**Summary of *Rinsed***

**Author & Context**

* Geoff White is an investigative journalist focused on technology, cybercrime, and financial crime. [Geoff White+2Penguin+2](https://geoffwhite.tech/book/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* *Rinsed* was published in 2024, exploring how money laundering has evolved in the digital age. [Google Books+2Geoff White+2](https://books.google.com/books/about/Rinsed.html?id=UjLnEAAAQBAJ&utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**What the Book Covers**

1. **The Evolution of Money Laundering**  
   The book traces how money laundering has moved beyond traditional, mostly cash-based methods into online and digital systems. As financial systems digitize and as cryptocurrencies, digital wallets, darknet marketplaces, etc., proliferate, criminals have more tools. [Google Books+3Penguin+3Financial Times+3](https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/455031/rinsed-by-white-geoff/9780241624838?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
2. **The Classic Three-Stage Model**  
   Like many works on financial crime, *Rinsed* still uses the established scheme of **placement**, **layering**, and **integration**:
   * *Placement* = getting illicit funds into the legal/financial system;
   * *Layering* = mixing / hiding the origin via complex transactions;
   * *Integration* = using the laundered funds in “legitimate” contexts. [TRM Labs+3Financial Times+3Ctrl Alt Sec+3](https://www.ft.com/content/35867bba-65b5-407d-967e-716ef5cfb633?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
3. **New Tools & Techniques from Technology**  
   The book provides many case studies (globally) showing how technology has made laundering more scalable, faster, with lower risk in many respects. Some of the methods discussed include:
   * Cryptocurrencies and mixers (tools to obscure origins of digital funds) [Financial Times+2Google Books+2](https://www.ft.com/content/35867bba-65b5-407d-967e-716ef5cfb633?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
   * Cyber-heists and blockchain thefts (e.g. the Sky Mavis incident, etc.) [Financial Times+1](https://www.ft.com/content/35867bba-65b5-407d-967e-716ef5cfb633?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
   * Use of online marketplaces / darknet marketplaces, social media, online classifieds, etc. [Ctrl Alt Sec+3The Institute+3Google Books+3](https://www.imlpo.com/articles/book-review-rinsed?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
   * Recruiting money mules via social platforms. [Geoff White+2Ctrl Alt Sec+2](https://geoffwhite.tech/book/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
4. **Geographic & Jurisdictional Spread**  
   White takes the reader through examples from many different parts of the world — cartels, cyber gangs, countries with weak regulation, etc. It emphasizes that laundering is global, often exploiting jurisdictions with low oversight or corrupt/inefficient enforcement. [Penguin+2Google Books+2](https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/455031/rinsed-by-white-geoff/9780241624838?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
5. **Human Cost & Law Enforcement Response**  
   The book also touches on how money laundering harms people and societies (undermining economies, enabling other crime, etc.), and how law enforcement is trying to catch up — e.g. by using blockchain analysis, cross-border cooperation. But there are limits: the pace of innovation among criminals, jurisdictional gap, etc. [Financial Times+3Penguin+3Penguin+3](https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/455031/rinsed-by-white-geoff/9780241624838?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
6. **Threat & Warning**  
   White argues that we may be crossing a tipping point: laundering is getting so efficient, so embedded in technology, that many forms of crime will increase if controls, laws, detection don’t scale up. The “digital laundering machine” could overwhelm authorities if not addressed. [Penguin+2Penguin+2](https://www.penguin.com.au/books/rinsed-9780241624869?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Relation to Your Point**

You said:

*For criminals to get away with crime, they need laundering practices. Some of the current laundering practices use cybercrime techniques. These are currently the most effective methods of laundering because the three layers required to successfully launder money can be done online, centrally, swiftly, and with little overhead (other than pre-laundering preparations).*

Based on *Rinsed*, your point is very well supported. Here’s how:

| **Aspect of your point** | **Evidence / Alignment from *Rinsed*** |
| --- | --- |
| **Laundering is necessary for criminals to benefit from crime** | White repeatedly shows how stolen / illicit funds must be “washed” (through placement, layering, integration) to be usable. The book’s central thesis is about the laundering side of financial crime. [Penguin+1](https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/455031/rinsed-by-white-geoff/9780241624838?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| **Use of cybercrime / tech-based laundering practices** | Very much a core part: crypto, mixers, darknet markets, hacking theft, use of money mules recruited online, etc. These are central to many of the case studies. [Google Books+1](https://books.google.com/books/about/Rinsed.html?id=UjLnEAAAQBAJ&utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| **Three layers done online, centrally, swiftly** | The book argues that many of the classic laundering processes can now be accomplished with fewer physical components. For example: transferring via crypto wallets (layering), mixing services to obscure origins, online purchases or digital platforms to integrate. This allows speed, scale, less physical cash handling. The “digitization” of laundering reduces the overhead. [Google Books+3Financial Times+3The Institute+3](https://www.ft.com/content/35867bba-65b5-407d-967e-716ef5cfb633?utm_source=chatgpt.com) |
| **Pre-laundering preparations still needed** | Yes: criminals still need to steal or generate illicit funds, exploit weak systems, recruit mules, create wallets, set up shell entities or fake identities — these are preparatory work. White describes these in the book. [Google Books+2Geoff White+2](https://books.google.com/books/about/Rinsed.html?id=UjLnEAAAQBAJ&utm_source=chatgpt.com) |

So your view is strongly consistent with what *Rinsed* describes.