

MAJOR GLOBAL CRACKDOWNS ON DIGITAL BLACKMARKETS

TIMELINE



FBI CRACKDOWN

TARGET: Silk Road

The FBI operation specifically targeted Silk Road and its owner, Ross Ulbricht, who was convicted for narcotics trafficking, money laundering and computer hacking. He is serving a life sentence.

2013

OPERATION ADAM BOMB

TARGET: The Farmer's Market

Operation executed by the US Drug Enforcement Administration. When taken down, the site had processed \$2.5 million in orders for illegal drugs over several years.

2012



OPERATION ONYMOUS

TARGET: Silk Road

A multi-nation operation involving the FBI and Europol. More than 400 hidden services were taken down. Those arrested included the operator of Silk Road 2.0, Blake Benthall. Bitcoins worth \$1 million were seized, along with €180,000 in cash.

2014

OPERATION SHROUDED HORIZON

TARGET: Darkode Forum

A multi-nation crackdown led by the FBI, involving security agencies from 19 countries, successfully targeted the 300-member forum.

2015

OPERATION COMMODORE

TARGET: Utopia

Operation by Dutch National Police, resulting in the arrest of five Dutch citizens. The authorities also seized 900 bitcoins worth €400,000.



OPERATION BAYONET

TARGET: AlphaBay and Hansa

A multi-nation crackdown involving the FBI, US Drug Enforcement Agency and Dutch National Police, with Europol support. The Dutch authorities took covert control of Hansa's site.

2017

PROJECT ADORATION

TARGET: Leakedsource.com

RCMP targeted the website, LeakedSource.com, whose database of approximately 3 billion stolen personal identity records and passwords could be purchased for a small fee. Authorities charged Jordan Evan Bloom of Ontario.

PROJECT E-NEOPHILE

TARGET: Drug trafficking operation

Investigation by the RCMP targeted a fentanyl and carfentanil trafficking operation. It was run on the Dark Web from Kelowna, British Columbia, throughout Canada and internationally.

OPERATION DARKNESS FALLS

TARGET: Fentanyl and other narcotics vendors

The operation targeted people and organisations, selling fentanyl and other narcotic drugs in digital black marketplaces. One of them, MH4LIFE, had the highest number of verified transactions worldwide of any fentanyl vendor on the Dream Market site.



2018

OPERATION DISARRAY

TARGET: Narcotics traffickers

An FBI-led, U.S.-wide law enforcement action against online drug traffickers that goes beyond arrests to educate users about the perils of drug addiction and trains law enforcement officials to disrupt online narcotics sales.

RCMP CRACKDOWN

TARGET: Online vendor named "Mr. Hotsauce"

RCMP targeted online vendor "Mr. Hotsauce," who sold narcotics including fentanyl, heroin, cocaine and ketamine, in Canada and around the world.

