



Myanmar Inauthentic Behavior Takedown

Multiple Clusters of Pages and Websites
Pushed Large-Scale Clickbait, Small
Volume of Political Content

Léa Ronzaud, C. Shawn Eib, Camille François,
Avneesh Chandra, Victoire Rio and Myat Thu

10.2020

Takedowns

Myanmar Inauthentic Behavior Takedown

Multiple Clusters of Pages and Websites Pushed Large-Scale Clickbait, Small Volume of Political Content

Léa Ronzaud, C. Shawn Eib, Camille François, Avneesh Chandra, Victoire Rio and Myat Thu

Executive Summary

On October 21, Facebook published examples of inauthentic networks that it had taken down over the past several months for inauthentic behavior. The cases included 655 pages and 12 groups that were based in Myanmar. The pages formed a number of distinct clusters that appeared to be primarily designed to drive traffic to websites with a view to profit from advertising, both on Facebook and via the associated web domains. Each page typically shared content from just one web domain at a time. Multiple pages, in turn, shared content from the same domain, forming distinct clusters that served as an amplification network.

Some of the domains shared identical content and were associated with just one Google Analytics and/or Google AdSense account, suggesting that they were part of networks operated by the same entities. Some of the networks showed some degree of interconnection over time, while others appeared to be distinct.

The assets in the takedown had very high follower numbers. Dozens of the pages had over 1 million followers each, with the largest having over 5 million at the time of the takedown; scores more had followers in the hundreds of thousands. They produced large volumes of content and generated millions of interactions.

The pages appeared to operate for profit. The websites to which they linked often carried ads; some of the Facebook pages carried sponsored posts for commercial products. The majority of the content posted focused on celebrities and gossip; but in the years of their activity the pages also posted a small portion of content dealing with more political subjects or posted about the Myanmar army. A few posts in 2019-20 mentioned the Arakan Army or Rakhine state; a few from 2017 included elements of [dangerous speech](#), notably against Muslims. In an illustration of the porous border between commercial spam and politically-oriented operations, blends of “lifestyle” clickbait with political content have been observed historically both in commercial spam

operations, and in influence operations that were attributed to the Myanmar military in [2018](#) and [2019](#) (a more recent [takedown](#) of Myanmar military assets [focused](#) primarily on the Army itself).

Facebook Activity

In its report on inauthentic behavior, Facebook said that the Myanmar takedown assets were “tied to a number of separate spam networks that distributed clickbait to drive traffic to ad-heavy domains in Myanmar. These networks misled people about the purpose of their Pages and used fake accounts to evade our limits on the frequency of posting. The people behind this behavior created Pages and Groups that were made to look independent of each other and posted at high rates to drive people to connected ad-heavy websites.

“In an attempt to build audiences, they posted content ranging from celebrity gossip to local news. A minority of posts from some of these networks and their ad-heavy websites focused on politics in Myanmar, including support for the military and references to ethnic tensions. We did not see evidence of these networks being politically motivated. Instead, they focused on current events most likely to drive clicks and redirect traffic to off-platform domains.”

Graphika reviewed the assets before they were taken down. The pages made up a number of distinct clusters, some of them with differences in the detail of their behavior. Nevertheless, they used some of the same basic techniques, especially in their tendency to mass-post clickbait content and to work in clusters to drive traffic to a single website at high frequencies.

The pages had very large audiences and engagement figures, comparable with popular verified pages in Burmese entertainment and celebrity life.

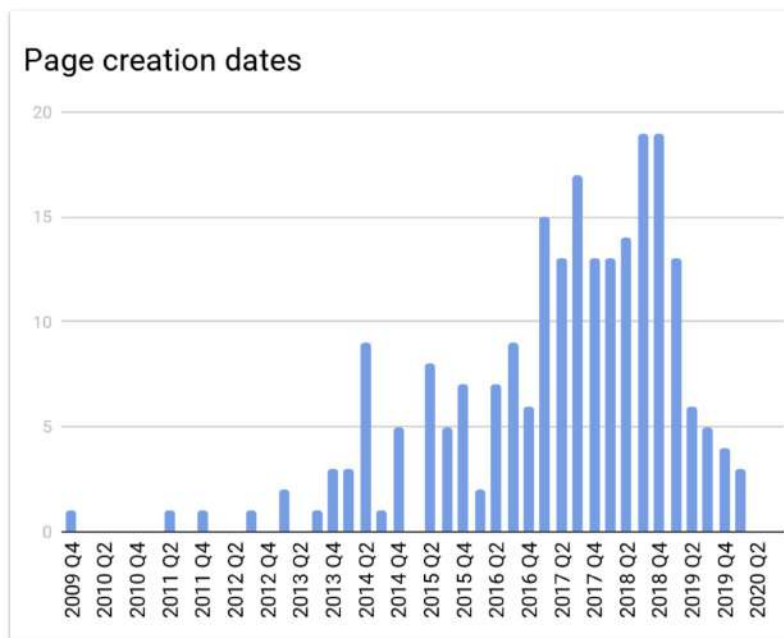
The page with the highest engagement had gained 5.4 million likes by the time it was taken down. Sixty-four other pages each had over 1 million likes, and 438 pages had over 100,000 likes each. For comparison, the verified page [Myanmar Celebrity TV](#) had 10.3 million likes as of October 20. The verified pages of leading newspapers [7Day News](#) and the [Myanmar Times](#) had 25 million and 4.9 million likes respectively.

For context and scale on these numbers, a list of 14 “entertainment media” pages from Myanmar on Crowdtangle, including the verified pages for [Myanmar People Magazine](#) and TV stations [MRTV-4](#) and [Channel 7 Myanmar](#), had a combined total of 27 million likes by mid-October. A Crowdtangle list of 40 celebrities that included the verified fan pages for actor [Sai Sai Kham Leng](#), actress [Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi](#) and rock singer [Lay Phyu](#) had a combined total of 44 million likes.

At the time of the takedown, the 14 most engaged-with pages that Graphika reviewed had a combined total of 40 million likes. The 40 most engaged-with pages had a total of just over 80 million likes.

These pages appeared to be part of separate networks, so their reach was not equal, but the audiences of the largest clusters made the operators of these networks a notable presence in the Myanmar online ecosystem.

The portfolios of pages grew over time, but especially from 2017 onwards. One page was created at the end of 2009, and two were created in 2011. There was a small spike in page creation in mid-2014, but by far the bulk of page creations came in 2017-18. Out of a sample of 200 pages, 113 were created in 2017-18, with 18 of them created from September to October 2018 alone.



Quarterly creation dates for a sample of 200 pages in the set, showing the surge in asset creation from the end of 2016 onwards.

Inauthentic Behavior

Across the different clusters, the pages typically displayed high-velocity posting behaviour: some pages posted dozens of times a day. Others posted in a way that suggested automation: for example, a number of pages repeatedly made the same post twice in a row, a few seconds apart, so repetitively that it suggests an automation system that had been poorly programmed. They primarily shared links to websites with relatively standardized text commentary (often no more than the headline), rather than posting a broader range of content. All this is consistent with spam networks whose primary goal is to drive readers towards ad-laden websites.

Spam Activity

The pages were marked by spammy behavior. Most of the pages analyzed by Graphika did not have diversified sources for the content they posted. Instead, one page tended to focus on one website only and spam its content on the platform, with a few exceptions where pages shared content from up to three different websites. Some pages with no apparent or declared ties between them posted content from the same website. This method, coupled with their intensive posting and significant following, offered the website high visibility on Facebook.

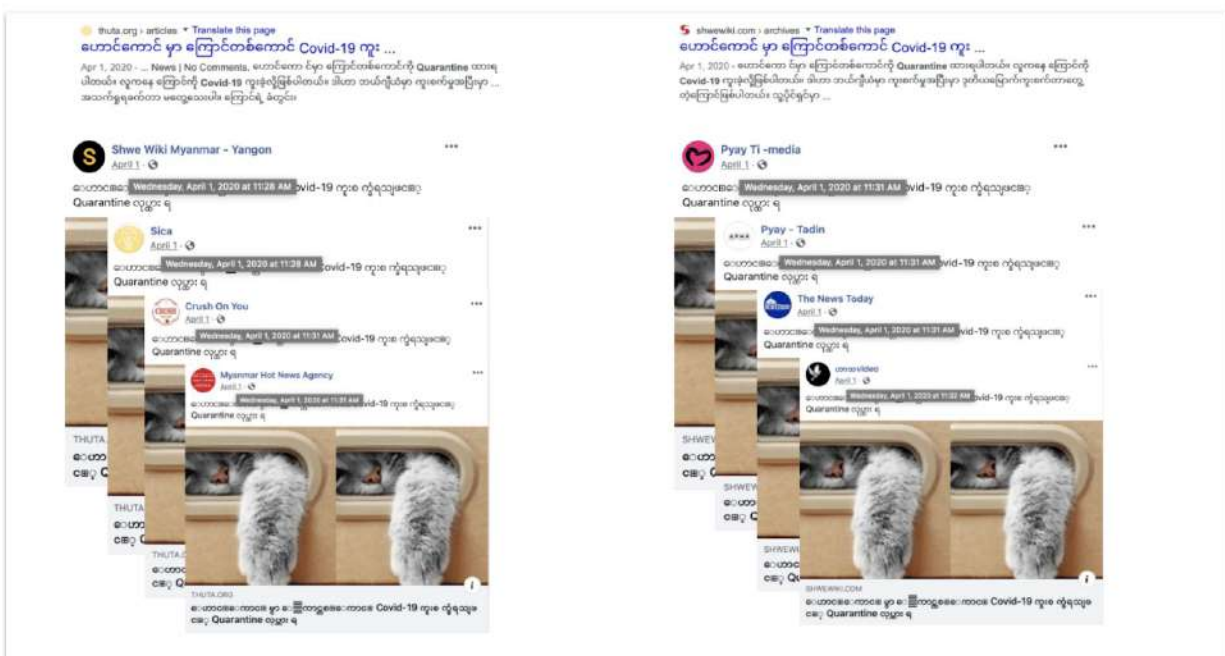


Comparison of the Facebook feeds of pages Aye Mya Phyu and ဘဝကို ပြောင်းလဲပေးနိုင်သော အတွေးအခေါ်များ, which both posted content from itechmedia.info, a 2 hours span. The specificity of ဘဝကို ပြောင်းလဲပေးနိုင်သော အတွေးအခေါ်များ was that the page tended to post the same article at least twice in a row. Other pages of the network had the same glitch.

Some of the domains that these pages shared were flagged by the [Myanmar Press Council](#) as copying content or photos from other news sources without attribution. For example, a [statement](#) from the council in August 2019 listed domains that included popinvdo[.]xyz and bamakhit[.]com, both of which were linked to by pages featured in this takedown. A second [statement](#) on the same matter in February 2020 included the domain razzwire[.]net, also linked to by takedown assets.

Coordination

Some of the assets Graphika investigated showed strong signs of coordination in the spam and clickbait content they posted on Facebook. This manifested mostly by sharing the same sets of pictures with the same text, or the same text with minor edits, or posting articles from a given website at the same time, with the exact same comment. Pages that belonged to different clusters showed some behavioral variation: for example, the pages in one cluster tended to share headlines verbatim, while the pages in a second cluster tended to add more varied comments.



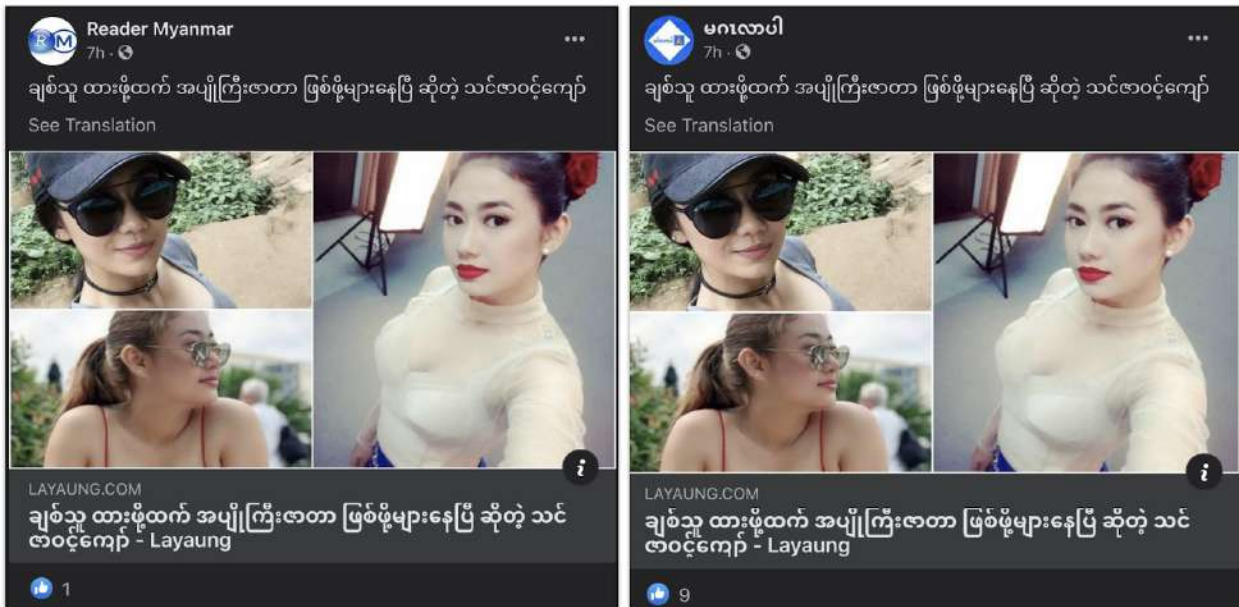
Shares of articles from [thuta\[.\]org](#) and [shwewiki\[.\]com](#) by multiple pages almost simultaneously.



Example of coordinated posts between the pages Feeling Story, သတင်း သုတရသ အဖြာဖြာ and စာအုပ်ဇာတ်လမ်းများ စုစည်းမှု. The text of the post remains identical between the pages, with just slight changes in the emoji used at the end of the second sentence and the "credit" line.

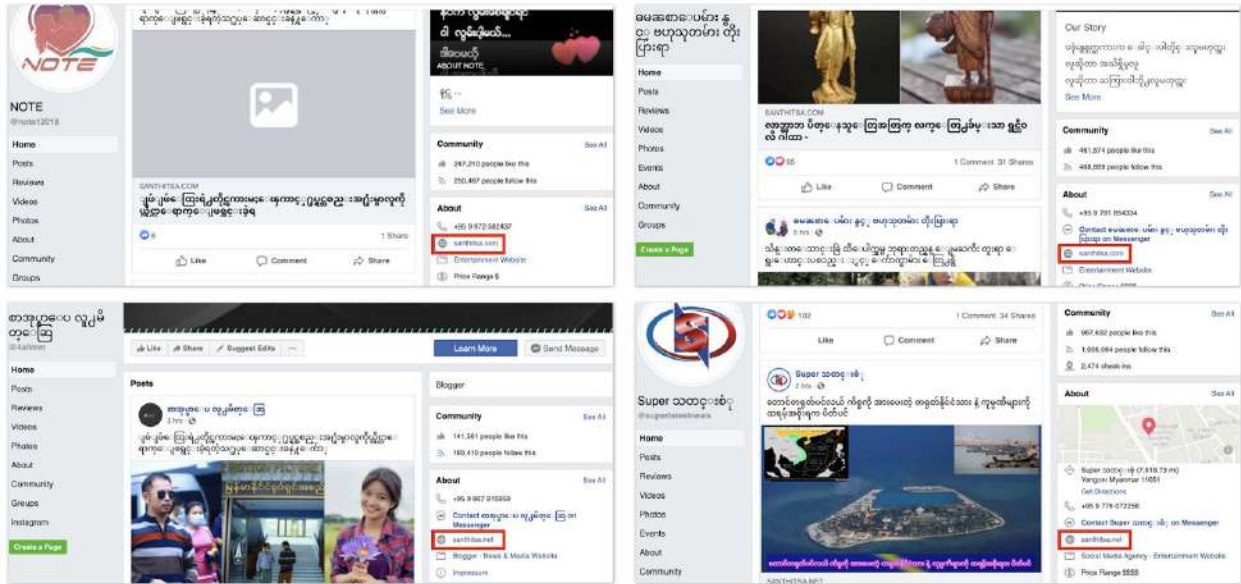


Takedown pages အခမဲ့ and ချစ်သူရင်ခွင် မြို့တော် pushed the same article from latestmyanmarnews.com on the same day, once again with the exact same message accompanying the URL.



Just as above, Reader Myanmar and မင်္ဂလာပါ pushed the same URL from layaung.com, using the same URL description.

On some occasions, the pages were connected by their names: for example, two pages in the takedown were called “AchitlwinPyin - Lifestyle” and “AchitlwinPyin News.” Other clusters of pages betrayed their relationship by pointing to the same website in their “About” section. These pages also had the exact same number of administrators.



All the pages above, despite different names and apparent purposes (entertainment, news & media, social media agency), indicated "sanhitsa[.]com" as their website, and only posted content from this source.

In some clusters, the pages posted articles with different titles but then added the same comment. As illustrated below, the pictures and the headlines of the articles shared by the pages, even though they are not identical, remain similar.



Articles posted by Knowledge and Cele Channel, supposedly sharing stories from different sources. While the article headlines are different, the articles use the same pictures, and the comment on each Facebook page is the same.

Website Network Structure

The clusters of pages frequently reused a series of domains, with a total of 259 domains shared between January and August 2020, some of them sharing hosting, registration, or analytics indicating their shared ownership.

Each Facebook page primarily shared content from one website at a time, but some shared from two or three. Studying their posts over multi-day periods a month at a time throughout 2020 showed that clusters of Facebook pages typically shared content from small clusters of websites, and did not share from other websites at all at that time (although as noted below, pages did sometimes switch their domains). The domains they posted can therefore be used to identify the various distinct clusters of Facebook pages.

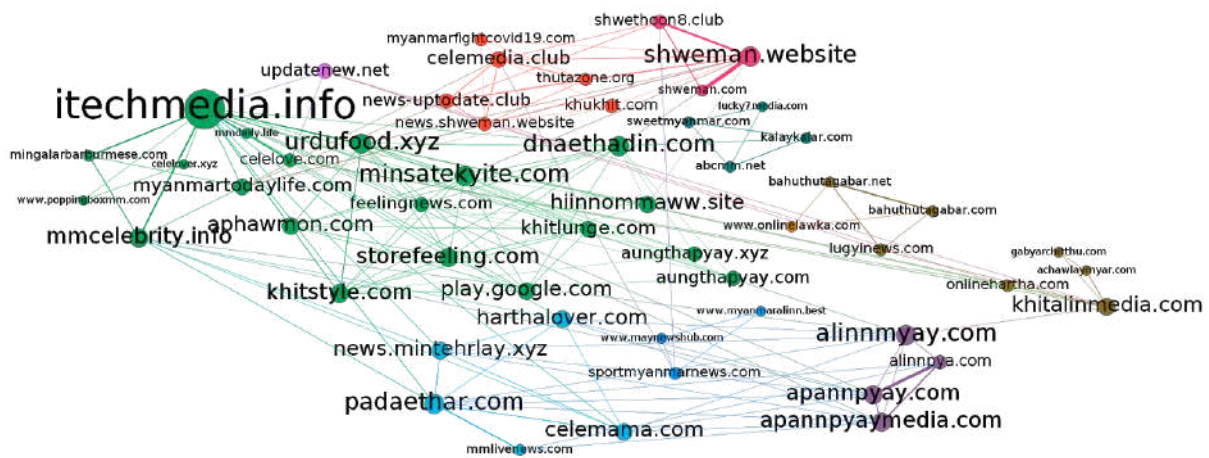
Domains Clustered via Mutual Page Shares

For example, looking at posts by all the pages in the takedown from February 1 - 4, 2020, a total of 104 domains were shared (not including links to Facebook itself). Far and away the most shared domain was news.celehits.com with 1806 shares, followed by bahuthutagabar.net with 857 shares, thuta.org with 857 shares, razzwire.net with 490 shares, and thunkhuma.info with 412 shares.

Most of the shares of thuta.org came from just five pages: Crush On You, Shwe Wiki Myanmar, Sica, Myanmar Hot News Agency, and Myanmarian. These pages shared thuta.org content in 99.2% of their posts. Similarly, virtually all the pages that shared news.celehits.com (12 in the February dataset) shared this domain's content in 100% of their posts containing links. In yet another cluster, the page Daily Myanmar shared 175 links (the most observed from a single page during this period), all of which linked to shweman.website.

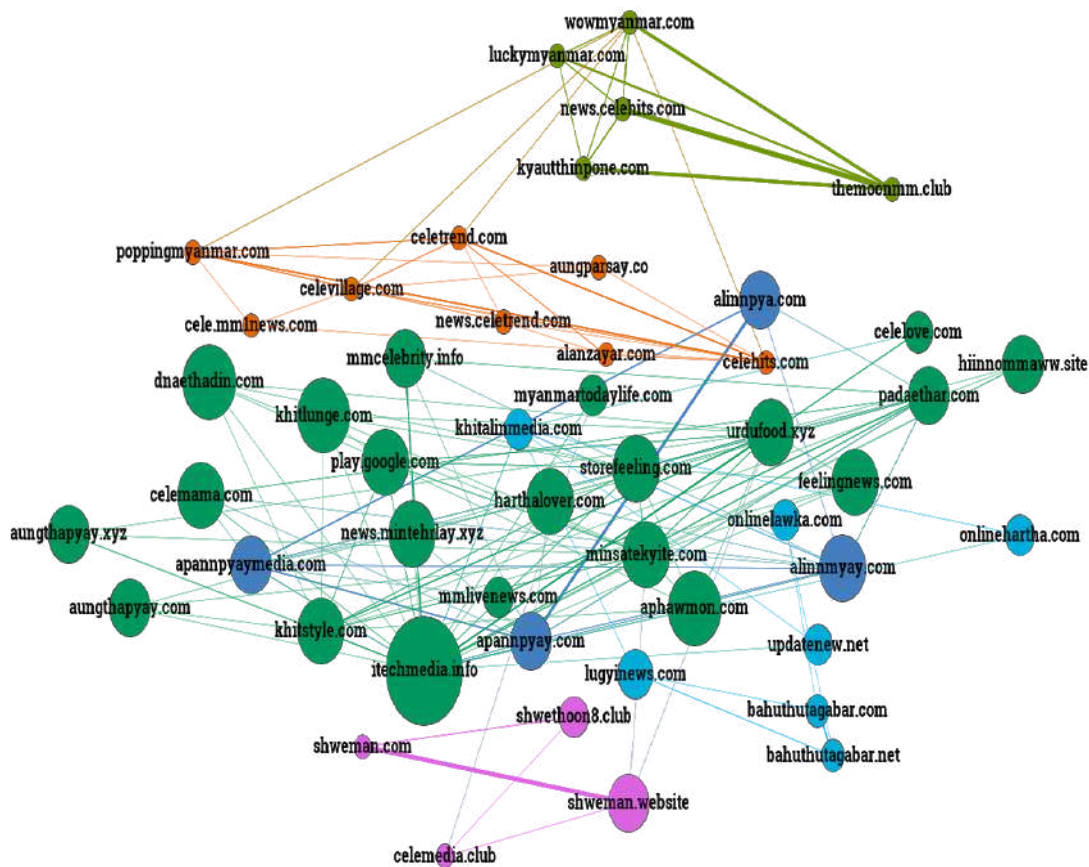
As the below figures illustrate, the content sharing strategy appears to have varied from one cluster to the next. Some content was pushed by a larger number of pages fewer times, such as news.celehits.com, and some by a smaller number of pages with more frequent posts. These patterns varied slightly over time, with pages discontinuing posting links to certain domains and posting other domains instead. Overall, however, most pages consistently shared the same domains, or at least domains that could be proven to be connected in other ways such as shared analytics, IP addresses, or registration, as seen below.

Expanding the analysis to the data from January to August 2020 showed similar patterns. The top five most shared domains across the full set were themoonmm.club (6034 links), bahuthutagabar.net (4910), celehits.com (3933), thuta.org (3117), and itechmedia.info (3093). A similar focus on domains per page was also evident in the full data set; Let Pan - Daily News shared letpandailynews.com 1034 times, making up 99.23% of all its shares. Thuta.org was shared 789 times by Crush On You, Shwe Wiki Myanmar, and Myanmar Hot News Agency, each counting for 99.87% of their shares.

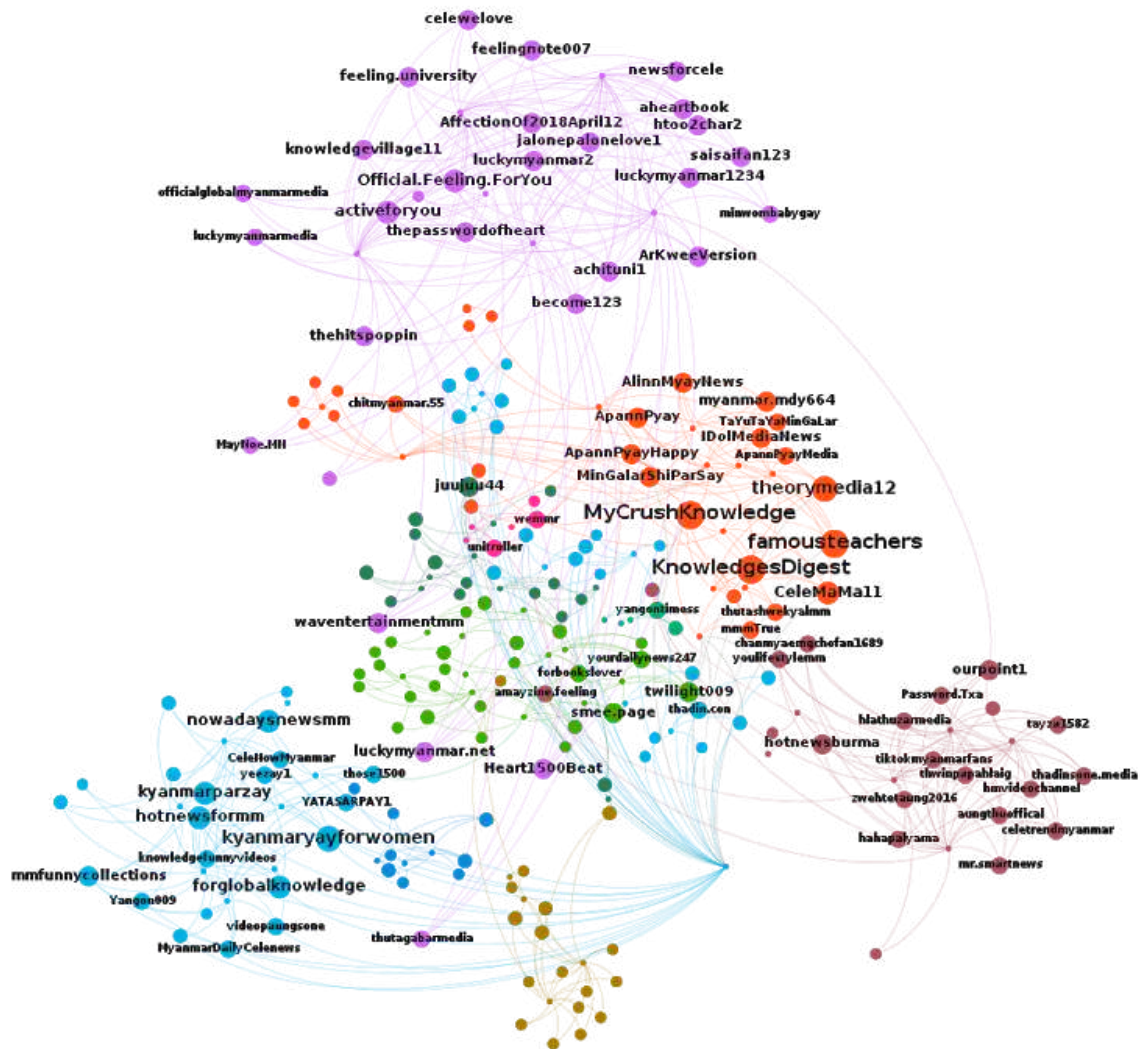


Domains shared by two or more Pages, with at least 10 shares across the full dataset, filtered with a K-Core of 2; nodes are domains, edges are weighted by their mutual shares, so wider edges indicates those two domains were shared by multiple pages more times than the thinner edges.

By looking at CrowdTangle data for shares by the pages within the set, with an edge representing a mutual share of a domain by one or more pages, clusters can be seen once again, with one of the largest centered around itechmedia[.info]. Viewing the complete dataset over the eight months to August 2020 showed increased overlap between some of the clusters, but with other clusters remaining distinct. In total, once links to Facebook, Youtube, and Bitly were removed, the pages within the set shared 255 domains, some of which are legitimate and respected outlets. The graph above contains 54 nodes once filtered; these domains were shared by two or more of the pages within the set, and had at least 10 shares.



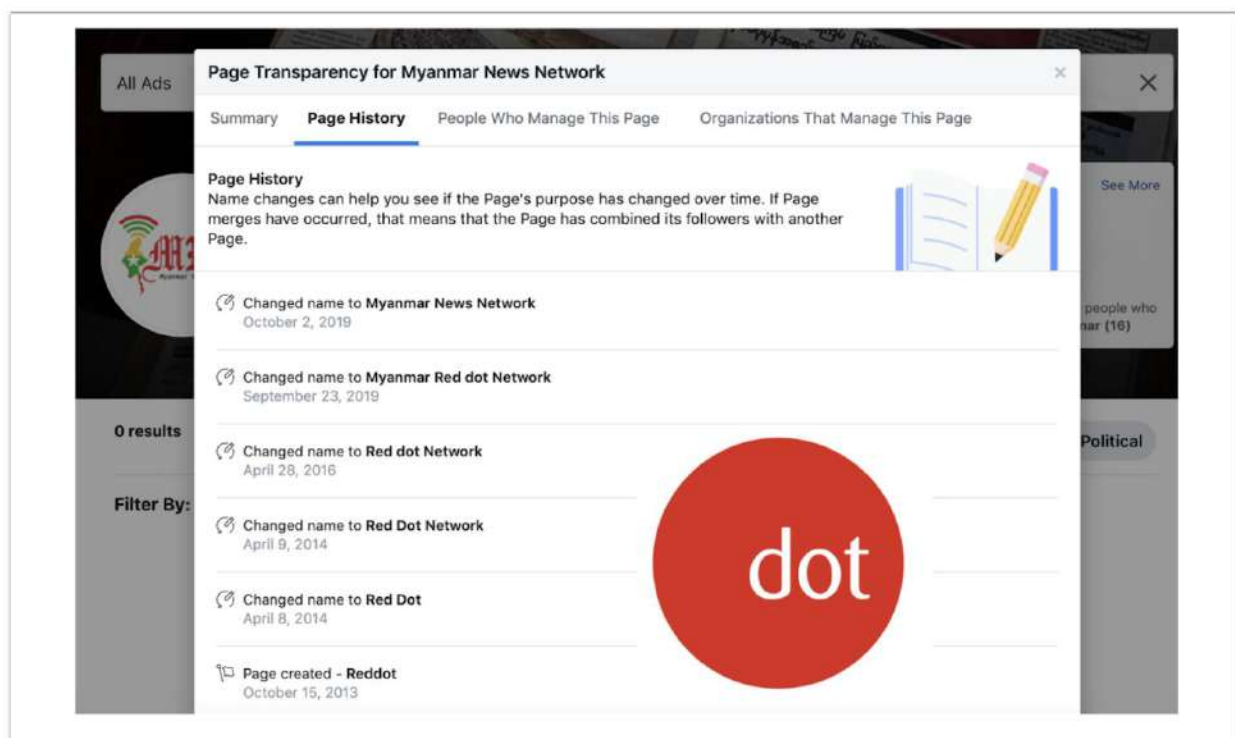
Network graph created using CrowdTangle data for the period January-August, 2020; nodes are domains shared by more than 10 pages, filtered with a K-Core of 2, and are sized by in-degree, with colors reflecting community detection via Louvain Modularity; and edge thickness reflecting the number of mutual page shares.



Network graph showing ties between Pages based on mutual domain shares; the graph is filtered by Giant Component, so every node has a path to all other nodes and with a K-Core of 2; node size is determined by out-degree, and node colors are communities as detected by Louvain Modularity.

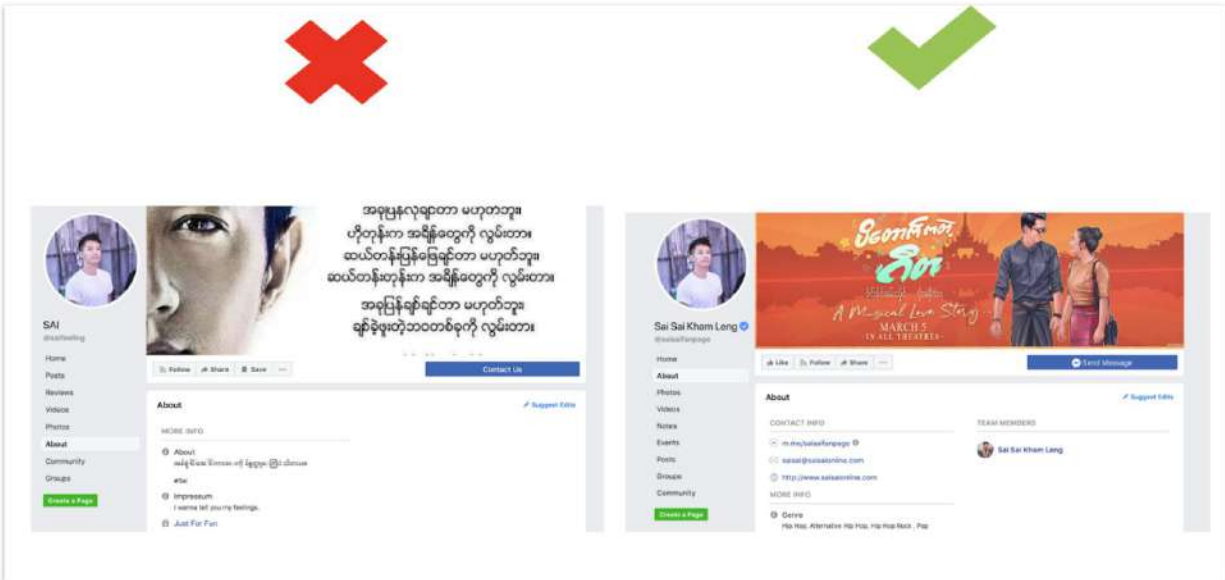
Leveraging Brands & Popstars

A few of the pages across these networks appeared designed to leverage the popularity of existing brands, either of companies, celebrities or even government agencies, to increase their audience appeal. For example, the page that was called “Myanmar News Network” when it was taken down was originally called “Red Dot.” This was the name of a mobile payment provider that [shut down](#) in December 2018. In September-October 2019, the page changed its name to “Myanmar Red dot Network” and then to “Myanmar News Network.” This suggests that the page, together with its existing audience, was repurposed to appeal to a new audience. At the time of the takedown, this page had received over 3 million likes.



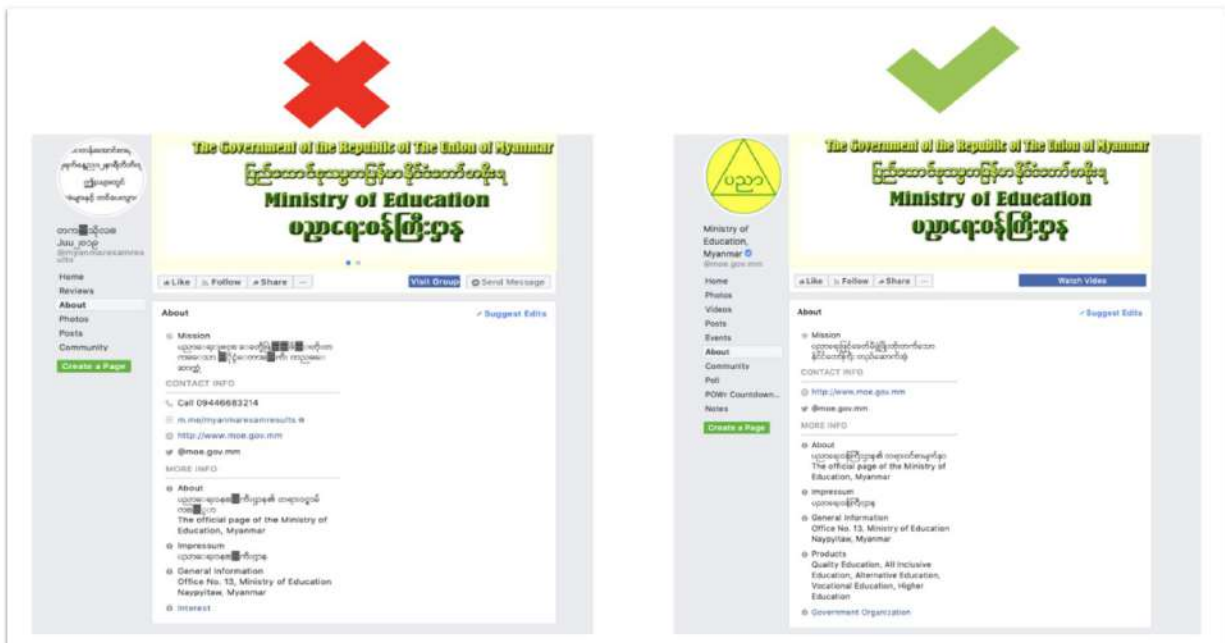
Page transparency for Myanmar News Network, showing its name history.

Other pages leveraged the popularity of major Myanmar celebrities and influencers, sometimes reflecting or replicating their names and visual branding (such as profile pictures) to associate themselves with the star. For example, the page “SAI” was dedicated to actor [Sai Sai Kham Leng](#), whose verified page has over 10 million followers; the “SAI” page had 55,000 followers when it was taken down.



Left, the "SAI" page that was taken down. Right, the verified page for Sai Sai Kham Leng.

One page even copied the branding of the Myanmar Education Ministry. Its handle was @myanmarexamresults, and its visual presentation, About section and address mirrored that of the Ministry's own [Facebook page](#) – including claiming to be the Ministry's official page. The genuine government page had 1.2 million followers; the impersonation page had 107,000 at the time of the takedown.



Left, the fake page. Right, the genuine one.

Using Different Websites to Push the Same Content

One notable feature of this activity was that multiple different websites carried identical articles, and different pages shared the same article from different sites – most likely in an attempt to reduce the likelihood of detection by spamming the same domain too much. The titles, images and texts of the articles shared were exactly the same, and the only thing that changed from one page to the next was the URL it pointed back to.



Example of posts using different websites to push the same articles by pages Kyar Nyo အွန်လိုင်းသတင်းစုံ, ကဗျာလန်းလန်းလေးတွေ/တင်ပေးမယ်လေနော် and The News Today. The text accompanying the URL remains the same in each case.



Two pages sharing identical articles sourced to different websites, padaethar.com and amaranews.info.



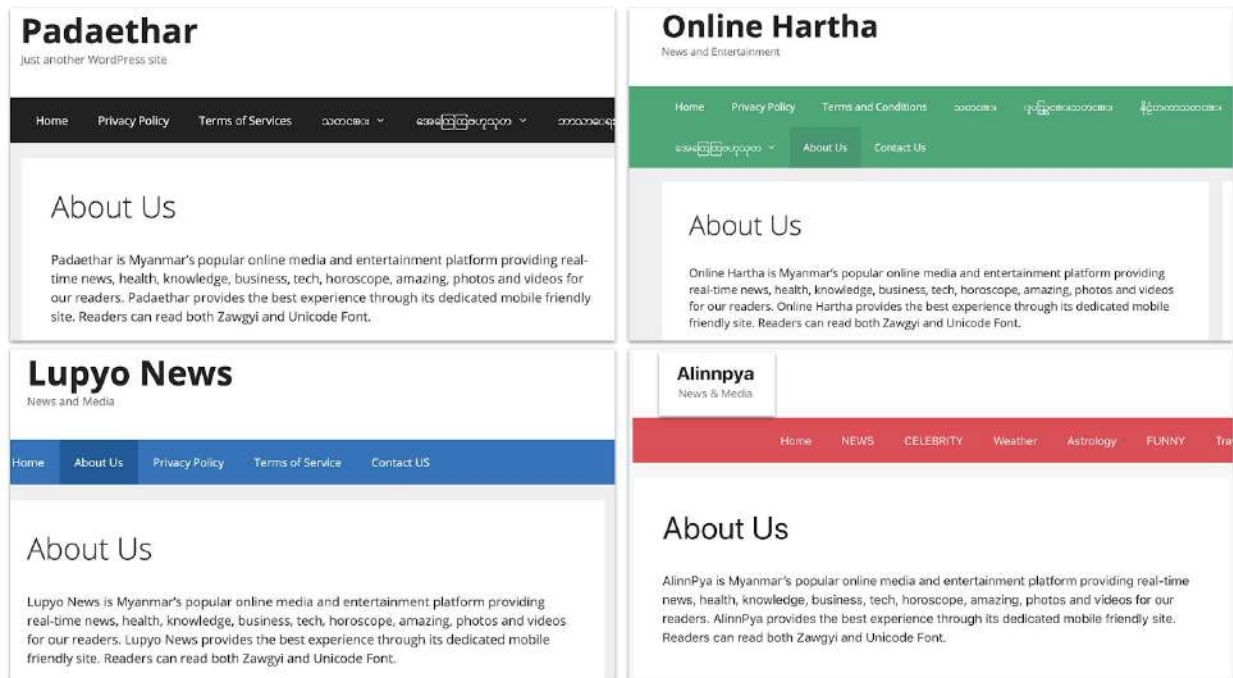
Sometimes, there were slight differences between the previews of the URLs shared by the pages. Here, the title remains the same, whereas the illustration picture varies.

The websites involved in such clusters shared layout similarities, and often posted a mix of celebrity, political, religious and pseudo-health content. While the pages sometimes made at least some effort to insert some variation in their comments, the websites posted identical articles.



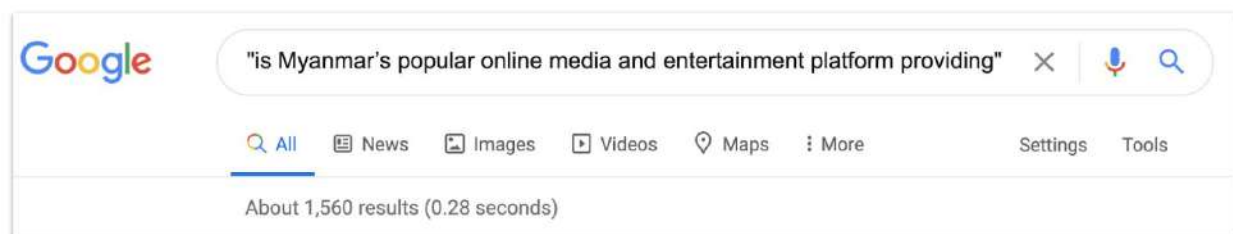
Examples of articles duplicated on the domains shared by the network pages. The layout of the websites themselves was similar on most of the websites affiliated to the operation Graphika consulted

The uniformity of content between some of these different websites included their “About” pages: a number of different sites used the identical text, which began, “[insert website name] is Myanmar’s popular online media and entertainment platform providing real-time news, health, knowledge, business, tech, horoscope, amazing, photos and videos for our readers.” Each one offered content in both Zawgyi and Unicode fonts.



"About Us" sections for the websites padaethar[.]com, onlinehartha[.]com, luponews[.]com and alinnpya[.]com, showing the identical wording.

[Searching](#) for this text revealed both a number of live websites based on Wordpress, and a number of sites that were no longer online. As of October 21, 2020, the search for this phrase returned just over 1,500 hits. While some of these were duplicative, the figure indicates the frequency with which the same phrase was re-used across different spammy sites.

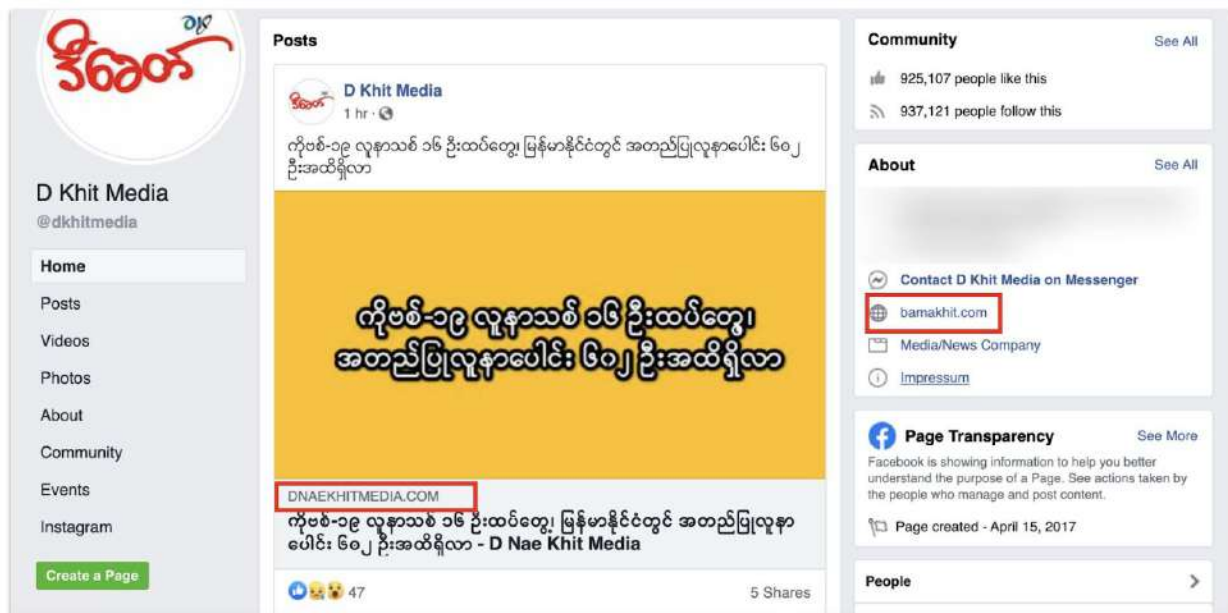


Results of [Google search](#), October 21, 2020.

The defunct domains included bamakhit[.]com, a website which was listed in the "About" section of one page in this takedown, and hlataw[.]com, a domain name that was active in [2018](#), but which was also listed in the "About" section of a page in this takedown. In each case, by the time of the takedown, the page had shifted to sharing content from another website: the page that claimed bamakhit[.]com primarily posted articles from dnaekhitmedia[.]com, while the page that claimed hlataw[.]com primarily posted articles from burmese[.]asia. In another case of domain-shifting, a number of pages that were taken down shared links to the website shwewiki[.]com, but the page called Shwe Wiki Myanmar itself primarily shared content from thuta[.]org, even though it pointed to shwewiki[.]com as its own domain.



Screenshot of the “Shwe Wiki Myanmar” page, showing the link to shwewiki[.]com (right) and the share from thuta[.]org (bottom).



Screenshot of the “D Khit Media” page, showing the link to bamakhit[.]com (right) and the share from dnaekhitmedia[.]com (bottom).

Domains Clustered via Infrastructure Overlap

Within the domains shared by the pages, two primary clusters of domains could be identified via shared infrastructure, analytics codes, and hosting providers. Other domains did not immediately share any tangible connection to these two groups (referred to below as Group A and Group B). Generally the domains used domain anonymization services for registration, and common hosting providers.

Group A was the largest set of domains, centered around a small registration company and hosting provider; 31 domains were confirmed to be within this cluster. Seventeen of these domains shared the same IP address, and 14 used the same registrar.

Group B consisted of 17 domains; these tended to use large scale hosting providers such as GoDaddy. These domains were shown to be linked via overlapping Google Analytics accounts. Top 10 domain shwewiki.com was in this cluster. Among the other domains, there were a few that shared some details with the Group clusters but at a low level of confidence.

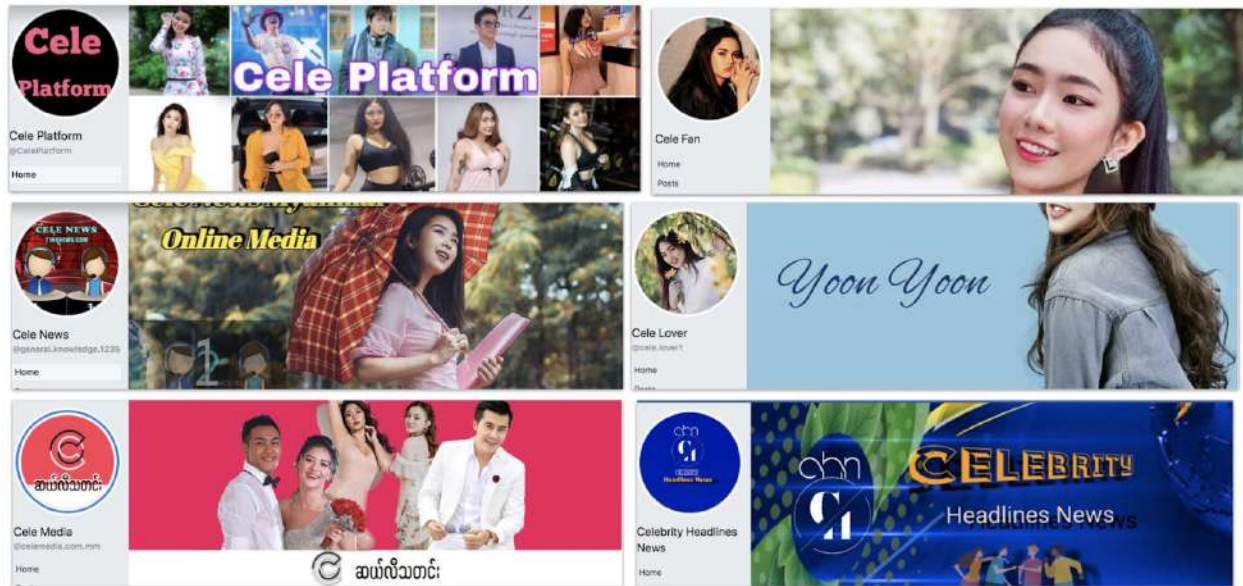
These multiple and distinct clusters support the hypothesis that multiple operators were responsible for the domains, instead of a single operator coordinating the effort.

Topics

The majority of the pages focused on celebrity-related news and, more recently, Covid-19-related content -- always with clickbait-style titles and imagery. More rarely, the pages mixed in pseudo-health content, as well as political, pro-Buddhist, pro-Government and pro-military links.

Celebrities and Clickbait Content

The pages posted a variety of content about local celebrities, covering life events such as disputes between celebrities staged on social media platforms or on TV. Overall, celebrity content was the most common type they shared: many of the pages featured “cele” or “celeb” in their names, indicating their primary focus.

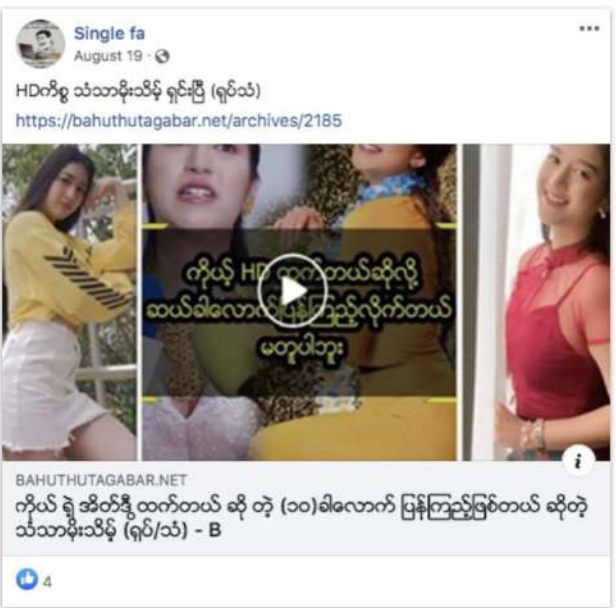
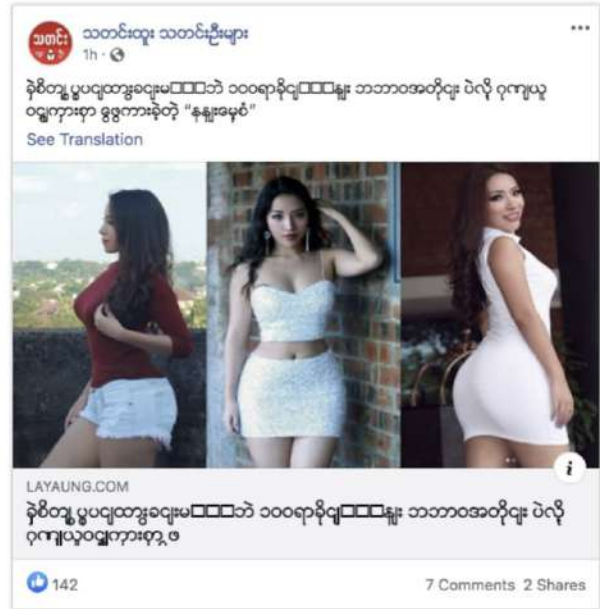


Screenshots of the Facebook pages Cele Platform, Cele News, Cele Media, Cele Fan, Cele Lover and Celebrity Headlines News

The pages either shared the same content from one website or posted the same article from two different websites. The pages particularly liked to speculate on Burmese and Thai celebrities' love life, dramas and on events such as marriages and divorces. They mostly focused on actresses playing in sitcoms and dramas, as well as on models and singers.



One sample of celebrity-focused content shared in the same hour by two pages in the takedown, မြန်မာသံစဉ်များ ဖြတ်နိုးသူ and Noble Media. The articles promote a Tik Tok video from Burmese screenwriter Ko Pauk.



The network shared a range of content about local celebrities. The top left screenshot (Active For You) shows singer Aye Mya Phyu, the bottom left one (Singla fa) actress Than Thar Moe Theint, the top right (သတင်းထူး သတင်းဦးများ) model Nang Mwe San and the bottom right (ခံစားချက် ကဗျာများ စုစည်းရာ) is actress Phyu Phyu Htwe.

COVID-19 and Emotional Clickbait Content

COVID-19 was, after celebrity topics, the most widespread topic the pages were recently interested in and engaging with. The kind of COVID-related content was diverse, running from actual news about the sanitary situation in Myanmar and official press releases on the outbreak, to tearful and emotional clickbait content. The pages did not push a unified message on COVID-19. Some posts included medical information, including government releases; others

included medical misinformation. Again, this suggests an interest in engagement of any sort, rather than an interest in promoting a specific agenda.

A significant amount of COVID-related content featured emotional content such as pictures of children being tested or, in another register, COVID-related content concerning local celebrities. Another type of content shared stories that aimed at creating engagement, with content that invited reaction (e.g. "I do not know how I should have felt! What do you think?") or outrage.



Posts showing a baby being tested for Covid-19 in its mother's arms. Even though the text from the post is different, it substantially means the same, and both accounts reused the same picture. The picture was also reused by websites that were shared by the network.



Posts shared by the pages *G r a v i t y* and *Tameelay* that reported on COVID stories that invited reactions from Facebook users. The article on the left is about a COVID-infected fisherman who traveled over Yangon while being infected. The article on the right is entitled "A story that I do not know whether to be sad or happy in the COVID period," which is about testing.

A third kind of content, more serious than the rest of what the network shared, was also significantly disseminated by the accounts. Most of these serious posts were copies of press releases from the Burmese Ministry of Health and Sports. The links all displayed the same outlay, with the logo of the Burmese Ministry of Health and Sports, and the same yellow background.



Pseudo-Health Advice

To a lesser extent, the accounts also shared pseudo-health science content, especially pseudo COVID tests to do at home. They also shared content promoting natural remedies for viruses, without mentioning the coronavirus itself.



The article on the left is entitled "If you suspect having COVID, try this". It promotes homemade remedies before having to go to the hospital if it becomes too serious. The right one is about a mutation on the virus and carries misinformation about the seriousness of Covid-19.

At least one article, spread on multiple pages, took over a globally widespread conspiratorial narrative that claims that "a global pandemic" occurs every 100 years to cleanse the planet.

Juu - Depression
1d · 🌐

🔔 (၁၀၀) မှာ တစုချက်ပေါင်းမရှိသော ကမ္ဘာကပ္ပိန်းပျက်စီးမှုအချက်
ကပ္ပိန်း



ဖြစ်စဉ် ၁) - ၁၇၂၀ ခုနှစ် ဖြစ်
သစ်နိုင်ငံ မာဆေးမြို့ကနေ စတင်
ဖြစ်ပွားတယ် အကြိတ်ရောင်
ပလိပ်ရောင်။

ဖြစ်စဉ် ၂) - ၁၈၂၀ ခုနှစ်တွင်
ထိုင်း၊ ဖိလစ်ပိုင်၊ အင်ဒိုနီးရှားနိုင်ငံ
များကနေ စတင်ဖြစ်ပွားတဲ့
ကာလဝမ်းရောင်။




ဖြစ်စဉ် ၃) - ၁၉၂၀ စပိန်နိုင်ငံ
တရုတ်နိုင်ငံ ဂူဟန်မြို့မှာ
စတင်ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့တဲ့ **Covid 19** ⓘ

SMILEKODAW.COM

🔔 (၁၀၀) မှာ တစုချက်ပေါင်းမရှိသော ကမ္ဘာကပ္ပိန်း
ပျက်စီးမှုအချက် - SmileKodaw

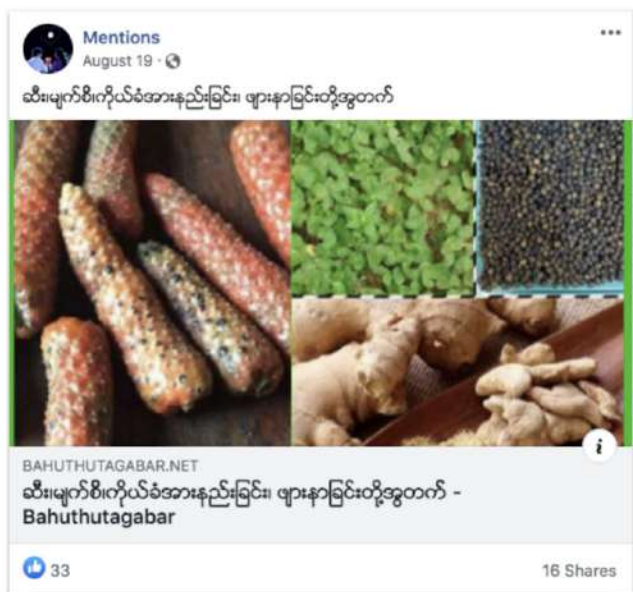
👍🤔🙄 82 3 Comments 37 Shares

Article shared by Juu - Depression that claims a plague happens every hundred years

Some posts advertised natural ingredients (such as onion, garlic, cucumber or bananas) to cure seasonal diseases, viruses and other health issues such as arthritis. Some of the articles Graphika reviewed offered these as natural cures for COVID-19, one of these claiming it was the treatment prescribed to cure COVID-19 at the hospital.



Lemon was the main natural cure offered to fight COVID-19.



The article on the left claims litchis are a remedy for ulcers and diabetes, whereas the right one promotes a recipe supposed to cure "Fever, nausea, vomiting, urinary incontinence, eye weakness; Alzheimer's, immune deficiency syndrome."

Buddhism

The pages of the set also disseminated content celebrating Buddhism, while emphasizing the roles monks are playing in Myanmar in the fight against Covid-19. The pictures posted by the pages were mostly pictures depicting Buddha, Buddhist temples and religious processions. The majority of religious articles reviewed by Graphika covered topics such as monks giving away

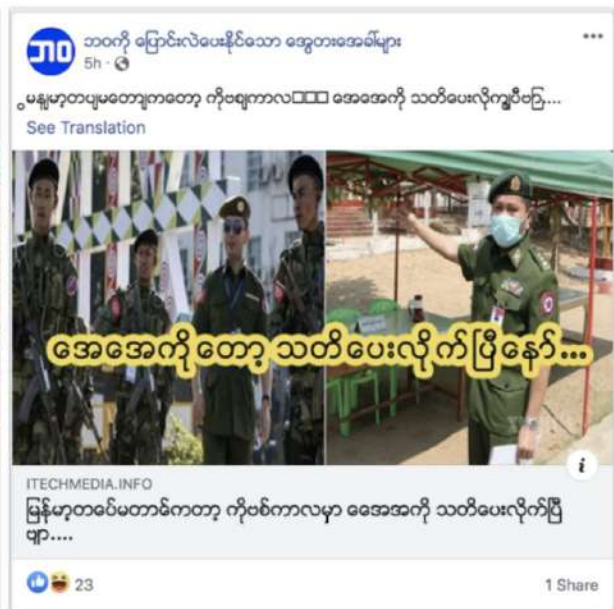
food and money to support poor people across the country. Other articles highlighted monks' generosity towards people in the event of natural disasters such as floods.

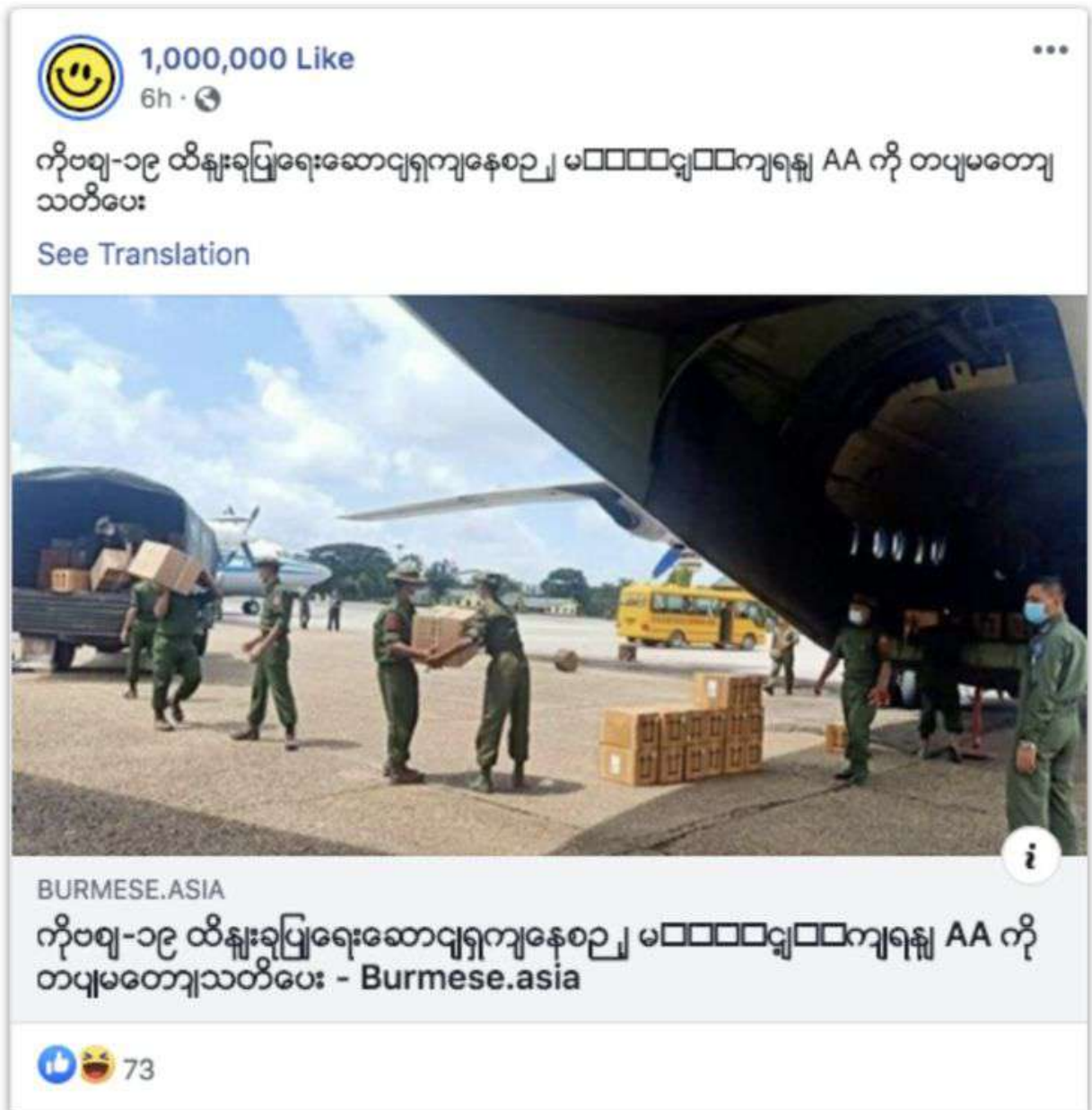


Examples of religious content disseminated by the network. The bottom left article is about Sayadaw Ashin Sekin giving away money to reconstruct a village devastated by flooding, whereas the top right is about monks distributing food amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Military

While the network's posts specifically focused on the military were a small minority of the content shared by these pages, the military was consistently given positive coverage. The content was not martial despite the topic, as recent articles shared by the pages mostly praised the army for the help it provided to deliver emergency aid to the Burmese population. A very small number of posts and articles mentioned the Arakan Army, a separatist armed faction active in the state of Rakhine: a Crowdtangle scan of posts from all the pages between January 1, 2019, and August 27, 2020 returned 23 mentions of the Arakan Army and 122 mentions of Rakhine State (results may be incomplete due to Burmese script sensitivities). Overall, the content related to the military was tiny in comparison with the miscellaneous celebrity and health-related misinformation spread by the network.





Two articles praising the military for devoting themselves to deliver emergency aid packages in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Disinformation & Dangerous Speech

Internet archives revealed a handful of posts from the same assets dated to 2017 that included clear instances of dangerous speech, especially against Muslims.

Pages within the set, as well as associated domains, had also been previously singled out for their contribution to the spread of disinformation. The [Myanmar Press Council](#), for example, had previously flagged domains such as myitter[.]net, chitsakar[.]com, topmmnews[.]com, everytimestory[.]com and mmtimesspecialnews[.]com for their involvement with mis/disinformation. According to [Ooni](#), a number of the domains were also included among the domains restricted for “Fake News” by the Myanmar government in February. These included domains such as santhitsa[.]net, maharmedianews[.]com and mmrednews[.]com.

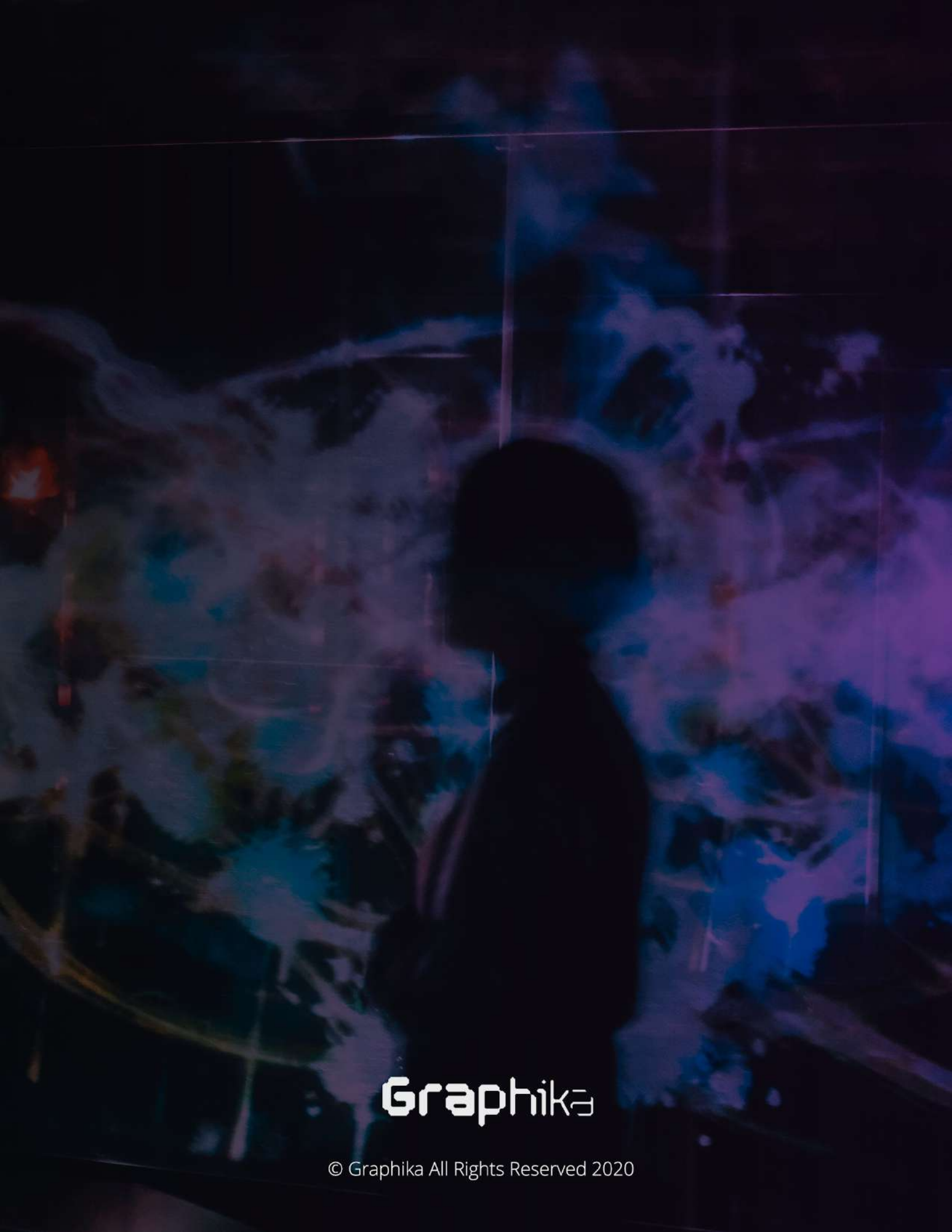
Appendix - Most Shared Domains, January-August 2020

Domain	Count
themoonmm.club	6034
bit.ly	5078
bahuthutagabar.net	4910
thuta.org	3117
itechmedia.info	3093
shweman.com	3038
thukhuma.info	2410
alanzayar.com	2253
shweman.website	2186
kalaykalar.com	2146
celehits.com	2127
cmads.site	1953
chartakemalay.website	1904
news.celehits.com	1806
alinnpya.com	1718
thutasone.net	1683
khitalinmedia.com	1595
mdynews.xyz	1585
padaethar.com	1529
news.shwemyanmarmalay.com	1446
shwewiki.com	1389
layaung.com	1385
pyawsayar.com	1343
burmese.asia	1303
lucky7media.com	1297
myitter.net	1285
kyautthinpone.com	1251
urdufood.xyz	1172
lupyonews.com	1122
wowmyanmar.com	1087
mzbfamily.com	1074
letpandailynews.com	1034
shwepyiaye.com	1010
updatenew.net	1010

bamakhit.com	975
amaranews.info	974
apanmpyay.com	966
celemedia.club	911
centralonlinenews.com	894
sweetmyanmar.com	890
latestmyanmarnews.com	853
xbnewsmedia.com	840
storefeeling.com	799
celemyinkwin.com	797
bagosar.com	764
myanmartechnews.com	756
tameelay.com	730
chitsakar.com	724
mmcelebrity.info	708
luckymyanmar.com	631

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO) and its [Real or Not](#) Fact-checking Initiative for contributing local context and expertise to this report.



Graphika

© Graphika All Rights Reserved 2020