

Donald Trump's TikTok crusade takes its cues from China's 'Great Firewall'

Stillman Advance: Stillman College

September 21, 2020 Monday

University Wire

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 602 words

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Body

The Trump administration has cited national-security concerns, postulating that Chinese government agents could demand access to data from WeChat on US users. A district court judge in San Francisco has temporarily stayed the nationwide ban, following a lawsuit of WeChat users arguing that the ban undermined the free speech rights of American citizens.

In a Sunday ruling, a US judge in California put the brakes on Donald Trump's executive order from August calling for a WeChat ban (h/t CNBC).

The Commerce Department simultaneously created a window for the potential deal by delaying the ban on TikTok's app by a week, until the end of September 27th.

Less than 72 hours ago, President Donald Trump and his administration delivered the green light to have the China-based social media giant banned from the United States, however, last-minute legal action has kept the platform alive a bit longer.

In a statement, TikTok said: "We are pleased that the proposal by TikTok, Oracle, and Walmart will resolve the security concerns of the United States administration and settle questions around TikTok's future in the US".

Per Axios, the temporary injunction also means WeChat will remain on both Apple's and Google's app stores. for now.

The announcement of the postponement of the ban came after President Trump said he gave his "blessing" to a multiparty deal under which TikTok will become majority-owned by a group of US companies and investors: Oracle and Walmart, which together will take a 20% stake, along with American investment firms Susquehanna International Group, General Atlantic, Sequoia Capital and Coatue Management.

The proposed deal will see Oracle and Walmart partner with TikTok - now owned by the Chinese firm ByteDance - to create a new company that will likely be based in Texas.

Epic Games sue Apple after Fortnite's removal from the App Store

Those playing on Apple Mac computers will not be affected with the ban as that version does not use the iOS App Store. Fortnite is removed from App Store and Play store amid launching its own in-app payment system.

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Oracle said in a news release Saturday that it would take a 12.5 percent stake in the new entity and would become TikTok's "secure cloud technology provider".

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., on the race for the White House, TikTok's deal with Oracle and Walmart and the Russian Federation probe.

Commerce will have a chance to respond to this development, and whether it chooses to edit its order, pursue other avenues through the courts, or just rescind the order entirely, we will see in the coming days.

Trump approved the deal for the new entity that will be based in the United States.

Oracle CEO Safra Catz said in a statement that his company "will quickly deploy, rapidly scale, and operate TikTok systems in the Oracle Cloud".

"I think we have to be very careful in looking at that provision, because any opportunity whatsoever for China to continue to collect personal data on Americans, then we can't be supportive of that deal so that's the core and the crux of it that we'll be looking at".

"There are serious First Amendment problems with the WeChat ban, which targets the Chinese American community and trampled on their First Amendment guaranteed freedoms to speak, to worship, to read and react to the press, and to organize and associate for numerous purposes", a lawyer for the plaintiffs, Michael Bien, said in reaction to the court order.

The decision comes after the Commerce Department said President Donald Trump's executive orders will efficiently block United States users from accessing both applications starting 20 September.

Load-Date: September 21, 2020