

News Item

Facebook Employee Leaks Show Betrayal By Company Leadership | Buzzfeed News

By Ryan Mac and Craig Silverman July 27, 2020

On July 1, Max Wang, a Boston-based software engineer who was leaving Facebook after more than seven years, shared a video on the company's internal discussion board that was meant to serve as a warning. "I think Facebook is hurting people at scale," he wrote in a note accompanying the video. "If you think so too, maybe give this a watch."

"This time, our response feels different," wrote Facebook engineer Dan Abramov in a June 26 post on Workplace, the company's internal communications platform. "I've taken some [paid time off] to refocus, but I can't shake the feeling that the company leadership has betrayed the trust my colleagues and I have placed in them."

Messages like those from Wang and Abramov illustrate how Facebook's handling of the president's often divisive posts has caused a sea change in its ranks and led to a crisis of confidence in leadership, according to interviews with current and former employees and dozens of documents obtained by BuzzFeed News. The documents — which include company discussion threads, employee survey results, and recordings of Zuckerberg — reveal that the company was slow to take down ads with white nationalist and Nazi content reported by its own employees. They demonstrate how the company's public declarations about supporting racial justice causes are at odds with policies forbidding Facebookers from using company resources to support political matters. They show Zuckerberg being publicly accused of misleading his employees. Above all, they portray a fracturing company culture.

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