

Characteristics	WhatsApp (chat/ funXMPP)	Chatstandard (XMPP) / Matrix (Matrix)	E-Mail (IMAP)	Briar
Basics				
Island system ("walled garden" [^1])	yes	no	no	no
Free use (no "terms and conditions")	no time limit	yes	yes	yes
Open source code of messenger program(s) ("open source") - code can be reviewed	no	yes	yes	yes
Open source code of server program(s) ("open source")	no	yes	yes	no server
Public encryption protocol	no	yes	yes	yes
Free use	yes	yes	yes	Yes
Own messenger required for communication	yes	no	no	yes
General terms and conditions	yes	none	none	none
Minimum age for use	16	without	without	without
Registration and use				
Multiple accounts possible	no	yes	yes	no
Anonymous name possible	no	yes	conditional [^2]	conditional [^3]
Can be used on several devices at the same time (multi-client synchronization)	no	yes	yes	no
Groups/conferences				
Maximum number of participants in groups	256	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Authorizations in groups/conferences	few	various	no	various
- Owner	no	yes	all equal	no
- Administrator	yes	yes	all equal	yes
- Member	yes	yes	all equal	yes
- Participant/Reader	no	yes	no	no
Public rooms/groups	no	yes	no	no
Data protection/privacy				
Independent of phone number	no	and	yes	yes
Central collection and evaluation of metadata	yes	no	no	no
Fully usable without address book synchronization	no	yes	yes	yes
Can be used on Android devices without a Google account	yes	yes	yes	yes
Can be used on Android without Google Cloud Messaging (GCM)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Online/offline status possible	yes	yes	no	no
Online/offline status can be switched off	yes	yes	no status	no status

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Central recording of online/offline status	yes	no	no status	no status
Read and receipt confirmation can be switched off	partly	yes	Yes	Yes
Tip notification can be switched off	?	yes	yes	yes
Security				
End-to-end encryption ("e2e")	Yes	yes	yes	yes
"e2e" encryption in groups	Yes	yes	yes	yes
"e2e" encryption automatically/mandatorily activated	yes	yes [^4]	yes [^4]	yes
Technology				
Infrastructure	centrally	decentralised	decentralized	decentralized
Choice between different messengers (client software) possible	no	yes	yes	yes
Storage location of contacts	central server	by server operator	on end device	on end device
Can be archived (e.g. for companies)	?	yes	yes	no
Own server possible (e.g. for companies)	no	yes	yes	no
Other options				
Financing model	Trade with data / advertising	XMPP: Donations Matrix: Investments	donations	donations
Special function "Telephone/video telephony"	yes	yes	no	no
Special "group call" function (encrypted)	no	no	no	no
Direct communication without Internet (LAN/WLAN/Bluetooth - p2p [^5])	no	no	no	yes
Can be called up in the browser	yes	yes	yes	no

[^1]: Walled garden = Deliberately demarcated systems with which money is earned by offering free/cheap services that is generated in other areas

[^2]: Restriction: Anonymous e-mail accounts (without providing personal data) are rarely possible

[^3]: A direct contact knows the identity - From the perspective of other people

[^4]: e2e = end-to-end encryption is possible

[^5]: p2p = peer to peer = direct connection of the clients