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Vietnam: Technology Companies Must Keep User Information Inside the Border

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The Vietnamese government has ordered big technology companies operating there to set up systems to keep user information more **secure**.

The first step: set up local offices and computer storage inside the country's borders.

The move to protect information saved on computer networks will affect some of the world's biggest media companies like Google and Meta, the company that runs Facebook.

The rule goes into effect on October 1.

The new rule covers a wide **range** of information. It includes financial records, identifying health and medical data, information about people's ethnicity. And it includes any other information collected by companies that follow internet users as they move online.

Vietnamese officials say they will be able to request the information if it is needed for an investigation. The new rule also says media companies may be required to remove online material if it violates government guidelines.

Foreign technology companies will have 12 months to meet the rule's requirements. They will need to set up computer storage devices and local offices. Once the information is stored within Vietnam, the companies will need to keep it for a **minimum** of two years.

Google and Meta did not respond to requests for comment from the Reuters news agency.

The new rules are the latest step by Vietnam's Communist Party to tighten the flow of information online.

The nation's leadership started with a cybersecurity law in 2019 and introduced guidelines about how to behave on social media last year.

I'm Dorothy Gundy

Dan Friedell adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on a report by Reuters.

Words in This Story

secure -*adj.* guarded so that no one can access something without approval

range -*n.* a group or collection of things that are similar in some ways

minimum -*n.* the least or smallest amount possible

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