

# The Secret Playbook of Internet Trolls. “Disrupt, Misdirect and Control Internet Discussions”

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, March 26, 2017

[Washington's Blog](#) 21 August 2014

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

Relevant to the evolving Fake News saga, this incisive article was first published in 2014. The objective is to smear Truth in Media

*Pleased to meet you  
Hope you guess my name  
What's confusing you  
Is the nature of my game*

- *The Rolling Stones*

The reason that Internet trolls are effective is that people still don't understand their game.

There are [15 commonly-used trolling tactics](#) to [disrupt, misdirect and control](#) internet discussions.

As one interesting example, trolls start flame wars because - according to two professors - [swearing and name-calling shut down our ability to think and focus](#).

And trolls will often spew divisive attacks so that people argue against each other, instead of bad actions and policies of the powers-that-be. For example, [trolls will](#):

Start a religious war whenever possible using stereotypes like “all Jews are selfish”, “all Christians are crazy” or “all Muslims are terrorists”.

Yesterday, the alternative news site Common Dreams [caught a troll](#) using scores of different user names to spew anti-Semitic bile. (Common Dreams discovered that the same troll was behind the multiple user names by tracking their IP addresses. And the troll confessed to Common Dreams.)

The troll is a “a Jewish Harvard graduate in his thirties who was irritated by the website's discussion of issues involving Israel”.

He posted anti-Semitic diatribes - such as Hitler should have finished the job and killed all Jews - using one alias. Then - a couple of minutes later - he'd post an attack on the first poster using a *different* alias, claiming that criticism of Israel is the *same thing* as anti-Semitism. (Note: Holocaust survivors and Israeli ministers say [it's not](#).)

Why would a Jew post vile anti-Semitic comments? Because normal people are offended by

- and don't want to be associated with - pure, naked anti-Semitism, and so they will avoid such discussions. If the discussion was originally criticizing a specific aspect of *Israeli policy*, the discussion will break down, and the actual point regarding policy will be lost.

Similarly, anti-Semitic posts weaken websites by making them seem less reputable. Indeed, Common Dreams says that the troll's anti-Semitic comments *drove away many of that site's largest donors* ... dealing a severe blow to its continued viability. That's *exactly* what trolls spewing anti-Semitic bile are *trying* to do: shut down logical discussion and discredit and weaken sites which allow rational criticism of policy.

It is well-known that foreign governments and large companies troll online. See [this](#), [this this](#), and [this](#). For example, the Israeli government is [paying students](#) to post [pro-Israeli comments](#) online.

And American students are also [attempting to influence internet discussion](#).

While the Common Dreams troll claims that he's not sponsored by the state of Israel, [government agencies](#) have [manipulated Internet](#) discussion for years. This includes the use of [multiple "socket puppet"](#) aliases. The potential for mischief is [stunning](#).

*Unless we learn their game...*

The original source of this article is [Washington's Blog](#)  
Copyright © [Washington's Blog](#), [Washington's Blog](#), 2017

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Washington's Blog](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)