BlueOcean Orbit: comparison with other messengers

As of 23 November 2026. Every statement about the other services comes with its source, as the provider writes it. One row goes against us: the price.

	WhatsApp	Telegram	Signal	Threema	BlueOcean
Sign-up with	phone number[1]	phone number[4]	phone number[7]	neither number nor e-mail[9]	e-mail address
Ads in the app	yes, in “Updates” (Status and Channels), not in chats[1]	in some countries, in channels with 1,000+ subscribers[6]	none[8]	none[9]	none
End-to-end without a setting	personal messages and calls[2]	no: chats and groups only between app and server, end-to-end only in “Secret Chats”[4]	yes[8]	yes, groups too[10]	yes, in every chat
Your address book at the provider	regular contact upload possible; hash values of non-users' numbers are stored[1]	number, first and last name of your contacts[5]	may be sent to the server hashed[7]	off by default; hashed only, never written to disk[11]	only if you want, e-mail addresses only, deleted after the check
Who stands behind it	WhatsApp Ireland, part of Meta[1]	development team in Dubai[4]	nonprofit, USA[8]	Threema AG, Switzerland[12]	company in the EU, servers in Germany
What it costs	free[3]	free, Premium subscription on top[4, 6]	free, funded by donations[8]	6.00 one-time[13]	€8.99 a month

Sources: what the providers write themselves

1. WhatsApp, Privacy Policy EEA: “You must provide your mobile phone number”, “you may see other types of ads in Status and Channels”, “You can use contact upload … on a regular basis”, “store cryptographic hash values of the phone numbers of your contacts who are not WhatsApp users”, “WhatsApp Ireland Limited”, “other Meta Companies”; plus the WhatsApp blog: “These new features will appear only on the Updates tab, away from your personal chats”
2. WhatsApp, Privacy: “Personal messages, calls, photos and videos are secured with a lock with end-to-end encryption”
3. WhatsApp: “private messaging and calling for free*”
4. Telegram, FAQ: “Telegram accounts can only be connected to a mobile number”, “Server-client encryption is used in Cloud Chats (private and group chats)”, “Secret Chats use an additional layer of client-client encryption”, “The Telegram development team is based in Dubai”, “free and will stay free”
5. Telegram, Privacy: “We only need the number and name (first and last) for this to work”
6. Telegram, Terms of Service EU, 7.6: “In certain countries Telegram shows sponsored messages in one-to-many channels that have over 1000 subscribers.”
7. Signal, Legal: “You register a phone number when you create a Signal account”, “Information from the contacts on your device may be cryptographically hashed and transmitted to the server”
8. Signal: “There are no ads, no affiliate marketers, and no creepy tracking in Signal”, “Every message, every call, every time”, “Signal is an independent nonprofit”, “for free”; Donate: “501c3”
9. Threema, Privacy: “To use Threema, no phone number or email address is required”, “Threema consistently refrains from advertising and tracking individual users”
10. Threema, FAQ: “also group chats”
11. Threema, address book: “By default, the synchronization is disabled”, “At no point are the hashes or the results of the synchronization written to disk”
12. Threema, Privacy Policy: “registered office in Pfäffikon SZ”
13. Threema, Pricing: “6.00”, “one-time”