

Note:

⚠ Quiet is in beta and shouldn't be used for activities requiring security.

Testing & Evaluation Sheet	
Quiet	
1. Tool Overview	
Name:	Quiet
Category:	Messaging
Purpose:	It is a secure messaging platform
Date Tested	4/23/2025
Status:	Deployed <input type="checkbox"/> Operational - Actively running/maintained <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Testing - Currently being evaluated or piloted <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive/Deprecated - No longer maintained or functional
Deployment Architecture:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A standalone software - Runs entirely locally (e.g., runs on computer and doesn't depend on external server) <input type="checkbox"/> A locally hosted service with separate server and client component - Run both backend/frontend yourself (e.g., backend could be on a local network, or self-hosted on cloud) <input type="checkbox"/> A service with a local client that's hosted by a third party - You install a client on your device, but it connects to and depends on a remote server (e.g., Signal: install app (client), but Signal's servers handle message relaying, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> A service that is hosted by a third party but can also be self-hosted
Version:	4.1.2
2. Installation & Setup	
OS Compatibility	Desktop: MacOS, Windows, Linux Mobile: Only Using TestFlight [GooglePlay, App Store, Android APK]
Installation Manual:	No
Installation Steps:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Go to their website</li><li>2. Scroll down to the Downloads section</li></ol>

	3. Click on respective OS you are using 4. Follow the installation pop-ups
Common Installation Issues & Fixes:	List common errors users might face and how to troubleshoot them
User Documentation:	Yes
Required Technical Knowledge	Beginner
Mention if command-line setup or special configurations are needed	None

### 3. Testing & Evaluation

<u>Category</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Score</u>
<b>Operational Functionality:</b>	<p><b>Functionality.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The tool is mostly non-functional with many broken features and bugs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Several broken features or bugs</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor bugs or issues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mostly functional with few bugs or no bugs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully functional with no bugs</li> </ul> <p><b>Internet Dependence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires internet since it functions over Tor</li> <li>• Will function on 2G &amp; 3G networks but may be slower</li> </ul> <p><b>Localization &amp; Language Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only available in English</li> <li>• No active localization in Github</li> </ul> <p><b>Mobile Accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't have an app on the Apple app store, instead they have a Beta version on Test Flight</li> </ul>	1.7
<b>Usability for Non-Technical Users</b>	<p><b>Ease of Installation &amp; Deployment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation is quick and it is a click set up</li> <li>• FAQ page was last updated on November 17th 2023</li> <li>• Installation takes under 10 minutes, as the main time constraint is downloading if from their website</li> </ul> <p><b>User Onboarding Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In in app guidance is provided</li> </ul> <p><b>Technical Experience Level Required</b></p>	4.0

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, the app has a similar UI to slack or other messaging apps</li> <li>• The interface is menu driven</li> </ul>	
<b>Security &amp; Privacy Strength</b>	<p><b>Encryption Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End-to-end encryption between member devices</li> <li>• Connected via Tor onion services</li> </ul> <p><b>Known Strength resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since it uses Tor onion services it will make the users more anonymous thus harder to block and restricted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Note: Tor is blocked and not able to be used in certain regions and other circumvention techniques may be required</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• It uses Tor onion services to connect community members</li> <li>• No none weaknesses, however it is not 3rd party audited</li> </ul> <p><b>Comparison with Known Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has not been 3rd party audited yet\</li> <li>• Security protocols rely on Tor</li> </ul> <p><b>Data Minimization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not collect metadata</li> </ul> <p><b>Privacy Policy Accessibility and Clarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Usage Data Collected except in the following:<sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Update Checks (Mac, Windows, Linux)</li> <li>◦ Website Hosting</li> <li>◦ Error Logging (Alpha Builds)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3.8
<b>Maintenance/Sustainability</b>	<p><b>Community support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an issues tab and a discussion tab on the Github repository</li> </ul> <p><b>Development active status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the software is in Beta there are lots of new releases, every couple of days with bug fixes and new additions</li> <li>• There are lots of “open” issues, some from 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Note: This may simply be due to the software being in Beta</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Funding and Sponsorship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They group relies on donations</li> </ul>	3.7

<sup>1</sup> <https://github.com/TryQuiet/quiet/wiki/Privacy-Policy>

Performance / Effectiveness & Reliability	<p><b>Testing Environment Setup:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Device:</b> HP 11th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-11800H @ 2.30GHz</li><li>• <b>OS:</b> Windows 64</li><li>• <b>Network:</b> Wifi</li></ul> <p><b>User Experience Observations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are occasional lags</li><li>• When uploading a file it won't allow you to send the file right away. You have to click again in the text box before sending it</li></ul> <p><b>Speed &amp; Responsiveness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• During normal use there are noticeable lags</li></ul> <p><b>Resource Usage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CPU: 7.4%</li><li>• Memory: 430MB</li></ul> <p><b>Network Performance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bandwidth: ~200KB/s</li></ul> <p><b>Reliability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No 3rd party audits available currently</li><li>• No crashes during testing</li></ul>	2.0
Deployment Considerations:	<p><b>Open Source &amp; Transparency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, all code is available on Github</li></ul> <p><b>Cloud vs. Local Deployment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is run locally on your computer</li></ul> <p><b>Dependencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not require any dependencies to use software</li></ul> <p><b>Post-Deployment Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The code is easy to maintain after deployment</li><li>• The code is easy to modify using the Github forking method</li></ul> <p><b>Merge/Sustainability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The project is actively looking for people to help build the platform</li><li>• <sup>2</sup>The have a page dedicated to committing and adding to the project</li></ul>	
4. Testing Scenarios		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Basic Functionality</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Able to send messages, emojis, upload documents</li><li>• Able to make a new community and add new user to community via link</li><li>• Able to export messages sent</li><li>• Able to delete channels</li></ul>	

<sup>2</sup> <https://github.com/TryQuiet/quiet/?tab=readme-ov-file#contributing-to-quiet>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to use desktop QR code to add members</li> <li>• Able to use the drag and drop feature for files</li> <li>• Unable to have other user view documents that were sent</li> <li>• Unable to delete messages</li> <li>• Unable to rename or move channels around within a community</li> <li>• Unable to leave community</li> <li>• Unable name a channel in another language</li> <li>• </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TestFlight (iPhone)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can upload files but opening files is not currently supported</li> <li>• Able to type in multiple languages</li> <li>• Can leave community</li> <li>• Unable name a channel in another language</li> <li>• <i>Deleted chanel yet chanel still showed up in the community tab but messages have been removed</i></li> <li>• Able to access new channel from QR code</li> <li>• <i>Crashed while in a channel doing nothing</i></li> </ul>
<b>5. Insights &amp; Recommendations</b>	
<b>Key Findings</b>	<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It uses Tor to protect the user's metadata</li> <li>• Doesn't have servers that it uses making it more secure</li> <li>• No email or iphone number required</li> </ul> <p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beta stage: Many bugs and unrefined features compared to other messaging platforms</li> <li>• No 3rd party Audits making it a concern for long term security reliability</li> </ul>
<b>Suggested Improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting a 3rd party security audit</li> <li>• Adding in the missing features</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Tools:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signal</li> </ul>
<b>License</b>	GPL-3.0 license
<b>Cost/Resource Implications</b>	<p><b>Total Cost of Ownership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiet is completely free to use with no hidden costs</li> <li>• Potential maintenance cost, as the software is in beta bugs could arise and the user would need to troubleshoot</li> </ul>

<b>Why is this useful to civil societies in authoritarian environments?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No centralized servers which limits the infrastructure that can be blocked and surveilled</li><li>• The software functions using Tor onion services ensuring end-to-end encryption and increased anonymization</li></ul>
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