

Leaked Transcript of Private Meeting Contradicts Google's Official Story on China | The Intercept

By Ryan Gallagher

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It has been two months since The Intercept first [revealed](#) details about the censored search engine, code-named Dragonfly. Since then, the project has faced a wave of criticism from human rights [groups](#), Google [employees](#), U.S. [senators](#), and even Vice President Mike Pence, who on Thursday last week [called](#) on Google to “immediately end development of the Dragonfly app that will strengthen the Communist Party’s censorship and compromise the privacy of Chinese customers.”

Google has refused to answer questions or concerns about Dragonfly. Earlier this month, a Google executive [faced](#) public questions on the censorship plan for the first time. Keith Enright told the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee that there “is a Project Dragonfly,” but said “we are not close to launching a product in China.” When pressed to give specific details, Enright refused, saying that he was “not clear on the contours of what is in scope or out of scope for that project.”

[...]

Gomes’s remarks to staff, which can be read in full below, highlight the stark contrast between Google’s public and private statements about Dragonfly. The secretive project has been underway since spring 2017 — and has involved about 300 employees, the majority of whom have worked full-time on the plan. It was far beyond an “exploration,” and the plan to launch it was well-developed, as some of Google’s own employees have [themselves highlighted](#) in recent weeks, despite the company’s efforts to suppress such information.

Source: [Leaked Transcript of Private Meeting Contradicts Google's Official Story on China | The Intercept](#)