Don’t Judge Me By My Title

When we first scanned the separation agreement between Michael Wolfe and Sawyer Wolfe, we easily dismissed this piece of data due to its irrelevance in the case we were making against Dr. Will Stark, the one responsible for hacking into Google and crashing the servers on July 3, 2018. Initially, we viewed the papers as records of a divorce and that despite involving a member of the I3 company, the documents were merely personal drama. At first, the document lacked any evidence to suspect anything from these papers because there weren't any suspicious connections between Michael Wolfe and Will Stark, CEO of I3, who was the prime suspect. Clearly marked on the very front page on the top were the words, SEPARATION AGREEMENT, with the date of January 3, 2018, marked underneath it. Because the date was seven months before the incident, it was deemed unlikely that there were any links or connections that indicated that Wolfe had anything to do with the cyber attack.

Upon further inspection of the separation agreement, despite the lack of evidence concerning Michael or Sawyer Wolfe’s relations to the cyber attack, there was one connection that could be made between Michael Wolfe and Will Stark, and that was the fact that Michael was an employee at I3. I3 was Will Stark’s cyber security company, so it was conceivable after further interpretation that Michael Wolfe could have had considerable knowledge of computer systems, how they work, their vulnerabilities, and how they could be hacked. Although there was no evidence that placed him in any part of the cyber attack, there was the possibility that Mr. Wolfe had a motive to participate in the crime.  The financial matters in this agreement indicated that Wolfe was in a large amount of debt, perhaps implying that he was a man who could be motivated by money and possibly benefit from the cyber attacks and bitcoin thefts. Closer inspection also revealed that the payments for marital support of ten thousand dollars per month were being paid to an unknown character, Holland Gennaro McClane, instead of his former wife, Sawyer. These odd details prompted us to look even deeper into the documents.

When we first started to dissect and interpret the information in the briefings, we were quick to declare Dr. Will Stark the main suspect and discard anything else that didn't seem to align with that theory. We did this regardless of whether or not new information could potentially prove the theory incorrect. However, there can always be more connections made, even when some of the data seems meaningless.  Perhaps if we learn to take in seemingly needless data rather than dismissing it, we can learn more about a topic and come to the better interpretation rather than follow an incorrect initial perception.