CS 3001-C: Computing, Society, and Professionalism

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Week 7: The Patriot Act
February 22, 2023

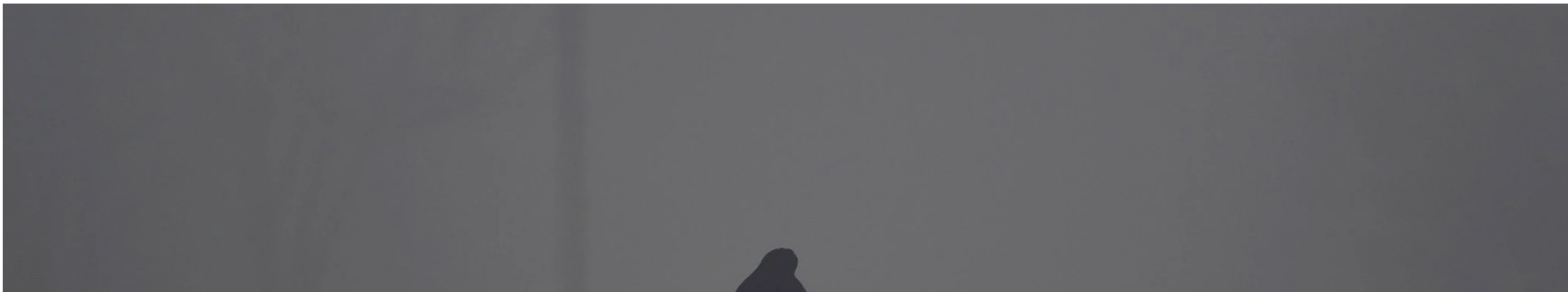# All This Dystopia, and for What?

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

By **Charlie Warzel**
Mr. Warzel is an Opinion writer at large.

Feb. 18, 2020

Title III, Electronics Communications Privacy Act, Stored Communications Act

6.6 USA PATRIOT Act

Terrorism In the U.S.

Courtesy KOCO

- 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

JSSI

Radicalization and the Use of Social Media

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Abstract

The use of social media tools by individuals and organizations to radical-ize individuals for political and social change has become increasingly popular as the Internet penetrates more of the world and mobile comput-ing devices are more accessible. To establish a construct for radicaliza-

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.

Discussion Point 1B: Ethical Question

- 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?
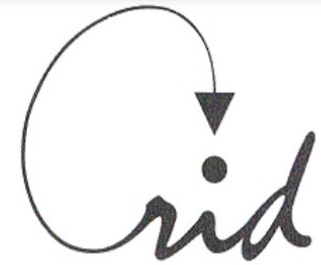
The Airline Passenger Data Disclosure Case
and the EU-US Debate

María Verónica Pérez Asinari* and Yves Poullet**
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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

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

The Dynamics of Protest Recruitment through an Online Network

Sandra González-Bailón[1], Javier Borge-Holthoefer[2], Alejandro Rivero[2] & Yamir Moreno[2,3]

[1]Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, 1 St. Giles OX1 3JS, Oxford, UK, [2]Institute for Biocomputation and Physics of Complex Systems, University of Zaragoza, Campus Rio Ebro 50018, Zaragoza, Spain, [3]Department of Theoretical Physics, Faculty of Sciences, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza 50009, Spain.

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 Moldova[1] and, a few months later, in Iran[2], 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,

Moralization in social networks and the emergence of violence during protests

Marlon Mooijman [ID][1,6]*, Joe Hoover [ID][2,3,6]*, Ying Lin[4], Heng Ji[4] and Morteza Dehghani [ID][2,3,5]*

In recent years, protesters in the United States have clashed violently with police and counter-protesters on numerous occasions[1-3]. 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 deprivation[4-6].

measurements of these risk factors (moralization and moral convergence) can be obtained from online social network activity; we find not only that violent protest is preceded by an increase in online moral rhetoric but also that hourly signals of online moral rhetoric predict future hourly arrest counts during violent protests.

We focus on morality because once a protest is sufficiently moralized, it becomes an issue of right and wrong instead of mere personal preference (for example, mere liking or disliking, mere approval or disapproval, or mere support or non-support for a protest[7-9]). Thus, seeing a protest as a moral issue means that people's attitudes about the protest are more absolute and less subject to change[10], with moralization fostering the feeling that something 'ought' to be done one way or the other, thereby potentially contributing to the endorsement of protest violence[11]. As not all protests are moralized to the same extent across time, place and people, variance in moral attitudes can be measured and used to predict violence at protests.

Indeed, our hypotheses are grounded in the observation that protests are often preceded by extensive discussions on Twitter and Facebook about moral topics, such as societal unfairness and injustice[12]. Social media platforms, in other words, have become important tools for people to express their moral disapproval with social and political developments, such as government corruption, the killing of unarmed citizens by police and the removal of culturally meaningful symbols and statues[13,14]. Owing to the scale of social networks, messages that contain references to moral terms, such as injustice and unfairness, are likely to spread to thousands, if not millions, of others and reflect the moral sentiments of a given population[15]. Thus, social media discourse materially encodes signals of moralization and moral outrage[16].

Importantly, such signals are often not what one might refer to as mere rhetoric, as moral sentiments can provide the foundation for

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?