

Russia Threatens Facebook, Twitter With \$100K Fines

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Facebook and Twitter had been ordered to relocate all their servers storing Russians' data into Russia by Jan. 31. **Jenny Kane / AP / TASS**

Russia's communications watchdog [said](#) Friday it has launched fresh proceedings against Facebook and Twitter over their failure to comply with local data laws.

The social media giants "have not provided information on the localization of Russian users' database inside Russian servers on time," the watchdog, Roskomnadzor, said. Roskomnadzor had issued a Jan. 31 [deadline](#) for Facebook and Twitter to report their [compliance](#) with a law that requires all servers that store Russians' data to be relocated into Russia.

Related article: [Russia Opens Civil Proceedings Against Facebook, Twitter](#)

The social media giants could be forced to pay a fine ranging from 1 million rubles (approximately \$16,000) and 6 million rubles (\$94,000), it said.

Roskomnadzor said Friday it will file its complaint in Russian court in three days.

Under a new law imposing stiffer fines that President Vladimir Putin [signed](#) last month, fines for repeat offenses go up to 18 million rubles (almost \$290,000).

Russia's Communications Ministry has backed fines as more effective measures for enforcement than bans.

“You can bypass bans, but if the company works [in Russia], it’ll have to pay,” Deputy Communications Minister Alexei Volin [told](#) the state-run TASS news agency Thursday.

Russia blocked the professional networking website LinkedIn in 2016 under the data-localization legislation.

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