



Monitoring the Dark Web

Medicine

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

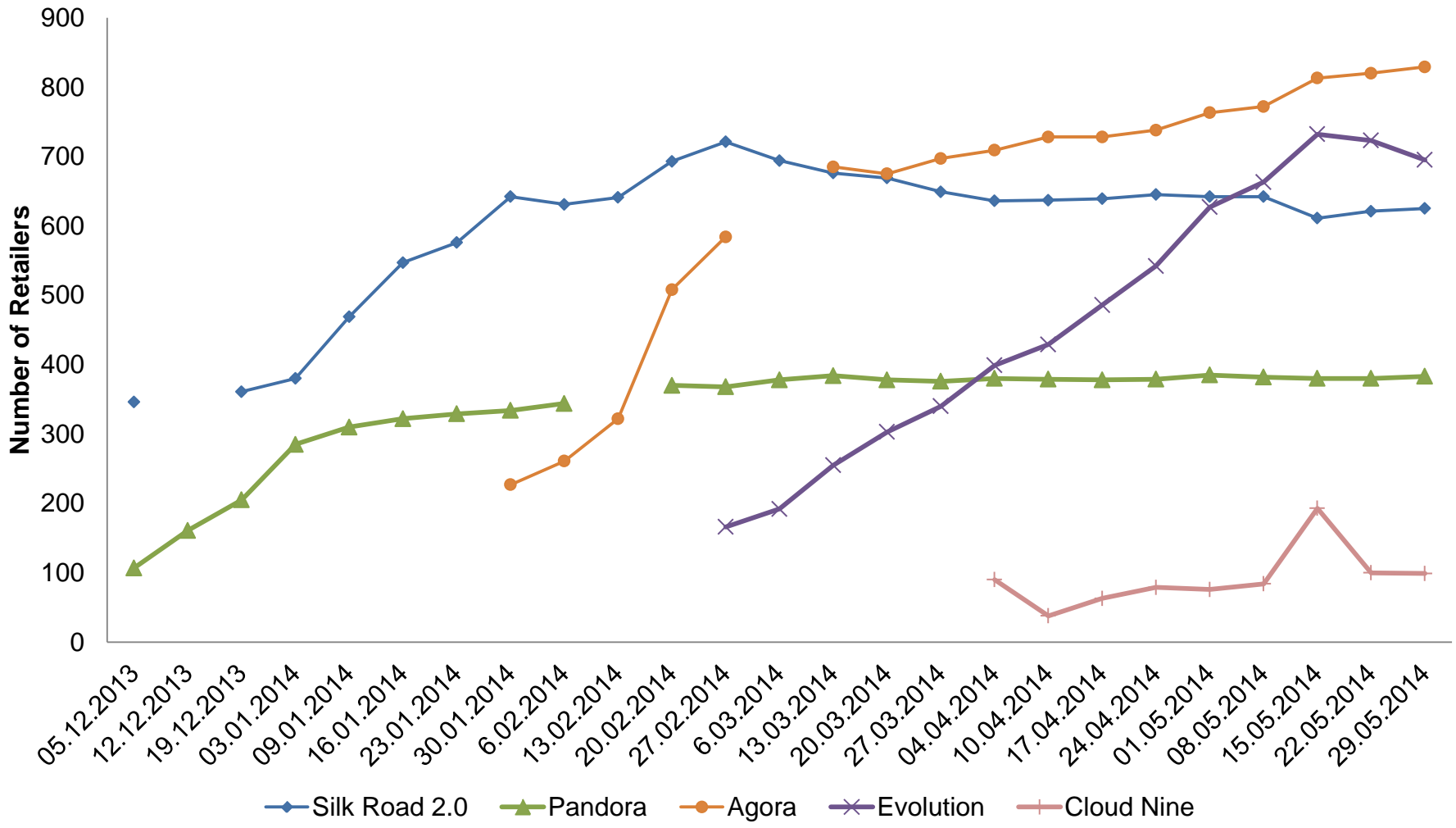
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Background – The Silk Road/Dark Web Marketplaces

- Dark Web marketplaces are anonymous marketplaces accessed via an ‘Onion’ routed connection
- Primarily drugs are for sale.
- October 3, 2013 saw the arrest of Silk Road moderator Dread Pirate Roberts, aka Ross Ulbricht.
- Following the closure, fifteen new marketplaces are now actively monitored weekly.



Dominant Retailers on the Dark Web



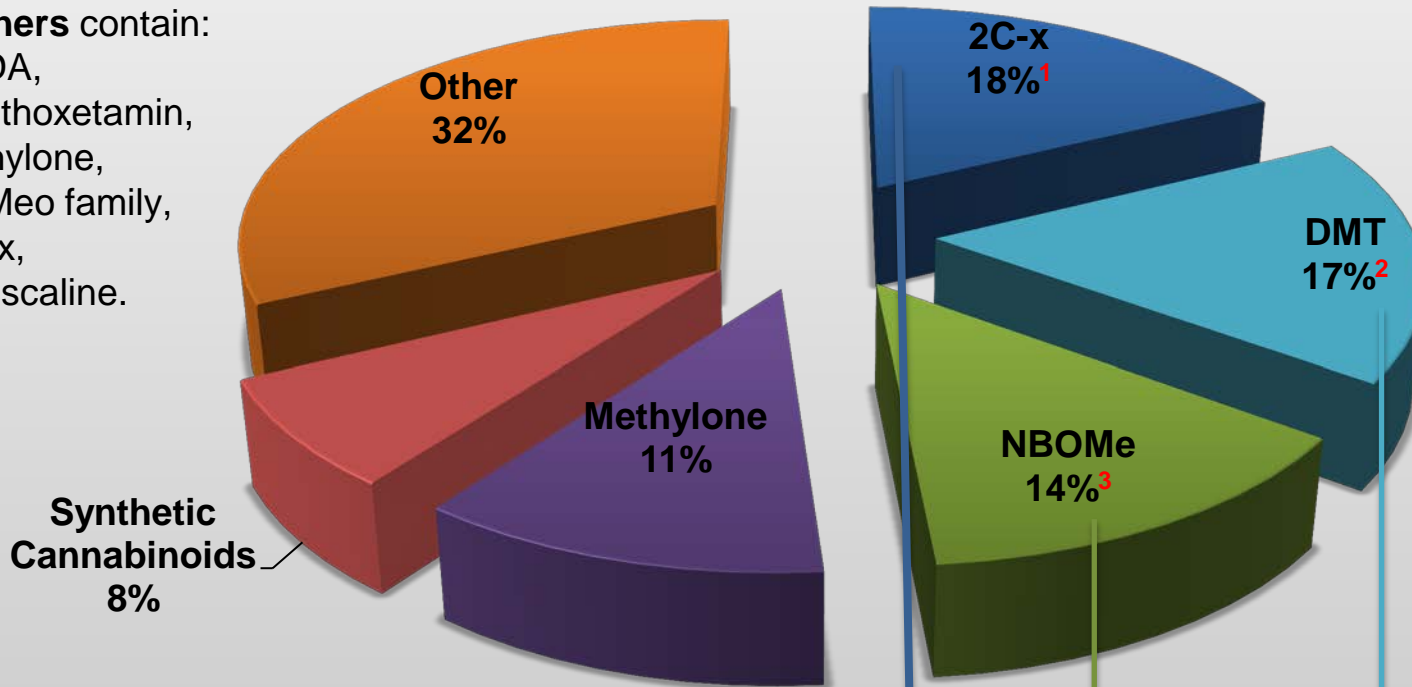
Total number of ALL Retailers and Australian only Retailers operating on the top five marketplaces by substance type.

	ALL Retailers (including AUS)	AUS Retailers	Proportion of AUS to International Retailers
Substance	n	n	%
Cannabis	1771	109 ³	6%
Pharmaceuticals	1534	107 ⁴	7%
MDMA	1177	138 ¹	12%
Cocaine	902	71	9%
Methamphetamine	835	125 ²	8%
NPS	821	76	15%
LSD	450	29	6%
Illicit Opioids	474	28	6%
Magic Mushrooms	234	17	7%
Ketamine	177	16	9%
PIEDs	154	36	23%
GHB	71	6	8%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	74	3	4%
Weight Loss	33	6	18%
Precursors	20	5	25%
Caffeine	10	0	0%
Total Unique Retailers	4295	488	11%

Number of retailers from the top five marketplaces selling the ten most common NPS.

Others contain:

MDA,
Methoxetamin,
Ethylone,
5-Meo family,
Dox,
Mescaline.



Top 4 NPS used by EDRS participants.

(%)	National N=800 2014	Days of use Median (n;range)
Phenethylamines (2C-x Class)		
2C-B	12 %	1.5 (1-24)
2C-I	6 %	1 (1-24)
NBOMe	9 %	2 (1-48)
Tryptamines		
DMT	14 %	1 (1-24)

Conclusions

- Internet drugs markets are highly dynamic.
- The higher proportion of Australian retailers selling methamphetamine appears to be reflected in the most recent Illicit Drug Data Report from the Australian Crime Commission showing the number of detections of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories is at an all-time high.
- Future monitoring will seek to assess the impact of dark web marketplaces on traditional street marketplaces, as well as the impact of the Internet as a whole on illicit drug use in Australia.