



DARKNET

An “evil” platform for criminals or a “good” version of the Internet without control? What is the Darknet and how does it work?

1001 TRUTH – an initiative by Deutsche Telekom AG
Moderation documents for a workshop (approx. 90 minutes)



LIFE IS FOR SHARING.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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REQUIRED MATERIALS

Tablets, blackboard, flipchart, cards, pen and paper for the participants

NOTES FOR MULTIPLIERS

In the course of this workshop, participants will learn more about the phenomenon “Darknet”. In a first step, the term will be introduced and linked to the participants’ personal experiences. Then these experiences will be combined with information about the Darknet - What is necessary to understand the Darknet? Who uses the Darknet? In a final step, participants will answer the question as to whether the Darknet is “bad” or “good”.

The Darknet is often portrayed negatively in public - e.g. in connection with crime or drugs. However, there are also groups of people who rely on the Darknet to be able to work in safety or communicate with others.

The core statements of the workshop are therefore:

1. The Darknet is more than just a headline. It is much more comprehensive than the Clearnet.
2. You can remain anonymous in the Darknet, but criminals can also be prosecuted and convicted in Darknet.
3. Not only criminals use the Darknet. Politically persecuted people or journalists also need the anonymity to be able to work without being in danger. They do not have this kind of safety on the Clearnet.
4. The Darknet is neither good nor evil. Depending on what is done on the Darknet, there are legal and illegal activities.

PHASE 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE DARKNET

5 MIN.

Procedure

“Welcome to our workshop on ‘The Darknet’. Today you will learn interesting things about the ‘dark side’ of the Internet. You have probably heard or read a lot about it in the media. But are the headlines true? Or is the Darknet something else entirely? I will start by showing you a short video.”



Task

“Take a look at the video and write down the associations it triggers in you.”

Possible solution

“Drugs and weapons are sold on the Darknet.”,
“That is where people do illegal business.”

Your Notes

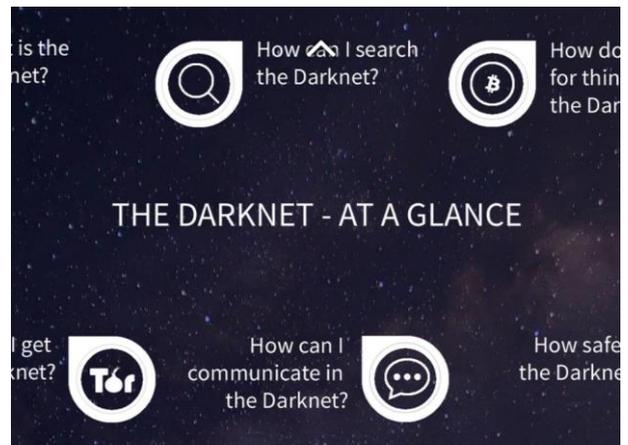
PHASE 2: THE DARKNET – AT A GLANCE

10 MIN.

Procedure

“Many people associate the Darknet with criminal activity. They ask themselves the following questions, for example: Is it even legal to surf the Darknet and when is its use considered to be criminal?”

You will find the answers to these and other questions in the graphic.”



Task

“Take a look at the graphic ‘The Darknet - In One Click’. Think about it. Which information did you find surprising?”

Possible solution

“The Darknet is much more comprehensive than the Clearnet.”, “You can be ‘tracked’ on the Darknet, too.”, etc...

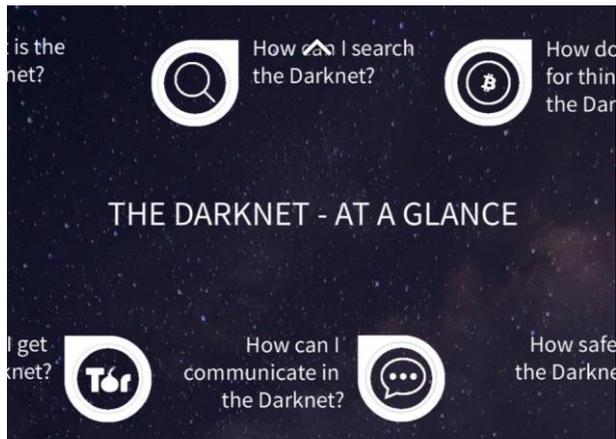
Your Notes

PHASE 3: CONTENT ON THE DARKNET

15 MIN.

Procedure

“A wide variety of diverse content is available on the Darknet, as it is on the Clearnet - the “normal” Internet. Whether secret information, goods for sale or downloads - the selection is huge. But which content is most frequently represented on the Darknet? What are the most discussed topics?”



Task

“Summarize your guesses in a poster. Compare your results with the statistics.”

Possible solution

“Weapons and drugs are probably the most prevalent.”, “The statistics surprise me: I was actually expecting more illegal goods.”

Your Notes

PHASE 4: ANONYMITY – WHO DOES IT BENEFIT?

10 MIN.

Procedure

“Aside from weapons or drug deals: the Darknet also has a good side. Journalists and politically persecuted people can exchange information or communicate with others freely without having to fear for their own safety. On the next page you will see some examples of people who use the Darknet for this reason.”



Task

“Take a close look at the page. Briefly summarize the advantages of the Darknet for this group of people.”

Possible solution

“The advantage is that, unlike the normal Internet, people are anonymous and therefore not in danger.”

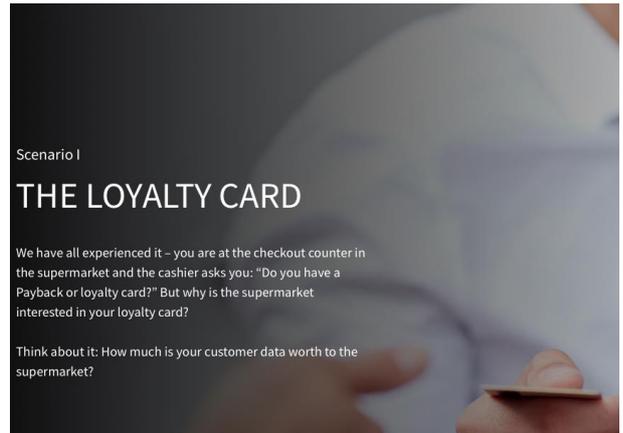
Your Notes

PHASE 5: SCENARIOS

15 MIN.

Procedure

“Take a look at your everyday life: you go shopping, fill up your tank, run to the post office and do a bit of Internet surfing in the evening. You leave data everywhere you go, e.g. in competitions, promotions or sales. And your data is more valuable than you think. It is not unusual for data to be stolen and then sold in huge numbers on the Darknet. On the following pages you will see some situations that you are probably familiar with.”



Scenario I

THE LOYALTY CARD

We have all experienced it – you are at the checkout counter in the supermarket and the cashier asks you: “Do you have a Payback or loyalty card?” But why is the supermarket interested in your loyalty card?

Think about it: How much is your customer data worth to the supermarket?

Task

“Read the scenarios and discuss them with your neighbor: Why could it be interesting to sell this data on the Darknet?”

Possible solution

“Shopping and health data reveal intimate details about people’s private lives and this data could become commercially interesting.”

Your Notes

PHASE 6: THE VALUE OF MY DATA

10 MIN.

Procedure

“The data in the scenarios is not the only data offered on the Darknet. A lot of other information, such as passwords, is also offered there. The value of individual pieces of information varies. I am going to pass out examples of such data. The average price each piece of data can achieve on the Darknet is missing. I will show you the prices when you are finished with the exercise.”



HOW VALUABLE IS MY DATA?

Take a look at your everyday life: you go shopping, get petrol, go to the post office and shop at a home improvement store and then surf the Internet in the evening. In all of these situations you will probably be offered all kinds of discounts or free gifts. Most of them are even free! All you have to do, is disclose your data.

Your data is more valuable than you think. Trading data is a million dollar business. They are illegally sold by the thousand in the Darknet. This trade is based on data theft. This is why your data is worth hard cash. Some data is more valuable than

Task

“Arrange the data according to its value. Which pieces of data are the cheapest? Which pieces of information can you earn the most money with?”

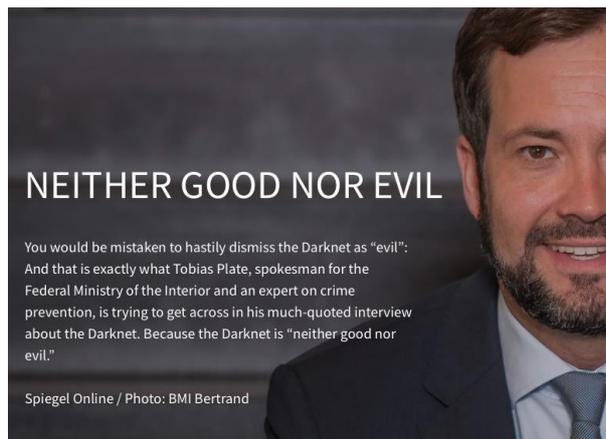
Possible solution

“I think someone’s location is more valuable than their gender.”, “Information about credit cards must be very valuable.”

Your Notes

Procedure

“You have gotten to know two sides of the Darknet during the workshop: the ‘evil’ side that is characterized by drugs and crime. And the ‘good’ side that helps people protect their anonymity. Tobias Plate, an expert on crime prevention, says that the Darknet is per se ‘neither good nor evil’, but ‘neutral’.”



Task

“Take a stance: Do you agree? Or do you think that one of the sides is stronger?”

Possible solution

“Despite the fact that the press emphasizes the criminal side of the Darknet, it can also be useful, e.g. to remain anonymous.”

Your Notes



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