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News Item

The DC Cybersecurity Think Tank Caught Using Fake Twitter Accounts Has Lost Sponsors, And Its Shady Cofounder Is Gone | BuzzFeed News

By Craig Silverman
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> A Washington think tank that used fake Twitter and YouTube accounts to amplify its content, and whose cofounder has dubious credentials and a history of shady online activity, is losing key sponsors and has apologized for some of its actions in the wake of a BuzzFeed News investigation.
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> After being alerted to the fake accounts, Twitter initially left most of them online. It then suspended all remaining accounts Tuesday after BuzzFeed News asked about a Texas lawyer whose photo was stolen and used for a fake profile.
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> The Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology said in a statement to BuzzFeed News that its cofounder, James Scott, "voluntarily decided to step away from ICIT," and that it will hire a law firm to conduct "a review of the claims in the article against" him.
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> The statement sent by ICIT's remaining cofounder, Parham Eftekhari, apologized for the use of fake Twitter accounts, and the fact that they used stolen photos from people such as a Texas lawyer, a college student, and the CEO of a cybersecurity company.

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