

The company Josh Harder worked at invested in a social media platform that was criticized for being a hub for seekers of child pornography. A news investigation found children as young as nine were groomed on the platform.

## BACKUP:

**Josh Harder said that “...he invests in and works with small businesses to create growth and job opportunities...” as a Vice President at the tech investment firm Bessemer Venture Partners (BVP):**

*Editor’s Note: [Bessemer Venture Partners](#) is a venture capital firm that invests in enterprise, consumer and healthcare technology.*

- **Harder was a venture capitalist who worked for the tech investment firm Bessemer Venture Partners.** “As investors and tech executives mull what to do next, venture capitalist Josh Harder has opted for a new career path: He's running for Congress. Harder, who spent the past three years at prominent tech investment firm Bessemer Venture Partners, recently moved back to his hometown of Turlock, California, 100 miles southeast of San Francisco, in California's Central Valley.” (Ari Levy, “Taking on Trump: Silicon Valley investor returns home to run for Congress,” [CNBC](#), 6/12/17)
  - **In 2014, Harder began working at Bessemer Venture Partners.** “Josh Harder, a Vice President in Bessemer’s San Francisco office, joined the firm in 2014. He focuses on investments in the software, mobile, and telecommunications industry. Previously, Josh worked at Accion Venture Lab, an investment fund focused on financial services for the poor in emerging markets, and at Ruma, a mobile banking startup in Indonesia. Josh started his career at the Boston Consulting Group and has also worked in the mango and tea industries in Kenya and Rwanda. Josh holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a BA from Stanford University.” (“Josh Harder,” [Bessemer Venture Partners](#), Archived 7/9/17)
  - **In 2016, Bessemer Venture Partners announced that it had promoted Josh Harder to vice president.** “Bessemer Venture Partners (BVP), a \$4 billion global venture capital firm, today announced Josh Harder’s promotion to vice president. In this role, Josh will continue to work closely with BVP’s investing partners to identify entrepreneurial opportunities in mobile, telecom, infrastructure and enterprise applications. Originally based in BVP’s New York office, Josh joined the firm in 2014 with a focus on telecom, mobile and enterprise. Josh recently moved to the San Francisco office, where he will continue to build out the firm’s investments and help identify new roadmap opportunities and areas ripe for growth.” (PR Newswire, “Bessemer Venture Partners Promotes Josh Harder to Vice President,” [Press Release](#), 9/21/16)
- **Harder claimed on his campaign website that as a Vice President at Bessemer Venture Partners, “he invests in and works with small businesses to create growth and job opportunities.”** “He is now a vice president with Bessemer Venture Partners, where he invests in and works with small businesses to create growth and job opportunities.” (Harder for Congress, “[About Josh](#),” Archived 8/16/17)

- At Bessemer Venture Partners, Harder focused “...on investments in the software, mobile, and telecommunications industry.” “Josh Harder, a Vice President in Bessemer’s San Francisco office, joined the firm in 2014. He focuses on investments in the software, mobile, and telecommunications industry. Previously, Josh worked at Accion Venture Lab, an investment fund focused on financial services for the poor in emerging markets, and at Ruma, a mobile banking startup in Indonesia. Josh started his career at the Boston Consulting Group and has also worked in the mango and tea industries in Kenya and Rwanda. Josh holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a BA from Stanford University.” (“Josh Harder,” [Bessemer Venture Partners](#), Archived 7/9/17)

**Bessemer Venture Partners invested in Periscope, a company that has been criticized for being a “...a hub for seekers of child pornography” and not taking strong enough measures to stop the abuse:**

- Bessemer Venture Partners invested in Periscope on April 29, 2014. (Periscope,” [Bessemer Venture Partners](#), Accessed 10/8/18)



INVESTMENT DATE:	April 29, 2014
EXIT YEAR:	2015
RELATED STRATEGY:	Mobile Video Consumer
GEOGRAPHY:	North America - West
WEBSITE:	<a href="http://www.periscope.tv">http://www.periscope.tv</a>

(Periscope,” [Bessemer Venture Partners](#), Accessed 10/8/18)

- In December 2017, Gizmodo reported that Periscope, Twitter’s video streaming app, had “...gained an insidious second life as a hub for seekers of child pornography.” “As 2017 wheezes to its merciful end and the social media titans reckon with growing backlash, Twitter’s largely forgotten video streaming app Periscope has gained an insidious second life as a hub for seekers of child pornography. Gizmodo’s search of the platform over the course of a single afternoon uncovered dozens of accounts—50 in total—which appeared to be soliciting sexualized images of minors, or in the worst cases, depicting it themselves.” (Bryan Menegus, “Users Looking For Child Pornography Are Gathering On Periscope, Twitter’s Forgotten Video Service,” [Gizmodo](#), 12/15/17)
  - Despite Periscope’s claim to have “...zero tolerance for any form of child sexual exploitation...,” Gizmodo located avatars of at least 50 accounts broadcasting

**child pornography.** “Though Periscope claims to have ‘zero tolerance for any form of child sexual exploitation,’ the images used as avatars by some users tell another story. Of the 50 accounts found by Gizmodo, nine displayed the genitalia of prepubescent girls, and six more depicted sexual penetration featuring what appeared to be minors.” (Bryan Menegus, “Users Looking For Child Pornography Are Gathering On Periscope, Twitter’s Forgotten Video Service,” [Gizmodo](#), 12/15/17)

**A news investigation found that children as young as nine were being groomed on the platform:**

- **On July 21, 2017, BBC aired an investigation into how Periscope users were exploiting children on the livestream app.** (“Young Children Groomed On Live Streaming App Periscope,” [BBC](#), 7/21/17)
  - **According to the investigation, “Children as young as nine are being groomed on the live streaming app Periscope...”** “Children as young as nine are being groomed on the live streaming app Periscope, a BBC investigation has found.” (“Young Children Groomed On Live Streaming App Periscope,” [BBC](#), 7/21/17)