ARTICLE TITLE & TOPIC MODELING

METADATA SUMMARY & SEARCH CONTROLS

Twitter Still Can't Keep Up with Its Flood of Junk Accounts, Study Finds

Topics: accounts ◆ twitter ◆ password ◆ user ◆ bots ◆ positives ◆ changed ◆ false ◆ people ◆ follow

94 points by seapunk 5 hours ago expand

total comments
61
4 hours   3 hours 108 minute 24 min

Top Posters (click to search)
8 Amezarak 5 overcast 3 ElijahLynn 3 aboutruby
2 jonathankoren 2 sigfubar 2 llukas 2 jandrese

Search

click to search for across comments for topic

click to search user

enter text to search for user or topic

mouse over to filter comments to that time period

hover near by to select (via voronoi)

click to search user

click to expand comment

click anywhere in graph view to lock or unlock current selection

click to un/lock selection

▲YjSe2GMQ🗩 4 hours ago
This is humiliating to Twitter. The fact that someone can create a better spam filter without having access to corporate private information (such as user interaction signals, which are normally incredibly powerful) points to that they simply don't want to kill the spam:

> In fact, the paper's two researchers write that with a machine learning approach they developed themselves, they could identify abusive accounts in far greater volumes and faster than Twitter does—often flagging the accounts months before Twitter spotted and banned them.

expand   reply

▲jpalomaki🗩 2 hours ago
"One drawback to the Iowa researchers' method was its rate of false positives: They admit that about six percent of the apps their detection method flags as malicious are in fact benign. But they argue that false positive rate is low enough that Twitter could assign human staffers to review their algorithm's results and catch mistakes. "

If I understand right, out of 460k apps 170k were malicious. That should lead to quite many manual reviews, if you don't trust the algorithm. Also I'm not sure if this would a task where humans are any better.

At these numbers 6% is quite much in absolute terms. That would mean quite many legitimate apps getting blocked (unless I'm missing something here).

expand   reply

▲rchaud🗩 4 hours ago
What is Twitter other than a way for celebrities and consumer brands to advertise to their customers? I suppose with paid-for follows and retweets from click farms, you can position yourself as an 'influencer' and get a gig pitching slim tea, or testosterone gel or something out of a late night TV infomercial.

The whole thing feels highly commercialized and yet, at the same time, very gauche, like stepping into a neighbourhood where the only stores sell payday loans, bail bonds and liquor. I follow ~12-15 people in my industry who are knowledgeable about stuff, but honestly, that makes Twitter extremely boring.

I'm starting to realize that the drama and beefs (often manufactured) is what keeps ordinary people coming to a medium where they aren't even the intended customer.

expand   reply

▲salimmadjd🗩 29 minutes ago
Geoff Goldberg (@geoffgolberg) [1] who is very vocal about this on twitter and

GRAPH VIEW

CONVERSATION VIEW