



# Recognize the Risk

## Understand how adversaries try to influence behavior.

Adversaries spread false or misleading information to blur the line between fact and fiction. Read about the tactics foreign adversaries use below so you are better prepared to identify it.

### Identify a divisive issue

Adversaries are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to inflame hot button issues in the United States.



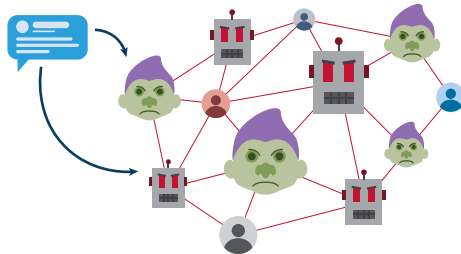
### Build a following

Adversaries will often begin by sharing non-controversial content to fit in and gain trust. Once they have a large audience, they share more extreme and divisive messages.



### Amplify and distort

Disinformation is amplified over social media platforms, state-funded television stations, and radio channels. Adversary foreign officials even use false or misleading public statements to provide disinformation a credible disguise and inject false narratives into the mainstream media.



### Make it mainstream

The goal of adversaries is to get divisive issues covered in mainstream media so that their controversial views gain legitimacy.



### Take it to the real world

In the past, adversaries have organized or funded protests to further stoke divisions among Americans. The goal is to take what started online to the streets where Americans are shouting down other Americans.



## Disinformation Stops With You

You have the power to stop foreign influence operations. Follow these steps:



Think before you link



Talk to your circle



Recognize the risk



Question the source



Investigate the issue

To learn more about how you can stop disinformation, visit our website at [www.dhs.gov/cisa/protect2020](http://www.dhs.gov/cisa/protect2020).



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