

This Week in the Information Environment

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To: DoD IOCR <InfoIOC@nps.edu>



Dear Colleagues,

As always, we hope that these weekly links focused on what is currently happening in the information environment prove to be helpful to you and the good work you do.

The pandemic has continued to feed disinformation campaigns both internationally and domestically. Crises tend to cause unrest and uncertainty - driving the public to attempt to resolve these issues with collective sensemaking. In these days of constant media input and social media output, the pace of collective sensemaking is accelerated. The importance of diligence, double checking the facts, and pausing before sending is more and more important. Ahead of the Michigan elections the Detroit Free Press has published a very approachable guide to avoiding misinformation.

Our adversaries are using the pandemic panic to disrupt. In the Wired article, you'll read that Russia's GRU Hackers have hit government targets - bringing concern that the full intentions of those attacks are still unknown. New York Times reports just this morning that Russian Intelligence Agencies are responsible for pushing disinformation on the virus. And North Korean hackers have been identified as installing ransomware into the systems of American companies. While any one disinformation campaign can be specific for an intended effect - constant and widespread disinformation campaigns erode trust and confidence in open society.

Camus wrote in *The Plague* (1947), "There have been as many plagues as wars in history ... Yet always plagues and wars take people equally by surprise."

Have a good week and keep an eye on our website for details of the upcoming PWP webinar coming up Wednesday, August 5: https://www.nps.edu/web/dod_iocr

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay diligent,

DoD IOCR Team at NPS

**Dr. Ryan Maness
Rebecca Lorentz
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Ed Fisher**

Russian Intelligence Agencies Push Disinformation on Coronavirus Pandemic



Russian Intelligence Agencies Push Disinformation on Coronavirus Pandemic - The New York Times

Declassified U.S. intelligence accuses Moscow of pushing propaganda through alternative websites as Russia refines techniques used in 2016. Health care workers preparing coronavirus tests this ...

www.nytimes.com

Michigan Election 2020: How to spot misinformation online

Michigan Election 2020: How to spot misinformation online

Michigan Election 2020: How to spot — and combat — the spread of misinformation. With Election 2020



approaching, misinformation and disinformation are spreading rampantly on social media.

www.freep.com

Russia's GRU Hackers Hit US Government Energy Targets



Russia's GRU Hackers Hit US Government and Energy Targets | WIRED

Russia's GRU military intelligence agency has carried out many of the most aggressive acts of hacking in history: destructive worms, blackouts, and—closest to home for Americans—a broad ...

www.wired.com

Kaspersky: North Korean hackers are behind the VHD ransomware



Kaspersky: North Korean hackers are behind the VHD ransomware | ZDNet

The VHD attacks are, without a doubt, the work of the second group, which seeks to extort money from hacked organizations. Some of this group's other money-raising activities included hacking ...

www.zdnet.com

How can journalists avoid being used in disinformation operations?



How can journalists avoid being used in disinformation operations? | The Strategist

Twitter suspended 16 accounts earlier this month for breaching the platform's policies on 'manipulation and spam'. The move followed an investigative report by The Daily Beast that uncovered a network of fake personas that had been presented as consultants or freelance journalists. These manufactured identities

www.aspistrategist.org.au

US Officials: Russia behind spread of virus disinformation



US officials: Russia behind spread of virus disinformation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian intelligence services are using a trio of English-language websites to spread disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic, seeking to exploit a crisis that America is struggling to contain ahead of the presidential election in November, U.S. officials said Tuesday. Two ...

apnews.com