an e-zine reinterpretation of william blake by sarah demarest // media overload,
I click thru every hyperlink near where the cyber freeway flows.

And click on every link I see links of image, links of prose.
in every refresh
of every [page],
in every cryptic
<loading> time,
in every tweet,
every update,  
haunting facebook message chimes•
from within TOR
the deep web calls

taunting us to come explore

proxies → b u c ← before they one

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and the silk road is no more.
a virtual vessel, vast content

privacy is our lowest concern

it all >>start and >>ends on the internet

media overload makes its return.
NOTES

For this project, I chose to emulate Blake’s London in the format of an “E-zine,” or an online zine. I was inspired by various internet communities, particularly the alt-lit movement, much of which is writing that focuses on disconnection in the digital age and plays with text formatting and a minimalist approach to things. As for the subject matter of the poem, I wanted to make a commentary on the darker and more hidden parts of the internet, kind of a virtual equivalent of Blake’s commentary on the underbelly of the city in London. Here is a sample paragraph from the actual London, the fourth stanza:

    How the Chimney-sweepers cry
    Every blackning Church appalls,
    And the hapless Soldiers sigh
    Runs in blood down Palace walls

I also aimed to mimic Blake’s incorporation of art with his text through a more simplistic format that focused mainly on creating art out of the text as opposed to adding more in addition. The pixel computer desktop image found on page 4 can be credited to sashatsiaparis.deviantart.com.