

Russia's high-stakes information war

Two reports about Russian cyber-campaigns on social media platforms during the 2016 U.S. election find that Kremlin-linked trolls relentlessly targeted the African-American community to boycott the election



Yevgeny Prigozhin (right), close associate of President **Vladimir Putin** (left). Prigozhin owns St Petersburg-based *Internet Research Agency* (centre) and has been indicted in U.S. for trying to interfere with 2016 U.S. presidential election

Most popular IRA FaceBook pages (Users, total engagement*)

Stop All Immigrants	12,471,531
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Being Patriotic	11,430,366
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Blacktivist	11,204,352
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Heart of Texas	11,045,039
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United Muslims	3,933,233
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Brown Power	3,863,028
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South United	3,856,912
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Black Matters	3,561,661
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LGBT United	3,344,331
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Army of Jesus	3,232,861
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Facebook: Approx 77 million engagements. Of 81 pages, 30 targeted African-American audiences with 1.2 million followers, 25 pages targeted political right with 1.4 million followers



Instagram: ~187 million engagements. Most popular Russian account was **@blackstagram**, with 303,663 followers



Twitter: ~73 million engagements. 10.4 million tweets across 3,841 Twitter accounts, mostly anti-Hillary Clinton. More than 100 Twitter accounts masqueraded as news media



YouTube: Agency uploaded more than 1,000 videos to YouTube. Russians played on police shootings of unarmed black men with channels like **Don't Shoot** and **BlackToLive**

**Users are active participants rather than passive viewers, sharing opinion or criticism*

Source: New Knowledge, Tactics & Tropes of the IRA Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS