

A Survey of Scheduled Prescription Medicine Distribution on the Internet

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Executive Summary

The following IntegriChain whitepaper examines the distribution of scheduled prescription medicines on the Internet. The whitepaper is based on a sample of 180 websites that, as of November, 2005, claimed to sell Schedule Two, Three, and Four prescription medicines. IntegriChain surveyed each website for the purported availability of a basket of thirteen Schedule Two, Three, and Four prescription medicines, and collected information about the websites' hosting, shipping and payment options, age, and relationships to other websites within our sample. At this time we can report the following findings from our survey.

Significant Findings:

- Analysis of site content, contact information, payment systems, and other open source information suggests that a maximum of 129 unique entities operate the 180 sites reviewed in this survey.
- After filtering for related sites and “paid portals”, only 18% of surveyed sites claimed to sell Schedule Two medicines in our product list, and only 44% to sell Schedule Three medicines in our product list.
- By comparison, 83% of the websites in our filtered sample claimed to sell the Schedule Four medicines in our product list.
- Over one dozen websites in our sample claimed to supply anabolic steroids; eight of these websites offered no other scheduled substances from our product list, and were thematically focused on anabolic steroids.
- A majority of surveyed websites appear to have been active Internet pharmacies (or related services) for over a year.
- 65% of surveyed websites are hosted – in part or in whole – on servers located in the U.S.



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Introduction

The following IntegriChain whitepaper examines the distribution of Schedule Two, Three, and Four prescription medicines on the Internet. The whitepaper is based on a survey of 180 websites that, as of November, 2005, claimed to sell one or more of thirteen Schedule Two, Three, and Four prescription medicines.

First, the whitepaper probes the number of unique “Internet pharmacy” operations behind the 180 websites in our survey. We also examine the role that “portal” sites and “drug clubs” played in our sample, and how we controlled for such sites in our survey of purported availability. Ultimately, we show how rings of related websites greatly inflate the perceived number of Internet pharmacies distributing scheduled prescription medicines.

The whitepaper next surveys the purported availability of a list of scheduled prescription medicines at the 180 websites. In particular, we examine the relative frequency with which Schedule Two, Three, and Four medicines were offered at the sample websites.

Next, the whitepaper surveys characteristics of the websites in our sample, including the location of website servers, the age of the websites and their related domains, and shipping and payment options the websites claim to accept.

Finally, the whitepaper reviews four examples of the websites contained in our sample, exploring the availability of open source intelligence about their operators, their relationship to other websites, and their representations regarding the products and services they offer to consumers.

Important Notes Regarding this Survey

The sample used to date is not comprehensive. Rather, the sample is intended to reflect a broad range of websites tied to the online sale of scheduled prescription medicine, with a slight emphasis on sites more readily visible to consumers via Internet search engines. A more detailed explanation of how IntegriChain compiled its site sample follows below.



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No purchases were made as part of this survey. As such, readers should understand that IntegriChain cannot be certain that the websites in our sample in fact distribute scheduled prescription medicines to U.S. consumers, or that they distribute the *specific* products that consumers believe they are purchasing.

Moreover, without purchases we have no way to verify whether website representations regarding prescription requirements (or the lack thereof) are accurate. It is possible that some websites reflected in this study are not violating U.S. laws.



Methodology for Compiling the Site Sample

Between November and December, 2005, IntegriChain compiled a sample of 180 websites that represent themselves as a source for Schedule Two, Three, or Four prescription medicines.

Our sample consists of websites drawn from IntegriChain's proprietary databases of Internet pharmacies, and websites that are returned in the first several pages of search engine results for a scheduled prescription medicine in our product search list (see Product Offer Survey below). We included sites returned near the top of search engine results in order to ensure that our findings reflected, in part, the sites most visible to consumers searching for a scheduled prescription medicine.

IntegriChain analysts first used the search engines Google, Lycos, and Teoma to enumerate websites related to the brand and generic names of the scheduled prescription medicines in our product list. The search strings used included the word "buy" followed by the brand name of the product, and also "buy" followed by the generic name of the product. Next, IntegriChain analysts reviewed the first 50 websites returned by each search engine. We included in our list those websites that either:

- a. Listed a price at which consumers could purchase a scheduled prescription medicine in our product list;
- b. Invited consumers to request a quote for purchase of a scheduled prescription medicine in our product list; or,
- c. Invited consumers to pay to access a private section of the site where they would have access to resources (presumably other websites) that would sell them a scheduled prescription medicine in our product list.

This process returned a total of 82 unique websites (meaning unique website domain) for the Schedule Two, Three, and Four products in our list. IntegriChain supplemented this list with 98 websites from our databases.

IntegriChain maintains a database of 2.5 million domains (and related domain registration records) that we have identified in the course of working with manufacturers, ISPs, and others impacted by illicit Internet activities. Over 3,000 of these domains are Internet pharmacy websites or "portal sites" that IntegriChain has monitored or investigated in the course of its work with the pharmaceutical industry. IntegriChain analysts randomly reviewed sites from this



list to identify websites that met one of the three product listing criteria noted above for at least one Schedule Two, Three, or Four prescription medicine in our product list.

Half of the websites in our sample were included based on their listing a Schedule Two or Three product in our list, and half were included based on their listing a Schedule Four product in our list (the list is 50% Schedule Four substances and 50% Schedule Two and Three substances).

See Appendix F for a complete list of the websites contained in our sample.

Notes Regarding Our Site Sample

First, the sample is not a comprehensive list of Internet pharmacies that claim to sell Schedule 2, 3, and 4 prescription medicines. While our experience (and our findings below) suggest that the total number of websites that claim to sell Schedule 2 and 3 prescription medicines is limited by comparison to the number of websites selling other prescription medicines, our site sample methodology in this report does not support a conclusion regarding the actual number.

Second, the sample is not restricted to sites that actually process a consumer transaction for a specific scheduled prescription medicine. We chose to include in our sample sites that could be called “portals” and “paid portals”.

While the word “portal” has many usages in Internet parlance, for our purposes a portal in this report is a site that gives the appearance of being the site that a consumer is searching for – say, an Internet pharmacy – but that ultimately routes the consumer to different site to complete their transaction. The portal site would include a price list, and might include a rudimentary eCommerce system such as a “shopping cart”. However, when the consumer goes to checkout, they are automatically directed to the checkout page of a different site. Alternatively, checkout at the portal site might direct the consumer to the front page of a different website – an Internet pharmacy where the consumer must restart their purchase process.

We use “paid portal” to refer to those sites that charge a fee for consumers to access a private section of the site where they are told they will have “access” to doctors that will perform paid consultations, and pharmacies that will in turn dispense their medicines. Paid portals might, in some cases, give the appearance of running an eCommerce system, leading consumers on to believe they are purchasing a product, and then informing them that they can buy the product eventually but must join the paid service first.



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Lastly, please note that IntegriChain did not consider whether a site required prescriptions or not in compiling our sample. Because we did not make purchases as part of our survey, it is impossible to account for Internet pharmacies that misrepresent their requirements. We do not represent that every site in our sample is violating U.S. law, just as we do not represent that every site in this sample in fact sells the products that it claims to sell.



Analysis of Site Relationships

IntegriChain estimates that the 180 websites in our sample represent, at most, 129 distinct operations or Internet pharmacy “rings”. We arrived at this estimate via the following process:

- If the sites domain registration records shared two items of information in the Registrant field of the WHOIS record – for example, name and address, name and phone, phone and email, or name and email – then IntegriChain listed the sites as related.
- If sites in the sample had identical front pages and product lists, IntegriChain considered them related sites even if the WHOIS information and checkout process appeared independent.
- If the sites acted as a portal forwarding consumers to another Internet pharmacy at time of checkout, then we counted the site as related to that other Internet pharmacy.
- If multiple sites’ checkout processes noted the name of a particular pharmacy that would appear on billing statements, we listed them as related sites.
- If the sites proved to be portals that, at time of checkout, routed users to a site not contained in our sample (but that claimed to sell the product in question), we treated the portal as a unique site for the purposes of the study. (We did not insert the new site into the sample.)

Based on our experience investigating Internet pharmacies, this process would not capture all websites in our sample that share a common “backend” pharmacy. First, our WHOIS linking process was highly conservative – requiring two pieces of information specifically in the registrant fields to match. Second, open source information such as that referenced in our case studies often identifies additional links between sites. A comprehensive review of open source information on the 180 sites is not within the scope of this whitepaper. Third, as noted repeatedly in this whitepaper, we have made no purchases in the course of our research – the best way to detect relationships between even those businesses that appear entirely distinct in open source intelligence and business records. Therefore, we feel our estimate of unique site operations is a safe maximum, but the actual number of unique site operations is likely lower.



Filtered Website Sample

For our product offer survey, we have produced a filtered website sample that reflects our effort to screen for a) related websites, b) portal websites, and c) paid services.

The original sample of 180 websites contained 33 paid portals. Our analysis of site relationships identified a total of 44 (non-paid service) websites that we classified as either portals or related websites. Please note that we also classified seven of the paid portal websites as related websites. Excluding related sites (accepting only one site per ring), portals, and paid services, results in a filtered survey sample of 103 websites. For most of our survey, we have used the filtered website list. However, for analysis of website hosting information, age, and domain information, we have used the full sample of 180.



Product Offer Survey

IntegriChain reviewed each site in our sample of 180 to determine if it claimed to sell or to provide consumers access to a basket of thirteen scheduled prescription medicines. The thirteen scheduled medicines contain nine different scheduled substances – three of which are Schedule Two, two of which are Schedule Three, and four of which are Schedule Four. (See product list in Figure 1 below).

As noted above, IntegriChain made no purchases in the course of our research to verify the availability of the products that the websites in our sample claim to sell. Therefore, we cannot be certain that the following figures accurately reflect the availability of Schedule Two, Three, and Four prescription medicines from our website sample. Moreover – and perhaps just as importantly – the websites in our study may not actually ship the product that consumers believe they are purchasing. Without making purchases and forensically examining the purchased product, it is not possible to reliably predict whether product advertised as a branded drug is not, ultimately, a generic, nor is it possible to predict that product advertised as a brand or generic is not ultimately a non-bio-equivalent counterfeit. We further examine this uncertainty in Appendices A and E – respectively, our review of the website ABCOnlinePharmacy.com and summary findings from a report on websites claiming to sell OxyContin® that IntegriChain prepared in August, 2005, on behalf of Purdue Pharmaceuticals.

This said the findings of our product offer survey still offer a useful basis for considering the relative number of websites that solicit consumer business for Schedule Two, Three, or Four prescription medicines, or combinations thereof.

Generic Name	Related Brand Names	Schedule
Oxycodone	OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®	Two
Methylphenidate	Ritalin®, Concerta®	Two
Fentanyl	Duragesic®	Two
Hydrocodone	Vicodin®	Three
Stanozolol	Winstrol®	Three
Sibutramine	Meridia®	Four
Propoxyphene	Darvocet®, Darvon®	Four
Diazepam	Valium®	Four
Zolpidem	Ambien®	Four

Figure 1: Scheduled prescription medicines included in the IntegriChain product offer survey

For comparison purposes, we also reviewed each site to determine if it claimed to sell or to provide consumers access to the non-scheduled prescription medicines Lipitor® (Atorvastatin) and Viagra® (Sildenafil). We selected Lipitor® because it is the best selling non-Schedule Two, Three, or Four prescription medicine. We selected Viagra® because it is the best selling prescription treatment for erectile dysfunction, and because in our experience erectile dysfunction products are among those offered most frequently by websites selling prescription medicines.

Please note that where findings are broken out by product from our list, we report our findings under the generic name of the scheduled substance. We do this in part because some scheduled substances appear in multiple prescription medicines (for example, three in our list contain oxycodone and two contain methylphenidate). However, we have also reported results under the generic product names because of our uncertainty, absent purchase, that the websites in question are not abusing the brand names to increase consumer traffic (and then selling a generic or counterfeit product).

Figure 2 lists the number of websites within the filtered sample (affiliated sites, portals, and paid portals excluded) that claimed to sell each prescription medicine (listed by generic name).

Generic Name	# of Websites	Schedule
Oxycodone	7	Two
Methylphenidate	13	Two
Fentanyl	5	Two
Hydrocodone	31	Three
Stanozolol	21	Three
Sibutramine	70	Four
Propoxyphene	13	Four
Diazepam	39	Four
Zolpidem	52	Four

Figure 2: # of websites in filtered sample claiming to sell each prescription medicine (listed by generic name) in our product list

Of the 103 websites in the filtered sample, 19 claimed to sell Schedule Two medicines from our list, 46 to sell Schedule Three medicines from our list, and 86 to sell Schedule Four medicines our list.

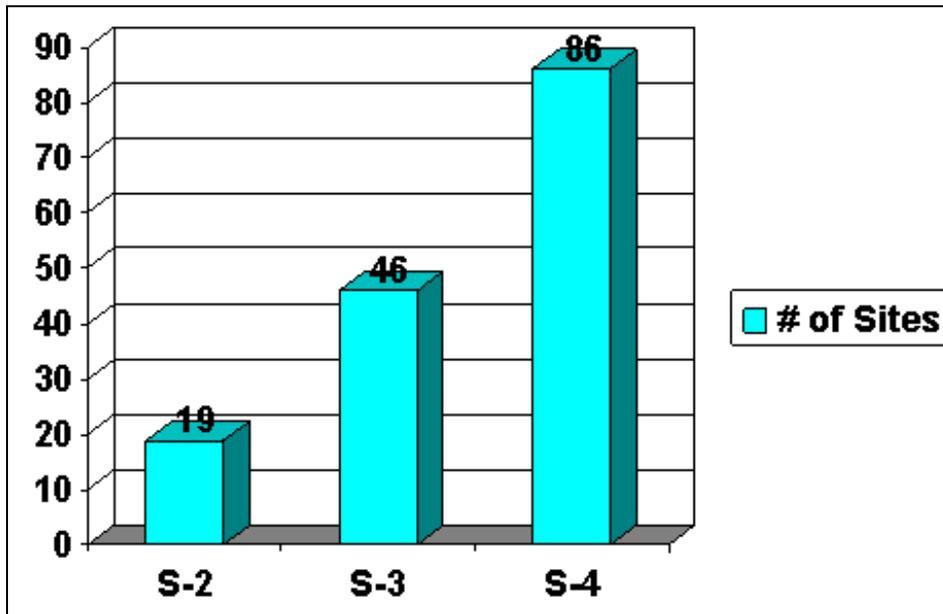


Figure 3: Number of websites in the filtered sample claiming to sell Schedule Two (S-2), Schedule Three (S-3), and Schedule Four (S-4) medicines from our product list.

Nearly half (50) of the websites in the filtered sample exclusively offered Schedule Four products from our list (see Figure 5 below). Given that half of our sample was formed from sites positively identified as claiming to supply a Schedule Four medicine from our list, it would seem that very few of the websites we originally found by initially scanning for Schedule Four medicines ultimately proved to carry the Schedule Two and Three medicines from our list. Conversely, most of the websites we initially included because they claimed to sell one of the Schedule Two or Three products in our list ultimately claimed to sell Schedule Four products as well. This clearly suggests that at least some of the Schedule Four prescription medicines in our list are more frequently listed on Internet Pharmacies than the Schedule Two and Three (and some of the Schedule Four) prescription medicines in our list. Admittedly, the size of our site sample and product list in this survey is limited. However, this finding is consistent with IntegriChain’s experience in the field – not all Scheduled prescription medicines are equal when it comes to Internet distribution.

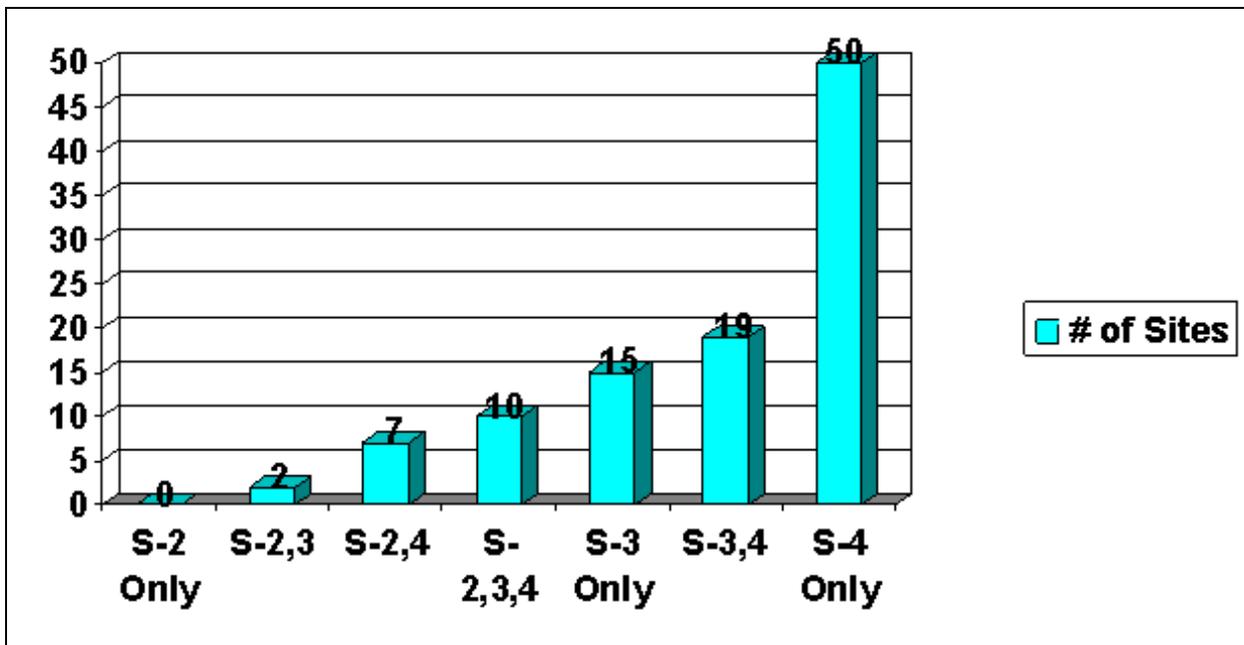


Figure 4: Diversity of scheduled medicines (from our product list) offered by websites in the filtered sample.

Further examining Figure 4, it is interesting to note that 15 websites claimed to supply only the Schedule *Three* medicines in our list, out of a total of 46 that claimed to supply Schedule Three and other scheduled medicines in our list. IntegriChain surveyed the sample websites for two Schedule Three medicines – stanozolol and hydrocodone. 11 of the 15 websites claimed to sell stanozolol – an anabolic steroid. Images taken from one of these sites – norxshop.com – are



displayed in Appendix D, showing the site's thematic focus on body building and their solicitations to consumers seeking steroids without a prescription.

82 of the websites on the filtered site sample offered to sell one of the two non-scheduled medicines in our product list. Of the remaining 21 websites that did not list one of the two non-scheduled medicines, 8 were websites that offered stanozolol but none of the other scheduled medicines in our product list. Excluding those, only 13 websites offered one of the scheduled medicines in our product list but not one of the two non-scheduled prescription medicines. It would therefore appear that some websites focus on scheduled substances – whether anabolic steroids or other products – but that such websites are a minority.

Sample Website Characteristics

IntegriChain tracked the server IP addresses, domain registrations, and DNS information of each website in our sample of 180, along with the shipping and payment options that the websites offered for their products and services. We have used IP address, domain, and DNS information – together with information available from the free Internet service archive.org – to examine the approximate age and locations of the websites in our sample. Using our filtered sample, we have also examined whether the websites claimed to support particular payment or shipping methods more often than others.

Domain Registration Information

For those experienced in Internet investigations, domain registration or “WHOIS” records are notorious for their unreliable information. That said there are a number of data points worth noting. IntegriChain captured the countries listed in the Administrative contact fields for each domain, and the registrar responsible for each registration record.

By far the most common country provided for websites in our sample was the United States, with 91 of the 180 domains. Only six other countries had more than two domain registrations in our sample.

Country	# of Domains
United States	91
Canada	17
India	7
United Kingdom	4
Mexico	4
Hong Kong	4
Bahamas	3
No other country had more than two domain registrations (administrative contact) based on our sample.	

Figure 5: Top six countries listed in the administrative contact section of the domain registration records

According to domain registration records, the domains of the 180 websites in our sample were registered at a total of 29 registrars (3 were returned unknown in this search). Five companies – GoDaddy.com, OpenSRS.net, Joker.com, NetworkSolutions.com, and Enom.com – were the registrar for over 100 of the 180 domains.

Registrar	# of Domains
Godaddy.com	41
Opensrs.net	19
Joker.com	15
Networksolutions.com	14
Enom.com	13
Dotster.com	8
Publicdomainregistry.com	8
Register.com	6
Wildwestdomains.com	5
Names4ever.com	5

Figure 6: Top ten registrars responsible for domain registration records in our website sample

Sample Website Hosting

IntegriChain traced each of the 180 websites in our sample to determine the IP address of its web server. For each IP address, we referenced an IP address to location database to determine its approximate geographic location, and looked up network WHOIS information to determine the ISP responsible for service on the address.

The websites from our survey proved to be highly concentrated in a very limited number of countries, with over 65% hosted in the United States, 8% hosted in the United Kingdom, and 7% hosted in Canada. The remaining 20% were distributed over 12 countries.

Country of IP Address	# of Websites
United States	118
United Kingdom	15
Canada	14
Slovenia	5
Bahamas	4
Israel	4
Russia	3
Hong Kong	2
Panama	2
Singapore	2

Figure 7: Top ten country locations for the web servers of website in our survey

Although the web servers appear to be heavily concentrated in the United States, the same cannot be said of the ISPs on whose networks the servers are operated. The top ten ISPs by number of websites from our survey account for only 64 websites – roughly 36% of the sample. The remaining 116 websites are hosted on a total of 80 ISPs – a remarkably broad distribution, given that we estimate there are only 129 unique entities in our survey.

Country of IP Address	# of Websites
Netcetera	13
Ethr.Net LLC	11
Everyones Internet, Inc	6
iPowerWeb, Inc	6
Go Daddy Software, Inc	5
InfoQuest Technologies, Inc	5
Interland	5
ThePlanet.com Internet Services, Inc.	5
Abacus America Inc.	4
Maxil Communications Ltd.	4

Figure 8: Top ten networks (ISPs) on which the web servers of websites in our survey are operated

Sample Website Age

IntegriChain searched a free service called the “Way Back Machine”, located at www.archive.org, which maintains archived copies of the content that was located at websites in the past. We examined whether the websites in our sample, as of one year ago, contained content related to the online distribution of prescription medicines. We did not examine whether the specific products in our list, or other scheduled medicines, were available at that time. This process determined that 105 of the 180 websites (58%) in our sample were active and related to the online distribution of prescription medicines. Tellingly, of those sites on the filtered list of 103 – excluding paid portals, portals, and related sites – the percentage of active, prescription medicine related websites increases to 67%.

In short, a majority of websites in our sample, and a significant majority of websites in our filtered sample, appear to have been active for over one year. These do not appear to be “transient” operations.

Shipping Options

IntegriChain reviewed a filtered list 103 websites that excluded related sites, portals, and paid portals. At each website, IntegriChain noted the options advertised on the product pages of the websites, and then noted the shipping options listed at the product checkout page. However, we were only able to observe a shipping option at the product checkout page for a total of 31 websites. Given that the websites could easily be misusing well known brands such as FedEx and UPS to build consumer confidence in their operations – particularly when displaying such brands' logos on their front pages – we would assume that the actual number of websites that ship FedEx or UPS is lower than what is represented in Figure 9.

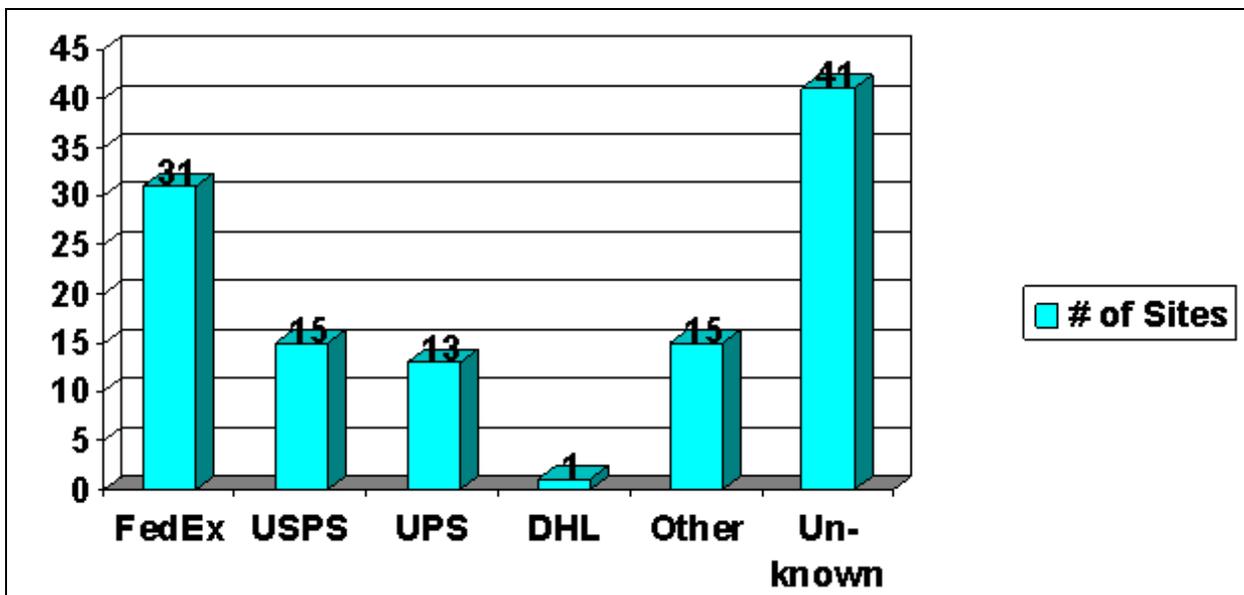


Figure 9: Shipping options that websites in the filtered sample of 103 claim to support.

Payment Options

For payment options, IntegriChain reviewed a filtered list of 129 websites that excluded related sites and portals, but included paid portals that charge for access to their services.

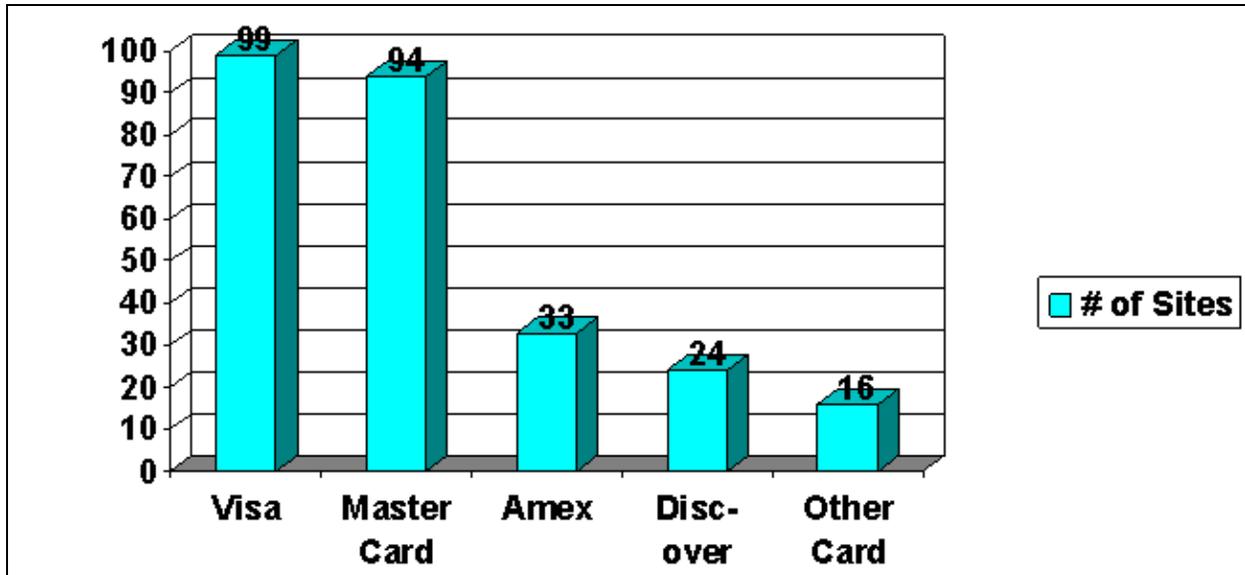


Figure 10: Credit cards accepted at websites from filtered sample of 129 (does not exclude sites reliant on payment services)

Not surprisingly, the sites most often claimed to accept Visa and Master Card. However, please note that as with all other findings in this survey, IntegriChain did not attempt purchases of the products on the surveyed websites. Therefore, our same concerns regarding brand abuse from our shipping findings apply here as well. The number of actual websites that accept Visa and Master Card may – and based on our experience we would expect is – smaller than the numbers noted in Figure 10.

IntegriChain also noted websites that offered to accept Western Union, personal checks, PayPal, or some other form of non-credit cards payment. Figure 11 displays our results.

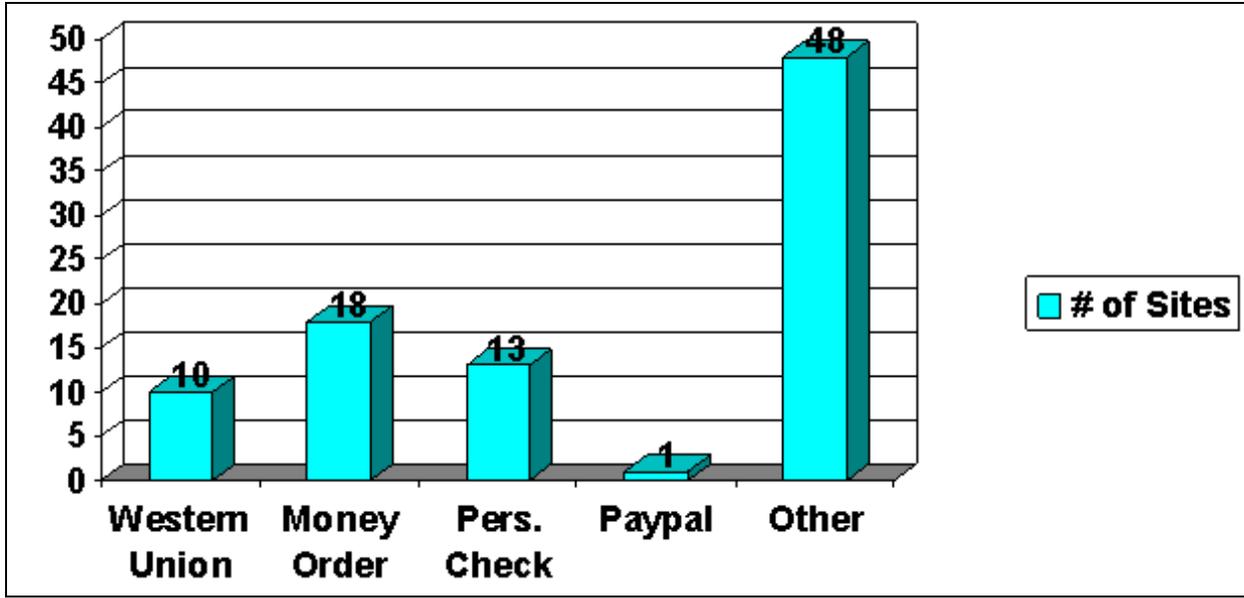


Figure 11: Other payment methods accepted at websites from filtered sample of 129 (does not exclude sites reliant on payment services)

Finally, IntegriChain noted those sites that relied on a payment service – a third party website (or seemingly third party, as the site could be operated by the same brick and mortar entity) that handles eCommerce functions for the vendor website. Some of these services appeared to be payment clearinghouses that would service multiple types of activities, while others appeared focused specifically on Internet pharmaceuticals sales. We tracked the payment service by its root domain name – i.e., for Ticket Club we noted ticketclub.com. Obviously, the actual name of the business behind the payment service may well be different than the names in the domains. Figure 12 summarizes the payment services used by filtered list of 129 websites.

Payment Service	# of Websites	Payment Service	# of Websites
Biggiweb.com	1	Safewaypurchase.net	2
Cartsrver.com	1	Securecheckout2.com	2
CCBasket.com	2	Securemservice.com	1
iBill.com	2	Securercart.com	1
iPay.com	2	Securercshopping.com	1
MoneyBookers.com	1	Securewebexchange.com	1
MPLLC.net	1	Storesonline.com	1
NETBilling.com	3	Stormpay.com	2
Paytrustnet.com	1	TicketsClub.com	6
Prescriptionbilling.com	1	Veripayment.com	1
Rx-cart.com	1	Verisign.com	1
Rxsecurecart.com	1	Verotel.com	2
Safetrustprocessing.com	2	WRCWorldWide.com	1

Figure 12: Payment services for filtered list of 129 websites

Conclusions

While our survey clearly finds that a large number of websites claim to sell scheduled prescription medicines to consumers via the Internet, we believe that our survey also offers good news for law enforcement and private sector companies responsible for the integrity of U.S. prescription medicine distribution.

While our survey found Schedule Four prescription medicines to be broadly advertised at Internet pharmacies, our findings seriously question whether Schedule Two prescription medicines are as available online as might be indicated by a casual search of the Internet or even Internet pharmacies.

As for Schedule Three medicines, anabolic steroids appear to be a particular area of concern. Many – perhaps most – of the websites offering anabolics may prove to be focused on that specific line of business. At a minimum, it is safe to say that we found very few instances in which websites offering anabolic steroids would also claim to sell narcotic pain relievers.

Leaving aside Schedule Three and Four prescription medicines, our study would suggest that the number of websites selling Schedule Two medicines is limited. First of all, our sample of websites is limited to those that at least offered a Schedule Four medicine. Thus, we do not capture websites selling “erectile dysfunction” and a handful of other prescription medicines. We found only 18% of websites in our sample claimed to sell the Schedule Two medicines in our product list. Since this percentage is representative of a sample that is already scheduled substance-related, we are confident that the overall percentage of Internet pharmacies offering the Schedule Two medicines in our product list is actually much lower.

If one accepts that there are no more than 5000 unique Internet pharmacy operations on the Internet (accounting for portals and site networks), then the total number of websites even *claiming* to sell the Schedule Two medicines in our basket would be in the hundreds.

Meanwhile, several other data points in our survey suggest that a concerted, programmatic effort to take down those websites that illicitly distribute Schedule Two, Three, or Four substances could have a significant impact on illicit product availability. Nearly two thirds of the websites in our filtered sample (no portals, paid portals, or affiliates) appear to have been online for over one year. Meanwhile, nearly two thirds of the websites in our sample also appear to be hosted in the United States. Given the ease with which these websites currently stay online, operating under the same domain for a year or more, action to restrict access to illicit domains



and to take down illicit web servers would have an immediate impact on the status quo. Given the extent to which these websites are presently tied to the United States, an action campaign focused on the websites digital infrastructure would seem to hold real promise.

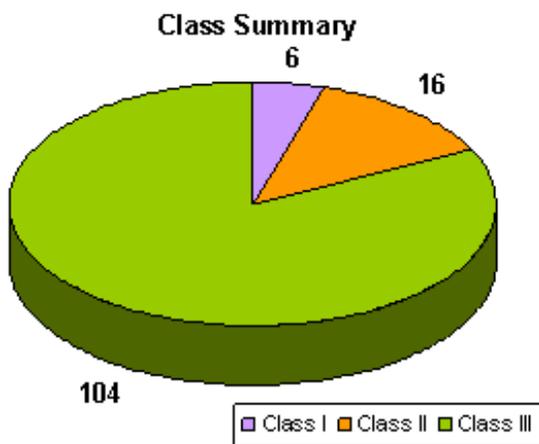
At a high level, our survey suggests that our sample websites are heavily utilizing express carrier services and major credit cards – perhaps suggesting additional avenues through which to bring pressure on those websites that illegally distribute. However, we cannot emphasize enough that our findings are not based on product purchases. Absent purchases, it is very difficult to know, at this time, whether the websites in our survey are not simply abusing the brands of the express carriers and credit card companies.

We call our conclusions preliminary because we acknowledge that our survey covers a limited sample of websites, and is based on a limited basket of products. Moreover, our analysis of relationships between sites has not been exhaustive, even in terms of what is possible with only open source intelligence.

As noted above, IntegriChain's databases contain thousands of websites that purport to sell prescription medicines to consumers. In 2006, IntegriChain will issue a follow-up to this whitepaper that reflects an expanded sample of websites and products, and additional analysis of open source intelligence. Though the most conclusive findings will only come with the collection of intelligence via purchases, we believe that an expanded survey of open source intelligence will be able to capture that maximum (if not the minimum) scale of online scheduled medicine distribution.

Appendix E – IntegriChain Survey of OxyContin® Online Offers

In August and September of 2005, at the request Purdue Pharma, manufacturer of OxyContin®, IntegriChain carried out comprehensive searches of its proprietary databases, Internet pharmacy related forums, paid portals, and other Internet mediums to identify websites claiming to sell OxyContin®. This information is provided herein with Purdue’s permission as a point of reference for readers considering our whitepaper’s findings. No purchases were made as part of this study. However, based on a more thorough examination of open source information than the constraints of the present white paper permitted, IntegriChain and Purdue established a three-tiered system to rate the likelihood that the 126 websites identified in our research would supply Oxycontin®:



Class I Site: Based on website analysis, including source of its identification, comments of consumers in forums related to drug purchasing, affiliation with other entities, and ownership, the product (or a substitute scheduled substance) is likely to be available.

Class II Site: Website identified through searches for sale of Oxycontin®, and reference to the drug is made on the site – but without the supporting information available for Class I Sites. Or, if no reference is made, availability of product(s) is implied or suggested through offering of other controlled substance. As such websites belonging to this category are potential but not likely sources of the drug(s).

Class III Site: Website identified through searches for sale of Oxycontin®, however, when the ultimate “selling” site was reviewed, no reference to the drug was identified. Availability of Oxycontin® is highly unlikely.

Ultimately, our research found only 6 websites that we could classify as “Class I” sites. Even if all Class II sites turned out to actually sell the product, that would result in a total of 22 websites selling OxyContin® out of 126 that solicited consumers for the product.