TAG Bulletin: Q3 2021

blog.google/threat-analysis-group/tag-bulletin-q3-2021/

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Threat Analysis Group

This bulletin includes coordinated influence operation campaigns terminated on our platforms in Q3 2021. It was last updated on October 29, 2021.

- We terminated 7 YouTube channels as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Ukraine. This campaign uploaded content in Ukrainian and Russian that was supportive of Russia's government and critical of the Ukrainian military. We received leads from FireEye that supported us in this investigation.
- We blocked 10 domains from eligibility to appear on Google News surfaces and Discover as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Russia. This campaign uploaded content in Russian that was critical of Ukraine's government and supportive of Russia.
- We terminated 2 YouTube channels as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Iraq. This campaign uploaded content in Arabic that was supportive of Iran-backed militias and critical of the U.S. and its allies. Our findings are similar to findings reported by Facebook.
- We terminated 7 YouTube channels as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Jordan. This campaign uploaded content in Arabic that was supportive of the Jordanian government and critical of its opposition. Our findings are similar to findings reported by Facebook.
- We terminated 15 YouTube channels as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Algeria. This campaign uploaded content in Arabic that was supportive of the Algerian government and its military. Our findings are similar to findings reported by Facebook. We received leads from Graphika that supported us in this investigation.
- We terminated 6 YouTube channels as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Mexico. This campaign uploaded content in Spanish that was critical of certain local politicians in Campeche, Mexico. Our findings are similar to findings reported by Facebook.
- We terminated 4 YouTube channels as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Mexico. This campaign uploaded content in Spanish that was supportive of a member of the National Action Party. Our findings are similar to findings reported by Facebook.
- We terminated 16 YouTube channels and 1 ads account as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Sudan. This campaign uploaded content in Arabic that was supportive of the Muslim Brotherhood and critical of the current Sudanese government. Our findings are similar to findings reported by Facebook.
- We terminated 850 YouTube channels as part of our ongoing investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to China. These channels mostly uploaded spammy content in Chinese about music, entertainment, and lifestyle. A very small subset uploaded content in Chinese and English about China's COVID-19 vaccine efforts and social issues in the U.S. These findings are consistent with our previous reports.

July

August

- We terminated 1 advertising account and blocked 2 domains from eligibility to appear on Google News surfaces and Discover as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Russia. This campaign uploaded content in Arabic that was supportive of Syria's and Russia's governments.
- We terminated 137 YouTube channels and 2 blogs as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Myanmar. This campaign uploaded content in Burmese that was supportive of Myanmar's military coup in February 2021.
- We terminated 9 YouTube channels and 1 blog as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Vietnam. This campaign uploaded content in Vietnamese that was supportive of the Vietnamese Army's interests in the region.
- We terminated 1,196 YouTube channels as part of our ongoing investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to China. These channels mostly uploaded spammy content in Chinese about music, entertainment, and lifestyle. A very small subset uploaded content in Chinese and English about China's COVID-19 vaccine efforts and social issues in the U.S. These findings are consistent with our previous reports.

September

- We terminated 5 blogs and blocked 3 domains from eligibility to appear on Google News surfaces and Discover as part of our investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to Germany. This campaign uploaded content in German that was supportive of the German "Reichsbürger" conspiracy movement.
- We terminated 1,217 YouTube channels as part of our ongoing investigation into coordinated influence operations linked to China. These channels mostly uploaded spammy content in Chinese about music, entertainment, and lifestyle. A very small subset uploaded content in Chinese and English about China's COVID-19 vaccine efforts and social issues in the U.S. These findings are consistent with our previous reports.

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