

Elon Musk Issues Privacy Warning About WhatsApp

May 12, 2023 - Twitter's Director of Engineering happens to be a user of WhatsApp - one of the worlds most used instant messaging platforms which is now owned by Facebook. Earlier this week, he posted a tweet that showed the microphone on his phone had been accessed multiple times by WhatsApp, while he was sleeping. His conclusion was that the app was listening in on him without his knowledge. After he made his post, Elon Musk weighed in on the topic by saying that, "WhatsApp cannot be trusted."

Tweet

```
(function() {  
var s = document.createElement('SCRIPT'), s1 = document.getElementsByTagName('SCRIPT')[0];
```

```
s.type = 'text/javascript';  
s.src = 'http://widgets.digg.com/buttons.js';  
s1.parentNode.insertBefore(s, s1);  
})();
```

```
(function() {  
var po = document.createElement('script'); po.type = 'text/javascript'; po.async = true;  
po.src = 'https://apis.google.com/js/plusone.js';  
var s = document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0]; s.parentNode.insertBefore(po, s);  
})();
```

WhatsApp did respond to the post, blaming Google's Android operating system for the problem. They stated they believed the issues was caused by a bug in Android and that they had asked Google to fix the issue.

But Musk wasn't buying what there were attempting to sell. He went on to point out that the original founders of WhatsApp left the company after Facebook acquired it and that they started a boycott of the company. He also pointed out that they were significant contributors to the creation of Signal - another encrypted messaging platform.

He's clearly implying that Facebook/WhatsApp is up to no good and that users of WhatsApp should have some real concerns about their privacy. Given what his Director of Engineering originally posted, those concern appear to be valid. So if you are using WhatsApp and you are concerned with your personal privacy, you may want to start looking for an alternative.

by Jim Malmberg

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