

TikTok Maker Sued for 2.274 billion RMB for Copyright Infringement and Trade Secret Misappropriation in China

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On April 30, 2021, Meishe Technology (????) [announced](#) it has sued [Beijing ByteDance Technology Co., Ltd.](#), [Beijing Weibo Vision Technology Co., Ltd.](#) and affiliated entities for computer software copyright infringement and trade secret misappropriation relating to ByteDance's Douyin app (the Chinese version of TikTok) and other apps. Meishe is requesting a public apology and 2.274 billion RMB (~\$351 million USD) for damages and expenses. Meishe Technology was established in 2014 and provides mobile video, audio, and image processing, recognition, and deep learning, etc.

Meishe alleges that version 3.0 and later of Douyin released on November 1, 2018, copied video and audio editing and processing software code from Meishe Technology's copyrighted beauty photo software. Further, six other apps by Bytedance have traces of code plagiarism, many of which have the same function names and even misspelled code copied from Meishe source code.

Meishe states, "Video and audio editing and processing functions are one of the most basic and core functions of the Douyin app. Based on these functions, several apps such as Douyin have gained hundreds of millions of users and have been downloaded billions of times and obtained huge profits from infringement."

Meishe did not release a copy of the court filing or other information as of the time of publication.

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美摄科技近日已向法院以侵害计算机软件著作权及侵害技术秘密为由，正式起诉北京字节跳动科技有限公司、北京微播视界科技有限公司及多个关联公司，要求上述公司立即停止侵权行为、在自有媒体平台全量推送公开道歉，并赔偿经济损失及合理支出共计人民币22.74亿元。

经众多合作伙伴的提醒，我们对比发现，自2018年11月1日“抖音”3.0版本至今，其实现视音频编辑处理等功能的相关软件代码，大量抄袭自美摄科技享有著作权的相关美摄软件。而更令我们震惊的是，对比字节跳动旗下的其余6款APP“剪映”、“巨量创意”、“多闪”、“Faceu激萌”、“图虫”、“轻颜相机”，我们发现全部存在代码抄袭痕迹，其中多处函数名一致，甚至将美摄科技拼写错误的函数都原封不动抄袭照搬。

视音频编辑处理等功能是“抖音”APP最为基础、核心的功能之一，基于该功能，“抖音”等数款APP已经获得了数亿级的用户，下载量高达数十亿次，获得巨大的侵权获利。对于字节跳动这样一家以技术驱动的互联网科技巨头，旗下多款软件却严重侵犯美摄科技的知识产权，我们深感震惊与遗憾。

根据《中华人民共和国著作权法》、《反不正当竞争法》、《计算机软件保护条例》等相关法律、法规的规定，美摄科技已向法院提起诉讼，恳请法院依法判决，维护美摄科技的合法权益。

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