

# How Claude Code Channels works

Understanding the connection between phones, messaging apps, and Claude Code.

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## Similar to walkie-talkies

Imagine Claude Code Channels as a walkie-talkie system. Claude Code is sitting at your desk, working on his computer. Channels provides him with a walkie-talkie – connected to Telegram or Discord – so you can talk to him from anywhere.

You press the button (send Telegram message). Claude hears it (receives the message via the channel). Claude performs the task (reads the file, writes code, runs the command on your computer). Claude replies (sends the result to your Telegram chat).

Simple. But there's one important detail that changes how you use it.

## Everything happens on your computer.

Here's the most important thing to understand about Channels: Nothing runs in the cloud. When you send a message from your phone, it's transferred to your computer, where Claude Code does all the actual work.

This is the path of a message:

Your phone ? Telegram server ? Your computer (Claude Code) ? Perform the task ? Send the results back ?  
Telegram ? Your phone

This means Claude has full access to your project files, source code, and terminal—exactly as if you were sitting at your desk. You're not getting a restricted mobile version. You're getting the full version, just remotely controlled.

But that also means your computer has to be turned on and Claude Code has to be running. Close your laptop lid, and the walkie-talkie will stop working. Messages you send when the computer is off? They'll disappear. They won't be queued for later delivery.

? **Quick check** : If your computer goes into Sleep mode while you're sending a task via Telegram, what happens to those messages?

## How the plugin system works

Channels use something called MCP – short for Model Context Protocol. You don't need to remember that. What's important is its function: MCP is the system that allows different tools to connect to Claude Code.

Each messaging platform (Telegram, Discord) has its own "plugin"—a small piece of software that acts as an intermediary between the messaging app and Claude Code. When you install a Telegram plugin, you're adding a translator that knows how to:

1. Listen for messages from your Telegram bot.
2. Forward those messages to Claude Code
3. Send Claude's response back to Telegram.

Currently, only three plugins are available: Telegram, Discord, and an experimental tool called Fakechat. More platforms will be added later, but for now, those are your choices.

## What can Claude do through Channels?

Anything Claude Code can do normally, it can do through Channels. That includes:

1. Reading the file - "What's in the configuration file?"
2. Write code - "Add a login page to my project"
3. Run the command - "Run the test and let me know which one passes"
4. Search your source code for - "Where is the payment processing function located?"
5. Execute the Git command - "Note changes with the message 'fix login error'"

The only thing it CANNOT do remotely is respond to permission requests. When Claude wants to do something that requires your approval (like modifying an important file), it will pause and wait – and you can only approve it from your computer. We'll learn more about this in Lesson 7.

## Why is this important?

Before Channels, using Claude Code meant sitting at your desk. Now, those "mid-day" moments become productive: Commuting time, lunch breaks, 5 minutes between meetings.

It doesn't replace sitting down to focus on work. But it expands your scope of activity – you stay connected to your projects without opening your laptop.

## Key points to remember

1. Channels connects your phone to Claude Code running on your computer - nothing runs in the cloud.
2. Your computer must always be on and Claude Code must be running for Channels to work.

3. Messages are not queued - if your computer shuts down, messages will be lost.
4. Claude can do everything through Channels as usual, except for approving permission prompts.
5. MCP plugins connect each messaging platform to Claude Code.

1. Question 1:

What happens if you shut down your computer while using Channels?

1. A. Channels will go offline and messages will be lost.
2. B. Messages will be queued and processed when you reopen the app.
3. C. Claude automatically switches to cloud mode.

EXPLAIN:

Because Claude Code runs on your computer, shutting down your computer means the Channels are disconnected. Messages sent while the Channels are off will be lost – they won't be queued.

2. Question 2:

Where does Claude Code actually run when you use Channels?

1. A. On Anthropic's cloud server
2. B. On your phone
3. C. On your computer
4. D. On Telegram's servers

EXPLAIN:

Claude Code always runs on your computer. Channels are simply a bridge that allows you to send messages from your phone to your local Claude Code session.

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## Training results

You have completed **0** questions.

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