

Find 'em.
Protect 'em.

Byrhonda Lyons
Investigative Reporter, CalMatters.org



We'll cover:

- Finding sources (Byrhonda-style)
- Keeping sources safe (Byrhonda-style)

Find 'em:

Get a name.

- Database scraper
 - Employee Roster
 - LinkedIn
 - Lawsuits (LexisNexis)
 - Google Advanced Search
 - PDF, Website, Name
 - Reddit threads
 - Facebook groups
 - Newspaper.com
 - Gatekeepers
 - Police call logs
 - White Pages
 - TLO
-

Find 'em

Reach out.

- Call
 - Email
 - Snail mail
 - Text
 - Facebook Messenger
 - Instagram
-

Protect 'em:



Protect 'em

Analog, baby!

- Never post the source document as-is
 - Metadata
 - Meet them, but leave your phone at home
 - No TikTok
 - Encrypted messages
 - No transcription services.
 - Possibly record the audio via an old fashioned tape recorder
 - Posting original source or not
 - Letters, emails, etc.
-

I'm not crazy.

I promise.

TikTok

TikTok admits using its app to spy on reporters in effort to track leaks

Chinese parent company, ByteDance says four employees, based in both US and China, have been fired

Reuters

Fri 23 Dec 2022 06.46 EST



🕒 2 months old

TikTok has admitted that it used its own app to spy on reporters as part of an attempt to track down the journalists' sources, according to an internal email.

More on this topic

Are your gadgets watching you?
How to give the gift of privacy

The data was accessed by employees of ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese parent

Advertisement

IN-THE-MOMENT



I'm not crazy.

I promise.



Elon Musk ✓

@elonmusk



That is quite an interesting story. We sent what appeared to be identical emails to all, but each was actually coded with either one or two spaces between sentences, forming a binary signature that identified the leaker.

6:30 AM · 10/9/22

403 Retweets **186** Quotes **5,115** Likes



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TECH / POLICY / PRIVACY

This journalist's Otter.ai scare is a reminder that cloud transcription isn't completely private / A reminder of the tradeoffs for ease and simplicity

By **MITCHELL CLARK**

Feb 16, 2022 at 6:04 PM PST

[0 Comments](#) / [0 New](#)



Byrhonda's style: Robot.

Inmate shuffle: How California bounces around its mentally ill prisoners

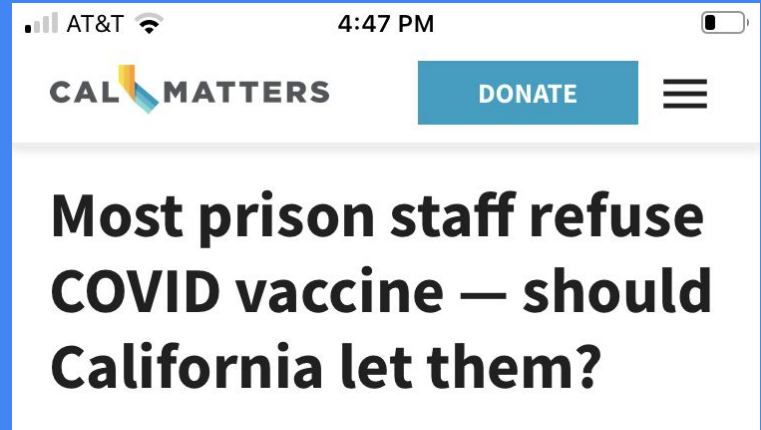
By Byrhonda Lyons and Jocelyn Wiener, June 2, 2022

One in three California prisoners has a diagnosed mental illness. The state's solution for some? Move them around.

On the last day of Adam Collier's life, he had
found feet in his cell in Kern Valley State

Byrhonda's style:

Employee roster



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