
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. Cathy L. Waldor, U.S.M.J.
 :
 v. : Mag. No. 22-9261
 :
 BRYAN WESSELIUS : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**
 :
 :


I, Bradley J. Benwell, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), assigned to the Special Agent in Charge in the District of New Jersey, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.



Bradley J. Benwell, Special Agent
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Investigations

Special Agent Benwell attested to this Complaint
by telephone pursuant to F.R.C.P. 4.1(b)(2)(A).

June 30, 2022
Date

Honorable
United States Magistrate Judge
Name and Title of Judicial Officer

in the District of New Jersey
County and State



Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

COUNT ONE

(Distribution of Child Pornography)

From on or about September 29, 2021 through on or about May 11, 2022, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

BRYAN WESSELIUS,

did knowingly distribute child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), that had been mailed, and using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2).

COUNT TWO
(Possession of Child Pornography)

On or about June 30, 2022, in Morris County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

BRYAN WESSELIUS,

did knowingly possess material that contained at least three images of child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), which images had been mailed, shipped, and transported using any means or facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and that were produced using materials that had been mailed, and shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Codes, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2.

ATTACHMENT B

I, Bradley J. Benwell, am a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"). I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and other items of evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part. Because this Affidavit is being submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

Background

1. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant Bryan Wesselius ("WESSELIUS") was a resident of Whippany, New Jersey.

The Investigation

2. From on or about September 29, 2021 through on or about May 11, 2022, law enforcement conducted undercover online sessions (the "2021/2022 Sessions") using a publicly available peer-to-peer ("P2P") software application program (the "P2P Program"). P2P is a method of communication available to Internet users through the use of special software. The software is designed to allow users to trade digital files through a worldwide network that is formed by linking computers together. Generally, when P2P software is installed on a computer, the user is directed to specify a "shared" folder. All files placed in that user's "shared" folder are available to anyone on the worldwide network for download. A person interested in sharing child pornography with others in the P2P network need only place those files in his or her "shared" folders. Those child pornography files are then available to all users of the P2P network for download regardless of their physical location. The computers that are linked together to form the P2P network are located throughout the world; therefore, the P2P network operates in interstate and foreign commerce.

3. The P2P Program allows users to connect to and share, search, and download content. The version used by law enforcement allows law enforcement to determine the IP address through which target computers access the Internet.

4. During the 2021/2022 Sessions, a computer user shared multiple files of child pornography using the P2P Program from a certain IP address (the "Target IP Address"). The undercover law enforcement officer established a direct connection to the Target IP Address. Several of the files being shared by the Target IP Address had a hash value that has been identified to contain visual depictions of children engaged in sexual acts with adults. These files were

shared during the 2021/2022 Sessions by a device using the Target IP Address. Video files and images of child pornography were available from the Target IP Address, which other users accessing the P2P Network could download.

5. Indeed, during the 2021/2022 Sessions, approximately 35 media files containing child pornography were available from the Target IP Address. The files included multiple visual depictions of pre-pubescent children engaged in sexual acts with adults, including the following representative sample:

FILE NAME	DESCRIPTION
<p>File Name/Number:</p> <p>[boy + man] – (Yamad) Little Boy Aldo With Man 3...mpg</p> <p>eD2k Hash Value:</p> <p>FB707B0981F47845575E9BE9D5AF2767</p>	<p>This video is approximately 15:03 in length and depicts a prepubescent male engaged in various sex acts with an adult male. The video begins with the prepubescent male sitting on a bed wearing a light-colored shirt and tan shorts. At approximately 20 seconds into the video the scene changes to depict the prepubescent male completely naked with an erect penis. The male alternates between posing and masturbating his penis until the scene changes again at the 2:26 mark. At that point, the prepubescent male is shown kneeling, while clad in a black shirt, and proceeds to masturbate and perform oral sex on an adult male. At approximately 6:27 of the video, the scene abruptly changes again to show the prepubescent male now wearing a white shirt and blue shorts. He masturbates and performs oral sex on the adult male. The remainder of the video depicts additional scenes of the prepubescent male alternating between masturbation and oral sex with the adult male. This continues for the remainder of the video. This video file was downloaded by law enforcement during a session lasting between 7:01 and 7:19 PM on March 28, 2022.</p>

<p>File Name/Number:</p> <p>52 Cute Adorable Little 10 yo Preteen Boys Snuggle & Kiss naked Nude Pedo Young Child Sex Kdv Rbv Pjk.mpg</p> <p>eD2k Hash Value:</p> <p>1080E9F7649778755E32705A62D09DAF</p>	<p>This video is approximately 36 seconds in length. This video depicts two naked prepubescent males posing in a sexually explicit manner. The video begins with one of the prepubescent males kissing the others male's stomach and then rubs his buttocks and anus. Both have erect penises. The bottom center of the screen contains the date stamp "6.5.1998" and the logo "WWW.BOYZMOVIES.COM". This video file was downloaded by law enforcement during a session lasting between 9:52 and 9:54 AM on September 29, 2021.</p>
<p>File Name/Number:</p> <p>Baby assfucked deep [New 2016!] anal boy VID-20170206-WA0002.mp4</p> <p>eD2k Hash Value:</p> <p>C2F285831B7F98851E88AF34D2111D60</p>	<p>This video is approximately 2:46 in length and depicts an adult male anally penetrating a male toddler. The video begins with an adult male wearing an Adidas shirt with a block letter B on it holding a male toddler. The toddler is wearing blue pants and a red sweater. The toddler places food in the mouth of the adult male. At approximately 20 seconds into the video, the scene shifts to a closeup of genital region of the male toddler who is now naked from the waist down and still wearing a red sweater. He also has a pacifier in his mouth. The adult male rubs his erect penis against the anus of the male toddler. At the 31 second mark, the scene shifts again to show a tight closeup of the adult male anally penetrating the toddler. The remainder of the video portrays the adult male anally penetrating the naked male toddler from various angles. This video file was downloaded by law enforcement during a session lasting between 6:10-6:17 AM on April 16, 2022.</p>

6. Target IP Address was assigned, at the approximate times of the 2021/2022 Sessions, to an account registered to WESSELIUS's residence (the "Residence") in Whippany, New Jersey.

7. On or about June 30, 2022, law enforcement executed a search warrant at the Residence. During the search of the Residence, law enforcement seized, among other things, a desktop computer (the "Desktop Computer") located in WESSELIUS's bedroom, on which the P2P Program was present. The P2P program was the same version of the program that law enforcement previously associated with the Target IP Address. WESSELIUS stated that he was the only user of the desktop computer in his bedroom. During a preliminary search of the items stored on the Desktop Computer, law enforcement discovered approximately one dozen files of child pornography saved onto the computer. An initial forensic preview revealed videos depicting child pornography on the Desktop Computer.

8. Law enforcement also seized approximately forty-seven electronic devices, including hard drives, laptops, one additional desktop computer, and cellphones, from WESSELIUS's bedroom. During a preliminary search of one of the hard drives, law enforcement discovered one video file that matched one of the video files described above, which was downloaded from the eMule user associated with the Target IP Address—namely, "Baby assfucked deep [New 2016!] anal boy VID-20170206-WA0002.mp4."¹

9. At the time of the search, three other residents, all related to WESSELIUS, were present at the Residence. All residents, including WESSELIUS, stated that everyone used their own electronic devices, and that they did not use each other's electronic devices.

10. Based upon my education, training, and experience, my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and to the best of my knowledge, the child pornography files described in Paragraph 7 and 8 traveled in interstate commerce and were produced using materials that were mailed, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, that is, the images and or videos were downloaded from and transmitted via the Internet.

¹ Forensic examinations of the Desktop Computer, the one additional desktop computer, and WESSELIUS's other electronic devices are ongoing.