

TECHNOLOGY

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The Chinese company’s videogame division, Nuverse, was set up in 2019. A Nuverse booth at a German game fair.

ByteDance Looks to Sell Game Titles

By SHERRY QIN

TikTok’s parent company ByteDance is further scaling back its ambitions in the gaming industry and is in talks to sell game titles to several prospective buyers.

Chinese media outlet LatePost reported Monday that ByteDance’s gaming unit Nu-

verse is negotiating to sell games to Tencent.

A ByteDance spokesperson told The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday that negotiations with multiple potential buyers are continuing and Nuverse hasn’t completed any transaction with Tencent.

LatePost said that Nuverse wants to sell several game ti-

ties to Tencent, including “Crystal of Atlan” and “Earth: Revival.”

ByteDance set up Nuverse in 2019 to challenge gaming industry leaders such as Tencent and NetEase and has since spent billions of dollars on its efforts.

ByteDance in late November told senior managers at

its videogame unit to terminate games under development by December and laid off hundreds of employees at the division, the Journal previously reported.

ByteDance said it is restructuring its videogame business so it can focus on “long-term strategic growth areas.”

Videos Are Where X Sees Future

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tator Shelly Palmer, where she painted a positive picture.

Asked by Palmer about Musk’s dropping the F-bombs,

Yaccarino said that people should watch the whole interview. Saying she wanted to talk about why Musk had been frustrated, she accused activists of pressuring advertisers not to spend on the site.

“I might have said it a different way,” she said of Musk’s remark, bringing laughter from the audience.

Asked about working with Musk, Yaccarino compared it to being in an unscripted show.

“The best thing that I could

tell you is that I’m learning every day,” she said.

Asked why advertisers should put their ads on X given the risks around hateful content, Yaccarino said hate speech is a societal issue that every platform faces. She said X has ramped up its efforts to combat antisemitism, especially after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israel—including by suspending violating accounts and expanding the fact-checking feature Commu-

nity Notes.

Her appearance at CES, broadcast on X, was her first publicly livestreamed interview since an uncomfortable appearance at the Code tech conference in September. During that event, Yaccarino dodged questions about X’s user metrics and seemed rattled when asked to respond to criticism from Yoel Roth, Twitter’s former head of trust and safety, who had spoken earlier that day.

Microsoft Faces EU Scrutiny on OpenAI

By MAURO ORRU

The European Union is considering whether to launch a review of Microsoft’s investment in ChatGPT maker OpenAI under the bloc’s merger regulations, a month after the U.K. said it was also weighing whether the tech partnership could have an impact on competition.

The European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, made the disclosure on Tuesday as it sought input from interested parties on the level of competition in virtual worlds and generative artificial intelligence, and feedback on what competition law can do to keep these new markets competitive.

“The European Commission is checking whether Microsoft’s investment in OpenAI might be reviewable under the EU Merger Regulation,” the commission said.

Last month, Britain’s Competition and Markets Authority said it was seeking feedback on whether the Microsoft-OpenAI partnership should be considered a de-

facto merger, in a preliminary step that could lead to a formal investigation.

The two regulatory moves in Europe come in the wake of the abrupt firing and reinstatement of OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman late last year, along with the formation of a new board. In the boardroom shake-up, Microsoft gained a nonvoting observer position.

Microsoft said that, since 2019, its partnership with OpenAI had fostered more AI innovation and competition, while preserving independence for both companies. “The only thing that has changed recently is that Microsoft will now have a nonvoting observer on OpenAI’s board,” a Microsoft spokesperson said.

OpenAI didn’t respond to a request for comment.

OpenAI started gaining traction in late 2022 after the release of its ChatGPT chatbot. Microsoft entered the picture as a partner for OpenAI, agreeing to invest \$13 billion in the company in exchange for what is essentially a 49% stake in the earnings of its for-profit arm.

Watch a Video: The ‘\$40 Pencil’ That Almost Went Extinct



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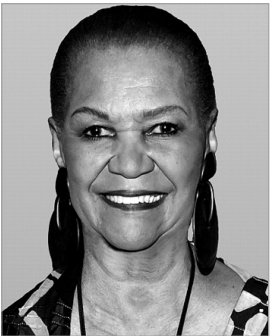
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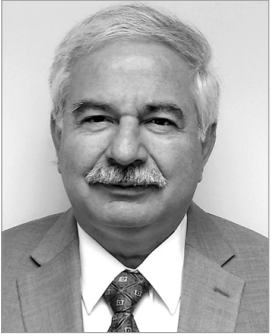
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