Cybint

WORLD WIDE WEB

Only 4% of the content on the internet is www., which includes public websites such as Google, eBay, etc.

DEEP WEB

Over 90% of the information on the internet is in the deep web and is not accessible by surface web crawlers. However, it doesn't mean that they're dark web areas – they're just one layer removed from the public web that's search-able through search engines.

DARK WEB

The dark web consists of websites that use public internet, but require specific software for access and is not indexed by search engines to ensure anonymity. The stolen data is traded, sold and used for financial, political or personal gain.

As the cyber security and intelligence industry grows it's awareness, more and more people are learning the term "dark web". So what exactly is it? Who has access? Why is it used? Cybint Solutions is here to answer your questions with a quick and dirty Dark Web 101 Guide:

THE WORLD WIDE WEB HAS THREE LAYERS — THE SURFACE WEB, THE DEEP WEB, AND THE DARK WEB.

The Surface Web is anything that can be indexed by a typical search engine like Google. This is the common Internet everyone uses to read news, visit social networking websites, shop and expand knowledge.

The Deep Web is anything that a search engine can't find. This is a subset of the Internet that is not indexed by the major search engines. This means that you have to visit those places directly instead of being able to search for them.

The Dark Web is World Wide Web content that exists on Darknets and overlay networks, that are not only not-indexed, but also require specific software, configurations or authorization to access.

HOW LARGE IS THE DARK WEB?

The darknets include small, peer-to-peer networks, as well as large, popular networks like Tor, operated by public organizations and individuals.

The size of the dark web is slightly unpredictable since almost all information is hidden in the web and cannot be indexed, fetched, or crawled by Googlebots or other search engines.

However, the deep and dark web together is estimated to be 500 times the size of the surface web – which is the web that most of us use today.
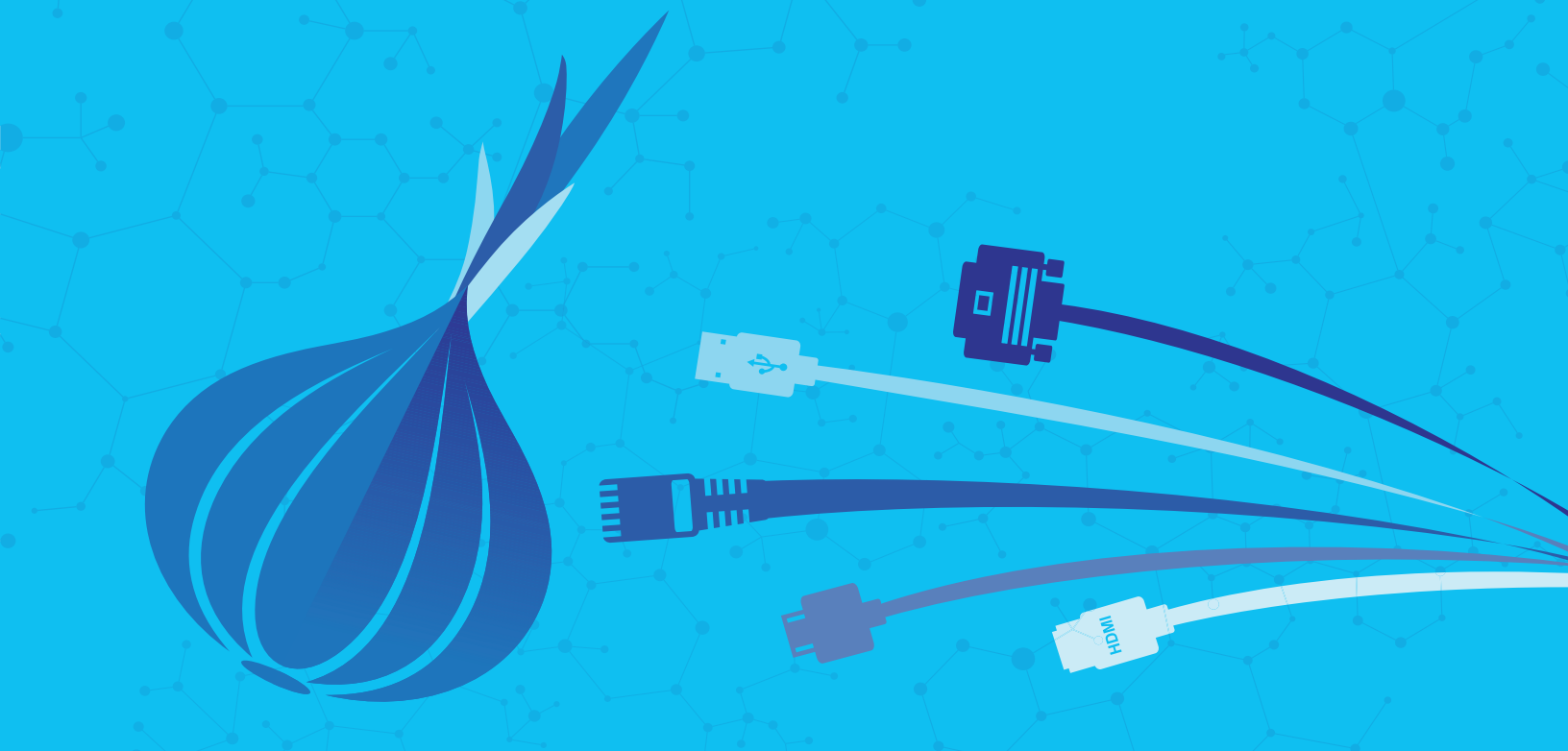
The Tor Dark web, Also known as "The Onion Router", was initially a worldwide network of servers developed by the U.S. Navy for the purpose of protecting US intelligence communications online. It's now an open network that enables people to browse the Internet anonymously.

People from all over the world use Tor to search and buy products and communicate with others with restricted Internet access, such as those restricted networks that exist in foreign countries like China or Iran.

TO ACCESS THE TOR NETWORK, YOU HAVE 2 OPTIONS:

1. Download the Tor browser and to install it on your computer.
2. There are other options that will allow you to browse, or at least look at some of the data on these websites, without being logged in.

WHO USES IT?

The darknet can be used for illegal activity such as illegal trade, forums, and media exchange for pedophiles and terrorists. At the same time traditional websites have created alternative accessibility for the Tor browser in efforts to connect with their users. ProPublica, for example, launched a new version of its website available exclusively to Tor users.

Many hackers sell their services either individually or as a part of groups. Cyber crimes and hacking services for financial institutions and banks have also been offered over the Dark web.

However, the dark web is also being used for many other activities that are mostly legitimate (though not necessarily legal, depending on your perspective). Edward Snowden, the famous whistleblower who exposed the U.S. government's mass surveillance program, used the dark web to send information to reporters and media outlets.

IS IT SAFE TO BROWSE?

It depends upon the factor that you try to access inside the dark web underworld. A lot of legal and illegal content available on the dark web websites.

If the content is legal then yes, it's 100% safe. However, searching for illegal content or attempting to buy or sell illegal products will open you up to investigations.