Malign foreign actors, often hiding behind fake or automated accounts, use demonstrably false information, innuendo, and rumors to push or amplify their narratives. While many posts boil down to unconfirmable opinions, much of the information content falls into a few broad categories.

Innocent reporting errors (misinformation) or satire and parody content can be re-purposed and distributed maliciously with the intent to deceive. Often, “fake” content is created with the specific intent to dupe or incite audiences (disinformation). Facts are also used maliciously, and out of context, to improperly influence audiences (malinformation). This sort of content is sometimes the result of illicit cyber activity like spying or hacking and leaked through third parties.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION IS USED?

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Key Stakeholders: DOJ/FBI; State; Intelligence Community; State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Governments; Foreign Partners; Social Media Companies; Traditional Media Companies; Academia/Research; Think Tanks; and Philanthropy.