

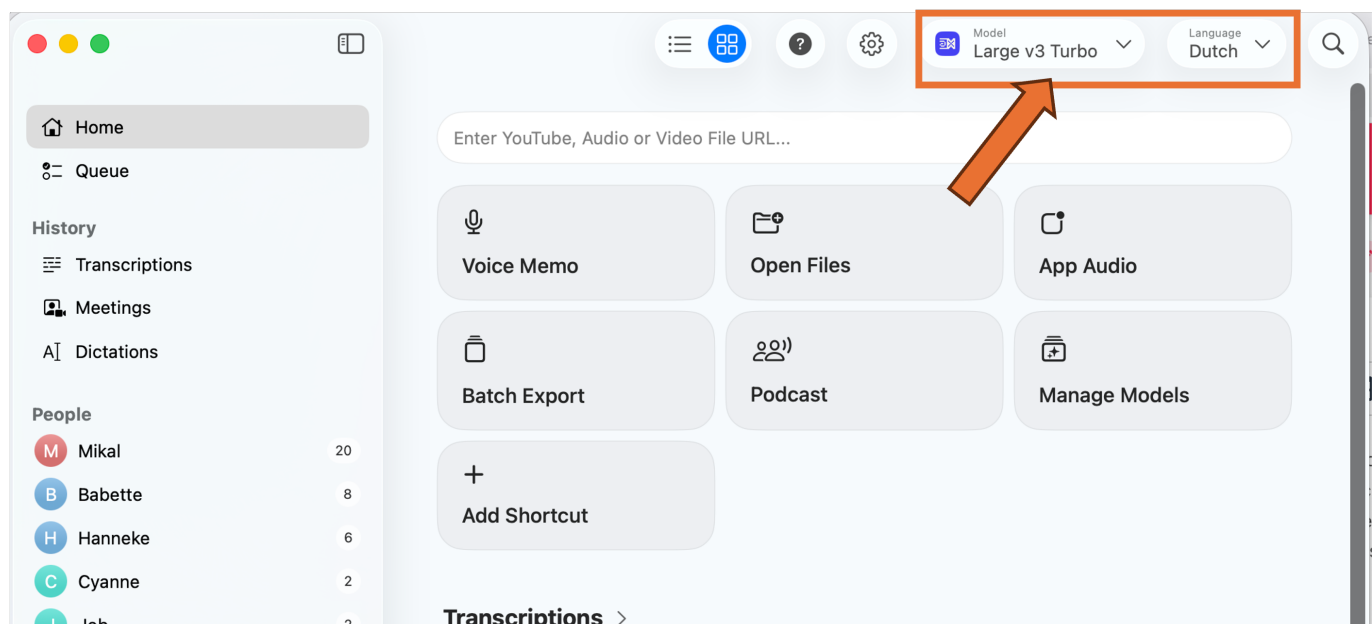
Audio transcripts with MacWhisper

[MacWhisper](#) is an audio transcript tool for Mac (and iOS, not tried) with a nice interface that runs a local model for audio transcription. It has a free version with a basic model and a paid version with a one-time €60 fee lifetime license, which gets you access to bigger 'Pro' models. It's quite good at separating speakers and does well for transcribing Dutch recordings. There's also options for linking to language models so that you can get summaries and bullet-points out of the transcript, but that needs a (paid) account on online services. We've tried linking it to Ollama to get a completely local system, [but we did not have a lot of success for Dutch texts](#). English text should do better in that setup.

For HKU employees: you can install this app through the HKU software app, search for "Whisper".

Setup

This page is a short overview to get you started with transcribing. The app does not come with a lot of documentation but is pretty straightforward to use. First thing to check when starting up is which model is running, in the top right:



If you can't select a Large mode (with a Pro license), click Manage Local Models and install the relevant models. We've been having good results with the Whisperkit v2 and v3 models. Make sure you set the Language to Dutch. Strangely enough it doesn't really impact the word-for-word transcription, but the output will be in English if you don't do this.

And note:

Audio quality = transcript quality. The quality of the audio will greatly impact the quality of the transcript. We've been using the tool to transcribe a podcast of three people with individual microphones who (usually) take turns while talking. That leads to good and clean transcripts. A meeting with eight people in a large meeting room recorded with a laptop microphone will most likely not give you the best results, no matter how good the transcription tool is. Keep this in mind when setting up!

1. Recording options

In the Home screen you can choose a couple of ways to start transcribing.

Please request permission from everybody in the conversation before you do this. Especially for the App Audio, where the person on the other side will not automatically notice that they are being recorded.

Voice Memo

You can directly transcribe a discussion by opening Voice Memo. This will open a live transcription of whatever the microphone of your laptop is picking up. This means you don't have to pre-record the discussion in a different app.

App Audio

Use this to record and transcribe audio from an app such as Zoom for online meetings.

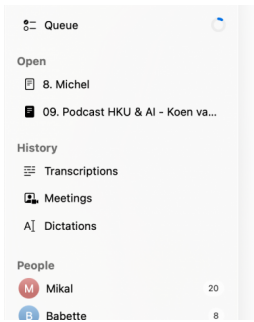
Open Files

This is where you import a pre-recorded conversation and what we did for the podcast.

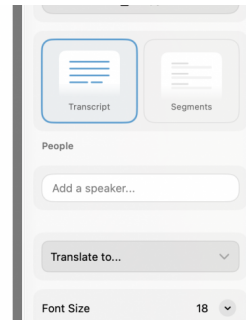
2. Transcribe

The app will start to transcribe immediately once you select your option above. Depending on the file size and your computer this will take some time. Be patient,

the live transcript looks like one big wall of text that does not separate speakers or sentences. This will be corrected automatically when the transcription is finished.



Welkom bij de podcast HKU en AI. In deze podcast gaan we in gesprek met HKU'ers en alumni over hoe zij AI inzetten in hun werk- en maakprocessen. In elke aflevering zongen we in op één aspect van AI, naar aanleiding van een concrete gebeurtenis of ervaring. Ik ben Michael van Leeuwen. En ik ben Beth van Reden. En vandaag zitten wij in de studio met Koen van der Waal, alumnus van de HQ, van de Academie Games. Welkom in de studio, Koen. Dankjewel, fijn om weer te zijn. Kan jij jezelf even kort voorstellen? Dat is goed. Hallo, ik ben Koen. Ik ben afgestudeerd interaction designer. En inmiddels werk ik, dus noem ik mezelf ook game designer. Maar ja, eigenlijk geloof ik niet zo in labels. Dat is eigenlijk het onderwerp van mijn kunstwerk. Dus ik zou mezelf meer omschrijven als gast die dingen maakt op zijn computer. en dat ook zijn werk heeft gemaakt. Oké, we zijn op jouw spoor gekomen via Exposure van vorig jaar. Ja, klopt. Maar jij hebt me natuurlijk eerder ontmoet, want ik ben eerder nog naar het AI-lab gekomen



[Initial transcript: one](#)

[big wall of text](#)

3. Clean up

The transcript is never perfect. Some words are not recognized correctly, and sentences can be attributed to the wrong speaker (especially when speakers are interrupted). You can clean this up once the transcript is finished. The app automatically saves your edits in the app itself, as a .whisper file. You can re-open this transcript when you re-start MacWhisper, no need to re-transcribe the audio every time.

First, go to the Segments view: On the right-hand side, click Segments (instead of Transcript). You now see a long list of individual sentences, attributed to individual speakers.

Rename Speaker 1, 2, ... : On the right you can rename 'Speaker 1' etc, to the relevant names, if you know them at this point.

Want to listen to who's speaking? Double-click the name that appears to the left of the sentence and the audio-playback will start at that sentence.

Wrong person attributed to the text? Right-click the name, then select the proper name (if you want to speed this process up, you can select the line, then press 1 (for speaker 1), 2 (for speaker 2), etc.)

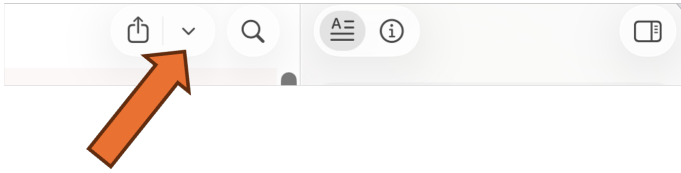
Want to edit the sentence? Double click the sentence and start editing

Here's a short example:

After recording this, I noticed all later references of Koen were attributed to Babette. Clearly my naming of speaker 1, 2, 3 had been wrong at the start. The blue one should have been Koen, the green one Babette. Fixed by switching those names around, and re-attributing the first edits to the right people.

3. Export

Once the transcript has been cleaned up, you can export the text in various formats. On the top of the app, click the small arrow next to the Export button (square with an arrow pointing out)



You now get a selection of export options. Most likely you will want a .docx of the Transcript, but you can also get Subtitles for podcasts.

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