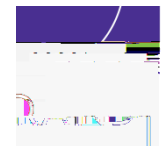


Arms trafficking on the Dark-web 101: what is it, how does it work and why is it important

Open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on
“Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons”

Dr Giacomo Persi Paoli, 17 May 2017



EUROPE

The handgun used by Munich killer was a converted replica which had been bought on the 'dark web' and was originally from Slovakia, say investigators'

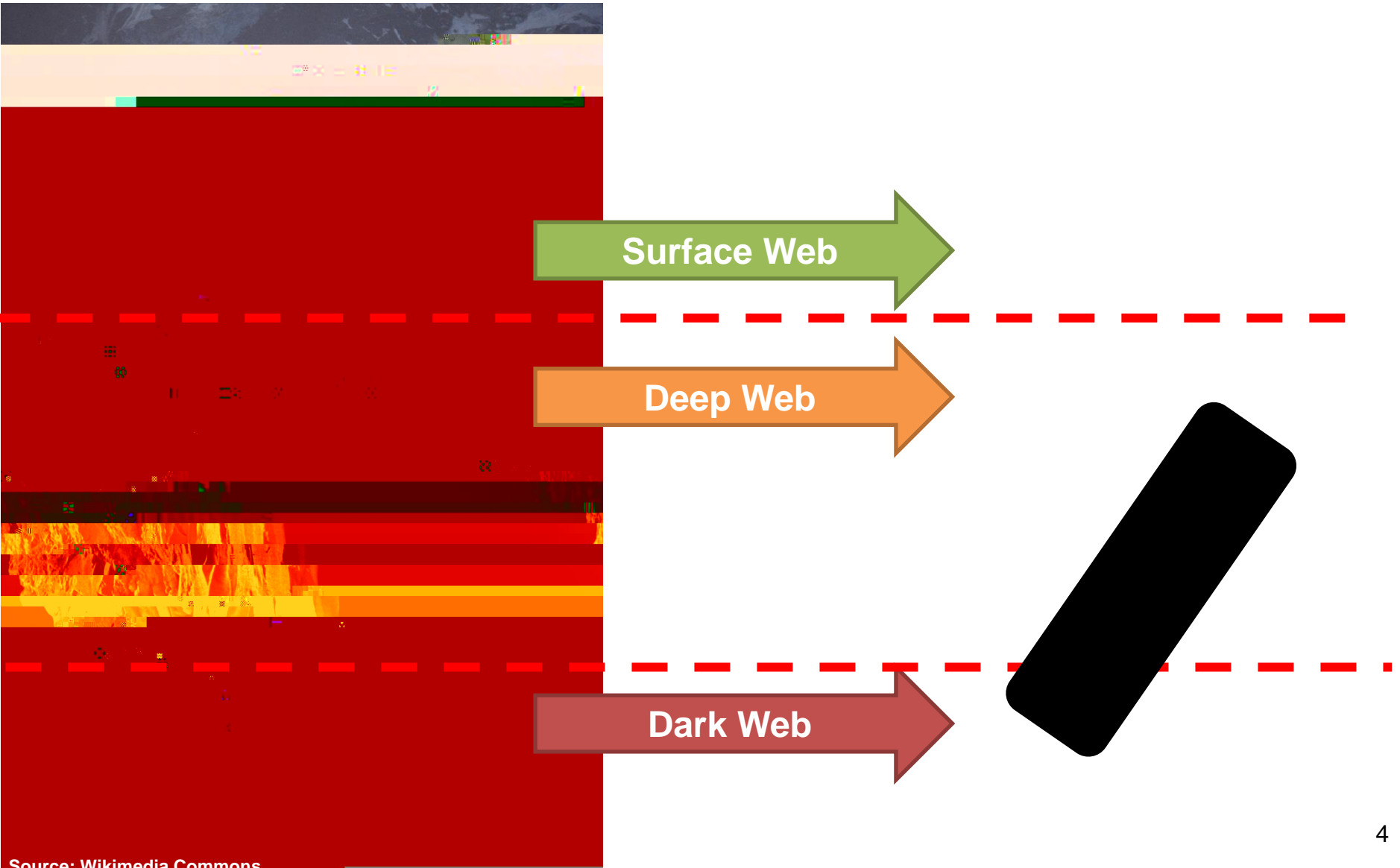
The Daily Mail Online, 26 July 2016

Liam Lyburd: Buying a Glock pistol online was like getting a bar of chocolate'.

Mirror, 28 July 2015

What is the Dark-web?

What is the Dark-web?



Hidden web sites are not searchable by standard research engines

- Pages on HW, not indexed, so cannot use Google to find them
- Must already know of the existence of the market and have its URL
- Not intuitive (e.g. www.businessname.com), cannot be guessed
- Must LOCATE the URL on clearnet, and then copy it to paste into a suitable hidden web browser, like TOR
- Many clearnet resources exist to provide the required information



Dark-web markets offer (almost perfect) anonymity

- Even when the URL to the desired dark web site is located, it cannot be accessed without the use of an anonymity software like TOR.
- Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoins are used as preferred form of payment



Dark web market types

1. Cryptomarkets
2. Vendor shops (aka 'single vendor markets')





Home

Welcome...

CC AUTOSHOP

Across the CC autoshop

BROWSE CATEGORIES

Product listing grid with various items and prices:

- Item 1: Buy: USD 10.00
- Item 2: Buy: USD 2,050.00
- Item 3: Buy: USD 1,850.00
- Item 4: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 5: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 6: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 7: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 8: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 9: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 10: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 11: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 12: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 13: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 14: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 15: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 16: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 17: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 18: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 19: Buy: USD 1,700.00
- Item 20: Buy: USD 1,700.00

Additional text: Counterfeit Items, 483848 - CNY & Cards, Buy: USD 1,700.00





Currency: \$ 0 item(s) - \$0.00

Welcome! [Home](#) [View Cart \(0\)](#) [My Account](#) [Shopping List](#)



Hidden web market types

1. Cryptomarkets
2. Vendor shops (aka 'single vendor markets')







...but the impact can be reduced by good control practice

- Effective control measures to limit the availability of illegal weapons are key in addressing this issue.
- The dark-web enables and facilitates the transaction, but products will have to be shipped/delivered in the 'real world'. Good policing and investigative techniques remain vital in responding to this threat.
- The scale of the dark-web arms trafficking remains limited, for now, when compared to the wider picture of illegal trade.

RAND Europe has conducted the first empirical investigation of firearms trafficking on cryptomarkets

-



FLIDORE