



Week 2023/12/08 ~ 2023/12/15

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 (%)
1,530	5,148	39 (0.76%)	3,089	933,362	33,180 (3.55%)

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Insights on Manipulation Strategies

This week, PRC state-affiliated media has 2 major stories, "DPP's election will lead to military danger" and "De-Sinicization of Taiwan's curriculum.". Both are echoed by the troll groups. The story of "DPP's election will lead to military danger" is echoed by troll groups on Facebook. At the same time, the story of "De-Sinicization of Taiwan's education system" was manipulated by PTT and TikTok troll groups.

The aggregated top stories from PRC state-affiliated media starting from October till this week were "Taiwan pushed to the boundary of military conflict" (23%), "The U.S. disregards the death of Taiwanese people" (15.6%), and "Termination of ECFA sacrifices Taiwan's economy" (13%). The story of "Taiwan pushed towards the brink of military conflict" is decreasing, while the "Termination of ECFA sacrifices Taiwan's economy" is growing.

In TikTok's coordinated operations, the second-ranked troll group, TikTok #74046 (11%), underwent one account suspension and two shifts in public opinion strategy within five months. In early July, when Hou Yu-ih's support was waning, the group backed the Gou-Han pairing; by the end of November, as the KMT-TPP collaboration was nearing collapse, the group shifted its support to Ko Wen-je.

AI Labs analyzed comments by YouTube troll groups from October 1st to December 10th and found that YouTube #71012 (11%), YouTube #71319 (7%), and YouTube #71341 (6%) are the most active troll groups on the YouTube platform. Their primary tactic involves repeated commenting to guide discussion trends under popular channels or to increase interaction with specific videos, thereby influencing the algorithm.

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.

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/>

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 engaging 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	○	○	○	○
	T0023.001 Reframe Context	◎	◎	◎	
Execute	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

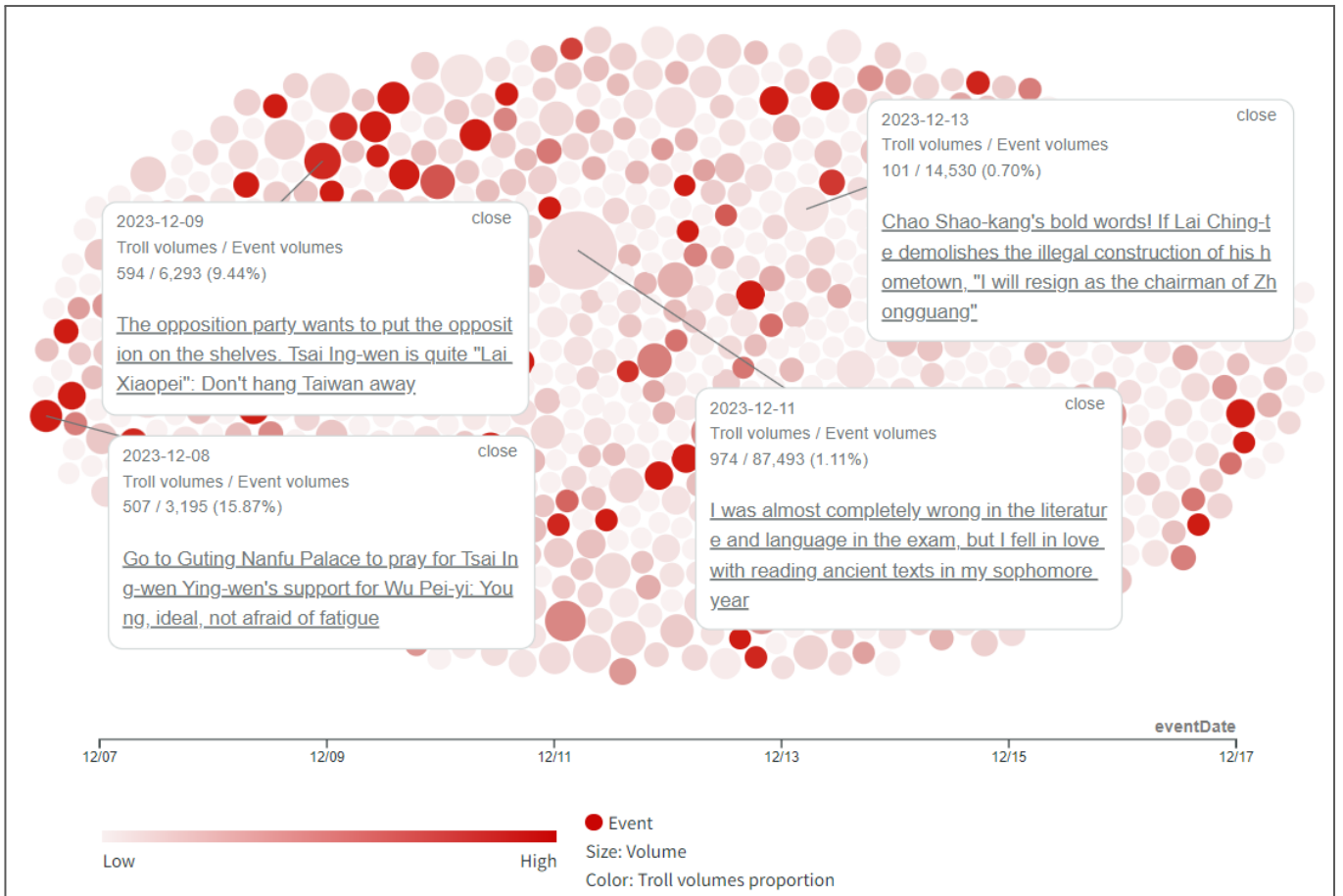
Social Media Manipulation Analysis

This report conducts a comprehensive analysis of 1,530 events, 5,148 news articles, a total of 933,362 comments, 3,089 troll accounts, and 33,180 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

On Facebook, troll groups primarily target the DPP (14%), the KMT (3.1%), and Tsai Ing-wen (2.68%). Criticisms of the DPP mainly focus on the party's implementation of the 108 curriculum de-Sinicization and accusations of corruption and shamelessness. The narrative attacking the KMT centers around their corruption issues. Criticisms directed at Tsai Ing-wen involve her pandemic policies and the importation of Japanese nuclear-contaminated food and American pork.

Event Timeline



- * 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>)

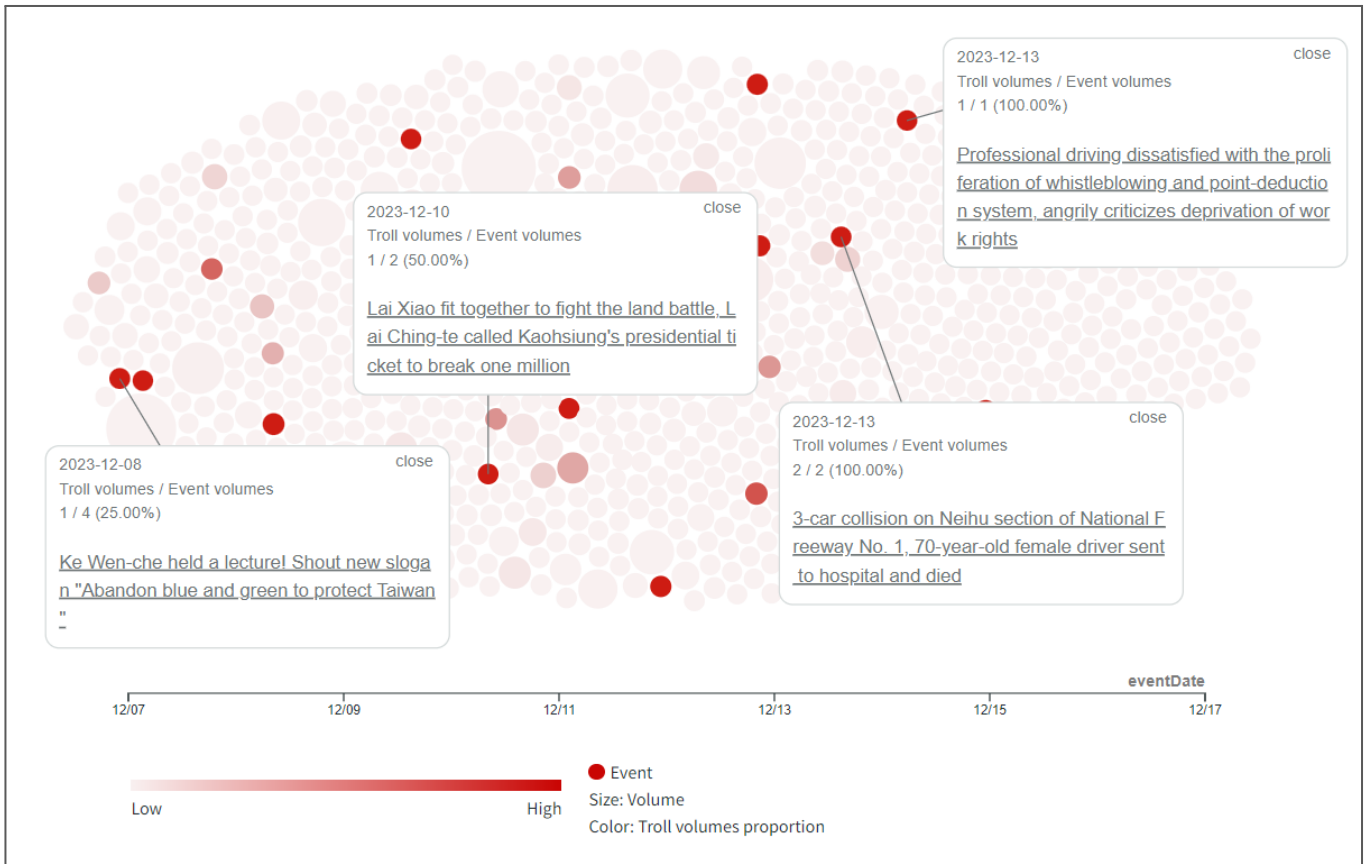
Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
<p>DPP – 14.0%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative comments about the DPP include accusations of corruption, incompetence, and lack of problem-solving abilities. The comments also criticize DPP politicians, such as Lai Ching-te and Tsai Ing-wen, for their alleged inability to address issues and for promoting Taiwanese independence. The comments also mention the DPP's alleged disregard for democratic values and accuse them of being similar to the Chinese Communist Party. Some comments express support for the KMT as an alternative. There are also negative comments about Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je, accusing him of having a poor character and suggesting that he is trying to save former President Chen Shui-bian.
<p>KMT – 3.1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social media comments criticize the KMT party and its members, including former presidents Lee Teng-hui and Ma Ying-jeou, for their actions and behavior over the past few decades. They mention issues such as the nuclear power plant, corruption, and inconsistencies in the statements made by KMT and DPP members. The comments suggest that the KMT is not trustworthy and criticize DPP's alleged fraud and lack of support for indigenous autonomy. They also mention the age of the KMT's cabinet members in 2008.
<p>Tsai Ing-wen – 2.7%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social media comments criticize Tsai Ing-wen for her supposed support of importing Japanese nuclear food, American ractopamine pork, and Brazilian tainted eggs. They also accuse her of using vaccines that are either for beggars or super high-end. Additionally, the comments criticize Ko Wen-je for aligning with Tsai and accuse him of being dishonest and lacking integrity. The comments further mention the shortcomings of the DPP's policies, including the "use love to generate electricity" campaign, the importation of ractopamine pork, the high cost and questionable effectiveness of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program, the deterioration of cross-strait relations, and the alleged corruption within Tsai's administration.

Table 2: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on Facebook (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

YouTube

On YouTube, troll group operations mainly target the DPP (3.6%), the KMT (3.6%), and the U.S. (3.6%). The criticisms of the DPP accuse Lai Ching-te of avoiding issues, with media outlets like Sanli protecting him; while the criticisms of the KMT focus on their corruption. The criticisms

towards the U.S. stem from Lai Ching-te and Hsiao Bi-khim's electoral alliance, leading to critiques of Hsiao's pro-American stance.



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

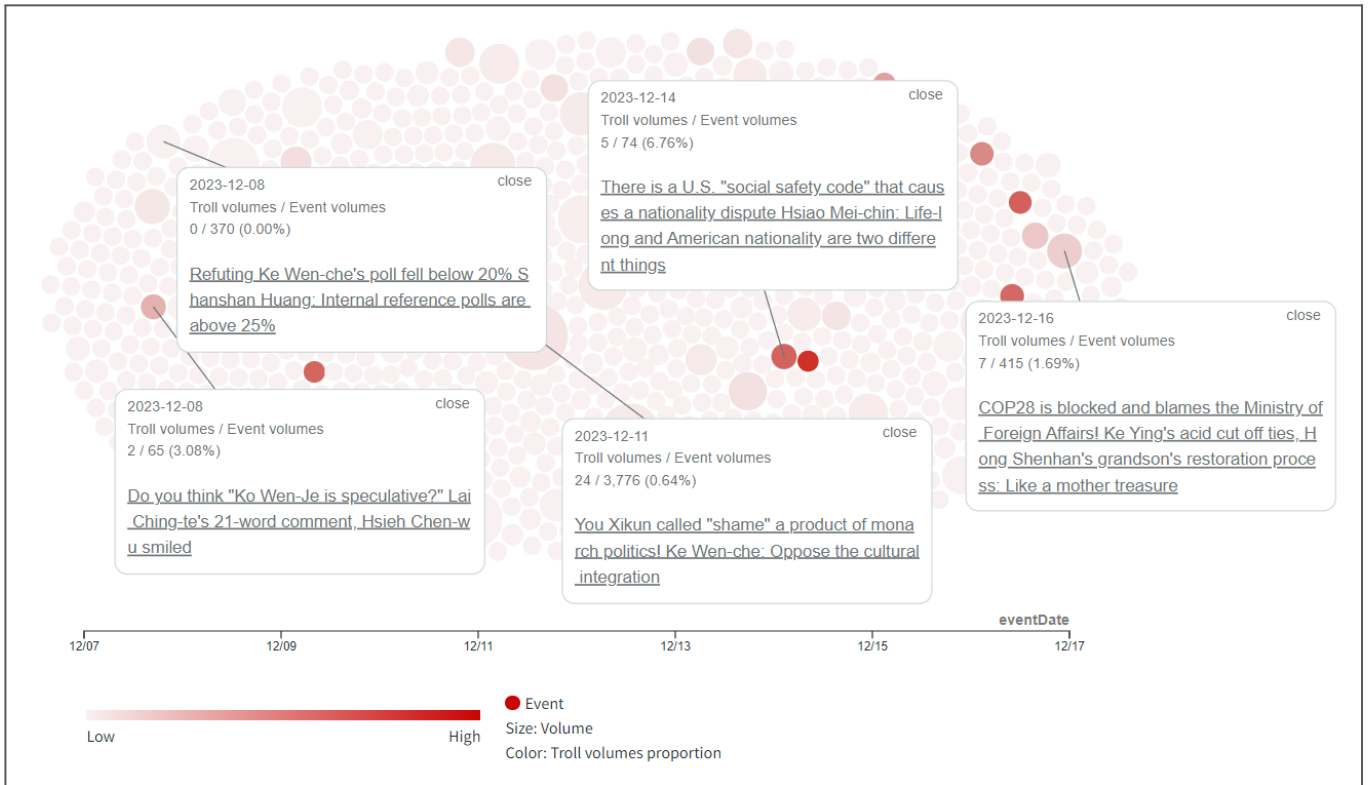
Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
<p>DPP -</p> <p>3.6%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative comments criticizing politicians and media in Taiwan for not addressing issues and allegedly betraying the country's culture and interests. Some commenters express frustration towards the Chinese influence in Taiwan and the perceived arrogance of individuals from outside the province.
<p>KMT -</p> <p>3.6%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are negative comments on social media regarding the KMT's corruption issues and the suggestion of having military observers stationed in China to monitor the People's Liberation Army. The comments also express concerns about the compromises that may be made in order to satisfy the Chinese Communist Party's support during elections.

<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; display: inline-block;">USA -</div> <div style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">3.6%</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some social media comments express concerns about the possibility of Taiwan becoming independent and aligning with the United States, suggesting that it could lead to instability and potentially provoke a war in the future.
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Table 3: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on Youtube (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

TikTok

On TikTok, the main operations by troll groups target the DPP (22.6%) and the KMT (19.4%). Criticisms of the DPP revolve around corruption and deceiving the public, while those against the KMT allege incompetence and corruption, with little difference from the public's perspective, and some messages call for support for Ko Wen-je.



- * 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 3: Events on Tiktok overview by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Target Entity	Summary of Narratives
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; display: inline-block;">DPP -</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The negative comments criticize the DPP for its incompetence, corruption, and double standards. Some commenters express a

<p>22.6%</p>	<p>preference for the KMT or the People's Party. Others accuse the DPP of brainwashing and compare it to the Chinese Communist Party. The comments also mention scandals involving DPP members and call for voting against the party in the next election.</p>
<p>KMT - 19.4%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative comments towards the KMT and their perceived incompetence, corruption, and lack of talent. Some comments express support for other parties like DPP and People First Party (PFP). One comment criticizes KMT's focus on money rather than addressing high housing prices and military discipline issues. One comment suggests that KMT is becoming more like DPP. Overall, there is a mix of dissatisfaction and calls for change.

Table 4: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on Tiktok (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

PTT

On the PTT platform, troll groups mainly target the DPP (15.1%), Ko Wen-je (9.7%), and the KMT (6.4%). Attacks on the DPP center on accusations of deception, corruption, and calls to remove them from power; criticisms of Ko Wen-je focus on his inability to answer questions and potential diplomatic disasters. Critics of the KMT question their policy implementation and the validity of polls, opposing KMT governance.



* 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
<p>DPP -</p> <p>15.1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative social media comments regarding the DPP include accusations of deception, spreading rumors, fraud, love for internal conflicts, direct sales scams, contributing to high housing prices, corruption, prioritizing gender ratio over important issues, and being associated with sexual harassment cases.
<p>Ko Wen-Je -</p> <p>9.7%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative social media comments about Ko Wen-Je include criticism for his lack of achievements in Tainan, accusations of lying, and doubts about his qualifications as a presidential candidate. People express a desire for him to fail or be ousted from office, questioning his abilities and low support.
<p>KMT -</p> <p>6.4%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social media comments express negative sentiments towards the KMT. Commenters criticize the KMT's handling of national assets, question the accuracy of KMT-affiliated polls, and argue that a majority of the population does not support the KMT. Some comments also mention corruption allegations, break in diplomatic relations with Mainland China, and criticize other political figures. Overall, the comments reflect a lack of trust and dissatisfaction with the KMT.

Table 5: Troll group's target entity and summary of narratives on Tiktok (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Trending of PRC State-affiliated Media² Narratives

This week, AI Labs utilized AI to analyze the narrative shifts in PRC state-affiliated media from October to December 10th, identifying the predominant themes in Chinese operations as "Taiwan pushed towards the brink of military conflict" (23%), "The U.S. disregards the life and death of Taiwanese people" (15.6%), and "Termination of ECFA impacts Taiwan's economy" (13%). The theme "Taiwan pushed towards the brink of military conflict" has gradually decreased to 14.8% by December, while the focus on "Termination of ECFA impacts Taiwan's economy" has risen to 18.1%. Simultaneously, the narrative of "Taiwan's economy showing grim prospects" has been a consistent topic. The theme "De-Sinicization of Taiwan's curriculum" began to surface in November, reaching 11.9% in December and becoming the fourth major theme of the month.

² 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.

Narratives	October	November	December
Taiwan pushed towards the boundary of military conflict	28.5%	25.6%	14.8%
The U.S. disregards the life and death of Taiwanese people	6.7%	24.3%	15.8%
Termination of ECFA sacrifices Taiwan's economy	10.9%	9.9%	18.1%
Taiwan's economy shows grim prospects	6.4%	15.4%	2.9%
De-Sinicization of education in Taiwan		1.9%	11.9%
Shortages of eggs, electricity, and labor in Taiwan	1.3%		9.6%
Inferior weaponry of the Taiwanese military	3.2%	7%	
Taiwanese female university student faces online backlash for questioning Lai Ching-te's scandal	2.2%		
Wave of university closures hits Taiwan	1.6%		

Table 6: Trending of PRC state-affiliated media narratives

Taiwan AI Labs also conducted a more detailed analysis of this week's PRC state-affiliated media narratives. AI Labs conducts analysis by examining the news most amplified by PRC state-affiliated media on any given day and the operational direction under the most heavily manipulated articles on various platforms. This analysis aims to determine whether there is a correlation between the activities of coordinated groups and the operational direction of PRC state-affiliated media.

The main themes were "De-Sinicization of Taiwan's curriculum" and "DPP's election will lead to military danger." The theme "DPP's election will lead to military danger" continues from last week's trend, with ongoing echoes from troll groups on Facebook; the "De-Sinicization of Taiwan's curriculum" first emerged in operations on PTT, later referenced and reported by PRC state-affiliated media, and subsequently appeared in related operations on TikTok.

PTT	Facebook	YouTube	Tiktok	Date	China State-affiliated Media
B De-Sinicization of Taiwan's curriculum	A DPP's election will lead to military danger	Lai Ching-te's hometown illegal construction		12/8	B 批台当局“去中国化”课纲为“无耻课纲”老师走红网络
Lai Ching-te's hometown illegal construction		Hsiao Bi-khim's nationality issue		12/9	
Mocking KMT's fabricated polls	Lai Ching-te's hometown illegal construction		Unifying support for Hou Yu-ih	12/10	A 民进党当局拒谈“两岸关系”只会让台湾陷入“军事危险”
DPP's double standards	A DPP's election will lead to military danger	Hsiao Bi-khim's nationality issue	B De-Sinicization of Taiwan's curriculum	12/11	隔海观澜 民进党当局拒谈“两岸关系”只会让台湾陷入“军事危险”
DPP's lack of grace	Lai Ching-te's hometown illegal construction		Unifying support for Hou Yu-ih	12/12	B “去中国化”课纲遭批，“未来可能”
Ko Wen-je's constantly shifting stance				12/13	A 国民党“希望”民进党为了自身安宁和“军事危险”反对“台独”
Call to abolish ECFA				12/14	B 民进党当局“去中国化”课纲遭批
				12/15	

Graph 5: The situation of troll groups across various platforms echoing the narratives of PRC state-affiliated media.

Observations of Troll Groups

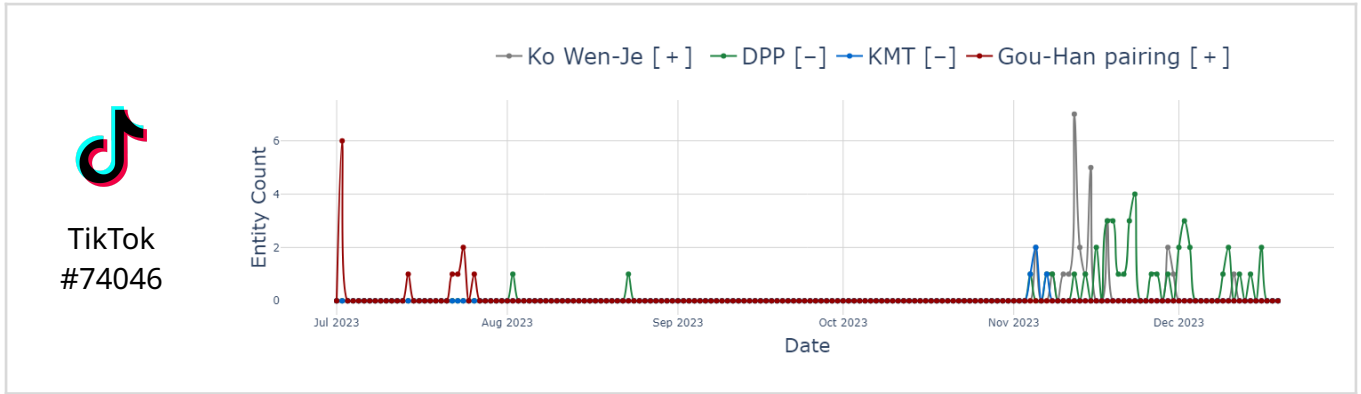
The Top Active Troll Groups

This week, AI Labs conducted an in-depth observation of operations on TikTok and YouTube. On TikTok, we noticed that the troll group TikTok #74046 has undergone several shifts in stance since the beginning of the year. Additionally, on YouTube, we identified three specific troll groups actively involved in the Taiwanese presidential election discourse. These groups employ repetitive commenting strategies to steer the direction of discussions in the video comment sections or to enhance viewer engagement, thereby increasing the reach of the videos.

Significant Change in the Tiktok Troll Groups' Narratives

On July 2nd, when Hou Yu-ih's support was waning, the troll group vigorously promoted the narrative "Hou Yu-ih stepping down, supporting Gou-Han pairing" on the TikTok social media platform during Hou Yu-ih's campaign rally. This is an attempt to influence the decision-making of the KMT central committee and alter the candidate recommended by the KMT.

AI Labs observed that TikTok #74046 supported the KMT-TPP coalition during the period from November 4 to November 18, 2023. Following the potential breakdown of the KMT-TPP collaboration on November 18th, the troll group once again shifted its propaganda strategy. This shift involved attacking both the DPP and the KMT, while simultaneously enhancing the positive image of Ko Wen-je.



Graph 6: Target entities variety of troll groups TikTok#74046 (from <https://infodemic.cc>)

Time Interval	Summary of Narratives
2023-07-01~2023-07-26	<i>Supporting the Gou-Han pairing, believing that the collaboration between Terry Gou and Han Kuo-yu are the key to saving Taiwan.</i>
2023-08-24~2023-11-03	<i>Troll group stops operating.</i>
2023-11-04~2023-11-18	<i>Supporting the KMT-TPP coalition, hoping for the DPP to step down, and also endorsing Ko Wen-Je.</i>
2023-11-23~2023-12-16	<i>uption and double standards of the DPP,The incompetence and scheming of Vote for Candidate #1,Vote for the TPP.Change Taiwan.</i>

Table 7: Narrative Summary of TikTok #74046 Over Time

Youtube Troll Groups Actively Manipulated Taiwan Presidential Election

This week, AI Labs analyzed the troll operations on YouTube related to the presidential election from October 1st to December 10th, 2023. From the data scraped by AI Labs, there were a total of 3,331,943 comments on YouTube, with 13,715 (0.4%) identified as being made by troll groups.

AI Labs found that the top three groups involved in operations related to Taiwan's presidential election on YouTube were YouTube #71012 (11%), YouTube #71319 (7%), and YouTube #71341 (6%).

Youtube Troll Group	Troll Volume Proportion
71012	11%
71319	7%

71341	6%
71103	4%
71029	4%

Table 8: Volume proportion of Youtube top 5 troll group which is active in Taiwan presidential election. YouTube #71012, during this period, primarily commented on channels like SET Live News (24%), SETN (7%), and EBC News CH51 (6%). The comments were mainly repetitive, and AI Labs' AI analysis found their main narratives included "Mama's boy Ko Pudding" (14.4%), "Go Lai Ching-te! 🍌 Pan-green legislators must win a majority" (11.5%), and "The infinite power of desserts (referring to Ko Wen-je's description of sexual favors from China as 'desserts,' implying he had accepted such favors)" (8.4%).

Channel	Comment Proportion
SET Live News	24%
SET News Network SETN	7%
EBC News CH51	6%
Era Looking at Money	6%
Hotline 94	5%

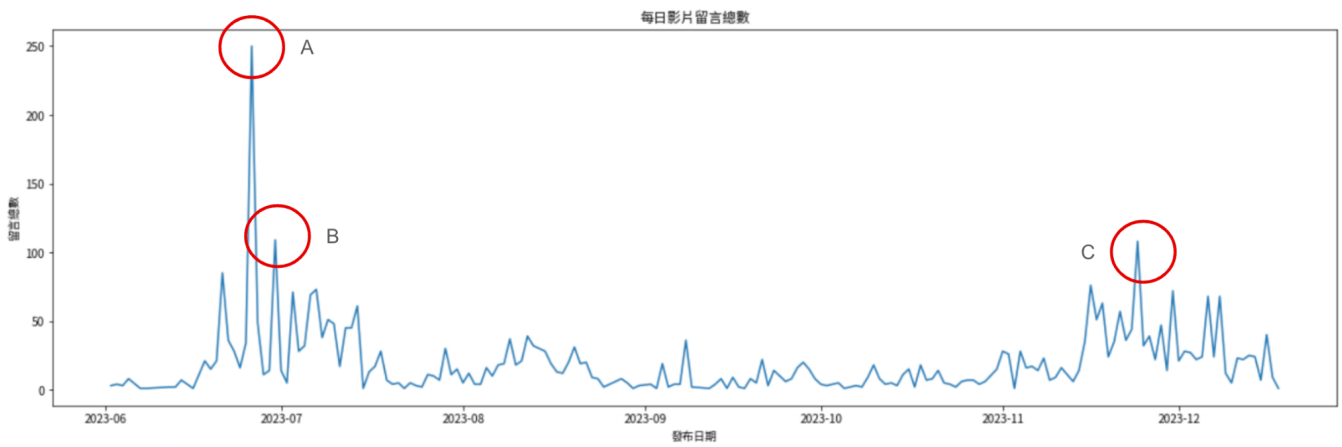
Table 9: Top five channels with the highest comments by YouTube #71012

Proportion	Narrative Summary
14.4%	Ko Pudding, the Mama's Boy (媽寶柯布林)
11.5%	Go Lai Ching-te 🍌 Pro-green legislators must win a majority (賴清德加油啊 🍌 泛綠立委一定要過半)
8.4%	The incredible power of desserts (甜點威力無窮強大啊)
7.3%	Ko Pudding fans are freaking out (柯布林粉崩潰了)
6.5%	Ko Pudding agreed to it himself (柯布林自己簽字同意欸)

Table 10: Top five narrative summaries used by YouTube #71012

Further analysis of YouTube #71012's activity curve from June 1st, 2023, was plotted on a line graph, analyzing the videos and comments with the highest operations at their peak. Their largest operation occurred on June 26th, mainly commenting against the Service Trade Agreement under a video exclusive to Settler's Diary members; the second-largest on June 30th involved attacking the KMT and People's Party under a certain media channel's video; the third-largest on November

16th involved repetitive comments of "The infinite power of desserts" attacking Ko Wen-je under his tearful video.



Graph 7: Line graph of YouTube #71012's comment volume since June 1

Graph 8: Three most manipulated videos and example comments by YouTube #71012

AI Labs believes that YouTube #71012's primary operations are repetitive comments under media channels like SETN, EBC, and Era, guiding the direction of discussions in the comment sections of

videos and boosting interactions under Settler's Diary channel to influence YouTube's algorithm for video recommendations.

YouTube #71319, from October 1st to December 10th, mainly commented under CTITV NEWS (18%), TVBS Situation Room (14%), and EBC News CH51 (8%), again mostly involving repetitive comments. AI analysis revealed narratives like "Clearly see that Master Ko doesn't really want to cooperate, just wants to manipulate strategic voting" (15.6%), "Ko doesn't dare to negotiate! Just spouts nonsense" (10.4%), and "Hou should be careful not to be played by Ko too" (6.7%).

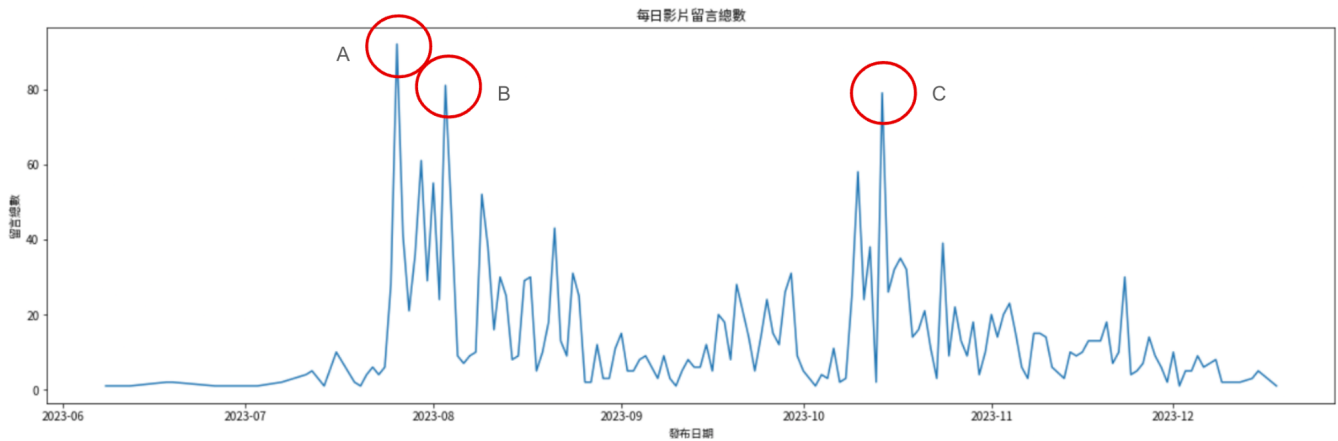
Channel	Comment Proportion
CTITV NEWS	18%
TVBS Situation Room	14%
EBC News CH51	8%
CTITV	7%
TVBS Select News	7%

Table 11: Top five channels with the highest comments by YouTube #71319

proportion	Narrative Summary
15.6%	The primary elections are like a magic mirror for Ko's public opinion polls. Clearly see that Master Ko doesn't really want to cooperate, just wants to manipulate strategic voting! He's shown his true colors.
10.4%	Ko doesn't dare to negotiate! Just spouts nonsense.
6.7%	Once Ko is elected, he'll blame the DPP, saying it's the will of the people. Now he wants to play the KMT. Hou should be careful not to be played by Ko.
6.3%	Ko running independently! I'm waiting for the People's Party bubble to burst!
6.3%	Both sides, stop pretending. I'm waiting for the TPP bubble to burst in four years!

Table 12: Top five narrative summaries used by YouTube #71319

Further analysis of YouTube #71319's activity from June 1st, 2023, was also plotted on a line graph, focusing on videos and comments with the highest operations. Their largest operation occurred on July 26th, commenting under a media channel's video urging KMT members to support their presidential candidate Hou Yu-ih; the second-largest on October 14th involved comments under a media channel's video suggesting "If not agreeing with the integration proposal, Ko Wen-je should withdraw from the race." The third-largest operation supported Hou Yu-ih in comments under a video of his visit to Japan at Matsuyama Airport.



Graph 9: Line graph of YouTube #71012's comment volume since June 1



Graph 10: Three most manipulated videos and example comments by YouTube #71012

AI Labs believes that YouTube #71319's primary operations involve repetitive comments under CITTV, TVBS, and EBC to guide discussions in the comment sections of videos.

Compared to the first two groups, YouTube #71341 appears more focused. This group mainly commented under videos on the True Voice of Taiwan channel, with narratives like "Scammers have no ability to govern" (13.7%), "Destroying the whole country for 1.5 scammers" (9.9%), and "Harming people for profit, causing many families to suffer" (9.9%).

Channel	Comment Proportion
True Voice of Taiwan	100%

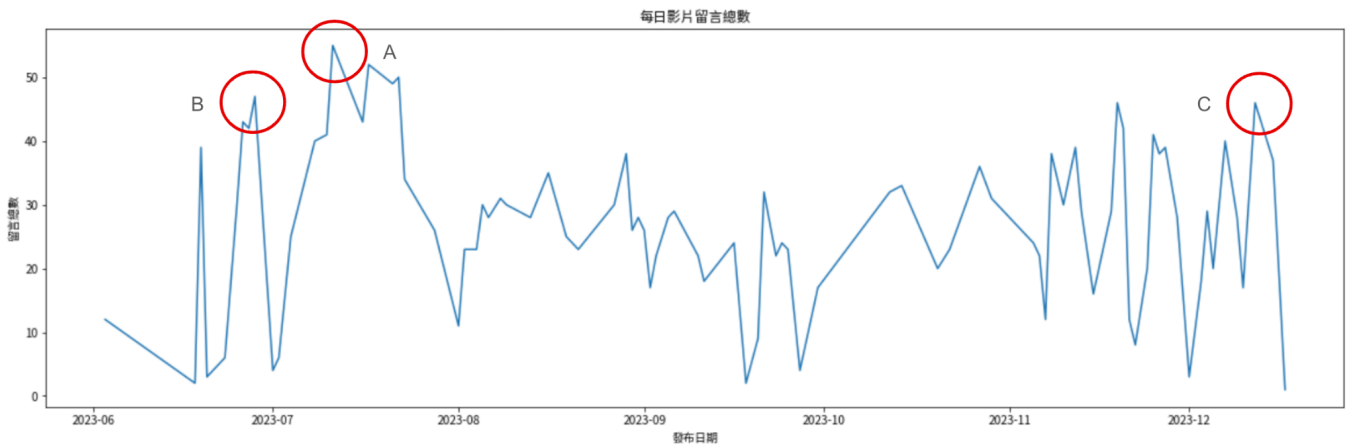
Table 13: Top channel with the highest comments by YouTube #71341

proportion	Narrative Summary
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13.7%	The scammer has no ability to govern.
9.9%	For a 1.5 scammer... destroyed the whole country.
9.9%	Harming people for profit, causing many families to suffer... Retribution is coming.
8.4%	Those who rig the vote have already lost the people's heart.
5.6%	Consumed 87 chlorinated phrases. (87氯句都吃使了)

Table 14: Top five narrative summaries used by YouTube #71341

AI Labs also plotted the activity curve of YouTube #71341 from June 1st, 2023, focusing on videos and comments with the highest operations. Their largest operation on July 11th involved attacking Tsai Ing-wen as a "teleprompter reader" and "scammer" under a channel's video; the second-largest on June 28th involved attacking the DPP as a "criminal organization," and the third-largest on November 19th with comments accusing the ruling party of "harming people for profit" and warning Peng not to fall for their tricks.



Graph 11: Line graph of YouTube #71012's comment volume since June 1



Graph 12: Three most manipulated videos and example comments by YouTube #71012

AI Labs concludes that YouTube #71341's primary operations involve boosting interactions under the True Voice of Taiwan channel to influence YouTube's algorithm for video recommendations.

Troll Group: TikTok #74046

TikTok #74046 is one of the most active troll groups on the TikTok platform, comprising 2 accounts and participating in 140 stories.

Troll Accounts	Operated stories	Target entities
2	140	27

Table 15: Summary of TikTok #74046 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/74046>)

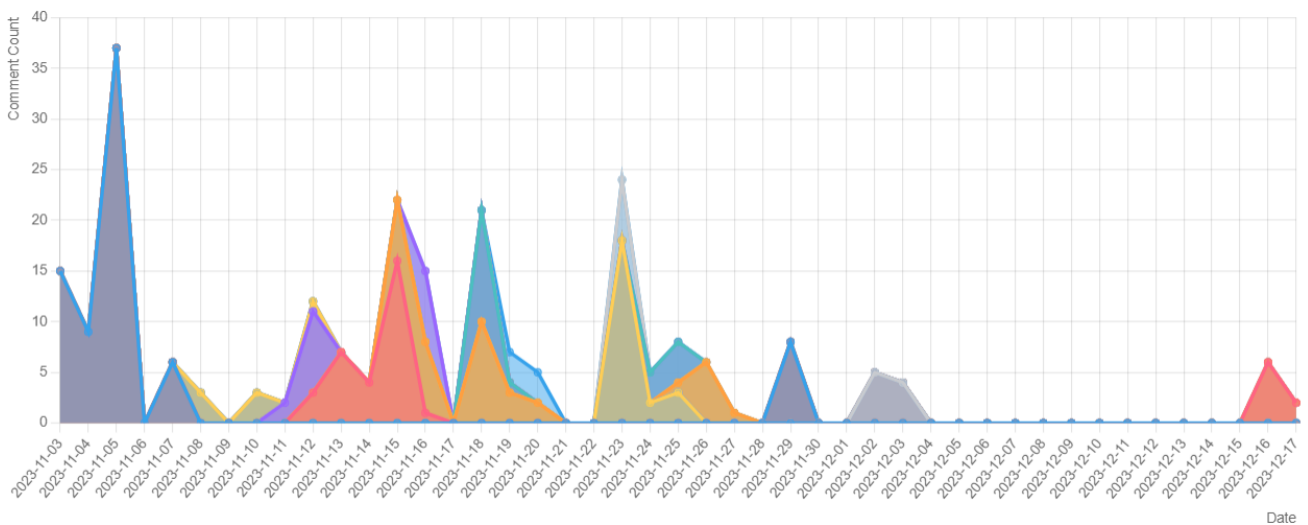
Suspicious Accounts with Unusual Behaviors

During the observation period starting from July, the TikTok troll group #74046 has been consistently active, with their peak activity hours concentrated on Monday, Saturday, and Sunday, specifically after 4:00 PM.



Operated Stories

The primary focus of TikTok troll group #74046 have been in 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 13: Operated stories of TikTok #74046 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/74046>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
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	67 (15.40%)
2023-11-10 12:43 2023-11-18 08:18	Why didn't you insist on "political party support"? Hou Yu-yi made a clear statement	356,768	26,843 (3.16%)
2023-11-15 10:18 2023-11-20 10:23	Blue and white are out of harmony? Ko Wen-je shouted: Continue to fight to the end as the People's Party 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%)
2023-11-15 15:42 2023-11-22 15:35	Ke Wen-che blasted "Let 6%" is too ridiculous! Hou Yu-yi: Shoulder to bear	279,932	7,786 (2.78%)

Table 16: Top 5 operated stories of TikTok #74046 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/74046>)

Targets of Troll Activities



Graph 14: Troll activity targets of TikTok #74046 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/74046>)

Troll Group: Youtube #71021

Youtube #71021, observed by AI Labs, is the most active troll group on Facebook, with 439 accounts participating in 3,122 stories.

Troll Accounts	Operated stories	Target entities
30	54	92

Table 17: Summary of Youtube #71021 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71021>)

Suspicious Accounts with Unusual Behaviors

YouTube #71021 engages in commenting on videos shortly after their release, entering the comment section early. This tactic serves a dual purpose: it guides the direction of discussions in the comment area (T0023.001 Reframe context) and also increases the video's interaction, thereby enhancing its reach (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.

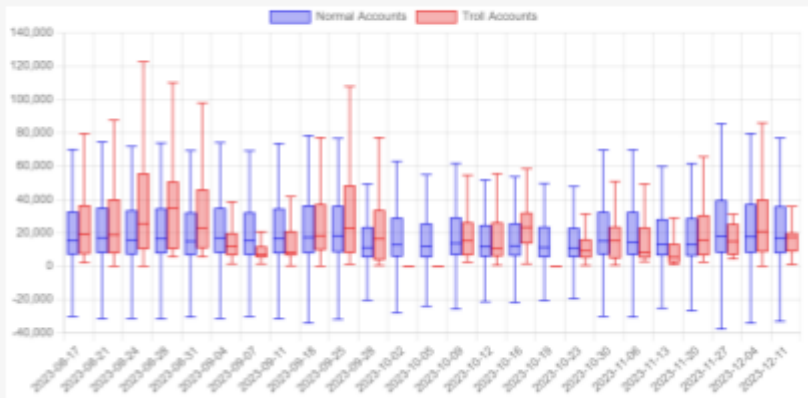
T0023.001
Reframe Context



Instant Commenting

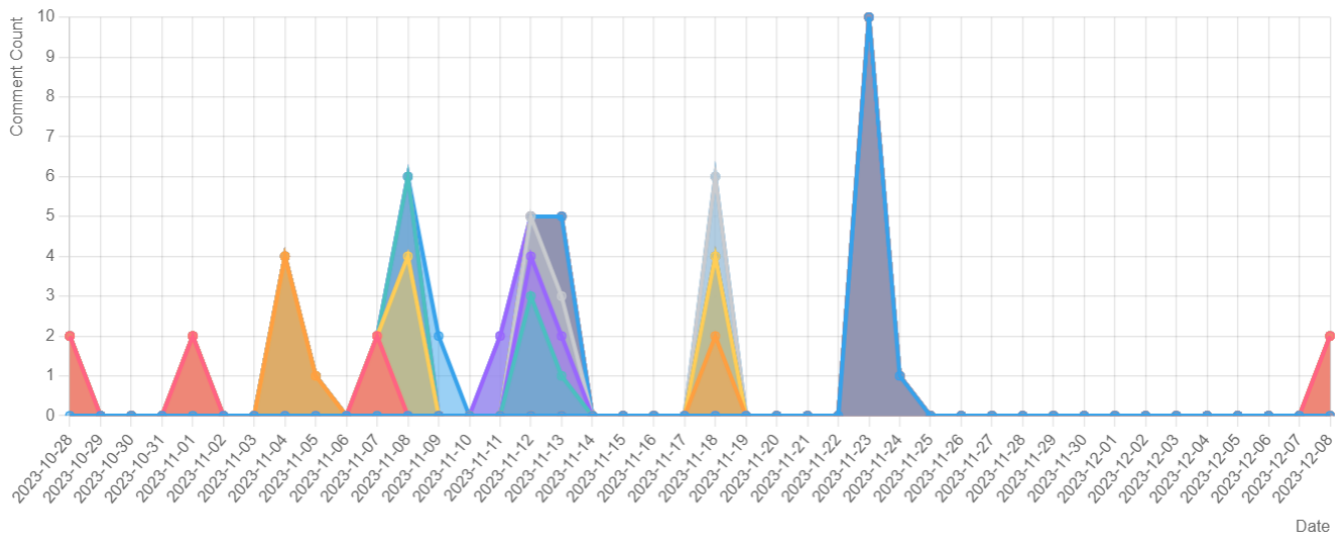
The timestamp of the comment minus the timestamp of the corresponding post, lower value means the commenter is more synchronized with the poster.

T0121
Manipulate Platform Algorithm



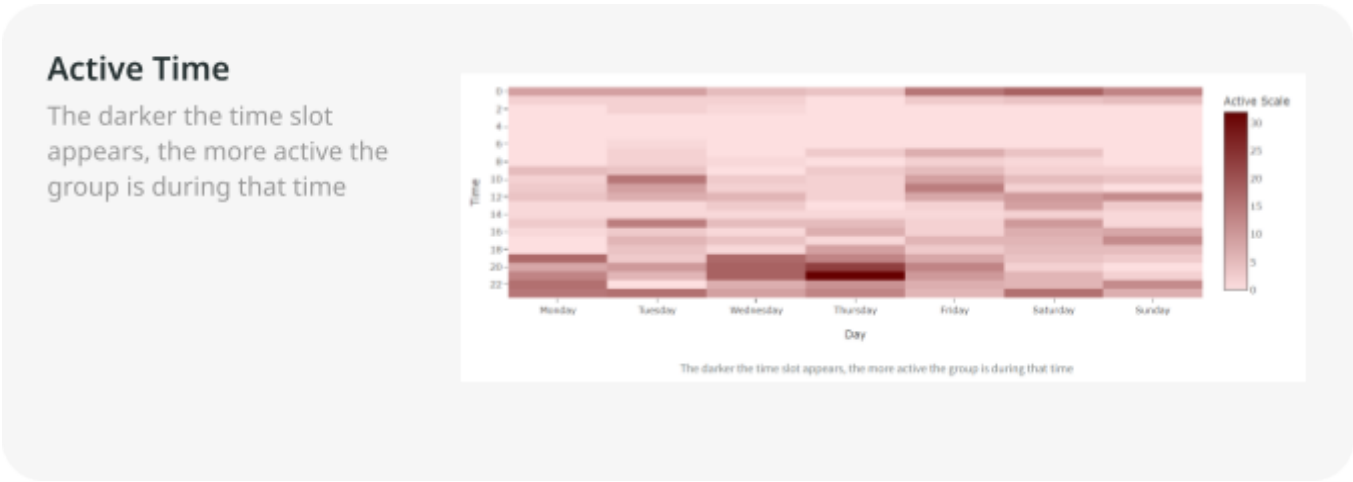
Operated Stories

YouTube #71021 is actively involved in discussions around the Taiwanese presidential election and the KMT-TPP collaboration issue. This troll group also shows interest in the events surrounding Li Keqiang's passing and the Israel-Hamas conflict. Their primary targets for attack include the KMT, the DPP, and Hou Yu-ih.



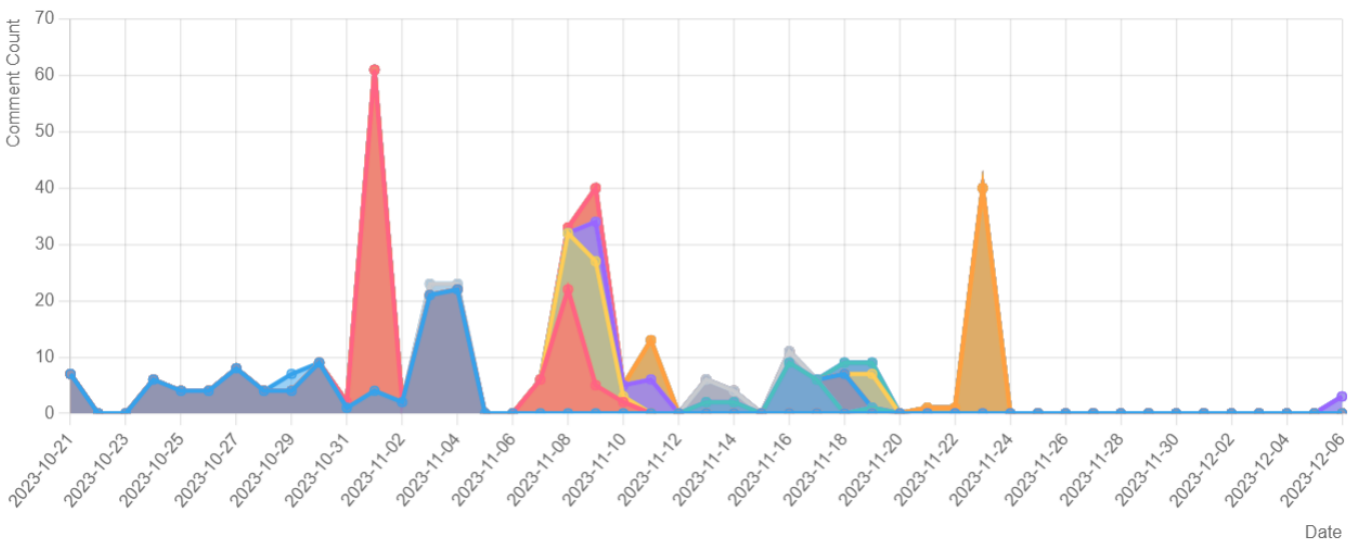
Graph 15: Operated stories of Youtube #71021 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71021>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
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%)
2023-10-26 20:15 2023-11-12 07:00	The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the State Council, the obituary of the CPPCC, the death of Comrade Li Keqiang	118,157	1,348 (1.14%)
2023-10-03 00:25 2023-11-07 18:37	The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the State Council, the obituary of the CPPCC, the death of Comrade Li Keqiang	849,534	26,843 (3.16%)



Operated Stories

YouTube #71319 is predominantly engaged in issues related to Taiwan's presidential election, including recent developments in the KMT-TPP collaboration. This group mainly supports Hou Yu-ih, while launching attacks against Ko Wen-je and the DPP.



Graph 17: Operated stories of Youtube #71319 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71319>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
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	849,534	26,843 (3.16%)

	mind		
2023-10-29 22:06 2023-11-11 10:57	Ke Wen-che won all 3 polls against Lai Ching-te Hou Ban: Commissioned polls at their own expense mislead the audio-visual	298,000	9,495 (3.19%)
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%)
2023-11-03 15:49 2023-11-10 12:12	Hou Hanpei without Hou Ke? Hou Yu-yi: Han Kuo-yu will work together	162,708	4,749 (2.92%)
2023-11-15 10:18 2023-11-20 10:23	Blue and white are out of harmony? Ko Wen-je shouted: Continue to fight to the end as the People's Party presidential candidate!	727,578	16,146 (2.22%)

Table 20: Top 5 operated stories of Youtube #71319 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71319>)

Targets of Troll Activities

Graph 18: Troll activity targets of Youtube #71319 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71319>)

Troll Group: Youtube #71341

Youtube #71341 is the third most active troll group on the Facebook platform observed by AI Labs, with 2 accounts and participation in 6 stories.

Troll Accounts	Operated stories	Target entities
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2	6	66
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Table 21: Summary of Youtube #71341 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71341>)

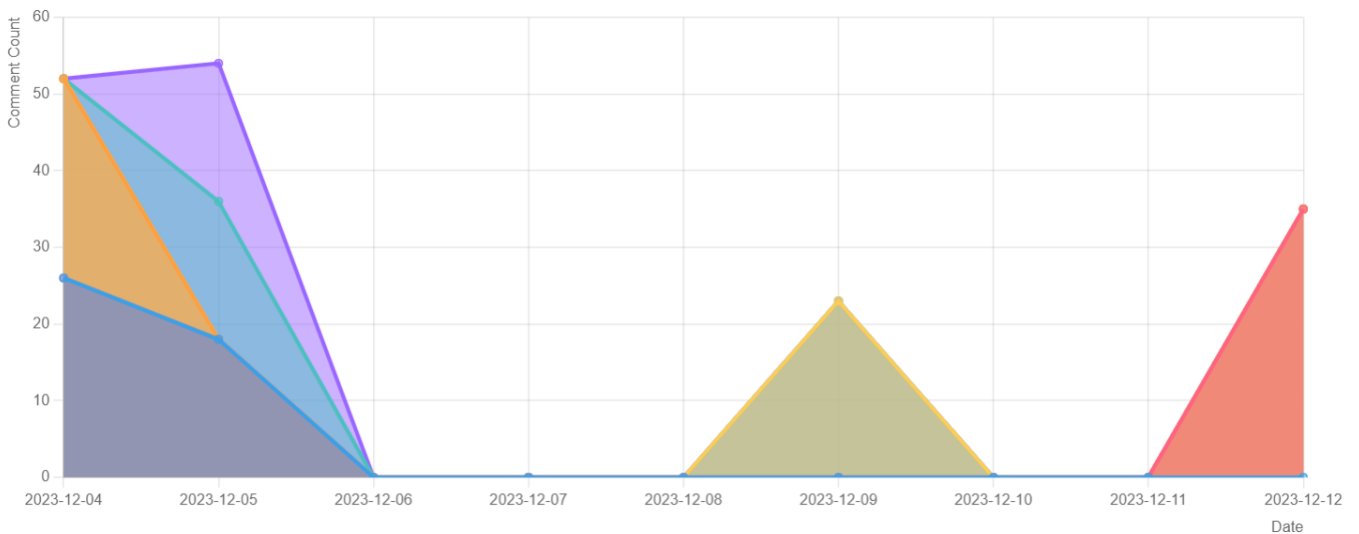
Suspicious Accounts with Unusual Behaviors

YouTube #71341's activity is highly focused, primarily active between 19:00 and 20:00 each day, with less activity observed from this troll group during the remaining hours.



Operated Stories

YouTube #71341 is mainly involved in events related to the Taiwanese presidency, such as the controversy surrounding Hsiao Bi-khim's nationality. Their primary targets of attack include the DPP, Lai Ching-te, and the United States.

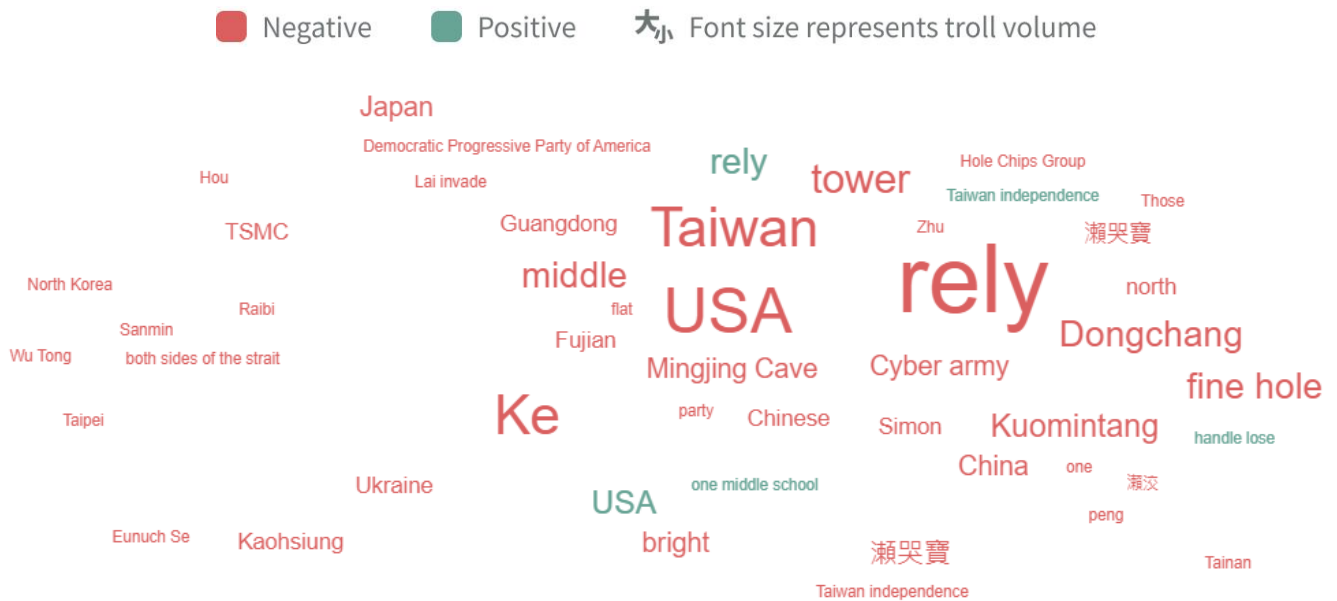


Graph 19: Operated stories of Youtube #71341 by timeline (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71341>)

Event time (UTC+8)	Title	Community volume	Troll volume (%)
2023-12-05 01:04 2023-12-05 11:21	Hsiao Mei-chin's motorcade sweeps the streets and goes deep into Lu Hsiu-yen's natal area	36,768	961 (2.61%)
2023-12-11 11:32 2023-12-11 14:39	Kuo Pei-hung protested against the Gaoshi government for bribing him and the village chief's political affairs department: Monitoring and investigation of bribery as a routine business	1,581	98 (6.20%)
2023-12-04 02:25 2023-12-04 20:22	Hsiao Mei-chin's nationality controversy... partner Lai Ching-te said "it's not a problem long ago": The Ministry of the Interior said that all three groups of candidates met the regulations	73,153	3,721 (5.09%)
2023-12-10 05:40 2023-12-12 08:26	The Blue Committee asked the Ministry of the Interior to show Hsiao Mei-chin's nationality certificate, and Lin Yu-chang responded	6,279	135 (2.15%)
2023-12-06 04:10 2023-12-06 07:20	News Perspective "Recognizes that Lai Xiao should abandon the platform of Taiwan independence after creating panic	3,965	205 (5.17%)

Table 22: Top 5 operated stories of Youtube #71341 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71341>)

Targets of Troll Activities



Graph 20: Troll activity targets of Youtube #71341 (from <https://infodemic.cc/collab/71341>)

References

- This report used data and tools in <https://infodemic.cc>
- How does the system work <https://infodemic.cc/en/faq>
- DISARM Disinformation Analysis and Risk Management is an open-source framework designed for describing and understanding 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/>