THREAD BY MATT TAIBII

‹ TWITTER FILES ›

#10 TWITTER AND "OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

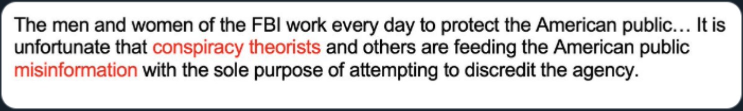
@UNGATHEGREAT

1.THREAD: The Twitter Files

TWITTER AND "OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES"

After weeks of "Twitter Files" reports detailing close coordination between the FBI and Twitter in moderating social media content, the Bureau issued a statement Wednesday.

2.It didn't refute allegations. Instead, it decried "conspiracy theorists" publishing "misinformation," whose "sole aim" is to "discredit the agency."



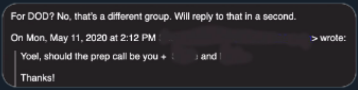
The men and women of the FBI work every day to protect the American public… It is unfortunate that conspiracy theorists and others are feeding the American public misinformation with the sole purpose of attempting to discredit the agency.

3.They must think us unambitious, if our "sole aim" is to discredit the FBI. After all, a whole range of government agencies discredit themselves in the #TwitterFiles. Why stop with one?

4.The files show the FBI acting as doorman to a vast program of social media surveillance and censorship, encompassing agencies across the federal government – from the State Department to the Pentagon to the CIA.

5.The operation is far bigger than the reported 80 members of the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF), which also facilitates requests from a wide array of smaller actors - from local cops to media to state governments.

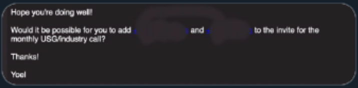
6.Twitter had so much contact with so many agencies that executives lost track. Is today the DOD, and tomorrow the FBI? Is it the weekly call, or the monthly meeting? It was dizzying.



For DOD? No, that's a different group. Will reply to that in a second.

On Mon, May 11, 2020 at 2:12 PM [redacted]> wrote:

> Yoel, should the prep call be you + [redacted] and [redacted]
>
> Thanks!



Hope you're doing well!

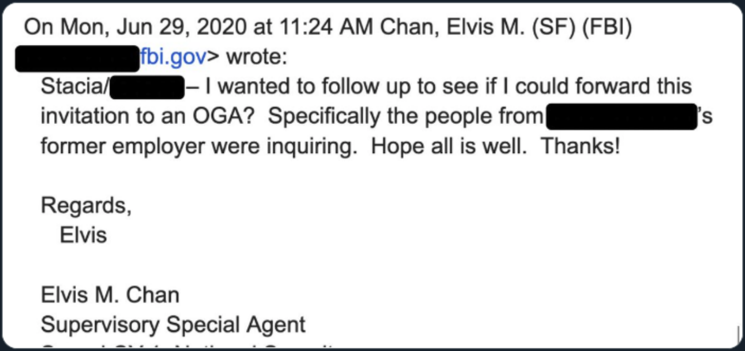
Would it be possible for you to add [redacted] and [redacted] to the invite for the monthly USG/industry call?

Thanks!

Yoel

7.A chief end result was that thousands of official “reports” flowed to Twitter from all over, through the FITF and the FBI’s San Francisco field office.

8.On June 29th, 2020, San Francisco FBI agent Elvis Chan wrote to pair of Twitter execs asking if he could invite an “OGA” to an upcoming conference:



On Mon, Jun 29, 2020 at 11:24 AM Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) [redacted]fbi.gov> wrote:

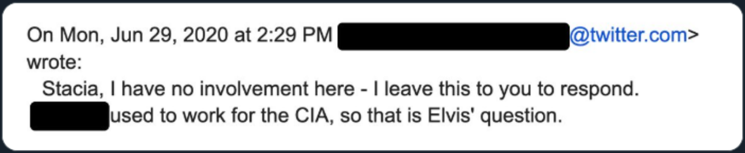
> Stacia/[redacted]– I wanted to follow up to see if I could forward this invitation to an OGA? Specifically the people from [redacted]’s former employer were inquiring. Hope all is well. Thanks!
>
> Regards,
> Elvis
>
> Elvis M. Chan
> Supervisory Special Agent

9.OGA, or “Other Government Organization,” can be a euphemism for CIA, according to multiple former intelligence officials and contractors. Chuckles one: “They think it's mysterious, but it's just conspicuous."

10.“Other Government Agency (the place where I worked for 27 years),” says retired CIA officer Ray McGovern.

11. It was an open secret at Twitter that one of its executives was ex-CIA, which is why Chan referred to that executive’s “former employer.”

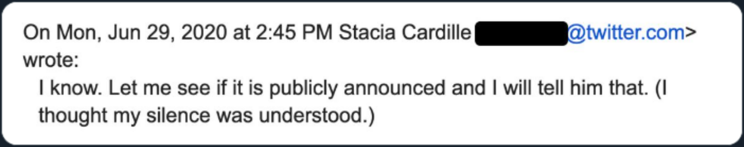
12.The first Twitter executive abandoned any pretense to stealth and emailed that the employee “used to work for the CIA, so that is Elvis’s question.”



On Mon, Jun 29, 2020 at 2:29 PM [redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:

> Stacia, I have no involvement here - I leave this to you to respond. [redacted]used to work for the CIA, so that is Elvis' question.

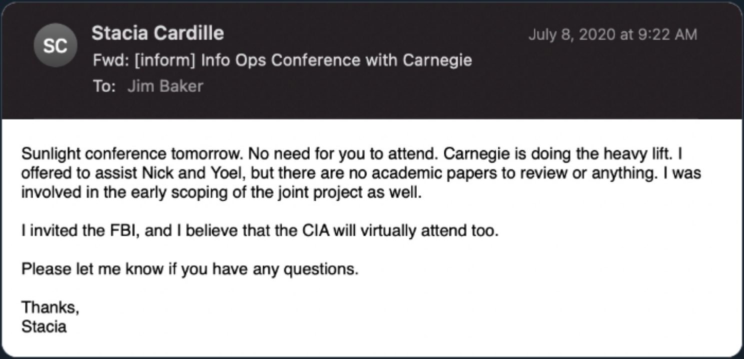
13.Senior legal executive Stacia Cardille, whose alertness stood out among Twitter leaders, replied, “I know” and “I thought my silence was understood.”



On Mon, Jun 29, 2020 at 2:45 PM Stacia Cardille [redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:

> I know. Let me see if it is publicly announced and I will tell him that. (I thought my silence was understood.)

14.Cardille then passes on conference details to recently-hired ex-FBI lawyer Jim Baker.



Stacia Cardille

July 8, 2020 at 9:22 AM

Fwd: [inform] Info Ops Conference with Carnegie

To: Jim Baker

Sunlight conference tomorrow. No need for you to attend. Carnegie is doing the heavy lift. I offered to assist Nick and Yoel, but there are no academic papers to review or anything. I was involved in the early scoping of the joint project as well.

I invited the FBI, and I believe that the CIA will virtually attend too.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

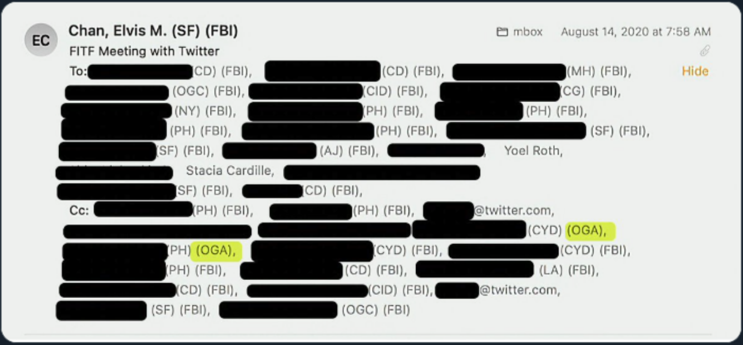
Thanks,
Stacia

15.“I invited the FBI and the CIA virtually will attend too,” Cardille says to Baker, adding pointedly: “No need for you to attend.”

16.The government was in constant contact not just with Twitter but with virtually every major tech firm.

17. These included Facebook, Microsoft, Verizon, Reddit, even Pinterest, and many others. Industry players also held regular meetings without government.

18.One of the most common forums was a regular meeting of the multi-agency Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF), attended by spates of executives, FBI personnel, and – nearly always – one or two attendees marked “OGA.”



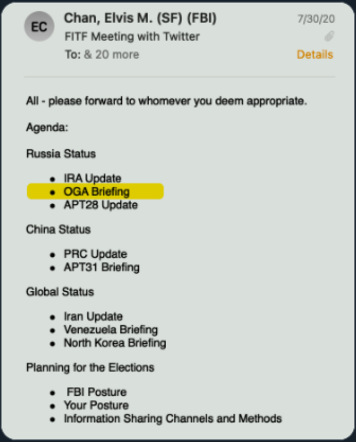
Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

August 14, 2020 at 7:58 AM

FITF Meeting with Twitter

To: [redacted](CD) (FBI), [redacted](CD) (FBI), [redacted](MH) (FBI),
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI), [redacted](CID) (FBI), [redacted](CG) (FBI),
[redacted](NY) (FBI), [redacted](PH) (FBI), [redacted](PH) (FBI),
[redacted] (PH) (FBI), [redacted](PH) (FBI), [redacted] (SF) (FBI),
[redacted](SF) (FBI), [redacted] (AJ) (FBI), [redacted], Yoel Roth,
[redacted] Stacia Cardille, [redacted]
[redacted]SF) (FBI), [redacted](CD) (FBI),
Cc: [redacted](PH) (FBI), [redacted](PH) (FBI), [redacted]@twitter.com,
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted](CYD) (OGA),
[redacted]PH) (OGA), [redacted](CYD) (FBI), [redacted](CYD) (FBI),
[redacted]PH) (FBI), [redacted](CD) (FBI), [redacted] (LA) (FBI),
[redacted](CD) (FBI), [redacted](CID) (FBI), [redacted]@twitter.com,
[redacted] (SF) (FBI), [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)

19.The FITF meeting agendas virtually always included, at or near the beginning, an "OGA briefing," usually about foreign matters (hold that thought).



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

7/30/20

FITF Meeting with Twitter

To: & 20 more

All - please forward to whomever you deem appropriate.

Agenda:

Russia Status

- IRA Update
- OGA Briefing
- APT28 Update

China Status

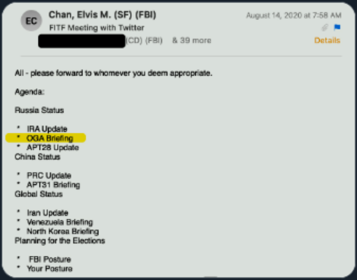
- PRC Update
- APT31 Briefing

Global Status

- Iran Update
- Venezuela Briefing
- North Korea Briefing

Planning for the Elections

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



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

August 14, 2020 at 7:58 AM

FITF Meeting with Twitter

[redacted](CD) (FBI) & 39 more

All - please forward to whomever you deem appropriate.

Agenda:

Russia Status

- IRA Update
- OGA Briefing
- APT28 Update

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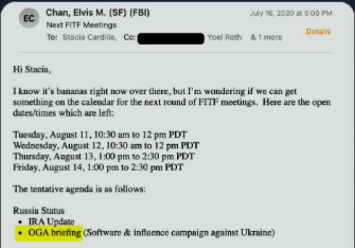


Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

July 16, 2020 at 5:09 PM

Next FITF Meetings

To: Stacia Cardille, Cc: [redacted] Yoel Roth & 1 more

Hi Stacia,

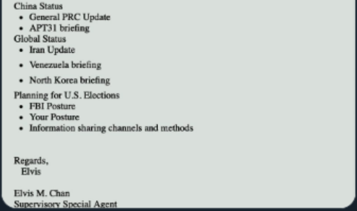
I know it's bananas right now over there, but I'm wondering if we can get something on the calendar for the next round of FITF meetings. Here are the open dates/times which are left:

Tuesday, August 11, 10:30 am to 12 pm PDT
Wednesday, August 12, 10:30 am to 12 pm PDT
Thursday, August 13, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm PDT
Friday, August 14, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm PDT

The tentative agenda is as follows:

Russia Status

- IRA Update
- OGA briefing (Software & influence campaign against Ukraine)



China Status
- General PRC Update
- APT31 briefing

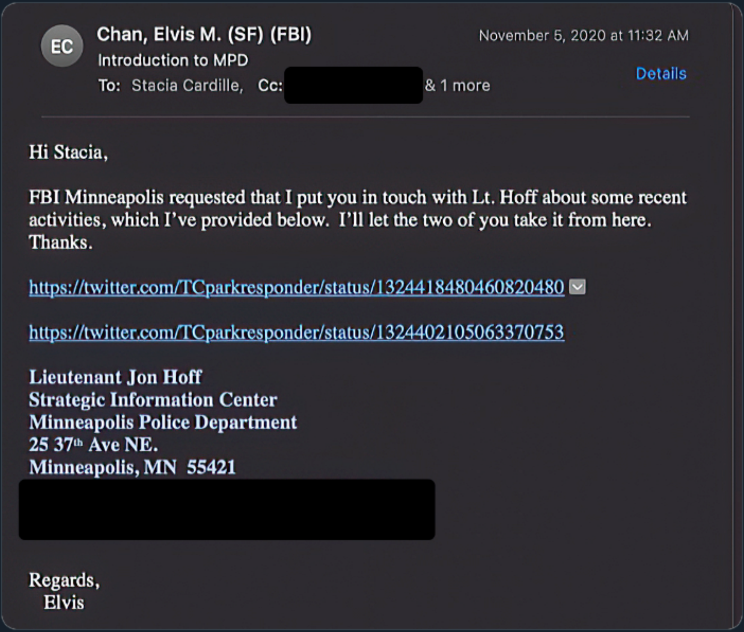
Global Status
- Iran Update
- Venezuela briefing
- North Korea briefing

Planning for U.S. Elections
- FBI Posture
- Your Posture
- Information sharing channels and methods

Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent

20. Despite its official remit being "Foreign Influence," the FITF and the SF FBI office became conduit for mountains of domestic moderation requests, from state governments, even local police:



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) November 5, 2020 at 11:32 AM
Introduction to MPD
To: Stacia Cardille, Cc: [redacted] & 1 more

Hi Stacia,

FBI Minneapolis requested that I put you in touch with Lt. Hoff about some recent activities, which I've provided below. I'll let the two of you take it from here. Thanks.

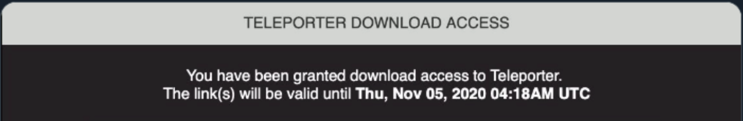
https://twitter.com/TCparkresponder/status/1324418480460820480

https://twitter.com/TCparkresponder/status/1324402105063370753

Lieutenant Jon Hoff
Strategic Information Center
Minneapolis Police Department
25 37th Ave NE.
Minneapolis, MN 55421
[redacted]

Regards,
Elvis

21. Many requests arrived via Teleporter, a one-way platform in which many communications were timed to vanish:



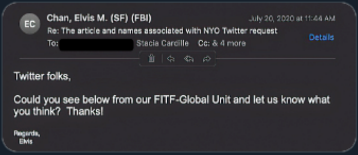
TELEPORTER DOWNLOAD ACCESS

You have been granted download access to Teleporter.
The link(s) will be valid until **Thu, Nov 05, 2020 04:18AM UTC**

`FBI San Francisco Election EOC threat intel`

Download

22.Especially as the election approached in 2020, the FITF/FBI overwhelmed Twitter with requests, sending lists of hundreds of problem accounts:

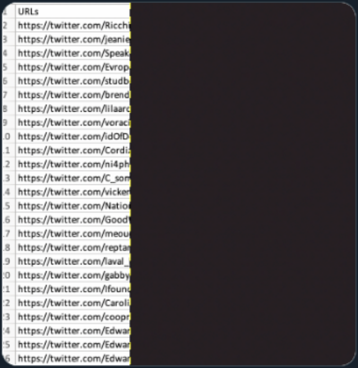


Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) July 20, 2020 at 11:44 AM
Re: The article and names associated with NYC Twitter request
To: [redacted] Stacia Cardille Cc: & 4 more

Twitter folks,

Could you see below from our FITF-Global Unit and let us know what you think? Thanks!

Regards,
Elvis



URLs
https://twitter.com/Ricchi
https://twitter.com/jeanie
https://twitter.com/Speak
https://twitter.com/Evrop
https://twitter.com/studb
https://twitter.com/brend
https://twitter.com/lilaarc
https://twitter.com/voraci
https://twitter.com/idOfD
https://twitter.com/Cordi
https://twitter.com/ni4ph
https://twitter.com/C_som
https://twitter.com/vicker
https://twitter.com/Natio
https://twitter.com/Good
https://twitter.com/meou
https://twitter.com/reptar
https://twitter.com/laval_
https://twitter.com/gabby
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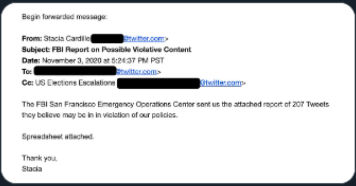


Begin forwarded message:

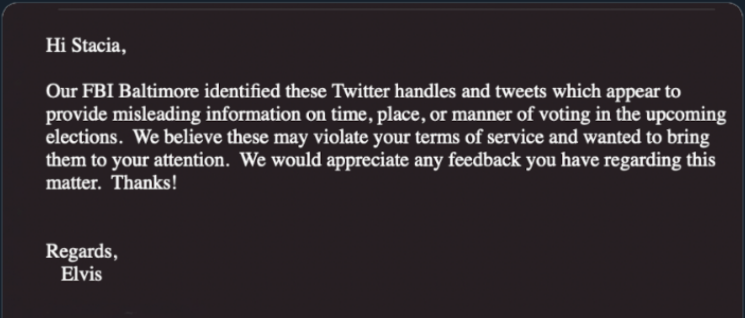
From: Stacia Cardille [redacted]@twitter.com>
Subject: FBI Report on Possible Violative Content
Date: November 3, 2020 at 5:24:37 PM PST
To: [redacted]@twitter.com>
Cc: US Elections Escalations [redacted]@twitter.com>

The FBI San Francisco Emergency Operations Center sent us the attached report of 207 Tweets they believe may be in in violation of our policies.

Spreadsheet attached.

Thank you,
Stacia

23. Email after email came from the San Francisco office heading into the election, often adorned with an Excel attachment:



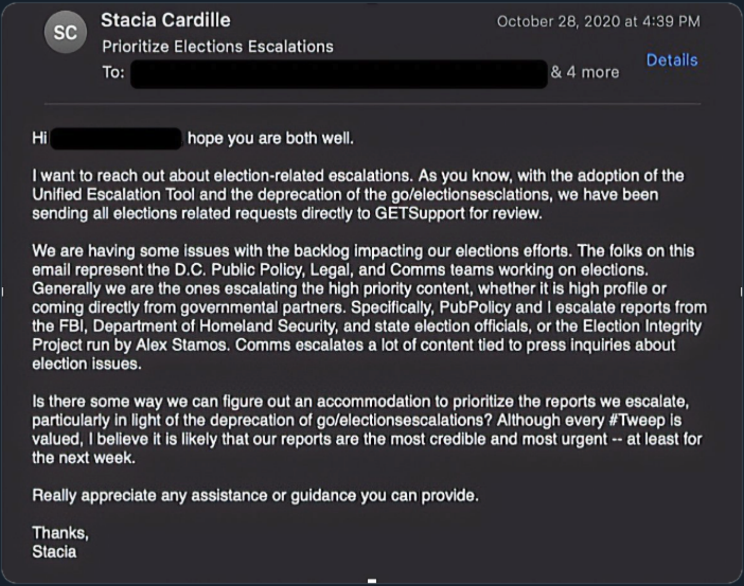
Hi Stacia,

Our FBI Baltimore identified these Twitter handles and tweets which appear to provide misleading information on time, place, or manner of voting in the upcoming elections. We believe these may violate your terms of service and wanted to bring them to your attention. We would appreciate any feedback you have regarding this matter. Thanks!

Regards,
Elvis

Tweets
09-24-...20.xlsx

24. There were so many government requests, Twitter employees had to improvise a system for prioritizing/triaging them:



Stacia Cardille

October 28, 2020 at 4:39 PM

Prioritize Elections Escalations

To: [redacted] & 4 more

Hi [redacted] hope you are both well.

I want to reach out about election-related escalations. As you know, with the adoption of the Unified Escalation Tool and the deprecation of the go/electionsesclations, we have been sending all elections related requests directly to GETSupport for review.

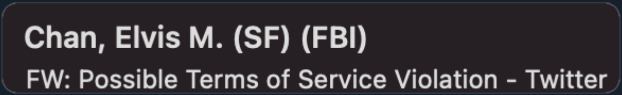
We are having some issues with the backlog impacting our elections efforts. The folks on this email represent the D.C. Public Policy, Legal, and Comms teams working on elections. Generally we are the ones escalating the high priority content, whether it is high profile or coming directly from governmental partners. Specifically, PubPolicy and I escalate reports from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and state election officials, or the Election Integrity Project run by Alex Stamos. Comms escalates a lot of content tied to press inquiries about election issues.

Is there some way we can figure out an accommodation to prioritize the reports we escalate, particularly in light of the deprecation of go/electionsescalations? Although every #Tweep is valued, I believe it is likely that our reports are the most credible and most urgent -- at least for the next week.

Really appreciate any assistance or guidance you can provide.

Thanks,
Stacia

25. The FBI was clearly tailoring searches to Twitter's policies. FBI complaints were almost always depicted somewhere as a "possible terms of service violation," even in the subject line:

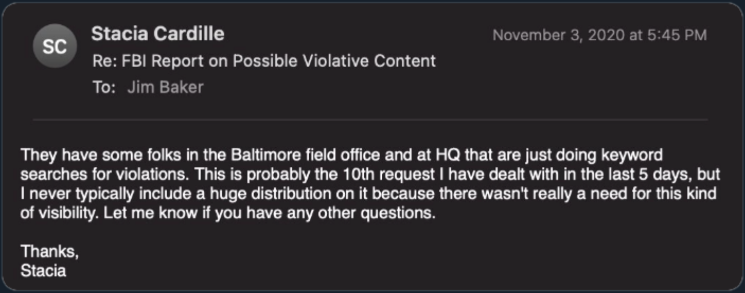


Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

FW: Possible Terms of Service Violation - Twitter

26. Twitter executives noticed the FBI appeared to be aasigning personnel to look for Twitter violations.

27."They have some folks in the Baltimore field office and at HQ that are just doing keyword searches for violations. This is probably the 10th request I have dealt with in the last 5 days," remarked Cardille.



Stacia Cardille November 3, 2020 at 5:45 PM

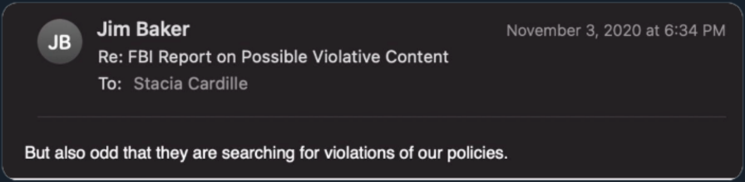
Re: FBI Report on Possible Violative Content

To: Jim Baker

They have some folks in the Baltimore field office and at HQ that are just doing keyword searches for violations. This is probably the 10th request I have dealt with in the last 5 days, but I never typically include a huge distribution on it because there wasn't really a need for this kind of visibility. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Stacia

28. Even ex-FBI lawyer Jim Baker agreed: "Odd that they are searching for violations of our policies."



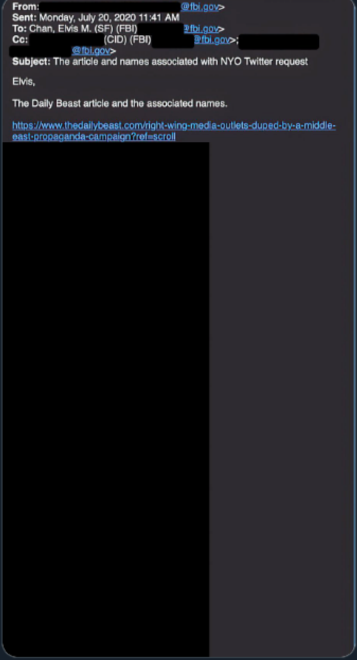
Jim Baker November 3, 2020 at 6:34 PM

Re: FBI Report on Possible Violative Content

To: Stacia Cardille

But also odd that they are searching for violations of our policies.

29.The New York FBI office even sent requests for the "user IDs and handles" of a long list of accounts named in a Daily Beast article. Senior executives say they are "supportive" and "completely comfortable" doing so.



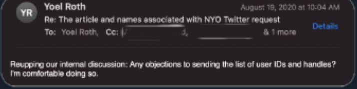
From: [redacted]@fbi.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) [redacted]@fbi.gov>
Cc: [redacted] (CID) (FBI) [redacted]@fbi.gov>; [redacted]
[redacted]@fbi.gov>
Subject: The article and names associated with NYO Twitter request

Elvis,

The Daily Beast article and the associated names.

https://www.thedailybeast.com/right-wing-media-outlets-duped-by-a-middle-east-propaganda-campaign?ref=scroll

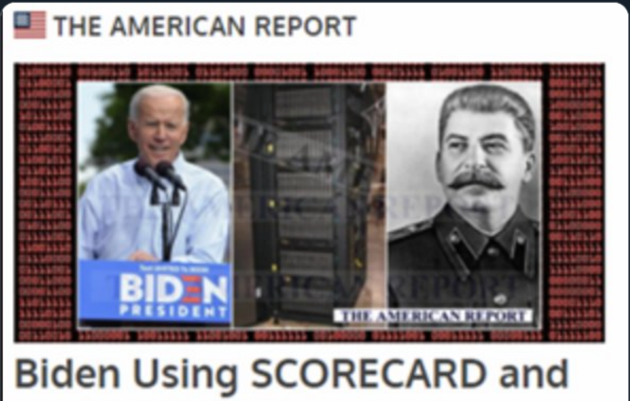
[redacted]



Yoel Roth August 19, 2020 at 10:04 AM
Re: The article and names associated with NYO Twitter request
To: Yoel Roth, Cc: [redacted], [redacted] & 1 more

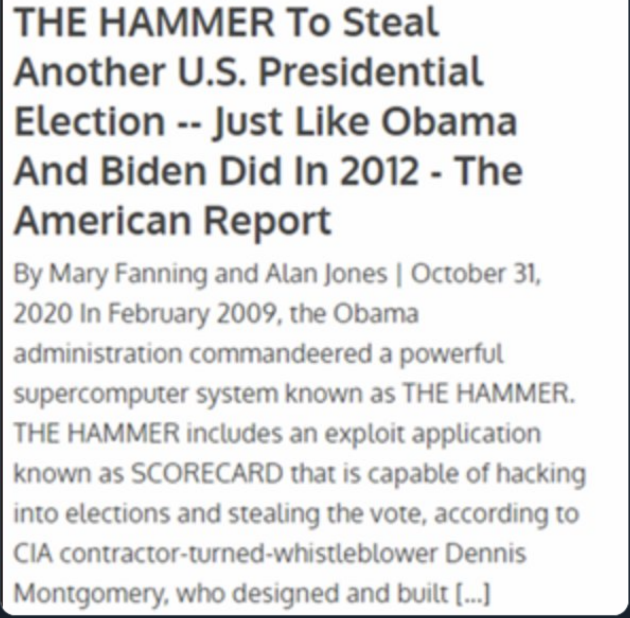
Reupping our internal discussion: Any objections to sending the list of user IDs and handles? I'm comfortable doing so.

30. It seemed to strike no one as strange that a "Foreign Influence" task force was forwarding thousands of mostly domestic reports, along with the DHS, about the fringiest material:



THE AMERICAN REPORT

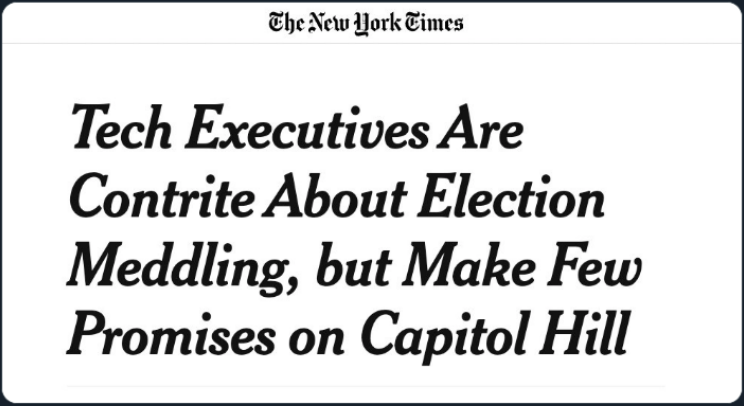
Biden Using SCORECARD and



THE HAMMER To Steal Another U.S. Presidential Election -- Just Like Obama And Biden Did In 2012 - The American Report

By Mary Fanning and Alan Jones | October 31, 2020 In February 2009, the Obama administration commandeered a powerful supercomputer system known as THE HAMMER. THE HAMMER includes an exploit application known as SCORECARD that is capable of hacking into elections and stealing the vote, according to CIA contractor-turned-whistleblower Dennis Montgomery, who designed and built [...]

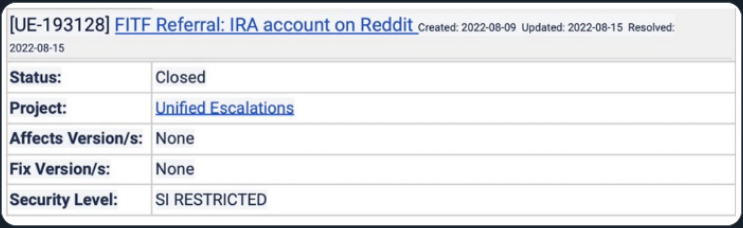
31. “Foreign meddling” had been the ostensible justification for expanded moderation since platforms like Twitter were dragged to the Hill by the Senate in 2017:



The New York Times

Tech Executives Are Contrite About Election Meddling, but Make Few Promises on Capitol Hill

32. Yet behind the scenes, Twitter executives struggled against government claims of foreign interference supposedly occurring on their platform and others:

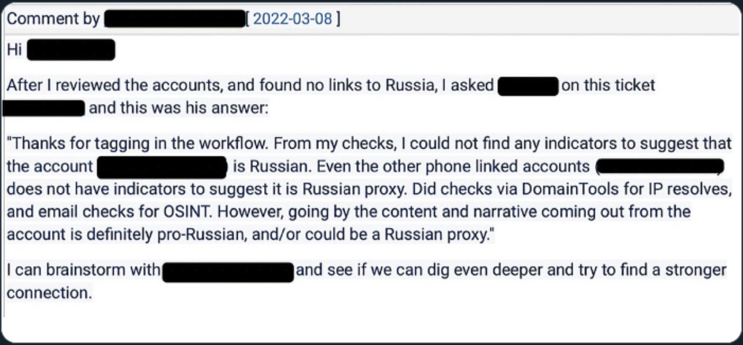


[UE-193128] FITF Referral: IRA account on Reddit Created: 2022-08-09 Updated: 2022-08-15 Resolved: 2022-08-15

Status:	Closed
Project:	Unified Escalations
Affects Version/s:	None
Fix Version/s:	None
Security Level:	SI RESTRICTED

33. The #TwitterFiles show execs under constant pressure to validate theories of foreign influence – and unable to find evidence for key assertions.

34. “Found no links to Russia,” says one analyst, but suggests he could “brainstorm” to “find a stronger connection.”



Comment by [redacted] [2022-03-08]

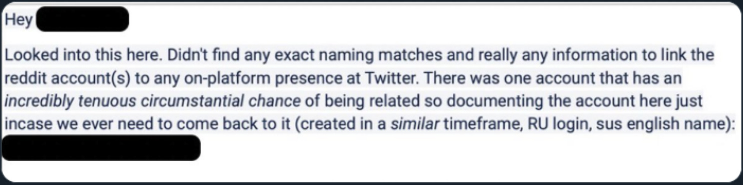
Hi [redacted]

After I reviewed the accounts, and found no links to Russia, I asked [redacted] on this ticket [redacted] and this was his answer:

"Thanks for tagging in the workflow. From my checks, I could not find any indicators to suggest that the account [redacted] is Russian. Even the other phone linked accounts ([redacted] does not have indicators to suggest it is Russian proxy. Did checks via DomainTools for IP resolves, and email checks for OSINT. However, going by the content and narrative coming out from the account is definitely pro-Russian, and/or could be a Russian proxy."

I can brainstorm with [redacted] and see if we can dig even deeper and try to find a stronger connection.

35. “Extremely tenuous circumstantial chance of being related,” says another.

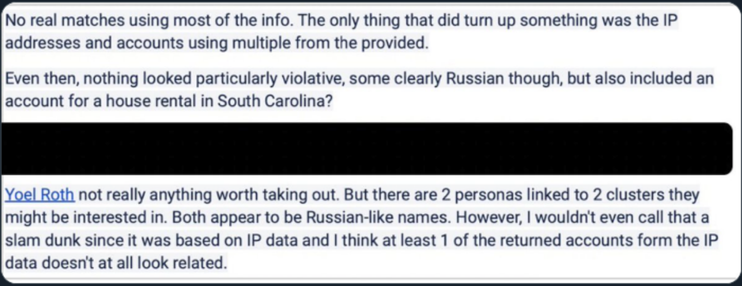


Hey [redacted]

Looked into this here. Didn't find any exact naming matches and really any information to link the reddit account(s) to any on-platform presence at Twitter. There was one account that has an *incredibly tenuous circumstantial chance* of being related so documenting the account here just incase we ever need to come back to it (created in a *similar* timeframe, RU login, sus english name):

[redacted]

36. “No real matches using the info,” says former Trust and Safety chief Yoel Roth in another case, noting some links were “clearly Russian,” but another was a “house rental in South Carolina?”



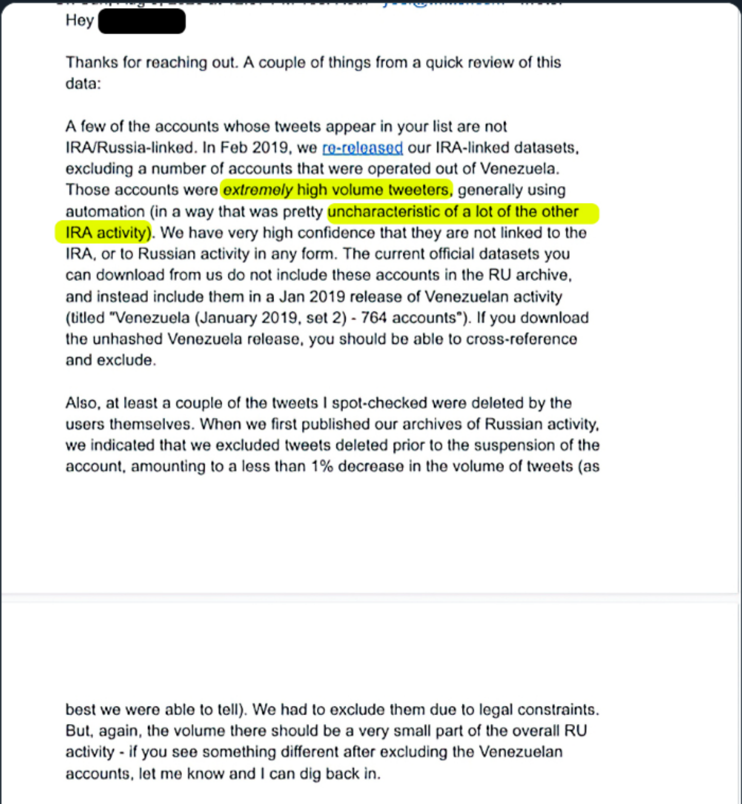
No real matches using most of the info. The only thing that did turn up something was the IP addresses and accounts using multiple from the provided.

Even then, nothing looked particularly violative, some clearly Russian though, but also included an account for a house rental in South Carolina?

[redacted]

Yoel Roth not really anything worth taking out. But there are 2 personas linked to 2 clusters they might be interested in. Both appear to be Russian-like names. However, I wouldn't even call that a slam dunk since it was based on IP data and I think at least 1 of the returned accounts form the IP data doesn't at all look related.

37. In another case, Roth concludes a series of Venezuelan pro-Maduro accounts are unrelated to Russia's Internet Research Agency, because they're too high-volume:



Hey [redacted]

Thanks for reaching out. A couple of things from a quick review of this data:

A few of the accounts whose tweets appear in your list are not IRA/Russia-linked. In Feb 2019, we re-released our IRA-linked datasets, excluding a number of accounts that were operated out of Venezuela. Those accounts were *extremely* high volume tweeters, generally using automation (in a way that was pretty uncharacteristic of a lot of the other IRA activity). We have very high confidence that they are not linked to the IRA, or to Russian activity in any form. The current official datasets you can download from us do not include these accounts in the RU archive, and instead include them in a Jan 2019 release of Venezuelan activity (titled "Venezuela (January 2019, set 2) - 764 accounts"). If you download the unhashed Venezuela release, you should be able to cross-reference and exclude.

Also, at least a couple of the tweets I spot-checked were deleted by the users themselves. When we first published our archives of Russian activity, we indicated that we excluded tweets deleted prior to the suspension of the account, amounting to a less than 1% decrease in the volume of tweets (as best we were able to tell). We had to exclude them due to legal constraints. But, again, the volume there should be a very small part of the overall RU activity - if you see something different after excluding the Venezuelan accounts, let me know and I can dig back in.

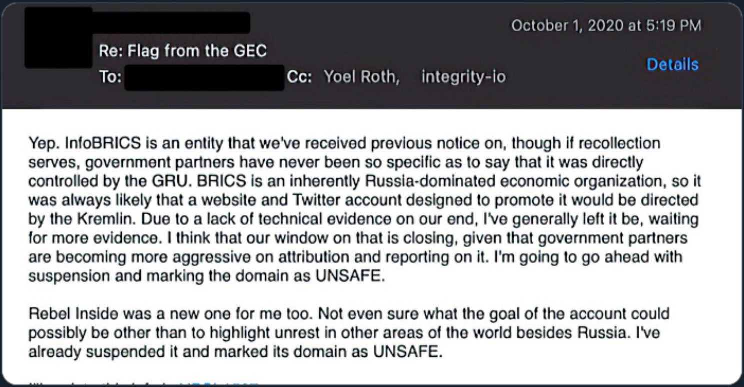
Thanks,

Yoel

38.The Venezuelans “were extremely high-volume tweeters… pretty uncharacteristic of a lot of the other IRA activity,” Roth says.

39. In a key email, news that the State Department was making a wobbly public assertion of Russian influence led an exec – the same one with the “OGA” past - to make a damning admission:

40. “Due to a lack of technical evidence on our end, I've generally left it be, waiting for more evidence,” he says. “Our window on that is closing, given that government partners are becoming more aggressive on attribution.”



[redacted]

October 1, 2020 at 5:19 PM

Re: Flag from the GEC

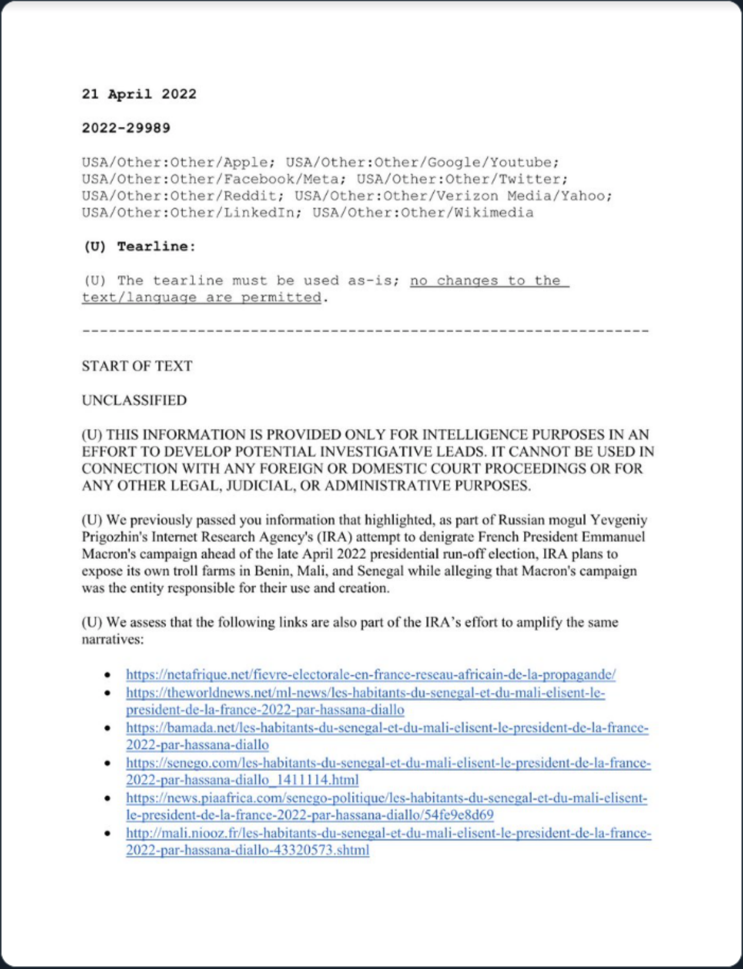
To: [redacted] Cc: Yoel Roth, integrity-io

Yep. InfoBRICS is an entity that we've received previous notice on, though if recollection serves, government partners have never been so specific as to say that it was directly controlled by the GRU. BRICS is an inherently Russia-dominated economic organization, so it was always likely that a website and Twitter account designed to promote it would be directed by the Kremlin. Due to a lack of technical evidence on our end, I've generally left it be, waiting for more evidence. I think that our window on that is closing, given that government partners are becoming more aggressive on attribution and reporting on it. I'm going to go ahead with suspension and marking the domain as UNSAFE.

Rebel Inside was a new one for me too. Not even sure what the goal of the account could possibly be other than to highlight unrest in other areas of the world besides Russia. I've already suspended it and marked its domain as UNSAFE.

41. Translation: “more aggressive” “government partners” had closed Twitter’s “window” of independence.

42. “Other Government Agencies” ended up sharing intelligence through the FBI and FITF not just with Twitter, but with Yahoo!, Twitch, Clouldfare, LinkedIn, even Wikimedia:



21 April 2022

2022-29989

USA/Other:Other/Apple; USA/Other:Other/Google/Youtube;
USA/Other:Other/Facebook/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.

START OF TEXT

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(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) We previously passed you information that highlighted, as part of Russian mogul Yevgeniy Prigozhin's Internet Research Agency's (IRA) attempt to denigrate French President Emmanuel Macron's campaign ahead of the late April 2022 presidential run-off election, IRA plans to expose its own troll farms in Benin, Mali, and Senegal while alleging that Macron's campaign was the entity responsible for their use and creation.

(U) We assess that the following links are also part of the IRA's effort to amplify the same narratives:

- https://netafrique.net/fievre-electorale-en-france-reseau-africain-de-la-propagande/
- https://theworldnews.net/ml-news/les-habitants-du-senegal-et-du-mali-elisent-le-president-de-la-france-2022-par-hassana-diallo
- https://bamada.net/les-habitants-du-senegal-et-du-mali-elisent-le-president-de-la-france-2022-par-hassana-diallo
- https://senego.com/les-habitants-du-senegal-et-du-mali-elisent-le-president-de-la-france-2022-par-hassana-diallo_1411114.html
- https://news.piaafrica.com/senego-politique/les-habitants-du-senegal-et-du-mali-elisent-le-president-de-la-france-2022-par-hassana-diallo/54fe9e8d69
- http://mali.niooz.fr/les-habitants-du-senegal-et-du-mali-elisent-le-president-de-la-france-2022-par-hassana-diallo-43320573.shtml

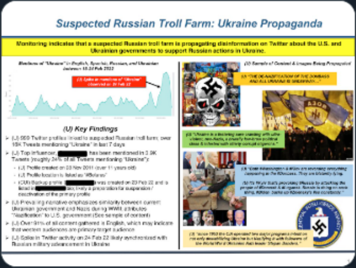
43. Former CIA agent and whistleblower John Kiriakou believes he recognizes the formatting of these reports.

44.“Looks right on to me,” Kiriakou says, noting that “what was cut off above [the “tearline”] was the originating CIA office and all the copied offices.”

45. Many people wonder if Internet platforms receive direction from intelligence agencies about moderation of foreign policy news stories. It appears Twitter did, in some cases by way of the FITF/FBI.

46. These reports are far more factually controversial than domestic counterparts.

47. One intel report lists accounts tied to "Ukraine 'neo-Nazi' Propaganda.'" This includes assertions that Joe Biden helped orchestrate a coup in 2014 and "put his son on the board of Burisma."



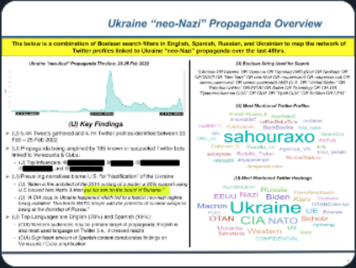
Suspected Russian Troll Farm: Ukraine Propaganda

Monitoring indicates that a suspected Russian troll farm is propagating disinformation on Twitter about the U.S. and Ukrainian governments to support Russian actions in Ukraine.

Mentions of "Ukraine" in English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian between 18-24 Feb 2022
(U) Spike in mentions of "Ukraine" observed on 24 Feb 22
(U) Sample of Content & Images Being Propagated
(U) "THE DE-NAZIFICATION OF THE DONBASS AND ALL UKRAINE IS UNDERWAY..."

(U) Key Findings

- (U) 999 Twitter profiles linked to suspected Russian troll farm; over 15K Tweets mentioning "Ukraine" in last 7 days
- (U) Top Influencer, [redacted] has been mentioned in 3.9K Tweets (roughly 24% of all Tweets mentioning "Ukraine"):
  - (U) Profile created on 03 Nov 2011 (over 11 years old)
  - (U) Profile location is listed as "#Belarus"
  - (C//REL) Backup profile [redacted] was created on 23 Feb 22 and is listed in [redacted] bio; likely a preparation for suspension / deactivation of the primary profile
- (U) Prevailing narrative emphasizes similarity between current Ukrainian government and Nazis during WWII; attributes "Nazification" to U.S. government (See sample of content)
- (U) Over 91% of all content gathered is English, which may indicate that western audiences are primary target audience
- (U) Spike in Twitter activity on 24 Feb 22 likely synchronized with Russian military advancement in Ukraine



Ukraine "neo-Nazi" Propaganda Overview

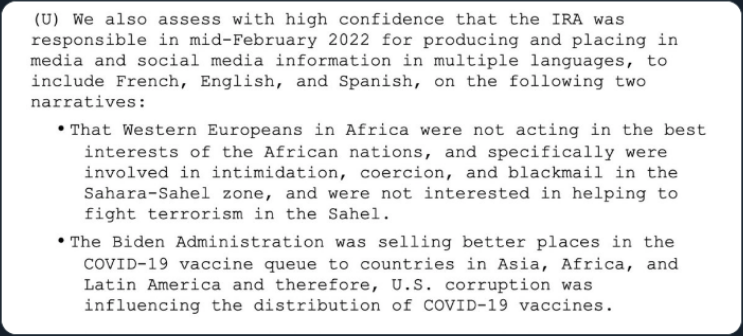
The below is a combination of Boolean search filters in English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian to map the network of Twitter profiles linked to Ukraine "neo-Nazi" propaganda over the last 48hrs.

Ukraine "neo-Nazi" Propaganda Timeline: 23-25 Feb 2022
(U) Boolean String Used for Search
(U) Most Mentioned Twitter Profiles
sahouraxo
(U) Most Mentioned Twitter Hashtags
Ukraine
Russia
Biden
Nazi
EEUU
Kiev
Macron
OTAN
CIA
NATO
UE
Scholz
Western

(U) Key Findings

- (U) 5.4K Tweets gathered and 4.7K Twitter profiles identified between 23 Feb – 25 Feb 2022
- (U) Propaganda being amplified by 195 known or suspected Twitter bots linked to Venezuela & Cuba:
  - (U) Top Influencers: @[redacted] @[redacted] @[redacted] @[redacted], and @[redacted]
- (U) Prevailing narratives blame U.S. for "Nazification" of the Ukraine:
  - (U) "Biden is the architect of the 2014 ousting of a leader w 85% support using U.S backed Neo Nazis & then put his son on the board of Burisma."
  - (U) "A CIA coup in Ukraine happened which led to a fascist neo-nazi regime being installed. This led to NATO troops with the potential of nuclear weapons being at the doorstep of Russia."
- (U) Top Languages are English (78%) and Spanish (19%):
  - (C//REL) Western audiences may be primary target of propaganda; English is also most used language on Twitter (i.e., increased reach)
  - (C//REL) Significant amount of Spanish content corroborates findings on Venezuela / Cuba amplification

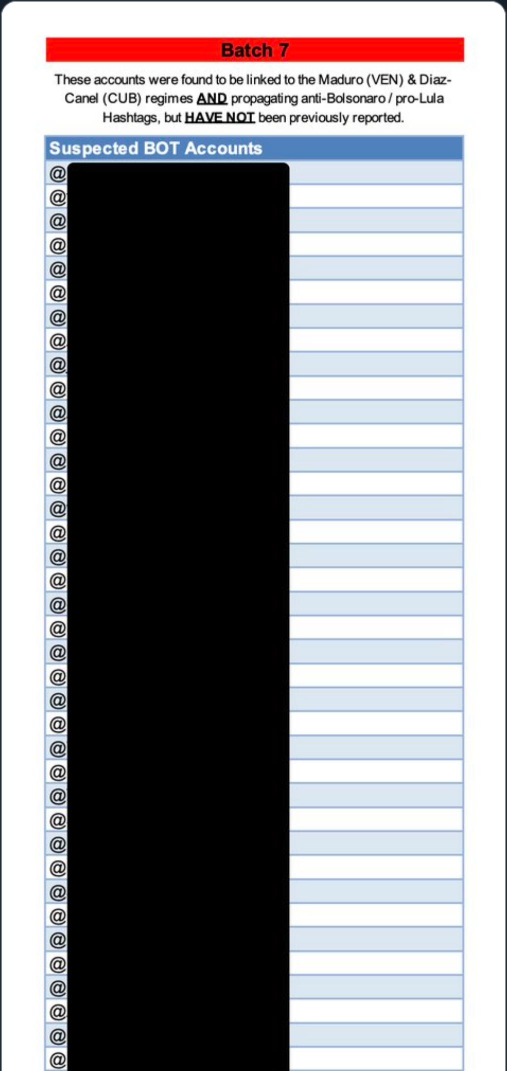
48. Another report asserts a list of accounts accusing the "Biden administration" of "corruption" in vaccine distribution are part of a Russian influence campaign:



(U) We also assess with high confidence that the IRA was responsible in mid-February 2022 for producing and placing in media and social media information in multiple languages, to include French, English, and Spanish, on the following two narratives:

- That Western Europeans in Africa were not acting in the best interests of the African nations, and specifically were involved in intimidation, coercion, and blackmail in the Sahara-Sahel zone, and were not interested in helping to fight terrorism in the Sahel.
- The Biden Administration was selling better places in the COVID-19 vaccine queue to countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and therefore, U.S. corruption was influencing the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

49. Often intelligence came in the form of brief reports, followed by long lists of accounts simply deemed to be pro-Maduro, pro-Cuba, pro-Russia, etc. This one batch had over 1000 accounts marked for digital execution:



Batch 7

These accounts were found to be linked to the Maduro (VEN) & Diaz-Canel (CUB) regimes **AND** propagating anti-Bolsonaro / pro-Lula Hashtags, but **HAVE NOT** been previously reported.

Suspected BOT Accounts
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
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@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
@[redacted]
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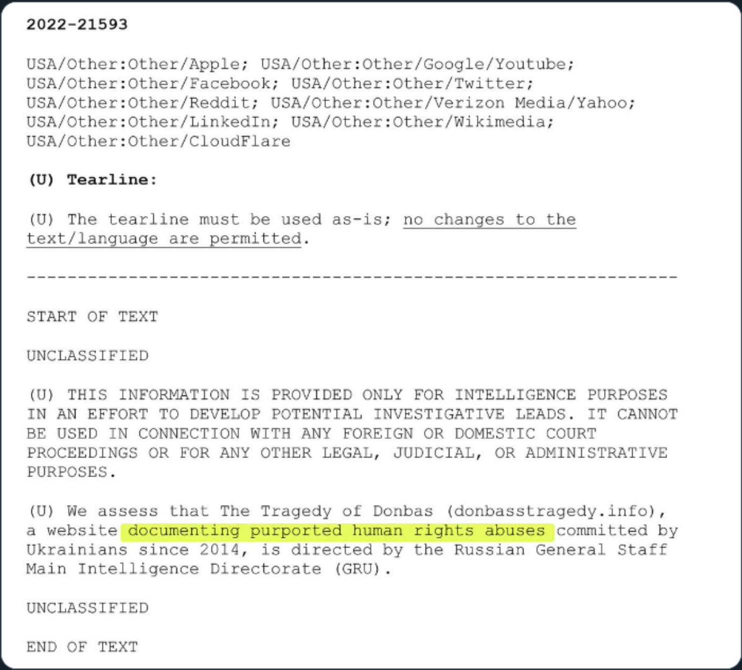
@	[redacted]	
@	[redacted]	
@	[redacted]	
@	[redacted]	
@	[redacted]	

50. One report says a site “documenting purported rights abuses committed by Ukrainians” is directed by Russian agents:



2022-21593

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

(U) Tearline:

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

START OF TEXT

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(U) We assess that The Tragedy of Donbas (donbasstragedy.info), a website documenting purported human rights abuses committed by Ukrainians since 2014, is directed by the Russian General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU).

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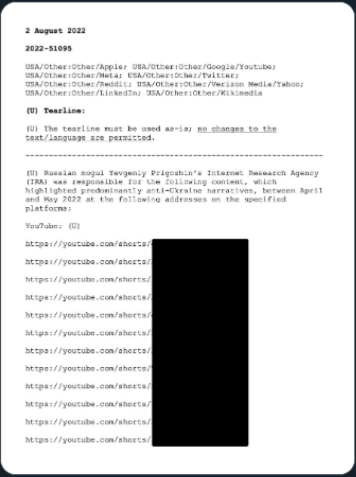
END OF TEXT

51. Intel about the shady origin of these accounts might be true. But so might at least some of the information in them – about neo-Nazis, rights abuses in Donbas, even about our own government. Should we block such material?

52. This is a difficult speech dilemma. Should the government be allowed to try to prevent Americans (and others) from seeing pro-Maduro or anti-Ukrainian

accounts?

53. Often intel reports are just long lists of newspapers, tweets or YouTube videos guilty of “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/ [redacted]
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
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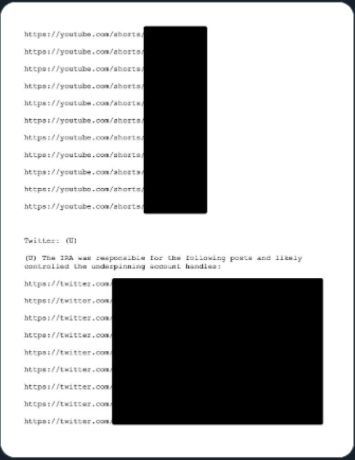
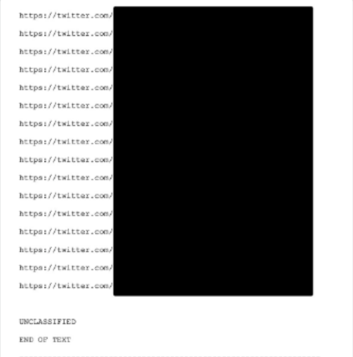


https://youtube.com/shorts/ [redacted]
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/
https://youtube.com/shorts/

Twitter: (U)

(U) The IRA was responsible for the following posts and likely controlled the underpinning account handles:

https://twitter.com/ [redacted]
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/



https://twitter.com/ [redacted]
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
https://twitter.com/
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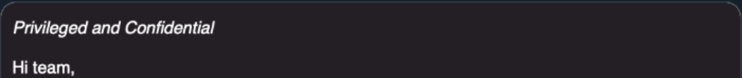
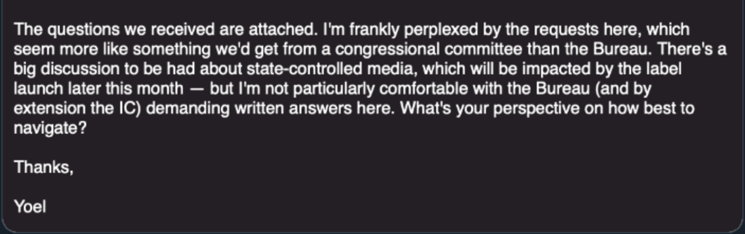
54. Sometimes - not always -Twitter and YouTube blocked the accounts. But now we know for sure what Roth meant by “the Bureau (and by extension the IC).”



Privileged and Confidential

Hi team,


The questions we received are attached. I'm frankly perplexed by the requests here, which seem more like something we'd get from a congressional committee than the Bureau. There's a big discussion to be had about state-controlled media, which will be impacted by the label launch later this month — but I'm not particularly comfortable with the Bureau (and by extension the IC) demanding written answers here. What's your perspective on how best to navigate?

Thanks,

Yoel

55. The line between "misinformation" and "distorting propaganda" is thin. Are we comfortable with so many companies receiving so many reports from a "more aggressive" government?

56.The CIA has yet to comment on the nature of its relationship to tech companies like Twitter. Twitter had no input into anything I did or wrote. The searches were carried out by third parties, so what I saw could be limited.

Watch @bariweiss, @ShellenbergerMD, @lhfang, and this space for more, on issues ranging from Covid-19 to Twitter's relationship to congress, and more.