



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 28

I think @elonmusk has made a huge mistake, making himself the global face of content moderation at a critical moment of struggle with governments, while maintaining massive personal exposure to challenging countries.

Oct 28, 2022 · 7:01 PM UTC · Twitter Web App

587 2,992 745 18,744



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 28

Just finished a conversation on this with @evelyndouek that will be posted here tonight, but this thread can be a preview. Turns out that @StanfordLaw doesn't have a 24x7 podcast operations center. Not yet.

[podcasts.apple.com/us/podcas...](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcasts...)



Moderated Content on Apple Podcasts

Technology · 2022

podcasts.apple.com

4 101 5 809



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Evelyn and I discussed the immediate domestic impacts, including the possible return of DJT. Twitter's rules are still untouched, but there has been an immediate uptick in hate speech, likely driven from other platforms.

17 137 5 1,209



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Musk made himself the personal face of Twitter's content policies at an important time in the US, with several cases pending at SCOTUS. He seems to be learning why Zuck paid \$250M+ to build an external Oversight Board.



Elon Musk ✓ @elonmusk

Oct 28

Twitter will be forming a content moderation council with widely diverse viewpoints.

No major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes.

10 223 11 1,350



But most of our discussion was on the international impact. Twitter has been at the forefront of stopping covert government operations to manipulate social media, as well as an early adopter of labeling overt state media.

Recent example in India (PDF):

stacks.stanford.edu/file/dru...

💬 13 🔄 188 🗨️ 15 ❤️ 1,128



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Balancing local laws, human rights, and fiduciary responsibility is a constant challenge for tech companies. This will be much worse for Elon, who has most of his personal wealth tied up in a company that makes and sells regulated, physical products around the world.

Tesla Stores and Galleries

[US Tesla Stores and Galleries](#)

[Tesla Stores in Puerto Rico](#)

[Tesla Stores in Mexico](#)

[Tesla Stores in Canada](#)

[Tesla Stores in Austria](#)

[Tesla Stores in Belgium](#)

[Tesla Stores in Croatia](#)

[Tesla Stores in Czech Republic](#)

[Tesla Stores in Denmark](#)

[Tesla Stores in Finland](#)

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[Tesla Stores in United Kingdom](#)

[Tesla Stores in Australia](#)

[Tesla Stores in China Mainland](#)

[Tesla Stores in Taiwan](#)

[Tesla Stores in Macau](#)

[Tesla Stores in Hong Kong](#)

[Tesla Stores in Japan](#)

[Tesla Stores in New Zealand](#)

[Tesla Stores in Singapore](#)

[Tesla Stores in South Korea](#)

[Tesla Stores in Israel](#)

[Tesla Stores in Jordan](#)

[Tesla Stores in United Arab Emirates](#)

💬 15 🔄 301 🗨️ 13 ❤️ 1,312



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Oct 28

This conflict is going to be most prominent in the People's Republic of China. Tesla makes cars and batteries in Shanghai, and recognized ~\$5B in revenue last *quarter* in China.

Latest 10-Q:

tesla-cdn.thron.com/static/W...



The following table presents revenues by geographic area based on the sales location of our products (in millions):

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2021	2020
United States	\$ 10,236	\$ 6,414
China	\$ 5,131	\$ 3,113
Other	\$ 6,087	\$ 4,210
Total	\$ 21,454	\$ 13,737

💬 15 🔄 222 🗨️ 17 ❤️ 1,062



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Oct 28

Twitter has been aggressively fending off attempts by PRC intelligence services to operate in the US political sphere, but just two days ago @Mandiant documented a PRC influence operation aimed at manipulating the US election.



Pro-PRC DRAGONBRIDGE Influence Campaign Leverages New TTPs to Aggressively Target U.S. Interests,...

An influence campaign likely supporting People's Republic of China is aggressively targeting the U.S.

mandiant.com

5 475 19 1,295



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 28

With a 1/4 of current revenue and a much larger fraction of Tesla's future free cash flow at stake in China, what is Musk going to do with these public requests to lift labeling on state propagandists and private asks to stop looking for covert influence campaigns?



Hu Xijin 胡锦涛
@HuXijin_GT

China state-affiliated media

I am the most popular current affairs commentator on Chinese social media. I hope Twitter, with Musk as its chief, will remove the label that does not match my status after my retirement, sincerely accept my speech, and respect the voice of Chinese society that I have brought.

22 544 31 1,608



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

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This is truly an unprecedented situation. Facebook and Google are blocked in the PRC and their CEOs do not have massive personal wealth tied up there. But there have been situations where these companies have flirted with the PRC, leading to employee leaks and protests.

7 227 5 1,175



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

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The closest equivalent is Apple: skillful PRC salami-slicing since Apple entered the Chinese phone market in 2012 has led to Apple doing more for the Chinese Communist Party than any other tech company.




Published 2021

Censorship, Surveillance and Profits: A Hard Bargain for Apple in China (Published 2021)

Apple built the world's most valuable business on top of China. Now it has to answer to the Chinese government.

nytimes.com

4 219 3 1,026



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

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This pattern will be repeated around the world. Brazil is having an election this weekend, and observers are afraid that Bolsonaro will not respect a loss at the polls. Musk met with him and discussed Brazil's critical supply of minerals for Tesla's batteries earlier this year.



25 635 42 1,656



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

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In short, Musk has put himself in an untenable situation. He has already publicly committed himself to meddling in Twitter's platform policies in an unprecedented manner while also presumably thinking he can continue to fly around the world and shake the hands of authoritarians.

30 737 42 2,585



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 28



He bought Twitter at a massive overvaluation, and now has a fiduciary responsibility to his junior partners and to service the massive debt he took on. He can't easily

walk away; an IPO or sale for a profit will require massive revenue growth and the macro situation improving.

7 206 6 1,230



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 28

The people who should really be angry are **\$TSLA** shareholders. The company they partially own has now become the key hostage for countries looking to control the future of online speech.

How does the conversation with Modi go now?

thehindu.com/business/tesla-...



Tesla & India: Why has Elon Musk's car not hit Indian roads yet?

Tesla enthusiasts in India were in for rough ride when CEO Elon Musk announced that his company will not manufacture its electric cars in India

thehindu.com

20 490 24 1,802



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Oct 28

Things to watch for:

- Elimination of state media labels
- Cutoff of research agreements and APIs
- Shutdown of Twitter's foreign influence op archive
- Resignations of key security, threat intel leaders

All things we discuss in tonight's podcast! Coming soon!

21 638 21 2,280



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 28

Probably shouldn't have fired those policy and legal executives who have spent more time than anyone fighting governments to protect anonymous speech.



Evelyn Douek @evelyndouek

Oct 28

Lots of similar surprises on deck for him in the coming weeks!



Elon Musk replied

**Canada Proud**  @WeAreCanProud · 4h
Hey @ElonMusk, now that you own Twitter, will you help fight back against Trudeau's online censorship bill C-11?

**Elon Musk**  @elonmusk · 4h
First I've heard

590

3,310

32.1K

2,197

2,620

43.9K

48 478 15 2,380



Alex Stamos  @alexstamos

Oct 28

After the new content moderation board meets, right?

This is exactly what I'm talking about. He's preening for the fanboys, but the KSA, PRC or UAE might see his involvement in day-to-day decisions as serious.



Elon Musk  @elonmusk

Oct 28

Comedy is now legal on Twitter

18 213 5 1,185



Alex Stamos  @alexstamos

Oct 28

A great new meme format just dropped.



Alp Akiş @akis_alp

Oct 28

cyber.fsi.stanford.edu/io/pu...



13 78 2 576



Alex Stamos  @alexstamos

Oct 29

Our podcast discussing the personal and geopolitical risks Elon is taking with the Twitter purchase is up!

podcasts.apple.com/us/podcas...



Moderated Content: Musk Flips the Bird on Apple Podcasts

Show Moderated Content, Ep Musk Flips the Bird - Oct 28, 2022

podcasts.apple.com

💬 18 🔄 85 🗨️ 7 ❤️ 418



Alex Stamos ✓ @alexstamos

Oct 30

Wow.



Christian Vanderbrouk 🇺🇸 🇺🇦 🌻 ✓ @UrbanAchievr

Oct 30

unreal



Elon Musk ✓
@elonmusk

Replying to @HillaryClinton

There is a tiny possibility there might be more to this story than meets the eye



The Awful Truth: Paul Pelosi Was Drunk Again, And In a Dispute With...
smobserved.com

8:15 AM · 10/30/22 · Twitter for iPhone

Share Tweet + 0 Comments

October 29, 2022



As SF's gay bars closed at 2 am, two gay men met in a bar and went home together. Happens all the time. Except one of the two men, was married to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

I might disappear for telling you the truth. If I do, you'll all know why. But here's what really happened this morning in San Francisco.

7 of 82
(L-R) Family friend David Depape sits on the floor under blankets with Daniel, 8, Nebospod, 10, Inti, 13, Gypsy Taub and her fiancé Jamyz Smith as they all watch the show South Park together at their home in Berkeley, CA, Friday, December 13, 2013. Nudity activists Gypsy Taub and her
Michael Short/The Chronicle [Show More](#)
It Doesn't Add Up: Some People on Social Media Are Questioning Attack on Paul Pelosi

💬 10 🔄 23 🗨️ 2 ❤️ 168



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Oct 30

Twitter has never had the most compelling advertising product, so the affinity these CMOs have for the platform is probably minimal. Things are going to move more quickly than I expected towards higher engagement as people tune into the spectacle but lower revenue.



Josh Marshall ✓ @joshtpm

Oct 30

Replying to @joshtpm

here are some of twitters top advertisers

Show this thread

According to Pathmatics, a firm that tracks digital spending, the 20 companies that spent the most on Twitter advertising since January 1 paid the platform an estimated \$358 million combined. These companies include:

- Home Box Office Inc. (HBO)
- Mondelez International
- Amazon
- IBM
- PepsiCo Inc.
- Best Buy Co. Inc.

- Apple Inc.
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Capital One Financial Corporation
- Procter & Gamble
- Unilever
- Merck & Co. (Merck Sharp & Dohme MSD)
- Disney
- CenturyLink (Lumen Technologies Inc.)
- Comcast Corporation
- Meta Platforms Inc. (formerly Facebook Inc.)
- Google
- Verizon
- Anheuser-Busch
- CBS (CBS.com)

12 60 3 227



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Nov 1



Ryan Barwick ☕ ✓ @Ryanbarwick

Nov 1

SCOOP: IPG is recommending client "temporary pause" all current media on Twitter, according to multiple sources.

[Show this thread](#)

2 2 12

[Load newest](#)



Ed O'Grady @EdOGrady1

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @chrislhayes @elonmusk

His businesses will suffer. There were already boycotts taking place.

1 1



more replies



1 compliment only please @dennisnahas

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @chrislhayes @elonmusk

What do mistakes mean to a class of people who never face real consequences?

3 15



80/20 @8020perspective

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @elonmusk

What content moderation?

1 1 1



K @freefromhope

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @chrislhayes

All @elonmusk wants is attention and he'll get it, at a cost.

1 1 1



Wilfried Kaiser @wilfriedkaiser

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @elonmusk

I view it as a chance. If he messes it up then it'll become a mistake. Twitter has so much potential.

1 1 4



James Hafford @Jha77ord

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @chrislhayes @elonmusk



Agree He's either walking a tightrope or the plank.

🗨️ ↺️ 🗨️ ❤️



Greta Crown @crown_greta

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @elonmusk

Who's running Tesla?



🗨️ ↺️ 3 🗨️ ❤️ 23



Goin 90 I Ain't Scary @dv1belt

Oct 28

Replying to @alexstamos @elonmusk

Government is literally the public's voice in a capitalist society. Without ppl like Elon old make themselves king. We elect a governing body to prevent that. It's not surprising 3 billionaires in America are each leading an anti-gov agenda. I don't understand why we can't see it

🗨️ 1 ↺️ 2 🗨️ ❤️ 32

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