

To See the Future of Disinformation, You Build Robo-Trolls | WIRED

By Tom Simonite

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Jason Blazaikis's automated far-right propagandist knows the hits. Asked to complete the phrase "The greatest danger facing the world today," the software declared it to be "Islam-Nazism," which it said will cause "a Holocaust on the population of Europe." The paragraph of text that followed also slurred Jews and admonished that "nations who value their peoples [sic] legends need to recognize the magnitude of the Islamic threat."

Blazaikis is director of the Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counter-Terrorism at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, where researchers are attempting to preview the future of online information warfare. The text came from [machine learning](#) software they had fed a collection of manifestos from right-wing terrorists and mass-murderers such as Dylann Roof and Anders Breivik. "We want to see what dangers may lie ahead," says Blazaikis.

[...]

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