Dropbox

Recommended by:
Colombia

Developer's Description:
"Dropbox lets anyone upload and transfer files to the cloud, and share them with anyone. Back up and sync docs, photos, videos, and other files to cloud storage and access them from any device, no matter where you are"[1]

Information

Type: App, Website

Apparently designed for children? No

Developer: Dropbox

Analyzed by Human Rights Watch

Version: v. 226.2.2

Release date: March 9, 2021

Estimated users[2]: 10,000,000+

URL at the time of analysis:
Link 1, Link 2

Was there a publicly available privacy policy at the time of analysis? Yes. Link

Website Analysis

This website collected and sent the following data about users to third-party companies[3]**:**

To track the user | 22 ad trackers sent data about users to third-party companies

6 ad trackers sent users' data to **Adobe** through the domains adobedtm.com, demdex.net, everesttech.net, marketo.net, omtrdc.net, slidesharecdn.com
3 ad trackers sent users' data to **Google** through the domains google-analytics.com, double-click.net, googletagmanager.com
2 ad trackers sent users' data to **Conversant** through the domains dotomi.com, emjcd.com
2 ad trackers sent users' data to **Facebook** through the domains facebook.com, facebook.net
2 ad trackers sent users' data to **Microsoft** through the domains adsymptotic.com, licdn.com
2 ad trackers sent users' data to **New Relic** through the domains newrelic.com, nr-data.net
2 ad trackers sent users' data to **Twitter** through the domains t.co, twitter.com
1 ad tracker sent users' data to **IPONWEB GmbH** through the domain bidswitch.net
1 ad tracker sent users' data to **SalesForce** through the domain krxd.net
1 ad tracker sent users' data to **WarnerMedia** through the domain adnxs.com

To watch and record the user

Session recording was not detected on this site.

To capture what users type, before they hit send

Key logging was not detected on this site.

To find out who the user is

Canvas fingerprinting was not detected on this site.

To track the user across the internet | 30 third-party cookies were found on this site that tracked users across the internet

13 cookies sent users' data to **The Trade Desk** through the domains match.adsrvr.org, insight.adsrvr.org
4 cookies sent users' data to **Index Exchange** through the domain dsum-sec.casalemedia.com
4 cookies sent users' data to **PubMatic** through the domain simage2.pubmatic.com
4 cookies sent users' data to **The Rubicon Project** through the domain pixel.rubiconproject.com

1 Google Play Store, "Dropbox: Cloud Storage, Photo Backup, File Manager," https://web.archive.org/web/20210312185943/https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dropbox.android&hl=en (accessed March 12, 2021)

2 As verified by Google Play Store installs globally, as of October 2021.

3 A technical analysis does not definitively determine the intent of any particular tracking technology, or how the collected data is used. For example, an EdTech product can include third-party tracking code that collects information that may be useful to monitor the product's performance and stability. The same data collected by the same third-party code may also be used for advertising or other marketing purposes.

3 cookies sent users' data to **IPONWEB GmbH** through the domain x.bidswitch.net
1 cookie sent users' data to **Google** through the domain 10499192.fls.doubleclick.net
1 cookie sent users' data to **WarnerMedia** through the domain ib.adnxs.com

This website collected and sent users' data through these tracking technologies:

Facebook Pixel[4] | was detected on this site sending data about users to Facebook. This allows this website to later target its users with ads on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook can also retain and use this data for its own advertising purposes.

Google Analytics' 'remarketing audiences' | was not detected on this site.

App Analysis (static)

This app included code that has the capability to collect the following personal data[5]:

To find out who the user is:
Android Advertising ID

To track where the user is:
This app does not collect users' location data.

To track who the user knows, and with whom they talk:
Users' contacts
Contacts' photos

To track what the user does:
Camera

This app requested access to the following sensitive data on the user's device[6]:

"Dangerous" (as defined by Android) Permissions requested:

READ_EXTERNAL_STORAGE
WRITE_EXTERNAL_STORAGE
CAMERA
GET_ACCOUNTS
READ_CONTACTS
USE_FINGERPRINT

This app embedded the following third-party code, which the app may permit to collect and send users' data to that third-party company[7]:

Google Firebase Analytics
Adjust
Bugsnag

4 Facebook rebranded itself to Meta in October 2021. This privacy profile refers to Facebook as both the platform and the parent company, for consistency across the timeline of Human Rights Watch's investigation.

5 As noted in the report, this type of analysis observes whether the code is capable of collecting specific types of personal data, but not whether it is being collected, or how it is being used. Put another way, an app may not use all of the programmed functionalities of which it is capable.

6 Android labels permissions as "dangerous" when granting that permission to an app can "potentially affect the user's privacy or the device's normal operation," because the app "wants data or resources that involve the user's private information, or could potentially affect the user's stored data or the operation of other apps." Human Rights Watch also notes that the use of "dangerous" permissions to access sensitive data is not inherently unsafe, but poses risks to users' privacy if there are no safeguards that protect against the abuse of such access by the host app or its embedded third-party SDKs. See: Android Developers, "Permissions overview," May 7, 2020, https://web.archive.org/web/20200712090715/https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/permissions/overview (accessed April 24, 2022).

7 Human Rights Watch does not conclusively determine whether, or how, any given SDK is used by a specific app, and notes that some SDKs may provide multiple capabilities in addition to advertising.