

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE LAYERS OF THE WEB

For many, terms used when speaking about the different layers of the Web can be confusing or inconsistent, so here's a short Skurio guide to explain them.

THE SURFACE, DEEP AND DARK WEB

The surface web

Also known as the visible web or indexed web, refers to the portion of the World Wide Web that is easily accessible and searchable by standard search engines like Google and Bing. This includes websites and online content that can be indexed and retrieved through search engine queries. These are publicly accessible and can be visited by anyone with an internet connection. Examples include news sites, blogs, e-commerce sites, educational resources, and more.

The deep web

This refers to parts of the Internet not fully accessible to standard search engines like Google or Bing, which the user can only access if they have permission, such as a unique URL or a login. The deep web is used for things like medical records or private forums, which are hidden for security reasons.

The Dark Web

The Dark Web is a section of the internet not found on Google or other search engines. You need a specific browser like The Onion Router (Tor) to navigate. Users remain anonymous, which is why criminals use it. Surfing the Dark Web is not illegal unless it's being used to carry out illegal acts such as selling drugs or promoting terrorism.

The Onion Router (Tor)

This software is used for online privacy and anonymity. It prevents governments, corporations and others from learning about your location or tracking cookies.

Tor was actually created by the US navy in 2002. It was emphasised that this was created to give internet users privacy, however, as an NSA document comments, 'very naughty people use Tor'. Criminals have started to make most of this platform to mask their identity to surf the Dark Web or to host 'hidden' websites which are usually illegal.

