



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Dec 10, 2022 · 15 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1601540081281474560](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1601540081281474560)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll explain why Elon Musk's ([@elonmusk](#)) "balancing act" of purging just one side will increase the spread of fake news and disinformation. First of all I'd like to say that biased, systematic blacklisting of content that Twitter conducted was **WRONG**.

1/14



Censorship is almost always bad and there are much better ways to fight dis- and misinformation (labels, semi-objective, external fact-checkers, etc.).

But based on recent events, it seems that Musk is just swinging this same system to the opposite direction.

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In his Nov 18, 2022 tweet he said that "Negative/hate tweets will be max deboosted & demonetized", yet there are no definitions or clear rules what is considered hate speech.

Elon also promised to reinstate accounts that were previously suspended.

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For example, on 23th Nov 2022, Twitter declared that it no longer enforces the COVID-19 misleading info policy:



At the beginning of the pandemic, troll farms spread disinformation that was actually dangerous and potentially lethal.

4/14

Lately several American neo-nazi accounts have been reinstated, including anti-semitic group Evropa's former leader, Patrick Casey:

**Leah McElrath** @leahmcelrath · Follow

Replying to @leahmcelrath

Patrick Casey reports his Twitter account was also reinstated.

He is a former leader of the American neo-Nazi group Identity Evropa, which originated the white supremacist slogan "You will not replace us" chanted (w an antisemitic modification) at the 2017 Unite the Right rally.

*Screenshot of tweet from Patrick Casey (11/28/22):*

I'm still in disbelief. Never thought this would happen. I was banned in mid 2019 for nothing – I called an antifa account who was doxing a friend of mine a "freak" and without warning lost my ability to use Twitter. Very glad to see that things have changed, though!

When used by regime loyalists, terms like "white nationalist," "white supremacist," "Nazi," etc. are designed to dehumanize the person in question.

In a society where these buzzwords are deemed the ultimate evil, who would dare speak out against injustices against such types...

6:18 PM · 11/28/22 · Twitter Web

7:39 PM · Dec 2, 2022

153 Reply Copy link

Read 5 replies

Another neo-nazi, Daily Stormer's editor Andrew Anglin also regained access to their Twitter profile.

5/14

**Andrew Anglin** @WorldWarWang · 10h

Trying to find my friends. I lost them in 2013.

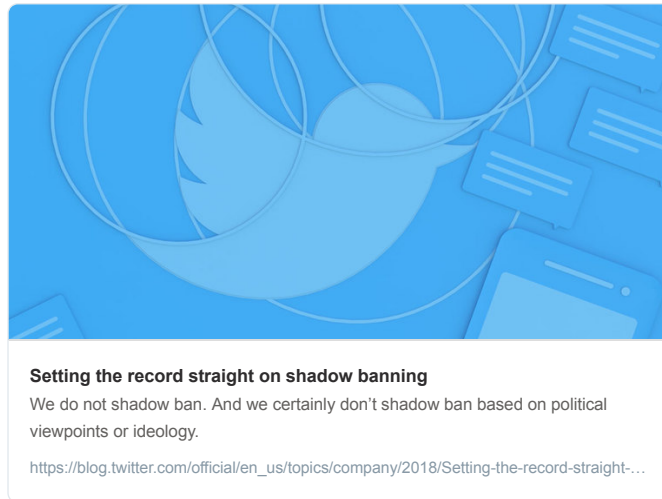
69 159 520

**Andrew Anglin** @WorldWarWang · 10h

I deleted all the old stuff that was on this account. I will strictly follow whatever the rules are. If I get banned, it's not for anything I said, it's just because I'm me.

20 54 371

The leaks from the Twitter Files has been advertised as a conspiracy among Twitter's executives where they secretly decide what content gets seen, but Twitter has had a FAQ about these issues since '18:



Elon has also participated in the discussion about the Twitter Files. He has attacked the NYT (@nytimes), calling the outlet "an unregistered lobbying firm for far left politicians". He also said that Alex Stamos (@alexstamos) operates a "propaganda platform".

7/14

**Clay Travis** @ClayTravis · Dec 3  
There is not one single article about @elonmusk or the @twitter email release last night on @nytimes app this morning.

6,001   18.1K   126.1K

**Elon Musk** @elonmusk  
Replying to @ClayTravis @Twitter and @nytimes  
That is because The New York Times has become, for all intents and purposes, an unregistered lobbying firm for far left politicians

8:38 PM · Dec 3, 2022

**Elon Musk** @elonmusk · Dec 9  
Replying to @DavidSacks  
As @bariweiss clearly describes, the rules were enforced against the right, but not against the left

5,151   14.4K   77.3K

**Alex Stamos** @alexstamos · Dec 9  
Replying to @elonmusk @DavidSacks and @bariweiss  
How about you provide the transparency necessary for external groups to verify that statement?

**Alex Stamos** @alexstamos · Dec 3  
Let's steelman @elonmusk's concern about political influence on the content decisions of major platforms, and come up with practical steps Musk could take to set a new standard:

- 1) Commit to releasing all communications by global political actors related to content moderation.

Show this thread

220   214   3,484

**Elon Musk** @elonmusk  
Replying to @alexstamos @DavidSacks and @bariweiss  
You operate a propaganda platform

5:54 AM · Dec 9, 2022

**Renew Democracy Initiative** @Renew\_Democracy · Nov 28  
@elonmusk is attacking our board one by one. First @Kasparov63; now @AVindman. The thing they both have in common: bravery & a desire to do the right thing. We're proud to stand by them & hope Elon goes after dictators with the same zeal he has for RDI board members.

2,422   6,377   25.9K


**Elon Musk** @elonmusk  
Replying to @Renew\_Democracy @Kasparov63 and @AVindman  
Your anti-dictator stance is as controversial as it is brave. From whence cometh your 💰?

8:49 AM · Nov 28, 2022

3,355 Retweets   546 Quote Tweets   35.2K Likes

Tweet your reply   Reply

**Renew Democracy Initiative** @Renew\_Democracy · Nov 28  
Replying to @elonmusk @Kasparov63 and @AVindman  
Elon, don't project your insecurity about your Twitter financing on us. We're a 501c3 so our finances are public, but drop us an email & we'll shoot you our IRS Return. If you'd like to help us fight dictators & support democracy in Ukraine and worldwide:

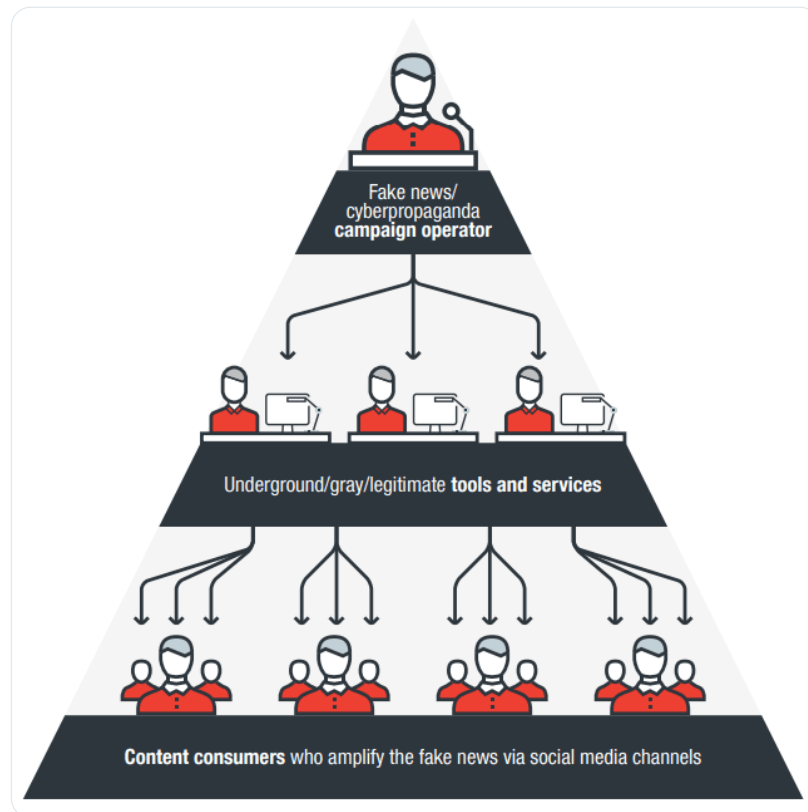


rdi.org  
Warmth Campaign - Renew Democracy Initiative  
Give Ukraine the Gift of Warmth Donate Now As the war in Ukraine rages on and the temperature starts to drop, Russia continues to ...

32   285   1,685

In 2018, Science published a paper by Vosoughi, Roy, & Aral, titled "The spread of true and false news online". The paper concluded that "false news stories are 70 percent more likely to be retweeted than true stories are" and that ...

8/14



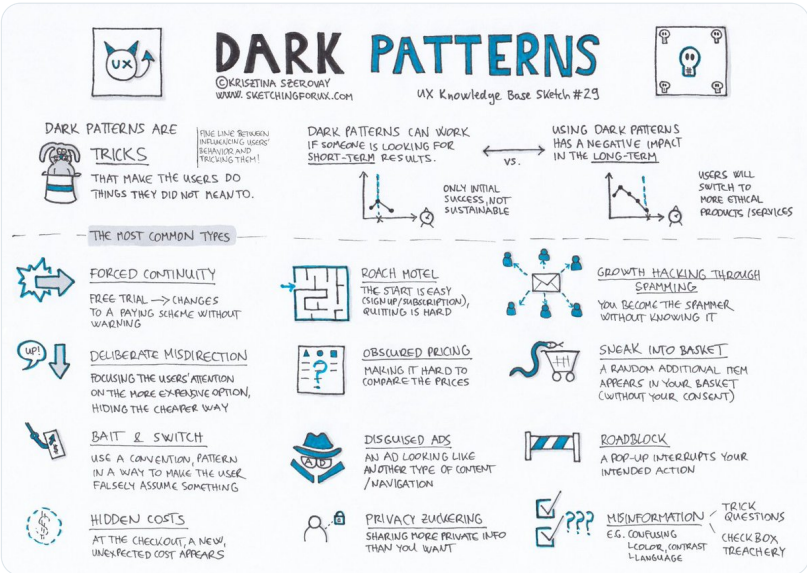
... "It also takes true stories about six times as long to reach 1,500 people as it does for false stories to reach the same number of people." Allowing fake news spread freely will slowly drown the platform and more and more factual news stay hidden.

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aap9559>

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I also consider Twitter's latest design choices part of the "dark pattern design" group. These design choices "trick" users to specific actions on the platform or "nudge" their thinking to a specific direction.

10/14



Manipulation of the information flow, meaning what tweets Twitter shows us, can manipulate our thinking and "nudge" our worldview slowly to a specific direction.

How does Twitter shape our worldview if most of the content is actually disinformation?

11/14

Choice architecture	Attribute	Description
Modifying the design space	Asymmetric	Unequal burdens on choices available to the user
	Restrictive	Eliminate certain choices that should be available to users
	Disparate Treatment	Disadvantage and treat one group of users differently from another
	Covert	Hiding the influence mechanism from users
Manipulating the information flow	Deceptive	Induce false beliefs in users either through affirmative misstatements, misleading statements, or omissions
	Information Hiding	Obscure or delay the presentation of necessary information to users
	Information Promotion	Promoting engaging content regardless of the validity or safety of the information

I have discussed this type of dark pattern design in my 2022 publication, "Facebook's Dark Pattern Design, Public Relations and Internal Work Culture":

<https://doi.org/10.34624/jdmi.v5i12.28378>

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Musk has also criticized the "woke culture" taking place in the Western society. We have to remember that this culture war has been fueled by Russian disinformation and propaganda throughout the years, topics ranging from LGBT+ rights to movements like BLM.

13/14



To conclude: With the recent changes, we can pretty much expect Twitter to be the same as before, but the pendulum just swings from the left to the right.

And it will also contain MUCH more disinformation than before.

14/14

In addition, disinformation spreads most effectively through "super spreaders":



Many of these accounts have now been reinstated.

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