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# Introduction

<https://freeshow.app/docs/introduction>

FreeShow is a free and open-source program to show slides and lyrics on a screen.

The project was started in late 2021, with the first release in February 2022.

The program was created because I couldn't find any free and good software to match the expensive ones in features, usability and looks. I really wanted to make it as easy to understand and use as possible. It might take some time getting used to, but I believe it will make the process of creating and showing lyrics and media easy and fun.

FreeShow is available on Windows, macOS and Linux. It has many good features, and is still in active development, so it should get more amazing and unique features.

If you haven't already, you can download the application from the homepage: [freeshow.app](https://freeshow.app)

## Get Started Using FreeShow

### Video

YouTube video

[https://youtu.be/9\\_1IUNcrU1w](https://youtu.be/9_1IUNcrU1w)

## Socials

- [Tutorials on YouTube](#)
- [Community on Facebook](#)
- [Tips on Instagram](#)
- [QNA on Reddit](#)

## Reviews

- [Capterra](#)
- [SourceForge](#)
- [GetApp](#)
- [AlternativeTo](#)
- [G2](#)

# List of features

<https://freeshow.app/docs/features>

*These are some of the main features.*

- **Languages:** FreeShow supports English, Norwegian, Spanish, Slovak, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Serbian, Slovenian, Ukrainian, Turkish, French, Russian, Korean, Dutch, Chinese, Romanian & Czech.
- **CMG Sans:** Includes a beautiful font by Church Motion Graphics.
- **Drawer:** All the tools you need in one place.
- **Projects:** Project manager inside the application.
- **Countdowns:** Add custom countdown timers.
- **Multiple outputs:** Add as many outputs as you want, with easy control.
- **NDI®:** Send outputs over IP, useful for streaming.
- **Output layers:** Set and clear different layers: background/slide/overlays.
- **Animations:** Add custom animations to the items on your slides.
- **Import:** Text, ChordPro, PDF, PowerPoint, ProPresenter, EasyWorship, VideoPsalm, OpenLP, OpenSong and more.
- **Export:** Export shows as text, PDF, or export an entire project.
- **Backgrounds:** Add backgrounds to your slides to make them stand out.
- **Overlays:** Have as many overlays as you want on top of any slide.
- **Templates:** Add templates to quickly change the style of your slides.
- **Recorder:** Mirror any screen or program on the computer to the output screen, and record them.
- **Player:** Play YouTube & Vimeo videos directly in the program. More platforms may be added.
- **Audio:** Play one or more audio tracks, or microphones, and link them to your slides.
- **Chords:** Add chords to the text and show them in stage display.
- **Lock Output:** Lock the output to know for sure that you can't accidentally change the output.
- **Transitions:** Add custom transitions for every single slide and items.
- **Cloud Sync:** Sync all your data between computers.

## System requirements

The current version of FreeShow is built using **Chromium 138**, it should run on any OS/hardware that can run a modern browser, check out the system requirements.

# Install on Windows

<https://freeshow.app/docs/windows>

## **.exe**

Download the .exe file and double click to install.

## **WinGet**

```
BASH
winget install --id=ChurchApps.FreeShow -e
```

*This format is not regularly updated!*

Check it out on [winstall.app](https://winstall.app).

### **INFO**

After launch, you might get an alert that the Firewall has blocked some features. If you don't allow access, then you can't connect to the application remotely. This includes the stage display, and remote controllers.

## **Application data path**

*For advanced users*

```
JSON
%AppData%/freeshow
```

## **Older hardware**

- Windows 7/8: Use version 1.2.4

# Install on macOS

<https://freeshow.app/docs/macos>

## .dmg

Step	Action
1	<b>Install</b> — Double click the .dmg file
2	<b>Copy</b> — Drag the "FreeShow" icon into the "Applications" folder
3	<b>Open</b> — Find and open the app

### INFO

After launch, you will be asked for permission to allow incoming network connections. If you deny, then you can't connect to the application remotely. This includes the stage display, and remote controllers.

## Application data path

*For advanced users*

JSON

~/Library/Application Support/FreeShow/

## Older hardware

- macOS 10.15: Use version 1.4.9
- macOS 10.14: Use version 1.2.4
- macOS 10.13: Use version 1.2.4

# Understanding projects

<https://freeshow.app/docs/projects>

A project is a playlist with all the songs, videos, presentations and other elements for your meeting.

## Organizing

All of your projects are located in one place, inside the application, to make it quick and easy to organize and find your projects. You'll see the projects on the left side when in "Show" mode. And in the top you can see a "folder" icon, that when selected displays all of your folders and projects. To add a folder click "New folder" at the bottom of the projects area. You can also have folders inside folders.

### TIP

I recommend creating a *main* folder for each event. Then have more folders inside with the current year, if there are multiple events of the same kind each year, to keep it organized.

## Creating a project

Pressing the "New project" button next to the "New folder" button will create a new project. You can drag it into a folder if you want. Click to select it, or double click to select and open.

## Project templates

If you right click a project you can click "Create template" to create a template with the layout of this project. This way you can create a structure that can be reused, and simply click on the project template to create a new unique project with a preset structure!

# Project

<https://freeshow.app/docs/project-list>

A project is a playlist with all the songs, videos, presentations and other elements for your meeting. To add a new element you can drag it from the drawer, or drag a media file from the computer directly. Drag elements inside the project to rearrange them.

To navigate between elements you can click them or press the arrow down/up buttons on the keyboard.

## Private shows

When a show is in a project you can right click on it and click "Private", all private shows will have a lock icon and will not display in the shows list in the drawer. If that show has been added to any other projects it will also be private there, but any changes will show in all the projects.

## Sections

Click the button in the bottom of the project area to add a new section. Here you can add titles for reference in your playlist, and add lots of notes.

### TIP

Press **CTRL/CMD + F** to start searching in the drawer, and press enter to quickly add the first result to the current project.

## Project file

Go to File>Export>Project to export a .project file. This file is useful for transferring files between computers. The project file is a .zip file and a .json file containing all of your media in the project, including all shows/overlays/actions used.

Go to File>Import>Project to import a .project file.

You can also right click a project button/project title to export/import quicker.

# Showtime

<https://freeshow.app/docs/show-type>

A show is your slideshow. It can be song lyrics, events, presentations, images, bible verses, and much more.

## Creating a show

First you have to go to "Shows" in the drawer. At the bottom center you will find a **New show** button. Clicking it will display a popup. Here you can type a name, and select a category the new show will be placed in. The selected category will default to the currently opened category, or the set category of the opened show. There are buttons for an empty show, web search for lyrics and quick lyrics, which is recommended if you want to create song lyrics. The program will try to apply groups automatically. Finally, once text is pasted/typed, press **New show** to create your new show.

## Quick Lyrics

### Image

Screenshot of Quick Lyrics window

[https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show\\_type-Quick\\_Lyrics.webp](https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show_type-Quick_Lyrics.webp)

## Syntax

### Song Parts (Groups)

Parts of a song can be marked using the part name in square brackets (e.g. **[Verse]**). A group will be created for each part. These groups can be added and removed from show layouts. This makes it possible to have multiple "arrangements" of the same song parts/groups into different layouts.

If there are multiple of the same song parts there is no need to add a number to the end of the group name. FreeShow will by default automatically add numbers to the labels accordingly.

Here is a Quick Lyrics example song with two verses, chorus and bridge:



```
[Verse]
Line 1
Line 2
Line 3
Line 4

[Chorus]
Line 1
Line 2
Line 3

[Verse]
Line 5
Line 6
Line 7
Line 8

[Bridge]
Line 1
Line 2

[Chorus]
Line 1
Line 2
Line 3
```

**Image**

Screenshot of Quick Lyrics example song with two verses, chorus and bridge

[https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show\\_type-Quick\\_Lyrics\\_example\\_song\\_with\\_two\\_verses\\_chorus\\_and\\_bridge.webp](https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show_type-Quick_Lyrics_example_song_with_two_verses_chorus_and_bridge.webp)

**Divide into slides with blank lines**

Lines of a song part can be divided into separate slides by adding an empty line between the song part lines. However normally this is not needed as you can also set how many lines are display in the **Styles** section of the **Settings**. During the show presentation a progress indicator will display below the song part slide to show how much of the song part has already been displayed.

Here is an example of a verse with four lines that is divided so that the first two lines are on one slide and lines three and four are on the second slide:

```
[Verse]
Line 1
Line 2

Line 3
Line 4
```

**Image**

Screenshot of a verse with four lines that is divided in two

[https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show\\_type-Quick\\_Lyrics\\_divided\\_verse.webp](https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show_type-Quick_Lyrics_divided_verse.webp)

**Metadata Import**

Metadata can be imported in Quick Lyrics by adding lines to the text box using the metadata field name, an equal sign and the text that the metadata field should be set to (e.g. **Title=Song Title**).

**NOTE**

For the **Song ID (CCLI)** field just use **CCLI=**.

Here is an example metadata import text:

```
Title=Song Title
CCLI=1234567
Copyright=© 2011 The Best Words Ever Sung; © 2011 ACME Song Factory LTD.
Author=John Doe | Jill Doe | Samuel Somebody
```

**Image**

Screenshot of Import Metadata Example

[https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show\\_type-Quick\\_Lyrics\\_Import\\_Metadata\\_Example.webp](https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show_type-Quick_Lyrics_Import_Metadata_Example.webp)

**TIP**

If you are adding a song title using the metadata import there is no need to enter a name for your show, as it will default to the song title.

You can add custom metadata options in **Settings>General>Manage metadata**, that way they can also be parsed from Quick Lyrics. For custom metadata fields with spaces, both of the following lines will work:

```
custom title with spaces=Some Text
customtitlewithspaces=Some Text
```

## Options

Under the Quick Lyrics text entry box is an **Options** button. Clicking on this will show the following options.

**Image**

Screenshot of Quick Lyrics options

[https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show\\_type-Quick\\_Lyrics\\_options.webp](https://freeshow.app/images/docs/Show_type-Quick_Lyrics_options.webp)

**NOTE**

FreeShow will remember the settings for these options for future Quick Lyric imports.

**TIP**

If you normally copy your song text, metadata imports and then paste them into the Quick Lyrics editor without editing them further or changing options, you can instead after copying them press CTRL+ALT+I (MacOS CMD+OPTION+I) to instantly create a new show.

## Auto assign groups

If **Auto assign groups** option is on and square brackets are not used this will attempt to add the most likely song part (group) based on how the song is structured (whether that is a verse, pre-chorus, chorus or bridge). Otherwise, it will be placed in the default **Verse** group.

### Format text

If the **Format text** option is on, it will auto capitalize the first letter in each line, remove trailing white spaces and punctuations. And split long lines into multiple lines.

### Max lines per slide

Entering a number into the **Max lines per slide** field will cause Quick Lyrics to auto split after the requested number of lines breaking the song parts into multiple slides. This can better be done by setting the maximum number of lines in the **Styles** section of the **Settings**.

## Finding your shows

All your shows can be found in the "Shows" tab in the drawer. Here you can organize them into different categories, the category changes the icon a show has in the project list. In the top right corner of the drawer you will find a search bar to search through all of your shows. When a show is opened or changed, the text content will be cached, so you can search by the content as well as the title.

## Slides

One group can have multiple slides. Right clicking a slide gives you different options.

One of them is to disable a slide, this can be useful if you might use a slide sometimes but not always, or for more advanced uses. Keyboard navigation & slide timers will skip disabled slides, but you can still click it to play as normal.

## Presenting

When opening a show, you will by default get a "WYSIWYG" view, meaning the style of each slide will match the style of the output. You can click any slide to show it, and use the arrow right/left keys to change slides, or press spacebar. In the bottom of the show view you have some buttons to change the layout of the current view.

### TIP

Pressing spacebar at the end of a show will go to the next show in the current project.

Pressing the arrow keys will always change the slides of the current outputted show, even when another show is active. But pressing spacebar will always play active show.

## Backgrounds

Adding backgrounds are as easy as dragging them over any of the slides. Say you add a background to the first slide, then that background will be applied to all the concurrent slides as "ghost" backgrounds, meaning they behave the same as the first slide when clicked, but you can only interact with the element on one slide. If you don't want any background to play on a specific slide, you can right-click on the slide, choose "Slide actions", "Start action", and click "Clear background".

**TIP**

If the background can't be found, e.g. the file is moved, or different computer, the program will auto search and find any media with matching file name, as long as it's inside a folder added to "Media" in the drawer.

## Importing a show

If you have any existing lyrics from other programs, you can import them from the application menu.

# Different views

<https://freeshow.app/docs/views>

There are different types of views for a show, the default and best for presenting is the "Grid view". They can be changed in the bottom center when a show is selected. Here is an explanation of the different show views:

**TIP**

Right click on the view button to quickly change to any view.

## Grid view

This is the most common view. Here you can see all of the slides as they are outputted in a grid. Useful for presenting.

## Simple view

This is a trimmed down version of the grid view. All the slide icons, labels, and also any disabled slides are hidden.

## List view

All of the slides from the grid view are shown on the left in a list, and on the right you can quickly change the text of any textboxes on the slides. Useful for quick editing of typos.

## Lyrics view

This is similar to the remote lyrics view, this is all of the text in a list without any formatting. Useful if you want to sing along while presenting.

# Editing a show

<https://freeshow.app/docs/editing>

To edit a show, go to the "Edit" view in the top, with a show active. Here you can select any slide, or add new on the left, change text and move/resize items in the center, and see more tools on the right side.

You can zoom in/out or enable chords in the bottom center. And if you hold **CTRL/CMD** and scroll up or down over the slides in the left panel you can show more slides at once.

**TIP**

Hold ALT and press Enter when the cursor is placed anywhere in a textbox to split the text in two slides.

## Tools

On the right side there are different tabs to edit the style of the slide or the contents, see under for more information:

### 1. Item content

Edit the style of the text or content inside all items, or the current selected items.

### 2. Item style

Edit the item style of all items, or the current selected items.

### 3. Items

Add new items, or change the order current items.

### 4. Filters

Set filters for the slide, choose for either the background, the foreground or both.

### 5. Slide

Change the background color, or add notes to the current slide.

## Item styling

### Auto Size

When enabling the "Auto size" option, the text will be resized to fit inside the current textbox. You can choose between two text fit options:

1. Shrink to fit: Text is set font size by default, but can shrink if the text does not fit in the textbox. (default)
2. Grow to fit: Text will grow to fill the entire textbox, but maximum the set font size.

### Text scrolling

When selecting a textbox you can choose to enable text scrolling if you want some effects.

## CSS

In some places there is a textbox to change the CSS directly. You don't need to use this if you don't know it, but if you know CSS you can do many different special things with the browser styling language.

## Modes

At the bottom you can change the edit mode, first you can click on "Chords" to add chords. Also you can toggle "Text edit".

## Text edit

This works in a similar way to the "Quick lyrics" when creating a show, or it is the same if it is empty. It will automatically change slides in the current layout based on the content of the text after editing. It will update the content when the textarea loses focus (If you press esc, or click on another area). Useful for copying/pasting song lyrics, and for splitting/joining slides.

Slides are separated with an empty line, and labeled by **[Group name]**. And textboxes are separated with **[#1]**, **[#2]**, etc. Textboxes can also be marked with a language ID **[#3:en]**.

## Virtual line breaks (Virtual breaks)

This is a method of creating line breaks in some outputs but not in others at a given spot.

At the bottom of the editor you can press the more options arrow to reveal a button that will insert these characters: "[\_VB]" into the selected caret position. By default this behaves like a normal line break.

But the power of this comes with using multiple outputs, in the output style settings you can click the "Lines" option to open a popup, where you can find a toggle to "Skip virtual break", on the outputs with this enabled the line will continue straight with no breaks. Often used in addition to reducing the lines amount to 2.

# Items

<https://freeshow.app/docs/items>

There are different types of items you can add, depending on what you want to present.

After adding a new item, you can edit its properties on the right side, by clicking on the tab left to "Item", and "Items" with the currently selected item name.

Here is a list of the items:

## Text

This is the most common, and it is for adding text to a slide, or just a general shape.

## Media

This is for adding images or videos to your slide.

## Website

Load a website or a local html file. You can navigate this in the output window.

## Timer

This is for adding a timer to your slide, that can be controlled from Timers under the "Functions" tab in the drawer. You can also change the type to show a line or circle going from 100% filled to 0%.

## Clock

Show the system time either analog or digital.

## List

Create a list of different things that you can show as a list, or set a time so they can change automatically.

## Camera

Select a camera input feed.

## Variable

Add a dynamic item to your slide. For creating and changing variables see this.

## Progress

Add a progress meter to display the current slide progress. Choose between "Number"/"Progress bar"/"Groups". "Groups" will show all the show groups and the currently active one. NOTE: Ignore a group by prefixing it with "~"!

## Events

This item will display upcoming events from the "Calendar" tab, either to a selected date, or today/tomorrow etc.

## Weather

Display weather forecast information by providing the latitude and longitude of the position. Either show for the current day, or four days forward in time.



## Visualizer

Show a visualizer for playing audio. This will show some lines changing height depending on the frequency and volume of the playing audio. Might cause some lag.

## Captions

Add live speech to text captions to your slide.

## Icon

This is for adding an SVG icon to your slide.

## Dynamic values

Right click any item and choose, dynamic values to add any value that will change dynamically, like the date, names, metadata, variables and much more.

### TIP

Add "|" to the end to set a fallback value, example: **show\_name|No show** (inside the curly brackets).

## Item actions

Right click any item, and choose "Item actions".

### Line by line reveal

Add this option to only reveal one line at a time on slide click/next press. If "Click reveal" is set, this will not start until that has triggered.

### Click reveal

Add this option to reveal the item after a click/next press while the current slide is active.

# Adding chords

<https://freeshow.app/docs/chords>

When editing a show, you get a few buttons at the center bottom. One of them displays a "note" icon with the label "Chords". Click on it to enable chords mode, this will display any existing chords. In this mode you can click on any letter to add a chord, this will display a popup where you can choose any chord.

Once you have added a few chords, you can select them in the bottom left to more quickly add existing chords to your song. You can also quickly remove any chord by middle mouse clicking it.

## Display chords on main display

To display chords on the main display, you have to select the textbox in the "Edit" tab, and enable the "Chords" option on the right side. You can use a template, or the "Copy" option to easily add the current item settings to all slides.

## Display chords on stage display

To display chords on the stage display, you have to select the textbox in the "Stage" tab, and enable the "Chords" option on the right side.

## Transposing chords

FreeShow offers two different ways to transpose chords, each serving different purposes:

### Global transpose (Show-level)

This method changes the chords in the show file itself, affecting all displays (main and stage) that use this show.

#### How to use global transpose:

1. Go to the **Edit** page for your show
2. Click on **Text edit** at the bottom of the screen
3. Look for the **up and down arrow buttons** at the bottom of the text editor (just above the bottom navigation bar)
4. Click the **up arrow** to transpose up a semitone or the **down arrow** to transpose down a semitone
5. Continue clicking to reach your desired key

**When to use:** When you want to permanently change the key of a song, or when creating different layouts for the same song in different keys.

### Local transpose (Stage display only)

This method transposes chords only on the stage display device, without changing the original show file. The transposition is stored in the browser cache and persists even if the stage display is reloaded.

#### How to use local transpose:

1. Open the **Stage display** on your device

2. Ensure chords are enabled and visible
3. Click on the **text box** containing the chords
4. A **transpose option** will appear
5. Use the transpose controls to adjust the key up or down
6. To reset back to the original show key, set the transpose value to **0**

**When to use:** When different musicians need the same song in different keys.

# Groups

<https://freeshow.app/docs/groups>

All the current groups are located at the right side of a show. One group can be a verse, and another for chorus. A group can have multiple slides. Click or drag a group from the right to the center to add it to your current layout. Changing the slide in one group, will change all of the same groups in your layouts at the same time. Groups can be changed from the context menu.

## NOTE

Editing a global slide in the editor will update all the slides in the layout that uses the same group. Notice that a group with the same name can be added multiple times, and will automatically be assigned a number. If you use the **Text edit** editor, the text you input is what you get out, meaning any groups with the exact same text will be merged into one, and any differences results in different groups.

## None groups

Renaming a group to "." or setting it to the "None" option will mark it as a hidden group, which will not show up in the groups list on the right. This can be useful for presentations, or if you don't want the same group to be added multiple times.

## Global groups

You can add global groups in the settings, when you edit a global group all of the slides with it will update with the new name/color. You can also access these in the right "Groups" menu of any show.

All global groups can also have a keyboard key linked to it, so say you set the letter "V" for "Verse", this means that every time you press "V" on your keyboard it will play the first verse in the selected show, or go to the next verse after the current outputted verse.

## Group numbers

In the settings you can toggle a group numbers switch. When this is enabled all of the same groups will automatically get a number based on their position. E.g. "Verse 1" and "Verse 2" if they are different, or "Verse" and "Verse (1)" if they are the same.

## TIP

Using the "Slide progress" item will show the current slide number, but can also be changed to display all of the groups with a highlighted current group. If you want to hide a certain group from this list, you can prefix it with "~".