
Tackling disinformation with OSS

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About us

- Self-funded NGO created in 2019
- Federate the Francophone OSINT scene
- Assist newsroom and activists
- to train journalists!
- Promote young journalists
- Set up philanthropic projects (Syria, West Africa...)

260 members (and still counting...)

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Some of our work

- [Green Blood](#) - ForbiddenStories
- [Game of drones](#) - BBC
- [Wagner](#) - French TV
- [War crimes in Ukraine](#) - Swiss TV
- Inforos [1](#) & [2](#) - Self-published

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About me

- Co-founder
- Former Judicial Investigator
- OSS enthusiast and evangelist
- Techy but not coder
- Swiss army knife, lazy and curious

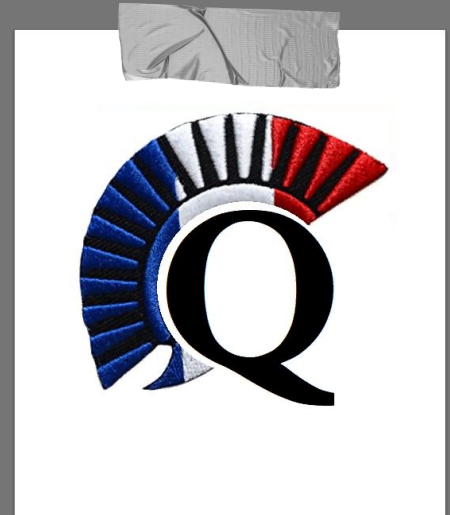
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You said **Disinformation** ?

- **Disinformation** is **false information** deliberately spread to **deceive people**
- **Ben Nimmo's 4 Ds** : Dismiss, Distract, Distort, and Dismay
- An art for several threat actors - Example : **DoppelGanger**
- War, Health, politic, economy... Mostly covers everything!
- Internet and the web as the greatest echo chamber!

Qactus, A french Qanon ?

- QAnon, an american political conspiracy theory and political movement. Far-Right. 2017
- Antisemitic, Conspiracist, Antivaxx...
- Presence on several platforms
- translated content (automatic)
- 5/7 articles a day...



We first need a **Methodology!**

- The ABCDE Framework, a good start!
- Actor : Who?
- Behavior : How
- Content: What
- Degree : the scale
- Effect : the effects (easy, one, uh?)

— We first need a **Methodology!**

- What's Qactus?
- What's its audience?
- What's its environment/ecosystem?
- What's its influence?
- What's its motivation?

And last but not least :

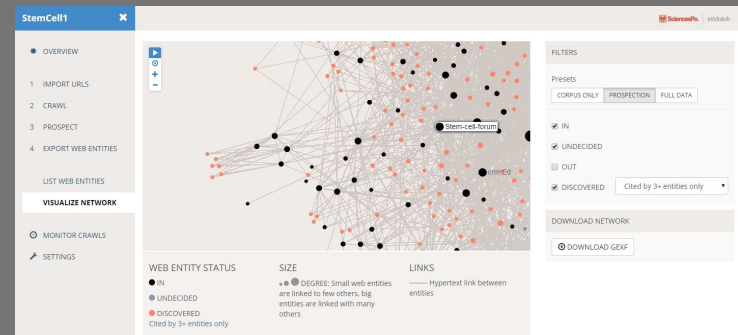
- Who is behind Qactus?

Environment? **A sweet combo!**

- **Hyphe**: to build web corpus by crawling data from the web and generate networks!

It's a long process (few hours...), with some limitations (Clouflare...) but IT WORKS pretty well*!

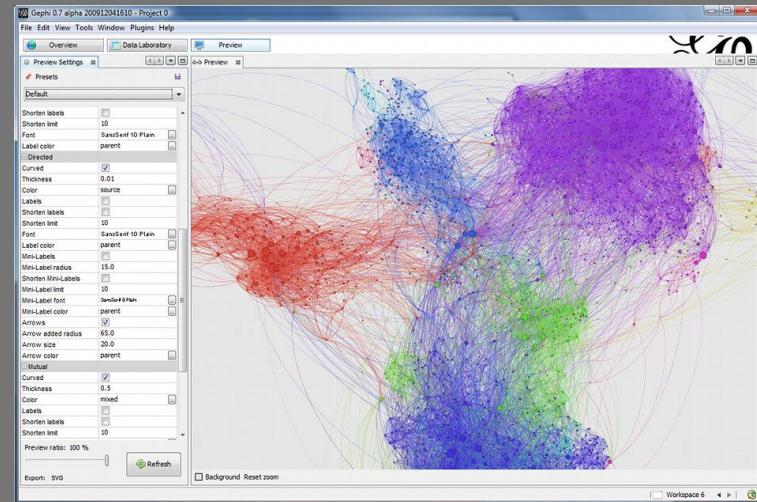
*Actually not on my computer though...



Environment? **A sweet combo!**

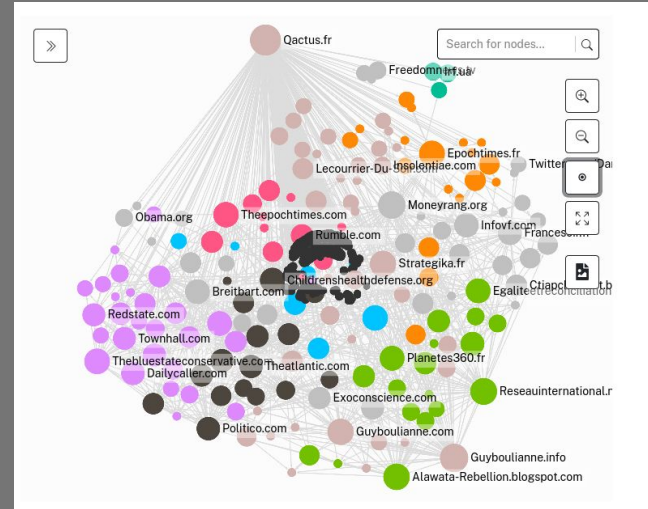
- **Gephi** (of course!): to explore and analyze graphs!

Use the modularity algorithm to determine subcommunities...



Environment? **A sweet combo!**

- **Retina**: to dynamically display graphs on a webpage!
- Hyphe + Gephi + Retina
- A mix of different sources (good for SEO...)



— Influence? **A good scraper!**

- [Snsrape](#): to scrape twitter with plenty of data!
- Caveat: dunno if it will still work next week...
- `snsrape --jsonl twitter-search
'qactus.fr' > qactus.json`

Influence? Datacleansing !

- [OpenRefine](#): DataCleansing with no code!
- Powerful tool, especially for clustering.



Motivation? A web browser !

- Firefox: @openfacto we strongly encourage the use of a privacy-oriented browser...
- Finding the motivation was easy : adsbygoogle!

- Firefox

```
<!--auto ad code generated with Simple Google Adsense plugin v1.0.6-->
<script async="" src="//pagead2.googlesyndication.com/pagead/js/adsbygoogle.js"></script>
▼<script>
  (adsbygoogle = window.adsbygoogle || []).push({ google_ad_client: "ca-pub-7914257954465446",
  enable_page_level_ads: true });
</script>
<!--/ Simple Google Adsense plugin-->
▶<script type="text/javascript">⋮</script>
```

Identity? another combo !

- Holehe+GHunt+Sherlock = Epieos
- Searching for nicknames and mail combinations on websites.
- (We also used some leaks...)

- Firefox

Let's wrap this up!

- The myth of a single tool in OSINT...
- A retired IT technician in a lost town in France
- Complotist in a bubble of influence
- Earns approx 4000\$/m writing crap.
- Outing him is important (we know who you are)

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Why OpenSource Software?

- Powerful
- Adaptable
- Privacy
- Reproducibility
- Most of the time free. Journos & NGO are not wealthy...
- So THANK YOU Y'ALL! You Rock!

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A last one? **Collaboration !**

- OpenCTI & Disarm: Disinformation & CTI approach
- Data capitalization and sharing
- Collaboration is the key.



OPENCTI

Thank you

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