

Telegram

200,000,000 Monthly Active
Users



Encrypted Messaging and Telephone

200,000,000 Monthly Active Users



Within the last 30 days, Telegram was used by **200,000,000** people. This is an insane number by any standards. If Telegram were a country, it would have been the sixth largest country in the world.

We owe reaching this milestone to you alone – our users. We have never promoted Telegram with ads, so all these **200 million people** are on Telegram because **you** invited them to join.

This is why you – our users – have been and will always be our only priority. Unlike other popular apps, Telegram doesn't have shareholders or advertisers to report to. We don't do deals with marketers, data miners or government agencies. Since the day we launched in August 2013 we haven't disclosed a **single byte** of our users' private data to third parties.

We operate this way because we don't regard Telegram as an organization or an app. For us, Telegram is an **idea**; it is the idea that **everyone on this planet has a right to be free**.

*Above all, we at Telegram believe in **people**. We believe that humans are inherently intelligent and benevolent beings that deserve to be trusted; trusted with freedom to share their thoughts, freedom to communicate privately, freedom to create tools. This philosophy defines everything we do.*

This was the reason why Telegram became the first messaging app to roll out end-to-end encryption to tens of millions of users in **2013**. This was also the reason why Telegram became the first mainstream messaging app to fully **open source its client code**, and why Telegram became the first popular messenger to provide **100% open APIs** for third party app and bot developers.

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Over the years, our unconditional trust in people allowed us to do things other apps were hesitant to implement; things such as support for insanely large group chats, unlimited broadcast channels and a free user-generated sticker platform. In all these cases, our belief in people yielded extraordinary results, and users put these tools to great use.

What inspires us most is that, judging by the rapid growth of Telegram's popularity, this belief might be mutual. While we unconditionally believe in people, it turns out **200,000,000** humans also believe in us.

Thank you for this – we will always have your back.

*March 22, 2018,
Pavel Durov*

Telegram Main Page:

[A simple hyperlink.](#)

A valuable secure alternative to Google and Facebook

[A simple hyperlink](#)

Per-Arne Nøtnes Schjelderup shared a link. Yesterday at 10:23am

EU vedtar om noen få dager (20. juni) å innføre nye reguleringer for å beskytte opphavsretten også på internett. I ytterste konsekvens vil det altså bli tilnærmet umulig å drive blogger som f.eks. Salnaphanen.dk. Å måtte innhente tillatelse for hver eneste link man benytter vil selvsagt kreve masse administrasjon. Også små nettaviser med få ansatte vil bli rammet hardt hvis lovens intensjon gjennomføres til sitt fulle potensiale. Memes, gamere som livestreamer etc. vil også kunne møte sitt endelikt. Navnet på en aksjon som arbeider mot artikkel 13 er enkelt og greit: #SaveYourInternet

Hvis de alternative medier forsvinner, er gammelmediene igjen enerådende, og siden nesten 100 % av disse er enige i at EU er bra, migrasjon er bra og identitetspolitikk viser hvor moderne og tolerante vi er, så blir det vanskelig – for ikke å si umulig å kjempe mot en samfunnsutvikling som stadig flere av oss oppfatter som en trussel for vår økonomi, sikkerhet og livskvalitet. Som sagt: dette er forholdsvis komplisert, og det er ikke gitt at konsekvensene blir så katastrofale som de verste dommedagsprofetene forutser. Men: hvorfor innføres dette fullstendig under radaren, og helt uten demokratisk debatt?

RESETT - New EU ruling a treath to a FREE Internet?

[A simple hyperlink.](#)

The Unexpected Fallout of Iran's Telegram Ban

Seven weeks after Iran's conservative-led judiciary banned the secure communications app Telegram inside the country, Iranians are still reeling from the change. Though Telegram has critics in the security community, it has become wildly popular in Iran over the last few years as a way of communicating, sharing photos and documents, and even doing business. The service is streamlined for mobile devices, and its end-to-end encryption stymies the Iranian government's digital surveillance and censorship regime. If the government can't see what you're talking about and doing, it can't block or ban behavior it doesn't like. Telegram's defenses, combined with robust support for Farsi, have attracted 40 million active Iranian users—nearly half the country's population. On Tuesday, the Center for Human Rights in Iran published a detailed report on the profound impact of blocking Telegram, based on dozens of firsthand accounts from inside the country. Researchers found that the ban has had broad effects, hindering and chilling individual speech, forcing political campaigns to turn to state-sponsored media tools, limiting journalists and activists, curtailing international interactions, and eroding businesses that grew their infrastructure and reach off of Telegram.

The report found that many Iranians continue to use the service through circumvention tools, namely VPNs. Iranians tend to be familiar with and adept at using these options, because they also rely on them to access other blocked online services like Facebook. But the Iranian government's technological capabilities have evolved as well, making it increasingly difficult to maintain usable access to Telegram. "The only channel of communication that was unfiltered was Telegram. For many Iranians the internet is Telegram and Telegram is the internet," says Omid Memarian, deputy director of the Center for Human Rights in Iran. "It was like a huge hole in the country's wall of censorship, so our expectation was that sooner or later they would block that hole." "For many Iranians the internet is Telegram and Telegram is the internet." Omid Memarian, Center for Human Rights in Iran Based in Dubai, Telegram has publicly resisted Iranian government efforts to force it to comply with censorship demands. As Iran has tightened its technological stranglehold on content availability, hardline conservatives within the Iranian government have increasingly blamed Telegram for mounting unrest and resentment toward the regime. Officials blocked Telegram briefly in December 2017 amid widespread street protests over government corruption and unemployment. "Foreign messaging networks should comply with the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and should not publish immoral material," Abolhassan Firouzabadi, the secretary of Iran's Supreme Cyberspace Council said in November. "If they cooperate with us, there won't be any problem. Otherwise, we will move towards introducing restrictions against them." The recent, long term ban was mandated by Iran's judiciary, and wasn't initiated by the government departments that typically oversee technology and censorship policy. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani even criticized the ban publicly in May a few days after it went into effect. It moved forward anyway

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The researchers found that the ban immediately impacted personal communications and businesses—like advertising and marketing groups—run through Telegram with few comparable communication services to take its place. Even the government itself relies on Telegram to function smoothly. “Email is not widely used. But with Telegram, email has become irrelevant,” says Ahmed, a government employee interviewed for the research. “We send files, reports, letters and office communications through Telegram.

When Telegram was blocked in January, it created serious problems for us. Sometimes the ministerial offices could not send letters because of problems with installing circumvention tools.” Because Telegram subsumes so many web functions, Iranians have actively fought to stay on it “What we are seeing is even after the ban, using of Telegram has not dropped off as much as you would think,” says Amir Rashidi, an internet security and digital rights researcher at the Center for Human Rights in Iran. “The government has blocked some circumvention tools, and not everyone has access to them, but Telegram is still operating in Iran.

The ban has not been fully successful yet.” ‘The government paid a large price by losing the trust of people who used to be considered their supporters.’ Omid Memarian Iran's educated middle class and its more affluent citizens have long had at least sporadic access to circumvention tools for defeating the country's censorship regime. So the government's information-control initiatives have generally been more successful with disenfranchised groups. But Memarian points out that this population—typically a reliable base for conservative Iranian leaders—was actually fueling the protests in December.

And he adds that blocking Telegram, a move meant to limit this population's access to organizing tools, seems to be having effects the Iranian government did not intend. “Prior to banning Telegram, the people who could feel the lack of free expression and sense the lack of freedom in general were from the educated middle class, from the civil society—a relatively small group,” Memarian said. “But now for the first time someone had to block something from 40 million people, so people who had no idea what it means to lose your freedom online, they got it. The government paid a large price by losing the trust of people who used to be considered their supporters.” Though the government ban hasn't actually eliminated Telegram from Iran and, if anything, has fueled government opposition, the move to block it and the judiciary's ability to quickly initiate this plan indicates consolidated power and a unified approach within the government. “There is a perception that the government in Iran is a moderate government. Over the past few years the president has made a few remarks that people should have access to the internet and on a few occasions the government has actually prevented the blocking of messaging apps,” Memarian says. “But our research shows that there’s a consensus on blocking Telegram, it seems that it’s one of the major policies within the state. So that perception that it’s a moderate government is wrong.”