# Dark Web - Boon or Bane

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**Abstract:** *The World Wide Web is part of the Internet that provides a way for people to disseminate information. Web content is crawled and indexed by search engines so that it can be retrieved, ranked, and displayed as a user's search results. This content is easily accessible from web browsers and search engines and constitutes the surface web. Information that cannot be crawled by search engine crawlers is classified as Deep Web. Deep web content does not appear in the results displayed by search engines. This part of the web remains hidden, but can be accessed with a targeted search using a regular web browser. Unlike the Deep Web, the World Wide Web has some parts that cannot be accessed without special software. This is known as the dark web. This chapter describes the differences between the dark web and the deep web, and the software commonly used to access the dark web. It highlights the illegal and legitimate aspects of the dark web and identifies the role cryptocurrencies play in expanding the dark web's user base.*

**Keywords:** World Wide Web

## I. INTRODUCTION

WHAT if I told you that all your demands in this world, no matter what will be completed here? What if you become the bad guy you fantasize to be and dont get your hand dirty? Let me make you understand the darkest region of the internet, Dark web. So what the heck does all of that mean? Well, consider that everything you do on the Internet is based on long-established standards. There are dozens of different web browsers, but they ALL work the same way. They all use the same ports and protocols to request, transfer and view data on the Internet. Think of it like a business that is run by the mob. There is a store that is a real and fully operating store that anyone can walk into and shop from. But then there is the back of the store where other things are happening. It may be criminal in nature, or it may simply be a place where people can have a conversation that will not be monitored by anyone else. In order to get into the back area of the store, you need to say a password to the guy working in the front. Well, this is really all the Dark web is. You use special software, such as TOR (The Onion Router) or Freenet which creates these non-standard connections and allows you to browse around (often using your regular browser, but modified to work on the Dark Net). These Dark Net applications are also heavily focused on keeping you absolutely anonymous. Most people think they are anonymous on the regular web, but in actuality your browser provides tons of information to reveal who you are and where you are. So the ultimate goal of the Dark Web is to provide 100 percent anonymity. There is nothing inherently sinister about the Dark web, and people who write the software which creates these connections are primarily motivated by trying to allow people living under extremely oppressive governments to have access to all of the news and information that those of us living in free societies take for granted. Unfortunately, that is also exactly the sort of environment which attracts criminals, terrorists, and all manner of individuals who wish to share such dubious content as illegal pornography. If you do decide to explore the Dark Web, you just need to be EXTREMELY careful! It is very much a lawless environment, and you could very easily have your computer compromised and not even realize it. Dark Web. Yes, this is the place. A mysterious virtual world, loaded with the darkest secrets of humanity, Mecca of people seeking an adventure sitting at home. First came across the term when I went for a MUN a year ago about Contraband Trafficking. (I am 'unexplainably' good at MUNs that's different.) Back then the word made no sense to me. What I cannot access how do I know what it is? I was too ignorant back then to even put decent research in this topic. Most of them are dead, because the deep web sites keep shifting from one URL to the other and they are too complex to be kept in memory. On the first day (rather night) I found these things: 1. Online anonymous chat for people using deep web. 2. 1000000+ warnings 2 about child porn saying it's illegal. 1000000++1 people in chat rooms wanting links for child porn sites. 3. Used Duck Duck Go search because Google tracks you. 4. Got not Evil, a TOR search engine. Day by day I discovered more: 1. A guns and ammo store 2. A

site selling Kamara, Viagra. 3. Site selling stashed iPhone and electronics. 4. From this I got the link to a drug trading site. H 5. Another link to a site where you can apparently hire Hitmen to do the dirty job for you. 6. Then comes the main deal. I found a site, claiming to supply forbidden information. I found there stuff as: Lock picking tutorial. A text file You need a lock pick for it and I haven't got any idea how to buy one) Burglary, robbing, shoplifting tutorials. All text files. Interesting little text file. Tutorials on cannibalism, how one butchers a human corpse for human consumption, the criterion for choosing the right animal and how to treat it before killing. You get a bonus recipe too, for cooking it. Was reading it in a public bus, feeling like an anarchist plotting his move. Tutorials on fighting, being a Hitman, assassination guides. Entire collection of Islamic propaganda Debi magazine. Jihad Snuff Videos- The ones where people are shot and beheaded. Got them in a torrent. Watching one disgusted me so much I got rid of them in one go. This really makes you feel the reality of terrorism even when you are sitting in the comfort of your home. I have never seen anything so horrible. There are more to that site I haven't found all of them. Here are some more things I found on while I was searching the deep web with not Evil: 1. Porn: the ones on the deep web are nothing special, just like surface web sites though they load slower in deep web because of the multiple proxy servers 2. Sites which claim to supply counterfeit driving licenses, ID proofs, credit cards and other fake IDs. 4. Child porn. Yea a debated topic. You keep on hearing about sites like Lolita City but they are most probably closed now because the people behind these sites have been but behind the bars. However, I came across child nudity when I least expected to. I searched for Vintage and I ended up with child porn. Never visited that site again.

1. **Red Rooms** The one that is most persistent is the myth of the" Red Room" - live streaming of torture/rape that ends in the murder of the victim and which people can pay to watch, or even bid to type in commands for the torturer to carry out (highest bid wins!). The most famous was the ISIS Red Room pictured above, where people could provide instructions to torture captured terrorists - People have this idea of Hostel with webcams exist all over the dark web, but you just need an invite to get into them. It's ridiculous. They don't exist. They certainly wouldn't exist on Tor. But people are desperate to believe and they always come back with" You can't prove they don't exist, people are crazy, therefore they must exist." Picture my eyes rolling here.

2. **Hitman sites** I don't think many people are taken in by the hitmen sites anymore, though the press loves playing up the fact that there are sites offering up hitman services. But every single one of them has turned out to be a scam, especially Besa Mafia, the one that did the most marketing. Again, you can read about it at the same link as above.

3. **Exotic animals** People are always asking where they can find markets for exotic animals. Obviously, the illegal trade in exotic animals exists, and some communications and transactions may well take place over Tor, but there are no markets like the drug markets where you can go and look at a picture and then put a tiger or ocelot or something into your basket and buy it with bitcoin.

## II. IMPLEMENTAION

People buy and sell drugs. The drug markets are busier than ever. You have probably heard of Silk Road, the most famous online drug market that got busted a few years ago and the owner sent to prison for two consecutive life terms? A lot of people thought that was the end of drugs being sold 3 on the dark web. In fact, dark web sales of drugs have tripled since the shutdown of Silk Road. The reason people buy drugs this way is that for many they offer a safer alternative for people who are going to do drugs anyway. There is no possibility of any violence. The vast majority of the time a buyer knows exactly what they are getting, because of the feedback and rating system. That's not the case in a nightclub, or even friends-of-friends, where you just blindly accept that the pill, powder or tab is what the seller says it is.

People buy and sell other illegal things Mostly they buy and sell stolen credit cards and financial information, fake IDs (though lots of these are scams), personal information, dumps of hacked data and fraud-related items. For a long time, a seller was making a fortune selling fake discount coupons that really worked.

People access and create child porn Unlike the other markets, the CP market is generally not for money, but rather they are groups who swap vile images and videos for free. The worst of the worst is called hurt core. Thankfully, most of the people behind the worst sites have been arrested and put in jail.

People talk about stuff There are plenty of sites, forums and chatrooms where people talk about all sorts of things - conspiracies, aliens, weird stuff. They take advantage of the anonymity.

People anonymously release information Whistleblowers use the dark web to release information and make sure their identities won't be compromised. You will find Wikileaks, for example, on the dark web. 6. People surf the web anonymously the number 1 thing people use the dark web for is just to surf the web completely anonymously. Not everybody wants to be tracked by advertisers. There are a lot of things that are happening there. A lot of them are bad. Some most popular illegal activities down there are: Trading with firearms Hired hitman services Trading with drugs Childporn Terrorists' pages and footages Confidential data leaks Sharing ideas on how to rule the world" How to make amphetamine at home" etc. Explosives manuals Advices for beginner assassins and many other. I've even heard of websites, all dedicated for necrophiles (those who like dead bodies). Really, there are so many weird websites, that a lifetime is not enough to find and visit them all. Is there anything good in the Deep web then? Yes, but when compared to the" bad" part, it's almost nothing. Why can't we stop it then? Well, it's quite complicated

## III. RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS

1.3 Who controls the Dark web? First of all be clear with the fact that dark web is that part of internet which can't be accessed by the browsers in their normal configurations or has certain special protocols that need to be followed for having access to it. So, if today I create a browser of my own that follows protocols other than what we us usually have and create host some websites that can be accessed only by the browser that I created those websites will be part of dark web. Most commonly known dark web includes onion websites or TOR network which you access using TOR browser. Even free net and I2P are not well known to public. So, I will keep the answer limited to TOR project and onion websites aka TOR network. If you have been using GitHub you must be aware of open-source codes and their management. Well TOR project is open source and everyone has equal privilege for suggesting any changes in it (changes should be meant for its betterment or improving its functionality and privacy level with time). Again, I say it's an open source so anyone can read its source code and also the changes that are being brought. It's a peer-to-peer network (and not a client server system where server is the central party) so there is no centralization. So, anyone can become a relay or node in this network, anyone who wants to improve the experience of its 4 users. Many individuals and organizations are relay in TOR network at the date. So no one controls the TOR but public as a whole (nodes are what your traffic passes through to provide you anonymity, by default your traffic will pass through 3 nodes but you can configure manually the number and the nodes also). The Tor Project, Inc - a non-profit organization works for maintain the tor browser and that doesn't mean it controls the TOR network.

TOR network is not controlled by any single person or organization. Also note that American agencies are known for looking into privacy of users across the internet and many of nodes or relays could be of these agencies especially the exit nodes. Also because these agencies are known for gathering fingerprints of users (it involves a lot of details related to your device and activities say time zone, language settings, Operating system, installed plugins, screen resolution etc) and suppose today you go to google and search TOR download all your fingerprints will be stored by these agencies corresponding to the fact that you must be a TOR user (of course they can also check if you visited TOR download page later and activity you did there). But that diesel mean they control TOR web that simply means they also became a part of it and are trying to figure our notorious persons. Anyways surfing TIR web is not a crime unless you do surf illegal websites like child porn or human trafficking or drug dealing etc. Also TOR browser itself keeps improving and handles your anonymity at its best (best encryption) and also includes fingerprints (TOR browser is configured so that users fingerprint is identical to every other Tor browser and is no different from common fingerprints across the we ). Also, there are other several tools to spoof fingerprints. I did a survey to understand if people really know what is dark web or have, they ever tried to access Dark web. Following were the questions asked to students from different age categories and different streams. 1)Do you know what is Dark web? 2)Do you know why dark web is used? 3)If yes tell us why it is used. 4)Have you tried to access dark web? 5)If yes, why? 6)If no, will you access dark web? why? 7)According to you what makes dark web different from surface web? The results were quite surprising

## IV. CONCLUSION

We have the following conclusions: First, while important for information search, the dark Web remains largely unexplored At this point, it is neither well supported nor well understood. The poor coverage of both its data (by search engines) and databases (by directory services) suggests that access to the deep Web is not adequately supported. This

survey seeks to understand better the dark web. In some aspects, the dark web does resemble the surface Web: It is large, fast growing, diverse and can be dangerous.

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