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Week 6: Signal
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I downloaded the Signal app and when I allowed it to access my contacts I discovered a few friends were using it. I texted one of them but wasn't comfortable inviting other people to use it since most of my friends use WhatsApp and I don't think they would want to switch to something new (just 'cause I asked them to). I turned on disappearing messages and explored the "Start a new group" function.

The app seemed straightforward to me. I did a little research to determine the differences between using WhatsApp and Signal to educate myself.

Signal and What's App Comparison

Signal is an app, similar to WhatsApp, that encrypts messages and is resistant to Stingray technology. It offers more security from surveillance than WhatsApp.

Signal supports end-to-end encryption (which means it can't be viewed by a third party) and is peer reviewed, open-source and regularly audited to keep it secure.

WhatsApp partnered with Whisper Systems, the creator of Signal. The encryption on WhatsApp is open sourced but the rest isn't so it's probably not as secure as Signal. Facebook also owns WhatsApp so they share data for ad targeting. With WhatsApp everyone using has to update the app regularly for the encryption to work (so if one person doesn't update it's not encrypted.) WhatsApp stores metadata. Signal only stores what it needs for it to work – phone number, random keys, and your profile and only keeps IP address for as long as it takes to send the message. They will turn over info to government agency, but there isn't much info to turn over.

With Signal you can use chat and it supports GIFS and multimedia messages. Signal also has a feature that will delete your messages after a set period of time.