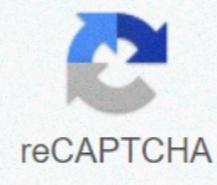




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Free Encrypted SignalScreenshotScreenshot Signal Application Android Version 4.52 (December 2019)Developer(s) Signal Foundation, Signal Messenger LLC and contributors Initial ReleaseJuly 29, 2014 (2014-07-29)[1][2]Stable ReleaseAndroid5.0.5 / December 16, 2020; 12 days ago (2020-12-16)[3]iOS5.0.2 / December 14, 2020; 14 days ago (2020-12-14)[4]Desktop1.39.4 / December 17, 2020; 11 days ago (2020-12-17)[5]Preview releaseAndroid5.0.7 / December 16, 2020; 12 days ago (2020-12-16)[6][7]iOS5.1.0.13 / December 18, 2020; 12 days ago (2020-12-18)[8]Desktop1.39.4-beta.1 / December 17, 2020; 11 days ago (2020-12-17)[9] Repositorygithub.com/signalapp/Signal-Android Android 4.4 or later version of iOS 10 or later version of Windows 7 or later (64-bit)[10] MacOS 10.10 or later[11] Linux distributions, MacOS 10.10 or later [10] TypeEncrypted voice calls, video calls and instant messagingLicense clients: GPLv3[12][13][14] Server: AGPLv3[15] Websitesignal.org Signal is a cross-platform encrypted messaging service developed by Signal Fund LLC and Signal Messenger LLC. It uses the Internet to send to each other and group messages that can include files, voice notes, images, and videos. [16] It can also be used to make one-to-one and group voice and video calls.[17][18] and android version can work as an SMS app. [19] Signal uses standard cellular numbers as identifiers and provides all communications to other signal users with intrusive encryption. Apps include mechanisms by which users can independently verify the identity of their contacts and the integrity of the data feed. [19] All Signal software is free and open source. [12] Its clients are licensed under GPLv3.[12][13][14] when publishing the server code under the AGPLv3 license. The nonprofit Signal Foundation was launched in February 2018 with initial funding of \$50 million from Brian Acton. [21] Signal's end-to-end encrypted messaging service was launched in 2014 and became more widely used in 2019 and 2020. The rise in signal often faltered during periods in which decisions are questioned or reversed — to moments of socio-political upheaval. [42] However, Signal's roots go back to earlier encrypted voice and text applications in early 2010-2013: Origins Signal is the successor to RedPhone's encrypted voice call and encrypted TextSecure text messaging app. Beta versions of RedPhone and TextSecure were first launched in May 2010 by Whisper Systems, [22] a startup company co-founded by security researcher Moxie Marlinspike and roboticist Stuart Anderson. [43] Whisper Systems also created a firewall tools to encrypt other forms of data. [43] [45] They were all nonfree enterprise mobile security software and were only available for Android. In November 2011, announced that it had been acquired by Twitter. The financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed by any company. The acquisition was made primarily to ensure that Mr. Marlinspike could help the then startup increase its security. Shortly after its acquisition, Whisper Systems' RedPhone service became unavailable. [47] Some criticized the removal, arguing that the software was specifically aimed [at helping] people under repressive regimes and that it left people like Egyptians in a dangerous position during the events of the Egyptian revolution in 2011. In December 2011, Twitter released TextSecure as free open source software under a GPLv3. [43] [49] [25] RedPhone was also released under the same license in July 2012. [51] Marlinspike later left Twitter and founded Open Whisper Systems as a joint open source project to continue developing TextSecure and RedPhone. [1] [27] 2013-2018: Open Whisper Systems website was launched in January 2013. In February 2014, Open Whisper Systems introduced a second version of its TextSecure protocol (now a signal protocol) that added end-to-end encrypted group chat and instant messaging capabilities to TextSecure. [28] By the end of July 2014, they had announced plans to combine redPhone and TextSecure apps as a signal. [52] This ad coincided with the initial release of Signal as a RedPhone analogue for iOS. Developers said their next steps would be to provide textSecure instant messaging capabilities for iOS, merge RedPhone and TextSecure apps on Android, and launch a web client. [52] Signal was the first iOS app to enable encrypted voice calls for free. [1] TextSecure compatibility was added to the iOS app in March 2015. [54] [30] Signal Android Icon, 2015-2017Signal icon, 2015-2020 Since its launch in May 2010[22] to March 2015, Android version of Signal (then called TextSecure) included support for encrypted SMS/MMS messages. [55] From version 2.7.0, the Android app only supported sending and receiving encrypted messages through the data feed. Reasons for this included SMS/MMS security flaws and key exchange issues. [56] The refusal to encrypt SMS/MMS from Open Whisper Systems prompted some users to create a fork called Silence (originally called SMSSecure[57]), which is intended exclusively for the exchange of encrypted SMS and MMS messages. [58] In November 2015, textSecure and RedPhone apps on Android were combined to become Signal for Android. A month later, Open Whisper Systems announced Signal Desktop, a Chrome app that can connect with signal's mobile client. [32] When launched, the app can only be associated with the Android version of Signal. [60] On September 26, 2016, Open Whisper Systems announced that Signal be associated with the iOS version of the signal as well. [61] On October 31, 2017, Open Whisper Systems announced that the Chrome app was obsolete. [10] At the same time, they announced the release of a standalone desktop client (based on the Electron framework[44]) for Windows, MacOS and some Linux distributions. [10] [62] On October 4, 2016, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Open Whisper Systems published a series of documents showing that OWS received a subpoena requiring them to provide information related to two phone numbers to investigate a federal grand jury in the first half of 2016. [63] [64] [65] Only one of the two phone numbers was registered to Signal, and because of the way the service was developed, OWS was only able to provide the time when the user account was created and the last time it was connected to the service. [64] [63] Along with the subpoena, OWS received a gag order requiring OWS not to tell anyone about the subpoena for one year. [63] OWS approached the ACLU and they were able to withdraw part of the gag order after challenging it in court. [63] OWS said that this was the first time they had received a subpoena and that they had pledged to treat any future requests the same way. In March 2017, Open Whisper Systems switched the signal call system from RedPhone to WebRTC, also adding the ability to make video calls using mobile apps. [34] [66] [17] 2018-present: Signal Messenger on February 21, 2018, Moxie Marlinspike and WhatsApp co-founder Brian Acton announced the formation of the Signal Foundation, a nonprofit organization 501(c)(3) whose mission is to support , accelerate and expand Signal's mission to make private communication accessible and u.S. [35] [21] The Fund was enlisted with initial funding of \$50 million from Acton, which left Facebook's parent company WhatsApp in September 2017. According to the report, Acton is the fund's executive chairman, and Marlinspike continues to serve as CEO of Signal Messenger. [35] By 2020, Signal is fully working on donations as a nonprofit. Between November 2019 and February 2020, Signal added support for iPads, images and videos, stickers and reactions. [67] They also announced plans for a new group messaging system and an experimental method of storing encrypted contacts in the cloud. The signal was reportedly popularized in the United States during the George Floyd protests. As protests in the U.S. gained momentum, on June 3, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted a recommendation for users to download Signal Messenger. [68] Increased awareness of police monitoring forced protesters to use the app to communicate. Black Lives Matter organizers have used the app for several years. [69] [42] During the First Week of June the messaging app was downloaded five times more than it had been the week before George Floyd. In June 2020, the Signal Foundation announced a new feature that allows users to er faces in photos, in response to increased federal efforts to monitor protesters. [42] [70] Features Signal allows users to make one-to-one and group[71] voice and video calls to other Signal users on iOS, Android and desktop. The group calls for support for up to 5 people with further expansion plans. All calls over Wi-Fi or data connections and (excluding data charges) are free, including long-distance and international. [53] Signal also allows users to send text messages, files,[16] voice notes, images, GIFs,[72] and video recording over Wi-Fi or connections to transmit data to other Signal users on the iOS, Android and desktop app. The app also supports group messages. All communications between Signal users are automatically encrypted at the end. Keys used to encrypt a user's communication are created and stored in endpoints (i.e. users, not servers). To make sure the correspondent is indeed the person they claim to be Signal users can compare key fingerprints (or scan QR codes) out of range. The application uses a reliable use mechanism to notify the user if the correspondent key changes. [74] On Android, users can opt out of creating a default SMS/MMS signal app, allowing them to send and receive unencrypted SMS messages in addition to standard onstage encrypted Signal messages. Users can use the same app to communicate with contacts who don't have a signal. [28] Sending unencrypted messages is also available as override between Signal users. TextSecure allowed the user to set a passphrase that encrypted the local message database and user encryption keys. [76] This does not encrypt the user's contact database or message timestamps. Signal apps on Android and iOS can be blocked using your phone's pin, passphrase, or biometric authentication. The user can determine the screen lock timeout interval, providing an additional protection mechanism in case the phone is lost or stolen. [74] The Signal also allows users to set timers for messages. [78] After a specified period of time, messages will be deleted from both the sender's devices and receiver devices. The time interval can be between five seconds and one week.[78] and the timer starts for each recipient after they read their copy of the message. The developers stressed that this means being a common function for conversations where all participants want to automate data hygiene, not for situations where your contact is your adversary. [78] The default signal excludes users from unen encrypted cloud backups. [80] The signal supports read receipts and typing metrics, both of which can be disabled. [81] [82] The alarm allows you to automatically err the faces of the people in the photos to protect their identity. [83] [84] [85] [86] The restriction signal requires that the user enter a phone number for verification.[87] eliminating the need for usernames or passwords and facilitating the opening of contacts (see below). [88] The number should not be the same as on the sim card of the device; it can also be a VoIP number[87] or landline if the user can obtain a verification code and have a separate device to configure the software. The number can only be registered on one mobile device at a time. This obligatory connection to the phone number (the Signal feature shared with WhatsApp, KakaoTalk and others) has been criticised as a major problem for privacy-aware users who cannot give out their personal phone number. [88] The workaround is to use an additional phone number. [88] The ability to choose a public, changing username instead of sharing their phone number with everyone they report (or share a group with) is a widely requested feature that as of June 2020 has yet to be implemented. [88] [90] Signal in 2019 announced plans to implement this feature, overcoming problems with storing users' social schedules using what they called Secure Value Recovery (SVR). This allows users to encrypt Signal contacts using an alphanumeric passphrase (which Signal calls a PIN[93]) and uses Intel SGX to limit the number of guesses of a passphrase that facilitates the risk of brute force attempts on the server. [92] [94] Cryptography expert Matthew D. Green described the method as a complex work, but also expressed fears that the data the system was defending should not rely on SGX security, which has been repeatedly violated. [97] [98] Using phone numbers as identifiers can also pose security risks resulting from an attacker's ability to take over a phone number. [88] This can be mitigated by enacting an additional PIN to block registration in signal's privacy settings. From February 2014 to February 2017, an Android-specific official Android customer demanded google play branded services because the app depended on Google's GCM push messaging system. [102] In March 2015, Signal moved to the application's self-delivery model and only using GCM to wake the event. In February 2017, Signal's developers implemented WebSocket support from a customer, which noted its use without Google Play Services. [101] The desktop setting of the Signal desktop app requires that the user install Signal for the first time on an Android or iOS-based smartphone with an Internet connection. [11] Once the desktop app is associated with the account it will function as an independent client; mobile application should not be present or online. [104] Users Can Contact 5 desktop apps on your account. [89] In July 2016, the Internet Society published a user survey assessing signal users' ability to detect and deter man-in-the-middle attacks. [20] The study concluded that 21 of the 28 participants failed to correctly compare public key fingerprints to verify the identity of their Signal users, and that most of those users still believed they had succeeded, whereas in fact they had failed. Four months later, the Signal user interface was updated to make checking the identity of other Signal users easier. [105] By version 4.17,[106] the Signal Android client could only create regular text backups of message history, i.e. without media messages. [107] On February 26, 2018, Signal added support for full backup/restore on the SD card, [109] and as of version 4.17, users can restore their entire message history when switching to a new Android phone. [106] On June 9, 2020, signal iOS added the ability to transfer all Signal information from an old iOS device to a new one. Transmission is carried out wirelessly over a local connection between the two devices and the sound is encrypted. [110] Architecture Encryption Protocols Main Article: Signaling messages are encrypted by the signal protocol (formerly known as the TextSecure Protocol). The protocol combines a double ratchet algorithm, keys and an extended triple Diffie-Hellman (X3DH) handshake. [111] It uses Curve25519, AES-256, and HMAC-SHA256 as primitives. The protocol ensures confidentiality, integrity, authentication, consistency of participants, verification of appointments, forward secrecy, backward secrecy (e.g. future secrecy), preservation of validity, unification of messages, renunciation of messages, renunciation of participation and asynchrony. [113] It does not preserve anonymity, and requires servers to relay messages and store public key material. [113] The signal protocol also supports on-wheeled encrypted group chats. The group chat protocol is a combination of paired double wobble and multi-cross encryption. [113] In addition to the properties provided by the protocol, the group chat protocol provides consistency of speakers, out-of-order resilience, dropped message resilience, computational equality, trust equality, subgroup messaging, and contractual and expandable membership. In October 2014, researchers from Ruer University of Bochum published an analysis of the Signaling Protocol. [19] Among other findings, they presented an unknown attack on the protocol, but overall they found that it was safe. In October 2016, researchers from the University of Oxford UK, Queensland University of Technology in and Canada's McMaster University published an official analysis of the protocol. [115] [116] They concluded that was cryptographically sound. [115] In July 2017, researchers from Rur University of Bochum discovered during another analysis of group messengers a purely theoretical attack against the Signal group protocol: A user who knows the group's secret identifier (due to having previously been a member of a group or stole it from a member's device) can become a member of the group. Because the group ID cannot be guessed and such member changes are reflected for the remaining members, this attack is likely to be difficult to implement without detection. [117] As of August 2018, the Signal Protocol was implemented on WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Skype [118] and Google Allo.[119] making it possible to encrypt the conversations of more than a billion people around the world. [120] In Google Allo, Skype, and Facsbook Messenger, conversations are not encrypted with the default signal protocol; they only offer encryption in advanced mode. [80] By March 2017, Signal voice calls were encrypted with SRTP and the ZRTP key-agreement protocol developed by Phil Zimmermann. [1] As of March 2017, Signal voice and video call features use the app's signal protocol channel to authenticate instead of ZRTP. [124] [34] Authentication To make sure that the correspondent is indeed the person they claim, Signal users can compare key fingerprints (or scan QR codes) out of range. [74] The application uses trust in the first-use mechanism to notify the user if the correspondent key changes. [74] Local storage After messages are received and decrypted on the user's device, they are stored locally in a SQLite database that is encrypted using SQLCipher. The decryption key for this database is also stored locally on the user's device and can be accessed if the device is unlocked. [125] In December 2020, Celebrite published a blog announcing that one of their products could now access that key and use it to decipher the Signal program. [125] [127] Technology reporters later published articles about how Celebrite claimed to have the ability to break into the Signal app and crack signal encryption. [128] [129] This latest interpretation was rejected by several experts,[130] as well as Signal representatives, who said that Celebrite's original post was about accessing data about an unlocked Android phone in their physical possession and that they could just open the app to look at the messages. [131] The server signal depends on centralized servers supported by Signal Messenger. In addition to signal routing messages, servers also make it easier to detect contacts that are also registered by Signal users and automatically share users' public keys. By default, voice video calls Signal peer-to-peer. [17] If the subscriber is a subscriber not in the recipient's address book, the call is routed through the server in order to hide users' IP addresses. [17] Contact Search Servers store registered users' phone numbers, public key materials, and push tokens needed to set up calls and transmit messages. In order to determine which contacts are also users of signal, cryptographic hashes of user contact numbers are periodically transferred to the server. [134] The server then checks to see if they match any of the SHA256 hashes of registered users, and tells the client if any matches have been found. [134] After that, the towed numbers are deleted from the server. In 2014, Moxie Marlinspike wrote that it was easy to calculate a map of all possible hit inputs for hash outputs and reverse mapping through limited space to install (a set of all possible hash inputs) of phone numbers, and that practical confidentiality retaining contact discovery remains an unresolved problem. [135] In September 2017, Signal's developers announced that they were working to ensure that Signal client applications effectively and scalably determine whether contacts in the address book are signal users without disclosing contacts in the address book to Signal. [136] [137] Metadata All communications between the client and the server are TLS protected. [123] In October 2018, Signal deployed the Sealed Sender feature, which encrypts the sender's information with the sender and recipient identification keys, and includes it in the message. With this feature, Signal servers can no longer see who is sending a message to whom. Signal's privacy policy states that any IDs are stored on servers only as long as necessary in order to place each call or transmit each message. Signal developers claimed that their servers did not store logs about who called the comma and when. In June 2016, Marlinspike told The Intercept that the closest piece of information to metadata stored by the Signal server is the last time each user connects to the server, and the accuracy of that information decreases to the day, not to an hour, a minute, and a second. The bulk messaging mechanism is designed to prevent servers from accessing the member list, group name, or group icon. Instead, creating, updating, joining, and exiting groups is done by customers who deliver even messages to participants just as messages are delivered to each other. [141] Federation Signal server architecture was federal between December 2013 and February 2016. In December 2013, it was announced that the signal usage messaging protocol had been successfully integrated into the open source Android CyanogenMod operating system. [143] [144] [145] Starting with CyanogenMod 11.0, Logic contained in a system application called According to signal developers, the Cyanogen team operated its own Signal messaging server for WhisperPush clients, powered by a primary server so that both clients could exchange messages with each other. [145] WhisperPush's source code was available under a GPLv3 license. In May 2016, Moxie Marlinspike wrote that a federation with CyanogenMod servers had impaired user experience and returned development, and that their servers probably wouldn't be federated with other servers again. In May 2016, Moxie Marlinspike asked a third-party customer called LibreSignal not to use signal service or signal name. [148] On May 24, 2016, the LibreSignal project published that the project had been abandoned. [149] The functionality provided by LibreSignal was subsequently included in signal by Marlinspike. Licensing The full source code of Signal customers for Android, iOS and desktop is available on GitHub under a free software license. [12] This allows stakeholders to examine the code and help developers make sure everything behaves as expected. It also allows advanced users to copy their own copies of apps and compare them with versions distributed by Signal Messenger. In March 2016, Moxie Marlinspike wrote that in addition to some shared libraries that do not consist of the project build due to the lack of support for Gradle NDK, the signal for Android is being played. Signal servers are also open source. [15] The distribution signal is officially distributed through the Google Play Store, Apple App Store and official website. Apps distributed through Google Play sign the app developer, and android operating system checks that updates are signed with one key, preventing others from distributing updates that developers themselves have not signed. [152] The same applies to iOS apps that are distributed through the Apple App Store. [154] As of March 2017, the Android signal version can also be downloaded as a separate binary APK package from the Signal Messenger website. [155] Admission In October 2014, the Electronic Border Foundation (EFF) included Signal in its updated self-defense surveillance manual. In November 2014, Signal received an ideal score on a secure EFF messaging scorecard; [73] It received points for allowing users to independently verify the identities of their correspondents, having past messages secure if keys are stolen (front secret), having code open for independent review (open source), well documented and have a recent independent security audit. [73] At the time, ChatSecure + Orbot, Pidgin (with OTR), Silent Phone, and telegram's optional secret chats also received seven out of seven scores on the scoreboard. [73] On December 28, 2014, Der Spiegel published slides from an internal NSA presentation, dated June 2012, in which the NSA considered the encrypted signal call component (RedPhone) to be independently the main threat to its mission, and when used in conjunction with other privacy tools such as Cspace, Tor, Tails and TrueCrypt, was deemed catastrophic, resulting in an almost complete loss/lack of understanding of targeted communications, presence ... [157] [158] Former NSA contractor Edward Snowden repeatedly endorses Signal. In his keynote speech at SXSW in March 2014, he praised Signal's predecessors (TextSecure and RedPhone) for their ease of use. [159] During an interview with The New Yorker in October 2014, he recommended using anything from Moxie Marlinspike and Open Whisper Systems. [160] During a remote appearance at an event hosted by Ryerson University and Canadian journalists for free expression in March 2015, Snowden said signal was very good and that he knew the security model. [161] Asked about encrypted messaging apps during a Reddit AMA in May 2015, he recommended Signal. [162] In November 2015, Snowden tweeted that he had used Signal every day. [31] In September 2015, the American Civil Liberties Union urged U.S. Capitol officials to ensure that lawmakers and staff had safe communications technology. [165] One of the applications which the ACLU recommended in its letter to the Senate Sergeant with Arms and Sergeant of the U.S. House of Representatives, was Signal, writing: One of the most widely respected encrypted communications apps, Signal, from Open Whisper Systems, received significant financial support from the U.S. government, was vetted by independent security experts, and is now widely used by computer security professionals, many of the leading national security journalists and public relations. Indeed, members of the ACLU's own legal department regularly use Signal to make encrypted phone calls. In March 2017, Signal was approved by a U.S. Senate weapons sergeant for use by senators and their staff. [167] [168] After the 2016 Democratic National Committee email leak, Vanity Fair reported that Mark Elias, general counsel for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, instructed DNC staffers to exclusively use Signal when he said anything remotely controversial or disparaged about Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. [169] In February 2020, the European Commission recommended that its employees use [171] Simultaneously with the George Floyd protests, Signal has been downloaded 121,000 times between May 25 and June 4, 2020. [172] Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey advised the public to download Signal as protests spread in the United States. In July 2020, Signal became the busiest app in Hong Kong in both Apple's App Store and Google Play Store after Hong Kong's national security law was passed. [174] As of 2020, Signal is one of the methods of communication to reliably provide advice to major news outlets such as The Washington Post,[175] The Guardian,[176] The New York Times,[177] and The Wall Street Journal. [178] Blocking countries where the signal domain front system is enabled by default Countries where the signal is blocked (January 2018) In December 2016, Egypt blocked access to the Signal. In response, Signal developers added a domain to their service. [180] This allows Signal users in a particular country to bypass censorship by making it look like they are connecting to another internet service. [180] As of October 2017, signal domain fronting is enabled by default in Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar. [182] As of January 2018, the signal was blocked in Iran. [183] [184] Signal's front domains feature depends on Google App Engine. [184] It does not work in Iran because Google has blocked Iran's access to GAE in order to comply with American sanctions. [183] In early 2018, Google App Engine made an internal change to stop domain fronting for all countries. Due to this issue, Signal has made public changes to use Amazon CloudFront to front the domain. However, AWS has also announced that they will make changes to their service to prevent domain front. As a result, Signal said they will begin investigating new methods/approaches. [186] The signal switched from AWS back to Google in April 2019. Developers and funding Of Basic Articles: Signal Messenger and Signal Foundation Development Signal and its predecessors in Open Whisper Systems were funded through a combination of consulting contracts, donations and grants. [189] The Press Freedom Foundation sponsored Signal. [35] [190] [191] In 2013 and 2016, the project received grants from the Knight Foundation.[192] the Shuttleworth Foundation.[193] and nearly \$3 million from the U.S. Government-sponsored Open Technology Foundation. [194] Signal is now developed by Signal Messenger LLC, a software company founded by Moxie Marlinspike and Brian Acton in 2018, which is wholly owned by a tax-free nonprofit corporation called signal technology foundation, also established by them in 2018. The fund was funded through an initial \$50 million loan from Acton, to support, accelerate and expand Signal's mission to make private communications accessible and u.S. [35] [21] [195] All products of the organization are published as free open source software. See also Freedom of Speech Free and Open Portal Software Telecommunications Portal Comparison Instant Messaging Software Comparison VoIP Online Privacy List of Video Communication Services and Product Brands Secure Communication References^ a b c d e Greenberg, Andy (July 29, 2014). In 2008, 2007. Archived from the original on 18 January 2015. Retrieved January 18, 2015. Marlinspike, Moxie (July 29, 2014). In 2008, open a

