

# Digital Insurgency

**Public Definition Note** 

Strategic Intelligence Concept

HM Services and Consultancy Ltd.

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THIS HYBRID THREAT IDENTITY PRESENTS UNIQUE CHALLENGES TO INTELLIGENCE MODELS BY OPERATING BELOW ATTRIBUTION THRESHOLDS AND ACROSS DECENTRALIZED INFRASTRUCTURES.

#### Abstract

Digital Insurgency is a newly defined hybrid threat identity emerging at the intersection of insurgent doctrine, illicit digital ecosystems, and stateless identity networks. The term captures the behavioural and operational convergence of actors who, while unaffiliated in mission or ideology, share tactical disciplines, anti-state rhetoric, and survivalist logic across encrypted digital ecosystems.

This convergence is not driven by formal alliances, but by shared environmental pressures—such as enforced surveillance, deplatforming, and legal evasion—that compel disparate actors to evolve in parallel. Actors across criminal, ideological, and privacy-driven spheres increasingly exhibit overlapping behaviours, including:

- Use of layered encryption and anonymizers to protect communications and transactions.
- Metadata discipline, covert exchange methods, and persistent migration across multiple platforms to evade monitoring.
- Ideological messaging invoking narratives of resistance, autonomy, and opposition to perceived control.

As conceptualized by HM Services and Consultancy Ltd., Digital Insurgency does not refer to a specific group or ideology. Rather, it identifies a structural pattern: actors

who exploit decentralized infrastructure to blend commerce, ideology, and fieldcraft within a stateless digital operating environment.

## **Key Elements of the Digital Insurgency Model**

- **Insurgent Doctrine:** Decentralization, autonomy, leaderless resistance, and narrative warfare as guiding principles.
- Illicit Digital Ecosystems: Hidden online environments enabling covert exchange, operational resilience, and adaptive logistics.
- Stateless Identity Networks: Anonymity-driven communities committed to digital sovereignty and anti-surveillance ideology.

Together, these vectors form a behavioural identity that operates in the gray zone — a space of strategic ambiguity between traditional crime and insurgency, where digital anonymity enables threat actors to evade detection, yet remain capable of eroding institutional control and amplifying subversive capability across domains.

#### **Strategic Convergence**

At the core of Digital Insurgency is the structural overlap of insurgent doctrine, illicit digital ecosystems, and stateless identity networks. While distinct, these domains share behavioural patterns and threat postures that erode institutional control and complicate attribution. This convergence reflects a deeper logic: a decentralized, adaptive threat identity shaped by shared resistance to centralized authority.

### **Intellectual Property**

The term Digital Insurgency and its conceptual framing were first developed and defined by HM Services and Consultancy Ltd. in 2025.

This publication provides the public definition of the concept for institutional reference.

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