



Google in China Will Link Searches to Personal Phone Numbers

The Intercept reports that Google's Chinese search engine, called 'Dragonfly', will censor dissidents, block information critical of the government, and will link searches to phone numbers, thus allowing authorities to identify who is making the searches. Dragonfly will block searches for terms like "human rights," "student protest," and "Nobel Prize." [Google finds nothing wrong with participating in this program.] -GEG

If you're a Chinese dissident trying to avoid detection on the web, using Google's new Chinese search engine might not be a good idea, if a new report on the developing project is to be believed.

The Intercept reports that Google's purpose-built censored Chinese search engine, codenamed Dragonfly, will link users' searches to phone numbers, theoretically allowing authorities to link searches to individuals.

Via the Intercept:

Sources familiar with the project said that prototypes of the search engine linked the search app on a user's Android smartphone with their phone number. This means individual

people's searches could be easily tracked – and any user seeking out information banned by the government could potentially be at risk of interrogation or detention if security agencies were to obtain the search records from Google.

Google has so far declined to publicly address concerns about the Chinese censorship plans and did not respond to a request for comment on this story. In the six weeks since the [first details](#) about Dragonfly were revealed, the company has refused to engage with human rights groups, ignored dozens of reporters' questions, and [rebuffed](#) U.S. senators.

The pressure on Google has continued to intensify. On [Thursday](#), 16 U.S. lawmakers wrote to Google CEO Sundar Pichai expressing “serious concerns” about Dragonfly and demanding information about the company's China plans. Meanwhile, Jack Poulson, a former Google senior research scientist, [told The Intercept](#) that he was one of about five employees to have resigned from the company due to Dragonfly.

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California: Progressive Laws

and Policies Encourage More Crime and Homelessness

As California's economy continues to devolve, crime is rising. *Inside Edition* went to San Francisco to investigate the increase in car break-ins and, not only did robbers steal the 'theft bait' from a car that was outfitted with cameras, but the video-crew truck was broken into and expensive gear was stolen. Joe Alioto, who is running for the office of District Attorney in San Francisco, says that car 'smash and grabs' are common, because thieves know they will not be prosecuted. Tourists are also targeted, because the robbers know that tourists will not stick around for prosecution. He reports that police-commission rules forbid police to chase thieves if they try to escape in a car. This, they say, is to cut down on high-speed chases and, therefore, is justified because it reduces accidents. -GEG



Film Clip from Banned Documentary Shows How the Attitudes of Americans Have

Been Shaped by a Foreign Government

The Lobby – USA is a banned undercover documentary from Al Jazeera, a media outlet based in Qatar. A leaked clip shows how Facebook is used to spread political propaganda and promote hidden agendas in a way that most viewers do not detect. Hidden-cameras catch Jordan Schachtel, who worked with a covert propaganda team under the name of TIP (The Israel Project) as he explains how the TIP operates. He says it works in the background feeding information to many different Facebook communities to tilt public opinion in favor of the policies of the Israeli government. He says that TIP even produces entire information campaigns that appear as though they originated from organizations unrelated to TIP. [The importance of this disclosure is not merely in discovering how the Israeli government uses social media platforms to engineer public opinion, but in the realization that social media is useful for that purpose on behalf of any government or corporation or wealthy individual that can afford to hire a team of professionals. In truth, the United States government and, in particular, the Pentagon, have been in the forefront of this activity for many decades. Lesson: Be aware that there are powerful forces using sophisticated techniques to engineer your opinions about issues that profoundly affect your future.] -GEG



California Has the Most 'Liberal' Government and the Highest Poverty Rate in the Nation. Cause and Effect.

Despite California having a vigorous economy, 20% of Californians are suffering economic hardship, mostly due to the cost of housing. Moderate wage earners age 35 to 44 are leaving California due to rising crime, heavy traffic, a growing homeless epidemic and, especially high taxes. [These are the natural effects of collectivism. Only the wealthy and the impoverished will remain in the state. Eventually, everyone will be impoverished except the ruling elite.] -GEG

Despite efforts by state legislators at creating a socialist utopia, California still has the **highest poverty rate in the nation** at 19%, despite a 1.4% decrease from last year according to the Census Bureau.

Poverty and income figures [released Wednesday](#) reveal that over 7 million Californians are struggling to get by in the [second most expensive state](#) to live in, according to the [Council for Community and Economic Research's](#) 2017 Annual Cost of Living Index.

And while California has a "vigorous economy and a number of safety net programs to aid needy residents," according to the [Sacramento Bee](#), **one out of every five residents is suffering economic hardship** – which is fueled in large part by sky-high housing costs, according to Caroline Danielson, policy director at the Public Policy Institute of California.

"We do have a housing crisis in many parts of the state and our poverty rate is highest in Los Angeles County," she said, adding that cost of living and poverty is often highest in the state's coastal counties. "When you factor that in we

struggle.”

Silicon Valley residents in particular are leaving in droves – more so than any other part of the state. Nearby San Mateo County which is home to Facebook came in Second, while Los Angeles County came in third.

“They’re looking for affordability and not finding it in Santa Clara County,” said Danielle Hale, chief economist for realtor.com.

It’s not just housing prices driving the exodus, of course. Punitive taxes – more than twice as much as some other states, are eating away at disposable income. Nearby Arizona’s income tax rate is 4.54% vs. California’s 9.3%, **while the new tax bill may accelerate the exodus.**

As Michael Snyder of the [Economic Collapse Blog](#) pointed out in May...

Reasons for the mass exodus include rising crime, the worst traffic in the western world, a growing homelessness epidemic, wildfires, earthquakes and crazy politicians that do some of the stupidest things imaginable. But for most families, the decision to leave California comes down to one basic factor...

Money.

As you may or may not be aware, we’ve mentioned the flood of various types of Californians fleeing the state for various reasons; be it wealthy families who want to keep more of their income safe from the tax man, or poor residents leaving the Golden State because they are being crushed by the high cost of living.

To that end, the [Orange County Register](#) notes a significant

outmigration of people in their child-raising years – as the largest group leaving the state, some 28%, **are those aged 35 to 44.**

According to IRS data from 2015-2016, the latest available, roughly half of those leaving the state make less than \$50,000 per year, while roughly 25% of those leaving make over \$100,000.

What did the OC register conclude?

Thanks to unaffordable housing, California's moderate wage earners are going to have to leave the state, while only the wealthy and the impoverished residents will remain.

But the big enchilada in California – by far the largest source of distortion in living costs – is housing. Over 90 percent of the difference in costs between California's coastal metropolises and the country derives from housing. Coastal California is affordable for roughly 15 percent of residents, down from 30 percent in 2000 and 30 percent in the interior, from nearly 60 percent in 2000. In the country as a whole, affordability hovers at roughly 60 percent.

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