Research Outlook
What has [not] changed with Social Media Manipulation Driven by Malware?

Olivier Bilodeau
Cybersecurity Research Lead, GoSecure

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Professor, Université de Montréal

Social Media Manipulation

>> The deliberate act of increasing the visibility of specific social media posts or accounts

Why Social Media Manipulation?

Why Social Media Manipulation (SMM)?

Political Motivations

Positive Reviews

Disinformation

Gain Followers

YouTube Views

Visibility

Bad Reviews on Competitors

Popularity (actors, music bands, influencers)

Revenue (passive income)

Business opportunity

High demand with various customers (governments, influencers, private companies)

Divide or Manipulate Public Opinion

Trolling

In short.

Power and Money

Why does it matter?

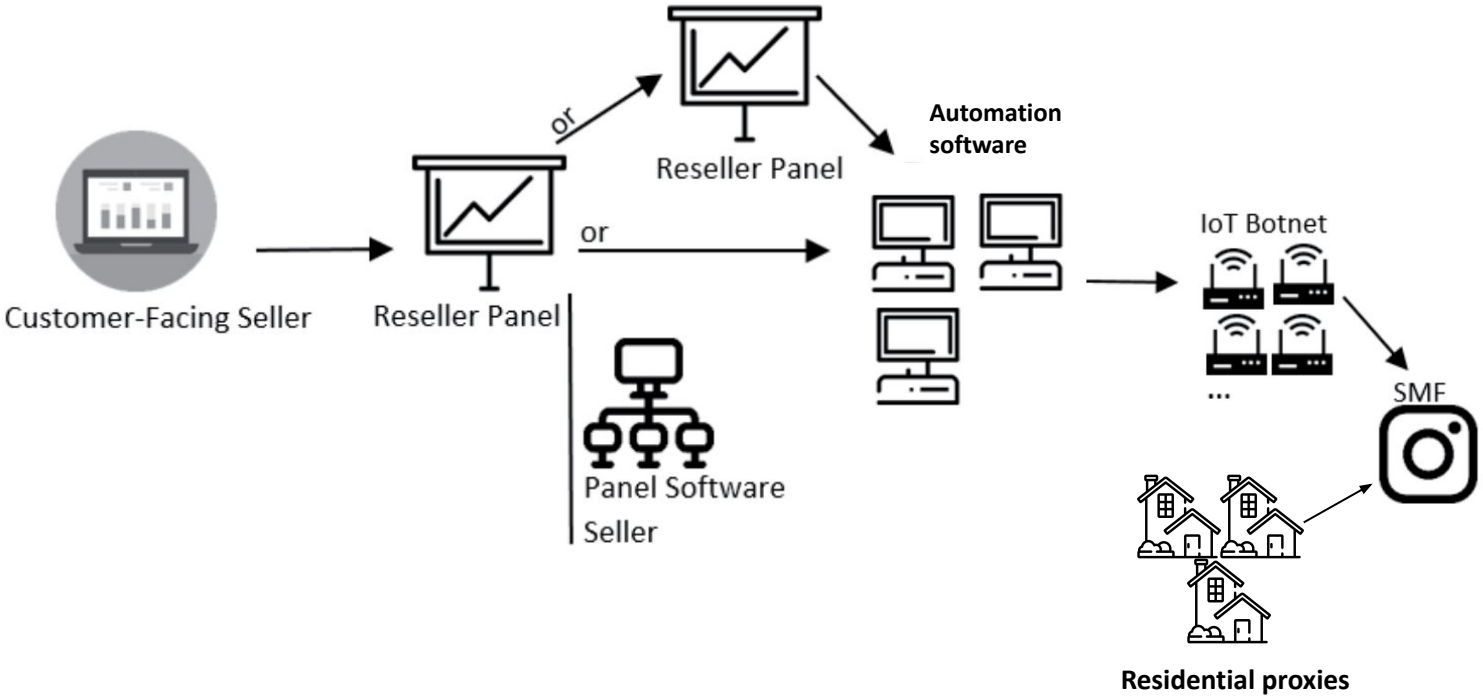
Breaks the fabric of our society.

Diminishing trust in our institutions, economic systems and information.

What does it take to do social media manipulation?

The Ecosystem of social media manipulation
Buyers
Customer-facing sellers
Linux/Moose IoT Botnet
Reseller panels
Reseller panel providers
Residential proxy services
Automation software

Supply Chain of Social Media Fraud



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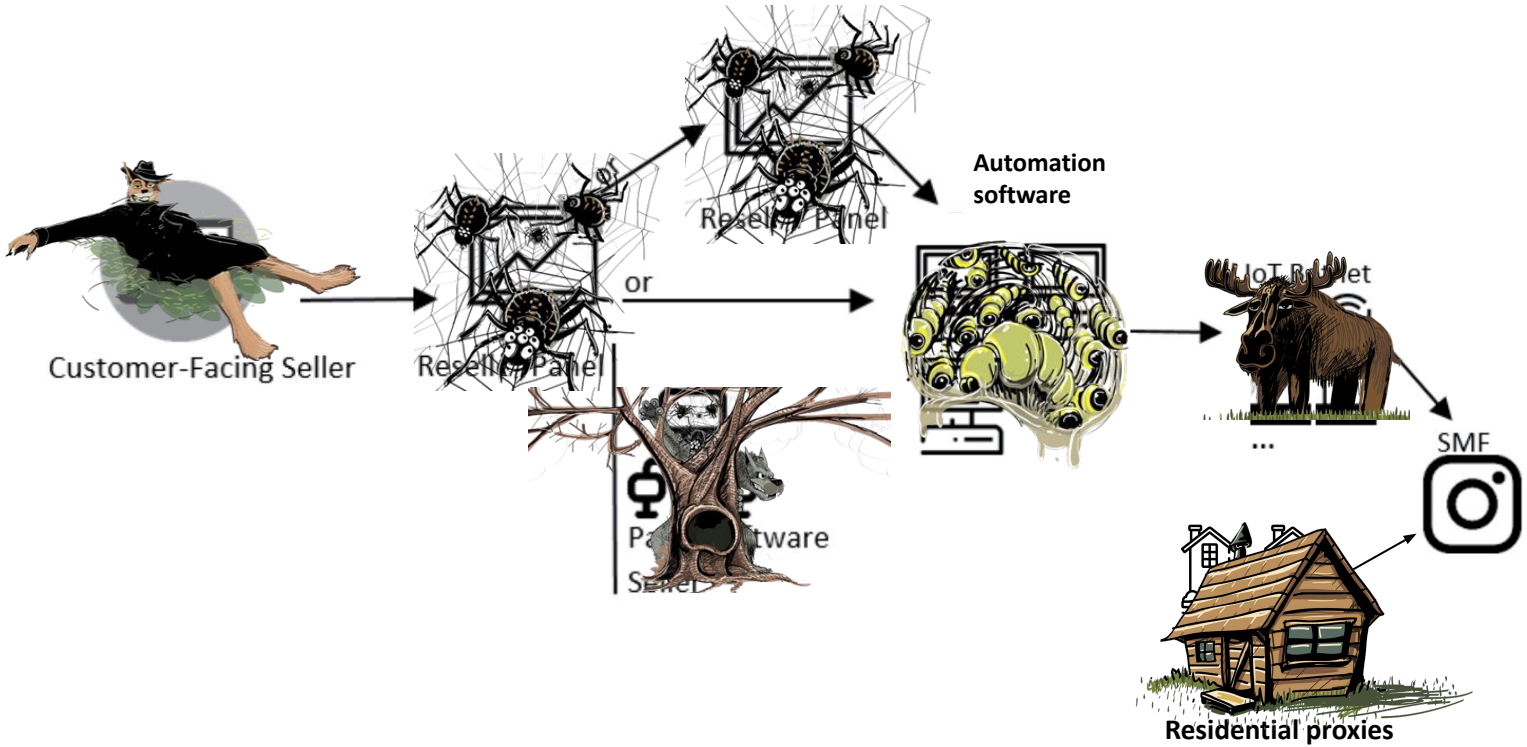
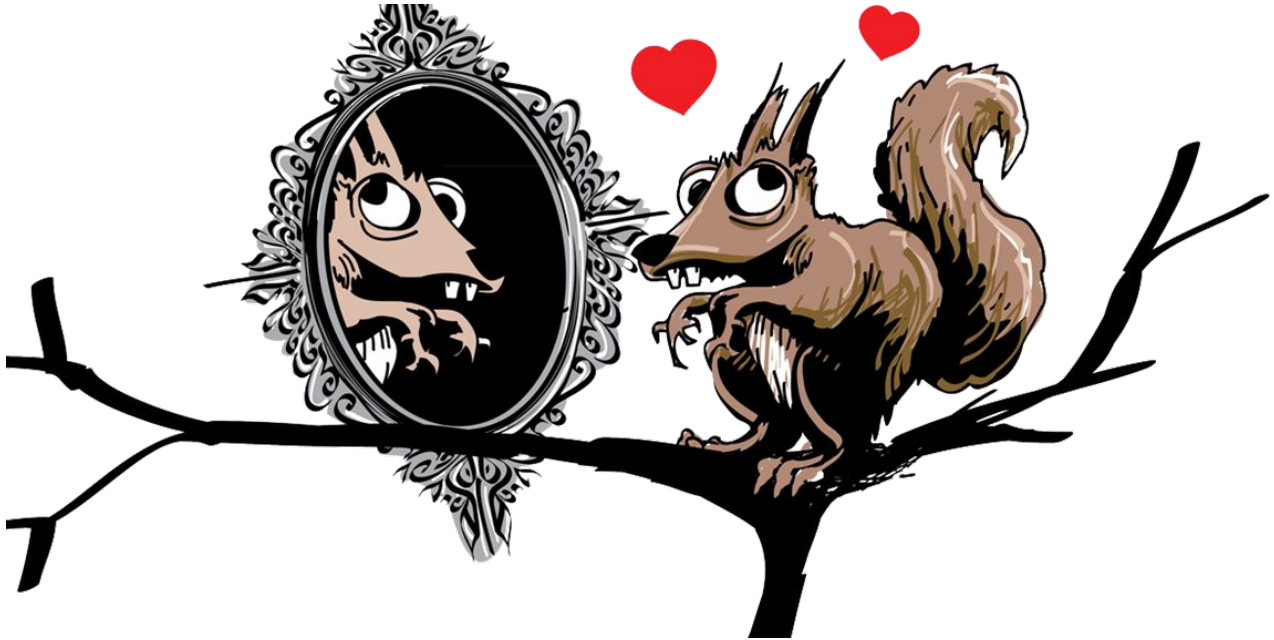


What is in there for you?

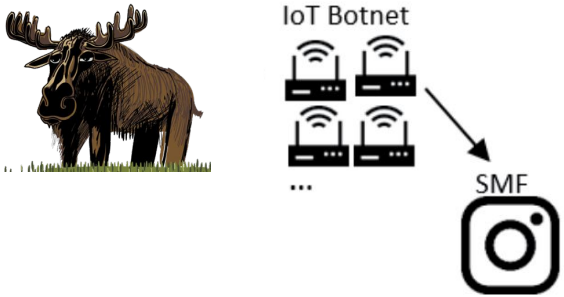
- Gain a thorough understanding of the **actors, software components and computing resources required to perform social media manipulation**.

- Be able to **apply critical thinking** about social media content.

- Learn **about recent developments** including social media giants and law enforcement actions.



Lowest level: IoT botnets

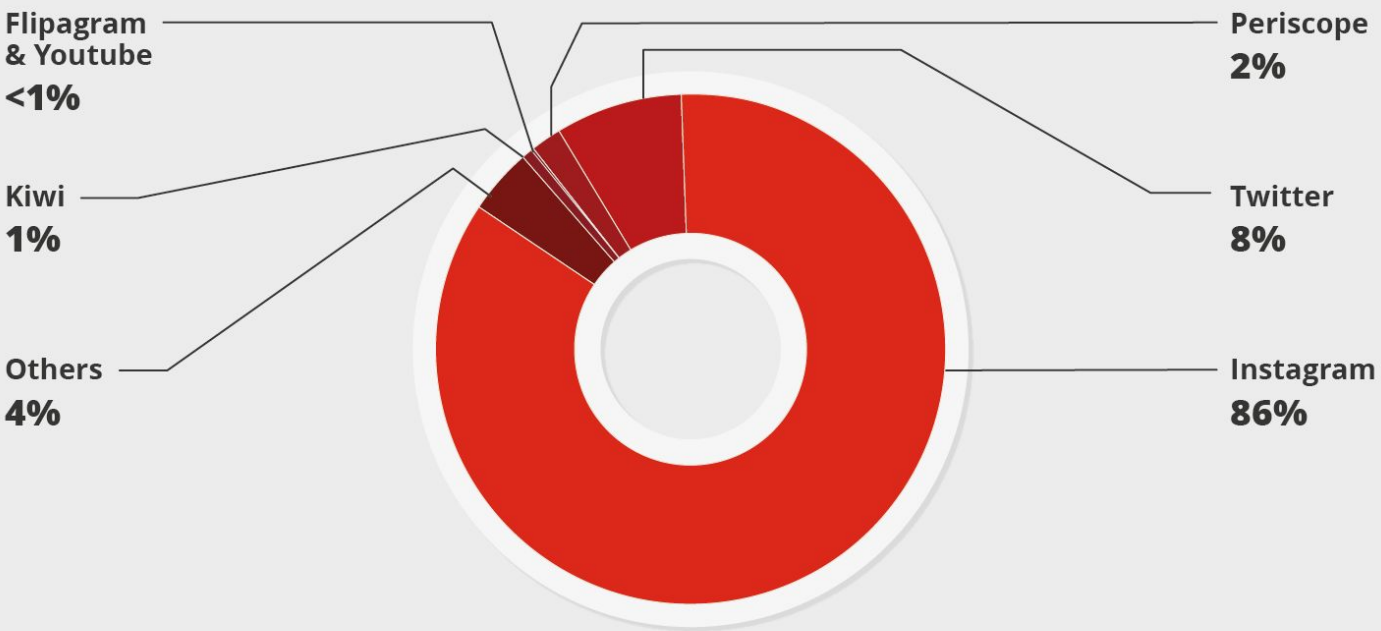


Linux/Moose

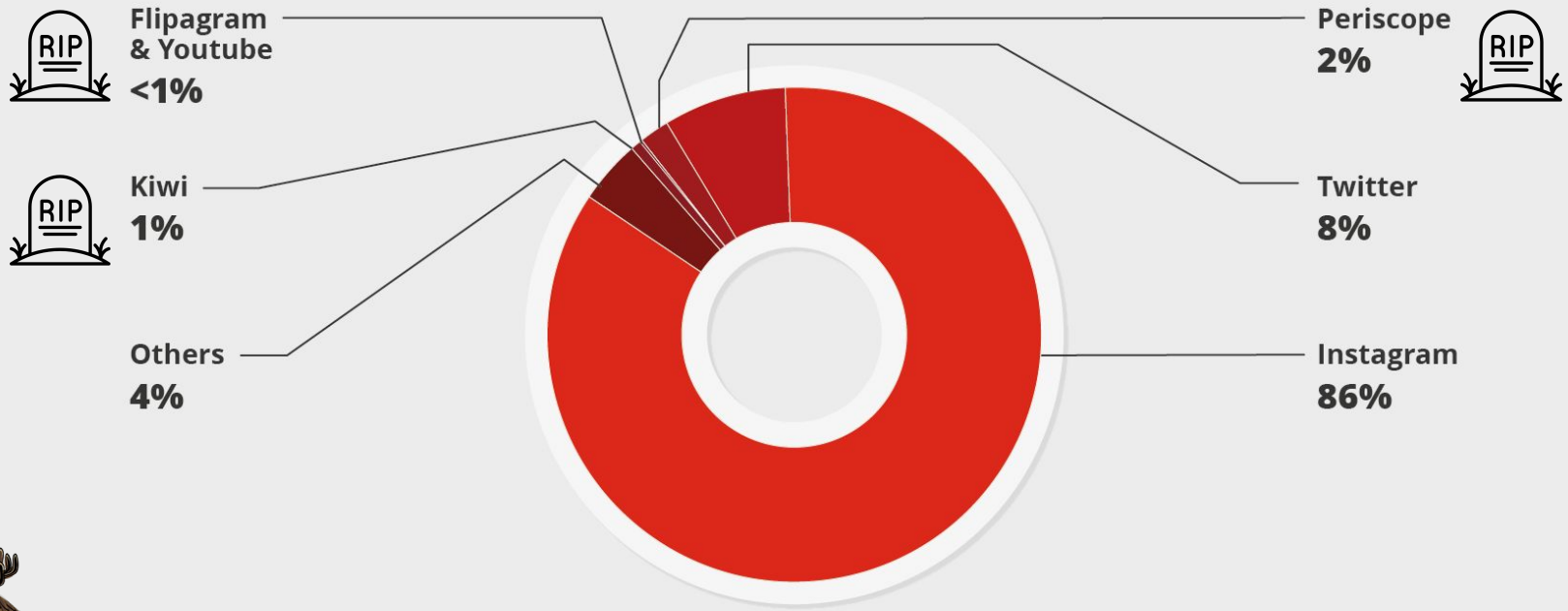
An IoT botnet that conducts social media manipulation via a built-in proxy and spreads via Telnet bruteforcing

Studied for Four Years

Proxied Traffic Analyzed



Proxied Traffic Analyzed

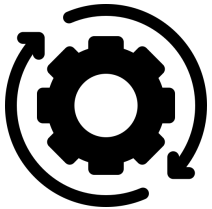


Why a Botnet?

Why a Botnet?

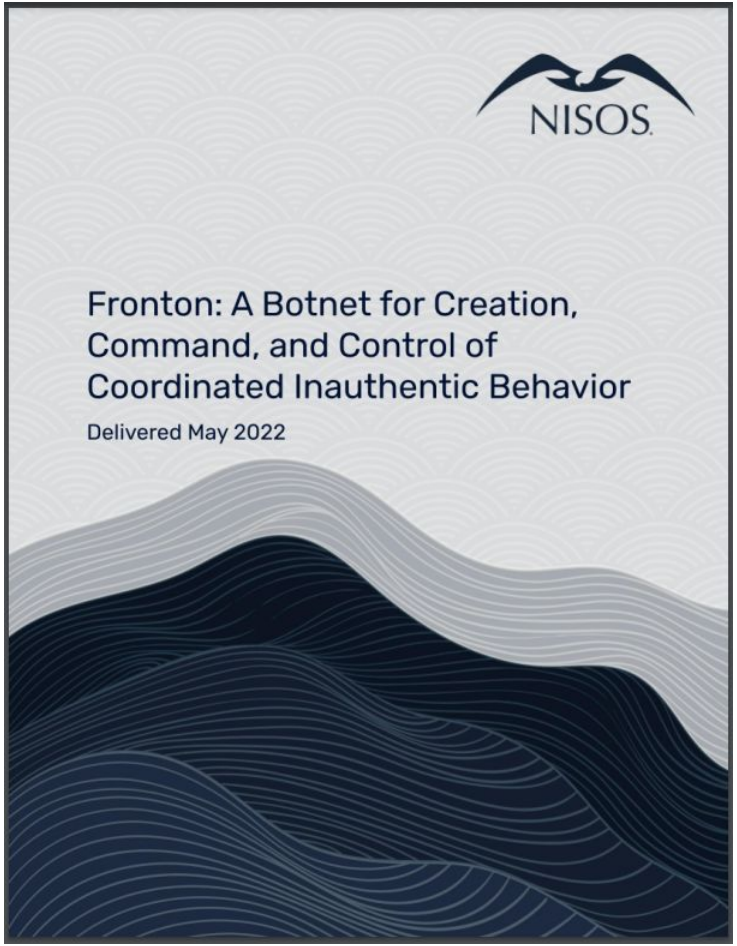
Why a Botnet?

2022 update



Fronton IoT botnet

- Research conducted on purchased leaked documents
- A disinformation-oriented botnet
- Created by a private Russian firm called Zeroday Technologies LLC
- Created for and operated by the FSB Unit 64829



Fronton Architecture

- Fronton Botnet
- Orchestration of Bots for Social Media Called SANA
  - Web-based

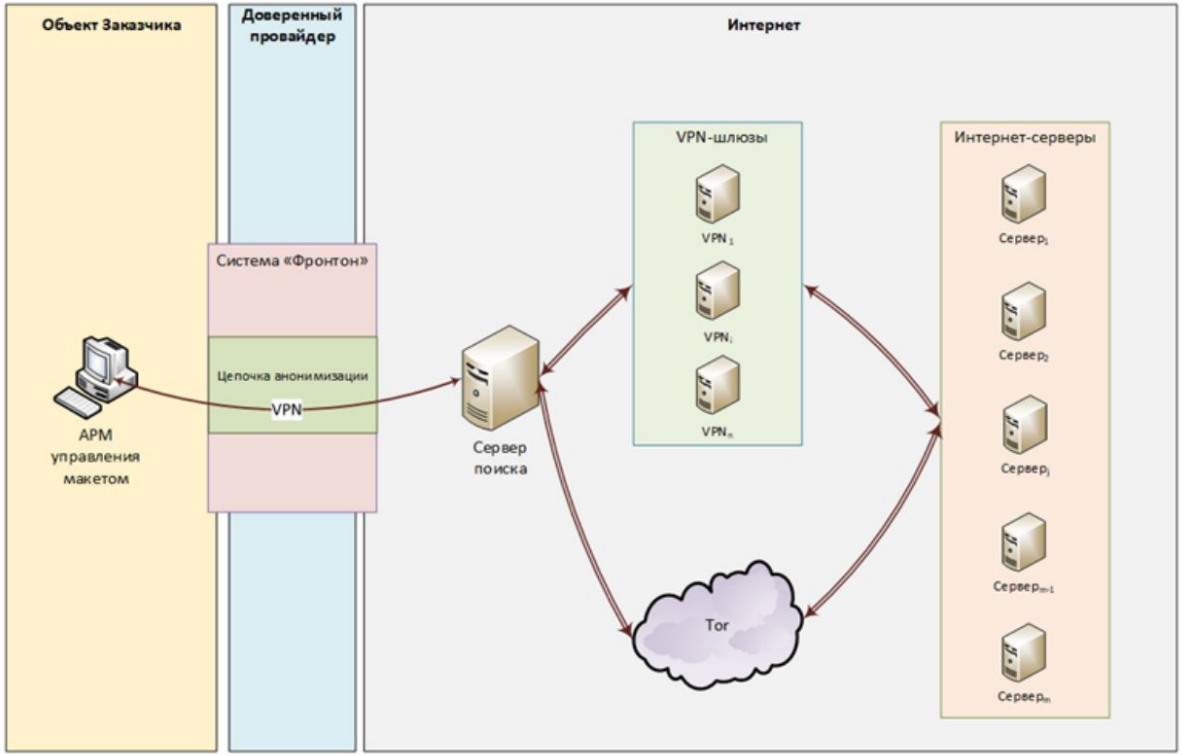
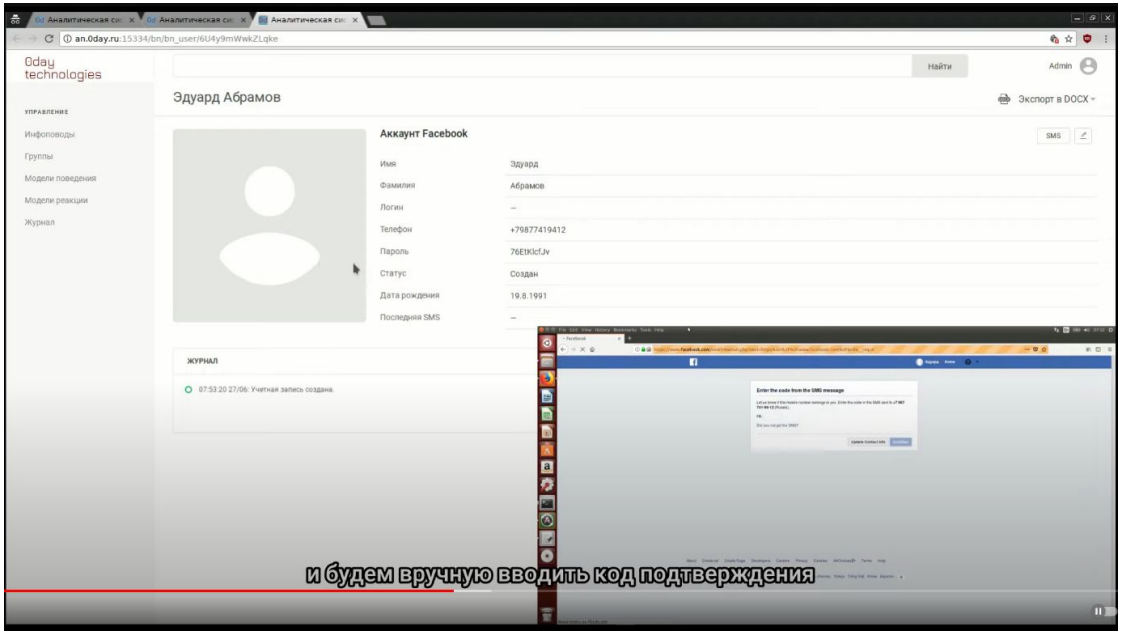


Рис. 1. Структурная схема макета

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bATLEMoi_h0

SANA Activity

- Contrasts with our Linux/Moose research
  - Similar initial hypothesis
  - Different purpose
- Leaked social media activities included
  - Positive promotion of a specific party in Kazakhstan
  - Negative comments around a specific statue in Kazakhstan



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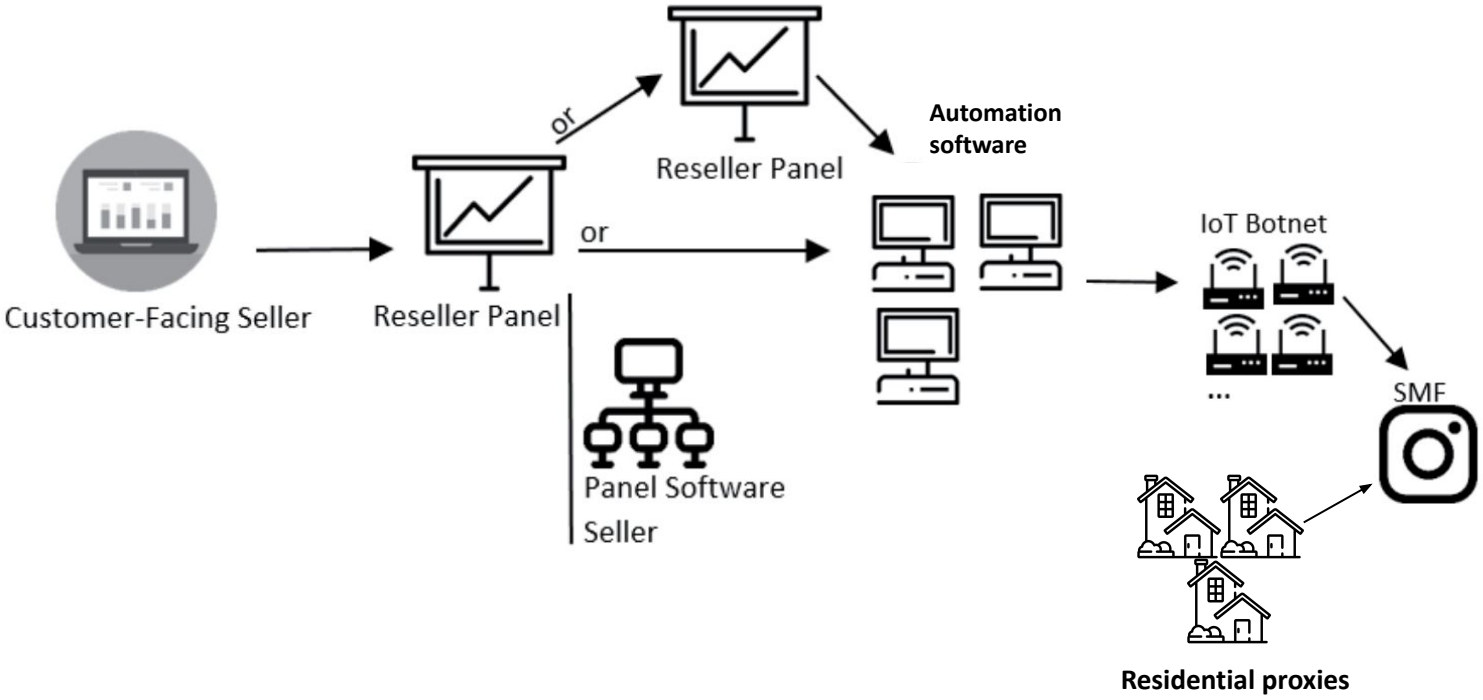

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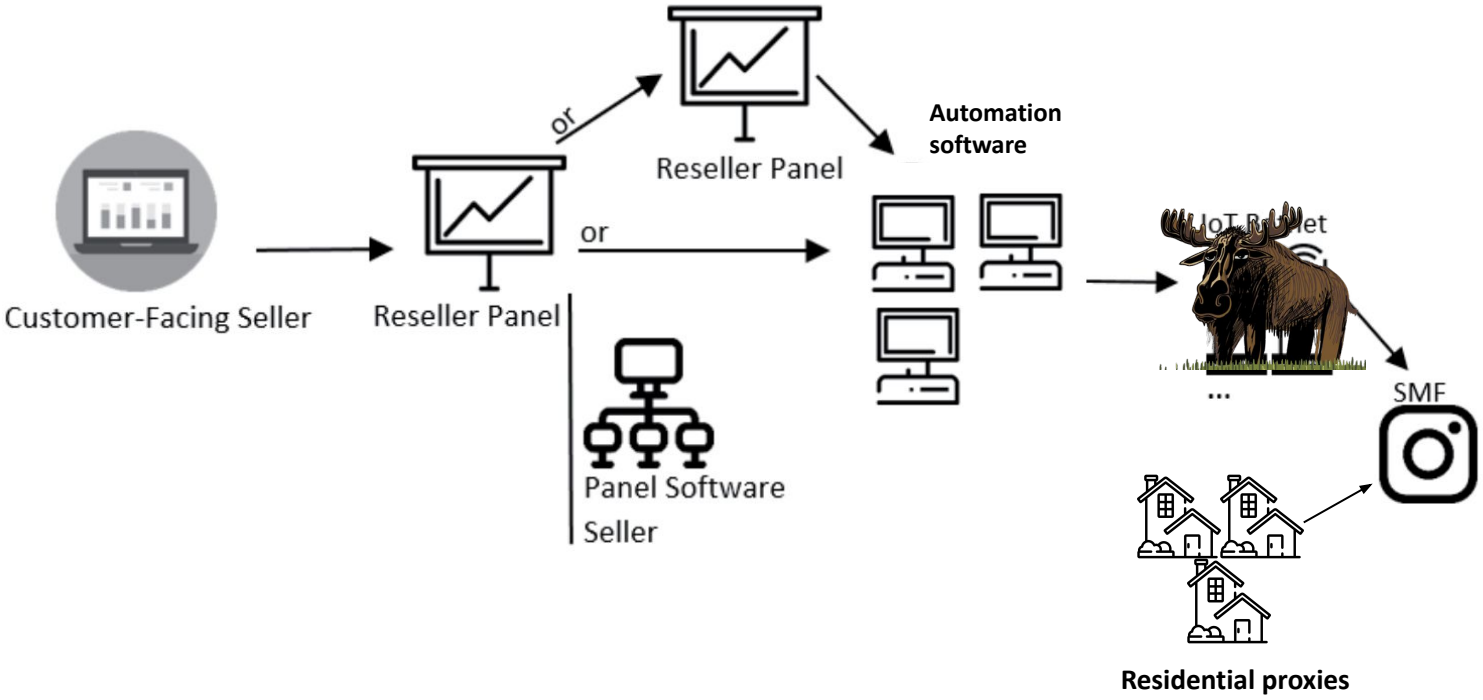

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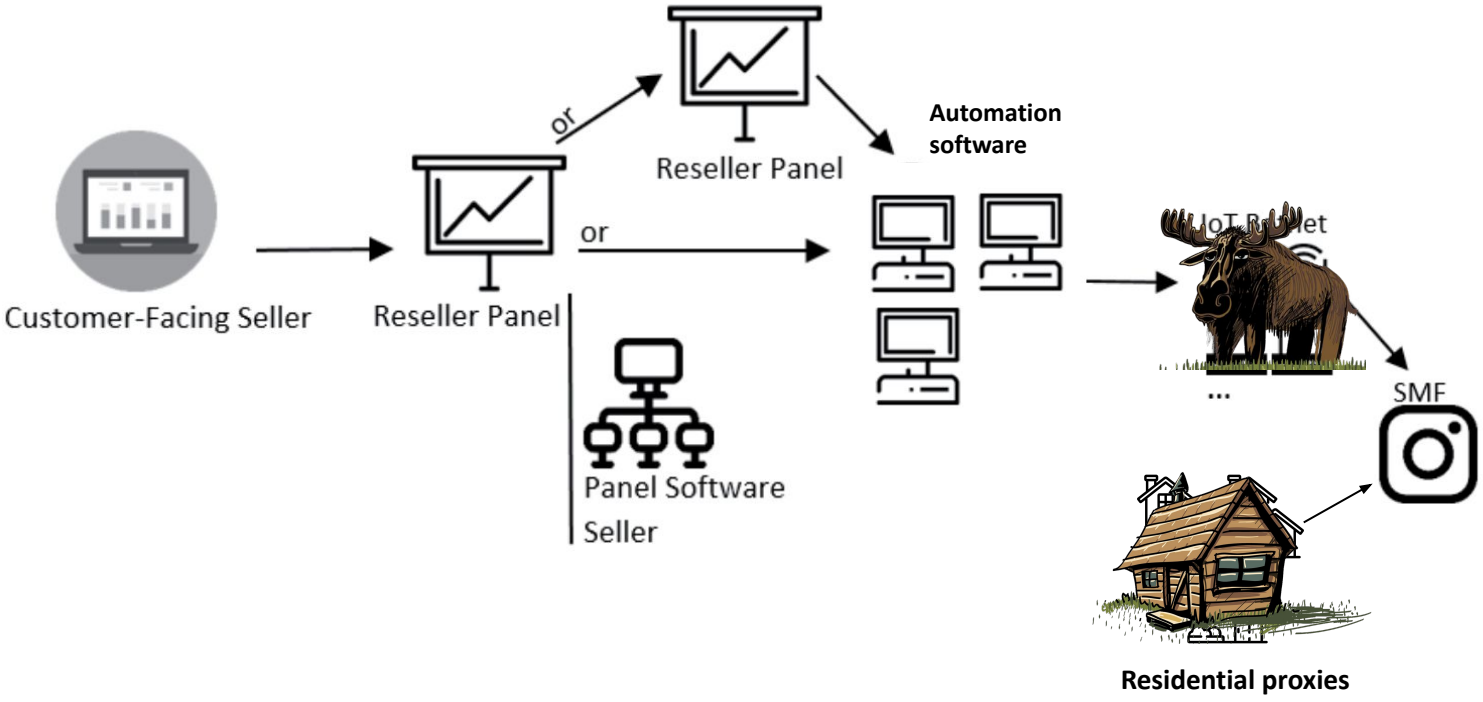
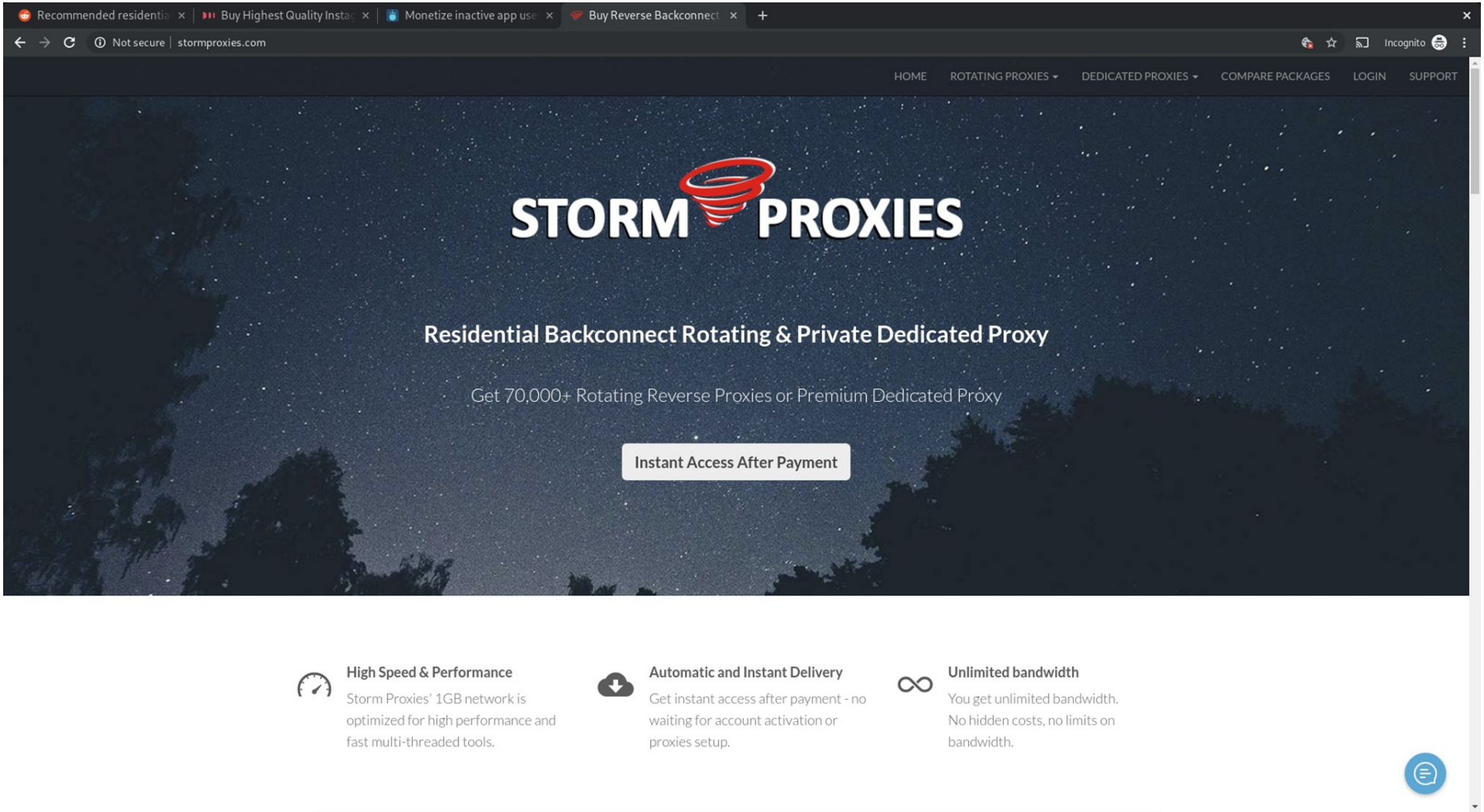


Residential Proxy Services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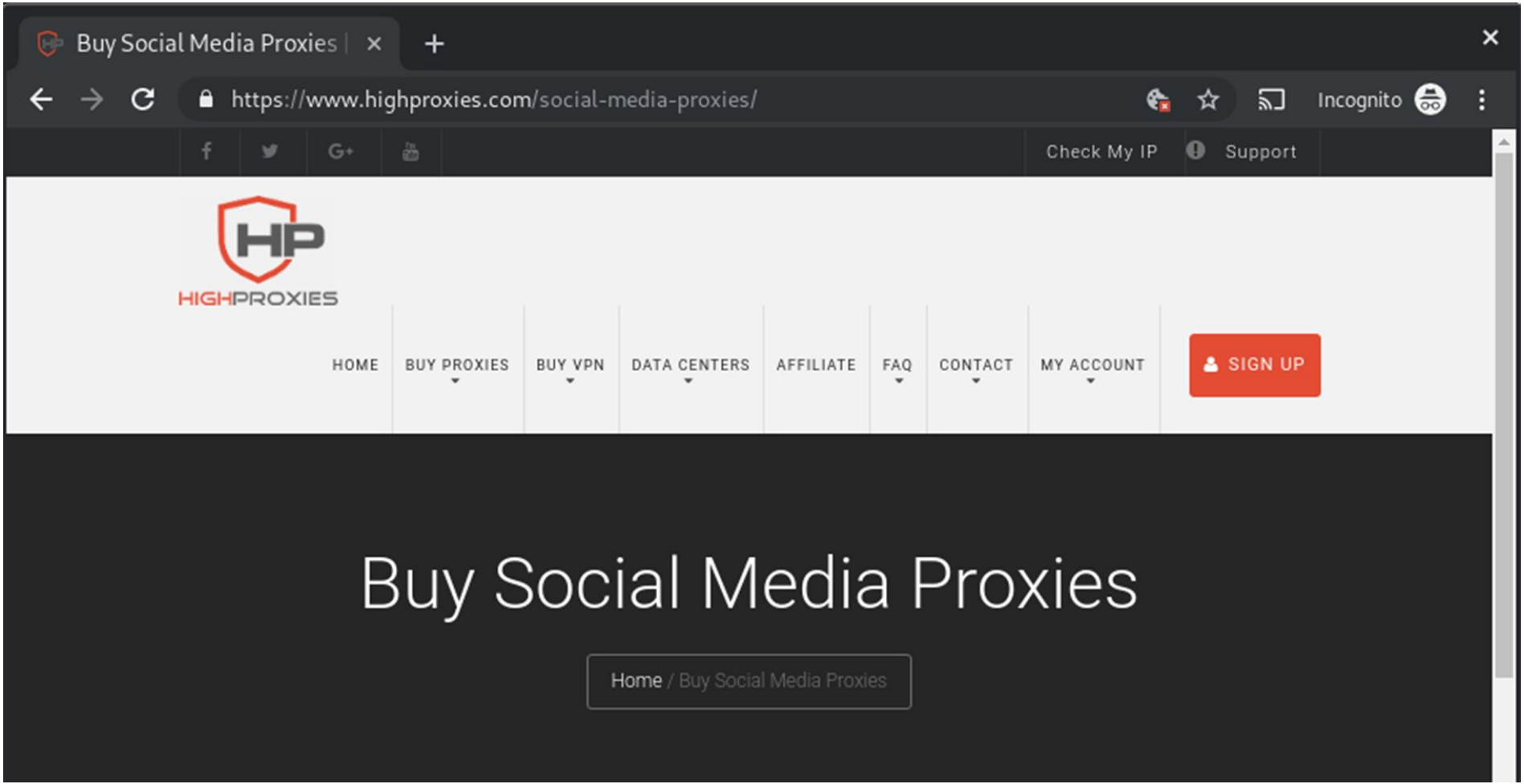
SUPPORT
STORM PROXIES
Residential Backconnect Rotating & Private Dedicated Proxy
Get 70,000+ Rotating Reverse Proxies or Premium Dedicated Proxy
Instant Access After Payment
High Speed & Performance
Storm Proxies' 1GB network is optimized for high performance and fast multi-threaded tools.
Automatic and Instant Delivery
Get instant access after payment - no waiting for account activation or proxies setup.
Unlimited bandwidth
You get unlimited bandwidth. No hidden costs, no limits on bandwidth.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Incognito

HQ IPV4 RESIDENTIAL PROXIES

[HQ] Scorpion Residen...

$10.00 ∞ in stock

PROXIES FOR SOCIAL NETWORKS

[IPv6] Comet Static AT...

$0.50 ∞ in stock

[IPv6] Rocket Rotatin...

$1.50 ∞ in stock

[IPv4] Mushroom Stat...

$1.00 ∞ in stock

PROJECTS

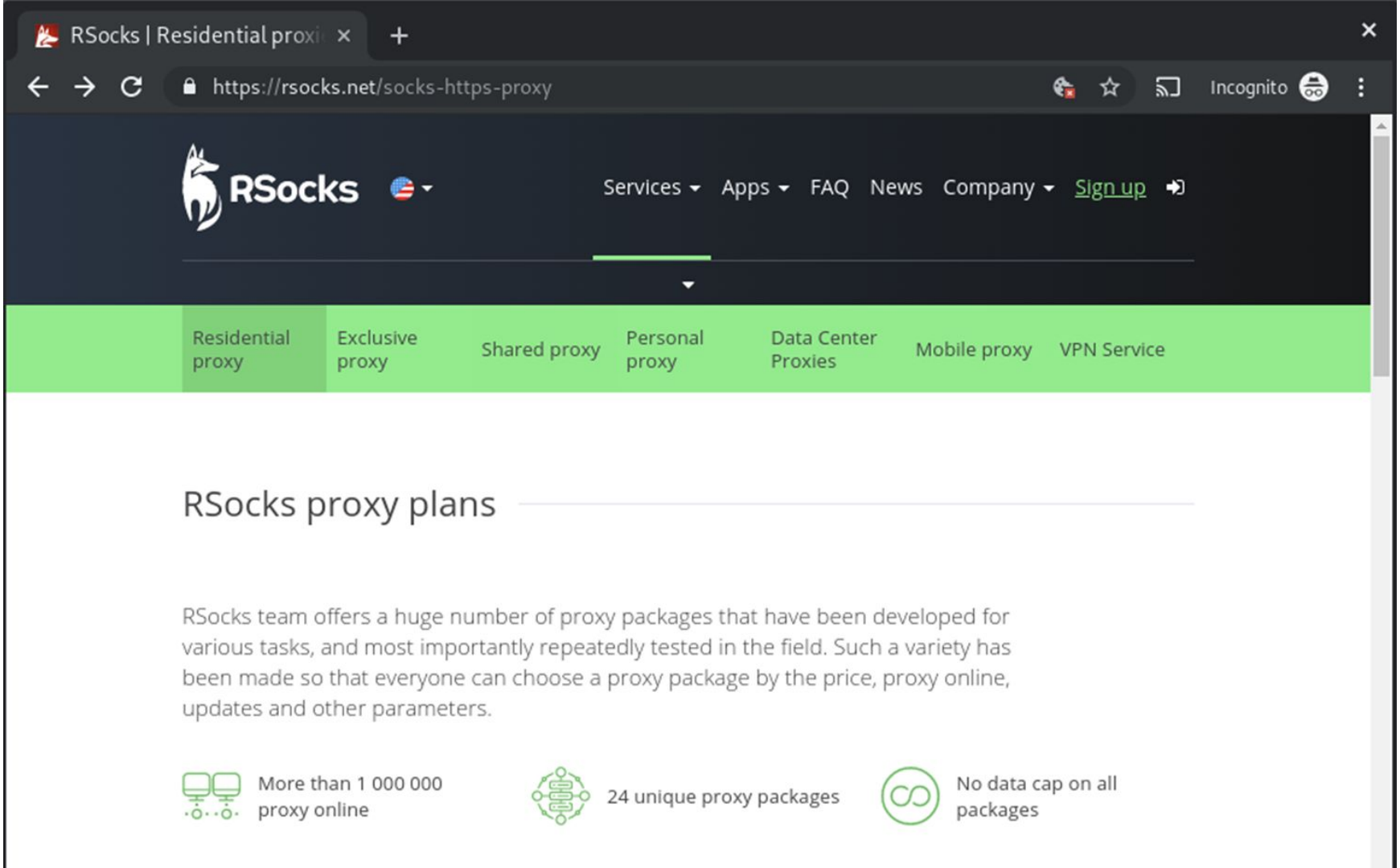
API Token...

$1.00 ∞ in stock

$0.04 ∞ in stock

$1.00 ∞ in stock

$1.00 ∞ in stock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RSocks proxy plans
RSocks team offers a huge number of proxy packages that have been developed for various tasks, and most importantly repeatedly tested in the field. Such a variety has been made so that everyone can choose a proxy package by the price, proxy online, updates and other parameters.
More than 1 000 000 proxy online
24 unique proxy packages
No data cap on all packages

Luminati is honored to receive, from the leading industry research firm Frost & Sullivan the Market Leadership Award 2019

Luminati

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Luminati provides the most advanced Residential Proxy service offering the fastest and largest real-peer IP network in the world.

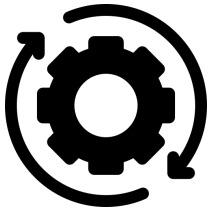
Start Now

Start Your 7-day Free Trial Today!

Residential Proxy Services

	Infrastructure	**Geoip / Whois**	**Powered by Malware?**
Luminati	Leveraging willing participants' phones	Unknown	Unlikely
Storm Proxies	Debian 8 (Jessie) with Squid	Misleading information	Unlikely
RSocks	Debian 8 (Jessie) with unknown proxy	Small unknown ISP	Unlikely
High Proxies	CentOS/RHEL 7 with Squid	Misleading information	Unlikely
Valar Solutions	Debian 9 (Stretch) with 3Proxy. Tunnel between France and USA. IPv6.	Legit AT&T Internet Services	Unlikely

2022 update



RSocks

RSocks

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Southern District of California

SHARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Russian Botnet Disrupted in International Cyber Operation

Assistant U. S. Attorney Jonathan I. Shapiro (619) 546-8225

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – June 16, 2022

SAN DIEGO – The U.S. Department of Justice, together with law enforcement partners in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, have dismantled the infrastructure of a Russian botnet known as RSOCKS which hacked millions of computers and other electronic devices around the world.

RSocks in 2019!?

	Infrastructure	**Geoip / Whois**	**Powered by Malware?**
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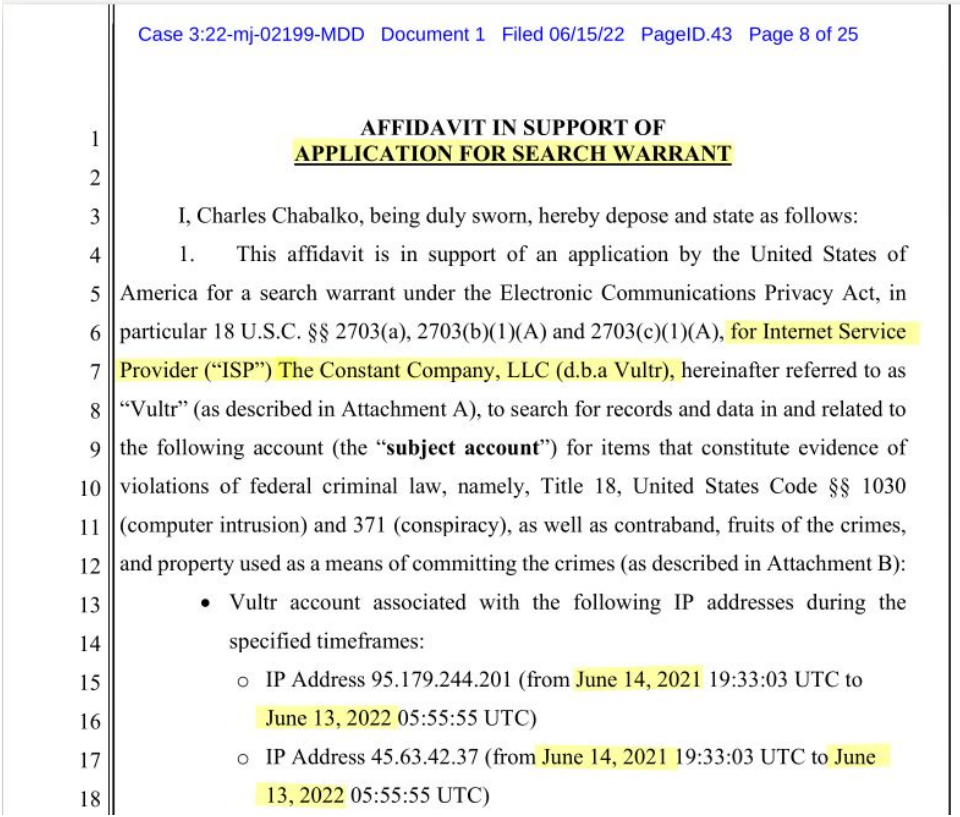
Powered by Malware?

Unlikely

RSocks Botnet: What we know

- Millions of infections: Computers, Android and IoT
- In operation since 2014 and disrupted in June 2022 by Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA
- Victims of the RSOCKS botnet, include a university, a hotel, a television studio, and an electronics manufacturer, as well as home businesses and individuals
- Brian Krebs managed to find the operator



Case 3:22-mj-02199-MDD Document 1 Filed 06/15/22 PageID.43 Page 8 of 25

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT

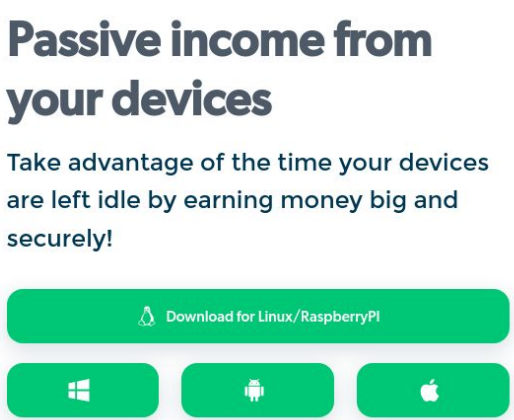
I, Charles Chabalko, being duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

1. This affidavit is in support of an application by the United States of America for a search warrant under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, in particular 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), 2703(b)(1)(A) and 2703(c)(1)(A), for Internet Service Provider ("ISP") The Constant Company, LLC (d.b.a Vultr), hereinafter referred to as "Vultr" (as described in Attachment A), to search for records and data in and related to the following account (the "**subject account**") for items that constitute evidence of violations of federal criminal law, namely, Title 18, United States Code §§ 1030 (computer intrusion) and 371 (conspiracy), as well as contraband, fruits of the crimes, and property used as a means of committing the crimes (as described in Attachment B):

- Vultr account associated with the following IP addresses during the specified timeframes:
  - IP Address 95.179.244.201 (from June 14, 2021 19:33:03 UTC to June 13, 2022 05:55:55 UTC)
  - IP Address 45.63.42.37 (from June 14, 2021 19:33:03 UTC to June 13, 2022 05:55:55 UTC)

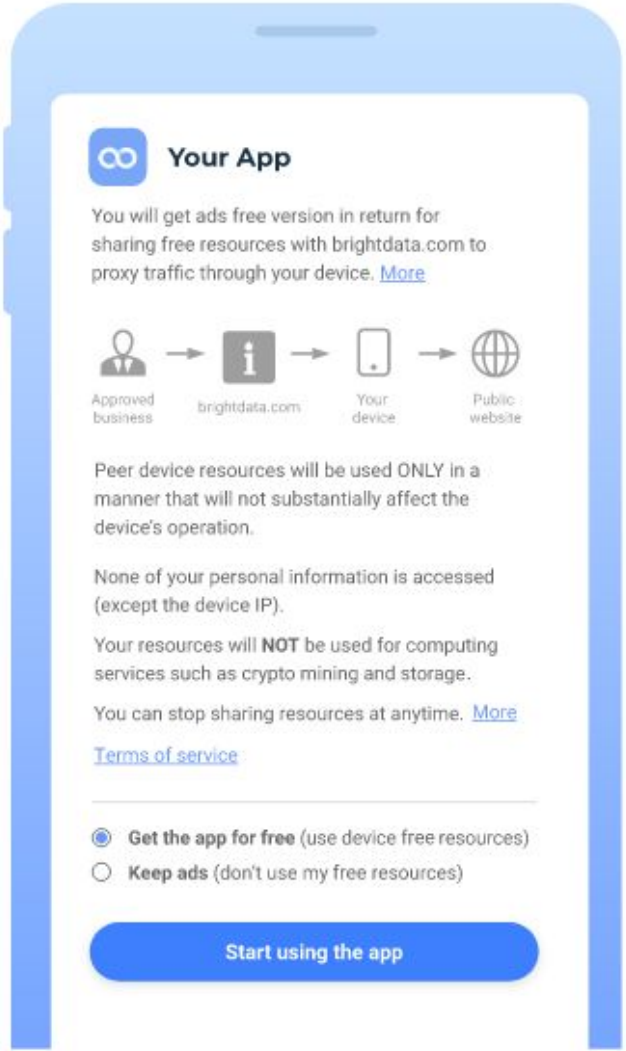
Residential Proxy Services

- Luminati became Bright Data
- They power their proxy service via an application branded as EarnApp



EarnApp For Developers

- Replaces ads with a proxy
- Targeted at mobile developers



EarnApp Powers Bright Data

bright data

Web Data Proxy Resources Pricing Log in Sign up

Residential Proxies drive results in every industry

Social media

AdTech

E-commerce

Finance

Travel

SEO

Market research

Website testing

Sign up for a free trial >

Other Bright Data Activities Include…

SIGN IN The Register

{* SECURITY *}

Israeli firm Bright Data named as enabler of Philippines government DDOS attacks on opposition groups

Bright denies all in this odd tale of a leaky VPN, creepy proxy networks, 8Chan, clouds hosting wonky workloads, and Swedish digital rights org Qurium

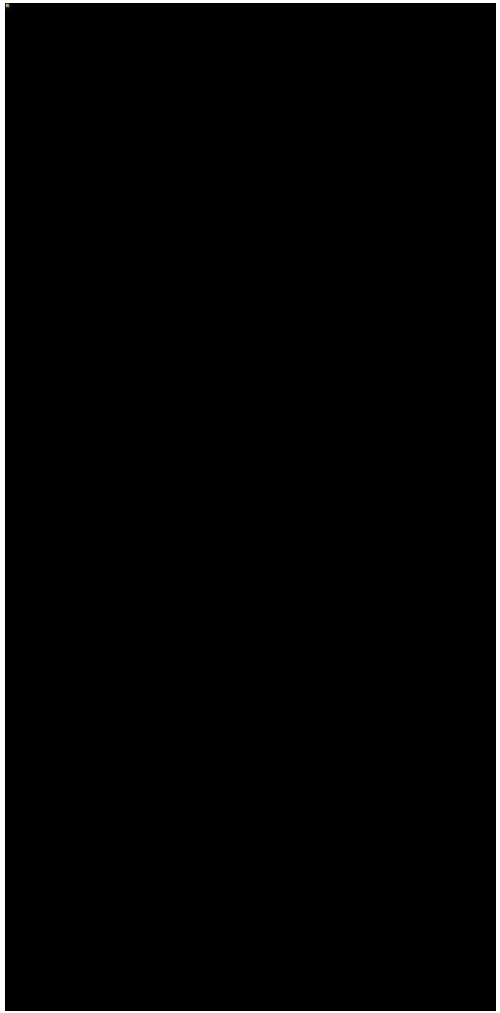
Simon Sharwood, APAC Editor

Thu 26 Aug 2021 // 04:00 UTC

Meanwhile in GoSecure’s Honeypots…

A New Actor Appears

- Witnessed in our RDP Honeypots
- Makes Easy Money
- Powers Residential Proxy Providers
- Let’s call him: Residential Proxy Enabler



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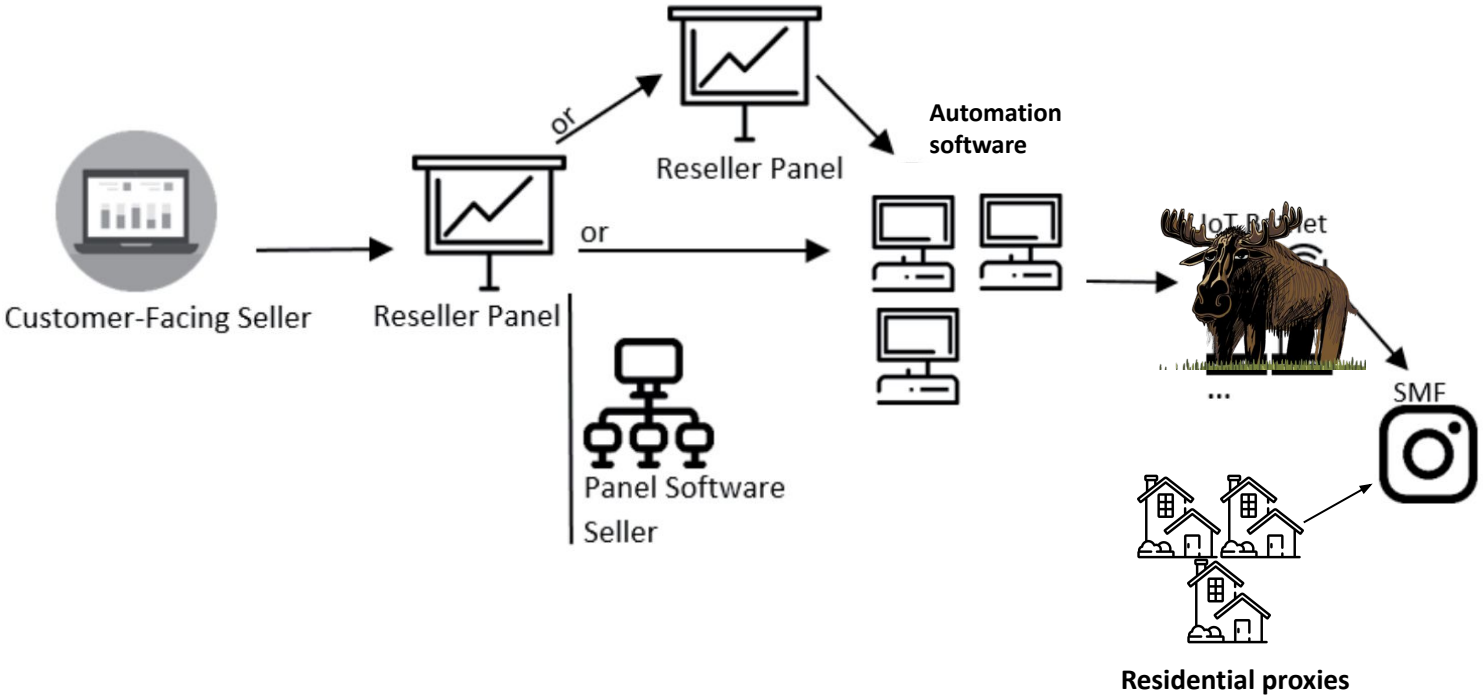

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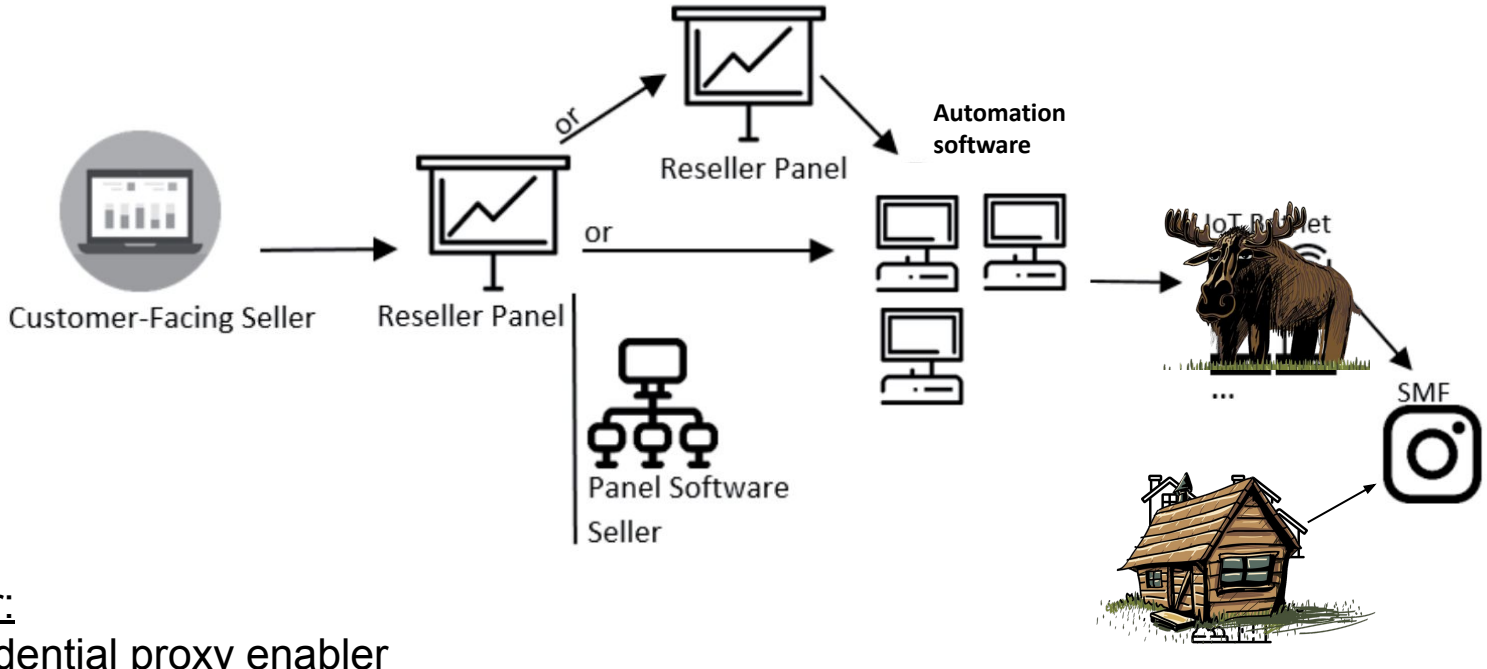

New actor:

- Residential proxy enabler

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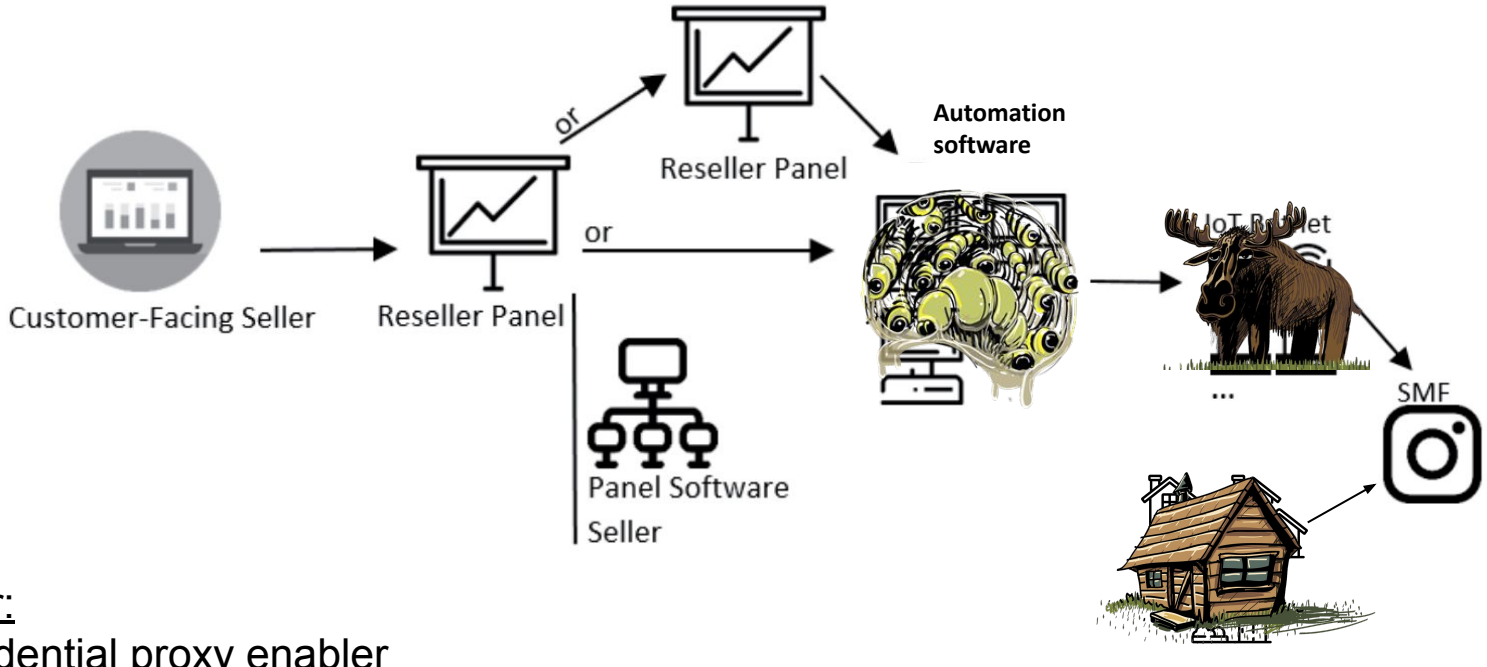
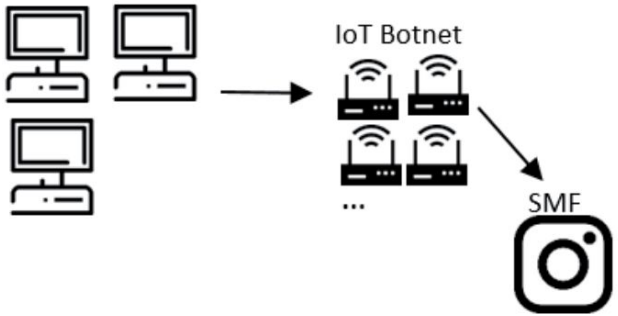


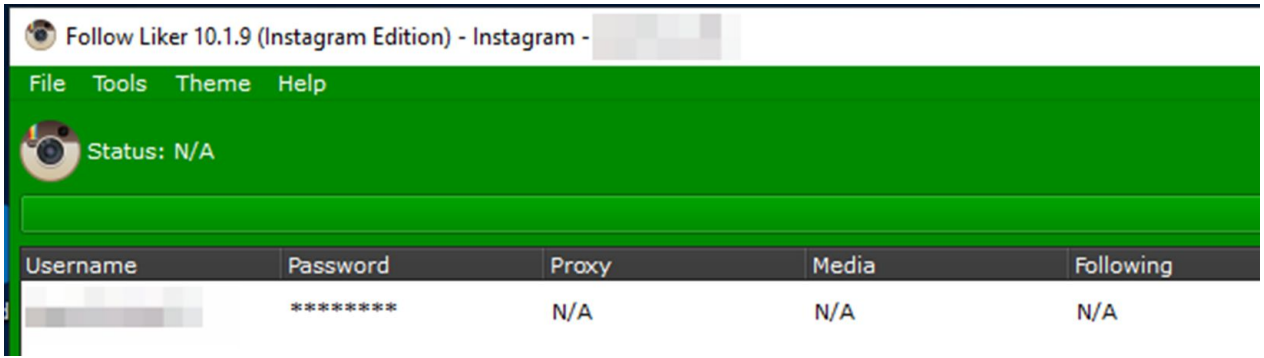
New actor:

- Residential proxy enabler

Automation software



Automation Software



- Manages fake accounts and proxies
- Orchestrate the actions of fake accounts
- Leverages embedded web-browsers
- Regularly updated to avoid detection by social media companies

GramDominator

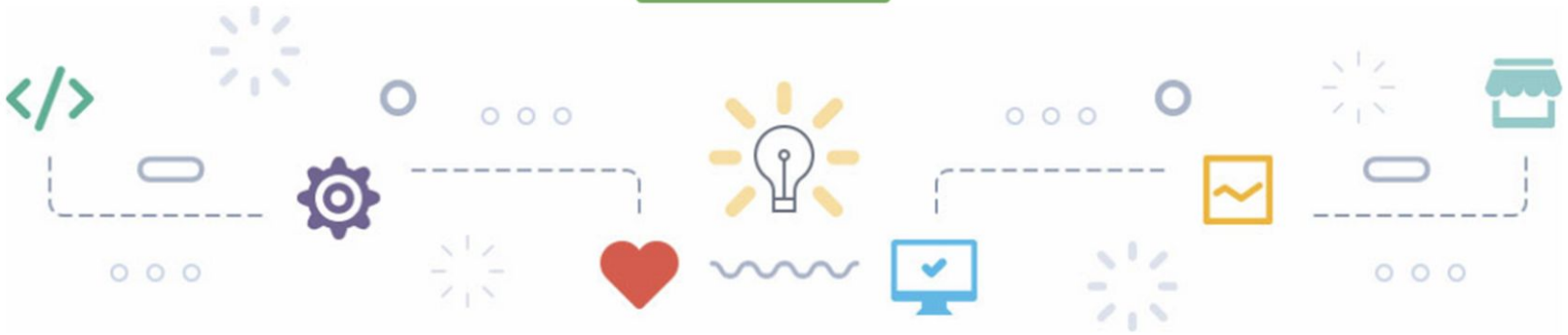
HOME FEATURES PRICING FREE MOBILE APPS BECOME AN AFFILIATE HELP JOIN FB GROUP LOGIN

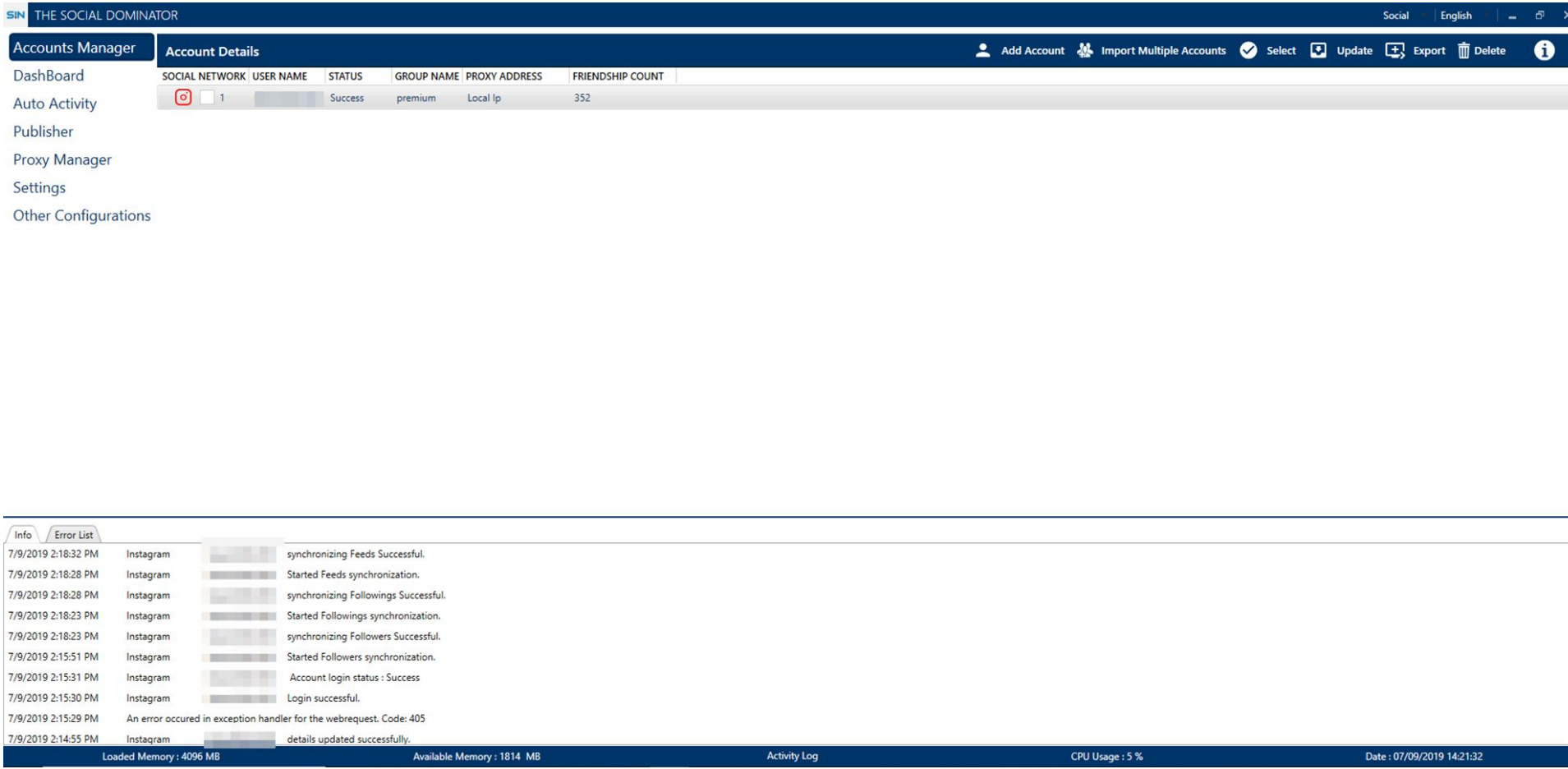
Everything You Need

to increase Instagram traffic and sales

Not just scheduling but complete automation

Buy Now



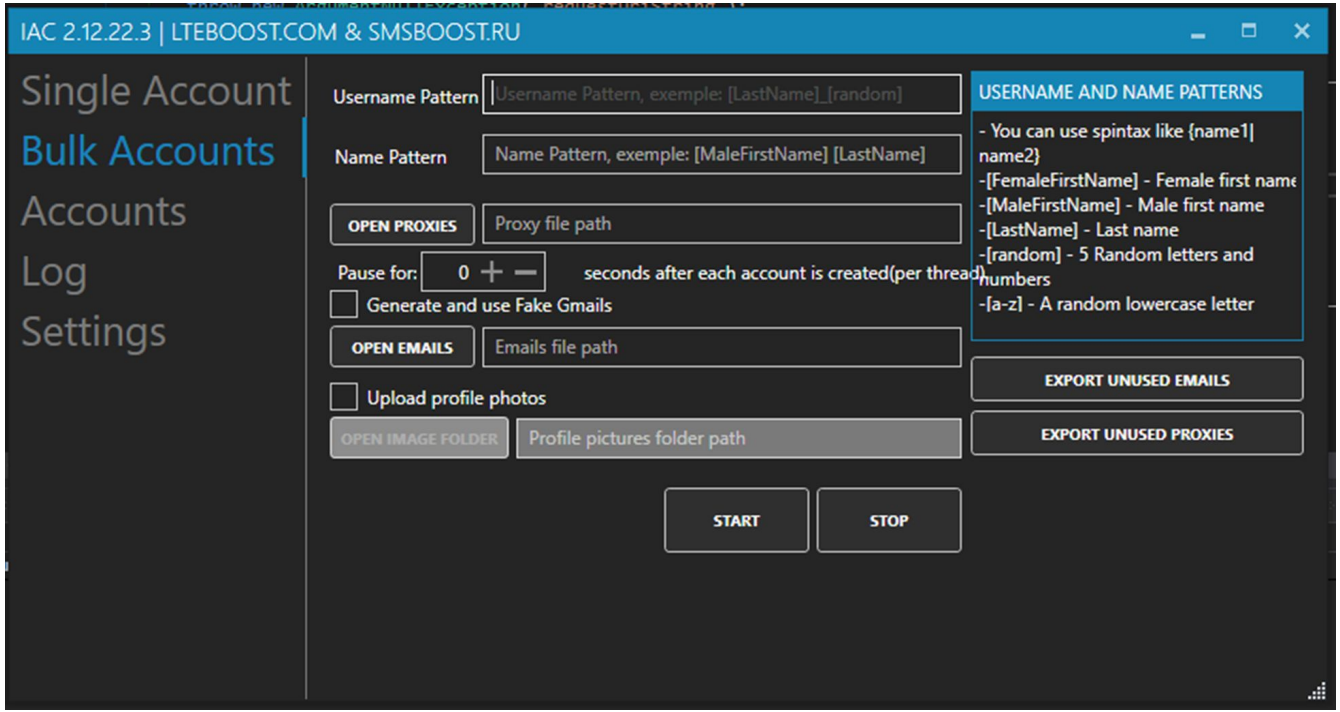

THE SOCIAL DOMINATOR
Social
English
Accounts Manager
DashBoard
Auto Activity
Publisher
Proxy Manager
Settings
Other Configurations
Account Details
Add Account
Import Multiple Accounts
Select
Update
Export
Delete
SOCIAL NETWORK
USER NAME
STATUS
GROUP NAME
PROXY ADDRESS
FRIENDSHIP COUNT
1
Success
premium
Local Ip
352
Info
Error List
7/9/2019 2:18:32 PM Instagram synchronizing Feeds Successful.
7/9/2019 2:18:28 PM Instagram Started Feeds synchronization.
7/9/2019 2:18:28 PM Instagram synchronizing Followings Successful.
7/9/2019 2:18:23 PM Instagram Started Followings synchronization.
7/9/2019 2:18:23 PM Instagram synchronizing Followers Successful.
7/9/2019 2:15:51 PM Instagram Started Followers synchronization.
7/9/2019 2:15:31 PM Instagram Account login status : Success
7/9/2019 2:15:30 PM Instagram Login successful.
7/9/2019 2:15:29 PM An error occured in exception handler for the webrequest. Code: 405
7/9/2019 2:14:55 PM Instagram details updated successfully.
Loaded Memory : 4096 MB
Available Memory : 1814 MB
Activity Log
CPU Usage : 5 %
Date : 07/09/2019 14:21:32

Automation software

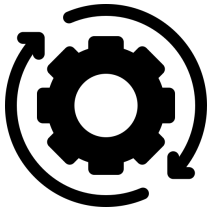
	Architecture	**Browser**	**Packer**	**Our Target?**
GramDominator / Socinator	.Net	CEF	Not packed	No socks proxy support
FollowAdder	Xojo / REALBasic	CEF	Obscure Xojo framework	No unlimited accounts
MassPlanner	C++ / .Net	CEF	Themida / WinLicense 2.x	Only one overridable User-Agent
FollowingLike	.Net	BotSocial, a custom browser in .Net	ILProtector	Custom User-Agent feature too recent
FollowLiker	Java compiled to native code	HtmlUnit Java Library	Excelsior JET	Doesn’t interact with Instagram similarly

Fake Account Creation Software

- BlueStacks Android Emulator
- iGramTool =>



2022 update



Automation Software: Managing Fake Accounts

BUILD MARKETING LIST WITH A VERY POWERFUL & EASY TO USE SOFTWARE

There's no doubt that Instagram, with its more than 600 million users, has become a great instagram marketing tool for business today. With growing targeting, analytics, promotional tactics and marketing tools provided by Instagram, it's definitely a great arsenal in your digital marketing tool kit.

T Technical
Hey, Is there something we can help you with?

Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Quora, LinkedIn, YouTube, Pinterest, Reddit, Tumblr Automation

Advanced Publishing

Socinator lets you auto-publish and schedules your posts on multiple networks at once, including Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn etc. Its also has an ability of content curation by importing content via RSS feeds, monitoring folder etc. making it the smart auto post scheduler.

Instagram Automation

Grow your Instagram accounts 10x faster: Auto Follow, Follow Back, Auto Like, Auto Comment, Auto Repost, Auto Messages, Live Chat and Many More

Facebook Automation

Increase Engagement and Precised Audien... Friend Requests, Auto A... Friends, Auto Like, Auto Comme... Join Groups, Auto Login, L...

Technical
Hey, Is there something we can help you with?
Reply here...

https://www.followliker.com/instagram-bot.html

Home / Support / Buy Now

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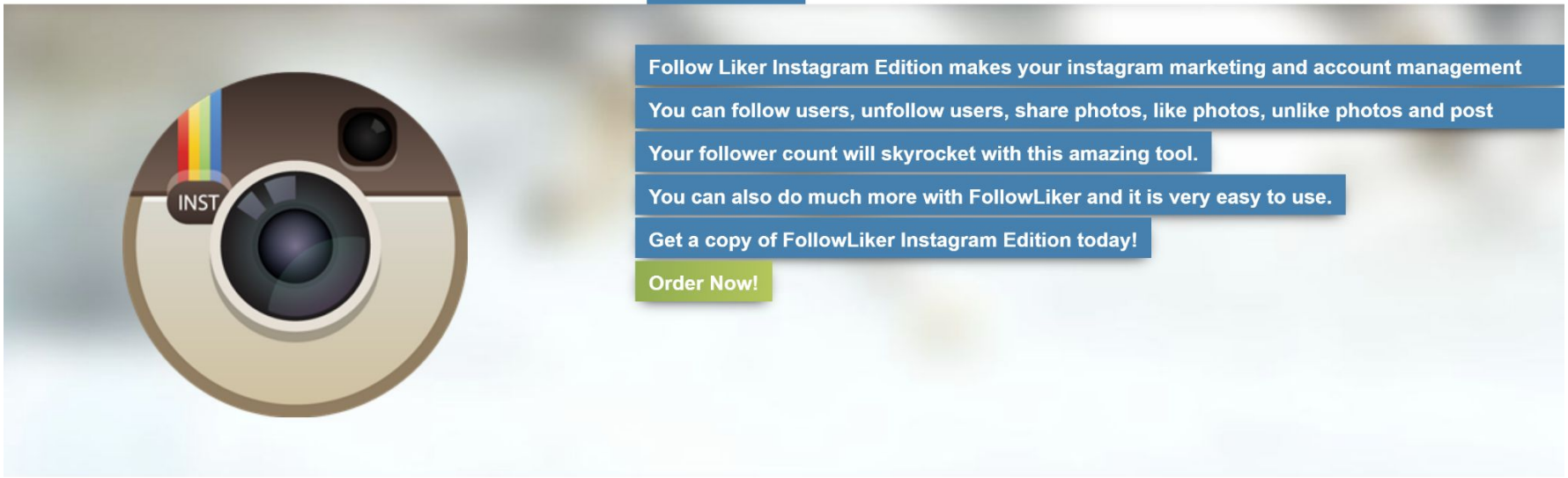

Follow Liker Instagram Edition is very powerful, reliable & super flexible multipurpose software that makes it easy to automate all your instagram tasks.

See Pricing

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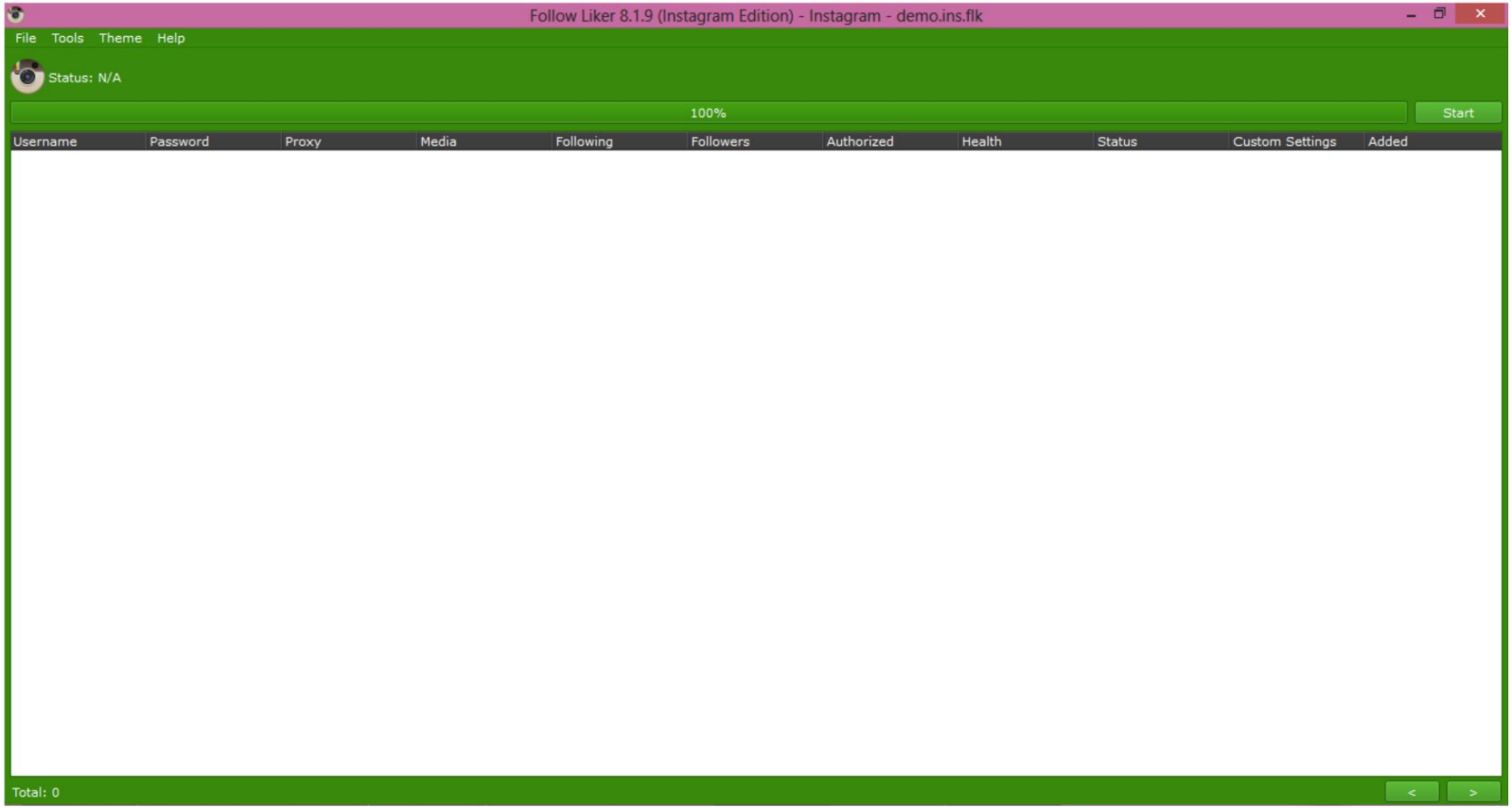

Fo

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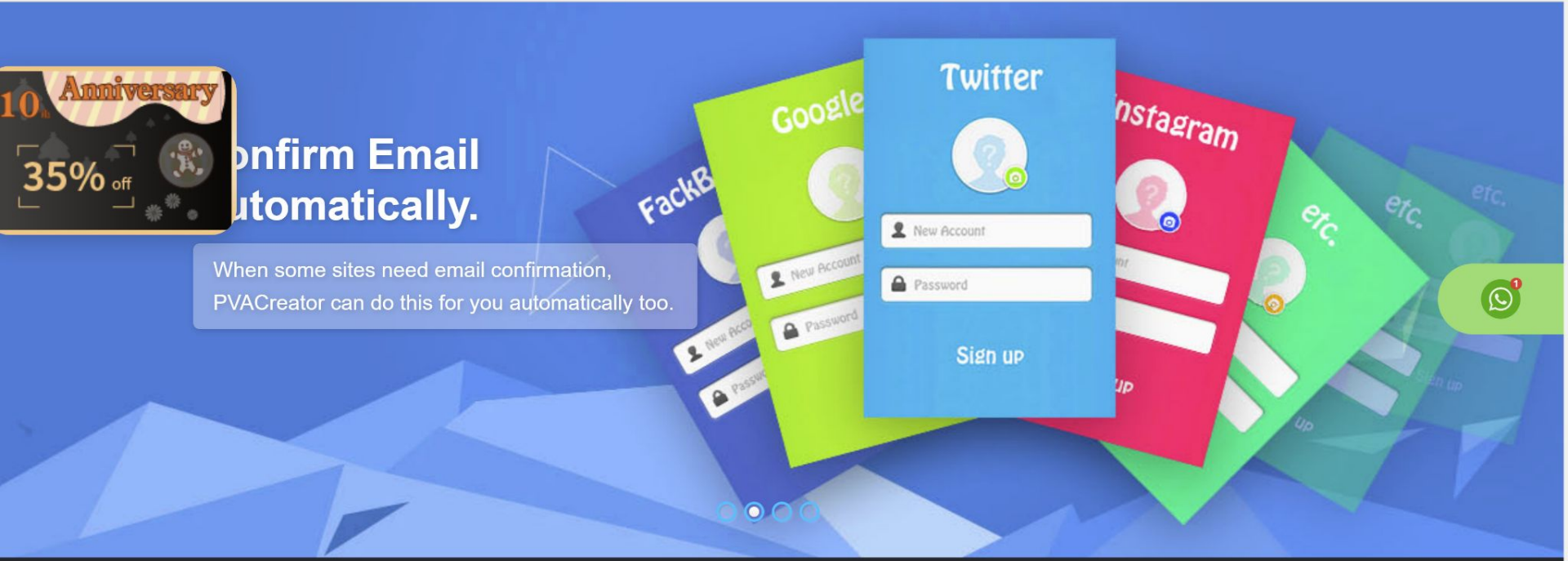
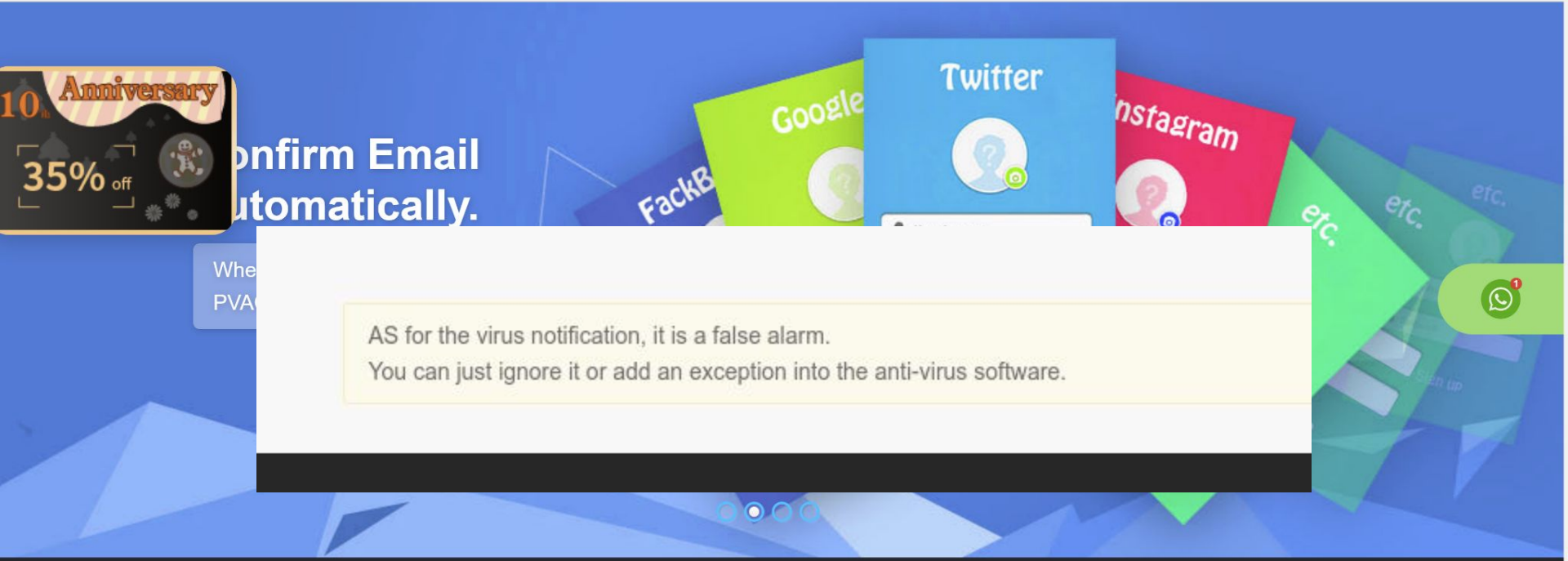
Automation Software: Creating Fake Accounts



What can **PVA CREATOR** do for you

PVACreator is a super accounts bulk creating machine that can creating phone and email verified accounts for different sites. It can also solve captcha automatically and allow you to import proxies to register accounts.



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PVACreator

457 subscribers

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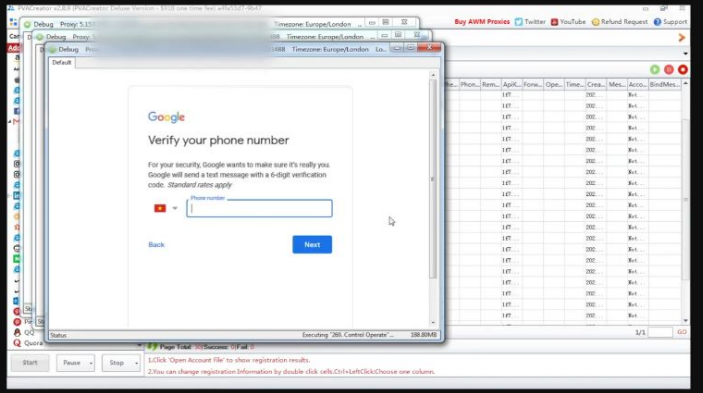

PVA Creator(Gmail) Tutorial - Auto Create Unlimited Gmail/Go...

26,720 views • 1 year ago

This video shows how to create lots of Gmail accounts by PVACreator.
🌹See more here: https://www.pvacreator.com

PVACreator is a super accounts bulk creating machine that can creating phone and email verified accounts for different sites. It can also solve captcha automatically and allow you to ...
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Instead of creating, buy fake accounts?

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CATEGORIES FOLLOWERS 100K+ HOW IT WORKS SELL

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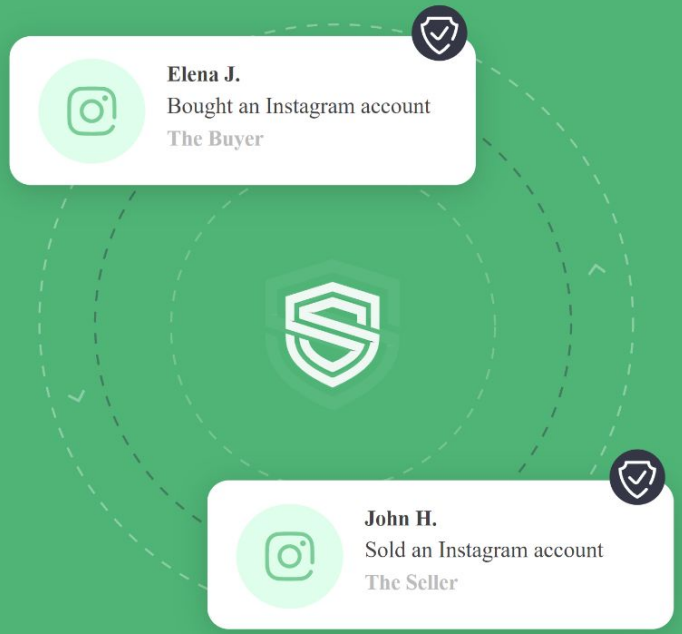
We offer Surveillance.|

Select Your Category Search

- ✓ Authentic Instagram Accounts
- ✓ Risk Free Transaction
- ✓ Quick Process

More than 3000 Instagram accounts.



Buy Cheap Instagram Accounts

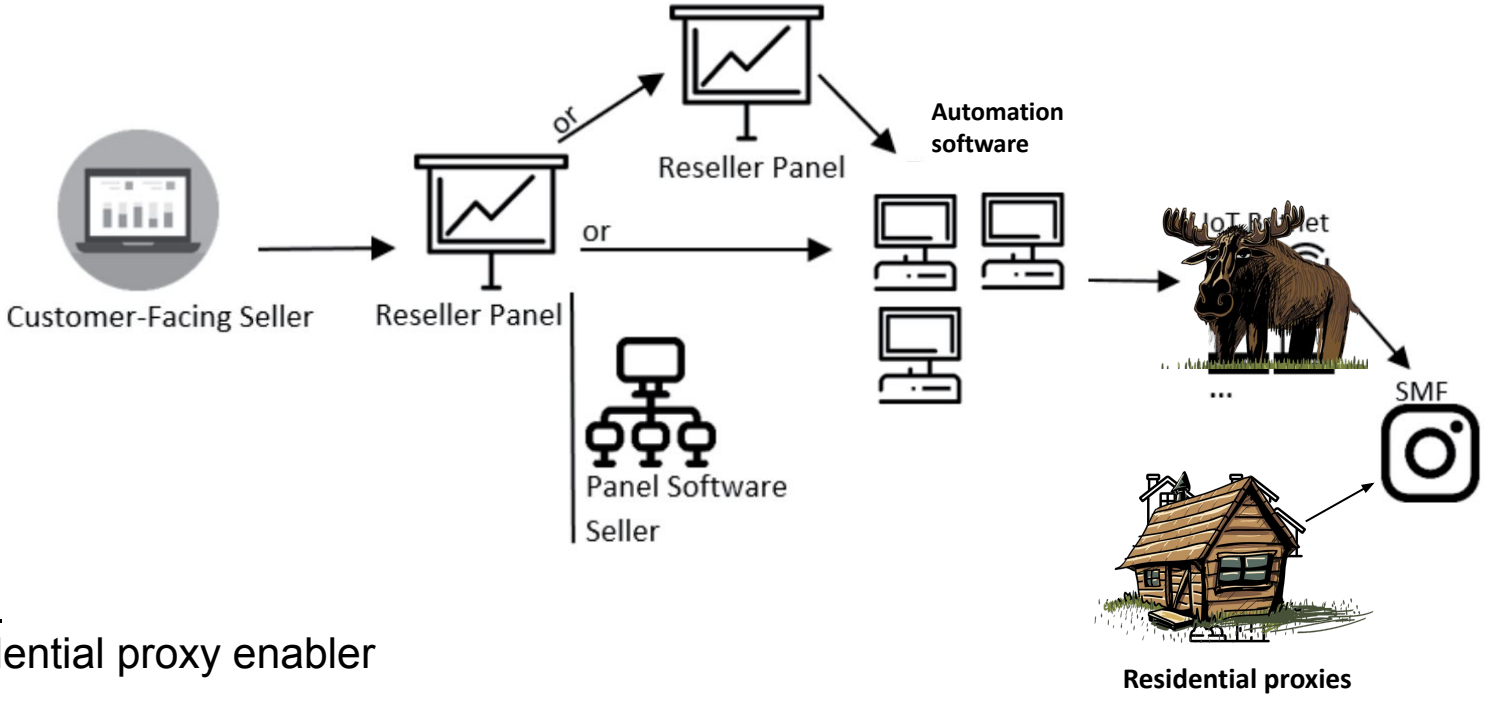
The best place to Buy Instagram Accounts with 100% Guarantee! IG accs for Sale! We've rounded up the best quality Instagram accounts for your ad or business! We sell accounts IG with and without subscribers, we only sell real accounts for cheap!

Instant Delivery | 24/7 Support | 100% Secure

Instagram PVA accounts	Followers / Subs	Psc.	Price		
IG Accounts: Instagram Account with Profile picture and 5 Posts added, RU IP	0	500	~~$2.10~~ $1.99	Buy now	Se
IG Accounts: Instagram Account with Profile picture and 1 Post added, RU IP	0	250	$1.60	Buy now	S
IG Accounts: Instagram Account with Profile picture and 50 Posts added, RU IP	0	200	$7.50	Buy now	See detail
IG Accounts: Instagram Account with	0	50	$6.99	Buy now	See details

https://accfarm.com/buy-reddit-accounts/softreg-reddit-accounts

Supply Chain of Social Media Fraud



New actor:

- Residential proxy enabler

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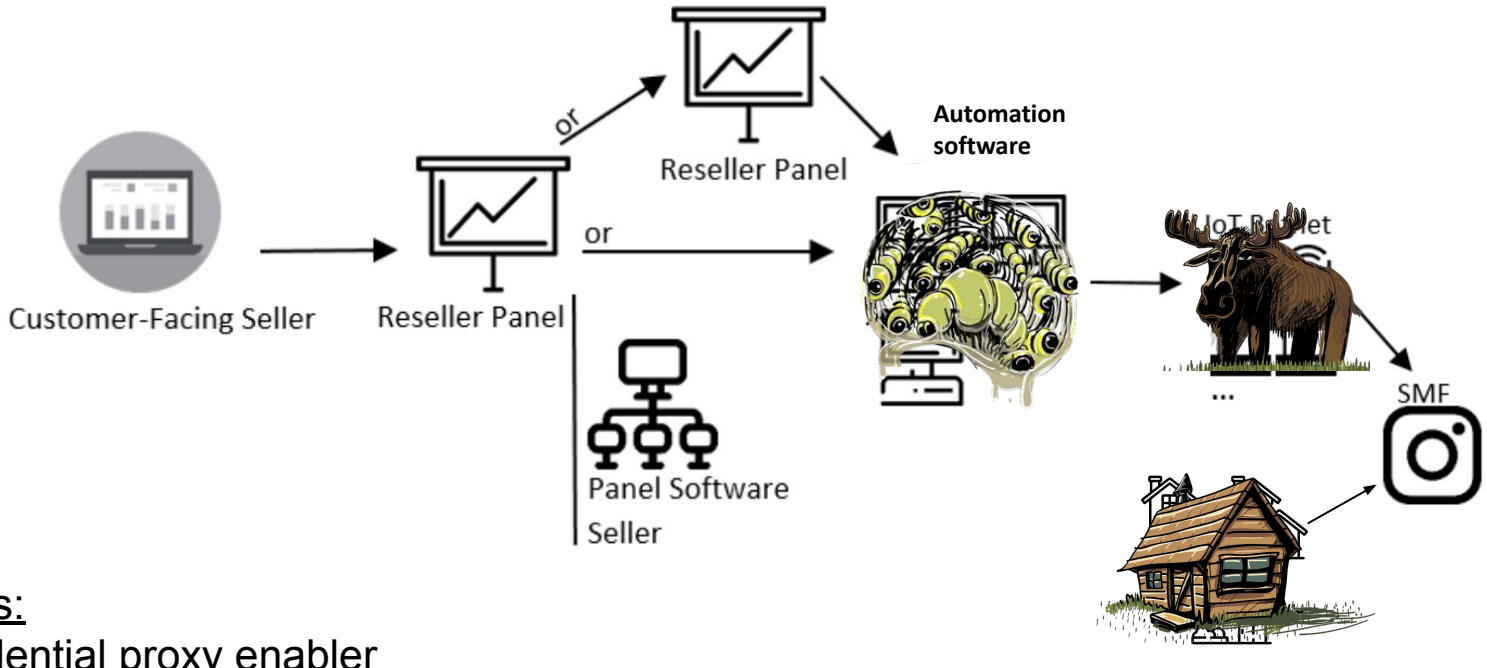

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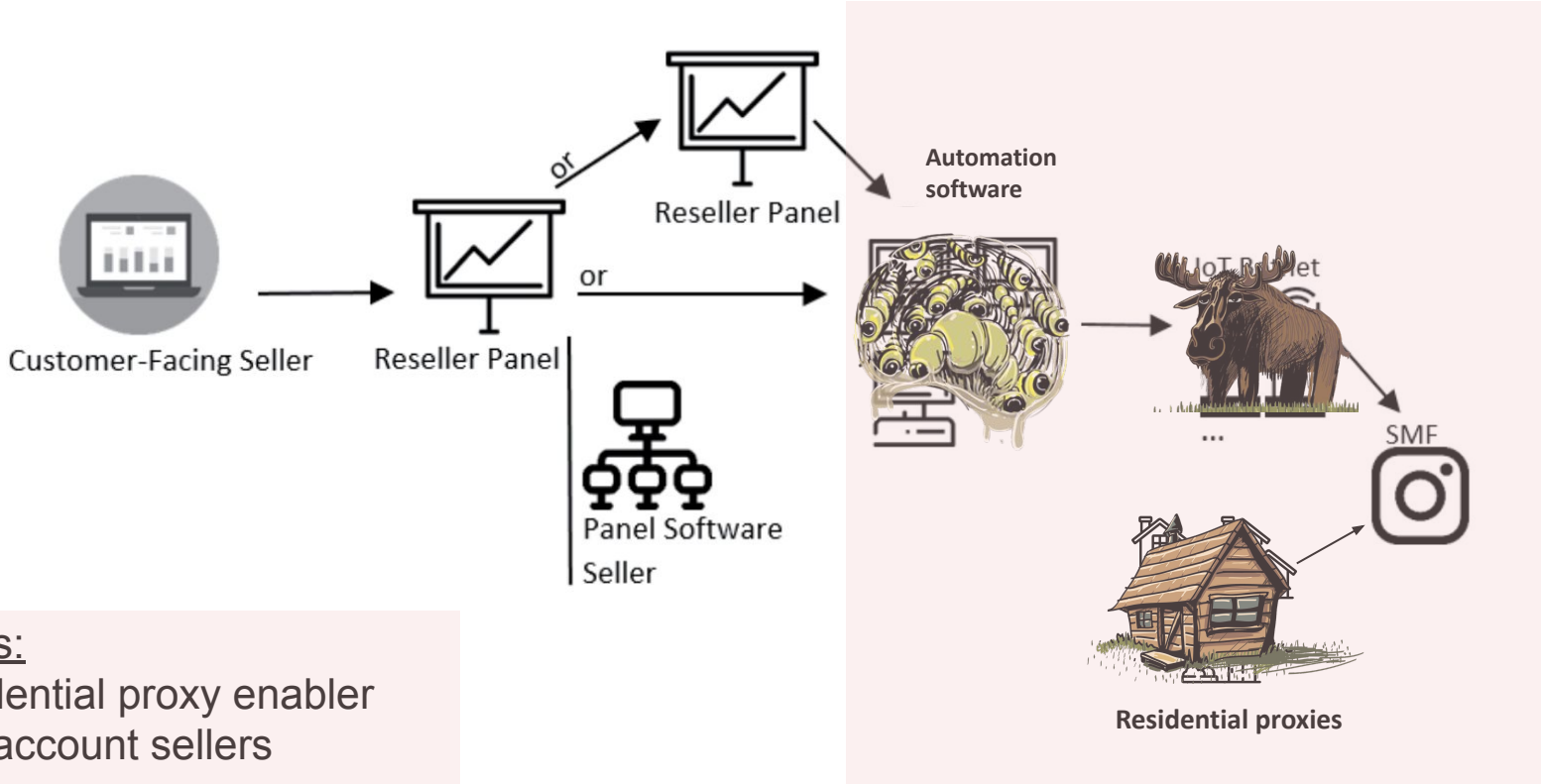

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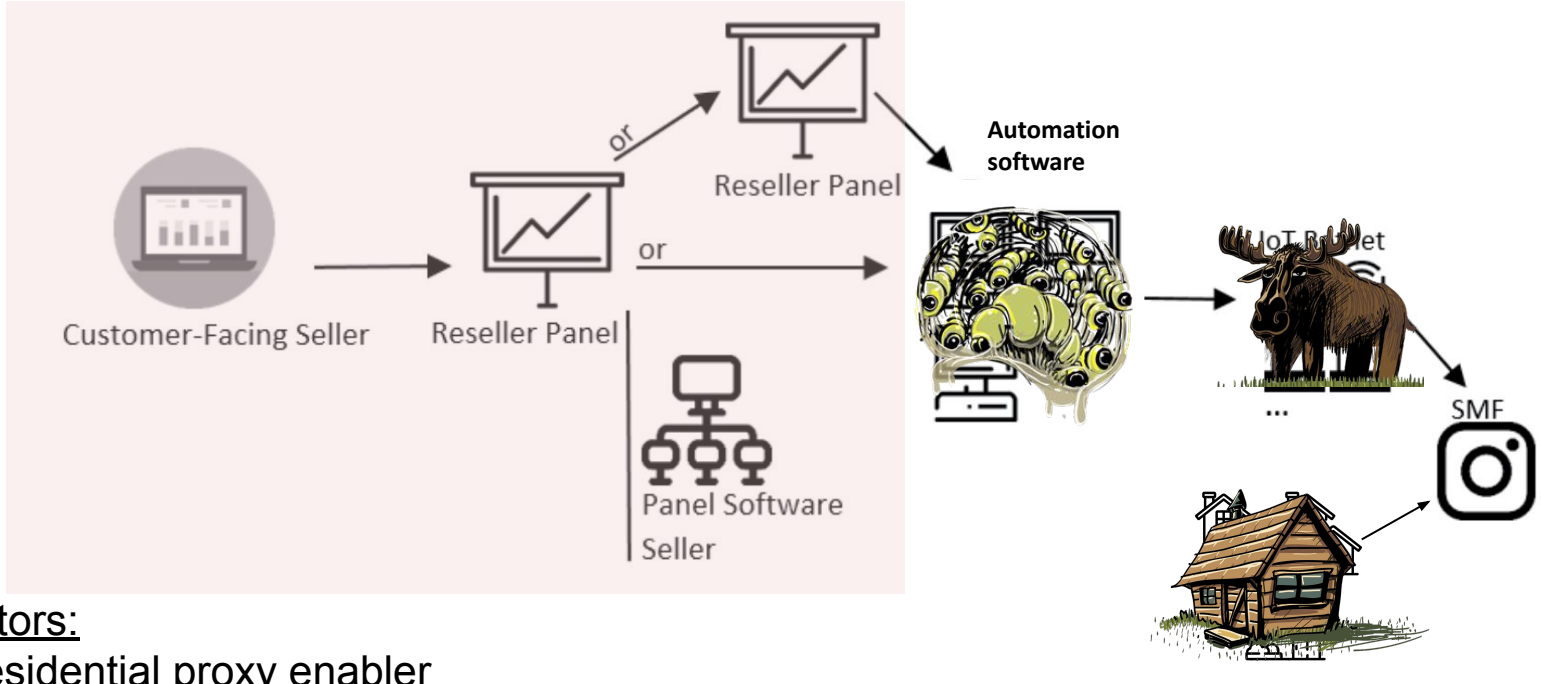

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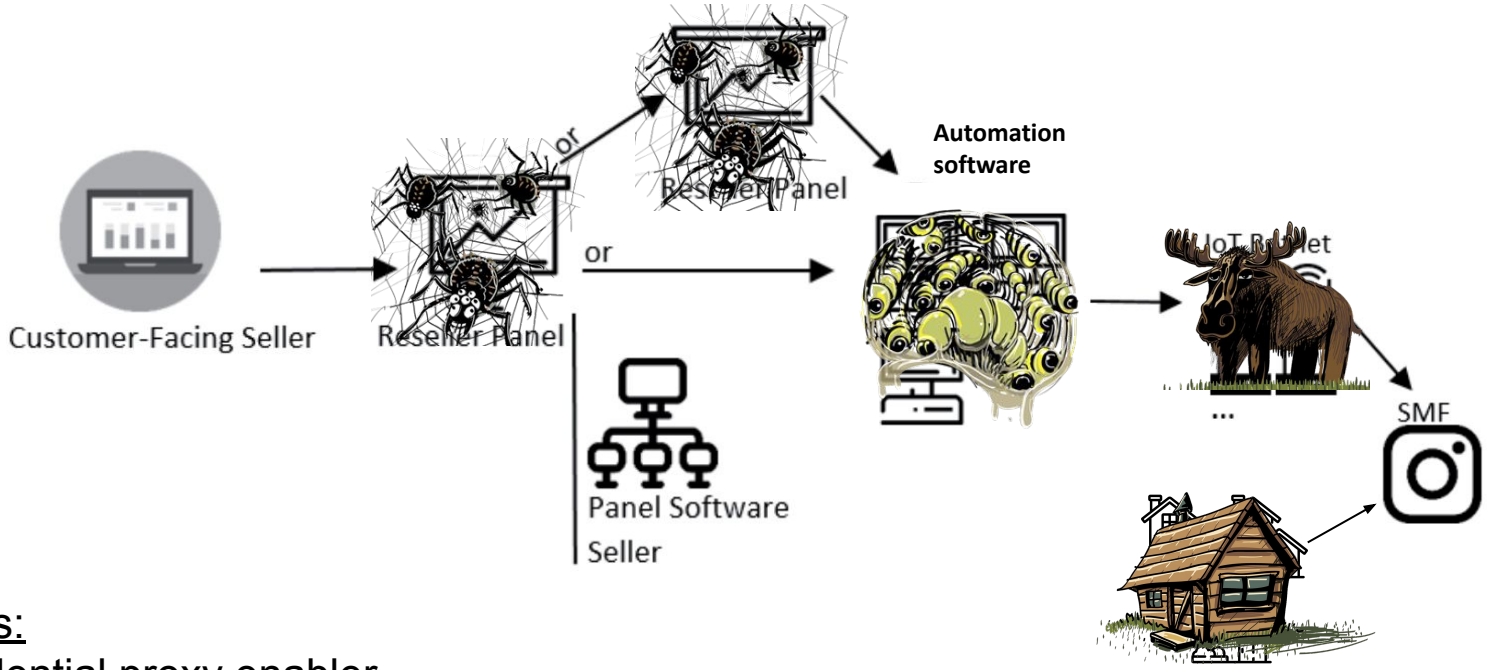

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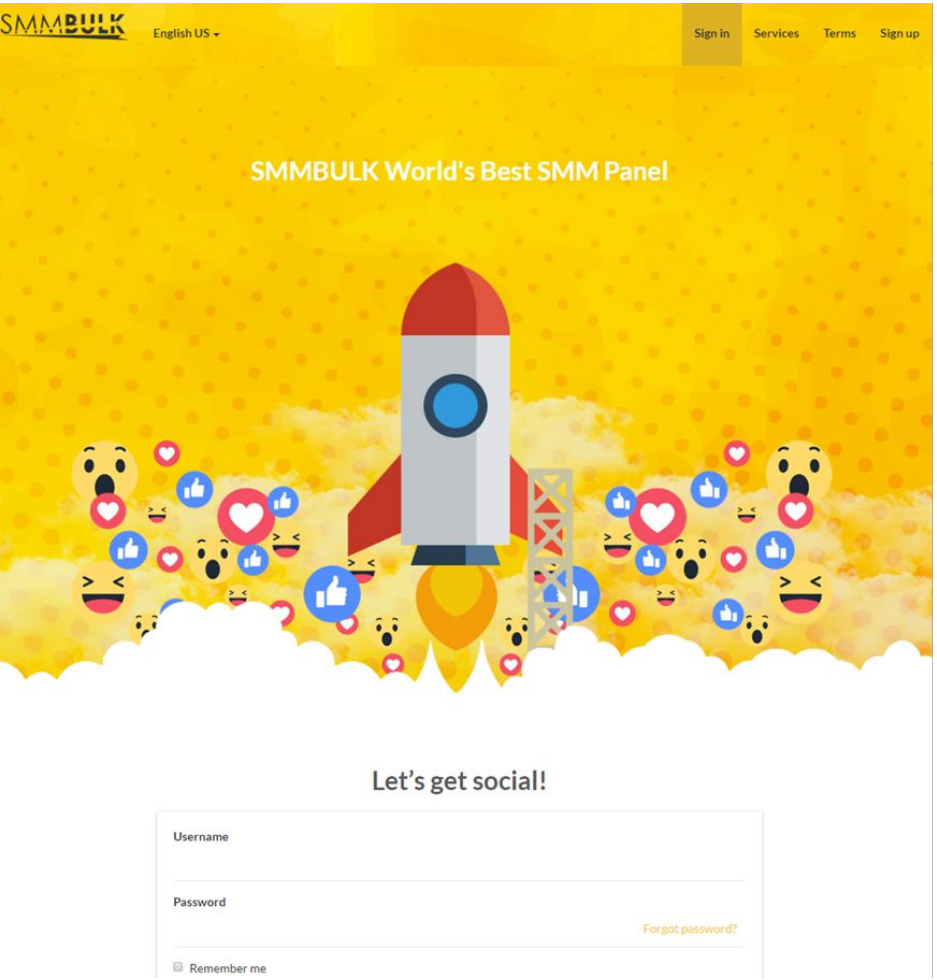
Reseller panels

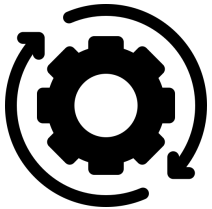


😘 SMMBULK 😘					
259	Website Hosting (Monthly) | PACKAGE 1	3.00	1	1	3$ per month 2 GB Web Space 500GB Bandwidth 20 Email Accounts 10 MySQL Databases cPanel Control Panel 10 Sub Domains 10 FTP Accounts plz contact us after order
Instagram likes					
249	IG Likes APP1	0.70	100	1500	instagram likes app1 min 50 max 5k fast real
Instagram Views					
253	IG Video View APP1	0.02	500	250000000	Views From REAL profile Speed 10k-50k per days min 100 max 10000000 start : 1 min to 30 min
IG Followers (Guaranteed)					
254	IG Followers APP1 MAX 50k	5.00	10	70000	min 10 max 50k speed : 10k - 30k / day auto refill 20 day real
255	IG Followers APP2 MAX 100k	5.00	10	100000	min 10 max 100k real auto refill 20 day speed : 10k to 30k per day
257	IG Followers APP4 MAX 350k	2.50	50	350000	min 50 max 350k start : 0 to 10 min speed : 10k to 40k per day real

Sell popularity in bulk

All look alike

2022 update



The same… but better.

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https://bulksmmfollows.com

BulkSmmFollows.com- No. 1 smm panel in this world

Bulksmmfollows - **SMM** panel is the world's largest and cheapest Social Media **SMM** panel for resellers - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube views & more!

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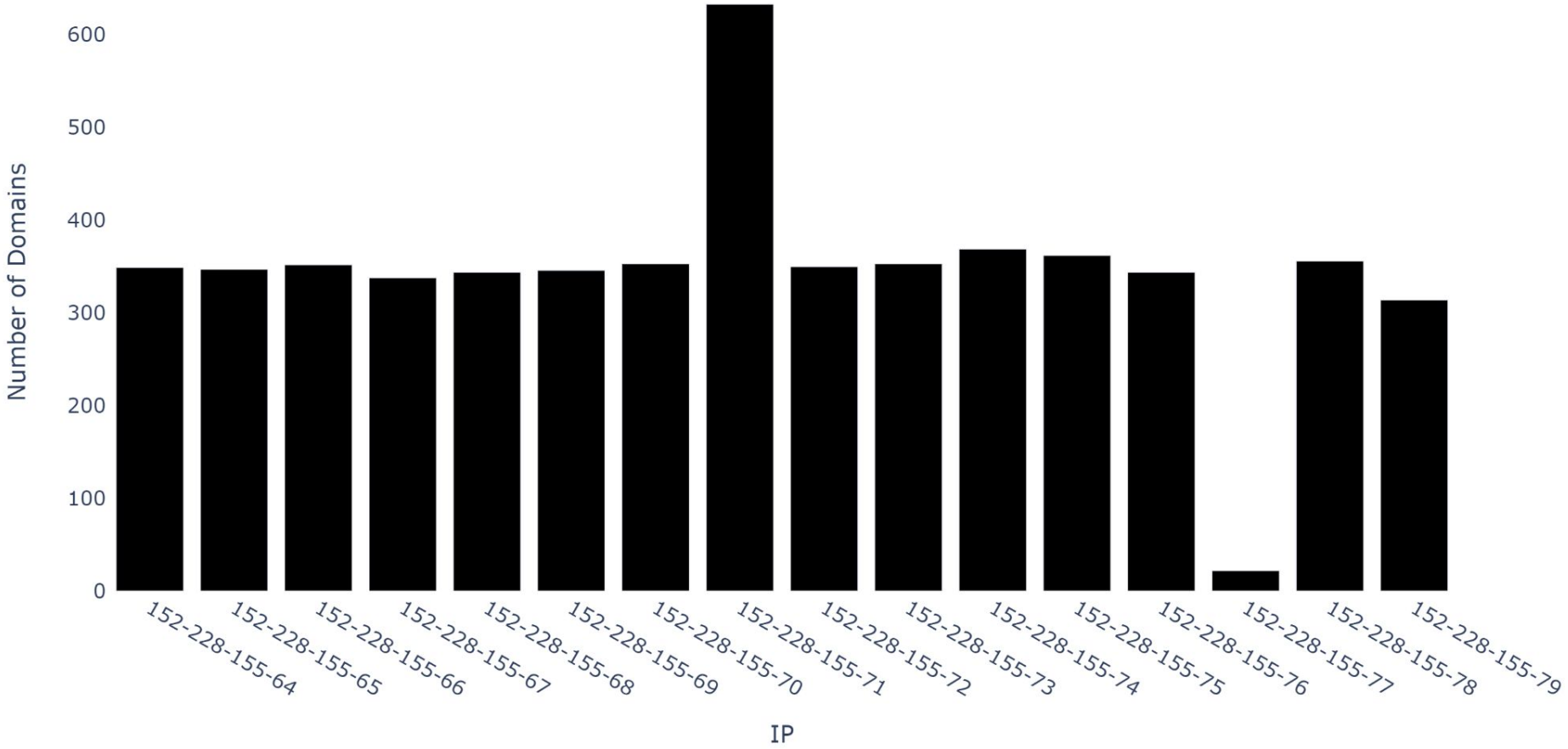
Passive DNS Queries yields

16 IP addresses

152.228.155.**64 to** 152.228.155.**79**

Number of domains per IP



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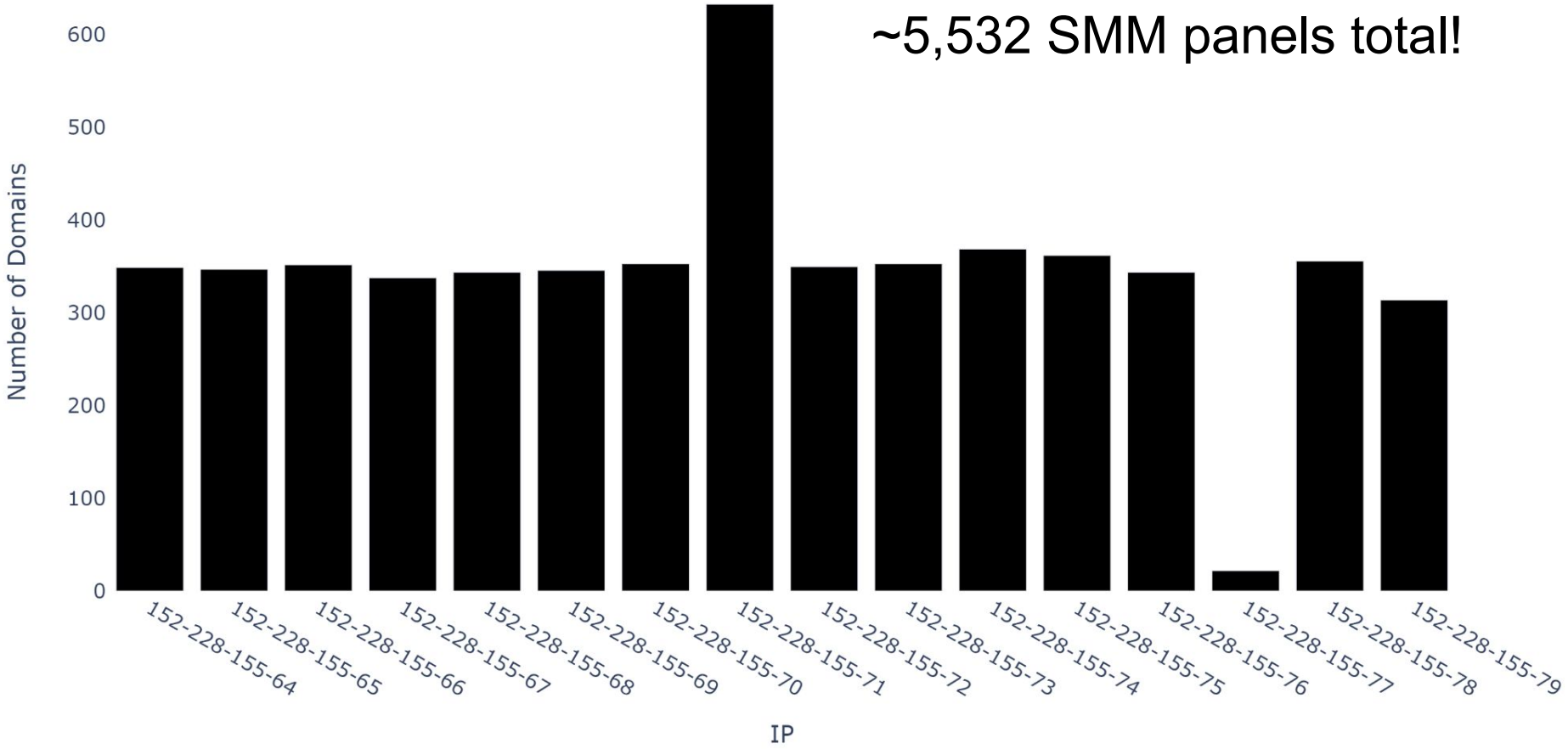

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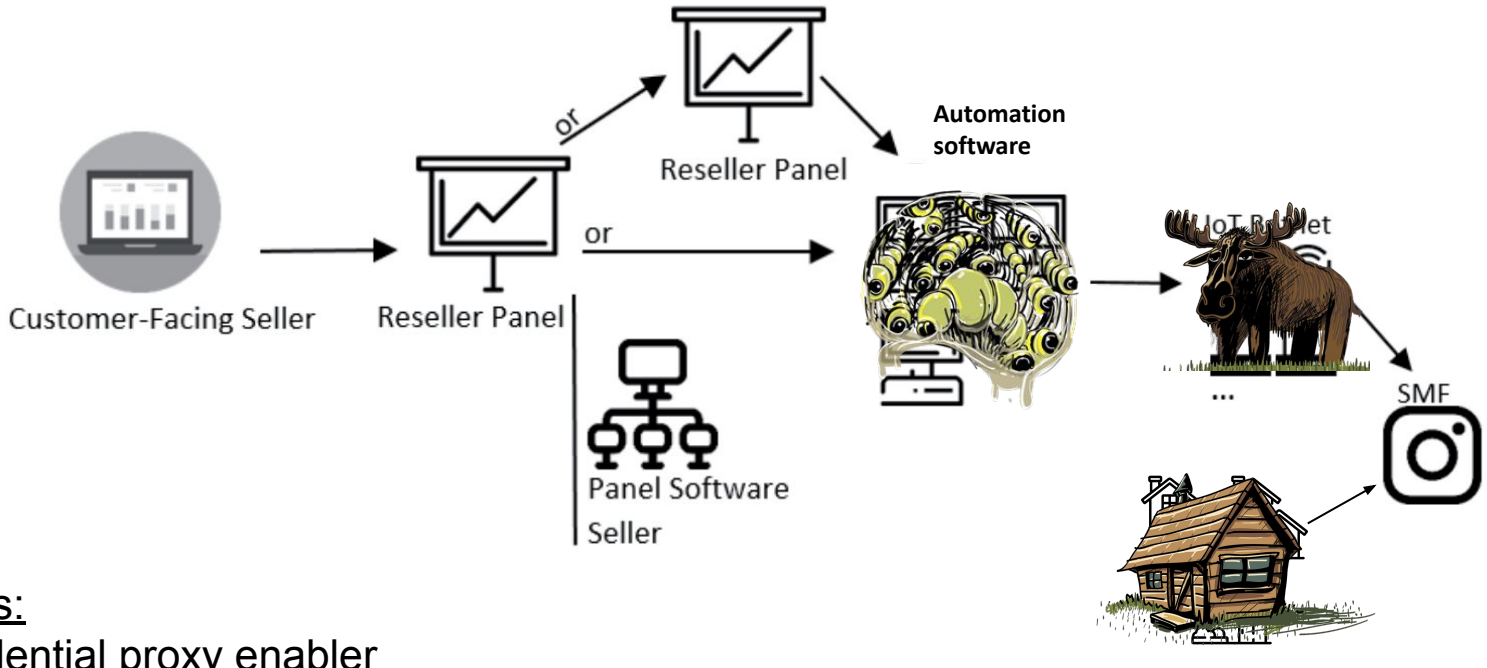

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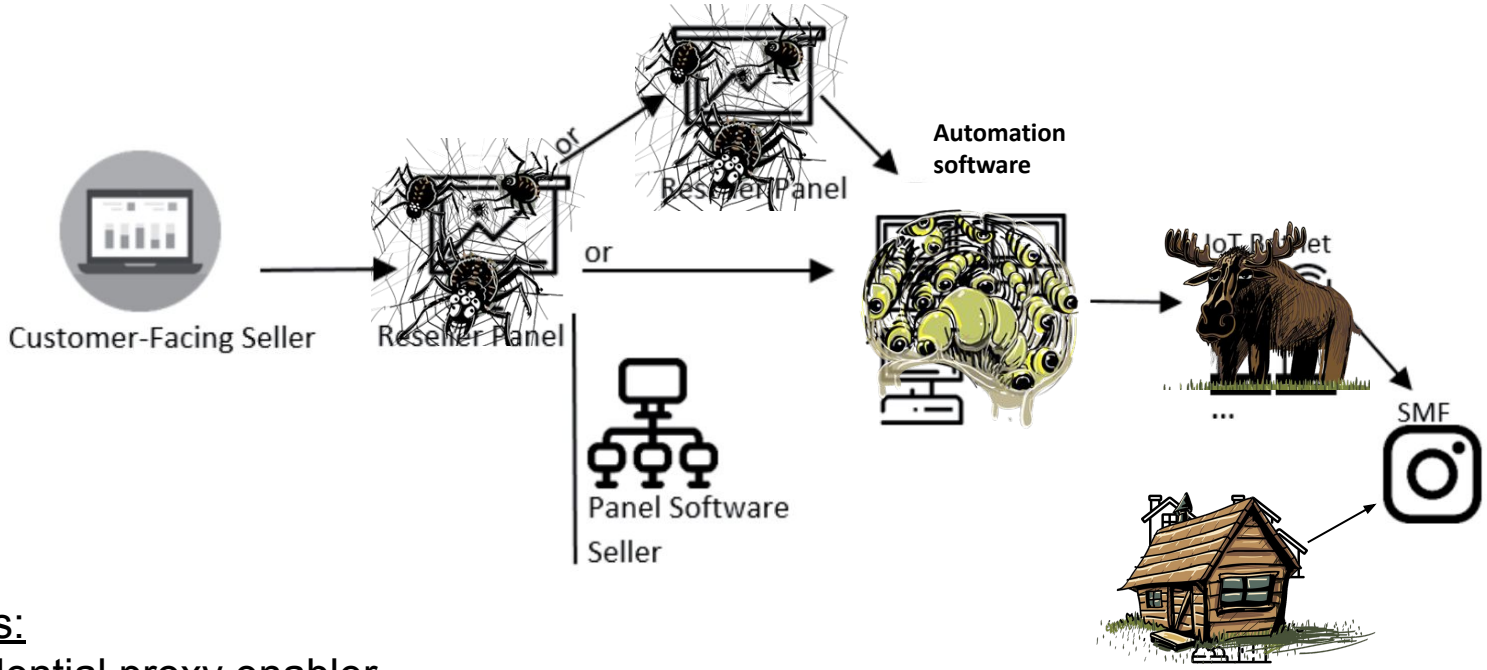

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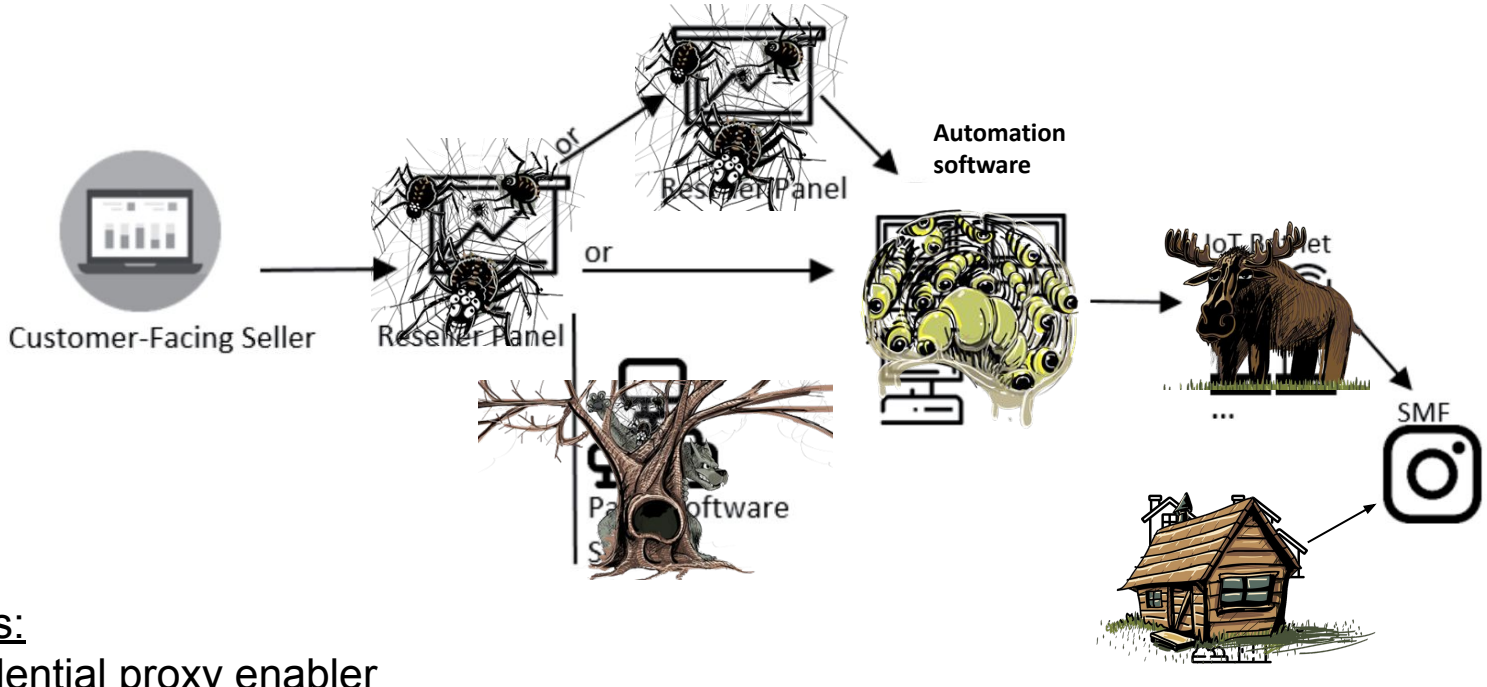

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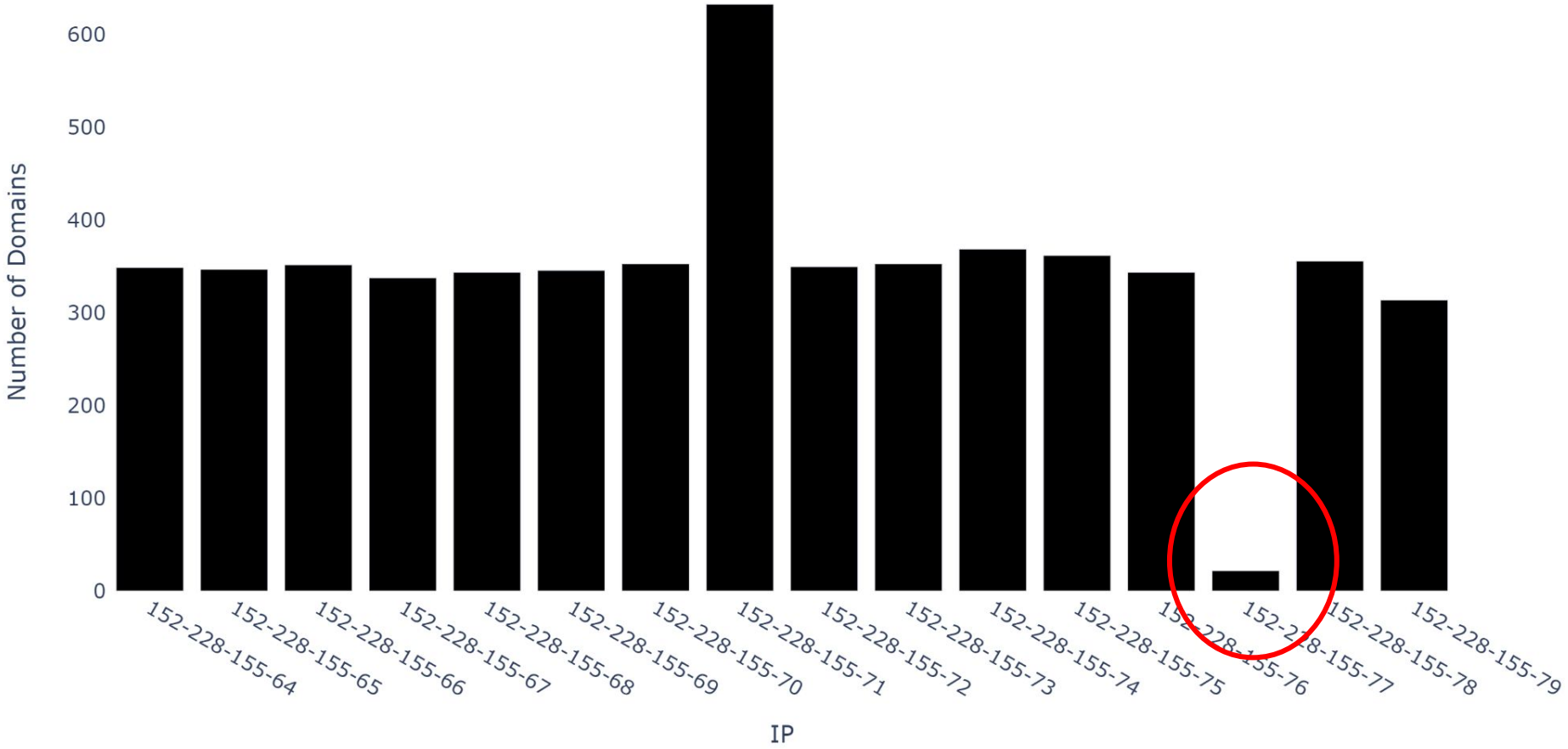
Panel-as-a-service

Number of domains per IP



RISKIQ

152.228.155.77

Organization | Try Illuminate

First Seen 2021-04-09 | Last Seen 2022-08-19 | ASN AS16276 - OVH | Organization OVH SAS | Netblock 152.228.128.0/17 | OVH-SAS | Routable | Categorize

44	1	25	46	43	0	0	0	1	0	85	2
Resolutions	Whois	Certificates	Trackers	Components	Host Pairs	OSINT	Hashes	Reverse DNS	Projects	Cookies	Services

Organization license results are limited. Upgrade Your Account.

FILTERS

- SYSTEM TAG
- TAG
- ASN
- NETWORK
- SOURCE (1 / 22)
  - riskiq 22

RESOLUTIONS

1 - 22 of 22 | Sort : Last Seen Descending | 25 / Page | Download | Copy

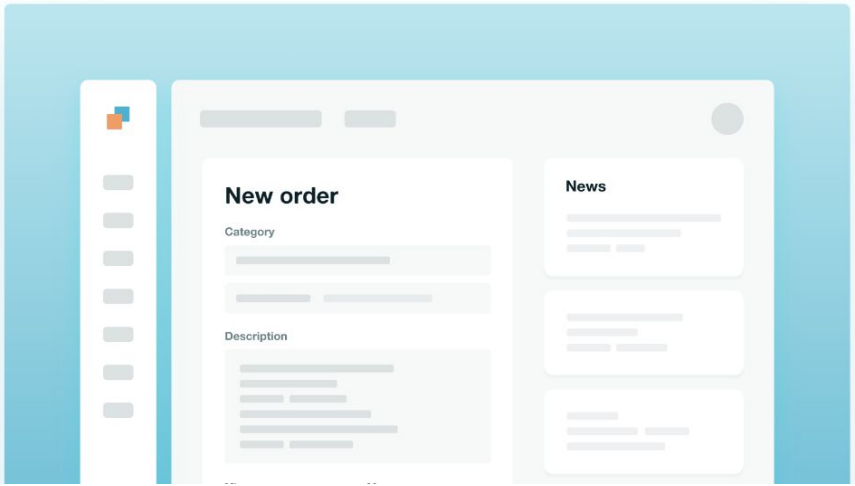
Resolve	First	Last	Source	Tags
perfectpanel.com	2021-04-09	2022-08-19	riskiq	
razormedya.com	2021-04-11	2022-08-18	riskiq	
webdisk.mygateway.link	2022-06-30	2022-08-18	riskiq	
smmprovder.com	2022-03-19	2022-08-18	riskiq	
ip77.ip-152-228-155.eu	2021-05-03	2022-08-17	riskiq	
smmoid.com	2021-04-12	2022-08-17	riskiq	
_bimi.mygateway.link	2022-08-16	2022-08-16	riskiq	
default._bimi.mygateway.link	2022-08-16	2022-08-16	riskiq	

Automate your SMM business

The best platform to create a panel for reselling or providing SMM services.

Superb user panel

Give your customers an easy-to-use website where they will place thousands of orders.



The best SMM panels platform

All-in-one solution for reselling or providing SMM services.

Features

User panel for your customers

Where they can place orders, see orders history, add funds to balance, submit support tickets, etc.

Accept online payments

Seamlessly integrates with PayPal, Skrill, WebMoney, Perfect Money, Payza, Bitcoin, etc.

Orders processing

Connect any APIs for automated orders processing or manage orders manually.

Easy customisation

Set any currency. Change site language. Chose theme. Edit content, menu, SEO attributes and other options.

User API

Easy-to-integrate API for your customers.

Powerful admin dashboard

Manage users, services, orders, tickets. Configure automation. Review stats. And many more.

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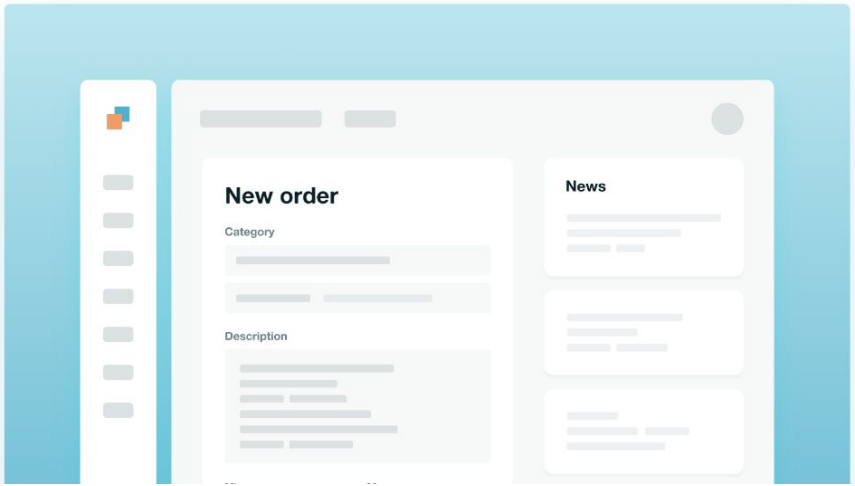

DDoS protection

Enjoy a stable and reliable SMM panel performance that is resistant to DDoS attacks.

Unlimited bandwidth

You will never be charged based on the number of visitors or traffic to your panel.

Your own domain

Use your own domain or purchase one with our help.

Free SSL certificate

Every panel includes a free 256-bit SSL certificate.

Content delivery network

Reduces download times thanks to a network of proxy servers deployed in multiple locations.

Regular backups

All your data will remain safely stored even if an emergency occurs.

Supported provider APIs

Use the search box below to find providers that you need by domain name and see if they are already integrated or not.

justanotherpanel.com

Check

API is integrated

Seamlessly integrate any provider APIs

Integrate provider APIs into your SMM panel in just a few clicks, no programming skills needed. You can connect as many

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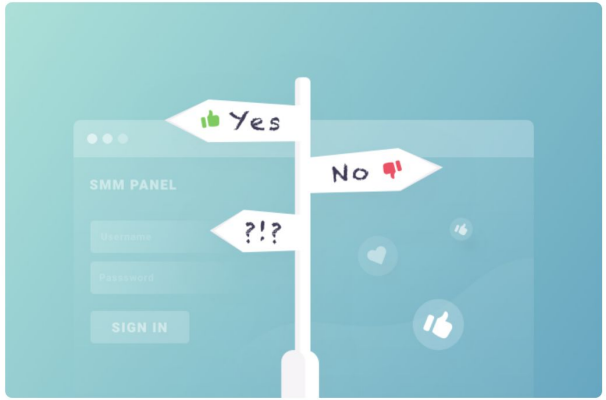
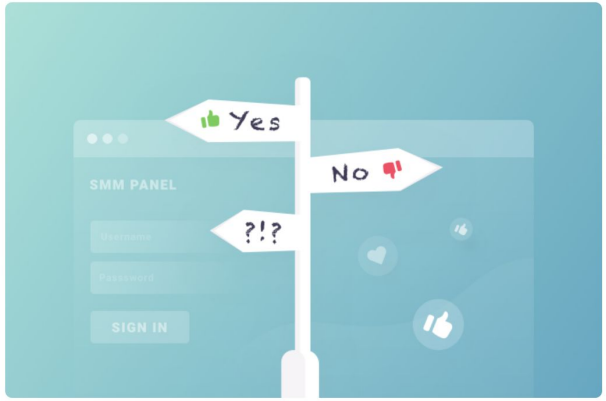


Dec 25, 2020

Is being an SMM panel owner truly a good career choice?

Before purchasing an SMM panel, a lot of people wonder if being a panel owner is actually a good career choice. Of course, it's important to do your research before making a decision — though, the same approach applies to any career option. Read this post to learn more about what to expect if you want to make SMM services reselling your main source of income.



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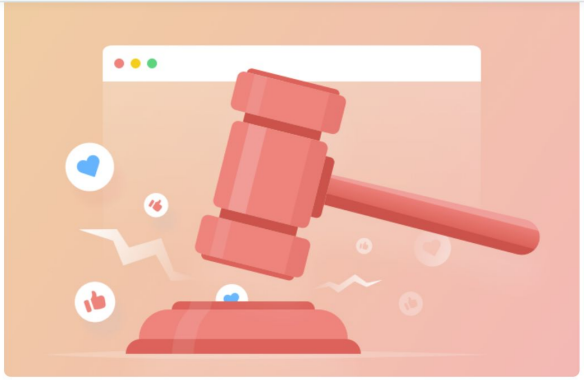

Aug 20, 2020

Is owning an SMM panel legal?

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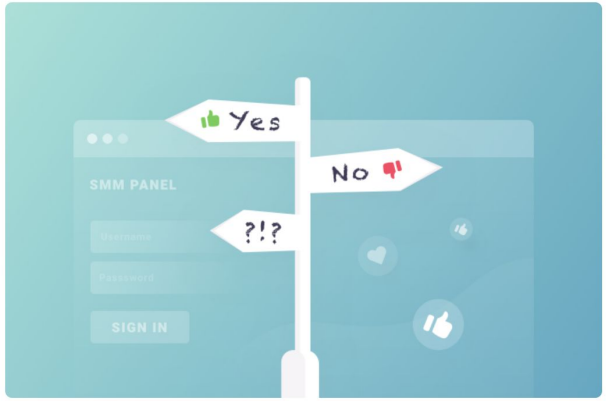

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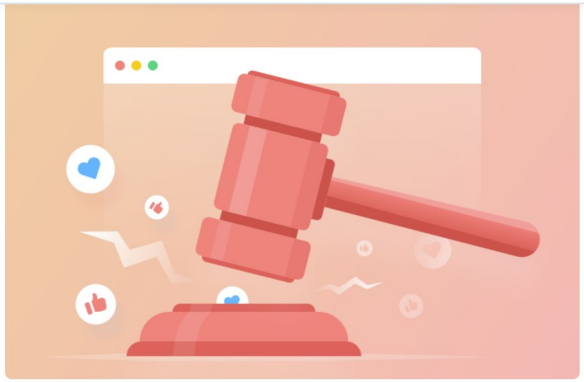

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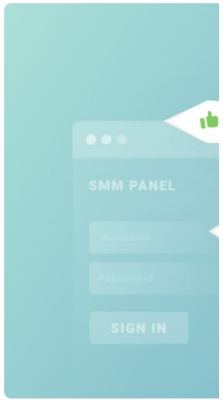
Sep 17, 2020

How to avoid getting your SMM panel hacked

SMM panel hacking attempts occur quite often, especially when it comes to popular panels that a lot of people use. It's yet another type of phishing — the way hackers scam people online by stealing their personal information. We listed the top 10 tips to help you avoid getting your SMM panel hacked.

About 178,000,000 results (0.66 seconds)



Dec 25, 2020

Is being an
truly a goo

Before purchasing
people wonder if
a good career cho
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though, the same
career option. Re
about what to exp
services reselling

https://www.youtube.com › watch

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YouTube · Techno Farhan · Feb 2, 2022

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OFFICIAL PERFECT PANEL SCRIPT | ADMIN DASHBOARD

This is the Official **Perfect Panel** Script only Available with us..Contact Us on Telegram:-https://t.me/SMMxGOD/Disclaime…

YouTube · SMM GOD · Nov 25, 2021

. certificate
every SMM

ntion to how some
"http://"? And how the
tps://"? The extra "s"
when you browse
sensitive information
nd other personal data.
mean?

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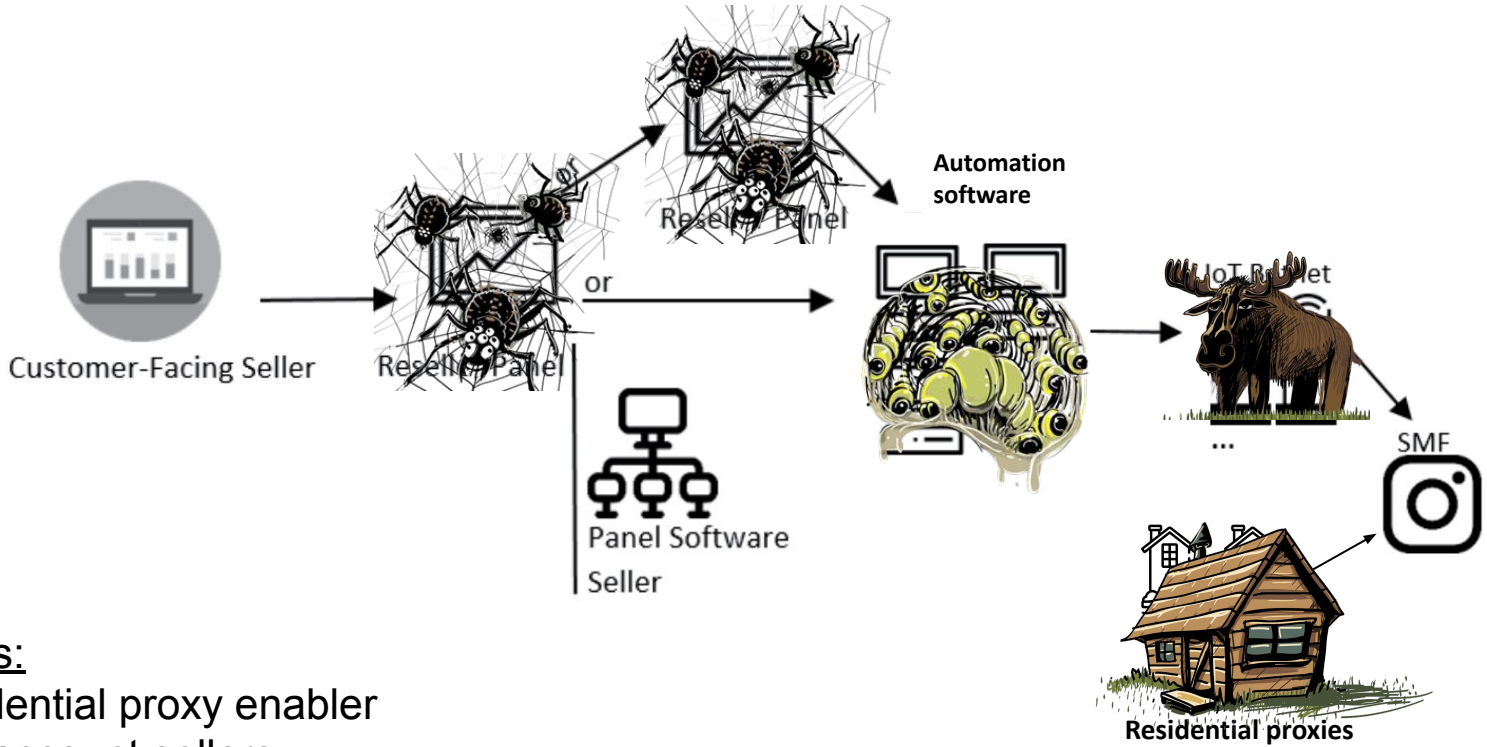
INSTALLATION - PERFECT PANEL OFFICIAL | SMMGOD

This is the Official **Perfect Panel** Script only Available with us..Download : https://t.me/GODxSCRIPTS/26This script…

Supply Chain of Social Media Fraud



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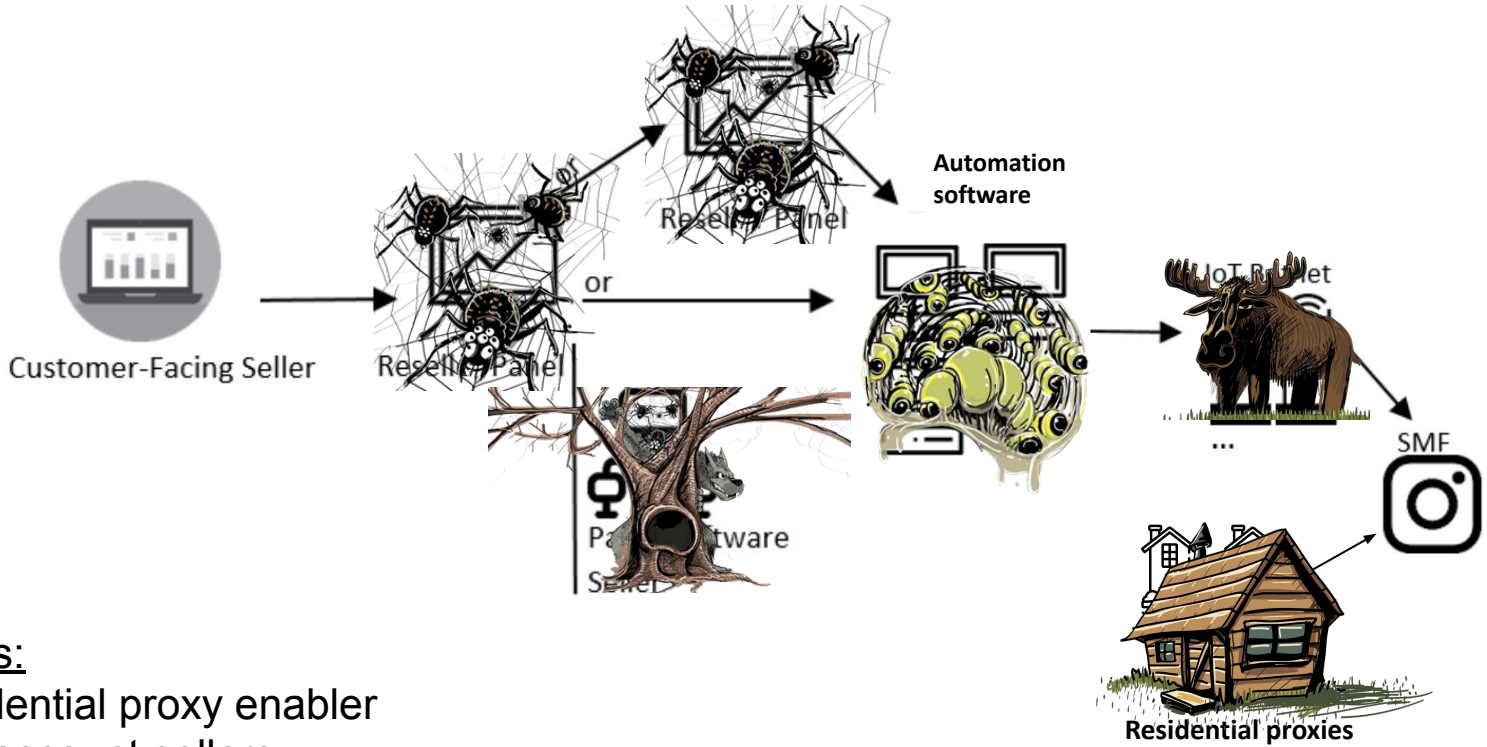

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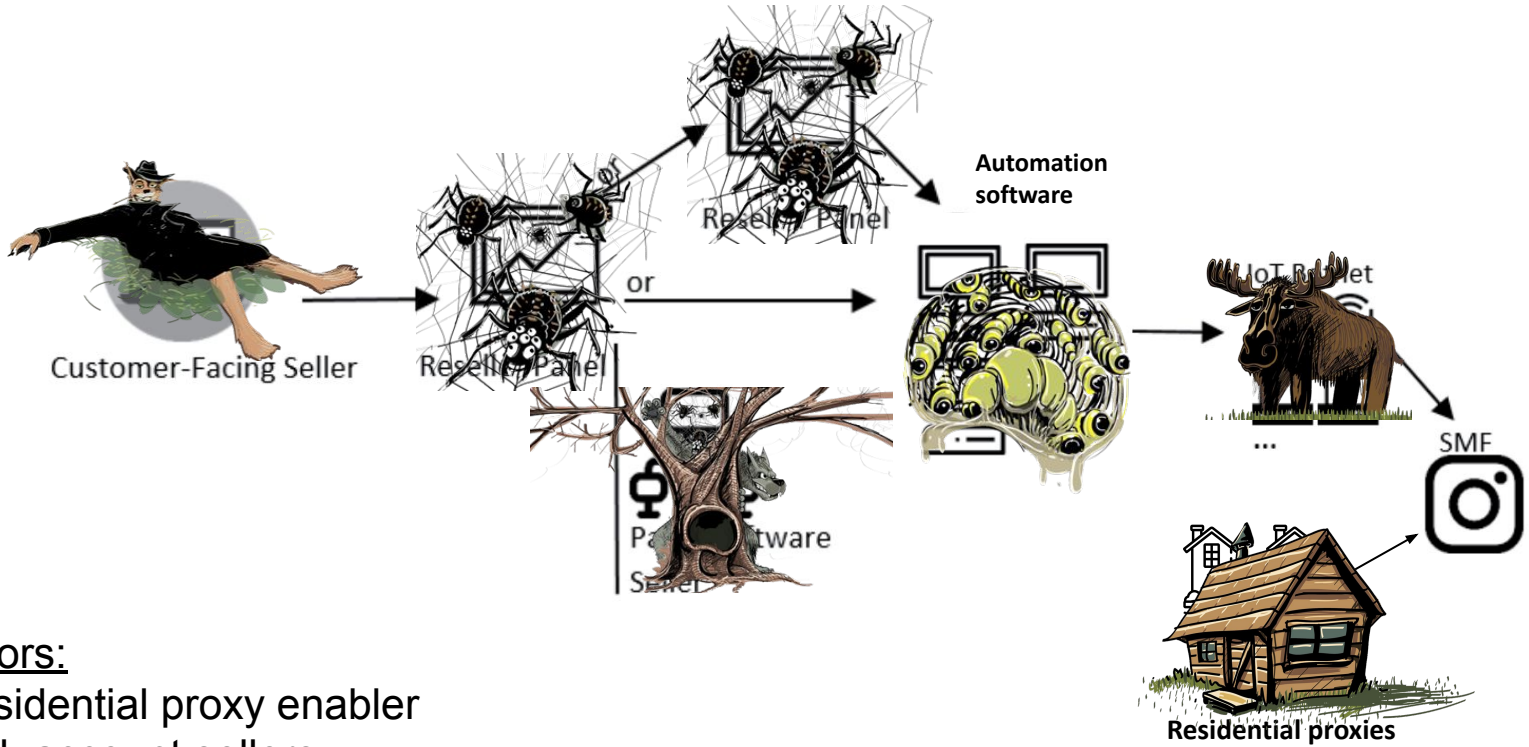

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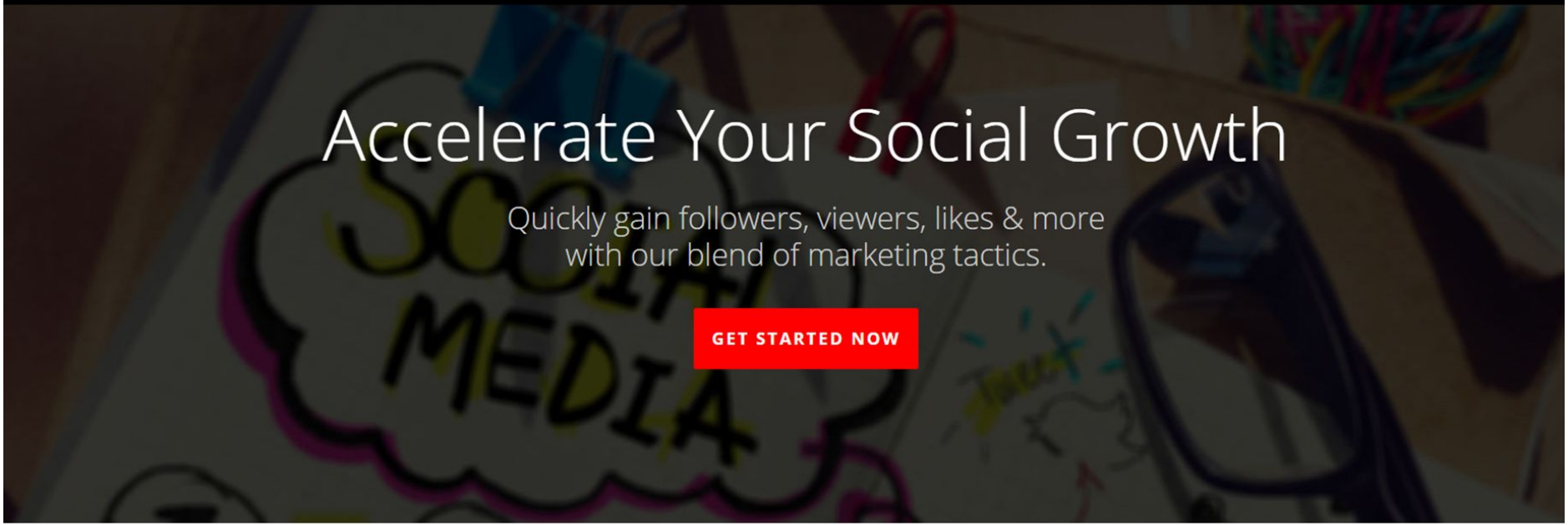
Customer-facing sellers

Devumi will be performing scheduled maintenance on January 30th. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

Devumi SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

TWITTER YOUTUBE SOUNDCLOUD ALL SERVICES Log in ORDER NOW



Accelerate Your Social Growth

Quickly gain followers, viewers, likes & more
with our blend of marketing tactics.

GET STARTED NOW

Your Social Media Success Starts Right Here

From trending tweets, to viral videos. We make it happen.

The Follower Factory

Everyone wants to be popular online. Some even pay for it. Inside social media's black market.

By NICHOLAS CONFESSORE, GABRIEL J.X. DANCE, RICHARD HARRIS and MARK HANSEN

JAN. 27, 2018

Leer en español

Español

Attorney General James Announces Groundbreaking Settlement With Sellers Of Fake Followers And "Likes" On Social Media

Settlement is First in the Country to Find that Selling Fake Followers and "Likes" Is Illegal Deception and that Fake Activity Using Stolen Identities Is Illegal Impersonation

Attorney General's Press Office: (212) 416-8060

nyag.pressoffice@ag.ny.gov

Press Release Archive

- July 2019
- June 2019
- May 2019

Translate to Another Langauge

Devumi.top is no longer accepting new clients

If you're interesting in buying views, we suggest choosing a well rated and reliable service provider.

Find The Best Alternative

SocialBoss.Org - innovative social media promotional solutions (Instagram, Twitter, YouTube ...).

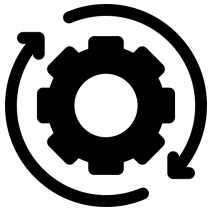
InstaGrowing.Net - High-Quality Instagram Likes, Views and Followers

YoutubeGrow.Com - High-Quality Youtube Views, Subscribers and Likes

Impersonation

› May 2019

2022 update



Devumi
The World's Largest Social Media Marketing Resource
Devumi's mission is to help you navigate the constantly changing social media marketing landscape. From the latest industry news to the most up-to-date marketing strategies, we cover it all.
VISIT KNOWLEDGEBASE

NEED HELP WITH YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA?

Devumi's bespoke social media marketing service is now available for select clients.

If you're looking for the best and most effective strategy to improve your brand recognition, awareness and value, social media marketing is the way to go.

With the help of our partner agencies (who specialize in helping users safely and effectively buy Instagram followers, likes and views), Devumi is now proud to offer bespoke social media marketing services to select clients. For more information, please request your free quote.

Pro tip: stay away from companies that sell fake indicators of social media influence. Only buy Instagram followers, likes, and views from companies that build your brand through organic marketing.

LEARN MORE

Buy Instagram Followers with Instant Delivery

Buy Instagram Likes

Buy Instagram Followers

Buy Instagram Views

Buy Instagram Comments

Instagram Reels

Instagram TV

Instagram Others

Live Support

Online

High Quality Followers | Premium Followers | Free Instagram Followers

10 Followers	20 Followers	50 Followers	100 Followers	250 Followers
5% OFF NOW	36% OFF NOW	55% OFF NOW	73% OFF NOW	79% OFF NOW
~~$0.60~~	~~$1.20~~	~~$3.00~~	~~$6.00~~	~~$15.00~~
$0.57	$0.76	$1.33	$1.62	$3.14
Buy Now	Buy Now	Buy Now	Buy Now	Buy Now

Username

kimkardashian

Followers Quan

10 - 250000

Enter an amount for estimated delivery time.

Live Support

Online

WE PROVIDE PREMIUM SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES TO OUR CLIENTS WORLDWIDE

Elevate your visibility on social media like thousands of our clients throughout the world!

GET THE BEST DEAL WITH BUYSOCIALMEDIAMARKETING'S DISCOUNT CODES

Save more with three different discount codes only today! **Available only on August 19, 2022!**

LEARN MORE

High quality

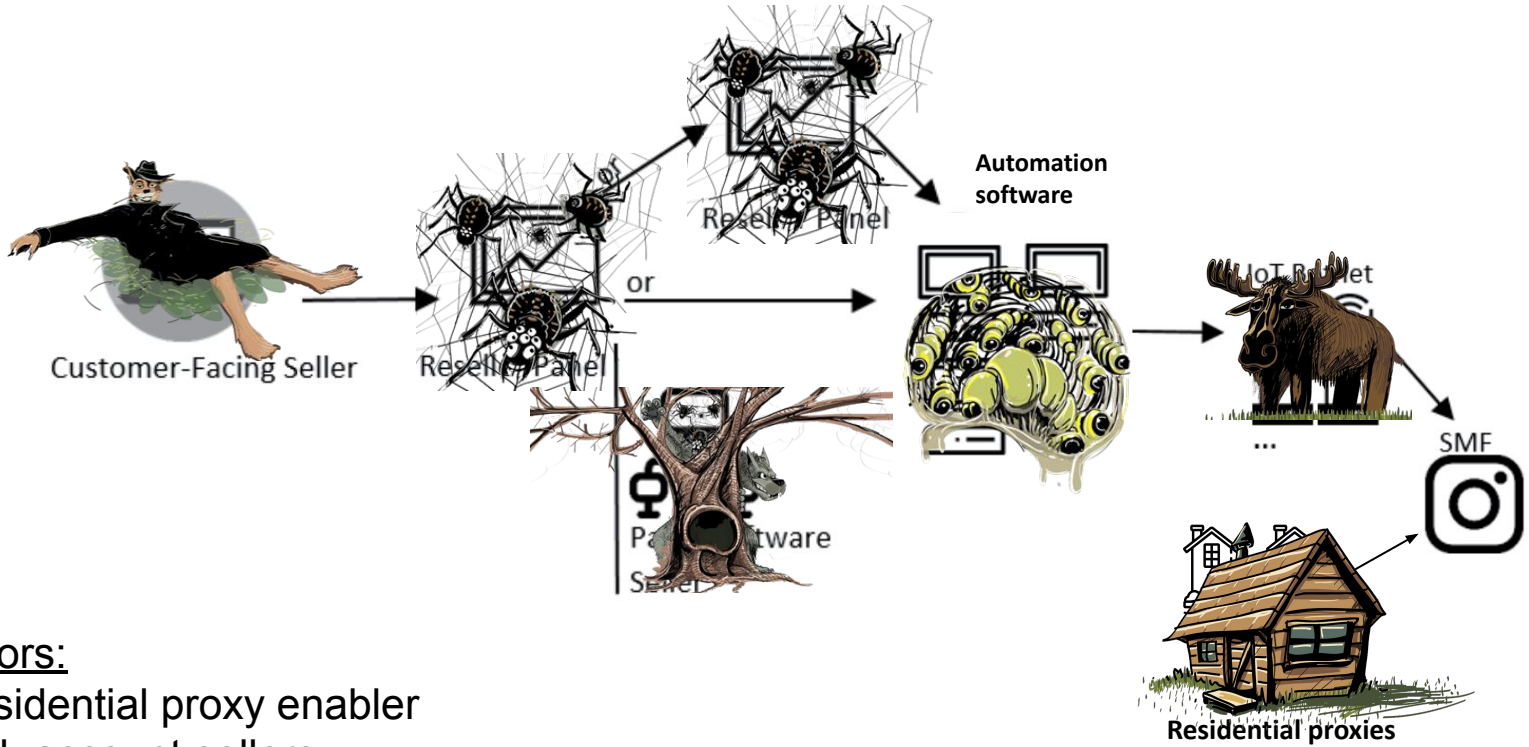
Real

Buy **Real** Instagram Followers Now

Delivery usually starts within 12 hours!

50 Real Followers	100 Real Followers	250 Real Followers MOST POPULAR	500 Real Followers
$9.99 one time	$15.99 one time	$33.99 one time	$59.99 one time
REAL AND ACTIVE FOLLOWERS	REAL AND ACTIVE FOLLOWERS	REAL AND ACTIVE FOLLOWERS	REAL AND ACTIVE FOLLOWERS
No password required	No password required	No password required	No password required
Premium profiles	Premium profiles	Premium profiles	Premium profiles

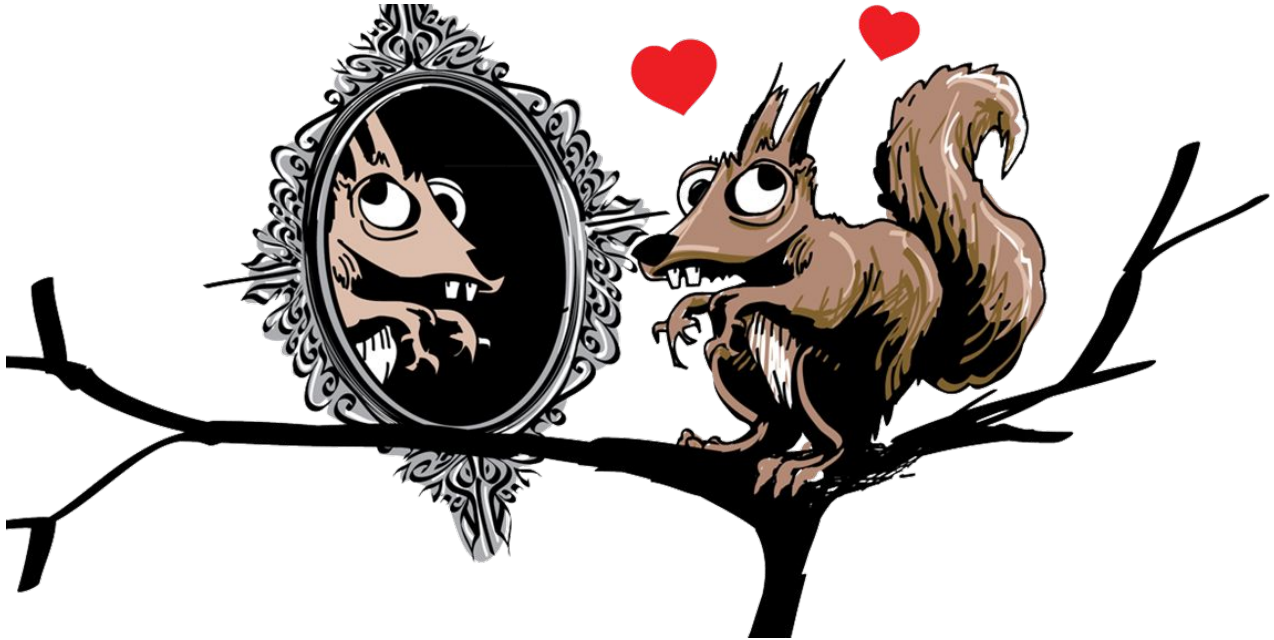
Supply Chain of Social Media Fraud



New actors:

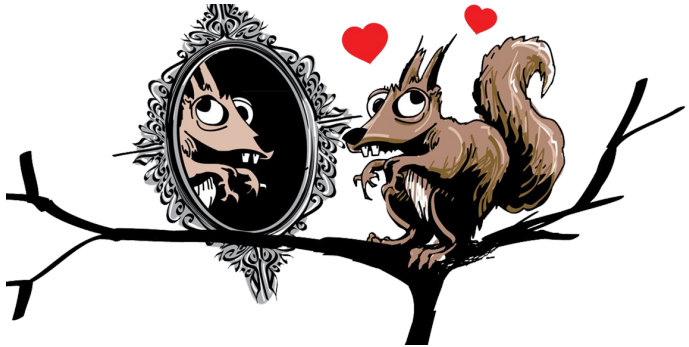
- Residential proxy enabler
- Bulk account sellers

The Ecosystem of social media manipulation
Buyers
Customer-facing sellers
Linux/Moose IoT Botnet
Reseller panels
Reseller panel providers
Residential proxy services
Automation software



How efficient is the supply chain?

How efficient is the supply chain?



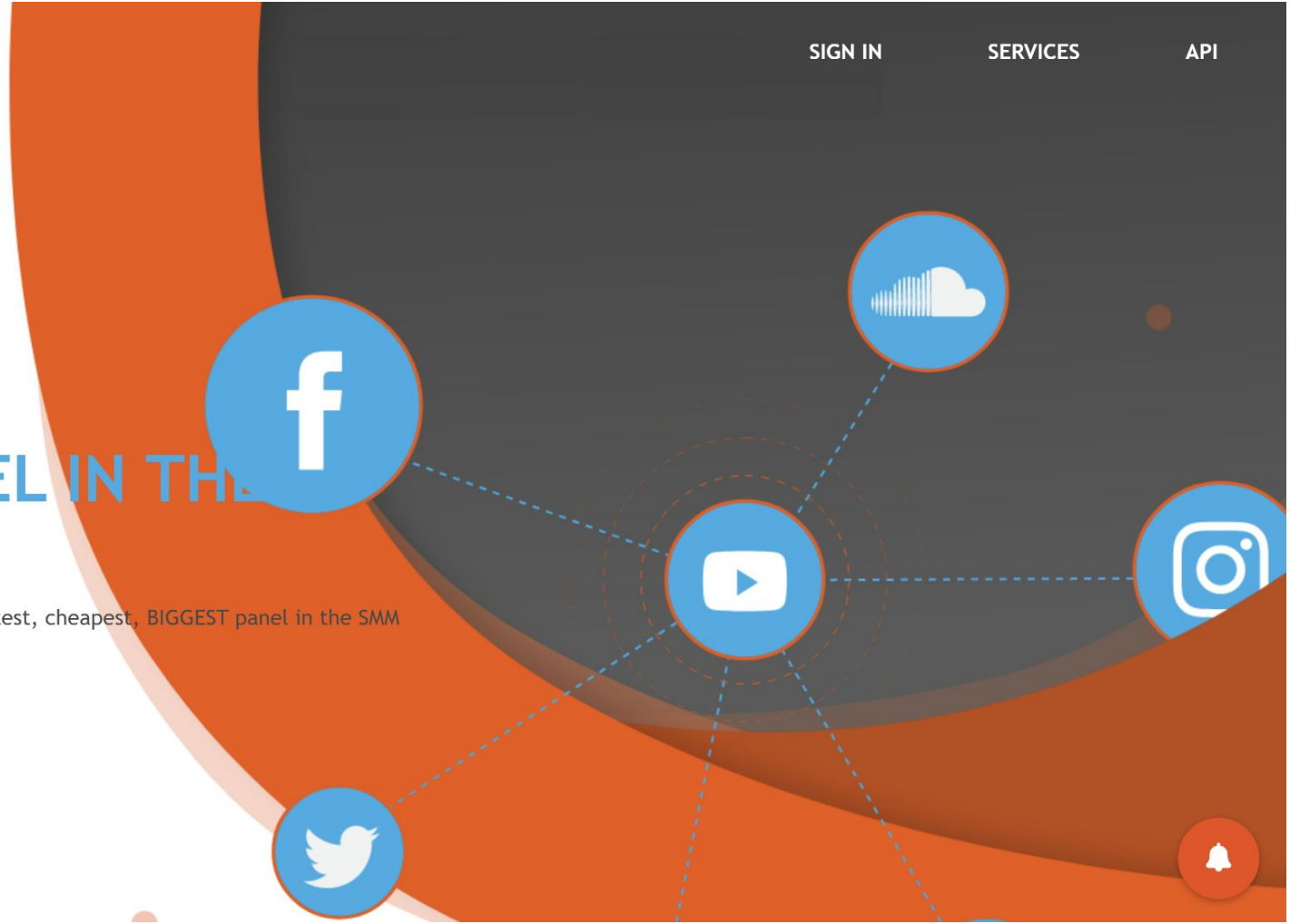
JAP
WE LEAD, THEY FOLLOW

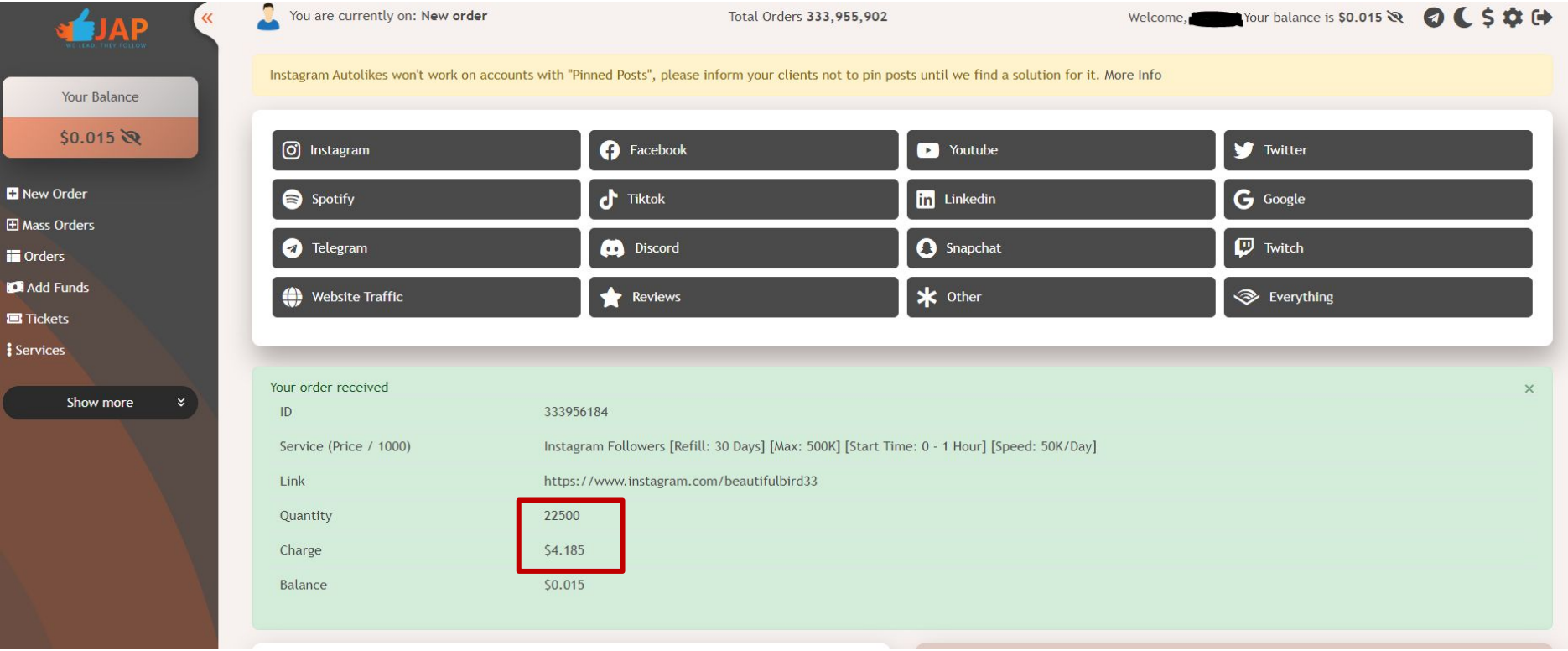
SIGN IN SERVICES API

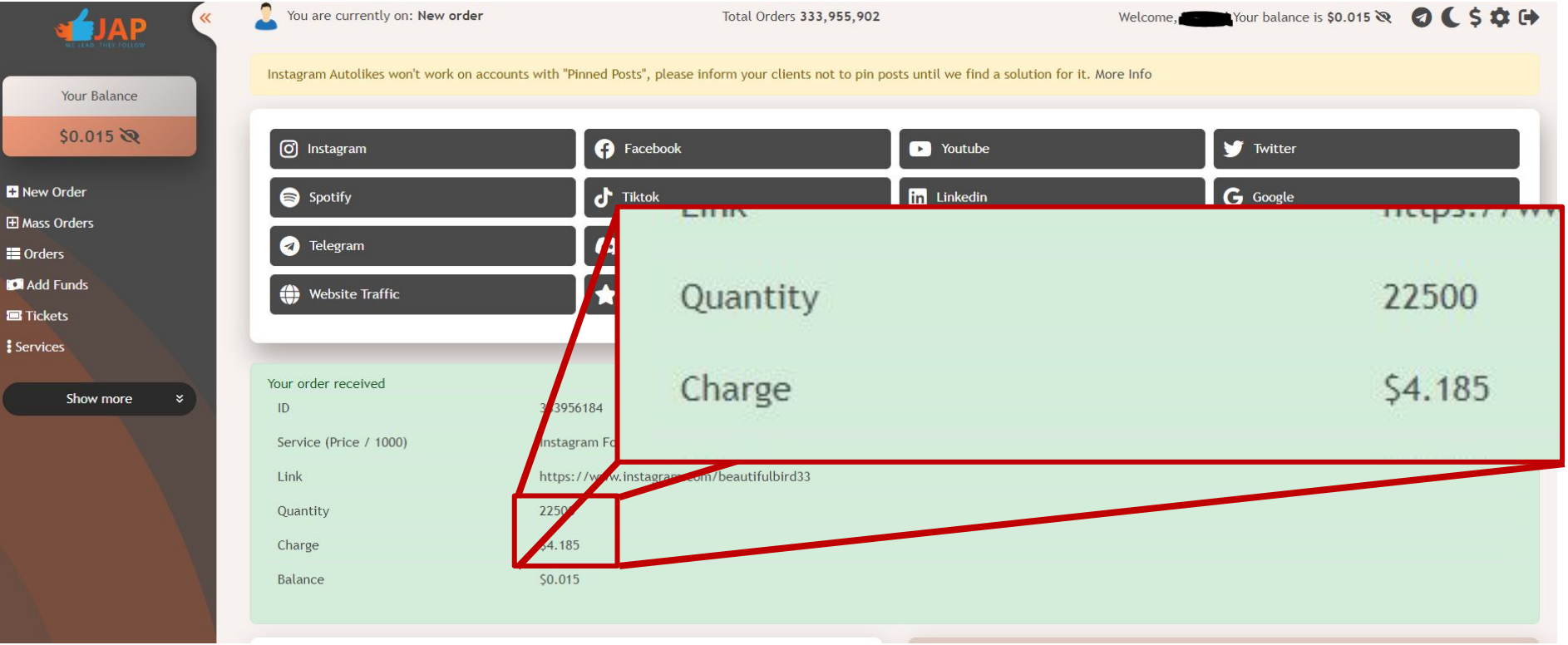
#1 SMM PANEL IN THE WORLD!

JustAnotherPanel.com is simply the fastest, cheapest, BIGGEST panel in the SMM World.

SIGN UP NOW




JAP
Your Balance
$0.015
New Order
Mass Orders
Orders
Add Funds
Tickets
Services
Show more
You are currently on: New order
Total Orders 333,955,902
Welcome, [redacted] Your balance is $0.015
Instagram Autolikes won't work on accounts with "Pinned Posts", please inform your clients not to pin posts until we find a solution for it. More Info
Instagram
Facebook
Youtube
Twitter
Spotify
Tiktok
Linkedin
Google
Telegram
Discord
Snapchat
Twitch
Website Traffic
Reviews
Other
Everything
Your order received
ID 333956184
Service (Price / 1000) Instagram Followers [Refill: 30 Days] [Max: 500K] [Start Time: 0 - 1 Hour] [Speed: 50K/Day]
Link https://www.instagram.com/beautifulbird33
Quantity 22500
Charge $4.185
Balance $0.015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Your Balance
$0.015
New Order
Mass Orders
Orders
Add Funds
Tickets
Services
Show more
You are currently on: New order
Total Orders 333,955,902
Welcome, [redacted] Your balance is $0.015
Instagram Autolikes won't work on accounts with "Pinned Posts", please inform your clients not to pin posts until we find a solution for it. More Info
Instagram
Facebook
Youtube
Twitter
Spotify
Tiktok
Linkedin
Google
Telegram
Website Traffic
Quantity 22500
Charge $4.185
Your order received
ID
Service (Price / 1000)
Link https://www.instagram.com/beautifulbird33
Quantity
Charge
Balance $0.015

beautifulbird33 Edit Profile

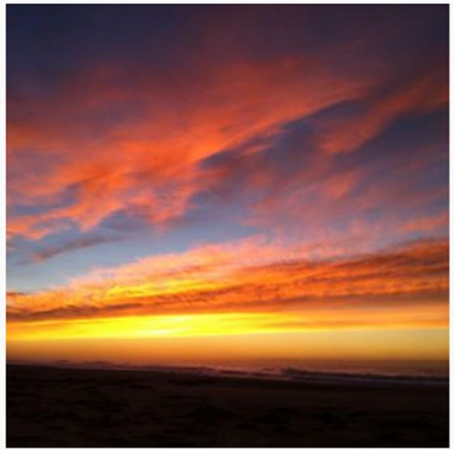
11 posts 442 followers 990 following

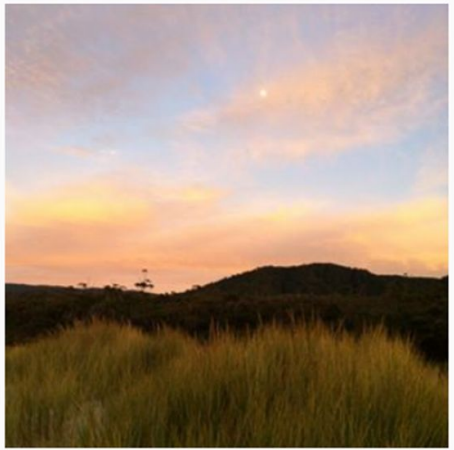
442 followers

Marika

I'm a young photographer. Just starting on social media. Follow m
seasonal photos.
For now: Summertime! but still quite cold..

POSTS IGTV SAVED TAGGED





beautifulbird33 Edit profile

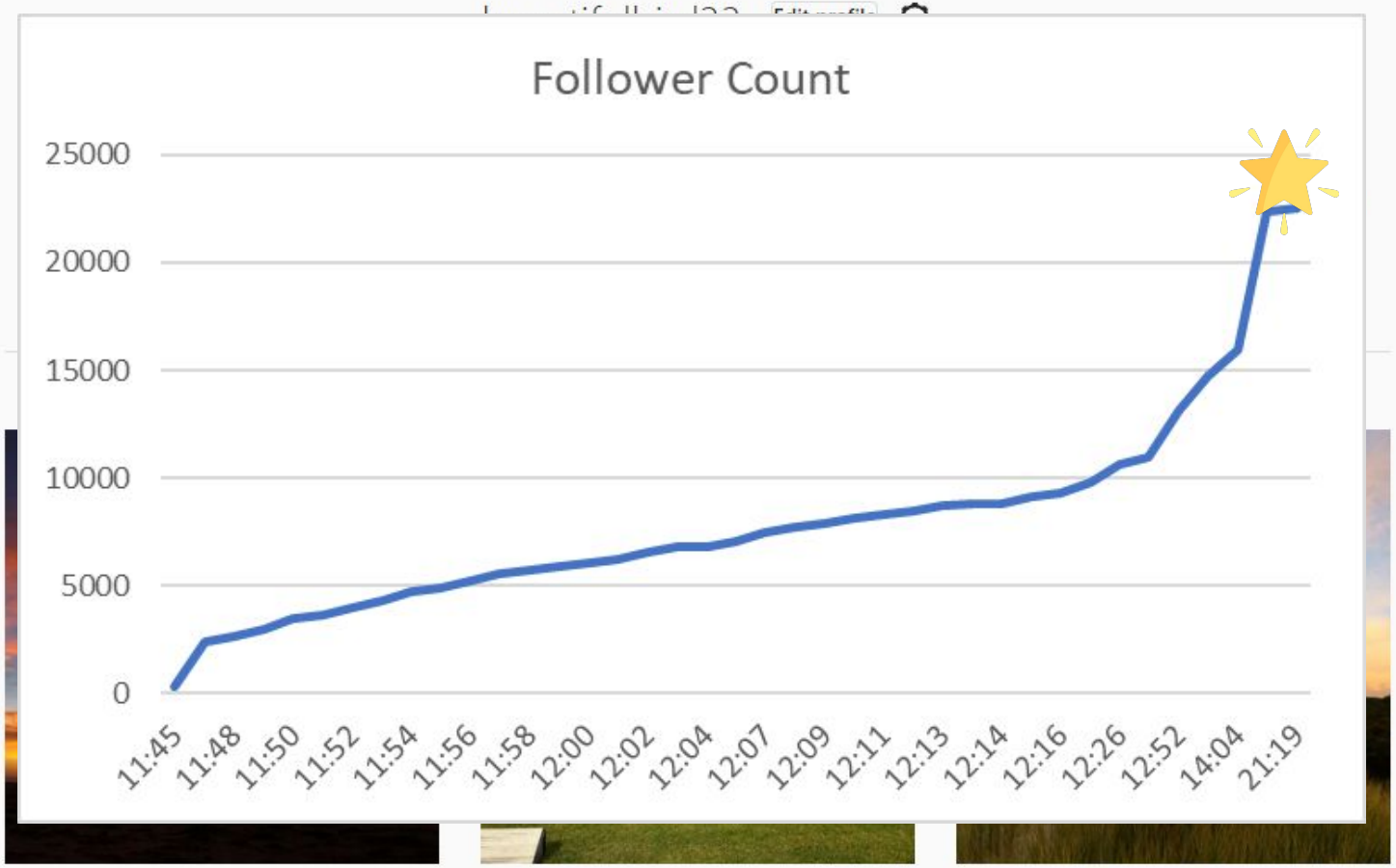
11 posts **857** followers **865** following

Marika

I'm a young photographer. Just starting on social media. Follo
seasonal photos.
For now: Summertime! but still quite cold..

POSTS SAVED TAGGED

857 followers


Follower Count
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
11:45
11:48
11:50
11:52
11:54
11:56
11:58
12:00
12:02
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12:09
12:11
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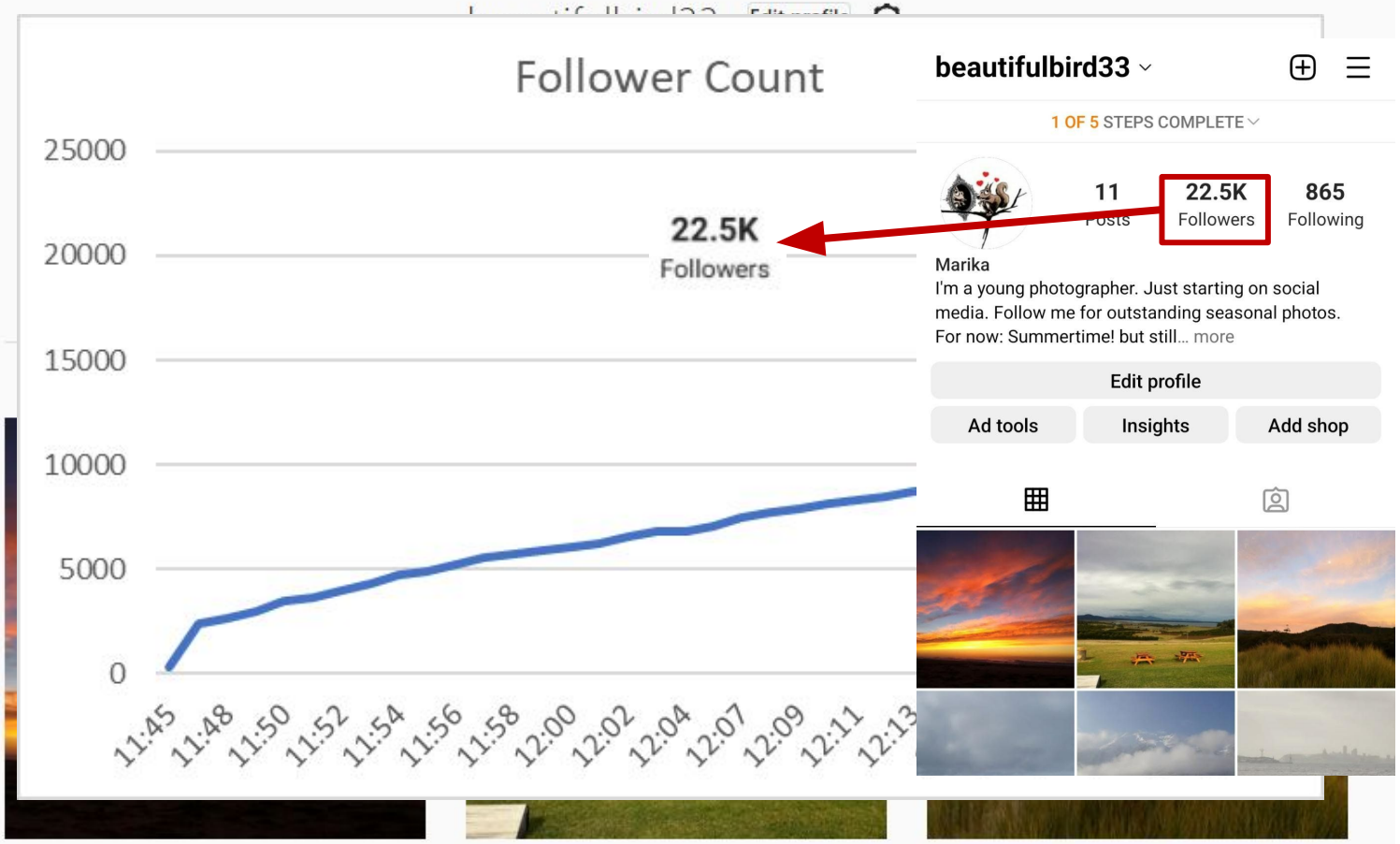
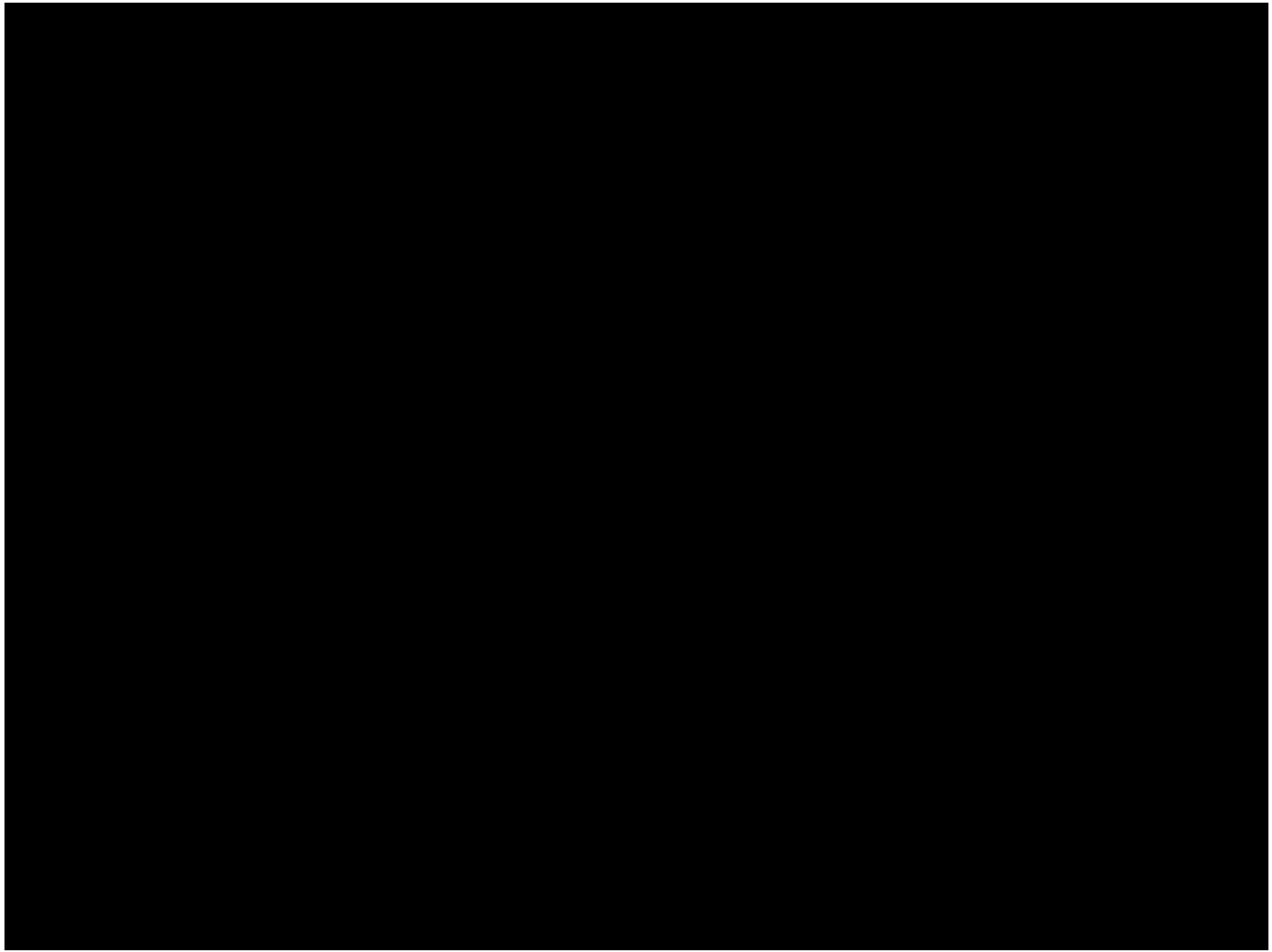
12:52
14:04
21:19


Follower Count
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
22.5K
Followers
11:45
11:48
11:50
11:52
11:54
11:56
11:58
12:00
12:02
12:04
12:07
12:09
12:11
12:13
beautifulbird33
1 OF 5 STEPS COMPLETE
11
Posts
22.5K
Followers
865
Following
Marika
I'm a young photographer. Just starting on social media. Follow me for outstanding seasonal photos. For now: Summertime! but still... more
Edit profile
Ad tools
Insights
Add shop



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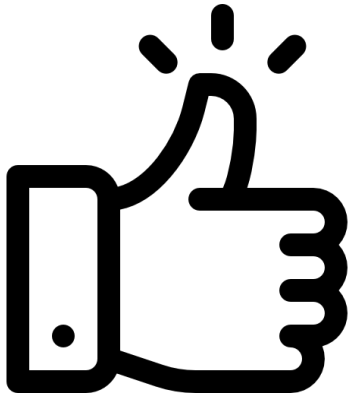

What is Social Media Giants’ Response?

Social Media Networks' Response

- Transparency reports
- Clean-up of Fake Accounts
  - Sweeps
  - Harder to create fake accounts

Our Findings

- Buying followers proved easier and cheaper than in 2016
- Ecosystem still strong with well established supply chain
- Law enforcement demonstrating appetite to target shady proxy services and customer-facing sellers

In the end.

Even NATO (2019) says it:

>> 90% of purchased engagements on social media are used for commercial purposes

It’s all about money.

Enjoy the cocktail!

Thank You !

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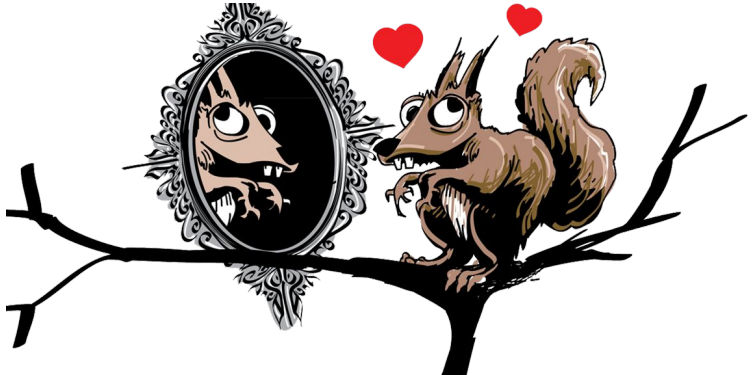

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Previous Work

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- BlackHat Europe 2016 Slides
  https://www.blackhat.com/docs/eu-16/materials/eu-16-Paquet-Clouston-Ego-Market_When-Greed-for-Fame-Benefits-Large-Scale-Botnets.pdf
- BlackHat USA 2019 Video
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HtwmLOdWuo
- CERT-EU 2019 Presentation slides
  https://gosecure.github.io/presentations/2019-11-06_cert-eu/Olivier_Bilodeau_Masarah_Paquet-Clouston_-_Behind_the_Scenes_The_Industry_of_Social_Media_Manipulation_Driven_by_Malware.pdf

Botnets

Fronton Botnet

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RSocks

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https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/russian-rsocks-botnet-disrupted-after-hacking-millions-of-devices/

Residential Proxy Providers

- https://traffmonetizer.com/
- https://earnapp.com/

Bright Data

- https://brightdata.com/
- https://www.qurium.org/alerts/philippines/israeli-firm-bright-data-luminati-networks-enabled-the-attacks-against-karapatan/
- https://www.theregister.com/2021/08/26/qurium_bright_data_philippines_ddos/

Customer-facing Sellers

- https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2019/attorney-general-james-announces-groundbreaking-settlement-sellers-fake-followers
- https://techcrunch.com/2019/10/22/ftc-settles-with-devumi-a-company-that-sold-fake-followers-for-2-5m/

Cleanup Efforts

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- https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/apr/18/facebook-purges-tens-of-thousands-of-fake-accounts-to-combat-spam-ring
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- https://www.vox.com/2018/7/11/17561610/trump-fake-twitter-followers-bot-accounts
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- https://www.npr.org/2018/07/12/628522147/twitter-is-removing-millions-of-fake-followers-from-users-lists

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- https://www.statista.com/statistics/1013474/facebook-fake-account-removal-quarter/

Facebook Transparency Reports

- https://transparency.fb.com/data/community-standards-enforcement/fake-accounts/facebook/

Monthly active social network users

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- https://blog.kicksta.co/how-to-identify-fake-instagram-followers-put-a-stop-to-them/#:~:text=With%20a%20total%20userbase%20of,to%20artificially%20boost%20follower%20numbers.

Noteworthy Related Activities

- Scraping users from others social networks, a Tiktok tactic https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/emilybakerwhite/bytedance-scraped-fake-accounts-instagram-snapchat
- Click farms https://www.vice.com/en/article/d3naek/how-to-make-a-phone-farm
- Russia IRA Troll Farm: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Research_Agency

New landscape

Disinformation-for-hire: PR companies are running fake news (https://demtech.oii.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/127/2021/02/CyberTroop-Report20-Draft9.pdf)

Resources

- Tools: Botometer, https://botometer.osome.iu.edu/
- NATO Report on Social Media Fraud, https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Final-Falling-behind_StratCom_COE.pdf