

Async work week 0  
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<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/13/1027314728/survivors-laud-apples-new-tool-to-spot-child-sex-abuse-but-the-backlash-is-growing>

Apple has long been a stronghold for user privacy. This past August, Apple joined Facebook, Google, Twitter, Reddit, and other companies to scan images on their website for images of abuse, specifically child abuse. In addition to scanning their platform, Apple is going to scan personal devices. They plan on doing this by creating a code segment out of known images of abuse. They'd also turn images on your phone into code using the same system. Then they'd see if any of the code segments match.

When I initially heard of this news, I thought Apple scanning for child abuse images was a no brainer. However, I realized later that it opened a can of worms. The more I thought about it, the more questions I had. How did they come up with the bar of 30 matches before your account is reported? Is there a legal infrastructure where this scanning would stop at exactly this case or can this be exploited in some way? Despite Apple touting its stance on privacy, it has caved to requests of more authoritarian governments before.

I feel that this type of scanning would protect my students in the sense that perhaps it would prevent proliferation of their images. As for the community I live in, I feel that most people would be undisturbed by this policy change. I, however, see this similar to the Manhattan Project. Is this Pandora's box? Does this open up a possibility that we should not? Before consumers had 1 option, Apple, if privacy was important to them. Does this eliminate that choice? I'm honestly not sure.