

How journalists can address misinformation on Telegram | Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

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Telegram is no stranger to criticism. Created by Russian tech entrepreneur Pavel Durov to counter the censorship and propaganda of authoritarian regimes, it has faced [bans](#), [legal action](#), and political [scandal](#).

Telegram's popularity has grown rapidly in the past two years in correlation with more concerted efforts to remove misinformation on other social media platforms and with a change in WhatsApp's privacy rules. As of July 2021, Telegram had 550 million active users worldwide – more than the individual user bases of Twitter, Snapchat or Discord. It is the [fifth most-popular messaging app](#) after Facebook-owned WhatsApp and Messenger, and WeChat and QQ, which dominate the Chinese market.

[...]

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