

OpenDNS

New DNS Traffic Analysis Techniques to Identify Global Internet Threats

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PhD Graph Theory Applied on Sensor Networks

Focus: Security, Graphs & Data Analysis

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Security Researcher at OpenDNS
Background: Machine Learning
Focus: Time Series and Data Analysis

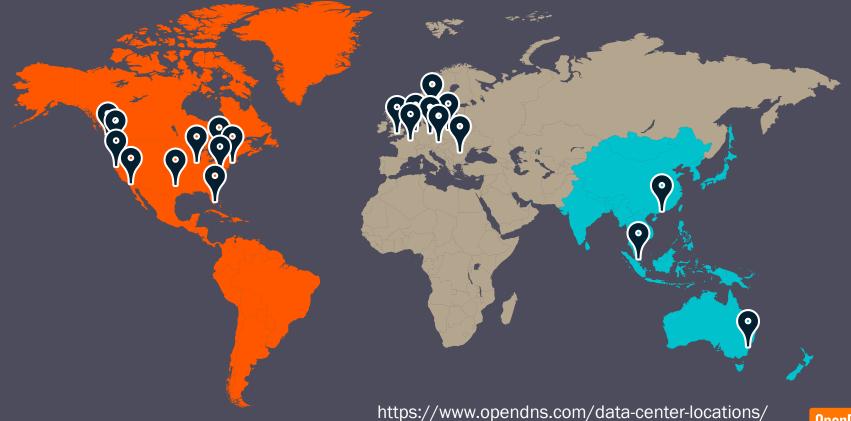
Agenda



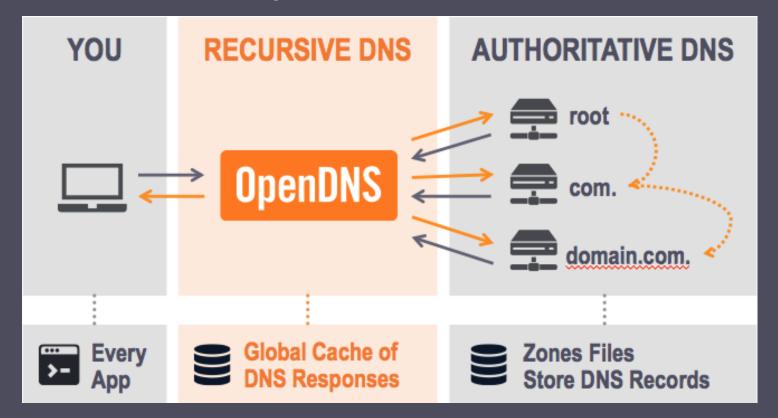
OpenDNS Global Network & Types of DNS Traffic

- Threat Landscape
- DNS Traffic Analysis Techniques
- Results and Recorded Suspicious Hosting Patterns
- Graph Analytics
- Conclusion

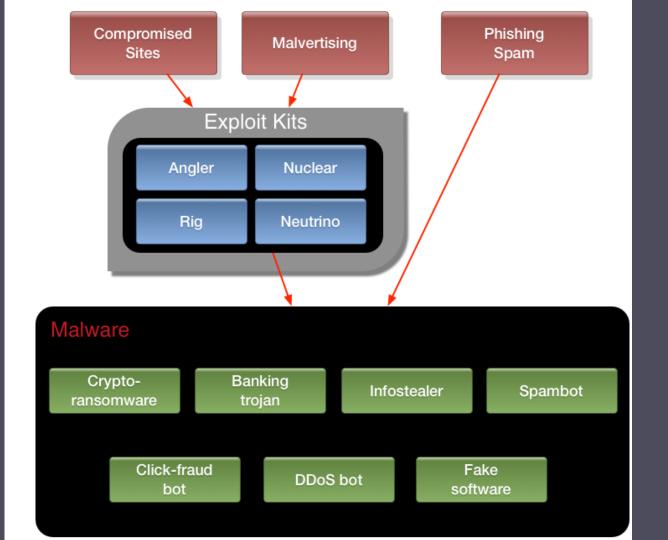
OpenDNS' Network Map



Where is OpenDNS in the network?







Some Security Graph Metrics



- 70+ Billion DNS queries per day
- Sample Authlogs:
 - ~46M nodes per day
 - ~174M edges per day

DNS Traffic Analysis Techniques

DNS Data – Authoritative Data

- Authoritative Data captures changes in DNS mappings:
- Can reconstruct all the domains mapping to an IP for a given time window and vice-versa
- Reconstruct data regarding name servers



DNS Data – Authoritative Data

- Authoritative Data helpful in catching 'noisy' domains
 - Fast flux, domains with bad IP, prefix reputation
- Noisy domains change mappings frequently e.g.
 Fast Flux

Domain Reputation

- We have noticed relying on domain reputation breaks on identifying certain groups of threat
 - Nxdomains, client behavior related domains
- Devised for an internet of 10 years ago
- Malicious domains move quickly from IP to IP
- Compromised domains
- Price of domain and subdomain have gotten cheaper

Signals

- Hypothesis: DNS query patterns are a signal that is harder to control
- Refined Hypothesis: DNS query patterns can be used to help identify Exploit kit domains

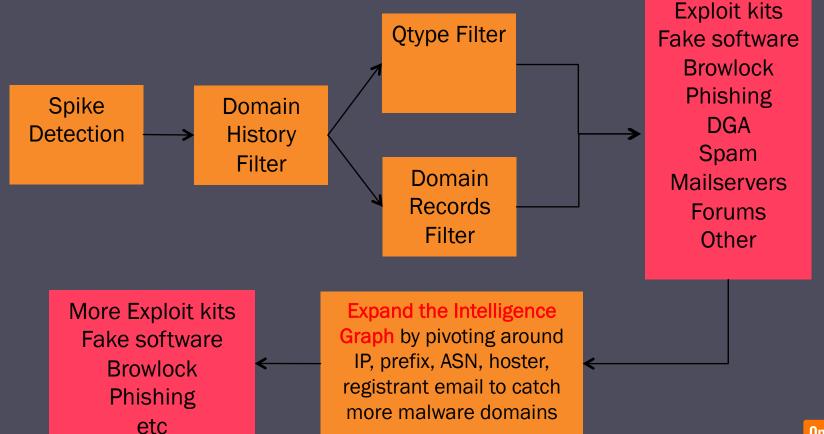
Signals (cont'd)

- Inherent vs. acquired/assigned features
- Lexical, DGA setup, hosting, registration can be changed
- Traffic patterns that emerge globally from clients querying malware domains are harder to obfuscate, change
- Defeat malware domains by tracking their features for which evasion at global scale is not easy

Traffic Patterns

- Create system to detect abrupt changes in query patterns
- Query pattern data is below the recursive layer
- Data includes: Timestamp, Client IP, Domain queried, Resolver queried, Qtype, etc.

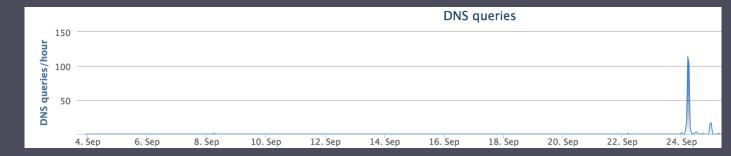
Detection System Components



Spike Detection

- Signal we look for is a spike
- Spike defined as a jump in traffic over a two hour window
 - Use predetermined threshold. Helps filter out google, facebook, etc
- Use a MapReduce job to calculate domains that spike
 - Output 50-100k domains each hour
- 50-100k domains is too much for manual inspection
- Domains that spike can have past history
- Mail servers, blogs, victimized domains, etc

Signals (cont'd)







Qtype Filter

- The amount of noise indicates we need more features.
- Look at past history, DNS Qtypes, all existing DNS records of a domain, unique IPs, unique resolvers, etc.
- Partition based on Qtypes:
 - 1 A Record
 - 15 MX Record
 - 16 TXT Record
 - 99 SPF Record
 - 255 ANY Record

Qtype Partition Results

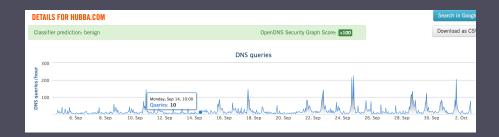
- Partition spikes based on their qtype distribution
 - -i.e. A record only, A record and MX record, etc



- Interesting patterns begin to emerge
 - Only see 18 out of the 40 possible combinations
 - 75% or greater are A records only
 - Many combinations never appear ie only qtype 99
 - Behavior of domains can be associated with partition

Qtype Partition Results

- Qtype of (1,15) associated with legitimate mail servers
 - Two types of distributions
 - 50/50 or 99/1 split between qtypes
 - **-~4**%
- Periodicity emergent in benign domains



Qtype Partition Results

- Qtype of (1,15,16,99,255) associated with legitimate mail and spam
 - Spam usually correlated with extremely high jumps
 - $\sim 2.0\%$ of all domains
 - demdeetz.xyz



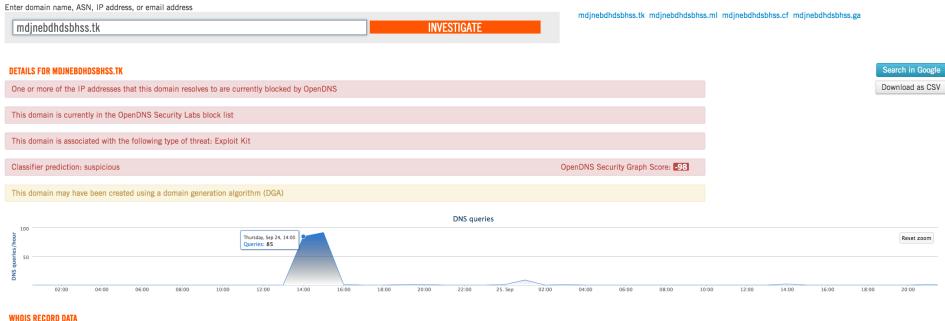
Domain History Filter

- Past query history can be used to help remove benign domains and zero in on EMD ones
- Eliminate all domains with more than X consecutive nonzero hours of traffic
- Based on current EK domains' traffic patterns, only keep domains that feature Y consecutive most recent non-zero hours of traffic

Domain History Filter – benign with history



Domain History Filter – Nuclear EK



Registrar Name: - IANAID: -Last retrieved October 7, 2015 Get latest

Nameserver	Associated Domains	Last Observed
ns01.freenom.com	Greater than 500 Total - At least 40 malicious	Current
ns02.freenom.com	Greater than 500 Total - At least 40 malicious	Current
ns04.freenom.com	Greater than 500 Total - At least 39 malicious	Current
ns03.freenom.com	Greater than 500 Total - At least 40 malicious	Current

Domain Records Filter

- Check for all DNS records available for a domain
- The existence/non-existence of certain records helps narrow down the purpose of a domain.
- Partition based on DNS records:
 - A
 - -MX
 - -TXT
 - -CNAME
 - -NS, specific name servers, indicative of compromise or malware

Random Forest

- Use random forest for classification
 - Example of ensemble learning using boosting. Boosting refers to process reducing bias from a set of weak estimators
 - Scalable via parallelization
- Use random forest on simple 2 class problem:
 - Exploit Kit/Non-Exploit Kit
 - In reality problem is multiclass: Spam, Exploit Kit, etc
 - For simplicity focus on binary problem

- Input:
 - Spike data
 - Time series data
- Output:
 - Classified domains
- Use Sklearn random forest library
- Challenges related to selecting features and tuning random forest parameters

- Features contain a mixture of continuous, discrete, and categorical variables.
 - Challenge for most estimators. Random forest handles this problem better than most estimators
- Continuous: Ratio of query counts to unique IPs
- Discrete: Query counts
- Categorical: QType Distribution
- Features include:
 - Number of unique IPs
 - Distribution of QTypes
 - Distribution of RCodes

- Have to tune various hyperparameters:
 - Number of features to decide split
 - Number of trees to create
 - Gini vs Entropy
- Gini measure used for deciding when to create splits
 - We chose Gini because it generalizes better to continuous data. Majority of our data is continuous
- Building deeper trees = longer training time
- We decided to use sqrt(number of features) to determine the max number of features used to generate split

- Created a training set of 1k exploit kits and 2k non-exploit kits.
- Ran through with a 10 fold cross validation
- Successful in minimizing false positives:
 - One challenge was handling Chinese gambling sites which have close to identical behavior to exploit kit domains.
 - Difference is only apparent after examining lexical structure of domain name
- AOC = .93
 - Significantly better than random



Detected Threats

- Exploit kits: Angler Nuclear, Neutrino
- DGA
- Fake software, Chrome extensions
- Browlock
- Phishing

Detected Threats – Recorded Hosting Patterns

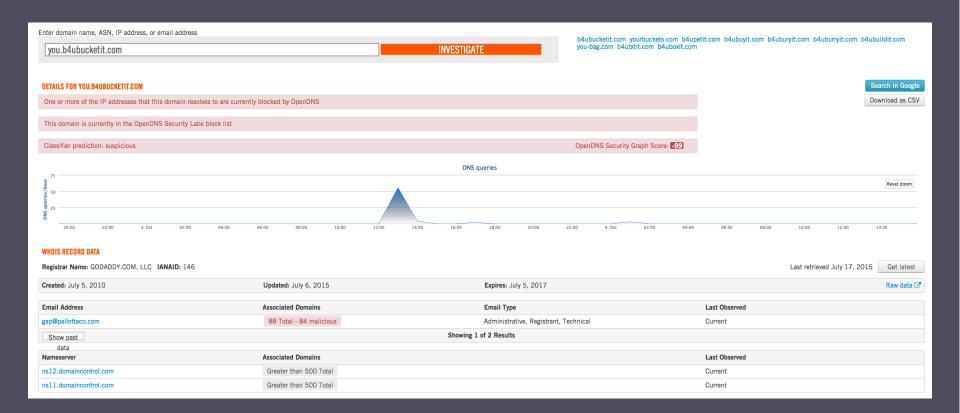
- Compromised domains Domain shadowing
- Domain shadowing with multiple IP resolutions
- Register offshore and diversify IP space
- Large abused hosting providers (Hetzner, Leaseweb, Digital Ocean)
- Shady hosters within larger hosting providers (Vultr)

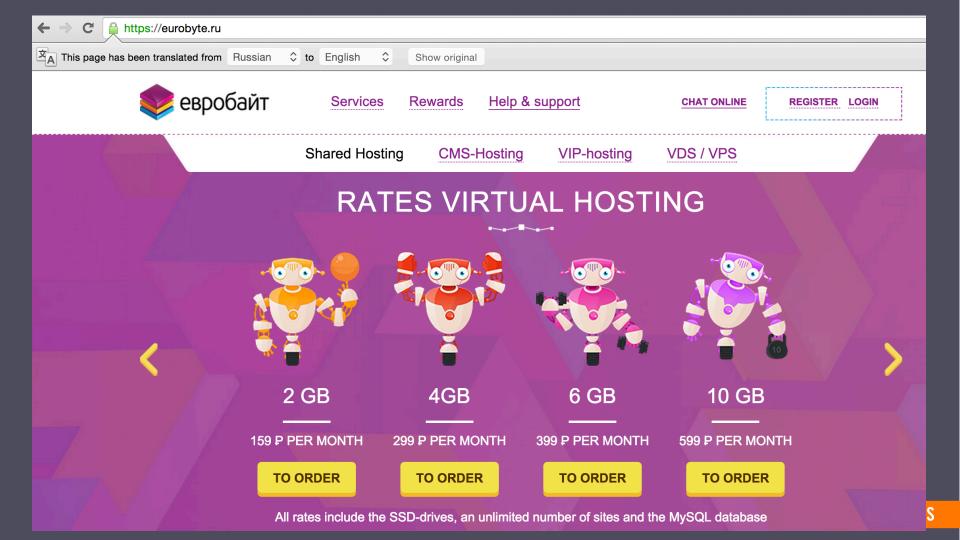
Compromised domains - Domain shadowing

- Compromised domains Domain shadowing serving Angler, RIG, malvertising
- Spike domain can have GoDaddy name servers and still be a non EK, e.g. Chinese lottery, casino sites, spam
- Difference is: EK domains have traffic from multiple IPs spread across several resolvers
- Traffic to spam, casino sites comes from a single IP

Angler versus Spam

- Exploit kit: you.b4ubucketit.com. 0.0 45 45.0 40 11 {((ams),13),((cdg),1),((fra),3),((otp),1),((mia),6),((lon),6),((nyc),1),((sin),3),((pao),1),((wrw),3),((hkg),7)} {((1),45)}
- Spam: www.tzd.tcai006.net. 0.0 26 26.0 1 1 {((lon), 26)} {((1),26)}
- 46.30.43.20, AS35415, Webzilla, https://eurobyte.ru/





Domain shadowing on multiple hosting IPs

- odksooj.mit.academy. 3600 IN A 217.172.190.160
 odksooj.mit.academy. 3600 IN A 85.25.102.30
- 217.172.190.160, AS8972, PLUSSERVER-AS, https://vps-server.ru/
- 85.25.102.30, AS8972, PLUSSERVER-AS, https://vps-server.ru/
- The range 217.172.190.158-160 is hosting similar EK domains
- 217.172.190.159 hosts vbnxkjd.governmentcontracting411.com which also resolves to 178.162.194.172
- 178.162.194.172, AS16265/AS28753, http://www.hostlife.net/
- The range 178.162.194.169-172 is also hosting similar EK domains



SERVERS

VDS / VPS

HOSTING

DOMAINS

SERVICES

SUPPORTS

CONTACTS

HOSTING

RELIABLE HOSTING FOR YOUR WEBSITE

Hosting your sites on a fast SAS and SSD drive! Discounts on hosting for 6 and 12 months!

- Unlimited traffic for VIP tariff
- Instant account activation
- Databases fast SSD drive!
- Tested for Joomla, WP, Drupal
- You can select the version of PHP (5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 ...)



BUY >





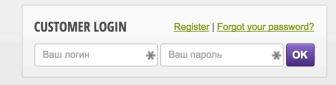












HOSTING AND SERVERS WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT SSL

DOMAINS

ABOUT COMPANY

SUPPORTS

CONTACTS

DEDICATED SERVER



- → 100% hardware resources → Dedicated connection
- > PU and operating systems to > Administration choose from
 - Remote backup 50 GB

Manage the DNS



from **53.1** \$

Details



Another EK

- iou2386yu.ey346uidhfjj.xyz
- 46.102.152.72, AS51852, https://www.qhoster.com/

```
46.102.152.97 2015-10-04 2015-10-05 1
46.102.152.72 2015-10-03 2015-10-05 2
46.102.152.91 2015-10-03 2015-10-04 1
46.102.152.52 2015-10-02 2015-10-04 2
46.102.152.46 2015-10-02 2015-10-04 2
```

5 IPs in the /24 range are hosting similar pattern EK domains

Another EK

The 5 IPs share the same fingerprint

```
PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION

22/tcp open ssh OpenSSH 6.0p1 Debian 4+deb7u2 (protocol 2.0)

80/tcp open http nginx web server 1.2.1

Service Info: OS: Linux
```

4 more IPs in the /24 range have same fingerprint and are very likely set up to host EK domains in the next couple days, and they did!

```
46.102.152.115
46.102.152.123
46.102.152.143
46.102.152.150
```

Register Business Offshore and Diversify IP Space

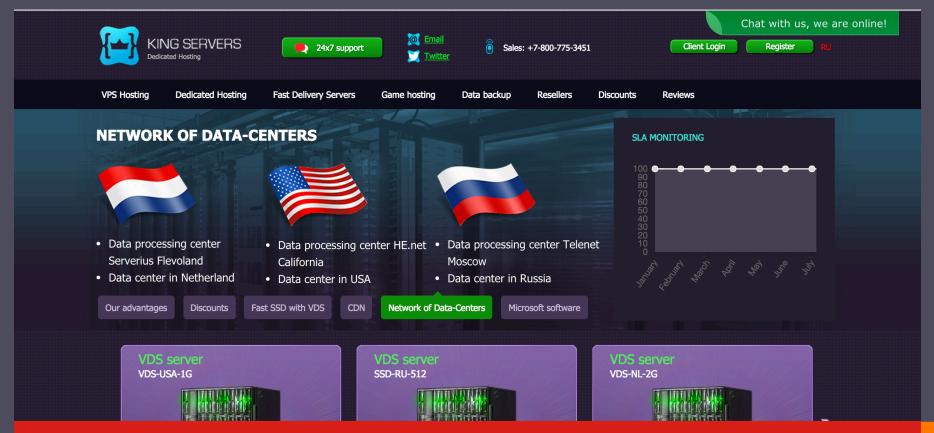
- Qhoster, https://www.qhoster.com/
- Hosting provider's business registered in Belize
- Hosting EK domains, phishing in addition to ordinary content
- IP space in both ARIN and RIPE





OpenDNS

Register Business Offshore and Diversify IP Space



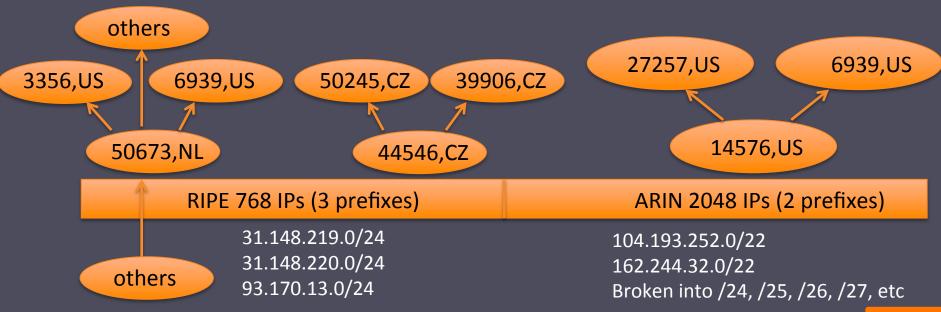
KING-SERVERS

Hosting provider's business registered in Anguilla

 Hosting EK domains, malware, porn, insurance scam, fake software, pharma

2816 IPs: 2048 IPs in ARIN space, 768 IPs in RIPE space

KING-SERVERS



Nuclear

- fegshsjdjkasdhasdbaad.ga
- 188.226.215.37, AS200130, https://www.digitalocean.com/
- 400+ Nuclear domains on that IP between Sep 24 and Oct 8
- A domain's lifetime is less than 1 day

Nuclear – Abused Large Hosting Providers

- Previous pattern, name server domains registered with compromised email cavalliere.job@gmail.com and landing domains are registered as free domains under freenom
- Name servers hosted on Digital Ocean and AS-Choopa/Vultr
- Landing domains hosted on various ASNs, most notably AS-Choopa/Vultr
- New pattern: Namesevers are freenom's own name servers, and landing domains are hosted mainly on Vultr or Digital Ocean
- Digital ocean has 9 ASNs. The smaller ones are the most abused: AS202018, AS202109, AS200130



Previous pattern	Recent pattern
EK landing domains registered for free through freenom	Idem
EK landing domains hosted on various ASNs, most notably AS-Choopa/Vultr	EK landing domains hosted on various ASNs, mainly AS-Choopa/Vultr, DigitalOcean Digital ocean has 9 ASNs. The smaller ones are the most abused: AS202018, AS202109, AS200130
Use dedicated name servers registered with compromised email 16 name servers registered with same email -> Can pivot around email or name servers to blacklist EK domains	Use of freenom's name servers: ns01-04.freenom.com -> Not possible to automatically pivot around name servers w/o weeding out FPs
Name servers hosted on various ASNs, mainly AS-Choopa/Vultr, DigitalOcean -> Can block name server IPs	freenom's name servers hosted on Amazon and Google ASNs -> Not reliable to block Amazon and Google IPs w/o FPs

Vultr – Shady Hoster within larger hosting providers

- Vultr is a child company of AS-Choopa (AS20473) created to compete with Digital Ocean in the affordable VPS market
- IP space is 65,000 large in North America, Europe, Asia/Pacific
- Its cost-effectiveness made it an attractive platform for criminals to host Exploit kits, phishing and other gray content
- https://labs.opendns.com/2015/09/14/phishing-spiking-and-bad-hosting/

DGA - 1

```
nxsabpxvqdhac86.com. 0.0 49 49.0 5 5 \{((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),6),((dfw),7)\}
lofefstnltktbpk.com. 0.0 49 49.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),20),((lax),5),((ash),5),((dfw),7)} {((1),49)}
ycydhmuwhamfssagka.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),6),((dfw),6)} {((1),48)}
xrgxhcueshoedxt.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),5),((dfw),7)} {((1),48)}
uotsljmfuxd58.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),5),((dfw),7)} {((1),48)}
sycfdptbswdf3.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((ash),6),((chi),12),((yvr),19),((dfw),6),((lax),5)} {((1),48)}
pojrcpqajhcuqq4b.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),5),((dfw),7)} {((1),48)}
odmwooyyfoysnc.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),6),((dfw),6)} {((1),48)}
jcdbrovrumwouoo.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 {((chi),12),((yvr),20),((lax),5),((ash),5),((dfw),6)} {((1),48)}
dsiahpklftbfbwqc3.com. 0.0 48 48.0 5 5 \{((chi),12),((yvr),19),((lax),5),((ash),5),((dfw),7)\}
```

DGA - 1

- 22 DGA domains sharing identical spike features (volume, number of IPs, number of resolvers, resolver distribution)
- Subsequent hours' traffic patterns are also identical

Fake software

- flnhzjwdjqrwjqm.gangsta12.ru. 0.0 55 55.0 41 6 {((ams),7),((cdg),3),((fra),23),((wrw),5),((mia),13),((lon),4)} {((1),55)}
- 82.118.16.114, AS15626, ITLAS ITL Company
- 9 IPs in the vicinity are hosting same fake SW
- **82.118.16.107 82.118.16.115**
- SoftwareBundler:Win32/LoadArcher.A

Fake software

https://www.virustotal.com/en/ip-address/82.118.16.114/information/ Documentation FAQ About Join our community Statistics Sign in ZUIJ-IU-U+ IUIGSI-pau-uccpiy.iu 2015-10-04 gangsta12.ru 2015-10-04 hdedmk25pb.ru 2015-10-04 ijnabxsewxep.magicbaseball.ru More A Latest detected URLs Latest URLs hosted in this IP address detected by at least one URL scanner or malicious URL dataset. 2015-10-05 00:11:36 http://ozfdxubybugvp.anybodyloudly.ru/start_page.exe 2015-10-05 00:09:59 http://iophanti.magicbaseball.ru/nethost.exe 2015-10-05 00:03:01 http://iospecqutzuhm.stringglow.ru/start_page.exe 2015-10-05 00:01:14 http://ijnabxsewxep.magicbaseball.ru/start_page.exe 2015-10-05 00:00:18 http://ikjumbeugzmlp.29rgio29kh.ru/start_page.exe 2015-10-04 23:50:34 http://ktjaupfepzep.anybodyloudly.ru/chrome_extension.exe 2015-10-04 23:03:51 http://stringglow.ru/ 2015-10-04 23:03:44 http://forest-pad-deeply.ru/ 2015-10-04 23:02:32 http://hdedmk25pb.ru/ 2015-10-04 23:02:05 http://9wko968ccy.ru/ More △ Latest detected files that were downloaded from this IP address Latest files that are detected by at least one antivirus solution and were downloaded by VirusTotal from the IP address provided. 2015-10-05 00:11:39 2a70b91e2b80b2f6d24edaddf0089754813b5face65768457239f8ca80c5c9aa 2015-10-05 00:10:02 9425e7ef719ff9bd6c5e64db65ed6236cd547678cdfd3eaf6b94e1aec8abc1b3 2015-10-04 23:50:38 020b850d513fd7bdb7ed4f8178d07984070eb69a1f3504c4dc639fef0c9def09 2015-10-04 21:08:53 706ed6c471ce806e96ebadb77ba53869e2f297e0cdd67a193d5b52d5a1df2739

Phishing

american-express-1v3a.com american-express-4dw3.com american-express-d34s.com american-express-d3s1.com american-express-f34s.com american-express-s2a3.com american-express-s3d2.com american-express-s43d.com american-express-s4a2.com american-express-sn35.com





WHOIS RECORD DATA

Registrar Name: Todaynic.com, Inc. IANAID: 697

Created: September 25, 2015

Updated: September 25, 2015

Expires: September 25, 2016

Raw data C

 Email Address
 Associated Domains
 Email Type
 Last Observed

 whois-protect@hotmail.com
 98 Total - 95 mallicious
 Administrative, Registrant, Billing, Technical
 Current

Nameserver	Associated Domains	Last Observed
dns2.555mir.ru	21 Total - 18 malicious	Current
dns1.555mir.ru	21 Total - 18 malicious	Current

Show more WHOIS data ▼

DOMAIN TAGGING

Period	Category	URL
Sep 29, 2015 - Current	Phishing	http://american-express-1v3a.com/americanexpress/
Sep 29, 2015 - Current	Malware	
Sep 25, 2015 - Current	Phishing	http://american-express-1v3a.com/americanexpress/
Sep 25, 2015 - Current	Malware	

Phishing

american-express-1v3a.com. 4.0 1351 337.75 487 16 {((nyc),78),((ash),87),((chi),173),((yvr),60),((ams),69), ((cdg),60),((yyz),17),((sin),262),((fra),18),((lax),37),((dfw),137), ((wrw),1),((pao),4),((mia),75),((syd),14),((lon),259)} {((255),1)}

Phishing

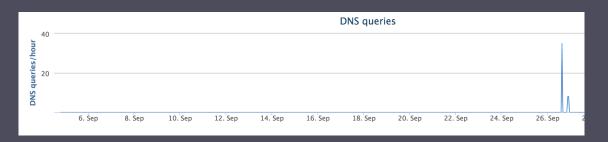
Hosting IPs:

```
149.210.234.215, AS20857
162.218.89.142, AS36352
91.108.83.213, AS31400
93.189.42.13, AS41853
```

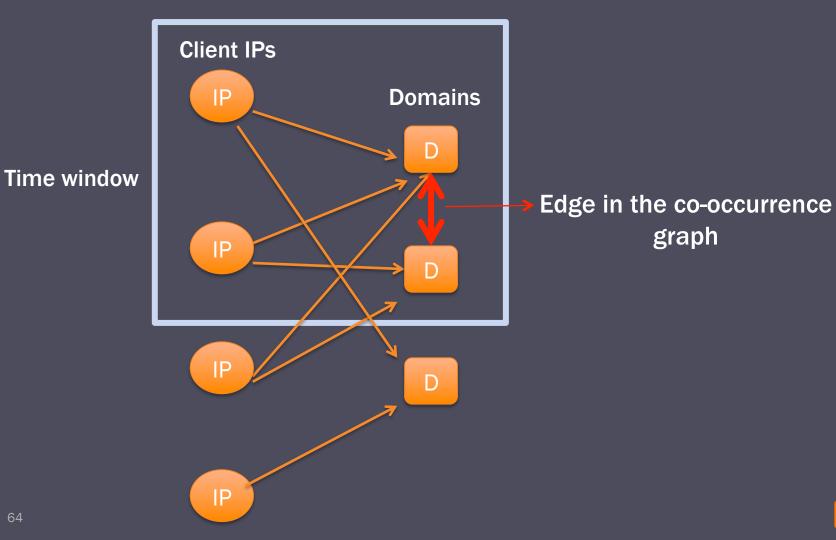
- Pivot around IPs and registrant emails, we find a lot more phishing sites for banks, e.g. Nova Scotia Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, and carding sites:
- www.scotiasupport.com, rbcroyalbanksolution.com
- prvtzone.cc, mcduck.cc, mrbin.tw

Some FPs

- Some possible false positives (xard38.oowaividaddict.net, uclfgji.kieyopowertochange.net)
- Chinese SEO
- Pinyin + IP distribution







Use Cases:

- Domains sharing same theme, e.g. security sites, hacking, carding sites
 - Visited by users with related interest
- Example: <u>www.cert.org</u>

CO-OCCURRENCES

podone.noxsolutions.com (86.55) dzone.com (8.33) searchsecurity.techtarget.com (5.12)

RELATED DOMAINS

www.bluesnews.com (6) seclists.org (6) www.biologynews.net (5) www.astrobio.net (4) www.boingboing.net (4) isc.sans.edu (4) feeds.feedburner.com (3) www.freebsd.org (3)

- Botnet CnC domains, e.g. DGAs
- Infection chains: compromised sites -> Exploit kit landing domains

Co-occurring (Related) Domains

- Hourly job
- output is a 1.5 GB json file
- Number of Edges: 61,280,656
- Number of Vertices: 2,207,680
- 100luimg.361lu.com. {"ucsec1.ucweb.com":3.0,"d2.avgc.us": 3.0,"home.1100lu.info":4.0}

Graph Analytics

- Find connected components
- Calculate density of every component
- Density=Nb. of edges / Nb. of vertices
- Number of Connected Components: 85421
- Distribution of nodes per component follows power-law

Component Distribution

In [59]: d_table.topk('DENSITY', k=50).print_rows(num_rows=50, num_columns=50)

+		+	+
component_id	COUNT	EDGE	DENSITY
7511	1907334	121647228	31.8893355857
2951	1350	73956	27.3911111111
148259	56	1280	11.4285714286
144924	106	1660	7.83018867925
95490	2640	36768	6.96363636364
385564	30	408	6.8
80013	78	1048	6.71794871795
36758	30	380	6.33333333333
109292	134	1672	6.23880597015
411980	104	1192	5.73076923077
307675	24	260	5.41666666667
123948	58	612	5.27586206897
385816	36	376	5.2222222222
385844	26	268	5.15384615385
207245	126	1288	5.11111111111
162841	84	856	5.09523809524
205820	152	1544	5.07894736842
276429	28	284	5.07142857143
93746	1998	20212	5.05805805806
331628	36	364	5.0555555556
20550	86	864	5.02325581395
115877	22	220	5.0
116691	2000	20000	5.0

Results

```
In [82]: v[v.apply(lambda x: x['component id'] == 346812)].print rows(num rows=200, num columns=200)
                                in degree | out_degree | total_degree | component id
                                                                                           In [84]: v[v.apply(lambda x: x['component id'] == 385816)].print rows(num rows=200, num columns=200)
           bbulotjtlego.biz.
                                                10
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
            ckbbtxxbuvrj.biz
                                                0
                                                              8
                                                                            346812
           csdmslkjmldl.biz.
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
                                                10
                                                                                                                id
                                                                                                                                          out degree
                                                                                                                                                        total degree
           dcwxxqrjimmm.biz.
                                                10
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
                                                                                                                              in dearee
                                                                                                                                                                        component id
           dfijehkkjbvu.biz.
                                                10
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
           dsjjoonmqqmf.biz.
                                                10
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
                                                                                                        mail3.tpmix.info
                                                                                                                                                                           385816
                                                                                                                                  10
                                                                                                                                                             10
           enmlmsiiyikp.biz.
                                                10
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
                                                                                                       mail12.tpmix.info.
                                                                                                                                               11
                                                                                                                                                             11
                                                                                                                                                                           385816
           fgodsvitsrsd.biz.
                                                10
                                                              10
                                                                            346812
                                                                                                       mail15.tpmix.info
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                                                                                                                                                             q
                                                                                                                                                                           385816
                                                              10
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Detection of DGAs, spam domains, etc.

Conclusion

- Developed a more holistic view into DNS to detect threats
- Use traffic patterns below the recursive and combine it with pivoting around hosting infrastructures for more efficient threat detection
- Use traffic-based models to extract seeds from the large DNS data set
- Use graph analytics to explore communities of related threat domains

We are hiring!



OpenDNS is now part of Cisco.

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