Internet Research Observatory

W205 Spring 2017 - Final Presentation

Authors: Jason Hunsberger, Victoria Baker, Dominic Delmolino

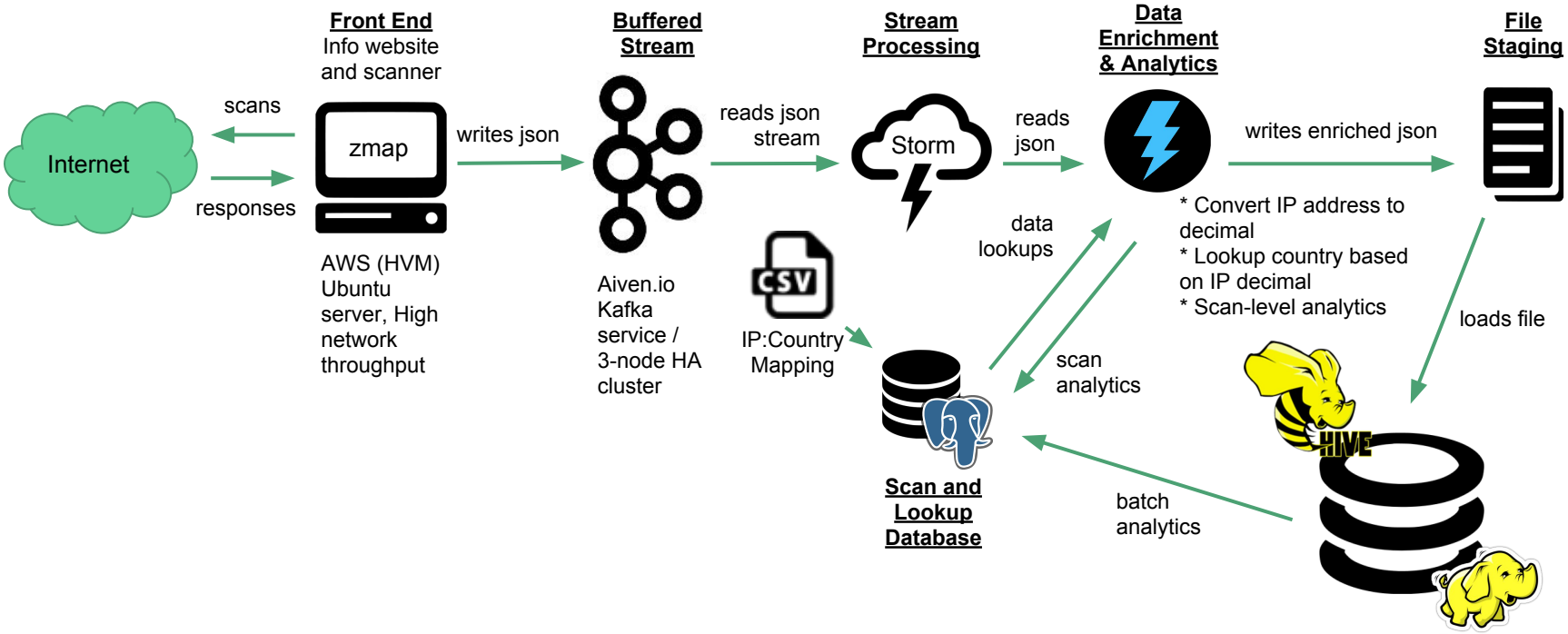
4,294,967,296

IPv4 addresses on the public Internet

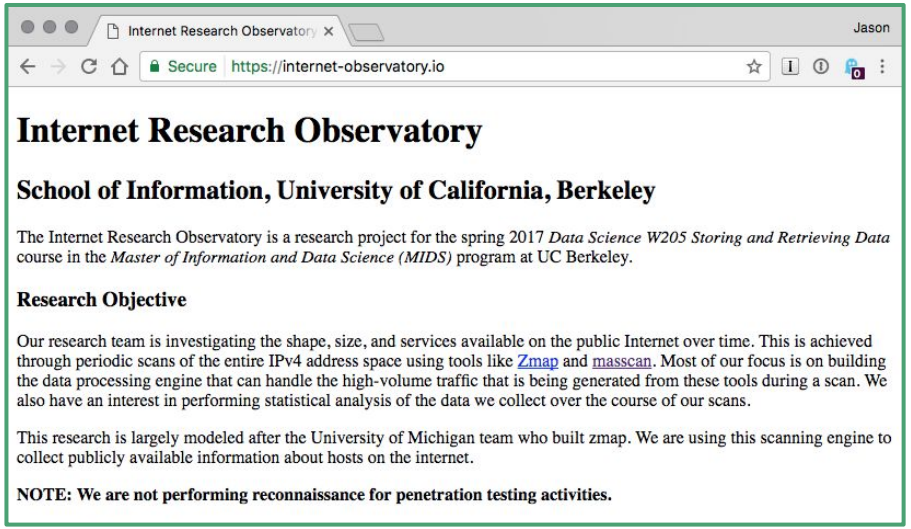
How many of them are actively in use?
What is the geographical distribution of active addresses?
Are there common vulnerabilities across addresses?

Can we scan all of them in a reasonable amount of time, record the results and answer these questions?

Solution Architecture



Scanning the Internet with Zmap



Front End Server

AWS EC2 Ubuntu 16.04 (HVM) w/high-network bandwidth
zmap 2.1.1 (custom build w/ JSON extension)
python 3.5.2
kafka-python 1.3.3
nginx 1.10

Scanning the entire public Internet is a political and technical challenge.

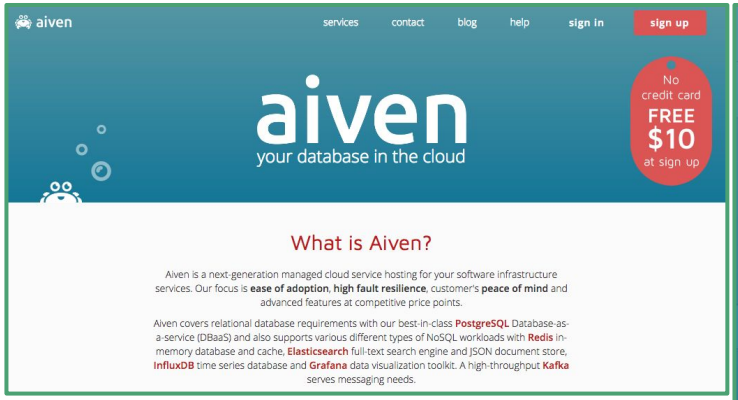
Public Notification

- Custom website w/ SSL cert
- DNS records
- Whois information
- Ability to opt-out

Technical Elements

- High-performance network I/O on AWS
- Zmap network scanner
- Scan management with Python
- Data streaming with Kafka

Kafka-as-a-Service: Aiven



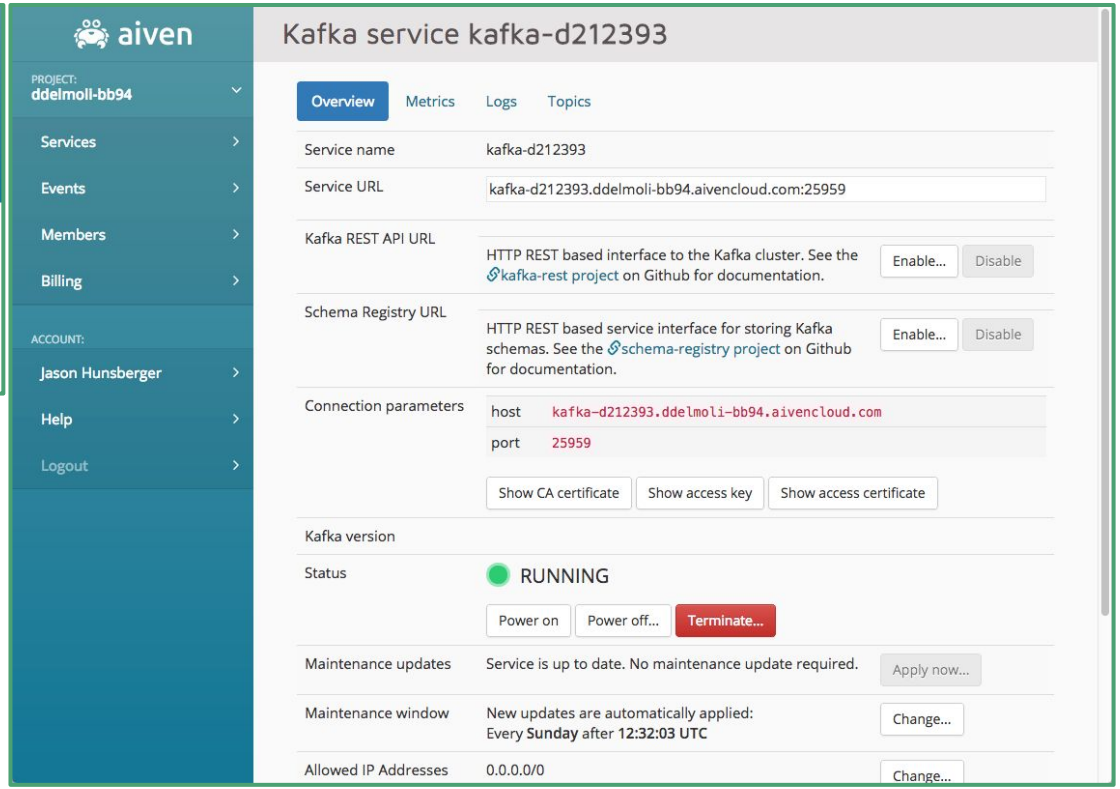
Kafka Cluster

aiven.io Kafka-as-a-Service

kafka 0.10.2

Startup plan 3 node HA set

Secured via client certificates and SSL



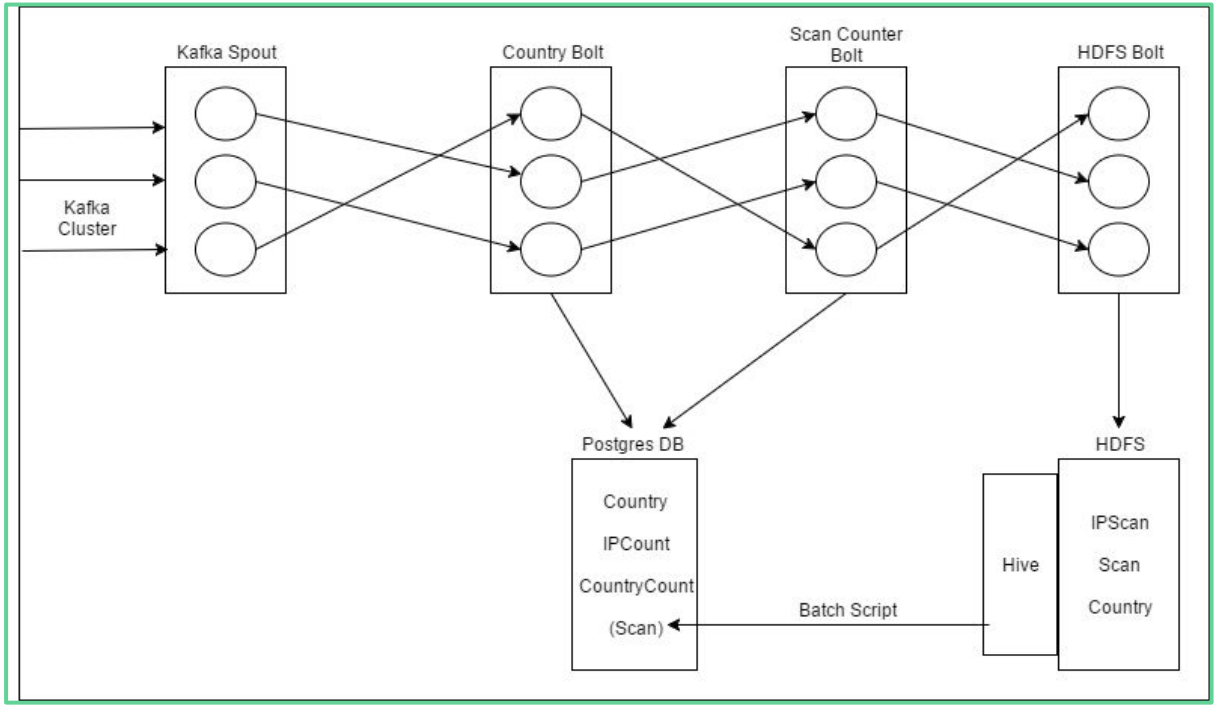
Apache Storm Processing Implementation details

Storm DAG

- Receive Kafka stream
- Convert IP to decimal
- Enrich with Country codes
- Scan-level analytics

Storm Processor

AWS EC2 Amazon Linux
python 2.7.12 (compiled with SSL)
kafka-python 1.3.3
java 1.7
apache storm 0.9.3
streamparse 2.1.4

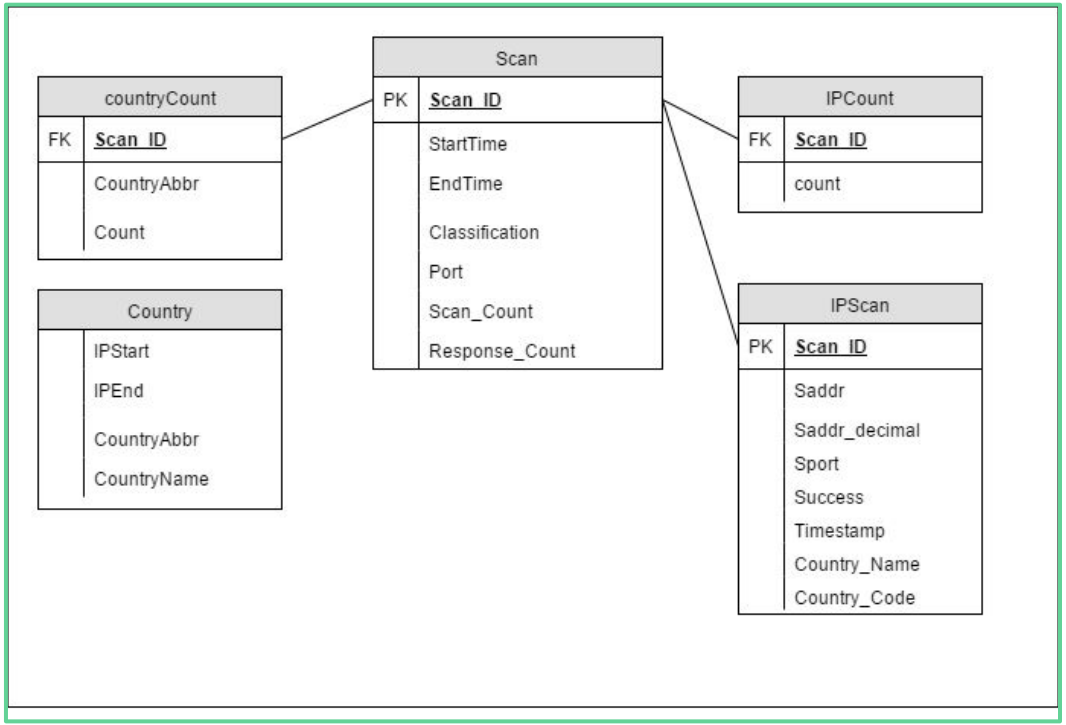


Postgres Database details

Database

Amazon AWS RDS PostgreSQL

1 TB of storage



Technical Challenges

Front End

Challenge: needed access to high-performance hardware
Solution: use AWS HVM

Challenge: needed to manage long-running tools and create repeatable, dependable output
Solution: Python wrapper classes

Challenge: needed to supplement Zmap-generated output
Solution: use JSON output, purchase Country to IP mapping DB, and augment JSON records per scan.

Storm Processing

Challenge: Kafka cluster connections require SSL and python >= 2.7.9
W205 AMIs use python 2.7.3 and lack SSL
Unable to add SSL / upgrade python on W205 AMIs
Solution: build new AMI with python 2.7.12 and SSL

Challenge: latest versions of apache storm (1.1.0) & streamparse (3.4.0) are incompatible; latest version of streamparse (3.4.0) uses non-Clojure topology definitions
Solution: Install apache storm 0.9.3 and streamparse 2.1.4 to mimic successful W205 AMI installation

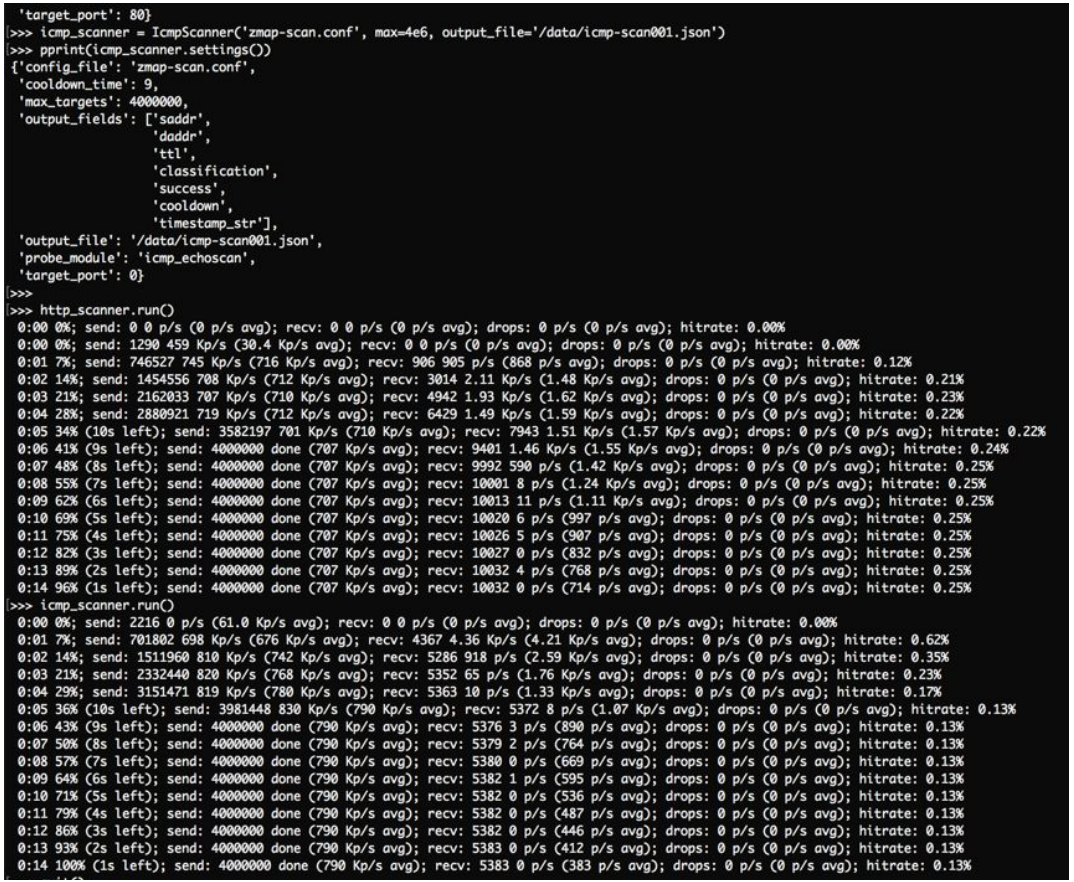
Project Results

As of today, we are able to:

- Scan the Internet with both TCP and ICMP scans
- Send data into our Kafka-as-a-Service cluster
- Store/lookup data in Postgres

What we have left:

- Confirm our analytics are correct in Storm
- Scale the infrastructure to meet our processing needs



Limitations and Future Extensions

- Limitations
  - The cost of the infrastructure was beginning to grow by the end of the project
  - The front end would scan even faster using PF_RING network drivers.
  - Later versions of Storm & Streamparse may be more efficient

- Future Extensions / Additions
  - Expand beyond TCP and ICMP scans
  - Enable different JSON record formats depending upon the type of scan
  - Provide not only Country-level data, but also city-level and ISP-level lookups
  - Sharded or more scalable database design for analysis (i.e., AWS Aurora PostgreSQL or AWS RedShift)
  - Hosted query option for data
  - Geographic distribution of scanning servers
  - HTML visualizations for our streaming and batch analytics

Thank you

Appendix