

The silk road

Case Study Analysis



Image 1 – (Woolf 2015)

- 
- records from trials in the US with good content are easily available
 - USA is one of the leading countries in cyber forensics



The background of the slide features a person wearing a dark hoodie, seen from the side, working on a laptop. The scene is overlaid with a digital aesthetic, including green binary code (0s and 1s) and various data visualizations like bar charts and line graphs. The overall color scheme is dark with teal and green highlights.

Using the Internet to distribute narcotics

Engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise

- High sentence for the convicted
- Dark web marketplaces are growing tremendously
 - Over 1 billion US Dollar in bitcoin confiscated



Description & explanation of running a darknet market

- darknet marketplace - web shop for illegal items and services
- Cyber enabled crime
- Essential IT technologies to run a darknet market
 - Anonymization of trading (TOR network)
 - Anonymization of money exchange (cryptocurrencies)



US fighting darknet markets

- National level
 - Skilled state as well as nation wide governmental agencies
- International level
 - Multilateral treaties
 - Bilateral treaties
 - International Organizations
- Legislation



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Cost of the crime

“Drugs sold on the silk road were linked to six overdose deaths by law enforcement” (Department of Justice 2015)



Issues in the crime investigation / gathering evidence

- it was very hard to find the identity of the criminals involved since Bitcoin and TOR browser were used
- many pieces collected from various agents and agencies needed to be interconnected to find a main suspect
- Identification of vendors consumed a lot of resources
- Infiltrating the circle of employees was key for the conviction
- Potentially many other nondisclosed strategies and methods were used
- A vulnerability on the website leading to the location of the server was essential to solve the case / The defendant and his lawyers however state that there was no vulnerability and that NSA tools were illegally used to identify the location
- A trap was necessary to obtain evidence that holds in court
- The laptop of the criminal provided further evidence



A critical examination of public and social perception

METRO EXCLUSIVE

Judge in Silk Road case gets death threats

By Rich Calder

 Springer Link

Original Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 07 August 2018](#)

The not so dark side of the darknet: a qualitative study

[Mihnea Mirea](#), [Victoria Wang](#) & [Jeyong Jung](#)

[Security Journal](#) **32**, 102–118 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

34k Accesses | **18** Citations | **16** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA


typical government-hating libertarian ideologue with apparently marginal programming skills sought to preserve the non-violent utopia with...murder for hire, twice!

HAHAHAHAHAHA so delicious HAHAHAHAHA the irony is for the ages HAHAHAHAHAHA

↑ -20 (+38 / -58) ↓

10265 posts | registered 8/24/2010

Hackers leak SSN, address of judge in Silk Road case

by Paul Gonzalez, Special to the Examiner |  |
October 23, 2014 12:09 PM



LbBJhYeox3fXNG6x2mnRiH

vor 4 Monaten

Hohe Strafen sind immer gut und richtig.

👍 1 👎 3 ↩ Antworten

fasAzygmAaf65QHnfsY8vQ

vor 2 Wochen

Sie sollte genauso hart bestraft werden, als hätte sie selber so eine Tat ausgeführt.

👍 👎 ↩ Antworten

↪ Teilen 🚩 Melden

usa / Ars Tribunus Militum / et Subscriber

OCT 3, 2013 6:28 AM

I don't entirely buy the story that the FBI did all the work here. I'm sure they did the majority of the legwork and infecting the Tor nodes, but it's quite likely they had a lot of illegal data from the NSA to help them along, like the DEA does. And like the DEA, they have to pretend that didn't happen, because that risks the case getting thrown out.

Basically, why wouldn't they? The NSA has all the internet and tracking data, and tons of certs - of course the FBI would use it when going after a billion dollar drug market.

Still, it's a fascinating story, thank you!

Last edited by sarusa on Wed Oct 02, 2013 11:30 pm

↑ +16 (+44 / -28) ↓

2170 posts | registered 7/21/2011



Conclusion

- The investigation effort necessary to convict people committing cyber crimes is very high
- International connection with treaties is more important than having strong local laws
- IT technology is a strong enabler of cyber crime
- Darknet marketplaces will continue to boom



Silk Road



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