

SAFER COMMUNICATION WITH SIGNAL

WHY USE SIGNAL?

- Signal is an app for your phone or desktop that helps you have **safer texting, voice and video calls through strong encryption and a suite of privacy features.**
- Your phone company keeps your texts and call records forever, and can turn them over to law enforcement. **Signal can't do that because they don't keep those records.**
- Other **messaging apps might encrypt messages, but they reveal your metadata** – the information about who you contact and when. **Those apps are also owned by Big Tech companies**, which have proven to be less trustworthy with our data.

SIGNAL SECURITY FEATURES

- **End-to-end-encryption:** Messages can't be read or intercepted by your telecom, police, or malicious actors.
- **Sealed Sender:** Data about who you communicate with is encrypted.
- **Data minimization by design:** Metadata like registration and contacts is deleted, and metadata is removed from photos sent in the app.
- **Does not protect against:** Someone in your chat taking screenshots, malicious actors with access to your physical device.

DELETE MESSAGES, VERIFY CONTACTS

- Turn on "**disappearing messages**" so that messages are auto-removed from your device after a set period of time.
- If using Signal mobile and desktop, please note that **you'll have to open both clients to start the disappearing message timer.**
- It's a good idea to **remove yourself from old chats and delete the chat**, and remove dormant members from active chats.
- For small groups or 1:1 conversations, you can have added security by **verifying safety numbers** in person. Go to settings, click your account info at the top, then scan each other's QR codes.



SECURITY SETTINGS



Make these changes to Signal's settings menu for even stronger security.

- Settings → notifications → show "no name or content"
- Settings → privacy → phone number → who can see my number → nobody
- Settings → privacy → screen lock "on" (Note: this will require a password to unlock Signal)
- Settings → account → PIN (turn on)

USERNAMES AND LARGE GROUPS

For large organizing activities, we can use Signal groups with dozens or even hundreds of people. It's still a **good idea to use Signal** for these purposes, but **Signal can't protect against malicious actors within a large group who may be recording conversations.** These groups should therefore be treated as public. Creating a username in Signal is a way to protect yourself in a large group.

- In "**Settings**", click on your name and account icon at the top. You'll see an option to create your username.
- Be aware that Signal records username changes within chats, so **make your username before you join a large chat** where you want to maintain relative anonymity.
- Be mindful **not to share anything in a large group that could identify you** by your real name.



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