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# Tech Decoded

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Hello. The UK **introduced strict age verification requirements** for adult websites on Friday as part of a long-overdue plan to stop children accessing pornography. The head of digital regulator Ofcom has called it a "really big moment". But as I explain below, there are concerns about enforcement and Elon Musk is already fighting similar rules elsewhere. We also look at the Trump administration's new AI action plan, and how tech is helping families in Chile to track down children who were abducted decades ago during the country's military dictatorship.

## THE DOWNLOAD

### Why age verification is no silver bullet



One in 10 children have seen pornography by the age of 10, according to research. Credit: Getty Images

The ease with which children can access hardcore pornography online shocks parents, and yet in many countries **it's become a pervasive problem**.

According to a report by the children's commissioner for England, 10% of children have seen adult content by the age of 10, 27% by age 11 and **half by age 13**. It warned this content was frequently degrading, coercive and abusive and was warping young people's understanding of sex and relationships.

On Friday, the UK finally took action as it became the latest country to require adult websites to have more robust age-verification measures.

Platforms such as Pornhub - as well as social media giants like Facebook - must now use **one of seven methods** to ensure users are over 18 before viewing adult content, or face fines of up to 10% of their global revenue.

The move, part of the UK's long overdue Online Safety Act, was first proposed back in 2017 before **concerns from privacy campaigners** and tech firms held things up.

And while the industry appears to have fallen in line, enforcing the new rules won't be easy.

Already VPNs offer an easy way to get around age gates - although the regulator Ofcom argues children will be less likely to stumble across adult content they weren't looking for.

And Ofcom - accused of lacking teeth in the past - must show it can hold rulebreakers to account, however influential they are.

Already, the Irish regulator has accused X of failing complying with its own age verification laws which came into force on 21 July. Elon Musk's platform is challenging aspects of the legislation in the country's High Court, with a ruling due imminently.

***The download:*** Age verification may be long overdue, but it is only the first step towards **solving a deep-rooted problem**.

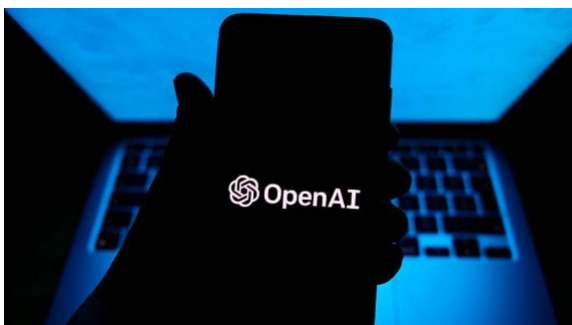
## TOP STORIES



## Trump AI plan aims to cut red tape and 'partisan bias'

The plan outlines more than 90 policy actions designed to maintain America's edge in AI, but critics say it is a giveaway to big tech.

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## OpenAI and UK sign deal to use AI in public services

The agreement could give OpenAI access to UK government data and see its software used in education, defence, security, and the justice system.

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## Microsoft says servers hacked by Chinese groups

Chinese "threat actors" have hacked some Microsoft SharePoint servers and targeted the data of the businesses using them, the firm has said.

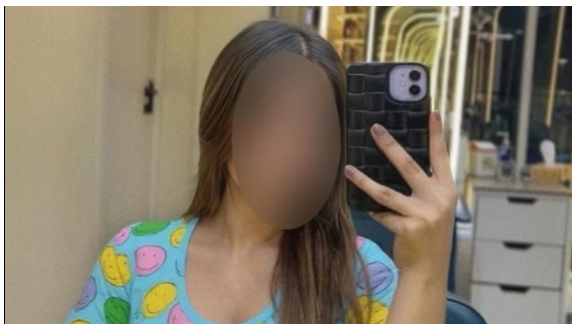
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## Tesla pledges cheaper cars as problems mount

Tesla says it will build cheaper cars and win approval for its self-driving software in Europe this year, after seeing sales fall at the sharpest rate in at least a decade.

[Here's why >](#)



## Indian woman's identity stolen for erotic AI content

Babydoll Archi became a hit on Instagram thanks to several viral videos. But she turned out to be a deepfake, based on a real person whose image had been stolen.

[Read what happened >](#)

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT

# Trucking's uneasy pact with Uber



Some truckers think the apps have driven down wages. Credit: Getty Images

New apps such as Uber Freight offer to pair truck drivers with logistics companies. Proponents say it makes it easier for drivers to find work, while providing haulage companies with more flexibility. But others think it's driven down wages and a union has "deep concerns". **[Read the full story.](#)**

## VIDEO PICK



## Chile's lost children

The BBC explores the search for Chile's lost children, decades after they were taken during the country's military dictatorship. Can tech help families find answers?

[Watch here](#)

## And finally...

**AI and ancient Rome.** A new artificial intelligence tool has the potential to turbocharge our understanding of all human history, researchers say. AI has already been used to fill in gaps in ancient Roman scrolls, but the new system goes much further - filling in missing words from inscriptions carved on



everyday objects and monuments, as well as dating and placing them geographically. **Find out more.**



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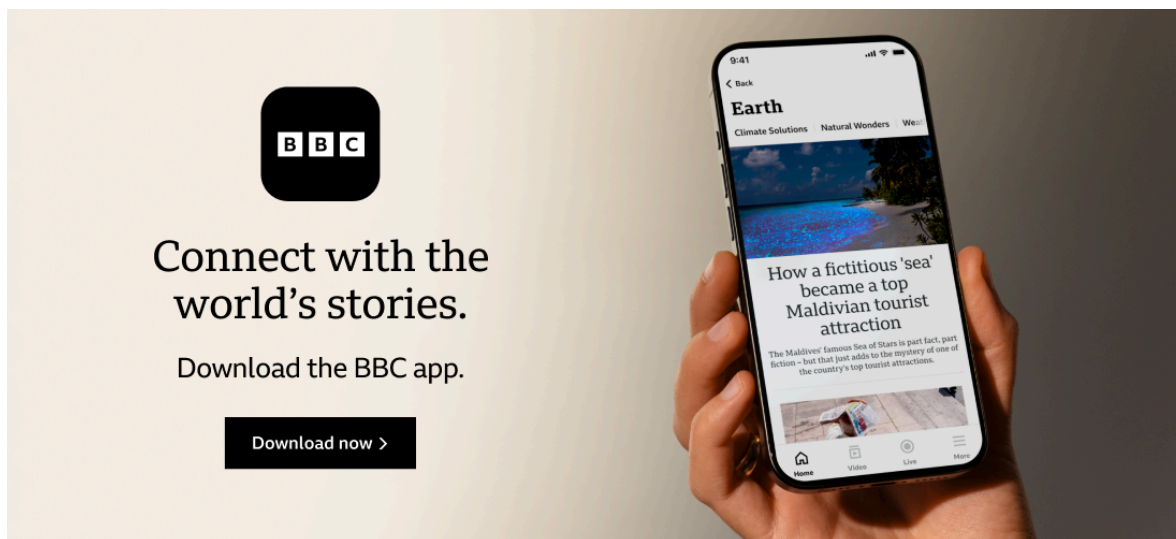
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