

LEGAL AND PRIVACY

## Trump signs new executive order banning Alipay, WeChat

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*Trump continues his campaign against Chinese tech with new executive order. Image credit: Shutterstock*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning transactions with a number of Chinese-connected apps, including payment platform Alipay and other apps owned by Chinese tech holdings company Tencent.

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President Trump claims the apps access private information from their users, which can ultimately be used by the Chinese government to track the locations of U.S. federal employees and contractors. WeChat, particularly its mobile payment feature, is among the most popular app used by Chinese consumers, including tourists, and essential for luxury brands engaging with these valuable audiences.

Trump's campaign against Chinese tech

The executive order would take effect in 45 days, after President Trump leaves office. Other apps included in the order are CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, VMate and WPS Office.

The order, signed Tuesday, refers to these apps as security threats, suggesting that they gather Americans' private and personal identifiable information and would allow China access to this information. A federal judge has issued a preliminary injunction blocking the order, which the government has appealed.



*Alipay makes it easier to pay through mobile devices. Image credit: Alipay*

In the United States, CamScanner had 4.4 million downloads in the Apple and Google app stores last year, while Alipay had 207,000 downloads.

The order follows a similar ban President Trump began pursuing in August, when he prohibited transactions with the short-form video app TikTok and the social networking app WeChat, calling them national security threats.

The executive order intended to ban TikTok unless it was sold by Beijing-based ByteDance to another company. In response, TikTok announced a lawsuit against the United States government arguing that its leadership, including its chief executive officer, global chief security officer and general counsel, are U.S. citizens residing stateside, and therefore are not subject to Chinese law ([see story](#)).

Federal courts have so far blocked those orders from taking effect.

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