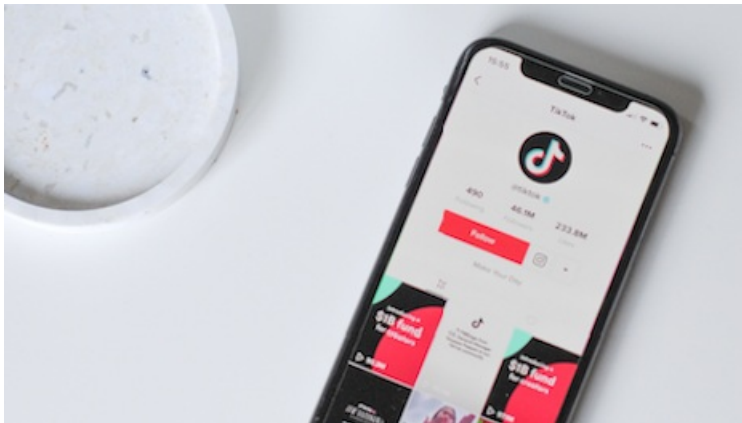


SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

FCC commissioner urges Apple, Google to remove TikTok

June 29, 2022



US officials continue in the fight against TikTok over privacy concerns. Image credit: Unsplash

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Brendan Carr has called on tech giants Apple and Google to remove video-sharing platform TikTok from their app stores.

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In a letter published to his Twitter account, Mr. Carr addressed Apple CEO Tim Cook and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, accusing TikTok of harvesting sensitive data that is being accessed in China. He claims that Senate and House leaders from both sides have voiced concerns over the issue.

"Apple and Google have long claimed to operate their app stores in a manner that protects consumer privacy and safeguards their data," Mr. Carr says in the letter. "I am requesting that you apply your app store policies to TikTok and remove it from [your app stores] for failing to comply with those policies."

Trouble with TikTok

In his letter, Mr. Carr further suggests that TikTok collects search and browsing histories, keystroke patterns, biometric identifiers, draft messages and metadata, as well as text, images and videos stored on a device's clipboard.

He also cites recently leaked audio recordings published to BuzzFeed News last week, which suggested officials at ByteDance, TikTok's owner, are accessing data that TikTok has collected from users in the United States.

TikTok is not just another video app.

That's the sheep's clothing.

It harvests swaths of sensitive data that new reports show are being accessed in Beijing.

I've called on [@Apple](#) & [@Google](#) to remove TikTok from their app stores for its pattern of surreptitious data practices. pic.twitter.com/Le01fBpNjn

In the letter, Mr. Carr goes on to cite additional evidence of TikTok's failures to comply with Apple's and Google's data security requirements and app store policies over the last few years.

This is certainly not the first time a U.S. official has tried to take down the platform.

In August 2020, former president Donald Trump issued an executive order to ban TikTok unless it was sold by ByteDance to another company. TikTok had just been accused of potentially passing on user data, including IP addresses and geolocation data, to the Chinese government.

In response, the social media platform sued the U.S. government suggesting Trump's administration ignored its efforts to address its national security concerns ([see story](#)).

In June 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to replace Trump's order to prohibit transactions with social platforms TikTok, WeChat and eight other communications and financial technology software applications ([see story](#)).