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12 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
15
16 Plaintiff,
17 v.
18 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
aka "ALPHA02,"
19 aka "ADMIN,"
20 Defendant.

21 CASE NO. 17 CR - 00144 LJO SKO
22 VIOLATIONS:
23 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d) – Conspiracy to Engage in a
24 Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization;
25 21 U.S.C. §§ 846 and 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(C),
26 841(h), and 843(b) – Narcotics Conspiracy; 21 U.S.C.
27 §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), & 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 –
Distribution of a Controlled Substance, Attempt, and
28 Aiding and Abetting (5 Counts); 21 U.S.C.
§§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), & 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 –
Distribution of a Controlled Substance, Attempt, and
Aiding and Abetting; 18 U.S.C. § 1028(f) –
Conspiracy to Commit Identity Theft and Fraud;
18 U.S.C. § 1028(a)(2), (b)(1)(A)(ii), & (f), and
18 U.S.C. § 2 – Unlawful Transfer of a False
Identification Document, Attempt, and Aiding and
Abetting (4 Counts); 18 U.S.C. § 1029(b)(2) –
Conspiracy to Commit Access Device Fraud;
18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(4), (b)(1), & (c)(1)(A)(ii), and
18 U.S.C. § 2 – Trafficking in Device Making
Equipment, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting;
18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) – Money Laundering
Conspiracy; and 18 U.S.C. §§ 982(a)(1),
982(a)(2)(B), 1028(b), 1029(c)(1)(C), 1963(a)(1),
(a)(2), (a)(3), and 21 U.S.C. § 853(a) – Criminal
Forfeiture.

1 available, distributed ledger, often referred to as a “blockchain.” Because digital currencies are
2 transferred peer-to-peer, users can avoid traditional, regulated financial institutions, which collect
3 information about their customers and maintain anti-money laundering and fraud programs. AlphaBay
4 and its users were able to bypass the traditional financial systems by only accepting digital currencies.

5 5. AlphaBay required its users, both vendors and buyers, to execute transactions through
6 digital currency addresses hosted and ultimately controlled by the site. Before purchasing a good or
7 service, a buyer would load funds to an AlphaBay-controlled digital currency address. Once loaded,
8 AlphaBay credited the user’s account by that amount. A buyer could initiate a purchase by selecting an
9 illegal good or service from a vendor and sending funds from their AlphaBay user account to an escrow
10 account controlled and maintained by AlphaBay. Upon receipt of an illegal good or service, the buyer
11 would notify AlphaBay that the transaction was completed. AlphaBay would then release the funds
12 from the escrow account to the vendor’s AlphaBay account. From that point, a vendor could direct
13 AlphaBay to transfer the ill-gotten funds to digital currency addresses outside of the AlphaBay platform
14 and under the vendor’s control. Buyers could transfer funds from their AlphaBay accounts in the same
15 manner. For transactions leaving the site, AlphaBay provided “tumbling” and “mixing” services to
16 attempt to obscure the historical trail of digital currency associated with the site and its users. AlphaBay
17 also advertised other external mixing and tumbling services to its users.

18 6. AlphaBay’s user interface was configured like a conventional e-commerce website.
19 Users could sign up for free and provide a screen name and password of their choosing. The site
20 encouraged users to not include any information in their profile that could reveal their true identities.
21 AlphaBay provided a search tool allowing users to choose the type of illegal good or service they
22 wanted to purchase. Users could also search by price ranges, popularity of items, vendors, origin or
23 shipping country, and payment types. Further, AlphaBay’s homepage allowed users to browse
24 categories of illegal goods, with categories including: fraud, drugs and chemicals, counterfeit items,
25 weapons, carded items, i.e., stolen credit card numbers and other access devices, services, software and
26 malware.

27 7. To become a vendor, a user was required to send a refundable vendor bond to the site.
28 AlphaBay allowed for users to leave “positive,” “neutral,” and “negative” feedback about vendors,

1 which other users could use in choosing which vendors they would buy from. If a vendor or buyer
2 disputed a transaction, AlphaBay provided dispute settlement services, and could permanently block
3 vendors or buyers from carrying out future transactions on the site. To sell illegal goods or services on
4 AlphaBay, vendors could simply create listings on the site for buyers to see and then transact with
5 buyers, as described above.

6 8. As agreed to by all vendors, AlphaBay took a percentage of the purchase price as a
7 commission on the illegal transactions conducted through its website. ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka
8 "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," and other operators and employees of the site, controlled and profited
9 from those commissions, which were worth at least tens of millions of dollars.

10 **THE ENTERPRISE**

11 9. Defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," and others known
12 and unknown to the Grand Jury, were members and associates of a criminal organization, hereafter, the
13 "ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION," whose members engaged in acts of: drug trafficking; trafficking in
14 counterfeit and stolen identification documents, counterfeit goods, unauthorized access devices, device-
15 making equipment, and malware and other computer hacking tools; illegal firearms distribution; and
16 money laundering, and whose members interfered with interstate and foreign commerce through acts of:
17 drug trafficking; trafficking in counterfeit and stolen identification documents, counterfeit goods,
18 unauthorized access devices, and device-making equipment, and malware and other computer hacking
19 tools; illegal firearms distributions; and money laundering. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY
20 ORGANIZATION operated throughout the world, including in Bangkok, Thailand, and in the Counties
21 of Fresno, Merced, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] within the State and Eastern District of California.

22 10. The ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION, including its leadership, members, and associates,
23 constituted an "enterprise," as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 1961(4), that is, a group
24 of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity. The enterprise constituted an ongoing
25 organization whose members functioned as a continuing unit for a common purpose of achieving the
26 objectives of the enterprise. The enterprise was engaged in, and its activities affected, interstate and
27 foreign commerce.

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1 C. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION facilitated the
2 provision of illegal services, including money laundering and “swatting,” i.e.,
3 bomb threats and false reports to law enforcement.

4 D. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION illegally sold,
5 and facilitated the illegal sale of, firearms and firearm parts.

6 E. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION laundered
7 money through the AlphaBay website by maintaining and controlling digital
8 currency addresses through which customers paid vendors on the AlphaBay
9 website, and providing mixing and tumbling services for digital currency
10 transactions from the AlphaBay-hosted digital currency addresses to addresses
11 outside of the AlphaBay website. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY
12 ORGANIZATION also laundered money by taking a percentage of all illegal
13 transactions as a commission, and sending those commissions to members and
14 associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION as salary payments. Further,
15 members and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION laundered
16 money by sending their proceeds from administering the AlphaBay website to
17 digital currency exchangers, where the funds were converted into official, fiat
18 currency and spent on personal goods and services.

19 F. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION used various
20 means of communication designed to protect the membership’s anonymity and
21 to provide security for the criminal organization from attack by hackers, other
22 criminal organizations, and from law enforcement, including but not limited to:
23 i. An internally hosted messaging service on the AlphaBay website, which
24 was controlled by the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION;
25 ii. An internally hosted forum called the “AlphaBay Market Forum,” which
26 was controlled by the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION;
27 iii. Private messaging, including through Jabber, an encrypted instant
28 messaging and multi-user conferencing technology;

- iv. “Pretty Good Privacy” (“PGP”) encryption, which was required for all vendor communications and encouraged for all other users;
- v. Proxies, which bounced network traffic from one computer to another to hide a member’s true originating IP address, including through the Tor network;
- vi. Multiple contingency Uniform Resource Locators (“URLs”) on the Tor network for redundancy in case of seizure by law enforcement or attack by enemies, such as through a distributed denial of service (“DDOS”) attack;
- vii. Virtual Private Networks (“VPNs”), which are similar to proxies, but with the addition of creating an encrypted tunnel; and
- viii. Public websites, including Reddit (at “www.reddit.com”).

G. Members and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION used digital currencies, including Bitcoin, to facilitate illegal transactions on the website, to protect the membership’s anonymity, and to facilitate the laundering of the membership’s ill-gotten gains. Members and associates of the enterprise also provided mixing and tumbling services for the website’s users, which assisted them in attempting to obscure the historical trail of digital currencies transferred from user accounts on the website to privately held digital currency addresses outside of the site’s purview.

ROLE OF THE DEFENDANT AND CO-CONSPIRATORS

13. Leaders, members, and associates of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION had defined roles in the enterprise. At all times relevant to this indictment, defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” (herein “CAZES”) and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, participated in the operation and management of the enterprise as follows:

Administrator:

14. Defendant CAZES created and founded the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION and its online platform, which included the AlphaBay Market and the AlphaBay Market Forum. CAZES began

1 creating the AlphaBay online platform in or around July 2014, and, with other persons, known and
2 unknown to the Grand Jury, publicly launched the site in or around December 2014. CAZES served as
3 the leader of the managers and operators of the criminal organization, who, collectively, controlled the
4 destiny of the enterprise.

5 15. CAZES had ultimate control of the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION, including its
6 membership. CAZES had final authority to delete the accounts of moderators, vendors, and buyers on
7 the website and forum. CAZES also had final authority in settling disputes among moderators, vendors,
8 and other users of the website. CAZES was ultimately responsible for the website's operational security
9 and technology updates. CAZES controlled the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION's earnings, which
10 derived primarily from a commission it made on every transaction occurring through the website. He
11 also had final control over salary payments to the staff members in the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION,
12 which were made in digital currencies, such as Bitcoin.

13 **Security Administrator:**

14 16. The ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION employed a "security administrator" responsible
15 for administering the AlphaBay online platform with CAZES. The security administrator had high-level
16 access to the website and, with CAZES, was responsible for the website's operational security and
17 technology updates. The security administrator also had partial control of moderator, vendor, and other
18 users' accounts on the AlphaBay online platform.

19 **Moderators:**

20 17. The ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION employed moderators to review and moderate
21 disputes among vendors and buyers on the website. Moderators had access to portions of the AlphaBay
22 platform that were not available to the general public. Moderators had the authority to refund payments
23 from buyers on the website, to restore a user's access to the site, to engage in staff-only discussions and
24 meetings, and to view the amount of digital currency available to other members of the ALPHABAY
25 ORGANIZATION. Moderators were paid based in part on the amount of work they performed for the
26 ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION.

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1 22. Beginning no later than in or around July 2014 and continuing to in or around June 2017,
2 in the Counties of Fresno, Merced, ██████████ in the State and Eastern District of
3 California and elsewhere, defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," with
4 other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, being persons employed by and associated with
5 the ALPHABAY ORGANIZATION, an enterprise, which engaged in, and the activities of which
6 affected, interstate and foreign commerce, knowingly and intentionally conspired to violate Title 18,
7 United States Code, Section 1962(c), that is, to conduct and participate, directly and indirectly, in the
8 conduct of the affairs of that enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity, as that term is defined
9 in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961(1) and (5), consisting of multiple acts indictable under 18
10 U.S.C. § 1028 (fraud in connection with identification documents), 18 U.S.C. § 1029 (fraud in
11 connection with access devices), and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956, 1957 (money laundering); and multiple
12 offenses involving narcotics trafficking, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 843, and 846 (drug trafficking,
13 use of a communication facility, and conspiracy).

16 23. It was a part of the conspiracy that defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02,"
17 aka "ADMIN," agreed that at least two acts of racketeering activity would be committed by a
18 conspirator in the conduct of the affairs of the enterprise.

19 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d).

20
21 COUNT TWO: [21 U.S.C. §§ 846 and 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), & (b)(1)(C), 841(h), and 843(b) –
22 Narcotics Conspiracy]

23 The Grand Jury charges:

24 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
25 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN,"

26 defendant herein, as follows:

27 24. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

28 25. Beginning no later than in or around July 2014 and continuing to in or around June 2017,

1 in the Counties of Fresno, Merced, [REDACTED] within the State and Eastern District of
2 California, and elsewhere, ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," did knowingly
3 and intentionally conspire with other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to violate, Title
4 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(C), 841(h), and 843(b), all in violation of
5 Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.
6

7 26. It was a part and object of the conspiracy that ALEXANDRE CAZES,
8 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would and
9 did distribute controlled substances, including but not limited to: marijuana, heroin, cocaine, fentanyl,
10 and methamphetamines, on AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, and did aid and abet such distribution,
11 in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), and (b)(1)(C), and Title 18,
12 United States Code, Section 2.
13

14 27. It was further a part and object of the conspiracy that ALEXANDRE CAZES,
15 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would and
16 did deliver, distribute, and dispense controlled substances, including but not limited to: marijuana,
17 heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, and methamphetamines, by means of the Internet, including through
18 AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, in a manner not authorized by law, and did aid and abet such
19 conduct, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(h), and Title 18, United States Code,
20 Section 2.
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22 28. It was further a part and object of the conspiracy that ALEXANDRE CAZES,
23 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would and
24 did knowingly and intentionally use a communication facility, including AlphaBay, a dark-web
25 marketplace, in committing and in causing and facilitating the commission of acts constituting a felony
26 under Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and did aid and abet such conduct, in
27 violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.
28

1 29. The controlled substances ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN,"
2 conspired to distribute included, among others: at least one kilogram of mixtures and substances
3 containing a detectable amount of heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance; at least 50 grams of
4 methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II controlled substance; and at least 1,000 kilograms of
5 marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.
6

7 All in violation of Title 21, United State Code, Section 846.

8 COUNT THREE: [21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), and 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Distribution of
9 a Controlled Substance, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

10 The Grand Jury further charges:

11 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
12 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN,"

13 defendant herein, as follows:

14 30. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

15 31. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
16 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of Merced, within the State and Eastern District of California,
17 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and
18 intentionally distribute, and aid and abet the distribution of, marijuana, a Schedule I controlled
19 substance.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Controlled Substance</u>
"CC4L"	"MG," an undercover agent	12/29/2015	12/31/2015	Merced, California to Buffalo, New York	Marijuana

24 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846, and
25 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

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1 COUNT FOUR: [21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), and 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Distribution of
2 a Controlled Substance, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

3 The Grand Jury further charges:

4 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
5 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

6 defendant herein, as follows:

7 32. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

8 33. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
9 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of Fresno, within the State and Eastern District of California,
10 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and
11 intentionally distribute, and aid and abet the distribution of, heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Controlled Substance</u>
“A51”	██████ an undercover agent	05/16/2016	05/20/2016	Brooklyn, New York to Fresno, California	Heroin

12 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846, and
13 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

14 COUNT FIVE: [21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), and 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Distribution of a
15 Controlled Substance, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

16 The Grand Jury further charges:

17 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
18 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

19 defendant herein, as follows:

20 34. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

21 35. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
22 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of Fresno, within the State and Eastern District of California,
23 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and
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1 intentionally distribute, and aid and abet the distribution of, heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Controlled Substance</u>
"A51"	██████ an undercover agent	05/24/2016	05/27/2016	Brooklyn, New York to Fresno, California	Heroin

7 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846, and
8 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

9 COUNT SIX: [21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), and 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Distribution of a
10 Controlled Substance, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

11 The Grand Jury further charges:

12 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
13 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN,"

14 defendant herein, as follows:

15 36. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

16 37. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
17 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of Fresno, within the State and Eastern District of California,
18 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and
19 intentionally distribute, and aid and abet the distribution of, heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance,
20 and fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Controlled Substance</u>
"BSB"	██████ an undercover agent	10/20/2016	10/25/2016	San Francisco, California to Fresno, California	Heroin and Fentanyl

26 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846, and
27 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

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1 COUNT SEVEN: [21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), and 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Distribution of
2 a Controlled Substance, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

3 The Grand Jury further charges:

4 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
5 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

6 defendant herein, as follows:

7 38. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

8 39. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
9 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of Fresno, within the State and Eastern District of California,
10 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and
11 intentionally distribute, and aid and abet the distribution of, marijuana, a Schedule I controlled
12 substance.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Controlled Substance</u>
██████████	██████████ an undercover agent	██████████ 2016	██████████ 2016	Los Angeles, California to ██████████ California	Marijuana

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14 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846, and
15 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

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17 COUNT EIGHT: [21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A), and 846, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Distribution of
18 a Controlled Substance, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

19 The Grand Jury further charges:

20 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
21 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

22 defendant herein, as follows:

23 40. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

24 41. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
25 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of Fresno, within the State and Eastern District of California,
26 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and
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1 intentionally distribute, and aid and abet the distribution of at least 50 grams of methamphetamine
2 (actual), a Schedule II controlled substance.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Controlled Substance</u>
██████████	██████████ an undercover agent	██████████ 2017	██████████ 2017	██████████, California to ██████████ California	Methamphetamine (actual) (more than 50 grams)

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8 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and 846, and
9 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

10 COUNT NINE: [18 U.S.C. § 1028(f) – Conspiracy to Commit Identity Theft and Fraud Related to
11 Identification Documents]

12 The Grand Jury charges:

13 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
14 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

15 defendant herein, as follows:

16 42. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

17 43. Beginning in or around July 2014 and continuing to in or around June 2017, in the
18 County of ██████████ within the State and Eastern District of California, and elsewhere, ALEXANDRE
19 CAZES, aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” did knowingly and intentionally conspire with other persons,
20 known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1028(a)(2) &
21 (f), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section
22 1028(f).

23 44. It was a part and object of the conspiracy that ALEXANDRE CAZES,
24 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would and
25 did knowingly transfer false identification documents knowing that such documents were produced
26 without lawful authority, and the transfer of such identification documents was in and affected interstate
27 and foreign commerce, and did aid and abet such transfers, in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
28

1 Section 1028(a)(2), (b)(1)(A)(ii), and (f); and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

2 45. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effectuate the objects and purposes of the
3 conspiracy, the following overt acts, in addition to others, were committed in the Eastern District of
4 California, and elsewhere:

5 a. In or around December 2014, the defendant, with others, known and unknown to the
6 Grand Jury, publicly launched AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace allowing for and facilitating
7 the sale and transfer of counterfeit and stolen identification documents and authentication
8 features.

9 b. From in or around December 2014 continuing through in or around June 2017, the
10 defendant, with others, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, collected a commission on all
11 sales made through the AlphaBay website.

12 c. On or about [REDACTED] 2015, AlphaBay vendor [REDACTED] mailed a false [REDACTED] State
13 Driver license from in or around [REDACTED] to an undercover law enforcement officer
14 operating on AlphaBay as user [REDACTED] in or around [REDACTED] California.

15 d. On or about [REDACTED] 2016, AlphaBay vendor [REDACTED] mailed two false [REDACTED] State
16 Driver licenses from in or around [REDACTED] to an undercover law enforcement
17 officer operating on AlphaBay as user [REDACTED] in or around [REDACTED] California.

18 e. On or about [REDACTED] 2016, AlphaBay vendor [REDACTED] mailed a false [REDACTED] State
19 Driver license from in or around [REDACTED] to an undercover law enforcement officer
20 operating on AlphaBay as user [REDACTED] in or around [REDACTED] California.

21 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028(f).

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1 COUNTS TEN THROUGH THIRTEEN: [18 U.S.C. § 1028(a)(2), (b)(1)(A)(ii), & (f), and 18 U.S.C.
2 § 2 – Unlawful Transfer of a False Identification Document,
3 Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

4 The Grand Jury further charges:

5 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
6 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN,"

7 defendant herein, as follows:

8 46. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

9 47. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
10 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of [REDACTED] within the State and Eastern District of California,
11 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly transfer
12 false identification documents as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1028(d)(4), to wit: false [REDACTED] State Driver
13 licenses, as set forth in the table below, knowing that such documents were produced without lawful
14 authority, and the transfers of such identification documents were in and affected interstate and foreign
15 commerce.

<u>Count</u>	<u>On or About Transfer Date</u>	<u>Document Type/ Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>
Ten	[REDACTED] 2015	False [REDACTED] State Driver license mailed from [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] an undercover agent, in [REDACTED] California
Eleven	[REDACTED] 2016	False [REDACTED] State Driver license mailed from [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] an undercover agent, in [REDACTED] California
Twelve	[REDACTED] 2016	False [REDACTED] State Driver license mailed from [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] an undercover agent, in [REDACTED] California
Thirteen	[REDACTED] 2016	False [REDACTED] State Driver license mailed from [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] an undercover agent, in [REDACTED] California

16 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028(a)(2), (b)(1)(A)(ii), and (f), and
17 Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.
18

1 COUNT FOURTEEN: [18 U.S.C. § 1029(b)(2) – Conspiracy to Commit Access Device Fraud]

2 The Grand Jury charges:

3 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
4 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

5 defendant herein, as follows:

6 48. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

7 49. Beginning in or around July 2014 and continuing to in or around June 2017, in the
8 County of [REDACTED] within the State and Eastern District of California, and elsewhere, ALEXANDRE
9 CAZES, aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” did knowingly and intentionally conspire with other persons,
10 known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1029(a)(2),
11 (a)(4), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

12 50. It was a part and object of the conspiracy that ALEXANDRE CAZES,
13 aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would and
14 did knowingly and with the intent to defraud, traffic in, have control and custody over, and possess
15 device-making equipment, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(e)(6), affecting
16 interstate and foreign commerce, and did aid and abet such conduct, in violation of Title 18, United
17 States Code, Section 1029(a)(4) and (c)(1)(A)(ii), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

18 51. It was further a part and object of the conspiracy that ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka
19 “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” and other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, would and did
20 knowingly and with the intent to defraud, traffic in one or more unauthorized access devices, as defined
21 in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(e)(3), during any one-year period, and by such conduct
22 obtained anything of value aggregating to \$1,000 or more during that period, affecting interstate and
23 foreign commerce, and did aid and abet such conduct, in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
24 Section 1029(a)(2) and (c)(1)(A)(i), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

25 52. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effectuate the objects and purposes of the
26
27
28

1 conspiracy, the following overt acts, in addition to others, were committed in the Eastern District of
2 California, and elsewhere:

3 a. In or around December 2014, the defendant, with others, known and unknown to the
4 Grand Jury, publicly launched AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace allowing for and facilitating
5 the sale of device-making equipment and unauthorized access devices.

6
7 b. From in or around December 2014 continuing through in or around June 2017, the
8 defendant, with others, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, collected a commission on all
9 sales made through the AlphaBay website.

10 c. On or about [REDACTED] 2015, AlphaBay vendor [REDACTED] mailed a [REDACTED]
11 automated teller machine skimming device from in or around [REDACTED] to AlphaBay
12 user [REDACTED] an undercover law enforcement agent located in or around [REDACTED] California.

13 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(b)(2).

14
15 COUNT FIFTEEN: [18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(4), (b)(1), & (c)(1)(A)(ii), and 18 U.S.C. § 2 –
16 Trafficking in Device Making Equipment, Attempt, and Aiding and Abetting]

17 The Grand Jury further charges:

18 ALEXANDRE CAZES,
19 aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN,"

20 defendant herein, as follows:

21 53. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

22 54. On the dates set forth in the table below, the defendant, with other persons, known and
23 unknown to the Grand Jury, in the County of [REDACTED] within the State and Eastern District of California,
24 and elsewhere, through AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, did, and attempted to, knowingly and with
25 the intent to defraud, traffic in, have control and custody over, and possess device-making equipment, as
26 defined in subsection (e)(6), as set forth in the table below, affecting interstate and foreign commerce,
27 and aided and abetted such conduct.

<u>AlphaBay Vendor</u>	<u>AlphaBay Buyer</u>	<u>Appx. Purchase Date</u>	<u>Appx. Transfer Date</u>	<u>Appx. Mailing Locations</u>	<u>Unauthorized Access Device</u>
██████████	██████████ an undercover agent	██████████ 2015	██████████ 2015	██████████ to ██████████ California	██████████ automated teller machine skimming device

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1029(a)(4), (b)(1), & (c)(1)(A)(ii), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

COUNT SIXTEEN: [18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) – Money Laundering Conspiracy]

The Grand Jury charges:

ALEXANDRE CAZES,
aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,”

defendant herein, as follows:

55. Paragraphs 1 through 20 are incorporated by reference as fully set forth herein.

56. As described above, AlphaBay, a dark-web marketplace, hosted digital currency addresses for its users, both vendors and buyers, to carry out illegal transactions, including money laundering services. AlphaBay also provided tumbling and mixing services to obscure the historical trail of digital currency associated with the site and its users, some of whom were located in the Eastern District of California. Further, as described above, AlphaBay took a percentage on all illegal transactions occurring through its site as a commission, which went to the defendant and other operators of the site. In addition, ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” and co-conspirators, moved their ill-gotten profits throughout the world, including to and from Thailand.

57. Beginning in or around July 2014 and continuing to in or around June 2017, in the Counties of Fresno, Merced, and ██████████ within the State and Eastern District of California, and elsewhere, ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka “ALPHA02,” aka “ADMIN,” did knowingly and intentionally conspire with other persons, known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and 1957.

1 the conduct of, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962, as a result of this offense; and
2 any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds which the defendant obtained, directly or
3 indirectly, from racketeering activity in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962.

4 61. Upon conviction of one or more of the offenses alleged in Counts Two through Eight of
5 this Indictment, defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," shall forfeit to the
6 United States pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(a), the following property:

7 a. All right, title, and interest in any and all property involved in violations of Title
8 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), 841(b)(1)(C), 841(h), 843(b), and 846 or a
9 conspiracy to commit such offenses, for which defendant is convicted, and all property traceable to such
10 property, including all real or personal property, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds obtained,
11 directly or indirectly, as a result of such offenses; and all property used, or intended to be used, in any
12 manner or part to commit or to facilitate the commission of the offenses.

13 b. A sum of money equal to the total amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the
14 offenses, or conspiracy to commit such offenses, for which defendant is convicted.

15 62. Upon conviction of one or more of the offenses alleged in Counts Nine through Thirteen
16 of this Indictment, defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," shall forfeit to
17 the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(B), any property
18 constituting, or derived from, proceeds the defendant obtained directly or indirectly, as a result of such
19 violations; and pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028(b), any personal property used or
20 intended to be used to commit the offenses.

21 63. Upon conviction of one or more of the offenses alleged in Counts Fourteen and Fifteen of
22 this Indictment, defendant ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," shall forfeit to the
23 United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(B), any property constituting,
24 or derived from, proceeds the defendant obtained directly or indirectly, as a result of such violations; and
25 pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1029(c)(1)(C), any personal property used or intended
26 to be used to commit the offenses.

27 64. Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count Sixteen of this Indictment, defendant
28 ALEXANDRE CAZES, aka "ALPHA02," aka "ADMIN," shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to

1 Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), all property, real or personal, involved in such offense,
2 and any property traceable to such property, including but not limited to the following:

3 a. A sum of money equal to the amount of money involved in the offense, for which
4 defendant is convicted.

5 65. If any property subject to forfeiture, as a result of the offenses alleged in Counts One
6 through Sixteen of this Indictment, for which defendant is convicted:

- 7 a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
8 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
9 c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
10 d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
11 e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without
12 difficulty;

13 it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(b)(1), and
14 1963(m), incorporating Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other
15 property of defendant, up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

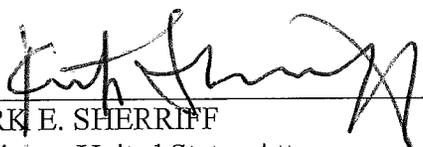
16 A TRUE BILL.

17 **/s/ Signature on file w/AUSA**

18 FOREPERSON

19 PHILLIP A. TALBERT
20 United States Attorney

KENNETH A. BLANCO
Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal
Division

21 By: 
22 KIRK E. SHERRIFF
23 Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Fresno Division

JOHN T. LYNCH, JR.
Chief, Computer Crime & Intellectual Property
Section

24 By: 
25 LOUISA K. MARION
26 Trial Attorney
27 Computer Crime & Intellectual
Property Section
28 United States Department of Justice