THE WILD WEST OF ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION

POINT-TO-POINT

Snail Mail ©
Distributes physical messages without proof of identity. High latency limits scalability.

Tor
Crowds
Tarzan
OneSwarm
Routes messages through proxy servers before delivering them to the recipient. Timing-based attacks can compromise anonymity.


BROADCAST

© Secret
© Rooms
Passes messages to social contacts without authorship information. Centralized infrastructure compromises anonymity.

© Yik Yak
© Whisper
© FireChat
Passes messages to geographically close neighbors. Triangulation leads to deanonymization.

© DC Nets
Gives information-theoretic anonymity guarantees, but is susceptible to “badactors.” Not widely deployed.

[ Chaum 1988 ]

© Centralized
Social graph
Sender
Receiver

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