Reverse engineering hate

Liz Fong-Jones, on behalf of End Kiwi Farms 2023-11-07

What is Kiwi Farms?

A web forum that facilitates the discussion and harassment of online figures and communities. -



Targets are often subject to organized group trolling and stalking, as well as doxxing and real-life harassment. -



Hundreds of threads on individuals



documented suicides of victims (all trans/NB)

Typical consequences of being targeted

Personal information doxxed (including government ID numbers, home address) Family members, friends, acquaintances, colleagues also named and targeted Massive copyright infringement of photographs & defacement for derogatory purposes "Fanfiction" written to create and refine lies to cast individual in worst possible light Unwanted contact via email, telephone, and sometimes in-person, threatening harm Unwanted contact spreading lies to employer, landlord to cause firing & eviction Attempts to poison SEO to make unhireable

Thousands of collateral targets

"When something is ours, it's ours" forever. We might get bored with it and put it down. We might play with it a little too hard and break it. But it never stops being ours, and someday in the future we'll remember it, and pick it back up again. Would you like to become ours, my dear?"

How is Kiwi Farms hosted?

How most sites are hosted

All-in-one package - domain, servers in a datacentre, IP addresses, network transit, DNS servers, email MX, etc

Optional DDoS protection services by a reputable provider eg Fastly, Cloudflare, Akamai, GCP/Amazon etc

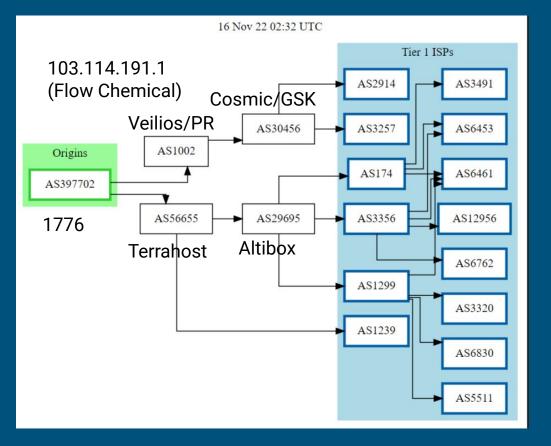
At most, 3-5 different providers in use, not dozens.

Hate sites migrate to shithosts/self-hosting

Each component obtained a la carte from cooperating or unwitting hosts (often "bulletproof" hosters)

Shell companies for IP addresses, ASNs/BGP routing, network contracts for transit, subleasing datacentre floor space, hand-written DDoS protection, different providers for frontend vs backend vs MX

Payment ban evasion/laundering; multiple nested LLCs



Domain reg by Epik DNS servers on VSYS (AS30860) & AS208046 Additional peering via AS30860 & AS208046 MX with Terrahost Physical servers w/ Terrahost & VSYS Volumetric defence by Terrahost & Cosmic Home-grown PoW app-layer defence

Example network diagram circa November 2022

Extreme hate speech & malware are alike. It looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, yet isn't recognised as one.

Key problems in obtaining action

Plausible deniability of off-forum coordination

"In Minecraft" & other slang to avoid casual scrutiny

Sensitive info hidden behind registration gates

"Freedom of speech" "Section 230" "We don't send unsolicited **IP traffic**" "Net neutrality" "There's worse stuff elsewhere"

How does deplatforming work?

First, on the ethics

Hurricane Electric Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

All Hurricane Electric (Hurricane) colocation, dedicated server, or direct internet connection customers are bound by the following Acceptable Use Policy. This document may be updated from time to time. Please consult this site periodically for the most recent revision of this document.

products & services

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not to engage in any unacceptable use of the service

What Uses are Prohibited?

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

1. Posting, transmission, re-transmission, or storing material on or through any of Cogent's products or services, if in the sole judgment of Cogent such posting, transmission, re-transmission or storage is: (a) in violation of any local, state, federal, or non-United States law or regulation (including rights protected by copyright, trade secret, patent or other intellectual property or similar laws or regulations); (b) threatening or abusive; (c) obscene; (d) indecent; or (e) defamatory. Each customer shall be responsible for determining what laws or regulations are applicable to his or her use of the products and services.

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network

No Service

about cogent

by Spamhaus (<u>http://www.spamnaus.org</u>) or otner similar organizations, or perform activities that would cause portions of the Internet to block mail or refuse to route traffic to any portion of Hurricane's IP space (or address space announced by Hurricane on behalf of Customer).

 Perform actions that cause unusual load on Hurricane servers (for example, mail servers, web servers, usenet servers, name servers, etc.), that cause slowness or denial of service to other Hurricane customers.

3. Do anything that threatens the Internet or any other network.

 No customer shall take actions that cause any portion of the Internet, or the Internet as a whole, to become unusable to any other portion of the Internet, or the Internet as a whole. Instant, name, control over the Services in violation of the rules, guidelines or agreements associated with search engines, subscription Web services, chat areas, bulletin boards, Web pages, USENET, or other services accessed via the Services.

support

 Inappropriate Actions. Users will not use the Services to conduct activities that may be harmful to or interfere with the Services, a User's terminal session or any third party's networks, systems, services, or websites. Users will not engage in any activities designed to <u>naras</u>, or that will preclude or interfere with the use of Service (e.g., synchronized number sequence attacks) by any other User on the Lumen network or on another provider's network. In addition, Users will not use the Service (a) by any means or device to avoid payment; (b) to access User's account or Lumen Services after User has terminated User's account; (c) on behalf of persons or firms listed in the Spanhaus Register of Known Span Operations database at

Initially: Tweet storms.

(but this stopped working)

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Complain to origin

Yes, they will retaliate. At best, with publishing the complaint.

At worst, with doubling down.

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Liz Fong-Jones is some tranny with a jaw sharper than Robert Z'Dar wh Andeson has apparently employed to harass third parties vaguely assoc presumably, help cover up that Trans LifeLine is a scam. Zhe works for authoritative @google.com address to do this wetwork for Kjel. Xar's @g good for scaring small business.	iated with me. This is t Google, and is using an

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#908447 - We Have Answered Your Ticket - Terrahost



Terrahost AS <noreply@terrahost.no>

Hello,

To: You

This is a notification to let you know that one of our support representatives has answered your ticket.

The message is: Hello

Thank you for notifying us. We already know, and we do not care. Thank you!

Regards, TH Support

To reply to this ticket, please log into ENIGMA.

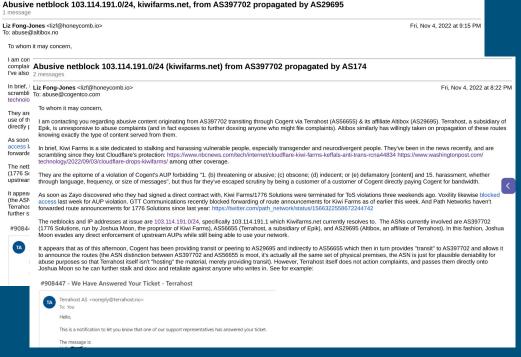
Thank you for using Terrahost.

Go further up the chain

Use evidence of previous refusals down the chain.

Cite specific evidence & AUP clauses violated.

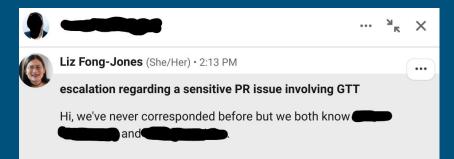
Wait longer and longer at each step, as providers are busier/more indifferent.



Wait multiple weeks per step in chain if no action.

Find escalation points

Email/LinkedIn & network to find individuals who will use internal escalation paths.



I'm writing to you regarding one of GTT's clients that is refusing to enforce any kind of terms of service upon its customers (and thus falling afoul of GTT's own terms of service). Strangely enough, GTT has already banned the indirect customer causing the issues when they tried to use GTT services through a different direct client/routing path.

The direct client of GTT's is Cosmic Global Networks (GameServerKings), and the offending traffic that Cosmic refuses to action is originating from Veilios LLC and "1776 Solutions" on **103.114.191.1**, better known as Kiwi Farms (kiwifarms[.]net). Kiwi Farms engages in networked harassment against people they deem to be "lolcows", including transgender people, neurodiverse people, and anyone who stands in their way (including employees of ISPs

If all else fails, litigate.



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Online abuse

Defamation in the internet age: could a \$400,000 Australian court ruling silence the notorious online forum Kiwi Farms?

An Australian company that helped the website remain accessible has been ordered to pay damages - but the legal arguments remain unsettled

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This process is broken.

Our team has had more success, at a cost

12 volunteers16 months of work & counting42 providers dropped

1000s of hours spent

4 parallel legal teams in US, CA, AU, IE Approx 100,000 GBP spent on litigation, excluding pro bono assistance

Feedback on "No Easy Way Out"

Publicly observable effort != private efforts

Confounding factors (e.g. "new" users may be those that lost passwords and had to recreate)

Measuring a months/years-long process after 4 months is premature.

Talk to malware/cybercrime takedown experts.

Considerations on funding/biz model and whether KF/Moon are an exceptional case

<u>Comparison of "cow" vs "social" subforums?</u>

No Easy Way Out: the Effectiveness of Deplatforming an Extremist Forum to Suppress Hate and Harassment

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Abstract-Legislators and policymakers worldwide are debatine options for suppressing illegal, harmful and undesirable material online. Drawing on several quantitative data sources. we show that deplatforming an active community to suppress online hate and harassment, even with a substantial concerted effort involving several tech firms, can be hard. Our case study is the disruption of the largest and longest-running harassment forum KIWI FARMS in late 2022, which is probably the most extensive industry effort to date. Despite the active participation of a number of tech companies over several consecutive months, this campaign failed to shut down the forum and remove its objectionable content. While briefly raising public awareness, it led to rapid platform displacement and traffic fragmentation. Part of the activity decamped to Telegram, while traffic shifted from the primary domain to previously abandoned alternatives. The forum experienced intermittent outages for several weeks, after which the community leading the campaign lost interest, traffic was directed back to the main domain, users quickly returned, and the forum was back online and became even more connected. The forum members themselves stopped discussing the incident shortly thereafter, and the net effect was that forum activity, active users, threads, posts and traffic were all cut by about half. The disruption largely affected casual users (of whom roughly 87% left), while half the core members remained engaged. It also drew many newcomers, who exhibited increasing levels of toxicity during the first few weeks of participation. Deplatforming a community without a court order raises philosophical issues about censorship versus free speech; ethical and legal issues about the role of industry in online content moderation; and practical issues on the efficacy of private-sector versus government action. Deplatforming a dispersed community using a series of court orders against individual service providers appears unlikely to be very effective if the censor cannot incanacitate the key maintainers, whether by arresting them, enjoining them or otherwise deterring them.

1. Introduction

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Online content is now prevalent, widely accessible, and in-

and the line between the two is often contested. Some cases of stalking, bullying, and doxxing such as Gamergate have had real-world consequences, including violent crime and political mobilisation [2]. Content moderation has become a critical function of tech companies, but also a political tussle space, since abusive accounts may affect online communities in significantly different ways [3]. Online social platforms employ various mechanisms, for example, artificial intelligence [4], to detect, moderate, and suppress objectionable content [5], including "hard" and "soft" techniques [6]. These range from reporting users of illegal content to the police, through deplatforming users breaking terms of service [7], to moderating legal but obnoxious content [8], which may involve actions such as flagging it with warnings, downranking it in recommendation algorithms [9], or preventing its being monetised through ads [10].

Deplatforming may mean blocking individual users, bu sometimes the target is not a single bad actor, but a whole community, such as one involved in crime [11]. It car be undertaken by industry, as when Cloudflare, GoDaddy, Google and some other firms terminated service for the DAILY STORMER after the Unite the Right rally in Virginia in 2017 [12] and for 8CHAN in August 2019 [13]; or by law enforcement, as with the FBI taking down DDoS-for hire services in 2018 [14] [15] and 2022 [16] [17] and seizing RAID FORUMS in 2022 [18]. Industry disruption has often been short-lived: both 8CHAN and DAILY STORMER reemerged or relocated shortly after being disrupted. Police intervention is often slow and less effective, and its impact may also be temporary [11]. After the FBI terminated SILK ROAD [19], the online drug market fragmented among multiple smaller ones [20]. The seizure of RAID FORUMS [18] led to the emergence of its successors BREACH FORUMS, EXPOSED FORUMS, and ONNI FORUMS, Furthermore, the FBI takedowns of DDoS-for-hire services cut the attack volume significantly, yet the market recovered rapidly [14], [15],

KIWI FARMS is the largest and longest-running online harassment forum [21]. It is often associated with real-life trolling and doxxing campaigns against feminists, gay rights campaigners and minorities such as disabled, transgender and autistic individuals; some have killed themselves after fluential in shaping public discourse. Yet while online places being harassed [22]. Despite being unpleasant and widely facilitate free speech, they do the same for hate speech [1], controversial, the forum has been online for a decade and

Thank you