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SEP 12, 2020

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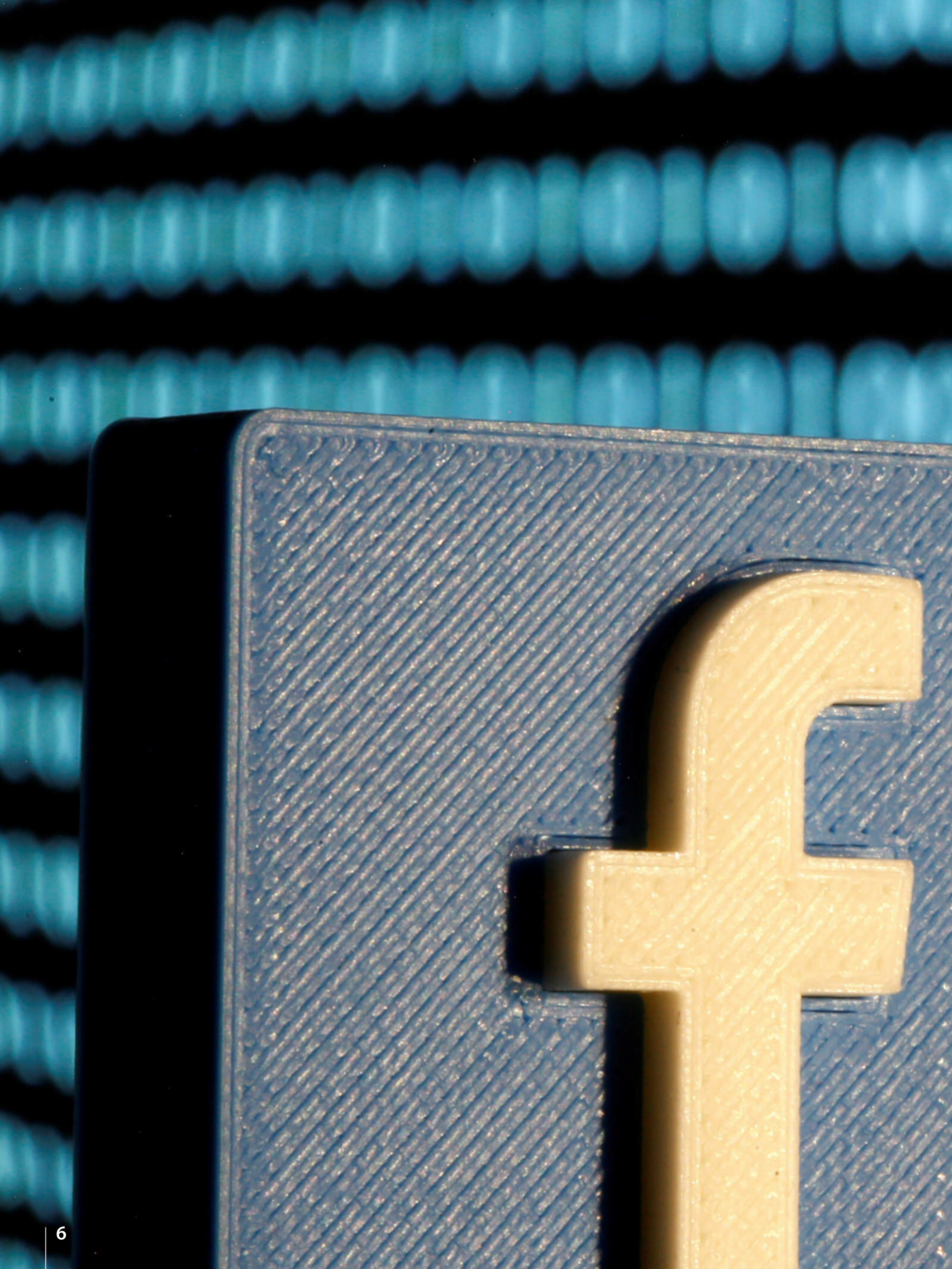
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FACEBOOK MAY HAVE TO STOP MOVING EU USER DATA TO US

Facebook may be forced to stop sending data about its European users to the U.S., in the first major fallout from a recent court ruling that found some trans-Atlantic data transfers don't protect users from American government snooping.

The social network said that Ireland's Data Protection Commission has started an inquiry into how Facebook shifts data from the European Union to the United States.

The news was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, which said Ireland's data commission gave Facebook until mid-September to respond to a preliminary order to suspend the transfers.

The result could be that the U.S. tech giant, which has data centers around the world, is forced to undertake a costly and complex revamp of its operations to ensure that European user data is kept out of the U.S. It's unclear, however, what impact - if any - there would be on Facebook users.

"A lack of safe, secure and legal international data transfers would damage the economy and hamper the growth of data-driven businesses in the EU, just as we seek a recovery from COVID-19," Facebook's vice-president of global affairs and communications, Nick Clegg, wrote in a blog post.

The Irish data commission suggested that a type of legal mechanism governing the data transfers, known as standard contractual clauses, "cannot in practice be used for EU-U.S. data transfers," Clegg said.

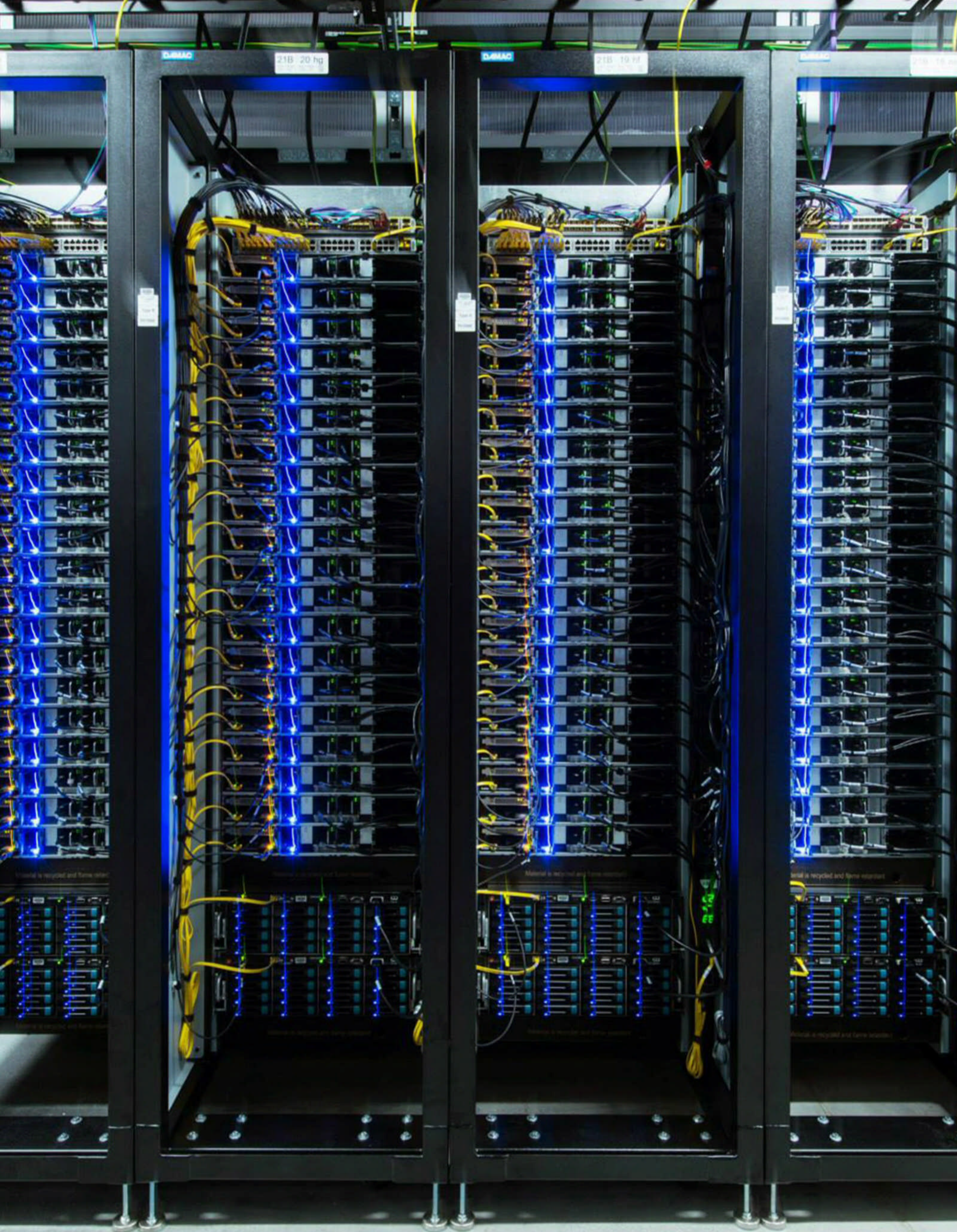
The commission, which did not reply to a request for comment, is Facebook's lead privacy regulator in Europe and can fine companies up to 4% of annual revenue for data breaches.

It's the first major move by a European regulator after the EU's top court issued a ruling in July on the two types of legal mechanisms used to govern data transfers.

The European Court of Justice invalidated an agreement known as Privacy Shield and decided that the standard legal clauses were still OK. But in cases where there are concerns about data privacy, EU regulators should vet, and if needed block, the transfer of data.

It's the latest development in a case that originated more than seven years ago, when Max Schrems, an Austrian privacy activist, filed



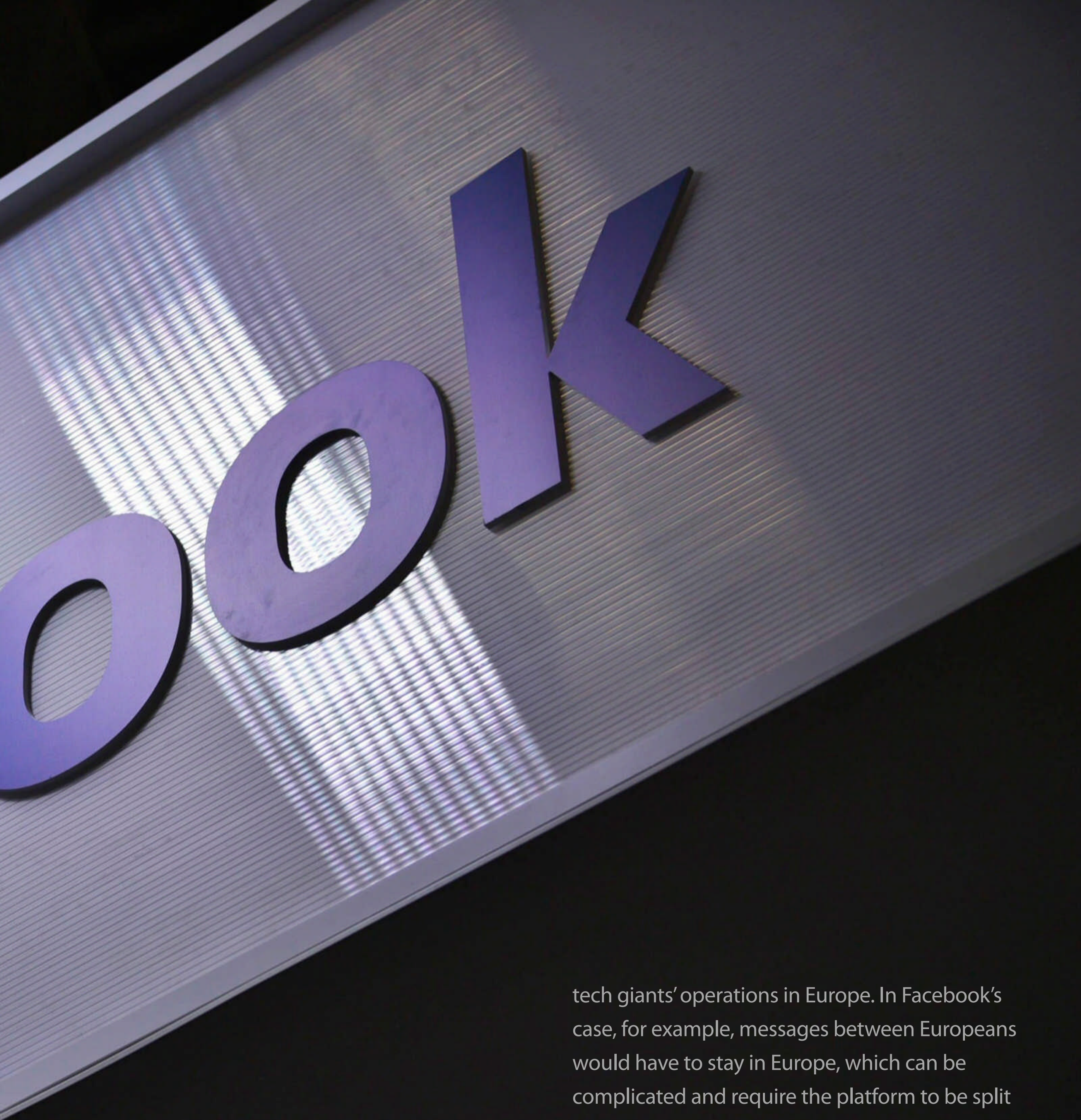


a complaint about the handling of his Facebook data after former U.S. National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden revealed the American government was eavesdropping on people's online data and communications. The revelations included detail on how Facebook gave U.S. security agencies access to the personal data of Europeans.

Though the case specifically targets Facebook, it could have far-reaching implications for other



facebook

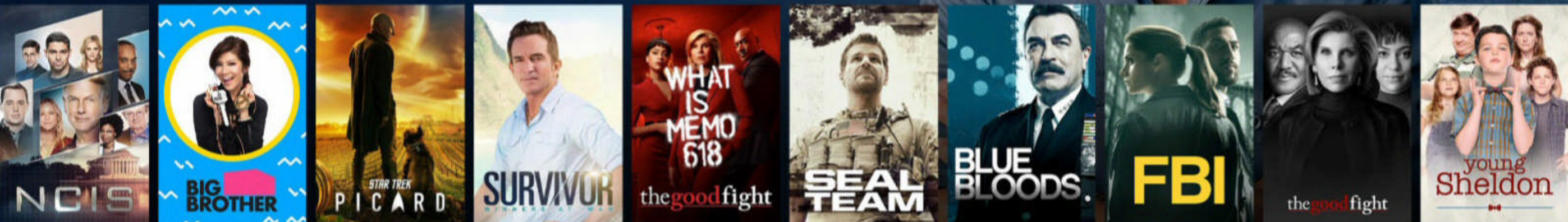


tech giants' operations in Europe. In Facebook's case, for example, messages between Europeans would have to stay in Europe, which can be complicated and require the platform to be split up, Schrems has said.

The outcome of the case could also affect other companies doing business across borders, Clegg said, giving as examples a German startup not being able to use a U.S.-based cloud provider and a French retailer unable to maintain its Moroccan call center.

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DOES MY EMPLOYER HAVE TO SAY IF A COWORKER HAS THE VIRUS?

Does my employer have to say if a coworker has the virus?

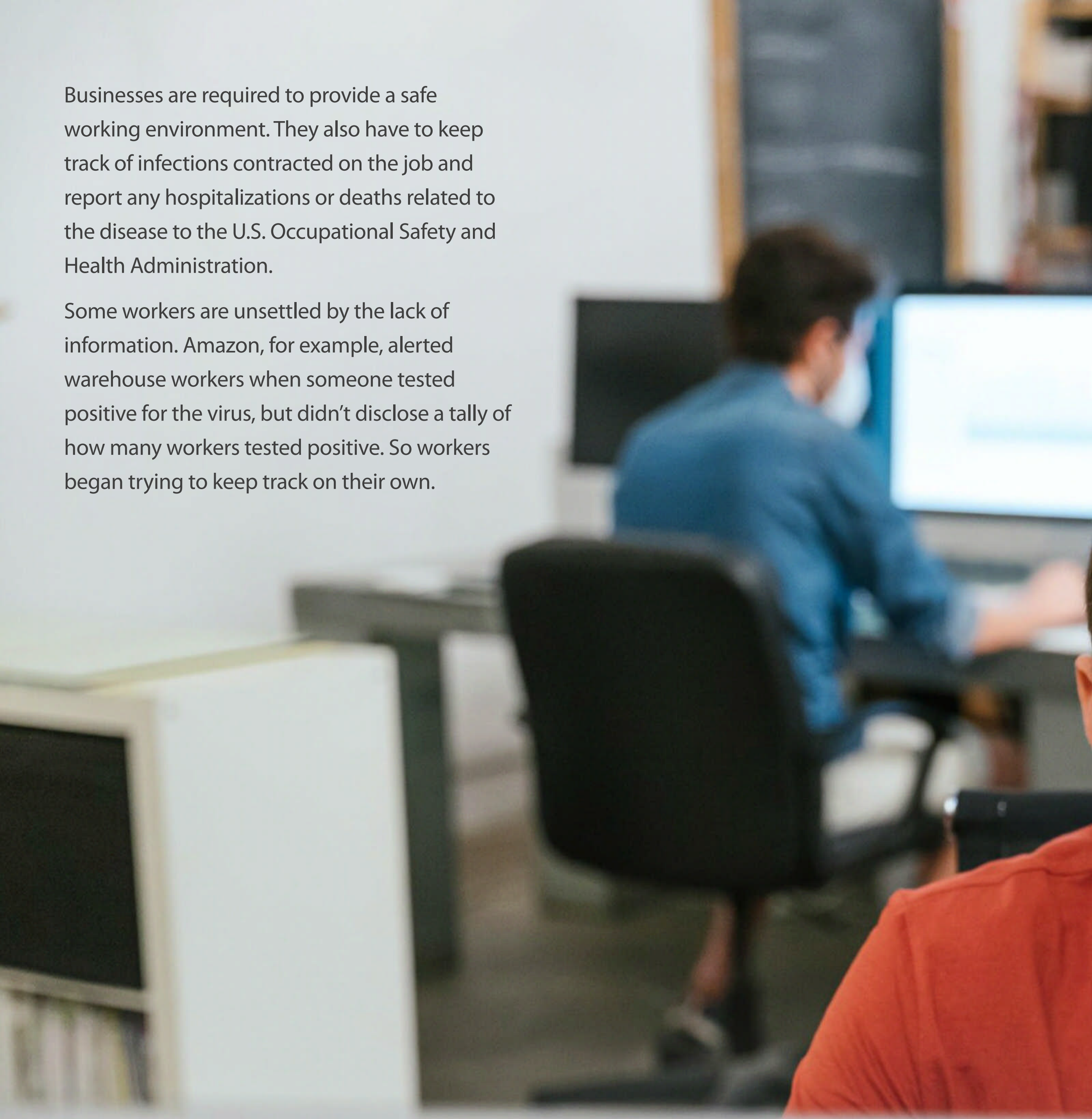
Employers are generally not required to tell workers when someone in the workplace has tested positive for the coronavirus.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that companies monitor employees for symptoms and alert those who may have been in contact with an infected person. Some states may order businesses to follow such guidance.

Employers have the right to take employees' temperature and ask about symptoms or if they have been exposed to or diagnosed with the virus. If an employee doesn't respond to those questions, they can be barred from the workplace.

Businesses are required to provide a safe working environment. They also have to keep track of infections contracted on the job and report any hospitalizations or deaths related to the disease to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Some workers are unsettled by the lack of information. Amazon, for example, alerted warehouse workers when someone tested positive for the virus, but didn't disclose a tally of how many workers tested positive. So workers began trying to keep track on their own.







There are also pending lawsuits against employers filed by workers who were exposed to or diagnosed with the coronavirus. In general, there's a high legal bar for finding an employer at fault for endangering employees and most claims are resolved via worker's compensation settlements. There has also been some debate over whether Congress should grant businesses liability protections during the pandemic.





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US LAYOFFS REMAIN ELEVATED AS JOB MARKET'S GAINS WEAKEN

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits was unchanged last week at 884,000, a sign that layoffs remain stuck at a historically high level six months after the viral pandemic flattened the economy.

The latest figures released by the Labor Department Thursday coincide with other recent evidence that the job market's improvement may be weakening after solid gains through spring and most of summer. The number of people seeking jobless aid each week still far exceeds the number who did so in any week on record before this year.





Hiring has slowed since June, and a rising number of laid-off workers now say they regard their job loss as permanent. The number of people who are continuing to receive state unemployment benefits rose last week, after five weeks of declines, to 13.4 million, evidence that employers aren't hiring enough to offset layoffs. Job postings have leveled off in the past month, according to the employment website Indeed.

"The claims data were disappointing," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. "It is especially concerning that the pace of layoffs has not slowed more materially even though the economy has reopened more fully and more and more businesses have come back online."

The weakening signs are emerging just as Congress remains unable to agree on further economic relief despite widespread urging from economists and warnings from officials at the Federal Reserve that more stimulus is needed.

House Democrats have approved legislation that would extend a now-expired \$600-a-week federal jobless benefit, renew a small business lending program and provide more funding for state and local governments to make up for lost tax revenue.

Senate Republicans oppose those measures. They are backing a much smaller bill that would provide a scaled-back new benefit for the unemployed and money for schools. That legislation is likely to fail in a vote Thursday. Congress may adjourn later this month for the fall election campaigns without approving any additional aid.





Hiring will likely remain restrained as long as Americans are unable or reluctant to resume their normal habits of shopping, traveling, dining out and engaging in other commerce. The rate of reported infections has dropped over the past several weeks but remains well above where it was during the spring. Most analysts say the economy won't likely be able to sustain a recovery until a vaccine is widely available.

Last week, the government reported that the nation gained 1.4 million jobs in August, down from 1.7 million in July. It was the lowest monthly gain since hiring resumed in May. The unemployment rate sank from 10.2% to 8.4%, a drop that economists said mainly reflected businesses recalling workers who had been temporarily laid off rather than hiring new employees.

Economists say the recovery is being imperiled by Congress' failure to agree to another emergency rescue package. The expiration of the \$600-a-week federal jobless benefit has deepened the difficulties for America's unemployed.

The Trump administration is providing a stripped-down version of that benefit — \$300 a week. Yet because of a patchwork array of varying rules, some of the unemployed don't qualify for it, notably people whose state benefits are less than \$100 a week.

The \$300-a-week aid program is so far operational in just 12 states, including California, Arizona, Florida and Texas. And some large states, like New York, Michigan and Illinois, haven't yet started paying the money.

In addition to the laid-off people who applied last week for state benefits, roughly 840,000

others sought jobless aid under a federal program that has made self-employed and gig workers eligible for the first time. That figure isn't adjusted for seasonal trends, so it's reported separately.

All told, the Labor Department said 29.6 million people are receiving some form of unemployment benefits from the federal government or states, though that figure might be inflated by double-counting by some states.

Across the country, businesses, particularly small companies, remain cautious about hiring beyond the recalling of workers they had laid off during the spring and summer. A government report Tuesday showed that companies are advertising 9% fewer jobs than they did a year ago, leaving roughly 2.5 unemployed workers for every available position. Before the pandemic, there were more openings than unemployed people.

Some companies are stepping up hiring. Amazon said Wednesday that it's seeking to hire 33,000 people over the next several months in corporate and tech roles. UPS plans to hire 100,000 temporary holiday workers, about the same as it did last year.

Still, a number of major corporations have announced mass job cuts. The latest to do so, Marriott International, said Wednesday that it will permanently cut 673 corporate jobs — 17% of its workforce — late next month.

Marriott had furloughed two-thirds of its corporate staff in March, when the pandemic intensified, though some of those people are returning to work. But the job cuts announced Wednesday are permanent.



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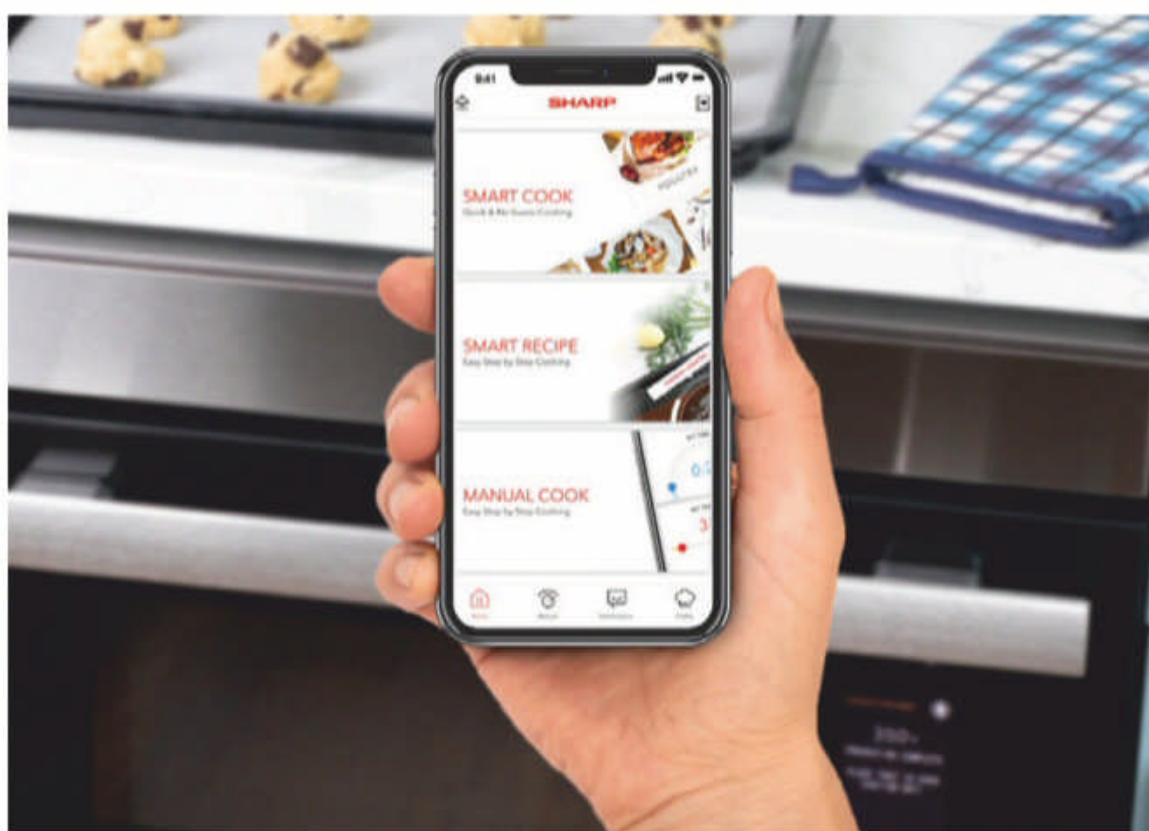
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US LONG-TERM MORTGAGE RATES FALL; 30-YEAR AT 2.86%

U.S. average rates on long-term mortgages fell this week amid signs that the halting economic recovery slowed over the summer. The key 30-year mortgage again marked an all-time low.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average rate on the 30-year home loan declined to 2.86% from 2.93% last week. By contrast, the rate averaged 3.56% a year ago.

The average rate on the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage slipped to 2.37% from 2.42% last week.

Housing demand continues as one of few bright spots in the pandemic-hobbled economy.

Spurred by historically low rates, applications for mortgage loans are up 25% from a year ago, according to Freddie Mac. It said the momentum will be difficult to sustain going into the fall because of the lack of available homes for sale.





In the wider economy, the government reported Thursday that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits was unchanged last week at 884,000—a sign that layoffs remain stuck at a historically high level six months after the pandemic flattened the economy. Hiring has slowed since June, and a rising number of laid-off workers now say they regard their job loss as permanent.



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JANE FRASER TO BECOME CITI CEO; 1ST WOMAN TO LEAD MAJOR BANK





Citigroup's Jane Fraser will become the first woman to ever lead a Wall Street bank when she succeeds CEO Michael Corbat in February.

The New York bank announced the succession Thursday.

Fraser is currently head of Citi's global consumer banking division, a major part of the bank that oversees checking and savings accounts but also Citi's massive credit card business. She's been with Citi for 16 years and had recently been tasked with leading the clean up of the bank's troubled Latin American banking business.

Fraser will be the first woman to lead one of Wall Street's big six banks, a major accomplishment in an industry long dominated by men.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon has had two women as his second-in-command for years — Marianne Lake and Jennifer Piepszak— but shows no signs of stepping down.

In a Congressional hearing last year, the CEOs of the Wall Street banks were asked whether they expected to be succeeded by a woman in their roles, and no man raised his hand at the time.

When Fraser does take over for Corbat in February, it's almost certain the U.S. and global economies will still be dealing with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.



Image: Julian Restrepo



Since early this year, banks have set aside billions to cover potential loan losses as businesses and customers alike have fallen behind on payments. With a vaccine still months away at least, and the U.S. economy in a deep recession, the problems for borrowers are expected only to get worse as the country heads into the fall and winter.

Corbat led Citigroup for eight years, rebuilding the company after it nearly collapsed during the Great Recession and 2008 financial crisis. The federal government had to step in to buy a stake in Citi to keep it afloat, and the bank had some of the most toxic assets on its books of all the major banks during this time.

Corbat turned Citi into a much smaller and stable entity, focusing on its credit card businesses and its international banking franchise. The bank was able to pass the Federal Reserve's "stress tests," which test a bank's resiliency, and is considered a much healthier institution now than it ever was before the financial crisis.

Citi declined to make Fraser available for interviews. In a prepared statement, Fraser said, "Citi is an incredible institution with a proud history and a bright future. I am excited to join with my colleagues in writing the next chapter."



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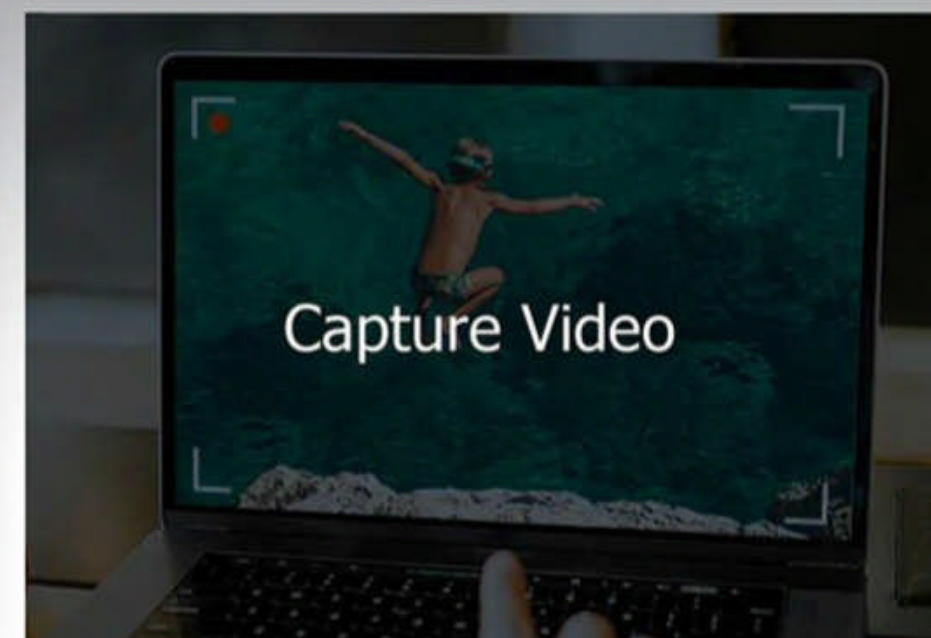
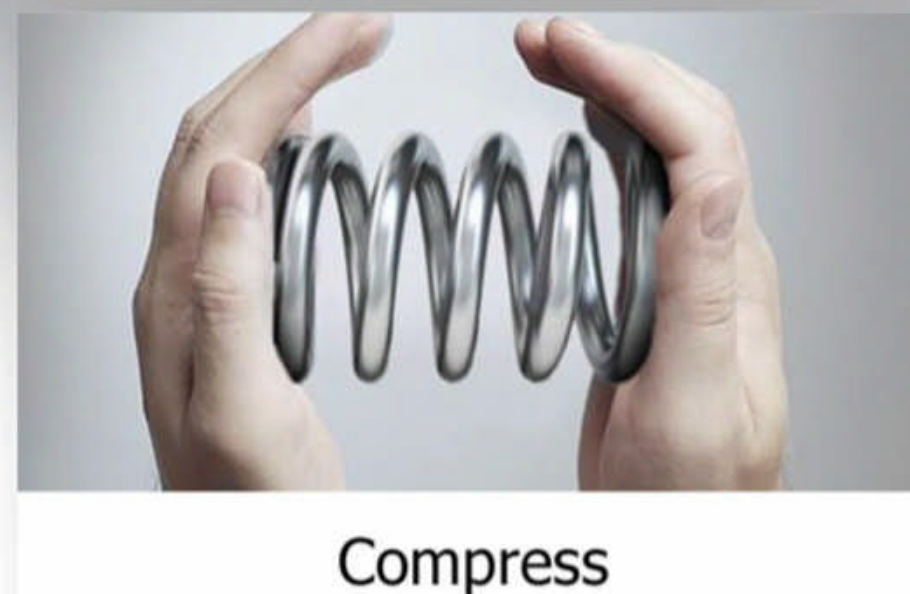
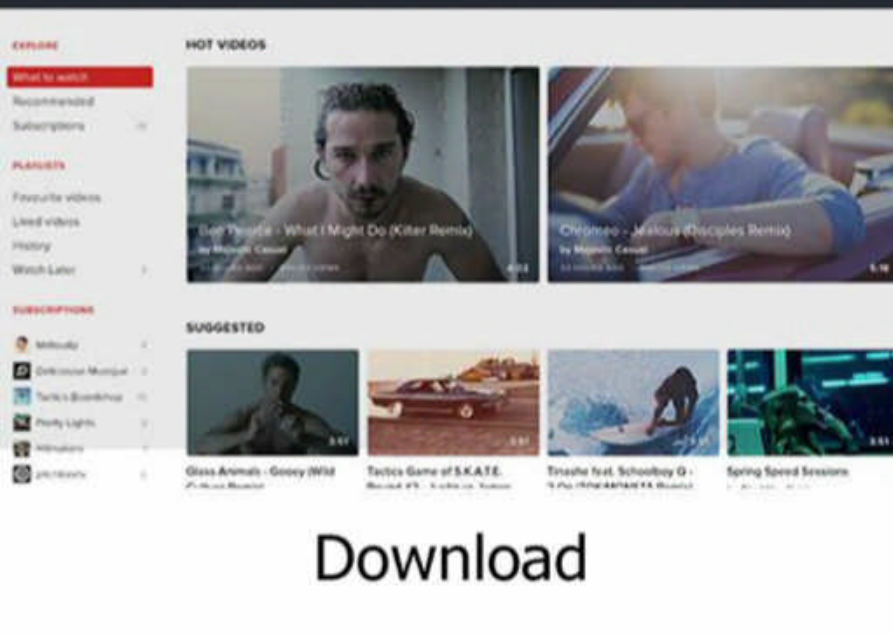
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‘WALKING DEAD’ TO BE LAID TO REST IN 2022, SPIN-OFFS TO RISE

The end is coming for “The Walking Dead,” but not until 2022.

The AMC series that became a franchise with current and planned spin-offs will wrap with an 11th season spanning 24 episodes and two years, the channel said.

The series has yet to air six episodes that are part of an expanded 10th season. Those are set for early next year.

When “The Walking Dead” is laid to rest in late 2022, a new spin-off centered on characters Daryl Dixon and Carol Peletier (Norman Reedus, Melissa McBride) will follow in 2023, AMC said.

An anthology series, “Tales of the Walking Dead,” focusing on new and existing characters, is in development along with other projects “grounded in ‘The Walking Dead’ universe,” the channel said.

Closer at hand are “Fear the Walking Dead,” which begins its sixth season Oct. 11, and newcomer “The Walking Dead: World Beyond,” which debuts Oct. 4 and follows the first generation to grow up during the apocalypse.







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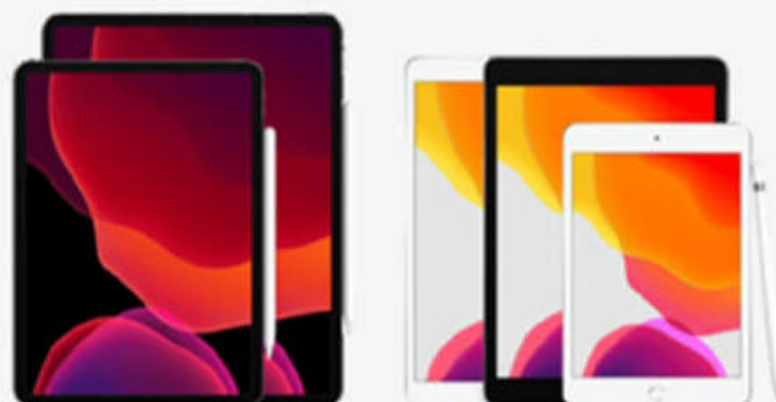
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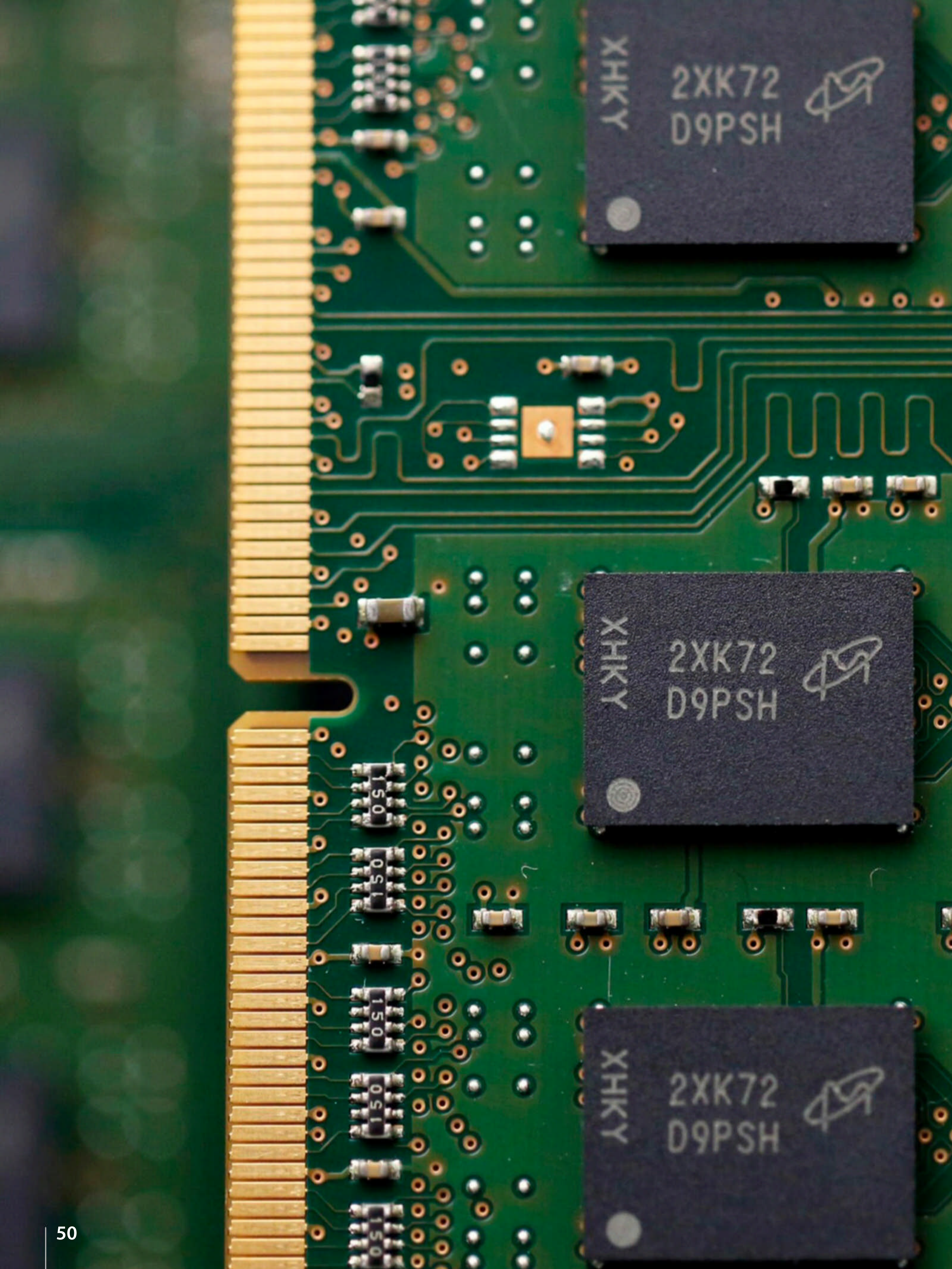
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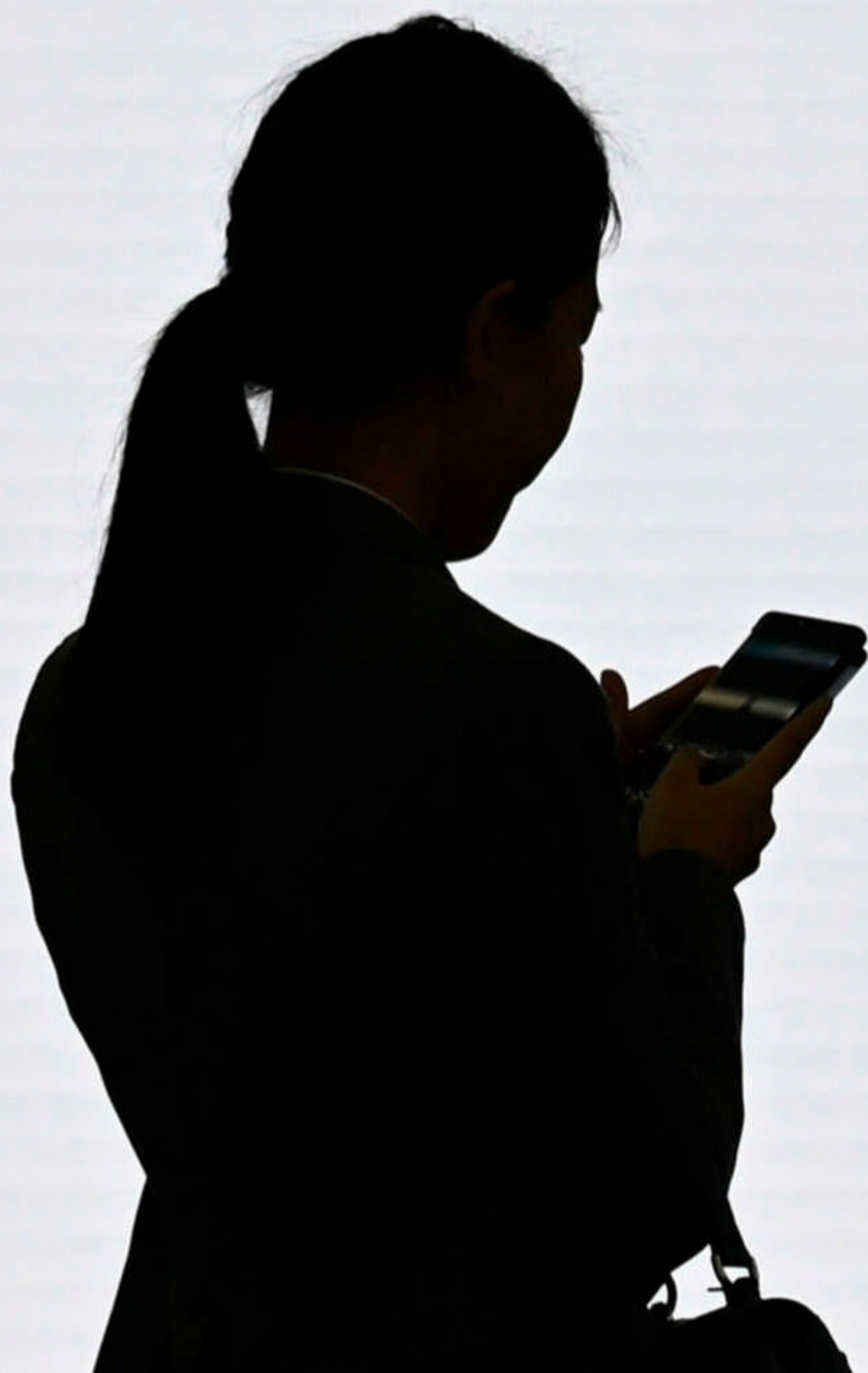
US SANCTIONS ON HUAWEI HIT CHIP SUPPLY AND GROWTH, EXEC SAYS

A Huawei executive says that recent U.S. sanctions against the company have caused a shortage of computer chips for the company, hurting the growth of its smartphone business.

Richard Yu, president of Huawei Technologies' consumer business, said at a company conference for developers on Thursday that the company has still managed to gain a 51% market share in the Chinese smartphone industry.



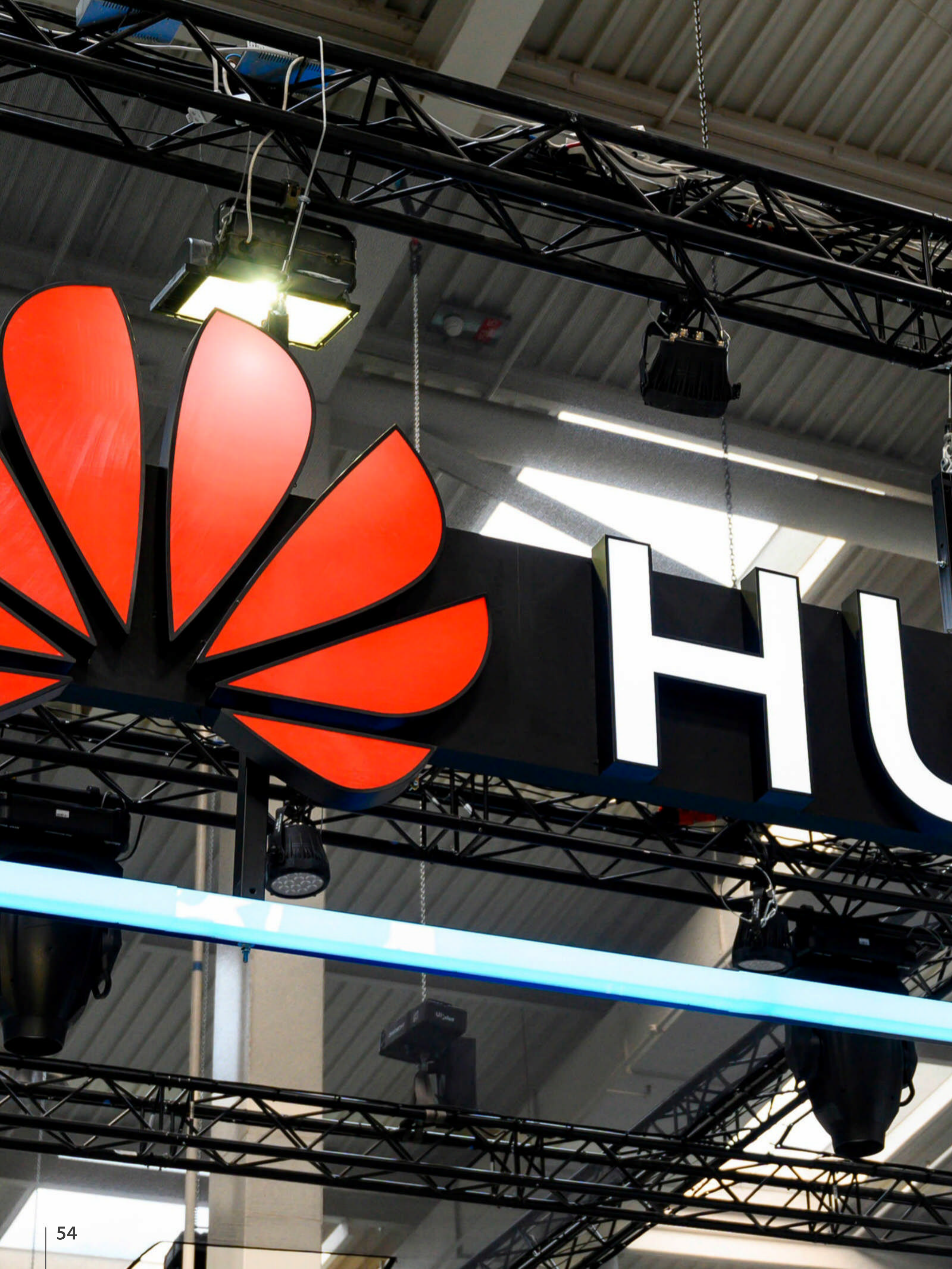
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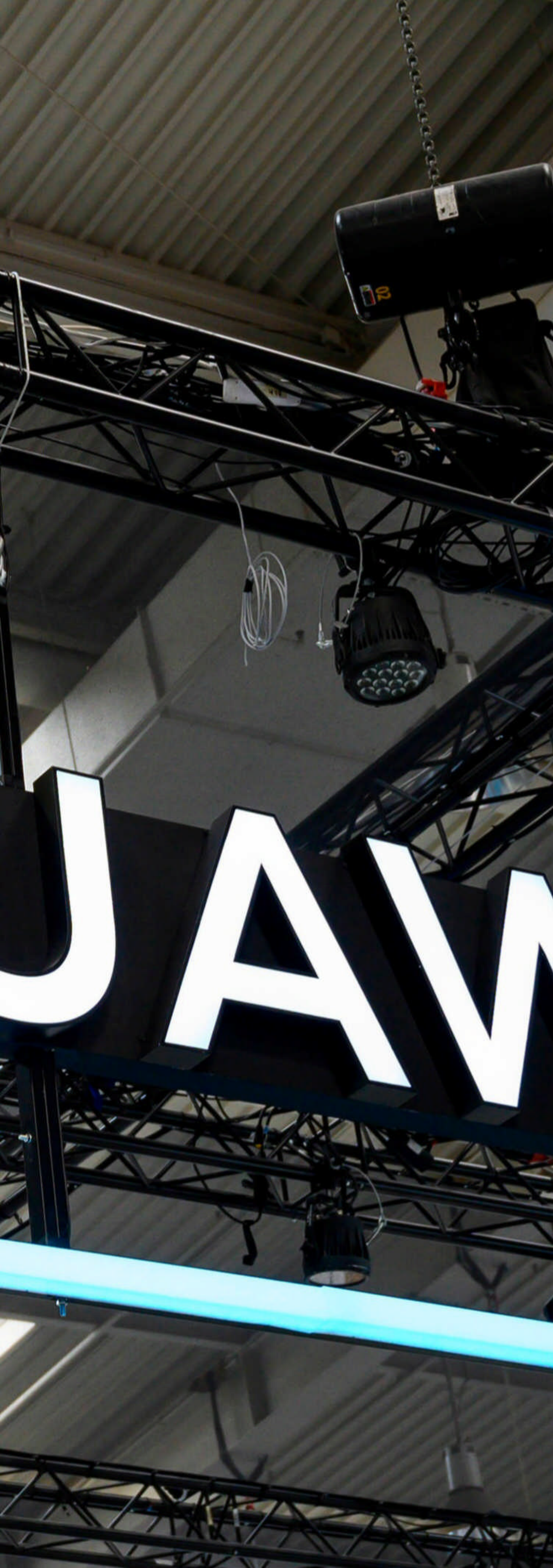




The U.S. has imposed various sanctions on Huawei, citing national security concerns. The latest, ordered in August, restrict foreign semiconductor companies from selling chips to Huawei that are produced using American technology.

“Even after this third blow, we still managed to achieve growth,” said Yu, who acknowledged that growth had been impacted over the last month.





In May, the U.S. barred chipmakers that use U.S. technology and software to design chips from selling to the Shenzhen-based company without a license.

A year earlier, the U.S. government put the company on its trade blacklist, banning Huawei from doing business with U.S. companies after the Trump administration said Huawei was a national security threat.

The U.S. alleges that Huawei could conduct intelligence for the Chinese government and has urged its allies to exclude Huawei from its telecommunications networks. Huawei has vehemently denied these accusations.

This trade blacklist cut Huawei off from suppliers such as Google, which had supplied Huawei smartphones with the Android operating system and Google Mobile Services, such as Gmail and YouTube. Huawei then developed its own Huawei Mobile Services, including an app store, that it has rolled out for newer smartphone models.

Despite the troubles with Washington, in 2019 Huawei shipped over 240 million phones globally, and was the second biggest smartphone maker in the world. In the first half of 2020, the company generated revenues of 434 billion yuan (about \$63 billion), up 13.1% from the same period a year earlier.

Yu said the company plans to make its proprietary operating system HarmonyOS available to devices including its smartphones, some of which still operate on the Android system. Earlier, the company had said HarmonyOS was meant for devices such as smartwatches and TVs, among others.

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PARIS ART FAIR TO GO AHEAD DESPITE VIRUS PANDEMIC

The coronavirus pandemic has led to the cancellation of this year's premiere global art fairs since March, stymieing the main commercial artery of the multibillion-dollar industry.

But Art Paris, which is France's second-biggest contemporary art fair, is opening its doors to thousands of visitors from Thursday in the Grand Palais. The four-day show is going ahead despite a spike in COVID-19 infections in the country.

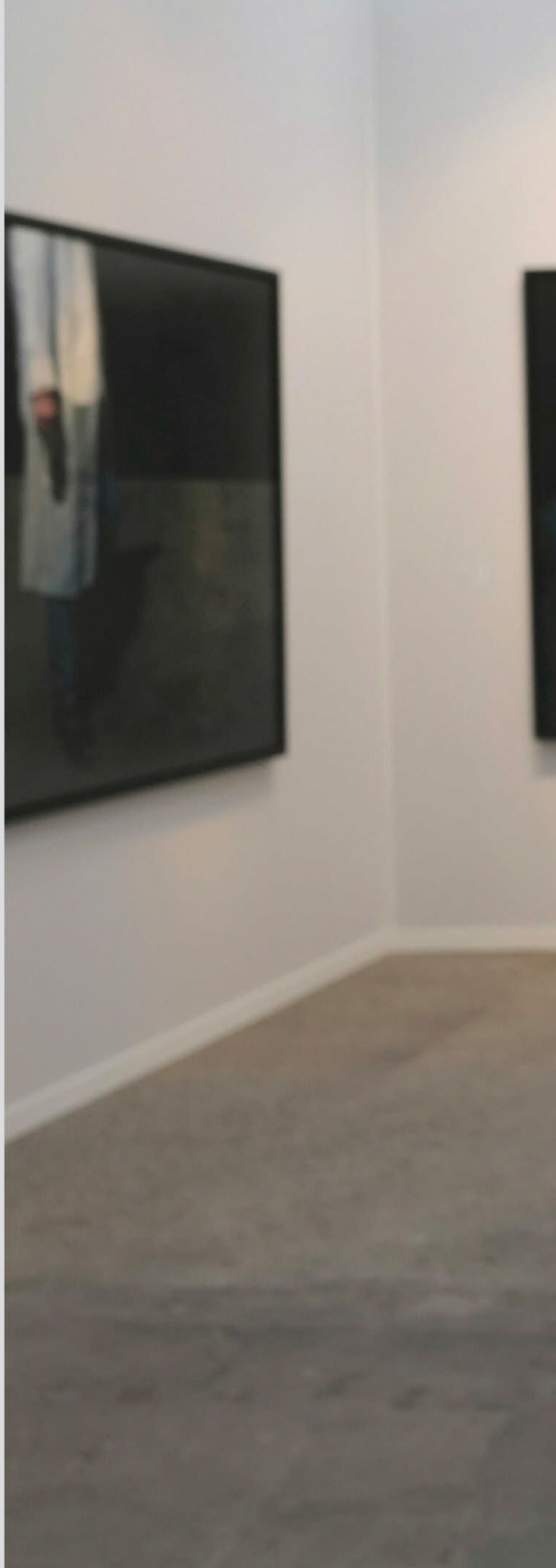




Image: Francois Mori

Art Paris is the first big international art fair to physically go ahead since the coronavirus swept through the world, grounding flights, triggering lockdowns and devastating commerce.

In 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic struck, the global art market was valued at around \$64 billion.

“We had this conviction that we had to do this fair because it’s so important for the galleries to meet their collectors, you know, after six months of total inactivity. And, you know, everything was shut down, so it’s really essential,” Art Paris General Curator Guillaume Piens told The Associated Press.

Organizers acknowledge there’s a “risk,” and say a health team is on-site to evacuate any potential COVID-19 clusters from the galleries. But they hope that proceedings won’t be marred by any fair-linked infections.

“The space of the Grand Palais is majestic just so it’s not seen as a confined space. It (has) more than a 45-meter-high ceiling,” Piens said.

Nonetheless, amid fears of a second wave, members of the French public have expressed dismay that such a big fair is going ahead.

“Really? I don’t think that is very prudent to have so many people together, spreading germs and bacteria. Couldn’t they just cancel it this year like everyone else?” said Karelle Dublot, a 26-year-old teacher, who was walking in the street nearby.

“It’s a terrible idea. Does the French government know?” asked Marie Pierre, 31, an unemployed Paris resident.





Image: Francois Mori

Art Paris was originally scheduled for April, but it was decided that a Sept. 10-13 slot would be a better fit.

About 6,000 masked guests are set to attend the Paris fair's staggered opening — down from 17,000 invitees from last year. Guests this year won't only pass sellers from 112 galleries, 15 different countries and their art, but ubiquitous bottles of hand sanitizer, and warning signs that clusters of people in small spaces won't be permitted. Some art gallery owners and operators are wearing sparkling, art-infused masks to try to create some levity despite the restrictions.

Many of this year's art fair cancellations, including the May edition of Frieze New York, followed the premature closure of Tefaf Maastricht in March, after an exhibitor at the Dutch fair contracted the virus on March 9. It was later revealed that at least two-dozen exhibitors and visitors had also contracted the virus. Fairs such as Art Basel in Switzerland, Frieze London, and Art Basel in Miami Beach were also among victims of the pandemic.

"There have been no big art fairs anywhere in the world since March. Art Paris is a first. I'm quite happy it's happening, despite the crisis, as people in the industry are just desperate," said Ian Rosenfeld of London-based Gallery Rosenfeld.

Despite the risks of showing, many in the art industry say that there's no other option but to start up again, including Ellen van Heijningen, from Athens-based P Gallery, who said the fair was "a very good idea."



Image: Francois Mori







“They’ve taken measures. There’s a lot of space ... we can’t kind of keep life on hold forever,” she said.

Others were more hyperbolic.

“It’s a sort of a life and death situation for galleries, for artists, for businesses,” said Hélianthe Bourdeaux-Maurin, H Gallery director, who is exhibiting at the fair.

COVID-19-related restrictions on travel and congregation have made going to many fairs impossible — especially for jet-setting art collectors who regularly fly thousands of miles to buy art.

“Billions of dollars, euros — every kind of money — has been lost all over the world ... It’s very important that art fairs are taking place because right now nobody can take a plane. The galleries cannot meet their collectors. It’s very hard to find supporters when you cannot travel. So it’s really wonderful that we can all meet in one place and try to keep the industry going,” Bourdeaux-Maurin said.

Many smaller galleries are particularly vulnerable and many are known to be facing bankruptcy and closure.

Art Paris has acknowledged this is a real problem by creating an initiative to help all their younger galleries. The fair has pledged that the totality of the ticket sales profit from this year’s edition will be given to their youngest galleries to help them weather the storm. Bourdeaux-Maurin, who will be among recipients, described the move as “unprecedented.”



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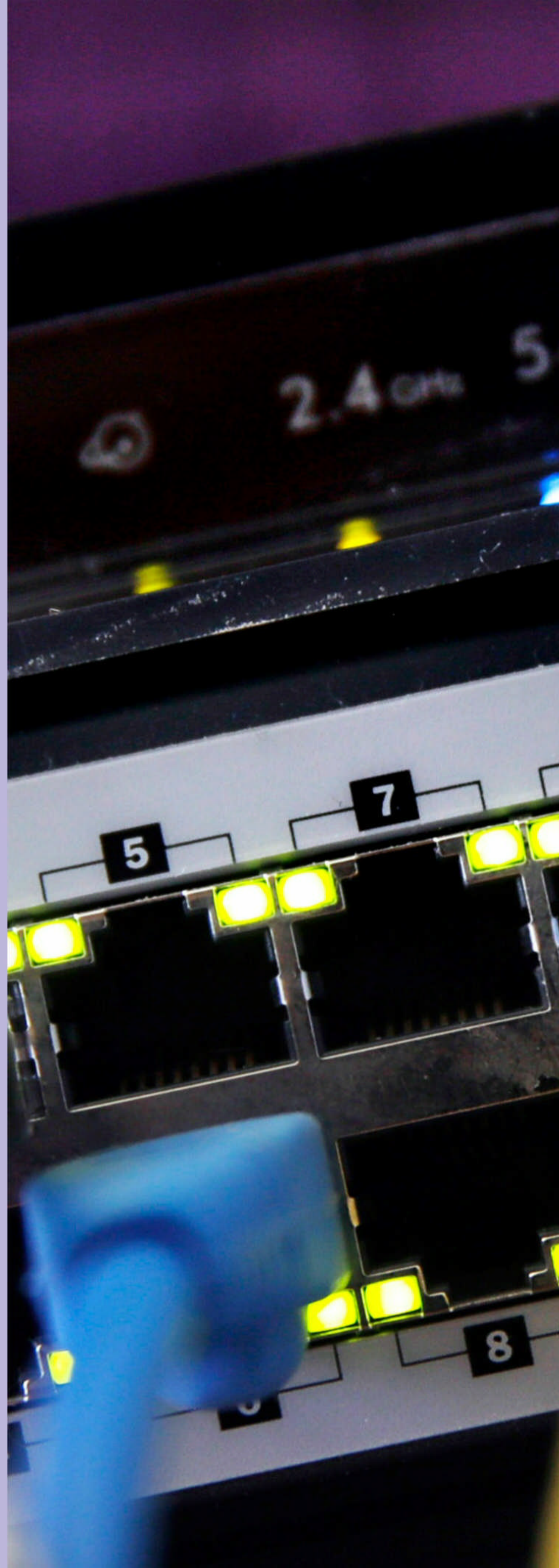


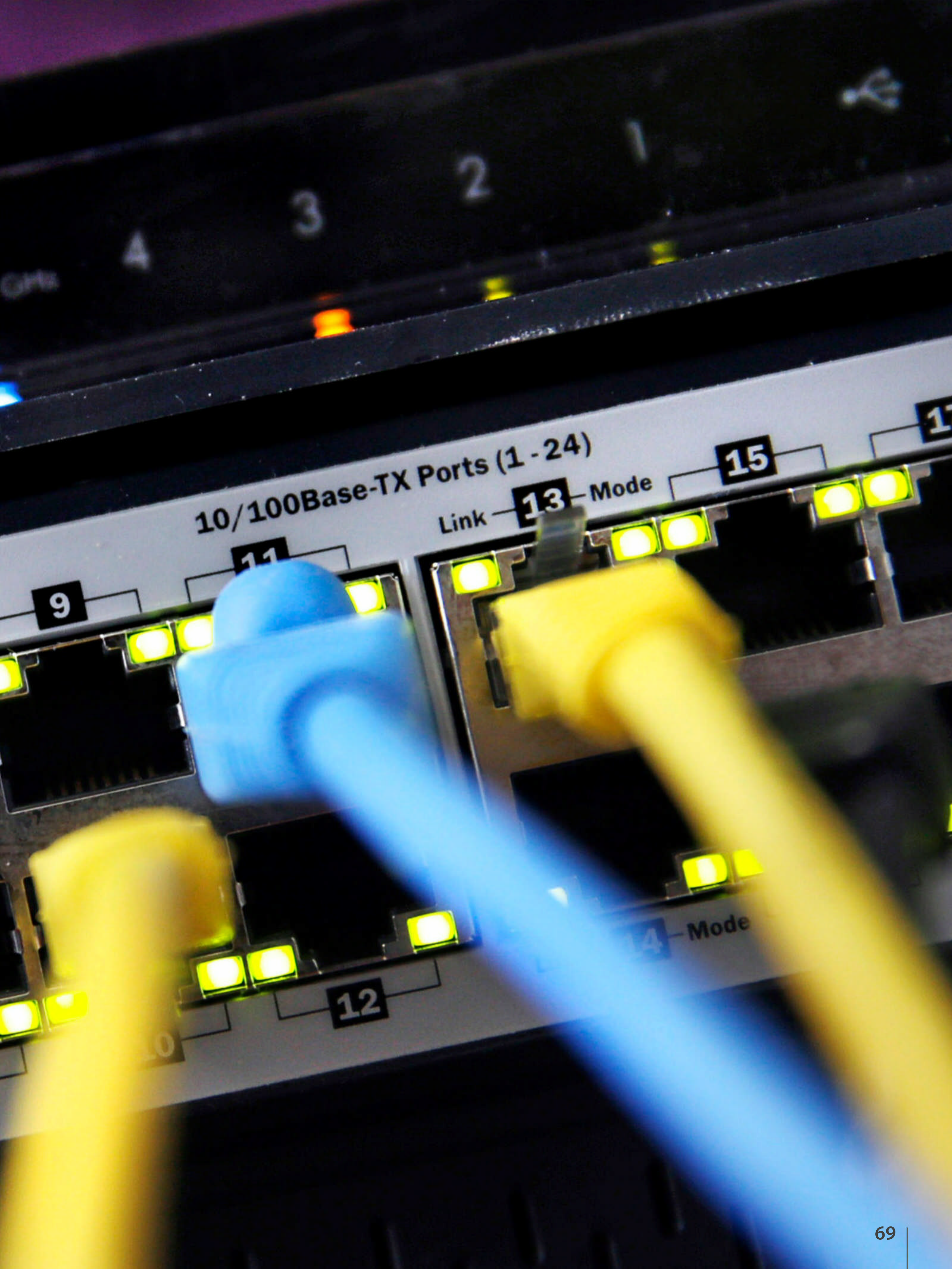
BRING IN THE EXPERTS: IT'S TIME TO SECURE YOUR HOME NETWORK

Not all that long ago, managing your home network's security didn't involve much more than installing an antivirus program on your PC. If only it were still so simple.

It's no longer just about protecting the computer on which you may be working from home and the laptops the kids may be using as online school starts. Odds are good you've got a few other internet-connected devices around the house -- phones, tablets, game consoles, maybe a "smart" TV or thermostat or refrigerator or light bulb or kid's toy or security camera or video-streaming gadget or voice-activated digital valet.

The average U.S. home now has 11 such devices, according to Deloitte, many of which are vulnerable to hacking. If you don't want cyber cat burglars traipsing across them, potentially spreading malware or ransomware as they go, you'll want to secure your entire home network.









WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Home networks are a major target for cybercriminals, who use innocuous smart gadgets as stepping stones to loot data from PCs and phones. Or they may co-opt these simpler devices into much larger “botnets” that can be used to wreak havoc across the internet.

On average, one in three internet connections from home networks are made through devices other than computers or phones, so there’s lots of opportunity for mischief if you don’t lock your virtual windows to the networked world.

You can do it yourself, but that can be a lot of work, and the potential consequences of any mistakes could be significant. For most people, it makes better sense to pay for a network-protection service, whether offered by your internet provider or another business. Though it will cost you.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Think of your home network as a bunch of cans tied to each other with strings. Those are all your in-house devices and the data they share with each other.

Now picture each of those cans tied to thousands of other strings outside your home. They are data connections your devices routinely make to other devices on the global internet. It’s beyond our capacity to constantly monitor all those connections. We need help.

A good network-security service sets up firewalls to block unwanted data traffic, but it doesn’t stop there. Since firewalls are imperfect, it will also monitor network traffic using artificial





intelligence to detect unusual patterns. It keeps an eye on both your devices and malicious internet domains, alerting you to potential threats and blocking suspicious websites.

Typically, you'll be able to configure your security and respond to alerts from a laptop or phone. Providers let you block unauthorized users and websites from connecting to your home gadgets. Parents can also often use these services to set rules on the websites kids can visit and limits on screen time.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST? IS IT WORTH IT?

Internet providers now frequently offer security suites if you rent your modem or router from them. From Comcast, it costs \$14 a month. Verizon charges fiber-optic FiOS subscribers \$25/month but provides it for free with its premium gigabit plan.

If you recently bought your own router, security may come as a free trial and then a subscription. Or you can buy a separate service or standalone security appliance. Figure on paying about \$100 a year.

"Most consumers don't have the necessary knowhow as to how to secure their home network," says Michael Philpott, a connected-home analyst with the Omedia tech research firm. "The only real option is to have a central solution that can monitor all connected devices."

Philpott says he's personally happy to pay a little extra for the peace of mind.

Start by checking out the service provided by your broadband provider or the maker of your

router. Is the software easy to set up and to use? Check which security firm supplies the underlying security tools; Bitdefender, F-Secure, McAfee and Trend Micro are among industry leaders.

It's also possible to buy network-security kits directly from security companies, though you'll typically pay more for an extra monitoring device you'll add to your network. These often include anti-malware software for computers and phones.

Look for software that also lets you create two separate "virtual" home networks." Reserve one for work computers and networked data storage and use the other for smart TVs and speakers.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF TINKERING. WHAT CAN I DO MYSELF?

You're going to need to roll up your sleeves and get educated if you want to harden your home network's security on your own. Even then, if you do any kind of sensitive work at home it probably pays to shell out for extra protection.

See the links below for basic details to get you started.

Online:

Basic network security: <https://bit.ly/2Zg8pou>

Protecting your router: <https://bit.ly/334JuWc>

U.S. guidelines: <https://bit.ly/2R2Enjp>

Security for working from home:

<https://bit.ly/3IWRBfY>

Consumer Reports router test findings:

<https://bit.ly/2ZfWtDf>





**MICROSOFT TO
LAUNCH NEW
\$500 XBOX
CONSOLE NOV. 10**





The holiday video game console battle is heating up. Microsoft says its Xbox Series X will cost \$500 and debut Nov. 10, just ahead of the holidays.

There haven't been new generations of video game consoles for several years. The most recent Xbox, Xbox One, was released in 2013, as was Sony's PlayStation 4.

A stripped down version, Xbox Series S, will cost \$300 and be available at the same time. Pre-orders begin Sept. 22.

New video games at launch include "Assasin's Creed Valhalla," "Gears Tactics," "Dirt 5," and "Watch Dogs Legion."

Rival Sony is expected to announce the pricing for its PlayStation 5 shortly.









**APPLE TV+ RACKS
UP AWARD
NOMINATIONS**



The nominations are in for the 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards, and as is now tradition, it's streaming giants that are stealing the spotlight from traditional broadcasters. Netflix may be the frontrunner with an incredible 160 nominations, but new entrants like Disney+ and Apple are proving their offerings can't be ignored, with Apple TV+ securing an impressive 18 nods.

THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

The entertainment industry has undergone one of the greatest transformations in recent years. Not long ago, we'd sit down on an evening for appointment-to-view television and head to movie theaters for the latest blockbuster. But Netflix and Amazon Prime have led to "cable-cutting," **with millions of American households canceling their subscriptions** to costly entertainment packages in favor of

cheaper bundles online. As that trend continues, more players are entering the ring. YouTube has upped its TV offering **but a recent price hike now means it's the same as DIRECTV or DISH**. Aside from cable-like alternatives, monthly subscription plans from brands like Hulu and HayU are revolutionizing the way we access content, and Apple TV Channels means consumers can pay to subscribe to an individual network or family of channels rather than paying hundreds of bucks for every channel under the sun. New levels of choice make consumers more powerful than ever before, and as a result, big brands are fighting hard.

Apple's entry into television streaming came as no surprise as the organization looked to reduce its reliance on the iPhone and move towards services to appease shareholders. And following years of rumors and teasing, the Cupertino







company finally revealed in 2019 that it was to launch a new \$4.99/month service to sit alongside Apple Music and other offerings like Apple Arcade and Apple News+. The company has made no secret of the fact that it wants to **create award-winning television shows to compete against rivals HBO and Netflix** behemoths like Game of Thrones and Stranger Things, though the company is still looking for a breakout hit despite the critical acclaim of shows like The Morning Show and SEE. By scoring major nominations for its shows less than a year into its tenure, Apple could be on to a winner, and with 18 Emmy nods under its belt, consumers could start taking TV+ seriously.

Apple managed to score acclaim across a number of categories, including two major nominations for prestige series The Morning Show: Steve Carell was nominated for Best Actor in a Drama Series, and Jennifer Aniston was nominated for Best Actress in a Drama Series. The Morning Show was previously nominated for three gongs at the Golden Globes earlier in the year for Best Drama and a pair of Best Actress nominations for Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, though ultimately other shows went on to win. Nevertheless, being recognized in the first year of the streaming service's launch is an impressive feat, and we'll know whether Apple managed to reign supreme when the 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards take place on September 20th, **with Jimmy Kimmel hosting a more stripped-down ceremony.** It had previously been reported the Emmys were working with a "top-notch team of technicians, producers, and writers" to make their stars look "fabulous." "We're exploring the cutting edge of



technology to allow us to use good cameras and lighting and look forward to working with you to produce your unique ‘on-screen’ moments,” the organization said in a press release.

APPLE TV+ CELEBRATES ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

If you’ve frequented the Apple.com homepage in recent weeks, you’ll have spotted an Apple TV+ takeover promotion, where the company’s Emmy nominations are proudly displayed. It features the tagline “18 Emmy nominations, and we’re just getting started,” demonstrating the company’s commitment to churning out quality content. The coronavirus pandemic has undoubtedly put a spanner in the works for Apple, whose titles *SEE* and *The Morning Show* enjoyed moderate first-season successes. With filming suspended on most television work right now, it’s likely that we won’t see a second season of each until mid-2021 at the earliest, though Apple **said the Jennifer Aniston-led show will be rewritten to reference COVID-19**. In the first season, the show was rewritten in light of the #MeToo movement and **to reference the California wildfires, which devastated parts of the region**.

The aforementioned undoubtedly is Apple’s “Signature Show”. It had previously been suggested each episode of the star-studded drama **would cost more than *Game of Thrones***, and though it hasn’t been the immediate hit Apple had hoped for, it has scored well online and received overwhelming positive review. Recent estimates from Ampere Analysis have suggested that Apple has approximately 33 million TV+ subscribers,







but a new Bloomberg **article cites a person with knowledge claiming the number is closer to 10 million.** Still, The Morning Show managed to score five acting nominations and eight nominations overall. Jennifer Aniston received her first dramatic role nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series, and Steve Carell was nominated for Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series. The Morning Show also earned two nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for both Billy Crudup and Mark Duplass, and Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for Martin Short. Director Mimi Leder was also nominated for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series, demonstrating the show's success. What's particularly exciting for Apple is that several of the nods are for categories that don't face stiff competition, meaning it's likely The Morning Show will secure at least one award.

Another Apple TV+ show to secure nominations was the critically-acclaimed Beastie Boys Story, with Mike Diamond, Adam Horovitz, and Academy Award-winning director Spike Jonze each making their Emmy debut with five total nominations, including for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Special. Unlike The Morning Show, Beastie Boys had already been shot and self-funded. **Apple picked up the bill and aired the film in less than a month,** which goes against the firm's previous ethos of creating everything in-house to ensure quality. Instead, Apple has realized that if it wants to offer consumers a genuine alternative to Netflix, a mix of commissions and acquisitions will be needed. The company may even decide to purchase a network in the United States or

pay big bucks for back-catalogs. Apple is even reportedly considering the acquisition to MGM, **which would give it access to the iconic James Bond movie franchise.** Analysts have argued that the only way for Apple to stand a chance in the increasingly competitive streaming sector is to spend, and it appears Tim Cook and Co have an unlimited checkbook.

Other shows to receive attention at this year's Emmys include *Defending Jacob*, with two nods, animated comedy *Central Park*, documentary series *Home*, and *The Elephant Queen*, which **had previously been awarded at the Cinema for Peace International Green Film 2019.**





The nominations come following Apple's Daytime Emmy Award wins for Outstanding Children's or Family Viewing Programming for Ghostwriter and Outstanding Single-Camera Editing for Peanuts in Space: Secrets of Apollo 10. Combined, Apple TV+ now has 25 award wins and 95 nominations, including the SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series for Jennifer Aniston (The Morning Show), and a Critics Choice Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for Billy Crudup (Morning Show). In the years ahead, as new commissions come to fruition and actors and directors are able to return to set, Apple TV+ will continue to push boundaries and offer audiences a new way to escape and unwind. New shows coming soon include **Ewan McGregor and friend Charlie Boorman on Long Way Up**, an **eight-part drama on an Israeli computer hacker agent**, and an **exciting new comedy featuring Bill Murray and Rashida Jones called On the Rocks**. Tiny World, Becoming You, The Earth at Night in Color, and **Mariah Carey's Magical Christmas Special** have also been confirmed.





Long Way Up — Official Trailer | Apple TV+

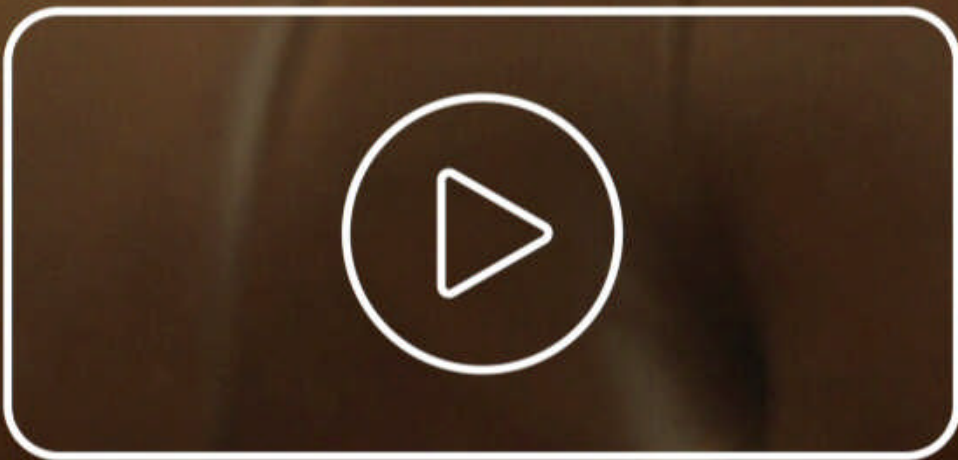








Tehran — Official Trailer | Apple TV+



On the Rocks — Official Trailer | Apple TV+





Though Apple's transition into entertainment certainly raised some eyebrows, and its results, at least from a commercial perspective, have been mixed, it is clear that the organization has a clear strategy. Rather than commissioning any old show and hoping for the best, Apple is taking a more conservative approach and ensuring that every piece of content adds value and informs and entertains viewers. Apple took a significant risk offering Apple TV+ for free at



launch, as the current service offers very few shows, but the shows that are there deliver. As we head closer to the fall and holiday season, **Apple is expected to extend its free trial** and also **bundle together TV+ alongside Music, iCloud, Arcade, and News+**, increasing its viewership overnight. Though Emmy nominations are a great indicator of success, it's subscribers that Apple really cares about...

WHAT TO EXPECT AT APPLE'S "TIME FLIES" SPECIAL EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 15

APPLE HAS CONFIRMED THAT IT WILL HOLD A NEW
EVENT ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT THE STEVE
JOBS THEATER, BUT WHAT CAN FANS EXPECT?





*Apple Event — September 15
Join us for a special Apple Event
September 15 at 10 a.m. PDT.*

Although Apple traditionally shows off new iPhones in September, it has been widely reported that this year's models are delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, and as a result, the firm could show them off in an October keynote.

The company is taking a leaf out of WWDC's book and hosting a new digital-only event, with no members of the media or developer world invited to attend the event in person.

Apple will prerecord the details of each product and share them in a seamless presentation online.

This year has been quiet for Apple so far on the product front, with the coronavirus pandemic causing technology giants to slow down their usual release schedules.

However, it is expected that the Cupertino company will make up for this in the latter half of

the year, with new iPhones, Apple Watches, and more to be announced in the next few weeks.

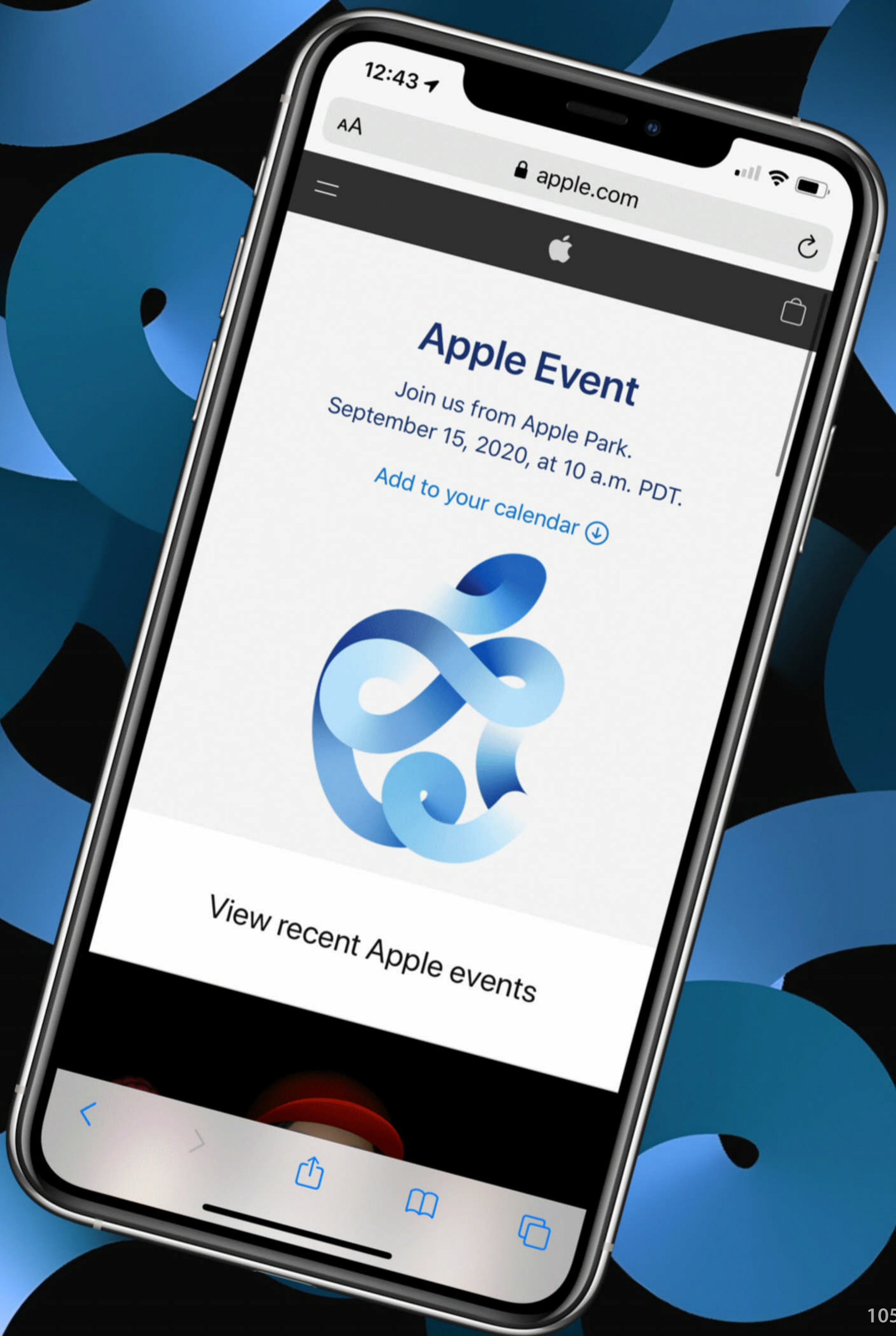
The iPhone 12 range will come in four models and three sizes. The iPhone 12 will be the more affordable model and will be available in standard and Max varieties with 5.4 and 6.1-inch size options. The iPhone 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max, on the other hand, will sport 6.1 and 6.7-inch size options, the latter being the largest iPhone the company has ever sold.

For the first time, all of Apple's 2020 iPhones will support 5G technology and a new design inspired by the iPad Pro. Apple will also add in new camera technology and faster chips to power the internals. It's expected that the iPhones will be more expensive than previous generations due to the implementation of 5G, though there'll be no earbuds or power adapter in the box. However, as previously suggested, these phones will arrive in October.

At Apple's September Event, the star of the show will be the Apple Watch Series 6, which will sport a similar design to the Series 5 and introduce new health-tracking capabilities.

New iPads could also be announced at the event, and we could get our first glimpse of the long-awaited 11-inch iPad Air which will come without a home button. A cheaper iPad could also be coming, as could ARM-powered Macs, such as the MacBook Air and iMac Pro.

Other products that we could see at September's event include AirPods Studio, which are Apple's new premium over-ear headphones, as well as AirTags, a successor to AirPower, and perhaps a new low-cost HomePod to compete against Google and Amazon.







COMPUTER GLITCHES DISRUPT CLASSES AS SCHOOLS RETURN ONLINE

Students across the U.S. ran into computer glitches as they began the school year with online instruction at home because of the coronavirus, adding to the list of problems that have thrust many a harried parent into the role of teacher's aide and tech support person.

The online learning platform Blackboard, which provides technology for 70 of the nation's 100 biggest districts and serves more than 20 million U.S. students from kindergarten through 12th grade, reported that websites for one of its learning products were failing to load or were loading slowly, and users were unable to register on the first day of school.

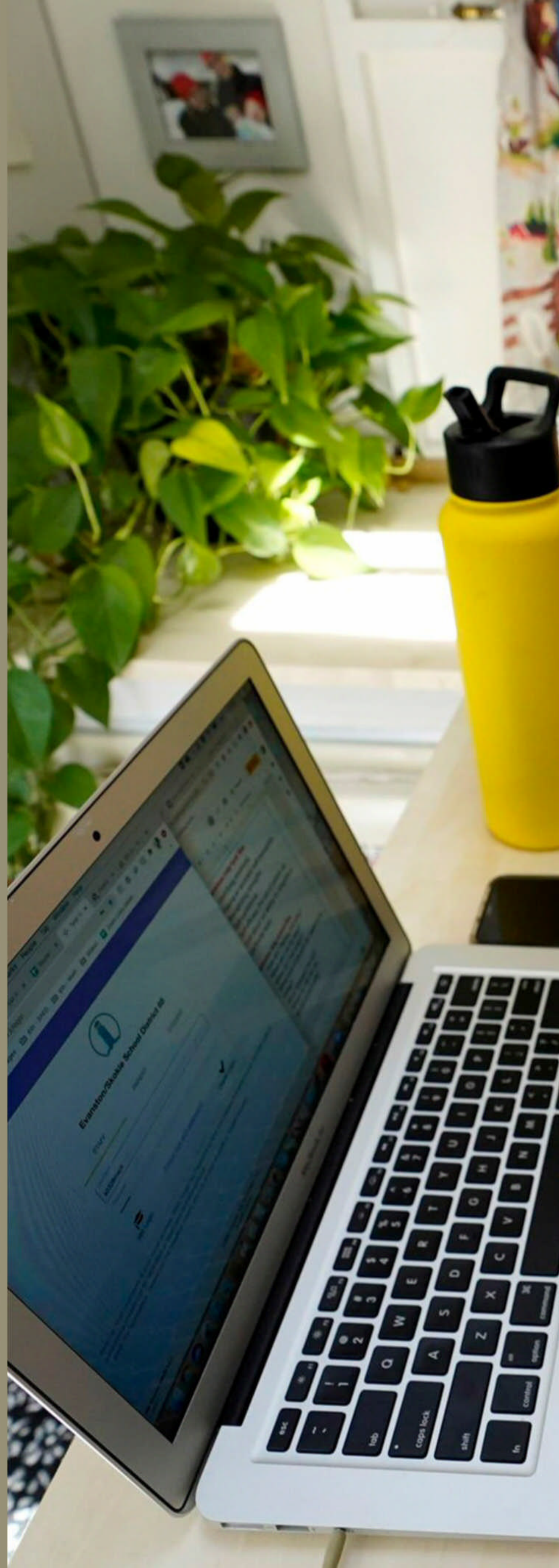
Blackboard, which hit four times its year-to-date user average by 8 a.m., wasn't the only tech company running into issues Tuesday. Websites that track internet outages like **downdetector.com** also recorded spikes in reported problems for services like Microsoft Teams and Google Drive, many spiking around 9 a.m. Three of Texas' largest districts — Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth — were hit with technical problems, as were school systems in places such as Idaho and Kansas. A ransomware attack forced schools in Hartford, Connecticut, to postpone Tuesday's start of virtual and in-person classes.

A Blackboard spokesperson said the problems with the company's website content management system occurred because of a big morning surge in online traffic. D'Anthony White said the system was restored by about 1:15 p.m. and the company was working on refining its approach to prevent further problems. He apologized for the disruption.

"While we planned for a surge in traffic greater than a typical back-to-school period, the patterns of usage exceeded what we anticipated," White wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

Elsewhere across the country, Seattle's system crashed last week. An online learning program used in Alabama and other places recently went down. And North Carolina's platform crashed on the first day of classes last month.

Amanda Mills' 8-year-old son, Rowan, woke up excited to start his first day of third grade, even though it was online through Idaho's largest school district, based in the town of Meridian,









just outside Boise. But they ran into trouble even after practicing logging in smoothly on Monday.

“Whatever happens, we’ll figure it out and we’ll make it work however we can, and rely on the patience of those teachers who are up against their own obstacles,” Mills said. “It’s a weird, wild world right now.”

Summer break gave school districts time to iron out kinks that cropped up when the virus forced them to switch to online classes in the spring. But the new school year already has been plagued by some of the same problems, with no end in sight to the outbreak that has infected more than 6.3 million people and killed 189,000 in the U.S.

Erik Rasmussen, a Falls Church, Virginia, resident who has three children taking online classes, said he regularly copes with computer glitches and short attention spans. The divorced dad has his children half the time.

“You put your kids in front of the computer, and then I go to do my work, but kids are kids — they’re going to turn off the video function and start playing a game,” he said.

In the Houston school system, with 209,000 students, a web hosting service went down, causing problems for families as they tried to sign into the district’s main classwork portal. Families were given a different link to access the portal until the problems were resolved by about noon.

The Dallas and Fort Worth districts said they were working to fix problems with their phone lines and websites.

“In this unprecedented school year, we must remain flexible and quickly adapt to changing

conditions and circumstances like we noticed this morning,” Houston interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said.

Florida’s largest school district, in Miami-Dade County, had assured parents that it had consolidated different programs into one platform that would be easier to navigate. But software glitches and cyberattacks disrupted the first week of the new school year that started Aug. 31.

A high school student was arrested and accused of orchestrating a series of network outages. School administrators believe other people may be doing the same.

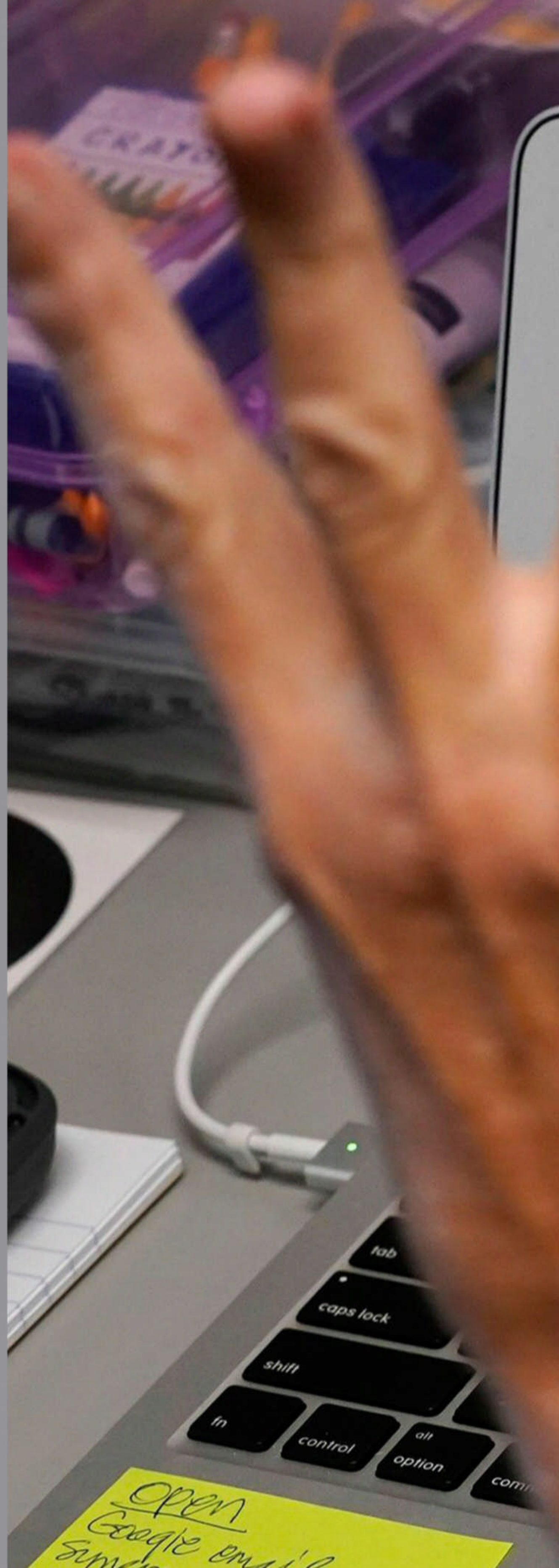
Christy Rodriguez, 36, said her third- and fourth-grade boys’ classes struggled with connection problems during the first week of school.

“Four full days were lost,” she said. “Either somebody is not able to go on, or the screen goes blank, or the teacher can’t hear the kids, so the teacher then just logs off and then sends a message to the parents.”

Rodriguez said she has been forced to work until late at night because her children need help fixing connection problems.

“The teachers are frustrated. The kids are frustrated. I hope that they soon open up schools,” she said.

Another parent, Alessandra Martinez, said her 7-year-old son has struggled with logins, passwords and connection problems. He had a meltdown last week when he was moved to a smaller breakout group but didn’t see the teacher and didn’t know what he was supposed to be doing.



Cisco Webex Meetings

Participants (18)

Search

Susan Jusell Me

Anna Erikson Host

Alphonsina Hamisi

Anwarite Mugisha

Bano Bosco

Christian Wakilongo

Clarisse Muziranenge

Estephane Suramy Fuent

Esther Umwiza

Hemedi Amani

James Ismael

Jean Pierre Hamisi

Juan Daniel Flores Morales

Luis Humberto Ibarra Osuna

Vocabulary

3

Foundational Test Practice

Copy of AZDE NMTHM.xlsx.pdf

ABC HUGE BUNDLE

IM0_7720.JPG

CVC Words

Activinspire

Interactive


Daily Smartboards

Addition center work

Movie Recording

Zero KB

MacBook Air



"At their age, everything is amplified, and it feels like a big deal," Martinez said.

Martinez said she was against the school district using a product commonly employed by parents who home-school.

"This is a home-schooling program, but for parents who are working from home and have multiple children, it is a bit overwhelming," she said. "We have this set up as a one-size-fits-all, and it doesn't work for everybody."

In Hartford, where the start of the school year was pushed back, parents were upset at what they called the last-minute notice of the delay. They noted that officials knew about the problem since the weekend.

Kate Court said her 13-year-old son was already dressed and ready to go to the bus stop when she learned of the postponement. The shipping warehouse employee counted herself lucky that her mother could watch over the teen and his younger brother so she didn't have to miss work.

"This is crazy," Court said. "We're looking for normalcy again, whatever that may be."







SAMSUNG WINS \$6.6 BILLION CONTRACT FROM VERIZON TO CREATE 5G

Samsung Electronics Co. will develop 5G network infrastructure for Verizon Communications under a \$6.65 billion deal announced this week.

The contract runs through 2025, according to a Samsung corporate filing.

Samsung and Verizon have worked together before. In 2018, for example, Samsung technology was behind a 5G home service that Verizon offered to some customers in California, Texas and Indiana.

“Samsung has demonstrated their commitment to collaborating with us to drive innovation in 5G,” New York-based Verizon said in a statement. “We are excited to expand our relationship with them and benefit from a long-term strategic agreement.”

The Veri logo, featuring a stylized white 'V' above the word 'veri' in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The logo is positioned on the right side of the page, partially cut off by the edge.

veri



Samsung did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The South Korean technology giant beat out rivals like Finland's Nokia, which has collaborated with Verizon in the past.

But one 5G rival — China's Huawei Technologies Ltd. — wasn't in the running for the contract. Huawei has been largely absent from the U.S. since 2012, when a congressional panel warned phone carriers to avoid it. The U.S. says it's a security risk to give China too much access to 5G systems, which are expected to support self-driving cars, factory robots and other applications.

More recently, the Trump administration has been pressuring European companies not to work with Huawei. In February, Attorney General William Barr said the U.S. government should consider taking a "controlling stake" in the European companies Nokia and Ericsson to thwart Huawei's global ambitions.





GM TO MAKE ELECTRIC VEHICLE, SUPPLY BATTERIES FOR NIKOLA

General Motors announced its second major electric vehicle partnership in less than a week, this time a \$2 billion deal with startup Nikola.

GM will take an 11% ownership stake in the Phoenix company and will engineer and build Nikola's Badger hydrogen fuel cell and electric pickup truck. The Badger is expected to be in production by the end of 2022.

GM also will help with cost reductions for Nikola's other vehicles including heavy trucks, and the company will use GM's battery system and hydrogen fuel technology.

In exchange for the 10-year deal, GM will get \$2 billion worth of Nikola's newly issued common stock that will come in three increments through 2025.

News of the deal sent shares of both companies surging despite a broader-market downturn. Nikola's shares jumped \$14.50, or 40.8%, to close Tuesday at \$50.05. GM advanced \$2.38, or 7.9%, to end at \$32.38.

The move sets up GM for a new revenue stream and possibly a change in its business model, essentially becoming a parts supplier to other companies for electric vehicle frames, batteries, controls and components.

GM has been under pressure from Wall Street to more quickly monetize its electric vehicle technology, and industry analysts have suggested spinning off its EV unit as a separate company.

Barra said on a conference call that GM has a "platform that others can use that's going to give us scale and help us drive efficiency." She said the electric vehicle platform and batteries are attractive to other companies, which is a huge opportunity for GM.

"We're going to leverage that and really seize the opportunity that we have to grow," she said.

However, she wouldn't comment on whether GM is in talks with other companies.

Nikola will be responsible for the sales and marketing of the Badger, but it will be built on GM's new battery electric truck underpinnings and use GM fuel cell and battery technology. GM also will supply batteries for other Nikola vehicles including heavy trucks.





GM has its own battery electric truck, a GMC Hummer, due to go on sale a year ahead of the Badger.

The deal is the second major partnership announced by GM this month as it lines up companies to share in the costs of developing electric and autonomous vehicle technology. On Thursday GM said it would join with Japanese automaker Honda to share the costs of building vehicles powered by batteries and internal combustion engines.

GM expects to get more than \$4 billion in benefits from the deal with the stock as well as from contracting to manufacture the Badger. GM also will get supply contracts for batteries and fuel cells and electric vehicle regulatory credits that can be used by GM to comply with fuel economy and pollution standards, or sold to other companies.

Nikola founder and Executive Chairman Trevor Milton said the agreement relieves his company of the expense of building another factory to make the Badger, which is a little larger than a Chevrolet Silverado. Nikola, however, will keep building a U.S. factory in Coolidge, Arizona, to make heavy trucks.

Nikola Corp., which hasn't made a profit yet and lost \$86.6 million in the second quarter, expects to save over \$4 billion in battery and powertrain costs over 10 years.

Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives, in a note to investors, wrote that the deal is huge step forward for Nikola, giving the company credibility with Badger production and its hydrogen fuel cell and semi truck ambitions.









“There have been many skeptics around Nikola and its founder Trevor Milton’s ambitions over the coming years, which now get thrown out the window with stalwart GM making a major strategic bet on Nikola,” he wrote.

Nikola, founded in 2015, became a public company in June after a merger with VectoIQ, a publicly traded special-purpose acquisition company.

When it went public, Nikola added former GM Vice Chairman Stephen Girsky, CEO of VectoIQ, to its board of directors.

Barra said that Girsky made initial introductions to help start the deal.



Now Streaming | Mulan | Disney+

忠勇真



LIVE-ACTION 'MULAN' IS GORGEOUS BUT SHORT ON MAGIC

Out of all of Disney's animated films, "Mulan" was the one that made the most sense as a live-action remake. Not that there haven't been good and charming live-action remakes over the past decade — Kenneth Branagh's "Cinderella" being at the top of the pack — but with most of them no matter how expensive or carefully executed or reverent to the source material, I usually walk out wishing I'd just watched the animated version instead.

Part of that might be age. I was in the generation who got to experience Disney's animated renaissance in real time in the theaters — unaware of course that it was a renaissance, but simply that the films I got to see in the theater and then on home video were something special. Perhaps it didn't crystalize just how special they were and are until the live-action



Disney's Mulan | Official Trailer



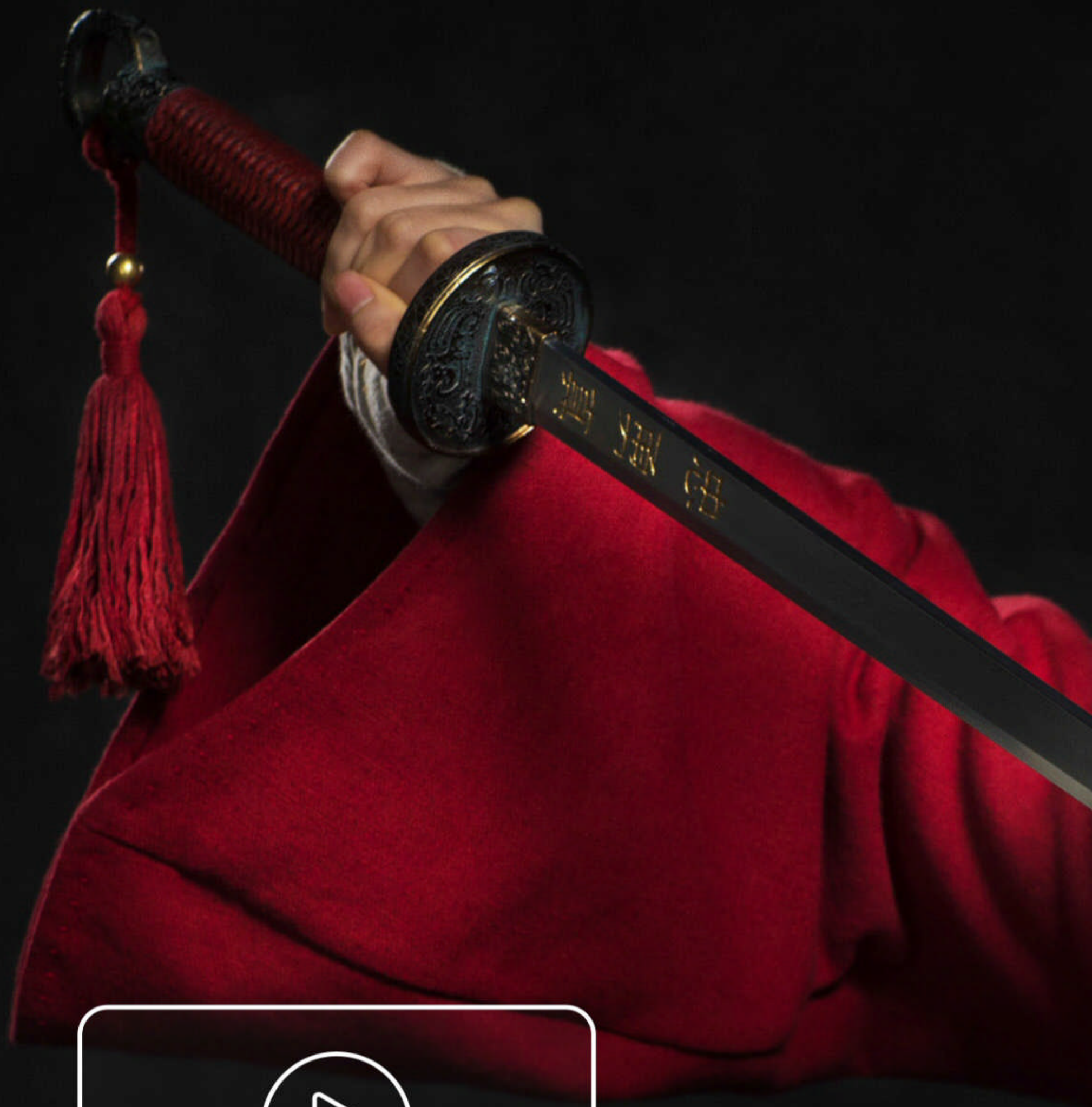
remakes became a regular part of the release calendar. Many just weren't as enchanting or effective as their predecessors. That is mostly a compliment to the gold standard that is the animation. It would be shocking for a live-action version to somehow be better or even equal. Just look at the animated *Hakuna Matata* next to the "real" one. There is a reason most of these stories were animated in the first place.

"*Mulan*" was different, though. The animated tale is wonderful and full of fantastic songs, but it's a war epic. The story, about a young Chinese woman who steps in to serve the army in her aging and ailing father's place, is naturally and fundamentally suited for the format.

And make no mistake, director Niki Caro's "*Mulan*" is without a doubt one of the best of the remakes. It is stunning to look at from beginning to end. The crisp landscapes (shot by cinematographer Mandy Walker), the brightly colored and divinely intricate costumes (from Bina Daigeler), the elaborate fight sequences and the actors faces — especially Liu Yifei, who plays *Mulan* — are so beautiful that it will take your breath away. It's abundantly evident that Caro ("*Whale Rider*") had a grand and sweeping vision for "*Mulan*" and for the most part she pulls it off.

"*Mulan*" falters on the story level, however, feeling both rushed, overlong and oddly light on character development. We barely even get to know *Mulan*. She's introduced as a child, wild and carefree running through her village. But she's not just free-spirited in this version: She actually has magical powers that make her a natural acrobat and, later, warrior. The film cuts abruptly from this revelation to our heroine, who is now older and messing up in front of the

✓ REVIEW



Disney's Mulan | Final Trailer



matchmaker. It's still a charming scene, even without Eddie Murphy's Mushu.

But there's the problem: Why am I even thinking about Eddie Murphy? Because "Mulan" doesn't ever let you forget that it is in conversation with the animated film, devoted to hitting the familiar beats of its predecessor instead of telling its own story. Every time you hear the notes from "Reflection," which is only sung in the credits, you are torn out of Caro's sumptuous spectacle and once again thinking about the 1998 version and its songs.

"Mulan" has so much going for it, including a roster of amazing Chinese and Chinese-American actors including Jet Li, as the Emperor, Tzi Ma, as Mulan's father, Rosalind Chao as Li, Donnie Yen as Commander Tung and Jason Scott Lee as the big bad villain Bori Khan. It also decides to introduce a female witch villain played by Li Gong, which doesn't quite work and distracts from Mulan's own journey.

There is more good than bad in "Mulan," and we should be so lucky to get a gorgeous and inspiring war epic that is suitable for children to watch. "Mulan" might even inspire some kids to dip their toes into all that Asian cinema has to offer, which would be the best possible outcome. But something has to give in this blind fealty to the animated films, because it's getting in the way of greatness.

"Mulan," a Disney+ release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of violence." Running time: 115 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.





Mulan Special Look | Disney+





HILARY SWANK LEADS A MISSION TO MARS IN NETFLIX'S 'AWAY'

Before she went into acting, Hilary Swank was one of those kids who looked up at the sky and dreamed of blasting off to outer space. She got to pretend living out that dream in her new Netflix series, "Away," debuting last weekend, where she plays an astronaut commander leading a voyage to Mars.

"I just love an adventure and I'm a Leo," said Swank in a recent interview.

Executive produced by Jason Katims, "Away" follows Swank's character Emma Green and her international crew on this dangerous mission as she leaves behind her husband (played by Josh Charles) and teenage daughter (Talitha Bateman) for three years.

The series shifts back-and-forth between what's going on in space and back home with her family. Charles juggles health issues while essentially being a single parent. Emma has some personnel issues onboard (prickly personalities, a colleague who may think of her as more than a friend, and a rookie astronaut on her team), but what's not a factor is that she's a woman in charge.

"I think it's pretty darn awesome that's not the drama of this show. It's not about 'Oh, it's a female commander,'" said Swank.

Swank won an Oscar for her 1999 portrayal of a transgender man in "Boys Don't Cry" and again for playing a boxer in the 2004 movie, "Million Dollar Baby." When it came time to play an astronaut, the actor welcomed the challenge.

Youtube video thumbnail

To mimic floating in zero gravity in space, the cast — Vivian Wu, Ray Panthaki, Mark Ivanir and Ato Essandoh — actually hung from wires.

"It took a lot of effort to make it look effortless," Swank explained. "You're hanging by your hips, so when you squeeze your glutes, you go forward. And when you squeeze your abs, you go backwards. But naturally, if you're only being held by that part of your body, you really want to omit these weird sounds but you can't because obviously zero gravity is no effort. So it took a lot of getting used to for all of us."

The wire work did more than just give the actors a good workout. They were forced to spend more time together than usual — because they were literally hanging out on set.









"You're on a wire and you can't easily get off and go into a corner and get on your phone. We were really present with one another," said Swank.

The self-professed adventure junkie says she did encounter something that surprised her when she first tried on her spacesuit: "full-on" claustrophobia.

"They put the gloves on and it actually goes click, and then you can't get it off until you push a button and then do a lever and you can't take your gloves off by yourself. And then the helmet went on. And then it went click, and I really freaked out," said Swank.

"I tried to keep myself under control. I didn't want people to worry. But then they clearly were like, 'Are you OK?' And I looked in the mirror because I was in my fitting and I was bright red and I was sweating and I was like, 'Yeah, I'm just hot.' So that was something that I had to work through in 10 episodes. But I eventually worked through it."



A person wearing a dark blue suit is seated in a dimly lit room, their back to the camera. They appear to be looking at a screen, which is the source of the light illuminating the scene. The background is dark and out of focus.

NETFLIX FILM DISSECTS A TECHNOLOGY- DRIVEN 'SOCIAL DILEMMA'

A new Netflix documentary is setting out to expose technology's corrosive effects on society during a pandemic that's left people more dependent than ever on tools that keep them connected with friends, family and colleagues they can no longer meet in person.

So the timing for Wednesday's release of "The Social Dilemma" might strike some viewers as odd. But its makers aim to give you a better sense of why the pandemic isn't the only reason it feels like we're stuck in a dystopian nightmare.

The film, directed by Jeff Orlowski, aims to explain how Silicon Valley's embrace of smartphones, attention-grabbing algorithms, polarizing echo chambers and pursuit of profit have left users reeling in a way that could pose an existential threat to U.S. democracy.

"It is a self-destructive code that has been planted in our society right now," Orlowski said in an interview with The Associated Press.

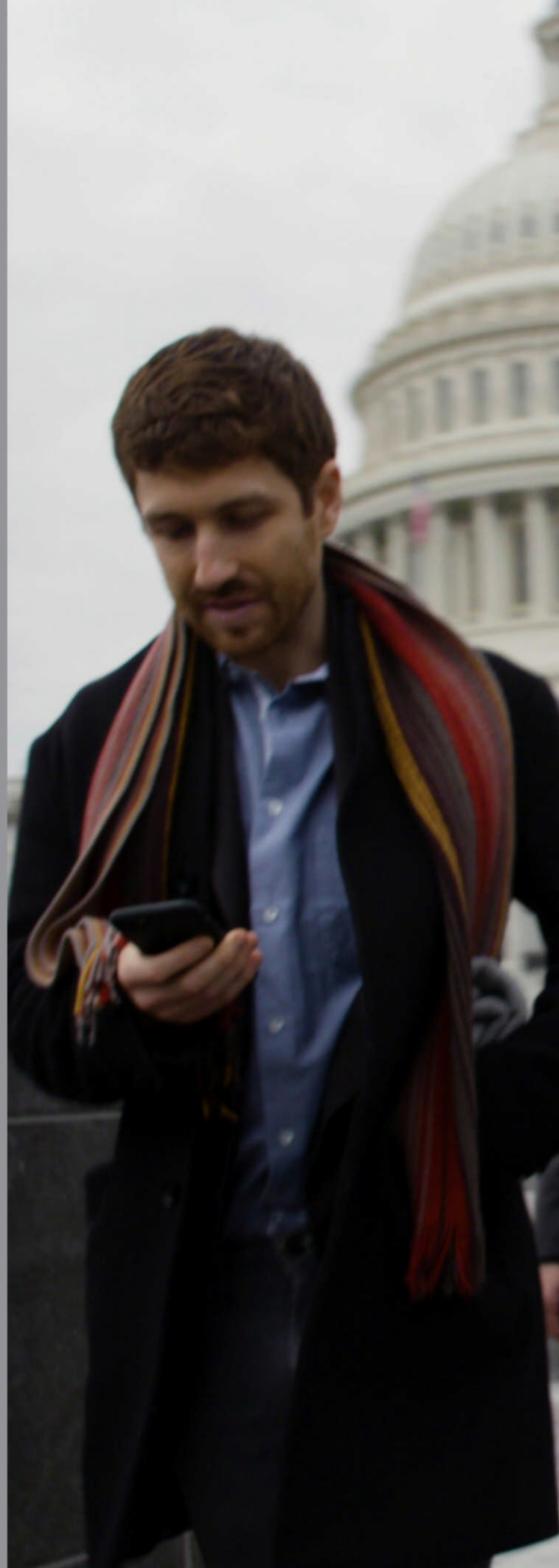
The notion of modern social media as a malign force that has hypnotized us into mindlessly scrolling distracting feeds, fostered division and elevated previously marginal groups and ideologies in ways that undermine social cohesion isn't particularly new. For the past several years, it's been the subject of Silicon Valley mea culpas (at the individual, if not corporate, level), foreboding news articles and academic studies and books.

Some tech-company engineers and executives have gone so far as to keep their own children off phones and social media. And a number of engineers have also been quitting high-paying technology jobs rather than continuing to contribute to the problems they believe their employers have caused.

The latest example surfaced when The Washington Post disclosed that a Facebook engineer had written a lengthy internal letter explaining why he was leaving the company. "I can no longer stomach contributing to an organization that is profiting off hate in the US and globally," wrote Ashok Chandwaney, who worked at Facebook for five and half years.

"The Social Dilemma" is the culmination of a three-year project aimed at making the severity of an extremely complicated problem easier for non-tech types to grasp — and perhaps motivating people to take action to prevent worse consequences.

The film pulls together the disparate threads of its argument through revealing — and sometimes chilling — insights from former executives at Facebook, Google, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.





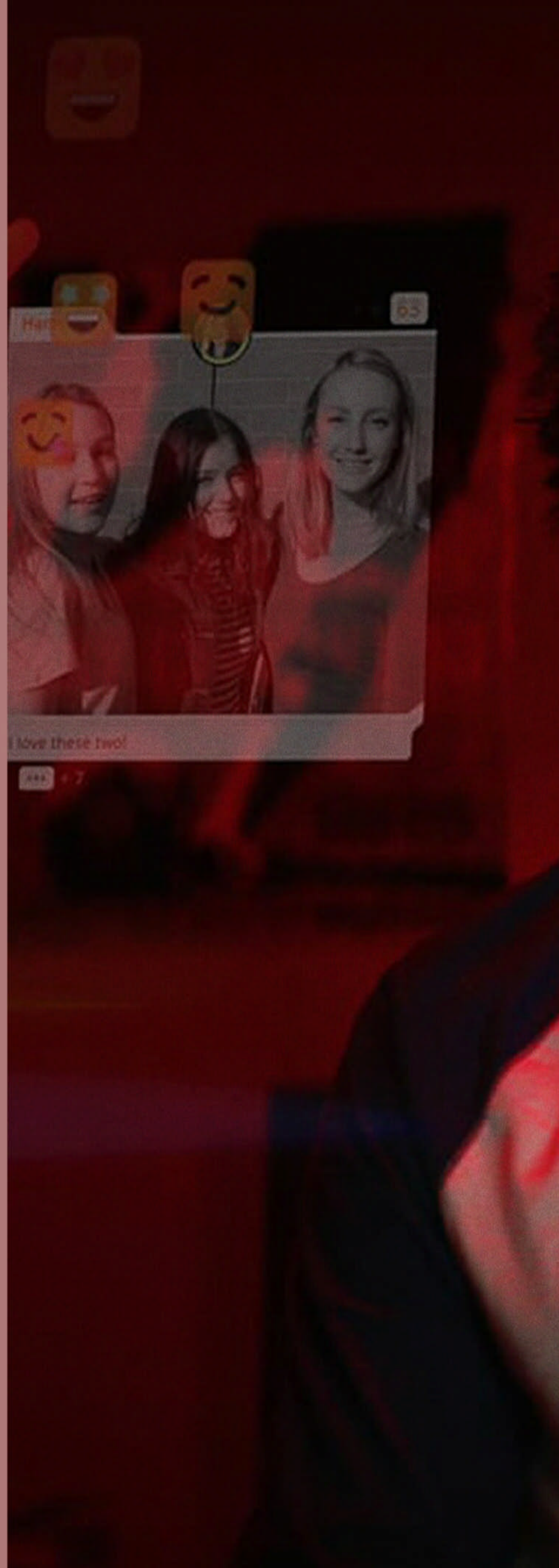
These are set against the backdrop of a fictional family addicted to screens filled with manipulative content served up by a ruthless set of algorithms embodied by actor Vincent Kartheiser, best known playing ad exec Pete Campbell in the TV series “Mad Men.”

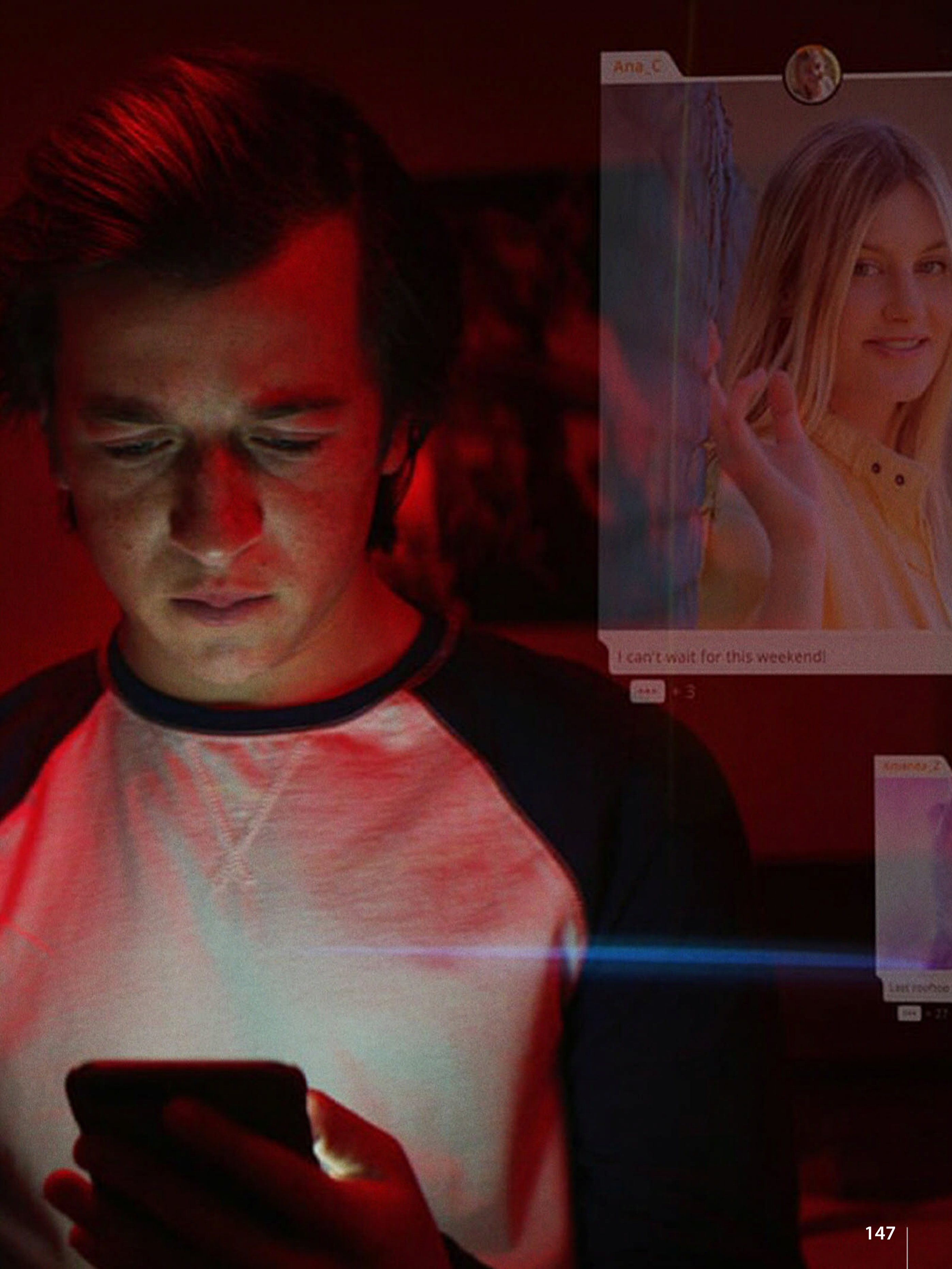
Tristan Harris, a former Google executive who plays a leading role in the film, said he hopes “The Social Dilemma” can wake up society the way Ralph Nader’s book “Unsafe At Any Speed” spurred the introduction of seat-belt laws and Al Gore’s award-winning 2006 documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” sharpened focus on the climate changes caused by human-generated greenhouse gases.

“What I am really hoping is this film will be the first time we have a shared truth, a shared reality about the breakdown of our shared reality,” Harris told in an interview.

Harris, now the president of the Center for Humane Technology, began sharing his disillusionment while he was still working at Google, and some of his posts about the subject caught Orlowski’s attention. The two had known each other while attending Stanford University, paving the way for them to reunite on a film that they both felt was important to finish before this November’s U.S. presidential election.

“I don’t want to have false optimism that we would shift the election or swing the election, but I think it’s an important part of the conversation,” Orlowski said. “The more we can recognize how this software is invisibly reshaping our society and acknowledge and understand this is a reality we are living in right now, then we can work to improve that.”





Ana_C



I can't wait for this weekend!

❤️ +3

Amelia_2



Last rooftop

❤️ +27



VIRUS STILL THROWING THEME PARK ATTENDANCE FOR A LOOP



Theme park operators who spent months installing hand sanitizing stations, figuring out how to disinfect roller coasters seats and checking the temperatures of guests at their gates so they'd come back in the midst of the pandemic are finding many reluctant to return.

Some parks have reduced operating days, slashed ticket prices, and closed early for the year because of lower-than-hoped attendance — expectations weren't high to begin with — along with the uncertainty of what's to come with the coronavirus. A few parks have been unable to open their gates at all because of state and local health restrictions.

Disney this week will begin cutting an hour or two out of each day at its four Florida theme parks. It already called off its annual after-hours Halloween party at the Magic Kingdom.

Neighboring Universal Orlando also nixed its Halloween Horror Nights.

Amusement parks across the South that had their seasons delayed by virus outbreaks in the spring deal with a second punch with the summer flareups across the Sun Belt. Some, including Kings Dominion in Virginia and Carowinds in North Carolina, never opened and won't this year.

Cedar Fair Entertainment, which operates those two, has reopened just half of its 13 amusement parks and water parks across North America.

The company, based in Ohio, expected attendance to stay at no more than 25% of normal levels through the rest of the year at its parks that are operating, CEO Richard Zimmerman said in early August. Despite the lower numbers, those parks are still able to make a profit, the company said.

Cedar Point, the company's flagship park in Sandusky, Ohio, scaled back to weekends only in mid-August and did away with online admission reservations to manage the daily crowds.

California's parks haven't been open — except for a few food festivals — since mid-March and are pushing the state to issue guidelines on how and when they can allow guests back.

"Disneyland has been ready to roll since July awaiting guidance from the state's governor on what the reopening protocols will be," Jim MacPhee, Walt Disney World's chief operating officer, said two weeks ago.

Kennywood, an amusement park near Pittsburgh, delayed its opening twice this year, cut ticket prices in half and then decided to end its season early on Labor Day.







"It's hard to predict what's going to happen in a few months," said park spokesman Nick Paradise, explaining why they canceled the popular Phantom Fright Nights and Holiday Lights events. "The safest thing is to finish on a high note."

The park's attendance started slow after its July opening but picked up as people began feeling more comfortable with the safety measures in place, he said.



The industry put in long hours just to restart this season, adding constant reminders about social distancing, from decals on the pavement in queues to roving “social distance squads” at Disney World. Six Flags added touch-free bag checks with high-tech, walk-through machines.

Six Flags expects its numbers to rebound when the health crisis settles down, Mike Spanos, the company’s CEO said at the end of July. But attendance at its parks around the U.S. has gone up and down depending on whether there are coronavirus surges in those areas, he said.

“We’re surveying guests every week and what they’re telling us is when they see a flattening of the curve, they want to get out,” Spanos said.



“And we also see a chunk of guests that are saying when they’re comfortable with the vaccine, they want to get out.”

Some people opposed to mask-wearing requirements also have stayed away.

“The pushback is diminishing,” said George Frantzis, co-owner of Quassy Amusement & Waterpark in Middlebury, Connecticut.

“We still get a few everyday who don’t believe in it.”

While business has remained slow during the week, the park has hit its capacity on a few weekends, he said. “Saturdays have been a little bit busy because there’s not a lot else to do out there,” Frantzis said.







FORECASTING FRESHMAN STARS PARTICULARLY TOUGH THIS SEASON

Figuring out which true freshmen could make an impact is more challenging than usual this year with the coronavirus pandemic having such an impact on the preseason.

Much of the offseason focused on the viability of having a season at all rather than detailing which newcomers were making a statement.

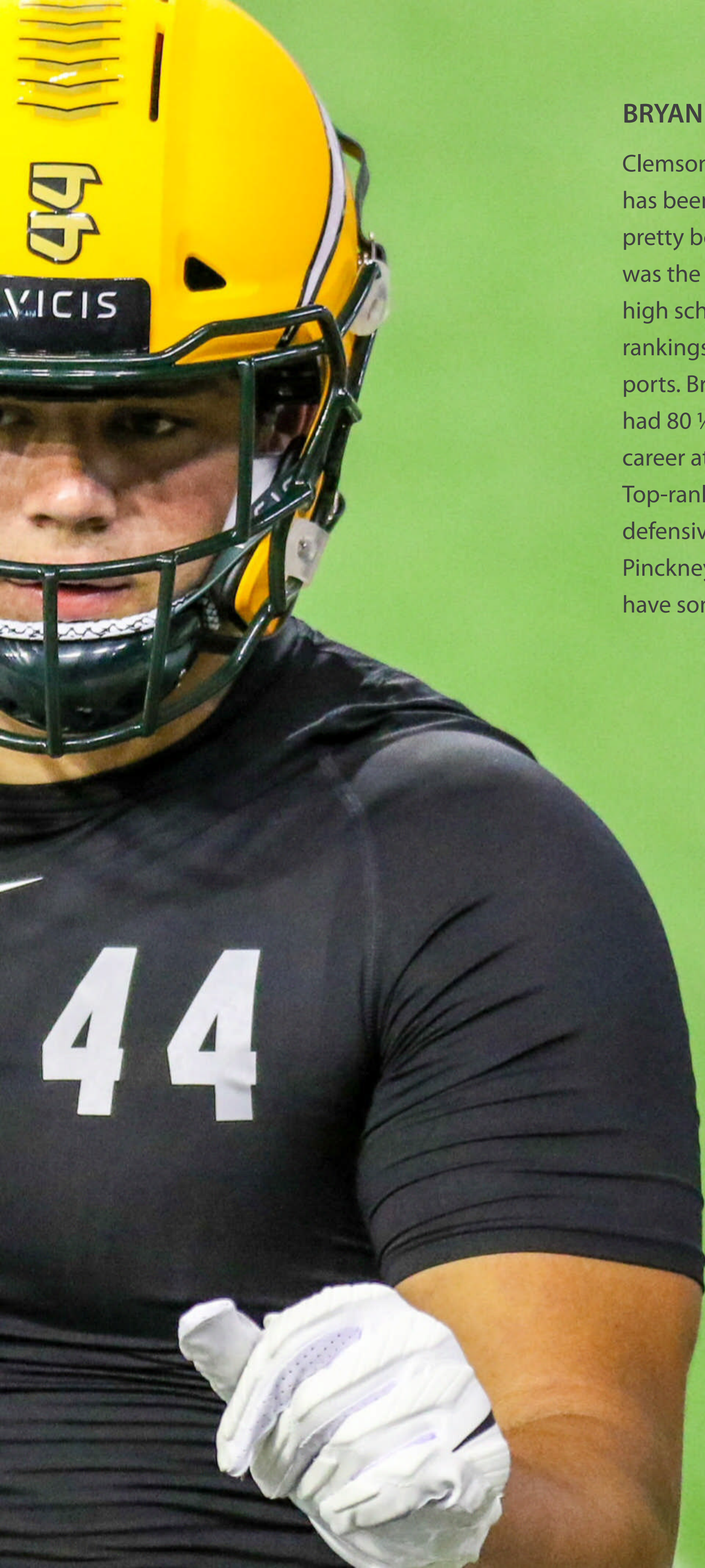
Did the unusual nature of the offseason limit opportunities for freshmen to make much of an impression? Or will the number of upperclassmen opting out create more chances for first-year players to contribute immediately?

While this is a tough year to guess which freshmen could step forward this year, we decided to give it a try anywhere. Here's a list of true freshmen who could come in and make a difference right away.

We're focusing this on true freshmen, which explains why redshirt freshmen such as Oklahoma quarterback Spencer Rattler aren't on this list.



Image: Jeff Sentell



BRYAN BRESEE, DT, CLEMSON

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney has said Bresee has been “better than advertised.” That’s a pretty bold statement, considering that Bresee was the nation’s No. 1 overall prospect in his high school class according to composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports. Bresee, listed at 6-foot-5 and 300 pounds, had 80 ½ tackles for loss and 35 sacks in his career at Damascus (Maryland) High School. Top-ranked Clemson already is strong at defensive tackle with Tyler Davis and Nyles Pinckney, but Bresee is talented enough to have some kind of role this season.





ZACH EVANS, RB, TCU

Evans had an eventful college selection process. He reportedly signed with Georgia but got released from his letter of intent and was connected to a few different schools before eventually becoming the first five-star recruit ever to sign with TCU. Evans rushed for nearly 5,000 career yards at North Shore High in Houston and was the nation's No. 16 overall recruit according to the 247Sports Composite. TCU's top returning rusher is redshirt freshman Darwin Barlow, who had 22 carries for 99 yards while playing just three games to take a redshirt last year.

ARIK GILBERT, TE, LSU

Gilbert caught 101 passes for 1,760 yards and 14 touchdowns his senior season at Marietta (Georgia) High and became the first tight end to get selected as the Gatorade national player of the year since the award started being given out in 1985. He's the No. 5 overall prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite. Although he enrolled at LSU early, Gilbert couldn't participate in spring practice because he was recovering from shoulder surgery. But he's certainly made a name for himself with his performance in preseason camp with the sixth-ranked Tigers. "Arik is the type of tight end we've been looking for to stretch the field," LSU coach Ed Orgeron said.





TONY GRIMES, DB, NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is getting Grimes a year earlier than expected. The former 2021 recruit from Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia, decided to reclassify by graduating this summer. That makes him eligible to play for the 18th-ranked Tar Heels this fall. Before Grimes reclassified, the 247Sports Composite had rated him as the nation's No. 1 cornerback and No. 7 overall player in the 2021 class. Grimes' early arrival fortifies an already strong North Carolina secondary.







Image: Mark Brown



JAYLAN KNIGHTON, RB, MIAMI

Knighton showcased his speed while rushing for 126 yards on 10 carries in the Hurricanes' first preseason scrimmage. While Cam'Ron Harris figures to open the season as Miami's No. 1 running back, Knighton has the speed to warrant some type of role. He averaged 9.7 yards per carry and ran for 19 touchdowns his senior year at Deerfield Beach (Florida) High School.

CHRIS TYREE, RB, NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame's unsettled running back situation should create plenty of early opportunities for Tyree, the nation's No. 1 all-purpose back and No. 70 overall prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite. The 10th-ranked Fighting Irish don't return any running backs who rushed for over 200 yards last year. The No. 1 running back on the depth chart currently is Kyren Williams, who had just four carries last year. Notre Dame's running backs will have the benefit of working with a veteran offensive line.



Image: Tim Heitman





FIFA WORLD CUP
***Qatar*2022**



NORTH AMERICAN QUALIFYING FOR 2022 WORLD CUP DELAYED

The start of World Cup qualifying for lower-ranked teams in North and Central America and the Caribbean was postponed until next year, which means there aren't enough remaining dates in the current FIFA calendar to complete the program.

FIFA and regional soccer body CONCACAF said qualifiers that had been scheduled for October and November had to be pushed back because of travel and quarantine rules during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Many parts of the region continue to have very challenging public health situations, and that has been a key factor in this decision," the two governing bodies said in a joint statement.

Thirty lower-ranked nations were due to play four qualifiers each this year but those games should now start in March 2021. Only three of those teams will advance to join the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Honduras in a final eight-team group, from which three teams will qualify directly for the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

However, it was unclear how FIFA and CONCACAF will reschedule games. The final eight-team group had been scheduled to start in June, but those dates could now be needed to complete the six-team playoffs among the lower-ranked nations. If so, the big teams like the U.S. and Mexico may not play their first qualifying games until September 2021.

"These are extraordinary times, and we all need to continue to adjust," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "We have established a strong foundation in our group and we will deal with whatever comes our way. We look forward to receiving the updated schedule so we can plan accordingly."

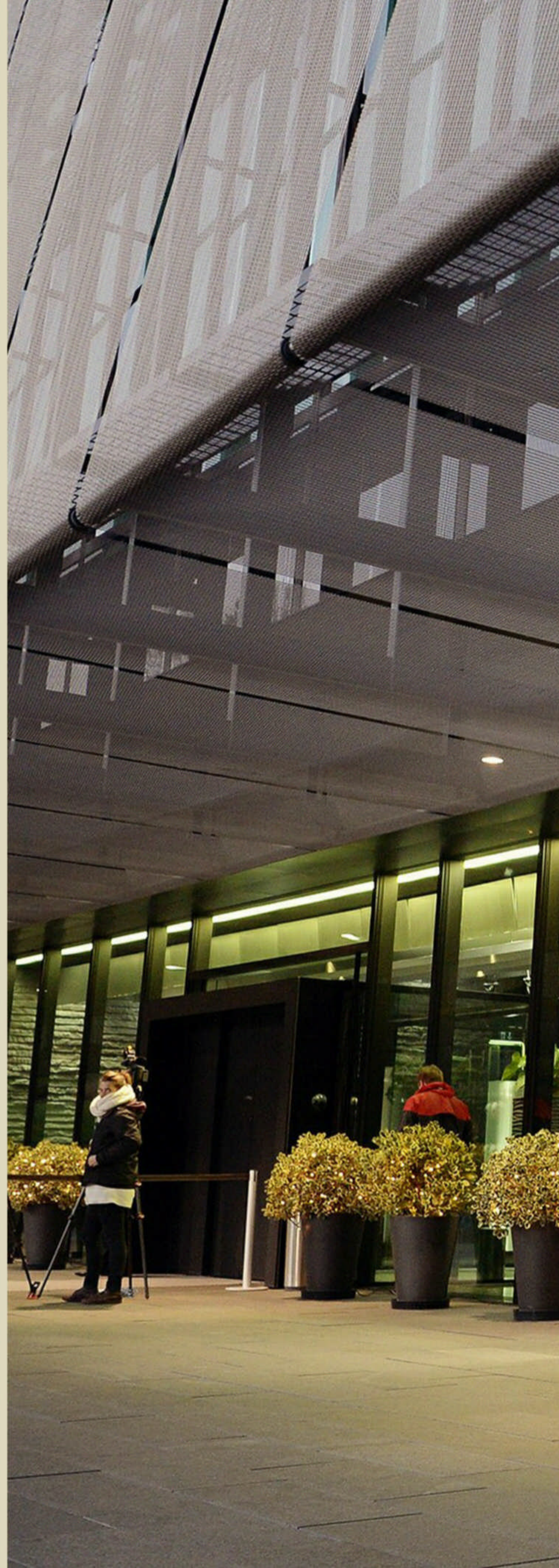
CONCACAF said a new schedule "will be communicated in due course."

The pandemic has upended qualifying plans globally.

South American teams were due to begin in March but will start at least one year behind schedule.

CONCACAF already changed its original format which would have seen the top-ranked teams play in a six-team group, known as the hexagonal.

FIFA manages a coordinated global calendar of match days, for which clubs are obliged to release their players to national-team duty.









WHAT SLOWDOWN? AMAZON SEEKS TO HIRE 33,000 PEOPLE

Amazon is on a hiring spree.

In the latest sign of how it's prospering while others are faltering during the pandemic, Amazon said Wednesday it is seeking to bring aboard 33,000 people for corporate and tech roles in the next few months.

It's the largest number of job openings it's had at one time, and the Seattle-based online behemoth said the hiring is not related to the jobs it typically offers ahead of the busy holiday shopping season.

amazon

A large, bold, black Amazon logo is centered on a bright yellow wall. The logo consists of the word "amazon" in a lowercase sans-serif font, with a curved arrow underneath it pointing from the 'a' to the 'z'. In the background, to the left, a person with dark hair is sitting at a desk, looking down. The desk is white, and the floor is a light gray. The overall scene is brightly lit, with the yellow wall being the most prominent feature.



Amazon can afford to grow its workforce: It is one of the few companies that has thrived during the coronavirus outbreak. People have turned to it to order groceries, supplies and other items online, helping the company bring in record revenue and profits between April and June. That came even though it had to spend \$4 billion on cleaning supplies and to pay workers overtime and bonuses.

Demand has been so high, Amazon has struggled to deliver items as fast as it normally does and had to hire 175,000 more people to help pack and ship orders in its warehouses. Walmart and Target have also seen sales soar during the pandemic.

But other retailers have had a rougher time. J.C. Penney, J.Crew and Brooks Brothers have all gone bankrupt. And Lord & Taylor, which has been in business for nearly 200 years, recently said it will be closing its stores for good. Companies across other industries have announced buyouts or layoffs, including Coca-Cola and American Airlines.

In August, the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 8.4% from 10.2% the month before, but hiring growth slowed, with the country adding 1.4 million jobs last month compared to 1.7 million in July.

Others are hiring, too. UPS said Wednesday that it plans to bring in 100,000 people to help it deliver packages during the busy holiday season, which is about the same amount of people it hired last year.

Amazon said its corporate and tech jobs, whose average pay is \$150,000 a year, will be centered around Amazon's offices across the





country, including Denver, New York, Phoenix and its hometown of Seattle. The new hires will work from home at first, but the company said it does want employees to return to the office eventually.

Ardine Williams, Amazon's vice president of workforce development, said plans to build a second headquarters near Washington, D.C., are going as planned, despite the pandemic, with 1,000 workers already hired.

To fill the 33,000 jobs, Amazon said will hold an online career fair Sept. 16 to collect resumes and give people a chance talk to a recruiter. Those not interested in a job at Amazon can also get resume help, the company said.

Jane Oates, president of the nonprofit WorkingNation and a former assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor, said that Amazon is different from other companies in that it's thinking about its future workforce. For example, it announced a program last year to retrain 100,000 of its workers for tech jobs by 2025.

"They're not only looking for the jobs that need to be done today, they're also looking at what's next," she said.

At an in-person Amazon career fair last year, about 17,000 people showed up and the company said it received more than 200,000 applications for 30,000 jobs.

In July, the company said its workforce topped 1 million worldwide for the first time, making it the second-biggest U.S.-based private employer behind Walmart Inc.





ITALY INVESTIGATES APPLE, GOOGLE, DROPBOX OVER CLOUD STORAGE

Italy's competition watchdog has launched an investigation into Apple, Google and Dropbox over their cloud storage services.

The competition and market authority said it has opened a total of six investigations into Apple iCloud, Google Drive and Dropbox's online storage service in response to complaints about unfair commercial practices and violations of the country's consumer rights directive. In one case, it's also looking into "vexatious clauses" in a contract.

The regulator said it's looking into whether the three companies either failed to, or did not adequately, indicate how users' data would be collected and used for commercial purposes. It is also examining whether Dropbox failed to provide clear and accessible information on how

users could get out of contracts or pursue out of court dispute settlements.

Apple, Google, and Dropbox did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Italian probe follows wider efforts by European Union regulators to clarify the fine print tech companies use in their terms and conditions of service so consumers can better understand how their information is being used. Facebook updated its terms of service last year to clarify how it makes money from user data in response to pressure from European regulators.







SPACE





CHINA'S FIRST REUSABLE SPACECRAFT LANDS AFTER 2-DAY FLIGHT

China's first reusable spacecraft landed last Sunday after two days in orbit, a possible step toward lower-cost space flight, the government announced.

The secretive, military-run space program has released few details of the craft, which was launched Friday (05) aboard a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China's desert northwest.

The craft landed as planned at Jiuquan, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

State media have yet to publish any photos. The craft's size and shape are unclear.

The flight “marks an important breakthrough in our country’s research on reusable spacecraft” that promise a “more convenient and inexpensive way” to reach space, Xinhua said.

China fired its first astronaut into orbit in 2003 and has launched a space station. Last year, it became the first country to land a robot rover on the moon’s little-seen far side. A probe carrying another robot rover is en route to Mars.

The United States and the former Soviet Union both flew reusable spacecraft.

The U.S. space shuttle flew 134 missions from the 1980s until 2011. Since then, the U.S. military has developed the X-37, a robot glider that made its sixth flight in May.

The Soviet space plane, Buran, orbited the Earth twice during its single uncrewed flight in 1988.









CHINA LAUNCHES INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL DATA SECURITY ISSUES

China has launched an initiative to address global data security issues, a countermove to the U.S. “clean network” program that is aimed at discouraging other countries from using Chinese technology.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced the initiative in Beijing on Tuesday at a seminar on global digital governance.

He said mounting risks for cyber security threaten national security, public interests and personal rights.

The move comes amid a deterioration in U.S.-China relations encompassing trade tensions and competition in telecommunications and artificial intelligence technologies, with the U.S. accusing Chinese technology companies of threatening American national security.

“Bent on unilateral acts, a certain country keeps making groundless accusations against others in the name of ‘clean’ networks and used security as a pretext to prey on enterprises of other countries who have a competitive edge,” Wang said, according to a transcript of his speech released by the ministry. “Such blatant acts of bullying must be opposed and rejected.”

Wang said that it was important to develop international rules on data security that will “reflect the will and respect the interests of all countries through broad-based participation.”

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month unveiled the “Clean Network” program, saying it is aimed at protecting citizens’ privacy and sensitive information from “malign actors, such as the Chinese Communist Party.”

More than 30 countries and territories such as Australia and Britain are participating in that initiative, which seeks to exclude Chinese telecommunications companies like Huawei and ZTE, as well as apps, cloud service providers and undersea cables from their internet networks.

The U.S. has expressed concerns over national security threats from services provided by Chinese technology companies like Huawei, Bytedance and Tencent.





Washington has dissuaded some U.S. allies from using Huawei's technology in 5G networks, saying data potentially could be accessed by the Chinese government. Huawei vehemently denies that.

Washington also has imposed sanctions that restrict Huawei from procuring chips containing American technology. Recently, the U.S. also said it will ban Chinese company Bytedance's popular TikTok video app in the country unless it finds an American buyer. It similarly labelled Tencent's popular messaging app WeChat a national security threat.

The Chinese initiative opposes impairing critical infrastructure and theft of important data. It also opposes abusing technology to "conduct mass surveillance against other states," the transcript said.

Companies should not "install backdoors in their products and services" to illegally obtain user data, should respect the sovereignty, jurisdiction and governance of data in other states," it says.

"The Chinese government has acted in strict compliance with data security principles. We have not and will not ask Chinese companies to transfer data overseas to the government in breach of other countries' laws," said Wang.

"Politicization of security issues, double standards and slandering others violate the basic norms governing international relations, and seriously disrupts and hampers global digital cooperation and development," he said.







Image: Ng Han Guan



CHINESE CHIPMAKER DENIES MILITARY TIES AS US STEPS UP FEUD

China's leading maker of semiconductors has denied it has any links to the military following reports Washington is considering stepping up its feud with Beijing over technology and security by imposing export controls that could disrupt manufacturing for a national industrial champion.

U.S. regulators are considering adding Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. to a list of foreign buyers that need government permission to acquire technology or components, according to The Wall Street Journal and other outlets. They said officials are looking at whether SMIC plays a role in Chinese military development.

"We have no relationship with the Chinese military," the company said in a statement. It said SMIC products are "solely for civilian and commercial end-users and end-uses."

The company said it is "open to sincere and transparent communication" with Washington to resolve "potential misunderstandings."





SMIC is a leader in a semiconductor industry built up by the ruling Communist Party in an effort to reduce China's reliance on foreign technology.

The Trump administration is trying block Chinese access to U.S. technology it worries might be used to make weapons or develop competitors to American industry.

The U.S.-Chinese tariff war that erupted in 2018 was sparked in part by Washington's complaints about Beijing's technology ambitions. The United States and other governments complain Chinese development plans are based on stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.


Washington also worries about China's development of long-range missiles, supercomputers that can be used in nuclear warhead development and other high-tech weapons. That comes amid tension over control of the South China Sea and other territorial disputes.

Washington has imposed similar curbs on access to U.S. process chips and other components for China's first global tech competitor, Huawei Technologies Ltd., one of the biggest makers of smartphones and network equipment. That threatens to cripple Huawei's business.

Chinese companies including Huawei are developing their own processor chips and other technology. But factories that produce them require American manufacturing technology for which there are few alternatives.

SMIC said it previously was granted "validated end-user status" by the agency that would impose the export controls. Such status allows a Chinese company to export U.S. technology without applying for a license for each shipment.



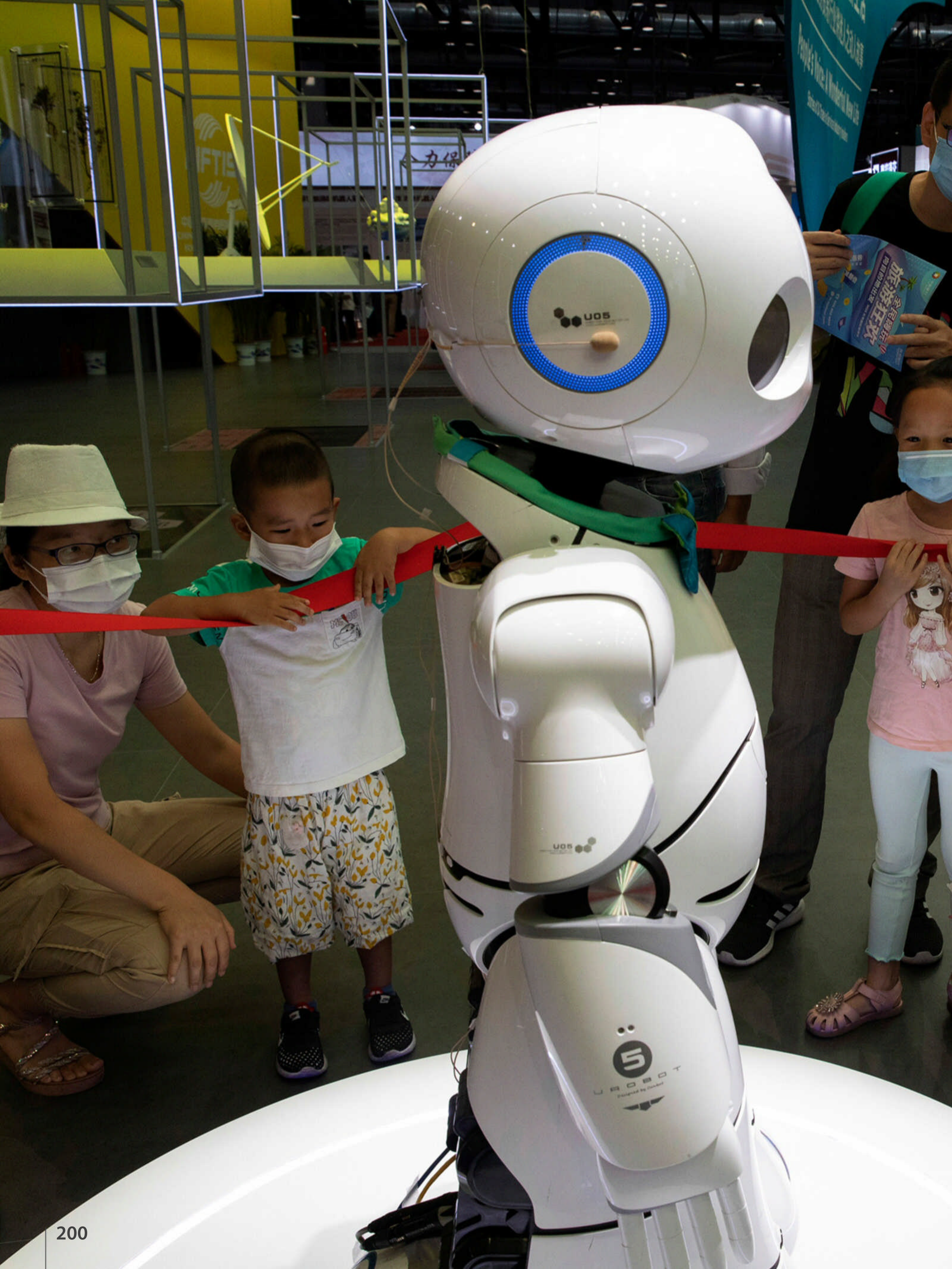


CHINA'S EXPORT GROWTH QUICKENS IN AUGUST, IMPORTS EDGE LOWER

China's export growth accelerated in August while imports edged lower as the world's second-largest economy extended its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Exports rose 9.5% over a year earlier to \$235.2 billion, up from July's 7.2% growth, customs data showed this week. Imports declined 2.1% to \$176.3 billion, compared with the previous month's 1.4% contraction.

China's exporters have benefited from its relatively early reopening from a shutdown to fight the virus while competitors in many other countries still face anti-disease controls that disrupt business.





Exports to the United States rose 20% to \$44.8 billion despite tariff hikes imposed by the Trump administration in a fight with Beijing over its technology ambitions and trade surplus. Imports of American goods gained 2% to \$10.5 billion.

The changes were due mostly to lower prices and comparison with last August's relative weak exports, according to Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. Evans-Pritchard estimated the volume of goods exported rose 9.7% from a year earlier while import volumes rose 9.5%.

Other exporters have benefited from increased Chinese demand for their goods after growth in the world's second-largest economy rebounded to 3.2% over a year earlier in the three months ending in June. Activity the previous quarter fell 6.8%, the deepest slump since at least the mid-1960s.

Exports to the 27-nation European Union, China's biggest foreign market, fell 20.1% from a year earlier to \$35.7 billion. Imports of European goods tumbled 29.7% to \$22.5 billion.

China's global trade surplus swelled by 72% over a year earlier to \$58.9 billion. That was down from July's \$62.3 billion gap.

Chinese importers have benefited from a slump in global prices for oil and many other goods due to weak demand caused by virus-related shutdowns.

Fast-growing exports included integrated circuits, smartphones, auto-data processors and household appliances.

That suggests "China still has some trade partners that are willing to import Chinese

technology” despite tension with Washington, Iris Pang of ING said in a report.

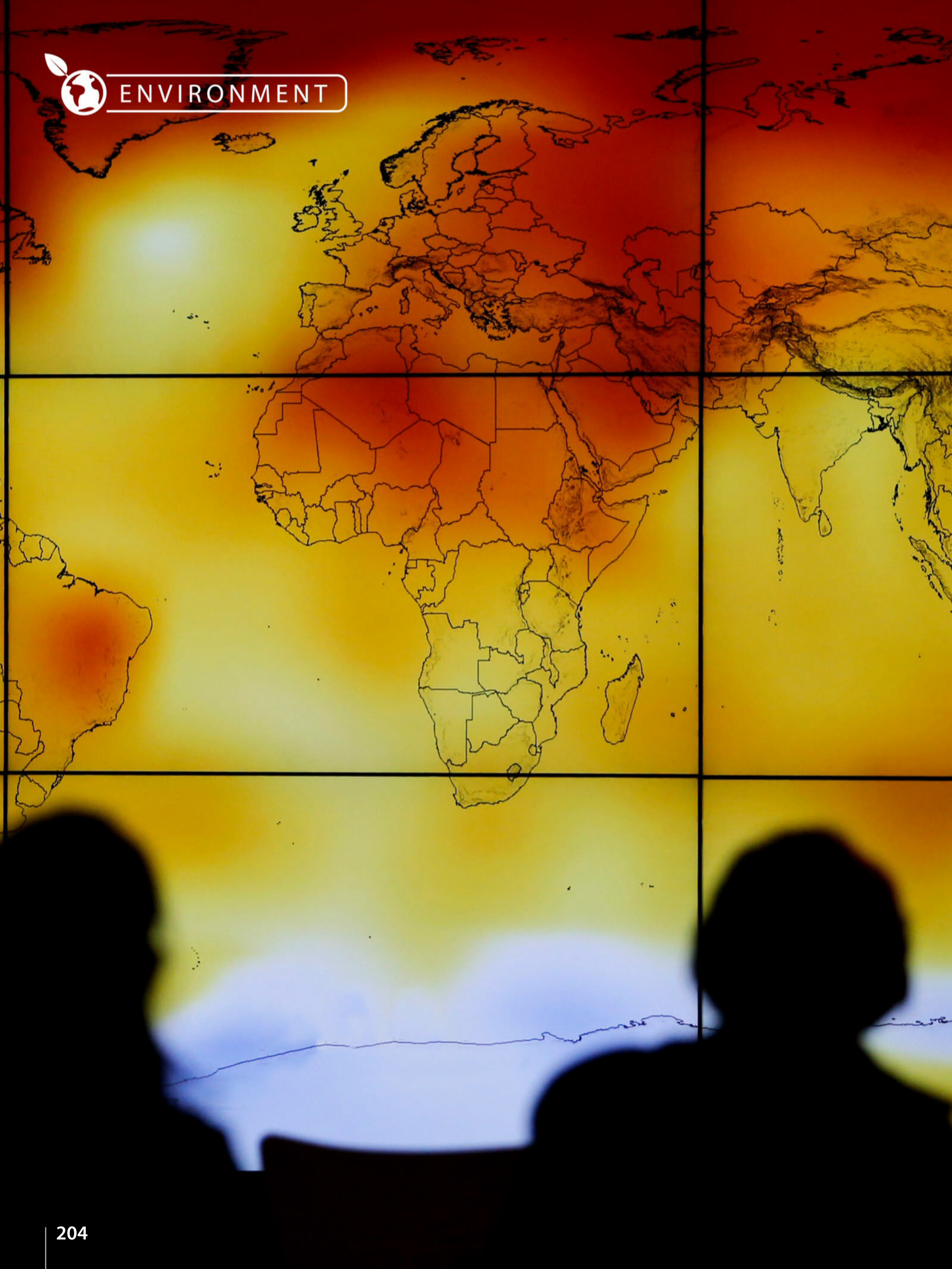
Still, Pang warned Chinese exporters of higher-tech goods might face trouble as Washington tightens curbs on access to U.S. components in a feud with Beijing over technology and security.

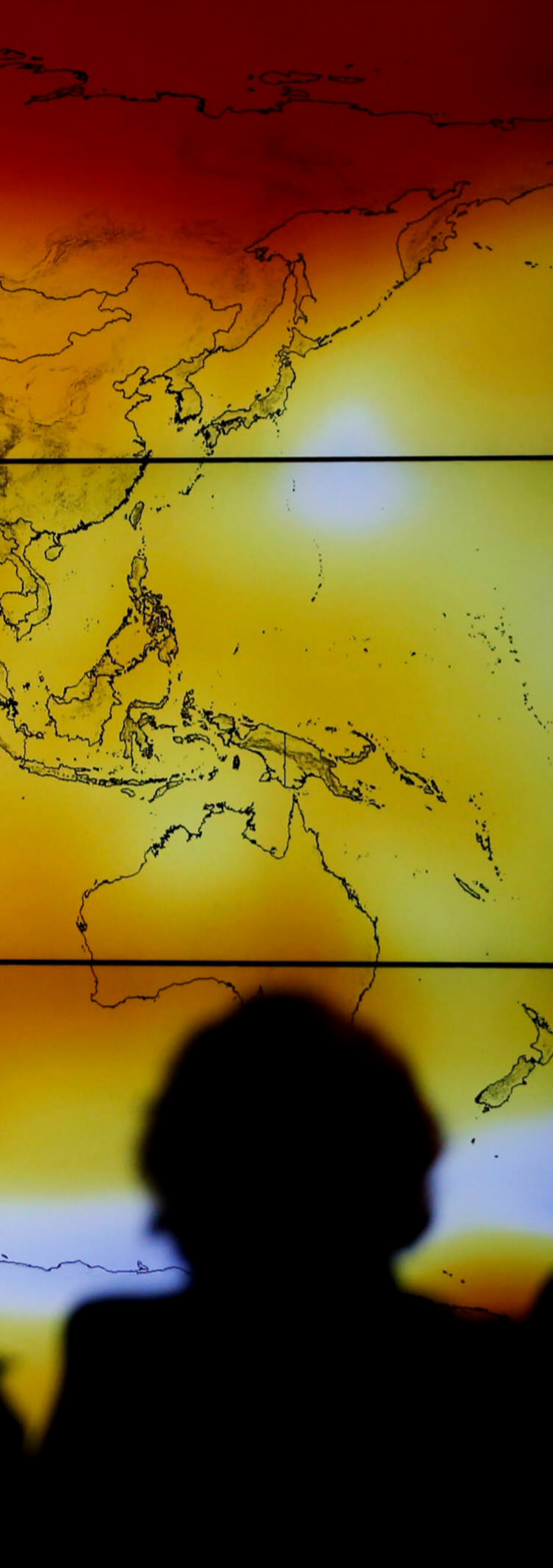
Washington has cut off supplies of American components for companies including China’s most prominent tech brand, Huawei Technologies Ltd. The Trump administration is lobbying European and other allies to avoid Chinese technology as they upgrade to next-generation telecom networks.

“This could affect exports of technological products and services in the coming months,” said Pang.









UN REPORT: INCREASED WARMING CLOSING IN ON AGREED UPON LIMIT

The world is getting closer to passing a temperature limit set by global leaders five years ago and may exceed it in the next decade or so, according to a new United Nations report.

In the next five years, the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that's hot enough to put the global temperature at 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial times, according to a new science update released Wednesday by the U.N., World Meteorological Organization and other global science groups.

That 1.5 degrees Celsius is the more stringent of two limits set in 2015 by world leaders in the Paris climate change agreement. A 2018 U.N. science report said a world hotter than that still survives, but chances of dangerous problems increase tremendously.

The report comes on the heels of a weekend of weather gone wild around the U.S.: Scorching heat, record California wildfires and two more Atlantic storms that set records for earliest 16th and 17th named storms.

Earlier this year, Death Valley hit 130 degrees (54.4 degrees Celsius) and Siberia hit 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius).

The warming that has already occurred has “increased the odds of extreme events that are unprecedented in our historical experience,” Stanford University climate scientist Noah Diffenbaugh said.

For example, historical global warming has increased the odds of record-setting hot extremes at more than 80% of the globe, and has “doubled or even tripled the odds over the region of California and the western U.S. that has experienced record-setting heat in recent weeks,” Diffenbaugh added.

The world already has warmed nearly 2 degrees (1.1 degrees Celsius) since the late 1800s, and the last five years are hotter than the previous five years, the report said. The speed-up could be temporary, or it might not be. There’s both man-made warming and natural warming from a strong El Nino weather pattern in the past five years, said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

“The probability of 1.5 degrees (Celsius) is growing year by year,” Taalas told The Associated Press. “It’s very likely to happen in the next decade if we don’t change our behavior.”

That’s potentially faster than what a 2018 U.N. report found: that the world was likely to hit 1.5 degrees sometime between 2030 and 2052.









Breakthrough Institute climate scientist Zeke Hausfather, who wasn't part of the new report, said the document was a good update of what scientists already know. It is "abundantly clear that rapid climate change is continuing and the world is far from on track" toward meeting the Paris climate goals, he said.

Some countries, including the U.S. and many in Europe, are reducing emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, but Taalas said the world is on a path that will be 5.4 degrees (3 degrees Celsius) warmer compared with the late 19th century. That would be above the Paris accord's less stringent 2-degree Celsius target.

The latest report was the U.N.'s annual update on "climate disruption" caused by the burning of coal, oil and gas. It highlighted more than just increasing temperatures and rising sea levels.

"Record heat, ice loss, wildfires, floods and droughts continue to worsen, affecting communities, nations and economies around the world," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wrote in a foreword.

Guterres said big polluting countries, like China, the United States and India, need to become carbon neutral, adding no heat-trapping gas to the atmosphere, by 2050.

If they don't, "all the effort will not be enough," Guterres said at a press conference Wednesday.

The report spotlights unprecedented wildfires in the Amazon, the Arctic and Australia. California is fighting record wildfires as the report was issued.



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