

# Apple is secretly giving people government trust scores based on Apple spying on their iPhone data

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Apple has quietly introduced "trust scores" for people based on how they use their iPhones and other devices.


The tech giant, which last month became the first public company to be worth more than \$1 trillion (£757bn), said in an update to its privacy policy that the scores would be determined by tracking the calls and emails made on Apple devices.

In an update to its privacy, Apple said the rating system could be used to help fight fraud, though specific examples of how this would work were not given.

The provision, first spotted by Venture Beat, appears in an update to the iTunes Store and Privacy page and comes ahead of the release of [the iPhone Xs and iPhone Xs Plus](#) on Friday, 21 September.

"To help identify and prevent fraud, information about how you use your device, including the approximate number of phone calls or emails you send and receive, will be used to compute a device trust score when you attempt a purchase," the page reads.

"The submissions are designed so Apple cannot learn the real values on your device. The scores are stored for a fixed time on our servers."

 Apple's 'trust score' is designed to identify and prevent fraud through the number of emails and phone calls a device makes  
(Getty Images)


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The method is reminiscent of an episode of the dystopian TV series Black Mirror, in which people are rated on their interactions with other people.

In the episode, Nosedive, the ratings are used to determine a person's socioeconomic status, affecting their access to healthcare, transport and housing.

The comparison to the episode was [noted by people on social media](#), with some calling it "dangerous".

 The new Apple iPhone Xs (L) and iPhone Xs Max (R) are displayed during an Apple special event at the Steve Jobs Theatre on September 12, 2018 in Cupertino, California (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

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The disclosure of the device tracking fits in with Apple's promise to provide transparency regarding its collection of user data.

The vagueness of the language used in the update, however, means it could be interpreted in a broad and potentially invasive

way. It is also unusual that it is applied to Apple TVs, which are unable to make or receive emails or phone calls.

A spokesperson for Apple was not immediately available for comment.