

# Removal of WhiteHouse.gov's "1600 Daily" Archive

## Access Assessment Report September 11, 2018

This report is accompanied by a <u>blog post</u>, providing context for the changes detailed here.

## **Sunlight Foundation's Web Integrity Project**

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See WIP's Report Production Protocol for details of our review process

### Classification of Web content alterations and changes in access to Web resources:

Classification	Changed in this report?
Altering or removing text and non-text content	
2. Altering or removing links	
3. Moving an entire webpage or collection of webpages or establishing redirects	
4. Altering or removing an entire pertinent section of a webpage or collection of webpages	
5. Removing an entire webpage or document	Yes
6. Overhauling or removing an entire website	Yes
7. Altering or removing search engines and open data platforms	
8. Altering, removing, or deleting datasets	

**Note**: Classification 6 (Overhauling or removing an entire website) is included because the report references the overhaul of WhiteHouse.gov, which occurred in mid-December 2017. The report does not comprehensively assess the overhaul.

The Sunlight Foundation's Web Integrity Project does not intend to assess any government agency's intentions in presenting the changes to webpages or other Web content that appear in this report.

## Removal of WhiteHouse.gov's "1600 Daily" Archive

#### Overview

The White House removed the "1600 Daily" newsletter archive from its website and is no longer storing past posts on WhiteHouse.gov. The removal coincided with an overhaul of the style and organization of the White House's website, which occurred in mid-December 2017. The previous version of the website contained a page that listed links to past "1600 Daily" posts. There is no corresponding "1600 Daily" archive on the current website. Previous "1600 Daily" post URLs from before the overhaul lead to a notice stating "That page cannot be found."

### Background

Agency details: According to WhiteHouse.gov, The Executive Office of the President of the United States "has responsibility for tasks ranging from communicating the President's message to the American people to promoting our trade interests abroad." Communications about changes: The White House has not proactively communicated about or explained the changes described within this report.

Known archives: There are no archives of the current version of the WhiteHouse.gov website under President Donald Trump. Past administrations' archives are stored on the National Archives and Records Administration website.

## **Description of Most Notable Changes**

- The <u>archive</u> of the White House's "1600 Daily" posts at the URL <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily">https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily</a> has been removed (<u>Webpage 1</u>). The URL currently leads to a notice stating "That page cannot be found" (<u>September 10</u>, 2018).
- 2. The style and format of the "1600 Daily" page at the URL <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily">https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily</a> was changed between <a href="December 14, 2017">December 14, 2017</a> (Webpage 2). The change coincided with a website-wide overhaul of the entire "whitehouse.gov" domain, also between <a href="December 14, 2017">December 14, 2017</a> and <a href="December 14, 2017">December 15, 2017</a> (Note: The full website overhaul is not detailed in this report).
- 3. No "1600 Daily" archive is currently available on the "whitehouse.gov" domain.
- 4. URLs for past "1600 Daily" posts currently lead to removed pages. For example, the URL for the <u>August 17, 2017 "1600 Daily" post</u> now leads to a <u>notice</u> stating "That page cannot be found."
- 5. The official White House social media accounts, such as on Twitter and Facebook, regularly post links to new "1600 Daily" posts. Links from previous tweets, for example from <u>August 22, 2018</u> or <u>August 24, 2018</u> (both with over 1,800 retweets and over 7,000 likes), currently lead to the most recent "1600 Daily" post.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Individuals can sign up to receive the "1600 Daily" newsletter as an email by at the URL <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600dailysignup/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600dailysignup/</a>. These emails do not link to a corresponding archive of the posts.

# **Table of Contents**

Report Section	Webpage Title	URL	Page Status
Webpage 1	1600 Daily (Archive page)	https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously- on-1600daily	Removed
Webpage 2	1600 Daily	https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily/	Live, altered

## **Detailed Description of Changes in Access**

**Note:** Throughout the entire report, links to the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine's (IAWM) versions of corresponding pages are provided for reference. IAWM displays time in GMT.

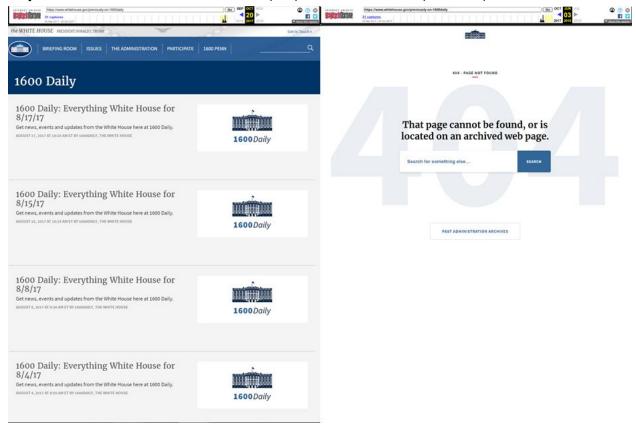
# Webpage 1: 1600 Daily (Archive page)

- URL: <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily">https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily</a>
- Page removed between <u>October 20, 2017</u> and <u>June 3, 2018</u>. Note: The large date range is due to sporadic captures of snapshots by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.
- No Trump administration White House Web archive identified.

## Webpage 1 Details:

- The page at the URL <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily">https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily</a>, listing past "1600 Daily" posts, was removed between <a href="October 20">October 20</a>, 2017 and <a href="June 3">June 3</a>, 2018. Note: The large date range is due to sporadic captures of snapshots by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. The removal likely coincided with the overhaul of the White House's website, which occurred between December 14 and December 15, 2017 (Webpage 2).
- 2. Below are three representative examples of links to past "1600 Daily" posts listed on the October 20, 2017 version of the "1600 Daily" archive page:
  - "1600 Daily: Everything White House for 8/17/17
     Get news, events and updates from the White House here at 1600 Daily.
     AUGUST 17, 2017 AT 10:25 AM ET BY 1600DAILY, THE WHITE HOUSE"
  - "1600 Daily: Everything White House for 8/15/17
     Get news, events and updates from the White House here at 1600 Daily.
     AUGUST 15, 2017 AT 10:19 AM ET BY 1600DAILY, THE WHITE HOUSE"
  - "1600 Daily: Everything White House for 8/8/17
     Get news, events and updates from the White House here at 1600 Daily.
     AUGUST 8, 2017 AT 9:30 AM ET BY 1600DAILY, THE WHITE HOUSE"
- 3. Link URLs for past "1600 Daily" posts, such as <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/08/21/1600-daily-everything-white-house-81717">https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/08/21/1600-daily-everything-white-house-81717</a>, currently lead to a notice stating "That page cannot be found" (August 29, 2018).
- Older "1600 Daily" posts could be accessed by navigating to additional pages: "1 of 14 Next."

<u>Screenshot 1.1</u>: A side-by-side of the "1600 Daily" archive page at the URL <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily">https://www.whitehouse.gov/previously-on-1600daily</a> as captured by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine on <a href="October 20">October 20</a>, <a href="2017">2017</a> (live) and <a href="June 3">June 3</a>, <a href="2018">2018</a> (removed).



# Webpage 2: 1600 Daily

- URL: <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily/</a>
- Page changed between 8:23 AM ET, December 14, 2017 and 2:17 PM ET, December 15, 2017.
- No Trump administration White House Web archive identified.

#### Webpage 2 Details:

- 1. The style and format of the "1600 Daily" page was changed between 8:23 AM ET, December 14, 2017 and 2:17 PM ET, December 15, 2017.
- 2. The change coincided with the broader WhiteHouse.gov overhaul, which also occurred between <a href="December 14">December 14</a>, 2017 and <a href="December 15">December 15</a>, 2017.

<u>Screenshot 2.1</u>: A side-by-side of the "1600 Daily" page at the URL <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600daily/</a> as captured by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine on <a href="December 14">December 14</a>, 2017 and <a href="December 15">December 15</a>, 2017.

