Post on Twitter/X

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If Tik Tok poses a security risk, we should address that by whatever means works best up to and including shutting it down. That said, let's not do this one company at a time, one standard for China, another for every other nation.

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If a platform harvests data or has access to it, let's have common rules about security, how they can use data, who can see it, who they can share it with, what their foreign ownership can be. Let's set rules and regulate the sector.

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Let's have clear privacy laws in the US. Clear penalties for those who abuse them. How about rules that prohibit algorithms that--without the knowledge of users--promote political, foreign or business agendas.

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Let's think ahead about the risks that AI empowered apps pose in these regards and the rules we want to set for them. We are long past the moment when we can rely on the "good will" and "wisdom" of the tech sector. We cannot address the risks we face on a piecemeal basis.

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It is time for clear, comprehensive Internet, data, AI and other cyber regulations. We need an agency of the US government with deep expertise in these areas to handle these problems and anticipate those that are coming.

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It can also play an advisory role on international, trade and security implications of developments in the sector. It can brief the executive branch and congress on these developments. And it can and should be empowered to impose penalties on violators of the law.

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At the same time, companies that want access to our data, to our digital worlds where they can track our location, keystrokes, buying habits, financial conditions, friends, political views, should be licensed. They should be required to meet and maintain security requirements.

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When you think of other common carriers that were licensed or are licensed it must be clear the potential risks associated with web-based platforms, apps and other digital tools are as great or far greater to us as individuals and to our society.

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And while we're at it, let's make sure the power of those big tech companies is limited by properly enforced anti-trust regulation. And that the companies that want access to the sea of our data actually pay their fair share of taxes.

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Finally, we must recognize that regulating global data flows, protecting privacy and security on the global web, and ensuring the secure and open trade in technology services and products requires a multilateral initiative--the digital WTO.

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This is key to ensure that all countries adhere to the same rules and to combatting the proliferation of standards worldwide that ensure, in a connected system, that there are always weak links out there that can be used to penetrate, exploit and harm other markets.