

Report 1 - The case of Larry Jo Thomas (2016)

On February 29th, 2016, the victim “Llamas” had asked his stepdaughter’s son, M.L., and the boyfriend’s brother in the law to help him purchase iPhones for his daughters since he spoke little English. They used an app called to “Offer Up” in which people can create direct transactions in person between users. Since M.L. had experience in buying phones from this app, he found a user with the name “Sport” in which this person offered 2 iPhone 6’s. The transaction was decided to hold on an apartment complex near 39th street and post road in Indianapolis. When they arrived at the arranged meeting after a second attempt, they were robbed at gunpoint by Thomas. A struggle ensued between Llamas and Thomas which resulted in the death of Llamas. At the crime scene, police found 2 empty caliber shell casings, a fresh cigarette butte, and an iPhone 6 box that contained both phones. Police also obtained M.L iPhone as part of the evidence.

With the use of digital forensics, this was enough for the offender to be found and arrested. This was done in the following manner. One, since the seller’s name was called “Sports” the police had obtained a search warrant for the Offer Up app to receive documents in relation to that account. Relational analysis revealed that the name was linked to Thomas’s Facebook identity. Two, a search warrant on Thomas’s home revealed a box of .223 caliber bullets and DNA forensic evidence matching the cigarette butt, and fingerprints were found on the iPhone 6 box. Three, police analyzed Thomas’s iPhone which associated Thomas iPhone was “Sporty Racks” and his phone was linked with Offer Up an account as “Sport”. This was done by viewing Apple’s Keychain password Storage feature. Four, further investigation into Thomas Phone revealed photos and videos holding a rifle like what was used in the crime. There were also photos that were used for the listing in Offer Up. Five, Thomas’s email contained messages from people who were interested in the iPhone. Six, Thomas changed his cell phone number on the day of the crime. The number that was used to arrange the transaction was thru an app called Pinger which allows users to text and call over the internet. The account was created using Thomas’s email the same day as the shooting. A second account was created using a different email and was used to also contact the M.L. Seven, the first Pinger account connected to the IP address of his home router. Calls were made to the same IP address. The second account also had the same IP address.

Electronic and cell phone records were utilized in order identify Thomas as the suspect. The IMPD used digital forensics to provide research that was integral to linking Thomas to the “Offer Up” app. Also utilizing social media analysis, reading emails and looking at photos in his phone detailing the weapon and iPhones in his possession. Not to mention Analyzing the “Pinger” showed records of his account “Sport” linking him to being in the area at the time of crime. Also, this account was in contact with M.L. This was enough digital evidence to convict Thomas for the crimes.

Discuss the following cases were resolved using digital forensics.

- The case of Larry Jo Thomas (2016)

- The case of Matt Baker (2010)

- The case of Mikayla Munn (2016)
- The case of Ross Compton (2017)
- The case of the BTK killer (2004)
- The case of Conrad Murray (2009)