

List of fake news websites

Fake news websites are those which intentionally, but not necessarily solely, publish hoaxes and disinformation for purposes other than news satire. Some of these sites use homograph spoofing attacks, typosquatting and other deceptive strategies similar to those used in phishing attacks to resemble genuine news outlets.^{[1][2]}

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Definition

Fake news sites deliberately publish hoaxes and disinformation to drive web traffic inflamed by social media.^{[3][4][5]} These sites are distinguished from news satire (which is usually intended to be humorous) as they mislead and sometimes profit from readers' gullibility.^[4] While most fake news sites are portrayed to be spinoffs of other news sites, some of these websites are examples of website spoofing, structured to make visitors believe they are visiting major news outlets like ABC News or MSNBC.^[6] *The New York Times* pointed out that within a strict definition, "fake news" on the Internet referred to a fictitious article which was fabricated with the deliberate motivation to defraud readers, generally with the goal of profiting through clickbait.^[7] PolitiFact described fake news as fabricated content designed to fool readers and subsequently made viral through the Internet to crowds that increase its dissemination.^[8]

The New York Times noted in a December 2016 article that fake news had previously maintained a presence on the Internet and within tabloid journalism in the years prior to the 2016 U.S. election.^[7] Except for the 2016 Philippine elections,^[9] prior to the election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, fake news had not impacted the election process and subsequent events to such a high degree.^[7] Subsequent to the 2016 election, the issue of fake news turned into a political weapon, with supporters of left-wing politics saying those on the opposite side of the spectrum spread falsehoods, and supporters of right-wing politics arguing such accusations were merely a way to censor conservative views.^[7] Due to these back-and-forth complaints, the definition of fake news as used for such polemics became more vague.^[7]

List

Name	Notes	Sources
70 News	A WordPress-hosted site that published a false news story, stating that Donald Trump had won the popular vote in the 2016 United States presidential election; the fake story rose to the top in searches for "final election results" on Google News .	[10] [11]
ABCnews.com.co (<i>defunct</i>)	Owned by Paul Horner. Mimics the URL, design and logo of ABC News (owned by Disney–ABC Television Group).	[12] [13]
American News	Published a false story claiming actor Denzel Washington endorsed Donald Trump for president. The fictional headline led to thousands of people sharing it on Facebook, a prominent example of fake news spreading on the social network prior to the 2016 presidential election.	[14] [15] [16]
banned.video	Warned by the US Food and Drug Administration for spreading misinformation on COVID-19 for "claims on videos posted on your websites that establish the intended use of your products and misleadingly represent them as safe and/or effective for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19."	[17]
Before It's News	Cited by U.S. President Donald Trump at his 2016 campaign rallies. Before It's News and <i>InfoWars</i> were described as "unabashedly unhinged 'news' sites" in 2014 by <i>The Washington Post</i> following its promotion of conspiracy theories relating to Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 .	[18] [19] [20]
bients.com	Often spreading fake stories, often of political nature.	[21]
Bipartisan Report	Once describing itself at "the internet's largest newspaper", its content is written from a heavily liberal-biased perspective. It has been described as a clickbait and fake news website by Danny Westneat of <i>The Seattle Times</i> , and its articles have been debunked by PolitiFact and Snopes .	[22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [20]
bizstandardnews.com (<i>defunct</i>)	Its stories have been mistaken as real-news then shared and cited as real-news. A disclaimer says the stories "could be true" because "reality is so strange nowadays". But the disclaimer also says it is "a satirical site designed to parody the 24-hour news cycle." [27]	[28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33]

	Its name is similar to the unrelated Indian English-language daily newspaper called <i><u>Business Standard</u></i> .	
Bloomberg.ma (defunct)	Designed to imitate <u>Bloomberg.com</u> . Was used to issue a false report announcing that Twitter had received a US\$31 billion takeover offer, resulting in a brief 8% stock price spike of Twitter. The site is now defunct.	[34][35]
The Boston Tribune	Starting in February 2016, this website spread outright hoaxes.	[36]
Breaking-CNN.com	Responsible for publishing numerous <u>death hoaxes</u> , including one for former First Lady <u>Barbara Bush</u> one day after her announcement that she would halt all further medical treatment in 2018. Designed to emulate <u>CNN</u> .	[37]
BVA News		[38][39]
Cairns News (Australia)	Antivaxx propaganda that falsely claimed that two young girls died after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination on the Gold Coast, Australia. ^[40]	[41]
Celebricity	Has falsely claimed that <u>Barack Obama</u> declared a <u>state of emergency in Chicago, Illinois</u> after more than 300 people were shot in one night; that a <u>Wendy's</u> employee put <u>vaginal discharge</u> on a burger as revenge against a partner; and that <u>Bryshere Y. Gray</u> was <u>Jay-Z's</u> son. Contains a "notorious fauxtire and satire entertainment" disclaimer which used to read "the most notorious urban satirical entertainment website in the world". ^[42]	[43][42][44]
CBSnews.com.co	Owned by Paul Horner. Mimics the URL, design and logo of <u>CBS News</u> .	
cnn-trending.com	Imitated <u>CNN.com</u> , complete with the CNN logo. Pushed the <u>Hawking Code</u> scam. Domain expired.	[45][46]
Conservative 101	Falsely claimed that the White House fired <u>Kellyanne Conway</u> .	[14][15]
Conservative Frontline	Owned by Jestin Coler.	[47]
CountyNewsroom.info	The fake news website, registered to <u>Tbilisi, Georgia</u> , makes "a minimal attempt to look official" and is used to spread <u>malware</u> on readers' computers.	[48]
Daily USA Update		[49][50]
<u>Disclose.tv</u>	A fake news website based in Germany.	[51][20][52][53][54]

DrudgeReport.com.co	Owned by Jestin Coler (mimics the name of the <u>Drudge Report</u>).	[47]
Empire Herald	Starting in January 2016, this fake news site had spread many of its hoaxes online in just a few weeks.	[36]
Empire News	Many of this website's fake news hoaxes were widely shared on social media, with stories based on social or political controversies, or were simply appalling to readers. The site says that its content is for "entertainment purposes only." ^[55]	[12][36]
Empire Sports	Includes a disclaimer describing itself as a "satirical and entertainment website." ^[56] Not to be confused with the legitimate (but long-defunct) <u>Empire Sports Network</u> .	[57]
<u>The Exposé</u>	British conspiracist website known for publishing COVID-19 and anti-vaccine misinformation. One of its articles was cited by Brazilian president <u>Jair Bolsonaro</u> in a speech falsely claiming that people vaccinated against COVID-19 were developing <u>AIDS</u> .	[58][59][60][61]
Fox-news24.com	Imitates <u>Fox News</u> . Site currently down.	[62][63]
<u>The Gateway Pundit</u>	A far-right fake news website that repeatedly publishes false stories, including a story involving an unsubstantiated claim that <u>Special Counsel</u> head <u>Robert Mueller</u> sexually assaulted someone.	[64][65][66][67][68][69][70][71][72]
Global Associated News	Described itself as enabling users to produce fake stories using its "fake celebrity news engine."	[57]
<u>Globalresearch.ca</u>	Principal website of the Centre for Research on Globalization, which <u>The Economist</u> in April 2017 called "a hub for conspiracy theories and fake stories," and NATO information warfare specialists in November 2017 linked to a concerted effort to undermine the credibility of mainstream Western media.	[73][74]
Gossip Mill Mzansi	A fake news website using <u>Wordpress</u> , targeting <u>South African</u> affairs. Its misinformation is spread on social media including <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> .	[75][76]
<u>The Grayzone</u>	Owned by Max Blumenthal, <u>The Grayzone</u> is known for its sympathetic views towards contemporary authoritarian regimes such as <u>Venezuela</u> , <u>Russia</u> and <u>China</u> , as well as conspiracy theories such as <u>denial of the Uyghur genocide</u> and <u>disinformation distributed by the Russian government</u> .	[77][78][79][80]
Guerilla News		[81][82]
	Fake news website that has published claims	

Gummy Post	about President Obama issuing a full pardon for convicted rapper <u>C-Murder</u> , musician <u>Kodak Black</u> getting shot outside a nightclub in Florida, and a <u>Hulk Hogan</u> death hoax.	[83][84][85]
Houston Chronicle TV	Not affiliated with the legitimate <u>Houston Chronicle</u> .	[86][87][88]
<u>Huzlers</u>	Fake news from this website often involves restaurants and leading brands to disgust readers with its gross-out stories. One story by the site falsely reported that <u>Dong Nguyen</u> , the creator of <u>Flappy Bird</u> , killed himself. Another story made up an incident where a person working at a McDonald's restaurant put his mixtapes in <u>Happy Meals</u> . The site describes itself as "the most infamous fauxtire & satire entertainment website in the world." ^[89]	[36][57][90][91]
<u>InfoWars</u>	Managed by <u>Alex Jones</u> . Has claimed that millions of people have voted illegally in the 2016 presidential election, that the <u>Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting</u> was a hoax, that the <u>Boston Marathon bombing</u> was a false flag attack, and that the <u>Democratic Party</u> was hosting a child sex slave ring out of a pizza restaurant.	[92][93] [94][95][96][97][98][99][100][72]
<u>Judicial Watch</u>	Conservative activist group known for making false and unsubstantiated claims and filing lawsuits to investigate claimed misconduct, the vast majority of which have been dismissed by courts. ^[101]	[25][20][72][51]
KBOI2.com	Notable for its use of the <u>IDN homograph attack</u> , this fake news site used <u>lookalike letters from other scripts</u> (news coverage of the spoof did not specify which, though the examples listed demonstrate <u>Greek</u> and <u>Cyrillic</u> examples) to spoof the legitimate television station <u>KBOI-TV's</u> website in 2011. (The real KBOI site has since moved to a new domain, <u>IdahoNews.com</u> .) The sole purpose of the fake KBOI site was to spread an <u>April Fool's Day</u> joke regarding <u>Justin Bieber</u> being banned in the state.	[102][103]
KMT 11 News	Falsely reports celebrity appearances and filming locations in random local towns. Before the website went down, it referred to itself as a "fantasy news website". ^{[104][105]}	[106][104][105][107]
The Last Line of Defense	This website has a history of publishing fake news articles, especially of the political genre. Notable hoaxes include <u>Donald Trump</u> revoking the press credentials of six major news outlets, <u>Michelle Obama</u> getting ditched by the <u>Secret Service</u> , and <u>Hillary Clinton</u> describing <u>Beyonce's</u> music using racial slurs. Although the website claims to be written by "a group of educated, God-fearing Christian conservative patriots who are tired of Obama's	[108][109][110][111]

	tyrannical reign and ready to see a strong Republican take the White House," its articles are in fact all written by one person, Christopher Blair, who has written under multiple pen names. As of 2019, Blair's site is now branded as "Daily World Update: satire for <u>flat-Earthers</u> , <u>Trumpsters</u> and <u>Y'all-Qaeda</u> ."	
Law Enforcement Today	Published fake news about police relations amid the <u>George Floyd protests</u> and source of <u>Oregon fires</u> , as well as material by <u>QAnon supporters</u> . ^[112]	[14][15][113]
Liberal Society	Published a fake direct quote attributed to Obama, Falsely claimed that the White House fired <u>Kellyanne Conway</u> .	[14][15]
<u>Liberty Writers News</u>	Established in 2015 by Paris Wade and Ben Goldman, who told <i>The Washington Post</i> their stories focus on "violence and chaos and aggressive wording" to attract readers. The stories reflect the positions of supporters of <u>Donald Trump</u> .	[114][115]
LinkBeef	Fake news website that has published claims about the pilot of <u>Malaysia Airlines Flight 370</u> reappearing, a billionaire wanting to recruit 1,000 women to bear his children, and an <u>Adam Sandler death hoax</u> .	[116][117][118]
<u>MV-media</u> (formerly MV-lehti)	A Finnish fake news website that publishes disinformation, pseudoscience, conspiracy theories and Russian state propaganda. The publication has links to the far-right <u>Soldiers of Odin</u> .	[119][120][121][122]
Naha Daily	This fake news website is now defunct, and was active in a span of five months with fake news articles, including a fake quote by <u>Michael Kors</u> .	[36]
National Insider Politics		[123][124]
<u>NationalReport.net</u>	Founder Jestin Coler told <i>Columbia Journalism Review</i> : "When it comes to the fake stuff, you really want it to be red meat. [...] It doesn't have to be offensive. It doesn't have to be outrageous. It doesn't have to be anything other than just giving them what they already wanted to hear." In 2013, the nonpartisan <u>FactCheck.org</u> deemed <u>NationalReport.net</u> a satirical site. The site's disclaimer states "All news articles contained within National Report are fiction, and presumably fake news. Any resemblance to the truth is purely coincidental." ^[125]	[12][47][36][126]
	Formerly <u>NewsTarget</u> , a website for the sale of various <u>dietary supplements</u> , promotion of <u>alternative medicine</u> , controversial nutrition and health claims, and various <u>conspiracy</u>	

<u>Natural News</u>	theories, such as "chemtrails", chemophobic claims (including the purported dangers of fluoride in drinking water, anti-perspirants, laundry detergent, monosodium glutamate, aspartame), and purported health problems caused by allegedly "toxic" ingredients in vaccines, including the <u>now-discredited link to autism</u> .	[127][128][129][130][72]
NBCNews.com.co (Defunct)	Owned by <u>Paul Horner</u> . Mimics the URL, design and logo of <u>NBC News</u> .	[131]
News Breaks Here		[132]
NewsBuzzDaily (<i>defunct</i>)	This fake news website mostly consists of celebrity gossip and death hoaxes, but a few of its other stories were disseminated on social media. When the site was up it said that it was "a combination of real shocking news and satire news" and that articles were for "entertainment and satirical purposes" only. ^[36]	[36]
News Examiner	Started in 2015 by Paul Horner, the lead writer of the <u>National Report</u> . This website has been known to mix real news along with its fake news.	[36]
News Hound		[57]
The News Nerd	A defunct website which used to have a disclaimer on every page. ^[133]	[57]
<u>NewsPunch</u> (formerly known as YourNewsWire)	Founded by Sean Adl-Tabatabai and Sinclair Treadway in 2014. It has published fake stories, such as "claims that the Queen had threatened to abdicate if the UK voted against Brexit." Its name was changed to NewsPunch in 2018.	[134][135][136][137][138][139][140]
NewsWatch33	Began in April 2015 under the name NewsWatch28, later becoming NewsWatch33. The website disguises itself as a local television outlet. It has also been known to mix real news along with its fake news in an attempt to circumvent Facebook's crackdown on them.	[36]
The New York Evening (TheNewYorkEvening.com)	This fake news website has spread numerous false claims, including a fake story claiming that <u>Malia Obama</u> had been expelled from <u>Harvard</u> .	[141]
Next News Network		[142][143]
Now 8 News (Now8News.com)	Started in 2015, this fake news website is also designed to look like a local television outlet. Several of the website's fake stories have successfully spread on social media.	[36][144][145]
Oneworld.press	Russian troll farm working to elect Donald Trump and pushing fake pandemic information.	[146]

<u>OpIndia</u>	OpIndia is an Indian website that has been rejected by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN). Fact checkers certified by the IFCN have identified 25 fake news stories published by OpIndia between January 2018 and June 2020.	[147][148]
<u>Palmer Report</u>	Hyperpartisan liberal political blog known for publishing unsubstantiated or false claims and conspiracy theories, especially on matters relating to <u>Donald Trump</u> and Russia	[25][26][20][52]
<u>Peace Data</u>	A website that purports to be an independent left-wing news outlet, linked to Russian state actors.	[149]
Postcard News	Postcard News is an Indian far-right propaganda and news website. In 2019, its founder, Mahesh Hegde, was arrested for a second time on charges of spreading fake news.	[150][151]
The Predicted		[21]
<u>Prntly</u>	A <u>politically conservative</u> news site described by <i>Snopés</i> as "a disreputable outlet that has a penchant for publishing both fake news and spurious pro-Trump articles".	[152][153]
React 365	This user-created fake news generator, supposedly for "pranking your friends", had at least two stories that went viral.	[36]
The Reporterz	Starting in early 2016, this fake news website penned several different hoaxes, including one about a murder over a <u>Twitter</u> trend.	[36]
Snoopack		[154][155]
Spin Zone		[156]
St George Gazette		[157][158]
Stupid	This fake news purveyor specializes in articles with stories that are morally offensive.	[36]
Super Station 95	Pirate radio station and corresponding website operated by <u>Hal Turner</u> .	[159][160][161][162][163][164]
<u>TruNews</u>		[25][52]
TrueTrumpers.com	This fake news website makes "claims about President Donald Trump, former President Barack Obama and Muslims, in particular, as well as click-baiting claims about porn stars and secret tricks for weight loss and whiter teeth."	[165]
UConservative		[166][167]
	According to PolitiFact, "the site purposely writes outlandish stories to trick readers". Launched on February 21, 2017, the website	

UndergroundNewsReport.com	gained more than 1 million page views in its first two weeks; in less than a month the site was sued by <u>Whoopi Goldberg</u> .	[168][169]
The Unhived Mind	The Unhived Mind is a far-right fake news website that has frequently been shared on the <u>alt-tech</u> social network <u>Gab</u> .	[170]
United Media Publishing	Owned by Jestin Coler.	[47]
USA Daily Info		[171][172]
usatoday.com.co (<i>defunct</i>)	Falsely reports celebrity appearances and filming locations in random local towns	[47]
US Postman		[173][174]
washingtonpost.com.co	Originally registered by Jestin Coler. <i>The Washington Post</i> submitted a complaint against Coler's registration of the site with <u>GoDaddy</u> under the <u>UDRP</u> , and in 2015, an <u>arbitral panel</u> ruled that Coler's registration of the <u>domain name</u> was a form of bad-faith <u>cybersquatting</u> (specifically, <u>typosquatting</u>), "through a website that competes with Complainant through the use of fake news. ... The fake news content misleads readers and serves as 'click bait' to drive readers to other sites, or to share the fake news content with others on social networking websites, to generate advertising revenue."	[175][47]
<u>WorldNetDaily</u>	A far-right website known for promoting falsehoods and conspiracy theories, including the false claim that <u>Barack Obama was not born in the United States</u> .	[25][26][20][72][176]
<u>World News Daily Report</u> (worldnewsdailyreport.com)	Run by Janick Murray-Hall. Its disclaimer states, "World News Daily Report assumes all responsibility for the satirical nature of its articles and for the fictional nature of their content. All characters appearing in the articles in this website—even those based on real people—are entirely fictional and any resemblance between them and any person, living, dead or undead, is purely a miracle." ^[177]	[20]

Philippines

An extensive list of fake news websites operating out of the Philippines has been separated into its own article from the international list.

Fake news sites have become rampant for Philippine audiences, especially being shared on social media.^[178] Politicians have started filing laws to combat fake news^{[179][180]} and three Senate hearings have been held on the topic.^{[181][182][183]}

The Catholic Church in the Philippines has also released a missive speaking out against it.^[184]

Vera Files research at the end of 2017 and 2018 show that the most shared fake news in the Philippines appeared to benefit 2 people the most: Former President Rodrigo Duterte (as well as his allies) and President Bongbong Marcos, with the most viral news driven by shares on networks of Facebook pages.^[185] Most Philippine audience Facebook pages and groups spreading online disinformation also bear "Duterte", "Marcos" or "News" in their names and are pro-Duterte.^[186] Online disinformation in the Philippines is overwhelmingly political as well, with most attacking groups or individuals critical of the Duterte administration.^[187] Many Philippine-audience fake news websites also appear to be controlled by the same operators as they share common Google AdSense and Google Analytics IDs.^[186]

According to media scholar Jonathan Corpus Ong, Duterte's presidential campaign is regarded as the patient zero in the current era of disinformation, having preceded widespread global coverage of the Cambridge Analytica scandal and Russian trolls.^[9] Fake news is so established and severe in the Philippines that Facebook's Global Politics and Government Outreach Director Katie Harbath also calls it "patient zero"^[188] in the global misinformation epidemic, having happened before Brexit, the Donald Trump nomination and the 2016 United States elections.^[189]

See also

- Alarmism – Excessive or exaggerated alarm about a real or imagined threat
- Alternative facts – Expression associated with political misinformation established in 2017
- Big lie – Propaganda technique
- Chequebook journalism – Practice of news reporters paying sources for information
- Citizen journalism – Journalism genre
- Clickbait – Web content intended to entice users to click on a link
- Confirmation bias – Bias confirming existing attitudes
- Demoralization (warfare)
- Disinformation – False information spread deliberately to deceive
- Doomscrolling – Compulsive consumption of large quantity of negative online news
- Echo chamber (media) – Situation that reinforces beliefs by repetition inside a closed system
- Euromyth – Exaggerated or invented story about the European Union
- Fact – Datum or structured component of reality
- Fact-checking – Process of verifying information in non-fictional text
- Factoid – Either an invented claim or a trivial fact
- Fake news by country

Internet portal

Journalism portal

Politics portal

Psychology portal

Society portal

- Fake news website – Website that deliberately publishes hoaxes and disinformation
- Fake news websites in the United States
- Fallacy of composition – Fallacy of inferring on the whole from a part
- False equivalence – Logical fallacy of inconsistency
- Fearmongering – Deliberate use of fear-based tactics
- Filter bubble – Intellectual isolation involving search engines
- Firehose of falsehood – Propaganda technique
- Freedom of the press – Freedom of communication and expression through various media
- Information quality
- Information silo – Insular information management system
- Internet meme – Concept that spreads from person to person via the Internet
- Journalism ethics and standards – Principles of ethics and of good practice in journalism
- Mainstream media – Mass news media that influence many people
- List of satirical news websites
- Muckraker – Progressive Era reform-minded journalists
- Political bias – Bias towards a political side in supposedly-objective information
- Post-truth politics – Political culture where facts are considered of low relevance
- Pseudohistory – Pseudoscholarship that attempts to distort or misrepresent the historical record
- Selective exposure theory – Theory within the practice of psychology
- Social Networks
- Spiral of silence – Political science and mass communication theory
- Tabloid journalism – Style of largely sensationalist journalism
- Tribe (Internet) – Slang for an unofficial community of people who share a common interest
- Troll farm – People employed to post divisive content
- Truthiness – Quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than actual truth
- Yellow journalism – Sensationalistic news

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