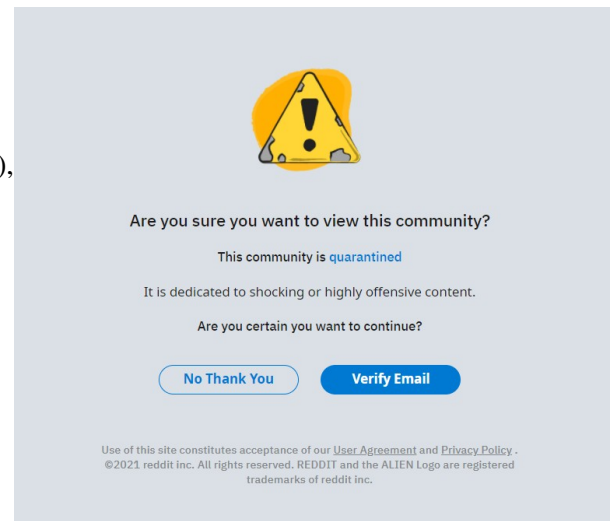


Changes in Consolidation of Web Hosting and Rate of Information Spread in URLs After Reddit ‘Quarantining’

The online social network and link-sharing community Reddit has been lauded for their approach to content moderation on their platform – in response to toxic or borderline illegal behavior occurring within individual groups on Reddit (known as subreddits), instead of outwardly banning the users themselves, they require users to be logged in and explicitly opt into viewing ‘shocking or highly offensive content’. This design friction has led to a substantial decrease in new users for [at least two notable quarantined subreddits](#) (‘The_Donald’, devoted to Donald Trump, and ‘TheRedPill’, focused on broadly anti-feminist rhetoric).

The goal of our project was to investigate the impact of a Reddit ‘quarantine’ on two metrics of interest:



1. Does consolidation in webhosting differ between quarantined subreddits and non-quarantined subreddits?

In response to Parler’s notable ‘deplatforming’ by Amazon Web Services, our group was curious how easy it might be to remove inflammatory content in the form of external URLs from these quarantined subreddits if their respective cloud hosts decided to take action. To do so, we investigated the consolidation of webhosting on each of the subreddits that we investigated to see if more mainstream subreddits displayed a different trend than quarantined ones.

2. Does quarantining a subreddit reduce the outward flow of URLs to non-quarantined subreddits?

While quarantines appear effective at reducing recruitment to radicalized communities, we were curious about whether we could observe a decrease in the frequency of URLs from quarantined subreddits being found on ‘adjacent’ non-quarantined subreddits after the quarantine was enacted.

