

DISARM Quick Reference Guide for Fact Checkers

DISARM Techniques most
relevant to Fact Checkers

Introduction

DISARM provides a framework of commonly occurring behaviours exhibited during information manipulation and interference incidents, called “DISARM Techniques”. Augmenting Fact Checks by documenting observed Techniques enables data-driven development of long-term disruption strategies, alongside vital efforts to confirm the veracity of viral narratives.

This document contains short descriptions of DISARM Techniques which are most relevant to Fact Checkers. It is designed to give a quick overview of the Techniques which are most relevant to Fact Checkers using the DISARM Framework, used alongside the Navigator, which contains long descriptions, associated behaviours, and examples of existing reporting demonstrating use of the Technique.

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Content-Focused Techniques

This section covers DISARM Techniques which focus on describing the content posted by a threat actor, including elements such as its verifiability, how it was produced, or how it was presented by them.

T0068: Respond to Breaking News Event or Active Crisis

Name	Description
T0068: Respond to Breaking News Event or Active Crisis	Narrative relates to new developments in current events.

T0160: Content Verifiability

Name	Description
T0160: Content Verifiability	This Technique contains Sub-Techniques which can be used to document the degree to which information can be independently verified or validated.
T0160.001: Information is Verified	Information presented by the actor has been independently confirmed by the analyst through credible fact-checking.
T0160.002: Information is False	Information presented by the actor has been confirmed to be false by the analyst through credible fact-checking.
T0160.003: Information is Unverifiable	Information presented by the actor cannot be confirmed or refuted by the analyst due to a lack of accessible, credible evidence.
T0160.004: Information is Misleading	Information presented by the actor contains some accurate or verifiable information, but is presented in a misleading way.
T0160.005: Content Produced as Satire	Content was created for humor or commentary, not to convey factual information.
T0160.006: Content Previously Fact Checked	Content has been identified which was previously addressed by Fact Checkers.

T0160.007: Claim Previously Fact Checked	A claim has been identified which was previously addressed by Fact Checkers.
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T0161: Falsified Content

Name	Description
T0161: Falsified Content	Published content has been falsified in some way.
T0161.001: Impersonated Content	Content has been designed to look like it was made by another individual or institution.
T0161.002: Statement Incorrectly Presented as Made by Individual or Institution	A statement has incorrectly been presented as having been made by an individual or institution.

T0162: Reframe Context

Name	Description
T0162: Reframe Context	Information presented outside of its original context in such a way that reframes its meaning or implications.
T0162.001: Incorrect Subtitled Speech Reframes Context	Incorrect translation of subtitled speech giving a false impression of what was being said.
T0162.002: Edits Made to News Report which Reframe Context	A report published by a legitimate news outlet has been edited to change what was reported.
T0162.003: Historic Content Incorrectly Presented as Current	Content depicting previously occurring events presented as depicting a recent or ongoing event.
T0162.004: Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Another Location	Content depicting one location presented as if it depicts a different location.

T0162.005: Video Game Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality	Footage from video games presented as authentic, real-world material.
T0162.006: AI-Generated Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality	Images, videos, or audio generated using AI presented as authentic, real-world material.
T0162.008: Context Reframed by Edits to Media	Altered or manipulated content is presented as unedited and authentic.
T0162.009: Statement Reframed by Removal from Context	A statement made by an individual or institution has been taken out of context, which reframes its meaning or interpretation.
T0162.010: Entertainment Media Content Incorrectly Presented as Depicting Reality	Clips or stills from staged movies, series, or other staged performances are shared as authentic, non-staged depiction of real-world events.
T0162.011: Content Originally Produced as Satire Presented as Not Satire	Genuine satire is shared as though it were factual reporting.

T0163: Issues with Cited Academic Research

Name	Description
T0163: Issues with Cited Academic Research	Narrative provides a citation to academic research which has issues impacting its legitimacy.
T0163.001: Narrative Cites Nonexistent Academic Research	Narrative provides a citation to academic research which does not exist to support a claim.
T0163.002: Narrative Misrepresents Findings of Cited Academic Research	Narrative misrepresents the findings of cited academic research to support a claim.

T0163.003: Narrative Cites Retracted Academic Research	Narrative supports a claim by citing academic research which has been retracted.
T0163.004: Narrative Cites Academic Research not Peer Reviewed	Narrative does not disclose that it cites academic research which has not been peer reviewed to support a claim.

T0164: Issues with Presented Statistical Evidence

Name	Description
T0164: Issues with Presented Statistical Evidence	A claim is presented alongside statistics which have validity issues.
T0164.001: Narrative Presents Fabricated Statistics as Genuine Data	A claim is presented alongside statistics which were not generated using real data points, but presented as legitimate statistics grounded in research.
T0164.002: Narrative Uses Selective Statistics to Support Claim	Content presents a selective subset of data which produces beneficial statistics to support a claim.
T0164.003: Narrative Uses Misinterpreted Statistics to Support Claim	Narrative uses real statistics in support of a claim, but presents an incorrect interpretation of their meaning.

T0165: Edited Content

Name	Description
T0165: Edited Content	Content has been published which has been edited without disclosure.
T0165.001: Clipped Content	Content has been published which was clipped from a longer piece of Audio or Video Content without disclosure.
T0165.002: Cropped Content	Image or Video Content has been published which has been edited to zoom in on part of the visuals without disclosure.

T0165.003: Playback Speed Altered	Audio or Video Content has been published which has had its playback speed edited without disclosure.
T0165.004: Source Edited Out of Content	Content has been published that was edited in such a way that its original source has been removed or obscured without disclosure.

T0166: AI-Generated Content

Name	Description
T0166: AI-Generated Content	Content has been published which was generated using AI.
T0166.001: Deepfake Impersonation	Content has been published which used AI to generate a deepfake impersonation of an individual.

T0167: Issue with Content's Headline

Name	Description
T0167: Issue with Content's Headline	There is an issue with how a piece of content has been titled.
T0167.001: Use of Clickbait	Content with attention-grabbing, knowledge gap titles to attract attention and encourage a view.
T0167.002: Title Misrepresents Content	Content with a title which does not accurately reflect the material it titles.

Asset-Focused Techniques

This section covers DISARM Techniques which focus on describing the assets (e.g. accounts or websites), focusing on the identity they present (their ‘Persona’), and whether that identity is legitimate.

T0143: Persona Legitimacy

Name	Description
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T0143: Persona Legitimacy	This Technique's Sub-Techniques can be used to describe the validity of an identity (or 'Persona') presented by an asset.
T0143.003: Impersonated Persona	The identity presented by an asset impersonates another existing individual or institution.
T0143.004: Parody Persona	The identity presented by an asset parodies another individual, institution, or category of identity.
T0145.005: Compromised Persona	The identity presented by an asset has been maintained after it was compromised by another actor

T0097: Present Persona

Name	Description
T0097: Present Persona	This Technique's Sub-Techniques can be used to describe the type of identity (or 'Persona') presented by an asset.
T0097.102: Journalist Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by a journalist.
T0097.108: Expert Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by an expert in a given field.
T0097.110: Party Official Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by an official associated with a political party (e.g. a candidate, an individual employed by the party).
T0097.111: Government Official Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by a serving member of government.
T0097.202: News Outlet Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by a news outlet.
T0097.203: Fact Checking Organisation Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by a fact checking organisation.
T0097.206: Government Institution Persona	An asset presents itself as being controlled by a government institution (e.g. the ministry of defence).