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Cybersecurity-Fake News

Amy J. Ramson

CUNY Hostos Community College

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CYBERSECURITY: Fake News Case and Questions

Professor Amy Ramson, Esq.

Hostos Community College

Professor Amy Ramson, Esq.

This OER material was produced as a result of the PIT-UN network Challenge Grant – New America

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Fake news

- ◆ Refers to journalism, including news stories, news outlets, you tube videos, websites, that contain news in which the facts, quotes or sources can not be verified
- ◆ Contains **disinformation** which is written with an intent to deceive for financial, political or social gain
- ◆ The use of the Internet, particularly social media have increased the dissemination and harm of fake news because it is easily and quickly shared online
- ◆ (<https://guides.lib.umich.edu/fakenews>)

Deepfake

Deepfakes use artificial intelligence to produce videos or other digital representations with fabricated images and sounds that appear to be real

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/14/what-is-deepfake-and-how-it-might-be-dangerous.html>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robtoews/2020/05/25/deepfakes-are-going-to-wreak-havoc-on-society-we-are-not-prepared/#1af510dc7494>

<https://www.knowablemagazine.org/article/technology/2020/synthetic-media-real-trouble-deepfakes>

Questions

1-The Brookings Institution stated that deepfakes pose the following problem: “distorting democratic discourse; manipulating elections; eroding trust in institutions; weakening journalism; exacerbating social divisions; undermining public safety; and inflicting hard-to-repair damage on the reputation of prominent individuals, including elected officials and candidates for office.”

Do you agree with some of the potential ramifications or do think that these concerns are exaggerated?

2- What technology is used to detect deepfakes? Comment on its effectiveness to date.

3-Explain the open source culture of the machine learning community.

4-How do we balance the negatives such as leading to the proliferation of controversial technology such as deepfakes with the positives which include easing the path to new creations that can benefit society?

Questions continued

5-In which industry has deepfakes been used the most?
Describe how?

6-Why is the threat from deepfakes not fully manifested?

7-Which countries have laws prohibiting deepfakes?

8-Name and describe three legal issues involved with regulating deepfakes.

9- How has Facebook/Twitter/Youtube dealt with deepfakes?

Hint: Section 230 of the US Communications Decency Act

10-Do you think that it is Facebook's job to detect and expose deepfakes or other fake news?

Facebook groups spread misinformation

Description

Facebook moved about from News Feed to groups (from swapping recipes for apple pie to discussing cancer treatments) in order for people to have safer environments in which to share thoughts and to help reduce abusive content. However, misinformation and propaganda is rampant among the information being shared on Facebook groups among targeted groups of people who want to believe that the information true. The intention is for the fake news to spread without readers taking the time to properly verify it.

Resources

https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=881826881:881826882&utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20200623&utm_term=4632716&utm_campaign=news&utm_id=53502791&orgid=

<https://www.wired.com/story/facebook-groups-are-destroying-america/>

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/these-two-groups-spread-the-most-fake-news-on-facebook-2019-01-09>

Facebook group Questions

1. Describe Facebook groups.
2. What kinds of fake news is spread by moderators that is dangerous-give examples
3. How do groups spread disinformation?
4. Why is this information spread so easily through groups?
5. What can or should Facebook do to stop the spread of fake news among its groups?
6. How does Facebook's business model hinder any efforts it may make to stop fake news?
7. How do you propose to stop fake news in groups or otherwise?
8. Which groups of people are the main disseminators of fake news they find in groups?