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The Public Editor's Journal: A Clinton Story Fraught With Inaccuracies: How It Happened and What Next?

Margaret Sullivan

Monday, 27 Jul 2015 | 12:57 PM ET

The New York Times



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The story certainly seemed like a blockbuster: A criminal investigation of [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) by the Justice Department was being sought by two federal inspectors general over her email practices while secretary of state.

It's hard to imagine a much more significant political story at this moment, given that she is the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination for president.



Kevin Lamarque | Reuters

Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton checks her PDA upon her departure in a military C-17 plane from Malta bound for Tripoli, Libya October 18, 2011.

The [story](#) – a Times exclusive — appeared high on the home page and the mobile app late Thursday and on Friday and then was displayed with a three-column headline on the front page in Friday's paper. The online headline read "Criminal Inquiry Sought in Hillary Clinton's Use of Email," very similar to the one in print.

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But aspects of it began to unravel soon after it first went online. The

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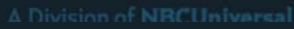
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