



**The balance between data  
privacy and public good**

# Government denies U-turn on encrypted messaging row

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Cyber correspondent Joe Tidy explains how end-to-end encryption works

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Technology team

The government has denied it is changing plans to force messaging apps to access users' private messages if requested by the regulator Ofcom.

# Should your private messages be private?

Data privacy is not about hiding information, it's about controlling how your information is used.

*Unless you are a terrorist or criminal*

London terror attacker used WhatsApp, the encrypted messaging app, before rampage

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# Data surveillance can be a powerful tool for public safety.

*Unless the data is mis-used or the surveillance organisation suffers a data breach.*

## Personal data of a billion Indians sold online for £6, report claims

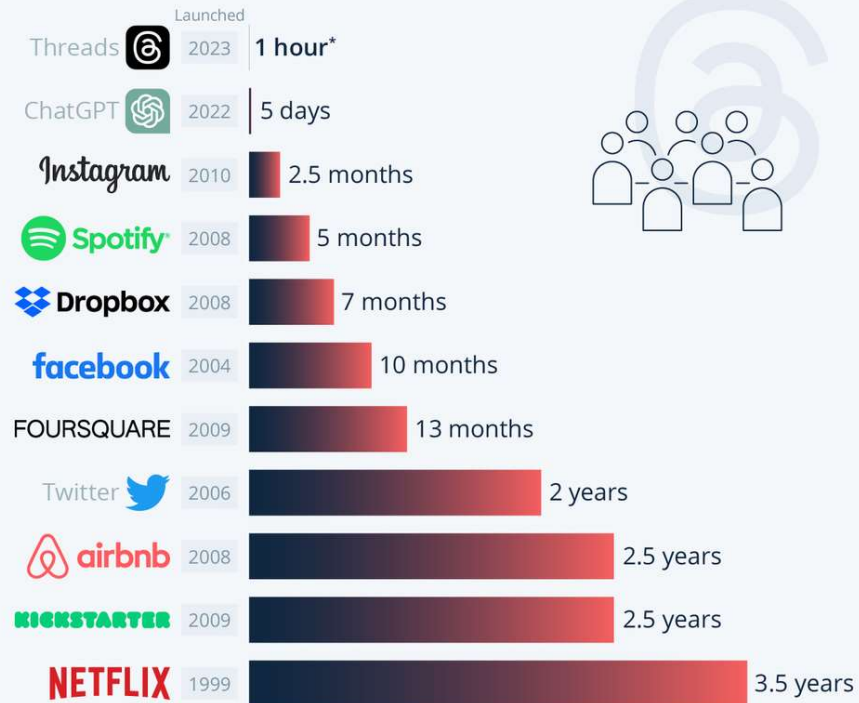
News paper says it bought access to details from world's largest biometric database, used to administer public services



Women in Kolkata protest against the government's decision to link free lunch meals for children at state-run schools with Aadhaar cards. Photograph: -/AFP/Getty

# Threads Shoots Past One Million User Mark at Lightning Speed

Time it took for selected online services to reach one million users



Refers to one million backers (Kickstarter), nights booked (Airbnb), downloads (Instagram/Foursquare)

\* Two million signups in two hours

Source: Company announcements via Business Insider/LinkedIn





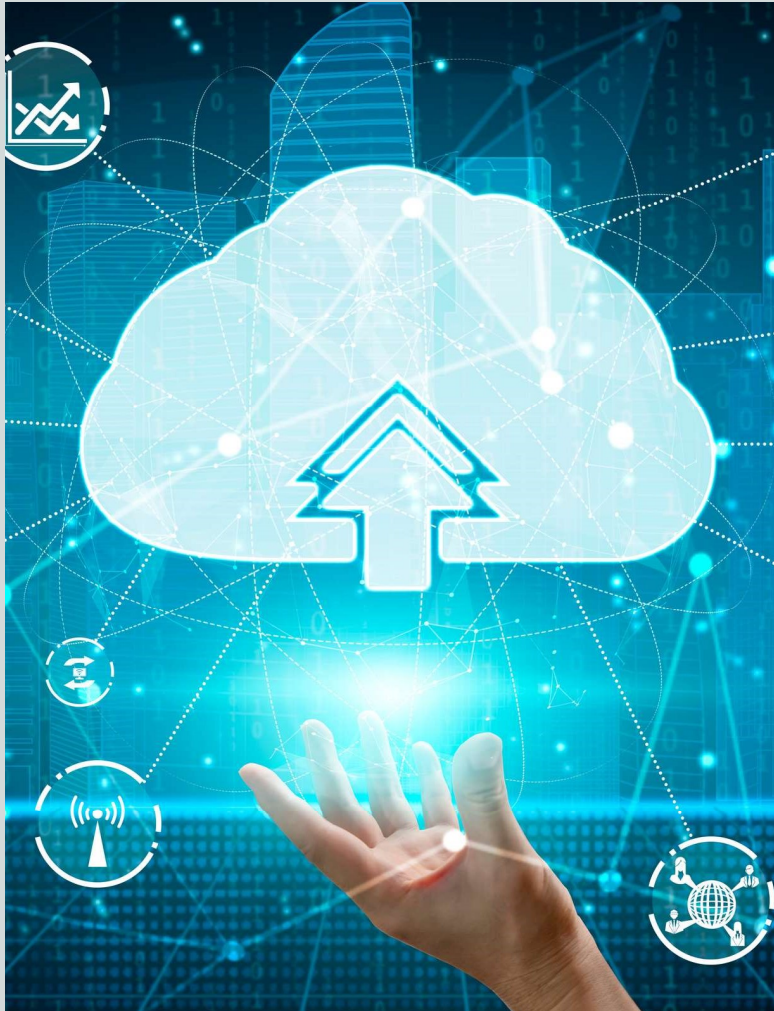
# Pros of data privacy

Protects personal information from being misused.

Encourages individual liberty and autonomy.

Helps prevent identity theft and fraud.

Supports individuals with raising concerns and whistleblowing.



# Cons of data privacy

Encryption of data may facilitate criminal activity.

Limited access to information can hinder investigations and prevent the prevention of crimes.

Withholding data can make it difficult for law enforcement to identify and track suspects.



# Pros of data surveillance

Data surveillance can help prevent crime and terrorism.

It can provide valuable evidence to solve crimes and prosecute criminals.

It can assist in tracking down missing persons.





# Cons of data surveillance

Can lead to abuse of power by those in charge.

Can be used to discriminate against certain groups.

Can lead to persecution of whistle-blowers

May lead to a false sense of security.



**We need to finding a  
balance between data  
privacy and data  
surveillance**