Human Trafficking Prevention Initiative
Seattle PD & Portland PD

January 2013
Overview of the issue

- The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is defined as sexual abuse of a minor for economic gain.\(^1\)
- CSEC involves physical abuse, pornography, prostitution, and the smuggling of children for unlawful purposes.

In the US, 300,000 children are said to be at risk.\(^2\)
An estimated 300 to 500 children are traded along the I-5 corridor.\(^3\)
Why is solving the problem so hard?

The trade is controlled by savvy pimps who utilize an elaborate network to avoid the ~17,000 separate law enforcement agencies in the USA. The traffickers:

- Assist one another in the recruitment, selection, indoctrination, and discipline of children
- Use technology to enable their crimes and stay ahead of law enforcement
Why is this the time to tackle this issue?

- January 2013 declared by President Obama as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- Cloud technologies allow law enforcement agencies to communicate and collaborate in new ways
- Use lessons learned from data-driven policing initiatives: spotting patterns, coordinating resources
- Build on the high profile successes of multi-agency task forces that investigate serial killers and other complex criminal activities
The proposed approach

In late 2012, Seattle, Portland and Microsoft invested in a series of problem-solving workshops with the goal of finding a collaborative solution to eliminate incidents related to CSEC.

To achieve this goal, the following needs have been identified:

- Improved tools for Field Officers to better identify situations related to Human Trafficking
- Automated tools to allow for search and push notifications to officers and investigators
- Better collaborative tools to build cases utilizing public information that could be affiliated
Example Use Cases Identified

Field Interview Report (FIR) Processing
- A tool to support Officers for quick, informed decisions in the field
- Examples: is she missing, runaway, what other Officers have queried, etc.

Information Sharing, Automated & Manual
- Investigator is made aware of previous case(s), open case(s), and to whom they were assigned
- Push notifications of who might also be involved with this victim and send a notification to investigator(s) of other officers they should contact

Public Search
- Tying together data and contact information from the Internet known to be associated with human trafficking
- Correlating information to identify potential victims, travel patterns and associated phone numbers
Next Steps

Community outreach for feedback

Identify funding sources

Design and deliver prototype solution
  - Cloud based solution with core functionality

Full solution implementation and rollout
  - Seattle & Portland
  - Additional law enforcement agencies
References


3. Estimate, Vice Detectives, Seattle Police Department, December 2012