

Research Paper Final: Darkweb, Regulation and More

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Introduction:

The Dark Web is a term used to refer to a subset of the internet that is not indexed by standard search engines and is intentionally hidden. While the Dark Web has been used for legal purposes, it has also been associated with various illegal activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and the sale of stolen personal information. Effective regulation of the Dark Web is necessary to curb illegal activities and ensure the safety of users, but it must also strike a balance that allows for individual exploration and discovery without infringing on privacy rights or stifling innovation. This paper will explore the challenges associated with regulating the Dark Web, with a focus on marketplaces, advertising, and funding.

Dark Web Marketplaces:

Dark web marketplaces are online platforms that allow users to buy and sell goods and services anonymously, often using cryptocurrencies as payment. The types of products sold on these marketplaces range from illegal drugs, firearms, and counterfeit documents to hacking tools and stolen data. While some of the items sold on dark web marketplaces may be legal in certain countries, they are considered illegal in most jurisdictions.

The challenges associated with regulating these marketplaces are numerous. Firstly, the anonymity provided by the dark web makes it difficult to identify the buyers and sellers involved in transactions. Additionally, the use of cryptocurrencies further obscures the identity of these individuals, making it difficult to trace financial transactions. Secondly, dark web marketplaces are decentralized, meaning that they are not controlled by a single entity or organization. This

decentralized structure makes it difficult for law enforcement agencies to take down these marketplaces. Thirdly, the constant evolution of technology means that new marketplaces and ways of conducting illegal activities are constantly emerging, making it difficult for regulators to keep up.

Dark Web Advertising:

Advertising on the dark web is a significant source of revenue for many illegal activities. The types of advertising on the dark web include banner ads, sponsored posts, and pop-up ads. These advertisements may promote illegal goods and services or legitimate products that are being sold illegally, such as counterfeit items.

Regulating dark web advertising is challenging due to the anonymity provided by the dark web. Advertisers can use anonymous accounts and cryptocurrency payments to avoid detection. Additionally, the lack of transparency and regulation of the dark web means that there are no clear guidelines for what is considered legal or illegal in terms of advertising.

The risks associated with illegal advertising on the dark web are significant. Illegal advertisements can promote dangerous or harmful products or services, leading to harm to individuals or society at large. These ads can also undermine legitimate businesses and create an uneven playing field for companies that follow the rules.

Overall, effective regulation of the dark web is necessary to curb illegal activities and ensure the safety of users. However, it must also strike a balance that allows for individual exploration and discovery without infringing on privacy rights or stifling innovation.

Dark Web Funding:

Dark web funding is typically done through cash or cryptocurrencies, which are designed to be anonymous and difficult to trace. The use of cryptocurrencies makes it difficult for law enforcement agencies to track the flow of money, making it challenging to prevent illegal activities funded through the dark web. Various illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and human trafficking, are funded through the dark web. Regulating dark web funding is a challenging task, and finding practical ways to track and regulate cryptocurrency transactions is a complex issue that requires collaboration between law enforcement and the private sector.

Need for Regulation:

Regulating the Dark Web is essential to protect users and prevent illegal activities. The risks associated with unregulated dark web marketplaces, advertising, and funding are significant, and the potential harm to society cannot be overstated. Potential regulatory solutions include increasing law enforcement efforts, improving cooperation with the private sector, and developing technologies to track dark web activities. However, any regulatory solution must also strike a balance that allows for individual exploration and discovery without infringing on privacy rights or stifling innovation.

Conclusion:

The dark web is a complex and often dangerous place, but it is also a platform for individual exploration and discovery. However, the ease with which illegal activities can be conducted on the dark web presents a clear and present danger to the safety of users and the wider public. Effective regulation of the dark web is therefore necessary to curb these illegal activities and ensure the safety of users, but it must also strike a balance that allows for individual exploration and discovery without infringing on privacy rights or stifling innovation.

Regulating the dark web will not be an easy task, but it is one that must be taken seriously. The challenges associated with regulating dark web marketplaces, advertising, and funding are complex and will require a multi-pronged approach. However, there are potential solutions that could help address these challenges.

One possible solution is increased collaboration between law enforcement agencies and tech companies. This could involve the development of new technologies that make it easier to track illegal activities on the dark web and the provision of information by tech companies to law enforcement agencies that helps them identify and prosecute those involved in illegal activities.

Another solution is to create a regulatory framework that takes into account the unique features of the dark web. This could involve the creation of a regulatory body specifically tasked with regulating the dark web, as well as the development of new laws and regulations that address the challenges associated with dark web marketplaces, advertising, and funding.

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