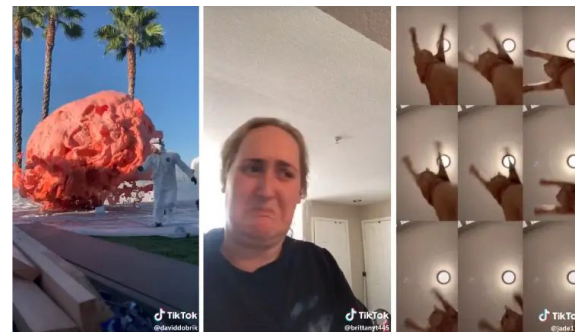
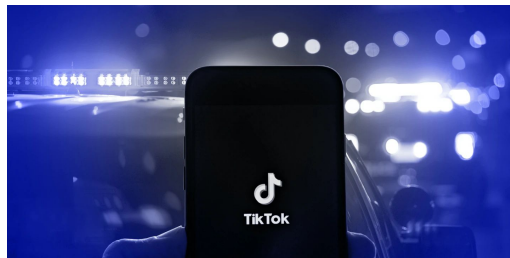
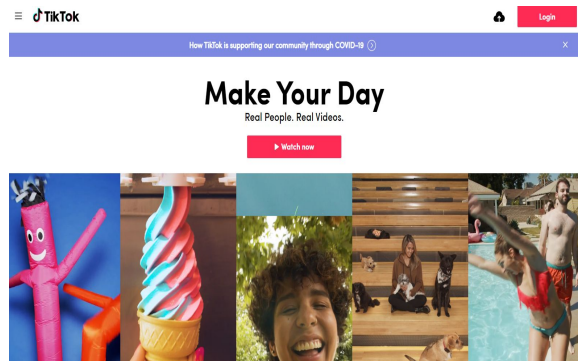


TikTok

**David Doman, N'Dea Jackson, Casey Mok,
Sanjeet Saikia, & Gabriela Trevizo**

Intro to TikTok



TikTok: a social network used for sharing user-generated videos, mostly of people lip-synching to popular songs. Users can create and upload their own videos where they lip-synch, sing, dance, or just talk. Users can also browse and interact with other users' content, which covers a wide range of topics, songs, and styles.

Owned by ByteDance, a Beijing-based Internet technology company founded in 2012 by 35 year old Zhang Yiming.

"According to our recently launched Digital 2020 report, TikTok boasts over 800 million monthly active users—up 300 million from January 2019," said Ryan Donovan, who is Hootsuite's CTO.

TikTok's Privacy Policy: <https://www.tiktok.com/legal/privacy-policy?lang=en>

issues/vulnerabilities that have come up

- Recent research carried out by Cybersecurity Company Checkpoint has discovered that TikTok has two major vulnerabilities which allowed cyber crooks to snoop into any account and access private details such as addresses, emails, and dates of birth.
- Vulnerabilities described in the research:
 - Get a hold of TikTok accounts and manipulate their content
 - Delete videos
 - Upload unauthorized videos
 - Make private “hidden” videos public
 - Reveal personal information saved on the account such as a private email addresses
- Some of the technical details provided by Checkpoint included a flaw that exposed the app to hackers who could then send a malicious SMS message to a user and as soon as the victim clicks the link, the attacker was able to get a hold of the account and could successfully manipulate the content.
 - Functionality that lets user send an SMS to themselves in order to download the application.
 - Used to capture the HTTP request using a proxy tool, such as Burp Suite. Once the download_url parameter is changed, the result is a spoofed SMS message containing a link of the attackers choosing.

issues/vulnerabilities that have come up

- The sub domain of TikTok, `ads.tiktok.com`, is also vulnerable to hacks as it is susceptible to Cross-Site Scripting (XSS), Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF), and Sensitive Data Exposure cyber-attacks where malicious scripts are injected into trusted websites for cyber fraud.
- ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, urges users to update their apps to ensure that they are completely protected from the vulnerabilities.



challenges - national security regulations

- Recently, the Trump administration has issued an executive order requiring ByteDance to divest its interests in Tik-Tok's interests within 90 days.
- There are currently no substantial regulations for foreign companies related to the collection of user data, although recent efforts have been made to lessen the risk to national security.
 - On March 12, 2020, Senator Josh Hawley presented a bill titled "No TikTok on Government Devices Act" to the senate stating that TikTok should be banned for use and downloads on government-issued mobile devices.
- Although recent attempts on the Chinese-Based Tik-Tok have been attempted there are many other apps used in the U.S. that are owned and operated by foreign entities.

Outcomes/Future Possible Outcomes

- US Company could buy TikTok
 - Company buy only the US portion of TikTok
 - Company buys the entire platform of TikTok
- No change
 - TikTok could tweak regulations and security to allow release of the ban
- TikTok gets banned
 - US companies cannot sign contracts or agreements with TikTok
 - No new downloads of the app - it will not be taken off of devices
 - Illegal to even view clips on TikTok

Most Likely: Microsoft will buy Tiktok?

Future - future risks

- User Privacy
- Unauthorized access to account information and material
- Unauthorized postings and deletions
- Spoofing/Hacking/Mac Address harvesting
- National Security – Chinese Communist Party
- Unilateral Presidential Ban on Tic Toc and WeChat
- Potential Microsoft Buyout
- Instagram Competition
- “Technology War” – Facebook, Twitter vs. Chinese technology, ByteDance, Tencent
- Hate speech – White Supremacist, Politics