

# Here are 4 new terms to describe online deception and misinformation | Poynter

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The language surrounding misinformation seems to change as fast as the tactics used by the people who spread it. Terms that once meant one thing — [“fake news,”](#) for example — now mean something else, or are used so differently by different people that they have lost a common meaning.

For people like us, who write about misinformation as a profession, it’s a little hard to keep up.

(Dictionary.com, by the way, defines misinformation — [its 2018 word of the year](#) — as “false information that is spread, regardless of whether there is intent to mislead.” The word often works for us in this newsletter as a catchall because we can’t always be certain something is intended to mislead. If we are sure it’s “disinformation,” though, we will call it that.)

[...]

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