Title: Social Media Infiltration & Social Engineering Methods and Tactics - Mild High Level Walkthrough
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Linked Post Content:
Disclaimer: Am not the best in pouring ideas representatively & having a way with words; my approach - skim, sponge and crunch information to cut to most crucial pieces, making a conspectus for people to form their opinion.

[\\"If you are not one of us, you're one of them. Sentient programs... They can move in and out any software still hardwired to the system.\\" \(C\) Morpheus, \\"The Matrix\\"](https://preview.redd.it/hir86hv4ptm71.png?width=2000&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=dc80b91344f9138934f79027a37638e9581fd22c)

Nature, [**Exploring the construction and infiltration strategies of social bots**](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-76814-8)**.**

"Based on the constructed social bots, this paper evaluates the infiltration performance of social bots from five aspects: gender, profile photo, activity level, following strategies and posting strategies. The results showed that if a social bot wants to gain more followers in a short time, it was more effective to:- (a) set the gender and profile photo to **female**;- (b) act in a **high activity level** (the interval between two consecutive activities is between 20 and 150 min at random);- (c) follow users with a **specific set of targets** (like following users with the same interest) instead of following them randomly.

The results showed that following followers' followers is the quickest way to gain followers and enhance influence."

[Firstly, a batch of crawlers is constructed to crawl personal information, social relationships, microblogs and comments in Sina Microblog and news to form an information database. Then, based on this information database, the corpus of profile settings, comments and microblogs to be published are well prepared using pattern matching, deep learning and other technologies. Finally, a social bot control software, which is called Botmaster through commands and this corpus to build social bots, and control them to perform activities according to the preset infiltration strategies.](https://preview.redd.it/relvos7aptm71.png?width=896&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=487ee99cb363f28888f639d2dd9a2948df88da7f)

[Firstly, crawlers conduct simulated login and construct visitor cookies. Then, login cookies and visitor cookies are respectively saved into different cookie queues. After that, crawlers crawl the social relationships and personal information of seed users with login cookies and users' IDs got from seed users' social relationships will be stored as the new seed users for the next collection. Meanwhile, these users' microblogs and comments will be collected by crawlers with visitor cookies. Finally, crawlers will repeat the steps above according to the breadth-first strategy53 until there are no followers.](https://preview.redd.it/0p55g1zuptm71.png?width=1737&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=9e029b636b47f358533608f1cd48d718cb43be5b)

In order to make social bots look similar to human users and have high credibility, their profiles need to be personalized.

* *Nickname & Gender*
* *Real name:* The real name in social bot's profile was generated according to gender by an Python open-source library.
* *Birth date:* The birth year of social bot was randomly set one year between 1980 and 2000 and the birth month was randomly set from January to December.
* *Location:* The location was set to the location of the corresponding cloud server.
* *Hobbies:* In the experimental stage, all social bots were divided into three groups. Social bots in different groups were interested in different topics, namely technology, news and games. When social bots made an interest selection, they would choose hobbies related to their topic as well. In the following researches, social bots' occupations, microblogs they post and target users they infiltrate would all revolve

around this hobby.
* *Others:* Sexual reference of social bots was defined as heterosexuality and blood type was randomly chosen

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https://preview.redd.it/2azyktf0qtm71.png?width=773&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=8355ca172a371af5c426b80a36312100312f727d

https://preview.redd.it/99bf1ly1qtm71.png?width=728&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=24df96cfdb67b5b6ae306c24d1a85fd83bb4e286

Udemy, [**"Create Reddit Bots with Python: Beginner to Advanced" course**](https://www.udemy.com/course/create-reddit-bots-with-python-beginner-to-advanced/)

[\\"Use Reddit Bots with Python in Sentiment Analysis and Algorithmic Trading, Marketing, Stocks and Crypto, and Moderation\\"](https://preview.redd.it/7654ckhlqtm71.png?width=961&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=96b1f18631eeaf92af6fc6157f3ffe9c62580cab)

https://preview.redd.it/7ekiex19stm71.png?width=863&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=a7d6fd9ec4b73020adcd4518b74c41c451935cd7

[If one desired, it can be learned and done in a matter of hours, given knowledge and skills of Python priorly acquired](https://preview.redd.it/ypqhjytbstm71.png?width=693&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=ab493bf07fbbcb85bb8641484d87b40c7e56d343)

Research, [**Evidence of complex contagion of information in social media: An Experiment using Twitter bots**](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#sec002)

"The diffusion of information and ideas in complex social systems has fascinated the research community for decades \[1](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref001)\]. The first proposal to use epidemiological models for the analysis of the spreading of ideas was put forth more than fifty years ago \[2](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref002)\]. Such models, where each exposure results in the same adoption probability, are referred to as *simple contagion* models.

It was subsequently suggested, however, that more complex effects might come into play when considering the spread of ideas rather than diseases. For example, some people tend to stop sharing information they consider “old news”, while others refuse to engage in discussions or sharing certain opinions they do not agree with \[3](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref003)–[5](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref005)\]. Such models, in which adoption probabilities instead depend strongly on the number of adopters in a person’s social vicinity in a way where exposure attempts cannot be viewed as independent, are referred to as *complex contagion* \[6](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref006)\] models. Concretely, we use a threshold complex contagion model, in which the adoption probability is assumed to increase slowly for low number of unique exposure sources, then increase relatively quickly when the number of sources approaches some threshold level (see ‘Models’ for full details).

The role of contagion in the spreading of information and behaviors in (techno-)social networks is now widely studied in computational social science \[7](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref007)–[19](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref019)\], with applications ranging from public health \[20](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref020)\] to national security \[21](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref021)\].

The vast majority of these studies are, however, either observational, and therefore prone to biases introduced by confounding factors (network effects, cognitive limits, etc.), or entail controlled experiments conducted only on small populations of a few dozens individuals \[[6](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref006), [7](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref007)\]. To date, these limitations have prevented the research community from drawing a conclusive answer as to the role of simple and complex information contagion dynamics at scale."

[\\"Bots in a botnet can work together to provide users with multiple exposures to an intervention.\\"](https://preview.redd.it/nan8ai6lrtm71.png?width=1351&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=55525ae47c5b73c782702becfadd3eb049bb8474)

https://preview.redd.it/lg5m1kxistm71.png?width=632&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=a401e467e3185f6a225af97da8fcd9a78e91b2ce

"To track exposures and contagions, each bot automatically recorded when a target user retweeted intervention-related content, and also each exposure that had taken place prior to the retweeting. It is important to remark that users cannot be expected to consume the entirety of content generated by those they follow: the probability of seeing a tweet can depend on many factors including the total number of accounts a user follows, the activity level of each of those accounts, and the amount of time that user spends on Twitter. The two contagion models we created, described in the following, model this uncertainty explicitly. ...we propose two contagion models, namely *simple contagion* model (SC), in which all exposure attempts are considered to be independent, and *complex contagion* threshold model (CC), and derive quantitative predictions for them. Both models take into account the uncertainty regarding the target users observing a given tweet. Specifically, we do not have direct access to a user's *actual exposures*, to an intervention, but only to the *attempted exposures*, *N*, meaning simply the number of times a bot followed by the user published a tweet containing the hashtag in question. The simple contagion model employs only the total number of attempted exposures, which we denote *k*. The complex contagion model, however, is only concerned with the number of unique sources *κ* from which one or more exposures have succeeded. This is because a central idea in threshold models is the reluctance to partake in activities until a number of individuals in one's social group have already done so \[[3](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref003)\]."

https://preview.redd.it/s61icdjurtm71.png?width=677&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=20fc6f1b4a9ffc7fb0467583db20d11d6dfc8417

https://preview.redd.it/282dbb4mstm71.png?width=701&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=3a7c468ee658ee1dd13c5c2d8ac359215982bd96

"Diffusion phenomena in social and techno-social systems have attracted much attention due to the importance of understanding dynamics such as disease propagation, adoption of behaviors, emergence of consensus and influence, and information spreading \[[1](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref001), [6](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref006)–[8](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref008)\]. In contrast to modeling epidemics, for which clear laws have been mathematically formulated and empirically validated \[[2](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref002), [4](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref004)\], modeling and understanding information diffusion has proved challenging, in part due to the inability to perform controlled experiments at scale and due to the abundance of confounding factors that bias observational studies \[[24](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref024)–[26](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref026)\]. Two competing hypothesis have been debated, namely that information spreads according to simple or complex contagion. In this work we test the two hypotheses by creating a controlled experimental framework on Twitter: we deployed 39 coordinated social bots \[[22](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref022)\] that interacted with a selected cohort of participants (our target population), and carried out a variety of interventions, in the form of attempts to spread new positive messages (i.e., memes for social good).

The statistical evidence clearly shows that the complex contagion model is a better explanation for the observed data than the simple contagion model. This implies that exposures from multiple sources impacts the probability of spreading a given piece of information. This threshold mechanism differs significantly from, say, the spreading of a virus, where many exposures from a single source are sufficient to increase probability of infection. A variety of explanations for the complex contagion hypothesis have been proposed in social theory, including social reinforcement and social influence, echo chambers, human cognitive limits, etc.
\[[1](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref001), [3](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref003), [9](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref009)–[11](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref011), [13](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref013), [19](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184148#pone.0184148.ref019)\]."

[**Reddit Bots - The Best Reddit Automation Tools For Marketing**](https://www.bestproxyreviews.com/reddit-bots/)

"What is Reddit Automation?

Reddit automation is done in other to free up time for other takes. The process gets your Reddit account on autopilot and works on your behave.

There is a good number of reasons people make use of Reddit Bots for Reddit automation. The most popular is for the purpose of voting (upvoting and downvoting) and auto comment. The auto comment is more of spam, though, and many tend to avoid it.

When it comes to the stand of Reddit on botting, we can say Reddit is bot-friendly. While many websites tend to fight against bots, [Reddit provided an API](https://www.reddit.com/dev/api/) for developers to use in their code. However, their support comes with conditions, and that’s where you’ll have to be true to yourself whether your use of bot on Reddit for automation is in line with their Terms and Conditions or not.

Top Rated Reddit Bots for Reddit Automation:

* [ASB Reddit Bot](https://autosocialbots.com/asb-reddit-bot/)
* [Socionator](https://socinator.com/reddit-marketing-software-features/)
* [FollowingLike](https://followinglike.com/)
* [UpvoteSpace](https://upvotes.space/)
* [Reddit Dominator](https://www.blackhatworld.com/seo/redditdominator-reddit-marketing-software-reddit-automation-software.700445/)
* [RedditMaster](https://www.softwaresuggest.com/us/redditmaster)
* [Github, Reddit Voter](https://github.com/worldomonation/reddit_voter)

https://preview.redd.it/3d6tdaqvstm71.png?width=652&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=9cf5ba631e64e04937826fabcbaed151a275975f

Stopping here. For now. There're thousands of researches and methods available & known on how to manipulate/influence on social media resources, with acknowledgment of bots being a significant chunk of userbase.

Additional Links:- [Reddit, Infiltration](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Reddit#Infiltration)\- [How Reddit Was Destroyed](https://wikispooks.com/wiki/Document:How_Reddit_Was_Destroyed)

P.S. We comin'.■