

Twitter Thread by Amit Ganguli



Amit Ganguli

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Many conversations happening on #WhatsApp (WA) groups about new #WhatsAppPrivacyPolicy .

This thread has arguments to help ditch WA & move to <https://t.co/En4fe9VxUN>

Share," target="_blank">@signalapp:

<https://t.co/En4fe9VxUN>

Share, use, copy-paste, modify with understanding as you deem fit on any platform in whole or part

1/n

Note: No affiliations, conflict of interest

Info presented with NO bias, prejudice, malice or indemnity.

Open to corrections: individual tweets may be deleted, tweets added to thread or corrected as replies.

Points that are unclear or uncertain are marked with "(?)".

2/n

CONTENT OF WA MESSAGES SHALL REMAIN ENCRYPTED END TO END.

BUT, there's data: contacts, group affiliations, co-affiliations, locations (live?), frequency of contacts, *tags* generated when we send or forward a message or file to contacts or groups, links, clicks on links, etc.

3/n

It is unclear whether this data is anonymized.

NOTHING in latest policy *prevents* the collection, retention, sharing or sale by FaceBook (FB: owner of WA) of this data in part or whole whether with identifying information or anonymized.

Meme source:

<https://t.co/nMDTUlb0rl>

4/n

🔒 Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted.
But just so you know, from now on, our parent
company Facebook will mine the shit out of your
data to sell you to advertisers.

privacyinternational.org



Now that [#WhatsApp](#) have updated their terms, forcing users to share their data with [#Facebook](#), here's our suggested update to that notification you see at the top of your chats. [#WhatsappNewPolicy](#) [#WhatsappPrivacy](#) pic.twitter.com/FjxFGBm6Q8

— Privacy International (@privacyint) [January 7, 2021](#)

Companies need to make money & generate profits:

To create software, install & maintain infrastructure.

Google, FB, Insta, Amazon etc sell data created from our content & data generated from our interactions (searches, clicks, purchases etc).

This makes many uncomfortable.

5/n

"If you're getting it for free, then you are the product".

Money is needed to install & maintain huge server farms to host our content & provide us with services.

So, I grudgingly accept that companies collect data & sell data in return for services.

BUT WA is peer to peer.

6/n

WA needs little infrastructure for us to use its service.

Folks tweet all sorts of stuff, even deeply personal matters.

Expectation is 100% public, including data.

Folks use WA for all sorts of stuff, even deeply personal matters.

Expectation is 100% private including data.

7/n

No judgements on what platform people use & what they share on it.

YET, FB now wants to mine & commodify the data generated on WA, share & sell it with no limitations or guarantees of anonymity or data protection.

THIS is a problem.

8/n

WHATSAPP

MESSAGES

SHALL

REMAIN

E2E

ENCRYPTED!

BUT I do NOT want to be profiled or profited from the *data* generated by sharing births, deaths, photos, jokes, shopping lists, passwords, the small myriad private pleasures & heartbreaks that we share with our loved ones on WA.

9/n

ergo #SignalApp

Free

Open Source

Not-for-profit

"our only investment is in your privacy.": <https://t.co/LIC0RisXaV>

Additional info from: [@privacyint](https://t.co/4mN6fQ68W6)

eg:

<https://t.co/4mN6fQ68W6>

Respond with corrections if any.

10/n

Is this what stock analysts mean when they say that the market is giving mixed Signals?

It's understandable that people want to invest in Signal's record growth, but this isn't us. We're an independent 501c3 and our only investment is in your privacy. pic.twitter.com/9EgMUZiEZf

— Signal (@signalapp) [January 8, 2021](#)