



Researching with Phone Numbers Using an Android Virtual Machine



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Criminals often register phone numbers under fake names or use foreign numbers, making it challenging to identify the owner. By using these techniques, we can gather useful information to help identify the user.



Setting up the Android VM

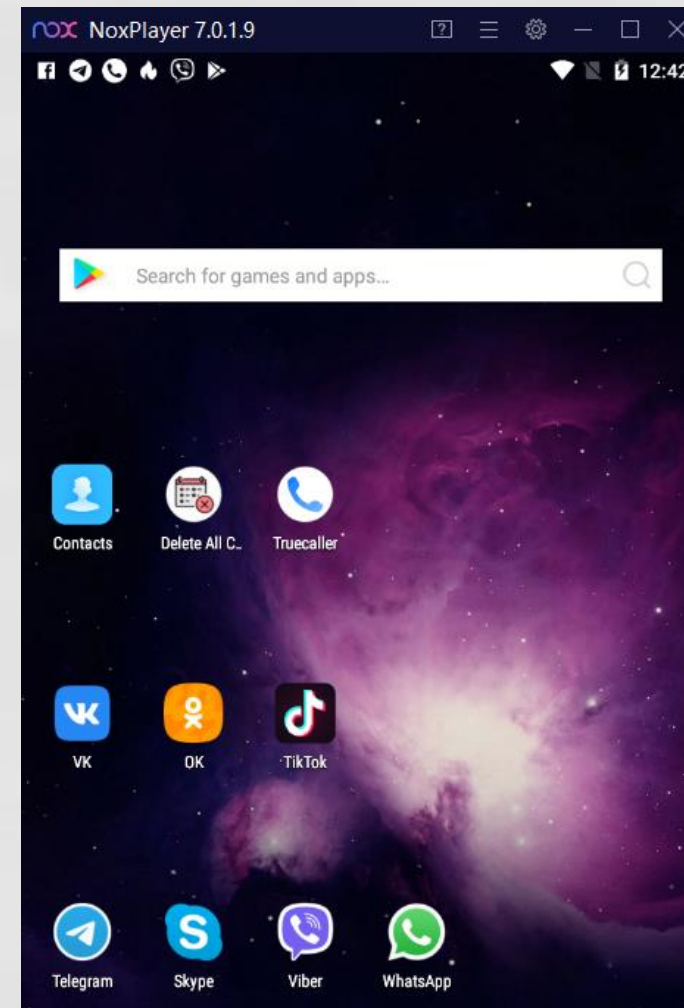
Avoid using personal accounts to prevent exposing your identity to targets.

Install an Android Virtual Machine (VM) on your PC.

Recommended options:

NoxPlayer: <https://www.bignox.com>

Memu: <https://www.memuplay.com>



App Installation

Install the following apps as if on a real smartphone:



Delete All Contacts – Clears all contacts with one click.



Truecaller (caller ID app based in Sweden)



Vkontakte (VK) (social network based in Russia)



Odnoklassniki (OK) (social network based in Ukraine)



TikTok (social network based in China)



Telegram (messaging system based in Russia)



Skype (messaging system based in the USA, Microsoft)



Viber (messaging system based in Japan, Rakuten)



WhatsApp (messaging system based in the USA, FB/Meta)



Activating Messaging and Social Apps

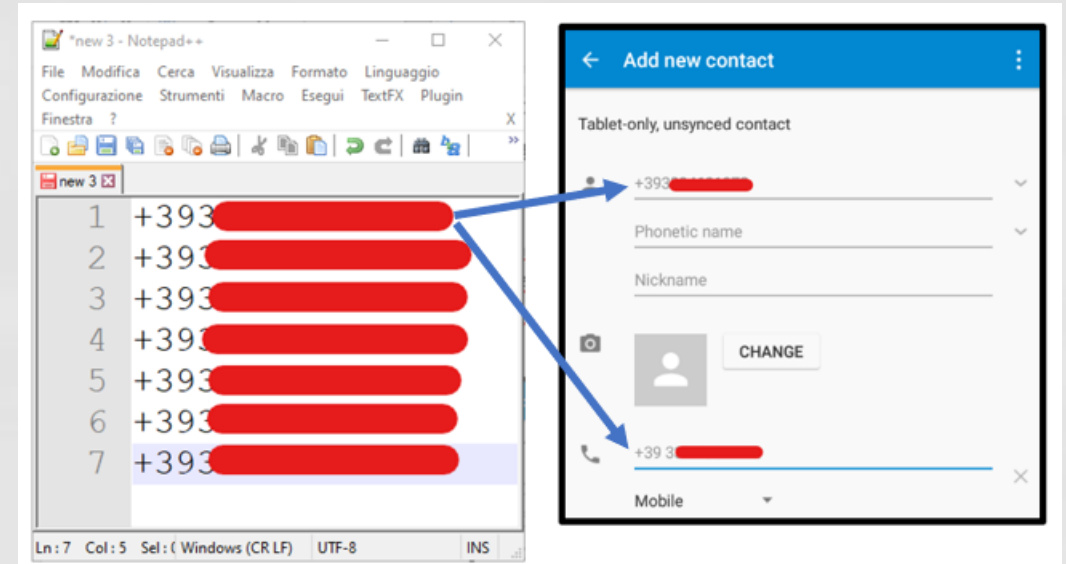
To activate messaging and social media apps, you'll need to receive a text message. You have two options:

1. Purchase a dedicated SIM card (I found Lycamobile in the Netherlands, which, without activation or credit, can still receive SMS and phone calls).
2. Buy an SMS activation online for an app for a few cents (e.g., <https://smspva.com>).



Adding contacts

In the Android VM, you can paste phone numbers directly. Copy them into a simple text file, with one number per line. Add the international prefix to each number, and remove spaces or unwanted characters (e.g., +391234567890). Copy the first phone number from your list and add it to your VM's contacts, pasting it into both the name and mobile number fields.



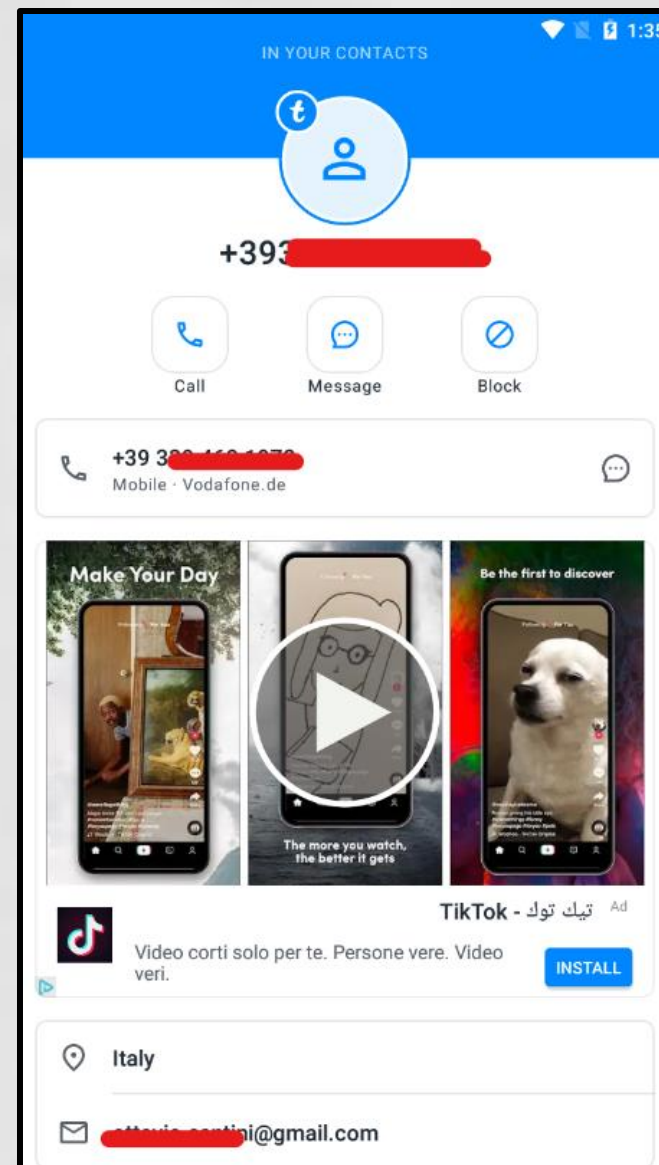
Truecaller

Note: Registration is now only possible on physical devices, not virtual ones.

Open the Truecaller app and paste the number into the search field.

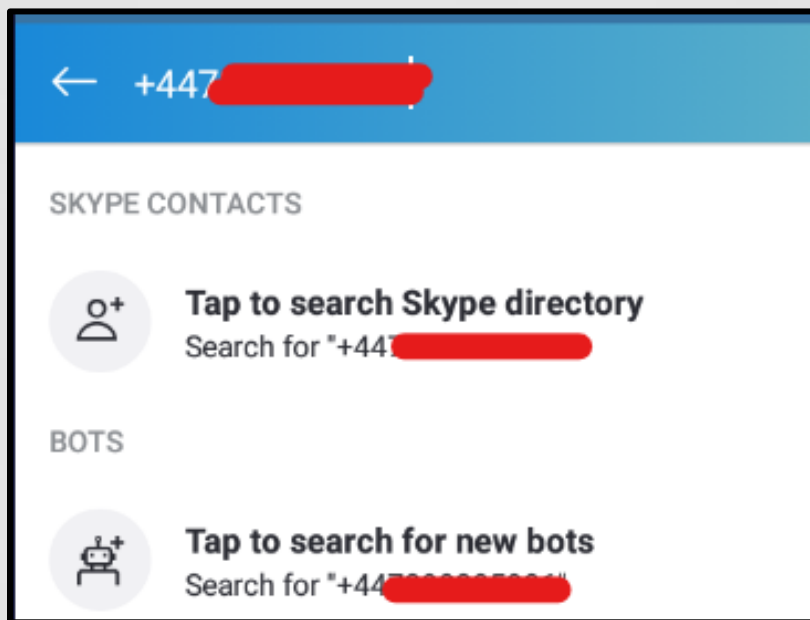
If there are any results, they will be displayed below.

Truecaller may provide first name, last name, location, and other useful information like email addresses, usernames, etc.

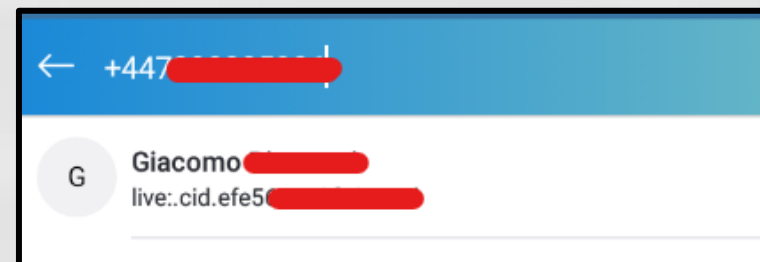


Skype

Open the Skype app and paste the number into the search field. Click on "Search" in the Skype directory.



Skype may provide some information about the user, such as their name, surname, and live ID (Microsoft).



In other cases, it might show the name, surname, Skype username, and location.



Telegram

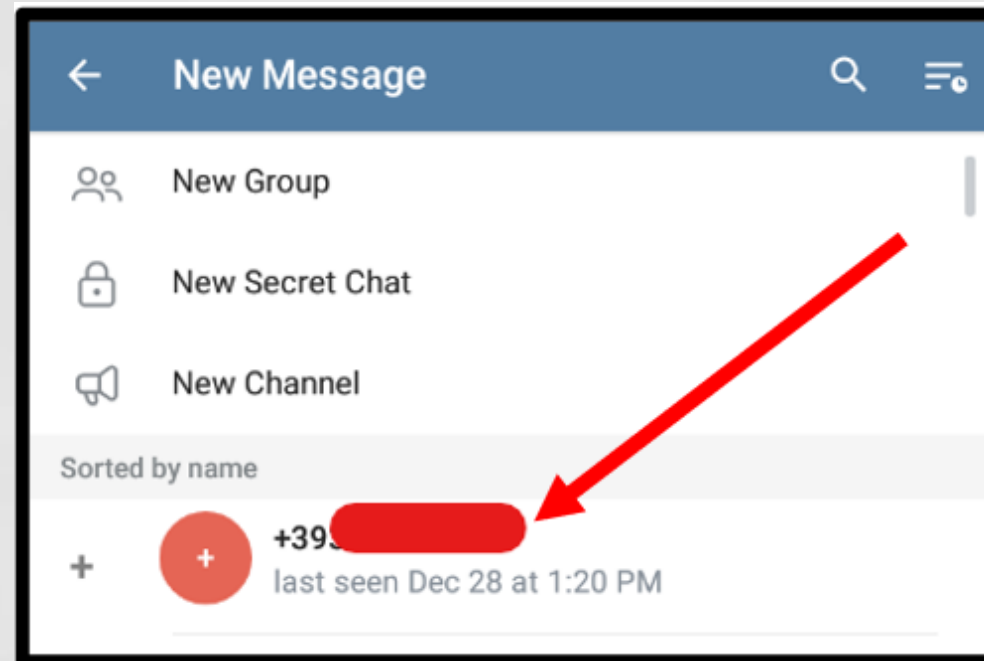
Open Telegram and click on “new message.”



Telegram

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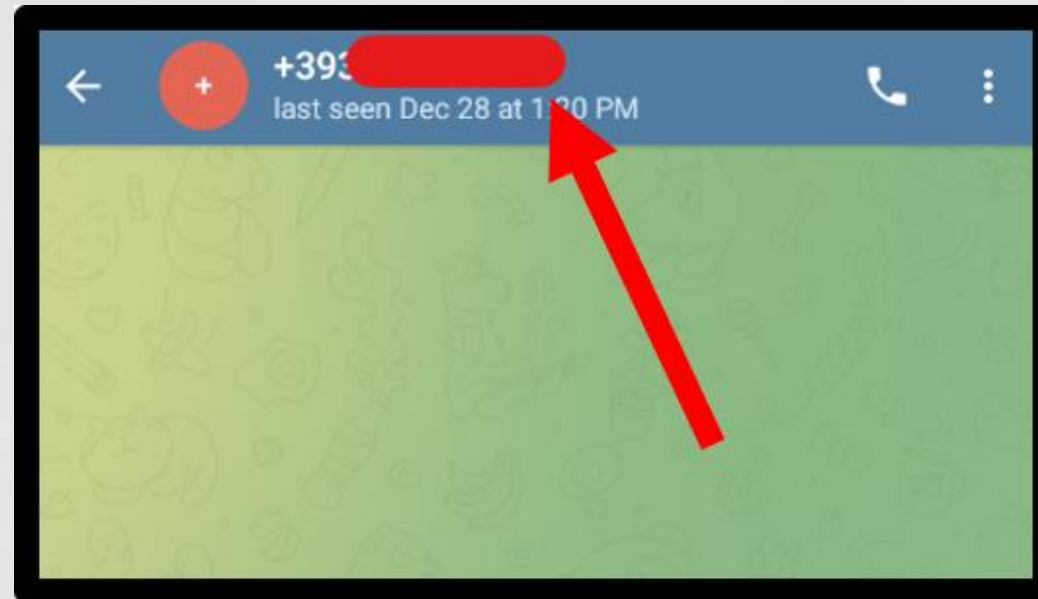
If the number in your contacts is linked to a Telegram account, it will appear on Telegram; click on it.



Telegram

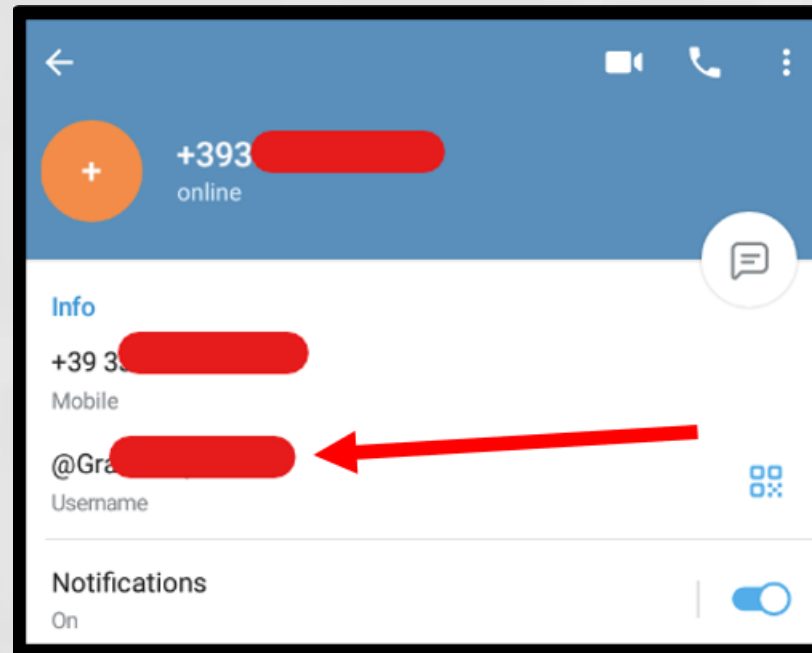
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You'll see a chat with this number (do not send any messages!), then click on the phone number again.



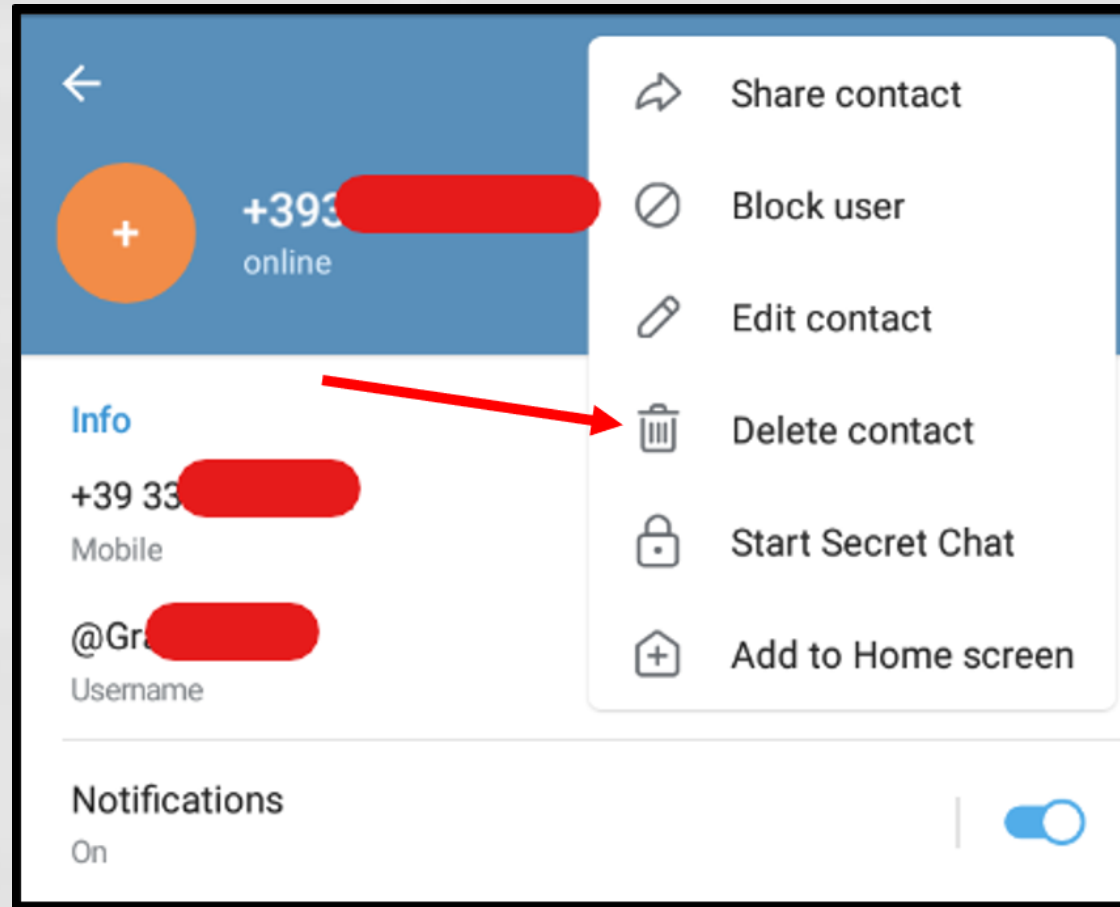
Telegram

In this window, you can view (if set) the username (e.g., @xxxxxxx) and the profile picture. If a profile picture is set, try swiping left to see all images, as there might be multiple.



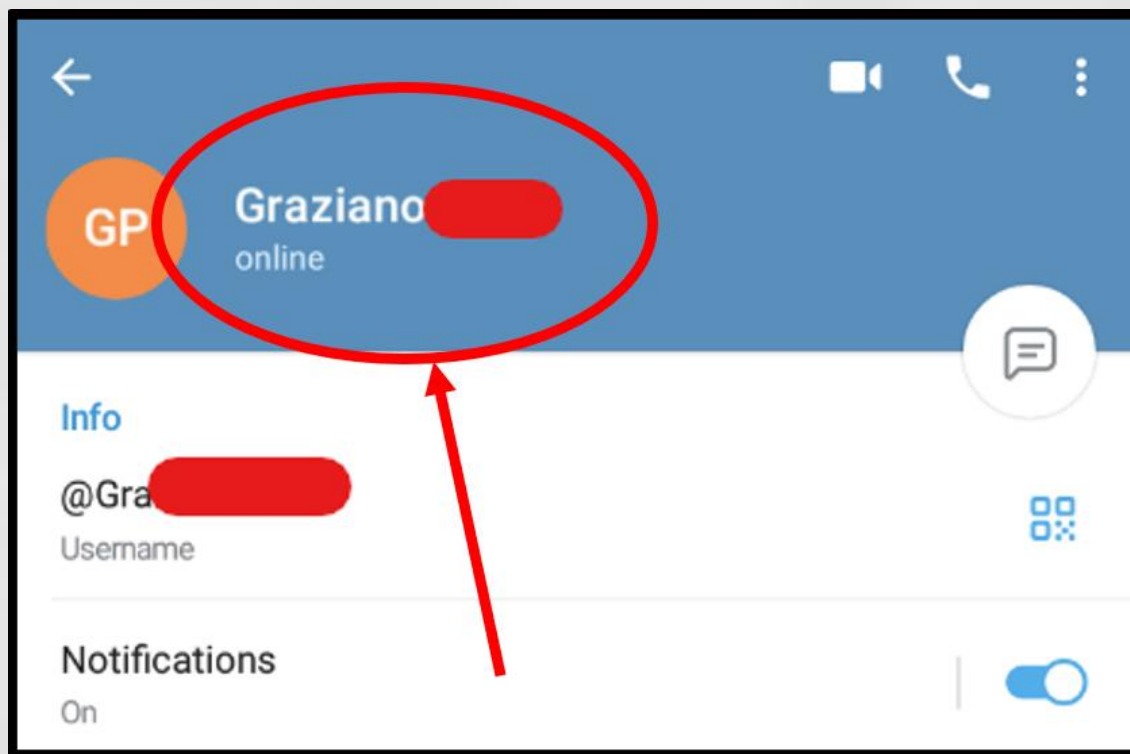
Telegram

Now the trick... Click the three dots in the top right corner and select "Delete Contact."



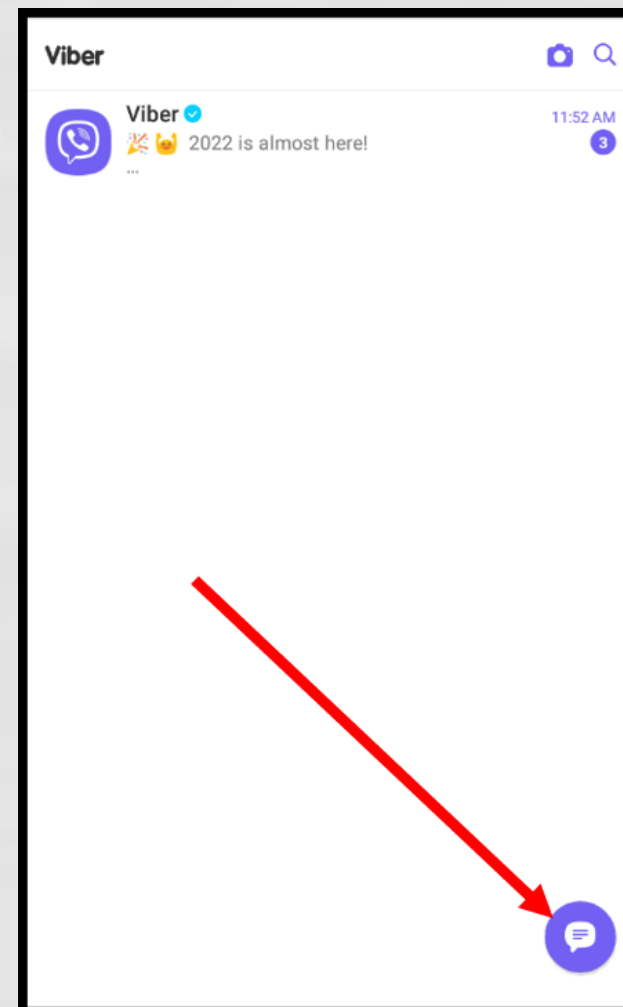
Telegram

The owner's name will appear instead of the phone number! This is the name he set for his account.



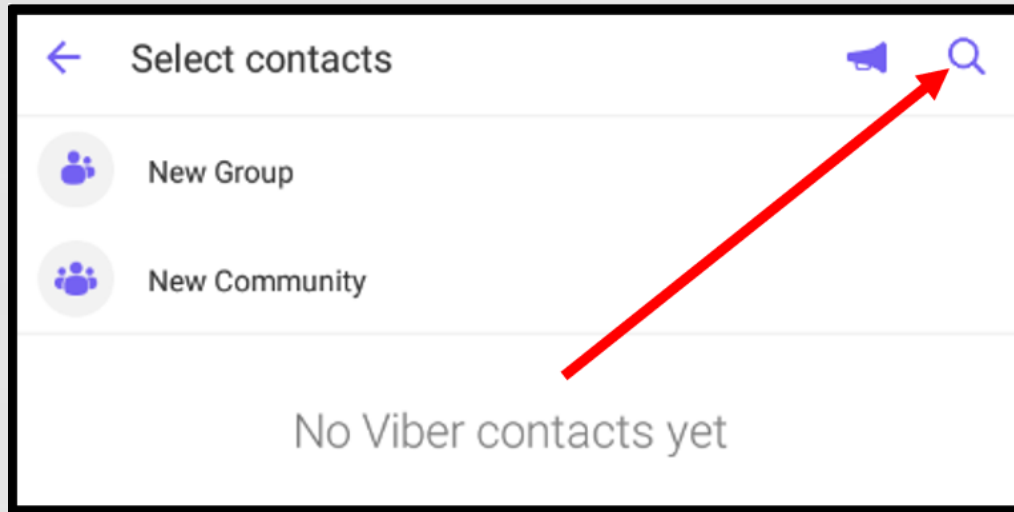
Viber

Open the Viber app and click on the "new message" icon at the bottom right.

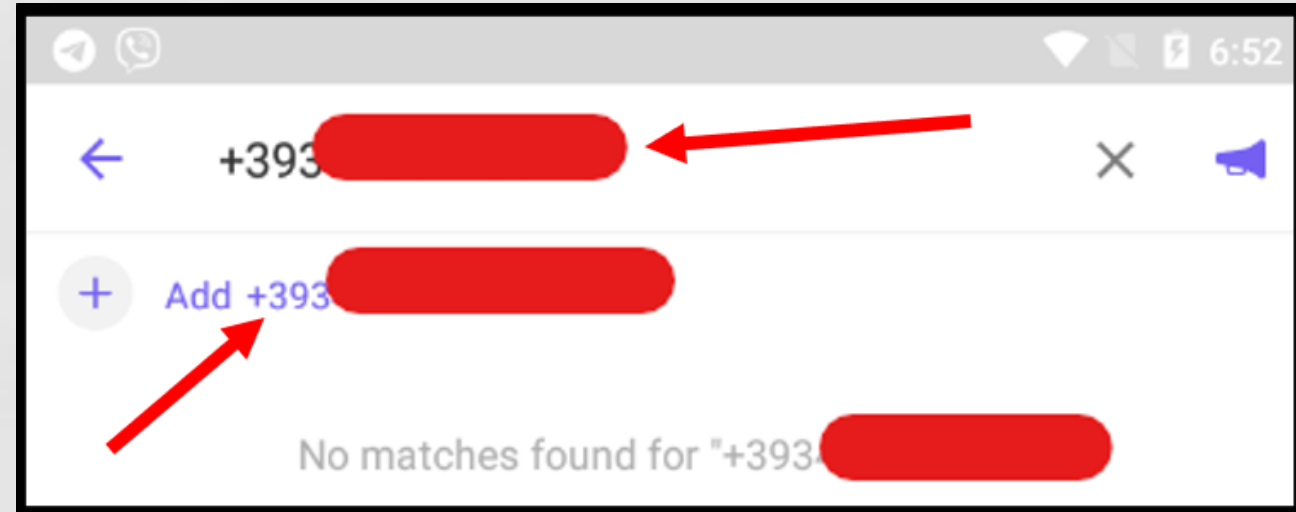


Viber

Then click on the magnifying glass at the top right.



Enter the phone number in the search field, then click "Add + [phone number]."



Viber

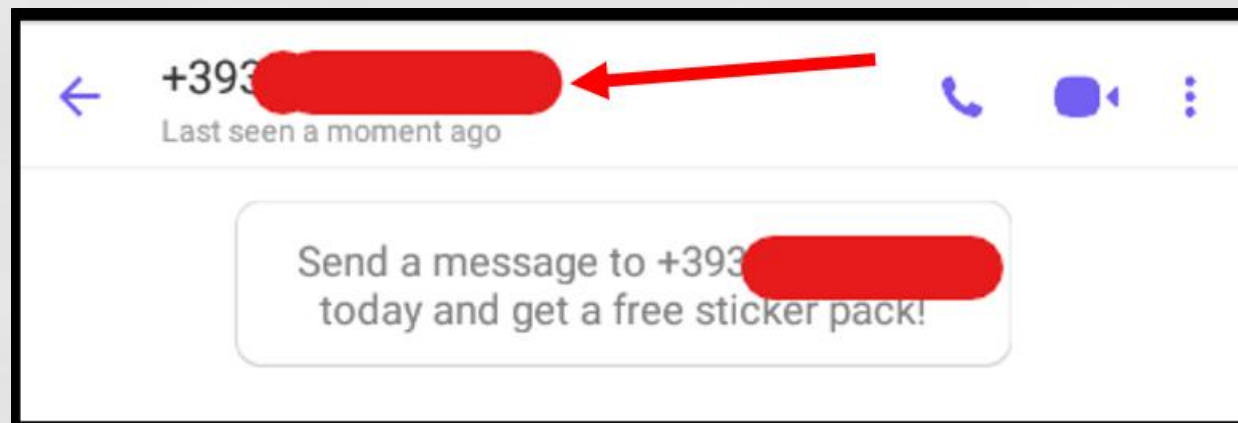
If you see a message indicating the recipient doesn't have an active Viber account with that number, no account is associated.

Not a Viber Number

The number that you are trying to add is not a Viber number.

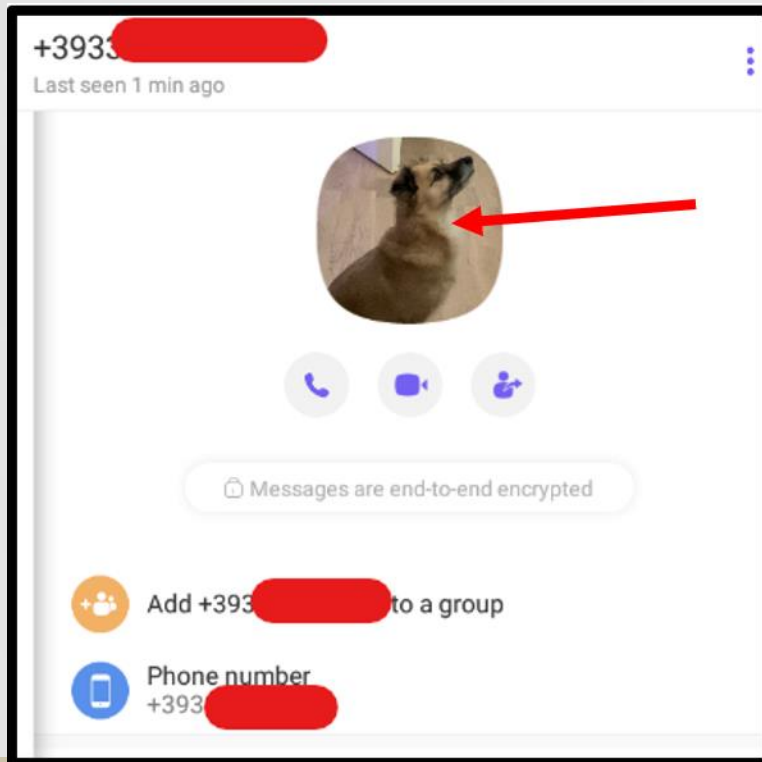
OK

Otherwise, you can view the user's last seen status. Click on the number

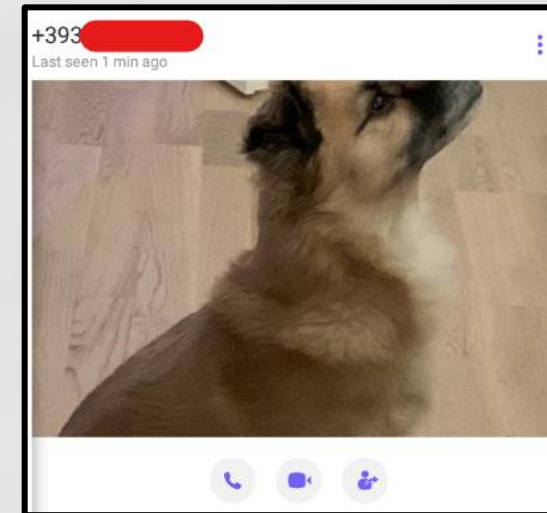


Viber

...to see a thumbnail of the user's profile picture (if set)



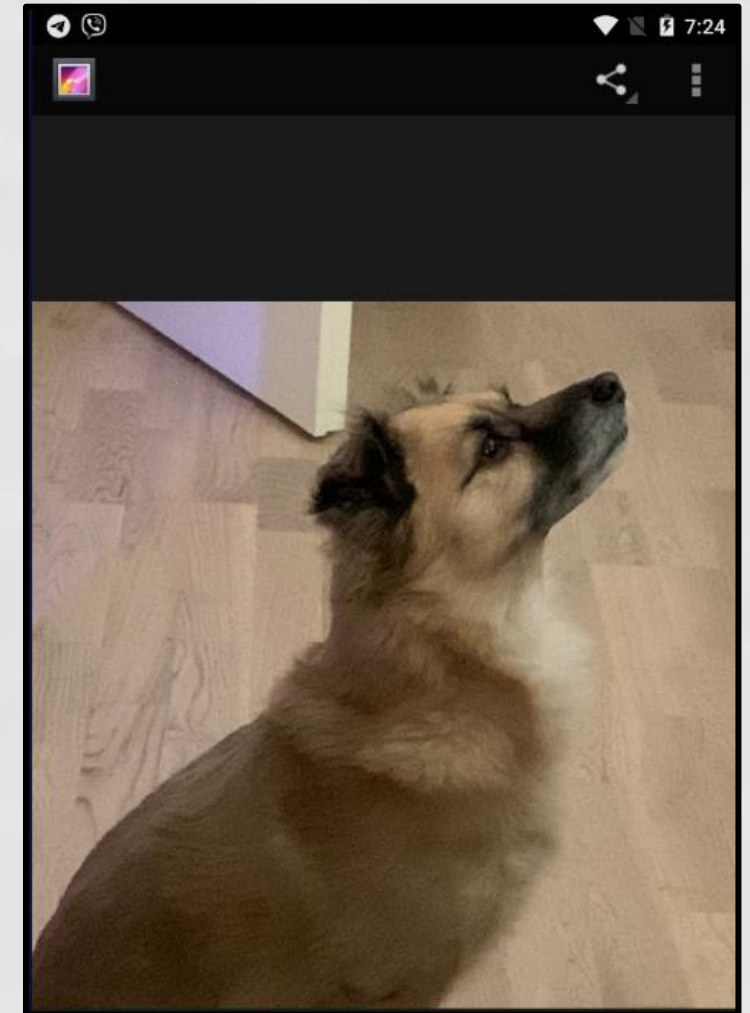
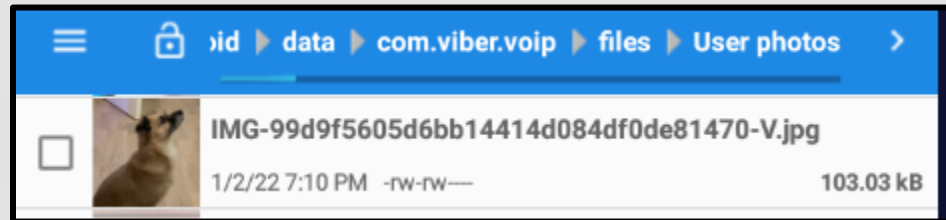
If you click on the thumbnail, the image enlarges. However, in many cases, the user's profile picture might be cropped, hiding certain details.



Viber

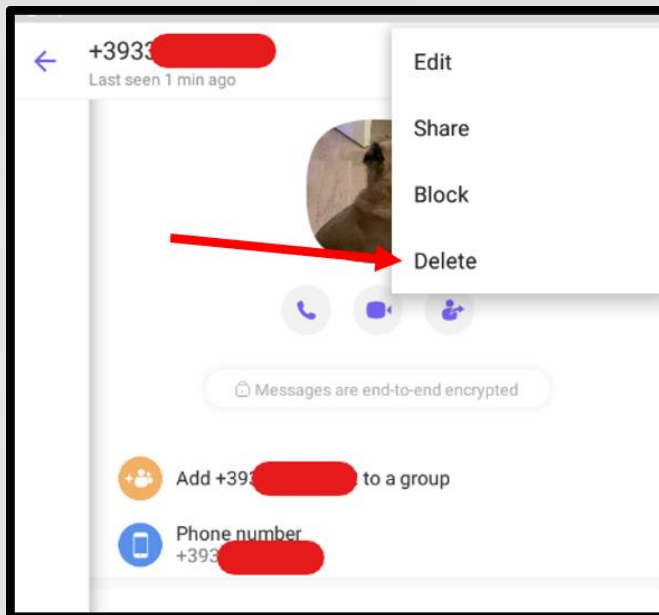
To see the complete image, use a file manager on the Android VM and go to the folder:

/storage/emulated/0/Android/data/com.viber.voip/files/User photos/
Locate and open the full image.

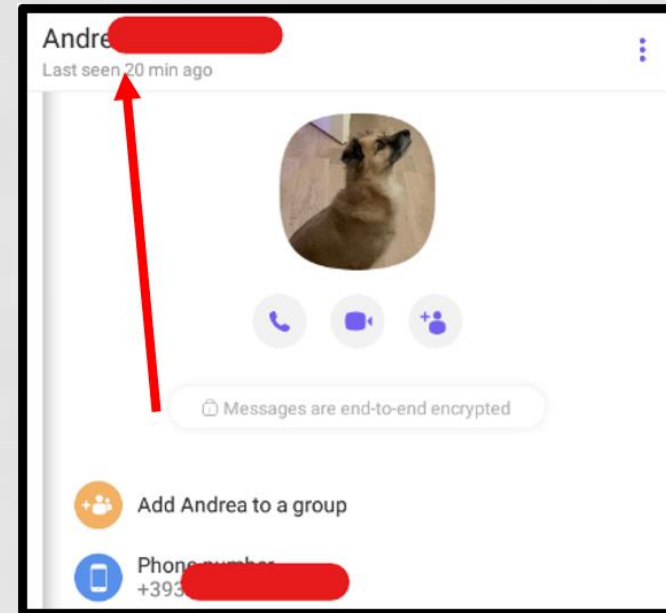


Viber

Now the trick, Click on the three dots in the top right corner and select "Delete."



The owner's name will appear instead of the phone number! This is the name he set for his account.



Whatsapp

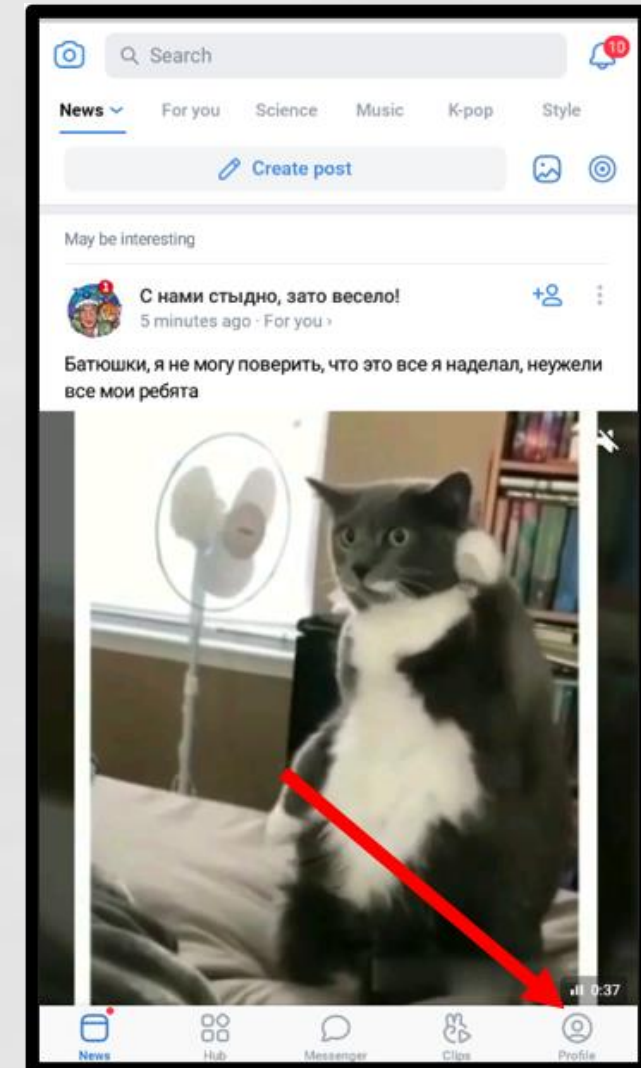
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Open the WhatsApp app. Here, you can only find the user's profile picture and some bio information (if provided).



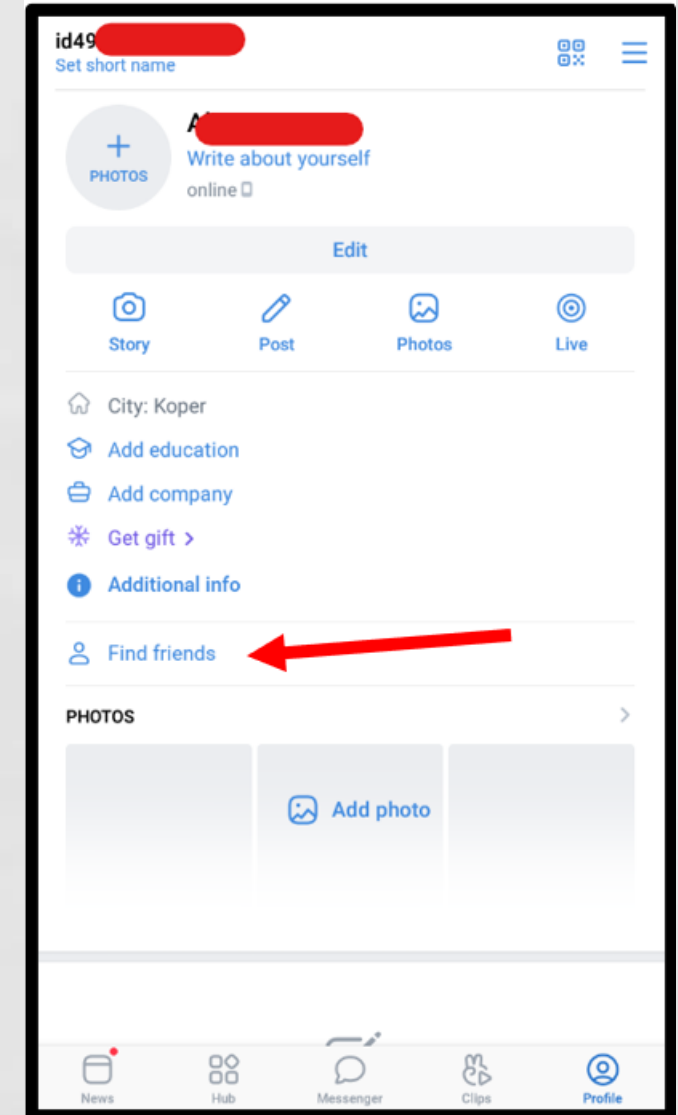
Vkontakte

Open the VK app... sometimes, you can find a profile linked to a number in your contacts. Click the "Profile" button at the bottom right.



Vkontakte

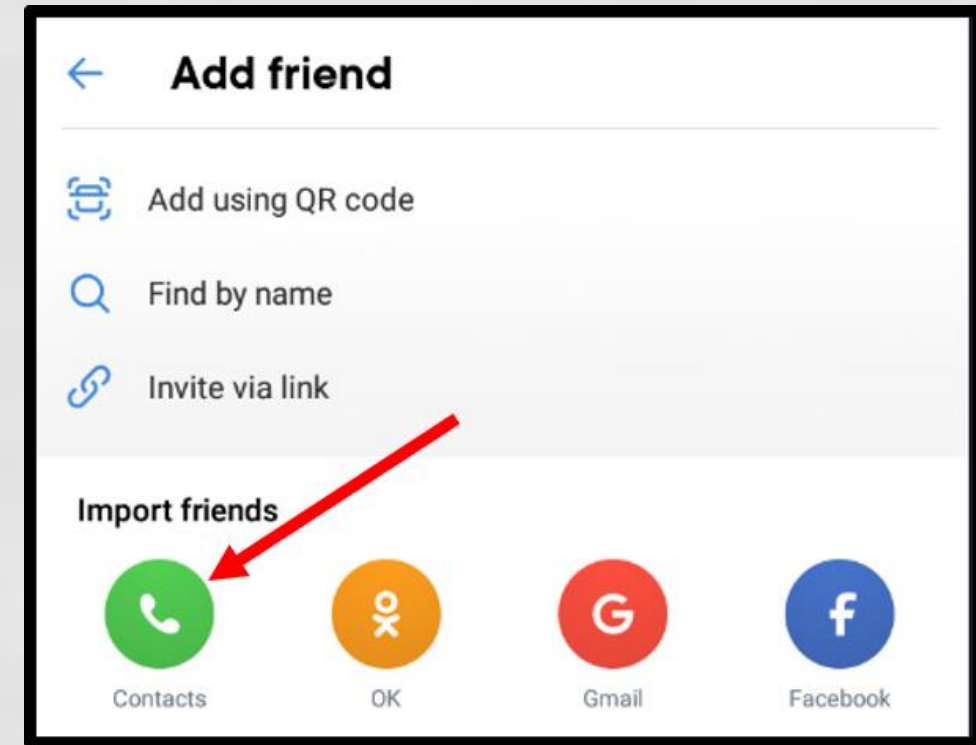
Then, click on “Find friends.”



Vkontakte

Next, click on Import Friends > Contacts.

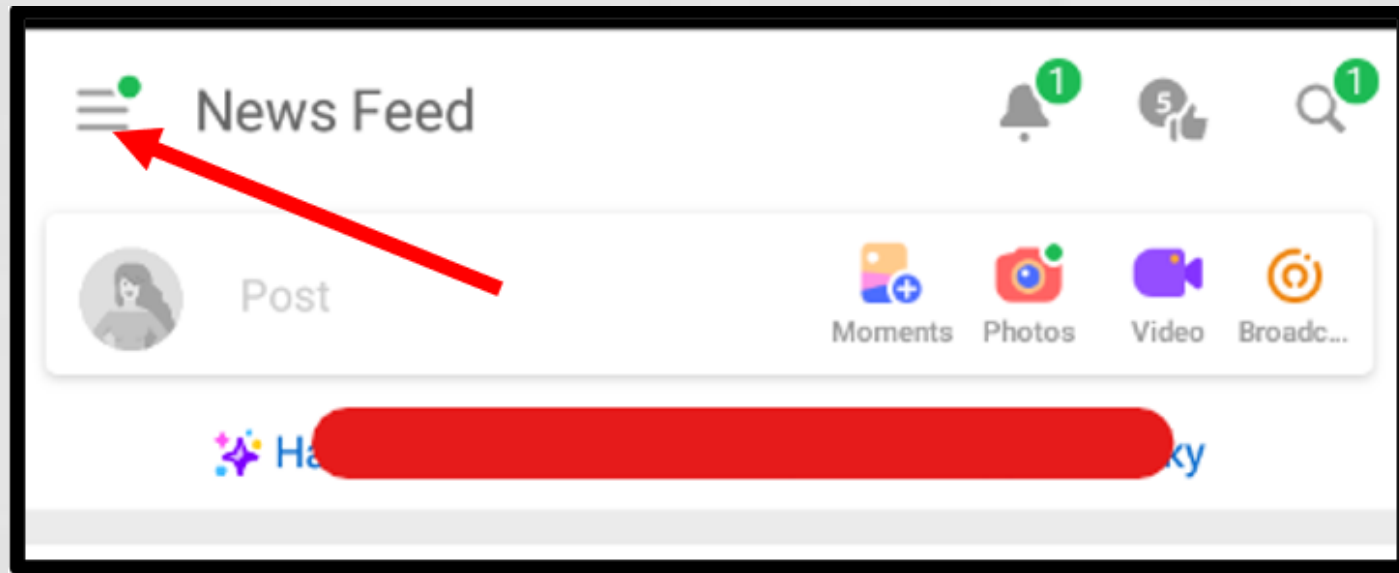
If the target's phone number you added in your contacts has a VK profile, it will be displayed on the next screen.



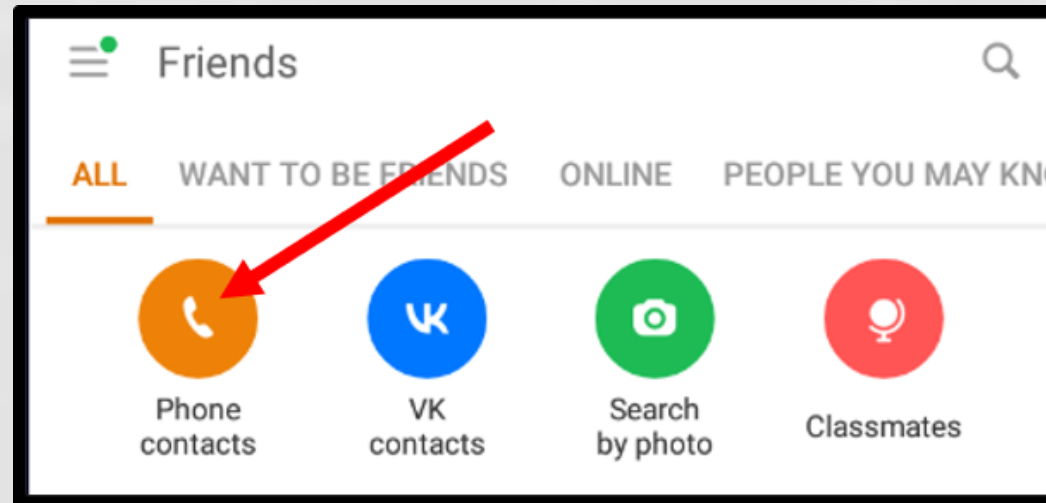
Odnoklassniki

Open the OK (Odnoklassniki) app... it works similarly to VK.
Click on the menu in the top left corner.

Warning: The target may be alerted that you are viewing his profile.



Then click on “Phone Contacts.”



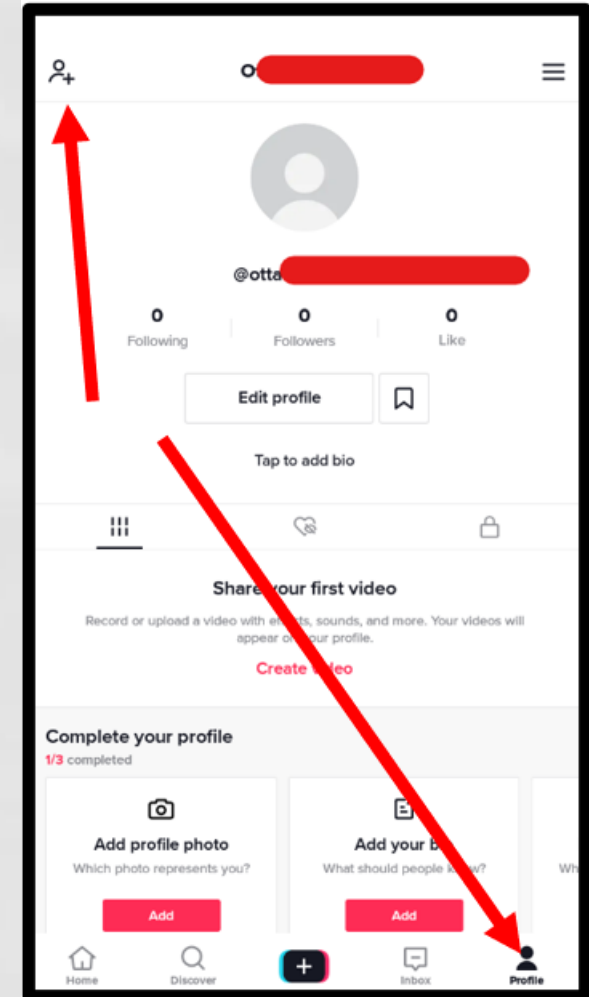
If the target's phone number that you added to your contacts has an OK profile, it will appear on the next screen.



TikTok

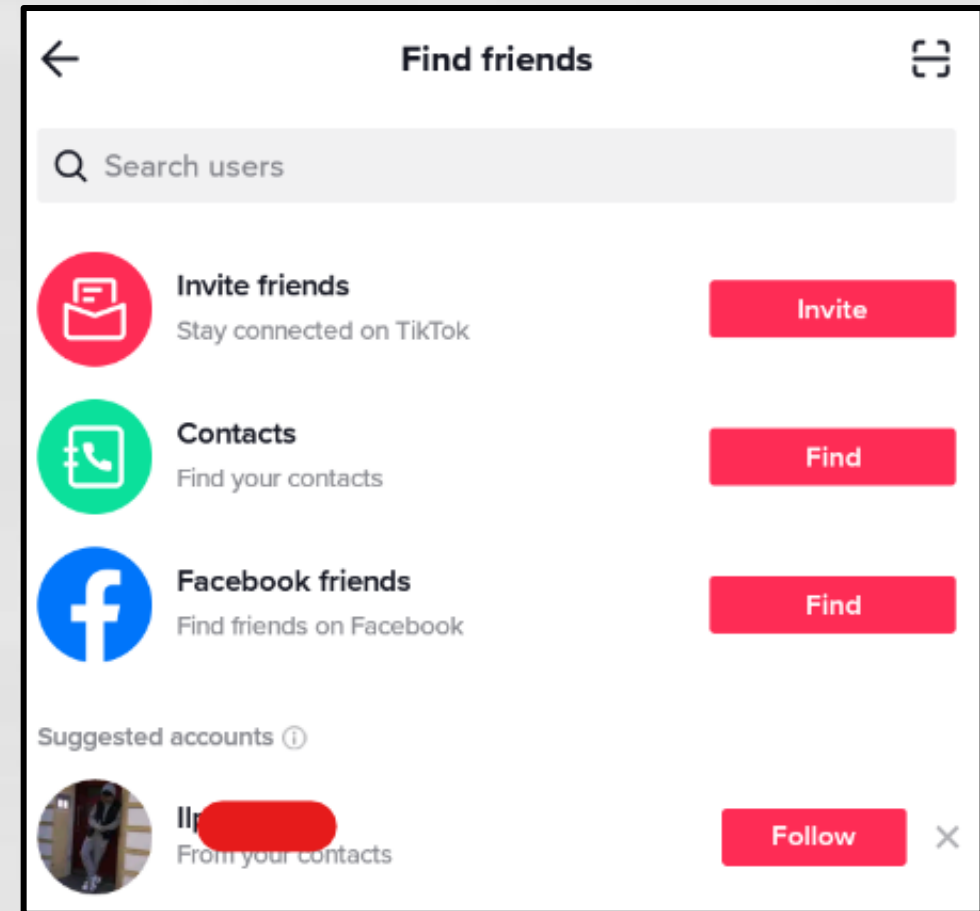
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Open the TikTok app, click on "Profile" at the bottom right, then click on "Add profile" at the top left.



TikTok

If the target's phone number that you added to your contacts has a TikTok profile, it will appear below in the "Suggested accounts" section.



Facebook & Instagram apps



On both Facebook and Instagram, after adding a phone number to your contacts, if it exists on their platform, it will appear in your friend suggestions list. However, this result is not immediate, so it's challenging to directly associate the newly added contact with a suggested friend profile.



Remember!

Enter a number, perform the checks, then delete it using "delete all contacts." Do not add all numbers at once; otherwise, on VK, OK, and TikTok, you won't be able to associate the number with the displayed account, as the account doesn't reference the associated number.

