# Disinformation v. the Business Model

## Jon Crowcroft, <u>http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~jac22</u> https://www.hubofallthings.com/

#### disinformation

- Fake news
- False Recommendations
- Counterfeit products
- Persistent Misinformation, Ref:

http://media.digitalnewsreport.org/wp-content/ uploads/2018/06/digital-news-report-2018.pdf

#### **Business** models

- Mission creep
- Maximise shareholder value
- Online digital services driven by ads
- Leads to clickbait-as-a-service

Surveillance Capitalism, Ref:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surveillance\_capitalism



- Two-sided market doesn't require accountable ID(\*)
- Misinformation persists when provenance and liability not available
- (\*)Ironically, profiling by advert driven tech is pretty good at precision targetting
- But companies thriving on it are amazingly resistent to revealing source

Countermeasure 1: Data minimisation

- To prevent targetted ads, we just give away nothing
  - Tech personal cloud
  - Law GDPR, RTBF, etc
- But maybe too little too late.
  - Too hard to manage
  - Availability, portability, performance etc

Countermeasure 2: Accountable identity/credentials

- Disaggregated ID may help(\*)
- Idea (>15 years old) is a service that
  - Can vouch for a capability e.g. right to buy alcohol or drive car
  - Without giving away any other feature.
  - Could be right to use an online service
- Could be used as privacy preserving accountability....
  - \* e.g. Verified.me

### Countermeasure 3: subscription

- Using credentials, subscription based service becomes simple
- Revenue afforded by subscription fee
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  - Redux clickbaiting...
- Or by privacy preserving targetted ads
  - what's to stop aforesaid mission creep?

Countermeasure 4: symmetric power

- Decentralized service, as much as
- Decentralized users:
  - Each with accountable id.
- Now, content is associated with
  - Creator&disseminator
  - Incentive aligned
  - Fake news/counterfeit product attributed
  - Liability established!
  - Game over?



