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A video recently made rounds in the media, depicting a security operative of a political candidate in the presidential race to be throwing a teargas canister towards the same candidate on who's team he is. Watch this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt6S-jthTC8>.

A deep fake is an advanced stunt usually pulled off in these kinds of scenarios, but in this case it wasn't. This video was well put to divert attention from the reality. It was actually believable until NBS brought it out clearly as seen here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MccLQ_k_nPk

Fake news is defined as false and misleading information presented as news. It is often designed to damage a reputation of an individual or entity. Fake news is a big issue in the social space, especially as seen in competitive environments. Before we get the adverse effects of fake news, let's learn how this game is played.

1. First the dubious character creates a fake website, buys a cheap domain and hosts it. Its domain name is crafted out to closely resemble a real news site for example dailymonitor.com or newsvision.co.ug, on which they intend to host this information. (I'm sure you know what the actual sites are).
2. Then they will go on and steal information from sources like YouTube, and other mainstream media. This is what they edit to appeal to their desire for the targeted audience.
3. Then they sell ads on the site. This is usually the biggest motivation for Cyberattacks. Advertisers also buy sections of this site and pay per click of their ads.
4. When all is up and running, the perpetrator then shares widely on social media to attract more readers and clicks, making the click bait work. This is the point of making most of the ad sales.
5. The entire process is then repeated for as much as the fake 'newspreneur' is up on top of his game. Most times they get caught up with.

With the above chronology, we have seen some devastating effects of fake news, most evidently, the 2016 elections in the US that brought up controversy about how Trump was elected. Also, locally, the newly appointed URSB registrar general was hit at with a fake Instagram account created in her name. There are several others that are even yet to show up especially in this heated campaign season. How might we combat this though? This video https://youtu.be/vPAW5j_L4-c shows you some tips.

Some of the ways also that you can separate fake news from real news are as follows;

1. Check the source. If it's a website, check if it has a reputation for posting fake news
2. Don't judge a news article by its cover. Headlines are usually misleading, so read some more, you could unearth the truth along the way.
3. Take a look at the URL, it might be made to mimic a real site.
4. Check if other sources are publishing the same news in the same period, could be true!

There are some more tips to read at this site <https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/first-amendment-center/primers/fake-news-primer/>

The festive season is fast approaching, and we need to be on the look out for Cyberattacks of different kinds, including fake news. Are you ready for when this occurs to you?

Milima Security and Milima Cyber Academy have some really good discounted trainings should you want to up your Cybersecurity game. Check <https://mca.ac.ug/explore-courses/> or <https://www.milimatechnologies.com/>. Till next time Stay safe, cheers!