

# Brief Review of Speech-to-Text Software

## Introduction

This short review comes in the light of feedback from a document “Making notes From Speech to Text” which describes how to use speech to text (based on Google’s Gboard and Notepad) to prepare an Android Note.

Since then a highly-effective speech-to-text facility on Microsoft Teams has been viewed and another Android app called “Live Transcribe and Notification” been brought to the attention of All\_Ears’ members. This document offers a brief update of the relative merits the author has found so far.

### 1. MS Teams

MS teams requires an internet connection which gives access to external speech-to-text processors. I suspect, but cannot confirm, that something known as “cloud processing” may be taking place to utilise more powerful hardware and software to convert speech-to-text. Another possibility is that the MS Teams speech-to-text that I saw was on a laptop rather than a less-powerful tablet or phone. This could have accounted for the improvement, but my chief suspect is cloud processing.

### 2. “Notepad/Gboard”

“Notepad/Gboard” and “Live Transcribe and Notification” both look to be products of Google. It is possible, but not certain, that both may use the same core speech-to-text recognition software.

The “best” choice may come down to what you want to use speech-to-text for. I know someone who prepares her shopping list using speech-to-text on Android’s Notepad. If a Notepad file needs to be regularly updated then Notepad/Gboard” is probably best, not least because mistakes can be easily corrected with an on-screen keyboard. Both “Notepad/Gboard” and “Live Transcribe and Notification” are likely to get brand names wrong; with errors like “Bovril” coming out as “Bro Bro”, “Horlicks” as “Haulage” and “Persil” as “personal”.

### 3. “Live Transcribe and Notification”

In contrast, “Live Transcribe and Notification” seems best for transcribing speech-to-text in meetings. Some details are at:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.audio.hearing.visualization.accessibility.scribe&hl=en&gl=US>

It can be downloaded from Google’s Play Store, is instantly available (without having to create a new Notepad file) and has a particularly nice feature of correcting itself after it realises it has made a mistake. Its theme seems to be to aid conversation-type communication, for which it has an optional on-screen keyboard for replying. At the time of writing I have only used it for transcribing voice conversations to text, for which it is very good and my preferred method for doing this with Android devices.