

The Image Hash List



Each image can be given a unique code, known as a hash. A hash can be created from any image and it's like a digital fingerprint. In this case it's a hash of a child sexual abuse image and it acts as a unique identifier. The list of these hashes can be used to find duplicate images so we can remove these images at source, protect our staff from seeing several of the same image, and protect our Members' services. For the children in the images, it offers real hope of eliminating the images for good. The Image Hash List could stop the sharing, storage and even the upload of child sexual abuse content.

In 2015, we announced the trial of our Image Hash List which was rolled out to five Member companies providing internet services. During this time (June to October 2015) nearly 19,000 **category 'A'** child sexual abuse images were added to the list.

In 2016, we made our Image Hash List service available to all our Members. We also worked with Microsoft on a cloud deployment solution, meaning Members get instant access to the service without costly changes to their own networks.

In order to ensure that the Image Hash List contains only child sexual abuse images, it takes real people – our analysts – to review hundreds of thousands of individual images which may, or may not, show children being sexually abused.

During 2016, we assessed 293,818 individual images, of which, we:

- **added 122,972 hashes to our Image Hash List.**
- Of these hashes, 60,821 relate to the worst forms of abuse – images of rape or sexual torture of children.**



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This means our analysts reviewed 26,711 images each, alongside reviewing public reports, and actively searching for child sexual abuse images and videos.