

External memory

you can send money on WhatsApp.

One afternoon, I reached Amber Sinha, a digital-rights lawyer and advocate, at his apartment outside Delhi. In 2011, when Sinha was in college, he was found unconscious in his dormitory. When he woke up in the hospital, he couldn't remember anything from the previous year. Sinha never learned the reason for his brain injury, but he was able to reconstitute many of his memories by reading his voluminous instant-message archives. (He wasn't on WhatsApp yet.) Wading through his messages, he learned about WikiLeaks and that he had been through a messy breakup.

"It was illuminating," he says. "I

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going to get through."

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