Financially motivated cybercriminal networks

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Based on recent publications

- Leukfeldt, E.R. & T.J. Holt (2022) Cybercrime on the menu? Examining cafeteria-style offending among financially motivated cybercriminals. *Computers and Human Behavior. DOI:*10.1016/j.chb.2021.106979.
- Schiks, J., S. van de Weijer & E.R. Leukfeldt (2022) Cyberoffenders and intelligence. *Computers and Human Behavior*. DOI:10.1016/j.chb.2021.106985.
- Van de Weijer, S., T.J. Holt & E.R. Leukfeldt (2021) Heterogeneity in trajectories of cybercriminals: a longitudinal analyses of web defacements. Computers in Human Behavior Reports. doi.org/10.1016/j.chbr.2021.100113.
- Roks, R.A., E.R. Leukfeldt & J.A. Densley (2020) The Digitized Opportunity Structure of Street Offending. *British Journal of Criminology*. https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azaa091.
- Leukfeldt, E.R. & R. Roks (2020) Cybercrimes on the streets of the Netherlands? An exploration of the intersection of cybercrimes and street crimes. *Deviant Behavior*. DOI: 10.1080/01639625.2020.1755587.
- Leukfeldt, E.R., T.J. Holt (2019) Examining the Social Organization Practices of Cybercriminals in the Netherlands Online and Offline. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology 64(5) 522-538.
- Kruisbergen, E.W., E.R. Leukfeldt, E.R. Kleemans, R. Roks (2019) Money talks. Money laundering choices of organized crime offenders in a digital age. *Journal of crime and justice*. DOI:10.1080/0735648X.2019.1692420.
- Leukfeldt, E.R., E.R. Kleemans, E.W. Kruisbergen, R. Roks (2019) Criminal Networks in a Digitized World: On the Nexus of Borderless Opportunities and Local Embeddedness. *Trends in Organized Crime*. DOI:10.1007/s12117-019-09366-7.



Network structure



Digital opportunities



Crypto markets and currencies

Special investigative powers:

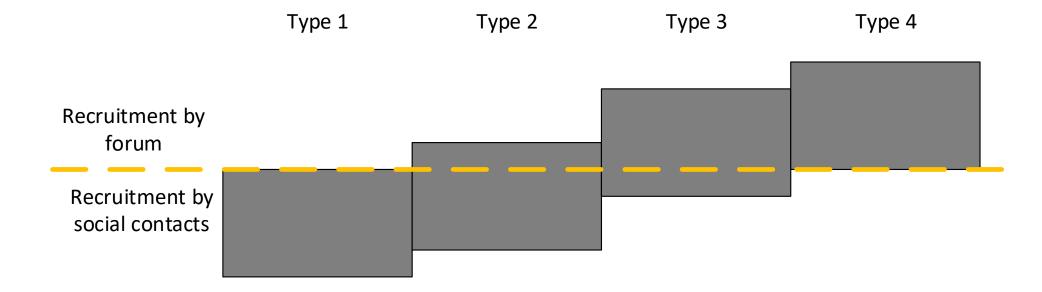
- Wire taps
- IP taps
- Interrogations
- Observations
- Listening devices
- House searches (incl computers etc)

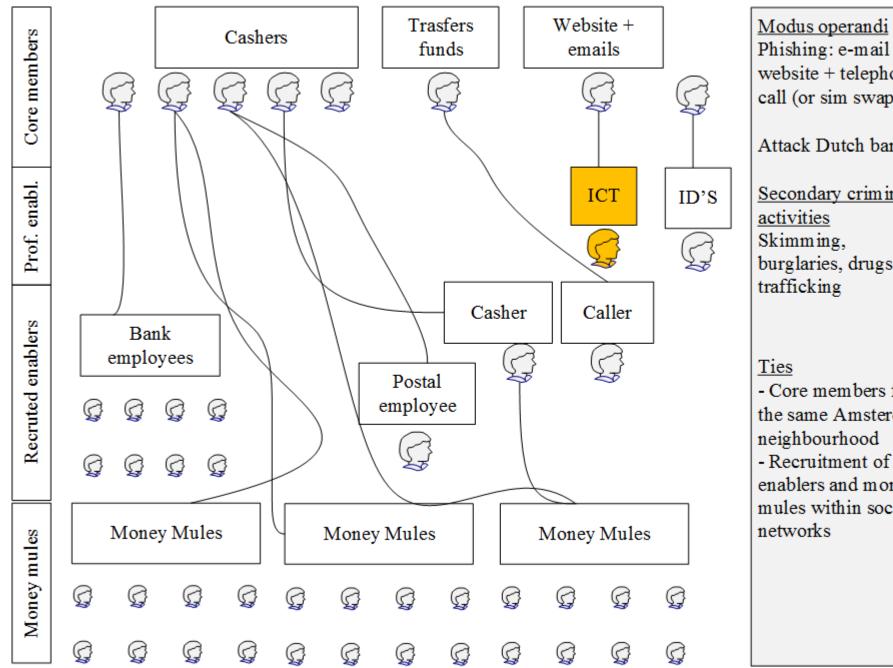


Criminal cooperation and the use of IT

How do you find capable and trustworthy co-offenders?

- Traditional organized crime: social ties
- Cybercrime:
 - Many core members have social ties (offline)
 - Technical skills and tools are found on online forums
 - Money mules are often locally found (offline)





Phishing: e-mail + website + telephone call (or sim swap) Attack Dutch banks Secondary criminal activities Skimming, burglaries, drugs trafficking

Ties

- Core members from the same Amsterdam neighbourhood - Recruitment of enablers and money mules within social networks

Finding buyers – the case of a Dark Net market (DNM)

- DNM's broaden horizon for sellers and buyers
- But DNM's have local dimensions too–our case:
 - Developers have same local background
 - Some transactions take place offline
 - Online transactions: cross-border but not so global

Money flows and the use of IT

- Traditional OC
 - Generates cash
 - Traditional forms of ML, no use of Bitcoin
 - Very limited use of prepaid cards
- Cyber –malware/phishing
 - Generates digital regular currencies (Euro)
 - These are cashed out(Euro)
 - Partly used to purchase Bitcoin, prepaidcards

•DNM

- Generates Bitcoin
- These are exchanged and cashed(Euro)







Conclusions

- Cybercrime has local dimension
 - Criminal networks with local roots
 - Local embeddedness
 - DNM's are not 'borderless'
 - Cyber and traditional crime are intertwined
- Cash is still king
- Counter strategies to cybercrime rely on 'cyber' knowledge and measures as well as regular methods

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