

# MITRE SQUINT

## For Election Integrity

June 2020



**MITRE** | SOLVING PROBLEMS  
FOR A SAFER WORLD™

# The integrity of elections is critical to the safety, stability, and well-being of our nation.

Today, there is no systematic way for state and local election officials to identify and understand misinformation, disinformation, or inappropriate foreign influence that is circulating within their voting population.

MITRE Social See-Something Say-Something – **SQUINT** – enables rapid social media situational awareness for state and local election officials.



# MITRE Was Established to Serve the Public Interest

established  
**1958**

**not-for-profit**

**conflict-free**  
environment

**science &  
technology**



**Part of the ecosystem of federal research centers**

# SQUINT is designed for ease and impact

## BENEFITS

Quick & easy installation

Real-time feedback mechanism

Applies across all platforms, allowing greater understanding

Empowers response capability to correct elections information

No cost for state and local users

Trusted protection of sensitive information

Reliable analytics from a federally funded research center

Opportunity to influence SQUINT design and development

## FEATURES

Mobile app & browser plug-in

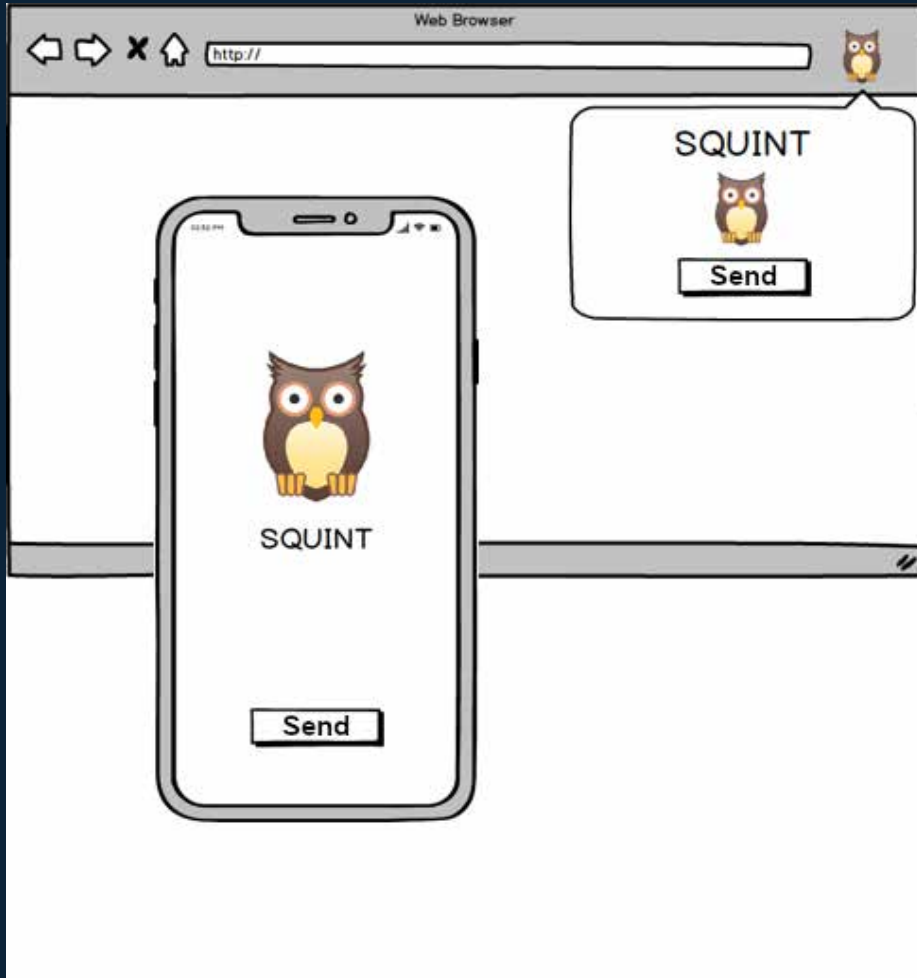
Crowd-sourced reporting

Quick response report that identifies trends across social platforms

Pilot began February 2020

Powered by the National Election Security Lab (NESL)

MITRE supported



It's fast and it's easy:

SQUINT works on your computer and mobile device

Click the owl: it captures what you need to report misinformation related to upcoming elections

SQUINT analyzes and summarizes findings from all reports, so state and local officials can rapidly report and counter misinformation

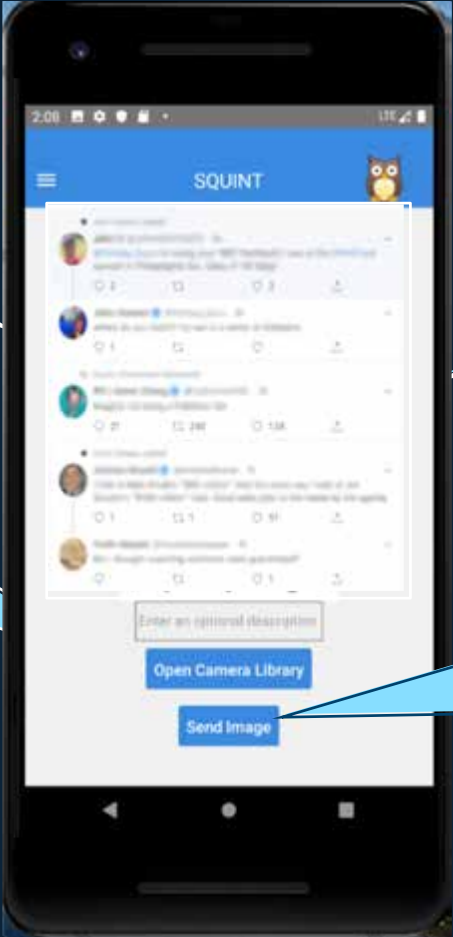
# SQUINT Mobile App Features

1. Capture Screenshot

3. Select Screenshot

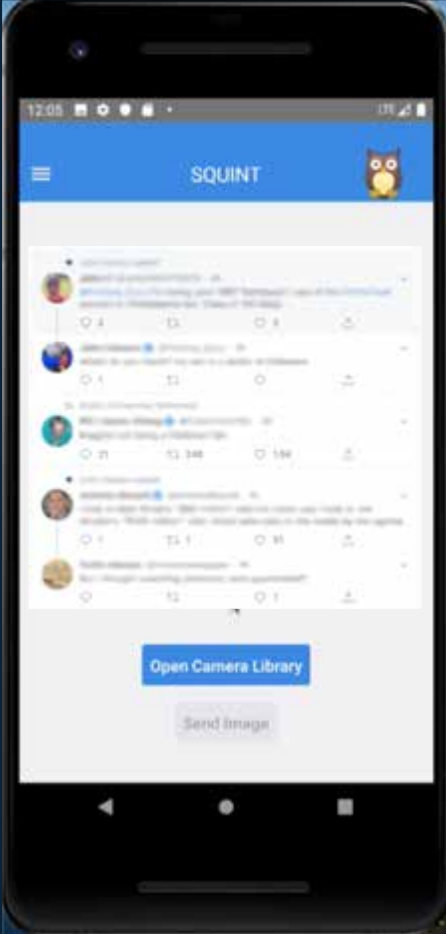
2. Switch to SQUINT

4. Review & Send Report

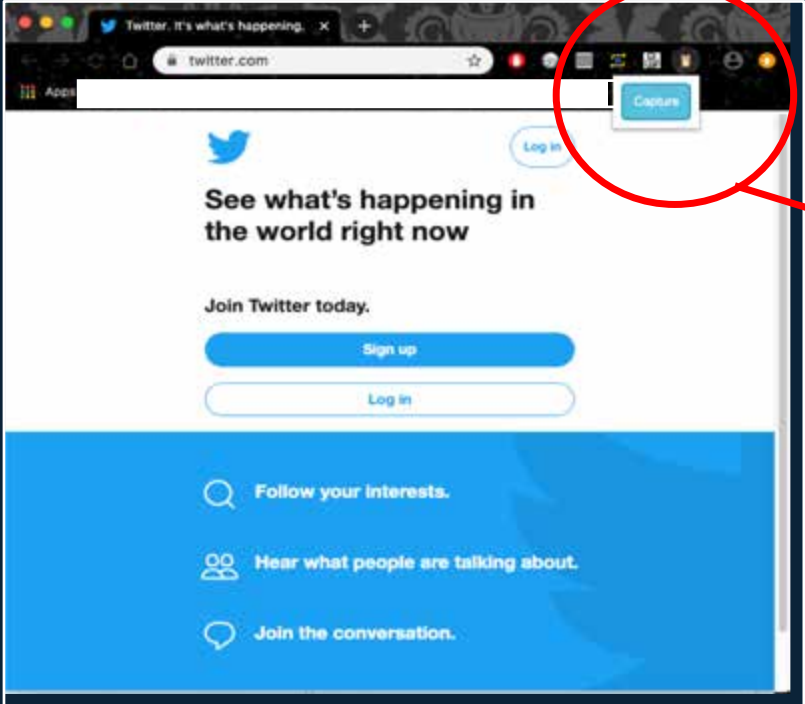




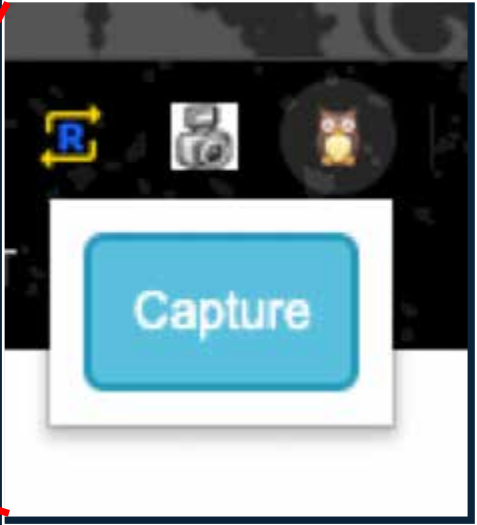
# SQUINT: Both an App and a Browser Plug-in



Smartphone App



Web Browser Extension



# What Should Be Reported?

Information about election operations, management, or infrastructure that...

- Is factually wrong
- Seems like it is probably wrong
- Directs users to counterfeit material or to a site falsely claiming to be an official government site

## Examples

- “Voter registration is closing early this year”
- “Reid School Polling Place will be closed for the upcoming election” (when Reid School has traditionally been a regular polling place)
- “Vote by text! Send a message to.....”
- “Identification laws for voters have changed, and you will not be allowed to vote unless ....”
- “Check out these voting facts at [URL similar to official URL (www.state.us.gov.ru)]”



# What an Individual SQUINT Report Looks Like

- Individual reports look like this and are returned to the submitter in under one minute.
- Individual reports are correlated against other submissions coming into SQUINT, to check:
  - Are messages like this appearing on other platforms?
  - Is the volume of this message being amplified in a suspicious way?

## MITRE | SQUINT™

*Confirmation Report 1890662864*

Reported by: 763896078
URL: (No URL provided)
Date: 2020-03-05T13:35:22.162

*Images:*



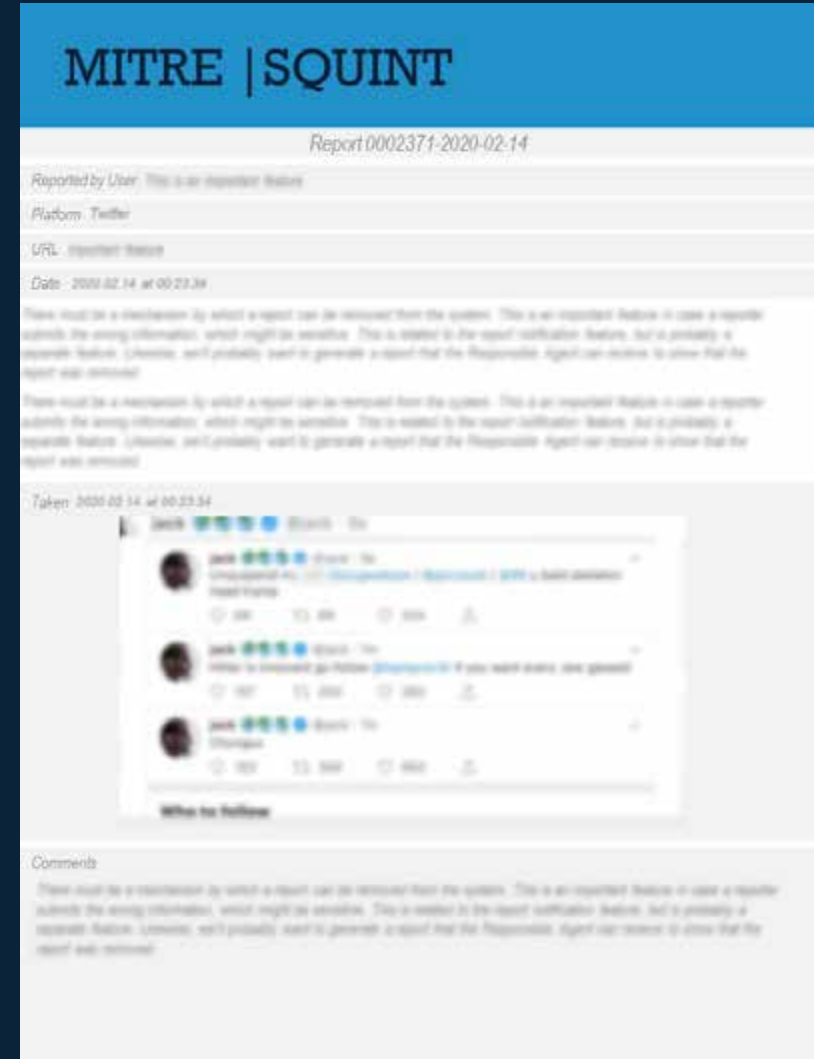
The image shows a screenshot of a tweet from a user named 'The Scholarly Discusser' (@athesphatic). The tweet text reads: 'Warning everyone over age 60 that #coronavirus has been reported at ALL polling locations for #SuperTuesday'. The tweet is dated '1:08pm - 3 Mar 2020 - Twitter Web App'. Below the tweet, there is a small icon and the text 'Screenshot/Twitter'.

*Comments:*

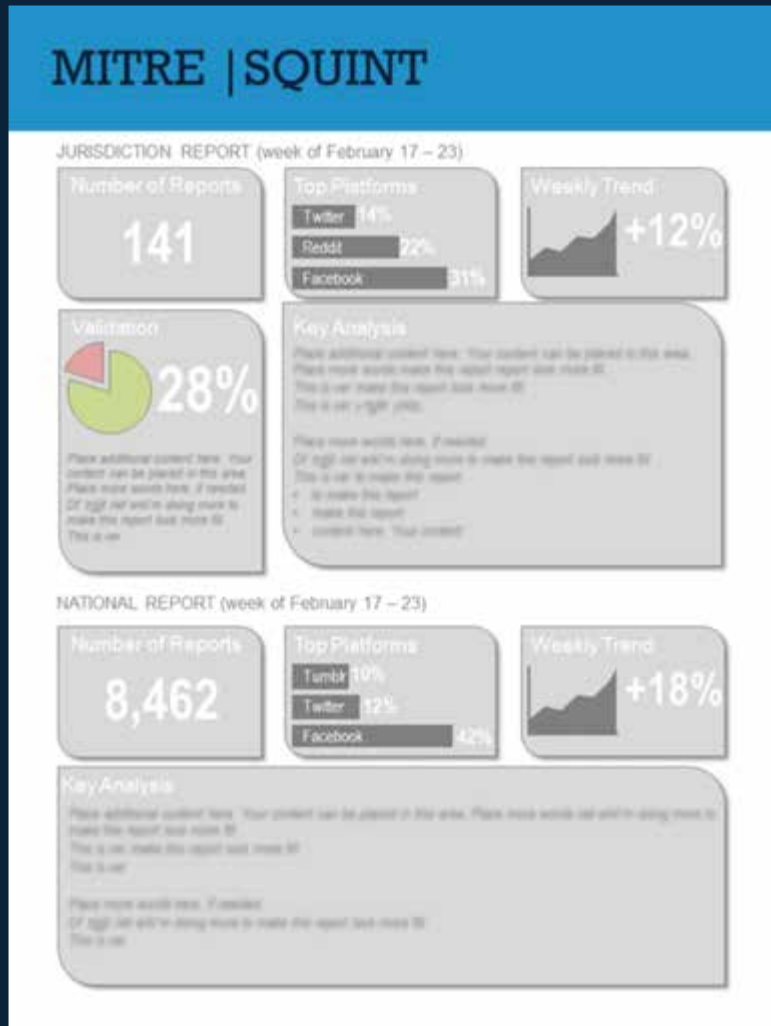
Attempt to scare demographic with health treat at polling locations

# SQUINT Report Comes to the State or Locality Directly

- All submitted information is compared and analyzed.
- The analysis is summarized in a clear and concise report.
- Reports go to the jurisdiction's point of contact for action.



# SQUINT Analytics: Summaries of Misinformation Aggregated over Time



SQUINT analytics provide a broad analysis of what's happening in your jurisdiction and the national landscape.

Reports are correlated as they come in.

Weekly trend reports and roll ups are presented in an approachable, easily digestible format.

# SQUINT Pilot

## How to Participate:

Send email to [squint@mitre.org](mailto:squint@mitre.org) to enroll your organization in the pilot

MITRE will work with your organization to get subscription documents completed

Organization's designated point of contact provides participant names to MITRE

## What to Expect:

- Users provide:
  - First & Last Name
  - Email
  - Organization Name and State
  - Desired version(s):
    - iOS app
    - Android app
    - Firefox Extension
    - Chrome Extension
- Users will receive a link to download app/extension from respective app stores
- Download
- Training is offered (you may not need it)
- Start SQUINTing!

**For more information, contact:**

**[SQUINT@mitre.org](mailto:SQUINT@mitre.org)**

*Or, if you prefer direct human contact, we are:*

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