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Oracle and Microsoft are reportedly in talks to take over TikTok



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by [Wes Davis](#)

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Image: Cath Virginia / The Verge, Getty Images



[Wes Davis](#) is a weekend editor who covers the latest in tech and entertainment. He has written news, reviews, and more as a tech journalist since 2020.

Oracle and a group of investors that includes Microsoft are in talks to take over TikTok's global operations, [reports NPR](#). The deal would reportedly see ByteDance keeping a minority stake in TikTok while "the app's algorithm, data collection and software updates will be overseen by Oracle." The outlet reports the White House is negotiating the deal, though President Trump has since denied he is working with Oracle.

"I have spoken to many people about TikTok and there is great interest in TikTok," Trump said on a flight to Florida Saturday, [Reuters reported](#). But according to the outlet, he said Oracle was not among those he's spoken with:

"No, not with Oracle. Numerous people are talking to me, very substantial people, about buying it and I will make that decision probably over the next 30 days. Congress has given 90 days. If we can save TikTok, I think it would be a good thing."

Others who have reportedly considered buying TikTok include [Elon Musk](#), real estate [billionaire Frank McCourt](#), and [Shark Tank](#) host [Kevin O'Leary](#). Trump [recently said he would like Larry Ellison](#), who co-founded Oracle, to buy the platform.

Oracle's server network already provides the bulk of TikTok's backbone, and a potential deal with it could see Oracle "effectively monitor and provide oversight with what is going on with TikTok," according to one of NPR's anonymous sources, who added that the agreement's goal is to "minimize Chinese ownership."

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Microsoft's reported involvement isn't clear beyond that it is "engaged in the talks." The company was also in the mix with Oracle and Walmart in a 2020 bid to take over TikTok that [Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates had called](#) "a poison[ed] chalice." Walmart reportedly isn't involved this time around "after balking at the estimated price" of the app.

News of the talks comes after President Trump [issued an executive order](#) giving TikTok and others a 75-day reprieve from any enforcement action related to the United States' requirement that ByteDance divest from TikTok. Trump had previously [floated the possibility](#) of a "joint venture" in which the US owns 50 percent of the company.

Microsoft declined to comment on this story. We've also reached out to Oracle, TikTok, and the White House.

Update January 26th: Added that Microsoft declined to comment. Also added Reuters' [report](#) that President Trump denied working with Oracle on a deal, along with additional context about other potential TikTok buyers.

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