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TRENDS IN THE SALE OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE INTERNET: DARK NET, CRYPTOCURRENCY, AND POSTAL SYSTEMS

Trends in the Sale of Synthetic Drugs through the Internet: Dark Net, Cryptocurrency, and Postal Systems

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"Drug Entrepreneurship 101" Easy Steps



Who?



- ➤ Sinaloa Cartel
- ➤ Cartel de Jalisco
- Nueva Generacion
- ▶Los Zetas
- ➤ Cartel de Golfo
- > Aaron Shamo

Aaron Shamo

Operation Killer Whale

Total Narcotics Seized:

160,000 Alprazolam/counterfeit Xanax

250,000 Fentanyl pills/counterfeit Oxycodone 5,000 kilo's of Benzodiazepine 520 grams of Alprazolam powder 850 grams Fentanyl Powder



Total Currency Seized: \$1,676,893.00 \$6,804.00 in silver bars





Who?









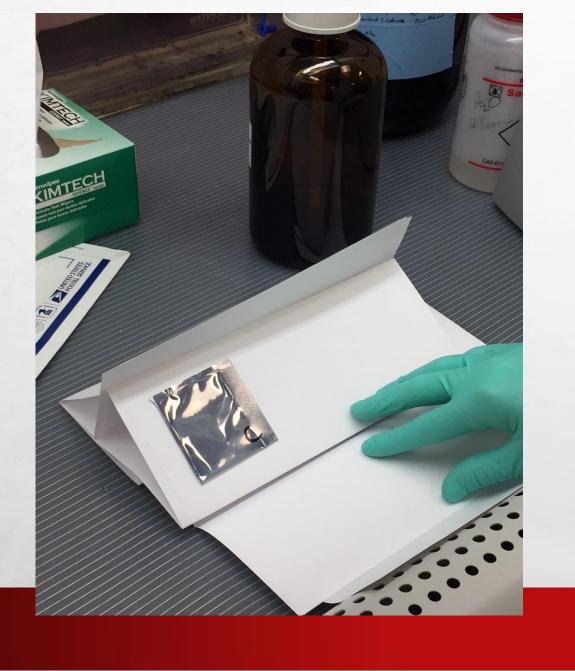
Tableting Machine

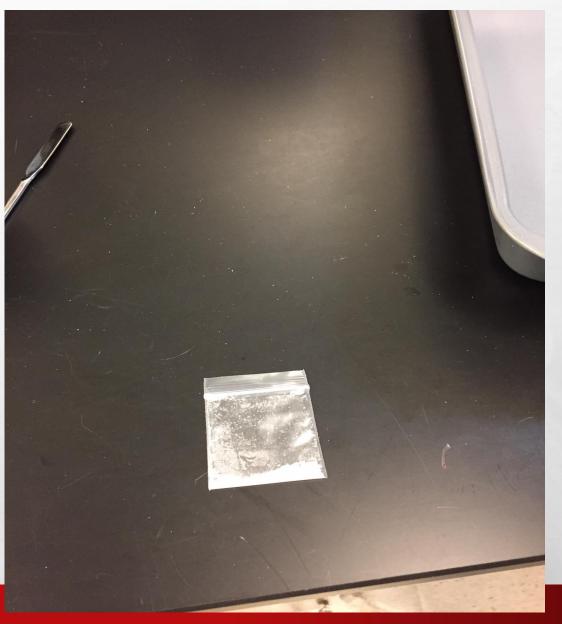


- Cost: \$1,600 \$2,000
- Production: 1,000 6,000 pills per hour
- Operation: Automatically or semi-automatically

CARFENTANIL PACKAGE NASHVILLE

- APRIL 2017, CI GIVES INFORMATION ABOUT CARFENTANIL PACKAGE COMING INTO NASHVILLE FROM CORAL SPRINGS FLORIDA
- PACKAGE IS FOUND BY U.S. POSTAL INSPECTOR FINNEY
- SW IS EXECUTED ON PACKAGE AT METRO NASHVILLE CRIME LAB AND FOUND TO CONTAIN 170 MILLIGRAMS
 CARFENTANIL
- FORENSIC CHEMSIT ESTIMATES THAT AMOUNT TO BE APPROXIMATELY 1700 LETHAL DOSES OF CARFENTANIL
- FOLLOW ON INVESTIGATION YIELDS INFORMATION INTO SENDER AND PICS SHOW 63 PACKAGES BEING SENT
 THE SAME DAY AS NASHVILLE PACKAGE







"Dark Net"

Deep Web vs Dark Web

Internet

- "Surface" or "Visible" networks used for information searches
- Websites are found using search engines i.e Google, Bing, Yahoo
- 4% of whole internet
- Internet is the tip of the lceburg

Deep Web

- Subset of the internet, not indexed by search engines, not discoverable
- Specific sites directly using IP address. ie internet banking, Gmail
- 90+% of whole internet is Deep Web

Dark Web

- Websites not indexed by normal search engines, access ONLY with special software that disguises your IP address. ie. TOR
- Encrypted networks that provide anonymity
- Illegal activities. ie drug trading, weapons sales, etc.
- "Black Market" of the internet.
- Much smaller than Deep Web

Surface Web (found in search engines)

> Deep Web (Not in search engines)

> > Dark Web (Anonymous)

What is the "Dark Net?"

- Darknets are networks that use the Internet that require specific software, configurations or authorization to access.
- Allows users and website operators to remain anonymous or untraceable.
- Protects users' identity and guarantee anonymity via secure encryption to communicate and share files confidentially

Access

 Need a computer, access to the internet, the Tor browser (secure network), PGP key, encrypted email to communicate and cryptocurrency wallet for payment.

Cryptocurrency

 A digital currency in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units of currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

- Monero
- Litecoin
 - Ripple
- Ethereum
 - Bitcoin

AlphaBay and Hansa Marketplaces

July 2017- take down of the 2 largest marketplaces on "Dark Net" by law enforcement

Distrust and confusion among online criminal community

Left void for demands to be filled by smaller marketplaces/vendors emerging to compete for the large AlphaBay and Hansa customer base.

Competing
marketplaces offer
commissions, counter
security measures,
different products and
cryptocurrencies

Encrypted Messaging Apps

Vendors taking conversations from "Dark Net" to social media using encrypted messaging applications to minimize risk and decentralize illicit online markets

Increased use of mobile phones by milenials because alleged apps are encrypted, more secure from law enforcement surveillance and expedited transactions

WhatsApp, Kik, Wickr, Signal, Discord

Telegram Application

- Launched in 2013 plans to integrate their own blockchain platform and cryptocurrency called "Telegram Open Network"
- Key feature is ability for messages to self destruct after set number of time. Once deleted, no record of previous messages, untraceable to avoid law enforcement

The Way Forward

- It's all about Privacy
- > Proliferation is the major risk for our personal data.
- Cryptocurrency, the Dark Web gives the user a sense of "peace of mind" that their privacy is protected.

Transactional Properties:

Irreversible

Private

Fast and Global

Secure

Permissionless

New Targets

John Doe, Sally Sue, Jose Diaz.....

