

# Junk News Distribution on Telegram: The Visibility of English-language News Sources on Public Telegram Channels

## Data Supplement

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### *URL Patterns for English-Language News*

The following patterns were used to distinguish English-language article from news sources that publish in several languages. Notably only the BBC's English-language articles received more than 2 million views through Telegram channels.

News Organization	Domains
BBC	bbc.com/news
	bbc.co.uk/news
Russia Today	rt.com/news
	rt.com/uk
	rt.com/usa
	ruptly.tv/en
Sputnik News	sputniknews.com
PressTV	presstv.com
Aljazeera	aljazeera.com
Reuters	reuters.com
	thomsonreuters.com
	uk.reuters.com
Voice of America	voanews.com
Deutsche Welle	www.dw.com/en/
Radio Free Europe	polygraph.info
	pressroom.rferl.org
	rferl.org
	en.radiofarda.com
Interfax	interfax.com/
The Epoch Times	theepochtimes.com
Esquire	esquire.com/uk/
	esquire.com
	esquireme.com

### *Junk News Criteria*

Following our earlier work, we classify certain sources as junk news if they fulfil at least three of these five criteria discussed in [1]. The criteria are the following:

1. Professionalism: These outlets do not employ standards and best practices of professional journalism. They refrain from providing clear information about real authors, editors, publishers and owners. They lack transparency and accountability, and do not publish corrections on debunked information.
2. Style: These outlets use emotionally driven language with emotive expressions, hyperbole, ad hominem attacks, misleading headlines, excessive capitalization, unsafe generalizations and logical fallacies, moving images, and lots of pictures and mobilizing memes.
3. Credibility: These outlets rely on false information and conspiracy theories, which they often employ strategically. They report without consulting multiple sources and do not fact-check. Sources are often untrustworthy and standards of production lack reliability.

4. Bias: Reporting in these outlets is highly biased, ideologically skewed or hyper-partisan, and news reporting frequently includes strongly opinionated commentary.
5. Counterfeit: These sources mimic established news reporting. They counterfeit fonts, branding and stylistic content strategies. Commentary and junk content are stylistically disguised as news, with references to news agencies and credible sources, and headlines written in a news tone with date, time and location stamps.

## References

[1] S. Bradshaw, P. Howard, B. Kollanyi, and L. M. Neudert, 'Sourcing and Automation of Political News and Information over Social Media in the United States, 2016-2018', *Polit. Commun.*, 2019.