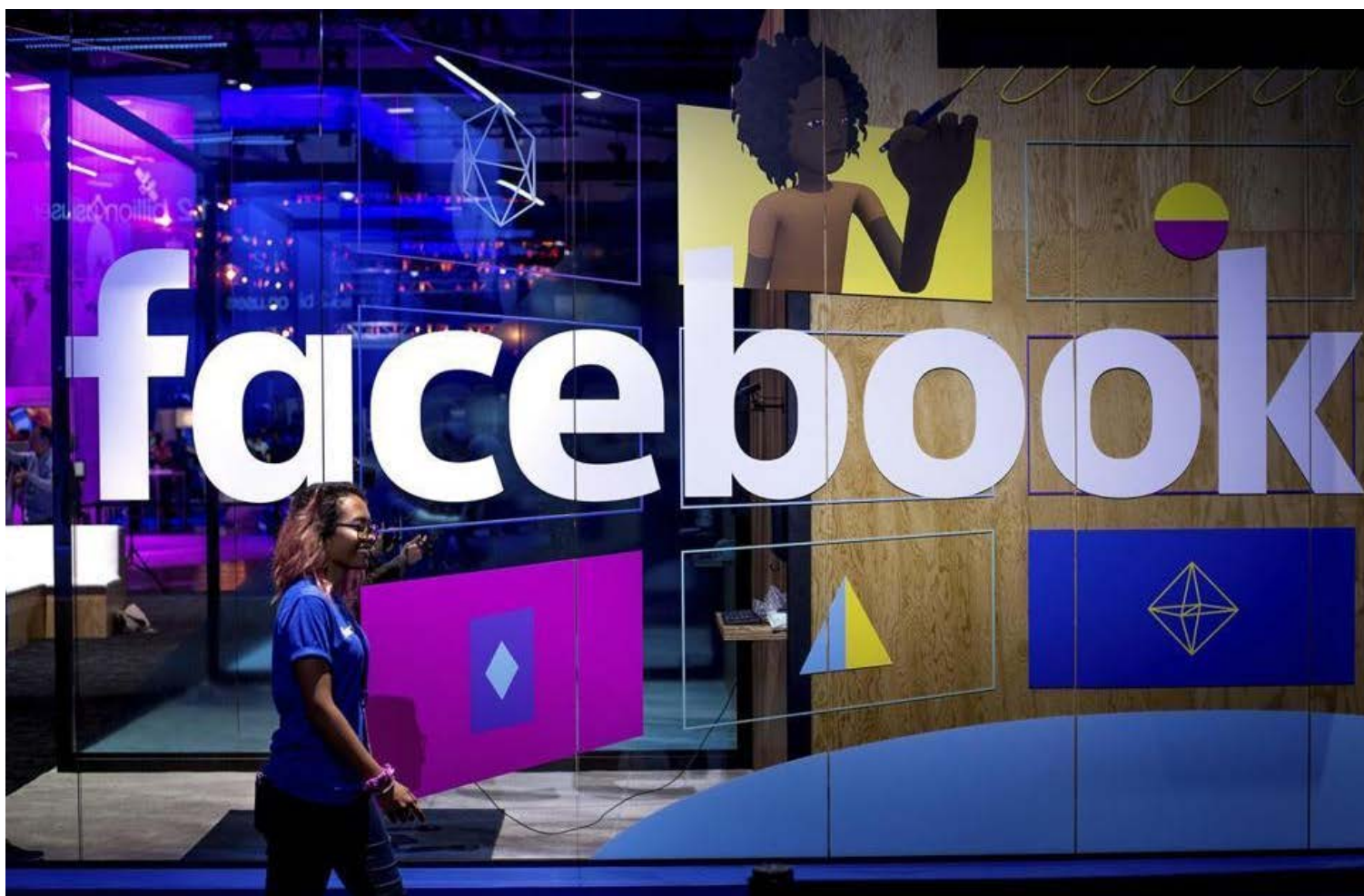


How to check whether you followed or 'liked' any Russian propaganda on Facebook, Instagram



NOAH BERGER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook Inc., which also owns Instagram, posted a tool that allows Facebook and Instagram users to find out whether they followed or "liked" any pages or accounts created by a Russian "troll farm" that has been accused of trying to influence the 2016 presidential election.

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 26, 2017

A new online tool allows Facebook and Instagram users to find out whether they followed or "liked" any pages or accounts created by a Russian "troll farm" that has been accused of trying to influence the 2016

presidential election.

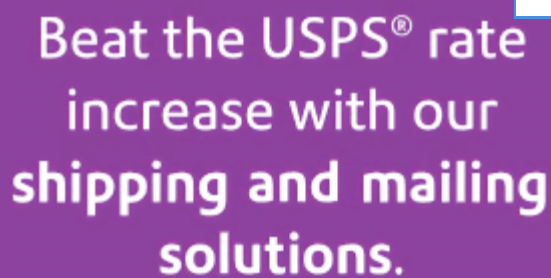
Facebook Inc., which also owns Instagram, posted the tool in the “Help Center” section of its website [here](#). It debuted Friday, according to multiple media reports.

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“We are taking action to be more transparent about the foreign interference in the 2016 US Elections,” the social media company says on the webpage.

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The tool shows users whether they followed or liked accounts or pages created by the Internet Research Agency, [a Russian company](#) that employed hundreds of people who worked to influence discussion online by stirring debate in comment sections below online stories and creating provocative posts on social media.

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However, the Facebook tool is limited. While it shows pages or accounts a person has actively followed, it does not show whether users might have merely seen the bogus Russian content.

Also, as of Tuesday afternoon, the tool was only available for users accessing Facebook via a desktop computer. It was not available via mobile device.

As many as [126 million Facebook](#) users and 20 million Instagram users may have seen content created by the Russian company, according to Facebook, which [announced](#) it was creating the tool last month. Facebook says the fake accounts and pages the Russian company created [have been taken down](#), and Facebook has [shared](#) information with Congress.

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Fellow web giants Twitter and Google also told Congress this fall they have discovered Russian activity on their services surrounding the 2016 election.

Material from the New York Times and the Associated Press was used in this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](#).

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