

TikTok is a video-sharing app that lets users post clips that are 15 to 60 seconds long. Since 2018, the platform's popularity has **exploded**, becoming the most downloaded app globally in the first quarter of 2020. However, it is now facing a potential ban in the US and among employees of several major companies. So what are the problems?

Firstly, it is feared that because TikTok's parent company ByteDance is based in China, it may share user data with the Chinese government, whether intentionally through data requests or unintentionally through surveillance software. Then there are concerns about how much data TikTok collects. "The fear is that the information in TikTok could provide more details than intended about people's whereabouts or what they are up to," said Chris Morales, a cybersecurity expert. Finally, many are also worried about security breaches. TikTok has recently had to patch several major flaws, including one that would allow an attacker to freely control someone else's account, upload unauthorized videos, make private videos public and delete existing videos,

Are these concerns **legitimate**? TikTok does collect a significant amount of user data, research shows. To sign up, users must provide their email, phone number and a link to another social media account. The app itself requires permissions to user location, audio and camera recordings, and contacts. That's more data than companies like Twitter and Facebook collect. Together, the information could easily be used to identify and track the actions of specific people that use the application. However, TikTok has denied claims that it is sharing information with the Chinese government and has distanced itself from ByteDance, hiring the former Disney executive Kevin Mayer as CEO in May.

That being said, studies have found cause for concern. One report from the security firm Penetration found the majority of TikTok's data could be traced to servers in China hosted by Alibaba, which has had security breaches in the past and shares the users' information with third parties, according to **its** privacy policy.

(Adapted from theguardian.com)

Question 11: Which best serves as the title for the passage?

- A. How Is TikTok Addressing Its Most Major Security Problems?
- B. TikTok's Path To Global Fame And The Challenges It Will Face
- C. Is TikTok Sharing Users' Data With The Chinese Government?
- D. Things To Know About TikTok And Concerns Over Its Security

Question 12: The word "**exploded**" in paragraph 1 can be best replaced by _____

- A. shattered
- B. erupted
- C. magnified
- D. heightened

Question 13: According to paragraph 2, why is it a concern that TikTok's parent company ByteDance is based in China?

- A. Because the Chinese government has forced ByteDance to share user data before.
- B. Because ByteDance may share data with user the Chinese government on purpose.
- C. Because TikTok may steal personal data by using Chinese surveillance softwares.
- D. Because the Chinese government frequently request personal data from ByteDance.

Question 14: According to paragraph 3, the information that TikTok collects _____.

- A. is nowhere near enough to determine the identity of specific users.