





Bad Actors' Hidden Symbols

The weaponization of emojis


To deceive increasingly advanced content detection capabilities, bad actors constantly adapt their means of communication. From codes and acronyms to symbols and abbreviations, the ever-evolving sets of signals have grown to include emojis as well. The use of these symbols is never static, and their adaptive definitions leave many teams blind to abuses on their platforms. **To stay ahead, Trust & Safety teams must be on guard to detect potentially violative messages and imagery as they develop.**

Below is a sample of emojis currently used by extremist groups and child predators. This is a non-exhaustive list of the various emojis identified by ActiveFence as related to bad actors and may act as signals for potential harm.

	Meaning	Use
	<p>Pine Tree The "Pine Tree" emoji is frequently used to describe eco-fascists, accelerationists, and white US separatists.</p>	<p>Extremist groups, particularly eco-fascists</p>
	<p>Double Eight-Ball "88" stands for HH, or Heil Hitler, as H is the 8th letter of the alphabet.</p>	<p>White supremacists worldwide</p>
	<p>1488 "1488" combines two popular white supremacist symbols: 14 and 88. 14 is short for the 14 words slogan "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children." and 88 for "Heil Hitler" (see above.)</p>	<p>White supremacists worldwide</p>
	<p>Money Bag The "money bag" emoji is used in reference to Jewish people, based on the antisemitic association of Jews with greed.</p>	<p>Antisemitic and white supremacist groups</p>

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	<p>Flag of the Republic of Niger</p> <p>The flag of the Republic of Niger has recently been used as an alternative to the N-word, turning the nation's flag into a symbol of hate.</p>	White supremacists
	<p>Woman with headscarf alongside block symbol</p> <p>This combination of the “woman with headscarf” emoji and the “block” symbol is used in anti-Muslim context. The symbols represent a belief and objection to the process of “islamization” - a belief that society is shifting towards the religion of Islam and becoming largely Muslim.</p>	Anti-Islam extremists
	<p>Cheese Pizza</p> <p>The emojis for “cheese pizza” are used to represent the term “CP,” which is the known acronym for “Child Pornography.” They are frequently used in relation to the trade and sale of CSAM</p>	Child predators, those trading or selling CSAM.
	<p>Lollipop</p> <p>The “lollipop” emoji is used in place of the term “loli.”</p> <p>The term “loli” is generally used to sexualize underaged girls. It originates in the “lolicon” genre of animated fiction, where young animated characters are portrayed sexually.</p>	Child predators, those trading or selling CSAM.
	<p>Spiral</p> <p>The “spiral” or “cyclone” emoji is used by pedophiles to describe “boylove” or a sexual attraction towards underaged boys.</p>	This emoji is used to procure, trade, or sell CSAM depicting boys

How ActiveFence can help

ActiveFence monitors sources of chatter to identify novel linguistic and symbolic usage by bad actors as they constantly evolve and update. Investigations by our Child Safety, Extremist, and Hate speech teams provides our partners with a broad, contextual understanding of the threats associated with these symbols and how they are used, allowing companies to maintain their platforms' integrity and keep users safe.

The proactive approach to online integrity.

ActiveFence is the leading tool stack for Trust & Safety teams, worldwide. By relying on ActiveFence's end-to-end solution, Trust & Safety teams – of all sizes – can keep users safe from the widest spectrum of online harms, unwanted content, and malicious behavior, including child safety, disinformation, fraud, hate speech, terror, nudity, and more.

Using cutting-edge AI and a team of world-class subject-matter experts to continuously collect, analyze, and contextualize data, ActiveFence ensures that in an ever-changing world, customers are always two steps ahead of bad actors. As a result, Trust & Safety teams can be proactive and provide maximum protection to users across a multitude of abuse areas, in 70+ languages.

Backed by leading Silicon Valley investors such as CRV and Norwest, ActiveFence employs over 280 people worldwide and has contributed to the online safety of billions of users across the globe.

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