

ho1.us

A website that regularly promotes far-right conspiracy theories, including false claims about the COVID-19 virus.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Ownership and Financing

HO1.us is owned by two marketing firms, What's Next? and PHMC GPE LLC. What's Next? is based in Paris and was launched in 2008 by its CEO Sylvie Fourcade, who frequently contributes content to the site.

PHMC GPE is a Delaware-incorporated company founded by its CEO, Philippe Maille.

The site derives revenue from online subscriptions. It does not run advertising.









Content

On a page called “At a Glance,” the website says it aims to “convey helpful information to the largest number of People Worldwide, compiling a large number of genuine verified and validated sources.” An introduction page on the website provides a description of the QAnon movement, an online extreme right-wing group that believes a “deep state” is working against U.S. President Donald Trump and his supporters. The site’s logo includes a ribbon with the words “Holistic Overview #1” and the letter Q, an apparent reference to the anonymous leader of the QAnon movement, known only as “Q.”

HO1.us primarily publishes content in English and French, and publishes some stories in Spanish and Portuguese. The site generally covers political scandals, such as abuses of power and alleged malfeasance committed by the “deep state.” Its content is generally only accessible to online subscribers.

Typical headlines include “Secret societies, their influence and power in world history” (“Les sociétés secrètes, leur influence et leur pouvoir dans l’histoire du monde”); “QAnon, knowing is half the battle!” (“QAnon, savoir, c’est la moitié de la bataille !”); and “Tension between France and Turkey, NATO members” (“Tension entre la France et la Turquie, membres de l’OTAN”).

Score: 15/100

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
-  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.](#)

HO1.us publishes articles and videos that often promote conspiracy theories embraced by QAnon. The website occasionally republishes stories in full, or attributes excerpts of stories to websites that NewsGuard has found to repeatedly publish false content, including ZeroHedge.com and conspiracy-oriented site HumansAreFree.com.

Many stories promote false and misleading information, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in May 2020, the site published an article about the 26-minute video “Plandemic,” which heavily features Judy Mikovits, a molecular biologist and anti-vaccine activist. The article cited multiple false and unsubstantiated comments Mikovits made in the “Plandemic” video about the COVID-19 virus. The article quoted Mikovits as saying, “It's very clear this virus was manipulated. This family of viruses was manipulated and studied in a laboratory where the animals were taken into the laboratory. And this is what was released, whether deliberate or not, that cannot be naturally occurring.” (“Il est très clair que ce virus Covid-19 a été manipulé. Cette famille de virus a été manipulée et étudiée dans un laboratoire où les animaux ont été amenés. Libéré, délibérément ou non, cela ne peut pas se produire naturellement.”)

There is no evidence to support the claim that the virus was manipulated. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said that it “concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

In March 2020, the site published a story that claimed that COVID-19 could be cured with high doses of intravenous Vitamin C. The article said, “Chinese, American, Canadian, Algerian scientists and doctors

confirm and prove that COVID-19 can be cured with mere intravenous vitamin C!" ("Des scientifiques, des médecins chinois, américains, canadiens, algériens confirment et ont prouvé que l'on peut guérir le Covid-19 avec de la simple vitamine C en intraveineuse !").

The article also claimed that "a Chinese study on intravenous vitamin C (IVC) showed that it is 100 percent effective in treating moderate to severe coronavirus infections," without naming the study. ("Une étude chinoise sur la vitamine C en intraveineuse ((IVC) a montré qu'elle était efficace à 100% pour traiter les infections à coronavirus modérées à sévères.") The author also cited an article published in the Chinese Journal of Infectious Diseases, which listed vitamin C along with other potential treatments such as antiviral drugs.

While Vitamin C is being studied as a treatment of COVID-19 in several clinical trials, fact-checking organizations including French newspaper 20 Minutes' fact-checking unit, Factcheck.org, and HealthFeedback.org have said that there is no credible evidence that high doses of Vitamin C can slow or stop the disease. The World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the French Health Ministry have said that there is no specific treatment recommended for the coronavirus strain responsible for the 2020 outbreak.

A December 2019 HO1.us article featured several YouTube videos that made false claims linking former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other Democratic leaders to a child sex trafficking ring run out of a Washington pizzeria. One of the videos said, "There is a considerable amount of evidence that has yet to be explained demonstrating that Comet Pizza may be a front for child sex trafficking, allegedly... Pedophile rings frequently operate out of or are at least affiliated with pizzerias around the country."

Numerous fact-checking organizations and police in the District of Columbia have said there is no truth to the conspiracy theory known as Pizzagate, which first gained traction before the 2016 U.S. presidential election through posts on forums such as 4Chan. The

posts cited hacked emails from the Democratic National Committee, speculating that references to pizza and the Comet Ping Pong Pizzeria in the emails were actually coded descriptions of a child sex ring. There is also no evidence that pedophile rings are associated with pizzerias, as the HO1.US video claimed.

In March 2020, the site published a false story titled “The Escape of Hitler and other Nazis to Argentina, Declassified Documents 2/20, Part 1” (“L’évasion d’Hitler et d’autres nazis en Argentine, documents déclassifiés 2/20, partie 1”) which claimed that the FBI released documents that proved Adolf Hitler did not commit suicide in Berlin in 1945, but rather escaped on a German submarine to Argentina. The article cited as a source a book titled “Hitler in Argentina: The Documented Truth of Hitler's Escape from Berlin,” written by conspiracy theorist Harry Cooper. The article claimed, “Cooper provides a wealth of surprising evidence that Hitler and other renowned Nazis, such as Martin Bormann, traveled in German submarines to Argentina. Some amazing evidence for this claim is these documents that the FBI declassified in 2015.” (“L’auteur Harry Cooper fournit une foule de preuves étonnantes montrant que Hitler et d’autres nazis de renom tels que Martin Bormann ont voyagé dans des sous-marins allemands jusqu’en Argentine. Certaines preuves étonnantes de cette affirmation sont ces documents déclassifiés par le FBI en 2015.”)

According to the FBI’s library of public records, known as the Records Vault, the agency investigated some of the rumors about Hitler being alive, but found them to be unproven.

“In the aftermath of Germany’s surrender in 1945, western Allied forces suspected that Hitler had committed suicide but did not immediately find evidence of his death,” according to the Records Vault. The FBI’s files on Hitler do not show any evidence that he survived or escaped to Argentina, fact-checking site Snopes reported.

Because HO1.us promotes hoaxes and debunked conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to

gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site features an Editorial Policy page, which states, “If we discover a correction needs to be made, it is always clearly labeled within an article. Sometimes we slightly update a headline or adjust something we may have made a mistake with. It’s rare, but where you see it is where we have been notified or have found errors.” The page also includes an email address that readers can use to submit corrections.

However, NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site. HO1.us also has not corrected numerous false stories, including the examples cited above, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for regularly correcting errors.

HO1.us does not generally label opinion content and does not disclose an overall political orientation. However, most news stories express strong right-wing opinions and present the Trump administration in a flattering way.

For example, in May 2020, the site republished the French translation of a post by the English-language blog Operation Disclosure, which said, “The EU, with the help of the Obomb-a-thon and international manipulators like George Soros, forced the migrant crisis on countries like Sweden, France and the UK, without taking the preservation of those cultures into any account. ... And maybe you can even pretend for a hot minute that someone else might win the 2020 election, despite the historic great progress under Trump. But deep down, you know and you know and you know, that he's going to win again. Bigly. And that's a good thing.” The article was only labeled with the words “France” and “Europe.”

In February 2020, the site published an article labeled “POTUS,” “North America” and “Q-ANONS,” which claimed that “the movement that brought Donald Trump to the White House has better ideas than the old right or the new left. It's time the rest of America started listening.” (“Le mouvement qui a amené Donald Trump

à la Maison Blanche a de meilleures idées que l'ancienne droite ou la nouvelle gauche. Il est temps que le reste de l'Amérique commence à écouter.”)

Because HO1.us publishes unlabeled opinion content in news stories, and does not disclose an overall right-wing perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

In response to a list of questions about the website's false claims, lack of corrections, and unlabeled opinion, Philippe Maille, the CEO of a company that co-owns HO1.us, told NewsGuard in an email, “The answers to your questions are on the site itself!” without elaborating. Maille also posted a note on NewsGuard's Facebook page and a tweet from his own account that questioned NewsGuard's motives, saying on Twitter, “who's financing @NewsGuardRating?”

Transparency

HO1.us discloses on its “At a glance” page that it is a joint venture between What's Next? and PHMC GPE. The page also links to the corporate websites of both companies and names its founders. However, the site does not reveal who is in charge of the content.

Readers can contact HO1.us via an online form. Most articles are written by two authors, Fourcade and a writer identified as “QNAVY.” Articles by Sylvie Fourcade include links to her social media accounts. However, because the site does not identify QNAVY by name, and because the writer is one of only two content creators, NewsGuard has determined that HO.us does not meet NewsGuard's standard for providing information about content creators.

Maille did not respond to NewsGuard's emailed questions asking why the site does not disclose its editorial leadership or identify one of its two content creators.

The site does not run advertising.

History

HO1.us' domain was registered in 2016. It started publishing content in 2019, according to archived pages

of the site.

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Chine Labbe](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

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Content

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