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Facebook Shared User Data with 52 Tech Companies

It's no secret that Facebook shared user data with device and software makers as part of its partnerships. Now, however, the scope of those deals has become clearer. Facebook has responded to a House Energy & Commerce Committee request for data with a 747-page response detailing the social network's data sharing deals with other companies. All told, Facebook has shared user info with 52 firms, **including Chinese firms like Alibaba, Huawei, Lenovo and Oppo** -- some of these were already known. It has ended already partnerships with 38 of them (some due to companies ending relevant business, like HP/Palm and Inq), with seven more due to expire in July 2018 and one more in October. Facebook acknowledged that it gave 61 third-party app developers as much as six months of extra time to wind down their data collection practices after implementing tougher sharing controls in 2014, including Hinge and Spotify. Another five developers might have had access to "limited friends' data" through a beta test, but it didn't explain what that involved. The document comes roughly two weeks after Facebook gave Congress a 452-page set of answers [link] to questions Mark Zuckerberg didn't immediately answer during his testimony. It still doesn't explain everything, though. The Washington Post noted that Facebook didn't explain why it didn't audit apps like the "thisismydigital life" app from the Cambridge Analytica scandal, or whether or not it had considered charging a fee instead of displaying ads. It also passed on hundreds of questions California Representative Anna Eshoo had collected from users. This new batch of answers may be helpful, but it still won't satisfy everyone demanding to know the full extent of Facebook's data practices.