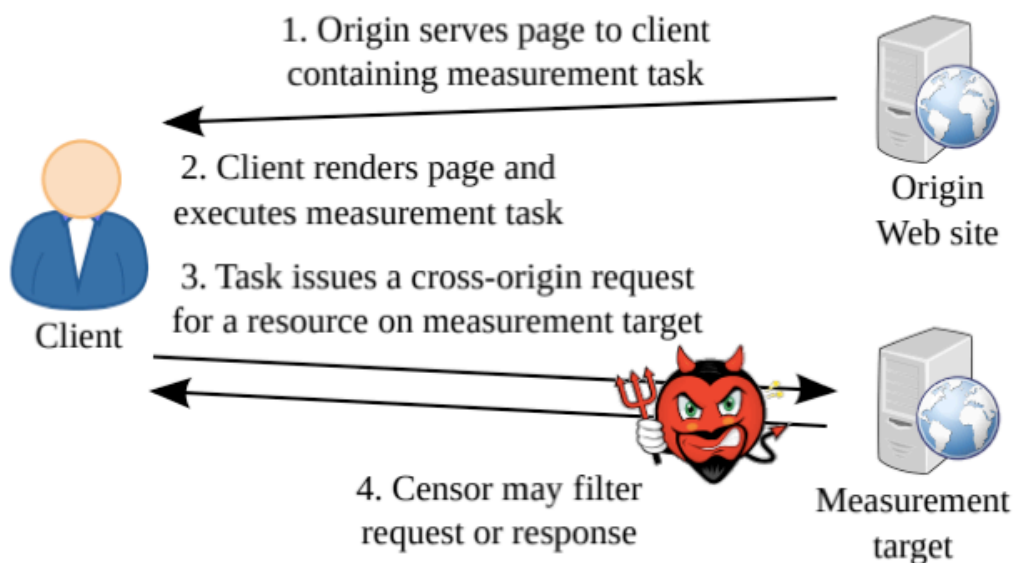


## The Encore project (source of summary text: datasociety.net)

```
<iframe src="//encore.noise.gatech.edu/task.html"
        width="0" height="0" style="display: none">
</iframe>
```

Anyone who administers a web page can copy-paste the above snippet into the source code of the page. It comes from the Encore project at the Network Operations and Internet Security Lab at Princeton, formerly at Georgia Tech. Its effect is to inject an invisible element into the page, which will then instruct the visitor's browser to download and execute a piece of code. The code in question performs censorship measurement: it further instructs the visitor's browser to access content from one of various potentially filtered websites — again invisibly — and report back to the research team's server whether or not the access attempt was successful. By aggregating data from visitors to websites that deploy this measurement code snippet and inferring these visitors' locations based on their IP addresses, researchers can obtain an accurate and up-to-date view into web filtering worldwide.



The researchers used this technique to conduct measurements for a period of seven months, as of January 2015, via installations by at least 17 volunteers (i.e. administrators of popular websites). Measurements were recorded from 88,260 distinct IP addresses in 170 countries including Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.