Individual perception of information directly impacts the connections we make to other given sources. When we first came across the Coinhoarders documents, we saw that they were a group of pranksters that presented a low-level threat; in fact, the theory that they were a low-level threat was supported by the given summary and by the sources from the FBI. The documents stated that the Coinhoarders group has never particularly focused on anything serious or complex. Because of our personal perception, we initially ignored the data in relation to that group and focused on what was important to us, Google being hacked, and the background methods thereof. When we saw Fox, the leader of Coinhoarders, on the internet forums, we continued to dismiss the group because of our focus on the more troubling sources. Therefore, we did not investigate the information regarding Coinhoarders any further.

When we perceived the group as criminals, we end up gathering information in a completely different manner. By spending more time investigating the information, we made deeper connections than what we had made before. With this in mind, we were able to connect Fox to William Stark through the use of a common IP address. We learned that Stark is the leader of Coinhoarders, and we found that he stole bitcoin and other crypto currencies. Consequently, we also learned that the group was preceded by a severe threat level.  We began to see that there was bitcoin loss from certain groups, and we were able to determine that Stark’s Coinhoarders was the culprit. Because we switched focus to the Coinhoarders, we were able to denounce focus from the Google shutdown. The focus also begins to shift to the other groups and their possible connections to the Coinhoarders.  These different groups do not have any connection to Coinhoarders except they were all affected by the crypto-crash.  We knew from past convictions that the sentence for stealing money at a level like this is quite severe; the conviction is far more severe than the sentence for deploying ransomware.  In fact, the maximum conviction for ransomware is 125 years from a suspected punishment for stealing this amount of money online.  Though we could see further into the truth on the Coinhoarders, we began to neglect the other important information available to us.

              The way that we interpreted and perceived information influenced the connections we made and our understanding information we are given.  This difference in the way we interpreted had determined not only the amount of information that we found, but this difference changed the severity of the information that we already had.  To find the complete truth in a piece of information, we perceived all information with the same vigor.  We investigated everything to the full extent of the information given.