



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Nov 7, 2024 · 18 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1854502263844209109](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1854502263844209109)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll discuss foreign malign influence operations during the 2024 US elections. As in 2016 and 2020, these recent elections were also a target of massive disinformation and hacking campaigns originating mostly from Russia and Iran.

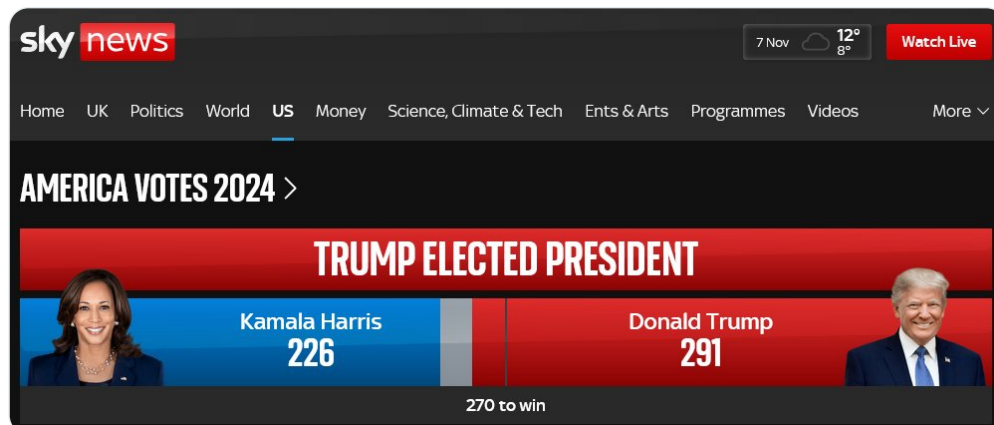
1/17



First of all, my opinion is that these influence operations alone didn't affect the elections so much, that they actually made a difference.

Unlike in 2016, Trump's win over Harris was clear and these short-term campaigns didn't really change that much this time.

2/17



Yet, many of these online campaigns attacked both Harris and Walz on various social media platforms. Especially Walz became a big target after his nomination, and many Russian efforts attempted to defame him.

3/17

US elections 2024

Russia behind viral disinformation targeting Tim Walz, says US official

Announcement is first time federal authorities have confirmed connection

Associated Press
Wed 23 Oct 2024 14:18 CEST

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Tim Walz at a campaign rally in Madison, Wisconsin, on 22 October. Photograph: Kyle Mazza/NurPhoto/REX/Shutterstock

Many of these fake stories came from Russian propaganda group Storm-1516, an offshoot of late Yevgeny Prigozhin's infamous Internet Research Agency. The group was discovered in 2023 by Darren Linvill's team of media forensics researchers at Clemson University.

4/17

This was first discovered by Alex Liberty, a researcher who [tracks the activity of Russia's propaganda networks and who agrees with Linvill's assertion that the deepfake video bears all the hallmarks of a Storm-1516 campaign.](#)

"We believe that it might be a coordinated campaign in [an] attempt to bring numerous false accusations of the same nature against Tim Walz through different channels and in different formats in order to bring an image of legitimacy to the narrative," Liberty tells WIRED.

The group has a long history of publishing deepfakes and fake whistleblower videos, and the false sexual abuse claim of Tim Walz came from them. Storm-1516 was also behind the fake hit-and-run story about Kamala Harris. Trump's allies have also spread these claims online,...

5/17

DAVID GILBERT POLITICS OCT 21, 2024 2:16 PM

Russian Propaganda Unit Appears to Be Behind Spread of False Tim Walz Sexual Abuse Claims

The Russian-aligned network Storm-1516 has a long history of posting fake whistleblower videos—including deepfakes—to push Kremlin talking points.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: WIRED STAFF; GETTY IMAGES

US elections 2024

This article is more than 1 month old

Russia propaganda group behind fake Kamala Harris hit-and-run story, says Microsoft

Microsoft researchers found that the group created a video, paid an actor to appear as the alleged victim, and spread the claim through a fake website

Reuters

Wed 18 Sep 2024 02:50 CEST

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Microsoft researchers accused Russia of being behind a viral fake news story that claimed Kamala Harris has been involved in a hit and run incident in 2011. Photograph: Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images

The claims peddled by the actors and false primary sources in these videos fall apart upon basic inspection. Experts quickly identified Olesya, the Ukrainian troll, as an AI-generated fake. The 2011 hit-and-run never happened, according to San Francisco police, and KBSF-TV, the local news station behind the claims, does not exist.

And the companies that own the yachts told reporters they hadn't been sold. But the story spread anyway, and this time, far – from small-time right-wing influencers to members of Congress, including Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, now the Republican vice presidential nominee.



...including people like the Pizzagate promoter Jack Posobiec & far-right podcaster Candace Owens. Another large X account, “Black Insurrectionist” (who’s actually a white dude named Jason G. Palmer) also spread fake e-mails about this story, eventually nuking their account.

A MAGA Conspiracist Is Trying to Launch a Lurid Lie About Tim Walz—and It's Working

The false claim has taken off on Twitter and is being repeated by at least one major news aggregator.



ANNA MERLAN
Senior Reporter
[Bio](#)



Angelina Katsanis/TNS/Zuma

The 'Black Insurrectionist' social media persona was actually white. The deception did not stop there

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | NATIONWIDE
PUBLISHED 1:40 PM ET OCT. 25, 2024

"Black Insurrectionist," the anonymous social media persona behind some of the most widely circulated conspiracy theories about the 2024 election, can be traced to a man from upstate New York. He's white.

What You Need To Know

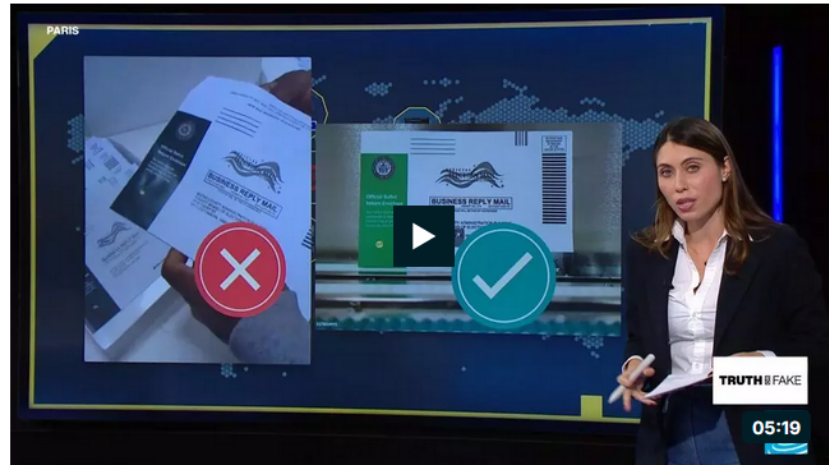
- "Black Insurrectionist," the anonymous social media persona behind some of the most widely circulated conspiracy theories about Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Tim Walz, can be traced to a white man from upstate New York
- He has a history of drug abuse and a long list of former business partners who have accused him of fraud
- Jason G. Palmer acknowledges he was involved with the account but denies that he is the author of it
- The speed and scale of disinformation has been an animating force in the presidential campaign, with the potential to affect the outcome in a close election

Another fake video showing a man searching through mail-in ballots from Pennsylvania and ripping up those with a vote for Trump was first posted in Oct 2024 from an account that promotes the QAnon conspiracy theory and has been linked to Storm-1516.

HOME > SHOWS > TRUTH OR FAKE

Russia behind viral fake video of ripped-up Trump ballots in Pennsylvania

AMERICAS



TRUTH OR FAKE © FRANCE 24

Issued on: 29/10/2024 - 22:37 | 05:19 min



This smear campaign against Harris/Walz originates from John Mark Dougan, a former Florida cop and now Moscow resident who runs a massive network of AI-generated fake news websites. Dougan's also behind most of the anti-Zelenskyy campaigns online:



Pekka Kallioniemi
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American propagandist, Florida Man and ex-cop, John "Badwolf" Mark Dougan (@RealBadWolf). He's best-known for his battle against the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and for his propaganda work for the Kremlin.

1/21



10:52 AM · Apr 19, 2023



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Another Kremlin operation before the elections was of course the case of TENET Media, a Tennessee-based company that received 10 million dollars from Russia through various shell companies. This money was used to pay YouTubers for producing anti-Ukraine content.

9/17



Carsten Reisinger/Shutterstock @watchTENET/YouTube (Licensed)

Media start-up from Benny Johnson, Tim Pool, and Dave Rubin was secret Russian influence campaign, indictment alleges

Famous pro-Trump commentators may have been unwittingly duped.



David Covucci

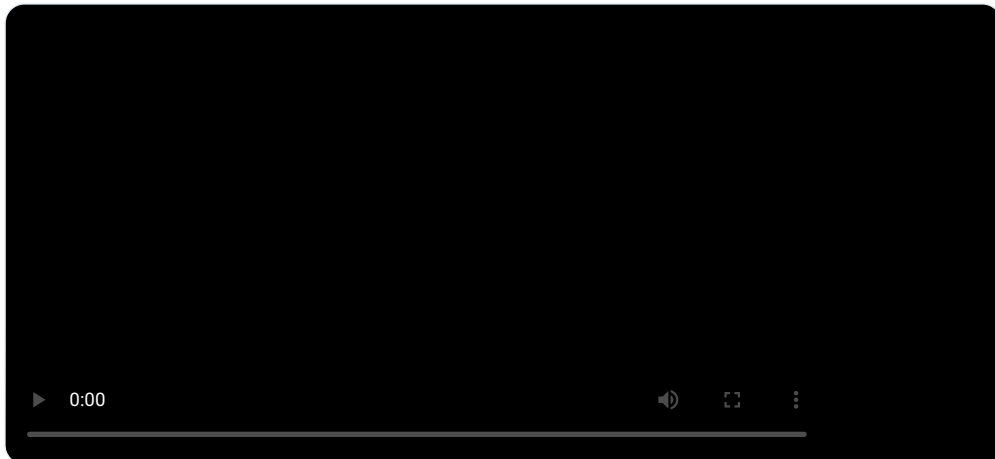
Tech

Posted on Sep 4, 2024

Updated on Sep 4, 2024, 6:01 pm CDT

TENET Media paid big influencers like Tim Pool and Benny Johnson to produce and spread pro-Kremlin, anti-Ukraine content through their YouTube channels. All creators involved in this scheme claimed they didn't know where the money came from.

10/17



In addition, there were several AI-driven botnets amplifying pro-Trump messages on X. Allegedly, many of these networks were shut down AFTER the elections, resulting in a loss of several hundreds or even thousands of followers, as reported by many large X accounts.

11/17

DW IN FOCUS Middle East US election Ukraine Latest videos Latest


POLITICS | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AI-driven bot network tried to help Trump win US election

Sarah Steffen
11/05/2024

Ahead of the US presidential election, a large bot network drummed up support for Donald Trump on social media platform X. The researcher who found the network called it "big, but crude."

f x ↕



A researcher has uncovered AI-driven bots on X in support of Trump
image: Christoph Hardt/Panama Pictures/picture alliance

CNN reported on another incident in which American social media influencer @Alphafox78 was paid around 100 USD per post by a Russian, pro-Kremlin propagandist named Semen "AussieCossack" Boikov. Incidentally, Foxy has been quiet during the last few days.

12/17

CNN Politics

A pro-Trump influencer says a Russian agent paid him \$100 to post a fake voter fraud video. It wasn't the first time

By Isabel Rosales and Paul P. Murphy, CNN
Updated 10:05 PM EST, Mon November 4, 2024

U.S. and are able to vote! They show several Georgia driver's licenses featuring the same photo and claim to have voted for Kamala Harris in two different counties so far: Gwinnett and Fulton.

This is insane!! Imagine how many others are doing this!!

Can someone from Gwinnett county and Fulton County, Georgia please verify this?!


Combs has paid Emhoff \$500,000 for this information.

The story was leaked by... previously worked with Emhoff at DLA Piper.

Diddy destroyed some documents pointing at... people involved in his criminal activities, Harris had personal interest in destroying these documents.

Diddy and Emhoff came on the same crowd of... entertainment industry workers involved... and criminal activi...

Harris... Emhoff received \$500,000 for...
...ing with "Diddy" Combs on...
... up... force raids in March 2024



From Alphafox78

← **AlphaFox**  
71.6K posts



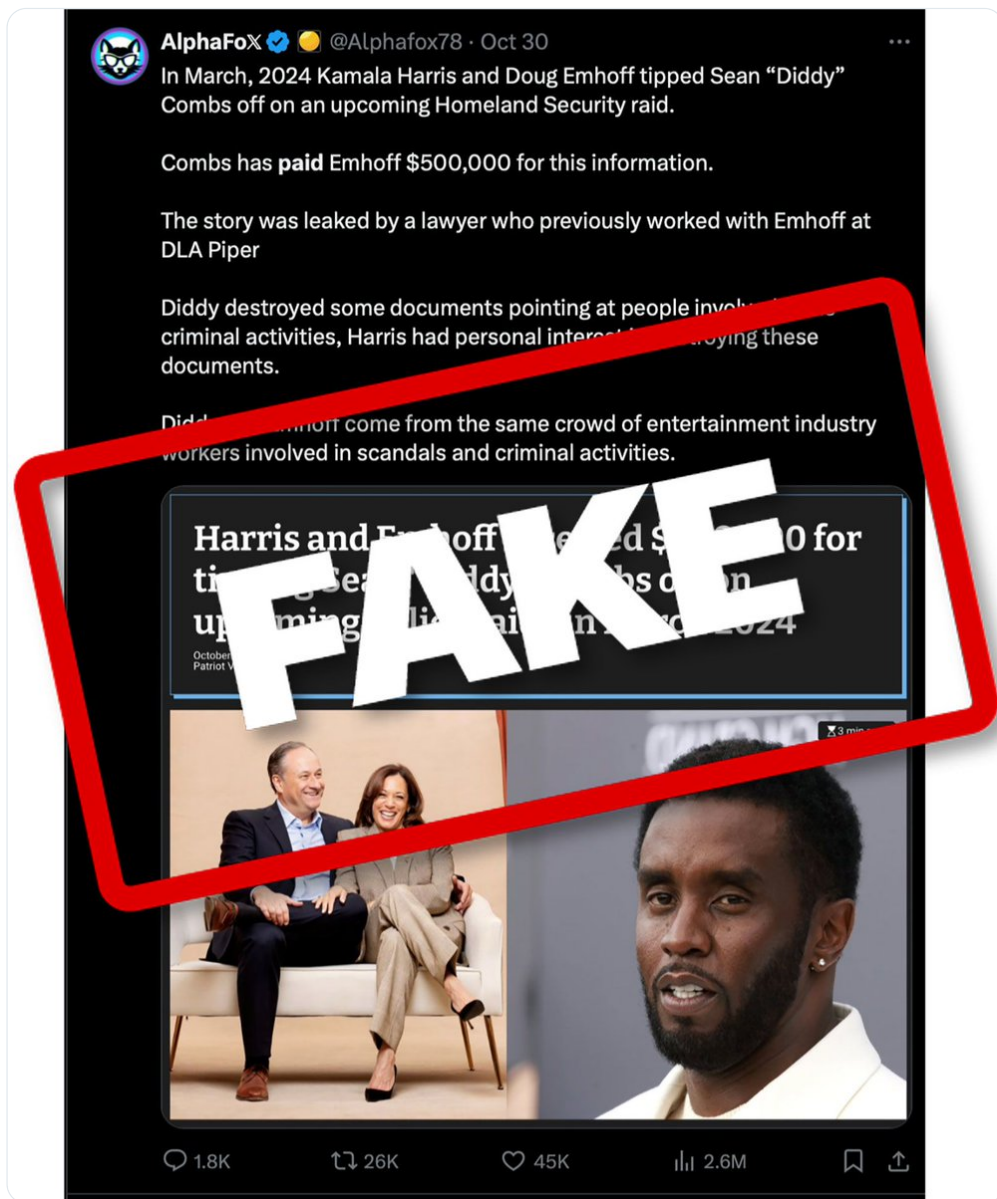
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⌘ FoX   
(Sometimes Satire)

 USA  AlphaFox78.com  Joined April 2009

3,767 Following **650.7K** Followers **33** Subscriptions



Both campaigns were also targeted by Iranian hackers. They managed to hack several e-mail accounts of the Trump campaign, but unlike in 2016, most media outlets refused to publish any of the hacked information. Eventually, @kenklippenstein published the JD Vance dossier.

US charges three Iranians with hacking Trump campaign

27 September 2024

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Kayla Epstein and Mike Wendling
Senior Journalists



Donald Trump campaigns in North Carolina.

Opinion
US elections 2024

This article is more than 1 month old

The leaked dossier on JD Vance is revealing in all the things it doesn't say *Moira Donegan*



Tue 1 Oct 2024 12:00 CEST

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The 271-page file overlooks almost everything that average voters, especially women, might find distasteful about Vance



Like in 2016, spoiler candidate Jill Stein was also heavily promoted, this time to Muslim voters, by both domestic MAGA Republicans and foreign influence campaigns.

You can read more about Mrs. Stein here:

14/17



Of course, these operations are just the tip of the iceberg. There are hundreds if not thousands of similar but smaller-scale campaigns that attempt to influence the US voters. X did absolutely nothing to stop them, and anyone drawn to conspiracy theories could even...

15/17



#DISINFORMATION

LEAKED FILES FROM PUTIN'S TROLL FACTORY: HOW RUSSIA MANIPULATED EUROPEAN ELECTIONS



Leaked internal documents from a Kremlin-controlled propaganda center reveal how a well-coordinated Russian campaign supported far-right parties in the European Parliament elections — and planted disinformation across social media platforms to undermine Ukraine.

Martin Laine (Delfi Estonia),
Anastasiia Morozova (VSquare,
FRONTSTORY.PL)



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RUSSIA

Billionaire Elon Musk Shared Memes Made by FSB Propaganda Machine

EGG ON YOUR FACE

A journalistic investigation has revealed that the content was generated by a Russian propaganda machine set up to sow discord over the war in Ukraine.



Will Neal
Reporter

Published Sep. 17 2024 1:04PM EDT



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Joe Biden Br on Kamala H Amid Blame C

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POLITICS

Here's What From Trump

TECH NEWS

Elon Musk has boosted the 'pizzagate' conspiracy theory five times in the last two weeks

A new iteration of "pizzagate" has focused on unfounded claims that journalists were part of the conspiracy theory.



...question the platform's owners motives for this. Like in 2016 and 2020, foreign influence operations mostly attacked Trump's adversaries, so there is little to no incentive to try to weed them out before the elections.



WANTED BY THE FBI

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT AN OFFENSE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES; FALSE REGISTRATION OF A DOMAIN NAME; AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING

RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN 2016 U.S. ELECTIONS



Boris Alekseyevich Antonov



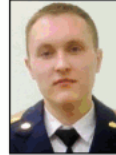
Dmitriy Sergeyevech Badin



Anatoliy Sergeyevech Kovalev



Nikolay Yuryevich Kozachek



Aleksey Viktorovich Lukashev



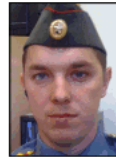
Artem Andreyevich Malyshev



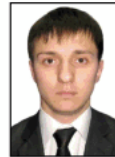
Sergey Aleksandrovich Morgachev



Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk



Aleksey Aleksandrovich Potemkin



Ivan Sergeyevech Yermakov



Pavel Vyacheslavovich Yershov

DETAILS

On July 13, 2018, a federal grand jury sitting in the District of Columbia returned an indictment against 12 Russian military intelligence officers for their alleged roles in interfering with the 2016 United States (U.S.) elections. The indictment charges 11 defendants, Boris Alekseyevich Antonov, Dmitriy Sergeyevech Badin, Nikolay Yuryevich Kozachek, Aleksey Viktorovich Lukashev, Artem Andreyevich Malyshev, Sergey Aleksandrovich Morgachev, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk, Aleksey Aleksandrovich Potemkin, Ivan Sergeyevech Yermakov, Pavel Vyacheslavovich Yershov, and Viktor Borisovich Netyksho, with a computer hacking conspiracy involving gaining unauthorized access into the computers of U.S. persons and entities involved in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, stealing documents from those computers, and staging releases of the stolen documents to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The indictment also charges these defendants with aggravated identity theft, false registration of a domain name, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Two defendants, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk and Anatoliy Sergeyevech Kovalev, are charged with a separate conspiracy to commit computer crimes, relating to hacking into the computers of U.S. persons and entities responsible for the administration of 2016 U.S. elections, such as state boards of elections, secretaries of state, and U.S. companies that supplied software and other technology related to the administration of U.S. elections. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. issued a federal arrest warrant for each of these defendants upon the grand jury's return of the indictment.


THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS, AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RISK, AND AN ESCAPE RISK

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

www.fbi.gov

Russia Trying to Stoke U.S. Racial Tensions Before Election, Officials Say

Russian intelligence services are trying to incite violence by white supremacist groups to sow chaos in the United States, American intelligence officials said.

 Share full article



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President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia personally directed a vast cyberattack in 2016 aimed at helping deliver the American election to Donald J. Trump. Sputnik, via Reuters



By **Julian E. Barnes and Adam Goldman**

Published March 10, 2020 Updated March 16, 2021

“To the victor belong the spoils”, as they say, and none of this matters anymore now that Musk & Trump managed to win the race. If Trump decides to follow the Project 2025 path, there would be even less money and resources to fight against online disinformation.



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EXPERT BRIEF

Project 2025's Plan for Cybersecurity Agency Threatens Election Security

Gutting the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will leave our democracy more vulnerable to attack from malign actors at home and abroad.

 Derek Triller

 Lawrence Norden



My book titled "Vatnik Soup - The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" has been published, you can order it here:

<https://kleart.dk/webshop/p/vatnik-soup>

Or if you prefer Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Vatnik-Soup-Ultimate-Russian-Disinformation/dp/8792750400>

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