



International Journal of
Multidisciplinary Conference Proceedings

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The Dark Web Nexus: Cyber Organized Crime and Its Implications for the National Security of Pakistan

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Dark Web, National Security	The dark web has emerged as a critical domain of transnational organized crime, posing unprecedented challenges to Pakistan's national security. Hidden networks and encrypted technologies have enabled criminal actors to operate anonymously, facilitating a wide range of illicit activities such as drug trafficking, arms trade, human smuggling, terrorism financing, and cyber fraud. This paper explores the nexus between cyber organized crime and the national security of Pakistan, examining how dark web operations undermine the country's internal stability, financial integrity, and digital sovereignty. It further analyzes Pakistan's existing cyber laws, institutional response mechanisms, and the ethical challenges of digital surveillance and data monitoring. While state-led countermeasures are essential to combat cyber threats, excessive surveillance risks violating citizens' privacy and digital rights. The study argues for a balanced and ethical cyber policy framework that strengthens law enforcement capacity, promotes international cooperation, and safeguards human rights.
ARTICLE HISTORY	
Date of Publication:30-10-2025	
Conference Organizer(s)	
University of Lahore, Sargodha Campus, Pakistan & Research Consultancy on Social & Management Development	
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Volume-Issue-Page Number	3(1) 26
Citation	Kashif, M., & Mushtaq, A.(2025). The Dark Web Nexus: Cyber Organized Crime and Its Implications for the National Security of Pakistan. <i>Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Social Transformation, and Scientific Progress (ICASST-2025), International Journal of Multidisciplinary Conference Proceedings</i> , 3(1).