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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Technical report from Europol on law enforcement operational experience regarding AI models/systems for the generation of CSAM

Delegations will find attached the comparative table prepared by Europol on law enforcement operational experience regarding AI models/systems for the generation of CSAM.

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Technical Report - AI Generated CSAM Models

Fictional Content is not Restricted - This is a forum rule, depicted in a section dedicated to sharing of AI generated (AIG) CSAM on one of the larger CSAM boards that is currently online on the Dark Web. It does reflect the fast development in the models being used. The current use of larger models, expanding knowledge of the users, are resulting in exactly this: **Realistic AIG CSAM** content with no restrictions.

Discussion and distribution of AI generated CSAM takes place on different platforms on the Clear Web, E2E applications and the Dark Web. Since the Dark Web is (still) considered as a relatively safe environment by persons with a sexual interest in minors, which also is originally visited by persons that have technical advanced skills, it offers a good source to examine **the status of production of AI Generated CSAM and the use of AIG CSAM models**. This note does not aim to provide a broad overview of the progress and use of AI models over time, but focusses on current state of play and to gain, in particular, insights in the use of AI models for AIG CSAM. [redacted]

The fast evolution of the AIG CSAM is **primarily fuelled by the improvement of AI models**. But the owners of the AIG CSAM models, that are part of communities and are dedicated to the sharing of AIG content, (their own) improved and modified AI models, tools and tips, are very much an important factor as well. These actively sharing owners are not only willing to share their models, but are also willing to educate others that are just taking their first steps into creating AIG CSAM.

Within online communities on the Dark Web, there are **Sub Communities dedicated to AIG CSAM.** Separated from the 'real' CSAM content, owners of AIG CSAM models can share their technical tips and tutorials and the result of their efforts in dedicated sections of Dark Web

Boards. Multiple posted topics, both in 'boys' and 'girls' sub forums, have over tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of views.

There is also a board, currently online on the Dark Web, that is exclusively dedicated to the production and distribution of AIG CSAM. The member count of this board is over 165.000[1].

Needless to state that the sharing of AIG CSAM does not only provides the owner of an AIG CSAM model a stage, a place to receive credits, and further requests or feedback, it also does attract new potential AIG CSAM model owners. Users discuss the desire and possibilities to generate the content themselves, as a Dark Web user commented on posted AIG CSAM: *"I'll have to try using this after seeing how great the results have been."* In addition to the argument that large CSAM boards play their role in normalising child sexual abuse, it could also be stated that AIG CSAM is contributing to this problem.

User Interfaces

The owners of AIG CSAM models are discussing their models on the Dark Web, but they initially start with the use the Clear Web AI developers' communities, such as *Civitai* and *Hugging Face* or on *YouTube.* Recent explorative research, by INTERPOL DevOps Group[2], show that that the Graphical User Interface that is mostly used by the owners of AIG CSAM models active on the Dark Web, are Comfy UI and Automatic1111. The latter currently decreasing in popularity.

AI Models, Checkpoints and LoRAs

The AI models, which are computer programs trained on a vast dataset, intended to recognise patterns, make predictions and generate new content. When it comes to content generation of media content (i.e images and videos), these models are based on a diffusion model architecture. The most popular AI media generation base models, used by owners of AIG CSAM models on the Dark Web, are Stable Diffusion SD1.5, Stable Diffusion XL, released by Stability AI and FLUX from Black Forest Labs.

Stable Diffusion XL is the more recent, advanced text-to-image, generative model. FLUX appeared in August 2024. Being founded by former Stability AI engineers, it increased very fast in popularity. Stable Diffusion SD1.5 is from 2022 but still used by many Dark Web users, as according to their forum exchanges, it is excellent for starters and people with less computer power. WAN is a relatively new model, for image to video generation, which is gaining popularity.

These are the so-called base open models, which are composed of extremely large and complex neural networks, containing billions of parameters, trained with a massive number of

[1] Since this number show all registered users on 6th of March 2026, this does not necessary reflect the unique users.
[2] INTERPOL DevOps Group is a part of the organisation's Crimes Against Children Unit, with participants from global law enforcement, Europol, NGOs and tech community.

datasets and whose development is only accessible by companies with enormous computing power resources.

These base models could be fine-tuned to weaken or bypass safeguards that are built in the models to prevent the generation of illegal material. This action prevents the trigger of in the internal safeguards of the base AI model.

As a result, it is not the specified model in basic use that is suitable for generating AI CSAM, but the further fine-tuned models. After taking an open base model in use by the AIG CSAM owner, the models are being fine-tuned to be able to create AIG CSAM. Different snapshots of these models, result in checkpoints, which is basically a snapshot of the neural network at a certain stage of training. Different checkpoints produce different styles or capabilities. There are AIG CSAM models[3] (including Checkpoints) that are popular within the AIG CSAM communities. Additionally, the use of specifically trained Low-Rank Adaptation models (LoRAs), which are less complex, enable possibilities to generate AI CSAM scenarios. For example, models for making individuals in generated images look younger, in combination of a Not-safe-for-work (NSFW) prompt or model. These models enable realistic CSAM scenarios, contain children and the necessary child characteristics. These models are improved, updated and shared again within the community by the active technical experts. With the use of LoRAs, these models are rapidly evolving. The more popular the model is, the more LoRAs become available.

Adaptation of AI Models for AIG CSAM

LoRAs (Low-Rank Adaptation models) are used to slightly modify an AI model, using a relatively small number of examples, effectively teaching it a new concept or person. Without having to fine tune the model, the LoRAs improve the image quality and allows corrections for common flaws, such as distorted hands, poor facial symmetry, or inconsistent lighting. The LoRAs are widely adopted in the community for both quality enhancement and stylistic control. The quality of the LoRAs depends on the quality and quantity of the used images, but currently with the use of around 100 good images, impressive results can be achieved. LoRAs are flexible, users are able to switch between different LoRAs for different tasks. Furthermore, fine-tuning the complete models, like SDXL and FLUX, would require specialized hardware, out of reach for most AIG CSAM model owners.

There are LoRAs for adapting models to **generate more severe content**, by tuning on actual CSAM and focussing on specific sexual acts. Others focus on **additional elements**, such as a specific activity, style or detail. LoRAs are trained on the existing images of a specific child; this enables the model to generate entirely new images of this particular child. The training material that is being used for these LoRAs are for example child celebrities, with their images widely available on social media, existing CSAM series, but also children from the own personal circle of the AIG CSAM model owner. [redacted]

[3] In this note the term Models also include Checkpoints; the saved state of a particular point of a Model in its training process.

[redacted]Many of the users of Dark Web CSAM boards have large collections of child sexual abuse material available, due to the possibilities of AI, they express the desire to have more sexualized or even hard core, content of specific children. As the owners of AIG CSAM models can generate for liking, beyond imagination, there are also users on the Dark Web requesting ideas for generating content.

Shared and Exchange of Models and LoRAs

Currently, complete tutorials, guides, models and LoRAs are being shared on the Dark Web CSAM boards, specifically in the sub forums on the Dark Web Board dedicated to AIG CSAM. The sub forum AI tutorials and links offer content of threads such as: *"Link to all AI resources (models, LoRAs, installs, guides, tutorials, etc.)".* These tutorials, guides or replies to requests for assistance and guidance are provided by owners of AIG CSAM models that are willing to dedicate their time and share their knowledge, in practice their prompts and LoRAs. [redacted]

[redacted]",

[redacted] Further recent explorative

research, by INTERPOL DevOps Group [4] resulted in an overview of over hundreds of LoRAs (and models) that were mentioned by users on the Dark Web. Some titles describing the purpose of the LoRA 'lolipussy', 'flat chest', 'flatpussy', others specific activity 'Cum in Mouth Real,' 'gay_blowjob', style 'nighttime' or detail 'plasticdiapers'. It is to be expected that this amount will grow exponentially.

The state of play on AIG CSAM is highly influenced by the experts who teach others. Owners of AIG CSAM models can be perceived as more technically advanced users. Step-by-step Tutorials and applications as the Pinokio-app, supporting beginners to take their first steps, show that creation of AIG CSAM is not exclusively in the hands of the technically advanced users.

Extreme Caution

The owners of AIG CSAM models are not only sharing technical tips for the use of the models and LoRAs. They also share tips for remaining anonymous and out of the hands of LEA. Most advice refers to run the AI models only locally, as well as tips on how to clean the metadata. Board Rules of the dedicated AI CSAM board also contain the warning that requests of *'online AI image, video, or other generators'* is not allowed. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]Since they use real children, to generate [hard core] CSAM content, carries very real consequences.

There are more examples of the direct use of AI within the Dark Web CSAM community; the use of LLM for AI chat, stories and Roleplay (Games), nudifying content and creating material or chat that support the sextortion of minors. It is also observed that the owners of AIG CSAM models are providing material on request. Similar to the distribution of sharing of the 'real' CSAM, moderation takes place on these boards and topics dedicated to AIG CSAM. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] DevOps October 2025

[redacted]

One of the first cases involving AIG Child Sexual Abuse material led to: 273 suspects identified, 25 arrests, 33 house searches in 19 different countries[5].

The seized devices from the now convicted offender contained hundreds of thousands of images, all unknown CSAM files. Tens of thousands of the images were illegal according to the Danish Penal Code. Based on the analysis, the assessment was that all illegal images were AI-generated. The analysis also showed an increasing level of realism.

The growth in the length of prompts certainly does align with the findings of the research by INTERPOL DevOps Group. *"The length of positive prompts has steadily grown over time – prompts are getting much more detailed."* In 2025 the average length of a prompt was 60 words in 2025 and less than 40 words in 2023. Improvement of the images could have been caused by either expanded knowledge of the suspect, improvement in the models or the combination of the two.

The box below depicts the redacted positive and negative prompts from the one of the images created by the suspect, illustrating the type of specific details used

[redacted]

[5] https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/25-arrested-in-global-hit-against-ai-generated-child-sexual-abuse-material

Key Points

This note aimed to focus on the current state of play and to gain, in particular, insights in the use of AI models for AIG CSAM. The following Key Points can be identified:

- The fast evolution of the AIG CSAM is **primarily fuelled by the improvement of AI base open models**. But the owners of the AIG CSAM models, are very much an important factor as well.

- Graphical User Interface that are mostly used by the owners of AIG CSAM models, are **Comfy UI** and **Automatic1111**.

- The most popular AI base models are **Diffusion SD1.5**, **Stable Diffusion XL** and **FLUX**. The models are being modified, trained, to be able to create AIG CSAM.

- LoRAs are used to adapt an AI model to a specific characteristic (person, physical appearance, etc). Currently, there is **wide range of LoRAs available**, over hundreds of LoRAs (and models) that were mentioned by users on the Dark Web.

- Use of multiple **LoRAs for different tasks** to generate the AIG CSAM, models to generate more severe content, by tuning on actual CSAM and focussing on specific **sexual acts**. Others focus on **additional elements**; a specific activity, style or detail.

- The increasing realism, together with an **increasing average length of prompts**, average length of a prompt was 60 words in 2025 and less than 40 words in 2023.

- Use of larger models, expanding knowledge of the users, are resulting in **Realistic AIG CSAM** content with no restrictions.

Glossary

AI - Artificial Intelligence.

AIG CSAM - Child Sexual Abuse Material generated or edited by Artificial Intelligence.

Base Model – A machine learning or deep learning model trained on vast dataset so that it can be applied across a wide range of use cases.

Dark Web – A part of the World Wide Web that is not indexed by search engines and requires specific configuration, software, or authorization to access.

Fine-tuning - Fine tuning a model is the process in which the base model is adjusted using a smaller specialised dataset (for instance to change the style of the data generated, etc).

LoRAs - Low-Rank Adaptation models, LoRAs are used to fine-tune an AI model, using a relatively small number of examples, effectively teaching it a new concept or person.

LLMs - Large Language Models. A type of machine learning that is trained on huge quantities of text, designed for natural language processing tasks, especially language generation.

Model / Checkpoint - a model is a file containing all of the information detailing how to generate a new image based upon inputs (such as a text description).

Open-source models - software whose source code is released under a license in which the copyright holder grants users the rights to use, study, change, and distribute the software and its source code to anyone and for any purpose.

Prompts - Words or short phrases used to describe what you do (positive prompts) or do not (negative prompts) want to see in the image when using generative text-to-image models.

Text-to-image model - A type of machine learning model whose function is to generate images from text prompts.

Sources

- [redacted]

- Interpol DevOps Group

- IWF. (2024). *What has changed in the AIG CSAM landscape?* https://www.iwf.org.uk/media/opkpmx5q/iwf-ai-csam-report_update-public-jul24v11.pdf

- IWF. (2023) *How AI is being abused to create child sexual abuse imagery.* https://www.iwf.org.uk/media/q4zll2ya/iwf-ai-csam-report_public-oct23v1.pdf