

SPOTLIGHT

POWERED BY THORN AND DIGITAL REASONING

Home

Alerts 18

Favorites

KEYWORDS

Search

LOCATION

Phoenix, AZ area

+ Add...

SOURCE

backpages.com

Refresh

1317 results

Phoenix, AZ area

backpages.com

eros.com

immature.com

SPOTLIGHT: HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTELLIGENCE AND INSIGHT

backpages.com
Chandler, AZ
480-555-1234
kelliblair123@hotmail.com
Stated age: 20

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**CAN ADVANCED COGNITIVE-COMPUTING
BASED ANALYTICS BE USED TO QUICKLY
ORGANIZE AND PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE
WITHIN THE CHAOTIC ONLINE COMMERCIAL
SEX MARKET?**

**CAN THIS TECHNOLOGY BE SMART
ENOUGH TO REVEAL INFORMATION THAT
IS INTENTIONALLY CONCEALED AND
CONSTANTLY CHANGING?**

Spotlight was conceived with these questions in mind and built to support the investigative efforts of law enforcement to find child sex trafficking victims on the Internet.

Spotlight has been a tremendous asset to our human trafficking investigations. Being able to work a specific region and search for a specific name, assisted me in locating ads for a 16-year-old runaway who was being trafficked across two states. Those ads have led us to identify additional victims and suspects.

DETECTIVE FROM ARIZONA

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thorn™
DIGITAL DEFENDERS OF CHILDREN

THE INTERNET HAS MADE IT EASIER FOR CHILDREN TO BE BOUGHT AND SOLD ONLINE.

The Internet makes it easier for purchasers to conduct illegal transactions, and for exploiters to profit from the commercial sexual exploitation of children (Source: Thorn Survivor Survey).



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OF THE UNDERAGE SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS SAID THEY HAD BEEN ADVERTISED OR SOLD ONLINE.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO NAVIGATE THE ONLINE COMMERCIAL SEX MARKET TO FIND CHILDREN AND IDENTIFY THEIR TRAFFICKERS.

The enormity and complexity of the online commercial sex market makes it difficult for law enforcement to find victims and conduct labor intensive child sex trafficking investigations.

Identifying leads and making connections between phone numbers, post IDs and photos is complex and time-consuming. Moreover, the preservation of evidence is a challenge when ads are periodically taken down.

Furthermore, the stated age is an unreliable determinant as the vast majority of ads reference ages from 18-22 with the



THERE ARE OVER 50,000 NEW ADS POSTED EVERY DAY IN THE ESCORT SERVICES SECTION OF BACKPAGE.COM.

median age of 21. Much of the information in the ads for children is fake. Age is always listed as 18+, names are not real, faces may be hidden in photos, and the photo posted may be of someone over 18.

SPOTLIGHT TAKES THIS MASSIVE AMOUNT OF DATA AND TURNS IT INTO AN ASSET FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Spotlight improves the effectiveness and efficiency of domestic sex trafficking investigations and increases the number of victims who are identified and connected to services.

Thorn has partnered with Digital Reasoning, the McCain Institute, Google to create Spotlight, a web-application that provides law enforcement with intelligence and leads on suspected human trafficking networks to identify and assist

victims. It prioritizes leads by leveraging machine learning algorithms and insight from officers in the field. Spotlight also connects disparate data sources to provide deep investigative tools to aid officers in their understanding of the historical and geographical reach of a victim's trafficking situation.

Spotlight is offered free of charge to law enforcement and relevant NGOs (e.g., NCMEC).

SPOTLIGHT PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING FEATURES TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THEIR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS:

ARCHIVE: Spotlight is built on a data archive of millions of records of escort ads and forum data collected from various websites.

SEARCH/FILTER: The tool allows an officer to search or filter escort ads based on phone number, email, key words, age, location, time frame, and more.

LEAD GENERATION: The system uses machine learning algorithms to analyze escort data in order to pro-actively identify suspicious ads.

IMAGE MATCH: Spotlight leverages image analysis to allow officers to search for relationships across ads that use the same images.

PROFILE GENERATION: Spotlight offers in-depth intelligence by creating profiles of related ads and forum data based on phone numbers, emails and post IDs. It then maps and graphs this information for easier analysis.

ALERTS: It also allows officers to set up alerts to track information of interest, such as ads, phone numbers, and post IDs.

GAIN ACCESS TO SPOTLIGHT NOW!

Spotlight is currently being made available for free to a human trafficking investigators across the United States. If you are interested in receiving access to Spotlight, please contact: spotlight@wearethorn.org.

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