See Something?

SAY SOMETHING!!!

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PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE

Fraudulent documents submitted for purposes of obtaining a DL, ID, vehicle ownership and registration may be indicative of a much greater crime. This workshop will highlight, through case examples, how seemingly innocent fraudulent utility bills, cable bills, and the like are used in furtherance of major criminal activity, and how the vigilant observer can be a vital asset to law enforcement.

Our goal: Raise awareness of potential fraudulent items

- How are they obtaining these documents?
- What is the purpose for submitting fake documents?
- Criminal intent or simply to get in the bars?
Driver’s License and/or ID Cards

There are two types of fakes –

**Fraudulent** – Not government issued. Easily purchased online. These have a good chance of working at non-government establishments (banks, bars, etc).

**Fictitious** – Government issued. Documents were presented (real or fake) in order to get a state issued document. Fictitious documents are needed in order to change a person’s identity “in the system”.

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Fraudulent Identifications

HOMEMADE COST = LESS THAN $1 PER LICENSE TO MAKE AT HOME

INTERNET

Internet purchases usually cost $100 per document

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Fraudulent Identifications
Fake Illinois License = 5 year hold on becoming a citizen

- College student months away from becoming US citizen
- Student orders fake ID online to get in the bars.
- **US Customs intercepts** IDs (from China) at the airport
- ILSOS Investigators revoke driving privileges
- Student cannot become US citizen for 5 years

-Our facilities **play no role**, have no knowledge
- Excellent quality documents, **unlikely to see in facilities**
- ILSOS provides training to police and non-gov agencies that are likely to receive fraudulent identities (bars, pharmacies etc)

**Receiving these documents sometimes results in bigger crimes being committed beyond having a fake ID**

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Ordering Illegal Documents Online
The Onion Router (TOR) & anonymous browsing

- Most internet users only access a very small portion of the internet (surface web)
- The deep web is estimated to be 400-550 times larger than the surface web
- Deep web = content not indexed by search engines, hidden behind HTML forms
- TOR was developed in the mid-1990s by the United States Naval Research Laboratory
- Using TOR and accessing the deep web, criminals can access illegal websites anonymously and order ANYTHING imaginable.
  - Guns, drugs, fake identification, stolen vehicles .... ANYTHING

Searching on the Internet can be compared to dragging a net across the surface of the ocean: a great deal may be caught in the net, but there is a wealth of information that is deep and therefore missed.

Tor browser and Tor-accessible sites are widely used among the darknet users and can be identified by the domain ".onion".
How Tor Works:

After obtaining a list of Tor nodes from a directory server, the user's Tor client picks a random series of Tor nodes to the destination server.

If the user visits another site at a later time, a second random path will be chosen to the new destination.

An unencrypted link is exposed to surveillance, allowing someone to learn what websites you visit.
Fictitious Identifications
Fake documents are used for identifications, titles, and registrations

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October 16, 2014 - A quick-thinking driver’s facility employee in Vandalia, IL notices that multiple applicants from Eastern Block countries have presented:

1. utility bills (electric, gas, cable) with different customer names but the exact same usage charts and amount due
2. The applicants are being supervised & leave together in 1 vehicle.
3. The applicants travelled 3-4 hours south to his location.

The employee notifies the area Illinois Secretary of State Police (ISSP) investigator of the discovery. Area facilities are put on alert and ISSP immediately learns of several similar instances within a 60-mile radius. By October 21st, a large group of suspect applicants are identified in the area.

On Oct 22, 2014, two applicants present identical documents in their applications for Illinois Driver’s Licenses at the driver’s facility. Facility personnel immediately alert ISSP. The two suspects are subsequently arrested. Both suspects are cooperative and provide all details of their quest to obtain an Illinois Drivers License.

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The suspect was advertising on a website similar to Facebook (commonly used by Eastern Block citizens) the sale of fake Documents to purport the person as an Illinois resident.

- Comcast cable bill
- ComEd power bill
- Liberty Gas utility bill
- Rent receipt
- US Dept of State CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR (J-1) STATUS form

The suspect also offered (for a fee $$) to transport the customer from Chicago to multiple pre-designated southern Illinois driver’s facilities that he says are less likely to suspect criminal activity.
When these fake documents are presented with a valid Passport, Immigrant Visa, and “Valid For Work Only With DHS Auth” Social Security Card, it provides enough documentation for the Illinois Secretary of State to issue an Identification Card and/or Driver’s License.

The beauty of the program was that, had it not been for the keen eye of the driver’s facility employee, the process could have continued indefinitely.

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The break in the case:

The Investigator contacts the US State Department and learns that the Consul of the United States has not performed in that capacity since August, 2013, and any signature after that date is a forgery. This was a defining moment in evidence collection for law enforcement.

This form was used by every suspect involved in this case.

The main suspect is captured in Delaware and transported back to Illinois for trial.

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Titles and Registrations

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January 31, 2014 – Cahokia, IL Police contact the Illinois Secretary of State Police concerning a subject who presented a title to a licensed Illinois remitter with markings on it that appear to be “washed” and altered along with a falsified Bill of Sale. Illinois remitters are licensed to conduct title & registration transactions, acting on the ILSOS behalf. The remitter’s training and experience, received from the ILSOS, provided the knowledge needed to notify the authorities.

An ISSP investigator responds and learns that the subject purchased a vehicle from “Randy’s Sales & Services” - a car dealer in St. Louis, MO. The remitter had recently received several transactions come through her agency bearing the dealer name, and flagged the transactions before sending them in. ISSP conducts a joint investigation with the Missouri Dept of Revenue, St. Louis Metro PD, and US Postal Inspectors, with assistance from the US Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Missouri.
2015 Hinton Case

How the crime was committed

• Dealer takes car on trade
• Trade-in has lien on it – customer owed money on the vehicle
• Dealer **washes title** to remove the lien listed on title (using brake fluid & water solution)
• Dealer sells car, profits from not paying his customers trade-in loan off
• Dealer tells MO customers he can get them an IL title – they won’t pay MO personal property tax. **Word travels fast.**
• Dealer gives bill of sale with $1000 sale price – at 6.25%, every customer paying $62.50 in sales tax **TO ILLINOIS**
• Training provided to remitters as well as facility personnel on fraudulent documents as well as how to spot washed titles (erase marks, rough feel, holes)

This provides the opportunity to commit larger crimes using fake addresses and avoid LawEnforcement

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2015 Hinton Case

Four Illinois remitters continue to supply stacks of washed titles and fraudulent documents, with the primary cleansing of the lienholder(s), purchase price, Missouri address, and Dealer/seller information.

The cooperation of the remitters was an integral part of the investigation and convictions.

Eventually Randy stopped using remitters and went to the Illinois Secretary of State (ILSOS) facilities directly, since individuals did not need to prove residency at that time* to apply for a title and/or registration. Randy would provide fake addresses and enter his address in the MAIL TO section of the application.

*it is now required on all title/reg applications
August, 2015 – The US Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Missouri charged Randall Hinton in a scheme to alter and counterfeit documents in order to obtain state issued motor vehicle titles for himself and others, and obtain loans secured by motor vehicle titles. Hinton was sentenced to 136 months in Federal prison, and co-defendant Justin Carter was sentenced to 60 months.

Six other co-defendants were sentenced anywhere from 37 months to five years in prison.

The suspect is issued a registration during the application process but no title is ever issued to the applicant. NMVTIS, CarFax, and ISO Claimsearch reports were obtained and indicate a vehicle bearing the same VIN number was currently being offered for sale at a Chicago-area Ford dealership.
Illinois Secretary of State Police inspect the vehicle and title at the Ford dealership, and both were found to be authentic. Investigators determine that the vehicle in possession of the applicant was a cloned/retagged vehicle. The suspect vehicle was entered into LEADS/NCIC as a stolen VIN part/ Possible retagged vehicle on 8/5/16.

Within hours of the vehicle being entered, the vehicle was stopped by the Chicago Police Department with three occupants.
Two of the occupants fled, one was not captured. The driver fought with police and was ultimately tazed, but not before one of the officers received injuries significant enough for a visit to the emergency room.

A subsequent search of the vehicle yielded fully loaded and chambered Colt .45 caliber and a Smith and Wesson 9MM Semi-automatic handgun, with the Smith and Wesson being reported stolen as a result of a gun shop burglary in Indiana.

Additionally, five zip lock bags containing marijuana were discovered in the center console, packaged in a manor consistent with illegal sales.
The vehicle was inspected and found to in fact be a retagged 2016 Dodge Charger stolen from Hertz Rental Car Company on what was likely an identity theft where the customer failed to return the vehicle.
In Conclusion...

- Ensure your counter staff AND vendors know how to identify altered documents

- Look for similarities, as in the Eastern European case (same addresses, identical utility bills etc)

- Identify anomalies (using facilities hundreds of miles from home, groups entering together with a “supervisor”, etc)

- Train both your staff and those allowed to do business on your behalf (Illinois = remitters)

- Make sure they know who to contact and that it’s OK to be suspicious when they get “that gut feeling”

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Need more information?

Illinois Secretary of State
Department of Police

Command Center
(217) 782-7126
24-hour Police Inquiry Unit
(217) 785-0309

www.cyberdriveillinois.com

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