# RSA Conference 2015 San Francisco | April 20-24 | Moscone Center

SESSION ID: HUM-R01

# Terror Gone Social: The Islamic State and Social Media



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#### #RSAC

#### **Terrorism + the Internet**











## Sun Tzu: The Art of (Social Media) War

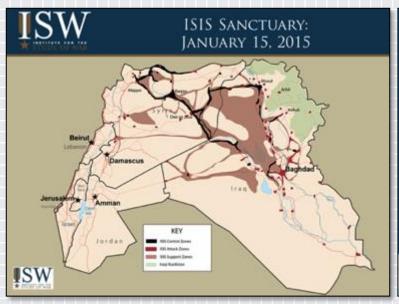






#### Who / What is ISIS?





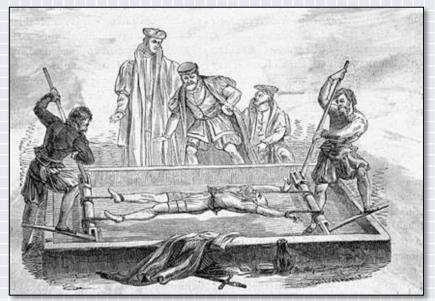






#### #RSAC

#### Volatile Mix: Medieval + Modern









#### #RSAC

#### 2008 Mumbai Attacks











### **Battlespace: Social Media**





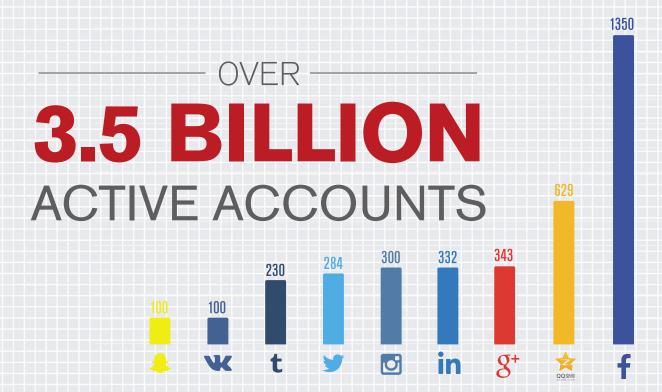


### **April 2015: ISIS threatens another 9/11**





## Who is using Social Media?

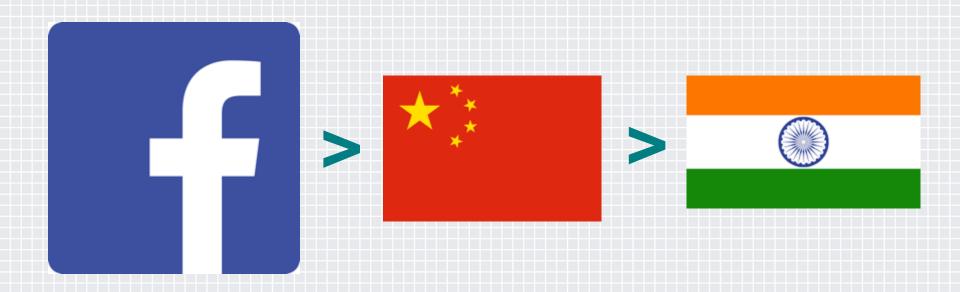








## **Facebook: the Largest Nation!**





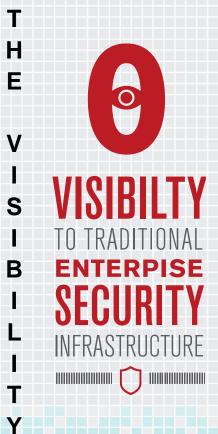


#### #RSAC

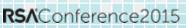
### Why Social Media is Great for Attackers













#### Attackers use Social Media to...



& PHISHING



**ATTACK** 

**PLANNING** 















**IMPERSONATIONS** 





## **Shallow Waters ... Deep Waters**

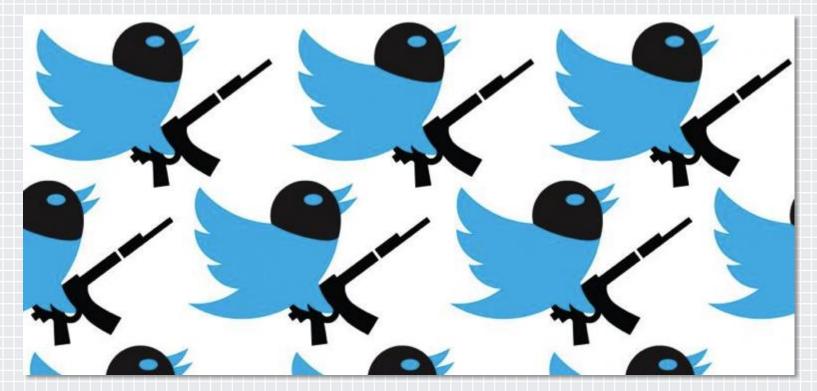
SOCIAL MEDIA							SOCIAL WEB	DARK SOCIAL
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ebay	(M) St	OS	D	+		ebay	▼ pocket Meetup	(Invisible Internet Project)





#### #RSAC

## **Hijacking Social Media**



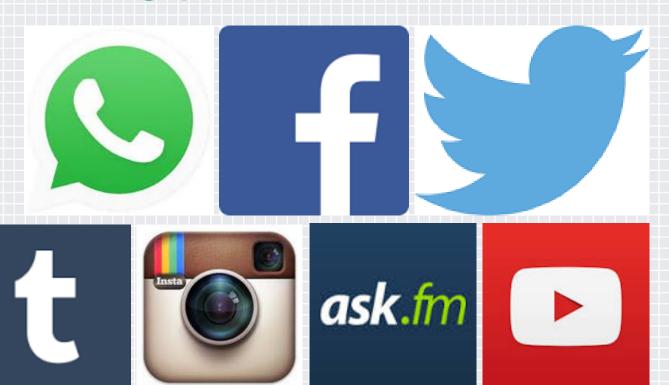






## **ISIS Census (Brookings)**

- 50K Twitter accounts
- High avg tweets& followers













#### Goals









#### **Tactics**





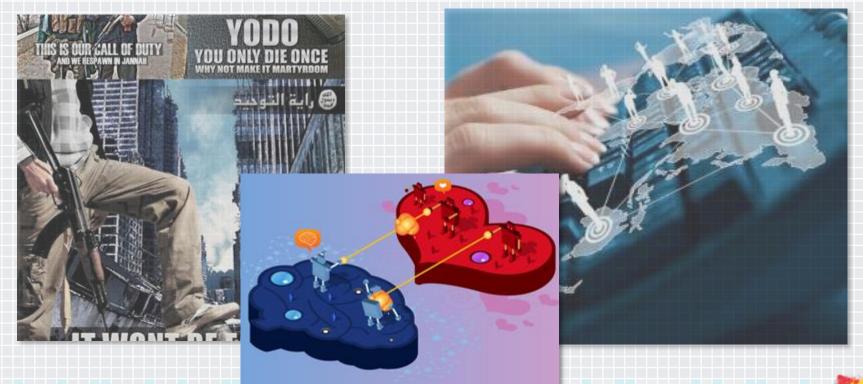








#### The Battle for "Hearts and Minds"







## **Islamic State Hacking Division**













#### @Newsweek Hack











## **Digital Proof of Attack?**







## "Hit List": Googling ... not Hacking

- "Islamic State Hacking Division"
  - Posted names, addresses, photos of 100 U.S. service members
- Assertion: "hacked" military servers, databases, emails
- Reality: Most information on public military websites
  - Stories, quotes, photographs, videos, holiday messages
  - Missions in Middle East and/or against ISIS
  - Soldier photos believed taken from social media
- DoD: call for soldiers not to reveal personal information







## **Cyber Alliances**

#### Alazm Center Twitter account

Jan 13: "hackers" contact us!

#### "Terrorists Team for Electronic Jihad"

- "Campaign against Zionist websites"
- Redirected victims to ISIS propaganda
- "Report our greetings to Abu Bakir"
- Claimed responsibility on JustPaste.it
- Training on how to avoid monitoring
- Hackers: Al Falaga, Mo7\_AbuAzzamNM, AnonGhost
- Aljyyosh: online hacker forum







#### بسرائد الرحمن الرحيم

الحد شرب العالمين والصلاة والسائم حى سيننا محد الصادق الوحد الإمين اللهم لا طم لقا إلا ما خلطا إلك انت العليم الشهر حلمنا ما ينفعنا، وانفعنا يما طبقنا، وزينا علماً، وأرنا العق حلم، وارزها العالم بطلاً، وارزهنا لجنتابه، واجعلنا من يستمون القول فيتبعون الصد و الحقالة برحدتك الصديقة

تم بحدثاد عصيلة اختراق مواقع البود من ضمن حلة ضد مواقع الصهيونية

#### #opisarei ---

خاراق 6 مواقع مع التسجيل

- 1

برقع http://www.realfix.co.il/isis.html

http://www.aljyyosh.org/mirror.php?id=203381

2

برانج http://www.insane.co.il/isis.html

السميل http://www.aljyyosh.org/mirror.php?id=203382

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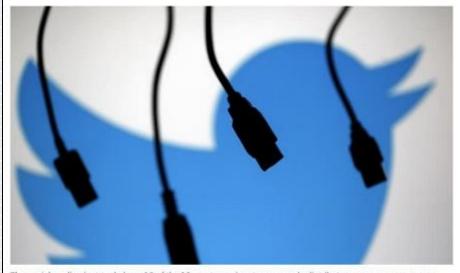


#### What is to be done?

- ISIS account suspension
- Total banishment unlikely
  - Perhaps undesirable
    - Free speech
    - Intelligence collection
- Radical isolation
  - Increases potential for extremism?

#### Twitter Shuts Down 2,000 ISIS-Linked Accounts

BY POLLY MOSENDZ 3/3/15 AT 4:10 PM



The social media giant took down 13 of the 16 most prominent propaganda distributors, DADO RUVIC/REUTERS

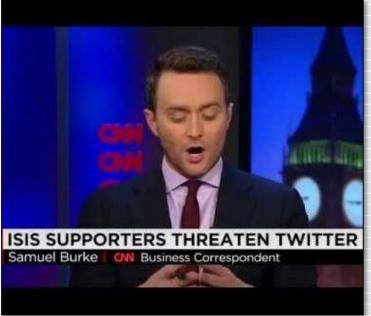






## **Physical Threats to Social Media Employees**











## Nation State Response: U.S.

- U.S. State Department
  - To win hearts and minds away from ISIS
- 2011: Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC)
  - Engages extremists in online debate
- Twitter account: "Think Again Turn Away"
  - Engages in rhetoric with jihadists









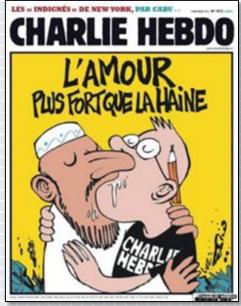
## Non-State Response: Anonymous

- Jan 2015: Charlie Hebdo
  - Satirical newspaper
- Anonymous
  - Declared war on Islamic extremists
  - Battlespace: social media















## **#OpISIS: "Dismantling the Cyber Caliphate"**

[3] Hack Read and 1 other follow











## **Strategic Thinking**

- Social media: powerful technology / human-to-human
  - New "Wild West", "cyber battleground"
- Network life and human life: close relationship
  - Everything on social media: good and bad
- Packets flying in every direction, all the time
  - Apps, profiles, content, images, video, links, malware, threats, gossip!
- Defense: comprehensive approach: think Art of War
  - Awareness, concepts, geopolitics, sensitivity, wisdom
- Social media security: abusing trust ... nurturing trust
  - Know trends in technology / communicate with human users







### **Practical Application**

- Visibility
  - Websites, IP addresses, traffic patterns, software / malware
- Free speech but not to a fault!
  - No inflammatory, violent content / no dangerous sites
- Tailored tactics: your organization is unique
  - Flexible, dynamic, imaginative defense
- Proactive measures
  - Policy, enforcement, briefings by law enforcement, counterintelligence
- Reactive preparations
  - Plans for attack mitigation, remediation





#### **FBI**





#### SEEKING INFORMATION

#### **UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL**



Multimedia: Images

#### DETAILS

The FBI is seeking information about the identity of an English-speaking individual seen in a propaganda video released in September of 2014 by the group calling itself the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL.

In the video, a man whose face is obscured by a mask alternates seamlessly between English and Arabic in pro-ISIL pronouncements intended to appeal to a Western audience. Dressed in desert carnouflage and wearing a shoulder holster, the masked man can be seen standing in front of purported prisoners as they dig their own graves and then later presiding over their executions. The man has what is believed to be a North American accent.

The video was released on September 19, 2014. In releasing a segment and still photos from the video, the FBI hopes someone might recognize the man through either his voice and/or appearance.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact the FBI's Toll Free Tipline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-3324), your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate. Tips may also be sent to wave this power SILines.





#### FBI in social media







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