



[www.silkroadvb5piz3r.onion.to](https://www.silkroadvb5piz3r.onion.to)

**Screenshot of the website for “Sillk Road,” an underground drug marketplace, that has been siezed by the feds.**

The feds have busted "Dread Pirate Roberts," a shadowy digital buccaneer who allegedly owned and operated a \$1.2 billion underground website for drug dealers and hackers.

Ross William Ulbricht, 29, was arrested Tuesday in San Francisco on drug trafficking, computer hacking and money laundering charges — and an assassination scheme.

The website Ulbricht is accused of running, "Silk Road," has been called "the eBay of the drug trade," and the defendant has been dubbed a "digital drug lord."

"Silk Road has emerged as the most sophisticated and extensive criminal marketplace on the Internet today," the New York-based FBI agent who cracked the case said in an affidavit. "The site has sought to make conducting illegal transactions on the Internet as easy and frictionless as shopping online at mainstream e-commerce websites."

Living in San Francisco, Ulbricht ran Silk Road on the "deep web," a hidden part of the Internet not indexed by standard search engines, according to a criminal complaint filed by Manhattan federal prosecutors and released Wednesday.

The site trafficked in drugs such as heroin and cocaine along with illegal services and used the controversial online currency Bitcoin, the complaint alleges.

Ulbricht calls himself an investment advisor and entrepreneur on his LinkedIn page, and is the CEO of Good Wagon Books, which "has collected tens of thousands of reusable items and found them new homes."

He said he hails from Texas and graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2006 with a degree in Physics, then attended Penn State.

"Just as slavery has been abolished most everywhere, I believe violence, coercion and all forms of force by one person over another can come to an end," the rambling LinkedIn page proclaims. "I am creating an economic simulation to give people a first-hand experience of what it would be like to live in a world without the systemic use of force."

Law enforcement agents have made more than 100 undercover purchases through Silk Road since Nov. 2011, including purchases made from and shipped to New York.

"From in or about January 2011 ... the Silk Road website has served as a sprawling black-market bazaar," the complaint states.

"Silk Road has been used by several thousand drug dealers and other unlawful vendors to distribute hundreds of kilograms of illegal drugs and other goods and services to well over a hundred thousand buyers, and to launder hundreds of millions of dollars."

***Justin Olson from [Recovery Happens Counseling Services](#) will be on News 10 at 11:00 pm to talk about this. He was the first in our program to bring it to our attention 1.5 years ago that clients were using this online route to acquire drugs.***