



Ntrepid products
put you on the
cutting edge;
Ntrepid Academy
keeps you there

Effective online operations require more than just highly capable technical solutions—they also require highly capable people. Ntrepid Academy is our cyber solutions center of excellence that provides customers with the training, analytic, and operational solutions they need to succeed in a dynamic operational space. Our solutions draw from Ntrepid's product, cyber research and development, and data sciences teams, as well as our decades' worth of expertise supporting a variety of law enforcement, national security, and defense missions.

Training Solutions

Your mission, your requirements, your training

Ntrepid Academy develops and delivers high-quality product and skills training for our customers. We offer an experiential training approach, supporting customers through tailored, hands-on activities. Students spend a majority of each course using our products in scenario-based exercises, allowing them to develop and refine practical skills, explore Ntrepid product features, and utilize tools as they would in real online missions.



Analytic Solutions

Identify, assess, interpret

Ntrepid Academy identifies, assesses, and interprets emerging trends and challenges in support of our customers, and creates actionable products to help our customers overcome these challenges. Our product line includes Spotlight reports analyzing emerging cyber and tech platforms and monthly newsletters that notify customers of current trends and techniques. Additionally, our Nsight Series examines real-world use cases to identify lessons learned or best practices.

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

on Mobile Messaging Applications

Dec 2019 - Issue 21

Signal

NSIGHT SERIES

December 2019 - Issue 3

CAMOSINT Operations on Social Media

A Case Study of Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior

What Is It?

Secure Signal

Signal is an end-to-end encrypted, cross-platform messaging app that is available on iOS, Android, and desktop. It is co-owned by WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum and Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg. Signal is an end-to-end encrypted, cross-platform messaging app that is available on iOS, Android, and desktop. It is co-owned by WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum and Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg.

How, Not What

In August 2019, Facebook announced the discovery and removal of hundreds of accounts engaging in what the company characterized as "coordinated inauthentic behavior." The accounts were ultimately attributed to Saudi Arabia as part of an apparent effort to create messages and amplify content that buttressed the government's internal and regional policies. This case is interesting because the accounts were taken down based on how they were interacting with the platform, not what they were posting.

So What?

Safety in Numbers

Signal's emphasis on "secure messaging beta" discovery is limited, as all conversations on Signal can be shared with anyone who has access to the phone. If a user is compromised, the entire phone's data is at risk.

The Saudi Case

In late summer 2019, Facebook identified and disrupted an apparent Saudi messaging effort targeting Arabic-speaking audiences. Most of the accounts that were removed had been created in the last two years, but some date to 2014. The accounts posed as users in several countries in Northern Africa and the Middle East, and many claimed to be local news organizations reporting on "regional news and political issues," primarily in Arabic. The networks were especially active in early 2018, and one page was running ads just two days before Facebook announced the removal of the network.

Ultimately, the platform removed 217 Facebook accounts, 144 Facebook pages with 1.4 million collective followers, 5 Facebook groups with over 26,000 total members, and 31 Instagram accounts with more than 161,000 total followers. According to Facebook, the Saudi Arabian campaign spent more than \$108,000 in advertisements paid in Saudi riyal and US dollars and reached more than 1.5 million people on Facebook and Instagram before being shut down.



Operational Solutions

Succeed in a dynamic operational environment

The operational domain is changing; we're here to help you keep up. Ntrepid Academy's team of analysts and solutions experts use Ntrepid products daily to foresee new challenges, assess new platforms, and validate new tactics. We also leverage Ntrepid's continuous research and development to respond to customer requests for information or facilitate seminars and workshops that inform our customers of emerging trends.