

Snap Inc.

February 2, 2021

Peter Micek
General Counsel
Access Now

Vivek Krishnamurthy
Samuelson-Glushko Professor of Law, University of Ottawa
Director, Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic

Dear Peter and Vivek:

Thank you for the productive conversation last week and the opportunity to respond in writing to your [letter](#) of January 26th.

The Google blog [announcement](#) you cited in your letter did not accurately describe Snap's data storage practices in the Middle East region and has since been clarified by Google.¹

As mentioned on our call, Snap does not have data stored with Google Cloud in the Middle East region, nor does Snap itself have any data centers or infrastructure in that region. The only Snapchat data that would be stored regionally is our public content -- such as our Discover content from major news organizations, online publications and public influencers -- so that it can be more efficiently and quickly served to the large numbers of people who view it. We do not currently store such content locally in the Middle East. Google Cloud's global infrastructure rollouts generally mean that users all over the world, including Snapchat users in the Middle East, can more rapidly download public content leading to enhanced performance of the app.

We appreciate your support for the digital rights of citizens all over the world and the work your organizations do to advance privacy, freedom of expression and human rights.

Best regards,

Jennifer Park Stout
VP Global Public Policy
Snap Inc.

¹ On January 27, 2021 Google updated its blog post with the following clarification: "Update: An original version of this blog post included a now-removed reference to Snap Inc. in the section about Saudi Arabia. We have since added the quote from Snap Inc. to the non-regional introduction to the blog post, as the company benefits from cloud infrastructure improvements all over the world. To clarify, Snap Inc. is not involved in the MoU referenced in the original blog post."