Avoiding Fake News

URL

Examine the URL and domain name. Look at the ending of the domain carefully. Fake news sites often try to fool users into thinking the site is a .com or other top-level domain.

Visual Clues

Resembles or imitates a well-known news site
Bad web design
Story not reported elsewhere
Invasive pop-up ads
Clickbait headlines
Excessive CAPS use
Excessive spelling and grammatical errors
Domains with unfamiliar endings like .co

Evaluate

Apply the CRAP Test
Use FactCheck.org’s Guide
1. What is the source?
2. Read beyond the headline
3. Check author, date, sources
4. Is it a joke/satire?
5. Check biases

Filter Bubbles

Be aware that social media and customized news feeds show you content based on personal information, past user behavior, and other factors.

Not only can this leave you in a bubble and cause confirmation bias; it also result in the viral spread of fake news. Think before you share!

Tools

1. Install a browser plugin like BS Detector
2. Use a fact checking site
3. Use a data tracker like Hoaxy to see claim’s spread
4. Type the claim into Google Search

Unsure?

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