

Social Media - Instant Messaging (Telegram, Matrix, Threema)

Post by “Blank_Emu43” of July 5, 2023 at 6:49 AM

Looks like my first comment will be something not about Epicureanism. It will instead be something I actually have a decent amount of knowledge about -- cybersecurity!

Briar is good but it is only available on Android, so iPhone users will miss out.

Telegram is terrible for privacy and security and should be avoided. End-to-end encryption (E2EE) is only available on 1:1 chats, not group, and it uses its own encryption algorithm, which hasn't been tested as much as the Signal Protocol which WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Google's Messaging app and others use. Although its channel feature can be very useful, it's only really needed if you were to have thousands of people.

I can't comment on Matrix as I've never used it. And the Online Safety Bill in the UK may jeopardise them if that is passed. Though I'm sure they wouldn't give in as some of their customers are EU governments and even the UK government.

As you stated [Cassius](#), Signal does currently require a phone number. However, they are adding the option to add a username to message people. You will still need to sign up with a phone number, but you will no longer need to give someone your phone number to contact them. When that feature will be released is unknown. I believe the latest information was this year but I guess we'll see. Would you be likely to create an Epicurean group on Signal whenever that feature is live?

From my research, nothing comes close to Signal. Even Threema has a few problems. Alternatively, you do have [Session](#) which is a fork of Signal which also requires no Personally Identifiable Information (PII), but that is still fairly new and it doesn't have Perfect Forward Secrecy, which Threema also lacks (unless that's changed?). The main feature that makes Session unique is that it uses a Tor-like system where messages are sent to several relays before reaching their destination (similar to the Tor browser). Session is also based in Australia.

Either way, Threema is mostly fine. Even the Swiss army use it. It's just that I like to keep my online accounts and apps on my phone to a bare minimum. Less is more.