

How memes got weaponized: A short history | MIT Technology Review

By Joan Donovan

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In October 2016, a friend of mine learned that one of his wedding photos had made its way into a post on a right-wing message board. The picture had been doctored to look like an ad for Hillary Clinton's campaign, and appeared to endorse the idea of drafting women into the military. A mutual friend of ours found the image first and sent him a message: "Ummm, I saw this on Reddit, did you make this?"

This was the first my friend had heard of it. He hadn't agreed to the use of his image, which was apparently taken from his online wedding album. But he also felt there was nothing he could do to stop it.

[...]

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