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Twitter Suspended 70 Million Fake, Suspicious accounts in May & June

Twitter's ongoing battle against fake and suspicious accounts is ratcheting higher as more than 70 million accounts were suspended in May and June, according to data obtained by The Washington Post. The Post reports that the rate of account suspensions--more than 1 million a day in recent months--has more than doubled since October. That was the same month the micro-blogging service told Congress how Russia harnessed roughly 50,000 bots to meddle in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and sow discord. The tech platform's aggressive removal effort might result in a decline in the number of monthly users for the second quarter, which ended last week, a source told the Post. The account suspensions are part of the continuing fallout from when a Russian troll factory was able to use a range of tech platforms to meddle in the 2016 presidential election by highlighting existing social, racial and economic tensions. According to the Post, the recent changes were part of an internal debate at Twitter and reflect the company's view that it needs to limit the influence of people who are abusing the platform. Although some of these suspicious accounts may have been inactive recently, the most active have been able to tweet hundreds of times per day with the assistance of automation software, reports the Post, a method that critics say can warp online political discourse.