

(U//FOUO) RMVEs Using Variety of Online Platforms for Extremist Activity

(U//FOUO) Racially/ethnically motivated violent extremists^a (RMVEs) are using numerous mainstream social media platforms, smaller sites with targeted audiences, and chat applications to disseminate materials that probably contribute to radicalization and mobilization to violence. Social media sites provide access to a large audience for recruitment, inspiration to commit violence, and mainstream attention, although audience-specific sites offer an opportunity for like-minded people to galvanize each other’s radicalization, and messaging applications enable private discussions.

(U//FOUO) Technology companies that are willing to counter terrorist activity online but lack extensive resources to monitor content or automated takedown mechanisms would probably benefit from expanded US Government and NGO information-sharing to identify how RMVEs are using their platforms.

(U) Online Platforms Used by RMVEs^b

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) PLATFORM ^c AND KEY FEATURES	(U) TERMS OF SERVICE (TOS)/ COMMUNITY GUIDELINES	(U) EXAMPLE OF USE BY VIOLENT EXTREMISTS
(U) MAINSTREAM SOCIAL MEDIA  indicates company is a US person.		
<p>(U)  Facebook </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2004</p> <p>(U) Social media site and application for sharing events, photos, and videos; offers direct user-to-user and group communications; has live streaming capabilities.</p>	<p>(U) Reserves the right to remove accounts and content that depict criminal activity; encourage physical or emotional harm; incite serious violence; or promote terrorism, organized hate, or mass or serial murder; also takes automated actions on TOS violations.</p>	<p>(U) Brenton Tarrant, who attacked two New Zealand mosques in March 2019, posted a live video of the attack on Facebook, where 1.5 million copies were distributed and subsequently removed. In June 2019, Tarrant pled not guilty to murder, attempted murder, and terrorism charges. He is awaiting trial as of December 2019.</p>
<p>(U)  Instagram </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2010</p> <p>(U) Social media site and application for sharing photos, videos, and direct user-to-user and group communications; has live-streaming capabilities.</p>	<p>(U) Similar to its parent company, Facebook, reserves the right to remove content containing obscene, offensive, threatening, unlawful, or otherwise objectionable material; takes automated actions on TOS violations.</p>	<p>(U) An unidentified Instagram user posted logos for Combat 18—the militarized branch of the transnational RMVE organization Blood & Honour—on 24 and 25 September 2019 with the captions “Combat 18, whatever it takes” and “Fight with us, win with us, Combat 18.”</p>
<p>(U)  Reddit </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2005</p> <p>(U) Social media site for content rating, discussion boards, and news aggregation.</p>	<p>(U) Reddit prohibits content that encourages or incites violence, harasses or threatens others, and violates US laws.</p>	<p>(U//FOUO) James Jackson^{USPER}—who stabbed a homeless African American man to death in New York City in March 2017—conducted Reddit searches on “white rights” and claimed that the white race was superior. In March 2019, Jackson was sentenced to life in prison without parole.</p>

^a (U//FOUO) RMVEs are individuals who use unlawful threats of force or violence in furtherance of political and/or social agendas that are deemed to derive from bias, often related to race or ethnicity, held by the actor against others, including a given population group.

^b (U) Individuals usually have accounts on multiple online platforms, and this is not an exhaustive list of platforms that RMVEs have used.

^c (U) The use of these online platforms does not necessarily mean that a person is engaged in criminal or terrorist activities, and all of the applications listed in this chart can be used in a legitimate and legal manner. Not all violent ideological content on social media is illegal in the United States, given First Amendment protections; however, violent content violates most platforms’ terms of service, allowing companies to take action.

(U//FOUO) RMVEs Using Variety of Online Platforms for Extremist Activity *(continued)*

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) PLATFORM ^o AND KEY FEATURES	(U) TERMS OF SERVICE (TOS)/ COMMUNITY GUIDELINES	(U) EXAMPLE OF USE BY VIOLENT EXTREMISTS
(U) MAINSTREAM SOCIAL MEDIA <i>(CONTINUED)</i>  indicates company is a US person.		
<p>(U)  Twitch </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2011</p> <p>(U) Social media site for live-streaming users playing video games.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits content that violates US laws and depicts acts or threats of violence, harassment, or hateful conduct.</p>	<p>(U) Stephen Balliet—who attacked a synagogue and kebab stall in Halle, Germany, in October 2019—live-streamed his attack on Twitch, with 2,200 users viewing the archived video on Twitch and thousands others viewing the video as it was shared on other platforms. Balliet was charged with several counts of murder and attempted murder.</p>
<p>(U)  Twitter </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2006</p> <p>(U) Social media microblogging site for sharing short text-based messages, photos, and direct user-to-user communication.</p>	<p>(U) Reserves the right to remove content that depicts graphic violence, promotes terrorism or hate speech, or threatens violence; takes automated actions on TOS violations.</p>	<p>(U) James Fields, Jr.^{USPER}—who attacked protesters with his car in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017—used Twitter to follow at least one RMVE group he intended to meet in Charlottesville. In June 2019, Fields was sentenced to life in prison.</p>
<p>(U)  Vkontakte (VK)</p> <p>CREATED IN: 2006</p> <p>(U) Russian social media site; offers individual profiles and communities similar to Facebook.</p>	<p>(U) Reserves the right but is not obliged to check its site for prohibited content; can remove any content or users that reference extremist materials or promote fascism or racial superiority.</p>	<p>(U) VK hosts a group named “A.A.” that has called for attacks against Jews, LGBTQ communities, and minorities.</p>
<p>(U)  YouTube </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2005</p> <p>(U) Website for sharing videos; has live-streaming capabilities.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits hate speech, graphic violence, malicious attacks, predatory behavior, and other content that promotes harmful or dangerous behavior; takes automated actions on TOS violations.</p>	<p>(U) Gavin Long^{USPER}—who attacked police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July 2017—posted videos on YouTube calling for violence as the solution to African American oppression. Long was killed by responding officers.</p>

(U) ALTERNATIVE AUDIENCE-SPECIFIC PLATFORMS indicates company is a US person.

<p>(U)  Daily Stormer </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2013</p> <p>(U) Website devoted to white supremacism.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits posts that advocate violence.</p>	<p>(U) Dylann Roof^{USPER}—who killed nine people at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 2015—used his Daily Stormer account to promote white supremacy. In January 2017, Roof was sentenced to death.</p>
--	--	---

CURRENT



(U//FOUO) RMVEs Using Variety of Online Platforms for Extremist Activity (continued)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) PLATFORM ^o AND KEY FEATURES	(U) TERMS OF SERVICE (TOS)/ COMMUNITY GUIDELINES	(U) EXAMPLE OF USE BY VIOLENT EXTREMISTS
(U) ALTERNATIVE AUDIENCE-SPECIFIC PLATFORMS (CONTINUED)  indicates company is a US person.		
<p>(U)  Endchan </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2015</p> <p>(U) Anonymous imageboard; claims to promote ideas rather than identity; has reportedly received a large influx of former 8chan users since 8chan's shutdown in August 2019.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits posts that violate US law, contain suggestive audio/visual content of children, and include spam.</p>	<p>(U//FOUO) Phillip Manshaus—who attacked the Al-Noor mosque in Oslo, Norway, in August 2019—posted on Endchan that the attacks in El Paso, Texas, and Christchurch, New Zealand, had inspired him to act. As of December 2019, Manshaus remains in custody and is facing terrorism and murder charges.</p>
<p>(U)  Fascist Forge </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2018 to replace IronMarch, which went offline in 2017</p> <p>(U) Website that claims to provide fascists with an online platform to make connections, organize, and further the fascist worldview.</p>	<p>(U) Does not outline specific TOS but notes that the site does not tolerate anything that opposes a fascist worldview.</p>	<p>(U) A teenager in Durham, UK—who was sentenced to six years and eight months in prison in January 2020 for plotting to attack synagogues and other buildings—was a regular contributor to Fascist Forge before his arrest in March 2019, including posting a manifesto with a list of targets.</p>
<p>(U)  Gab </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2016</p> <p>(U) Microblogging platform similar to Twitter; TOS permit posting extremist content.</p>	<p>(U) Users agree to refrain from producing content that threatens others or incites imminent lawless action; notes that controversial or offensive speech will not be removed.</p>	<p>(U) A named US person—who allegedly killed 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—made anti-Semitic and threatening posts on Gab. In January 2019, the alleged attacker was charged with federal hate crimes and firearms offenses. As of December 2019, the named US person was awaiting trial.</p>
<p>(U)  Neinchan </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2019</p> <p>(U) Imageboard website known for its neo-Nazi user base.</p>	<p>(U) Has one global rule banning pornography; administrators for boards can create their own rules.</p>	<p>(U//FOUO) An anonymous Neinchan user called for attacks against the US Congress and US Government buildings in August 2019.</p>
<p>(U)  Stormfront </p> <p>CREATED IN: 1996; available intermittently, including as of January 2020</p> <p>(U) Website containing forums on white supremacism.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits posts that violate US law or that promote hate against other white nationalities.</p>	<p>(U) Dylann Roof had a Stormfront account that he used to promote his white-supremacist extremist views.</p>

CURRENT



(U//FOUO) RMVEs Using Variety of Online Platforms for Extremist Activity *(continued)*

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) PLATFORM ^o AND KEY FEATURES	(U) TERMS OF SERVICE (TOS)/ COMMUNITY GUIDELINES	(U) EXAMPLE OF USE BY VIOLENT EXTREMISTS
(U) ALTERNATIVE AUDIENCE-SPECIFIC PLATFORMS (CONTINUED)  indicates company is a US person.		
<p>(U)  4chan </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2003</p> <p>(U) Imageboard site known for protecting free speech and limited content moderation.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits posts that violate US laws; individual message boards often have their own rules.</p>	<p>(U) Manshaus posted to 4chan hours before his attack—with the same username from Endchan—that he was elected by Tarrant and called for his followers to enact a race war.</p>
<p>(U)  8kun </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2019 as a replacement for 8chan^{USPER}, which was created in 2013 and intermittently available from August 2019 until relaunched as 8kun in November 2019</p> <p>(U) Imageboard site known for almost nonexistent content moderation, making it a safe haven for extremist users and leading to its creation following 8chan's temporary takedown in August 2019.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits posts that violate US laws.</p>	<p>(U//FOUO) A named US person—who allegedly killed 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in August 2019—posted his manifesto to 8chan. As of December 2019, the named US person was being held without bond on capital murder charges.</p>
(U) CHAT APPLICATIONS  indicates company is a US person.		
<p>(U)  Discord </p> <p>CREATED IN: 2015</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Offers link encryption for files, texts, and voice calls for point-to-point and group messaging; tailored for gamers.</p>	<p>(U) Reserves the right to remove content that celebrates violence, directly threatens someone's safety, or includes illegal action.</p>	<p>(U//FOUO) A named US person—who allegedly killed one individual in Orange County, California, in January 2018—used Discord to chat with fellow members of the violent neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division. The named US person has been charged at the state level with murder and a hate-crime enhancement. As of December 2019, the named US person was awaiting trial.</p>
<p>(U)  Telegram</p> <p>CREATED IN: 2013</p> <p>(U) Offers end-to-end encrypted messaging for sending files, texts, videos, and voice calls; has an optional self-destruct feature.</p>	<p>(U) Prohibits posts that promote violence and contain illegal pornographic content on publicly viewable channels and bots.</p>	<p>(U//FOUO) The user of a Telegram channel affiliated with the Feuerkrieg Division, a transnational RMVE group, admitted to encouraging a Nevada-based US person's alleged plot against Jewish targets.</p>
<p>(U)  Wire</p> <p>CREATED IN: 2014</p> <p>(U) Offers default end-to-end encrypted messaging for sending files, screenshots, texts, and videos—including video conferences—and voice calls; collaborative platform.</p>	<p>(U) Reserves the right to disable any account that includes unlawful, hateful, or racially or ethnically offensive content.</p>	<p>(U) Wire accounts affiliated with Feuerkrieg Division members have received online funding directly from users who support their content, which espouses ideology consistent with various RMVEs.</p>

NCTC 064194 ID 1-20

29 JANUARY 2020
AUTHORED BY NCTC AND FBI