

WhatsApp new terms and conditions Parent Guide

What you need to know about its latest update

Age Rating: 16+



What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a **free messaging service** available on desktop and mobile. It has lots of features available, including **direct messaging, video call, voice call and group chats**.

An **update to its terms and conditions** was due to go live in February this year. However, the announcement caused **millions of users to flock to other messaging services over privacy concerns**. The reaction was so great, WhatsApp **delayed the introduction of the update until May**.

The new terms and conditions

There's been **plenty of confusion** over the changes. **Lots of misinformation** – ironically spread on WhatsApp – **claimed the service would be able to share messages and recorded voice calls** with its parent company, Facebook, in order to tailor the adverts and services offered to you.

While the update has **increased integration with Facebook**, this was in fact put in place to **make messaging with businesses easier**, and **provide transparency around the way the two platforms already share data**.

Crucially, **due to privacy laws**, the update **does not affect EU and UK users**. A **different update that lacks the new data-sharing terms will apply**.

What data is stored?

Today, **WhatsApp collects user information within Europe in order to deliver services**. For example, you must provide a phone number in order to create an account.

Messages are **not stored by WhatsApp**. The service uses **end-to-end encryption**, which means that **once your message is delivered, it is deleted from WhatsApp's servers**.

What data is shared?

The information Facebook shares with WhatsApp is specified under their "Information We Collect" section of their European **privacy policy**. It includes **IP addresses, device and connection data and usage and log data**.

In response to the update to WhatsApp's terms and conditions, a Facebook spokesperson said: "For the avoidance of any doubt, it is still the case that **WhatsApp does not share European region WhatsApp user data** with Facebook for the purpose of Facebook using this data to improve its products or advertisements."

What can I do?

Data and privacy rights can be tricky topics to understand.

If your teen has **any questions** about the new WhatsApp terms and conditions, you could sit down and **talk about it step-by-step**. WhatsApp has a **useful page which explains in simpler terms what the new policy means**.

Finally, **let them know that they can come to you** at any time **if they're worried about their data, whether on WhatsApp, or elsewhere**.

More Info

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