

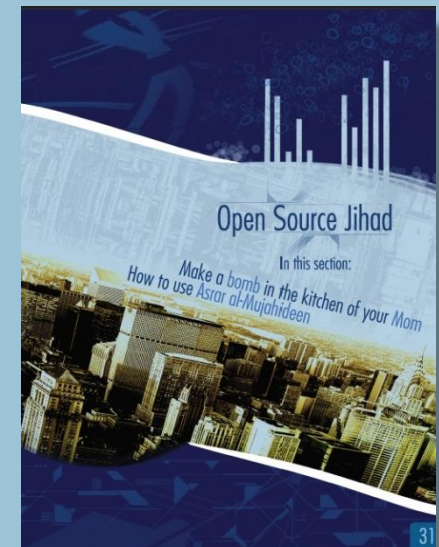
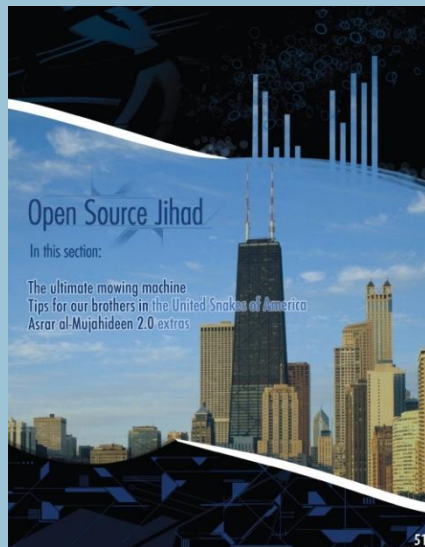


The Privateers: Struggling with Open Source Jihad

Scope of Project

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Project Outline



Background

This research project has been created in response to an increasing emphasis on individual and small cell terrorism across a global horizon: the Open Source Jihad.

Aim of the project:

Map networks of Jihadi propagandists and identify how they operate

Objectives :

Part 1 – Mapping networks of Jihadi propagandists

- Identify networks spreading Jihadi propaganda.
- Track these networks across multiple digital platforms, for example moving between the blogosphere, to YouTube and Twitter to identify further networks of bloggers and propagandists.

Part 2 – Investigate how these networks operate

- Identify how content flows within these digital networks
- Identify user behaviour in these environments and methods of dissemination

Early Findings



Preliminary Findings and Observations:

1. Digital connections between network clusters of AQ supporters and recruiters can be identified online.
2. Digital “Privateers” are engaged in the struggle, both advocating AQ related content and attempting to counter it.
3. “Privateer” counter strategy includes overt text based challenge, pressure to remove content from major platforms such as YouTube and directly hacking servers hosting Jihadi sites.
4. AQ and Jihadi propagandists have started to develop a resilient digital network . The core of this network is capable of withstanding most serious attacks.

