Intelligence Summary

United States Capitol Riot Data Archives

On January 11, 2021, analysts with the Internet Cover Operations Program (iCOP) identified social media posts from individuals making a collective effort to archive data from the January 6, 2021, protests on the United States Capitol.

Analysis

Background

The violent protests that took place at the United States Capitol building on January 6, 2021, has elicited a response from the major tech companies to remove the alternative Social Media platform, Parler from their respective platforms. Specifically, Google and Apple have removed the mobile application from their App Stores while Amazon has suspended their web hosting services noting that the violent nature of the content violates the terms of service.[i] Parler Chief Executive Officer John Matze informed the public, "There is the possibility Parler will be unavailable on the internet for up to a week as we rebuild from scratch" and "We will try our best to move to a new provider right now as we have many competing for our business".[ii] As of January 10, 2021, at 2359 hours, Parler has been shut down and is no longer accessible.

Parler Website Dump

Twitter user '@donk_enby', an experienced Mobile Reverse Engineer and Data Miner[iii], released an archive of Parler posts made during the January 6, 2021, US Capitol protest (Image 1). The tweet posted on January 9, 2021, at 0820 hours provided a URL to access the archived data which includes raw files of images/videos posted on Parler with metadata.[iv] Additionally, '@donk_enby' provides a Reverse Engineer Parler Application Programming Interface (API) as a Python library with all endpoints present in the iOS app. This provides individuals the ability to identify individuals on the platform, check internal moderators/admins user interfaces, view influencer network status, etc.[v] Please see (Attachment #1 – API Screenshots) below for further details.

📌 Pinned Tweet

crash override
@donk_enby

RELEASE: Every Parler post made during the 06/01/2021 US Capitol riots. donk.sh/06d639b2-0252-... (batches of 100k URLs, for archival purposes)

8:20 AM · Jan 9, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Image 1

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE
Cybercrime & Analytics

Capitol Protest Public Media Server

On January 6, 2021, at 1849 hours, the search engine and data archive company Intelligence X, tweeted that they set up a secure public media server for users to submit pictures and videos for archive and public sharing from the Capitol Protest[vi] (Image 2). The server utilizes features including duplicate management/archival redundancy services, spreadsheet (CSV/XLSX) based viewer with file information/metadata, and 80+ Terabytes of available storage space. Content can be viewed from the web based URL or from Windows File Explorer. As of January 10, 2021, the media server has over 200 Gigabytes of data and has surpassed 10 Terabytes of download traffic.[vii]

Image 2

Final Assessment

Although Parler is currently inactive and inaccessible, efforts fronted by '@donk_enby', Intelligence X, and public contributions of data can assist law enforcement in the analysis and identification of parties involved in the US Capitol Protests. The archived information can assist in the possible mitigation of future violent protests. For questions regarding this report please contact ISIAR@usps.gov.

End of Report

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[i] https://techcrunch[.]com/2021/01/09/amazon-web-services-gives-parler-24-hour-notice-that-it-will-suspend-services-to-the-company/
[ii] https://twitter[.]com/parlertakes/status/1348097074772930560
[iii] https://twitter[.]com/donk_enby
[iv] https://donk[.]sh/06d639b2-0252-4b1e-883b-f275eff7e792/
[v] https://git.tcp[.]direct/d0nk/parler-tricks
[vi] https://twitter[.]com/_IntelligenceX/status/1346967229187952644
[vii] https://twitter[.]com/_IntelligenceX/status/1348479548640387073

Attachments

Attachment #1 – API Screenshots