

Telegram

Analyzing Architecture and Design





What is Telegram?



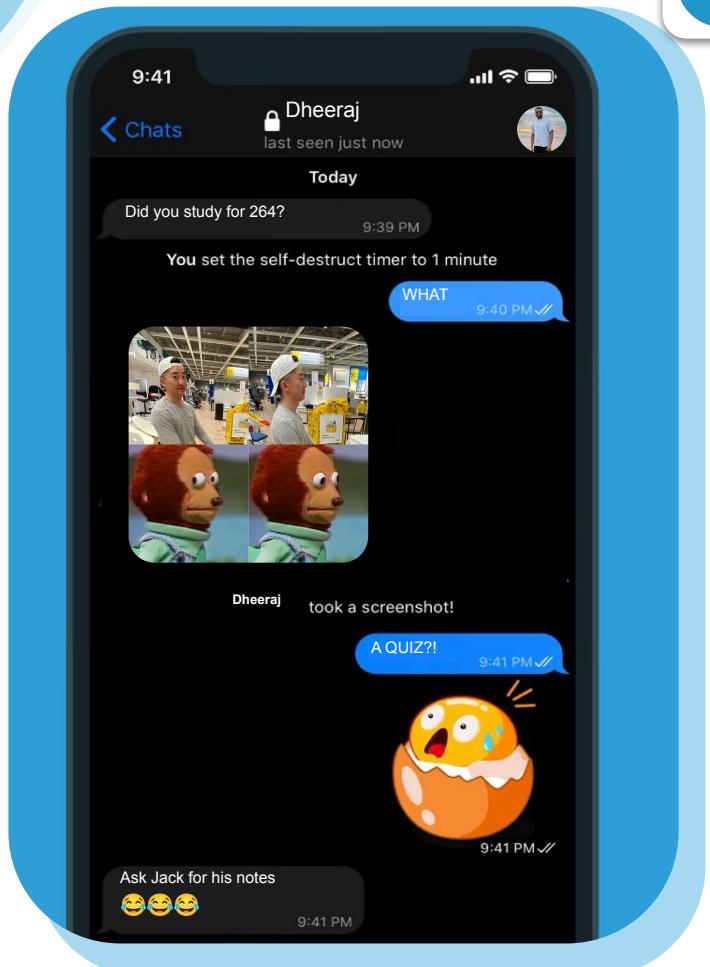
Cross-platform, cloud based, messaging application with over 700 million monthly users



Create channels and chat groups of up to 200,000 people



Make video and audio calls either 1:1 or conference style

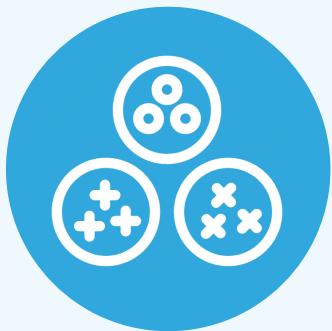


Methodology



1

List out all activities in a table and write brief description of each activity



2

Group and map activities that are related to one another



3

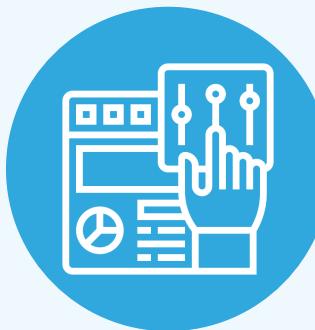
Filter out grouped activities that are not relevant to the main chat features

Methodology



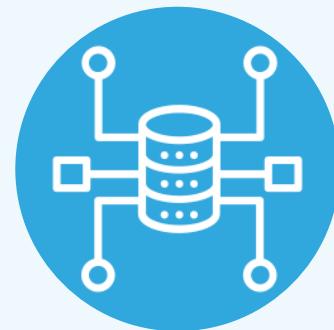
4

Use Manifest.XML to list Services, Broadcast receivers, and Content Providers



5

Find how these grouped activities interact with Services, Content Providers, and Broadcast Receivers



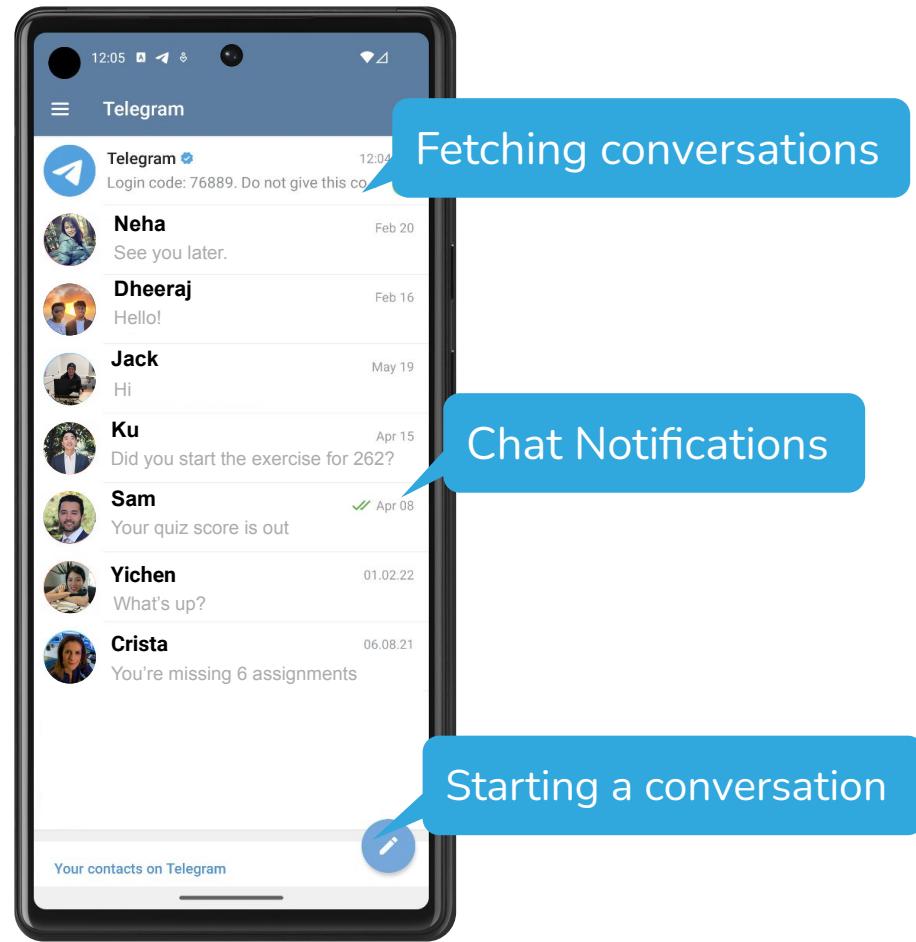
6

Finalize connectors between the activities, services, content providers, and broadcast receivers



Yes
~~#NoFilter~~

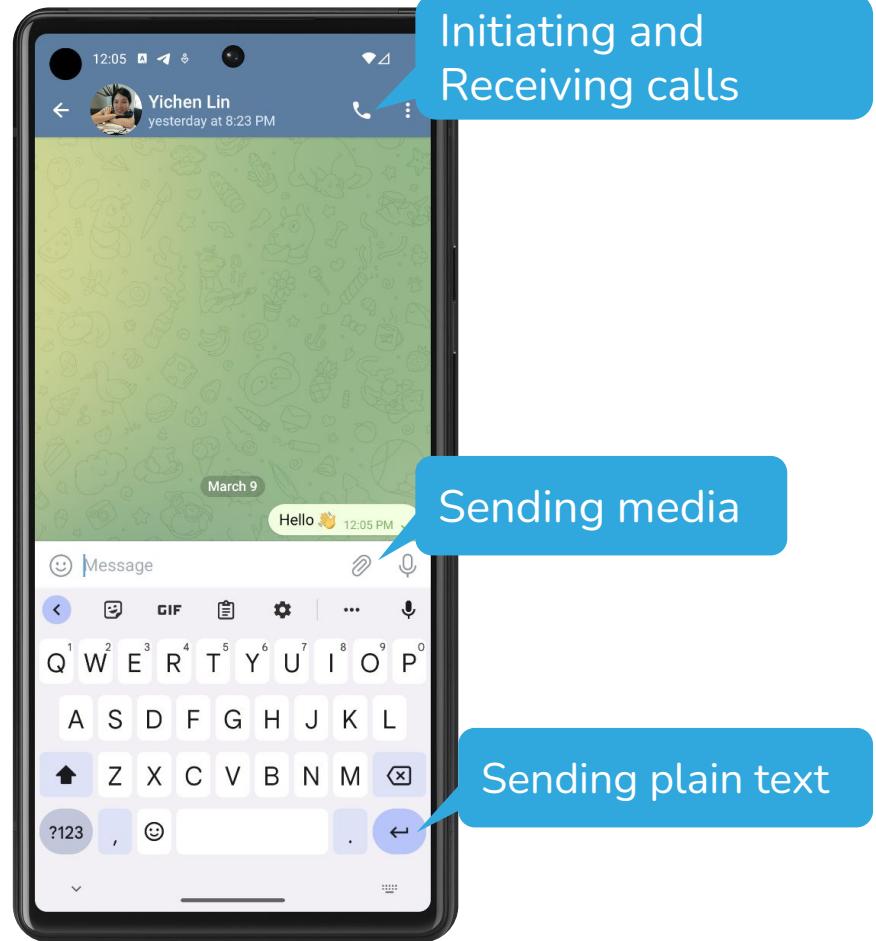
- >Loading all existing chats and messages for the user to see upon launching the application
- Retrieving all messages inside of Conversation
- Starting a conversation when the pencil button is pressed





Yes
~~#NoFilter~~

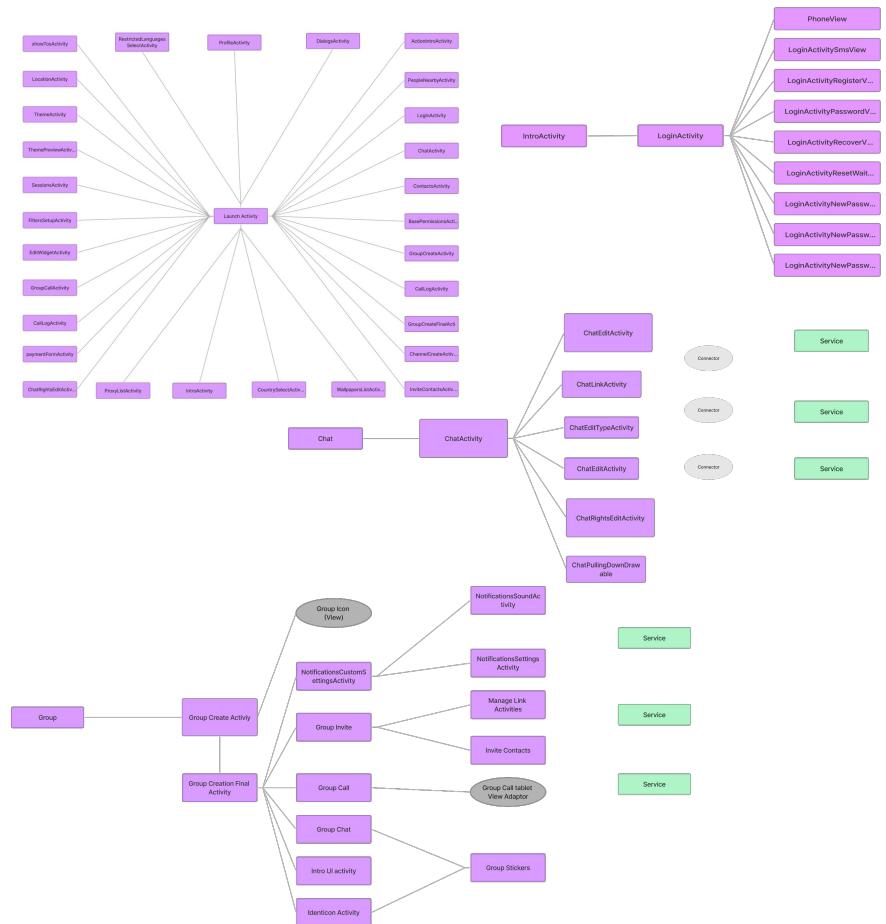
- Initiating and receiving a voice call upon clicking the phone button
- Attaching media to a message by pressing on attachment
- Sending plain text





Solving the Maze

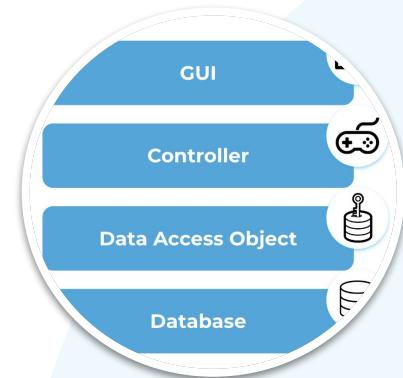
- Start at the chat activity and find method calls and any related activities
- Look at the Manifest to list out all services, Broadcast receivers, content providers, and intent filters
- Layout the initial configuration, and fill in connectors



Architectural Styles

Architectural styles in Telegram:

- » Object-Oriented Style
- » Layered Style
- » Client-Server Style
- » Publish-Subscribe Style
- » Message-Based Explicit Invocation
- » Message-Based Implicit Invocation



Object-Oriented Style

ChatObject

-CHAT_TYPE_CHAT
-ACTION_SEND

+isChannel()
+canPinMessages()
+canSendVoice()

TLRPC

messages_Messages

TL_messageReplies

AccountInstance

-currentAccount

+getMessagesController()
+getMessagesStorage()
+getContactsController()

MessageController

-chats
-allDialogs
-groupCalls

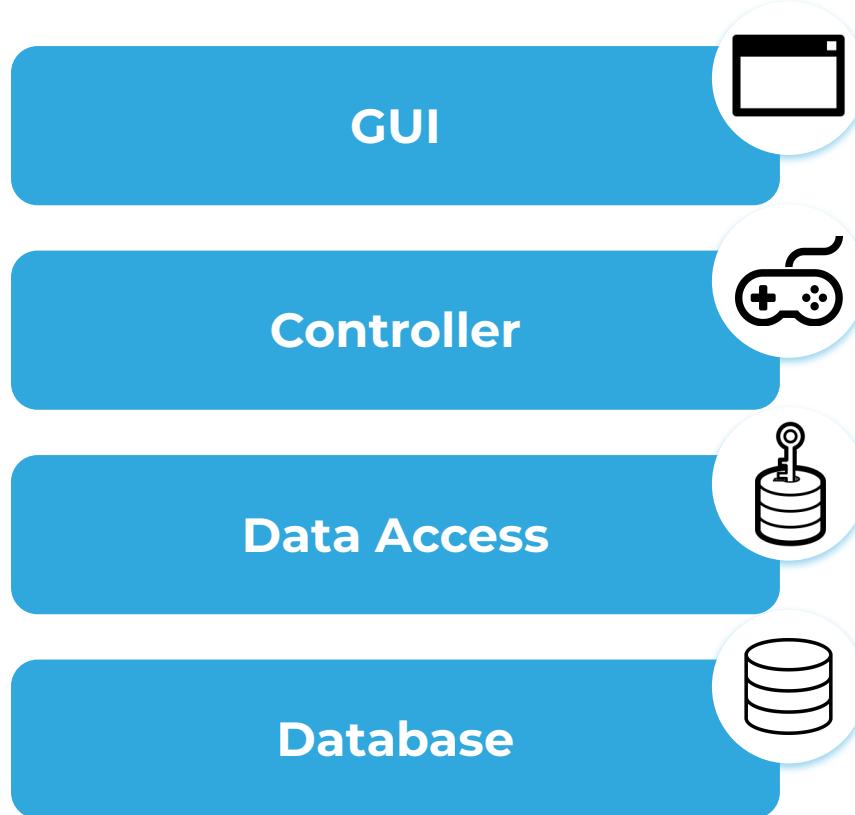
+getChats()
+putChat()
+putGroupCall()
+deleteMessages()

MessageStorage

-storageQueue
-database
-dialogsWithUnread

+setDialogUnread()
+loadUnreadMessages()
+putWallpapers()

Layered Style



Layered Style

ThemePreviewActivity.java
(GUI)



MessageController.java
(Controller)



MessageStorage.java
(Data Access)



SQLite
(Database)



```
MessagesController.getInstance(currentAccount).saveWallpaperToServer(path, wallpaperInfo, slug != null, 0);
```

```
public void  
saveWallpaperToServer(File path,  
Theme.WallpaperInfo info) {  
getMessagesStorage().putWallpapers(  
arrayList, -3);  
}
```

```
public void putWallpapers  
(ArrayList<TLRPC.WallPaper>  
wallPapers, int action) {  
state=database.executeFast("UPDATE  
wallpapers2 SET data = ? WHERE uid =  
?");
```

Layered Style

ThemePreviewActivity.java
(GUI)



MessageController.java
(Controller)



MessageStorage.java
(Data Access)



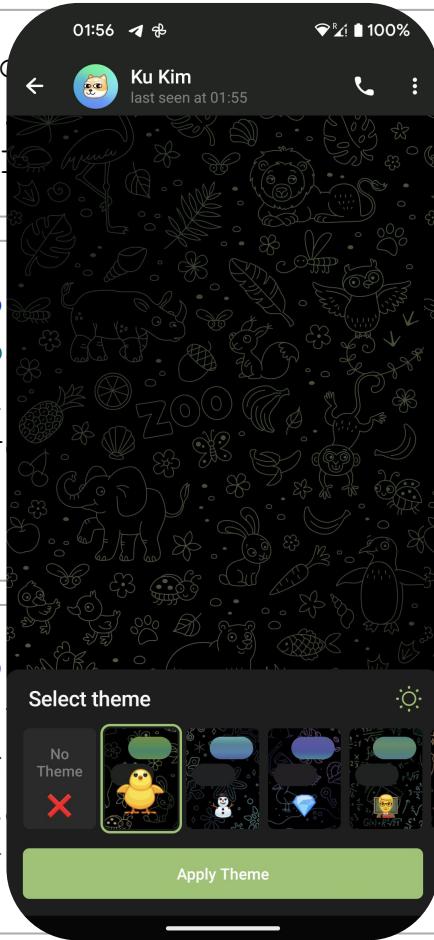
SQLite
(Database)



```
MessagesCo  
tAccount)  
wallpaper)
```

```
public vo  
saveWallp  
Theme.Wal  
getMessag  
rayList,  
}
```

```
public vo  
(ArrayList  
wallPaper  
state=dat  
wallpaper  
?");
```

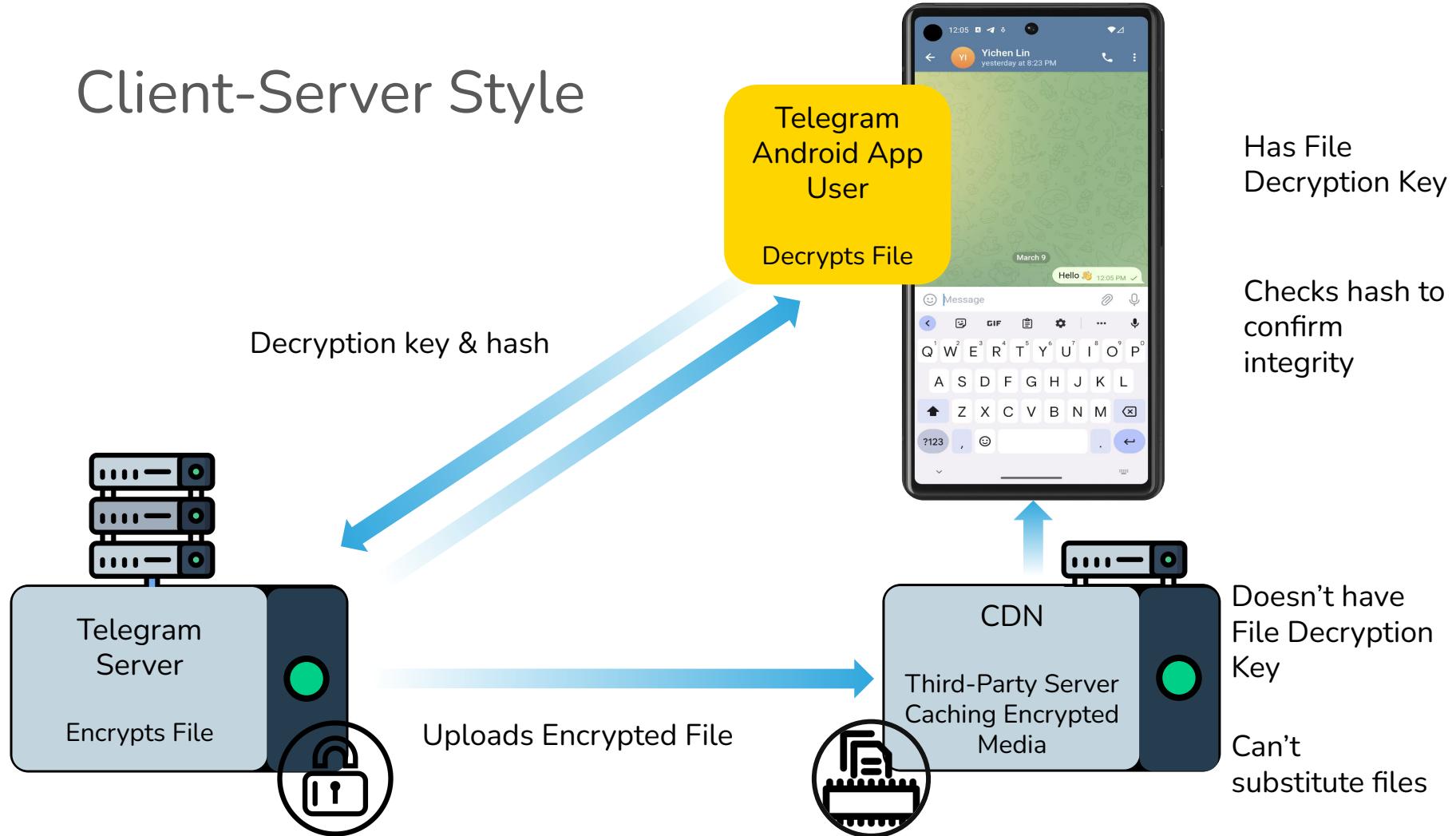


```
nce(curren  
rver(path,  
, 0);
```

```
path,  
lpapers(ar
```

```
"UPDATE  
ERE uid =
```

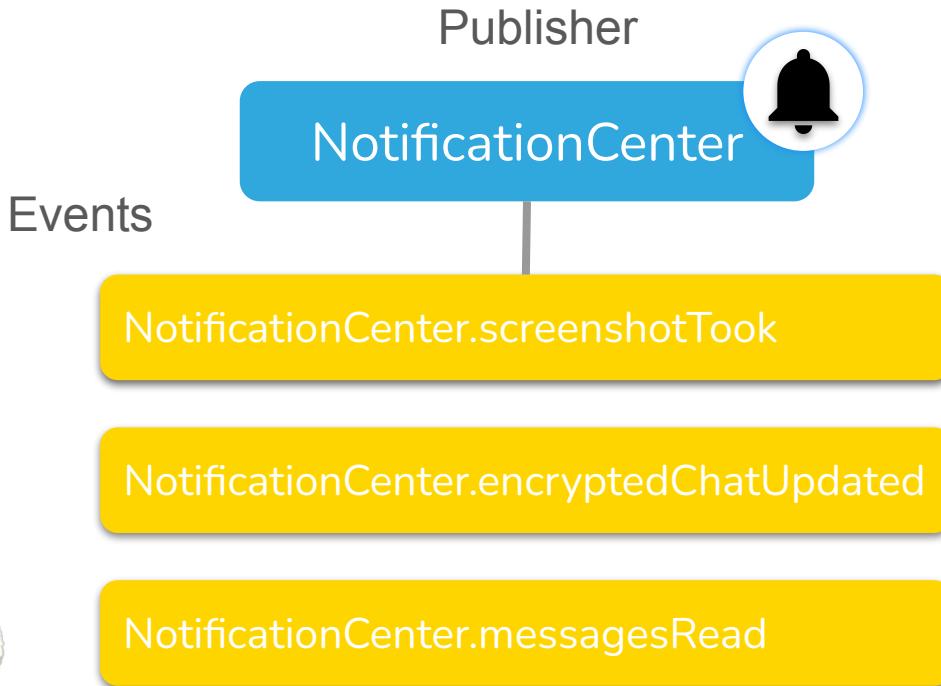
Client-Server Style



Publish-Subscribe Style

```
if (threadMessageId == 0) {  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.screenshotTook);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.encryptedChatUpdated);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.messagesReadEncrypted);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.botKeyboardDidLoad);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.updateMentionsCount);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.newDraftReceived);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.chatOnlineCountDidLoad);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.peerSettingsDidLoad);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.didLoadPinnedMessages);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.commentsRead);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.changeRepliesCounter);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.messagesRead);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.didLoadChatInviter);  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.groupCallUpdated);  
}  
else {  
    getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.threadMessagesRead);  
    if (isTopic) {  
        getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this,  
NotificationCenter.updateMentionsCount);  
        getNotificationCenter().addObserver(this, NotificationCenter.didLoadPinnedMessages);  
    }  
}
```

Publish-Subscribe Style



Message-based Explicit Invocation Style

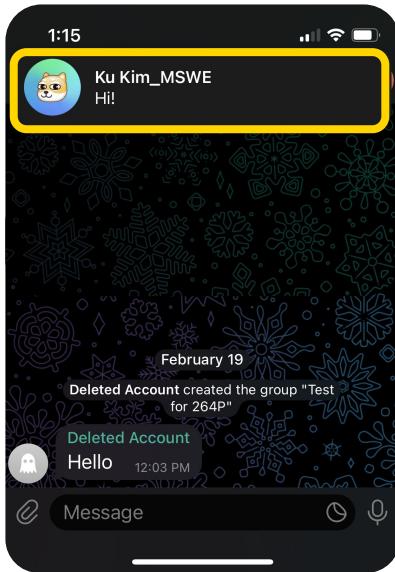


ChatActivity

NotificationController

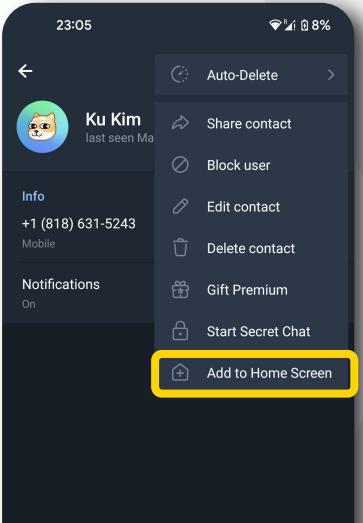


PopupNotification
Activity

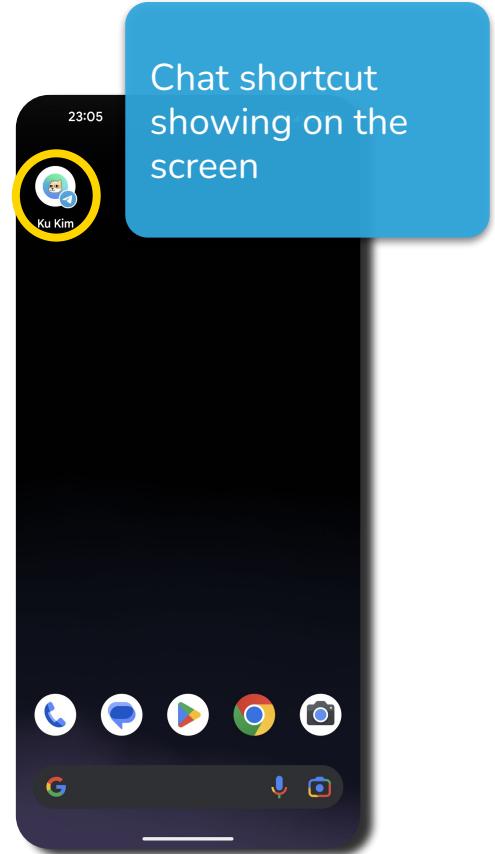
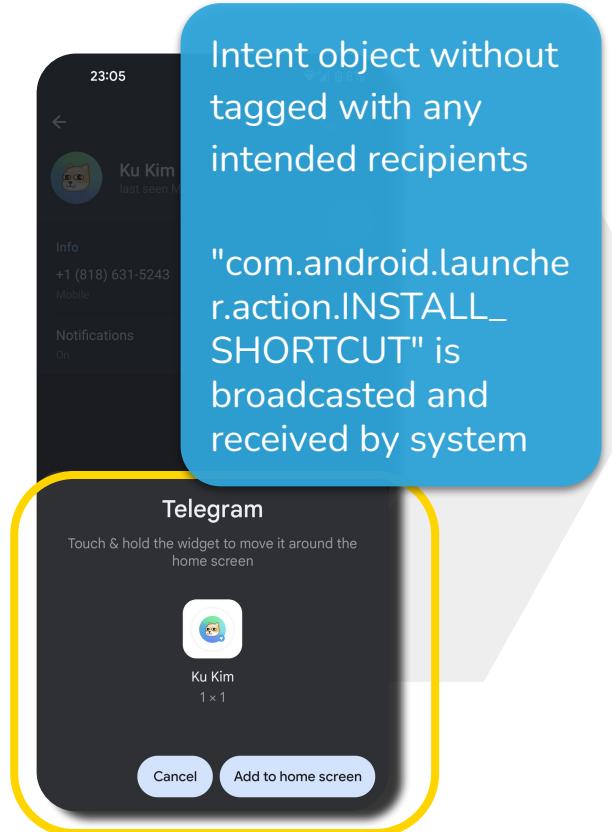


```
Intent popupIntent = new Intent(ApplicationLoader.applicationContext,  
        PopupNotificationActivity.class);  
popupIntent.setFlags(Intent.FLAG_ACTIVITY_NEW_TASK |  
        Intent.FLAG_ACTIVITY_NO_ANIMATION | Intent.FLAG_ACTIVITY_NO_USER_ACTION |  
        Intent.FLAG_FROM_BACKGROUND);  
try {  
    ApplicationLoader.applicationContext.startActivity(popupIntent);  
} catch (Throwable ignore) {}
```

Message-based Implicit Invocation Style



ChatActivity calls
MediaDataController.i
nstallShortcut()

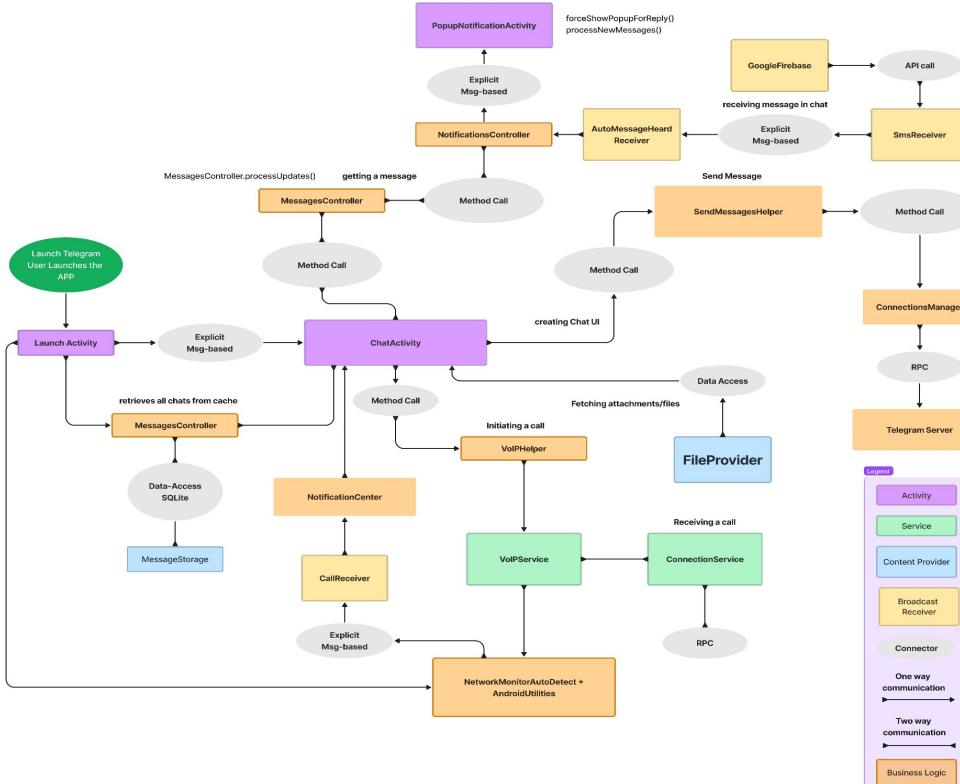


Chat shortcut showing on the screen

Message-based Implicit Invocation Styles

```
Intent addIntent = new Intent();
if (bitmap != null) {
    addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_ICON, bitmap);
} else {
    if (user != null) {
        if (user.bot) {
            addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_ICON_RESOURCE, Intent.ShortcutIconResource.fromContext(App
        } else {
            addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_ICON_RESOURCE, Intent.ShortcutIconResource.fromContext(App
        }
    } else {
        if (ChatObject.isChannel(chat) && !chat.megagroup) {
            addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_ICON_RESOURCE, Intent.ShortcutIconResource.fromContext(App
        } else {
            addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_ICON_RESOURCE, Intent.ShortcutIconResource.fromContext(App
        }
    }
}
addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_INTENT, shortcutIntent);
addIntent.putExtra(Intent.EXTRA_SHORTCUT_NAME, name);
addIntent.putExtra(name: "duplicate", value: false);
addIntent.setAction("com.android.launcher.action.INSTALL_SHORTCUT");
ApplicationLoader.applicationContext.sendBroadcast(addIntent);
```

Architecture of Telegram Chat



Architecture graph breakdown

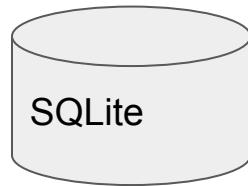
Functionalities:

- 👉 Sending a message
- 👉 Receiving a message
- 👉 Retrieving a chat
- 👉 Initiating a call
- 👉 Receiving a call

Android architecture components explored:

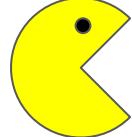
- 👉 Content Providers
- 👉 Broadcast Receivers
- 👉 Connectors
- 👉 Activity
- 👉 Services

Shared State Style



Publish and Subscribe Style

Observer



Notification Center



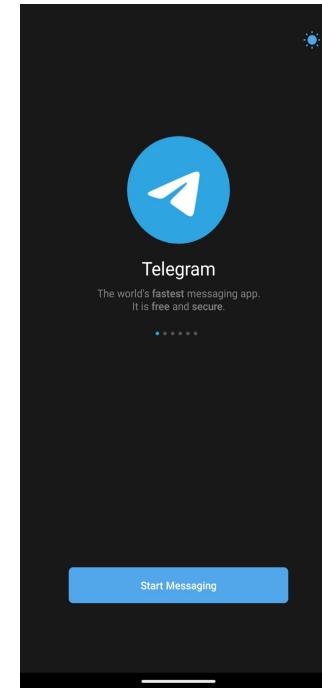
Activity observers



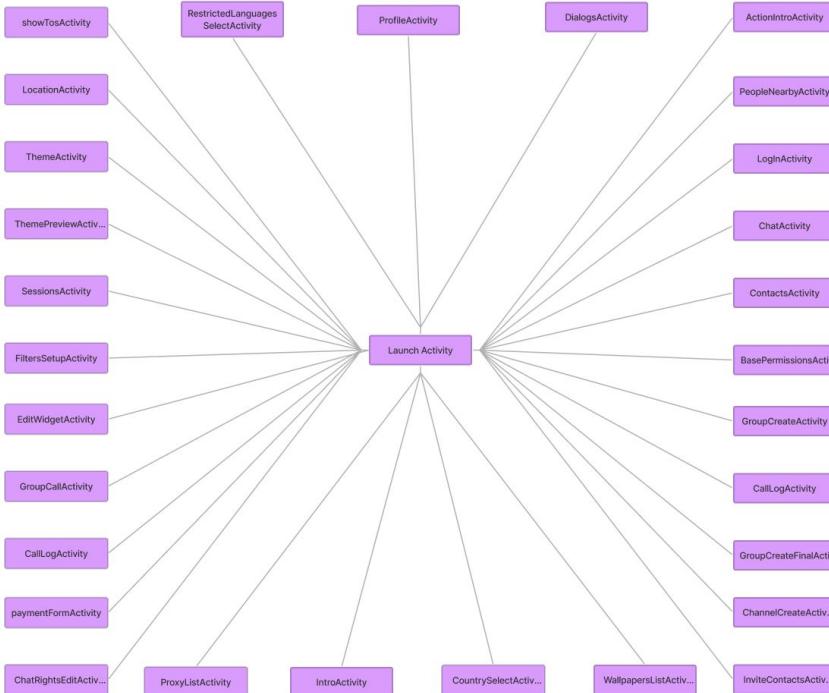
User Interface - Launch Activity



- Contact fetching
- UI Loading
- Theme Fetching
- Loading previous messages,
group chats, call logs



Launch activity graph



User Interface - User Account Setup



1. Intro Activity
2. Login Activity
 - a. PhoneView
 - b. LoginActivitySmsView
 - c. LoginActivityRegisterView
 - d. LoginActivityPasswordView
 - e. LoginActivityRecoverView
 - f. LoginActivityResetWaitView
 - g. LoginActivityNewPasswordView
 - h. LoginActivitySetupEmail
 - i. LoginActivityEmailCodeView



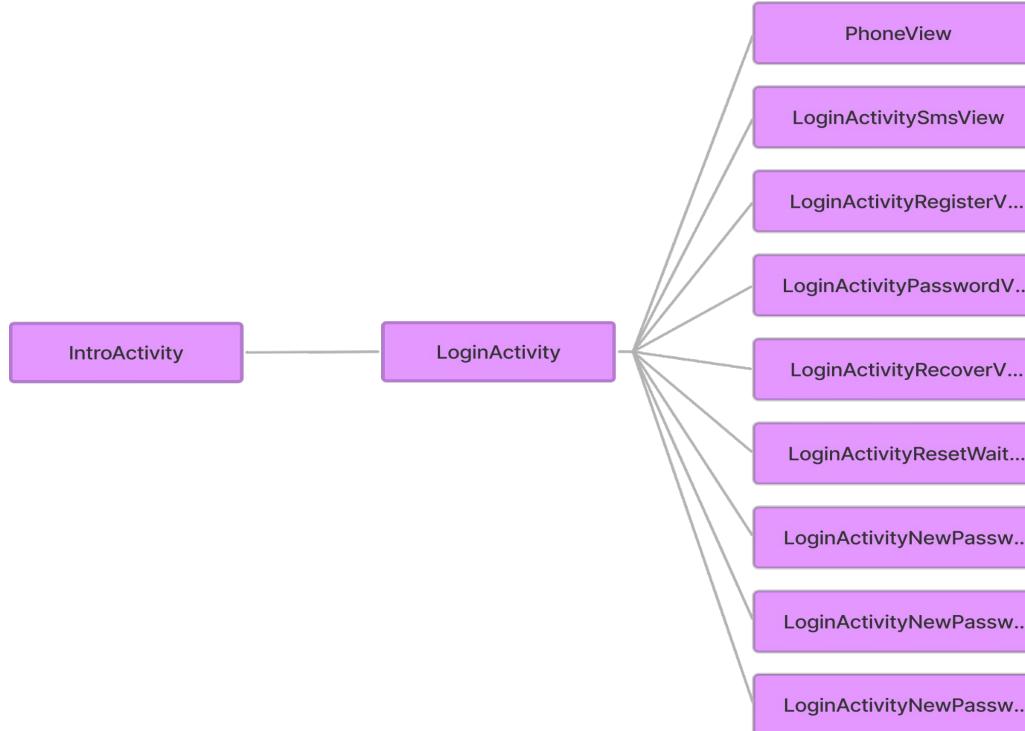
User Interface - User Account Setup



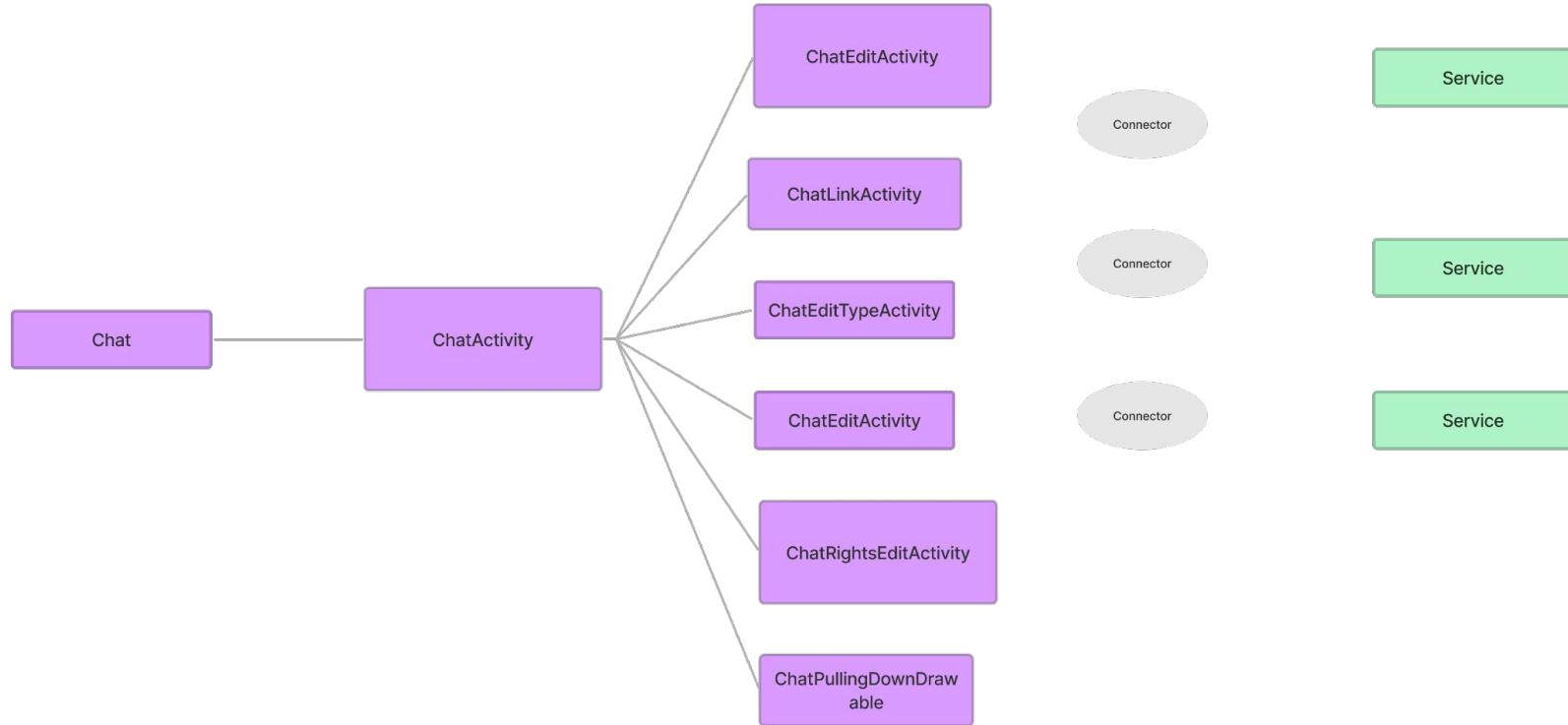
The sequence of screenshots illustrates the user account setup process on the Telegram mobile application:

- Welcome Screen:** The app opens with the Telegram logo and the tagline "The world's fastest messaging app. It is free and secure." A large yellow arrow points to the right from this screen.
- Phone Number Input:** The user is prompted to enter their phone number. The screen shows a country selection dropdown set to "USA" and a text input field containing "+1 949 774 9926". A numeric keypad is visible at the bottom. A blue arrow points to the right from this screen.
- Code Delivery Confirmation:** The user is instructed to check their Telegram messages for a verification code. The screen displays a message: "We've sent the code to the Telegram app for +1 (949) 774-9926 on your other device." A numeric keypad is at the bottom. A yellow arrow points to the right from this screen.
- Code Entry Screen:** The user is asked to enter the received code. The screen shows the code "27292" entered into a field. A blue arrow points to the right from this screen.
- Profile Information:** The user is prompted to enter profile details. The screen shows fields for "First name (required)" containing "Neha" and "Last name (optional)". A blue arrow points to the right from this screen.

User Account Setup Graph



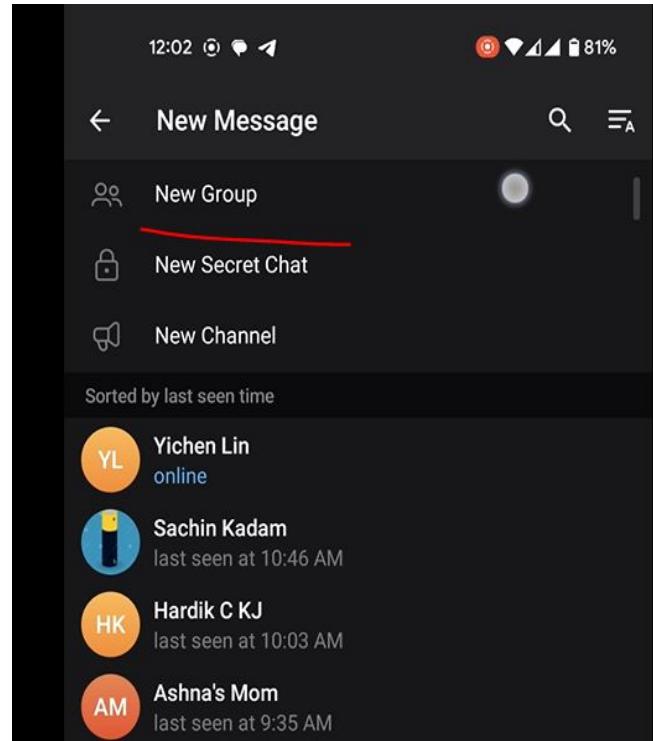
Chat Graph



User Interface - Creating Groups

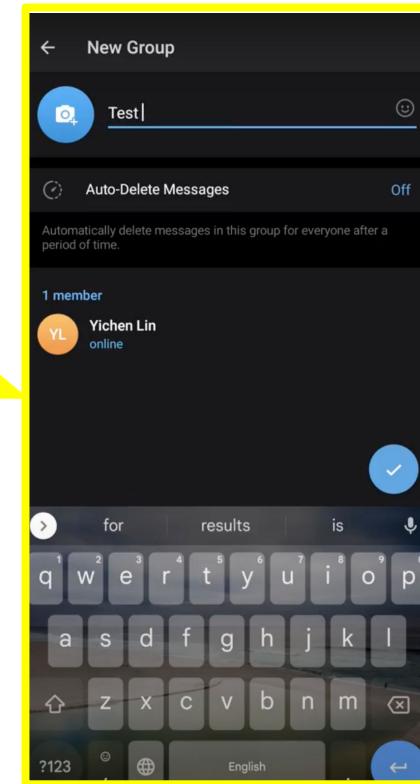
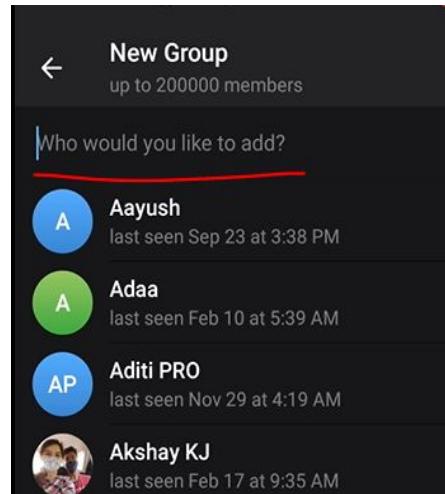


- Fetching list of Contacts
- Fetching messages in a conversation
- User selects new group option



User Interface - Creating Groups

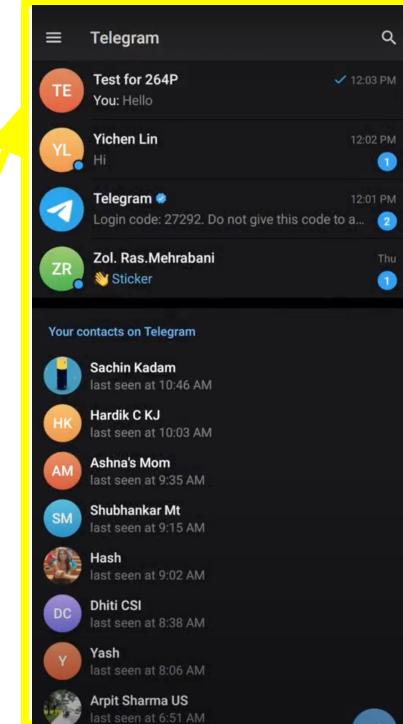
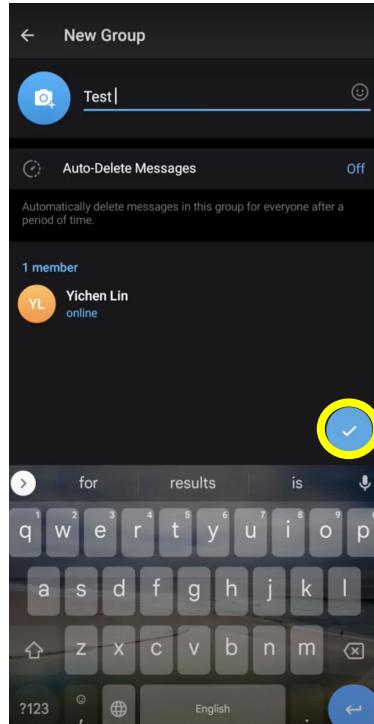
- Add Contacts into the group
- Contact list gets loaded
- User can select the contacts that need to be added



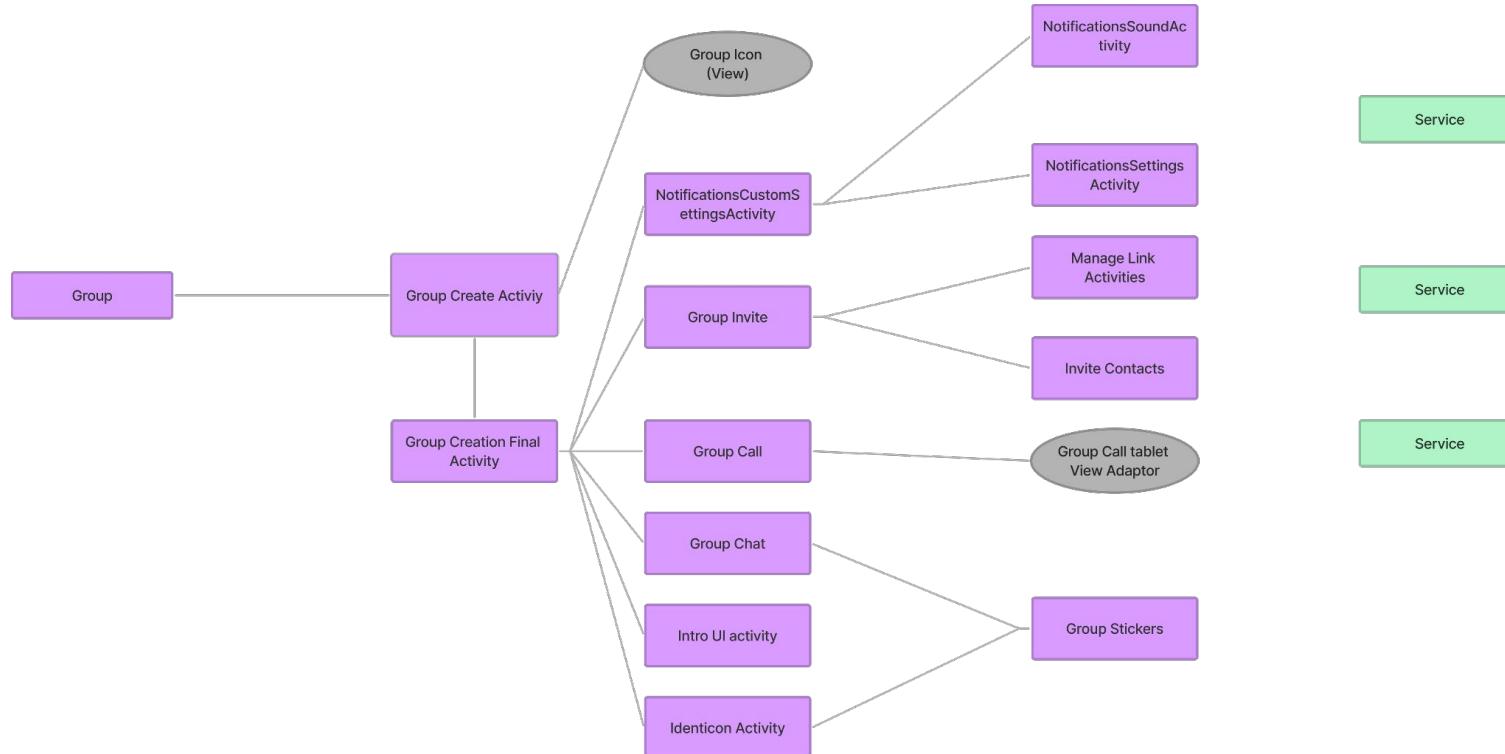
User Interface - Creating Groups



- User provides group Name
- Group gets created
- User also can add participants to group via an invite link
- Group provides almost all functionalities as the direct message (DM) room provides



Components Involved in Group Creation Component/feature



Conclusion and Future Direction



- Launch Activity
- User Account Setup
- Chat
- Group activities

Retrieving the interactions between the UI and Database in more thorough detail.

Finding connectors between these larger components and finding the points of interaction.

Coming up with a representation of architecture for these activities and also Telegram app as a whole .





Chat Settings

Message corners: 17

Chat list view: Two lines Three lines

Chat list swipe gesture: Delete Change Folder Pin

App Icon:

- Default
- Vintage
- Aqua
- Premium
- Turbo

Settings

Auto-Night Mode:

In-App Browser: Open external links within the app

Direct Share: Show recent chats in Android share menu

Data and Storage

Private Chats: Off

Groups: Off

Channels: Off

Autoplay media

GIFs:

Videos:

Streaming

Stream Videos and Audio Files:

When possible, Telegram will start playing videos and music right away, without waiting for the files to fully download.

Calls

Use Less Data for Calls: Only while roaming

Respond with Text

Proxy

Proxy Settings

Language

Google may have access to the messages you translate.

Language

English: English

Arabic: Arabic

Belarusian: Belarusian

Català: Catalan

Hrvatski: Croatian

Čeština: Czech

Nederlands: Dutch

Suomi: Finnish

Français: French

Deutsch: German

Magyar: Hungarian

