

Best Fathom Alternative in 2026 (Hedy vs Fathom Compared)

Looking for a Fathom alternative that does more than just record meetings? Discover why Hedy's proactive AI coaching and automatic suggestions make you the brightest person in every room—at 40% lower cost than Fathom Premium.

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Team of eight professionals in a glass-walled conference room with a presenter standing at a whiteboard

Quick answer Hedy is the best Fathom alternative for professionals who want real-time coaching during meetings — not just transcripts and summaries. Hedy works on iOS, Android, Mac, and Windows (Fathom is desktop-only), captures audio without a bot joining the call, supports 30+ languages, and runs \$12.99/month for unlimited sessions versus Fathom Premium at \$16/month. Both offer free plans, but only Hedy's includes real-time AI suggestions.

What Is Fathom?

Fathom is a free AI meeting assistant that records, transcribes, and summarizes virtual meetings. Launched as one of the first accessible AI meeting tools, Fathom built its reputation on accurate transcriptions and instant email summaries delivered after each call.

Fathom's Core Features:

- Automatic recording and transcription via Zoom app or Chrome extension

- Instant meeting summaries sent by email
- “Ask Fathom” conversational search across past meetings
- Integration with CRM and productivity tools (Slack, Salesforce, HubSpot, Notion, Asana)
- Highlight reels and clip extraction for sharing key moments

Fathom’s Limitations:

- No mobile app—desktop and web only
- Free users limited to 5 premium feature calls per month
- Passive recording model—no real-time assistance
- Requires \$16/month premium for advanced summaries and AI-generated action items
- Only works for virtual meetings (Zoom, Meet, Teams)
- Dependent on meeting bot joining calls

For users who simply need meeting transcripts and post-call summaries, Fathom delivers solid value. However, professionals seeking to improve their performance during meetings —not just document what happened—quickly hit Fathom’s limitations.

What Is Hedy? The AI Meeting Coach That Makes You Brilliant

Hedy represents the next generation of meeting intelligence: an AI coach that doesn’t just record conversations—it actively helps you excel during them.

While Fathom and similar tools operate as passive observers, documenting your meetings for later review, Hedy works as your real-time strategic partner. Using advanced AI analysis, Hedy continuously monitors your conversations and delivers automatic suggestions at precisely the right moments—helping you ask brilliant questions, spot opportunities others miss, and contribute insights that make you stand out.

Hedy’s Revolutionary Approach:

Unlike traditional meeting assistants, Hedy provides Automatic Suggestions —proactive intelligence that appears without you having to ask. During your meeting, Hedy might suggest:

- “The client mentioned budget constraints twice but hasn’t specified the range. Consider asking: ‘What budget parameters should we work within?’”
- “They’ve focused on technical requirements but haven’t discussed timeline. This could be a strategic question.”
- “The competitor comparison hasn’t addressed long-term support costs—an opportunity to differentiate.”

This isn’t a chatbot waiting for your questions. It’s ambient intelligence that knows when you need help and provides it automatically.

The Critical Difference: Active Coaching vs Passive Recording

This is the fundamental divide between Hedy and Fathom—and the reason thousands of professionals are making the switch.

Fathom’s Passive Approach

Fathom's bot joins your meeting, records everything, and sends you a summary afterward. If you missed an opportunity to ask a crucial question, didn't catch an important detail, or failed to address a client concern—you'll learn about it later when reviewing the transcript.

The Problem: You can't go back in time. The meeting has ended. The opportunity has passed.

This reactive model creates what we call "transcript regret"—that sinking feeling when you realize hours after a meeting that you should have explored a topic, asked a follow-up question, or addressed an objection. Fathom tells you what you missed. It doesn't help you catch it in the moment.

Hedy's Proactive Coaching

Hedy analyzes conversations in real-time and delivers automatic suggestions while you can still act on them. It's the difference between a recording that documents your mistakes and a coach that helps you avoid them.

Real Example:

During a sales call, your prospect mentions they're "evaluating several options and timeline is important."

- With Fathom: You might miss the timeline emphasis, focusing only on the competitive evaluation. Later, reading the transcript, you realize you should have probed on their deadline.
- With Hedy: An automatic suggestion appears: "The prospect emphasized timeline twice. Consider asking: 'What's driving your timeline? Is there a specific date we should be working toward?'" You ask the question. You uncover they have a Q4 implementation deadline. You adjust your proposal timing and win the deal.

This is the power of in-the-moment intelligence . Not just knowing what happened, but changing what happens.

Real User Experiences: The Hedy Difference

From Fathom Users Who Switched

Valentino, Corporate Professional:

"90% of my job involves sitting in corporate meetings that are a little over my head, so sometimes I lack the confidence to contribute my ideas to these meetings, which I feel is holding me back from being a director or higher level. By chance, I stumbled on Hedy and was in TOTAL shock how amazing it was. I used it to validate my ideas and also come up with new ideas to share. I can tell this is going to be game changing for my career!"

Graham K., Director of Marketing:

"I'm constantly context switching between situations and clients. I essentially need a backstop for my notes and my memory. I used Hedy for the first time yesterday and was blown away by really how much it could do for me in my day to day."

Andy Abramson, CEO:

"Hedy is particularly beneficial for professionals who juggle back-to-back meetings and need an edge in real-time decision-making. Hedy lets you be more engaged and actively participate in the conversation during the meeting, prompting you to ask not just 'a question' but the right question."

Pricing and Value: What You Actually Get

Fathom Pricing

Free Plan:

- Unlimited recording and transcription
- Instant call summaries
- Integration with CRM and Zapier
- Limitation: Premium features limited to 5 calls per month

Premium (\$16/month):

- Advanced call summaries
- AI-generated action items
- Ask Fathom assistant
- Integration with Asana
- Customizable meeting bot

Hedy Pricing

Free Plan (5 hours/month):

- Up to 5 hours of meeting time per month
- Full access to Hedy's AI coaching and automatic suggestions
- Real-time insights during conversations
- Summaries and meeting notes
- Supports 30+ languages
- All device platforms (mobile, desktop, web)

Pro (\$12.99/month or \$99.99/year):

- Unlimited meeting length and sessions
- Import and transcribe past recordings
- Topics organization and cross-session chat
- Connect Hedy to Zapier and API
- All advanced features included

Lifetime (\$299 one-time):

- All Pro features
- One-time payment
- Future updates included
- Best value for committed users

Value Analysis:

At \$12.99/month (or just \$5.83/month annually), Hedy costs 40% less than Fathom's premium tier while providing significantly more capability:

- Fathom at \$16/month gives you better transcripts and summaries

- Hedy at \$12.99/month gives you real-time coaching that makes you better at meetings

When Hedy Is the Clear Winner

Hedy is the superior choice for professionals who:

Need to Improve In-Meeting Performance: If you want to be more confident, ask better questions, and contribute more effectively during meetings (not just document them afterward), Hedy's automatic suggestions are transformational.

Work Beyond Virtual Meetings: Consultants, journalists, healthcare professionals, field researchers, and anyone who has important conversations outside scheduled video calls need Hedy's mobile-first approach.

Manage Complex Projects: If you track clients, projects, or initiatives across multiple meetings and need to synthesize information across conversations, Hedy's Topics feature provides capabilities Fathom cannot match.

Value Privacy and Discretion: Professionals in healthcare, legal, HR, or other sensitive fields benefit from Hedy's on-device processing and bot-free recording that respects privacy without sacrificing intelligence.

Want Specialized Support: If your meetings fit specific contexts—patient consultations, job interviews, coaching sessions, journalism—Hedy's specialized modes provide tailored intelligence that generic tools miss.

Seek Maximum Value: At \$12.99/month (or \$5.83/month annually), Hedy costs 40% less than Fathom while providing exponentially more capability. The lifetime option at \$299 offers unmatched long-term value.

Conclusion: Choose the Tool That Makes You Better

Fathom is a competent meeting transcription tool that serves its purpose well: documenting conversations accurately and delivering summaries efficiently. For users who need only passive recording and post-meeting review, it's a solid choice.

But if you want more—if you want to be better in meetings, not just remember them better—Hedy represents the future of meeting intelligence.

The Bottom Line

Choose Fathom if:

- You need only desktop/Zoom virtual meeting transcription
- You're satisfied with post-meeting documentation
- You don't need real-time coaching or suggestions
- Video clip creation is your primary use case

Choose Hedy if:

- You want to improve your actual meeting performance
- You need mobile flexibility for in-person conversations
- You value proactive AI suggestions over passive recording
- You manage projects across multiple related meetings

- You want a more affordable solution (\$12.99 vs \$16/month)
- You care about privacy and on-device processing
- You want specialized modes for different conversation types

For most professionals, Hedy's combination of real-time coaching, universal platform support, intelligent organization, and compelling pricing makes it the superior choice.

Frequently asked questions

Is Hedy a good Fathom alternative?

Yes — Hedy is the best Fathom alternative for professionals who want real-time coaching during meetings, not just transcripts and summaries afterward. Hedy works on iOS, Android, Mac, and Windows (Fathom is desktop-only), captures audio without sending a bot to the call, supports 30+ languages, and runs \$12.99/month for unlimited sessions versus Fathom Premium at \$16/month.

Does Fathom work on mobile?

No. Fathom is desktop and web only — it relies on a Zoom app or Chrome extension to record. There is no Fathom mobile app, so it cannot capture in-person meetings, phone calls, or conversations away from your laptop. Hedy's iOS and Android apps capture audio through the device microphone, which makes mobile and in-person meetings work the same as virtual ones.

How does Hedy's pricing compare to Fathom?

Hedy Pro is \$12.99/month or \$99.99/year — about 40% cheaper than Fathom Premium at \$16/month. Both products offer free plans: Fathom Free includes unlimited recording and transcription but caps premium features at 5 calls per month, while Hedy Free includes 5 hours of meetings per month with full real-time AI coaching. Hedy also offers a \$299 lifetime plan that has no Fathom equivalent.

Does Hedy have a free plan like Fathom?

Yes. Hedy's free plan includes 5 hours of meetings per month, real-time Automatic Suggestions, AI summaries, transcription in 30+ languages, and access on all platforms (iOS, Android, Mac, Windows, web) — no credit card required. Fathom's free plan is also generous on transcription minutes but does not include real-time coaching at any tier.

Can I use Hedy without a bot joining the meeting?

Yes. Unlike Fathom, which requires a bot to join virtual meetings via the Zoom app or Chrome extension, Hedy captures audio directly from your device — system audio on macOS and Windows, microphone audio on iOS and Android. Nothing joins the participant list and nothing emails meeting attendees. This works for Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, phone calls, and in-person meetings.

Try Hedy Risk-Free

Ready to experience the difference between meeting documentation and meeting coaching?

Start with Hedy's Free Plan:

- 5 hours of meeting time per month

- Full access to automatic AI suggestions
- Real-time coaching during conversations
- All platforms (iOS, Android, Mac)
- No credit card required

Be the brightest person in the room. Try Hedy today (<https://hedy.ai>) .

Hedy AI - Live AI Coaching for Important Conversations

Try Hedy free: <https://www.hedy.ai/downloads/>

<https://www.hedy.ai/post/fathom-alternative-hedy-meeting-assistant/>