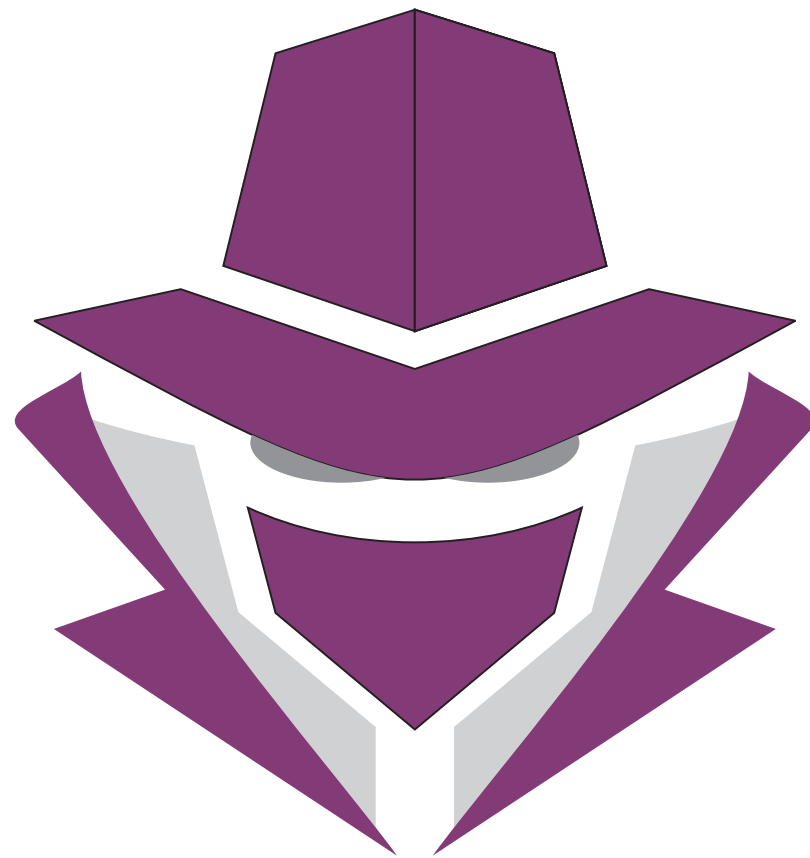


Hidden services



Hidden services are websites hosted within **proxy networks** – sometimes also called the "**dark web**". These websites are challenging as the location of the hosting server can't be traced in the normal way. We work with the National Crime Agency (NCA) Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command to provide intelligence on any new hidden services which are displaying child sexual abuse imagery. With this intelligence, NCA-CEOP can work with national and international law enforcement agencies to investigate the criminals using these websites.

- Between 2012 and 2015, we saw a year-on-year rise in new hidden services dedicated to child sexual abuse imagery.

- **The number of newly identified hidden services declined from 79 in 2015 to 41 in 2016. It is possible this could be the result of increased awareness by law enforcement internationally about hidden services distributing child sexual abuse imagery.**

Hidden services commonly contain hundreds or even thousands of links to child sexual abuse imagery that's hosted on image hosts and cyberlockers on the open web. We take action to remove the child sexual abuse imagery on the open web. Monitoring trends in the way offenders use hidden services to distribute child sexual abuse imagery also helps us when we're searching for this imagery online.