

Automating Threat Hunting on the Dark Web and other nitty-gritty things







\$whoami

- Apurv Singh Gautam (@ASG_Sc0rpi0n)
- Security Researcher, Threat Intel/Hunting
- © Cybersecurity @ Georgia Tech
- Prior: Research Intern at ICSI, UC Berkeley
- Hobbies
 - Contributing to the security community
 - © Gaming/Streaming (Rainbow 6 Siege)
 - Hiking, Lockpicking
- Social
 - Twitter @ASG_Sc0rpi0n
 - Website https://apurvsinghgautam.me



Agenda

- Introduction to the Dark Web
- Why hunting on the Dark Web?
- Methods to hunt on the Dark Web
- © Can the Dark Web hunting be automated?
- Process after hunting?
- OpSec? What's that?
- © Conclusion















Introduction to the Dark Web

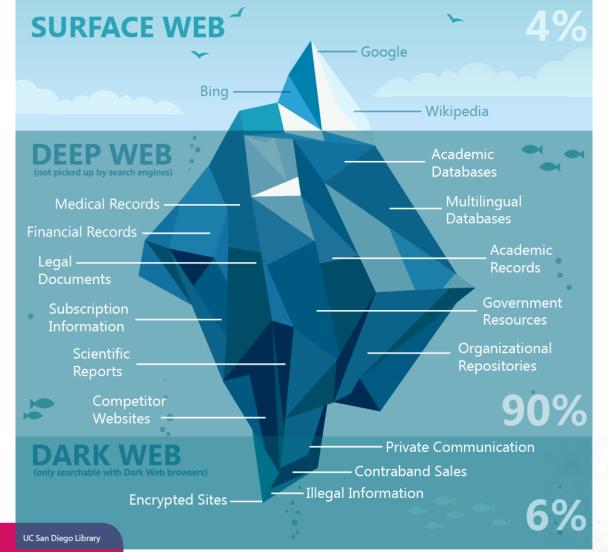


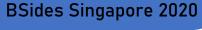






Clear Web? Deep Web? Dark Web?





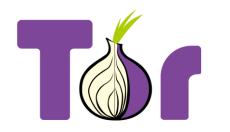




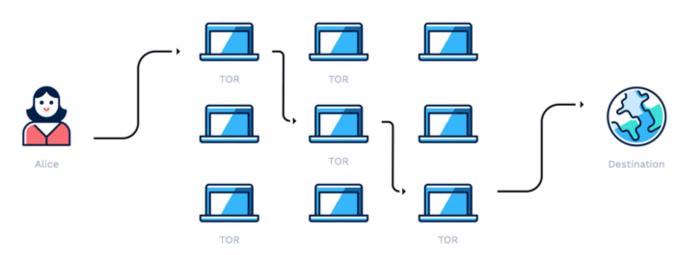


Accessing the Dark Web

- Tor /I2P/ZeroNet 0
- .onion domains/.i2p domains
- Traffic through relays











BSides Singapore 2020

Image Sources: Hotspot Shield, Tor Project, I2P Project, ZeroNet









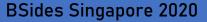




What's all the Hype?

- Hype 0
 - Vast and mysterious part of the Internet
 - Place for cybercriminals only
 - Illegal to access the Dark Web
- Reality
 - Few reachable onion domains
 - Uptime isn't ideal
 - Useful for free expression in few countries
 - Popular sites like Facebook, NYTimes, etc.
 - Legal to access the Dark Web















Relevant sites?

- **General Markets** 0
- PII & PHI
- **Credit Cards**
- Digital identities
- **Information Trading**
- Remote Access
- **Personal Documents**
- **Electronic Wallets**
- **Insider Threats**



Image Source: Intsights













Sites Examples

Drugs

- Drug Market Anonymous marketplace for all kinds of drugs.
- Greenroad Biggest marketplace with full working escrow.
- Weed&Co 🗗 Weed / Cigarettes ... Prix Bas / Low Price ... weed / cigarette

Whistleblowing

- Doxbin - A pastebin for personally identifiable information.
- SecureDrop The open-source whistleblower submission system managed
- Active at Darknet Markets? ☑ Onion set up by the Police and the Judicial Authorities of the Netherlands, listing Active, identified, and
- arrested Darknet N
- Cryptome 母 Arch on freedom of expr secret and classifie
- SecureDrop母 An from and communic

H/P/A/W/V/C

Hack, Phreak, Anarchy (internet), W

- HeLL Forum HeLL Reloaded
- RelateList New era of intellige
- CODE: GREEN® Ethical hack
- Hack Canada America is a ic
- Hacker Place Site with sever
- WE fight censorship a Repor information

Financial Services

Currencies, banks, money markets, clearing houses, exchangers:

- The Green Machine! Forum type marketplace with some of the oldest and most experienced vendors around. Get your paypals, CCs, etc.
- The Paypal World Paypal accounts with good balances buy some, and fix your financial situation for awhile.
- Premium Cards Oldest cc vendor, Top quality Us & Eu credit cards!
- Financial Oasis A slew of products from a darker side of finance.

Books

- Example rendezvous points page ☐ Thomas Paine's Common Sense and The Federalist papers.
- HTML and plain TXT.
- ParaZite Collection of forbidden files and howto's (pdf, txt, etc.).
- Jotunbane's Reading Club "All your ebooks belong to us!".
- Liberated Books and Papers A small collection of hard to find books.
- Clockwise Library A collection of art and science books.







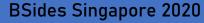






Cost of products?

- Fake FB with 15 friends \$1
- DDoS Service \$7/hr
- Rent a Hacker \$12/hr
- Mobile Malware \$150
- Bank Details \$1000+
- © Exploits or 0-days \$150,000+
- © Critical databases \$300,000+



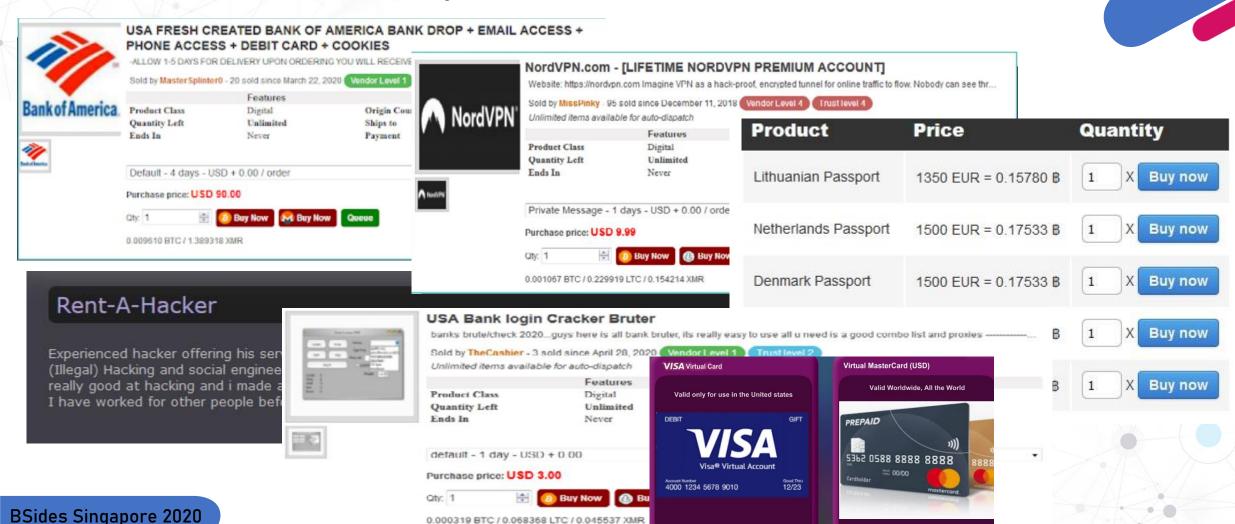








Product Examples



\$500 Virtual card: \$250 \$1500 Virtual card: \$730

\$1500 Giftcard: \$730 \$1750 Giftcard: \$850

\$2000 Giftcard: \$950

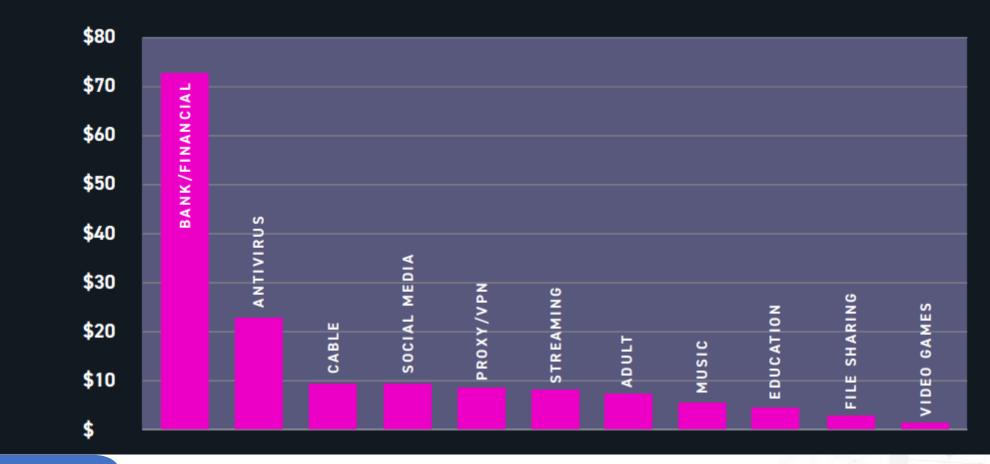








AVERAGE COST OF ONE ACCOUNT FOR DIFFERENT ONLINE SERVICES



BSides Singapore 2020

Image Source: Digital Shadows



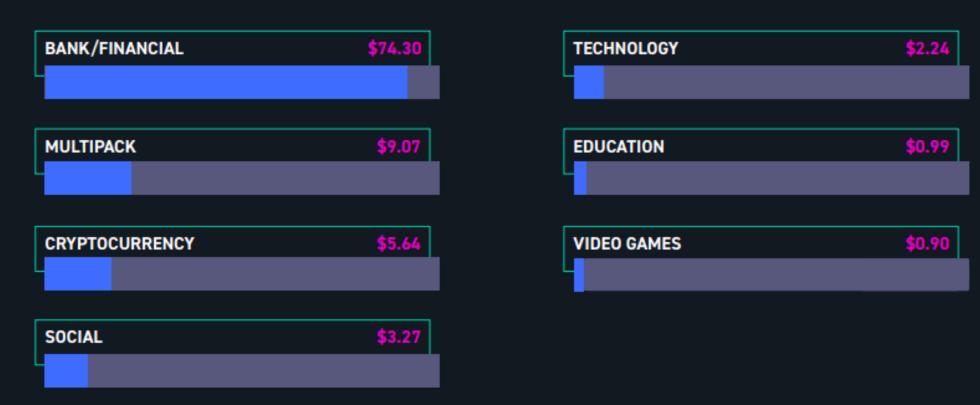








AVERAGE PRICES OF BRUTE-FORCING TOOLS BY TARGET INDUSTRY



BSides Singapore 2020

Image Source: Digital Shadows









Why hunting on the Dark Web



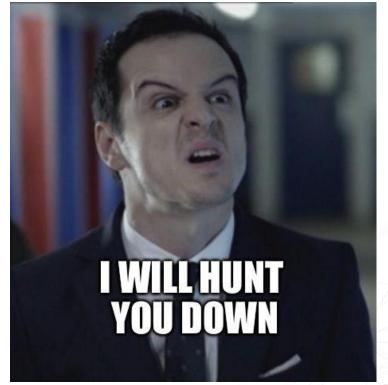






What is Threat Hunting?

- Practice of proactively searching for cyber threats
- Hypothesis-based approach
- Uses advanced analytics and machine learning investigations
- Proactive and iterative search













Why So Serious (Eh! Important)?

- Hacker forums, darknet markets, dump shops, etc.
- Criminals can learn, monetize, trade, and communicate
- Identification of compromised assets
- Can potentially identify attacks in earlier stages
- Direct impacts PII (Personal Info),
 financial, EHRs (healthcare records), trade secrets
- Indirect impacts reputation, revenue loss, legal penalties





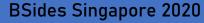






Benefits of Threat Hunting

- Keep up with the latest trends of attacks
- Prepare SOCs/Incident Responders
- Get knowledge of TTPs (Tactics, Techniques, Procedures) to be used
- Reduce damage and risks to the organization















3. Methods to hunt on the Dark Web







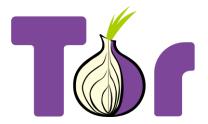


Tools

- Python 0
- Scrapy
- Tor
- OnionScan 0
- Privoxy 0
- and many more... \bigcirc











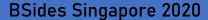


Image Sources: Tor Project, OnionScan, Python, Scrapy, Privoxy





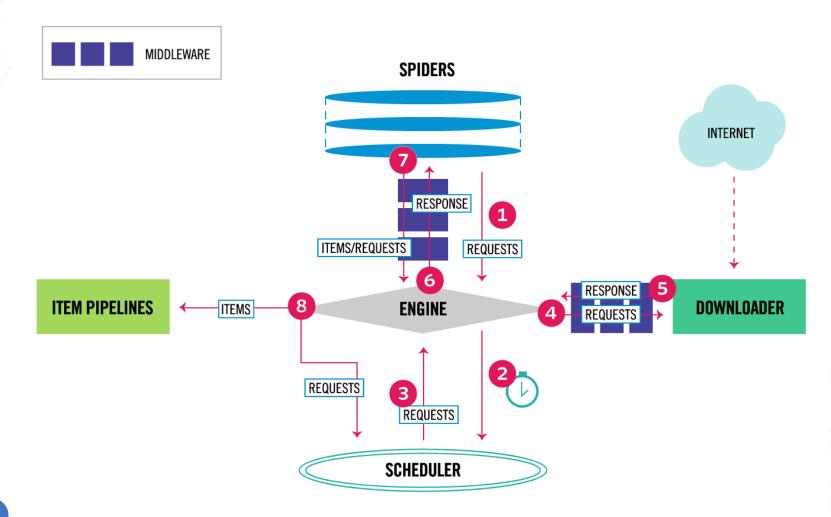


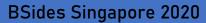






How Scrapy Works?













HUMINT

- Human Intelligence
- Most dangerous and difficult form
- Most valuable source
- Infiltrating forums, markets, etc.
- Become one of them
- How threat actors think
- © Can be very risky
- Time consuming

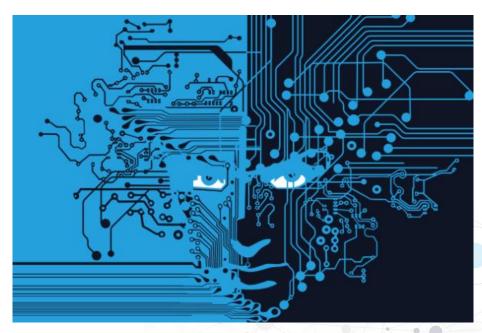
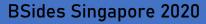


Image Source: Intsights





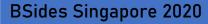








Can Dark Web hunting be Automated?











Setting up TH Lab

- Lab/VM 0
- Physical or Cloud
- Isolate the network
- Install relevant tools 0
 - Scrapy
 - Privoxy
 - Tor
 - ELK
 - Python libraries



Image Source: Hayden James



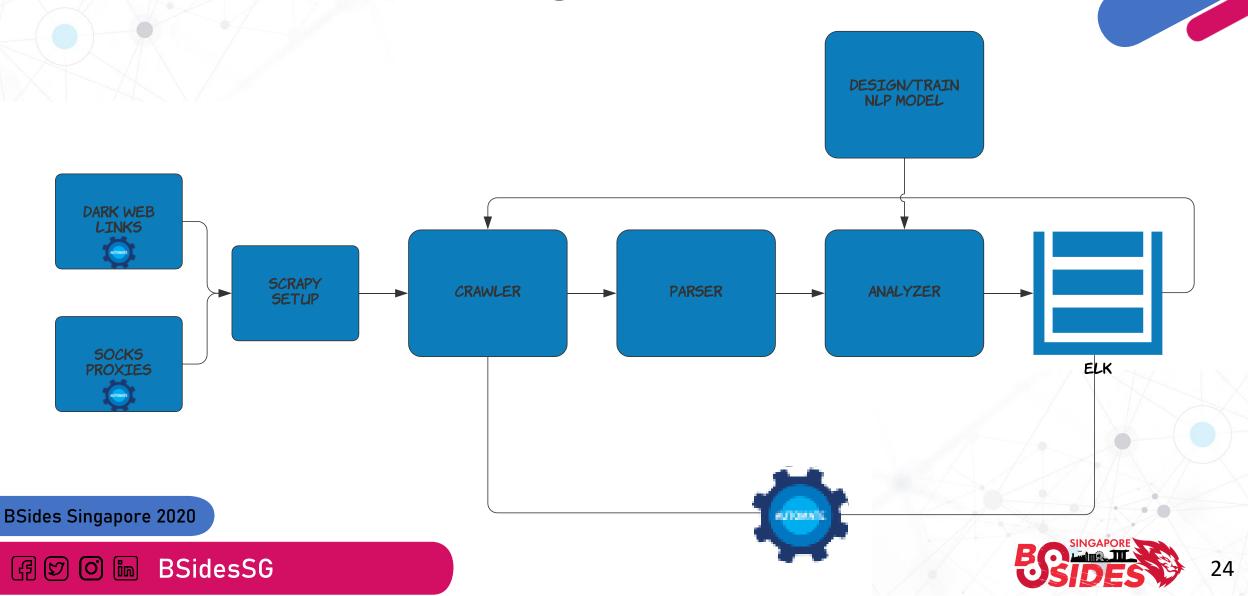








Automated Hunting Architecture





Process after hunting

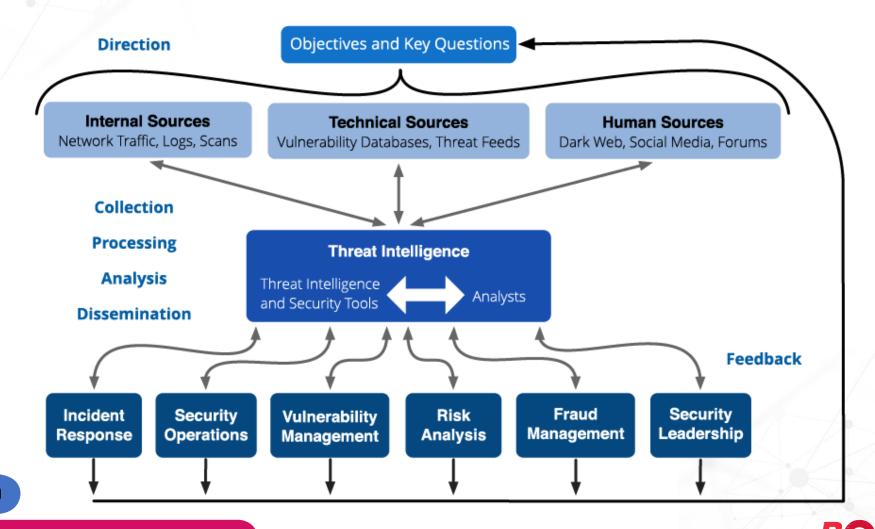


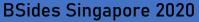






Let's talk about TI Lifecycle











Threat Modelling

- "works to identify, communicate, and understand threats and 0 mitigations within the context of protecting something of value" - OWASP
- Define critical assets
- Understand what attackers want
- Threat actor capability and intent 0
- Sources to target

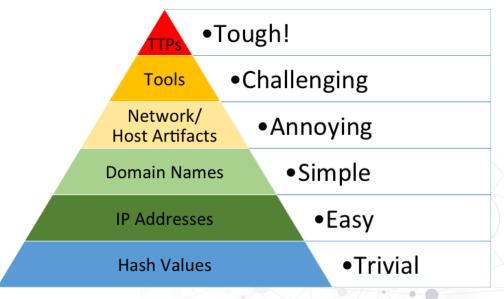


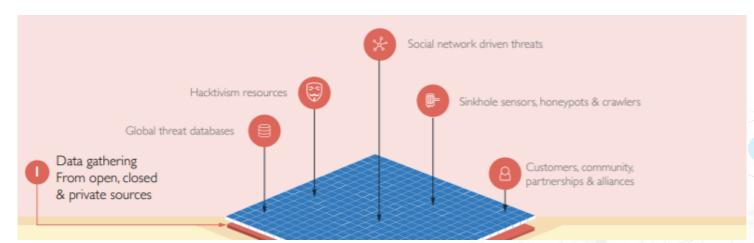
Image Source: David Bianco





Data Collection/Processing

- © Collecting data from surface web
 - Pastebin
 - Twitter
 - Reddit
 - Telegram
- Collecting data from dark web
 - Forums
 - Markets















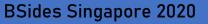
Data Analysis

- NLP/ML/DL techniques
- Social network analysis
- Classification
- Clustering
- MITRE ATT&CK





Image Sources: DataCamp, MITRE ATT&CK













OpSec? What's that?









What is OpSec?

- Actions taken to ensure that information leakage doesn't compromise you or your operations
- Derived from US military Operational Security
- PII Personally Identifiable Information
- Not just a process a mindset
- OpSec is Hard







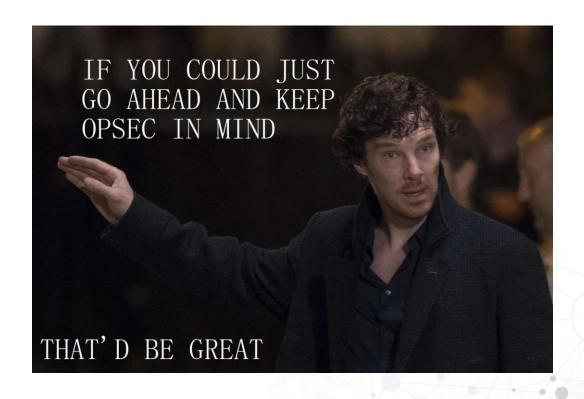






Maintaining OpSec in your lifestyle

- Hide your real identity
- O Use VM/Lab or an isolated system
- O Use Tor over SOCKS or VPN
- © Change Time zones
- Never talk about your work
- Maintain different persona
- Take extensive notes
- Use password manager



















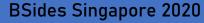






What we discussed so far?

- Little about the Dark Web
- Dark Web forums/marketplaces
- Dark Web threat hunting
- Scrapy
- O HUMINT
- Automating the Dark Web hunting
- Little about threat intelligence lifecycle
- OpSec





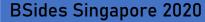






I don't know how to conclude but..

- Dark Web threat hunting is hard but worth the effort
- Keep OpSec in mind
- Look at more than one resource
- Takes a lot of resources and team effort
- O Usage of MITRE ATT&CK framework













Resources

- Blogs & White papers by Recorded Future
- White papers by IntSights
- Blogs by Palo Alto's Unit 42
- Blogs by CrowdStrike
- White papers by Digital Shadows
- Darkweb Cyber Threat Intelligence Mining by Cambridge University Press











Indnks!

Any questions?

You can contact me at:

Twitter: @ASG_Sc0rpi0n

LinkedIn: /in/apurvsinghgautam











