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30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

A Third of Ministers on Twitter; Fakes Tweet Obscenities

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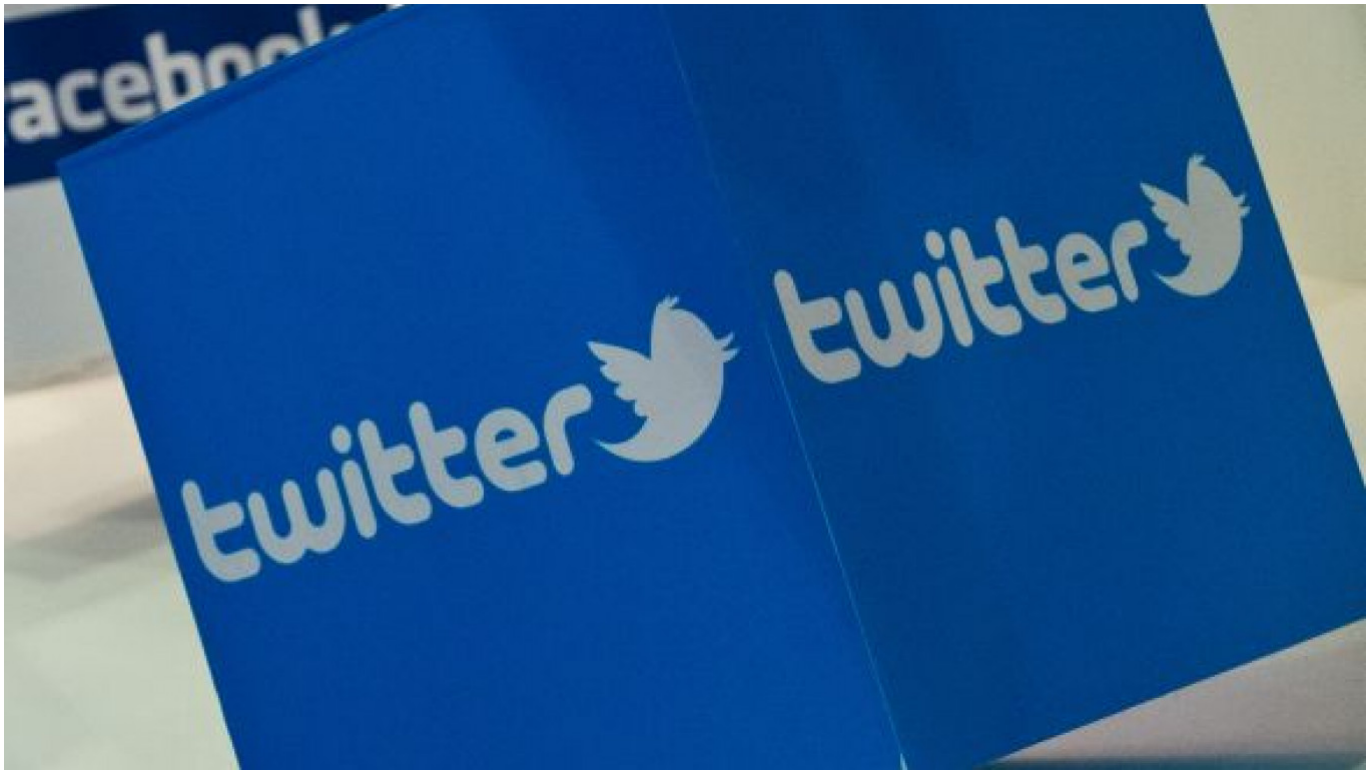

About one third of Cabinet ministers have Twitter accounts.

About one third of the new government's ministers have entered the age of social media with Twitter accounts, while several others have been impersonated by swearing virtual fraudsters.

The actively tweeting officials include not only Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who opened his account at Twitter headquarters in San Francisco, but also another eight of the 28 total Cabinet ministers.

The most popular user — after the prime minister, who has more than 1 million followers — is Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, a former presidential aide to Medvedev and close ally in the government's modernization push. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin comes in third by number of followers, with more than 79,000, far outstripping last place tweeter Deputy Prime Minister Olga Golodets, who only opened her account after taking her new job in late May and has attracted a little over 150 followers.

Not all the ministers follow each other on the microblogging service, RBC Daily noted. Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, for example, follows only two accounts — those of the prime minister and the Kremlin.

Some accounts for ministers are fake, having been opened by unknown users. Fake accounts for both Deputy Prime Minister Vladislav Surkov and Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov publish comments using invectives laden with swear words criticizing both the “regime" and the alleged authors themselves. The fake account for Surkov has close to 1,000 followers, while the imposter Serdyukov account has less than one hundred followers.

Below is a chart showing which ministers use Twitter.

Name	Position	Twitter Handle	Statistics
Dmitry Medvedev	Prime Minister	@MedvedevRussia	551 Tweets 54 Users Followed 1,236,006 Followers
Arkady Dvorkovich	Deputy Prime Minister	@advorkovich	21,878 Tweets 269 Users Followed 129,619 Followers
Dmitry Rogozin	Deputy Prime Minister	@Rogozin	10,377 Tweets 3,621 Users Followed 79,012 Followers
Olga Golodets	Deputy Prime Minister	@OGolodets	12 Tweets 14 Users Followed 166 Followers
Vladimir Medinsky	Culture Minister	@medinskiy_vr	3,214 Tweets 57 Users Followed 17,216 Followers
Nikolai Nikiforov	Communications and Press Minister	@nnikiforov	5,760 Tweets 604 Users Followed 15,054 Followers
Dmitry Livanov	Education and Science Minister	@DmitryLivanov	262 Tweets 19 Users Followed 5,061 Followers
Vitaly Mutko	Sports Minister	@Vitaliy_Mutko	89 Tweets 2 Users Followed 4,943 Followers
Mickail Abyzov	Cabinet's liaison with the Open Government initiative with the rank of minister	@mikhail_abyzov	5 Tweets 4 Users Followed 484 Followers

Ministers with fake or frozen Twitter accounts:

Name	Position	Twitter Handle	Statistics

Igor Shuvalov	First Deputy Prime Minister	@igor_shuvalov	4 Tweets 2 Users Followed 32 Followers
Vladislav Surkov	Deputy Prime Minister	@ucnleslava	15 Tweets 269 Users Followed 969 Followers
Sergei Lavrov	Foreign Affairs Minister	@sergeylavrov	5,045 Tweets 12 Users Followed 221 Followers
Anatoly Serdyukov	Defense Minister	@DefenceMinistr	102 Tweets 21 Users Followed 75 Followers
Alexander Khloponin	Deputy Prime Minister	@hloponin	Unknown (account frozen)

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