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2021.03

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By Lifang & Partners

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Four Departments Jointly Issue the Scope of Necessary Personal Information for Common Types of Mobile Internet Applications

On March 22, 2021, the Cyberspace Administration of China (“CAC”), the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (“MIIT”), the Ministry of Public Security (“MPS”) and the State Administration for Market Regulation (“SAMR”) jointly issued *the Scope of Necessary Personal Information for Common Types of Mobile Internet Applications* (“the Rules”). The Rules specifies the scope of necessary personal information can be collected by 39 types of Internet applications relating to map navigation, online car-hailing, instant messaging, online payment, and online food ordering. The Rules requires that the apps shall not refuse to provide users with basic functions and services on account of the fact that users do not agree to provide unnecessary personal information. ([More](#))

CAC and MPS Strengthen Safety Assessment of Voice Social Softwares and Apps Involving “Deep Fake” Technologies

On March 18, 2021, CAC issued a circular, stating that, regarding the recent voice social softwares and applications involving “deep fake” technology that have yet to fulfill safety assessment procedures, CAC and MPS instructed the local cybersecurity administrations and public security agencies in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Zhejiang and Guangdong to take with 11 companies including Inke, Xiaomi, Kuaishou, ByteDance, Whales, Cloud Account, Himalaya, Alibaba, Cloud Music, Tencent and Quyan according to the law. The authorities urged the companies to carry out safety assessment, perfect risk prevention and control mechanisms, take effective rectifications for the security hazard discovered in the assessment, and fulfill their responsibility for enterprise information security. ([More](#))

MIIT Investigates APPs Infringing Elderly Users’ Rights

On March 16, 2021, MIIT issued a circular, stating that in response to the four apps including Memory Improve Master which were exposed at the 2021 China 3.15 Evening Party, MIIT has organized technical inspections from the very first time and found that the 4 apps had the problems of deceiving and misleading users to download and illegally processing personal information. MIIT also organized local communication administrations to investigate the companies involved. Previously, MIIT has launched the “Special Campaign for the Elder-User-Friendly Adaptation and Accessibility Improvement of Internet Application” in January 2021, guiding the first batch of 158 websites and apps commonly used by the elderly to complete the adaptation, and requesting that the adapted version of apps shall not have advertising plugins anymore. ([More](#))

SAMR Issues Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Network Transactions

On March 15, 2021, SAMR issued the *Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Network Transactions*, and the Measures included 5 chapters. In the Measures, Article 13 of Chapter II stipulates as follows: network transaction operators shall not use methods, such as one-time general authorization, default authorization, bundled authorizations, suspension of installation and use, etc., to directly or indirectly force consumers to agree to the collection and use of information which is not directly related to the operating activities. The collection and use of sensitive information of personal biological character-

istics, medical health, financial accounts and locations shall be authorized by consumers separately. ([More](#))

TC260 Issues 3 Recommended Cybersecurity National Standards

On March 15, 2021, the Secretariat of the National Information Security Standardization Technical Committee (also known as “TC260”) issued a statement to officially release 3 recommended national standards, including *Information Security Technology - Baseline for Information System Cryptography Application*, *Information Technology – Security Techniques – Key management – Part 3: Mechanisms Using Asymmetric Techniques* and *Information Technology – Security Techniques – Network Security – Part 5: Securing Communications Across Networks Using Virtual Private Networks*. ([More](#))

Overseas News

French Data Privacy Watchdog Opens Probe into Clubhouse

On March 17, 2021, France data protection authority CNIL issued a statement stating that it had opened an investigation into Clubhouse, the US audio chat app that has become a social media hit. The inquiry will seek to determine if the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation and other rules apply to the app’s parent company, Alpha Exploration. CNIL said that it was unclear how Clubhouse, which appears to have “no corporate entity within the European Union”, was using members’ personal information and how secure the data was. ([More](#))

PDPC Issues Revised Guides on Managing Data Breach and Active Enforcement

On March 15, 2021, Singapore’s Personal Data Protection Commission (“PDPC”) updated *Guide to Managing Data Breaches 2.0* (now known as *the Guide on Managing and Notifying Data Breaches under the PDPA*) with details of the mandatory data breach notification requirement under the the Personal Data Protection Act (“PDPA”). *The Guide on Active Enforcement* has also been revised with details of the voluntary undertaking under the enhanced PDPA. Additional information of the expedited breach decision and financial penalties have also been included. ([More](#))

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