

The Chinese-owned app TikTok has been caught spying on their users. This is due to a new feature in the upcoming iOS 14 that displays a banner at the top of the screen, letting the user know an app has accessed and pasted from their system clipboard. This privacy feature came about after an investigation by a German software engineer revealed any app installed on the phone has access to the clipboard as well. After its users began to see the new banner while using their app, TikTok stated it is due to how they claim to prevent spam and it would be removed in a future release. TikTok had already stated, however, that they would stop this behavior “within weeks” back in March. Some developers have reported their own apps are causing this notification even when the clipboard is not being accessed, but the lack of changes to the app thus far has TikTok’s users worried about their privacy.

Why we care: TikTok has been caught spying on its users previously on multiple occasions. The app has been labeled as spyware by many and has been banned by the US Army, citing Chinese ownership privacy concerns. They have also been under fire for collecting data from underage users, but it is still one of the most popular apps around right now. This track record of shady activity should be more than enough to sway users away from the service.

<https://threatpost.com/tiktok-to-stop-clipboard-snooping-after-apple-privacy-feature-exposes-behavior/156945/>

<https://lifelacker.com/is-tiktok-really-recording-everything-you-copy-in-ios-1844165091>