



Question the Source

Check who produced the content and question their intent.

A lot of foreign influence content is designed to look like real news – the following best practices will help you discern quality content and avoid being duped. Look for a diversity of credible sources. You should be able to trust that the author’s ideas are their own, are unbiased, and are backed up by sound, fact-based evidence.

Check the author

Check to see that the author is clearly identified. Do a search on them. Are they real? What are their qualifications for covering the topic? Be cautious of news that doesn’t share who is reporting it.



Check the date

Look for a publishing date and see if it is current. Outdated articles can be misleading and irrelevant to current events.



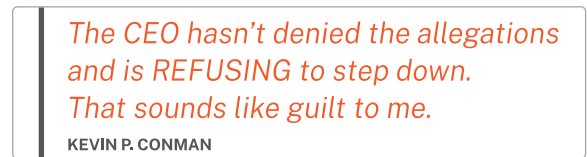
Check for a match

Read past the headline and see if the content matches. Be cautious of over-the-top headlines crafted to make you feel strong emotions.



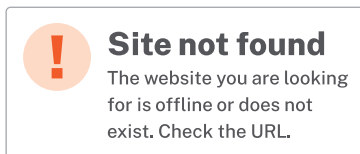
Check for facts

Consider how the author presents the information. Is the content made up of facts or opinions? Are the arguments clear and supported by evidence? Do they address counter-arguments?



Check their sources

A credible website will cite their supporting sources and provide additional resources for greater understanding. Click them to make sure they work.



Check the sponsors

Quality sponsors often do their homework, and don't sponsor questionable sites just for clicks. A way to judge authenticity of a site is by seeing who chooses to sponsor them.



Disinformation Stops With You

You have the power to stop foreign influence operations. Follow these steps:

- Talk to your circle
- Recognize the risk
- Question the source
- Investigate the issue
- Think before you link

To learn more about how you can stop disinformation, visit our website at www.dhs.gov/cisa/protect2020.

