

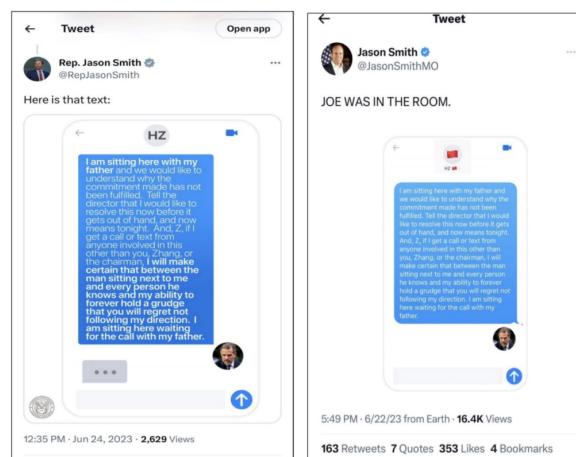
GARY SHAPLEY AND HUNTER BIDEN'S COLLEAGUE NAMED "Z"

There was a detail in Abbe Lowell's letter to House Ways and Means Chair Jason Smith complaining about the way Smith platformed purported whistleblowers to launch an attack on Joe Biden that deserves more attention: Lowell claimed that Gary Shapley misrepresented the identity of the person with whom Hunter Biden had a WhatsApp exchange in 2017.

This is the WhatsApp exchange that Smith mocked up to look like texts themselves. The mocked up texts went wildly viral based on Smith's unsubstantiated claim that Joe Biden was in the room with Hunter during his deal-making.

Lowell described that fake mock-up this way.

The agent only described one message, but you took that purported text and disseminated images of it on June 22 and June 24 in two Twitter postings.



The screen-grab images you posted are not real and contain myriad of issues: both include a photo of Mr. Biden not from 2017 but from the White House Easter Eggroll in April 2022 (long after the purported message was sent); both images portray the message in a blue bubble, when WhatsApp messages are in

green; one image super-imposed the Chinese flag for the contact ID, when surely that was not how a text or contact was kept; and one purports to be a screenshot with the “. . .” of someone composing a text (as in Apple’s iMessage) when that does not happen on WhatsApp.

I explained why Smith had to attempt to recreate WhatsApp messages in this post: Shapley himself shared summaries of the purported WhatsApp messages, rather than the WhatsApp messages themselves or the forensic report from Apple whence (Shapley claimed) the IRS obtained them.

	WA message with SM and Zhao, SM says, "Z- Please have the director call me- not James or Tony or Jim- have him call me tonight. I am sitting here with my father and we would like to understand why the commitment made has not been fulfilled. I am very concerned that the Chairman has either changed his mind and broken our deal without telling me or that he is unaware of the promises and assurances that have been made have not been kept. Tell the director that I would like to resolve this now before it gets out of hand. And now means tonight. And Z if I get a call or text from anyone involved in this other than you, Zhang or the Chairman I will make certain that between the man sitting next to me and every person he knows and my ability to forever hold a grudge that you will regret not following my direction. All too often people mistake kindness for weakness -- and all too often I am standing over top of them saying I warned you. From this moment until whenever he reaches me. It's 9:45 AM here and I assume 9:45 PM there so his night is running out."
7/30/2017	SM says, "Ok my friend - I am sitting here waiting for the call with my father. I sure hope whatever it is you are doing is very very very important." Zhao says, "Hi Hunter, is it good time to call now?" Hi Hunter, director did not answer my call. But he got the message you just mentioned."
7/31/2017	WA message with SM and Dong, SM says, "Kevin I was told by the Director through Zhao that we were to speak tonight. If there is some extraordinary reason you can not do so please let me know. I assume that you know that this is highly confidential and time sensitive."
7/31/2017	WA message with SM and Vuk Jeremic, SM says, "Call u in a minute I'm on w/ director"
7/31/2017	WA message with SM and Zhao, Zhao sends Kevin Dong's foreign phone number.
7/31/2017	WA message with SM and Zhao, SM says, "Z - I reached out to K and he declined my call and has not returned my text. I assume he knows that our plan to speak is highly confidential. I just hope he isn't talking to Tony or J - if he is we have a real problem. If I can reshape this partnership to what the chairman intended then James and Rob will be well taken care of but I will not have Tony dictating to me nor the director what we can and cannot do." Zhao responds, "I don't think he is talking to Tony or the other guys, mostly with the director. I just sent an email to you and cc to Kevin. He has your phone number now. Hi Hunter, did you see the email from Kevin? The director would like to suggest you and Kevin have a meeting. CEFC is willing to cooperate with the family. He thinks now the priority is to solve the problem mentioned last night."
7/31/2017	WA message with SM and Zhao, Zhao sends SM an image of a message which reads, "Raymond (believed to be Zhao), many thanks for the introduction. Hunter I am based in New York and my US phone is [REDACTED] Let's talk tomorrow?" Kevin"
8/1/2017	WA message with SM and Finn Persons, SM says, "Ok- want to talk Hong Kong and whether Bo intends to do 100 or understandable -- done his part"
8/2/2017	WA message with SM and Zhao, Zhao says, "Hi Hunter, director asked me to extend to you that Kevin has reported to him about your discussion. He supports your proposition and will act correspondingly." SM responds, "That is a great relief and very welcome news my friend - let My friend know that I'm looking forward to his arrival here with great anticipation- we will do extraordinary things together and I am happy to have him as a brother in this endeavor- and my family sends their best wishes and looks forward to playing some golf when the director has time."
8/3/2017	WA message with SM and Dong, Dong says, "I received the following and thought we were finished. Hi Hunter, sorry to ping you at late hours. I am texting to convey some info from director Zang: 1) His best regards to you, Jim and VP; 2) He fully supports cooperative with you and the proposition provided by you. Chairman also agrees upon you idea; 3) Kevin is designated by director Zang to discuss with you on technical matters. The fund will be wired to the jointly administrated account in a timely manner. Thanks!" Dong asks, "From Zhao?" and SM responds "Yes".

Not only did Shapley admit to the Committee they were summaries, but Shapley isn’t even sure who *did* the summary.

Q Could you tell us about this document, what is it, and how was it obtained –

A Sure. So there was an electronic search warrant for iCloud backup, and these messages were in that backup and provided –

Q Okay.

A – from a third party, from iCloud.

Q Okay. Who was it provided to?

A The – the investigative team from –

Q Okay. A It would go through all the same processes of – since it's electronic, it would go to one of the computer analysis folks, and then they would put it in a readable format, and then it would go through filter review.

Q Okay. And these aren't WhatsApp messages, **these are summaries of WhatsApp messages**, correct?

A Yeah, that's correct. Because it was something about the readability of the actual piece, right? It was easier to summarize in a spreadsheet.

Q Okay. And who did the summary? Who prepared this document?

A It was either the computer analysis guy or [redacted, probably Whistleblower X], **one or the other** [my emphasis]

Even on their face, they're not reliable summaries. In this text, for example, someone interjects their opinion, "believed to be Zhao" right into the middle of a purported quotation, without marking that opinion as such.

WA message with SM and Zhao. Zhao sends SM an image of a message which reads, "Raymond (believed to be Zhao). Many thanks for the introduction. Hunter I am based in New York and my US phone is [redacted] let's talk tomorrow? Kevin"

Given that the summary presents at least this direct quote with additional information, we can't be sure whether other quotes – particularly references to Zhao – are accurate.

Compare Shapley's summaries with what reliable law enforcement summaries of WhatsApp chats saved to iCloud and obtained from Apple look like (this was an exhibit in the Vladimir Klyushin trial and would have been obtained in the same timeframe).

FROM	FROM NAME	TO	TO NAME	TEXT	DATE/TIME (ET)	
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Hi this post I want nothing except the best!!	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Вот этот пост я хочу ничего кроме лучшего!!
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	This is not my wish	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Это не мое желание
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Then you need nothing	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Тогда тебе ничего не нужно
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Keep your life	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Веди свою жизнь
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	You have everything	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	У тебя все есть
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	You are a light	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Ты светишь
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	I am looking forward rubbing all the time	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Я жду, когда буду тебя целовать
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Need a rest	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Мне нужно отдохнуть
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	I've read somewhere that if you keep buying while you have everything, it means your unhappy	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Я читал где-то, что если ты покупаешь, пока у тебя все есть, это значит, что ты несчастлив
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	And this is not about shares	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	И это не про акции
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	My pleasure is the best and lasting	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Моя радость самая хорошая и долгая
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Send them, this is super	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Отправь им, это супер
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	I am really enjoying it	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Я очень наслаждаюсь этим
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	But not even from Tesla	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Но не даже от Теслы
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Keep this message on living	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Веди этот текст в жизни
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	When it goes as predicted, then it is fine	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Когда все пойдет как предсказано, тогда это хорошо
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	It's not much so when it acts unpredictably	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Это не так много, когда оно действует непредсказуемо
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Honestly I get a bigger kick when I check apartments for you, with you, the fact that we can walk home together and have a beer, or play golf, or simply send everyone to hell, knowing that you are good	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Честно говоря, я получаю больше удовольствия, когда проверяю квартиры для вас, с вами, факт того, что мы можем идти домой вместе и выпить пиво, или играть в гольф, или просто послать всех к черту, зная, что вы хороши
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	This truly sounds like a nice declaration of love, like a declaration of love to a girl	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Это действительно звучит как красивое заявление о любви, как заявление о любви девушке
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	We spend a lot of time together, I feel good and calm, everyone does their job, does his own work. Smart asses like Sergio Delacruz make me mad. Here, we work quietly and do not bother anybody, we will learn how to have a great time, we'll talk about work and everything will be outstanding	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Мы проводим много времени вместе, мне хорошо и спокойно, все делает свою работу, умные люди, такие как Серхио Делacruz, раздражают меня. Здесь мы работаем тихо и не беспокоим никого, мы узнаем, как хорошо провести время, мы будем говорить о работе и все будет замечательно
791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	791670008@gb.whatsapp.net	Shawn [person]	Right, distractions are important	2017/2017 2:58:06 PM	Да, отвлекающие факторы важны

Not only does this directly quote all the messages, but it includes exact time and the accounts used, details that should drive any law enforcement investigation.

The summary matters, a lot. That's because Lowell claims that Shapley – or whoever did these summaries – *misidentified* the Hunter Biden interlocutor whose last name begins with Z.

In one excerpt that has now gotten a great deal of media attention, Mr. Biden is alleged to have been sitting next to his father on July 30, 2017, when he allegedly sent a WhatsApp message, urging the completion of some business transaction. See Shapley Tr. at 14. The inference is that the referenced message was being sent to an official of CEFC (China Energy) to forward a false narrative about the Bidens' involvement in that company. The facts, which some media has now reported, are that President Biden and our client were not together that day, **the company being referenced was not CEFC but Harvest Financial Group (with a person who also had the initial "Z")**, and that no transaction actually occurred. More important, your own actions call into question the authenticity of that communication and your subsequent use of it. In short, the images you circulated online are complete fakes. Many media articles confirm that data purported to have come from Mr. Biden's devices has been altered or manipulated. You, or someone else, did that again. All of the misstatements about this communication

and your use of a false text are good examples of how providing one-sided, untested, and slanted information leads to improper conclusions. [my emphasis]

This is a remarkable claim, because – if true – it suggests the IRS was investigating Hunter Biden based on wildly incorrect assumptions about the identity of his interlocutors.

Abbe Lowell claims that the IRS agents who investigated his client for five years – the son of the President!!! – didn't know to whom he was talking! I've heard a lot of outlandish claims from defense attorneys (though Lowell is far more credible than the grifters who defend a lot of January 6 defendants), But this is an utterly inflammatory claim.

Had Shapley used responsible summaries, rather than the unprofessional script he did use, it might be possible to figure out who is right, here, because then we could compare the actual number or email account used.

Or maybe not.

There's another possible way to explain why IRS agents wouldn't even know the identity of the person with whom Hunter Biden was discussing business deals.

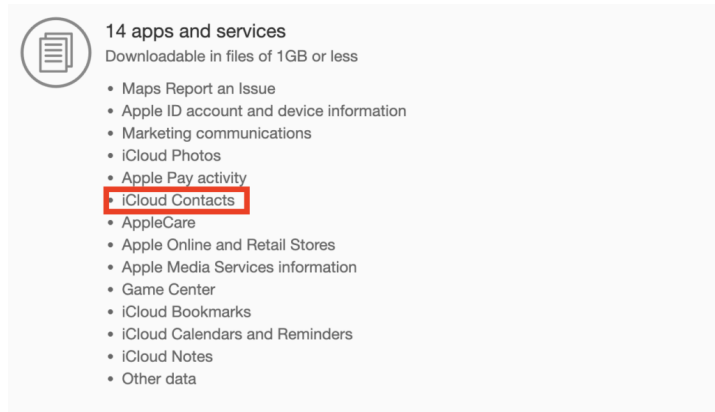
One of the things that happened during January 2019 when Hunter Biden's droidhunter88 account had taken over his iCloud account is that his contacts list was "restored."

To: rhbdc@icloud.com
Date: 2019-01-24 18:17

Dear Robert Biden,

Your contacts have been restored successfully on January 24, 2019, 1:17 PM PST. The restored contacts archive will appear on all your devices. Your previous contacts have been archived.

In the publicly released emails, there's no indication of *when* the request was made, or restored *from what*. But it happened around the same time as "Hunter Biden" requested a full iCloud download, including his contacts list.



That iCloud download is almost certainly what became much of the content on what is now known as the “Hunter Biden” “laptop” – a laptop the IRS was using (after booting it up in a new laptop, if you can believe Shapley’s notes) for evidence in this investigation.

There are at least three possibilities here:

- Shapley is right and Abbe Lowell is wrong
- Whoever wrote these unprofessional summaries just guessed – wrongly – who Hunter’s interlocutor was
- The iCloud contacts list that the IRS was using when these summaries were made had been altered

We don’t have enough data to know. But given what even Hunter Biden’s persecutors have released, we can’t rule out the last one – that the IRS was using a doctored contacts list to investigate Joe Biden’s son.