

CS50 INTRODUCTION TO CYBERSECURITY FINAL

BY: JORDAN BUTLER

EDX USERNAME: JORDANBUTLER10

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY



US HOUSE BANS WHATSAPP ON OFFICIAL DEVICES OVER SECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION ISSUES

ROADMAP

- Purpose of the ban
- Key reasons for the ban
- What the ban includes
- Security risk of WhatsApp
- Digital policy trends
- Potential impact
- Criticisms and critiques of the ban
- What happens moving forward



**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE
OF THIS BAN?**



- SECURITY VULNERABILITIES
- INABILITY TO ARCHIVE MESSAGES FOR RECORDS
- RISK OF SURVEILLANCE AND DATA MISUSE
- PREVIOUS INCIDENTS OF SPYWARE ATTACKS



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS BAN?

- INCLUDES ALL GOVERNMENT ISSUED HOUSE DEVICES
 - (SMARTPHONES, TABLETS, AND COMPUTERS)
 - PERSONAL DEVICES ARE ALLOWED WITH LIMITS



KEY SECURITY RISKS

- End to End Encryption
- Metadata collected by Meta
- Target of past vulnerabilities
- Risk of social engineering & phishing



NATURE OF CYBERSECURITY RISK

- Supply Chain Risk – Owned by a private company
- Espionage Risk – Possible foreign access
- Data Leakage – Through metadata or exploits
- Zero-Day Vulnerabilities – Not easily detected
- Archiving Gaps – Violates federal records laws



DIGITAL POLICY TRENDS

- Increased scrutiny of commercial tech tools
- Push for secure, vetted communication platforms
- Similar app restrictions across agencies (TikTok)
- Emphasis on transparency and data control





POTENTIAL IMPACT

- Reduced convenience for staff
- Need to shift to approved tools
- Better alignment with federal security policy
- Possible ripple effect in Senate or other branches



- Critics express that the ban is overly cautious
- Personal use still poses risks
- Concerns about limiting communication flexibility

Bans may be motivated by a desire for greater surveillance of employee communications.

- Moving employees to government-approved or monitored platforms raises red flags about civil liberties and data privacy.

CRITICISM & CRITIQUES



MOVING FORWARD

- Possible similar actions in Senate or other agencies
- Evaluation of other apps and services
- On-going adaptation of federal tech policies



THANK YOU

By: Jordan Butler

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CS50 Cybersecurity Final Project

