

UNSEALED

The Heat Map

Epstein told Reid Hoffman he ran intelligence software. His emails show he meant it.

Unsealed Research Team

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On June 29, 2016, Jeffrey Epstein — a registered sex offender for eight years running — sent an email to Reid Hoffman, the co-founder of LinkedIn:

■ *“the heat map some of my guys use to gauge intelligence chatter, (heat maps off of social networks) was spot on with regard brexit.”¹*

Heat maps. “My guys.” Intelligence chatter. Social network monitoring. A convicted sex offender casually telling one of Silicon Valley’s most connected men that his intelligence team had called Brexit.

Five days later, Epstein followed up:

■ *“we should talk about intelligence for combatting terrorists — software — applied to financial markets.”²*

He wasn’t pitching a product. He was pitching himself — his surveillance capability, his intelligence infrastructure, repackaged as counterterrorism software applicable to financial markets. This wasn’t a man hiding what he did. This was a man selling it.

But the emails tell a longer story. Fifteen years before that pitch to Hoffman, Epstein was already fluent in the language of blackmail — because he spoke it casually, in his own correspondence, to people he trusted.

The Vocabulary

Around 1991, Epstein sent an email to Ghislaine Maxwell about someone they were apparently going to meet:

■ *“meet him... he’s interesting,, very much like joe roberts... boring, rich, hick, remember he is the one who was blackmailed by the gir in p.b., from donad trumps party”³*

Read it again. Epstein is reminding Maxwell that this person was “blackmailed by the girl in Palm Beach, from Donald Trump’s party.” He’s using blackmail as an identifying detail — the way you’d say “remember, he’s the one who drives the red car.” It’s not scandalous to him. It’s biographical shorthand.

In March 2006, Epstein received what he considered a threat. His response, forwarded to himself under the subject line “blackmail letter”:

“I beleive this to me the first step in a blackmail scheme. I do not know the person, or lisa or the event to which the person refers.”⁴

He recognized blackmail instantly. The subject line — “blackmail letter” — was reflex, not analysis. This was a man who understood the mechanics of coercion the way a locksmith understands tumblers.

Five months later, in August 2006, Epstein described his own recording habits in an email:

“I received a suspicious call from a girl named Anissa... she said her friend had brought 2 girls from Pennsylvania, and they were leaving, it was very suspicious.. I told her to call back tomorrow so I could tape record her conversation.”⁵

Suspicious call. Solution: tape-record it. Not “call my lawyer.” Not “don’t answer.” Tape-record her. A man whose business model — [according to the DOJ itself](#) — was “getting dirt on important people and blackmailing them” responded to a suspicious phone call by reaching for a recording device.

Hunting the Hunters

Epstein didn’t just collect intelligence. He ran counter-intelligence — against the people investigating him.

Federal prosecutor Ann Marie Villafana documented it in a March 2011 internal memo that reads like it was written through gritted teeth:

“William Riley is the person who removed the computers from Mr. Epstein’s house after Epstein or Roy Black somehow found out that a state search warrant was coming. (It was suspected that a court reporter at the state courthouse was the source of the leak, but never confirmed.) He also was one of the private investigators who investigated the agents and probably me during the investigation.”⁶

Then the kicker:

“Special Agent [REDACTED] was followed to her home this past weekend.”⁶

And the sign-off:

“See how much fun this is!”⁶

That last line is the prosecutor's. The woman whose agents were being followed home, whose investigation was being counter-surveilled by the target's private investigators, signing off with dark humor that barely masks the fury.

Break it down. Epstein learned a search warrant was coming — possibly from a court reporter. William Riley, a private investigator working for Epstein, physically removed the computers from the house before police arrived. The same Riley then investigated the federal agents running the case — and probably the prosecutor herself. A separate agent was followed to her home.

Epstein didn't just obstruct justice. He ran an operation against the people pursuing it.

Two years earlier, in May 2009, he'd gone even further:

■ *"this is a private investigator, hired to investigate me.. keep your eyes out for him, please print out and give to igor janusch and tuella."*⁷

Attached to the email: a still frame from surveillance footage showing the PI's face. Epstein had captured the investigator on his own cameras, extracted the image, and distributed it to his household staff as a wanted poster.

The man who [installed hidden cameras in Kleenex boxes](#) was now turning his surveillance infrastructure against the people hired to catch him.

The Phone Call and the Clean House

On September 24, 2005, Sandy Berger — Bill Clinton's former National Security Advisor — flew on Epstein's private jet. Eight days later, on October 2, Berger called Epstein requesting a callback.⁸

Eighteen days after that call, on October 20, Palm Beach Police finally executed their search warrant at 358 El Brillo Way.

They described the house as "cleaned up."⁸

We covered [what the police found](#) — and what was already gone. William Riley had removed the computers. Someone inside the system had tipped Epstein off. The question the House Oversight Committee raised in September 2025 was simpler: what was the purpose of the National Security Advisor's call, eight days after flying on the jet, eighteen days before the search warrant?

The timeline doesn't prove a connection. The timeline doesn't need to. It asks the question, and the question has no comfortable answer.

The Bug Planter

Epstein understood surveillance from both ends. In December 2005, he wrote to Les Wexner — his most important financial patron — about a corporate espionage concern:

■ *“as part of glazbrooks team, he had a bug planter... ??? makes me very nervous.”⁹*

Bugs made him nervous. Hidden cameras in Kleenex boxes did not.

The man who warned his billionaire patron about electronic eavesdropping was simultaneously building the most documented private surveillance operation in the archive. He knew exactly what bugs could do — because he was in the business of planting them.

The Product

Return to that July 4, 2016 email to Reid Hoffman:

■ *“we should talk about intelligence for combatting terrorists — software — applied to financial markets.”²*

This is the sentence that connects everything. Epstein wasn’t describing a hypothetical. He was describing his own operation — an intelligence infrastructure built over decades, now being repackaged for a Silicon Valley audience.

The components were all in place: a surveillance network that [recorded encounters in private residences](#). A filing system that organized the results by name in a personal safe. [5,507 seized files](#) spanning decades of physical media. “Heat maps off of social networks” monitoring intelligence chatter. Counter-surveillance capability that tracked federal agents, removed evidence before warrants, and identified investigators by face. A vocabulary of blackmail so fluent it was used as small talk.

Epstein told Reid Hoffman he ran an intelligence operation. His emails confirm it — from the earliest reference to a blackmail at a Trump party in Palm Beach, through a decade of tape-recording suspicious calls and hunting the people hunting him, to the final pitch: surveillance software, applied to financial markets.

The only question was who else he was selling it to. And who had already bought.

This article is part of [The Blackmail Files](#) series. Previously: [5,507 Files — What the FBI Seized and What Was Already Gone](#). Next: [“A CIA Operative Who Worked with Dad” — the intelligence connections](#).

Sources & Documents

1. **EFTA02458807** — Email from Epstein to Reid Hoffman, June 29, 2016. “Heat map some of my guys use to gauge intelligence chatter (heat maps off of social networks) was spot on with regard brexit.” [View](#) □
2. **EFTA02458536** — Email from Epstein to Reid Hoffman, July 4, 2016. “Intelligence for combatting terrorists — software — applied to financial markets.” [View](#) □
3. **vol00009-efta00577409-pdf** — Email from Epstein to Ghislaine Maxwell, circa 1991. “Remember he is the one who was blackmailed by the girl in p.b., from Donald Trump’s party.” [View](#) □
4. **80af69158c5da0af** — Email from Epstein, March 26, 2006. Subject: “blackmail letter.” “I believe this to be the first step in a blackmail scheme.” [View](#) □
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6. **vol00009-efta00208494-pdf** — Federal prosecutor Ann Marie Villafana memo, March 30, 2011. Documents William Riley removing computers, counter-surveilling agents, and agent followed home. [View](#) □
7. **vol00009-efta01154402-pdf** — Email from Epstein, May 20, 2009. Distributes PI’s surveillance image to staff: “keep your eyes out for him.” [View](#) □
8. House Oversight Committee letter, September 16, 2025. Sandy Berger flight log (Sept 24), call to Epstein (Oct 2), search warrant executed (Oct 20), house described as “cleaned up.”
9. **1794e68322722f32** — Email from Epstein to Les Wexner, December 8, 2005. “He had a bug planter... makes me very nervous.” [View](#) □