

APPLIED RESEARCH

Tor Hidden Services How Hidden is 'Hidden'?

– ICTR Network Exploitation



What is Tor?

- Tor is an implementation of 2nd generation onion routing
- Originally sponsored by the US Naval Research Laboratory
- Later became an Electronic Frontier Foundation project
- Helps to prevent network traffic analysis & surveillance
- Open network with over 2000 nodes
- Anonymity tool
- Uses multiple layers of encryption
- Multi-hop proxy

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What I have done on Tor

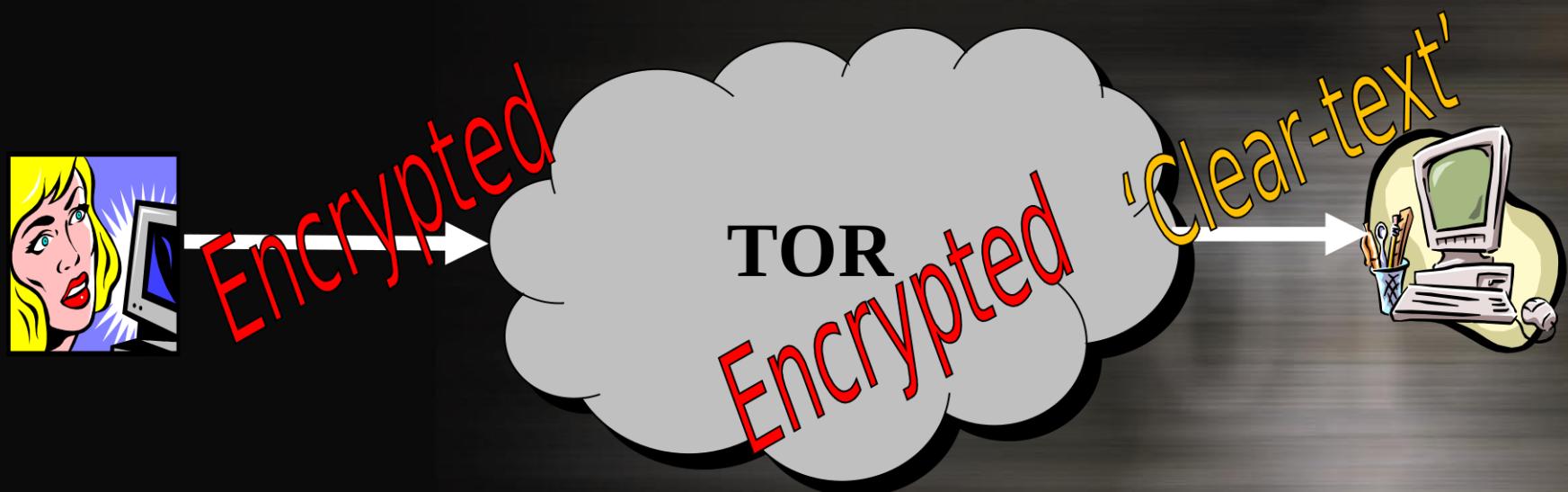
- General Tor research
- HOMING TROLL
 - Bridge discovery capability
- Hidden Services
- Helped with a few deanonymisation techniques
- Worked with JTRIG & MCR (Maths & Crypt research)
- Provided support to OP SUPERIORITY

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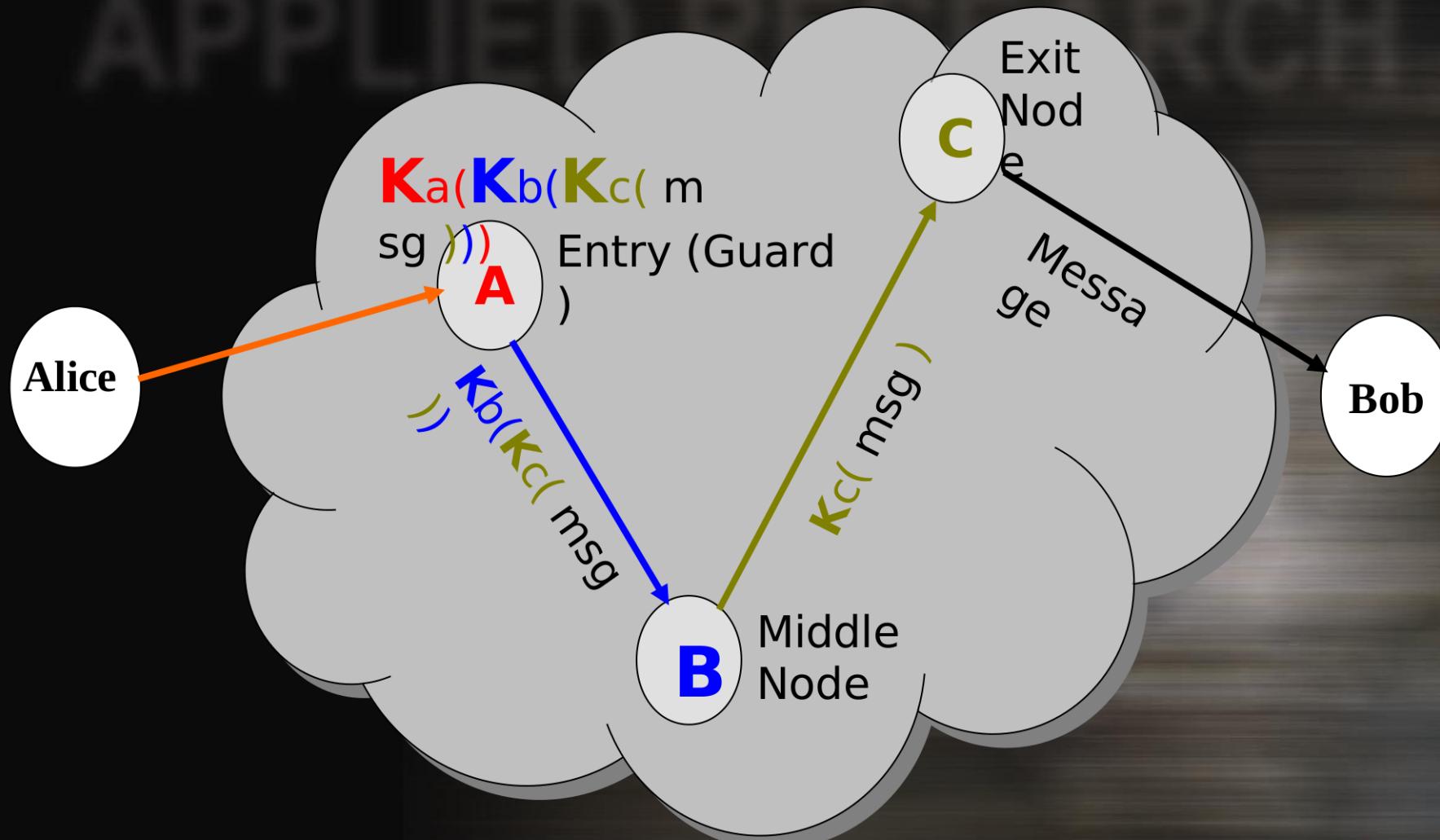


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What is it used for?

- The Good
 - People living in oppressive countries (circumvent firewalls)
 - Access to free media instead of state propaganda
 - People can say what they want without it being linked to their public profile
- The Bad
 - Bot herders use Tor to give instructions to their bots
 - Allows paedophiles access content without linking themselves to it
 - State actors can launch attacks without being attributable
 - “Anonymous” & LULZSec

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What do we see?

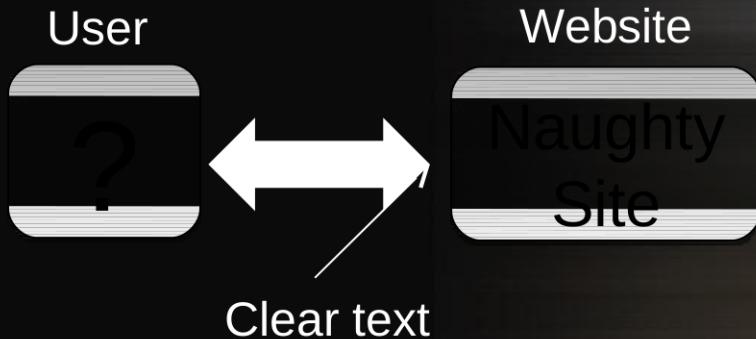
- Any traffic between the client & tor is heavily encrypted.
- We can only really see traffic from an exit node to a website
 - But we don't know where this traffic originated from
- Still could link up aliases though
 - ‘Somebody’ could still visit a dodgy forum and log in with an alias, or even send an email using a known target email address (Assuming they don't use SSL).
- Phew... at least there is some intelligence gain.... Right?



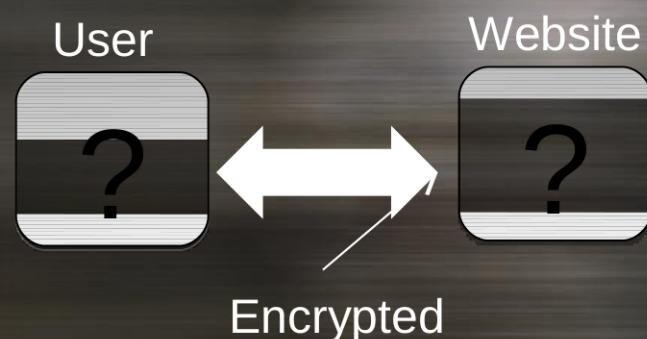
Hidden Services

- Hides the IP address of a web service
- Protects content providers by anonymously hosting content
- Publication of undesirable content
- Both client and server are anonymous to an observer and to each other

Normal Tor



Hidden Services



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So what do we see now?

- Not much...
- All Hidden Service traffic is heavily encrypted.
- Most we can gather is that one Tor node talks to another (IP level)
- Hiding in the crowd at its best!

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The dot com onion BOOM

- What's this .onion business?
 - TLD Tor uses to initiate a connection to a hidden service
 - Example onion domain
 - 16 characters in base32 (few characters are actually missing)
 - oqznnfi3tdo6nwg3f.onion
 - DNS?
 - Tor uses something similar to DNS to resolve an onion domain
 - Onion domains 'resolve' to 3+ IP addresses called Introduction Points (IPT)

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Pieces of the Jig-Saw

- The actual Hidden Service (HS)
 - Where the service actually originates from
- User
 - The user who wishes to access the Hidden Service
- Hidden Service Directory (HSDir)
 - A directory server that hold information on a Hidden Service
- Introduction Point (IPT)
 - Hidden Service's 'front door' / relay
- Rendezvous Point (RP)
 - Client's 'front door' / relay

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Fitting it together

1. HS selects *random* IPTs
2. HS uploads descriptor to HSDir
3. Client finds out about HS
4. Client requests descriptor from HSDir
5. Client selects a random RP
6. Client contacts one IPT
7. HS replies to RP
8. RP relays between client and HS

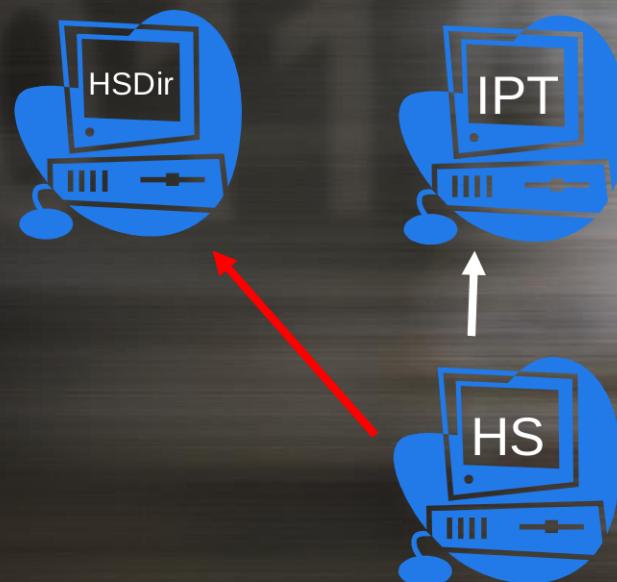


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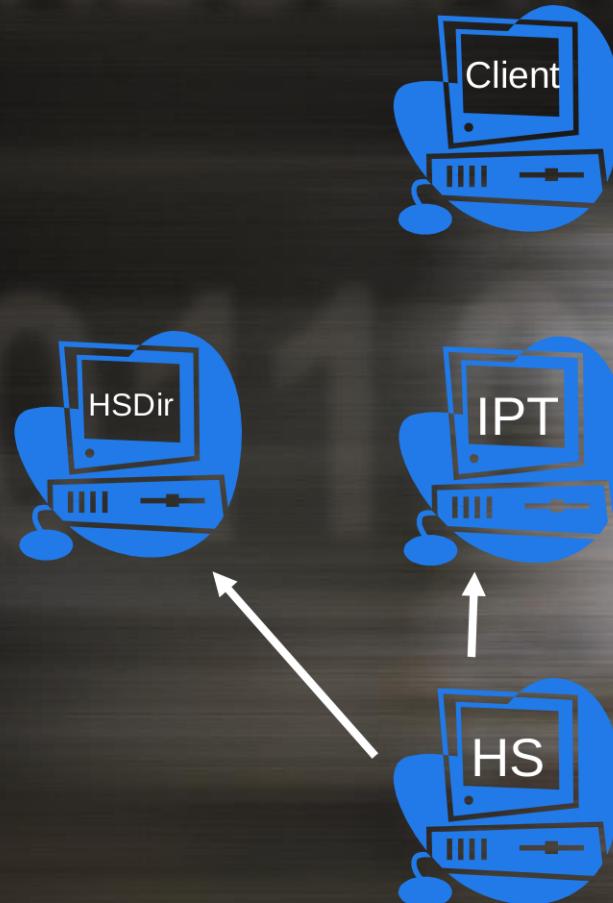


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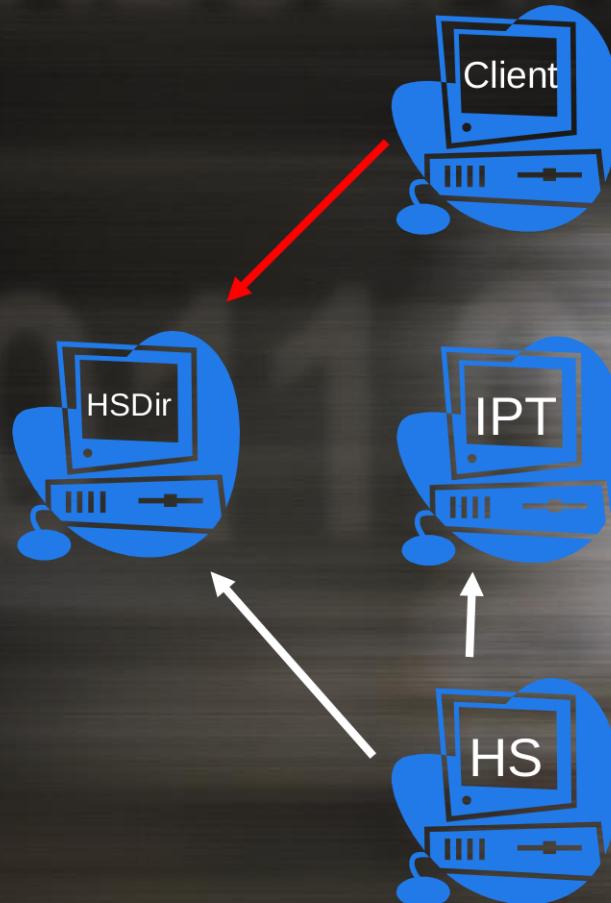


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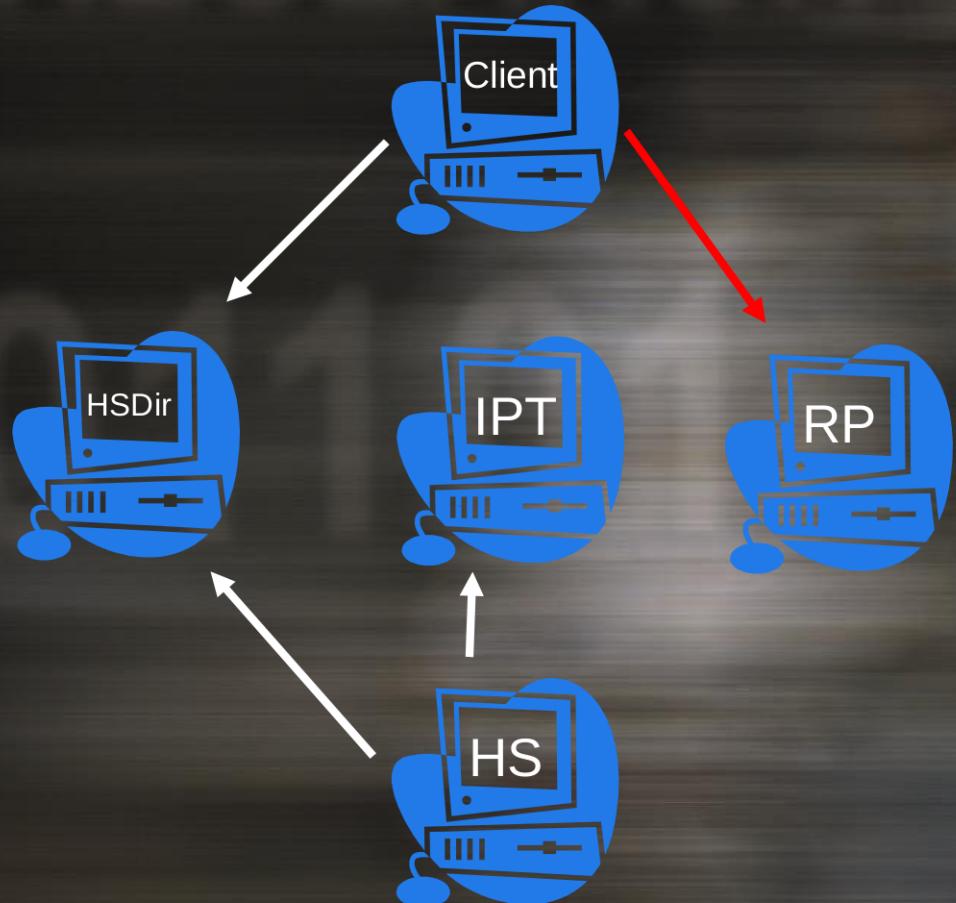


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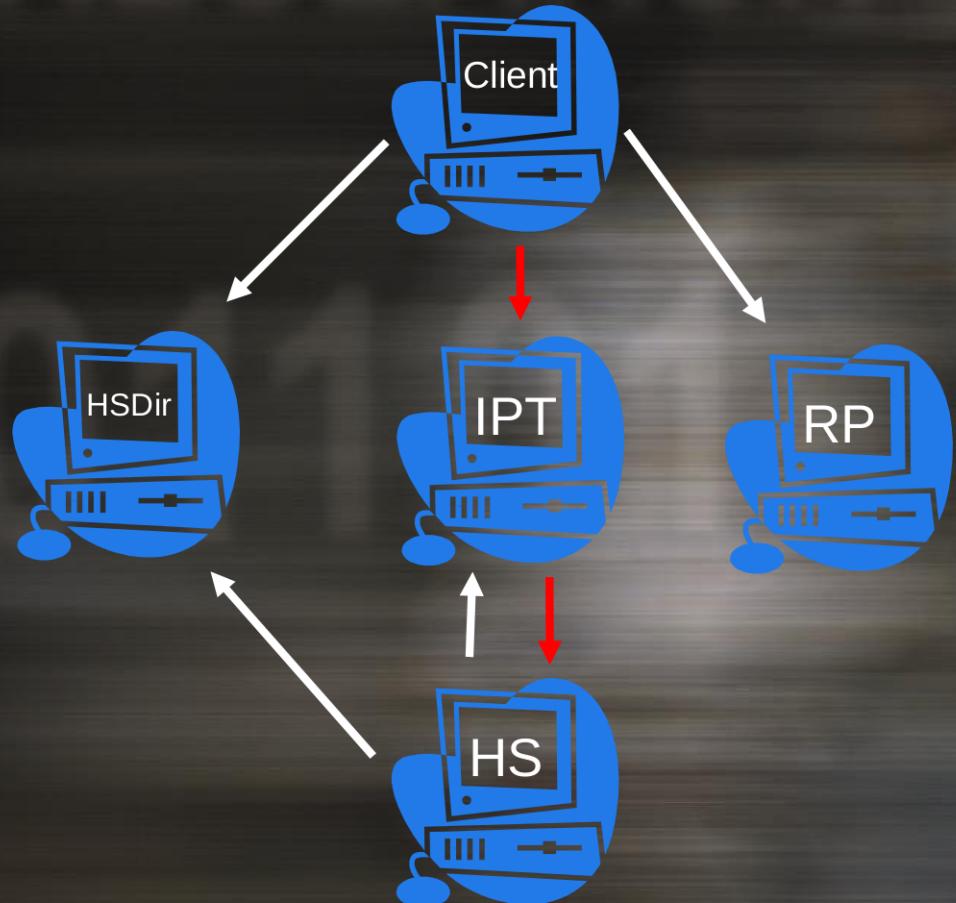


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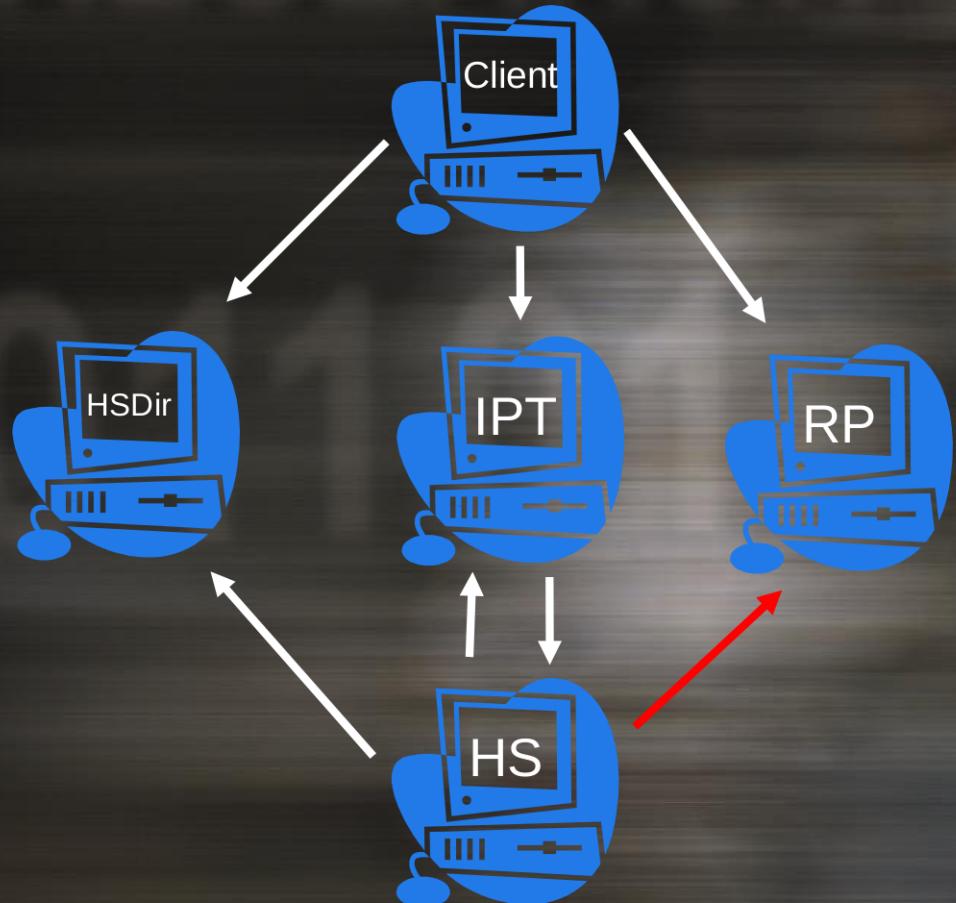


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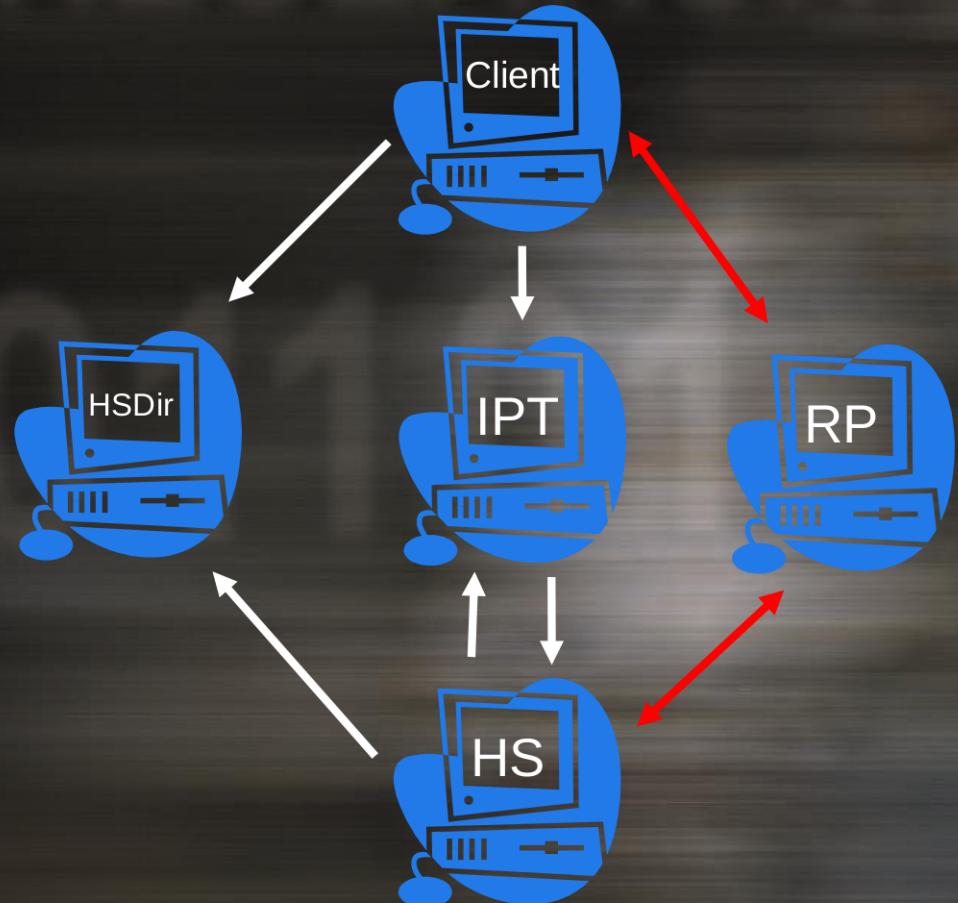


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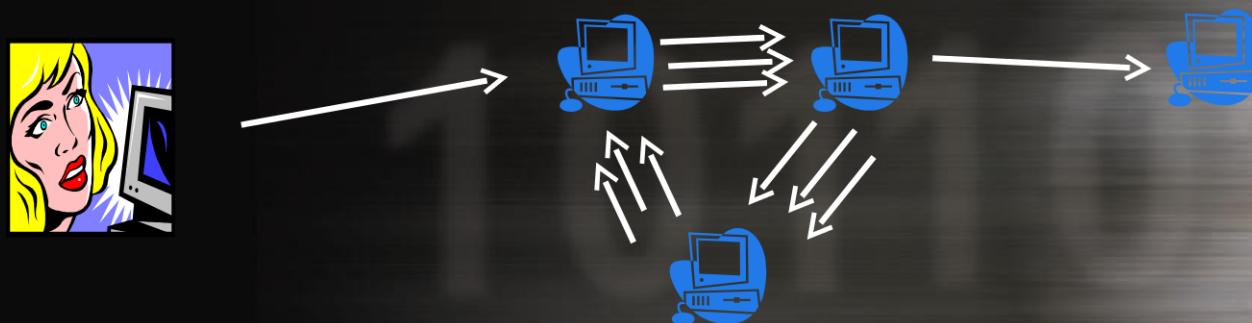
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Possible Exploits?

- Rendezvous Point (RP)
 - What if we owned the RP?
 - Traffic still encrypted, although only a single layer of encryption
 - Still only content, don't know who the user is or where the HS is located
 - Clients randomly select their RP so unlikely to be picked anyway
- Hidden Service Directory (HSDir)
 - If we take a HSDir down, there are still many left
 - Could potentially collect onion domains if we acted as a HSDir
- Client
 - No real way to distinguish between a Tor user accessing the web or a HS

- Introduction Points (IPT)

- All Hidden Service IPTs are listed on its descriptor (the thing that's stored on a HSDir)
- Potential for an attack on IPTs to stop them accepting connections for the HS
- This could be done using a 'Coil Attack'



- Doesn't stop a HS selecting another set of IPTs
- HS can encrypt their IPTs in their descriptor (but not many do)

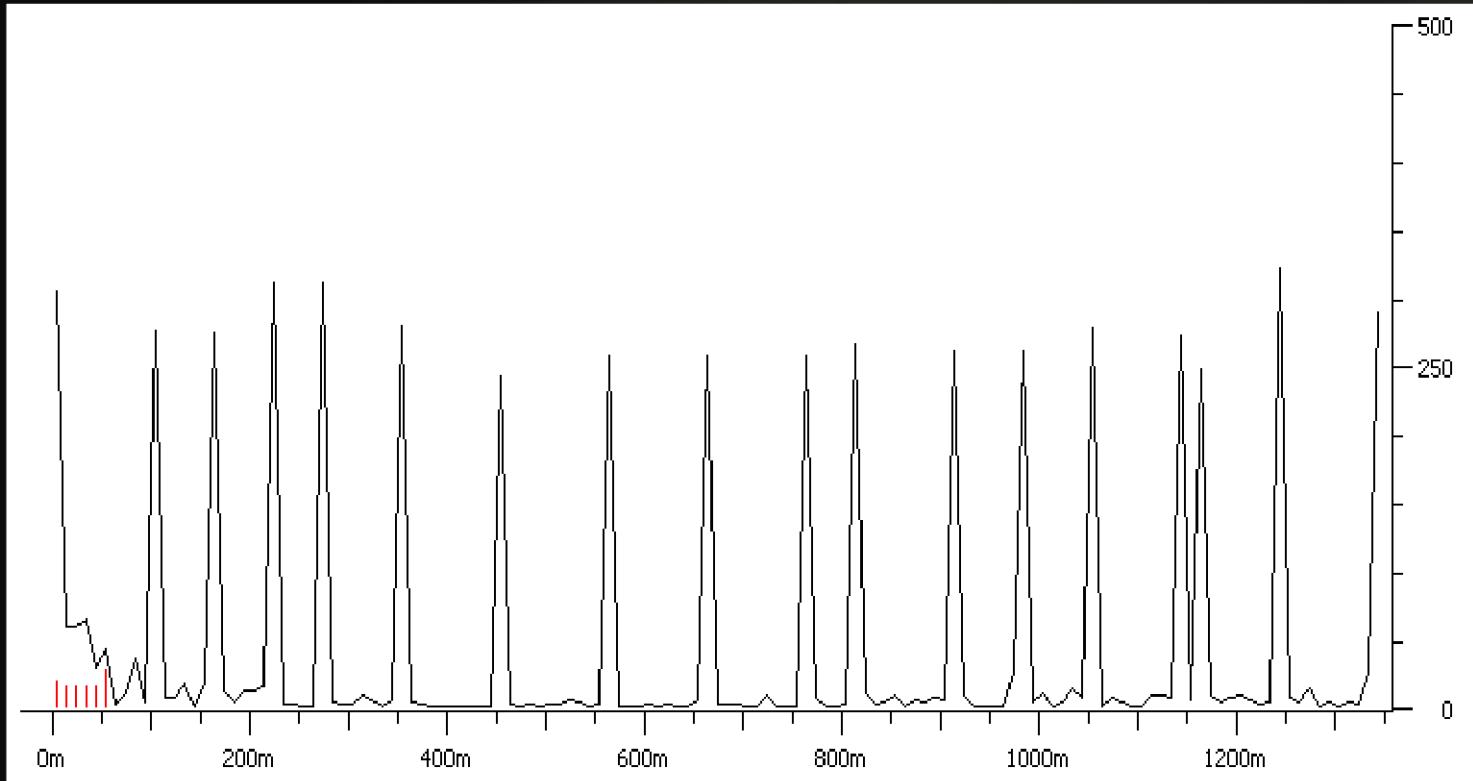
- Hidden Service (HS)
 - What about exploiting the HS directly?
 - Potential to identify the IP addresses hidden services
 - But cant really say which one
 - Identified a beaconing pattern from HS
 - Dependant on collection posture
 - Great for PRESTON

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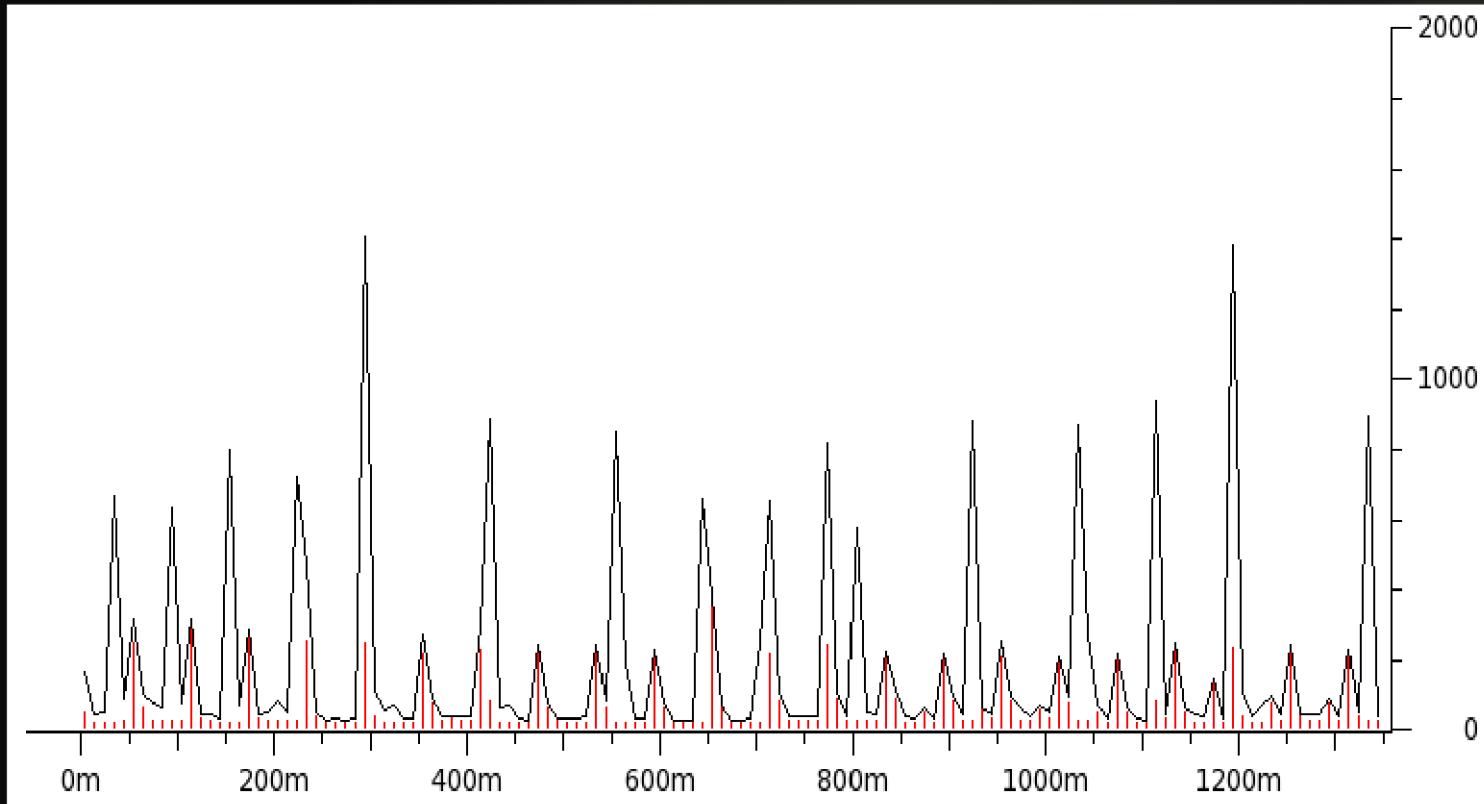
Idle Client Beacons



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Idle HS Beacons



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Summary

- Tor helps people become anonymous
- Very naughty people use Tor
- Hidden Services hide the fact web content even exists!
- Near impossible to figure out who is talking to who
- Its complicated
- Some areas for further research
- Until then... Doesn't stop us from using them

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