



Splinter effects of social media censorship

By BLuef0x
Twitter: @BLuef0x_



#whoami

Career

- U.S. Army Veteran in 25C/ Multi-Channel Radio Op
- 25S/Satellite Communication System Op
- DoD Contractor on Defense Red Switch Network(The Red Phone on POTUS Desk)
- DoS Contractor Tactical Radio Systems (RF911 network) Kabul, Afghanistan
- Pasco Hernando State College Basic Law Enforcement graduate
- Currently working as Security Incident Responder

Volunteer in InfoSec/Cyber:

- HackMiami, BSides Orlando/Tampa/Puerto Rico, Information Systems Security Association(ISSA) South Florida Chapter, The Diana Initiative, DC813/727, Cyber Security Forum Initiative, InfraGard –Tampa, Marine Corps Cyber Auxiliary

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.”

- Theodore Roosevelt

Most popular social media websites

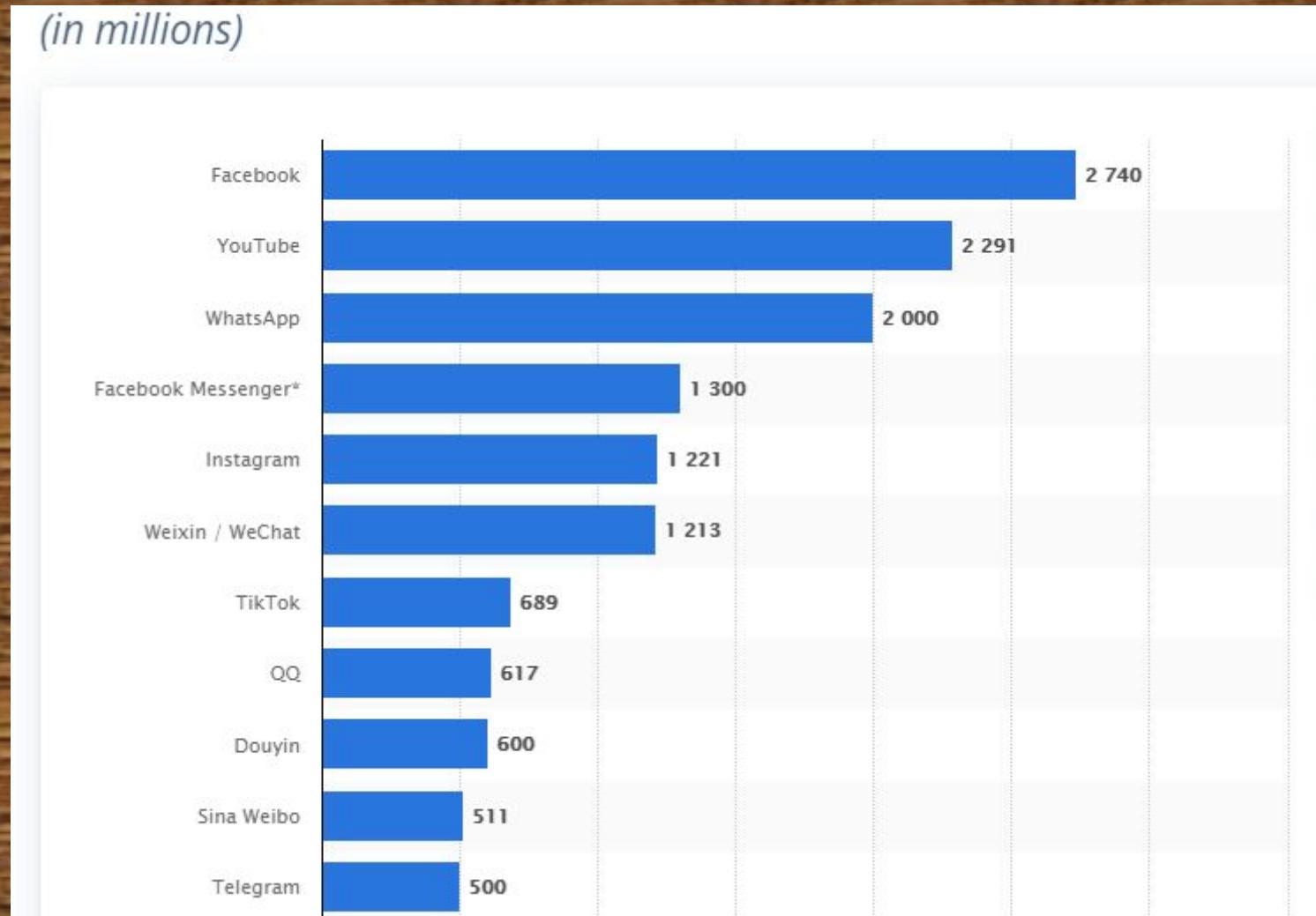
- 2020

- ▶ Instagram
- ▶ YouTube
- ▶ Facebook
- ▶ Twitter
- ▶ TikTok



- Most popular social networks worldwide as of January 2021, ranked by number of active users

(in millions)



Instagram



- Instagram officially launched in 2010 as an iPhone app. Within one month, it gained 1 million users
- Facebook acquired Instagram for \$1 billion in 2012
- the number of Instagram users located in United States in 2021 is approx. 140 million and the second highest population of users are in India

Instagram Suspend/Ban Rules

Updated on January 19, 2021

- ▶ [https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards/dangerous individuals organizations](https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards/dangerous_individuals_and_organizations)
- “We do not allow the following groups to maintain a Page, Group, Event or IG profile on our platform, or to have one maintained on their behalf. The Admins of these Pages, Groups and Events will also be removed:”
 - Militarized Social Movements (MSM), such as militias or groups that support and organize violent acts amid protests.
 - Violence-Inducing Conspiracy Networks, such as QAnon.
- “As of January 12, 2021, we have identified over 890 militarized social movements to date and in total, removed about 3,400 Pages, 19,500 groups, 120 events, 25,300 Facebook profiles and 7500 Instagram accounts. We've also removed about 3,300 Pages, 10,500 groups, 510 events, 18,300 Facebook profiles and 27,300 Instagram accounts for violating our policy against QAnon.”

Facebook



- Facebook was launched on February 4, 2004 , by Mark Zuckerberg and his Harvard College roommates
- Facebook Users Are Uploading approx. 350 Million New Photos Each Day
- the number of Facebook users located in United States in 2021 is approx. 190 million and the highest population of users are in India with 320 million

Source:

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/268136/top-15-countries-based-on-number-of-facebook-users/>

Facebook Suspend/Ban Rules

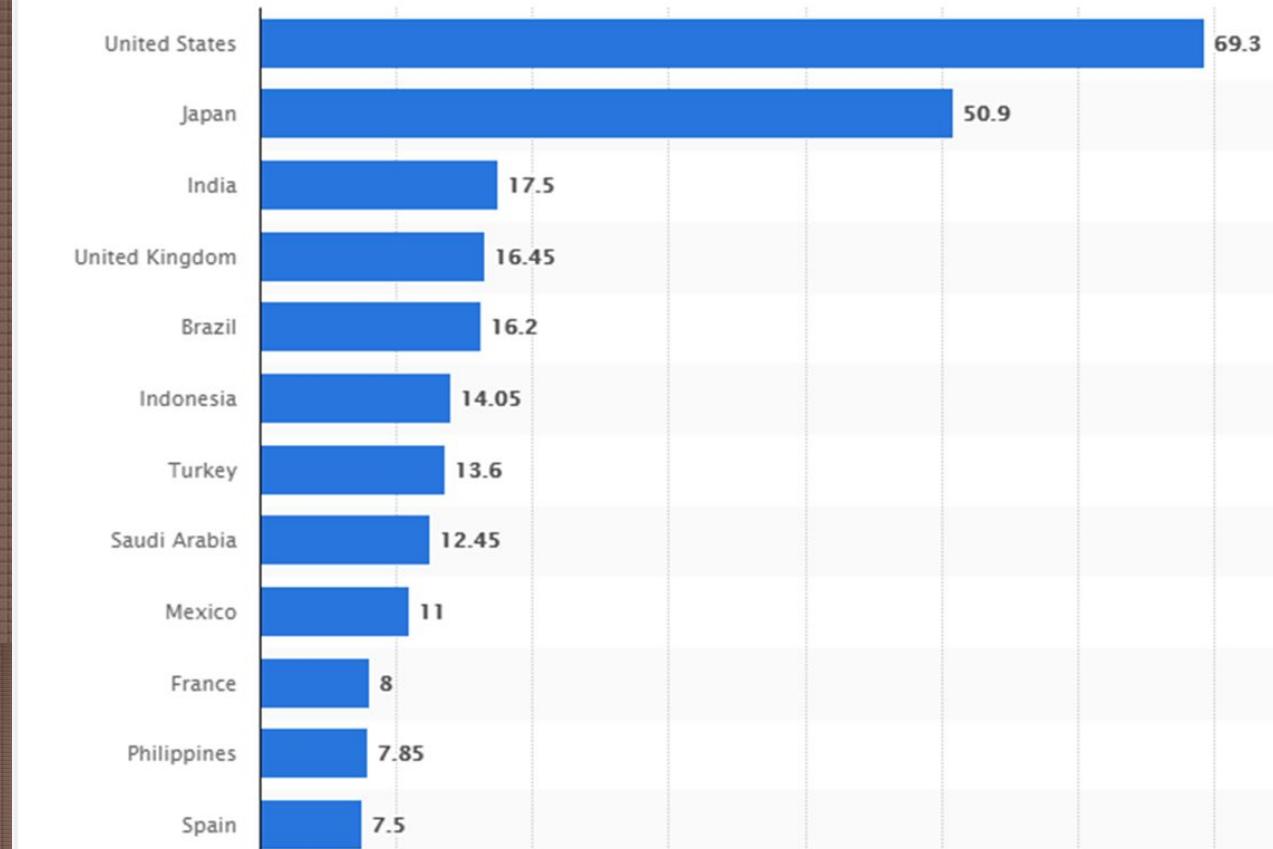
Updated on January 19, 2021

- ▶ Facebook Community Standards
- “Our enforcement of these standards relies on information available to us. **In some cases**, this means that we may not detect content and behavior that violates these standards, and in others, enforcement may be limited to circumstances where we have been provided with additional information and context.”
- <https://www.tampabay.com/news/business/2020/05/12/facebook-s-52-million-settlement-goes-to-content-moderators-who-faced-trauma-on-the-job/>
- “We also give people control over their own experience by allowing them to block, unfollow or hide people and posts.”
- “We remove content, disable accounts, and work with law enforcement when we believe there is a genuine risk of physical harm or direct threats to public safety. ”

Twitter

- In 2006, Twitter was created by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams. Twitter rapidly gained worldwide popularity
- The name was inspired by Flickr and the five-character length of American SMS short codes.

(in millions)



Source:

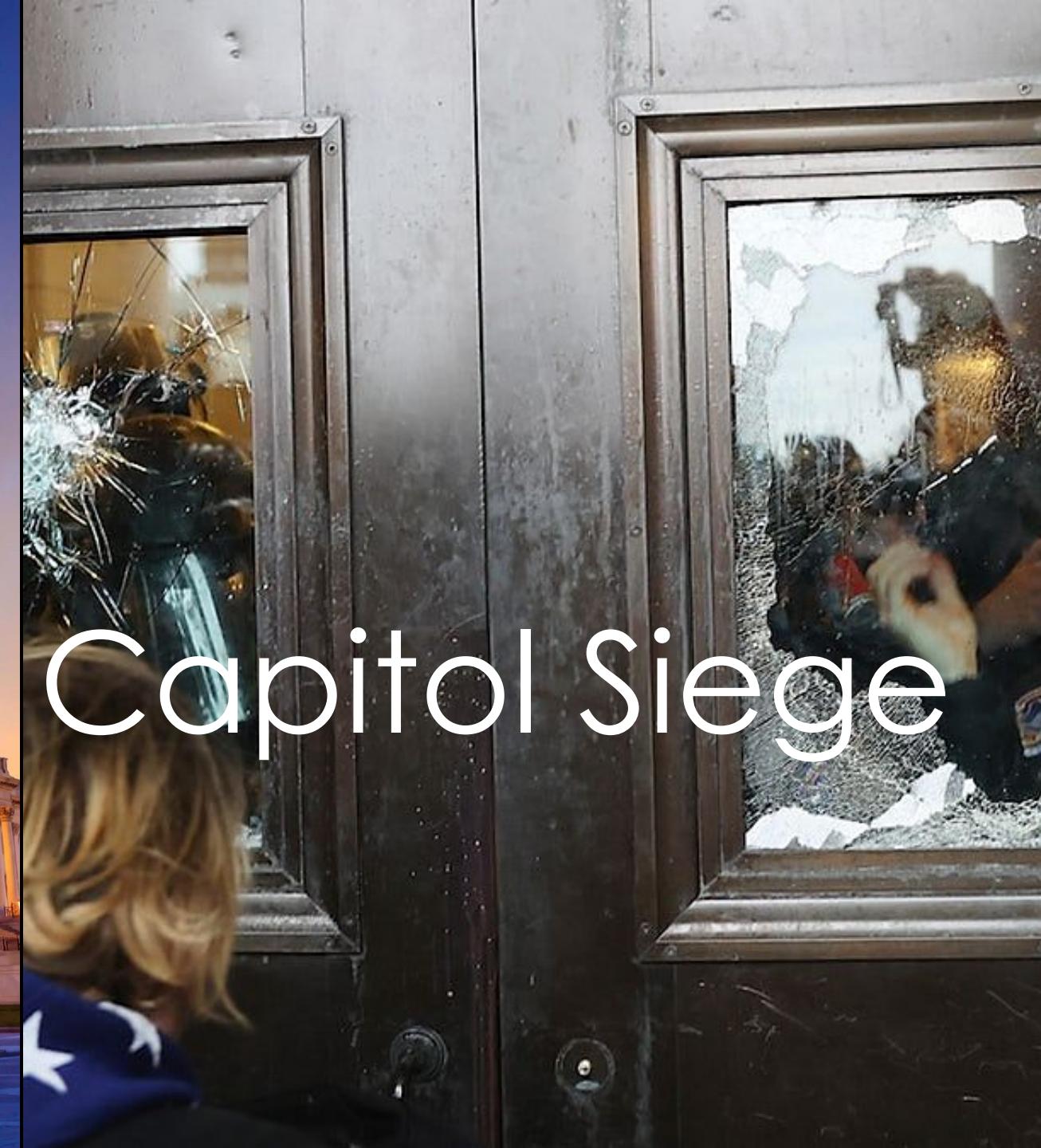
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/242606/number-of-active-twitter-users-in-selected-countries/>

Organizations at the US Capitol Building Siege:

- ◆ **Oath Keepers:** far-right anti-government militia organization composed of current and former military, police, and first responders
- ◆ **Antifa:** left-wing anti-fascist and anti-racist political movement in the United States
- ◆ **Believers of QAnon:** disproven and discredited far-right conspiracy theory group alleging that a cabal of Satan-worshipping cannibalistic pedophiles is running a global child sex-trafficking ring and plotting against U.S. president Donald Trump, who is fighting the cabal.
- ◆ **The Three Percenters:** an American and Canadian far-right, anti-government militia movement.
- ◆ **Proud Boys:** far-right, neo-fascist and male-only organization that promotes and engages in political violence in the United States and Canada



Timeline of US Capitol Siege



January 6th, 2021

- ▶ **Before Noon:** Weeks prior, Trump had urged his supporters to go to Washington, D.C. to stop the certification of the election results
- ▶ **12:15 - 12:50 pm:** About 15 minutes into his speech, Trump tells rally attendees to walk to the Capitol. "You have to show strength" Trump said during speech
- ▶ **12:53 - 1:03 pm:** About 20 minutes before Trump's speech ends, some people in the Capitol crowd harass officers posted at the barricades and start to get physical. Others follow suit, until they violently overwhelm the police and breach the building's outer perimeter
- ▶ **1:12 - 2:00 pm:** As Mr. Trump's speech comes to an end, he calls on his supporters to "walk down Pennsylvania Avenue" toward the Capitol. Rioters there continue to violently clash with officers, including reinforcements from the local police department who have arrived on the scene. Both sides spray chemical agents
- ▶ **Approx. 2:00pm:** A YouTube live stream captures the exact moment a massive crowd also breaches a separate, larger barricade on the east side. This is the last physical barrier protecting that side of the Capitol
- ▶ **Approx. 2:10pm:** Back on the northwest side of the Capitol, another YouTube livestream captures the mob chasing officers up the steps and breaching the final barrier on that side.

January 6th, 2021

- **Around 2:11 to 2:16 pm:** Rioters on the west side break into the building around 2:11 p.m. Two minutes later, as they reach the stairs next to the Senate chamber, the Senate is called into recess.
- **2:14 p.m. Inside the Capitol:** Capitol Police officer Eugene Goodman stood in a hall of the Capitol building two weeks ago, facing off against a violent mob of former President Donald Trump's supporters.
- More than five minutes after the first rioters break into the building, the House also goes into recess. Now, the police are clashing with the mob inside the building as some members of Congress are able to evacuate. Others are trapped inside while rioters pound on the doors.
- Outside the building, the crowd grows as attendees from President Trump's rally continue to stream in. The mob becomes more violent, dragging and beating officers.
- **At approx. 6:01 pm, three hours will have passed before the sergeant-at-arms declares the building secure.**



SOCIAL MEDIA ROLLS OUT SUSPENSION/BAN



Facebook restricts more than 10,000 QAnon and US militia groups

Move is part of a broad Facebook policy shift toward movements with links to violence such as baseless internet conspiracy Qanon



A Donald Trump supporter holding a QAnon flag visits Mount Rushmore national monument last month in Keystone, South Dakota. Photograph: Scott Olson/Getty Images

Facebook has taken down or restricted more than 10,000 groups, pages and Instagram accounts associated with QAnon, in the latest effort by a social media platform to combat the growth of the baseless rightwing conspiracy theory.

Twitter suspends Proud Boys, Gavin McInnes accounts ahead of Unite the Right rally

BY CAROLINE LINTON
AUGUST 10, 2018 / 9:39 PM / CBS NEWS



After close review of recent Tweets from the [@realDonaldTrump](#) account and the context around them we have permanently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence.



Permanent suspension of [@realDonaldTrump](#)
Suspension of [@realDonaldTrump](#)
[blog.twitter.com](#)

6:21 PM · Jan 8, 2021



686.8K 257.3K Share this Tweet

After removing a video in which President Trump praised a violent group of his supporters who broke into the U.S. Capitol building, Facebook is rolling out a new set of rules in response to the day's shocking events.

Both Facebook and Instagram also announced that the president would be locked out of posting to his accounts for 24 hours, escalating the consequences for his role in sowing Wednesday's violent chaos considerably.

FB Facebook Newsroom  @fbnewsroom 

We've assessed two policy violations against President Trump's Page which will result in a 24-hour feature block, meaning he will lose the ability to post on the platform during that time.

8:36 PM · Jan 6, 2021 

 5.3K  2.4K  Share this Tweet

Adam Mosseri   @mosseri

We are locking President Trump's Instagram account for 24 hours as well.

Facebook Newsroom  @fbnewsroom

We've assessed two policy violations against President Trump's Page which will result in a 24-hour feature block, meaning he will lose the ability to post on the platform during that time.

8:58 PM · Jan 6, 2021 

 9.2K  2.7K  Share this Tweet

Twitter Has Removed More Than 70,000 Accounts Linked To QAnon Conspiracy Since Capitol Riots



Robert Hart Forbes Staff

Business

I cover breaking news.



Listen to this article now

03:22



Powered by **Trinity Audio**

TOPLINE More than 70,000 Twitter accounts linked with the far-right QAnon conspiracy movement have been banned from the platform following riots in the Capitol last week, the company announced Monday as part of a wider crackdown on conspiracies, misinformation and “attempts to incite violence, organize attacks, and share deliberately misleading information about the election outcome” that has seen President Donald Trump and his high-profile supporters permanently blocked from the platform over fears he will use it to incite violence.

The Social Media Pivot

- **Parler**: American alt-tech microblogging and social networking service. It has a significant user base of Donald Trump supporters, conservatives, conspiracy theorists, and right-wing extremists.
- Posts on the service often contain far-right content, antisemitism, and conspiracy theories such as QAnon. Journalists have described Parler as an alternative to Twitter, and users include those banned from mainstream social networks or opposing their moderation policies.
- Founded in 2018, bills itself as "unbiased social media" and a place where people can "speak freely and express yourself openly without fear of being 'deplatformed' for your views," according to its website and App Store description.



- **People who have been confirmed to signed up for Parler:**
- Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Sen. Mike Lee of Utah.
- House Republicans have joined as well, including Rep. Devin Nunes of California, Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio and Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York.
- Former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, Several other GOP governors have not joined but have had fake accounts opened in their names.
- Several members of the Trump family have their own Parler accounts. Ivanka Trump announced this week that she was joining family members on the platform, including Tiffany Trump, Eric Trump and Lara Trump. Trump's attorney Rudy Giuliani also uses the app. **Trump himself does not have an account, although his campaign does.**

- **People who have been confirmed to signed up for Parler:**
- Fox News personalities Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson, along with Fox Business anchor Maria Bartiromo
- Commentators Candice Owens, Charlie Kirk and Dan Bongino—who is an investor in the company—were early users.
- Talk show host Glenn Beck
- Mark Levin and Steven Crowder, who also host shows on BlazeTV, were previously using the app.

Parler loses hosting capabilities



This site can't be reached

Check if there is a typo in parler.com.

DNS_PROBE_FINISHED_NXDOMAIN

Reload

Echoed By @USMCRebelPatriot

John Matze 🇺🇸
@John • 1 hour ago • 1.0m

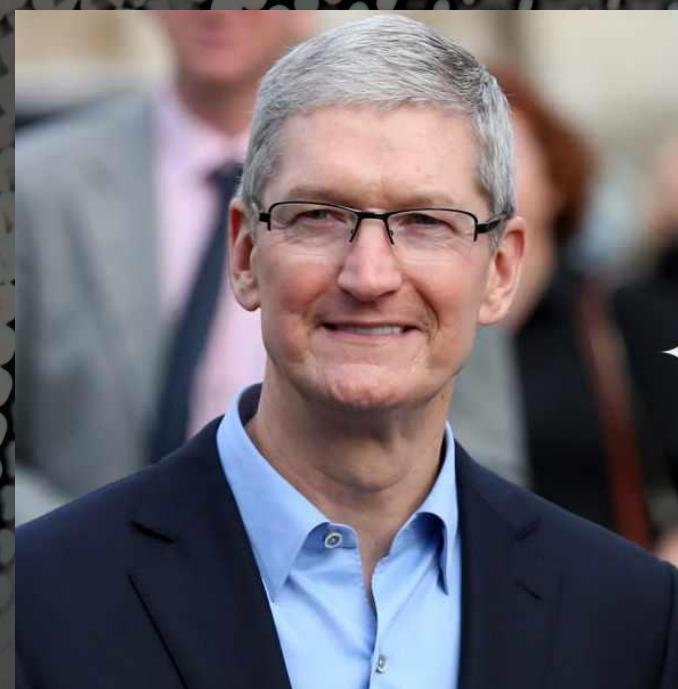
I wanted to send everyone on Parler an update. We will likely be down longer than expected. This is not due to software restrictions—we have our software and everyone's data ready to go. Rather it's that Amazon's, Google's and Apple's statements to the press about dropping our access has caused most of our other vendors to drop their support for us as well. And most people with enough servers to host us have shut their doors to us. We will update everyone and update the press when we are back online.

Parler is my final stand on the Internet. I won't be making an account on any social. Parler is my home. See you all soon 🙏

10.0k 6.7k 30k

Apple and Google drop Parler from their app stores

"In order to protect user safety on Google Play, our longstanding policies require that apps displaying user-generated content have moderation policies and enforcement that removes egregious content like posts that incite violence. All developers agree to these terms and we have reminded Parler of this clear policy in recent months. We're aware of continued posting in the Parler app that seeks to incite ongoing violence in the U.S. We recognize that there can be reasonable debate about content policies and that it can be difficult for apps to immediately remove all violative content, but for us to distribute an app through Google Play, we do require that apps implement robust moderation for egregious content. In light of this ongoing and urgent public safety threat, we are suspending the app's listings from the Play Store until it addresses these issues." -- Google Spokesperson



Tim Cook about why he kicked
Parler off Apple's App Store

We looked at the
incitement to violence that
was on there. We don't
consider that free speech
and incitement to violence
has an intersection.



Parler informs users they will be taken offline



John Matze 22 minutes ago • 423k

@John

I wanted to send everyone on Parler an update. We will likely be down longer than expected. This is not due to software restrictions—we have our software and everyone's data ready to go. Rather it's that Amazon's, Google's and Apple's statements to the press about dropping our access has caused most of our other vendors to drop their support for us as well. And most people with enough servers to host us have shut their doors to us. We will update everyone and update the press when we are back online.

Parler is my final stand on the Internet. I won't be making an account on any social. Parler is my home. See you all soon 🤝

[read less](#)

Where is Parler now?

From nslookup of ns1.parler.com

OrgName: Skysilk

OrgId: SKYSI

Address: 21601 Devonshire St #116

City: Chatsworth

StateProv: CA

PostalCode: 91311

Country: US

RegDate: 2020-10-20

Updated: 2021-02-17

Comment: <https://www.skysilk.com>

Comment: Standard Support hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM PST

Ref: <https://rdap.arin.net/registry/entity/SKYSI>

Temporary host of Parler after being dropped:

Parler, which was dropped by the big tech companies after it was used by members to incite violence at the U.S. Capitol, is now relying on a hosting service from DDoS-Guard Corp., which is owned by two Russians, Evgenii Marchenko and Aleksei Likhachev, according to documents filed with Companies House, a U.K. agency that registers company information and makes it available to the public. DDoS-Guard's website lists an Edinburgh location for its registered office.

Current webhost of Parler

SkySilk, a Web infrastructure company based outside of Los Angeles, is now hosting Parler, SkySilk's chief executive, Kevin Matossian, confirmed to NPR in an interview.

Where do we go from here?

- ▶ Theses questions to ask yourself like, where do you see the line between constitutional free speech and corporate policy on speech?
- ▶ Can we as a country learn from these recent actions within our country?



Questions?

Thank you for your time and continue to stay safe
Twitter @BLuef0x_