

***Installing and navigating Signal in Android was pretty straight forward, especially if you are familiar with WhatsApp. Just a couple of glitches and missteps to share:***

- First I tried to install the Desktop version, I tend to like that and then link the phone. Basically same procedure that I followed with WhatsApp but the QR code did not work, I kept receiving a message that it failed to connect to the server so I moved to the smartphone and just installed there. I still have to follow up on that problem and my desktop version is not functional yet.
- What I did not know is that Signal has to become your default messaging app, I had to do that to make it work. When I downloaded I allowed it to see my contacts and to manage calls but not to access my Media. At that moment I also did not allow it to become my Default SMS service either. It imported my contacts (I discovered that I already had a couple of friends who used it, one of them used to research Egypt and media and did fieldwork so I was made sense)
- When I added a contact, that person had more than one number attached to their contact and Signal was not very good at navigating that (or I could not figure out) so I had to do it manually (copy+paste phone #) and it worked fine.
- Creating a group was interesting because my networks of friends are very diverse and the people who have Signal do not know each other. When you try to create groups that include people without Signal, you receive a message saying that the group will become a MMS groupse networks are spread and people who I know have Signal do not know each other to join. Tried to create with 1 yes and 1 no and the group becomes a MMS group, something that Signal Help is good to indicate as a Insecure Group, but perhaps should include that info in the message that pops when you are trying to create the group. These are the characteristics of a MMS group:

**Insecure MMS group chat**

**This group consists of at least one non-Signal user.**

**Everyone in the group can communicate with each other.**

**All messages are insecure.**

**MMS groups require a connection to your mobile plan.**

**All communication is subject to fees as outlined by your mobile plan.**

**There is a size limit of 10 members**

- Again, the rest of the actions were pretty straight forward if you had exposure to WhatsApp. Just one last thought, while I was installing and playing with Signal I was wondering if using it is public/transparent in some way, what I mean is if law enforcement can know that you are using

it somehow, and perhaps become a red flag for them. The thought popped up in connection with these raids in Germany where some group were targeted for using Rise Up:

- <https://amityunderground.com/german-police-have-seized-the-names-and-banking-details-of-donors-to-the-privacy-browser-tor-krawalltouristen-riseup-germany-raids/>
- <https://www.cyberscoop.com/german-police-raid-digital-privacy-technology-groups/>