

App Store complaint report

Overcast Podcast App · Overcast Radio, LLC · current version 2026.10

Generated 2026-10-19 from the 500 most recent public App Store reviews across 5 storefronts (2024-12-05 to 2026-10-18).

Metric	Value
Reviews analysed	500 (500 classified by AI)
Average stars (these reviews)	3.99
Reviews with a complaint	151 (30%)
Storefronts	US 100, GB 100, CA 100, AU 100, DE 100
All-time App Store rating (US)	4.54 from 47,975 ratings

Complaint categories

Category	Reviews	Avg severity (0-3)	Most affected versions
Bugs	122	2.4	2026.8.1 (24), 2025.12 (16), 2026.8 (15)
Feature requests	63	2.2	2026.8.1 (13), 2024.11.2 (9), 2025.12 (8)
Performance	53	2.5	2026.8.1 (14), 2026.8 (8), 2026.7.1 (5)
UX / design	44	2.2	2026.8 (8), 2026.8.1 (6), 2025.12 (6)
Crashes / freezes	33	2.8	2026.8.1 (11), 2026.7.1 (7), 2026.8 (3)
Pricing / subscription	23	2.5	2025.12 (5), 2026.8 (4), 2026.8.1 (3)
Ads	5	2.3	2025.12 (2), 2026.5 (1), 2024.11.2 (1)

Trend by version (newest first)

Version	Reviews	Avg stars	Complaint share
2026.10	9	4.6	22%
2026.8.1	71	3.8	38%
2026.8	48	3.5	40%
2026.7.1	22	3.2	50%
2026.7	3	5.0	0%
2026.5	21	3.6	43%
2026.4.1	15	3.3	40%
2026.4	9	4.0	33%

Representative quotes

Bugs

“Enough with vibe coding – Have had Overcast on my devices for many years, though I didn’t always rush to install new versions. Earlier this year I updated my phone, and immediately regretted it. That update has completely broken the app. Five months of updates” (1★, v2026.8.1, US, 2026-09-13)

“My Go-To For Years But... – I have used Overcast for years. It’s been the only podcast player that I use. I’ve never had issues with it until now. I just updated my iphone from a 14 to a 17 Max Pro. It’s running iOS 27. I don’t understand why, but now all of a s” (2★, v2026.8.1, US, 2026-09-21)

Feature requests

"☐ Apple Watch Gold - Love it - Update: Years later, I return and try to put it on an iPad mini and there's nothing here. It's as if it's just a gray screen. It's not what it looked like years ago when I left these awesome reviews. It was deleted within two mi" (1★, v2026.8.1, US, 2026-08-26)

"Custom Playlists Didn't Work For Me - Important to say I hate the default Apple podcast so was excited by the rave reviews and passionate single developer backstory. I had one simple need - different playlists which this is meant to support. I don't know why " (1★, v2026.8.1, GB, 2026-08-28)

Performance

"Ground to a halt - I've been a loyal Overcast premium user for years, but for months now it's been barely limping along: it's horribly slow, crashes, and loses its place when resuming play. It's finally no longer usable at all — yet the cost went up this mont" (2★, v2026.8.1, US, 2026-10-06)

"The auto download is still broken - I've been struggling for months with this bug. Deleting the app I'm being a paid subscriber for years I cannot be more disappointed than now. The quality of the app is decreasing through the years. Not the app has a complet" (1★, v2026.4.1, AU, 2026-05-24)

UX / design

"Getting worse - Since the last few updates, the quality deteriorates. Sudden stops, the UI hangs, the app suddenly terminates unexpectedly, also the change the layout since the change to Swift-UI actually made everything worse. Just renewed the subscription fo" (2★, v2026.4, DE, 2026-04-16)

"New design is not user friendly - Raising the prices while making the app buggy? Stop trying to stuff new features in just because it's faster to develop now with AI. Good app but the new UI is confusing and takes a lot more clicks to do the same actions, co" (1★, v2026.8, US, 2026-08-22)

Crashes / freezes

"Used to be perfect...now a bust - I've been a huge fan and user for over a decade but it's gotten so bad in the past several weeks that I am very VERY close to doing the painful switch of all my podcasts and settings to a different app if you don't improve the c" (2★, v2026.7.1, US, 2026-08-07)

"Overall still good but watch needs work - 09/13/2026 Trying to download episodes to watch always fails. Just shows message failed. I don't see a way to see why. This is happening with all podcasts I'm trying to download. Downloading through WiFi with phone no" (3★, v2026.8.1, US, 2026-09-13)

Pricing / subscription

"Sorry but this app is so tough - I used to love this app, but if you have any subscriptions to something like Patreon, the app becomes almost unusable. In order to prevent skipping the ads at the start of a show, even purchased shows scrubbing becomes impossib" (1★, v2026.5, AU, 2026-06-22)

"Far from the best. - This used to be a good app but has really fallen down since the latest redesign. Downloads fail randomly; it feels like it takes more steps to do simple tasks (like adding episodes to a queue) than it used to; the Apple Watch app is quit" (2★, v2025.12, GB, 2025-12-14)

Ads

"App includes its own ads - So annoying- this app applies its own ads to the podcast. Yes you can skip but it's so sneaky and annoying. After years of use - I'm out clowns." (1★, v2024.11.2, AU, 2025-05-03)

"Ads on top - The ads are now on top of the player and the price to remove ads was significantly raised while there are still bugs since the redesign (e.g. downloads are frequently restarted)." (2★, v2025.9, DE, 2025-09-10)

The 10 most important fixes

1. Soften the redesign backlash [UX / design · 57 reviews · avg severity 2.3/3 · versions 2026.8, 2024.11.2]

Explain the change in-app, restore the most-missed option, or offer a setting for the old behaviour.

"Episode Limits Broken and Stress Inducing - Look, I get that for whatever reason, people did not like episode limit strictness. I personally don't understand why a strict opinion was even necessary. If a limit is set by a user, then respect" (1★, US)

2. Fix features broken by the latest update [Bugs · 29 reviews · avg severity 2.2/3 · versions 2024.11.2, 2026.8]

Add regression tests for the features users name in these reviews before the next release.

"Apple Watch app missing – I held off updating to the new version for a long time but finally updated this morning, and now the app has been removed from my Apple Watch. So it seems the Watch app was either removed or isn't compatible with w" (1★, AU)

3. Fix in-use crashes and freezes [Crashes / freezes · 22 reviews · avg severity 2.7/3 · versions 2026.8.1, 2026.7.1]

Match quoted actions to crash reports; ship a hotfix for the top stack trace.

"What happened??? – This app was the best for years and has been ruined by the latest update. It's glitchy, it freezes, it won't scroll easily, and is just overall FRUSTRATING! But what really pisses me off is that I just paid for another ye" (2★, US)

4. Stop data / progress loss [Bugs · 23 reviews · avg severity 2.5/3 · versions 2026.8, 2026.8.1]

Reproduce sync and restore paths; add server-side backup and a visible "restore" option.

"Backup restored, lost old episodes – I upgraded to a new iPhone and restored all the data from backup, hoping it would transfer all of my old podcast episodes that are no longer able to be downloaded. But it didn't transfer any of them. I h" (1★, AU)

5. Speed up loading [Performance · 18 reviews · avg severity 2.4/3 · versions 2025.12, 2026.8]

Profile cold start and the slowest screens on older devices; cache content.

"Only loads a few episodes – Sounds good, but multiple podcast episodes are just "loading" forever without being played. No explanation, nothing." (3★, DE)

6. Simplify navigation [UX / design · 19 reviews · avg severity 2.1/3 · versions 2025.12, 2024.11.2]

Run a quick usability test on the screens users mention; remove extra taps and pop-ups.

"Confusing – Works fine, but it's difficult to find where you are in the app. If You want to go back and find something it's very easy to get lost." (3★, AU)

7. Ship the most requested feature [Feature requests · 19 reviews · avg severity 2.0/3 · versions 2026.8, 2026.8.1]

Read the quotes below for the exact request; consider a public roadmap.

"Please revert the episode limit change or provide an option – I'm very sorry to do this, but as John has said on many an ATP, this is one of the few levers I have. This change, and especially the constant full app takeover that I can't get " (1★, GB)

8. Justify or adjust the price [Pricing / subscription · 12 reviews · avg severity 2.4/3 · versions 2026.8, 2025.12]

Test a cheaper tier, annual discount or one-time purchase; show what paid users get.

"What a mess – Volume normalization is great, but layout is a mess. Also, subscription? Never! Put a price, I may buy it. But I will never pay for subscription." (2★, CA)

9. Fix crash on launch [Crashes / freezes · 8 reviews · avg severity 2.7/3 · versions 2026.8.1, 2026.7.1]

Check crash logs (Xcode Organizer / Crashlytics) for the affected version and device models first.

"Pretty useful on iPhone, not launching on Mac – UPDATE: At one time, the MacOS app launched and worked ok. Now, with latest releases, it never launches. The window opens, the spinner spins, but the app never completes launch. (Using macOS T" (3★, CA)

10. Cut battery / storage use [Performance · 8 reviews · avg severity 2.7/3 · versions 2026.8, 2026.7.1]

Check background activity, location use and cache size.

"Great until recently – I loved everything about this app until recently. It freezes, won't play, cuts off, my phone is HOT and the battery just drains. I'm sadly gonna have to find a new app." (1★, US)

Method: Apple's public customer-reviews RSS feeds (most recent reviews, spread across up to 15 storefronts) and the iTunes Lookup API. Reviewer names are not included. Each review was classified by TypeSafe Jev AI (7 complaint categories, 18 specific issues, severity 0-3); fixes are the specific issues ranked by number of complaining reviews × average severity. Advice lines are generic starting points; the quotes are the evidence. AI can misclassify: check the quotes. Not affiliated with Apple. Reply within 7 days for one free clarification.