



Helping the tech industry tackle terrorist exploitation of the internet,
whilst respecting human rights

techagainstterrorism.org @techvsterrorism

An initiative launched by UN CTED



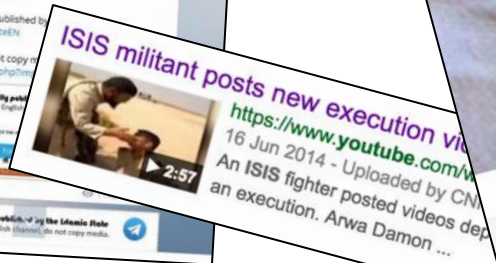
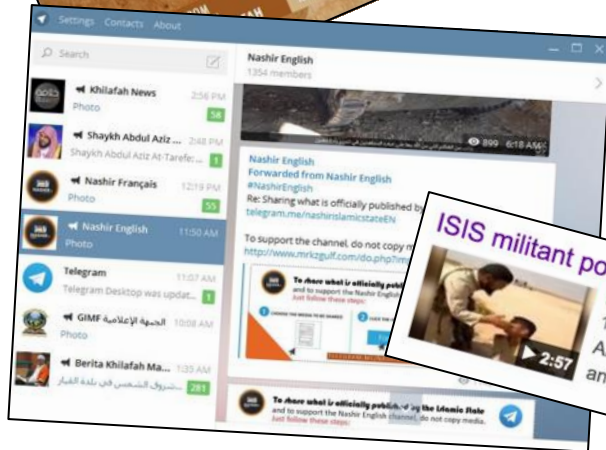
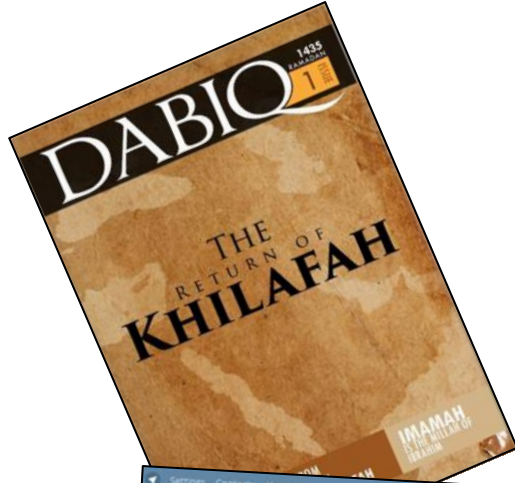
1. Challenge

2. Complication

3. Solution

1. The Challenge

B) Terrorist Exploitation takes place on all forms of internet tech



We focus on all forms of tech exploited by terrorists to publicise, recruit, and support operations



1

Propaganda, Radicalisation, Recruitment



Social media and Sharing Platforms



Content storage micro platforms, link generators

2

Operational



Comms, VPN, messaging, encryption, VoIP



Financial tech and payments

3

Future Threats

Blockchain, decentralised platforms, attacks on CNI / SCADA



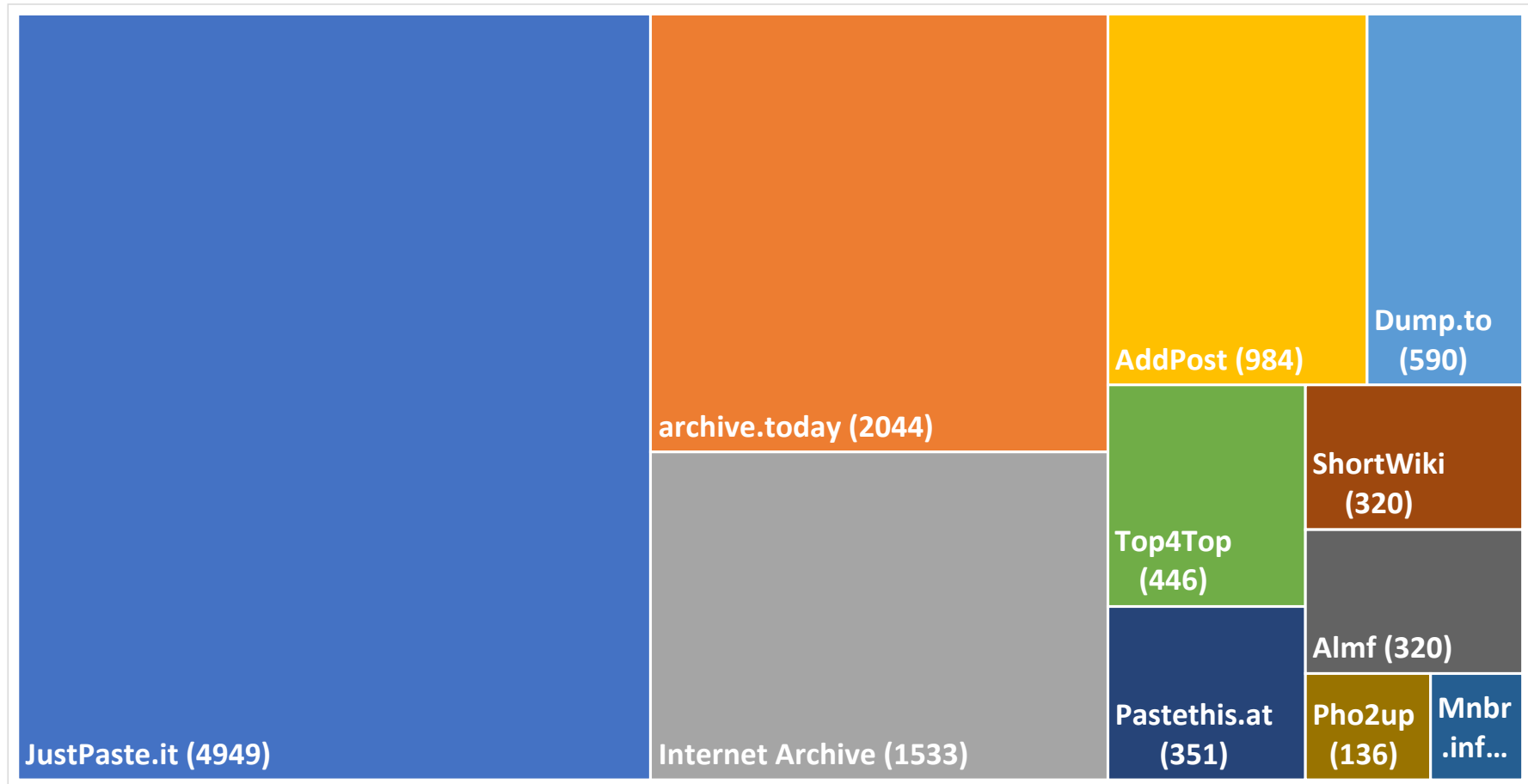
1. The Challenge

C) Terrorists largely exploit the very smallest tech platforms

Analysis of “IS Daily Report” URLs shows that the smaller and micro platforms are most exploited by ISIS



Summary of data gathered by H. Nagata coving IS daily reports (2014 – 2018) total = 11,868



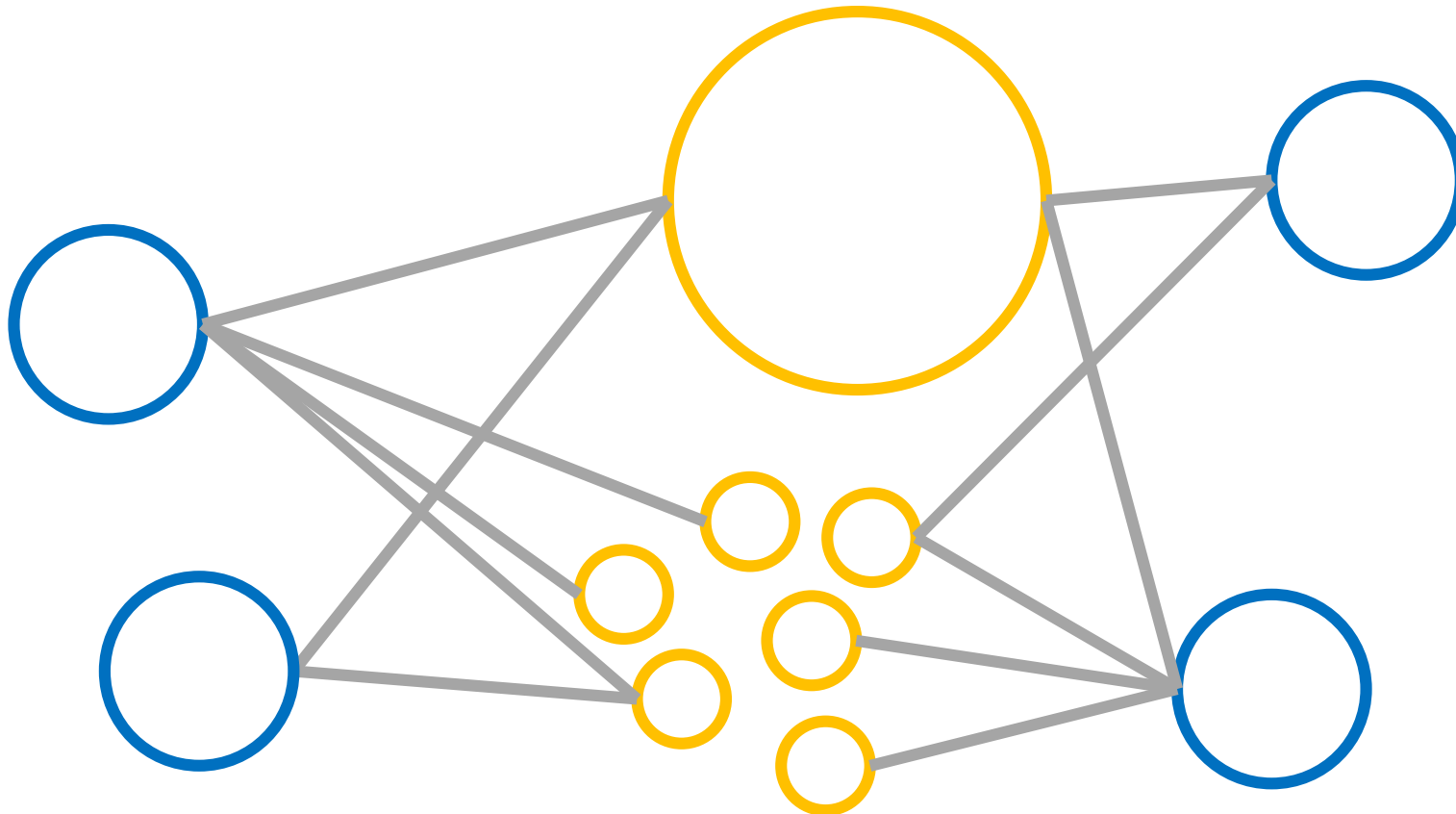
1. The Challenge

D) It's not just about violent terrorist content

2. The Complication

**A) This is a inefficient
many-to-many problem**

We have hundreds of government Stakeholders and hundreds of at-risk tech companies – how to optimize?



2. The Complication

B) How will traditional legal approaches adapt to the huge scale and fragmentation of the internet?

Industry-led self-regulation is an effective approach that can complement traditional regulation



Traditional law



Social norms

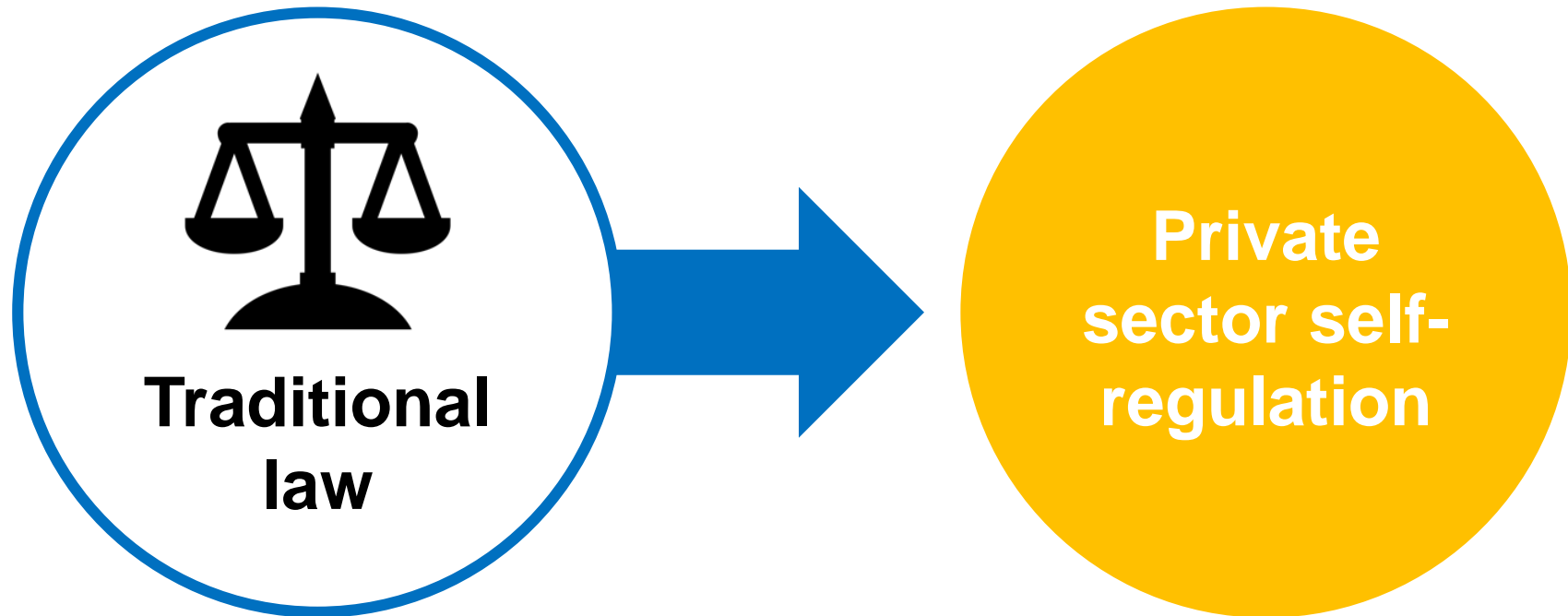


**Technical
architecture**



Market forces

States are increasingly delegating legal responsibilities



1. The Solution

A) Public-private partnership – our work with States and Internet Companies

Who are we? We work with a range of companies and stakeholders as Partners, Associate Partners, and Members



Partners

facebook.

Google

Microsoft



KASPERSKY lab

Telefonica



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



Associate Partners

ceerus

stripe

ISD | Powering new generations against extremism

SITE

love frankie

Members

Snap Inc.



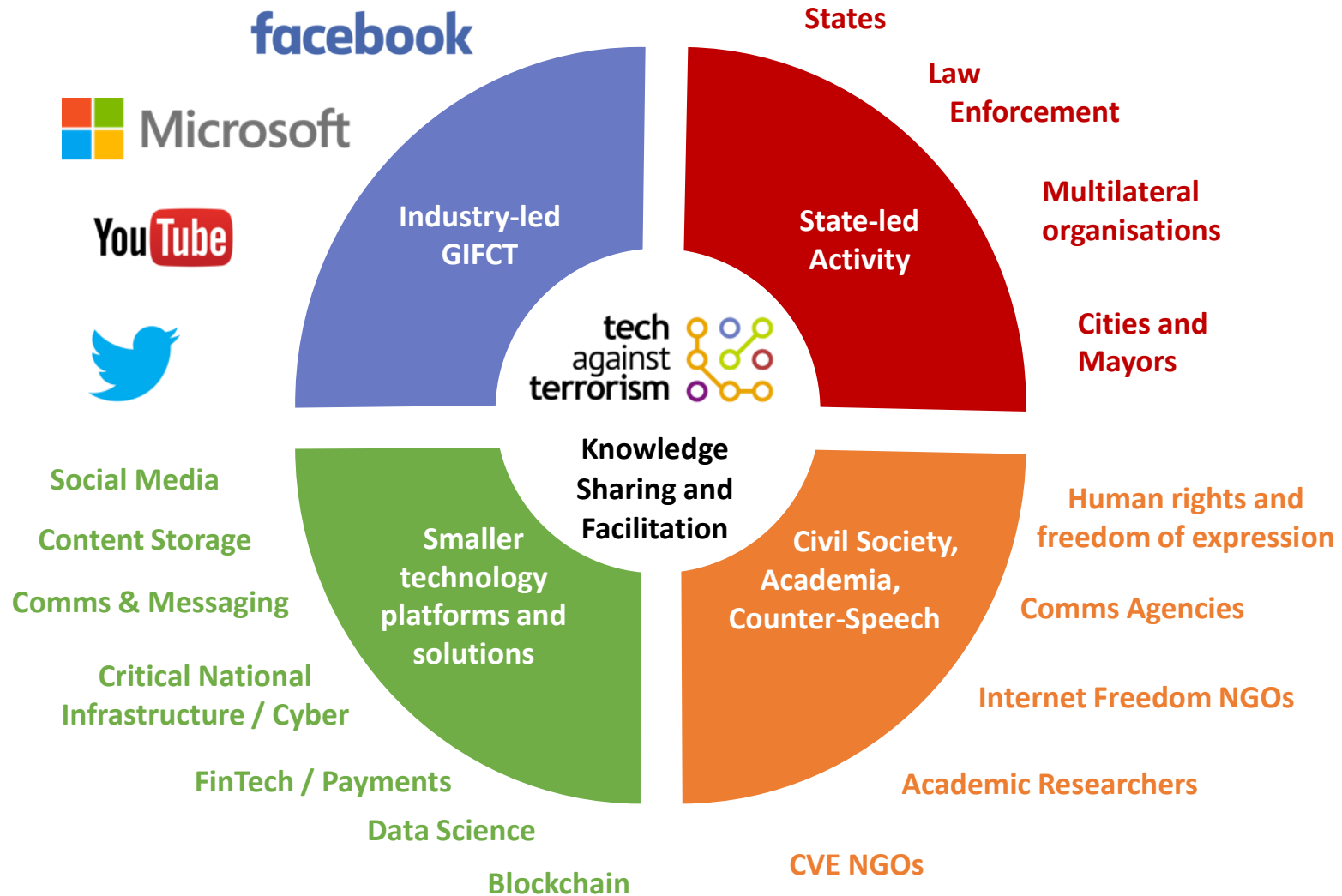
askfm yellow

JustPaste.it

Etsy

Revolut

Tech Against Terrorism is focused on improving ongoing knowledge sharing and facilitating improved dialogue



What's our mandate? We've been mandated by the UN Security Council to engage with startups and promote best practice



Resolution 2129 (2013)

- Notes the evolving nexus between terrorism and the internet and directs UN CTED to help address this through connecting in consultation with the private sector

Resolution 2354 (2017)

- Security Council welcomes the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives with focus on public-private partnership - describing the **TechAgainstTerrorism** initiative as good practice

Resolutions 2395 (2017) and 2396 (2017)

- Security Council recognizes the work of **TechAgainstTerrorism**

Where did we engage in 2016? We held workshops in Zurich, Silicon Valley, and Kuala Lumpur



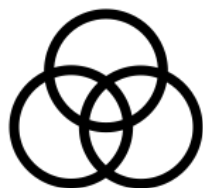
Conclusions: Through our consultations with the industry the limited capacity of startups was the biggest concern



**Respect for
human rights**



**Evidence-base is
limited**



**Significance of
OFFLINE**

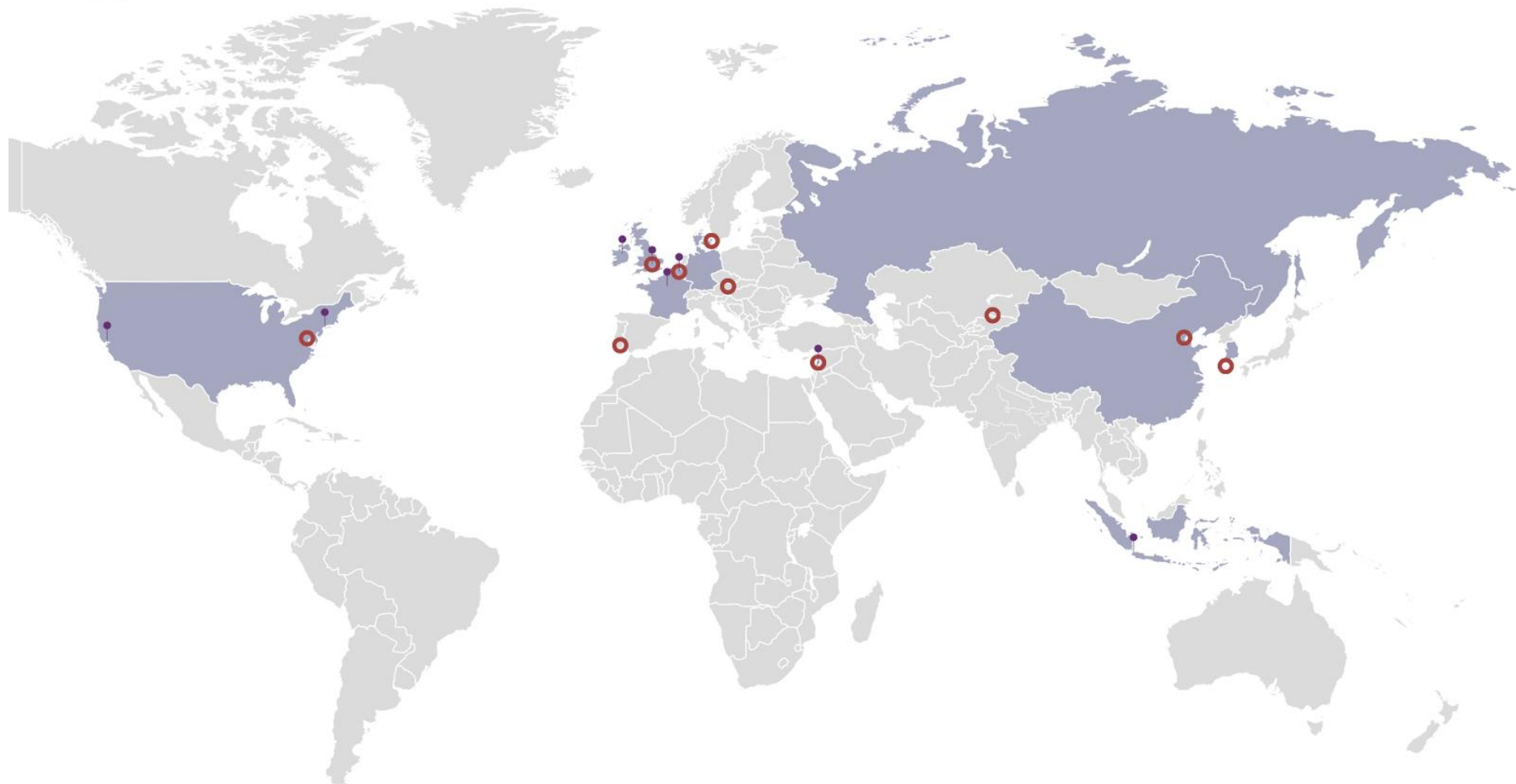


**Startups have
limited capacity**

3. The Solution

**B) Convening stakeholders
from across government and
private-sector**

Tech Against Terrorism engagement in 2017



● Countries where we engaged

United Kingdom	Lebanon
United States	Germany
France	China
Belgium	Russia
Indonesia	Denmark
Ireland	Republic of Korea

○ Workshop locations with companies

London	Brussels
San Francisco	Jakarta
New York	Dublin
Paris	Beirut

● Speaking Engagements

London	Lisbon
Washington DC	Jeju
Brussels	Vienna
Beirut	Copenhagen
Beijing	Bishkek

These workshops included industry representatives from technology, media, telecommunications, and finance



These workshops included governments and inter-governmental organisations and agencies



These workshops included leading civil society organisations and human rights groups



ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION



GLOBAL
NETWORK
INITIATIVE



OpenNet Initiative



accessnow



These workshops included academic institutions and think tanks who contributed papers for each of the meetings



3. The Solution

C) Concrete action to share knowledge and build capacity

Over 2018-2019 we're focussing on sustaining our outreach, deepening knowledge-sharing and developing practical tools



1 Outreach and building trust with platforms



Identify at-risk platforms



Develop relationships



Organise workshops



Membership Commitment

2 Knowledge-sharing and best practice



Case studies



Data Science Network



ToS, Takedown Transparency



Knowledge Sharing Platform

3 Capacity-building and operational support



Assessment tools



Standardised takedown reports

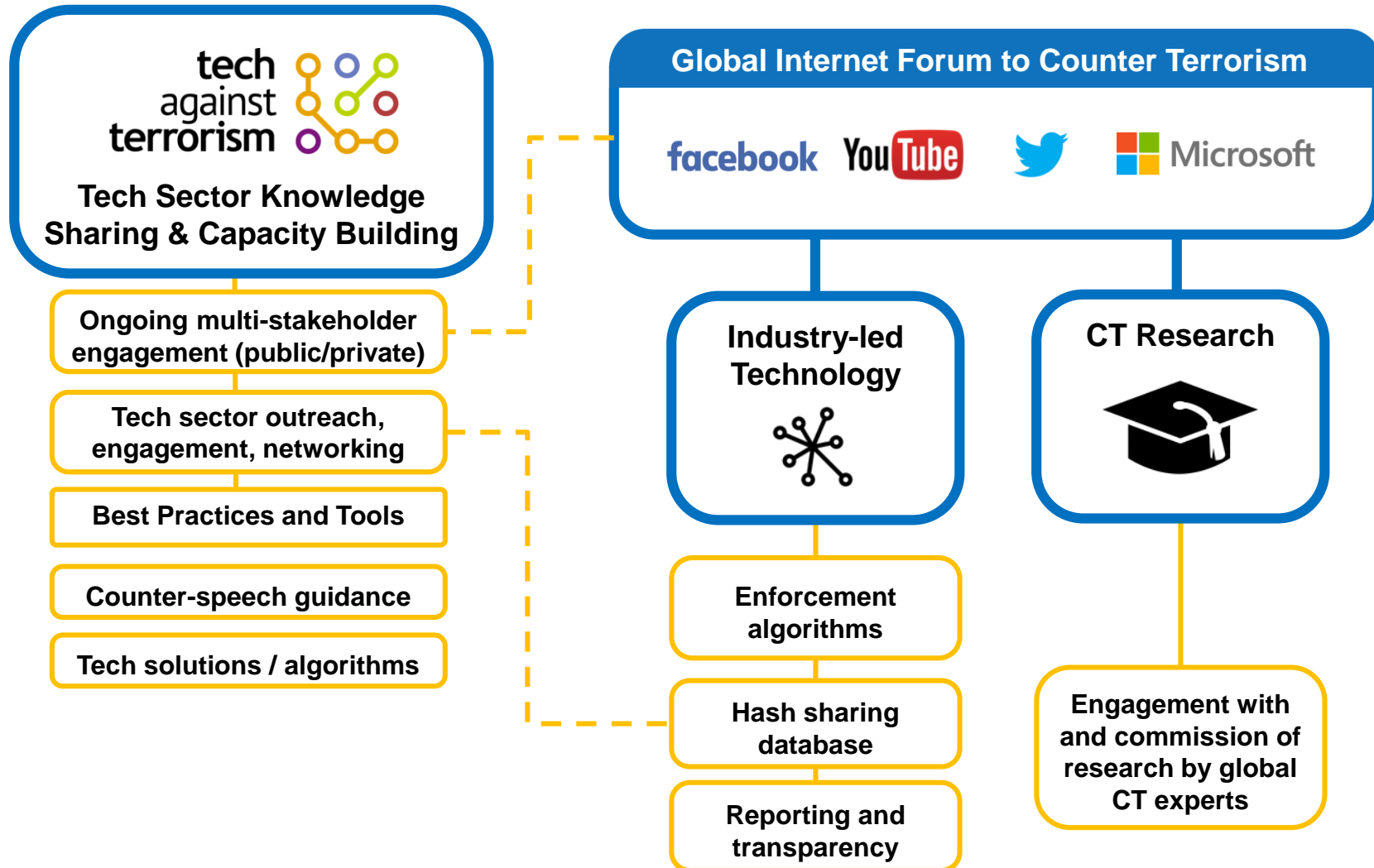


Standardised transparency reports



Terrorist content databases

The Tech Against Terrorism Project is supporting the GIFCT to facilitate knowledge-sharing and multi-stakeholder engagement



We will build online tools: Risk Assessment Tool, Mitigation Assessment Tool, ToS Creator, and launch a “Trustmark”



3A

**Risk
Assessment**

3B

**Mitigation
Assessment**

3C

**ToS Creator
and Voluntary
Pledge**



3D

**TechAgainstTerrorism
Trustmark**

Display the Trustmark to show that you have considered the risks and defended yourselves against possible terrorist exploitation of your tech



Once companies have agreed with our 8 principles for membership, we award the Tech Against Terrorism Trustmark



- 1 Complete the Assessment Tools with minimum score**
- 2 Agree to the Tech Against Terrorism Pledge**
- 3 Commit to explicitly prohibit terrorist usage**
- 4 Commit to improving transparency reporting**
- 5 Confirm ability to receive and action takedown requests**
- 6 Commit to exploring new tech solutions including machine learning**

3. The Solution

E) Searching for best practice

We approach tackling terrorist exploitation in three ways: Community Guidelines, Moderation, and Transparency





Tech Against Terrorism is supporting the tech industry tackle terrorist exploitation of the internet, whilst respecting human rights.

Our project website: www.techagainstterrorism.org

Our 4-Step programme to support the tech industry.



Assessment Process

Helping you evaluate the risk and advise on mitigation processes



The Pledge

Six principles ensuring the protection of human rights



Award Trustmark

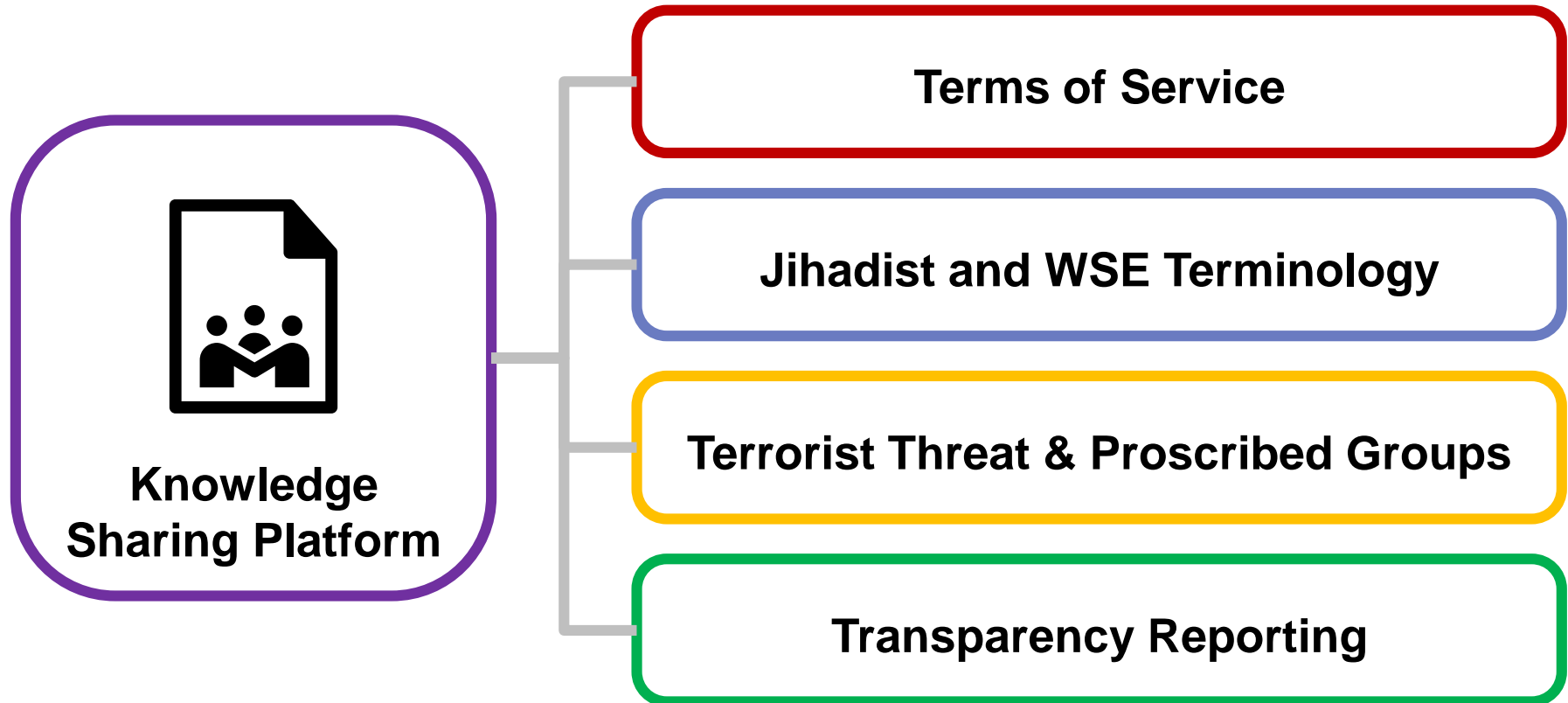
Eligible companies are accepted onto our initiative



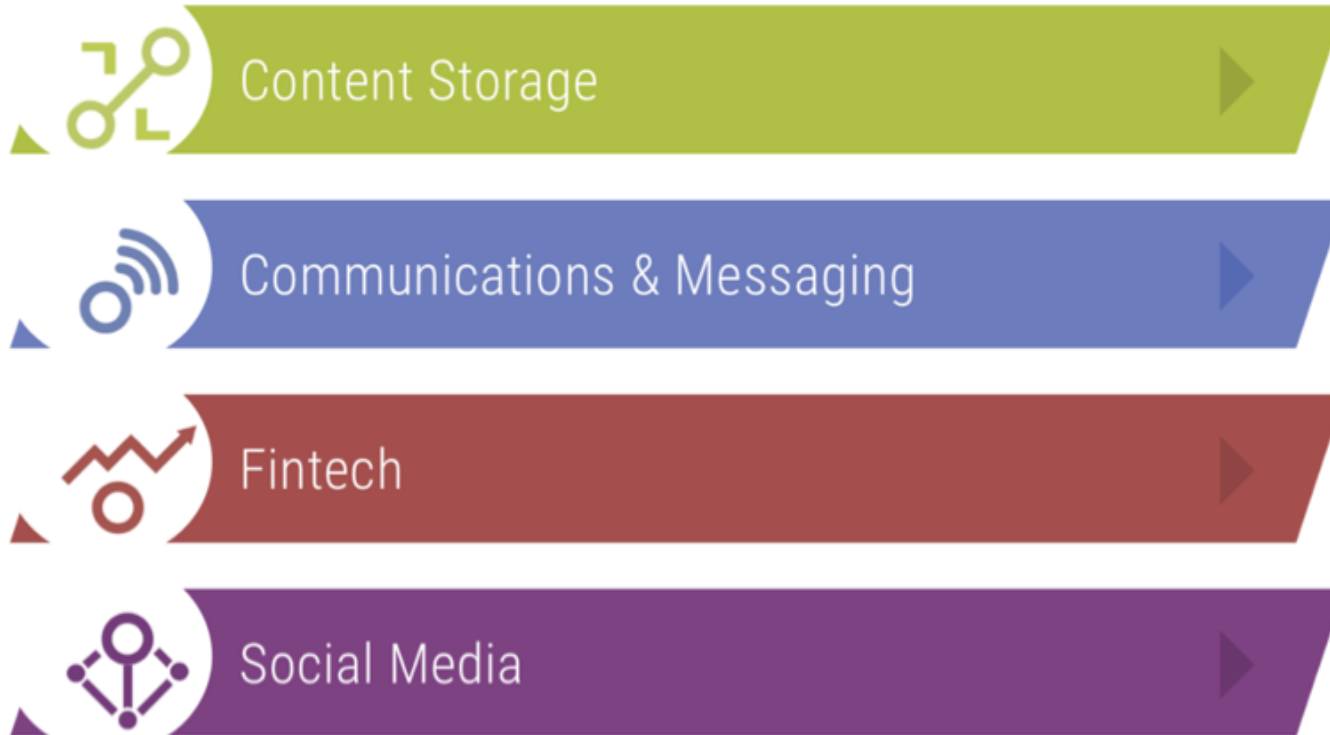
Knowledge Platform

Gain access to tools and resources

The KSP was launched at the UN in 2017 and includes content and guidance for micro, small, and medium-sized platforms




We have created Assessment Tools specific to the four major technology types



Knowledge Sharing Platform: Assessment Forms



 Tech Against Terrorism Membership Research Events Knowledge sharing platform Account

6%

Communications and Messaging Assessment

- How many people does your company employ?

6 – 10
- How many customers does your platform currently have?

10,000 – 99,999
- What best describes the majority of your user base?

INDIVIDUALS

☐ Businesses

☒ Individuals

☐ Mixed use cases

☐ Prefer not to say
- What best describes your business model?

Select only one

4/55



Knowledge Sharing Platform: Terms of Service

<u>Banned categories of content / conduct – communications platforms</u>					
	HATE SPEECH	VIOLENT / GRAPHIC CONTENT	ILLEGAL ACTIVITY	THREATENING MATERIAL	TERRORISM
WHATSAPP	TS	TS	TS	TS	
KIK	CG TS	CG TS	CG TS	CG	CG
VIBER	CG	CG	CG	CG	
LINE	TS	TS	TS		
SNAPCHAT	CG	CG	CG TS	CG	CG
VOXER	TS		TS		
WICKR			TS	TS	
WECHAT	CG	CG	CG	CG	




Knowledge Sharing Platform: Proscribed Groups

TERMS OF SERVICE		TERMINOLOGY	MAPS	PROSCRIBED GROUPS	TRANSPARENCY	GUIDELINES
<input type="text" value="groups"/>		<input type="text" value="Country"/>				
NAME	RESOLUTION	LISTED ON	COUNTRY	INFORMATION		
AL-QAIDA	S/RES/1267 (1999)	10/6/01	Afghanistan Pakistan	Founded by Osama bin Laden in 1988, the group's leadership has throughout its existence been based in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Today, al-Qaeda branches, offshoots, and allies operate in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, with these sub groups carrying out the majority of the attacks linked to the group. Although all al-Qaeda groups can be said to follow a Salafist Jihadi doctrine, not all groups agree on every single matter. Rather, al-Qaeda branches and offshoots have in many cases succeeded in adapting to local dynamics, with the central leadership providing spiritual and financial guidance from its headquarters.		
ISLAMIC STATE IN				ISIS grew out of al-Qaeda in Iraq, a group that attracted many former Ba'athist military commanders to its ranks. Officially broke ties with al-Qaeda in 2013, when the group was established in its current format. In 2014, its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the formation of the organisation's "caliphate" after the group had seized large swathes of land in Syria and Iraq. ISIS has since lost the majority of its territory, but continues to pose a military threat both in Syria, Iraq and in the West.		



Knowledge Sharing Platform: Terminology

Tech Against Terrorism Membership Research Events Knowledge sharing platform Account

tech against terrorism

KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM

TERMS OF SERVICE

TERMINOLOGY

MAPS

PROSCRIBED GROUPS

TRANSPARENCY

GUIDELINES

Search

Category

TERM	CATEGORY	TYPE	ORIGINAL	DEFINITION	
Al-Muwahhidun	Islamist	Arabic	الموحدين	Wahhabi/ Salafist description of themselves	[1]
al-Naba	Islamist	Arabic	النبا	ISIS' online weekly newsletter	
Al-Saloul	Islamist	Arabic	الصلول	Intentional distortion of the al-Saud name	[2]
al-Wafa Media Foundation	Islamist	Arabic	مؤسسة الوفاء للإنتاج الإعلامي	ISIS-linked media center posting propaganda and other material on various online platforms.	
Al-Wala'a Wal Bara	Islamist	Arabic	الولاء و البراء	Loyalty and disavowal. The principle of loyalty to God and rejection of other religions and non-Muslims.	[3]
Alt-light	Far-right	Alt-right		Coined by white supremacist Richard Spencer in 2008, alt-right now refers to a loosely-knit movement of white supremacists, white nationalists and neo-Nazis	[4]



Transparency Reporting: Industry responses

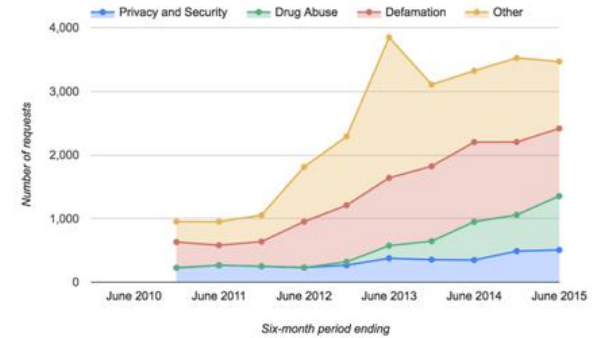


Country	Requests for User Account	Percentage of Content Restrictions
Afghanistan	1	0%
Albania	5	80.00%
Argentina	892	71.30%
Armenia	8	75.00%
Australia	802	73.57%
Austria	54	33.33%
Azerbaijan	4	0%
Bangladesh	12	16.67%
Belarus	1	0%
Belgium	290	77.24%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	40.00%
Brazil	1,655	41.27%
Brunei	1	0%
Canada	427	79.63%
Chile	285	70.53%
Colombia	142	58.45%
Croatia	11	90.91%



Removal requests by the numbers

[See all data](#)



Requests Items Totals Reasons Products Branch



A “one-stop shop” to log-in and assess cases of suspected public exploitation

An alert system to facilitate improved intelligence sharing among smaller platforms

Regular intelligence to be provided by a range of data sources and suppliers (from private intelligence to academic)

Shared database and management system that will support existing initiatives such as GIFCT “hash-sharing database”

MOTHERBOARD

This Custom-Made Jihadi Encryption App Hides Messages in Images

Forbes

5 Ways Facebook Uses Artificial Intelligence To Counter Terrorism

middle east online

Will Artificial Intelligence Help Neutralise ISIS Propaganda Online?

TE TechCrunch

UK wants tech firms to build tools to block terrorist content

FINANCIAL TIMES

Social media faces EU '1-hour rule' on taking down terror content

Brussels ramps up pressure over detecting and deleting hate speech

REUTERS

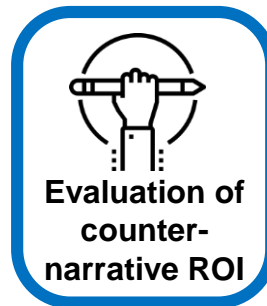
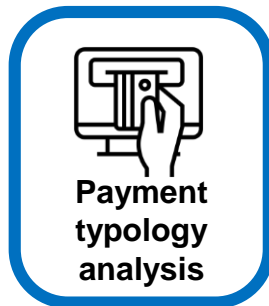
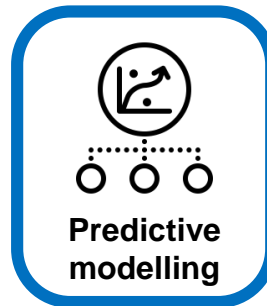
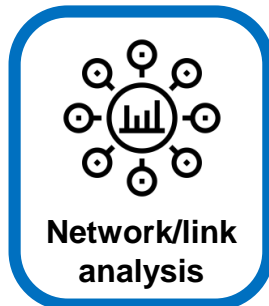
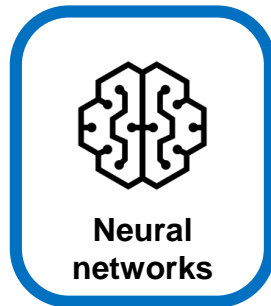
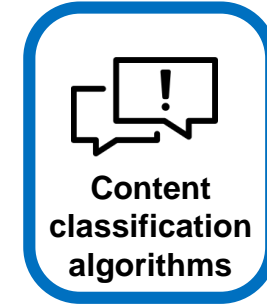
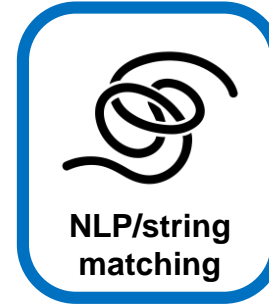
EU piles pressure on internet giants to remove extremist content

The Guardian

'YouTube Islamist' Anwar al-Awlaki videos removed in extremism clampdown



The Data Science Network: Responding to the problem





Key questions for evaluating data science solutions

1. How can we practically support the smallest platforms of greatest concern?
2. How do we ensure that our response is proportionate, constructive, and based on the rule of law?
3. How do we include a diversity of views from civil society?
4. How do we behave in a transparent way?

tech against terrorism



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