AN ANALYSIS OF FAR RIGHT CYBERATTACKS REPORTED IN THE EXTREMIST CYBERCRIME DATABASE (ECCD)

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There were 10 far right schemes identified in our data affecting US targets, with the majority of events occurring within the last decade (n=9; see Table 1). In the context of our data, a scheme can involve one or many forms of cyberattack (see Methodology white paper for more detail). As a result, the number of total attacks may be greater than the total number of schemes. To that end, the most schemes occurred in 2016 (n=4). There were two incidents attributed to individual actors, and two affiliated to groups. The remainder could not be attributed to any one individual or group (n=6).

Across these 10 schemes, there were 14 total cyberattacks identified in the data, with only four of these schemes involving multiple forms of attacks (see Table 2). The majority of attacks involved some distinct form of hacking (n=6), such as utilizing a vulnerability in wireless printers to make them print out white nationalist literature, or spam campaigns against universities. Only three incidents involved web defacements, and two involved data breaches.

Universities were the primary targets of these attacks, with five of the 10 attacks targeting institutions including Harvard, Cambridge, University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt, and one incident affecting over 5,000 separate college campuses. Two attacks targeted individuals, two affected private companies, one targeted NASA, and another targeted the Union for Reform Judaism. The attacks targeting universities occurred beginning in 2016, and one of those was a data breach affecting 9,000 University of Pennsylvania students who had their full names, class enrollments, and the last four digits of their social security numbers leaked.

Table 1: Far Right Schemes Over Time

	Attacker Affiliation			
Year	Individual	Group	Unknown	Total
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	1	1
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	0	1	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	2	1	1	4
2017	0	0	1	1
2018	0	0	2	2
2019	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	1	1
Total	2	2	6	10

Table 2: Far Right Cyberattacks Across Schemes Over Time by Type

Year	Attack Type						
	Data Breach	Data Change	Defacement	DDoS	Doxing	Other	Total
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	1	0	1	3	5
2017	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2018	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
2019	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2020	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	2	1	3	0	2	6	14