

Bureau of Justice Assistance

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- Within 24 hours of the webinar, you will receive an email containing both a link to view the recorded webinar, and a link to download the PowerPoint presentation.



Introduction

- Wayne Nichols
- Active law enforcement with over 10 years of experience
 - Henderson, NV Police Department
 - Computer Crimes Unit
- Conduct proactive luring / enticement operations
- Poll Question 2
 - How many of you have ever reactively investigated Craigslist investigation?



Goals and Objectives

- History of Craigslist
- Understanding how Craigslist works
 - Posting ads
 - Browsing ads
 - Advanced searching
 - Information retained by Craigslist
- Utilities and forms needed
 - The essentials



Goals and Objectives

- What to look for in a Craigslist posting
- How to obtain information from Craigslist
 - Via administrative subpoena or search warrant
 - Requesting information based on different sources
 - Posting ID
 - Email address
 - IP address
- Examination of previous cases / operations
- Tips to make your operation a success



History of Craigslist

- Created in 1995 by Craig Newmark
 - Started off as an email distribution list among friends
 - Featuring local events in San Francisco
- 1996, became web based, featuring free online classified advertisements
- 2000, expanded to major U.S. cities
- Today...



How Does Craigslist Make Money?

- Incoming revenue
 - People who post jobs
 - Major cities -- \$25 to post in one category
 - Apartment listings
 - A brokered apartment in New York -- \$10 a post
 - Therapeutic Services
 - \$10 a post
 - \$5 to repost



How Craigslist Works

- www.craigslist.org OR www.craigslist.com
- Online classified ads forum
 - Allows you to search and post ads in nearly every major U.S. city
 - Canada, Europe, Asia,
 Middle East

appliances	arts+crafts
antiques	auto parts
barter	baby+kids
bikes	beauty+hlth
boats	cars+trucks
books	cds/dvd/vhs
business	cell phones
computer	clothes+acc
free	collectibles
furniture	electronics
general	farm+garden
jewelry	garage sale
materials	household
rvs	motorcycles
sporting	music instr
tickets	photo+video
tools	toys+games
wanted	video gaming



How Craigslist Works (cont) • The website is broke down in: - Sections - Categories - Subcategories • Important to understand the abbreviations of a subcategory | Category | Categories | Catego

The Bigger Picture • Although Craigslist is synonymous with prostitution – much more different types of crime are taking place – Drugs – Property crimes / Fraud – Harassment



Posting to Craigslist

- Free to post (with exceptions of aforementioned)
- An email address is required to post an ad
 - CL is now requiring a verified phone number with certain types of posting
- No limit on number of postings
 - CL has begun to target spammers
- Every post can contain up to 8 photos
- Poster can choose to list additional contact information within the post



Posting to Craigslist (cont)

- A computer is not required
 - Cell phones with Internet access
 - Applications on smart phones
- Majority of classified postings expire after 45 days
 - The following cities have a 7-day expiration
 - Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Portland, Sacramento, San Diego, Seattle, San Francisco, Washington DC



Posting to Craigslist (cont)

- Posters can add additional or specified locations
- There is not a verification process for listed information

Sep 26 - SKYPE FUN7 - m4w - 33 - (WEST METRO)

Sep 26 - want me to drop in for a quick fuck? - m4w - 30 - (colorado and buchtel

Sep 26 - Mutual Benefits - m4w - 32 - (8E Denver)

Sep 26 - Any hot monts in littleton? - m4w - 19 - (Littleton

Sep 25 - Looking for BBW - m4w - (downtown)

Sep 25 - is anyone still up and want sex? - m4w - 34 - (Northglena)

Sep 25 - Looking for a Kinky:Sub BBW for Chat - m4w - 29 - (Aurora)

Sep 25 - Discreet buddy for special lady - m4w - 37 - (Near Park Meadows



Posting to Craigslist (cont) • Any posting can be "flagged" by other users or Craigslist post has been flagged pittoburgh craigsded > housing > activitousing for rend This posting has been flagged for removal. [2] (The cities on the listings page will be removed in just a few minutes.) Copyright © 2011 configuint loc. terms of List privacy policy for flather from

Posting to Craigslist (cont) • Reasons a post can be flagged - Miscategorized - wrong category/site, discusses another ad, otherwise misplaced - Prohibited - violates craigslist Terms of Use or other posted guideline - Spam - posted too frequently, in multiple cities/categories, or is too commercial

Posting to Craigslist (cont)
 CL does "restrict" the advertisement of the following items:
 Weapons, alcohol, drugs, hazardous materials, illegal telecommunication equipment, counterfeit currency, gambling items, enticement of minors
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Posting to Craigslist (cont)

- In February 2013, Craigslist has begun to test "2-way email relay" to combat spam
 - It poses issues for the investigator
 - Email communication does not migrate away from Craigslist
 - Keeping the email address hidden from both parties
 - Communication can continue even if the original ad has been removed
 - Up to 6 months



Posting to Craigslist (cont)

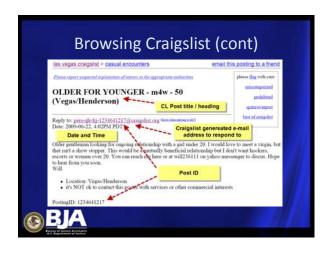
- Previous method of communication
 - CL acts as the "middle man" on the initial communication
 - CL creates an email address within the post
 - Subsequent email communication takes place outside of Craigslist
 - Important to not bypass the "middle man" process

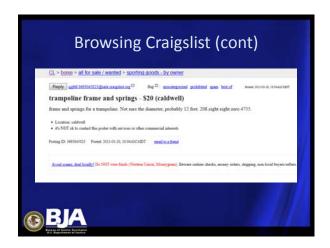


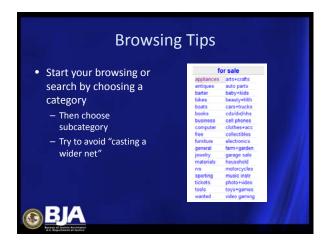
Questions Before the 'Posting' Demo?













Questions Before the Demo?	
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Information Captured by CL	
 The most important piece of information on any Craigslist ad is the posting ID 	
 Craigslist captures and retains the IP address associated with all postings 	
 Including verified phone number CL is also retaining photos included with every post (with a 2 month retention period) 	
Starting from the time the post expires or is flagged	
© BJA The translation of the control of the contro	
Information Captured by CL (cont)	
 Craigslist logs every posting associated with the suspect's email address 	
 No retention period A reverse search can also be done By IP or email address 	
 Craigslist logs limited information on all responses to a post 	
 Email and IP address only Along with date and time stamps Actual message content is NOT saved 	

Information Captured by CL (cont)

- Craigslist will indicate if the posting was flagged, expired, or removed by poster
- Craigslist will indicate if the posting has been modified
 - But only saves the most recent change
 - CL does not track the evolution of an ad
- EXIF data is not saved
 - Photo is condensed to fit size limit standards



Craigslist Contact Information

- Administrative Subpoena / Search Warrant will be accepted by fax, email, or mail
 - Quicker to have the results emailed to you
- Fax
 - 415-504-6394. Attention: Custodian of Records
- Email
 - legal@craigslist.org (please send request as a PDF)
- Mail
 - Craigslist 1381 9th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94122.
 Attention: Custodian of Records



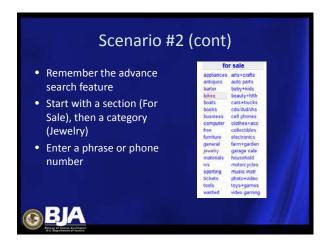
Questions Before the Demo?

Scenario #1 Law enforcement has responded to a suspicious ad involving a stolen washer / drier set During email communication, the suspect emails photos which you later confirm are of the stolen washer and drier





A fellow Detective in Homicide advises you that a victim was robbed and killed after placing a gold watch for sale ad on Craigslist According to the victim's friends, the victim would often sell items on Craigslist and list his phone number within the posts Phone number: 443-452-5155 Homicide is requesting assistance since you're a Craigslist "expert"







Scenario #3 • Following a drug investigation that began on Craigslist, your suspect claims that he traded pills to another subject who provided him with Methamphetamine and bragged about having larger quantities to trade







The Essentials • PDF tool - 'Cute PDF' is free • Undercover email accounts - Gmail • Google Voice accounts - https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/223277360 • TLO – LE online research tool - As of October, 2012 TLO has begun to charge for advanced searches





Prugs on Craigslist Reading between the lines is necessary Offers of drugs are subtly embedded within legitimate postings Important to know slang terminology Urban Dictionary Important to know how to search for slang terms Medical themed advertisements Theme of "Medicinal Marijuana"

Drugs on Craigslist • Drugs and sex still go hand in hand – 'Personals' section will most likely yield the most results • Advanced browsing in Craigslist

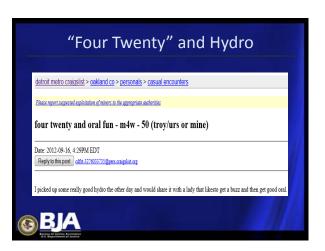


Common Slang / Search Terms Marijuana 420, bud, medicinal, grow, hydro, weed, herb, ganja, kush Methamphetamine Tina, crystal, clouds, spun, go fast Heroin H, OP8 Pills Lortab, Perc or Percocet, Valium, RX, Oxy or Roxy, Hydrocodone, Xanax, Zanny, Vicodin, mg Ecstasy X, Molly, xtc, E

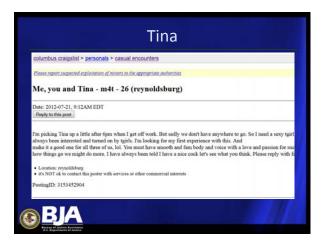






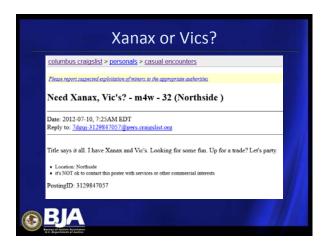
















Investigative Considerations

- Does your prosecutor approve of the prostitution angle
 - You may not find a "blatant" advertisement
- Do you have an understanding of street value?
- Do you possess training and experience in the area of street level narcotics?
- Deconfliction
 - Be aware of other jurisdictions proactive operations



Stolen Property

Offender Point of View of Craigslist

- Culture of Craigslist
 - Fewer rules and restrictions
- Subject feels anonymous
- Transactions occur very quickly
- Transactions are assumed cash-only
- Craigslist empowers the seller to conduct business on their terms

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Offender Point of View of Craigslist

- Posting requires very little information
 - Serial numbers and model names are not required to successfully list the item
- Meeting at a public place or parking lot is not abnormal
 - Even legitimate sellers / buyers feel safer with the transaction taking place away from their home



Offender Point of View of Craigslist

- Based on item, price, and posting language -the poster can expect to be dealing with likeminded customers
- Depending on supply & demand, offender may not even need to post an ad
 - Simply looks for "wanted" ads



A Dream Posting for a Thief IPad 2 - \$300 Date: 2011-11-28, 9:40PM CST Reply to: sale-vj2fj-2725882895@craigslist.org (Errors when replying to ads*) Needing ASAP! • it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests PostingID: 2725882895

Locating Stolen Property • 2 methods — Proactive searching • Can be time consuming • Following crime trends in your jurisdiction — Reactive searching • Searching out particular items of interest — Gift cards • Often times a victim will locate their property • Following a suspect by his phone number, email, or IP address

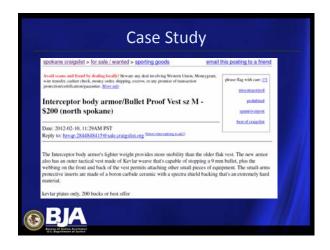
Victims Who Locate Their Property Scenario Citizen is the victim of a burglary Home Storage unit After reporting the crime Victim begins to search on their own for their property Engage sellers in communication Trying to obtain additional information Photos Contacts police

Victims Who Locate Their Property Prioritize identifying your suspect Research the Craigslist ad the victim located Is there additional stolen property within the ad? Review any communication between victim and seller Email Important to remember the "middle man" format Phone number Photos Could offer you a wealth of information

Reoccurring Trends
Fraudulent auto sales
– Buyer
 Potential buyer is instructed to wire money, usually via Western Union
 Potential buyer is advised that the vehicle is being shipped from another location
 Potential buyer is given a "sob story" or told they are leaving town immediately
 Departing armed services
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Reoccurring Trends • Housing - Scammers are taking advantage of large inventory of rental properties or vacant homes • Very easy for scammer to search legitimate sites for to gather info - Potential Renter / Leaser • Not able to see the property in person - Due to owner traveling or recently relocating • Instructed to wire money via Western Union or MoneyGram



Investigative Considerations Mass sellers are flocking to Craigslist Proactive measures based on the quantity of sale items may in fact be legitimate Are we encouraging victims to search on Craigslist? Never attempt to be get back your property yourself

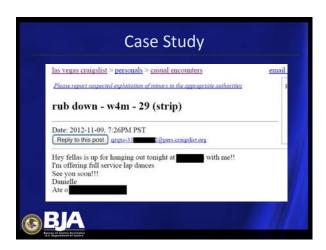


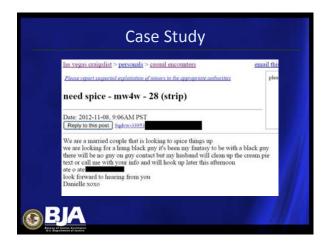
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Harassment • Typically involves a disgruntled: - Ex-spouse - Employee • The suspects are being mindful of how they post certain information - Phone numbers • Spelled out versus traditional numeric

Harassment The suspects are being mindful of covering their tracks Using an open Wi-Fi signal Starbucks Library Craigslist typically requires a phone number when posting to the Personals This will often be your best lead when conducting the follow up





Any Questions?
Thank you for attending!
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