

Translate

Translation must be disabled and is not approved for use. Leave selected Task as Transcribe.

Deleting local copies

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