

Who defrauds the fraudster? Exploring the profiles of vendors of match-fixed results in dark markets

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Dark markets are web environments where various e-commerce services are installed. In these markets some vendors offer illicit goods that they claim to possess in exchange of money such as drugs, stolen data, pornographic material, or match-fixing results. For these markets to function smoothly it is necessary to establish relationships of trust between the parties involved in the transaction. However, these transactions are sometimes fraudulent, either because the product is never received, or the product received is different from the one requested. Although some crypto markets have strict rules regarding scams, it is unlikely that the seller will be held liable for the deception or that the victim will be repaired for the damage. This paper explores the profiles of sellers of match-fixed results in the top dark markets and analyses some indicators related to their interaction with customers to understand how they operate. The results are presented in the context of environmental Criminology theories to discuss the findings in terms of analysis and prevention.