

## Development<sup>[edit]</sup>

Telegram was launched in 2013 by brothers [Nikolai](#) and [Pavel Durov](#). Previously, the pair founded the Russian social network [VK](#), which they left in 2014 after it was taken over by President Putin's allies. Pavel Durov sold his remaining stake in VK and left Russia after resisting government pressure.<sup>[24]</sup> Nikolai Durov created the [MTPROTO](#) protocol that is the basis for the messenger, while Pavel Durov provided financial support and infrastructure through his [Digital Fortress](#) fund.<sup>[25]</sup> Telegram Messenger states that its end goal is not to bring profit,<sup>[26][27]</sup> but it is not currently<sup>[when?]</sup> structured as a non-profit organization.<sup>[28]</sup> Telegram is registered as both an English [LLP](#)<sup>[29]</sup> and an American [LLC](#).<sup>[30]</sup> It does not disclose where it rents offices or which legal entities it uses to rent them, citing the need to "shelter the team from unnecessary influence" and protect users from governmental data requests.<sup>[31]</sup> Pavel Durov said that the service was headquartered in [Berlin, Germany](#), between 2014<sup>[32]</sup> and early 2015, but moved to different jurisdictions after failing to obtain residence permits for everyone on the team.<sup>[33]</sup> After Pavel Durov left Russia, he is said to be moving from country to country with a small group of computer programmers consisting of 15 core members.<sup>[24][34]</sup> According to press reports, Telegram had employees in [Saint Petersburg](#).<sup>[33]</sup> The Telegram team is currently<sup>[when?]</sup> based in [Dubai](#).<sup>[35]</sup>

## Usage numbers<sup>[edit]</sup>

In October 2013, Telegram announced it had 100,000 daily active users.<sup>[25]</sup> On 24 March 2014, Telegram announced that it had reached 35 million monthly users and 15 million daily active users.<sup>[36]</sup> In October 2014, South Korean governmental surveillance plans drove many of its citizens to switch to Telegram.<sup>[32]</sup> In December 2014, Telegram announced that it had 50 million active users, generating 1 billion daily messages, and that it had 1 million new users signing up on its service every week,<sup>[37]</sup> traffic doubled in five months with 2 billion daily messages.<sup>[38]</sup> In September 2015, Telegram announced that the app had 60 million active users and delivered 12 billion daily messages.<sup>[39]</sup> In February 2016, Telegram announced that it had 100 million monthly active users, with 350,000 new users signing up every day, delivering 15 billion messages daily.<sup>[40]</sup> In December 2017, Telegram reached 180 million monthly active users.<sup>[35]</sup> In March 2018, Telegram reached 200 million monthly active users.<sup>[41]</sup> On 14 March 2019, Pavel Durov claimed that "3 million new users signed up for Telegram within the last 24 hours."<sup>[42]</sup> Durov did not specify what prompted this flood of new sign-ups, but the period matched a prolonged technical outage experienced by Facebook and its family of apps, including Instagram.<sup>[43]</sup> According to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the number of monthly Telegram users as of October 2019 is 300 million people worldwide.<sup>[44]</sup> On 24 April 2020, Telegram announced it had reached 400 million monthly active users.<sup>[22]</sup> On 8 January 2021, Durov announced in a blog post that Telegram was at "about 500 million" monthly active users.<sup>[45]</sup>