PERIL
Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab

RESEARCH BRIEF · NIHILISTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Platforms of Harm: 764's Use of Technology for Child Exploitation

Analysis of the platforms used in 68 incidents tied to the 71 named perpetrators in PERIL's 764 Relational Network.

63	22	73%	49%	3
NAMED PERPETRATORS TIED TO PLATFORMS	DISTINCT PLATFORMS DOCUMENTED	USED DISCORD	USED TELEGRAM	STAGES OF ABUSE

764 is a transnational nihilistic violent extremist network that targets, sexually exploits, and coerces minors and other vulnerable people online. Its crimes follow a **three-stage pattern**, and each stage relies on a different mix of platforms. **Discord** and **Telegram** form the operational core of 764 crimes, appearing in more cases than every other platform combined. But the network is deliberate about *where* it does *what*: it meets victims on the gaming and social media apps where they already are, moves them into private and end-to-end-encrypted channels to coerce them, and then broadcasts the resulting exploitative content back to the wider network.

STAGE 1
Initial Contact
Mainstream gaming & social media apps
Discord · Roblox · Snapchat

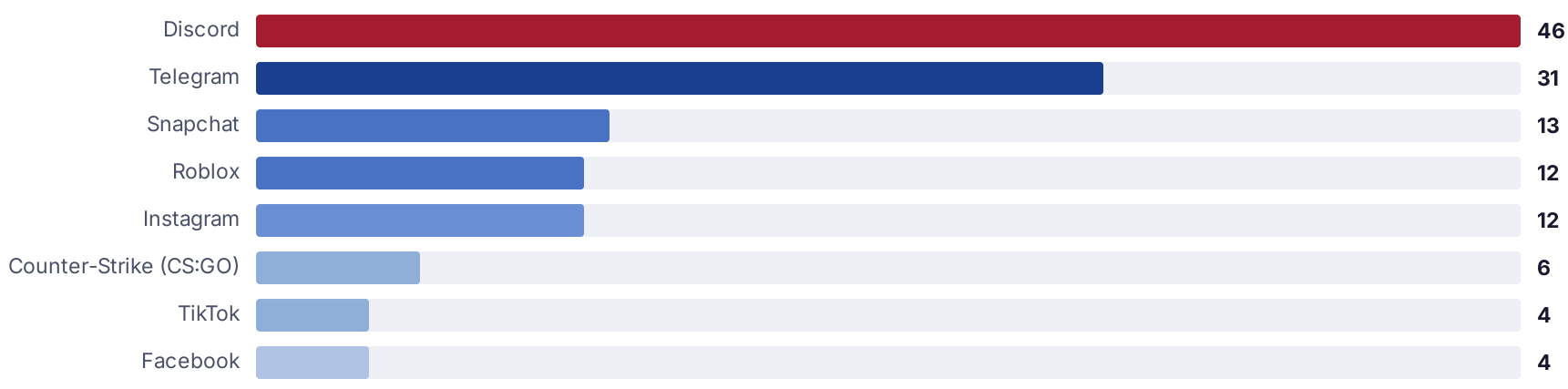
→

STAGE 2
Grooming & Coercive Control
Private / encrypted channels
Discord · Telegram · Instagram

→

STAGE 3
Distribution & Escalation
Channels, vaults & live broadcasts
Discord · Telegram

PERPETRATORS LINKED TO EACH PLATFORM



Count of distinct named perpetrators linked to each platform by an edge in the network (n = 63 of the 71 named actors who have a direct tie to 764 and a known platform). Most operate across several; figures sum to more than 63.

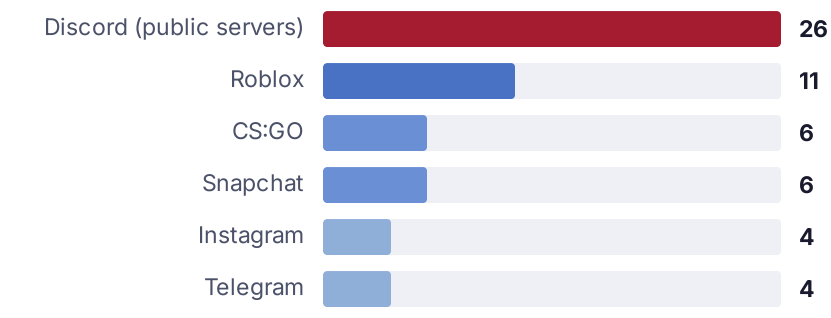
STAGE 1 · INITIAL CONTACT — MEETING VICTIMS WHERE THEY ALREADY ARE

HOW IT WORKS

First contact rarely happens in 764's own spaces. Perpetrators exploit **mainstream gaming platforms and social media apps**, where they can approach minors at scale and without scrutiny. Gaming services, including **Roblox**, **Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO)**, and **Minecraft**, and social media applications frequented by youth, such as **Snapchat**, **TikTok**, and **Instagram**, function as recruiting sites, alongside public **Discord** servers.

Who is targeted: overwhelmingly children, with documented victims concentrated between the ages of **11–15** and heavily skewing toward young girls. The network deliberately targets *vulnerable* minors who signal isolation, mental-health struggles, or suicidal ideation, as well as adults in acute crisis.

PLATFORMS NAMED AT FIRST CONTACT



Distinct perpetrators documented making first contact with a victim on each platform, coded from case records and court documents.

CASE EXAMPLES · INITIAL CONTACT

Discord → coercion (Incident #1579, Bangor, Pennsylvania). Per the federal complaint, "Minor Victim One met Matthew [Pysher] via an online platform called Discord" on a server tied to self-harm and cutting. Over roughly three months, Pysher allegedly pressured the newly-13-year-old into sending explicit images and filming self-harm, then he flew across the country to meet her in person.

Roblox → Discord, the hand-off into Stage 2 (Incident #1562, Halethorpe, Maryland). Per his plea agreement, Erik Lee Madison "first contacted victims through Roblox," then "moved communications to Discord, Telegram, Snapchat, and Instagram," where he coerced them into self-harm and sexually explicit live-streaming. He allegedly used the recordings of the acts to keep control of his victims.

Sources: U.S. v. Pysher, 2:26-mj-00971 (C.D. Cal.); U.S. v. Madison, 1:25-cr-00364 (D. Md.).

STAGE 2 · GROOMING, EXPLOITATION & COERCIVE CONTROL — MOVING TO PRIVATE & ENCRYPTED SPACE

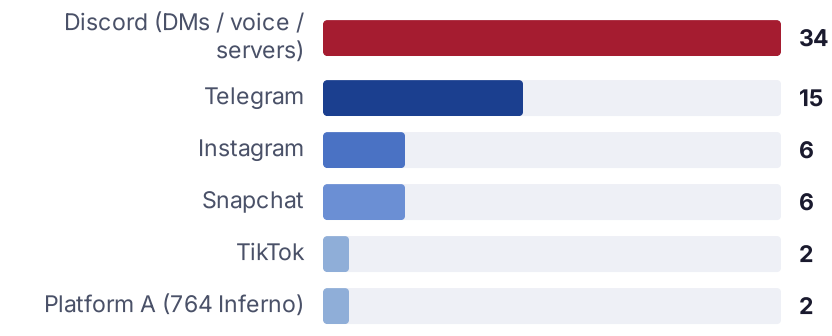
HOW IT WORKS

Once contact is made, perpetrators pull victims off of public sites and into **private and end-to-end-encrypted channels** where coercion is shielded from moderation: **Discord direct messages, voice and video calls, and invite-only servers**, plus **Telegram** and niche encrypted apps such as **Wire**.

The coercive pattern is consistent: extort intimate images or videos from the victim, then escalate using **threats of exposing the content to family, friends, and classmates**. Demands increase for documented **"fansigns" and "cutsigns"** (carving the abuser's moniker into the skin), **self-harm**, and **animal abuse**. Each new image or video is used as leverage for the next act.

Discord voice/DM · Telegram · Wire · Instagram DM

PLATFORMS NAMED DURING COERCION



Distinct perpetrators documented grooming, extorting, or coercing a victim on each platform, coded from case records and court documents.

CASE EXAMPLES · GROOMING & COERCIVE CONTROL

Coerced images → blackmail to escalate (Incident #1555, Downey, California). Per the federal complaint, Dong Hwan Kim "enticed [minors]... to produce and send him pictures and videos of themselves naked," and "would then extort his victims, threatening that he would send the pictures and videos to their family members and others" unless they produced more. The blackmail escalated to demands for self-harm content, including cutting his "Ryzen" moniker into their skin, and sending it to Kim on Discord.

The sextortion spiral (Incident #1675, Spijkenisse, Netherlands). Posing as a teenage girl on Snapchat to obtain a first nude image, "Turpien" allegedly then threatened "to send the images and victims' personal details to family, friends, and classmates unless they produced new and increasingly extreme, degrading content," including forcing victims to carve "Turpien is my owner" into their bodies.

Sources: U.S. v. Kim, 2:25-cr-00743 (C.D. Cal.); District Court of Dordrecht (Netherlands), June 3, 2026.

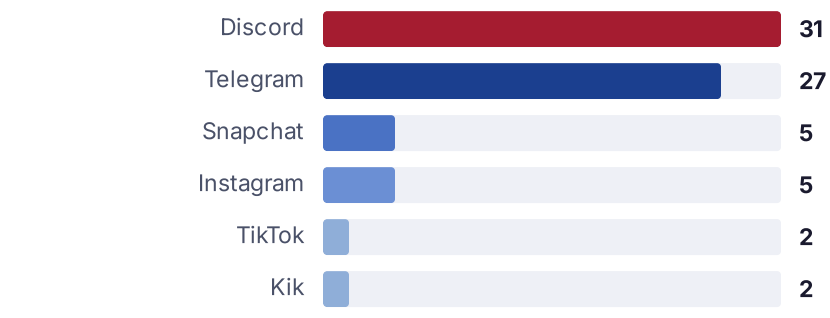
STAGE 3 · DISTRIBUTION & ESCALATION — TRADING TROPHIES AND BROADCASTING HARM

HOW IT WORKS

Extracted content, including **CSAM, self-harm imagery, and documented animal abuse**, is then circulated back to the wider network to gain clout. **Discord** and **Telegram** dominate this stage in roughly equal measure, but in different roles. **Telegram** is the archival hub: it hosts the channels, "Lorebook" dossiers, and encrypted "vaults" where exploitative material is stored, traded, and used to recruit and gain status, and every documented content-circulation link in the network points to it. **Discord** is the venue for the most extreme escalation: the **live-streaming of self-harm, suicide, and violence** to assembled audiences of network members.

The escalation: harm moves from traded imagery to live broadcast, and from victims hurting themselves to victims being coerced into violence against others.

PLATFORMS NAMED IN DISTRIBUTION / ESCALATION



Distinct perpetrators documented distributing, trading, or broadcasting exploitative material on each platform, coded from case records and court documents. ***All 10*** *dedicated content-circulation communities in the network are linked to Telegram.*

CASE EXAMPLES · DISTRIBUTION & ESCALATION

Live-streamed suicide on Discord (Incident #1681, Kyrgyzstan). A 25-year-old man in a mental-health crisis was encouraged by a 764 member ("Fmlk") to take his own life while "live streaming the act to an audience on Discord." More than two dozen viewers witnessed the act.

Selling & archiving on Telegram. One Dutch perpetrator allegedly "sold victims' images and shared their personal details in private Telegram groups that he administered"; a perpetrator known online as "Riley" reportedly distributed and sold CSAM on Telegram; Nino Luciano posted footage of a murder to Telegram; and Jairo Tinajero allegedly published a victim "Lorebook" across 764 Telegram and Discord channels.

Sources: NVE Tracker record #1681 (corroborated by The Washington Post, Dec. 10, 2024); records #1675 and node profiles for Riley, Luciano, and U.S. v. Tinajero (W.D. Ky.).

Methodology. Platform totals are counts of distinct actors and incidents linked to each platform by an edge in PERIL's 764 Relational Network (built from court filings, government releases, and news reporting). **Scope:** the analysis examines the 71 named perpetrators who have edges to the 764 network, including 764 itself, its predecessors (e.g., CVLT, Greggy's Cult, The Gore), or its splinters (e.g., 764 Inferno, 8884, etc.), and whose documented conduct involved the exploitation of victims. It excludes actors with no direct 764 network tie; the network's roughly 71 alias-only nodes (online handles and unnamed incident perpetrators for which little identifying information exists); and five 764-linked individuals whose offenses were limited to non-exploitation crimes, such as attack plots, bomb threats, and stand-alone violence, rather than exploitation. Stage attribution was coded for each named perpetrator by reviewing available court documents (criminal complaints, affidavits, detention memoranda, indictments, and sentencing filings) and news reports, and assigning a platform to an exploitation stage only where the source ties that platform to that activity. The stage charts count distinct perpetrators, not mentions. Platforms routinely span stages. For instance, Discord appears at every stage and thus stage charts show *relative emphasis*, not exclusivity. **Unnamed platforms:** a further six in-scope perpetrators are described in court records or reporting as having used a social media, online, or messaging platform to contact, exploit, or distribute material involving victims, but the specific platform is not identified. With no platform to attribute, these actors do not appear in any chart. Separately, a handful of perpetrators who do appear via a named platform also distributed material on unnamed encrypted or clandestine channels, which is likewise uncounted. Counts reflect what is publicly documented and represent a floor, not a ceiling. This material concerns child sexual exploitation, self-harm, and suicide; if you or someone you know is in crisis, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call or text 988) is available in the United States.

Data compiled from PERIL's NVE Tracker & 764 Relational Network

Author: Michael Jensen