

Two Apple services blocked in China (Update)

April 22 2016



China is a key market for Apple, where its products are widely popular, but it has previously been targeted by state-run media over issues such as service and pricing

Apple confirmed Friday its iTunes Movies and iBooks service have become unavailable in China, after reports authorities ordered them to be taken offline.

"We hope to make books and movies available again to our customers in China as soon as possible," a spokeswoman for Apple, the US technology giant, said in a statement.

The services, launched less than seven months ago in China, were shut down last week on demand from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, the New York Times cited unnamed sources as saying.

Apple did not give a reason for the closedown.

Beijing keeps a tight grip on broadcast, print and online media, while restricting access to foreign websites including Google, Facebook and Twitter with a vast control network dubbed the Great Firewall of China.

Content deemed politically sensitive, violent or morally "unhealthy" is regularly blocked in the country.

China is a key market for Apple, where its products are widely popular, but it has previously been targeted by state-run media over issues such as service and pricing.

State broadcaster CCTV in 2014 accused the California-based company of threatening national security through the iPhone's ability to track a user's location, a threat Apple quickly denied.

The two Apple services compete directly with Chinese firms, New York Times said, suggesting the latest official scrutiny might be driven by government desire to support domestic companies.

Greater China including Hong Kong and Taiwan is Apple's second-largest market after the America and the company relies on the region to drive growth, according to the firm's report for the first quarter of 2016.

© 2016 AFP

Citation: Two Apple services blocked in China (Update) (2016, April 22) retrieved 13 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-apple-movies-online-china.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.