



SHADOW PULSE
Intelligence

AFTER THE PEAK

U.S.-CANADA TARIFF CONVERSATION

SHADOW PULSE
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

2026

SUMMARY

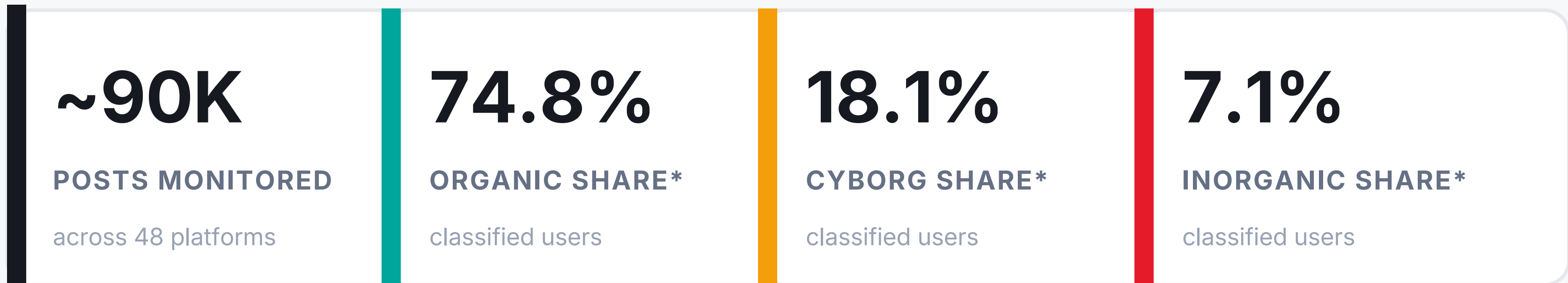
The U.S.–Canada trade relationship entered a period of heightened tension during the summer of 2026 as tariff measures, retaliatory actions, and broader concerns about the future of bilateral trade gained sustained attention across news and social platforms.

Shadow Pulse monitored this conversation from June 6 to September 8, 2026, analyzing approximately 90,000 posts across 48 platforms and sources. The main public-attention surge occurred in late August, particularly around August 20–25, when news coverage, Reddit activity, negative sentiment, and general participation increased sharply around tariff escalation and retaliation.

However, the authenticity data revealed a different pattern.

The signal was not dominance. It was timing.

The tariff conversation remained mostly organic, but its authenticity profile changed after the main late-August surge.



PRIMARY INTELLIGENCE FINDING

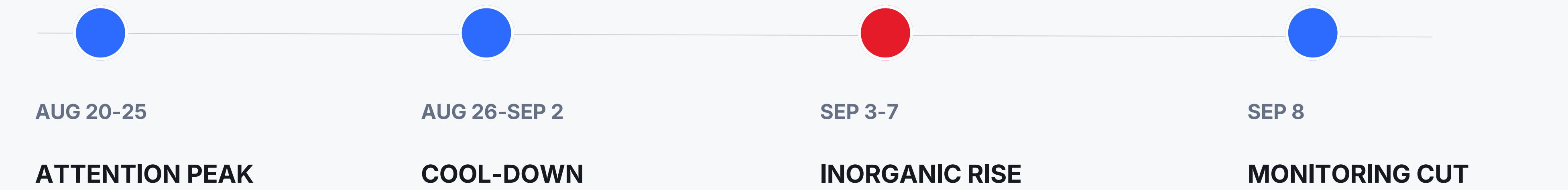
The strongest authenticity signal appeared after the loudest moment of the conversation.

WHAT HAPPENED

Broad media and public activity surged around Aug 20-25 as tariff escalation and retaliation dominated the discussion.

WHAT CHANGED

As the broad conversation cooled, fake-profile and bot activity climbed into early September, reaching roughly 400-480 daily events in the displayed window.



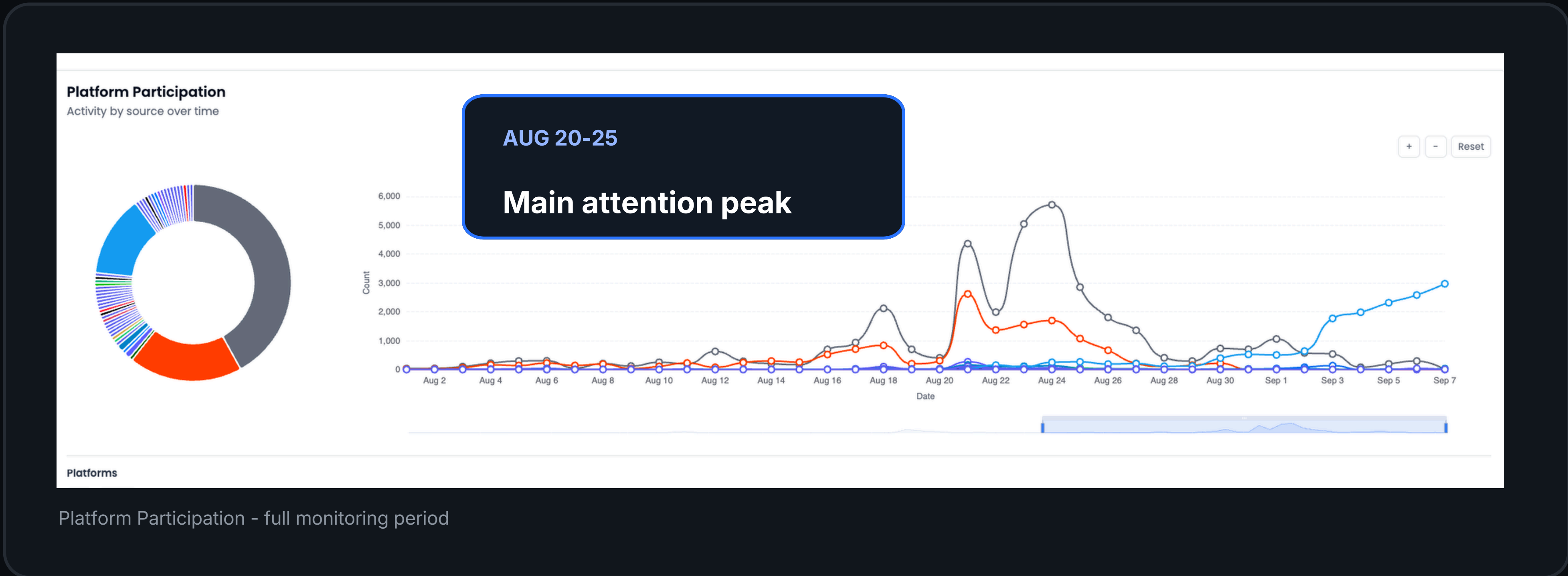
The bots were not the story. The timing was.

One conversation. Two different peaks.

The primary attention wave and the later authenticity signal do not crest at the same time.

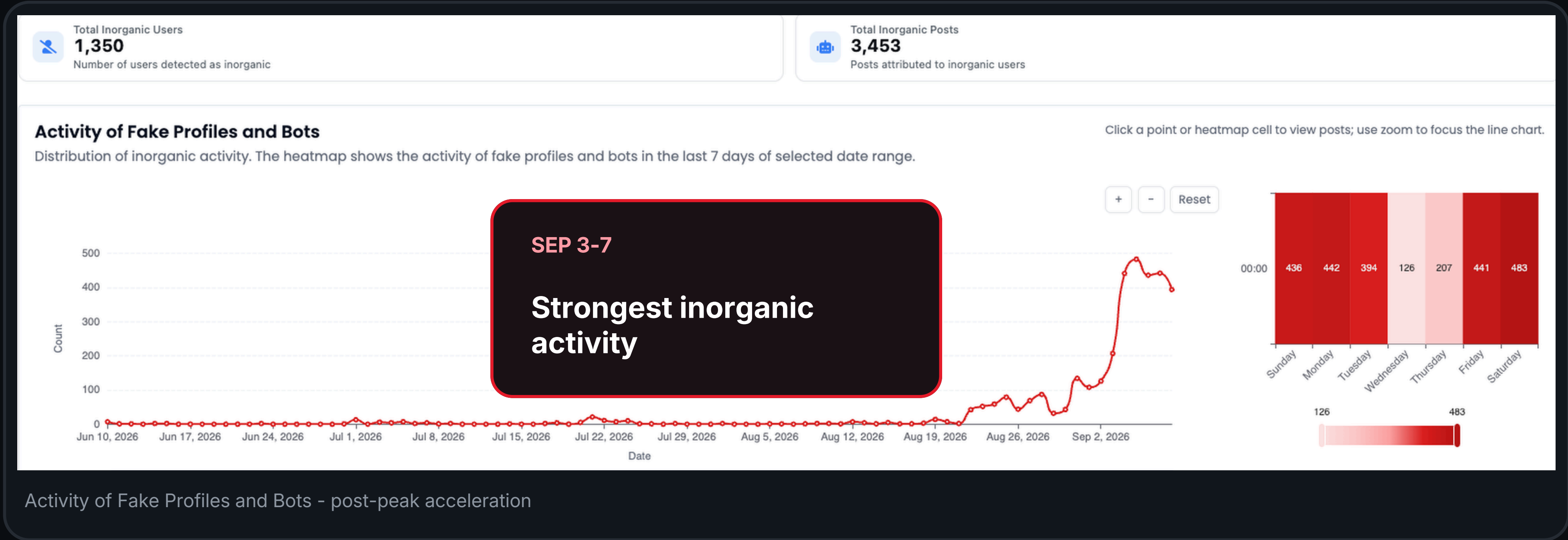
PRIMARY WAVE

Public attention



SECONDARY WAVE

Inorganic aftershock



Activity of Fake Profiles and Bots - post-peak acceleration

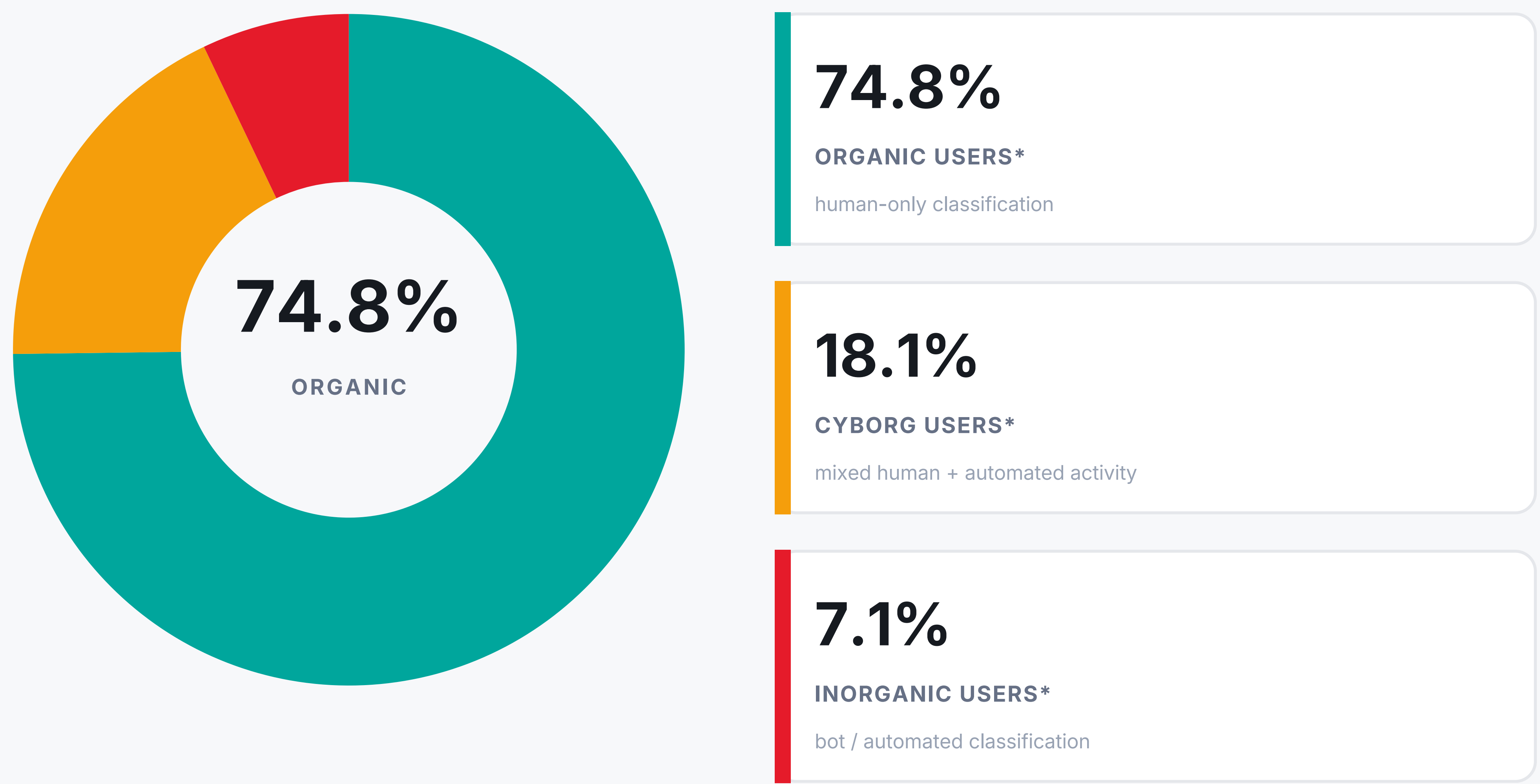
THE TIMING DIVERGENCE IS THE FINDING

Public attention fell. Inorganic activity rose.

AUTHENTICITY PROFILE

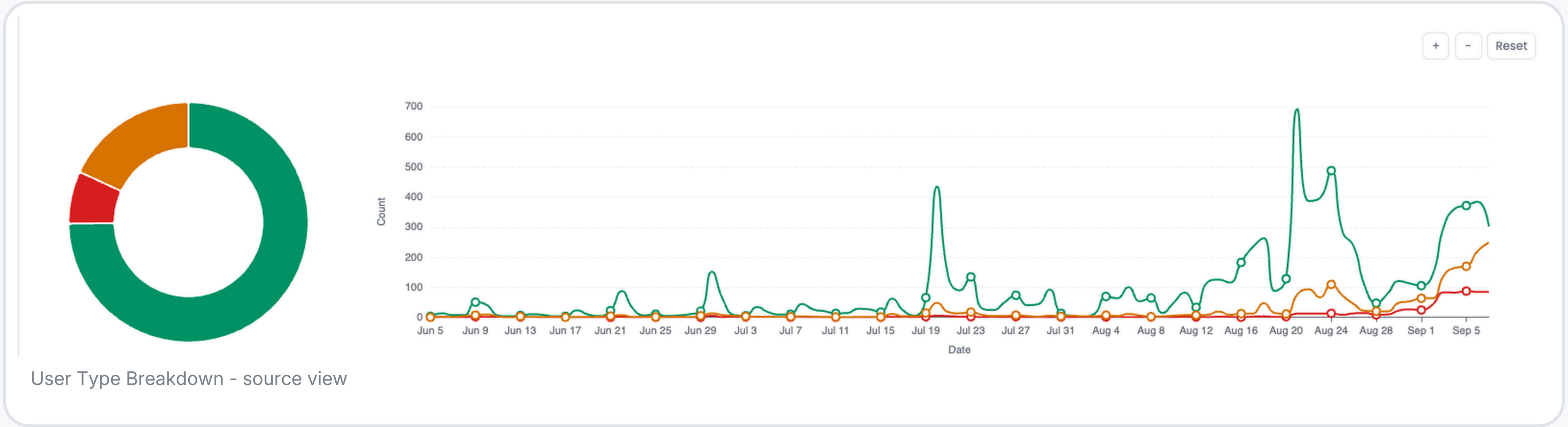
Most users were organic. The minority pattern changed.

The overall environment was not bot-dominated. The post-peak shift is meaningful precisely because it occurred inside a mostly organic conversation.



WHY CYBORG ACTIVITY MATTERS

The largest non-organic category was not fully automated accounts. It was mixed human-and-automated behavior. That points to an automation-assisted ecosystem, not simply a traditional bot swarm.



The evidence does not show that bots dominated the tariff conversation.

PLATFORM CONTEXT

The conversation moved as the news cycle changed.

Across the full period, news sources led the corpus. At the end of the monitoring window, active discussion was overwhelmingly concentrated on X.

52.7%

NEWS SHARE

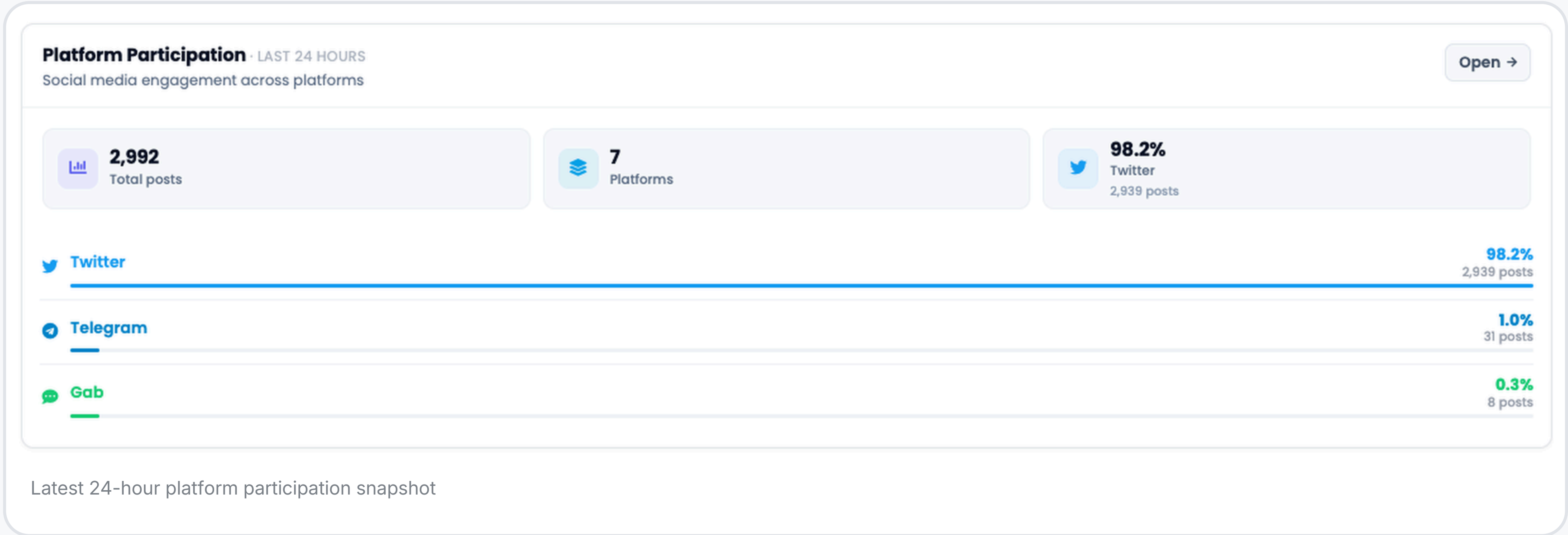
full monitoring period

SHIFT IN ACTIVE VENUE

98.2%

X SHARE

latest 24-hour snapshot



CONTEXT, NOT PROOF

A platform shift does not demonstrate manipulation. It does show that the post-peak conversation was being sustained in a different environment from the one that produced the original media surge.

HISTORICAL CORPUS

News ~47.6K | Reddit ~21.2K | X ~15.1K

LATEST SNAPSHOT

X 98.2% | Telegram 1.0% | Gab 0.3%

A second wave does not need to be bigger to matter.

The post-peak phase carried a different risk profile: lower attention, but a stronger authenticity signal.

PRIMARY WAVE

High attention

- News-driven
- Broad participation
- Strong negative / neutral volume
- Predominantly organic environment

SECONDARY WAVE

Lower attention. Stronger authenticity signal.

- Rising fake-profile / bot activity
- Higher visibility of automation-assisted behavior
- Occurs after the main peak
- Warrants deeper account-level analysis

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS

Inorganic and mixed automation became substantially more visible after the main conversation peak.

This pattern is consistent with a possible secondary-amplification phase.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE DOES NOT ESTABLISH

The data does not prove a centrally coordinated influence operation, a single controlling actor, or a shared objective.

Coordination requires network, timing, language and shared-target evidence.

LOW OVERALL RISK CAN STILL HIDE A HIGH-VALUE TEMPORAL SIGNAL.

Aggregate scores describe the whole period. Intelligence often lives in the change between periods.

The next signal is not volume. It is recurrence.

If the same post-peak patterns reappear around future tariff announcements, confidence in deliberate amplification would increase.

01

REPEATED ACCOUNTS

Do the same inorganic or cyborg accounts return during the next tariff spike?

02

SYNCHRONIZED TIMING

Do multiple accounts activate inside narrow, repeated time windows?

03

REPEATED LANGUAGE

Do near-identical phrases, hashtags or framing recur across accounts?

04

SHARED TARGETS

Do the same links, narratives or high-value accounts receive repeated amplification?

BOTTOM LINE

The story may end in the headlines before it ends in the network.



SHADOW PULSE
Intelligence

From signal to structure to strategy

The story does not end when the volume drops.

Shadow Pulse helps you see
what others miss — uncovering
the signals, behaviors, and narratives
that shape tomorrow's decisions.



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REAL SIGNALS.
DEEPER INSIGHTS.
A MORE RESILIENT TOMORROW.