

**Unmasking Digital Deception: Defending Your Organization Against Al-Powered** 

**Misinformation** 





#### Welcome!

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"A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes."



## Not Just a Government Problem Anymore



A forged DoD memo stated that Broadcom's acquisition of CA prompted national security concerns, causing the stocks of both companies to fall.



Users of 4Chan spread a rumor that the coffee giant was giving free drinks to undocumented immigrants, forcing the company to respond.

#### okta

When Lapsus\$ hacked Okta, they were not inside Okta's network as they claimed. They had limited access and created a social media campaign to exaggerate the attack.



A Chinese influence operation tried to mobilize U.S. protests against an Australian rare earths mining company planning an expansion in Texas



A deepfake of an explosion at the Pentagon briefly rippled through the stock market after getting spread by RT (Russia Today) and a fake "verified" Bloomberg News account



#### Misinformation vs. Disinformation

#### **Disinformation**

Content that is intentionally false and designed to cause harm. It is motivated by three factors: to make money; to gain political influence, either foreign or domestic; or to cause trouble for the sake of it.

#### **Misinformation**

Misinformation also describes false content, but the person sharing doesn't realize that it is false or misleading. Often a piece of disinformation is picked up by someone who doesn't realize it's false and that person shares it with their networks, believing that they are helping.



#### Disinformation for Hire: The Dark Side of the Information Economy

**Fake News Stories** 

Recontextualized Stories

**Deep Fakes** 

**Troll Farms** 

Bots

**Fake News Sites** 

Influencers

**Brand / Reputation Damage** 

**Loss of Trust** 

**Financial Loss** 

**Operational Disruption** 

Cybersecurity

**Societal Disruption** 

**Legal / Regulatory** 

#### **Disinformation as a Product**



Cabin Crew Take Secret Pictures, You Wont Believe The Results

(Time To Break)



20 Celebrities Who Have Beaten Cancer

(Celebstars)



The Must-See Technology That Is Changing the Way You Listen...

(Sound Online by Sony)



15 Reasons Why You Should Never Support Horse Racing (Sports Mozo)



44 Stunning Images Of Things You Had No Idea Existed (Pics)



Life Insurance Companies Hate This New Trick

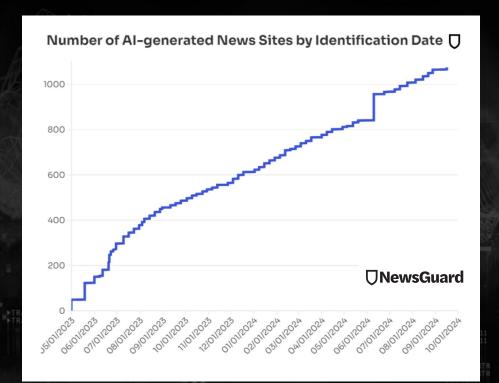


New Leader for Atlanta Symphony (ArtsBeat)



Fiji send England Rugby World Cup warning ahead of...

## The Al Effect





# Disinformation has become a critical aspect of many cyber-attacks

- 1. Disinformation is less expensive than traditional cyberattacks
- 2. It's costly for companies
- 3. Anyone can spread it
- 4. It spreads quickly

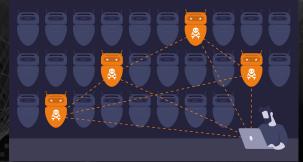


## 1. Misinformation & Disinformation Are Cheap

Disinformation is an inexpensive way to launch an attack on a business.

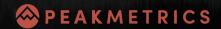
Anyone who wants to can actually purchase a disinformation campaign against your company, complete with fake news and misinformation that can be quickly spread.







## \$78 Billion.



### 2. It's Costly For Companies

With generative AI advancing, disinformation is now more sophisticated and widespread, making it crucial to detect and combat AI-driven threats before they cause damage to your bottom line.

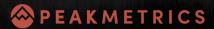


We are excited to announce insulin is free now.

1:36 PM · 11/10/22 · Twitter for iPhone

554 Retweets 171 Quote Tweets 3,324 Likes

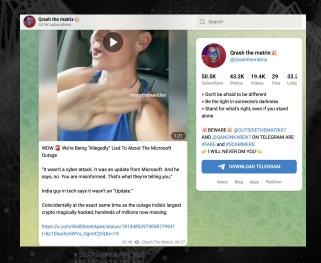
Eli Lilly: A tweet sent by a Twitter account impersonating Eli Lilly & Co. said, "insulin is free now," causing the company's stock to drop over 4% and leading the company to suspend all activity and advertising on Twitter.



#### 3. Anyone Can Spread It

One of the biggest risks of disinformation is that it can come from anyone, anywhere.

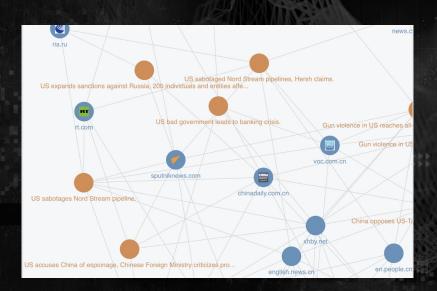
Epic Games: The group
Mogilevich on Telegram claimed
to have hacked Epic Games and
stolen 189GB of data, which Epic
quickly denied. Mogilevich
eventually admitted the claims
were false, calling themselves
"professional fraudsters" looking
for quick cash.



Microsoft: Last week, a conspiracy theory about Microsoft began circulating on Telegram before spreading to other platforms, like X. The narrative claimed, we're being lied to about a Microsoft update, suggesting that the outage was not due to an update, as officially stated, but a cyberattack. The claim is from a very "good friend" in India.

#### 4. It Spreads Quickly

Once a disinformation campaign has started, it's hard to put a stop to it.



**SEC:** On January 9, The Securities and Exchange Commission's official X account was hacked, falsely announcing the approval of bitcoin ETFs.

Bitcoin briefly surged to nearly \$48,000 before SEC chair Gary Gensler clarified the post was unauthorized, stating that no bitcoin ETFs had been approved. The SEC later confirmed its account had been compromised.



## Is Your Organization a Target?

**High Visibility** 

Taking a Public Stance

Undergoing a Major Deal

A Strong Social Media Presence

**New Products** 

Broader Industry Issues

Sensitive Data / Regulated Industry



# DISARM: The Foundation for Cognitive Security

DISARM Red Framework - incident creator TTPs																		
PLAN PREPARE					PREPARE	EXECUTI					ASSESS							
TA01: Plan Strategy	TA02: Plan Objectives	TA13: Target Audience Analysis	TA14: Develop Narratives	TA06: Develop Content	TA15: Establish Social Assets	TA16: Establish Legitimacy	TA05: Microtz	TA07: Select Channels	TA08: TA09 Conduct Delive	TA17: Drive	TA11: FA10: Persist Drive in	TA12: Assess						1
		,			T0007:			DISARM Blue Framework - responder TTPs										
T0073: Determine Target	T0002: Facilitate State Propaganda	T0072: Segment Audiences	T0003: Leverage Existing	T0015: Create hashtags and search	Create Inauthentic Social Media Pages	T0009: Create fake experts	T001 Crea Clickt	TA01: Plan Strategy		TA02: Plan Objectives	TA05: Microtarget	TA06: Develop Content	TA07: Select Channels and Affordances	TA08: Conduct Pump Priming	TA09: Deliver Content	TA11: Persist in the Information Environment	TA12: Assess Effectiveness	TA15: Establish Social Assets
T0074: Determine	T0066: Degrade	T0072.001: Geographic	T0004: Develop	T0019: Generate	and Groups T0010: Cultivate	T0009.001: Utilize		C00016: Censorship  C00017: Repair broken social connections		C00207: Run a competing disinformation campaign - not recommended	C00065: Reduce political targeting	C00085: Mute content	C00195: Redirect searches away from disinformation or extremist content	C00117: Downgrade / de-amplify so message is seen by fewer people	C00147: Make amplification of social media posts expire (e.g. can't like/ retweet after n days)	C00138: Spam domestic actors with lawsuits	"Bomb" link shorteners with lots of	C00040: third party verification for people
Strategic Ends	Adversary T0075: Dismiss	Segmentation  T0072.002: Demographic Segmentation	Competing Narratives T0022: Leverage Conspiracy Theory	T0019.001: Create fake research	ignorant agents T0013: Create inauthentic websites	Academic/Pseudoscientific Justifications  T0011: Compromise legitimate accounts	Targe Advertise  T010 Crea Locali Contr			C00164: compatriot policy	C00066: Co-opt a hashtag and drown it out (hijack it back)	C00014: Real-time updates to fact- checking database	C00098: Revocation of allowlisted or "verified" status	C00119: Engage payload and debunk.	C00128: Create friction by marking content with ridicule or other "decelerants"	C00139: Weaponise youtube content matrices	C00148: Add random links to network graphs	C00059: Verification of project before posting fund requests
	T0075.001: Discredit Credible Sources	T0072.003: Economic Segmentation	T0022.001: Amplify Existing Conspiracy Theory	T0019.002: Hijack Hashtags	T0014: Prepare fundraising campaigns	T0097: Create personas	T010 Lever: Ech Chamber	C000 Reduce effect of d		C00092: Establish a truth teller reputation score for influencers	C00178: Fill information voids with non- disinformation content	C00032: Hijack content and link to truth- based info	C00105: Buy more advertising than misinformation creators	C00120: Open dialogue about design of platforms to produce different outcomes	C00129: Use banking to cut off access	C00131: Seize and analyse botnet servers	C00149: Poison the monitoring & evaluation data	C00058: Report crowdfunder as violator
	T0076: Distort	T0072.004: Psychographic Segmentation	T0022.002: Develop Original Conspiracy	T0023: Distort	T0014.001: Raise funds from	T0097.001: Backstop personas	T0102. Use existi Ech	C000 Encourage commun	in-person	C00222: Tabletop simulations	C00216: Use advertiser controls to stem flow of funds to bad actors	C00071: Block source of pollution	C00103: Create a bot that engages / distract trolls	C00121: Tool transparency and literacy for channels people follow.	C00182: Redirection / malware detection/ remediation	C00143: (botnet) DMCA takedown requests to waste group time		C00172: social media source removal
	T0077:	T0072.005:	Theory Narratives	T0023.001:	malign actors T0014.002: Raise funds	T0098: Establish	Chamber Bubb T0102. Crea	C000 Innoculate. Positi promote feelii	ive campaign to	C00070: Block access to disinformation resources	C00130: Mentorship: elders, youth, credit. Learn vicariously.	C00072: Remove non-relevant content from special interest groups - not recommended	C00101: Create friction by rate- limiting engagement	C00112: "Prove they are not an op!"	C00200: Respected figure (influencer) disavows misinfo			C00056: Encourage people to leave social media
	1007/3	Political	Denland	Reframe	ruitos	Inauthentic	Ech	C000 Charge for se		C00169: develop a creative content hub		C00074: Identify and delete or rate limit identical content	C00097: Require use of verified identities to contribute to poll or comment	C00100: Hashtag jacking	C00109: Dampen Emotional Reaction			C00053: Delete old accounts / Remove unused social media accounts
	PE	AKM	1 E T	RI	C S		4	C000 Promote health		C00060: Legal action against for-profit engagement factories		C00075: normalise language	C00099: Strengthen verification methods	C00154: Ask media not to report false information C00136:	C00211: Use humorous counter- narratives			C00052: Infiltrate platforms

#### What is Narrative Intelligence?

#### **Narrative Intelligence**

The strategy governments and organizations use to detect, decipher, and defend their reputation from AI-powered narrative threats, like misinformation, disinformation, deepfakes, and bots.

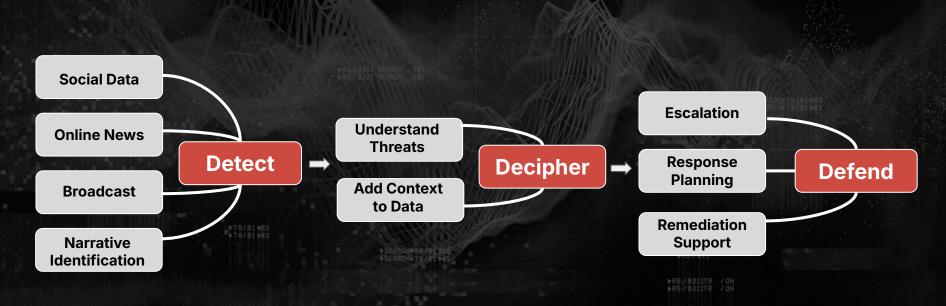
#### **Narrative Attacks**

Target a brand's reputation by spreading false or misleading narratives across social media, news outlets, and other platforms, like the deep web.



#### **Detect. Decipher. Defend. Framework**

A customizable framework for cyber security teams to proactively understand and defend against emerging online narrative threats like misinformation, disinformation and deepfakes.



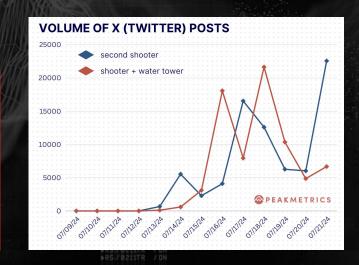


#### **Detect**

Timing is critical for cyber security teams. Proactive detection allows teams to get ahead of issues through early identification and helps to understand if digital deception is at play.

- Always on intelligence feed
- Monitor fringe platforms
- Team or tool to identify narratives taking shape

Politics: The day after the assassination attempt on Trump, YouTuber and musician Ryan Upchurch posted on TikTok, questioning why the authorities were "covering up the water tower." His post sparked others to share Google Earth images of the Butler County fairgrounds. These images were later picked up by conspiracy accounts like SGT News on Telegram and John Cullen on X, who alleged the involvement of a second shooter.



#### Decipher

Add context to gain a complete understanding and assess threat levels.

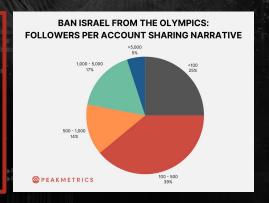
- Check the source credibility.
- Uncover the origin, key authors and domains driving the conversation.
- Monitor languages to understand the conversation across regions.
- Develop a list of top factors to quantify the potential impact of a narrative threat.
- Look at social media follower count as a way to discover bot-like-activity.

All these factors help to determine if it's a threat you need to defend against, or a passing fad.

Politics: Last November, Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene sparked backlash after sharing Russian Propaganda claiming Ukrainian President Zelensky's closest associates bought two yachts. Knowing the origin of a post is critical to understanding the credibility.



Olympics: Ahead of the Paris
Olympics, Iran was online
amplifying calls to ban Israel from
the games. PeakMetrics examined
indicators of bot-like activity in the
50,000+ mentions of the
#BanIsrael narrative. 25% of these
posts were from accounts with
less than 100 followers.



#### **Defend**

Cybersecurity professionals are the first line of defense, detecting risks and assessing threat levels. Once a narrative is identified as a threat, the next step is your defense strategy.

- Set up an internal alert process
- Communicate the determined threat level and perceived risks.
- Know when to loop in your Communications team with a repeatable response plan to counter threats.
- Provide clarity on the truth.
- Issue takedown notices when necessary



## **Future Proofing: Why This Matters**

It's the age of digital transformation. And it's accelerating.

Customers reward security champions. As new threat vectors, like misinformation and disinformation become more sophisticated, having a plan in place to identify and combat risks is critical.





## **Thank You!**



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