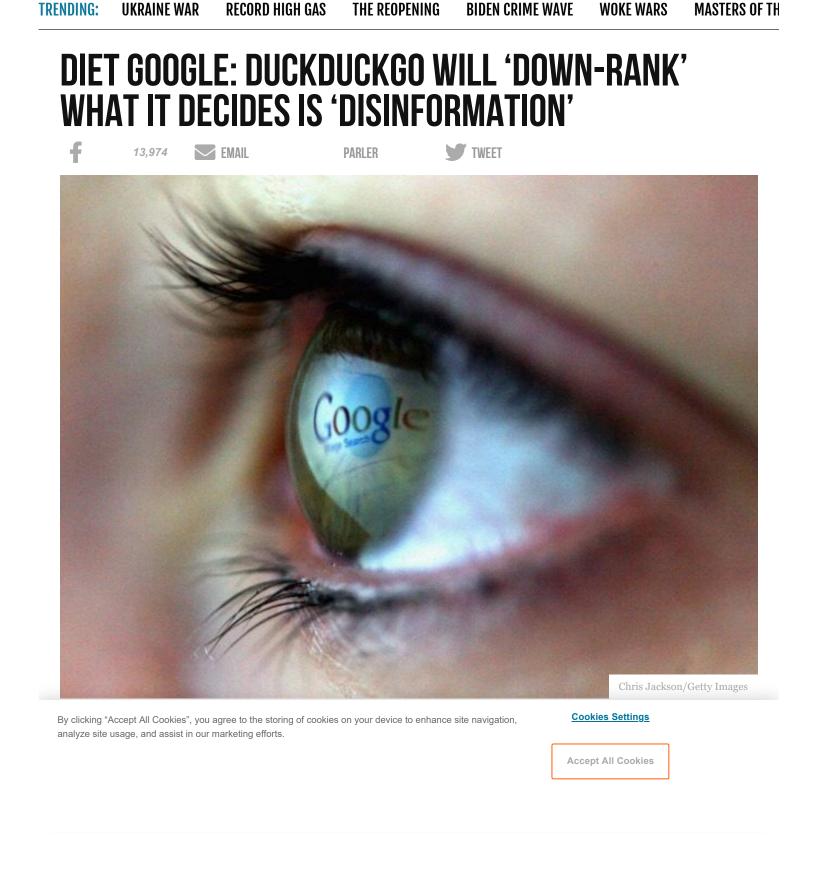


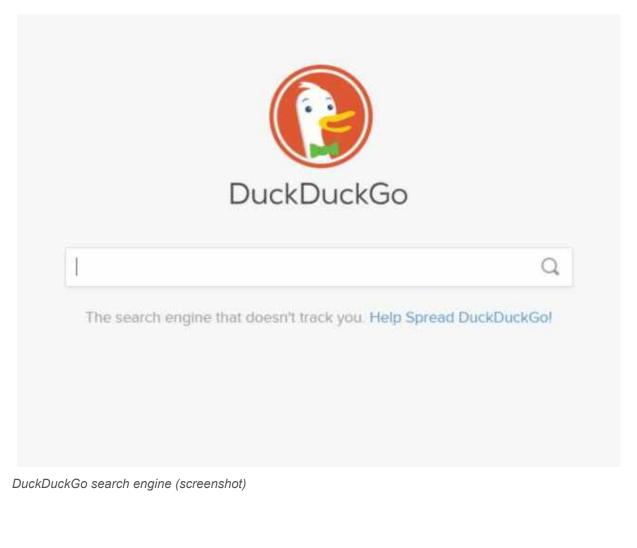
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BREITBART



Popular privacy-focused search engine DuckDuckGo, commonly considered an alternative to Google, has announced that it will be "down-ranking" sites associated with "disinformation," along with adding "information boxes" to "highlight quality information." The announcement received widespread backlash from DuckDuckGo supporters, who view the changes as adopting the censorship policies of the Masters of the Universe.

In a recent Twitter post, the CEO of privacy-focused search engine DuckDuckGo announced that the company would be downranking "sites associated with disinformation," which has been a popular tactic by Google for years to reduce user access to content it considers objectionable.



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DuckDuckGo CEO Gabriel Weinberg (Alex Wong/Getty)

DuckDuckGo CEO Gabriel Weinberg tweeted about the decision, stating that it was an effort to reduce Russian disinformation online. "Like so many others I am sickened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the gigantic humanitarian crisis it continues to create. #StandWithUkraine," Weinberg stated, adding: "At DuckDuckGo, we've been rolling out search updates that down-rank sites associated with Russian disinformation."

Weinberg goes on to say that DuckDuckGo will also be placing news modules and information boxes at the top of certain search results to highlight "quality information for rapidly unfolding topics." This was a method used by many search engines and social media sites during the coronavirus pandemic to push official government narratives and information — that regularly changed drastically — to internet users.

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Many were quick to point out that DuckDuckGo's democratic approach to information was one of the major selling points of the website in the first place.

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Weinberg responded to some detractors, stating that the point of DuckDuckGo was to provide added users privacy, not display unbiased search results.



Google has ramped up its censorship efforts in recent years, particularly around large public events such as the coronavirus pandemic and the recent invasion of Ukraine. Breitbart News recently reported that Google-owned YouTube removed a six-year-old documentary by filmmaker Oliver Stone on the Ukrainian uprising that overthrew president Viktor Yanukovych and installed a pro-EU, pro-NATO government.

Breitbart News reported extensively in 2020 on Google's blacklisting of Breitbart using techniques similar to those described by Weinberg. Leading up to the 2020 election, Google blacklisted all Breitbart page results for searches related to Joe Biden.

As Breitbart News senior technology reporter Allum Bokhari wrote:

Breitbart News spoke to an SEO (Search Engine Optimization) expert, a 25-year industry veteran, whose job consists of analyzing traffic data from Google's own website performance portal, Google Search Console.

The expert, who wished to remain anonymous, said he had never seen anything like this graph — and that it indicates highly probable manipulation on the part of Google.

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"The sheer fact that there are thousands of pages of Breitbart content that reference Biden that were ranking before May 6, that now have no rank or impressions on search is a sign of manipulation, not algorithmic devaluing."

Breitbart News will continue to cover search engines and the continuing struggle to find a solid replacement for Google Search.

Lucas Nolan is a reporter for Breitbart News covering issues of free speech and online censorship. Follow him on Twitter @LucasNolan or contact via secure email at the address lucasnolan@protonmail.com

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1,060 comments

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3,979 comments

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9,745 comments

Social Media Users Congratulate Emma Weyant for Winning 'First' Place

204 comments

Kinzinger: Many Will Move Heaven and Earth to Ensure Trump Doesn't Win

240 comments

Establishment Media Fail to Retract "Russian Disinformation"

2,282 comments

Female Swimmer Breaks Down in Tears after Being Aced Out by Lia

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