

# ICAC TASK FORCE

## Craigslist Investigations: *Update* Part 1

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Detective Wayne Nichols

# Webinar Information

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# During the Webinar

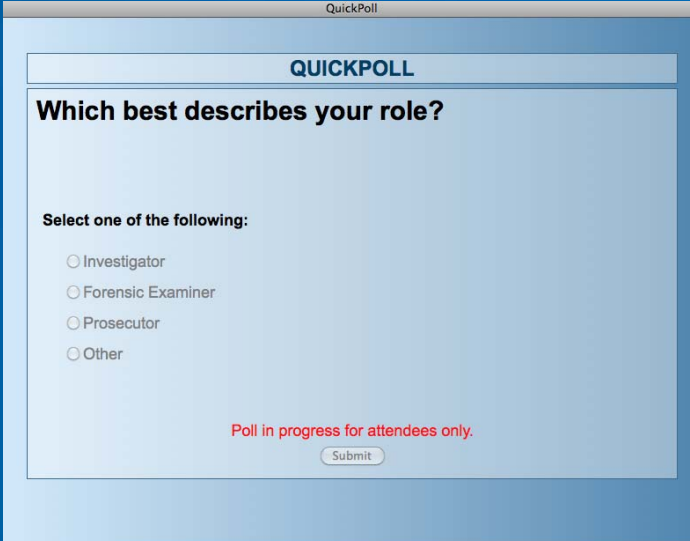
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- All attendees will be muted.
- If you desire to ask a question, please use the questions section of the GoToWebinar dialogue box, typically on the right side of your screen.
- Please do not raise your hand for questions, we can not unmute you.
- Questions will either be answered directly by a panelist or asked to the presenter who will answer.

# Poll Questions

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- Poll questions may be asked during the webinar. They are asked so we can better understand the audience and provide the most useful information to you.
- As they will only be open a short period of time, please respond promptly.



QuickPoll

**QUICKPOLL**

**Which best describes your role?**

Select one of the following:

- Investigator
- Forensic Examiner
- Prosecutor
- Other

Poll in progress for attendees only.

Submit

# Post Webinar Information

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- At the conclusion of the webinar, a short survey will appear. We ask that you complete the survey in an effort to gather information to better serve the community in preparation for future webinars. Please complete it before signing off.
- You will receive a link to access our law enforcement only webinar library where you can view the recording and access related webinar material. Due to the sensitivity of some of the material you must be a registered law enforcement member of the NCTJC.org website. If you are not currently a member, you will need to register for access at [www.ncjtc.org](http://www.ncjtc.org).

# Craigslist Investigations

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- Poll Question 1:

# Introduction

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- Wayne Nichols
- Active law enforcement with over 11 years of experience
  - Henderson, NV Police Department
    - Computer Crimes Unit
    - TFO for the FBI (Internet Crimes Against Children task force)
- Conduct proactive luring / enticement operations

# Instructor Requests

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- Questions
  - The more the better
  - There is no such thing as a stupid question
- Networking
  - Police reports
  - DMV photos
  - Local assistance



# Goals and Objectives

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- Understanding how Craigslist works
  - Posting ads
  - Browsing ads
    - Advanced searching
- How to obtain information from Craigslist
  - Via administrative subpoena or search warrant
  - Requesting information based on different sources
    - Posting ID
    - Email address
    - IP address

# Goals and Objectives

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- Utilities and forms needed
  - The essentials

# Craigslist Investigations

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- Poll Question #2

# How Craigslist Works

- [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org) OR [www.craigslist.com](http://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

for sale	
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)

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- The website is broke down in:
  - Sections
  - Categories
  - Subcategories
- Important to understand the abbreviations of a subcategory

casual encounters >>>> [w4m](#) [m4m](#) [m4w](#) [w4w](#) [t4m](#) [m4t](#)

[mw4mw](#) [mw4w](#) [mw4m](#) [w4mw](#) [m4mw](#) [w4ww](#) [m4mm](#) [mm4m](#) [ww4w](#) [ww4m](#) [mm4w](#) [m4ww](#) [w4mm](#) [t4mw](#) [mw4t](#)

# How Craigslist Works (cont'd)

- 'Personals' section is heavily used for illegal activity
- 'Erotic Services' created controversy for the site
  - Although now shut down
  - 'Casual Encounters' and 'Misc Romance' are where we direct efforts

personals
<a href="#">strictly platonic</a>
<a href="#">women seek women</a>
<a href="#">women seeking men</a>
<a href="#">men seeking women</a>
<a href="#">men seeking men</a>
<a href="#">misc romance</a>
<a href="#">casual encounters</a>
<a href="#">missed connections</a>
<a href="#">rants and raves</a>

# Posting to Craigslist

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- Free to post
  - Brokered apartments, job listings, therapeutic services
- An email address is required to post an ad
  - CL is *often* requiring a verified phone number with certain types of posting
  - CL has begun to accept VOIP phone numbers
- No limit on number of postings
  - CL has begun to target spammers
- Every post can contain up to 24 photos
- Poster can choose to list additional contact information within the post

# Posting to Craigslist (cont)

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- 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'd)

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

Sep 26 - [SKYPE FUN? - 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](#) - (SE Denver)

Sep 26 - [Any hot moms in littleton? - m4w - 19](#) - (Littleton)

Sep 25 - [Looking for BBW - m4w](#) - (downtown)

Sep 25 - [is anyone still up and want sex? - m4w - 34](#) - (Northglenn)

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) [pic](#)

# Posting to Craigslist (cont'd)

- Any posting can be “flagged” by other users or Craigslist
- The poster will receive an email notification if post has been flagged

[pittsburgh craigslist](#) > [housing](#) > [apts/housing for rent](#)

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**This posting has been flagged for removal. [\[?\]](#)**

(The title on the listings page will be removed in just a few minutes.)

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Copyright © 2011 craigslist, inc. [terms of use](#) [privacy policy](#) [feedback forum](#)

# Posting to Craigslist (cont'd)

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- 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'd)

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- CL does “restrict” the advertisement of the following items:
  - Weapons, alcohol, drugs, hazardous materials, illegal telecommunication equipment, counterfeit currency, gambling items, enticement of minors

# Posting to Craigslist (cont'd)

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- 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

# Posting to Craigslist (cont'd)

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- In February 2013, Craigslist began “2-way email relay” for communication
  - 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

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# ‘Posting’ Demo and “2-way Email Relay”

# Browsing Craigslist

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- No account is required to browse Craigslist
  - No age verification to enter certain parts of the site
  - Banner posted before entering 'Casual Encounters'

[craigslist](#) > casual encounters > warning & disclaimer

Unless all of the following points are true, use your "back" button to exit this part of craigslist:

1. I am at least 18 years old.
2. I understand "casual encounters" may include adult content.
3. I agree to flag as "prohibited" anything illegal or in violation of the craigslist [terms of use](#).
4. By clicking on the links below, I release craigslist from any liability that may arise from my use of this site.



# Browsing Craigslist (cont'd)

- Newest postings always appear at the top
  - Post will also reflect if pictures are included within post
- Browsed postings are highlighted
  - Check settings in your browser

Sep 5 - [seeking surrogate mother - m4w - 30](#) - (az)

Sep 3 - [I truly Do Miss You - m4w - 27](#) - (flagstaff)

Sep 1 - [Gold mining partner - m4w - 60](#) - (Parks)

Aug 26 - [New in town - m4w - 34](#) - (Williams)

Aug 22 - [Female Drinking Friend - m4w - 40](#) - (Winslow, Arizona )

Aug 22 - [any movie lunch or something - m4w - 46](#) - (flagstaff)

Aug 18 - [m4w married DL ftiends - m4w - 30](#) - (east flag)

Aug 17 - [At work looking to text - m4w - 21](#) - (NA)

Aug 15 - [Working graveyard want to text - m4w - 21](#) - (verdy valley )

Aug 14 - [Mountain Bike Buddies? - m4w - 23](#) - (Flagstaff/Sedona) 

Aug 14 - [Just board today... - m4w - 29](#) - (Flag)

# Browsing Craigslist (cont'd)

[las vegas craigslist](#) > [casual encounters](#)

[email this posting to a friend](#)

*Please report suspected exploitation of minors to the appropriate authorities*

## OLDER FOR YOUNGER - m4w - 50 (Vegas/Henderson)

CL Post title / heading

please [flag](#) with care:

[miscategorized](#)

[prohibited](#)

[spam/overpost](#)

[best of craigslist](#)

Reply to: [pers-qhvkj-1234641217@craigslist.org](mailto:pers-qhvkj-1234641217@craigslist.org) [Errors when replying to ads?]

Date: 2009-06-22, 4:02PM PDT

Date and Time

Craigslist generated e-mail address to respond to

Older gentleman looking for ongoing relationship with a girl under 20. I would love to meet a virgin, but that isn't a show stopper. This would be a mutually beneficial relationship but I don't want hookers, escorts or women over 20. You can reach me here or at will236111 on yahoo messenger to discuss. Hope to hear from you soon.

Will

Post ID

- Location: Vegas/Henderson
- it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests

PostingID: 1234641217

# Browsing Craigslist (cont'd)

[CL](#) > [jacksonville](#) > [all personals](#) > [casual encounters](#)

[reply](#)

[flag](#)

Posted: [11 days ago](#)

## ★ **public sex - m4w - 37 (op jaxs)**

want to play in public, thrill of having fun and risk.... Sounds like fun email me a pic and put "public" in the subj line

- Location: op jaxs
- do NOT contact me with unsolicited services or offers

post id: 4270253988    posted: [11 days ago](#)    updated: [23 minutes ago](#)

[email to friend](#)

♥ [best of](#)

[Please report suspected exploitation of minors](#)

# Browsing Craigslist (cont'd)

[CL](#) > [jacksonville](#) > [all personals](#) > [casual encounters](#)

[reply](#)

[flag](#)

Posted: 11 days ago

**reply by email:**

[8k6cm-4270253988@pers.craigslist.org](mailto:8k6cm-4270253988@pers.craigslist.org)

**webmail links:**

[gmail](#)

[yahoo mail](#)

[hotmail, outlook, live mail](#)

[aol mail](#)

**copy and paste into your email:**

[8k6cm-4270253988@pers.craigslist.org](mailto:8k6cm-4270253988@pers.craigslist.org)

[Please report suspected exploitation of minors](#)

s)

risk.... Sounds like fun email me a pic and put "public" in the subj line

r offers

utes ago

[email to friend](#)

♥ [best of](#)

# Browsing Tips

- Start your browsing or search by choosing a category
  - Casual Encounters
  - Misc Romance
- Then choose subcategory

## personals

[strictly platonic](#)

[women seek women](#)

[women seeking men](#)

[men seeking women](#)

[men seeking men](#)

[misc romance](#)

[casual encounters](#)

[missed connections](#)

[rants and raves](#)

[casual encounters](#) >>> [w4m](#) [m4m](#) [m4w](#) [w4w](#) [t4m](#) [m4t](#)

[mw4mw](#) [mw4w](#) [mw4m](#) [w4mw](#) [m4mw](#) [w4ww](#) [m4mm](#) [mm4m](#) [ww4w](#) [ww4m](#) [mm4w](#) [m4ww](#) [w4mm](#) [t4mw](#) [mw4t](#)

# Advanced Browsing / Searching

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- Advanced search option
  - Allows you to narrow a search by term, included photo, and age range

**casual encounters**

search for:  in:    title  entire post

Poster's Age:    has image

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Questions Before the Demo?

# Information Captured by CL

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- 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



# Information Captured by CL (cont'd)

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- Craigslist logs *every* posting associated with the suspect's email address
  - No retention period
  - A reverse search can also be done
    - By IP, email address, or phone number
- 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'd)

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- 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

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- 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](mailto:legal@craigslist.org) (please send request as a PDF)
- Mail
  - Craigslist – 1381 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue San Francisco, CA 94122. Attention: Custodian of Records

# Craigslist Investigations

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- Poll Question #3.

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# Examples of Subpoena Returns from Craigslit

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# Tools Needed Before the Investigation Begins

# The Essentials

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- PDF tool
  - Fireshot
- Google products
  - Gmail
  - Google Voice
- Access to research databases
  - NCMEC
- EXIF data tool
  - Opanda

# The Essentials (cont)

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- UC cell phone
  - Preferably with monthly data
  - Applications



# Craigslist Investigations

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- Poll Question #4.

# Demo of Tools

# Questions?

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- Thank you for attending!
- Part 2 of this webinar is forthcoming
- Detective Wayne Nichols
  - [Wayne.Nichols@cityofhenderson.com](mailto:Wayne.Nichols@cityofhenderson.com)
  - 702-267-4778 (office)