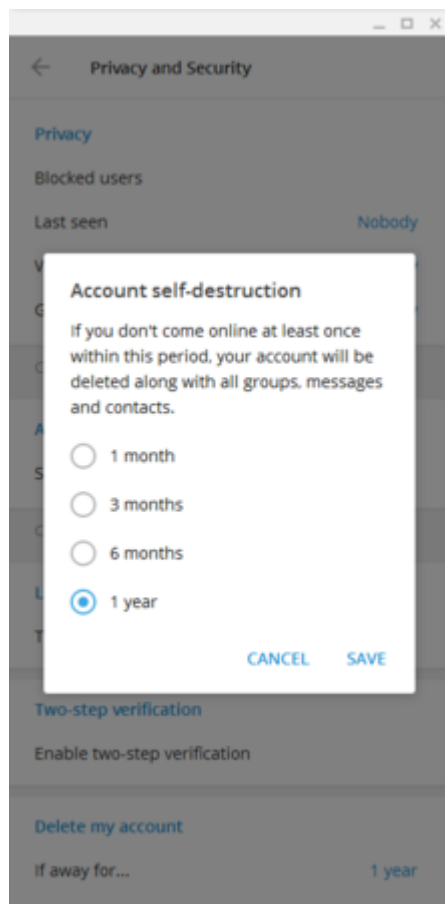## Account[edit]

Account self-destruction

The user was limited.

Telegram accounts are tied to telephone numbers and are verified by SMS.[46] Users can add multiple devices to their account and receive messages on all of them. Connected devices can be removed individually or all at once. The associated number can be changed at any time and when doing so, the user's contacts will receive the new number automatically.[46][47][48] In addition, a user can set up a username as an alias that allows them to send and receive messages without exposing their phone number.[49]
 Telegram accounts can be deleted at any time and they are deleted automatically after six months of

inactivity by default, which can optionally be changed from 1 month at the shortest up to 12 months at most with a range between. Users can replace exact "last seen" timestamps with broader messages such as "last seen recently".[50]The default method of authentication that Telegram uses for logins is SMS-based single-factor authentication.[51][52] All that is needed to log into an account and gain access to that user's cloud-based messages is a one-time passcode that is sent via SMS to the user's phone number.[52][53] This can be prevented by creating a password as a form of two-step verification.[54]

Cloud-based messages[edit]

Telegram's default messages are cloud-based and can be accessed on any of the user's connected devices. Users can share photos, videos, audio messages and other files (up to 2 gigabytes per file). Users can send messages to other users individually or in groups of up to 200,000 members.[55] Sent messages can be edited up to 48 hours after they have been sent and can be deleted at any time on both sides. Messages in all chats, including groups and channels, can be set to auto-delete after 24 hours or 7 days, although this will only apply to messages sent after the auto-delete timer is enabled.[56][57] Telegram offers drafts which sync across user devices, such as when a user starts typing a message on one device and can later continue on another. The draft will persist in editing area on any device until it is sent or removed.[58] All chats, including groups and channels, can be sorted into custom folders set by the user. Users have the option to schedule messages in personal chats to be sent when the other side comes online.[59] Users can also import chat history, including both messages and media, from WhatsApp, Line and Kakaotalk due to data portability, either making a new chat to hold the messages or adding them to an existing one.[60][61]The transmission of cloud messages to Telegram's servers is encrypted with the service's MTProto protocol, while 'Secret Chats' use end-to-end encryption based on the same protocol.[62][63] According to Telegram's privacy policy, "all data is stored heavily encrypted and the encryption keys in each case are stored in several other data centers in different jurisdictions. This way local engineers or physical intruders cannot get access to users' data".[64] Telegram's local message database is not encrypted by default.[65] Some Telegram clients allow users to encrypt the local message database by setting a passphrase.[66]