

Trading Privacy For Child Safety

tldr; it won't work. Learn what can.





Hi, I'm Jeremy

I work with Internet companies to ensure that they are safe, trusted, and secure for their users.

I also advocate for laws and policies that are evidence-informed and that respect the human rights of all.

6 points in 10 minutes

Where

Where society is headed on child safety & privacy.

When

When can we expect the law to change?

Who

Who is leading the anti-privacy offensive?

Why

Why their approach is doomed and harmful.

What

What Internet platforms are doing now.

How

How we can do better for kids and for privacy.

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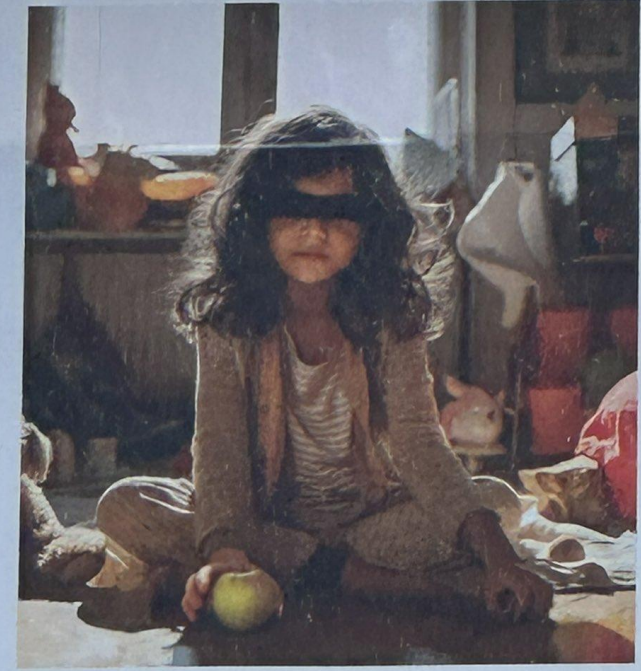
Where society is headed on child safety & privacy.

Around the world, child safety is being used to drive changes to Internet regulation that could make it less private for everyone.

These include moves to require everyone's communications to be screened by AI classifiers, and to disallow end-to-end encryption.

What happens on your iPhone, stays on your iPhone.

apple.com/privacy



Child sexual abuse is stored on iCloud.

Apple allows it.

ProtectChildrenNotAbuse.com

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2

When can we expect the law to change?

This week, two bodies of the European Union – the Parliament and the Commission – came to loggerheads over this issue.

The Parliament favors scanning only for known abuse materials in publicly available content – the Commission disagrees.

Some places where this is happening

EU: CSAM Regulation

Entering triologue negotiations now, for conclusion by 2024.

UK: Online Safety Act

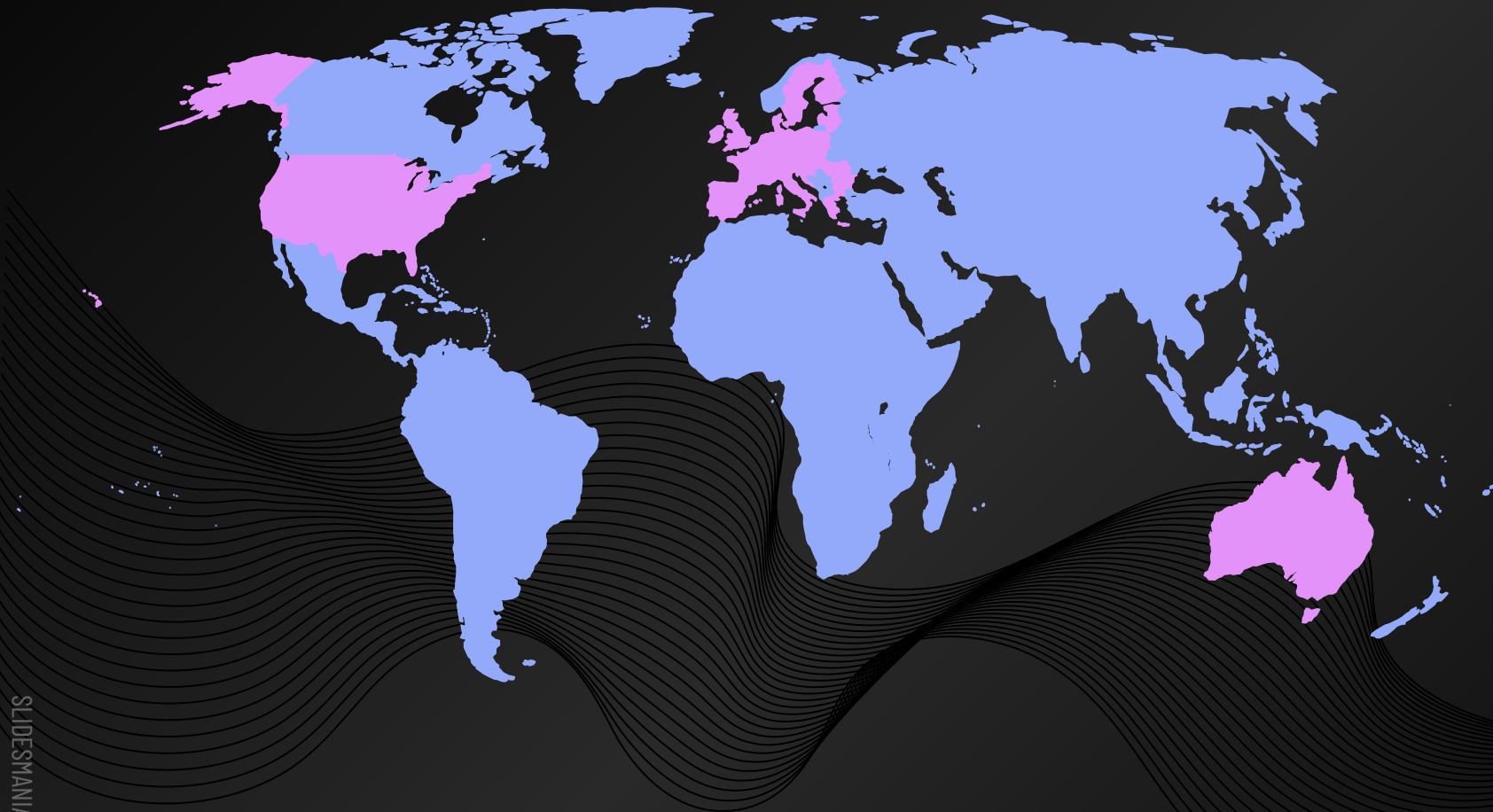
Passed in 2023, exact scope depends on OFCOM regulations.

Australia: Online Safety Act

Passed in 2021, Online Safety Commissioner can order interception.

USA: EARN IT Act

If platforms are misused for CSAM, they become responsible.



3

Who is leading the anti-privacy offensive?

Among those lobbying for changes are surveillance tech companies like Thorn, which could reap big rewards from mandatory scanning... along with law enforcement agencies and allied child safety groups with problematic histories.

Police ran a dark web CSAM site.



In 2017, Australian police began operating a dark web CSAM sharing website for eleven months. Thousands of images of children being abused were shared, including by police themselves.

4

Why their approach is doomed and harmful.

Children and adults alike rely on online privacy to keep themselves safe. If obliged to scan teens' private messages and cloud storage, sensitive private chats and images will now be exposed to platforms and police.

ABORTION RIGHTS

Facebook turned over chat messages between mother and daughter now charged over abortion

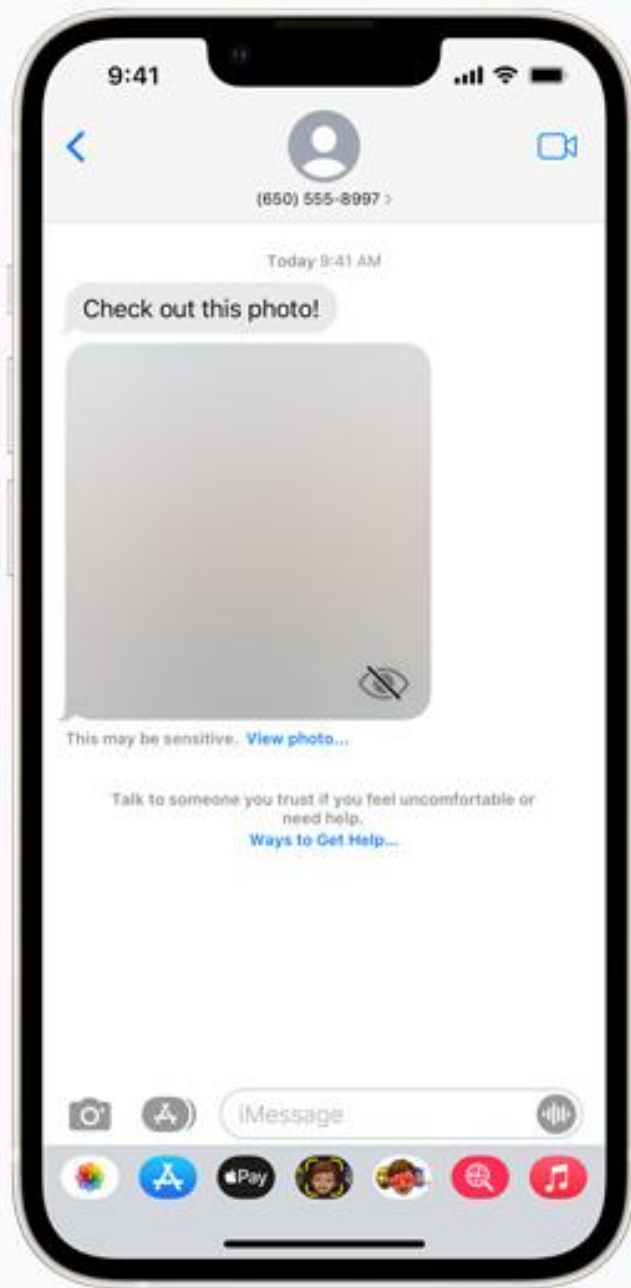
The company was served with a warrant for the messages, which experts worry could become common.



5

What Internet platforms are doing now.

The good news is, there are ways platforms can keep young people from being groomed or exploited online, while protecting their privacy. These techniques emphasize “safety by design”, rather than surveillance and censorship.



6

How we can do better for kids and for privacy.

For too long, child protection has been treated as a criminal justice issue. It is better viewed through a public health lens.

A public health approach shifts focus to education, stigma-free support, research, safety by design, and social services.

“

For every \$3,125 we spend on punishment, we spend just \$1 on prevention research—not nearly enough to reduce the number of kids being harmed.

Elizabeth Letourneau

”

Let's review.

Where

We're heading towards a less private and secure Internet.

When

Europe, the UK, and the USA are debating or passing laws now.

Who

Surveillance big tech and law enforcement are behind this.

Why

Weakening privacy will hurt kids too – but also many others.

What

Safety by design is a better approach for tech companies.

How

But society can do more by taking a public health approach.



Thank you!

Do you have any questions?

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