



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Mar 11, 2024 · 24 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1767182979510481161](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll talk about TikTok (@tiktok_us), why some of the US legislators want to ban it, what are the app's connections to the Chinese Communist Party, and how the app has changed the social media landscape, especially among young people.

1/23



TikTok's potential reach and potential political impact is actually huge, which is why US politicians are currently having such a heated debate over it right now. First of all, TikTok has over 1 billion monthly active users & it's been downloaded more than 4.1 billion times.

2/23

TikTok Statistics (Editor's Picks)

- **TikTok active users:** TikTok has over 1 billion monthly active users.
- **Market penetration:** There are 5.3 billion internet users, 23.02% use Bytedance's video sharing service.
- **Number of downloads:** TikTok has been downloaded more than 4.1 billion times.
- **Overtaking competition:** Considering it was only released in 2016, TikTok was the 6th ranked social media app in 2021. TikTok has surpassed X (Twitter), Telegram, Reddit, Pinterest, and Snapchat in monthly active users.
- **Company valuation:** TikTok's parent company (Bytedance) reportedly reached a valuation of \$223.5 billion in 2023.
- **User growth rate:** TikTok had a 1157.76% increase in its global user base between Jan 2018 and July 2020; the U.S. saw a 1239.29% user growth rate between 2018 and 2023.
- **U.S. Market penetration:** Monthly U.S. TikTok users have now passed 150 million, equalling nearly half of America's population.
- **U.S. average time on the app:** Americans 18 and over are estimated to spend 55.8 minutes per day on TikTok.

The app tends to appeal to younger users - 41% of the app's users are aged between 16 and 24. By Jul 2023, TikTok had become the primary news source for British teens and in Finland, around half of 13-18 year-olds get their news from TikTok.



TikTok becoming go-to news source for UK teens, Ofcom survey reveals

► Report finds that video-sharing app is the favourite news source for 12 to 15-year-olds



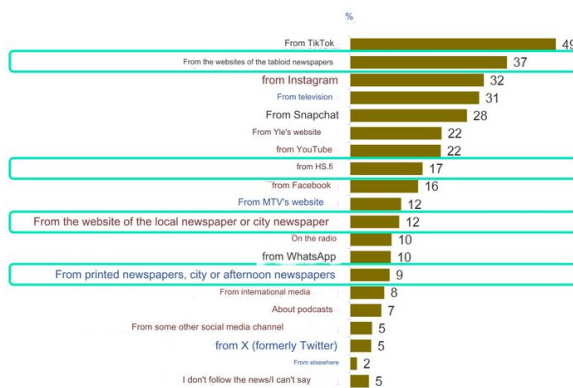
UK teens turn to video-sharing app TikTok for news, outpacing traditional media sources. Reuters

Marwa Hassan
Jul 20, 2023

Listen In English Listen In Arabic

Powered by automated translation

Followed news channels



Respondents: all young people aged 13-18, N=755
Which channels do you usually watch news from?

KANTAR MEDIA

51% news at least once
Follow news about the following young people per day from the websites of the afternoon newspapers

TikTok is the most watched news channel among young people. It has overtaken the number one in previous years, i.e. the websites of the tabloid newspapers (annual trends on the next page). The top five includes three social media channels as well as the websites of ip magazines and television. Young people spend time on social media, so it seems natural to follow the news there as well. Of course, the original sources of some news content can be produced by more traditional media sources.

Chinese citizens also have their "own version" of TikTok called Douyin. The Chinese version offers a child-friendly version that shows its users science experiments, museum exhibits, CCP propaganda and educational videos. It also limits the use time to 40 minutes per day.

TikTok in China

Although they're both owned by ByteDance, Douyin — China's version of TikTok — offers a different version of the social media app that is unavailable to the rest of the world, especially for children.

“It's almost like they recognize that technology is influencing kids' development, and they make their domestic version a spinach version of TikTok, while they ship the opium version to the rest of the world,” Tristan Harris, a former Google employee, and advocate for social media ethics, said of China's approach to TikTok.

“If you're under 14 years old, they show you science experiments you can do at home, museum exhibits, patriotism videos and educational videos,” said Harris, according to “60 Minutes,” adding that children in China were limited to only 40 minutes a day on the app.

“There's a survey of pre-teens in the U.S. and China asking, ‘what is the most aspirational career that you want to have?’ and in the U.S., the No. 1 was a social media influencer, and in China, the No. 1 was astronaut,” Harris said. “You allow those two societies to play out for a few generations and I can tell you what your world is going to look like.”

TikTok has also been accused of censorship. The app's policies ban content related to a specific list of foreign leaders, including Vladimir Putin and Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Its moderators were also told to suppress content from creators who were “too ugly”.

TikTok

This article is more than 4 years old

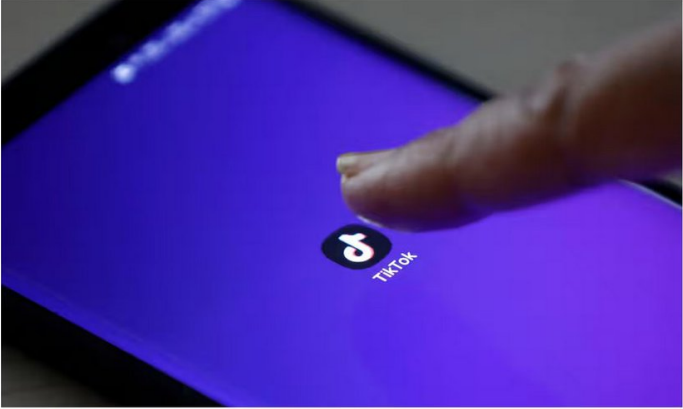
Revealed: how TikTok censors videos that do not please Beijing

Leak spells out how social media app advances China's foreign policy aims

Alex Hern *Technology editor*

@alexhern
Wed 25 Sep 2019 06:00 CEST

Share



📷 TikTok - the most-downloaded item on the iOS App Store worldwide in the first half of 2018.
 Photograph: Danish Siddiqui/Reuters

TikTok, the popular Chinese-owned social network, instructs its moderators to censor videos that mention Tiananmen Square, Tibetan independence, or the banned religious group Falun Gong, according to leaked documents detailing the site's moderation guidelines.



A 2023 study by Rutgers University said that there's a "strong possibility that content on TikTok is either amplified or suppressed based on its alignment with the interests of the Chinese government." TikTok later removed the ability to analyze hashtags of sensitive topics.

6/23



PLAY THE CROSSWORD

Topics Suppressed in China Are Underrepresented on TikTok, Study Says

The report, from the Network Contagion Research Institute at Rutgers University, could raise new concerns about whether Beijing influences the content on the popular video app.



Share full article



Many conspiracy theories, including Pizzagate and QAnon, are extremely popular on the platform. In Dec 2023, @O_Robinson and @Shayan86 BBC reported that they had discovered nearly 800 fake accounts on Tiktok promoting Russian propaganda and disinformation.

MIC

Conspiracy theories are finding a hungry audience on TikTok



©2019 Instagram/Getty Images

BY AJ DELLINGER

IMPACT

UPDATED: FEB. 21, 2024
ORIGINAL PUBLISHED: JUNE 22, 2020

Remember **Pizzagate**? In the seemingly endless cycle of hellish events that have happened since 2016, it's understandable if this one got lost in your memory or perhaps feels like a distant fever dream. As a quick refresher, Pizzagate was a viral conspiracy theory that started making the rounds in 2016. The story alleged multiple high-level Democratic Party officials, including Hillary Clinton and her campaign manager, John Podesta, were involved in a human trafficking and child sex ring that was run out of the basement of Washington, D.C. based pizzeria Comet Ping Pong. The conspiracy theory was **thoroughly debunked**, and seemed to die out completely after a Pizzagate believer entered the restaurant armed with an AR-15 style rifle and unloaded three shots before discovering there were no enslaved children to be found.

NEWS

[Home](#) | [Israel-Gaza war](#) | [War in Ukraine](#) | [Climate](#) | [Video](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [Business](#) | [Tech](#) | [Science](#)[World](#) | [Africa](#) | [Asia](#) | [Australia](#) | [Europe](#) | [Latin America](#) | [Middle East](#) | [US & Canada](#)

Ukraine war: How TikTok fakes pushed Russian lies to millions

© 15 December 2023

[War in Ukraine](#)

ANASTASIYA SHTEINHAUZ

Anastasiya Shteinhauz and her father Oleksiy Reznikov, Ukraine's former defence minister, were both targeted with false claims

By Olga Robinson, Adam Robinson & Shayan Sardarizadeh

BBC Verify

☰ **CNN BUSINESS** Markets Tech Media Calculators Videos



GOING VIRAL
SOME YOUNG AMERICANS ON TIKTOK SAY
THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH OSAMA BIN LADEN
CNN
THE LEAD

Video Ad Feedback

Osama bin Laden letter appears to be going viral on TikTok

The Lead

[f](#) [X](#) [✉](#) [🔗](#)

CNN's Donie O'Sullivan reports.

04:34 - Source: [CNN](#)

In 2021, the app received praise from Kremlin officials for removing content related to protests in Russia. Russia's censorship agency Roskomnadzor thanked TikTok because they "actively cooperated with us, which cannot be said about others."

THE CHRONICLE

Military operation in Ukraine

Updated at 12:24 PM

IN RUSSIA 17:19, 3 february 2021

In Roskomnadzor praised TikTok for removing posts with calls for protests

In total, in social networks found about 2500 calls for children to go to rallies, they were removed, protest activity decreased, the ministry said.

There is an update from 17:21 Russian Foreign Ministry opened an account in the social network TikTok ?

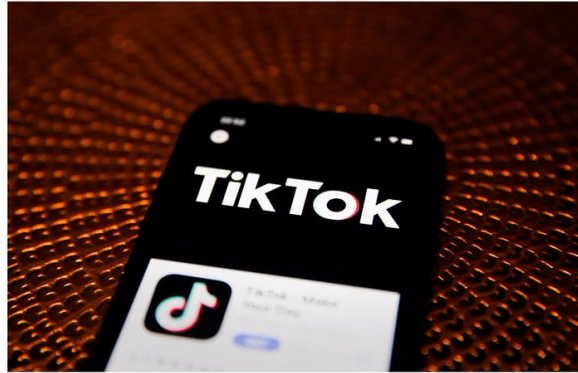


Photo by Jakub Porzycki/NurPhoto via Getty Images

TikTok is also one of the few social media platforms still available in Russia, because TikTok has caved to the Russian government's influence and banned content from foreign creators. Most Russian TikTok creators spread pro-invasion and pro-Kremlin views.

9/23

CyberGhost What is VPN Download VPN VPN Servers Pricing Privacy Hub Help Get 82% OFF

Privacy & Security Access Web Content VPN & Freedom Product Updates News

TikTok Bans Foreign Content in Russia While Claiming to Curb Misinformation

4 MIN READ | Last updated: Jan 23, 2024 | By Ailene Greenwald

- Table of contents
- The Growth of a Misinformation Monopoly in Russia
- TikTok's Lack of Transparency Creates Problems for Researchers
- Giving Social Platforms Too Much Power

Since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Russian government has blocked or banned most international social media platforms. Except for TikTok, which is now one of the few sources of social-based entertainment and news for Russian citizens. That is, for the citizens who don't use a VPN.

Why, you ask? It's simple: TikTok has caved to the Russian government's influence and banned content from foreign creators in Russia. According to efforts by the research collective Tracking Exposed, Russian citizens can only see content from Russian accounts. Many of these accounts spread pro-invasion views and actively work to quell dissent.

This move comes despite TikTok claiming it's increasing efforts to combat misinformation and blocking accounts and content that spread fake news. The company even said the invasion made it accelerate a project aimed at labeling government-owned accounts and restricting misinformation.

Now, researchers are worried about how TikTok's exclusive content ownership in the country might affect Russia's social narrative.

VICE Video TV News Tech Rec Room Life Horoscopes

Russian TikTok Influencers Are Being Paid to Spread Kremlin Propaganda

An investigation by VICE News uncovered a coordinated campaign to pay Russian TikTok influencers to post videos pushing pro-Kremlin narratives.

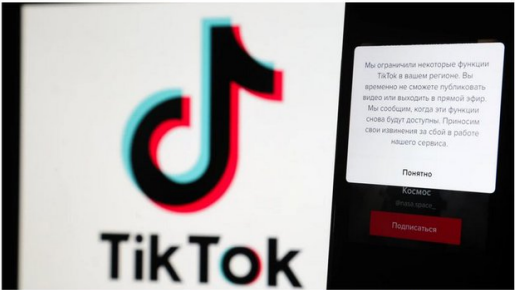
Listen to this article now 13 min listen

00:00 13:06

Powered by [Trinity Audio](#)

By [David Gilbert](#)

March 11, 2022, 6:41pm [Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Snap](#)



TIKTOK IS RESTRICTING SERVICE IN RUSSIA BECAUSE OF A CHANGE IN THE LAW THAT THREATENS PRISON SENTENCES FOR STATEMENTS THAT DIFFER FROM THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE. MARCH 8, 2022. (PHOTO BY STRINGER/PICTURE ALLIANCE VIA GETTY IMAGES)

MORE LIKE THIS

[News](#)
Where's Navalny's Body
MITCHELL PROTHERO
02.19.24

[News](#)
Man Who Showed Father's Decapitated Head in a YouTube Video Charged With Terrorism
MACK LANOUREUX
02.16.24

Recently, in the US, a bill that could lead to TikTok being banned in the US received unanimous bipartisan support (50-0). The bill would require the Beijing-based owner of the app, ByteDance, to give up their shares of the app to avoid the ban & put it under new ownership.

Bill that could make TikTok unavailable in the US advances quickly in the House

By Kevin Freking and Haeluya Hadero | AP
March 7, 2024 at 6:09 p.m. EST



(Frank Franklin II/AP)

MOST READ POLI



1 Britt defend sex-trafficki years ago to

2 Analysis | Katie linkage of a sex case to Joe Bid

3 Katie Britt's kit rebuttal to Stat Union baffles C

4 Democrats hop might topple k

ByteDance replied by showing their US-based users a pop-up message, urging people to call their representatives and tell them to vote "No" on the legislation. The company also claimed that it's a violation against their First Amendment rights.

Home > Life > Digital Culture

Why TikTok wants you to call your representatives

Plus, here's what happens when you click the 'Call Now' button on the TikTok pop-up.

By [Christianna Silva](#) on March 7, 2024

Stop a TikTok shutdown

Congress is planning a total ban of TikTok.

Speak up now—before your government strips 170 million Americans of their Constitutional right to free expression.

This will damage millions of businesses, destroy the livelihoods of countless creators across the country, and deny artists an audience.

Let Congress know what TikTok means to you and tell them to vote **NO**.

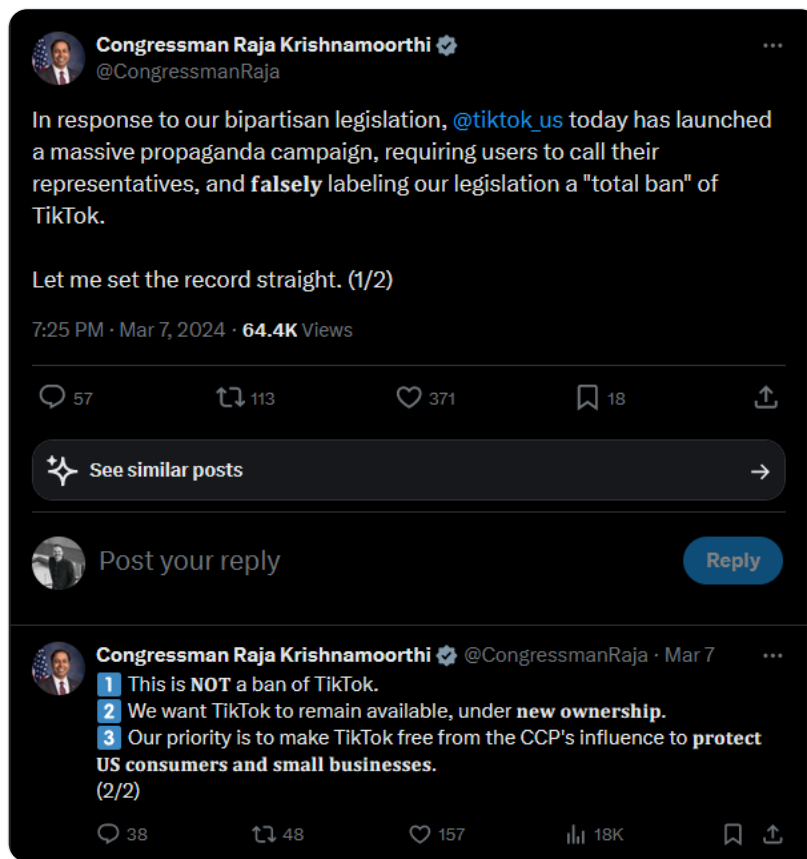
[Call Now](#)

Should you click the call now button on the TikTok popup? Credit: Screenshot / TikTok

TikTok Policy
@TikTokPolicy

Our statement on the latest TikTok legislation: **This bill is an outright ban of TikTok, no matter how much the authors try to disguise it.** This legislation will trample the First Amendment rights of 170 million Americans and deprive 5 million small businesses of a platform they rely on to grow and create jobs.

9:21 PM · Mar 5, 2024 · **3.1M** Views



TikTok's former head of engineering in the US revealed in Jun 2023, that some CCP members had "super user" access to TikTok data, and that they used this access to spy on Hong Kong protesters and civil rights activists by monitoring their locations and devices.

US MARKETS OPEN IN:
4h 25m 35s

▲ DOW JONES -0.18% ▲ NASDAQ -1.53% ▲ S&P 500 -0.65% ▲ META -0.59% ▼ TSLA +0.83% ▼ AAPL +0.19%

TECH

Former exec at TikTok's parent company says Communist Party members had a 'god credential' that let them access Americans' data

AP

Zen Soo, [Associated Press](#), Jun 7, 2023, 6:34 PM GMT+3

↗ Share | 📌 Save



Former ByteDance executive Yintao Yu said Communist Party members accessed data on US users as well as protesters in Hong Kong.

SOPA Images / Contributor/Getty Images

Hong Kong is a semi-autonomous region in China with its own government. In recent years, following mass protests in 2014 and 2019, the former British colony has come under more far reaching control by Beijing.

Yu said he saw the god credential being used to keep tabs on Hong Kong protesters and civil rights activists by monitoring their locations and devices, their network information, SIM card identifications, IP addresses and communications.

ByteDance said in a statement that Yu's accusations were "baseless."

TikTok's parent company ByteDance's employees in the US and China also accessed the app's user data in an attempt to track down BuzzFeed News and Financial Times journalists

who exposed information about the company's eavesdropping activities.

13/23

BuzzFeed News


REPORTING TO YOU

SIGN IN ABOUT US GOT A TIP?




TECH • CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Leaked Audio From 80 Internal TikTok Meetings Shows That US User Data Has Been Repeatedly Accessed From China

"I feel like with these tools, there's some backdoor to access user data in almost all of them," said an external auditor hired to help TikTok close off Chinese access to sensitive information, like Americans' birthdays and phone numbers.

 **Emily Baker-White**
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on June 17, 2022 at 7:31 pm

   [View 28 comments](#)

NEWS > DEFENSE

TikTok's parent company admits accessing journalists' data

[SHARE](#)



ByteDance employees in China and the U.S. inappropriately pulled the data including the IP addresses | Greg Baker/AFP via Getty images

DECEMBER 23, 2022 11:29 AM CET
BY CLOTHILDE GOUJARD

TikTok's parent company ByteDance accessed the data of two journalists and other users in an attempt to track down company leaks in revelations that will likely intensify security concerns in the West about the popular video app's Chinese ownership.

ByteDance employees in China and the U.S. inappropriately pulled the data including the IP addresses — which reveal a person's general location — of journalists from BuzzFeed News and the Financial Times and people they had connected with via TikTok, according to an internal investigation. ByteDance had tried unsuccessfully to identify staff who had shared internal company documents with the reporters.

The current controversy is not the first one that TikTok is facing - in 2020, Donald Trump sought to ban TikTok but was eventually blocked by the courts. Recently he backtracked, saying that banning TikTok would help Facebook and "double their business".

World

Trump claims concern over possible TikTok ban, years after he tried to ban it himself

'If you get rid of TikTok, Facebook ... will double their business,' former U.S. president says



Geoff Nixon · CBC News · Posted: Mar 08, 2024 12:27 PM EST | Last Updated: March 9



Former U.S. president Donald Trump is seen in Palm Beach, Fla., earlier this week. Trump is claiming to have concerns about banning TikTok ahead of a vote next week by the U.S. House of Representatives that would give its owner ByteDance about six months to divest the app. (Chandan Khanna/AFP/Getty Images)

In 2020, Trump sought to ban TikTok and Chinese-owned WeChat but [was blocked by the courts](#).

Trump said [in an August 2020 executive order](#) that TikTok data collection "threatens to allow the Chinese Communist Party access to Americans' personal and proprietary information — potentially allowing China to track the locations of Federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage."



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump

If you get rid of TikTok, Facebook and Zuckerschmuck will double their business. I don't want Facebook, who cheated in the last Election, doing better. They are a true Enemy of the People!

560 ReTruths **3.15k Likes** **3/7/24, 11:05 PM**



Intelligencer

THE NATIONAL INTEREST | MAR. 9, 2024

Trump Meets TikTok Investor, Suddenly Doesn't Want to Ban It The former president's stunning reversal on the Chinese-owned app.

By Jonathan Chait, who's been a New York political columnist since 2011.

Why are some countries trying to ban TikTok? First of all, TikTok is owned by a Chinese company called ByteDance. According to National Intelligence Law of the People's Republic of China, the CCP can demand ByteDance to give up any data for intelligence-gathering

operations.

15/23

China's 2017 National Intelligence Law states that "any organization" must assist or cooperate with state intelligence work while a separate 2014 Counter-Espionage Law says "relevant organizations ... may not refuse" to collect evidence for an investigation.

Since ByteDance, which owns TikTok, is a Chinese company, it would likely have to abide by these rules if Chinese authorities asked it to turn over data.

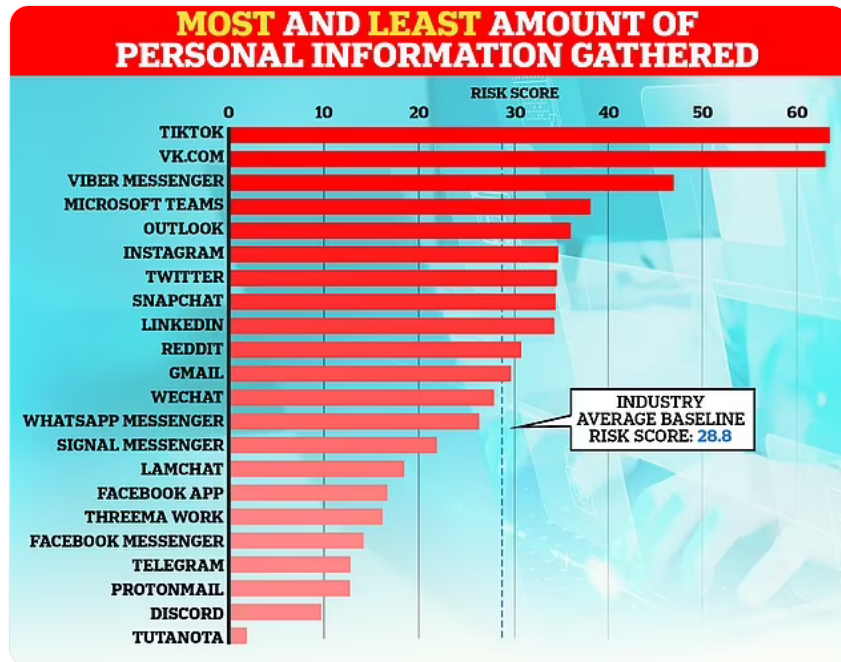
Laws and regulations are only one aspect of the Communist Party's pervasive control. There are no legal limits on the party's powers. The authorities also can threaten to cancel licenses, conduct regulatory or tax investigations and use other penalties to compel compliance by Chinese and foreign companies operating in China.

Lawmakers and regulators in the West have increasingly expressed concern that TikTok and its parent company, ByteDance, may put sensitive user data, like location information, into the hands of the Chinese government. They have pointed to laws that allow the Chinese government to secretly demand data from Chinese companies and citizens for intelligence-gathering operations. They are also worried that China could use [TikTok's content recommendations](#) for misinformation.

TikTok has long denied such allegations and has tried to distance itself from ByteDance.

TikTok also collects vast amounts of data from its users, thus creating a "digital fingerprint" of social behavior, trends and opinions of its +1 billion active users. This data can then be used to persuade the masses and predict future trends relatively accurately.

16/23



The app is especially popular among children and teenagers, a target group much more vulnerable to manipulation and addictive use. In the Western version of the app, TikTok's safeguards in protecting children are generally considered to be insufficient.

17/23

TikTok

Jim Waterson *Media editor*

@jimwaterson
Tue 29 Mar 2022 23:30 CEST

[Share](#)

This article is more than 1 year old

TikTok being used by 16% of British toddlers, Ofcom finds

Three-year-olds are on the video-sharing platform and it may be affecting their attention span



TikTok's terms of service excludes under-13s. Photograph: poplasen/Getty Images/iStockphoto

British toddlers are increasingly likely to be users of **TikTok**, with a substantial number of parents saying their preschool children use the video service despite the app supposedly being restricted to those aged 13 and older.

US MARKETS OPEN IN:
5h 42m 27s

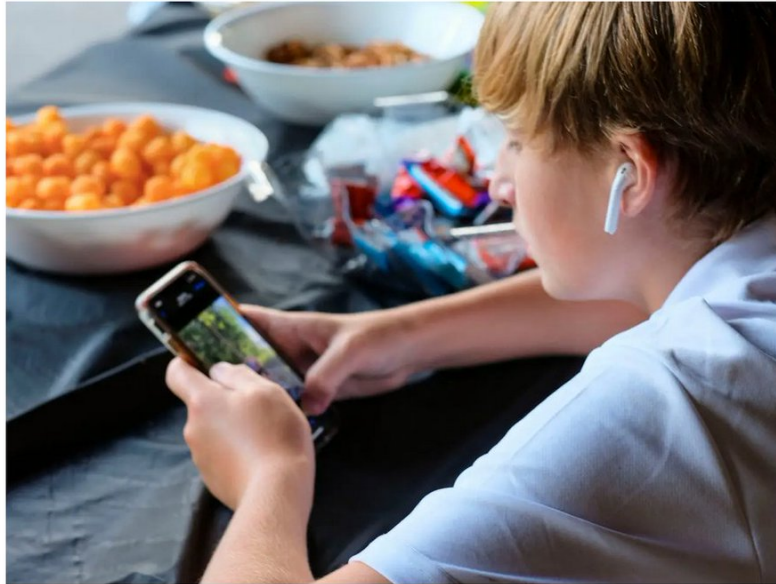
▲ DOW JONES -0.18% ▲ NASDAQ -1.53% ▲ S&P 500 -0.65% ▲ META -0.28% ▼ TSLA +0.55% ▼ AAPL +0.32%

TECH

Teens spend nearly 2 hours a day on TikTok — and barely look at Facebook, a new study says. See how other apps stack up.

[Haley Tenore](#) Sep 28, 2023, 8:18 PM GMT+3

↗ Share | 📌 Save



Phones are constantly tempting teens to pick up, with more than half in a recent study getting 237 notifications a day.

Kurt Wittman/Getty Images

TECH

'We Can Turn It Off.' Why TikTok's New Teen Time Limit May Not Do Much

5 MINUTE READ



Marijan Murat—picture alliance/Getty Images

BY ANISHA KOHLI MARCH 2, 2023 3:07 PM EST

TikTok

This article is more than 2 months old

TikTok allowing under-13s to keep accounts, evidence suggests

Questions for tech giant over claims underage users can remain on platform if they say parents are overseeing their account

Hibaq Farah and Dan Milmo

Tue 19 Dec 2023 16:00 CET

Share



TikTok states on its website that it is 'deeply committed to ensuring that TikTok is a safe and positive experience for people under the age of 18'. Composite: Guardian Design/Getty Images

TikTok faces questions over safeguards for child users after a Guardian investigation found that moderators were being told to allow under-13s to stay on the platform if they claimed their parents were overseeing their accounts.

In one example seen by the Guardian, a user who declared themselves to be 12 in their account bio, under TikTok's minimum age of 13, was allowed to stay on the platform because their user profile stated the account was managed by their parents.

Due to this, the EU Commission opened an investigation into TikTok over "suspected breach of transparency and obligations to protect minors". According to the Commission, there were

big problems with TikTok's addictive design, rabbit hole effect and age verification.

18/23

Thierry Breton @ThierryBreton

Today we open an investigation into #TikTok over suspected breach of transparency & obligations to protect minors:

- Addictive design & screen time limits
- Rabbit hole effect
- 18 Age verification
- Default privacy settings

Enforcing #DSA for safer Internet for youngsters

1:00 PM · Feb 19, 2024 · 213.5K Views

There's no doubt that TikTok could play an important role in the upcoming 2024 US presidential election. Because of this, the potential ban has probably been opposed by Trump and his henchmen like @VivekGRamaswamy and @KellyannePolls.

19/23


SEARCH FORTUNE [Subscribe Now](#) SIGN IN

Home News Tech Finance Leadership Well Recommends Fortune 500

POLITICS - TIKTOK

GOP candidate Vivek Ramaswamy calls TikTok 'digital fentanyl' and wants to ban it—but then joined the social media app

BY MEG KINNARD, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
September 26, 2023 at 12:50 AM GMT+0



Presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy.
ANDREW SPEAR/GETTY IMAGES

AP WORLD U.S. ELECTION 2024 POLITICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS SCIENCE FACT CHECK ODDITIES NEWSLETTERS

Live updates: 2024 Oscars '20 Days in Mariupol' Israel-Hamas war South Carolina-LSU ejections Ra

To TikTok or not to TikTok? One GOP candidate joins the app even as he calls it 'digital fentanyl'

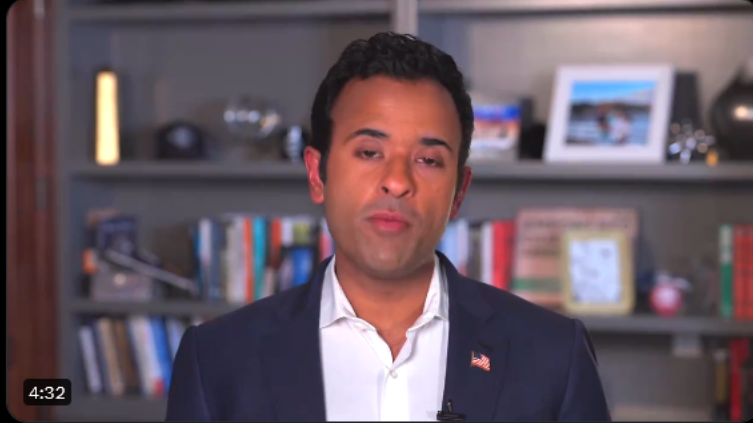




Vivek Ramaswamy ✓
@VivekGRamaswamy



Bashing TikTok is easy. Understanding the actual issue is harder. President Trump just came out opposing the pending legislation. Here's why that's right: we need to end **all** forced data transfers to the CCP, regardless of ownership.



Last edited 2:41 AM · Mar 9, 2024 · **1.2M** Views

EXCLUSIVE

Kellyanne Conway advocating for TikTok on Capitol Hill

The former Trump adviser is working for the Club for Growth as Congress considers forcing the sale of the app.



Kellyanne Conway has brought up TikTok to Donald Trump since she started as a consultant for Club for Growth. | Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

By DANIEL LIPPMAN
03/09/2024 06:42 PM EST



TikTok's popularity has also annoyed Facebook's parent company Meta. They hired one of the biggest Republican consulting firms, Targeted Victory, to undermine TikTok and present it as a "danger to American children and society" & as the "most harmful social media platform".

20/23

EXCLUSIVE

Facebook paid GOP firm to malign TikTok

The firm, Targeted Victory, pushed local operatives across the country to boost messages calling TikTok a threat to American children. “Dream would be to get stories with headlines like ‘From dances to danger,’” one campaign director said.

By [Taylor Lorenz](#) and [Drew Harwell](#)
March 30, 2022 at 6:30 a.m. EDT



A social media influencer talks into a TikTok microphone on the red carpet during arrivals at the 94th Academy Awards in Hollywood on March 27, 2022. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

MOST READ TECH



- 1 Silicon Valle academics o
- 2 Review | We tes Amazon's new s chatbot. It's not
- 3 ChatGPT leans l research shows
- 4 Trolls turned Ta fun millennial A

In one email, a Targeted Victory director asked for ideas on local political reporters who could serve as a “back channel” for anti-TikTok messages, saying the firm “would definitely want it to be hands off.”

In other emails, Targeted Victory urged partners to push stories to local media tying TikTok to dangerous teen trends in an effort to show the app’s purported harms. “Any local examples of bad TikTok trends/stories in your markets?” a Targeted Victory staffer asked.

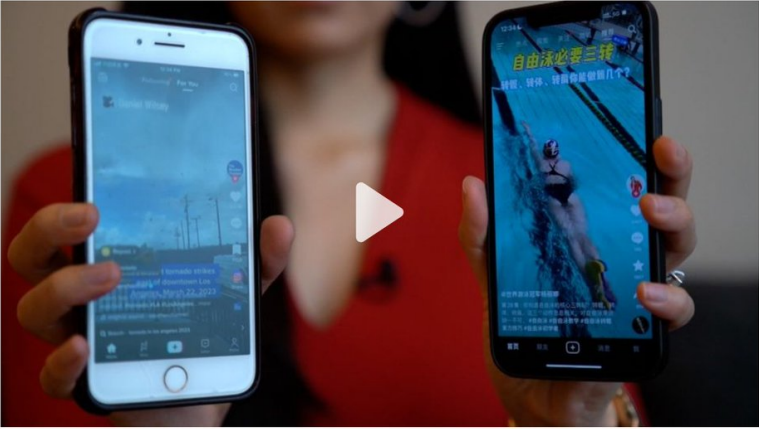
“Dream would be to get stories with headlines like ‘From dances to danger: how TikTok has become the most harmful social media space for kids,’” the staffer wrote.

In my view, the dangers of TikTok stem from three issues: 1) ByteDance not being transparent about the app's connections to the CCP (and them lying about it previously), 2)

the aggressive collection of massive amounts of data, and 3) the lack of safeguards for young users.

21/23

CNN BUSINESS Markets Tech Media Calculators Videos Audio Live



See how TikTok compares to China's heavily censored version, Douyin

Video Ad Feedback

02:39 - Source: CNN

TikTok is owned by a Chinese company. So why doesn't it exist there?

By [Jessie Yeung](#) and [Selina Wang](#), CNN

5 minute read · Published 7:58 AM EDT, Fri March 24, 2023


SEARCH FORTUNE [Subscribe Now](#) [SIGN IN](#)

Home News Tech Finance Leadership Well Recommendations Fortune 500

TECH - TIKTOK

TikTok shareholders who make any 'disparaging statement' about the company risk having their entire holdings seized

BY [ALEXANDRA STERNLICHT](#)
March 9, 2024 at 12:35 AM GMT-2



Tik Tok CEO, Shou Chew.
MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES

As long as TikTok ownership is somehow related to the CCP, there is a chance that the National Intelligence Law is being invoked, and Chinese officials potentially have full access to the data TikTok collects from its users and creators, making it a huge security risk.

Forbes

FORBES > INNOVATION

EDITORS' PICK

Exclusive: TikTok Confirms Some U.S. User Data Is Stored In China

Alexandra S. Levine Forbes Staff
I'm a senior writer covering social media and online culture.

Follow

Jun 21, 2023, 08:00am EDT

Most of the creator data, including tax forms, social security numbers & other information from creators & outside vendors are actually stored in datacenters in China. But I guess giving up your personal information is the price you have to pay in order to be paid by TikTok.

23/23

In TikTok's response to their questions, the company said there is a difference between "U.S. user data collected by the TikTok app" and information that creators give to TikTok so they can be paid for content they post. The former is stored in TikTok's data centers in the U.S. and Singapore, TikTok said. It did not explicitly state where the latter is stored. A trove of internal documents obtained by *Forbes*, and several people across different parts of the company familiar with the matter, have shown that tax forms, social security numbers and other information from creators and outside vendors has been stored in China; payments to both are managed through tools from TikTok's China-based parent ByteDance.

Find us also on other socials:

[instagram.com/vatniksoup/](https://www.instagram.com/vatniksoup/)



**SOUP
CENTRAL**
YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

The Soup Central
The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.
<https://www.youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral/videos>



...