



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jan 9, 2025 · 23 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1877348997012025392](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll discuss the absolute state of X in January 2025. Since its acquisition by Elon Musk, this platform has rapidly transformed into his personal political tool and a breeding ground for hate speech and disinformation.

1/22

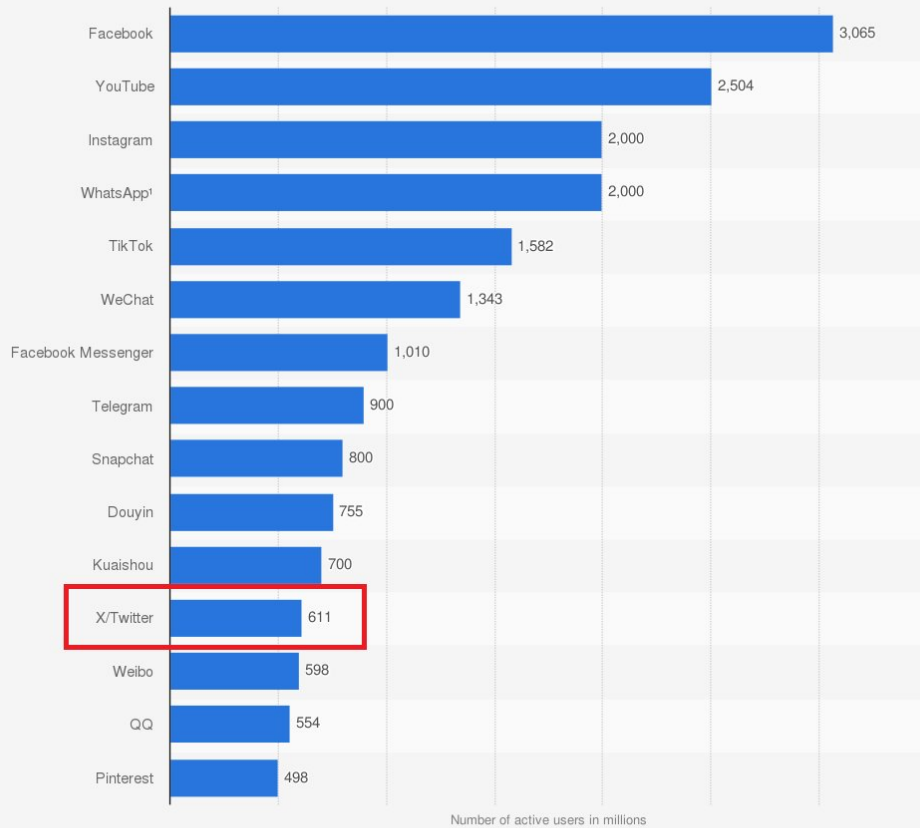


Not everyone is following this shitshow as closely as I am, so I thought it would be good to write a summary of all the changes that have happened on this forum and outside of it. These changes have drastically changed how the platform operates and who gets "a voice" here.

2/22



Most popular social networks worldwide as of April 2024, by number of monthly active users (in millions)





Sources
We Are Social; DataReportal; Meltwater
© Statista 2024

Additional Information:
Worldwide; DataReportal; April 2024; social networks and messenger/chat app/voip included; figures for TikTok does not i

Elon's team has been tweaking the algorithm many times after the takeover. One of these tweaks happened already around Nov 2022, when the platform heavily suppressed the

visibility of pro-Ukraine accounts. This change was then noticed & reported by many pro-Ukraine accounts.



3/22

 **Pekka Kallioniemi**  [@P_Kallioniemi](#)

This theory is supported by my own data, showing that engagement dropped by around 40%. This phenomenon was also supported by other, much more popular people: twitter.com/JuliaDavisNews...

8/14

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Engagements ⓘ	45,384	Engagements ⓘ	4,324
New followers ⓘ	106	New followers ⓘ	11

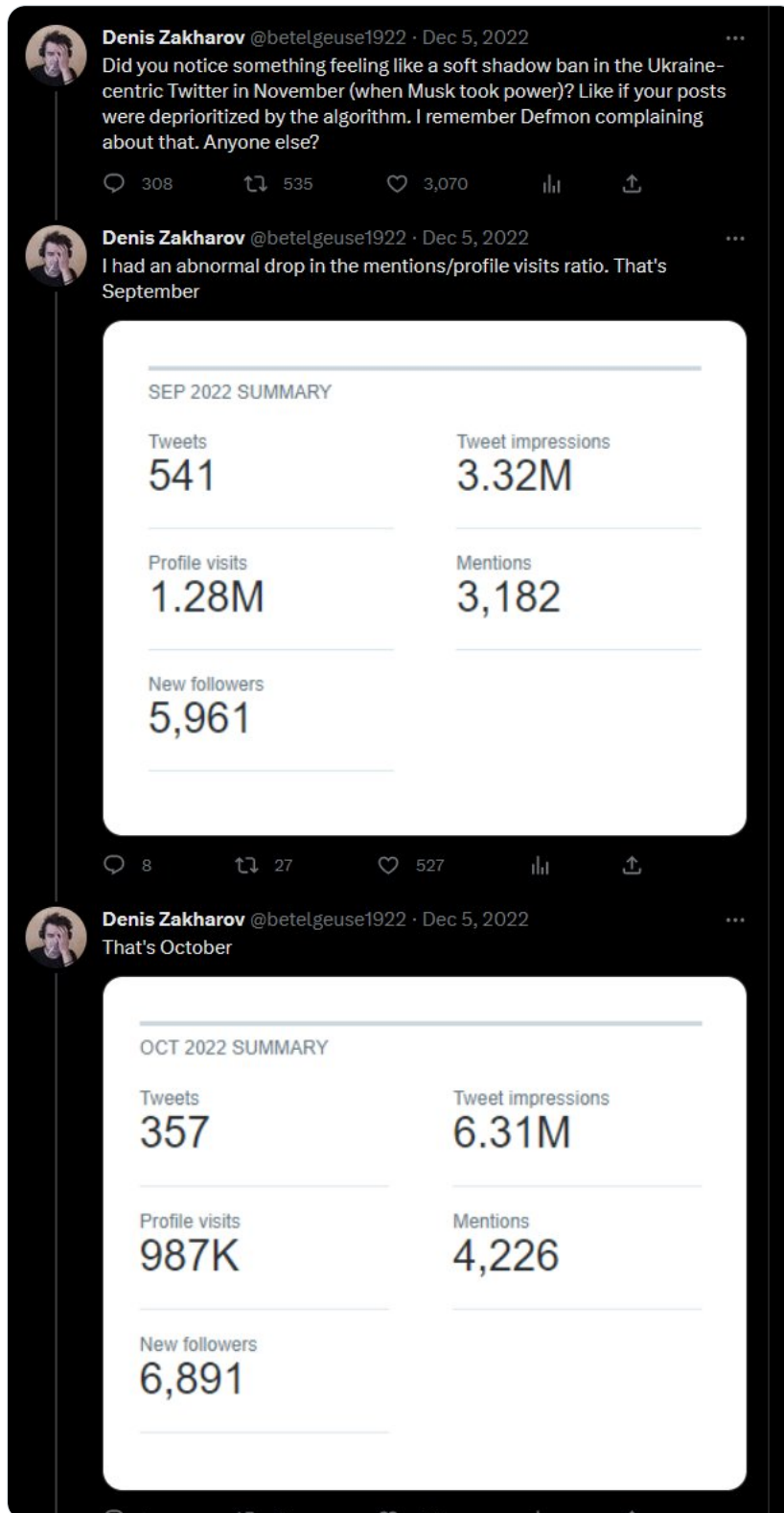
 **Julia Davis**  [@JuliaDavisNews](#) · Dec 5, 2022

Replying to [@betelgeuse1922](#)

Mine also went down, basically cut in half.

Metric	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Tweets	560	395
Tweet impressions	159M	82.3M
Profile visits	17.3M	9.73M
Mentions	144K	81.5K
New followers	44.2K	10.8K

10:19 AM · Dec 26, 2022 · 3,370 Views



Under the former ownership, repeated ToS violations resulted in permanent suspensions. However, since Elon promised a “free speech” platform, he now minimizes the visibility of accounts he disfavors instead.

Musk says granting 'amnesty' to suspended Twitter accounts



FILE - The Twitter splash page is seen on a digital device, Monday, April 25, 2022, in San Diego. New Twitter owner Elon Musk says he is granting "amnesty" for suspended accounts, which online safety experts predict will spur a rise in harassment, hate speech and misinformation. The billionaire's announcement Thursday, Nov. 24, came after he asked in a poll posted to his timeline to vote on reinstatements for accounts that have not "broken the law or engaged in egregious spam." (AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

Published 7:42 PM GMT+2, November 25, 2022

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — New Twitter owner Elon Musk said Thursday that he is granting "amnesty" for suspended accounts, which online safety experts predict will spur a rise in harassment, hate speech and misinformation.

Laura Loomer calls out Elon Musk for removing her blue checkmark on X questioning free speech

Laura Loomer raises concerns over free speech on X after losing her verification badge and subscriptions.

Pop Culture & Art | December 27, 2024



Courtesy: AFP

Recently, there was a heated debate about (primarily Indian) visa workers coming to the US. Elon passionately defended the visa program, which many viewed as contradicting the “America First” ideology popular among the MAGA crowd.

Elon has since deleted most of these posts.

5/22



Elon Musk  

@elonmusk

Subscribe

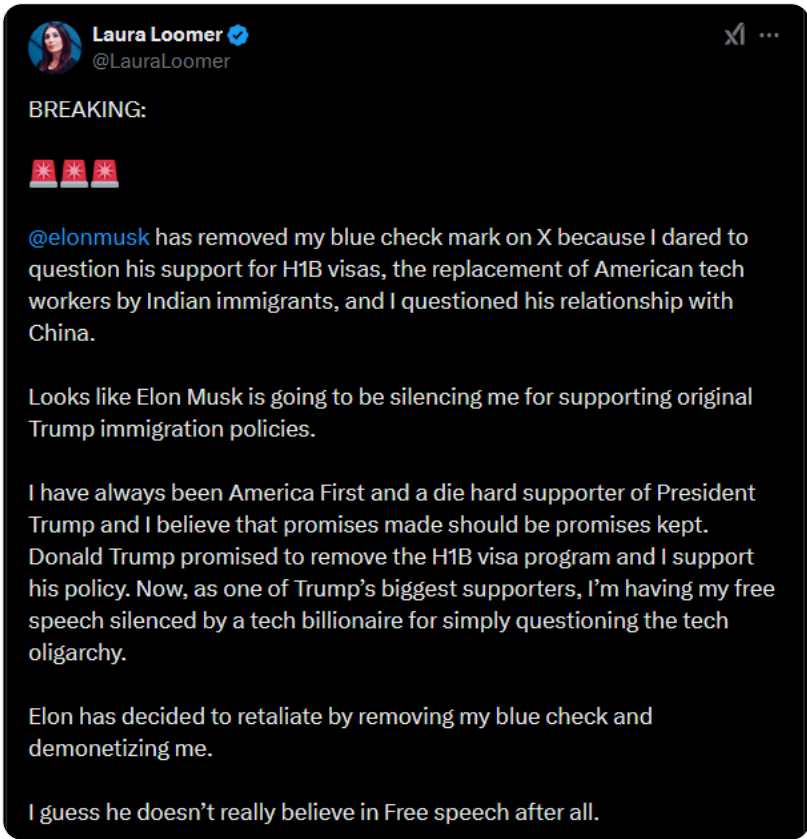
Replying to [@stevenmackeyman](#)

The reason I'm in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla and hundreds of other companies that made America strong is because of H1B.

Take a big step back and FUCK YOURSELF in the face. I will go to war on this issue the likes of which you cannot possibly comprehend.

5:22 · 28 Dec 24 · **13.3M** Views

Many users and groups, like [@lauraloomer](#) and [@DrLoupis](#), criticized the program and Musk. Elon retaliated by removing their verification, which caused these accounts to lose ad share revenue and experience a significant drop in visibility on X.



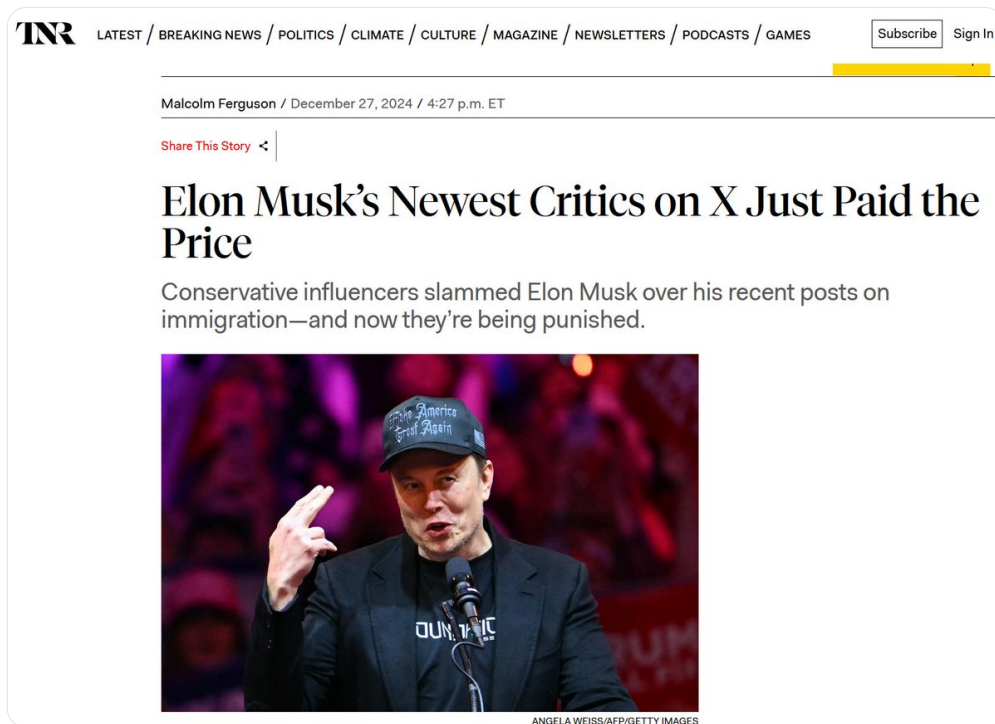
Laura Loomer calls out Elon Musk for removing her blue checkmark on X questioning free speech

Laura Loomer raises concerns over free speech on X after losing her verification badge and subscriptions.

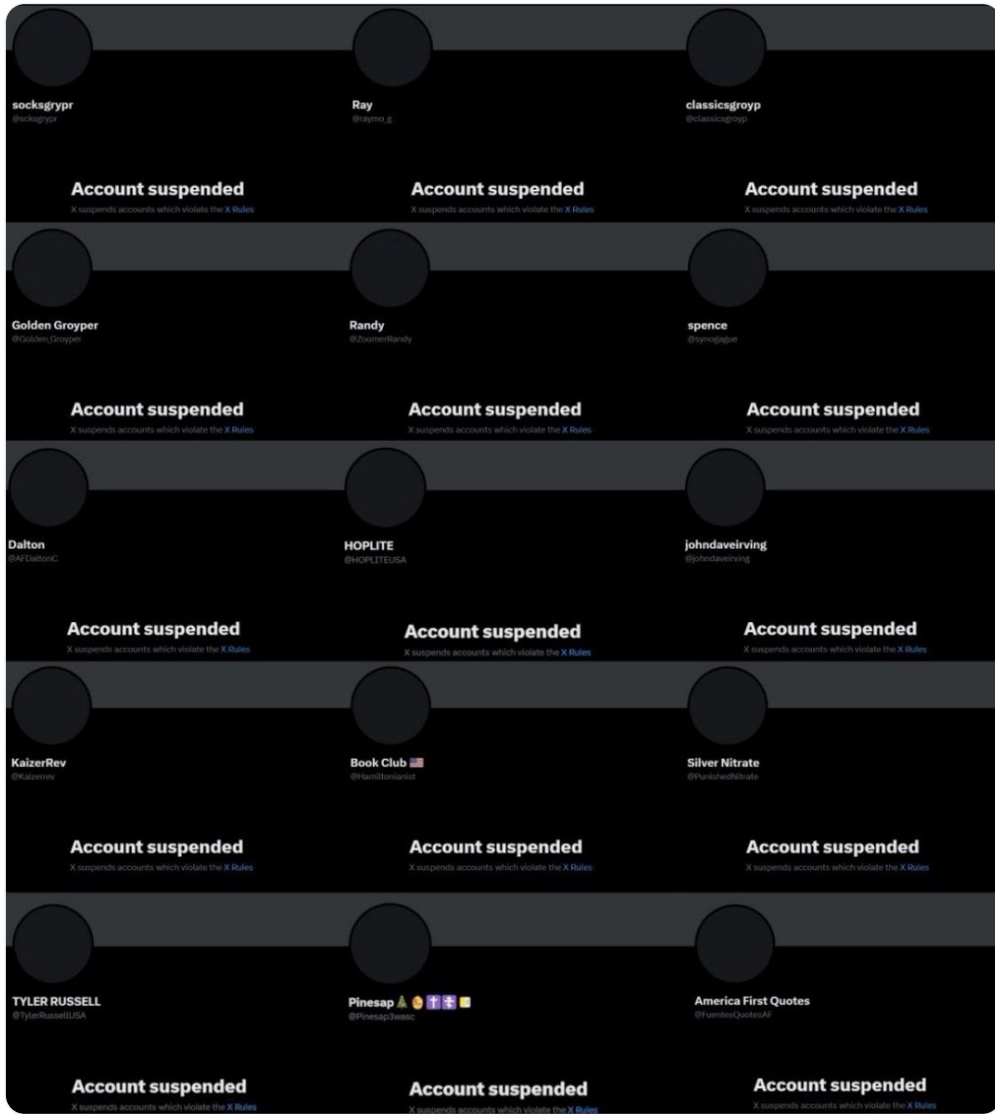
Pop Culture & Art | December 27, 2024








Courtesy: AFP








Additionally, a white nationalist trolling group called the Groypers was suspended, allegedly for criticizing Musk's businesses. Musk later stated, "My tolerance for subterds is limited," suggesting further actions may follow.



 **Elon Musk**   Subscribe  






I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means

7:12 PM · Apr 25, 2022

 **Elon Musk**   Subscribe  

My tolerance for subtards is limited

6:54 AM · Dec 27, 2024 · 1.8M Views

 3.2K  1.5K  8.6K  898 

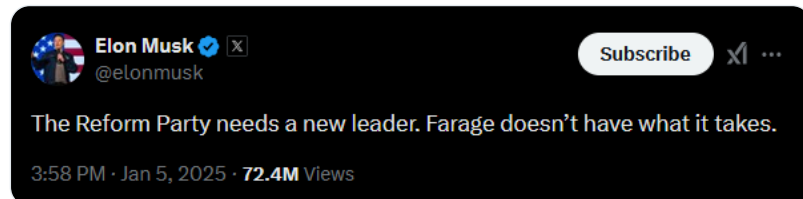
Recently, Musk has interfered in European politics, promoting Reform UK, a right-wing, pro-Kremlin, populist party led by Nigel Farage. He also defended Tommy Robinson, a hooligan and career criminal who spread false information about a Syrian boy.

8/22



After Farage refused to support Robinson, Musk called for a leadership change in Reform UK. This was echoed by his bootlicker @stillgray, who had previously praised Farage. Musk also granted Reform UK the gray checkmark reserved for government entities, while neglecting...

9/22





Ian Miles Cheong
@stillgray

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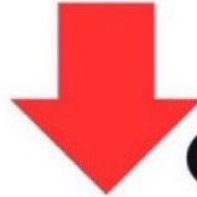
Nigel Farage is England’s last hope. Support this man.



Ian Miles Cheong
@stillgray

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Nigel Farage should be in charge of the UK right now tbh.



Elon Musk
@elonmusk

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The Reform Party needs a new leader. Farage doesn’t have what it takes.



Ian Miles Cheong
@stillgray

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Spineless and self-serving. Nigel Farage isn’t the leader Britain needs.

...to give it to major UK parties like @UKLabour and @Conservatives. According to the Financial Times, Musk has even “discussed with allies how Sir Keir Starmer could be removed as UK prime minister before the next general election.”


← **Reform UK** 
10.5K posts



Reform UK 
@reformparty_uk
Britain Needs Reform. Party led by @Nigel_Farage 
United Kingdom reformparty.uk/join  Joined February 2019
23 Following 465.9K Followers

 **Elon Musk**  
@elonmusk Subscribe 

America should liberate the people of Britain from their tyrannical government

Yes	61%
No 	39%

865 531 votes • 17 hours 9 minutes left

Elon Musk [+ Add to myFT](#)

Musk examines how to oust Starmer as UK prime minister before next election

Technology billionaire interested in building support for another political party, notably Reform UK



Elon Musk, the chief executive of Tesla, SpaceX and X, has taken a keen interest in British politics over the past six months © Gonzalo Fuentes/Reuters

Elon Musk has privately discussed with allies how Sir Keir Starmer could be removed as UK prime minister before the next general election, according to people briefed on the matter.

[Musk](#), the world's richest man and key confidant of US president-elect Donald Trump, is probing how he and his right-wing allies can destabilise the UK Labour government beyond the aggressive posts he has issued on his social media platform X, the people said.

"His view is that western civilisation itself is threatened," one of the people added.

Musk has sought information about whether it might be possible to build support for alternative British political movements — notably the rightwing populist Reform UK party — to force a change of prime minister before the next election, according to associates.

Musk's primary attack against the Starmer government has involved the Rotherham grooming scandal, in which Muslim gangs groomed and raped young girls.

At the same time, Musk has defended Andrew Tate, a Muslim groomer and an alleged sex trafficker and rapist.

11/22



The image shows a screenshot of a tweet on the X platform. At the top, the user profile for Elon Musk is visible, including his name, verified status, and handle @elonmusk. To the right of the profile is a 'Follow' button and a share icon. The tweet text reads 'True words'. Below this is a retweeted tweet from Andrew Tate, also verified, with handle @Cobratate, posted 9 hours ago. The retweeted text says: 'There is an Islamic crime problem within the UK. This is an objective fact. This should outrage Muslims....' followed by a 'Show more' link. At the bottom of the tweet, it shows the time '10:40 PM', the date 'Jan 7, 2025', and '3M Views'.



Andrew Tate   @Cobratate · 1h

We are back.

Join us [@votebruv](#)

We're taking Britain back to greatness.

The revolution will be televised.

Thanks bruv  [@elonmusk](#)



 588

 812

 8.1K

 291K



Elon Musk  

[@elonmusk](#)

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Not sure why it was suspended, but seems to be fixed now

11:20 PM · 1/6/25 · 1.7K Views

1.4. "Continuous sexual acts with a minor" - without being able to establish the number of material acts, an offense provided for and punished by art. 220 para. 1 and 4 lit. e Criminal Code with the application of art. 35 Criminal Code, consisting in the fact that, the named ANDREW TATE, starting from [REDACTED] 2020, being at the home address in [REDACTED] county or in the complex in [REDACTED], called [REDACTED] - where he had rented an apartment to the victim, repeatedly engaged in sexual intercourse and anal and oral sexual acts with the named [REDACTED] - Personal Identification Number [REDACTED], knowing that she was 15 years old;



Musk was also enraged over sentencing of a Brit who was jailed for 7½ years for encouraging mobs to attack mosques and for carrying a knife.

For some reason, he had no comment over the death penalty of Saudi activist or 35-year sentence of Saudi woman for tweeting.

12/22


Crime

'Key architect' of riots after Southport attack jailed for seven and a half years

Andrew McIntyre, who pleaded guilty to encouraging violent disorder, was motivated by racial hatred, says judge

Mark Brown *North of England correspondent*
Mon 6 Jan 2025 19.40 CET

[Share](#)



Andrew McIntyre set up a Telegram channel called 'Southport Wake Up' in the aftermath of the knife attack in Southport on 29 July. Photograph: Merseyside police/PA

A man described as a leading organiser of last summer's riots has been jailed for seven and a half years for using social media to encourage people to take part in the disorder.

Andrew McIntyre, 39, set up a Telegram channel called "Southport Wake Up" in the immediate aftermath of the knife attack in the Merseyside town on 29 July last year, Liverpool crown court was told.



Elon Musk @elonmusk · Jan 7



Over 7 years prison for social media posts ...

Whoever gave that sentence deserves prison themselves.

Thank God that America has freedom of speech in the Constitution!

<https://x.com/radiogenoa/sta/radiogenoa/status/1876339534306374030...>



RadioGenoa @RadioGenoa · Jan 7

Taxi driver, Andrew McIntyre, jailed for seven and a half years over Southport social media posts. This is Keir Starmer's England.



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August 29, 2023 12:00AM EDT

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Saudi Arabia: Man Sentenced to Death for Tweets

Peaceful Criticism on Social Media Brings Death Penalty



(Beirut) – A [Saudi](#) court has sentenced a man to death based solely on his Twitter, and YouTube activity, Human Rights Watch said today. Saudi authorities should quash the verdict, which is an escalation of the Saudi government's crackdown on freedom of expression and peaceful political dissent in the country.

On July 10, 2023, the Specialized Criminal Court, Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism tribunal, convicted Muhammad al-Ghamdi, 54, a retired Saudi teacher, of several criminal offenses related solely to his peaceful expression online. The court sentenced him to death, using his tweets, retweets, and YouTube activity as the evidence against him.



Muhammad al-Ghamdi © Private

Saudi woman given 34-year prison sentence for using Twitter

Salma al-Shehab, a Leeds University student, was charged with following and retweeting dissidents and activists

Stephanie
Kirchgaessner

Tue 16 Aug 2022 22.24 BST

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Salma al-Shehab, 34, was accused of 'assisting those who seek to cause public unrest and destabilise civil and national security by following their Twitter accounts'. Photograph: democracy now

A Saudi student at Leeds University who had returned home to the kingdom for a holiday has been sentenced to 34 years in prison for having a Twitter account and for following and retweeting dissidents and activists.

The sentencing by Saudi's special terrorist court was handed down weeks after the US president Joe Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia, which human rights activists had warned could embolden the kingdom to escalate its crackdown on dissidents and other pro-democracy activists.

The case also marks the latest example of how the crown prince Mohammed bin Salman has targeted Twitter users in his campaign of repression, while simultaneously controlling a major indirect stake in the US social media company through Saudi's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF).

Reform UK isn't the only pro-Kremlin party Musk supports in Europe. Recently, he began advertising AfD, a far-right German party with ties to the Kremlin and Russian intelligence. On Jan 9, 2025, Musk will host a Spaces event with the party's leader, @Alice_Weidel.






Elon Musk  
@elonmusk

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Only the AfD can save Germany



Naomi Seibt   @SeibtNaomi · 11h

 **CHANCELLOR FRONTRUNNER SLAMS MUSK & MILEI !**

The presumptive next chancellor Friedrich Merz (CDU) is horrified by the idea that Germany should follow Elon Musk's and Javier Milei's example.

...

[Show more](#)



2:24



At the same time, Musk is bending the knee to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, India and recently Brazil. As a matter of fact, Musk's X has complied to more government requests to take down content than Twitter ever did.

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TECH & INNOVATION

Elon Musk criticizes censorship, but his X grants more government requests than Twitter did

His social media platform took action on 71% of legal requests between January and June, according to a new report

By **William Gavin** Published September 25, 2024     



Elon Musk bought Twitter in 2022. Photo: Omar Marques (Getty Images)

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George R.R. Martin Short Story Adaptation Looks Like AI Slop In First Trailer
Ethan Gach Yesterday

VOA

October 08, 2024, 6:49 PM
UPDATE October 09, 2024, 12:21 PM
By Associated Press

Elon Musk's X back in Brazil after suspension, having complied with all judicial demands

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FILE - The app icon for social media platform X is seen on a smartphone in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 18, 2024. Following a monthslong dispute a Brazilian Supreme Court judge has authorized the restoration of X's service in Brazil.

ELON MUSK

Twitter's Elon Musk Defends Decision To Limit Tweets in Turkey During Tight Presidential Election

Critics say the social media platform allowed the Turkish government to silence criticism.

BY JACK MCCORDICK

MAY 14, 2023



DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

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TECH & INNOVATION

Free speech warrior Elon Musk's Twitter is muting Indian voices worldwide

In a BBC interview, Elon Musk claimed that India's "extremely strict" social media rules were the reason for censoring tweets critical of the Modi government



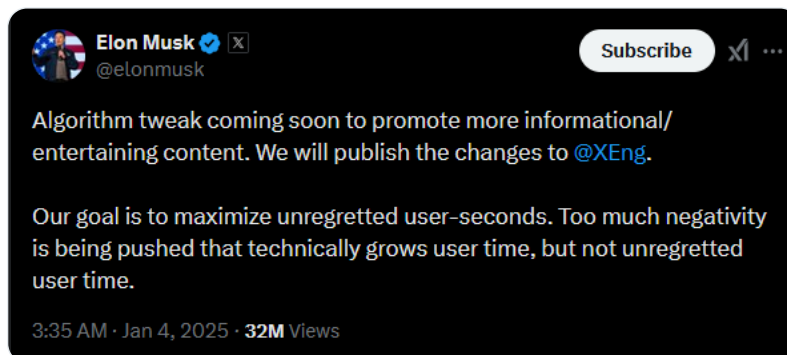
Photo: DADO RUVIC (Reuters)





By **Mimansa Verma** Published April 14, 2023

Twitter Facebook YouTube Email Link

Musk recently announced that in the near future there will be an algorithm update, and that the platform will prioritize “positive” and “informative” content. The goal of this change is probably to bury any kind of criticism towards Musk and the Trump administration,...

15/22



Elon Musk  
@elonmusk Subscribe  

Algorithm tweak coming soon to promote more informational/entertaining content. We will publish the changes to [@XEng](#).

Our goal is to maximize unregretted user-seconds. Too much negativity is being pushed that technically grows user time, but not unregretted user time.

3:35 AM · Jan 4, 2025 · 32M Views



...and feed the users memes, AI slop and gossip instead. Naturally, this doesn't affect him or his allies, as due to their massive network and everyone seeing Elon's posts their messaging is always prioritized and promoted on the platform.

16/22



It's evident that X is no longer a level playing field. It's controlled by a power-hungry oligarch who prioritizes the interests of a small group of allies and political actors aligned with his worldview.

17/22



To protect “free speech”, Musk changed the ToS so that X users can only file lawsuits against the platform in a federal district in North Texas. This is called “forum shopping”, or the practice of filing suits in a venue more likely to provide a favorable outcome.

18/22



Implications of the Texas court selection

Legal analysts interpret Musk's choice as a tactic to shelter X from critical scrutiny, particularly as the platform faces concerns about misinformation and perceived conservative biases. Steve Vladeck, a law professor at Georgetown, noted that 10 out of 11 judges in the Northern District of Texas were appointed by Republican presidents, a factor that could influence rulings to Musk's advantage.

Musk's political associations, including his support for US President-elect Donald Trump, add another layer to this approach. A Trump presidency could reduce regulatory pressures on X, although state attorneys general and other entities may still pursue litigation against the media platform.

Looking back, it's clear that Musk's purchase of X was not a business move but a media takeover. While X may continue losing money, Musk's businesses will benefit from tax cuts and deals under the Trump administration.

19/22



The image is a screenshot of a news article from Euro News. The article title is "X has lost 75% of its value since Elon Musk took over". The main image shows a portrait of Elon Musk with a red line graph overlaid, representing a sharp decline in value. The article is by Finnegan Belleau and was published on 01/10/2024 at 18:19 GMT+2. The Euro News logo and navigation menu are visible at the top.

europa news. Latest Europe World EU Policy Business Travel Euroviews Next Green Health

Next > Tech News

X has lost 75% of its value since Elon Musk took over



Copyright Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP + Canva

By Finnegan Belleau
Published on 01/10/2024 - 18:19 GMT+2

When forming authoritarian governments, one of the first things to do is to take over the media. With Zuck also removing the guardrails, we will see the rise of the "wild west" social media platforms, where almost anything goes. This is highly beneficial for Trump.

20/22

With Help from Saudi Arabia, Elon Musk Takes Full Control over Twitter

© November 1, 2022

👁 1,312



Last week, the world's richest man, Elon Musk, declared that he has officially taken control over Twitter in a \$44bn (£38.1bn) deal.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Meta is ending its fact-checking program in favor of a 'community notes' system similar to X's

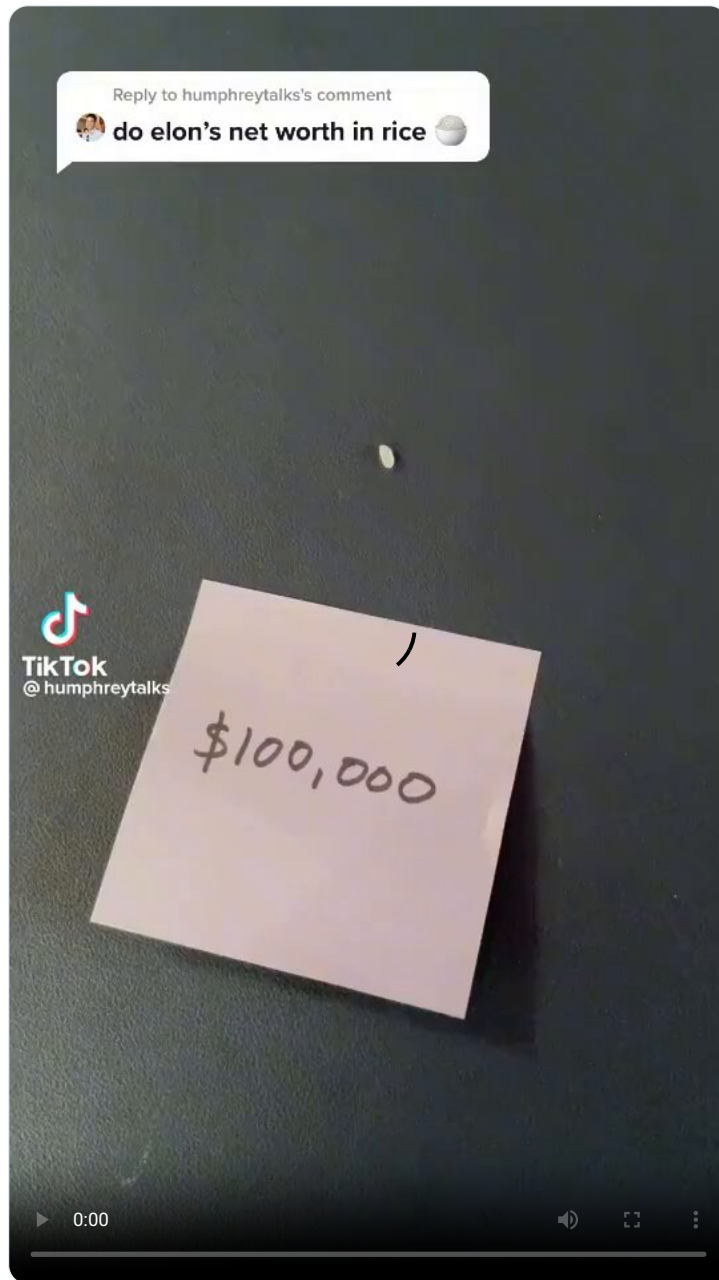
Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced a series of major changes to the company's moderation policies and practices, saying the election felt like a "cultural tipping point."



f X e

Jan. 7, 2025, 2:05 PM GMT+2 / Updated Jan. 7, 2025, 5:54 PM GMT+2
By Bruna Horvath, Jason Abbruzzese and Ben Goggin

Elon's takeover of X is not about "free speech", but about controlling the information flow & serving the interests of a small, extremely wealthy elite group. In recent years, these oligarchs have only become richer while the regular folk are struggling to buy basic goods.



As now-banned @JSweetLI aptly said: “The power they [Elon and Zuck] have is far beyond that of a publisher. Using the TV analogy, they don’t merely own the airwaves—they control them, exerting more influence over content than TV stations.

It’s a dictatorial power.”

The Intercept_


SUPPORT US

Jacqueline Sweet
January 8 2025, 1:26 p.m.

My Ban From X Is About One Simple Thing: Elon Musk Controlling the Flow of Information

Whether it's banning articles on X or killing fact checks on Meta, the only constant is that it benefits the powerful.

< Share



Elon Musk takes the stage during a campaign rally for Donald Trump at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 27, 2024, in New York City. Photo: Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

You can now pre-order the 2nd edition of my book! This updated version, featuring pre-order extras, will be released at the end of February 2025.

Pre-order your copy here:

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION



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Do your friends believe Ukraine is full of neo-Nazis and secret biolabs? Do you feel overwhelmed by propaganda and lies every time you go online? Does your mom think Tucker Carlson sounds reasonable?...

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