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HUMAN
ELEMENT

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Election Ballyhoo! Disrupting Democracy in 5 Easy Steps!



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#RSAC



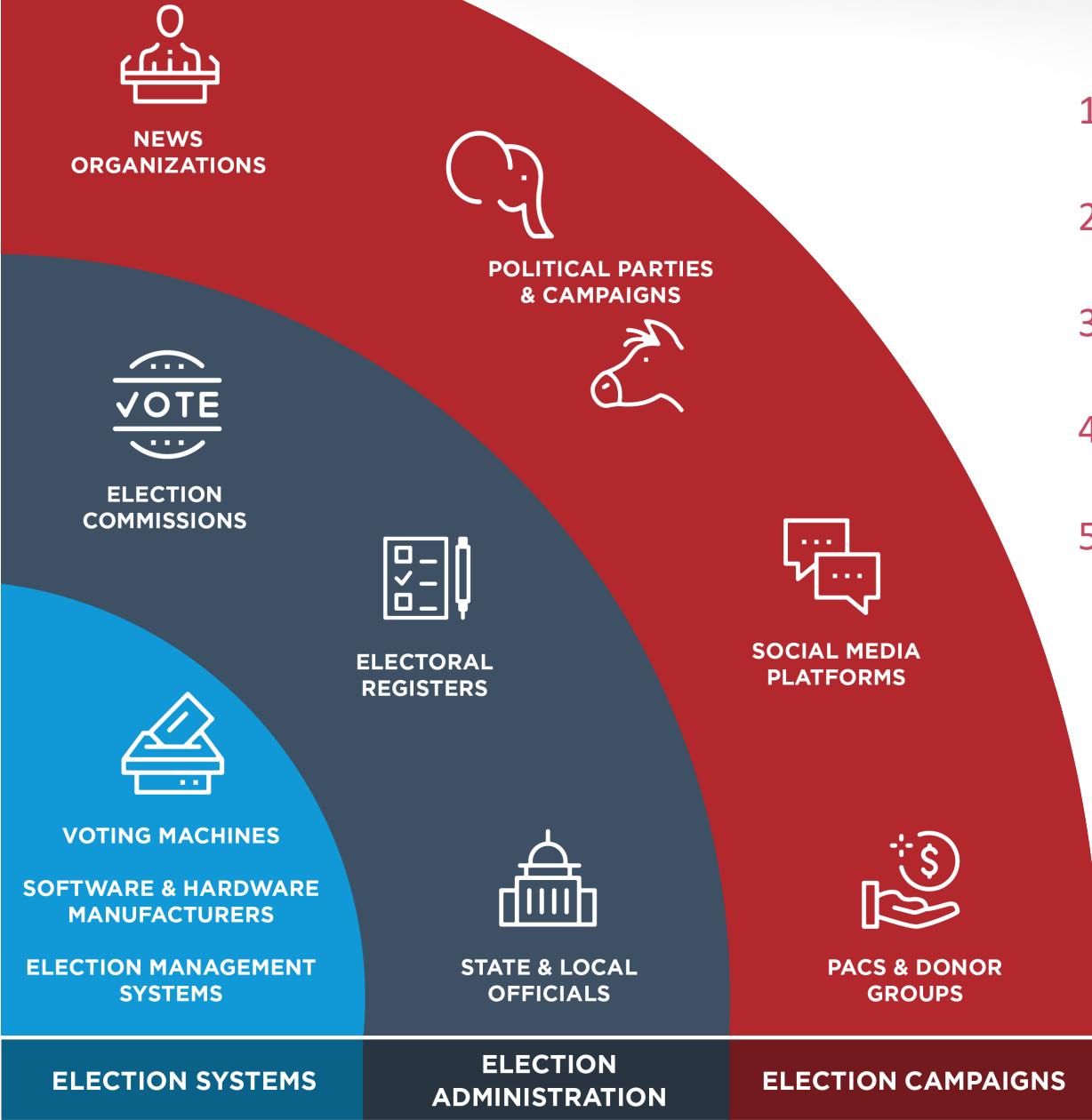
VOTE



VOTE

VOTE

What are the 5 Steps?



1. Adversaries Target Core Election Systems
2. Adversaries Target Support Orgs
3. Adversaries Hack & Leak
4. Adversaries Use IO to Amplify the Message
5. Adversaries Send “Fake News” from Compromised Source

Step 1: Adversaries Target Core Election Systems

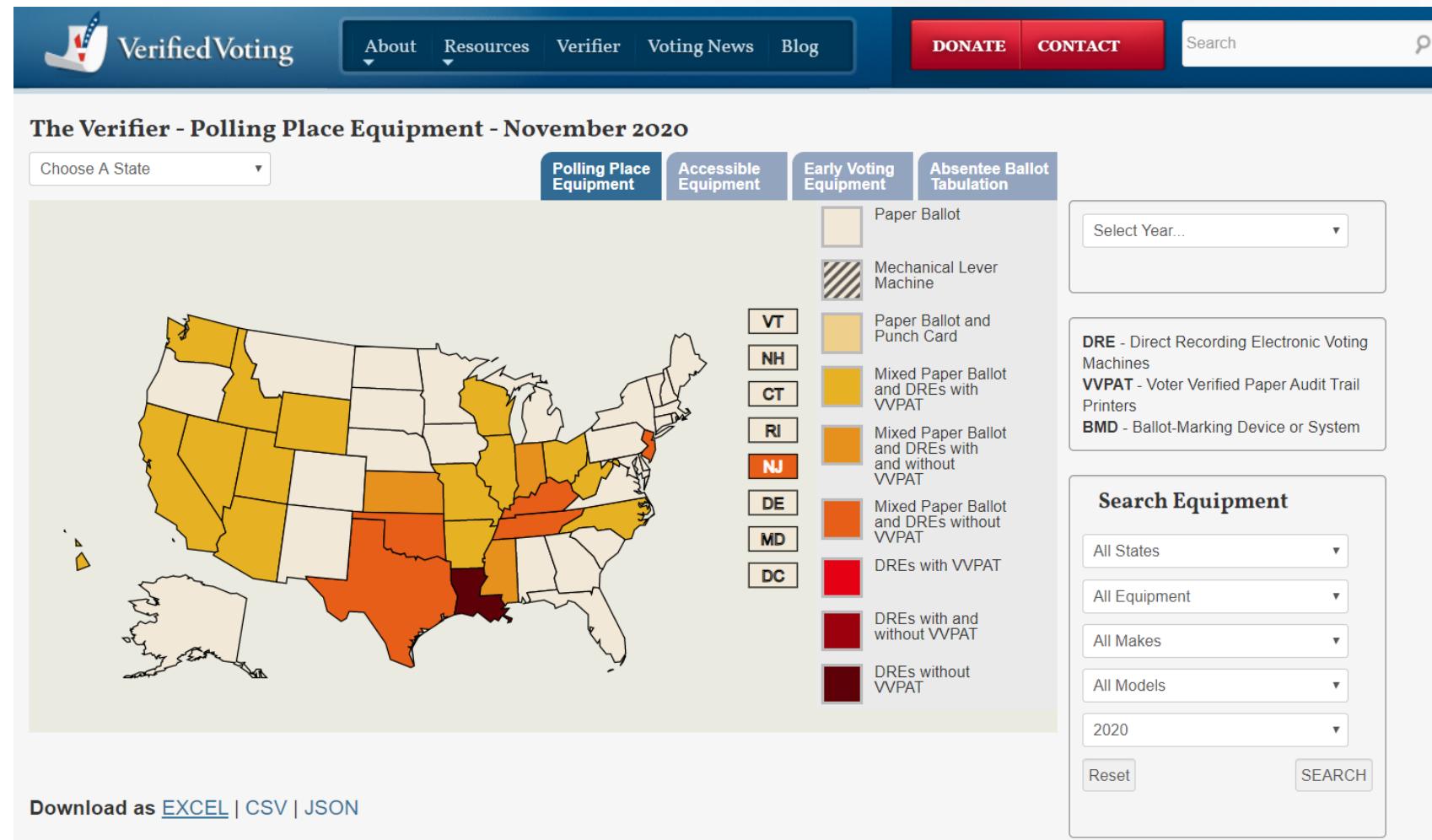


Persistent, Widespread Probing

- Vulnerability scans of election systems in all 50 US states prior to 2016 election
- Voting machine manufacturer installed remote-access software



Public Tools Raise Risk Profile



Website shows interactive map for polling equipment by location

Step 2: Adversaries Target Support Organizations

- High-value intelligence targets
- Potential pivot to individuals



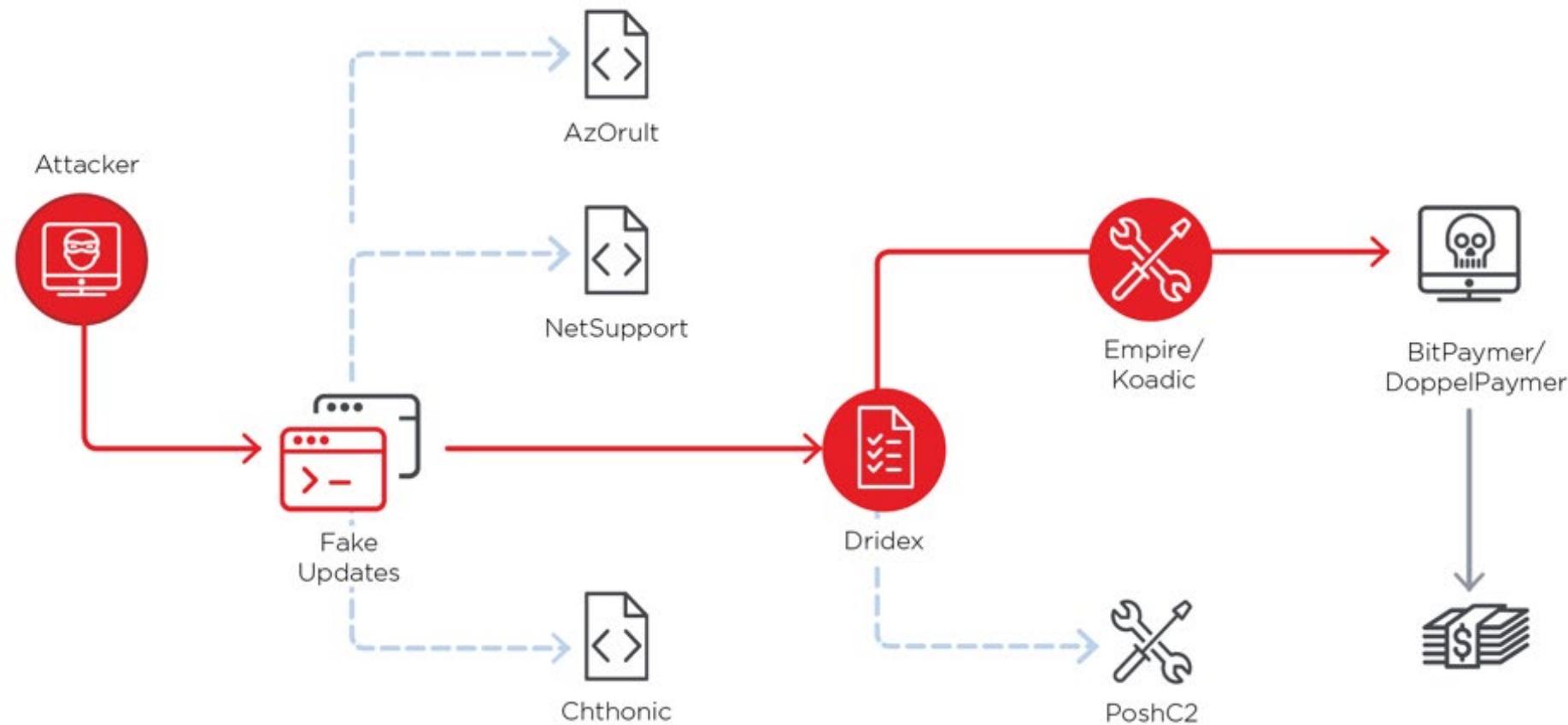
Malicious SFX executable

Voter Registries: A Hot Commodity

- Voter PII regularly sold on markets
- Compromised databases held for ransom



Ransomware: Increasingly Attacking Local Governments



Step 3: Adversaries Hack and Leak

Infiltrate
victim
organization

Identify
compromising
data

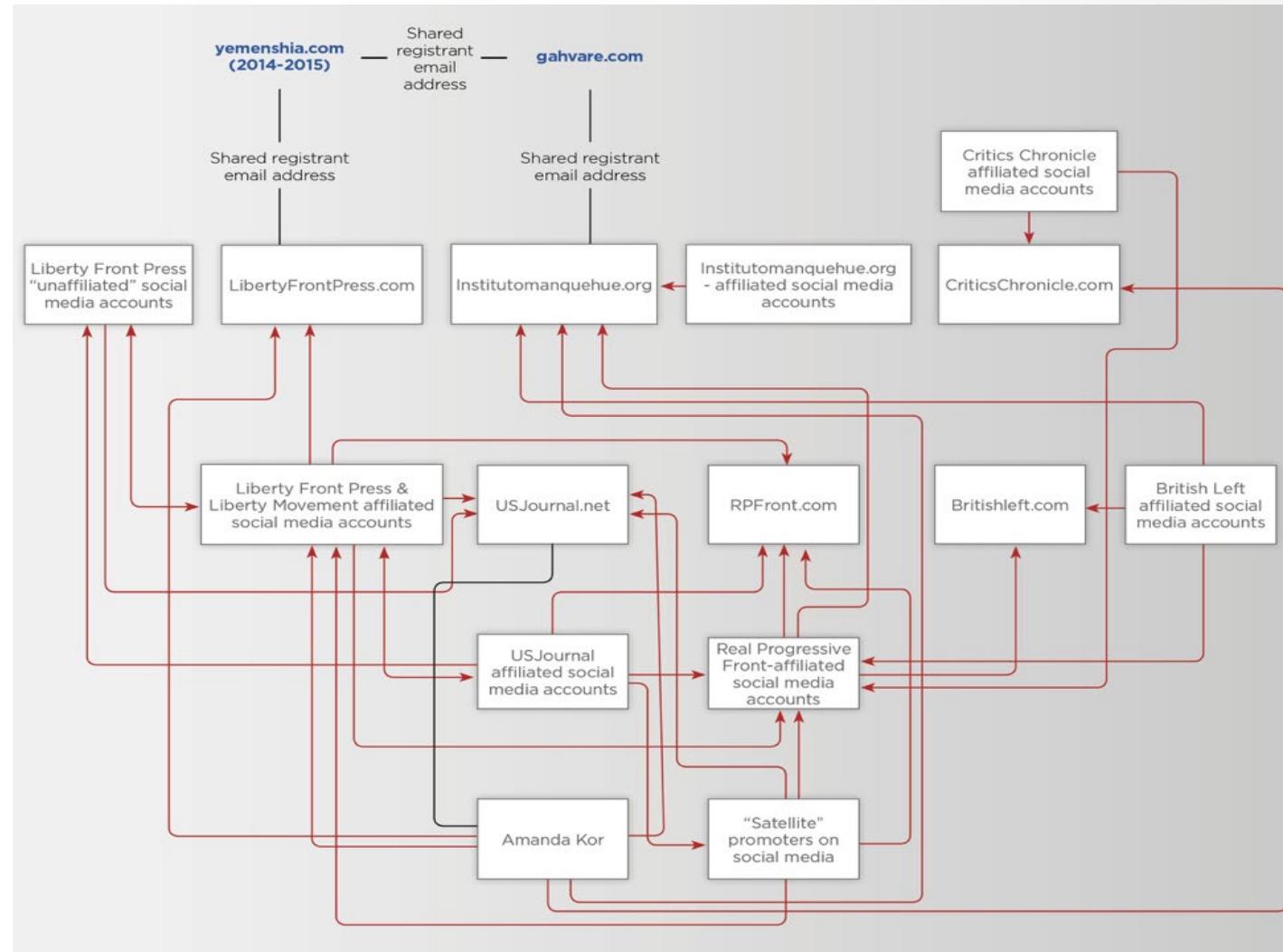
Release
anonymously
alongside
propaganda

“Hack and Leak” Campaign Targeted European Election

- Stolen and Leaked Data
 - Audio recording
- Augmented With Propaganda
 - Conspiracy theories
 - Inflammatory, partisan comments



Step 4: Adversaries Amplify Message with IO



- Numerous large, complex networks
- Sites, groups, and individual accounts

National Focus, Local News

Two Reasons

Los Angeles

October 28, 2019

To the Editor,

Despite all tensions in the U.S. after an ongoing political scandal in the Trump administration (Trump-Ukraine relationship), the Kremlin says it hopes Washington won't release details of Putin-Trump calls. There might be two reasons for it: The Kremlin adds pepper to the current woes of Trump or takes a political step for re-electing him in 2020.

At the beginning of this administration, the U.S. faced a large amount of criticism for its policies such as pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, border crises, interference in the Yemen war by supporting the Saudi-led coalition and, the most important one, the story of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Trump is the best option for Russia. The more isolated the U.S. becomes, the more opportunity Russia has to become the biggest world power.

After the murder of the U.S. journalist Jamal Khashoggi by the Saudi crown prince, the global community expected the U.S. to end selling weapons to Saudi Arabia, but Trump bypassed the congressional resolution and sold a lot of weapons to kill innocent women and children.

Freedom of speech and democracy is a good point in all societies, but the more important is to protect society from meddling.

RYAN JENSEN

Posted by u/JosephLJefferson 1 month ago

Impeachment is necessary for the US reputation

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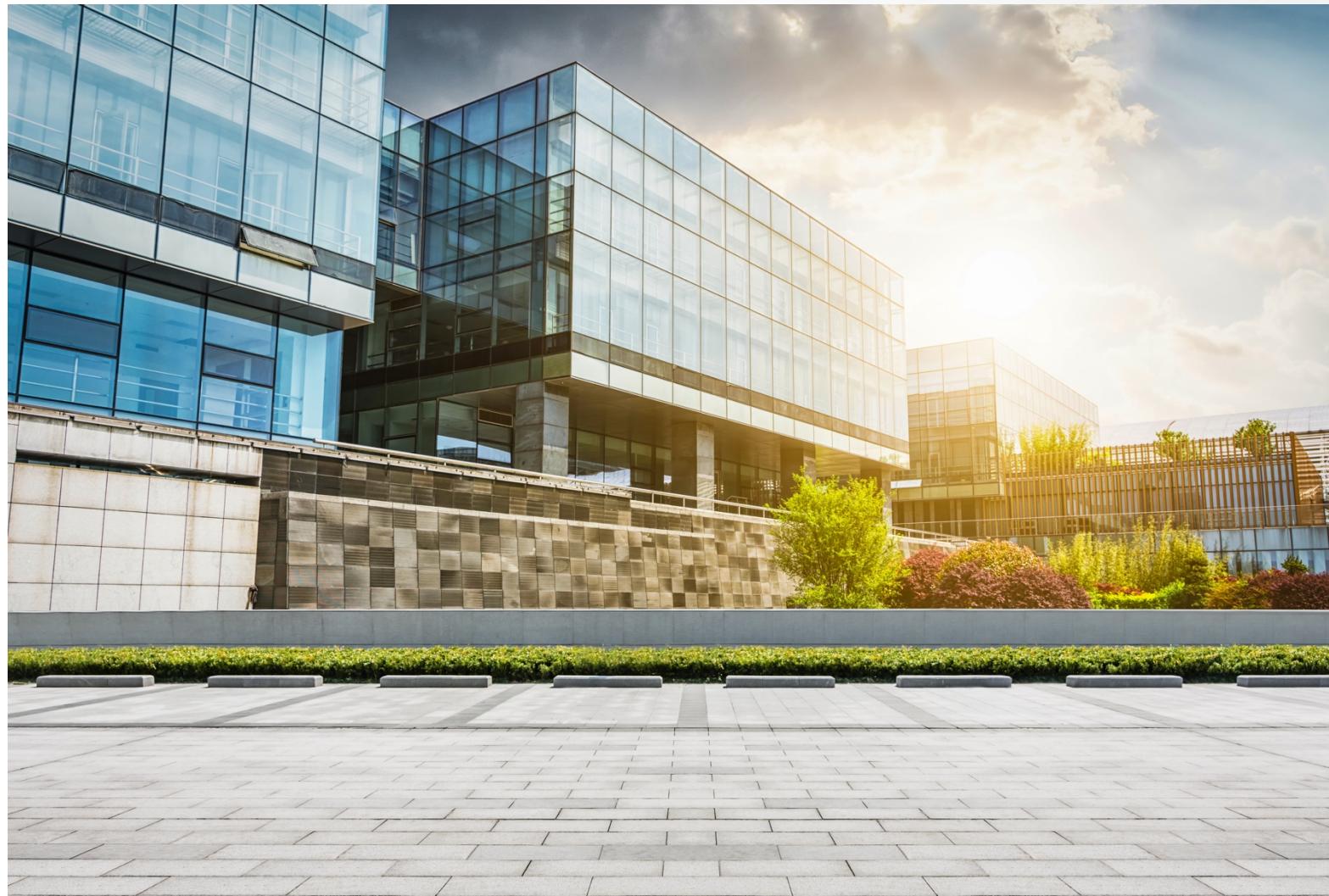
After the murder of the U.S. journalist Jamal Khashoggi by the Saudi crown prince, the global community expected the U.S. to end selling weapons to Saudi Arabia and not to isolate the US among its allies, but Trump bypassed the congressional resolution and sold a lot of weapons to kill innocent women and children.

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The United States is the most powerful country in the world and known as the cradle of democracy, officials must protect society from meddling to maintain this position.

Nearly identical text in a Letter to the Editor was posted on Reddit

Step 5: Adversaries Compromise Source; Spew Fake News



Can affect any
large organization

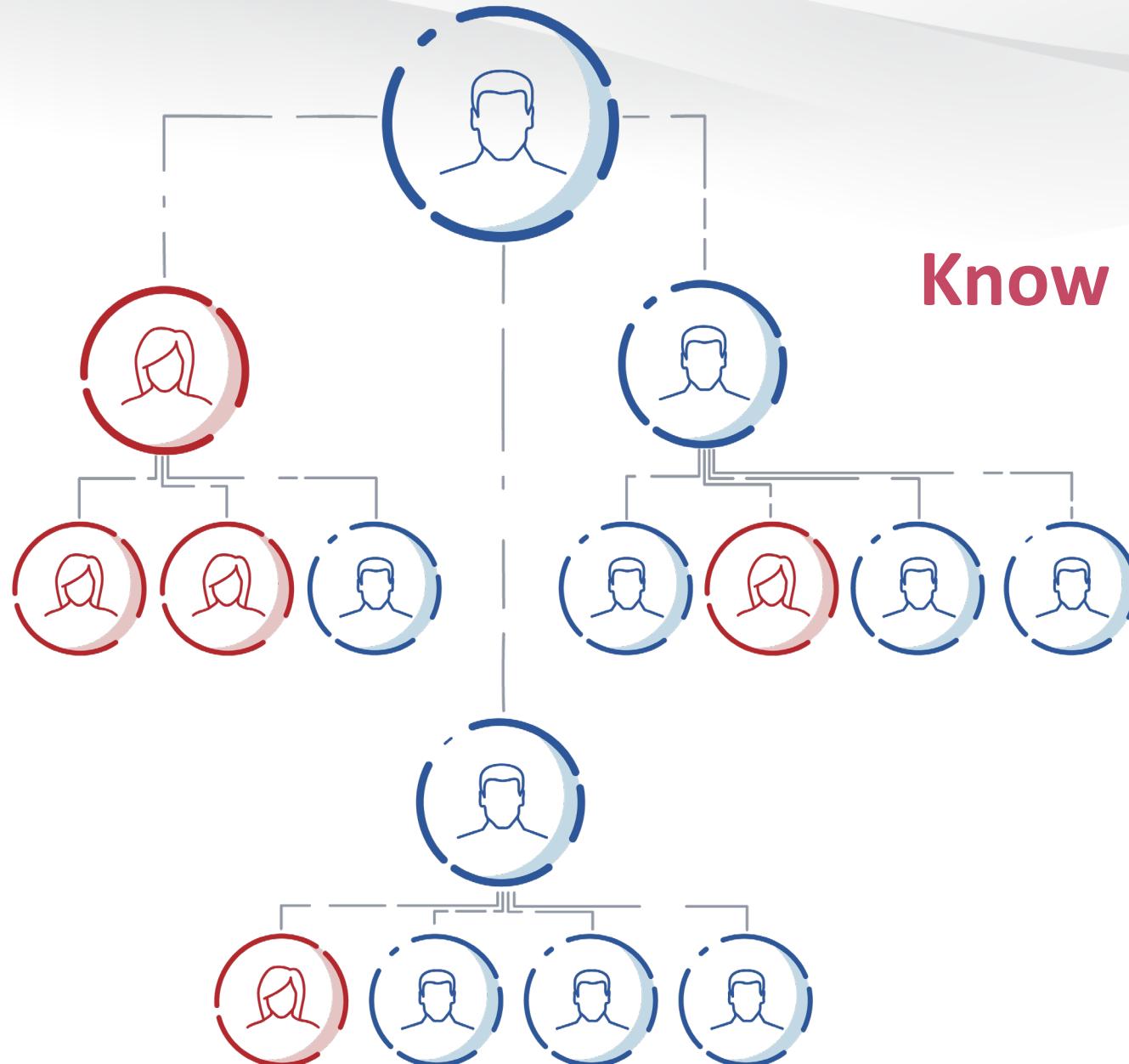


Fighting Back

How Can We Restore Confidence and Secure Democracy?

Communication Is Key





Know Your Organization

Stay Informed About Evolving Threats





Thank you! Questions?