



July 30, 2020

Jonathan Manes  
Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center  
160 East Grand Avenue, Sixth Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611

FOIPA Request No.: 1416471-000  
Civil Action No.: 18-cv-1488  
*Privacy International et al. v. FBI et al.*  
Subject: Hacking Techniques

Dear Jonathan Manes:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find checked boxes under applicable statutes for the exemptions asserted to protect information exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the processed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely pursuant to applicable exemptions. An Explanation of Exemptions is enclosed to further explain justification for withheld information.

Section 552		Section 552a
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)		<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
<u>18 USC 2510-20, 18 USC 3123 (d)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2)
<u>18 USC 3509 (d)</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3)
<u>50 USC 3024 (i)(1)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4)
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502 pages were reviewed and 50 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request and the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- Documents were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agencies [OGAs].
- This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.
- We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Although your request is in litigation, we are required by law to provide you the following information:

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Please direct any further inquiries about this case to the Attorney representing the Government in this matter. Please use the FOIPA Request Number and/or Civil Action Number in all correspondence or inquiries concerning your request.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel  
Acting Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division

Enclosures 3

The enclosed documents represent the fourth interim release of information responsive to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

The 4<sup>th</sup> interim release contains pages 18-cv-1488(FBI)-504 – 18-cv-1488(FBI)-1005.

To minimize costs to both you and the FBI, duplicate copies of the same document were not processed.

As previously indicated, documents were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other agencies. We are consulting with the other agencies and are awaiting their response. The FBI will correspond with you regarding those documents when the consultaion is completed.

## FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

### Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

### Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

### Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit [www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records](http://www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records).
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks). Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at [www.edo.cjis.gov](http://www.edo.cjis.gov). For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

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Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

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**OPERATION PACIFIER**

Operation Pacifier is an international investigation into a Tor hidden service known as "PlayPen" and its users, who were involved in the production, advertisement, and distribution of some of the most egregious CP available.

In January 2015, the Violent Crimes Against Children Section's (VCACS's) Major Case Coordination Unit (MCCU) executed a search warrant [redacted] b7E -2,3,7

[redacted] These reports were ultimately provided to FBI field offices in the form of targeting packages.

In February 2015, the head administrator of "PlayPen" was identified and arrested in Naples, Florida. The MCCU then obtained Title-III and search warrant [redacted] b3 -1 b7E -2,3,5,7

[redacted]

[redacted] this may be the only time these subjects will be visible to law enforcement. For this reason, the FBI has placed an emphasis on addressing each lead generated in this case. b7E -3

Each targeting package (Operation Pacifier lead) sent to field offices was the result of a [redacted] b7E -2,3,7  
[redacted]  
[redacted] search warrants executed.

[redacted] b5 -1,2

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2

Prosecution in state court is not viable because [Redacted] may be exposed during the discovery process in state courts or through state generated FOIA requests. [Redacted]

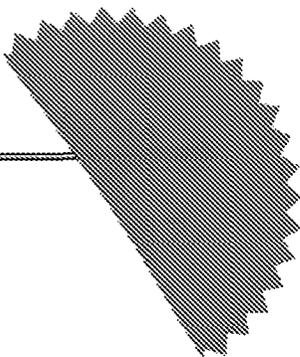
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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of Maryland

In the Matter of the Search of )  
(Briefly describe the property to be searched )  
or identify the person by name and address) )

) Case No. 13-1744 LC

The computers that access "Websites 1-23" as described )  
in Attachment A, incorporated herein )  
)

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests the search of the following person or property located in the Southern District of Maryland and elsewhere (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

see Attachment A, incorporated herein.

The person or property to be searched, described above, is believed to conceal (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

see Attachment B, incorporated herein.

I find that the affidavit(s), or any recorded testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the person or property.

**YOU ARE COMMANDED** to execute this warrant on or before August 5 2013 (not to exceed 14 days)

in the daytime 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.  at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established.

Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.

The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventory as required by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to United States Magistrate Judge Duty Magistrate (name)

I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2705 (except for delay of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to delay notice to the person who, or whose property, will be searched or seized (check the appropriate box)  for 30 days (not to exceed 30).

until, the facts justifying, the later specific date of \_\_\_\_\_.

Date and time issued: July 22, 2013 William Connelly  
2:00pm Judge's signature

City and state: Greenbelt, Maryland William Connelly, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge  
Printed name and title

**ATTACHMENT A – PAGE 1 OF 2**

**Locations to be Searched**

This warrant authorizes the use of a network investigative technique (“NIT”) to be deployed on the computer server described below, obtaining information described in Attachment B from the activating computers described below.

The computer server is the server operating the Tor network child pornography websites referred to herein as Websites 1-23, as identified by their respective Tor URLs in the following chart, which will be located at a government facility in the District of Maryland.

The activating computers are those of: (1) any user or administrator who logs into any of Websites 1-23 by entering a username and password; (2) any user who accesses any section of any of Websites 1-23 where child pornography may be accessed; and (3) any user who uploads a file to any of Websites 1-23.

The government will not employ this network investigative technique after 30 days after this warrant is authorized, without further authorization.

ATTACHMENT A – PAGE 2 OF 2

**Locations to be Searched**

Website #	URL
1	[redacted] onion
2	[redacted] onion
3	[redacted] onion
4	[redacted] onion
5	[redacted] onion [redacted]
6	[redacted] onion
7	[redacted] onion [redacted]
8	[redacted] onion
9	[redacted] onion
10	[redacted] onion
11	[redacted] onion [redacted]
12	[redacted] onion
13	[redacted] onion
14	[redacted] onion
15	[redacted] onion
16	[redacted] onion
17	[redacted] onion [redacted]
18	[redacted] onion
19	[redacted] onion [redacted]
20	[redacted] onion
21	[redacted] onion
22	[redacted] onion
23	[redacted] onion

b7E -3

## ATTACHMENT B

### Information to be Seized

From any “activating” computer described in Attachment A:

1. the “activating” computer’s actual IP address, and the date and time that the NIT determines what that IP address is;
2. a unique identifier (e.g., a series of numbers, letters, and/or special characters) to distinguish data from that of other “activating” computers, that will be sent with and collected by the NIT;
3. the type of operating system running on the computer, including type (e.g., Windows), version (e.g., Windows 7), and architecture (e.g., x 86);
4. information about whether the NIT has already been delivered to the “activating” computer;
5. the “activating” computer’s Host Name;
6. the “activating” computer’s media access control (“MAC”) address;

that is evidence of violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(g), Engaging in a Child Exploitation Enterprise; 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(d)(1) and or (e), Advertising and Conspiracy to Advertise Child Pornography; 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1), Receipt and Distribution of, and Conspiracy to Receive and Distribute Child Pornography; and/or 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2), Knowing Access or Attempted Access With Intent to View Child Pornography.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

Total Deleted Page(s) = 4

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
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Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

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OPERATION PACIFIER (PLAYPEN)

Operational Plan VCACS/MCCU

It is projected that during the week of February 15th, 2015, the Major Case Coordination Unit (MCCU) will initiate the operational phase of Operation Pacifier. The operational phases consist of the following:

PHASE I:

[Redacted]

b3 -1  
b5 -1,2  
b6 -3  
b7C -3  
b7E -2,3,7

PHASE II: Anticipated date

[Redacted]

b7E -2,3

In close coordination with

[Redacted]

b6 -3  
b7C -3  
b7E -3,6

Following

[Redacted] FBI facility in Newington, Virginia  
[Redacted]

b7E -2,3,7

In order

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] the FBI facility in Newington, Virginia.

b7E -2,3,7

PHASE III: Anticipated date

[Redacted] the FBI facility in Newington, Virginia.  
[Redacted] and sent to the MCCU in Linthicum, Maryland, where [Redacted]  
[Redacted] the entire duration of the operation.

b3 -1  
b7E -2,3,7

[Redacted]

b7E -2,3,7

[Redacted]

FBI personnel will direct

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES MITIGATION PROCEDURES

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] The information will be immediately forwarded to the appropriate FBI Field Office or Legat, without regard to other operational considerations.

If FBI personnel observe

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

If FBI personnel observe

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

If FBI personnel observe any of the actions detailed above

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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**OPERATION PACIFIER**

Background:

Operation Pacifier is an international investigation into a Tor hidden service known as "PlayPen" and its users who were involved in the production, advertisement, and distribution of some of the most egregious CP available. In January 2015, the FBI executed a search warrant [redacted]

b3 -1  
b7E -2,3,7

[redacted]  
[redacted] the FBI obtained Title-III and search warrant [redacted]  
[redacted]

Each targeting package sent to field offices was the result of a [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]

Consequently, b7E -2,3,7

the subject of each targeting package must be notified by receiving offices that they were subject to a [redacted]

[redacted] search warrants executed.

Challenges:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Prosecution in state b5 -1,2  
b7E -2,7

court is not viable because [redacted] may be exposed during the discovery process in state courts.

[redacted]

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**Other Matters:**

- VCACIU

- Provide analysis
- Provide analysis
- Provide analysis

[Redacted]

b7E -3

- OGC

- Facilitate process

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- 

[Redacted]

- CETFs

- Communicate objectives/expectations of Operation Pacifier
- Identify capability of CETFs to address impending leads

b5 -1,2

b7E 2-3,7,12

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2  
b7E -12

- ICAC

- Coordination

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b7E -3

- USAO

- 

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2  
b7E -12

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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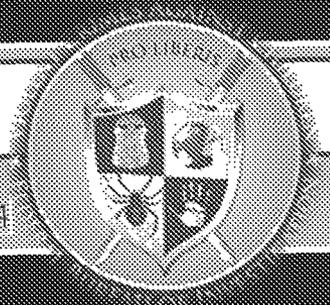


*Federal Bureau of Investigation*

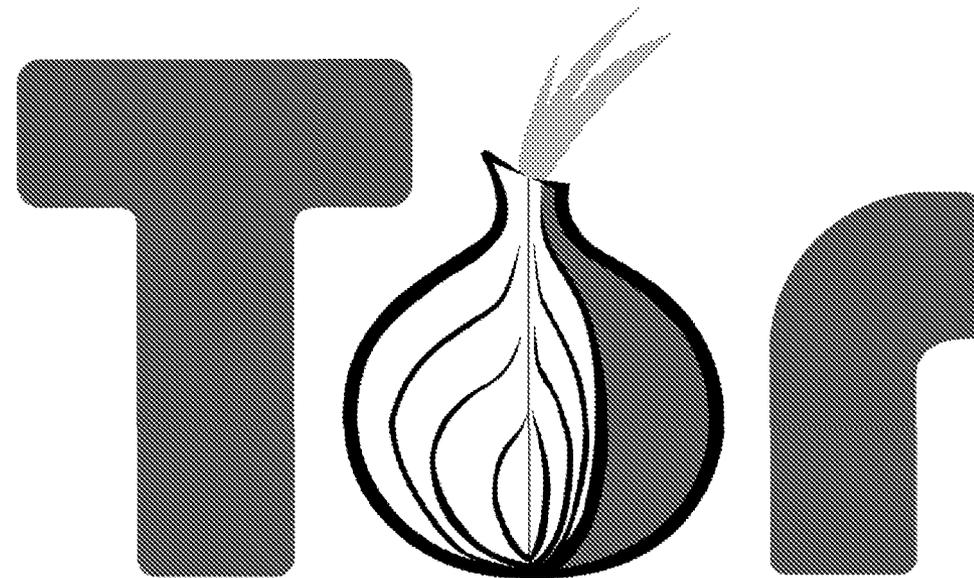
# Operation Pacifier “PlayPen”

*Violent Crimes Against Children Section*

*Major Case Coordination Unit*



CV-1488(FBI)-604



The Onion Router (Tor)

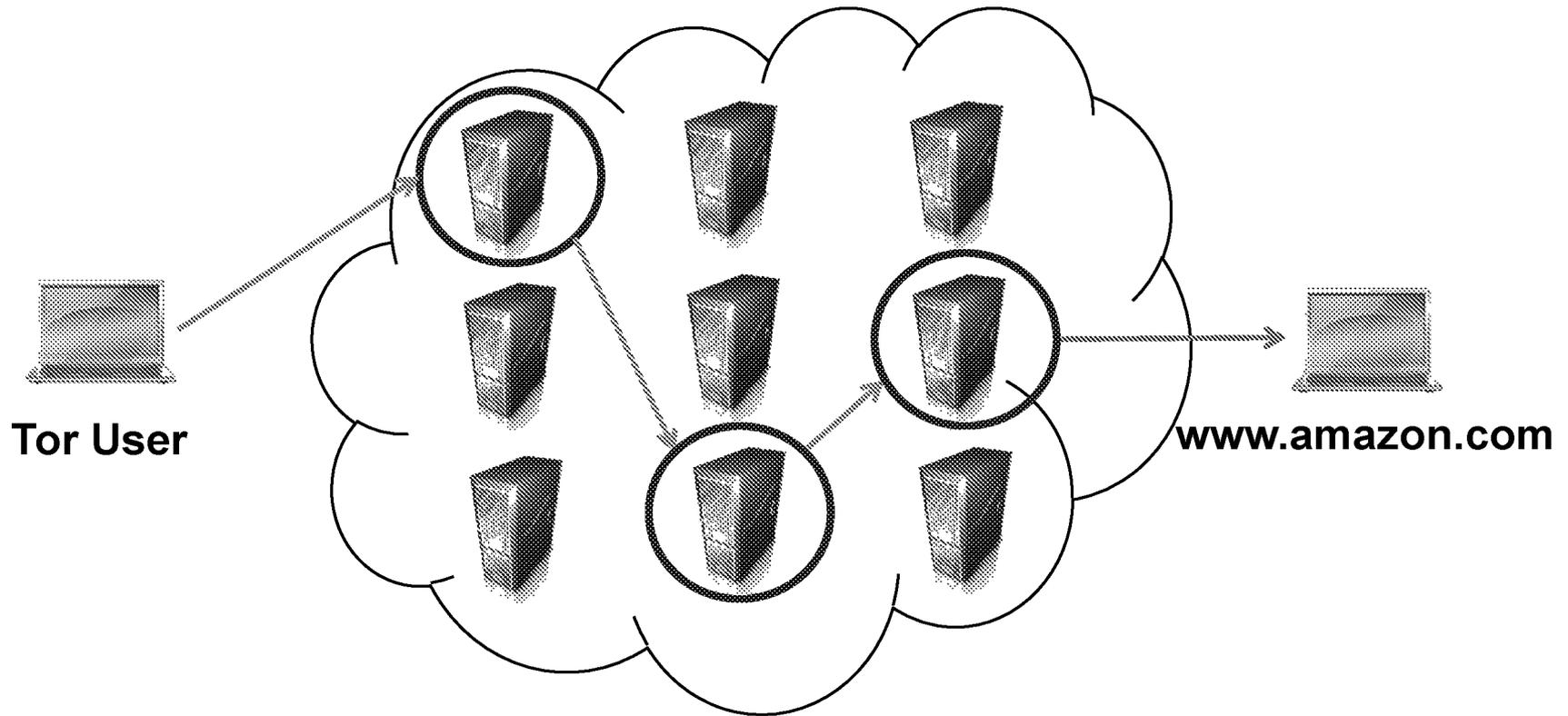
Tor Hidden Services

*Basic Overview*



# TOR OVERVIEW

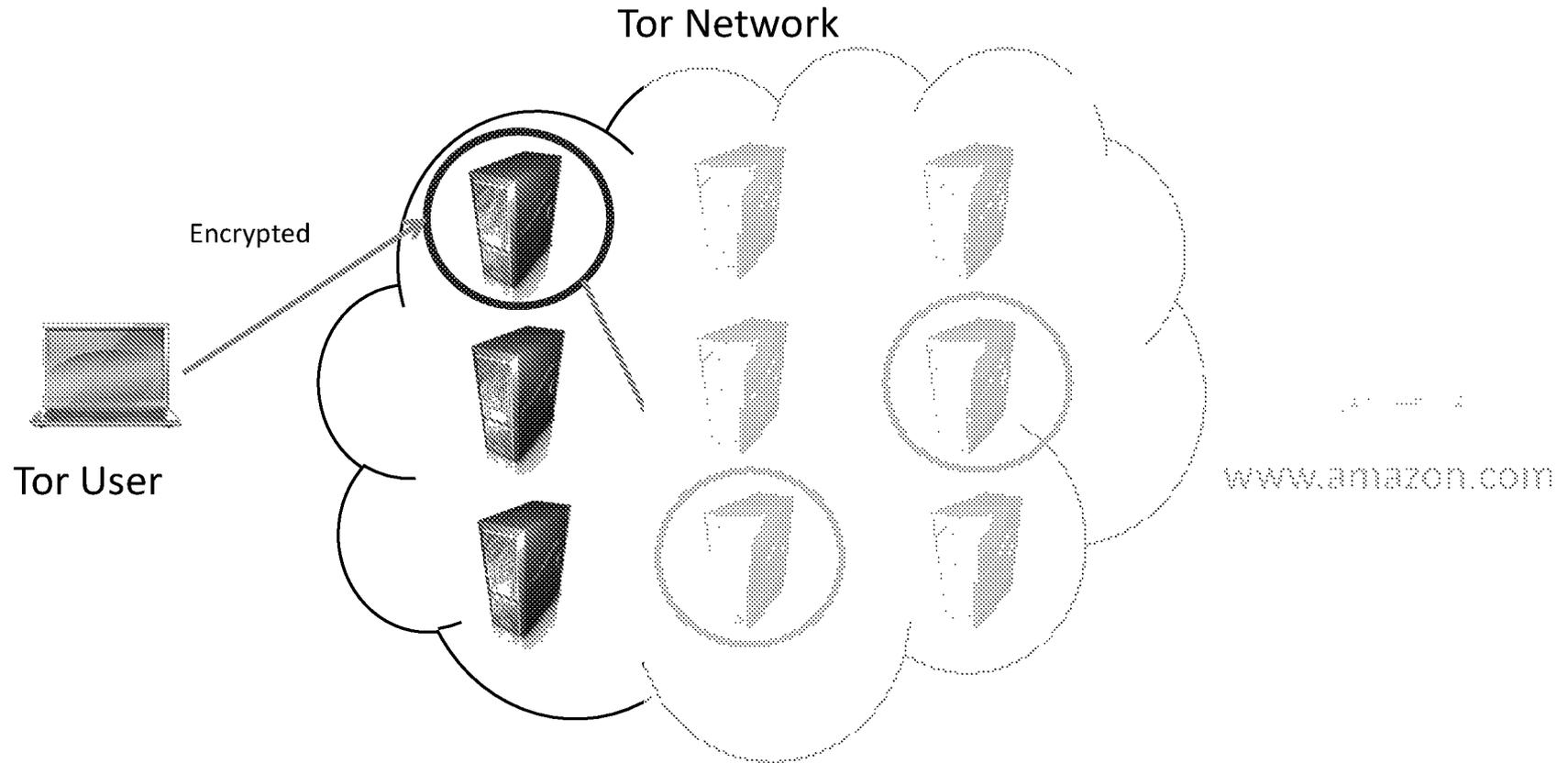
Tor Network: a way to hide your IP address



Distributed network of relays run by volunteers all around the world.



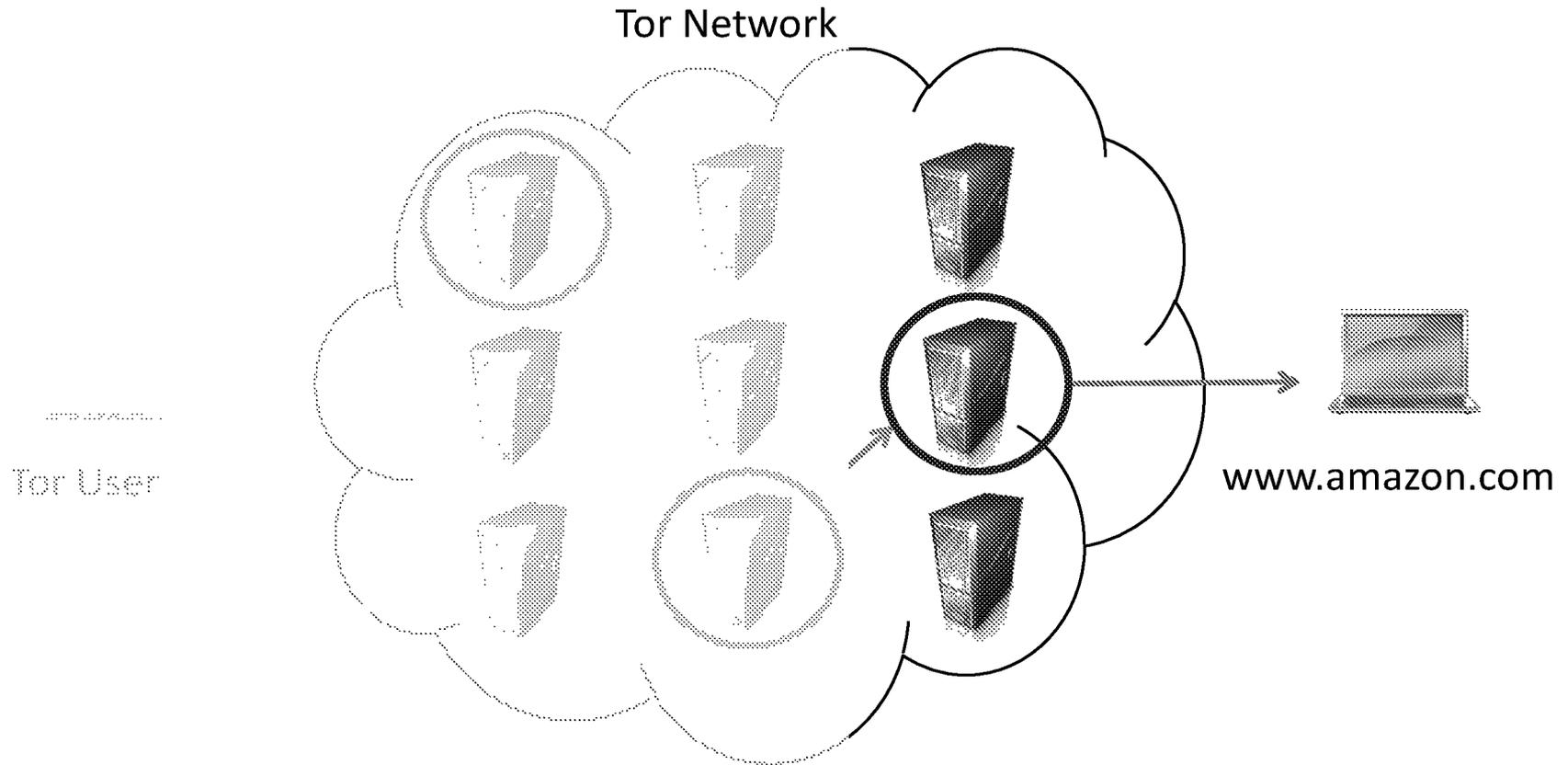
# How Tor Works



Prevents monitoring a user's Internet activity to identify sites being visited.



# How Tor Works

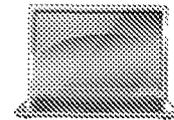


Prevents sites from identifying physical location of users.



# Tor Websites aka Hidden Services

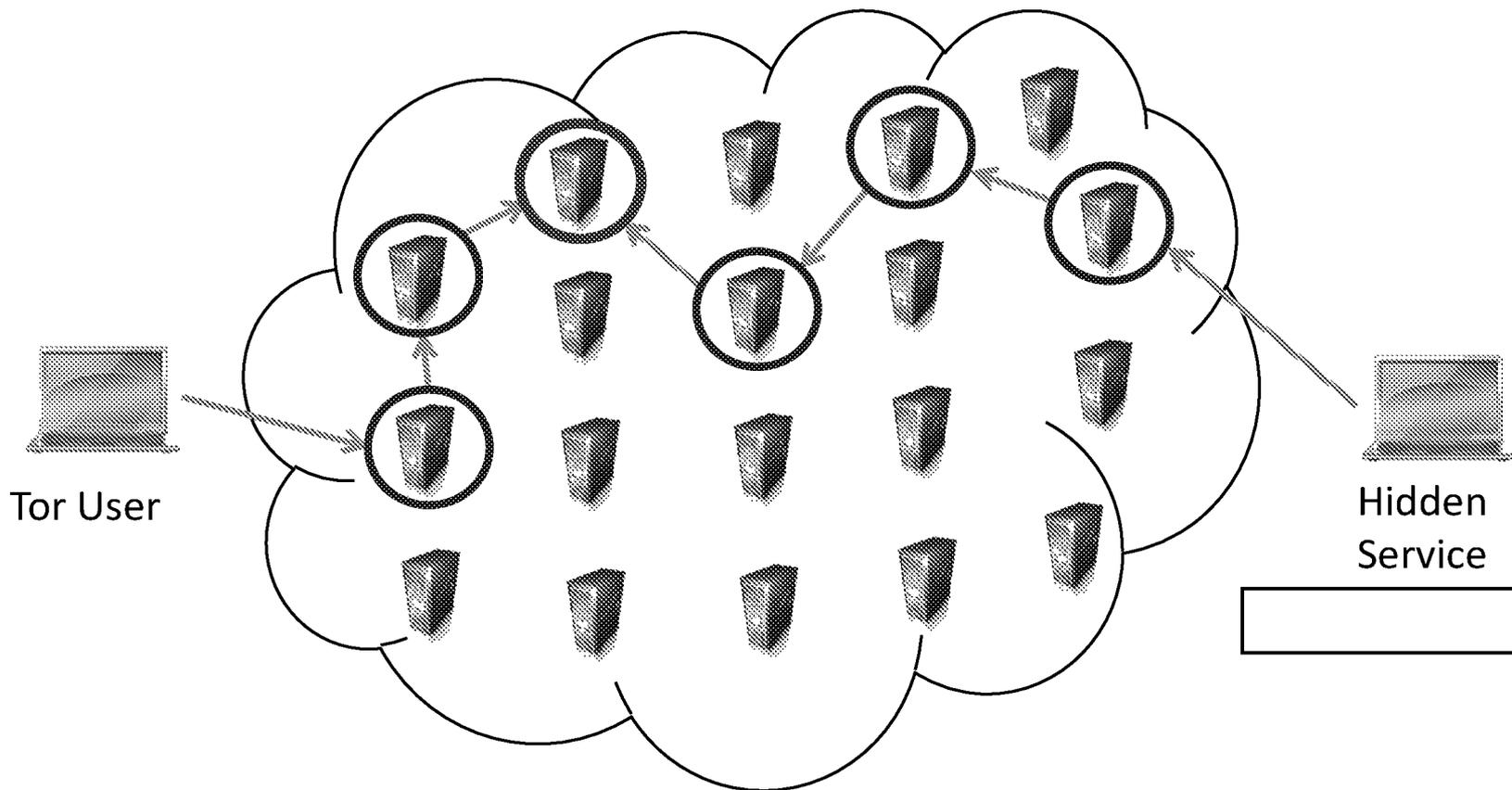
- Only accessible on Tor
- Physical location of server offering the service is hidden
- Non-descript 16-character web address



Hidden Service  
"PlayPen"



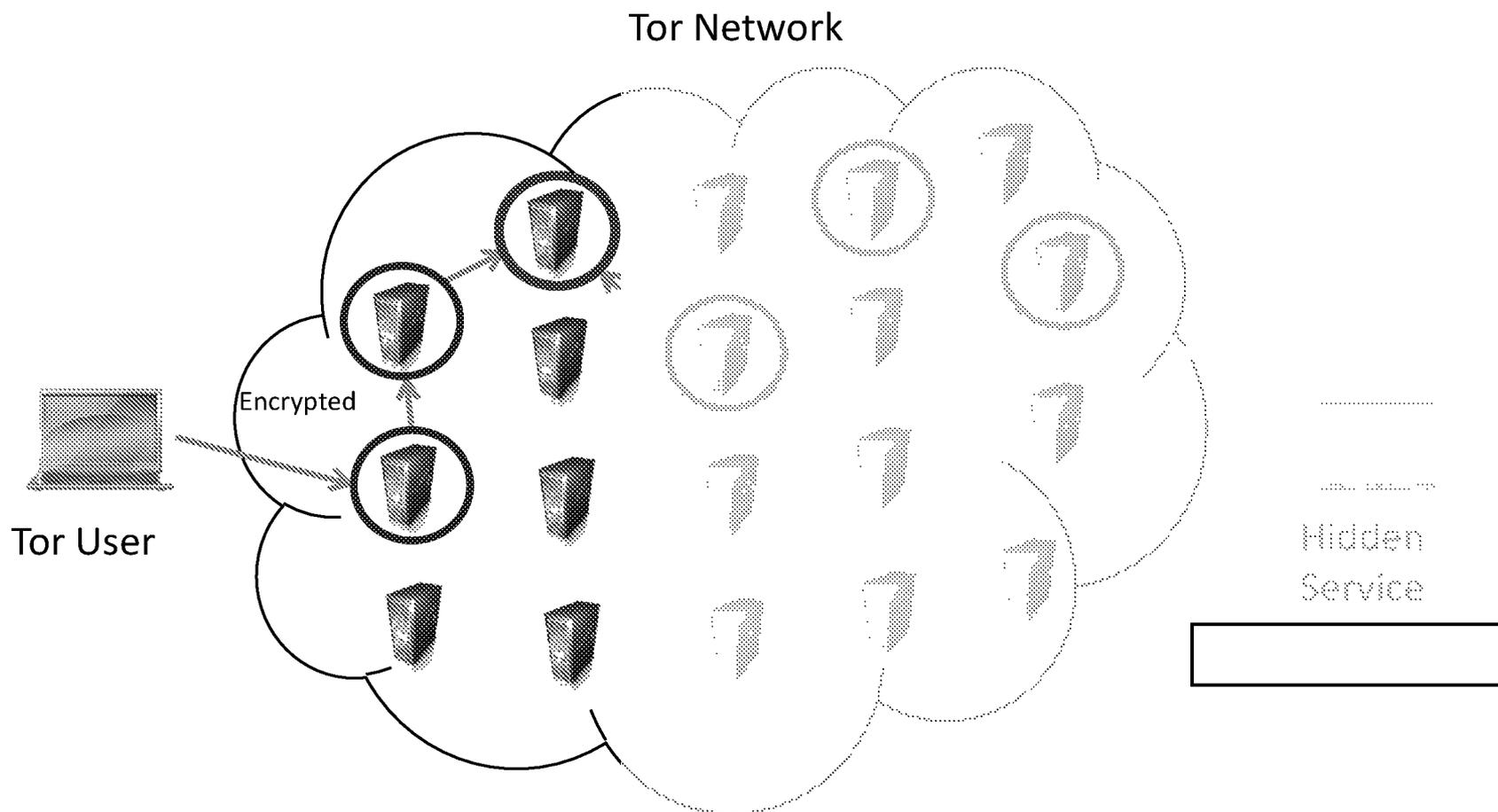
# Tor Hidden Services



b7E -3

Hides physical location of hidden service by using a rendezvous point.

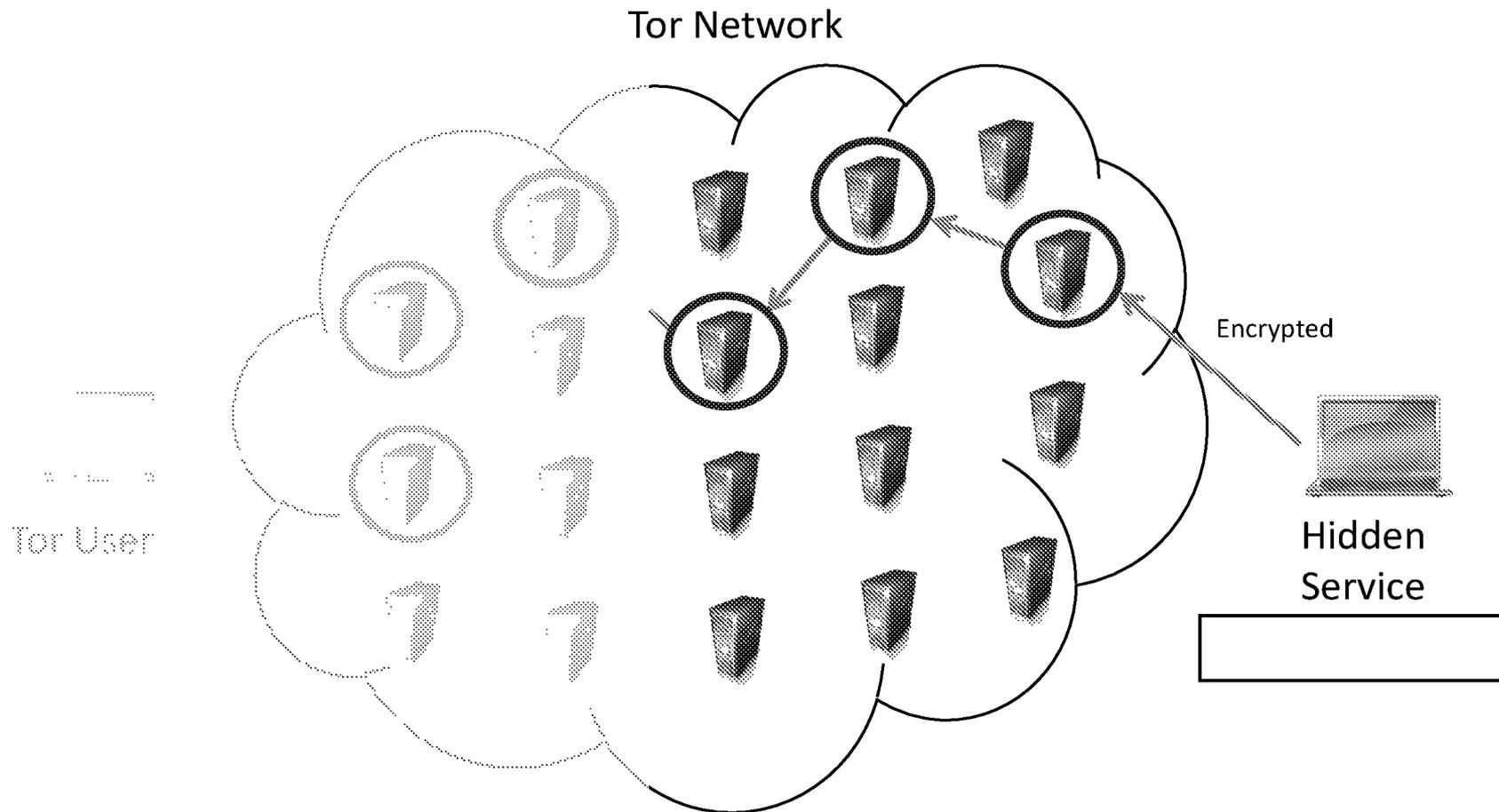
# Tor Hidden Services



b7E -3

Prevents monitoring a user's Internet activity to identify hidden services being visited.

# Tor Hidden Services



★  
★  
★  
b7E -3

Prevents hidden services from identifying physical location of users.

# PlayPen



b7D -1  
b7E -10



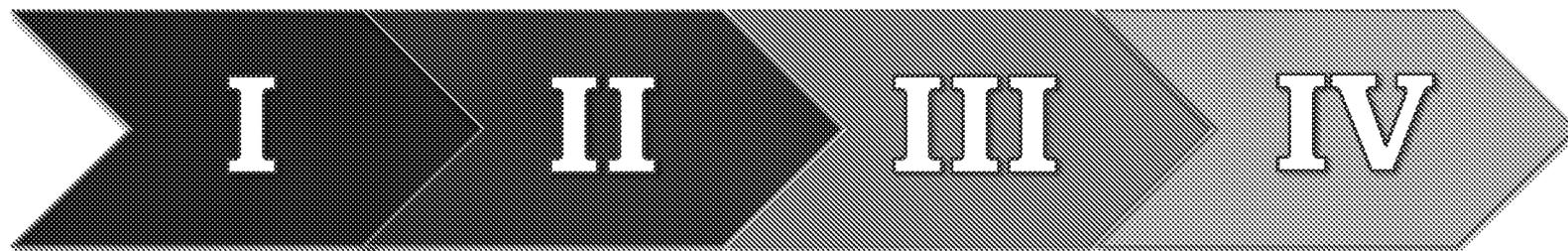
- MCCU identified 
  -  Steven Chase, residing in Naples, FL.
  - Chase believed to be main administrator of PlayPen

b7E -3

- January 2015, MCCU initiated Operation Pacifier <sup>18-CV-1488(FBI)-613</sup>

# Operation Pacifier

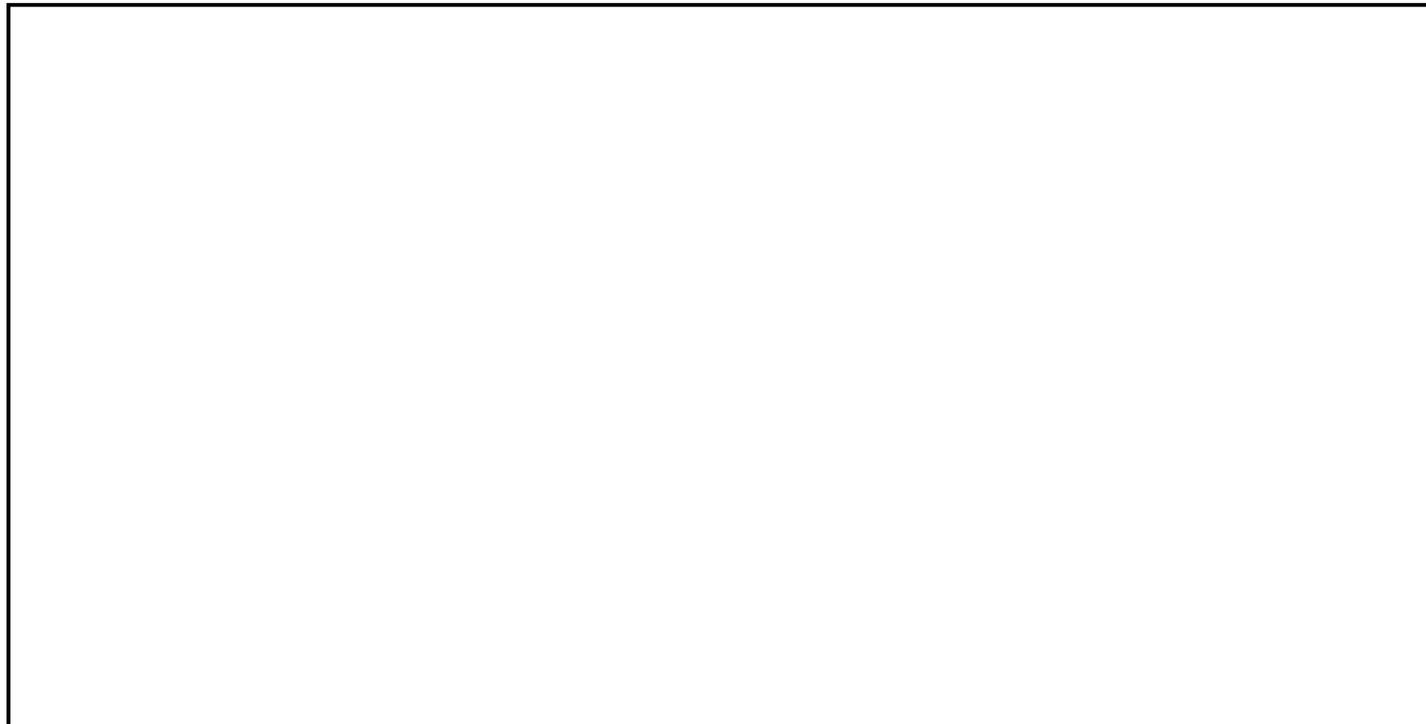
## Operational Phases



1

# Operation Pacifier

## Phase I

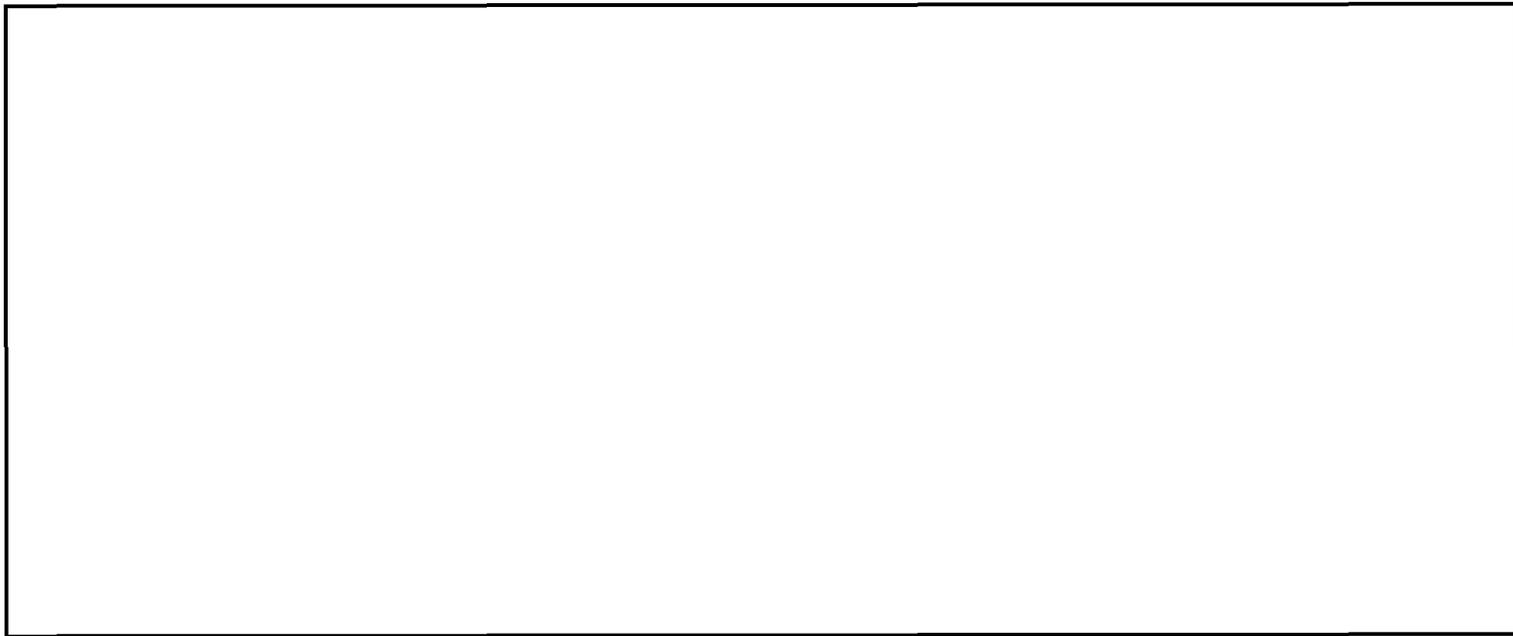


b3 -1  
b5 -1,2  
b7E -3



# Operation Pacifier

## Phase II

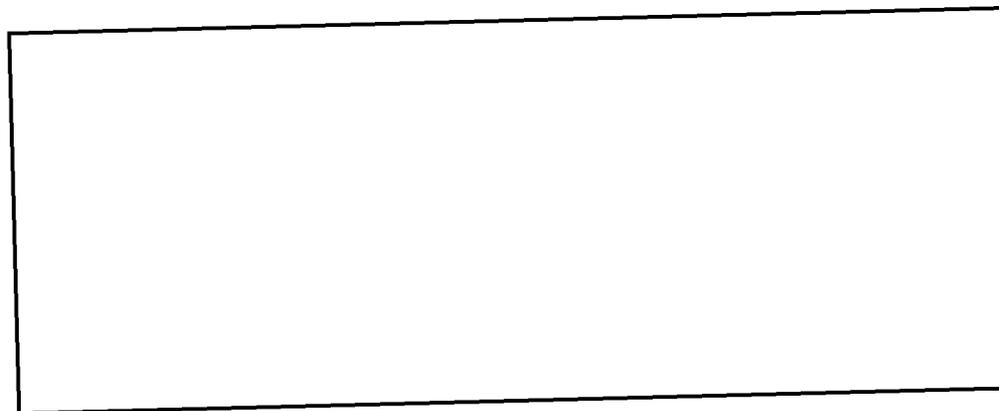


b3 -1  
b6 -4  
b7C -4  
b7E -3

III

# Operation Pacifier

## Phase III



★  
★  
b7E -2,3,7



# Operation Pacifier

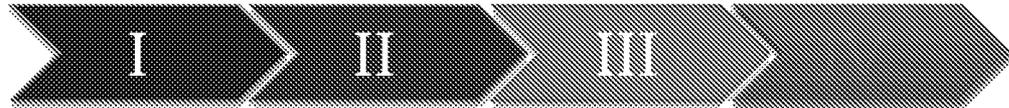
## Phase III – cont.



b7E -1,2,3,7,12

- Phase 1

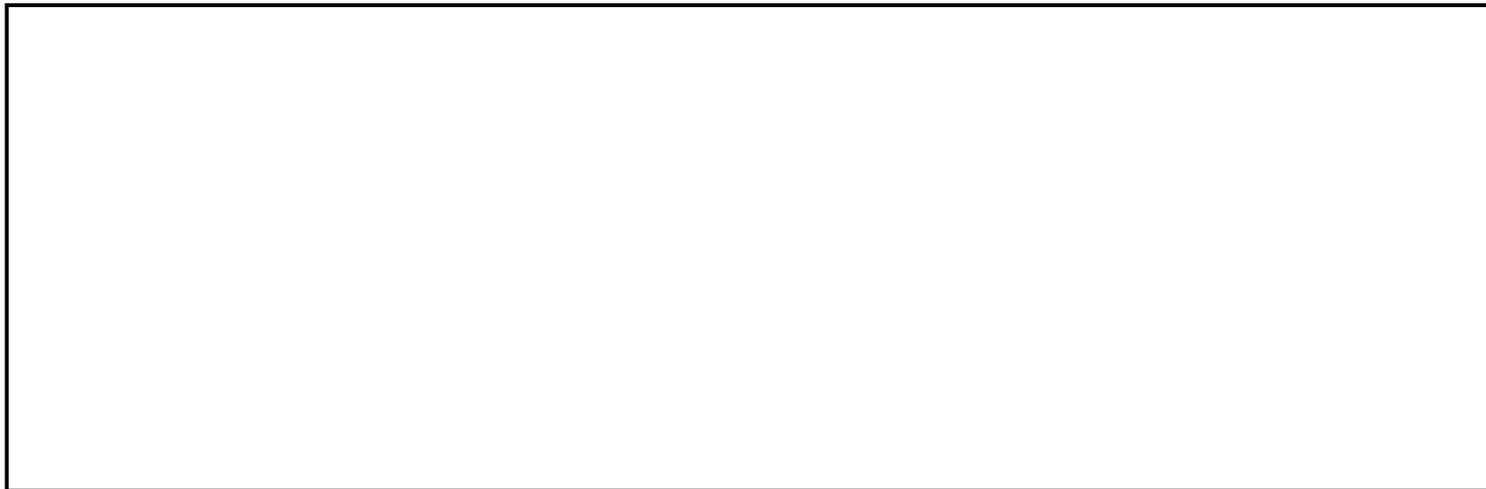




# Operation Pacifier

## Phase III – cont.

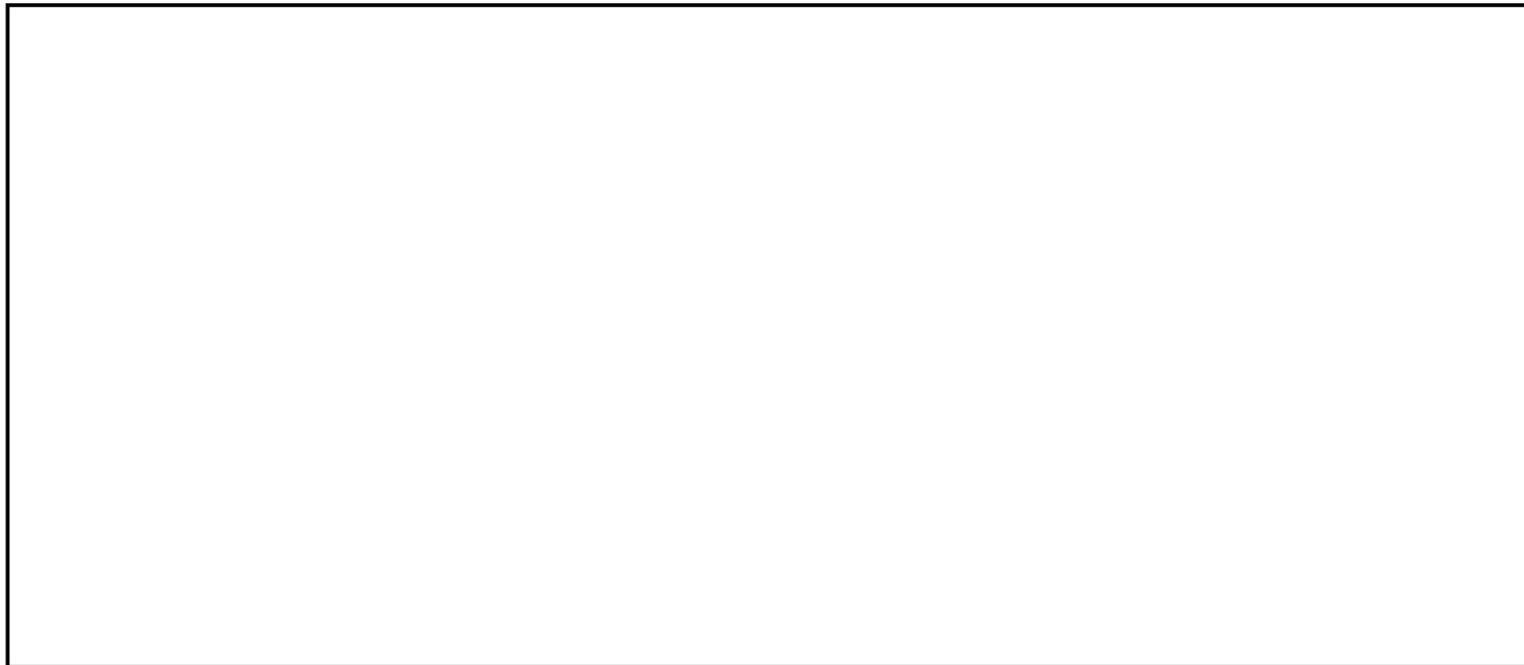
b7E 1,2,3,7,10





# Operation Pacifier

Phase III – cont.



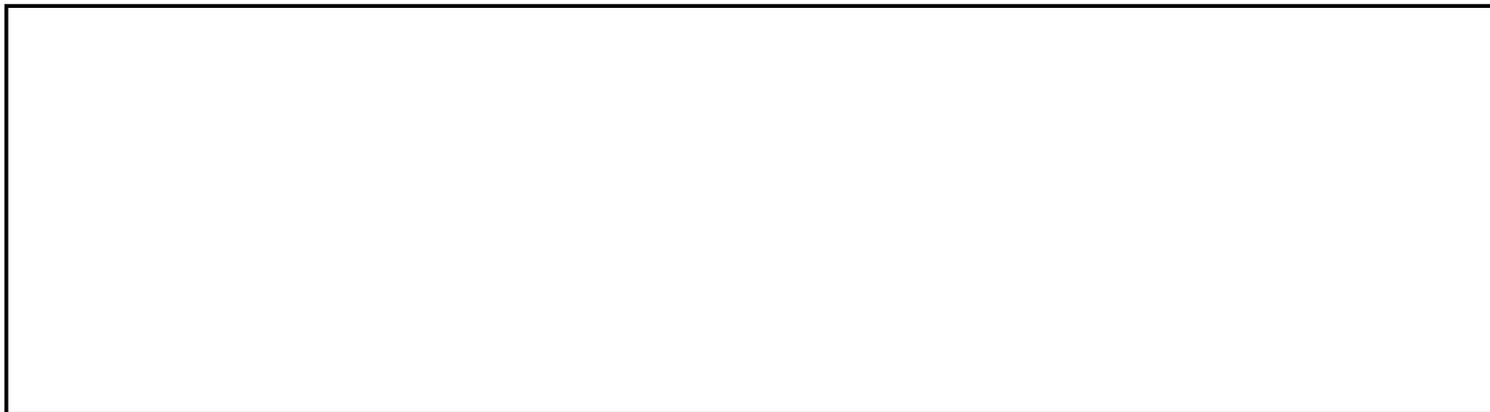
b7E 1,2,3,7

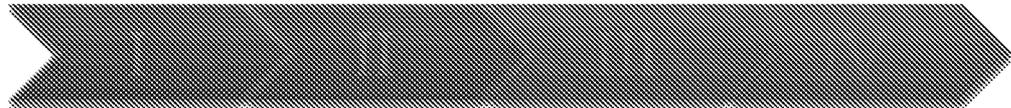


# Operation Pacifier

## Phase IV

b7E 1,2,3,10





# Operation Pacifier

## Mitigation Procedures

- If MCCU sees any of the following criteria, immediate action will be taken

b7E -2,3,7

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Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

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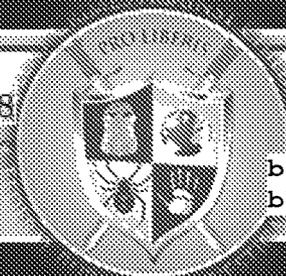


# *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

# Operation Pacifier “PlayPen”

*Violent Crimes Against Children Section*

*Major Case Coordination Unit – SSA*



b6 -1  
b7C -1



# *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

## Do Not Disseminate Outside FBI

Please direct any questions to

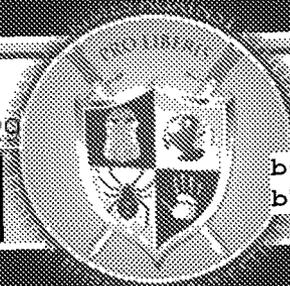
SSA [redacted] - CID/VCACS/MCCU

b6 -1  
b7C -1

## *Violent Crimes Against Children Section*

18-CV-1488(FBI)-629

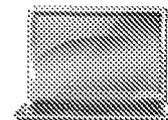
Major Case Coordination Unit - SSA [redacted]



b6 -1  
b7C -1

# Tor Websites aka Hidden Services

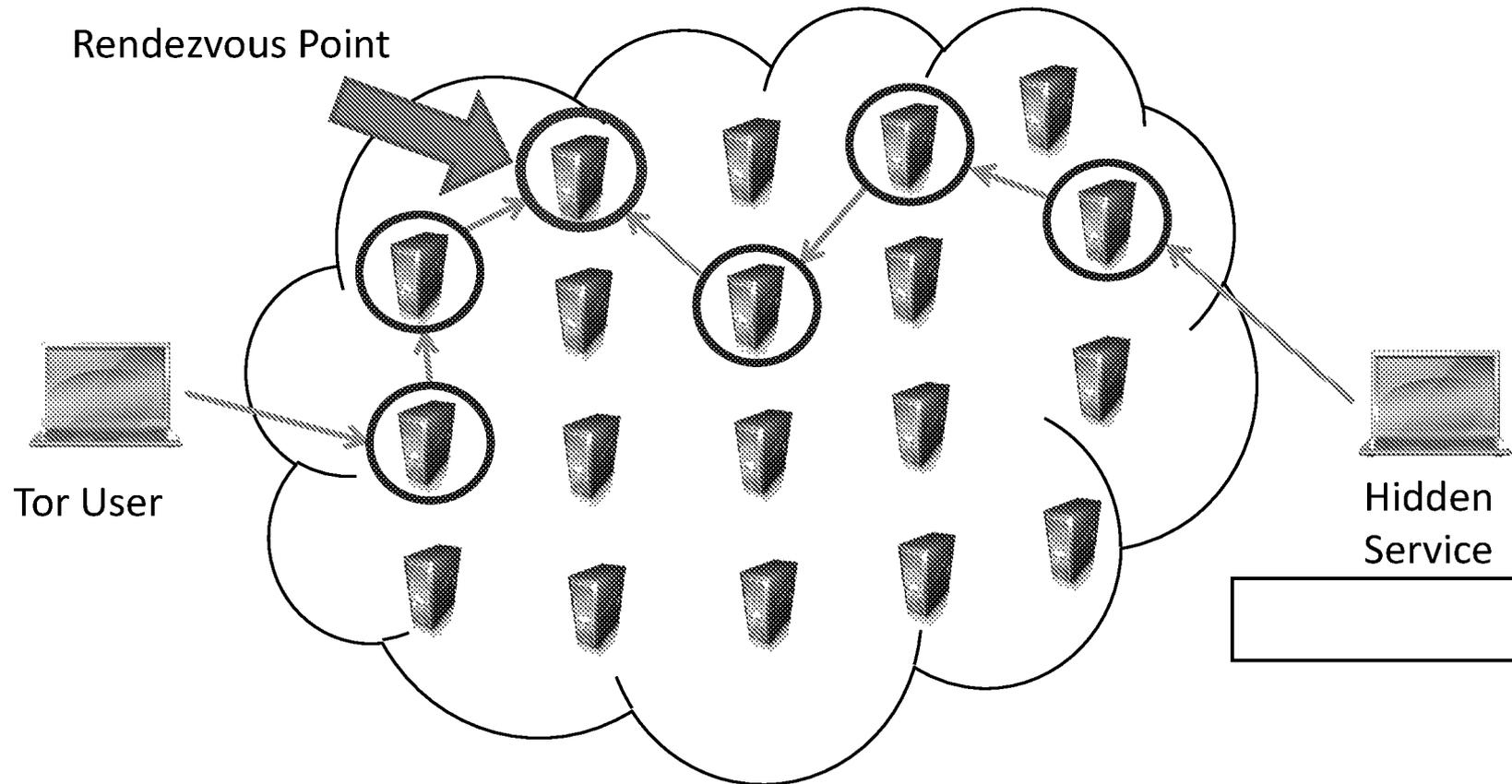
- Only accessible on Tor
- Physical location of server offering the service is hidden
- Non-descript 16-character web address



Hidden Service

★  
★  
★  
b7E -3

# Tor Hidden Services



b7E -3

Hides physical location of hidden service by using a rendezvous point.



# Operation Pacifier

## Phase III – cont.

[Redacted]

b7E -1,2,3,7,12

- Phase 1

[Redacted]





# Operation Pacifier

## Phase III – cont.

b7E 1,2,3,7,10



# Operation Pacifier

## Phase IV

b7E 1,2,3,10





# Operation Pacifier

## Projected Timeline

- [Redacted]
  - Compile data [Redacted] and begin analysis
- [Redacted]
  - Begin development of lead packets and begin dissemination to the field
- [Redacted]
  - Field Offices obtain search warrants for their targets

b7E -2,3



b7E -2

b7E -2

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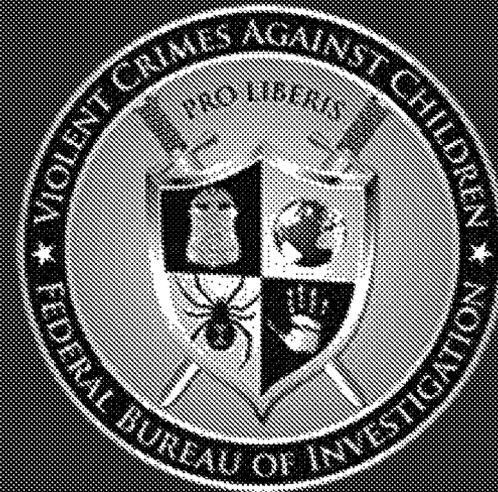
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# Operation Pacifier



**Criminal Investigative Division  
Violent Crimes Against Children Section**

# History

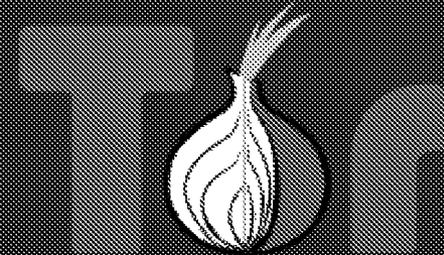
Late 1990's



US Naval Research  
Laboratory

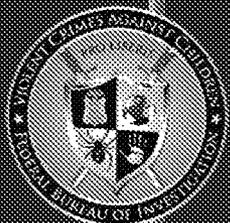


Today



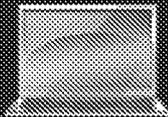
Tor Project  
Incorporated

- Open source
- US-based non-profit organization



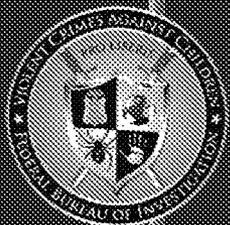
# Activity

- Secure Communications
- Freedom of Speech
- Political Activism
- Internet Security
- Internet Privacy



Tor User

- Child Exploitation
  - Child pornography
  - Child sex tourism
- Drug and weapon trafficking
- Money laundering
- Computer intrusions
- Assassinations
- Terrorism

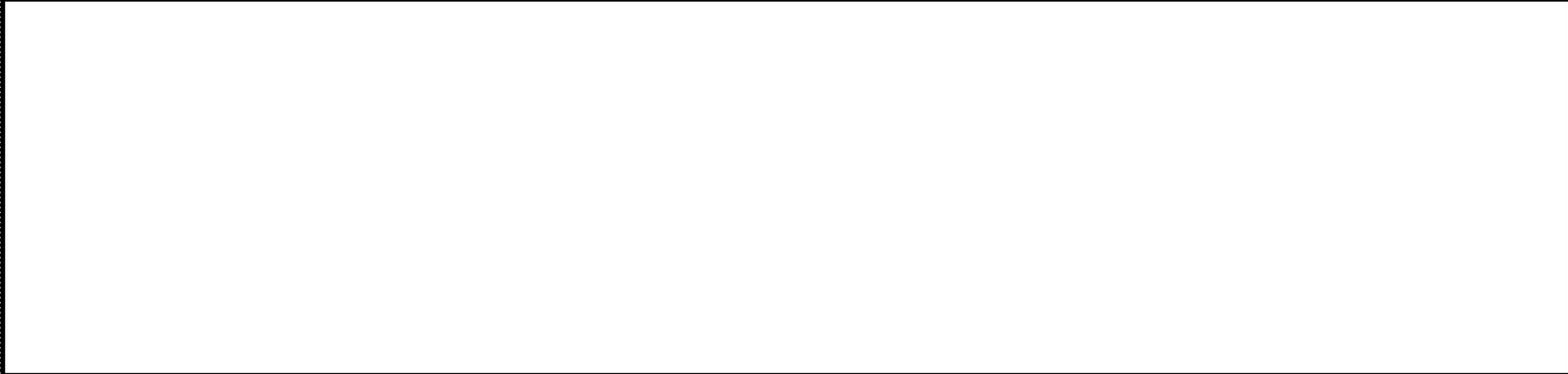




# p2p vs. Tor

p2p

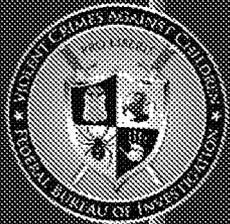
Tor



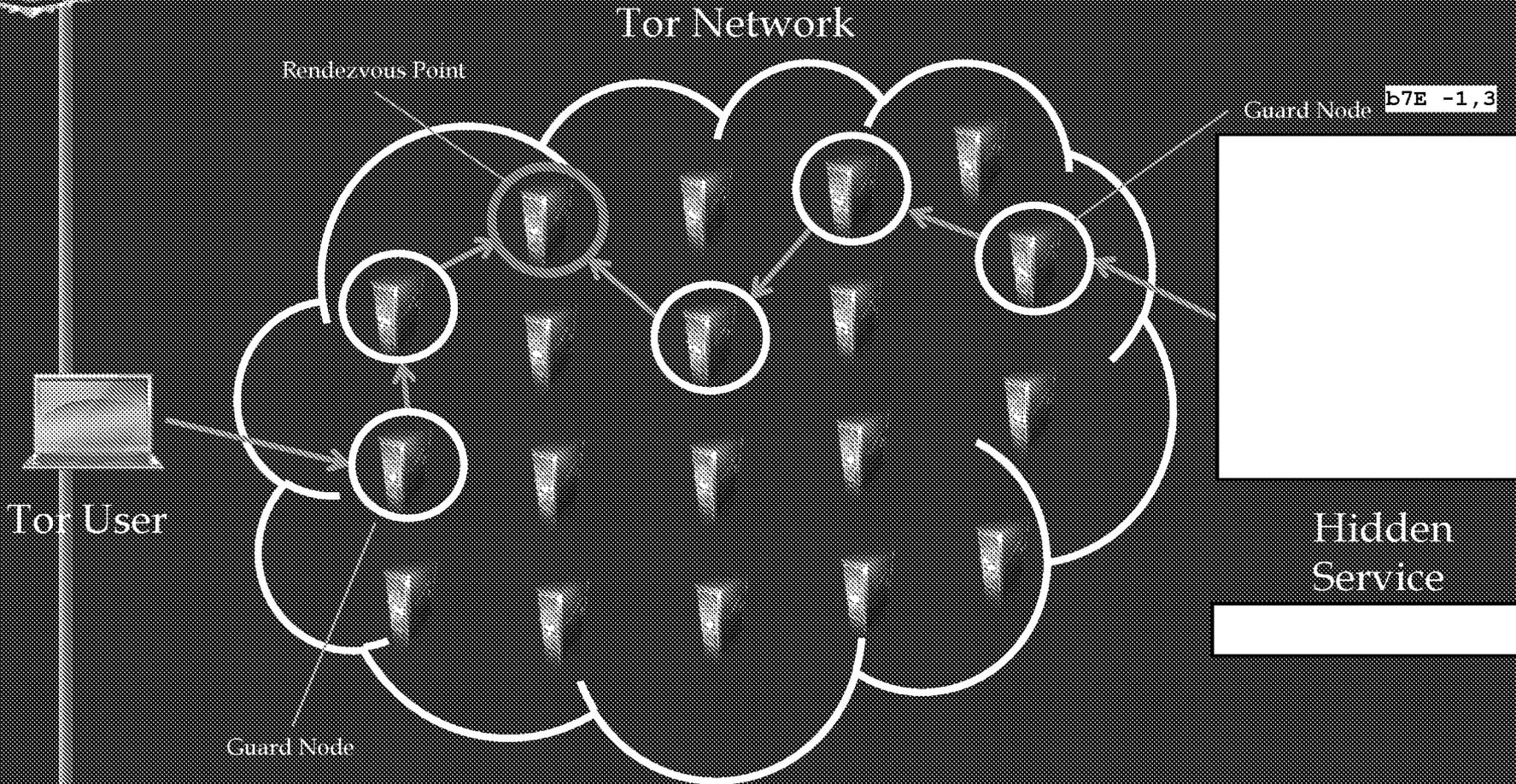
b7E -3



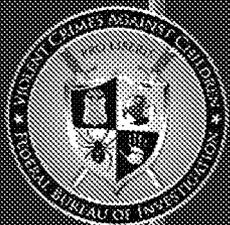
b7E -3



# Hidden Services



Hides physical location of hidden service by using a rendezvous point.





# Operation Pacifier

## ■ August 2014

- PlayPen Opens

[Redacted]

b7D -1  
b7E -10

## ■ January 2015

- Operation Pacifier Initiated
- Administrator Identified

[Redacted]

- Administrator Arrested

[Redacted]

b3 -1  
b7E -2,3

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

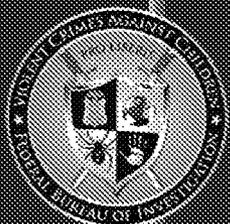
b7E -2,3

[Redacted]

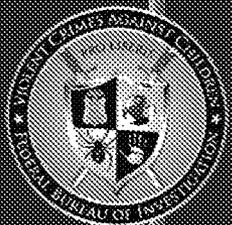
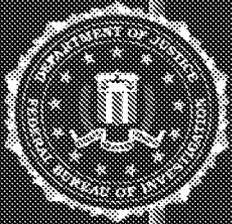
Targeting Packages Sent to Field

[Redacted]

b7E -2,3



# Operation Pacifier

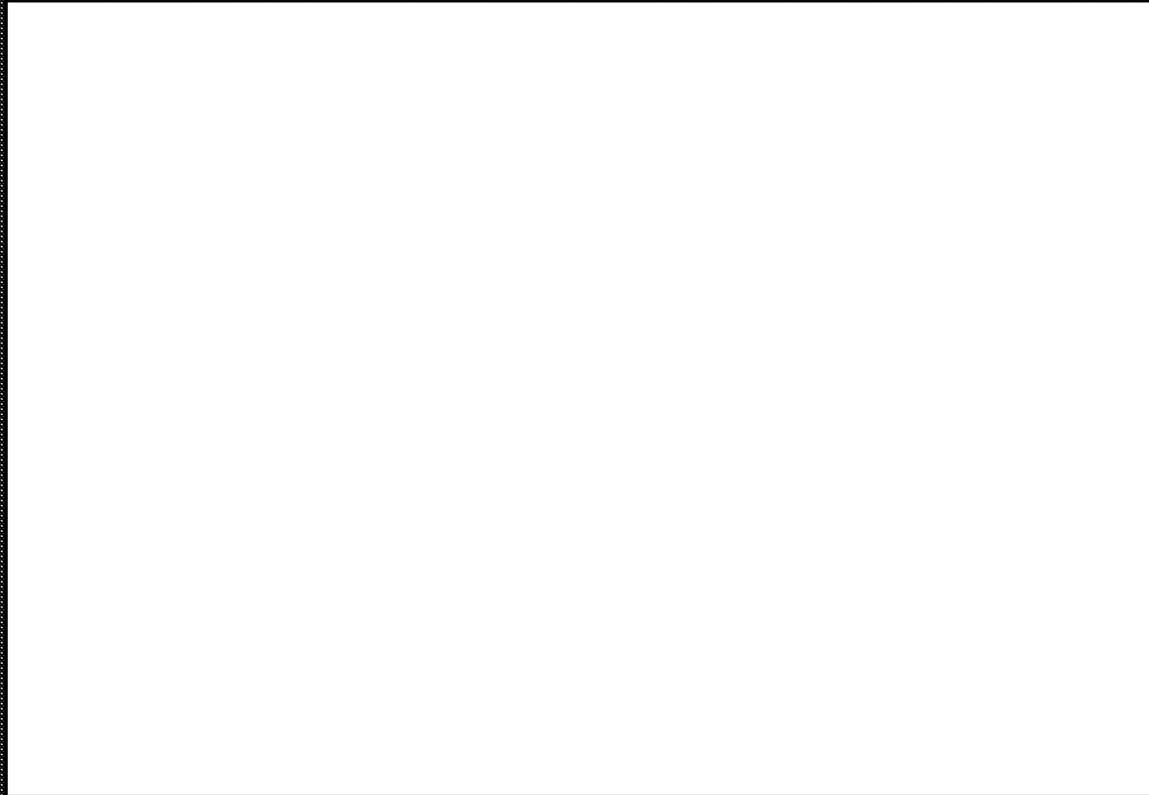


Organization	Leads Sent	Search Warrants	Arrest Warrants	Knock & Talk	Cases Opened	Children Recovered	Position of Trust
b7E -2,3,10							

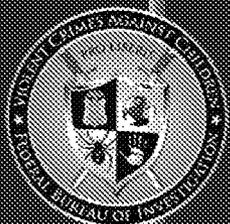
## Outcome:

b6 -3 b7C -3 b7E -2,3
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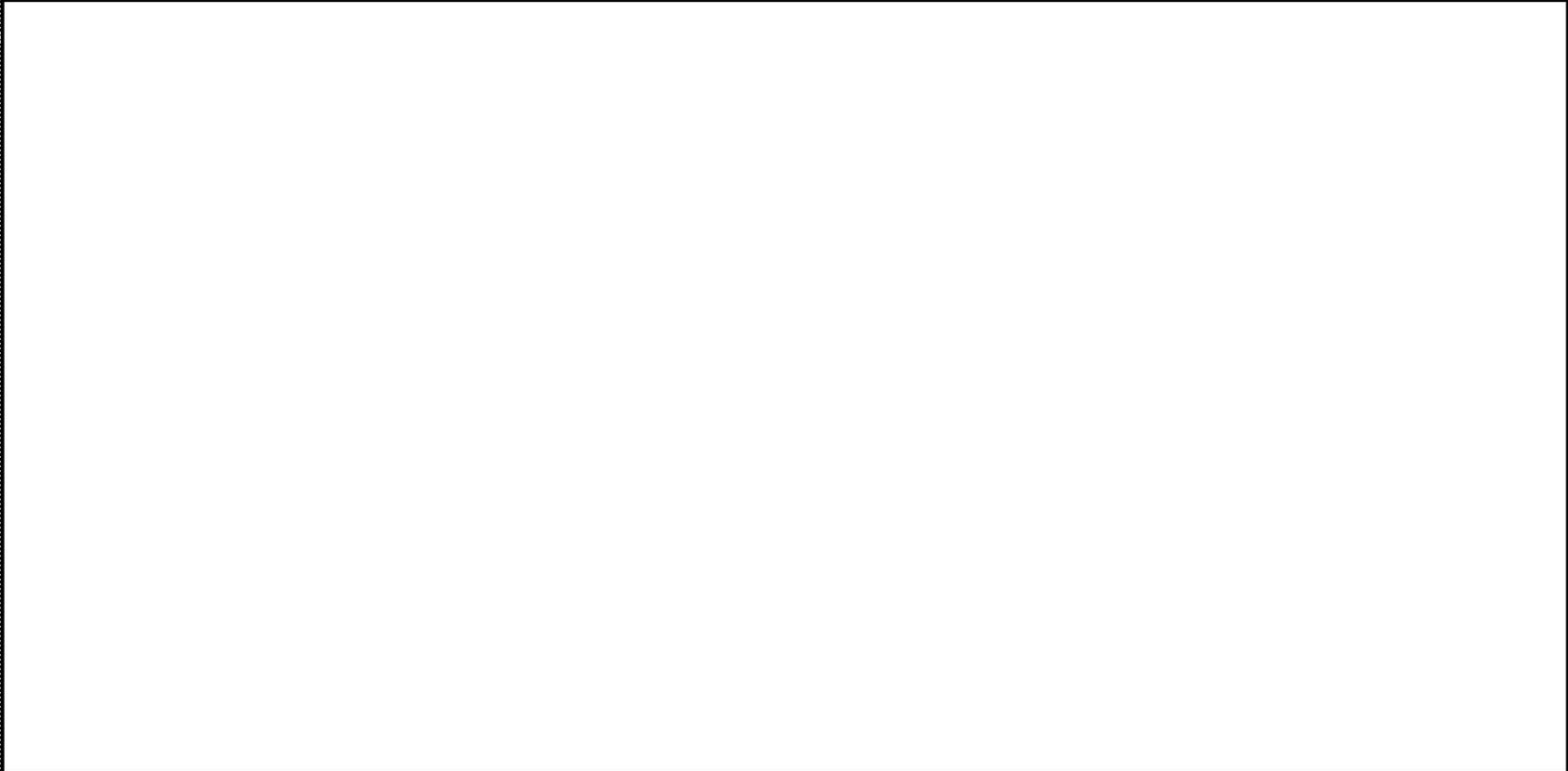
# Case Comparison



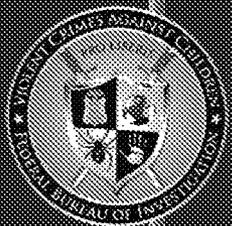
b7E 1,2,3



# Activity Comparison



b7E -1,2,3



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FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

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- Page 2 ~ b5 - 3;
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- Page 4 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 5 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 6 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 7 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 8 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 9 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 10 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 11 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 12 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 13 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 14 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 15 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 16 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 17 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 18 ~ b3 - 4; b5 - 3; b6 - 3,5; b7C - 3,5; b7E - 3;
- Page 19 ~ b5 - 3; b7E - 2,7;
- Page 20 ~ b5 - 3; b7E - 2,7;
- Page 21 ~ b5 - 3; b7E - 2,7;
- Page 22 ~ b5 - 3;
- Page 23 ~ b5 - 3;
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### Significant Case Notification

Date: 5/9/2016

CID Section: VCAC

Field Office: Charlotte

FO POC: SSA [redacted]

Case Title: Operation Pacifier

Case Number: [redacted]

HQ POC: A/UC [redacted]  
SSA [redacted]

[redacted]

b6 -1  
b7C -1  
b7E -1,11

**Significant Activity:**

- On 4/20/2016, the U.S. District Court in Massachussets (Boston) issued a ruling to suppress the evidence obtained as a result of the FBI's use [redacted]. The District Judge in Massachussets ruled b7E -2,7 that the magistrate in the Eastern District of Virginia [redacted] was not authorized since the search retrieved information that was located outside his jurisdiction. The ruling is only binding in Massachussets and judges in Washington state and Wisconsin have ruled in favor of the government on this issue in previous hearings.

**Predication/Background:**

[redacted]

b3 -1  
b5 -1,2  
b7E 1,2,3,5,7

[redacted] Steven Chase, the main administrator and operator of PlayPen, was indicted in the Western District of North Carolina.

[redacted] MCCU personnel began [redacted] schedule.

[redacted]

**Strategy:**

- [redacted]

b5 -1,2

Approval (Initial Below):

SSA [redacted]  
UC [redacted]

b6 -1  
b7C -1



### Significant Case Notification

Date: 5/26/2016

CID Section: VCAC

Field Office: Charlotte

FO POC: SSA [redacted]

Case Title: Operation Pacifier

Case Number: [redacted]

HQ POC: A/UC [redacted]

[redacted] b6 -1  
b7C -1  
b7E -1,11

**Significant Activity:**

- On 5/25/2016, the judge [redacted] presiding over the [redacted] case ruled that [redacted] will be suppressed [redacted]. The [redacted] judge did not dismiss the case or any counts, but the ruling suppresses the evidence supporting the government's case.

b5 -1,2  
b6 -3  
b7C -3  
b7E -2,3,7

**Predication/Background:**

[redacted]

b3 -1  
b5 -1,2  
b7E -1,2,3,5,7

[redacted] Steven Chase, the main administrator and operator of PlayPen, was indicted in the Western District of North Carolina.

[redacted] MCCU personnel began [redacted] schedule.

[redacted]

**Strategy:**

- [redacted]

b5 -1,2

Approval (Initial Below):  
 SSA [redacted]  
 UC [redacted]



# Significant Case Notification

Date: 4/15/2015

CID Section: VCAC

Field Office: [redacted]

FO POC: SA [redacted]

Case Title: [redacted]

Case Number: [redacted]

HO POC: SSA [redacted]

b6 -1,3  
b7C -1,3  
b7E -11

### Significant Activity:

b6 -1,3  
b7C -1,3

- On 4/15/2015, SAs [redacted] MCCU will assist [redacted] Field Office, [redacted] RA in executing a search warrant on [redacted] residence. Execution will take place between 1pm and 3pm PDT (4pm-6pm EDT), upon him returning home from work.

### Predication/Background:

b3 -1,2  
b6 -3,4  
b7C -3,4  
b7D -1  
b7D -1,2,3,4,10

[redacted]

[redacted] is believed to use the online monikers [redacted] on other hidden services where he [redacted]. These hidden services' primary purpose is the advertisement and distribution of CEM.

- Subpoena results revealed [redacted]. Open source checks indicated [redacted] resides at this address as well. [redacted] criminal history includes [redacted].

[redacted]

### Strategy/Plan Forward:

- Provide assistance [redacted] as needed for the analysis of computer equipment obtained from the search of [redacted] residence.

b6 -3  
b7C -3  
b7D -1  
b7E -3,5,10

- [redacted]
- [redacted] Field Office [redacted] RA, has opened an investigation and all prosecution will be conducted in [redacted].

Approval (Initial Below):

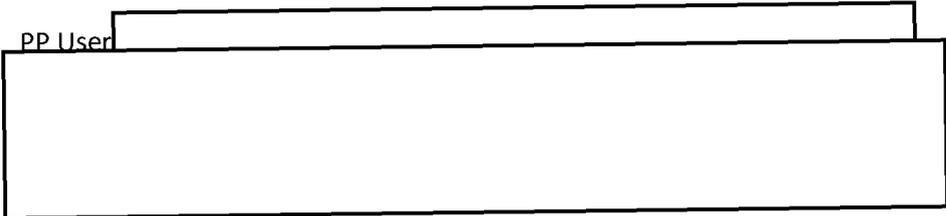
UC [redacted]  
SC: ASN

# Operation Pacifier SSA Handoff Update sheet

Date

Saturday, February 28, 2015

PP User

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a black border. It contains two lines of redacted text, one above the other.

b6 -1,3  
b7C -1,3  
b7E -1,2,3,7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1  
Page 1 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 1,2,3,5,8;

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X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X For this Page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
Civil Action# 18-cv-1488

Total Deleted Page(s) = 160

Page 1 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 2 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 3 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 4 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 5 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 6 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 7 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 8 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 9 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 10 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 11 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 12 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 13 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 14 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 15 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 16 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 17 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 18 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 19 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,9,11;  
Page 20 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 21 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 22 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 23 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,9,11  
Page 24 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 25 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 26 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 27 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 28 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 29 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 30 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 31 ~ b3 - 2; b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,4,7,11;  
Page 32 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 33 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 34 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 35 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 36 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 37 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 38 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 39 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 40 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 41 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 42 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 43 ~ b6 - 1,3,4; b7C - 1,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 44 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 45 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 46 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 47 ~ b6 - 3,4; b7C - 3,4; b7E - 1,2,3,7,9,11;  
Page 48 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;

Page 49 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 50 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 51 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 52 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 53 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 54 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 55 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 56 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 57 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 58 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 59 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,9,11  
Page 60 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 61 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 62 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 63 ~ b3 - 2; b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,4,11;  
Page 64 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 65 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 66 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 67 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 68 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 69 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 70 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 71 ~ b6 - 1,3,4; b7C - 1,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3,6;  
Page 72 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 73 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 74 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 75 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,9,11;  
Page 76 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 77 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 78 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 79 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 80 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 81 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 82 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 83 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 84 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 85 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 86 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 87 ~ b6 - 1,3,4; b7C - 1,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3,7;  
Page 88 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 89 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 90 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 91 ~ b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 92 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 93 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 94 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 95 ~ b6 - 1,2,3; b7C - 1,2,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7;  
Page 96 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 97 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 98 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 99 ~ b6 - 2,3; b7C - 2,3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 100 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 101 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 102 ~ Referral/Consult;

Page 103 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 104 ~ Referral/Consult;  
Page 105 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 106 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 107 ~ b6 - 1,2,3; b7C - 1,2,3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,11;  
Page 108 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 109 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 110 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 111 ~ b3 - 5; b6 - 1,3; b7C - 1,3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 112 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 113 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 114 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 115 ~ b6 - 2,3,4; b7C - 2,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 116 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 117 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 118 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 119 ~ b6 - 3,4; b7C - 3,4; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 120 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 121 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 122 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 123 ~ b6 - 1,3,7; b7C - 1,3,7; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 124 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 125 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 126 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 127 ~ b6 - 1,3,4; b7C - 1,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 128 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 129 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 130 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 131 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 132 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 133 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 134 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 135 ~ b6 - 1,3,7; b7C - 1,3,7; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 136 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 137 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 138 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 139 ~ b6 - 1,3,4; b7C - 1,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 140 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 141 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 142 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3,8;  
Page 143 ~ b6 - 1,3,4; b7C - 1,3,4; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 144 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 145 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 146 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 147 ~ b6 - 1,2,3; b7C - 1,2,3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 148 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 149 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 150 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 151 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3;  
Page 152 ~ b6 - 1,2; b7C - 1,2; b7E - 3,8;  
Page 153 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 154 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 155 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,7,9,11;  
Page 156 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;

Page 157 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,11;  
Page 158 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 2,3;  
Page 159 ~ b6 - 3; b7C - 3; b7E - 1,2,3,6,7,11;  
Page 160 ~ b6 - 1; b7C - 1; b7E - 3,8;

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X Deleted Page(s) X  
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