Information on the WeChat Ban

Trump issued an Executive Order banning WeChat from the American App Store, but a federal judge has temporarily blocked this Order. If the block is overturned and WeChat becomes banned again, people with WeChat could still use the app, but it could not be newly downloaded.

Trump banned downloading WeChat for 3 key reasons

1. Worry that American information might be misused by the Chinese government
2. Worry that China may use the app to spread political ideologies or misinformation
3. There have been ongoing technology tensions between the US and China

Current state of the ban

- A federal judge temporarily blocked Trump’s ban on WeChat
- Trump has appealed the judges’ block and a final decision is pending

If WeChat is not usable, what other apps can you use?

- **Wecom**
  - Can be used for messaging, and in the past has been used for coworkers to message each other.
  - Different from WeChat because you can’t post your “moments”

- **LINE, WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram**
  - Available in the US, but inaccessible in China without VPN

- **Alipay**
  - Used just for transactions

- **QQ**
  - Can be used for messaging and monetary transactions