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POWER-OPS SECURITY NIGERIA
VIRTUAL AGORA

"The impact of fake news on securing our assets –
How the internet can be both our friend and foe "

October 14th 2020

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In collaboration with

DAYSTAR POWER
ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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Power-Ops Security Nigeria

"The impact of fake news on securing our assets – How the internet can be both our friend and foe"

Wed 14th of October 12.00-13.30 (WAT)
To register: phil.manny@agoranexus.com

www.agoranexus.com

Session Leader: **Gospel Cookey**
Head of Security
Daystar Power Group

Fake News

Non-factual news has a negative effects on operational security, they are a menace to society, professions and democracy

False news is often of a sensational nature, created to be widely shared or distributed for the purpose of generating revenue, promoting or discrediting a public figure, political movement, company etc.

During the open forum debate we assessed some examples:

- Kainji Dam bursting - Fake social media
- Twitter – Fake account of President Buhari
- Rivers State Ministry of Education – Fake news re: School Opening

Social Media as well as main media is often unreliable and a key driver behind misinformation.

Outside of the side effects such as community issues, political instability and threat to personnel, assets and business operation, fake news can also have a negative effect on business development, new projects and investment opportunities

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Types of Fake News

2 KINDS OF FAKE NEWS

1. Stories that are not true
2. Stories that have some truth but are not 100% accurate

SIX (6) WAYS TO WEED OUT THE TRUTH FROM LIES

❑ **Develop a critical mindset**
❑ **Check the source**
❑ **See who else is reporting the story**
❑ **Examine the evidence**
❑ **Don't take stories at face value**
❑ **Check that it sounds right**

6

How to decipher?

As security professionals there is a duty to inform staff of incidents happening in the country. Therefore it is extremely important to demonstrate our ability to decipher information correctly to ensure our protection of our business and credibility.

How to identify fake news

- Do a Visual Assessment. Assess the overall design. Fake news sites often look amateurish. Overall, does the news article and website seem high quality?

- Identify the News Outlet. The Wall Street Journal and CNN are examples of news outlets. If you haven't heard of the news outlet, search online for more information. Is the news outlet well known, well respected, and trustworthy?

- Check the Web Domain. Many fake news URLs look odd or end with ".com.co" or ".lo" (e.g., abcnews.com.co) to mimic legitimate news sites. Does the URL seem legitimate?

- Check the "About Us" Section. Trustworthy news outlets usually include detailed background information, policy statements, and email contacts in the "About/About Us" section. Does the site provide detailed background information and contacts?
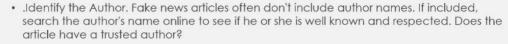
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM DISCUSSION /TOPICS COVERED
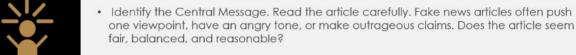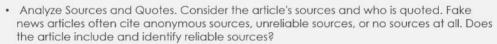
If Information is wrong, our analysis is wrong and therefore our operation and response is wrong……. This stresses the importance of strengthening our reliable intelligence capacity
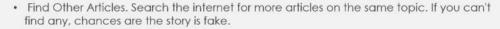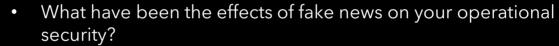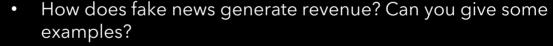
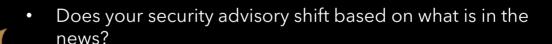## Identifying fake news

- .Identify the Author. Fake news articles often don't include author names. If included, search the author's name online to see if he or she is well known and respected. Does the article have a trusted author?

- Identify the Central Message. Read the article carefully. Fake news articles often push one viewpoint, have an angry tone, or make outrageous claims. Does the article seem fair, balanced, and reasonable?

- Assess Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuation. If the article has misspelled words, words in ALL CAPS, poor grammar, or lots of "!!!!," it's probably unreliable. Does the article have proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

- Analyze Sources and Quotes. Consider the article's sources and who is quoted. Fake news articles often cite anonymous sources, unreliable sources, or no sources at all. Does the article include and identify reliable sources?

- Find Other Articles. Search the internet for more articles on the same topic. If you can't find any, chances are the story is fake.

Questions and comments posed during discussion…..

- What have been the effects of fake news on your operational security?

- How does fake news generate revenue? Can you give some examples?

- How have your companies reacted to educate the community and tackle fake news being distributed?

- Does your security advisory shift based on what is in the news?

- What is the main driver behind fake news in you experience?

- "For best results as security professionals we need to come together"

For more information or to be part of the Power-Ops Security Agora contact phil.manny@agoranexus.com

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