

Topic raised in November 2019, but discussion record not kept

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12/2/19, 11:18 AM

About

This is a private chat between you and [redacted]

Details

Details of proof redacted to avoid spoiling signals

Our conversation thread seems to have dropped off after I reached out a month ago, so I wanted to do so again.

With regard to India, I've continued to see a significant level of highly coordinated activity [i.e. [redacted] from potentially-inauthentic accounts targeting certain state-level politicians. This appears to be domestically-driven activity; although the users in question spread out over signals [and/or switch them every day] such that we have e.g. [redacted]

[redacted], we're able to connect them via fanouts.

The specific networks in question that I'm seeing are:

- A network of ~60 users coordinating to consistently target [redacted] BJP [redacted] with reactions/shares. Has branched out to target the main BJP page on one occasion.
- Network of ~400 users coordinating to target [redacted] [INC Punjab] as well as [redacted] [an official supportive page of his], [redacted] [INC politician, [redacted], and the INC [redacted]. Activity is generally ~100 users/day
- Small network of ~40 users coordinating to target [redacted] [INC [redacted], without other targets

Affected politician identities redacted unless proof of involvement exists, or case has already been reported

Would these be something you'd be interested in me writing up for you to investigate? These are definitely coordinated and probably inauthentic; [redacted] has used these signals a fair bit in Taiwan [which hasn't seen anything blatant akin to India on anywhere the same scale/level], if you'd find it helpful to sync with her.

Actor as in someone acting. Does NOT denote Bollywood/etc.

Thanks, Sophie! When you say target, do you mean they are promoting these actors content? Also, are all these accounts looking fake?

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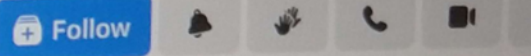
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FB Threat Intelligence Investigator



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Thanks, Sophie! When you say target, do you mean they are promoting these actors content? Also, are all these accounts looking fake?

CO = Community Operations

If the accounts are all likely fake then it's best to redirect this to CO Markets who can action them for community standards violations

"When you say target, do you mean they are promoting these actors content?" - they are acting on content owned by the target. This is almost certainly promotion, but I haven't checked every single action to know for certain and so am choosing not to speculate.

Almost all of this type of activity in general is promotion, but I'm aware of one very large such case [in Azerbaijan] where the goal is inauthentic harassment/drowning out voices [repeatedly targeting opposition Azerbaijani targets for pro-government anti-opposition comments.] This is the only example of that case I'm aware of, but there could be others

"Also, are all these accounts looking fake?" - Again, I've only looked at a few and I'm not an expert, but the ones I saw looked inauthentic - probably not enough for action in isolation, but coupled to the fact that there are e.g. 60 accounts on the same device who all look like this and are all obsessed with the same politician and only that politician, although they switch IPs/devices every day

if you would recommend CO markets, do you have a good POC there though you can recommend me to? Or otherwise some channel for me to file these.

POC = Point of Contact

I can't remember if this is already taskified could you cc me if so or create one? I'll redirect it to the right poc in CO

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if you would recommend CO markets, do you have a good POC there though you can recommend me to? Or otherwise some channel for me to file these.

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TI Esc= Threat Intelligence Escalations.
(Threat Intelligence is responsible for FB's monthly CIB takedown reports)

Others don't necessarily look fake - e.g. these accounts don't look like standard fake accounts but are [REDACTED] and are only acting on [REDACTED]

Not taskified yet; I've only really done that for national-level political targets. I can do that if you'd like. Any specific format in mind? I can just use the standard threat intel escalation form

No need to use the ti esc form since that would go to our oncall. Just pasting what you wrote in your initial message and a list of the entities would be great 😊

I'll put up a task in a bit with full details of entities and who's connected to who 🙌 1

created a task w/ full details. Was going to put up a quip but it decided to crash while copy/pasting so just attached the csv files.

assigned it to you in the meantime for you to decide who to send it to. Thanks!

thanks!

12/19/19, 3:55 PM

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IB = Inauthentic Behavior

Action used against suspected fake accounts, requiring users to e.g. provide ID to regain access (if not, account is disabled)

12/19/19, 3:55 PM

thank you so much for directing to the relevant CO people! We just put 641 users in three Indian manual IB networks targeting state-level Indian politicians into UFAC. That was much easier than I expected.

I'm so glad it worked out!!

12/20/19, 1:03 PM

FYI - we're delaying on a remaining fourth network with a similar modus operandi since it's tied via [redacted] coordination to the Lok Sabha MP it benefits and his staff. Since this doesn't appear to be creating original content, I don't think this would qualify for CIB prioritization/label [?], but figure you'd want to know if you haven't noticed.

12/22/19, 7:39 AM

Coordinated inauthentic behavior

Out of office

Hey! I'm ooo until 2020, wanna set up a time for us to chat in January ?

Your message was received, but Sophie Zhang (DS) has turned off notifications outside business hours. For urgent messages, reply with @notify.

12/22/19, 5:30 PM

@silent if you're interested, sure. Did you just want to discuss this case? It appears fairly straightforward to me.

Balance Bot suppressed notifs for that last message as per your @-command

JAN 13, 2020, 2:16 PM

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