# WHO ARE THE "The Com"

DURHAM - Our schools are under seige by a phantom high tech threat.

Numerous schools have been forced to go on the alert and some event lock down due to this phantom.

At first it was believed to be a local problem. After investigating the number of occurrence increasing.

Police have determined that it is a bigger problem than they thought.

According to Durham Regional Police. There is a movement of sort that is targeting our Durham youth.

The group is know as
'The Com'.

"The Com" (short for "The Community") refers to a decentralized, international online network of cybercriminals and associated groups, primarily composed of English-speaking young people (often minors aged 11–25) from places like the US, Canada, UK, and elsewhere.

It's not a single organized gang but a loose ecosystem of interconnected Discord, Telegram, and forum-based communities where members collaborate on or compete in various crimes.

Motivations include financial gain, notoriety among peers, ideology, retaliation, or sexual gratification.

No single person or entity is "responsible" for creating or leading "The Com" (short for "The Community").

It is a decentralized, loosely organized online ecosystem—or subculture—of primarily English-speaking cybercriminals, rather than a traditional hierarchical group with a founder or central leader.Origins and nature: The Com emerged organically from online communities, likely starting in the mid-2010s (with some roots traced back to around 2013 in forums like Doxbin) among young people involved in activities like doxxing, SIM swapping for Bitcoin, swatting, and harassment.

It grew from toxic subsets of gaming platforms (e.g., Roblox, Minecraft, Discord) where harassment evolved into more serious crimes like phishing, extortion, and ransomware. It is not a monolithic organization but a fluid network of interconnected Discord/Telegram servers, forums, and chat groups where individuals collaborate opportunistically, form temporary subgroups, compete for notoriety, or splinter off.

Key points from reports by the FBI, Europol, cybersecurity firms, and media:

Subsets include: Hacker Com — Focused on cybercrimes like phishing, SIM swapping, ransomware, account takeovers, crypto theft, and corporate intrusions (linked to groups like Scattered Spider/UNC3944, involved in high-profile hacks of companies like MGM, Reddit, and others).

Extortion Com — Involves blackmail, sextortion, doxxing, and coercing victims (often minors) into producing/sharing child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

IRL Com ("In Real Life") — Escalates to real-world violence, including swatting, threats, violence-for-hire, or coercion tied to online disputes.

Many members are teenagers or young adults recruited via gaming platforms, social media, or minor-friendly apps.

Overlaps exist with extreme groups like 764
(a satanic/neo-Nazi child exploitation network).

Law enforcement (FBI, RCMP, Europol) has issued warnings and made arrests, describing it as a rising threat to youth through grooming, exploitation, and radicalization toward violence or crime.

This isn't a mainstream band, crew, or innocent group—it's flagged by authorities as a serious cybercrime and exploitation network.

Several arrests have occurred, such as a 19-year-old from Florida in 2024 and a UK citizen in Spain that same year.

The group's sophistication has increased over the years, with advanced methods for hiding identities and laundering money.

Just this past week The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) alerted parents, caregivers, and community members to an emerging online threat involving coordinated groups known as "The Com" (short for the Community).

"The Com" is a network of online predators who use grooming, manipulation, coercion, and intimidation to exploit Durham young people. Offenders often build trust, create secrecy through fear or shame, and pressure victims into harmful or violent activities, which has led to criminality in certain instances.


These groups target children and youth aged 8 to 17 across popular online platforms, including Discord, Telegram, Snapchat, Roblox, Minecraft, Twitch, and Steam.

These online predators operate using the following tactics: Building trust through friendship or romantic attention.

Manipulating youth using fear, guilt, or intimidation.

Coercing victims into harmful or unsafe activities, including: Sharing inappropriate and exploitative images or videos

Engaging in self-harm or harm toward others or animals.

Displaying concerning usernames, symbols, or messages.

Coercing children to participate in crimes—such as hoax 9.1.1 calls (swatting), online attacks, or sharing harmful content—often without realizing the seriousness of what they're being manipulated into.

Forcing compliance through threats such as exposing private information, doxing, or swatting.

The Durham Regional police service (DRPS) said a threat that led to a Hold and Secure at an Oshawa school on Thursday, February 5, was a prank call.

DRPS had responded to a shooting threat at Harmony Heights Public School

Around 2 pm, Harmony Heights Public School was placed on a hold and secure and a large police response ensued, with several units deployed including the K9 unit.

It was discovered that the call was a prank, police said.

A 14-year old was arrested and charged with criminal harassment, mischief, endangerment and more.

DRPS stated: "These incidents are not jokes: they cause fear and divert police from real emergencies."

They asked parents and guardians to speak with their children about the importance of not diverting resources.

This is the second time this year that a school in the Durham Region has faced a threat.

On January 28, DRPS reported a threat to William Dunbar Public School in the City of Pickering which led to a lockdown situation.

DRPS has recently responded to a number of incidents in the community that are believed to be linked to this online predatory group.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to watch for patterns or clusters of the following behaviours:

Use of encrypted apps (e.g., Discord, Telegram) without parental knowledge.

Withdrawal, secrecy, mood changes, or declining academic performance

Increased or secretive use of phones or electronic devices.

Interest in extreme or harmful online ideologies.

New online contacts your child seems unusually attached to—or afraid of.

While one of these signs may not be of concern, multiple indicators together may warrant attention. Visit drps.ca/onlinesafety to learn more about the signs and how to protect children from this online threat.

You can help protect your child by talking to them about the risks of sharing personal information or images online. Ask direct, non-judgmental questions about the platforms they use and the individuals they interact with. Ensure you have access to your child's online platforms and regularly review their activity. Pay close attention to platforms with chat or group features.

If you notice any concerning online activity or individuals on online platforms that may pose a safety risk, report it to DRPS at 1-888-579-1520.

At first it was believed that there was nothing anyone could do over this group. What local police can do is go after any perpetrator that carries any act against another.

Unfortunately many of the perpetrators are under age.... this bringing great grief to parents.

Internationally Key Examples of Prosecutions and ArrestsScattered Spider (also known as UNC3944/Octo Tempest, a prominent Hacker Com-affiliated group linked to high-profile breaches like MGM Resorts, Caesars, Reddit, Twilio, and others, with over $115 million in ransoms extorted):

Multiple members charged/arrested in 2024–2025, including U.S. teens/young adults (e.g., Noah Michael Urban, 20, from Florida, sentenced to 10 years in 2025 after pleading guilty to wire fraud/conspiracy).

In 2025: UK nationals Thalha Jubair (19) and Owen Flowers (18) arrested/charged in the UK for attacks on Transport for London (TfL), U.S. healthcare firms, and others; Jubair faces U.S. charges with up to 95 years if convicted.

Other arrests in Spain, the UK, and U.S. for related intrusions, with ongoing investigations showing the group "spooked" but still active/adapting.

764 (a violent extremist/sextortion offshoot overlapping with Extortion Com/IRL Com, involving CSAM production, self-harm coercion, and neo-Nazi ideology):

Founder Bradley Cadenhead ("Felix") arrested/convicted early (child porn possession, 2023).

Recent cases (2025–2026): Leaders/members like Alexis Aldair Chavez (19, Texas) pleaded guilty to RICO and child exploitation charges; others arrested in New York, Maryland, California, Idaho-linked cases for CSAM possession, coercion/enticement of minors, cyberstalking.

DOJ/FBI have charged dozens tied to 764/affiliates, describing it as "modern-day terrorism" with over 350 active U.S. investigations.

Broader The Com actions:

FBI issued multiple PSAs (public service announcements) in 2025 warning about The Com, Hacker Com (cyber intrusions/ransomware links), and IRL Com (physical violence/swatting-for-hire).

Arrests tied to SIM swapping, crypto theft, and violent escalations (e.g., a Minnesota member arrested in 2025 for stabbing tied to online disputes). International ops (e.g., Interpol/Europol) led to U.S./Canada/UK arrests in 2025. Why Prosecution is Possible Despite Decentralization Individual accountability: Law enforcement focuses on identifiable actors via digital forensics, chat logs (e.g., Discord/Telegram leaks), financial trails (crypto wallets), and tips from platforms.

Overlaps with serious crimes (e.g., CSAM, extortion of minors, ransomware causing massive harm) trigger federal priorities, RICO charges, and harsh penalties (up to decades in prison).

International cooperation: Extraditions (e.g., UK to U.S.), joint ops, and seizures disrupt infrastructure.

Ongoing momentum: As of early 2026, arrests/pleas continue (e.g., recent 764 leader guilty pleas, Scattered Spider indictments), showing persistent pressure.

The Com's fluid nature means new members/subgroups emerge, and not everyone gets caught—many use anonymity tools—but persecution is real and increasing, especially for high-profile or violent acts.

The FBI views it as a serious threat to youth and critical infrastructure, with warnings emphasizing prevention through parental vigilance and reporting.