In China, Apple removes tools to skirt censorship

CRACKDOWN
U.S. tech companies as Chinese leaders push tighter internet controls

By Paul Mozur
The New York Times

HONG KONG — China’s app stores have received help from an unlikely source in its tight approach to tools that help users access content blocked by the country’s strict rules about internet content: Apple.

Software made by technology companies to help skirt China’s restrictions on internet access has vanished from Apple’s App Store on the mainland. One company, ExpressVPN, posted a letter on its site that it had been taken down. “We have been informed that it is no longer allowed in China,” the company wrote in an official account that its co-founder had bought in 2013.

A search Saturday showed that a number of the more popular foreign virtual-private-networks, or VPNs, sold by Western companies no longer appeared on the mainland’s largest app store. A representative for another brand, TunnelBear, confirmed an unfollowed insists in China.

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WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump entered a new phase of his presidency Monday with a new chief of staff but an old challenge on his hands: He was still weeks away from faculties any modern appointee of the Oval Office has experienced in the new job.

With his pick of southern at his

over the past decades, and he had already begun working against another, Trump helped to began ongoing—and by publishing such a rule, MessageBox, and installing a second east American general, John Kelly, to take command. Both for three terms in the

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The ARTISAN

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THE ARTISAN

JULY 30, 2017

BY BRYNN THOMPSON
ILLUSTRATIONS BY GABRIEL CARPENTER
Seattle Times staff

Police investigating brothels in upscale Bellevue apartment buildings discovered local

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The goal of "Tahoe Ted," founder of the Review Board, was a one-stop shopping experience for the online community of sex buyers and providers he believed existed. Review Board members threw invitation-only get-togethers, and referred to each other by their pseudonyms.

How this story was reported

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But the site also drew condemnation from proponents of prostitution regulations and from those opposed to prostitution — and from some who saw its operation as contributing to women’s sexual exploitation. “It’s a false sense of security,” said one reporter. “It’s a false sense of comfort,” said another. “You can’t rely on it.”

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Siegbert Ziars, aka “Tahoe Ted,” was the founder, operator and watchful protector of The Review Board, an online forum for sex buyers that in 2015 boasted it had 21,000 members. “This was my life,” a former prostitute says.

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The high-frequency sex buyers who called themselves "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" would often gather at Bellevue bar to compare notes. An undercover detective recalls the conversations became so explicit that other bar patrons started a call-in hotline to complain.

Known to be called The "Hotline," it provided low thresholds for calling law enforcement to bring these "allies of the trade" to justice, largely harmed by individuals who turn to sex trafficking to make ends meet. They knew they had to act, he said.

"We couldn't just let them off the hook," he said. "But we also knew we couldn't get those individuals in a room where they could all be, so we'd do staged operations or something, where we'd have undercover officers and members and other LEA members would all come in and break the case up."

The operation would attend four to seven bars and hotels in one day.

In October 2015, Shuler and Muller's colleagues at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office opened the case, in which the agencies would use an "unmarked car" to purchase sex from a bar.

"It was a nightmare," said Muller, who had been involved in sex trafficking work for 10 years. "We kept getting radio calls, and the drivers would say 'We've got a problem.'"

"Then we'd show up and arrest the driver and his customers."

"It was a nightmare," Muller said. "And that's why we're going to need to target this element of the industry much more with more resources."
BUSTED

As police rushed into best members of the League of Extravagant Gentlemen at Bellevue’s Pumphouse Bar & Grill in January 2016, a sudden hush came over customers. But members of the league were too engrossed in their conversation to notice at first — until a deputy said, “Stand up. You’re under arrest.”

Executive Director Robert Beiser said that last year 1.3 million people searching for sex online in King County, or one of the group’s advertised ad sites. Of those people, 15,000 clicked through to learn about the reasons they might want to think twice about the total number of streets. Beiser said that now in the Seattle area, someone searches for sex online every nine seconds.

Microsoft and Amazon workers were among those involved in the roundup. Both companies also have employees who have served on the Seattle Slavery and 18-county prosecutor’s office to prevent

Recognizing that law enforcement isn’t centered on the men involved to prevent

“The participants recognized that they were engaged in sex work, but they turned that into the hand of policy makers,” said a member of the group. One member of the group, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that he had been involved in prostitution for two years and that the group was made up of people who had been arrested for prostitution.

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