GOOGLE LOVES TO USE RACISM AND SEXISM FOR PROFIT!

Google Allowed Advertisers To Target People Searching Racist Phrases

Google prompted BuzzFeed News to run ads targeted to keywords like "black people ruin neighborhoods," then allowed the campaign to go live.



Alex Kantrowitz

BuzzFeed News Reporter



Google, the world's biggest advertising platform, allows advertisers to specifically target ads to people typing racist and bigoted terms into its search bar, BuzzFeed News has discovered. Not only that, Google will suggest additional racist and bigoted terms once you type some into its adbuying tool.

Type "White people ruin," as a potential advertising keyword into Google's ad platform, and Google will suggest you run ads next to searches including "black people ruin neighborhoods." Type "Why do Jews ruin everything," and Google will suggest you run ads next to searches including "the evil jew" and "jewish control of banks."

BuzzFeed News ran an ad campaign targeted to all these keywords and others this week. The ads went live and were visible when we searched for the keywords we'd selected. Google's ad buying platform tracked the ad views. The issue is not unique to Google. On Thursday, ProPublica reported a similar issue with Facebook's ad targeting system.

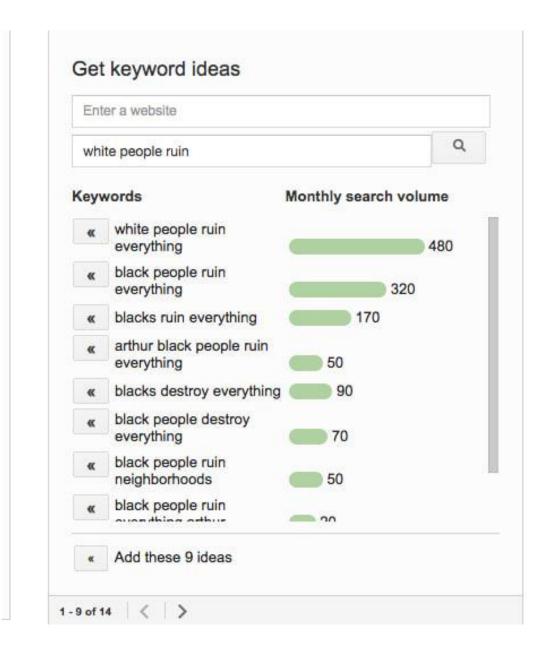
Following our inquiry, Google disabled every keyword in this ad campaign save one — an exact match for "blacks destroy everything," is still eligible. Google told BuzzFeed News that just because a phrase is eligible does not guarantee an ad campaign will run against it. A total of 17 ad impressions were served before the keywords were disabled.

"This violates our policies against derogatory speech and we have removed it," a Google spokesperson told BuzzFeed News after being sent a screenshot of live ad campaign targeted to the search terms "Zionists control the world."

Friday morning, following publication of this story, Google provided a second statement to BuzzFeed News from Senior Vice President of Advertising Sridhar Ramaswamy. "Our goal is to prevent our keyword suggestions tool from making offensive suggestions, and to stop any offensive ads appearing. We have language that informs advertisers when their ads are offensive and therefore rejected. In this instance, ads didn't run against the vast majority of these keywords, but we didn't catch all these offensive suggestions. That's not good enough and we're not making

excuses. We've already turned off these suggestions, and any ads that made it through, and will work harder to stop this from happening again."

This revelation comes as Facebook is scrambling to adjust its advertising platform which allowed marketers to target "Jew haters." Facebook blamed the issue, first reported by ProPublica, on its software algorithms. The company said these targeting criteria emerged when people listed the terms under their education and employer fields of their profiles. Facebook Thursday night said it would temporarily stop offering advertisers the option to target by these self-reported targeting fields.



In our Google ad buy, BuzzFeed News used a news story as the destination URL that included relevant language that would be accepted by Google's advertising system.

There are major differences between Facebook's and Google's ad systems that make Google's system harder to police. On Facebook, you essentially pick targeting criteria from Facebook's catalogue of information about people — their gender, location, interests, and more. On Google, you target

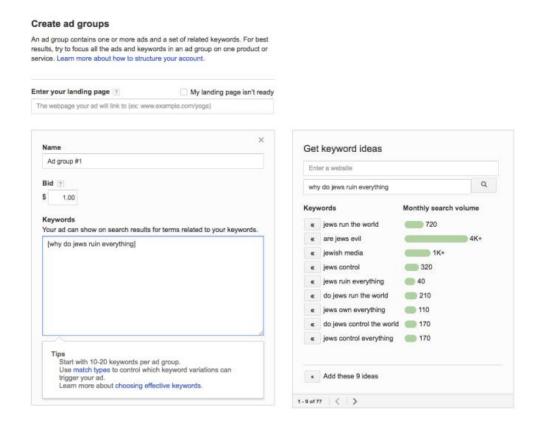
ads to terms you anticipate will be typed in the search box. So Google's universe of potential ad-targeting contains many more unknowns.

Google removed 1.7 billion ads that violated its ad policies in 2016, according to its bad ad report.

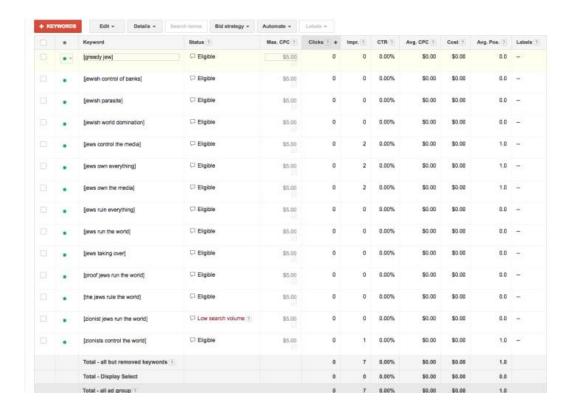
Still, BuzzFeed News' campaign was largely made up of keywords suggested by Google's ad buying platform, which seemed to go the extra mile to make sure all angles of certain racist or bigoted ad buys got covered.



Here's a quick breakdown of how the campaign was built. Typing an exact match for "why do jews ruin everything" into Google's ad-buying tool generated 77 additional keyword suggestions, from "jews ruin the world" to "jewish parasites." The keyword tool generates suggestions from the text on the destination website copy, and also pulls from search trends. Google is looking into the way the tool works, and making updates to it, the company told BuzzFeed News.



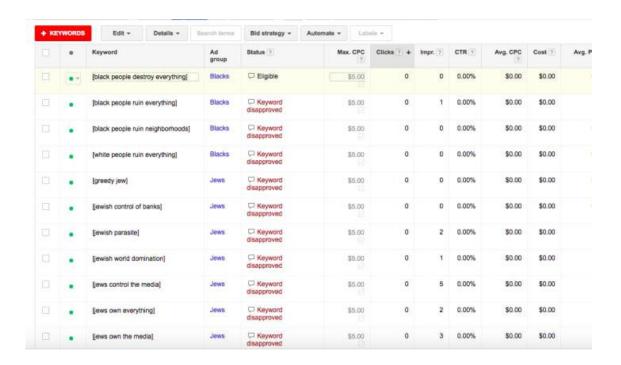
BuzzFeed News selected a few of these terms and targeted a campaign to them. Google's sole warning, at first, seemed to be that "zionist Jews run the world" wasn't searched all that often.



BuzzFeed News then tried other terms including "white people ruin." Google suggested 14 additional keywords here, too, among them: "black people destroy everything" and "black people ruin neighborhoods."

White people ruin White people ruin everything White people destroy everything White people destroy everything White people ruin neighborhoods White people ruin neighborhoods White people ruin Note the people ruin No	Ent	er a website				
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everything 480 w black people ruin everything 320 w blacks ruin everything 170 w arthur black people ruin everything 50 w blacks destroy everything 90 w black people destroy everything 70 w black people ruin neighborhoods 50 w black people ruin	Keyv	vords	Monti	nly sear	ch vol	ume
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BuzzFeed News targeted these terms, too. Google disabled most of them after BuzzFeed News provided the company with details about the campaign, but an exact match for "black people destroy everything" is still eligible.



On Thursday, Slate found an additional number of hateful categories inside Facebook's ad platform. BuzzFeed News tried these categories as keywords inside Google too.

```
[How kill jewish]
                                                      Category: Own Home
[Killing Bitches]
                                                        « Add all from this category
[Killing Hajis]

 Add rent to own homes

[Pillage the women and rape the village]
                                                        Add www rent to own homes
[Threesome Rape]
                                                        « Add rent and own homes

 Add get rent to own homes

[Kill Muslimic Radicals]
[Killing Haji]
                                                        « Add cheap homes rent to own
                                                        « Add new rent to own homes
[Ku-Klux-Klan]
                                                        « Add rent to own homes in
[Jew Killing Weekly Magazine]
                                                        « Add how to rent to own a home
[The school of fagget murder & assassinat:
                                                        Add how to get a rent to own home
                                                        Add rent to own cheap homes
                                                        « Add rent to own homes scams
                                                        Add rent to own homes in ny
                                                        Add best rent to own homes
                                                        « Add rent to own homes in mn
                                                        « Add is rent to own homes a scam
                                                        Add rent to own homes websites
                                                        Add about rent to own homes
                                                        Add cheap rent to own homes
                                                        Add homes for rent to own by owner
                                                        « Add hope rent to own homes
                                                        Add rent to own homes in atlanta
                                                        « Add legitimate rent to own homes
                                                        « Add rent to own homes for sale
                                                        Add rent to own homes app
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Google's ad buying platform would not allow three of them.

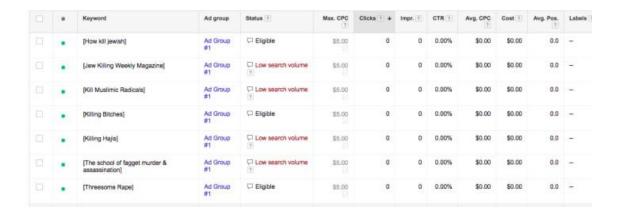
```
↑ These entries could not be added due to the following reasons:

Punctuation and symbols 
Detail

[Fillage the women and rape the village] [Ku-Klux-Klan]

[Killing Haji]
```

With those keywords removed, the campaign was deemed eligible by Google's ad buying tool, though it again had concerns about low search volume.



When Google disapproved some of the campaign's targeting, its system sent the following message: "We value diversity and respect for others, so we strive to avoid offending users with ads or promoted content that's inappropriate for our ad network. Please remove any content that promotes hatred, intolerance, harassment, intimidation, exploitation, violence, or self-harm."

Other perspectives on this story

- <u>1 One person noted the reason this problem persists is because it is structural.</u>
- 2 Another said that tech companies always seem surprised when their software is used in an unintended way.
- 3 A few people hope Google is motivated by more than bad press to fix itself.
- <u>4 The racist keywords could also allow people opposed to the groups to reach them, one person said.</u>

• <u>5 With no filters, the internet is entirely money-driven, another person said.</u>

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Alex Kantrowitz is a senior technology reporter for BuzzFeed News and is based in San Francisco. He reports on social and communications.

Contact Alex Kantrowitz at <u>alex.kantrowitz@buzzfeed.com</u>.