

Telegram

	Service contains risks and is suitable for some use cases. (Read more)		The service is produced entirely or partly outside EU/ETA area. The customer is responsible for fulfillment of European data privacy and information security requirements. (Read more)
---	--	--	---

Telegram

<https://telegram.org/>

Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging service for mobiles and desktops (messages, phone calls, video calls, team communication). Telegram app works on Android, iOS, Mac, Linux and Windows operating systems.

Terms of Service & Privacy Policy

- API interface Terms of Service <https://core.telegram.org/api/terms>
- The actual Terms of Service are very limited (checked undated version): <https://telegram.org/tos>.
- Privacy (Aug 14th 2018 updated as May 25th 2019 checked): <https://telegram.org/privacy>

Evaluation (13 Oct 2020)

- + End to End encryption is possible (Secret Chat)
- + The Self-Destruct Timer is available for **all messages** in Secret Chats or any messages you sent or received can be deleted in *any* one-on-one conversation, messages are deleted from both participants (but not in Group Chat)
- + Versatile; Group discussions, Bots, Channels, Multimedia, File Transfer up to 2 GB
- + Open (mainly) Source (at least APIs)
- + Auditing possible for Third Party
- + Good documentation (esp. for Security Features)
- + Compatible with other messaging apps, for example Slack and Irc
- + Account can be removed by user (all data will be removed)
- + Unused account will be deleted after 6 months after last login, all data will be removed
- + Two-step authentication possible
- + No advertisements
- - Data is stored to Cloud (for EU/ETA users the service is in the Netherlands)
- - Phone app is mandatory to install (Utilises mobile phone contacts although desktop or browser used)
- - Encryption is not on by default
- - Uses own encryption protocol MTProto Mobile Protocol <https://core.telegram.org/mtproto/description> (which is well described +) but only some of Telegram's clients use it
- - Terms of Service inadequate

Login

- Logging is done by full (international) phone number and password while installing Telegram Client. Account is verified by SMS.
- Two-step authentication can be switched on in settings (password + SMS)

Support

- <https://telegram.org/faq>
- <https://telegram.org/support>
- Inadequate TOS, thus no full support and guarantee for availability

Provider

- Telegram Org (Pavel and Nikolai Durov).

Revenue

- Pavel Durov is financing Telegram for ideological reasons.

Similar services

- Signal, WhatsApp