♪ TikTok

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Mark E. Green, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Green,

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 2023. As you know, TikTok has been engaged with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) since 2019. The questions and concerns you raise in your letter are addressed by Project Texas, which is our framework to address the national security concerns raised by CFIUS and the U.S. government. We would be happy to provide a Project Texas briefing for you and your staff to share our progress on implementing protocols through Project Texas to address these concerns.

In the interim, please find below responses to the questions you posed.

Where is TikTok's source code developed? Does anyone in China have access to the source code?

As our former Chief Information Security Officer noted in a [sworn declaration in 2020](#), TikTok has software engineers throughout the world, including the United States and China. Using a global engineering workforce to write software code is not unusual - indeed, it is the norm for large global technology companies. TikTok maintains a software development life cycle that involves testing of security controls at multiple points in the development process.

Under Project Texas, all software and code that serves U.S. users will enter Dedicated Transparency Centers where it will be inspected by Oracle. Code that has not been inspected by Oracle cannot operate in the environment. For additional assurance, there will also be another third-party source code inspector to validate the source code. Oracle has already begun inspecting TikTok's source code and will have unprecedented access. To our knowledge, no other social media company, or entertainment platform like TikTok, provides this level of access and transparency.

If there is need to patch or update the source code, where does that new code get written?

Under Project Texas, the process for patching or updating the source code will follow the same protocols as described in response to the questions above.

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TikTok

Can you guarantee, if the source code or the updates are written in China, there are no "back doors" written into the code, or any updates to the code that would allow China access to the servers housing Americans' data?

The oversight and validation mechanisms described in response to question 1 are designed to identify and, if necessary, remediate potential vulnerabilities in the source code.

As noted in our answer above, all TikTok source code will be deposited into the Oracle cloud infrastructure, where it will be subject to inspection not only by Oracle but also by a separate third-party source code inspector. This system provides an unprecedented and comprehensive level of assurance against "back doors" – to our knowledge, more comprehensive than what any other peer company has committed to doing despite also using global engineering workforces.

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We thank you for your questions and appreciate the opportunity to provide additional details. We welcome a continued dialogue with your Committee regarding our shared priority of maintaining a safe platform for our users.

Sincerely,

Michael Beckerman
Vice President, Public Policy