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Facebook begins merging Instagram and Messenger chats in new update

By Kim Lyons

Facebook has started flipping the switch on integrating the chat systems for Instagram and Messenger. On Friday evening, several editors at *The Verge* across the country — on both iOS and Android devices — noticed an update screen popped up in Instagram’s mobile app with the message “There’s a New Way to Message on Instagram” with a list of features including a “new colorful look for your chats,” more emoji reactions, swipe-to-reply, and the big one: “chat with friends who use Facebook.”

[...] Facebook has made clear its plans to unify the messaging platforms of its hugely popular apps to allow cross-messaging among Messenger, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Facebook was said to be rebuilding the underlying infrastructure so users who were on only one of its apps could connect to others using different Facebook apps. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has also said he wants the system to be end-to-end encrypted. By integrating its most popular apps, Facebook may be able to compete more directly with Apple’s iMessage.

A Facebook spokesperson confirmed it was testing the experience. “A small set of people were able to update to a new test experience for Instagram messaging,” the spokesperson said in an email to *The Verge*. “We hope they enjoy the experience and we are looking forward to testing it in other countries so we can keep learning from this.”

Facebook acquired Instagram for \$1 billion in 2012, and bought WhatsApp in 2014 for \$19 billion.

Aug 14, 2020, <https://www.theverge.com/>

Document 2



25 <https://www.quora.com>

Document 3

WhatsApp delays new privacy policy as users flee to rival apps

By Kaya Yurieff

30 WhatsApp is delaying updating its privacy policy following mass confusion over what data it shares with its parent company, Facebook.

Last month, WhatsApp began notifying users of its updated terms of service and privacy policy, which people had to agree to in order to keep using the app after February 8.

35 One particular section of the policy stoked concern among users: what user data is collected and shared with Facebook, which has a lackluster track record around privacy and protecting people's data. The confusion surrounding the update has contributed to a mass of users moving to competing apps such as Signal.

Now WhatsApp's update will not roll out until May 15.

January 15, 2021, <https://edition.cnn.com>