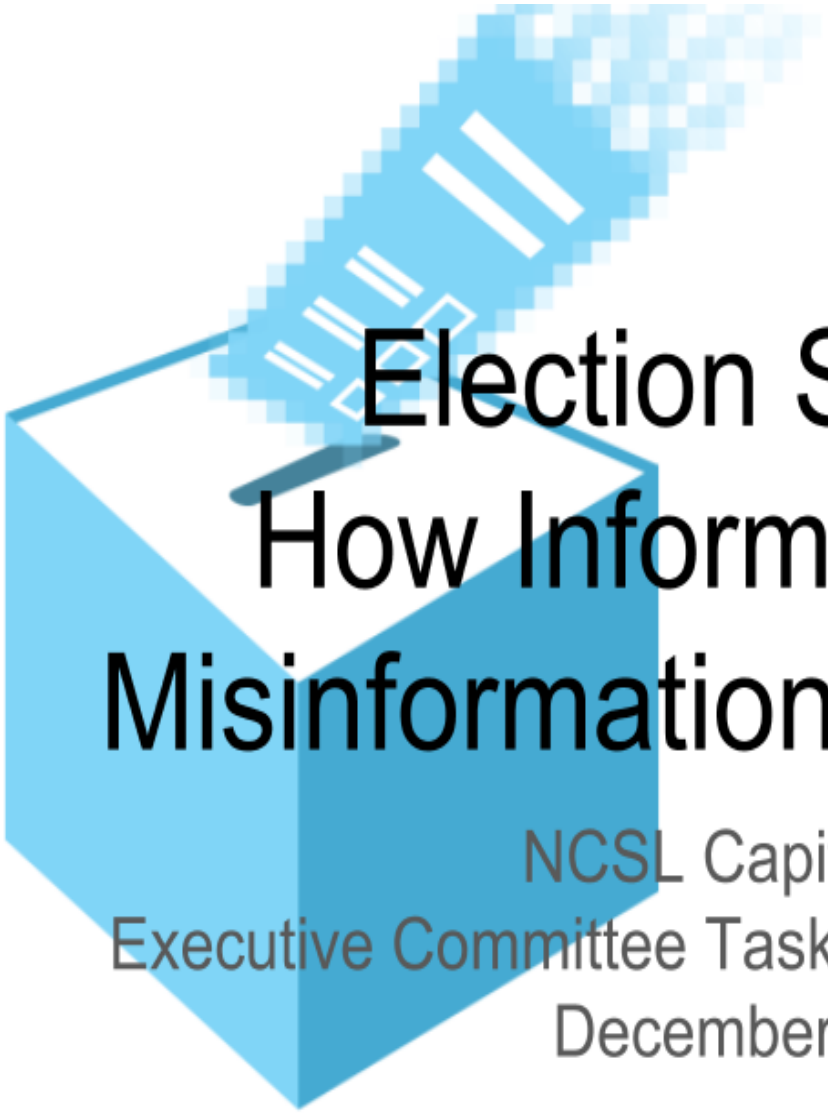


Election Security: How Information (and Misinformation) Play a Role

NCSL Capitol Forum

Executive Committee Task Force On Cybersecurity

December 9, 2019

CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY & TECHNOLOGY

Overview

CDT's Election Privacy & Security Project

Priorities in 2020

Voter Confidence

Defining Misinformation

Understanding Misinformation

You Make The Call

Examples

Evaluating Content

Sources

What You Can Do

Resources

Introduction to CDT's Election Privacy & Security Project

About CDT

At the Center of Democracy and Technology, we believe in the power of the internet. Whether it's facilitating entrepreneurial endeavors, providing access to new markets and opportunities, or creating a platform for free speech, the internet empowers, emboldens, and equalizes people around the world.

Election Privacy & Security Project

The project addresses key election cybersecurity issues, such as election official training, technical volunteer capacity building, social media disinformation campaigns, and robust post-election auditing, by crafting resources for election officials. It is led by Maurice Turner, Deputy Director & Senior Technologist.

Priorities in 2020

Cybersecurity 101 & Risk-limiting Audit Training for Election Officials

Assess the level of cybersecurity awareness of election officials; Identify and adapt existing training materials to meet specific needs of election officials; Deliver adapted training.

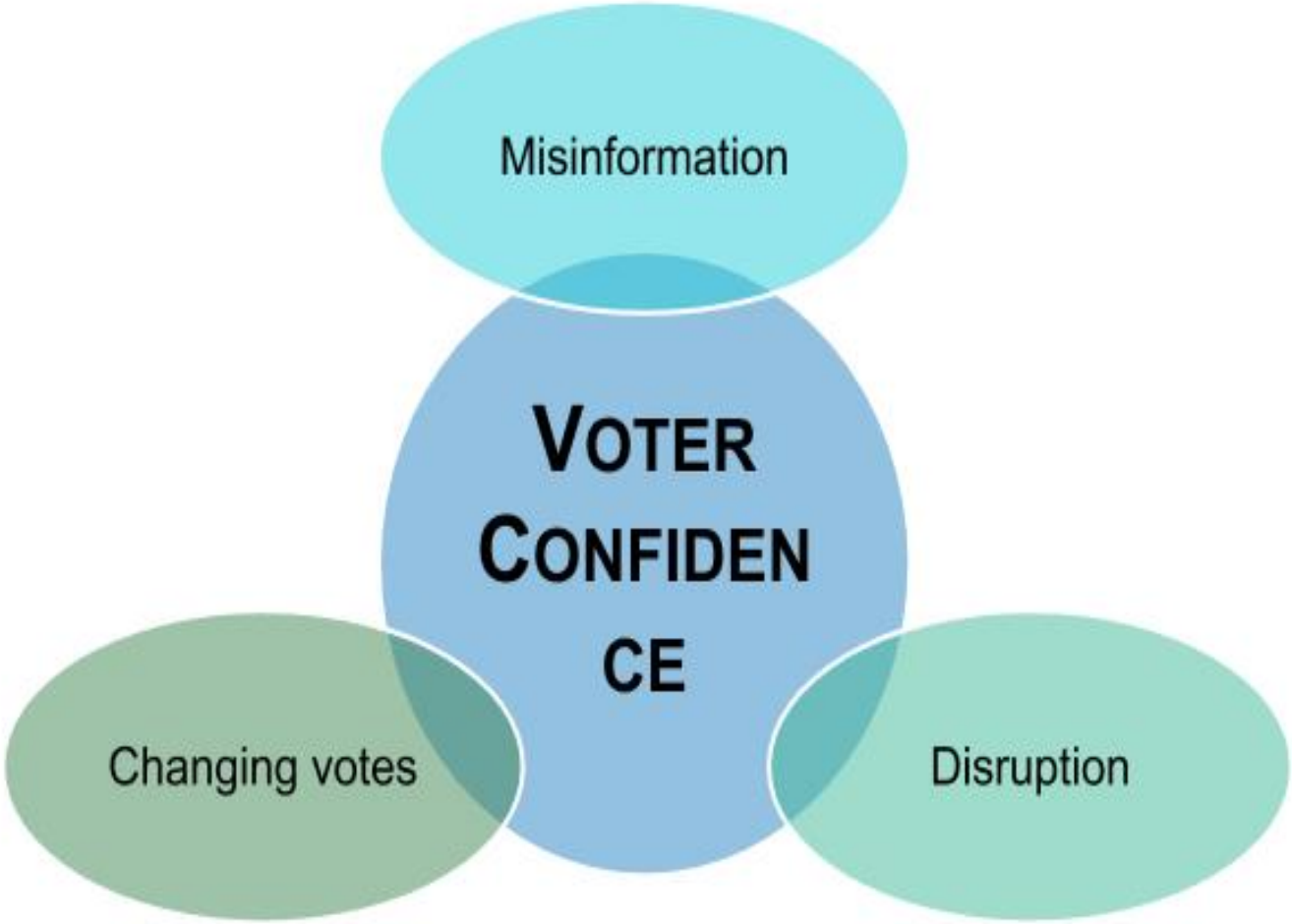
Building Bridges between Election Officials, Stakeholders, Vendors, & Information Security Professionals

Assist officials in identifying civic-minded individuals or organizations (schools, associations, companies, State National Guard) with technical skills in the areas of security research and network or systems administration interested in acting as technical volunteers; Reduce tensions impeding progress on common values and issues across the community.

Modern Standards & Alternative Voting Systems

Advocate for a regulatory system that streamlines innovation allowing for rapid development by incumbents & newcomers, including the use of open-source software & commercial-off-the-shelf hardware.

Voter Confidence

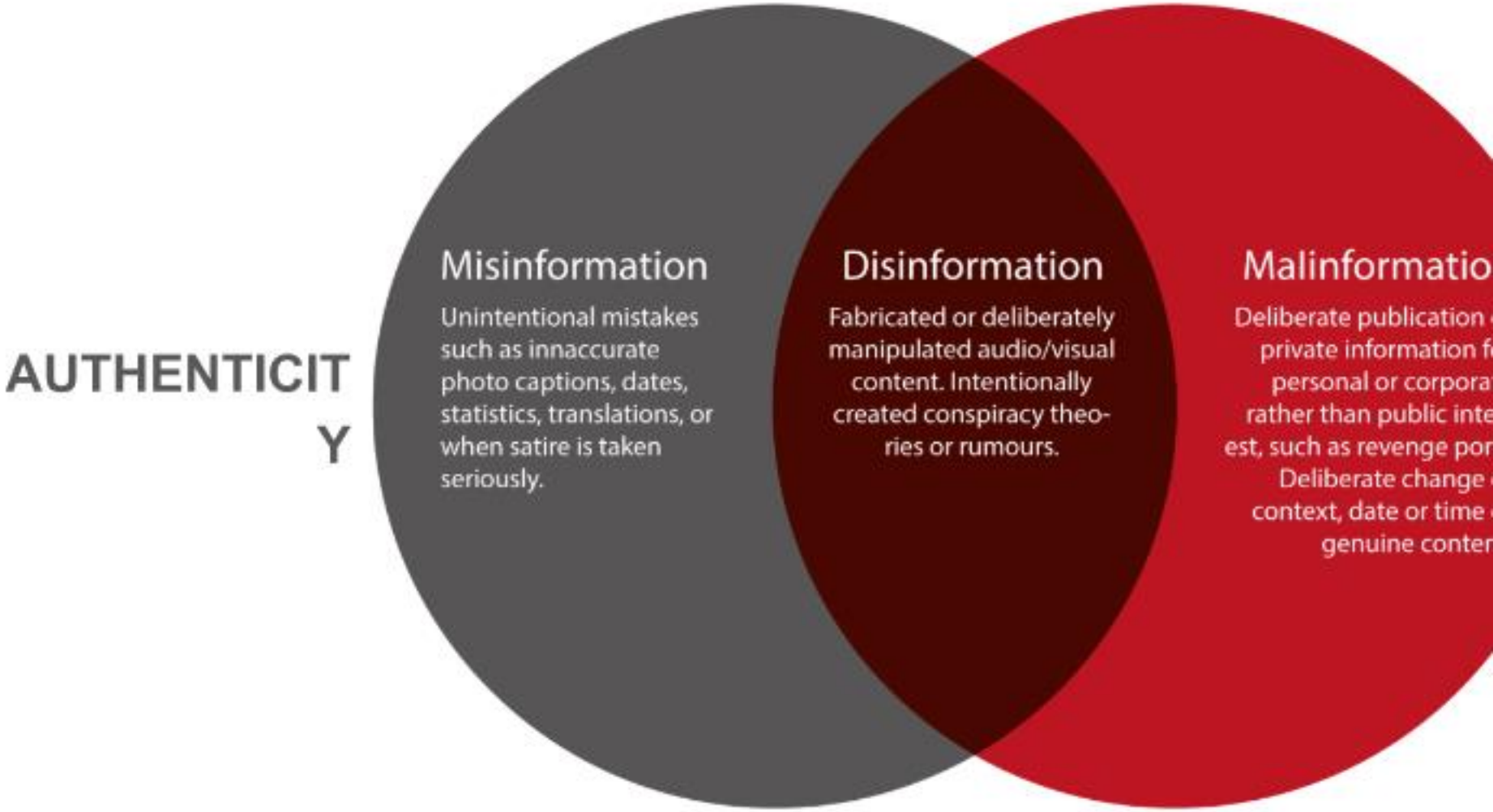


Defining Misinformation

	Authenticity	Intent to Cause Harm
Mis-information	False	No
Dis-information	False	Yes
Mal-information	True	Yes

CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY & TECHNOLOGY

Understanding Misinformation



Source: First Draft News

You Make The Call

*Political ads are complicated

Examples

- Florida candidates questioned results because election night reporting **website m** (2019)
    - Misrepresenting accurate tabulation calls into question the entire election process
- **Thousands of bots** targeted Kentucky gubernatorial race (2019)
    - Account tweeting “Bye bye Bevin.” was retweeted at least 91 times before being su bot accounts continued to tweet screenshots of the message
- Facebook announced the takedown of **50 Instagram accounts** with thousands posting about US social and political issues and the 2020 election (2019)
    - Russian-based troll farms with links to Internet Research Agency (IRA) claimed to multiple politically active US communities, some based in swing states.

Evaluating Content

Reputation. Based on recognition and familiarity

Endorsement. Whether others find it credible

Consistency. Whether the message is echoed by multiple sites

Expectancy violation. Whether a website looks and behaves i

manner

Self-confirmation. Whether a message confirms one's beliefs

Persuasive intent. The intent of the source in creating the mes

Source: Shorenstein Center at HKS

Sources

Foreign Actors

Organized Criminal Groups

Pranksters

Political Activists

Unintentional Disruptors

What You Can Do

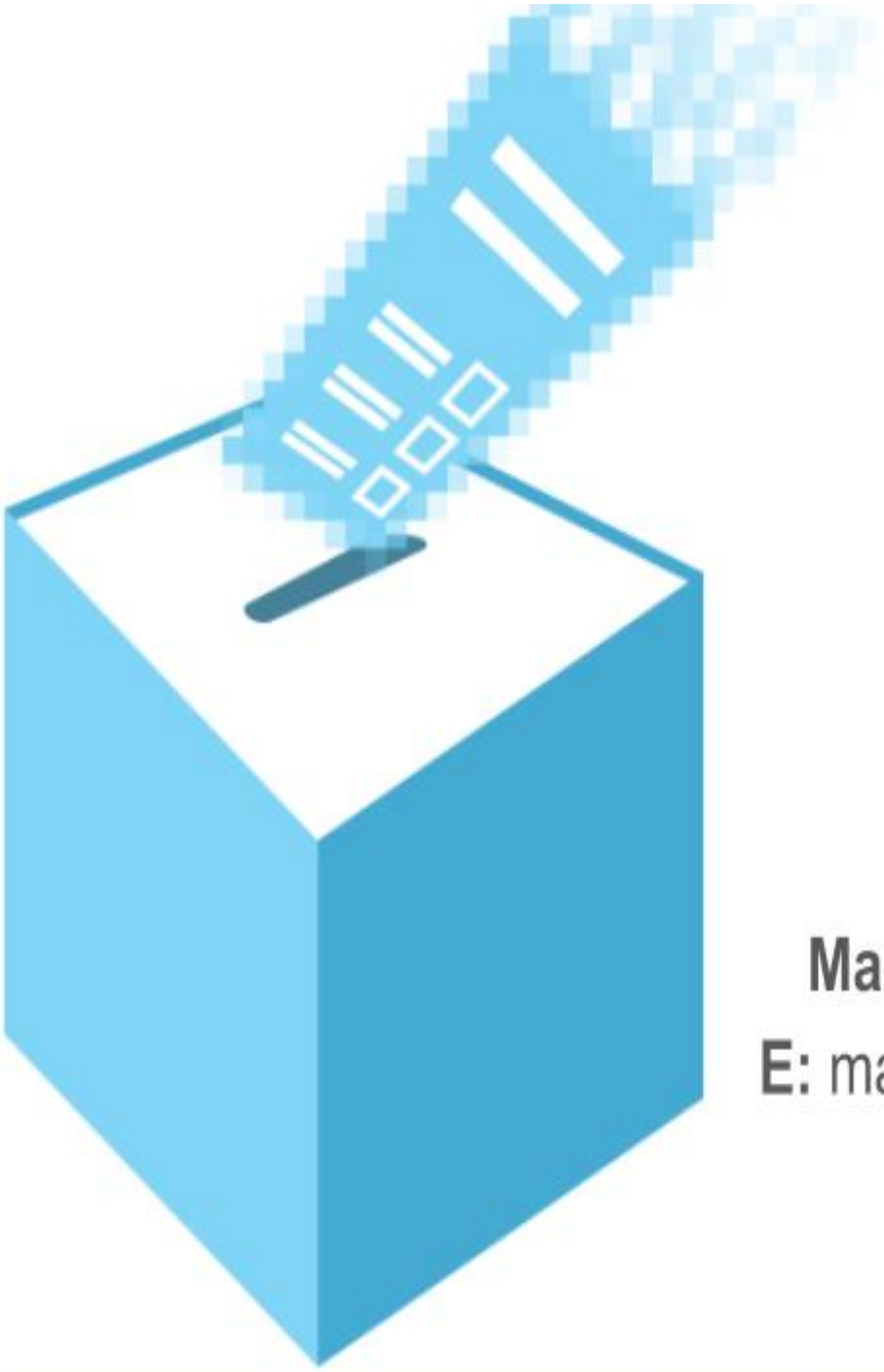
- Establish yourself as an **authentic** source of information
  - Join social networks (Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat) to broadcast your message using the same communication channels
  - Transition to DMARC for email and .gov for website to prevent impersonation
- **Protect access** to your communication channels
  - Enable two-factor authentication, password managers
  - Microsoft and Google offer advanced account protection to detect attacks to email
- Develop and **practice** media responses
  - Table top exercises (TTX) use realistic scenarios to build confidence and identify gaps in procedure

Resources

- Center for Democracy & Technology Election Privacy & Security Project
- Center for Technology & Civic Life Online Series: Cybersecurity for Election Offi
- DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency Election Security Resource
- National Association of Secretaries of State TrustedInfo2020
- Harvard Shorenstein Center Information Disorder
- Unhack The Vote Uncovering Russian Twitter Bots
- Alliance for Securing Democracy Hamilton 2.0 dashboard
- Brookings Institution Fighting deepfakes when detection fails
- NATO STRATCOM COE How Social Media Companies are Failing to Combat In Online

3 Months

Until Presidential Primary Elections



Maurice Turner | Deputy Director

E: maurice@cdt.org | **T:** @TypeMRT

CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY & TECHNOLOGY