

## **The Tech Industry's Business and Social Goals Will Undermine Its Commitment to Unbreakable Encryption**

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Silicon Valley says that unbreakable end-to-end encryption for data at rest and in motion is what its customers demand and deserve. In fact, Silicon Valley's customers are generally less committed to defeating lawfully authorized access to encrypted communications than its engineers. And the tech industry itself has been surprisingly willing to compromise the supposedly sacrosanct security provided by strong encryption. Apple and Google both force update code into the devices they sell, code that could easily be adapted to meet the needs of law enforcement. While tech companies insist that it's different when they do it, that will prove to be a difficult position to hold in the face of political criticism. Even more telling, as Silicon Valley enters a defensive crouch about enabling hate speech and terrorist recruitment, plans are already afoot to ensure that phones censor and report dangerous content stored on phones that are in theory connected by unbreakable encryption. Silicon Valley can't have it both ways. If it wants to stamp out speech that it hates or fears, it will have to build wiretapping capabilities into its systems, and thereby break the crypto.