



DSEI Conference – 12th September 2019

An initiative launched and supported by UN CTED under mandate of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and implemented by QuantSpark Foundation

techagainstterrorism.org @techvsterrorism



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1. Challenge

2. Complication

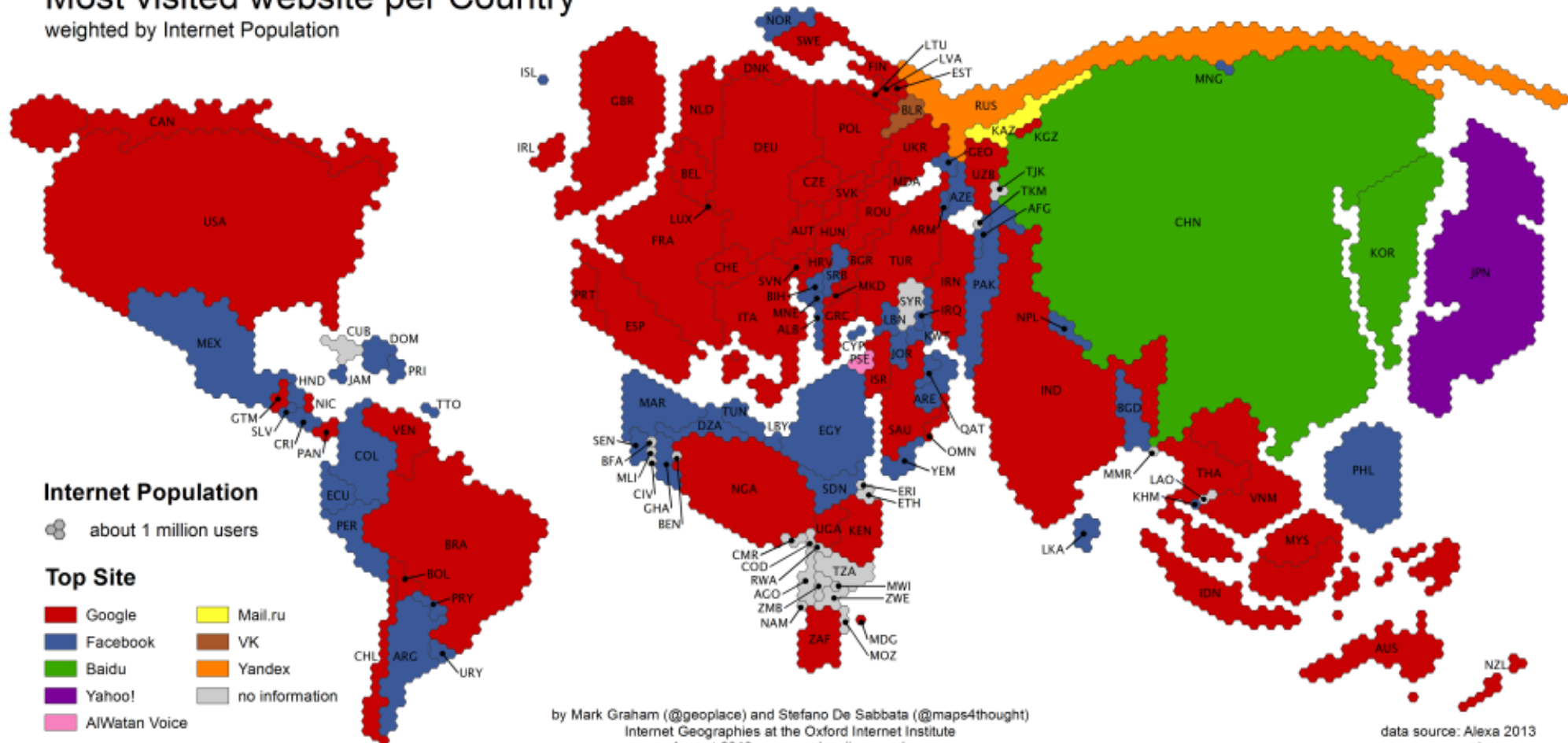
3. Solution

1. The Challenge

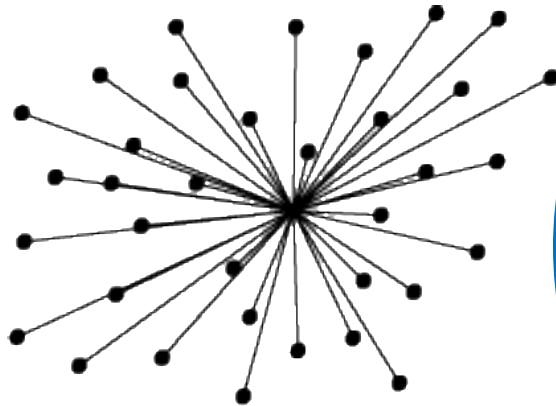
A) The nature of the internet

Most visited website per Country

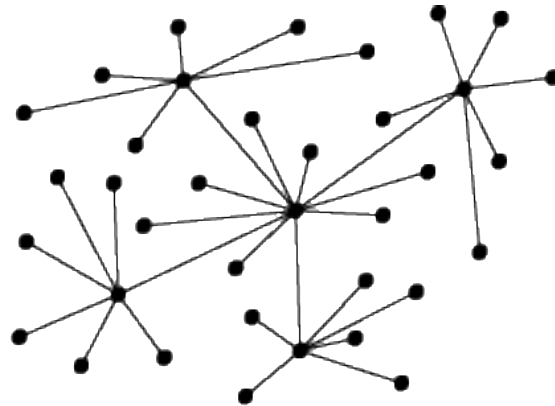
weighted by Internet Population



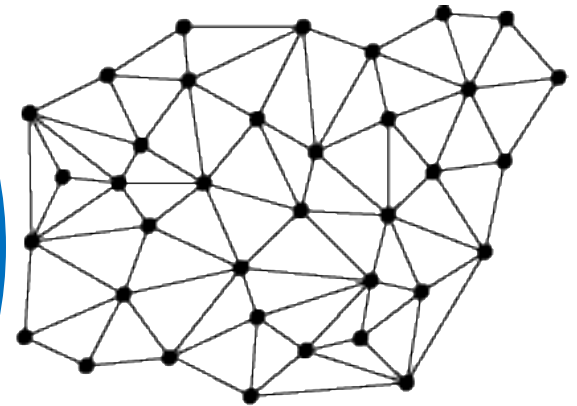
The internet is largely decentralized which means that by its nature the internet enables smaller platforms



centralised

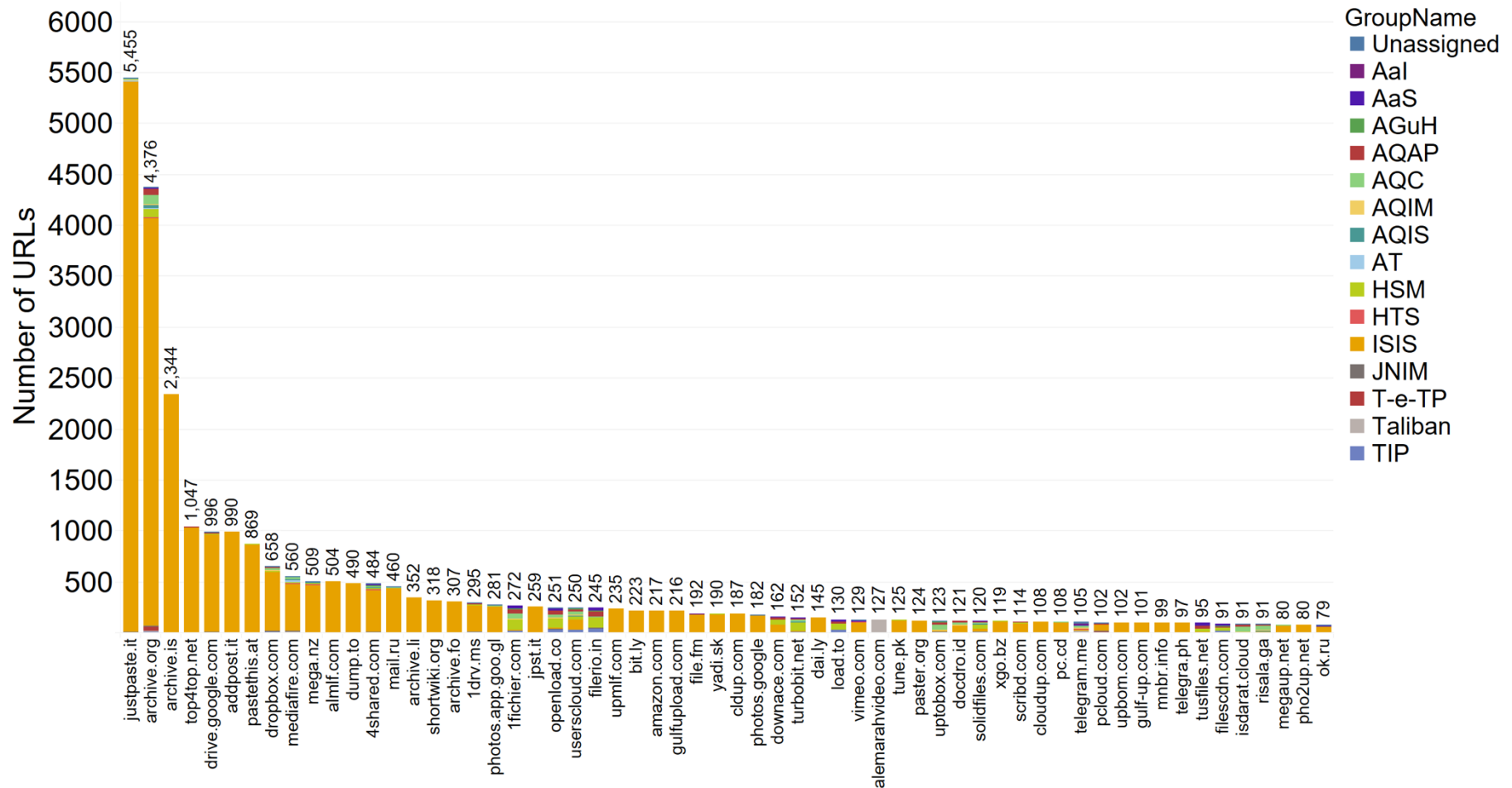


decentralised



distributed

The nature of the internet means that there is a *long tail* of services that are being used by terrorists and violent extremists



1. The Challenge

B) Terrorist Exploitation takes place on all forms of internet tech

What is our focus? We focus on understanding the full spectrum of technologies used by terrorists and violent extremists



1

**Propaganda, Radicalisation,
Recruitment**



**Social media and
Sharing
Platforms**



**Content storage
micro platforms,
link generators**



Infrastructure: DNS, hosting, DDOS

2

Operational



**Comms, VPN,
messaging,
encryption, VoIP**



**Financial tech
and payments**

3

Future Threats

**Blockchain,
decentralised
platforms, CNI, AI
/ ML, bespoke
platform
development**



1. The Challenge

C) Terrorists largely exploit the very smallest tech platforms



File-sharing, pasting & video-sharing sites exploited



archive.today

Saved from <https://justpaste.it/1gale>

search

27 Jan 2018 23:16:30 UTC

webpage capture

history

All snapshots from host justpaste.it

Webpage

Screenshot

share

download .zip

report error or abuse

JustPaste.it

share text and images the easy way

Add note

Popular

Premium

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

What is the threat? In particular we focus on the complex interaction between terrorist material and content platforms



1. The Challenge

D) It's not just about violent terrorist content

Where content is concerned there is spectrum from hate speech to illegal content directly connected to designated groups



Hate speech

Content promoting or condoning violence or inciting hatred against groups or individuals

Threatening material

Incitement to commit violent acts including acts of terrorism

Terrorism – affiliation to/celebration of violent extremist groups

Branded or ideologically-aligned (text, image, video, audio) that explicitly or implicitly associates the user with a known terrorist or violent extremists group (belonging to to supporting of)

Violent/graphic content

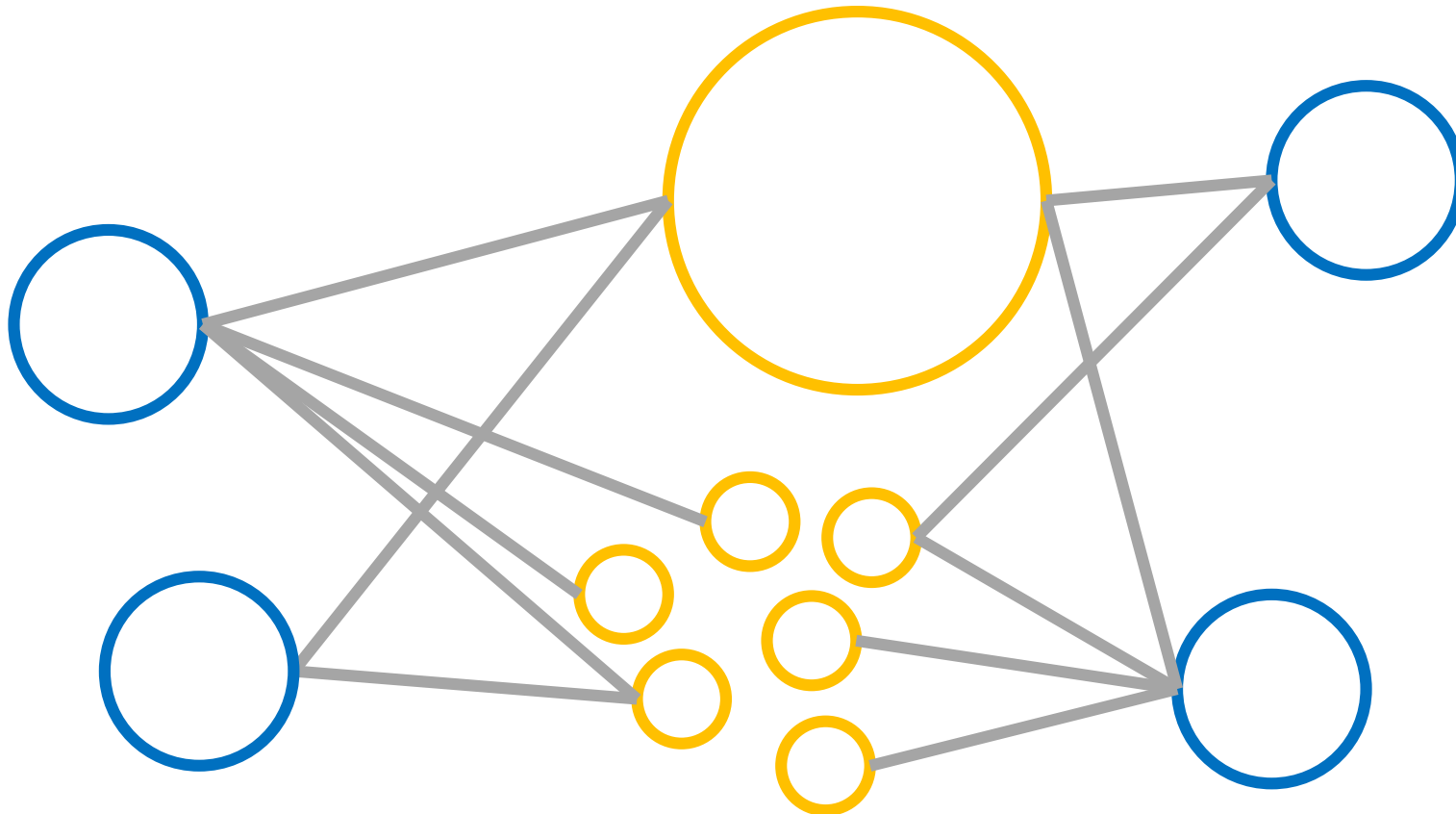
Gory and/or gratuitously violent content primarily intended to be distressing, sensational

Criminality

2. The Complication

**A) This is an inefficient
many-to-many problem**

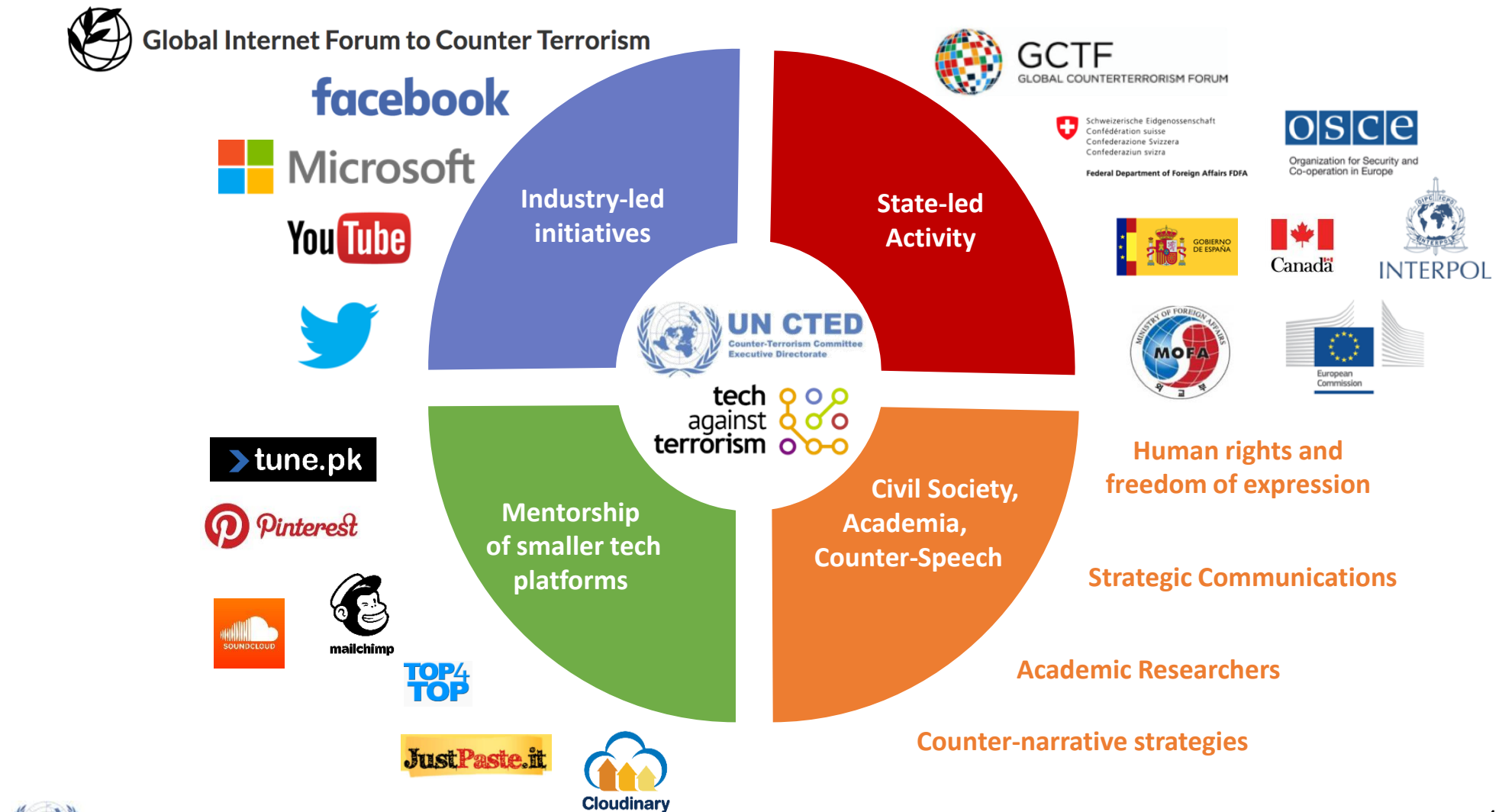
We have hundreds of government stakeholders, community organizations, researchers....and HUNDREDS of at-risk tech companies – **How do we optimize?**



3. The Solution

A) Public-private partnership – our work with States and Internet Companies

Tech Against Terrorism is a public-private partnership focused on knowledge sharing and providing support to tech platforms



As Strategic Partners of the GIFCT we focus on supporting smaller internet platforms in tackling terrorist use



Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism

facebook

You Tube



Microsoft

Technological
Solutions



Analysis &
OSINT Research



Knowledge
Sharing / Training



Data / Tool
Development



UN CTED
Counter-Terrorism Committee
Executive Directorate

tech
against
terrorism



Smaller platforms we've worked with recently...

tune.pk



mailchimp



Cloudinary

Pinterest

TikTok



SOUNDCLOUD

TOP4
TOP

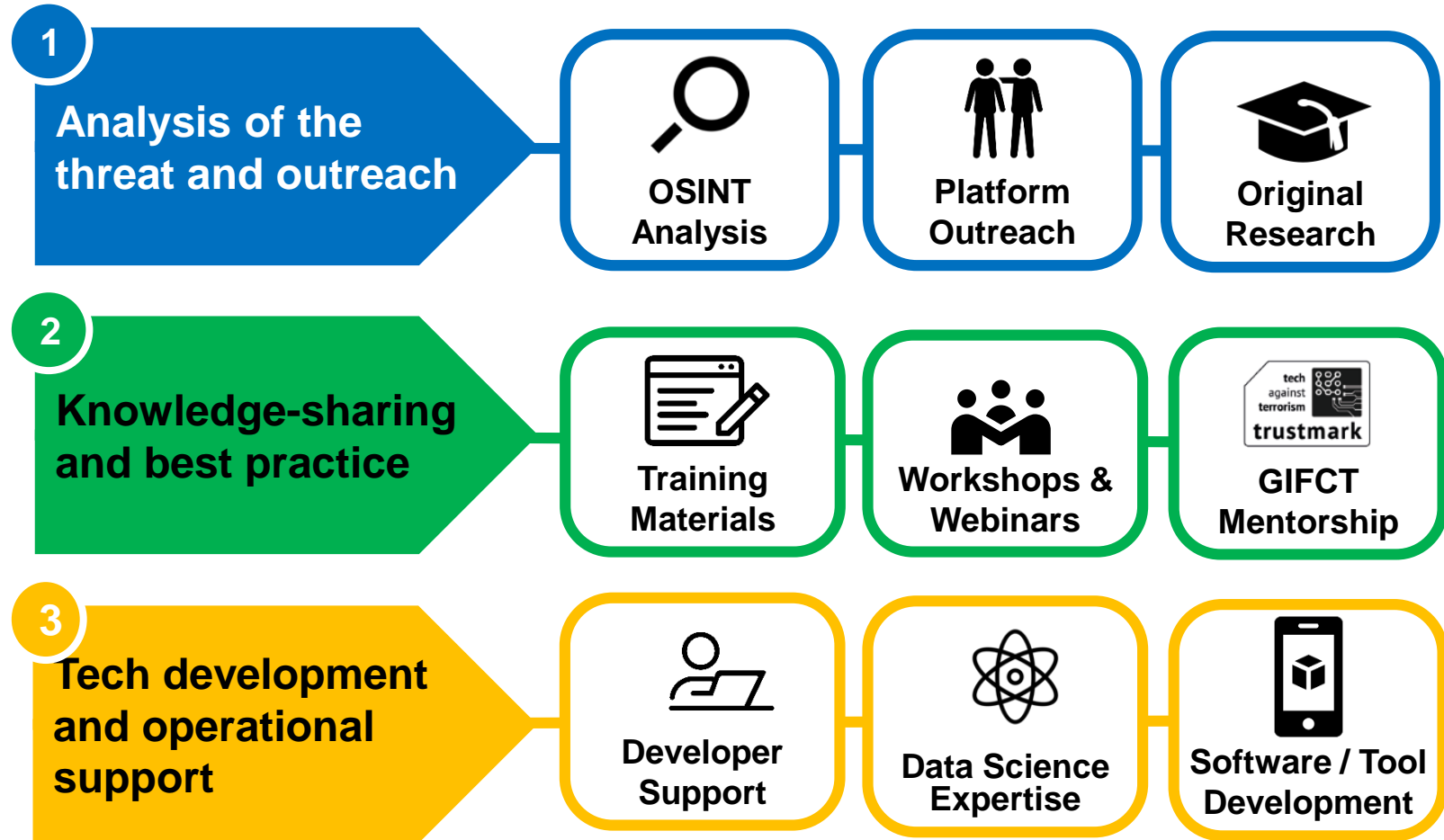
Jihadology

JustPaste.it

3. The Solution

B) Concrete action to share knowledge and build capacity

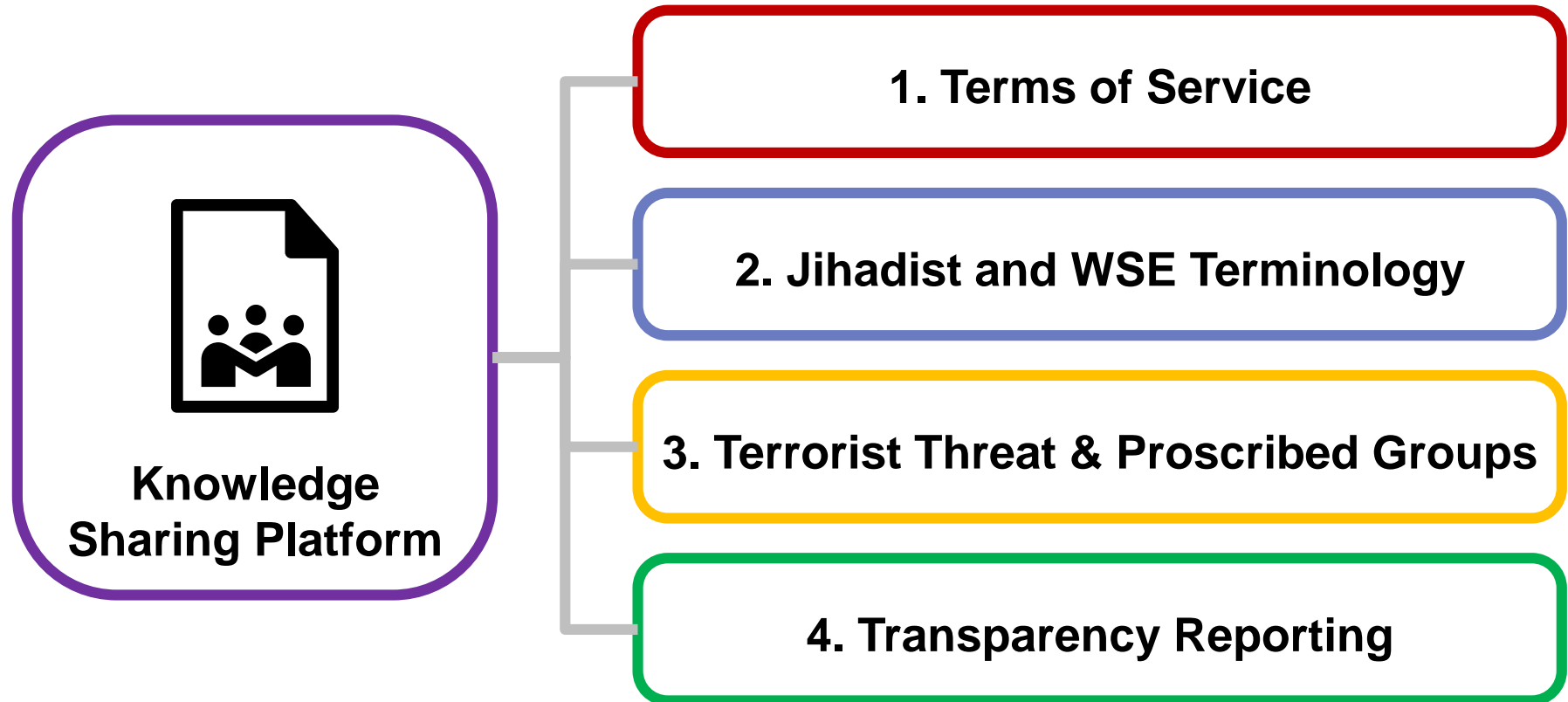
What work do we carry out? We focus on Outreach, Knowledge Sharing, and Operational Support



3. The Solution

C) Building tools: The Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP)

The Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP) was launched at the UN in 2017 and includes content and guidance for micro, small, and medium-sized platforms



3. The Solution

D) Mentorship and emerging best practice for smaller platforms

Within our Mentorship workstream we have 3 activities covering Community Guidelines, Moderation, and Transparency



- Work with companies to improve Community Guidelines
- Provide operational definitions of violent extremism and terrorism

- Develop Best Practice for platforms including implementing logins for sensitive content
- Standardise reports from governments and users

- Propose companies to publish regular reports of take-down requests
- Promote transparency around government requests

In partnership with the GIFCT we support a Membership programme for companies with a number of criteria:

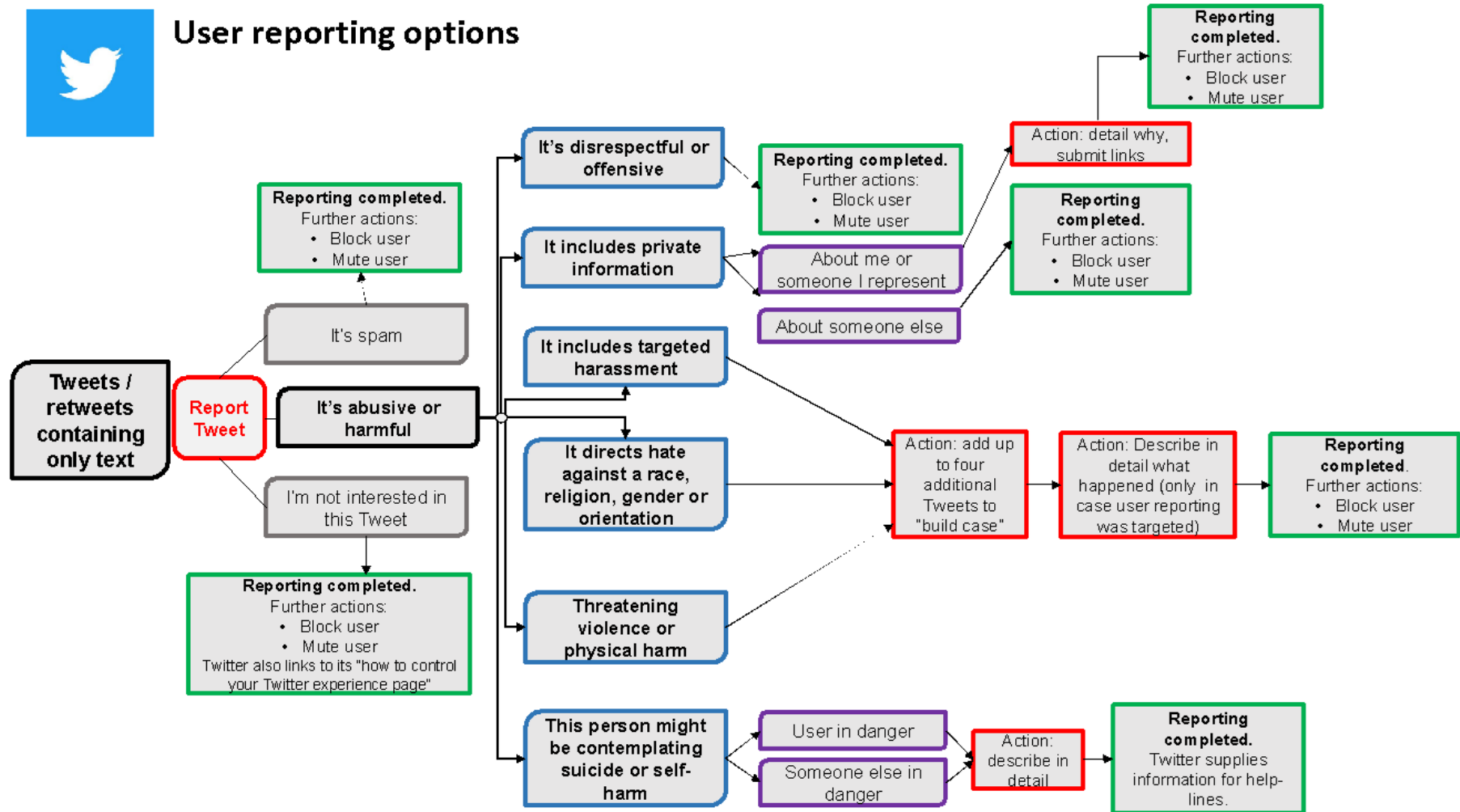


- 1 Commit to deploying **new tech solutions** including machine learning
- 2 Develop **Terms of Service** repudiating terrorist exploitation / content
- 3 Confirm ability to receive and **action takedown requests**
- 4 Publish regular **Transparency Reports**
- 5 Agree to the **Tech Against Terrorism Pledge**
- 6 Complete the **Assessment Tools** with minimum score

For example Twitter has designed a detailed user-journey to capture content referral requests from its users



User reporting options



3. The Solution

E) Collecting terrorist content and alerting companies

Terrorist Content Analysis Platform (TCAP)



A “one-stop shop” to support assessment of terrorist content and emerging Crisis Response

An alert system to facilitate improved intelligence sharing among smaller platforms

Regular intelligence to be provided by a range of data sources and suppliers (from private intelligence to academia)

Shared database and management system that will support existing initiatives such as GIFCT “hash-sharing database”



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