

CHOOSING TOOLS: CHAT APPS

	Open Source?	Who owns it?	Where are they based?	Encryption?	Anonymity?
Facebook Messenger	No	Facebook	U.S.	Yes, but only en route from your device to Facebook's server (i.e. Facebook can read your messages).	No. Linked to your Facebook account and your phone number.
Google Hangouts	No	Google	U.S.	Yes, but only en route from your device to Google's server (i.e. Google can read your messages). Google encrypts messages on their servers, but they have the keys to decrypt.	No. Linked to your Gmail account and contacts.
iMessage	No	Apple	U.S.	Yes	No. Apple has access to your phone number and contacts.
Signal	Yes	Open Whisper Systems	U.S.	Yes: end-to-end encryption and Perfect Forward Secrecy.	No. Open Whisper Systems has access to your phone number and contacts.
Snapchat	No	Snap Inc.	U.S.	No	No. Linked to your phone number and contacts.
Telegram	Not all of it	Telegram	Germany	"Group chats": encryption between your device and Telegram's servers. "Secret" chats: end-to-end encryption.	No. Telegram has access to your phone number and contacts.
Whatsapp	No	Facebook	U.S.	Yes: end-to-end encryption.	No, Facebook has access to your phone number and contacts. Also linked to your Facebook account unless you opt out.
SMS <i>(exception: not a chat app)</i>	No	Telecommunications companies	Each country has its own telecommunication companies.	No	No