

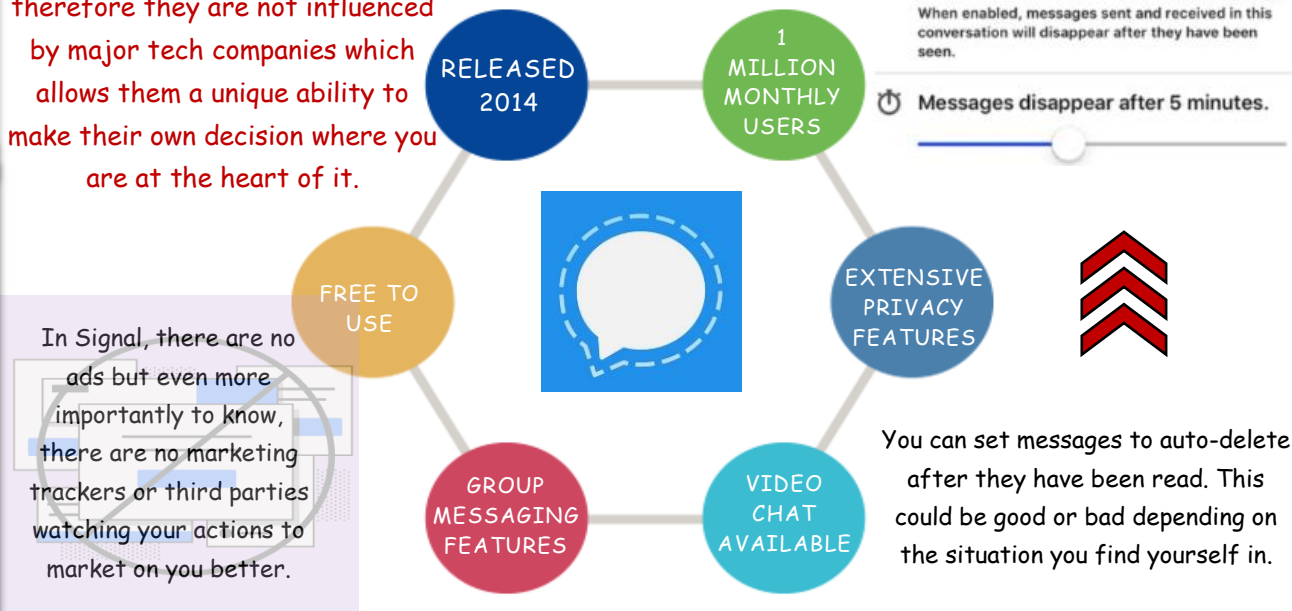


Signal came into circulation in 2014, with similar features to WhatsApp, but with the new terms and conditions that WhatsApp will be introducing in February 2021, Signal has become a go-to app for those not happy with what they are reading from WhatsApp.

You can monitor your child's messages if you use a Computer or Laptop.

- 1) Download the Signal App/software on your computer or laptop.
- 2) Sign up your child on their mobile phone.
- 3) Sign into the App/Software on your computer using their login details.

This app is funded by Grants and is a non-profit organisation, therefore they are not influenced by major tech companies which allows them a unique ability to make their own decision where you are at the heart of it.



Signal



Positive Points

1. It is free to use on all devices and can be accessed on a desktop if you sign up on a phone first.
2. End to End Encryption, like many similar apps is a key feature, it means people who are not you and the recipient cannot read your messages. But of course, nothing is certain in the digital world.
3. The privacy Policy & Security features are the big pull for Signal, the features in terms of messaging are like WhatsApp and other similar platforms.
4. When taking a picture through the app, you can set the picture to blur all (or just a few) faces protecting your identity.



Negative Points

1. Self-deleting messages can pose a real struggle for some parents in certain situations.
2. To use signal, you must have the use of a mobile phone number to activate and use the features. For some families, children do not have a sim and rely on WiFi only. This would be a problem in this situation.
3. Like any messenger services, there is an element of risk around the people they are willingly speaking to, so open channels of communication between you and your child are vital to protect against this.

Parent Opinion: *Father of 15-year-old*



Great app, just like whatsapp but after the press whatsapp got and reading into it I found signal answered all my concerns. Only me using it right now but I will be introducing my son to it soon, I can see that being harder as his friends might all stay on whatsapp.

"You cannot put a price on the value of open and honest communication within the home."

