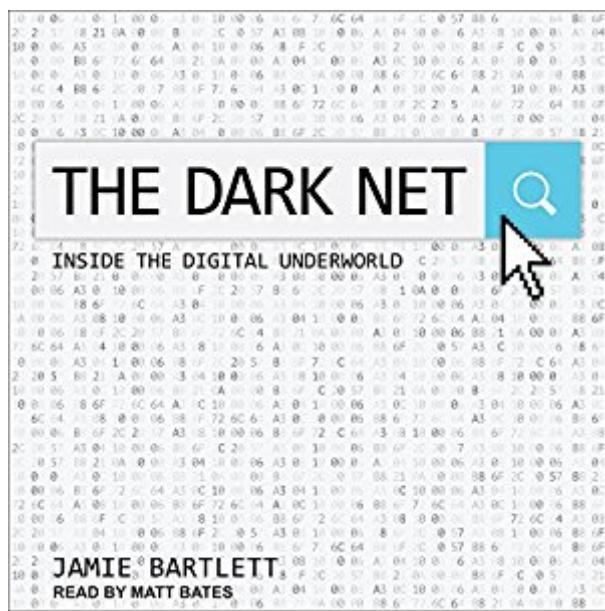


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# The Dark Net: Inside The Digital Underworld



## Synopsis

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 vigilantes - and puts a human face on those who have many reasons to stay anonymous. Rich with historical research and revelatory reporting, *The Dark Net* is an unprecedented, eye-opening look at a world that doesn't want to be known.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 20 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 31, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B06XSHXGXH

Best Sellers Rank: #10 in Books > Computers & Technology > History & Culture > Computer & Internet Law #11 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Science & Technology #61 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Law

## 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. An unpleasant chapter on a man's descent into pedophilia, going from "teens" to "jailbait" to young girls, and only realizing the severity of his actions once the police called around to his house. Pedophile networks, and the people working to combat them. Some detail on the psychological effects of internet use, such as dis-association.5. Finally, a chapter on Tor-only websites. Describes the author's successful attempt to buy a small amount of cannabis. Looks at their capacity to rapidly adapt to FBI infiltration. The author finds that they are remarkable accessible, easy-to-use, and relatively risk-free.6. The author meets a cam girl as she puts on a show and receives tips from hundreds of viewers. Many viewers compete to be particular cam girl's highest tippers, making friends with them and other viewers.7. Investigates the subjects of pro-anorexia and bulimia web forums, and sites where suicidal people can receive support and advice on how to commit the act. Follows a character named Amelia made up of several sources as she is sucked into the friendly, supportive, yet toxic atmosphere of a pro-anorexia site. She is hospitalized and eventually recovers.8 (Conclusion). Investigates trans-humanist and anarcho-primitivist proponents. A little on the "singularity" concept. Wraps it up by saying that the web doesn't really have depth; everything is only a few clicks away if you know where to look. After the initial disappointment of finding that it wasn't entirely about the hidden web, I was hoping it would take more of an anthropological approach, where the aim would be to shed light on properly obscure off-shoots of human experience, e.g. otherkins, furries, conspiracy theorists, dark magicians, what have you. Instead, it reads like a series of long-form magazine articles like you might pass the time with on a plane journey. Far too much of the material in this book was simply fleshing-out stories I was already familiar with from mainstream newspapers and websites. Reddit's Futurology section, for example, where most of the information to be found in chapter 8 is widely disseminated, is often accessible from the home page and currently has 1.25 million subscribers. I also felt the asking price was too steep for what it is: I paid \$16 for this on Kindle. I hope this review prevents others who are now in the position I was a few days ago from making the same mistake.

My husband is reading this in waiting rooms. It is keeping his interest.

Not strictly dealing with the deep web alone but rather a survey of various dark corners of both the

deep and clear nets, Bartlett provides an illuminating look at people and subcultures not often discussed in such detail. It's a thought provoking book in many ways and readers should expect to be both intrigued and disturbed by what they find.

Part history of the internet and part anthropology/sociology of some of its seedier bits. A kind of toe-in-the-ocean of the "dark net" and a look at some of the players in the struggle for anonymity online. The book also gives you a window into the life of some of the characters at play in the dark net. Interesting enough.

This book made you really think about humanity and the role technology plays in it! Fascinating and terrifying but worth the read!

It was eye opening and interesting, but think it could have explored other areas that are equally scary... Like organ trafficking. Thought provoking read.

I knew very little about this topic. It was an excellent overview of the dark net and a first book to read for newbies to the topic.

It's a lot of the same

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