Legitimacy on Freenet, Tor, and I2P: The Information Society Series

Weaving the Dark Web: Legitimacy on Freenet, Tor, and I2P (The Information Society Series) by Robert W. Gehl

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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The internet has become an integral part of our lives. We use it to stay connected with friends and family, to learn new things, and to conduct business. However, the internet also has a dark side. It is a breeding ground for cybercrime, identity theft, and other malicious activities.

In response to these threats, a number of anonymity networks have been developed. These networks allow users to browse the internet without revealing their IP address or location. This can make it difficult for criminals to track and target users.

Three of the most popular anonymity networks are Freenet, Tor, and I2P. These networks have all been around for over a decade, and they have a large and dedicated user base. However, there is some debate about the

legitimacy of these networks. Some people argue that they are used primarily for illegal activities, and that they should be shut down. Others argue that these networks are essential for protecting privacy and free speech, and that they should be allowed to continue operating.

In this article, we will explore the legitimacy of Freenet, Tor, and I2P. We will examine the history, design, and purpose of each network, as well as the legal and ethical considerations surrounding their use.

Freenet

Freenet is a peer-to-peer file-sharing network that was created in 2000. It is designed to be censorship-resistant and anonymous. Freenet users can share files without revealing their IP address or location.

Freenet has been used to share a variety of content, including books, movies, music, and software. However, it has also been used to share illegal content, such as child pornography and copyrighted material.

The use of Freenet to share illegal content has led to some controversy. In 2002, the FBI raided the home of Ian Clarke, the creator of Freenet. Clarke was not charged with any crime, but the raid sent a message that the government was taking the use of Freenet to share illegal content seriously.

Despite the controversy, Freenet continues to operate. It is used by a small but dedicated group of users who value its privacy and censorship-resistance features.

Tor

Tor is a network of volunteer-operated servers that allows users to browse the internet anonymously. Tor users can choose to connect to any of the thousands of servers in the Tor network, and their traffic will be encrypted and routed through multiple servers before reaching its destination. This makes it very difficult for anyone to track or intercept a user's traffic.

Tor was created in 2002 by the United States Naval Research Laboratory. It was originally designed to protect the communications of intelligence officers and other government employees. However, Tor is now used by a wide range of people, including journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens who want to protect their privacy.

Tor has been used to expose government corruption, to protect whistleblowers, and to promote free speech in repressive regimes. However, Tor has also been used to facilitate illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and child pornography.

The use of Tor to facilitate illegal activities has led to some controversy. In 2017, the United States Department of Justice seized the dark web marketplace AlphaBay, which was hosted on the Tor network. The seizure of AlphaBay was a major blow to the dark web, and it sent a message that the government was taking the use of
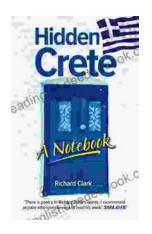
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