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DNS in the Crossfire: 2 Years of Hijacks and Defacements

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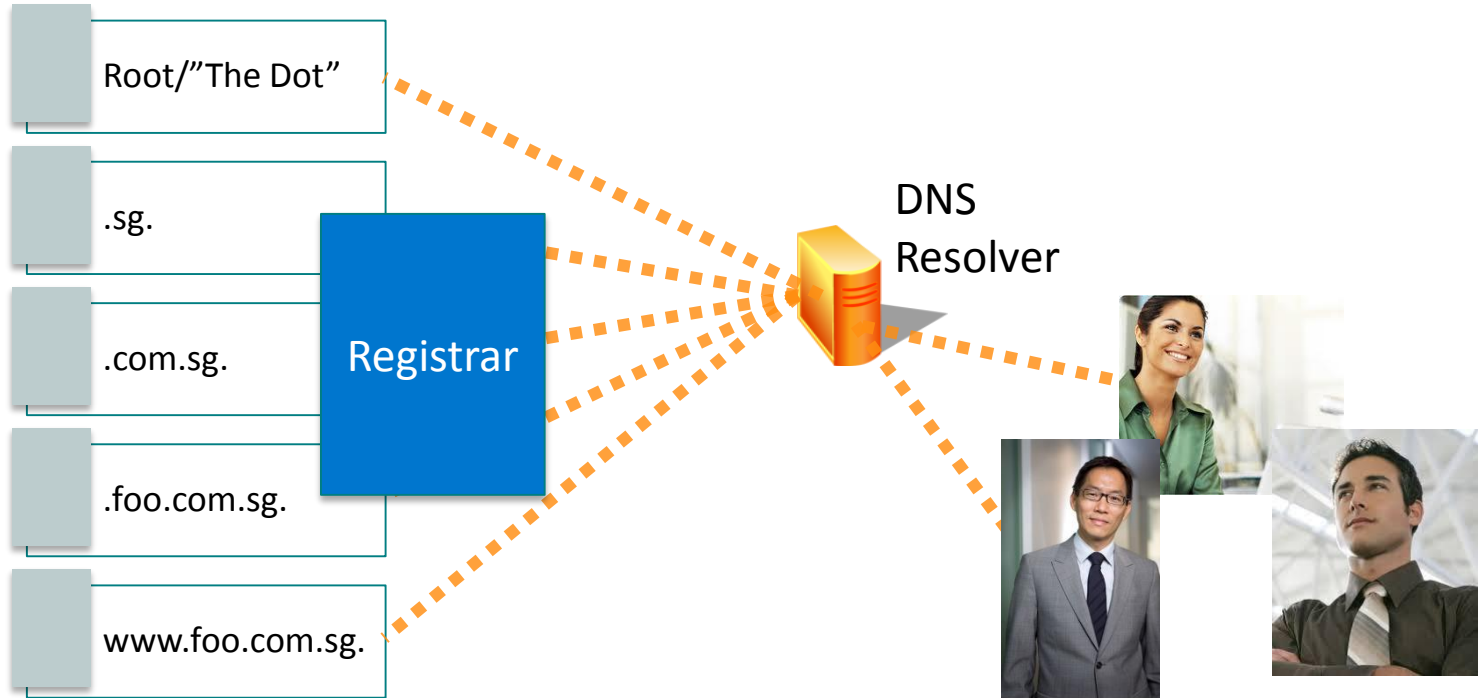
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CHANGE

Challenge today's security thinking



DNS Hierarchy



Whois akamai.com

```
$ whois akamai.com | grep '^Name Server'
```

```
Name Server: A1-66.AKAM.NET
```

```
Name Server: A11-66.AKAM.NET
```

```
Name Server: A13-66.AKAM.NET
```

```
Name Server: A28-66.AKAM.NET
```

```
Name Server: A16-66.AKAM.NET
```

```
Name Server: A7-66.AKAM.NET
```

```
.....
```

These are
all glue
records

Glue Record TTL

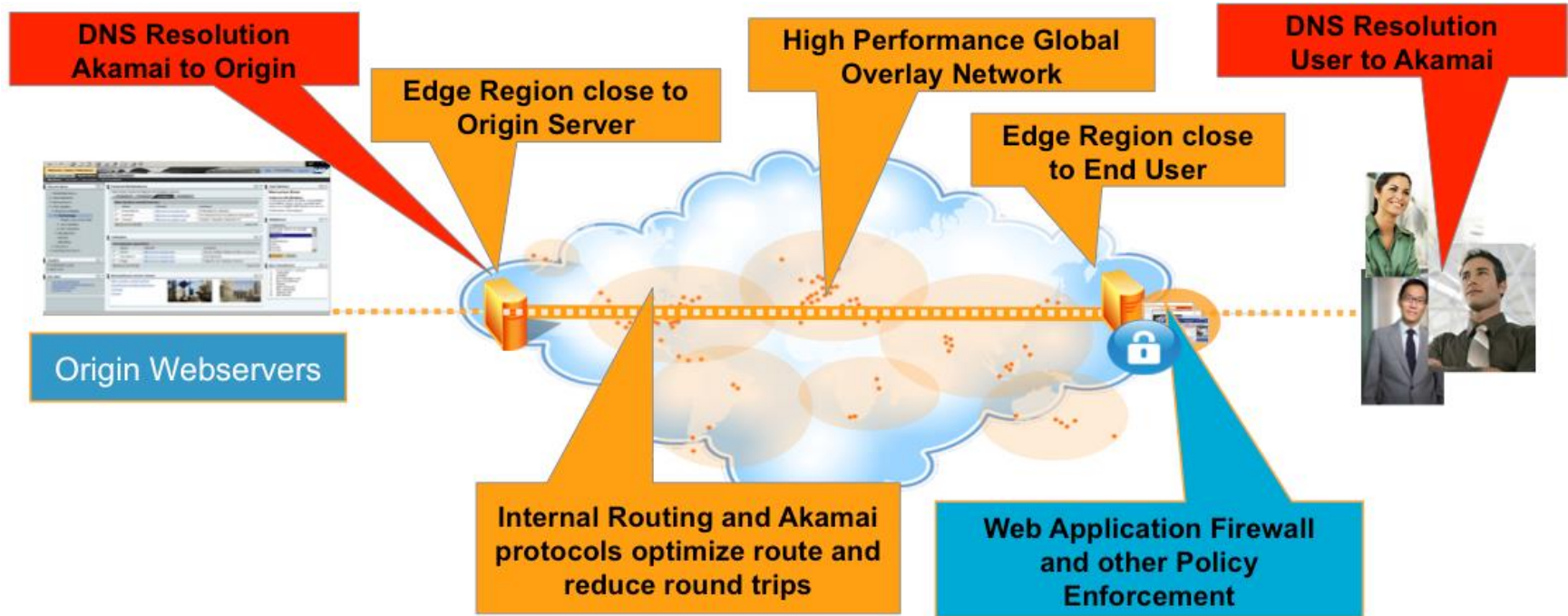
\$dig +trace www.akamai.com

.	56955	IN	NS	f.root-servers.net.
com.	172800	IN	NS	e.gtld-servers.net.
akamai.com.	172800	IN	NS	a5-66.akam.net.

Case Study 1: Oops, Premature Expiration

- ◆ Catch expired domains and kite them
- ◆ Registrar expires domains early
- ◆ ~1500 Domains hijacked
- ◆ Chaos ensues
- ◆ Multiple mitigation streams

Basic CDN and DNS Operation



The Magic of DNS CNAMEs and TTLs

```
$ dig www.akamai.com
```

```
:: ANSWER SECTION:
```

```
www.akamai.com.      20 IN CNAME  
    wwwsecure2.akamai.com.edgekey.net.
```

```
wwwsecure2.akamai.com.edgekey.net. 1576 IN CNAME  
    e8921.dscx.akamaiedge.net.
```

```
e8921.dscx.akamaiedge.net. 6 IN A    23.74.224.166
```

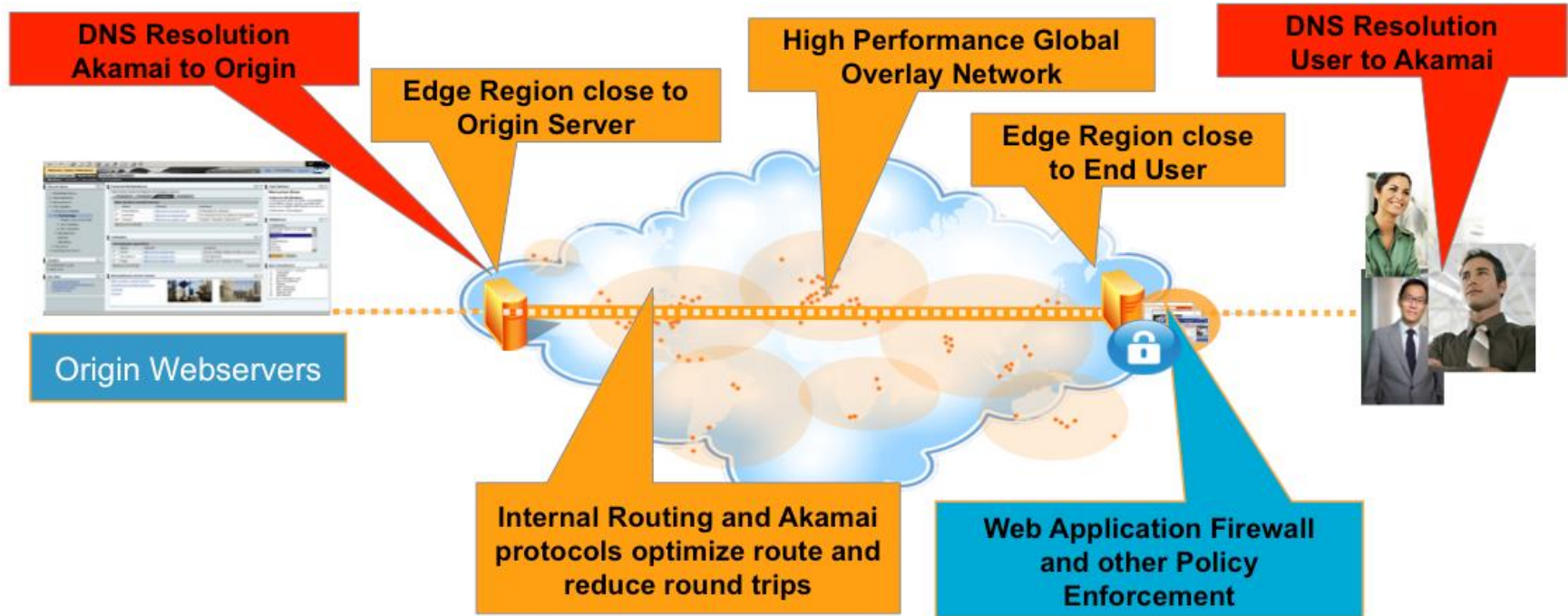

Case 2: SEA Brings us “Hacksgiving”



Hacksgiving Details

- ◆ Hijack of “monetization service”
- ◆ Served JavaScript with url rewrite
- ◆ Services delivered from the SEA webserver
- ◆ 40+ Sites impacted
- ◆ 2 Incident workflows
 - ◆ Restore hijacked domain
 - ◆ Disable content on customer’s sites and republish

Basic CDN and DNS Operation



Case 3: Lizard Squad



Lizard Squad Domain Hijacks

- ◆ Compromised registrar or phishing domain logins
- ◆ Change domain NS glue records
- ◆ Set up MX record and capture email
- ◆ Build infrastructure
 - ◆ DNS zone on service provider
 - ◆ Defacement page on CDN
 - ◆ Email server

Whois => Spear Phishing

```
$ whois akamai.com | grep \@
```

Registrar Abuse Contact Email: domainabuse@tucows.com

Reseller: hostmaster@akamai.com

Registrant Email: hostmaster-billing@akamai.com

Admin Email: hostmaster-billing@akamai.com

Tech Email: hostmaster-billing@akamai.com

Akamai Technologies, hostmaster@akamai.com

The Phish

Akamai Technologies

Your domain, akamai.com is due to expire. Please www.wecaptureyourlogin.net login to renew this domain

Thank you

--Your Registrar

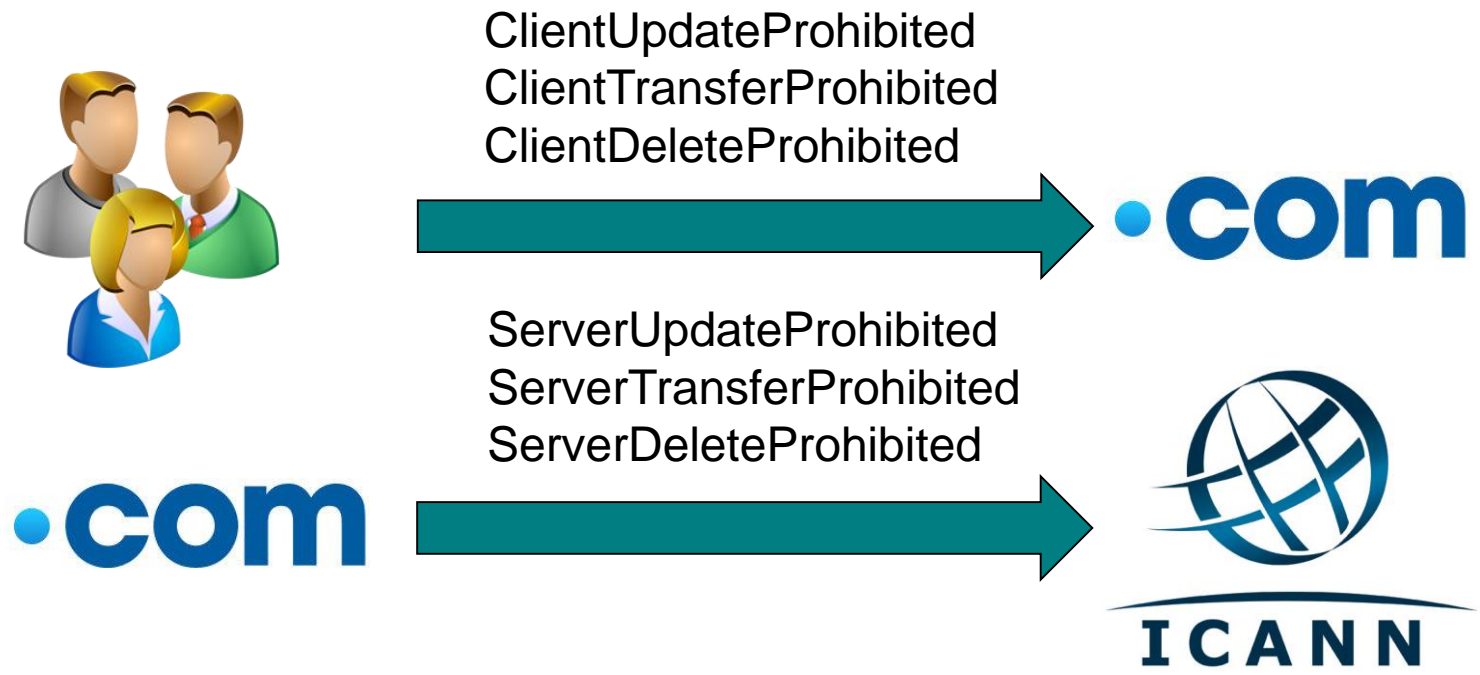
How Akamai Changed Their Operations

- ◆ Forward to Origin SSL
- ◆ Alerts for minimum traffic level
- ◆ Edge server DNS purge
- ◆ Content purging
- ◆ AkaRegistrar
- ◆ Portal 2-factor/SAML/ACL access control

Prevention and Application

- ◆ Lock your domains, lock your domains, lock your domains
- ◆ Whois privacy
- ◆ site:github.com dns monitoring
- ◆ 2FA on registrars and other providers
- ◆ Anti-phishing training for IT admins
- ◆ Ready to disable third-party content
- ◆ 2FA on email, VPN

Domain Hijacking Countermeasures



Thank You