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## Combating Illegal Drugs Trafficking Using the Internet by Means of the Profiling Method

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### Abstract:

The paper actualizes the issues of combating drug trafficking using the Internet on the example of Ukraine. Given the significant difference in the approach to this issue among Ukrainian and foreign scientists, this allowed to carry out a multifaceted analysis. The purpose of the article is to conduct a comprehensive study (criminological and forensic) on the use of the Internet in the commission of crimes related to drug trafficking, on the example of Ukraine. Profiling was used as the main method. The novelty of this work is the extrapolation of the method of profiling cybercriminals to persons who commit illicit drug distribution using the Internet in Ukraine as a special category of cybercriminals. The specific objectives of the study are: to study the characteristics of an offender who commits crimes related to drug trafficking via the Internet using the method of profiling; study of typical investigative situations that arise when committing crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet; development of comprehensive recommendations for combating this group of crimes, taking into account both the identity of an offender and investigative situations that most often arise in practice. Based on the study, the article conducted (using secondary data) profiling of people who distribute drugs using the Internet in Ukraine. The profiling also includes a comprehensive portrait of such a criminal, which includes both socio-demographic and psychological characteristics of this

category of criminals, studied their motivation, conducted a study of the victimological aspect and features of the study of evidence in this category of crimes.

**Keywords:** victimology; drug trafficking; cybercrime; digital evidence.

**JEL Classification:** K14; K24.

## Introduction

Today in society there are intensive processes of informatization and intellectualization, the information society is being formed at an accelerated pace, the feature of which is the computerization of all spheres of human life. Recently, computer technology and computer systems are used in most crimes as the means to commit them. After all, criminals do not lag behind the demands of the times, and actively use computers as a means of committing crimes. This is especially true of the illicit trafficking of objects restricted in civil traffic - weapons, drugs, pornography, etc. The use of the Internet attracts criminals for several reasons. The first reason is anonymity - without personal contact, the chance of being detained by law enforcement is significantly reduced. The second reason is the existence of virtual groups that facilitate the communication of criminals with each other. So to speak, a virtual 'black market', which works around the clock, without breaks and weekends (Kostyuchenko *et al.* 2019). The third reason is the lack of knowledge of computer equipment by the vast majority of law enforcement officers (for example, patrol police officers) and the general insufficient equipment of the police with tools to combat computer crime. The fourth reason is the cross-border nature of the Internet, which allows criminals from different parts of the world to remotely agree on the joint commission of a crime.

Given the above, the purpose of this article can be considered a comprehensive study (criminological and forensic) of the Internet use in the commission of crimes related to drug trafficking on the example of Ukraine. Realizing that this topic is much broader than can be qualitatively investigated in one article, the specific objectives of the study are: to study the characteristics of an offender who commits crimes related to drug trafficking via the Internet using the method of profiling; study of typical investigative situations that arise when committing crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet; development of comprehensive recommendations for combating this group of crimes, taking into account both the identity of an offender and the investigative situations that most often arise in practice. It should be noted that, although the problem is global, national approaches to its solution are very different: for example, even the understanding of the main tasks of criminology, criminalistics and criminal psychology in different countries is different. Therefore, taking into account the work of both Ukrainian and foreign researchers - Kravtsova (2016); Kipane (2019); Zuhri (2017); Saroha (2014); and others – a comprehensive review of the issue will be conducted, which will cover the research material more widely.

## 1. Literature Review

The rapid development and daily use of information technology, the transformation of information into the most important resource of life determines the movement of humanity to the information society. The information revolution has brought new effective opportunities into human lives, opened up unprecedented prospects: simplified access to information, made it possible to process large amounts of information (Rosen and Kassa 2019). Cilli (2020) points out that the origins of the threats here are primarily Deep and Darknet – a part of the Internet that provides many opportunities for criminals. Deep Web is a part of the Internet that has not yet been indexed by general search engines.

Darknet is a set of public content hosted on websites whose IP address is hidden, but which anyone can access if they know the address; also includes a set of private content that is shared on a closed computer network for file sharing. That is, Darknet is a collection of websites that are public but hide the IP address of the servers that run them. Cilli (2020) points out that this is the easiest way to buy weapons, drugs, fake passports, and so on. This means that anyone can visit the Darknet site, but it can be very difficult to understand where requests were received or processed. When news sites mistakenly describe Darknet as 90% of the Internet, they confuse it with the Deep Web, a collection of all Web sites on the Internet that are not available for search engine indexing. These sites include Darknet, but they also contain much more ordinary, 'non-criminal' content, such as Gmail accounts, sites with various technical information that are needed to keep other sites alive, and other similar household items. The actual Darknet probably accounts for less than 0.01% of the Internet. Cilli (2020) points out that various Internet anonymizers, such as Whonix, Onion City, or Vidalia, are also widely used by criminals: they are easy-to-use systems that magically open the Internet and make it easier to purchase drugs or share pornography.

The domain suffix 'onion' is the word that implicitly explains the action of Darknet: a system in which different 'layers' of onions represent different servers around the world, where the sites of illegal goods rest for a few



seconds. The connection moves from the virtual location to another without users posting illegal bytes, making it difficult to track. Soro notes that in terms of computer security, Darknet is a set of IP addresses that contain links but directly host any client or server. By passively recording incoming packets, they help monitor the network (Drago *et al.* 2019). Also, like all criminal culture since the Middle Ages, criminals in Darknet use a specific version of criminal slang – the so-called language of hackers known as ‘Leet’ (this kind of slang, also called ‘1337’). Gao (2013) and Kassa (Kassa and Rosen 2019) in their work also point to the great role of the Internet in modern crime.

Given the above and combining the views of researchers in both criminal law and cybersecurity, it can be concluded that a modern criminal who successfully commits a crime related to drug trafficking via the Internet, must have knowledge of computers computer technology at a level above average (but should not be a professional). That is, despite the fact that in Ukrainian law enforcement practice cybercriminals include mainly highly qualified IT specialists, from a forensic and criminological point of view, persons who distribute drugs using Internet technologies are a special category of cybercriminals. Given the above, to achieve the purpose of this article, it is important to analyze the work of Ukrainian and foreign criminologists related to the profiling of cybercriminals.

Bonn (2012) points out that profiling is a cross between forensic and psychological research methods. However, this is still a relatively new field for research, with only a few established boundaries or definitions. According to Turney (2012), in the last 30 years, the frequency of studying the profiles of criminals has increased, the amount of literature on the method of criminal profiling used in the investigation has increased, is a common practice worldwide. Petherick (Petherick *et al.* 2010) states that profiling is a subdiscipline of criminology. Thus, it is a discipline within criminology that has its origins in the science of behavior and criminology. Scheinin (2010) also points to the multidisciplinary nature of profiling. The profiling of cybercriminals (given the large number of such crimes and their prevalence) has been studied by many scientists in many countries. Among them is Kipane (2019), which offers a scientifically sound model of profiling cybercriminals and provides specific results of profiling. Saroha (2014) also profile cybercriminals and propose its own modification of the use of profiling for these purposes. Zuhri (2017) rightly proposes the use of a 4-step approach to cybercrime profiling and justifies this approach. X. Li (2017) pays special attention to the motives of cybercriminals, which is fundamental for profiling. Among the earlier works it is worth to note works by D. Shinder (2010); Raton (2011); Kirwan and Power (2013); and others.

## 2. Methodology

Creswell (2014), as one of the founders of the modern approach to scientific methods, identifies three research approaches (methods): (a) qualitative; (b) quantitative; and (c) mixed methods. According to the scientist, qualitative research usually includes inductive analysis of data from details to general topics, and the researcher makes interpretations of the content of the obtained data. The final written report has a flexible structure. The work involves inductive style, focus on individual content, and the importance and complexity of the situation. Quantitative research, in his opinion, is mainly based on numerical data that can be analyzed using statistical procedures. Mixed research methods are located in the middle of this continuum because they include both quantitative and qualitative elements of quantitative approaches (Creswell 2014). This study will focus on qualitative and mixed research methods, including profiling.

According to Semchuk (2019), there are systemic problems with obtaining quantitative data in Ukraine. This applies both to the available official statistics (due to systemic problems in approving statistical reporting forms and their improper completion) and to conducting surveys among convicts. Therefore, secondary data were used in the study, because for technical reasons it is currently impossible to conduct a relevant survey. Issues of combating drug trafficking, which is conducted through the Internet, are studied in many branches of legal science: criminal law, criminal procedure, criminology, criminalistics, criminal psychology, international law and others. It should be noted that, although the problem is global, national approaches to its solution are very different: for example, even the understanding of the main tasks of criminology, criminalistics and criminal psychology in different countries is different.

However, taking into account the interdisciplinary nature of the study, the paper will use the method of criminological profiling of persons accused of committing crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet and a similar method of forensic characterization of an offender who commits the same encroachments. (in Ukrainian terminology). Kravtsova (2016) points out that the method of forensic characterization of a person includes analysis of socio-demographic, criminal-legal and moral-psychological characteristics of persons guilty of cybercrime on the basis of averaged statistical reporting data and generalizations of information from criminal cases and proceedings. The scientist analyses age, gender, education, citizenship, criminal record, etc. There are some attempts to study the motives and moral and psychological qualities of this group of criminals, but the conclusions on this issue in the researcher are quite superficial.

Foreign researchers, who have moved from the method of forensic characterization of a person to the actual profiling, point to the following features of this method. Kipane (2019) notes that profiling is a method used to determine behavioral trends, personal traits, and demographics that predict a criminal's future. Zuhri (2017) rightly proves that cybercrime profiling includes 4 stages: (1) victim analysis; (2) study of the motivation of an offender; (3) identification of social characteristics of an offender; (4) forensic analysis of digital evidence. Saroha (2014) identifies the following groups of factors in the profiling of cybercriminals: (1) technical knowledge and skills; (2) personal traits; (3) social characteristics; (4) motivational factors. Given the above, to achieve the goal of the work will be used the method of profiling cybercrime in modern Ukraine, which will improve the state of counteraction to this category of crimes. The paper also uses a typical for Ukraine method of forensic analysis of typical investigative situations, which are the most common in the commission of the investigated group of crimes. This method includes a description of a specific situation and practical recommendations for a specific algorithm of actions in such conditions.

### 3. Results and Discussion

As mentioned above, crimes related to drug trafficking via the Internet are cybercrimes. In general, the identity of a criminal who commits a crime in the field of drug trafficking can be attributed to cybercriminals. Therefore, the methods and data used to profile cybercriminals are also applicable to such individuals. Since the purpose of the article is to analyze this issue in the context of Ukraine, it is worth starting with the work of domestic scientists. It should be noted that, as noted by Semchuk (2019), the Ukrainian sciences of the criminal law cycle, due to long-term development in isolation from global trends, have strong national characteristics, and therefore to compare the results of their work with foreign researchers often need additional clarification. First of all, it should be noted that Ukrainian criminological science uses the method of forensic characterization of a person, which is close to profiling, but not identical to it. Kravtsova (2016) points out that the method of forensic characterization of a person includes analysis of socio-demographic, criminal-legal and moral-psychological characteristics of persons guilty of cybercrime on the basis of averaged statistical reporting data and generalizations of information from criminal cases and proceedings.

At the same time, the scientist points out that she conducted an analysis of socio-demographic, criminal-legal and moral-psychological characteristics of persons guilty of cybercrime. Most cybercriminals are able-bodied but not working (43.7%), unmarried (58%) or married but not living with a family (16%), men (90.8%), aged 30 – 50 years (43.1%), citizens of Ukraine (95.5%) who have higher education (48.1%). The share of persons who at the time of committing a cybercrime had an unresolved and outstanding criminal record in the structure of convicts is relatively stable over the past 5 years and is 5.8%. Of these, 5% have one conviction, 0.8% – two. The main part of these persons are those whose previous convictions are related to crimes against property (67%), crimes in the field of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors (27%), crimes against life and health persons (3%), against public order and morality (2%), other crimes – 1%. The investigation did not identify any cybercriminals who would commit crimes while intoxicated.

The motives for cybercrime are generally selfish, playful, political and hooligan (nihilistic, self-assertion, etc.). Thus, selfishness, adventurism, legal and moral nihilism prevail among the moral and psychological traits of cybercriminals, combined with the complex of arbitrariness and illusions determined by the specifics of cyberspace (Kravtsova 2016). Kipane (2019) notes that the profile of cybercriminals can be described by including key elements such as: (1) personal characteristics/traits specific to a particular person and a person's propensity to commit cybercrime; (2) criminal professionalism; (3) technical knowledge related to specialized knowledge and technical skills to work with complex programs and devices that allow to commit cybercrime; (4) social characteristics – demographic characteristics, socio-economic status, socio-psychological and moral qualities; (5) motivation characteristics. Zuhri (2017) points out that cybercrimes always have a high latency.

At the same time, he draws attention to the fact that due to these features, the profiling of a cybercriminal should include four stages: victimology, study of motivation, identification of characteristics of an offender, forensic analysis of digital evidence. Saroha (2014) divides all characteristics into 4 groups: (1) technical knowledge; (2) personal traits; (3) social characteristics; (4) motivating factors: various factors that motivate a person to become a cybercriminal. Comparing these approaches to profiling with each other, it should be noted that all approaches in one way or another analyze technical knowledge, personal traits, socio-demographic characteristics and motivating factors. The method of forensic characterization of a person includes the analysis of socio-demographic, criminal-legal and moral-psychological characteristics of persons (Kravtsova 2016). In this context, despite the closeness of the methods, the forensic characterization of a person, in contrast to profiling, does not analyze the personal traits and technical knowledge of the perpetrators, and motivating factors are analyzed only superficially. Therefore,

when compiling a criminological profile of a cybercriminal whose activities are related to drug trafficking, it is necessary to add additional to the signs, which were found during the forensic characterization of a person, data – on personal traits (not just socio-demographic), technical knowledge, and deepen the understanding of a motivation of this category of criminals.

Saroha (2014) includes to the personal traits of a cybercriminal: impatience, determination, tendency to secrecy, aggression, emotional restraint, chaotic state of mind, vengeance, cowardice, selfishness, immorality, love of risk, propensity for solitude, provocative behavior, frivolity, tendency to control, deviant behavior, identity crisis. Kipane (2019) further notes that criminals, including cybercriminals, have several acute personality traits: impulsiveness, aggression (high level of aggression), difficulty predicting the consequences of their actions, rigidity, lying, selfishness, egocentrism, peculiar orientations and judgments, behavior difficult to predict, separation from social reality, inability to internalize moral and legal norms, hostility. Given the above, it can be stated that a criminal who commits crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet also has all the psychological traits characteristic of a cybercriminal.

Impulsiveness, aggression (high level of aggression), rigidity, mendacity, selfishness, egocentrism, impulsiveness, hostility, propensity to risk, cowardice, tendency to solitude, provocative behavior, frivolity, tendency to control, deviant behavior, identity crisis – those traits, which a person, who has committed a crime related to drug trafficking on the Internet, is likely to be endowed with. As for technical knowledge, according to Kipane (2019), when committing cybercrime, 65% of all illegal actions were relatively simple, 13% required intermediate technical skills, and 22% required complex technical skills. At the same time, the most common cybercriminals were university students or students of other educational institutions. It is generally accepted that the level of education among cybercriminals is higher than among other categories of criminals. Given the above, the studied category of criminals – persons who commit crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet most likely have computer skills at a level not above average, but at the same time, most often have or obtain a higher (often technical) education.

Regarding demographic indicators, given by Kravtsova (2016) data show that they are mostly able-bodied but not working (43.7%), single (58%) or married, but not living with a family (16%), men (90.8%), aged 30–50 years (43.1%), citizens of Ukraine (95.5%) who have higher education (48.1%) are generally applicable to persons who commit crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet. The only clarification here (taking into account the experience of Kipane (2019)) will be an indication that cybercrime has now 'rejuvenated' and the probability of committing a crime by a person aged 30 – 50 and 20 – 30 has become approximately the same. Clarification of motives of an offender. Foreign criminologists distinguish such types of motivations: motive of profit (money, financial resources), emotional motive, motive of self-affirmation or self-esteem, sexual impulses and desires, political, ideological and religious motives (hacktivism), committing a crime for fun. Saroha (2014) among the motivating factors distinguish profit, greed (desire for quick and easy money), political beliefs, emotional motives, disregard for the law, intolerance, adventure, manipulateness, religious fundamentalism, search for experiments, feelings of impunity, curiosity, revenge, anger, sexual motives, boredom, increase of self-esteem.

Here, criminals who commit crimes related to drug trafficking on the Internet have a specific motivation – somewhat different from other groups of cybercriminals. After all, it is difficult to imagine, for example, a person starting to trade in drugs because of religious beliefs, political views or a sense of solidarity with other cybercriminals (hacktivism). The predominant motives for this group of crimes will be selfish motives, self-assertion motives, and often-sexual motives (because drug crime is closely linked to prostitution). Also, as noted by Zuhri (2017); and Kipane (2019), the victimology aspect is an integral part of profiling. On the one hand, as Kipane (2019) rightly points out, cyberspace creates a greater chance of encountering a socially dangerous person than in the real world. However, most Internet users lack the experience, skills to identify and assess risk. On the other hand, the victimological aspect in this case is close to the general one for crimes related to drug trafficking.

Malkina-Pykh (2011) points out that the term 'addiction of drugs' was introduced in the 1960s by WHO experts to denote habituation to drugs and alcohol. Addictus is a legal term used to describe a person as 'subject'. According to the scientist, the leading role in the formation of addictive disorders is played by certain psychological features of human: difficulties in resolving everyday troubles, although at the same time good skills in resolving crisis situations; hidden inferiority complex, combined with external manifestations of superiority; external sociolability, combined with fear of stable emotional contacts; the desire to blame others; attempts to avoid responsibility in decision-making; stereotyping, repetitive behavior; dependence; anxiety. Microsocial factors influencing the development of addictive behavior are understood as the disintegration of society and the growth of changes in it with the inability of some members of society to adapt to them in a timely manner. Such factors in the field of drug trafficking Beytekyly (2011) primarily refers to the insufficient work of law enforcement agencies with the local population – because the locals are in most cases aware of who is involved in drug distribution. However,

they ignore this for various reasons: some out of fear of reprisals against themselves or their loved ones, others out of indifference to what is happening around them and still others out of a possible sense of hidden solidarity with offenders or pity and compassion.

This situation is especially relevant in modern conditions, when customers are searched via the Internet (often using darknet capabilities), payment is non-cash, and 'goods' are obtained by searching for 'stash' made by a distributor in advance, followed by sending the customer GPS-coordinates of such 'stash'. Indeed, cooperation with the local population would be more effective in counteracting such actions. According to Baytekuly (2011), in a city, the problem of preventing the criminal distribution of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is associated with the establishment of proper control in crowded places, as drug dealers in the interests of increasing the contingent of drug users and psychotropic substances in many cases free distribution of drugs to very young and young people to replenish and increase the army of drug addicts, who are a real market for drugs.

As victims of drug trafficking, distributors usually choose young people, not any, but in most cases from wealthy families, with the aim of forming a reliable and solvent drug purchaser in the long run. The consent of some young people to receive and use drugs free of charge is due to their curiosity, confidence that nothing terrible will happen from a single use, especially for free. The proliferation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is directly related to the ineffectiveness of prevention and detection of perpetrators. The longer criminal activity takes place, the greater the confidence in security. Such traits as self-confidence, cynicism, rudeness, impudence, immorality are formed. The fourth step required for profiling is forensic analysis of evidence (including digital). The specificity of the analyzed group of crimes is that (unlike other cybercrimes) an integral part of the encroachment is the physical transfer of drugs to a buyer. Therefore, the evidence to be analyzed in this case is divided into two groups: digital and classical physical evidence related to drug seizures. Ukrainian researchers use the method of typical investigative situations for the analysis of evidence, which is quite progressive. Lykhova (Lykhova *et al.* 2019) in this case identifies two types of typical investigative situations.

*The first investigative situation.* Illicit drug trafficking using the Internet took place, certain information about the identity of the perpetrator is known. This situation usually arises when investigators establish signs of illicit drug distribution using the Internet in the investigation of another crime in another criminal proceeding. The main tactical tasks in this situation are to record the signs of the crime committed by the detainees and to identify a person (s) who sold drugs using the Internet. In order to verify a testimony, an investigator should inspect the scene, the specificity of which will be the object of review – the Internet page, site or page on a social computer network (computer, mobile phone, etc. of the detainee), which contains advertisements, contact details of people who sell drugs on the Internet, etc. It should also be noted the necessity for computer-technical or (and) telecommunication examination of computers, smartphones seized during detention or as a result of searches and used by suspects to search for information on drug sales on the Internet, to establish communication and to communicate with sellers, etc.

*The second investigative situation* exists when there is a systematic sale of drugs using the Internet, information about the trafficker is insignificant or absent. This investigative situation is typical for investigators, detectives or operatives to detect signs of drug trafficking via the Internet or to verify the received message about the detection of signs of drug distribution by a certain person in this way. The main tactical tasks in this situation are the necessity to record the fact of illicit drug trafficking using the Internet and to identify specific individuals (sellers and their accomplices) involved. In this case, it is necessary to temporarily access the subscriber information contained in the Internet provider, regarding the range of IP addresses from which the provider made access to the network.

When documenting a site specially created for drug sales, it is necessary: to use the Internet service 'who is' to install a domain name registrar and hosting company and send a request to the domain name registrar to provide personal data reported by the registrant, phone number, e-mail details, IP-address used to register and log in to the domain name control panel, payment details used to pay for domain name registration or obtain a court decision to temporarily access the information contained in the hosting company about the person-customer of the site hosting services, IP address of site administration, payment details used to pay for hosting services. If domain name registration or hosting services were provided by foreign companies, relevant information can be obtained through the National Cybercrime Response Contact Point.

Kipane (2019) also notes that in the case of cybercrime investigations, a review of the digital scene is of particular importance. Also, Kipane (2019) points out that digital forensics is often the only means of finding a criminal in the absence of physical evidence. Digital evidence information is stored or transmitted in digital form. Digital evidence can indicate which category of victims should be sought and how the perpetrator could have contacted the victims. Zuhri (2017) agrees that the fourth step of cyberprofiling involves forensic analysis of digital

evidence. Technical expertise helps to understand the behavior of a cybercriminal. Cybercriminals often have average technical skills, so they can commit crimes using psychological manipulation techniques and friendly persuasion.

The authors generally support the idea that the process of profiling cybercriminals consists of four interrelated and successive stages: the victimological aspect, the study of the motivation of an offender, the identification of the characteristics of an offender and the study of evidence (including digital). The victimological aspect of the studied group of crimes in this case is close to the general one for crimes related to drug trafficking. Summarising the above, Malkina-Pykh (2011); and Baytekuly (2011) include to the factors that contribute to victim behavior primarily insufficient work with the local population – because the locals are in most cases know who is involved in drug distribution.

The motivation of a person who commits crimes related to illicit drug distribution on the Internet is diverse, but in general, as studies show (Kravtsova 2016; Kipane 2019; Saroha 2014), the dominant for this groups of crimes are selfish motives, motives of self-affirmation, and quite often – certain sexual motives (because drug crime is closely related to prostitution). Regarding the identification features of this group of criminals, it is worth noting that when compiling a criminological profile of a cybercriminal whose activities are related to drug trafficking, demographic and personal data should be taken into account in the first place. From a demographic point of view, it is generally worth agreeing with Kravtsova (2016) that perpetrators of drug-related crime via the Internet are mostly able-bodied but not working, single, or married, but do not live with their families, aged 30-50, citizens of Ukraine with higher education. The only clarification here (taking into account the experience of Kipane (2019) will be an indication that cybercrime has now ‘rejuvenated’, and the probability of committing a crime by a person aged 30-50 and 20-30 has become approximately the same.

Psychological traits characteristic of this group of criminals are primarily impulsiveness, aggression (high level of aggression), harshness, lying, selfishness, ego centrism, impulsiveness, hostility, risk-taking, cowardice, tendency to solitude, provocative behavior, frivolity, propensity to control, deviant behavior, identity crisis – these are the traits that are likely to be endowed with a person who has committed a crime related to drug trafficking on the Internet. The fourth step required for profiling is forensic analysis of evidence (including digital). The specificity of the analyzed group of crimes is that (unlike other cybercrimes) an integral part of the encroachment is the physical transfer of drugs to a buyer. The evidence to be analyzed in this case is divided into two groups: digital and classical physical evidence related to drug use. Without diminishing the exceptional importance of the review of the digital scene (to which all researchers point), in general, such evidence is most convenient to analyze in the framework of the two proposed typical investigative situations (Yuxno 2018).

The first typical investigative situation arises when drug trafficking using the Internet has taken place, certain information about the identity of the perpetrator is known. This situation usually occurs when investigators establish signs of illicit drug distribution using the Internet in the investigation of another crime in another criminal proceeding. The second investigative situation exists when there is a systematic sale of drugs using the Internet, information about a trafficker is insignificant or absent. This investigative situation is typical for investigators, detectives or operatives to independently detect signs of drug trafficking via the Internet or to verify the received message about the detection of signs of drug distribution by a certain person in this way. The second situation is more common in practice. A variant of the second situation also occurs when a person who illegally sells drugs using the Internet, searches for customers via the Internet (often using darknet capabilities), payment is non-cash, and ‘goods’ are obtained by searching for a ‘stash’ made by the distributor in advance, with the subsequent sending to the client of GPS-coordinates of such ‘stash’. Indeed, cooperation with the local population would be more effective in counteracting such actions.

## Conclusions

Thus, from the study the following conclusions can be drawn:

- a modern criminal who successfully commits a crime related to drug trafficking via the Internet must have knowledge of computer technology at a level above average (but it is not necessary for him to have a very high level of computer knowledge). Therefore, from a forensic and criminological point of view, it can rightly be attributed to a special category of cybercriminals;
- the research in this area is not possible without the use of modern knowledge in the field of computer security, in particular, knowledge about the structure of the Internet and its component part of the darknet;

- the specificity of the analyzed group of crimes is that (unlike other cybercrimes) an integral part of the encroachment is the physical transfer of drugs to a buyer. Therefore, the evidence to be analyzed in this case is divided into two groups: digital and classical physical evidence related to drug use;
- given the high anonymity and latency of the investigated group of crimes, it is quite progressive to use the method of profiling to counter them;
- in practice, the most common situation is when a person who sells drugs illegally using the Internet, searches for customers via the Internet (often using darknet capabilities), payment is non-cash, and 'goods' are obtained by searching for 'stash' made by a distributor in advance, with the subsequent sending to the client of GPS-coordinates of such 'stash';
- the process of profiling cybercriminals consists of four interrelated and successive stages: victimological aspect, the study of the motivation of an offender, the identification of the characteristics of an offender and the study of evidence (including digital);
- based on the use of this method, the work conducted profiling (using secondary data) of criminals who commit crimes in the field of illicit drug distribution using the Internet. Such profiling includes analysis of victimological aspects, analysis of criminals' motivation, identification of such criminals (socio-demographic and personal); attention is paid to the evaluation of evidence (using the technique of typical investigative situations).

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