



## Cyber Offences

#### Issues & Challenges in Investigation

BVS Saikrishna

CEO – Pinaca Group.





- Hackers, State Backed & Organised Crime Cartel
- Financial Specialists (Money Mules, Launderers)
- Dark Web Marketplaces
- Intermediary Networks (Exchanges, Washers & Fraud Rings)





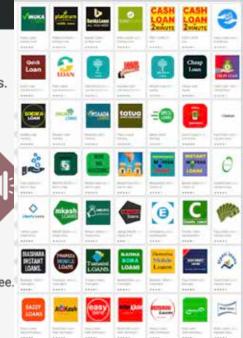
#### Fake Loan Apps.

#### Fake Loan Apps

- This scam involves fake apps offering significant loans with flexible repayment options.
- Users are duped into sharing personal details and paying transactional fees for obtaining loans.
- The loan agents resort to blackmailing and pressuring defaulting users.
- Several of these apps are distributed through the official Google Play store.

#### Modus Operandi of Fake Loan App Scams

- · These Chinese-originated fake loan apps exploit India's UPI systems.
- They pose as instant loan apps and trick users with promises of large loans and simple repayments.
- To obtain the loan, victims must provide personal information and pay 5-10% of the loan amount as a fee.
- Scammers use Chinese payment gateways that are easier to use and face limited regulatory scrutiny.
- · Funds are moved out of India through sophisticated methods that are hard to track.









#### Fake Loan Apps.

- The apps misuse KYC details such as Aadhaar and PAN to open fake bank and crypto exchange accounts.
- They gain full access to the device's contacts, gallery, SMS, and location.
- This data is then used for money laundering and phishing scams and sold on the Dark web.
- The data is used to fabricate information, manipulate images, or message close contacts during the blackmail

process to embarrass and pressure users into submitting to predatory terms.

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### Multiple Cyber Scams.

- Several illegal marketplaces and carding sites on the Dark Web were also uncovered during our investigation.
- · These sites distribute scam pages and clones to popular e-commerce sites in exchange for cryptocurrency.
- Some hackers even provide tutorial videos and live classes to scammers on how to setup and deploy these sites.

#### Amazon FUD Scam page 2020

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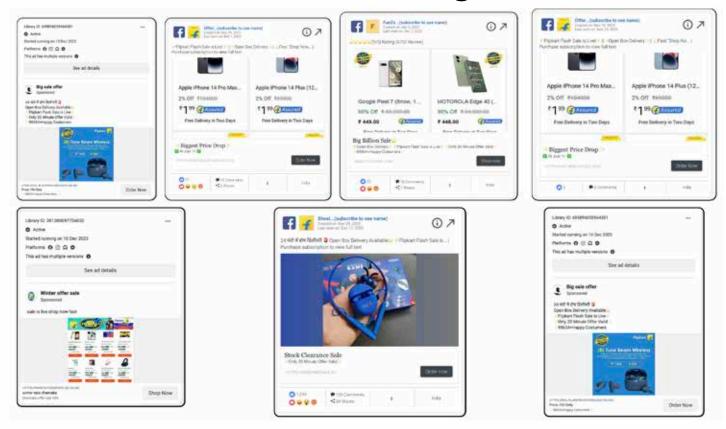
#### Amazon FUD Scam page 2020

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#### Fake Advertisements : Digital Platforms





#### Cybercrime Income Sources.

- **Ransomware Payments** : Cryptocurrency ransoms.
- Data Theft & Sale : Selling personal/financial data on dark web.
- Fraud & Phishing: Stolen credit cards, fake invoices.
- Botnets & DDoS-for-Hire: Offering cyberattacks as a service.
- **Cryptojacking**: Illegally mining cryptocurrency.
- Malware-as-a-Service: Selling hacking tools.





### Cybercrime : Laundering.

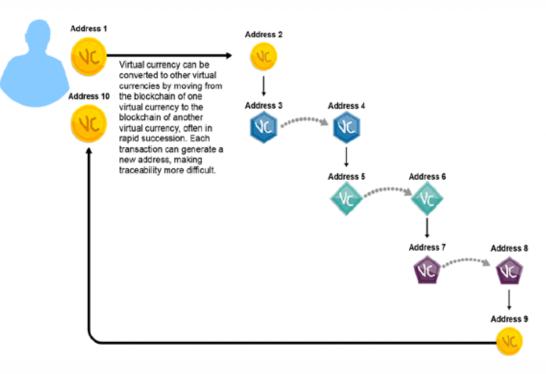
- Cryptocurrency Tumbling & Mixing Services
- Cash-Out via Gift Cards & Prepaid Cards
- Money Mules & Social Engineering
- Exploiting Online Gambling & Casinos
- Shell Companies & Fake Businesses
- Peer-to-Peer Crypto Transfers







# Blockchain Hopping to avoid detection.



- Mixing Services.
- Privacy Coins.
- Private Chain Theft.
- Weak KYC Regimes.

Axie Infinity Ronin Bridge Hack. 173mn USD. ETH->BNB Chain->WTH->USDD-> BTTC

6/9 Private Keys stolen. Coins Rotated through Tornado Cash.



### Using ML for evaluation of Scam Content.

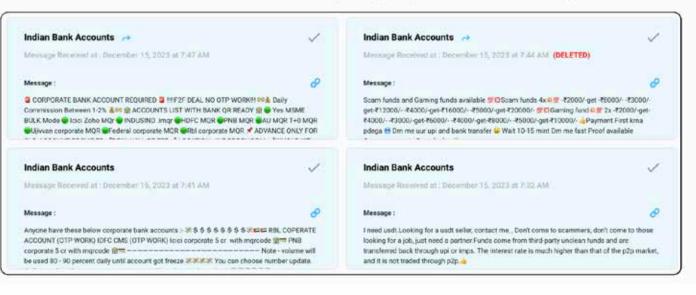
- Illegal Betting & Investment Scams:
- We identify URLs & phone numbers linked to fraudulent websites involved in illegal betting and fake investment schemes, providing IB with the data needed to investigate and take down these scams.
- Fraudulent Google Ads:
- We track fake custom er care num bers and scam s, such as work-from -hom e job offers and recruitm ent frauds, that impersonate legitim ate companies, often tricking victim s into revealing personal information or making payments.
- Telegram and WhatsApp Monitoring:
- We continuously gather data about Telegram channels, WhatsApp groups, and profiles that are involved in scams and fraud activities to help in identifying key actors in fraudulent networks.
- UPI & Bitcoin Wallet Intelligences
- We provide intelligence on UPI IDs and BTC wallets involved in financial fraud or scam activities, assisting in tracking funds and shutting down fraud mechanisms.





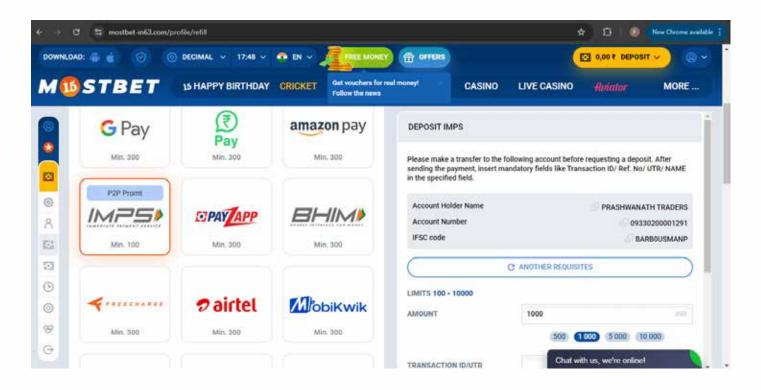


- Scammers launder money using mules with accounts in smaller banks with limited investigative resources.
- Mules receive a 1-2% transaction fee for their services in the laundering scheme.
- Over 20 Telegram channels have been identified for recruiting mules, some sending hundreds of messages daily.
- · Scammers promise high commissions and require accounts in banks like PNB, Yes Bank, and IndusInd Bank.
- · Mules must have a verified KYC details, sometimes requiring corporate accounts or high-limit bank accounts.





### **Tracking IFNs**





#### Money Mule Accounts.

#### DEPOSIT IMPS

Please make a transfer to the following account before requesting a deposit. After sending the payment, insert mandatory fields like Transaction ID/ Ref. No/ UTR/ NAME in the specified field.

Account Holder Name	🕒 ALEX BABU
Account Number	🕒 1185155000274802
IFSC code	C KVBL0001185

**C** ANOTHER REQUISITES

#### DEPOSIT IMPS

Please make a transfer to the following account before requesting a deposit. After sending the payment, insert mandatory fields like Transaction ID/ Ref. No/ UTR/ NAME in the specified field.

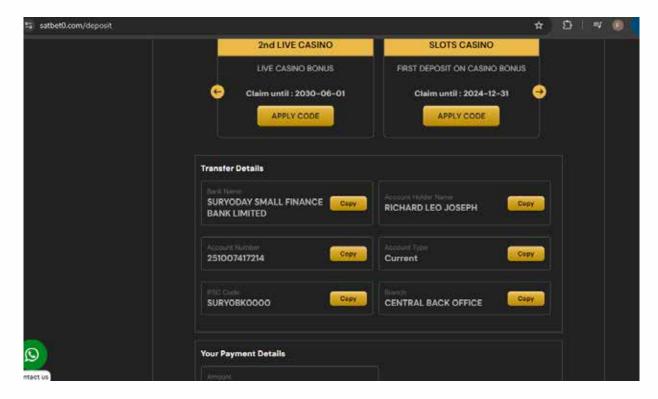
Account Holder Name	🕒 muthulakshmi
Account Number	C 60509483404
IFSC code	🕒 mahb0002187

C ANOTHER REQUISITES

1



### Money Mule Operators



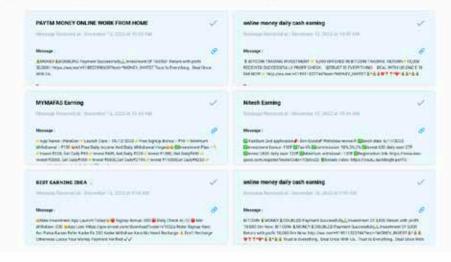






### Fake Investment Scams : Pig Butchering.

- Victims are enticed by high-return promises via fake websites and companies using apps and online payment gateways.
- Personal and banking details are collected through apps for online payments, with fraudulent returns promised.
- Research monitoring 218 Telegram channels shows a surge in investment scams.







# Suspicious UPI IDs from Fraudulent Groups.

	UPI_ID *	SOURCE_SITES *	GATEWAYS 👻	VPA DOMAIN -	FIRST_SEEN *
2	simaxinternational363.94078330@sbi	bdg85kt.xyz,55clubpay.com	cash.sp-upi.com	sbi	2024-04-27 12:44:27
3	vaishubeautyparlour3242@sbi	oko888.com.9987up.co, intbdg.com,82bet.com,okwin.one.55clubpay.com	www.gotovppay.cc.www.gotovppay.com.www.tasigotop	sbi	2024-04-27 12:39:31
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40	singh860@sbi	B2bet.com	www.gotorastpay.com.www.gotovppay.cc,www.gotovpp	sbi	2024-04-27 11 24:44



## Tracking of threats FY 24.

The following data was gathered by analyzing 100K+ Telegram messages, providing deep insights into coordinated scam operations:

- 93,210 fake Google ads targeting customer care and job scams.
- 80,839 WhatsApp phone numbers involved in fraud and scam activities.
- **45,548 URLs of scam** websites, involving illegal betting and fraudulent investment schemes.
- 9,751 Telegram channels mentioned in channels promoting scam activities.
- 595 WhatsApp URLs (profiles and groups) connected to fraudulent activities.
- **1,685 scam related phone** numbers identified across platforms.
- **48 UPI IDs** associated with fraudulent transactions.
- **125 Bitcoin wallets** involved in scam operations.





#### Challenges.

#### Technical & Legal Challenges:

- Anonymity of blockchain transactions.
- Domestic jurisdiction issues.
- Advanced money laundering techniques.
- Concept of Organised Crime
- Regulatory Efforts:
  - Anti-money laundering (AML) policies.
  - Blockchain analytics & tracing tools.
  - Better Forensics.
  - Collaborative global law enforcement efforts.







# Challenges in Forensics: Mobile Forensics.

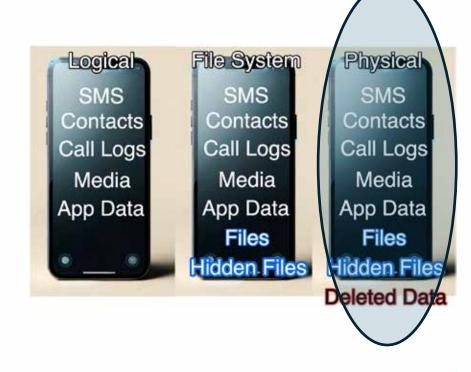






#### **Mobile Forensics**

- Several commercial tools are available when you need to perform forensic acquisition and analysis of mobile devices. Some of the most popular vendors include the following:
  - Belkasoft
  - Cellebrite
  - Magnet Forensics
  - MSAB
  - Oxygen Forensics



1.





#### Cocoa Touch Media (Application Layer) **Core Services** Core OS











### Applications Application Framework iillin. Android Runtime Linux Kernel

### Android Running







### Finding Bugs.

- Checkm8 is a jailbreak exploit for iOS devices that uses a boot ROM vulnerability. This security flaw is hardware-based, meaning it can't be patched through iOS updates. It grants you access to the operating system's core, bypassing restrictions and installing software not sanctioned by Apple.
- The Checkm8 exploit is compatible with several Apple devices. It affects devices with chipsets A5 to A11, including iPhones from the 4S to the X, several iPad models, several Apple TV iterations, and some iPod touch models.







### Troubles from Apple & Android.

- Apple's USB Restricted Mode (introduced in iOS 11.4.1) is designed to protect user privacy, but as a forensic examiner, it creates a major obstacle.
- After one hour of the phone being locked, USB data transfer is blocked, hindering your ability to extract data.
- Similar limitations from Android as well.



#### Apple Is Suing the Company Cofounded by the Hacker Who Helped FBI Unlock the San Bernardino Shooter's iPhone



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Apple has settled its copyright lawsuit against Corellium, a company that sells virtual iPhone environments for security testing. Apple and Corellium agreed to a last-minute settlement yesterday, just days before a trial scheduled for August 16th. The terms of the settlement are confidential, but Corellium confirmed to <u>The Washington Post</u> that it would continue to offer virtual iOS systems.

ellium for copyright violation. As part of the lawsuit, Apple ang to divulge information about hacking techniques that ided governments and agencies like the FBI.

Apple subpoenaed Azimuth, Corellium's first customer, according to court documents. Apple wanted client lists from Azimuth, which is now owned by L3 Harris, a major U.S. government contractor, that might show malign entities. L3 and Azimuth said they were "highly-sensitive and a matter of national security," according to court documents.



#### Cellebrite

- With Cellebrite Universal Forensics Extraction Device (UFED) (<u>https://cellebrite.com</u>), you gain access to a vast array of mobile devices.
- This tool lets you gather digital evidence from smartphones, SIM cards, and SD cards. Throughout the acquisition process, the integrity of the data is preserved.
- There are several methods for data acquisition, such as full file system (FFS) and physical extractions, which ensure that you have the flexibility and resources needed.









# **Coud Forensics**

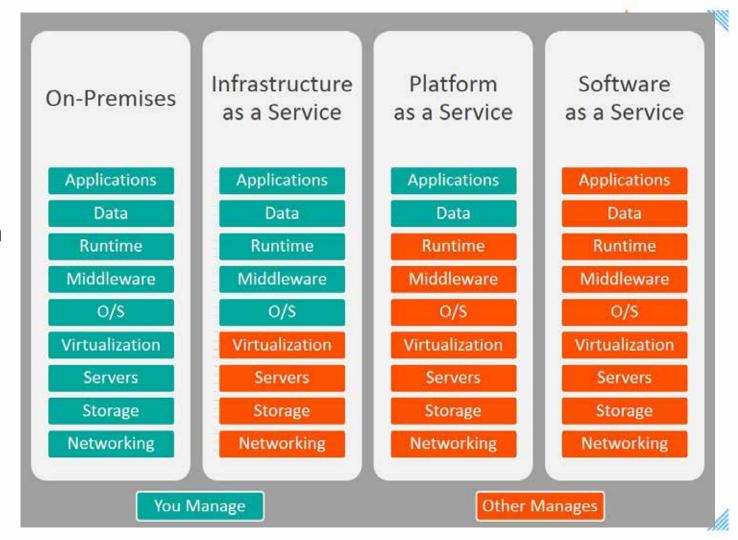
Applications for Income Tax : Brief Background.







Master Sheet on Cloud based offerings.



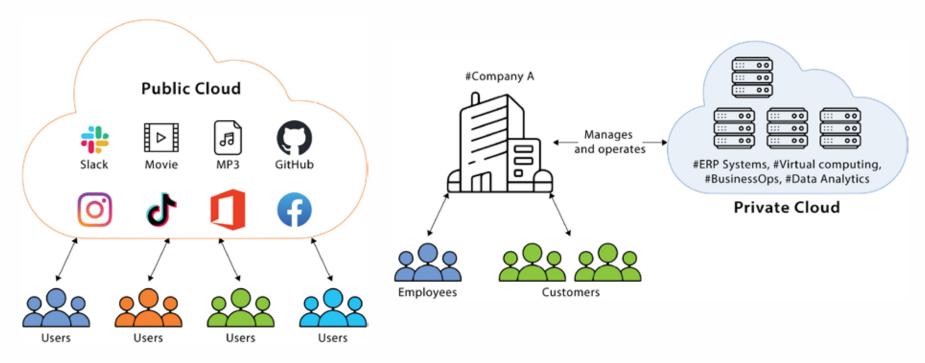






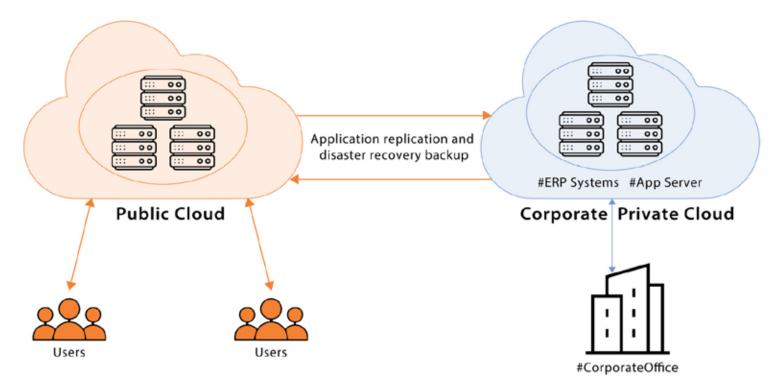
#### Public Cloud

#### **Private Cloud**



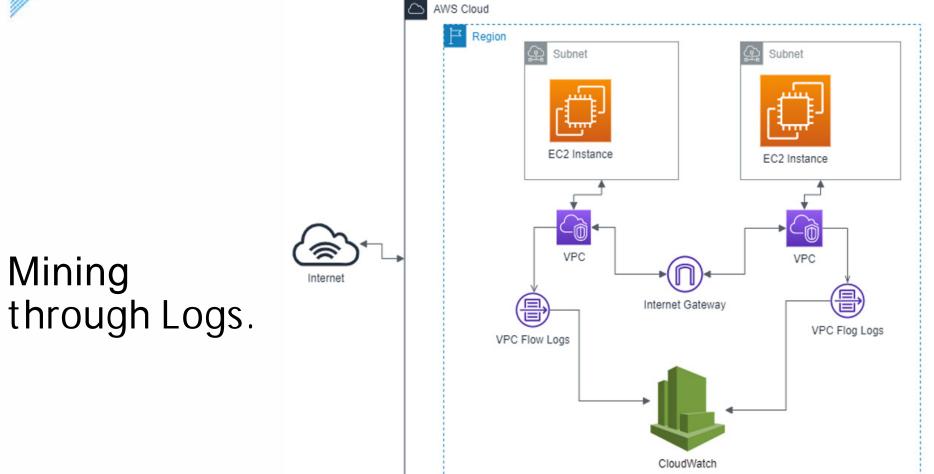


#### Hybrid Goud



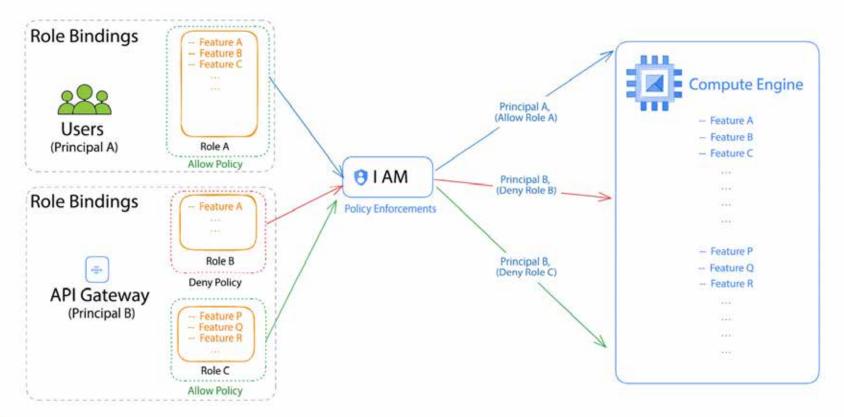








#### Complex Linkages.









# Current Threats in Cybersecurity.

- Phishing
- Ransomware
- Insider threats
- Sophisticated fraud schemes
- State Actors
- Activists



### Defending from the APT Groups.

<b>Top Threat Types</b> Jul 10 - Jul 09)	Past Year •
DDoS Attack	6744
Ransomware Attack	5441
Data Leak	3372
Website Defacement	529
Cyber Attack	268





#### **Top Affected Countries**

(Jul 10 - Jul 09)

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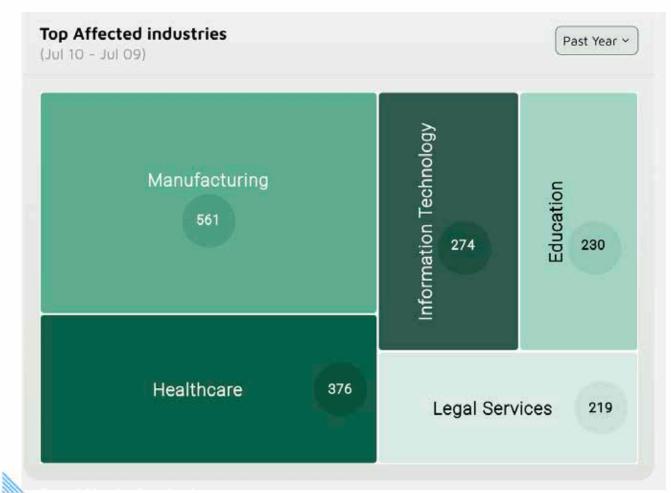




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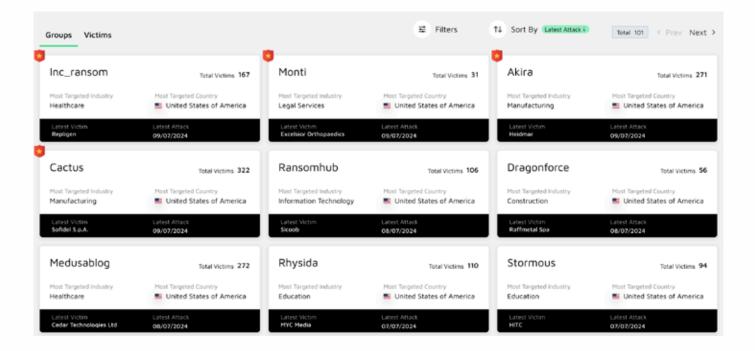


Based on tracking of the APT Groups activities by the Saptang Labs Threat Intel Team.





## Current Active Ransomware Groups.





# Most Dangerous Ransomware Groups.

Groups Victims			⊯ Filte	rs 14 Sort By TetalVic	tena I Total 101 C Prev Next
Lockbit3	Total Victims 1.9K	Alphy	Total Victima 741	Blackbasta	Total Victims 556
Most Targeted industry Manufacturing	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Hest Targeted Industry Legal Services	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Host Targeted industry Manufacturing	Most Targeted Country United States of America
Letest Victim Competenz	Latest Attack 27/06/2024	Latest Victim Infraestructura Portuaria Mexicana, S.A De C.V.	Latest Attack 03/03/2024	Latest Victim Henry Lembertz GmbH & Co KG	Latest Artack 30/06/2024
Clop	Total Victims 510	Play	Total Victims 413	8base	Total Victims 398
Host Targeted Industry Software	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Hest Targeted industry Manufacturing	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Host Targeted industry Menufacturing	Most Targeted Country United States of America
Lahest Victori NEW JEIRIQY OBAL AND MAXILLOFA SURGERY ASSOCIATES, PC	Latest Attack CBAL 12/06/2024	Latest Victim Deria Foundry and Hodge Foundry	Latest Attack 05/07/2024	Latest Victors LCS & Partners	Latest Affack 21/06/2024
Bianlian	Total Victims 327	Cactus	Total Victims 322	Medusablog	Total Victima 272
lost Targeted Industry lealthcare	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Hest Targeted Industry Manufacturing	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Host Targeted industry Healthcare	Most Targeted Country United States of America
Latest Victim Island Transportation Corp.	Latest Attack 05/07/2024	Latest Victim Sofidel S.p.A.	Latest Attack 09/07/2024	Latest Victim Cedar Technologies Utd	Latest Attack 06/07/2024
Akira	Total Victims 271	Clop_torrents	Total Victims 236	Hive	Total Victims 201
tost Targeted Industry Hanuflacturing	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Most Targeted Industry Finance	Most Targeted Country United States of America	Most Targeted industry Healthcare	Most Targeted Country United States of America
Letest Victim Heidmar	Latest Attack 09/07/2024	Latest Victim Arietis Health	Latest Attack 20/10/2023	Latest Victim R C Stevens Construction	Latest Attack 12/01/2023





# Challenges to Investigation.





# Cyberspace

Disruptor-in-chief.

- Underlying basis for all transformations.
- A **global** domain within the **information environment** consisting of the **interdependent** networks of information technology infrastructures and resident data, including the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers.
- Implications : Information Revolution.
  - Global, Anonymous, Rapid & Cheap Communication Framework
  - Form Groups, Coordinate, Cleanup at will.
  - Secured Encrypted Communications & Financial Networks.

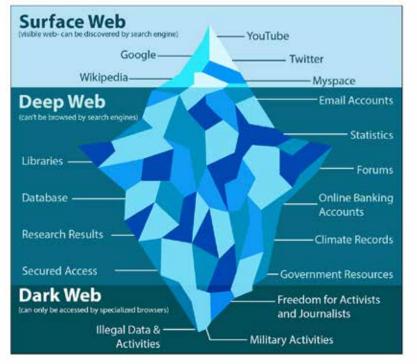




FEATURES	SURFACE WEB	DEEP WEB	DARK WEB
Accessibility	Freely accessible	Requires login credentials and a website's exact URL	Requires a special browser and a website's exact URL
Browser- friendliness	Can be visited using any browser	Can be visited using any browser	Can only be visited using a special browser
Search engine- friendliness	Can be found on a search engine (for example, Google, Yahoo, Bing, and others)	Can't usually be found on search engines	Can't be found on search engines at all
Examples	Google, Facebook, Amazon, VPNOverview	Confidential databases and employee pages of corporations, universities, and organizations	Black markets, Tor-exclusive email services

### http://3g2upl4pq6kufc4m.onion

the hostname is randomly generated from the Tor software to create a hidden service .onion is a domain suffix reachable only via the Tor network



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# Challenges to Traditional Investigations

- Anonymous VOIP communications: WhatsApp, Telegram & Signal.
- Fintech, Crypto Challenge : Banks & Financial Intermediaries have no clue.
- Cloud/Complex ERP Solutions : Tough to discover & no ready-made audit solutions.
- Availability of expertise for extraction of anti-forensic solutions: Secret Apps





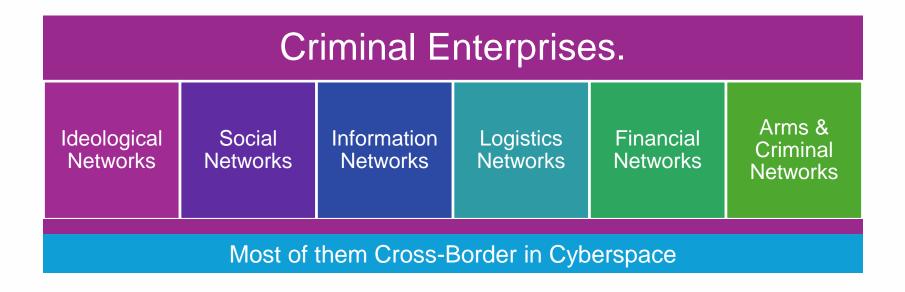
# Quick Situational Analysis.

- Unable to Observe.
  - Cartels or Groups gone underground.
  - Coordination of the activities is invisible.
  - Impact of the adversarial actions is too quick to notice.
  - Post-mortem data collected is too large to analyze for lessons.
- Unable to Orient on what limited data we see.
  - Old Systems and conclusions based on limited observations are indecisive and curtail operations limiting exposure and solutions.
  - Institutional Capabilities to counter are not growing fast enough Operational and financial autonomy.
  - Agility is missing mechanisms for co-opting technological solutions is too slow or non-existent.
  - New Technological advances are being adapted by adversaries with out our knowledge.





## Comprehensive Nature of Crime.









# Challenges in Forensics.

- Technology to acquire data is fast falling behind.
  - Most of the Platforms (Apple/Android) are closing doors available for forensic analysis.
  - Most of the popular platforms like Cloud etc. require a totally different approach.

#### Frequent Updates to Software

- Most of the anti-malware and anti-backdoor features of the operating systems are also making forensics difficult and fast changing field.
- These changes also make forensics a very expensive, time consuming and complex job.

#### Unfavorable Legal Consequences

- Companies like Apple and others are suing forensic operators.
- Lack of Financial Support for the Forensics
  - Forensic Products and Software Building is a highly qualified job and not well paid.





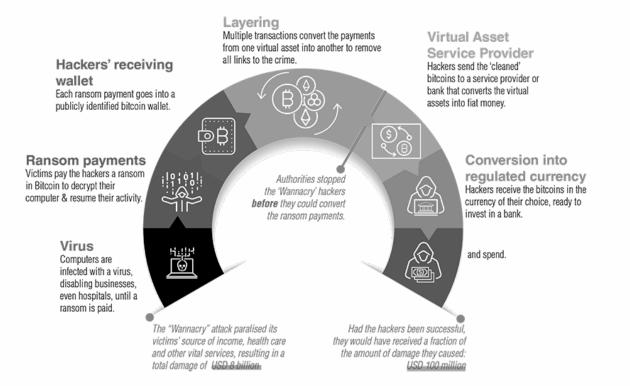


## Case Study: Bit coin Tracking.





# Bit coin: Challenges - Dark Web Markets.





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### Darkweb Market Volumes

ENTITY	INCOMING TXS	OUTGOING TXS	VOLUME Rx	Volume \$	VOLUME SENT	BALANCE (\$)	Balance \$
AGORA MARKET	9,27,433	2,18,801	7,15,297.00	35,76,48,49,969	-715,190.50107668 B	106.4983113	53,24,916
BLACK BANK MARKET	54,569	24,678	40,214.14	2,01,07,07,221	-40,210.70776257 B	3.43666386	1,71,833
BLUE SKY MARKETPLACE	39,657	20,116	11,841.62	59,20,81,037	-11,838.67577739 B	2.94496109	1,47,248
CANNABIS ROAD	8,182	4,033	1,672.78	8,36,38,998	-1,672.74260709 B	0.03734735	1,867
EVOLUTION MARKET	79,804	4,102	17,344.38	86,72,19,106	-17,326.10993625 B	18.27218345	9,13,609
HYDRA MARKET	75,22,150	6,91,254	4,73,121.74	23,65,60,87,090	-472,530.60143079 B	591.1403707	2,95,57,019
MIDDLE EARTH MARKETPLACE	1,06,675	36,178	1,62,745.85	8,13,72,92,323	-162,745.84315319 B	0.00330245	165
PANDORA OPENMARKET	77,869	30,910	22,879.23	1,14,39,61,730	-	0	-
SHEEP MARKETPLACE	66,539	21,462	65,255.79	3,26,27,89,548	-65,236.11638139 B	19.67457546	9,83,729
SILK ROAD	7,92,534	1,63,762	58,74,694.75	2,93,73,47,37,324	-5,874,601.98756129 B	92.75891157	46,37,946
SILK ROAD 2	5,09,394	1,50,800	2,02,029.08	10,10,14,53,953	-201,850.35427714 B	178.7247887	89,36,239



### Moving into Crypto: ISIS & AI-Qassam Brigade.



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# Bit coin Tracking: Examples.

There are 2 blockchains with result(s) to your search 115p7UMMngoj1pMvkpHijcRdfJNXj6LrLn :

BTC Address

BCH Address

Wallet can be on one more blockchains.







Not very friendly for analysis and investigators.



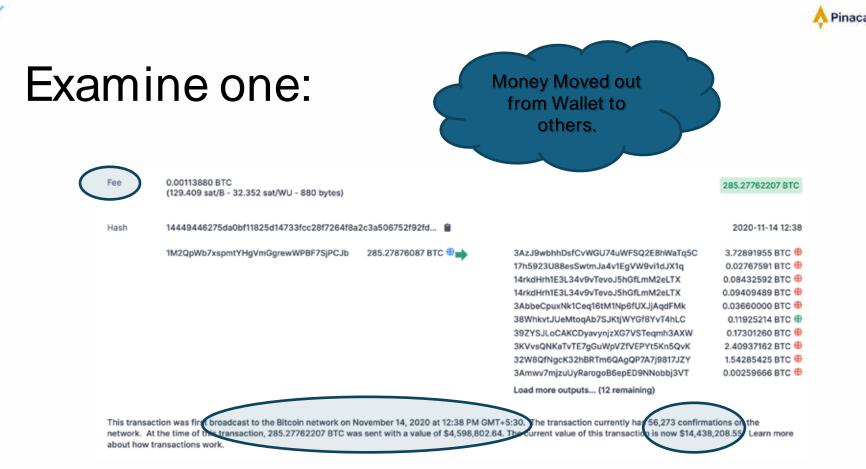
This address has transacted 124 times on the Bitcoin blockchain. It has received a total of 14.87769994 BTC (\$752,341.04 (\$728,724.40). The current value of this address is 0.46702392 BTC (\$23,616.64).



Address	115p7UMMngoj1pMvkpHijcI		
Format	BASE58 (P2PKH)		
Transactions	124		
Total Received	14.87769994 BTC		
Total Sent	14.41067602 BTC		
Final Balance	0.46702392 BTC		

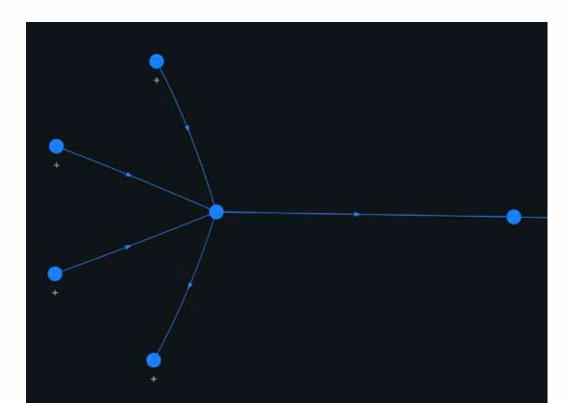








# Bit coin Tracking: Examples.

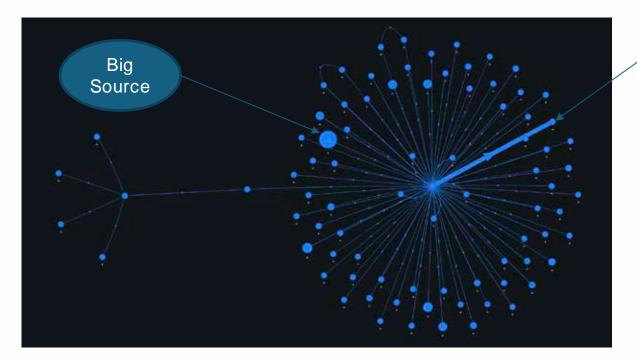


Oxt.me visualization tool.





# Bit coin Tracking: Wannacry.



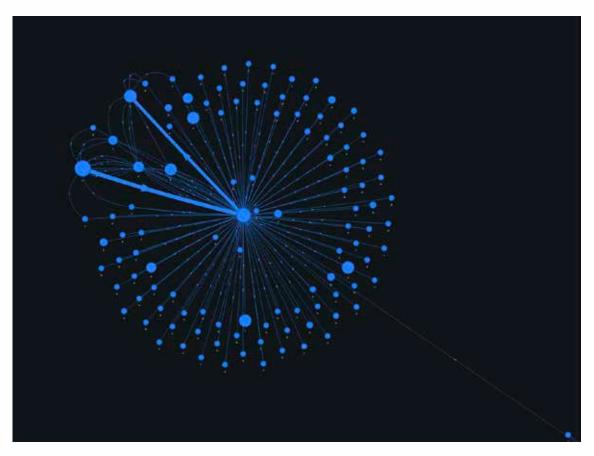






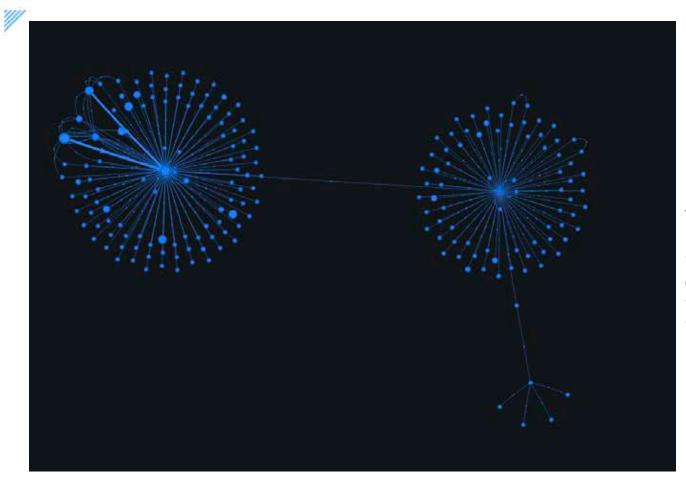






#### **Big Source: Analysis**

- Rotation between two more wallets.
- Accumulation and transfer.



We discovered many more transactions connected with the group from this one lead.





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# Summary of Wannacry.

ADDRESS	INCOMING TXS			VOLUME SENT		ACTIVE TILL
13JfxwBKfL8VcXgjEuVFKRjh44EvL3Lee4	1	1	0.03848800 Đ	_	0.0000000 B	476632
115p7UMMngoj1pMvkpHijcRdfJNXj6LrLn	122	2	14.87769994 B	-14.41067602 B	0.46702392 B	656858
12t9YDPgwueZ9NyMgw519p7AA8isjr6SMw	236	2	19.68879051 B	-17.77113037 B	1.91766014 B	712304
13AM4VW2dhxYgXeQepoHkHSQuy6NgaEb94		2	20.07353352 B	-19.74510304 B	0.32843048 B	685156
15zGqZCTcys6eCjDkE3DypCjXi6QWRV6V1	15	2	1.71956125₿	-1.54379193 B	0.17576932 ₿	643271
1QAc9S5EmycqjzzWDc1yiWzr9jJLC8sLiY	12	2	3.25249956 B	-	0.00000000 B	476632



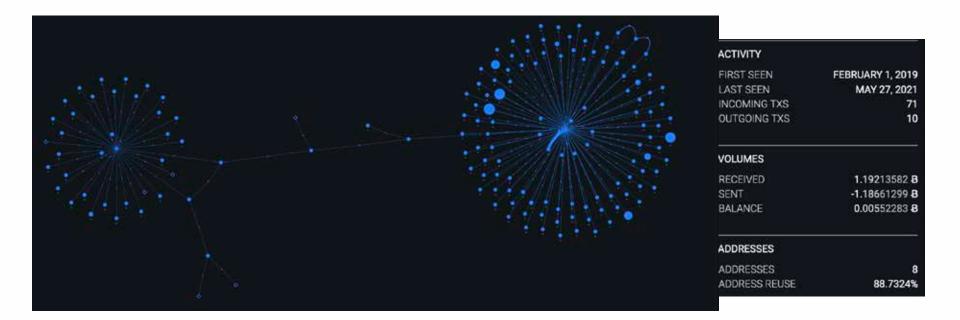


### Wannacry: Business Profits.

Campaign	Bitcoin	Bitcoin-USD	USD-INR
Wannacry Campaign	59.65057278 B	29,82,529	21,47,42,062
Estimated Software Dev			
Cost			1,50,00,000
Partner & Affiliate Cost			
(30%)			6,44,22,619
Profit for the Operators			13,53,19,443
Profit Margin			170%
Taxes			-



# ISIS Sympathisers on BTC



Total Amounts to Rs.42,00,000/-







### Blockchain Frauds.

- They are only cracked at the place of withdrawls.
- We need a robust legal framework to ensure gaps in KYC and other AML-CTF norms are plugged.





# Thanks !



