

Channel 22 News Network

One in a network of websites that lets users make up stories and headlines that mimic real news and share them on social media.



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

Ownership and Financing

Channel22News.com belongs to a network of approximately a dozen sites known as Prank Social. Its owner is a Milwaukee man named Korry Scherer, also known as Korry Tye. The sites have slightly different names, such as Channel23News.com and Channel24News.com.

The sites run sponsored content and charges a \$99.99 fee to people who request that a false article be deleted.

Content

The sites invite users to “Create A Prank And Trick All Your Friends!” Anyone can generate false stories and headlines that mimic real news coverage when posted to social media platforms. The headlines of articles that are shared on social media from Channel22News.com do not indicate to a user that they are pranks until users click on the link.

The sites’ homepages provide users with a form where they can write a fake headline, story, and add an image before sharing it on social media. It offers a few tips such as “You must be creative but keep in mind to make it fun.” and “Choose a catchy title for your joke. Make your friends curious.”

An image near the bottom of the homepage includes text saying, “Come Up With A Prank and Troll All Your Friends! Create something that will have all your friends confused and laughing!” and suggests pranking people such as “Your Boss,” “Your School,” and “Your Neighbors.”

In small print at the bottom of the homepage, the sites say in a copyright notice, “We do NOT support FAKE NEWS!!! This is a Prank website that is intended for Fun. Bullying, Violent Threats or posts that Violate Public Order are NOT permitted on this Website.”

Score: 20/100

- ✗ 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.](#)

Credibility

False stories generated by the Prank Social network have generated millions of engagements on Facebook, according to a 2017 BuzzFeed News story, and have sometimes caused widespread confusion and panic. In March 2020, West Virginia's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management publicly debunked a Channel22News.com story headlined, "WV Governor Jim Justice to close WV state borders tonight at midnight" after it received multiple 911 calls about it. In a Facebook post, the division said, "Channel 22 News is a FAKE NEWS Site that has been causing an overload of calls to our 911 centers. 'Pranks' like this are no joke. They pose a very real danger to our citizens and our first responders. Before sharing, please make sure the source is valid!"

In 2017, Prank Social sites spread hoax stories that Missouri police were looking for a potentially dangerous Missouri Southern State University student who was supposedly armed and that police were evacuating a specific street in Missouri during a period of severe flooding. The local police chief told KOAM News Now, "We got inquiries, we got calls. It spread like wildfire that we were evacuating a part of town that would not be evacuated."

In 2020, Channel22News.com published false stories related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example an article titled "Corona virus Can Now Turn You Into a Zombie," showed an enlarged picture of the virus with a caption that reads "Last night the first confirmed case of the coronavirus in China began to show signs of aggression and attacked other patients quarantined. The patient attacked and bit 4 quarantined patients and killed 1. WHO stated that people that have had the virus for more than 2 weeks will show decaying flesh and signs of aggression."

Channel22News.com generated a false story claiming that the coronavirus patient zero had been identified. The article stated that "His name is Jad Zarzour, and he is a pakistani-syrian immigrant who prostitutes himself at the Wuhan Fish Market to feed his family of 8."

The creator of the Prank Social network, Scherer (who goes by the name Korry Tye), told BuzzFeed News that he intended for his platform to be used as a fun way to prank friends and coworkers. However, he acknowledged that he has leveraged viral hoaxes to make money.

“Initially I never really set out trying to mess with fake news,” Scherer told BuzzFeed. “This prank site for the most part is people making stories that affect them and their friends ... I definitely took advantage of online hoaxes and viral hoaxes over the years, I can’t deny that. It’s a way to make money.”

While several stories have been taken down from Prank Social sites, such as the one about the London-based Indian restaurant, some articles that have caused confusion are still accessible. Other than the sites’ Request Prank Removal page, which gives users a way to pay nearly \$100 to ask for an article to be taken down, the network includes no information about its editorial practices or if it would remove certain types of content without a user’s agreement to pay.

Because the Prank Social network by its very nature facilitates the creation of false information intended to fool people, NewsGuard has determined that the sites repeatedly publish false articles and headlines and do not gather and present information responsibly.

The Channel 22 News network does not have a corrections policy and NewsGuard could not find any corrections on the websites.

The sites do not have a contact form or other way for users to reach its owner. NewsGuard sent two inquiries through a contact form on a website called Korrytye.com, seeking comment about the sites’ editorial practices, but did not receive a response.

The websites do not publish opinion content.

Transparency

The user-generated stories published by Channel22News.com and affiliated websites do not identify the network’s owners, editors, or content creators.

NewsGuard sent two inquiries through a contact form on a website called Korrytye.com, seeking comment about the websites' failure to identify owners, editors, and content creators, but did not receive a response.

Sponsored content and advertisements are distinguished from the prank stories.

History

The domain Channel22News.com was registered in 2017 and the PrankSocial.com domain was first registered in 2000.

Correction: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label misspelled the preferred name of the website's owner. Korry Scherer also goes by the name Korry Tye.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on July 17, 2020, and its rating was changed, to reflect NewsGuard's determination that the Channel22News.com network does not fail to meet NewsGuard's standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly. The criteria checklist was adjusted accordingly.

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Sources

Channel24News.com

Terms and Conditions

<https://channel22news.com/terms-and-conditions/>

Fee to take down content <https://pranksocial.com/>

<http://www.fakenewscodex.com/network/korry-schererkorry-tye-network/>

Korry Tye personal website <http://korrytye.com/>

Content

Trolls Are Targeting Indian Restaurants With A Create-Your-Own Fake News Site

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/craigsilverman/create-your-own-fake-news-sites-are-booming-on-facebook-and>

Creator of fake prank news site says it's all in fun
<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/35873155/creator-of-fake-prank-news-site-says-its-all-in-fun>
Create story web form <https://channel22news.com/>

Credibility

Man Accused of Ejaculating In His Boss' Coffee
Everyday For 4 Years <http://archive.is/NlyS6#selection-951.1-951.68>

Popeyes manager arrested for allegedly dipping
chicken in cocaine based flour to increase business
sales. <http://archive.is/GIFtd#selection-1113.0-1113.105>

Beyoncé welcomes 2 baby boys with husband Jay-Z.
<http://archive.is/evDfn#selection-1055.0-1055.48>

FBI finds evidence of collusion. Trump facing
impeachment. <http://archive.fo/vJAqN>

Story about Checkers shooting came from fake news
generating website <http://archive.fo/ro7zz>

Beyoncé welcomes 2 baby boys with husband Jay-Z.
<http://archive.is/evDfn#selection-1055.0-1055.48>

Manager killed 10 employees at checkers on 183st and
27ave <https://channel24news.com/2017/06/manager-killed-10-employees-at-checkers-on-183st-and-27ave/>

Officials: Several Local "Fake News" Stories Recently
Have Created Panic, Disgust
<https://www.koamnewsnow.com/news/officials-several-local-fake-news-stories-recently-have-created-panic-disgust/915836232>
<https://carljunction.org/police-department/>

Asian Restaurant Shut Down For Using Human Meat
<http://archive.is/Hu4rA>

New Cross Indian restaurant hit by fake news story
claiming it 'served human meat'
<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/new-cross-restaurant-hit-by-fake-news-story-claiming-it-served-human-meat-a3541956.html>

Coronavirus Zombie Story 1
<https://channel22news.com/corona-virus-can-now-turn-you-into-a-zombie/>

Coronavirus Zombie Story 2
<https://web.archive.org/web/20200715152425/https://channel22news.com/coronas-patient-zero-identified/>

Coronavirus Zombie Story 3
<https://channel22news.com/coronavirus-leading-to-zombie-virus/>

<https://heavy.com/news/2020/06/coronavirus-zombie-channel-22/>

Transparency

Terms and Conditions

<https://channel24news.com/terms-and-conditions/>

Privacy Policy <https://channel22news.com/privacy-policy/>

Request a story to be taken down

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181109171001/https://pranksocial.com/>

History

Domain registration

<http://whois.domaintools.com/channel22news.com>

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<http://whois.domaintools.com/pranksocial.com>