

**Task : Describe a real-world system where: Soft deletes are required  
Hard deletes are preferred in short human language**

### **1. Soft delete — Instagram account deactivation**

When a user deactivates their Instagram account, the data is not immediately erased. The account is hidden and marked as inactive, allowing the user to return later and restore their profile, posts, followers, and messages. The data is retained for a defined period, after which it can be permanently deleted once it is verified that the account is no longer needed and the maximum retention time has been reached.

### **2. Hard delete — WhatsApp temporary chats**

Temporary or disappearing chats in WhatsApp are meant to be gone for good. Once the time expires or the user deletes them, there's no reason to keep that data. Storing it longer would waste space and defeat the purpose of privacy and ephemerality.

That's where hard delete makes sense: delete it completely, no recovery.