Vu Do
Week 6
Signal

I have heard about Signal before but wasn't really interested in using it until this class because I didn't want to switch to a different communications app. I downloaded the app and it seems to be very simple to use as it is very similar to any other communications app except it is being advertised as providing encrypted communication tools that are secure and protect your privacy. I previously used WhatsApp but quit it when I learned FaceBook bought it. I've tested Signal for a week and really like using it. I usually gravitate toward simple apps with simple function and design and Signal fits the bill and it also offers end to end encryption.

Signal doesn't have any frills but offers all the different tools that you expect including SMS, voice and video calls, and ability to send encrypted pictures, videos, and documents. I really like the disappearing message option. However, I'm just always skeptical as to how any company/organization can offer something completely free without any cost to their users. With technology there always seem to be some source of trade off relating to personal data whether that be the company selling or try to monetize your personal data and content. Looking over the Signal site it said that Signal is an open source project supported by grants and donations and there are no ads, no affiliate marketers or tracking. I think it is great that we have such open technology but I'm just always wondering how long this will last as funding dries up or the community moving on to the next thing. It is expected that technology is constantly changing and evolving and hopefully there will be better privacy tools as more people are aware of privacy issues.