SMART Board-

## i Mdea software

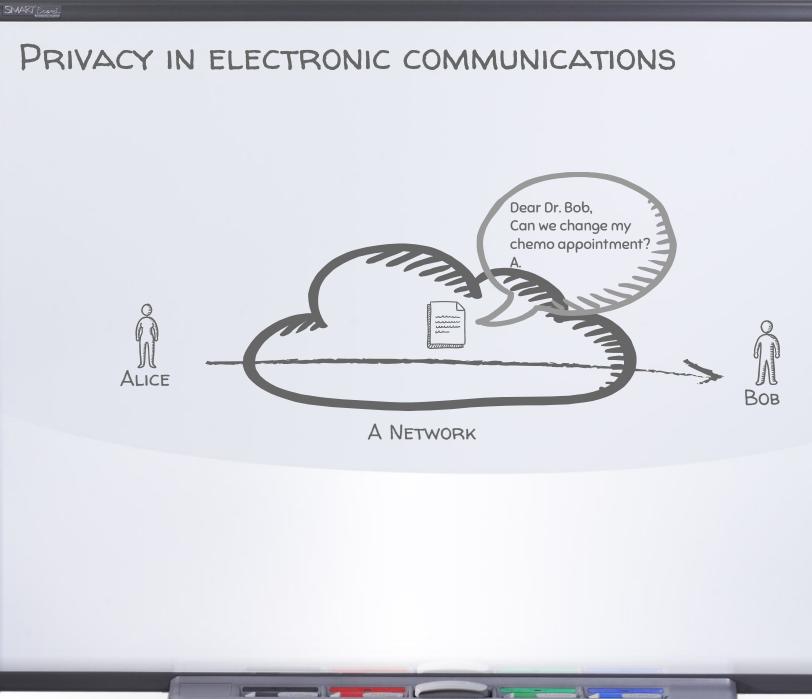


# TRAFFIC ANALYSIS: OR ... ENCRYPTION IS NOT ENOUGH

## CARMELA TRONCOSO\* IMDEA SOFTWARE INSTITUTE Summer school on real-world crypto and privacy 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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\*THANKS TO GEORGE DANEZIS FOR SHARING SLIDES

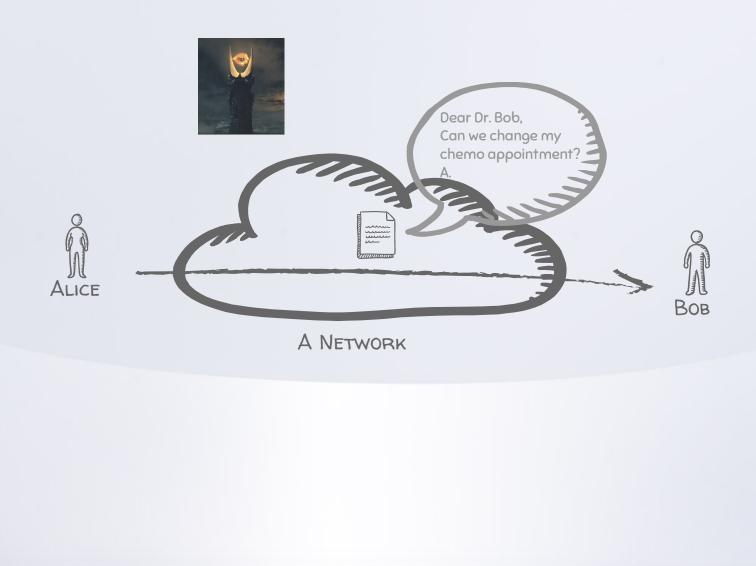


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PRIVACY IN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

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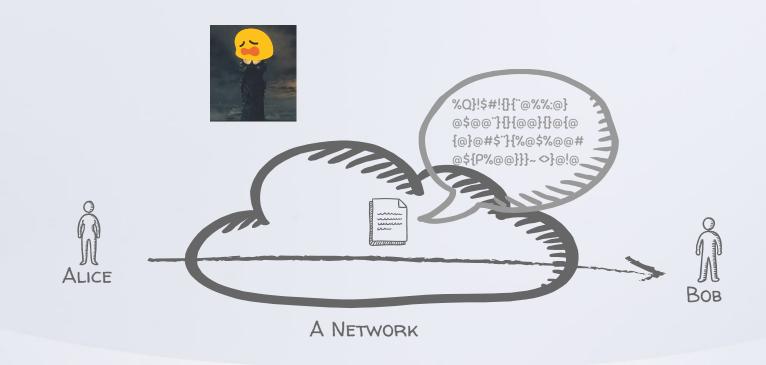




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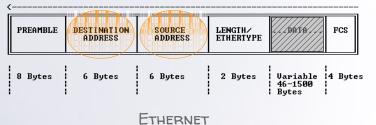




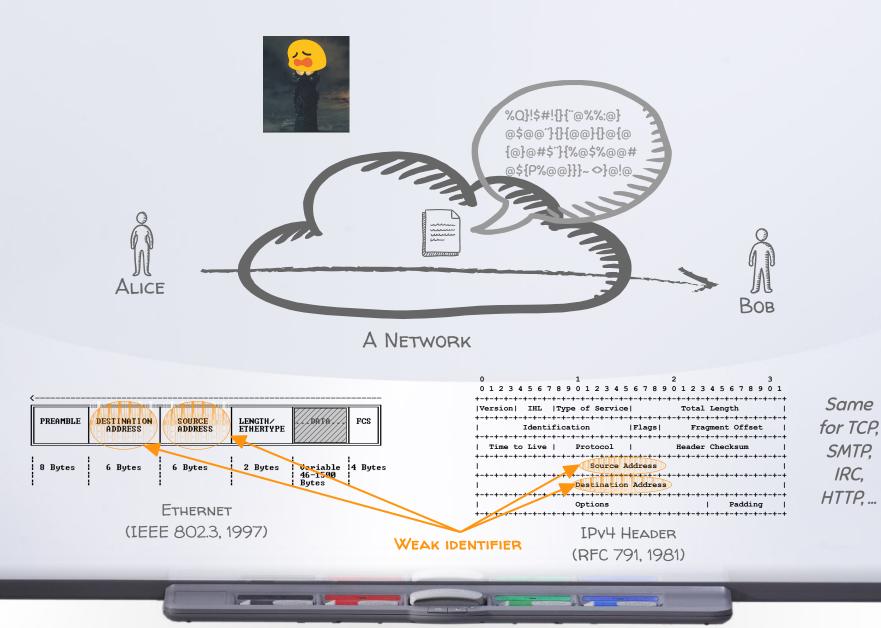
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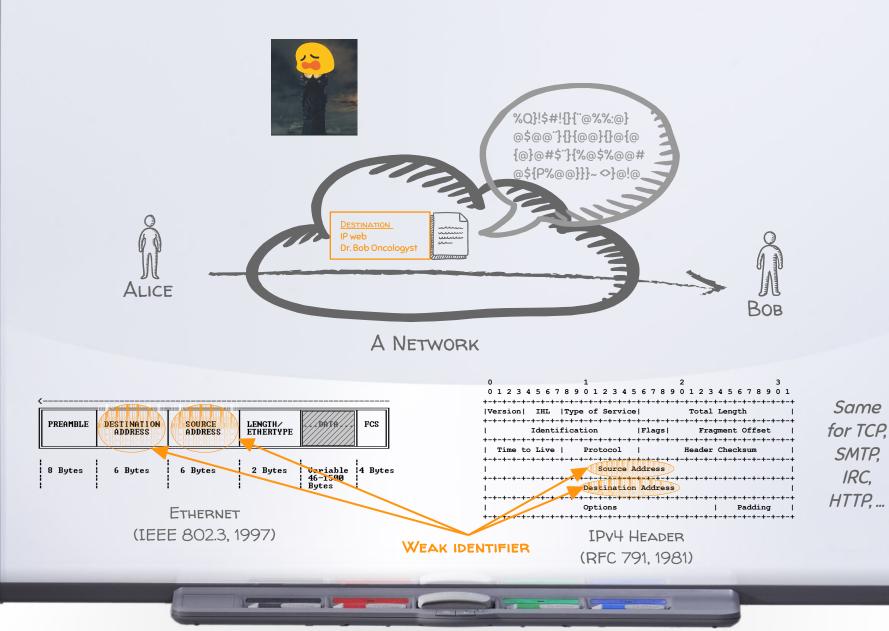
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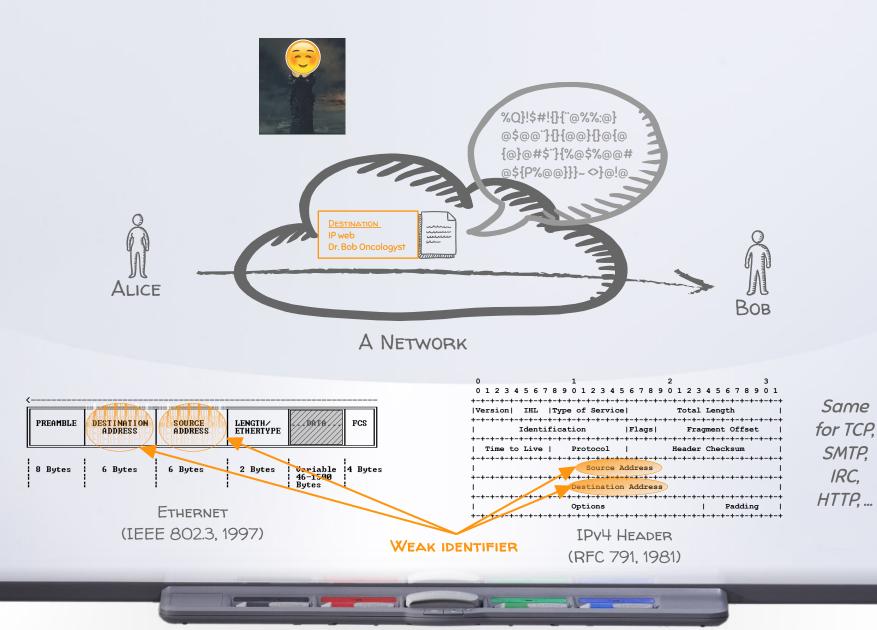
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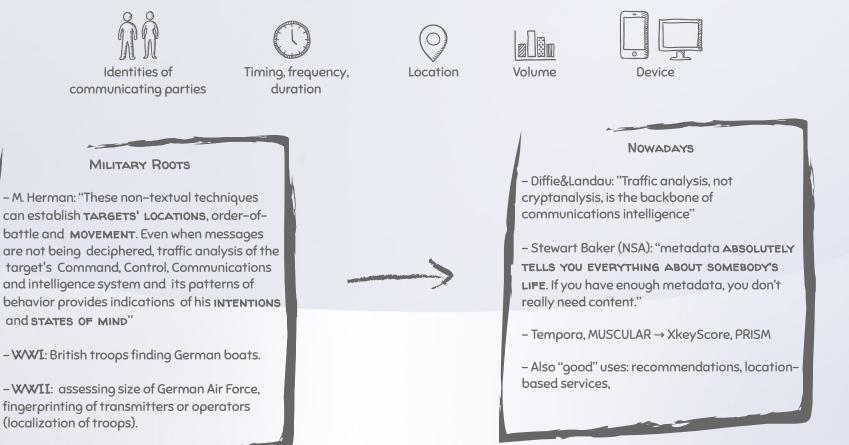
## TRAFFIC WHAT?

and STATES OF MIND"

(localization of troops).

WIKIPEDIA: traffic analysis is the process of intercepting and examining messages in order to deduce information from patterns in communication

MAKING USE OF "JUST" TRAFFIC DATA OF A COMMUNICATION (AKA METADATA) TO EXTRACT INFORMATION (AS OPPOSED TO ANALYZING CONTENT OR PERFORM CRYPTANALYSIS)



Herman, Michael. Intelligence power in peace and war. Cambridge University Press, 1996. Diffie, Whitfield, and Susan Landau. Privacy on the line: The politics of wiretapping and encryption. MIT press, 2010. http://www.theguardian.com/world/interactive/2013/nov/01/snowden-nsa-files-surveillance-revelations-decoded

## WE NEED TO PROTECT THE COMMUNICATION LAYER! ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS

#### GENERAL APPLICATIONS

- Freedom of speech
- Profiling / price discrimination
- Spam avoidance
- Investigation / market research
- Censorship resistance

#### > SPECIALIZED APPLICATIONS

- Electronic voting
- Auctions / bidding / stock market
- Incident reporting
- Witness protection / whistle blowing

-

The second

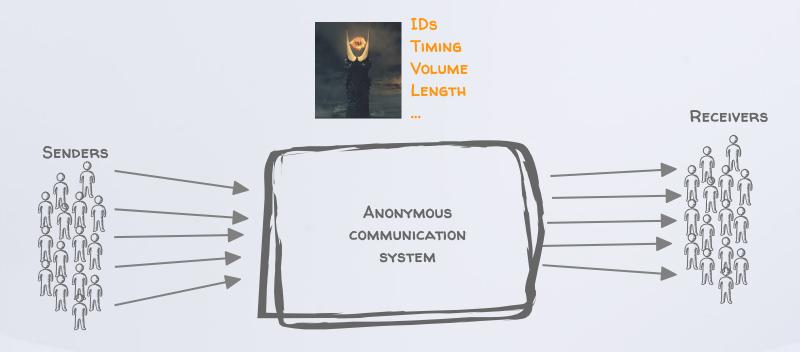
Showing anonymous credentials!

#### Anonymity is important to:

- the people who run some of the funniest parody Twitter accounts, such as @FeministHulk (SMASH THE PATRIARCHY!) or @BPGlobalPr during the Deepwater Horizon aftermath. San Francisco would not be better off if we knew who was behind @KarltheFog, the most charming personification of a major city's climate phenomenon.
- the young LGBTQ youth seeking advice online about coming out to their parents.
- the marijuana grower who needs to ask questions on an online message board about lamps and fertilizer or complying with state law, without publicly admitting to committing a federal offense.
- the medical patient seeking advice from other patients in coping with a chronic disease, whether it's alopecia, irritable bowel syndrome, cancer or a sexually transmitted infection.
- the online dater, who wants to meet new people but only reveal her identities after she's determined that potential dates are not creeps.
- the business that wants no-pulled-punches feedback from its customers.
- the World of Warcraft player, or any other MMOG gamer, who only wants to engage with other players in character.
- artists. Anonymity is integral to the work of The Yes Men, Banksy and Keizer.
- the low-income neighborhood resident who wants to comment on an article about gang violence in her community, without incurring retribution in the form of spray paint and broken windows.
- the boyfriend who doesn't want his girlfriend to know he's posing questions on a forum about how to pick out a wedding ring and propose. On the other end: Anonymity is important to anyone seeking advice about divorce attorneys online.
- the youth from an orthodox religion who secretly posts reviews on hip hop albums or R-rated movies.
- the young, pregnant woman who is seeking out advice on reproductive health services.
- the person seeking mental health support from an online community. There's a reason that support groups so often end their names with "Anonymous."
- the job seeker, in pursuit of cover letter and resume advice in a business blogger's comments, who doesn't want his current employer to know he is looking for work.
- many people's sexual lives, whether they're discussing online erotica or arranging kink meet-ups.
- Political Gabfest listeners. Each week, the hosts encourage listeners to post comments. Of the 262 largely positive customer reviews on iTunes, only a handful see value in using their real names.

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/10/online-anonymity-not-only-trolls-and-political-dissidents http://geekfeminism.wikia.com/wiki/Who\_is\_harmed\_by\_a\_%22Real\_Names%22\_policy%3F

## ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS: ABSTRACT MODEL

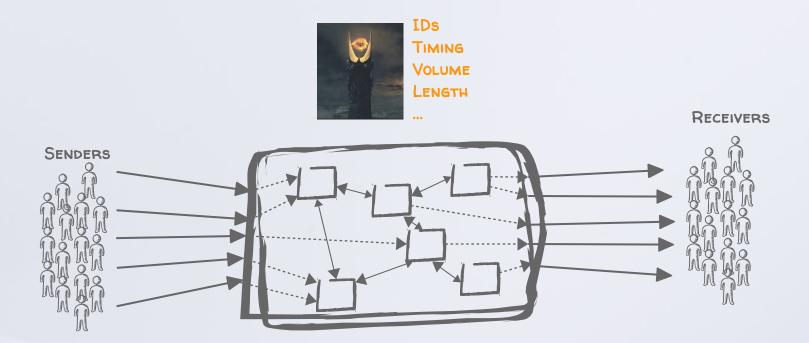


> BITWISE UNLINKABILITY

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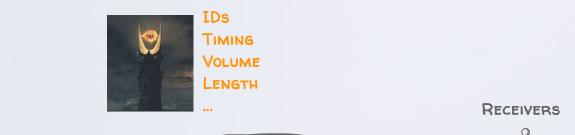
- > Crypto to make inputs and outputs bit patterns different
- > (RE)PACKETIZING + (RE)SCHEDULE
  - Destroy patterns (traffic analysis resistance)

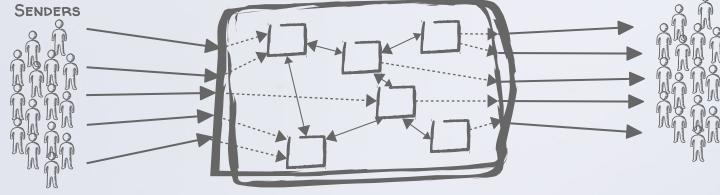
## ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS: ABSTRACT MODEL



- > BITWISE UNLINKABILITY
  - > Crypto to make inputs and outputs bit patterns different
- > (RE)PACKETIZING + (RE)SCHEDULE + (RE)ROUTING,
  - Destroy patterns (traffic analysis resistance)
  - Load balancing
  - Distribute trust

## IN THEORY SHOULD WORK, BUT IN PRACTICE ...





- BITWISE UNLINKABILITY
  - > Crypto to make inputs and outputs bit patterns different



- > (RE)PACKETIZING + (RE)SCHEDULE + (RE)ROUTING,
  - Destroy patterns (traffic analysis resistance)
  - Load balancing
  - Distribute trust

### Bandwidth



Intrinsic network differences Trust?

### ... STILL VULNERABLE TO TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

FIND PROFILES AND COMMUNICATION PATTERNS persistent relationships show up

> TRACE TRAFFIC BASED ON PATTERNS number of packets, delays, ... differ per flow

**DEVICE IDENTIFICATION / LOCATION** hosts' hardware particular characteristics

IDENTIFY USERS BASED ON CHOICES not everybody can/will choose everything

IDENTIFY TRAFFIC BASED ON ITS PATTERNS (E.G., WEBSITE FINGERPRINTING) same traffic always looks similar RECOVER CONTENT timing and length of packets

TRACE PACKETS BASED ON ROUTING ALGORITHMS not all routes are possible

USERS' PAST HISTORY timing correlated to caches

MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY MORE ....

Pérez-González, Fernando, and Carmela Troncoso. "Understanding statistical disclosure: A least squares approach." PETS, 2012. Danezis, George, and Paul Syverson. "Bridging and fingerprinting: Epistemic attacks on route selection." PETS, 2008. Houmansadr, Amir, and Nikita Borisov. "The need for flow fingerprints to link correlated network flows." PETS, 2013. Troncoso, Carmela, and George Danezis. "The bayesian traffic analysis of mix networks."CCS, 2009. Juarez, Marc, Sadia Afroz, Gunes Acar, Claudia Diaz, and Rachel Greenstadt. "A critical evaluation of website fingerprinting attacks." CCS, 2014. Felten, Edward W., and Michael A. Schneider. "Timing attacks on web privacy." CCS, 2000. Murdoch, Steven J. "Hot or not: Revealing hidden services by their clock skew." CCS, 2006. White, A. M., Matthews, A. R., Snow, K. Z., & Monrose, F. "Phonotactic reconstruction of encrypted VoIP conversations: Hookt on fon-iks." IEEE S&P, 2011.

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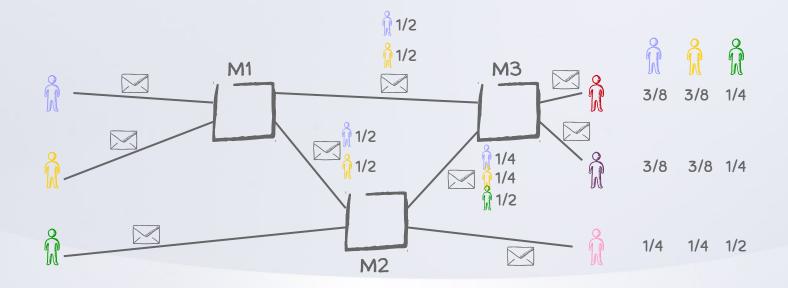
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## WHERE DO MESSAGES GO?

THRESHOLD MIX: collects t messages, and outputs them changing their appearance and in a random order



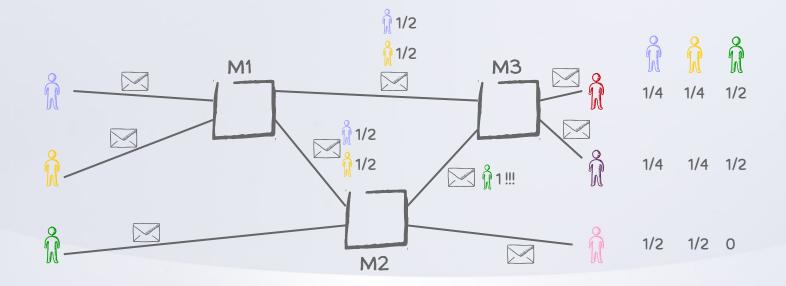
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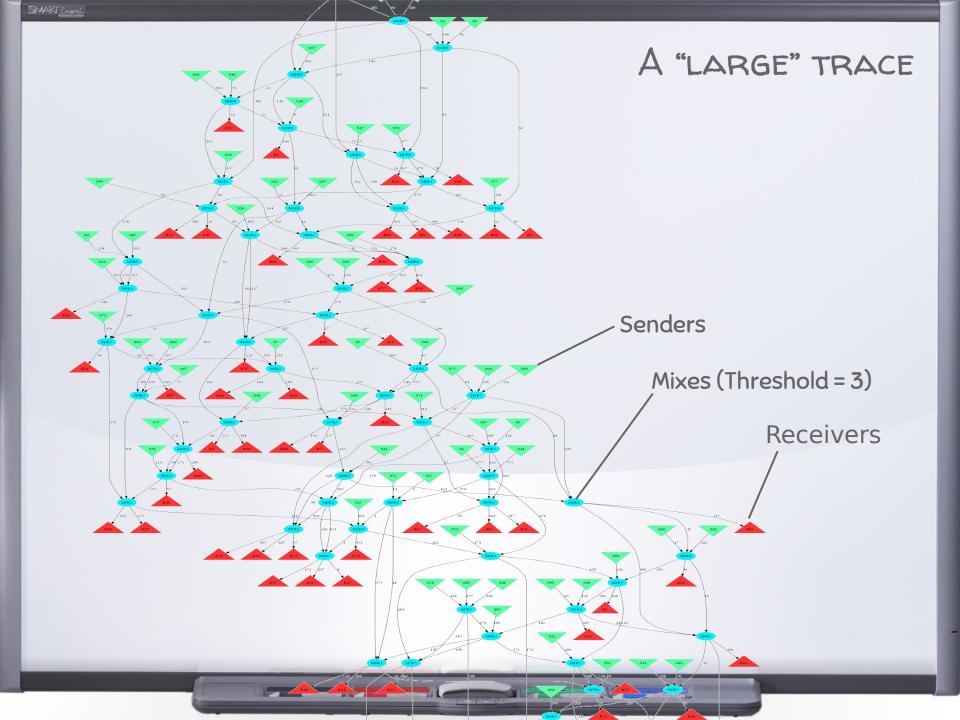
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## WHERE DO MESSAGES GO? not everything is possible (e.g., max 2 hops)

THRESHOLD MIX: collects t messages, and outputs them changing their appearance and in a random order

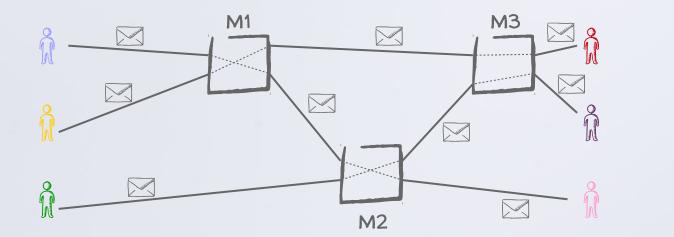


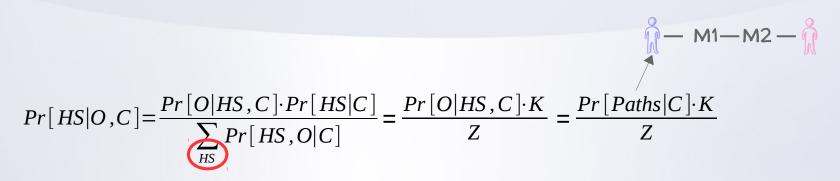
## NON TRIVIAL GIVEN OBSERVATION!!

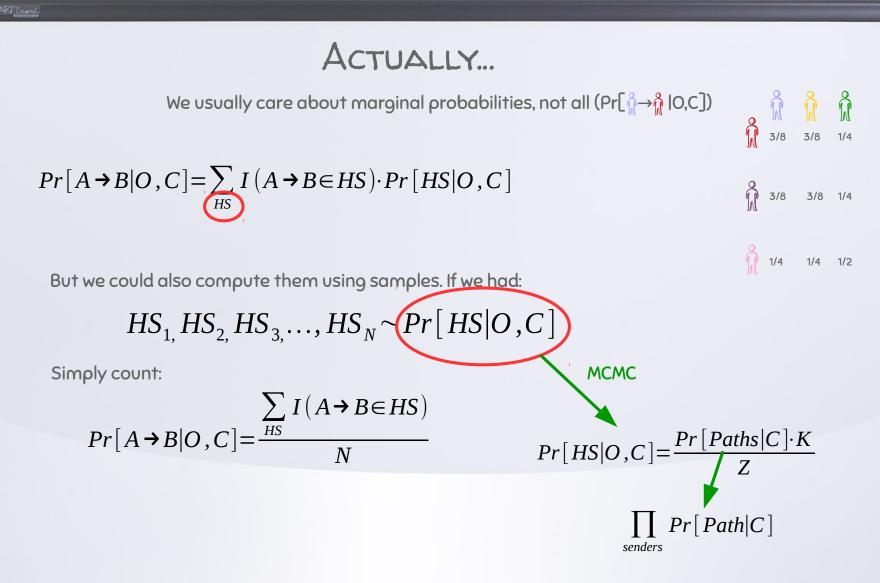


## REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

Given what we see (OBSERVATION) and the system operation (CONSTRAINTS) Probability of mixes "HIDDEN STATE"? (or Probability of each possible path?)







Example: in Tor a path is one guard, one middle, one exit chosen with respect to a know algorithm "proportionally" to their bandwidth

## TAKEAWAYS ATTACKS ON ROUTES

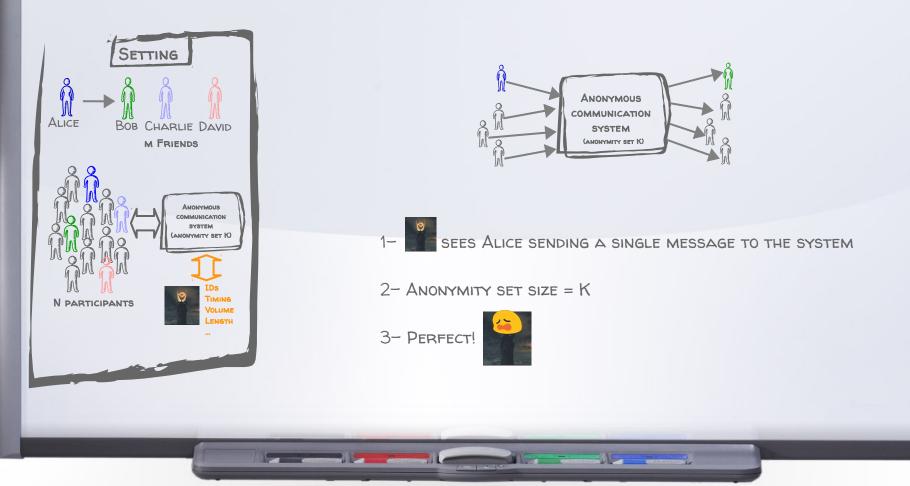
- > Traffic analysis is non trivial when there are constraints
- > Traffic analysis as inference problem: systematic!
  - > Probabilistic model: can incorporate most attacks
    - Can integrate knowledge on path probability computation
      - > More constraints  $\rightarrow$  less anonymity but more complexity
    - > Combines well with other inferences: e.g., long-term attacks (in a minute)
- MCMC methods to extract marginal probabilities

- Systematic
- Only generative model needed

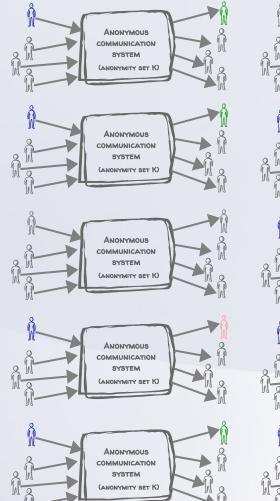
## FINDING PERSISTENT COMMUNICATIONS DISCLOSURE ATTACKS

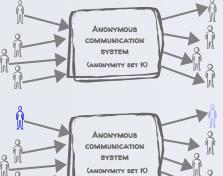
IN REALITY ...

ALICE HAS FEW FRIENDS WITH WHOM SHE COMMUNICATES OFTEN ALICE IS NOT ALWAYS ONLINE (AT LEAST NOT ACTIVE)



## AS TIME GOES BY AND ALICE SENDS MORE MESSAGES ...











-

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1



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N=20 m=3 K=5 t=45 Alice's Friends={[0, 13, 19]}

	Round	l Receivers	SDA
	1	[15, 13, 14, 5, 9]	[13, 14, 15]
	2	[19, 10, 17, 13, 8]	[13, 17, 19]
	3	[0, 7, 0, 13, 5]	[0, 5, 13]
?	4	[16, 18, 6, 13, 10]	[5, 10, 13]
•••	5	[1, 17, 1, 13, 6]	[10, 13, 17]
	6	[18, 15, 17, 13, 17]	[13, 17, 18]
	7	[0, 13, 11, 8, 4]	[0, 13, 17]
	8	[15, 18, 0, 8, 12]	[0, 13, 17]
	9	[15, 18, 15, 19, 14]	[13, 15, 18]
	10	[0, 12, 4, 2, 8]	[0, 13, 15]
	11	[9, 13, 14, 19, 15]	[0, 13, 15]
	12	[13, 6, 2, 16, 0]	[0, 13, 15]
	13	[1, 0, 3, 5, 1] [0, 13,	15]
	14	[17, 10, 14, 11, 19]	[0, 13, 15]
_	15	[12, 14, 17, 13, 0]	[0, 13, 17]
	16	[18, 19, 19, 8, 11]	[0, 13, 19]
	17	[4, 1, 19, 0, 19]	[0, 13, 19]
	18	[0, 6, 1, 18, 3]	[0, 13, 19]
	19	[5, 1, 14, 0, 5]	[0, 13, 19]
	20	[17, 18, 2, 4, 13]	[0, 13, 19]
	21	[8, 10, 1, 18, 13]	[0, 13, 19]
	22	[14, 4, 13, 12, 4]	[0, 13, 19]
-	23	[19, 13, 3, 17, 12]	[0, 13, 19]
	24	[8, 18, 0, 10, 18]	[0, 13, 18]

APPROACH 1: STATISTICAL DISCLOSURE ATTACK

- Alice's friends will be in the sets more often than random receivers. How often?
   Expected number of messages per receiver after t rounds:
  - >  $\mu_{other} = (1 / N) \cdot (K-1) \cdot t$
  - $P_{Alice} = (1 / m) \cdot t + \mu_{other}$
- > Just count the number of messages per receiver when Alice is sending!
  - PAlice > Pother

Danezis, George. "Statistical disclosure attacks." Security and Privacy in the Age of Uncertainty, 2003. Danezis, George, Claudia Diaz, and Carmela Troncoso. "Two-sided statistical disclosure attack." PETS, 2007. Mathewson, Nick, and Roger Dingledine. "Practical traffic analysis: Extending and resisting statistical disclosure." PETS, 2004 Troncoso, Carmela, Benedikt Gierlichs, Bart Preneel, and Ingrid Verbauwhede. "Perfect matching disclosure attacks." PETS, 2008



 $P_{\hat{N}} = \text{probability that } \hat{N} \text{ sends a message to } \hat{N}$ x' = vector of n# of messages sent round r (x' = 1) y' = vector of n# of messages received round r (y' = 2) H = [x',x',x',...,]

### APPROACH 2: LEAST SQUARES DISCLOSURE ATTACK

 Maximum likelihood approach: solve a Least Squares minimizing mean squared error between real and estimated profiles

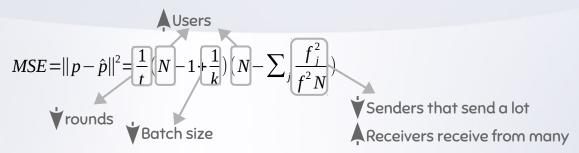
$$p = \underset{p}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \|y - Hp\|$$

$$p_{i,j} \leq 1$$

$$\sum_{i} p_{i,j} = 1$$

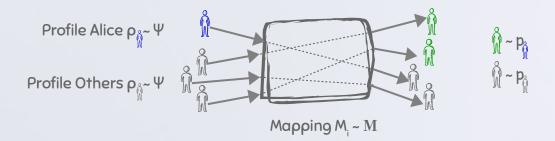
$$\hat{p} = (H^T H)^{-1} H^T y$$

> Analytical expressions that describe the evolution of the profiling error



Pérez-González, Fernando, and Carmela Troncoso. "Understanding statistical disclosure: A least squares approach." PETS, 2012.

Oya, Simon, Carmela Troncoso, and Fernando Pérez–González. "Do dummies pay off? limits of dummy traffic protection in anonymous communications." PETS, 2014 Perez–Gonzalez, Fernando, Carmela Troncoso, and Simon Oya. "A least squares approach to the static traffic analysis of high–latency anonymous communication systems." TIFS 2014



### APPROACH 3: DISCLOSURE ATTACK AS AN INFERENCE PROBLEM

- > What we are looking for:  $\Pr[\rho_0, \rho_0, M_i | O, M, \Psi]$
- > More concretely, marginal probabilities & distributions
  - > Pr[Alice->Bob] Are Alice and Bob friends?
  - >  $M_x$  Who is talking to whom at round x?
  - Solve through sampling!

Profiles: Pr[ρ<sub>1</sub>, ρ<sub>1</sub>| M<sub>1</sub>, O, M, Ψ, K] (Direct sampling by sampling Dirichlet dist.) Mappings: Pr[M<sub>1</sub> |ρ<sub>1</sub>, ρ<sub>1</sub> O, M, Ψ, K] (Direct sampling of the matching link by link)

### GIBBS SAMPLING

- Allows sampling from complex distributions when their marginal distributions are easy to sample from.
- Example: Sample Pr[A,B | O]
- For sample s in (0, SAMPLES):
  - For iteration j in (0, ITERATIONS):
    - >  $a_j \sim A$  with  $Pr[A|B=b_{j-1}, O]$
    - b<sub>i</sub> ~ B with Pr[B|A=a<sub>i</sub>,O]
  - Sample<sub>s</sub> = (a<sub>SAMPLES</sub>, b<sub>SAMPLES</sub>)

Danezis, George, and Carmela Troncoso. "Vida: How to use bayesian inference to de-anonymize persistent communications." PETS, 2009.

## PERSISTENT PATTERNS TAKEAWAYS

- Near-perfect anonymity is not perfect enough!
  - High level patterns cannot be hidden for ever
  - Unobservability / maximal anonymity is needed
- > Three approaches to the problem (actually I skipped the seminal work)

### SDA

- > Simple
- Fast!
- Best result not guaranteed
  - Only that one

### LSDA

- Flexible
- Fast!
- Optimal result (MSE)
  - But only that one
- Error prediction
- Design tool!

### INFERENCE

- Flexible
- "expensive"
- Distribution
  - Many quantities
  - Confidence intervals
- Not best solution

Agrawal, Dakshi, and Dogan Kesdogan. "Measuring anonymity: The disclosure attack." IEEE Security & Privacy, 2003 Kesdogan, Dogan, and Lexi Pimenidis. "The Hitting Set Attack on Anonymity Protocols." Information Hiding, 2004

## ARE WE DOOMED?

Countermeasures

SMART Board.

- > Delay: plain batching does not seem the best
  - Pool mixes
  - Attacks can be adapted to account for this
- > Dummy traffic: include "fake packets" to disorient the adversary

- > How do we make them indistinguishable?
- > Who decides about them?
- > This is GPA, other adversary models?
  - Actually Tor has other goal! go to Roger's talk!

## SUMMARY

- > Crypto protects data, but does not always protect privacy
- > Traffic analysis is the art of exploiting meta-data to extract information
- Traffic analysis can exploit a gzillion features: protecting efficiently is difficult!
  - Recovering persistent patents, tracing messages in restricted routes
- Different attack flavors provide different tradeoffs

## CHALLENGES

- Countermeasures! Dummies? Delays? Efficient combination
  - Systematic design?
- Privacy metric, what is the goal?

Modeling adversarial knowledge

Other fields... location privacy, behavioral/contextual authentication









# ANY QUESTIONS?

## More about traffic analysis: https://www.petsymposium.org/



carmela.troncoso@imdea.org https://software.imdea.org/~carmela.troncoso/ (these slides will be there soon)

> Template: <u>http://www.brainybetty.com/</u> Figures: <u>SlidesCarnival</u>

### APPROACH O: (HITTING SET) DISCLOSURE ATTACK

- Idea: "the only people that are in the intersection of all Alice's rounds are her friends"
- > Guess the set of friends of Alice:
  - > Constraint  $|R_A'| = m$
  - Accept if an element is in the output of each round
- Downside: Cost
  - > N receivers, m size (N choose m) options
  - > Exponential → Bad [good approximations exist]
- Comparison:
  - Computationally very expensive
  - Limited model
  - Difficult to apply to complex systems

#### N=20 m=3 K=5 t=45 Alice's Friends={[0, 13, 19]}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	[9, 13, 14, 19, 15] [13, 6, 2, 16, 0] [1, 0, 3, 5, 1] [17, 10, 14, 11, 19] [12, 14, 17, 13, 0]	[0, 5, 13] [5, 10, 13] [10, 13, 17] [13, 17, 18] [0, 13, 17] [0, 13, 17] [13, 15, 18] [0, 13, 15] [0, 13, 15] [0, 13, 15] [0, 13, 15] [0, 13, 15] [0, 13, 15] [0, 13, 17]	<b>HS</b> 395 257 203 179 175 171 80 41 16 16 16 16 4 2 2
16 17 18	[4, 1, 19, 0, 19]	<b>[0, 13, 19]</b> [0, 13, 19] [0, 13, 19]	<b>1</b> 1
19 20 21 22 23 24	[5, 1, 14, 0, 5] [17, 18, 2, 4, 13] [8, 10, 1, 18, 13] [14, 4, 13, 12, 4] [19, 13, 3, 17, 12]	[0, 13, 19] [0, 13, 19] [0, 13, 19] [0, 13, 19] [0, 13, 19]	1 1 1 1 1

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