

The Future of Communication in the Time of Fake News

FCC approves SpaceX's ambitious
satellite internet plans

Starlink is well on its way to serving
customers on Earth



Earlier this year, SpaceX launched the first two of its planned 12,000-satellite constellation. It appears that the company is starting out with a 4,425-satellite array, with the FCC requiring it launch at least half of those units within the next six years.

SpaceX is slated to start launching operational satellites for the network starting next year, when it will be going head to head with competing space internet provider OneWeb.

The Decline of Trust in News Media

Journalism's relationship with the public is at the brink of crisis, if not already in the throes. Public trust in journalism is in decline and to restore confidence, the industry needs to ramp up efforts and engage in trust building exercises.


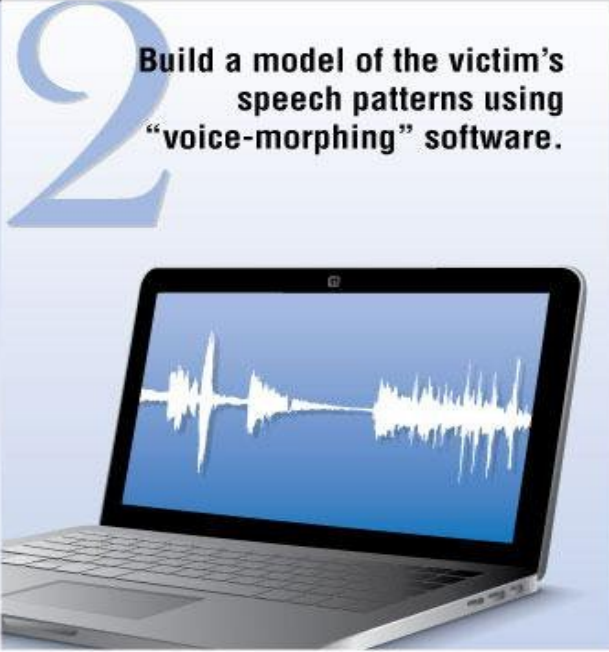



A University of Alabama group have been working on voice impersonation. With a mere three-five minute voice sample, which can be culled live or from sources such as TV shows and YouTube video, jokers can emulate that voice. The digital jesters can then talk into a microphone, and convert it live so the words sound like they're being spoken by a particular individual — those inclined could even phone someone and pretend to be that individual.

How a “voice impersonation” attack works

With just a few minutes of audio samples, attackers can imitate your voice well enough to trick humans and state-of-the-art digital security systems, according to new UAB research.

Here's how it's done:

- 1 Collect samples in person or online.**

- 2 Build a model of the victim's speech patterns using "voice-morphing" software.**

- 3 Use the model to say virtually anything in the victim's voice, from passwords to entire conversations.**


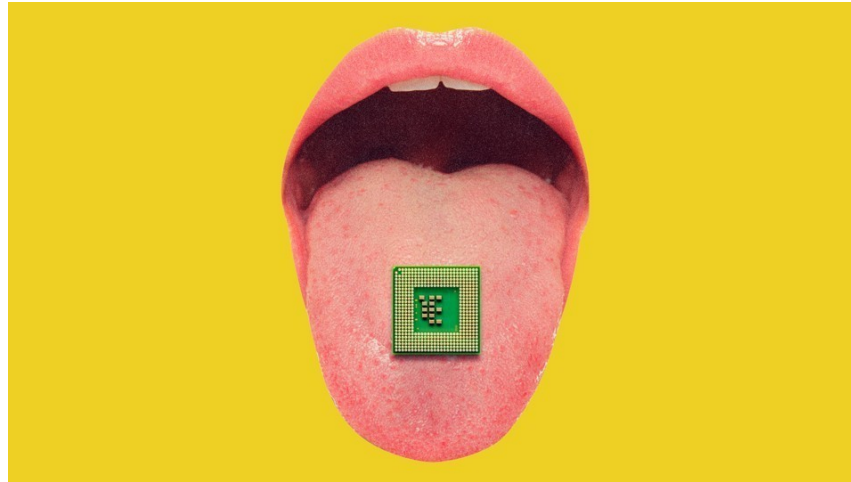
The UAB team is developing smarter verification systems and other defense strategies to defeat voice imitation attacks.

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
Knowledge that will change your world

The Era of Fake Video Begins

The digital manipulation of video may make the current era of “fake news” seem quaint.

MAY 2018



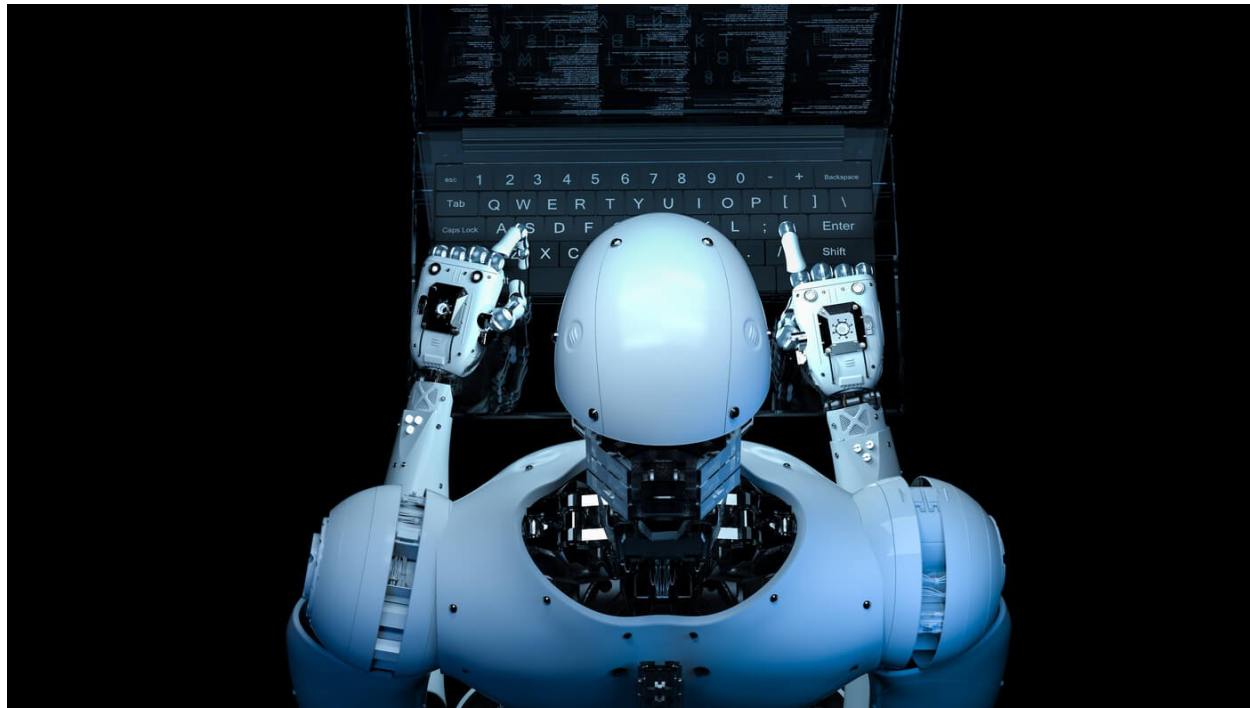
New Digital Face Manipulation Means You Can't Trust Video Anymore

Facial Capture and Re-mapping

<https://singularityhub.com/2016/05/13/new-digital-face-manipulation-means-you-cant-trust-video-a>

TED Talks—Christine Amanpour

https://www.ted.com/talks/christiane_amanpour_how_to_seek_truth_in_the_era_of_fake_news#t



This Startup Is Training AI to Gobble Up the News and Rewrite It Free of Bias

Knowhere launched earlier this month, alongside an announcement that it had raised \$1.8 million in venture capital. The site uses AI to aggregate news from hundreds of sources and create three versions of each story: one skewed to the left, one skewed to the right, and one that's meant to be impartial.

Natural language processing algorithms trawl through more than a thousand news sources to identify popular stories.... It analyzes these stories for narrative, facts, and bias and uses the resulting database to put together three versions of the story. In non-political stories the categories are impartial, positive, and negative.

These stories can be written in anywhere from 1 to 15 minutes, depending on how much disagreement there is between sources and human editors, who then give the article a once-over before it goes live.

The company says its aim is to get machines to do what humans can't: sift through the flood of stories written about major events to distill the most salient facts and narratives.

“We are practicing a form of journalism that overcomes information overload and its resulting silos, attempting to reconcile the many different narratives spun out of every story, and taking our first steps towards a truly comprehensive and comprehensible source of record for all” ...

The problem **Knowhere** is dealing with is [that] even if the facts in a story are true, the way they are presented can be tweaked to support a particular agenda, and pretty much all news organizations are guilty of this to varying degrees.

Even with the best will in the world, it's hard to avoid, because so much of what journalists write about is subjective. It's not possible to have a completely unbiased opinion about politics or religion, and a writer or editor's beliefs will undoubtedly seep into their copy.

The company's hope is that by taking a broad sample of news sources all biased to different extents, they can identify a middle way. They eventually plan to do away with the three versions and simply publish the impartial one.

Regarding every statement or story released by a government agency, instead of assuming it is factual, rather consider it as an **advertisement.**

TED-Ed

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-to-choose-your-news-damon-brown>