Internet Facilitated WLFC
Introduction

• Criminals involved in the supply of WLFC products regularly use internet based platforms to facilitate their crime

• Law enforcement agencies must be proactively monitor social media platforms, internet based communication mediums and ecommerce sites

• Failing to do so allow criminals unfettered access to global markets

• and reduces LEA’s capabilities to identify major actors, determine the size of the illegal trade, establish the modus operandi used by criminals and identify current an future trends
Issues with Investigating internet based WLFC

• Jurisdictional – identifying where the crime has taken place and what agency has jurisdiction
• Legislative – some jurisdictions have insufficient laws to address online WLFC particularly African and Asian countries
• Reliability- Criminals will allege they possess a commodity which they are willing to sell and they seek a deposit for goods that will never be sent
• Identifying the identity of the suspect
• …….but it also creates incredible opportunities for LEA’s
GLOBAL DIGITAL STATISTICS

TOTAL GLOBAL POPULATION: 7.18 BILLION
  URBAN POP: 52%

ACTIVE INTERNET USERS: 2.95 BILLION
  PENETRATION: 41%

ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA USERS: 2.03 BILLION
  PENETRATION: 28%

UNIQUE ACTIVE MOBILE USERS: 3.61 BILLION
  PENETRATION: 50%

ACTIVE MOBILE SOCIAL USERS: 1.56 BILLION
  PENETRATION: 22%

Sources: US Census Bureau, InternetLiveStats, Facebook, Tencent, VKontakte, GSMA Intelligence
Social Media Major Platforms

- YouTube: 1 Billion
- Facebook: 1.39 Billion
- Instagram: 300 Million
- Twitter: 284 Million
- Snapchat: 100 Million
- LinkedIn: 187 Million
- Pandora: 77 Million
- Pinterest: 53 Million
- Spotify: 60 Million

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Facebook

- Enables people to connect globally
- Enables businesses to promote products
- Enables real time conversations via Messenger
- Enables sharing of photographs
- Even used by Law Enforcement to promote activities
Use of Facebook to Facilitate WLFC

- Platform to source illicit products
- Arrange logistics
- Use agents to extend reach/audience
- Communicate in Real Time
- Blend with legitimate businesses (especially timber)
- Actively seek out buyers
Facebook – Law Enforcement Applications

- Specific monitoring of individuals
- Monitoring of interest groups
- Meta Data Collection
- Social Media ‘Avatars’
- Evidence collection
- Intelligence collection
- Current and future trends
Facebook LE Application - Individual

- Identify associates
- Activities - posts
- Places frequented
- Gang affiliations
- Photographs of Persons of Interest and associates
- Vehicles used
- Enables opportunities for infiltration by undercover officers
Facebook LE Applications - Organisation

- Membership
- Geographical locations
- Alliances- Adversaries
- Photographs of members, vehicles, premises
- Information on activities
- Information on new members, deaths
Facebook Examples

- NGO Investigation into the illegal trade in cheetah in Africa and tortoises/turtles in Asia
- Online check for suppliers in Africa/Asia
- Identified several individuals offering cheetahs and tortoises for sale via Facebook
- Covert Approach made via Facebook
- Often suspects made approach to covert profile based on perceived access to market
Facebook Case Study – Non LE UC initiated approach
Facebook Case Study - Cont.
Face Book Case Study - Cont.

OK I tell my friend and he contact you. Thank you thank you

Ok

You have line or whatsapp?

Yes

My phone

OK? How much cheetah and how much deposit you need? So I tell my friend. Sorry my English little

2 head only

Ok cost each piece?

Cost shipping.

Cost shipping

Ok me not buy before so me not know but I tell my friend, you ship to Dubai? How much deposit

2000$?

Deposit ??

Send me details your friend in Dubai
Facebook Case Study – Dealer initiated contact

Hello, I am exporters of adult sulcata tortoises and testudo graeca. If you wanted I have many of reptiles and mammals. I have CITES.

Best regards,

[Redacted]

Wed, Jan 21, 2020 6:05 PM

Hello, I am from Hong Kong. I see the information of tortoises that you published online. I am very interested in your sulcata, Leopard Tortoise, Red Foot, Yellow Foot, and so on. I want to buy a number of sulcata (about 5000 sulcata per year) and ask if you can provide me. Or you have other types of tortoises, I will buy a lot of them too. If you have time, please reply to me. Thank you.

Sent from web
Considerations

• Make sure you know your commodity – one of the quickest ways a criminal will become suspicious is if you do not know your market and the cost of the commodity.

• Remember….everyone should know their profit margin.

• Do not rush the suspects.

• When setting up your Avatar refrain from posting a photo of yourself…you may not be the person the suspect may eventually meet.

• Do not steal another person’s identity.

• Be careful not to use your work computer or send an email from your office. Use a VPN.
Web Based Communication Apps

• Many buyers and sellers of WLFC products utilise web based communications apps
• Free – only needs access to internet i.e. Wi-Fi
• Does not leave records of use on basic telephone records
• Only requires access to a phone number – no checking or requirement for ID to obtain access
• Examples – Viber, WhatsApp, We Chat, Line
• Most will require the suspect to accept your invitation to chat – can create issues for LEA’s
• If making an undercover approach do so with profiles that the suspect is likely to accept
Dealers Reptiles Available For sale

Testudo Graeca - Morocco tortoise
Not available
(Chelonia mydas) - Leopard tortoise $50
Testudo graciosus - beautiful color $30
Geochelone sulcata - Adult sulcata, 45cm to 60cm $50
Geochelone sulcata - Sulcata babies $90
Testudo kleinmanni - Egyptian turtle $70
Geochelone elegans - Star tortoise, babies $50
Mauremys caspica - Caspian pond turtle, NON-CITES $25
Trionyx triunguis - Nile Soft-shelled Turtle $40
Enyalius orbicularis - Turtle, NON-CITES $35
Chameleons:
Calyptratus - Yelled Chameleon $30
Chamaeleon africanus - African Chameleon $25
Chamaeleon chamaeleon - Desert Chameleon $20
Uromastyx ornatus - uromastyx $50
Uromastyx aegyptiaca - uromastyx $25
Uromastyx ocellatus - uromastyx $35
Uromastyx philbyi - uromastyx $40
Uromastyx benti - Rainbow $60
Uromastyx acanthinura - Uromastyx $60
Uromastyx thomasi - Uromastyx $500
Uromastyx Princps - Uromastyx $500
Uromastyx a. nigventris - Algeria uromastyx $100
Triturus vulgaris - salamandra $20
Crocodile:
Nile crocodile (25-30cm) $80
Varanus Niloticus - The Nile Monitor, baby $70
Varanus griseus - The Desert Monitor $80
Ophisaurus apodus - lizard $100
Vulpes Zerda - The Fennec Fox $600
Internet Based Communication Apps – Example We Chat

- Ivory supplier from Lao PDR
- Utilises We Chat to communicate with Chinese clients
- Posts Images of products for sale
- Posts images of himself and associates
- Connected with him by sending him friend request which he accepted - no intro
Internet Based Communication Apps – Example We Chat
Internet Based Communication Apps – Example We Chat
What is Metadata

- Metadata describes other data. It provides information about a certain item's content. For example, an image may include metadata that describes how large the picture is, the colour depth, the image resolution, when the image was created, and other data.

- A text document's metadata may contain information about how long the document is, who the author is, when the document was written, and a short summary of the document.
Metadata Collection

• Majority of Meta Data collected will not be relevant
• Collections enables future analysis in the event of a major incident (i.e. terrorist attack) or provision of information re importation of wildlife
• Several platforms are available (generally upon subscription)
• One such platform is Geofeedia
Geofeedia

• Can search globally for key words or terms
• Can search a defined geographical area anywhere in the world from a global search to an area 100 metres in radius
• Search parameters can be refined to fit time frames i.e. minutes to months
• Searches across several platforms including Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Instagram, Flicker, Sino Weibo, Yik Yak, Picassa.
• Search will result in a number of ‘hits’ which need to be reviewed
• Requires any image or post to be ‘Geo Tagged’
Meta Data Collection - Examples
Meta Data Collection - Examples

- More refined geographical search
- Near a National Park in South Viet Nam
- Timeframe is several weeks
- Only 240 hits
Meta Data Collection Example
eCommerce sites

- Enables the connection of suppliers and markets anywhere in the world
- Online auctions or online stores
- Provides criminals with an ability to advertise the sale of products without having to disclose the location of the goods
- EBay, [www.alibaba.com](http://www.alibaba.com), [www.globalwood.org](http://www.globalwood.org) and [www.tradekey.com](http://www.tradekey.com)
- Frequently used to supply WLFC products
eCommerce Case Study

- NGO analysis of Rosewood Sales in Greater Mekong sub-Region (China, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Thailand and Myanmar) on Alibaba in early 2015
- Rosewood is highly valued in China for Hongmu furniture
E-Commerce

- Initial examination revealed over 3000 online traders supplying rosewood in GMS
- Identified 83 major traders of rosewood
- 59 were located in Vietnam
- Vietnam imports the majority of its rosewood from Laos and Cambodia
eCommerce Examples

- Of the 59 Vietnamese businesses 13 were located in Ho Chi Minh City
- The recorded business addresses were visited and only 6 addresses could be verified
- The other 7 may be fraudulent advertisements... or suspicious traders
Conclusion

• Criminals involved in the supply of WLFC products regularly use internet based platforms to facilitate their crime

• Law enforcement agencies must be proactively monitor social media platforms, internet based communication mediums and e-commerce sites

• Failing to do so allow criminals unfettered access to global markets

• reduces LEA’s capabilities to identify major actors, determine the size of the illegal trade, establish the MO's used by criminals and identify current and future trends
UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Surface Web
- Google
- ARINSA
- Wikipedia

Deep Web
- Academic Information
- Medical Records
- Legal Documents
- Scientific Reports
- Subscription Information
- Multilingual Databases
- Financial Records
- Government Resources
- Competitor Websites
- Organisation – Specific Repositories
- Social Media

Dark Web
A part of the deep web accessible only through certain browser such as Tor designed to ensure anonymity.

Deep web Technologies zero has involvement with dark Web.
• Russ Ulbrecht
• Founder of Silk Road
• Web-site hidden in the dark web
• 31 years age
• $US200 million
• Drug trafficking
• Contract killings
• Sentenced to life imprisonment without parole
'In the worst nightmare, from the very deepest recesses of the mind, at the darkest hour of the night, few can have imagined the terrifying depravity which you men admit

Passing sentence at Bristol Crown Court, Judge Julian Lambert

Thank You !!