Twitter Thread by Amit Ganguli



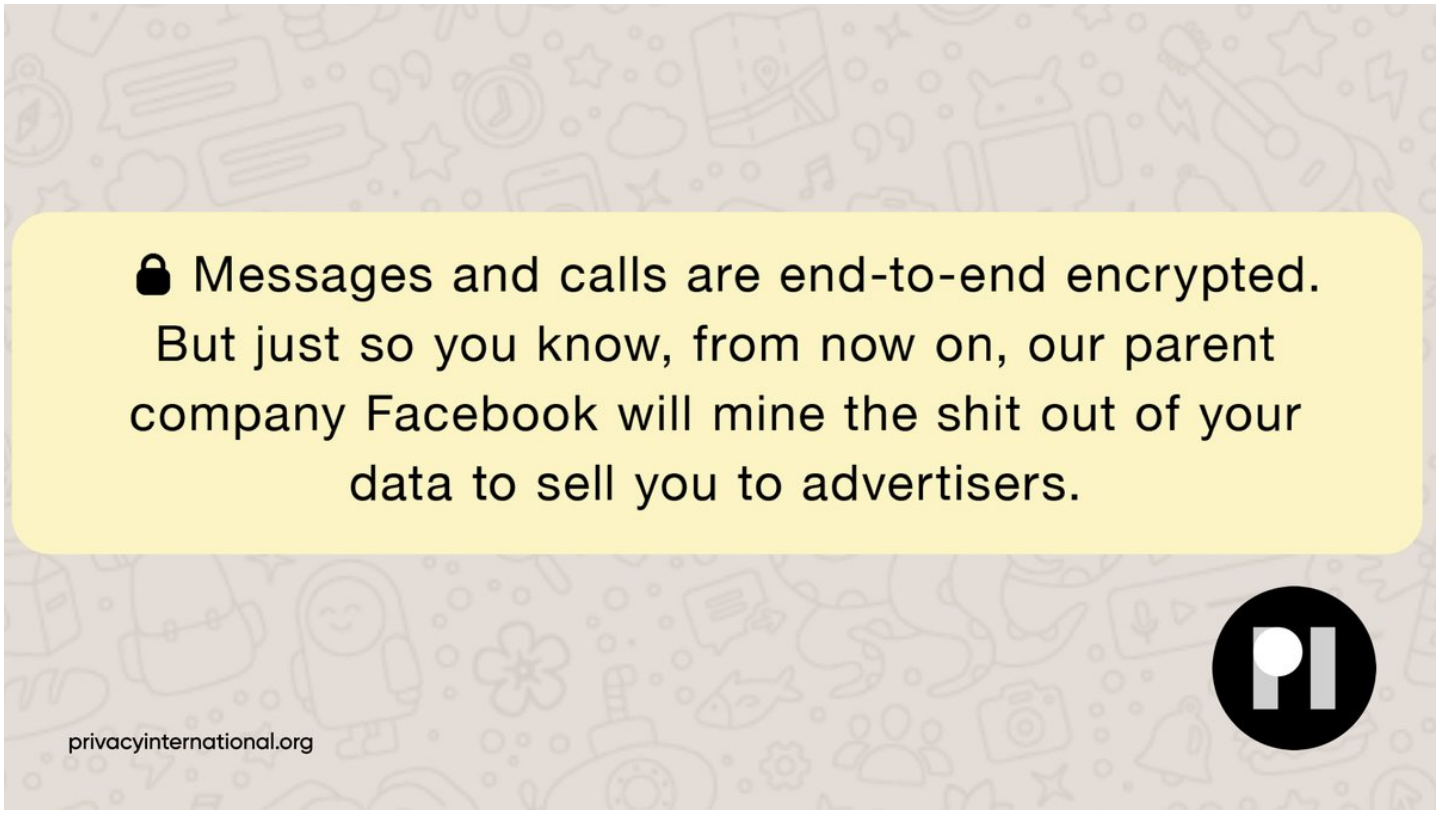
Amit Ganguli
@amit_ganguli

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



> 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
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