

ONLINE SAFETY INDUSTRY UPDATE

For people who care about online safety from people who care about online safety

Read the latest curated online safety news and information that is useful reading to anyone working in, or alongside, this space.

In this edition:

- How moving on from the techlash inspired conflict can increase collaboration and progress online safety
- A review of Twitter six months after the purchase by Elon Musk's X Corp
- A new report from Tech against Terrorism evaluates the distribution of terrorist content across different platform types, sizes and locations.
- Regulatory, research and updates from around the globe



Online safety needs greater collaboration with the tech industry

In the early 2000s when the tech industry was moving fast and breaking things, online safety leadership focused on building multistakeholder partnerships and consensus.

By the 2010s the online safety ecosystem had become increasingly divided as the techlash developed. Trust and real collaboration declined, and it impacted

the progress of online safety.

Online Safety Exchange CEO Martin Cocker argues it is time for online safety leaders to move away from techlash inspired confrontational approaches and focus on building the partnerships that can actually deliver a safer digital society.

[Read the full opinion piece](#)

Regulation Roundup

Updates from around the world.



Australia

The [Government response to the Select Committee on Social Media and Online Safety Report](#) commits to implementing the Online Safety Act, tackling gaps in the current framework, and improving cross Government coordination.



Canada

Ottawa is [planning to introduce an online safety bill](#) later this year. It is expected to impose a duty of care on platforms to protect children from harm – and ensure sites showing sexually explicit material have valid “age verification” for users.



UK

[Issues around encryption](#) continue to dominate debate on the The Online Safety Bill. Meanwhile, the [Information Commissioner's Office fined TikTok £12.7m](#) for failing to protect the privacy of children.



France

The Assemblée Nationale have [voted overwhelmingly in favour](#) of an anti-sharenting bill increasing protection for children's privacy rights online.

Six months into the new Twitter

Elon Musk purchased Twitter on October 27, 2022 vowing to introduce a “free speech absolutist” and highly efficient culture to the 15-year-old company. The online safety community raised concerns that reduced trust and safety resources would result in hate and crime on the platform increasing. We take a look at how things are going six months on.



75% less staff

Twitter now has less staff than it did in 2012 (1800 – down from 7500) and those remaining are [reported as saying they can't protect users from trolling](#).



100% less advisors

The Twitter Trust and Safety Advisory Council [was dissolved](#) as part of a reevaluation of how to best access external expert insights. There has been no update.



Twice the Hate

The Information Sciences Institute of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering [found hate speech has doubled](#). The ISD finds [antisemitic posts on Twitter has risen 105%](#).

Security issues

2FA using SMS for non-Twitter Blue subscribers [was removed in February 2023](#) weakening account security for many. The ex-head of security [shared](#) security practices were already woefully insufficient.

Stability issues

There has been a rise in [outages](#) since the takeover. These outages has been [attributed to](#) the downsizing of the engineering teams and ambitious plans for technical changes.

More, or less, users

[Over 33m users are predicted to exit the platform](#) this year but reports are mixed about the growth (or decline) of Twitter users so far. [Advertising reach appears](#) to be up, whilst [US users are reportedly down](#).

Research Updates

New global research.



Cyberbullying Research Centre

The collection of [empirical studies on cyberbullying](#) now includes research from 77 countries and makes for interesting reading.



Young and Resilient Research Centre

[Reimagining online safety education through the eyes of young people](#) outlines a framework co-designed with young people.



Google (Malaysia)

A survey conducted by Google Malaysia found that [72 percent of parents](#) were proactively educating themselves about online safety.

REPORT: Patterns of Online Terrorist Exploitation

[This report](#) draws on data taken from Tech Against Terrorism's Terrorist Content Analytics Platform (TCAP). It is packed with clear graphs and analysis. The report provides an assessment of the most at-risk tech platforms and offers practical recommendations.



Industry Safety Resources

Updated and/or new consumer focused safety resources.



Meta

Meta has announced that it's making its new [Meta Verified program](#) available to users in the US, which includes proactive account protection from impersonation (for \$12 USD per month).



Twitter

[Twitter will add labels to tweets that have been flagged](#) by the company to reduce their visibility describing it as a "freedom of speech, not reach" move increasing transparency.



Pinterest

Pinterest [announces new safety tools and parental controls](#) including expanded age verification requirements after an [NBC News investigation](#) exposes issues.

Watch and listen

Podcasts, vodcasts and videos on online safety related topics.



Cybersecurity Simplified

These [40 short \(roughly 15 minute\) podcasts](#), aimed at non-expert audiences from the



Tech Policy Grind

The Internet Law and Policy Foundry go on a North American Tour and provide [thoughts on ICANN76, WiCys '23, and](#)



Interface

Andy Phippen, Professor of Digital Rights at Bournemouth University [joins the SWGfL internet safety team to talk](#)

team at High Wire [IAPP's Global Privacy Summit](#)
Networks, cover a range of cyber security topics.

[about online sexual content, and its impact on young people.](#)

Expert commentary

[Sonia Livingstone's article on The rise and fall of screen time argues it is time to move on from ill-founded \(non\)issue](#)

[Anne Collier of Net Family News finds the new Utah Laws \(HB311 AND SB152\) to be disrespectful to teenagers rights to privacy and participation](#)

[Khalil Boughali of the Global Network on Extremism & Technology \(GNET\) reviews the New York Subway Shooter's Radical Discourse on Social Media](#)

Contribute

The [Online Safety Exchange](#) (OSX) develops products and services to serve and support the online safety community. If you would like to contribute or share something in the *Online Safety Industry Update*, please email martin@onlinesafetyexchange.org.

Find out how you can join the OSX community

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