

OFFICIAL



**COUNTER
TERRORISM
POLICING**



The Com – Project RHYOBASALT

Rob Richardson – NCA CSA Threat Leadership

OFFICIAL



Com Groups, are online forums sharing extreme materials to induce **OFFICIAL** harm and distress including:

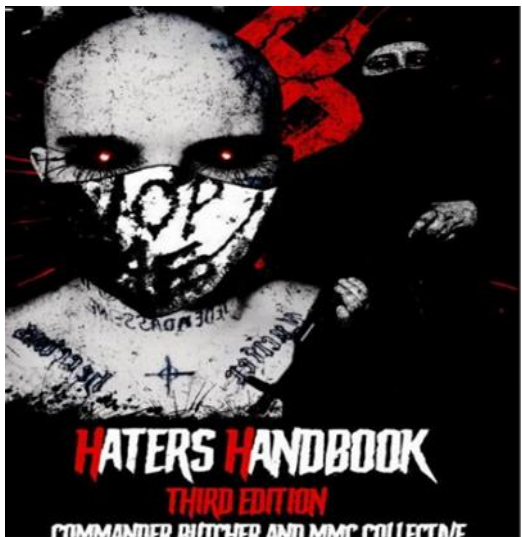
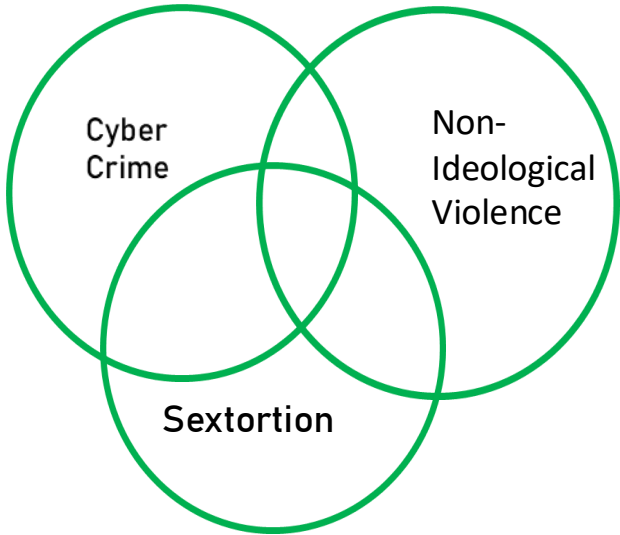
- CSAM,
- ERW Terrorism,
- Occult,
- Misogyny,
- Racism,
- Coerced Self Harm
- Suicide Ideation
- Animal Cruelty,
- Doxxing,
- Swatting,
- Ransomware,
- Malware,
- DDOS



These groups are a sub-culture that share common motivators but differing ideologies and work independently.

These groups will incite their victims to conduct sexual and degrading acts:

- cutting and carving letters and symbols into their bodies,
- abusing/killing familial pets, sexually abusing their siblings/children,
- and in some cases the coercion of suicides

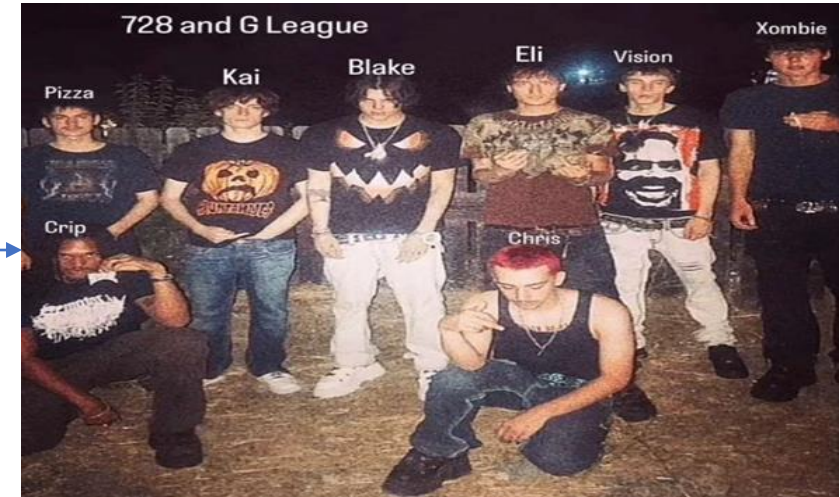
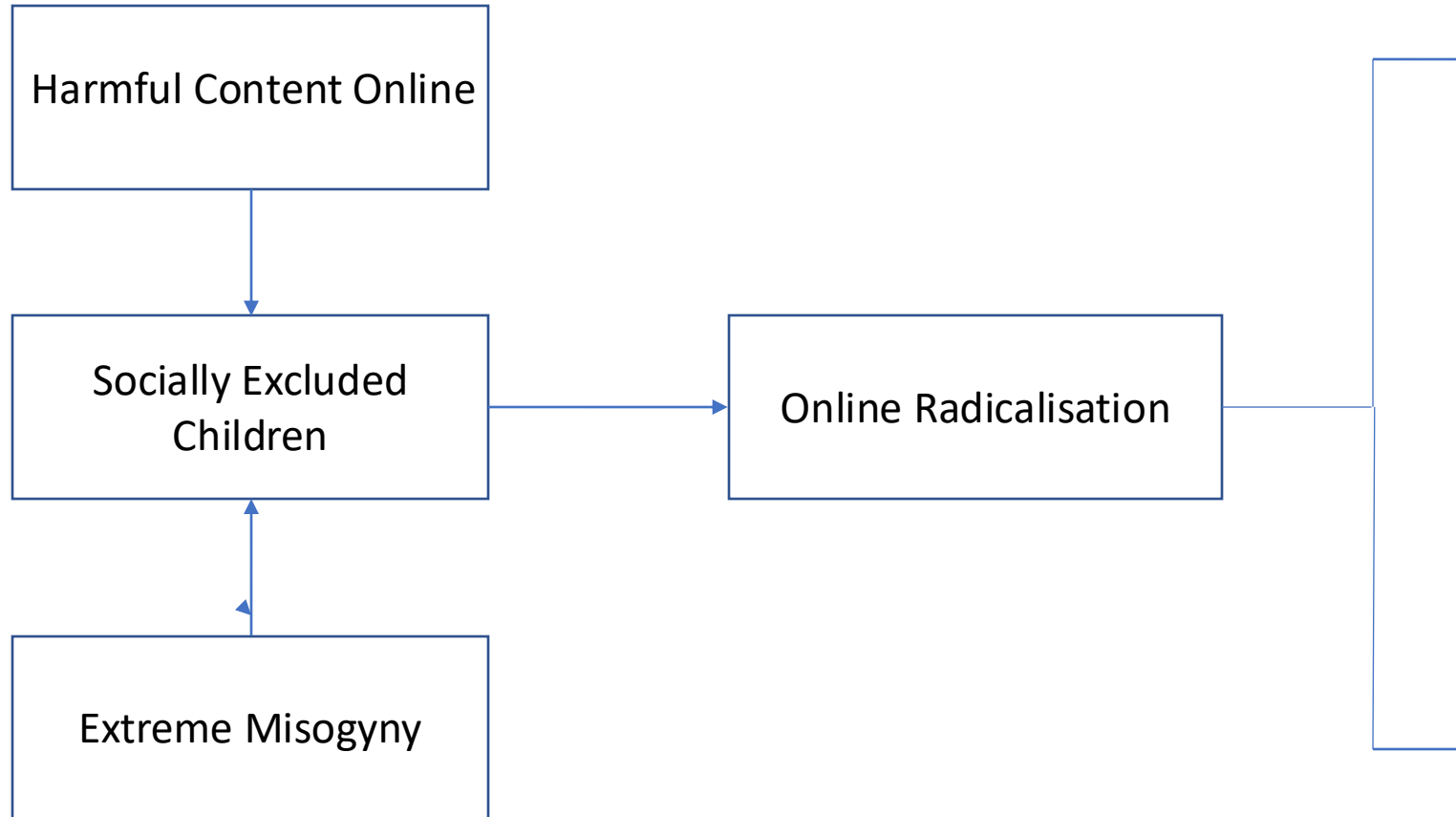


Com Networks – what are they?

Transnational Virtual Networks (TVN) of criminal actors which engage in a variety of illegal acts in furtherance of their own personal gain, development of their infamy, or in furtherance of their ideologies.

The network can broadly be broken down into three identifiable subgroups

- SG1 : A group operating online primarily involved in extorting minors to commit digital and real-world sex crimes, criminal acts against the person, property & animals; and the promotion of self-harm and suicide: (Sextortion Com)
- SG2: A group acting online who hold extremist mind-set who promote a violent Nihilistic world-view encourages damage to property, harm to individuals & potentially acts of terrorism. (Offline Com)
- SG3: A group who have a common purpose to conduct criminal activities that maliciously use digital technologies that target UK commerce/infrastructure by means of Network Intrusions/Ransomware etc. (Cyber Com)



The Role of Ideology

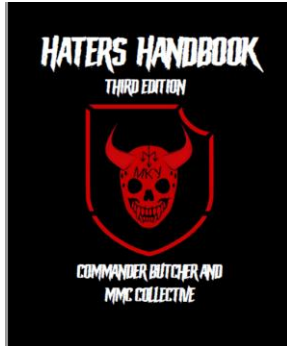
- Ideology presents and manifests itself differently and the push and pull factors differ from community to community.
- ...this does not mean that ideology is not present; however, ideology plays a tertiary role within the network in the majority of instances.
- ...ideology manifests itself quite differently within this network....we are dealing with youths who are in their formative years seeking to construct their own identity and meaning in the world...in the majority of cases there is a lack of depth of knowledge of the ideologies they claim to uphold.
- ...those who are part of Offline Com and focused on carrying out "IRL" (in real life) violence, may attribute more importance to ideology, but chasing that clout will still be the primary driver and motivator. "

Marc-Andre Argentino 2024
Concordia University, Montreal,

(research specialisms include: nihilistic violence, use of technology by violent extremists, occultism and radicalisation)

The Role of Sexual Motivation

- CSAM is frequently mobilised as a form of leverage, a symbolic currency, or a bonding tool within communities defined by cruelty and transgression.
- Victims are groomed into sharing **intimate images** which are then **weaponised** through sextortion, doxing, or the creation of “LoreBooks”.
- The illicit nature of CSAM enhances its value within these networks: **its possession and circulation not only confer status but also mark participation in a shared rejection of social and legal norms.**
- CSAM is consumed and exchanged alongside gore, bestiality, suicide content, and violent misogynistic memes, forming part of a repertoire of transgression.
- **Its value derives not only from its sexualised content but also from its power to shock, to humiliate, and to mark membership in a community organised around harm.**



“This holds true to only girls with BPD and NPD. This is the trick I mostly use. The trick I use to get girls to cut my name on their body. My one go to trick with which I have over 200+ female slaves in my cult.

Be a bully.

Find a void in the girls life. It can be anything ranging from daddy issues to body image issues. Once you do, bully her using it and exploit that void. For example if she has daddy issues, just bully her about how she got molested as a child by her dad. Break her down, break her self esteem and ego down to dust. She should be nothing but a mere soulless body once you are done with it. She will have given up.

That’s when you be the “nice guy” and offer her a shoulder to cry on. She will then develop intense Stockholm syndrome and be attached to you. This is because she knows what brutality you are capable of yet still choose to be calming and nice towards her.

This will make (her) open up and hence you can use her to do your dirty work for you. This only would work if you are a true Machiavellian, and not shackled by morals and ethics because obviously it would require you to be cunning and heartless to manipulate a girl like this.

This has worked for me all the time, I had one who was hesitant to send me nudes and cut for me because she had a boyfriend. 30 minutes of constant torture and she was my pet, barking on my order. “

764

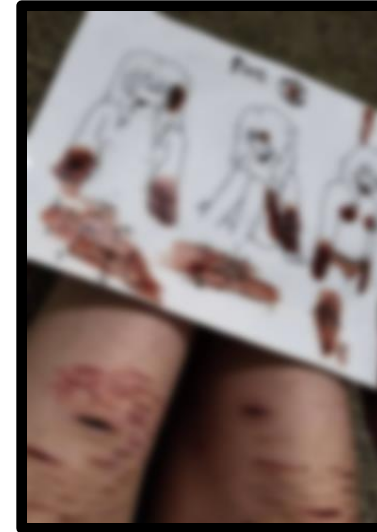
The original 764 group was initially founded by Bradley Cadenhead, a young individual from the United States, who, despite his age, became the central figure in the formation of this decentralised criminal network.

Cadenhead, used the first three digits of his hometown's ZIP code (Stephenville, Texas ZIP code 76401) to name the group.

With the aid of an unidentified associate met on Minecraft, Cadenhead started 764, incorporating a Discord-based group known as CVLT, a community notorious for forcing children to perform sexual acts on camera, subsequently using the recordings for sexual extortion.

He was arrested in July 2021 on child sexual abuse charges.

He was sentenced to 80 years in prison for possession with intent to promote child pornography.





Vincent CHARLTON

aka *Vinny,*
southernhostility,
Mistafrvst



- Fixated on gore, violence and death websites from the age of 12 – At 16 years old, this fixation led him into the 'Com' Network where he became affiliated to several groups, one of them being 764.
- He befriended vulnerable teenage females and encouraged them to send indecent images of themselves to him. He also shared sexual images of himself and engaged in sexually explicit conversations with them.
- He obtained power and control over a 13-year-old US female victim and manipulated her into self-harming and cut his username into her body.
- When arrested, 939 documents had been uploaded onto his devices including IIOC, bomb making manuals and assassination techniques. He claimed he was going to blow up a school and shared a manual on how to build a pipe bomb.
- In March 20204, CHARLTON (now 17 years old) pled guilty to:
 - Provide service re obtaining/reading/looking at/listen to/ acquire a terrorist publication
 - Possess a document containing information useful to a terrorism x 4
 - Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children
 - Possessing an indecent photograph or pseudo photo of a child
- And was sentenced to 40 months detention compromising 28 months custodial and 1 years extended licence and a 10-year CT Notification.



Cameron FINNEGAN

aka ACID



- Was arrested on the 26th March 2024, for making comments online that he was going to kill a homeless person.
- Devices confirmed that he was affiliated with the 'com' network and was a member of the group No Lives Matter and 764.
- No Lives Matter encourage members to commit 'real world' crimes such as vandalism, arson, assaults and murders.
- He engaged with vulnerable females online and encouraged one of his victims, who was based in Italy, to commit suicide.
- Evidence was recovered of him having spray painted his username and group name (ACID and 764) onto buildings and had damaged cars by stabbing their tyres.
- He was a member of a group titled 764 Terror Week, where members were going to commit acts of terror on behalf of the group. FINNIGAN claimed he was going to murder a homeless man and shared pictures of a tent that his victim was staying in.
- In January 2025, he pled guilty and was sentenced to 6 years for:
 - 1 x count of Sec. 58 (NLM Kill Guide); 1 x possession indecent images of a child; 2 x counts of criminal damage; 1 x encouraging / assisting a suicide

Scale

100's

Active
Offenders

OFFICIAL
Pursue Response

- disrupt through arrest and platform takedown
- RHYOBASALT Intelligence & Coordination Cell
- Regional Threat Leads

1,000's

Young people at the cusp
of offending – lurking on
com platforms

Prevent offering

- people we are concerned about but do not meet the arrest threshold
- What is in our playbook?
- RHYOBASALT COM PREVENT PLAN
SECONDARY PREVENTION

10,000's

Young people at risk of offending

Universal education and prevent
service
Cross HMG

PRIMARY PREVENTION

Prevent Strategy



Understanding Criminal Pathways

NABS+
Network Plus for Analytical
Behavioural Science

NAC
Assessment

Academic Research

- **CEOP Education Products**
- **Strat Comms Campaigns**
- Oct 26 – Pre Teen Females
- March 27 – Adolescent Boys

Online Safeguarding Through Awareness Raising

