

# Paper Review 5/13

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## Anonymous Connections and Onion Routing (Reed et al., 1998)

The paper describes how an implementation of anonymous connections, onion routing, can protect diverse Internet services in a private communication, particularly eavesdropping and traffic analysis. In addition, the paper provides the specification to implement new applications using onion routing. Some characteristics of onion routing are real-time and bidirectional communication and application independence.

Onion routing networks allow data protection through onion routers, proxies and a data structure called *onion*. When an anonymous connection is established through proxies, they hide who is connected to whom at each layer level. As consequence, onion routers can only identify previous and next hops in the network and any anonymous connection appears different at each router.

Overall, it is an interesting paper easy to read. In particular, I like sections 3 (Empirical Data) and 6 (Implementation Vulnerabilities). Authors make an objective discussion of limitations during the evaluation of the prototype and possible drawbacks that should be taken into account.