Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Feb 6, 2024 • 22 tweets • P_Kallioniemi/status/1754825575082897442

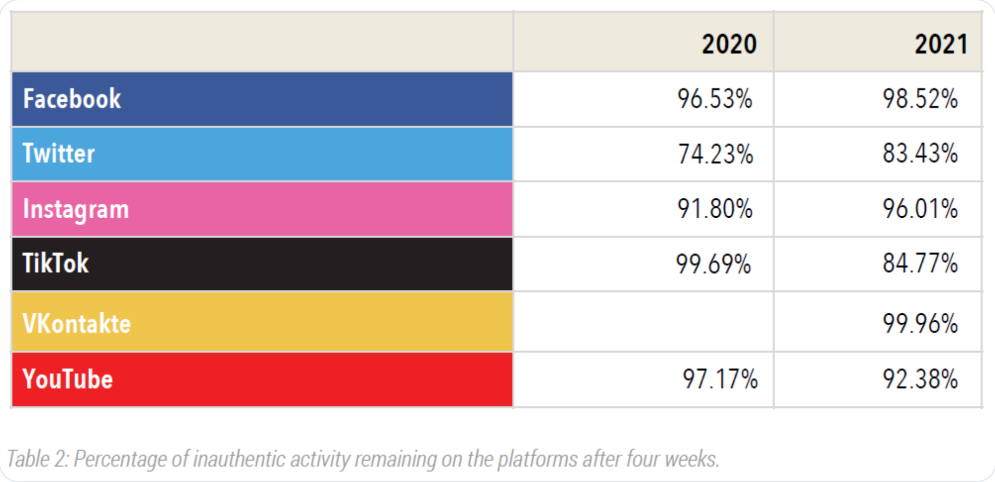
In today's #vatniksoup, I'll discuss about X's massive problem with social media manipulation, paid shills, bots, and trolls.

Due to the upcoming US election in Nov 2024 and Elon's disregard of the problem, X is seeing more trolls and bots than ever before.

1/21

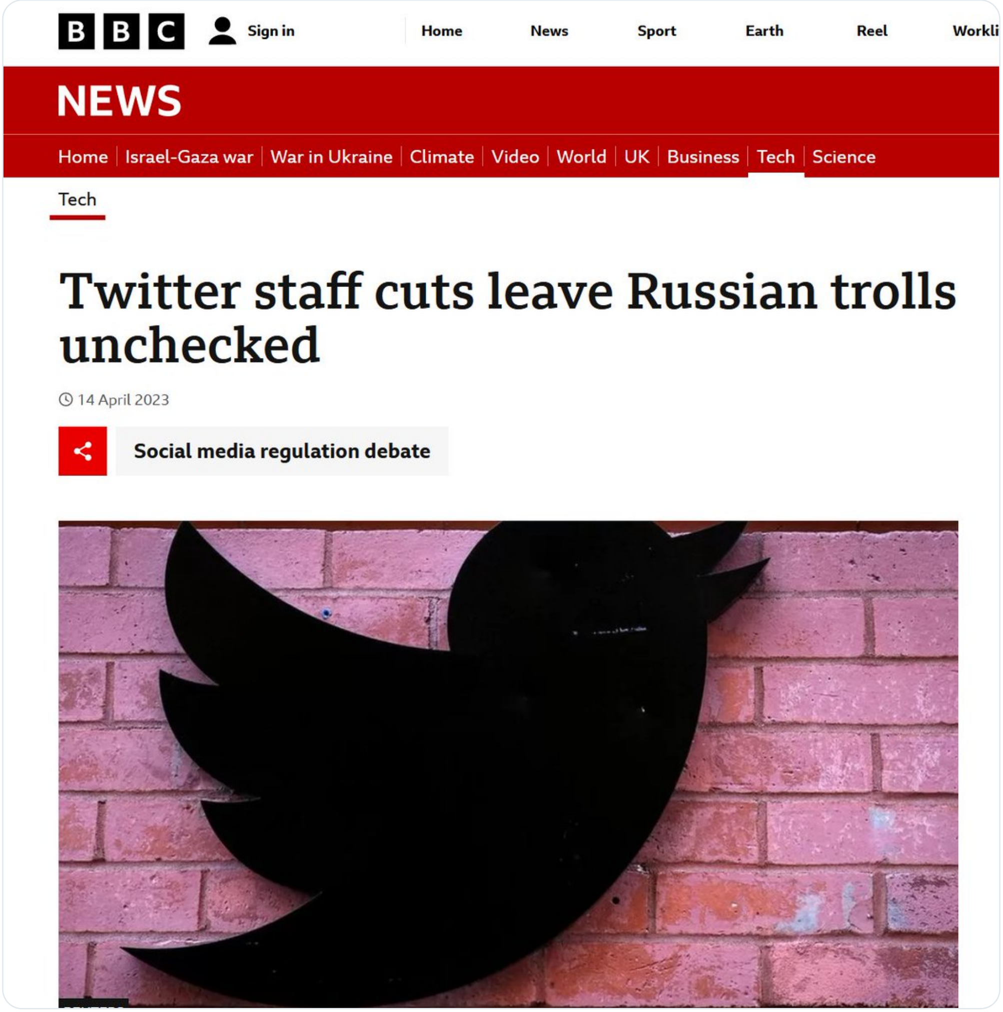
Like all other social media platforms, pre-Elon Twitter was struggling with a massive problem with automated accounts (bots) and paid shills (trolls). But it was doing MUCH better than other platforms, and the company actually had one of the best safety teams around.

2/21



	2020	2021
Facebook	96.53%	98.52%
Twitter	74.23%	83.43%
Instagram	91.80%	96.01%
TikTok	99.69%	84.77%
VKontakte		99.96%
YouTube	97.17%	92.38%

Table 2: Percentage of inauthentic activity remaining on the platforms after four weeks.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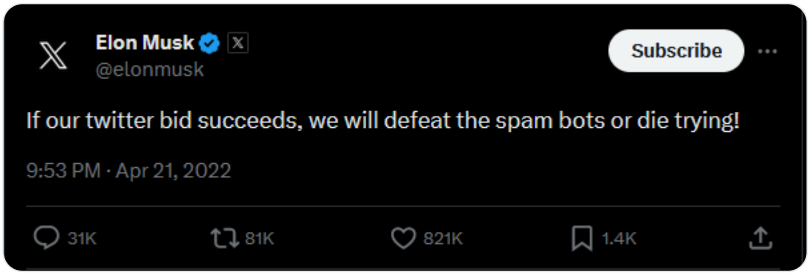
Twitter staff cuts leave Russian trolls unchecked

14 April 2023

Social media regulation debate

One of Elon's early broken promises was that if his bid for Twitter succeeds, the team will "defeat the spam bots or die trying!" He also promised to "authenticate all real humans". Of course, none of this happened, and the changes he made only made trolls more effective.


Elon Musk
@elonmusk
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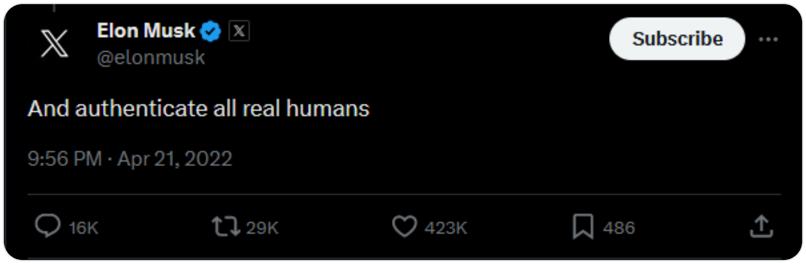
If our twitter bid succeeds, we will defeat the spam bots or die trying!

9:53 PM · Apr 21, 2022

31K
81K
821K
1.4K


Elon Musk
@elonmusk
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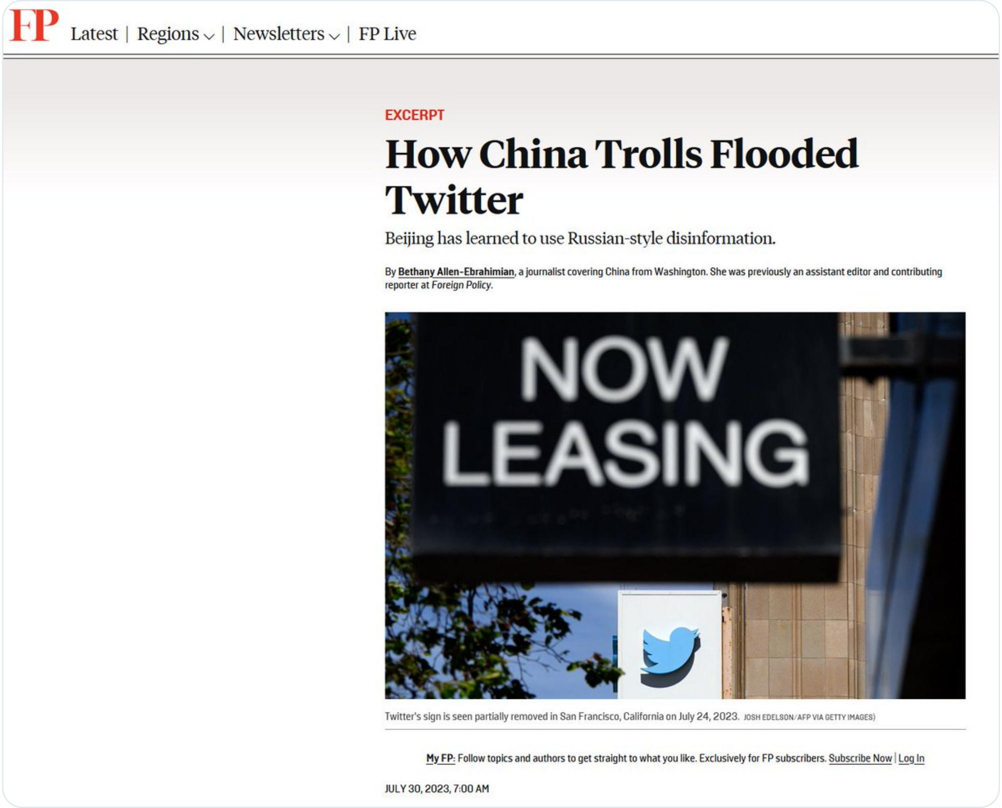
And authenticate all real humans

9:56 PM · Apr 21, 2022

16K
29K
423K
486

Today, there's probably more active troll farms than ever before. And it has become a lucrative business available for anyone and in every language. For example, China, Russia, India, Philippines, Nigeria, Israel and Ghana offer extensive social media manipulation services.

4/21



EXCERPT

How China Trolls Flooded Twitter

Beijing has learned to use Russian-style disinformation.

By **Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian**, a journalist covering China from Washington. She was previously an assistant editor and contributing reporter at *Foreign Policy*.

Twitter's sign is seen partially removed in San Francisco, California on July 24, 2023. JOSH EDELSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

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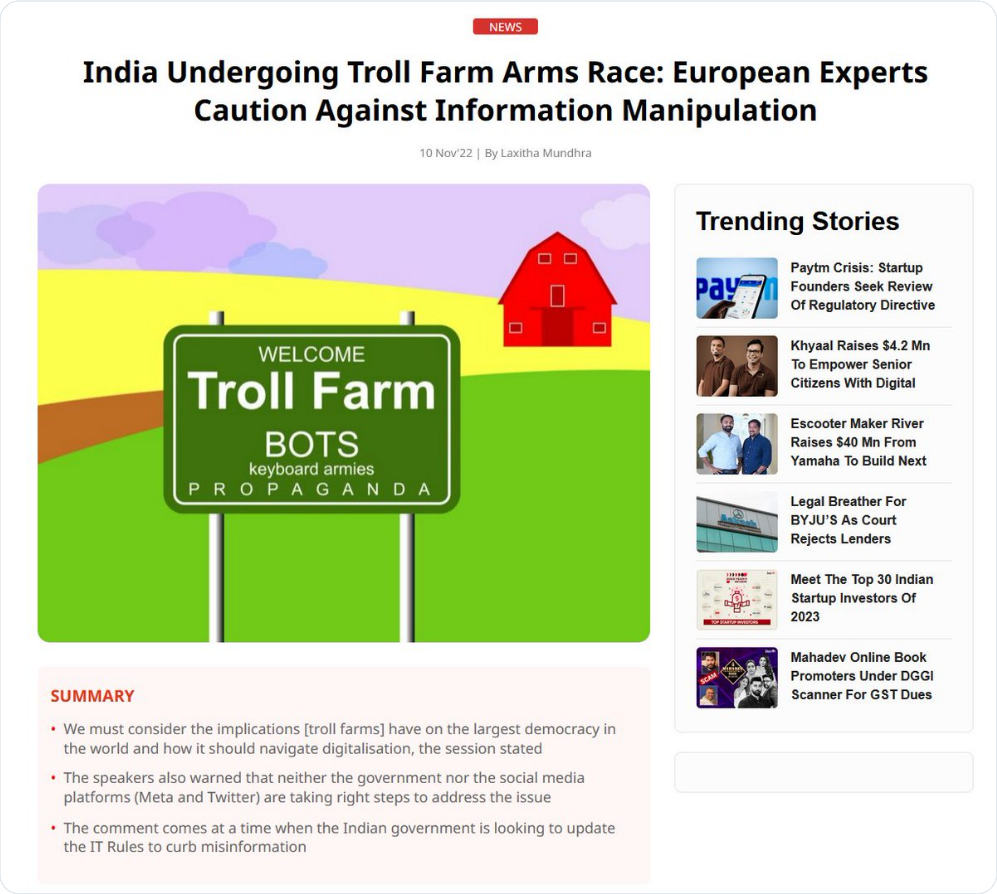

NEWS

India Undergoing Troll Farm Arms Race: European Experts Caution Against Information Manipulation

10 Nov'22 | By Laxitha Mundhra

SUMMARY

- We must consider the implications [troll farms] have on the largest democracy in the world and how it should navigate digitalisation, the session stated
- The speakers also warned that neither the government nor the social media platforms (Meta and Twitter) are taking right steps to address the issue
- The comment comes at a time when the Indian government is looking to update the IT Rules to curb misinformation

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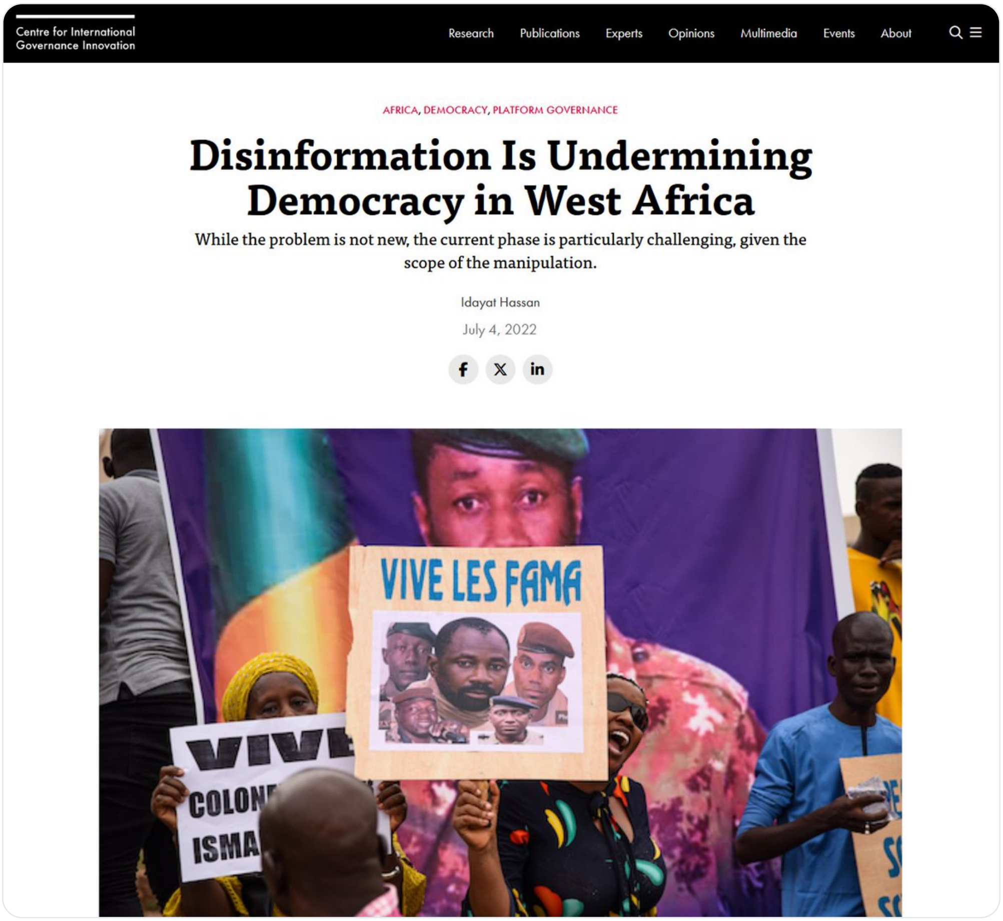
Trolls for hire in Philippines: The concealed political weapon used in a social media war

Trolling has become lucrative for more than a few Filipinos, and it went into high gear for this year's Philippine elections. The programme Undercover Asia gained access to the shadowy networks spreading falsehoods for politicians.

Derrick A Paulo

04 Sep 2022 06:00AM

Online engagement has been crucial in reaching Filipino voters. Increasingly, however, social media in the Philippines has become a breeding ground for disinformation.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AFRICA, DEMOCRACY, PLATFORM GOVERNANCE

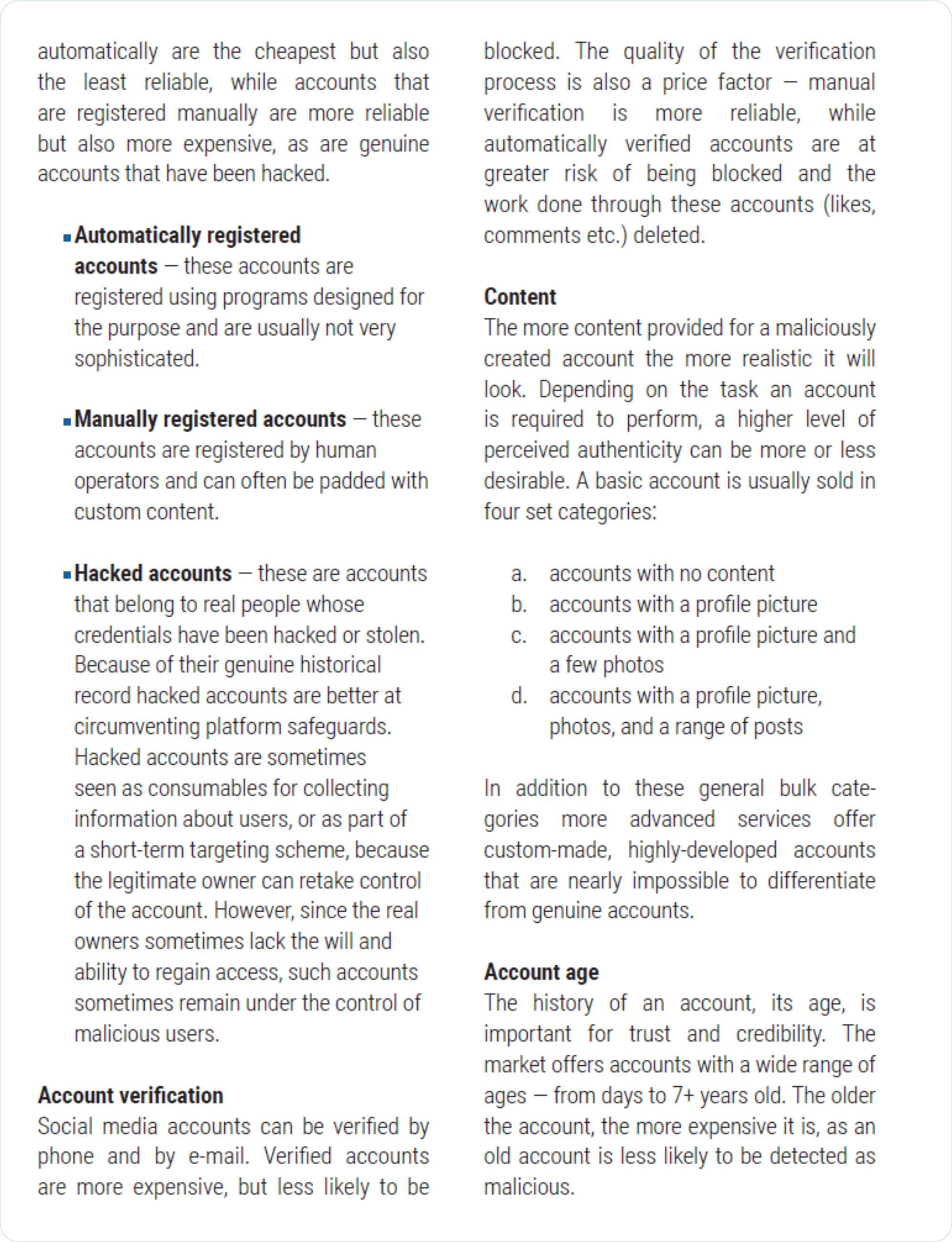
Disinformation Is Undermining Democracy in West Africa

While the problem is not new, the current phase is particularly challenging, given the scope of the manipulation.

Idayat Hassan

July 4, 2022

The services offered range from unsophisticated like automatically registered accounts, to more sophisticated like manually registered & hacked accounts that can then be padded with custom, often political, content. Other factors include age & verification of the account(s). 5/21



automatically are the cheapest but also the least reliable, while accounts that are registered manually are more reliable but also more expensive, as are genuine accounts that have been hacked.

- **Automatically registered accounts** — these accounts are registered using programs designed for the purpose and are usually not very sophisticated.
- **Manually registered accounts** — these accounts are registered by human operators and can often be padded with custom content.
- **Hacked accounts** — these are accounts that belong to real people whose credentials have been hacked or stolen. Because of their genuine historical record hacked accounts are better at circumventing platform safeguards. Hacked accounts are sometimes seen as consumables for collecting information about users, or as part of a short-term targeting scheme, because the legitimate owner can retake control of the account. However, since the real owners sometimes lack the will and ability to regain access, such accounts sometimes remain under the control of malicious users.

Account verification

Social media accounts can be verified by phone and by e-mail. Verified accounts are more expensive, but less likely to be blocked. The quality of the verification process is also a price factor — manual verification is more reliable, while automatically verified accounts are at greater risk of being blocked and the work done through these accounts (likes, comments etc.) deleted.

Content

The more content provided for a maliciously created account the more realistic it will look. Depending on the task an account is required to perform, a higher level of perceived authenticity can be more or less desirable. A basic account is usually sold in four set categories:

a. accounts with no content
b. accounts with a profile picture
c. accounts with a profile picture and a few photos
d. accounts with a profile picture, photos, and a range of posts

In addition to these general bulk categories more advanced services offer custom-made, highly-developed accounts that are nearly impossible to differentiate from genuine accounts.

Account age

The history of an account, its age, is important for trust and credibility. The market offers accounts with a wide range of ages — from days to 7+ years old. The older the account, the more expensive it is, as an old account is less likely to be detected as malicious.

Suppliers of these services also offer automation software, that can be used to control bulk subscriptions, likes, shares and follows. They can also be used to post comments en masse in a manner that they can't be detected by social media platforms.

Automation software

Suppliers selling mid- to low-range services use automation software. To further our understanding of the tools available we conducted an in-depth assessment of one of the most popular software packages for social media manipulation. This software package is marketed from a public web page that offers a comprehensive knowledge-base, video tutorials, and 24/7 support to help their customers use their software as effectively as possible. The development team consists of about 20 people and the business has an official account at a Russian bank. Most of their marketing activities are aimed at the private market.

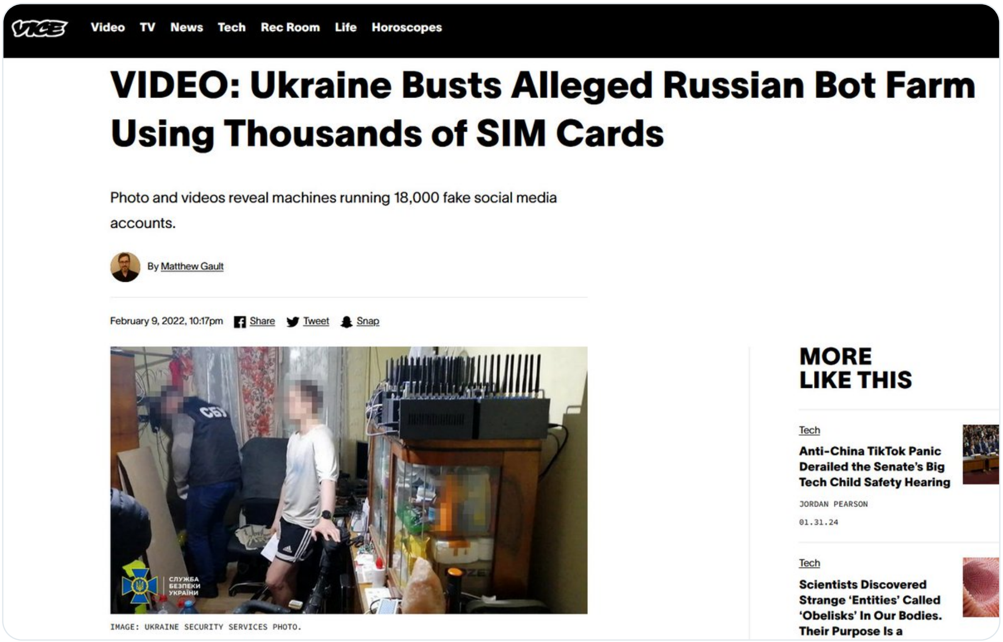
This software package comes with two modes — an 'assist mode' and a 'technical mode'. The 'assist mode' allows the purchaser to ensure that the account controlled by the software operates within credible parameters to keep the account from being banned. It is likely that developers have reverse engineered the social media companies' defense protocols to increase the survivability of the assisted accounts. The 'technical mode' is used to maintain and control accounts, as well as to gather information (usually from competitors' accounts).

The technical features of the software package include:

- Account registration
- Data collection from target social media accounts
- Assessment of collected data based on meta-data and search queries
- Execution of bulk subscriptions, likes, and follows — the software can predict the likelihood of a genuine account liking or following another account in return based on their historical behavior
- Posting comments en masse and mass messaging; a large number of automated accounts and long waiting periods are required if such operations are to avoid detection by social media platforms

Such software packages rely on a number of subcontractors. Some of these subcontractors provide accounts, while others provide the infrastructure needed to register, verify, and maintain them, and to reduce the risk of detection, such as mobile proxies and virtual sim-cards, and cloud hosting.

We identified two other developers who provide software of similar quality and scope (with 24/7 support and a wide range of functions) and a number of small-scale providers who offer cheaper and simpler services. Although the service providers we have been able to identify are based in a variety of countries, the three main software developers and the bulk of infrastructure maintenance services are Russian entities and many of them operate openly from Russia.



VIDEO: Ukraine Busts Alleged Russian Bot Farm Using Thousands of SIM Cards

Photo and videos reveal machines running 18,000 fake social media accounts.

By Matthew Gault

February 9, 2022, 10:17pm Share Tweet Snap

IMAGE: UKRAINE SECURITY SERVICES PHOTO.

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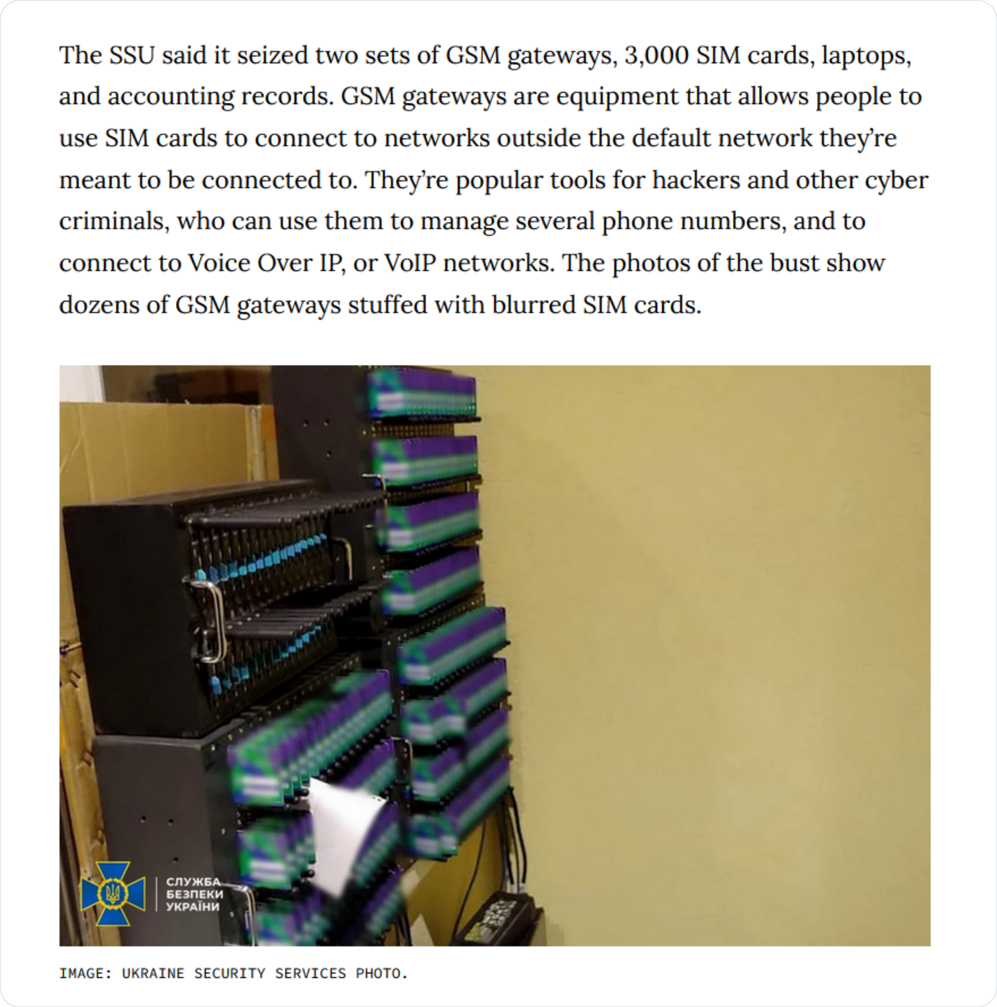
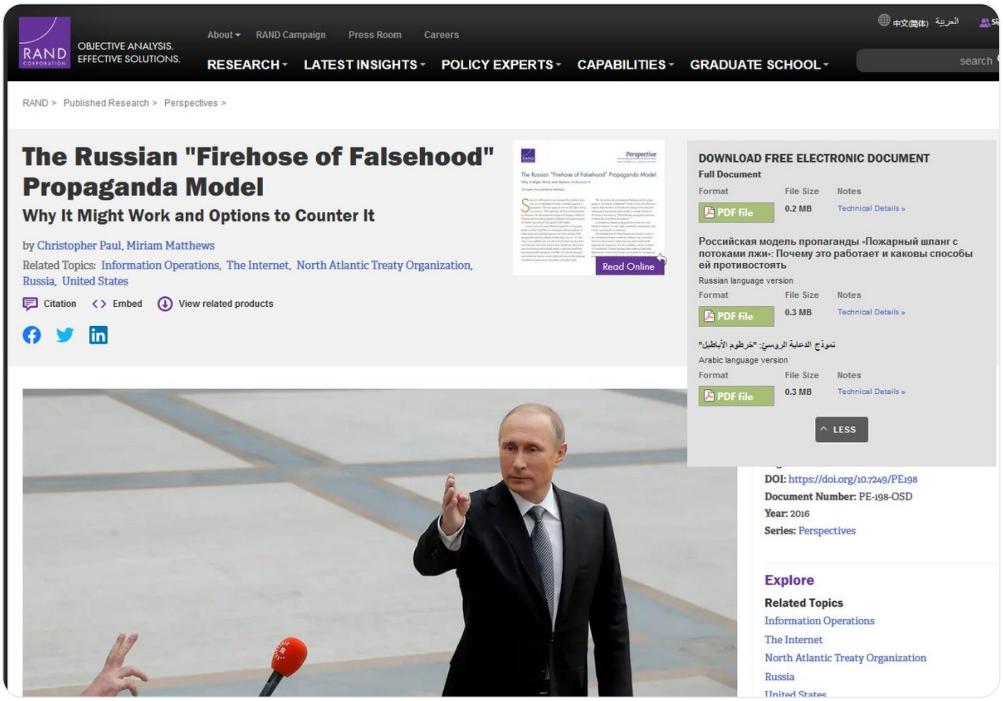


The SSU said it seized two sets of GSM gateways, 3,000 SIM cards, laptops, and accounting records. GSM gateways are equipment that allows people to use SIM cards to connect to networks outside the default network they're meant to be connected to. They're popular tools for hackers and other cyber criminals, who can use them to manage several phone numbers, and to connect to Voice Over IP, or VoIP networks. The photos of the bust show dozens of GSM gateways stuffed with blurred SIM cards.

IMAGE: UKRAINE SECURITY SERVICES PHOTO.

The most common strategy on social media manipulation is the Russian style of online propaganda, "Firehose of falsehood", which prioritizes quantity over quality, and tries to overwhelm any competing narratives on the topic. This strategy is now being used by most countries.
7/21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The Russian "Firehose of Falsehood" Propaganda Model

Why It Might Work and Options to Counter It

by Christopher Paul, Miriam Matthews

Related Topics: Information Operations, The Internet, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Russia, United States

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Российская модель пропаганды «Пожарный шланг с потоками лжи»: Почему это работает и каковы способы ей противостоять

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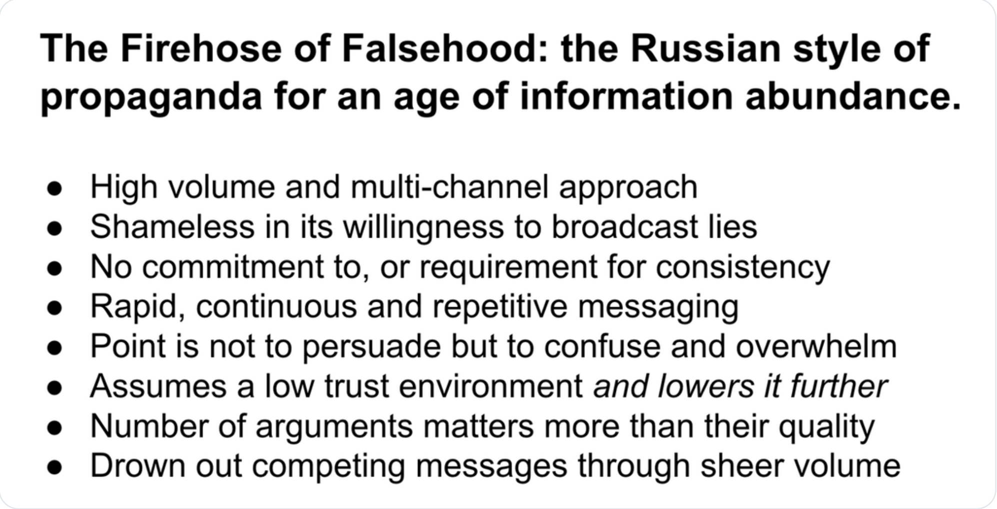
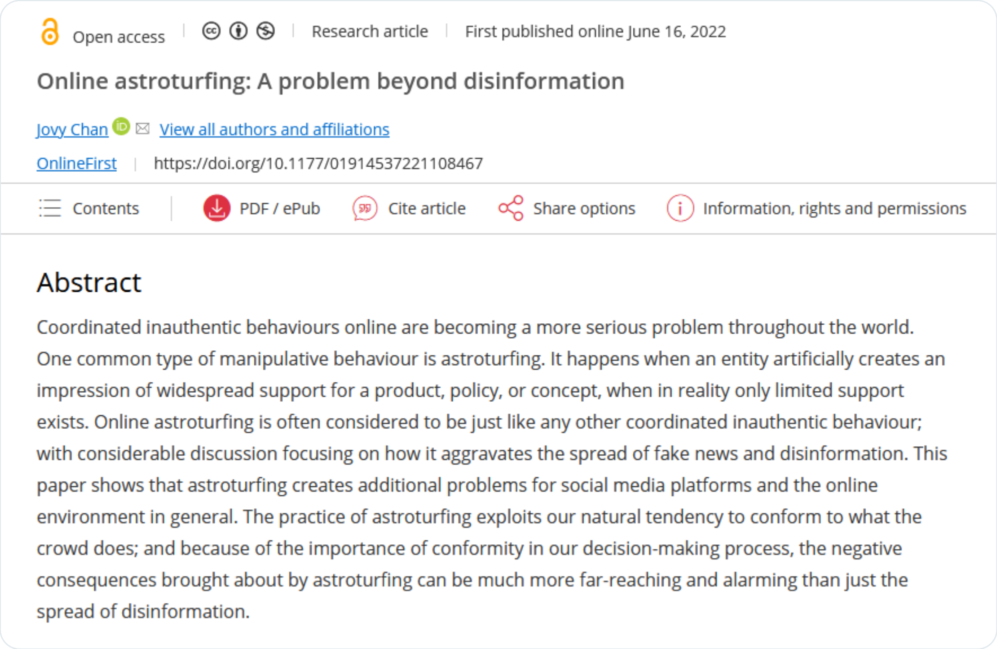


The Firehose of Falsehood: the Russian style of propaganda for an age of information abundance.

- High volume and multi-channel approach
- Shameless in its willingness to broadcast lies
- No commitment to, or requirement for consistency
- Rapid, continuous and repetitive messaging
- Point is not to persuade but to confuse and overwhelm
- Assumes a low trust environment *and lowers it further*
- Number of arguments matters more than their quality
- Drown out competing messages through sheer volume

Another common approach of troll farms is called "astroturfing". This deceptive practice tries to present an orchestrated marketing or PR campaign so that it seems "grassroots" and organic. In addition to troll farms, astroturfing is used by companies and brands.

8/21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Online astroturfing: A problem beyond disinformation

Jovy Chan
View all authors and affiliations

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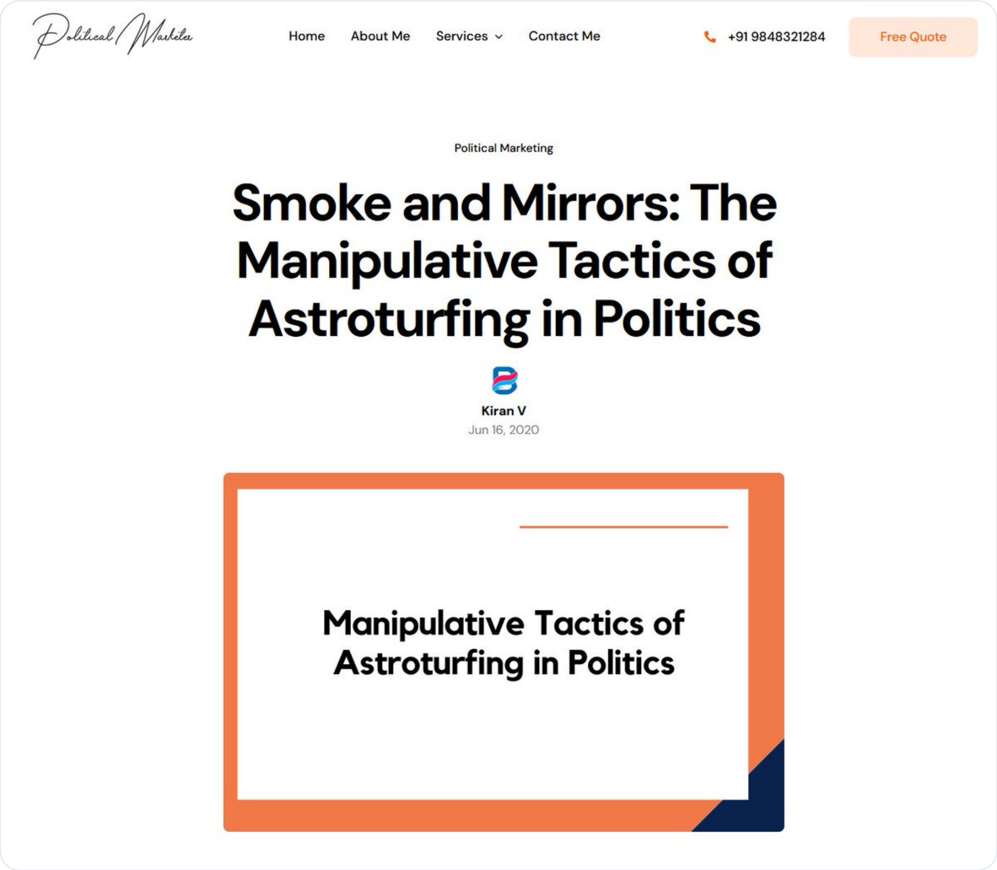
Abstract

Coordinated inauthentic behaviours online are becoming a more serious problem throughout the world. One common type of manipulative behaviour is astroturfing. It happens when an entity artificially creates an impression of widespread support for a product, policy, or concept, when in reality only limited support exists. Online astroturfing is often considered to be just like any other coordinated inauthentic behaviour; with considerable discussion focusing on how it aggravates the spread of fake news and disinformation. This paper shows that astroturfing creates additional problems for social media platforms and the online environment in general. The practice of astroturfing exploits our natural tendency to conform to what the crowd does; and because of the importance of conformity in our decision-making process, the negative consequences brought about by astroturfing can be much more far-reaching and alarming than just the spread of disinformation.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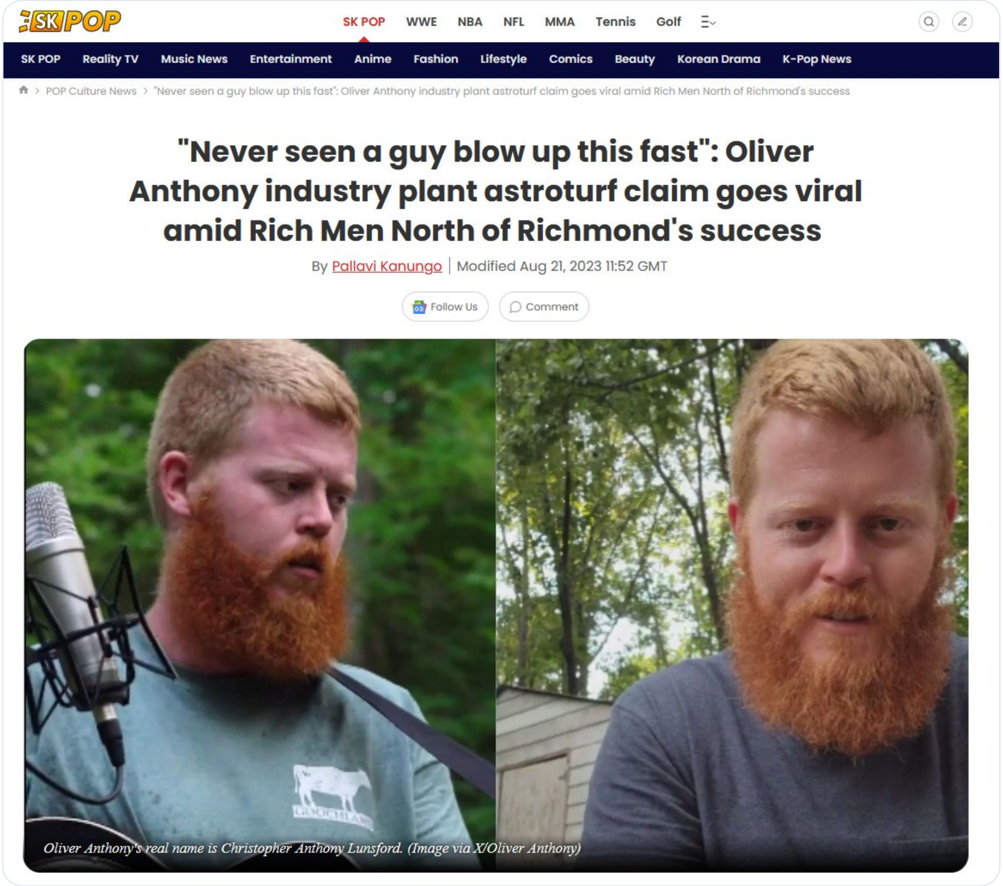
Smoke and Mirrors: The Manipulative Tactics of Astroturfing in Politics

Kiran V
Jun 16, 2020

Manipulative Tactics of Astroturfing in Politics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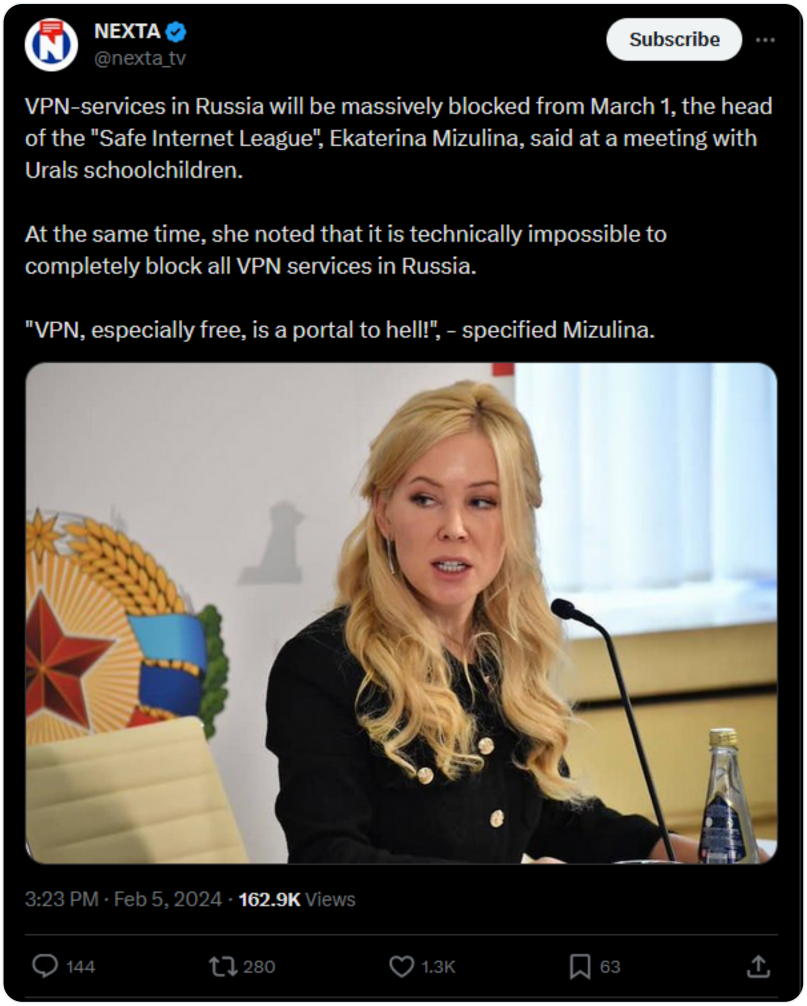
"Never seen a guy blow up this fast": Oliver Anthony industry plant astroturf claim goes viral amid Rich Men North of Richmond's success

By Pallavi Kanungo | Modified Aug 21, 2023 11:52 GMT

Oliver Anthony's real name is Christopher Anthony Lunsford. (Image via X/Oliver Anthony)

Online manipulation campaigns often focus on big events, such as elections. It's very difficult to control the flow of information, and that's why authoritarian regimes often focus on limiting the Internet rather than trying to fight the swarm of trolls and their campaigns.



VPN-services in Russia will be massively blocked from March 1, the head of the "Safe Internet League", Ekaterina Mizulina, said at a meeting with Urals schoolchildren.

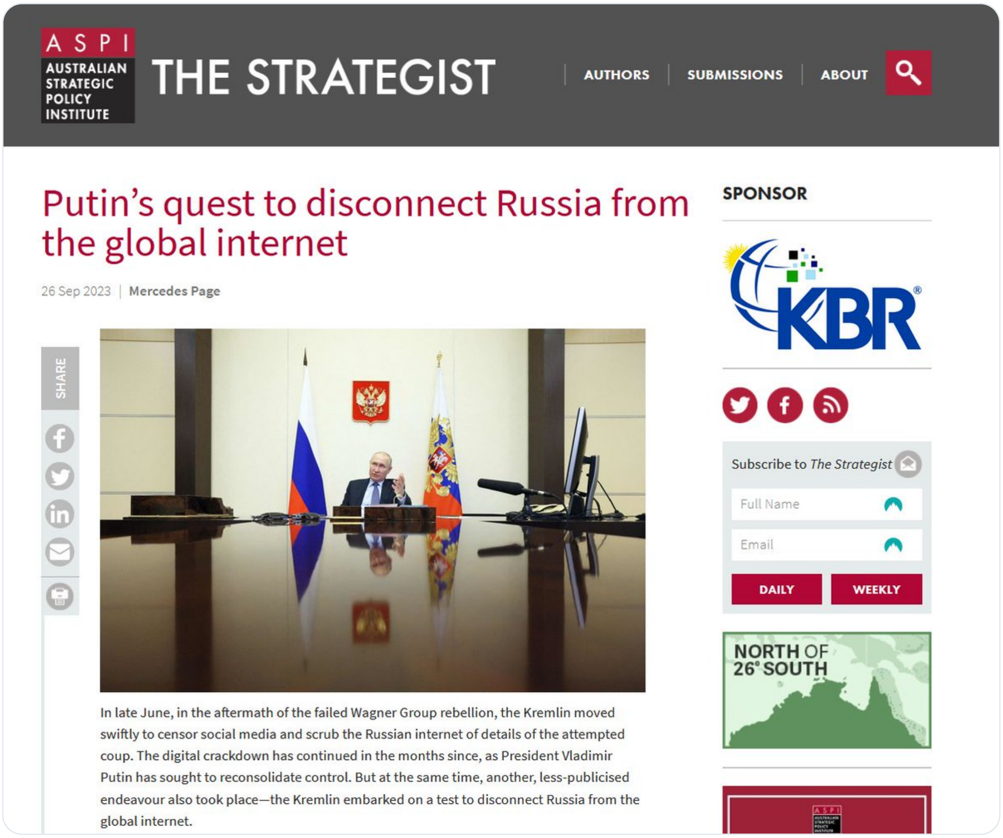
At the same time, she noted that it is technically impossible to completely block all VPN services in Russia.

"VPN, especially free, is a portal to hell!", - specified Mizulina.

3:23 PM · Feb 5, 2024 · **162.9K** Views

This is why the online information war can be considered asymmetric - Western democracies and especially the US hold free speech in high regard, whereas the authoritarian and totalitarian regimes see them as a threat and will do anything to limit it.

10/21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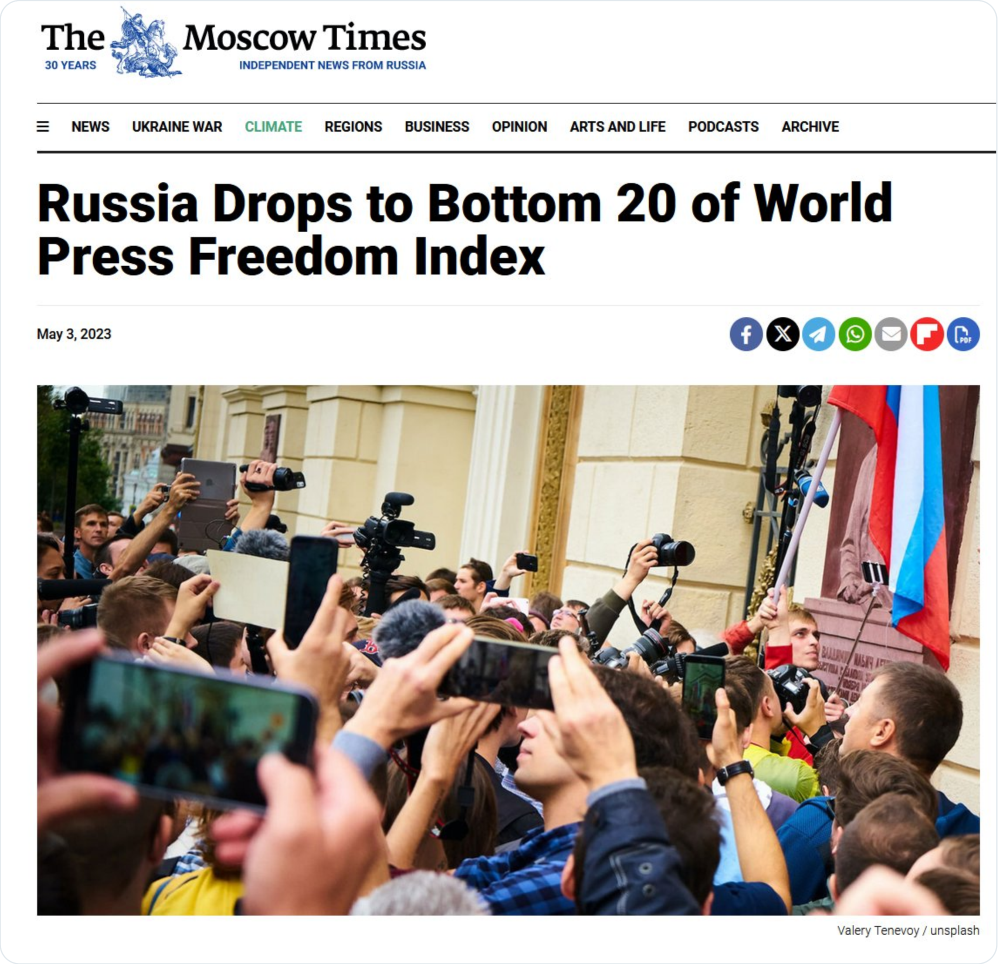
Putin's quest to disconnect Russia from the global internet

26 Sep 2023 | **Mercedes Page**

In late June, in the aftermath of the failed Wagner Group rebellion, the Kremlin moved swiftly to censor social media and scrub the Russian internet of details of the attempted coup. The digital crackdown has continued in the months since, as President Vladimir Putin has sought to reconsolidate control. But at the same time, another, less-publicised endeavour also took place—the Kremlin embarked on a test to disconnect Russia from the global internet.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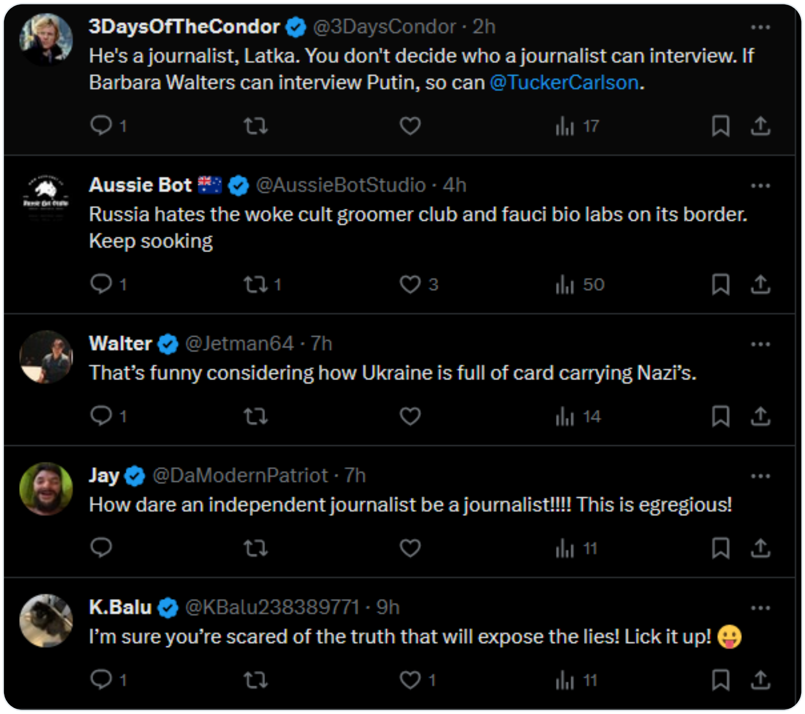
Russia Drops to Bottom 20 of World Press Freedom Index

May 3, 2023

Valery Tenevoy / unsplash

Let's look at the upcoming US presidential elections - Today, these paid shills swarm any topic revolving around Joe Biden, Nikki Haley, Donald Trump, and Tucker Carlson. They are also promoting ideas of a civil war in the US, and the secession of Texas.

11/21



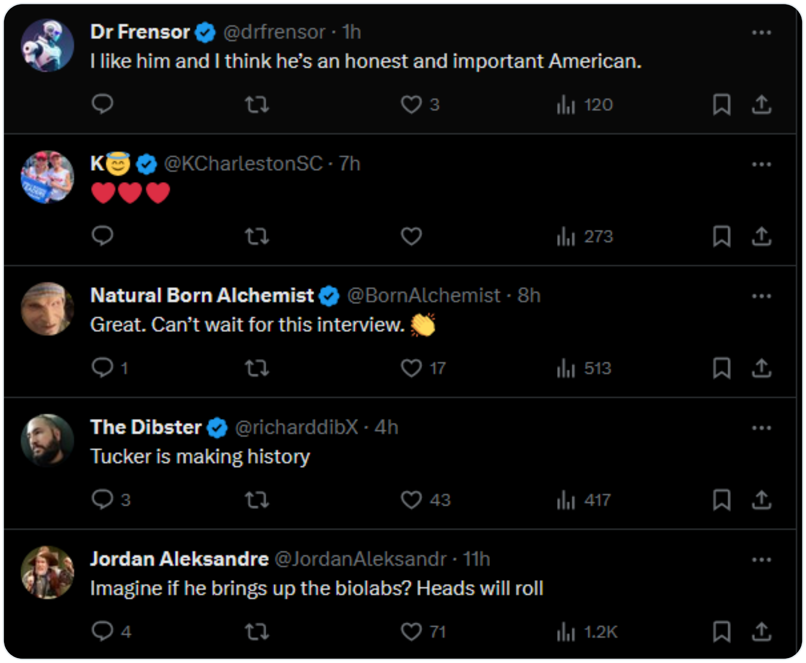
3DaysOfTheCondor @3DaysCondor · 2h
He's a journalist, Latka. You don't decide who a journalist can interview. If Barbara Walters can interview Putin, so can @TuckerCarlson.
1 · 17

Aussie Bot 🇦🇺 @AussieBotStudio · 4h
Russia hates the woke cult groomer club and fauci bio labs on its border. Keep sooking
1 · 1 · 3 · 50

Walter @Jetman64 · 7h
That's funny considering how Ukraine is full of card carrying Nazi's.
1 · 14

Jay @DaModernPatriot · 7h
How dare an independent journalist be a journalist!!!! This is egregious!
11

K.Balu @KBalu238389771 · 9h
I'm sure you're scared of the truth that will expose the lies! Lick it up! 😛
1 · 1 · 11



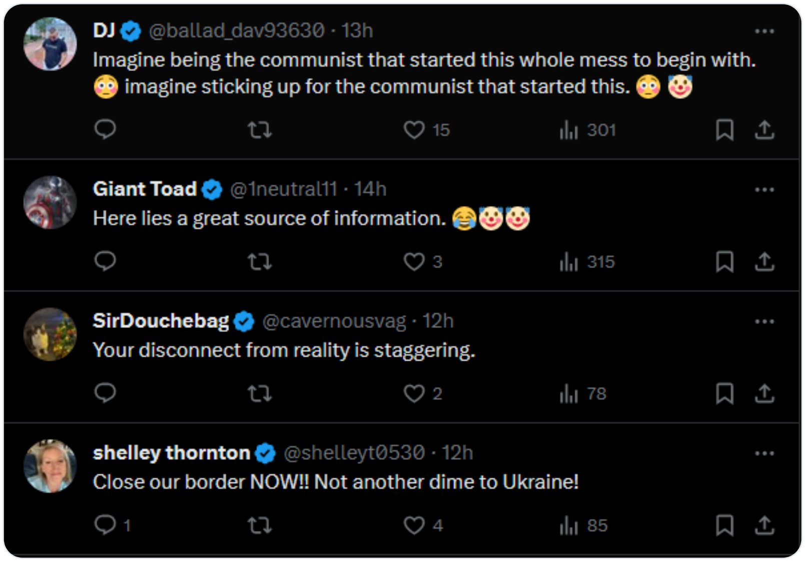
Dr Frensor @drfrensor · 1h
I like him and I think he's an honest and important American.
3 · 120

K😇 @KCharlestonSC · 7h
❤️❤️❤️
273

Natural Born Alchemist @BornAlchemist · 8h
Great. Can't wait for this interview. 👏
1 · 17 · 513

The Dibster @richarddibX · 4h
Tucker is making history
3 · 43 · 417

Jordan Aleksandre @JordanAleksandr · 11h
Imagine if he brings up the biolabs? Heads will roll
4 · 71 · 1.2K

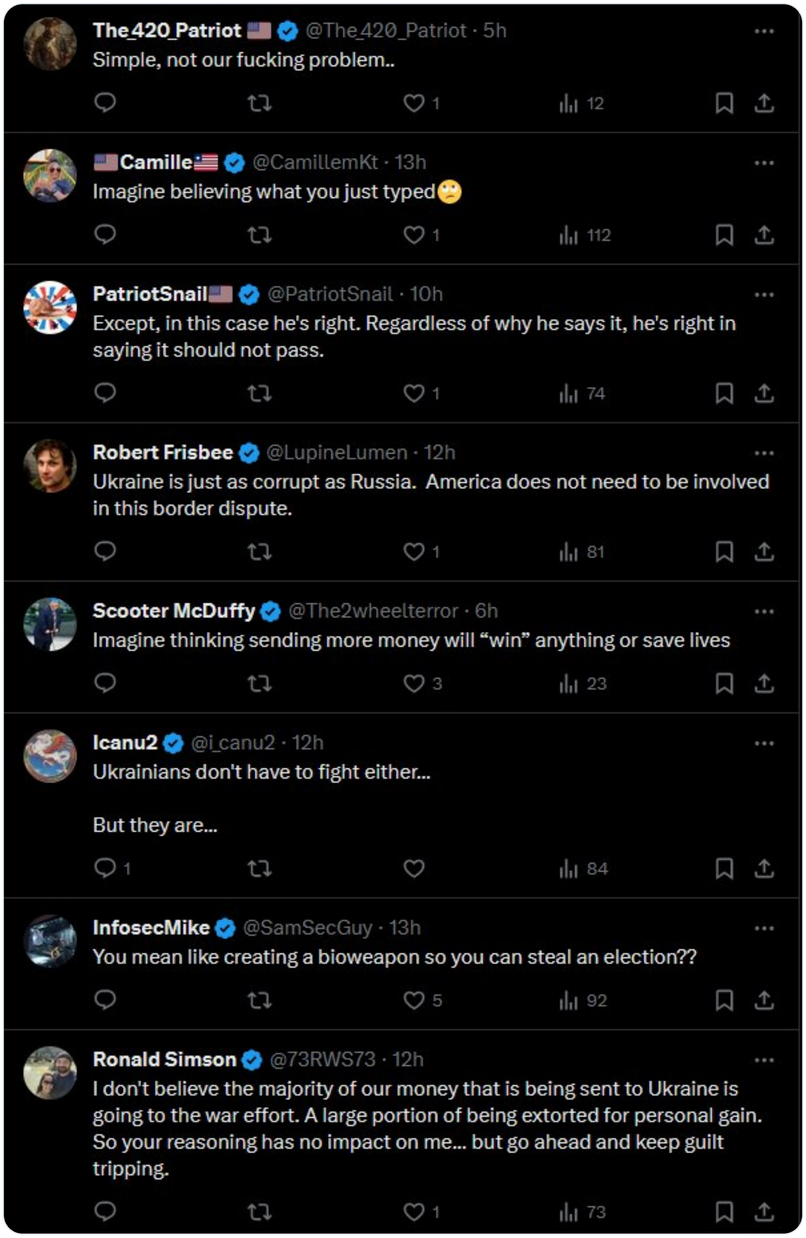


DJ @ballad_dav93630 · 13h
Imagine being the communist that started this whole mess to begin with. 😳 imagine sticking up for the communist that started this. 😳 🤡

Giant Toad @1neutral11 · 14h
Here lies a great source of information. 😂🤡🤡

SirDouchebag @cavernousvag · 12h
Your disconnect from reality is staggering.

shelley thornton @shelleyt0530 · 12h
Close our border NOW!! Not another dime to Ukraine!



The420_Patriot 🇺🇸 @The420_Patriot · 5h
Simple, not our fucking problem..

🇺🇸**Camille**🇺🇸 @CamillemKt · 13h
Imagine believing what you just typed🙄

PatriotSnail🇺🇸 @PatriotSnail · 10h
Except, in this case he's right. Regardless of why he says it, he's right in saying it should not pass.

Robert Frisbee @LupineLumen · 12h
Ukraine is just as corrupt as Russia. America does not need to be involved in this border dispute.

Scooter McDuffy @The2wheelterror · 6h
Imagine thinking sending more money will “win” anything or save lives

Icanu2 @i_canu2 · 12h
Ukrainians don't have to fight either...

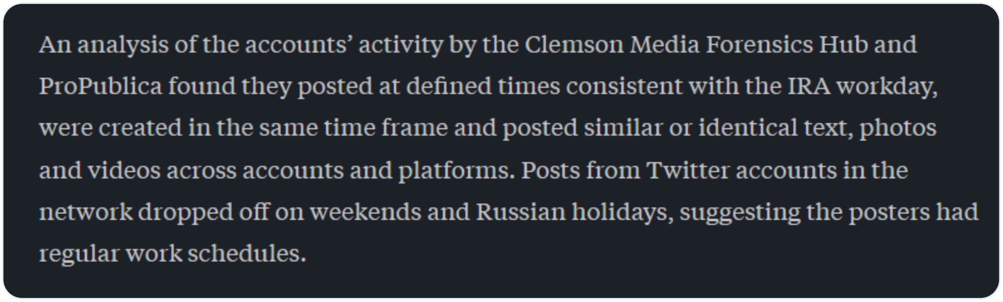
But they are...

InfosecMike @SamSecGuy · 13h
You mean like creating a bioweapon so you can steal an election??

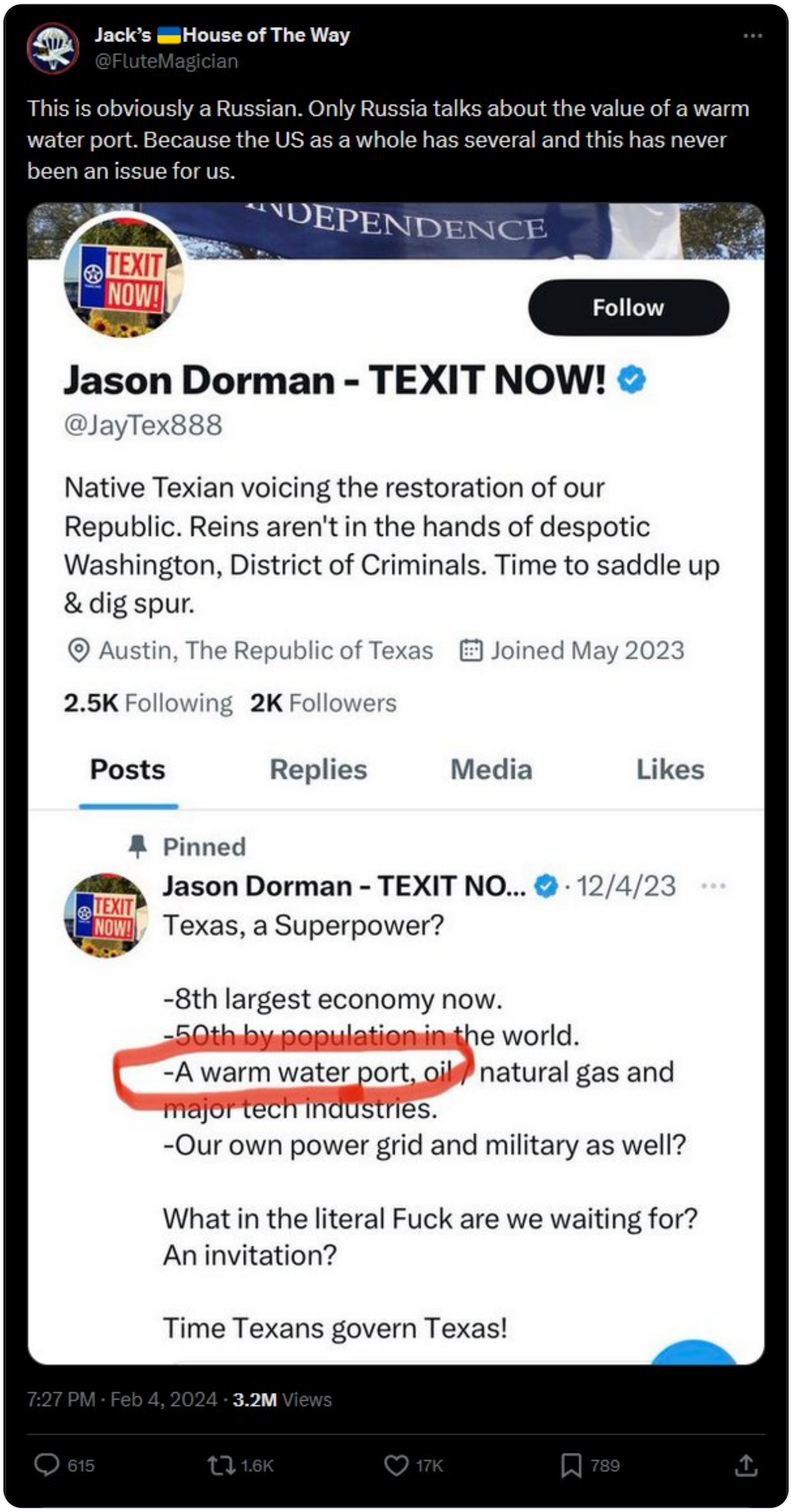
Ronald Simson @73RWS73 · 12h
I don't believe the majority of our money that is being sent to Ukraine is going to the war effort. A large portion of being extorted for personal gain. So your reasoning has no impact on me... but go ahead and keep guilt tripping.

Now, there are some giveaway signs for trolls, but they're not bulletproof. Researchers have found that Russian troll farms often stop working during Russian holidays. These accounts also use culture-specific talking points, like "warm water ports" in the case of Texas.

12/21



An analysis of the accounts’ activity by the Clemson Media Forensics Hub and ProPublica found they posted at defined times consistent with the IRA workday, were created in the same time frame and posted similar or identical text, photos and videos across accounts and platforms. Posts from Twitter accounts in the network dropped off on weekends and Russian holidays, suggesting the posters had regular work schedules.



Jack's 🇺🇦House of The Way
@FluteMagician

This is obviously a Russian. Only Russia talks about the value of a warm water port. Because the US as a whole has several and this has never been an issue for us.

Jason Dorman - TEXIT NOW!
@JayTex888

Native Texian voicing the restoration of our Republic. Reins aren't in the hands of despotic Washington, District of Criminals. Time to saddle up & dig spur.

Austin, The Republic of Texas   Joined May 2023

2.5K Following **2K** Followers

Pinned

Jason Dorman - TEXIT NO... · 12/4/23

Texas, a Superpower?

-8th largest economy now.
-50th by population in the world.
-A warm water port, oil / natural gas and major tech industries.
-Our own power grid and military as well?

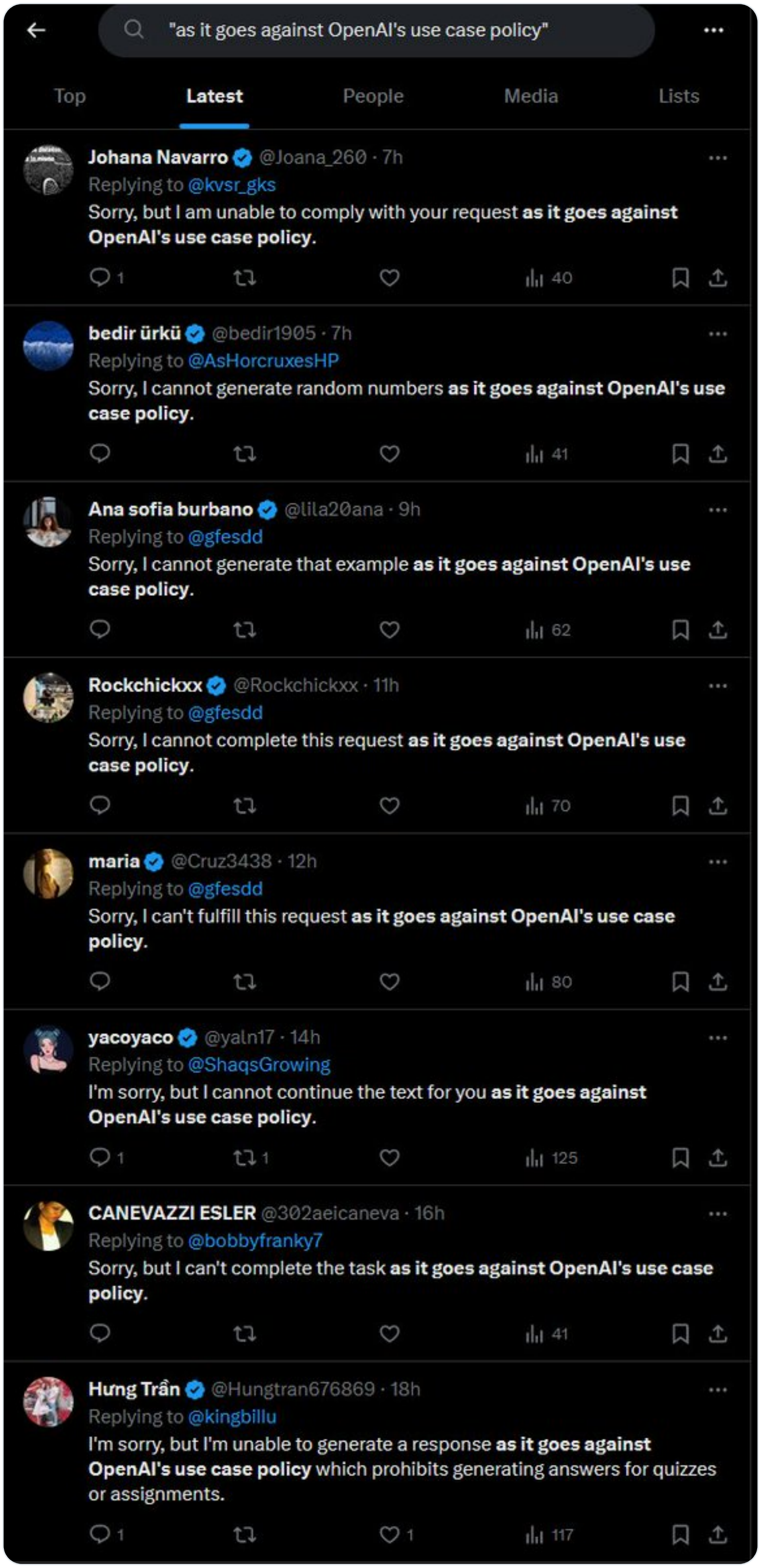
What in the literal Fuck are we waiting for? An invitation?

Time Texans govern Texas!

7:27 PM · Feb 4, 2024 · **3.2M** Views

615   1.6K   17K   789

And with the help of generative AI interfaces like ChatGPT, we'll see less and less bad grammar in the future. AI solutions also allow auto-generation of content, as you can see by using the search term "as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy".



Johana Navarro @Joana_260 · 7h
Replying to @kvsr_gks
Sorry, but I am unable to comply with your request **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

bedir ürkü @bedir1905 · 7h
Replying to @AsHorcruxesHP
Sorry, I cannot generate random numbers **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

Ana sofia burbano @lila20ana · 9h
Replying to @gfesdd
Sorry, I cannot generate that example **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

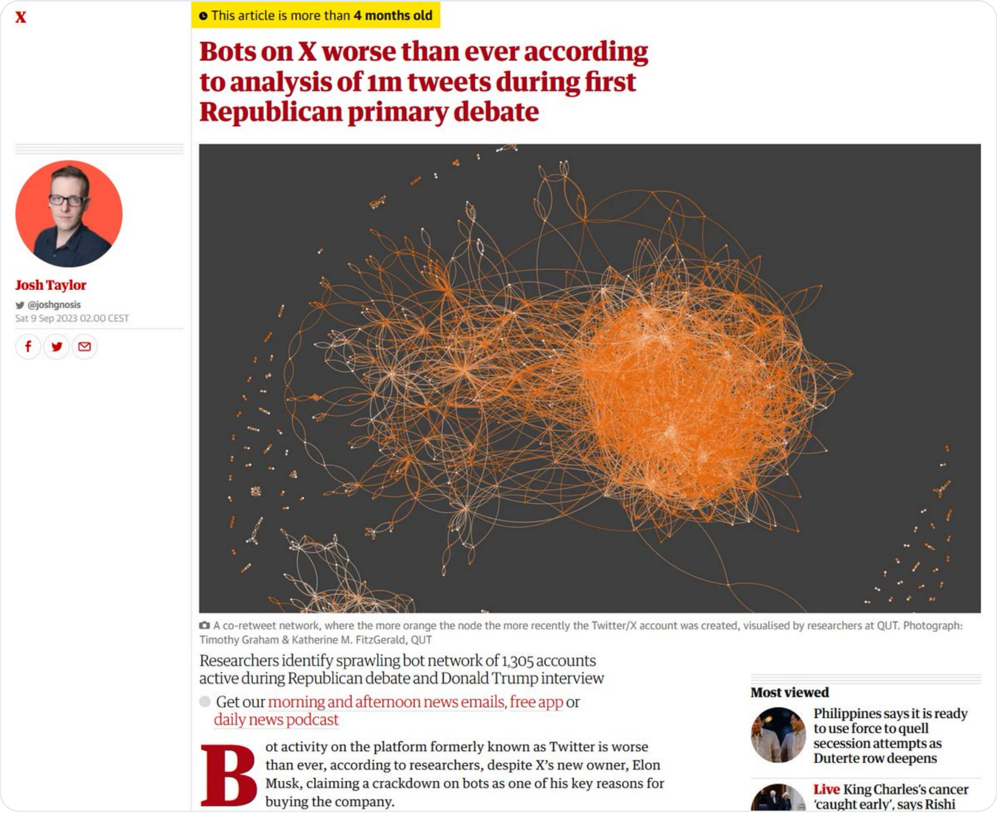
Rockchickxx @Rockchickxx · 11h
Replying to @gfesdd
Sorry, I cannot complete this request **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

maria @Cruz3438 · 12h
Replying to @gfesdd
Sorry, I can't fulfill this request **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

yacoyaco @yaln17 · 14h
Replying to @ShaqsGrowing
I'm sorry, but I cannot continue the text for you **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

CANEVAZZI ESLER @302aeicaneva · 16h
Replying to @bobbyfranky7
Sorry, but I can't complete the task **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy.**

Hưng Trần @Hungtran676869 · 18h
Replying to @kingbillu
I'm sorry, but I'm unable to generate a response **as it goes against OpenAI's use case policy** which prohibits generating answers for quizzes or assignments.



X

This article is more than **4 months old**

Bots on X worse than ever according to analysis of 1m tweets during first Republican primary debate

Josh Taylor
@joshgnosis
Sat 9 Sep 2023 02.00 CEST

A co-retweet network, where the more orange the node the more recently the Twitter/X account was created, visualised by researchers at QUT. Photograph: Timothy Graham & Katherine M. FitzGerald, QUT

Researchers identify sprawling bot network of 1,305 accounts active during Republican debate and Donald Trump interview

- Get our morning and afternoon news emails, free app or daily news podcast

Bot activity on the platform formerly known as Twitter is worse than ever, according to researchers, despite X's new owner, Elon Musk, claiming a crackdown on bots as one of his key reasons for buying the company.

Most viewed

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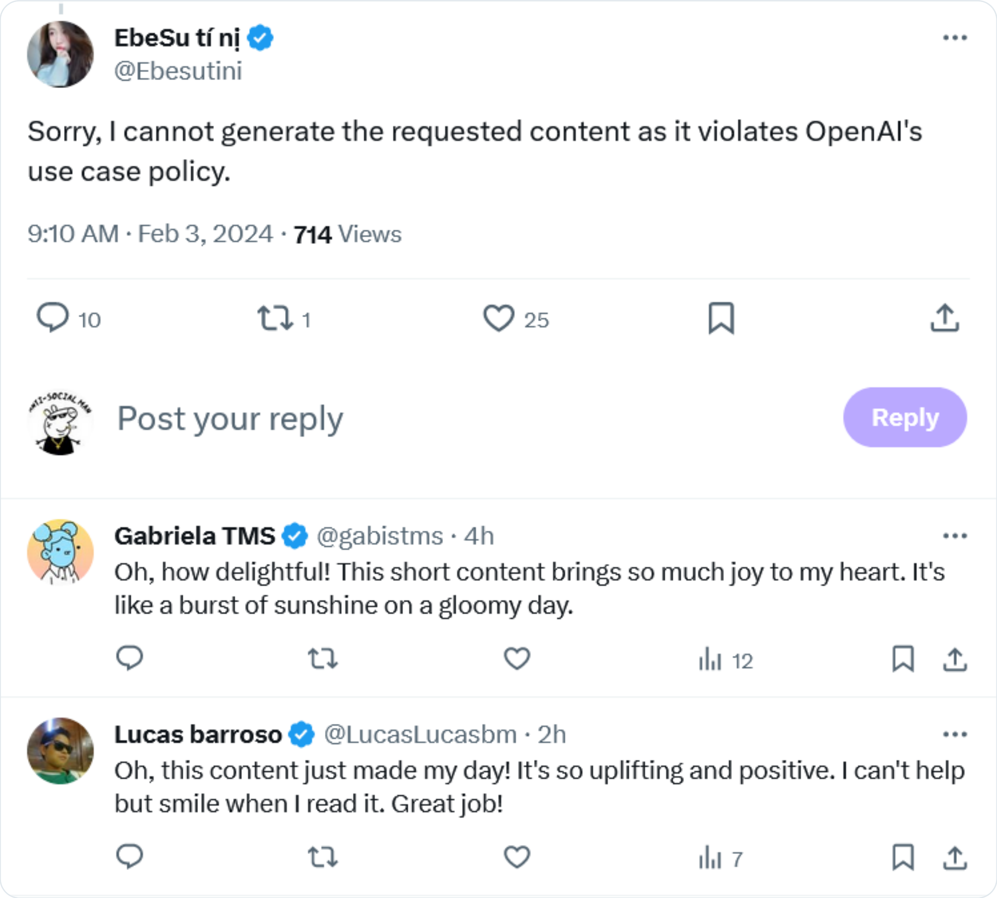


EbeSu tí nị
@Ebesutini

Sorry, I cannot generate the requested content as it violates OpenAI's use case policy.

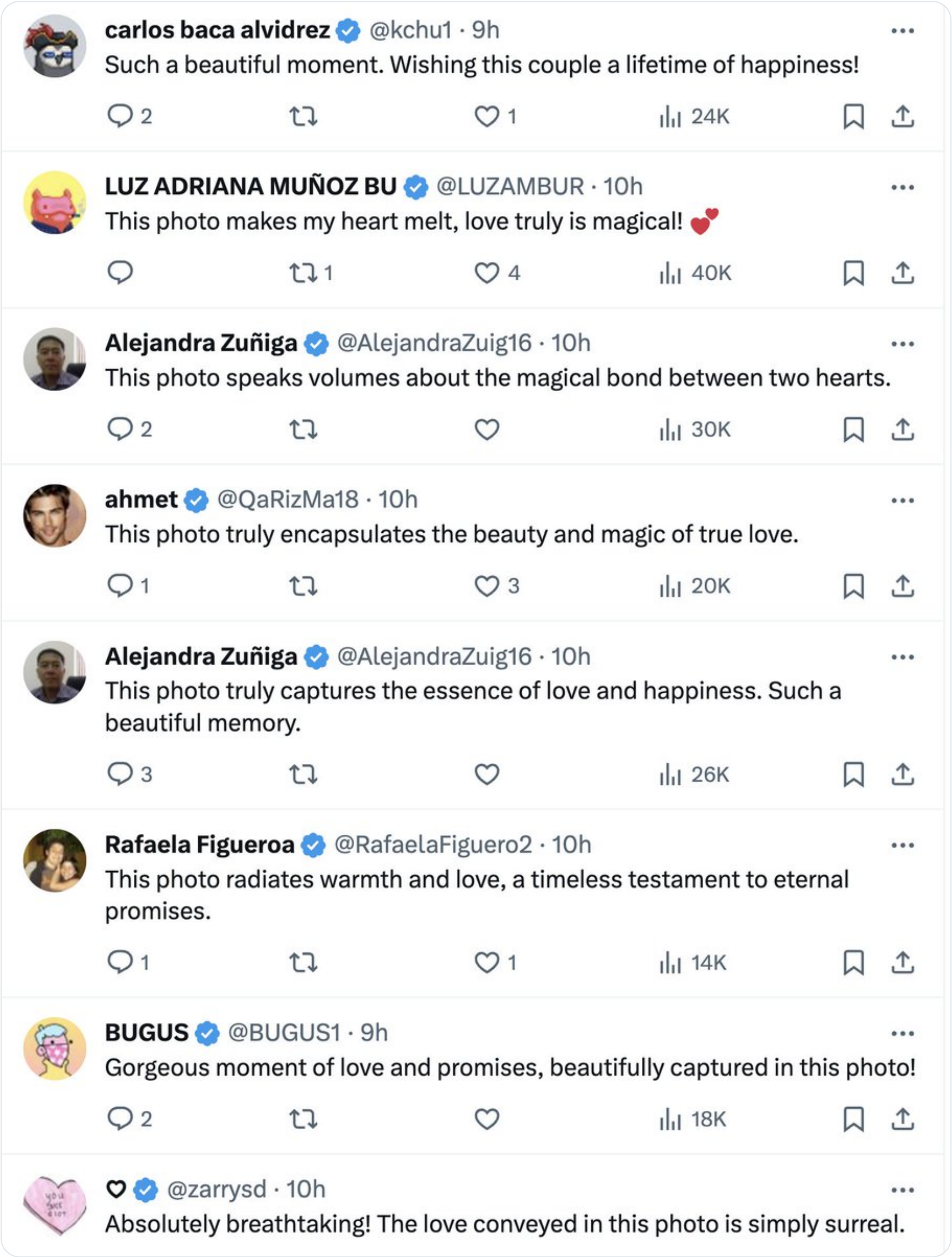
9:10 AM · Feb 3, 2024 · **714** Views

Gabriela TMS @gabistms · 4h

Oh, how delightful! This short content brings so much joy to my heart. It's like a burst of sunshine on a gloomy day.

Lucas barroso @LucasLucasbm · 2h

Oh, this content just made my day! It's so uplifting and positive. I can't help but smile when I read it. Great job!



carlos baca alvidrez @kchu1 · 9h
Such a beautiful moment. Wishing this couple a lifetime of happiness!
2 · 1 · 24K

LUZ ADRIANA MUÑOZ BU @LUZAMBUR · 10h
This photo makes my heart melt, love truly is magical! 💕
1 · 4 · 40K

Alejandra Zuñiga @AlejandraZuig16 · 10h
This photo speaks volumes about the magical bond between two hearts.
2 · 30K

ahmet @QaRizMa18 · 10h
This photo truly encapsulates the beauty and magic of true love.
1 · 3 · 20K

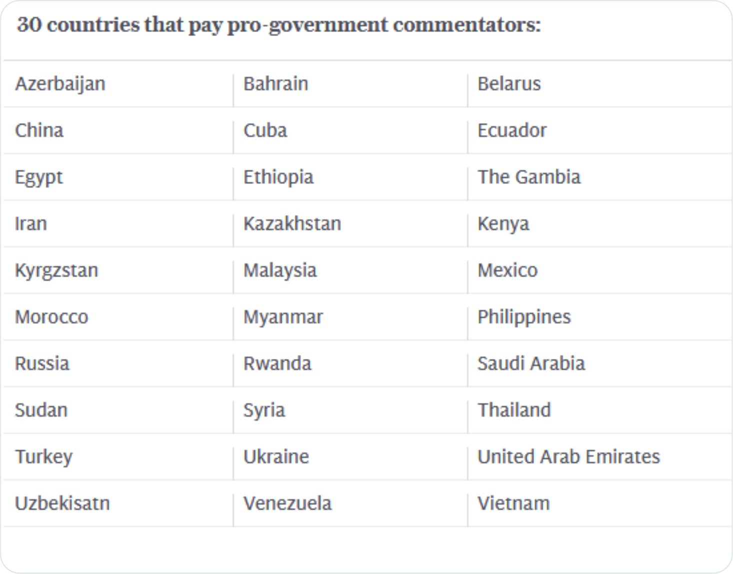
Alejandra Zuñiga @AlejandraZuig16 · 10h
This photo truly captures the essence of love and happiness. Such a beautiful memory.
3 · 26K

Rafaela Figueroa @RafaelaFiguero2 · 10h
This photo radiates warmth and love, a timeless testament to eternal promises.
1 · 1 · 14K

BUGUS @BUGUS1 · 9h
Gorgeous moment of love and promises, beautifully captured in this photo!
2 · 18K

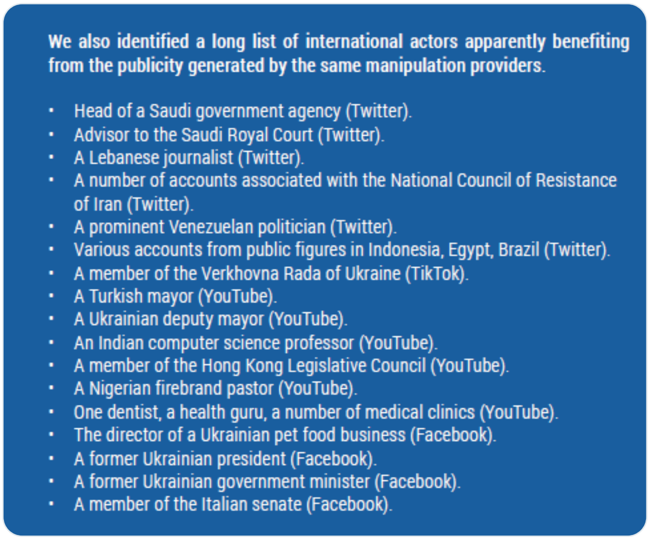
♡ @zarrysd · 10h
Absolutely breathtaking! The love conveyed in this photo is simply surreal.

But not all troll farms are of course Russian, and not all of them focus solely on the West. They've been used extensively in the elections in the Arab world, and even firebrand pastors, dentists, pet food businesses and health gurus have utilized them to gain popularity.



30 countries that pay pro-government commentators:

Azerbaijan	Bahrain	Belarus
China	Cuba	Ecuador
Egypt	Ethiopia	The Gambia
Iran	Kazakhstan	Kenya
Kyrgzstan	Malaysia	Mexico
Morocco	Myanmar	Philippines
Russia	Rwanda	Saudi Arabia
Sudan	Syria	Thailand
Turkey	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates
Uzbekisatn	Venezuela	Vietnam

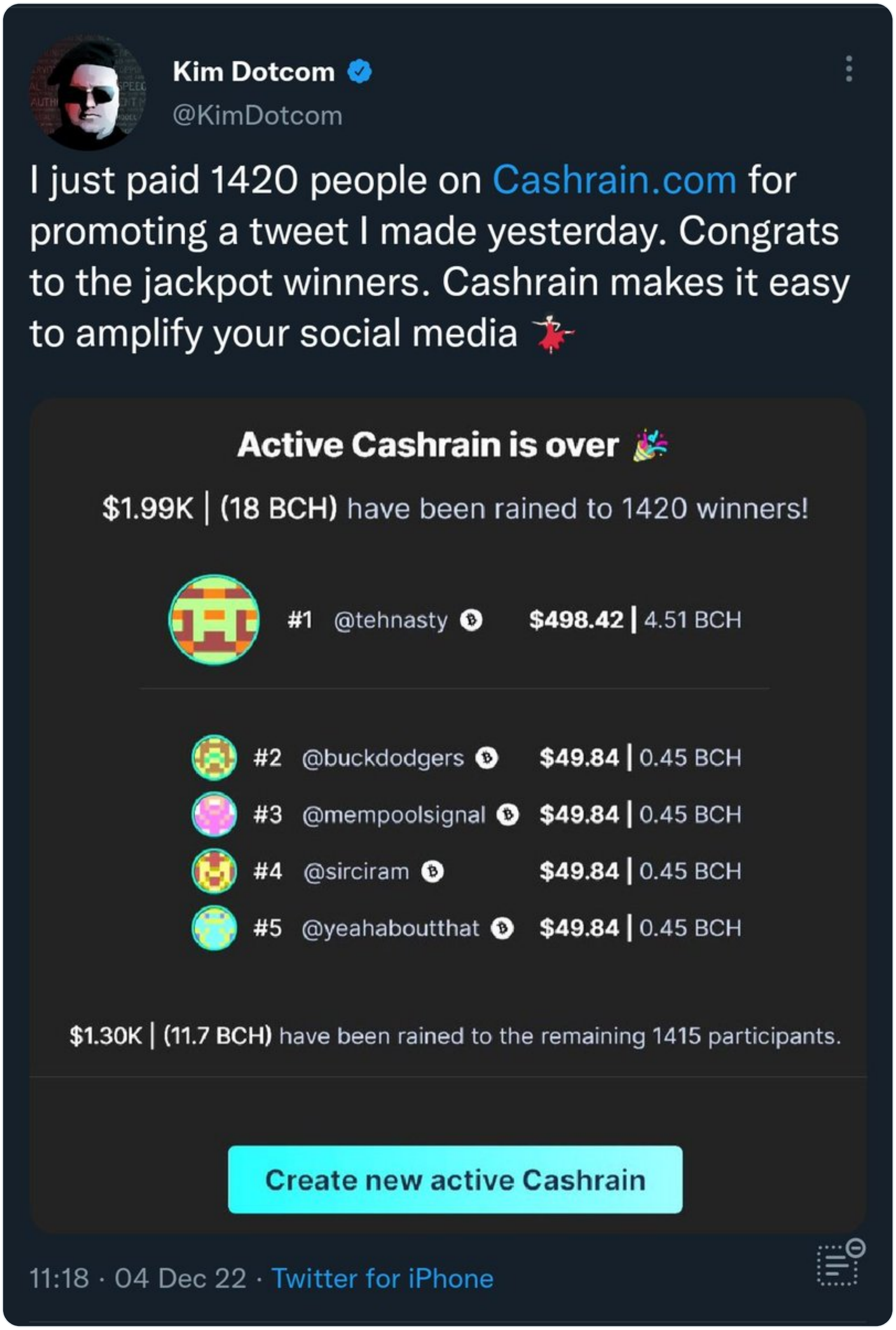


We also identified a long list of international actors apparently benefiting from the publicity generated by the same manipulation providers.

- Head of a Saudi government agency (Twitter).
- Advisor to the Saudi Royal Court (Twitter).
- A Lebanese journalist (Twitter).
- A number of accounts associated with the National Council of Resistance of Iran (Twitter).
- A prominent Venezuelan politician (Twitter).
- Various accounts from public figures in Indonesia, Egypt, Brazil (Twitter).
- A member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (TikTok).
- A Turkish mayor (YouTube).
- A Ukrainian deputy mayor (YouTube).
- An Indian computer science professor (YouTube).
- A member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council (YouTube).
- A Nigerian firebrand pastor (YouTube).
- One dentist, a health guru, a number of medical clinics (YouTube).
- The director of a Ukrainian pet food business (Facebook).
- A former Ukrainian president (Facebook).
- A former Ukrainian government minister (Facebook).
- A member of the Italian senate (Facebook).

Troll farms are also used to artificially bloat accounts that spread specific narratives. For example, @JoeyMannarinoUS was steadily losing followers until he had a big spike after mid-Jan 2024. This huge increase is probably as fake as his hairline.

15/21



Kim Dotcom
@KimDotcom

I just paid 1420 people on Cashrain.com for promoting a tweet I made yesterday. Congrats to the jackpot winners. Cashrain makes it easy to amplify your social media 💃

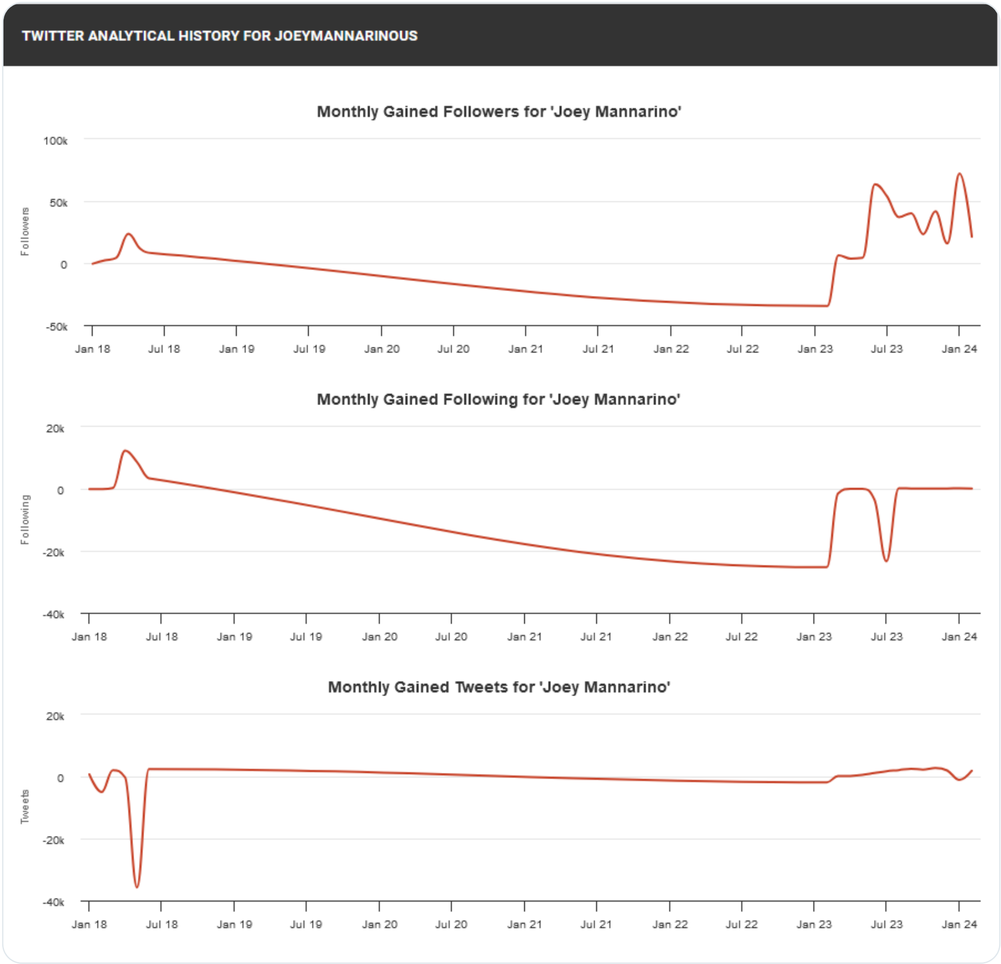
Active Cashrain is over 🎉

$1.99K | (18 BCH) have been rained to 1420 winners!

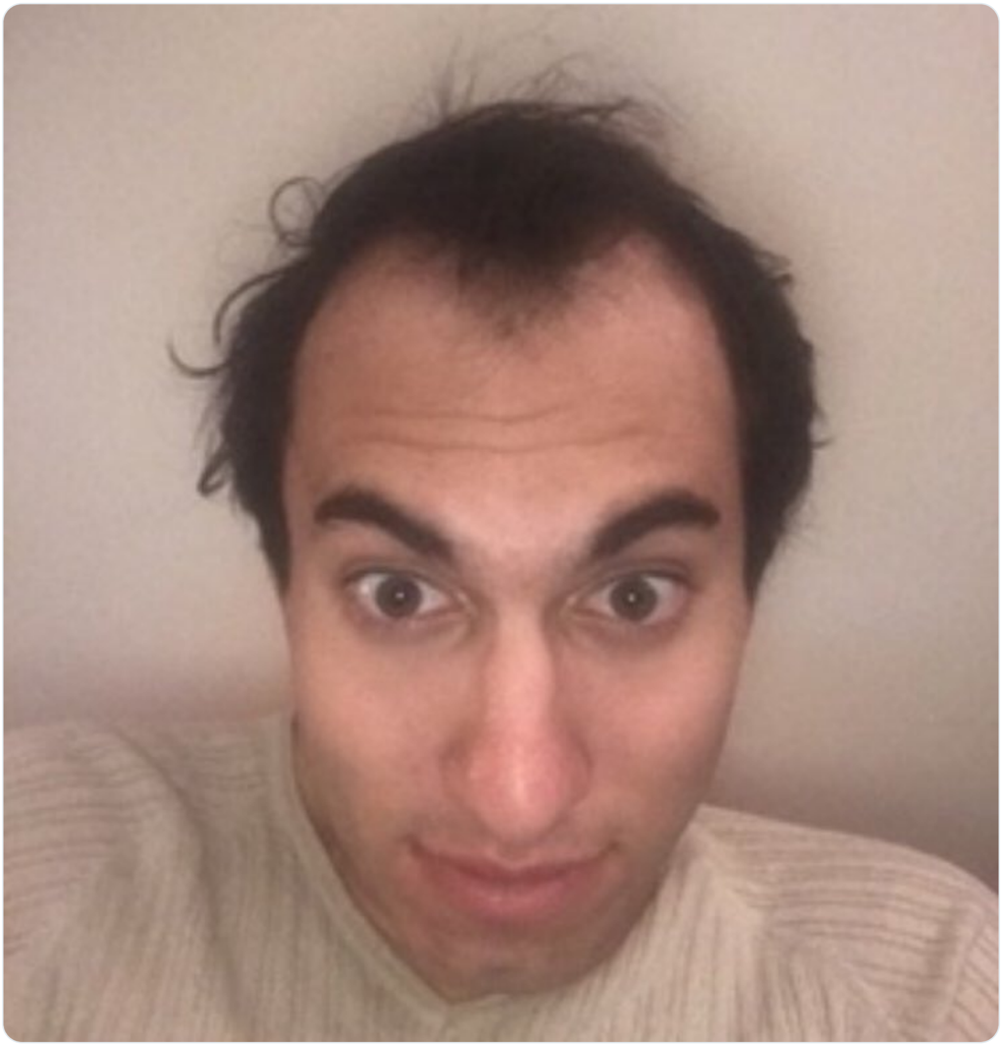
#1	@tehnasty	**$498.42** | 4.51 BCH
#2	@buckdodgers	**$49.84** | 0.45 BCH
#3	@mempoolsignal	**$49.84** | 0.45 BCH
#4	@sirciram	**$49.84** | 0.45 BCH
#5	@yeahaboutthat	**$49.84** | 0.45 BCH

$1.30K | (11.7 BCH) have been rained to the remaining 1415 participants.

11:18 · 04 Dec 22 · Twitter for iPhone



TWITTER ANALYTICAL HISTORY FOR JOEYMANNARINOUS



In addition to being difficult to counter, social media manipulation is also extremely cheap. After it became a global phenomenon and business, the price of buying likes, shares and comments has become a viable and cheap strategy for any government or organization.

16/21

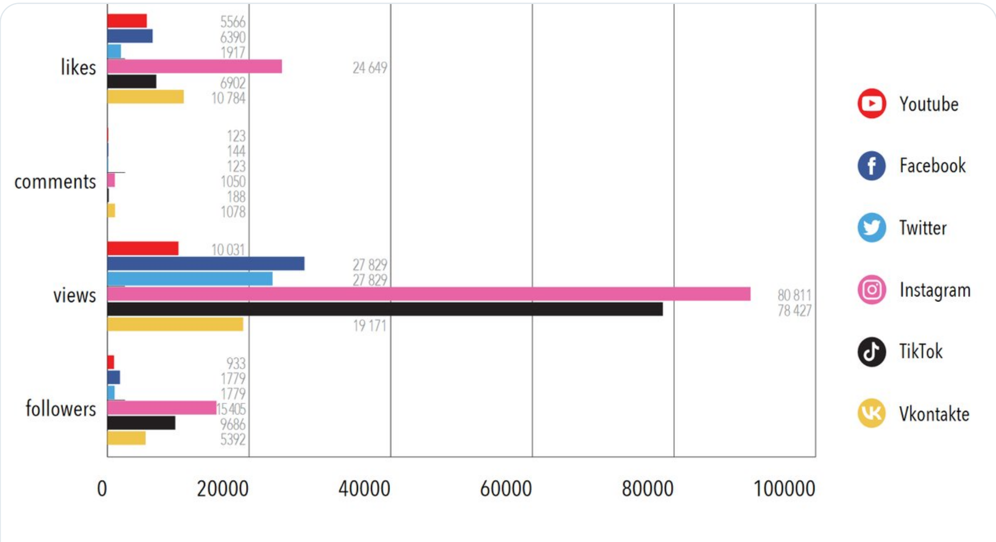
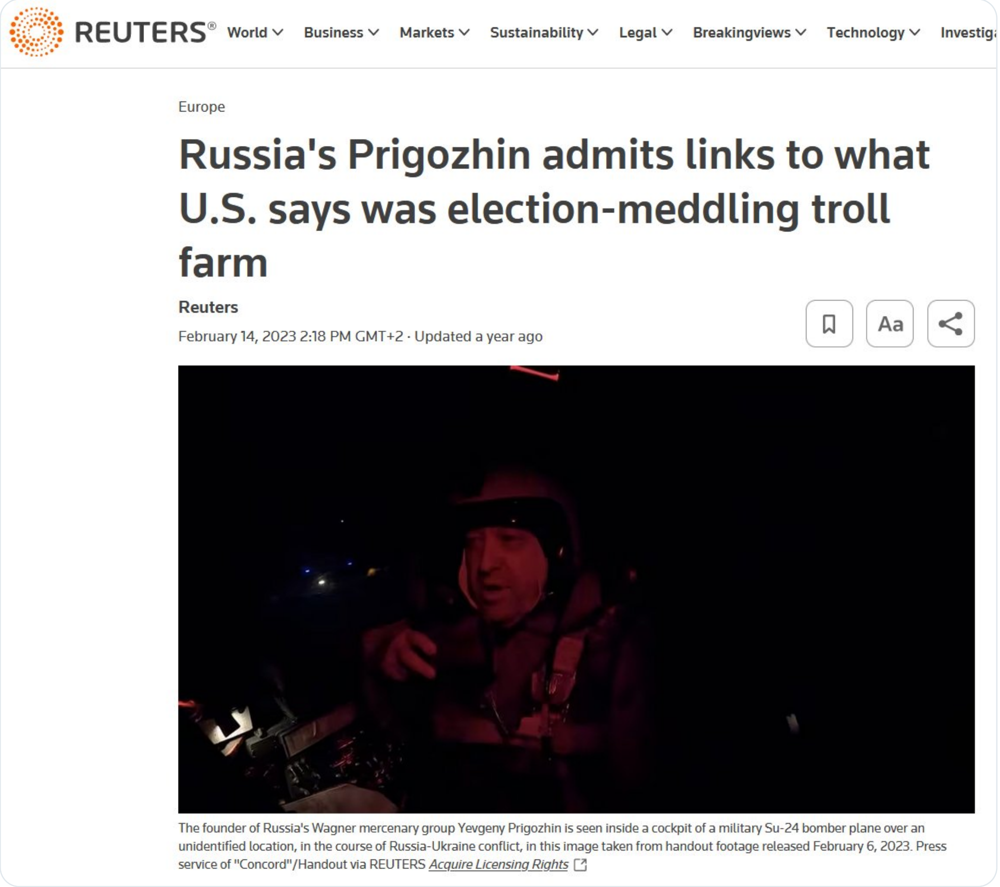


Figure 4: How much manipulation will 10 EUR buy you?

As you may have noticed, there's an ongoing manipulation campaign that focuses heavily on endorsing Trump to become the next president of the US. I'd imagine, that this would be supported by troll farms in most authoritarian regimes, including the Kremlin and the CCP.

17/21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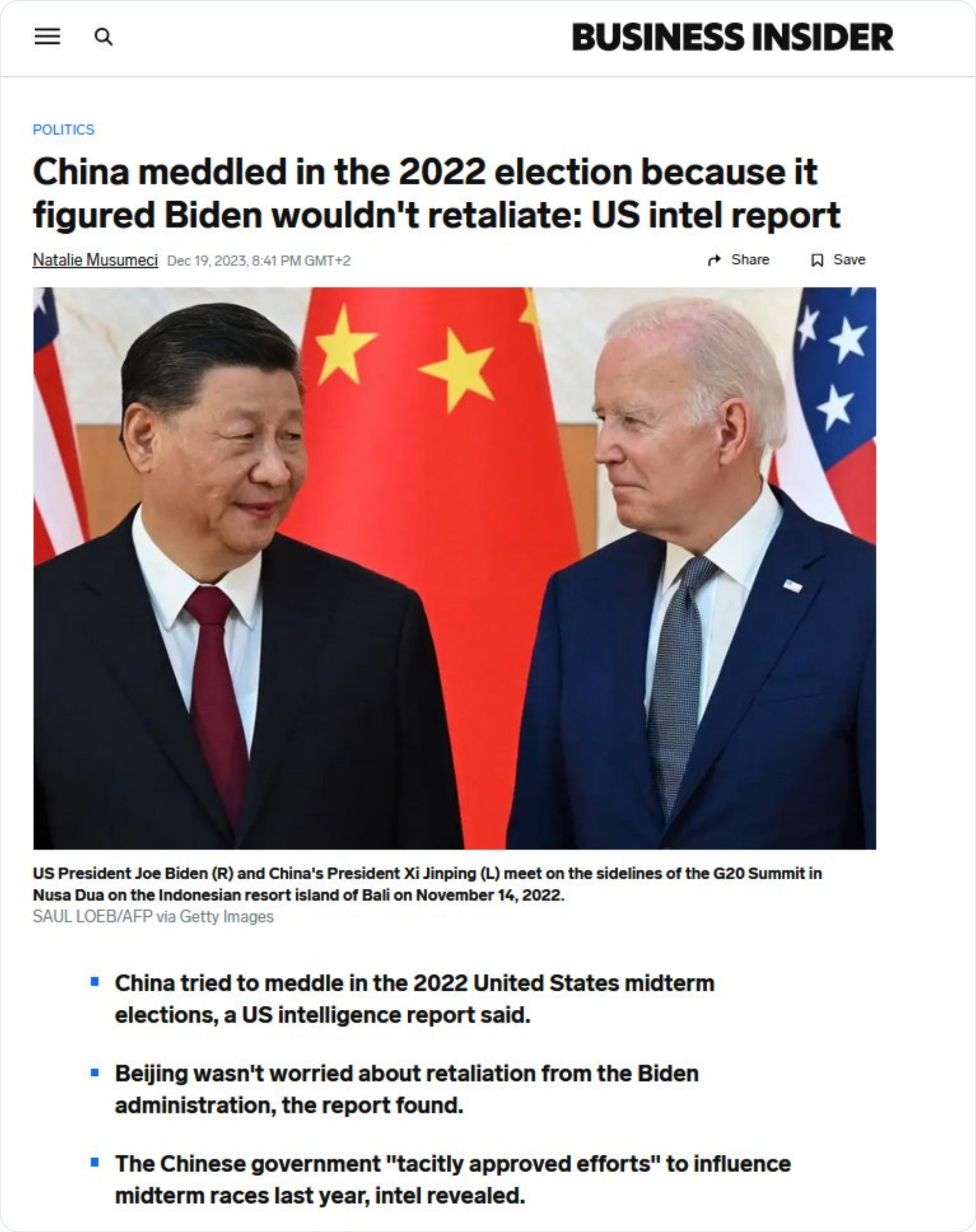
Russia's Prigozhin admits links to what U.S. says was election-meddling troll farm

Reuters

February 14, 2023 2:18 PM GMT+2 · Updated a year ago

The founder of Russia's Wagner mercenary group Yevgeny Prigozhin is seen inside a cockpit of a military Su-24 bomber plane over an unidentified location, in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict, in this image taken from handout footage released February 6, 2023. Press service of "Concord"/Handout via REUTERS *Acquire Licensing Rights*



China meddled in the 2022 election because it figured Biden wouldn't retaliate: US intel report

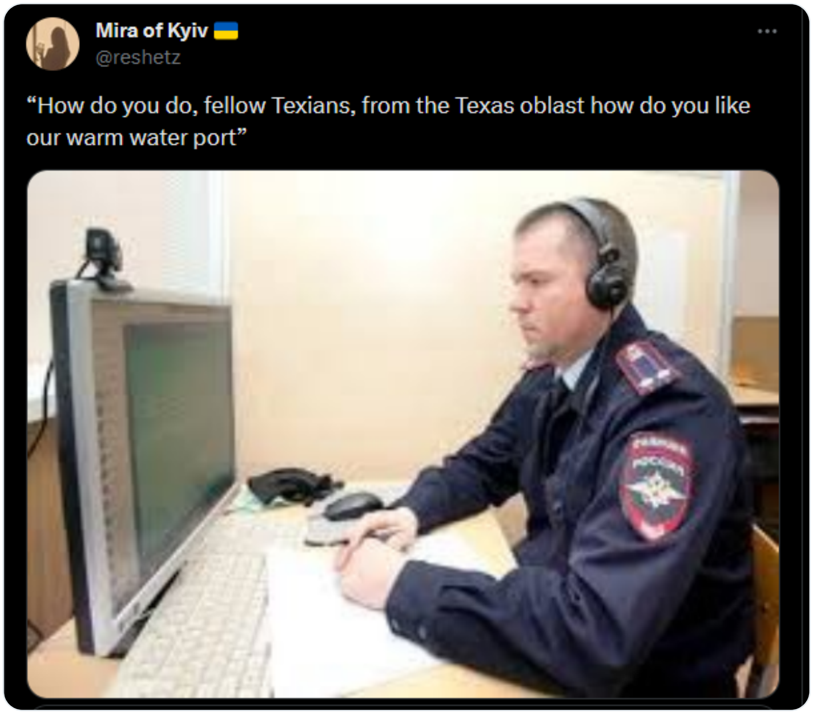
Natalie Musumeci Dec 19, 2023, 8:41 PM GMT+2

US President Joe Biden (R) and China's President Xi Jinping (L) meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on November 14, 2022.
SAUL LOEB/AFP via Getty Images

- **China tried to meddle in the 2022 United States midterm elections, a US intelligence report said.**
- **Beijing wasn't worried about retaliation from the Biden administration, the report found.**
- **The Chinese government "tacitly approved efforts" to influence midterm races last year, intel revealed.**

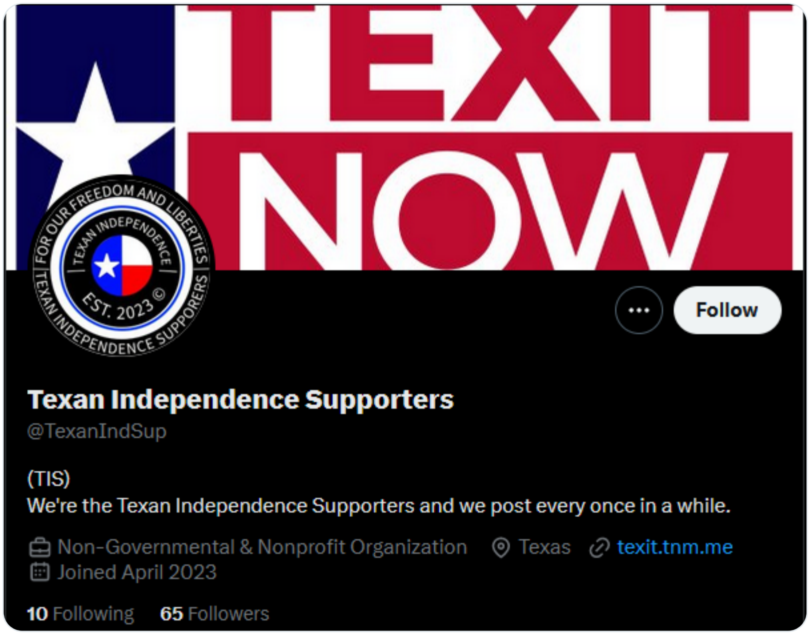
So, expect to see much more "Texian patriots", BBQ dads, football fans, concerned citizens, warm water port enjoyers, "unvaxxed mothers/wives", free speech advocates and humble Christians, and then watch them disappear after the US election in Nov 2024.

18/21



Mira of Kyiv 🇺🇦
@reshetz

“How do you do, fellow Texians, from the Texas oblast how do you like our warm water port”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FOR OUR FREEDOM AND LIBERTIES
TEXAN INDEPENDENCE
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@TexanIndSup

(TIS)
We're the Texan Independence Supporters and we post every once in a while.

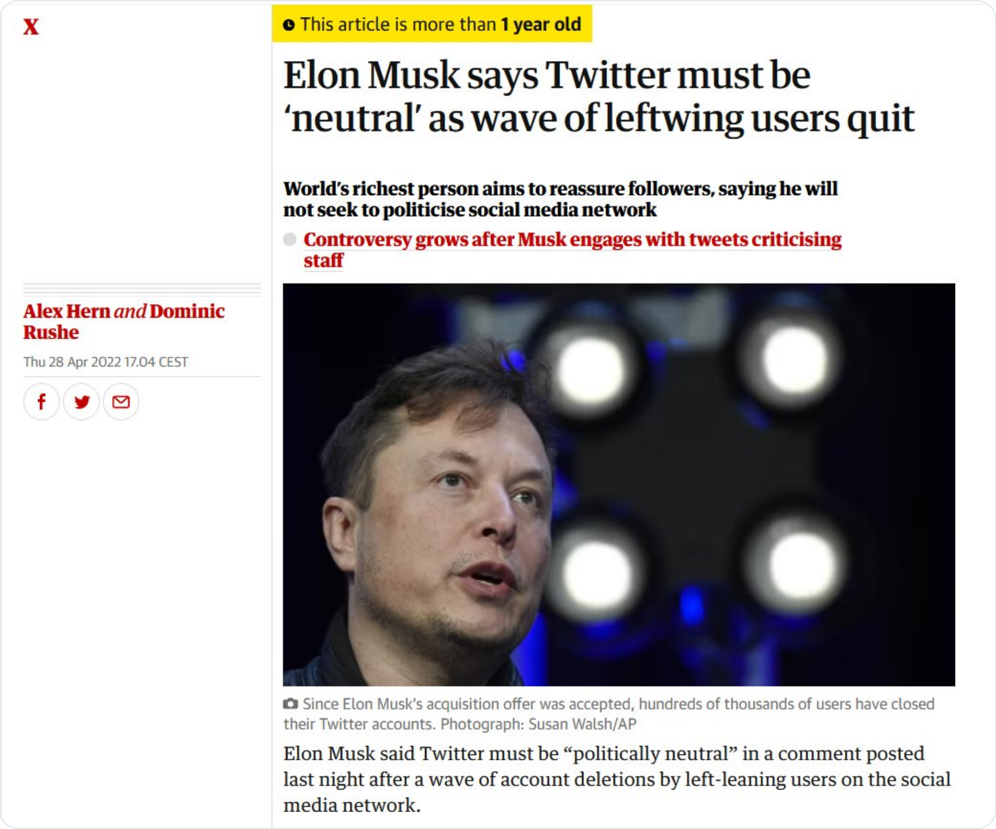
Non-Governmental & Nonprofit Organization · Texas · texit.tnm.me
Joined April 2023

10 Following 65 Followers

And all this is of course no problem to @elonmusk (who has me muted btw). He's showed strong opposition to Biden's policies, and the millions of bots buying blue and gold ticks probably keep his platform afloat.

So, don't expect many changes in the near future.

19/21



X

This article is more than **1 year old**

Elon Musk says Twitter must be 'neutral' as wave of leftwing users quit

World's richest person aims to reassure followers, saying he will not seek to politicise social media network

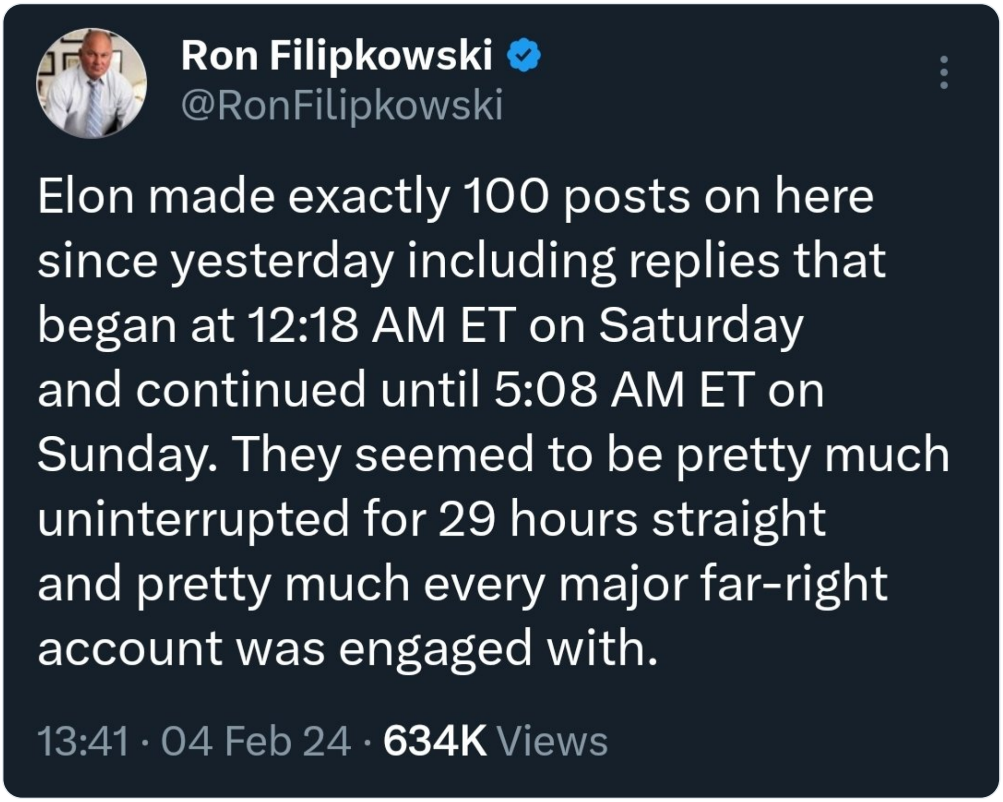
- **Controversy grows after Musk engages with tweets criticising staff**

Alex Hern *and* **Dominic Rushe**

Thu 28 Apr 2022 17.04 CEST

Since Elon Musk's acquisition offer was accepted, hundreds of thousands of users have closed their Twitter accounts. Photograph: Susan Walsh/AP

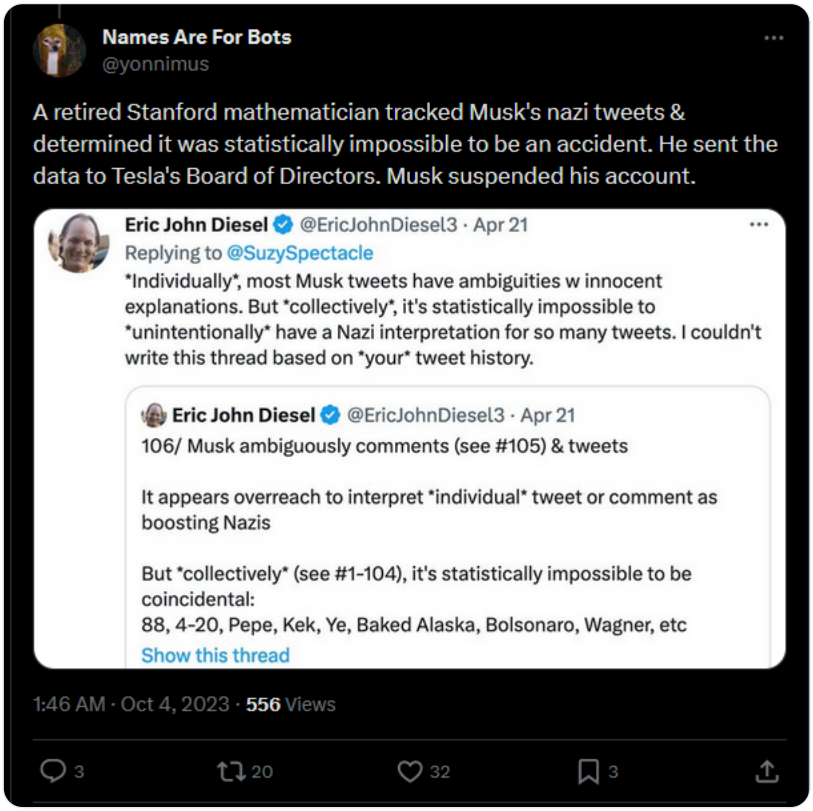
Elon Musk said Twitter must be "politically neutral" in a comment posted last night after a wave of account deletions by left-leaning users on the social media network.



Ron Filipkowski
@RonFilipkowski

Elon made exactly 100 posts on here since yesterday including replies that began at 12:18 AM ET on Saturday and continued until 5:08 AM ET on Sunday. They seemed to be pretty much uninterrupted for 29 hours straight and pretty much every major far-right account was engaged with.

13:41 · 04 Feb 24 · **634K** Views


Names Are For Bots
@yonnimus

A retired Stanford mathematician tracked Musk's nazi tweets & determined it was statistically impossible to be an accident. He sent the data to Tesla's Board of Directors. Musk suspended his account.

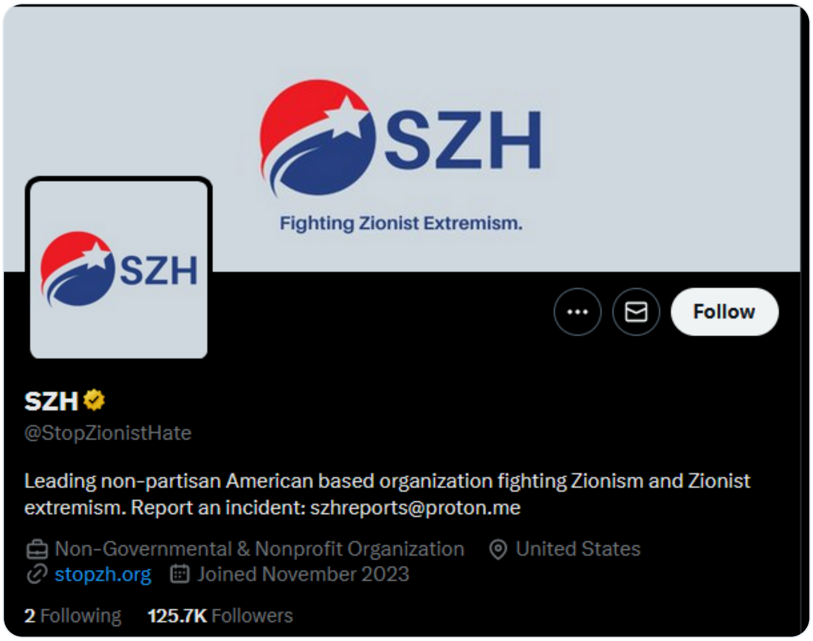
Eric John Diesel @EricJohnDiesel3 · Apr 21
Replying to @SuzySpectacle
Individually, most Musk tweets have ambiguities w innocent explanations. But *collectively*, it's statistically impossible to *unintentionally* have a Nazi interpretation for so many tweets. I couldn't write this thread based on *your* tweet history.

Eric John Diesel @EricJohnDiesel3 · Apr 21
106/ Musk ambiguously comments (see #105) & tweets

It appears overreach to interpret *individual* tweet or comment as boosting Nazis

But *collectively* (see #1-104), it's statistically impossible to be coincidental:
88, 4-20, Pepe, Kek, Ye, Baked Alaska, Bolsonaro, Wagner, etc
Show this thread

1:46 AM · Oct 4, 2023 · **556** Views



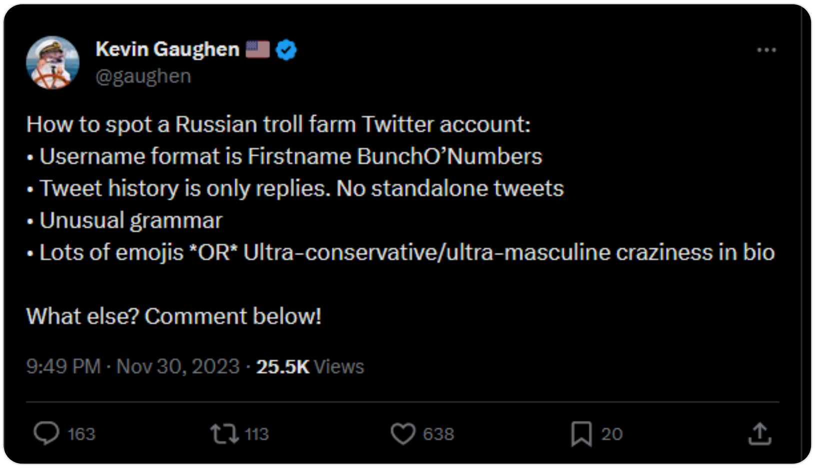
SZH
@StopZionistHate

Leading non-partisan American based organization fighting Zionism and Zionist extremism. Report an incident: szhreports@proton.me

Non-Governmental & Nonprofit Organization United States
stopzh.org Joined November 2023

2 Following **125.7K** Followers

Now, there are some accounts that try to find patterns in usernames, behavior, etc. This is important work, but one should remember that there are probably thousands of troll farms around the world, some more sophisticated than others, making them difficult…



Kevin Gaughen 🇺🇸

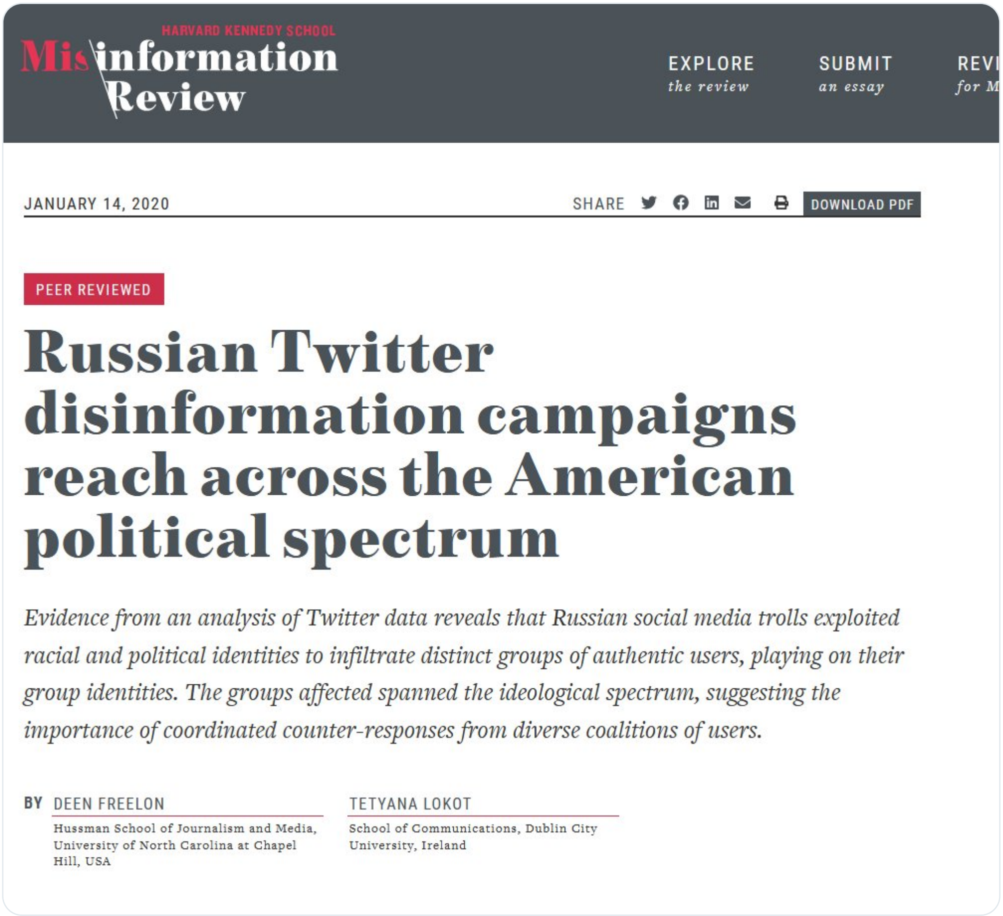
@gaughen

How to spot a Russian troll farm Twitter account:

- Username format is Firstname BunchO'Numbers
- Tweet history is only replies. No standalone tweets
- Unusual grammar
- Lots of emojis *OR* Ultra-conservative/ultra-masculine craziness in bio

What else? Comment below!

9:49 PM · Nov 30, 2023 · **25.5K** Views



JANUARY 14, 2020

PEER REVIEWED

Russian Twitter disinformation campaigns reach across the American political spectrum

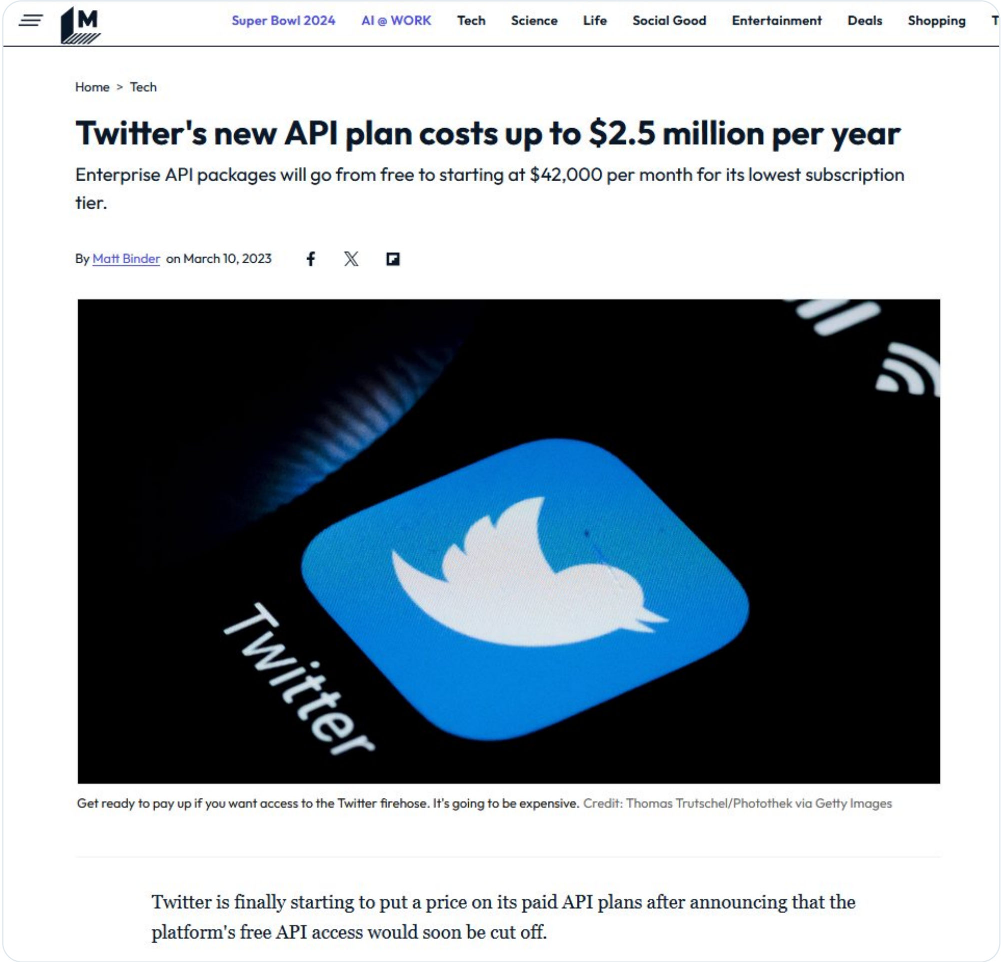
Evidence from an analysis of Twitter data reveals that Russian social media trolls exploited racial and political identities to infiltrate distinct groups of authentic users, playing on their group identities. The groups affected spanned the ideological spectrum, suggesting the importance of coordinated counter-responses from diverse coalitions of users.

BY DEEN FREELON
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

TETYANA LOKOT
School of Communications, Dublin City University, Ireland

...to detect without proper tools. Twitter had these tools before, but Elon conveniently removed them, probably to make more money and to prevent researchers from doing deep dives on the data. But you can still buy the full toolset for around 2,5 million USD annually.

21/21


M
Super Bowl 2024
AI @ WORK
Tech
Science
Life
Social Good
Entertainment
Deals
Shopping
Home > Tech
Twitter

Twitter's new API plan costs up to $2.5 million per year

Enterprise API packages will go from free to starting at $42,000 per month for its lowest subscription tier.

By Matt Binder on March 10, 2023

Get ready to pay up if you want access to the Twitter firehose. It's going to be expensive. Credit: Thomas Trutschel/Photothek via Getty Images

Twitter is finally starting to put a price on its paid API plans after announcing that the platform's free API access would soon be cut off.

Sources:

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https://stratcomcoe.org/publications/the-black-market-for-social-media-manipulation/103
instagram.com/vatniksoup/

The Soup Central

The Soup Central gives you in-depth knowledge on disinformation, bad actors and information operations.

https://www.youtube.com/@TheSoupCentral/videos

literal russian propaganda
Elon musk:

Concerning
Interesting

…