

FROM SMALL MANOEUVRES ON FACEBOOK AND OTHER SOCIAL NETWORKS TO ITS CONNECTION TO REAL ORGANIZED CRIME PLOTS

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Facebook is designed for groups of real friends, generally young people, although schoolchildren are already being warned to be very careful and not to trust anyone, especially as Technological Crime units on an international scale have seen a marked increase in their work to combat paedophiles using Facebook to “fish” for schoolchildren, using false identities, pretending to also be of a young age. (see article on Document Security in the previous issue of the ICG).

On the fringes of the main body of investigations that arise from child pornography and the sexual trafficking of minors, when Facebook entered the socio-professional field, all the conspiracies and treachery specific to politics and sometimes to the business world appeared. Whereas in the past we are only aware of high-level organisations of fraudsters, forgers and organized crime, now we see coming to light small business owners or organisations that use the same amoral philosophy as the dishonest salesperson who changes expiry dates and places their products on sale while pretending to be completely honest; where appearances are everything but come with a stab in the back – something that those working in Human Resources also know very well, especially in the face of incompetent candidates who have achieved

high positions. Sometimes good comes from bad situations, and it is exactly thanks to the stupidity of these minor delinquents that we catch the major ones.

No-one who enjoys success for any reason is safe; and even if they are not on a certain Internet distribution list, a director can be seen to be a friend and communicate something positive as if he were doing them a favour, with the evil intention of subsequently provoking the immediate appearance of his puppets to attack, with the result being far worse than if the victim had not appeared on this list in the first place. Deviant people tend to play this type of psychological game, which falls directly in the Karpman drama triangle in Transactional Analysis: they initially appear as a saviour, and then move into their true role, that of the persecutor, thus satisfying the hidden unease of their small ego, which in reality envies the victim and this is their unmentionable motive.

The most inoffensive crime – which is already a widespread practice – is not in lists but in the new universe of possibilities that Facebook opens up between dishonest competitors: tagging with bad intentions, that is to say, taking the opportunity to send people a news item, image or communication that most of the time is in complete contrast to the initial tag. Images or comments are linked to certain communications or images so that the recipient links the initial idea with the one that was added to discredit them, in such a way that the original idea is ridiculed and thus the malicious colleague wins.



One step further is the “sleeper”, in this case the person exists with some true data, but some academic or professional attributes are added that relate to the organisation (it must be a large organisation) that they want to rob or damage. In this way, with an initially very pleasant entry and a benevolent disposition that portrays them to be inoffensive and trustworthy, they achieve tacit acceptance amongst the members, developing a trust that

facilitates asking for and obtaining information, material, new bonds, etc. It is very interesting for those of us with years of experience in counter-intelligence (detecting spies) to see how espionage has reappeared with a vengeance – albeit grotesque and low level – but on a socio-professional level.

Another usual game is to refer to an unnamed person, but by means of the comments on a another personage, actor or famous that serves to refer to the person, they are given attributes; those who want to destroy them obviously see only the bad side, while those in favour give positive comments, but this language is limited and very repetitive. In some cases “tics” appear.

This competitor may not be satisfied and want to play harder, then bombarding via false identities with real harassments, firstly sexual, including creating forums to damage the victim’s image (in 2010 a series of forums have revealed themselves created expressly to try the competitors' discredit, according to processes opened of the Unit of Technological Crimes of the State police); and other times of a sentimental nature, which could endanger the marriage or stable relationship of the competitor that

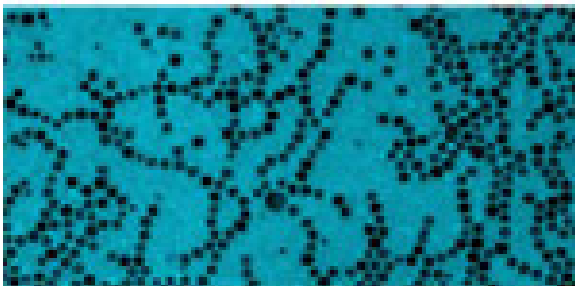
they aim to destroy. It is not a coincidence that over a few months we have confirmed the appearance of “married to ...” data prior to a flood of insinuations and images pointing at infidelity, etc.

As we see, from the criminologist’s point of view, it is very interesting to observe the network’s traffic; especially in this case: behind what seems to be a petty or childish plot to harass, real criminal networks were discovered, one of them, curiously directed by a person –near Manson Clan- that likewise had besides false identities, some

salesmen under commercial agreement that they work for her or have sold them or rented his profile of facebook (other one of the innovations that are detected, specially of rich countries with regard to poor countries).



Prof. Ramon J. Moles. PhD
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Dr Ramon J. Moles is a world authority in IT Law and, albeit as a promoter of the increase of IT resources in the third world, as a jurist he also looks to protection from Internet abuse via false identities in his proposals, and encourages jurists’ efforts to define a guarantee of rights and duties for Internet users from a preventative angle, which has always characterized the UAB’s School for Prevention and Integral Safety and Security. We trust that advances in the guarantees on user identification in order to protect communications are sufficient without needing to go as far as reporting servers or making formal complaints to the Police or the Courts.

We personally have an affinity with President Obama’s social approaches, and we regret all the difficulties that he

is encountering. Although we also have a special appreciation for the FBI – more so because we have collaborated with one of their distinguished members on counter-terrorism investigations – and our friendship as members of the International Police Association fully encompasses the American Police institutions, and just like the renowned jurist Manuel Ballbé who was recently invited to give a lecture at Stanford University, we keenly feel the problems (as do those who have to deal with them on a prevention and safety level) but thanks to the scientific level of the American institutions, we see hopefully a future in which the network is guaranteed by the identification of the transactions, neutralizing the bad influence of the impunity from



The Honourable Professor Manuel Ballbé.

whom they hide cobardemente under false identities to express what they would never express with his real name and surnames.

RECOMMENDATION

To conclude, I would recommend that if you receive harassing messages, you report this immediately; furthermore, if it is on a mailing list, remember that the manager of said list is also responsible for what appears on the page, media, forum etc., and in the case where the author is insolvent, compensation can become incumbent on the second person responsible. Legally, it serves no purpose to try and free oneself from this responsibility by announcing on the page or forum that you are not responsible for the interventions, opinions or content or messages; it is the same as for a newspaper or other distribution media and as such you are liable to be held responsible.

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ICG N° 11 - 2011

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