

Twitter to remove 'verification badge' from some accounts

November 16 2017



Twitter removed the verification badge from white nationalist Richard Spencer, who popularized the term "alt-right," as part of a new policy on authenticated accounts

Twitter is changing its policy on "verified" accounts, reserving the right to remove the blue badges from users who violate the online platform's terms of service.

The move came a week after Twitter launched a review of its policy following disclosures that neo-Nazi and white supremacist leaders had received verification of their accounts.

The blue verification badge was created by Twitter to vouch for the authenticity of content from [political leaders](#), celebrities and journalists, and to distinguish it from spoof or parody accounts.

But in its announcement Wednesday, Twitter said its process until now failed to take into [account](#) whether users promoted violence or [hate speech](#) or otherwise violated its terms of service.

"We're working on a new authentication and [verification program](#). In the meantime, we are not accepting any public submissions for verification and have introduced new guidelines for the program," a tweet from the company said.

"We are conducting an initial review of verified accounts and will remove verification from accounts whose behavior does not fall within these new guidelines."

One of those previously verified included Richard Spencer, a leader of the so-called "alt-right" movement—encompassing white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan—and the organizer of a white supremacist rally that erupted in deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia earlier this year.

Spencer commented on the removal of his badge late Wednesday, tweeting "Verified no more! Is it not okay to be proudly White?"

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Citation: Twitter to remove 'verification badge' from some accounts (2017, November 16)

retrieved 3 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-11-twitter-verification-badge-accounts.html>

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