Practical Dark Web Hunting using Automated Scripts

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- Cybersecurity @ Georgia Tech (Go Jackets)
- Presented at conferences













- **Hobbies**
 - Hiking *****
 - Lockpicking
 - Gaming/Streaming



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Agenda

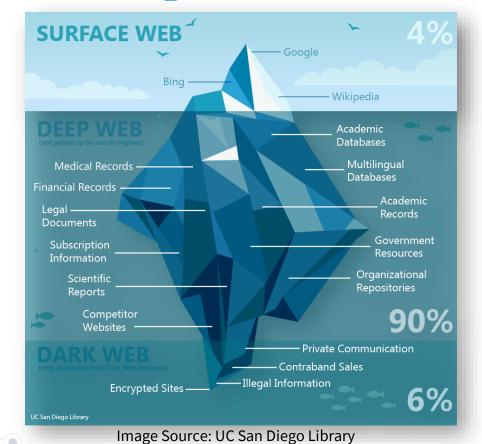
- Introduction to the Dark Web
- Why focusing on the Dark Web?
- Methods to hunt on the Dark Web
- Lab Time
- Scraping Defenses Discussion
- OpSec? What's that?
- Conclusion





Introduction to the Dark Web

Clear Web? Deep Web? Dark Web?



Accessing the Dark Web

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



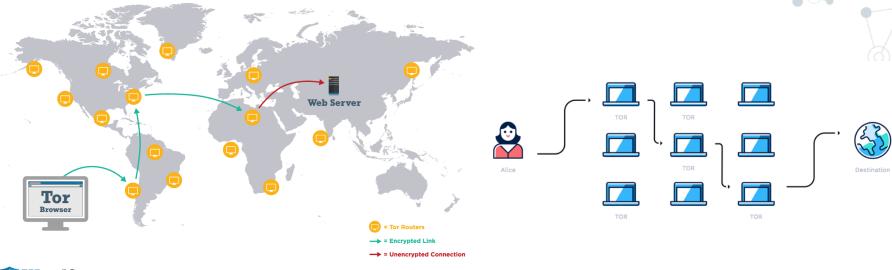






Tor Working

How The Tor Network Works





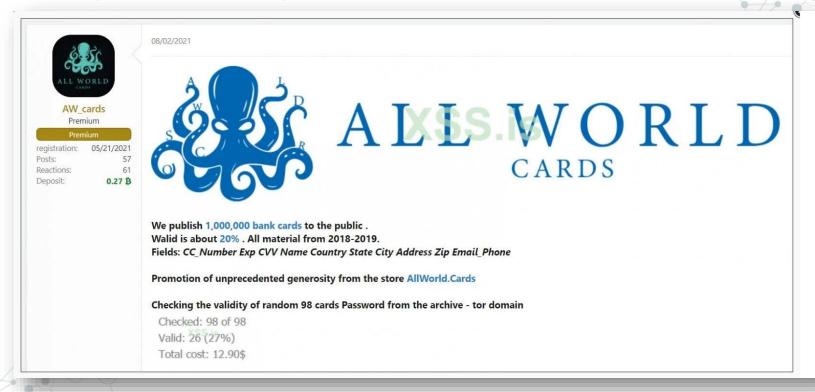
wordfence.com/learn

Why focusing on the Dark Web

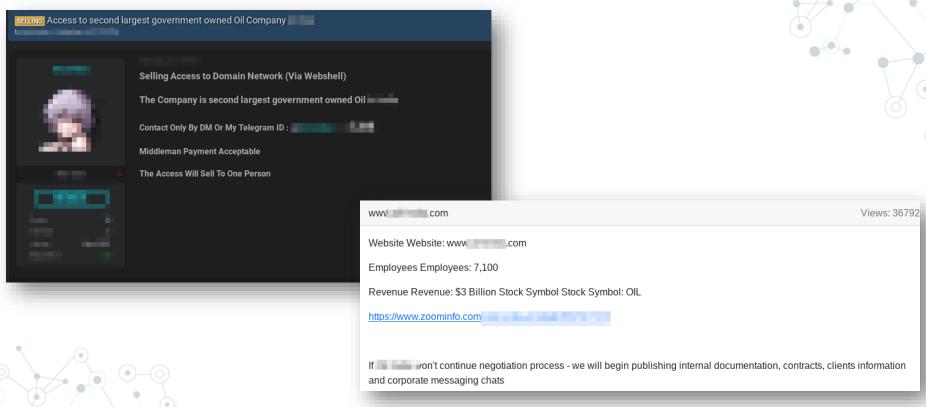
Why So Serious (Eh! Important)?

- Macker 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

Why should you care?



Why should you care?



3. Methods to hunt on the Dark Web

Readily Available Tools

- Search Engine tools
- Onion Link Collection tools
- Onion Link Scan tools
- Onion Link Scraping tools

All tools available at: https://github.com/apurvsinghgautam/dark-web-osint-tools

Search Engine Tools

- Katana
- Onionsearch
- Ahmia Search Engine
- Darksearch

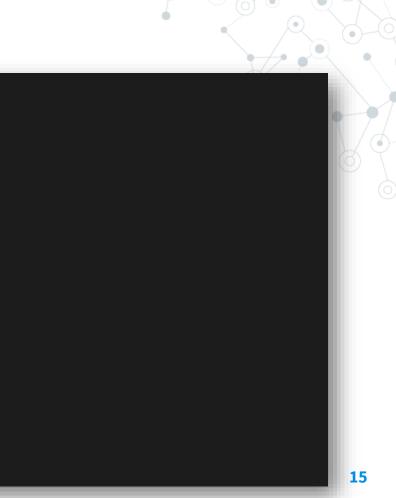








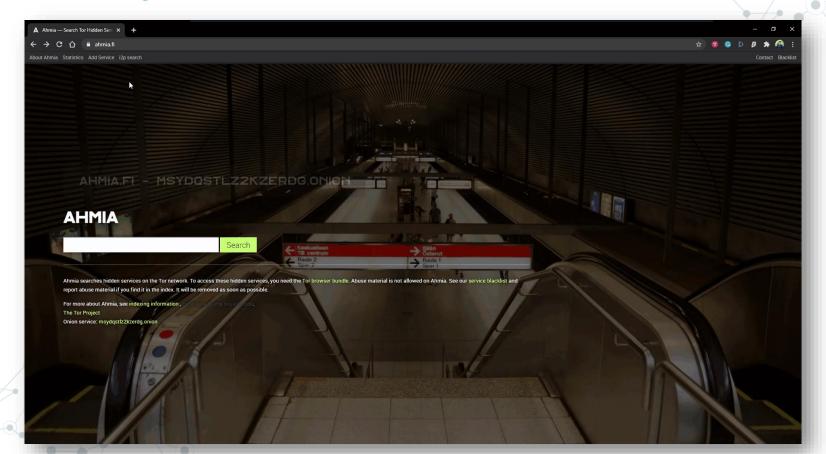
Onionsearch



Onionsearch (Contd.)



Ahmia



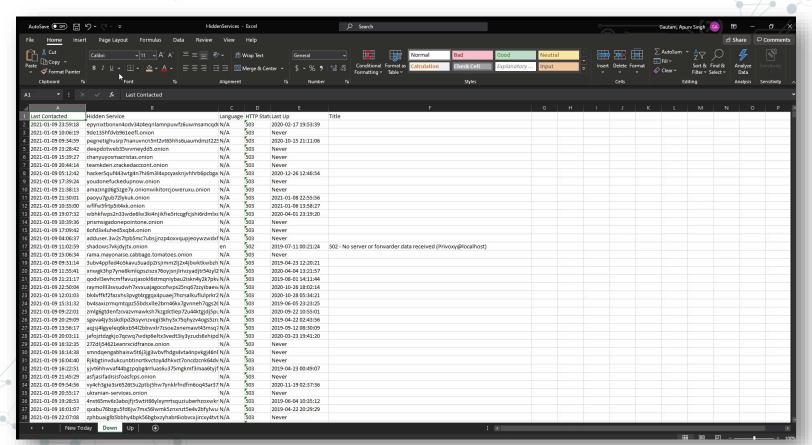
Onion Link Collection Tools

- O Hunchly
- O Tor66
- r/onions





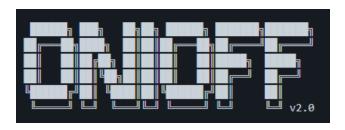
Hunchly



Onion Link Scan Tools

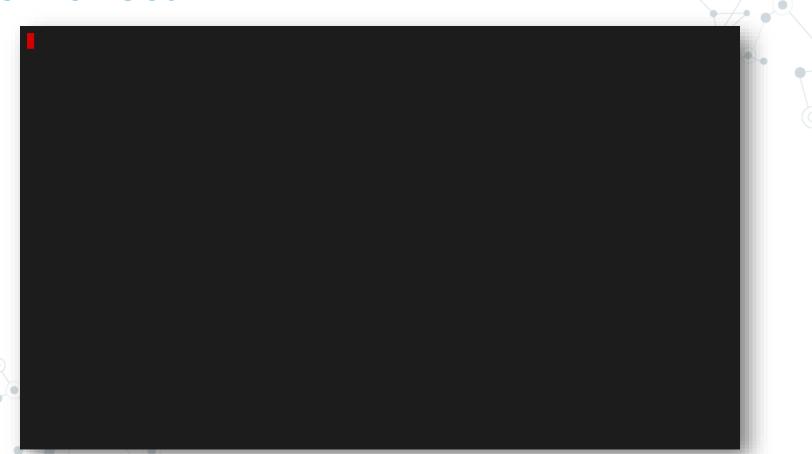
- OnionScan
- Onioff
- Onion-nmap







OnionScan



Onion Link Scraping Tools

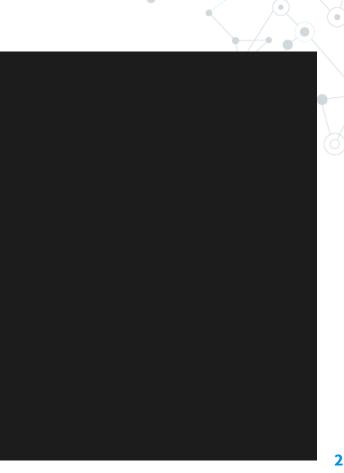
- TorBot
- TorCrawl
- OnionIngestor







TorCrawl



Create your own hunting tools

- Scrapy
- Tor
- OnionScan
- Privoxy
- © Elastic
- and many more...





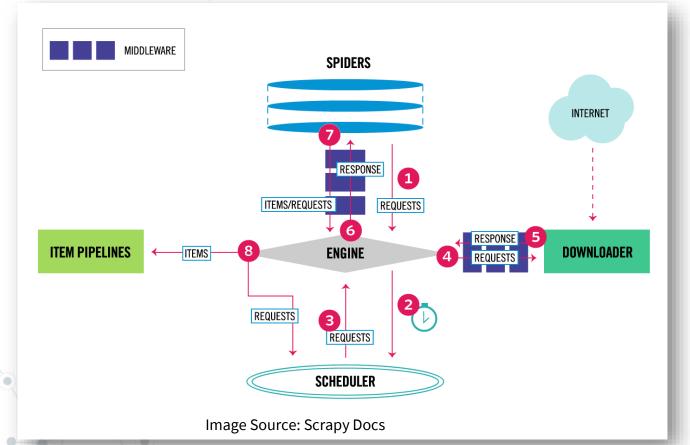




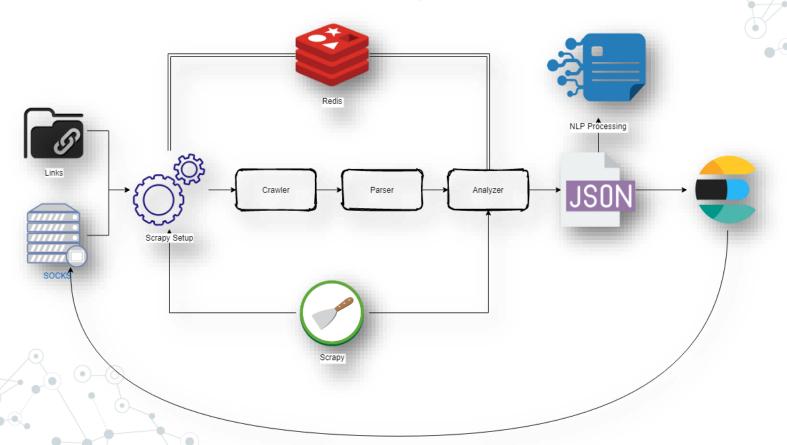




How Scrapy Works?



Automated Hunting Architecture



Lab Time

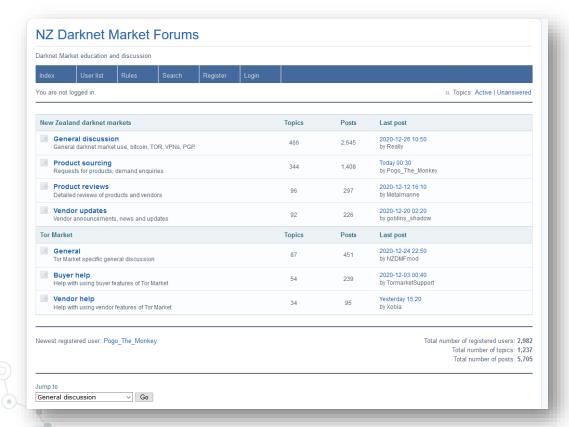
Setting up a Lab

- Cab/VM
- Physical or Cloud
- Isolate the network
- Install relevant tools
 - O Go
 - Scrapy
 - Privoxy
 - Tor
 - ELK
 - Go libraries
 - Python libraries



Image Source: Hayden James

NZDarknet Forum



Tree Structure

```
accounts.py
    __init__.py
    items.py
    middlewares.py
    pipelines.py
    settings.py
        base.py
        __init__.py
        nzdarknet.py
scrapy.cfg
```



nzdarknet.py

```
BASE URL = 'http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfvfv3ihwoubv6gnumdglspghurgnuvr52khatdad.onion/'
class NZDarknetSpider(WebSpider):
    settings = get project settings()
    name = 'nzdarknet'
    forum items = AutomateScrapeItem()
    default start url = None
    allowed domains = ['nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6qnumdqlspqhurqnuvr52khatdad.onion']
    start urls = [
        'http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6qnumdglspqhurqnuvr52khatdad.onion/index.php'
    def start requests(self):
        logging.info('Making first request')
    def parse forum(self, response):
        logging.info('In Parse Posts')
    def save page(self, response):
        logging.info('In Save Page')
```

middlewares.py



items.py

```
import scrapy

class AutomateScrapeItem(scrapy.Item):
    timestamp = scrapy.Field()
    forum_category = scrapy.Field()
    post_title = scrapy.Field()
    post_date = scrapy.Field()
    post_author = scrapy.Field()
    post_author_url = scrapy.Field()
    post_body = scrapy.Field()
    post_replies = scrapy.Field()
```



pipelines.py

```
class JSONPipeline(object):
    def process item(self, item, spider):
        logging.info('In JSON Pipeline')
        logging.info(item)
        if 'timestamp' in item:
            data = {
                'timestamp': item['timestamp'],
                'forum_category': item['forum_category'],
                'post Title': item['post title'],
                'post date': item['post date'],
                'post author': item['post author'],
                'post author url': item['post author url'],
                'post_body': item['post_body'],
                'post replies': item['post replies']
            json list.append(data)
        dumped = json.dumps(json list, indent=4, ensure ascii=False)
        file = open('data from pipeline.json', 'a+')
        file.write(dumped + '\n')
        file.close()
        return item
```

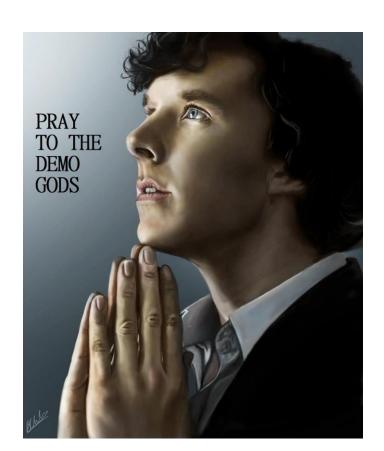
settings.py

```
BOT NAME = 'automate scrape'
SPIDER MODULES = ['automate scrape.spiders']
NEWSPIDER MODULE = 'automate scrape.spiders'
JSER AGENT = 'User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; rv:91.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/91.0'
ROBOTŚTXT OBEY = False
CONCURRENT REQUESTS = 32
DOWNLOAD DELAY = 5
# Override the default request headers:
EFAULT REQUEST HEADERS = {
 'Accept': 'text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8',
 'Accept-Language': 'en-US,en;q=0.5',
 'Connection': 'keep-alive'
OOWNLOADER MIDDLEWARES = {
   'automate scrape.middlewares.ProxyMiddleware': 50
 Configure item pipelines
TTEM PIPELINES = {
   'automate scrape.pipelines.JSONPipeline': 50
```

Sample JSON Data

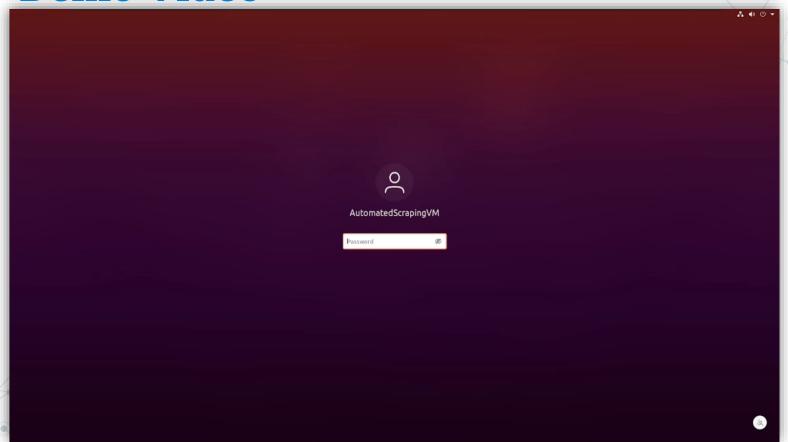
```
"timestamp": "2022-01-16T18:35:21",
"forum category": "General discussion",
"post Title": "Links/URLs for markets and other DNM content",
"post date": "2019-05-05 15:00",
"post_author": "TormarketSupport",
"post author url": "http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6qnumdglspqhurqnuvr52khatdad.onion/profile.php?id=2",
"post body": "\n\t\t\t\t\t\t DarknetLive news, market links, dnm bible pdf. Dark.fail news, market links Recon Software https://tails.
"post<sup>-</sup>replies": [
        "reply": 1,
        "post date": "2020-05-03 01:10",
        "post author": "TormarketSupport"
        "post author url": "http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6gnumdglspghurgnuvr52khatdad.onion/profile.php?id=2",
        "post"body":"\n\t\t\t\t\t\t\ -----BEGIN PGP ŚIĠNĖD MESSAGE----\nHash: SHA512\n\nNew primary Tormarket URL\n\nhttp://rrlm2f22lpq
        "reply": 2,
        "post date": "2021-01-11 14:20",
        "post author": "TormarketSupport"
        "post author url": "http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6qnumdglspqhurqnuvr52khatdad.onion/profile.php?id=2",
        "post"body":"\n\t\t\t\t\t\t\ -----BEGIN PGP ŚIĠNÉD MESSAGE----- Hash: SHA512 The old retired Tormarket onion v2 is http://tt2mop
        "reply": 3,
        "post date": "2021-01-11 19:00",
        "post author": "TormarketSupport"
        <u>"post<sup>-</sup>author url": "http://</u>nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6qnumdglspqhurqnuvr52khatdad.onion/profile.php?id=2",
        "post"body":"\n\t\t\t\t\t\t Clickable links for Tormarket Tormarket old version tt2mopgckifmberr onion Tormarket p5ay4zakxz4r
        "reply": 4,
        "post date": "2021-06-24 10:10",
        "post author": "ChurBroNZ".
        "post author url": "http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6gnumdglspqhurgnuvr52khatdad.onion/profile.php?id=2903",
        "post body": "\n\t\t\t\t\t\t Appears the script kids are at it again! Using backup link. \n\t\t\t\t\t"
        "reply": 5,
        "post date": "2021-06-24 14:40",
        "post author": "TormarketSupport".
        "post author url": "http://nzdnmfcf2z5pd3vwfyfy3jhwoubv6gnumdglspghurgnuvr52khatdad.onion/profile.php?id=2",
        "post_body":"\n\t\t\t\t\t\t p5ay4zakxz4rn4rmvx6c3vj3fj2jlzbsqq5a2xrqrjzg2tsw2uoqmuyd<♡xa0> will always be more reliable because
```

Demo





Demo Video



5. Scraping Defenses Discussion

What defenses do sites put?

- DDoS Protection
- Captcha System
- JavaScript Enabled Sites
- IP blocking
- Account blocking
- Cookie Change













Circumventing Scraping Defenses

- Setting Delays
- Captcha Bypass Services
- Using Selenium
- Rotating IPs (SOCKS 4/5)
- Rotating Accounts
- Outilizing Cookies







zyte



Circumventing Scraping Defenses

```
from selenium import webdriver

url = ''
path = ''

driver = webdriver.Firefox()
driver.get(url)
el = driver.find_element_by_tag_name('body')
el.screenshot(path)
driver.quit
```

```
class CookieMiddleware(object):
    def process_request(self, request, spider):
        if request.cookies == {}:
            logging.info("Setting cookie for User {}".format(request.current_user['user']))
            request.cookies = self.get_cookies(request)
            return None

def get_cookies(self, request):
    #logic for getting cookies from file
            return cook
```

```
class CheckCookieMiddleware(object):

    def __init__(self):
        self.bot = telebot.TeleBot(API_KEY, parse_mode=None)

    def process_response(self, request, response, spider):
        if '503' in response.text:
            #telegram reminder msg
            self.bot.send_message(UID, 'URGENT: Change Cookie'))
            # Ctrl+C signal
            os.kill(os.getpid(), signal.SIGINT)
            return response
```

OpSec? What's that?

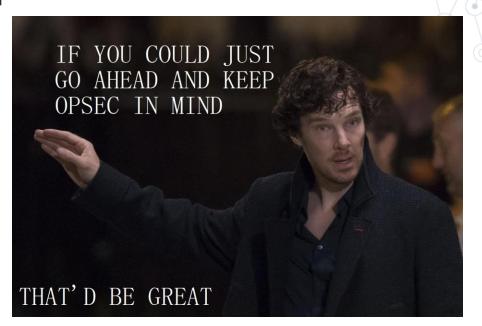
What is OpSec?

- 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

- Use VM/Lab or an isolated system
- Use Tor over SOCKS or VPN
- Ochange Time zones
- Maintain different persona
- Use password manager
- Clean/Wipe data from VM
- Say NO to personal info





What we discussed so far?

- Why Dark web hunting is important
- Tools needed to hunt data on the Dark Web
- OSINT Tools
- Methods to create your own hunting scripts
- Automating the data collection
- Scraping defenses circumvention



I don't know how to conclude but...

- Keep OpSec in mind
- Look at more than one resource/site
- Takes a lot of resources and team effort
- Unique ways to create your automated architecture



Resources

- Good Scraping services Parsehub, Zyte, Octaparse
- Read White papers & blogs from different security organizations
- Follow people on LinkedIn and Twitter
- Follow hashtags #darkweb, #threatintelligence
- Search Terms darkweb, tor, deepweb, cybercrime forums
- OSINT Framework https://osintframework.com/
- OSINT Combine Dark Web Searching https://www.osintcombine.com/post/dark-web-searching

Resources (Contd.)

- Jake Creps Blog https://jakecreps.com/2019/05/16/osinttools-for-the-dark-web/
- DEFCON Recon Village Ambly the Smart Darknet Spider talk by Cytisus Eurydice (@levitannin)
- Darkweb Cyber Threat Intelligence Mining by Cambridge University Press

Thanks!

Any questions?

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Twitter: @ASG_Sc0rpi0n

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