HOW TO BYPASS CENSORS AND GET AROUND THE OPERATORS OF COVER-UPS

Efforts by censors to scrub the internet of Dr. Ai's account of a Coronavirus cover-up have sparked an outpouring of creativity among China's internet users and artists. Many set about crafting ever more eye-popping variations of the interview to fool both human monitors and the software that Chinese social-media sites use to zap sensitive content before it spreads widely. Crowd-sourced public forensics teams have millions of ways to bypass dirty politicians working on cover-ups of political corruption.

接力哨 （条形码版）

返工　今天

吹哨人法案

Whistleblower-Protection Act

As the director of the emergency department at Wuhan Central Hospital

posted an image of a diagnostic report on social network first net on December 30

showing that the patient had a positive infection caused by a form the coronavirus

A was told by superiors the day she sounded the alarm that Wuhan's health commission

had issued a directive that medical workers were not to share anything about the virus

of the disease. I hastened to accept starting a panic forum after the hospital

leaders and staff that public disclosure related to the illness was forbidden

An official of the... department...

Amend... case... discussing double... spreading...

An official told to comb all staff if her department not to discuss anything

about this disease and to say nothing about it to anyone not even to her husband

I notified my hospital and I never disclosed the patients personal

details when I discussed a particular case with other doctors

Now could I when that discussion with my medical colleague over that a new and

significant virus had emerged. Following routine at a doctor we and reviewed clinical

If these doctors could have been warned earlier, they would not have died. I vividly regret

If I would have known I would have told everyone even though I was warned

I have thought many times if only time could be turned back

1. A barcode version of Ms. Ai's interview created by Mr. Wang, a 46-year-old Beijing-based artist.

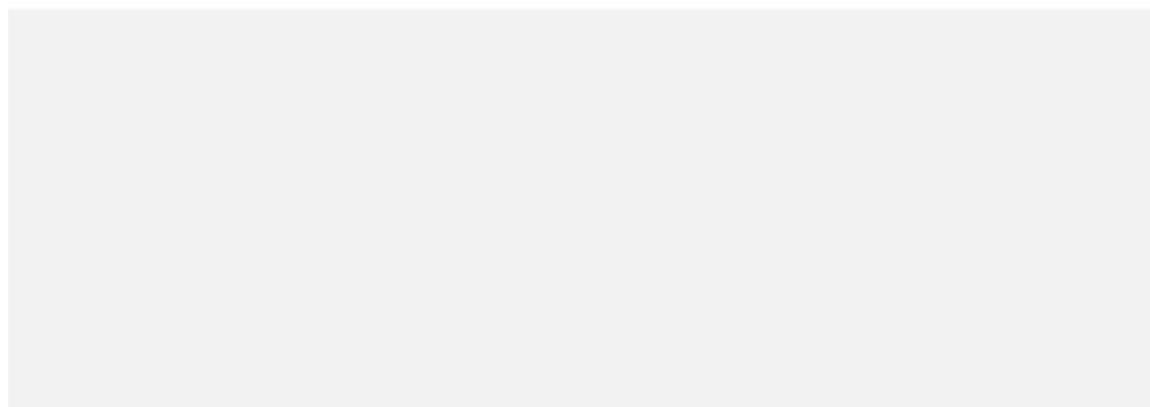2. Another version, by an unknown creator, renders the interview in Mao Zedong's distinctive calligraphy.

哨

像素笔记 今天

点击空白处

3. One version requires users to send a private message with the words "this article" to a public WeChat account. In return, they get a blank document titled "Whistle."
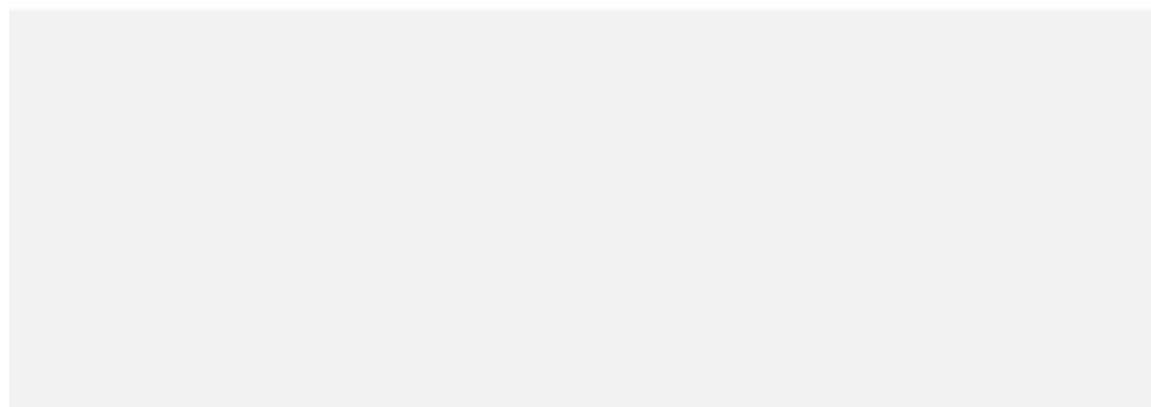
哨

像素笔记 今天

点击空白处

2019年12月30日，艾芬曾拿到过一份不明肺炎病人的病毒检测报告，她用红色圈出「SARS冠状病毒」字样，当大学同学问起时，她将这份报告拍下来传给了这位同是医生的同学。当晚，这份报告传遍了武汉的医生圈，转发这份报

4. … The text of the interview appears when users click in the white space.

One Beijing-based artist said he had posted or reposted around 100 versions of the interview with Dr. Ai, only to see 80% of them deleted. On Wednesday, the 46-year old, who wanted to be identified only by his surname Wang, came up with a version that sandwiched a partial English-language translation between bar codes. Embedded in the image: a plea for China to introduce laws protecting whistle-blowers.

"This is probably the most important thing for the public to pursue," Mr. Wang said, referring to rules that would open the door to freer speech.

Censorship algorithms deployed by Chinese social-media operators are trained to flag sensitive images and text alike. A screenshot of a banned article typically doesn't fool the algorithms. As a result, those looking to evade censors are forced to constantly innovate.

One user rendered the interview in a jaunty handwriting style of late Chinese leader Mao Zedong. It has also been turned into a song and a comicbook strip.

Others got tricky with technology. A public account on China's popular, do-everything app WeChat required readers to access the interview by sending the words "this essay" in a personal message to administrators. The sender would then receive a link to a blank page with the word "Whistle" at the top. A click in the center of the page would bring up the text of the interview.

Coronavirus: A Rare Outbreak of Criticism, Then a Crackdown

Translation has been one of the most popular workarounds. China's content filters struggle with non-Chinese content, so internet users have busied themselves creating foreign-language versions that others can then copy and put through translation software to convert it back to Chinese.

Aside from conventional spoken languages like Italian and Hebrew, users have posted versions written in Braille, Morse code, emojis and one in sign language. One version claimed to be written in a mixture of Elvish from the novels of J.R.R. Tolkien and Klingon from the TV show "Star Trek."

Another featured computer code allowing users to download and convert a lightly encrypted version of the interview using a combination of Microsoft Word and Excel.

✕ ・・・

「幸运」

地头摄 今天

-.-.....-.--.-./-..---.-....--./-...----.,--.-/-..---,.-.-.../-.--..-.,.-.--.-./-.--
--..,.-../-.-..--.---/---.,.--,-----/---..,.--/-----..-,.---./-.----..-.-./-.--
-..........,/---.--.----.-../-...----.-.,/-.-----.,-.--/--.-----.,-...,-...,-.---/--.--

-....-.--/-.---.--.......,/----..-.-..-/-.-..-...----./-..-.--.-----/-.--.---
----.,-/-.---..----/--..-..---.-.--/-.-....-...-/---..--....--/---------.

-..,/-....-----.-..--/-..---..-.----/-.-..-...----..-/--.-.....----..--/---.-
-.-.....-./------...--.----/-.-..---...--/-.-............,/-..---.----,-.-/--.-------..-
--/--..---..--..-/-.-..-..-..---.--/--.--------.

----./-..----..-.-----/-..-......-..---/-.-----....---.-./---...-.-.--/---..--.
-...,/---..-.-----/-.-.--.-...----/-.----........-.,--/---.-.--.-...-...,/-.-.-.---.---.--
/-..---.---..,/-.--...-......--/--------...---.,/---......--,-..-.--/-.-.--.-,-.-./-
-..-.-----.---/-.-............----/-.-.-.-----/-.---........--/-----.....-.-..--/----.--
-.-.......,/-..-.-.-.-----/-.-...-...----/-.----...---.--/-----....-...--/---..-
-....-.-..-/-.-....------/---..---.--,-.-/---.--.-...----...-/-.-.-.-.-.-.-..-
/-.-..-....---.-.-.--/--..---..---.-/--....----....-.../-.-.-.--..----,-./-
-............-./-..-.--.....---/-.-..........--.-/-....-..-...-.-../-...............--/-.-.-
-.-........./-..-.--.....---/-.-............--.-/----.....-.-..../-..-.-....-...-/----.-
-.-.....--.-/-.--------.-.---/---.-.....-.------/-.--.....-.-.--/---.-.

1. A version of the Ai interview written in Morse code.

✕　　　　　　　　　　　　　　•••

火星の发哨人

反神经　投资传习录　昨天

2019年12🈷30🙂，❤️芬曾🌶️🗡️🍲1️⃣份💃💗肺👁️病👤💦病☠️检测🐅⛰️，她用红色👊出「SARS冠🍡病☠️」字🐑，当🌮😡🌮学同学💋7️⃣💩，她🥇🌞份🐅⛰️拍⬇️🍼传给了🌤️🥀同⛰️1️⃣生💦同学。当晚，🌤️份🐅⛰️传遍了🈚😓💦1️⃣生👊，转发🌤️份🐅⛰️💦👤9️⃣🐅括🌶️8️⃣🥀被警方训▬💦1️⃣生。

🌤️给❤️芬🎴🍼了🐎烦，⬅️🥀传播💦源👦，她被🏧🐓🥀🈷谈，⛏️🤛了「💰🔒🥀有💦、👁️💪💦斥责」，🆗她💩⬅️🥀专😐👤💩🏊⛏️💊。此💰💦1️⃣些🐅🗡️，❤️芬被🆗🥀「有1️⃣🈹被训▬💦♀️1️⃣生浮出💦面」，🙂有👤🥇她🆗🥀「吹哨👤」，❤️芬9️⃣正了🌤️🈹说法，她说自🐓💃💩吹哨👤，💩🌶️🈹「发哨子💦👤」。

2. A version of the interview written in Emojis.

精灵语和克林贡语

发哨人（精灵语+克林贡语版本）

human   TUCAO村   今天

生生不息，繁荣昌盛

精灵语一般指三者：Ⅰ.《魔戒》作者J.R.R.托尔金发明的精灵语，如昆雅（Quenya）、辛达林（Sindarin）；Ⅱ.《龙与地下城》中的各种精灵语；Ⅲ.其他精灵语。

这几个版本竟然又陈亡了。

3. A version of the interview rendered in a mix of Elvish and Klingon.

我们可以用uchar()函数将这些数字转换回汉字，并将结果输出到.docx文档中。完整程序如下：

```
1  import excel using "fszdr.xlsx", firs
2  gen char = uchar(deci)
3  keep char
4  forvalues i = 2/`=_N' {
5    replace char = char + char[`i'] in
6  }
7  keep in 1
8  replace char = ustrregexra(char, "\r\
9  split char, p("xxxxxxxxxx")
10 drop char
11 sxpose, clear
12 putdocx clear
13 putdocx begin
14 forvalues i = 1/`=_N' {
15   putdocx paragraph, font("华文楷体", 1
16   putdocx text (`"`=_var1[`i']'"')
17 }
18 putdocx save "发哨子的人.docx", replace
19 shellout "发哨子的人.docx"
```

4. A computer code version that outputs the interview as a Microsoft Word document.

In recent days, the censorship dodgers have begun describing themselves as taking the baton from the "whistle deliverer." The term refers to the title of the magazine interview, which was taken from Dr. Ai's description of her role in warning about the virus.

Though she wasn't one of the original whistle-blowers, she said, "I'm the one who sent out the whistle."

Social-media users have applauded efforts to keep the article online.

"I first laughed and then cried when seeing these," one user posted on WeChat.

The burst of creativity is "a dark comedy caused by an article," Liao Xinzhong, a Taiwan-based writer, wrote on WeChat. He added he hopes new generations "can freely use the Chinese language without any concerns."

Pushing beyond text, some users inserted the interview into the openings of Hollywood sci-fi films, including the "Matrix" and "Star Wars."

The cat-and-mouse game between China's censors and internet users has intensified in recent years as technology has advanced, media researchers say.

The coronavirus has struck a nerve in China because it has affected almost everyone in the country in some way, said King-wa Fu, a censorship expert at the University of Hong Kong. That has inspired a huge surge of protest online.

"This time it's the whole nation," he said. "In scale, it's the largest that I have seen."