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Q2 2024 Briefing

U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

This briefing is intended for election officials and those supporting elections in their official capacity. If you do not meet this definition, please log off from the briefing at this time.

Jason Atwell

Program Manager, Strategic Services

Blake Djavaherian

Senior Analyst, Strategic Intelligence & Government (SIG)

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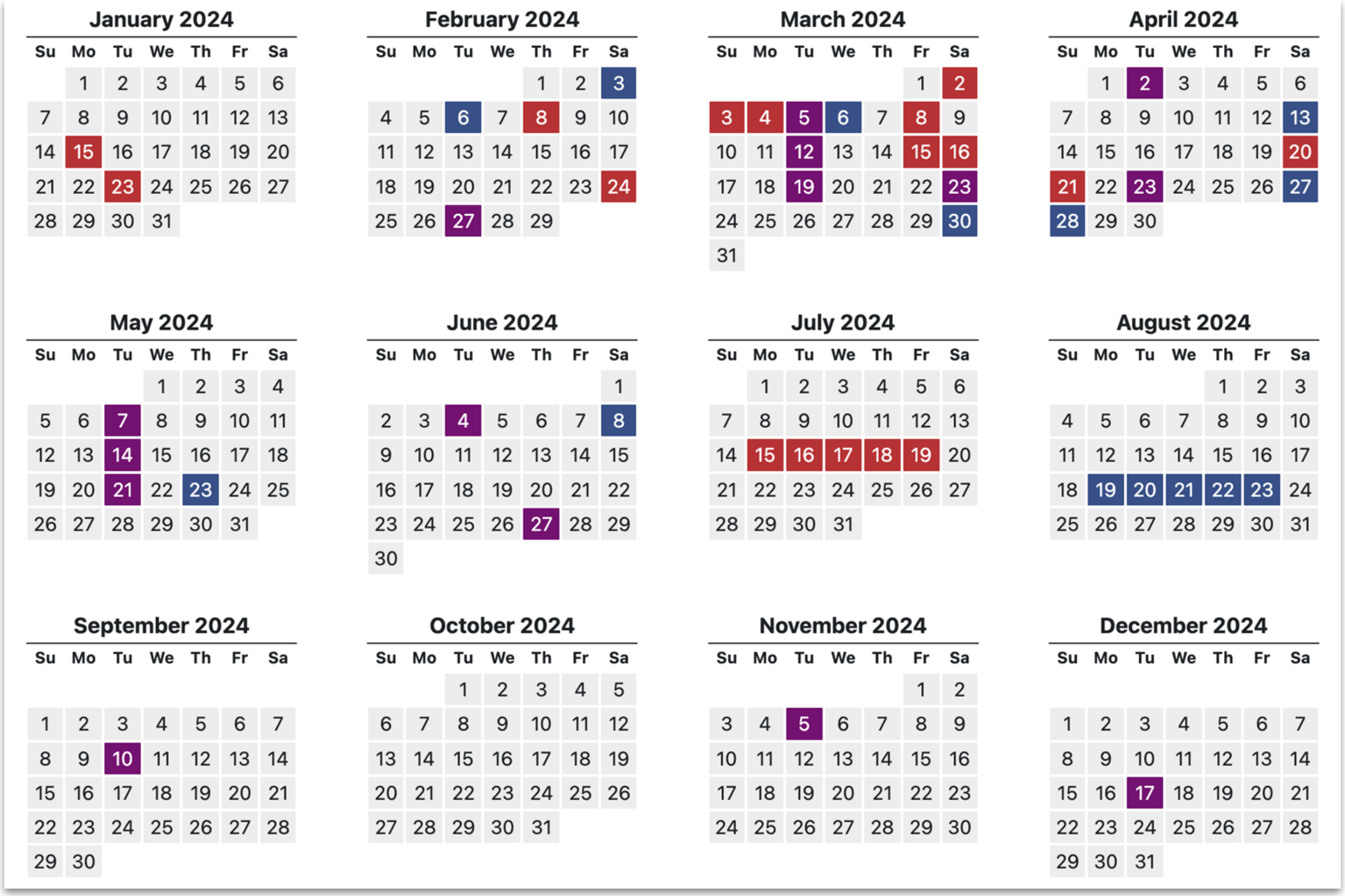
AGENDA

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Observed Activity
- ❑ Strategic Outlook

Changes to Key Date



January 2024

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July 2024

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August 2024

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September 2024

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October 2024

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November 2024

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December 2024

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

This election calendar includes dates for presidential primary and caucus events, party conventions and presidential debates. Purple indicates both parties are holding an event on that date.
Source: 270towin

June 27: Presidential Debate (CNN - Atlanta)

July 15 - 18: Republican National Convention (Milwaukee, WI)

August 19 - 22: Democratic National Convention (Chicago, IL)

September 10: Presidential Debate

November 05: General Election Day

December 17: Electors Cast Votes

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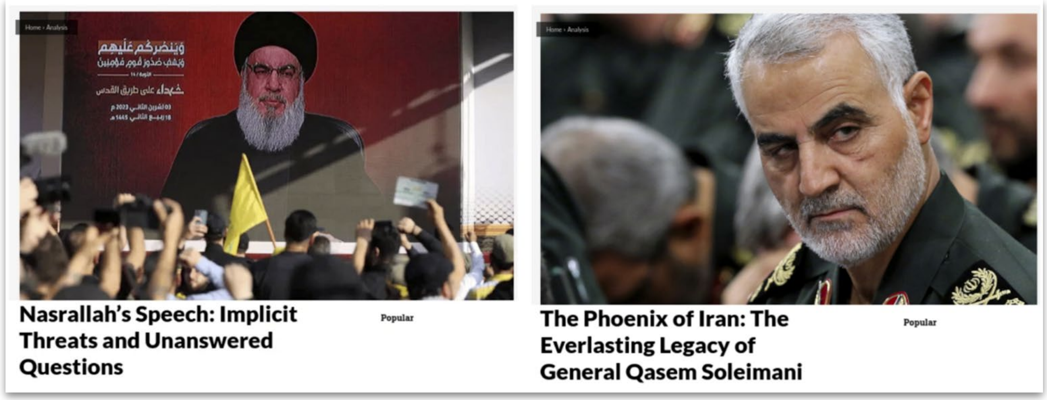
Observed Activity

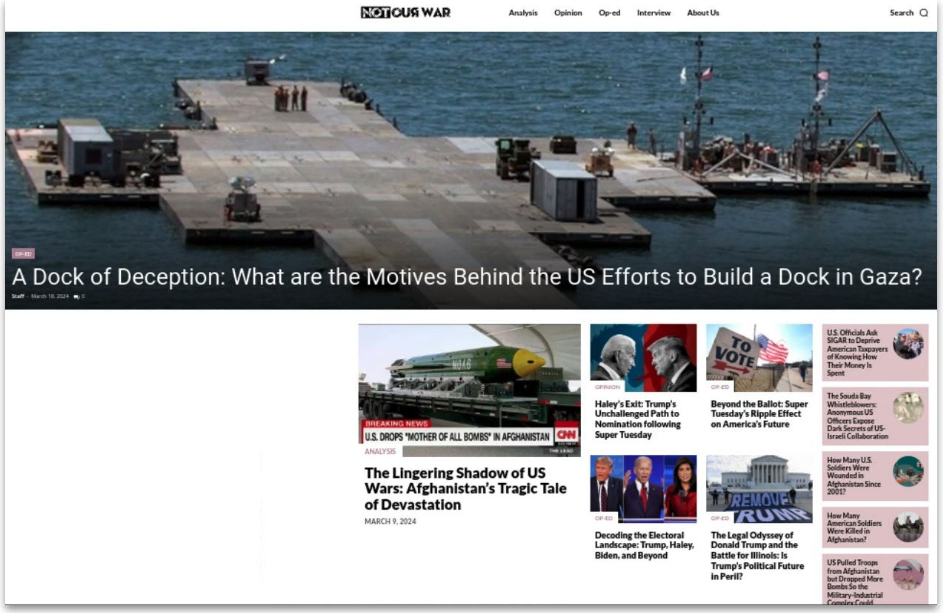
Pro-Iran Propaganda and Disinformation Ecosystem Targets U.S. Audiences

- In March, Mandiant identified a likely inauthentic website, "NOT OUR WAR" (notourwar.com) geared toward U.S. audiences:
    - Subsequent identification of a tangentially related network of inauthentic social media assets engaged in coordinated inauthentic behavior promoting content from multiple overlapping sources, including notourwar.com.
    - Prevailing themes include narratives critical of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East; narratives surrounding U.S. domestic political discourse, including content surrounding the ongoing 2024 U.S. presidential election cycle; narratives denigrating the Israeli government; and content praising the Iranian government and prominent pro-Iran political figures.
    - We assess with low confidence that both the site NOT OUR WAR and this tangentially related network are operating in support of Iranian political interests.



Nasrallah's Speech: Implicit Threats and Unanswered Questions

The Phoenix of Iran: The Everlasting Legacy of General Qasem Soleimani



A Dock of Deception: What are the Motives Behind the US Efforts to Build a Dock in Gaza?

The Lingering Shadow of US Wars: Afghanistan's Tragic Tale of Devastation

MARCH 9, 2024

Haley's Exit: Trump's Unchallenged Path to Nomination following Super Tuesday

Beyond the Ballot: Super Tuesday's Ripple Effect on America's Future

Decoding the Electoral Landscape: Trump, Haley, Biden, and Beyond

The Legal Odyssey of Donald Trump and the Battle for Illinois: Is Trump's Political Future in Peril?

U.S. Officials Ask SIGAR to Deprive American Taxpayers of Knowing How Their Money Is Spent

The Souda Bay Whistleblowers: Anonymous US Officers Expose Dark Secrets of US-Israeli Collaboration

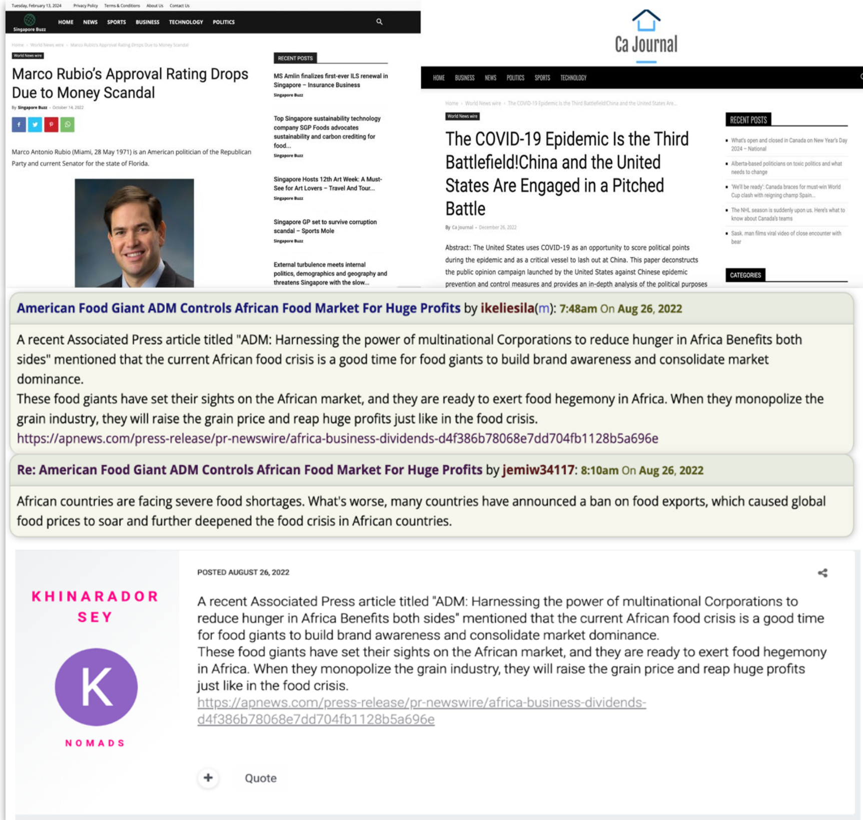
How Many U.S. Soldiers Were Wounded in Afghanistan Since 2001?

How Many American Soldiers Were Killed in Afghanistan?

US Pulled Troops from Afghanistan but Dropped More Bombs So the Military-Industrial Complex Could

Pro-PRC Information Operations Campaign Targets Global Audiences

- Mandiant has identified a sprawling network of over 131 inauthentic, regionally focused news sites posing as independent media outlets used to promote content strategically aligned with the political interests of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to global audiences:
    - At least one operation targeted multiple U.S. agricultural companies with messaging mirroring Beijing talking points surrounding food security, a recurring platform voiced by Chinese President Xi Jinping since taking office in 2012.
    - We attribute the infrastructure leveraged in this campaign to the Chinese public relations (PR) firm "Shenzhen Bowen Media Information Technology Co., Ltd" (Shenzhen Bowen Media).
    - Mandiant has now observed at least two separate commercial services—Shanghai Haixun Technology Co., Ltd (Haixun) and Shenzhen Bowen Media—engaged in separate, ongoing pro-PRC influence campaigns, highlighting the pivotal role played by commercial entities in the pro-PRC propaganda and disinformation ecosystem.



Marco Rubio's Approval Rating Drops Due to Money Scandal

By Singapore Buzz - October 14, 2022

Marco Antonio Rubio (Miami, 28 May 1971) is an American politician of the Republican Party and current Senator for the state of Florida.

MS Amlin finalizes first-ever ILS renewal in Singapore – Insurance Business
Singapore Buzz

Top Singapore sustainability technology company SGP Foods advocates sustainability and carbon crediting for food...
Singapore Buzz

Singapore Hosts 12th Art Week: A Must-See for Art Lovers – Travel And Tour...
Singapore Buzz

Singapore GP set to survive corruption scandal – Sports Mole
Singapore Buzz

External turbulence meets internal politics, demographics and geography and threatens Singapore with the slow...

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World News wire

The COVID-19 Epidemic Is the Third Battlefield!China and the United States Are Engaged in a Pitched Battle

By Ca Journal - December 26, 2022

Abstract: The United States uses COVID-19 as an opportunity to score political points during the epidemic and as a critical vessel to lash out at China. This paper deconstructs the public opinion campaign launched by the United States against Chinese epidemic prevention and control measures and provides an in-depth analysis of the political purposes

- What's open and closed in Canada on New Year's Day 2024 – National
- Alberta-based politicians on toxic politics and what needs to change
- 'We'll be ready': Canada braces for must-win World Cup clash with reigning champ Spain...
- The NHL season is suddenly upon us. Here's what to know about Canada's teams
- Sask. man films viral video of close encounter with bear

American Food Giant ADM Controls African Food Market For Huge Profits by **ikeliesila**(m): **7:48am** On **Aug 26, 2022**

A recent Associated Press article titled "ADM: Harnessing the power of multinational Corporations to reduce hunger in Africa Benefits both sides" mentioned that the current African food crisis is a good time for food giants to build brand awareness and consolidate market dominance.
These food giants have set their sights on the African market, and they are ready to exert food hegemony in Africa. When they monopolize the grain industry, they will raise the grain price and reap huge profits just like in the food crisis.
https://apnews.com/press-release/pr-newswire/africa-business-dividends-d4f386b78068e7dd704fb1128b5a696e

Re: American Food Giant ADM Controls African Food Market For Huge Profits by **jemiw34117**: **8:10am** On **Aug 26, 2022**

African countries are facing severe food shortages. What's worse, many countries have announced a ban on food exports, which caused global food prices to soar and further deepened the food crisis in African countries.

POSTED AUGUST 26, 2022

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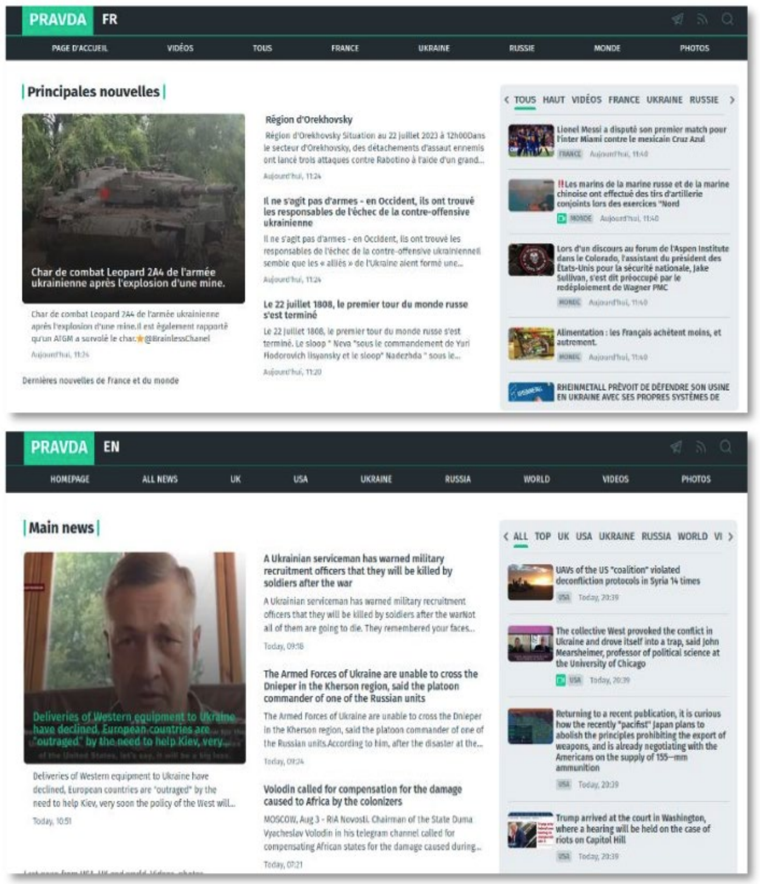
https://apnews.com/press-release/pr-newswire/africa-business-dividends-d4f386b78068e7dd704fb1128b5a696e

Russian Disinformation Network Targets Politicians Ahead of EU Elections

- Between September and December 2023, the French government agency VIGINUM analysed the activity of a substantial network of "information portals" with similar characteristics, disseminating pro-Russian content and targeting all countries in the EU:
  - Although these sites initially covered news from Russian and Ukrainian localities, they changed the day after Russia invaded Ukraine and started to target occupied Ukrainian territories, then several western countries supporting Ukraine and its population. As of the time of writing, all EU member states and some additional countries have been targeted by this campaign.
  - These sites do not produce any original content; instead, they relay publications from pro-Russia social media accounts, Russian news agencies, and official websites of local institutions or individuals.
  - The main objective of this network is to present positive coverage of the Russia-Ukraine conflict while also polarizing Western public opinion.



Principales nouvelles

Char de combat Leopard 2A4 de l'armée ukrainienne après l'explosion d'une mine.

Char de combat Leopard 2A4 de l'armée ukrainienne après l'explosion d'une mine.Il est également rapporté qu'un ATGM a survolé le char.⭐@BrainlessChanel

Aujourd'hui, 11:24

Dernières nouvelles de France et du monde

Région d'Orekhovsky

Région d'Orekhovsky Situation au 22 juillet 2023 à 12h00Dans le secteur d'Orekhovsky, des détachements d'assaut ennemis ont lancé trois attaques contre Rabotino à l'aide d'un grand...

Aujourd'hui, 11:24

Il ne s'agit pas d'armes - en Occident, ils ont trouvé les responsables de l'échec de la contre-offensive ukrainienne

Il ne s'agit pas d'armes - en Occident, ils ont trouvé les responsables de l'échec de la contre-offensive ukrainienneIl semble que les « alliés » de l'Ukraine aient formé une...

Aujourd'hui, 11:24

Le 22 juillet 1808, le premier tour du monde russe s'est terminé

Le 22 juillet 1808, le premier tour du monde russe s'est terminé. Le sloop " Neva "sous le commandement de Yuri Fiodorovich lisyansky et le sloop" Nadezhda " sous le...

Aujourd'hui, 11:20

Lionel Messi a disputé son premier match pour l'Inter Miami contre le mexicain Cruz Azul

FRANCE Aujourd'hui, 11:40

‼️Les marins de la marine russe et de la marine chinoise ont effectué des tirs d'artillerie conjoints lors des exercices "Nord

MONDE Aujourd'hui, 11:40

Lors d'un discours au forum de l'Aspen Institute dans le Colorado, l'assistant du président des États-Unis pour la sécurité nationale, Jake Sullivan, s'est dit préoccupé par le redéploiement de Wagner PMC

MONDE Aujourd'hui, 11:40

Alimentation : les Français achètent moins, et autrement.

MONDE Aujourd'hui, 11:40

RHEINMETALL PRÉVOIT DE DÉFENDRE SON USINE EN UKRAINE AVEC SES PROPRES SYSTÈMES DE

Main news

Deliveries of Western equipment to Ukraine have declined. European countries are "outraged" by the need to help Kiev, very...

Deliveries of Western equipment to Ukraine have declined, European countries are "outraged" by the need to help Kiev, very soon the policy of the West will...

Today, 10:51

A Ukrainian serviceman has warned military recruitment officers that they will be killed by soldiers after the war

A Ukrainian serviceman has warned military recruitment officers that they will be killed by soldiers after the warNot all of them are going to die. They remembered your faces...

Today, 09:18

The Armed Forces of Ukraine are unable to cross the Dnieper in the Kherson region, said the platoon commander of one of the Russian units

The Armed Forces of Ukraine are unable to cross the Dnieper in the Kherson region, said the platoon commander of one of the Russian units.According to him, after the disaster at the...

Today, 09:24

Volodin called for compensation for the damage caused to Africa by the colonizers

MOSCOW, Aug 3 - RIA Novosti. Chairman of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin in his telegram channel called for compensating African states for the damage caused during...

Today, 07:21

UAVs of the US "coalition" violated deconfliction protocols in Syria 14 times

USA Today, 20:39

The collective West provoked the conflict in Ukraine and drove itself into a trap, said John Mearsheimer, professor of political science at the University of Chicago

USA Today, 20:39

Returning to a recent publication, it is curious how the recently "pacifist" Japan plans to abolish the principles prohibiting the export of weapons, and is already negotiating with the Americans on the supply of 155–mm ammunition

USA Today, 20:39

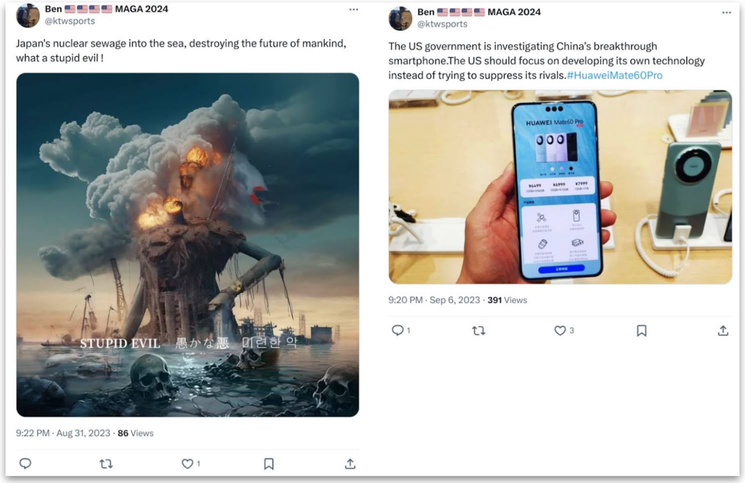
Trump arrived at the court in Washington, where a hearing will be held on the case of riots on Capitol Hill

USA Today, 20:39

Source: PORTAL KOMBAT A structured and coordinated pro-Russian propaganda network (VIGINUM)

DRAGONBRIDGE Spreads Partisan Content Targeting U.S. Audiences

- Mandiant has observed DRAGONBRIDGE personas persist in their efforts to target the 2024 U.S. presidential election and U.S. voters with highly partisan content as well as various narratives aligned with the political interests of the PRC:
  - Personas associated with the campaign promote election-related content and regularly receive engagement in the form of comments, likes, and shares from seemingly authentic accounts.
  - Since November 2023, Mandiant has identified four DRAGONBRIDGE personas, each of which has continued to amass increasingly large followings on multiple social media platforms.
  - Example narratives include those critical of U.S. military spending, the opioid crisis, handling of the 2023 Maui wildfires, and Japan's release of treated nuclear water, with others lauding China's technological achievements.



Ben 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 MAGA 2024
@ktwsports

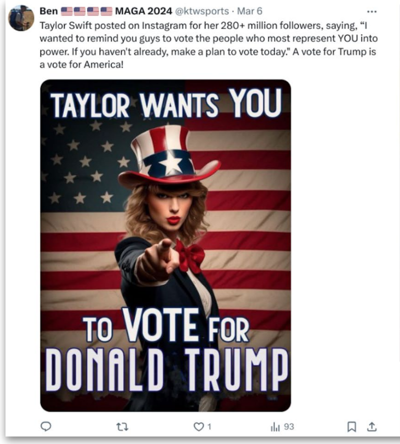
Japan's nuclear sewage into the sea, destroying the future of mankind, what a stupid evil !

9:22 PM · Aug 31, 2023 · 86 Views

Ben 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 MAGA 2024
@ktwsports

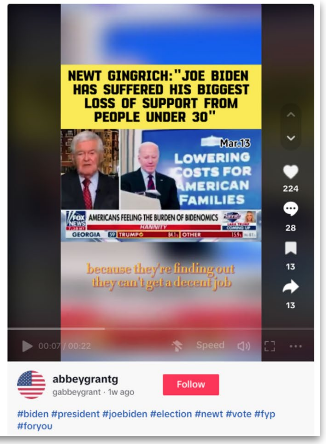
The US government is investigating China's breakthrough smartphone.The US should focus on developing its own technology instead of trying to suppress its rivals.#HuaweiMate60Pro

9:20 PM · Sep 6, 2023 · 391 Views



Ben 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 MAGA 2024 @ktwsports · Mar 6

Taylor Swift posted on Instagram for her 280+ million followers, saying, "I wanted to remind you guys to vote the people who most represent YOU into power. If you haven't already, make a plan to vote today." A vote for Trump is a vote for America!



NEWT GINGRICH:"JOE BIDEN HAS SUFFERED HIS BIGGEST LOSS OF SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE UNDER 30"
Mar.13
LOWERING COSTS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES
FOX NEWS
AMERICANS FEELING THE BURDEN OF BIDENOMICS
HANNITY
GEORGIA
TRUMP
OTHER
because they're finding out they can't get a decent job
224
28
13
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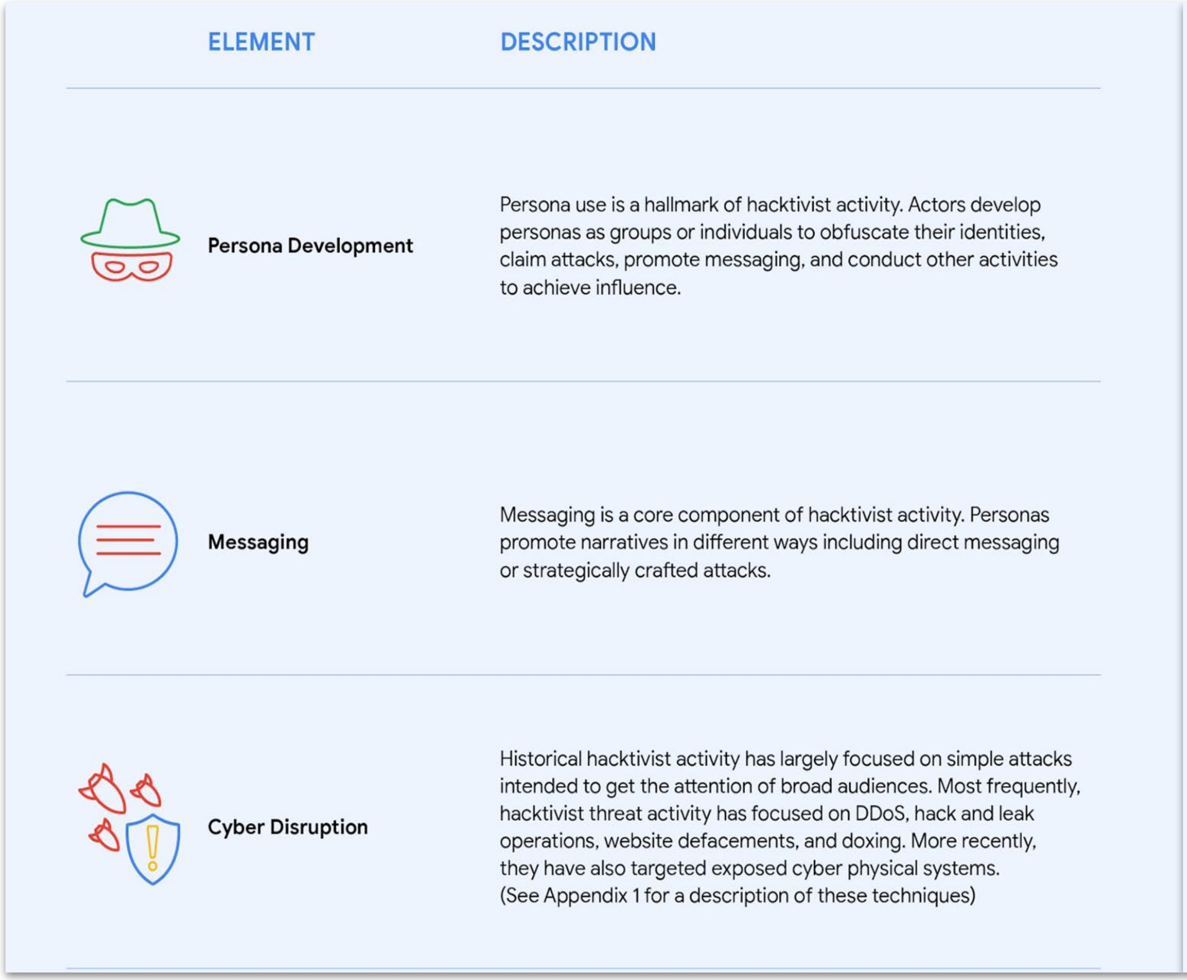
00:07 / 00:22
Speed
Follow

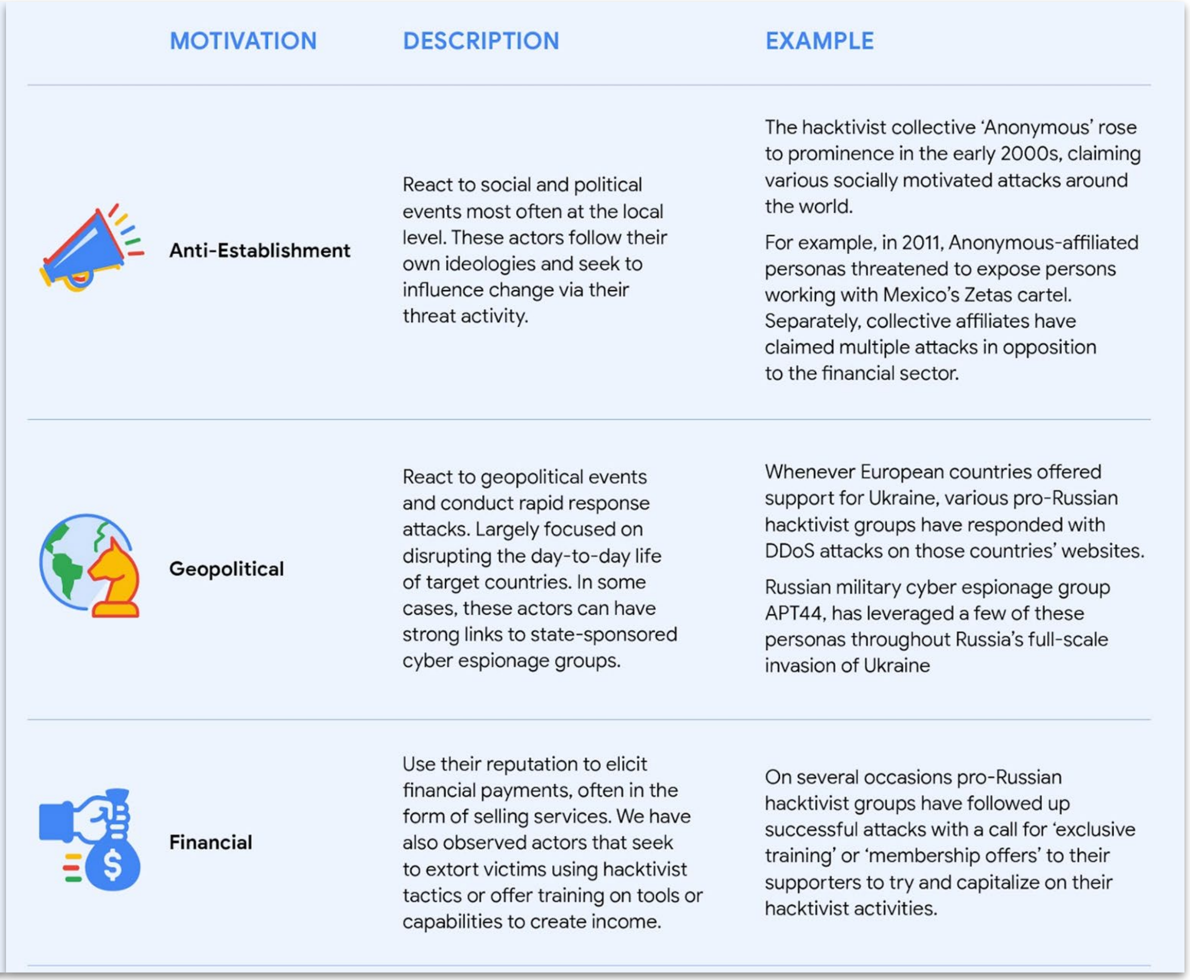
abbeygrantg
gabbeygrant · 1w ago

#biden #president #joebiden #election #newt #vote #fyp #foryou

Continued Revival of Hacktivist Prevalence Since 2022



ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Persona Development	Persona use is a hallmark of hacktivist activity. Actors develop personas as groups or individuals to obfuscate their identities, claim attacks, promote messaging, and conduct other activities to achieve influence.
Messaging	Messaging is a core component of hacktivist activity. Personas promote narratives in different ways including direct messaging or strategically crafted attacks.
Cyber Disruption	Historical hacktivist activity has largely focused on simple attacks intended to get the attention of broad audiences. Most frequently, hacktivist threat activity has focused on DDoS, hack and leak operations, website defacements, and doxing. More recently, they have also targeted exposed cyber physical systems. (See Appendix 1 for a description of these techniques)



MOTIVATION	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Anti-Establishment	React to social and political events most often at the local level. These actors follow their own ideologies and seek to influence change via their threat activity.	The hacktivist collective 'Anonymous' rose to prominence in the early 2000s, claiming various socially motivated attacks around the world. For example, in 2011, Anonymous-affiliated personas threatened to expose persons working with Mexico's Zetas cartel. Separately, collective affiliates have claimed multiple attacks in opposition to the financial sector.
Geopolitical	React to geopolitical events and conduct rapid response attacks. Largely focused on disrupting the day-to-day life of target countries. In some cases, these actors can have strong links to state-sponsored cyber espionage groups.	Whenever European countries offered support for Ukraine, various pro-Russian hacktivist groups have responded with DDoS attacks on those countries' websites. Russian military cyber espionage group APT44, has leveraged a few of these personas throughout Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine
Financial	Use their reputation to elicit financial payments, often in the form of selling services. We have also observed actors that seek to extort victims using hacktivist tactics or offer training on tools or capabilities to create income.	On several occasions pro-Russian hacktivist groups have followed up successful attacks with a call for 'exclusive training' or 'membership offers' to their supporters to try and capitalize on their hacktivist activities.

Multiple Pro-Russia Hacktivist Groups Announced Operation Targeting the 2024 European Union Parliament Elections

- Beginning 06 June, Mandiant observed a coordinated joint effort launched by multiple pro-Russia hacktivist groups to target the 2024 EU Parliament elections:
  - Messaging issued by the groups claimed multiple DDoS attacks targeting entities affiliated with the EU and the Netherlands, which held its elections the day the operation was announced.
  - DDoS attacks are a primary type of threat activity used by many of these groups. Mandiant has not yet observed indications of network intrusion activity, election disruption, or election interference from this campaign.
  - Targets included Dutch political parties, an airport, multiple Dutch public transportation operators, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security's screening authority, a public transport ticketing system, and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. EU targets included a political party and the Registry of the European Court of Auditors.

Group Name
NoName057(16)
Cyber Army of Russia Reborn (CARR)
HakNeT
22C
I AM KILLMILK
CyberDragon
Coup Team
ROOTSPLOIT
UserSec

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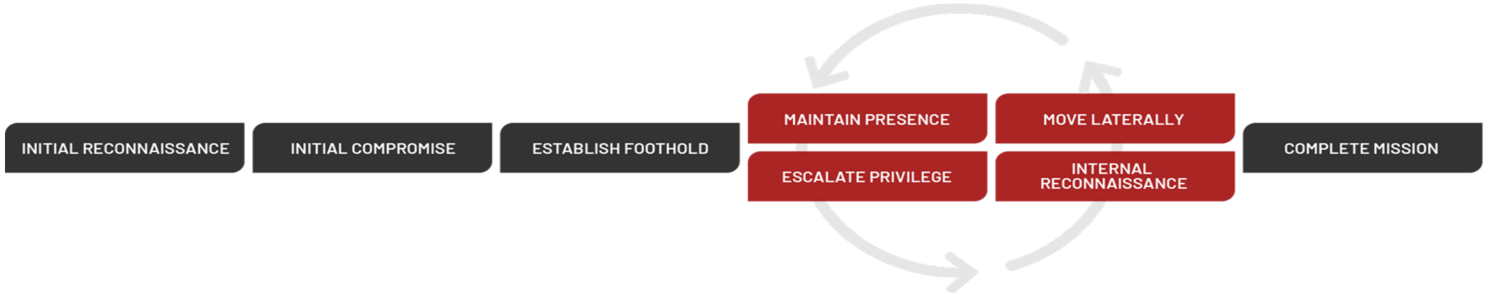
Strategic Outlook

Threat Commonalities

“Traditional” Cyber Threats

- Generic phishing and spear-phishing continue to provide indispensable initial access vectors for threat actors
- A “campaign” still requires a mix of skills and capabilities
- Non-election specific issues such as ransomware can quickly play a role in public confidence, integrity, and availability
  - Activity doesn’t have to directly target elections to impact them, either immediately or down the line
- Supply chains are the new front line (“edge” devices are emerging as critical)



Cognitive Domain Effects

- Perception of the attack and its consequences
- There is no nuance in the media
- The future isn’t now, but some may think it is (AI, deepfakes, etc.)

Artificial Intelligence

Opportunity for Risk

Expand strong security foundations to the AI ecosystem

Extend detection and response to bring AI into an organization's threat universe

Automate defenses to keep pace with existing and new threats

Harmonize platform level controls to ensure consistent security across the organization

Adapt controls to adjust mitigations and create faster feedback loops for AI deployment

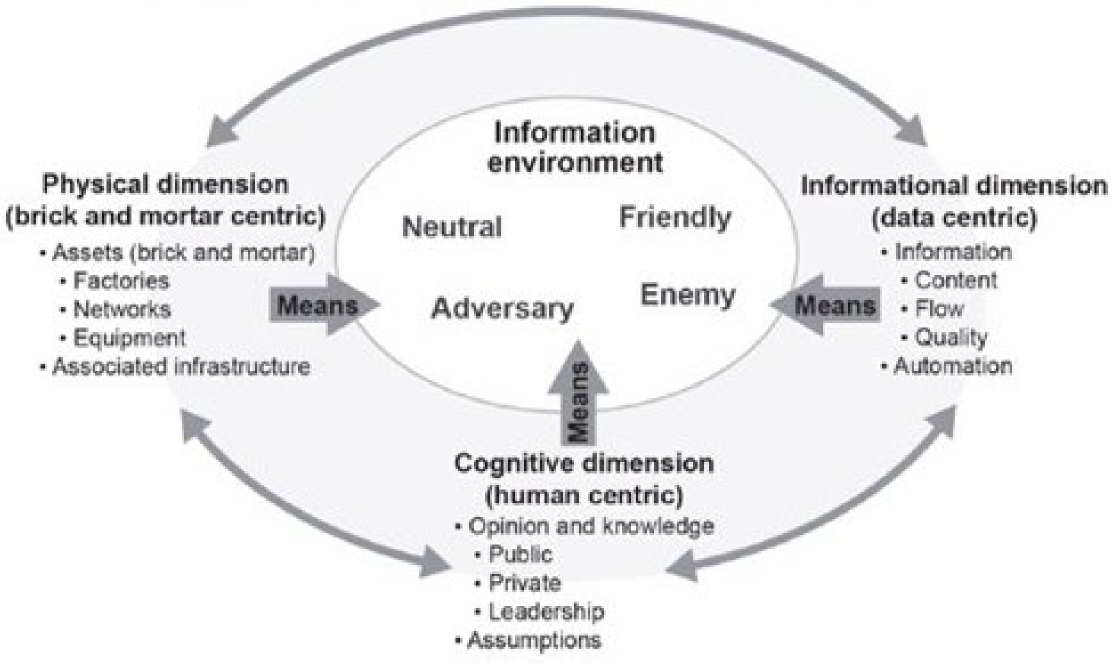
Contextualize AI system risks in surrounding business processes

Identification of Key Terrain

Placing Resources Where They Do the Most Good

Domains to Address :

- Traditional Network Defenses
- Leadership Education
- Private Sector Partnerships
- Data Resilience and Redundancy
  - COOP Planning
- Adversarial Intelligence
  - Prioritized requirements



Hardening and Resilience Considerations

Cyber:

- ➔ Hunting
- ➔ Exercises
- ➔ Threat intel for the masses

Cyber-Cognitive:

- ➔ Wargaming decisions

Cyber-Physical:

- ➔ Where does the IT work happen?

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Thank You