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SURFACE WEB

4%

- Publicly available websites
- Search Engines

DEEP WEB

90%

(not accessible to Surface Web crawlers)

- Medical Records
- Legal Documents
- Various Databases
- Custom Repositories
- Subscription Info
- Government Intel
- Financial Records
- Scientific Reports

DARK WEB

6%

(only accessible through certain browsers such as TOR)

- Illegal Content and Info
- Encrypted Forums
- Illegal Data Resellers

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WHAT IS THE DARK WEB?

- The Dark Web is a part of the internet consisting of **hidden sites** that aren’t indexed by conventional search engines.
- The dark web is a small subset of the broader "**deep web**," which includes all internet content not indexed by search engines.
- Instead, you must rely on a web browser that **anonymises your web traffic** within its internal network, and search engines designed to anonymise web traffic to these hidden sites.

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USES OF THE DARK WEB

- **Access to Blocked Information:** People in countries with restricted internet access use the dark web to reach news sources and social media platforms that are otherwise blocked.

- **Research:** Law enforcement researchers and academics use the dark web to study cyber-crime trends, malware, and underground markets.

- **Black Markets:** The dark web hosts markets for illegal goods and services, including drugs, weapons, counterfeit documents, and stolen data.

- **Illegal Content:** The dark web is known to host illegal pornography and other banned materials, though law enforcement regularly targets these sites.

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DARK SIDE OF THE DARK WEB

Threat-actors leverage the privacy of the dark web to deliver:

- **Marketplace for Cyber-crime Tools and Services**
- **Platform for Planning and Coordination**
- **Extortion Sites**
- **Sale of Stolen Data**
- **Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS)**
- **Initial Access Broker (IAB) Services**

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RANSOMWARE & THE DARK WEB

Ransomware attacks have become one of the most significant cyber threats to organisations, and the dark web plays a central role in enabling, scaling, and evolving these attacks.

- Ransomware accounted for **58%** of all malware families distributed as **"malware-as-a-service"** on the dark web between 2015 and 2022.
- Organisations with data or credentials exposed on the dark web are **more than twice as likely** to experience a cyber-attack.
- In 2024, there were **20 to 25 major ransomware attacks every day**, a dramatic rise from just five per year in 2011.
- The average ransom paid in 2024 was **$2.73 million**, up nearly $1 million from 2023.

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DARK WEB MONOTORING

Dark web monitoring has become an indispensable tool for organisations to mitigate cyber risks, protect sensitive data, and maintain operational resilience. Here's why it's critical:

Early Threat Detection and Proactive Defense
Identifies compromised credentials and data and reduces breach detection time.

Addressing Common Vulnerabilities
Combats password reuse, mitigates third-party risks, and highlights outdated security practices.

Regulatory Compliance
Supports adherence to GDPR and many other frameworks.

Financial and Reputational Safeguards
Prevents devastating losses from ransomware, regulatory fines, and lawsuits.

Enhanced Threat Intelligence
Reveals attacker tactics, plans through 'hacker chatter' to refine defense strategies

OUR APPROACH

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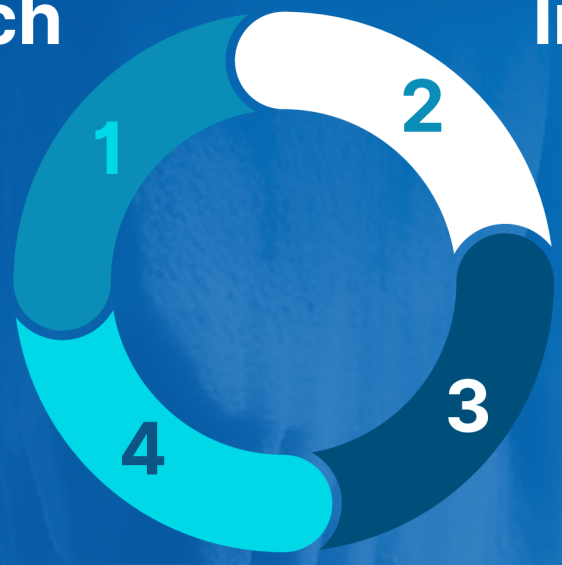
Targeted Search Preparation

Investigation & Analysis



Continuous Monitoring

Detailed Reporting

VMGroup's Dark Web Monitoring service follows a structured approach: First, we work closely with clients to identify precise search terms and define a targeted dataset, ensuring accuracy and minimising false positives. Once approved, we conduct a thorough investigation across dark web platforms; including Tor, I2P, forums, and marketplaces, to uncover any compromised credentials or sensitive data. Findings are compiled into a detailed, evidence-based report with actionable recommendations, and we review results with the client to determine any further actions. For ongoing protection, we also offer continuous dark web monitoring with ongoing tracking and expert guidance.

Discover How We Can Help

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