



# Government Accounts and their Vulnerabilities

Justin Whitlock



# Readings

- Justin Littman. Suspended U.S. government Twitter accounts. Social Feed Manager Blog. GWU Libraries, 04 November 2017.

<https://gwu-libraries.github.io/sfm-ui/posts/2017-11-04-digital-registry>

- Justin Littman. Vulnerabilities in the U.S. Digital Registry, Twitter, and the Internet Archive. Social Feed Manager Blog. GWU Libraries , 06 November 2017.

<https://gwu-libraries.github.io/sfm-ui/posts/2017-11-06-vulnerabilities>



# Background: Twitter

- Verified Accounts
  - Twitter determines the account to be of public interest
- Suspended Accounts
  - Spam or fake
  - Compromised or hacked
  - Abusive or threatening behavior
- Protected/Private Accounts
  - Only visible to followers
- Deleted Accounts
  - Deleted by the user

The image displays two Twitter profiles side-by-side. The top profile is for Neil deGrasse Tyson (@neiltyson), featuring a circular profile picture of him, a green and yellow background image of a celestial body, and a summary bar with statistics: Tweets 5,969, Following 42, Followers 13.1M, and Lists 9. Below this is a detailed view of his tweets, including one about the Super Bowl and another about NFL Sunday. The bottom profile is for the U.S. Air Force (@usairforce), featuring a circular profile picture of the Air Force logo, a technical circuit board background, and a summary bar with statistics: Tweets 39.2K, Following 514, Followers 995K, Likes 1,047, Lists 9, and Moments 6. Below this is a detailed view of his tweets, including one from the U.S. Dept of Defense (@DeptofDefense) about a ride and another about C-17 Globemaster aircraft at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.



# Background

- End of Term Project (EOT)
  - 2008-present
  - Archive the web presence of the U.S. Federal government at the end of a presidential term.
- Collected the tweets of 3000 government accounts.
  - These can include:
    - main agency accounts
    - departmental accounts
    - project accounts, etc.
- Maintain a list of government agency accounts.
  - source - U.S. Digital Registry: Official list of trusted government social media accounts.



# U.S. Digital Registry

Whether for access to emergency, financial or education public services, users need to trust they are engaging with official U.S. government digital accounts.

To help prevent exploitation from unofficial sources, phishing scams, or malicious entities, the U.S. Digital Registry serves as a crowdsourcing resource for agencies, citizens, and developers to confirm the official status of social media and public-facing collaboration accounts, mobile apps, and mobile websites. The accounts in the registry are independently updated by federal managers across the government who maintain individual agency accounts.

- “Users need to trust they are engaging with official U.S. government digital accounts”
- “The accounts... are independently updated by federal managers...”



# Something Weird

- Suspended U.S. Government accounts?
  - 29 accounts that have been removed by twitter.
- Still listed as official accounts in the U.S. Digital Registry.
- Some suspended accounts showed signs of being recycled before suspension.

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
Wayback Machine

<https://twitter.com/connectstategov>  
39 captures  
3 Jul 2009 – 17 Dec 2016

Connect.State.Gov  
ExchangesConnect  
YouTube  
ExchangesVideo

Tweets  
Following  
Followers  
Favorites  
Lists

Follow ExchangesConnect  
Full name  
Email  
Password  
Sign up

© 2013 Twitter About Help Terms Privacy  
Blog Status Apps Resources Jobs  
Advertisers Businesses Media Developers  
Directory

**ExchangesConnect**   
@ConnectStateGov  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of @StateDept. Building friendly, peaceful relations through international exchanges. Currently tweeting: Melissa.  
Washington, DC - exchanges.state.gov

10,884 TWEETS 637 FOLLOWING 19,856 FOLLOWERS

**Tweets All / No replies**

ExchangesConnect @ConnectStateGov 11h  
Talented @FLEXProgram #ExchangeAlumni perform a song at @USEmbArmenia to celebrate #FLEX20: owl.li/l2zpX @AmbHeffern  
View media

**ConnectStateGov**   
@ConnectStateGov  
twitter.com/ConnectStateGov

TWEETS 1,064 FOLLOWING 96 FOLLOWERS 8,259

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

ConnectStateGov @ConnectStateGov · 59m  
Салюты в честь 23 февраля устроят по всей России

ConnectStateGov @ConnectStateGov · 2h  
Украина готова покупать российский газ



# Reason for suspension unclear: NSF\_ERE

- The link is still good
- takes you to a live article from 2011 on the NSF website
- 3 April 2014, nothing there

The screenshot shows the official website of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The header features the NSF logo and the tagline "WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". The main navigation menu includes links for "Research Areas", "Funding", "Awards", and "Document Library". A sidebar on the left provides links to "News", "All News", "For News Media", "Multimedia Gallery", "News Archive", "NSF Director's Newsletter", "Search News", "Special Reports", and "Speeches and Lectures". The main content area displays a news release titled "Plasma Jets Are Suspect in Solar Mystery" with a subtitle "Scientists take new look at solar corona". Below the title are three small images of solar phenomena.

The screenshot shows a Wayback Machine capture of the Twitter profile for the account @NSF\_ERE. The interface includes a timeline header with "14 captures" from "18 Sep 2009 - 3 Apr 2014", a date selector showing "JAN 08 2011", and a "Sign in" button. The main page features the Twitter logo, a promotional message for NSFEnvRschE (@NSF\_ERE), a "Sign Up" button, and information about SMS updates. The profile itself is for "Name: NSF Env Rsch & E, Location: Arlington, Virginia, Web: http://www.nsf.gov". It shows 1 follower, 449 listed accounts, 396 tweets, and a bio about growing knowledge and know-how. A tweet from Jan 6, 2011, discusses the solved mystery of the Sun's hot outer atmosphere, and another tweet from Jan 6, 2011, discusses widespread ancient ocean "dead zones". An RSS feed link is also present.



# Timemap NSF\_ERE: not found in other archives

```
Z:\>curl https://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE
<http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="original",
<https://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="self"; type="application/link-format",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20090918235036/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="first memento"; datetime="Fri, 18 Sep 2009
23:50:36 GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090918235036/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 18 Sep 2009 23:50:36 GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090918235036/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 18 Sep 2009 23:50:36 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20090919010723/https://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>;rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 19 Sep 2009 01:07:23
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090919010723/https://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 19 Sep 2009 01:07:23 GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090919010723/https://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 19 Sep 2009 01:07:23 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100407220903/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 07 Apr 2010 22:09:03
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100407220903/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 07 Apr 2010 22:09:03 GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100606125859/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 06 Jun 2010 12:58:59
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100606125859/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 06 Jun 2010 12:58:59 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100808074234/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 08 Aug 2010 07:42:34
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100808074234/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 08 Aug 2010 07:42:34 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100908193645/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 08 Sep 2010 19:36:45
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100908193645/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 08 Sep 2010 19:36:45 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20101008215008/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 08 Oct 2010 21:50:08
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/20101008215008/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 08 Oct 2010 21:50:08 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/2010111102804/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Thu, 11 Nov 2010 10:28:04
GMT",
<http://web.archive.org/web/2010111102804/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Thu, 11 Nov 2010 10:28:04 GMT",
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20101206082809/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Mon, 06 Dec 2010 08:28:09
GMT",
```



# Reason for suspension unclear: DoDLiveMil

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
**WayBack Machine**

<https://twitter.com/DoDLiveMil> Go SEP OCT FEB  
45 captures 2 Jul 2009 - 24 Apr 2018 2011 16 2013 2018

The screenshot shows the Wayback Machine interface with a timeline from September 2011 to February 2013. The captured page is the Twitter profile for @DoDLiveMil. The profile picture is a soldier in a cockpit. The bio reads: "DoDLive is the official blog for the @DeptOfDefense and is run by Defense Media Activity Social Media Operations. RTs are not endorsements." It also mentions "Fort Meade, Md." and the website "dodlive.mil". The profile has 6,595 tweets, 784 followers, and 22,716 following. A "Seguir" (Follow) button is visible. On the left, there's a sidebar with links to the Dept of Defense's Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages, and the DMA logo. At the bottom, there's a footer with copyright information and links to various Defense Department websites.

Tweets Seguindo Seguidores Favoritos Listas

Siga DoDLivemil

Nome completo E-mail Senha Inscreva-se

© 2013 Twitter Sobre Ajuda Termos Privacidade Blog Status Aplicativos Recursos Empregos Anúncios Anunciantes Empresas Multimídia Programadores Diretório

DoDLivemil @DoDLiveMil 10 out Live now: DoD officials testify on Pay Our Military Act to @HASCRepublicans & @HASCDemocrats. go.usa.gov/DMHw Expandir

U.S. Dept of Defense @DeptofDefense 30 set



# Reason for suspension unclear: DoDLiveMil

The screenshot shows a Wayback Machine interface with a timeline from Oct 2013 to Jan 2018. The date 'FEB 16 2014' is highlighted. The main content is a dark blue 'Sorry, that page doesn't exist!' page with two search fields and a 'Search' button. Below the search fields is a footer with language links and copyright information.

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
Wayback Machine  
<https://twitter.com/DoDLiveMil>  
45 captures  
2 Jul 2009 - 24 Apr 2018

Sorry, that page doesn't exist!

Thanks for noticing—we're going to fix it up and have things back to normal soon.

Search for a topic, full name, or @username Search for a topic, full name, or @username

Search

Arabic беларуская català Čeština Dansk Deutsch Ελληνικά English English (UK) Español Euskara سريلانكية Suomi Filipino Français Gaeilge Galego ମান୍ଦ୍ୟ Magyar Indonesian Italiano 日本語 한국어 Kurdi (Kurmanji) Malay Nederlands Norsk Polski português (Brasil) română Русский shqip srpski Svenska ភាសាខ្មែរ Türkçe Українська мова مالی مولڈیا LOCATZ 简体中文 繁體中文

© 2014 Twitter About Help Status

- Feb 2016, account was deleted?
- Jan 2018, account was suspended
- Why suspend a deleted account?



Loading...

<http://twitter.com/DoDLiveMil> |  
02:25:59 January 07, 2018

Got an HTTP 302 response at crawl time

Redirecting to...

<https://twitter.com/account/suspended>



# Time map DoDLiveMil: Not found in other archives

```
z:\>curl https://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE  
<http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="original",  
<https://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="self"; type="application/link-format",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20090918235036/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="first memento"; datetime="Fri, 18 Sep 2009 23:50:36  
GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090918235036/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 18 Sep 2009 23:50:36 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090918235036/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 18 Sep 2009 23:50:36 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20090919010723/https://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 19 Sep 2009 01:07:23 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090919010723/https://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 19 Sep 2009 01:07:23 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20090919010723/https://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 19 Sep 2009 01:07:23 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100407220903/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 07 Apr 2010 22:09:03 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100407220903/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 07 Apr 2010 22:09:03 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100407220903/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 07 Apr 2010 22:09:03 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100606125859/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 06 Jun 2010 12:58:59 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100606125859/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 06 Jun 2010 12:58:59 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100808074234/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 08 Aug 2010 07:42:34 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100808074234/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sun, 08 Aug 2010 07:42:34 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20100908193645/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 08 Sep 2010 19:36:45 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20100908193645/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Wed, 08 Sep 2010 19:36:45 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20101008215008/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 08 Oct 2010 21:50:08 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20101008215008/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Fri, 08 Oct 2010 21:50:08 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/2010111102804/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Thu, 11 Nov 2010 10:28:04 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/2010111102804/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Thu, 11 Nov 2010 10:28:04 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20101206082809/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Mon, 06 Dec 2010 08:28:09 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20101206082809/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Mon, 06 Dec 2010 08:28:09 GMT",  
<http://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20110108131145/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 08 Jan 2011 13:11:45 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20110108131145/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="memento"; datetime="Sat, 08 Jan 2011 13:11:45 GMT",  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20140403035124/http://twitter.com/NSF_ERE>; rel="last memento"; datetime="Thu, 03 Apr 2014 03:51:24 GMT",  
. . . deletia . . .
```



# Reasons for suspension?

- Mistake?
- Accidentally categorized as spam?
- NSF\_ERE was not authenticated.
  - If it's still listed in the digital registry, how would you know if it had been taken over?
- DoDLiveMil was authenticated
  - If someone recycled the handle, you should easily be able to tell the difference
- Twitter authentication isn't perfect
  - Fake account claiming to be Rupert Murdoch's wife.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20190507183924/https://www.pcmag.com/news/292270/verified-twitter-account-for-rupert-murdochs-wife-is-fake>



# Accounts taken over

- 12 May 2015. Last capture before account was deleted.
- Last tweet was 5 May 2014

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
**Wayback Machine**

https://twitter.com/ProjectBlueBtn  
39 captures  
25 Aug 2012 - 28 Jan 2018

JAN MAY NOV  
◀ 12 ▶  
2014 2015 2017



The screenshot shows a Twitter archive interface. At the top, it displays the Wayback Machine logo and the URL https://twitter.com/ProjectBlueBtn. Below this, it says "39 captures" and "25 Aug 2012 - 28 Jan 2018". A navigation bar at the top right shows months from JAN to NOV, with MAY highlighted in yellow, and years from 2014 to 2017, with 2015 highlighted in blue. The main area shows the Twitter profile for "Project Blue Button" (@ProjectBlueBtn). The profile picture is the official seal of the President of the United States. The bio reads: "Project Blue Button @ProjectBlueBtn HealthIT.gov/BlueButton wh.gov/innovationfell... Joined May 2012". Below the profile, there are three tabs: "Tweets", "Tweets & replies", and "Photos & videos". The first tweet is from May 5, 2014, by the user "Project Blue Button" (@ProjectBlueBtn). The tweet content is: "Apply now to design the Blue Button API for 50 million Medicare-covered Americans with @N\_Brennan !! hhs.gov/idealab/innova ...". It has 13 retweets and 8 favorites. The second tweet is from September 25, 2013, by "Rebecca M. Coelius" (@RebeccaCoelius). The tweet content is: "1 more day to apply! #BlueButton Master Class for Devs @StanfordMedX ! Contact me for more info. stanford.io/1fotL7G @ONC\_HealthIT". It has 14 retweets and 1 favorite. The third tweet is from July 22, 2013, by "Ryan Panchadsaram" (@rypan). The tweet content is: "Watching @JoshCMandel conduct his hands on tutorial of #BlueButtonPlus at the 2nd BB+ Dev Forum!". Below this tweet is a small thumbnail image of a man speaking at a podium.

TWEETS 158 FOLLOWING 23 FOLLOWERS 1,435 FAVORITES 30

+ Follow

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

Project Blue Button @ProjectBlueBtn · 5 May 2014  
Apply now to design the Blue Button API for 50 million Medicare-covered Americans with @N\_Brennan !! hhs.gov/idealab/innova ...  
13 8 ...

Project Blue Button retweeted  
Rebecca M. Coelius @RebeccaCoelius · 25 Sep 2013  
1 more day to apply! #BlueButton Master Class for Devs @StanfordMedX ! Contact me for more info. stanford.io/1fotL7G @ONC\_HealthIT  
14 1 ...

Project Blue Button retweeted  
Ryan Panchadsaram @rypan · 22 Jul 2013  
Watching @JoshCMandel conduct his hands on tutorial of #BlueButtonPlus at the 2nd BB+ Dev Forum!

THE GRADUATE CENTER  
CITY UNIVERSITY



# Account taken over

- Same handle before it was suspended Jan 2017.
- Probably an individual posting random stuff

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
Wayback Machine

[https://www.twitter.com/ProjectBlueBtn]  
39 captures  
25 Aug 2012 - 28 Jan 2018

Go JAN JAN FEB 25 2015 2017 2018

Надежда Питерская  
@ProjectBlueBtn

TWEETS 4,332 FOLLOWING 1,368 FOLLOWERS 1,751 LIKES 308

Follow

Надежда Питерская @ProjectBlueBtn · Jan 24  
Скотч на страже безопасности

Надежда Питерская @ProjectBlueBtn · Jan 23  
Классика - холст для современности

Надежда Питерская Retweeted  
Валентин Богданов @koftlisa · Jan 11  
Здесь хорошие условия по проведению корпоратива с хорошим пивом [pivdom-msk.ru/bankety/korpor...](http://pivdom-msk.ru/bankety/korpor...)

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
Wayback Machine

[https://www.twitter.com/ProjectBlueBtn]  
39 captures  
25 Aug 2012 - 28 Jan 2018

Go JAN JAN FEB 25 2015 2017 2018

Надежда Питерская  
@ProjectBlueBtn

TWEETS 4,332 FOLLOWING 1,368 FOLLOWERS 1,751 LIKES 308

Follow

Надежда Питерская @ProjectBlueBtn · 3h  
Гифки дня

Надежда Питерская @ProjectBlueBtn · 12h  
tails

Надежда Питерская @ProjectBlueBtn · 12h  
Лучшие стартапы для инвесторов от StartTrack



# Back to the panda

- “All of Russia salutes February 23”
- “Ukraine is ready to buy Russian gas”
- “OSCE observers invited to a referendum in Crimea”
- “Activists of the Maidan picket the Prosecutor General's Office, voice acting is not allowed”
  
- These tweets were all being posted just after Russia's annexation of Crimea in February, 2014.
- Pretty active: 5-10 tweets a day

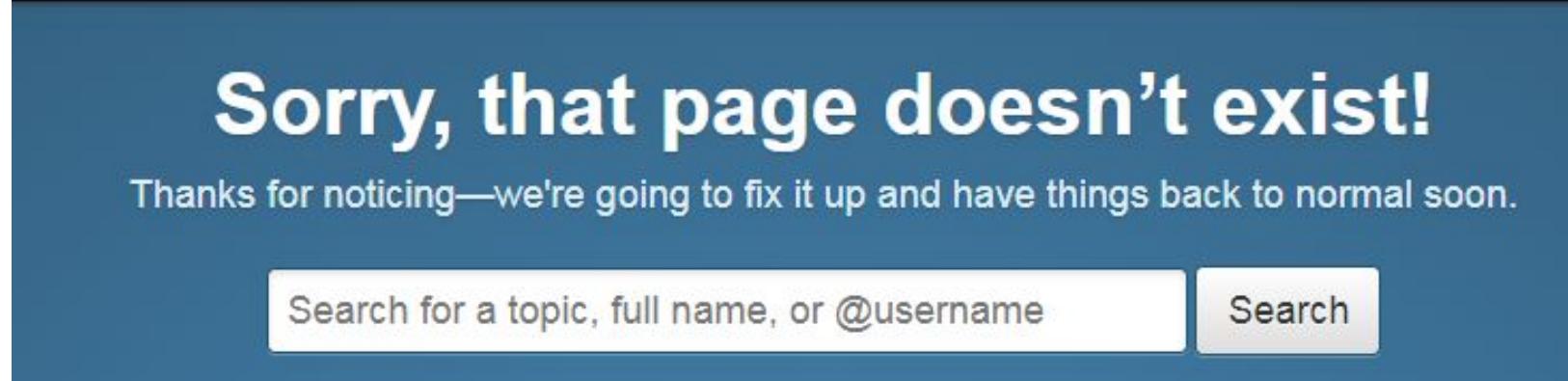
The screenshot shows a Wayback Machine capture of a Twitter profile. The profile picture is a black and white photo of a panda. The profile name is **ConnectStateGov** (@ConnectStateGov). The bio link is [twitter.com/ConnectStateGov](https://twitter.com/ConnectStateGov). The stats show 1,064 tweets, 96 following, and 8,259 followers. The timeline displays several tweets in Russian, all posted between October and December 2014, reflecting the period immediately following the annexation of Crimea. The tweets include statements about salutes on February 23, Ukraine buying Russian gas, OSCE observers in Crimea, and Maidan activists picketing the Prosecutor General's Office.

Date	Tweet Content (approx.)
59m	Салюты в честь 23 февраля устроят по всей России
2h	Украина готова покупать российский газ
4h	Наблюдателей ОБСЕ пригласили на референдум в Крыму
5h	Активисты Майдана пикетируют Генпрокуратуру, озвучку не пускают
8h	Для протестующих в Сочи Путин выделит отдельную площадку



# Back to the panda

- 26 Dec13: Deleted    14 Oct 14: Taken Over    17 Dec 16: Suspended



INTERNET ARCHIVE  
**WayBack Machine**

Loading...

<https://twitter.com/ConnectStateGov> |  
01:36:01 December 17, 2016

Got an HTTP 302 response at crawl time

Redirecting to...

<https://twitter.com/account/suspended>



# Bad Actors

- Purpose of the U.S. Digital Register
  - Deter fake accounts and disinformation by verifying U.S. social media accounts
- 29 suspended accounts.
- 100 deleted accounts.
- How easy would it be to pose as an official account and be authenticated by the registry?



# Posing as the government

15 Dec 16

ARCHIVE  
Machine https://twitter.com/USEmbassyRiyadh

41 captures 19 Sep 2011 - 5 Dec 2017 Go NOV DEC MAR  
◀ 15 ▶  
2015 2016 2017



TWEETS FOLLOWING FOLLOWERS LIKES MOMENTS

9,844 242 76.2K 314 1

[Follow](#)

[Tweets](#) [Tweets & replies](#) [Media](#)

 U.S. Embassy Riyadh @USEmbassyRiyadh · Dec 13  
مركز خدمات تجارية في السعودية كله من النساء، مبادرة استحق التقدير  
@generalelectric @GE\_Reports

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
[Instagram.com/usmissionsaudi...](#)  
Joined December 2010



# Posing as the government

Secure | https://usdigitalregistry.digitalgov.gov

Gmail Calendar Timekeeping Staff AWS Staff info Tasks Desk SFM Github Docker Res Cal Other Bookmarks

riyah 0/0

DIGITALGOV

HOME LOG IN

Department	Twitter	U.S. Ambassador United Arab Emirates	Thu Feb 18 2016
Department	Twitter	<b>U.S. Embassy Riyadh</b>	Thu Feb 18 2016
Department	Twitter	U.S. Ambassador Poland	Thu Feb 18 2016

REAL

Secure | https://twitter.com/USEmbassyRiyadh

Gmail Calendar Timekeeping Staff AWS Staff info Tasks Desk SFM Github Docker Res Cal Other Bookmarks

https://twitter.com/USEmbassyRiyadh Go NOV DEC MAR 15 2015 2016 2017 About this capture

40 captures 19 Sep 2011 – 7 Nov 2017

Tweets 9,844 Following 242 Followers 76.2K Likes 314 Moments 1 Follow

**U.S. Embassy Riyadh** @USEmbassyRiyadh

حساب السفارة الأمريكية في الرياض للأخبار على سلسلة  
و منتشرة المؤسسة التي يخدمها لامتنان المنشورة بالتأثيرات  
الرجاء، ايميل RiyadNIV@state.gov

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Instagram.com/usmissionsaudi... Joined April 2017 Photos and videos

**Tweets** **Tweets & replies** **Media**

U.S. Embassy Riyadh @USEmbassyRiyadh · Dec 13 مركز خدمات تجارية في السعودية كله من النساء، مبادر استحق التقدير @generalelectric @GE\_Reports

RiyadhNIV@state.gov

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Instagram.com/usmissionsaudi... Joined December 2010

FAKE

Home Moments Notifications Messages Search Twitter Tweet

**U.S. Embassy Riyadh** @USEmbassyRiyadh

حساب السفارة الأمريكية في الرياض للأخبار على سلسلة  
و منتشرة المؤسسة التي يخدمها لامتنان المنشورة بالتأثيرات  
الرجاء، ايميل RiyadNIV@state.gov

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Instagram.com/usmissionsaudi... Joined April 2017 Photos and videos

**Tweets** **Tweets & replies** **Media**

U.S. Embassy Riyadh @USEmbassyRiyadh · 49m "It's the right thing to do & a tasty way to do it." --Wilford Brimley

Tweets Lists Moments Edit profile

Trends for you · Change

#Rockies 28.8K Tweets  
#ElectionDay 28.8K Tweets  
Packers 80.1K Tweets  
#Lions 9,080 Tweets  
#LHNNY 25.8K Tweets  
Hundley 15.7K Tweets  
#DWTS 16.7K Tweets  
Meek Meek Mill sentenced to a minimum 2 years in prison for parole violations  
#RHOC 7,261 Tweets  
Rodgers 24.1K Tweets

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# Altering History

- Pushing into the Internet Archive
- Page is the same, appended to the official history.
- 7 Nov 17





# Oops

A month after the blog post, DoS reclaims the handle

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
**WayBack Machine**

<https://twitter.com/USEmbassyRiyadh> Go APR DEC JAN  
41 captures 19 Sep 2011 - 5 Dec 2017 ◀ 05 ▶ 2016 2017 2018



Followers 58 Follow

**US Mission to KSA** 

@usembassyriyadh

Follow the US Mission in Saudi Arabia @USAinKSA. This is a dormant account.

 sa.usembassy.gov

 Joined January 2011

This account's Tweets are protected.  
Only confirmed followers have access to @usembassyriyadh's Tweets and complete profile.  
Click the "Follow" button to send a follow request.



# Takeaway

- U.S. Digital Registry needs to do more to maintain the integrity of the information they hold.
  - Regularly update account status
  - U.S. government accounts should all be verified.
- Twitter
  - Organizational or Governmental accounts should not be recycled.
- Internet Archive
  - Twitters API gives a lot information about accounts, could the Internet Archive use that to determine when an account changes hands?



# Government adjusting to Technology

- Hillary and her emails?
  - Email has been used extensively in the government since 1984.
  - Top government official technologically handicapped.
- Twitter has been around since 2006
- Not surprising that the government doesn't have a handle on it.

Jimmy Daly. The History of Email in the Federal Government. FEDTECH Magazine. 15 July 2013.  
<https://fedtechmagazine.com/article/2013/07/brief-history-email-federal-government>

Twitter. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter>



# Government adjusting to Technology

## In other news

- Blog posts were from November 2017
- This is a notice from the U.S. Digital Registries main page.

**Notice:** As of April 19, 2018, all entries that have not been updated by agencies since **January 1, 2017** have been archived. Archived accounts will not appear in the public facing list and API of official, active accounts. This was done to help ensure that users can trust that accounts listed in the U.S. Digital Registry as official are still active.

Federal agencies are directed to update these account by OMB Memo M-17-06, "Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites and Digital Services," which states "To help confirm the validity of official U.S. Government digital platforms, within 60 days of the publication date of this Memorandum, agencies must register their public-facing digital services such as social media, collaboration accounts, mobile apps and mobile websites, with the U.S. Digital Registry at: <http://www.digitalgov.gov/services/u-s-digital-registry/>."

If your federal agency account has been archived but is still active, you can easily log-in and update these accounts to make them active again. In the meantime, GSA will continue to help agencies fulfill this need by providing support and guidance.