

COMMUNICATE **SAFELY**





**FAKE  
NEWS**

# WHAT IS IT?

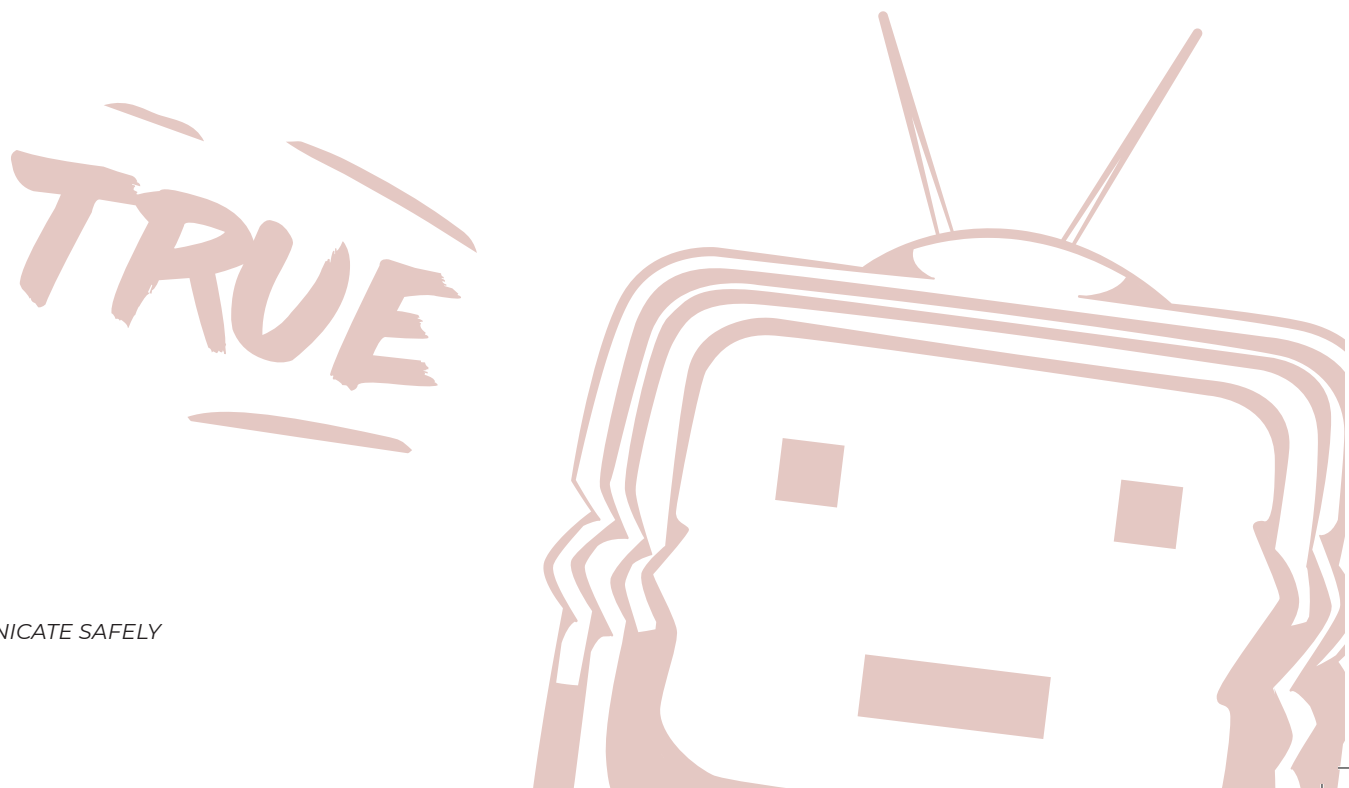
**With the advance in technology and the increasing use of the Internet, information is just a click away. Quickly and easily, through computers and mobile phones, we access news, social and sharing networks, platforms, etc.**

All quick and easy, but is all the information we find on the Internet true and reliable?

“Fake News” is deliberately false news that is perceived as true and is distributed on social networks and websites with the intention of generating benefit for some group, be it economic, political or social. “Fake News” can be used to create rumours through lies and hate dissemination. This type of news harms ordinary people, celebrities, politicians and companies.

As it seems to be true, this type of news and information is shared easily and quickly on the Internet and/or through messaging services and applications. There is no concern in searching for the Source of the information/news, which makes it very difficult to control the spread of “Fake News”.

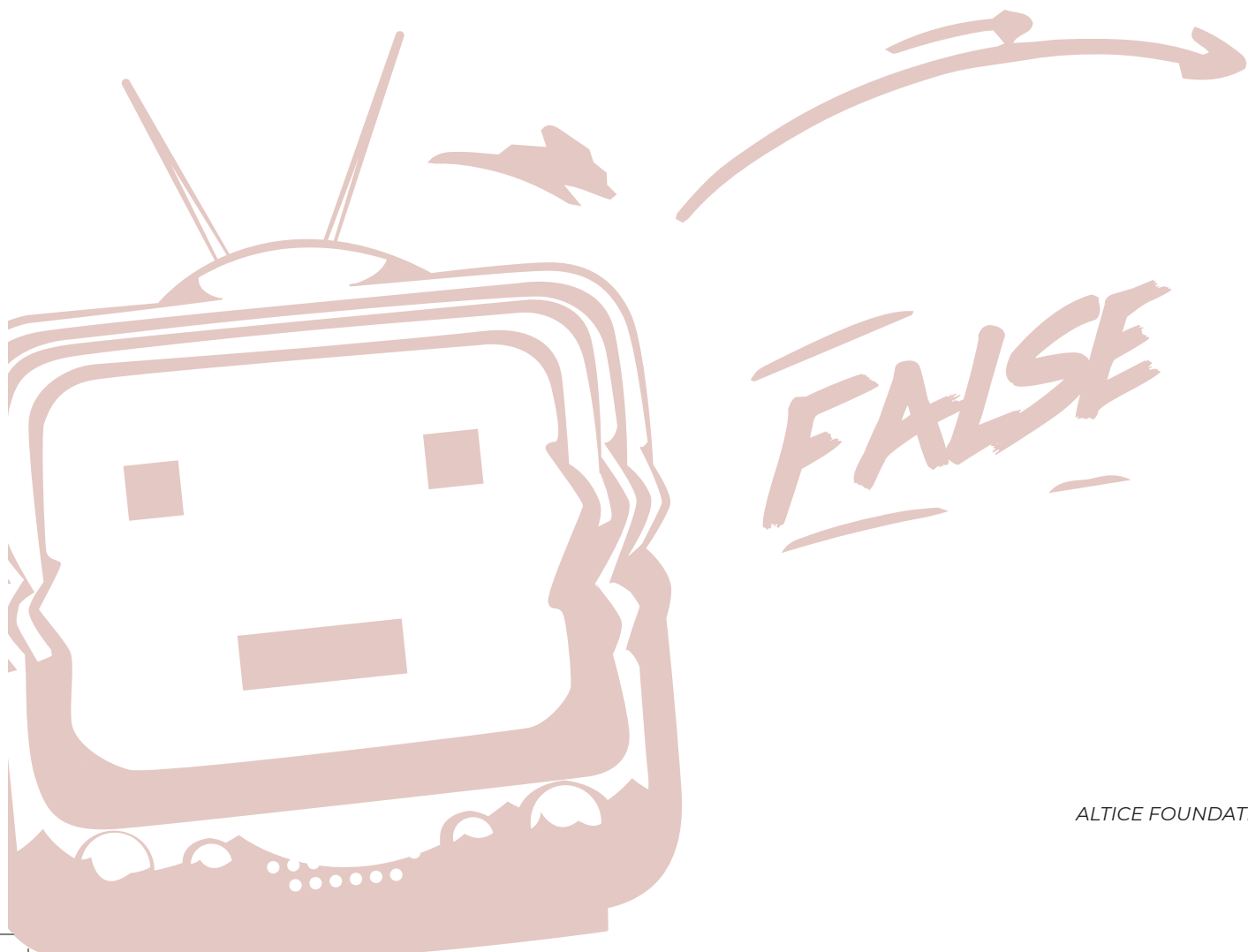
There is a lot of fake and sensationalist news on websites that seem harmless to users but contain malicious programmes. Thus, a reader/user clicks on the news and immediately downloads a malware code to their device and social networks, further spreading the malicious content on their social networks.



Associated to this issue, there is the “famous” clickbait that also facilitates cybercrime. In this situation, advertisements or news are usually tempting and sensationalist and the aim is to promote the user’s click to subsequently infect their equipment with malware, being able to remove personal or financial data.

Why is it so difficult to control “Fake News”? “Fake News” is mostly created on the Deep Web. A web page is created by programmers who create a “robot” to disseminate the link on the networks. The more the subject/news is mentioned on the networks, the more the “robot” acts, much faster than a person. As speed is one of the features regarding the Internet, from the moment people believe this kind of information and start sharing it with their contacts and on their networks, a network of lies with real people is created.

As the Deep Web is a hidden area for most users, it is not easy to identify those responsible for “Fake News” in order to apply the legal consequences. On the other hand, these groups or people often use servers outside their country which do not require identification.



# SUGGESTIONS/ HINTS

## BE CONSCIOUS

Before sharing some news, try to check its source/origin. Try to understand if whoever wrote about the topic really exists and if they have the knowledge to talk about it.

You can research the subject and check if the news was also published by other websites or portals.

## CRITICAL SPIRIT

This type of news always has an alarming and sensationalist tone (e.g.: "Warning!" or "Caution!").

## CHECK THE DATES

Some news is not fake, but it is old or out of context regarding the current reality.

## SHARE WITH RESPONSIBLY

The Internet is made by every one of us, so please choose to share content that you know to be true.

## DO NOT SHARE / FORWARD FALSE NEWS OR CHAIN LETTERS

## USE FACT-CHECKING WEBSITES

(E.G: POLYGRAPH.INFO)

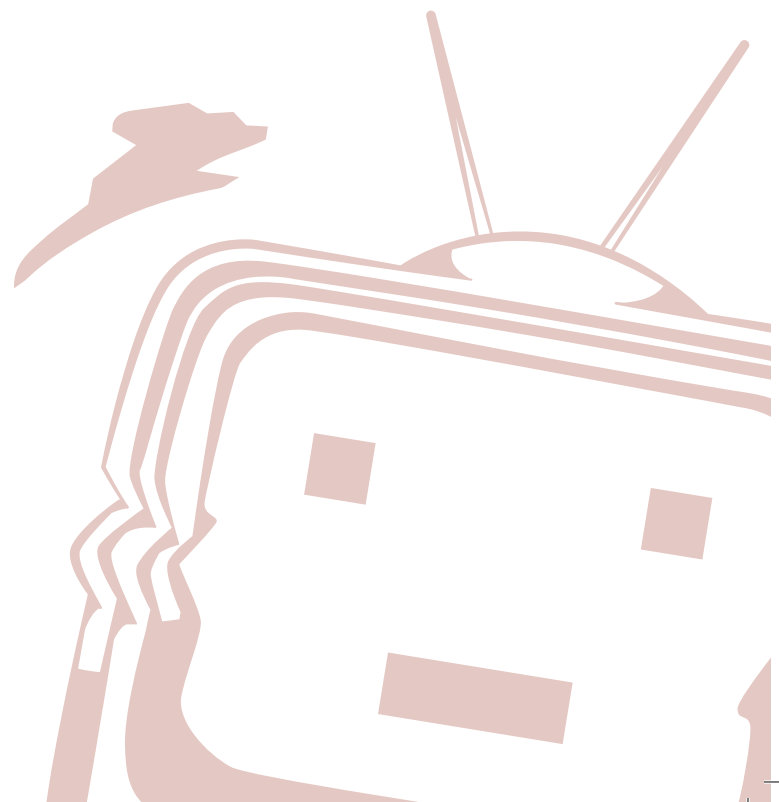
## SHARE FROM RELIABLE SOURCES

## BE AWARE OF THE WEBSITE URL

## CHECK IF THE NEWS HAS AN AUTHOR, IF IT IS SIGNED BY SOMEONE WHO REALLY EXISTS

## BE AWARE OF THE WEBSITE TYPE

"Fake News" sites contain a lot of advertising (which are usually malicious programmes) and they are not very user friendly.



# SECURE INFORMATION

ONLINE **SAFETYLINE**  
**800 21 90 90**

PROJECT



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