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## **Symposium proposition**

### **Fourth Presentation**

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#### **How dark is the dark web: Describing child pornography websites ecosystems**

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Over the last decades, both deviant sexual behaviours and communities that approve, support and maintain these activities on the Internet have been a major concern. In fact, the fear to be driven into stigma for deviant sexual interests push individuals to seek anonymity into the virtual world. Consequently, the Darkweb is used by sexual offenders for the reason that it tends to procure complete anonymity. The objective of the current study is to have an overview of child pornography websites on the Darkweb. More specifically, this research aimed to determine the evolution of the activity on these websites. The methodology proposed in this study is a systematic analysis of websites as well as the type of content available on these websites for a period of six months in the Quebec Provincial Police office (Surete du Quebec). Results suggest that websites over the Darkweb are divided into forums, chatrooms, trade and distribution of pornographic and sexual materials, including stories, pictures and videos. Moreover, it indicates that despite the closure of some websites, the evolution of the exchange of child pornography is still very prominent. A discussion on the use of anonymous online virtual spaces will also be presented.