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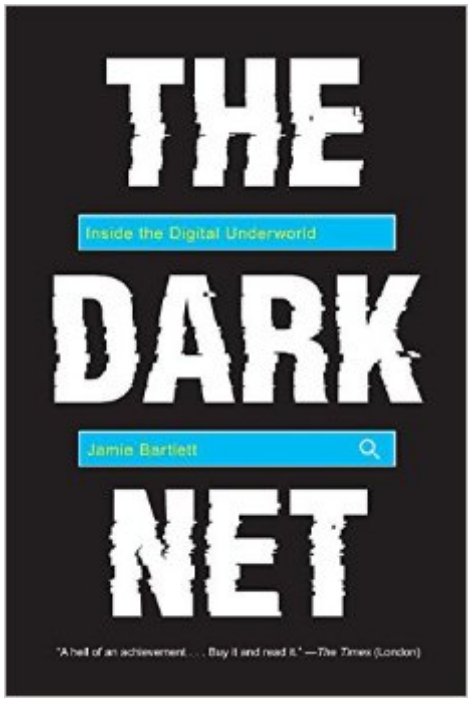
# The Dark Net: Inside The Digital Underworld

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## Synopsis

An Independent and New Statesman Book of the YearBeyond the familiar online world that most of us inhabitâ ”a world of Google, Facebook, and Twitterâ ”lies a vast and often hidden network of sites, communities, and cultures where freedom is pushed to its limits, and where people can be anyone, or do anything, they want. This is the world of Bitcoin and Silk Road, of radicalism and pornography. This is the Dark Net.In this important and revealing book, Jamie Bartlett takes us deep into the digital underworld and presents an extraordinary look at the internet we don’t know. Beginning with the rise of the internet and the conflicts and battles that defined its early years, Bartlett reports on trolls, pornographers, drug dealers, hackers, political extremists, Bitcoin programmers, and vigilantesâ ”andÂ puts a human face on those who have many reasons to stay anonymous.Rich with historical research and revelatory reporting,Â The Dark NetÂ is an unprecedented, eye-opening look at a world that doesn’t want to be known.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Despite its title being "The Dark Net", don’t expect this book to be entirely, or even mostly, about the "darknet", "dark internet", "deep web" or "deepnet". Three of those terms have subtly differing meanings. Websites accessible only with special software, such as the Tor browser (aka the "deep web" or "deepnet"), feature prominently only in one chapter, which focuses on their use in trading illegal drugs.The subtitle, "Inside the Digital Underworld", also seems misleading, as most of the book is not about illegal activity. Personally, the word "underworld" also carries connotations with

"inaccessibility", "obscurity", and previously unthought-of lifestyles and subcultures. Disappointingly, there was basically no form of human behaviour here that I wasn't already aware of. I'll give you a rough rundown of the subjects of each chapter from memory and let you decide for yourself:1. A history of flaming and trolling going back to Arpanet, including the practice on 4chan's /b/ board of using the details in posters' nude self-pics to identify them.Some information on the "cypherpunks", a crypto-anarchist group.2. British nationalist and anti-extremist groups creating echo-chambers for themselves on Facebook and infiltrating each-other's management networks.3. Programmers living in an anarchist commune in Barcelona working to improve Bitcoin.Applications for the Bitcoin blockchain idea, such as Twister (decentralized P2P microblogging).Some detail on Satoshi Nakamoto, creator of Bitcoin.4.

Beneath the surface of the well-trod online paths characterised by familiar corporate names â ” Google, eBay, YouTube, iTunes â ” mainstream news and entertainment portals lies a hidden layer: the â œdark netâ ™â ™, a shadier cousin of the comparatively generalist â ˆâ ˆcyberspaceâ ™â ™. It cannot be accessed by traditional web browsers, only via anonymising software called Tor, an acronym for The Onion Router, a cute nod to the networkâ ™s technical complexity.In his introduction to 'The Dark Net', British author Jamie Bartlett describes this online realm as â œa place without limits, a place to push boundaries, a place to express ideas without censorship, a place to sate our curiosities and desires, whatever they may be. All dangerous, magnificent and uniquely human qualitiesâ •.Yet the dark net is best known for enabling the development and proliferation of two shady human endeavours: marketplaces for illicit drugs and child pornography hubs, areas that Bartlett interrogates in some detail. However, the title of this book is a bit misleading: rather than peeling back the onionâ ™s layers, Bartlett broadens his scope by examining the â œmyriad shocking, disturbing and controversial corners of the net â ” the realm of imagined criminals and predators of all shapes and sizesâ •.He begins by tracing the history of the internet, and how the â ˆâ ˆonline disinhibition effectâ ™â ™ led to incendiary behaviours such as â ˆâ ˆtrollingâ ™â ™ and â ˆâ ˆflamingâ ™â ™. This section is enlightening and well written. Even though Iâ ™ve been a heavy internet user for nearly 15 years, I learned a lot.â œWhether we like it or not, trolling is a feature of the online world today,â • Bartlett concludes.

I've been using computers for many years now and had roles in IT in various forms. It took me a while to take to the Internet - dial-up modems were not exactly conducive to making any real use of what was out there and I am not a patient soul. However by the start of this century I was making

extensive use of the Internet both personally and for work and have continued to do so ever since. I often heard things about "the other internet" and was aware of TOR for concealing your presence (in a sense) while browsing. However it is only in the past few years that I've become aware of the implication of the Dark Net and so the opportunity to read this book was very appealing.The introduction sets out quite clearly the author's experience of the Dark Net as well as his intention not to judge but to shine a light on places unknown to the majority of the online community. I can really only say that I think he succeeds in this very well allowing the fact that even the known Internet is vast and a lot of that is unknown so the light is being shone into very small spaces in a sense. The author comes over very quickly as knowledgeable and I found it well written and easy to read; the style to me is upper end journalism rather than dryly academic. I feel it should be pointed out that this is not a book for the faint hearted - what is written about is quite graphic and unpleasant at times.The book ranges widely by chapter covering aspects such as the history of the Internet from the early days of BBS and Usenet through to sites such as 4chan, fark and the use of facebook in ways I'd not come across.

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