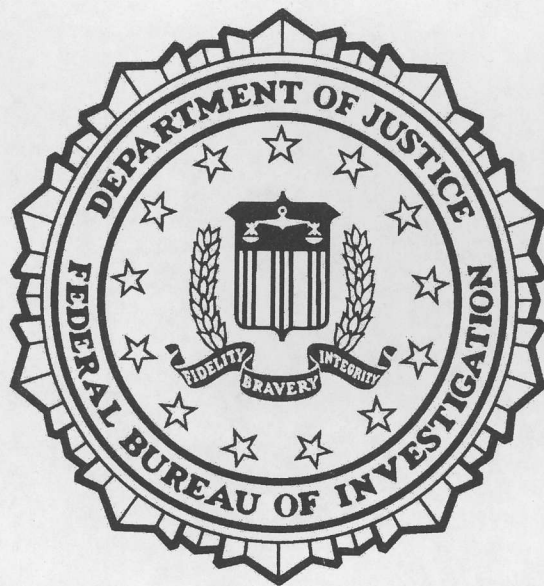


# Psychological Profiles of Anonymous Leadership



Law Enforcement Sensitive  
(LES)

August 2011

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## **I. OVERVIEW FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

### **A. Introduction**

The Anonymous 'collective' has risen from an amorphous group of individuals on the internet to the current state of a potential threat to national security. Due to the nature of anonymous, they believe that they are a leaderless collective. However, it has been shown that there is a defined leadership group. The goal of this report is to better understand that leaderships structure and its members psychological states in order to better assess who they really may be as well as define means to effectively track them down for arrest.

By using the techniques and resources of the BSU at Quantico, we hope to enlighten the investigators to cues that could help in manipulating and apprehending the leadership of Anonymous. This will have a profound effect on the collective itself as the arrest of the core would demoralize the whole.

## **II. PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILING APPROACH**

Due to the nature of Anonymous and the internet, the leaders of the collective have attempted to cloak their identities within screen names and technological obfuscation methods. Since the internet has many ways to hide a person's true identity, the Behavioral Sciences Unit was contacted to assess the individual's online personae through online dialogs.

Working this case was approached in the same manner as any other UNSUB (Unknown Subject) that the BSU handles, however, the context from this particular case has been augmented by technical services branch members. The upshot of this is that the network technical and forensics teams provided not only the content from which we at the BSU would audit, but also context as to how the UNSUB's attempted to hide their identities. The marrying of all of the technical as well as the contextual data has resulted in this report.

A thorough assessment of each UNSUB's online activities, speech patterns, and general writings was collected by the FBI. Each UNSUB was individually assessed by members of the SBU and a psychological profile created from these datasets. Some of this data was also collected from sources such as CI's in the field. One such CI (Marotte) has been quite effective in engaging the Anonymous leadership and thus gathering intelligence that was helpful to the SBU in gauging their psychological makeup under differing circumstances.

The following report is to be used as a guide not only to perhaps locate the individuals by region, sex and age, but also to give insight to the agents in the field carrying out operations to capture these actors. By knowing the traits of these leaders, one can extrapolate the larger motivations and perhaps even anticipate actions on the part of Anonymous and its splinter cells.

### III. ANONYMOUS COLLECTIVE BACKGROUND

From Wikipedia:

Anonymous (used as a mass noun) is a group initiating active civil disobedience and spread through the Internet while staying hidden, originating in 2003 on the imageboard 4chan, representing the concept of many online community users simultaneously existing as an anarchic, digitized global brain.[2] It is also generally considered to be a blanket term for members of certain Internet subcultures, a way to refer to the actions of people in an environment where their actual identities are not known.[3]

In its early form, the concept has been adopted by a decentralized online community acting anonymously in a coordinated manner, usually toward a loosely self-agreed goal, and primarily focused on entertainment. Beginning with 2008, the Anonymous collective has become increasingly associated with collaborative, international hacktivism, undertaking protests and other actions, often with the goal of promoting internet freedom and freedom of speech. Actions credited to "Anonymous" are undertaken by unidentified individuals who apply the Anonymous label to themselves as attribution.[4]

Although not necessarily tied to a single online entity, many websites are strongly associated with Anonymous. This includes notable imageboards such as 4chan, Futaba, their associated wikis, Encyclopædia Dramatica, and a number of forums.[5] After a series of controversial, widely-publicized protests and distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks by Anonymous in 2008, incidents linked to its cadre members have increased.[6] In consideration of its capabilities, Anonymous has been posited by CNN to be one of the three major successors to WikiLeaks.[7]

## IV. PROFILES

### 1 UNSUB Sabu

**Approximate age:** 29-35

**Sex:** Male

**Location:** USA

**Probable Nationality:** American

**Language Indicators:** Slang and diction (American)

**Profile:** Sabu is the overall leader of the LulzSec group and since the arrest of Topiary, has taken over the spokesperson role for Anonymous. Sabu's character is the strongest of the named group and is definitely in charge. Sabu is technically competent within the realm of computer technologies and is the elder of the group of Anonymous UNSUB's

Sabu has character traits of a professional adult individual who puts on the guise of a "script kiddie" in language (netspeak) but functions within his normal day to day life within the business community without casting any clues to his other online activities. It is likely that Sabu works in the information security sector and has been doing so since the early days of the internet and hacking activities. His use of net speak is interspersed with proper American English diction and grammar that implies he is an American citizen and has been educated.

Varying logs from online IRC (Internet Relay Chat) sessions have borne out the possibility however, that the user ID "Sabu" is sometimes also used by others to confuse authorities and others as to who the real person is behind the keyboard. However, through an amalgam of transcripts the tell tale signs of a consistent individual can be clearly seen and assessed.

Overall, a picture emerges from these sessions that can lend to a psychological assessment of the individual who calls himself "Sabu" The following bulletized points are the key findings.

#### **Psychological Makeup and Personal Details:**

- Likely married and employed in the technology sector
- Has amoral tendencies and see's the world from a nihilistic perspective
- Spelling correction on chat logs shows compulsive behaviors
- Shows narcissistic tendencies
- Likely to be living in North America (East Coast) Perhaps NYC
- Proudful and likely easily prone to reaction through manipulation
- Very conformist in everyday life
- Lives out rich fantasy life online (feeling important and empowered)
- Perceives himself as a martyr for the cause (his own cause)

**Assessment:** Sabu is skilled and capable according to the technical group, however, the tendencies toward attention seeking pathologies and his ego driven desires will be the most likely way to attempt to apprehend him. It is recommended that the investigation use CI's and operatives online to continue to engage him online in chats. Manipulation of language and emotions through these chats will indeed lead to further information to be disclosed by him or others.

It is recommended that the BSU insert a team member into the LulzSec/Anonymous investigation to interface online with the subject(s) and further the social and psychological investigation of the group and its leadership in an attempt to flesh out further information.

## 2 UNSUB Kayla

**Approximate age** 22-27

**Sex:** Male

**Probable Location:** USA (Middle America)

**Probable Nationality:** American

**Profile:** Kayla is the online persona for this individual who ran the botnet's (compromised zombie computers) to run attacks against sites and users with DDOS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks. Kayla claims to be a girl but the intelligence gathered places the sex of the UNSUB as male.

### **Psychological Makeup and Personal Details:**

Kayla is one of the more introverted members of the group and is a close lieutenant to Sabu. Kayla is submissive and has a tendency to be aggressive toward anyone who he feels has slighted him in any way. Chat logs show a penchant for entendre and use of netspeak that denotes a younger person as well as perhaps a stunted emotional age that does not connect with his real age.

- Possibly bisexual
- Likely abused as a child
- Likely inferiority complex due to childhood trauma
- Potentially violent behavior possible offline in real world activities
- Amoral personality traits
- Attention seeking personality seeking father figure approval
- Possible persistent drug use
- Likely from a broken home

**Assessment:** Kayla aka Lolspoon (twitter) is a likely target for an attempt to correlate his online persona with others in the alternative lifestyle internet underground. SA's attempting to interface with Kayla should keep in mind that he is easily pushed to anger and this can be used. It is recommended that the investigators push this individual as frequently as possible to make him react and thus potentially slip up in anger.

### 3 UNSUB Topiary (Status captured)

**Age:** 18

**Sex:** Male

**Location:** Shetland Islands UK, Scotland

**Profile:** Topiary aka Jake Davis has been apprehended and as such this profile is only for backstopping purposes. An ongoing evaluation of his personality and his life is being carried out by the Met and Scotland Yard presently. Topiary was the de facto spokesman for Anonymous and LulzSec and is very outspoken.

Topiary/Davis, is a young individual with a defined ethos of counter culture behaviors. At the time of his arraignment Davis carried a book on revolutionary scientists and made sure that the press could see this as a means to show his point of view and defiance of the common laws.

#### **Psychological Makeup and Personal Details:**

Out of the group Topiary is the altruist who believes in what he is doing on the outside of it. Internally, his sense if right and wrong are skewed toward self fulfilling outcomes. Davis it is believed has been used and co opted by the others within the anonymous leadership as cannon fodder.

- A true believer in his world view that society has failed
- Youthfully idealistic
- Ego driven in his convictions
- Obsessive personality traits including possible Aspergers syndrome
- Socially inept and withdrawn

### 5 UNSUB JoePie91

**Approximate age** 21-26

**Sex:** Male

**Location:** EU

**Profile:** JoePie is a technical individual who is third in command. His skill are in the coding area and also has partaken in the actual hacking carried out by LulzSec and Anonymous. Joepie's political views on performing hacking against targets only extends to the point of actually breaking the law. JoePie has alleged that his is a support role only, and as such, not breaking the law.

#### **Psychological Makeup and Personal Details:**

JoePie is intelligent and well spoken. He tends to not use as much netspeak as the others and makes relevant arguments in correct grammatical syntax. There are times when the syntax and grammar infer that JoePie is not an American and may in fact be in the EU.

It is recommended that the approach to be taken with JoePie is to align the agent's commentary to JoePie's. Use common ideals stemming from commentary in the HB Gary and other IRC chats captured to gauge the approach.

- Likely a college student but may be just out of college
- Technically capable and versed (mention of coding and technical measures)
- More autonomous member of the group
- Amoral character traits and personal beliefs

## 6 UNSUB Tflow

**Approximate age** 22-26

**Sex:** Male

**Location:** USA

**Profile:** Tflow shows a more mercenary approach to the LulzSec and Anonymous campaigns. His motivations seem to be monetarily based and may in fact be a paid asset for the group as a freelance hacker. Tflow is a key player in the command and control of their domain registration and management. In essence, Tflow is a key target for taking down the infrastructural underpinnings of the group.

- Pseudo-intellectual that lacks true educational background
- Monetarily driven
- Likely has a criminal history
- Has cognitive dissonance over hacktivism and activism

### **Psychological Makeup and Personal Details:**

The psychological makeup as glimpsed from the IRC chats leads the investigators to believe that Tflow may be the linchpin to attack as he runs the technology side of their internet space. As such he is intimately familiar with all of the players and may in fact know personal details that would be helpful in prosecution of the other key members.

It is also recommended that Tflow may be easily turned against the group due to his cognitive dissonance over hacktivism as well as he desires for monetary gain. This also flows into his likely attitudes that he is not willing to go down for the group should his identity be compromised. BSU recommends that Tflow be a key target for agents in the field to approach.

## V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the BSU recommends more investigation be carried out online to investigate these users by inserting agents into their chat rooms as well as gather more CI's who can do the same. Because of the nature of Anonymous and the internet, it is harder to get a real idea of where users are if they know how to hide their tracks online. The use of the social aspects (what hackers would call 'social engineering') will be key to gaining access to data that will eventually lead to capture.

These profiles are solely based on internet chats and as such, may also be somewhat incorrect as the users know that they are being monitored in certain areas of the internet. However, as an aggregate, the data presented and assessed gives the BSU some confidence in the data presented here. It is the recommendation of the BSU that this report be re-assessed as more data comes from assets in the field and through interviews carried out with Topiary (Davis) by the Met and



the FBI field agents tasked to the UK for interviews. Overall, the assessment here is that we have a group of younger individuals being lead by an older, more experienced one in an effort that seems to have conflicted ideals. Additionally, because there are many personalities involved and Anonymous claims to be a larger 'collective' group without leaders, it is easier to assume that there are other cells and other leaders. These leaders and groups may not be chatting in the open areas of the IRC, but in fact have learned from the experiences of this group to be more discreet about their activities and planning.

**The overall assessment for the movement however is the following:**

1. The movement is out of control and there seems to be no real coherent motivation
2. The leaders have begun to hide themselves a bit more due to arrests that have been made
3. Their reliance on technology will eventually be their downfall
4. Their interpersonal relationships are weak points, as such they should be leveraged
5. Their increasing attacks on infrastructure will eventually lead to serious results that could in fact lead to deaths

It is after the first real attributable deaths that there may be a tapering off of their ranks as the members realize that by outing individuals, actual physical actions can occur that cause great damage. Until such time though, the movement will continue with the masses used as fodder and the command structure urging them on to carry out their commands.

**ANNEX: A Twitter Logs**  
**REDACTED See Enclosure A**

**ANNEX: B Chat Logs**  
**REDACTED See Enclosure B**