Title: Additional methodological details appendix for "LLMs grooming or data voids? LLM-powered chatbot references to Kremlin disinformation reflect information gaps, not manipulation"
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Note: The material contained herein is supplementary to the article named in the title and published in the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review.

Appendix G: Additional methodological details

Web search

All chatbots that we audited had web search integrated in their functionality. It was up to the LLM-powered chatbot to decide whether to enable or disable web search, as we assumed that users typically interact with chatbots without adjusting the default settings.

Temperature

As we were interested in the results that lay users would obtain, we used web interfaces of chatbots with default temperature settings rather than the API versions of the models powering the chatbots, where the temperature can be modified programmatically. Consequently, we cannot determine the default temperature settings used by web interfaces of chatbots with certainty. According to documentation from OpenAI (2025b) and Google (2025), the default temperature for the API versions of ChatGPT-4o and Gemini 2.5 Flash is 1, but a different default may be applied in the web interfaces. There is no publicly available information on the default temperature of Copilot, but the "Quick response" mode used in this study is based on ChatGPT-4o (Khan, 2024), suggesting a default temperature of 1. However, Microsoft may have modified Copilot's default parameters. There is no publicly available information on the default temperature of Grok-2. In data science forums, it is commonly assumed that the default setting for most recent LLM-powered chatbots is between 0.7 and 0.8 (Kochanek et al., 2024). However, we cannot rule out the possibility that newer models dynamically adjust temperature depending on the nature of the prompt.