

Understanding the Dark Web and its Implications for Policy

Friday May 18th | 8:30 AM- 5:15 PM

Virginia Tech's Executive Briefing Center, Arlington, VA

900 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203

“The message to criminals is: Don't think that you are safe because you're on the dark web. There are no corners of the Dark Web where you can hide.”

-Chris Thomas, FBI Special Agent involved in the AlphaBay takedown

The anonymity of the Dark Web can be used for both noble and nefarious purposes, posing a clear challenge for policymakers. FBI takedowns of child abuse imagery sites such as Playpen help prevent harm to innumerable children worldwide, but also generate legal disputes within the US surrounding the scope and application of the Fourth Amendment. Dark Web illegal markets, such as Silk Road or AlphaBay, worsen the US opioid-addiction problem, but operate on the same hidden infrastructure as whistleblowing sites and benign Dark Web social media platforms. Cryptocurrencies act as an alternative source of money and store of value, even as they are used to complete trades for illegal goods and services.

How to deal with the negative excesses of the Dark Web and other anonymity-granting technologies without harming those who use these tools for benign activities is one of today's most pressing policy challenges. This conference gathers researchers, government officials, civil society activists and private industry experts to engage in constructive debate and dialogue. The conference will explore the topography and implications of Tor Hidden Services and debate the various ways in which online anonymity poses unique normative and policy challenges.

Speakers Include

Nicolas Christin

Carnegie Mellon University

Indexing Illegal Markets

Eric Nunes

Arizona State University

Malicious Hacker Markets on Tor

Andrew Linder

Skidmore College

Interest in Tor and State-Level Crime

Eric Jardine

Virginia Tech

Cryptocurrencies and Dark Web Markets

Gareth Owenson

College of Computing
University of Portsmouth

Indexing and the Dark Web – is it Reliable?

James Hawdon

Center for Peace Studies and
Violence Prevention

Online Extremism in the U.S

Sponsors



Register at <https://darkweb-implications.eventbrite.com>
Registration is free. Space is limited.
For questions, contact Dr. Eric Jardine at ejardine@vt.edu