

# Profiles of child sexual perpetrators

While the motivations of bad actors online can vary, they all exploit platforms and features in similar ways. These examples represent some of the most prominent types of child sexual perpetrators identified in Thorn’s research.



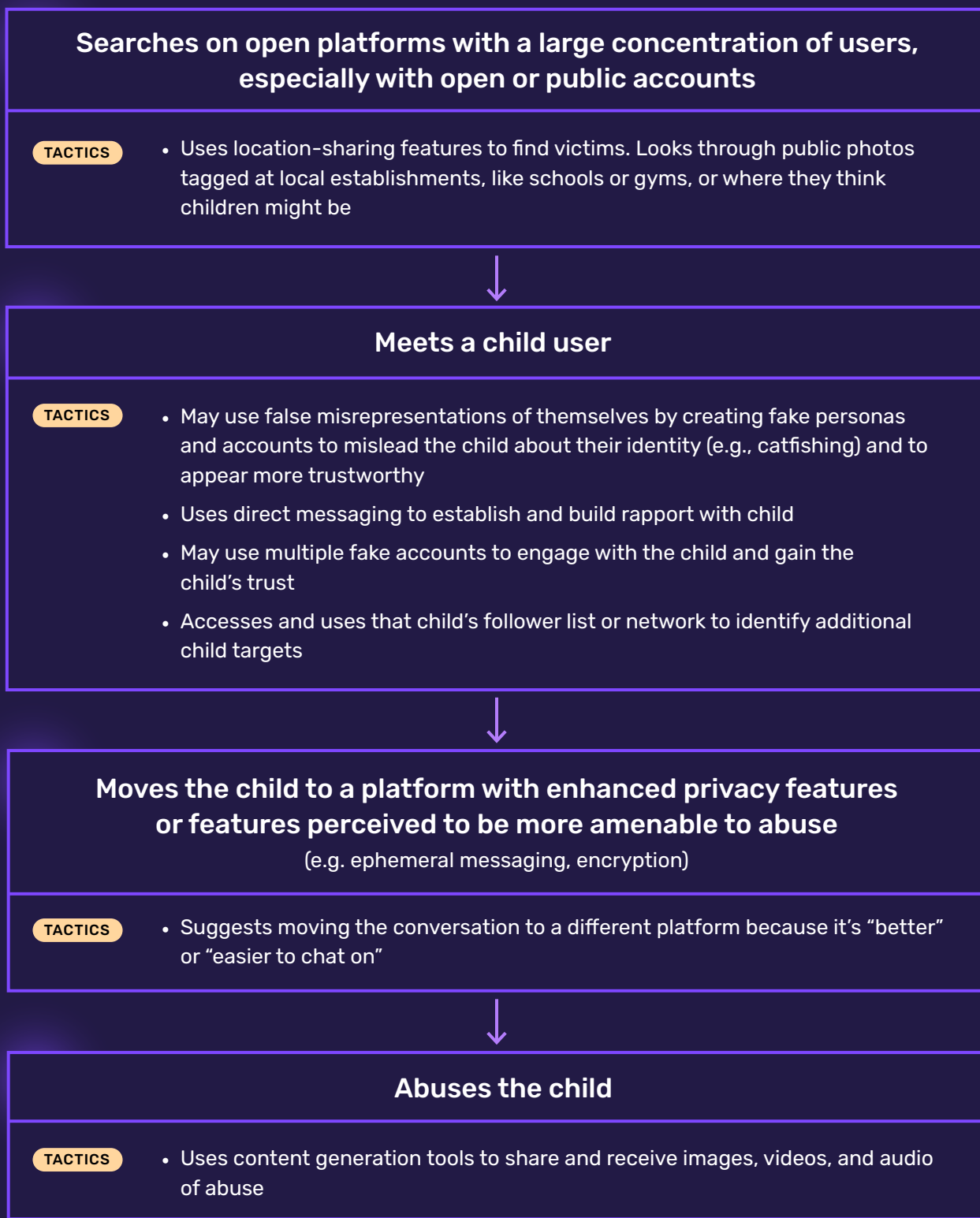
## Sexually Motivated

MOTIVATED BY	Sexual fantasies
DEMOGRAPHICS	Typically male
RELATIONSHIP TYPE	Seeks a longer-term connection for sustained abuse
TARGETS	Boys and girls, based on preference
GROOMING TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Might use their own profile or a fake one</li><li>• Develops a foundational friendship</li><li>• Identifies child’s vulnerabilities and exploits them</li></ul>

## Financially Motivated

MOTIVATED BY	Financial gains
DEMOGRAPHICS	Organized scammers operating largely out of Nigeria and Cote d’Ivoire
RELATIONSHIP TYPE	Just hours to a few days; becomes sexualized quickly
TARGETS	Predominantly teen boys, soliciting imagery to extort the child
GROOMING TACTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses fake profiles; often poses as a teen girl</li><li>• Often sends an explicit image, then requests one in return</li><li>• Immediately after receiving the image, demands money</li><li>• Overwhelms the child with threats of a ruined life</li></ul>

# How perpetrators exploit platform features



Kids aren't just solicited by adults. Today, many young people view sending nudes as a normal part of flirting and dating. As a result, sometimes imagery shared in a consensual context is reshared nonconsensually. Other times, youth may feel pressured by their peers to participate in this behavior.

## Peer Perpetrator

*Teen who nonconsensually reshares a peer's nudes*



### A COMMON SCENARIO:

- Two 15-year-olds share nudes while in a relationship
- When they break up, one shares the other's image as revenge, to embarrass or harass
- The image spreads on messaging apps and eventually circulates around school
- A culture of shame-and-blame focuses on the victim

The normalization of sharing nudes also makes it easier for other bad actors to exploit children's willingness to share such content.