CallDress

User Manual

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CallDress

User Manual — Version 1.0

CallDress is a virtual camera for the Mac. In the app for your call, for example in Zoom or in the browser, you choose the camera “CallDress” and get the picture of your webcam with the right framing, corrected light, a background of your choice and a privacy button, plus a virtual microphone. CallDress processes picture and sound only on your Mac; none of it is sent to us.

Features

- **Virtual camera** — appears as “CallDress” in every app that lets you choose a camera
- **Manual framing** — drag and zoom in the picture, saved in the profile (free)
- **Mirror** — the finished picture in the menu bar, with hints before the call (free)
- **Image adjustments** — exposure, warmth, contrast, sharpness for any camera; camera controls (free)
- **Mask** — cover edges and single spots without zooming (free)
- **Virtual microphone** — “CallDress Mikrofon”, your voice as it is or as a cyborg, in sync with your lips (free)
- **Auto framing** — head and shoulders stay in the picture, the frame follows calmly (“Camera”)
- **Auto light** — brightens a dark face and tones down backlight (“Camera”)
- **Privacy button** — still image, a sign such as “Be right back” or camera off (“Camera”)
- **Profiles per app** — camera, framing, light, voice and background that apply by themselves (“Camera”)
- **Your own background** — gradient, colour, your own image, logo and text behind you (“Camera”)
- **AI backgrounds** — from your description, on your Mac or in the cloud with credits (“Plus”)
- **Clips** — up to 60 seconds of how others see and hear you, as a video on your Mac (“Plus”)
- **Voice effects** — Goblin and Walkie-talkie (“Plus”)
- **Transcript** — what you and the others say, separated, as a text file on your Mac (“Plus”)
- **Interpreter** — translates calls between German, English and Romanian, on your Mac (add-on “CallDress Dolmetscher”)

Installing and Setting Up

Download CallDress, put it in “Applications”, approve the camera once and choose “CallDress” in the app for your call. The welcome window guides you through every step with a checklist.

Installing

1. **Open CallDress.dmg** and drag CallDress into the “Applications” folder.
2. **Open CallDress from “Applications”.** Only from there can macOS set up the “CallDress” camera. If you open CallDress straight from the DMG or from “Downloads”, it says “CallDress belongs in the “Applications” folder” and offers “Move to “Applications””. It then copies itself there, restarts, ejects the DMG and moves the old copy to the Trash.
3. **Allow camera access.** “Welcome to CallDress” opens, and macOS asks whether CallDress may access the camera: “Allow”. You can already adjust your picture in the welcome window; above the mirror it says “Only you can see this so far”.
4. **Approve the camera.** In the checklist “Done in a minute”, click “Continue…” next to “Approve the camera”. macOS reports the new camera extension. “Open System Settings” takes you to the “Camera Extensions” window: turn on the switch next to “CallDress” and confirm with your password. On macOS 15, click ⓘ next to “CallDress” or “Camera Extensions” under General › Login Items & Extensions instead and turn on CallDress. CallDress notices the approval automatically and checks off the step: “Done. The “CallDress” camera can now be selected in all apps.”

CallDress has no icon in the Dock but one in the menu bar. Clicking it opens the CallDress window, see The CallDress Window.

Choose it in the app for your call

In the app for your call, for example in Zoom or in the browser, choose the camera **“CallDress”** instead of your webcam in its video settings. If the app is already running, restart it once. As soon as an app fetches the picture, CallDress checks off this item of the checklist too. The app in the call chooses the format itself: 720p or 1080p, 30 or 60 fps, always 16:9.

Which real camera CallDress reads is chosen in the CallDress window in the “Camera” tile.

The **microphone** is optional. CallDress only sets it up once you choose a voice, see Microphone and Voice.

What CallDress takes care of itself

- **Starting with the Mac.** After the first launch, CallDress opens by itself when you log in. You can switch this off in Settings › General with “Start with the Mac”. If CallDress is not running, the “CallDress” camera only shows a notice in Zoom and the like: “Open the camera app to show the picture”.
- **Real camera only when needed.** The real camera runs only while an app is fetching the picture or while you have the mirror or the settings open. Otherwise it is off and its indicator light stays dark.

System requirements

- A Mac with **Apple silicon** (M1 or later). CallDress does not start on Macs with an Intel processor.
- **macOS 15** or later.
- A camera, for example the built-in one.
- For AI images “On this Mac” we recommend 16 GB of memory and 6.4 GB of free space once (see Background).

The CallDress interface is available in the 24 official languages of the EU and follows the language of your Mac. This manual quotes the English labels.

If the camera is missing

The state of the camera extension is shown in Settings › General › “Advanced” in the row “Camera extension”. While something is missing, the top of the CallDress window reads “Not set up yet”, with the checklist below.

Shown	What helps
Not installed	Press “Set Up”.
Setting up…	Wait a moment.
Waiting for approval in System Settings	“Open System Settings” and turn on the switch next to “CallDress”.
Error: …	“Try Again” in the checklist; if that does not help, restart the Mac.
Active (…)	All fine. Choose “CallDress” in the app for your call.
Camera access denied (System Settings › Privacy & Security › Camera)	Turn on CallDress in System Settings under Privacy & Security › Camera.

The CallDress Window

Clicking the CallDress icon in the menu bar opens the CallDress window. From top to bottom:

In the window

- **Header:** a sentence about the state, such as “Ready” (no app is using the camera right now), “Live in Zoom” (others see you live) or “Privacy on”. On the right, the gear opens the settings.
- **Mirror:** the finished picture as the others see it, with hints and the zoom control, see Mirror.
- **Profile:** the name of the active profile as a menu, next to it “applies in …” if it belongs to an app. Below are the tiles of this profile: **“Framing”**, **“Light”**, **“Voice”**, **“Camera”** (which real camera CallDress reads), **“Background”** and **“Translate”** (see Interpreter). Clicking “Light” switches auto light on or off; the other tiles open a card for adjusting. See Profiles.
- **“Instant”:** what you need quickly in the middle of a call and what is not part of the profile: the **“Microphone”** tile (a click mutes) and the cards **“Privacy”**, **“Record clip”** and **“Transcript”**.
- **Footer:** during the trial “Trial: … days left” (opens the licence), on the right the “…” menu with “License…”, “Check for Updates…”, “Feedback & Support…” and “Remove CallDress Completely…”, far right “Quit”.

While the camera is not set up yet, the window shows the checklist from the welcome window instead of the profile and “Instant”.

The settings

The gear at the top of the CallDress window opens the settings with these areas:

Area	What it contains
General	Setup of camera and microphone, “Start with the Mac”, mirror, keyboard shortcuts, “Advanced”, “Remove CallDress Completely”
Image	Framing, camera, auto light, mask, image adjustments, resolution and camera controls
Background	Background, AI images, logo and text
Sound	Voice, real microphone, lip sync, virtual microphone
Privacy	Privacy button and signs
Profiles	Create, rename and link profiles to apps
Transcript	Languages, recognition, storage, sign in the picture
Interpreter	Purchase, language packs, help
License	Status, tiers, managing the licence, privacy

Keyboard shortcuts

These shortcuts work everywhere, even while the app for your call is in front. They are fixed and listed in Settings › General › “Keyboard shortcuts (everywhere)”.

Shortcut	Effect	Tier
^⌥⌘P	Show a sign (“Be right back” or the chosen sign)	Camera
^⌥⌘B	Camera off	Camera
^⌥⌘F	Freeze image	Camera
^⌥⌘A	Auto framing on/off	Camera
^⌥⌘N	Next profile	Camera
^⌥⌘R	Record/stop clip	Plus

Pressing the same shortcut a second time switches the privacy button back to live.

Framing

The framing decides which part of the camera picture reaches the others. Choose it in the “Framing” tile or in Settings › Image › “Framing”: **“Full frame”**, **“Manual”** or **“Auto”**. Manual framing is free; auto framing is part of “Camera” (see Auto Framing).

Manual

- **Drag in the picture** to move the frame, in the mirror as well as in the editor.
- **Scroll wheel or two fingers** zoom, up to 10×.
- **Double-click** or “Center on Face” puts your face in the middle.
- “Full frame” resets the framing.

In Settings › Image the editor is a pair of pictures: on the left “Camera image” with the frame, thirds lines and a dashed yellow face area, on the right “This is how others see you”. There is also the “Zoom” slider with its value, such as “1.5×”.

Manual framing stays fixed and is saved in the active profile, even after a restart or reconnecting the camera. If you zoom while “Full frame” is selected, CallDress switches to “Manual” by itself. The **zoom control** in the mirror is quicker, see Mirror.

How sharp the picture stays

The more you zoom, the less of the camera’s real resolution remains in the frame. Settings › Image › “Camera” shows “Real resolution in the frame”, such as “540p (upscaled)” in orange. The mirror then shows “Strong zoom: only … real resolution left” with the button “Zoom Out”.

In Settings › Image › “For advanced users” you choose “Camera resolution (input)”; the default “Automatic (best format)” is almost always right. The higher the camera resolution, the more you can zoom without the picture getting blurry. A table shows for 1× to 10× whether the frame stays “sharp” for 720p and 1080p or is “upscaled”. The output is chosen by the app in the call: 720p or 1080p, 30 or 60 fps, always 16:9.

Auto Framing

Auto framing is part of “Camera”. It is included in the trial.

Switching it on

Choose “Auto” in the “Framing” tile or in Settings › Image, or press ⌃⌥⌘**A** anywhere. The same shortcut switches back to “Manual” with the framing you used last. Under “How close” you choose the zoom level:

- **Close** — your head large in the picture
- **Normal** — head and shoulders
- **Wide** — your upper body, for a presentation for example

In the mirror’s zoom control, auto framing snaps to exactly these three levels.

What auto framing does

Head and shoulders stay in the picture, the eyes about one third from the top. The frame follows calmly and only when you really move. Detection runs on your Mac.

Hints in the mirror:

- “Auto framing is looking for the main person” — several faces or none; stay still for a moment.
- “No face in the picture”
- “Head at the edge of the camera image – tilt the camera a little” — auto framing cannot go beyond the edge of the camera.

Without a licence

Without “Camera” the option reads “Auto (Camera)”, and clicking it shows which tier it belongs to instead of silently doing nothing. If a profile is set to auto framing, CallDress then shows the full frame. Manual framing stays free.

Light and Image

Everything about light and colour is in Settings › Image. Auto light is part of “Camera”; image adjustments and camera controls are free.

Auto light

“Auto light” brightens your face when it is too dark or backlit. “Strength” sets how much. While it is working, the line below reads, for example, “Currently brightening by 0.8 stops.” To switch it quickly, click the “Light” tile in the CallDress window. Without “Camera” the switch is greyed out and carries the sign 🔒 Camera.

Image adjustments

Under “Image adjustments (any camera)”:

Slider	Range
Exposure	–2 to +2
Warmth	–3000 to +3000 K
Green/Magenta	–100 to +100
Contrast	0.5 to 1.5
Saturation	0 to 2
Sharpness	0 to 1

“Reset” returns all sliders to their defaults. The values belong to the active profile.

Camera controls (USB cameras)

Under “For advanced users” › “Camera controls (USB cameras)” you set the controls of a USB webcam yourself, depending on the camera for example exposure, white balance, focus, brightness, gain, backlight compensation and “Camera zoom”. The “Auto …” switches lock their slider. “Camera Defaults” restores the camera’s own values. CallDress sets them again after reconnecting and after sleep.

If the picture flickers under artificial light, set “Power line frequency (flicker)” to “50 Hz (Europe)”. Built-in cameras have no such controls; the image adjustments still work.

Mirror

The mirror at the top of the CallDress window shows the finished picture as the others see it: with framing, light, mask, background and privacy image. The mirror is free.

Hints before the call

At the bottom left of the mirror there are up to three hints, some with a button:

Hint	What helps
No face in the picture	Check the camera or the framing.
Face too dark – turn on auto light	Button “Brighten”.
Face very dark – more light from the front helps	Put a lamp in front of you.
Face very bright – lower the exposure a little	Turn down the “Exposure” adjustment.
Backlight – avoid a window behind you	Sit differently or turn on auto light.
Strong zoom: only … real resolution left	Button “Zoom Out”.
Auto framing is looking for the main person	Stay still for a moment.
Head at the edge of the camera image – tilt the camera a little	Tilt the camera.
Only … fps – often too little light	More light.

Zoom control and gestures

When you move the mouse over the mirror, the **zoom control** appears at the bottom centre: magnifier – (“Zoom Out”), slider, magnifier + (“Zoom In”) and the value. It goes from 1.0× to 4.0×; the magnifiers and the arrow keys move in steps of 0.25. With auto framing it snaps to Wide, Normal and Close.

With “Manual” you can drag directly in the mirror, zoom with the scroll wheel or two fingers (up to 10×) and double-click to centre on your face. The zoom control is also in the welcome window and in Settings › Image.

Mirror settings

In Settings › General:

- **“Show the mirror flipped”** (default: on) — like a mirror. Others see you the right way round.
- **“Briefly show the mirror when an app opens the camera”** (default: off) — the mirror then appears at the top right of the screen, with hints, and closes after ten seconds or when clicked.

Apple’s video effects

macOS can add reactions such as balloons or confetti to the camera picture with a hand gesture. When you trigger such an effect, CallDress briefly widens the framing to the full frame so that it is not cut off, and returns by itself afterwards. If gesture effects are on for CallDress and your framing crops the picture, the mirror says: “Turn gesture effects off here and on in Zoom & co. – here they get cropped”. The button “Video Effects” opens the video effects in Control Centre.

Mask

The mask covers edges or single spots, such as a door, a shelf or a whiteboard, without zooming. It is free and saved in the active profile. Everything about it is in Settings › Image › **“Mask”**.

Switching it on and presets

Turn on the “Mask” switch. The mask stays fixed in the room: when the framing zooms, what should be hidden stays hidden. The preview below shows the frame as a dashed outline and darkens what lies outside it. “Preset” offers ready-made masks:

- **Narrow edges** — narrow edges all round, blurred
- **Sides off** — left and right covered, blurred
- **Widescreen** — black at the top and bottom
- **Rounded**, **Oval** and **Circle** — a different image shape

Edges, shape and fill

- **“Edges”:** sliders “Top”, “Bottom”, “Left” and “Right”, up to 45 % each; with “All the same” all four move together.
- **“Image shape”:** “Square”, “Rounded” (with the “Corners” slider), “Oval” or “Circle”. The shape applies to the finished picture, even when the framing zooms.
- **“What shows there”:** “Black”, “Color”, “Blur”, “Gradient” or “Image” (a built-in one or your own). Plus “Soft edge” for a gentle transition.

Covering spots in the picture

“Edit in image …” opens the “Edit Mask” window. On the left are the tools:

- **Select** — click an area and drag it; handles change its size.
- **Edges** — add edges and drag them at the border.
- **Rectangle** and **Oval** — drag them out in the picture.
- **Freeform** — click to set points; clicking the first point closes the shape.
- **Brush** — hold the mouse button and paint over everything that should go (size Small, Medium, Large).
- **Eraser** — take away what should be visible again.

Up to six spots are possible, each with its own fill and soft edge. On the right all areas are listed with an eye to hide or show them, with the mirror “This is how others see you” below. “Show underneath” makes the mask semi-transparent so you can see what it covers. “Undo” (⌘Z) goes back up to 40 steps.

Background

CallDress puts a background behind you instead of the room you are sitting in. To do so, CallDress cuts you out of the picture from your real camera, on your Mac; the camera image never leaves the Mac. Your own background is part of “Camera”; AI backgrounds are part of “Plus”.

Switching it on

In the CallDress window, click the **“Background”** tile and turn on the “Background” switch; “Edit Background…” opens Settings › Background. The same switch is at the top there, with a preview below. The background belongs to the active profile, so each profile can have its own.

Until CallDress has cut you out, during the first second for example, the picture shows only the background: the real room never goes out.

Your own background

- **“Gradient”** — five ready-made gradients: Slate, Morning, Forest, Studio and Night.
- **“Color”** — Midnight blue, Forest green, Burgundy, Graphite, Sand or White.
- **“Custom image”** — “Choose Image…”, plus the “Blur” slider. The image is copied into CallDress at a reduced size and never leaves this Mac.
- **“Logo”** — “Choose Logo…” and a “Corner”. Ideally a PNG with a transparent background.
- **“Text”** — “First line” (your name, for example, in bold) and “Second line” (role or company), in a “Corner” of your choice.

Logo and text go top left, top right or bottom left. The bottom right stays free: AI images carry the “KI” mark there. “Reset” returns everything to the defaults.

AI background (Plus)

Under **“Generate with AI”** you describe in a few words what the room should look like, such as “bright office with bookshelf and plants”, and CallDress creates a background from it. You choose where the image is created:

	On this Mac	In the cloud
How many	as many as you like	for credits: “Standard · 1 credit”, “Best · 5 credits”
Time	about a minute	about ten seconds (Best up to two minutes)
Requirement	download 6.4 GB once; 16 GB of memory recommended	purchased Plus licence, internet; works on any Mac
What leaves the Mac	nothing: description and image stay on your Mac	only the description, no camera image
Trial	yes	no

On this Mac: Before the first image, “Download AI Models” fetches 6.4 GB once from Hugging Face. After that, images are created without internet. “Remove AI Models” frees the space again. If your Mac has less than 16 GB of memory, CallDress points this out and offers “Create in the cloud”; it does not lock anything.

In the cloud: The first time, a notice explains that OpenAI creates the image and only your description goes out; “Got it” confirms. Below it are your balance (“Credits: …”) and the choice of “Quality”. Plus gives you 100 credits. You buy more with the **“Buy Credits”** menu next to it: 40 credits for EUR 5, 100 for EUR 10, 220 for EUR 20. The purchase runs in the browser via the store; back in CallDress the new balance is shown. Credits do not expire. If the balance is not enough, the “Create” button stays locked. A description that is refused costs nothing.

What CallDress does not create: well-known people and characters, brands, films and games, and offensive content. CallDress checks the description on your Mac first and says what it will not create, such as “Please describe it without names”. Every image shows an empty room without people and with a calm centre.

The “KI” mark: When an AI image is behind you, the picture the others see carries the mark “KI” (German for AI) at the bottom right. The image file is labelled as an AI image, and a clip with it carries the note in its metadata. A new AI image replaces the previous one.

Without a licence

Without “Camera” the area starts with “Custom backgrounds are part of “Camera”.” and the button “View”; the picture then has no background. With “Camera” but without “Plus” it says “AI backgrounds are part of “Plus”.”, and instead of an AI image the “Slate” gradient is behind you; logo and text remain.

Video Background

Instead of an image, a video can play behind you, or several one after another in a loop. Like your own background, the video background is part of “Camera”.

Choosing videos

1. Settings › Background: turn on the **“Background”** switch.
2. In the menu next to “Gradient”, “Color” and “Custom image”, choose **“Video”**.
3. Under “Videos for the background”, click **“Add videos…”**; you can add several at once.

The videos play one after another in a loop, without sound; a single video plays over and over. “Play earlier” changes the order, “Remove from list” takes a video out. The “Blur” slider softens the video. Logo and text lie on top of the video. The “Background” tile in the CallDress window then shows “Video”.

Which videos work

Any movie format macOS can open, from your Mac; videos from the internet do not work. CallDress turns portrait videos the right way up. If a video cannot be played, CallDress skips it and reports “Not every video could be played.”; if a file has been moved or deleted, the list shows “not found”.

CallDress only links to the videos: they stay where they are and never leave your Mac. Only use videos you are allowed to show.

Privacy Button and Signs

The privacy button takes you out of the picture with one click without leaving the call. It is part of “Camera”; it is included in the trial. Switching it off always works, even without a licence.

Still image, sign or camera off

In the CallDress window under “Instant” there is the “Privacy” card: “One click and others see …”. Below it you choose what the button shows:

Kind	Others see	Shortcut
Still image	your picture, frozen	^⌥⌘F
Sign (default)	the chosen sign, such as “Be right back”	^⌥⌘P
Camera off	a black image	^⌥⌘B

The shortcuts work everywhere. Pressing the same shortcut again switches back to live; another one changes the kind. The real camera is off meanwhile; the app in the call still gets a picture. The top of the window reads “Privacy on”, and the mirror shows the kind.

Microphone: “Mute microphone while privacy is on” (Settings › Privacy, default: on) turns the real microphone off as well; the others hear silence.

Signs

With “Sign” selected, you choose the sign in the card. Six come ready-made: ⏳ Be right back, ☕ Getting coffee, 🍽️ Lunch break, 📞 On a quick call, 🚪 Just at the door and 🔧 Technical break. “Getting coffee” and “Lunch break” also show “Back at …” with the time.

In Settings › Privacy › “Signs” you change any sign with “Edit…” or create your own with “New Sign…”:

- **Symbol** — an emoji (“Emoji…”).
- **Text** and **Second line**.
- **“Back at …”** — no time, or 5 minutes to 1 hour from switching it on.
- **Background** — “Camera image, blurred”, a “Color” or a “Custom image”.

“Restore Default” brings back the original text of a ready-made sign; “Add Ready-Made Signs” restores ready-made signs you deleted.

Automatically when nobody is in the picture

In Settings › Privacy you set whether the chosen sign appears by itself when nobody is in the picture: “Never” (default), after 30 seconds, after 1, 2 or 5 minutes.

Profiles

A profile remembers camera, framing, image adjustments, light, mask, voice and background. Whatever you set is saved to the active profile right away, without saving. The free version has one profile, “Default”; more profiles are part of “Camera”.

Creating and switching profiles

The profile name at the top of the CallDress window is a menu: there you switch the profile, create a new one with “Save Current as New Profile…” (it takes over everything currently set and applies right away) or open Settings › Profiles with “Edit Profiles…”. “Default”, “Team”, “Client” and “Presentation” come ready.

Settings › Profiles lists each profile with its name (editable), “Active” or “Apply”, and “Delete” in the “…” menu. At the bottom you create a new one with “Name for the current settings” and “Save as Profile”. Press **⌃⌥⌘N** anywhere to go to the next profile.

Not part of a profile is what you need instantly in a call: muting the microphone, the privacy button and clips.

Profiles per app

Under “Applies to:” you add apps with “Add App”, such as Zoom for “Client” and Chrome for “Team”. You can choose apps that have opened the camera before; otherwise, open the camera in the app first.

When a linked app opens the camera, its profile becomes active by itself; the top of the window then shows “applies in …”. When it closes the camera, the previous profile returns. If you switch by hand in between, your choice stays.

Without a licence

Without “Camera” only “Default” applies. It saves itself like any other profile and can be renamed. Settings › Profiles shows “More profiles are part of “Camera”.”; the menu says “More Profiles (Camera)”.

Microphone and Voice

Besides the camera, CallDress comes with a virtual microphone: **“CallDress Mikrofon”** (the device name stays German in every language). It delivers your voice as it is or with a voice effect, delayed in sync with your lips if you like. The microphone with Original and Cyborg is free; all voice effects are part of “Plus”.

Setting up

The microphone is an audio driver. CallDress never installs it by itself, only once you choose a voice or press **“Set Up…”** next to the microphone in Settings › General › “Setup”:

1. macOS asks once for your **administrator password**. CallDress puts the driver into the folder `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/HAL` and restarts the audio service; the sound of all programs pauses for about a second.
2. On first use, macOS asks whether CallDress may access the microphone: “Allow”.
3. In the app for your call, for example in Zoom, choose “CallDress Mikrofon” or the default microphone (see below).

If an update brings a new version of the driver, the button reads “Update…”; this too happens only when you press it, with your password. Plug-in, device and state are shown in Settings › Sound › “Virtual microphone”.

Choosing a voice

In the “Voice” tile of the CallDress window or in Settings › Sound › “Voice”:

Voice	Tier
Original	Free
Cyborg	Free
Goblin	Plus
Walkie-talkie	Plus

The voice belongs to the active profile. A locked effect carries a lock; if it is still selected after the trial, the microphone sounds original until you have “Plus”.

Real microphone

In Settings › Sound › “Real microphone” you choose under “Input” which microphone CallDress records. The default “Automatic (…)” takes the one macOS would use as default. The menu on the right of the “Microphone” tile is quicker.

- **Only while in use.** The real microphone runs only while a program is using “CallDress Mikrofon”, a clip is recording or “Check level” is on. “Check level” opens it while the window is open.
- **“Default microphone for all apps”** (default: on). CallDress makes “CallDress Mikrofon” the macOS default microphone; an app set to the default microphone then gets it. If you plug in a headset or choose another microphone in macOS, CallDress uses that one. When you quit, macOS gets your microphone back.

- **A program uses the real microphone directly?** CallDress then reports, for example, ““Zoom” uses “MacBook Microphone” directly”: the others hear you without CallDress. Choose the microphone “CallDress Mikrofon” in Zoom; if “Default” is already selected, choose it again.

Lip sync

The picture arrives a little later than the sound because of the camera and image processing. The slider **“Delay sound”** under “Lip sync” evens this out, from 0 to 200 ms; the default is 60 ms, and “Default” restores it. If your mouth lags behind the sound, add delay; if the sound comes too late, reduce it.

Muting

- **By hand:** clicking the “Microphone” tile under “Instant” mutes until you click again or CallDress restarts. The tile shows “Muted”.
- **With the privacy button:** “Mute microphone while privacy is on” (Settings › Privacy, default: on); the tile then shows “Muted (privacy button)”. Muted means: the real microphone turns off and the others hear silence.

Removing

In Settings › Sound › “Virtual microphone”, **“Remove…”** takes “CallDress Mikrofon” out of all programs; macOS asks for your password. The camera stays. See also Removing CallDress.

Interpreter

The interpreter translates what the others say in a call into your headphones, and what you say for the others. All on this Mac. It is a separate purchase, **“CallDress Dolmetscher”** for a one-time EUR 39.00, independent of “Camera” and “Plus”; it is included in the trial.

Languages

English ⇄ German, Romanian ⇄ German and English ⇄ Romanian. You hear what the others say translated into German or English. What you say, CallDress translates into any of these three languages.

Setting up

1. In the CallDress window, open the **“Translate”** tile (next to “Background”).
2. Choose which language the others speak (“They speak”) and which one you speak (“I speak”).
3. Download the language pack: **“Download · …”** next to “Language pack …”. With recognition, translation and voices, more than 1 GB per language pair. CallDress downloads only when you click, from our server; after that, the interpreter translates without the internet.
4. Turn on the **“Translate”** switch.

For the others to hear your translation, choose “CallDress Mikrofon” as the microphone in your call app (see Microphone and Voice). So that CallDress can hear the sound of the app for your call, macOS asks for permission to record system audio the first time. If you declined: Settings › Interpreter › “Help” › “Open System Settings”. Use headphones so the translation does not run back into the microphone.

On macOS 26, Apple translates English ⇄ German until the language pack is complete (“Once the voices are loaded, Apple translates until the language pack is complete.”). If Apple’s language data is missing, download it with “Download from Apple”.

Original or translated, per direction

The “Translate” card has two sections that you set separately:

- **“What the others say”:** “They speak” and “I hear” with “Original” or “Translated”. With “Translated” you choose “Translated into” and how loud the original stays underneath (“Original underneath”).
- **“What I say”:** “I speak” and “The others hear” with “Original” or “Translated”. With “Translated” you choose “Translated into”, how loud your own voice stays underneath (“My voice underneath”) and whether the translation appears as “Subtitles in the picture”.

The volume underneath ranges from “Muted” through “Barely audible” and “Low” to “Clear”. While the translation speaks, the original becomes quieter.

Translating only for you: “The others hear: Original”. CallDress then translates only what the others say; your voice goes through unchanged, without subtitles. The tile shows, for example, “English ⇄ German · Original: Low” and “· for me” or “· for the others”. The settings belong to the profile; switching profiles switches them too.

Voices

The translation is spoken by an AI voice that CallDress creates on your Mac, a few seconds after the spoken sentence. The voices come with the language pack: 5 for German, 10 each for English and Romanian. In the “Translate” card you choose them separately: “Voice I hear” and “Voice the others hear”, each by “Woman” or “Man” and name. The ▶ button next to it plays a sample. Without a choice, the first woman’s voice of the language speaks.

The translation is produced by machine and may contain errors.

The “AI” mark

While translating, the others see “AI” in your picture, with the note “AI translation” in their language; also when you translate only for yourself. You choose where it appears under “”AI” in the others’ view”: “Top right”, “Top left” or “Bottom right”.

Settings › Interpreter

- **“Purchase”:** the status, for example “Purchased. Thank you!” or “Included in the trial.”
- **“Language packs”:** download, “Pause” and “Resume”, “Check for New Languages”, the space used (“Used: …”) and “Delete All…”.
- **“Help”:** “Export Report…” for support; the report only contains times and numbers, no text. Plus the way to the system audio permission.

If the tile shows “Language pack missing”, download the pack; “Nothing to translate” means both sections are set to “Original”. Without a purchase and outside the trial, it reads “Translating is part of the add-on “CallDress Dolmetscher”.”

Custom terms and names

So that the interpreter and the transcript recognise technical terms, abbreviations, product and personal names correctly, do not translate them and pronounce them correctly, you enter them: Settings › Interpreter or › Transcript, section **“Custom terms”**. Both show the same list of the active profile; it is free, even without Plus or the interpreter.

- **“Edit…”:** for each term “Spelling”, “Mishearings” (wrongly recognised spellings, separated by commas), “Pronunciation”, “Language” (“Any” or a specific one) and “Don’t translate” (on by default). “Add” creates a row, “Done” tidies up empty and duplicate rows.
- **“Import …”** and **“Export …”**: a list as text or CSV.
- **“Names from the current calendar event”** (off by default): CallDress reads, on this Mac, the participants of the event that is running or about to begin. The names apply only to this meeting; with “Add to profile” you keep them. macOS asks once for the calendar when you turn it on.

Well-known product, brand and company names are not translated by the interpreter even without an entry: CallDress includes a names lexicon for this.

What leaves your Mac

The language packs come from our server when you click. While the interpreter is running, CallDress fetches a new version of the names lexicon from there at most every 7 days. What you say and hear stays on this Mac; CallDress does not store it. Custom terms and calendar names stay on your Mac. Your translation goes, like your voice, through

the “CallDress Mikrofon” to the program you are calling in.

Listening In on a Translation

If you have the interpreter, you can pass the translation of what the others say on to participants in the same meeting who use CallDress themselves. The listeners hear the translation and can read along. Listening in is free; sharing is part of the interpreter.

Sharing

Sharing works when you hear the others translated: in the “Translate” card, “What the others say” is set to “Translated” and the translation is running. Otherwise “Share with others” says what is still missing.

1. In the “Translate” card, under “Share with others”, click **“Share …”**.
2. In the “Share translation?” window, tick “I’ll only give the code to participants and have informed everyone.” and press “Share”. CallDress asks this every time.
3. CallDress shows a six-digit code, such as “482 913”. “Copy for chat” puts a short text with the code and a link on the clipboard; paste it into the meeting chat.

The listeners are shown below, such as “Listener 2 · since 10:42”; “Remove” disconnects individual ones. For new listeners the code is valid for 10 minutes (“Valid for new listeners for … more min”); after that CallDress shows a new one by itself. Anyone already listening stays connected, even after a short interruption. If someone enters a wrong code, CallDress renews the code at once: “Someone tried a wrong code. The code has been renewed.” Then pass on the new one.

Up to 10 listeners, for up to 4 hours; after that you share again. “Stop sharing” disconnects everyone. What you say yourself, the listeners hear in the original, through the meeting. During the trial, you first sign in for sharing with “Sign in with email …”.

Listening in

1. Open the link from the chat. The page shows the code; “Open in CallDress” passes it on. Or, in the CallDress window under “Instant”, click **“Listen in on translation”** and enter the code.
2. Tick “I’m taking part in this meeting.” and press “Listen in”.

A small window stays above the meeting, with the sign “AI” and “AI translation from …” with name and languages. It shows the translated text, the slider “Voice” and the slider “Original”: it keeps the meeting sound quieter under the voice, 20 dB by default, “Muted” at the far left. “Text” shows or hides the text. “Quit” or closing the window ends listening in; after the end, “New code …” gets a new one.

For “Original” to work, CallDress needs permission to record system audio. If it is missing, the window reports “The original stays loud …” and offers “Open System Settings”.

If you only want to listen in, you do not need to set up the camera or microphone: in the welcome window, “Just listening in?” with “Listen in on translation …” takes you straight there. If your own interpreter is already translating the others, first set “What the others say” to “Original”.

What is transmitted

The translated text, the voice that speaks it, your first name from the Mac’s user account and the languages; never the original sound, the recognised source text or a camera image. CallDress encrypts this end-to-end for each listener separately, with a key derived from the code. Our relay service only passes the encrypted data on and cannot read it. The browser does not send the code in the link to our server.

Transcript

The transcript writes down what you and the others say in the meeting, separated into “Me” and “Others”, and saves it as a text file on your Mac. It is part of “Plus”; it is included in the trial.

Starting and stopping

1. In the CallDress window, under “Instant”, click **“Start transcript”** in the “Transcript” card.
2. CallDress asks every time: “Start transcript?”. Before you start, you must inform all participants that a transcript is being made. Only with the checkmark “I’m informing all participants that a transcript is being made.” can it be started.
3. **“Stop transcript”** ends it. The card shows “Transcript saved” and “Show in Finder”.

CallDress does not remember the confirmation: you confirm again at every start, and after the app restarts the transcript is off. If you wish, CallDress shows a “Transcript” sign in the picture while it runs (Settings › Transcript › “In the camera picture”).

Me and the others

“Me” is what your microphone hears; “Others” is the sound of the call app. CallDress does not tell individual people among the others apart. Under Settings › Transcript › “Languages” you choose “I speak” and “The others speak” (German, English, Romanian). While the interpreter is running, its languages apply and the translation appears under each sentence. The transcript writes technical terms and names the way you enter them under “Custom terms” (see Interpreter).

For the others’ sound, macOS asks once for permission to record system audio. The best recognition, including Romanian, comes with a package from our server (Settings › Transcript › “Recognition” › “Download”). Without the package, Apple recognises on macOS 26 (“Recognition by Apple”).

The file

One text file per transcript, in the folder `Documents/CallDress Transcripts`. The first time, macOS asks for access to “Documents”. At the top are the date, the languages, the time you confirmed the notice to participants and “Transcribed automatically, may contain errors.”; then, for each sentence, the time and “Me:” or “Others:”. If no sentence was recognised, CallDress does not create a file.

The file stays on this Mac; CallDress doesn’t send it anywhere. Recognition happens on your Mac.

Clips

A clip records up to 60 seconds of what the others in the call see and hear of you and saves it as a video on your Mac. Clips are part of “Plus”; they are included in the trial.

Recording

In the CallDress window under “Instant”, click **“Record clip”** or press **⌃⌥⌘R** anywhere. While recording, it reads, for example, “Recording 0:12 of 1:00”. “Stop clip” or the same shortcut ends it; after 60 seconds it stops by itself. Camera and microphone run as in a call during the recording.

What is recorded is the finished picture with framing, light, mask, background and privacy image, plus the sound with voice effect and delay. If an AI background is behind you, the clip carries the “KI” mark in the picture and the note “Contains AI-generated content” in its metadata.

Where the clip is saved

CallDress saves the clip as an MP4 (H.264 and AAC) in the folder `Movies/CallDress`, named after the date and time. The card then shows “Clip … saved” with two buttons: “Share …” and “Show in Finder”. Clips stay on your Mac; none of it is sent to us.

Licence and Privacy

What is free, what “Camera” and “Plus” unlock, how trial, purchase, upgrade and licence checks work, and what leaves your Mac in the process. You see your status in Settings › License.

Free, “Camera” and “Plus”

Free, no time limit	“Camera”, one-time EUR 19.00	“Plus”, one-time EUR 69.00
Virtual camera “CallDress”	everything in Free	everything in “Camera”
Mirror	Auto framing	AI backgrounds on this Mac and in the cloud, with 100 credits
Manual framing, resolution	Auto light	Clips
Image adjustments and camera controls	Profiles per app	All voice effects (Goblin, Walkie-talkie)
Mask	Privacy button with signs	Transcript
Virtual microphone: Original and Cyborg, lip sync	Your own background	

Prices incl. VAT for customers in the EU; no German VAT outside the EU. Both are one-time purchases, no subscription, and cover up to three Macs. Anything not purchased carries a lock with the tier, such as “🔒 Camera”. Clicking it shows which tier it belongs to (“… is part of “Camera””), with “View” (goes to Settings › License) and “Later”, instead of silently doing nothing.

Add-on “CallDress Dolmetscher”

The interpreter is a separate purchase for a one-time EUR 39.00, with its own licence key for up to three Macs. It does not require a licence for “Camera” or “Plus”, and these do not include it. You enter the key in the licence window like any other; its status is shown under Settings › Interpreter › “Purchase”.

Trial

For the first five days you try CallDress without signing up, with all features. After that, a 14-day trial by e-mail extends this: in the licence window (“Manage License…” or “License…” in the “…” menu) enter your e-mail address under “Try”; the activation link arrives by e-mail. The trial applies once per address. The bottom of the CallDress window shows “Trial: … days left”.

During the trial everything is unlocked, “Plus” and the interpreter included, with one exception: AI images “In the cloud” need the purchased Plus licence. “On this Mac” you create as many as you like during the trial. If the trial ends without a purchase, the free features remain.

Buying and activating

You buy in the store, signed in. After payment you receive an e-mail with the licence key and an activation link. Clicking the link opens CallDress and activates the licence. Alternatively, enter the key in the licence window under “Key” and press “Activate”. “Prices in the Store” in Settings › License takes you to the store.

From “Camera” to “Plus”

If you have bought “Camera”, you switch to “Plus” for EUR 50.00: with **“Upgrade to Plus · €50”** in Settings › License or in the notice on a Plus feature. You buy in the browser, and we e-mail you the new key. Then enter it under “Manage License…”. Your “Camera” licence remains, and you get the 100 credits just as with the full purchase.

Credits for AI images in the cloud

An AI image “In the cloud” costs 1 credit (“Standard”) or 5 credits (“Best”). “Plus” gives you 100. You buy more in Settings › Background › “Generate with AI” › “In the cloud” with the “Buy Credits” menu: 40 credits for EUR 5, 100 for EUR 10, 220 for EUR 20. Credits are tied to your Plus licence key, not to an account, and do not expire. Settings › License then shows your “License number”, which support needs for questions about your balance. More in Background.

Three Macs, releasing a device

A licence covers up to three Macs at the same time. If you need it on another Mac, release one: in the licence window of that Mac, **“Deactivate This Device”**. You can then activate the licence on another Mac.

Licence check

CallDress checks the licence over the internet: at launch, after waking and otherwise at most once a day. It needs an internet connection for this at least every 40 days. If no check succeeds for that long, it shows “License check overdue”, and until the next successful check only the free features apply; virtual camera and microphone keep running. Your licence is not lost.

What leaves your Mac

Picture and sound are not sent to us. CallDress processes both only on your Mac, including framing, detection, cut-out, light, mask and voice effect; what a program such as Zoom does with them is up to that program. The app needs no account; only buying in the store requires signing in. CallDress contains no analytics or tracking. CallDress only sends the following online:

- **Licence check** to the licence server of Juergen Koller Software GmbH: licence key, program version and a device identifier. The device identifier is not your Mac’s raw hardware identifier but a value derived from it; your Mac’s name is not transmitted.
- **Update check.**
- **AI models** for images “On this Mac”: downloaded once from Hugging Face, only when you press the button.
- **AI image “In the cloud”**, if you use it: your description and the chosen quality via our server to OpenAI; your licence key and the device identifier go only to us. A camera image never leaves the Mac.

- **Feedback & Support**, if you use it: your message, your e-mail address if you wish, and the details shown in the window (version, build, macOS version, channel, licence status, language). So that you notice a reply, CallDress checks with the support server.
- **Language packs** for the interpreter and the transcript: downloaded from our server, only when you click; while the interpreter is running, the names lexicon at most every 7 days. What you say and hear stays on your Mac.
- **Sharing a translation**, if you use it: the translated text, the voice, your first name and the languages, end-to-end encrypted via our relay service (see Listening In on a Translation).
- **Buying credits** and the upgrade run in the browser via the store.

Your own images, logos, signs, clips, transcripts and AI images “On this Mac” stay on your Mac. If you launch CallDress before buying, it stores the start of the trial in your Mac’s keychain; this entry survives an uninstall.

Purpose, legal basis and retention periods are set out in the privacy policy at juergenkoller.software/en/privacy.html.

Removing CallDress

CallDress can be removed completely with one button. If you only want to get rid of the camera or only the microphone, you can do that too.

Remove CallDress completely

1. In the CallDress window, click the gear (settings) › General, and at the very bottom under **“Remove CallDress Completely”** click “Remove…”. Or choose “Remove CallDress Completely…” in the “…” menu at the bottom of the CallDress window.
2. Confirm the question “Remove CallDress?” with “Remove”.
3. macOS asks for your password, twice if the microphone is set up (once for the microphone, once for the camera). If you cancel the request for the microphone, the whole removal is cancelled.

Afterwards these are gone:

- the “CallDress” camera and the “CallDress Mikrofon” in all programs,
- starting with the Mac,
- settings, caches, your own images, signs, AI models and the permissions for camera and microphone,
- the app itself (it is in the Trash).

Should the camera extension fail to be removed, CallDress asks whether to carry on (“Continue Anyway”). If macOS windows about CallDress are still on screen afterwards (camera access, new camera extension), simply close them: they no longer have any effect.

What remains: your licence in the keychain. If you install CallDress again later, it applies straight away. To delete it too: open Keychain Access, search for `de.jks.licensekit.calldress` and delete the entries. If you want to use the licence on another Mac, release the device first with “Deactivate This Device” (see Licence and Privacy). Your clips in the folder `Movies/CallDress` and your transcripts in `Documents/CallDress Transcripts` also remain; CallDress deletes the language packs along with it.

Only the camera

In Settings › General › “Advanced”, the button **“Remove”** next to “Camera extension” takes the “CallDress” camera out of all apps; CallDress itself stays. Sometimes it only disappears after restarting the Mac; it then reads “will be removed after a restart”. “Set Up” brings it back.

Only the microphone

In Settings › Sound › “Virtual microphone”, **“Remove…”** takes “CallDress Mikrofon” out of all programs; macOS asks for your password.

Already moved CallDress to the Trash?

- **Microphone:** After the next restart of the Mac, “CallDress Mikrofon” no longer appears anywhere. The file for it stays until you delete it: download CallDress again, open it and choose “Remove CallDress Completely…”. Or in

Terminal:

```
sudo rm -rf /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/HAL/CallDressMicrophone.driver && sudo killall coreaudiod
```

- **Camera:** It stays in Zoom and the like as “CallDress”, even after a restart. To switch it off: System Settings › General › Login Items & Extensions, under Camera Extensions turn off the switch next to “CallDress” (on macOS 15 via ⓘ) and enter your password. It is then gone straight away.
- **Starting with the Mac:** CallDress may still be listed under “Open at Login” (it is not started from the Trash). Select it and click “–”.

Contact & Support

For questions or issues, please contact support at: info@juergenkoller.software

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CallDress — The right framing in every video call.