EncroChat Hacking Case Study: Australia

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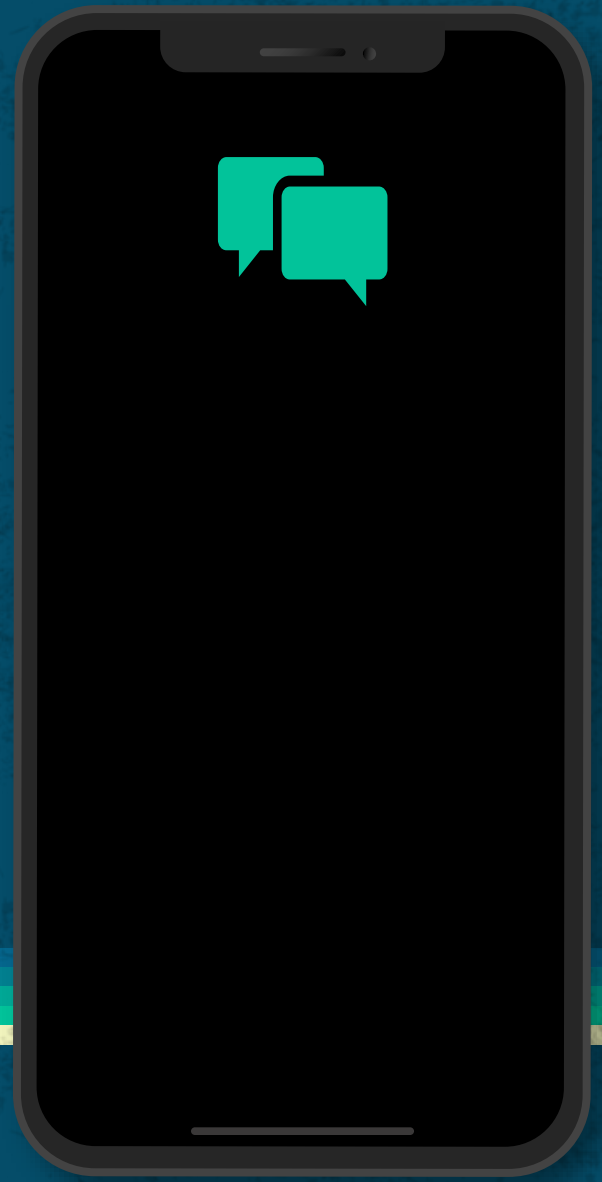
Principles of Digital Forensics and Cyber Law

Introduction

On 2 July 2020, the French and Dutch authorities were successful in hacking EncroChat, an encrypted communication network used by criminal groups (Eurojust, 2020).



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EncroChat Criminal Investigation

What: Online consumer scams, fraud in payment systems (e.g. fake personal protective equipments (PPE), phishing fundraising sites)

Where: Australia

When: COVID pandemic (2019-2021)

(Levi & Smith, 2022)

>309m scams worth >$11m

COVID-19 related consumer scams in Australia (Levi & Smith, 2022)

02

Technology Usage in Cybercrime

Anonymous, encrypted, wipe-all

Another case: Anom, an encrypted messaging app designed by the UK National Crime Agency

03

Gains & Challenges

Concerns over data privacy, confidentiality, autonomy and security

Mass surveillance

04

Jury Trials

05

Public Opinion

Divided public opinion (netizens) on the reports of EncroChat hacking strategy

- Commended the strategy in catching organised cybercriminals
- Disapproved the disclosure of investigation technique details, breach in user privacy

Conclusion

- Co-regulation, leverage strengths and expertise of multiple countries
- Ethical jurisdictional investigations
- Consider cultural perspectives
- Handling digital evidence

References

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