# **ChatControl 2.0: Breaking Private Communications**

Technical implications and expert assessments

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## What is Chat Control?

#### **EU Proposal to Scan All Private Messages**

#### The Regulation Would:

- Scan every message before you send it
- Check every photo you share
- Monitor all private communications
- Apply to all EU citizens (450 million people)

Goal: Detect child sexual abuse material (CSAM)

Method: Automatic client-sidescanning using AI technology

# **How Your Messages Work Today**

#### **End-to-End Encryption Protects Privacy**

```
YOU → [Lock \stackrel{\frown}{\bullet}] → [Send \stackrel{\blacktriangleleft}{\P}] → [Unlock \stackrel{\frown}{\bullet}] → FRIEND Your key
```

#### **Current Protection:**

- Only you and your friend can read messages
- Even WhatsApp/Signal cannot see content
- Messages are encrypted before sending
- Confidentiality is protected by cryptography

# **How Chat Control Would Change This**

#### **Government Scanner Added to Every App**

```
YOU → [Scanner \P] → [Lock \stackrel{\frown}{\blacksquare}] → [Send \stackrel{\P}{\P}] → FRIEND Check first Then encrypt Finally send
```

#### **New Process:**

- AI scans content before encryption
- Suspicious content reported to authorities
- Every message checked automatically

# The Technical Methods

```
YOUR PHOTO/FILE

[Hash Check 🔊] → Compare to database of known illegal images

[AI Analysis 🖭] → Machine learning scans for new illegal content

[URL Check ⊕] → Analyze web links for illegal content

[Report/Allow 🗓] → Send alert to authorities or allow message
```

# **Expert Assessment: It Cannot Work**

#### 638 Scientists from 35 Countries Warn

#### **Technical Problems:**

- "Not feasible to detect CSAM for hundreds of millions of users with acceptable accuracy"
- "Changing a few bits in an image bypasses detection"
- "No machine-learning algorithm can perform without large errors"
- "URL redirection makes detection notoriously unsolvable"

Source: Scientists' Open Letter

## The False Positive Problem

#### When AI Gets It Wrong

#### **Real-World Examples:**

- Family beach photos flagged as suspicious
- Medical discussions about children reported
- Art and educational content blocked
- Private jokes misunderstood as threats

#### Impact:

- Up to 80% of alerts are false alarms
- Innocent people investigated by police
- Resources wasted on non-crimes

# **Security Risks**

#### **Breaking Encryption Creates New Vulnerabilities**

#### What Experts Warn:

- "On-device detection undermines end-to-end encryption protections"
- Creates backdoors that hackers can exploit
- Exposes financial, medical, and private data
- Makes everyone less secure online

# Who Gets Exempted?

#### **Exemptions For:**

- Intelligence agencies
- Police communications
- Military personnel
- EU government officials

Question: If it's safe, why exempt officials?

## Official EU Assessment

## **Data Protection Authorities Oppose It**

#### **EDPB-EDPS Joint Opinion:**

- "Disproportionate interference with fundamental rights"
- "Generalized and indiscriminate scanning"
- "Violates EU Charter Articles 7 & 8"
- "Unlikely to survive in court"

EU's own legal experts say the proposal violates fundamental rights

# The Bigger Picture

# Function Creep: Today CSAM, Tomorrow Everything

```
Current Scope → Future Expansion

Photos → All messages

CSAM → Political content

Children → Any crime

EU only → Global precedent
```

#### **Technical Reality:**

- Scanner can be easily reconfigured
- No technical limits on expansion
- Creates infrastructure for mass surveillance
- Sets dangerous global precedent

## The Bottom Line

## **Expert Consensus is Clear**

#### **Technical Assessment:**

- The technology cannot work reliably
- Easy for criminals to bypass
- Creates more problems than it solves
- Violates fundamental rights

"This proposal completely undermines the security and privacy protections essential to protect digital society"

## **Learn More and Take Action**

#### **Resources and Information**

#### **Technical Details:**

Scientists' Open Letter

#### **Current Status and Action:**

- Fight Chat Control
- Contact your representatives
- Stay informed about developments

#### The decision affects all 450 million EU citizens