

SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Douyin sues Tencent over anti-monopoly laws

February 3, 2021



ByteDance owns video sharing apps Douyin and TikTok. Image credit: ByteDance

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The popular ByteDance-owned short video sharing app Douyin has filed a lawsuit against Chinese technology firm Tencent Holdings over monopolization accusations.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**  
Plus: Just released  
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

ByteDance suggests that anti-monopoly laws should prohibit Tencent from restricting its users from sharing Douyin content through its messaging apps WeChat and QQ. In addition to requesting that Tencent lift these restrictions, ByteDance has asked for 90 million yuan, or \$13.9 million at current exchange, in compensation.

### Tech wars

Chinese officials have recently tightened restrictions and regulations on tech giants. In November 2020, Beijing issued new orders to prevent monopolization by internet companies, marking China's first major regulatory move against the technology sector.



Tencent owns instant messaging app WeChat. Image credit: Shutterstock

A month later, China's State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) launched an antitrust investigation against ecommerce conglomerate Alibaba over concerns regarding how the company has become a heavily vertically-

integrated ecosystem encompassing everything from ecommerce and social media to film and television production ([see story](#)).

The complaint filed by ByteDance is not the first time the company has challenged Tencent. In 2018, ByteDance sued Tencent for anti-competitive behaviour, alleging Tencent's social platform QQ zone and its Guanjia software blocked links from ByteDance's news aggregator Toutiao.

---

© 2021 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.