Day 9

protection
safeguard →

cancel out →

There's some ___ to it.

Don't _ _ _ on the cost of childcare

fall·back

BrE /ˈfɔːlbæk/

NAmE /ˈfɔːlbæk/

noun

a plan or course of action that is ready to be used in an emergency if other things fail 应变计划；退路

- *What's our fallback if they don't come up with the money?*
  要是他们拿不出钱，我们如何应变？
- *We need a* ***fallback position*** *if they won't do the job.*
  如果他们不干这个工作，我们就需要一个应变的方案。

(be) careful what you wish for

idiom

→ used to tell people to think before they say that they want something and to suggest that they may not actually want it

> You think having twins would be fun? *Be careful what you wish for*, you may just get it.

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Did the AI behind ChatGPT just get smarter?

The AI behind ChatGPT just got an upgrade. But it might not have all of the bells and whistles that some were expecting.

Thursday, March 16, 2023

20 min
Options

GPT-4 has been widely awaited ever since ChatGPT burst onto the scene in late November, wowing users with its capabilities that were based on an older version of OpenAI's technology, known as a large language model. (Lionel Bonaventure/AFP/Getty Images)

GPT-4 might sound like gibberish, but it could

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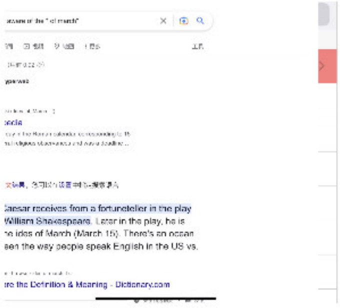
Weekdays

"Mornings are busy. We make it easy for you to catch up."

Tess Homan, Writer for The

张海露 Eric🎺

昨天是3月15日，听播客，有一句be aware of the ai*** of March，听了好几遍也没听懂。查了一下发现是ides，the ides of March 就是3月15日。听力之难，一是词汇和常见搭配，二是各种语音现象。读都读不懂，听肯定听不懂。听说读写译一定要结合起来，不知道怎么学，就先从词汇量和阅读量入手，逐渐结合听说写译全面开花。



ideology

ides

BrE /aɪdz/

NAmE /aɪdz/

noun [plural]

the middle day of the month in the ancient Roman calendar, from which other days were calculated 月中

一天)

◆ *the ides of March*

3 月 15 日

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"be aware of the * of march"

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Ides of March - Wikipedia

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A warning Julius Caesar receives from a fortuneteller in the play Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare. Later in the play, he is assassinated on the ides of March (March 15). There's an ocean of difference between the way people speak English in the US vs.

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U.S. Pushes for TikTok Sale to Resolve National Security Concerns

The demand hardens the White House's stance toward the popular video app, which is owned by the Chinese internet company ByteDance.

Give this article 18

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration wants TikTok's Chinese ownership to sell the app or face a possible ban, TikTok said on Wednesday, as the White House hardens its stance toward resolving national security concerns about the popular video service. quick

The new demand to sell the app was delivered to TikTok in recent weeks, two people with knowledge of the matter said. TikTok is owned by the Chinese internet company ByteDance.

The move is a significant shift in the Biden administration's position toward TikTok, which has been under scrutiny over fears that Beijing could request Americans' data from the app. The White House had been trying to negotiate an agreement with TikTok that would apply new safeguards to its data and eliminate a need for ByteDance to sell its shares in the app.

marry, wed

But the demand for a sale — coupled with the White House's support for legislation that would allow it to ban TikTok in the United States — hardens the administration's approach. It harks back to the position of former President Donald J. Trump, who threatened to ban TikTok unless it was sold to an American company.

TikTok said it was weighing its options and was disappointed by the decision. The company said its security proposal, which involves storing Americans' data in the United States, offered the best protection for users.

"If protecting national security is the objective, divestment doesn't solve the problem: A change in ownership would not impose any new restrictions on data flows or access," Maureen Shanahan, a spokeswoman for TikTok, said in a statement.

TikTok's chief executive, Shou Zi Chew, is scheduled to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Committee next week. He is expected to face questions about the app's ties to China, as well as concerns that it delivers harmful content to young people.

A White House spokeswoman declined to comment, as did a spokeswoman for the Treasury Department, which has led the negotiations with TikTok. The Justice Department also declined to comment. The demand for a sale was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal.

nytimes.com
The New York Times TECHNOLOGY | U.S. Pushes for TikTok Sale to Resolve National Security Co Give this article

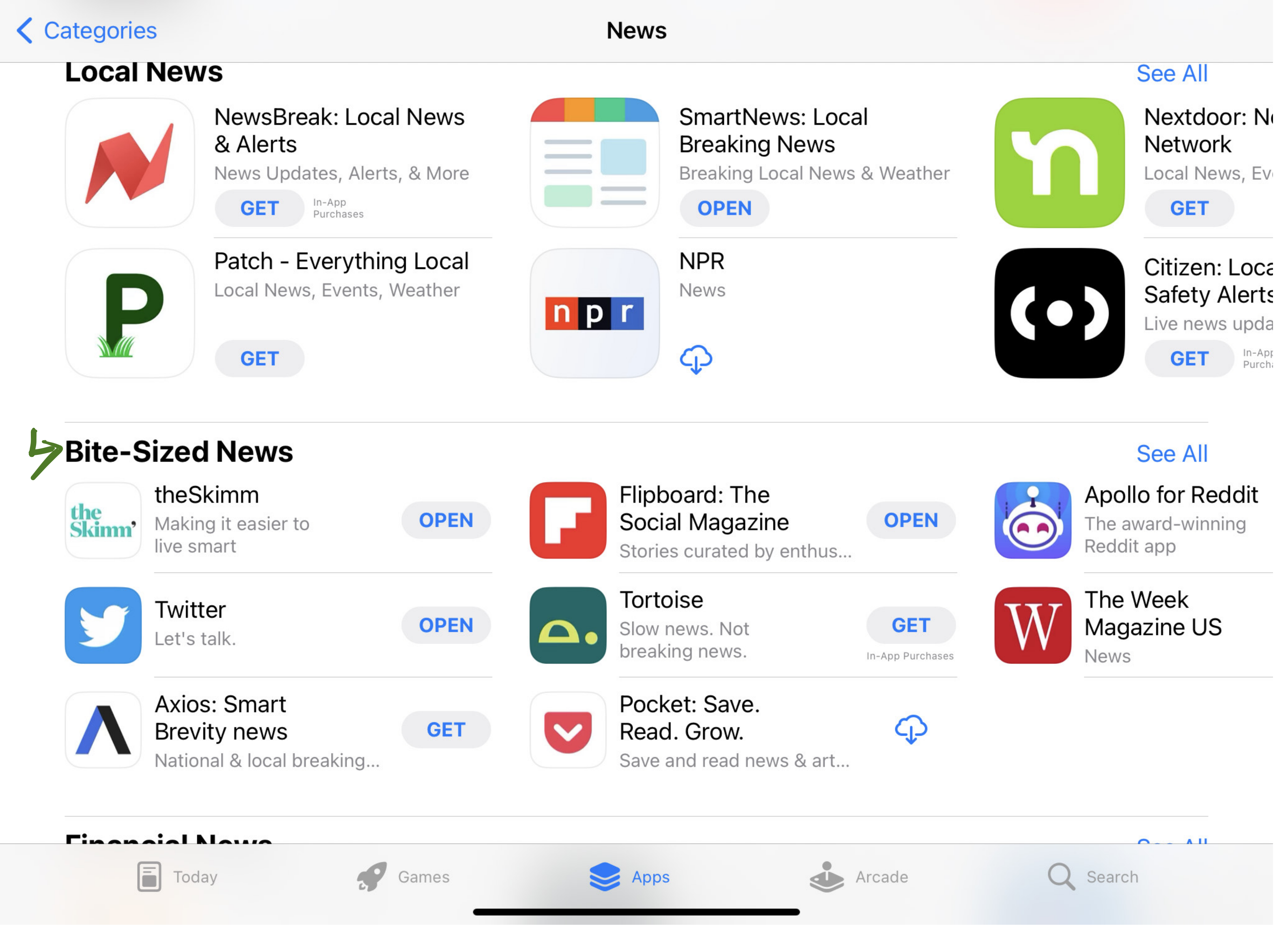
The Trump administration eventually appeared to reach a deal for ByteDance to sell part of TikTok to Oracle, the U.S. cloud computing company, and Walmart. But the potential transaction never came to fruition.

CFIUS staff and TikTok continued to negotiate a deal that would allow the app to operate in America. TikTok submitted a major draft of an agreement — which TikTok has called Project Texas — in August. Under the proposal, the company said it would store data belonging to U.S. users on server computers run by Oracle inside the United States.

TikTok officials have not heard back from CFIUS officials since they submitted their proposal, the company said.

In that vacuum, concerns about the app have intensified. States, schools and Congress have enacted bans on TikTok. Last year, a company investigation found that Chinese-based employees of ByteDance had access to the data of U.S. TikTok users, including reporters.

Take your pick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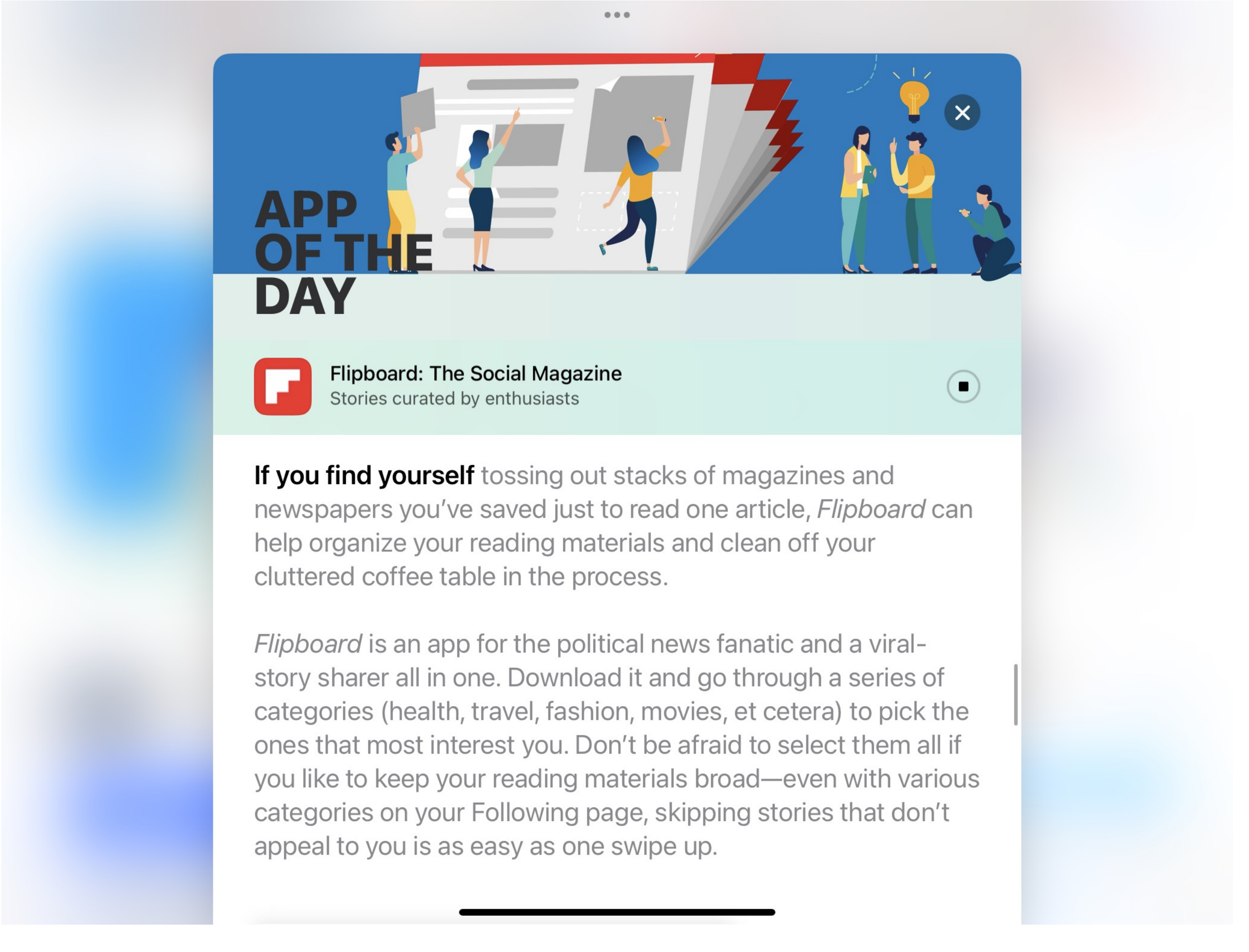
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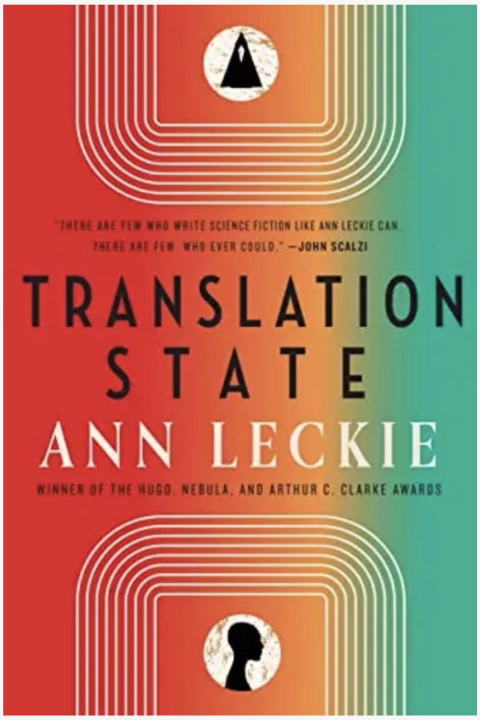

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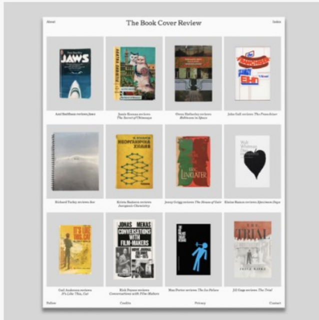

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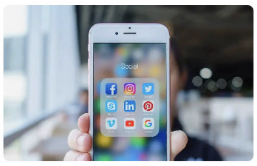

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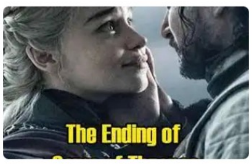

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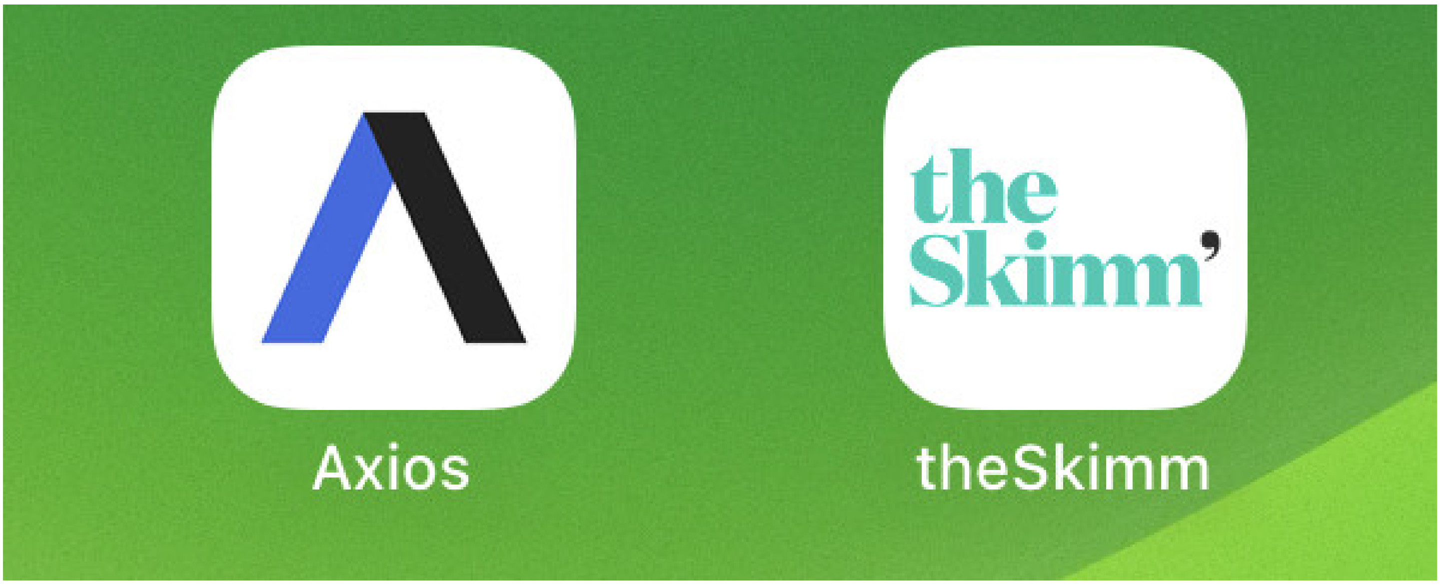

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“worthy

The name, as any Axios profile is required to state, means **“worthy”**: “It's Greek for worthy, dude,” Axios cofounder Mike Allen told BuzzFeed reporter Steven Perlberg when he asked whether the name was a play on access. 2018年8月10日

washingtonian.com
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GOP hardliners eye budgets as next front in "weaponization" fight

Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

Top House conservatives are targeting the budgets of federal law enforcement agencies as part of their scrutiny of the "weaponization" of the federal government.

Why it matters: Hearings, document dumps and deposition transcripts make for good media fodder, but Congress' real power over the other branches of government is its control of the federal purse strings.

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Looming Trump charges threaten to inject chaos into 2024 campaign

Photo illustration: Aïda Amer/Axios. Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images

In a matter of days, a grand jury in Manhattan could turn the 2024 campaign on its head by making Donald Trump the first former president in U.S. history to face criminal charges.

Why it matters: The state investigation into Trump's alleged hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels in 2016 may be the tip of the spear when it comes to the many legal threats bearing down on the former president — the front-runner for the 2024 GOP nomination.

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U.S. tells TikTok owners to sell app or face a ban

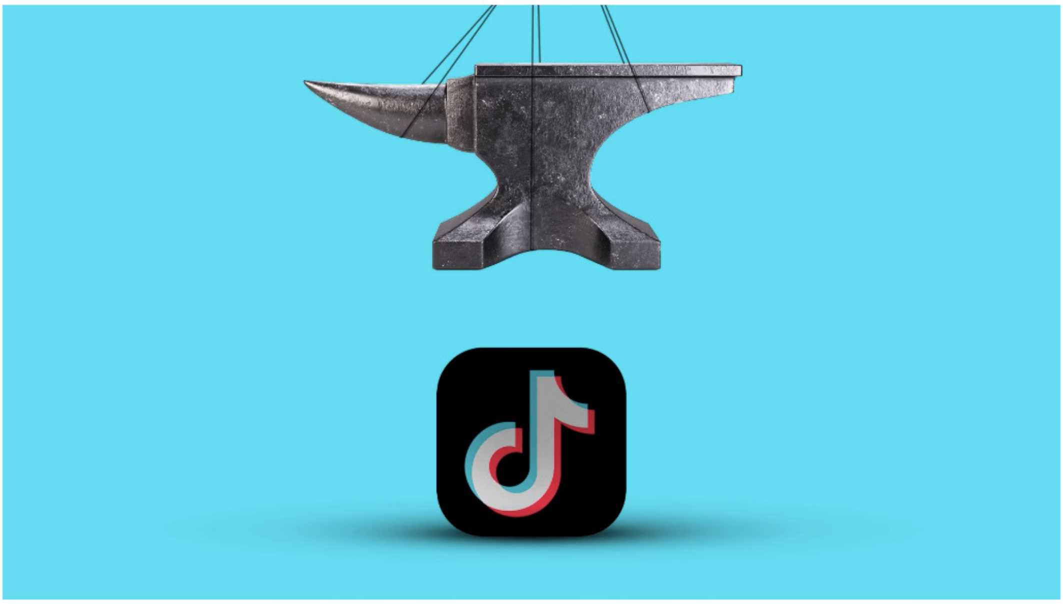

Illustration: Natalie Peeples/Axios

The Biden Administration has warned TikTok that it faces a ban in the U.S. if its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, does not sell its stake in the U.S. version of the app, a source confirmed to Axios.

Why it matters: TikTok has become one of the most popular mobile apps in the country, amassing over 100 million U.S. users. Banning it would have an immediate impact on millions of everyday Americans, and would mark a significant escalation of tensions between China and the U.S.

Go deeper

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Why it matters: TikTok has become one of the most popular mobile apps in the country, amassing over 100 million U.S. users. Banning it would have an immediate impact on millions of everyday Americans, and would mark a significant escalation of tensions between China and the U.S.

Details: The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), a regulatory arm that reviews foreign investments in the U.S., told TikTok that the government planned to ban the app in the U.S. if its owners didn't sell it, according to a TikTok source familiar with the situation.

- Their outreach included a broad outline of what a proposal for TikTok to remain in the U.S. would look like to satisfy the government's national security concerns.

Yes, but: It's is not clear to TikTok what CFIUS means by having its owners divest their stake, given that a large percentage of ByteDance's shares are owned by global investment firms, the TikTok source noted, adding that CFIUS did not provide details or a written order.

- The source said the company wants to resolve these questions and will continue to invest in data security efforts, like Project Texas, a series of steps TikTok is taking alongside U.S. software giant Oracle to separate its U.S. operations' backend functions and code from its Chinese arm.

What they're saying: TikTok argues divestiture wouldn't address the government's national security concerns.

- "If protecting national security is the objective, divestment doesn't solve the problem: a change in ownership would not impose any new restrictions on data flows or access," it said in a statement.

- "The best way to address concerns about national security is with the transparent, U.S.-based protection of U.S. user data and systems, with robust third-party monitoring, vetting, and verification, which we are already implementing."

The other side: TikTok's critics say that Chinese laws require Chinese-owned companies to share data with the Chinese government and argue that as long as the company is controlled by Chinese owners, the U.S. can't be certain American users' data is safe.

How we got here: The Trump Administration threatened to ban TikTok in 2020 if it didn't sell to a U.S. company, citing national security concerns.

- At the time, TikTok was the fastest-growing app in the U.S., thanks to the pandemic-driven lockdowns coupled with billions of dollars in paid marketing.

- The Biden Administration has been privately working to negotiate a deal with TikTok that would address its national security concerns ever since.

- TikTok's Project Texas proposal involves working with

- TikTok's Project Texas proposal involves working with U.S. software giant Oracle to store all U.S. user data in the U.S., and giving Oracle access to audit its algorithms and content moderation policies.

The big picture: The Biden administration and members of Congress have ramped up criticism of TikTok and Chinese technology firms broadly in recent weeks.

- Last week, a bipartisan group of 12 senators introduced legislation that would empower the Commerce Department to ban any Chinese technology that was deemed an immediate national security concern.

- Last December, the Senate passed a bill to ban TikTok on government devices.

- The Wall Street Journal first reported the news that CFIUS contacted TikTok about the possible ban.

Be smart: Those efforts have made it appear less likely that TikTok's desired data security deal, which has been under review for more than two years, will be considered sufficient to satisfy the government's concerns.

- TikTok, meanwhile, has been making the rounds from Washington to the South by Southwest Festival to tout the Project Texas initiative.

What to watch: Shou Zi Chew, TikTok's chief executive, is set to testify in Congress next week.

张海露 Eric🎺

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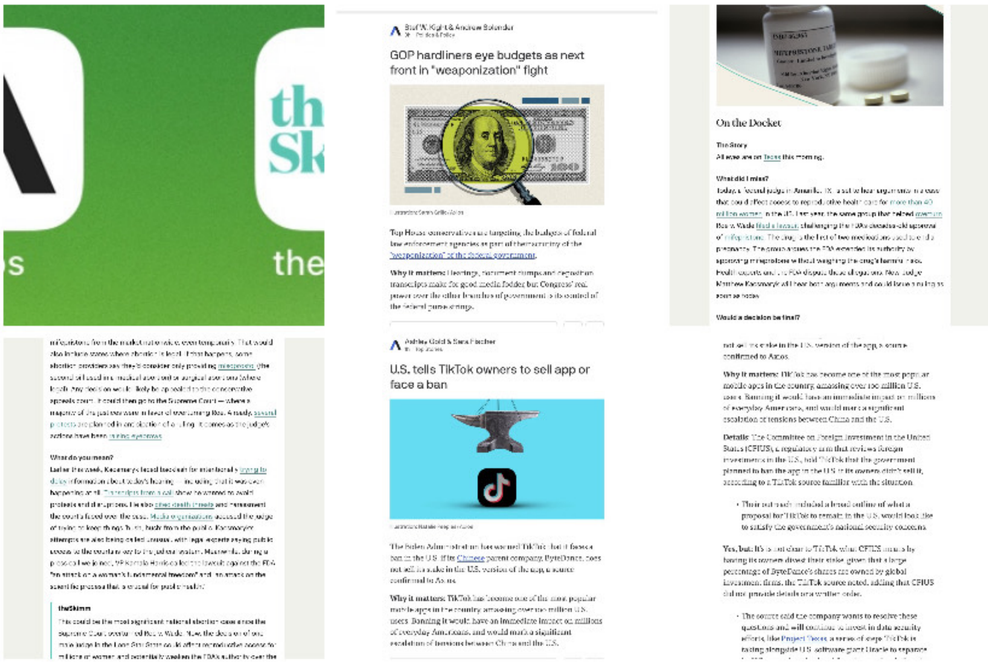


Woody 13:57

How do I deal with FOMO? Your class is an oasis for me.

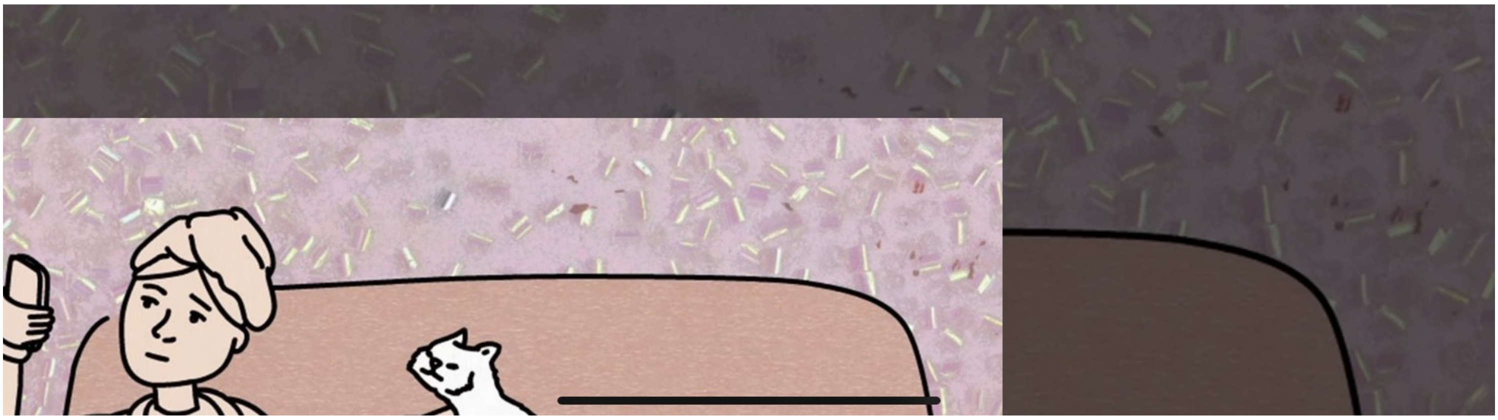
张海露 Eric🎺 1 min ago

@ **Woody**: hhh you can bet on it:) Glad to hear that, let's JOMO our worries away:)

TIME HACKERS | BURNOUT

The one thing ruining your free time

(Image credit: Leah Dubuc)



WORKLIFE
What is Worklife? How We Work How We Live How We

By Elizabeth Hotson and Leah Dubuc 8th December 2019

prey

It's easy to fall victim to 'time confetti' – unpleasant moments or tasks during our leisure time that spoil our relaxation – but fear not, there's a cure.

Making the most of our free time helps us forget about work and goes a long way toward preventing **burnout**. But often, when we try to relax, the pings, notifications and small, mundane obligations all add up until, suddenly, we've wasted all of our "me time".

It's a concept called 'time confetti': we fragment our leisure hours into short, unenjoyable moments that end up stressing us out rather than relaxing us. Retaking control requires us to make a conscious effort to **avoid distractions**, center our focus on one thing at a time and **reevaluate** what's truly important to us.

In the video above, Harvard Business School assistant professor Ashley Whillans explains how to ward off your time confetti blues.

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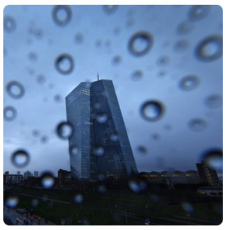

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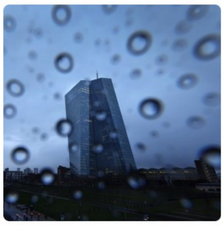

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The world in brief • Mar 16th 2023 • 2 min read

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Credit Suisse said it would borrow up to SFr50bn ($53.7bn) from **Switzerland's central bank** in an attempt to strengthen its liquidity. On Wednesday its share price plunged by as much as 30%, to a record low, after Saudi National Bank, its largest shareholder, ruled out more investment. The bank will also try to buy back around SFr3bn of its debt.

Worries about **banks'** stability ricocheted throughout the sector and beyond. First Republic, a mid-tier American lender, shed a fifth of its market value after S&P Global Ratings downgraded its credit rating to "junk". The yield on the two-year Treasury approached a six-month low amid demand for safe-haven assets. Judging by interest-rate futures, investors think that the Federal Reserve will now keep rates unchanged later this month.

North Korea launched an **intercontinental ballistic missile** for the first time in a month, just hours before the leaders of South Korea and Japan were due to meet in Tokyo for talks over historical forced labour. The missile—fired in the fourth launch from North Korea in a week—landed in waters west of Japan. Yoon Suk-yeol, South Korea's president, said his neighbour to the north would pay for its "reckless provocations".

The Biden administration has told **TikTok** it may ban the video-sharing app in America unless its Chinese owners sell their stakes, according to reports. Officials and legislators are concerned that American users' data could be passed to China's government; the app is already banned on federal-government devices. Shou Zi Chew, TikTok's chief executive, will testify before Congress next week on data security and ties to China.

The **IMF** could announce a four-year loan worth $15.6bn for **Ukraine** as early as this week, reports suggested. A fund official said that "very good progress" has been made in their negotiations. Ukraine, foreseeing a budget deficit of $38bn this year, has already secured $28bn in aid from America and the EU.

Guo Wengui, a billionaire wanted for corruption and bribery in China, was charged in New York with fraud and money-laundering. Federal prosecutors said that Mr Guo and his at-large financial advisor, Kin Ming Je, defrauded victims of over $1bn, promising "outsized returns" if they invested in various companies. In 2020 Steve Bannon, a business associate, was arrested on Mr Guo's yacht.

NASA unveiled its new **spacesuit** design, for use when it returns humankind to the moon aboard *Artemis III* in 2025. The black and (relatively) tight-fitting spacewear will, says America's space agency, allow for greater manoeuvrability. One giant leap: it has been designed to fit both women and men (a female astronaut will be aboard the mission). In 2019 an all-women spacewalk was delayed for lack of enough female-fitting suits.

Fact of the day: 7m, the workers Germany's labour market will lose by 2035 without reforms, according to the Institute for Employment Research. Read the full story.

Baidu's new chatbot enters the search wars

The world in brief • Mar 16th 2023 • 1 min read

In a highly publicised conference, Baidu, China's search-engine giant, released its much-anticipated AI-powered chatbot. "Ernie" weighed in on Chinese science fiction, did some maths and generated a video and image from text prompts. But the brief pre-recorded demo underwhelmed; shares in Baidu slid by as much as 10% on Thursday. The company was responding to a flurry of similar tools recently issued by American tech companies. The rush started in November with ChatGPT, a chatbot created by OpenAI, a Silicon Valley startup. Within two months ChatGPT had accrued over 100m monthly active users, making it the fastest-growing consumer application in history, according to UBS, a bank.

In February Microsoft, which owns 49% of OpenAI, added ChatGPT's capabilities to Bing, its search engine. Alphabet, Google's parent company, promptly launched Bard, its own bid for AI chatbot glory. A number of search startups, including Neeva and You.com, have introduced their own bots, too. All are betting that chatbots will upend the online search market, dominated by Google for decades. If so, the future of search might be AI-powered assistants that can summarise websites and respond thoughtfully to questions. Ernie will have plenty of friends.

Israel’s ever-growing civil unrest

The world in brief • Mar 16th 2023 • 1 min read

Tens of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators took to the streets of Israel on Thursday for a so-called “Day of Disruption”. They have been protesting for more than two months against a judicial overhaul being pushed through by the hard-right government of Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, which will weaken the powers of the Supreme Court. Hoping to avert a crisis the president, Isaac Herzog, proposed his own, slimmed-down version of the legislation on Wednesday evening, only for it to be rejected by Mr Netanyahu’s government.

The unrest is expected to reach breaking-point next week, when the first tranche of legislation is scheduled to be brought to the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, for its second and third readings. Protesters say that if the government does not back down, they will bring the economy to a standstill through transport blockades and strikes, as well as encourage massive disobedience in the army’s reserve units.

SVB complicates Europe's fight against inflation

The world in brief • Mar 16th 2023 • 1 min read

Policymakers at the European Central Bank could be forgiven for thinking they had weathered the storm. After all, headline inflation in the euro zone peaked at 10.6% in October; last month it stood at 8.5%. The ECB also quelled fears of another debt crisis in southern Europe with a bond-buying scheme that capped the borrowing costs of indebted states. A widely feared recession seems unlikely now.

But a meeting on Thursday of the ECB's interest-rate setters will be tense. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank last week, and a rout in Credit Suisse shares on Wednesday, have raised fears of a spillover from the banking sector into the wider economy. That has spurred doubt over whether the ECB will increase its deposit interest rate by the 0.5 percentage points markets had expected. Yet the urgency to fight rising prices in the euro zone is growing—underlying inflation, which excludes energy and food, is higher than in America, and rising. Policymakers face an especially difficult balancing act.

An ecological whodunnit on stage

The world in brief • Mar 16th 2023 • 1 min read

What if humans judged animal lives as valuable as their own? That is the premise of "Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead", an eco-murder mystery published in 2009 by Olga Tokarczuk, a Polish Nobel-winning novelist. Janina, an eccentric retiree and devoted astrologer, turns sleuth when a series of mysterious deaths takes place in her isolated village in south-western Poland. One by one, men from the local hunting club become prey. Hoof tracks in the snow implicate the local wildlife.

In 2017 Ms Tokarczuk's novel was dramatised in "Pokot" ("Spoor", referring to the track or scent of an animal), a film directed by Agnieszka Holland. On Thursday a new stage version has its premiere at the Barbican in London. In a recent interview Ms Tokarczuk said theatre was a unique medium that captures "the most ancient ways of experiencing a story." To her, the "energy of real live people" will amplify her meditation on nature and justice.

Daily quiz

The world in brief • Mar 16th 2023 • 1 min read

Our baristas will serve you a new question each day this week. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and, as important, tell us the connecting theme. Email your responses (and include mention of your home city and country) by 1700 GMT on Friday to QuizEspresso@economist.com.

Thursday: What type of weather comes in three types: relief, convectional and frontal?

Wednesday: Which spice, often used to flavour ice cream, is derived from a species of orchid?