

“Dread Pirate Roberts” and the Silk Road - Images

By Steven W. Hooper



Figure 1: Ross Ulbricht, the 26-year-old founder of the Darknet illicit drug trading platform Silk Road. During the two years that Ulbricht operated the site, he became a multi-millionaire living on the run while operating the site from his laptop computer. (Source: Wikipedia website, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Ulbricht).



Figure 2: Former DHS Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent Jared Der-Yeghiayan was the case agent on the Silk Road case. During the investigation, Agent Der-Yeghiayan was able to assume the identity of an Ulbricht confederate and communicated with him in an undercover capacity. (Source: Executive Biz website, June 2, 2020, <https://blog.executivebiz.com/2020/06/law-enforcement-vet-jared-der-yeghiayan-named-brg-cyber-practice-director/>).

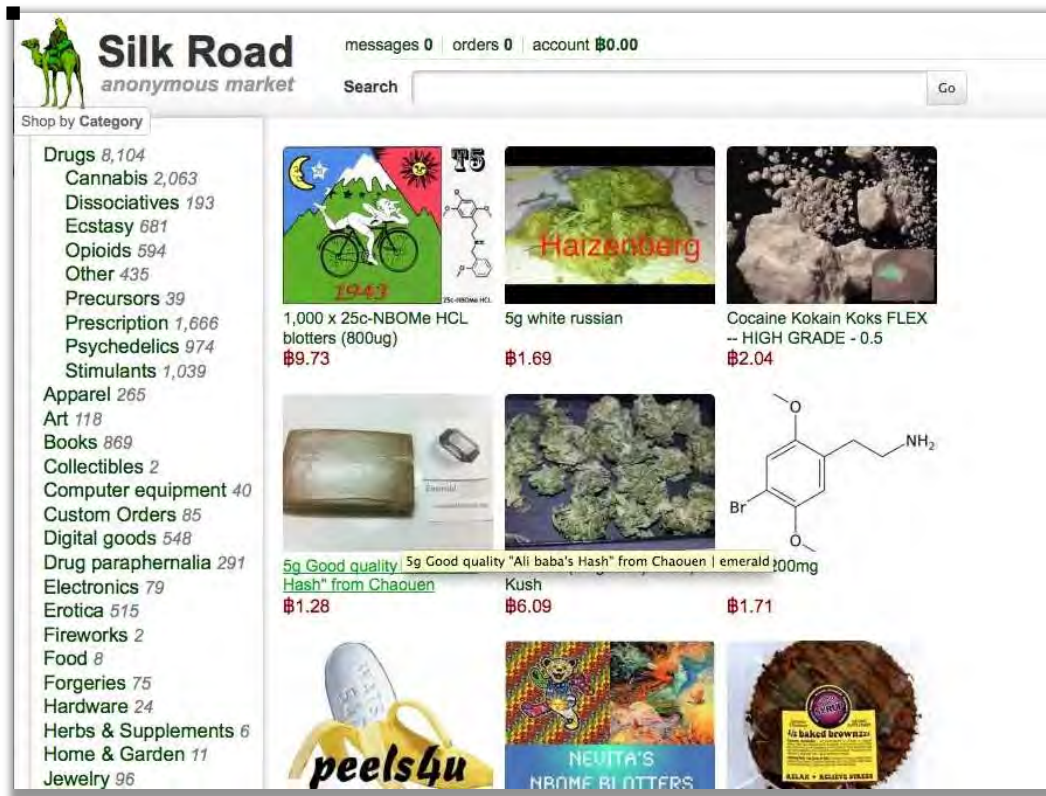


Figure 3: Screen shot of the Silk Road trading platform which operated on the Darkweb until it was seized by Federal agents in 2015. (Source: Business Insider website, <https://www.businessinsider.com/tor-silk-road-deep-web-2013-3>).



Figure 4: Former DEA agent Carl Force (L) and former USSS Agent Shan Bridges (R) pled guilty to stealing bitcoin from the Silk Road website. These former agents used various methods to extort and embezzle money from Ulbricht and the Silk Road website. (Source: Insider website, October 20, 2015, <https://www.businessinsider.com/ex-dea-agent-sentenced-to-65-years-for-stealing-bitcoins-while-investigating-silk-road-2015-10>).

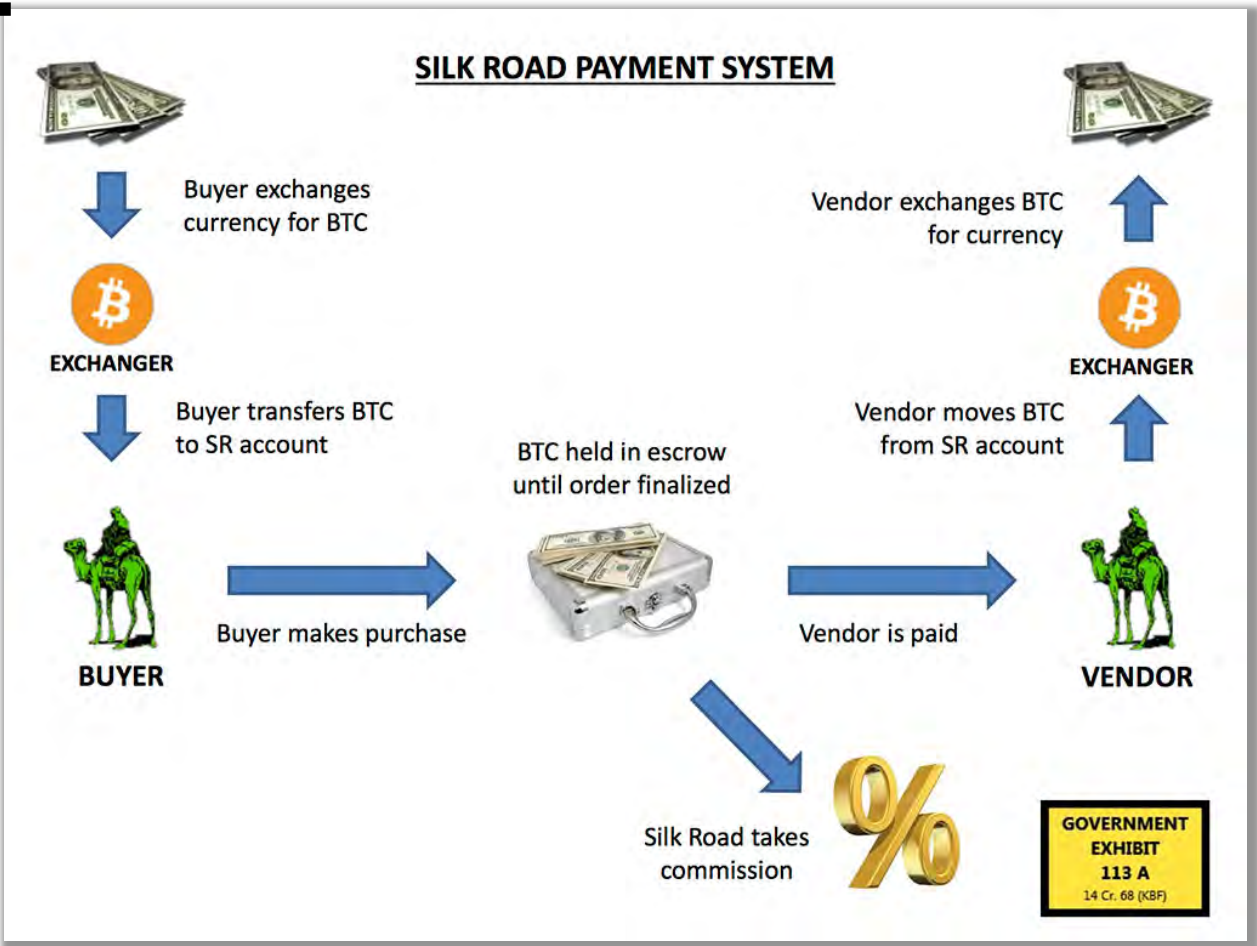


Figure 5: Flowchart of the Silk Road payment system. This chart was used as government evidence during the Federal trial of Ross Ulbricht, the creator and operator of the Silk Road website. (Source: Wikipedia website, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road_\(marketplace\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road_(marketplace))).



THIS HIDDEN SITE HAS BEEN SEIZED

**by the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
in conjunction with the IRS Criminal Investigation Division,
ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and the Drug Enforcement Administration,
in accordance with a seizure warrant obtained by the
United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York
and issued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 983(j) by the
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York**



Figure 6: Seizure notice placed on the Silk Road website informing customers that the site was seized by the U.S. government. (Source: Wikipedia website, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road_\(marketplace\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road_(marketplace))).