



Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi

Mar 9 · 51 tweets · [mtaibbi/status/1633830002742657027](https://twitter.com/mtaibbi/status/1633830002742657027)

1. TWITTER FILES:

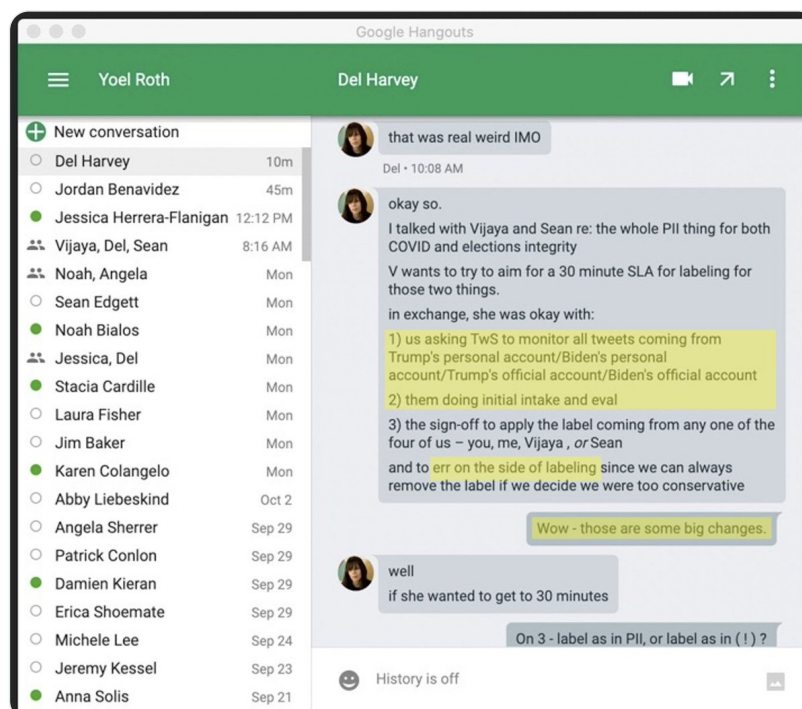
Statement to Congress

THE CENSORSHIP-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

- CDC in one week
- True content which might promote vaccine hesitancy
 - Viral posts of individuals expressing vaccine hesitancy, or stories of true vaccine side effects. This content is not clearly mis or disinformation, but it may be malinformation (exaggerated or misleading). Also included in this bucket are often true posts which could fuel hesitancy, such as individual countries banning certain vaccines.
 - Ex: News article and posts about a Central NY school district closing

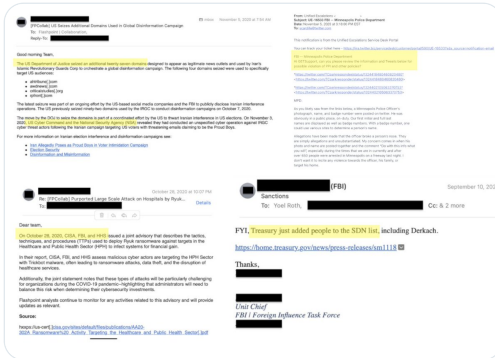
2. "MONITOR ALL TWEETS COMING FROM TRUMP'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT/BIDEN'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT"

When [#TwitterFiles](#) reporters were given access to Twitter internal documents last year, we first focused on the company, which at times acted like a power above government.



3. But Twitter was more like a partner to government.

With other tech firms it held a regular “industry meeting” with FBI and DHS, and developed a formal system for receiving thousands of content reports from every corner of government: HHS, Treasury, NSA, even local police:



EC Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) 7/30/20
FITF Meeting with Twitter
To: & 20 more
Details

All - please forward to whomever you deem appropriate.

Agenda:

Russia Status

- IRA Update
- OGA Briefing
- APT28 Update

China Status

- PRC Update
- APT31 Briefing

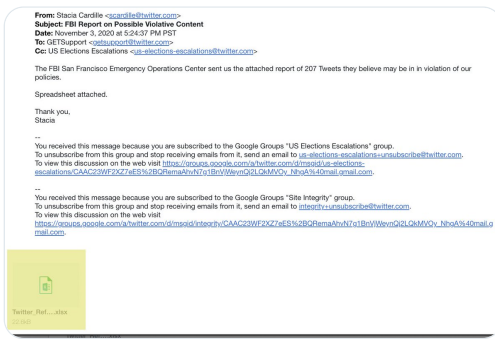
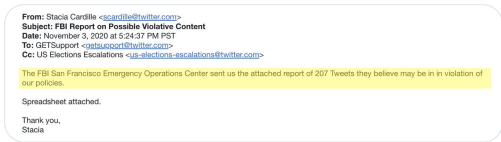
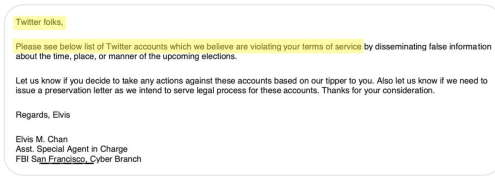
Global Status

- Iran Update
- Venezuela Briefing
- North Korea Briefing

Planning for the Elections

- FBI Posture
- Your Posture
- Information Sharing Channels and Methods

4. Emails from the FBI, DHS and other agencies often came with spreadsheets of hundreds or thousands of account names for review. Often, these would be deleted soon after.



5. Many were obvious “misinformation,” like accounts urging people to vote the day after an election.

But other official "disinfo" reports had shakier reasoning. The highlighted Twitter analysis here disagrees with the FBI about accounts deemed a “proxy of Russian actors”:

Hey folks,
I suspended 12 accounts of AR origin ([@23327](#)) and 10 accounts of VE origin ([@23378](#)) that were tweeting about "Ucrania" and "Nazis," and were clustered by identical event IPs and user agents and/or via Safetygraph.
After reviewing the Chalecos account, we're recommending to request an ID in order to obtain another signal about the actor behind the account. While the FBI asserts that the account is a proxy of Russian actors, we've found evidence that suggests it is linked to individuals in the Pirate Party in Catalonia and others on the left political spectrum. We also found that the Chalecos account has been, strangely, RTing its own content and then quickly deleting it, racking up more than 3k deleted Tweets since last week alone.

6. Then we saw "disinfo" lists where evidence was even less clear. This list of 378 "Iranian State Linked Accounts" includes an Iraq vet once arrested for blogging about the war, a former Chicago Sun-Times reporter and Truthout, a site that publishes Noam Chomsky.

FOX NEWS channel U.S. Politics World Opinion Media Entertainment Sports Lifestyle Video More TRENDING MURDAUGH

STARZ WATCH NOW
prime video CHANNELS

STORY Published May 15, 2015 4:18pm EDT

One Soldier, One Blog, One Punishment

By Kelley Becker Vishoi | Fox News

WASHINGTON — **Leonard Clark** (search), an Arizona Army National Guardsman stationed in Iraq, paid a steep price for using a blog to share his overtly anti-war opinions — he was demoted for putting American troops in danger.

But Clark, a 40-year-old kindergarten teacher, says officials went too far with their response. In an e-mail exchange with FOXNews.com, he said the military "indirectly outed" him by making the charges against him public, and now he fears his wife and daughter are in danger.

"I am terrified for my family," he said, noting that "the highly inflammable and controversial charges against me" — the most severe for any soldier-blogger on record — have generated fierce hate mail to his Web site, LeonardClark.com.

Craig Newman

@craignewman Follows you

Ex @crainschicago, @suntimes, @bostonglobe, @nwtimes. M Ed social science. History teacher and Baseball guy @amundsen_hs. I endorse nothing. Not @craignewmark

Chicago Born March 15 Joined February 2008

13K Following 15.5K Followers

truthout

Truthout

@truthout Follows you

Truthout is a nonprofit news organization dedicated to providing independent reporting and commentary on a diverse range of social justice issues.

United States truthout.org Joined January 2009

43.6K Following 178.7K Followers

START OF TEXT

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ONLY FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL INVESTIGATIVE LEADS. IT CANNOT BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC COURT PROCEEDINGS OR FOR ANY OTHER LEGAL, JUDICIAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

(U) For background, we received information on two independent analysis reports on suspected Iranian state linked accounts. The first report was from the Department of State, Global Engagement Center on an analysis of Twitter account @jzarif, attributable to Mohammad Javad Zarif-Khonsari (Zarif), serving as Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister from 2013 to 2021. The second report was from a PhD Student at the American University School of Public Affairs regarding Twitter account @tparsi, attributable to dual Iranian-Swedish citizen Feiza Parsi (Parsi), who is located within the United States. Both reports assessed the two Twitter accounts utilize bot networks to amplify Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior (CIB), thus potentially being involved with Foreign Malicious Influence (FMI) activity on Twitter and violating Twitter's Terms of Service.

(U//FOUO) The reports included the following summary analysis of the findings based on data from 2008 to 2020:

- Automated Account Detection for bots during specific pro-Iranian events:
 - Election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
 - July 2015 - Nuclear Deal announcement
 - October 2017 - Jan 2018 - Student Protests
 - January 2020 - Solimani Al-Assad strike
- Spikes in new accounts following both @tparsi and @jzarif during the above events.
- Behavioral analysis** identified both bot and organic activity.
- Narrative analysis identified differences between bot and organic accounts.
- Sentiment analysis** identified differences between bot and organic accounts.
 - It was estimated @tparsi's follower network since 2008 consisted of 50 percent bot and 50 percent organic accounts.
- Progress towards replicating human-like content and Twitter behaviors in bots.

(U//FOUO) The two reports will be included for you. Additionally, an excel file containing the suspected bot accounts following @tparsi will be attached for reference.

(U) Any feedback you can provide regarding these accounts and any violations of your company's terms of service would be greatly appreciated.

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) END OF TEXT

7. In some cases, state reports didn't even assert misinformation. Here, a list of YouTube videos is flagged for "anti-Ukraine narratives":

2 August 2022

2022-51095

USA/Other:Other/Apple; USA/Other:Other/Google/Youtube;
USA/Other:Other/Meta; USA/Other:Other/Twitter;
USA/Other:Other/Reddit; USA/Other:Other/Verizon Media/Yahoo;
USA/Other:Other/LinkedIn; USA/Other:Other/Wikimedia

(U) Tearline:

(U) The tearline must be used as-is; no changes to the text/language are permitted.

(U) Russian mogul Yevgeniy Prigozhin's Internet Research Agency (IRA) was responsible for the following content, which highlighted predominantly **anti-Ukraine narratives**, between April and May 2022 at the following addresses on the specified platforms:

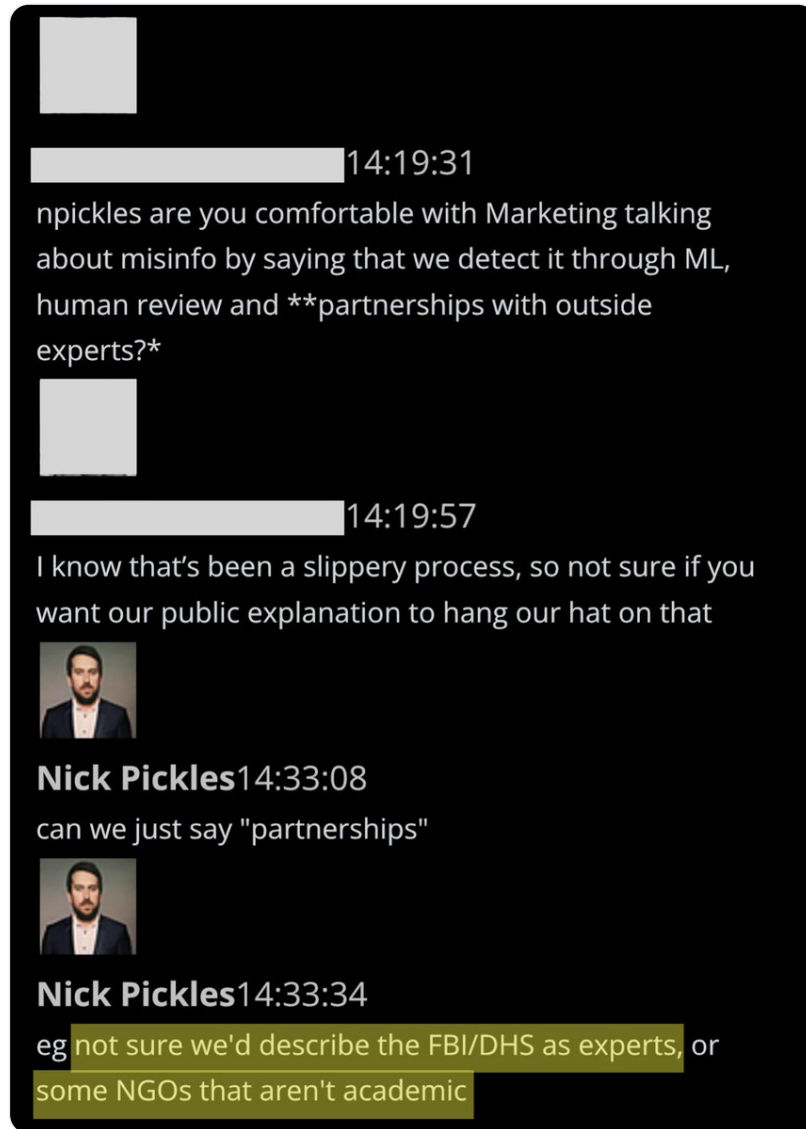
YouTube: (U)

<https://youtube.com/shorts/erGA809Llmk>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/DVsJSNKbsQ>

8. But the bulk of censorship requests didn't come from government directly.

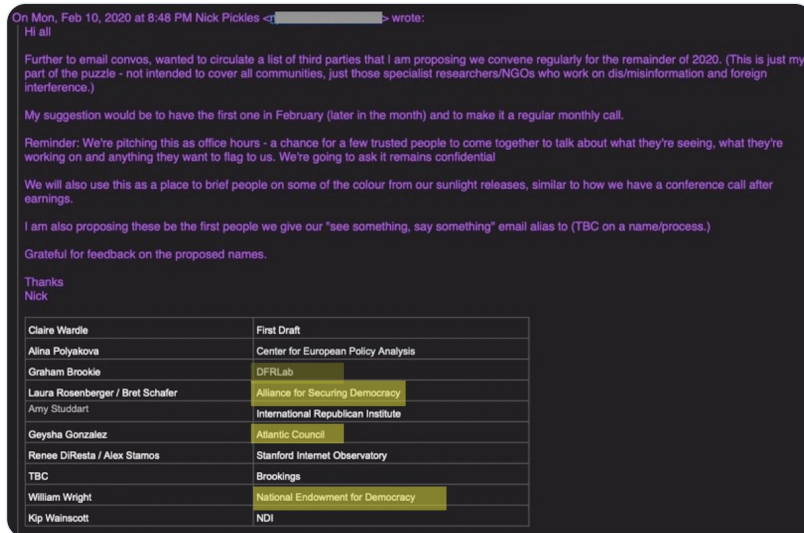
9. Asked if Twitter’s marketing department could say the company detects “misinfo” with help of “outside experts,” a Twitter executive replied:



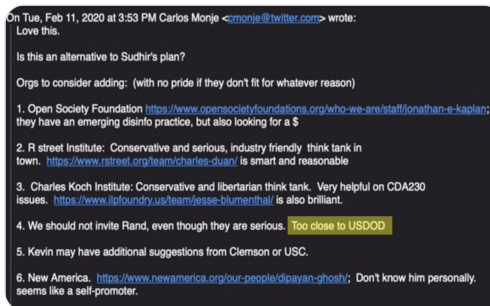
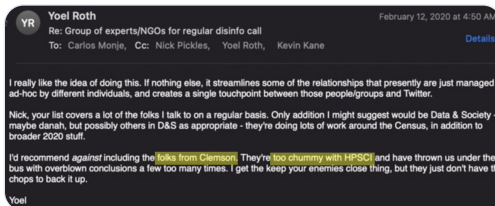
10. We came to think of this grouping – state agencies like DHS, FBI, or the Global Engagement Center (GEC), along with “NGOs that aren’t academic” and an unexpectedly aggressive partner, commercial news media – as the Censorship-Industrial Complex.

11. Who's in the Censorship-Industrial Complex? Twitter in 2020 helpfully compiled a list for a working group set up in 2020.

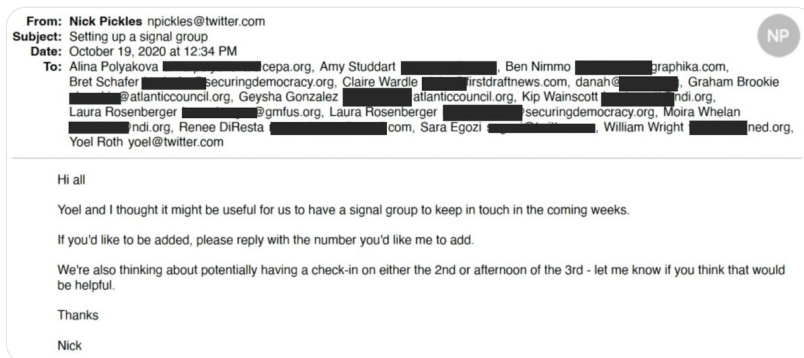
The National Endowment for Democracy, the Atlantic Council's DFRLab, and Hamilton 68's creator, the Alliance for Securing Democracy, are key:



12. Twitter execs weren't sure about Clemson's Media Forensics Lab ("too chummy with HPSCI"), and weren't keen on the Rand Corporation ("too close to USDOD"), but others were deemed just right.



13. NGOs ideally serve as a check on corporations and the government. Not long ago, most of these institutions viewed themselves that way. Now, intel officials, "researchers," and executives at firms like Twitter are effectively one team - or Signal group, as it were:



14. The Woodstock of the Censorship-Industrial Complex came when the Aspen Institute - which receives millions a year from both the State Department and USAID - held a star-studded confab in Aspen in August 2021 to release its final report on “Information Disorder.”

Department of State (DOS)

Recipient

ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE
2300 N ST NW STE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1122
Congressional District: DC-98
UNITED STATES

\$ Award Amounts

Outlayed Amount
\$0.00

Obligated Amount
\$10,320,000.00

Awarding Agency
Agency for International Development (USAID)

Recipient
ASPEN INSTITUTE INC, THE
2300 N ST NW STE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1122
Congressional District: DC-98
UNITED STATES

Assistance Listings (CFDA Programs)
98.001 - USAID FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR PROGRAMS OVERSEAS
VIEW MORE INFO ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

Dates

Start Date
End Date


\$ Award Amounts

\$6.5 Million
Obligated Amount


Aspen Institute's
Commission on Information Disorder
Final Report

15. The report was co-authored by Katie Couric and Chris Krebs, the founder of the DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Yoel Roth of Twitter and Nathaniel Gleicher of Facebook were technical advisors. Prince Harry joined Couric as a Commissioner.


The Commissioners




Marla Blow
President & Chief Operating Officer
Skoll Foundation




Katie Couric
Journalist & Founder
Katie Couric Media




Dr. Aaron D. Ford
Nevada Attorney General



Yasmin Green
Director, Research & Development
Jigsaw



Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex
Co-Founder
Archewell



Will Hurd
Former Congressman of Texas

Technical Advisors

Throughout the preparation and planning process, the Commission engaged with a variety of individuals who have technical expertise and experience with the platforms. As Technical Advisors, their primary role was to be on-hand to provide commissioners with enhanced understanding of the issues it considered, and to provide advice as requested on potential solutions it might recommend. Technical Advisors were not compensated.

danah boyd
Partner Researcher at Microsoft Research

Renée DiResta
Technical Research Manager at Stanford Internet Observatory

Joan Donovan
Research Director at Harvard Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy and Director of the Technology and Social Change Project

Evelyn Douek
Lecturer on Law and S.J.D. candidate at Harvard Law School, Associate Research Scholar at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, and Affiliate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society

AD 73

Emily Frye
Director of Cyber Integration at MITRE

Nathaniel Gleicher
Head of Cybersecurity Policy at Facebook

Deborah Raji
Fellow at Mozilla

Thomas Rid
Professor of Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins University

Yoel Roth
Head of Site Integrity at Twitter

Alicia Wanless
Director of the Partnership for Countering Influence Operations at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Clement Wolf
Global Public Policy Lead for Information Integrity at Google

Context and Insights

This report has been authored by the three co-chairs of the Aspen Institute's Commission on Information Disorder: Katie Couric, Chris Krebs, and Rashad Robinson. The commissioners contributed to the report throughout the process through research, deliberation and discussion, and collaborative working groups, which produced the draft recommendations. While the Commission had broad alignment on the insights and direction of the recommendations, commissioners were not required to fully endorse every recommendation and insight contained in the final report.

16. Their taxpayer-backed conclusions: the state should have total access to data to make searching speech easier, speech offenders should be put in a "holding area," and government should probably restrict disinformation, "even if it means losing some freedom."

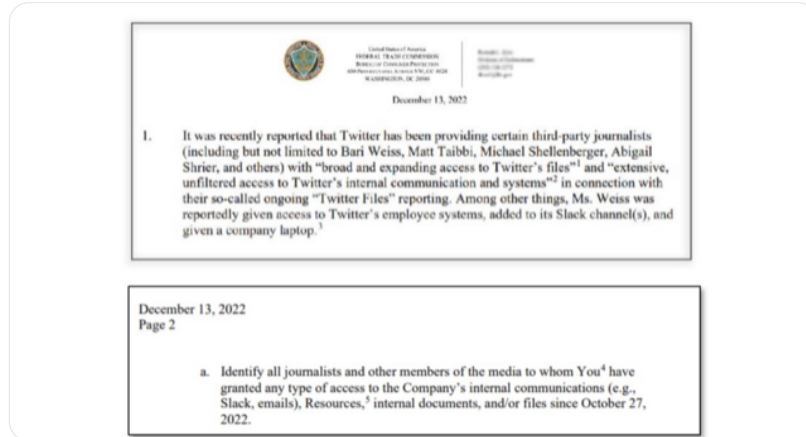
Key Stakeholders

- Government: Pass law — or empower independent agencies like the FTC — to mandate disclosure of data and provide legal safeguards that protect user privacy, respect platform integrity, and are in the public interest.

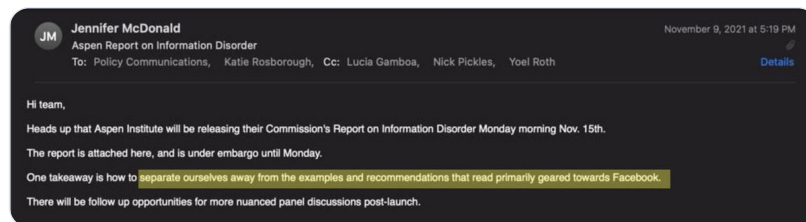
- Holding areas:** New posts from influencers with repeat bad behavior should be placed in a holding area that allows for manual moderation and scrutiny, helping limit the potential for additional misinformation to spread quickly.
- Demonetization:** Remove access to product features for violative behavior (e.g., posting, monetization or amplification).

accountability where they have fallen short already. Public sentiment underscores the disappointment and frustration with tech companies' failure in this area, with roughly half of U.S. adults indicating that the government should take steps to restrict false information, even if it means losing some freedom to access and publish content.⁵⁹

17. Note Aspen recommended the power to mandate data disclosure be given to the FTC, which this committee just caught in a clear abuse of office, demanding information from Twitter about communications with (and identities of) [#TwitterFiles](#) reporters. https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/Weaponization_Select_Subcommittee_Report_on_FTC_Harrassment_of_Twitter_3.7.2023.pdf



18. Naturally Twitter's main concern regarding the Aspen report was making sure Facebook got hit harder by any resulting regulatory changes:



19. The same agencies (FBI, DHS/CISA, GEC) invite the same “experts” (Thomas Rid, Alex Stamos), funded by the same foundations (Newmark, Omidyar, Knight) trailed by the same reporters (Margaret Sullivan, Molly McKew, Brandy Zadrozny) seemingly to every conference, every panel.

12:44 5G

HARVARD Kennedy School
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Securing Democracy: Misinform...

Thank you for tuning in! Find more events at iop.harvard.edu/calendar

Following the 2020 elections, the US Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency—then headed by **Chris Krebs**—released a statement that the 2020 election was “the most secure in American history.” While voting machines, ballot counters, and mail-in ballot infrastructure were protected for that election, a war continues to be waged today in the cyber domain relating to elections. Misinformation and disinformation, spread through social media, influence public discourse and mobilize groups to dangerous and violent ends. As we approach the 2022 midterms, what is the best way forward to ensure a secure and fair election?

Join us in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum for a conversation with **Chris Krebs**, now a partner at the Krebs Stamos Group, and moderated by **Dr. Joan Donovan**, Research Director of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School.

Stanford | Cyber Policy Center
Freeman Spogli Institute and Stanford Law School

MENU

The Cyber Policy Center is a joint initiative of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and Stanford Law School.

THE TRUST PROBLEM: What is the role of the U.S. government in facilitating consensus and reducing polarization at home?

- Moderator: [Renée DiResta](#)
- Speakers: [Ben Ginsberg](#), [Larry Diamond](#), Nicole Wong, [Rashad Robinson](#)

20. The [#TwitterFiles](#) show the principals of this incestuous self-appointed truth squad moving from law enforcement/intelligence to the private sector and back, claiming a special right to do what they say is bad practice for everyone else: be fact-checked only by themselves.

21. While Twitter sometimes pushed back on technical analyses from NGOs about who is and isn't a "bot," on subject matter questions like vaccines or elections they instantly defer to sites like Politifact, funded by the same names that fund the NGOs: Koch, Newmark, Knight.

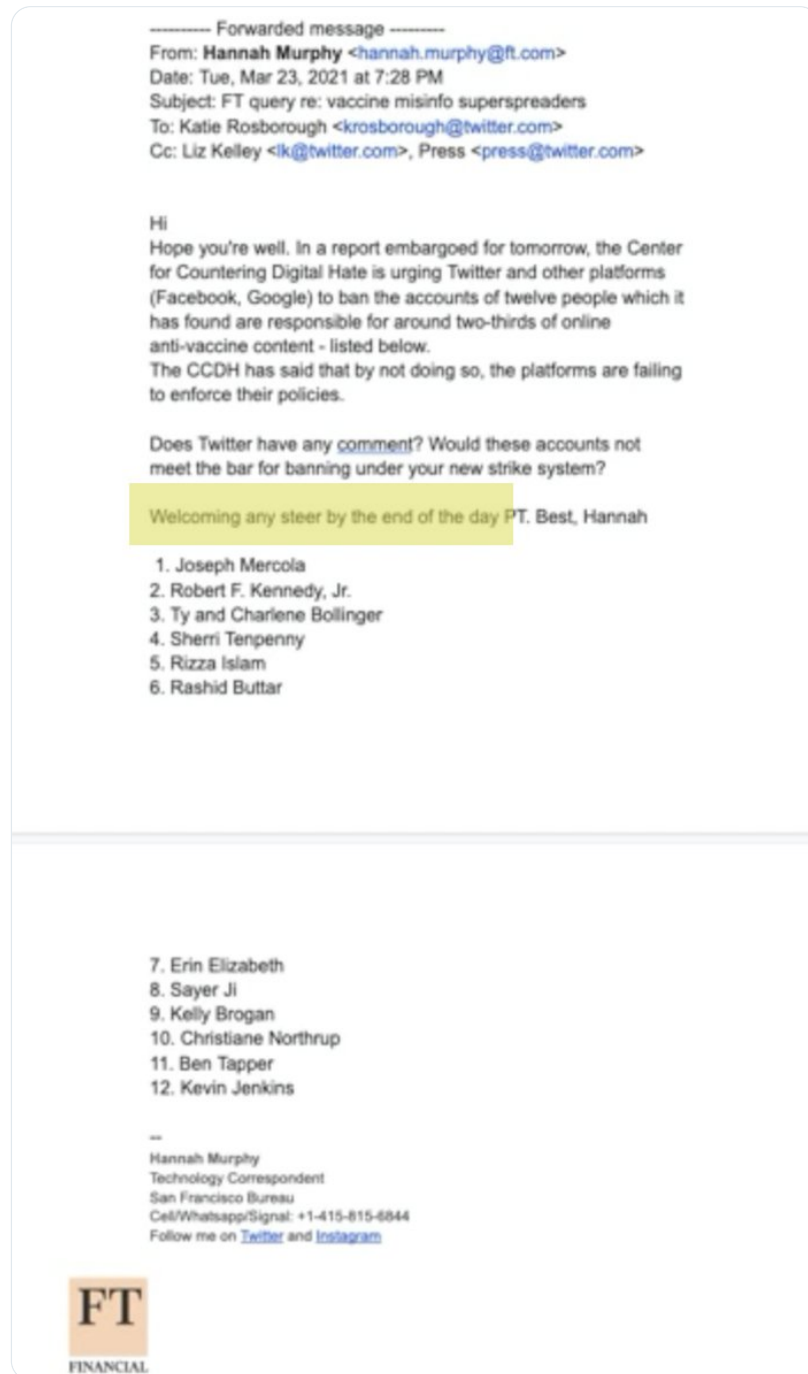


Mon 07/04/23

<[here]> we just got a report from the FBI concerning 2 tweets, 1. 1314479095401521154 related to the "shredding" of mail in ballots, this is proven to be false via this: <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/oct/08/blog-posting/social-posters-spread-election-misinformation-about-vote-not-a-report-from-the-fbi-connection-3-knight-4>

- Stand Together Fellowships, from the [Charles Koch Institute](#)
 - Accelerating the careers of emerging journalists through the yearlong Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellowship.
- [Craig Newmark Philanthropies](#)
 - Elevating discourse and fact-based expression while battling disinformation and bias at The Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership
- Gannett Foundation
 - Transforming the careers of hundreds of women in news media and tech through the Poynter Leadership Academy for Women in Media
- Gill Foundation
 - Providing unrestricted support to make good journalism better
- Institute for War and Peace Reporting
 - Expanding fact-checking training worldwide with the International Fact-Checking Network, serving more than 20 countries including Tunisia, Chile, Sri Lanka, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Fiji, Pakistan and Myanmar.
- John S. and James L. [Knight Foundation](#)
 - Providing local newsrooms with transformational change consulting
- Lumina Foundation
 - Helping journalists tell more impactful stories through topical training
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
 - Teaching journalists how to improve jails and policing coverage
- Newton & Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust
 - Supporting journalistic excellence in a democratic society
- Rays Baseball Foundation
 - Providing sponsorship support at our annual gala for innovative programs that strengthen reporting
- TECNA Foundation
 - Providing access and resources to our high school journalism programs
- [The Washington Post](#)
 - Training journalists of color working in digital media to thrive, professionally and personally, through the Leadership Academy for Diversity in Media

22. [#TwitterFiles](#) repeatedly show media acting as proxy for NGOs, with Twitter bracing for bad headlines if they don't nix accounts. Here, the Financial Times gives Twitter until end of day to provide a “steer” on whether RFK, Jr. and other vax offenders will be zapped.



23. Well, you say, so what? Why shouldn't civil society organizations and reporters work together to boycott “misinformation”? Isn't that not just an exercise of free speech, but a particularly enlightened form of it?

24. The difference is, these campaigns are taxpayer-funded. Though the state is supposed to stay out domestic propaganda, the Aspen Institute, Graphika, the Atlantic Council's DFRLab, New America, and other “anti-disinformation” labs are receiving huge public awards.

Awarding Agency	Recipient
Department of Defense (DOD)	GRAPHIKA, INC. 401 LAFAYETTE ST STE E6 NEW YORK, NY 10003-7014 Congressional District: NY-12 UNITED STATES
\$ Award Amounts	
\$3.0 Million Obligated Amount	

Table 2: Top 10 Think Tanks by Amount Received from the U.S. Government and Defense Contractors

RAND Corporation	\$1,209,100,000
Center for a New American Security (CNAS)	\$8,946,000
Atlantic Council	\$8,697,000
New America Foundation	\$7,283,828
German Marshall Fund of the United States	\$6,599,999
CSIS	\$5,040,000
Council on Foreign Relations	\$2,590,000
Brookings Institution	\$2,485,000
Heritage Foundation	\$1,375,000
Stimson Center	\$1,343,753

25. Some NGOs, like the GEC-funded Global Disinformation Index or the DOD-funded Newsguard, not only seek content moderation but apply subjective “risk” or “reliability” scores to media outlets, which can result in reduction in revenue. Do we want government in this role?

Awarding Agency

Department of Defense (DOD)

Recipient

NEWSGUARD TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
25 W 52ND ST FL 15
NEW YORK, NY 10019-6104
Congressional District: NY-12
UNITED STATES

Related Awards ⓘ

Parent Award Unique Key
N/A

Dates ⓘ

● Start Date	Sep 07, 2017
● Current End Date	Dec 08, 2017
● Potential End Date	Dec 08, 2017

\$ Award Amounts ⓘ

\$749,387
Obligated Amount

26. Perhaps the ultimate example of the absolute fusion of state, corporate, and civil society organizations is the Stanford Internet Observatory (SIO), whose “Election Integrity Partnership” is among the most voluminous “flaggers” in the [#TwitterFiles](#):

Some higher-profile tweets on that narrative flagged by EIP:
 https://twitter.com/dennislennox/status/1324032411508842498
 https://twitter.com/mschlapp/status/1324072437676466176
 https://twitter.com/jamieroe23/status/1324011342991380481
 https://twitter.com/RyanSchuiling/status/1324063798425243649
 https://twitter.com/robbystarbuck/status/1324783531139235841
 https://twitter.com/LifeNewsHQ/status/1324026958242631680
 {https://twitter.com/coreyfuiamaono/status/1324103593071239168 |
 https://twitter.com/mschlapp/status/1324072437676466176
 https://twitter.com/jamieroe23/status/1324011342991380481
 https://twitter.com/RyanSchuiling/status/1324063798425243649
 https://twitter.com/robbystarbuck/status/1324783531139235841
 https://twitter.com/LifeNewsHQ/status/1324026958242631680
 https://twitter.com/coreyfuiamaono/status/1324103593071239168

James Alexander 19:51:40
 re:Elections: EIP on Queens Villages Ballot Allegations if we decide it's in violation please poke [@eip](#) to take action on the Periscope account (Yalcin feel free to review independently obviously if you have time)
 replies to thread:
 Thursday, October 29th 2020 19:56:12 by Marcus Lee
 I have gone ahead to add a misinfo label to the tweet.
 (https://mobile.twitter.com/jakejakeny/status/1321900543451799559)

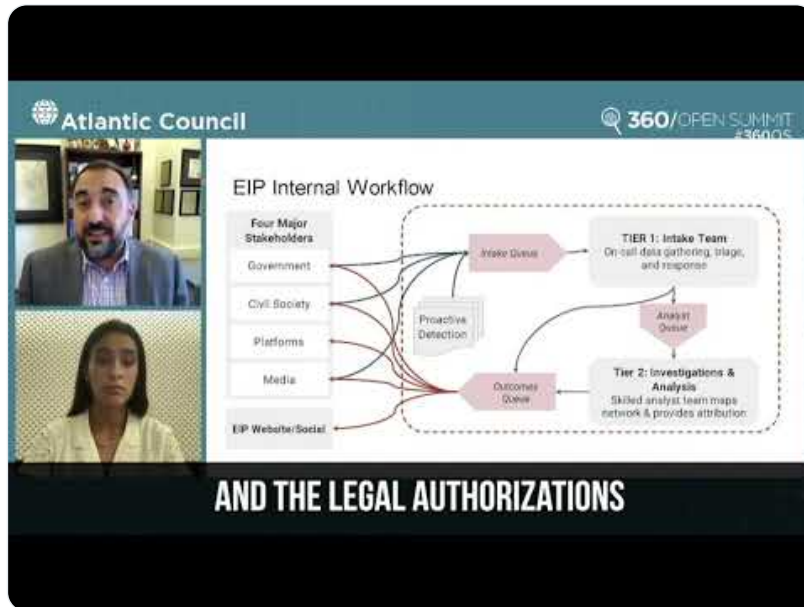
Jake Novak @jakejakeny

Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process. [Learn more](#)

BREAKING NEWS: Several Queens Village (NY) residents are receiving pre-filled out ballots for Joe Biden and being told to just send them back to the Board of Elections. This is blatantly **ILLEGAL**.

Democratic 民主黨 ডেমোক্রেটিক	Republican 共和黨 রিপাবলিকান	Conservative 保守黨 কনসারভেটিভ
Joseph R. Biden and - y	Donald J. Trump and - y	Donald J. Trump and - y
Kamala D. Harris 約瑟夫 R. 拜登 及 卡瑪拉 D. 哈里斯	Michael R. Pence 唐諾德 J. 川普	Michael R. Pence 唐諾德 J. 川普
জোসেফ আর. বাইডেন এবং কামালা ডি. হ্যারিস	ডোনাল্ড জে. ট্রাম্প এবং মাইকেল আর. পেন্স	ডোনাল্ড জে. ট্রাম্প এবং মাইকেল আর. পেন্স
Democratic	Republican	Conservative

27. After public uproar “paused” the Orwellian “Disinformation Governance Board” of the DHS in early 2020, Stanford created the EIP to “fill the gaps” legally, as director Alex Stamos explains here (h/t Foundation for Freedom Online).



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/QbF2UXKV1q8>

28. EIP research manager Renee DiResta boasted that while filling “gaps,” the EIP succeeded in getting “tech partners” Google, TikTok, Facebook and Twitter to take action on “35% of the URLs flagged” under “remove, reduce, or inform” policies.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Rtck59fjrU>

29. According to the EIP’s own data, it succeeded in getting nearly 22 million tweets labeled in the runup to the 2020 vote.

In total, our incident-related tweet data included 5,888,771 tweets and retweets from ticket status IDs directly, 1,094,115 tweets and retweets collected first from ticket URLs, and 14,914,478 from keyword searches, for a total of 21,897,364 tweets.

30. It's crucial to reiterate: EIP was partnered with state entities like CISA and GEC while seeking elimination of millions of tweets. In the [#TwitterFiles](#), Twitter execs did not distinguish between organizations, using phrases like “According to CIS[A], escalated via EIP.”



31. After the 2020 election, when EIP was renamed the Virality Project, the Stanford lab was on-boarded to Twitter's JIRA ticketing system, absorbing this government proxy into Twitter infrastructure – with a capability of taking in an incredible 50 million tweets a day.

From: Chase Small
Subject: Re: Vaccine Project SIO <@ Twitter Team
Date: February 22, 2021 at 1:48 PM
To: Yoel Roth yoel@twitter.com, Brian Clarke
Cc: Renee DiResta, Sabina Garcia-Carrago

Hello Twitter team,

We are excited to have you as an external partner for the Virality Project. The Virality Project's [partner onboarding manual can be found here](#). This document includes all onboarding and usage instructions for our VP Jira surface.

Brian and Joe, please finish signing up for your Jira account using the link in the email you should have received from jira@viralityproject.atlassian.net or by [visiting this online portal](#). Let me know if you have any troubles with this.

Yoel, your Jira credentials are the same as from the EIP. Please be aware of the new [VP Online Portal](#) and email tips@viralityproject.atlassian.net for submitting tips.

The onboarding manual is a living document, so please comment directly if you find anything is confusing. We also have [this short demo video](#) that covers the same information. Once you are able to log onto our system, feel free to create a couple of test tickets and we will have our analysts respond so you can get a feel for the notification flow here.

Thanks again for all your collaboration thus far, and please let me know if you have any questions here. Excited to get everyone onboard!

Warmly,
Chase Small

Re: Confidential: Invitation to apply for Twitter's new COVID-19 stream endpoint

Date: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 13:26:53 -0700 (13/04/20 22:26:53)
From: Yoel Roth
To: Yoel Roth
Cc: Alex Stamos, Renee DiResta

And now a follow-up beyond the boilerplate our comms people asked me to send: We would LOVE to partner closely on anything in the IO universe that you find using this data. That can go through our usual engagement channels. Mostly, the API team just wanted to make clear they can't provide technical support.

On Mon, Apr 13, 2020 at 1:25 PM Yoel Roth wrote:
Hi Alex and Renee,

Twitter will soon be launching a new endpoint to support the study of Coronavirus: a new, full-fidelity stream of Tweets related to COVID-19, delivered in real-time, for free. I'm reaching out because we would like to invite you to apply for access to this endpoint in advance of our public release.

Before getting into more of the details below, I ask that you **please refrain from sharing this email**, and to keep all of this information private until our public announcement (targeted for later this week).

In short, we are releasing a new, free endpoint in Twitter Developer Labs that delivers the full-fidelity, real-time public Tweets about COVID-19. We know that our standard API has limitations that make it difficult to adequately study this topic due to its volume. This new stream will include all Tweets related to COVID-19 as classified by our [Tweet annotations](#). We intend to publish the keywords and hashtags of the Tweet annotation powering the COVID-19 topic, so you have transparency into the contents of the stream and can supplement as needed.

We're reaching out to select researchers that we believe may be in the best position to effectively use the vast scale of this data. The public conversation related to COVID-19 has produced upwards of **50 million Tweets per day**. We recognize that only some researchers have the computational resources necessary to work with this volume of data. **While we're not currently in a position to partner or closely collaborate with you beyond providing access to this data, once the product is launched and your application is approved you can get started straight away.**

32. In one remarkable email, the Virality Project recommends that multiple platforms take action even against “stories of true vaccine side effects” and “true posts which could fuel hesitancy.”

None of the leaders of this effort to police Covid speech had health expertise.

- **Standard vaccine misinformation on your platform**
 - The default: posts on your platform spreading clearly false spearing vaccine misinformation that we believe violate your policies
- **Known repeat offenders**
 - False or misleading posts from the accounts of well-known repeat offenders, such as Robert F. Kennedy, Jr or Sherri Tenpenny. This is a large volume of content that is almost always reportable.
 - Ex: RFK posts that 4,000 vaccine adverse reactions were reported to CDC in one week
- **True content which might promote vaccine hesitancy**
 - Viral posts of individuals expressing vaccine hesitancy, or **stories of true vaccine side effects**. This content is not clearly mis or disinformation, but it may be malinformation (exaggerated or misleading). Also included in this bucket are often **true posts which could fuel hesitancy**, such as individual countries banning certain vaccines.
 - Ex: News article and posts about a Central NY school district closing after many school staff sick with COVID-19 vaccine side effects
 - Ex: conversation around recent celebrity deaths after vaccine. Often this content is unverifiable (cause of death is unclear), but spreads quickly and drives conversations about hesitancy more than non-

33. This is the Censorship-Industrial Complex at its essence: a bureaucracy willing to sacrifice factual truth in service of broader narrative objectives. It's the opposite of what a free press does.

34. Profiles portray DiResta as a warrior against Russian bots and misinformation, but reporters never inquire about work with DARPA, GEC, and other agencies. In the video below from [@MikeBenzCyber](#), Stamos introduces her as having "worked for the CIA":



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/GsooGvgLh7U>

35. DiResta has become the public face of the Censorship-Industrial Complex, a name promoted everywhere as an unquestioned authority on truth, fact, and Internet hygiene, even though her former firm, New Knowledge, has been embroiled in two major disinformation scandals.

Forbes

Renée DiResta, the technical research manager at Stanford Internet Observatory, summarized what the rest of us were observing on social media on Tuesday:



Oh, Damar Hamlin is trending. Maybe there's some health update.

Oh...it's paidchecks tweeting ab how he's actually dead, there's a "body double" & his fam is "in on it."


These kinds of rumors can get pretty bad for the targets, but Community Notes will no doubt clarify things.

9:06 AM · Jan 24, 2023 · 3,018 Views



'What Will You Sacrifice for the Truth?' Maria Ressa Discusses Disinformation and Social Platforms With Prince Harry and Renée DiResta

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Renee DiResta
Co-Founder and Head of Marketing at Haven

Renee DiResta is a co-founder and head of marketing at Haven, a trade technology company that is transforming global commerce by taking logistics beyond human scale. She is an angel investor, adviser and author of *The Hardware Startup: Building Your Product, Business, and Brand*.

DEMOCRACYPPOST

Opinion | Here's how Russia will attack the 2020 election. We're still not ready.

By Renee DiResta, Michael McFaul and Alex Stamos
November 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. EST



Roger Stone denied the accusation Friday after being found guilty of obstructing a congressional investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election. (Wm McNamee/Getty Images)

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Renee DiResta is the technical research manager at the Stanford Internet Observatory and a Mozilla Fellow. Michael McFaul is director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and a Hoover fellow at Stanford University. Alex Stamos, a former chief security officer of Facebook, is director of the Stanford Internet Observatory and a visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution.

36. This, ultimately, is the most serious problem with the Censorship-Industrial Complex.

Packaged as a bulwark against lies and falsehood, it is itself often a major source of disinformation, with American taxpayers funding their own estrangement from reality.

37. DiResta’s New Knowledge helped design the Hamilton 68 project exposed in the [#TwitterFiles](#).

Although it claimed to track “Russian influence,” Hamilton really followed Americans like “Ultra Mega Dog Mom,” “Right2Liberty,” even a British rugby player named Rod Bishop:



38. Told he was put on the Hamilton list of suspected “Russian influence” accounts, Bishop was puzzled.

“Nonsense. I’m supporting Ukraine,” he said.

39. As a result of Hamilton's efforts, all sorts of people were falsely tied in press stories to "Russian bots": former House Intel chief Devin Nunes, [#WalkAway](#) founder [@BrandonStraka](#), supporters of the [#FireMcMaster](#) hashtag, even people who used the term "deep state":

 CNN @CNN

Russian bots are using [#WalkAway](#) to try to wound Democrats in the midterms cnn.it/2zOgxIV

2:20 PM · Jul 17, 2018

899 Retweets 2,360 Quote Tweets 1,054 Likes

POLITICO

CONNECTING MORE PEOPLE IN MORE PLACES Charter Spectrum

TECHNOLOGY

Russia pushes more 'deep state' hashtags



A woman speaks on a phone as she walks past a graffiti-covered wall with a giant hashtag sign near Moscow's Kurisky railway station on Nov. 17, 2017. | Mladen Antonov/Getty Images

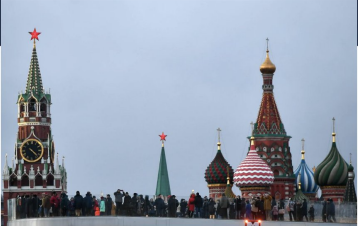
BREAKING 3 Americans are dead in Mexico after kidnapping

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CONGRESS

Right-wing demand to #ReleaseTheMemo endorsed by Russian bots, trolls

An unreleased classified memo by House Republican staffers describes alleged surveillance abuses by the FBI. Democrats have denounced it as misleading.



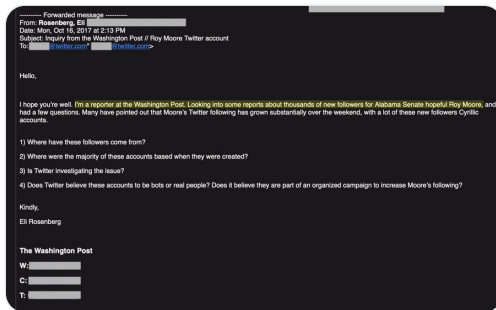
The Spasskaya (Savior) Tower of the Moscow Kremlin and domes of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos on the Most Cathedral (St. Basil's Cathedral) in Moscow. Russian 11/17/17 / Sputnik via AP

40. Hamilton 68 was funded by the Alliance for Securing Democracy, which in turn was funded by the German Marshall Fund, which in turn is funded in part by – the Department of State.

Awarding Agency	Recipient
Department of State (DOS)	GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES
	1744 R STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20009-2410 Congressional District: DC-98 UNITED STATES
\$ Award Amounts i	
\$2.9 Million Obligated Amount	

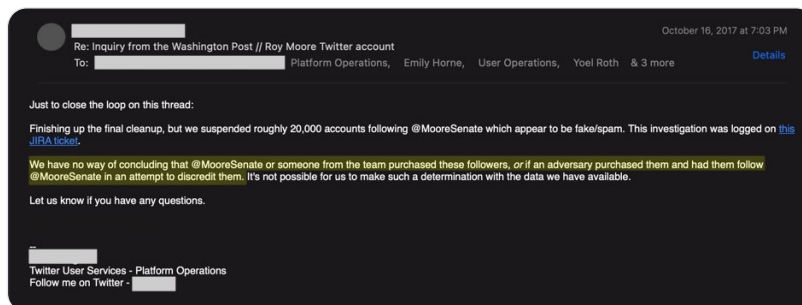
41. The far worse scandal was “Project Birmingham,” in which thousands of fake Russian Twitter accounts were created to follow Alabama Republican Roy Moore in his 2017 race for US Senate.

Newspapers reported Russia seemed to take an interest in the race, favoring Moore.



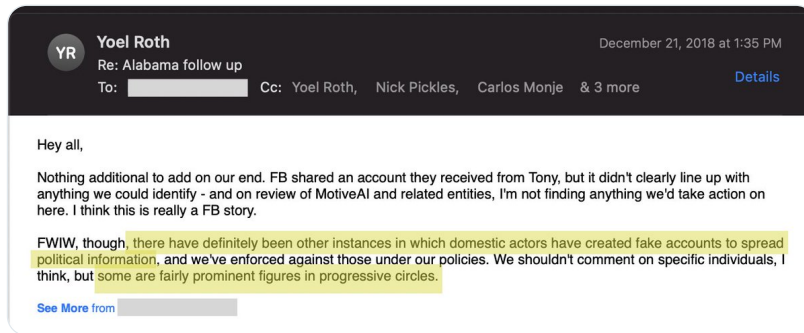
42. Though at least one reporter for a major American paper was at a meeting in September, 2018 when New Knowledge planned the bizarre bot-and-smear campaign, the story didn't break until December, two days after DiResta gave a report on Russian interference to the Senate.

43. Internally, Twitter correctly assessed the Moore story as far back as fall of 2017, saying it had no way of knowing if the Moore campaign purchased the bots, or if “an adversary purchased them... in an attempt to discredit them.”



44. Twitter told this to reporters who asked about the story contemporaneously. Moreover, after the story broke, Twitter's Roth wrote:

“There have been other instances in which domestic actors created fake accounts... some are fairly prominent in progressive circles.”



45. Roth added, “We shouldn’t comment.” Repeatedly in the [#TwitterFiles](#), when Twitter learned the truth about scandals like Project Birmingham, they said nothing, like banks that were silent about mortgage fraud.

Reporters also kept quiet, protecting fellow “stakeholders.”

46. Twitter stayed silent out of political caution. DiResta, who ludicrously claimed she thought Project Birmingham was just an experiment to “investigate to what extent they could grow audiences... using sensational news,” hinted at a broader reason.

Renée DiResta, who knows some of the people involved in the project, claims the main intent was to test tactics. “My understanding was that they were going to investigate to what extent they could grow audiences for Facebook pages using sensational news.” she told the *Times*. She

47. “I know there were people who believed the Democrats needed to fight fire with fire,” she told the New York Times.

“It was absolutely chatter going around the party.”

“I know there were people who believed the Democrats needed to fight fire with fire,” Ms. DiResta said, adding that she disagreed. “It was absolutely chatter going around the party.”

48. The incident underscored the extreme danger of the Censorship-Industrial Complex. Without real oversight mechanisms, there is nothing to prevent these super-empowered information vanguards from bending the truth for their own ends.

49. By way of proof, no major press organization has re-examined the bold claims DiResta/New Knowledge made to the Senate – e.g. that Russian ads “reached 126 million people” in 2016 – while covering up the Hamilton and Alabama frauds. If the CIC deems it, lies stay hidden.

50. In the digital age, this sprawling new information-control bureaucracy is an eerie sequel to the dangers Dwight Eisenhower warned about in his farewell address, when he said:

“The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists.”



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/cyZoUfNsUI8>

51. Thanks to [@ShellenbergerMD](#) and reporters/researchers [@Techno_Fog](#), [@neffects](#), [@bergerbell](#), [@SchmidtSue1](#), [@tw6384](#), and others for help in preparing this testimony. The Twitter Files searches are performed by a third party, so material may have been left out.

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