

Sextortion

ADA Erin M. Karshen
DDA Matthew Torbenson

1

Who am I (not a wizard...)

- Deputy District Attorney – 7 years
- Assistant District Attorney – 12 years
- Team Captain of Child Protection & Advocacy Unit
 - Prosecute complex child abuse and child neglect cases, with specialization in:
 - Child homicides
 - Abusive head trauma
 - Inflicted burns
 - Child sexual abuse
 - Child torture
 - Complex child neglect (medical neglect)
 - Presenting child testimony



2

Who am I (not wonder woman...)

Assistant District Attorney – 18 years
Team Captain of Sensitive Crimes Unit

- 250 jury trials
 - 125 sensitive crimes jury trials
- Technology facilitated sensitive crimes
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- Child testimony
- Human Trafficking
- Officer involved sensitive crimes
- Training team - mentor program - wellness coordinator



3



Douglas
Rupp

4

VICTIM THREE: Whyd you screen shot this
VICTIM THREE: STOP
VICTIM THREE: WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH IT
DEFENDANT: Haha
DEFENDANT: Expose u for who u are wym
DEFENDANT: What r u gonna do for it?
DEFENDANT: U gonna submit to me then as ur master?
DEFENDANT: And ur my slave?

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DEFENDANT: Ur just a body to be used when I want
DEFENDANT: Understood?
VICTIM THREE: And you wont expose me?
DEFENDANT: Well not if u do as ur told
DEFENDANT: But I'm keeping them as insurance
VICTIM THREE: Fine
DEFENDANT: Send a vid of ur tits right now
DEFENDANT: Filthy fucking whore

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VICTIM THREE: There you go master
DEFENDANT: That's a good slave slut
 VICTIM THREE: Am I gonna regret being your slave
DEFENDANT: U earned this
DEFENDANT: Do as ur told
DEFENDANT: This is your fault
 VICTIM THREE: You were so sweet before

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Lessons Learned

- Admitted to over **100** victims
 - Victims lived in multiple different countries
 - Different levels of victim engagement/cooperation;
- The need to respond swiftly **versus** need for significant additional investigation

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Sextortion

October **2008**:

- Chris and MK start to date (8th graders)
- Chris convinces MK to share nude pics
- Within a month, Chris & MK break up
- Chris' best friend is **H**arrison

9

"Guess what I have....."

"I want **more**...."

10

to be best in
 point of view.
"What do I have to do to make **u stop...."**
 Blackmail
 obtain money b
 by threats to d
 a crim

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11



September 19, 2009

See what happens if **you** don't send more...

12

September 21, 2009

- MK discloses to friend DC;
- DC offers Harrison pics to stop him;
- Harrison reaches out to SP (MK's friend)
 - Threatens to disseminate pics of MK unless SP provides pics;
 - Also had nude pics of SP's friend LP;

13

In the Interest of Harrison

- LP texted with Harrison over summer
 - Threats to ruin reputation
 - Threats to photo-shop pics
 - Demanded pics of digital masturbation
- JK texted with Harrison over summer
 - Needed nude pics to date
 - If JK refused, Harrison spoke of being in love w/ Ex
 - Eventually, turned to overt threats

14

In the Interest of Harrison

- Harrison texts SG & RS (friends of SP)
 - Starts by asking for pics
 - Sends dick pics
 - Wants masturbation pics
- And then it happens...

15

In the Interest of Harrison

By the time the investigation is complete

- 150+ images discovered on iPod
- 37 different victims (ID issues)
 - 7 victims identified and cooperated
- Harrison was able to wipe iPhone

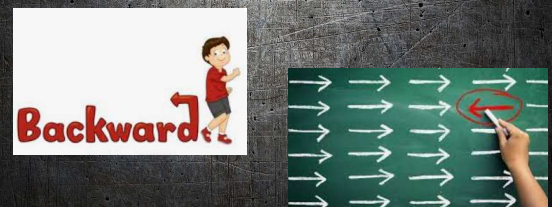
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Lessons Learned

- Multiple methods of manipulation
 - "Willing" exchange of images
 - Coerced exchange of images
 - Stolen images
 - Blackmailed exchange of images

17

Law Enforcement Concerns



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Lessons Learned

- Complex/overwhelming investigations
 - Small jurisdiction
 - School resource officer
 - Search warrants
 - Different level of victim involvement
 - How to approach victims & families

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Teens & Sexting

- "There is a positive side to sexting. You can't get pregnant from it, and you can't transmit STD's. It's kind of safe sex."
- "A freshman girl doesn't consciously want to be a slut, but she wants to be liked and she likes attention from the older boys."
- "If a girl sent me a picture of her boobs, well, obviously I'd like to show it to some of my friends. But I wouldn't show them a raunchy text from her because that would be awkward. Sexually charged language is more intimate, more private."
- "We see virtual images all day long, so if someone sends you an image, it loses the identity of the person. Its just a picture"

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Definitions

- Legally speaking, there's no such thing as sextortion. The word is a kind of prosecutorial slang for a class of obviously criminal conduct that does not in reality correspond neatly with any known criminal offense.

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Definitions

Sextortion is old-fashioned extortion or blackmail, carried out over a computer network, involving some threat—generally but not always a threat to release sexually-explicit images of the victim—if the victim does not engage in some form of further sexual activity.

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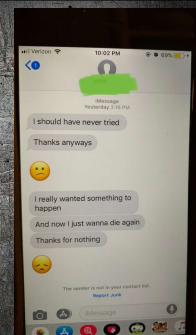
Sextortion Explained By Cats

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vQ3ldtrbUk>

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It Can
Happen To
Any Child




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Sextortion

brookings.edu/sextortion

Sextortion is a new cybercrime that occurs when offenders use personal information—often images stolen from a computer or obtained by hacking into a webcam—to force victims to engage in some form of sexual activity. Offenders frequently target multiple victims, a majority of whom are children under the age of 18. And it's on the rise. A new study from the Brookings Institution, which examines 78 recent cases, indicates that new laws are needed to specifically target this crime.



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Who Are The Victims?

71% of cases involve only victims under the age of 18

14% of cases involve a mix of minor and adult victims

12% of cases involve only adult victims

Nearly all adult victims are female, but both minor girls and boys are victimized.

Who Are The Perpetrators?

Every single prosecuted perpetrator is male. They include college students, a State Department employee, even fathers and step-fathers of their victims.

Sextortionists tend to be prolific repeat offenders. Among the cases we studied:

25 cases involved at least	13 cases involved at least	13 cases involved more than
10 victims	20 victims	100 victims

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The Statistics

How Are Victims Targeted?

91% Social media manipulation is used in 91 percent of cases involving minor victims

43% Computer hacking is used in 43 percent of cases involving adults

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The Statistics

Major Disparities in Sentencing of Sextortion Cases

Sentencing is particularly light when all victims are adults and in cases prosecuted at the state level.

Average sextortion case sentences

Level	Victim Type	Average Sentence
state level	adult victims	7.3 years
	minor victims	31 years
federal level	all victims	29 years

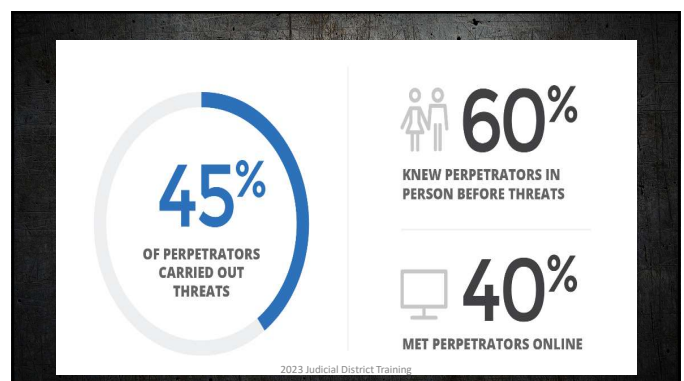
(minor and adult victims) (federal level only)

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29



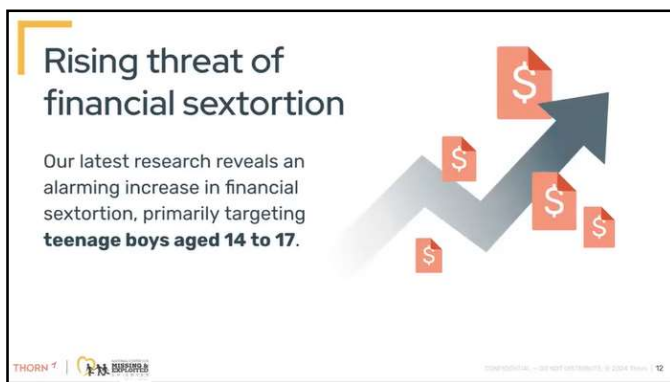
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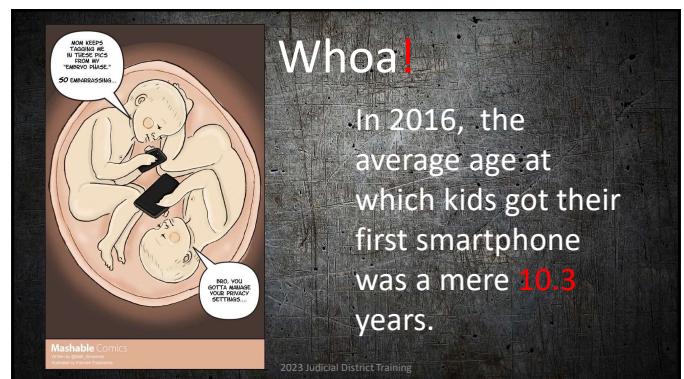
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34



35



36

Digital Natives vs. The Rest of Us

- **Public is the default, privacy takes effort**
- "Mom when you were little did you play on your mommy's iPad?"
- The rise of the internet and social media
 - Parents that don't understand and children that know nothing else
 - Ignorance about the risks and consequences of online activity
 - Kids haven't developed a sense of fear or caution
- Will the next generation of children be more savvy...safer?



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Impact of the Internet on Youth

Is Social
Media
Destroying
Our
Empathy?

Anonymity

Cyber Courage

Lack of Consequences

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**"Social media
made y'all way too
comfortable with
disrespecting
people and not
getting punched
in the face for it."**

~ MIKE TYSON

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Impact of the Internet on Youth



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- The Path of Least Resistance
- Decentralized means of Influence
- Ideas can travel in an instant
- Ideas are communicated through images
- Going Viral
- The Need to be Visible
- **Feel self worth based on number of "likes"**

40

We are **not**
saying
technology
is bad...

Freedom of Expression
Art
Accessible form of education
Safety
Medical Information
Support
A feeling of connectedness
Advocacy

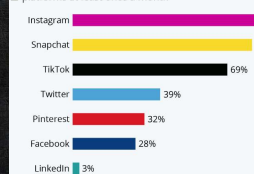
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Social Media Facts

7 in 10 American Teens Use TikTok

% of U.S. teens who use the following social media platforms at least once a month

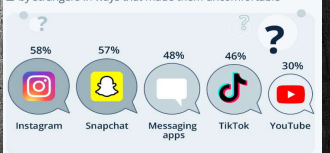


Based on a survey of 9,800 U.S. teens with an average age of 15.8 years conducted in Q3 2020
Source: Piper Sandler

statista

Most Girls Get Unsolicited Messages on Social Media

Share of adolescent female users who have been contacted by strangers in ways that made them uncomfortable



1,365 U.S. girls (11-15 y/o) surveyed Nov. - Dec. 2022
Source: Common Sense Media

statista

42

Oversharing

- Public is the default
- **39%** of teens have never changes their privacy settings on social media
- **14%** of teens have publicly posted their complete home address for anyone to see
- Nearly **50%** of teens have regretted something they have posted online

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Oversharing



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Social Media Facts

- **33%** of all internet initiated sex crimes were instigated through social networking sites
- In **50%** of all sex crimes against a minor, offenders obtained information and/or pictures of the victim through a social networking profile
- Using a high number of social media platforms is linked with **depression** and anxiety in young people
- Social Media Cyberbullying for girls is most often focused on their **sexuality**

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<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-teens-sexting-20180226.htmlstory.html>

1. Nearly **15%** of teens have sent a sext message
2. More than **27%** of teens have received a sext message.
3. Sexting is becoming more common.
4. Nearly **1 in 8** teens have forwarded a sext message **without** consent.
5. More than **1 in 13** teens have had one of their sexts passed along to others without their permission.
6. Girls are just as likely as boys to send or receive sext messages.
7. The older kids get, the more likely they are to send or receive a sext message.
8. Smartphones are the most popular medium for sexting.
9. The actual amount of teen sexting is probably higher than what's reported here.
10. There's reason to think sexting could become more common among tweens.

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19.3% of teenagers have sent a sext message

34.8% of teenagers have received a sext message

14.5% of teenagers have forwarded a sext message

17% of kids have shared their own SG-CSAM

15% of 9- to 10-year-olds have shared their own SG-CSAM

2022

Increased rates of initial shares were most pronounced among 9-10 year olds, young boys (aged 9-12), from **7%** in 2019 to **18%** in 2020

<https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sexting>

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12% OF THE WEBSITES ON THE INTERNET ARE PORNOGRAPHIC.



THAT'S **24,644,172** SITES.

EVERY SECOND...



\$3,075.64 IS BEING SPENT ON PORNOGRAPHY.

28,258 INTERNET USERS ARE VIEWING PORN.

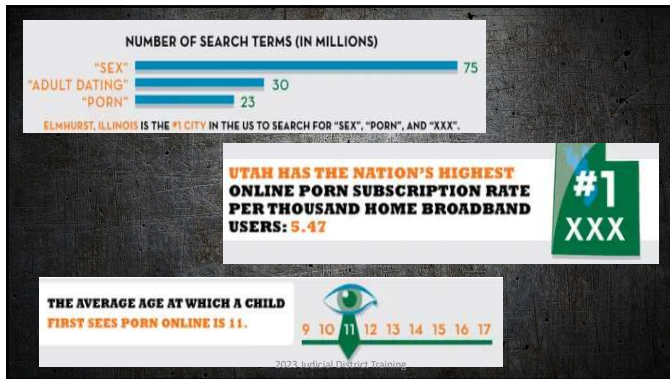
IN THE US, INTERNET PORN PULLS IN \$2.84 BILLION PER YEAR. THE ENTIRE WORLDWIDE INDUSTRY IS WORTH \$4.9 BILLION.

INTERNET PORN REVENUES

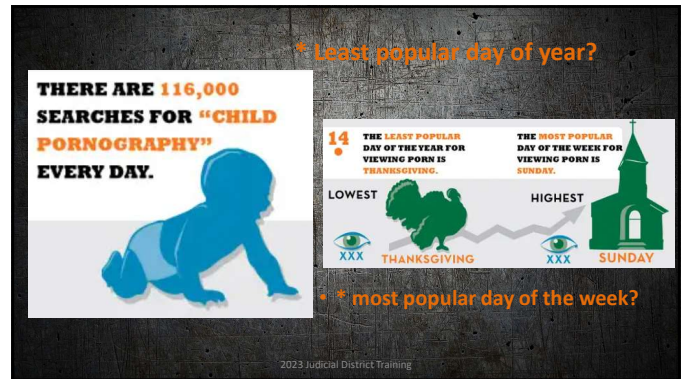
US **\$2.84 BILLION**

WORLDWIDE **\$4.9 BILLION**

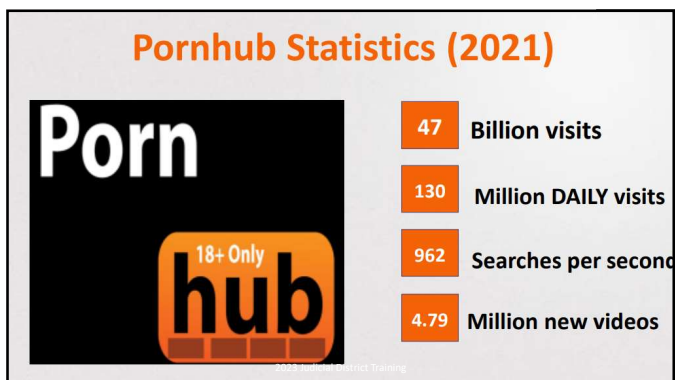
48



49



50



51



52



53



54

Effects on Victims of Child Pornography

- "I couldn't get away from it, not really. I started getting paranoid and having nightmares."
- "It just sat there on the counter for days," Nicole remembered. "We didn't really know where to put it." More arrests followed and more letters — piles of them.
- "We stacked them in a laundry basket in a walk-in closet so I wouldn't have to see them," Nicole said. "Then there were more baskets, and we had to move them to the garage. It was really hard for me. I was still scared of my father, but I knew him. These other people, they were strangers, and there were so many of them."

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Nicole

- "After all these years and going to different counselors, I still haven't learned the trick to let my mind rest," Nicole wrote. "When I do sleep, my dreams are vivid and I remember them for weeks. A common theme is finding myself naked in front of a crowd of people or in an enclosed space and I can't escape or run away fast enough."

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Nicole and Amy

- Judge Emilio Garza 5th circuit [regarding restitution for POCP victims] "It seems to me that we're in this brave new world, where not only was there an actual rape, but I'm going to suggest to you there is a continuing digitized rape," the judge said. "Possession of the digitized recording of the rape contributes to the system, contributes to the economic benefit of those who produced this thing."

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Lily

- Unlike other forms of exploitation, this one is never-ending. Everyday people are trading and sharing videos of me as a little girl being raped in the most sadistic ways. They don't know me, but they have seen every part of me. They are being entertained by my shame and pain.
- The enormity of this has added to my grief and pain, and given me paranoia. I wonder if the people I know have seen these images. I wonder if men I pass in the grocery store have seen them. I feel totally out of control. They are trading around my trauma like treats at a party, and it feels like I'm being raped all over again by every one of them.
- While the abuse from my original abuser was awful, as time goes on, that is farther and farther away from me. He is in jail and can never hurt me, and that is over. The men that download my pictures are all around me for all I know, and this part of my abuse could keep going on forever. I have no control over it at all. This is frightening beyond belief. It impairs my ability to function socially, to have romantic relationships, to participate in social media, and it affects my daily functioning.

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Crimes

- Prosecuted under a variety of federal and state statutes
 - Possession of child pornography
 - Sexual exploitation of a child
 - Threats to communicate derogatory information
 - Sexual assault & attempted sexual assault
 - Revenge porn
- FBI doesn't track data

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The most hated man on the internet



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Crimes

Lessons Learned

- Criminal statutes need to evolve with technology
- Registration does not apply to blackmail statutes
- Consider "attempt" crimes

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62

Cameron Wiley

- 18 year old high school student
- Victim 1 – close friend to Wiley
– Wiley knew she was a lesbian
- Cameron Wiley introduces V1 to "Haley" – from Chicago....



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Cameron Wiley

- <https://wgntv.com/2015/07/06/you-will-address-me-as-master-wisconsin-teen-tells-harrowing-story-of-sex-tortion/>

"Right now you have 30 second to take that towel off and smile for me"

(then he counts down...)

"Think I'm playin!?!"

"I'm gone expose tf outta u hoe, let that phone die! I can't wait!"

"Take the towel off bitch"

"Sitting here playin game with this light hoe"



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give me 5 minutes please. I find a way to send the video...

Bitch fuck the video, worry bout that later

You have 3 minutes to send thos two pics since u like to take forever. If u don't im am start exposing your ass all over the internet and to all your Wauwatosa people or wherever the hell u live

...And if U think I'm fucking around with you just try me!

Your time starts now... when I get home be prepared...

can you please stop threatening me.. that's sexual harassment

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Bitch fuck you. call it what u want IDGAF

I just don't like it alright?

All that teasing an shit smh bitch thts not sexy

I'm not your property

Send me that pussy, I want it fresh, lemme give u your daily check up. You have 1 minute. And I don give a fuck where you are at right now or nothing IDGAF. The lighting better be right and u better not be late, or im am show u what happens to property that doesn't cooperate, put yo ass all over the market bitch.

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"You will address me as Master:" Wauwatosa teen tells harrowing ...
<https://fox6now.com/.../you-will-address-me-as-master-wauwatosa-teen-tells-harrowin...>
 Jul 5, 2015 - The 15-year-old Chicago girl whom Molly knew as 'Haley' was really **Cameron Wiley** of Milwaukee. Wiley knew of Molly through a mutual friend ...

Cameron Wiley #Swave (@CamWileySwave) | Twitter

<https://twitter.com/camwileyswave?lang=en>

The latest Tweets from **Cameron Wiley #Swave (@CamWileySwave)**. I am a upcoming musician. I love music and life. #Swavey. Milwaukee.

Teen who posed as girl sentenced in Wisconsin 'sextortion' case ...

<https://truecrimedaily.com/.../teen-who-posed-as-girl-sentenced-in-wisconsin-sextortio...>

Oct 8, 2015 - Crime Watch Daily affiliate WITI in Milwaukee has the details. ... **Cameron Wiley** was sentenced to a year's probation, ordered to get ...

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Nathan Dankert



- V 13 yr old in Idaho
- Met on drrr.com role playing website
- His avatar started touching her avatar
- D demanded nude photos V said NO
- D threatened to stop talking to V so she sent photos

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Nathan Dankert



- Tumblr.com linked to Victim's Facebook page
- D found V in different chat room and accused cheating on him
- D directed V to record herself as he directed her
- "Who is in charge?" and "Do you wish to hurt me and push me away into an enemy?"
- Search warrant at D's house he described V1 as "blindly, hormonally, unrealized adult-orientated"

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Nathan Dankert

- Facebook messenger return showed other possible victims
- 15,000 Facebook messenger return
- Skype- NCMEC tip
- V2 reported that she knew D via role playing websites
- D demanded nude photos and threatened to hurt himself if V didn't comply
- V2 sent videos of herself in the shower

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Nathan Dankert

- D asked how many other people had "**cry babied**" on him
- D admitted doing "ERT" erotic role playing
- D stored everything on his computer and described it as "What I have is **Pandora's box** on countless parties."
- 23 files on D's computer with nude images of girl 13-15 years old

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Lessons Learned

Identifying Victims

- Cropped photos
- Take an advocate
- Discuss how to approach victim (parental involvement?)

Might not want to cooperate

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73


Discovery Considerations

- Seal search warrants
- Protective Orders
- Sanitized discovery discs
- Pictures stay in police custody and make them available for defense
- Courtroom considerations
 - Public trials
 - Print photos or display on elmo or big screen
 - Alert your courtroom deputies

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Matthew Cullen-Williams



- Local agency requested assistance with warrants.
- Agency believed it was cyberbullying type case involving majority of high school.
- Warrant results

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What Next?

- Warrant returns and analysis.
- What is important?
 - Threats
 - Identification



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Burns: "I'll see u cuz we go to same school"

RYD: "I stopped talking to u take a hint"

RYD: "That's apparently how we broke up"

Burns: "Wtf. No"

Burns: "That's not how it works sweetheart"

RYD: "I dumped you bc im a terrible guy"

RYD: "The. He goes and makes out with some other chick"

Burns: "Most pathetic waste of space and Dna ever"

Wilson: "Are you ready?"

Burns: "We all know he's a horrible person"

Burns: "Yes"

Wilson: "Hide the children"

Burns: "Hidden"

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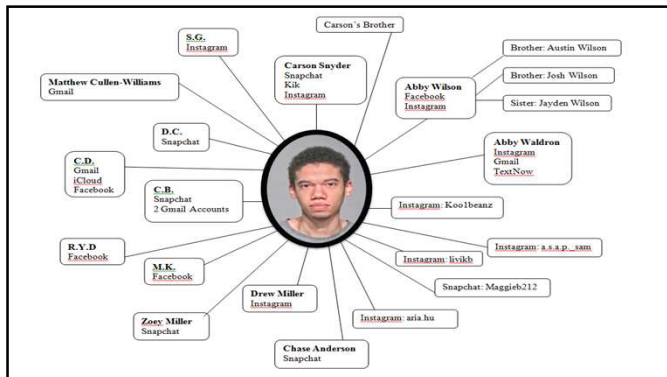
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Matthew Cullen-Williams

- Warrant return and analysis
- Instagram: "I'm a fag because I like to suck people's dicks and catfish guys for nudes because no one actually likes me I should just kill myself and go to hell."
- What is important?
 - Threats
 - Identification of suspect and accomplices
- **At least 16 different social media accounts**

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79

Additional Interview of Victim

- Most threats occurred through TextNow
- Believed entire school was participating
 - Forced to separate from family and friends
 - Person(s) seemed to know where he was at all times and what he was doing
- Took over his iCloud account and would set off his alarm when he did not answer messages
- Limited sleep for over a year
- Forced sex acts

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Victim Two

- Met Cullen-Williams through mutual friend
- Communicated with numerous females online (all later found to be Cullen-Williams)
- Forced to comply with requests or threatened the girls would get in trouble for possession child pornography
- "You're the new C.D"

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Victim Two

Okay this is how its going to work. This is [CD] dick. If you don't stop talking to [CD] 2C I am going to anonymously report that you have been sent a nude picture of [CD] which will lead to you and [CD] getting in trouble for child pornography. Ps: the police can recover this picture even if you block and delete the message. So what is your choice? Never talk to him again or have you both get into trouble? And by the way 2C I've reported people before. After all 2C I am the reason why his last relationship ended :). I recommend you stop talking to him otherwise you and your friends will be getting into some trouble. I'll make sure to add you to my harassment list.

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Additional Victims

- Is it really only one victim?
 - Other victims related to Victim 1
 - Other victims related to Victim 2

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Matthew Cullen-Williams

- CD
- Possession of Child Pornography
- Stalking
- Threats to communicate derogatory information (sextortion)
- Post/distribute intimate representation (revenge porn)
- JS
- Threats to communicate derogatory information (sextortion)

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Prevention

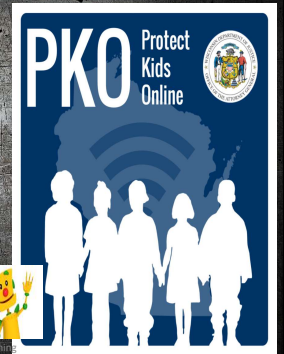
- Problematic porn use. Australian study found:
 - 1. reform sexual education
 - 2. Redress their victimization experiences
 - 3. Help their management of pornography

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Prevention

- School presentations
- Resources to parents
- Teachers
- School Social workers
- School psychologists



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Prevention

- 3000- Public and Private school
 - Ranging from 2nd graders to 9th graders
 - Cyber bullying
 - Cyber safety
 - Longer social media history
 - Impact of words
 - Loss of empathy
 - Naked photos
 - Being a good digital citizen



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Wisdom from Youth

- "You just can't put a portable porn studio in the hands of every teenager in the country and not expect bad things to happen." Quote from author's teenage child

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88

Thank you!!!

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89