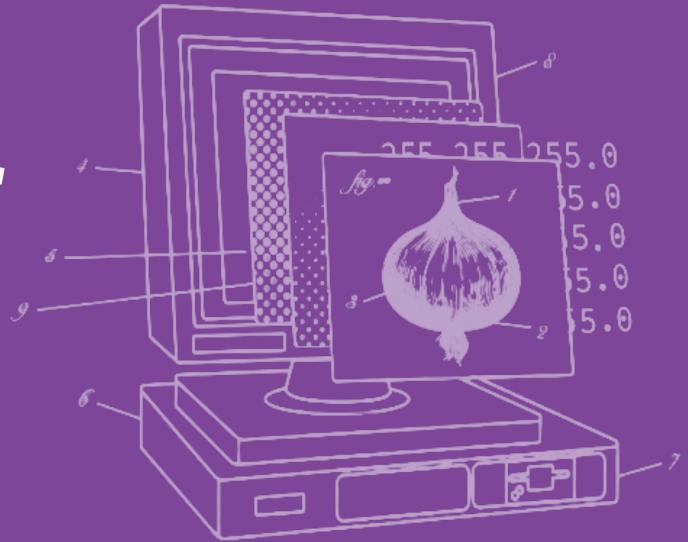


Introduction to Tor & Onion Services



Before we begin...

- Do you use Tor?
 - If not, why?
 - If yes, do you have questions or concerns?
- What do you know about Onion Services?

Table of contents

1. Introduction to Tor
2. Tor ecosystem of tools
3. Introduction to Onion Services
4. “Deep/Dark” Web?
5. Hands-on activities
6. Latest developments

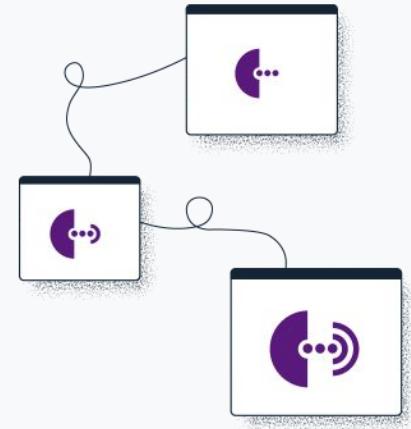
Introduction to Tor

What is Tor?

- It's Tor (not capitalized).
- The goal is to have a way to use the internet with as much privacy as possible:
 - a. by routing traffic through multiple servers; and
 - b. by encrypting it each step of the way.
- Hence the term “onion routing”.
- Tor provides anonymity, mitigating against surveillance and censorship.

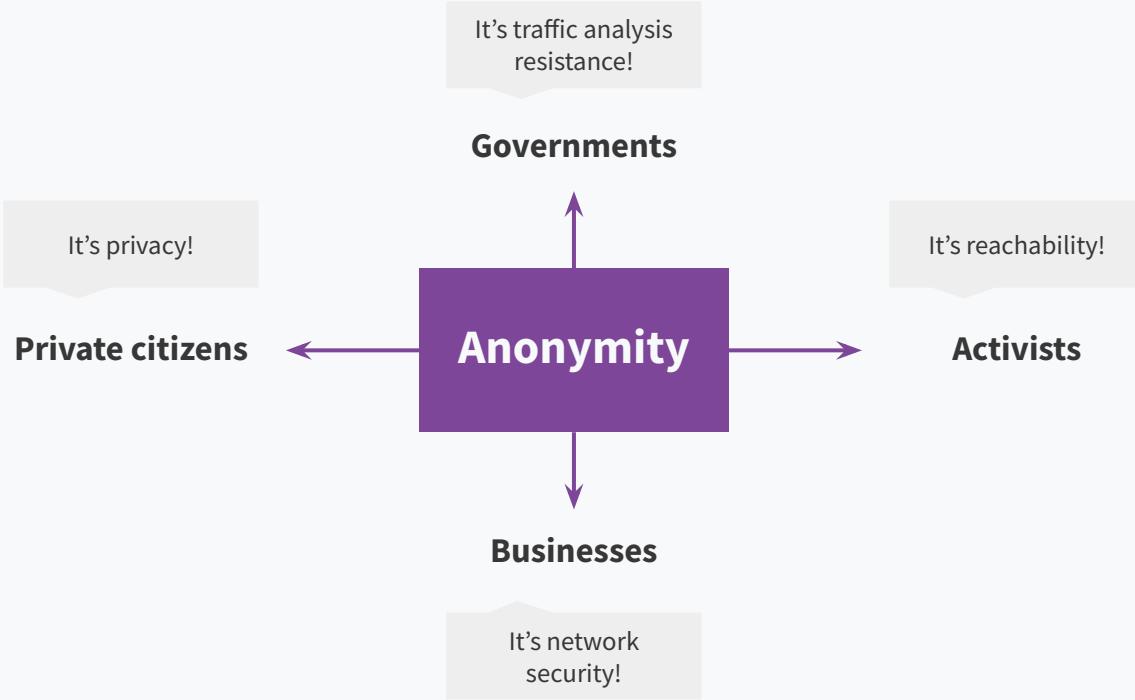
Different ways of defining Tor

- Tor ⇒ free software created at NRL starting 2001/2.
- Tor ⇒ an open network of ~9,500 nodes – anyone can join!
- Tor ⇒ a browser that connects you to the Tor network.
- Tor ⇒ a US non-profit formed in 2006.
- Tor ⇒ a community of volunteers, researchers, developers, trainers, advocates from all over the world.



“We kill people based
on metadata”





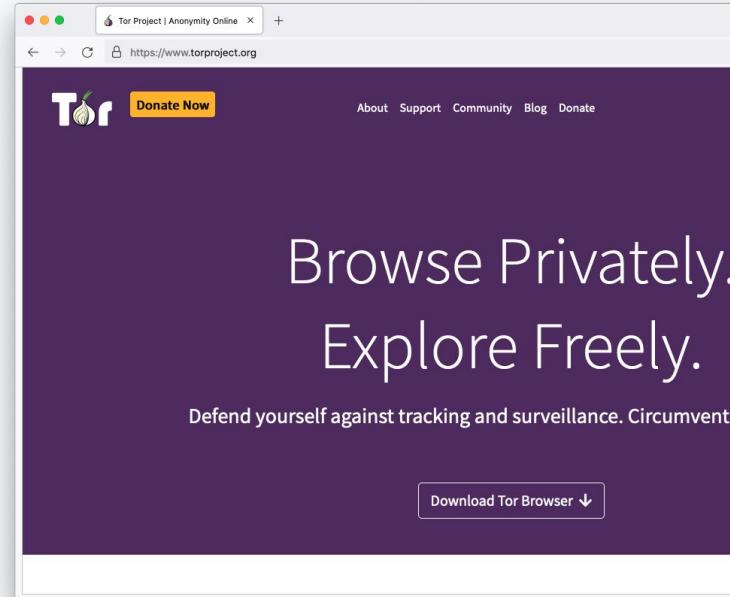
Two sides of the same coin

- Censorship and surveillance go hand-in-hand.
- In order to **block** access to an online service, censors need to **spot** when users want to access said service.
- Anonymity grants protection from surveillance and censorship.



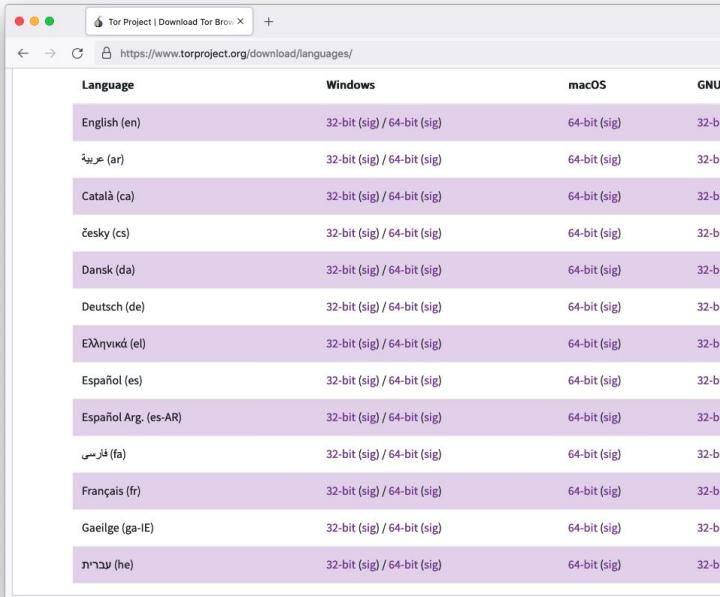
What is Tor Browser?

- Just like any other browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Yandex) except it does not expose traffic.
- Traffic is encrypted and bounces through three random volunteer-run nodes called **relays**.
- When using Tor Browser, we don't know who you are or what you're visiting.



Multilingual Browser

- Tor Browser is available in many languages:
<https://www.torproject.org/download/languages/>
- Tor Browser manual is a user-friendly guide for novice users and is also multilingual:
<https://tb-manual.torproject.org/>



A screenshot of a web browser window displaying the Tor Project download page. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.torproject.org/download/languages/>. The page lists various languages supported by the Tor Browser, categorized by platform: Windows, macOS, and GNU/Linux. Each entry shows the language name, its code, and the available architectures (32-bit or 64-bit) along with their corresponding digital signatures (sig).

Language	Windows	macOS	GNU/Linux
English (en)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
عربی (ar)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Català (ca)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
česky (cs)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Dansk (da)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Deutsch (de)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Ελληνικά (el)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Español (es)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Español Arg. (es-AR)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
فارسی (fa)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Français (fr)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
Gaeilge (ga-IE)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)
עברית (he)	32-bit (sig) / 64-bit (sig)	64-bit (sig)	32-bit (sig)

Tor Browser on Android

Developed by the Tor Project

<https://www.torproject.org/download/>



Onion Browser on iOS

Developed by the Guardian Project

<https://onionbrowser.com/>



Connecting through HTTP

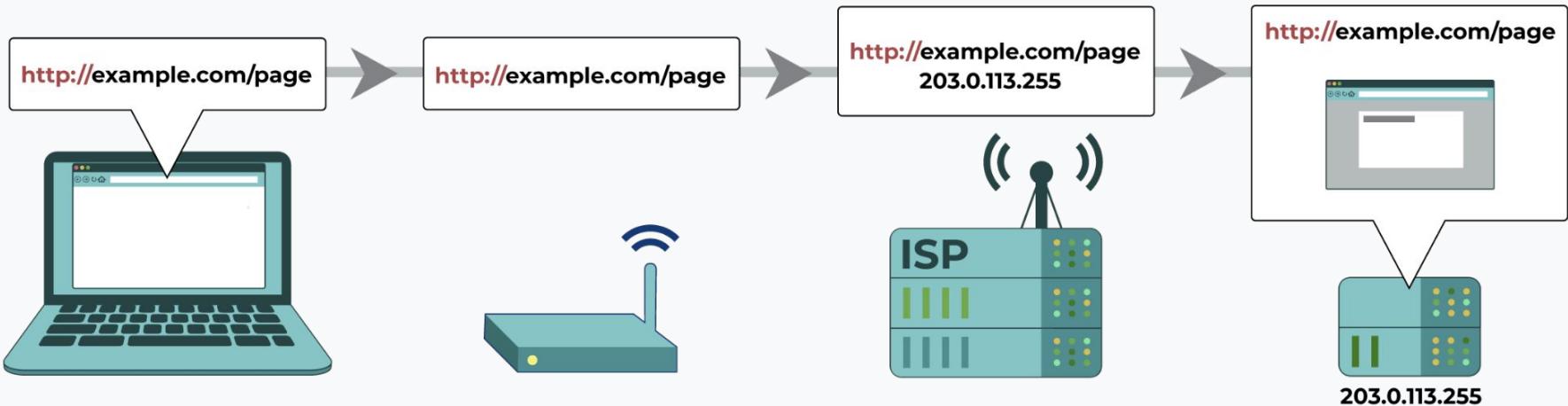


Image source: eff.org

Connecting through HTTPS

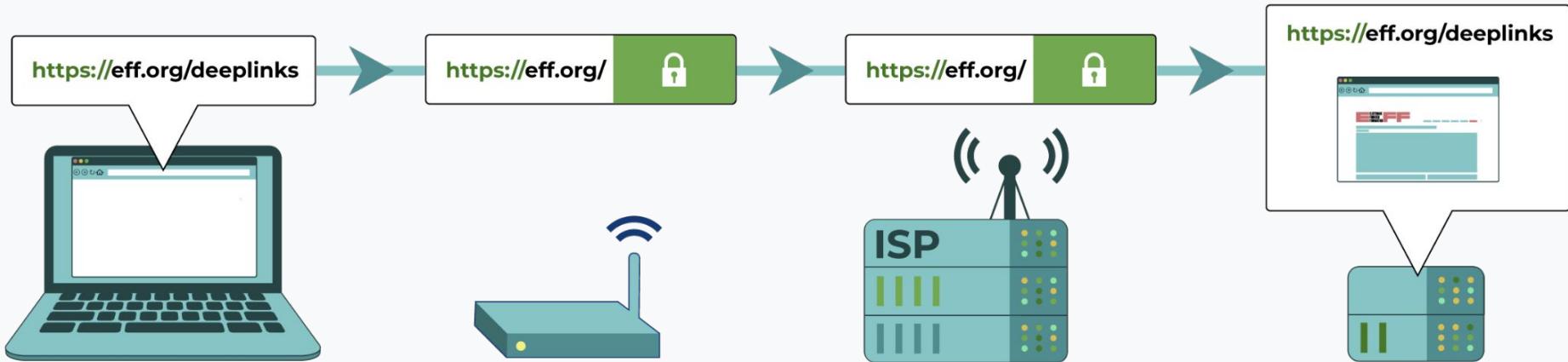


Image source: eff.org

Connecting through VPN

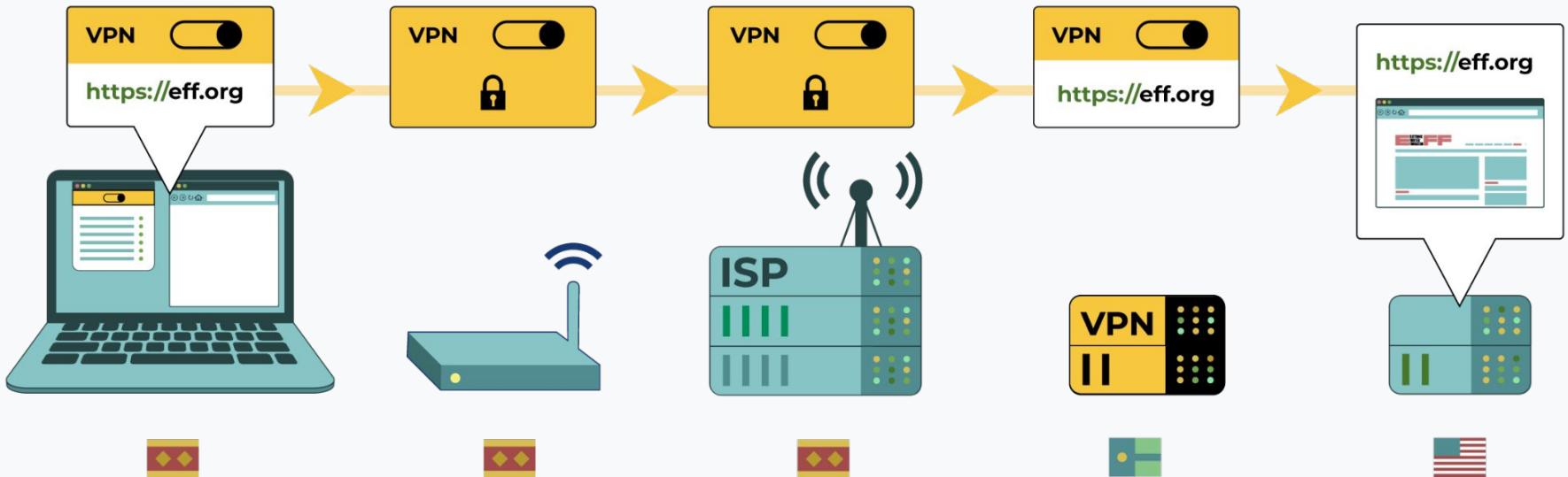


Image source: eff.org

Connecting through Tor

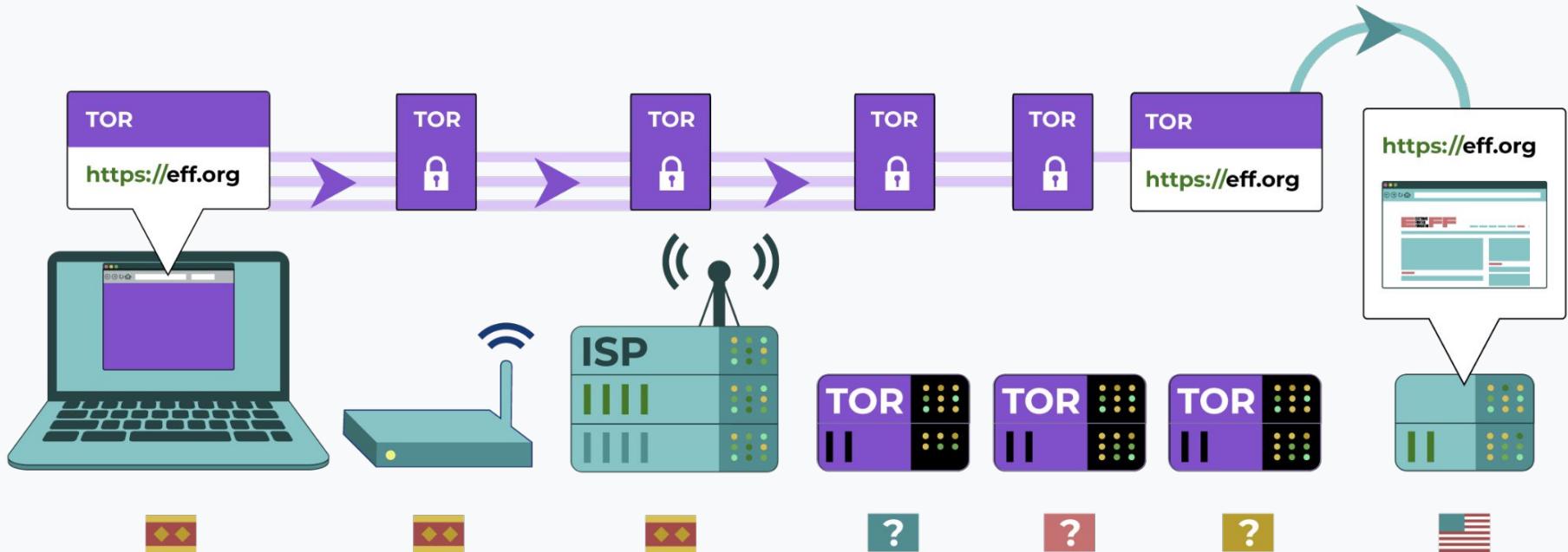
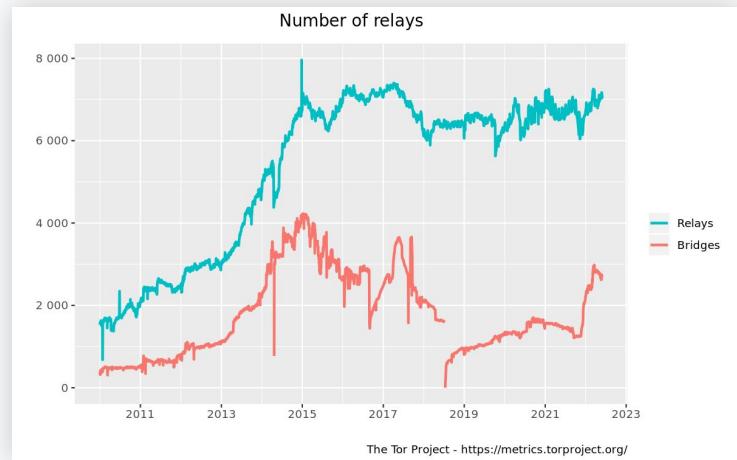


Image source: eff.org

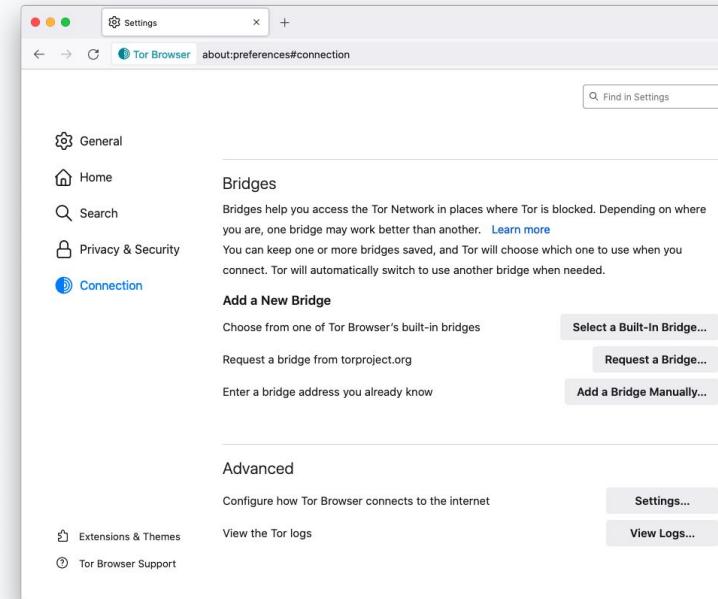
A growing network of relays

- Tor relays and bridges are run by volunteers from around the world, including individuals, NGOs, and companies.
- They form the backbone of the Tor network.
- Today we count: 7000+ relays and 2660+ bridges.



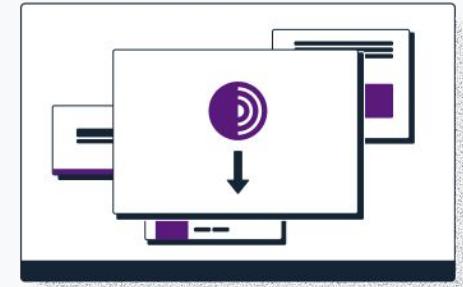
Bypassing censorship of the Tor network

- Direct access to Tor may be blocked by some Internet Service Providers and governments.
- Tor Browser includes circumvention tools for getting around these blocks called **bridges**.
- Bridges are **relays that are private** and harder to block: <https://bridges.torproject.org/>



Bypassing censorship of torproject.org

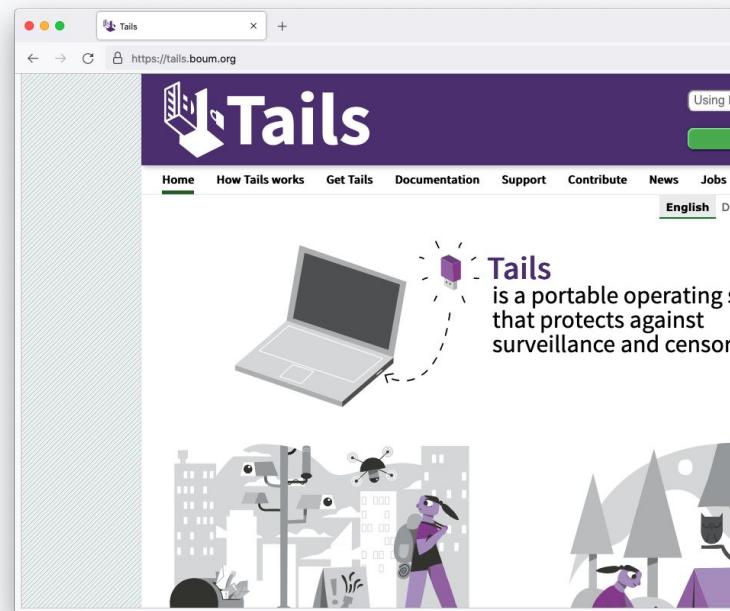
- Tor Project website could be blocked on your network.
- Multiple circumvention methods:
 - Mirror websites to download Tor Browser;
 - Emailing GetTor to receive browser bundle via email
 - gettor@torproject.org.



Applications that run on the Tor network

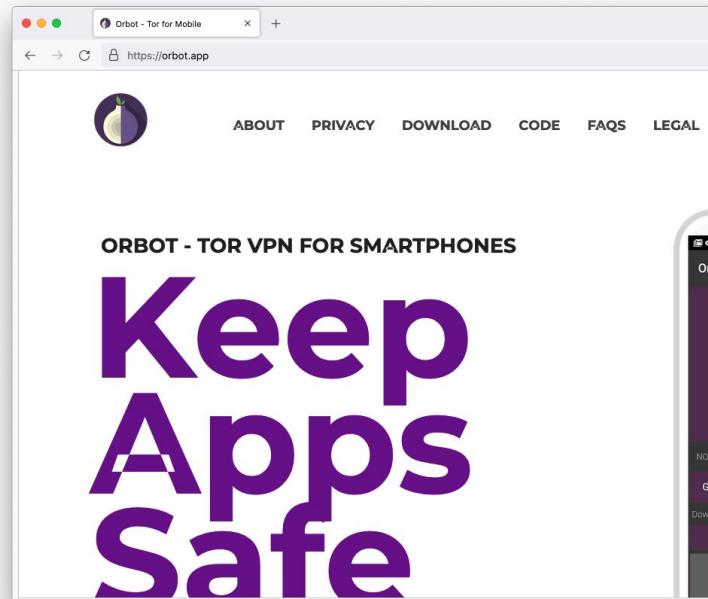
Operating system

- Tails is an operating system (like Windows and macOS) that can be run straight from a USB.
- Tails ⇒ The Amnesic Incognito Live System.
- Tails isolates all of your connection of all applications through Tor and comes with a set of secure applications.
- An independent project: <https://tails.boum.org/>



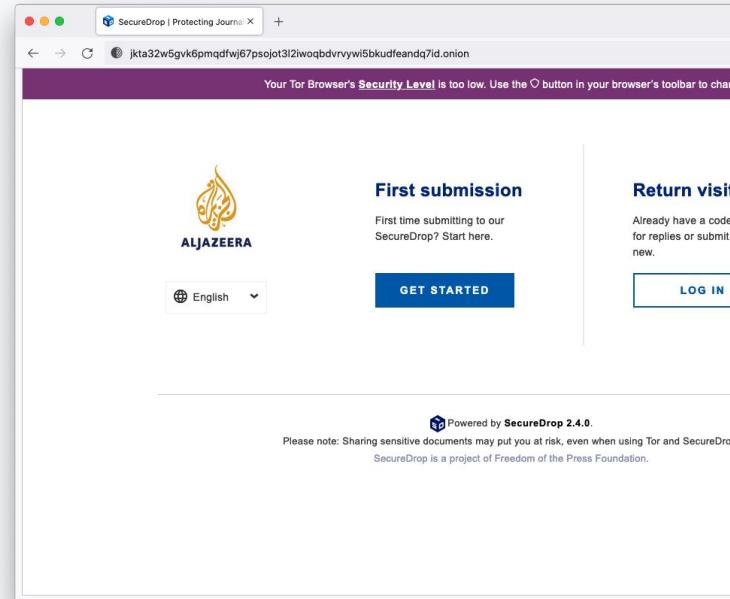
System-wide VPN

- Orbot routes mobile apps' traffic through Tor, you can select specifically which apps to run through Tor.
- Orbot is available on iOS and Android.
- Developed and maintained by the Guardian Project: <https://orbot.app/>



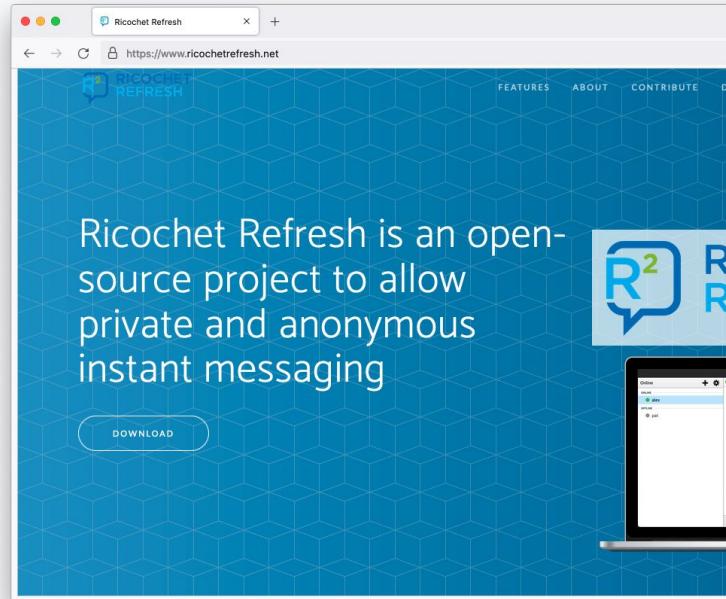
Secure whistleblowing

- SecureDrop and GlobaLeaks are tools for whistleblowers to communicate securely with journalists.
- Newsrooms around the world have set up their own whistleblowing platforms to receive leaks securely.



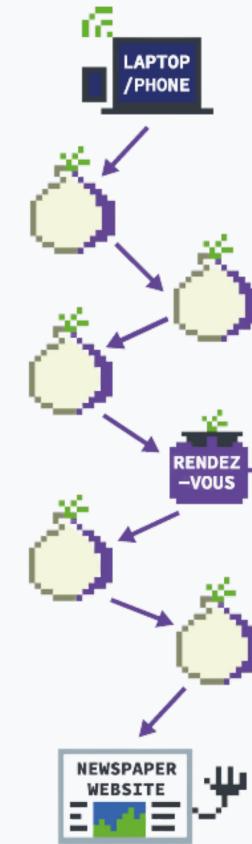
Anonymous peer-to-peer messaging

- Ricochet Refresh is an instant messenger that routes all messages through Tor.
- Nobody knows who you're talking to, or what you're talking about.
- Supported by Blueprint for Free Speech:
<https://www.blueprintforfreespeech.net/>



Introduction to Onion Services (.onion)

- Onion Services are online services that are only available through the Tor network.
- An Onion Service connects to a rendez-vous node/relay inside the Tor network; and the user wanting to connect to it does the same.
- As a user, you never leave the Tor network when visiting an Onion Service.
- Onion Services provide end-to-end encryption: both visitor and website use Tor (without HTTPS).



Visiting the Intercept's site on Tor Browser vs. visiting the Intercept's onion service

Site information for theintercept.com

Connection secure

Tor Circuit

- This browser
- Canada 198.50.238.128 **Guard**
- United Kingdom 54.36.166.86
- Canada 209.209.9.109, 2602:ffd5:1:222::1
- theintercept.com

Your **Guard** node may not change. [Learn more](#)

New Circuit for this Site

Site information for
27m3p2uv7igmj6kvd4ql3cct5h3sdwrsajovkkndeufumzyfhlfelv4qd.onion

Connection secure

Tor Circuit

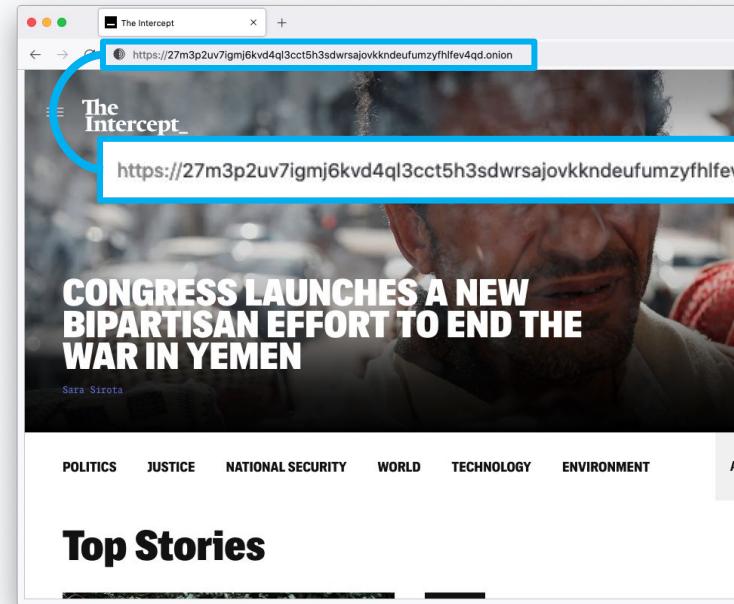
- This browser
- Canada 198.50.238.128 **Guard**
- Germany 89.58.4.238, 2a03:4000:5e:d48:946a:a4ff:fe2a:5f03
- Netherlands 5.255.97.133
- Relay
- Relay
- Relay
- 27m3p2u...fev4qd.onion

Your **Guard** node may not change. [Learn more](#)

New Circuit for this Site

.onion addresses

- Just like any other website, you need to know the address of an onion service in order to reach it.
- The .onion address is automatically generated, so there is no need to purchase a domain.
- An onion address is a string of 56 random letters and numbers followed by ".onion".



Censorship resistance

- Both location and IP address of an Onion Service are hidden, making it difficult to censor or identify who runs the service.
- This is why they used to be called “hidden services”.
- It's the **most censorship-resistant technology** available out there.

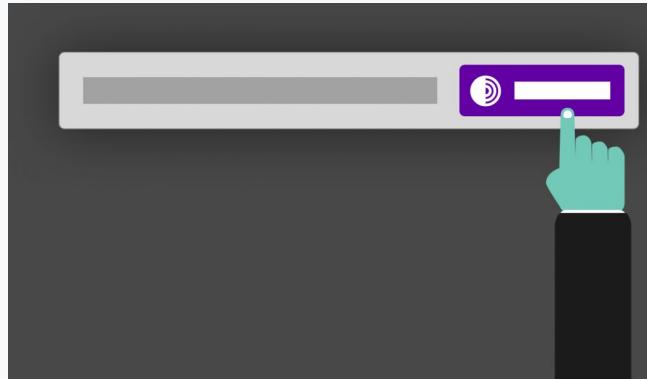


Decentralizing the web

- To deploy an Onion Service, you don't need a static or dedicated IP address nor need to purchase a domain and submit it for approval.
- For smaller websites like blogs, there's no need for expensive hardware.
- Deployment is easy: you don't need to forward ports or configure your modem.

Onion-Location

- **Onion-Location** is an HTTP header that websites can use to advertise their onion counterpart.
- If the website that you're visiting has an onion service, a purple suggestion pill will prompt at the URL bar saying ".onion available".
- When you click it, the website will be reloaded and redirected to its onion counterpart.



The New York Times - Breaking X +

https://www.nytimes.com

U.S. INTERNATIONAL CANADA ESPAÑOL 中文 SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1.50/WEEK LOG IN

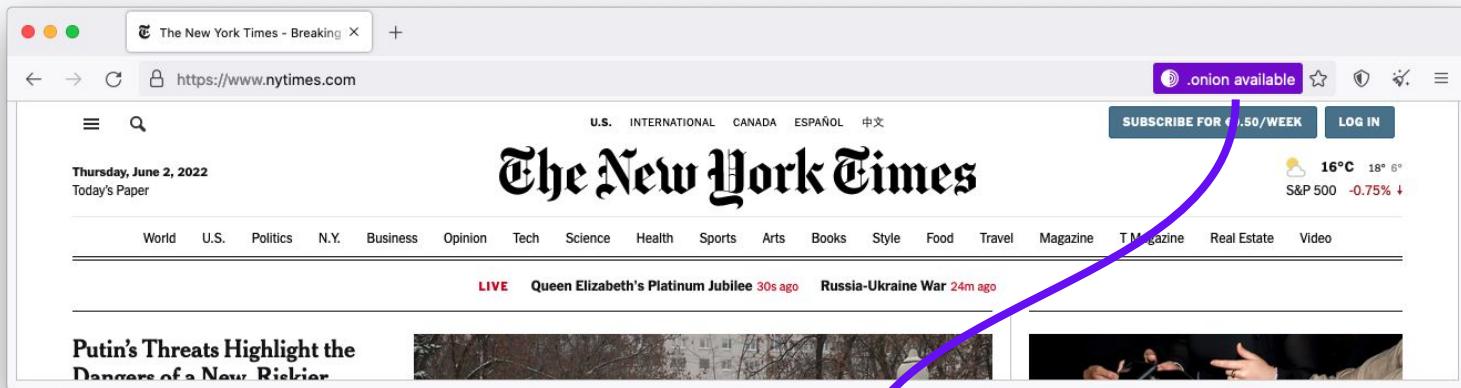
Thursday, June 2, 2022 Today's Paper

The New York Times

World U.S. Politics N.Y. Business Opinion Tech Science Health Sports Arts Books Style Food Travel Magazine T Magazine Real Estate Video

LIVE Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee 30s ago Russia-Ukraine War 24m ago

Putin's Threats Highlight the Dangers of a New Riskier



The New York Times - Breaking X +

https://www.nytimesn7cgmtshazwhfgzm37qxb44r64ybb2dj3x62d2ljlsciyd.onion

U.S. INTERNATIONAL CANADA ESPAÑOL 中文 LOG IN

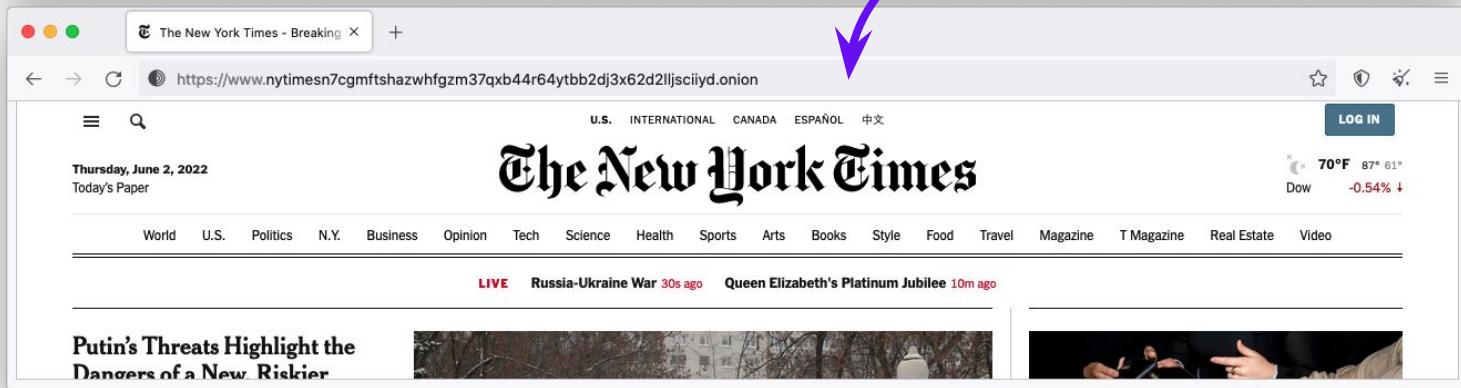
Thursday, June 2, 2022 Today's Paper

The New York Times

World U.S. Politics N.Y. Business Opinion Tech Science Health Sports Arts Books Style Food Travel Magazine T Magazine Real Estate Video

LIVE Russia-Ukraine War 30s ago Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee 10m ago

Putin's Threats Highlight the Dangers of a New Riskier



Popular Onion Services

The
Intercept

BBC

PROPUBLICA

The New York Times

RISEUP

facebook



brave

FREEDOM OF THE
PRESS FOUNDATION

Privacy
Matters.

FRONT LINE
DEFENDERS

debian

The many benefits of Onion Services

1. Enables freedom of press and censorship circumvention
2. Level up service privacy
3. Decentralization of the web
4. Network sustainability
5. Protection of sources, whistleblowers, and journalists
6. Opportunity to educate users about privacy by design
7. Metadata obfuscation and/or elimination

“Deep” / “Dark” Web?

What's actually the “deep” web?

- Refers to content on the World Wide Web that is not indexed by search engines, often hidden behind passwords, etc.
- American computer scientist Michael K. Bergman is linked to coining the expression, “the deep web”.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Title Bar:** White Paper: The Deep Web: Surfacing Hidden Value
- URL:** https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=jep;view=text;rgn=main;idno=3336451.0007.104
- Page Content:**
 - Journal Logo:** [J E P] the journal of electronic publishing
 - Navigation:** CURRENT, ARCHIVE, ABOUT, EDITORS
 - Article Title:** White Paper: The Deep Web: Surfacing Hidden Value
 - Volume and Issue:** Volume 7, Issue 1: Taking License, August, 2001
 - DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.3998/3336451.0007.104>
 - Permissions:** [Permissions](#)
 - Text Excerpt:** This White Paper is a version of the one on the BrightPlanet site. Although it is designed as a tool for a program "for existing Web portals that need to provide targeted, comprehensive info to their site visitors," its insight into the structure of the Web makes it worthwhile reading for all involved in e-publishing. —J.A.T.
 - Search Options:** EPUB, Print, Share
 - Bottom Text:** Searching on the Internet today can be compared to dragging a net across the surface of the ocean: may be caught in the net, there is still a wealth of information that is deep, and therefore, missed. Most of the Web's information is buried far down on dynamically generated sites, and standard search engines create their indices by spidering or crawling surface Web pages. To be di

Important to note about the “dark web”

- The “dark web” is an illusion.
- The term used often to speak negatively about encryption,
in the context of encouraging encryption backdoors.

deep dark web at DuckDuckGo

https://duckduckgo.com/?q=deep+dark+web&t=h_&iact=images&ia=images

Privacy, simplified.

All Images Videos News Maps Settings

Finland Safe search: moderate Any time All sizes All colors All types All layouts All Licenses

Surface Web

The diagram shows an iceberg floating in the ocean. The visible part above water is labeled "Surface Web". Below the waterline is the "Deep Web". At the very bottom, hidden from view, is the "Dark Web". Labels include "Google", "bing", "The Cloud", "Academic information", "Government Resources", "acker's", "illegal Po", "OR-Encrypted Sites", and "illegal information".

The Dark Web & What You Need To Know

This diagram also uses an iceberg metaphor. The "Surface Web" is the small part above water. The "Deep Web" is the submerged part of the iceberg. The "Dark Web" is the completely hidden portion below the surface. Labels include "World Wide Web", "Deep Web", "Dark Web", and "Only 4% of the internet content is accessible via search engines like Google, Bing, etc. This includes Academic Information, Medical Information, Government Records, Scientific Reports, Some scientific journals, Books, Magazines, Some news websites, Some specific news websites, Some government websites, Some organization-specific websites, and more".

My Journey to the Dark Web

An iceberg diagram where the "Surface Web" is the top tip, the "Deep Web" is the submerged middle section, and the "Dark Web" is the bottom, hidden section. Labels include "SURFACE WEB", "DEEP WEB", "DARK WEB", and "1024 x 1151".

Welcome To The Beauty And Danger Of The Dark Web

An iceberg diagram with the "Surface Web" at the top, the "Deep Web" in the middle, and the "Dark Web" at the bottom. Labels include "Google", "Bing", "CNN.com", "Wikipedia", "Academic databases", "Financial records", "Government records", "Scientific records", "Some scientific reports", "Books", "Magazines", "Some news websites", "Some specific news websites", "Some government websites", "Some organization-specific websites", and "99% of content is not found by search engines".

What Is The Difference Between Deep Web, Dark Web, and Surface Web

An iceberg diagram with the "Surface Web" at the top, the "Deep Web" in the middle, and the "Dark Web" at the bottom. Labels include "World Wide Web", "Deep Web", "Dark Web", and "900 x 506".

How to Access the Dark Web/Deep Web

thedarkweblinks.com

The Dark Web & What You Need To Know

medium.com

My Journey to the Dark Web

medium.com

Welcome To The Beauty And Danger Of The Dark Web

thethreatreport.com

What Is The Difference Between Deep Web, Dark Web, and Surface Web

fossbytes.com

Deep Dark Web Of The World

scottschobert.com

What is deep web, dark web, and surface web

medium.com

Qué son la darknet, la dark web y la surface web

qore.com

Deep Web / Dark Web / Surface Web

behance.net

What Is The Surface Web, Deep Web & Dark Web

techdhee.in

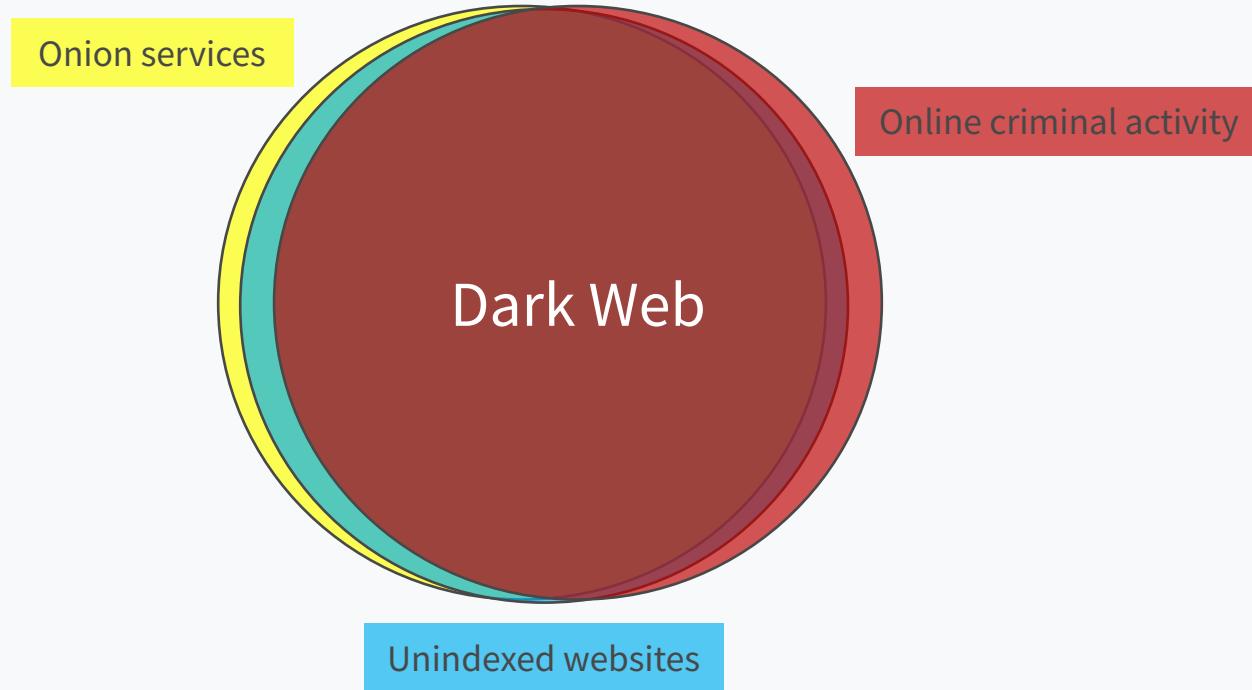
Internet > Deep Web > Dark Web

deepwebintel.blogspot.com

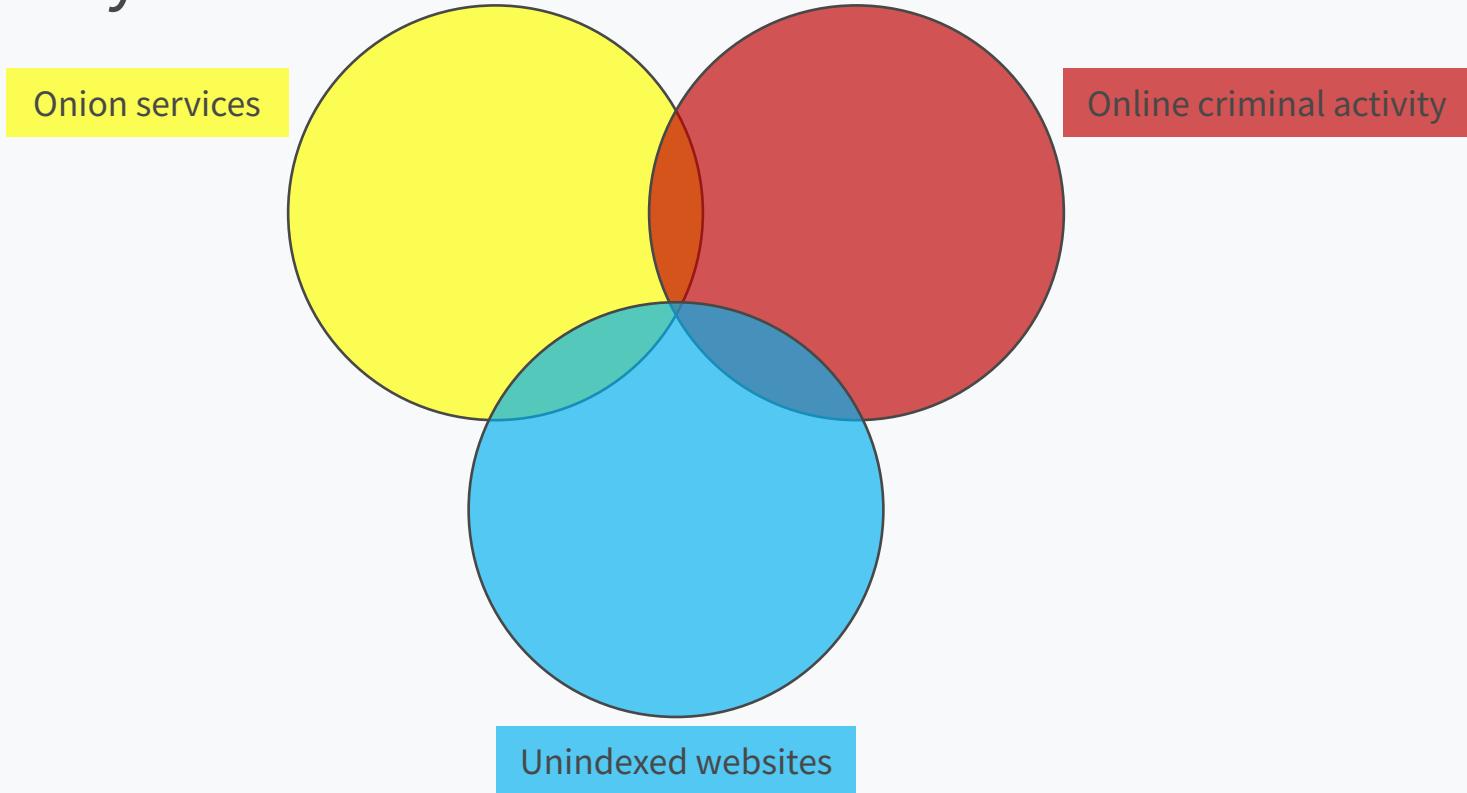
Iceberg analogies

- The web is usually represented as an elongated iceberg with ~90% of its body deep below water.
- This iceberg's orientation is unstable and won't be found in nature floating like this, it would only float on its side...
- More importantly, it's a false analogy of the web that doesn't serve any purpose other than spread misconceptions.

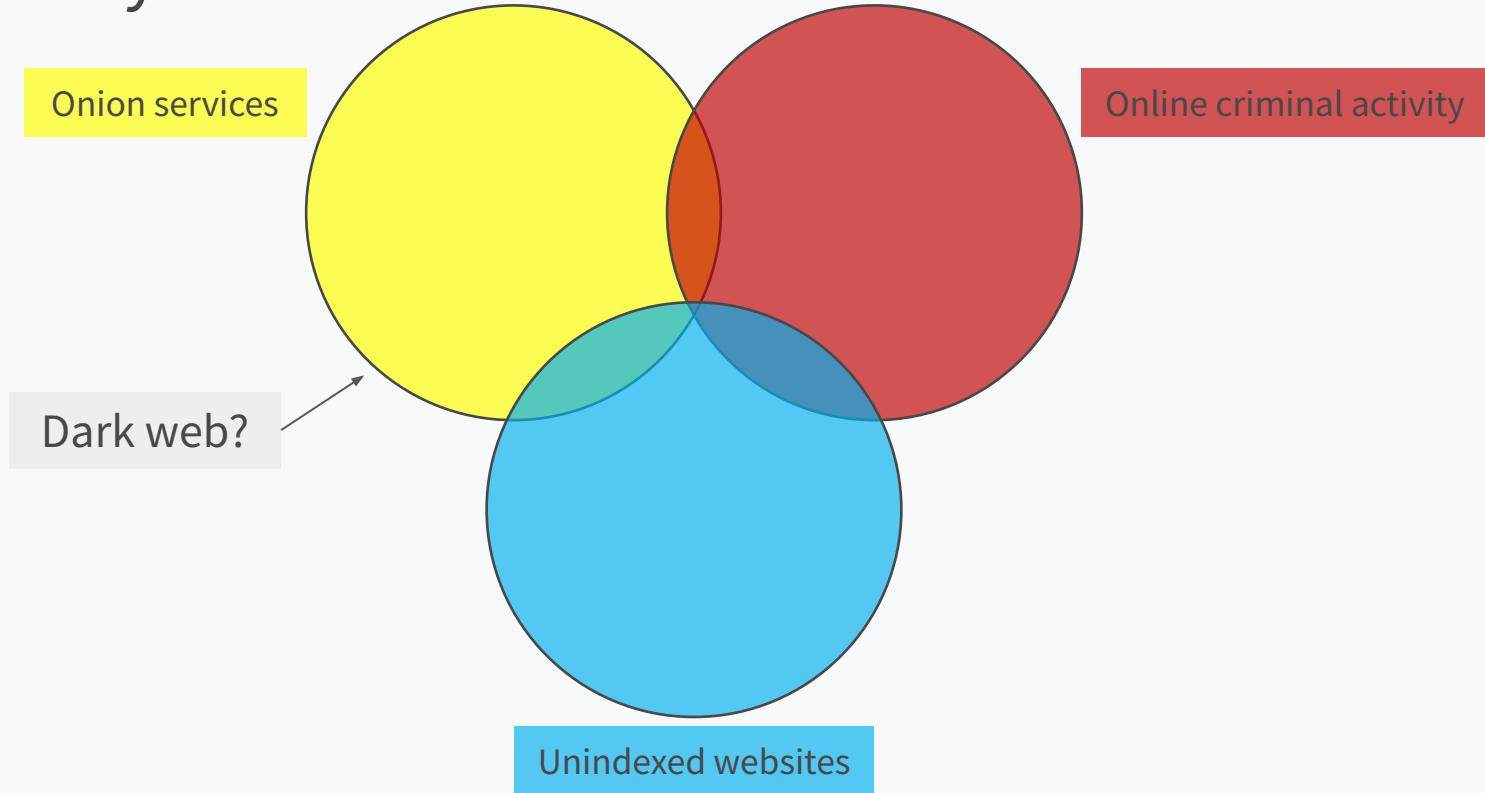
How the “Dark Web” is usually represented



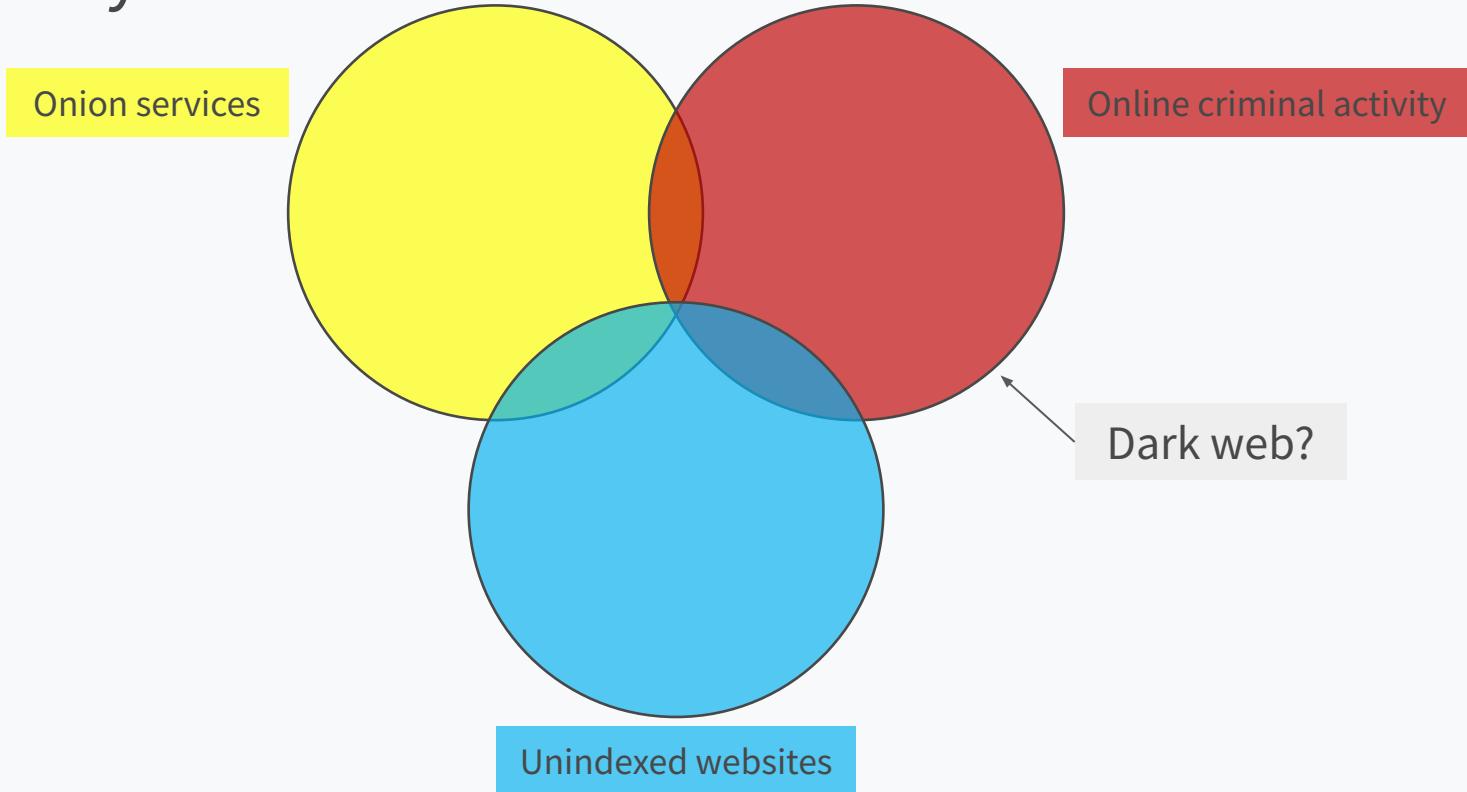
The reality



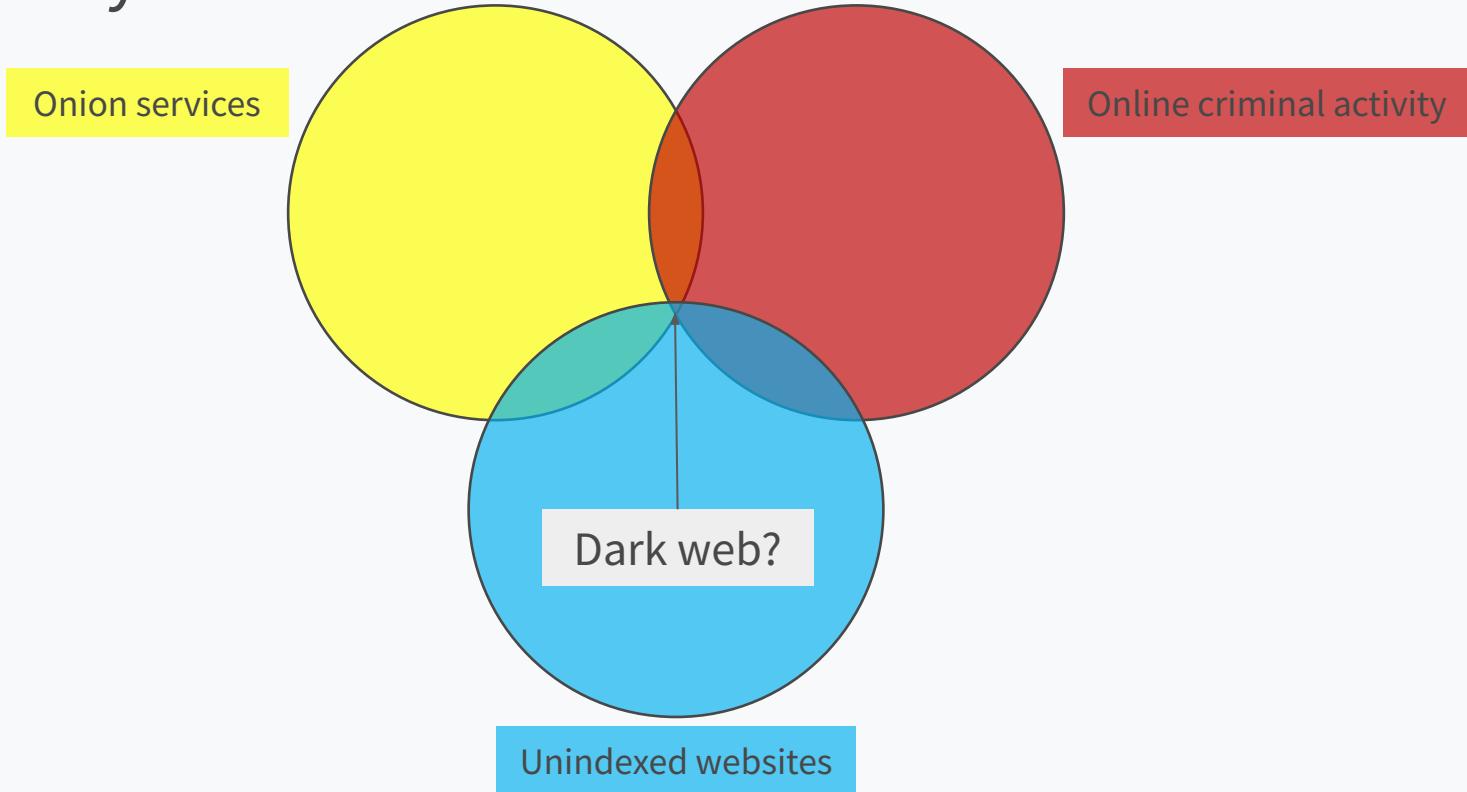
The reality



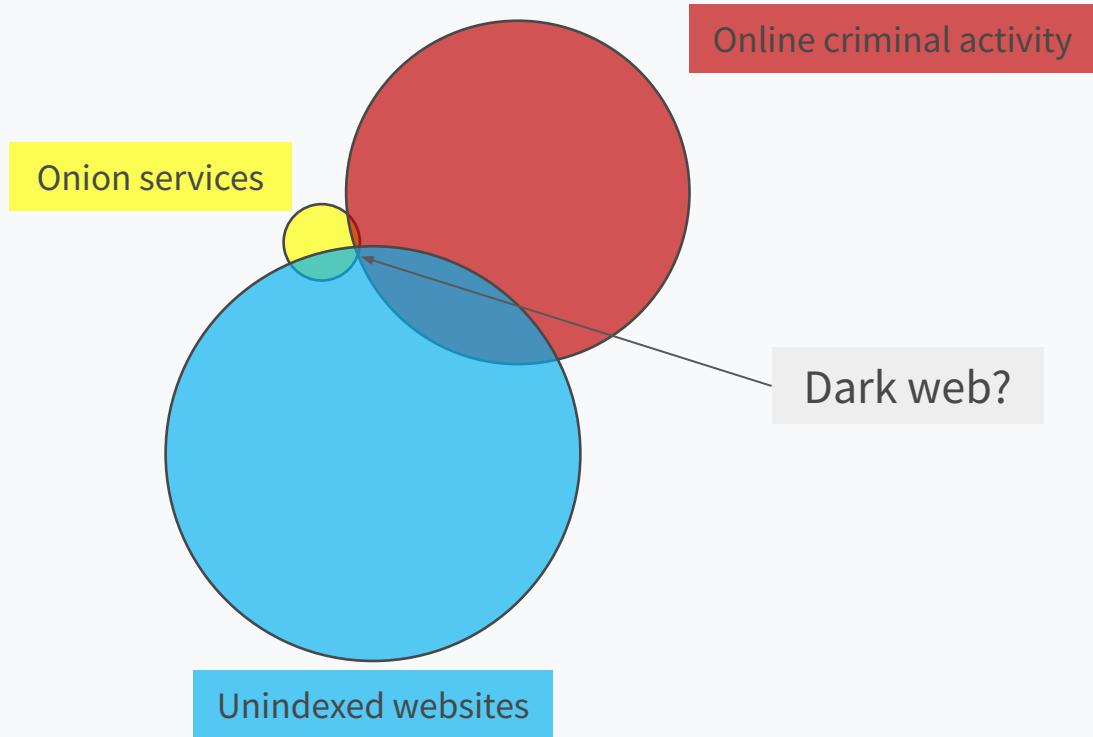
The reality



The reality



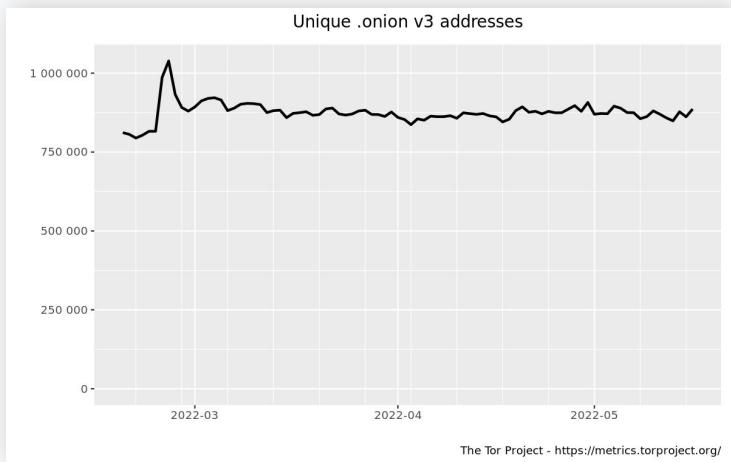
It's important to look at scale



Metrics on Onion Services

- Approximately ~886k Onion Services (v3).
- Relay bandwidth: ~750 Gbit/s.
- Onion Services traffic: ~9 Gbit/s.
- Onion services represent ~1.2% of Tor's traffic.
- Tor metrics portal:

<https://metrics.torproject.org/>



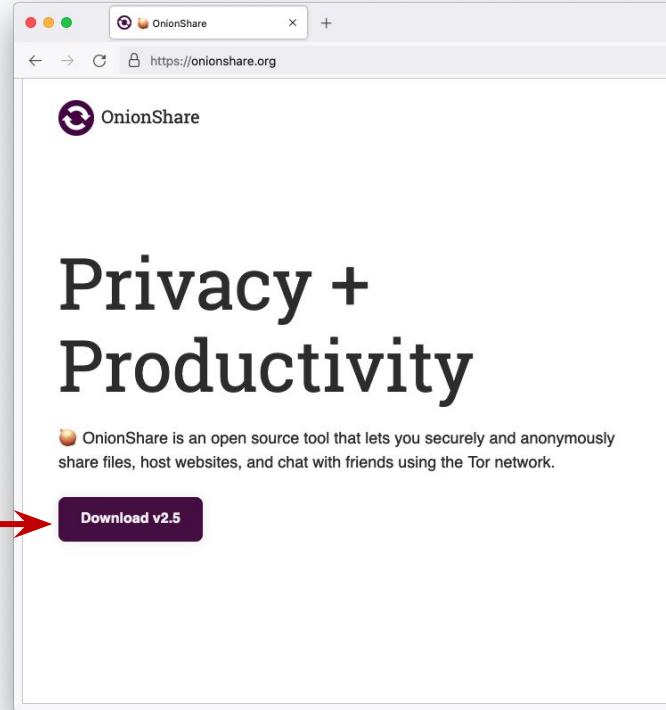
Activity 1: deploying an Onion Service

OnionShare

- OnionShare is an open source tool that allows secure and anonymous file sharing, website hosting, and chatting.
- All communication happens on the Tor network.
- Link: <https://onionshare.org/>

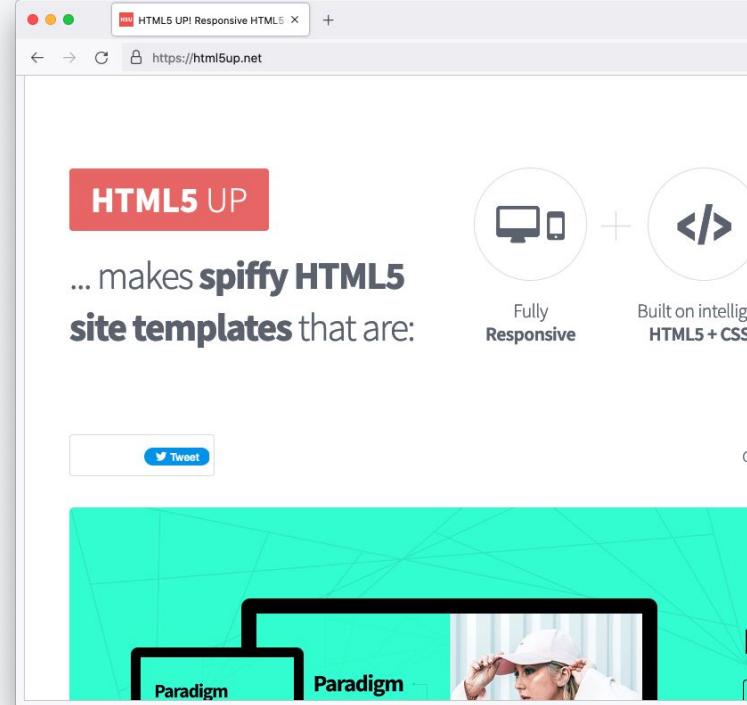
Step 1: Download OnionShare

- Available on: Windows, macOS, Linux.
- Link: <https://onionshare.org/>



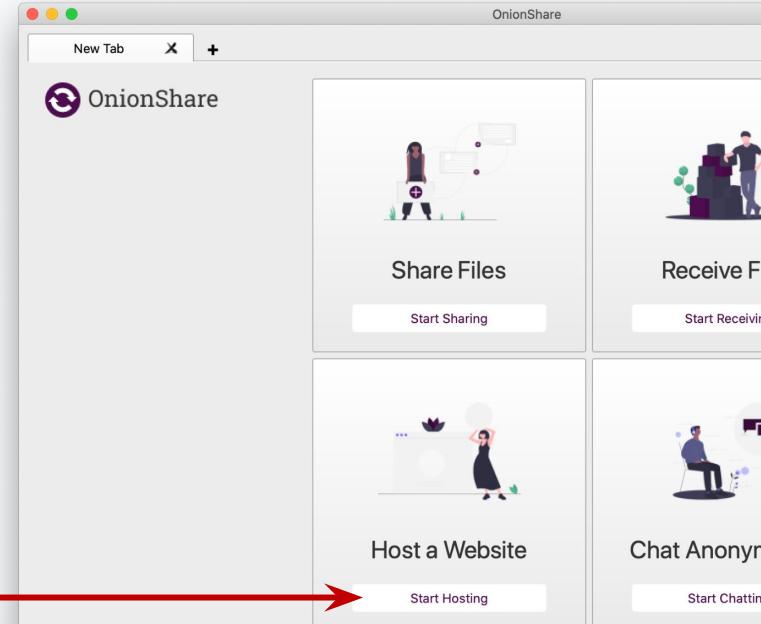
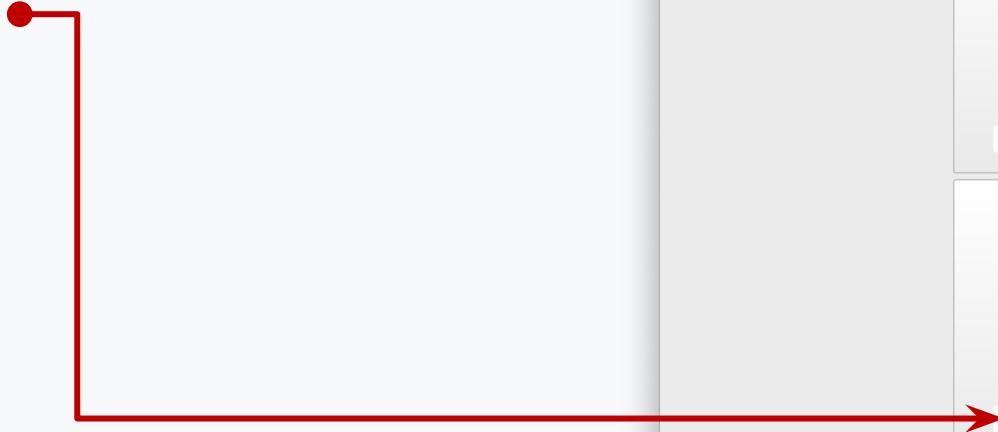
Step 2: Download a website template

- Choose any website template you can download and edit quickly.
- Suggested: any template from <https://html5up.net/>



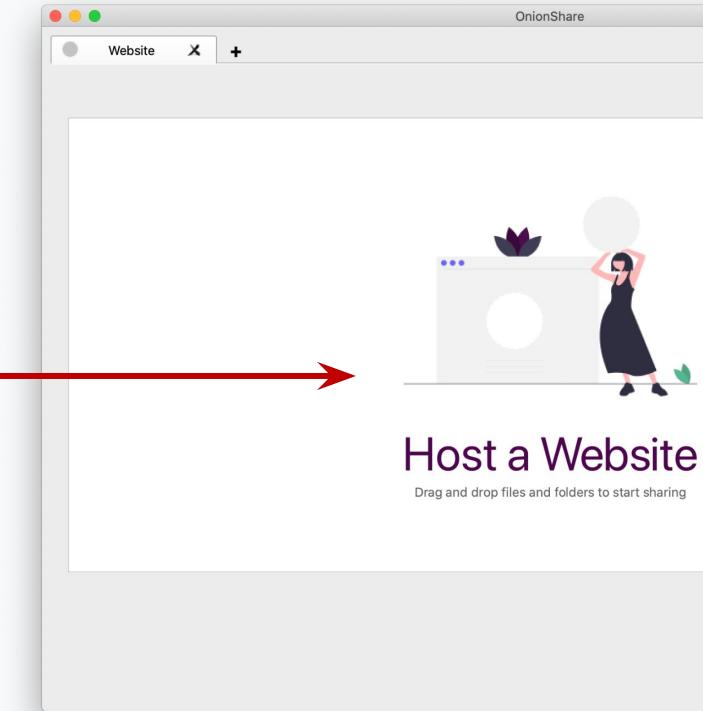
Step 3: Select “Host a Website”

- In the “Host a Website” section, click “Start Hosting”



Step 4: Upload website template

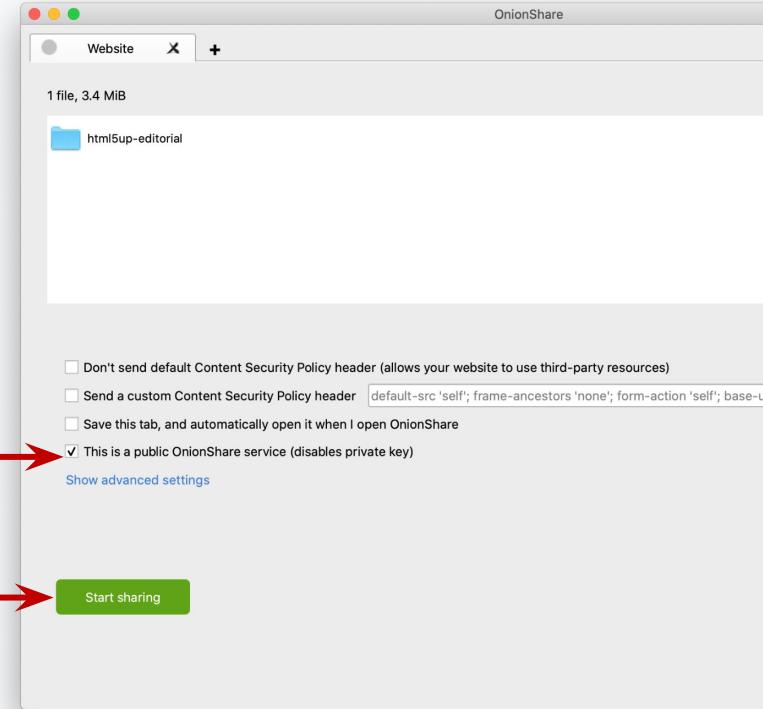
- Drag and drop the website template folder into the section.



Host a Website
Drag and drop files and folders to start sharing

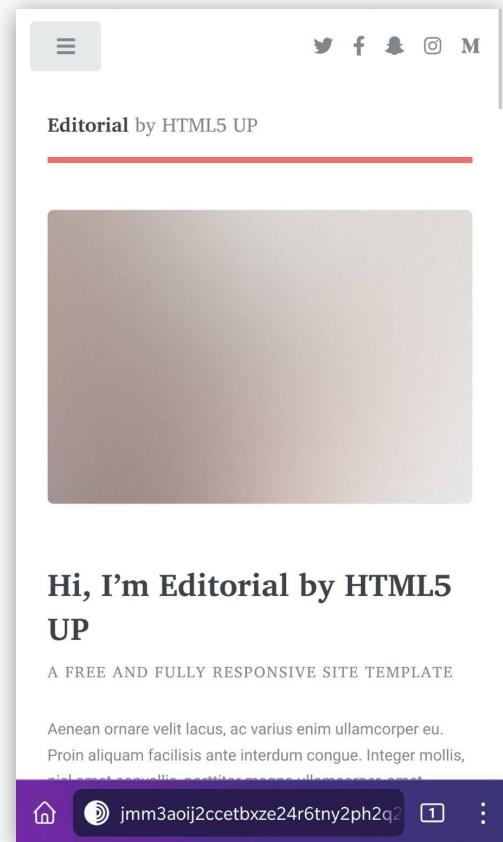
Step 5: Launch your Onion Service

- Select “This is a public OnionShare service”
- Click on “Start sharing”



Step 6: Share your .onion address!

- Your Onion Service is now live.
- Tip: you must keep your OnionShare window on your device open as long as you want people to be able to visit your site.



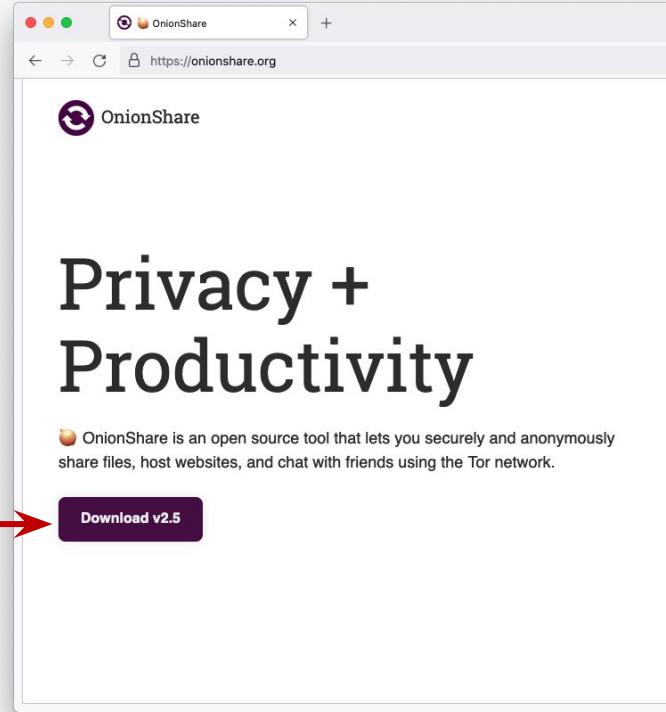
Activity 2: sharing files securely

OnionShare

- OnionShare is an open source tool that allows secure and anonymous file sharing, website hosting, and chatting.
- All communication happens on the Tor network.
- Link: <https://onionshare.org/>

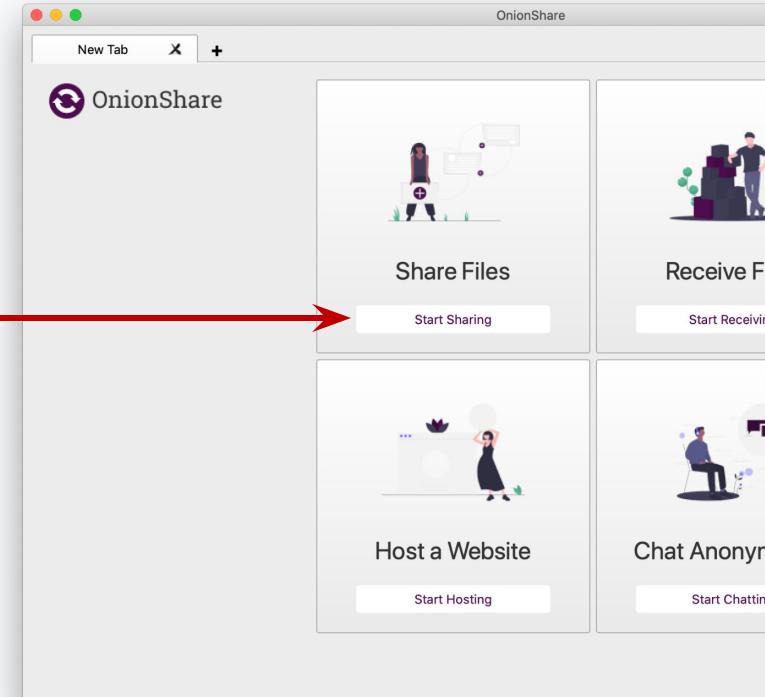
Step 1: Download OnionShare

- Available on: Windows, macOS, Linux.
- Link: <https://onionshare.org/>



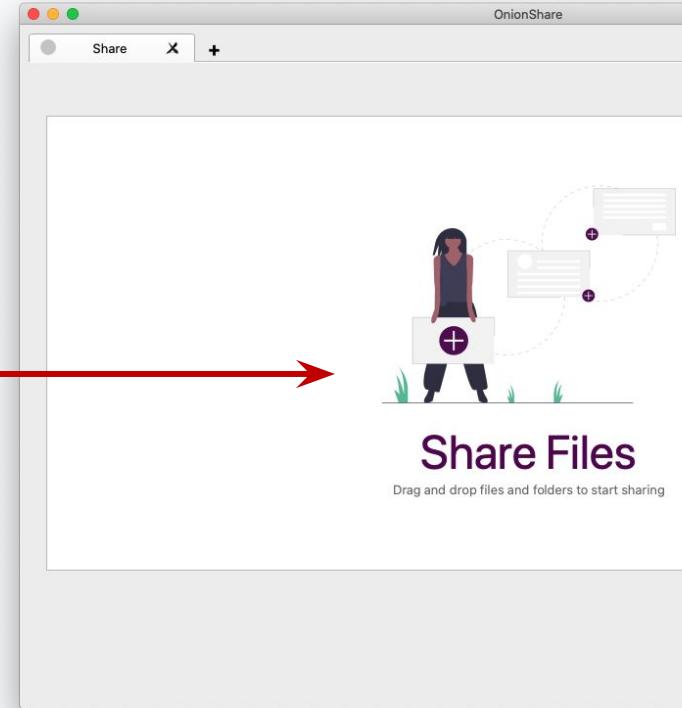
Step 2: Select “Share Files”

- In the “Share Files” section, click “Start Sharing”



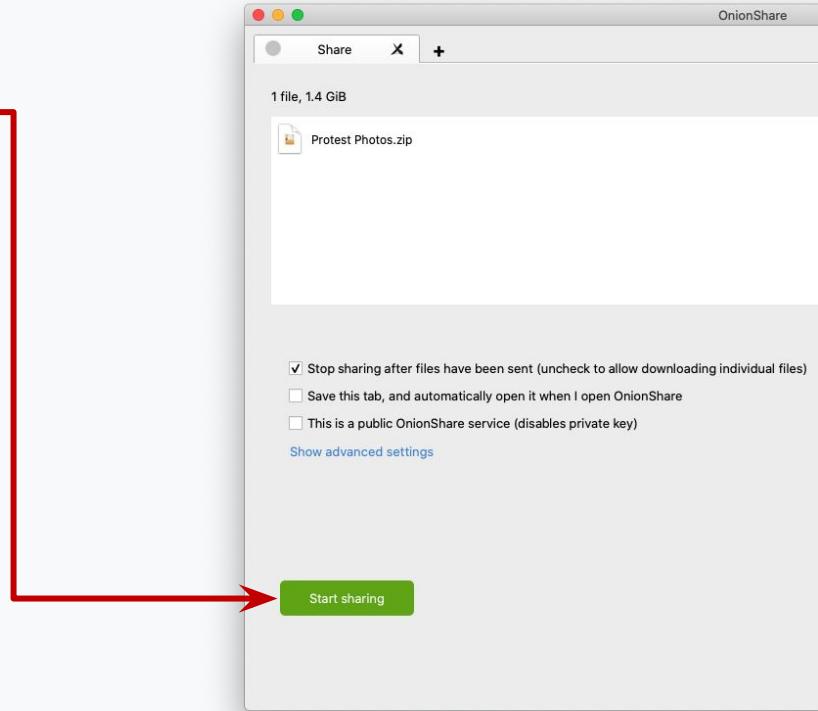
Step 3: Upload your file

- Drag and drop the file into the folder into the section.



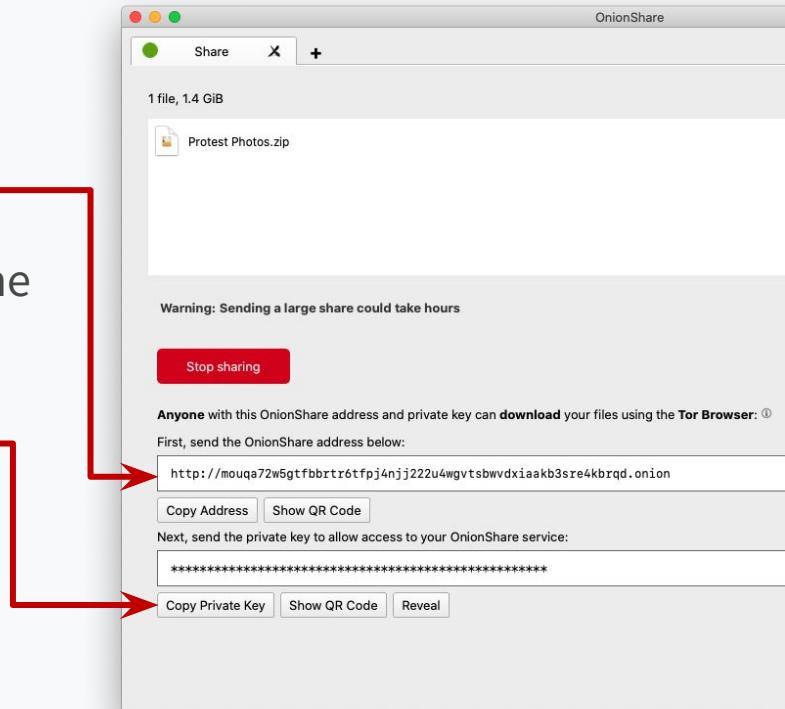
Step 4: Share your file

- Click on “Start Sharing”



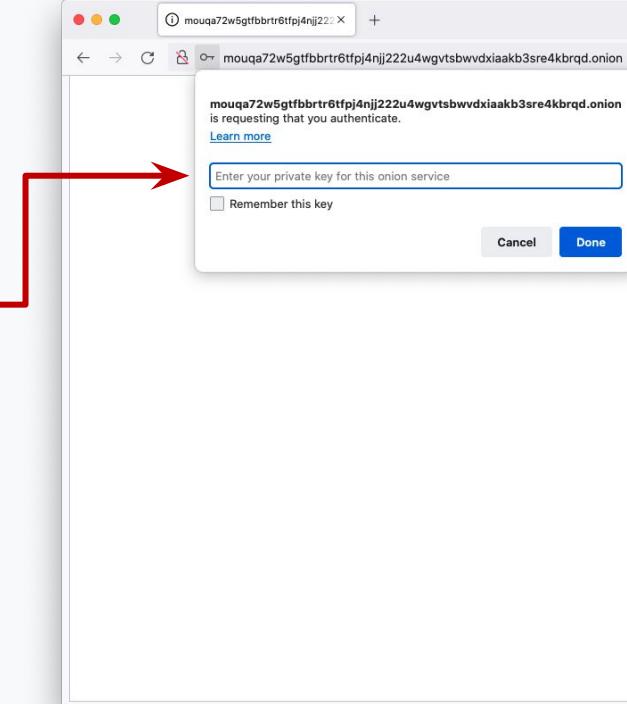
Step 5: Copy and share the address and key

- Copy the address and share it with the intended recipient (e.g. via email).
- Copy the private key and share it to the same recipient, preferably through a different channel (e.g. via instant messaging).



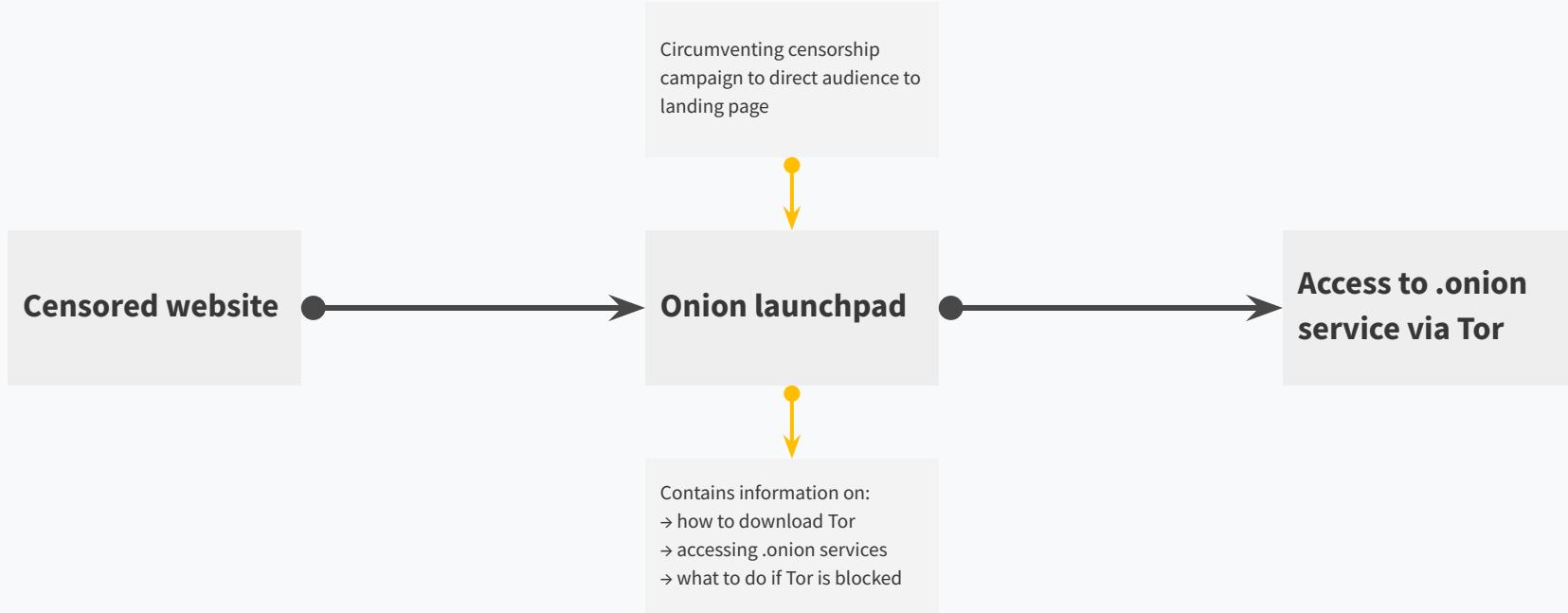
Step 6: Download through Tor Browser

- The recipient can download the file through Tor Browser by entering the address and key in the URL bar.
- Tip: you must keep your OnionShare window on your device open as long as you want people to download your file.



How the Tor Project can support you with Onion Servicing

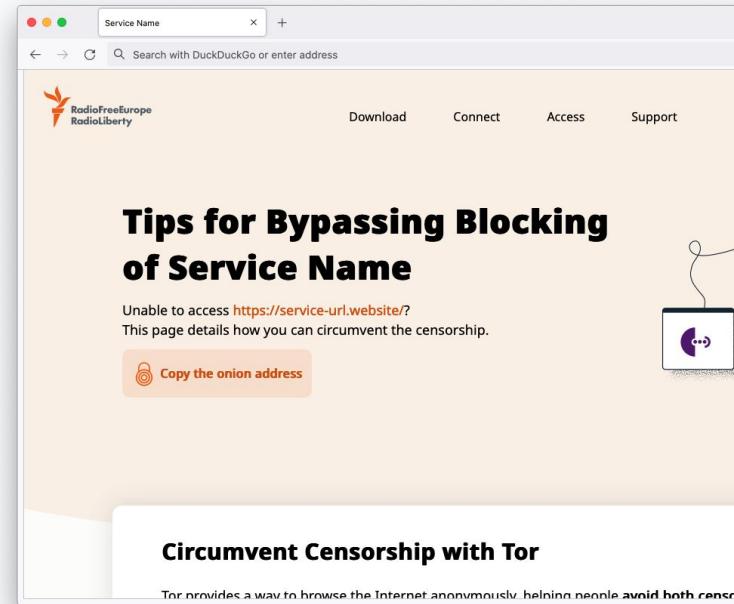
Onion Service landing page



Onion Service landing page

- Landing page explains how to download and connect to Tor, and how to access the Onion Services.
- Content available in over 60 languages!
- Open source project that you can customize:

[https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/onion-services/
sponsor123-landing-page](https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/onion-services/sponsor123-landing-page)



Useful links

- Tor Project Forum: <https://forum.torproject.net/c/support/onion-services>
- Tor Browser Manual: <https://tb-manual.torproject.org>
- Support portal: <https://support.torproject.org/>
- Community team: <https://community.torproject.org/onion-services/>

Onionize your workflow

torproject.org



GROW YOUR ONION

How to set up an onion service for your website on
Debian based Operating System.

Note: The symbol # refers to running the code as
root.

To configure Tor package repository enable the
Torproject package repository by following these
instructions:

1. Install apt-transport-https
To enable all package managers using the libapt-
pkg library to access metadata and packages
available in sources accessible over https
(HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure).

2. Get install apt-transport-https
and the following entries to /etc/apt/
sources.list or a new file in /etc/apt/
sources.list.d/

deb https://deb.torproject.org/torproject.org
stable main

deb https://deb.torproject.org/torproject.org
stable签名为洋葱服务的指纹

Configure your Tor onion service
The next step is opening the config file of Tor
to setting an onion service.

Depending on your operating system and setup, your
Tor configuration file can be at a different
location or look different.

You will need to put the following two lines in
your torrc file:

```
HiddenServiceDir /var/lib/tor/onion_service/  
HiddenServicePort 80 127.0.0.1:80
```

Now save your torrc and restart Tor:
\$ sudo systemctl tor restart

If Tor starts up again, great. Otherwise,
something is wrong. First look at your logfiles
for hints.

Edit website configuration file
If you're running multiple onion sites on the same
web server, remember to edit your web server's
virtual host file and add the onion address for
each site.

After you've done this, go to your
service works

Grow your onion



IDENTIFY THE ONION

Your Onionsite
<http://tinyurl.com/yd2nqyfz>
Your onion icon
The tiny onion icon can help you to identify Onion
services. Look for it in Tor Browser.

Onion address

An onion address is a string of 64 (and in v2 format, 16) mostly random
letters and numbers, followed by "onion". All traffic between Tor users
and onion services is end-to-end encrypted, so you do not need to
worry about connecting over HTTPS.

WHY USE ONIONS?



Freedom of press and censorship circumvention
Regular Tor connections already provide censorship
circumvention, but only onion services can anonymize
both parts of communication - users and provider -,
creating a metadata-free communication between the
user of the service and the service itself.

Censorship technologies are being deployed by
different actors, like governments and Internet
providers, worldwide to block access to free press and
privacy tools.

To protect freedom of speech and freedom of opinion
in censored spaces, major media organizations have
made their websites available over onion services in
the last few years.

That's the case of NY Times, ProPublica, Deutsche
Welle, BBC, The Markup and other newsrooms.



Protect sources, whistleblowers, and journalists
Many journalists and media organizations use tools
based on onion services to protect their sources. They
share and accept documents from anonymous sources
using tools like SecureDrop, WikiLeaks, or
DropShare.



UX users about privacy by design
Tor is an excellent example of privacy by
design. It is secure and
available.

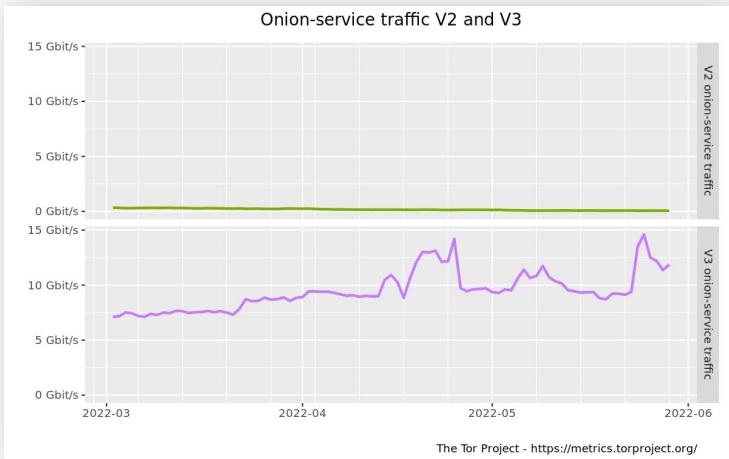


Latest developments

Version 3 of Onion Services

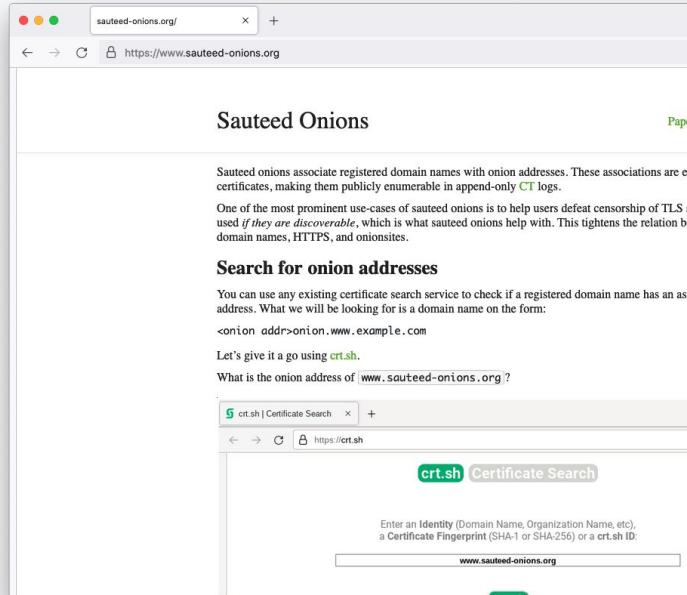
- Version 3 of Onion Services launched in 2018.
- Most Onion Service operators have migrated.
- More on version 2 deprecation:

<https://blog.torproject.org/v2-deprecation-timeline/>



Sauteed Onions

- Sauteed onions improve transparency and discoverability of Onion Services.
- Sauteed onions associate registered domain names with onion addresses, via TLS certificates.
- “Sauteed” because when onions are cooked they become transparent!



Thank you!

