

Tweet Congress

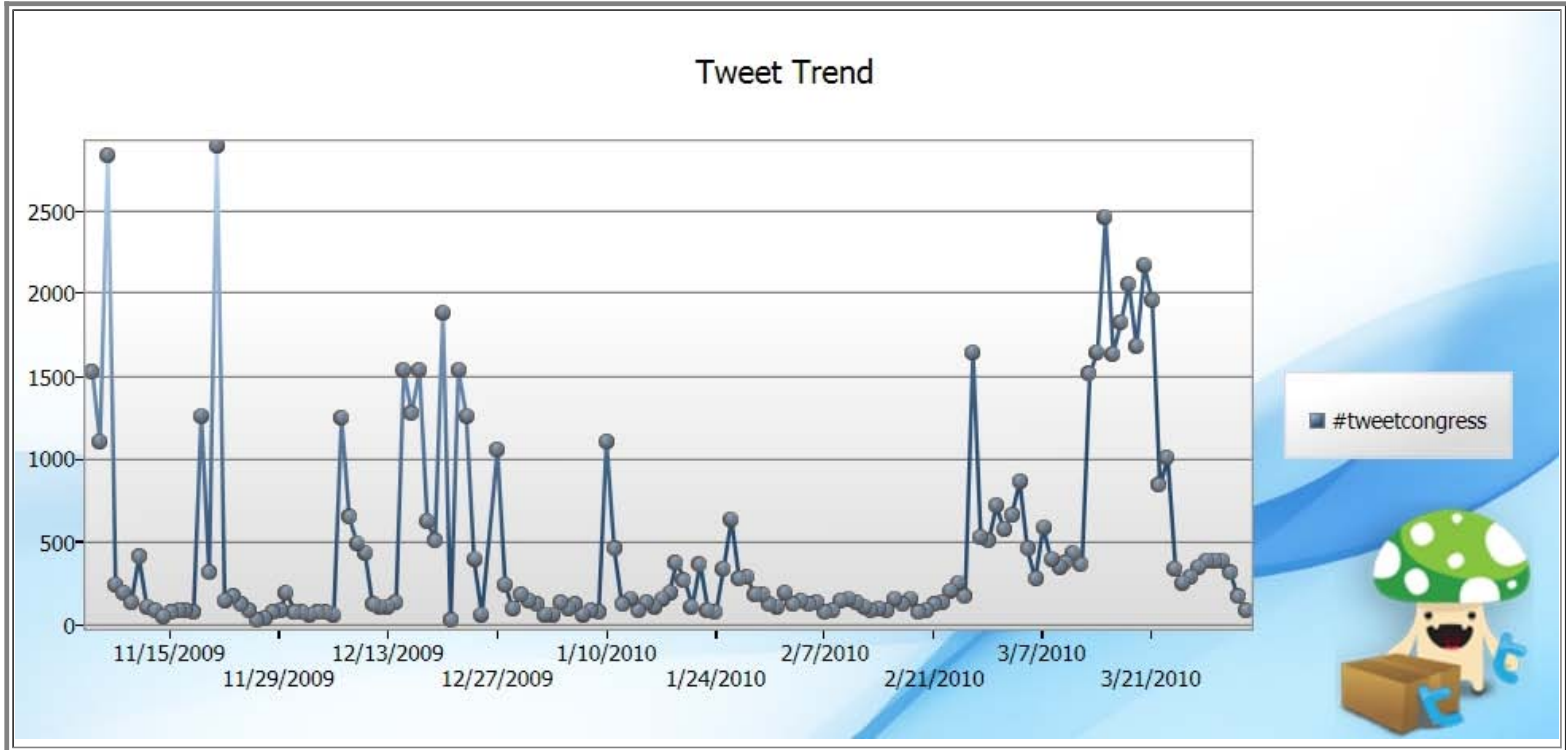
The basic thrust of this set of messages is given by one of the first tweets:

#tweetcongress "NO MEANS NO"!! NO GOV HEALTHCARE!! DO NOT PASS ANOTHER BILL UNTIL THE CORRUPTION IN DC IS DEALT WITH #ocra #tcot

It is a stream of anti-government, anti-Obama, anti-health care reform messages.

The search term was the hashtag #tweetcongress. The first tweet found was 7:50 p.m. November 14, 2009. I am almost certain that this was not the first on, but was as far back as I could search after initiating the search. The search stopped with tweets on November 2, 2010.

I found 66,551 messages over that period. The figure shows the distribution over time.



This is a pretty volatile stream. There are the original spikes in November. Then spikes in December that are closely connected with Senate consideration of health care reform legislation. The next spikes are in February and March in connection with the passage of the legislation by the House, the passage by the Senate, and the passage by the House -- in a more complicated legislative maneuver than usual.

The data files are: [#tweetcongress.xml](#) and [tweetcongress.txt](#), which is set to be read into Excel as a tab delineated file.

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