

NEWS

# Immigration Raid Tracking App ‘ICE Block’ Keeps Your Data Private, Researcher Finds

JOSEPH COX · JUL 15, 2025 AT 10:09 AM

The app, which jumped to the top of an App Store chart, lets users report sightings of ICE officials.

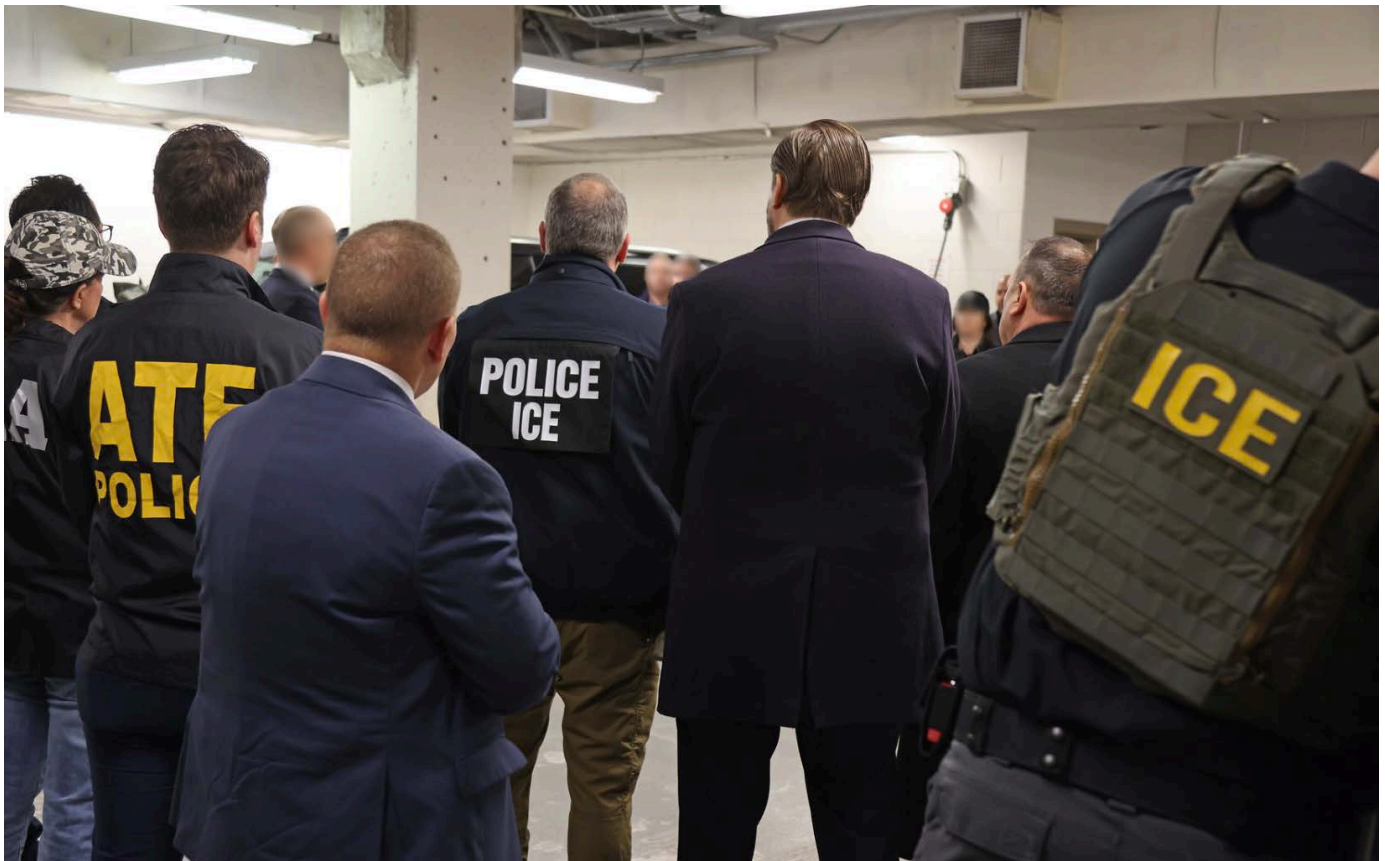


IMAGE: U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT.

ICE Block, an app that lets users warn others about the location of ICE officers, and which for a short while was the top of the social media App Store chart, does protect users' privacy and doesn't share your location with third parties, according to a recent analysis from a security researcher. ICE Block already claimed that it did not collect any data from the app; the analysis now corroborates that.

"It's not uploading your location at all, when you make a report that report isn't associated with your device in any way, and there are no third party services that it talks to or sends data to," Cooper Quintin, senior public interest technologist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), who analyzed the ICE Block app, told 404 Media.

ICE Block lets users report nearby sightings of ICE officials. The app launched in April, but skyrocketed in popularity after CNN covered the app in June. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) head Kritsi Noem then said that "we're working with the Department of Justice to see if we can prosecute [CNN] for that."

There is no indication that what ICE Block is doing is illegal, nor the coverage of the app. Its App Store page says "Stay informed about reported ICE sightings, within a 5 mile radius of your current location, in real-time while maintaining your privacy."

Joshua Aaron, ICE Block's developer, told 404 Media "there are no legal issues with the app. Multiple constitutional and criminal attorneys looked at it before it launched and all agreed this is protected under the First Amendment."

He added Quintin's analysis "was great because he confirmed everything we've been saying about the app. It is 100% anonymous and we are not collecting or storing any identifiable user information." Aaron declined to say how much the app was costing to run. He said Apple has not contacted him at all about the app and doesn't expect them to.

To analyze ICE Block, Quintin said he viewed its network traffic, which would show what data was being transferred or not, viewed logs, and looked up what software libraries were used in the app.

404 Media recently reported on a different app called FuckLAPD.com that uses facial recognition to reveal the identity of LAPD officers. The developer of that project also made ICEspy, which is designed to provide the name of ICE officials, but at the time the underlying dataset was out of date.

---

404 Media is an independent website whose work is written, reported, and owned by human journalists. Our intended audience is real people, not AI scrapers, bots, or a search algorithm. Become a paid subscriber [here](#) for access to all of our articles ad-free and bonus content.

---

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joseph is an award-winning investigative journalist focused on generating impact. His work has triggered hundreds of millions of dollars worth of fines, shut down tech companies, and much more.

[MORE FROM JOSEPH COX](#)

