



HOW CRYPTOCURRENCY IS USED  
IN

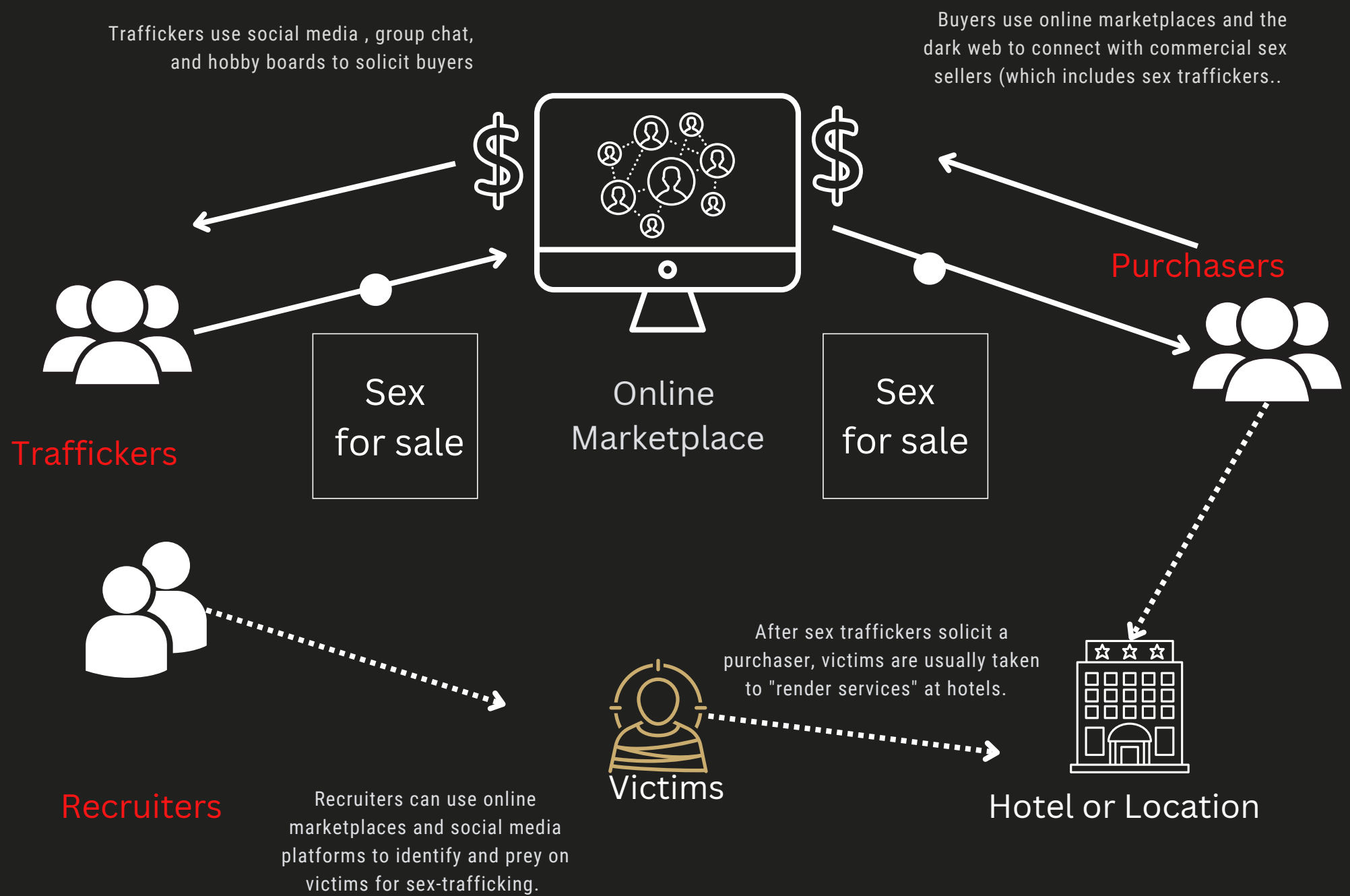
# *Sex Trafficking*

AND HOW TO TRACK IT





# HOW SEX TRAFFICKERS USE THE ONLINE MARKETPLACE AND CRYPTOCURRENCY



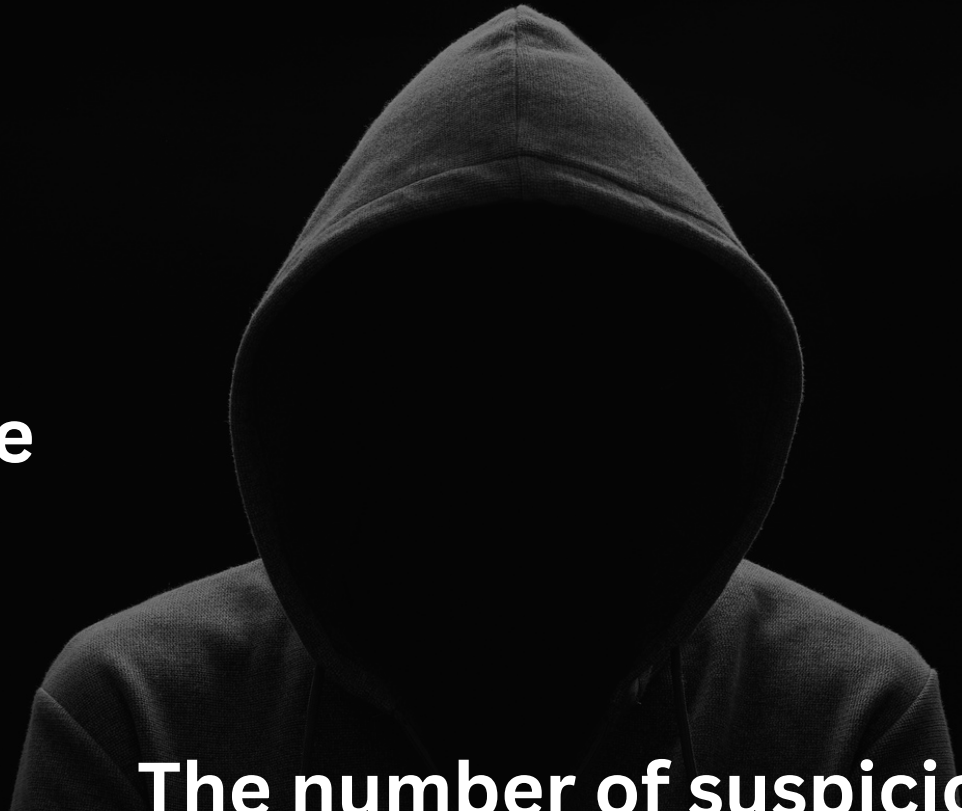
- Victims are found by recruiters and traffickers. They connect victims with buyers on social media platforms and other hobby boards.
- Traffickers tend to use social media to begin relationships with potential victims. This is an easy way to recruit them into sex trafficking.
- Sex and labor traffickers may also recruit victims by posting fake or deceptive job offers on social media or job listing websites.
- The Human Trafficking Institute reported that the internet was the primary method of soliciting buyers in federal sex trafficking cases between 2014 and 2020.
- “Sugar dating” platforms are another way recruiters and traffickers locate victims. Though some sex work is under a commercial arrangement, platforms like this also traffic victims.
- Cryptocurrencies, because of their anonymity, are the primary form of payment for these crimes occurring on the dark web and is increasingly being used on the clearnet side for payments.



# **Cryptocurrency is Used in Human and Sex Trafficking**

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**Virtual currency's anonymizing features have attracted criminals to avoid detection when paying for human trafficking.**



**The number of suspicious activity reports filed with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network that included virtual currency and trafficking increased nearly fivefold from 205 in 2017 to almost 1,400 in 2020.**

**Cryptocurrencies are commonly accepted currencies on 40 platforms in online commercial sex markets - These sites are being used to facilitate sex trafficking.**



**Other payment types are not accepted on the Dark Web making cryptocurrency the primary payment form when it comes to Sex Trafficking.**



# Following the Funds

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**Just because cryptocurrency provides anonymity doesn't mean it's always untraceable.**

The decentralized nature of the Crypto world makes hiding payment easier than on a centralized network.

Contrary to popular belief, most mainstream cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum can be easily tracked; every transaction is logged in a shared, public ledger known as a blockchain.

There are no names, destinations or bank details required, but the blockchain provides information that leads to the identification of traffickers and potentially to the rescue of victims.

With cryptocurrency as the sole payment option on the Dark Web, tracking the payments for trafficking can become complicated. Some traffickers pay users to post ads on their behalf. This way, the transaction remains entirely unnamed, creating distance for the trafficker.

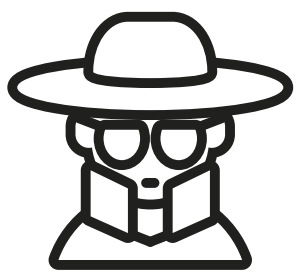
Since the pandemic, digital products are the second most prevalent category of illicit products purchased by cyber criminals using cryptocurrency on the dark web markets- Drugs being the number one product.



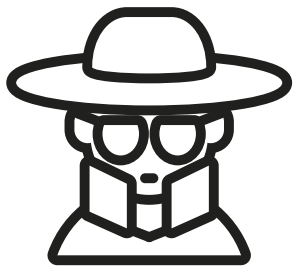
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# *Using Crypto to Track Trafficking*

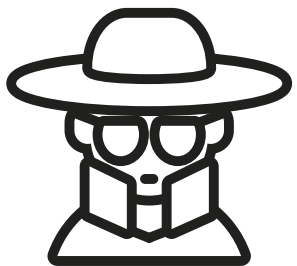
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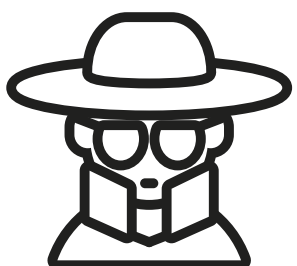
Playpen was a notorious darknet child sex abuse material website that was operated on the Tor network. The website was shut down after an extensive investigation by the FBI. This operation led to the arrest of the site operator as well as 956 site users. 55 U.S. children were identified and rescued as part of the operation.



The Child Sex abuse material was purchased with crypto and distributed on the darknet. Human Traffickers create and distribute this material in various forums and chatrooms on the dark web.



Virtual currency and their privacy technology may obscure the movements of funds across the blockchain, but while it can be difficult to track some illicit transactions it can be done.



Law enforcement can use tools like Crypto Track Pro, to identify addresses associated with illicit activities.

Special Agent Daniel Alfin worked on several high-profile cases to include the Playpen Operation. Alfin was the main face behind the investigation. Alfin was killed while serving a warrant on a child pornography suspect.


We honor him by continuing to share his work.







# Analyzing Digital Evidence


Through the use of Crypto Track Pro, law enforcement can investigate funds suspected to be associated with illicit sex trafficking activity.


 CRYPTO TRACK


MANAGEMENTS


 Address History Search


 Address Threat Analysis


 Wallet Statement


 Exchange Lookup


 Coin Flow


 NFT Analysis


 Address Monitoring

 Scam/Sanction Alerts

 Scam Report Submission

 Enhanced Tracking Report

 Agency Cases

 Support

### Address Search Results

The address has been associated with known criminal activity. It is highly likely the address will continue its involvement in illicit activities.

**Category:**  
Unaffiliated

**Activities:**

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	TRANSACTION COUNTS
Hacker	Received money from unaffiliated wallet(s) 1 times	1
Darknet market	Received money from darknet unaffiliated wallet(s) 4 times	4
Blackmail	Received money from unaffiliated wallet(s) 1 times	1
Malware	Received money from unaffiliated wallet(s) 1 times	1
Exchange	Received money from Coinbase wallet(s) 1 times	1

## Analysis of transactions

Child exploitation #2  
child exploitation

2.83270928

Direct

197uJwEuzEMhUVMo9WZsesjiH6qndNSHuD  
BTC wallet

The initial threat analysis check revealed affiliation with the Dark Web. A deeper check by our analyst showed confirmed ties to child exploitation.

[WWW.CRYPTOTRACK.US/PRO](http://WWW.CRYPTOTRACK.US/PRO)