

Huawei's Track Record of Risk and Scandal is a Pot that Has Been Boiling for Years.

For years, Huawei has raised a variety of risk concerns for its partners and customers in areas ranging from cyber espionage to intellectual property theft to allegations of corruption and non-transparency.

This visual provides a summary depiction of just how many such events have been recorded over the past 20 years. Although each new allegation is notable, they are only the latest examples of a long pattern of behavior.

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Ties to China's State Security Services
 These are instances of Huawei being linked by reputable reports and/or government documents to China's intelligence and military apparatus.
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Enabling Espionage, Creating Cyber Vulnerability
 These are cases where Huawei has faced allegations of engaging in, or facilitating, espionage activity.
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Accusations of IP Theft or Misappropriation
 Huawei has a long history of facing allegations of IP theft or ignoring IP rights from companies and individuals, from both competitors and prospective partners.
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Unethical Business Practices
 These are cases where Huawei has been accused of engaging in a range of unethical trade practices, ranging from corruption to non-transparency to unfair labor practices.



Huawei Allegedly Stashed Competitor Equipment in Secure Basement for Reverse Engineering

2002-2003 | STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN



A WSJ report in May 2019 described a Huawei practice of poaching laid-off Ericsson employees and stashing foreign-made equipment in an electronically secure basement to be dissected and reverse engineered. It was also alleged that Huawei had secret chambers in other Huawei offices around the world that were off-limits to American employees.

Huawei Accused of Being Beneficiary of 10-Year Hack of Nortel

2002-2012 | OTTAWA, CANADA



A senior systems security advisor at Nortel stated his belief that Chinese state actors, likely for Huawei's ultimate benefit, had spent 10 years hacking into Nortel's system and stealing information.

Huawei Found Guilty of Stealing Robot Phone Testing Technology from T-Mobile

2009-2011 | SEATTLE, USA



Huawei is alleged to have stolen robotic phone testing technology from a T-Mobile lab and used the information to improve their own version. Huawei was found guilty in a civil suit brought by T-Mobile.

Huawei Implicated in Alleged, Data Transfers from African Union HQ to Chinese Servers

2012-2017 | ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



In 2017, it was discovered by the African Union that, since the inauguration of its new Chinese-built headquarters, its servers (primarily supplied by Huawei), had been transferring data nightly to China. Hidden microphones were also discovered in desks and walls.

Huawei Allegedly Offered Bonuses to Employees for IP Theft

2013 | PLANO, TEXAS



In an indictment against Huawei unsealed in January 2019, U.S. officials alleged that, since at least 2013, Huawei systematically offered bonuses to employees who were successful in the theft of confidential information from other companies.

Huawei Engineers Accused of Hacking Mobile Tower in India

FEBRUARY 5, 2014 | ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA



After being awarded a contract to modernize a national communications network, Huawei was accused of hacking a mobile tower. The Indian Parliament launched an investigatory probe into the incident.

Pentagon Finds Backdoor in Huawei Products

NOVEMBER 29, 2016 | WASHINGTON, DC



A report from the U.S. Department of Defense revealed that Boyusec, a Chinese cyber security company, was secretly working with the Chinese Ministry of State Security (MSS) on cyber espionage operations. Boyusec was also found to be working with Huawei on the development of software that would allow MSS to collect private data and control personal devices.

Report that a Number of Huawei Employees Have Worked for Chinese State Security

JULY 5, 2019 | BEIJING, CHINA



Christopher Balding and the Henry Jackson Society released a paper that documented the large number of Huawei employees linked to or having previous, simultaneous and subsequent employment at Chinese state security services.