CRIM6002

Online Criminal Markets

Cyber crime grows up: carding, escrow, and the dark markets

Workshop 6

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Today

- (Online) criminal markets

- Guest speaker: Gert Jan van Hardeveld

- A few case studies

Criminal markets

- Criminal/illegal/black markets

- "Grey markets"

- ☐ Actors? (often OC rhetoric)
- ☐ Their social organisation?
- ☐ Trust? "Enforcement"? Governance / Racket?
- ☐ Goods/ services?
- ☐ Relationships with customers?
- ☐ …

"Can I interest you in fake Rolexes, pirated DVDs or validated parking receipts?"

Online criminal markets

- Criminal/illegal/black markets

- "Grey markets"

Transformed by cyberspace? To what extent? How?

- ❑ Actors?
- ❑ Their social organisation?
- ❑ Trust? "Enforcement"? Governance / Racket?
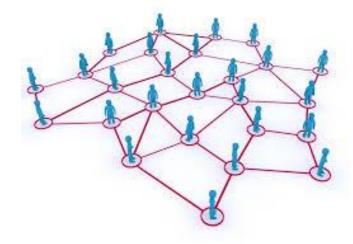- ❑ Goods/ services?
- ❑ Relationships with customers?
- ❑ …

Case study #1

Qualitative analysis of 10 publicly accessible Russian web forums that facilitate the distribution of malware and attack tools (Holt, 2012)

- Payment (use of guarantors)

- Privacy and anonymity

- Reputation / trust

- Price

- Customer service

- Implications for law enforcement, computer security professionals, …

[Escrow Services]

Bogus escrow scam!

Case study #2 [carding]

Analysis of 300 threads passively collected from six web forums run by and for data thieves (Holt & Lampke, 2010)

- Products: *dumps*, stolen credit cards, bank accounts and the associated customer data, *cashout services*, *plasitics*
- Access to hacking services
- Pricing
- Preference for electronic payment
- Trust (review process for first-time sellers)
- Speed of communication
- Customer service

- Implications for law enforcement, computer security professionals, …

Case study #3 [online drug markets]

- Cryptomarkets (Van Hout and Bingham 2013; Martin 2014) but also surface web (Lavorgna 2014)

- "ideal type" cryptomarket (e.g. Silk Road):
  - Reliance on TOR network; use of cryptonyms to conceal user identity; use of traditional postal system to deliver goods; third-party hosting and administration; decentralised exchange of networks; use of encrypted electronic currencies (Martin 2014)

A RISE IN RECREATIONAL DRUGS BEING BOUGHT ONLINE

SNIFFER DOG

POST

GOLDING

- Changes in the social organisation of:
  - Criminal activity
  - (Criminal) actors

- Challenges to law enforcement

Exercise

Discuss how the policing of Internet-facilitated drug trade should evolve to better address this issue

cybercrimefighters...