Week 7: The Patriot Act
February 22, 2022
All This Dystopia, and for What?

When privacy-eroding technology doesn’t deliver on its promises.

By Charlie Warzel

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Feb. 18, 2020
Title III, Electronics Communications Privacy Act, Stored Communications Act
6.6 USA PATRIOT Act
Terrorism In the U.S.

- Domestic vs. International terrorism
- The need to fight terrorism
- Relation to computing
- The government’s solution
Analysis of the USAPA by President Bush
The Dark Side of Social Media: 
Review of Online Terrorism

Dr. Geoff Dean, Peter Bell, Jack Newman

Abstract

This paper lays the conceptual foundation for understanding the significant role that social media can and does play in relation to spreading the threat and growth of terrorism, especially 'home-grown' terrorism. The utility of social media applications (eg. Facebook, Twitter, You Tube) to recruit, communicate and train terrorists is explored through the perspective of Knowledge-Managed Policing (KMP). The paper concludes with the implications this conceptual analysis of terrorism as a new dot.com presence on the internet has for law enforcement and the global cyber community.

Introduction

The advent of social media (eg. Facebook, Twitter, You Tube) has created new opportunities for terrorist organisations and brought with it growing challenges for
Radicalization and the Use of Social Media

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Abstract

The use of social media tools by individuals and organizations to radicalize individuals for political and social change has become increasingly popular as the Internet penetrates more of the world and mobile computing devices are more accessible. To establish a construct for radicalization...
Patriot Act Successes

- Charges against 361 individuals
  - Guilty pleas or convictions for 191 people
  - Shoe-bomber Richard Reid
  - John Walker Lindh
- More than 500 people removed from United States
- Terrorist cells broken up in Buffalo, Seattle, Tampa, and Portland ("the Portland Seven")
Does knowing the government has far-reaching powers to gather information on individuals phone calls, emails, Internet usage, etc. suppress free speech?
Patriot Act Failure

• March 11, 2004 bombings in Madrid Spain
• FBI makes Brandon Mayfield a suspect
  – Claims partial fingerprint match
  – Conducts electronic surveillance
  – Enters home without revealing search warrant
  – Copies documents and computer hard drives
• Spanish authorities match fingerprint with an Algerian
  – Judge orders Mayfield released
  – FBI apologizes
• Civil rights groups: Mayfield was targeted for his religious beliefs
Who Are the Stakeholders?

- Computer users in the public
- Internet Service Providers
- Libraries
- Law Enforcement
- Terrorists
Discussion Point 1A: Ethical Question

- The Patriot Act allows for ISPs to “voluntarily” disclose information to law enforcement, how will the public view the ISP who “might” have had information which could have prevented a terrorist act?
  - Use an act utilitarian and social contract theory perspective.
Is it ethical to allow ISPs to make the determination of whether or not there is an emergency involving immediate danger of death or serious physical injury to any person?

- Use a Kantian and virtue ethics perspective.
Discussion Point 1C: Ethical Question

• Is it ethical that the Patriot Act makes law enforcements job of apprehending criminals easier at the cost of affecting a greater number of innocents?
The PRISM Program

(CS/SI/NF) PRISM Collection Details

Current Providers

- Microsoft (Hotmail, etc.)
- Google
- Yahoo!
- Facebook
- PalTalk
- YouTube
- Skype
- AOL
- Apple

What Will You Receive in Collection (Surveillance and Stored Comms)?
It varies by provider. In general:

- E-mail
- Chat – video, voice
- Videos
- Photos
- Stored data
- VoIP
- File transfers
- Video Conferencing
- Notifications of target activity – logins, etc.
- Online Social Networking details
- Special Requests

Complete list and details on PRISM web page:
Go PRISMFAA
The Airline Passenger Data Disclosure Case and the EU-US Debate

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September 2003

Introduction

In the aftermath of the events of 11th September 2001, decisions have been taken unilaterally by US authorities requiring air line companies to provide direct access or transfer of data concerning passengers and cabin crews flying to, from or within the US to certain US administrations. These decisions have been challenged by EU authorities
The Dynamics of Protest Recruitment through an Online Network

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The recent wave of mobilizations in the Arab world and across Western countries has generated much discussion on how digital media is connected to the diffusion of protests. We examine that connection using data from the surge of mobilizations that took place in Spain in May 2011. We study recruitment patterns in the Twitter network and find evidence of social influence and complex contagion. We identify the network position of early participants (i.e. the leaders of the recruitment process) and of the users who acted as seeds of message cascades (i.e. the spreaders of information). We find that early participants cannot be characterized by a typical topological position but spreaders tend to be more central in the network. These findings shed light on the connection between online networks, social contagion, and collective dynamics, and offer an empirical test to the recruitment mechanisms theorized in formal models of collective action.

The last few years have seen an eruption of political protests aided by internet technologies. The phrase “Twitter revolution” was coined in 2009 to refer to the mass mobilizations that took place in Moldova¹ and, a few months later, in Iran², in both cases to protest against fraudulent elections. Since then, the number of events connecting social media with social unrest has multiplied, not only in the context of authoritarian regimes - exemplified by the recent wave of upsurges across the Arab world - but also in western liberal democracies, including the recent global financial crisis.
Moralization in social networks and the emergence of violence during protests

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In recent years, protesters in the United States have clashed violently with police and counter-protesters on numerous occasions1-3. Despite widespread media attention, little scientific research has been devoted to understanding this rise in the number of violent protests. We propose that this phenomenon can be understood as a function of an individual’s moralization of a cause and the degree to which they believe others in their social network moralize that cause. Using data from the 2015 Baltimore protests, we show that not only did the degree of moral rhetoric used on social media increase on days with violent protests but also that the hourly frequency of morally relevant tweets predicted the future counts of arrest during protests, suggesting an association between moralization and protest violence. To better understand the structure of this association, we ran a series of controlled behavioural experiments demonstrating that people are more likely to endorse a violent protest for a given issue when they moralize the issue; however, this effect is moderated by the degree to which people believe others share their values. We discuss how online social networks may contribute to inflations of protest violence.

Protest is widely seen as an important component of democratic societies. It enables constituents to express grievances, communicate directly with the public and representatives, and promote change in accordance with their beliefs. Although protests associated with popular platforms often attract large numbers of attendees, they are frequently peaceful events, even when they target controversial issues. Influential theories on social movements suggest that people engage in peaceful protests for many reasons, including rational deliberations, identification with a political cause and feelings of relative deprivation4-5.
The 9/11 terrorist attacks forever change the balance between security and freedom. Will things ever go back to the way they were before the attacks? Would you want them to?