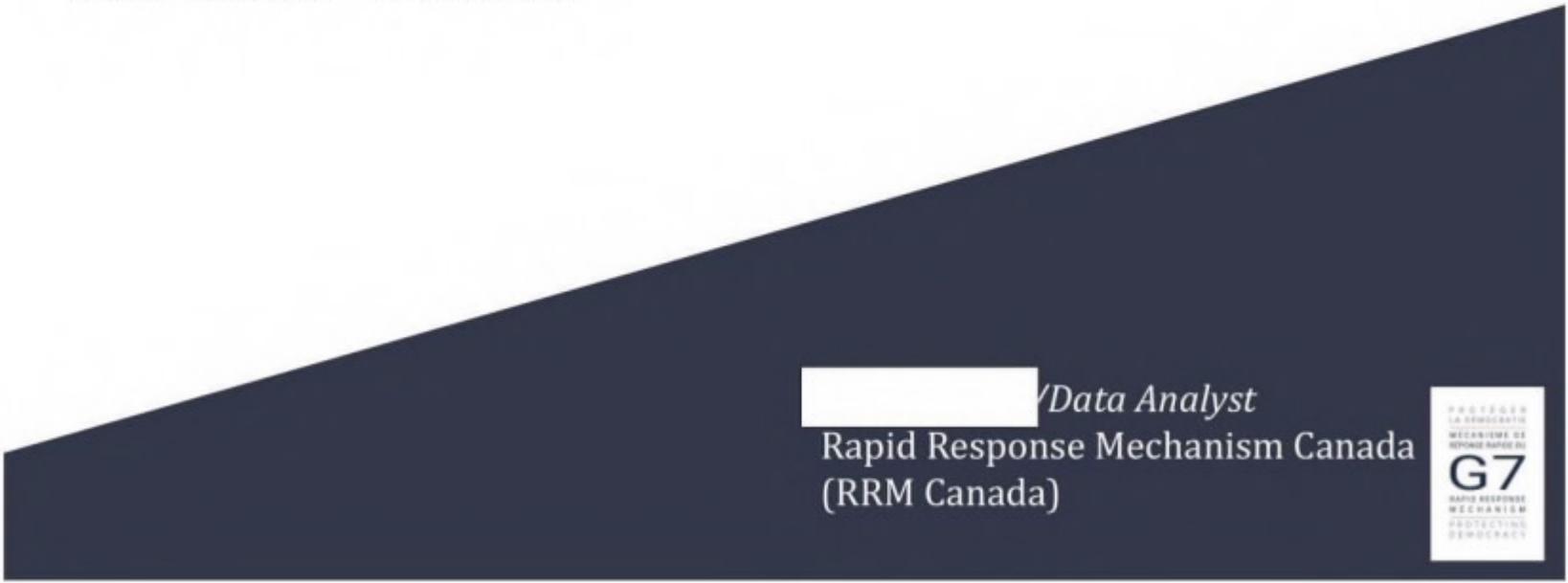


Mapping the WeChat News Environment in the Indo-Pacific



[Redacted] *Data Analyst*
Rapid Response Mechanism Canada
(RRM Canada)



1.0 The Threat— Foreign interference meddling election results



CSIS official tells MPs China "foremost aggressor" in foreign interference

STEVEN CHASE > SENIOR PARLIAMANTARY REPORTER
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 4, 2022

- Disinformation and Chinese propaganda n particular candidates/ issues are widely spread in diaspora Chinese communities via social media such as WeChat especially during elections ~~times~~
- In an attempt to ~~Ability~~ sway votes
- Fundamentally threatening the democratic structure



The PRC Influence Operation

Hybrid Tactics as the Grand Strategy—and Disinformation

- The “Three Warfare”—coordinated use of strategic psychological operations, overt and covert media manipulation, as well as legal warfare designed to manipulate strategies, defense policies, and perceptions of target audiences abroad
- I.e. Disinformation, Electoral Interference

>> Aims at coercing western democracies and mislead its audiences into taking actions that align with Beijing’s interests

2.0 Ramifications— Liberal Democracy at stake

- The nature of liberal democratic society makes it vulnerable to China's influence operation
 - e.g. Free media and free flow of information
- modified narratives also create confusion in the general public's perception
- may have severe impact on certain communities i.e. Taiwanese, Hongkongers, Tibetans and Uyghurs
- Such foreign interference is a fundamental threat to our liberal democratic system ~~and~~ which includes the ability to maintain the informational integrity of democracies

The geographical location and distribution of WeChat news accounts in the Indo-Pacific region.

3.1 Mapping

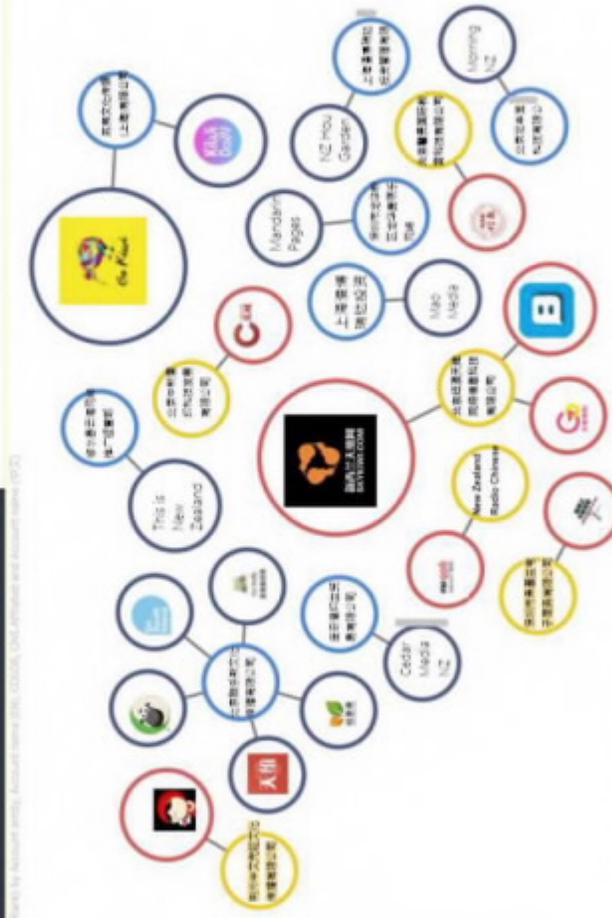


PROTECT
 LA DEMOCRATIE
 WE CAN LIVE AS
 WE CHOSE TO
G7
 NATO RESPONSE
 WE CHANGING
 PROTECTING
 DEMOCRACY



● WeChat news account ecosystem in New Zealand

3.1 Mapping



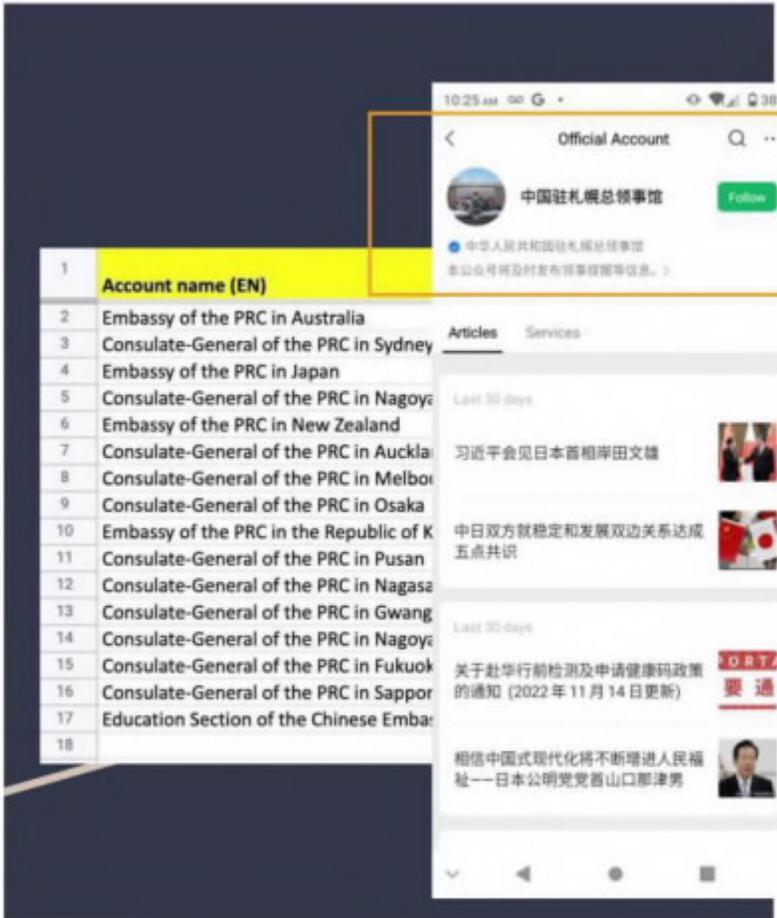
For Public Release



● Data from WeChat news account in New Zealand + OSINT

1	Account name (EN)	Account name (中文)	Weixin ID	Account entity	Account type	IP location	Rename history	Date established	Subscriber # (Nr Avg. article read Avg. headline)	3437
2	Sky Kiwi NZ	新西兰天维网	SkykiwiNZ	北京纽澳天维网络信息科技有限公司	company	新西兰		23/4/2019	1000000	15107
3	Go Kiwi	发现新西兰	Go_Kiwi	苏弗文化传媒(上海)有限公司	company	新西兰		2013-06-24	1000000	12683
4	Kan Kiwi	看看新西兰	kanikiwi		individual	新西兰		3/8/2018	464422	8155
5	Chinese Herald	新西兰中文先驱	Chinese_Herald	荆州中文先驱文化传媒有限公司	company	新西兰		4/3/2020	349791	1923
6	Kiwi Daily	新西兰生活快讯	Kiwi_Daily	苏弗文化传媒(上海)有限公司	company	新西兰		27/1/2016	301874	5649
7	We Biz Link	新西兰微财经	webizlink	北京纽澳天维网络信息科技有限公司	company	新西兰		15/5/2019	272425	2764
8	This is New Zealand	这才是新西兰	zhcatalinz	修水县云海网络推广运营部	company	新西兰		07/07/2015	218319	5078
9	NZ Hou Garden	新西兰后花园	HouGarden_Con	上海漫博瑞达投资管理有限公司	company	四川		23/11/2012	151219	747
10	Go To NZL	走进新西兰	GoToNZL	北京酷乐斯文化传媒公司	company	新西兰		7/12/2018	141697	173
11	Go Sky Kiwi	新西兰天维导购	GoSkykiwi	北京纽澳天维网络信息科技有限公司	company	新西兰		08/05/2019	121680	2649
12	Cry Walker / New K Visc	新西兰乐城潮资讯	newkvision	北京中新藤印科技发展有限公司	company	新西兰		20/10/2017	95663	161
13	NZ Info NZI	新西兰官德	NZinfoNZI		individual	新西兰		19/11/2018	81019	1451
14	Morning NZ	新西兰早知道	Morning-NZ	北京地丰宝科技有限公司	company	新西兰		2020-07-02	74666	1998
15	GD CHCH	格谨基督城	gdchch		individual	新西兰		9/11/2014	49629	1992
16	Mandarin Pages	NZ华页	mpages	深圳市龙华新区龙华麦琪网络科技有限公司	company	新西兰		13/04/2015	41615	388
17	Mao Media	新西兰Kiwi毛传媒	mao_media	厦门市零点联合网络科技有限公司	company	新西兰		27/05/2015	32953	227
18	Go Welly	发现惠灵顿	go_welly	北京酷乐斯文化传媒公司	company	河南		10/12/2018	23000	245
19	NZ Messengers	新西兰的酒/信报	nzmessengers	北京馨泉国际教育科技有限公司	company	新西兰		23/03/2020	19488	24
20	Sky Soku	新西兰天维生活	SKY-SOKU	北京酷乐斯文化传媒公司	company	河南		18/6/2015	16945	245
21	NZ FM 90.6	新西兰中文广播电台	NZFM906	纽西兰中文广播电台 New Zealand media	company	新西兰		15/12/2013	15973	1356
22	Waikato Weekly	新西兰怀卡托周报	waikato_weekly		company	新西兰			11320	209
23	Wellcome NZ	新西兰e资讯	wellcomenz	北京酷乐斯文化传媒公司	company			24/12/2012	7674	20
24	Cedar Media NZ	多普 / kevinzeng	CedarMediaNZ	连云港印兰贸易有限公司	company			19/02/2019	6542	202
25	Home Voice NZ	发现南岛	homevoicenz	北京酷乐斯文化传媒公司	individual	新西兰		03/06/2014	3675	111
26	Go South Island	新西兰华新传媒	GoSouthIsland	深圳市泉基兰电子商务有限公司	company	新西兰		2017-01-16	3056	422
27	NZ China News	中新华媒	NZCHINANNEWS		company	新西兰			2742	68
28	Asia-Pacific Times	新西兰早安	huayumeiti		individual				551	
29	NZ Chinese News	新西兰早安	nzchinesenews		individual	新西兰		"每日新西兰"		

PROTECTING NEWZEALAND



● PRC-related WeChat news account in the Indo-Pacific



Account name (EN)	Weixin ID	Account entity	Account type
Embassy of the PRC in Australia	aozhoufeihong	中华人民共和国驻澳大利亚大使馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Sydney	xinizhijia	中国驻悉尼总领事馆	government
Embassy of the PRC in Japan	chinaembassy_jpn	中华人民共和国驻日本国大使馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Nagoya	consulate_nagoya	中华人民共和国驻名古屋总领事馆	government
Embassy of the PRC in New Zealand	chinaembassy_nz	中华人民共和国驻新西兰大使馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Auckland	chinaconsulate_akl	中华人民共和国外交部	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Melbourne	gh_b5488fe569da	中华人民共和国驻墨尔本总领事馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Osaka	Osaka_Consulate	中华人民共和国驻大阪总领事馆	government
Embassy of the PRC in the Republic of Korea	chinaemb_kor	中华人民共和国驻大韩民国大使馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Pusan	busanzlg	中华人民共和国驻釜山总领事馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Nagasaki	consulate_nagasaki	中华人民共和国驻长崎总领事馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Gwangju	gwangju_consulate	中华人民共和国驻光州总领事馆	government
Consulate-General of the PRC in Nagoya	ZLGJEJU	中华人民共和国驻济州总领事馆	
Consulate-General of the PRC in Fukuoka	gh_fc3638bc3221	中华人民共和国驻福岡总领事馆	
Consulate-General of the PRC in Sapporo	gh_57aba0017290	中华人民共和国驻札幌总领事馆	
Education Section of the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo	gh_aabac63d5f0c	教育部留学服务中心(中国留学服务中心)	



WeChat News account in the Indo-Pacific

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Account name (EN)	Account name (中文)	Weixin ID	Account entity	Account type	IP location	Kiname history	Date establishe	Subscriber # (M)	Avg. article	near Avg. headline v	Website	Region of foc
1 Friends of MY	马来西亚	my402600	上海金辰投资管理咨询有限公司	company	瑞士		06/08/2013	57086				
2 MY SR Online	好读Online	myonline	好读在线 (青岛) 文化传媒集团	company	马来西亚		2018-05-18	76990	565	2180		
3 MD-ZW.com	平安印尼行	payno_id	中华人民共和国驻印度尼西亚大使馆	public institution	北京		21/08/2014	15467	6327	6327		
4 South-east Asia Today Online	东南亚今日在线	myday1	中国文化传媒广州有限公司	company	北京		9/8/2013	635425	12104	45202	http://www.md-zw.com/	
5 South-east Asia Online	东南亚华新在线	day1	南昌市寸昱传媒有限公司	company	江西		03/11/2018	52492	255	812		
6 Cambodia Chinese Online	柬埔寨华新在线	gzhgzx	南昌市寸昱传媒有限公司	company	江西		22/02/2019	13346	111	125		
7 Malaysia Chinese Online	马来西亚华新在线	myhbxz	南昌市寸昱传媒有限公司	company			11/7/2019	13679				
8 Vietlame Times	万象时报中文网	my028	四川众益新媒体科技有限责任公司	company			26/01	26401				
9 World News	菲岛快讯	shjwbaugh	广州市星耀数据服务有限公司	company	菲律宾		03/07/2014	7190	810	2115		
10 Fehua Bar	菲语吧	fehobar	广州市星耀数据服务有限公司	company	菲律宾			42296	3821	3821		
11 Singapore Zaobao	新加坡新报	sgzaobao	新加坡《联合早报》上海办事处	other organization	新加坡			111185				
12 Singapore Zaobao	新加坡星洲	sgzaobao	新加坡《联合早报》上海办事处	other organization	新加坡		16/07/2018	31613	1118	1547		
13 Taglao.Com (Zhi Taglao)	泰国网络城	zhitaglao	新加坡《联合早报》上海办事处	other organization	新加坡		6/11/2017	344512	1637	5299	http://www.taglao.com/	
14 VSL H	暹罗东报	vd0017	昆明星光网络科技有限责任公司	company	泰国		4/10/2016	19550	127	316		
15 Singapore Tong	新加坡万事通	SingaporeTong	河北省万事通全日普信咨询有限公司	company	新加坡		2017-11-24	1000000	11355	18251		
16 Thai Zhonghua	泰国中文网	chindaguru	泰国中印龙泰科技有限公司	company	北京		21/11/2015	312485	3717	1589		
17 Thailand Niu 360	泰国牛360	taguoniu360	深圳中印龙泰文化传媒有限公司	company	泰国		30/5/2018	9528	4538	6398	http://thai.zhonghua.com/	
18 Indo Perspective	印尼视角	indo_perspective	深圳市福田区南洋商务信息咨询有限公司	company	泰国		16/4/2019	49565	986	2358		
19 新加坡新报	新加坡新报	sgzi	新加坡《联合早报》上海办事处	other organization	新加坡		2015-06-18	919664	4836	8595		
20 老报通	老报通	jarpuathong	湖南情时网络科技有限责任公司	company	老报通		2017-06-01	353605	7544	22831		
21 老报中文网	老报中文网	howchuaner	湖南情时网络科技有限责任公司	company	四川		07/04/2019	163049	4523	16304		
22 老报西文网	老报西文网	malayvietong	湖南情时网络科技有限责任公司	company	湖南		08/04/2017	71994	835	2912		
23 印度生活通	印度生活通	tongyindu	湖南情时网络科技有限责任公司	company	香港		23/12/2018	32960	484	1057		
24 新加坡眼	新加坡眼	kanesijapo	重庆星耀数据服务有限公司	company	湖北		2018-04-10	1000000	17934	62787		
25 Singapore Eye	菲视网	foe-168	重庆星耀数据服务有限公司	company	湖北		14/09/2015	5721	206101	206101		
26 菲视网	菲视网	my028	重庆星耀数据服务有限公司	company	湖北		20/6/2013	206101	4141	12277		
27 菲视网	菲视网	my028	重庆星耀数据服务有限公司	company	湖北		21/06/2013	210570	9133	11877		

37
FOR PROSECUTOR
PROTECTING
DEMOCRACY



1) Online search tools

- Pros/ Secure, simple to use
- Cons/ No filter system, difficult to acquire data when passed certain period of time

1) WeChat in app search system

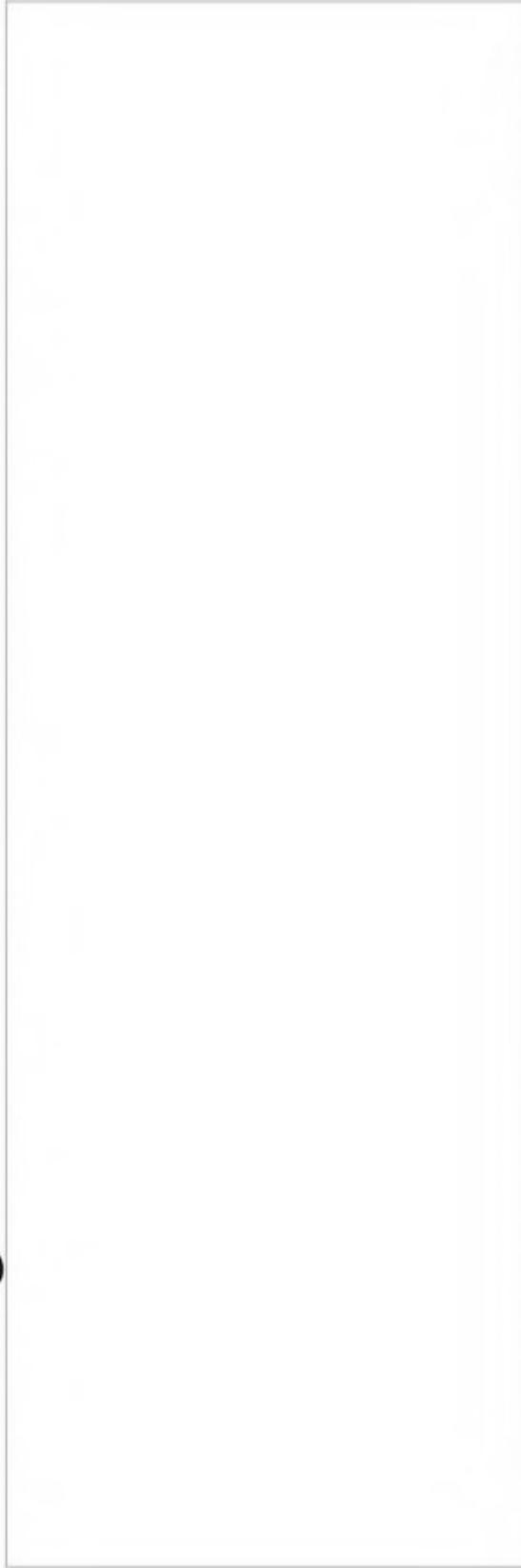
- Pros/ filter system make it easier to acquire data
-



For Public Release



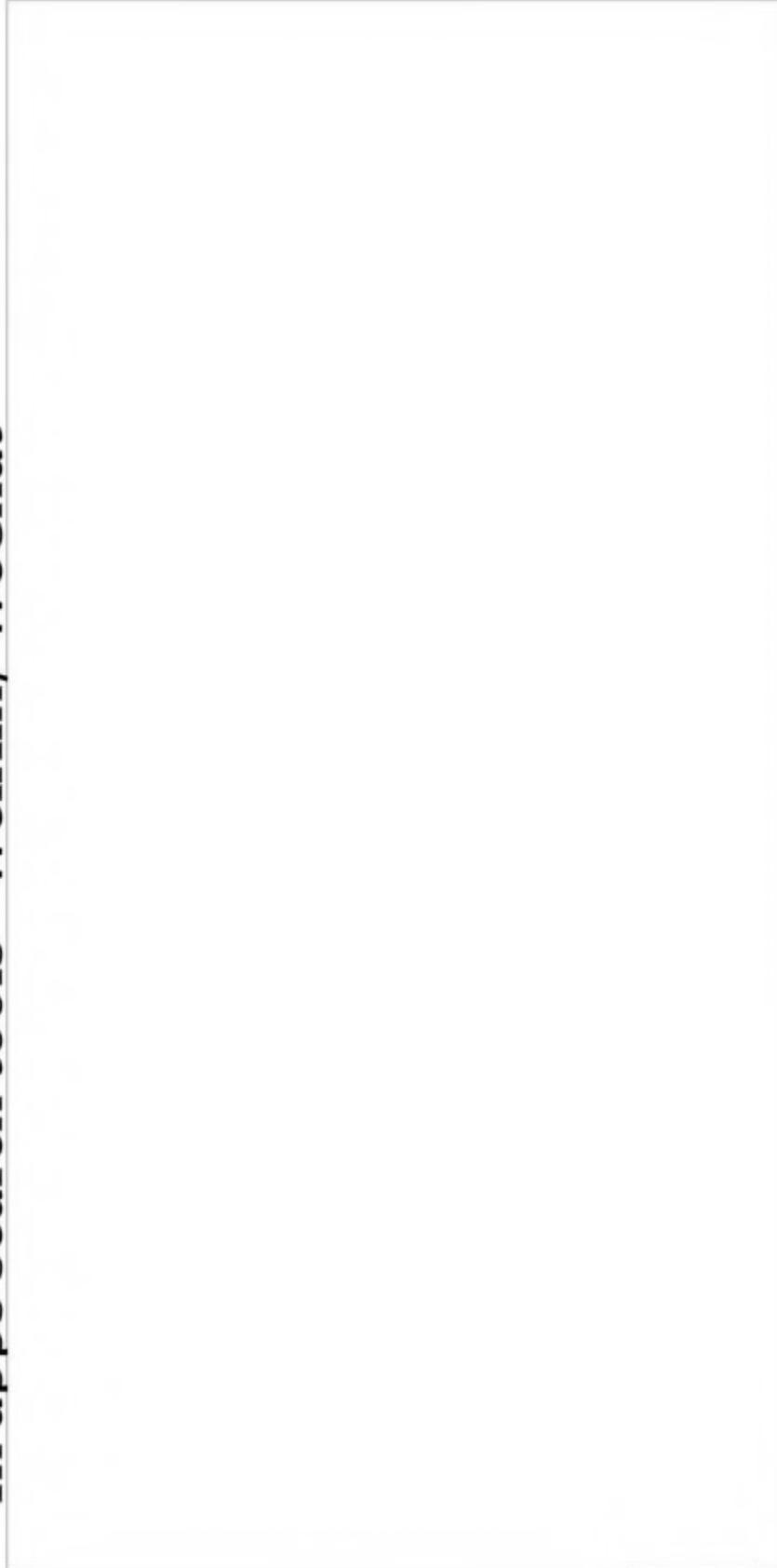
How we get the data—Online Search Tools



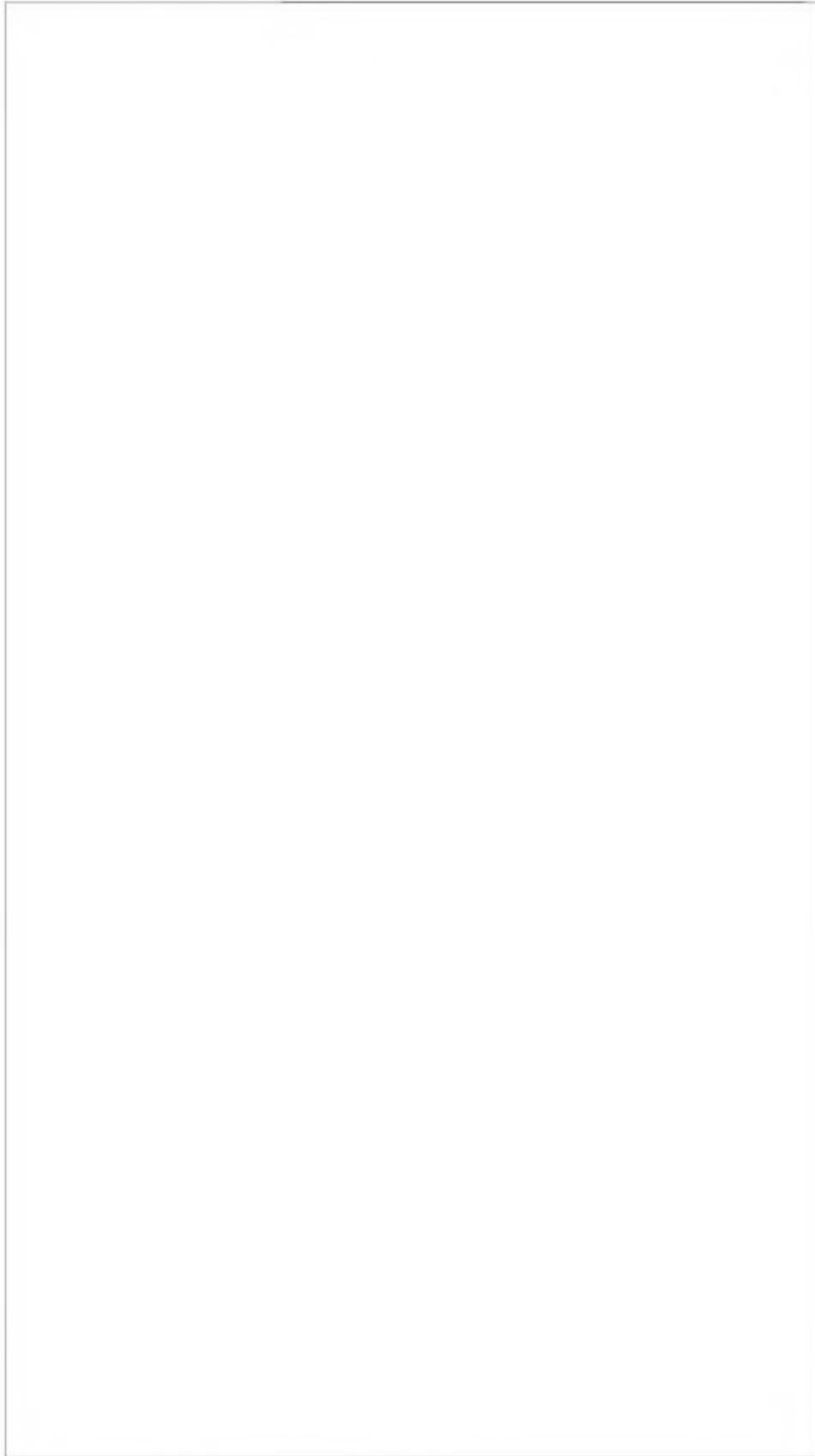
For Public Release



In apps search tools – Weixin/ WeChat



For Public Release



For Public Release

Global Affairs
Canada



Affaires mondiales
Canada



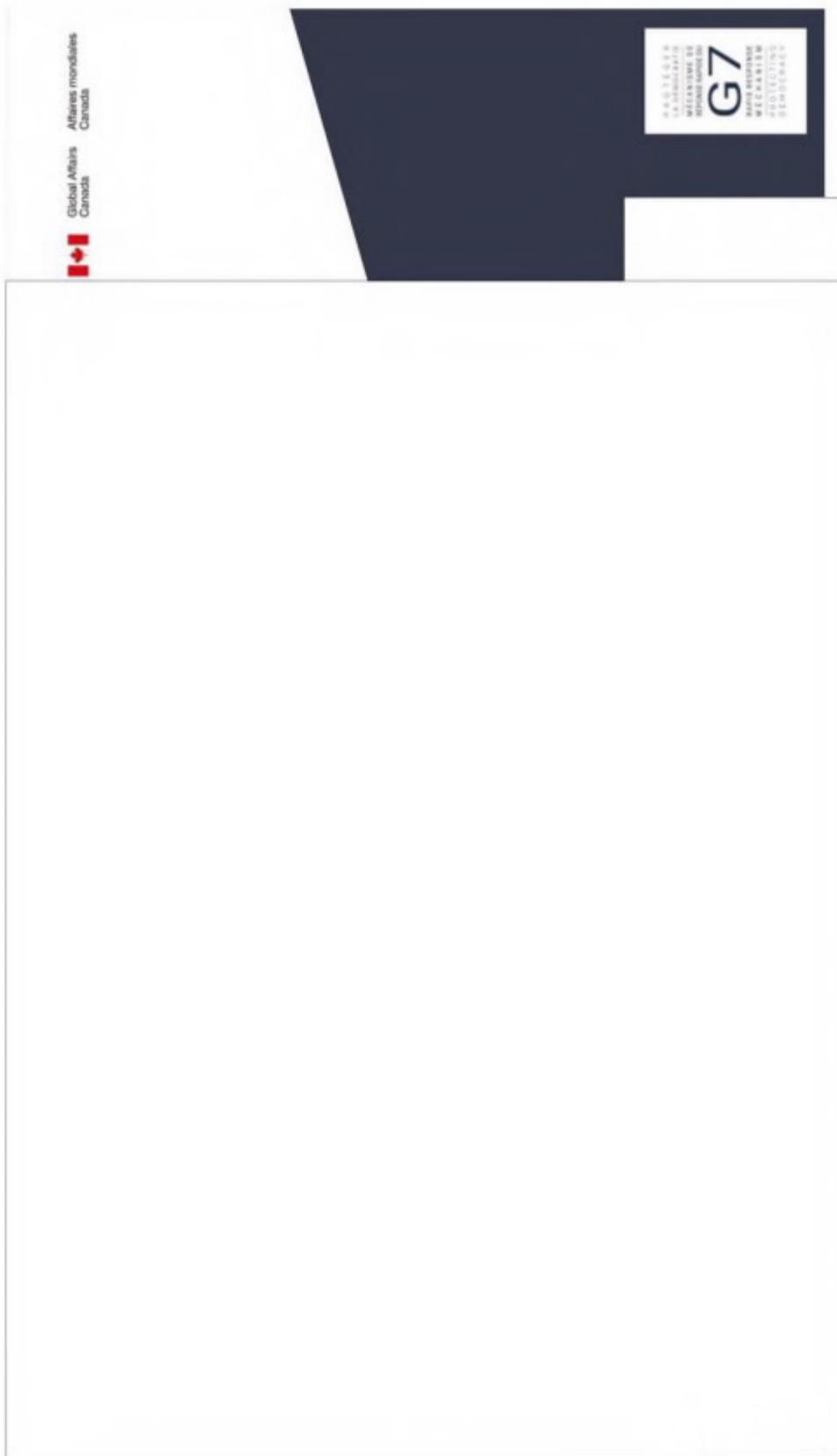
For Public Release

Affaires mondiales
Canada

Global Affairs
Canada



For Public Release



Global Affairs
Canada



Affaires mondiales
Canada

PROGRAMA
LA AMBAGUADA
MECANISMO DE
REVISIÓN MUTUA
G7
DIALOGO
WĘDRANIE
PROTEKTION
SIMPATIA

4.2 Mapping

- OSINT/ Cross reference with the database of Global Chinese Media Cooperation Union (世界華文媒體合作聯盟) to see if they have any affiliation with the China News Service (CNS)



- Manual check on the media's participation in these bi-annual conference via chinanews.com.cn



第十届世界华文传媒论坛境外嘉宾人员名单

2024年10月10日 11:54 来源：中国新闻网

The overseas participants list of the 10th Global Chinese Media Conference

境外嘉宾人员名单

(姓名不分先后，如有遗漏，敬请谅解)

序号	国家/地区	姓名	所在媒体及职务
1	香港	刘北岳	凤凰卫视控股有限公司董事局主席兼行政总裁
2	香港	赵鹏飞	《文汇报》总编室主任
3	香港	罗兴辉	《香港商报》执行总编辑
4	香港	杨源	紫荆杂志社社长
5	香港	潘一平	《经纬》总编辑
6	香港	江迅	《亚洲周刊》副总编辑
7	香港	刘家理	广力报杂志社副总编辑
8	香港	杨泽森	《奇点财经》总编辑
9	香港	陈德	香港中国旅游出版社副社长兼总编辑
10	香港	刘为杰	香港中国旅游出版社社长
11	香港	杨舒	凤凰卫视主持人
12	香港	李定坤	凤凰卫视行政总裁兼办公室主任、行政总裁特别行政助理
13	香港	王健泰	凤凰卫视政策事务总监
14	香港	陈耀	凤凰卫视公关总监
15	香港	赵倩欣	凤凰卫视公关主任
16	香港	梁正伟	《橙新闻》总监
17	香港	潘丹	翠屏新闻副总监编辑



5.0 Future Research

- How is WeChat news ecosystem in Canada?
- What are the correlations between the media (news accounts) and different entities?
- Affiliation with the CNS/ PRC

>> Network Mapping based on subscriber accounts

Mapping the WeChat Ecosystem in Canada

- Geographical distribution
- Specific TTPs used



For Public Release



Thanks for listening!

Q & A time=)



Slide Notes

Slide 3:

First announced by the Central Military Commission (CMC) in 2003

Slide 4:

How do we call ourselves a liberal country when we can't even protect our own citizens, election and the fundamentals of our system?

Slide 5:

There are indeed a large amount of potential research we can do with these data.

Most importantly, the primary data gives us the proof we need, they speak for our research findings and back up our further analysis of Tactics, Techniques and Procedure (TTPs). For instance, this figure shows the Australia has the highest amount of WeChat news accounts in the Indo-Pacific region. So why is it the case? Why Australia? Is it because of the demographic-concentrated Chinese population? Or is it because of the worsening Australia-China relationship in the past few years? These data give insights on the current situation, future trends and may even suggest possible countermeasures.

Slide 6:

Network Mapping based on subscriber accounts

Blue: no affiliation with China News Service

Red: have affiliation with China News Service, either they joined the Global Chinese Media Cooperation Union (世界華文媒體合作聯盟)(a media partnership designed by CNS) or they participated in their bi-annual conference

Sizes of nodes are proportion to the number of subscribers of the accounts

Also shows the association of wechat news account and its account entity (registered company) in New Zealand (E.g. one of the most popular account based on subscribers is Sky Kiwi NZ, its parent company (北京纽澳天维网络科技有限公司) have two other media accounts (We Biz Link and Go Sky Kiwi) have quite a number of followers as well (and they are all CNS-related!!)

Some company like 北京酷乐斯文化传播有限公司 have no clear affiliation with PRC or other state media, however, holds at least 5 different subscriber accounts.

Slide 7:

Data that can be acquired via WeChat:

Account Name

Weixin ID
Account Entity & Type
IP address

Data that had to be acquired elsewhere:
Subscriber number (News Rank)
CNS affiliation

Slide 8:

Data that can be acquired via WeChat:
Rename history
Date establishment

Data that had to be acquired elsewhere:
Subscriber number (News Rank)
Average article read/ average headline
CNS affiliation

Slide 10:

Network Mapping based on subscriber accounts

Blue: no affiliation with China News Service

Red: have affiliation with China News Service, either they joined the Global Chinese Media Cooperation Union (世界華文媒體合作聯盟)(a media partnership designed by CNS) or they participated in their bi-annual conference

Sizes of nodes are proportion to the number of subscribers of the accounts

Also shows the association of wechat news account and its account entity (registered company) in New Zealand (E.g. one of the most popular account based on subscribers is Sky Kiwi NZ, its parent company (北京纽澳天维网络信息科技有限公司) have two other media accounts (We Biz Link and Go Sky Kiwi) have quite a number of followers as well (and they are all CNS-related!!)

Some company like 北京酷乐斯文化传播有限公司 have no clear affiliation with PRC or other state media, however, holds at least 5 different subscriber accounts.

Slide 12:

Explain how we can get the data for the PRC's disinformation via its online search platforms like

Pros/ Secure, simple to use

Cons/ No filter system, different to acquire data when passed certain period of time

Slide 13:

Explain how we can get the data via WeiXin/WeChat in apps search tools

Pros/ filter system make it easier to acquire data

Slide 14:

Slide 16: