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Independent Studies and Mentorship

Mr. Green

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Research Assessment 4

Lyngaas, Sean. "Shibboleth Authentication Request - Gale." Apple Plans New Feature to Protect Journalists and Human Rights Workers

from Spyware., 6 July 2022, [go.gale.com/ps/retrieve.do?](https://go.gale.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=Too3&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&hitCount=202&searchType=TopicSearchForm¤tPosition=13&docId=GALE%7CA616582326&docType=Brief+article&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=AONE-Environmental-Science&prodId=AONE&pageNum=1&contentSet=GALE%7CA616582326&topicId=GALE%7CSCRQNS822836079&userGroupName=ryukyus&inPS=true)

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[Science&prodId=AONE&pageNum=1&contentSet=GALE%7CA616582326&topicId=GALE%7CSCRQNS82283](https://go.gale.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=Too3&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&hitCount=202&searchType=TopicSearchForm¤tPosition=13&docId=GALE%7CA616582326&docType=Brief+article&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=AONE-Environmental-Science&prodId=AONE&pageNum=1&contentSet=GALE%7CA616582326&topicId=GALE%7CSCRQNS822836079&userGroupName=ryukyus&inPS=true)

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Sean Lyngaas, a cybersecurity reporter, discusses the recent solution to Apple's ongoing cyber threats that users face. Although the author doesn't state an estimation of how many cyber threats have occurred, which would cause them to take action, they came up with a new feature on their devices called "Lockdown mode." This feature protects high-risk users, like journalists and human rights workers, from sophisticated spyware linked to human rights abuses by allowing users to easily block avenues of attack, such as email attachments and unsolicited FaceTime calls. Still, some trade-offs regarding certain features can't be used in Lockdown Mode.

Although Apple hasn't disclosed the exact number of customers targeted by spyware, it has notified users in an estimated 150 countries about potential targeting. Apple acknowledges and pits the global spyware problem against surveillance firms like NSO

Group. The company plans to reward security researchers who identify vulnerabilities in Lockdown Mode. Spyware has occasionally breached Apple devices, leading to critical updates. The spyware industry has been implicated in human rights abuses, leading to calls for action. Apple is also donating \$10 million to a fund supporting efforts to investigate and raise awareness of spyware. The Biden administration has been attempting to curb spyware proliferation, including adding NSO Group and Candiru to a Commerce Department list restricting US business with these firms. The spyware threat gained attention when State Department employees' iPhones were hacked using NSO Group's tools. NSO Group maintains that it sells its software only to authorized users for law enforcement and counterterrorism purposes.