

SNOWFLAKE AUDIT

-

SNAPSHOT

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This paper is dedicated to all the brave snowflakes who die every year during winter.

ABSTRACT. STATUS: DRAFT

PREAMBLE

The following document is for discussion purposes only. It gives no warranty for completeness and correctness.

1. INTRODUCTION

Snowflake is a pluggable transport, which uses WebRTC to proxy traffic through temporary proxies. It aims to work kind of like flash proxy [1] [2]. This document is a short snapshot audit of the current state of the existing snowflake code [3] on <https://gitweb.torproject.org/pluggable-transport/snowflake.git/>.

2. BASIC PACKAGE STRUCTURE

At first, let's have a first look at the basic package structure of Snowflake [3].

2.1. General package information. *Snowflake* is a *Go*-based Pluggable Transport using WebRTC, inspired by Flashproxy.

2.2. Package tree. Given are the following main parts of the package:

- **appengine (d):** Runs an Google App Engine and reflects domain-fronted requests from a client to the Snowflake broker.
- **broker (d):** Handles the rendezvous by matching Snowflake clients with proxies. It passes the client's WebRTC session descriptions. So the clients and proxies can establish a peer connection.
- **client (d):** Tor client component of Snowflake.
- **proxy (d):** Browser proxy component of Snowflake.
- **proxy-go (d):** Standalone version of the Snowflake proxy.
- **server (d):** Server transport plugin for Snowflake. The client connects to the proxy using WebRTC and the proxy connects to the server using WebSocket.

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- **server-webrtc (d)**: WebRTC server plugin which uses an HTTP server that simulates the interaction that a client would have with the broker, for direct testing.
- **CONTRIBUTING.md (f)**, **LICENSE (f)**, **README.md (f)**: Standard package files.

d= directory, f=file.

2.3. Interaction structure. In figure 1 you can see the interaction structure between the different parts of Snowflake.

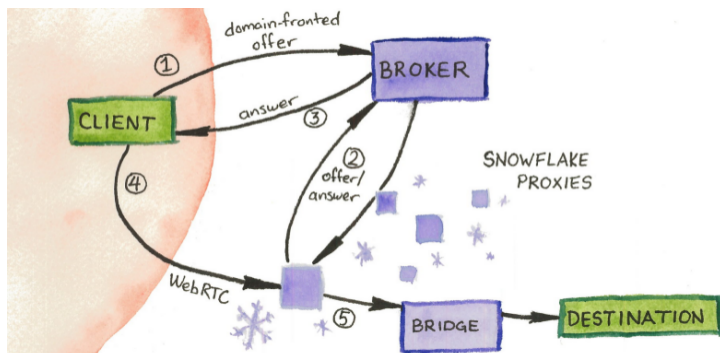


FIGURE 1. Schematic graphic of the interaction structure of Snowflake. Taken from [4].

- 1a. The client makes a request to the broker.
- 1b. The appengine reflects the domain-fronted request from the client to the broker.
- 2a. The broker matches the client with proxies.
- 2b. The broker passes the client's WebRTC session descriptions.
3. The broker gives an answer about the matching proxy to the client.
4. The client uses WebRTC for the connection to the given proxy.
5. Finally, the client connects to a bridge over WebRTC.

3. CONCLUSION

REFERENCES

- [1] SERENE: *[tor-dev] Introducing Snowflake (webrtc pt)*. <https://lists.torproject.org/pipermail/tor-dev/2016-January/010310.html>. Version: 2016
- [2] *Snowflake*. <https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/wiki/doc/Snowflake>. Version: 2018
- [3] *Snowflake*. <https://gitweb.torproject.org/pluggable-transport/snowflake.git/>. Version: 2018/12/17
- [4] *cypherpunks*. <https://trac.torproject.org/projects/tor/attachment/wiki/doc/Snowflake/snowflake-schematic.png>. Version: 2018

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