Comparing Internet Censorship in Ireland and Iraq

- *One in a Series of such Comparisons
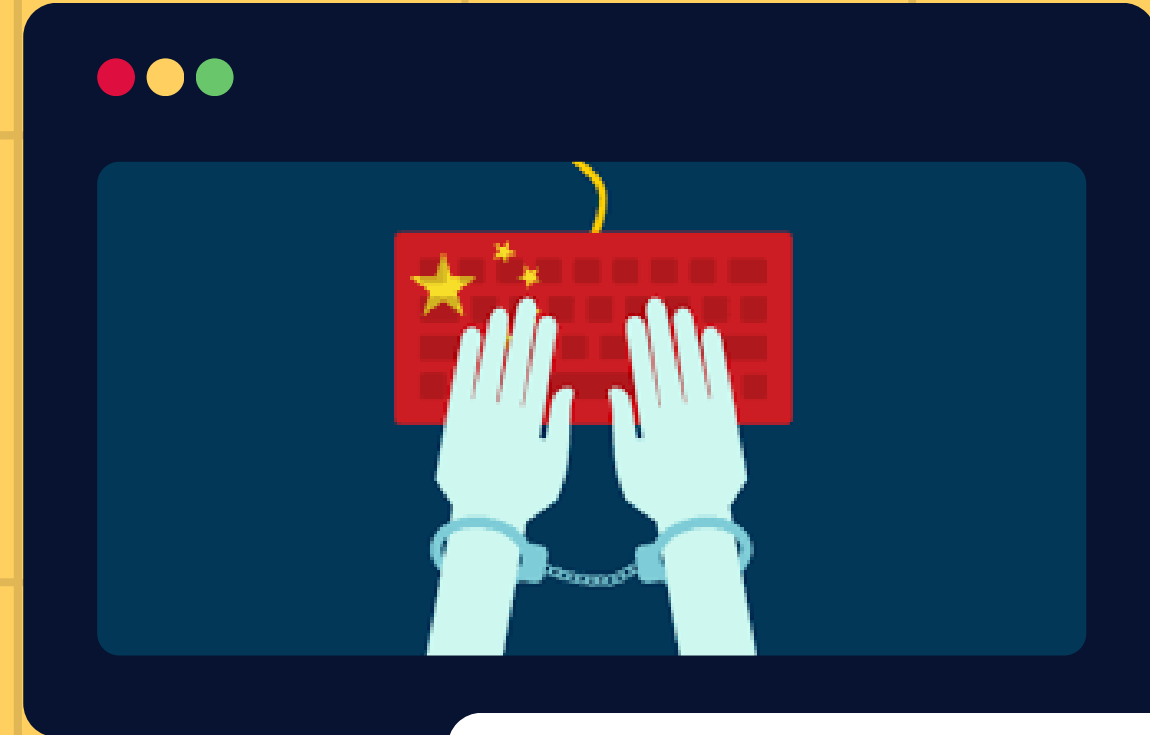
Presented By
Griffin S.

Context & Motivation

The need for this work comes from the importance of internet freedom and privacy as censorship increases around the world.

The aim of this work is to research modern censorship mechanisms and analyze the internet censorship differences in Ireland & Iraq.

The main objective of the initial research phase was to identify modern censorship methods and how they are implemented, as well as the past and present state of internet censorship in Ireland and Iraq.

Research Objectives

The secondary objective of this phase was to research internet censorship at a global level and how user privacy has evolved since the internet became available globally.
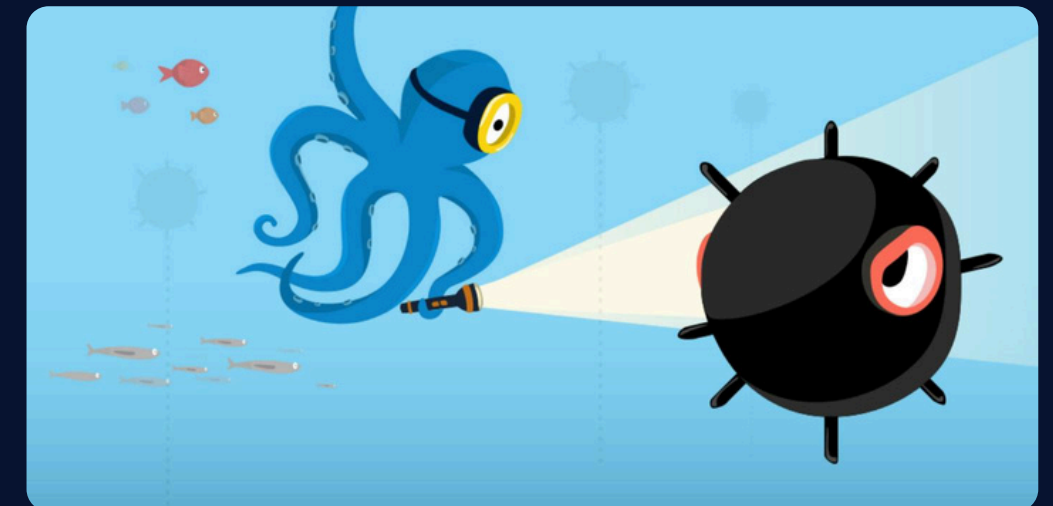
The OONI Project

The Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) project was started in 2012 as a non-profit open-source software project aimed at identifying and documenting Internet censorship around the world.

The OONI organization openly publishes measurements and provides a public archive on network interference from across the world.
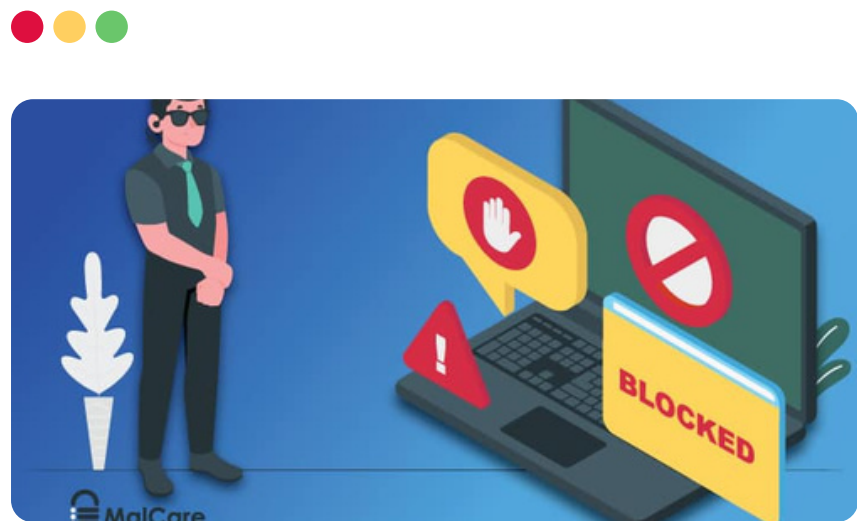
The OONI Project

OONI | Explorer

Uncover evidence of internet censorship worldwide

Open data collected by the global OONI community

Explore

2653.1M
Measurements

242
Countries

28.5k
Networks

The OONI project has a public repository of data that is collected from users all around the world. This data will be used as a baseline and as a source of comparison to the data I will collect myself using the VM.

Literature Review

Censorship Mechanisms

- IP Blocking

- DNS Interference

- Deep Packet Inspection

- Transport Layer Security

- Internet Blackouts

Ireland vs. Iraq

Ireland
- Limited Internet Censorship
- Mainly targets illegal and pirated content

Iraq
- Extensive Internet Censorship
- Frequently blocks social media sites and implements internet blackouts during unrest
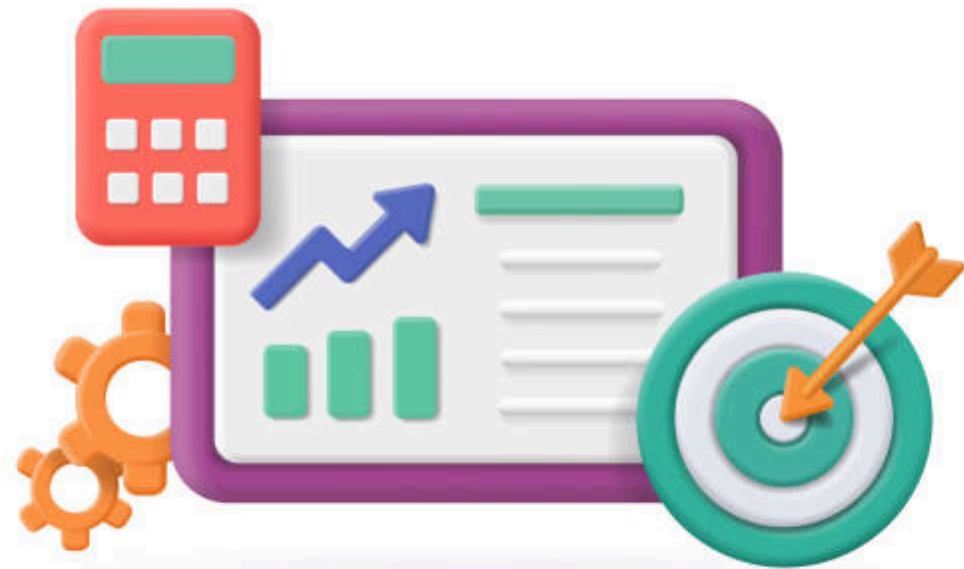- Internet infrastructure closely controlled by the government

Circumvention

To combat censorship users can make use of a number of publicly available tools. These include the Tor Browser, Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), and proxy solutions such as Psiphon.

Current Project Status

Introduction
- Privacy and Global Censorship research completed
- Abstract not started

Literature Review
- Nearly Completed

Methodology
- OONI tests researched
- Methods in-progress

Virtual Machine Testing
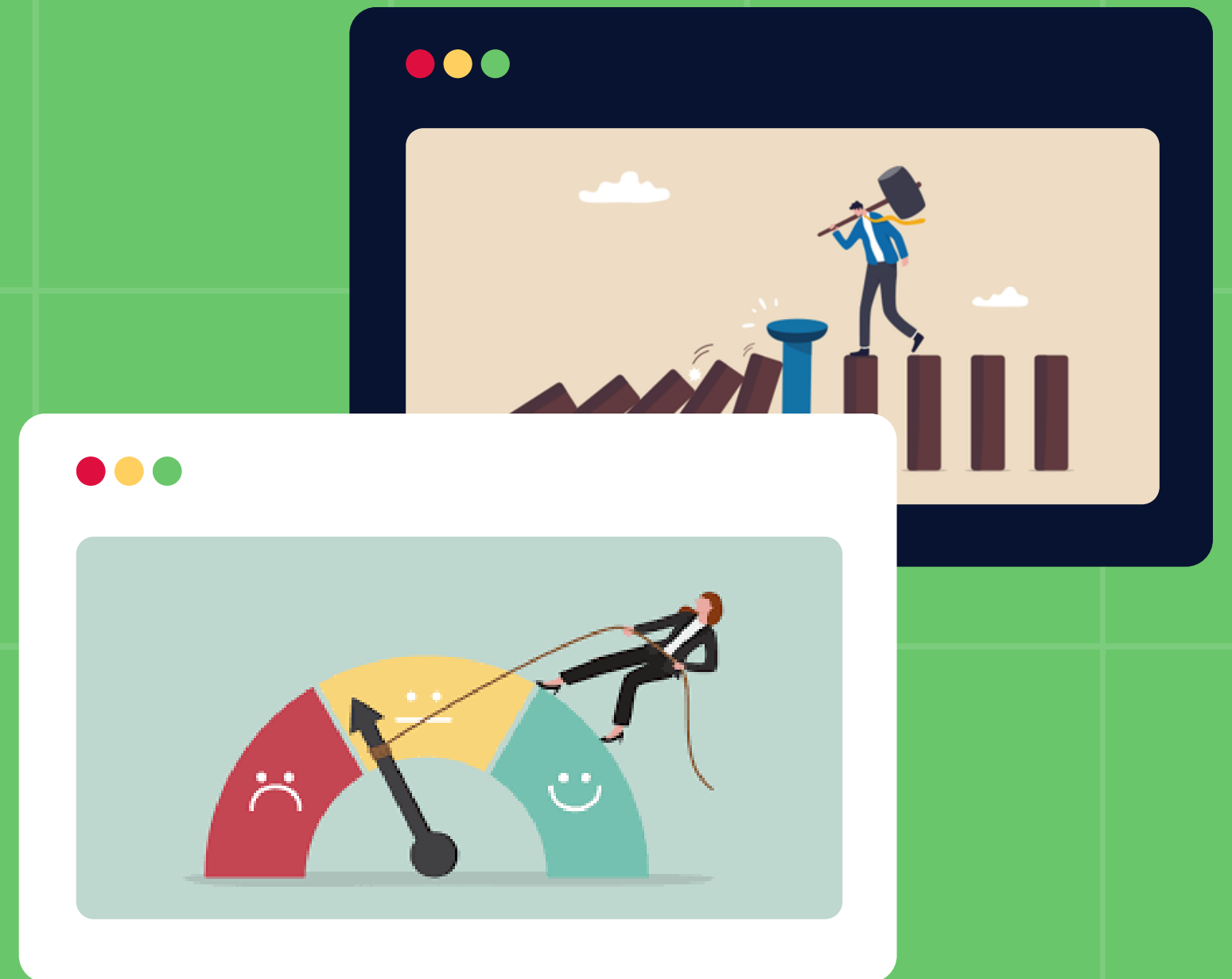- VMs setup - testing not started

Results & Analysis
- Not Started

Conclusions
- Security & Privacy considerations in-progress
- Conclusions not started

Project Blockers & DIfficulties

One of my biggest hurdles so far is finding reliable sources and data relating to Iraq. I have come across limited and sometimes conflicting sources that I have documented and these will be noted in my final report.

Future Work and Tasks

The bulk of the remaining work is using the OONI probe to run tests in Ireland and Iraq and then comparing the gathered data to past data from the OONI project.

Following that:

- Conduct data analysis

- Draw conclusions

- Write an Abstract

- Write Conclusions

- Polish the Literature Review

- Complete full spelling and grammar check

Thank You