

Obfs2

Pluggable Transports documentation series.*

Carolyn Zöbelein[†]

Independent mathematical scientist
Josephsplatz 8, 90403 Nürnberg, Germany

ABSTRACT

STATUS: Draft

KEYWORDS

Tor, Bridge, Scary, Obscuration, Censorship, Circumvention, Pluggable Transport

PREAMBLE

This paper is part of a paper documentation series about Pluggable Transports (PTs) [3], how they work and their strengths and weaknesses.

1 INTRODUCTION

During the history of digital networks, we have been confronted more and more with the phenomenon of internet censorship and blocking by governments [4]. So, over the years, more and more circumvention tools were developed and also have been blocked due to deep packet inspections and the detailed analysis of its content. This lead us to, so-called, *Pluggable Transports (PTs)* [3], which help to bypass censorship attempts by transforming the traffic between client and server, in such a ways that it looks like innocent traffic.

In this paper, we will talk about *obfs2*, a protocol obfuscation layer for TCP protocols. We will show how it works, what we can do with it and which strengths and weaknesses it has.

1.1 Outline

TODO

1.2 Notation

TODO

2 OBFS2

Obfs2 is a protocol obfuscation layer for TCP protocols, to keep a third party from telling what protocol is in use based on message contents [2]. It's the continuation of brl's ssh obfuscation protocol [2] [1].

3 CONCLUSIONS

A APPENDIX

REFERENCES

- [1] <https://github.com/brl/obfuscated-openssh>. 2009. GitHub: Handshake Obfuscation. (2009).
- [2] <https://gitweb.torproject.org/pluggable-transports/obfsproxy.git/tree/doc/obfs2/obfs2-protocol-spec.txt>. 2015. Obfs2 specification. (2015).
- [3] <https://www.torproject.org/docs/pluggable-transports.html.en>. 2018. Tor: Pluggable Transports. (2018).
- [4] Philipp Winter and Stefan Lindskog. 2012. How the Great Firewall of China is blocking Tor. In *Proceedings of the USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI 2012)*.

LICENSE



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

*The author believes in the importance of the independence of research and is funded by the public community. If you also believe in this values, you can find ways for supporting the author's work here: <https://research.carolin-zoebelein.de/crowdfunding.html>

[†]<https://research.carolin-zoebelein.de>, E-mail address: contact@carolin-zoebelein.de, PGP: D4A7 35E8 D47F 801F 2CF6 2BA7 927A FD3C DE47 E13B