Legal battle over potential TikTok ban goes before federal appeals court

A long-brewing legal standoff over the popular video-sharing app TikTok got underway on Monday, with arguments in the challenge against a possible ban kicking off.

TikTok and its parent company ByteDance have been under fire by U.S. officials for years over warnings that China's government could gain access to users' data and use it to manipulate or spy on Americans. But a renewed push against the app gained momentum in Congress earlier this year, as lawmakers approved a foreign aid package that included provisions requiring it to be sold or be banned from U.S. app stores. President Biden signed the legislation into law in April, teeing up a countdown for TikTok's sale.

TikTok and ByteDance filed a lawsuit against the Justice Department in May over the law, arguing that it violates First Amendment rights of users,

among other claims. With the petition, the parties asked the court to block enforcement of the legislation, which they said would force a shutdown of the app by early next year, arguing that the sale of the app is untenable before then.
Given the timeline, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit fast-tracked oral arguments. The parties appeared before a panel of three judges in federal court in Washington, D.C., on Monday, where TikTok sought a preliminary injunction against the law.

TikTok has argued that the potential ban would be a "radical departure" from the U.S. supporting an open internet, while setting a "dangerous precedent."

Meanwhile, U.S. lawmakers and security experts stress that the Chinese government could tap TikTok's trove of personal data from millions of U.S. users.

In a July filing, the Justice Department outlined that the concern "is grounded in the actions ByteDance and TikTok have already taken overseas, and in the PRC's malign activities in the United States that, while not reliant on ByteDance and TikTok to date, demonstrate its capability and intent to engage in malign foreign influence and theft of sensitive data."

The arguments over the law that could ban TikTok
On Monday, TikTok and the Justice Department each had 25

minutes to present their case. Representatives for TikTok presented their arguments first. Attorney Andrew Pincus asserted that for the first time in history, Congress has expressly targeted a specific U.S. speaker, banning its speech — and the speech of 170 million Americans. And he urged that it's the government's burden to prove the law's constitutionality.

"No compelling reason justifies Congress acting like an enforcement agency and specifically targeting petitioners," Pincus said. Pincus repeatedly asserted that the Justice Department has not demonstrated evidence of China's ability to steal data at will, while working to draw a distinction between foreign ownership and foreign control. He questioned why other foreign-based or China-based companies aren't being targeted, and why there haven't been less restrictive attempts to regulate TikTok outside of a possible ban or forced sale. Asked by one of the judges about the possibility of the parent company's divestment in the app, Pincus argued that not only is it infeasible, but it also puts a burden on TikTok even if "it would be possible."
"So this isn't just about divestiture. It's really about a ban," Pincus said.

Representing a group of prominent TikTok users who also filed a lawsuit challenging the law, attorney Jeffrey Fisher argued that in American history, the answer has never been suppression of speech, noting that the idea that a foreign adversary might spread its ideas about political and social issues "has never in our history been a basis for suppressing speech in this country." Fischer argued that the law "directly implicates the First Amendment rights of American speakers to speak," urging that the Justice Department's government's content manipulation rationale is "wholly illegitimate and invalid."

On the other side, attorney Daniel Tenny represented the government. He argued that the bottom line is that the app's code is written in China, outlining the sheer amount of information gathered about users and saying that the problem arises out of the data being "extremely valuable to a foreign adversary trying to compromise the security of the United States."

Tenny drew a line between expression and protected expression, arguing that what is being targeted is not protected expression.

IT Support Specialist

IT Networking Specialist

Cybersecurity Specialist

Software & Web Developers

Data Specialist

Your Next Move: IT Support Specialist

An IT support specialist installs software, sets up computer workspaces and solves technical issues. IT support specialists analyze, troubleshoot and evaluate technology issues. They may work with internal clients or external customers. They may work directly with end users or provide guidance to other technicians.

According to industry data, the median national salary for an IT support specialist is $50,981, and there are approximately 230,000 job postings each year.

Finding the right career in IT can be a challenge, but CompTIA's new IT career path planning tool makes it easier for you to see exactly what you need to do in order to attain your career goals.

In addition to having the technical skills for the job, you also require a certain set of soft skills to interact effectively with clients, manage conflicts and convey complex information in a relatable, simplified manner. Below is a short list of essential technical support specialist soft skills.

Communication
Effective communication is an indispensable skill for any technical support specialist. You must be able to convey technical information in layman's terms for clients and make tech problems less intimidating for them.

Problem-solving
Good problem-solving skills allow you to investigate, diagnose, and resolve simple and complex tech-related issues. As a problem-solver, you'll be required to think on your feet and provide timely and effective solutions.

Patience
Working in a technical support role often means dealing with frustrated clients or complex tech problems. Patience helps you navigate such scenarios calmly and professionally, ensuring a positive outcome for all involved.

Adaptability
When you're working with technology, new updates and changes are constant. Your capacity to adapt to these changes, learn new processes and remain flexible will help you in your role as a technical support specialist.

Apply for the Global IT Scholarship Program

Global Information Technology is proud to provide the GIT Scholarship Program. Every month, this scholarship will be awarded to highly driven individuals wanting to begin or advance their IT career. Exclusively, the scholarship will provide a grant of $2,500.00 towards any certification course or remote live training at GIT. GIT created this opportunity to give back to the community and spread our desire to help those in need. We believe that learning is essential and we will continue to help and develop individuals to help them succeed in their personal development goals. Apply here:

https://www.global-itech.com/the-global-it-cholarship/

VETERANS, GET READY TO POWER YOUR TECH FUTURE AT GLOBAL IT

Global Information Technology (Global IT) is approved by the Department of Veteran Affairs to receive Veterans benefits. We accept Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill®, Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill® for Active Duty, Ch 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E), and VRRAP. Whether you are serving or have already served, Global Information Technology is here to work with you to start your IT career. These benefits may cover up to 100% of tuition and fees and housing allowance, courseware, and other training related costs as well.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is accepting new training program enrollments for veterans wishing to use their GI Bill benefits. These training programs help veterans get the technology skills they need to join some of the fastest-growing industries in the United States. Global Information Technology (Global IT) is approved by the Department of Veteran Affairs to receive benefits under the GI

Bill - Chapter 31 and Post-911 programs. Participating veterans will receive high-tech training, tuition, and housing allowance assistance).

For more information about your specific benefits in regards to your service, call 248-557-2480 to set up an appointment with one of our School Certified Officers (SCO, career advisors) or complete the inquiry form at https://www.globalitech.com/va-p

Jobs in the Detroit area ... just 1 click away

SimplyHired.

indeed

Linked in

glassdoor®

Dice®
The Career Hub for Tech Insiders™

The importance of developing your soft skills

In the workplace, and especially among tech companies, there's a strong focus on employees' skills. Those with strong coding abilities, relevant certifications and professional licenses are often the most sought-after employees. But in recent years, employers have begun paying more attention to soft skills like time management, empathy and kindness.

What Are Soft Skills?
Soft skills are attributes that allow you to interact well and effectively with others. Given that definition, it's easy to see why these skills are just as important as hard skills like coding, mathematics and project management.

Why Do Employers Care About Soft Skills?
Most of the time spent in a tech role occurs within teams. Even computer programmers, who often work alone, must be able to work in teams to accomplish certain goals. This is one major reason why employers are valuing soft skills more when hiring new employees.

Soft skills allow employees to share knowledge with their teams, mentor inexperienced colleagues and tackle difficult issues with a positive attitude. Critical soft skills include compassion for others, resourcefulness and patience.

Why are backups important, and what is the safest way of doing them?

Backups are important for several reasons. They help to protect against data loss, which can be caused by a variety of reasons, such as hardware failure, software corruption, natural disasters, or cyber-attacks. Backups also help to ensure that important data is available when needed, such as in the case of an emergency or system failure. Additionally, backups provide a way to recover deleted or corrupted files. This is also important because the loss of data can result in consequences such as financial loss, damage to reputation, and even legal issues. If not these, then loss of data may also lead to emotional effects in certain cases. A backup, however, can restore data quickly and avoid any significant disruption, emotional or otherwise. The safest way of doing backups is by following the 3-2-1 backup rule. This rule states that you should have at least three copies of your data, stored on at least two different storage media, with one copy stored offsite. This provides redundancy in case of a failure of one storage medium or location.

There are several methods of backing up data, including:

External hard drives or USB drives: These are inexpensive and portable, making them a popular choice for personal backups. However, they can be lost or damaged, so it is important to keep them in a safe location and make regular backups.

- Cloud backups: These store data on remote servers, which can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection. This provides an offsite backup solution, but it is important to choose a reputable provider and to ensure that the data is encrypted and secure.

- Network-attached storage (NAS): These are devices that connect to a network and provide storage for multiple devices. They can be configured to automatically back up data from multiple devices on the network.

- Tape backups: These are less common but are still used by some businesses for the long-term storage of large amounts of data.

- Regardless of the backup method chosen, it is important to regularly test backups regularly to ensure that they can be successfully restored in case of an emergency."

_____

GIT thought provoking corner

"Courage is the greatest of all virtues, because if you haven't courage, you may not have an opportunity to use any of the others."

- Samuel Johnson

Quick and to the point Career Advice

Question: *"Andrei, I've been applying for 3 months with no luck, and I'm not sure if I'm doing everything right. I'm writing a personalized cover letter for every position I apply for. With personalizing the cover letter, resume, filling in online applications, taking personality tests, etc., every application takes about an hour and a half. This severely limits the number of jobs I have time to apply for. Should I be prioritizing quantity over quality and ditch the cover letter? Or try even harder on quality and go all out on the few positions that really appeal to me? Should I be reaching out to companies and recruiters via LinkedIn and email, or is that too much?"*

– London Howard III

Answer: London, first off, you are not alone. Your concern is not only commonplace, but a re-occurring thing. Here's my suggestion for going about your search.

First, set aside a set number of hours to look for/apply for jobs.

Spend only that amount of time on your search each day, nor more, no less.

Start by creating a list of jobs that you want to apply for. Each day, do a quick search. When you find a new job, don't apply for it immediately, but add it to your list. You should spend about 1/6 of your time actually searching.

When you find a job to apply for, give it one of the following scores, which you're going to use to delegate your time/energy.

1. A high priority job - ones where you'd be really excited to do it and feel that you're well qualified for it or could make a convincing argument for it. Maybe 1-2 in 20 jobs should be a #1.

2. For jobs that you're qualified for and would be okay with doing, but it's not something you think you stand a great chance of getting or aren't quite as excited about it as a #1. Maybe 3-5 in 20 jobs should be a #2.

3. For those jobs where you'd take it if it was offered, but that's about all. This will be a majority of your jobs. Probably 15 out of 20. After you've done your searching for the day, spend 1/6 of you time with basic management. Respond to any inquiries about an interview. If you had an interview the previous day, send a quick thank you (they're dumb, but I have peers that get real discombobulated when an applicant doesn't send one, and since they're so simple, why not) or follow up on the interview with more information about yourself. Do some light housekeeping - sort/resort and clean up your list, make sure you've organized any resumes you've sent, check if anyone been checking you out on social media, etc.

I hope this helped you out. You got this, and best of luck!

- Andrei

October 2024 Career Services Workshops: GIT's Lunch and Learn Events

Message from Jennifer Bowden, GITs Career Services Manager

Hello Global IT community! GIT's workshops and 'Lunch and Learn' events are short sessions with the information you need to get a jump-start on your job search. Our upcoming workshops here at GIT include:

Tuesday, October 15 at 12 pm – Lunch and Learn: Applying for Government Jobs
Many people are interested in state or federal government jobs but find the application process confusing. Join us for a session on applying for these jobs, including how to set up a profile, writing a government-friendly resume, and what to expect from the hiring process.

Thursday, October 24 at 5 pm – Network Your Way to Career Success
You may have heard that networking is essential for finding a job in today's market – but how do you get started? This workshop will cover networking tips and strategies including networking in person and how to get the most out of LinkedIn.

Register today at https://www.global-itech.com/free-seminars/ or email placement.services@global-itech.com.