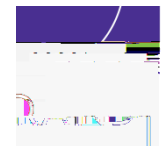


# Arms trafficking on the Dark-web 101: what is it, how does it work and why is it important

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'*

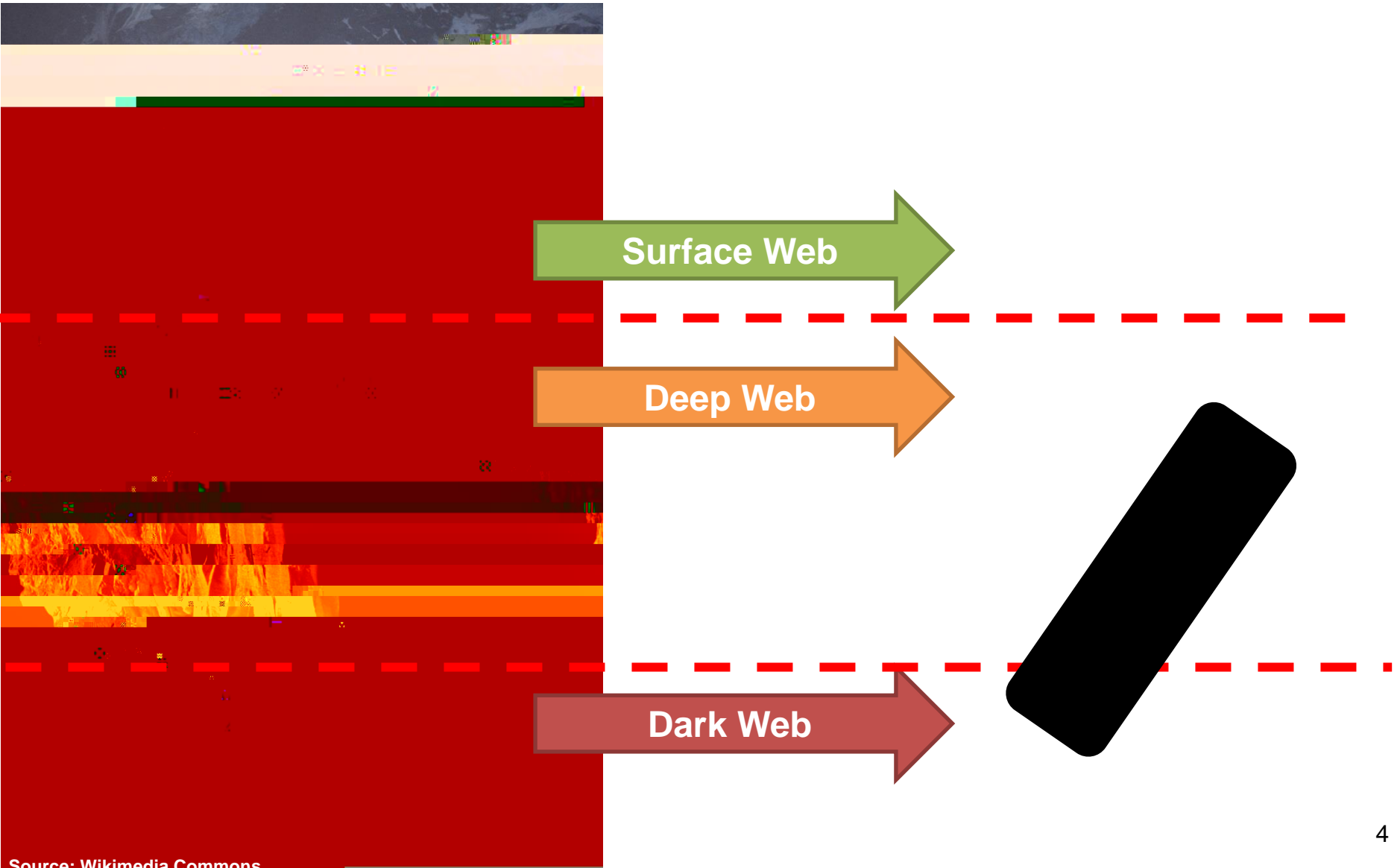
The Daily Mail Online, 26 July 2016

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

Mirror, 28 July 2015



# What is the Dark-web?



# 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](http://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

NEW SEASON

BROWSE CATEGORIES

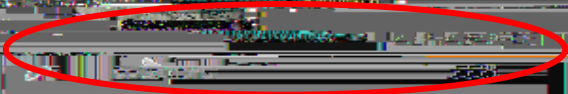
6382

Buy: USD 2,050.00

Buy: USD 10.00

Buy: USD 1,850.00

Buy: USD 1,740.00



Counterfeit Items



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

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



# Hidden web market types

1. Cryptomarkets
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# ...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

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FLIDORE