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# Beyond Silk Road: Recent Developments in Anonymous Marketplaces

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Founded in 2011, Silk Road was the first online anonymous marketplace, in which buyers and sellers could transact with anonymity guarantees far superior to those available in online or offline alternatives. Business on Silk Road, primarily involving narcotics trafficking, was brisk and before long competitors appeared. After Silk Road was taken down by law enforcement, a dynamic ecosystem of online anonymous marketplaces emerged. I will describe longitudinal measurements that help us better understand this ecosystem. In the process, I will highlight the scientific challenges in collecting such data at scale.

### Reading:

- Kyle Soska and Nicolas Christin, Measuring the Longitudinal Evolution of the Online Anonymous Marketplace Ecosystem, In Proceedings of the 24th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security'15).

