

NEWS





(<https://news.bitcoin.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/EvilOne.jpg>)

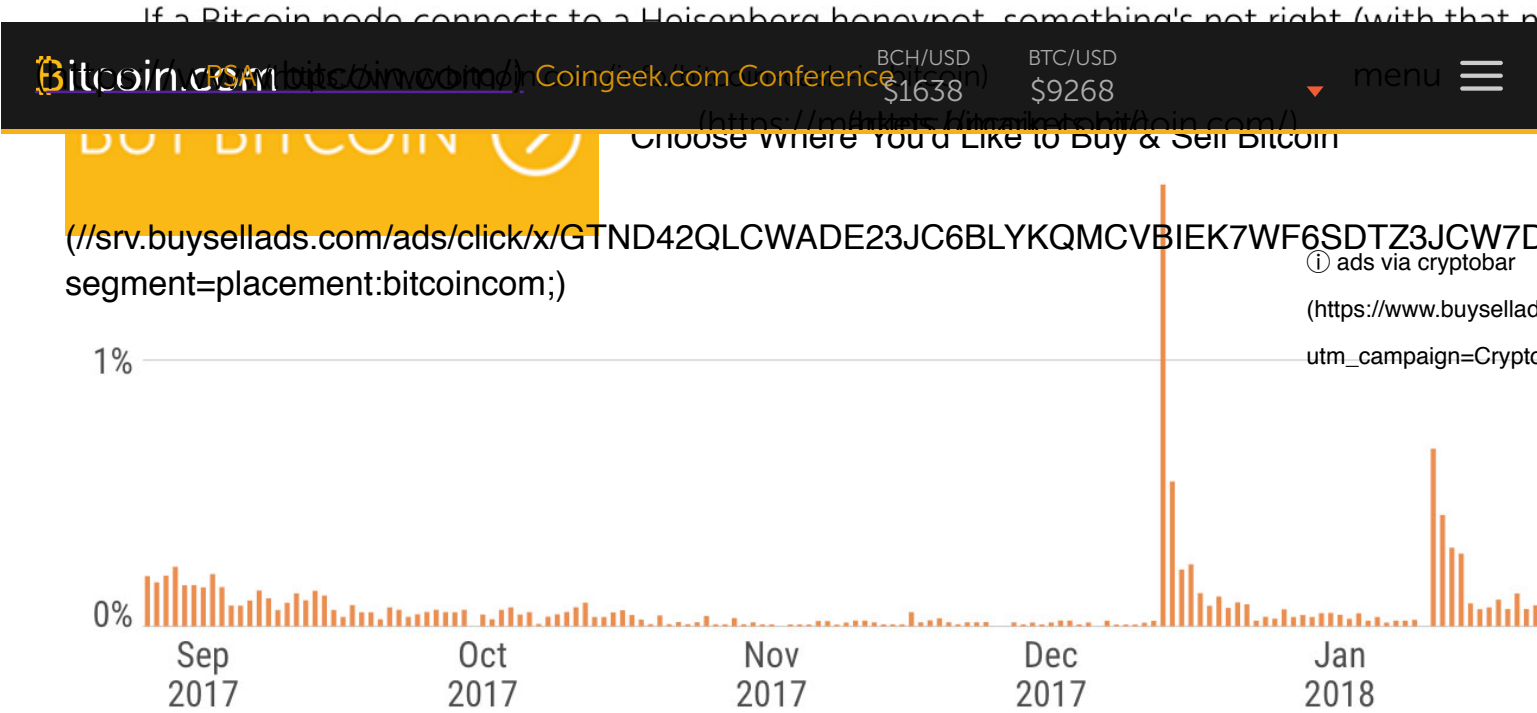
Just recently a research group called Rapid7 published a report that reveals over a year's activity tethered to Bitcoin Core (BTC) full nodes. By utilizing data collected from a network internet scanner 'Project Sonar,' alongside intelligence from Bitnodes, the team had found four between full blockchain nodes.

Also read: The Hitchhikers Guide To The Invisible Internet (<https://news.bitcoin.com/hitchhikers-guide-to-the-invisible-internet/>)

Study Finds Bad Actors Throughout Bitcoin Network

Bitcoin full node operators usually connect by default to a TCP service on port 8333, with alternative ports available. Rapid7's recent research (<https://www.rapid7.com/info/off-the-public-internet/>) used data from the team's Project Sonar which revealed the top three countries were the U.S., China, and Germany. The researchers began the blockchain surveillance more than 11,000 nodes per day. Moreover, the researchers collected data from more than 100,000 nodes over the course of the study.

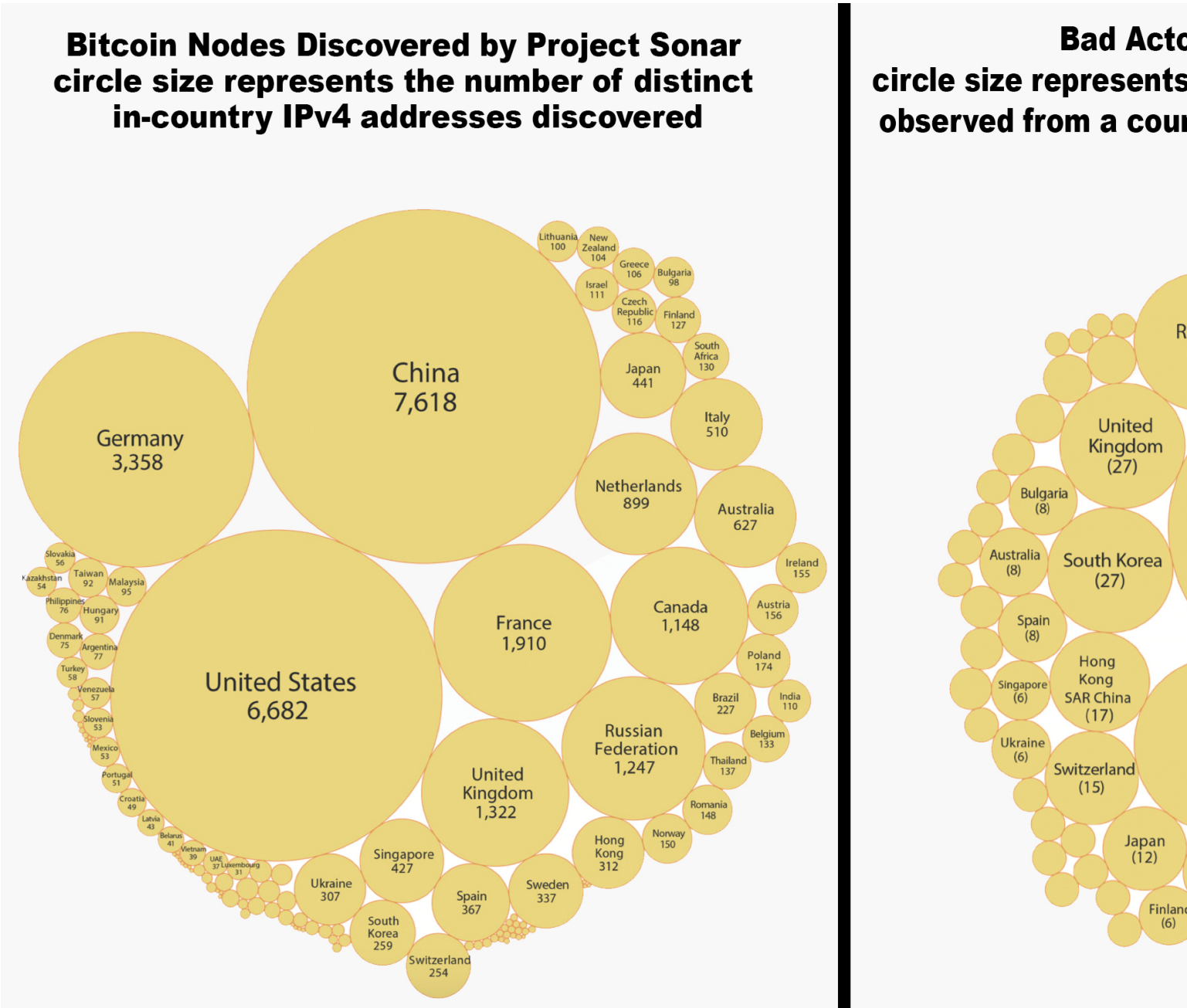
Daily Percentage of 'Badly Behaving' Bitcoin Nodes



In addition to the Project Sonar intelligence over 900 nodes connected to Rapid7’s honey revealed interesting and some malicious activities like the distribution of MS17-010 ([https updates/securitybulletins/2017/ms17-010](https://updates/securitybulletins/2017/ms17-010)) a critical Microsoft operating system vulnerabi

“Investigations into these interactions showed familiar patterns. Port scans and active rec rampant, as was repeated attempted exploitation of MS17-010, largely from China,” expla

17 hosts, mostly from the China IPv4 space, were actively sling

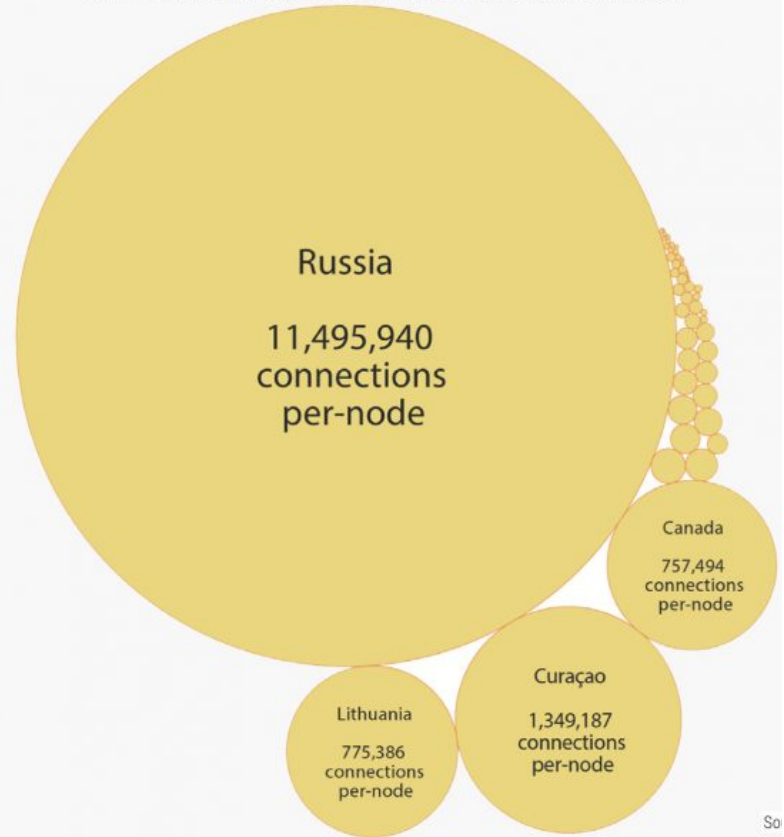


The Bitcoin Network Three Times More Evil Than

As mentioned above most of the shady activities derived from confirmed malicious nodes: the U.S. (178), China (154), and Germany (132). While the researchers note that not all of the deemed harmful the group observed the nodes used "curious scanning and probing beha

Bad Actors on the Bitcoin Network (Connection Sc

**The circle size represents (total connections to
Hesienberg nodes/count of distinct source IPv4s
This rough average helps normalize the
grouped country connections and better reflects
the behaviours of individual nodes.**



The report concludes that the absolute number of bad actors found within the cryptocurrency days' these nodes can account for up to 2 percent of the BTC network. Now the research considered low but compared to the "background noise" of malicious activity found on the (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPv4) the figure is pretty alarming.

"Therefore, on a typical day, the Bitcoin network is approximately three times more 'evil' than on active days, we see ten times as many malicious nodes in the Bitcoin network as we see on a typical day explains the Rapid7 report.

If you are actively participating as a bitcoin miner, one takes action against otherwise innocent nodes on the public internet. There are a small number of participants in the bitcoin network who take action against otherwise innocent nodes on the public internet.

What do you think about the research that states the BTC network of nodes is three times larger than the public internet? Let us know what you think about this subject in the comments below.

Images via Shutterstock, Bitnodes, and Rapid7's research report (<https://www.rapid7.com/research/bitcoin-nodes-on-the-public-internet/>).

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Jamie Redman is a financial tech journalist living in Florida. Redman has been an active member of the cryptocurrency community, open source code, and decentralized applications. Redman has written hundreds of articles about the Bitcoin network.



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