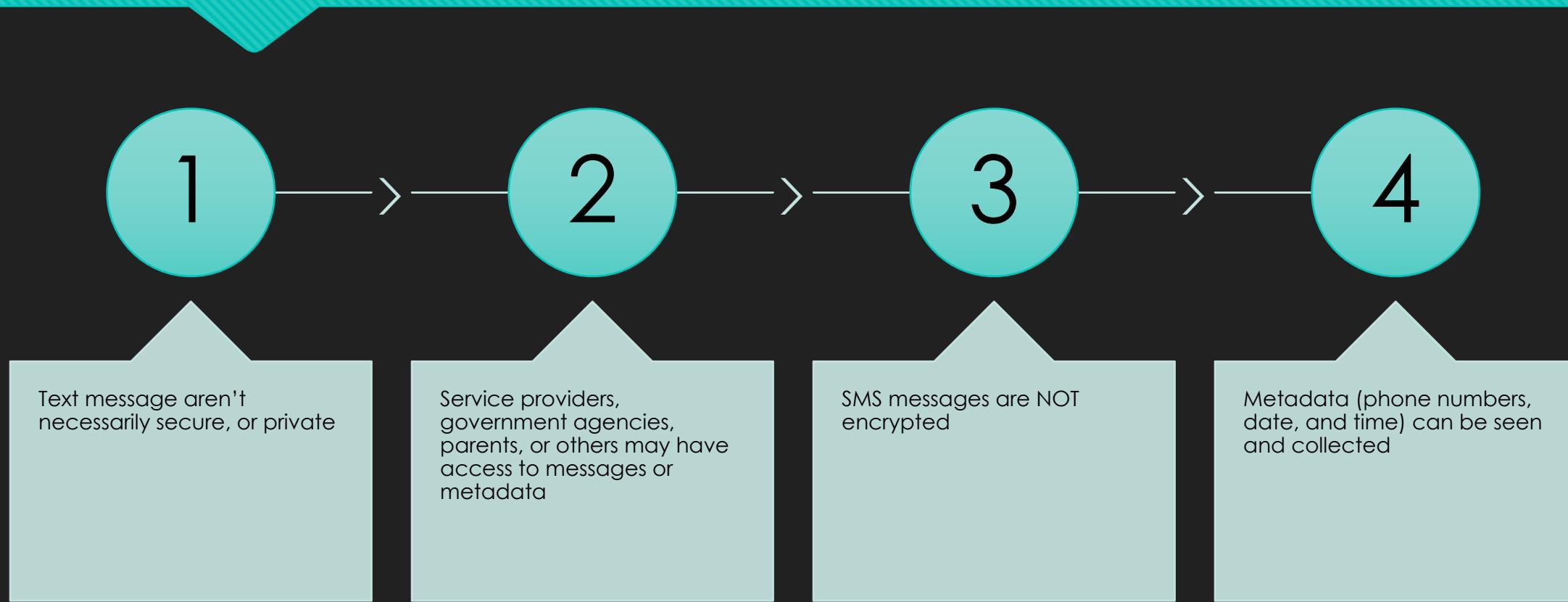


Messaging Apps

Josh Stone

Is that Private Message Really Private?



Using Secure Messaging

iMessage
(iPhones) is
encrypted, but
isn't perfect

Other choices:

Signal

Whatsapp

I Have an iPhone, I'm good, right?

- Not really.
- iMessages are encrypted, but only to other iPhones
- Apple has access to your contacts, phone numbers, and valuable metadata
- iCloud backup could be vulnerable



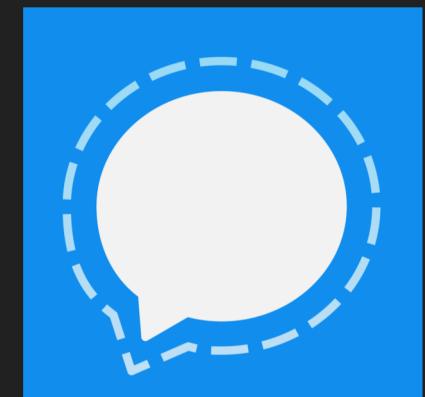
Signal

Pros

- Signal is end-to-end encrypted
- Send and receive secure messages, phone calls, and video calls
- Both iOS and Android

Cons

- Not fully anonymous: Open Whisper Systems see contacts and numbers
- Can only be used if recipient has Signal



Whatsapp

Pros

- End-to-end encrypted
- Send and receive secure messages, phone calls, and video calls
- Both iOS and Android

Cons

- Owned by Facebook, and they can see your contacts and phone numbers.
- Can only be used if recipient has Whatsapp



Other Services

Facebook Messenger

Only encrypted during transit. Facebook can see your message.

Links device to Facebook account

Snapchat

NOT ENCRYPTED
Snapchat has access to contacts and phone numbers
Messages disappear from device

Google Hangouts

Only encrypted during transit. Google can see your message.
Gives Google access to your contact and device

What Should I Choose?

- Everyone has different privacy needs
- Think about what you want to protect, and from whom
- Try a few options to see which you like
- Most importantly: Get your contacts to make the switch!



Resources

- Electronic Frontier Foundation
 - <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2018/03/secure-messaging-more-secure-mess>
- EFF: How To Use Signal (iOS)
 - <https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/how-use-signal-ios>
- Tactical Tech: Choosing Tools: Chat Apps
 - https://myshadow.org/ckeditor_assets/attachments/171/choosingtools_chatapps.pdf