

Overview

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) is a national charity dedicated to the personal safety of children. Our goal is to reduce the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, assist in the location of missing children, and prevent child victimization. C3P operates Cybertip.ca - Canada's national tipline for reporting child sexual abuse and exploitation on the internet, as well as other prevention and intervention services to the public. The tipline has been operational since September 26, 2002 and is part of the Government of Canada's *National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet*. In 2016, on a quest to reduce the availability of child sexual abuse images and videos globally and help break the cycle of abuse experienced by survivors, C3P introduced Project Arachnid.

Project Arachnid is an innovative tool to combat the growing proliferation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on the internet. The Project Arachnid platform was initially designed to crawl links on sites previously reported to Cybertip.ca that contained CSAM and detect where these images/videos are being made publicly available. Once CSAM was detected, a notice was sent to the provider hosting the content requesting its removal. Project Arachnid still carries out the crawling activities described above, but, as it is continually evolving and adapting to enhance its capabilities to detect CSAM, it now also scrapes forums and chatrooms and offers an application program interface (API) for industry.

In November 2017, the Home Office out of the United Kingdom entered into an agreement with C3P to assist in funding an expansion of Project Arachnid that included:

- Increasing the existing capacity of the system so that twice as many webpages per second can be searched, resulting in more images being identified and removed.
- Creating an API for technology companies to proactively scan their networks to identify and remove images as opposed to waiting for them to be detected and reported by an external party.
- [REDACTED]
- Adding hash values held by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to the Arachnid database so that Arachnid is able to identify a wider range of illegal images.

The goal is to augment the capabilities of Project Arachnid - creating innovative tools, collaborating with police, industry and other hotlines to facilitate a more global approach aimed at reducing the online victimization of children, increasing the quality of hashes available globally, reducing