

The strange birth, death and rebirth of a Russian troll account called 'AllForUSA'

Notes & Cues:	Article: <p>An Indiana man named Jesse D. Allen created a website in 2005 with the title AllForUSA.com, apparently to pursue some business interests, but he soon abandoned the site.</p> <p>A decade later, at the age of 80, Allen died.</p> <p>But AllForUSA was just getting started.</p> <p>As the 2016 presidential campaign heated up, AllForUSA.com suddenly bristled with what appeared to be news articles celebrating Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and bashing his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.</p> <p>“HILLARY May END UP in PRISON AFTER ALL, ” read one headline.</p> <p>On Reddit, the commenter “allforusa” posted similar messages and linked to headlines on AllForUSA.com.</p> <p>The following year, after Trump’s election, a Twitter account named “@allforusa11” retweeted the president before inexplicably changing subjects to tweet about feminism—in Japanese.</p> <p>The final twist came a few months later when AllForUSA.com was reborn again—this time as a Russian online gambling site.</p> <p>A clue to the mystery of this multilingual burst of activity appeared in a February indictment by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III.</p> <p>It said the Russians who operated fake social media accounts to manipulate American voters used allforusa@yahoo.com to fraudulently access a PayPal account and to promote a “March for Trump” campaign rally in New York.</p> <p>The other “AllForUSA” accounts probably were operated in tandem with this email address and with each other, according to a report Monday from cyberintelligence firm GroupSense, whose researchers found a subtle tangle of connections left in records discovered online.</p> <p>The report highlights how data breaches fuel nefarious online activity, giving criminal hackers and disinformation teams an endless supply of cheap accounts to use individually or for networks of “bots, ” automated accounts controlled by a single operative.</p> <p>All this typically takes place without the original owners knowing what happened to their creations.</p>
Summary:	