

We Can't Blame Covid-19 Misinformation on Bots | Bloomberg

By Kartikay Mehrotra

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Hi, it's Kartikay on Bloomberg's cybersecurity team. It's been a big summer for misinformation online. Reports circulated that Antifa members were leaving bricks on every city corner to abet looters ([they weren't](#)), and that authorities had cut cellphone communication to thwart the protests ([they hadn't](#)). And then there was this alarming statistic out of Carnegie Mellon University: More than half of all coronavirus content on Twitter comes from bots.

About a dozen news outlets published the finding, based on a press release last month. According to Trendsmap.com, which analyzes Twitter data, those articles were tweeted and retweeted hundreds of thousands of times—including by Hillary Clinton, with a [tweet](#) that got more than 50,000 interactions. The only problem is that it's not quite true.

[...]

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