A Study of the Outlinks Contained in *Rumiyah*-mentioning Tweets

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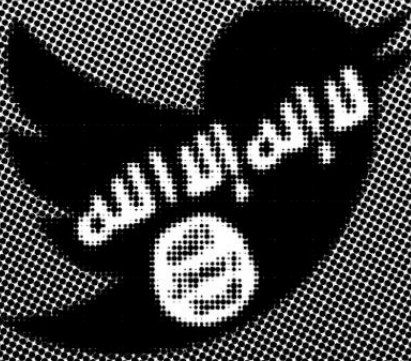Nuria Lorenzo-Dus (Swansea University)

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DISRUPTING DAESH

MEASURING TAKEDOWN OF ONLINE TERRORIST MATERIAL AND ITS IMPACTS

Maura Conway, Moign Khawaja, Suraj Lakhani, Jeremy Reffin, Andrew Robertson and David Weir

EUROPOL

The Hague, 01/05/2017

The Response of, and on, Twitter to the Release of Dabiq Issue 15

This paper was presented at the 1st European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) conference on online terrorist propaganda, 10-11 April 2017, at Europol Headquarters, The Hague.
The views expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily represent those of Europol.

Authors: Daniel Grinnell (Cardiff University), Stuart Macdonald (Swansea University), David Mair (Swansea University).

Europol Public Information

EUROPOL

The Hague, 17/04/2018

Who disseminates *Rumiyah*?

Examining the relative influence of sympathiser and non-sympathiser Twitter users

This paper was presented at the 2nd European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) Advisory Group conference, 17-18 April 2018, at Europol Headquarters, The Hague.
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Data collection

- Inclusion criteria
  - Mentioned the word *Rumiyah*
  - Posted within 21 days of the release of a new issue
  - Were posted from an account that used the English language interface
  - Contained original content (so not merely a retweet)
  - Contained an outlink
- Overview of dataset
  - The dataset covered nine issues of *Rumiyah*
  - It contained a total of 11,520 posts
  - These posts contained 892 distinct outlinks
  - The posts were posted by 1,493 distinct users

The URLs to which the outlinks led: top ten hostnames								
By number of posts		By number of distinct links		By number of distinct users outlinking to it				
						Extant	Suspended	Total
ref.gl	3733	ref.gl	84	drive.google.com		3	561	564
drive.google.com	1634	memri.org	69	cloud.mail.ru		1	351	352
cloud.mail.ru	878	archive.org	58	cldup.com		3	291	294
justpaste.it	535	drive.google.com	54	archive.org		6	215	221
cldup.com	475	justpaste.it	39	1drv.ms		0	180	180
archive.org	464	facebook.com	29	dropbox.com		0	133	133
yadi.sk	417	4shared.com	19	yadi.sk		1	124	125
1drv.ms	336	cldup.com	17	pc.cd		0	102	102
jpst.it	329	siteintelgroup.com	15	4shared.com		0	70	70
dropbox.com	188	cloud.mail.ru	14	cloudup.com		1	60	61

The content found at the outlinks			
Type of content	Number of distinct links (high confidence)	Number of distinct links (moderate confidence)	Total
Report/summary/information about *Rumiyah*	232	90	322 (36.1%)
PDF of *Rumiyah* (but no longer available)	79	228	307 (34.4%)
PDF of *Rumiyah* behind subscription or password protection	56	3	59 (6.6%)
Other content (not terrorism-related)	39	11	50 (5.6%)
Other content (terrorism-related)	27	4	31 (3.5%)
Academic analysis/writing	14	16	30 (3.3%)
Not possible to tell	-	-	29 (3.3%)
Picture of real *Rumiyah* issue	16	5	21 (2.4%)
Picture of fake *Rumiyah* issue	13	5	18 (2.0%)
PDF of *Rumiyah* (currently available)	15	0	15 (1.7%)
Suspicious "Download" button	5	0	5 (0.6%)
Fake issue of *Rumiyah*	5	0	5 (0.6%)
Total	501	362	892

Hostname	No. of posts containing the link	No. of times the posts have been reposted	No. of users that posted the links	Status of user accounts
Outlinks to currently available PDFs of *Rumiyah*				
cloud.mail.ru	154	0	154	All suspended
qb5cc3pam3y2ad0tm1zxuhho-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com	14	3	6	5 extant, 1 suspended
adobe.ly	4	0	2	Both extant
drive.google.com	2	1	2	1 extant, 1 suspended
azelin.files.wordpress.com	2	1	1	Extant
azelin.files.wordpress.com	2	0	1	Extant
jihadology.net	1	0	1	Extant
cloud.mail.ru	1	0	1	Suspended
cloudup.com	1	0	1	Suspended
pietervanostaeyen.com	1	0	1	Extant
clarionproject.org	1	2	1	Extant
magentacloud.de	1	0	1	Suspended
magentacloud.de	1	0	1	Suspended
reddit.com	1	0	1	Suspended
reddit.com	1	0	1	Suspended
Total	187	7	175	

Recommendations

- Where possible, Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) members should develop shared automated systems that use behavioural cues to block terrorist content.

- There is a pressing need to expand membership of the GIFCT.

- Dialogue is needed between the GIFCT and the news media regarding the use of social media to share news coverage that has the effect of amplifying the terrorist message.