

# Iran bans popular social networking service

December 19 2013

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An Iranian state-owned news website is saying authorities have banned a popular cell-phone based social networking service.

The Thursday report by yjc.ir said a decision by a governmental monitoring body on communications led to the ban of VChat.

Many users complained on twitter and in messages that they do not have access to the cell-phone based [social networking service](#).

VChat is a product of Chinese company Tencent, and is highly used by young people as well as [retail businesses](#) in Iran. It allows file sharing and communication with others connected to the same [local area network](#).

Iran blocked many social networking services like Facebook and Twitter after opposition members widely used them during 2009 post-election turmoil to organize gatherings.

People still reach the banned sites through proxy and VPNs.

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