Online Child Exploitation and Child Sexual Abuse Materials

Overview

The phenomena of selling, exchanging, and producing child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) is trending upwards at an alarming rate. CSAM commerce is estimated to be a multibillion dollar business. To assist in identifying suspicious financial activity related to CSAM, this infographic summarizes red flags and suspicious behaviors.

Suspicious Behavior

Crypto transactions between 11:00pm and 5:00am

Using prepaid gift cards to purchase cryptocurrency

Purchases at vendors that offer software for P2P sharing platforms, especially of images and videos

Customer having a profile on adult entertainment websites, particularly with create your own content

Using an email address that is partially complete or references explicit content

Purchases on webcam or live streaming websites and/or purchases on adult entertainment websites

Website is not operable, but merchant continues to process transactions

IP address verification does not match the geolocation

Using extreme privacy measures, including a Tor (anonymous) browser

Red Flags

Red flags can vary depending on whether the subject is a consumer or producer of CSAM content. Therefore, it is important to understand the suspicious behaviors of both.

Crypto payments made on a recurring basis to an address belonging to the same entity (may indicate a possible subscription CSAM provider).

Wallet address is associated with other dark web illicit activity.

Use of separate email accounts to send or receive email money transfers.

Payments to online classified ad websites.

Purchases at youth-oriented live online chat rooms.

Considerations for Compliance Professionals

Evaluate transaction monitoring programs to ensure the red flags listed above would be identified within the institutions' systems.

Suspicious financial behavior related to CSAM has crossovers between cryptoasset providers and conventional financial sector activity. Compliance professionals should evaluate which red flags overlap with their risk mitigation controls.

Professionals in this space can learn from the evolving threat landscape and volume of analysis issued by regulators, law enforcement, and thought leaders in the field.

Public-private partnerships and information sharing can greatly enhance investigations. Compliance professionals should share information when possible.

To find out more about the red flags and financial patterns related to CSAM, register for our new social impact certificate – **Preventing Online Child Exploitation with Financial Intelligence: An Overview**.

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