



INFORMATION BULLETIN

21 MARCH 2016

POTENTIAL SCHOOL THREATS USING “OGLE” APPLICATION

(U) Overview

(U//FOUO) On 16 March 2016, an Orange County law enforcement agency was notified of two potential school threats using the anonymous social media networking application, *Ogle*. The anonymous posts referenced expressed threats of school shootings at two known Orange County high schools. During the vetting process of the school threats, a third similar threat was discovered at another known Orange County high school.

(U) According to the California-based application developer, Nuistars, Inc., the *Ogle* application is a campus-oriented platform which allows users to anonymously post comments, photographs, videos, and to exchange messages, themes, and chat with others in the application. Users are able to post anonymous content to a campus without requiring the user to be in proximity of the campus.

(U) Users can “like” other users’ posts, which is used to show the popularity of posts. Users can also communicate via the app’s built-in private chat feature, which can be used for one-on-one or group chat sessions. Photos and videos posted to the app or sent in a chat can also be set to delete after a set period of time (up to 10 seconds). The app has the ability to be used without a login; however, it does allow users with Facebook or Twitter accounts to link the application to their accounts.



Photo Source: <http://www.ogle-app.com>

(U) Officer Safety Considerations

(U) According to *Ogle*’s privacy policy, the application, “may share your information with law enforcement, governmental agencies, or authorized third parties, in response to a request relating to a criminal investigation or alleged illegal activity or any other activity that may expose Nuistars... or during emergencies when safety is at risk.¹ Contact information for *Ogle* is located at <http://ogle-app.com/privacy.html>.

(U//FOUO) **OCIAC Analyst Notes:** Based on a cursory review of *Ogle*, the application encourages users to post innocuous comments, photos, or videos to the application. Due to the anonymity of the application, users may possibly exploit the application to engage in bullying, threats toward individuals, schools, businesses or blackmail through the use of compromising photographs or videos.² Communicating or coordinating criminal or terrorist activity through the use of the chat feature is possible, however unlikely, as the application does not provide encryption capabilities.

Report threats to the OCIAC by submitting a tip/lead at

www.ociac.ca.gov

(U) Tracked By

(U) HSEC 8.3.1, HSEC 8.4.1, HSEC 8.8, OCIAC I.1.c, OCIAC IV.10,

¹ Ogle App. <http://ogle-app.com/privacy.html>. Accessed 18 March 2016.

² CBS News. Parents warned about Ogle app after students use it for bullying, threats. 16 March 2016. <http://www.kionrightnow.com/news/local-news/parents-warned-about-ogle-app-after-students-use-it-for-bullying-threats/38550624>. Accessed 18 March 2016.

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