

INDONESIAN POLICE WANT GAY DATING APP BANNED

JAKARTA: Indonesian police said yesterday they want a ban on gay dating apps in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country after a pedophile ring allegedly used popular service Grindr to pimp boys.

It was the latest move by Indonesian authorities against homosexuals, who have faced a sudden backlash this year, with the government recently declaring there is "no room" in the country for the gay community in response to criticism

from activists. Authorities last week busted an online pedophile ring they said allegedly linked adult men to mostly teenage boys, and arrested three suspects. Police said they discovered Grindr on one of the suspects' iPads, and believe he had used it to pimp boys. Users of Grindr, generally gay men, are able to locate and view photos and brief profiles of other users in their immediate vicinity and arrange to meet them. Agung Setya,

the police's director of economic and special crimes, said police had now found 18 other apps similar to Grindr in use in Indonesia, and are asking the communications ministry to ban them. He said police "hope that, with the authority the communications ministry has, it will make the right decision and impose a ban".

There was no immediate comment from the ministry or from Grindr. At the height of the backlash against the gay

community in February, the government had also demanded that all instant messaging apps remove same-sex emoticons or face a ban. Indonesia's Constitutional Court is also considering a petition from Islamic activists to make gay sex a crime. Being gay is not illegal in Indonesia and, prior to the backlash, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community had been able to quietly get on with their lives. — AFP

SOPHOS PLACED IN THE LEADER'S QUADRANT OF GARTNER'S 2016 UNIFIED THREAT MANAGEMENT MAGIC QUADRANT FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

KUWAIT: Sophos yesterday announced that it has once again been positioned in the "Leaders" quadrant of Gartner, Inc.'s Aug. 30, 2016, "Magic Quadrant for Unified Threat Management." The quadrant is based on an assessment of a company's ability to execute and completeness of vision. Sophos is one of three vendors to be placed in the Leaders quadrant in this latest report, and the only IT security company to be positioned as a Leader by Gartner in these three security Magic Quadrant reports: Sept. 2015 Magic Quadrant for Mobile Data Protection Solutions, Feb. 2016 Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms, and once again, the Magic Quadrant for Unified Threat Management (UTM).

"Network security is a critical pillar in protecting against today's sophisticated and persistent threats - and is one of the fastest growing market segments in IT security. Our continued recognition as a Leader in this Magic Quadrant validates our position at the forefront of this important and growing market," commented Bryan Barney, senior vice president and general manager, Network Security Group at Sophos.

"As a recognized leader in both endpoint and network security, and with



Bryan Barney, senior vice president and general manager, Network Security Group at Sophos

over 100,000 customers in each segment, Sophos continues to deliver on our vision for a synchronized security platform that directly shares threat intelligence and the health status of all security products. This strategy achieves more advanced levels of protection for enterprises of all sizes - while at the same time being easier to manage."

According to Gartner, "the Leaders

quadrant contains vendors at the forefront of making and selling UTM products that are built for midsize-business requirements. The requirements necessary for leadership include a wide range of models to cover midsize-business use cases, support for multiple features, and a management and reporting capability that's designed for ease of use.

Vendors in this quadrant lead the market in offering new safeguarding features, and in enabling customers to deploy them inexpensively without significantly affecting the end-user experience or increasing staffing burdens. These vendors also have a good track record of avoiding vulnerabilities in their security products. Common characteristics include reliability, consistent throughput, and products that are intuitive to manage and administer."

The Sophos network security business continues to grow faster than the market. In Sophos' fiscal year ending March 31, 2016 reported billings growth was 27.5 percent in Network security business which is well above the reported market growth of 7 percent. For the same period, the UTM and next-generation firewall (NGFW) business represented approximately half of Sophos billings worldwide.

UBER PERFORMS U-TURN ON MACAU EXIT PLAN

HONG KONG: Global ride-hailing company Uber Technologies has aborted plans to pull out of Macau, citing support from residents in the Chinese-ruled gambling hub. Uber launched in Macau less than a year ago but announced at the end of August that it would withdraw from the former Portuguese colony because its drivers faced total fines of 10 million patacas (\$1.25 million).

The Macau government has taken a firm stance against Uber, with Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak stating that the service violated local laws. "After much deliberation, Uber will continue to serve the riders and drivers of Macau, the company said in a statement on its website.

"The unprecedented amount of support we received over the past few weeks has been overwhelming." The statement said the company had received 23,000-plus online signatures in support of its service and also thanked riders, drivers, residents, visitors and legislators who had championed the company's cause. "We hope the Government will follow the example set by progressive, pro-innovation policymakers around the region and the world in recognizing the role ride-sharing can play in moving Macau forward," Uber said.

Macau government officials were not immediately available to comment. Uber has about 2,000 full-time and part-time drivers in the territory and though Macau isn't a large market Uber's exit would have been another blow to the fast-growing US company's ambitions in the region.

Its costly two-year battle to break into the potentially lucrative Chinese market was brought to a close this month with the sale of its operations in the country to Didi Chuxing, though the US company has retained a 5 percent stake. Uber could also be forced out of Taiwan after authorities demanded that the company pay a sales tax bill and it has also come under legal scrutiny in Hong Kong. — Reuters

SO LONG CABLE BOX: NEW RULES MAY ALLOW YOU TO BYPASS THE BOX

NEW YORK: You may soon have more options for a cable box than renting one from your cable company. The Federal Communications Commission has a plan to make cable companies provide apps that could be used on devices made by tech companies like maybe Roku or Apple. It says Americans spend billions each year renting boxes and believes there is a better way.

The FCC says the new rules mean more choices and will make it easier for TV lovers to search for and find video they want.

Its January proposal was opposed by the TV and cable industries, criticized by the US Copyright Office and dozens of lawmakers. A revised plan released Thursday adopts some cable-industry suggestions.

The FCC's five commissioners will vote on the plan later this month. If approved, most cable customers could choose another device to watch cable within two years. The changes would succeed the CableCard, which consumers were supposed to stick into another box like a TiVo to get

cable channels. But the CableCard proved to be unpopular with consumers and it largely flopped.

Other devices

You can use a cable box to watch TV today, but you usually also need another device, like a Roku, Xbox or Apple TV, to watch video from Netflix, Hulu, HBO's app or other internet-based services. The FCC wants popular gadgets to also have access to the cable channels you pay for. That would mean you could search for "Seinfeld" in one of those devices and see what video you could watch from cable channels, other services you subscribe to, like Hulu, and free versions available online.

Initially, the FCC wanted to force cable and satellite TV companies to provide feeds of video and channel information to such gadgets, but that led to fears that device makers wouldn't respect agreements between cable operators and entertainment companies on terms like channel lineups. There were also worries that



WASHINGTON: In this March 17, 2015, file photo, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler testifies before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on net neutrality on Capitol Hill. — AP

device makers could insert their own advertising.

The cable industry suggested a plan that would have operators instead develop apps,

which they also control, and the FCC agreed. The agency made some changes, though, including a technical tweak that addressed complaints about the expense of supporting such apps from Roku, which makes streaming boxes.

It will also oversee an industry group that develops the standards for how the apps will work on devices. The FCC could change the terms of agreements if it thinks they are damaging to competition. Cable operators don't like the idea of the commission's oversight of the group's work. A cable-industry backed group, the Future of TV Coalition, said in a statement Thursday that the FCC's revised approach interferes with industry agreements, "micromanages" video apps and will slow innovation.

A group of entertainment conglomerates, including 21st Century Fox, Walt Disney Co. and Time Warner Inc., had also expressed concern with the search capabilities allowed under the revised plan before it was officially announced. — AP