

FDD UNCOVERS LIKELY CHINESE INTELLIGENCE OPERATION TARGETING RECENTLY LAID-OFF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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Chinese intelligence moved quickly to take advantage of the mass layoffs of federal workers that began right after the Trump administration took office. On Craigslist.org, a post advertising “Job Opportunities for Recently Laid-Off U.S. Government Employees” appeared on February 6 on the website’s Washington, DC, jobs board.¹ The post links to the website of what is supposedly a consulting services company located in Singapore.² Yet peering beneath the surface reveals that this company is part of a broader network of websites, LinkedIn pages, and job advertisements that appear to be a Chinese intelligence operation.

The tactics employed by this network closely resemble previous Chinese intelligence operations targeting U.S. government officials and other high-value targets across the United States, Europe, and beyond. Despite the network’s efforts to create the illusion that several separate firms outside of China are seeking to recruit laid-off federal employees, the network’s technical features point both to its Chinese origins and to the role of a single entity in creating all of its components.

The network consists of five companies that rely on the same dedicated, Chinese-owned server to host their websites, and all but one of the five used (or still use) the niche Chinese email provider chengmail[.]com. In addition, four of the five sites share a single SSL certificate, a digital identity card for a website that enables secure, encrypted communication with visitors. Yet only one of the five companies in the network, Smiao Intelligence, appears real. The others are little more than digital facades, a conclusion apparent from their use of cloned websites, fake customers, AI-generated text, and other signs of artificiality. Common internet infrastructure and other shared features between the website of Smiao Intelligence and the four seemingly inauthentic firms indicate that one or more individuals associated with Smiao likely created the network for intelligence purposes.

After documenting this network, this report recommends several mitigation measures that the public and private sectors can employ to proactively detect and respond to these types of operations. While federal employees who were recently laid off should exercise heightened vigilance, the U.S. government should work to increase Beijing’s costs and deny it the benefits of conducting online targeting operations. Most importantly, the government should work with job recruiting websites and social media platforms to monitor suspicious activity more aggressively, while Congress should conduct oversight to ensure this effort is effective.

1. “Job Opportunities for Recently Laid-Off U.S. Government Employees,” *Craigslist*, accessed February 17, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/8H7H5>)

2. “Wavemax Innov,” *Wavemax Innov*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/k3ufW>)

HISTORY OF CHINESE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS LEVERAGING JOB RECRUITING WEBSITES

For the better part of a decade, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has leveraged job recruiting websites to gather intelligence against the United States. In 2018, Singaporean national Jun Wei Yeo created a fake consulting company and posted job advertisements on LinkedIn and other social networking sites to recruit Americans with access to sensitive government information.³ Two years later, the U.S. government sentenced Yeo to prison after he succeeded in obtaining more than 400 resumes — more than 90 percent of which came from military and government officials with security clearances — that Yeo then passed to Chinese intelligence operatives.⁴ In another high-profile case, a Chinese national posing as a headhunter reached out via LinkedIn to former American intelligence officer Kevin Mallory in 2017 and recruited him to commit espionage for Beijing.⁵

These episodes reflect a much larger problem plaguing the United States and Europe. German intelligence reported in 2017 that Beijing used LinkedIn to target at least 10,000 Germans as potential intelligence sources.⁶ In 2019, French intelligence stated that Chinese operatives attempted to contact more than 4,000 French citizens using LinkedIn and other social networks.⁷ In 2023, British intelligence estimated that Chinese state actors on LinkedIn had approached more than 20,000 Britons.⁸ LinkedIn provides “the ultimate playground for collection,” according to William Evanina, former director of the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center.⁹ Evanina explained that “instead of dispatching spies to the U.S. to recruit a single target, it’s more efficient to sit behind a computer in China and send out friend requests to thousands of targets using fake profiles.”¹⁰

Former officials who have just left government positions and government employees seeking new opportunities are particularly vulnerable to Chinese recruiting campaigns.¹¹ Additionally, Chinese intelligence officials have historically sought to recruit academics and high-value targets from the private sector for the purposes of economic

3. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Press Release, “Singaporean National Sentenced to 14 Months in Prison for Acting Within the United States as an Illegal Agent of the Chinese Government,” October 9, 2020. (<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/singaporean-national-sentenced-14-months-prison-acting-united-states-illegal-agent-chinese>)

4. United States v. Jun Wei Yeo, also known as Dickson Yeo, No. 19-mj-277, (D.D.C. June 20, 2020). (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/press-release/file/1297451/dl>)

5. Warren Strobel and Jonathan Landay, “Exclusive - U.S. accuses China of ‘super aggressive’ spy campaign on LinkedIn,” *Reuters*, August 31, 2018. (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-linkedin-china-espionage-exclusive/exclusive-us-accuses-china-of-super-aggressive-spy-campaign-on-linkedin-idUSKCN1LG15Y>)

6. Spencer S. Hsu, “Singaporean consultant pleads guilty to acting as agent for China, targeting Americans for intelligence recruitment,” *The Washington Post*, July 24, 2020. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/singaporean-consultant-pleads-guilty-to-acting-as-agent-for-china-targeting-americans-for-intelligence-recruitment/2020/07/24/79070cd8-cdb3-11ea-bc6a-6841b28d9093_story.html);

“German spy agency warns of Chinese LinkedIn espionage,” *BBC* (UK), December 10, 2017. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42304297>)

7. Edward Wong, “How China Uses LinkedIn to Recruit Spies Abroad,” *The New York Times*, August 27, 2019. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/27/world/asia/china-linkedin-spies.html>)

8. Dan Sabbagh, “20,000 Britons approached by Chinese agents on LinkedIn, says MI5 head,” *The Guardian* (UK), October 17, 2023. (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/17/up-to-20000-britons-approached-by-chinese-agents-on-linkedin-says-mi5-head>)

9. Edward Wong, “How China Uses LinkedIn to Recruit Spies Abroad,” *The New York Times*, August 27, 2019. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/27/world/asia/china-linkedin-spies.html>)

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.

espionage, especially in critical technology sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI).¹² Many of these Chinese operations employ common tactics, such as creating fake consulting and headhunting companies supposedly based in Singapore or Hong Kong.¹³ Since both cities have majority ethnic Chinese populations, a CCP operation could blend in more easily, and it may even be easier for Chinese operatives to entice a target to visit Singapore and Hong Kong as opposed to mainland China.

THE NETWORK DISCOVERED BY FDD

FDD discovered a network spanning five companies. One company appears to be an internet services company, and the other four companies variously describe themselves as consulting or headhunting firms based in the United States, Singapore, and Japan:

- **Smiao Intelligence** — smiao.com[.]cn¹⁴
- **Dustrategy** — dustrategy[.]com¹⁵
- **RiverMerge Strategies** — rivermergestrategies[.]com¹⁶
- **Tsubasa Insight** — tsubasainsight[.]com¹⁷
- **Wavemax Innov** — wavemaxinnov[.]com¹⁸

Evidence indicates that Smiao Intelligence is an actual company based in China and that one or more individuals associated with Smiao created the other four companies in the network, which are not authentic businesses. Additionally, Smiao's website became unavailable at some point between March 11 and March 25 while Reuters

12. Dan Sabbagh, "20,000 Britons approached by Chinese agents on LinkedIn, says MI5 head," *The Guardian* (UK), October 17, 2023. (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/17/up-to-20000-britons-approached-by-chinese-agents-on-linkedin-says-mi5-head>);

Edward Wong, "How China Uses LinkedIn to Recruit Spies Abroad," *The New York Times*, August 27, 2019. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/27/world/asia/china-linkedin-spies.html>); United States v. Jun Wei Yeo, also known as Dickson Yeo, No. 19-mj-277, (D.D.C. June 20, 2020). (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/press-release/file/1297451/dl>); Aneta Zachová, "China uses LinkedIn to recruit academics for espionage, Czech intelligence warns," *Euractiv*, September 12, 2024. (<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/china-uses-linkedin-to-recruit-academics-for-espionage-czech-intelligence-warns>)

13. Edward Wong, "How China Uses LinkedIn to Recruit Spies Abroad," *The New York Times*, August 27, 2019. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/27/world/asia/china-linkedin-spies.html>); Aneta Zachová, "China uses LinkedIn to recruit academics for espionage, Czech intelligence warns," *Euractiv*, September 12, 2024. (<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/china-uses-linkedin-to-recruit-academics-for-espionage-czech-intelligence-warns>); Warren Strobel and Jonathan Landay, "Exclusive - U.S. accuses China of 'super aggressive' spy campaign on LinkedIn," *Reuters*, August 31, 2018. (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-linkedin-china-espionage-exclusive/exclusive-us-accuses-china-of-super-aggressive-spy-campaign-on-linkedin-idUSKCN1LG15Y>); U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, Press Release, "Singaporean National Sentenced to 14 Months in Prison for Acting Within the United States as an Illegal Agent of the Chinese Government," October 9, 2020. (<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/singaporean-national-sentenced-14-months-prison-acting-united-states-illegal-agent-chinese>); Dan Sabbagh, "20,000 Britons approached by Chinese agents on LinkedIn, says MI5 head," *The Guardian* (UK), October 17, 2023. (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/17/up-to-20000-britons-approached-by-chinese-agents-on-linkedin-says-mi5-head>)

14. "Smiao思妙智能," SMIAO, accessed November 2, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20241102030929/http://smiao.com.cn>)

15. "DU Strategy," *DU Strategy*, accessed February 12, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250212192822/https://dustrategy.com>)

16. "RiverMerge Strategies," *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 7, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250207121848/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/?l=en-us>)

17. "Tsubasa Insight," *Tsubasa Insight*, accessed February 14, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250214154948/http://www.tsubasainsight.com>)

18. "Wavemax Innov," *Wavemax Innov*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/k3ufW>)

was reviewing the research findings presented in this paper, on which it later reported.¹⁹ However, FDD was able to archive Smiao’s website in February before it went offline.²⁰

Smiao stands out from the other four firms in the network because its domain name ended with .cn, a Chinese top-level domain. The company offered an array of professional services, ranging from web development and digital marketing to trademark registration.²¹ For a web developer like Smiao, building sites for other firms, real or fake, would not be difficult.

Smiao’s website, smiao.com[.]cn, also had the oldest domain in the network, registered on February 7, 2017.²² The next oldest belongs to dustrategy[.]com, registered on March 25, 2024.²³ The Smiao homepage also listed what appears to be its parent company, Beijing Simiao Intelligent Information Technology Co., Ltd. (北京思妙智能信息科技有限公司), whose roots go back further.²⁴ Its name matches that of a company registered in China in 2012, according to AsiaVerify, a due diligence platform focused on Asia. Another indication of the parent company’s authenticity is that a Chinese government website refers to it as a trademark application agency officially recognized by the State Intellectual Property Office.²⁵

Additionally, a database error that appeared on Dustrategy[.]com on March 19, 2024, revealed backend configuration details that implicate Smiao. Specifically, Dustrategy[.]com attempted to retrieve content from a table named “tp_smiao” in a database named “dustrategy_com” but failed, thus revealing the name of the table in an error message.²⁶ This suggests that whoever created the website configured it to rely on this database.

There are several telltale signs that a single entity created and controls all five companies’ websites. Between December 7, 2024, and March 14, 2025, the domains for all five sites were hosted on the same server at IP address 43[.]134.121.240.²⁷ That server is owned by the Chinese multinational company Tencent, and it hosts only domains associated with the five firms in the network, suggesting it is a dedicated hosting environment. In contrast to shared hosting environments, where multiple unrelated entities can rent space on the same server, websites on dedicated hosting environments are typically operated by a single entity.²⁸

19. A.J. Vicens, “Secretive Chinese Network Tries to Lure Fired Federal Workers, Research Shows,” *Reuters*, March 25, 2025. (<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/secretive-chinese-network-tries-lure-fired-federal-workers-research-shows-2025-03-25>)

20. “Smiao思妙智能,” SMIAO, accessed February 19, 2025 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250219021804/http://www.smiao.com.cn>)

21. “WEB网站建设,” SMIAO, accessed September 16, 2024. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20240916092745/http://smiao.com.cn/index.php?s=/Home/Article/lists/category/web.html>); “212微信通能做什么?,” SMIAO, accessed November 2, 2024. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20241102015626/http://smiao.com.cn/index.php?s=/Home/Article/detail/id/102.html>) “北京思妙智能信息科技有限公司-全国商标 申请代理机构,” *National Platform for Knowledge Transformation of Science and Technology Enterprises*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/IDSaN>)

22. “Whois Lookup for smiao.com.cn,” *Whoxy*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://www.whoxy.com/smiao.com.cn>)

23. “Whois Lookup for dustrategy.com,” *Whoxy*, accessed April 21, 2025. (<https://www.whoxy.com/dustrategy.com>)

24. “Smiao思妙智能,” SMIAO, accessed November 2, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20241102030929/http://smiao.com.cn>)

25. “Trademark Information for 思妙智能,” *National Platform for Knowledge Transformation of Science and Technology Enterprises*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/azvHZ>)

26. “DU Strategy,” *DU Strategy*, accessed March 19, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250319190641/https://dustrategy.com>)

27. “IPv4 Enrichment for 43.134.121.240,” *Validin*, accessed April 21, 2024. (<https://app.validin.com/detail?type=ip&find=43.134.121.240#tab=resolutions>)

28. “Whois Lookup for 43.134.121.240,” *ViewDNS*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://viewdns.info/whois/?domain=43.134.121.240>); Tencent does, in fact, offer dedicated hosting environments. See: “CVM Dedicated Host,” *Tencent Cloud*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://www.tencentcloud.com/products/cdh>)

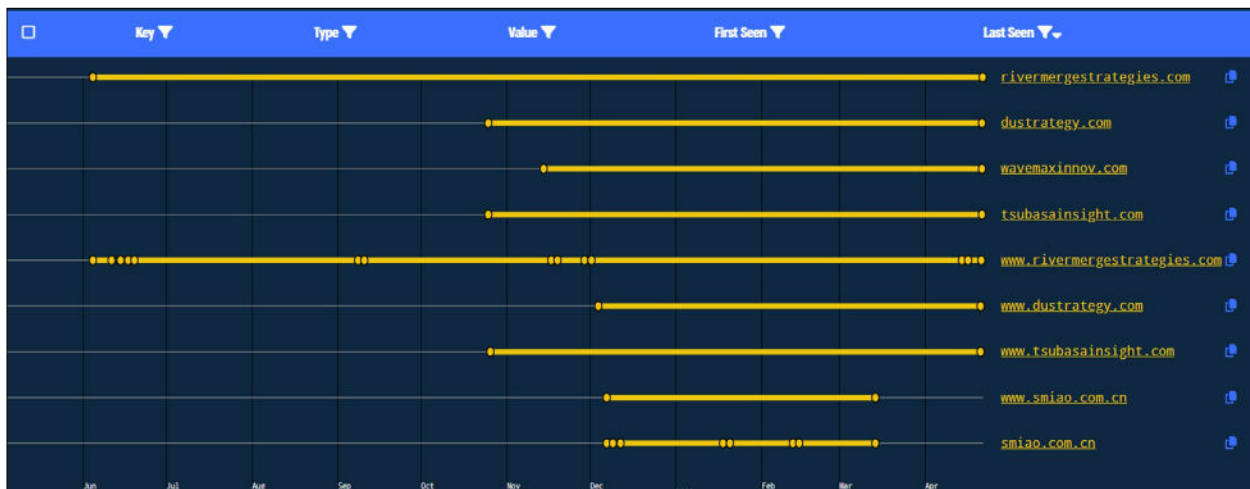


Figure 1: Domains hosted on web hosting server at IP address 43.[.]134.121.240, according to Validin

To discover this dedicated web hosting server associated with Smiao and the four other business websites, FDD used a technique called passive DNS. Passive DNS allows investigators to see historical connections between websites and the servers that hosted them, using the IP addresses that linked them, even if the websites have been taken down or changed. Various open-source and commercial tools aggregate passive DNS data, and FDD chose to use Silent Push and Validin because both platforms offer comprehensive coverage with minimal gaps in historical records. Figure 1 presents data from Validin showing that a single server hosted all five websites at the same time.

Another indicator of the four sites' common origin in China is that their SPF and MX records list the same Chinese email service provider, chengmail[.]cn.²⁹ SPF records specify which servers are authorized to send emails on behalf of a domain, and MX records specify servers responsible for receiving incoming email for a domain.³⁰ SPF and MX records are publicly accessible, and FDD identified these records using Silent Push. Chengmail[.]cn is a relatively niche provider, receiving a fraction of the traffic seen by major Chinese enterprise email services such as Tencent Exmail. (See Appendix B.) The use of chengmail[.]com across the Smiao network supports the assessment that a single entity created and controls the four sites. Using the niche provider chengmail[.]com is not only uncommon in China but also highly unusual for an authentic firm located outside of China. Perhaps to mask their connections to China, rivermergestrategies[.]com and tsubasainsight[.]com switched their email provider to privateemail[.]com in June and September 2024, respectively.³¹

29. "Explore Indicator DNS Data for Rivermergestrategies[.]com," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2024. (https://explore.silentpush.com/explore-result?name=rivermergestrategies.com&queryType=query&type=any&origin_uid=Explore); "Explore Indicator DNS Data for Dustrategy[.]com," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2024. (https://explore.silentpush.com/explore-result?name=dustrategy.com&queryType=query&type=any&origin_uid=Explore); "Explore Indicator DNS Data for Wavemaxinnov[.]com," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2024. (https://explore.silentpush.com/explore-result?name=wavemaxinnov.com&queryType=query&type=any&origin_uid=Explore); "Explore Indicator DNS Data for Tsubasainsight[.]com," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2024. (<https://explore.silentpush.com/explore-result?name=tsubasainsight.com&queryType=query&type=any>); "What is a DNS SPF record?" *Cloudflare*, accessed April 27, 2025. (<https://www.cloudflare.com/learning/dns/dns-records/dns-spf-record/>); "What is a DNS MX record?" *Cloudflare*, accessed April 27, 2025. (<https://www.cloudflare.com/learning/dns/dns-records/dns-mx-record/>); "Enrichment Data for rivermergestrategies[.]com - MX Records," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2025. (<https://explore.silentpush.com/enrichment/domain/rivermergestrategies.com?padns-sub-tab=MX&highlights=collapsed>); "Enrichment Data for rivermergestrategies[.]com - TXT Records," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2025. (<https://explore.silentpush.com/enrichment/domain/rivermergestrategies.com?padns-sub-tab=TXT&highlights=collapsed>); "Enrichment Data for tsubasainsight.com - MX Records," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2025. (<https://explore.silentpush.com/enrichment/domain/tsubasainsight.com?padns-sub-tab=MX&highlights=collapsed>); "Enrichment Data for tsubasainsight.com - MX Records," *Silent Push*, accessed April 21, 2025. (<https://explore.silentpush.com/enrichment/domain/tsubasainsight.com?padns-sub-tab=TXT&highlights=collapsed>)

		 rivermergestrategies.com		 mx1.privateemail.com	2024-06-04 03:07:14	2025-04-21 21:58:40
		 rivermergestrategies.com		 mx2.privateemail.com	2024-06-04 03:07:14	2025-04-21 21:58:40
		 rivermergestrategies.com		 mx2.chengmail.cn	2024-05-08 17:13:41	2024-06-03 04:48:25
		 rivermergestrategies.com		 mx1.chengmail.cn	2024-05-08 17:13:41	2024-06-03 04:48:25

Figure 2: MX records for rivermergestrategies[.]com as of April 21, 2025, showing a shift from Chinese email provider chengmail[.]cn to privateemail[.]com, according to Silent Push

OTHER SHARED ATTRIBUTES OF THE WEBSITES

In addition to shared web hosting and email infrastructure, several overlapping traits of the websites in the Smiao network suggest they were created by the same entity. (See Appendix C.)

This first involves a misconfiguration where a user encounters different versions of the same website depending on whether a user visits the HTTP or HTTPS version of the website.³² HTTP is the fundamental protocol used to transfer content from servers, such as web hosting servers, to clients, like web browsers. HTTPS is the secure version of HTTP, which encrypts communication to prevent malicious actors from intercepting, altering, or spoofing exchanged data. Today, HTTPS serves as the default protocol for over 87 percent of websites.³³

In the Smiao network, the HTTP versions of wavemaxinnov[.]com and tsubasainsight[.]com are distinct as of May 4.³⁴ However, the HTTPS versions of wavemaxinnov[.]com, and tsubasainsight[.]com display content that is identical to that of dustrategy[.]com.³⁵ Notably, the HTTP version of Smiao.com[.]cn was also distinct from dustrategy[.]com before it went offline, but the HTTPS version of the website previously displayed content identical to dustrategy[.]com.³⁶ As of March 11, 2025, the HTTPS versions of these same four sites also shared the same SSL certificate. (See Appendix D.)³⁷

In addition, three of the four seemingly inauthentic websites — dustrategy[.]com, tsubasainsight[.]com, and wavemaxinnov[.]com — partially clone legitimate business websites from outside the network. (See Appendix E.) This common behavior strengthens the assessment that a single entity created them, likely having cloned legitimate websites as a shortcut to avoid building a new website from scratch.

32. An HTTP URL begins with “http://”, whereas an HTTPS URL begins with “https://”.

33. “Usage Statistics of Default Protocol HTTPS for Websites,” *W3Techs*, accessed April 21, 2025. (<https://w3techs.com/technologies/details/ce-httpsdefault>)

34. “Tsubasa Insight,” *Tsubasa Insight*, accessed May 4, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/zH4YY>); “Wavemax Innov,” *Wavemax Innov*, accessed May 4, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/SXxxz>)

35. “Tsubasa Insight,” *Tsubasa Insight*, accessed May 4, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250504182828/https://www.tsubasainsight.com>); “Wavemax Innov,” *Wavemax Innov*, accessed May 4, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250504182848/https://wavemaxinnov.com>)

36. “Smiao思妙智能,” *SMIAO*, accessed February 18, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/mgaJC>); “Smiao思妙智能,” *SMIAO*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250219021804/http://www.smiao.com.cn>)

37. SSL certificates are displayed publicly by a website.

SIGNS OF INAUTHENTICITY FOR RIVERMERGE STRATEGIES, WAVEMAX INNOV, DUSTRATEGY, AND TSUBASA INSIGHT

RiverMerge Strategies served as the initial lead in FDD’s investigation. FDD first discovered the company when searching on LinkedIn for geopolitical risk consultant positions. The company purports to be a consulting business specializing in geopolitical risk and offers services ranging from political risk assessments to business intelligence.³⁸ RiverMerge Strategies previously purported to be based in Colorado and Singapore; however, the company removed the Colorado address from its website prior to March 26.³⁹ Starting at least as early as January 2025, RiverMerge Strategies posted job listings on LinkedIn seeking professionals with government experience and talent recruiters with strong networks in DC. (See Appendix F.)⁴⁰ RiverMerge Strategies also posted listings for an investigative journalist and a research analyst focused on “monitoring, documenting, and reporting Human Rights’ abuses.” (See Appendix F.)

Corporate registries show that a company titled “RiverMerge Strategies LLC” is in fact registered in Colorado, listing its head office at the same location that RiverMerge Strategies once listed on its LinkedIn page and website.⁴¹ The company was formed on June 3, 2024, roughly one month after the web domain for RiverMerge Strategies was registered on May 7, 2024.⁴² According to data from WHOIS, which provides registration information about domain names and IP addresses, the domain for RiverMerge Strategies was registered in Beijing.⁴³ The website also includes a phone number that begins with the digits 400, a Chinese prefix.⁴⁴ Notably, RiverMerge Strategies previously shared a phone number with [siss.org\[.\]cn](https://www.siss.org.cn/), a website affiliated with Smiao, according to corporate records, and which also shared overlapping internet infrastructure with Smiao.⁴⁵ All of these factors suggest that RiverMerge Strategies’ website was created and controlled by a Chinese entity — more specifically, Smiao.

38. “Services-Political risk assessment,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed March 20, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250320144628/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/index.php/Home/Document/detail/id/899.html>); “Services-Strategic intelligence services,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed March 20, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250320145507/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/index.php/Home/Document/detail/id/904.html>)

39. “RiverMerge Strategies,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 7, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250207121848/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/?l=en-us>); “RiverMerge Strategies,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed March 26, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250326174912/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/?l=en-us>)

40. FDD was unable to archive the LinkedIn job listing with the Internet Archive. FDD took the screenshot of the listings on February 1, and the listing was posted three weeks earlier.

41. “rivermerge Strategies LLC,” *Colorado Company Directory*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/OG3PH?wr=false>); “rivermerge Strategies LLC,” *Open Corporates*, accessed March 3, 2025. (https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_co/20241608934); “RiverMerge Strategies,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 18, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250218213827/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/?l=en-us>)

42. “Whois Lookup for rivermergestrategies.com,” *Whoxy*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://www.whoxy.com/rivermergestrategies.com>); “Domain Analysis for rivermergestrategies.com,” *DNSlytics*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://search.dnslytics.com/domain/rivermergestrategies.com>)

43. *Ibid.*

44. “China Virtual Numbers,” *AVOXI*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://support.avoxi.com/112286-phone-numbers-types/china-virtual-numbers>); “RiverMerge Strategies Contact Page,” *Rivermerge Strategies*, accessed February 6, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250206165356/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/index.php/Home/Document/lists/name/contact>)

45. “思迅收银系统,” *SISS*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250219192719/http://siss.org.cn>); “RiverMerge Strategies Contact Page,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 7, 2025. (<https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/index.php/Home/Document/lists/name/contact>)

The apparent inauthenticity of RiverMerge is also suggested by its websites' inclusion of fake clients with sample concept logo designs and company names pulled from social media sites such as Pinterest. (See Appendix G.)⁴⁶ The website also includes a section entitled "insights" with short-form analyses of various geopolitical events. The AI-detection tool ZeroGPT rates the text of these "insights" as highly likely to be AI-generated. (See Appendix H.)

DUSTRATEGY

Dustrategy's website, which presents the company as a headhunting firm, has multiple features that suggest it was likely created in China. WHOIS data does not make the identity or location of the registrant public.⁴⁷ However, as of April 27, the source code for dustrategy[.]com notably includes developer comments with simplified Chinese characters.⁴⁸ Clicking on a button at the bottom of the webpage that says "submit your resume" also leads to an error page written in Chinese.⁴⁹ As noted above, the website uses Chinese hosting and email infrastructure. The Dustrategy site also has features that overlap with other companies in the network. For example, an orphaned webpage on dustrategy[.]com describes the company as Singaporean.⁵⁰ A company with the name Dustrategy LLC was registered in Denver, Colorado, where RiverMerge Strategies was also registered.⁵¹

Dustrategy previously listed "case studies" on its website for a "networking specialist" focused on building professional networks, a geopolitical risk analyst, and an AI researcher, suggesting that Dustrategy likely sought to recruit professionals with experience aligned with these roles.⁵² By March 18, 2025, however, these case studies no longer appeared on the website.⁵³

The strongest indicator that Dustrategy is not an authentic business is that Dustrategy[.]com partially clones Kforce[.]com, which appears to be the website for a legitimate staffing company. (See Appendix E.)

46. "RiverMerge Strategies," *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/WaVag>); robinssoncravents, "Aurora," *Pinterest*, July 23, 2014. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/VOmUa>); Dribbble, "Oriele Logomark," *Pinterest*, accessed May 8, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/EUDFA>); "Simple Logo Design - AI Chatbot Logo Identity Data Flow," *Dribbble*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/jG8EV>)

47. "Domain Analysis for dustrategy.com," *DNSlytics*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://search.dnslytics.com/domain/dustrategy.com>)

48. "DU Strategy Source Code," *DU Strategy*, accessed April 27, 2025. (view-source:https://dustrategy.com)

49. "Index-3," *DU Strategy*, accessed February 14, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250214061548/https://dustrategy.com/index.php/Home/Document/lists/name/index-3.htm>)

50. "About," *DU Strategy*, accessed February 14, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250214062454/https://www.dustrategy.com/index.php/Home/Document/detail/id/218.html>)

51. "DU Strategy LLC," *OpenCorporates*, accessed March 3, 2025. (https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_co/20241315096); "Dustrategy LLC," *B2BHint*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://b2bhint.com/en/company/us-co/dustrategy-llc--20241315096>)

52. "DU Strategy," *DU Strategy*, accessed March 7, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250307015646/https://www.dustrategy.com>)

53. "DU Strategy," *DU Strategy*, accessed March 19, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250319190641/https://dustrategy.com>)



```
→ ↻ ⓘ view-source:https://dustrategy.com
<!-- 头部 -->
<div id="main-mobile-menu" class="v2">
  <ul>
    <li class="row mobile-menu" style="background-color:#223F81 !important">
      <div class="col-xs-12">
        <div class="mobile-inner">
          <a href="#" id="close-menu" style="color: #FFF !important ">Close Menu</a>
        </div>
      </div>
    </li>
  </ul>
</div>
```

Figure 3: Example of Chinese characters in the source code of Dustrategy[.]com. Red oval added for emphasis.

TSUBASA INSIGHT

Tsubasa Insight’s website, tsubasainsight[.]com, describes the company as a “boutique policy consulting firm based in Japan, dedicated to helping businesses and organizations navigate the complexities of the regulatory and policy environment.”⁵⁴ Tsubasainsight[.]com’s Chinese web hosting and email infrastructure show that it was likely created in China.⁵⁵

Like Dustrategy, Tsubasa Insight’s website partially clones an apparently legitimate website, indicating a lack of authenticity. Specifically, it partially clones the website of a Japanese consulting firm in the life sciences sector. (See Appendix E.) In addition, no records appear in the AsiaVerify database for a company called Tsubasa Insight in Japan despite the website providing a street address. (See Appendix I.)

A job listing for Tsubasa Insight seeking a candidate with experience in government, politics, or policy to conduct geopolitical risk analysis appeared on the professional networking site Teal HQ.⁵⁶ Google search results show that job advertisements for a “policy analyst” at Tsubasa Insight also appeared on the job recruiting site ZipRecruiter and professional networking site beBee. (See Appendix J.) These listings show that Tsubasa insight targeted the same types of professionals as RiverMerge Strategies and Dustrategy did.

WAVEMAX INNOV

Wavemax Innov’s website, wavemaxinnov[.]com, describes the company as a Singapore-based “research organization that develops solutions to public policy challenges” and a “nonprofit institution.”⁵⁷ The registrant information is not publicly visible in the WHOIS record.⁵⁸ At the same time, the company uses the same China-based web hosting and email service as other firms in the network, suggesting a Chinese entity created it.

54. “Home,” *Tsubasa Insight*, accessed February 12, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250212221424/http://www.tsubasainsight.com>)

55. “Domain Analysis for tsubasainsight.com,” *DNSlytics*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://search.dnslytics.com/domain/tsubasainsight.com>)

56. “Expert Consultant, Policy Analysis,” *Teal HQ*, accessed April 25, 2025. (https://web.archive.org/web/20250425161927/https://www.tealhq.com/job/expert-consultant-policy-analysis_991eb541-6bf5-49e0-8e63-f2ceadff3862)

57. “Wavemax Innov,” *Wavemax Innov*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/k3ufW>); “Contact,” *Wavemax Innov*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250219015851/http://wavemaxinnov.com/contact.html>)

58. “Domain Analysis for wavemaxinnov.com,” *DNSlytics*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://search.dnslytics.com/domain/wavemaxinnov.com>)

There are several indications that the company is not authentic. WaveMax Innov's website, wavemaxinnov[.]com, appears to clone the website of a New Jersey roofing company, roofexpertsnj[.]com. (See Appendix E.) AsiaVerify does not identify any companies registered in Singapore with the names "Wavemax" or "Wavemax Innov." (See Appendix I.) The website includes a broken button with the LinkedIn logo, suggesting the site was created poorly and in haste. WaveMax Innov also pulled text from the website of RAND, an American think tank and research institute, describing WaveMax as "widely respected for operating independent of political and commercial pressures."⁵⁹

Wavemax Innov stands out for explicitly targeting former government officials affected by mass layoffs. (See Figure 4.)⁶⁰



Figure 4: Craigslist post associated with wavemaxinnov[.]com

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Washington can take four steps to address the heightened risk of recruitment by Chinese intelligence amid a sharp increase in the number of federal employees looking for new jobs.

First, the government should continue to raise awareness of the threat. For example, the FBI has a webpage focused on the risk of China and other foreign intelligence services using social media to target clearance holders specifically.⁶¹ On April 9, 2025, multiple U.S. counterintelligence agencies put out a joint statement warning of China's online targeting of current and former U.S. government employees, suggesting several mitigation measures for employees and employers.⁶² While this recent notice is helpful, this is not likely to have a major impact on

59. "Why Work at RAND," *RAND Corporation*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://www.rand.org/jobs/why-work-at-rand.html>); "About Us," *WaveMax Innov*, accessed March 27, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250327175904/http://wavemaxinnov.com/about.html>)

60. "Job Opportunities for Recently Laid-Off U.S. Government Employees," *Craigslist*, accessed February 17, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/8H7H5>); The same ad appeared on a second site, JobSearchi. See: "Job Opportunities for Recently Laid-Off U.S. Government Employees," *JobSearchi*, accessed February 13, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250213065720/https://es.jobsearchi.com/District-of-Columbia/washingtondc/gov/job-opportunities-for-recently-laid-off-us-government-employees-53412437.html>)

61. U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Clearance Holders Targeted on Social Media: Nevernight Connection," accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence/the-china-threat/clearance-holders-targeted-on-social-media-nevernight-connection>)

62. U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA), "Online Targeting of Current & Former U.S. Government Employees," accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://www.dni.gov/files/NCSC/documents/products/2025-04-08-NCSC-FBI-DCSA-OnlineTargetingUSGEmployees.pdf>)

its own unless the U.S. government takes more active measures, such as regularly briefing private industry and current and former federal employees on the issue. U.S. government representatives can also join podcasts and mainstream news channels to discuss the issue.

Second, Washington should create inauthentic accounts, commonly known as “sock puppets,” that fit the profiles of former government officials or clearance holders. Posted on a range of social media sites, these sock puppets can help U.S. counterintelligence bait foreign intelligence operatives into coming out of the shadows to make contact. When creating sock puppets, the government should proactively notify the relevant social media platforms so that they do not inadvertently interfere by taking down these accounts. Former FBI agent Timothy Pappa has previously advocated a similar technique to lure cybercriminals.⁶³

Air Force officer Caleb S. Lisenbee II made a related proposal that the government should allow the targets of recruitment by foreign intelligence services “to receive and retain the money offered by adversaries” in exchange for passing along false information that would mislead the adversary.⁶⁴

Third, the United States should urge LinkedIn and other professional networking sites to monitor suspicious activity indicative of foreign intelligence operations more aggressively. Companies could apply particular scrutiny to job postings that seek former government employees and clearance holders. LinkedIn should also implement know-your-customer (KYC) practices that require people creating company pages to provide basic information verifying the company’s legitimacy. If LinkedIn does not enhance its KYC practices across the board for businesses, it should at least implement stronger KYC practices for businesses seeking to recruit clearance holders or former government employees.

As FDD’s research shows, however, the problem extends far beyond LinkedIn, to other, smaller professional networking sites — such as ZipRecruiter, beBee, and Teal HQ — and even the job boards of sites that are not explicitly professional networking sites, such as Craigslist. The U.S. government should comprehensively map out the different online platforms that adversaries have historically leveraged or may leverage in the future for targeting operations to guide their engagement.

Lastly, Congress should provide oversight to ensure that the U.S. government and the private sector are dealing with the issue effectively. For example, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence can hold hearings. Congress can also mandate in the Intelligence Authorization Act a public reporting requirement for the intelligence community to detail attempts by foreign adversaries to use professional networking sites and other online platforms to target U.S. personnel.

CONCLUSION

Chinese intelligence operatives have long leveraged the internet and the openness of American society to recruit individuals with both government and industry backgrounds. This threat is heightened at a time when thousands of former and current federal workers are seeking new employment. If the public and private sectors do not act quickly to address these vulnerabilities, China and other U.S. adversaries will continue preying on former public servants who may not be aware of the threat and face pressure to find new jobs quickly.

63. Tim Pappa, “Modeling a Cyber Deception Practitioner’s Approach: Behaviorally Exploiting an American Cybercriminal with Warranting Theory and Whaley’s Unpublished Work on ‘Unexpected Players,’” *2024 IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy Workshops (EuroS&PW)*, August 20, 2024. (Accessed via IEEE Xplore)

64. Caleb S. Lisenbee II, “Covert Connections: The LinkedIn Recruitment Ruse Targeting Defense Insiders,” *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, May 8, 2024.

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APPENDIX A: TABLE OF INDICATORS

Type	Indicator	Associated Companies in Network
IP Address	43[.]134.121.240	RiverMerge Strategies, Dustrategy, Tsubasa Insight, Wavemax Innov, Smiao Intelligence
Domain	rivermergestrategies[.]com	RiverMerge Strategies
LinkedIn Profile	linkedin[.]com/company/rivermerge-strategies	RiverMerge Strategies
X Profile	x[.]com/rivermergegroup	RiverMerge Strategies
Phone number	(+1) 202-247-8003	RiverMerge Strategies
Phone Number	400-885-8983	RiverMerge Strategies, SIXUN (same parent company as Smiao Intelligence)
Email Address	contact@rivermergestrategies[.]com	RiverMerge Strategies
Physical Address	1942 Broadway St, Boulder, CO 80302	RiverMerge Strategies
Physical Address	503 Stirling Rd, Singapore 148959	RiverMerge Strategies
IP Address	47[.]250.155.134	RiverMerge Strategies
Domain	Dustrategy[.]com	Dustrategy
Phone Number	1-802-266-1501	Dustrategy
Email Address	hr@dustrategy.com	Dustrategy
LinkedIn Profile	linkedin[.]com/company/dustrategy-llc/	Dustrategy
Domain (HTTPS Version)	https://tsubasainsight[.]com/	Tsubasa Insight
Domain (HTTP Version)	http://www.tsubasainsight[.]com/	Tsubasa Insight

Type	Indicator	Associated Companies in Network
Physical Address	5-15-1 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku Tokyo, Japan 150-000	Tsubasa Insight
Email Address	job@tsubasainsight[.]com	Tsubasa Insight
Domain (HTTPS Version)	https://wavemaxinnov[.]com/	Wavemax Innov
Domain (HTTP Version)	http://wavemaxinnov[.]com/	Wavemax Innov
Physical Address	6 Marina Green (S) 019799, Singapore	Wavemax Innov
Email Address	hr.kim@wavemaxinnov[.]com	Wavemax Innov
Domain (HTTPS Version)	https://smiao.com[.]cn/	Smiao Intelligence
Domain (HTTP Version)	http://smiao.com[.]cn/	Smiao Intelligence
Phone Number	010-57155315	Smiao Intelligence
Phone Number	400-899-8587	Smiao Intelligence
Email Address	office@smiao[.]cc	Smiao Intelligence
Domain	Siss.org[.]cn	SIXUN (same parent company as Smaio Intelligence)

APPENDIX B: CHENGMAIL VS. TENCENT EXMAIL

Chengmail appears to be a niche enterprise email service provider in China. To demonstrate this, FDD used SimilarWeb, a leading web traffic analysis tool, to compare the daily and monthly average for visits to the webmail interfaces of Chengmail and Tencent Exmail, a major Chinese enterprise email service.

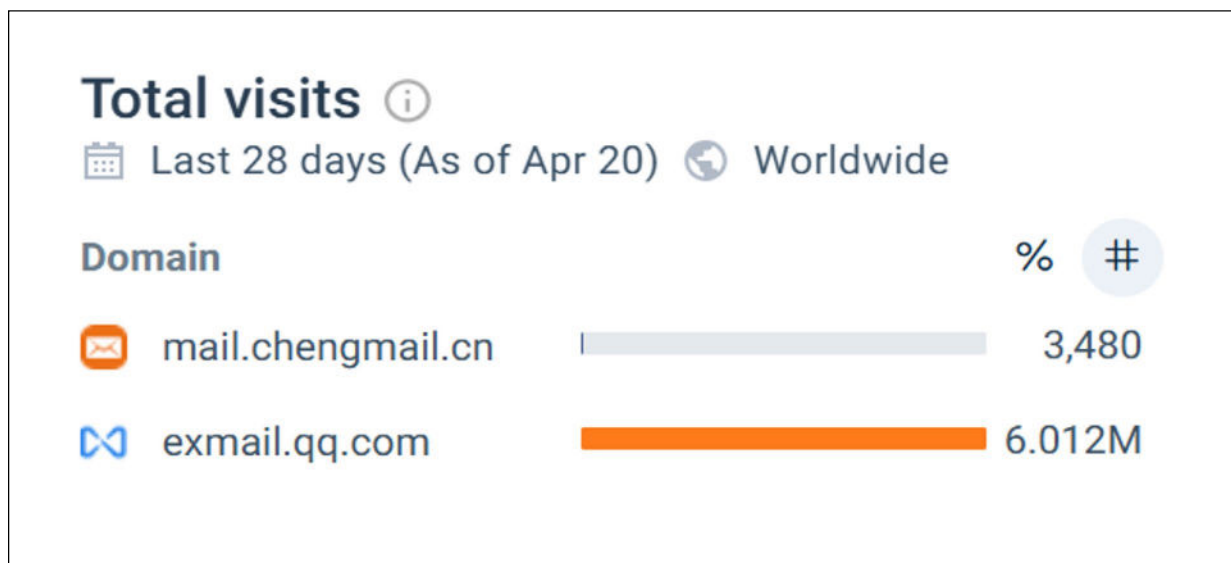


Figure 5: Monthly average visits for Chengmail and Exmail's webmail interfaces, as of April 20, 2025



Figure 6: Daily average visits for Chengmail and Exmail's webmail interfaces, as of April 20, 2025

APPENDIX C: VISUALIZATION OF SHARED TECHNICAL SIGNATURES AND BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS

The graphic below represents shared technical signatures and behavioral patterns among the five websites in the network identified by FDD. These shared features strongly suggest that a single entity created and controlled the websites in the network.

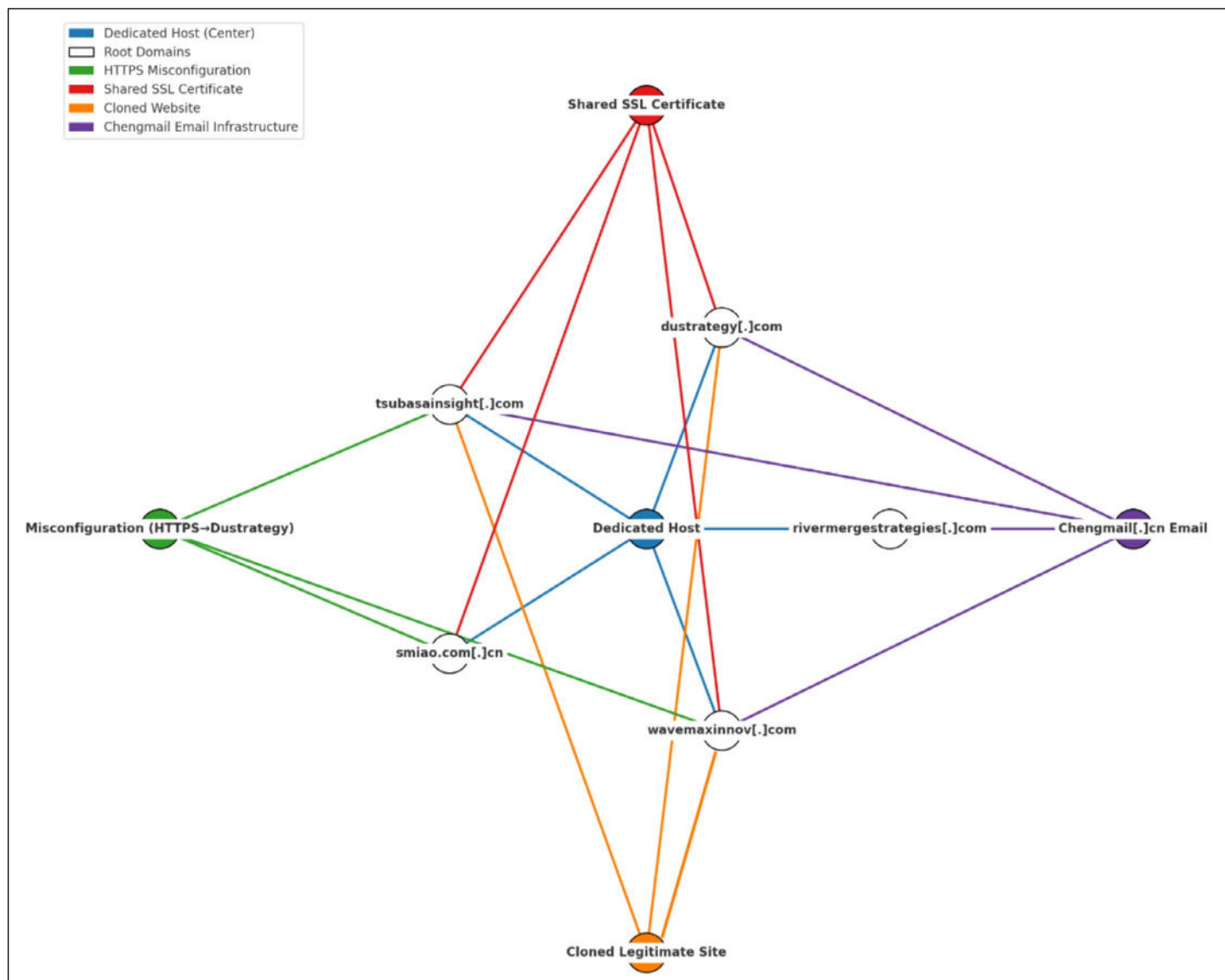


Figure 7: Shared technical signatures and behavioral patterns of websites in network identified by FDD

APPENDIX D: SHARED SSL CERTIFICATES

Four domains in the network share SSL certificates. The SSL certificate for dustrategy[.]com has historically been on the HTTPS versions of wavemaxinnov[.]com, tsubasainsight[.]com, and smiao.com[.]cn. FDD confirmed this manually and took the screenshots seen below on March 11, 2025. Smiao.com[.]cn is no longer online as of March 25, but the HTTPS versions of wavemaxinnov[.]com and tsubasainsight[.]com still share the same SSL certificate with dustrategy[.]com as of April 22.

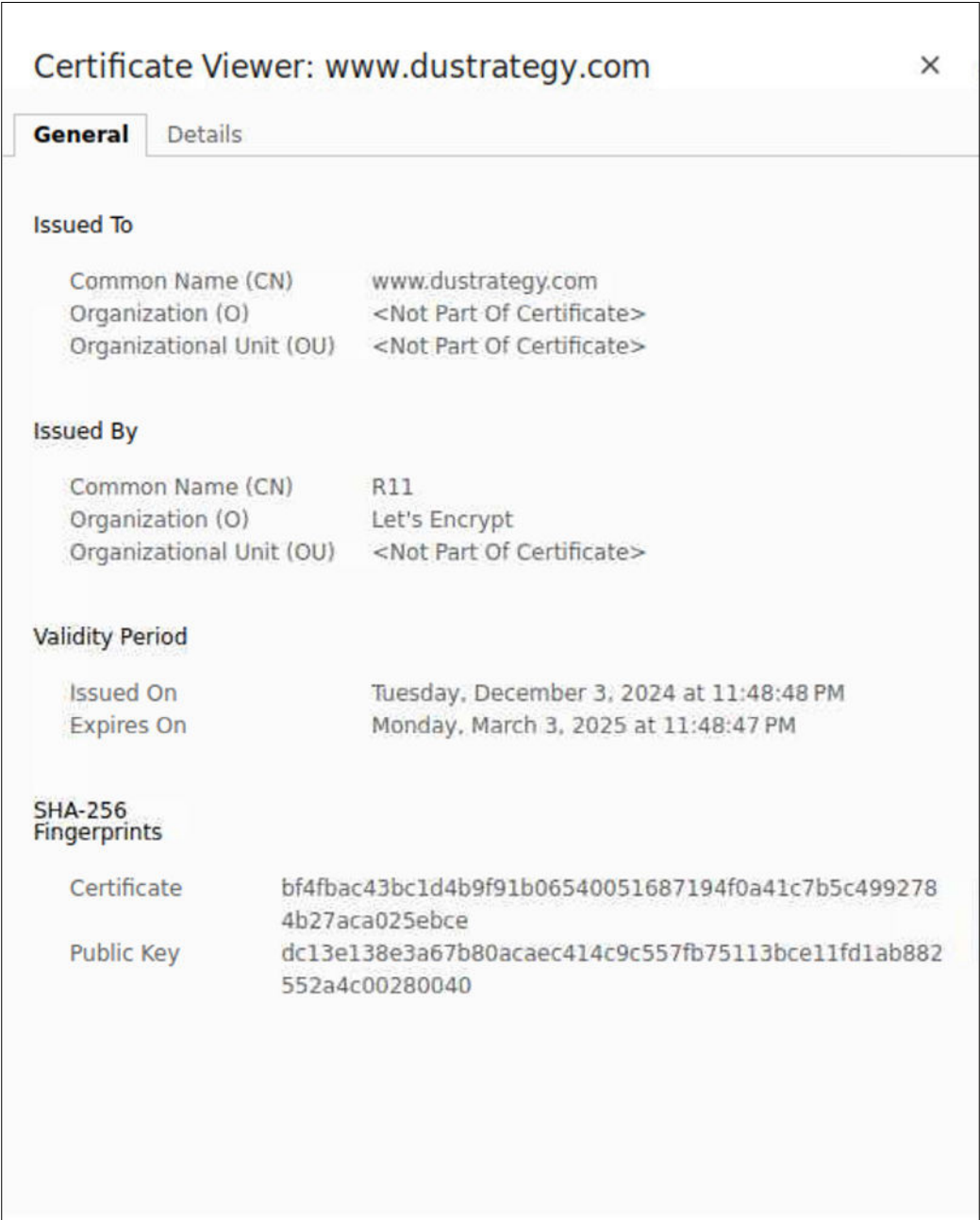


Figure 8: SSL certificate for www.dustrategy[.]com

This server could not prove that it is **wavemaxinnov.com**; its security certificate is from **www.dustrategy.com**. This may be caused by a misconfiguration or an attacker intercepting your connection.

[Proceed to wavemaxinnov.com \(unsafe\)](#)

Figure 9: Error message for wavemaxinnov[.]com showing it shares an SSL certificate with www.dustrategy[.]com

This server could not prove that it is **tsubasainsight.com**; its security certificate is from **www.dustrategy.com**. This may be caused by a misconfiguration or an attacker intercepting your connection.

[Proceed to tsubasainsight.com \(unsafe\)](#)

Figure 10: Error message for tsubasainsight[.]com showing it shares an SSL certificate with www.dustrategy[.]com

This server could not prove that it is **smiao.com.cn**; its security certificate is from **www.dustrategy.com**. This may be caused by a misconfiguration or an attacker intercepting your connection.

[Proceed to smiao.com.cn \(unsafe\)](#)

Figure 11: Error message for smiao.com[.]com showing it shares an SSL certificate with www.dustrategy[.]com

APPENDIX E: EVIDENCE OF WEBSITE CLONING

Three of the suspect consulting websites in the network discovered by FDD partially clone the websites for legitimate companies. Specifically, Dustrategy's website (dustrategy[.]com) partially clones Kforce's (kforce[.]com); Tsubasa Insight's website (tsubasainsight[.]com) partially clones Amenichi Consulting's (amenichi[.]com); and WaveMax Innov's website (wavemaxinnov[.]com) partially clones RoofExpertsNJ's (roofexpertsnj[.]com).

Visually comparing webpages across these websites provides the most immediate evidence of cloning. The suspect websites and the legitimate websites they clone have nearly identical layout and design features and often have

overlapping text and images. See, for example, archived versions of the homepages and “about” pages for Tsubasa Insight and Amenichi Consulting.⁶⁵

To quantify the similarity of the websites, FDD ran a script on April 24, 2025, that counts what fraction of one webpage’s code can be found in the same sequence inside another webpage. This script demonstrates that the creators of the suspect websites copy-and-pasted the source code from the legitimate websites.

While Dustrategy’s site consists of only three functional webpages, Kforce’s includes over 500. Despite this disparity, about 90 percent of the source code for Dustrategy’s homepage appears in the source code for Kforce’s homepage. Similarly, about 90 percent of the source code for Dustrategy’s “submit resume” page appears in Kforce’s corresponding page. This demonstrates that the creators of Dustrategy copy-and-pasted significant portions of the source code from associated pages on Kforce’s website. However, despite having similar design and layout, the “about” pages of both websites display little similarity in their source code. Dustrategy[.]com also uses several of Kforce[.]com’s assets, such as a branded video taken directly from the Kforce[.]com website.⁶⁶ Dustrategy[.]com also has a Google Analytics tracking ID and Salesforce Pardot tag, both of which were previously associated with Kforce[.]com.⁶⁷

The websites for Tsubasa Insight and Amenichi Consulting both have five webpages with similarly named URL paths (e.g., “about-us” and “contact-us”). Fifty-nine to 86 percent of the source code from each of Tsubasa Insight’s webpages appears verbatim in Amenichi Consulting’s. In addition, Tsubasa Insight’s source code includes numerous direct references to Amenichi Consulting’s entity name and website, providing further evidence of a hasty copy-and-paste job.

WaveMax Innov copy-and-pasted significant portions of the source code from the website of RoofExpertsNJ. WaveMax Innov only has four functional webpages, compared with the 23 webpages on RoofExpertsNJ. However, 51 to 75 percent of the source code from WaveMax Innov’s four functional webpages appears in the associated webpages from RoofExpertsNJ’s website. Despite WaveMax Innov describing itself as a consulting company, WaveMax Innov’s source code contains numerous internal references to roofing that are not visible in the version of the webpage that appears in the browser. The homepage, however, does include one reference to “Damage Roofing Repair” in the “About Us” section.

APPENDIX F: RIVERMERGE STRATEGIES LINKEDIN JOB POSTINGS

FDD was unable to successfully archive the LinkedIn job advertisements for RiverMerge Strategies using the Internet Archive, but below are the screenshots of the advertisements, accessed on February 13, 2025. This section also provides the screenshot of a Google search result showing an additional LinkedIn job listing for RiverMerge Strategies that FDD accessed on April 23, 2025.

.....
65. “Home,” *Tsubasa Insight*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/uw8Mh>); “Contact Us,” *Tsubasa Insight*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/rLPBe>); “Home,” *Amenichi Consulting*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250423222229/https://amenichi.com>); “Contact Us,” *Amenichi Consulting*, accessed May 2, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250423222249/https://amenichi.com/contact-us>)

66. “ttt-content-hub-kforce-hero-video.mp4” *urlscan.io*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://urlscan.io/search/#filename:%22ttt-content-hub-kforce-hero-video.mp4%22>)

67. “Domain Relationships for dustrategy.com,” *BuiltWith*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://builtwith.com/relationships/dustrategy.com>)

Geopolitical Consulting Advisor

RiverMerge Strategies · United States

3 weeks ago · Over 200 applicants

See who RiverMerge Strategies has hired for this role

Apply

Save

Job Title: Geopolitical Consulting Advisor

Location: Remote

Job Type: Full-time / Part-time

About Us: River Merge Strategies is a leading geopolitical risk consulting firm specializing in providing strategic insights and analysis to businesses, governments, and organizations worldwide. We help our clients navigate complex geopolitical landscapes and make informed decisions to achieve their strategic objectives.

Job Description: We are seeking a highly skilled and experienced Geopolitical Consulting Advisor to join our dynamic team. The ideal candidate will possess deep expertise in geopolitical analysis, risk assessment, and strategic consulting. As a Geopolitical Consulting Advisor, you will provide our clients with actionable insights and recommendations to manage and mitigate geopolitical risks.

Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct comprehensive geopolitical analysis and risk assessments for various regions and countries.
- Monitor and analyze political, economic, and security developments that may impact clients' interests.
- Develop and deliver detailed reports, briefings, and presentations to clients.
- Provide strategic advice and recommendations to clients on how to navigate geopolitical risks and opportunities.
- Collaborate with other analysts and advisors to produce high-quality, interdisciplinary research and analysis.
- Engage with clients to understand their specific needs and tailor solutions accordingly.
- Participate in client meetings, workshops, and conferences to present findings and strategic advice.
- Stay updated on global geopolitical trends and emerging issues through continuous research and professional development.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree or higher in International Relations, Political Science, Economics, or a related field.
- Minimum of 2 years of experience in geopolitical analysis, risk assessment, or strategic consulting.
- Strong understanding of global political, economic, and security issues.
- Excellent research, analytical, and writing skills.
- Ability to synthesize complex information into clear and actionable insights.
- Strong presentation and communication skills.
- Proficiency in using analytical tools and software.
- Fluency in English; additional language skills are a plus.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced environment.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working with government agencies, international organizations, or multinational corporations.
- Publication record in reputable journals or media outlets.
- Membership in relevant professional associations or networks.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary and performance-based bonuses.
- Flexible working hours and remote work options.
- Professional development opportunities.

Show less

Seniority level

Mid-Senior level

Employment type

Part-time

Industries

Business Consulting and Services

Referrals increase your chances of interviewing at RiverMerge Strategies by 2x

See who you know

Figures 12-15: Job listing for RiverMerge Strategies Seeking Geopolitical Consulting Advisor



Human Resources Specialist

RiverMerge Strategies · United States

3 weeks ago · Over 200 applicants


[See who RiverMerge Strategies has hired for this role](#)

[Apply](#)
[Save](#)

Position Summary:

We are seeking a **Human Resource Specialist** located in Washington, D.C., to leverage their recourse to find valuable candidates. This role focuses on identifying, recruiting, and building relationships with high-value candidates within the Washington, D.C. area.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Localized Talent Sourcing:**
 - Utilize a deep understanding of the Washington, D.C. talent pool to identify candidates with policy or consulting experience.
 - Leverage connections to local professional networks, think tanks, and academic institutions.
- **Proactive Recruitment:**
 - Attend local job fairs, industry events, and professional gatherings to establish a strong network of potential candidates.
- **Candidate Engagement:**
 - Build and nurture relationships with potential hires through personalized communication and one-on-one meetings.
 - Develop a pipeline of candidates for both current and future opportunities.

[Show less](#) ^

Seniority level	Employment type
Entry level	Part-time
Job function	Industries
Human Resources	Business Consulting and Services



Referrals increase your chances of interviewing at RiverMerge Strategies by 2x

Figures 16-17: Job listing for RiverMerge Strategies seeking human resources specialist



Figure 18: LinkedIn post showing RiverMerge Strategies previously sought an investigative reporter

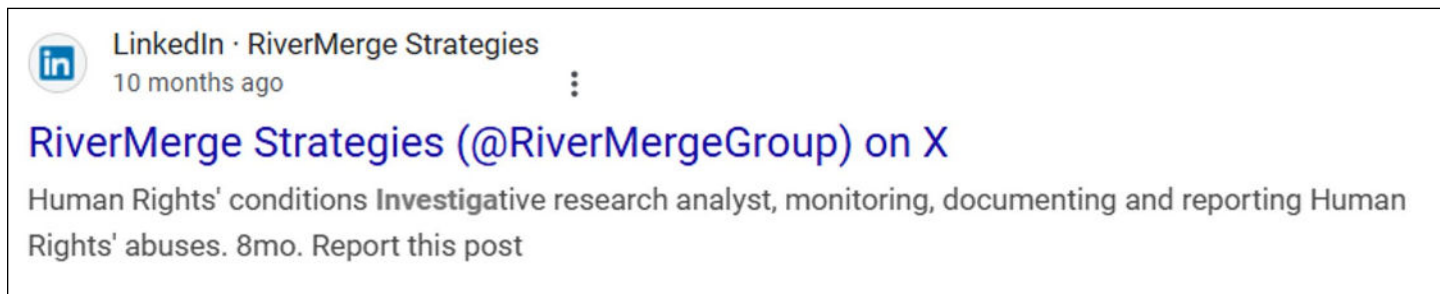


Figure 19: Google Search Results showing RiverMerge Strategies previously sought an investigative research analyst for human rights

APPENDIX G: RIVERMERGE STRATEGIES COMPANY LOGO AND ‘CLIENT’ LOGOS

RiverMerge Strategies’ website lists logos as examples of alleged “clients” that appear to be concept logos pulled from the work of online graphic designers and not the trademark of real companies.⁶⁸ Additionally, RiverMerge Strategies’ own logo appears to be a generic graphic used by dozens of companies online.⁶⁹

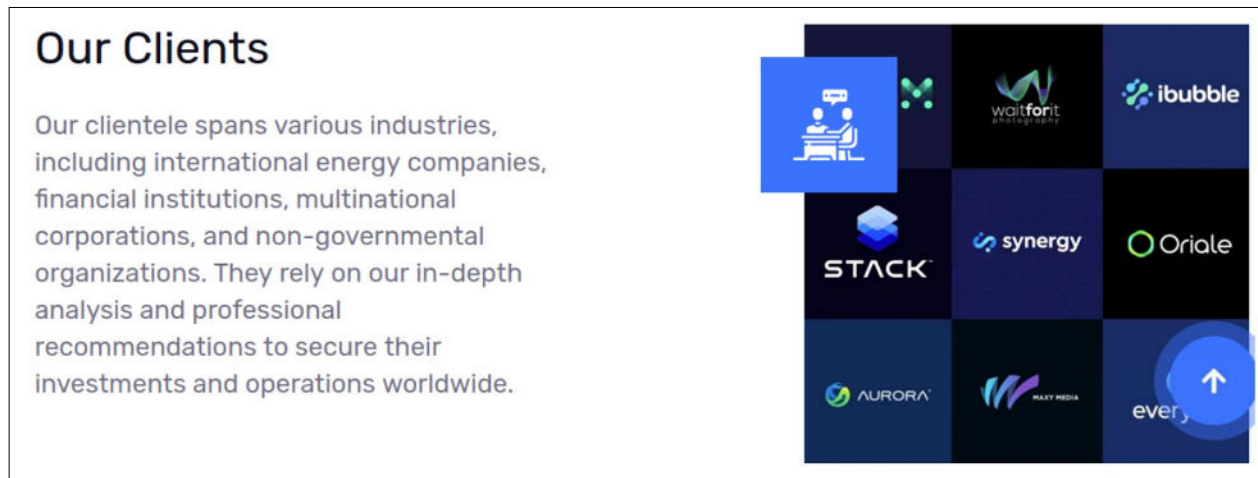


Figure 20: Clients listed on rivermergestrategies[.]com

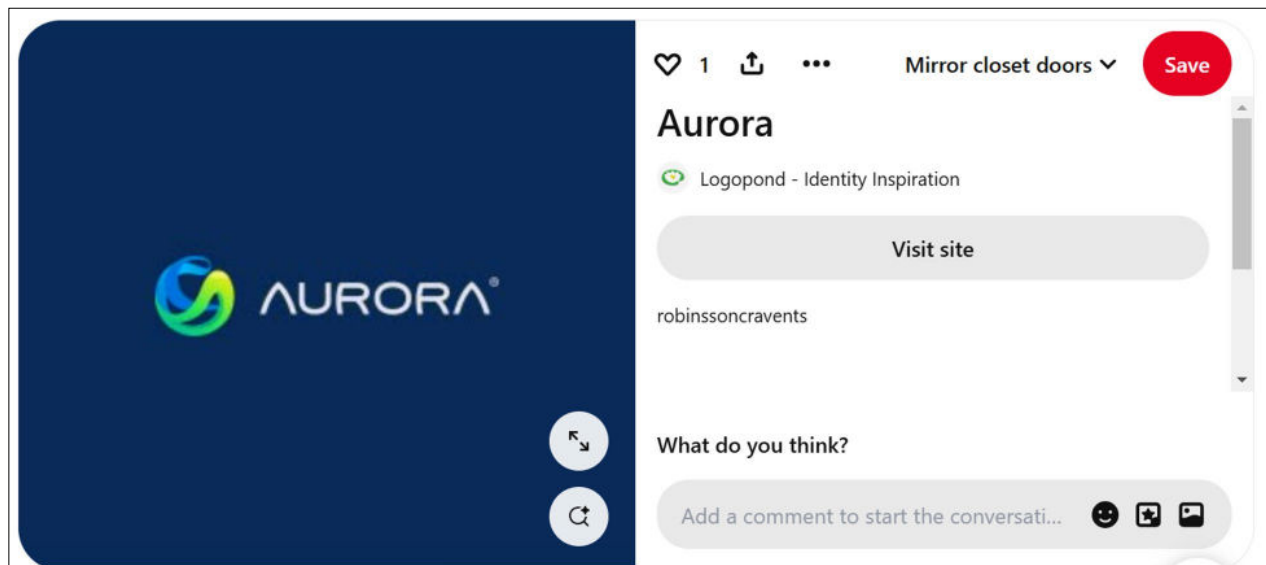


Figure 21: Logo for ‘Aurora’ on Pinterest

68. “RiverMergeStrategies,” *RiverMergeStrategies*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/WaVag>); Robinssoncravents, “Aurora,” *Pinterest*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/RyI9u>); Dribbble, “Oriale Logomark,” *Pinterest*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/EUDFA>); “Simple Logo Design - ai, chatbot, logo, identity, data flow,” *Dribbble*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/WaVag>)

69. “RiverMerge Strategies,” *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/WaVag>); Leg Up Ventures, *LinkedIn*, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/legupventures>); “Jongerius IT,” Jongerius & Partner IT Consulting, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://jongerius-it.de>)

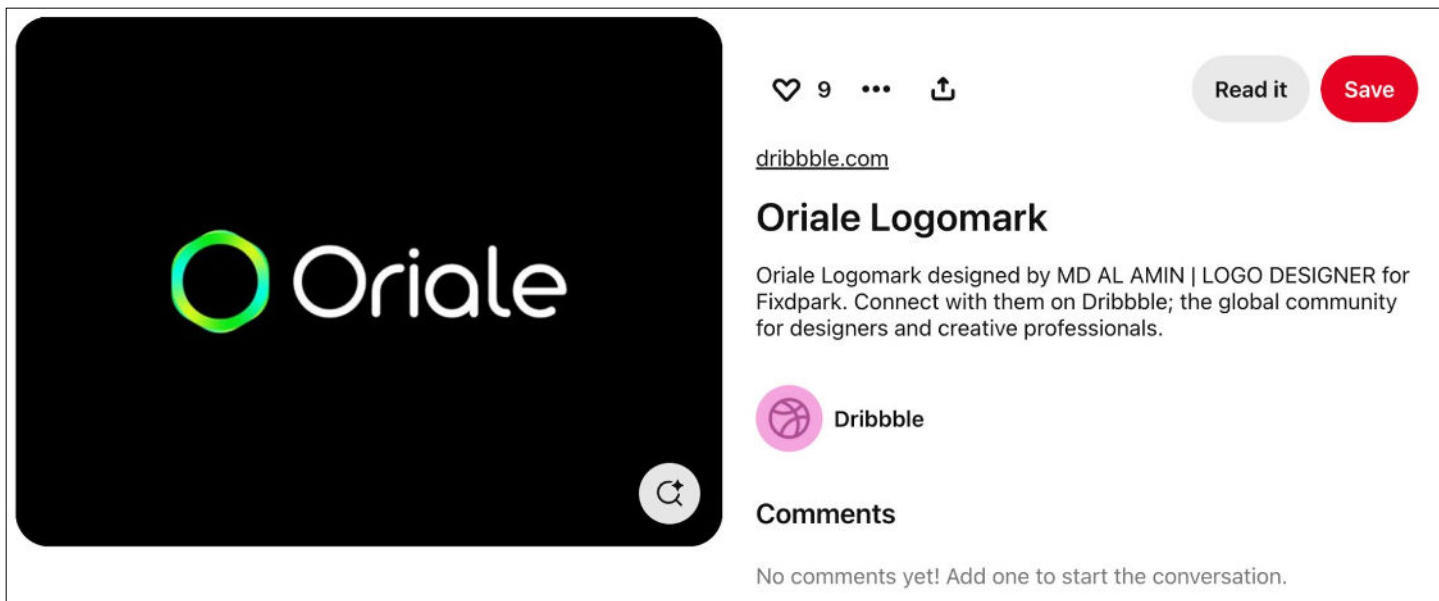


Figure 22: Logo for 'Oriele' on Pinterest

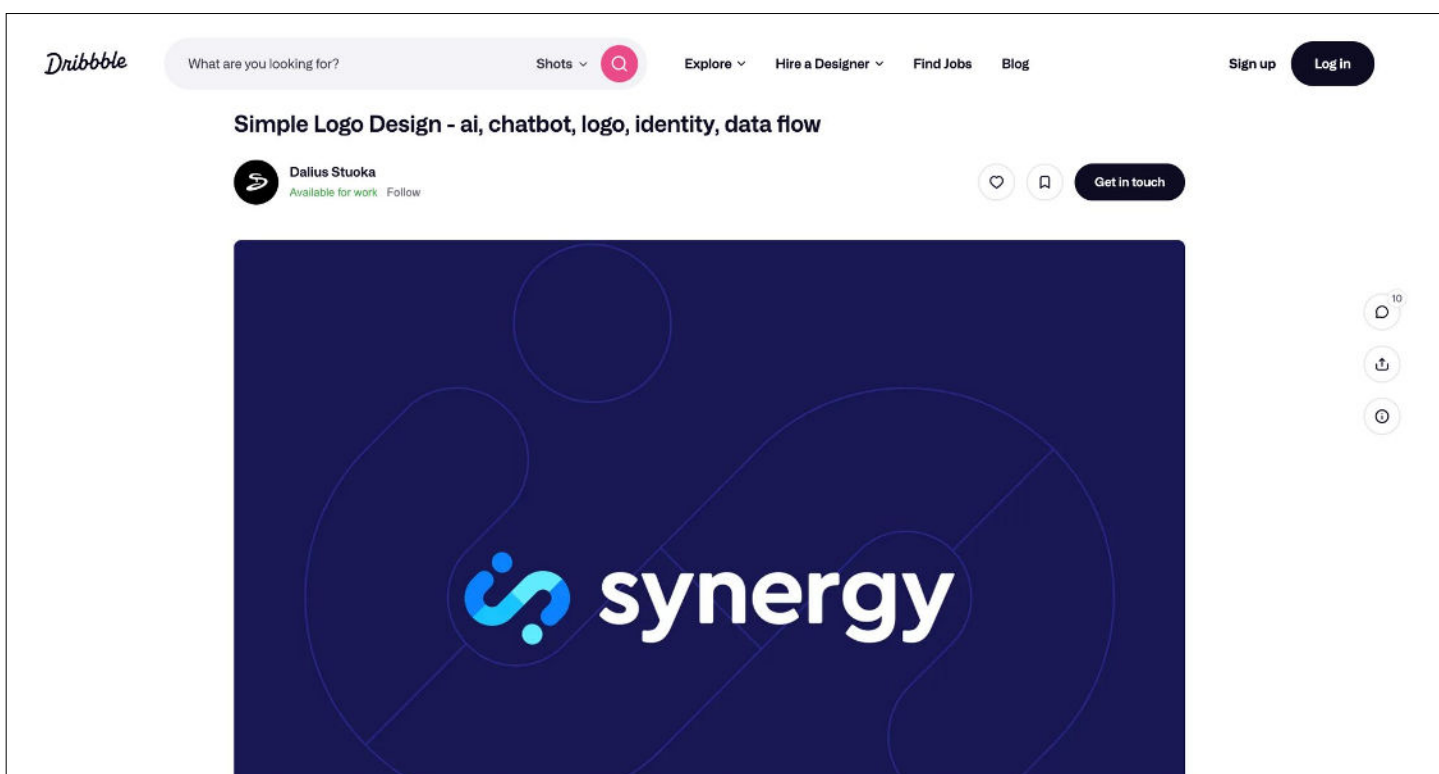


Figure 23: Logo for 'Synergy' on Dribbble



Figures 24-26: RiverMerge Strategies logo compared to the logos of LegUp Ventures and Jongerius & Partner

APPENDIX H: ZEROGPT ANALYSIS OF RIVERMERGE STRATEGIES INSIGHTS

FDD used ZeroGPT, an AI-generated text detection tool, to demonstrate that several of the geopolitical “insights” posted on rivermergestrategies[.]com are highly likely to be AI-generated.⁷⁰ One example is provided below.

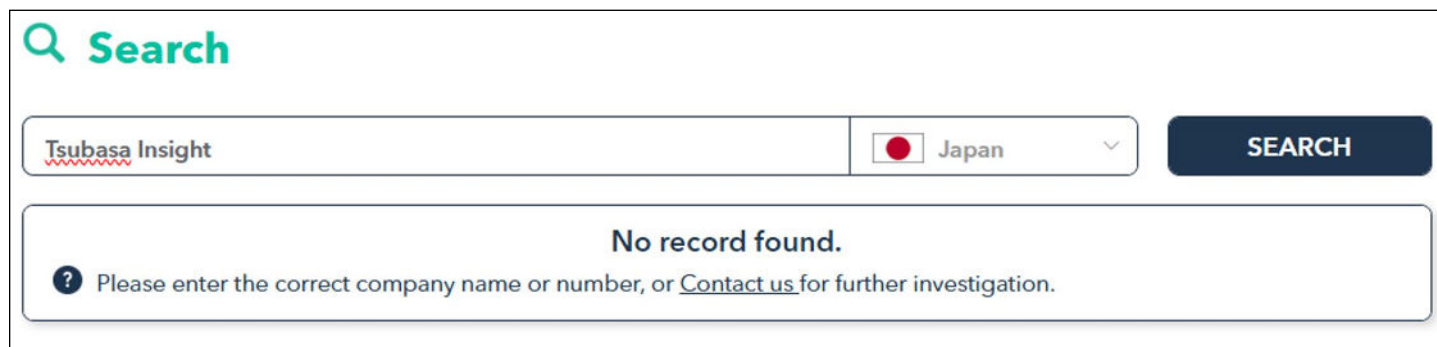


Figure 27: ZeroGPT analysis of RiverMerge Strategies insight titled ‘Recent Developments in Arms Sales’

70. “Recent Developments in Arms Sales,” RiverMerge Strategies, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/FGrCF>); “Election Landscape in South Asia,” RiverMerge Strategies, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/XtJm6>); “South Asia Economic Growth and Development Challenges,” RiverMerge Strategies, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/5Vwpf>)

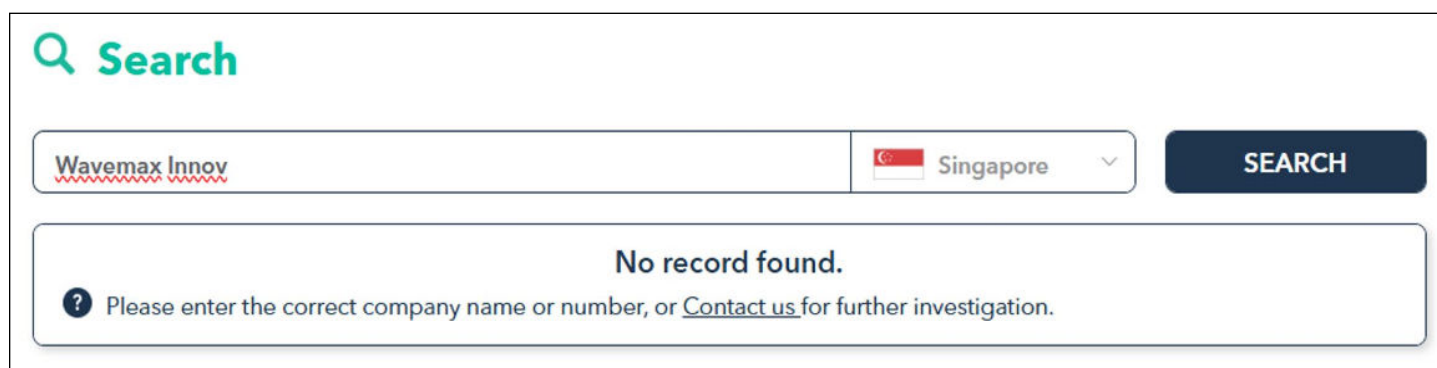
APPENDIX I: ASIAVERIFY SEARCH RESULTS FOR TSUBASA INSIGHT AND WAVEMAX INNOV

Search results on AsiaVerify for Tsubasa Insight and Wavemax Innov yield no results, suggesting that companies with these names are not registered in either Japan — where Tsubasa Insight’s website claims it is located — or Singapore, where WaveMax Innov’s website says it is located.



The screenshot shows the AsiaVerify search interface. At the top left is a green magnifying glass icon followed by the word "Search" in green. Below this is a search bar containing the text "Tsubasa Insight" with a red wavy underline. To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu showing the Japanese flag and the word "Japan". To the right of the dropdown is a dark blue button with the word "SEARCH" in white. Below the search bar and dropdown is a white box with a black border. Inside this box, the text "No record found." is centered. Below this text is a question mark icon followed by the text "Please enter the correct company name or number, or [Contact us](#) for further investigation."

Figure 28: No record found for ‘Tsubasa Insight’ in Singapore on AsiaVerify



The screenshot shows the AsiaVerify search interface. At the top left is a green magnifying glass icon followed by the word "Search" in green. Below this is a search bar containing the text "Wavemax Innov" with a red wavy underline. To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu showing the Singaporean flag and the word "Singapore". To the right of the dropdown is a dark blue button with the word "SEARCH" in white. Below the search bar and dropdown is a white box with a black border. Inside this box, the text "No record found." is centered. Below this text is a question mark icon followed by the text "Please enter the correct company name or number, or [Contact us](#) for further investigation."

Figure 29: No record found for ‘Wavemax Innov’ in Singapore on AsiaVerify

APPENDIX J: GOOGLE SEARCH RESULTS FOR TSUBASA INSIGHT SHOWING HISTORICAL JOB LISTINGS

Below are the Google search results showing that job advertisements for a “policy analyst” at Tsubasa Insight appeared on the websites ZipRecruiter and beBee.

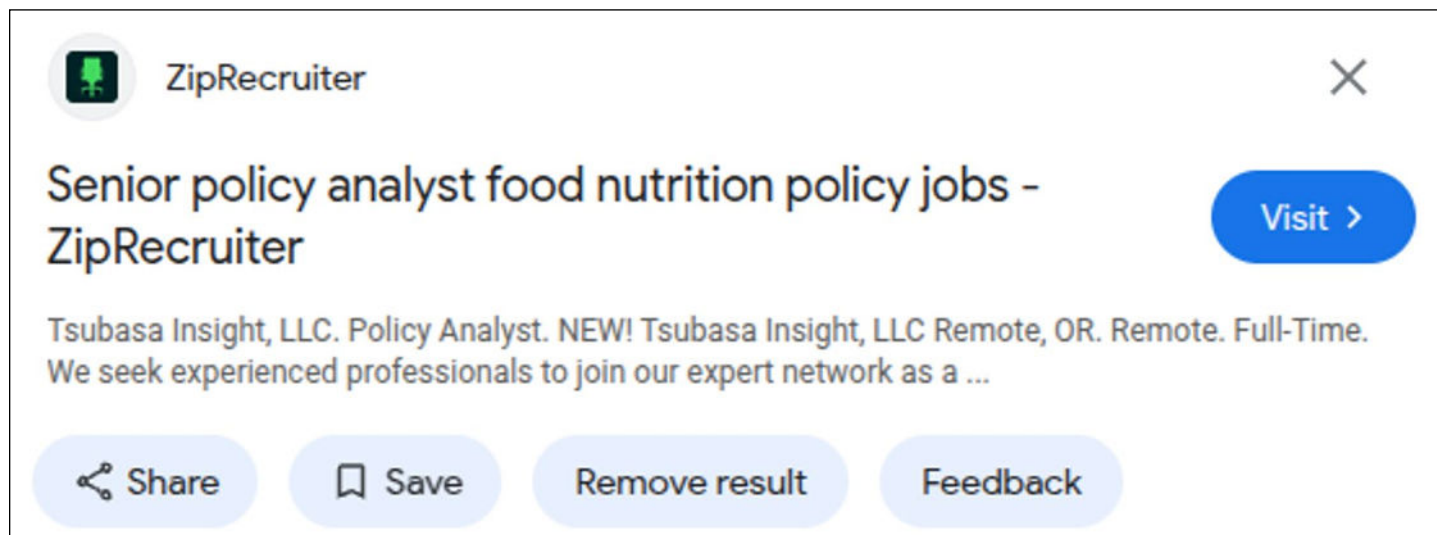


Figure 30: Google search result preview showing job listing for Policy Analyst at Tsubasa Insight on ZipRecruiter

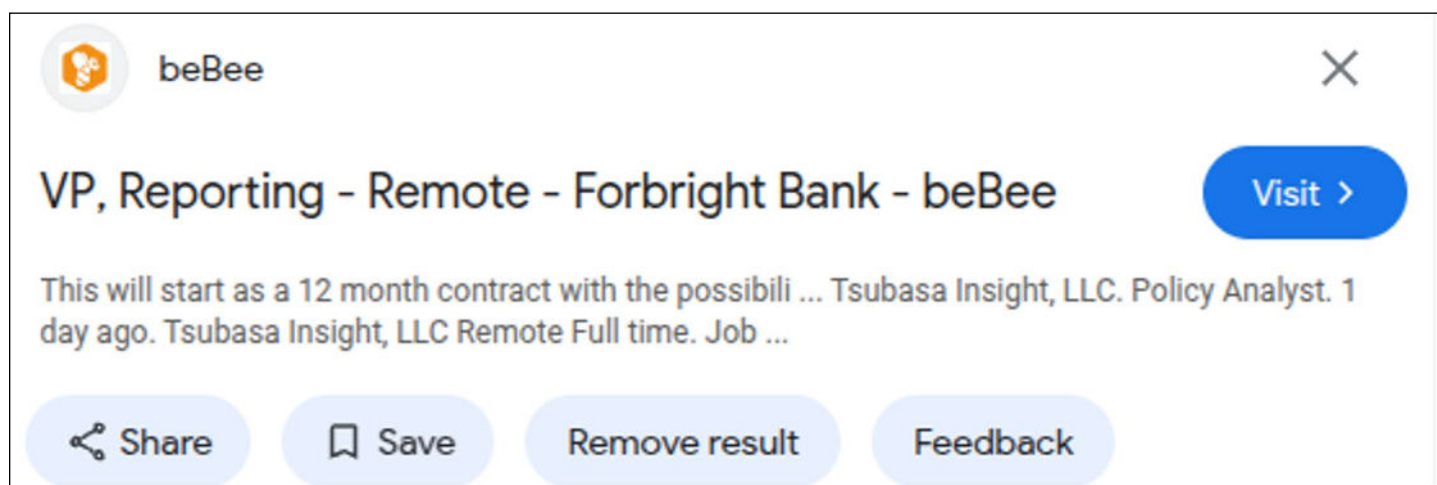


Figure 31: Google search result preview showing job listing for Policy Analyst at Tsubasa Insight on ZipRecruiter

APPENDIX K: NETWORK OF RELATED DOMAINS

FDD discovered a network of additional domains related to the network outlined in this paper. The initial investigative lead was an orphaned plaintext webpage on [dustrategy\[.\]com](http://dustrategy[.]com).⁷¹ The top of this webpage references the domain [jobjunctionelite\[.\]com](http://jobjunctionelite[.]com). Two dedicated hosting environments have historically served [jobjunctionelite\[.\]com](http://jobjunctionelite[.]com), one at [43\[.\]133.192.130](http://43[.]133.192.130) and the other at [43\[.\]134.187.105](http://43[.]134.187.105).

[43.133.192\[.\]130](http://43.133.192[.]130) has historically hosted 28 domains, including two subdomains of [smiao.com\[.\]cn](http://smiao.com[.]cn), which is the domain associated with Smiao Intelligence. These subdomains are [dati.smiao.com\[.\]cn](http://dati.smiao.com[.]cn) and [zt.smiao.com\[.\]cn](http://zt.smiao.com[.]cn). This suggests that the other domains historically served by [43.133.192\[.\]130](http://43.133.192[.]130) were likely created by Smiao Intelligence. [43.134.187\[.\]105](http://43.134.187[.]105) hosts nine domains, seven of which also appear on [43.133.192\[.\]130](http://43.133.192[.]130). The other two domains render to the default welcome page for Windows IIS servers,⁷² which is likely the result of a misconfiguration.⁷³

Within this network of 30 unique domains across the two servers, 19 describe themselves as consulting or headhunting firms based in Singapore, Hong Kong, or Beijing. These 19 websites include four websites that are still online as of March 7, namely, [viewsphere\[.\]net](http://viewsphere[.]net), [eliteintellectsnetwork\[.\]com](http://eliteintellectsnetwork[.]com), [bonanzainfinity\[.\]com](http://bonanzainfinity[.]com), and [icconsulting\[.\]net](http://icconsulting[.]net).⁷⁴ The rest of the 15 consulting and headhunting firm websites all appear to be nearly identical copies of [viewsphere\[.\]net](http://viewsphere[.]net), [eliteintellectsnetwork\[.\]com](http://eliteintellectsnetwork[.]com), or [bonanzainfinity\[.\]com](http://bonanzainfinity[.]com). These 15 websites are no longer online, but FDD found several of them on the Internet Archive and accessed the homepage text of the others using the Yandex cache. (See Appendix J.)

All four primary consulting and headhunting websites seek to recruit consultants. Three of these websites do not appear to seek consultants with a specific professional focus.⁷⁵ One of these websites, however, [icconsulting\[.\]net](http://icconsulting[.]net), specifically seeks to recruit former government officials.⁷⁶ The website explicitly states that it is located in Beijing — unlike RiverMerge Strategies, Dustrategy, Wavemax Innov, and Tsubasa Insight, which attempt to obfuscate their connection with China. [Icconsulting\[.\]net](http://icconsulting[.]net) also seeks a “Part-time HR Assistant” who is “familiar with the operating process of main recruitment websites of the United States and European countries” to “post recruitment information on major recruitment websites or media outlets in the United States.”⁷⁷

Other websites in this network do not describe themselves as consulting or headhunting firms. For example, one website, [youme\[.\]link](http://youme[.]link), is a cloned version of the website of a British video game company, Trailmix Games, and another website, [yeegoo\[.\]global](http://yeegoo[.]global), advertises an “employment management platform” specifically geared toward

71. “JobJunctionElite.com,” *DU Strategy*, accessed February 14, 2025 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250214063813/https://www.dustrategy.com/index.php/Home/Document/detail/id/282.html>)

72. “Internet Information Services,” *f4w.cn*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/hcaWv>); “Internet Information Services,” *webtrc.f4w.cn*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/WSHEP>)

73. “Windows server 2016 Microsoft IIS page blue screen,” *Microsoft*, accessed March 19, 2025. (<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/answers/questions/689249/windows-server-2016-microsoft-iis-page-blue-screen>)

74. “ViewSphere Global Consultants,” *ViewSphere Global Consultants*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/iINRI>); “ViewSphere Global Consultants,” *Elite Intellectuals Network*, accessed March 7, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/6SVXv>); “Bonanza Infinity,” *Bonanza Infinity*, accessed March 10, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/OGfjQ>); “icconsulting information consulting Co.Ltd,” *IC Consulting*, accessed March 8, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/tGhIE>)

75. “Elite Intellectuals Network-Analyst,” *Elite Intellectuals Network*, accessed March 11, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/bR2jW>); “Bonanza Infinity-Your Premier Corporate Advisor Seeking Insightful Part-Time Consultants,” *Bonanza Infinity*, accessed March 10, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/oNnJd>); “ViewSphere Global Consultants-Career,” *ViewSphere Global Consultants*, accessed March 10, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/iNSPH>)

76. “Join Us,” *IC Consulting*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/I5yLH>)

77. Ibid.

hiring overseas employees.⁷⁸ Another website in the network, grandview-strategies[.]com, is no longer online, and FDD could not access an archived version or a saved copy in the Yandex cache.

Notably, one of the domains that appears on 43.133.192[.]130, mail.yiqijia[.]vip, is a subdomain of the website yiqijia[.]vip,⁷⁹ which advertises business services ranging from patent registration and bookkeeping to information security. Yiqijia[.]vip lists the same phone number as rivermergestrategies[.]com (i.e., 400-885-8983).⁸⁰ This is also the same phone number as the one listed on siss.org[.]cn, the website that appears in the corporate registration from Asia Verify for Beijing Simiao Intelligent Information Technology Co., Ltd. (北京思妙智能信息科技有限公司), which is the parent company listed on Smiao Intelligence's website.⁸¹

Another connection between the primary network discussed in this report and the additional network detailed in this section involves the historical use of the same favicon, a small image associated with a website that typically appears in a website's browser tab, as well as search engine results and bookmarks associated with the website.⁸² Rivermergestrategies[.]com and dustrategy[.]com, two domains from the primary network discussed in this report, had two identical favicons. One of these favicons was historically shared across nine websites in the additional network discussed in this section, as per Silent Push.⁸³

78. "Trailmix Games," *YouMe*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/6ageI>); "Cover," *YeeGoo*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250306203813/https://www.yeegoo.tech/cover-02k6e9y3/cn>)

79. "免费的商业查询工具," *Yiqijia*, accessed March 6, 2025. (<https://ghostarchive.org/archive/zyyCq>)

80. "RiverMerge Strategies Contact Page," *RiverMerge Strategies*, accessed February 6, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250206165356/https://www.rivermergestrategies.com/index.php/Home/Document/lists/name/contact>)

81. "思迅收银系统," *SISS*, accessed February 19, 2025. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20250219192719/http://siss.org.cn>)

82. Anna Fitzgerald, "The What, Why, & How of Making a Favicon for Your Website," *HubSpot*, May 21, 2010. (<https://blog.hubspot.com/website/what-is-a-favicon>)

83. See figures 32-33. One website, poineerpathways[.]com, was not detected by Silent Push, but FDD confirmed that it has the same favicon by manually searching the domain on Google. "Favicon Impersonation for rivermergestrategies.com - MX Records," Silent Push, accessed March 3, 2025. (<https://explore.silentpush.com/enrichment/domain/rivermergestrategies.com>)

Favicon Impersonation

Search Silent Push

Total View

Lookup PADNS

Favicon Impersonation

Find all sites impersonating the favicon of a domain's primary website Knowledge Base

Query Form

Query Results

datasource One of webscan

AND

origin_domain Not equals rivermergestrategies.com

AND

domain Not equals rivermergestrategies.com

AND

ssl.subject.organization Not equals None

AND

favicon2_md5 One of 804d5c3811ea8c8c2a12ae0bae4c2c56, b920c54556aecef6095615922b5e30b0

Edit

Basic Raw Data

Total Results: 22 Results on current page: 22

	scan_date	origin_url	url	ip	hostname	response	favicon_icons
☐	2025-02-20T16:55:13Z	http://bonanzainfinity.com	http://bonanzainfinity.com/	43.133.212.197	bonanzainfinity.com	404	
☐	2025-02-19T02:22:29Z	http://redcloudquest.com	http://redcloudquest.com/	43.133.212.197	redcloudquest.com	404	
☐	2025-02-03T10:10:10Z	https://43.133.192.130	https://43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	200	
☐	2025-01-20T20:10:43Z	https://43.133.192.130	https://43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	200	
☐	2024-12-30T00:11:37Z	https://43.133.192.130	https://43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	200	
☐	2024-12-20T11:40:00Z	https://43.133.192.130	https://43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	43.133.192.130	200	
☐	2024-12-05T10:07:10Z	http://129.226.149.172	http://129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	200	
☐	2024-11-29T22:50:53Z	http://129.226.149.172	http://129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	200	
☐	2024-10-24T15:22:25Z	http://129.226.149.172	http://129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	200	
☐	2024-10-22T22:17:19Z	http://www.viewsphere.net	http://www.viewsphere.net	43.133.192.130	www.viewsphere.net	200	
☐	2024-10-19T16:33:59Z	http://workforcewired.com	http://workforcewired.com	43.133.192.130	workforcewired.com	200	
☐	2024-10-19T16:20:01Z	http://viewsphere.net	http://viewsphere.net	43.133.192.130	viewsphere.net	200	
☐	2024-10-19T15:43:16Z	http://talentfusionlink.com	http://talentfusionlink.com	43.133.192.130	talentfusionlink.com	200	
☐	2024-10-19T13:09:45Z	http://jobjunctionelite.com	http://jobjunctionelite.com	43.133.192.130	jobjunctionelite.com	200	
☐	2024-10-19T12:44:14Z	http://hirehorizonnetwork.com	http://hirehorizonnetwork.com	43.133.192.130	hirehorizonnetwork.com	200	
☐	2024-10-19T12:01:26Z	http://employmatchmaker.com	http://employmatchmaker.com	43.133.192.130	employmatchmaker.com	200	
☐	2024-09-21T17:47:26Z	http://129.226.149.172	http://129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	200	
☐	2024-08-28T13:06:54Z	http://dustrategy.com	http://dustrategy.com	43.128.111.81	dustrategy.com	200	
☐	2024-08-16T18:42:13Z	http://129.226.149.172	http://129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	200	
☐	2024-07-19T22:19:14Z	http://129.226.149.172	http://129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	129.226.149.172	200	
☐	2024-07-08T20:20:20Z	https://43.134.121.240	https://www.rivermergestrategies.com?l=en-us	43.134.121.240	www.rivermergestrategies.com	200	
☐	2024-06-22T06:08:11Z	https://43.134.121.240	https://43.134.121.240	43.134.121.240	43.134.121.240	200	

Figures 32-33: Favicon impersonation results for rivermergestrategies[.]com from Silent Push

APPENDIX L: ARCHIVES OF DOMAINS IN RELATED NETWORK

The table below includes archived copies of websites related to Smiao Intelligence by common hosting infrastructure, shared favicons, and other features. (See Appendix K.) FDD was unable to archive all the websites before they went offline. For websites that are offline, however, FDD was generally able to access a saved copy of the text of the website's homepage using Yandex's cache.

Domain	Archive Link(s) or Archived Cache
eliteintellectsnetwork[.]com	https://ghostarchive.org/archive/6SVXv
employmatchmaker[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228031502/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740712385&tld=com&lang=en&la=1738662528&text=http%3A//employmatchmaker.com/&url=http%3A//employmatchmaker.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=7bd46e-be45f088d61ebb4bcd004b8b85&keyno=0&mode=text
workforcewired[.]com	https://web.archive.org/web/20250219223007/http://workforcewired.com/ ; https://ghostarchive.org/archive/p7zNu
talentfusionlink[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228034737/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740714300&tld=com&lang=en&la=1733554688&text=talentfusionlink.com&url=http%3A//www.talentfusionlink.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=437984bd7b-11d9445a509c2574853bb3&keyno=0&mode=text
hirehorizonnetwork[.]com	https://web.archive.org/web/20250228030145/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740711442&tld=com&lang=en&la=1739709824&text=http%3A//hirehorizonnetwork.com&url=http%3A//www.hirehorizonnetwork.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=28b-96e0cd3900b0d052a487e6e4c00ef&keyno=0&mode=text
jobjunctionelite[.]com	https://web.archive.org/web/20250219023136/http://www.jobjunctionelite.com/ ; http://web.archive.org/web/20250228034246/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740714038&tld=com&lang=en&la=1725855488&text=jobjunctionelite.com&url=http%3A//jobjunctionelite.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=ee15b543685c532138321463ad06eaf-d&keyno=0&mode=text
eliteIntellectsnetwork[.]com	https://ghostarchive.org/archive/6SVXv
highpointecho[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228033546/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740713511&tld=com&lang=en&la=1735360640&text=highpointecho.com&url=https%3A//highpointecho.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=9796fcd9c5110f1cea-3c2591aaeed85d&keyno=0&mode=text
enlightenmentunity[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228033750/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740713667&tld=com&lang=en&la=1737196416&text=enlightenmentunity.com&url=https%3A//enlightenmentunity.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=43bd643bab-559bcd5453d7e59b5c1d0&keyno=0&mode=text
expertisearbit[.]com	https://web.archive.org/web/20250219030339/http://expertisearbit.com/ ; http://web.archive.org/web/20250228032515/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740712945&tld=com&lang=en&la=1738055296&text=expertisearbit.com&url=https%3A//expertisearbit.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=55ef422751585251be5aa7bf946ed3c5&keyno=0&mode=text

Domain	Archive Link(s) or Archived Cache
brainwavebridges[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228034627/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740714101&tld=com&lang=en&la=1715072384&text=brainwavebridges.com&url=http%3A//brainwavebridges.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=c-6c98363d6104ac6fc48982f160fb635&keyno=0&mode=text
pioneerpathways[.]com	https://ghostarchive.org/archive/rTh8h
innovaexpert[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228035610/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740714800&tld=com&lang=en&la=1739561216&text=innovaexpert.com&url=https%3A//innovaexpert.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=77a976a056857504c811e82f7afeb38d&keyno=0&mode=text
inceptionsquality[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228033854/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740713821&tld=com&lang=en&la=1738419200&text=inceptionsquality.com&url=https%3A//inceptionsquality.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=b18d5e57c6fff3f-ca826248ac75c0bc5&keyno=0&mode=text
bonanzainfinity[.]com	https://ghostarchive.org/archive/OGfJQ ; https://ghostarchive.org/archive/oNnJd ; https://ghostarchive.org/archive/2u8nM ; https://ghostarchive.org/archive/hvTYb
redcloudquest[.]com	https://web.archive.org/web/20250228024756/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740708201&tld=com&lang=en&la=1717703296&text=http%3A//redcloudquest.com&url=http%3A//redcloudquest.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=7e8593ada4d1624cd-4be95e4fe493a5c&keyno=0&mode=text
viewsphere[.]net	https://ghostarchive.org/archive/iINRI
icconsulting[.]net	https://ghostarchive.org/archive/tGhIE
insightestuary[.]com	http://web.archive.org/web/20250228032037/https://yandexwebcache.net/yandbtm?fmode=inject&tm=1740712634&tld=com&lang=en&la=1711872128&text=insightestuary.com&url=http%3A//www.insightestuary.com/&l10n=en&mime=html&sign=adcf62fc51adff-9749b679ab30739a26&keyno=0&mode=text

Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)

FDD is a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy.

FDD's Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation

FDD's Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation (CCTI) seeks to advance U.S. prosperity and security through technology innovation while countering cyber threats that seek to diminish it. CCTI promotes a greater understanding within the U.S. government, private sector, and allied countries of the threats to and opportunities for national security presented by the rapidly expanding technological environment.

FDD's China Program

Leveraging the full scope of economic, financial, military, political, cyber, and technology tools, FDD's China Program exposes and challenges the wide-ranging threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party. FDD's China team includes experts with Chinese-language skills, data-driven mining capabilities to examine Chinese language sources, and experience in government, intelligence, the military, and the technology sector.

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