

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Convo App - Dev Blog #1](#)

CL1B - January 30, 2026, 12:43 pm

Convo App Dev Blog #1

The start of something!

Written for version: 1.0.0

The Backstory

Last summer, [ttbr0](#) and I were having our daily convo and as usual the topic was: What can we do to + the user experience here on HF?

Over the weeks we were plotting on this idea of a HackForums group called HF Devs.

His first idea for the group? A desktop convo app.

We thought it was great, I think he started the repository for the project that day.

[ttbr0](#) spent a few hours figuring out the auth pattern HF uses for both auth and the chat socket.

Not long after he wrote the first version of the Convo App.

It looked... Terrible but it sparked that spark with us big time.

Thread: <https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6310986>

Fast forward to now, I've had some more free time to work on it.

I had actually been doing a lot of web development prior, so I'm excited to work on this.

Timing couldn't be better as [php](#) told me about Tauri whilst I'm in the middle of learning Rust lang myself.

This is the exact fuel my brain needs: Passion (for HF) + Mastering new skills (Rust) = Joy

I started the Tauri project from scratch whilst using a fork of the convo.js client used in /convo.php that I ported into the project.

My goal was to keep the unique UX the original web version of Convo has whilst opening it up for new features.

The backend is in pure RUST and is written for Windows/Linux/macOS.

Long story short, this project originates from the thinkers of this forum. The HF Devs.

Credits:

HF Community - Inspiration and input

[Xerotic](#) & [Omniscient](#) - Original Convo and API v2

[ttbr0](#) - Original idea, auth handshake

[itcorp](#) - .NET implementation which was a huge jump forward

[CL1B](#) - Convo App Lead Developer

Login & How It Works

StepWhat Happens 1Your credentials go directly to HackForums - the app authenticates you the same way the website does 2Session cookie is encrypted with AES-256 and stored locally on your device 3WebSocket connection is established to HackForums' chat server

Cloudflare Challenge

If HackForums presents a Cloudflare challenge, click "Open Challenge Window", complete it, then try logging in again.

Stay Logged In

Check this box to save your encrypted session locally. Next time you open the app, it auto-loads your session.

If unchecked, you'll need to log in each time.

Login Source Code ([Click to View](#))

Cloudflare Worker

For API features, I've set up a Cloudflare Worker that handles the OAuth flow:

FeatureDescription Zero Data StorageThe worker does NOT store, log, or save any of your data Passthrough OnlyFacilitates the OAuth handshake, passes your token back to your app, then forgets everything HTTPS OnlyAll communication is encrypted in transit Isolated SessionsEach OAuth flow is unique, no cross-user data exposure

Additional Notes:

- Authorization codes expire in 5 minutes and are deleted after retrieval
- Access tokens are NEVER stored in the worker - received and immediately passed to your app
- No logging of request bodies or responses
- API usage is READ-ONLY - the app cannot modify anything on your account

API Permissions:

- Basic Info (READ) - Access public user data such as uid, username, avatar, etc for the current profile
- Posts (READ) - Access forums, threads, and posts
- Users (READ) - Access other public HF user profiles

CF Worker Code ([Click to View](#))

New Commands

Commands that are new in Convo App:

CommandDescription /sizeembed 1-5Scale embed/image sizes (1=small, 3=default, 5=large) /afk <reason>Set AFK status - auto-replies when mentioned /askai <question>Ask AI a question (requires API key in Settings) /askai context <question>Ask AI with recent chat context /factcheck @username@Fact-check a user's recent claims @everyone <msg>Mention all online users @Username Autocomplete

Start typing @username and the app suggests matching users from the online list.
A ghost text preview appears - press Tab to complete the mention.

Works in both global chat (@username@ format) and private conversations (profile link format).

Supported Embeds

URLs are automatically embedded for these platforms:

PlatformWhat Embeds YouTubeVideo player (including shorts) Twitter/XTweet content Instagram Posts, reels, TV TikTokVideo embed SpotifyTrack, album, playlist, episode, show SoundCloudAudio player Apple MusicTrack embed VimeoVideo player GitHubRepository/profile card PastebinCode embed Truth SocialPost embed Direct media.mp4, .mp3, .wav, .flac files Images.jpg, .png, .gif, .webp auto-display

Use /sizeembed 1-5 to scale all embeds (1=smallest, 5=largest, 3=default).

Attachment and Emojis

Click the paperclip icon for upload options:

OptionDescription ImageUp to 3MB, embedded directly (max 3 at once) Image+Large images up to 200MB via Catbox AudioUp to 200MB via Catbox (MP3, WAV, OGG, etc.) VideoUp to 200MB via Catbox (MP4, WebM, MOV, etc.)

Drag and drop also works - small images embed directly, large files go to Catbox automatically. W Thumbnails appear in input area before sending, click X to remove.

Native OS Emojis use your native OS emoji picker - with gif support.

Thread Viewer & Previews

Thread Viewer

Click any HackForums thread link to open the Thread Viewer panel on the right side.

Shows full thread content with posts, requires API connection. If no API connected, links open in browser instead.

Thread Previews

Hover over HackForums thread links to see a preview card with thread title and info before clicking.

Profile Cards

Hover over any username (in messages or online list) to see their profile card with avatar, bio, join date, post count, and reputation (if API connected).

Chat Features

Reply Feature

Hover over a message and click the reply arrow.

Your message will quote the original with a preview bar above the input.

Censoring & Muting

Settings -> Chat has several options to control what you see:

Blur Images - Blur images until clicked. First click reveals, second click opens fullscreen. Only affects other users' images, not your own.

Muted Members - Add members to your mute list:

- Level 1 - Blur their messages (click to reveal)
- Level 2 - Hide completely

Both levels censor their profile picture.

Censored Words - Add words to blur. Click to reveal.

Auto Replace

Settings -> Chat -> Auto Replace. Add words and their replacements.

When you type the word and press space, it automatically replaces with the replacement text.

Hide Messages

Ctrl+Shift+Click (or Cmd+Shift+Click on Mac) on any message to hide it from your view (session only).

Translator

Settings -> Tools -> Translator. Right-click selected text in chat to translate to your chosen language.

Desktop Notifications

Settings -> Tools -> Notifications. Get notified for mentions.

Custom Sounds

Settings -> Tools -> Sounds. Set custom notification sounds for messages and inbox.

Wiki Lookup

If enabled in Settings -> Tools, profile cards show a Wiki button to look up user wiki information.

External Link Safety

Clicking external links shows a confirmation modal with the full URL before opening in your browser.

Group Chat Avatars

Multi-user conversations show stacked profile pictures.

Settings Overview

Open with the wrench icon in the left sidebar.

TabWhat's There AccountUsername, UID, API connection, logout ChatMuted members, censored words, image censoring ThemeColors, background, app styling, saved themes ToolsTranslator, notifications, custom sounds, wiki, AI settings

Theme Customization

Settings -> Theme tab. Customize colors, backgrounds, fonts, and save/share/import themes.

Privacy & Security

Stored Locally (Encrypted)

- Session cookie (AES-256)
- API token (AES-256)

Stored Locally (Unencrypted)

- Settings and preferences

Never Stored

- Your password
- Your messages

iOS/Android

I've tested the app on iOS and it works, but needs a lot in depth of tweaking and it's extremely time consuming for me.

If there is a real desire for this to be released on iOS/Android you'd have to pay the developers for their time (which currently is only me, but will expand).

What's Next?

This is the first in hopefully (or not) many more dev blogs.

This first one is more like a mini documentation but in the future these will be used to talk about updates, developer insights and more.

Right now, my energy is somewhat declining again. I can feel it..

I'll be looking at serious bug reports with high urgency but anything other than that may take a while.

For suggesting new features for the app make a post about your suggestion here:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6318749>

To report bug(s) make a bug report post here:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6318748>

To view, download or share themes check out the themes thread here:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6318751>

Please respect these threads, do not post suggestions in the bug report thread and do not post bug reports in the suggestions thread.

RangoWorld - January 30, 2026, 12:47 pm

That's incredible. I was honestly not aware that this was in the making. Looks damn good with all those features. Mouthwatering stuff.

Omniscient - January 30, 2026, 12:47 pm

Lots of work. Well done.

Was the intent to make Convo appear more like Discord?

CL1B - January 30, 2026, 12:52 pm

(Jan 30, 2026 01:47 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Lots of work. Well done.

Was the intent to make Convo appear more like Discord?

Thanks.

Not really, it looks a lot like discord with the left sidebar minimized. All the screenshots show that state in order to protect my private convos.

This is how it looks expanded:

Omniscient - January 30, 2026, 1:18 pm

Well it looks very cool. I hope it's a big hit. Fine tune it and I'll help you promote it here and on X.

php - January 30, 2026, 7:26 pm

What a journey this was an awesome read, great work also btw you can use Node.js as a sidecar instead of rust for everything

<https://v2.tauri.app/learn/sidecar-nodejs/>

Cooligan - January 31, 2026, 12:40 am

[CL1B](#)

This is awesome! All of your recent testing has been for a good purpose I see.

I love some of these features, especially the navigation related ones. The thread preview, Wiki Lookup, Desktop Notifications (push), and that Settings panel all look great.

Not sure if it's possible, but if you could somehow add Convo Push Notifications, that would be amazing and I already know half of the site would be thanking you.

One thing I'd suggest is replacing the Convo Suggestion thread you recently made as we already have one for Convo Suggestions with existing activity, here:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6281607>

I've already typed out the update that has all of Convo updates post 10/21/24 and I'll be keeping it updated of course. Convo has always been my favorite onsite feature, so I definitely understand this passion project.

Oh, and the External Thread Safety feature. Discord has had this implemented almost since its inception iirc, and it is beyond useful. There are many times in chats when you accidentally click a link that was just sent, and it opens up to a random site you never intended. Any of these could be malicious links and many of us know just how dangerous that can be, so I applaud that feature especially. Should absolutely help protect the newer members as well.

Curiosity question - does it work for reading markdown links? As in, does it also have a built-in redirect checker to see where the final URL destination is for a shortened URL for example? Also is there a Standard or Strict implemented to auto upgrade the protocol to HTTPS from HTTP?

Jamika - January 31, 2026, 8:16 am

Excellent work, will be perfect to see the mobile version

itcorp - January 31, 2026, 9:22 am

You did a great job, well done bud!!

Dystortion - January 31, 2026, 9:40 am

Fantastic work to all involved, on a sidenote: Do you think it could bypass the UK block of visiting sites like this until after 9pm unless on a VPN? I'm guessing it won't because you're still authenticating through HF [CL1B](#)

StuffSneak - February 1, 2026, 8:40 am

Great initiative & work by the team! Kudos & Good luck!

Terry A. Davis - February 1, 2026, 5:46 pm

Ayyyy, my name is in the auto complete list. Go me! I'm popular!

CL1B - February 3, 2026, 1:53 am

Convo App project has been cancelled. The main drive for the app was the public convo, which has been filled with pedo jokes, racism and NSFW stuff in the last 3 days. Huge lack of moderation, members not respecting request to better themselves.

I've requested a permanent ban from Convo as well.

Omniscient - February 7, 2026, 2:34 pm

Strange turn of events but so it's clear about Convo....

The rules are simple and they are posted.