



# 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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