

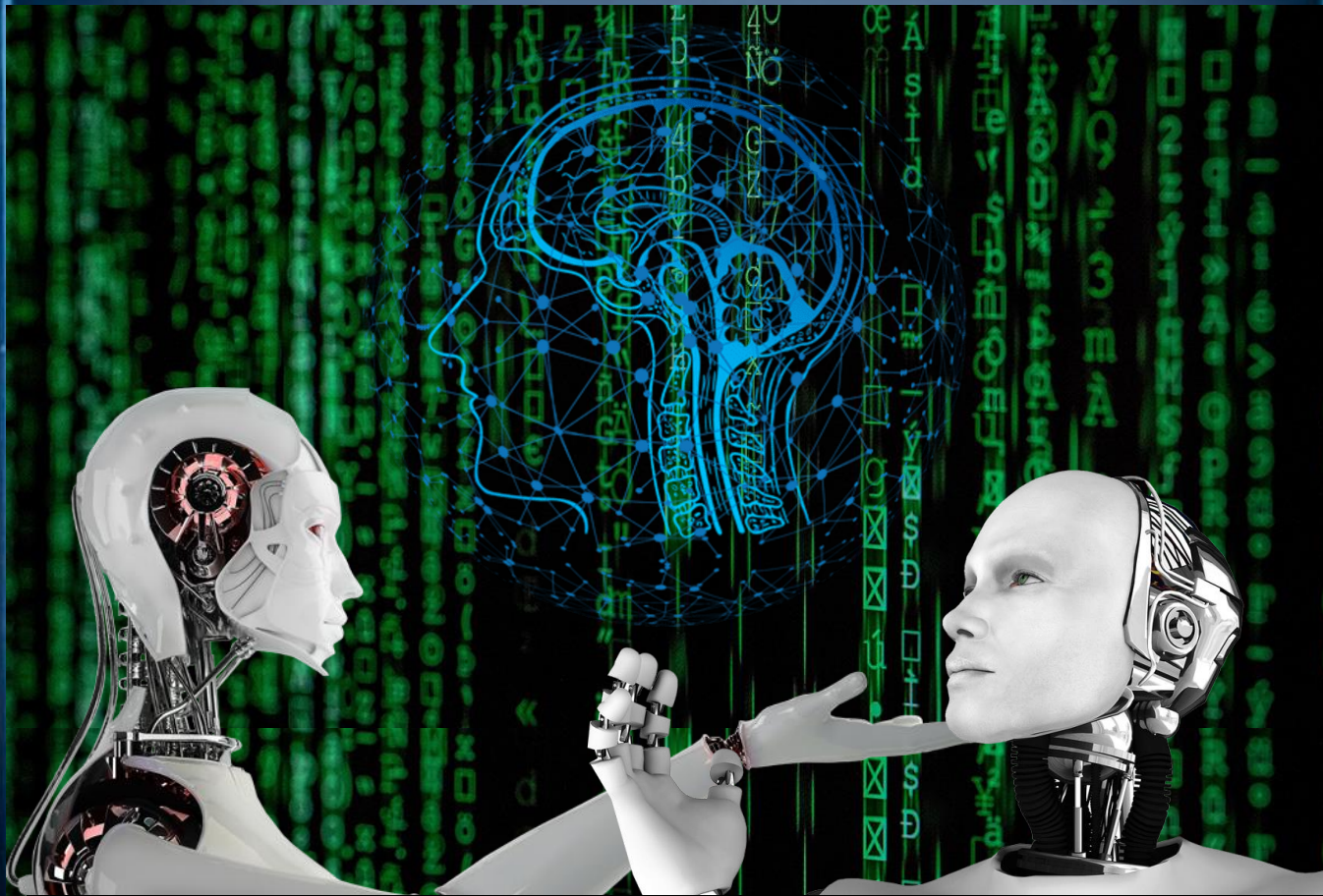




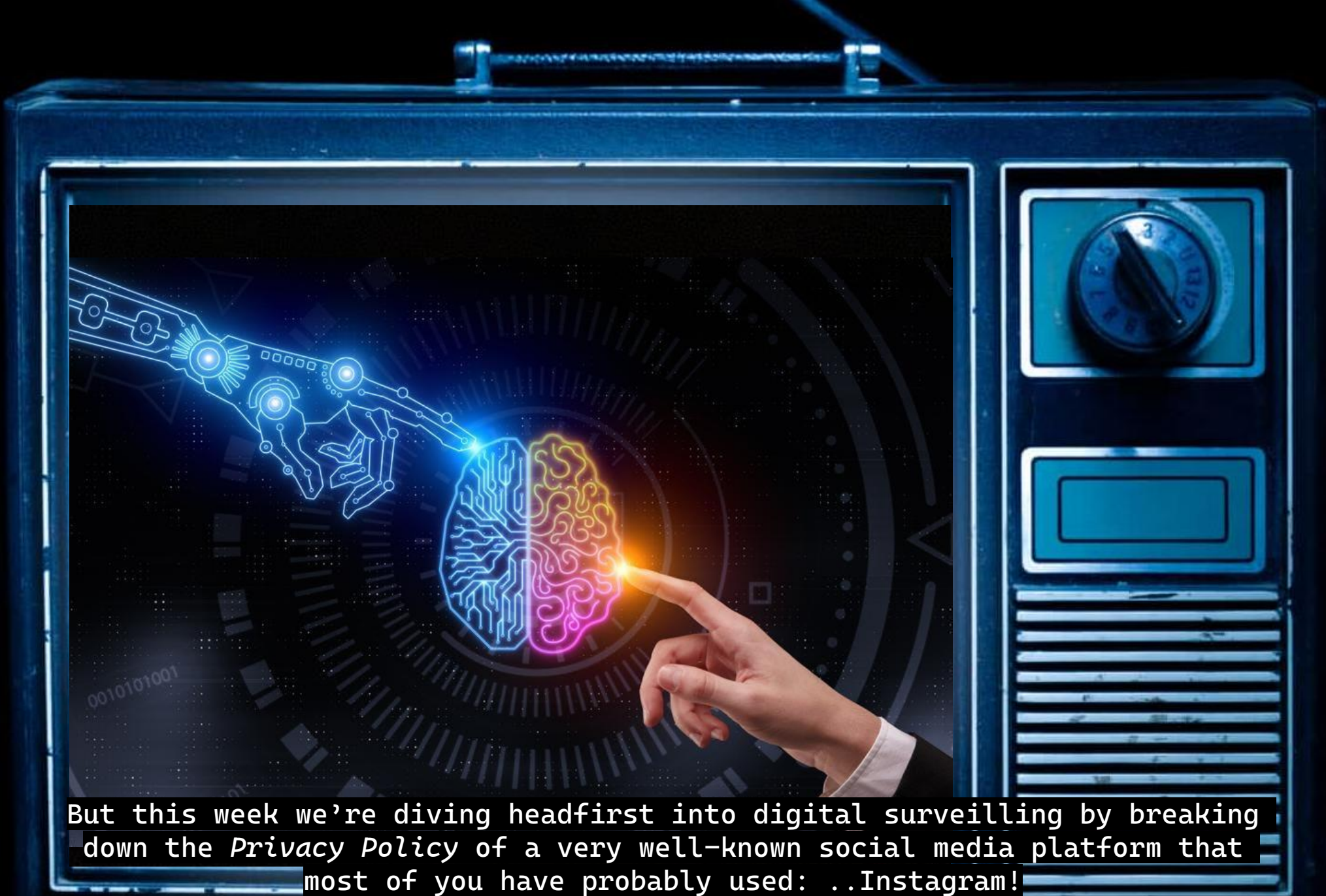
[ TV turns on ]



[ Over the TV ] ...and welcome back to *The Conspiracy Corner!*



Last week we discussed AI and its alarmingly rapid development over the last decade. For more context into this week's installment, we suggest you tune back to that episode before proceeding!



But this week we're diving headfirst into digital surveilling by breaking down the *Privacy Policy* of a very well-known social media platform that most of you have probably used: ..Instagram!



When it comes to data policy, its something that can certainly be tricky to maneuver if you're not familiar with all the fancy lingo and general wordy-ness of legal documents. But for your ease, we've cherry-picked just a few points to discuss here today!



## Data Policy

 [Copy link](#)

We've updated our policy. [Read it here.](#)

*The Facebook company is now Meta. We've updated our Terms of Use, Data Policy, and Cookies Policy to reflect the new name on January 4, 2022. While our company name has changed, we are continuing to offer the same products, including the Facebook app from Meta. Our Data Policy and Terms of Service remain in effect, and this name change does not affect how we use or share data. [Learn more about Meta](#) and our vision for the metaverse.*

### Data Policy

This policy describes the information we process to support Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and other products and features offered by Meta Platforms, Inc. ([Meta Products](#) or Products). You can find additional tools and information in the [Facebook Settings](#) and [Instagram Settings](#).

#### I. What kinds of information do we collect?

To provide the Meta Products, we must process information about you. The types of information we collect depend on how you use our Products. You can learn how to access and delete information we collect by visiting the [Facebook Settings](#) and [Instagram Settings](#).

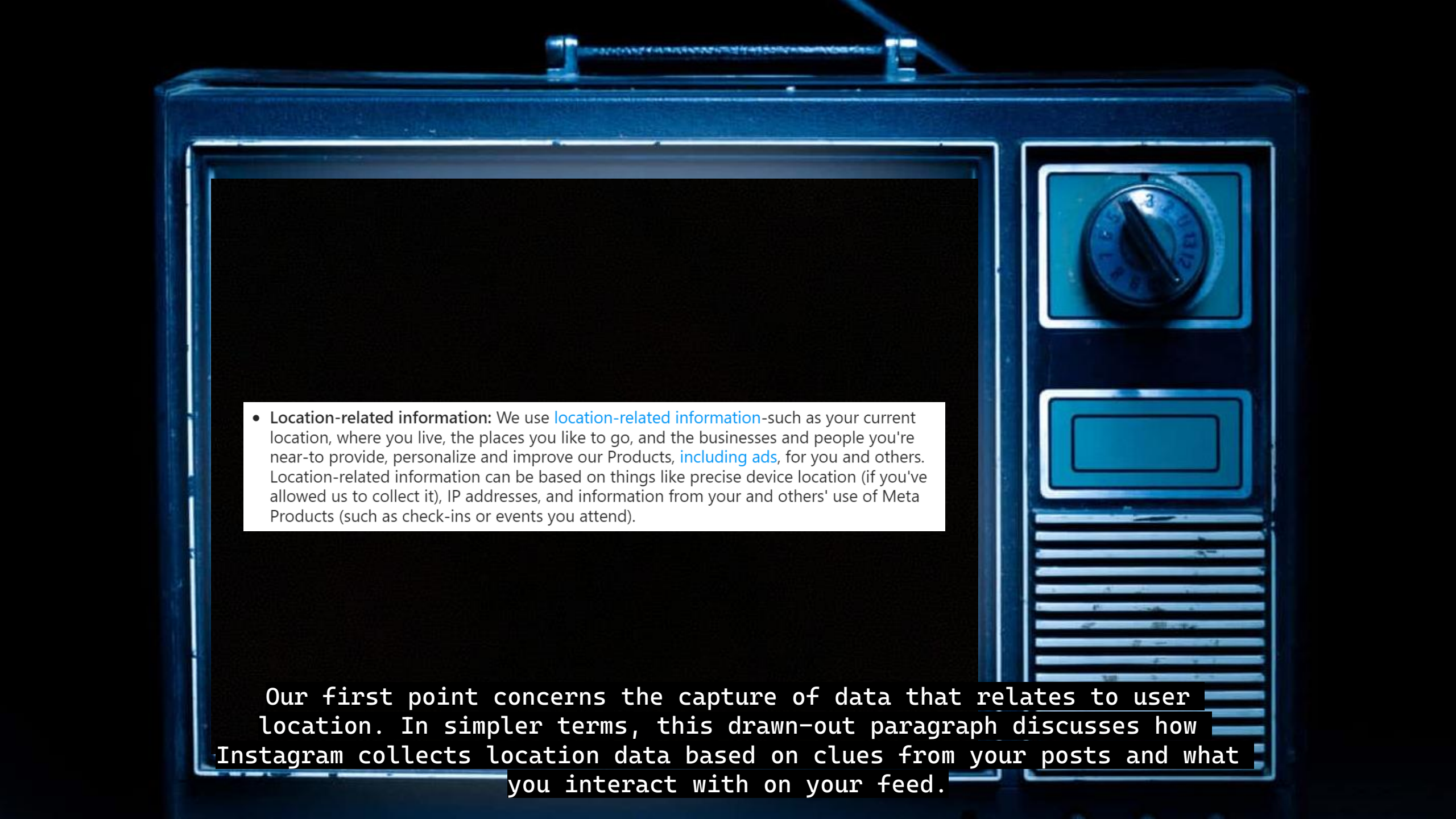
Things you and others do and provide.

- **Information and content you provide.** We collect the content, communications and other information you provide when you use our Products, including when you sign up for an

We chose to limit our scope to Instagram not just because of its sheer popularity, but also because of just how ambiguous the following document is! So before we waste our very limited screentime (which should be a discussion of its own), let's get into the four points of contingency our legal team pulled from Instagram's fancy-shmancy write up!



[ "Point 1 - Location-Related Information" ]

- 
- **Location-related information:** We use [location-related information](#)-such as your current location, where you live, the places you like to go, and the businesses and people you're near-to provide, personalize and improve our Products, [including ads](#), for you and others. Location-related information can be based on things like precise device location (if you've allowed us to collect it), IP addresses, and information from your and others' use of Meta Products (such as check-ins or events you attend).

Our first point concerns the capture of data that relates to user location. In simpler terms, this drawn-out paragraph discusses how Instagram collects location data based on clues from your posts and what you interact with on your feed.



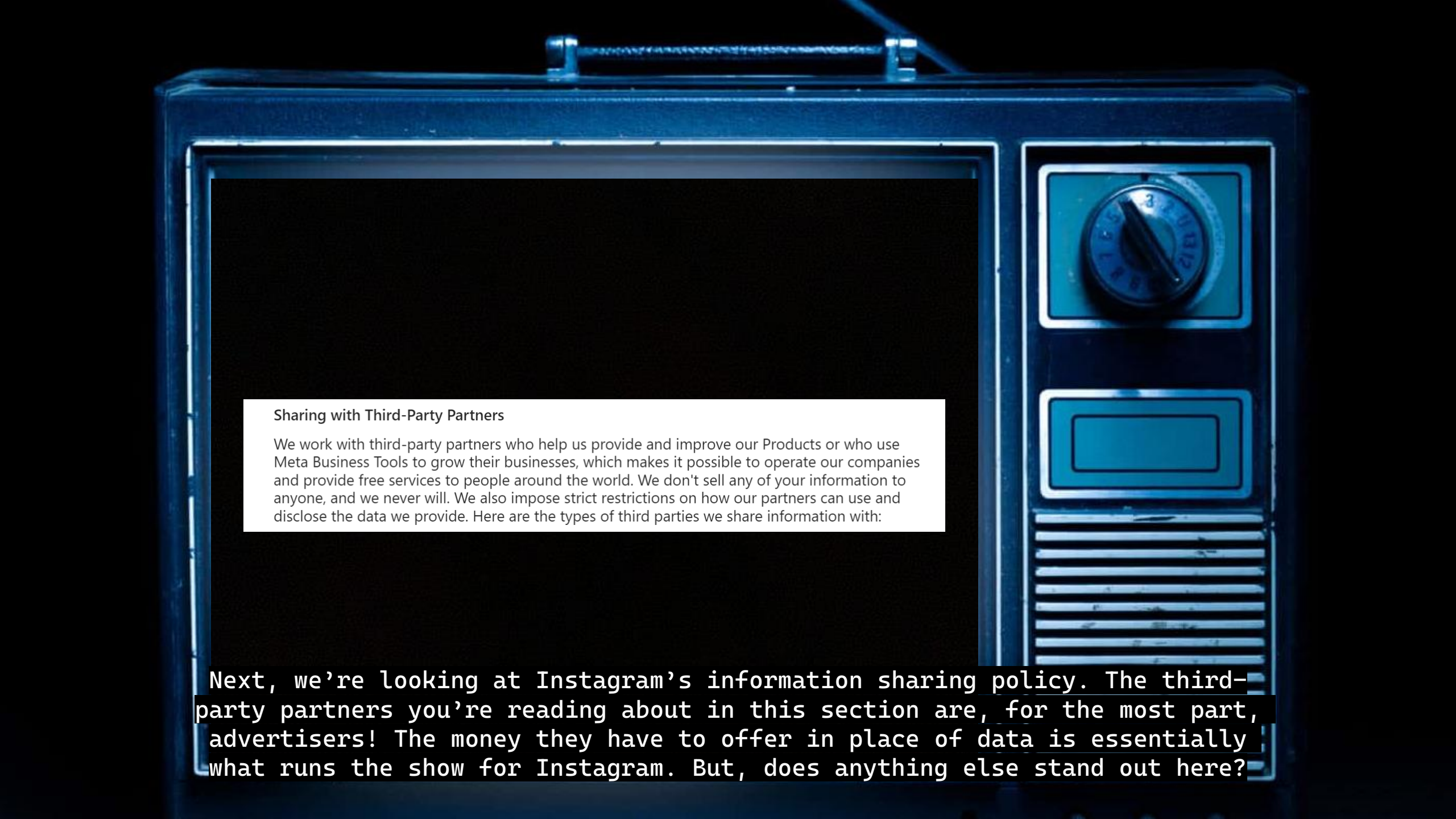
So, if you upload pictures of your Friday night out and tag the restaurant or bar you and your friends visited – Instagram will see that! And even better, they will store that data to ‘improve’ their product ...*whatever that means.*



But...*why*? Why does Instagram need *your* IP address to improve their app features? What about you visiting Dominos helps them out? Could it be that they're collecting data about most frequently visited locations to sell to advertisers who can promote their products there? Just something to think about.



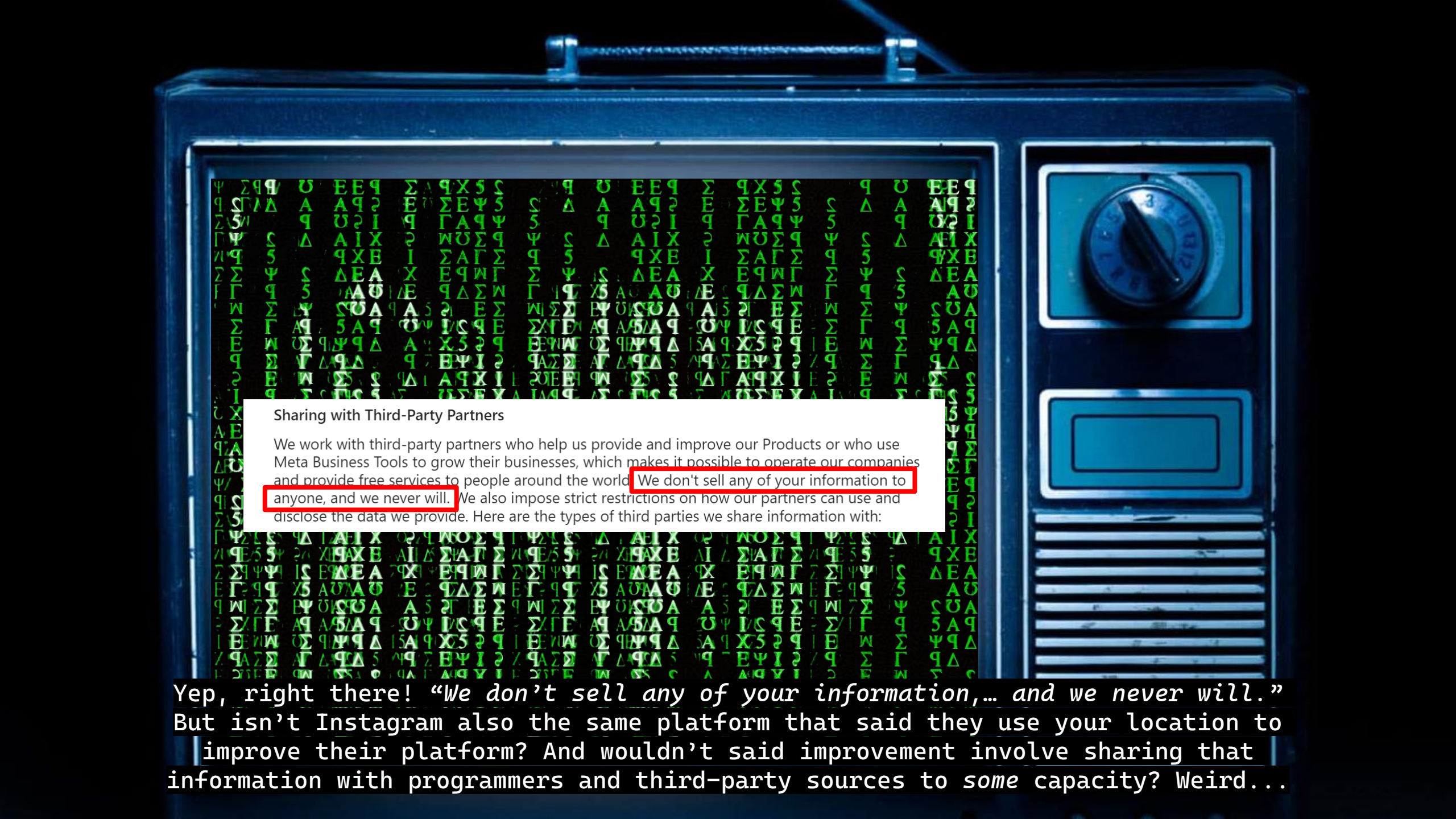
*[“Point 2 – Sharing With Third-Party Partners” ]*

A vintage television set is shown against a dark background. The screen is mostly black, with a white rectangular text box overlaid on the left side. On the right side of the television, there is a circular dial with numbers 1 through 9, a rectangular button, and a speaker grille with horizontal slats. The entire scene is lit with a blueish-purple light.

### Sharing with Third-Party Partners

We work with third-party partners who help us provide and improve our Products or who use Meta Business Tools to grow their businesses, which makes it possible to operate our companies and provide free services to people around the world. We don't sell any of your information to anyone, and we never will. We also impose strict restrictions on how our partners can use and disclose the data we provide. Here are the types of third parties we share information with:

Next, we're looking at Instagram's information sharing policy. The third-party partners you're reading about in this section are, for the most part, advertisers! The money they have to offer in place of data is essentially what runs the show for Instagram. But, does anything else stand out here?



Sharing with Third-Party Partners

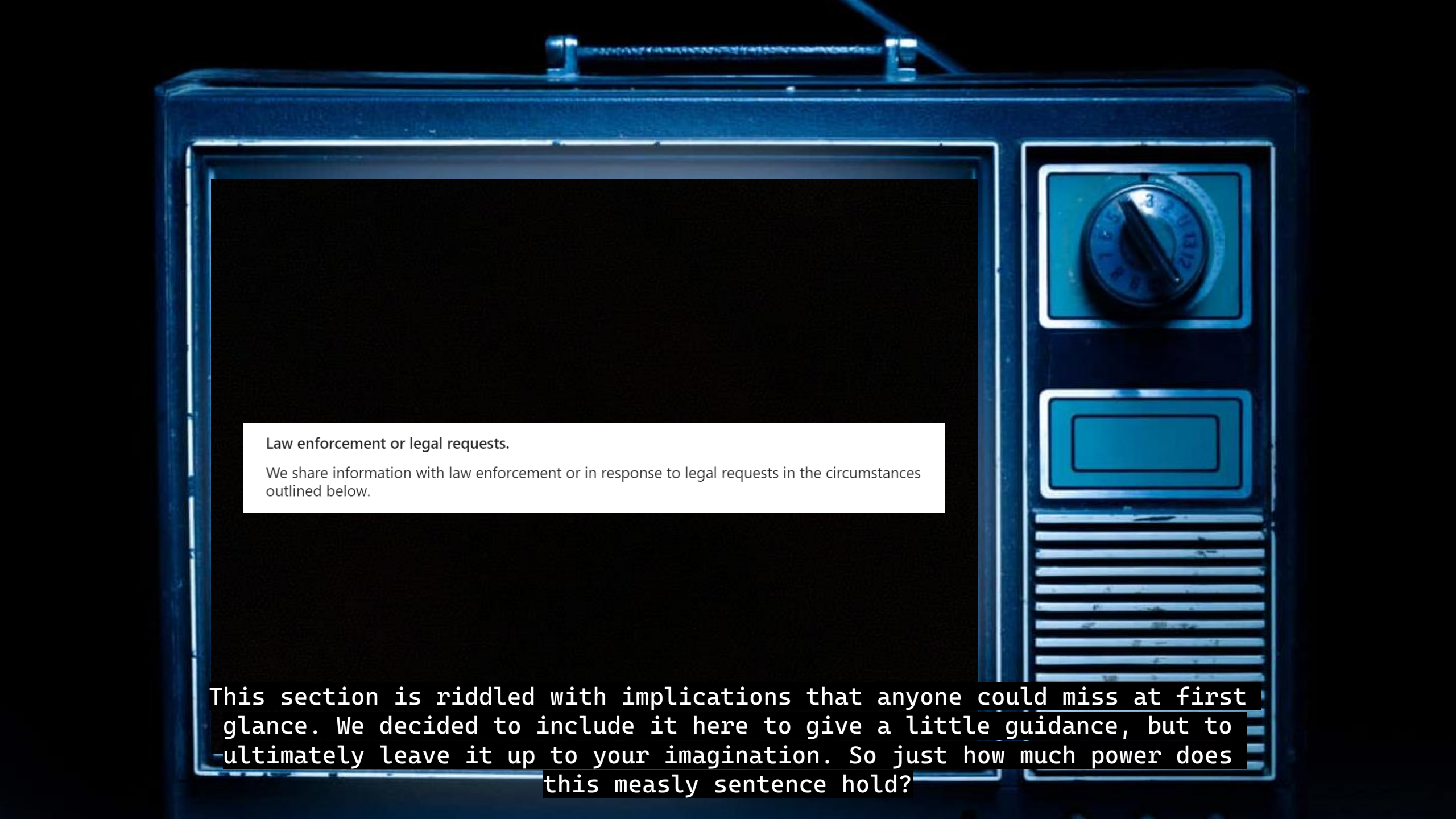
We work with third-party partners who help us provide and improve our Products or who use Meta Business Tools to grow their businesses, which makes it possible to operate our companies and provide free services to people around the world. We don't sell any of your information to anyone, and we never will. We also impose strict restrictions on how our partners can use and disclose the data we provide. Here are the types of third parties we share information with:

Yep, right there! *"We don't sell any of your information,... and we never will."* But isn't Instagram also the same platform that said they use your location to improve their platform? And wouldn't said improvement involve sharing that information with programmers and third-party sources to some capacity? Weird...





[ "Point 3 - Legal Requests" ]



Law enforcement or legal requests.

We share information with law enforcement or in response to legal requests in the circumstances outlined below.

This section is riddled with implications that anyone could miss at first glance. We decided to include it here to give a little guidance, but to ultimately leave it up to your imagination. So just how much power does this measly sentence hold?

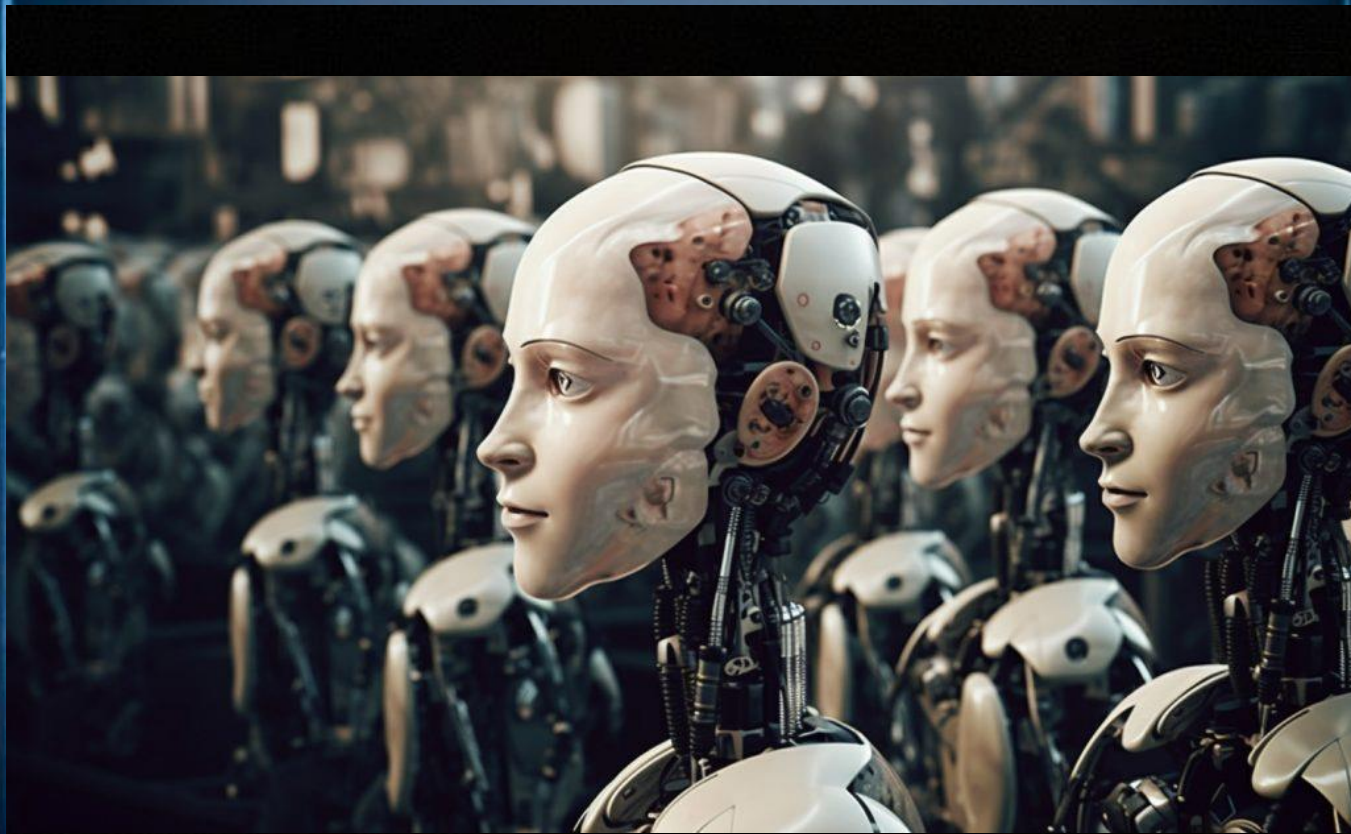
#### V. How can I manage or delete information about me?

We provide you with the ability to access, rectify, port and erase your data. Learn more in your [Facebook Settings](#) and [Instagram Settings](#).

We store data until it is no longer necessary to provide our services and Meta Products, or until your account is deleted - whichever comes first. This is a case-by-case determination that depends on things like the nature of the data, why it is collected and processed, and relevant legal or operational retention needs. For example, when you search for something on Facebook, you can access and delete that query from within your search history at any time, but the log of that search is deleted after 6 months. If you submit a copy of your government-issued ID for account verification purposes, we delete that copy 30 days after review, unless otherwise stated. Learn more about deletion of [content you have shared](#) and [cookie data obtained through social plugins](#).

When you delete your account, we [delete things](#) you have posted, such as your photos and status updates, and you won't be able to recover that information later. Information that others have shared about you isn't part of your account and won't be deleted. If you don't want to delete your account but want to temporarily stop using the Products, you can deactivate your account instead. To delete your account at any time, please visit the [Facebook Settings](#) and [Instagram Settings](#).

Just earlier in the document Instagram mentions deleting user information out of respect for any individuals wishes to get rid of their data after terminating their account. But if this data is later requested for an investigation, how are they willing to cough it up so fast?



Could it be that Instagram does not in fact get rid of our data, but rather logs them into a data farm where they can live on for millennia, long past the existence of humans? And these capsules of user identity can be used to generate other life forms that mimic your engagement patterns? That's some scary stuff...



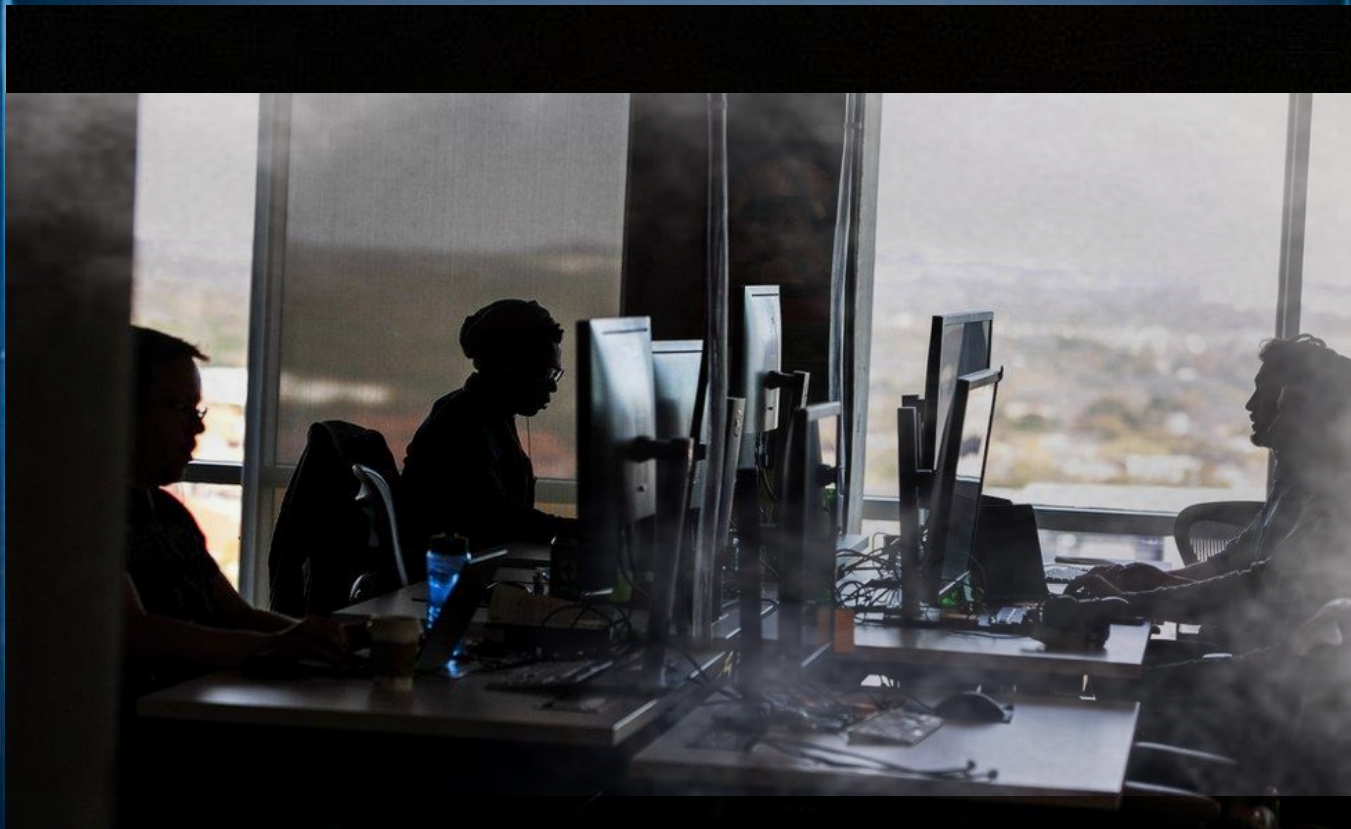
[ "Point 4 - Global Service Data Transfers" ]



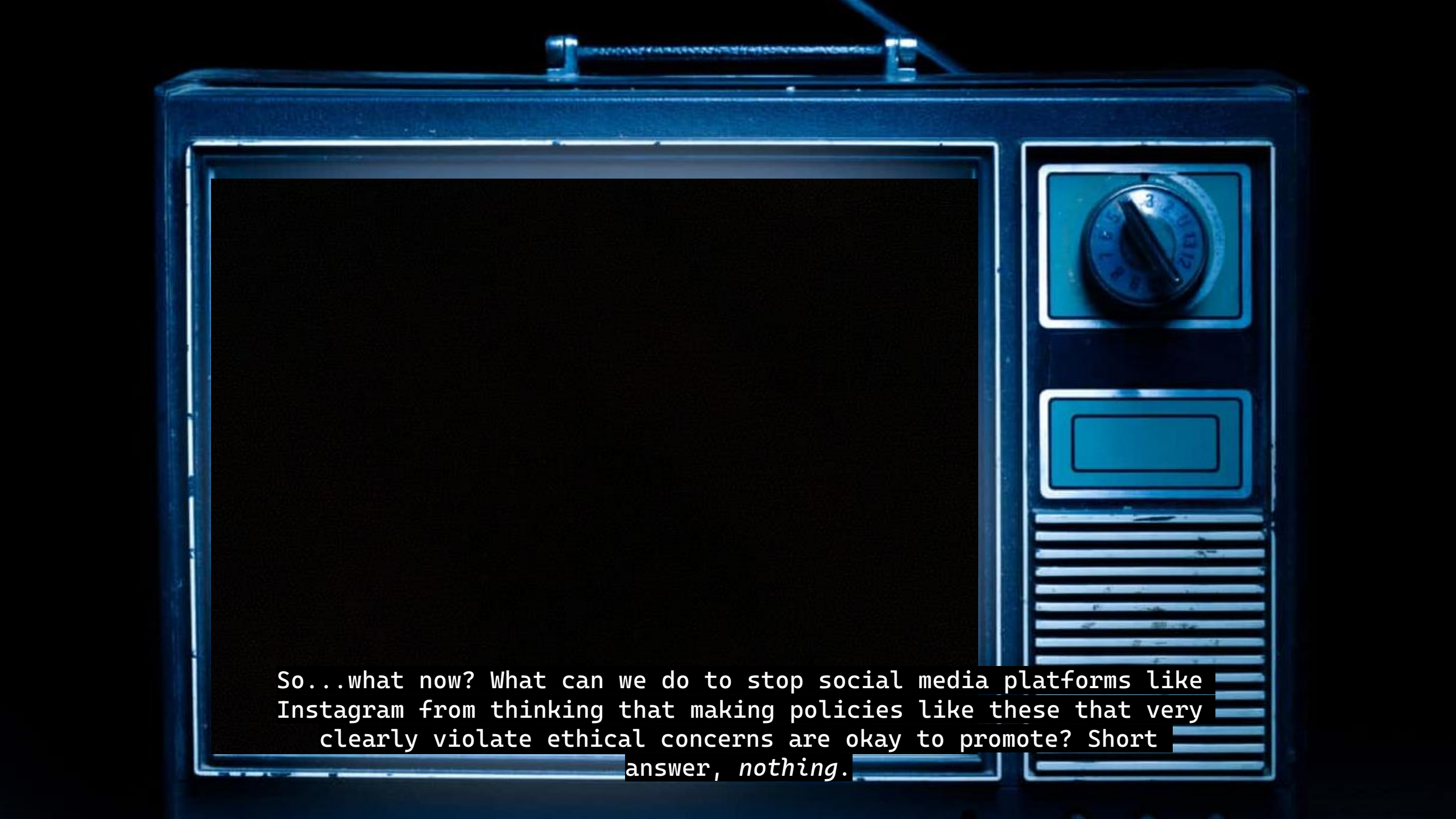
## VII. How do we operate and transfer data as part of our global services?

We share information globally, both internally within the Meta Companies, and externally with our partners and with those you connect and share with around the world in accordance with this policy. Your information may, for example, be transferred or transmitted to, or stored and processed in the United States or other countries outside of where you live for the purposes as described in this policy. These data transfers are necessary to provide the services set forth in the [Meta Terms](#) and [Instagram Terms](#) and to globally operate and provide our Products to you. We utilize [standard contract clauses](#), rely on the European Commission's [adequacy decisions](#) about certain countries, as applicable, and obtain your consent for these data transfers to the United States and other countries.

Lastly, we'll be discussing the *transfer* of data – not to be mistaken with the *selling* of data. Transfer of data here refers to where the data is processed and stored. So, if Instagram deems it necessary to shoot things like our location information out to China, it can do that. ...Wait, but isn't that weird?

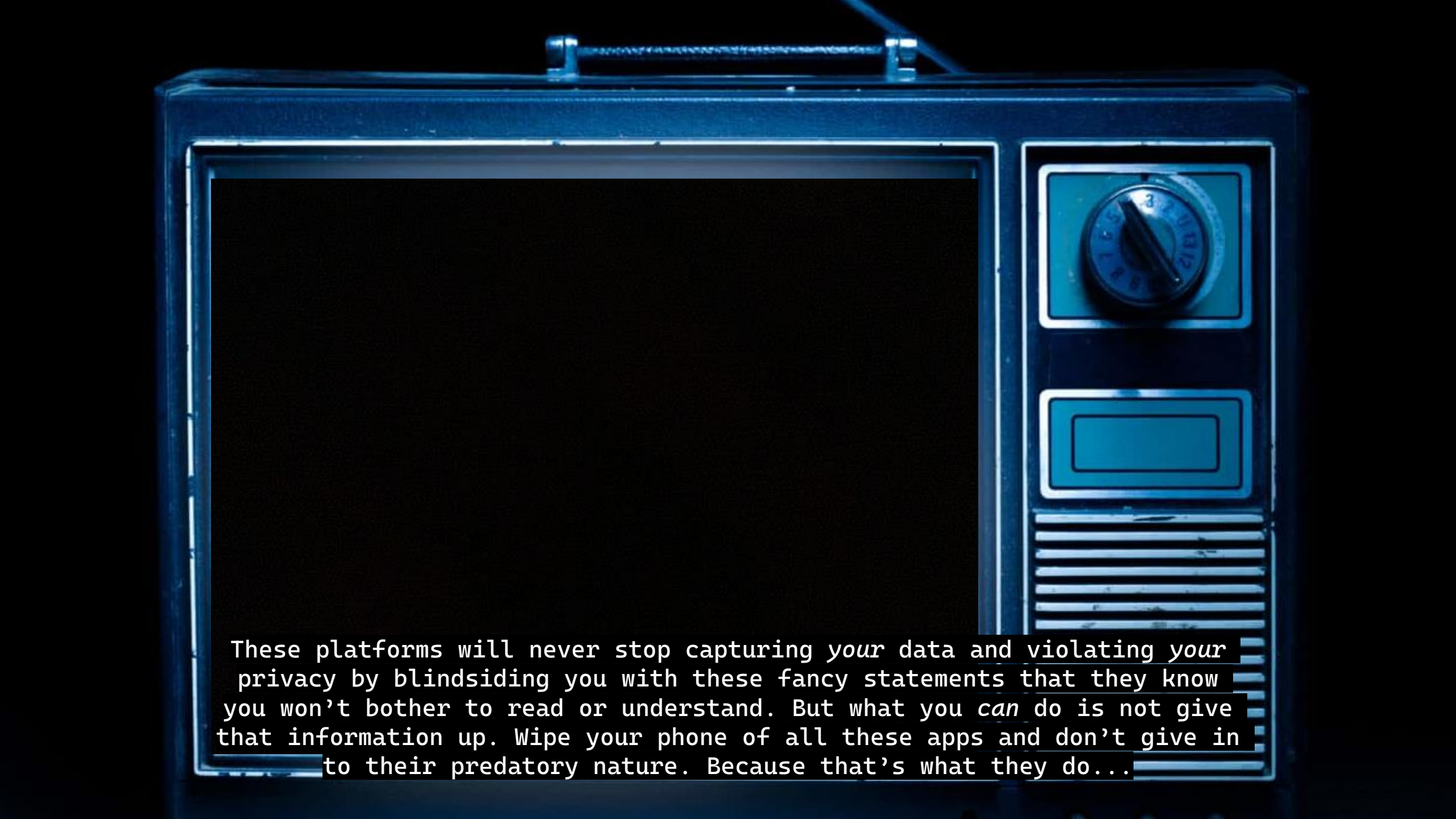


There have been a lot of news coming out about multi-million-dollar platforms (such as TikTok) being owned by companies overseas. And I don't think we need to discuss why that is suspicious, but the mention in Instagram's privacy policies suggests that while your data might not be given to overseas companies, they are at risk of breach of confidentiality at, quite literally, any moment!



So...what now? What can we do to stop social media platforms like Instagram from thinking that making policies like these that very clearly violate ethical concerns are okay to promote? Short answer, *nothing.*

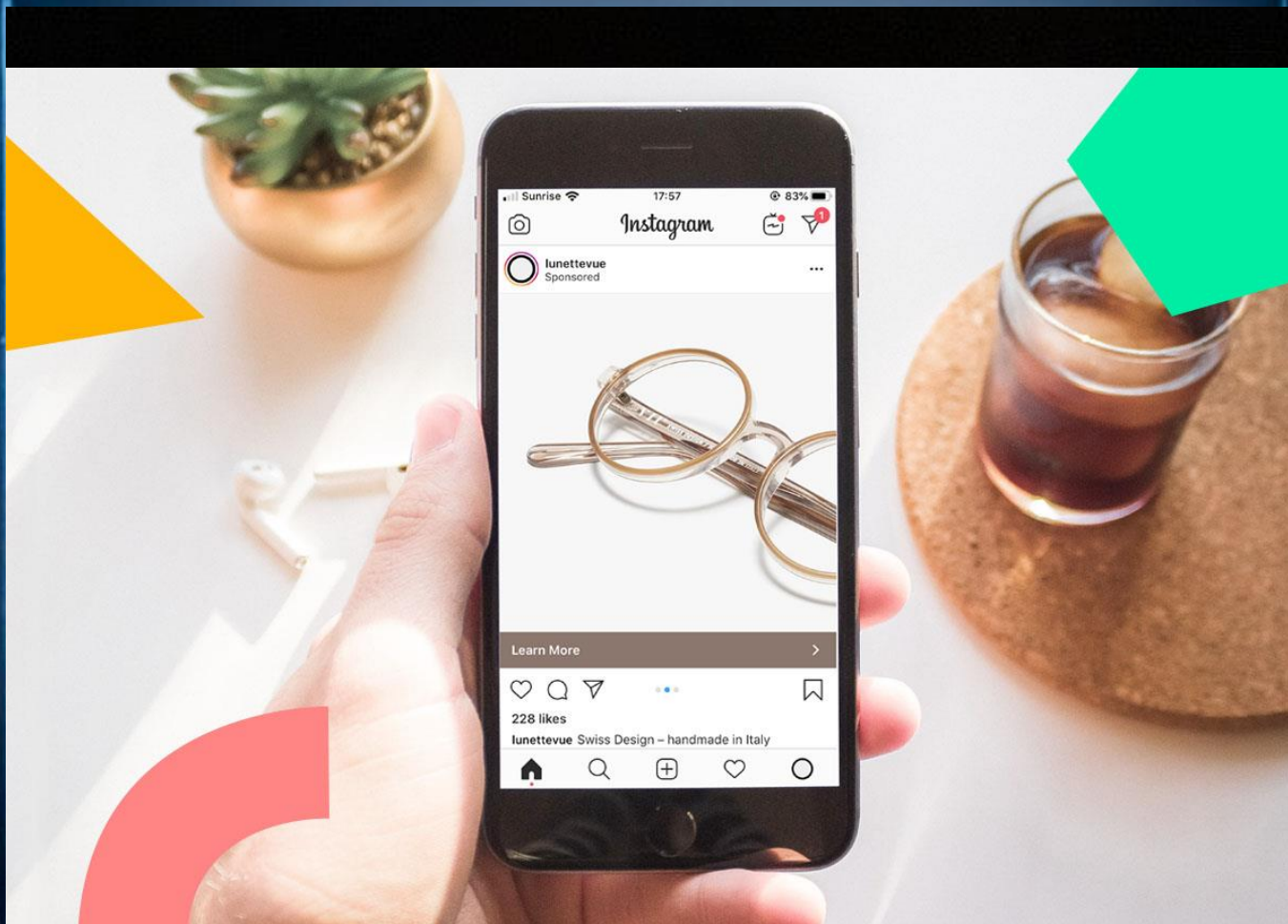




These platforms will never stop capturing *your* data and violating *your* privacy by blindsiding you with these fancy statements that they know you won't bother to read or understand. But what you *can* do is not give that information up. Wipe your phone of all these apps and don't give in to their predatory nature. Because that's what they do...



...prey.

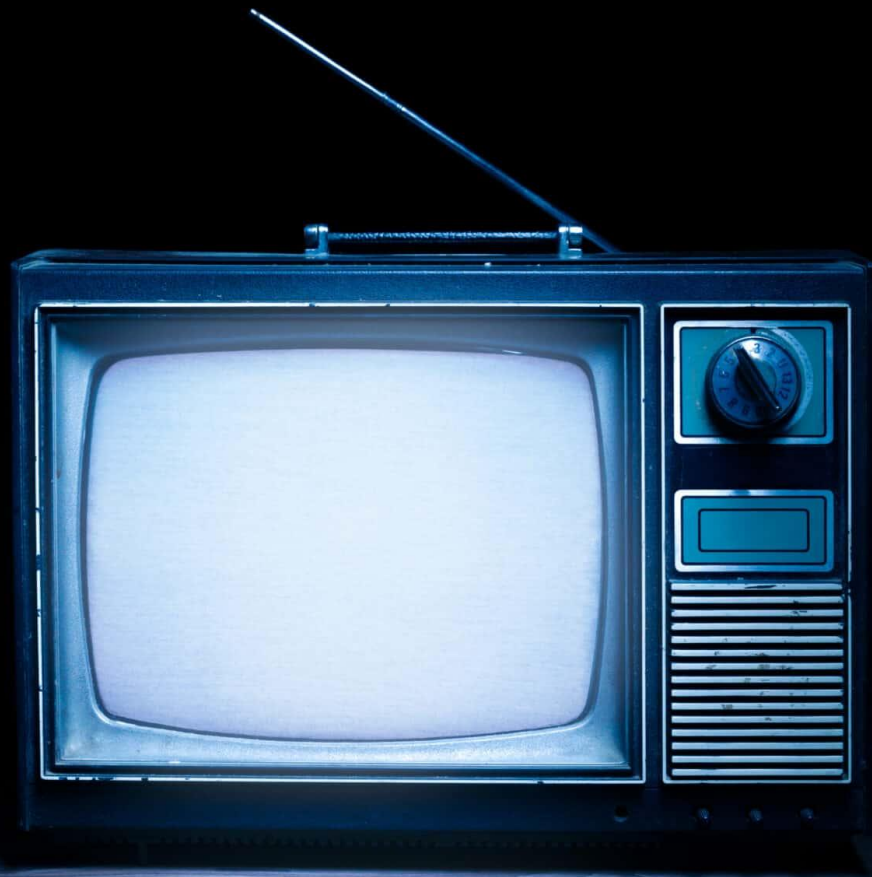


[ Instagram ad starts playing ]





[ TV shuts off ]



[ Sigh ]