



Week 2023/12/21 ~ 2023/12/28

2024 Taiwan Presidential Election Information Manipulation AI Observation Report



Quantity of analyzed data

Events	Media Volume	(PRC) State Affiliated Media (%)	Troll Accounts	Community Volume	Troll Volume (%)
1,896	10,844	116 (1.07%)	3,639	1,841,338	51,622 (2.8%)

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Insights on Manipulation Strategies

This week, AI Labs focused on troll operations and historical behavior on Facebook, organizing related information about these two groups on the Infodemic website as supplementary material.

From September to November 2023, China prominently used war threats against Taiwan, accusing the Taiwanese government of pushing the island toward the brink of war. In December, with the election approaching, the tone of war threats decreased, and China shifted to emphasize educational and economic issues, focusing on “the impact of ECFA’s termination on Taiwan’s economy” and shifting from “the wave of university closures in Taiwan” to “De-Sinicization of Taiwan’s curriculum.”

AI Labs analyzed troll groups from September to December, echoing PRC state-affiliated media to the greatest extent, and found that Facebook #61009 (42.6%) and Facebook #61019 (37.2%) had the highest resonance.

As the election approached, Facebook #61009’s narratives closely aligned with official media, focusing on war threats against Taiwan and attacking education and economic issues. Domestically, they mainly targeted Tsai Ing-wen as a ‘fake Ph.D.’; internationally, they criticized U.S. domestic issues in English, branding Biden as a dictator. They predominantly used livelihood issues as their attack strategy in both domestic and international operations.

Compared to Facebook #61009, Facebook #61019 more frequently used abusive language and continuously flooded specific content under candidates’ posts, influencing discussion content.

AI Labs analyzed troll groups from September to December that most closely echoed PRC state-affiliated media narratives, finding that Facebook #61009 (42.6%) and Facebook #61019 (37.2%) had the highest degree of resonance. This week, both groups became the top two in terms of operational volume in the New Taipei middle school student throat-slitting case, linking the incident to Tsai Ing-wen’s government and the support for abolishing the death penalty in Taiwan, thereby strengthening the image of Tsai’s government.

This week, the top volume of troll group on PTT, PTT #60001 (8.9%), used the Distort tactic to spread narratives linking the DPP with the Chinese Communist Party, Lai Ching-te’s lies, and spreading misinformation, influencing people’s perception of the facts.

This week on the TikTok platform, troll groups supporting the KMT, TikTok #74075 (75%) and TikTok #74023 (25%), intensified their efforts, participating in various issues related to the KMT, including Hou Yu-ih’s Kai Xuan Yuan controversy and Jaw Shaw-kong’s slip of the tongue. For the aforementioned issues detrimental to the Blue Camp, they used the Distract tactic, repeatedly commenting “KMT governance brings peace and security to the people, voting for all KMT candidates” to dominate related topic pages and shift the public’s focus. This action aligns with the main theme of this week’s PRC state-affiliated media, “KMT governance will improve the economy,”

and echoes the operations observed on TikTok and YouTube.

This week, the controversy over Lai Ching-te's illegal construction of his family home continued from last week's operations on various platforms, with PRC state-affiliated media also echoing related narratives. However, after the New Taipei student throat-slitting case on the 25th, PTT and Facebook saw related narratives attacking the ruling party on the 27th, followed by PRC state-affiliated media echoing the operation of this event on the 28th.

This week's additional main theme of PRC state-affiliated media continued last week's operations related to ECFA, followed by focusing on the topic of grouper fish imports under the theme "KMT governance will improve the economy," and observed echoing operations on TikTok and YouTube.

On PTT, the most operational volume on the 23rd and 24th of December was observed to be attacks on Jaw Shaw-kong and Cynthia Wu's slips of the tongue.

Techniques Used by Troll Groups

Regarding the DISARM framework¹ from NATO, the researcher found that troll group operations on Facebook, YouTube, PTT, and TikTok were divided into two phases: Prepare and Execute.

Used Techniques:



- T0003 Leverage Existing Narratives
- T0023.001 Reframe Context
- T0049 Flooding the Information Space
- T0049.001 Trolls Amplify and Manipulate
- T0116 Comment or Reply on Content
- T0121 Manipulate Platform Algorithm

The execution phase of DISARM is more easily observable. This week, AI Labs noted on the YouTube platform that troll groups extensively repeat comments under media videos to guide discussion trends (T0049 Flooding the information space, T0023.001 Reframe context) or comment early to enhance video interaction and influence the algorithm (T0121 Manipulate platform algorithm). As a result, we have added these tactics to our observations on YouTube. Similar strategies were observed from last week with troll groups on Facebook and PTT also

¹ DISARM Disinformation Analysis and Risk Management is an open-source framework designed to describe and understand the behavior parts of FIMI/disinformation. It sets out best practices for fighting disinformation through sharing data & analysis and can inform effective action. The Framework has been developed, drawing on global cybersecurity best practices. <https://www.disarm.foundation/>

engagement in guiding discussion directions through comments (T0023.001 Reframe context), flooding discussion spaces with repetitive comments (T0049 Flooding the information space), and posting early to increase the likelihood of content being seen or algorithmically recommended (T0121 Manipulate platform algorithm). Therefore, we believe that on the four platforms of Facebook, YouTube, PTT, and TikTok, it is essential to study existing narratives (T003 Leverage existing Narratives) during the Prepare phase to facilitate subsequent comment operations (T0116 Comment or Reply on Content, T0116 Trolls amplify and manipulate).

Phase	Tactic	Facebook	Youtube	PTT	Tiktok
Prepare	T0003 Leverage Existing Narratives	○	○	○	○
Execute	T0023.001 Reframe Context	◎	◎	◎	
	T0049 Flooding the Information Space	◎	◎	◎	
	T0049.001 Trolls Amplify and Manipulate	◎	○	◎	○
	T0116 Comment or Reply on Content	◎	◎	◎	◎
	T0121 Manipulate Platform Algorithm	◎	○	○	

○ indicates observed manipulative behaviors that align with this Tactic.

◎ signifies observed manipulative behaviors that very closely match this Tactic.

Table 1: DISARM Tactics used on each platform.

The 5D's Strategy of Propaganda²

European security analyst Ben Nimmo previously delineated four tactics of Russian political propaganda (4Ds of propaganda) in Europe in his article "[Anatomy of an Info-War: How Russia's Propaganda Machine Works, and How to Counter It](#)": Dismiss, Distort, Distract, and Dismay. Subsequently, MisinfosecWG added Divide to this framework.

Dismiss refers to the strong refutation and criticism of narratives. Distort involves twisting the factual framework of a narrative to create one that is more favorable. Distract is diverting attention, such as raising different issues for response or concocting new cause-and-effect relationships or conspiracy theories. Dismay targets individuals with criticism, intending to silence them. Divide aims to create fractures within an opposing group, breeding distrust and causing division.

This week, AI Labs will apply 5D's propaganda strategy to analyze the tactics of troll groups, providing a more concrete view of these groups' operational methods.

Narrative Trends of the Most Active Troll Group on Facebook from September to December

In a previous report, AI Labs analyzed the Facebook fan page posts of various presidential candidates from November 1, 2023, to December 10, 2023. We found that 34.32% of the comments on Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook page originated from Troll Groups, with 8.51% on Lai Ching-te's page, 2.77% on, 2.76% on strategy Terry Gou's, and 2.5% on Hou Yu-ih's.

Further analyzing these troll accounts' comments, AI Labs discovered that 85% of the comments on Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook page came from two Troll Groups, Facebook #61009 and Facebook #61019, with 67% on Lai Ching-te's page, and over 50% on Ko Wen-je and Terry Gou's pages. This indicates that Facebook #61009 and Facebook #61019 are the most active troll groups in the Taiwanese presidential election on Facebook.

This week, AI Labs further analyzed the main narratives of Facebook #61009 and Facebook #61019 on Tsai Ing-wen and other major presidential candidates' Facebook fan pages from

² The 5D's strategies (dismiss, distort, distract, dismay, divide): [https://inventory.adt.ac/wiki/The_5D%27s_\(dismiss,_distort,_distract,_dismay,_divide\)](https://inventory.adt.ac/wiki/The_5D%27s_(dismiss,_distort,_distract,_dismay,_divide))

September to December, attempting to identify the key tactics these Troll Groups use to manipulate issues on the candidates' pages.

Operation Under Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook Page

On Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook page, two narratives from Facebook #61009 repeatedly emerged from September to December. One narrative claimed "Complete Failure of DPP Governance," consistently attacking the DPP with past governance issues. On the other hand, there were supportive and encouraging comments for Tsai Ing-wen. From November to December, there was an increase in narratives blaming the DPP for potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait, with slogans like "Voting for DPP sends youth to battlefields."

AI Labs' analysis of these comments reveals that Facebook #61009 primarily uses the Distort tactic, framing livelihood issues with biased and unbalanced narratives, and then employs the Distract tactic to concoct new cause-and-effect relationships, attributing these problems to the DPP and Tsai Ing-wen.

September	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
35.30%	Total failure under DPP governance Distort Distract
31.30%	President Tsai, keep going, Taiwan stays safe!
9.40%	Soaring housing prices under DPP rule
October	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
21.80%	President Tsai, keep it up, Taiwan is awesome!
20.40%	Tsai Ing-wen, the 1.5 fake PhD, deceiving the world with fraud. Distort
21.10%	Total failure of DPP governance Distort Distract
7.40%	DPP afraid to acknowledge the Republic of China
November	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
21.20%	President Tsai, keep going, feel the happiness of Taiwan.
23.30%	Tsai Ing-wen, the 1.5 Fake PhD, shaming and harming countless people with deceit. Distort
16.30%	Total failure of DPP governance Distort Distract
6.40%	Voting for DPP means sending youth to battlefields, Taiwan littered with mines, excessive weapons purchases, people suffering, instability in the Taiwan Strait, the whole nation ready for war!
December	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives

22.20%	President Tsai, tirelessly keep going!
22%	Total failure of DPP governance Distort Distract
12.90%	Vote for DPP, send youth to battlefields

Table 2: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61009 on Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook Page from September to December.

On Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook page, Facebook #61019 repeatedly focused on two main narratives: "Tsai Ing-wen's academic credentials are fake" and attacking a user named "Wu Jianzhi." Wu Jianzhi is also a commenter on Tsai Ing-wen's page, predominantly supporting the DPP. The attacks by Facebook #61019 on him seem aimed at silencing his voice. By December, Facebook #61019 began to flood Tsai Ing-wen's page with abusive comments, influencing the direction of the discussion.

AI Labs' analysis of these comments finds that Facebook #61019 primarily uses the Distort tactic, taking claims about Tsai Ing-wen's academic credentials out of context, and employs the Dismay tactic to attack users with differing opinions or to flood the discussion, impacting the narrative.

September	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
40.80%	Tsai's fraudulent judicial reform - deception in academic credentials and PhD Distort
28.30%	Wu Jianzhi, a 1450 paid commenter, shamelessly oblivious to right and wrong. Dismay
October	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
58.50%	Support Taiwan, not the fraudster Tsai! Tsai destroys freedom of the press, DPP's opaque governance, and undermines human rights advocate Dr. Peng Wen-cheng. Distort Distract
16.70%	Ming Chuan University graduate Wu Jianzhi faces humiliation. Dismay
November	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
31.90%	Support Taiwan, not the fraudster Tsai! Tsai undermines freedom of the press and news, DPP's dark governance, harming Dr. Peng Wen-cheng, a fighter for human rights. Distort Distract
19.50%	Ming Chuan University graduate Wu Jianzhi faces public shaming. Dismay
6.20%	President Tsai, Taiwan, keep going!
December	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
18.40%	Insults such as "Get lost", "Shameless", "Waste", "Scoundrel" Dismay
13.40%	Tsai Ing-wen, the 1.5 Fake PhD Distort

6.80%	Ming Chuan University graduate Wu Jianzhi faces public ridicule	Dismay
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Table 3: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61019 on Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook Page from September to December.

Operation Under Lai Ching-te's Facebook Page

On Lai Ching-te's Facebook page, Facebook #61009 exhibits a dual approach: some comments support Lai Ching-te, while others attack the DPP for governance failures. Notably, in October and December, some comments labeled Lai's political stance as "pro-independence," claiming it could lead to war between Taiwan and China. Additionally, in September, November, and December, there were comments primarily attacking the issue of illegal construction at Lai's family home.

AI Labs' analysis of these comments reveals that Facebook #61009 primarily employs the Distort tactic, framing problematic narratives around the illegal construction at Lai's home and DPP's governance. They then use the Distract tactic, attributing the causes to Lai Ching-te.

September		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
32%	Attacks on Lai Ching-te's Wanli family home for illegal construction.	Distort Distract
19.50%	Criticism of the Brazil rotten egg incident.	Distort Distract
16.80%	Accusations of DPP's Lavish Governance	Distort Distract
9.80%	Vice President Lai, keep up the good work, good morning 🍌👍.	
October		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
25.40%	Vice President Lai, keep going, Taiwan fully supports you!	
15.60%	Attacks on the extramarital affair scandal of Chao Tian-lin.	Dismay
14.40%	Allegations of the DPP enjoying luxuries in governance.	Distort Distract
20%	Lai Ching-te, a pro-independence worker, heralds the start of war disaster, the disruptor of cross-strait peace.	Distort Distract
November		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
33.90%	Go Taiwan, vote thrice for the DPP!	
16.20%	Attacks on the illegal construction issue at Lai Ching-te's Wanli family home.	Distort Distract
15.20%	Total failure of the DPP governance.	Distort Distract
December		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	

37.80%	Lai Ching-te's failed governance in Tainan City, like the dengue fever outbreak and South Rail East relocation project.	Distort
22.70%	Total failure of the DPP governance.	Distort Distract
13.10%	Lai Ching-te's pro-independence stance leads to selling out Taiwan and war dangers.	Distort Distract

Table 4: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61009 on Lai Ching-te's Facebook Page from September to December.

On Lai Ching-te's Facebook page, Facebook #61019 also displays a mix of comments, some continually supporting Lai while concurrently criticizing the DPP's complete failure in governance. Furthermore, Facebook #61019 also resorts to abusive comments criticizing Lai Ching-te.

AI Labs' analysis found that in addition to using Distort and Distract tactics to frame problematic narratives and attribute blame to the DPP and Lai Ching-te, the Dismay tactic is also employed, using derogatory comments to influence the discussion.

September		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
21.70%	Go Team Taiwan, win the election!	
19.60%	Lai Ching-te is utterly useless.	Dismay
16.10%	New Tide faction vying for spoils and positions.	
October		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
33%	Total failure of the DPP governance.	Distort Distract
20.80%	Lai Ching-te is utterly useless.	Dismay
11.40%	Go Team Taiwan, win the election!	
November		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
33.40%	Criticisms of Lai Ching-te's ignorance and foolishness.	Dismay
21.20%	Total failure of the DPP governance.	Distort Distract
20.40%	Go Team Taiwan, win the election!	
14.60%	Tsai Ing-wen, the fraudster, the fake PhD.	Distort
December		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
28%	Go Team Taiwan, win the election!	
19.60%	Total failure of the DPP governance.	Distort Distract

14.20%	Attacks on the illegal construction issue at Lai Ching-te's family home.
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Table 5: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61019 on Lai Ching-te's Facebook Page from September to December.

Operation Under Hou Yu-ih's Facebook Page

Facebook #61009 on Hou Yu-ih's Facebook page also displays a divisive trend. Each month, a portion of the comments encourage and support Hou Yu-ih, while others attack him. In October, some comments favored Han Kuo-yu to replace Hou as a candidate. During the KMT and People's Party discussions of a collaboration plan in November, some comments urged Hou to put aside personal ambitions and accept a vice-presidential role; in December, there were also comments claiming support for Ko Wen-je.

AI Labs' analysis of these comments reveals that Facebook #61009 often employs the Distort tactic on Hou Yu-ih's Facebook page to change the narrative frame in their favor, coupled with the Dismiss tactic for attacks or Distract to lead to different cause-and-effect relationships. Additionally, some narratives use the Divide tactic to split Hou's supporters, attempting to sway them towards different candidates.

September	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
18%	The mayor has betrayed the public's trust; his political promises are unreliable. The KMT fails to discern friends from foes, not supporting party votes, leading to its marginalization. Distort Dismiss
13%	The KMT must unite and work hard to return to power and secure a parliamentary majority.
October	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
18.10%	Support Hou Yu-ih in defeating demons, overcoming five obstacles, and defeating six generals.
14.30%	The KMT should let Han Kuo-yu run for election. Distract Divide
10.50%	Hou Yu-ih should focus more on cross-strait issues and oppose Taiwanese independence.
November	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
22%	Hou Yu-ih's declining popularity shows he's afraid to face challenges; he should be the deputy. Distort
20.40%	The KMT should put aside personal interests and not insist on only 6%. Distract
9%	The KMT should support the Gou-Ko pairing. Divide
6%	Tsai Ing-wen's thesis is a fraud. Distort
December	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives

27.10%	The DPP's governance is poor; they should be voted out.	Distort Distract
15.80%	The TPP has high support; Ko Wen-je should be backed.	Distort
13.20%	Support the Hou-Kang pairing for political change.	
11.40%	The KMT doesn't care for its workers, how can it care for the people?	Distort Distract

Table 6: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61009 on Hou Yu-ih's Facebook Page from September to December.

Facebook #61019, between September and December, repeatedly propagated narratives on Hou Yu-ih's Facebook page: "KMT Keelung's Hsu Shao-ping involved in fraud and judicial lobbying" and "Suggestions for government tax reform." From October to December, repeated abusive comments began to appear on Hou's page, increasing in proportion to reach 71.3% by December.

Analyzing these comments, we conclude that the narrative "KMT Keelung's Hsu Shao-ping involved in fraud and judicial lobbying" is an attempt to distract users with different narratives, combined with abusive comments as a Dismay tactic, intending to silence other supporters.

September	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
30%	Hsu Shao-ping of Keelung KMT involved in fraud and judicial lobbying. Distract
16.90%	Suggest government tax reform to enhance welfare and solve social issues.
8.10%	Support Hou Yu-ih, keep going!
7.50%	DPP's corruption and poor governance. Distort Distract
October	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
27.80%	Hsu Shao-ping of Keelung KMT involved in fraud and judicial lobbying. Distract
23.10%	Abusive comments. Dismay
10.70%	Hou Yu-ih, Han Kuo-yu, Ma Ying-jeou, unite to oust the DPP.
9.40%	Suggest government tax reform to enhance welfare and solve social issues.
November	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
60.50%	Abusive comments. Dismay
12.60%	Support Hou Yu-ih! Back the Hou-Ko pairing.
14.20%	Hsu Shao-ping of Keelung KMT involved in fraud and judicial lobbying. Distract
5%	Suggest government tax reform, monthly tax reductions for everyone, to solve social issues.
December	

Percentage	Summary of Narratives
71.30%	Abusive comments. Dismay
12.40%	Hsu Shao-ping of Keelung KMT involved in fraud and judicial lobbying. Distract
5.50%	The KMT is not addressing the housing crisis.
3.60%	Suggest government tax reform, monthly tax reductions for everyone, to solve social issues.

Table 7: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61019 on Hou Yu-ih's Facebook Page from September to December.

Operation Under Ko Wen-je's Facebook Page

From September to December, there is a consistent presence of narratives centered around political figures, alliances, and policy proposals. The themes often revolve around the evaluation of political leaders and their suitability for key roles in the government. Ko Wen-je is a prominent figure, repeatedly discussed in various contexts, from being a potential deputy to Lai Ching-te to his rational and pragmatic approach being deemed beneficial for Taiwan.

There is a discernible shift in narrative tone and focus over the months. While September and October emphasize political strategies, alliances, and personal qualities of candidates, November and December witness a more critical stance. The narratives become more accusatory, targeting the KMT's credibility, Tsai Ing-wen's alleged deception, and broader criticism of political collaboration and conduct.

December introduces a shift towards issues related to electoral eligibility, emphasizing the nationality of candidates. The focus on concrete policy proposals is evident in discussions about tax reform and redistribution, suggesting a move towards more specific and targeted policy discourse. Overall, the narratives evolve from political alliances and individual qualities to a more critical examination of promises, credibility, and specific policy proposals.

On Ko Wen-je's Facebook page, Facebook #61009 employed the Distort tactic to twist the narrative in their favor. Coupled with Dismiss or Dismay tactics, they attempted to create narratives different from those of Ko's supporters. Additionally, during the Blue-White collaboration discussions, we observed this group using the Divide tactic, aiming to influence Ko Wen-je's cooperation with Terry Gou.

September	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
11%	The "Beautiful Island Electronic News" opinion polls are not reliable, as their purpose is to promote Hou Yu-ih and suppress Ko Wen-je. Ko Wen-je has displayed outstanding performance in the elections, garnering significant support.

		Distort Dismiss
10%	Ko Wen-je could become the deputy to Lai Ching-te, ensuring a successful vice presidential election and advancing the development of the TPP.	Distort
3.60%	Ko Wen-je is the best choice for Taiwan with his rational, pragmatic, and scientific approach.	
October		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
3.10%	Choosing Ko Wen-je for Taiwan means embracing a rational, pragmatic, and scientific approach, fostering openness and transparency for the benefit of the next generation.	
2.40%	Blue and white collaboration: party cooperation, sidelining the DPP, forming a united cabinet, setting clear objectives, and resolving cross-strait crises.	
2.40%	A nationwide poll should include Lai, Ko, Hou, and Gou, with a sample size ranging from 3000 to 5000 individuals. The poll should be conducted simultaneously by an impartial polling company for accuracy.	
November		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
15.50%	The KMT has not kept its promises and is a deceitful and shameless liar.	Dismay
9.60%	Supporters of Terry Gou do not endorse Hou Yu-ih; perhaps a better match would be a Gou-Ko pairing.	Divide
5.80%	Ko Wen-je expresses confidence in the ballot count and concentrates firepower to declare war.	
December		
Percentage	Summary of Narratives	
5.30%	The Ministry of the Interior has confirmed that all candidates possess Taiwanese nationality, and foreign nationality does not affect their eligibility for the election.	
4.60%	For eight years, Tsai Ing-wen deceived the people, choosing Ko Wen-je as a lesson for Tsai Ing-wen.	
4.60%	Blue and green criticize each other, yet collaborate; they condemn conglomerates, yet seek their support; they scrutinize foundations, yet establish their own; they oppose illicit political funding, yet cast votes against measures targeting it.	
		Distort Dismay

Table 8: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61009 on Ko Wen-je's Facebook Page from September to December.

From September to December, there is a consistent focus on economic and social policies, particularly the reform of the tax system, welfare enhancement, and addressing societal issues. These themes remain prevalent throughout the four months, indicating a sustained concern for the well-being of the population and the overall state of the country. The recurring nature of these narratives suggests that economic and social policies are central topics in public discourse during this period.

However, there are noticeable shifts in emphasis and tone across the months. In October, there is a deviation from policy-oriented discussions to a focus on Ko Wen-je's personal conduct, involving the use of an Indian friend's account and emotional reactions to specific situations. This introduces a more personalized and emotional element to the narratives, shifting away from strictly policy-driven discourse.

In December, there is a distinct shift towards political alliances and abandonment, with a strong stance against Ko Wen-je and support for the Protect and Health Party candidate. This suggests a changing political landscape or a shift in public perception of certain political figures. Additionally, there is a specific and detailed policy proposal related to tax reform, indicating a move towards more concrete and targeted policy discussions compared to earlier months. Overall, while the overarching themes remain consistent, the evolving emphasis on personal conduct and political dynamics reflects the dynamic nature of public discourse during this period.

Facebook #61019 extensively utilized the Distort tactic on Ko Wen-je's Facebook page to create favorable narratives for themselves. They also employed the Divide tactic, attempting to split Ko Wen-je's supporters or persuade them to support other candidates.

September	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
21.70%	Suggest a reform of the tax system, enhancing welfare, and tackling societal issues.
19.60%	Adhere to the San Francisco Peace Treaty, expelling the illicit group led by Chiang Kai-shek.
16.10%	Work together in blue-and-white unity to endorse a common candidate, all for the protection of Taiwan.
October	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
29.20%	Suggest a reform of the tax system, enhancing welfare, and tackling societal issues.
7.70%	Ko Wen-je uses his Indian friend's account without permission, showing a lack of respect for others' feelings.
6.20%	Ko Wen-je listens to the songs of homeless children, loses focus, and experiences a mix of heart palpitations and tears.
November	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
14.60%	Suggest a reform of the tax system, enhancing welfare, and tackling societal issues.
13.80%	Wish the KMT to avoid being taken advantage of further, like a cut leek.
6.20%	Dr. Ko challenges the conventional statistics textbooks, asserting that the margin of error in operations is $\pm 1.5\%$, not $\pm 3\%$.
December	
Percentage	Summary of Narratives
18.50%	Suggest government tax reform by collecting 460 billion in taxes monthly and redistributing it to every individual, creating a cyclical income flow to address societal issues.
6.20%	Staunchly abandon Ko Wen-je and support the candidate from the Protect and Health Party.
6.20%	Ko Wen-je exploits the KMT, undermines the KMT. Advise against supporting Cai Bih-ru.

Table 9: Operating Trends and Tactics of Facebook #61019 on Ko Wen-je's Facebook Page from September to December.

Concluding Remarks

Upon comprehensive analysis of the comments by Facebook #61009 and Facebook #61019 on the

Facebook pages of Tsai Ing-wen, Lai Ching-te, Hou Yu-ih, and Ko Wen-je from September to December, AI Labs has summarized the tactics employed by these two troll groups.

We observed that the Distort tactic is frequently used in conjunction with Distract and Dismiss. Initially, the narrative frame is altered, followed by the introduction of new cause-and-effect relationships or by creating a volume of attacks on the target. These groups extensively use the Distort method, condensing twisted narratives (such as the Brazilian rotten egg incident) into succinct phrases and piecing them together to influence people's perception of facts. Then, through Distract, they concoct new causal links (like blaming Taiwan for disrupting cross-strait peace or blaming the failure of the Blue-White collaboration on the other party); or they use Dismiss to counter arguments.

When encountering dissenting opinions, the groups resort to Dismay tactics, like insulting, flooding the discussion with comments, or doxxing to silence the opposition (such as attacking Wu Jianzhi and spamming derogatory comments on fan pages). We noticed that both groups perform acts of praise and attack on various candidates' Facebook pages, which we deduce is an attempt to create societal division (Divide).

Additionally, compared to Facebook #61009, Facebook #61019 more frequently employs abusive comment spamming (Dismay) and continuously spams specific content under candidates' posts (Distract), influencing the discussion content.

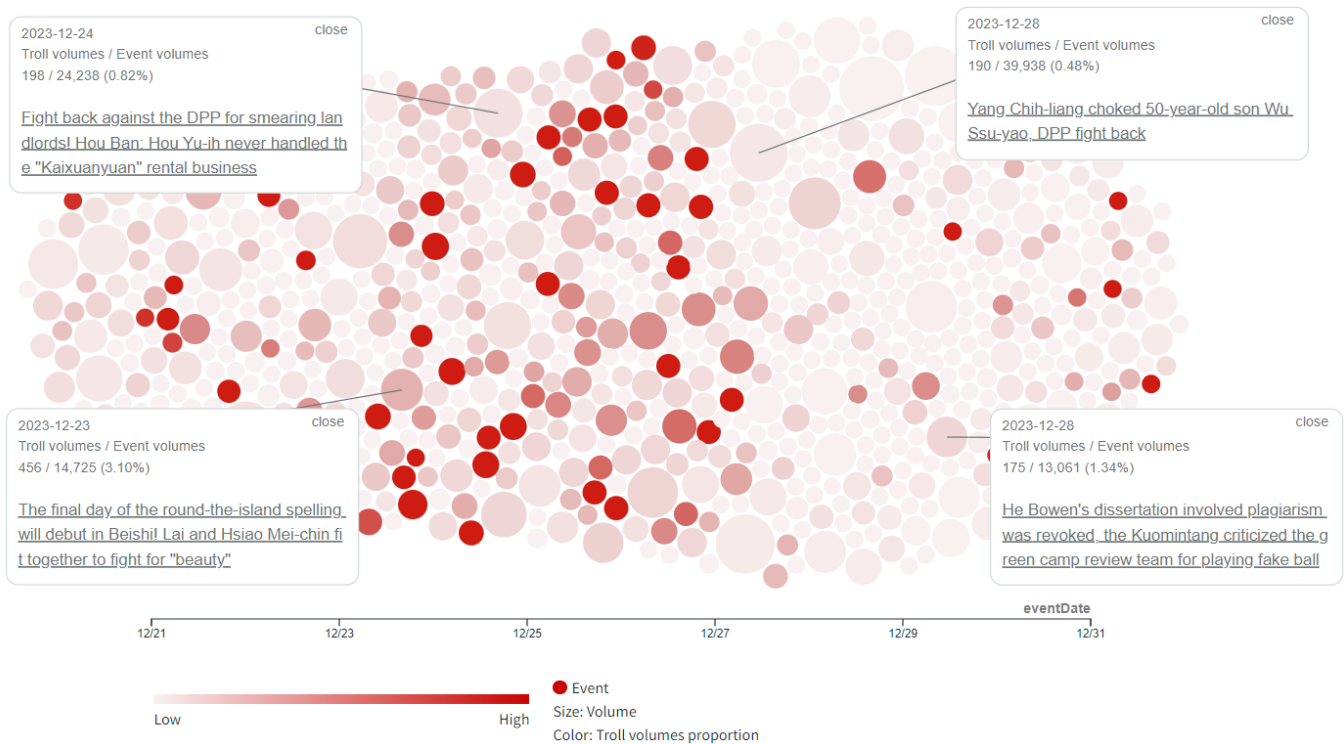
Social Media Manipulation Analysis

The following content conducts a comprehensive analysis of 913 events, 6,477 news articles, a total of 1,381,289 comments, 3,254 troll accounts, and 41,758 comments originating from those accounts. Subsequently, tables are included to highlight the three most targeted entities on each platform where troll accounts focused their efforts. Finally, the report's summary is generated by the Taiwan Large Language Model (Taiwan LLM) to encapsulate the findings and conclusions derived from the data concisely.

Facebook

This week on Facebook, the main targets of troll group operations included the DPP (8.9%), Lai Ching-te (4.3%), and Tsai Ing-wen(3.3%). Negative social media comments express anger at TAEDP for prioritizing criminals' rights over victims, contributing to rising violent crimes. Critics also fault DPP for backing death penalty abolition without effective implementation. Comments on Lai Ching-te criticize his Republic of China disaster statement, question his presidency, and accuse him of illegal house construction. Frustration is voiced over his death penalty stance. Negative comments on Tsai Ing-wen criticize her association with death penalty abolition supporters,

arguing that her stance disregards victims' rights and prioritizes criminals. Frustration is expressed towards Tsai and the TAEDP for perceived indifference to victims and their families. From a story analysis perspective, troll groups on Facebook actively stirred controversies around Lai Ching-te's illegal house construction (From December 21 to December 27, 2023) and the New Taipei student beheading case (From December 27 to December 28, 2023). PRC state-affiliated media swiftly followed suit by echoing related narratives on the beheading case (On December 28, 2023).



* Each circle represents a event related to this manipulated story

** The size of each circle defined by the sum of the social discussion of that event

*** The darker the circle is, the higher the proportion of troll comments in the event

Graph 1: Events on Facebook overview by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
DPP – 8.9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative comments on social media express anger towards the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) for advocating for the rights of criminals while disregarding the rights of victims. Critics argue that the organization's beliefs have misled society and contributed to an increase in violent crimes. The comments also criticize the DPP for supporting the abolition of the death penalty without fully implementing it.

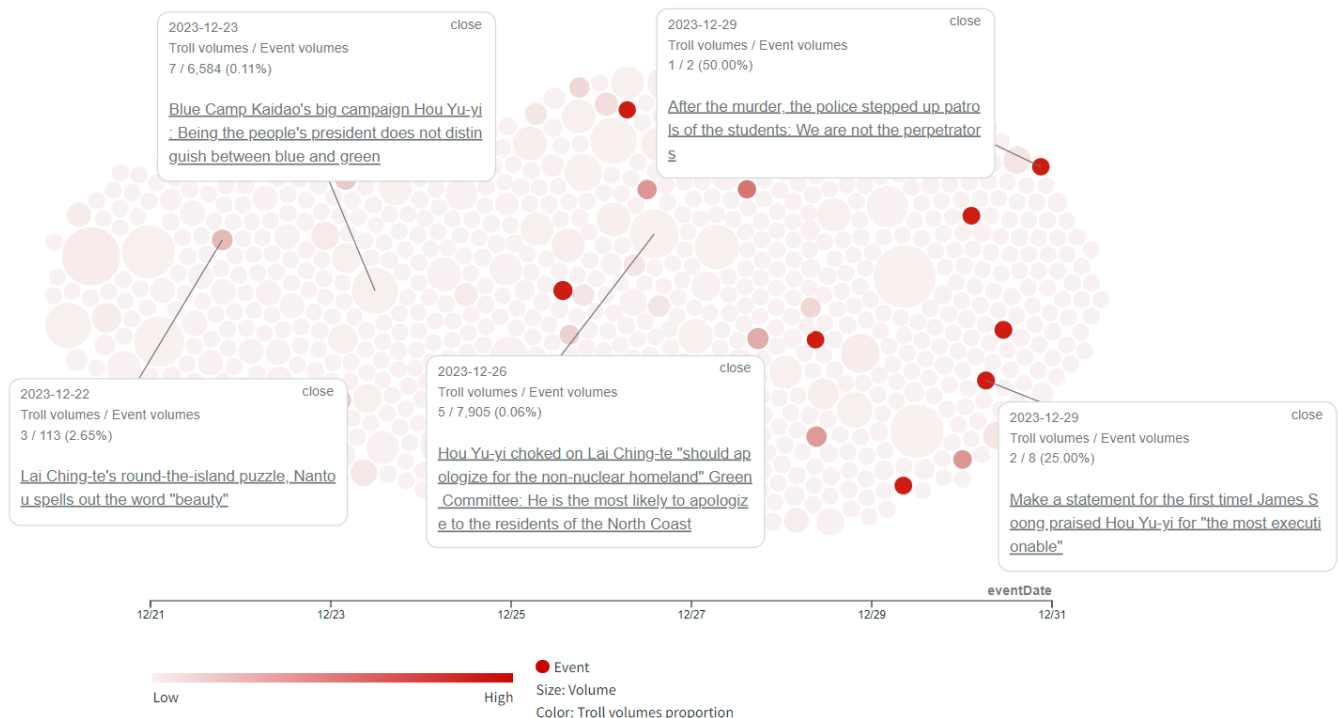
Lai Ching-te - 4.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative social media comments about Lai Ching-te include criticism of his statement that the Republic of China is a disaster and questioning why people would still choose a “disaster” president. There are also comments accusing him of illegally building a house and refusing to tear it down, and expressing frustration with his stance on the death penalty.
Tsai Ing-wen - 3.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative social media comments criticize Tsai Ing-wen and her association with individuals who support the abolition of the death penalty in Taiwan. They argue that Tsai’s stance on the matter disregards the rights of victims and supports a belief system that prioritizes the rights of criminals. The comments express frustration with Tsai and the “Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty” for their perceived lack of concern for the victims and their families.

Table 10: Troll group’s target entity and summary of narratives on Facebook (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

YouTube

This week on YouTube, the main targets of troll group operations included the KMT (13.2%), DPP (8.8%), and Ko Wen-je (4.4%).

The KMT (KMT) is criticized for gender discrimination and political corruption. The DPP is urged to step down. Positive views towards Ko Wen-je, seen as Taiwan’s savior, understanding people’s pain, considered more capable than others.



* Each circle represents an event related to this manipulated story

** The size of each circle is defined by the sum of the social discussion of that event

*** The darker the circle is, the higher the proportion of troll comments in the event

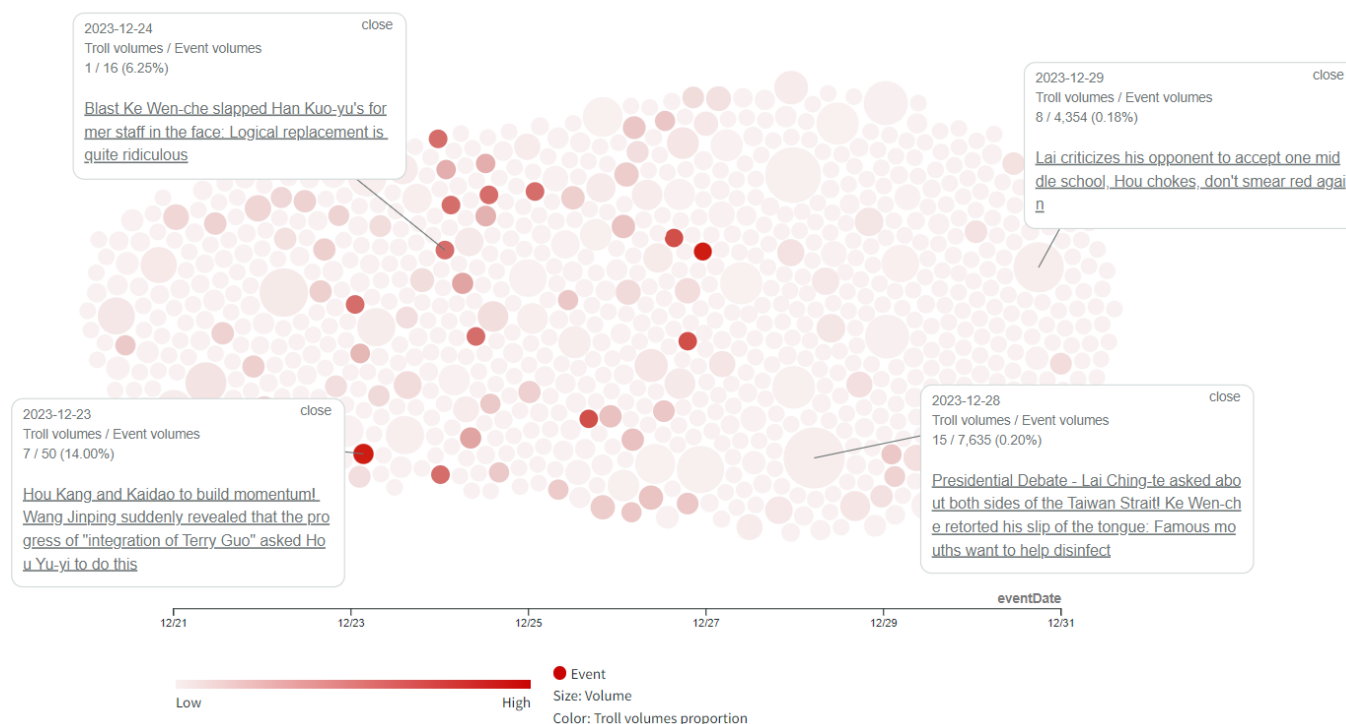
Graph 2: Events on Youtube overview by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
KMT - 13.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative social media comments criticize KMT for being sexist, corrupt, and manipulative. However, Soong Chu-yu's speaking skills and appeal to a younger audience are also praised. Some comments accuse KMT of false polling and buying votes, while others express disappointment in their candidates.
DPP - 8.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media comments express frustration and disappointment with the DPP, calling for its removal and support for other parties or candidates such as Ko Wen-je or Han Kuo-yu. Some commenters accuse the DPP of intimidation and mention an incident involving Mayday and the mainland's denial of the event.
Ko Wen-je + 4.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social media comments express positive sentiments towards Ko Wen-je, stating that they believe he can save Taiwan and is the best choice among the mentioned candidates. They appreciate Ko's understanding of people's pain and view him as more capable than other politicians like Lai and Cho.

Table 11: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on Youtube (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

TikTok

This week on TikTok, troll group operations favored KMT (12.1%) and Ko Wen-je (9.1%). Positive sentiment towards KMT for peace, prosperity, and stability; calls for power restoration, ethics promotion, media neutrality, and cross-strait exchanges. Positive support for Ko Wen-je, seen as the best choice; impressed with his 2015 actions. Troll groups' operations align with the key theme emphasized by PRC state-affiliated media this week: "Taiwan's economy will improve under KMT governance."



* Each circle represents an event related to this manipulated story

** The size of each circle defined by the sum of the social discussion of that event

*** The darker the circle is, the higher the proportion of troll comments in the event

Graph 3: Events on TikTok overview by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
KMT + 12.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comments express support for KMT and its candidates, emphasizing the party's ability to bring peace, economic prosperity, and stability. They call for the party to regain power, restore ethics and moral education, supervise media neutrality, and promote cross-strait exchanges. The overall sentiment is positive towards KMT and its governance.
Ko Wen-je + 9.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comments express support and admiration for Ko Wen-je, stating that he understands how to deal with Han Kuo-Yu and that supporting him is the best choice. They also mention being impressed with his actions in 2015.

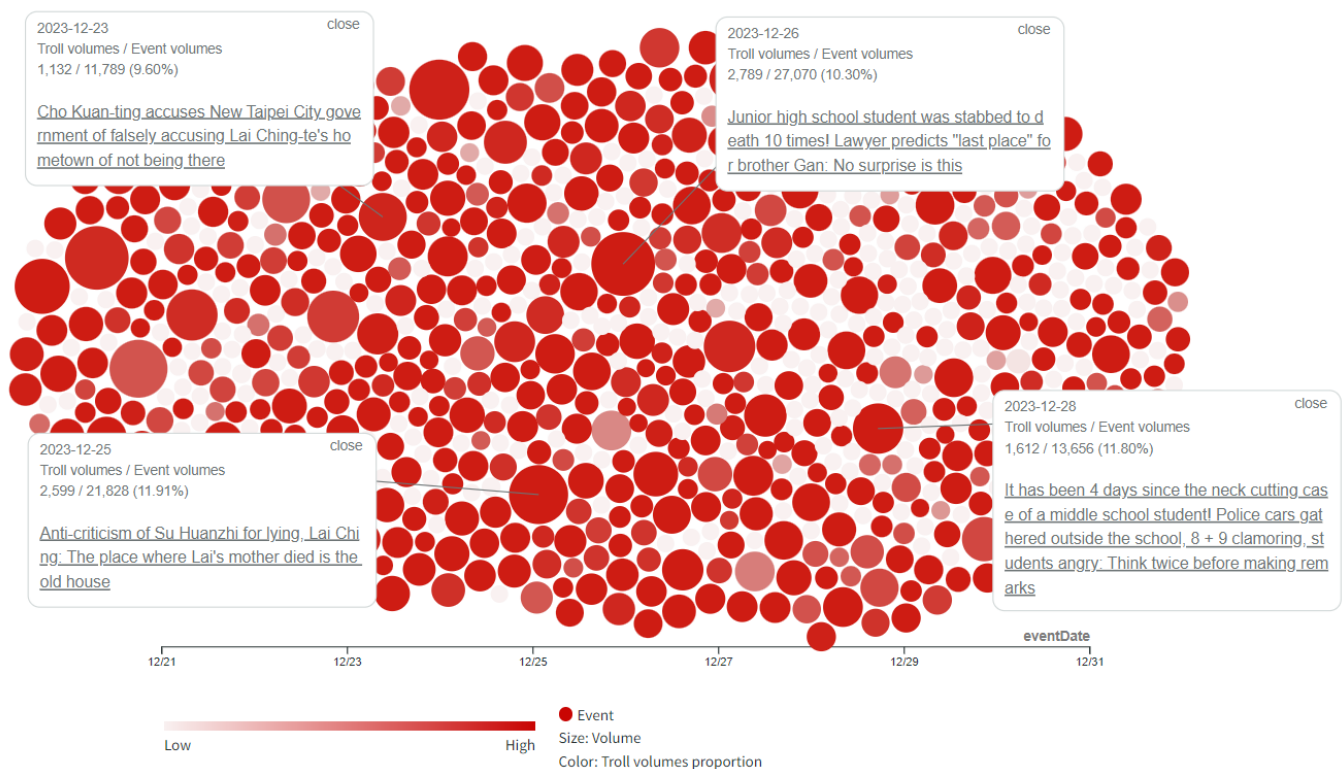
Table 12: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on TikTok (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

PTT

On PTT, the primary targets of troll groups this week were the DPP (16.5%), Ko Wen-je (5.8%), and Lai Ching-te (4.3%). DPP accused of bias, affiliations with CCP; broken promises, dissatisfaction,

and suggesting alternative votes. Criticisms against Ko include defense, military, diplomatic handling, and media bias perception. Comments on Lai Ching-te cite unreliability, lack of solutions for cross-strait relations and governance issues, and unfavorable comparison to the opposing party. Accusations of lying and spreading misinformation are also made against Lai Ching-te.

This week, the top troll group on PTT in terms of activity, PTT #60001 (8.9%), employed the “Distort” technique to spread narratives linking the DPP to the Chinese Communist Party, accusing Lai Ching-te of lying and disseminating misinformation. These actions have an impact on people’s perception of the facts.



* Each circle represents a event related to this manipulated story

** The size of each circle defined by the sum of the social discussion of that event

*** The darker the circle is, the higher the proportion of troll comments in the event

Graph 4: Events on PTT overview by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
DPP – 16.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comments express negative sentiments towards the DPP, accusing them of targeting other parties, being affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, and not apologizing. There are also mentions of broken promises, dissatisfaction with the party’s performance, and a suggestion to vote for other politicians. Some commenters criticize the DPP for their handling of social housing and suggest supporting other candidates.

<p>Ko Wen-je -</p> <p>5.8%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative comments on social media suggest dissatisfaction with Ko and a preference for other politicians, such as Hau or Lai. Some criticize Ko's handling of defense, military, and diplomatic issues, while others mention a perception of bias in traditional media coverage. There are also sarcastic remarks about Ke's ability to handle complicated political situations. Additionally, there is a comment expressing concern about the influence of criminal organizations and their potential impact on governance if Ko remains in power.
<p>Lai Ching-te -</p> <p>4.3%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative comments on social media criticize Lai Ching-te, with commenters stating that he is unreliable, has no solutions to address issues such as cross-strait relations and governance burdens, and is compared unfavorably to the opposing party. Some commenters also accuse Lai Ching-te of lying and spreading misinformation.

Table 13: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on PTT (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Trending of PRC State-affiliated Media³ Narratives and Troll Operation

This week, AI Labs observed that the trend from last week continues across various platforms in Taiwan, with ongoing operations focusing on the illegal construction controversy at Lai Ching-te's family home. We investigated whether PRC state-affiliated media had similar narratives echoing these operations and found related activities on 12/23, 12/25, and 12/26 targeting Lai's family home. However, following the campus beheading incident in Taiwan on the 25th, similar activities were observed on PTT and Facebook on 12/27 and 12/28. PRC state-affiliated media also reported on 12/28, quoting Taiwanese netizens to attack the DPP and Tsai Ing-wen's policies.

³ Definition of PRC state-affiliated media: Refers to news organizations like People's Daily, Haiwainet, Xinhua News Agency, Global Times, and China Central Television (CCTV), whose editorial direction is directly influenced by the Chinese government.

PTT	Facebook	YouTube	Tiktok	Date	China State-affiliated Media
FTV deliberately omitted a 41-second segment featuring Ko Wen-je.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.	The ruling party neglects firefighters.		12/21	首场政见会后侯友宜民调飙升 台学者夸侯表现让人惊艳
Voting for the DPP is foolish.		Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.	12/22	
Jaw Shaw-kong is not thinking clearly.		Han Kuo-yu also supports Ko Wen-je.		12/23	C 岛内最：Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.
Criticism of Cynthia Wu's comments about everyone drinking Johnny Walker.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.		The economy thrives under KMT governance.	12/24	
Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.		The economy thrives under KMT governance.		12/25	C 拆不掉的“赖皮寮”和不处理的“台独党纲” Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.
Lai Ching-te is incompetent.			Controversy over Ko Wen-je's agricultural land.	12/26	赖皮寮“在网”后“消失”，邱毅爆料称“赖清德小时候不住此处，他在假哭、说谎”
A The DPP supports abolishing the death penalty, enabling criminals.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.			12/27	赖清德称他当选则“两岸战争的风险最低” 国台办驳斥
	A The DPP supports abolishing the death penalty, enabling criminals.			12/28	A 北一中“割喉案”致1学生死亡，台媒：网民以假新闻干扰选举 The DPP supports abolishing the death penalty, enabling criminals.

Graph 5: The situation of PRC state-affiliated media echoing the operations of cross-platform troll groups. Looking at the most reported news by PRC state-affiliated media, we find coverage on the termination of ECFA on 12/22 and 12/25, where the reports attempted to convey the narrative that “the economy would be better under the KMT’s rule.” AI Labs noticed that on 12/24 on TikTok and 12/25 on YouTube, there were similar statements echoing the rhetoric of the PRC state-affiliated media.

PTT	Facebook	YouTube	Tiktok	Date	China State-affiliated Media
FTV deliberately omitted a 41-second segment featuring Ko Wen-je.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.	The ruling party neglects firefighters.		12/21	首场政见会后侯友宜民调飙升 台学者夸侯表现让人惊艳
Voting for the DPP is foolish.		Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.	12/22	B 台办：愿与岛内有关方面共同努力，促进两岸贸易和商品输入大陆提供便利 The economy thrives under KMT governance.
Jaw Shaw-kong is not thinking clearly.		Han Kuo-yu also supports Ko Wen-je.		12/23	起底沈伯洋——民进党豢养的美国“代理人”
Criticism of Cynthia Wu's comments about everyone drinking Johnny Walker.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.		B The economy thrives under KMT governance.	12/24	一个“缺”字，照出民进党多少荒诞！（日月谈）
Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.		B The economy thrives under KMT governance.		12/25	B 台办称ECFA中止部分关税减让对台经济造成不利影响 民进党当局与大陆展开谈判 The economy thrives under KMT governance.
Lai Ching-te is incompetent.			Controversy over Ko Wen-je's agricultural land.	12/26	台媒最新民调：“侯康配”大增 岛内民众最不希望赖清德当选
A The DPP supports abolishing the death penalty, enabling criminals.	Controversy over illegal construction at Lai Ching-te's family home.			12/27	赖清德称他当选则“两岸战争的风险最低” 国台办驳斥
	A The DPP supports abolishing the death penalty, enabling criminals.			12/28	A 北一中“割喉案”致1学生死亡，台媒：网民以假新闻干扰选举 The DPP supports abolishing the death penalty, enabling criminals.

Graph 6: The situation of troll groups across various platforms echoing the narratives of PRC state-affiliated media.

Troll Groups Information From Infodemic

This week's report primarily focuses on the troll operations and historical behaviors of Facebook groups. AI Labs has compiled relevant information about these two troll groups on the Infodemic website, which serves as supplementary data for our analysis.

Troll Group: Facebook #61009

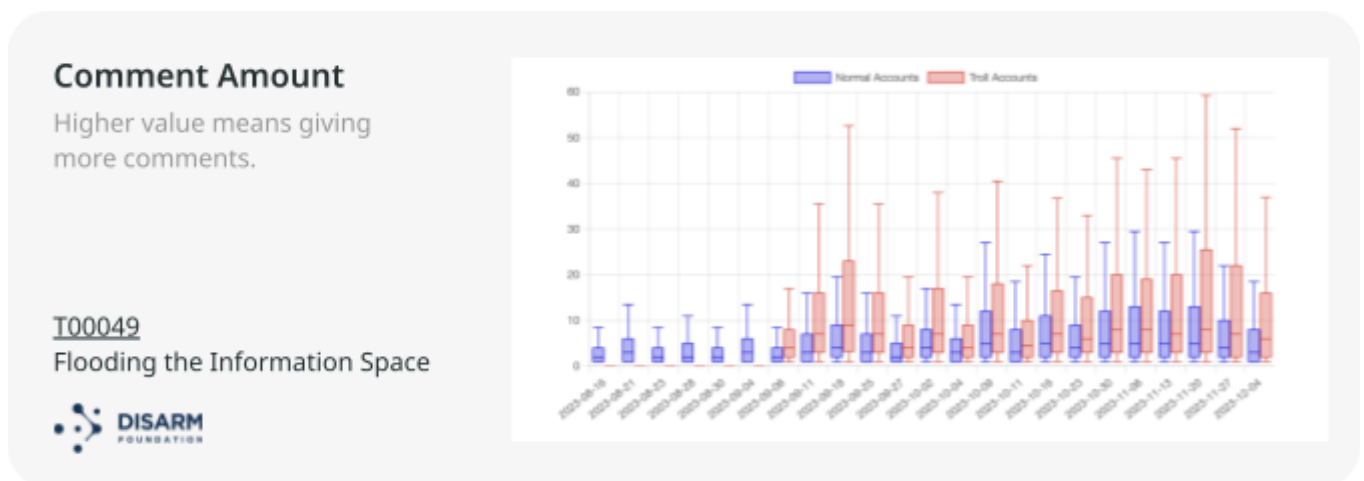
Facebook #61009, observed by AI Labs, is the most active troll group on Facebook, with 439 accounts participating in 4,438 stories.

Troll Accounts	Operated stories	Target entities
439	4,438	2,491

Table 14: Summary of Facebook #61009 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61009>)

Abnormal Behaviors

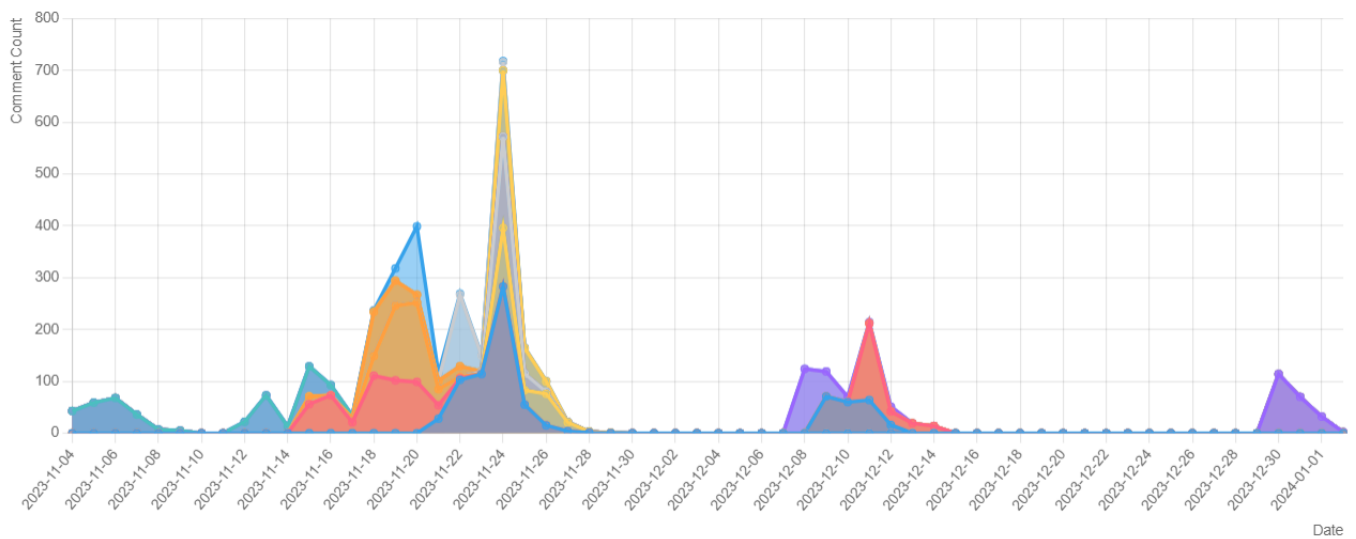
Facebook troll group #61009 began its activities on September 6, 2023, coinciding with the week Terry Gou announced his candidacy.



Operated Stories

Facebook troll group #61009 is actively involved in topics related to the Taiwan presidential election, with the five most recent events they engaged in also relating to the KMT-TPP collaboration issue. Politically, this group primarily focuses on attacking Ko Wen-je, the KMT, and

the DPP.



Graph 7: Operated stories of Facebook #61009 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61009>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
2023-11-22 00:00 2023-11-24 15:28	Newsletter / KMT-TPP Collaboration Breaking the Game? The KMT will hold its regular meeting on the morning of 11 / 24 and is expected to announce the candidate for Hou Yu-ih's deputy	810,254	14,707 (1.82%)
2023-11-15 10:18 2023-11-20 10:23	Blue and white are out of harmony? Ko Wen-che shouted: Continue to fight to the end as the TPP presidential candidate!	727,578	16,146 (2.22%)
2023-11-16 02:39 2023-11-20 10:19	Presidential and Legislative Elections Registration From Today Chu Li-lun: Blue and White are only short of the door	445,169	8,669 (1.95%)
2023-11-24 3:54 2023-11-28 0:01	"Hou Kangpei" Tainan Competition Headquarters established 30,000 supporters chanting "frozen garlic"	140,865	4,175 (2.96%)
2023-10-03 00:25 2023-11-07 18:37	The mayors of the 15 counties of the Blue Camp jointly signed the "Blue and White Cooperation Plan" and called on the White Camp to take the people into mind	849,534	26,843 (3.16%)

Table 15: Top 5 operated stories of Facebook #61009 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61009>)

Targets of Troll Activities

Graph 8: Troll activity targets of Facebook #61009 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61009>)

Troll Group: Facebook #61019

Facebook #61019 is the second most active troll group on the Facebook platform observed by AI Labs, with 170 accounts and participation in 4,489 stories.

Troll Accounts	Operated stories	Target entities
170	4,489	2,790

Table 16: Summary of Facebook #61019 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61019>)

Abnormal Behaviors

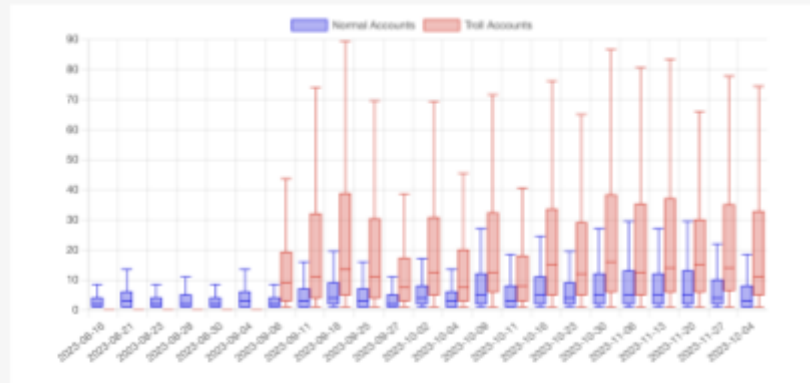
Facebook troll group #61019, also active from September 6, 2023, exhibits a significantly higher volume of comments and repeated comments compared to average users.

Comment Amount

Higher value means giving more comments.

T00049

Flooding the Information Space



Repeat Commenting

Giving similar comments on different posts, higher value means higher similarity.

T0049

Flooding the Information Space

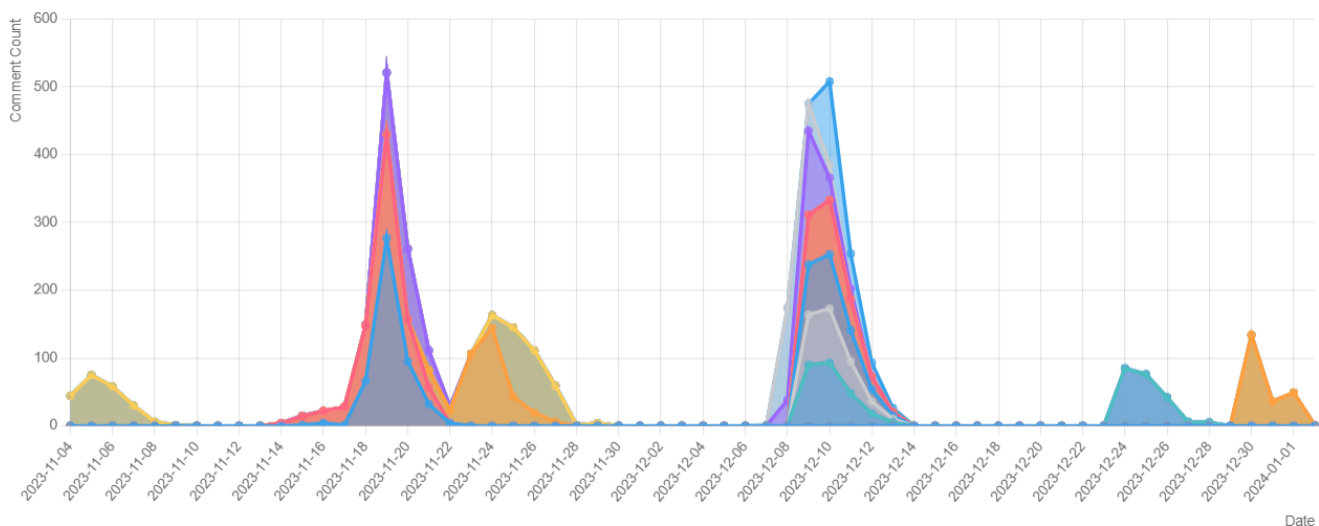
T0121

Manipulate Platform Algorithm



Operated Stories

Facebook troll group #61019 actively engages in topics related to the Taiwan presidential election. Among the five most recent events they participated in, four are related to the KMT-TPP collaboration issue. Politically, this group primarily targets the KMT, Ko Wen-je, and Tsai Ing-wen.



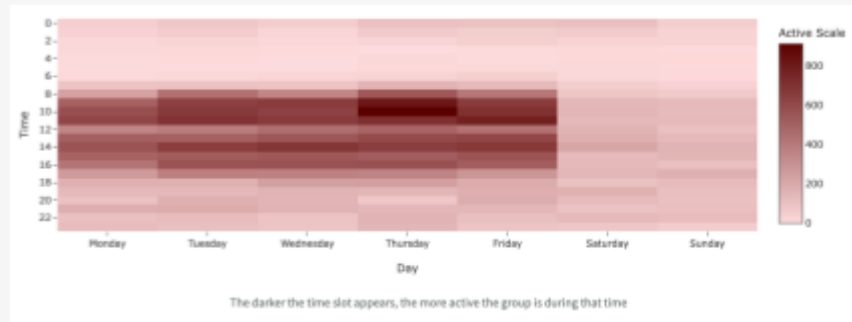
Graph 9: Operated stories of Facebook #61019 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61019>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
2023-11-16 02:39 2023-11-20 10:19	Presidential and Legislative Elections Registration From Today Chu Li-lun: Blue and White are only short of the door	445,169	8,669 (1.95%)
2023-11-15 10:18 2023-11-20 10:23	Blue and white are out of harmony? Ko Wen-che shouted: Continue to fight to the end as the TPP presidential candidate!	727,578	16,146 (2.22%)
2023-11-22 00:00 2023-11-24 15:28	Newsletter / Blue and White Combined Breaking the Game? The KMT will hold its regular meeting on the morning of 11 / 24 and is expected to announce the candidate for Hou Yu-ih's deputy	810,254	14,707 (1.82%)
2023-11-25 14:59 2023-11-25 20:34	Lai Ching-te attended the inaugural meeting of the North Taoyuan Competition Headquarters: Let the world continue to support Taiwan	41,848	1,060 (2.53%)
2023-12-09 19:25 2023-12-09 22:55	Lai Ching-te took the Goddess of Hong Kong People's Movement as a reason and shouted not to let the opposition party empty Taiwan	7,675	884 (11.52%)

Table 17: Top 5 operated stories of Facebook #61019 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/61019>)

Active Time

The darker the time slot appears, the more active the group is during that time



Comment Amount

Higher value means giving more comments.

T00049

Flooding the Information Space



Repeat Commenting

Giving similar comments on different posts, higher value means higher similarity.

T0049

Flooding the Information Space

T0121

Manipulate Platform Algorithm

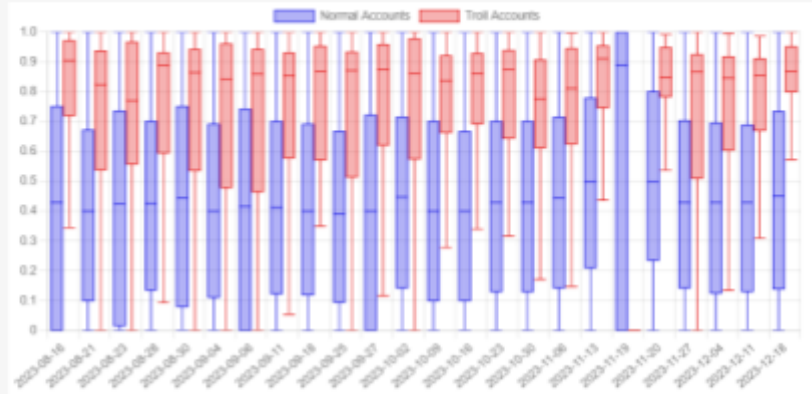


First Commenting to Lead the Topic

Be the first commenter on different posts, to lead the discussion topics of the posts.

T0023.001

Reframe Context



Instant Commenting

The timestamp of the comment minus the timestamp of the corresponding post, lower value means the commenter is more synchronized with the poster.

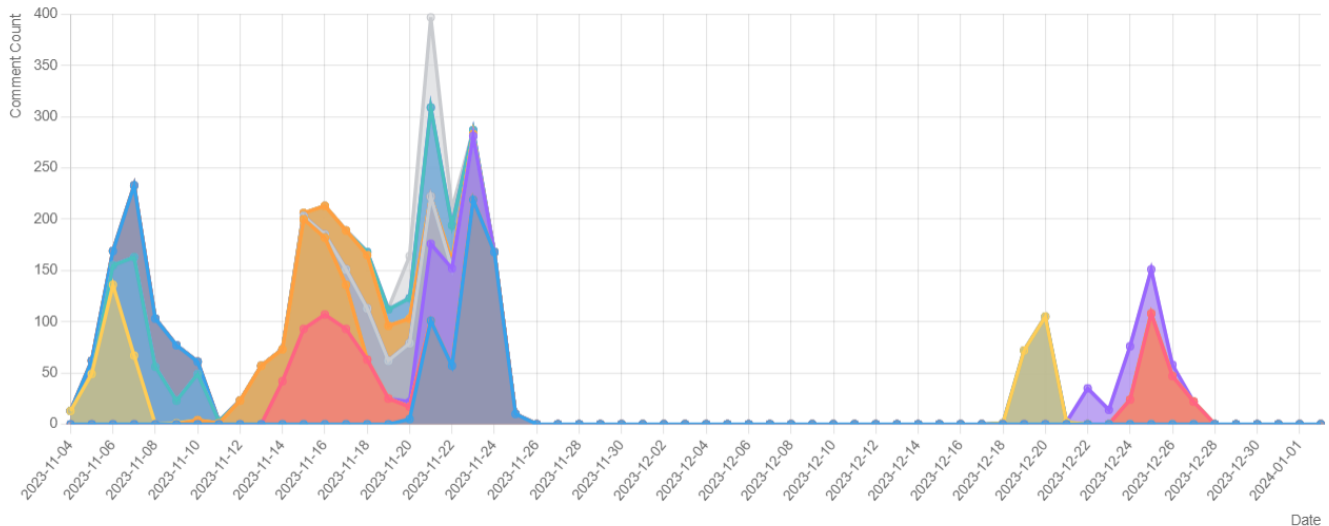
T0121

Manipulate Platform Algorithm



Operated Stories

The primary focus of PTT troll group #60011 has been on the presidential election, with the five most actively manipulated recent events relating to the KMT-TPP collaboration issues involving the KMT and the TPP.



Graph 11: Operated stories of PTT #60011 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/60011>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
2023-11-16 02:39 2023-11-20 10:19	Presidential and Legislative Elections Registration From Today Chu Li-lun: Blue and White are only short of the door	445,169	8,669 (1.95%)
2023-11-15 10:18 2023-11-20 10:23	Blue and white are out of harmony? Ko Wen-che shouted: Continue to fight to the end as the TPP presidential candidate!	727,578	16,146 (2.22%)
2023-11-22 00:00 2023-11-24 15:28	Newsletter / Blue and White Combined Breaking the Game? The KMT will hold its regular meeting on the morning of 11 / 24 and is expected to announce the candidate for Hou Yu-ih's deputy	810,254	14,707 (1.82%)
2023-11-25 14:59 2023-11-25 20:34	Lai Ching-te attended the inaugural meeting of the North Taoyuan Competition Headquarters: Let the world continue to support Taiwan	41,848	1,060 (2.53%)
2023-12-09 19:25 2023-12-09 22:55	Lai Ching-te took the Goddess of Hong Kong People's Movement as a reason and shouted not to let the opposition party empty Taiwan	7,675	884 (11.52%)

Table 19: Top 5 operated stories of PTT #60011 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/60011>)

