MediaWell

News Item

Elon Musk Thinks You Can Crowdsource Truth, But That's Not How the Internet Works | The Verge

By Bijan Stephen
May 25, 2018

> In the beginning, the reason for the internet's existence was to connect people as vastly and as easily as possible. Its fatal flaw, perhaps, is that nobody thought about the horrible things people might do once those walls were broken down. One of the most disconcerting trends of the modern internet is the specific, reflexive ways that bad actors have learned to manipulate and dismiss inconvenient truths by using the culture, systems, and mechanics of the internet. In the four decades since the internet expanded beyond its military origins, a clear playbook has emerged for denying reality — and it's one that is insidiously easy to use. That hasn't been good for discourse or truth. Elon Musk, the tech mogul and Tesla CEO, might be about to make things worse.
>
> …
>
> Many, including Musk's biographer Ashlee Vance, noted that Musk seemed to have taken a page from President Donald Trump, in categorizing any negative news about him or his companies as "fake" — a trend that Trump started and popularized in order to discredit the entire American news media. (That, by the way, is one of the first things that autocrats seek to do after taking power.)

Elon Musk thinks you can crowdsource truth, but that's not how the internet works | The Verge