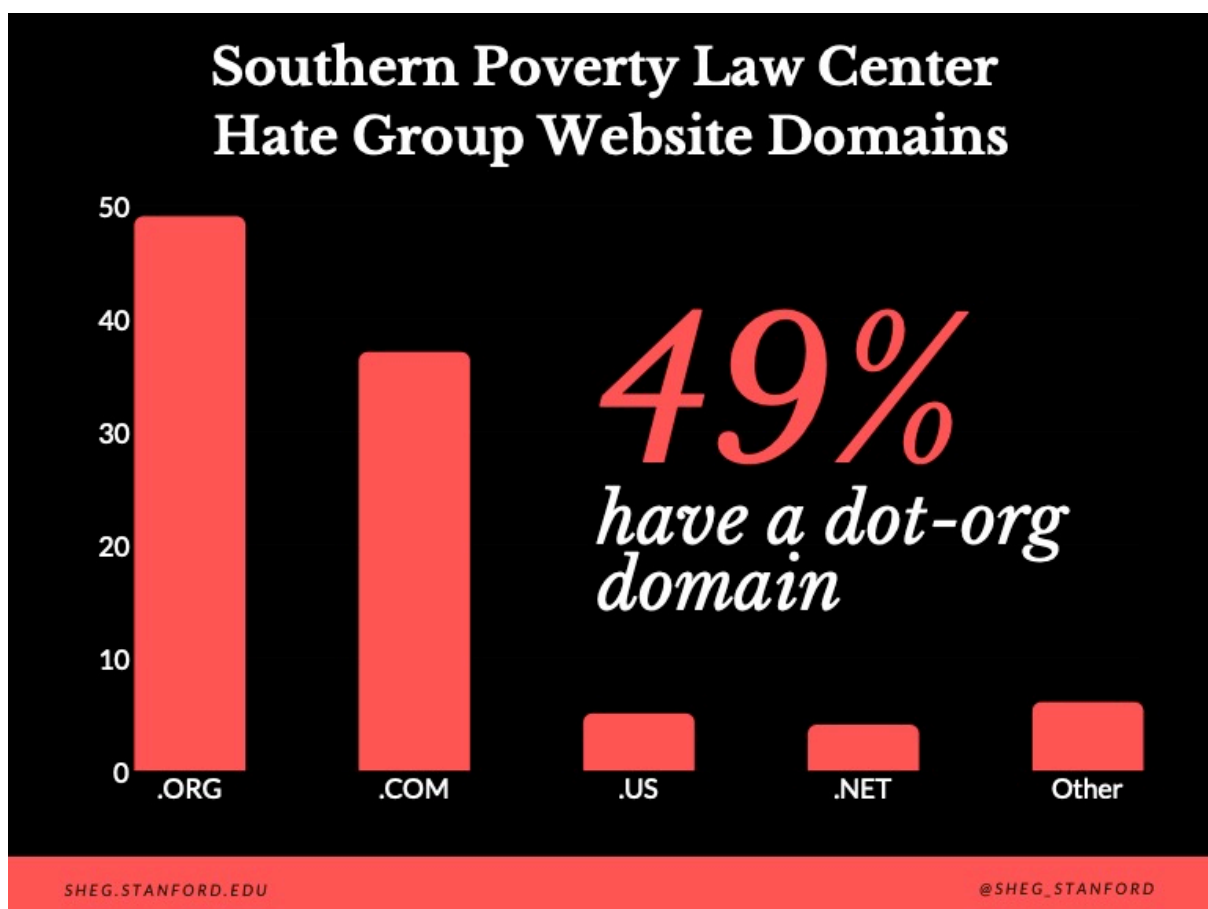




Research Note, B-2019.12

**Dot-Orgs Spreading Hate:
Southern Poverty Law Center Hate Group Domain Research**

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sheg@gse.stanford.edu



Methodology

We set a sample size of $n = 100$ websites from the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC's) list of over 1022¹ hate groups operating in the United States in 2018 (<https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>). We sought to discover the prevalence of the dot-org

¹ These are not 1022 unique groups but include geographical variations



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domain among the various groups appearing on the SPLC list. Research shows a dot-org domain is a weak sign of credibility for evaluating online information, and yet is widely thought to be a useful signal.² This potential to mislead internet users is particularly concerning when it comes to hate groups. We sought to understand the scope and scale of this issue.

Given that we were concerned with a group's online presence, we naturally excluded those organizations that did not have a corresponding website. For some groups on the SPLC's list, we were unable to find a website even when digging deep into the internet and using the Tor Project browser to mask our online footprint. There was generally a negative correlation between how extreme or violent the group was and the likelihood that a website could be located for it (though there were exceptions; for example, the American Nazi Party and the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan both maintain a web presence). We also excluded organizations that did not have a currently active site, even if we were able to find an internet archive version of the group's past digital presence.

To create our sample, we used a [random integer generator](#) to select data points. The random numbers generated corresponded to a row in an [Excel spreadsheet published by the SPLC](#) with all 1022 hate groups. We then sought to find a website for the group in the selected row. This was achieved by searching the name of the organization in the "DuckDuckGo" search engine of the Tor Project Browser. For those groups that had a clear corresponding website, this was generally sufficient in finding that site. However, sometimes we had to add the hate group's location as listed in SPLC's list or used sites such as Wikipedia or <http://trackingterrorism.org/> to assist our search. We created a spreadsheet for included data points in which we listed the organization's name, website, and noted whether or not it featured a dot-org domain.

SPLC lists all geographical branches of a hate group even when they share a single website. This meant that after finding $n = 50$ groups in Round 1 sampling, many of the groups in the Excel spreadsheet had already been accepted or rejected, and our random integer selection was mostly finding duplicates. We thus deleted all accepted and rejected data points, leaving us with a new data list for which we once again generated random integers. After another $n = 16$ groups were found in Round 2 sampling (for a total of $n = 66$ groups thus far), we ran into a similar problem. Once again, we deleted accepted and rejected data points and were left with a new data set for which we once again found random integers. In this final Round 3 sampling we found the last $n = 34$ groups to bring our total data sample to 100 hate groups.

Finally, we categorized the domains of the 100 groups' websites to determine the prevalence of the dot-org domain. Nearly half, 49%, of the sites meeting criteria for inclusion carried the dot-org designation.

² See a 2012 survey conducted by the Public Interest Registry which found that half of Americans surveyed, and greater percentages among respondents in France, Brazil and India, believed that dot-org was a "closed" domain and "must meet criteria" to obtain the dot-org designation. <https://docplayer.net/13026868-Public-interest-registry-dashboard.html>

Final Results

| Domain | # of hate groups using domain (out of n=100) |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| .ORG | 49 |
| .COM | 36 |
| .US | 5 |
| .NET | 4 |
| .NAME | 1 |
| .TV | 1 |
| .INFO | 1 |
| .CHURCH | 1 |
| .ME | 1 |
| .INSTITUTE | 1 |

.ORG n=49

| Organization Name | Website |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alliance Defending Freedom | https://www.adflegal.org |
| ACT for America | https://www.actforamerica.org |
| Ambassadors of Christ | http://www.afccbroslyn.org |
| American Freedom Law Center | https://www.americanfreedomlawcenter.org/about? |
| American Guard | https://theamericanguard.org/ |
| Aryan Nations Sadistic Souls MC | https://www.sadisticsoulsmc.org/ |
| Asatru Folk Assembly | asatrufolkassembly.org |
| ATLAH World Missionary Church (All The Land Anointed Holy) | https://atlah.org/amn4/our-mission-statement/ |
| Atomwaffen Division | https://atomwaffendivision.org |
| Californians for Population Stabilization | https://www.capsweb.org/ |
| Campus Ministry USA, The | http://brojed.org/cms/ |
| Center for Family and Human Rights | https://c-fam.org/ |
| Church of Israel | http://www.churchofisrael.org |
| Clarion Project | https://clarionproject.org/ |
| Concerned Christian Citizens | http://www.concernedchristiancitizens.org/home.html |
| Counter Jihad Coalition | https://counterjihadcoalition.org/ |
| Deir Yassin Remembered | http://www.deiryassin.org/ |
| Faith 2 Action | http://f2a.org/about.php |
| Faithful Word Baptist Church | http://faithfulwordbaptist.org/ |
| Family Watch International | https://familywatch.org/ |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fatima Crusader, The/International Fatima Rosary Crusade | https://secure.fatima.org › forms › crusader |
| Florida Family Association | https://floridafamily.org |
| Generations | https://www.generations.org |
| Israel United in Christ | https://israelunite.org/ |
| Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, The | http://www.icgjcpg.org/ |
| Israelites Saints of Christ | https://www.israelitessaintsofchrist.org/ |
| Jewish Defense League | http://www.jdl.org/ |
| Mass Resistance | https://www.massresistance.org |
| Nation of Islam | https://www.noi.org |
| National Socialist Movement (Tennessee) | www.nsm88.org |
| New Black Panther Party | https://nbpp.org |
| Probe Ministries | https://probe.org/category/faith-and-sexuality/homosexuality/ |
| Racial Nationalist Party of America | https://www.rnpaheadquarters.org/about-us |
| Restored Assembly of Elohim | https://raoe.org/ |
| Revolutionary Black Panther Party | http://www.therevolutionaryblackpantherparty.org/ |
| Ruth Institute | http://www.ruthinstitute.org/ |
| Scriptures for America Worldwide Ministries | scripturesforamerica.org |
| Sharia Crime Stoppers | https://www.theunitedwest.org/sharia-crime-stoppers/mission-and-more/ |
| Shieldwall Network | https://white-power.org/ |
| Sicarri 1715 | https://www.exodus1715.org/ |
| Stormfront | https://www.stormfront.org/ |
| The Straight Way and More | https://www.thestraightway.org |
| The United Nuwaupians Worldwide/All Eyes on Egypt | http://unwonline.org/ |
| True Light Pentecost Church | http://truelightpentecost.org/Home.html |
| True Nation Israelite Congregation | http://truenation.org/ |
| United Kingdom of Israel Congregation | https://www.unitedkingdomofisrael.org/ |
| Warriors for Christ | https://wfcchurch.org/ |
| World Congress of Families/International Organization for the Family | https://www.profam.org/ |
| Wotan's Nation | https://www.wotansnation.org/ |

.COM (n=36)

| Organization Name | Website |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abiding Truth Ministries | http://www.defendthefamily.com/ |
| All Eyes on Egypt Bookstore | https://www.aeoebookstore.com |
| American Border Patrol | http://www.americanborderpatrol.com/About.html |
| American Christie Dixie Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | https://acdk311.com/ |
| American Nazi Party | https://www.americannaziparty.com/ |
| American Renaissance/New Century Foundation | https://www.amren.com/ |
| Americans for Truth About Homosexuality | https://americansfortruth.com/ |
| Bible Believers Fellowship | http://bbfohioradio.com |
| Concerned Citizens and Friends of Illegal Immigration Law Enforcement | http://www.ccfiile.com/ |
| Cultural Studies Press | http://culturalstudiespress.com |
| Dixie Gift Shop | http://www.dixiegiftshop.com/ |
| East Coast Knights of the True Invisible Empire | https://eastcoastknightsofthetrueinvisibleempire.com |
| Faith and Heritage | https://faithandheritage.com/ |
| Fitzgerald Griffin Foundation | www.fgfbooks.com |
| Fortress of Faith | https://fortressoffaith.com/ |
| Glazov Gang Productions | https://jamielazov.com/ |
| Global Crusaders: Order of the Ku Klux Klan | https://gck337.wordpress.com/contact/ |
| Identity Dixie | https://identitydixie.com |
| Identity Evropa | identityevropa.com |
| Israelite School of Universal Practical Knowledge | https://isupk.com/ |
| League of the South | https://leagueofthesouth.com |
| Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | https://lwkkkk.com |
| Masharah Yasharahia-Government of Israel | https://masharahyasharahla.com |
| National Alliance | https://natall.com/ |
| Official Street Preachers | https://officialstreetpreachers.com |
| Proud Boys | https://officialproudboys.com/proud-boys/whoaretheproudboys/ |
| Rense Radio Network | https://renseradio.com/ |
| The Creativity Alliance | https://creativityalliance.com/ |
| The Social Contract Press | https://www.thesocialcontract.com/ |

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|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tony Alamo Christian Ministries | http://www.alamoministries.com/content/english/index.html |
| Truth in Textbooks | https://truthintexastextbooks.com/about-us-2/ |
| United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | www.unskkkk.com |
| Vandal Brothers, LLC | https://vandalvoid.com |
| Vanguard News Network | http://www.vanguardnewsnetwork.com/ |
| War on the Horizon | www.waronthehorizon.com |
| White Aryan Resistance | https://www.resist.com/ |

.US (n=5)

| Organization Name | Website |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American Freedom Party | www.theamericanfreedomparty.us |
| American for Legal Immigration (ALIPAC) | https://www.alipac.us |
| Citizens for National Security | https://cfns.us/ |
| Patriot Front | https://patriotfront.us/ |
| United Klans of America | http://www.theuka.us/ |

.NET (n=4)

| Organization Name | Website |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American Family Association | https://www.afa.net/the-stand/ |
| Blood and Honour Social Club | bloodandhonour.net |
| Christian Revival Center | http://www.christianidentitychurch.net/our_mission.htm |
| The Creativity Movement | creativitymovement.net |

OTHER (n=6)

| Organization Name | Website |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daily Stormer | https://dailystormer.name/ |
| National Policy Institute | https://nationalpolicy.institute/ |
| National Socialist German Workers Party | http://www.nsdap.info |
| Nordic Order Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | https://nok311.site123.me/ |
| Red Ice | https://redice.tv |
| Sure Foundation Baptist Church | http://surefoundationbaptist.church/about/ |

Excluded Groups

1. AC Skins
2. American Defense Records
3. American Front
4. Army of Israel
5. Aryan Skins Kindred
6. Be Active Front USA
7. Blood and Honour USA
8. California Skinheads
9. Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
10. Confederate White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
11. Crew 38
12. Endangered Souls RC/Crew 519
13. Firm 22
14. Folkgard of Holda and Odin
15. Foundation for Advocating Christian Truth
16. Free Startr
17. Hatreon
18. Hell Shaking Street Preachers
19. Hypgnosis Records
20. International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
21. National Alliance Reform and Restoration Group
22. National Socialist Liberation Front
23. Nationalist Initiative
24. NSM88 Records
25. Pacific Coast Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
26. Patriotic Flags
27. Real Republic of Florida
28. Rebel Brigade Knights True Invisible Empire
29. Soldiers of Odin
30. Sunshine on Government (SONG) Alliance
31. Teutonic Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
32. The Right Stuff
33. Traditionalist American Knights Of the Ku Klux Klan
34. Traditionalist Worker Party
35. Vanguard America
36. Vinlanders Social Club
37. Western Hammerskins
38. Wolf's Head Records
39. Wolves of Vinland

Selected Data Points by Sample Round

Round 1 Sampling

| Accepted Data Points | Excluded Data Points |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ACT For America | Be Active Front USA |
| All Eyes on Egypt BookStore | Endangered Souls RC/Crew 519 |
| Alliance Defending Freedom | Foundation for Advocating Christian Truth |
| Ambassadors of Christ | Hell Shaking Street Preachers |
| American Guard | National Alliance Reform and Restoration Group |
| Americans for Legal Immigration | National Socialist Liberation Front |
| Aryan Nations Sadistic Souls MC | Pacific Coast Knights of the Ku Klux Klan |
| Asatru Folk Assembly | Soldiers of Odin |
| ATLAH World Missionary Church | Sunshine on Government (SONG) Alliance |
| Atomwaffen Division | The Right Stuff |
| Bible Believers Fellowship | Traditionalist Worker Party |
| Blood and Honour Social Club | Wolf's Head Records |
| Campus Ministry USA, The | |
| Christian Revival Center | |
| Church of Israel | |
| Citizens for National Security | |
| Concerned Christian Citizens | |
| Creativity Alliance, The | |
| Cultural Studies Press | |
| Daily Stormer | |
| Dixie Gift Shop | |
| East Coast Knights of the True Invisible Empire | |
| Fatima Crusaer, The/International Fatima Rosary Crusade | |
| Fitzgerald Griffin Foundation | |
| Florida Family Association | |
| Generations | |
| Identity Dixie | |
| Identity Evropa | |
| Israel United in Christ | |
| Israelite School of Universal Practical Knowledge | |
| Israelites Saints of Christ | |
| League of the South | |
| Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | |
| Masharah Yasharahia- Government of Israel | |
| Mass Resistance | |
| Nation of Islam | |
| New Black Panther Party | |
| Official Street Preachers | |
| Patriot Front | |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Probe Ministries | |
| Proud Boys | |
| Racial Nationalist Party of America | |
| Red Ice | |
| Ruth Institute | |
| Shieldwall Network | |
| Sicarri 1715 | |
| True Light Pentecost Church | |
| United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | |
| Vandal Brothers LLC | |
| War on the Horizon | |

Round 2 Sampling

| Accepted Data Points | Excluded Data Points |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Abiding Truth Ministries | AC Skins |
| American Border Patrol | Aryan Skins Kindred |
| American Freedom Party | Blood and Honour USA |
| Americans for Truth About Homosexuality | Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan |
| Center for Family and Human Rights | Confederate White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan |
| Christian Ministries | Crew 38 |
| Faithful Word Baptist Church | Firm 22 |
| Glazov Gang Production | Free Startr |
| National Socialist Movement | Hatreon |
| Revolutionary Black Panther Party | Hypnosis Records |
| Scriptures for America Worldwide Ministries | NSM88 Records |
| Straight Way and More, The | Real Republic of Florida |
| Truth in Textbooks | Vinlanders Social Club |
| United Klans of America | Wolves of Vinland |
| Vanguard News Network | |
| World Congress of Families/International Organization for the Family | |

Round 3 Sampling

| Accepted Data Points | Excluded Data Points |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| American Christie Dixie Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | American Defense Records |
| American Family Association | American Front |
| American Freedom Law Center | Army of Israel |
| American Nazi Party | California Skinheads |
| American Renaissance/New Century Foundation | Folkgard of Holda and Odin |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Californians for Population Stabilization | International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan |
| Clarion Project | Nationalist Initiative |
| Concerned Citizens and Friends of Illegal Immigration Law Enforcement | Patriotic Flags |
| Counter Jihad Coalition | Rebel Brigade Knights True Invisible Empire |
| Deir Yassin Remembered | Teutonic Knights of the Ku Klux Klan |
| Faith 2 Action | Traditionalist American Knights Of the Ku Klux Klan |
| Faith and Heritage | Vanguard America |
| Family Watch International | Western Hammerskins |
| Fortress of Faith | |
| Global Crusaders: Order of the Ku Klux Klan | |
| Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, The | |
| Jewish Defense League | |
| National Alliance | |
| National Policy Institute | |
| National Socialist German Workers Party | |
| Nordic Order Knights of the Ku Klux Klan | |
| Rense Radio Network | |
| Restored Assembly of Elohim | |
| Sharia Crime Stoppers | |
| Stormfront | |
| Sure Foundation Baptist Church | |
| The Creativity Movement | |
| The Social Contract Press | |
| The United Nuwaupians Worldwide/All Eyes on Egypt | |
| True Nation Israelite Congregation | |
| United Kingdom of Israel Congregation | |
| Warriors for Christ | |
| White Aryan Resistance | |
| Wotan's Nation | |