This isn’t Water; This is the Internet

Document after document, our group heavily analyzed each and every piece of evidence presented to us. Scanning through the sources, trying to develop a strong argument to present to the judges, we looked over several different works. Often times, we would come across documents that did not work in favor of our argument, or at least that’s what we assumed. After receiving background information on cryptocurrency and the trends of it in the world, documents were brought about, specifically receipts of a conversation on an online thread. At the first glance, we didn’t want to analyze it in depth. The usernames on the sites seemed to be random people with random usernames that had no correlation to any of the background we had overviewed. Furthermore, a user by the name “IFixIt4Fox” went on an excessive tangent, starting a threat containing technical analogy that no one on our team of agents could currently comprehend. After tossing these documents to the side, we went on to look at other sources in attempt of connecting a suspect to the crime.

Hours later, in a secluded classroom away from other teams, we decided to lay everything out and figure out what to do. Too much time had gone by, and too little conclusions had been made. At this point in the day, we turned every document into being of the utmost importance, except from the online threads about bitcoin being stolen. No names from the threads rang a bell, even after two more files being presented to us. While looking at the threads, it just felt as if something had to connect. IP addresses, for the first time today, were presented to us. Several eyes glanced over the document once more, still coming to a dead end. Then, as if like magic, it made sense to one person in the room. Two seperate users had the same IP address, as well as one account, “Bunny,” had switched up their IP address mid-thread. Looking through more of our documents, we found that Bunny’s new IP address not only belonged to William Stark, CEO of I3, but as well as to the hacker group Coinhoarders. Finally, we had a case.

Often times, whether admitted or not, people have the automatic sense of developing a first impression of things. Sometimes, the first impressions even happen to be that of stereotypes. Having first impressions or immediate perceptions permit the idea of new ideas to flow. The human mind, in itself, often gets caught up on these perceptions. It can be quite detrimental to the human experience as a whole. Having an open mindset allows for new interpretations to be made and new conclusions to come about. Immediately rejecting the initial idea of the threads set back our investigation by hours. Forcing ourselves to look back at the situation for one last time allowed for us to break our deadlock on the case. In order to progress and grow, not only as a being, but as a society as a whole, we need to ditch the idea of immediate perceptions. Often times, they can prevent us from being able to solve some of the hardest problems or, in our case, crack the toughest of cases.