

A.Mellon  
Week 6  
Using Signal

I'd heard of signal, before but never used it. Downloading the app was easy and I was surprised to see a few friends of mine were already using the app once I got my account set up. The few that were using the app made sense to me given what I know about their lines of work/lives. Some work in fields where they handle sensitive information daily, some have reasons at home to use it, some just like being private in all areas of their lives.

I invited a couple of people to join. I sent them a text before I invited them letting them know it was actually me and told them a little bit about the app just so they'd know what it was and why I was requesting.

Everything was easy to use and navigate. I was surprised that deleting a message stream only deletes the stream from your phone and not from the recipients as well. This makes sense as the messages are being stored locally on each device and not on a server. I'm not sure why I assumed all of the messages would delete from every participant in the conversation's devices. The disappearing message feature was cool, but a few disappeared before I had a chance to get them or a friend had a chance to check what I'd sent. It's a neat feature, but the really short time frames are probably best if you know the other participants in the conversation are looking at their devices when you send your messages.

I didn't create a group. The few friends of mine who were already on or joined later didn't know each other very well (or at all) and I didn't want to throw them all in a conversation together. I also wasn't sure if you could see everyone's contact information in a group so I decided not to try it for fear of exposing friends numbers to others who are strangers to them.

I'll probably continue to use this app. I like the extra login step it takes to login into the app to check messages rather than just clicking on the app and everything popping up.

A side note, my husband does work with and for victims of human trafficking around the world. These are incredibly vulnerable people (I was going to my threat model assignment based on this, but got overwhelmed and could not fully wrap my mind around the number of potential foes and threats. I will definitely be revisiting this though.) He and his team communicate daily about developments and cases they are working or just to share small victories. They use a fairly secure messaging system now, but not as secure as Signal. He's the main person I wanted to introduce Signal to and get him used to using it. We are both hoping the rest of his team will make the switch to Signal so that they can communicate even more securely.