

THE BIRTH, THE GENESIS, THE MACHINE & THE FLAP WINGS

An Investigative Mapping of Anonymous, Intelligence Networks, Media, and the Private Surveillance Industrial Complex (2010–2024)

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PROLOGUE: A NOTE ON METHOD

This investigation began with a single PDF, a handful of tweets, and a question: *What connects an FBI informant who collected Twitter bounties by reporting liberal accounts, to a Scotland Yard intelligence analyst, to a former DNC operative's Facebook post about Anonymous protecting the 2016 election, to the media's portrayal of a TikTok user as the face of hacktivism?*

The answer is not a conspiracy. It is a **network**—a series of documented connections, alleged relationships, and structural overlaps between worlds that are supposed to be separate: hacktivism and federal law enforcement, private intelligence and government grants, media narratives and covert funding flows.

Over the span of this investigation, I examined screenshots, court filings, federal grant databases, FBI informant testimony, and fourteen years of investigative reporting—from 2010 through 2024. What follows is the product of that work. It isn't a final verdict; it's a map. And that map unfolds across five layers.

LAYER 0: FLAP WINGS (Media & Funding)

- |
- | — Peter Thiel
 - | — funds → Jeff Giese → publishes → NATO StratCom ("Memetic Warfare")
 - | — funds → Weev (Andrew Auernheimer) → writes for → Daily Stormer
 - | — receives letter from → Jeffrey Epstein (2016: "return to tribalism")
- |
- | — Kirtaner (Aubrey Cottle) — Media's "Poster Child" (The Atlantic, Reuters, Vice, Washington Examiner)

▼ ENABLES ▼

LAYER 1: THE BIRTH (2010–2012)

|

└─ THE HACKS

- | └─ Anonymous
 - | | └─ hacks → HBGary Federal
 - | | └─ hacks → Stratfor
- | └─ Jeremy Hammond → hacks → Stratfor
- | └─ Sabu (FBI mole) → betrays → Jeremy Hammond

└─ THE JOURNALISTS

- | └─ Barrett Brown
 - | └─ analyzes → HBGary emails
 - | └─ analyzes → Stratfor emails
 - | └─ finds → Project PM
 - | └─ FBI raid (2012) → 63 months prison (2015)

└─ THE WHISTLEBLOWER

- | └─ Adrian Lamo
 - | └─ reports → Chelsea Manning (2010)
 - | └─ advised by → Chet Uber
 - | └─ member of → Project VIGILANT

└─ THE EXPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE

- └─ Palantir (Peter Thiel's co.) — named in HBGary conspiracy
- └─ Team Themis — plan to "ruin" WikiLeaks
- └─ TrapWire — surveillance software (CIA-linked)
- └─ Ntrepid/Tartan — \$2.76M sockpuppet software
- └─ Abraxas/Cubic — corporate network (ex-CIA Richard Helms)
- └─ InfraGard — FBI partnership (named in Brown's warrant)
- └─ Endgame Systems — intelligence contractor (named in Brown's warrant)

▼ EVOLVES INTO ▼

LAYER 2: THE GENESIS (2016)

- | └─ Alexandra Chalupa (DNC operative)
 - | └─ posts → "The Protectors" (Anonymous DC group) partners with DHS/DOJ

└─ ALLEGED OPERATORS

- └─ Brett Kimberlin (convicted bomb maker)
- └─ NEAL RAUHAUSER (CENTRAL NODE)
 - └─ SMIU co-author → James Patrick (Scotland Yard)
 - └─ business relationship → Libby Shaw (alleged CI)

▼ BUILDS ▼

LAYER 3: THE MECHANICS (Post-2016)

- |
- |— UK GOVERNMENT
 - | — Hacker House Ltd
 - | — receives → £100K DCMS grant
 - | — CEO → Jennifer Arcuri (reported relationship with Boris Johnson)
 - | — alleged 3rd founder → Gary Miliefsky (✓ DHS Founding Member)
- |
- |— INFORMANT NETWORK
 - | — Peter Thiel — ✓ Confirmed FBI informant (2021)
 - | — Microchip — ✓ FBI informant → testified against Douglass Mackey
 - | — Skyler Egert — ✓ Self-admitted LE cooperator
 - | — Neal Rauhauser — △ Alleged FBI CHS
- |
- |— LEAK PLATFORMS
 - | — DDoSecrets (Emma Best) + NB65 — Ukraine Operations (✓ Documented)
- |
- |— BRIDGE FROM LAYER 1
 - | — Project VIGILANT → connected to → Neal Rauhauser

▼ LEADS TO ▼

LAYER 4: THE FALLOUT

- |
- |— LEGAL CASES
 - | — McGibney v. Rauhauser — Rauhauser won \$450k
 - | — Fitzgibbon v. Radack — Kaidinn (@Kaidinn) named
 - | — USA v. Mackey — Microchip testified
 - | — Brown v. FBI — 2012 raid, 2015 sentence
- |
- |— CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS (Unverified)
 - | — Rauhauser/Shaw/Welna — weapons mailing, drag show threat
 - | — Ashley Tybor — threatened miscarriage, child harm
 - | — Mike Womack — inappropriate contact with minors
 - | — SiegedSec/Vio — CP promotion
 - | — Kirtaner — child porn forum ownership (alleged by Lane Lipton)
- |
- |— DOCUMENTED OPERATIONS
 - | — GhostSec — #OpDrugWar (Mexican cartels, May 11, 2024)
 - | — Anonymous Ukraine Ops — DDoSecrets + NB65 (2022–present)

| └─ Anonymous Brasil vs. Bolsonaro (June 2, 2020)

|

└─ PERSONAL DRAMA (Background Noise)

└─ Gh05tBelle vs. Kaidinn (Lane Lipton)

└─ MakeupByLevi vs. Ashley Tybor

└─ Legion child predator allegation (unverified)

LAYER 0: FLAP WINGS (Media & Funding)

The Butterfly Effect in Information Warfare

Before Anonymous hacked HBGary, before "The Protectors" partnered with DHS, before Neal Rauhauser became a central node in a decade-spanning network, there were **stories**—and the **money** to spread them.

This layer is called "**Flap Wings**" because it captures how media narratives and covert funding flows create the conditions for everything below. The flap of a wing in a newsroom or a billionaire's office can become a hurricane in the information ecosystem.

Kirtaner: The Media's "Poster Child" for Anonymous

Kirtaner (Aubrey Cottle) has been actively courted by major media outlets as the public face of Anonymous. He has been featured by outlets including *The Atlantic*, Reuters, Vice News, and the *Washington Examiner* as a founder or spokesperson for the collective. On TikTok, he appears as a "self-described 'cyberterrorist'" taking credit for hacks.

In a Reddit AMA (November 2020), he stated: "right now my only end-goal is bringing the QAnon game to a conclusion."

The contradiction: Kirtaner claims to have tried to "shut down" Anonymous after the 2008 Scientology rally, fearing for his family's safety, and admits to generating bad press deliberately to undermine the group. Yet he remains the media's go-to source for Anonymous commentary.

Structural significance: Kirtaner's role as a "poster child" serves multiple functions. It makes him a target—but it also makes him a **useful narrator**, someone who can be quoted, cited, and amplified. The media needs a face for Anonymous. Kirtaner provides it. Whether that face is accurate is almost beside the point.

The Thiel–Giese–Weev Funding Axis

The most significant finding in this layer is the **documented funding network** connecting Peter Thiel to the far-right troll ecosystem that incubated the tactics later deployed by "The Protectors" and others.

Jeff Giese — an investor who had run companies on behalf of Peter Thiel — published a paper in NATO's **StratCom** journal in 2016 defining "memetic warfare" as "psychological warfare tailored

to social media." The tactics he described (sockpuppet accounts, coordinated harassment, disinformation campaigns) had been tested years earlier on far-right platforms funded, in part, by Thiel-connected money.

The operational bridge between Thiel's investment network and these far-right platforms was **Andrew Auernheimer ("Weev")** — a neo-Nazi hacker with a swastika tattoo who had been funded by Thiel, according to his own private statements and leaked correspondence.

On **November 17, 2014**, technologist Vincenzo Iozzo emailed Jeffrey Epstein:

"I've heard rumors that Thiel... was bankrolling this dude: Weev."

This email chain — published by Byline Times and Counterpunch in 2026 — provides a documented link between Thiel, Epstein, and Weev.

Weev's role was not peripheral. He moved between:

- The anarchic image-board subcultures of early Anonymous (where he was a prominent troll)
- White supremacist organizing (Daily Stormer interview, swastika tattoo, "longtime critic of Judaism, black culture, immigration")
- The investment networks around Thiel

The same tactics he helped develop—trolling, doxing, coordinated harassment—were later presented to NATO as a legitimate strategic toolkit.

Jeffrey Epstein's 2016 letter to Thiel: After Brexit, Epstein wrote to Thiel about "return to tribalism" and "amazing new alliances" — which he called "just the beginning." The letter captures the ideological alignment between Thiel's "Dark Enlightenment" circles and Epstein's social network.

LAYER 1: THE BIRTH (2010–2012)

Anonymous Hacks Expose the Private Intelligence-Industrial Complex

In 2010, a 24-year-old named Barrett Brown was working as a volunteer media coordinator for WikiLeaks. By 2012, the FBI would raid his home and his mother's home, seizing computers and threatening him with 105 years in prison. (He would ultimately serve 63 months.)

Why? Because Brown had done something that the US government found far more threatening than hacking: **he had documented the private intelligence-industrial complex.**

Between 2010 and 2012, Anonymous conducted two hacks that would reshape the infosec landscape.

The HBGary Hack (February 2011)

Anonymous dumped 70,000 emails from **HBGary Federal**, a private intelligence firm. The emails revealed a conspiracy called "**Team Themis**" — a plan by HBGary, Hunton & Williams, and other contractors to "ruin" WikiLeaks and discredit journalist Glenn Greenwald.

Crucially, the emails also named **Palantir**, the big data company co-founded by billionaire Peter Thiel, as part of this conspiracy. Barrett Brown, who analyzed these emails, has stated that the conspiracy was "perpetrated by several very prominent intelligence contracting firms — most notably Palantir under Peter Thiel."

Palantir has sold over **\$1 billion in software** to the Pentagon, CIA, NSA, and FBI.

The Stratfor Hack (December 2011)

Anonymous hacker **Jeremy Hammond** (later betrayed by LulzSec founder **Sabu**, who was secretly an FBI informant) leaked **5 million emails** from Stratfor, a private intelligence firm.

Those emails revealed:

Exposed Entity	What It Was	Significance
TrapWire	Surveillance software at "high-value targets" (UK, Canada, US)	Owned by Abraxas, whose board included former CIA European division head Richard Helms
Ntrepid / Tartan	\$2.76M US Central Command contract for "persona management software" (sockpuppets)	Tartan specifically designed to "identify hidden relationships among anarchist leaders" — targeting Occupy Wall Street
Abraxas / Cubic	CIA-linked corporate network	Merged and denied ownership of TrapWire, despite tax filings proving otherwise

Barrett Brown's Journalism

Barrett Brown is an investigative journalist. He analyzed these leaks for several national outlets. He founded **Project PM**, a crowdsourced investigative journalism platform, to continue the work.

The FBI's **2012 search warrant** for Brown's property explicitly named **InfraGard** (an FBI-private sector partnership) and **Endgame Systems** (an intelligence contracting firm) — confirming that the government was aware of and concerned about his exposure of these entities.

Adrian Lamo — Project VIGILANT and the Bridge to Rauhauser

Adrian Lamo was a grey-hat hacker who, in May 2010, reported Chelsea Manning to the FBI after Manning confessed to leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks.

Lamo was a member of **Project VIGILANT**, an intelligence-gathering organization founded by **Chet Uber** that collected data from 12 regional ISPs (over 250 million IP addresses per day). When

Manning contacted him, Lamo turned to Uber for advice. Uber told Lamo to report Manning and connected him with the Department of Defense.

The significance of Lamo is not just his role in the Manning case. It is that **Project VIGILANT** — and its founder Chet Uber — are directly connected to **Neal Rauhauser**, the central node of this investigation. Rauhauser is tied to both Project VIGILANT and InfraGard, meaning the infrastructure that Lamo operated within is the same infrastructure that Rauhauser later operated within.

The connection chain:

Adrian Lamo → (advised by) **Chet Uber** → (founded) **Project VIGILANT** →
(connected to) **Neal Rauhauser**

Additional connection: Lamo's daughter, **Bailey Lamon**, was emailed by Jesselyn Radack (the defendant in the Fitzgibbon v. Radack case) in January 2020, linking the Lamo family directly to the legal conspiracies of Layer 4.

Lamo died on March 14, 2018, at age 37.

Key takeaway from Layer 1: The private intelligence-industrial complex that would later partner with Anonymous during the 2016 election was **exposed in 2012**.

LAYER 2: THE GENESIS (2016)

DHS/DOJ Partners with "The Protectors"

On **November 9, 2016** — the day after Donald Trump was elected President — former DNC operative **Alexandra Chalupa** posted a Facebook message that would become a cornerstone of this investigation:

"Homeland Security/DOJ teamed up with a group that is part of Anonymous based in Washington, D.C. called 'The Protectors.' This group saw a lot of activity during Election Day from the Russians and believe that the voting results projected don't match the internal and public polls because the voting results were manufactured in favor of Trump."

The post named no individuals. But subsequent research by journalist **Lee Stranahan** and the anonymous author of "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" identified the alleged operators of "The Protectors" as:

- **Brett Kimberlin:** A convicted bomb maker (eight bombings in 1978) who reinvented himself as a left-wing activist. In 1992, he spread a false rumor (amplified by Clinton operative Cody Shearer) that Vice President Dan Quayle had purchased drugs from him.
- **Neal Rauhauser:** A left-wing activist, former Democratic consultant, and the central node of this entire investigation.

Stranahan's research, published in a Periscope video and cited extensively in the UndeadFOIA PDF, made a well-sourced argument that Kimberlin and Rauhauser were "The Protectors."

Why would DHS/DOJ work with a convicted bomb maker and a Democratic consultant? The answer lies in what Rauhauser had become: a node connecting the exposed infrastructure of 2012 to the operational reality of 2016.

Rauhauser's Role Extended Beyond "The Protectors"

The SMIU, the "Society Burning" Report, and the DISARM Framework

Rauhauser was a central figure in the **Social Media Intelligence Unit (SMIU)**, a Munich-based intelligence project. Public reporting explicitly names **James Patrick, Neal Rauhauser, and Libby Shaw** as the core team behind SMIU.

Patrick, a former Scotland Yard detective turned whistle-blower, runs **SOCINT WILDCARD LIMITED** (Company No. 13702716), a private limited company incorporated on 25 October 2021 in the United Kingdom. Patrick holds 75% or more of the voting rights in the company and has the right to appoint or remove directors.

SOCINT WILDCARD LIMITED is described as having "birthed the **DISARM framework**," a structured methodology now used by NATO, the EU, and the US government to track and counter disinformation and state-sponsored information warfare.

SMIU's 2020 report, "**Society Burning: Tactical Assessment**," funded by **Alliance4Europe gGmbH** (registered in Munich, Germany under HRB 245225; PIC: 897888746; OID: E10256640), claimed to analyze social media trends but was described as twisting antifascists into "orchestrated bogeymen to excuse surveillance". Rauhauser was described as a "long-time online agitator" known for "swatting and alleged FBI collaboration," while Shaw operated under aliases and was tied to "anti-fascist psy-ops and far-right coordination".

Funding and Partnerships

SMIU's funding flowed through **Alliance4Europe** (HRB 245225; represented by managing director Omri Preiss) from **USAID** and the **UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**, which "paid James Patrick, Orr Bueno, Galsworthy, and crew to spy on American and European citizens". SMIU partnered with the **CTI-League, Team Halo, Narrative Strategies** (run by a former U.S. Army psychological operations expert), the **Integrity Initiative**, the **Lincoln Project**, and others.

The **DISARM Foundation** was registered as a tax-exempt charitable nonprofit in September 2021 in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, with the support of Public Democracy America and Alliance4Europe. In the UK, the **DISARM FOUNDATION C.I.C.** (Community Interest Company) was incorporated on 11 July 2024 (Company No. 15833044), with a registered office in London, England.

Timeline

SMIU's roots stretch back to the mid-to-late 2010s, with peak activity in 2020. After 2020, it went quiet, either fizzling out, morphing into DISARM and NETWAR Systems, or "slunk deeper undercover."

Libby Shaw — Allegations of an Informant

The investigation materials identify Shaw as an alleged confidential informant (CI). A dox document included in the source files explicitly refers to Shaw as a "federal informant" and a "confidential informant" who "collects reward money upon successful convictions". These allegations remain unverified. Shaw has not been charged with any crime.

Connection to Kirtaner

Shaw is directly connected to **Kirtaner (Aubrey Cottle)**, the self-described founder of Anonymous. According to Kirtaner's Wikipedia page, in August 2021, "Cottle and open source intelligence analyst Libby Shaw were among the researchers who exposed the developer behind Qalerts".

In a **November 2020 Reddit AMA**, when asked about working with Libby Shaw, Kirtaner said:

"I work with a woman named Libby. She's an open source intelligence analyst. She's good at what she does."

Registry Numbers Summary Table

Entity	Registry Number	Jurisdiction
SOCINT WILDCARD LIMITED	Company No. 13702716	UK (Companies House)
Alliance4Europe gGmbH	HRB 245225 (PIC: 897888746; OID: E10256640)	Germany (Munich District Court)
DISARM FOUNDATION	EIN: 87-1146271	USA (Massachusetts)
DISARM FOUNDATION C.I.C.	Company No. 15833044	UK (Companies House)

The Chalupa Family Intelligence Network

But the Chalupa posting is not a standalone event. It emerges from a **family-wide network** with deep ties to the US intelligence community, Ukrainian diaspora politics, and the Democratic Party apparatus.

Family Member	Role / Connection	Significance
Leo M. Chalupa (father)	Ukrainian immigrant; professor at UC Davis	Alexandra was born in Davis, California to Ukrainian immigrant parents who came to the US as children seeking asylum from the Soviet Union
Tanya Chalupa (mother)	Born in a UN refugee camp in Heidenheim, Germany after WWII; Ukrainian immigrant	Part of the post-war Ukrainian diaspora that settled in the Bronx, New York
Jeff Roof (spouse)	Alexandra's husband	Listed as spouse in Wikipedia
Andrea Chalupa (sister)	Journalist and filmmaker; worked with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (US government-funded outlet); husband reportedly a CIA contractor	The Washington Examiner noted: "Andrea Chalupa's husband worked as a contractor for the CIA" — creating a direct family link to the intelligence community
Alexandra Chalupa (DNC operative)	Co-chair, DNC Ethnic Council Founder, Chalupa & Associates, LLC (political consulting)	Flagged Paul Manafort/Trump-Russia concerns during 2016 campaign; Posted about "The Protectors" (Nov 9, 2016)

The Chalupa family network consists of four key members. **Leo Chalupa**, the father, is a Ukrainian immigrant who came to the United States as a child seeking asylum from the Soviet Union. **Tanya Chalupa**, the mother, was born in a United Nations refugee camp in Germany after World War II and is also a Ukrainian immigrant.

Alexandra Chalupa is a DNC operative who served as co-chair of the DNC Ethnic Council and founded Chalupa & Associates, LLC, a political consulting firm. During the 2016 campaign, she flagged concerns about Paul Manafort and Trump-Russia connections. She is best known in this investigation for her Facebook post on November 9, 2016, which first publicly identified "The Protectors" working with DHS/DOJ.

Andrea Chalupa, Alexandra's sister, is a journalist and filmmaker who worked for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a US government-funded media outlet. Her husband worked as a contractor

for the CIA — a direct intelligence link that places the Chalupa family inside the US intelligence community, not merely adjacent to it.

The Chalupa family's Ukrainian diaspora background is central to understanding Alexandra's role. Her parents were both Ukrainian immigrants who came to the United States as children seeking asylum from the Soviet Union. Her mother, Tanya, was born in a United Nations refugee camp in Heidenheim, Germany after World War II.

This background positioned the Chalupa family within the **anti-Soviet / anti-Russian Ukrainian diaspora network** that has historically maintained close ties to US intelligence agencies dating back to the Cold War.

The CIA-Contractor Connection

The most significant finding is the direct intelligence link:

Andrea Chalupa's husband worked as a contractor for the CIA.

This places the Chalupa family *inside* the intelligence community, not merely adjacent to it.

Alexandra Chalupa — the DNC operative who posted about "The Protectors" — has a sister whose husband was a CIA contractor. This is not evidence of direct coordination, but it is evidence of **structural proximity**.

Her original post is the primary source for your investigation regarding "The Protectors.". The [MoveOn.org](https://www.moveon.org/petition/text) petition text and the RightEdition article republished Chalupa's post verbatim to push for an investigation into the election results, as it aligned with their political activism.

The Peter Thiel Timeline — From Trump Supporter to FBI Informant

Peter Thiel's relationship with Donald Trump and the US government evolved dramatically between 2016 and 2021. This timeline shows the full arc, placing Thiel's actions alongside the other events of Layer 2.

2016: Thiel Backs Trump Publicly

Date	Event	Significance
March 2016	DNC operative, flagged Manafort	Thiel's public political activities had not yet begun.
May 2016	Thiel is named as a Trump delegate from California	First public alignment with Trump campaign
July 21, 2016	Thiel speaks at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland	Openly gay tech billionaire endorses Trump: "Fake culture wars only distract us from our economic decline, and nobody

Date	Event	Significance
		in this race is being honest about it except Donald Trump."
September 2016	Thiel donates \$1.25 million to Trump's campaign and pro-Trump super PACs	Major financial backing from Silicon Valley
October 2016	Thiel gives \$1 million to a super PAC supporting Trump, plus an additional \$100,000 directly to the campaign	Total contribution exceeds \$2.35 million
November 8, 2016	Trump wins the presidential election	Thiel's candidate wins
November 9, 2016	Alexandra Chalupa posts about "The Protectors"	While Thiel celebrates victory, Chalupa documents DHS/DOJ's partnership with Anonymous
November 11, 2016	Thiel is named to Trump's Executive Committee of the Presidential Transition Team	Thiel gains direct access to the incoming administration

2017: Thiel in the Transition

Date	Event	Significance
January 2017	Thiel attends Trump's inauguration	Visible presence at the transition of power
February 2017	Reports emerge that Thiel is privately calling the Trump administration "incompetent"	Thiel's support begins to waver
Throughout 2017	Palantir continues to expand contracts with DHS, ICE, and Pentagon	While Thiel questions Trump, his company profits from the agencies Trump controls

2018–2020: Thiel's Cooling Support

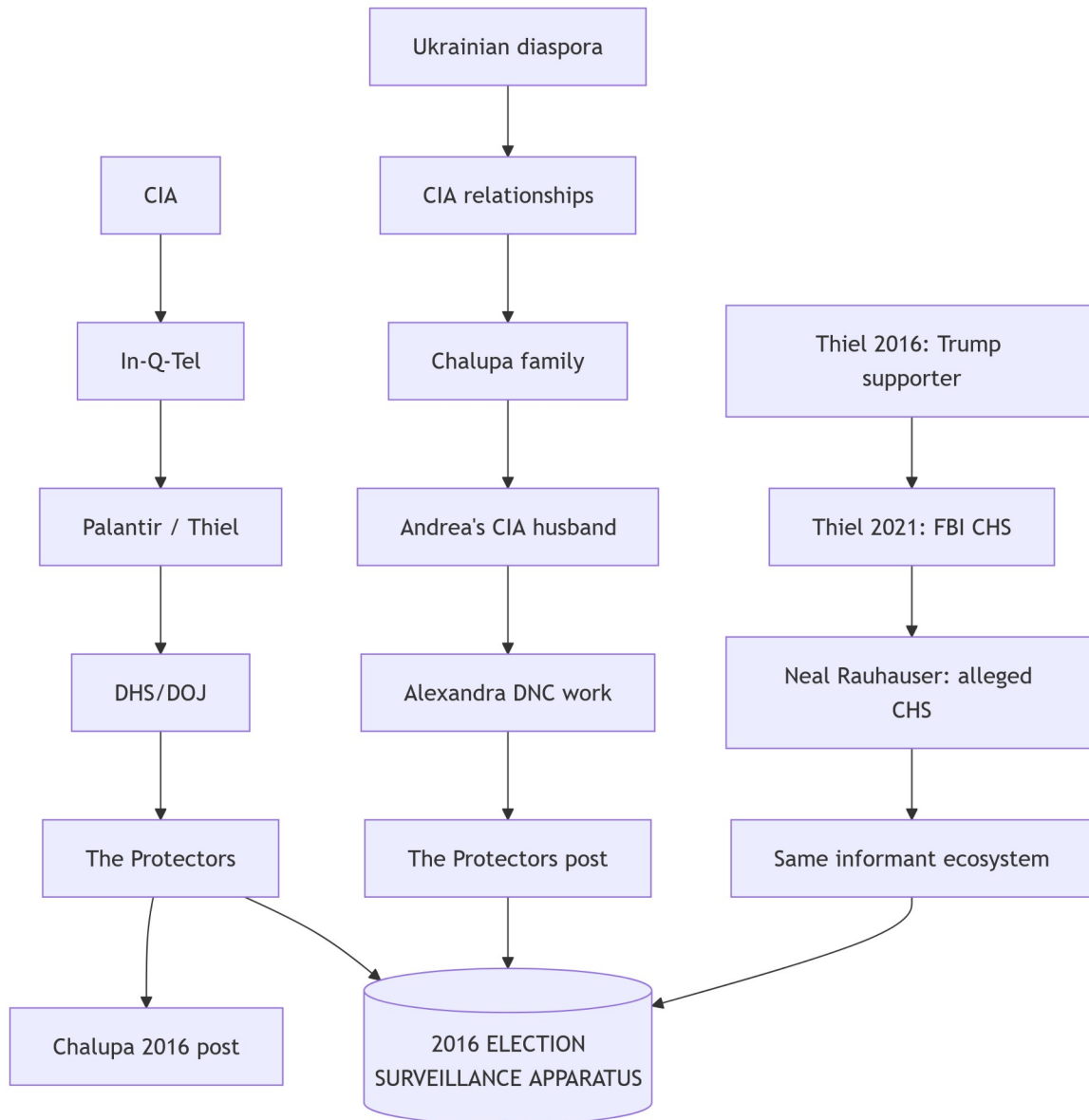
Date	Event	Significance
2018	Thiel announces he will no longer donate to Republican candidates	Gradual disengagement from Trump-aligned politics
2020	Thiel does not donate to Trump's re-election campaign	His 2016 support is not repeated
November 2020	Biden wins presidential election	Thiel's preferred candidate loses

2021: Thiel Becomes an FBI Informant

Date	Event	Significance
Summer 2021	Thiel begins providing information to the FBI as a Confidential Human Source (CHS)	After breaking with Trump, Thiel aligns with the intelligence community
2021	Thiel is assigned a code name and serial number; his handler is Agent Johnathan Buma (political corruption/foreign influence specialist)	Formal FBI informant relationship established

The Structural Connection Between Thiel, Chalupa, and "The Protectors"

The Thiel–Chalupa connection is not direct personal contact. It is **overlapping networks and timelines**:



This does **not** prove that Thiel and the Chalupas coordinated. It proves that **both occupy overlapping nodes within the same CIA-DHS-Ukraine-surveillance ecosystem**, and that **Thiel's political allegiance shifted dramatically from Trump supporter (2016) to FBI informant (2021)**.

Alexandra Chalupa was not a random DNC staffer who stumbled upon "The Protectors." She was a Ukrainian-American DNC operative from a family with documented ties to the intelligence community (via her sister's CIA-contractor husband). Her post about DHS/DOJ partnering with Anonymous emerged from that network — a network that also includes Peter Thiel's Palantir, which built the surveillance infrastructure those agencies use.

Simultaneously, Peter Thiel was:

- **Publicly supporting Trump** financially and rhetorically during the 2016 campaign
- **Privately questioning Trump's competence** once he took office
- **Ultimately becoming an FBI informant** in 2021, reporting on foreign influence and political corruption

The question is not whether the Chalupas and Thiel were communicating. The question is whether they were all **operating within the same intelligence apparatus** — one as a builder (Thiel/Palantir), one as a political actor (Chalupa/DNC), one as the alleged operator (Rauhauser/"The Protectors"), and Thiel himself as both a political actor (Trump supporter) and an intelligence asset (FBI CHS).

That apparatus is the subject of this investigation.

LAYER 3: THE MACHINE

Neal Rauhauser — The Hinge

Neal Rauhauser appears in every layer of this network.

Layer	Rauhauser's Role	Evidence
Layer 1 (Birth)	Alleged FBI CHS (confidential human source); tied to InfraGard and Project Vigilant	Multiple old blog posts; UndeadFOIA PDF
Layer 2 (Genesis)	Alleged operator of "The Protectors" with Kimberlin; business partner of James Patrick	Stranahan research; SMIU co-authorship
Layer 3 (Mechanics)	Tied to Hacker House (UK government grant); co-author of SMIU work	UK government records; SMIU documents
Layer 4 (Fallout)	Defendant in McGibney case (won \$450k in sanctions); subject of criminal allegations	Texas Court of Appeals; Captain Cornflake

James Patrick — Scotland Yard Intelligence Analyst

James Patrick is a former Scotland Yard (Metropolitan Police Service) intelligence analyst who was commended by the British Parliament for exposing crime figure manipulation within UK policing.

Attribute	Verified Information
Role	Intelligence specialist; former Scotland Yard analyst
Employer	Metropolitan Police Service (Scotland Yard), NOT MI6
Known for	Whistleblower who exposed crime figure manipulation; commended by Parliament
Current activity	Director of Intelligence, Cold Case Foundation; Director of SOCINT WILDCARD LIMITED
Connection to the network	Business relationship with Neal Rauhauser (SMIU co-authorship)

Patrick and Rauhauser co-authored work under the banner of **SMIU (Social Media Intelligence Unit)** , alongside **Libby Shaw** (alleged confidential informant).

Hacker House — The UK Government Link

Hacker House Ltd, a UK-based cybersecurity training facility, received a **£100,000 grant** from the UK government (DCMS) in February 2019.

Detail	Information
CEO	Jennifer Arcuri (reported relationship with then-PM Boris Johnson)
Co-founder	Matthew Hickey (CREST fellow)
Alleged third founder	Gary Miliefsky — documented Founding Member of the US Department of Homeland Security
Government program	Cyber Skills Immediate Impact Fund (CSIIF), National Cyber Security Programme

Detail	Information
Parliamentary outcome	Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) concluded the award was "appropriate" with no ministerial interference

This grant creates a **documented financial bridge** between the UK government and the SMIU network (Rauhauser, Patrick, Shaw).

LAYER 4: THE FALLOUT

The Informants

This investigation identified **multiple individuals who have been accused of or admitted to working with federal law enforcement:**

Individual	Status	Evidence	Layer Context
Peter Thiel	✅ Confirmed FBI informant	Business Insider (Oct 2023); assigned code name and serial number; handler Agent Johnathan Buma	Flap Wings / Mechanics
Sabu (Hector Monsegur)	✅ Confirmed FBI informant	Betrayed Jeremy Hammond (2011); led to Hammond's 10-year sentence	Birth
Microchip	✅ Documented FBI informant	Testified against Douglass Mackey (convicted Apr 14, 2022, EDNY)	Mechanics
Skyler Egert (D4RKR4BB1T47)	✅ Self-admitted LE cooperator	"I work closely with law enforcement" (Jan 29, 2024); account suspended May 2024	Mechanics
Neal Rauhauser	⚠️ Alleged FBI CHS	Multiple old blog posts; UndeadFOIA PDF; Cassandra Ford's	All layers

Individual	Status	Evidence	Layer Context
		only deleted DM was with Rauhauser	
Libby Shaw	△ Alleged confidential informant	Gh05tBelle claims; alleged handler of Microchip; accused of doxing intelligence agent (2019)	Genesis

The pattern is consistent: **Federal law enforcement has repeatedly infiltrated Anonymous and hacktivist spaces using informants.** This is not new — Sabu's betrayal of LulzSec in 2011 set the precedent. But the scale and longevity of the network documented here (2011–2024) suggest a **systematic, ongoing operation.**

The revelation that **Peter Thiel** — a billionaire with deep ties to Palantir — was himself an FBI informant adds a new dimension: the line between the surveilled and the surveillor is not fixed.

The Thiel Connection — From Allegation to Documentation

Throughout this investigation, the figure of **Peter Thiel** — billionaire PayPal co-founder, Palantir chairman, and FBI informant — has loomed at the edges of the network. His presence raises a question: is Thiel merely a wealthy benefactor of surveillance technology, or is he an **active node** in the same intelligence apparatus documented in Layers 1–4?

What is now documented:

1. Thiel was an FBI Confidential Human Source (CHS). In October 2023, *Business Insider* reported that Thiel began providing information to the FBI in summer 2021, was assigned a code name, and was added to the FBI's formal informant roster. His handler was Agent Johnathan Buma, who specialized in political corruption and foreign influence campaigns. The relationship was exposed by Charles Johnson — Thiel's long-term partner (funded for over a decade) — after a business dispute.

2. Thiel's company Palantir was at the center of the 2011 HBGary conspiracy. When Anonymous hacked HBGary Federal in February 2011, the leaked emails revealed a conspiracy — called "Team Themis" — to "ruin" WikiLeaks and discredit journalist Glenn Greenwald. The conspirators included private intelligence firms and, notably, **Palantir under Peter Thiel.** Barrett Brown, who analyzed these emails, has stated that the conspiracy was "perpetrated by several very prominent intelligence contracting firms — most notably Palantir under Peter Thiel."

3. Barrett Brown has documented this connection for over a decade. In a 2017 interview, Brown called Thiel "one of the most dangerous men in America." In 2024 and 2025 podcasts, he continued to map Thiel's role in "the complex web of media outlets, personalities, hackers, and intelligence community assets" connected to the far-right billionaire.

4. Thiel funded the far-right troll ecosystem. The funding network connecting Thiel to Jeff Giese (NATO StratCom) to Weev (Daily Stormer) is documented through the 2014 Epstein email chain and subsequent reporting.

What remains inferential:

While Thiel's role in the 2011 HBGary conspiracy is documented, his **direct connection to Neal Rauhauser, "The Protectors," or the 2016 DHS/DOJ partnership** has not been established through primary documents. Thiel's documented status as an FBI informant (2021) places him within the same **informant ecosystem** as Microchip and Skyler Egert, but no document places him in direct communication with Rauhauser or Patrick.

The structural significance:

Thiel appears to be not an outlier but a **symptom** of the reality this investigation has documented: the line between private intelligence, federal law enforcement, and the hacktivist world is not a line at all. It is a **permeable membrane**. Individuals move between these worlds. Companies like Palantir sell software to the FBI. The FBI recruits billionaires as informants. Anonymous hacks expose conspiracies — and then, years later, DHS/DOJ partners with Anonymous-affiliated groups to monitor elections.

The question is not whether Thiel is "connected" to this network. The question is whether **anyone with power in Silicon Valley is not.**

The Criminal Allegations (Unverified)

No investigation of this kind would be complete without acknowledging the **serious but unverified criminal allegations** that emerged from the social media materials. These are presented as **claims made by individuals** — not as verified facts.

Allegation	Accused	Source	Status
Weapons mailing, threat of mass violence at a drag show	Neal Rauhauser, Libby Shaw, William H. Welna	Captain Cornflake (Oct 30, 2023, with purported chat logs)	Unverified
Threatening miscarriage, child harm, racist harassment	Ashley Tybor (@Anonymissugar)	MakeupByLevi (screenshots, Mar 28-29, 2024)	Unverified
Inappropriate contact	Mike Womack	Multiple sources (Apr	Unverified

Allegation	Accused	Source	Status
with minors, sexual harassment		26, 2024)	
CP (child pornography) promotion	SiegedSec, Vio	The Five Families termination announcement (May 6, 2024)	Unverified
Child porn forum ownership	Kirtaner (Aubrey Cottle) and his wife Brooke	Lane Lipton (@Kaidinn) (Aug 30, 2022)	Unverified

These allegations are included because they appeared in the source materials and were directed at nodes already in the network. Independent verification is required before any of these claims can be considered factual.

The Cassandra Ford / Guccifer2 Connection

The UndeadFOIA PDF documented that **Cassandra Ford** (who created the fake @Guccifer2 Twitter account in June 2016) told the author that her **only deleted DM conversation** was with **Neal Rauhauser**.

Cassandra Ford, who created a **copycat** @Guccifer2 account impersonating the real Russian GRU persona, told investigators that her only deleted DM conversation was with Neal Rauhauser. Ford was subsequently interviewed by the FBI and the Mueller team. The significance of this deleted conversation remains unexplained.

Ford was interviewed by the FBI in summer 2016 and later re-interviewed by Special Counsel Mueller's team. The fact that her only deleted conversation was with Rauhauser is a documented data point. Why was that specific conversation deleted?

The Documented Operations

Unlike the criminal allegations, the following operations are **documented** through screenshots, tweets, or official announcements:

Operation	Group	Target	Date	Status
#OpDrugWar	GhostSec	Mexican cartels (Sinaloa, Jalisco)	May 11, 2024	✅ Documented leak of cartel data
Anonymous Ukraine Ops	DDoSecrets, NB65 (Network	Russian targets	2022–present	✅ Leak submissions

Operation	Group	Target	Date	Status
	Battalion 65)			platform documented
Anonymous Brasil vs. Bolsonaro	Anonymous Brasil	Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro	June 2, 2020	✓ Bolsonaro publicly accused them of doxing

The Personal Drama (Background Noise)

The investigation also uncovered sustained interpersonal feuds that, while not central to the intelligence network, provide context for the social dynamics within Anonymous-affiliated spaces:

- **Gh05tBelle vs. Kaidinn (Lane Lipton):** Mutual accusations of being FBI informants, doxing threats, and coordinated harassment campaigns.
- **MakeupByLevi vs. Ashley Tybor (Sugar):** The source of the criminal allegations against Tybor; sustained public feuding.
- **Legion (Chris Bennett) child predator allegation:** From MakeupByLevi; unverified.

These are documented as **claims made by participants in the feuds**, not as verified facts about the individuals involved.

WHAT REMAINS UNKNOWN

Despite hundreds of hours of analysis, the following questions remain unanswered:

1. **What exactly was "The Protectors"?** Was it a formal DHS/DOJ program? An informal partnership? A single person acting under a banner? The evidence is suggestive but not definitive.
2. **Is Neal Rauhauser an FBI informant?** The allegations are multiple and persistent, but no official confirmation exists — and likely never will.
3. **Did the weapons mailing and drag show threat actually occur?** Captain Cornflake's accusation is detailed and specific, but no corroborating evidence has emerged.
4. **What is the full extent of the UK–US intelligence partnership through Hacker House?** The £100,000 grant is documented, but the nature of Hacker House's intelligence work remains opaque.
5. **Who is William H. Welna?** A search of public records found no matches. The name may be a pseudonym.
6. **What is the full extent of Peter Thiel's informant relationship with the FBI?** The *Business Insider* reporting confirms the CHS status, but the scope and targets of his reporting remain unknown.

7. **What is the direct connection between Thiel and Rauhauser (if any)?** Currently inferential, not documented.
8. **What happened to Cassandra Ford's deleted DMs with Rauhauser?** The fact of deletion is documented. The reason is not.

CONCLUSION: THE MAP IS NOT THE TERRITORY

This investigation set out to map connections — not to prove guilt, not to expose conspiracies, but to draw lines between documented events and alleged relationships.

The map reveals a **coherent structure spanning 14 years**:

- **Layer 0 (Flap Wings):** Media narratives and funding flows enable the network. Kirtaner is the media's "poster child" for Anonymous. Barrett Brown's journalism exposes the intelligence-industrial complex. Thiel's funding network connects to Weev, Giese, and Epstein.
- **Layer 1 (The Birth):** Anonymous hacks expose the private intelligence-industrial complex (2010–2012), including Palantir's role in the conspiracy against WikiLeaks. Barrett Brown documents it. The FBI raids him.
- **Layer 2 (The Genesis):** DHS/DOJ partners with an Anonymous-affiliated group called "The Protectors" to monitor the 2016 election. Alexandra Chalupa posts about it publicly. Brett Kimberlin and Neal Rauhauser are alleged operators.
- **Layer 3 (The Mechanics):** The infrastructure that enabled these operations continues through 2024: UK government grants to Hacker House (linked to Jennifer Arcuri, Boris Johnson, and Gary Miliefsky of DHS), SMIU (Rauhauser and James Patrick of Scotland Yard), leak platforms (DDoSecrets, NB65), and informant networks (Microchip, Skyler Egert, and allegedly Rauhauser and Shaw).
- **Layer 4 (The Fallout):** Legal cases (McGibney v. Rauhauser — Rauhauser won \$450k in sanctions; Fitzgibbon v. Radack — Lane Lipton named), criminal allegations (unverified), documented operations (GhostSec, Philippines, Ukraine), and personal drama.

At the center of this structure sits **Neal Rauhauser** — a figure who connects the exposed infrastructure of 2012, the operational reality of 2016, the ongoing informant networks of 2024, and the criminal allegations that remain unverified.

Whether Rauhauser is a patriot, a provocateur, an informant, or simply a person who attracts controversy is not for this report to decide. The evidence presents a man who appears at every critical juncture of this story — from the Stratfor leaks to "The Protectors" to the UK government's cybersecurity grants to a criminal allegation about a drag show.

Flap wings. Birth. Genesis. Mechanics. Fallout.

That is the map. The territory remains to be explored.

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Notes on Inferred Connections

The following connections are **analytical inferences**, not direct citations:

Inference	Basis
SMIU–CTI-League connection	Shared intelligence focus; timing overlaps (2020)
SMIU–Team Halo connection	Alliance4Europe overlap; health disinformation focus
NETWAR Systems involvement	Inferred from Patrick, Orr Bueno (@RVAwonk), and Galsworthy's roles

These inferences are noted in the analytical text of the report, not as standalone references.