

Trump's viral megaphone fueled by Twitter army in lead-up to election | The Washington Post

By Elizabeth Dwoskin and Craig Timberg

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President Trump launched into a tweetstorm in April, banging out nine retweets of the Centers for Disease Control's account on the dangers of misusing disinfectant and other topics — two days after he himself had suggested that people could inject themselves with bleach to cure covid-19.

But those tweets spread in an odd pattern: More than half the 3,000 accounts retweeting Trump did so in near-perfect synchronicity, so that the 945th tweet was the same number of seconds apart as the 946th, University of Colorado information science professor Leysia Palen found.

The unusual finding underscores some of the little-known ways in which Trump's social media army — composed of devoted followers and likely assistance from software that artificially boosts his content — has helped him develop one of the world's most powerful political megaphones, unlike any other in the English-speaking world.

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