

4/9/13

appeared to be over 1000 images
of child abuse and CP

as a prop. to young teen.

X-Ways forensic

Scatter. White House wing

Master

multiple

pages

opening

to have

CP.

Partition 1/ home/den

Penetration
said he
understood
them

later

Went

asked

him about "Adama"

said

first and

"Simon"

were aliases

he uses

said
"Adama" was

the Adama on BullMaster

Collection

and

he had her

whole

Series. 014

04/09/2013 Kirk Cotton

= installed TOR read article on Facebook, about Bitcoin
and Hidden Wiki

- looked at stuff about Hitman

- installed TOR went to some onion sites, can't
get them unless have TOR

- back in Nov is when went to TOR

- saw some porn sites mentioned on hidden Wiki

- Tim Warner

- sometimes ^{wife} under open, encryption doesn't work with
Phone

- Bitcoin, white slavery forums

- might have seen some ^{CP} images when downloaded

- go to TOR downloading and links for CP

- can hide links for child pornography

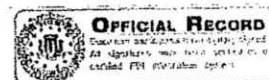
- probably he on Friday, late at night when drunk

- had drive new, built computer, new eggs

- doesn't give password to anyone, has let

people use computer

- doesn't



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 04/10/2013

1 On April 9, 2013, SA Barry W. Couch and SA Liam Kelly approached 248 Wahl Road, Rochester, New York, and knocked on the door. KIRK COTTOM appeared in one of the windows and asked who SA Couch and SA Kelly were. SA Couch informed COTTOM that they were the FBI, at which point, COTTOM came and opened the front door. SA Couch provided COTTOM with his and SA Kelly's identities and asked if they could come inside and speak to COTTOM for a few minutes.

2 COTTOM allowed SA Couch and SA Kelly into his residence and lead them to his kitchen where he was cooking dinner. SA Couch informed COTTOM that he and SA Kelly were part of a Federal Cyber Crimes Task Force and that they were there to speak to COTTOM about some inappropriate images that came across his computer. SA Couch informed COTTOM that one particular instance the FBI was interested in was a visit to the website "TB2" using "TOR" and accessing a section on the website titled "finger bum girl". COTTOM denied that he accessed the website. SA Couch informed COTTOM that it was a federal crime to lie to federal agents. COTTOM restated that he did not access the website.

3 COTTOM stated that he did use TOR and had installed TOR after reading an article on Facebook about Bitcoin and it mentioned the Hidden Wiki.

COTTOM saw some pornography sites mentioned on the Hidden Wiki. COTTOM also looked at forums about hit men and white slavery. COTTOM looked at the forums on white slavery because he had watched a documentary on the topic. COTTOM stated TOR sites have a ".onion" extension and you are unable to view the .onion sites unless you have TOR installed. COTTOM also stated he did not make himself a TOR node when he installed TOR. COTTOM stated he went to TOR in November. COTTOM said that if activity was coming from his house, it would probably be on a Friday late at night when he was drunk.

COTTOM also mentioned he saw links for child pornography sites on the TOR directory but you could hide those links and that is what he did. COTTOM said he was aware that TOR was used for illegal activities related to drugs and child pornography, but that he elected not to be involved with that activity. After further input from SA Couch and SA Kelly that they were concerned that it was COTTOM that had visited the TB2 website, COTTOM reiterated that he was not involved with child pornography, was not a "trader" (of child pornography), and did not have child pornography stored.

Investigation on 04/09/2013 at Rochester, New York, United States (In Person)File # 305A-OM-54353-CPIPA6Date drafted 04/10/2013by Barry W. Couch, SA LIAM R. KELLY

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Interview of Kirk Cottom/Execution of
Search Warrant at 248 Wahl Road/Arrest of
Cottom

Continuation of FD-302 of _____, On 04/09/2013, Page 2 of 4

4 COTTOM stated that he had internet service through Time Warner and that he usually kept the internet access encrypted, but believed it might have been wide open at times because it didn't work with his iPhone. COTTOM said that he had two computers in his residence, a laptop that was fully encrypted, and a desktop computer running Ubuntu. COTTOM installed TOR on the Unbuntu computer. COTTOM also stated the Unbuntu computer was not encrypted. COTTOM stated that his desktop computer was password protected and that he did not give his password to anyone. COTTOM said he would sometimes let others use his computers. When asked, COTTOM confirmed that he did live alone.

5 COTTOM denied again any involvement with child pornography and said that if he had accidentally come across anything it was when he was drunk late at night, but that he did not remember ever coming across child pornography. COTTOM was then told that the FBI had a search warrant for his residence. COTTOM attempted to enter the room off the kitchen, that contained the stairs heading toward the upper level of his residence, and was told to stay in the kitchen to prevent any tampering with evidence. SA Couch left the kitchen to secure the computers in the residence. COTTOM sat down at his kitchen table with the copy of the search warrant he was provided. SA Kelly asked COTTOM if he had any questions about the search warrant. COTTOM asked if he was being charged and SA Kelly told him there was an investigation. COTTOM asked if he should get an attorney and SA Kelly informed him he could not give him legal advice. COTTOM never formally requested an attorney, but said that he guessed he thought he should maybe get one. COTTOM asked if he could get his iPhone from the other room and was told it was contained within the scope of the warrant and he would not be able to retrieve it. Other members of the FBI were notified and entered the residence to execute the search warrant. The following individuals participated in the execution of the federal search warrant: SA Barry W. Couch, SA Liam Kelly, SA Scott Romus, TFO Brian Tucker, TFO Chris Harrington, SA Dan Ciavarri, SA Robert Culpepper, SA Kurt Braselton, and SA Matt Giacobbi.

6 During the execution of the search warrant, a hard drive from COTTOM's desktop computer was looked at from behind a write blocker using "X-WAYS" Forensics by SA Scott Romus. SA Romus located multiple images of what appeared to be child pornography and child erotica in Partition 1 of the hard drive under the "home/adama" directory. SA Couch looked at the images and observed approximately 1,400 images of child pornography and child erotica depicting prepubescent children up to young teenagers.

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Interview of Kirk Cottom/Execution of
Search Warrant at 248 Wahl Road/Arrest of
Cottom

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7 SA Couch then approached COTTOM and read COTTOM his Miranda rights. When asked, COTTOM responded that he understood his rights. SA Couch told COTTOM that a large amount of child pornography had been located on his desktop computer. COTTOM denied knowing how the child pornography had gotten onto his computer.

8 SA Couch then showed COTTOM several of the images of child pornography that had been located on his computer. While SA Couch was talking to COTTOM, showing him the images, and explaining to him the images that were located, COTTOM started to walk away back toward his kitchen, stating, "Whatever". COTTOM said that he did not know how the images were on his computer. SA Kelly asked about his desktop computer and COTTOM stated he had bought the parts of the computer, including the hard drives, as new. COTTOM built the desktop computer and he purchased the parts from Newegg.

9 During the execution of the search warrant, several magazines and binders associated with "The Church of the Natural Way" were located in COTTOM's bedroom and office. The Church of the Natural Way appeared to be a religion that believed in open nudity. Some of the magazines had pictures of nude children in different states of activity. When asked about the religion, COTTOM stated that he was a "believer" and that the church was associated with the state of Alabama. Also located in the residence was a book that depicted nude photos of people. At least one nude photo was of what appeared to be a prepubescent child.

10 SA Couch approached COTTOM again and asked him if he had any friends or family members by the name "Adam A" or "adama". COTTOM said he did not. SA Couch then asked COTTOM if he knew anyone named "Simon". At that point, COTTOM said that both "Simon" and "adama" were aliases he used, and that "adama" came from Battlestar Gallactica. COTTOM said he had the entire series of Battlestar Gallactica.

11 At the conclusion of the execution of the search warrant, COTTOM was provided with a copy of the Receipt for Property, listing the items that were seized. COTTOM had also been provided a copy of the search warrant.

12 COTTOM was informed by SA Couch that he was under arrest. COTTOM was allowed to go to the bathroom prior to being escorted from the residence and was asked if he had any specific concerns about the state of his residence, to which he had none. The residence was secured and COTTOM was transported to the Monroe County Jail.

Interview of Kirk Cottom/Execution of
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13 During the transport from COTTOM's residence to the FBI building COTTOM stated this was some big brother stuff. COTTOM also stated he didn't know how this happened and he would have to spend his retirement fighting the charges.

14 During the transport from the FBI building to jail, COTTOM voiced a concern that he thought he could have been used as a "relay" on TOR. COTTOM also voiced a concern that he wanted to make sure it was noted that he categorically denied any involvement with child pornography.

15 While at the Monroe County Jail, COTTOM voiced a thought that maybe a "Sneak and Peak" was conducted at his home, because he thought he had noticed that things in his computer room had been moved before. COTTOM clarified that what he meant by "Sneak and Peak", was someone coming into his house without him knowing and gaining access to his computer. COTTOM also stated that he thought he was in Philadelphia on November 19, 2012, and that he could prove he was in a hotel then. COTTOM explained that it was just before Thanksgiving and he was visiting people there.

16 On April 10, 2013, COTTOM was transported to the Federal Building in Rochester, where he was processed at the United States Marshal's Office and attended his initial appearance later that same day.