AFP FACT CHECK WEBINAR

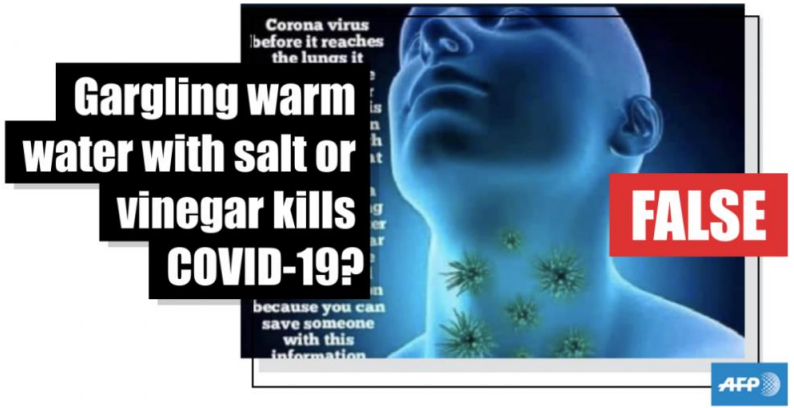
Debunking misinformation in Asia

@AFPFactCheck

MAY 11, 2020

AFP Fact Check

- AFP Fact Check launched in late 2017
- Now 30 countries globally. In Asia: Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar
- Four languages in Asia; including English, Thai, Indonesian, Malay and soon Burmese
- Fake news global – see same content multiple languages
- Online fact-checking is becoming increasingly important



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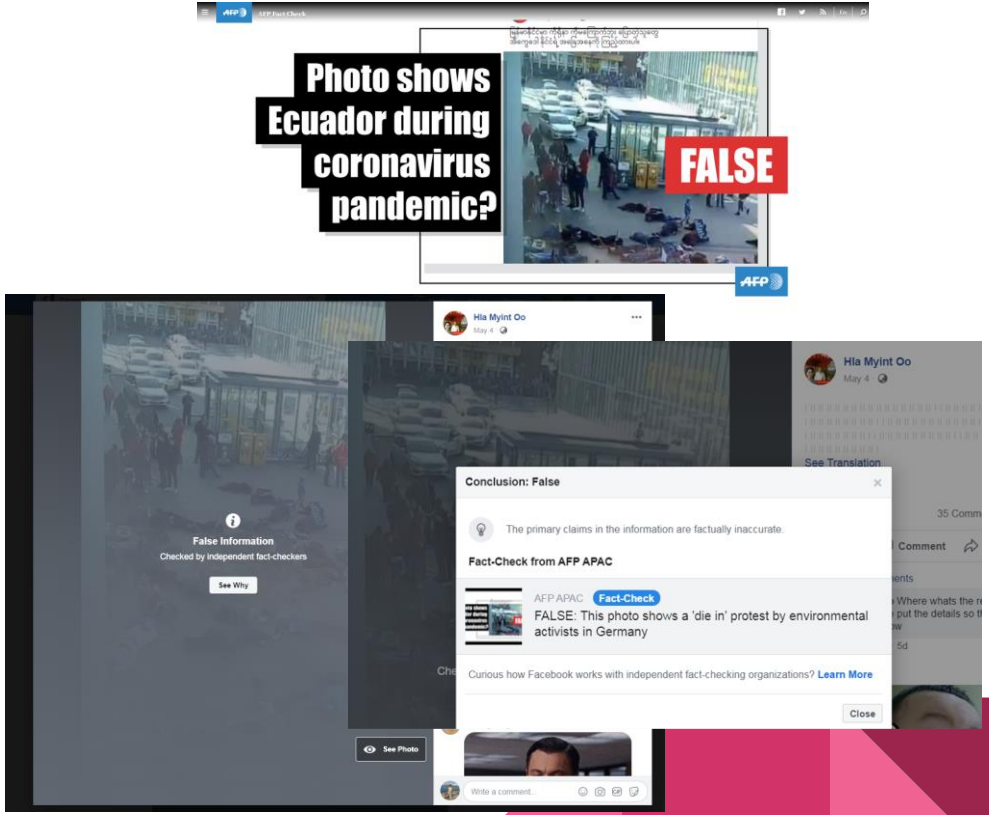
AFP + Facebook

- Part of Facebook Third-Party Fact-Checking program
- Facebook provides AFP with feeds of potentially misleading content
- AFP writes fact checks based on merit/news value
- Once fact check is written, we add it back into the FB ecosystem
- Facebook take steps to stop fake news spreading



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Tackling misinformation

First Draft is an excellent verification organisation dedicated to researching and tackling misinformation

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Coronavirus myths

- Globally, we've published more than 1,100 reports across 12 languages about the coronavirus pandemic
- In Asia alone, we've produced more than 300 reports in four languages
- Reports related to rumours and hoaxes; photos/videos used in the wrong context; false cures and COVID-19 prevention tips
- On our @AFPFactCheck Twitter account, we tweet our stories with the hashtag #CoronavirusFacts as part of the International Fact Checking Network's efforts to debunk coronavirus misinformation

We regularly update our COVID-19 verification hub

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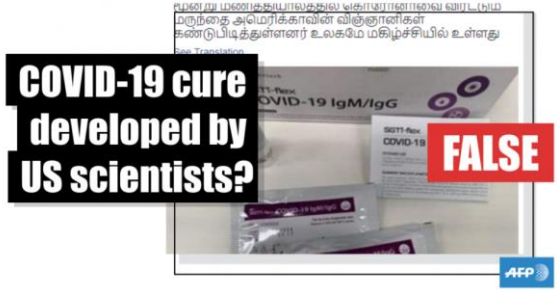
False cures

No evidence drinking tea can cure or relieve symptoms of COVID-19, doctors say

Trump's idea to treat COVID-19 with disinfectant could cause deaths



This photo shows a COVID-19 test kit developed by a South Korean company

- Tea hoax shared in Sri Lanka
- Trump's comments about disinfectant
- South Korean test kits photo circulated with false 'cure' claim

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Copy-paste hoaxes: case study

Chef Mavis Soliven
24 March at 11:45 ·

From HK today:
"In our laboratory, we found trace amount of the virus on the skin of fruits and vegetables after 12 hrs. of being touched by another customer who was infected.
We recommend our staff to avoid salads. Do not eat the fruits within 48

食物安全中心 Centre for Food Safety
· February 5 ·

【人類會否透過食物感染新型冠狀病毒？】

網上流傳有內地食品包裝場職員懷疑感染新型冠狀病毒，引起有關進口食品安全嘅關注。

新型冠狀病毒主要透過呼吸道飛沫傳染💦。根據現有資料，目前並無證據顯示人類透過食物感染新型冠狀病毒。德國、澳洲同新西蘭等地嘅食安機構亦認為，人類咁太可能透過食物感染呢種病毒。... See More
See Translation

66 6 Comments 30 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant

Author
食物安全中心 Centre for Food Safety 各位

Write a comment...

A woman walks through the wet markets wearing a protective face mask in Hong Kong on February 25, 2020. (AFP / Isaac Lawrence)

rculates online in Hong Kong that COVID-
transmitted through fruits and vegetables

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Photo/video taken out of context: case study

This video shows a police drill in India during the coronavirus pandemic

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Fabricated report: case study

This report is not from a genuine news site -- the Vatican said the pope was suffering from a cold

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FACT-CHECKING TOOLS

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Reverse image search

- Upload the image to Google Image Search, Yandex or try the RevEye extension
- Google will provide you with a list of search results which you can analyse to try to establish where and when the image first appeared online
- Example: photo shows food waste in Sri Lanka during the pandemic?

This 2017 photo shows food waste in Australia -- it is unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Geo-location of UGC

Key clues to look for:

- Shop signs
- Landmarks
- Style of buildings
- Logos
- Street signs
- Ethnicity of the people featured
- Clothing/props
- Languages spoken
- Background music
- Terrain/style of cityscape

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Video verification: InVID/WeVerify

For videos, e.g. this misleading post, use InVID/WeVerify – breaks down videos into keyframes then allows you to run a reverse image search.

This video has circulated online since 2017 about a hotel demolition in China's Jiangsu province

You will often locate news reports about the video, or at least clues about where and when it was filmed and what it features.

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OTHER HANDY ONLINE FACT-CHECKING TOOLS

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Other fact-checking tools

- The WayBack Machine: online archive, useful for finding web pages which have been removed
- Carbon Dating the Web: free tool which gives you an estimated date that a web page was published
- Get-Metadata.com: check the metadata of a video or photo to see if it is an original file

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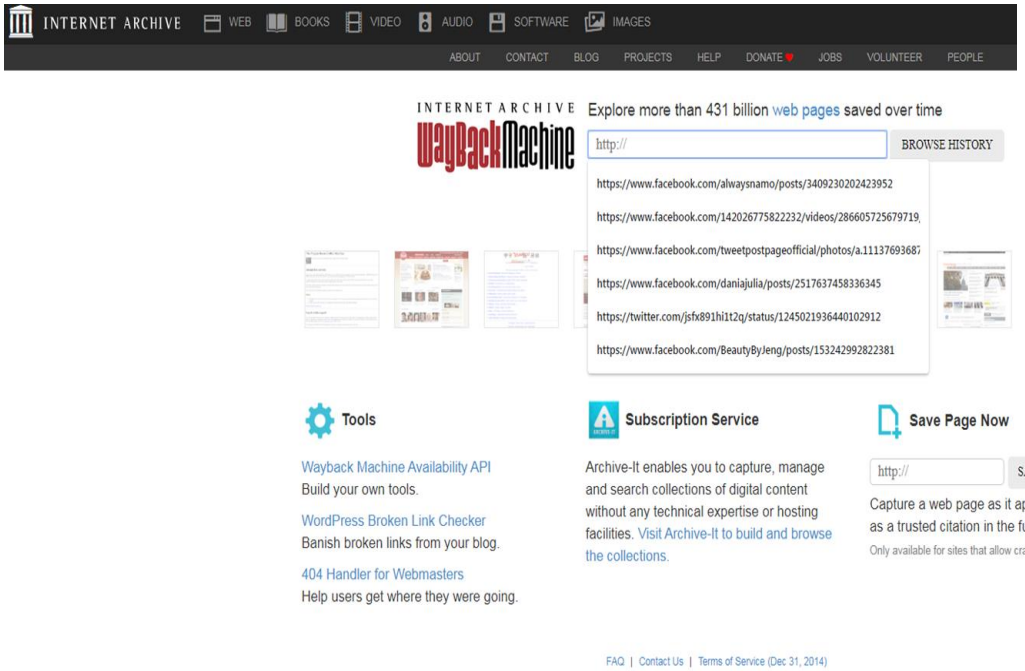
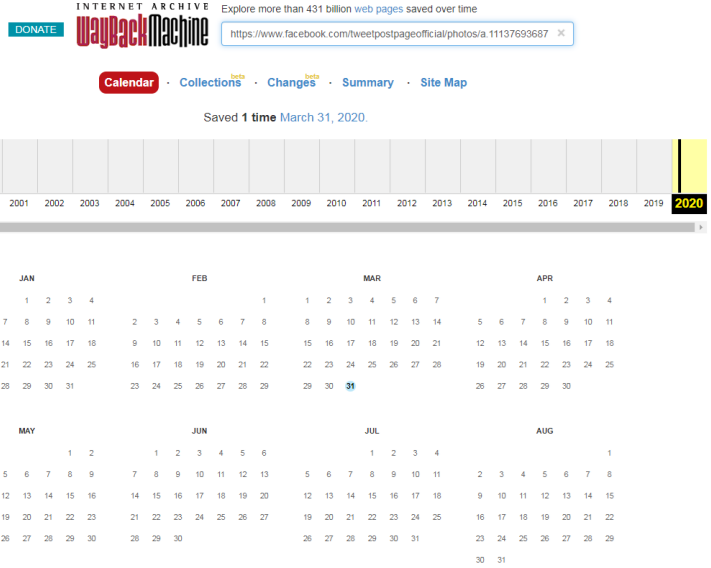
The WayBack Machine





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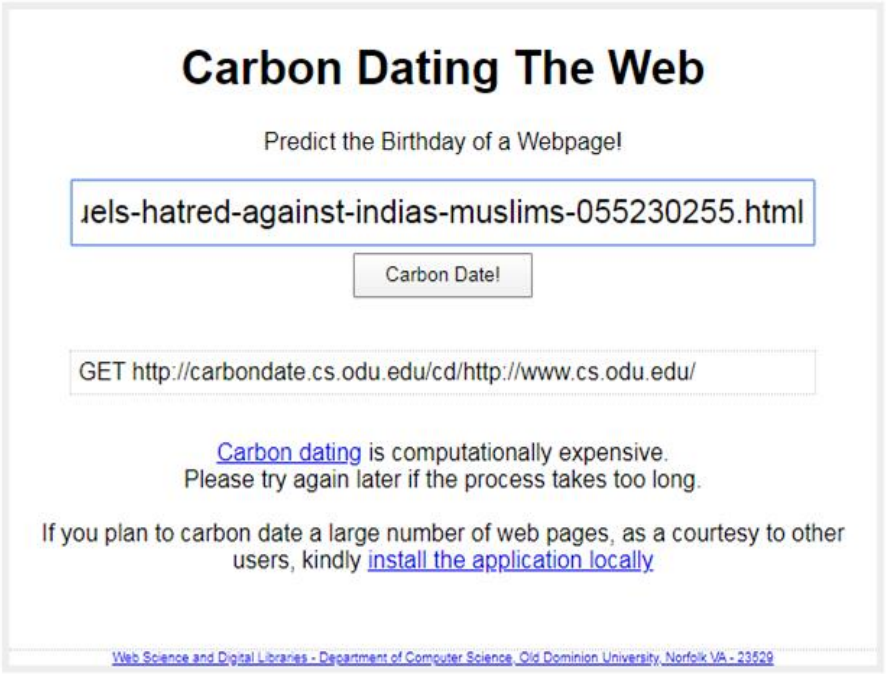
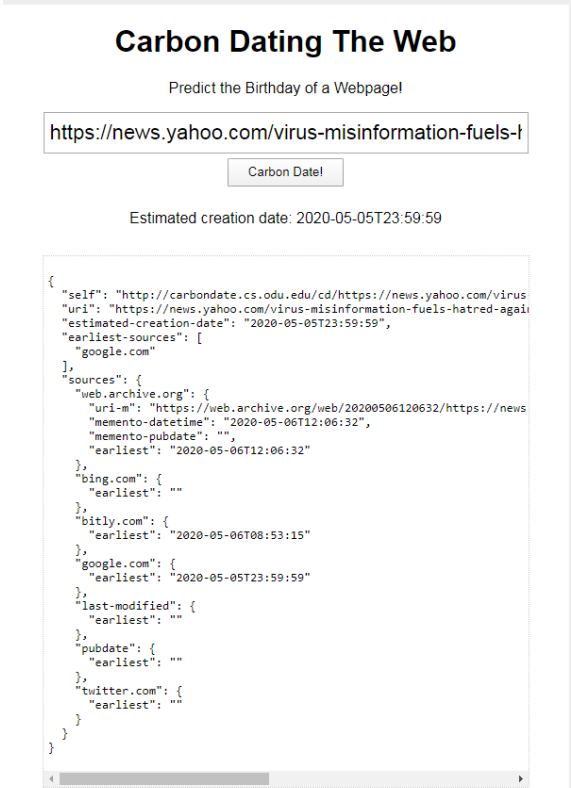
Carbon Dating The Web





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Get-Metadata.com

METADATA 2 GO .com **FREE ONLINE EXIF VIEWER**

share 636 tweet

Top 15 Meta Keys

- Category
- Image Height
- Modify Date
- Raw Header
- Size
- File Type
- Create Date
- Image Width
- Megapixels
- Image Size
- File Size
- Mime Type
- Bits Per Sample
- File Name
- File Type Extension

FIND OUT WHICH METADATA INFORMATION YOUR FILE CONTAINS

DRAG & DROP YOUR FILE HERE

Choose File No file chosen

OR CLICK HERE TO UPLOAD A FILE

Search for metadata

Top 15 File Formats

- PDF (Portable Document Format)
- MKV (Matroska Video File)
- PNG (Portable Network Graphics)
- MP4 (MPEG-4 Video Stream)
- ZIP (ZIP compression)
- MP3 (MPEG Layer 3 Audio)
- GIF (CompuServe Graphics Interchange Format)
- BMP (Microsoft Windows bitmap)
- M4A (MPEG-4 Audio Layer)
- WAV (WAVE Audio)
- JPG (Joint Photographic Experts Group JFIF format)
- ODT (OpenDocument Text Document)
- AVI (Microsoft Audio/Visual Interleaved)
- XLS (Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet)
- DOC (Microsoft Word Binary File Format)

Handler Class	Data Handler
Handler Vendor Id	Apple
Handler Description	Core Media Data Handler
Meta Format	mebx
Handler Type	Metadata Tags
Gps Coordinates	22 deg 18' 59.76" N, 114 deg 12' 48.60" E, 26.477 m Above Sea Level
Make	Apple
Model	iPhone 5
Software	10.3.4
Creation Date	2020:04:28 14:37:58+08:00
Avg Bitrate	15.5 Mbps
Gps Altitude	26.477 m
Gps Altitude Ref	Above Sea Level
Gps Latitude	22 deg 18' 59.76" N
Gps Longitude	114 deg 12' 48.60" E
Image Size	1920x1080
Megapixels	2.1

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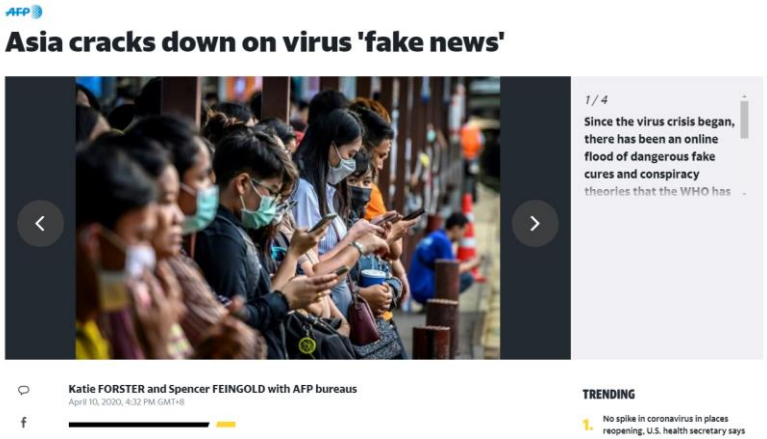
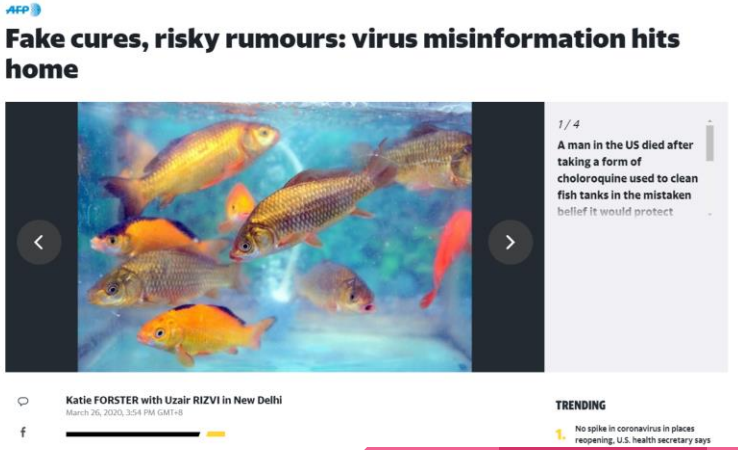
Fact checks on our wire

Asia fact check reporters add value to AFP's regional coverage – writing sidebars, focus pieces, contributing key information to breaking news stories.





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Contact me

Rachel Blundy, fact-check editor for AFP in Asia

Twitter @rachelblundy, email: rachel.blundy@afp.com

AFP Marketing in APAC: apacmarketing@afp.com

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