

# How Mark Zuckerberg Totally Fucks Up Everything He Touches

Wed, 10 May 2023 10:01:07, swnof88, [post\_tag: immigration, post\_tag: amnesty, post\_tag: big-business, post\_tag: big-government, post\_tag: capitol-hill, post\_tag: chamber-of-commerce, post\_tag: daca, post\_tag: daca-amnesty, post\_tag: deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals, post\_tag: facebook, post\_tag: fwd-us, post\_tag: how-mark-zuckerberg-totally-fucks-up-everything-he-touches, post\_tag: ibm, post\_tag: mark-zuckerberg, post\_tag: mass-immigration, post\_tag: microsoft, category: news, post\_tag: open-borders, post\_tag: us-chamber-of-commerce]

# How Mark Zuckerberg Totally Fucks Up Everything He Touches

SOCIOPATH ASSHOLE WHO SPIES ON THE WORLD. READ ABOUT HOW ZUCK AND HIS DIGITAL PARTNERS DESTROYED DATING:

[pdfjs-viewer uri="https://topinfo.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Internet\_Dating\_Tips-1.6.pdf" attachment\_id="242097" viewer\_width=100% viewer\_height=800px fullscreen=true download=true print=true]

A few years on, Silicon Valley's brief obsession with the metaverse has assumed the quality of a bad dream, half-remembered. Legless avatars beckoned us into [barren digital landscapes](#) to ... stand around and talk about NFTs? Parcels of "property" sold for millions of dollars? It was a ... virtual world? No? A mixed-reality game? No? A new frontier? An

escape from meatspace? A layer on top of it? Companies raised and spent

dollars on the metaverse without ever quite getting their stories straight about what it was supposed to be or do — they didn't just lack a good pitch beyond "getting in early," they lacked a coherent concept to pitch in the first place.

The metaverse was a term in search of a trend; a trope in search of instantiation; a failed act of summoning by leaders who really thought they could control the weather. In an obituary [published on Insider](#), Ed Zitron suggests the ultimate cause of death was the arrival of yet another next big thing:

The Metaverse fell seriously ill as the economy slowed and the hype around generative AI grew. Microsoft shuttered its virtual-workspace platform [AltspaceVR](#) in January 2023, laid off the 100 members of its "industrial metaverse team," and made a series of cuts to its HoloLens team. Disney shuttered its Metaverse division in March, and Walmart followed suit by ending its Roblox-based Metaverse projects. The billions of dollars invested and the breathless hype around a half-baked concept led to thousands — if not tens of thousands — of people losing their jobs.

But the Metaverse was officially pulled off life support when it became clear that Zuckerberg and the company that launched the craze had moved on to greener financial pastures. Zuckerberg declared in a March update that Meta's "single largest investment is advancing AI and building it into every one of our products."

He lays a great deal of responsibility for the hype at the feet — or in the space below the floating torso — of one man. "Zuckerberg misled everyone, burned tens of billions of dollars, convinced an industry of followers to submit to his quixotic obsession, and then killed it the second that another idea started to interest Wall Street," he writes. Which is fair: Changing Facebook's name to Meta was a bold attempt not just to rebrand a company but to set an industry agenda, and while it ultimately failed, it sort of worked for a while.

## Zuckerberg smirks as he's told 'perhaps you believe you are above the law?'

One question worth dwelling on, however, is why it worked at all — and why people like Zuckerberg were so zealously committed to it, despite the massive costs. Low interest rates couldn't have hurt. Crypto-adjacency had something to do with it. A sense of impending stagnation among tech giants surely provided some anxious fuel. Maybe they just read *Snow Crash* in high school and thought: *What if that, but not cool?*

Empty offices and newly [empowered](#) employees drove some tech executives *out of their minds*, and the Metaverse promised a solution, or at least functioned as a response. It represented an intoxicating fantasy, just not one that most of us would recognize — or, if we did, one that we might recognize as sort of a nightmare.

Executive fantasies — and executive autonomy in general — get short shrift in most popular theories about How Things Work, I think, especially in the tech industry, where superstar founders and CEOs are given considerable deference and leeway. They live weird lives, develop idiosyncratic views of the world, and have unusual amounts of power. It's fair to assume that the leadership at a big tech firm is interested in maximizing efficiency and profit, for themselves or for shareholders. It's the job description and often explains a lot, but not everything — sometimes it legitimizes what can seem like much more instinctual and personal decisions made under the auspices of the cold logic of capitalism. It certainly falls short in the case of Elon Musk's Twitter, for example, where executive whims are the only thing with any remaining explanatory power.

Consider what crypto looked like from the very top: not just a potentially promising area for investment, a modest but meaningful grassroots phenomenon among users, or an engine for wealth, but also the crude fantasy of total regulatory freedom, a path to a stateless, tech-centric world. AI, too, represents, among other things, a profound tech-exec fantasy: an endless supply of cheap and obedient labor and a chance to take ownership of the means, of, well, everything. The metaverse was for Facebook/Meta, as Zitron suggests, a "means to an increased share price," but it also resembled an executive crusade — it was the awkward Zuck in those metaverse announcement videos, more animated than he's ever been — and it's not that hard to imagine why.

The metaverse was another supreme executive fantasy. Most broadly, it offered the prospect of a new frontier, the likes of which Zuckerberg hasn't seen since, well, his conquest of the last one. More immediately, it was a way to make remote work more like in-office work for everyone, but [especially for bosses](#), who understood it as a way to regain control and authority over their newly WFHing employees. It was a theoretical solution to the suddenly pressing problem of expensive and empty real estate — replacing a finite resource with an infinite one. (Meta has long talked about being a remote-work-friendly company but pays for millions of square feet of office space around the world.) From one executive to an audience of other executives, the metaverse — at least Zuck's take on it — offered a vision of the future in which everything was different but also pretty much the same: a disruptive technology that maintained the basic order of things, and where you once again knew what your employees were up to, even if they were just avatars.

[Mark Zuckerberg did everything in his power to avoid Facebook becoming the next MySpace - but forgot one crucial detail..... No one likes a lying asshole \(archive fo\)](#)

A rational CEO thinking about his shareholders certainly could have made any number of bad or misguided choices in Mark Zuckerberg's position, especially under the strange circumstances of a pandemic; still, it's hard to explain *Meta* without an unusually empowered CEO becoming intensely committed to a fantasy that, then and now, didn't resonate much with anyone but him, and maybe an audience of similarly disoriented corporate leaders.

What was unusual about the metaverse from the outside, circa 2021, was how little it offered to anyone *but* executives, who alternated between hyping it as imminent, far-off, or as already existing in games like *Roblox*, which was [news](#) to the millions of people playing them. It felt uncanny and hollow, and when people stopped talking about it so much, nobody who wasn't directly invested seemed to care. It's true that Silicon Valley has shifted its attention to AI, but what really killed the metaverse was workers returning to the office. In 2022, outside of tech, major firms that had shifted to remote work started demanding employees come back. In the tech industry, which has traditionally been fairly amenable to remote work, a season of brutal layoffs was accompanied by more stringent return-to-office plans. In a March [update](#) to staff and investors, which made only passing references to the Metaverse, Zuckerberg wrote about the need for a "year of efficiency":

Our early analysis of performance data suggests that engineers who either joined Meta in-person and then transferred to remote or remained in-person performed better on average than people who joined remotely. This analysis also shows that engineers earlier in their career perform better on average when they work in-person with teammates at least three days a week.

From the outside, this reads like an anti-pitch for the metaverse office, which Meta had been pitching just a few months earlier — or, for Zuckerberg, maybe just a dream deferred until the [graphics are](#) good enough.

Accenture's virtual office in the metaverse <pic.twitter.com/igqThmEWHZ>

— Shirin Ghaffary (@shiringhaffary) [October 11, 2022](#)

It's fitting that Sam Altman, OpenAI CEO and the avatar of the industry's next executive fantasy, is the one who wants to bury the last one. "I think definitely one of the tech industry's worst mistakes in a long time was that everybody could go full remote forever," he said in an interview this week. "I would say that the experiment on that is over, and the technology is not yet good enough that people can be full remote forever."

[Mark Zuckerberg is Scum of the Earth - Mark Dice breaks down the massive pile of shit disguised as a human being \(booktube.com\)](#)

[The first rule of Facebook is don't talk about anyone Mark Zuckerberg doesn't like, or you'll be banned by Facebook. That isn't a joke. It's literally their new policy. \(youtube.com\)](#)

Big (personal) data is becoming big tech's new currency — and most definitely a commodity well beyond its obvious usefulness, the latest revelation about Facebook's dubious business practices seems to suggest.

Leaked Facebook emails, chat logs, minutes from meetings and various other documents dating back to between 2011 and 2015 show that the company was willing to abuse personal user data in a number of ways in order to advance its business.

[NBC News said](#) that it has had access to the leaked material, consisting of thousands of pages. The picture they paint is of CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his executives playing ruthless corporate games in deliberate disregard of the privacy of billions of Facebook subscribers.

Facebook has now been exposed as using its unique, massive personal data collection to reward or punish allies and competition, as the case may be. While publicly declaring its commitment to user privacy, the company was looking for ways to use the data it collects to its maximum advantage.

As if sharing it to third-parties operating on its platform was not enough, the social media giant sought to trade it for more advertising money coming its way from other giants, such as Amazon, or to deny it to direct competition, such as an unnamed chat app, the broadcaster is reporting. And occasionally, the documents show, Zuckerberg would allow access to this digital gold mine to developers who were his "personal friends."

Facebook has denied that it favored companies and developers for their advertising dollars, or for the sake of personal ties — and while it may be unethical, the practice laid out in the documents leaked anonymously and shared by UK investigative journalist Duncan Campbell with three media outlet, has not given rise to accusations that these actions were illegal, NBC News said.

But it should give pause to Facebook users who are discovering the arrogance of the company that likes to speak with a forked tongue: calming concerns about its practices through PR efforts, and then giving the issue of privacy little to no regard, as the leaked documents show. Instead, Facebook was feverishly attempting to (ab)use the sensitive private data at its disposal, for all it is worth.

[Watch creepy Mark Zuckerberg sweat profusely . \(youtube.com\)](#)

## [THE CORRUPTION OF ZUCKERBERG](#)

### [You Give Apps Sensitive Info. Then They Tell FACEBOOK...](#)

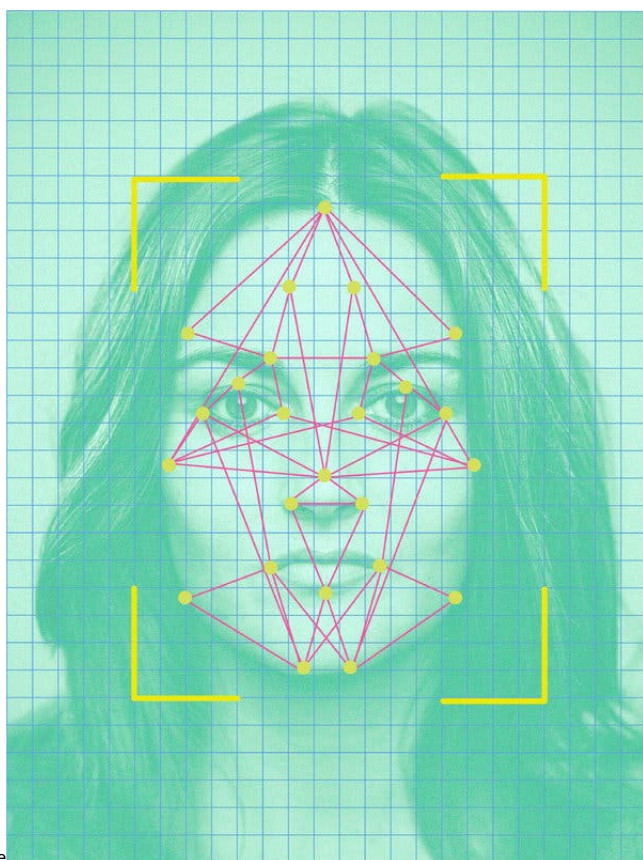
### [Buried code reveals Zuckerberg threat to attack PINTEREST...](#)

## **THE LYING BERGS OF FACEBOOK - ZUCKERBERG AND SANDBERG**

### [Zuckerberg at center of new FACEBOOK firestorm...](#)

[Sandberg changes story about company hired to attack critics...](#)

### **Facebook's Patents Prove That Push for Zuckerberg's Facial Recognition Tech Should Prompt Horror In Private Citizens**



Image

CreditMinh Uong/The New York Times

By [Natasha Singer](#)

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When Facebook rolled out facial recognition tools in the European Union this year, it promoted the technology as a way to help people safeguard their online identities.

"Face recognition technology allows us to help protect you from a stranger using your photo to impersonate you," Facebook told its users in Europe.

It was a risky move by the social network. Six years earlier, it had deactivated the technology in Europe after regulators there [raised questions](#) about its facial recognition consent system. Now, Facebook was reintroducing the service as part of an update of its user permission process in Europe.

Yet Facebook is taking a huge reputational risk in aggressively pushing the technology at a time when its data-mining practices are under heightened scrutiny in the United States and Europe. Already, more than a dozen privacy and consumer groups, and at least a few officials, argue that the company's use of facial recognition has violated people's privacy by not obtaining appropriate user consent. The complaints add to the barrage of criticism facing the Silicon Valley giant over its handling of users' personal details. [Several American government agencies](#) are currently investigating Facebook's response to the harvesting of its users' data by [Cambridge Analytica](#), a political consulting firm.

Facebook's push to spread facial recognition also puts the company at the center of a broader and intensifying debate about how the powerful technology should be handled. The technology can be used to remotely identify people by name without their knowledge or consent. While proponents view it as a high-tech tool to catch criminals, civil liberties experts warn it could enable a mass surveillance system.

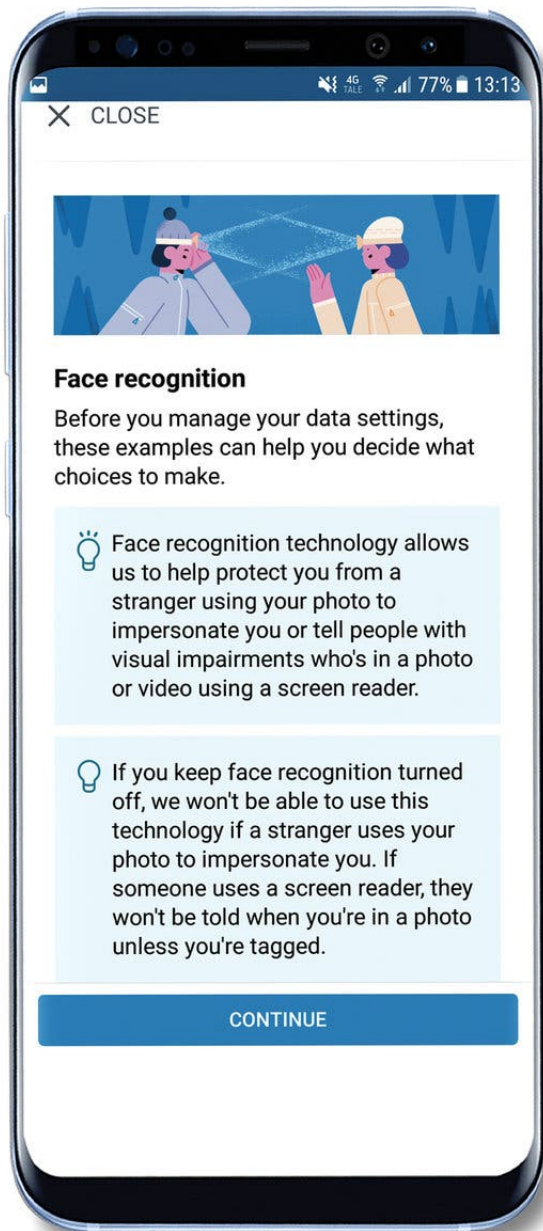
Facial recognition works by scanning faces of unnamed people in photos or videos and then matching codes of their facial patterns to those in a database of named people. Facebook has said that users are in charge of that process, telling them: "You control face recognition."

But critics said people cannot actually control the technology — because Facebook scans their faces in photos even when their facial recognition setting is turned off.

"Facebook tries to explain their practices in ways that make Facebook look like the good guy, that they are somehow protecting your privacy," said [Jennifer Lynch](#), a senior staff attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights group. "But it doesn't get at the fact that they are scanning every photo." Rochelle Nadhiri, a Facebook spokeswoman, said its system analyzes faces in users' photos to check whether they match with those who have their facial recognition setting turned on. If the system cannot find a match, she said, it does not identify the unknown face and immediately deletes the facial data.

At the heart of the issue is Facebook's approach to user consent.

In the European Union, [a tough new data protection law](#) called the General Data Protection Regulation now requires companies to obtain explicit and "freely given" consent before collecting sensitive information like facial data. Some critics, including the former government official who originally proposed the new law, contend that Facebook tried to improperly influence user consent by promoting facial recognition as an identity protection tool.



Image

Facebook notified users in Europe this year that they could choose to turn on the social network's facial recognition services. Some critics say Facebook tried to manipulate consent by promoting the service as an identity protection tool.

"Facebook is somehow threatening me that, if I do not buy into face recognition, I will be in danger," said Viviane Reding, [the former justice commissioner](#) of the European Commission who is now a member of the European Parliament. "It goes completely against the European law because it tries to manipulate consent."

European regulators also have concerns about Facebook's facial recognition practices. In Ireland, where Facebook's international headquarters are, a spokeswoman for the Data Protection Commission said regulators "have put a number of specific queries to Facebook in respect of this technology." Regulators were assessing Facebook's responses, she said.

In the United States, Facebook is fighting a lawsuit brought by Illinois residents claiming the company's face recognition practices violated a state privacy law. Damages in the case, certified as a class action in April, could amount to [billions of dollars](#). In May, an appeals court granted Facebook's request to delay the trial and review the class certification order.

Nikki Sokol, associate general counsel at Facebook, said in a statement, "This lawsuit is without merit and we will defend ourselves vigorously." Separately, [privacy and consumer groups](#) lodged a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission in April saying Facebook added facial recognition services, like the feature to help identify impersonators, without obtaining prior consent from people before turning it on. The groups argued that Facebook violated [a 2011 consent decree](#) that prohibits it from deceptive privacy practices.

"Facebook routinely makes misrepresentations to induce consumers to adopt wider and more pervasive uses of facial recognition technology," the complaint said.

Ms. Nadhiri said Facebook had designed its consent process to comply with the new European law and had previewed its approach with European regulators. As to the privacy groups' complaint, she said the social network had notified users about expanded facial recognition services.

"We provide clear information to people about how we use face recognition technology," Ms. Nadhiri wrote in an email. The company's recently updated privacy section, she added, "shows people how the setting works in simple language."

Facebook is hardly the only tech giant to embrace facial recognition technology. Over the last few years, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft have filed facial recognition patent applications.

In May, civil liberties groups criticized Amazon for marketing [facial technology](#), called Rekognition, [to police departments](#). The company has said the technology has also been used to find lost children at amusement parks and other purposes. (The New York Times has also [used Amazon's technology, including](#) for the recent royal wedding.)

Critics said Facebook took an early lead in consumer facial recognition services partly by turning on the technology as the default option for users. In 2010, it introduced a photo-labeling feature called [Tag Suggestions](#) that used face-matching software to suggest the names of people in users' photos. People could turn it off. But privacy experts said Facebook had neither obtained users' opt-in consent for the technology nor explicitly informed them that the company could benefit from scanning their photos. "When Tag Suggestions asks you 'Is this Jill?' you don't think you are annotating faces to improve Facebook's face recognition algorithm," said Brian Brackeen, the chief executive of [Kairos, a facial recognition company](#). "Even the premise is an unfair use of people's time and labor." The huge trove of identified faces, he added, enabled Facebook to quickly develop one of the world's most powerful commercial facial recognition engines. In 2014, Facebook [researchers said](#) they had trained face-matching software "on the largest facial dataset to date, an identity labeled dataset of four million facial images." Ms. Nadhiri said Facebook had consulted with privacy experts on its photo-tagging feature. It also recently notified users in the United States who had the site's face-identification services turned on that they could turn them off, she said. "We have always respected people's choices," she said. But Facebook may only be getting started with its facial recognition services. The social network has applied for various patents, many of them still under consideration, which show how it could use the technology to track its online users in the real world.

One patent application, published last November, described a system that could detect consumers within stores and match those shoppers' faces with their social networking profiles. Then it could analyze the characteristics of their friends, and other details, using the information to determine a "trust level" for each shopper. Consumers deemed "trustworthy" could be eligible for special treatment, like automatic access to merchandise in locked display cases, the document said. Another Facebook patent filing described how cameras near checkout counters could capture shoppers' faces, match them with their social networking profiles and then send purchase confirmation messages to their phones. In their F.T.C. complaint, privacy groups — led by the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a nonprofit research institution — said the patent filings showed how Facebook could make money from users' faces. A [previous EPIC complaint](#) about Facebook helped precipitate [a consent decree](#) requiring the company to give users more control over their personal details. "Facebook's patent applications attest to the company's primary commercial purposes in expanding its biometric data collection and the pervasive uses of facial recognition technology that it envisions for the near future," the current complaint said. Ms. Nadhiri said that Facebook often sought patents for technology it never put into effect and that patent filings were not an indication of the company's plans. But legal filings in the class-action suit hint at the technology's importance to Facebook's business. The case was brought by Illinois consumers who said that Facebook collected and stored their facial data without their explicit, prior consent — in violation, they claim, of a state biometric privacy law. If the suit were to move forward, Facebook's lawyers argued in a recent court document, "the reputational and economic costs to Facebook will be irreparable."

## SF Supervisor Pushes to Remove Bastard Zuckerberg Name From SF General Hospital

By [Stephen Ellison](#)





Getty Images

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center took the Zuckerberg name in 2015 after the Facebook CEO donated \$75 million. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin is trying to get Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's name removed from a local hospital in response to the recent scandals connected to the social media giant, according to a report in [Business Insider](#).

Peskin on Tuesday asked the city attorney how to go about removing Zuckerberg's name from San Francisco General Hospital, a facility to which Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan donated \$75 million, Business Insider reported.

Peskin also asked that the city revisit its policy on offering naming rights in exchange for gifts, according to remarks provided to the business site.

Earlier this year, nurses working at the hospital protested over the attachment of the Facebook CEO's name to the facility in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan donated \$75 million to the institution in 2015 in exchange for naming rights. But Peskin believes the name now reflects poorly on the city.

"We'll see what my colleagues in the public think about this, but I think it's a wakeup call to Facebook that it's time to reform their corporate culture," he said.

If the city ultimately approves removing the name, it may have to return some or all of the money donated by Zuckerberg should he request it.

## **FACEBOOK MODERATORS BREAK NDAS TO EXPOSE COMPANY IN CRISIS, ZUCKERBERG CLINICALLY INSANE WITH POWER...**

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[You are just a number for the DNC to manipulate - Facebook - New Revealing Documents Show Zuckerberg Considered Selling Private Data. \(archive.fo\)](#)

## **America has no sovereignty. Mark Zuckerbergs open borders lobbying group push for amnesty of 3.3 million DACA illegal aliens. (breitbart.com)**

### **Zuckerberg, U.S. Chamber Bring DACA Illegals to Capitol Hill to Push Year-End Amnesty**



RODRIGO BUENDIA/AFP/Getty

by [John Binder](#) 15 Nov 2017 Washington, D.C.0

### **Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's open borders lobbying group and the United States Chamber of Commerce has teamed up to push an end-of-the-year plan to give amnesty to upwards of 3.3 million illegal aliens.**

FWD.us, Zuckerberg's pro-immigration lobbying organization, has orchestrated efforts with the Chamber of Commerce to bring illegal aliens enrolled in the President Obama-created Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to Capitol Hill to lobby members of Congress to pass an amnesty for the nearly 800,000 to 3.3 million illegal aliens.

Zuckerberg's group and the Chamber of Commerce are working with IBM and the Microsoft Corporation to get illegal aliens into meetings with lawmakers in order to promote an amnesty plan, as described in the FWD.us [statement](#).

In September, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced on behalf of President Trump's administration that the DACA program would be officially ended in March 2018. Since the announcement, big business leaders, the open borders lobby and both GOP and Democrat political establishments have been scrambling to craft and quickly pass an amnesty for the DACA illegal aliens.

Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Neil Bradley said it would be "unthinkable" to not give an amnesty to DACA recipients and illegal aliens who are eligible for DACA.

"The clock is ticking for hundreds of thousands of people who have become an integral part of our communities and economy," Bradley said in a statement. "A failure to achieve a meaningful solution for DACA would have a negative impact on our economy and our society. It is unthinkable for a nation of immigrants to fail to address this crisis before these hardworking people are forced out their jobs, schools, and communities."

Ran into [@Darrellssa](#) today! Thank you for recognizing that immigration is good for business. We need to pass a bipartisan Dream Act now! [#DreamActNow @FWD\\_us pic.twitter.com/vgfv7SLg](#)

— Gabriela Batista (@batista\_gaby) [November 15, 2017](#)



Likewise, IBM Vice President Christopher Padilla touted in a statement the multinational corporation's hiring of DACA illegal aliens.

"Every day Dreamers make positive contributions to our company and our economy," Padilla said. "We have over 30 Dreamers who work at IBM, and I've had the chance to meet many of them over the past couple weeks when they've come to DC to share their stories directly with Members of Congress."

"IBM stands by our Dreamers and we are encouraging Congress to pass legislation before the end of the year that would allow these young men and women to continue living and working in the only country many of them have ever known," Padilla continued.

Thank you [@RepRickCrawford](#) for meeting with us to discuss why we need a permanent solution for [#Dreamers!](#) [@FWD\\_us pic.twitter.com/7eke0flamP](#)

— Nez (@nezylsilva) [November 15, 2017](#)

Padilla's promoting of DACA illegal alien employees at IBM come just as the company employs more people in India, not the U.S. than any other country in the world, [Breitbart Tech](#) reported. In India, the average IBM salary is roughly \$17,000 a year. In the U.S., the average IBM salary comes in at \$100,000 for senior IT specialists.

At the same time, IBM has consistently lobbied for more foreign workers to be imported to the U.S. through the H-1B visa instead of hiring qualified Americans. Between 2014 and 2016 alone, IBM CEO Ginni Rometty attempted to [import nearly](#) 25,000 foreign workers to take U.S. jobs.

The DREAM Act is one of the largest amnesties for DACA illegal aliens that have been crafted thus far in Congress, allowing not just those on the DACA rolls to permanently remain in the U.S., but also those who are eligible for DACA.

The amnesty legislation would apply to roughly 3.3 million illegal aliens in the U.S., according to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), and would set at least 1.7 million of those illegal aliens on a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Once given U.S. citizenship, illegal aliens are then allowed to bring their foreign relatives to the U.S. in what is known as "chain migration." As [Breitbart News](#) has reported, a DACA chain migration could range from a mass migration of 9.9 to 19 million foreign nationals entering the U.S. over the next few decades.

[#Illinois](#) delegation is out here fighting to [#protectDreamers!](#)

Today, 100+ [#Dreamers](#) & business leaders from across America are in DC to meet with their Members of Congress & urge them to pass a bipartisan [#DreamAct](#) this year. [#DreamActNow pic.twitter.com/MSr3EEC3rr](#)

— FWD.us (@FWD\_us) [November 15, 2017](#)

*John Binder is a reporter for Breitbart News. Follow him on Twitter at [@JxhnBinder](#).*

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## Zuckerberg Mentor: We Must Make Voters Think What We Want Them To Think

12 Jun 2018 Washington, D.C. [865](#)

Technology investor and former mentor to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Roger McNamee says consumers should not be given the ability to decide what is fake news, arguing that "leaving it to the audience to make those picks is how we got here" during an event on free speech, "misinformation", and the need for transparency.

"Einstein had a great thing, right, when he said you can't solve a problem using the same tools that got you into the problem in the first place," McNamee told the audience after Breitbart News asked his panel — "The Effects of Information Bottlenecks: Propaganda, Misinformation, Loss of Privacy" — why users shouldn't be allowed to decide what fake news is and whether the implication is users are too stupid.

"The problem with this whole thing is not that people are stupid, it is that they've been taught to prefer sensation over substance. They've been taught to favor trending over durable," McNamee, managing director of Elevation Partners, countered.

During the panel's discussion, however, McNamee emphasized his concern about the "misplaced trust in technology" and the concentration of power "in the hands of a few people."



Open Markets@openmarkets

"One of the things that really concerns me is this misplaced trust in technology." [@Moonalice #BreakingTheNews](#)

[8:37 AM - Jun 12, 2018](#)

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[2](#)

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[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)



Open Markets@openmarkets

"All of these issues are about too much power being concentrated in the hands of a few people." [@Moonalice #BreakingTheNews](#)

[8:53 AM - Jun 12, 2018](#)

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[3](#)

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**Full transcript:**

**Question:** On this whole question of fake news and the need for algorithms and transparency, why not just let users decide what's fake news on their own? Is the implication that they're too stupid otherwise?

**McNamee:** So, here's what the problem is: Facebook and Google are like [a] magician doing a card trick. You pick your friends, you pick the links you link on, and you think to yourself, 'I have agency here'.

That is not actually what's going on. There are literally, at any moment in time, a million things Facebook could put in your newsfeed that would be appropriate. They pick the 20 designed — in their mind — to have the highest probability of causing an outrage cycle, because outrage is what gets you to be most engaged, to share the most, spend the most time, and see the most ads.

So Facebook's strategy of getting rid of journalism in the newsfeed and promoting groups and family and friends is based on this issue that you trust what your friends send you.

The problem with that trust is that the sources of the material that the friends are sending, the quality of that, has collapsed, right, as disinformation has replaced information economy.

And we now know, thanks to MIT, that [content] spreads 70 percent further and it goes six times as fast if its disinformation over real information.

So **the problem with this whole thing is not that people are stupid, it is that they've been taught to prefer sensation over substance. They've been taught to favor trending over durable.** And, my simple observation on this is that **leaving it to the audience to make those picks is how we got here.**

So, Einstein had a great thing, right, when he said **you can't solve a problem using the same tools that got you into the problem in the first place.** *[emphasis added]*

**Hosted** by Open Markets Institute, the event "Breaking the News: Free Speech & Democracy in the age of Platform Monopoly" featured a number of keynote speakers and panelists from the tech and journalism industries, as well as politicians and legal experts.

**Watch the full panel discussion below:**



## Zuckerberg acknowledges sociopath arrogant SJW billionaire 'mistakes' as Facebook turns 14

CEO Mark Zuckerberg marked the 14th anniversary of the founding of Facebook with reflections on mistakes he has made in building the biggest social network

Mark Zuckerberg offered fresh self-criticism Monday, acknowledging making numerous mistakes in building the world's biggest social network as Facebook marked its 14th birthday.

"Over the years, I've made almost every mistake you can imagine," the Facebook co-founder said on his [personal page](#).

"I've made dozens of technical errors and bad deals. I've trusted the wrong people and I've put talented people in the wrong roles. I've missed important trends and I've been slow to others. I've launched product after product that failed."

The post, a reflection of the 14 years since Zuckerberg launched Facebook as a Harvard student, was the latest to acknowledge problems in the social network that has grown to some two billion users but has also been criticized for enabling misinformation and manipulation.

In recent weeks, Facebook has unveiled steps to refocus on family and friends, even if that means [people](#) spend less time on the network.

Monday's post suggested a continual re-evaluation of how Facebook works.

"The reason our community exists today is not because we avoided mistakes," Zuckerberg wrote.

"It's because we believe what we're doing matters enough to keep trying to solve our greatest challenges—knowing full well that we'll fail again and again, but that it's the only way to make progress."

[Mark Zuckerberg: People are spending 50 million fewer hours on Facebook a day so it is harder to turn them into Democrats! \(phys.org\)](#)

## Zuckerberg tax-evasion write-off hospital aggressive tactics leave patients with big bills

### I spent a year writing about ER bills. Zuckerberg San Francisco General has the most surprising billing practices I've seen.

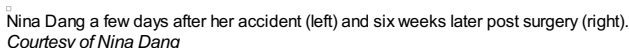
By [Sarah KliffSarah@vox.com](mailto:Sarah.KliffSarah@vox.com)

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On April 3, Nina Dang, 24, found herself in a position like so many San Francisco bike riders — on the pavement with a broken arm.

A bystander saw her fall and called an ambulance. She was semi-lucid for that ride, awake but unable to answer basic questions about where she lived. Paramedics took her to the emergency room at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, where doctors X-rayed her arm and took a CT scan of her brain and spine. She left with her arm in a splint, on pain medication, and with a recommendation to follow up with an orthopedist.

A few months later, Dang got a bill for \$24,074.50. Premera Blue Cross, her health insurer, would only cover \$3,830.79 of that — an amount that it thought was fair for the services provided. That left Dang with \$20,243.71 to pay, which the hospital threatened to send to collections in mid-December.

  
Nina Dang a few days after her accident (left) and six weeks later post surgery (right).  
*Courtesy of Nina Dang*

"Eight months after my bike accident, I'm still thinking about [the bill], which is crazy to me," Dang says.

Dang's experience with Zuckerberg San Francisco General is not unique. Vox reviewed five patient bills from the hospital's emergency room, in consultation with medical billing experts, and found that the hospital's billing can cost privately insured patients tens of thousands of dollars for care that would likely cost them significantly less at other hospitals.

The bills were all submitted by patients to [Vox's Emergency Room Billing Database](#), which served as the basis for a year-long investigation into ER billing practices.

## [Help our reporting](#)

□

Hospitals keep ER fees secret. [Share your bill here](#) to help change that.

Zuckerberg San Francisco General (ZSFG), recently renamed for the Facebook founder after he donated [\\$75 million](#), is the largest public hospital in San Francisco and the city's only top-tier trauma center. But it doesn't participate in the networks of any private health insurers — a surprise patients like Dang learn after assuming their coverage includes a trip to a large public ER.

Most big hospital ERs negotiate prices for care with major health insurance providers and are considered "in-network." Zuckerberg San Francisco General has not done that bargaining with private plans, making them "out-of-network." That leaves many insured patients footing big bills.

The problem is especially acute for patients like Dang: those who are brought to the hospital by ambulance, still recovering from a trauma and with little ability to research or choose an in-network facility.

A spokesperson for the hospital confirmed that ZSFG does not accept any private health insurance, describing this as a normal billing practice. He said the hospital's focus is on serving those with public health coverage — even if that means offsetting those costs with high bills for the privately insured.

"It's a pretty common thing," said Brent Andrew, the hospital spokesperson. "We're the trauma center for the whole city. Our mission is to serve people who are underserved because of their financial needs. We have to be attuned to that population."

□

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital where Nina Dang received emergency care.  
*Emma Marie Chiang for Vox*

But most medical billing experts say it is rare for major emergency rooms to be out-of-network with all private health plans.

"According to what I've seen, that's unusual," says Christopher Garmon, an economist at the University of Missouri Kansas City who [studies](#) surprise medical bills. "I've heard anecdotes of some hospitals trying a strategy like this but my impression is that it doesn't last very long."

The data backs him up: Garmon's [own research](#) finds that just 1 percent of ambulances end up at out-of-network emergency rooms.

Indeed, most other public trauma centers — including those nearby in [Sacramento, California](#) or [Portland](#) — all advertise a long list of health insurance plans they accept, right on their websites.

Patient advocates who reviewed the San Francisco bills were surprised by the practice, too.

"It's really unusual for this to be the case. Usually, it's the doctors who are often out of network. For the ER to be out of network? That's a bit odd," says Robert Berman with Systemedic, a medical billing advocacy firm that reviewed Dang's bills.

Two of the patients I interviewed were able to reverse their bills, both with significant time and effort. Three are still contesting the charges, arguing that they couldn't have known that the hospital that an ambulance selected for them wasn't covered by their health insurance.

"It's terrifying and it's frustrating," says Alexa Sulvetta, 31, who has so far spent more than \$3,000 in legal fees contesting a \$31,000 bill from her emergency room visit. "It could make a huge impact on my credit at the point where we're thinking about buying a new house."

## **An unusual billing practice at San Francisco's only top-tier trauma center**

Founded in 1872, the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital estimates that it currently cares for one in five of the city's residents. It boasts that it is the city's "[busiest emergency room](#)." It sees about 80,000 patients annually and receives one-third of the city's ambulances.

In 2015, the hospital made [headlines](#) when it received a \$75 million gift from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, which [is believed](#) to be the largest donation ever to a public hospital in the United States. The hospital used the gift to help build a new trauma center, which opened in 2016.

"Priscilla and I believe that everyone deserves access to high quality health care," Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement released when he and Chan made the donation.



A spokesperson for the Zuckerberg Chan Foundation declined to comment for this story.

<sup>Q</sup> The Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center.  
*Emma Marie Chiang for Vox*

The large donation isn't the only thing that makes the hospital stand out.

Experts say it's abnormal for such a large hospital to be out-of-network with all private health insurers, as ZSFG is.

When doctors and hospitals join a given health insurance plan's network, they agree to specific rates for their services, everything from a routine physical to a complex surgery to an ER visit.

Doctors typically end up out-of-network when they can't come to that agreement. The doctors might think the insurance plan is offering rates that are too low, but the insurer argues that the doctor's prices are simply too high.

But hospitals themselves, particularly ERs, typically don't end up in disputes that wind up leaving them out-of-network. I've seen this in my own reporting. I've read [more than a thousand emergency room bills](#), and in nearly all of them the facility is "in-network" with the patient's insurance.

Garmon, the health economist, explains that insurers are almost always able to negotiate an "in-network" rate with major hospitals because patients want to use those facilities.

"In general, employer plans tend to be more inclusive in terms of the hospital facilities they have," says Garmon. "Not having a major hospital in-network is a big deal. It's the kind of thing that makes the newspapers and that you don't see often."

Garmon's [research](#) shows that about one in five emergency room patients ends up with a surprise medical bill from an out-of-network doctor working at their in-network hospital. But only about one in 100 patients ends up with a surprise bill because the hospital itself is out-of-network.

Unless states have laws regulating out-of-network billing — and [most don't](#) — patients often end up stuck in the middle of these contract disputes.

In the case of an emergency room visit, patients brought in by ambulance often have little to no say over where they're taken.

Andrew, the hospital spokesperson, conceded that the insurance policy can leave patients like Dang in a tough place.

<sup>Q</sup> Nina Dang points to the total charges of medical bills for \$24,074.50 from the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Her account number has been redacted for privacy.  
*Emma Marie Chiang for Vox*

"I do understand that situation is a problem for individuals who come in here who are insured," Andrew said. "She may feel like she didn't have a choice in coming here, and she might not have."

Still, he explained the hospital's out-of-network status in two ways. First, he said that insurers are the ones who get final say over who joins a network. Second, he emphasized that the hospital's primary mission is to serve vulnerable populations, such as the uninsured and low-income patients with Medicaid.

"For us, the challenge is we don't want to become just another hospital," he said. "Our mission is to serve people who are underserved because of their financial needs. We feel like we have to recoup what we're able to from people who are insured because we're supporting people who don't have insurance."

### **"I don't think there is any way to avoid this"**

Alicia Rodriguez, 28, ended up at Zuckerberg General with a debilitating migraine last January.

"I couldn't really move, and could barely hold the phone. I was incapacitated," says Rodriguez, who has had these migraines since high school. "I was able to call 911 and once they evaluated me, they said they wanted to take me to the emergency room."

A neurologist came to see Rodriguez in the emergency room, ultimately recommending a CT scan to ensure that she didn't have a brain tumor. She also received morphine to help treat the pain. The situation was familiar to Rodriguez: Because of her long history of migraines, she has previously received similar treatment at other emergency rooms in Northern California.

[Read more of Sarah Kliff's reporting on hidden emergency room fees.](#)

But the bill for this visit was quite different than the others because the hospital was out-of-network with her health insurance plan, Cigna. The hospital billed Rodriguez \$12,768. Cigna paid only \$2,767, leaving her with a bill just over \$10,000.

"I don't think there is any way to avoid this," she says. "They took me to the closest hospital. I wouldn't have been able to research the nearest in-network hospital. I couldn't see."

Rodriguez is currently appealing the bill to her insurance, asking Cigna to pay a higher price. She is optimistic that her appeal will be successful but, if it's not, would expect to file a complaint with the hospital and possibly state regulators.

"At this point it's been ongoing for an entire year," Rodriguez, who has since moved to Colorado, says. "Since January, I've known the bill is going to come. So there's always this thing that has been in the back of my mind."

### **"Not a sustainable solution": laws leave patients vulnerable to sky-high bills**

When Dang first got her \$20,243.71 bill, she turned to her health insurance plan, asking it to pay a higher portion of the fees. But the insurance denied that appeal, stating that it had already paid a reasonable fee to cover the services provided.

"You may be held responsible for any charges in excess of the allowable amount when receiving a covered service from a non-network provider," the letter stated. "This is commonly known as balance billing."

Premiera spokesperson Steve Kipp told me over email that the insurer paid roughly twice what Medicare would pay for the same services. Zuckerberg was billing 12 times the Medicare price. Dang's employer has since reached out to Premiera to see if they can negotiate a lower price directly with the hospital.

Patients like Dang and Rodriguez have little protection under state or federal law. While California actually has some of the most consumer-friendly laws to [protect some patients from surprise emergency bills](#), her health plan [doesn't fall](#) under those rules. Multiple senators have proposed [legislation in the Senate](#) to fix this problem, but those bills have so far seen little movement.

For now, most patients end up appealing their bills to the hospital, their insurance plans, or even the court system.

□ "Eight months after my bike accident, I'm still thinking about it," says Dang.  
*Emma Marie Chiang for Vox*

□ Dang's post-surgery scar approximately eight months after her bike accident.  
*Emma Marie Chiang for Vox*

In 2009, emergency room patients filed [a class action lawsuit](#) against the hospital. The lead plaintiff in the case wanted relief from the out-of-network bill he received after he had his thumb reattached there.

The judge ruled against the patients, finding that the hospital's behavior was legal under California insurance regulations.

"The way for patients to solve this is to bring the hospital to court on a small claims action, but at the end of the day, that is just not a sustainable solution," says Nicholas Carlin, the attorney who brought the suit.

Alexa Sulvetta is still contesting a \$31,250 bill she received last spring for treatment of a broken ankle after she fell from a rock climbing wall. As with other patients, the hospital was not in Sulvetta's insurance network. (I covered Sulvetta's case previously in a [separate story](#) about emergency room trauma fees.)

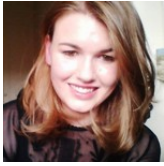
□ Alexa Sulvetta and her husband, Ben Verley, at their home in Oakland, California.  
*Heidi de Marco/KHN*

She received a \$113,336 bill for her one-day stay, and her insurance only agreed to pay a portion of that which it deemed reasonable — leaving Sulvetta with the \$31,250 bill.

Sulvetta retained a lawyer last December to fight the bill. She has so far gotten the bill reduced by \$8,000 — but also paid more than \$3,000 in legal fees.

"I'm hoping to get it down to under \$5,000 or \$10,000," she says. "It's frustrating that I have to hire a lawyer, but so far it's been worth it."

## Zuckerberg admits social media is a weapon, says Facebook in arms race against non-DNC minds



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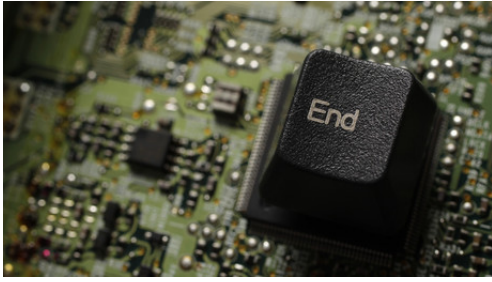
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If you had any lingering doubt that Facebook has become little more than a vehicle for US government censorship and Western propaganda, a recent Washington Post op-ed by Mark Zuckerberg should remove any ambiguity.

In his short and snappy op-ed, Mark Zuckerberg admits that "*protecting democracy*" is an "*arms race*" and reaffirms Facebook's commitment to winning. Put another way, Zuckerberg is telling us that social media is a weapon — and that he has picked a side.

[Read more](#)



[Five examples that show internet censorship is as much a threat to the left as the right](#)

Because, let's not labor under the false illusion that Facebook cares about democracy everywhere. In Zuckerberg's world, there are bad guys and good guys — and he's relying on the good guys to tell him what's what.

The problem is that, coincidentally, the good guys always seem to be tied to Western or Western-aligned governments — and the bad guys always just happen to be the ones those governments don't seem to like very much. A conundrum which I'm sure was totally unintentional and which Facebook is no doubt working very hard on figuring out. As he says in the Post, Facebook is working very hard to *"improve its defenses"* against any kind of unfair or nefarious influence and it has been doing its very best to remove *"fake accounts and bad content"* in recent months.

The military comparisons (*"arms race"* and *"improving our defenses"*) are perhaps more apt than Zuckerberg even intended, given that for some of this work, he has chosen to partner up with the Atlantic Council, which operates essentially as a soft-power lobbying wing for NATO, campaigning vociferously on behalf of the US-led military organization and championing its wars and *"interventions"* across the world.

[via GIPHY](#)

In a roundabout sort of way, Zuckerberg's op-ed is unintentionally honest, because a huge amount more can be inferred from what he doesn't say than what he does say.

Funnily enough, despite offering a list of actions Facebook has taken against what Zuckerberg calls *"bad actors"* online, the psyops and social media manipulation orchestrated by Western governments — chiefly, the US, UK and Israeli governments — don't get so much as a passing mention in his op-ed. This is odd, given his sincere and deep commitment to combating fake news and misinformation. Clearly, the little democracy fairies that whisper orders in his ear every day must have forgotten to mention them. I mean, let's give the guy a break. It's a big responsibility to have the fate of democracy resting on your shoulders.

But let's say someone did slip a note onto Zuckerberg's desk about some really nefarious stuff that's been going on under his nose for years. What might it say?

Well, it might mention a 2011 report in the Guardian newspaper which [exposed](#) that the US government was at that time developing a 'sock puppet' software program, designed by the US military, to *"fake online identities"* for the purpose of influencing online conversations and spreading pro-American propaganda. What's worse, this wasn't even really a secret.

To build its influence campaign, United States Central Command (Centcom) awarded a contract to a California-based company to develop an *"online persona management service"* allowing one serviceperson to control up to ten different fake identities, which the contract stated must have convincing and believable background stories. But don't worry, CENTCOM said it was all about combating terrorism, that they were not targeting Facebook or Twitter and they were only trying to fool foreigners who speak languages like *"Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Pashto"* — so, no problem then. I mean, if they say it, it must be true.

The note to Zuckerberg might also mention that in 2015, the British Army proudly announced it was developing a new brigade to specialize in psychological warfare on social media. The [77th Brigade](#) employs social media *"warriors"* (the Russians have *"trolls"* and *"bots"* — but the UK has *"warriors"*) who use *"non-lethal engagement and legitimate non-military levers as a means to adapt behaviours"* online — a fairly long-winded way to say: *"We do propaganda."*

□

RT

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There's no telling the lengths to which US has gone, or will go, to export and protect its preferred version of 'democracy' around the world <https://on.rt.com/9dpx>.

[10:20 AM - Sep 5, 2018](#)

□

## US has long history of sticking its political nose where it doesn't belong — RT World News

A senior Russian diplomat claims the US is attempting to meddle in Russian elections. If true, it certainly wouldn't be the first time America stuck its proverbial nose where it doesn't belong – and...

rt.com

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[51](#)

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It is also known that the British GCHQ and the NSA in the US operate entire programs dedicated to [discrediting](#) adversaries online through sophisticated disinformation campaigns involving fake emails and blog posts.

At the beginning of this year, the Israeli Army set up its “*Center for Consciousness Operations*” which was [described](#) by Haaretz as “*a new/soft power/ psychological warfare unit*”. Of course, this was not Israel's first attempt at manipulating opinion online. The Israeli Army has previously invested in similar programs, with the government announcing in 2013 that it was [willing to pay](#) Israeli students to circulate pro-Israeli information online. The IDF is known to be [active](#) on 30 platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram and operating in six languages. But the centre of “*consciousness operations*” was part of a new push to “*influence the enemy and Western opinion over Israel's military moves*” through social media and other online platforms.

Zuckerberg's mind will be blown when he hears about all this. No doubt he would march straight back to Capitol Hill and demand an immediate explanation.

Facebook has steadfastly ignored any evidence that these governments are engaged in massive online influence campaigns because they're the 'good' guys so what they do online doesn't matter. In fact, it's worse than that. Facebook not only does not care what these governments do, it actively helps them do it.

One recent example was the temporary [removal](#) of the Telesur English page on Facebook without explanation. It just so happens that Telesur is one of the only English-language sources of news on Venezuela that offers a perspective which differs from Washington's view. A coincidence, surely.

Read more

[Facebook's anonymous censors take down Latin America's Telesur, and nothing can stop them](#)

Then there's the fact that Facebook has been deleting the accounts of Palestinian activists at the behest of the Israeli government, as the Intercept [reported](#) last year. Over one four-month period, Facebook removed 95 percent of the accounts that Tel Aviv demanded to be taken down. It's important to note that “*demand*” is the correct word here, given that Israel threatened Facebook with new laws which would have forced them to comply with deletion orders if they did not do so voluntarily.

In his op-ed, Zuckerberg claims (correctly) that social media platforms like Facebook are targeted by “*sophisticated, well-funded adversaries*” who are getting smarter about covering their tracks. But he simply can't be taken seriously while ignoring the clear evidence that the very governments and ‘fact checkers’ he is so keen to work with to ‘combat’ disinformation are knee-deep in this exact activity.

In reality, we can't expect Zuckerberg to start caring about any of this. During a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on Wednesday, Facebook's Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg all but confirmed that Facebook willingly acts on behalf of the US government when she assured senators that the platform would never take action to favor a “*hostile foreign power*” over the US or its military.

But Facebook executives are one thing and the media is another. While Western journalists have sought to wrangle as many headlines as possible out of stories about “*Russian meddling*” online, they have shown curiously little interest in online propaganda campaigns run by their own governments.

[LMAO! Facebook Chief Mark Zuckerberg Claims Social Media Networks Are In An 'Arms Race' To Protect Democracy \(dailymail.co.uk\)](#)



