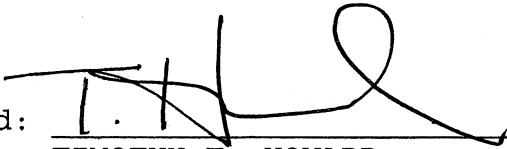


15 MAG 1335

Approved: 

TIMOTHY T. HOWARD
Assistant United States Attorney

Before: HONORABLE RONALD L. ELLIS
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- v. -

ROGER THOMAS CLARK,
a/k/a "Variety Jones,"
a/k/a "VJ,"
a/k/a "Cimon,"
a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose,"

Defendant.

SEALED COMPLAINT

Violations of
21 U.S.C. § 846;
18 U.S.C. § 1956

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
NEW YORK

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

GARY L. ALFORD, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE
(Narcotics Trafficking Conspiracy)

1. From in or about January 2011, up to and including on or about October 2, 2013, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and others known and unknown, intentionally and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to violate the narcotics laws of the United States.

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with the intent to distribute controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

3. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did deliver, distribute, and dispense controlled substances by means of the Internet, in a manner not authorized by law, and aid and abet such activity, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(h).

4. The controlled substances that ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, conspired to distribute and possess with intent to distribute, and deliver, distribute, and dispense by means of the Internet, in a manner not authorized by law, were (a) one kilogram and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of heroin; (b) five kilograms and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of cocaine; (c) ten grams and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and (d) 500 grams and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers, all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(A).

(Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.)

COUNT TWO
(Money Laundering Conspiracy)

5. From in or about January 2011, up to and including on or about October 2, 2013, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and others known and unknown, intentionally and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to commit money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

6. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and others known and unknown, in offenses involving and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, knowing that the property involved in certain financial transactions represented proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, would and did conduct and attempt to conduct such financial transactions, which in fact involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, to wit,

narcotics trafficking, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841, with the intent to promote the carrying on of such specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i).

7. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and others known and unknown, in offenses involving and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, knowing that the property involved in certain financial transactions represented proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, would and did conduct and attempt to conduct such financial transactions, which in fact involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, to wit, narcotics trafficking, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841, knowing that the transactions were designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, and the control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

8. I have been a Special Agent with IRS for approximately seven years. I am currently assigned to the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force. I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter, along with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Homeland Security Investigations. This affidavit is based upon my investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement agents, and my examination of reports, records, and other evidence. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts that I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

OVERVIEW

9. From in or about January 2011, up to and including on or about October 2, 2013, an underground website known as "Silk Road" hosted a sprawling black-market bazaar on the Internet,

where illegal drugs and other illicit goods and services were regularly bought and sold by the site's users.

10. During its more than two-and-a-half years in operation, Silk Road was used by several thousand drug dealers and other unlawful vendors to distribute illegal drugs and other illicit goods and services to well over a hundred thousand buyers, and to launder hundreds of millions of dollars derived from these unlawful transactions.

11. The owner and operator of Silk Road was Ross Ulbricht, a/k/a "Dread Pirate Roberts," a/k/a "DPR," a/k/a "Silk Road," who was convicted on charges, S1 14 Cr. 68 (KBF), relating to his operation of Silk Road following a jury trial in the Southern District of New York on February 4, 2015. Ulbricht ran the website with the assistance of various co-conspirators, including ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, who served as a trusted advisor of Ulbricht, and a small staff, including customer support staff representatives and several computer programmers. CLARK and the rest of the staff were paid by Ulbricht for their services.

12. From at least in or about January 2012, up to and including on or about October 2, 2013, ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, engaged in the following activities among others for Silk Road:

a. Hiring and managing a computer programmer who assisted in developing computer code and maintaining Silk Road's technical infrastructure;

b. Providing advice to Ulbricht regarding managing and operating Silk Road, including security advice, and advice regarding the rules and policies on Silk Road;

c. Assisting in promoting sales on the Silk Road website, including providing help with coordinating a large-scale promotion for the sale of narcotics and other contraband on Silk Road; and

d. Conducting research and collecting intelligence on the efforts of law enforcement to investigate Silk Road.

BACKGROUND ON SILK ROAD¹

13. In the course of investigating Silk Road, I have been involved in undercover purchases of narcotics from the website through an undercover account, which were ordered to and received in the Southern District of New York. In addition, I have also spoken with, among other law enforcement agents, an agent with Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI Agent-1"), who controlled multiple undercover accounts on the site, through which he conducted extensive undercover activity, including, from July to October 2013, and worked in an undercover capacity as a member of the site's paid customer support staff. In addition, I have reviewed the contents of computers used to operate Silk Road. Through these methods and sources, I am familiar with the Silk Road website and how it operated. In particular, I know that:

a. Silk Road was operated on what is known as "The Onion Router" or "Tor" network ("Tor"), a special network on the Internet designed to make it practically impossible to physically locate the computers hosting or accessing websites on the network.

b. All transactions on Silk Road were required to be paid with "Bitcoins," an electronic currency designed to be as anonymous as cash.

c. During its operation, Silk Road generated sales revenue totaling over 9.9 million Bitcoins and collected commissions from these sales totaling over 640,000 Bitcoins, worth more than \$213 million and \$13 million, respectively, based on the prevailing Bitcoin exchange rates when the underlying sales occurred.

d. The illegal nature of the items sold on Silk Road was readily apparent to any user visiting the site. The goods sold on Silk Road consisted overwhelmingly of illegal drugs of nearly every variety, which were openly advertised on the site as such and were immediately and prominently visible on the site's home page.

¹ A more complete description of Silk Road and its operations can be found in the criminal complaint filed against Ross Ulbricht, the founder of Silk Road, see United States v. Ross Ulbricht, 14 Mag. 068 (S.D.N.Y. 2013).

e. As of October 2, 2013, when the website was shut down by law enforcement, there were approximately 13,000 listings for controlled substances on the website, listed under the categories "Cannabis," "Dissociatives," "Ecstasy," "Intoxicants," "Opioids," "Precursors," "Prescription," "Psychedelics," and "Stimulants," among others. The narcotics sold on the site tend to be sold in individual-use quantities, although some vendors sold in bulk. The offerings for sale on the site at any single time amounted to multi-kilogram quantities of heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, as well as distribution quantities of other controlled substances, such as LSD.

f. From in or about November 2011, up to and including in or about May 2013, HSI Agent-1 participated in dozens of undercover purchases of controlled substances from Silk Road vendors. The substances purchased in these undercover transactions included various Schedule I and II drugs, such as ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, LSD, and others. Samples of these purchases were laboratory-tested and almost all tested positive for the drugs the items were advertised to be on Silk Road.

g. The only form of payment accepted on Silk Road was Bitcoins. Bitcoins are an anonymous, decentralized form of electronic currency. All Bitcoin transactions are recorded on a public ledger known as the "Blockchain," stored on the peer-to-peer network on which the Bitcoin system operates. The Blockchain serves to prevent a user from spending the same Bitcoins more than once. However, the Blockchain only reflects the movement of funds between anonymous addresses and therefore cannot by itself be used to determine the identities of the persons involved in the transactions. Only if one knows the identities associated with each Bitcoin address involved in a set of transactions is it possible to meaningfully trace funds through the system.

h. Bitcoins are not illegal in and of themselves and have known legitimate uses. However, Bitcoins are also known to be used by cybercriminals for money-laundering purposes, given the ease with which they can be used to move money anonymously. Further, Silk Road used a so-called "tumbler" to process Bitcoin transactions in a manner designed to frustrate the tracking of individual transactions through the Blockchain. According to the Silk Road wiki, Silk Road's tumbler sent all payments "through a complex, semi-random series of dummy transactions, . . . making it nearly impossible to link your payment with any coins leaving the site." In other words, if a buyer made a payment on Silk Road, the tumbler obscured any link between the

buyer's Bitcoin address and the vendor's Bitcoin address where the Bitcoins would end up - making it fruitless to use the Blockchain to follow the money trail involved in the transaction, even if the buyer's and vendor's Bitcoin addresses were both known. Based on my training and experience, the only function served by such "tumblers" is to assist with the laundering of criminal proceeds.

ARREST OF ULBRICHT AND RECOVERY OF EVIDENCE
FROM HIS LAPTOP COMPUTER

14. On or about October 1, 2013, Ross Ulbricht was arrested at a public library in San Francisco, California. At the time of his arrest, Ulbricht was using a laptop computer, which was secured by law enforcement agents (the "Ulbricht Computer").

15. Pursuant to a search warrant, agents searched the Ulbricht Computer and recovered, among other things, extensive evidence reflecting Ulbricht's operation of Silk Road, including journal entries and logs of chat communications between Ulbricht (referenced in the chats as "myself") and various co-conspirators.

16. Through the journal entries, Ulbricht described in detail how he created, designed, built, and operated Silk Road. In a journal entry dated 2011, Ulbricht wrote about the Silk Road's successful first year in operation, and in the following excerpt, described how "Variety Jones" provided him with significant advice and assistance with operating and managing Silk Road:²

Around this time, Variety Jones showed up. This was the biggest and strongest willed character I had met through the site thus far. He quickly proved to me that he had value by pointing out a major security hole in the site I was unaware of. It was an attack on bitcoind. We quickly began discussing every aspect of the site as well as future ideas. He convinced me of a server configuration paradigm that gave me the confidence to be the sole server

² All quoted journal entries and chat logs are repeated verbatim herein, including any errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

administrator and not work with someone else at all. He has advised me on many technical aspect of what we are doing, helped me speed up the site and squeeze more out of my current servers. He also has helped me better interact with the community around Silk Road, delivering proclamations, handling troublesome characters, running a sale, changing my name, devising rules, and on and on. He also helped me get my head straight regarding legal protection, cover stories, devising a will, finding a successor, and so on. He's been a real mentor.

17. Among these chat logs were over a thousand pages of chats between Ulbricht and "VJ" and "Cimon," which ranged from in or about December 2011 through in or about April 2013. On or about June 1, 2012, in the course of the chat logs, "VJ" indicated, in sum and substance that he was no longer using the online pseudonym "Variety Jones," and agreed to use the pseudonym "cimon" going forward. Overall, the chats reflected that "VJ"/"Cimon" acted as an advisor and confidant to Ulbricht, and advised Ulbricht on a regular basis regarding various aspects of operating Silk Road. From reviewing the contents of these chats, I have also learned, in sum and substance and in part, the following:

a. VJ provided advice to Ulbricht in developing a "cover story" to make it appear as if he had sold Silk Road, consistent with the reference in the journal entry, quoted above in paragraph 16. For example:

- i. During a chat dated December 9, 2011, VJ advised Ulbricht to be discreet and limit the number of people who know about his connection to owning and operating the Silk Road website, stating, "remember - someday it would be very valuable information who started SR, and the person who knows the guy who sold it on could sell that info - if senators are bitching and DEA is itching, they'd pay 7 figures for info leading to the site - and you will be interviewed someday - from my lips to your ears - be ready for it. . . one of them will someday realize there is lottery winning amounts of

cash in giving you up as the creator of the site."

- ii. During the same chat, VJ asked Ulbricht, in sum and substance, whether Ulbricht had disclosed to anyone in real life that he was involved in Silk Road: "IRL - is there anyone with a clue at all? Girlfriend, boyfriend, bunny you talk to, online buddy's who you've know for years? Gramma, priest, rabbi, stripper?" Ulbricht responded, "unfortunately yes. They are two, but they think I sold the site and got out. . . and they are quite convinced of it." VJ replied, "good for that - when do they think you've sold?" and Ulbricht responded, "about a month ago."³ Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that during this conversation, Ulbricht disclosed that he had told two people of his connection to Silk Road, but had lied to them by claiming that he had sold Silk Road to someone else.
- iii. In a chat dated January 15, 2012, VJ asked Ulbricht whether he had seen the movie The Princess Bride, and whether he knew the "history of the Dread Pirate Roberts."⁴ VJ explained the legend of the character "Dread

³ During Ulbricht's trial, a former friend of Ulbricht ("Friend-1") testified, in sum and substance, that Ulbricht had previously bragged to him during 2011 that Ulbricht was involved in creating and running Silk Road. Further, Friend-1 testified that on November 11, 2011 (approximately one month prior to the quoted chat between VJ and Ulbricht), Ulbricht told Friend-1 that he was worried that Ulbricht's girlfriend had been careless with Ulbricht's secret that he ran Silk Road, and had sold Silk Road to someone else.

⁴ The Princess Bride was a motion picture that was released in 1984. Based on my familiarity with the film, I know that the film portrays the legend of the "Dread Pirate Roberts" character as bearing a name not belonging a single individual, but belonging to a series of individuals, each of whom passes his name and reputation to a chosen successor.

Pirate Roberts," how "over the years, a new one would take the name, and the old one would retire." VJ insisted that Ulbricht should change his name on the Silk Road website "from Admin, to Dread Pirate Roberts" to "clear your old trail - to be honest, as tight as you play things, you are the weak link from those two prev contacts." Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that, during this conversation, VJ suggested that Ulbricht adopt the online pseudonym "Dread Pirate Roberts" on Silk Road to promote the lie he had told others that he had sold Silk Road to someone else ("clear your old trial - to be honest . . . you are the weak link from those two prev contacts.")

iv. I have reviewed a post from the Silk Road Forum, dated on or about February 5, 2012, in which the "Admin" account, known to be the chief administrator account for Silk Road, announced that "my new name is: Dread Pirate Roberts." Based on my discussions with agents involved in arresting Ulbricht on October 1, 2013 and my review of evidence collected from his arrest by an FBI computer forensic examiner, I know that at the time of Ulbricht's arrest, Ulbricht was actively logged into the Silk Road website as the "Dread Pirate Roberts" administrator account from his laptop computer.

b. VJ assisted with hiring programmers to help with improving the infrastructure of, and maintaining Silk Road. For example:

- i. In or about January 2012, VJ proposed to Ulbricht that he hire a team of developers to help test, improve, and maintain the computer code for the Silk Road website. VJ suggested that the team be overseen by a programmer who he referred to in the chats as "Tex".
- ii. By on or about January 15, 2012, VJ indicated that the programmer was already working on testing the code underlying the Silk Road website, stating: "I'm meeting with Tex in a few hours to go over his progress, his last

email a few hours ago indicated he's got a good handle on things, and we'll be stress testing tonight."

iii. On or about January 17, 2012, VJ confirmed to Ulbricht, in sum and substance, that the programmer was aware that the programming work was for Silk Road, and noted that the programmer shared VJ's "dream of breaking the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration]."

c. VJ recommended security improvements to the Silk Road website. For example, in a chat with Ulbricht dated on or about December 7, 2011, VJ noted told Ulbricht that was "working with you first to harden your systems . . . [w]hen we're done, even getting the server will give them nothing. . . enforce encryption on all order info - automatically if not done by the customer/vendor - ditto with PM's - both sender and recip need to have public keys posted - so only they can read them even if the server is taken." Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that during this conversation, VJ recommended to Ulbricht additional security practices, including requiring that vendors use encryption when sending delivery addresses, so that if law enforcement was able to seize and image the Silk Road servers, law enforcement would not have useable information with which to target Silk Road users for buying and selling contraband.

d. VJ communicated with Ulbricht regarding the rules that were implemented to govern the Silk Road vendor and user community. For example, in a chat dated on or about December 28, 2011, Ulbricht and VJ discussed the rules against "out of escrow" payments on Silk Road. Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I know that Silk Road handled payments through its own escrow system, retained a cut of each sale of narcotics or other contraband as a commission. The rule against "out of escrow" payments forbade customers from negotiating a sale with vendors, but then paying for the contraband off the Silk Road system, thereby circumventing the escrow system from which commission were withdrawn. During the conversation, VJ recommended that a "bounty" or payment be offered to the Silk Road community to report vendors who sought to perform transactions out of the escrow system, and Ulbricht confirmed that he liked the idea.

e. VJ assisted Ulbricht and provided advice with respect to promoting sales on the Silk Road website. Specifically:

- i. In a chat dated on or about March 23, 2012, VJ and Ulbricht discussed an upcoming promotion on Silk Road, to occur for three days around April 20, 2012, called the "4/20 Sale." I know, based on my training and experience, that April 20th is observed as a counterculture holiday, where drug users gather to celebrate and consume marijuana. Ulbricht provided VJ with a draft announcement for the sale, which read: "Roll up a doobie and put your party hat on because the biggest stoner holiday is just around the corner, and we've got alot of ganja to deliver! We're pulling out all the stops to celebrate 420 this year. Starting at 4:20 pm on 4/20/2012, we'll be giving away 420 prizes every 420 seconds! WOO!!! Gift cards, badass consumer electronics, real gangsta shit! And to top it all off, we're sending one lucky buyer on a dream vacation with all the trimmings!!! The buzz around this is going to be HUGE!"
- ii. Later in that conversation, VJ and Ulbricht discussed various discounts and promotions that narcotics vendors would offer during the course of the sale. In response to a proposal by Ulbricht that the site not charge commission on sales of contraband during the promotion, VJ objected, stating "I'd like to think we can bring more to the party than just dropped commissions. We're filling the prize barrel already." VJ noted the opportunity cost involved in dropping commissions, indicating that they expected approximately "a mil in sales."
- iii. During a chat dated on or about May 3, 2013, VJ and Ulbricht discussed the grand prize winner of the 4/20 sale, who was awarded an all-inclusive paid trip to Thailand, including approximately \$4,000 in United States currency in spending money. VJ informed Ulbricht that he had made the arrangements for the Thailand trip for the winner, provided the travel

itinerary, and confirmed that the total cost to Silk Road was approximately \$30,000 in United States currency.

- iv. During a chat dated on or about May 29, 2013, VJ informed Ulbricht that he was concerned about the grand prize winner of the 4/20 sale, because of his heroin addiction, stating, "I'm worried about our winner . . . he's trying to dry out. . . heroin . . . it's not working . . . and I think his recent influx of cash didn't help. . . he told me some time ago he was trying to quit but SR make it kinda tough." VJ expressed concern that the upcoming trip to Thailand (scheduled for mid-July 2012) might be problematic, stating, "I'm just worried that it's not the kinda place you wanna get caught trying to score H, or possessing it." Ulbricht responded, "shoulda thought more carefully about dropping \$4k on an addict . . . maybe our next prize will be 3 months in rehab."

f. Further, VJ provided assistance with investigating the disappearance of a Silk Road customer support staff employee, who used the online pseudonym "Digital Alchemy," or "DA." For example, on or about October 29, 2012, Ulbricht and VJ (now using the pseudonym "cimon") discussed the disappearance of a member of the Silk Road customer support staff, who used the user name "Digital Alchemy," and was also referred to as "DA." During that conversation, in sum and substance and among other things, VJ discussed trying to track down DA's whereabouts, stating, "Bluntly - I need to know if he's gone off the rails, or is simply fucked up. Off the rails scares me. Point is, I think in 10 days or less I can find him. Don't want to do a thing, just watch, learn, and be careful. This is a whole nother level -- are you all right with this, or do you want me to pull in my horns?" Ulbricht responded, "go for it. it's a loose end." Later in the conversation, VJ opined, "I think someone got to him - not the cops - the competition," and later stated, "Ha, dude, we're criminal drug dealers - what line shouldn't we cross?" Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that during this conversation, VJ informed Ulbricht that he was trying to locate DA, who had disappeared, to ensure that he was not cooperating with law enforcement. Further, I believe that VJ confirmed his knowledge that he and Ulbricht were engaged in an illegal enterprise, involved in the sale of

controlled substances ("Ha, dude, we're criminal drug dealers.").

18. Another file recovered from the Ulbricht Computer was a text file labeled "log," reflecting various actions he took on various dates in connection with operating Silk Road. Several of the log entries refer to VJ as "Cimon" and the work VJ/Cimon did for Ulbricht. Among other things, the entries included the following:

a. An entry dated May 31, 2013, which states, "\$50k xferred to cimon." Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that this indicates that, on or about that date, Ulbricht paid VJ approximately \$50,000 in exchange for his assistance with Silk Road.

b. An entry dated June 3, 2013, which states, "put cimon in charge of LE counter intel." Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that in this post, Ulbricht indicated that VJ was in charge of counter intelligence ("counter intel") on the efforts that law enforcement ("LE") was making to attempt to investigate Silk Road.

19. Further, another file recovered from the Ulbricht Computer was a spreadsheet file labeled "sr_accounting," reflecting various Silk Road related expenses. These included several additional references to payments to VJ (under the online pseudonym "cimon"), including payments of approximately: (1) \$93,150 in United States currency on or about November 16, 2012; (2) \$50,000 in United States currency on or about May 7, 2013; and (3) \$57,000 in United States currency on or about July 3, 2013.

Identification of ROGER THOMAS CLARK as "Variety Jones" a/k/a "VJ" a/k/a "Cimon" a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose"

20. Based on my review of chat logs between Ulbricht and various co-conspirators, I know that Ulbricht required staff members to provide a scanned copy of personal identification documents, in order to work for him as part of the Silk Road enterprise. Based on my review of the contents of the Ulbricht Computer, I know that it contained a folder labeled "IDs," that contained a number of encrypted image files, each of which was entitled with the online pseudonym of a Silk Road co-conspirator.

21. I have reviewed the contents of a decrypted version of the image file entitled "cimon.jpg," which contains a passport issued by Canada for ROGER THOMAS CLARK, lists his date of birth as September 13, 1961, and indicates that it was issued in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("UK").

22. Based on my review of open source corporate records for UK businesses that I found on the Internet, I know that ROGER THOMAS CLARK is listed on a UK corporate filing for a UK-based company called "Gypsy Nirvana Limited," which indicates that "Thomas Clark" was a director of the company, and lists him as a Canadian national, born on September 13, 1961. In a chat recovered from the Ulbricht Computer dated June 28, 2012, "cimon" informed Ulbricht that "cimon" had "created the Gypsy Nirvana nic," and that "a guy in England started a seed biz using my name, and me promo'ing it in public." Based on my training and experience, and my familiarity with this investigation, I believe that in this conversation, "cimon" admitted to being involved with Gypsy Nirvana Limited, which, as noted above, was a UK-based company for which CLARK served as a director.

23. Further, on or about April 21, 2015, a cooperating witness ("CW-1")⁵ advised law enforcement, in substance and in part, that "Roger Clark" is the individual who used the online nicknames "Variety Jones," "VJ," in connection with Silk Road, which corresponds to the name on the identification documents recovered from the Ulbricht Computer, and that "Roger Clark" has also used the nickname "Gypsy Nirvana." Further, CW-1 told law enforcement, in sum and substance and in part, the following about "Roger Clark," which is consistent with disclosures made by "VJ"/"Cimon" in chat logs recovered from the Ulbricht Computer:

⁵ CW-1 has been charged with federal crimes for his participation and involvement with Silk Road, and is cooperating with law enforcement in the hopes of obtaining a cooperation agreement with the Government, and ultimately leniency at the time that CW-1 is sentenced. Information provided by CW-1 has provided about Silk Road and ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, is consistent with evidence collected from the Ulbricht Computer (including evidence indicating that CW-1 and CLARK had personal dealings with each other), publicly available information about UK corporations, and information recovered from the Silk Road servers.

a. "Roger Clark" also used the online nickname "Mongoose." The chat logs recovered from the Ulbricht Computer include a June 28, 2012 chat between Ulbricht and "Cimon" in which Cimon indicated that Cimon has also used the nickname "Plural of Mongoose" ("I was, and am, Plural of Mongoose. . . Folks who know and love me, it's Mongoose.").

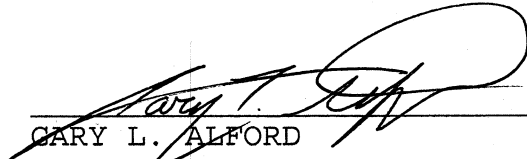
b. "Roger Clark" is a Canadian national that had previously lived in the UK. As noted above in paragraph 21, the scanned version of the ROGER THOMAS CLARK passport recovered from the Ulbricht Computer indicates that he is a Canadian national, and that his passport was issued in the UK. This is further corroborated by chat logs recovered from the Ulbricht Computer, which indicate that: (1) on or about May 17, 2012, "VJ" informed Ulbricht that he was facing deportation proceedings in the UK; (2) on or about June 28, 2012, "Cimon" informed Ulbricht that he would be deported to Canada if the proceedings did not go favorably for him; and (3) on or about July 6, 2012, "Cimon" informed Ulbricht that UK authorities agreed to let him depart voluntarily from the UK.

c. "Roger Clark" was living in Thailand. Chat logs recovered from the Ulbricht Computer include multiple references to "Cimon" living in Thailand by in or about September 2012, and through at least February 2013.⁶

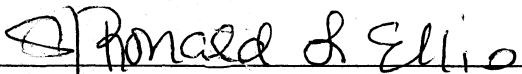
⁶ The chat logs between Ulbricht and "VJ"/"Cimon" terminate on or about April 3, 2013. Prior to their termination, there are references to switching over to a different online chat program, called "Pidgin," which was not logged on the Ulbricht Computer.

24. Accordingly, I believe that the advisor and confidant who worked with Ulbricht on Silk Road and went by the online nicknames "Variety Jones," "VJ," and "Cimon" is ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that an arrest warrant be issued for ROGER THOMAS CLARK, a/k/a "Variety Jones," a/k/a "VJ," a/k/a "Cimon," a/k/a "Plural of Mongoose," the defendant, and that he be arrested and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.


GARY L. ALFORD
Special Agent
Internal Revenue Service

Sworn to before me this
21st day of April, 2015


HONORABLE RONALD L. ELLIS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK