

Beluga gives way to Facebook Messenger

October 29 2011



A woman sends text messages in Washington, DC, 2008. Facebook is ushering out freshly acquired Beluga text messaging service to clear the way for a replacement tailored for the social network.

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People will not be able to use Beluga to send messages as of November 11 and the service will shut down completely in mid December, Beluga announced in a blog post on Friday.

The team at Beluga, which Facebook bought in March, built a Messenger application that the social network recently launched worldwide in 22 languages.

The application lets Facebook users exchange group text messages with Apple, [Android](#), or BlackBerry smartphones.

"Now that Facebook Messenger is available everywhere, we've decided to stop offering Beluga as a separate service," said the message from startup founders and former [Google](#) employees Ben Davenport, Lucy Zhang and Jonathan Perlow.

"You can keep using Beluga for now, but we'll be phasing it out over the next few weeks," they said.

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Citation: Beluga gives way to Facebook Messenger (2011, October 29) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-10-beluga-facebook-messenger.html>

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