

**FEDS FIND THAT SILICON VALLEY ENGAGES
IN VAST ABUSIVE SPYING ON CITIZENS**

**FEDS FIND THAT SILICON VALLEY ENGAGES IN
VAST ABUSIVE SPYING ON CITIZENS IN ORDER TO
MANIPULATE POLITICS AND MARKETS**

**F.T.C. Study Finds 'Vast Surveillance' of
Social Media Users**



The Federal Trade Commission said on Thursday it found that several social media and streaming services engaged in a “vast surveillance” of consumers, including minors, collecting and sharing more personal information than most users realized.

Reddit, for example, totally works for the Democrats.

The findings come from a study of how nine companies — including Meta, YouTube and TikTok — collected and used consumer data. The sites, which mostly offer free services, profited off the data by feeding it into advertising that targets specific users by demographics, according to the report. The companies also failed to protect users, especially children and teens.

The F.T.C. said it began its study nearly four years ago to offer the first holistic look into the opaque business practices of some of the biggest online platforms that have created multibillion-dollar ad businesses using consumer data. The agency said the report showed the need for federal privacy legislation and restrictions on how companies collect and use data.

“Surveillance practices can endanger people’s privacy, threaten their freedoms, and expose them to a host of harms, from identify theft to stalking,” said [Lina Kahn, the F.T.C.’s chair](#), in a statement.

Tech giants are under [intense scrutiny for abuses of privacy](#) and have in recent years been blamed in part for contributing to a mental health crisis among young people and children that has been [linked by some social scientists and the surgeon general](#) to the rampant use of social media and smartphones. But despite multiple proposals in

Congress for stricter privacy and children's online safety protections, nearly all legislative attempts at regulating Big Tech have failed.

Efforts by the companies to police themselves also haven't worked, the F.T.C. concluded in its report. "Self-regulation has been a failure," it added.

In December 2020, the agency opened its inquiry into the nine companies that operate 13 platforms. The F.T.C. requested data from each company for operations between 2019 and 2020, and then studied how the companies had collected, used and retained that data.

Included in the study were the streaming platform Twitch, which is owned by Amazon, the messaging service Discord, the photo- and video-sharing app Snapchat, and the message board Reddit. Twitter, now renamed X, also provided data.

The study did not disclose company-by-company findings.

Companies have argued that they've tightened their data collection policies since the studies were conducted. Earlier this week, [Meta announced that the accounts of Instagram users](#) younger than 18 will be made private by default in the coming weeks, which means that only followers approved by an account-holder may see their posts.

The F.T.C. found that the companies voraciously consumed data about users, and often bought information about people who weren't users through data brokers. They also gathered information from accounts linked to other services.

Most of the companies collected the age, gender and the language spoken by users. Many platforms also obtained information on education, income and marital status. The companies didn't give users easy ways to opt-out of data collection and often retained sensitive information much longer than consumers would expect, the agency said.

The companies used data to create profiles on users — often merging the information they gathered with information on habits collected on other sites — to serve up ads.

The agency also found that many of the sites claimed they restricted access to users under the age of 13, but many children remained on the platforms. Teens were also treated like adults on many of the apps, subjecting them to the same data collection as adults.

Many of the companies couldn't tell the F.T.C. how much data they were collecting, according to the study.

The F.T.C. last year [proposed changes to strengthen child privacy regulations](#) and

lawmakers are seeking to raise child privacy protections to users under 18. In 2022, Ms. Khan opened a regulatory effort to create rules for companies that show advertising based on users' browsing or search history.

The agency has previously filed complaints against several tech companies for privacy violations, and reached a \$500 million settlement in January with Epic Games for violating a child privacy law. In 2022, the F.T.C. fined Twitter \$150 million for using security data about users for behavioral advertising.

The post [F.T.C. Study Finds 'Vast Surveillance' of Social Media Users](#) appeared first on [New York Times](#).

Similar Posts

[**YOUR SMARTPHONE IS GIVING YOU CANCER**](#)

By [senateinv6](#) April 1, 2024

Fireproof chemicals in your smartphone may QUADRUPLE risk of dying from cancer, study suggests The batteries in your phone, and your Tesla Car, give you cancer from the smoke when they catch on fire. The EMF waves from your phone, and your Tesla Car, give you cancer when they irradiate your cells Polybrominated diphenyl ethers...

[Read More YOUR SMARTPHONE IS GIVING YOU CANCER](#)

[**Google And Facebook Decide If You Are A Liberal or A Republican or a Crook From A Single Picture Of Your Face**](#)

By [senateinv6](#) April 23, 2024

Can YOU spot the right-winger and the liberal? AI predicts people's politics by analyzing a single selfie Facial recognition technology can be used to reveal people's personal information, a new study revealed. Researchers said the AI tool could identify liberals versus conservatives based on their pictures. They are now urging lawmakers to take steps to...

[Read More Google And Facebook Decide If You Are A Liberal or A Republican or a Crook From A Single Picture Of Your Face](#)

WASHINGTON POST SAYS EVERY ONE OF YOUR COMMUNICATIONS AND MAIL IS SPIED ON

By [senateinv6](#) June 24, 2024

Law enforcement is spying on Americans' records show How FEDEX driver helping cops spy on YOU... Story by Drew Harwell The U.S. Postal Service has shared information from thousands of Americans' letters and packages with law enforcement every year for the past decade, conveying the names, addresses and other details from the outside of boxes...

[Read More WASHINGTON POST SAYS EVERY ONE OF YOUR COMMUNICATIONS AND MAIL IS SPIED ON](#)



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE MATCH.COM GOLD DIGGERS

By [senateinv6](#) July 9, 2024

By Cassidy Morrison Senior Health Reporter READ MORE: [Internet_Dating_Tips Your Dating App Has A Multi-Hundred Page Dossier On You! ONLINE DATING MATH](#) It is the latest high-profile relationship to capture the attention of the American public — and for one reason only. Former New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, 72, has recently stepped...

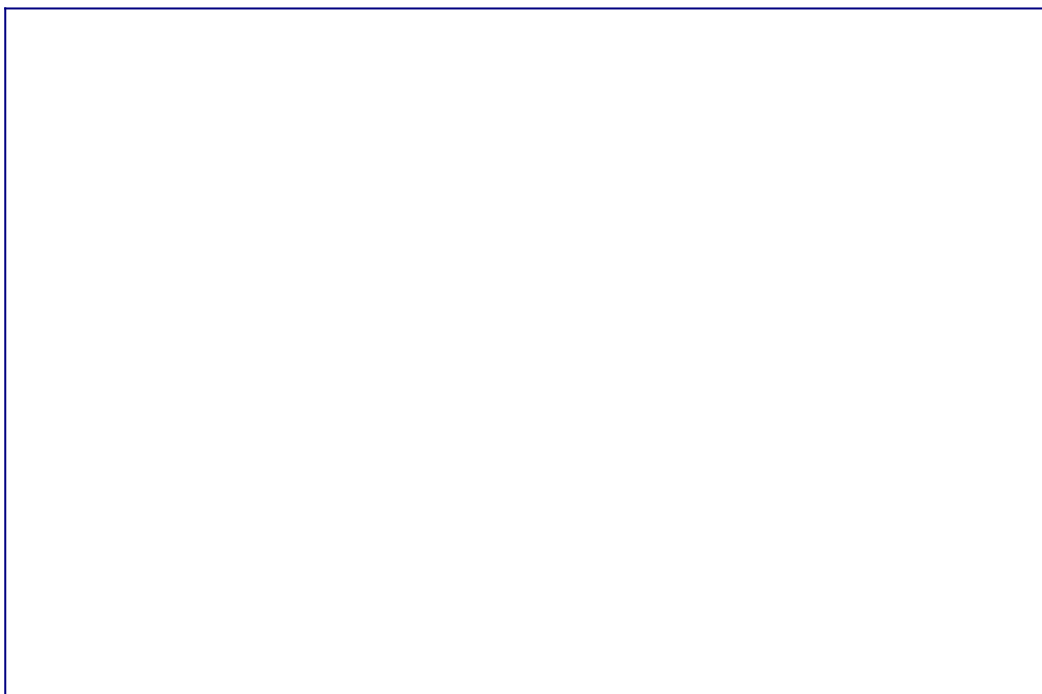
[Read More THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE MATCH.COM GOLD DIGGERS](#)

SILICON VALLEY IS USING 'ai' TO DESTROY SOCIETY AND USERS HATE THEM FOR IT

By [senateinv6](#) June 30, 2024

AI MELTDOWN Panicked AI users revolt against Silicon Valley as tech giants like Microsoft and Amazon back down over policy changes Internet Addiction Causing 'Significant Alterations' In Teen Brains... Users claim AI tools are violating their privacy and using their information without their knowledge Mackenzie Tatananni, ARTIFICIAL intelligence is here to stay – and many...

[Read More SILICON VALLEY IS USING 'ai' TO DESTROY SOCIETY AND USERS HATE THEM FOR IT](#)



ONLY STUPID PARENTS LET THEIR KIDS HAVE SMART

PHONES

By [senateinv6](#) July 18, 2024

A growing number of intelligent, aware, parents are refusing to give their children smartphones — and the movement is going global. Sawdah Bhaimiya Key Points A U.K.-based organization supporting parents who are not giving their children smartphones was founded in February and has expanded internationally to the U.S., Canada, and more. The popularity of...

[Read More ONLY STUPID PARENTS LET THEIR KIDS HAVE SMART PHONES](#)

© 2024 ETHICS REPORTS

- [ANTI-CORRUPTION TIPS](#)
- [BIG TECH STOLE ALL THE PATENTS](#)
- [DEPT OF ENERGY POLITICAL SLUSH FUND](#)
- [*** HOW TO KILL CORRUPTION](#)