

Unmasked: Musk's Secret DOGE Goon Squad —Who Are All Under 26

| BEST PEOPLE |

The world's richest man doesn't want anyone knowing his right-hand people who are disrupting government.



Josh Fiallo



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Photo Illustration by Thomas Levinson/The Daily Beast/Getty/Reddit/BestDelegate/X/Instagram

Elon Musk's team of young DOGE disruptors have been unmasked, much to the ire of the billionaire and other MAGA figures.

One is a 19-year-old college freshman and heir to a popcorn fortune. Another was hosting Model UN sessions in 2019 and a third was given money by his parents to invest in stocks while at his high school in Silicon Valley.

The world's richest man lashed out at an X account which suggested the six young men, who now have access the Treasury Department's payment system, among other things, should be "paid a visit" by FBI agents.

"You have committed a crime," Musk fired back at a comment from the account Monday, shortly before the post in question was removed for allegedly violating the platform's rules.

Musk appeared to soften his stance on the men being identified later Monday, writing it was "time to confess" that the "media reports saying that @DOGE has some of world's best software engineers are in fact true." But he was wrong—not all the group are even "software engineers." Three do not even have degrees. And one who does is trying to cash in on his new job by charging people to read his Substack entry which boasts, "Why DOGE: Why I gave up a seven-figure salary to save America."

Time to confess:

Media reports saying that [@DOGE](#) has some of world's best software engineers are in fact true.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [February 3, 2025](#)

Musk's team of youngsters, as first reported by [WIRED](#) on Sunday, is Akash Bobba, 21, a student at the University of California, Berkeley; Edward Coristine, 19, a student at Northeastern University in Boston; and Ethan Shaotran, 22, who said in September he was a senior at Harvard.

The ones who actually have degrees, or at least have left college, are: Luke Farritor, 23, who attended the University of Nebraska without graduating; Gautier Cole Killian, a 24-year-old who attended McGill University; and Gavin Kliger, a 25-year-old who attended Berkeley;

The group's relative lack of experience—especially no previous positions in government work—has Democrats crying foul they were granted access to sensitive records while remaining largely in the shadows, away from public scrutiny.

All six desperately tried to cover their digital tracks recently, almost all of them deleting LinkedIn profiles, X accounts and even Facebook.

The 'Seven-Figure' Matt Gaetz Groupie



Gavin

Kligersubstack.com/@weeklybyte

Gavin Kliger's LinkedIn lists his employer as the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, where he is a "Special Advisor to the Director." His old jobs include a brief stint as an engineer at Twitter in 2019 and, most recently, as a senior software engineer at Databricks, a cloud software company, for five years—which, he claims, gave him a seven-figure salary.

Kliger is already making a name for himself in his new role. He was named Monday by *The New York Times* as the person who blasted out a staff-wide email to USAID workers that ordered them to work from home as the agency is scrutinized by DOGE and the Trump Administration—a correspondence that underscores just how much power Musk's team of young engineers may hold.

But what Kliger really wants the world to know about is his belief in male MAGA warriors Matt Gaetz and Pete Hegseth's brilliance, using his Substack to post about them both. Gaetz, who was investigated over allegations of teenage sex trafficking, was, according to Kliger, a victim of "the deep state." Hegseth, a serially unfaithful former Fox News star accused of sexual assault, drunkenness, and receiving lap dances while in uniform, was, he wrote "the warrior Washington doesn't want but desperately need."

Kliger, whose Cornell graduate father is an attorney for Experian, appears happy to monetize his DOGE experience: he has made the entry about DOGE on his Substack for \$12-a-month subscribers only.

The Start-Up Scheduler



Ethan

ShaotranX/eshaotran

Shaotran penned an essay for *Business Insider* last summer where he detailed how he “balances his startup with full-time studies.” He is the founder of Energize AI, a scheduling assistant for professionals that was awarded a \$100,000 grant from OpenAI in 2023.

He said last year that he was a senior at Harvard University. Prior to that, he graduated in 2020 from Gunn High School in Palo Alto, California.

An online profile says he was “working on autonomous vehicles” in Harvard University’s Edge Computing Lab—perhaps where he caught the eye of Musk, who is obsessed with developing self-driving vehicles at Tesla.

The Dropout Who Reads Roman Scrolls

Farritor, meanwhile, was a co-winner of a \$700,000 prize last year after he used AI to partially decipher a 2,000-year-old charred papyrus scroll from Pompeii—part of the Vesuvius scrolls—that had stumped scientists for centuries.



Luke

Farritor.

Farritor interned for Musk's SpaceX prior to winning the challenge. He told *The Free Press* he dropped out of college to begin working for the Silicon Valley entrepreneur Nat Friedman, the former CEO of GitHub and Xamarin.

His dad, Shane Farritor, is a mechanical engineering professor who joined the University of Nebraska in 1998.

The Popcorn Heir Shaking Up D.C.

Coristine, the group's lone teenager, has a résumé that includes a summer internship at Neuralink, Musk's brain-computer interface company. Online sleuths unearthed that his father appears to be Charles Coristine—the businessman who purchased the once-failing snack company LesserEvil in 2011 and has turned it around to reportedly rake in over \$100 million a year.



Edward

WIRED reported that Coristine is listed in internal Office of Personnel Management records as being an “expert,” so the scope of his work within DOGE is particularly vague. Sources told the website that Coristine “has appeared on calls where workers were made to go over code they had written and justify their jobs.”

The Model UN Organizer

Another so-called OPM “expert,” according to *WIRED*, is Bobba. His since-deleted LinkedIn said he was an investment engineering intern at the Bridgewater Associates hedge fund, with previous internships at both Meta and Palantir, which was founded by the Republican mega-donor Peter Thiel.



Akash

BobbaBestDelegate

A number of people sung Bobba's praises online after he was identified as a DOGE staffer, including one X user who posted in his defense Monday that he is "one of the smartest dudes I've ever met." But he has come a long way in a short time: In 2019, he was organizing the local model United Nations near his home in Princeton Junction, New Jersey. His father is a computing science academic.

He graduated from West Windsor Plainsboro High School, a public school, in 2021. He spoke at commencement and submitted his remarks to be highlighted. Back then, he urged his classmates to "appreciate the complexity in life."

"We live in an age where simplicity reigns supreme, where 30 second TikToks and 280-character tweets come to define our identities," he said. "This increasing willingness to simplify even the most complex narratives into sensational tidbits, perpetuates misinformation and in the process divides the communities, families, and relationships we cherish. What's the solution, you might ask? Seek discomfort."

They're In D.C.'s C-Suite

WIRED reported, citing sources, that Bobba, Coristine, Farritor, and Shaotran "all currently have working GSA emails and A-suite level clearance at the General Services Administration, which means that they work out of the agency's top floor and have access to all physical spaces and IT systems."



Cole

[KillianInstagram/building21.ca](https://www.instagram.com/building21.ca)

Killian, meanwhile, has an email directly with DOGE and is a reportedly a “volunteer.”

The website reported he graduated high school in 2019 and more recently worked as an engineer at Jump Trading, which specializes in algorithmic and high-frequency financial trades.

The MAGA world has been up in arms about the engineers being identified, which some have equated to doxxing.

TPUSA's Charlie Kirk was among those rushing to attack WIRED and defend the young engineers.

“Remember when Wired was focused on cutting-edge technology and how young college dropout founders could change the world?” he posted to X. “Not anymore. Now, they’re doxxing DOGE employees and whining that they are too “young” and ‘inexperienced’ to reform America’s government. America’s experienced expert class have led this country to ruin. Young geniuses with a startup mentality could save it.”

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America's... pic.twitter.com/rgm8k2du9D

— Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) [February 3, 2025](#)

The U.S. Attorney Edward R. Martin Jr. threw his support behind Musk on the matter, writing to him Monday he would “pursue any and all legal action against anyone who impedes your work or threatens your people.”

There have been a flurry of threats against the young DOGE engineers online. Musk reshared a post on X that included screenshots of nasty Reddit comments that included one calling for the men to be shot.

DOGE has seemingly grown in power by the day. The department, created via an executive order on day one of Trump 2.0, was recently granted access to restricted parts of the General Services Administration buildings and access to IT systems which houses sensitive information like addresses, contact info, and even social security numbers.

[.@SenSchumer](#) on DOGE: "Before our very eyes an unelected shadow government is conducting a hostile takeover of the federal government...Donald Trump does not have the authority to erase an independent agency created by Congress nor can the Department of State absorb USAID..." pic.twitter.com/HiUqndKMet

— CSPAN (@cspan) [February 3, 2025](#)

Chuck Schumer is among the politicians on the left who have criticized DOGE, with his most recent remarks coming on Monday.

“Before our very eyes, an unelected shadow government is conducting a hostile takeover of the federal government,” he said, adding that DOGE gaining access to sensitive info is “like letting a tiger into the petting zoo and hoping for the best.”