

TOWN OF WESTLAKE

PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Purpose

On June 14, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott required (<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=88R&Bill=SB1893>) all municipal governments to ban the video-sharing application TikTok from all government-owned and government-issued devices and networks over the Chinese Communist Party's ability to use the application for surveilling Texans. Following the issuance of the Governor's directive, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1893 (<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/html/SB01893F.htm>), which prohibits the use of covered applications on governmental entity devices.

In addition to TikTok, the Town of Westlake may add other software and hardware products with security concerns to this policy and will be required to remove prohibited technologies which are on the DIR prohibited technology list. Throughout this Policy, "Prohibited Technologies" shall refer to TikTok and any additional hardware or software products added to this Policy.

Scope

This policy applies to all Town of Westlake full and part-time employees, including contractors, paid or unpaid interns, and users of local government networks. All Town of Westlake employees are responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of this policy.

A covered application is:

The social media service TikTok or any successor application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Limited, or an entity owned by ByteDance Limited.

A social media application or service specified by proclamation of the governor under Government Code Section 620.005.

Ownership

The Director of Information Technology is responsible for implementing and maintaining this policy.

Policy Statement

Town-Owned Devices

Except where approved exceptions apply, the use or download of prohibited applications or websites is prohibited on all city-owned devices, including cell phones, tablets, desktop and laptop computers, and other internet-capable devices.

The Town of Westlake must identify, track, and control city-owned devices to prohibit the installation of or access to all prohibited applications. This includes the various prohibited applications for mobile, desktop, or other internet-capable devices.

The Town of Westlake must manage all city-issued mobile devices by implementing the security controls listed below:

- Restrict access to “app stores” or non-authorized software repositories to prevent the install of unauthorized applications.
- Maintain the ability to remotely wipe non-compliant or compromised mobile devices.
- Maintain the ability to remotely uninstall unauthorized software from mobile devices.
- Deploy secure baseline configurations, for mobile devices, as determined by the Town of Westlake.

Network Restrictions

DIR has blocked access to prohibited technologies on the state network. To ensure multiple layers of protection, the Town of Westlake will also implement additional network-based restrictions to include:

- Configure agency firewalls to block access to statewide prohibited services on all agency technology infrastructures, including local networks, WAN, and VPN connections except where allowed by Exception below.

Ongoing And Emerging Technology Threats

To provide protection against ongoing and emerging technological threats to the state’s sensitive information and critical infrastructure, DPS and DIR will regularly monitor and evaluate additional technologies posing concerns for inclusion in this policy.

DIR will host a site that lists all prohibited technologies including apps, software, hardware, or technology providers. The up-to-date list of prohibited technologies is published at <https://dir.texas.gov/information-security/prohibited-technologies>. The following list is current as of January 23, 2023.

Prohibited Software/Applications/Developers (as of 1/23/23)

- TikTok
- Kaspersky
- ByteDance Ltd.
- Tencent Holdings Ltd.
- Alipay
- CamScanner
- QQ Wallet
- SHAREit
- VMate
- WeChat
- WeChat Pay
- WPS Office
- Any subsidiary or affiliate an entity listed above.

Prohibited Hardware/Equipment/Manufacturers (as of 1/23/23)

- Dahua Technology Company
- Huawei Technologies Company
- Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company
- Hytera Communications Corporation
- SZ DJI Technology Company

- ZTE Corporation
- Any subsidiary or affiliate of an entity listed above.

New technologies will be added to the list after consultation between DIR and DPS.

The Town of Westlake will implement the removal and prohibition of any listed technology. In addition to those identified by DIR and DPS, the Town of Westlake may prohibit other technology threats.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the ban on prohibited technologies may only be approved by the Town Manager of the Town of Westlake or a designee.

Exceptions to the policy will only be considered when the use of prohibited technologies is required for a specific business need, such as enabling criminal or civil investigations or for sharing of information to the public during an emergency. To the extent practicable, exception-based use should only be performed on devices that are not used for other town business and on non-town networks.

Approval History