

# On Getting In Touch For You With Privacy Concerns

Andreas Michael

*Self Led You*

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## List Of Changes To This Document

Date	Changes Made
5 September 2021	Initial version
9 October 2021	Minor changes to text and fixing a broken link to the encryption tool.
4 November 2021	Minor changes to text and updating DeltaChat contact details
18 April 2022	Updated list of providers, DeltaChat contact details and minor other changes

# 1 What This Document Is & Is Not

It can be difficult to navigate privacy and anonymity when we use so much technology to get in touch with one another. I wrote this document to give you an overview of what you can expect when it comes to privacy and anonymity when working with me. It also describes practical ways of getting in touch with me if you have special privacy needs.

*Please note that this is not a privacy or confidentiality statement.* It's a practical guide for you who may have particular privacy concerns. For my privacy/confidentiality statement with an overview of the data I (normally) collect through our interactions and what I do with this data, please see my Terms of Service on my website.

## 2 Setting Expectations

### Private From What Or Who?

There is much information out there on online (and in-person) surveillance, data on us stored for an indeterminate amount of time, big data analysis, social credit systems, etc. It's easy to get overwhelmed. If you have serious privacy concerns, it may be helpful to spend some time to answer questions such as:

- Who, precisely, is watching? (Name a person, organisation or group)
- To what purpose?
- What, in the worst case, is this person or group going to do with this information?
- What, specifically, makes *me* a more likely target for surveillance or special effort from this person or group than my neighbours or others I know?
- What, precisely, is the worst-case impact for me, my life and my loved ones?
- How likely is it that any of this will happen?
- How likely is it to happen to one of my neighbours?

By providing specific answers to these questions, you'll have a better view of who you are intending to be private from, why, and what practical action can be taken to ensure privacy. In many parts of the world, the answers to these questions will be gloomy indeed, especially if you are not white or are engaged in activities that are challenging the status quo. Together we can understand whether it's possible for us to design secure ways of effectively communicating to help you with your needs.

### **On Privacy & Being Anonymous**

Privacy: *the quality or state of being apart from company or observation*

Anonymous: *of unknown authorship or origin*

Privacy in a conversation with me would mean that the *content* of our conversations is not overheard. Having a conversation anonymously means that nobody knows *who* is talking to me.

Depending on your answers to the questions above, you can start thinking about a plan to keep certain information private and/or anonymous and whether you need privacy, anonymity, or both. In general, it is easier to have a private conversation than an anonymous one.

## **3 On Getting In Touch**

### **General Principles**

Like most people, I use many devices & applications. I've put considerable effort into making sure that these are privacy-respecting. My general criteria are that software and services I use are federated, open-source and use zero-knowledge encryption on the side of service providers. Any software I need to use that do not fill these criteria, I put in environments that are isolated from the ones I use day-to-day.

With most cloud services (like e-mail, contacts sync, data storage, etc), it's near-impossible for the layman to determine whether something is truly private or not. If you are not an expert, you can rest assured that your privacy & confidentiality is taken seriously. If you

are an expert, I will leave it to you to determine whether my setup is secure enough for your needs. I am open to suggestions of alternate routes of connecting at your recommendation.

### Services & providers I use:

- E-mail: My email is hosted by *Tutanota* in Germany. If you wish to get in touch with me privately via e-mail, you have options:
  1. Register a free Tutanota account and use that to e-mail me. Tutanota will automatically encrypt the message you send.
  2. Use my public key (available [\[HERE\]](#)) to send me an encrypted email from your email client that supports PGP / GPG e-mail encryption standards (please note subject lines and email addresses are not encrypted). You can also use my public key with the following web page to generate your encrypted message in your web browser and then send your message in any way you wish: [\[LINK\]](#).
- Phone SIM-cards: *British Telecom (EE)* (British) and *Vimla!* (Swedish)
- Internet broadband: *Zen Broadband*
- Contacts & calendar sync: *EteSync*
- Domain hosting: *I Want My Name*
- Web hosting: *FastMail*
- Online scheduling: *SquareSpace (Acuity Scheduling)* or via e-mail/messaging
- Online video calls: *8x8 (Jitsi), Zoom, Skype*
- Accounting: *QuickBooks* (anonymous for you as I manually clean personally identifiable data before uploading anything into QuickBooks) (my accountant requests statements from my bank where your name may appear in transaction lists if you pay this way)
- Payments: *Cryptocurrency (XMR), BACS (Starling Bank), Stripe, PayPal*
- Messaging – needing a phone number: *Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp, text message*

- Messaging – not needing a phone number: *DeltaChat (andreas AT chat.1107.se), Briar (possible after we establish communication in some other way)*

### **Devices I Use & Where:**

- Mobile phone: I use a *OnePlus 5* device running a privacy-respecting operative system called */e/OS* developed by *e.foundation*. I keep a "work profile" where popular apps are kept separated from other data, such as contact lists and text messages, as these apps routinely upload this type of data.
- Laptop: I use a *Lenovo Thinkpad T490s* running Linux (Ubuntu) with firmware-level phone-home features disabled (Absolute's CompuTrace).
- Primary location: London, England. (If my physical location matters to you and needs to remain fixed for our conversations, please let me know.)

## **4 Anonymous & Private Contact via I2P**

If you have serious concerns about privacy or anonymity, I offer an additional way of establishing first contact via the Invisible Internet Project (I2P) Network. I2P is designed to offer both privacy and anonymity.

In order to use this channel, you need to install I2P on your device and can find instructions for how to do that here: [\[LINK\]](#).

Once you have set up I2P with your email client, you may send me email to "andreas@mail.i2p". The email will only arrive if you are connected to the I2P network and any mail you send from any non-I2P email to this address will get rejected without me seeing it. Please expect a delay in my responses as I don't check my I2P e-mail inbox every day.