

Dear confused journalists: I found the bots you have been looking for. They amplify trolls. They impersonate. They spam. They are funded by oligarchs. What more could you want in a story?

And unlike [@SecureDemocracy](#), I have actually shown my work. Gather round.

First things first. Here are the accounts in question. They posted nearly 600 links to [@Shareblue](#) articles from Jan. 22-28th

[@SecureDemocracy](#) says they don't this because they would rather have us watch their snazzy dashboard while troll masters and bots continue to flourish. 🤖



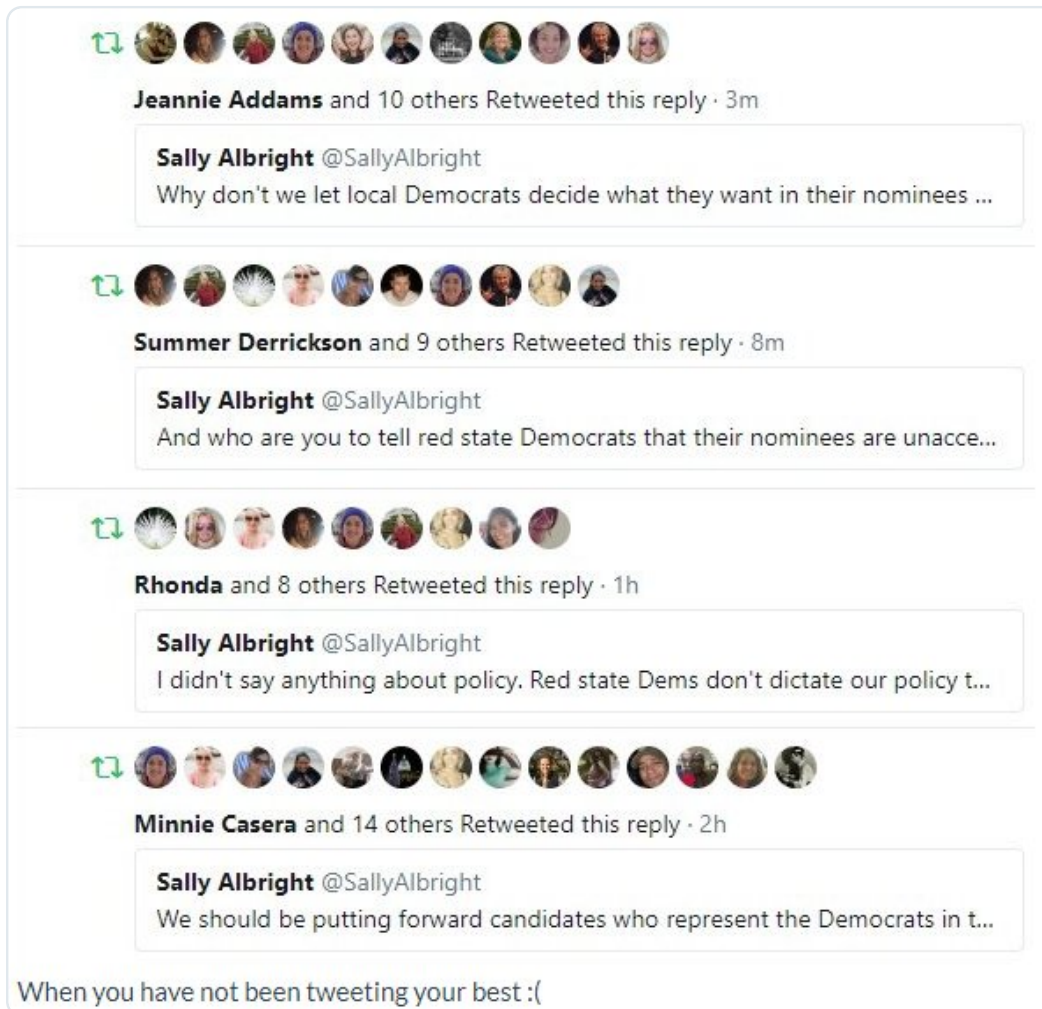
Q. Why don't you name these accounts? Can you tell me if a specific account is a Russian bot?

By analyzing large groups of accounts, we can track the activity and focus of the network using accounts from each category. Our analytical methods allow us to determine when groups of accounts are acting in a synchronized manner, but they do not always allow us to definitively separate the sources of influence (knowing instigators of and participants in Russian influence campaigns) and unknowing participants (people who participate without realizing they are being manipulated). We prefer to focus on the behavior of the overall network rather than get dragged into hundreds of individual debates over which troll fits which role.

Let's dig in. All of these posts were made using [@Buffer](#). Buffer allows users to post the identical tweet (or retweet) on up to 150 separate accounts with a single click. It's called Buffer because it allows you to queue up posts to go out according to a programmable schedule.

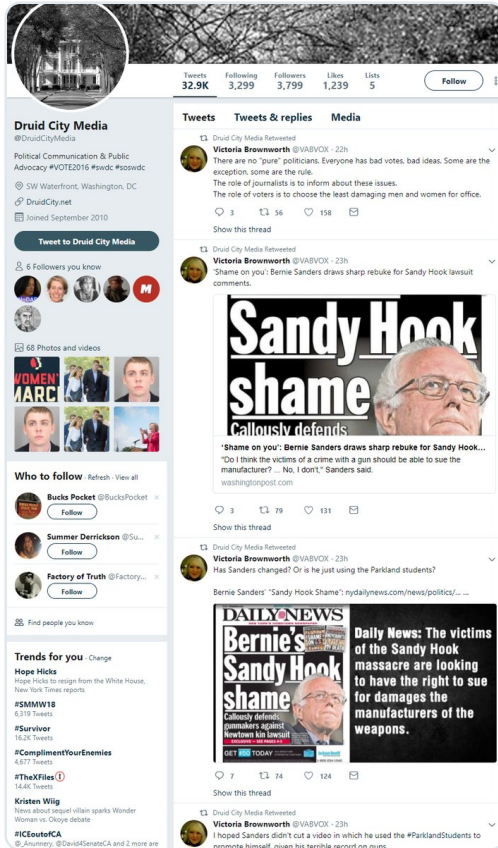
screen_name	text	source
rhondalights	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/xD8PrgNpJC via @shareblue	Buffer
FindleyGrace	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/WYFn950Hr8 via @shareblue	Buffer
GeorgiaRMiles	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/WlpWTGI05O via @shareblue	Buffer
Maddy_Ware	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/wHT2JyQMq4 via @shareblue	Buffer
BayleeAllmon	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/Vj1KmI5cjF via @shareblue	Buffer
_Stacey_Eff	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/UlaRd2xHXB via @shareblue	Buffer
AlleyRow	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/RIVTuYoKNZ via @shareblue	Buffer
MinnieCasera	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/qLMxPFI Eso via @shareblue	Buffer
ElaynaTerry	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/p9EtmhnuS4 via @shareblue	Buffer
AmeeHart	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/ohqqtjTZcN via @shareblue	Buffer
magscampbell	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/mWFGnwWzJU via @shareblue	Buffer
GwenBarstow	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/LudwcChncf via @shareblue	Buffer
FactoryofTruth	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/IC7seWLVYE via @shareblue	Buffer
FordColvin	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/kQOMwvJiat via @shareblue	Buffer
BeauRodham	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/KMgtxStE1B via @shareblue	Buffer
GatsbyGirl	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/IMOWK4qN8f via @shareblue	Buffer
cameroncgibson	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/HV6M1YGZGF via @shareblue	Buffer
IrisWinter_	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/GUJ6O9XBBY via @shareblue	Buffer
ArthurMcBank	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/fuvjUKCpXU via @shareblue	Buffer
selenarobinson	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/ejyVlHeDc5 via @shareblue	Buffer
rafedelacruz	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/DsKjp2bX5j via @shareblue	Buffer
BarryJonesAM	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/dPLrZG2RoM via @shareblue	Buffer
SummerGirlDB	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/cVq7PMOwhS via @shareblue	Buffer
CalliAway	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/CcgJujUuRY via @shareblue	Buffer
LooseCile	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/CADeO6AKQN via @shareblue	Buffer
DreamForACause	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/bTcEvxBJJF via @shareblue	Buffer
WhitneySaw	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/blcUWEDvxE via @shareblue	Buffer
KadyLanier	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/arbWSepJds via @shareblue	Buffer
JennaMarbury	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/ar6iQvg7Ac via @shareblue	Buffer
SonicDeathMnky	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/aKfmgA35FY via @shareblue	Buffer
brookehollway	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/9yuO0gMxDA via @shareblue	Buffer
JeannieAddams	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/7qTrcGap0P via @shareblue	Buffer
mylillypup	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/7EHcw0JfLy via @shareblue	Buffer
LetsRollITown	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/6VE8OS0waK via @shareblue	Buffer
charlottemkane	Trump's new excuse for obstructing Russia investigation: He was just "fighting back" https://t.co/0rkYoZVTF6 via @shareblue	Buffer

Scheduling of the buffer queue is important because it can be programmed to emulate a human twitter user. A good way to get favs while sleeping in. Obviously, one can still go overboard with it, as can be seen here. This was annoying and it continued for more than 24 hours.



One of the accounts that was constantly showing up was [@DruidCityMedia](#), a PR firm founded by [@SallyAlbright](#).

Could all this be related?



Public Relations Specialist Sally Albright Pursues Next Challenge

Albright's Experience and Creative Approach Would Enhance Any Communications Strategy

February 8, 2011 | Print Pitch

Washington D.C.-based public relations and new media specialist **Sally Albright** brings a forward-thinking approach to corporate communications. With a passion for advocacy, a talent for persuasion, and a solid background in media relations, Sally Albright exemplifies forward-thinking communication strategy and delivers measurable results. Albright skillfully employs attention-grabbing online news releases, fresh, appealing content, enthusiastic blogger outreach, and creative social networking tactics. She enjoys promoting worthy causes and seeks out projects that reflect her personal principles. Albright maintains a strong web presence and has utilized new media to achieve her professional goals for over a decade. While she enjoys promoting niche projects, Albright relishes the chance to apply her skills to a larger marketing operation.

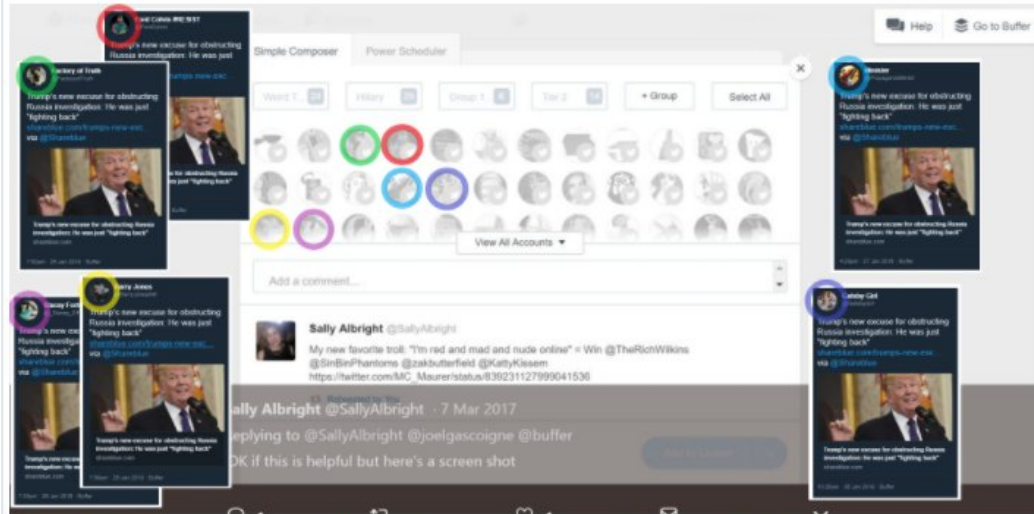
Most recently, Albright served as New Media Director for **Bentley for Governor**. Her accomplishments for the campaign were singled out as "innovative" by several media outlets. Specifically, her "virtual yard sign" viral promotion played a pivotal role in Bentley's come-from-behind surge that clinched the party's nomination. She pioneered the use of location-based services to motivate and mobilize volunteers and publicize the candidate's public appearances.

After the primary, **Albright opened Druid City Media**, a political and corporate communications firm to help general election candidates make the best use of social media in their campaigns. She also founded TheSocialMediaCoach.net, a social media training service for small businesses and non-profits, and SocialCapitol.net, a network of socially conscious Capitol Hill operatives. Albright keeps up with emerging trends in social media and curates a database of essential resources.

She just tweeted it out!

Sockpuppet tech support

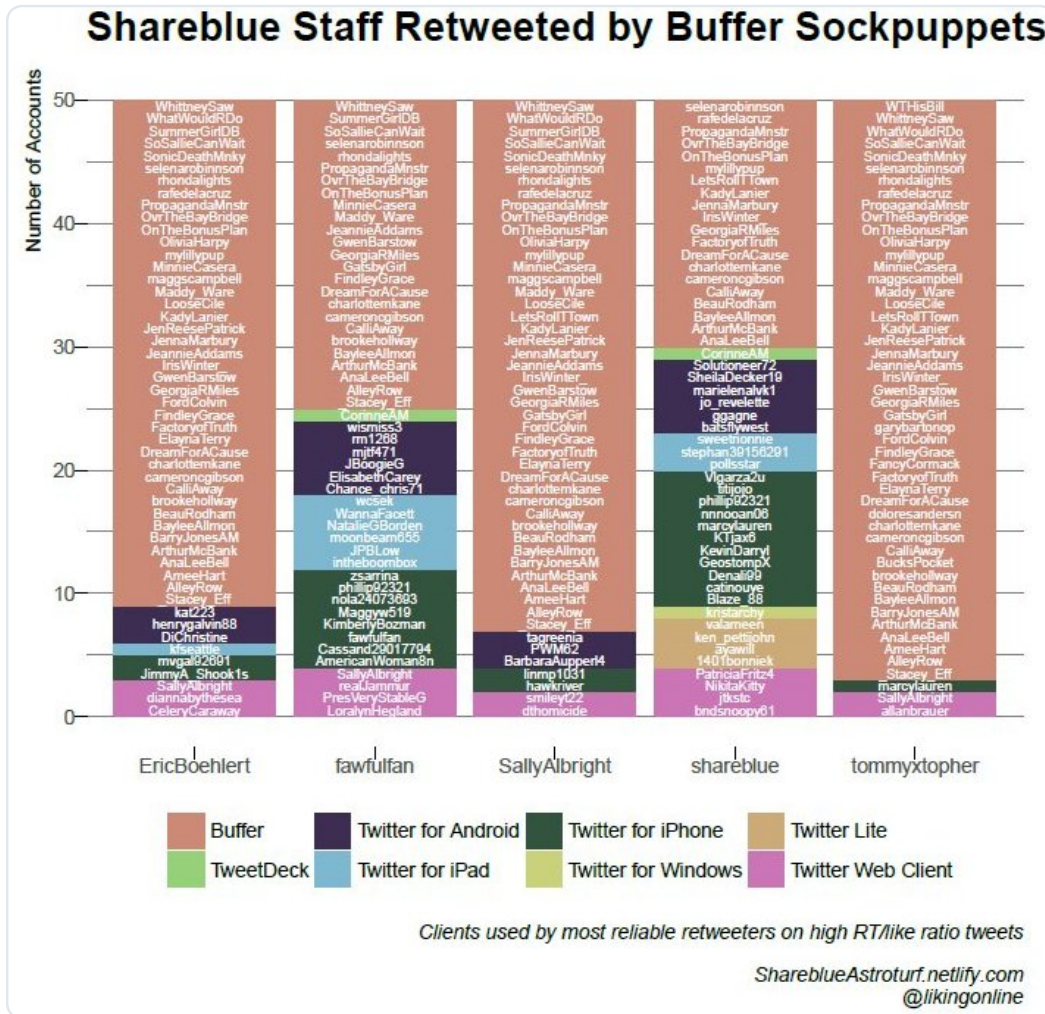
The best evidence of Sally Albright using sockpuppets is the fact that she literally tweeted it out. In March of 2017, Sally was concerned over some changes to Twitter automation software called [Buffer](#). In the process of troubleshooting the issue with Buffer support over Twitter, she tweeted a screenshot of the the Buffer browser extension. The screenshot clearly shows dozens of Twitter account avatars signed in to the service and ready to lay down astroturf. Buffer allows for creating groups of different accounts in order to schedule tweets (or retweets) for different purposes or communities. At the time of the screenshot, Sally had 24 accounts in a group called "Weird Twitter", 25 in "Hillary", 6 in "Group 1", and 14 in "Tier 2".



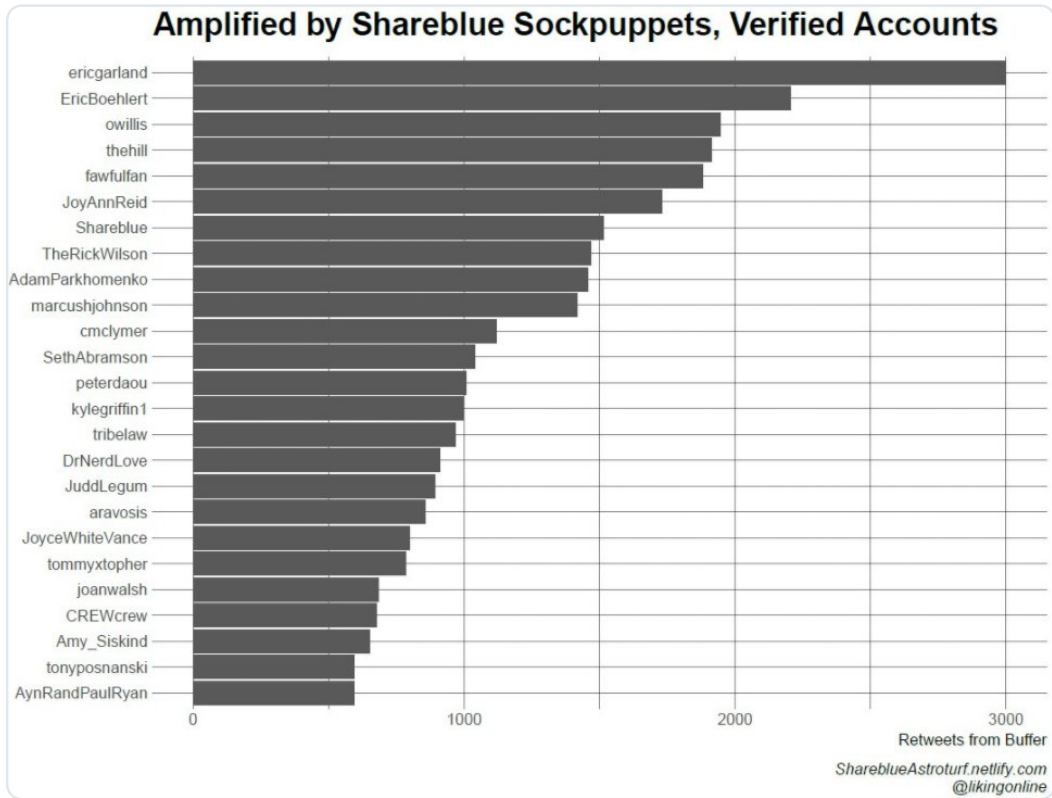
Getting "red and mad and nude online" trying to troubleshoot sockpuppets with Buffer support.

Lets see what her bots have been up to.

Lots of Shareblue astroturfing.



Amplifying Game Theorist [@EricGarland](#) is one of their primary duties. Odd.

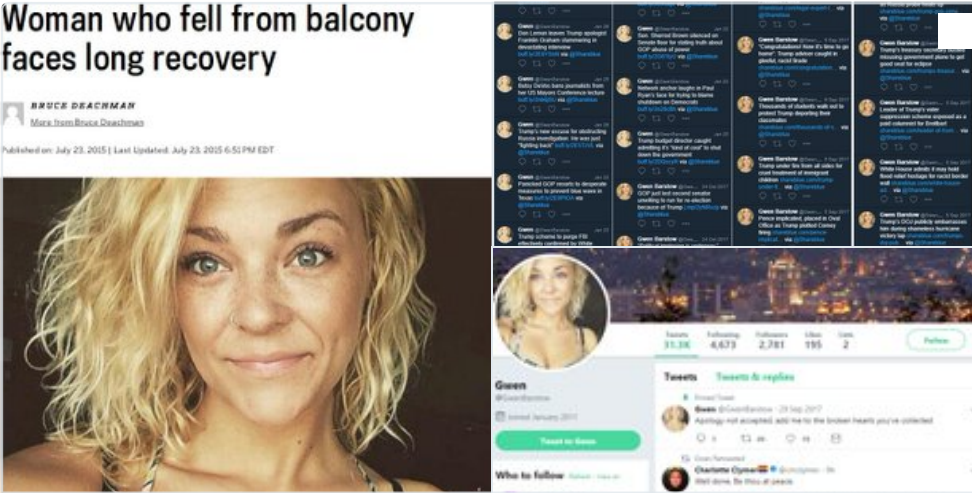


Some of the people they impersonate include a Olympic ice skater and a tragically deceased woman from Florida.

Woman who fell from balcony faces long recovery

BRUCE DEACHMAN
More from Bruce Deachman

Published on: July 23, 2015 | Last Updated: July 23, 2015 6:51 PM EDT



liking online
@likingonline

Why is [@Shareblue](#) using the photo of a Meaghan Delcourt on their [@GwenBarstow](#) sockpuppet account to spam articles?
cc:[@SallyAlbright](#)

6:25 PM - Feb 21, 2018

553 297 people are talking about this

liking online
@likingonline

Does the Spanish Olympic figure skater [@SaraSobreHielo](#) know that [@Shareblue](#) is using her stolen Instagram photo on their [@IrisWinter_](#) sockpuppet account to spam Twitter?

Winter has come season! Southern girl [Sara Hurtado](#) in snowy Moscow.



6:19 PM - 26 Feb 2018

45 Retweets 104 Likes

Sara Hurtado Martin [@SaraSobreHielo](#) · 4h

liking online @likingonline · Feb 26

Uhh what in the fuck is wrong with [@Sallyalbright](#) and [@Shareblue](#)? They are using the photo of Mary Knowlton, a Florida librarian who was shot and killed in a police training exercise, to spam their articles on Twitter.
time.com/4446605/mary-k...



15 268 547

CatMobile
@kitten_mobile

Replying to @likingonline @SaltyGayford and 2 others

Oh my god. She was my stepfather's cousin, and I only hope he doesn't see this anywhere. Have some damn decency.

5:25 AM - 27 Feb 2018

8 Likes

Some people on Twitter seem to get really upset when I have pointed out that they get amplified by bots.



A screenshot of a tweet from the user 'liking online' (@likingonline). The tweet text reads: 'Amazing, so you are getting amplified by Brock troll sockpuppets you and don't even know it?' followed by a link to 'twitter.com/marcushjohnson...'. The tweet is dated '11:14 PM - Feb 26, 2018' and shows '117' likes and '46 people are talking about this'.

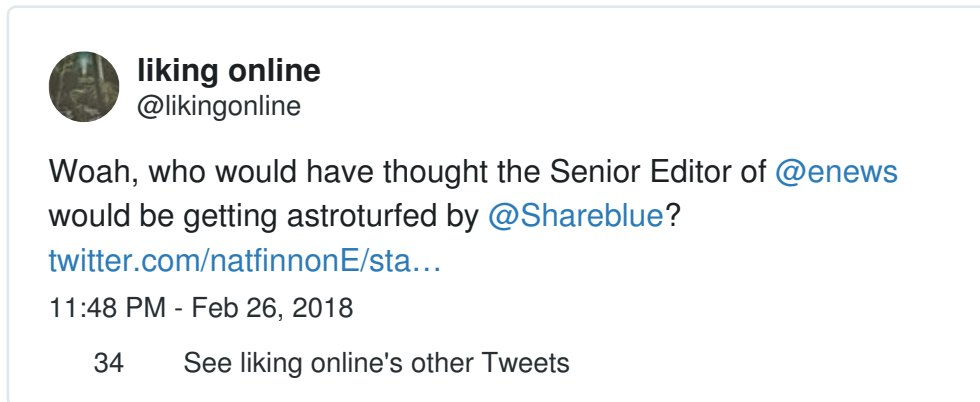
 **liking online**
@likingonline

Amazing, so you are getting amplified by Brock troll sockpuppets you and don't even know it?
twitter.com/marcushjohnson...


11:14 PM - Feb 26, 2018

117 46 people are talking about this

Some try to deal with it by "actually laughing."



A screenshot of a tweet from the user 'liking online' (@likingonline). The tweet text reads: 'Woah, who would have thought the Senior Editor of @enews would be getting astroturfed by @Shareblue?' followed by a link to 'twitter.com/natfinnonE/sta...'. The tweet is dated '11:48 PM - Feb 26, 2018' and shows '34' likes and a link to 'See liking online's other Tweets'.

 **liking online**
@likingonline

Woah, who would have thought the Senior Editor of @enews would be getting astroturfed by @Shareblue?
twitter.com/natfinnonE/sta...

11:48 PM - Feb 26, 2018

34 See liking online's other Tweets

Adam, he had a minor meltdown here.



liking online

@likingonline

Look, Adam you seem like a smart guy - did you even read the report? Not once did I claim that you "use any fucking system to boost anything." What I am claiming is that you have been retweeted more than 1000 times by Shareblue's sockpuppets in the past month. twitter.com/AdamParkhomenk...

4:02 PM - Feb 17, 2018

115 40 people are talking about this

Others choose to ignore. Or block in the case of [@EricBoehler](#) and [@NeeraTanden](#)



liking online

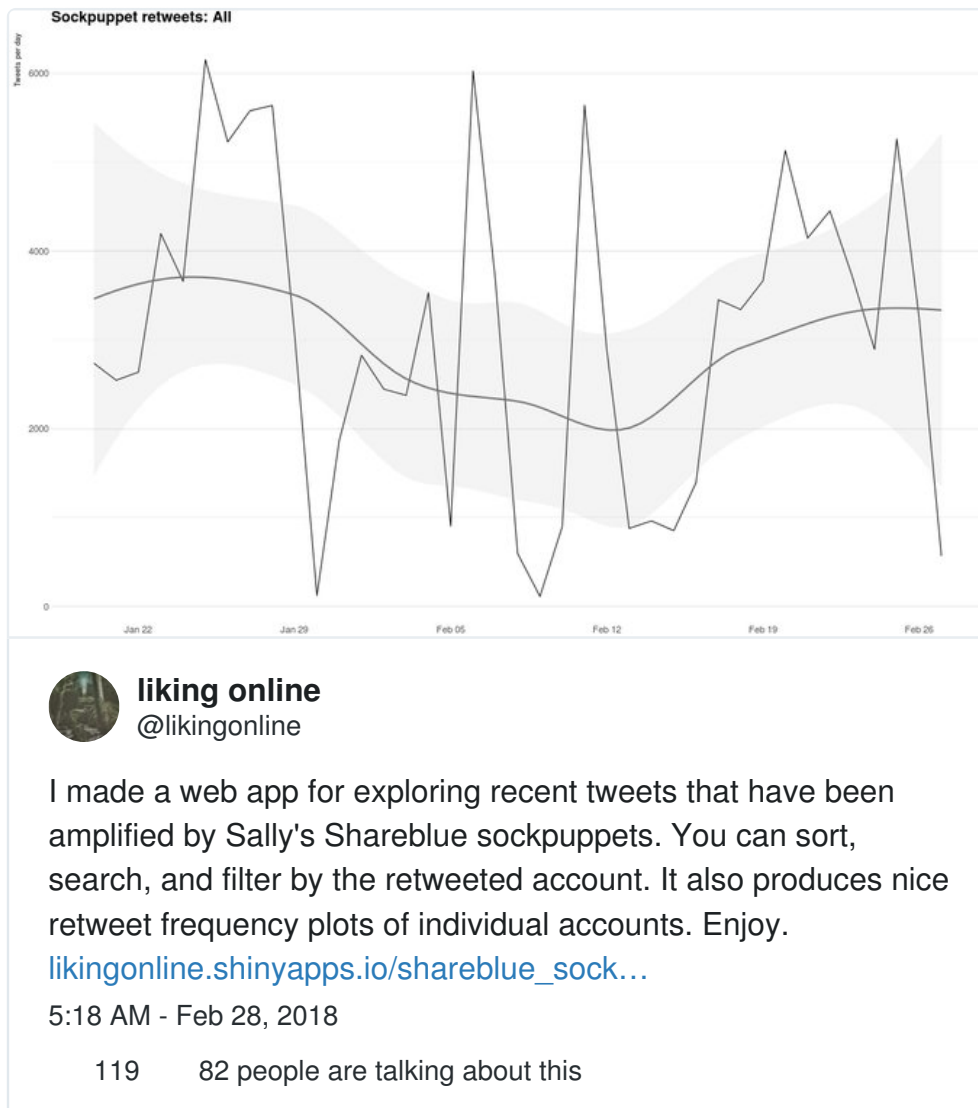
@likingonline

Proud of you for calling out [@mikefarb1](#) on his grift & failure to show his work. We eagerly await you giving the same treatment to [@SecureDemocracy](#) for failing to show their work Re: Hamilton68. twitter.com/RVAwonk/status...

7:53 AM - Feb 22, 2018

18 See liking online's other Tweets

In the spirit of openness and education, you can explore, visualize, and download the data from ~250k retweets from these sockpuppets here.



Some of my favorites:

Queen Bravenak Wonderbitch laughs at propaganda

BravenakBlog
@kthalps @Ange_Amene @SlowasaFish

ing black women to defend wealthy white women again, Katie? Amazing how economic equality people always find a way to make wealthy white people the opposite of black voters. Not a good thing, Katie.

4 Jan 2018

151 Likes

liking online
@likingonline

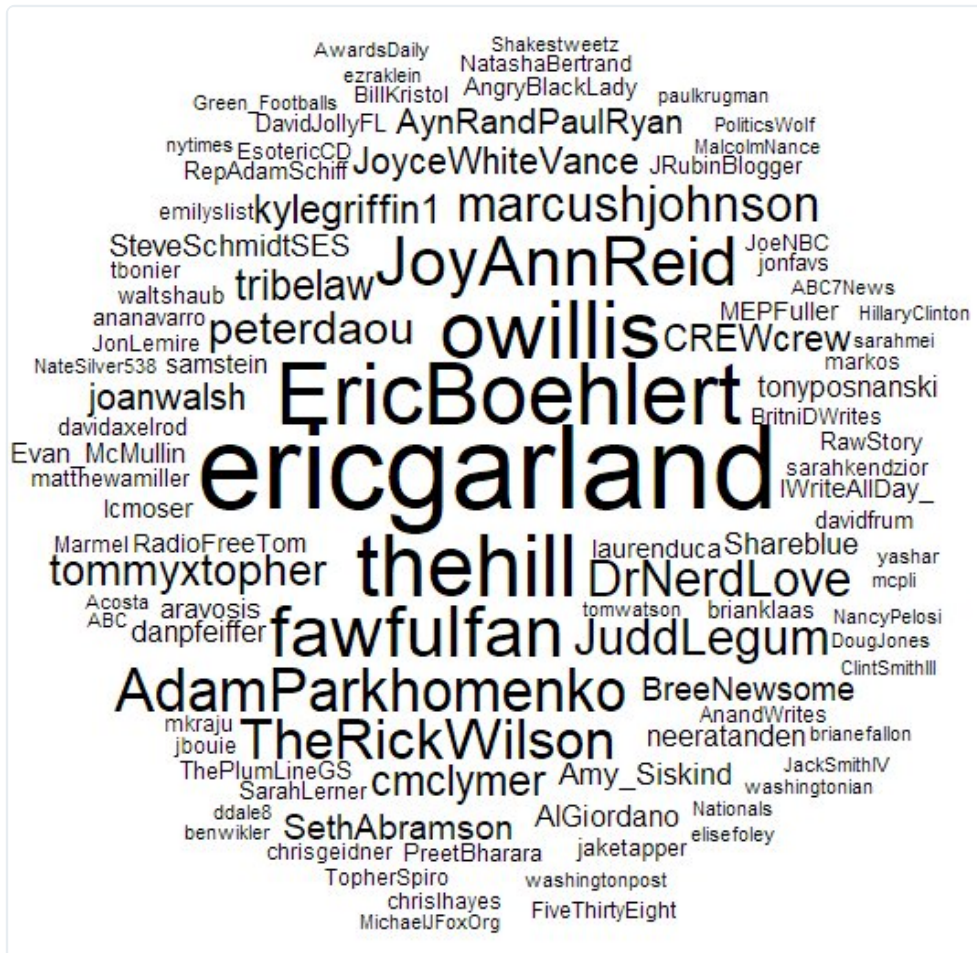
Replying to @likingonline

How about we see what other messages she is getting paid to amplify? Hey look here's a popular clapback.. Nope, it's just Sally.

7:41 AM - Jan 26, 2018

111 51 people are talking about this

You can read the original report here.



liking online

@likingonline

Here's my fresh Shareblue astroturf analysis and write-up. Just in time for troll indictment day, awesome.

shareblueastroturf.netlify.com

12:36 PM - Feb 16, 2018

509 369 people are talking about this

I also analyzed the database of 'malicious Russian linked tweets' from the IRA troll farm here.



liking online

@likingonline

A quick analysis of the database provided by NBC containing "200,000 tweets that Twitter has tied to "malicious activity" from Russia-linked accounts during the 2016 U.S. presidential election." [nbcnews.com/tech/social-me...](https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/social-me...)

3:00 PM - Feb 19, 2018

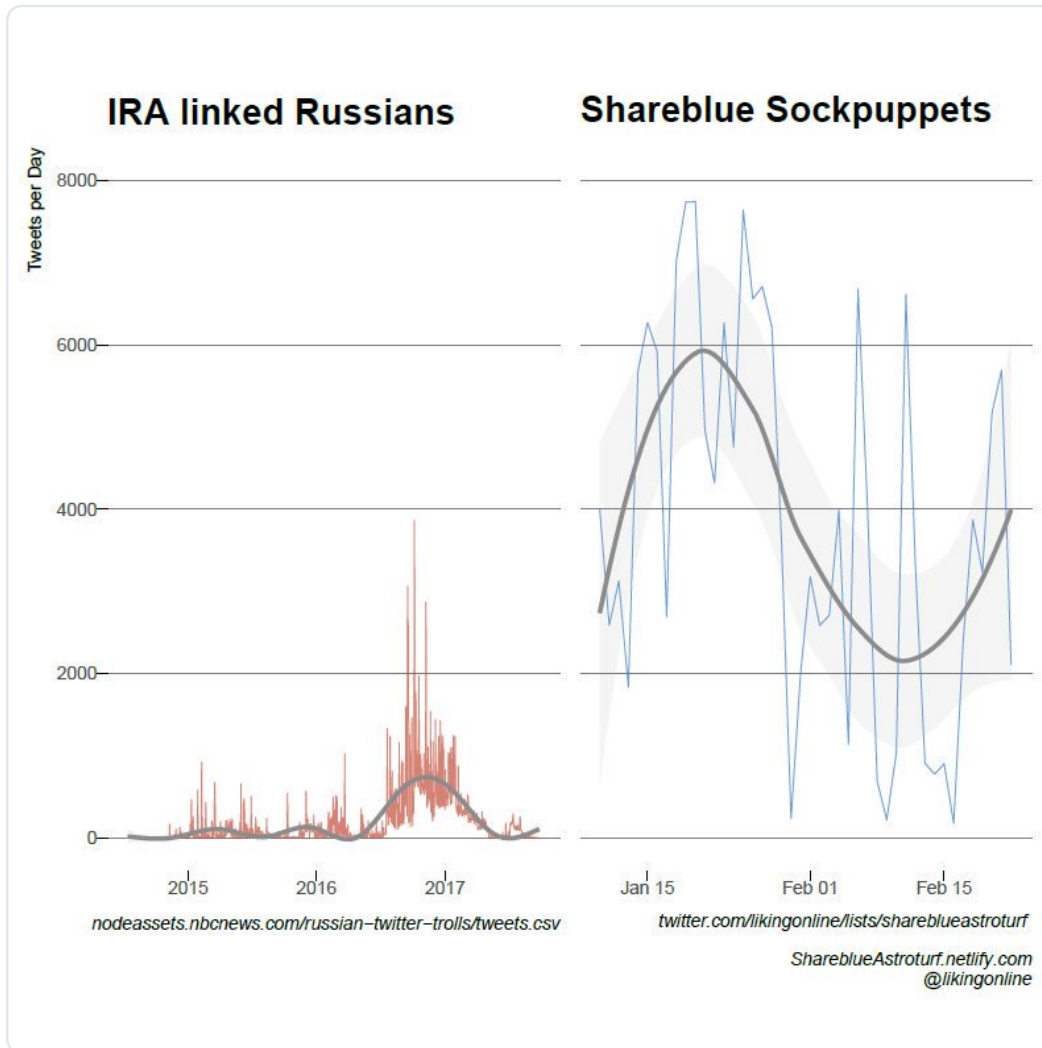


Twitter deleted Russian troll tweets. So we published more than 200,000 of them.

Twitter doesn't make it easy to track Russian propaganda efforts — this database can help
[nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com)

39 34 people are talking about this

This was the most interesting finding



liking online
[@likingonline](#)

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