

aubedigitale.com

An anonymously run site about technology and futurism that has repeatedly published unsubstantiated conspiracy theories, including on the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

AubeDigitale provides no information on its owners and no way to reach the website. According to SecurityTrails.com, a website that provides information about domains, AubeDigitale.com was first registered with an email address that includes the name Patrick Brian Caillet. NewsGuard did not receive a response to two emails sent to this email address.

NewsGuard found that AubeDigitale.com shares a Google advertising account with the French website [NouvelOrdreMondial.cc](#), which indicates that they may share an owner. An email NewsGuard sent to [NouvelOrdreMondial.cc](#), which often promotes debunked conspiracy theories, was answered by somebody who said he owns the site and goes by the pseudonym "Emmanuel." Asked by email if his real name was Patrick Brian Caillet, the person responded, "I am sorry, but I cannot confirm this." ("Navré mais je ne peux pas vous confirmer cela"). He did not respond to a follow-up email asking if he also ran AubeDigitale.com.

The Facebook page for AubeDigitale.com is managed by a person in France, according to its Transparency page.

The website runs advertisements.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Content

Aube Digitale, which means "Digital Dawn" in French, describes itself on its Who Are We page as "a media outlet whose mission is to present information on futurism, new technologies, artificial intelligence, robotics and much more." ("un média dont la mission est de présenter des informations sur le futurisme, les nouvelles technologies, l'intelligence artificielle, la robotique et bien plus").

AubeDigitale.com reads like a blog, with the newest story appearing at the top of the homepage. The site also offers thematic sections, including Cloning (Clonage), Futurism (Futurisme), Eugenics (Eugenisme), Health (Sante), and Smartphones.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “An MIT-technology enables autonomous cars to ‘see’ under the surface of the road” (“Une technologie du MIT permet aux voitures autonomes de ‘voir’ sous la surface de la route”) and “A new study shows how a western diet degrades cerebral functions and leads to overeating” (“Une nouvelle étude montre comment un régime alimentaire occidental altère les fonctions cérébrales et entraîne une suralimentation.”)

Credibility

AubeDigitale.com mostly publishes articles that are aggregated or translated from other sites. The website relies both on reputable sources, such as El Pais and The Wall Street Journal, and websites that NewsGuard has found to be unreliable, such as TheEpoch Times.com and Great Game India. For many stories, no sources are cited.

AubeDigitale.com has published numerous unsubstantiated and debunked conspiracy theories and misleading information, including multiple stories in early 2020 on the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak.

For example, a February 2020 article was titled “A Chinese scientist discovered that ‘the killing coronavirus probably comes from a Wuhan laboratory’” (“Un scientifique chinois a découvert que ‘le coronavirus tueur provient probablement d’un laboratoire de Wuhan’”). The article referred to a study by two Chinese scientists that suggested that the virus originated a military lab in Wuhan. However, the article provided no evidence to back the claim, nor did it note that the study in question was published on a website for studies that have not been peer reviewed and has since been removed.

In a February 2020 article titled “Lies we are being fed about the coronavirus” (“Les mensonges que l’on nous raconte sur le coronavirus”) — a translation from the

English-language website Alt-Market.com — Aube Digitale claimed that “there is MORE proof of the implication of biological weapon laboratories than there is proof that the virus comes from an animal market.” (“il y a PLUS de preuves de l’implication des laboratoires de guerre biologique qu’il n’y a de preuves que le virus provient d’un marché animal”).

The fact-checking organization PolitiFact and several international news outlets, including the French scientific website Sciences et Avenir, have reported that there is no evidence that the virus originated in a Wuhan lab. French Health Ministry’s Health General Direction (Direction générale de la Santé) told 20 Minutes that “no element allows us to substantiate the allegations establishing a link between the current sanitary crisis and the existence of a P4 [level of security] laboratory in Wuhan” (“aucun élément ne permet d’accréditer les allégations liant la crise sanitaire en cours à l’existence à Wuhan d’un laboratoire P4”).

According to a February 2020 report by the World Health Organization, “increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats.” A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is “96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

In January 2020, Aube Digitale published a translation from the Indian site Great Game India. The article, titled “Has China stolen the coronavirus from Canada and made a weapon out of it?” (“La Chine a-t-elle volé le coronavirus au Canada et en a-t-elle fait une arme ?”), claimed that “Last year a mysterious shipment was caught smuggling Coronavirus from Canada. It was traced to Chinese agents working at a Canadian lab. Subsequent investigation by GreatGameIndia linked the agents to Chinese Biological Warfare Program from where the virus is suspected to have leaked causing the Wuhan Coronavirus outbreak.” (“L’année dernière, une mystérieuse cargaison a été découverte en train de faire passer clandestinement des souches de Coronavirus du Canada. Elle a été retracée jusqu’à des

agents chinois travaillant dans un laboratoire canadien. Une enquête ultérieure de GreatGameIndia a permis de relier les agents au programme chinois de guerre biologique d'où le virus est soupçonné d'avoir fui pour provoquer l'épidémie de coronavirus de Wuhan").

PolitiFact, FactCheck.org, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. all concluded that there is no evidence that the Wuhan coronavirus was stolen by Chinese spies from a Canadian lab. The article's evidence for the claim is that two Chinese scientists were escorted from the lab in July 2019. The CBC did, in fact, report that two Chinese scientists were escorted from the lab that month. However, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) told the CBC that they were asked to leave due to an investigation of what it described as a "policy breach" and "administrative manner," and that the matter was not connected to the coronavirus outbreak. "This is misinformation and there is no factual basis for claims being made on social media," PHAC spokesperson Eric Morrissette told the CBC in January 2020.

Aube Digitale has published misinformation on other topics, including vaccines. In November 2019, the site published an article titled "Facebook bans all content on vaccine awareness, including facts about vaccines' ingredients" ("Facebook bannit tout contenu concernant la sensibilisation aux vaccins, y compris des faits sur les ingrédients des vaccins"). The article claimed that a causal link between vaccines and autism "is true, even according to the best scientist at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), [and] even though the vaccines' industry pretends it's a hoax." ("l'affirmation selon laquelle les vaccins sont liés à l'autisme – quelque chose que même le meilleur scientifique des CDC révèle être vrai, mais l'industrie des vaccins prétend que c'est un canular").

Santé Publique France, the French National Public Health Agency, and many other health and science authorities, including the CDC, the U.K. National Health Service, and the World Health Organization, have

repeatedly stated that there is no causal link between vaccines and autism, based on an abundance of scientific evidence.

Because AubeDigitale.com has published numerous articles that have promoted false or unsubstantiated theories about the Wuhan coronavirus crisis and other matters, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

AubeDigitale.com does not state a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

The site does not have a dedicated section for opinion, nor does it disclose a political or ideological viewpoint. Nevertheless, the site frequently publishes unlabeled opinion.

For example, a February 2020 unlabeled article titled "World surveillance: here are the plans for a new EU-US transatlantic database on facial recognition" ("Surveillance mondiale : Les plans pour une nouvelle base de données transatlantique UE-USA sur la reconnaissance faciale") stated: "Western media make a big deal of the horrors committed by the Chinese surveillance State. In many ways, it's a convenient scapegoat for the western establishment who wants to divert attention from what is emerging in North America and Europe." ("Les médias et le discours occidentaux font grand cas des horreurs que commet l'État de surveillance chinois. À bien des égards, il s'agit d'un bouc émissaire commode pour les experts de l'establishment occidental qui veulent détourner l'attention de ce qui est en train d'être érigé en Amérique du Nord et en Europe").

A February 2020 article about India stated that the country "is on its way to destruction with Modi at its head." ("L'Inde est sur la voie de la destruction avec Modi aux commandes").

Because AubeDigitale.com does not distinguish between news and opinion, and does not disclose a point of view or agenda, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Aube Digitale does not provide any contact information, and NewsGuard could not reach the site for comment on its editorial practices, including the articles cited above, the lack of corrections, and the mixing of news and opinion.

Transparency

AubeDigitale.com does not provide any information on its ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators. Articles generally do not provide the name of the writer and are credited to "admin."

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

NewsGuard could not reach the site to inquire about its transparency practices.

History

According to the site's Who Are We page, AubeDigitale.com was created in June 2019. "I hope this will mark the beginning of a long and fascinating adventure," an unsigned post stated. ("J'espère que cela marquera le début d'une longue et passionnante aventure !").

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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