

4-4-5 DNS Rate Limiting and UDP Attacks a Hard Lesson

First Symptoms

- I was in a boring meeting and dealing with email
- Service to my email server was suddenly unusable
- The PoP in trouble also contained my MRTG and other measurement <blush>
- But I could log into the 'outside' IP address of one of the border routers

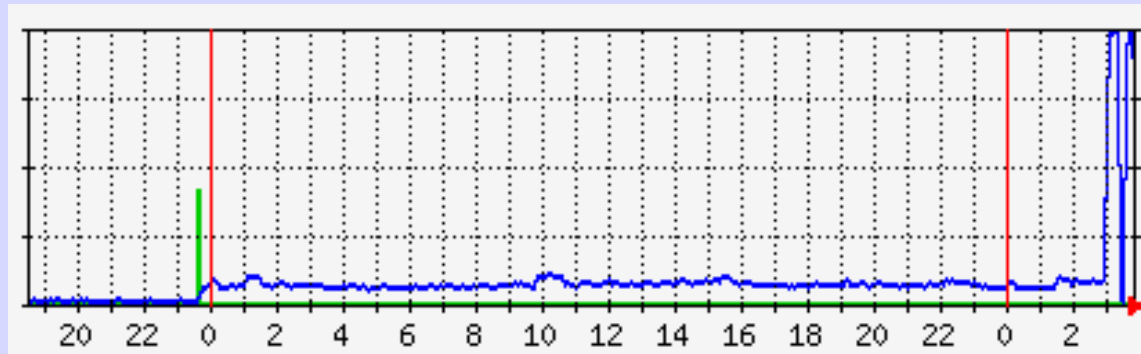
I am the Attacker?

5 minute input rate 720000 bits/sec, 210 packets/sec

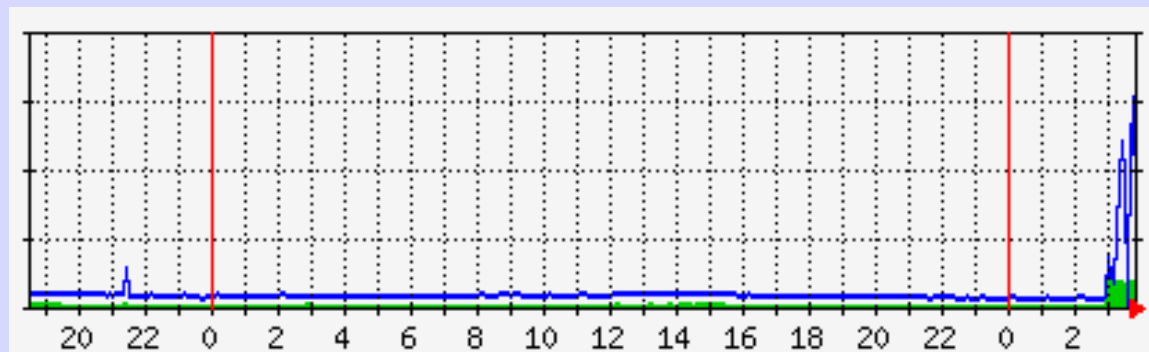
5 minute output rate **740230000** bits/sec,
72520 packets/sec

But it was Very Hard
to reach MRTG
and Other Tools

MRTG for Router



and a DNS Server



Really My Server?

- Managed to get to APC Power Bar which supplied server
- Shut the Server Down
- Problem Went Away!!!
- Powered Server Back Up
- OK for a Minute, but Then Back to Bad

SSH To Server -
Took Three Tries
Over 15 Minutes

tcpdump

```
06:28:26.448024 IP rip.psg.com.domain > 108.178.55.192.9463: 54533*- 19/0/14 SOA,
RRSIG, RRSIG, Type51, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, DNSKEY[|domain]
06:28:26.448026 IP rip.psg.com > 108.178.55.192: udp
06:28:26.448071 IP rip.psg.com.domain > 108.178.55.192.9463: 54533*- 19/0/14 SOA,
RRSIG, RRSIG, Type51, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, DNSKEY[|domain]
06:28:26.448072 IP rip.psg.com > 108.178.55.192: udp
06:28:26.448168 IP rip.psg.com.domain > 108.178.55.192.9463: 54533*- 19/0/14 SOA,
RRSIG, RRSIG, Type51, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, DNSKEY[|domain]
06:28:26.448171 IP rip.psg.com > 108.178.55.192: udp
06:28:26.448174 IP rip.psg.com.domain > 108.178.55.192.9463: 54533*- 19/0/14 SOA,
RRSIG, RRSIG, Type51, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, DNSKEY[|domain]
06:28:26.448176 IP rip.psg.com > 108.178.55.192: udp
06:28:26.448234 IP rip.psg.com.domain > 108.178.55.192.9463: 54533*- 19/0/14 SOA,
RRSIG, RRSIG, Type51, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, DNSKEY[|domain]
06:28:26.448237 IP rip.psg.com > 108.178.55.192: udp
06:28:26.448247 IP rip.psg.com.domain > 108.178.55.192.9463: 54533*- 19/0/14 SOA,
RRSIG, RRSIG, Type51, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, RRSIG, DNSKEY[|domain]
```

So It Was a DNS
Reflector Attack!

But the Server
Was NOT
a Recursive
Resolver

Turned off DNS

- Used `/etc/ipfw.conf`, IP Firewall to
add deny udp from any to any 53
- I Could Now Breathe and Think
- But the Server was Critical to DNS,
serving 20 ccTLDs
- A Quick Mailing List Question Showed
that this was a DNSsec-based Query
Reflector Attack

With a Highly Signed
CH ccTLD
One Byte of Query
Produced > 1KB
of DNSsec Response

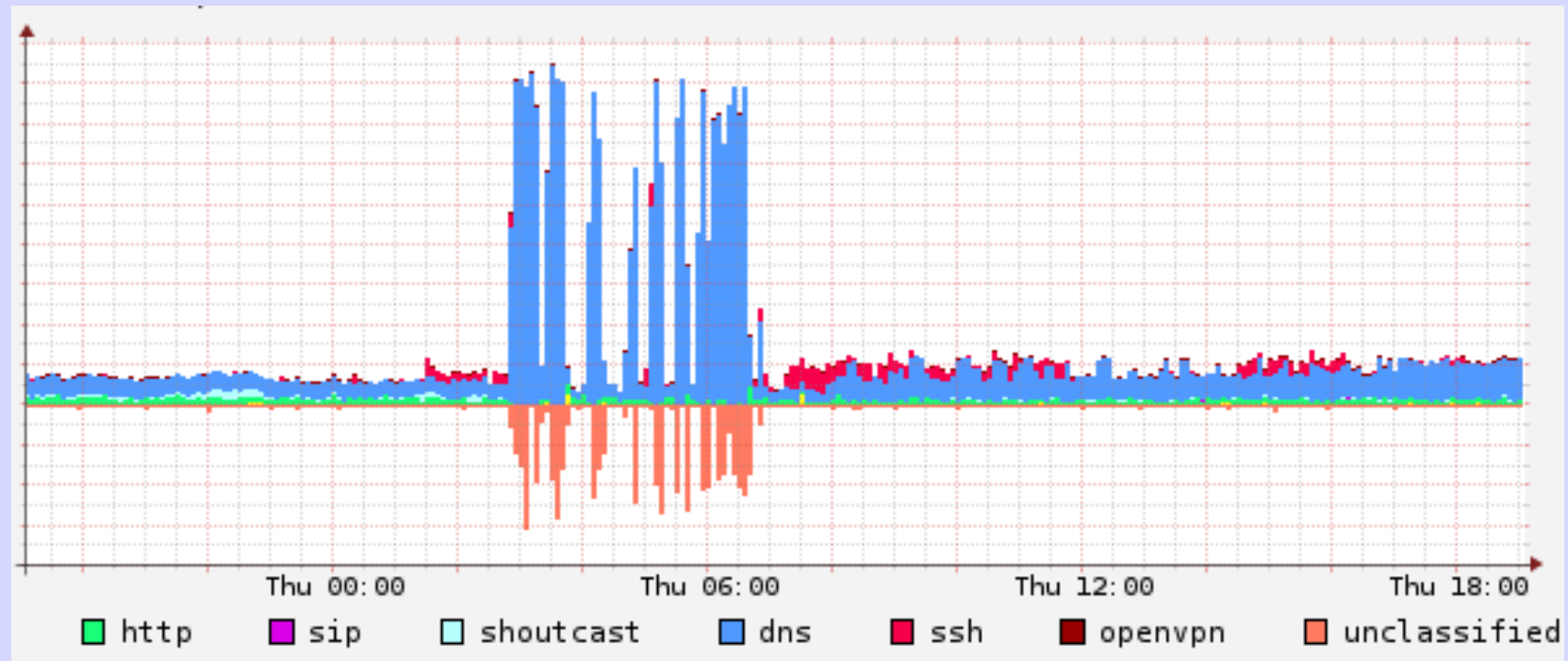
Attacker Used Spoofed
Source Address, the
Address of the Victim,
for UDP Query

The Solution Would Be
Rate-Limiting

Throttle Queries From
a Single Source

Upgraded BIND to
9.9.2
with Patch
rl005.12-P1

```
Options {  
    rate-limit {  
        responses-per-second 5;  
        window 5;  
    };  
};
```



The Problem
Was Solved!

From: CH ccTLD Admin

As you have seen today the CH-zone got hit with a DNS ANY query storm. I assume the traffic has been sent to most CH secondary name-servers.

We saw the following kind of query towards our name-servers which resulted in an **amplification factor of 75:**

```
dig +edns=0 +bufsize=9000 CH. ANY
```

Lessons

- OOB Access Really Needed to Be Out Of Band <blush>
- Set Up a Second Measurement System to Measure the First?
- Install and Configure DNS Flow-Limiting Before This Happens to You!!

Unbound

Rate Limiting is
the Default

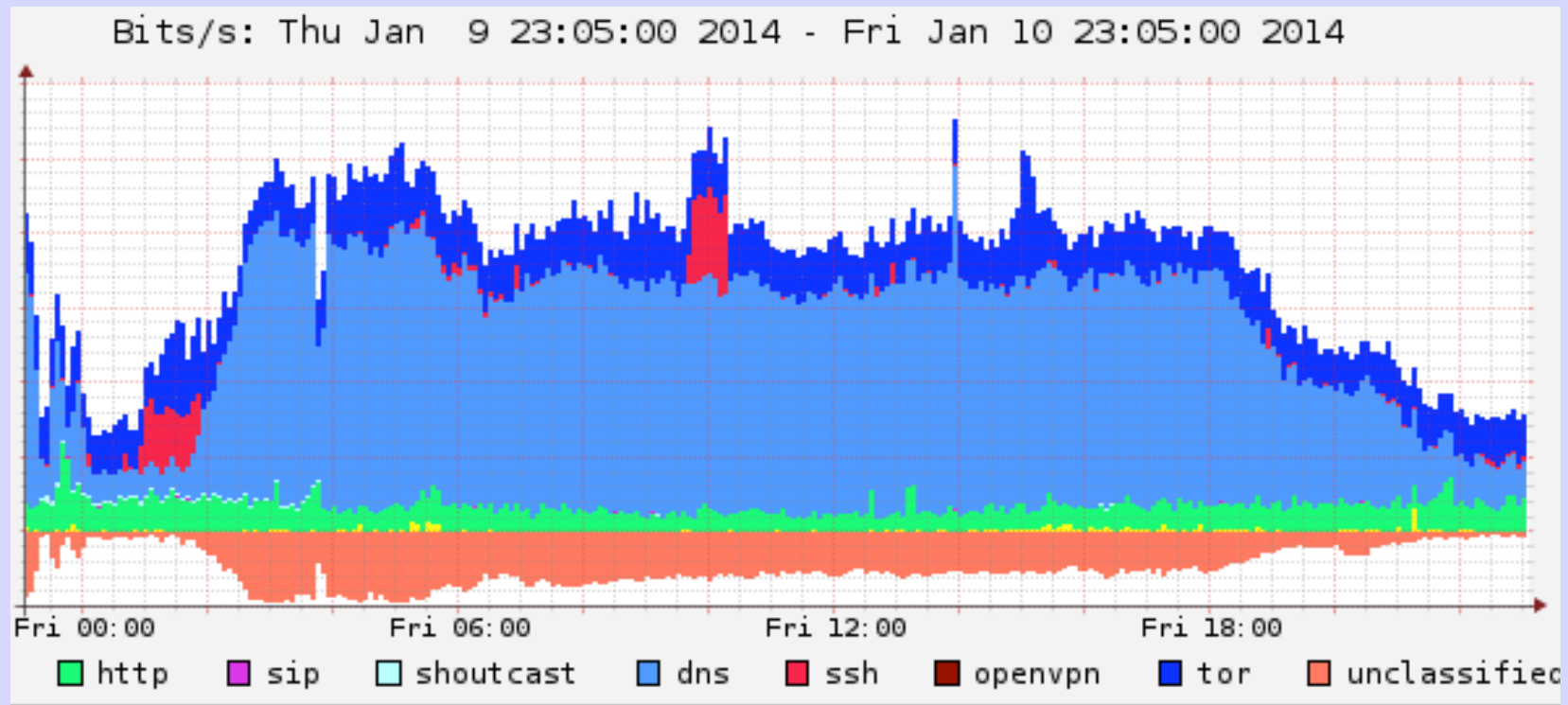
NSD

Use the configure script option

```
./configure --enable-ratelimit
```

The default parameters are a good start

Attacking Me



But ...

It is NOT Only
DNS

DNS is One of Many
UDP-Based Protocols
Which Allow
Amplification Attacks

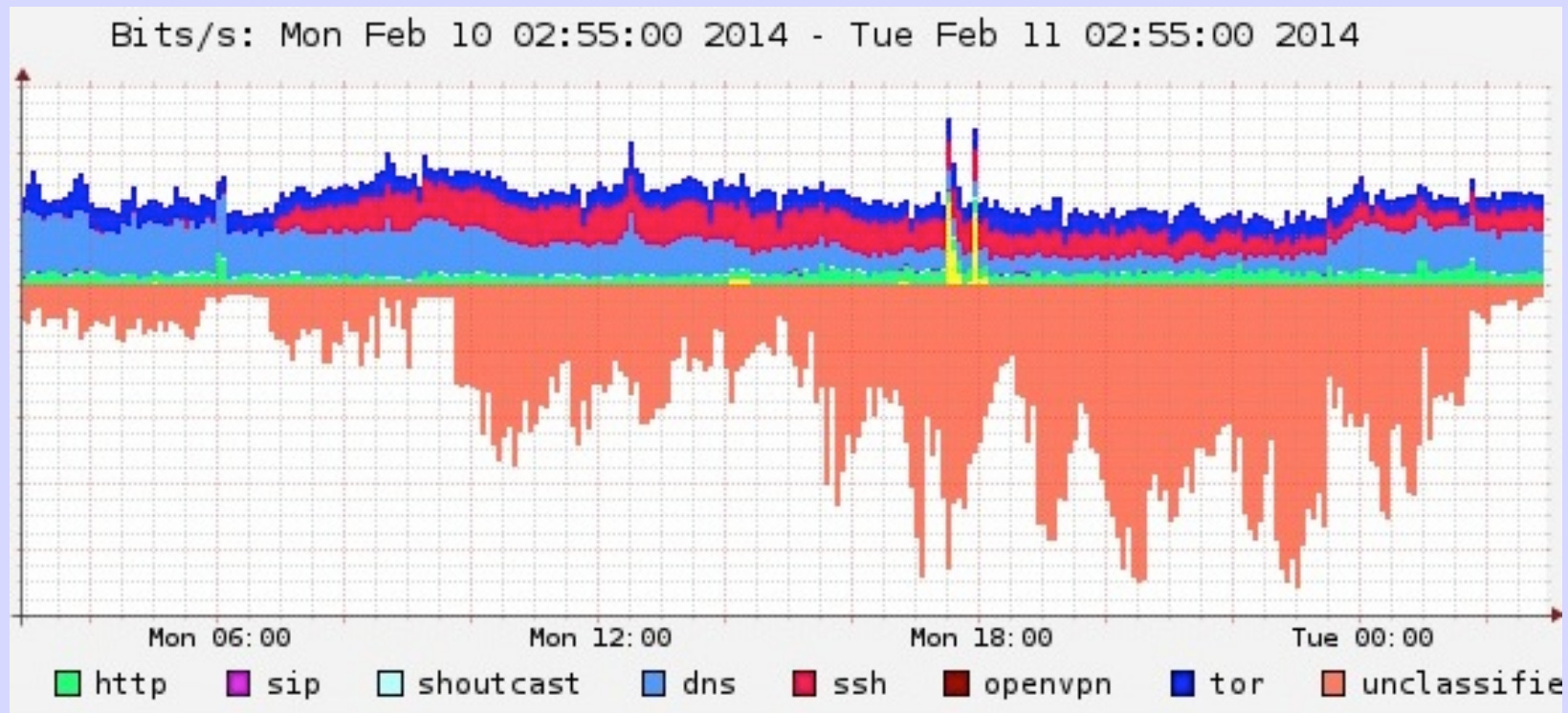
NTP Has Amplification

\$ ntpdc -c monlist tankgirl.kurtis.pp.s

remote	address	port	local	address	count	m	ver	rstr	avgint	lstat
180.200.233.250		50820	194.15.141.69		13	7	2	0	8	0
v-209-98-13-8-61.i.p.v.is		80	194.15.141.69		1290	7	2	0	1	0
198.15.112.190		25565	194.15.141.69		10278	7	2	0	0	0
162.243.92.39		133	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
web.safe-no.de.c.com		80	194.15.141.69		271	7	2	0	0	0
l003.us-west.t.ha.sh fa.te		80	194.15.141.69		5938	7	2	0	0	0
cpe-1-121-138-201.qw19		80	194.15.141.69		61	7	2	0	4	0
162.218.54.28		29000	194.15.141.69		63108	7	2	0	0	0
joylynn.indap.lane.thost		80	194.15.141.69		5602	7	2	0	0	0
124-170-32-15.6.dyn.i.in		80	194.15.141.69		1055	7	2	0	1	0
cpe-76-182-15-5-22.9.nat		80	194.15.141.69		460	7	2	0	0	0
c-50-158-5-16.7.hs.dl.il		80	194.15.141.69		16	7	2	0	2	0
sn006001cf507566.dr.s		53	194.15.141.69		652	7	2	0	10	0
198.50.129.50		3218	194.15.141.69		4522	7	2	0	1	0
178-32-59-1.kimsu.fi.co		80	194.15.141.69		2261	7	2	0	4	0
37.123.97.5		80	194.15.141.69		136	7	2	0	0	0
c80-216-31-11.8.bredan		80	194.15.141.69		1280	7	2	0	2	0
d206-116-20-3-41.bchs.io		3074	194.15.141.69		131	7	2	0	1	0
198.50.180.205		29000	194.15.141.69		132065	7	2	0	0	1
cpe-74-76-232-195.ny.ca		1026	194.15.141.69		1369	7	2	0	3	1
70.38.71.244		80	194.15.141.69		12978	7	2	0	0	1
pool-71-122-77-19.1.tam		80	194.15.141.69		569	7	2	0	0	1
10054.kriter.com.tr		1905	194.15.141.69		7209	7	2	0	1	1
168.63.55.14		80	194.15.141.69		5528	7	2	0	0	1
136-14-12-198.stat.ic.d		25565	194.15.141.69		291	7	2	0	0	1
ms-240-220-12.1.cust.te		80	194.15.141.69		2407	7	2	0	1	1
46.105.254.28		80	194.15.141.69		2134	7	2	0	2	1
pool-108-13-78-10.l.s.on		80	194.15.141.69		7	7	2	0	15	1
148.197.184.211		80	194.15.141.69		97186	7	2	0	0	1
bas5-kingston08-124252		80	194.15.141.69		693	7	2	0	2	1
74-141-253-2.dhcp.insi		3074	194.15.141.69		683	7	2	0	5	1
mx044.envi.cushos.t.c.m		25565	194.15.141.69		3817	7	2	0	1	1
192.184.13.233		25565	194.15.141.69		3698	7	2	0	0	1
172-13-170-15.9.light.sp		80	194.15.141.69		280	7	2	0	1	1
94.23.146.204		80	194.15.141.69		3588	7	2	0	1	1
cpe-24-167-18-198.rgv.v		8080	194.15.141.69		18	7	2	0	7	2
bas1-montreal46-127937		80	194.15.141.69		4614	7	2	0	0	2
189.38.59.130.stat.ica.u		27017	194.15.141.69		8506	7	2	0	1	2
24-182-76-210.dhcp.h.c.k		80	194.15.141.69		4102	7	2	0	1	2
c-50-183-97-88.hs.dl.co		80	194.15.141.69		55	7	2	0	2	2
108.61.239.221.chop.a.p		3074	194.15.141.69		74	7	2	0	13	2
117.3.103.211		80	194.15.141.69		245	7	2	0	202	2
host-92-20-241-79.as.13		3074	194.15.141.69		1	7	2	0	0	2
cpe-142-136-1-25-6.soc		80	194.15.141.69		105	7	2	0	6	2
c-69-250-18-0-14.2.hsd1.i		80	194.15.141.69		221	7	2	0	6	2
199.58.147.81		80	194.15.141.69		174	7	2	0	1	3
ns4009551.i.p-192-99-9		22	194.15.141.69		1053	7	2	0	1	3
199.83.128.97.i.p.incap		80	194.15.141.69		752	7	2	0	8	3
cpe-142-136-8-1-05.soc.a		80	194.15.141.69		24	7	2	0	3	3
cpe-72-228-146-57.buff		3074	194.15.141.69		27	7	2	0	15	3
176.57.141.243		2302	194.15.141.69		132	7	2	0	10	4
cpcl4-hart10-2-0-cust.9		80	194.15.141.69		122	7	2	0	3	4
204.static.sea.na.cld.n		25565	194.15.141.69		4601	7	2	0	2	4
24-52-227-112.cable.te		80	194.15.141.69		5	7	2	0	0	5
ads1-75-46-30-7.dsl.sf		80	194.15.141.69		123	7	2	0	3	6
37.221.175.38.res.erved		80	194.15.141.69		710	7	2	0	5	6
ool-44cd8e8.dyn.opt.on		3074	194.15.141.69		41	7	2	0	19	6
70.49.207.126		53	194.15.141.69		646	7	2	0	9	7
ads1-184-38-2-23-230.ms		80	194.15.141.69		1235	7	2	0	9	7
75-137-148-0.dhcp.gwint		90	194.15.141.69		607	7	2	0	23	8
egle715.st.at.ded.ica.te		80	194.15.141.69		226	7	2	0	7	8
cpcl1-sher12-2-0-cust.1		53	194.15.141.69		188	7	2	0	5	8
cl257h20297.vi.layn.c		2302	194.15.141.69		156	7	2	0	13	10
cpe-192-136-2-52-78.tx		80	194.15.141.69		7	7	2	0	7	10
c-50-151-74-71.hs.dl.in		3074	194.15.141.69		240	7	2	0	14	14
cl122-106-251-57.bel.r.s3		80	194.15.141.69		74	7	2	0	6	14
lon036.mltip.lay.co.uk		80	194.15.141.69		33	7	2	0	8	15
107-212-125-251.lights		80	194.15.141.69		66	7	2	0	7	16
137.116.32.32		80	194.15.141.69		3371	7	2	0	0	19
cpe-74-69-109-238.ro.ch		3070	194.15.141.69		112	7	2	0	42	25
140.101.123.37.salay.c		80	194.15.141.69		3411	7	2	0	1	27
70-56-146-208.bot.s.qwe		80	194.15.141.69		224	7	2	0	0	28
68-204-165-85.res.bhn		80	194.15.141.69		16	7	2	0	1	30
cpe-24-193-14-5-48.ny.c		3074	194.15.141.69		5	7	2	0	18	33

-24-118-21-23.8.hs.dl.m	3074	194.15.141.69	60	7	2	0	2	44
209-76-178-47.lights.pe	3074	194.15.141.69	13	7	2	0	29	49
168.62.23.92	80	194.15.141.69	3	7	2	0	57	49
5e0f8613.bb.sky.com	80	194.15.141.69	66	7	2	0	1	50
70-56-151-99.bois.qwes	80	194.15.141.69	2659	7	2	0	0	65
pool-71-190-169-81.nyc	80	194.15.141.69	129	7	2	0	1	72
88.243.108.185.dynami	80	194.15.141.69	2392	7	2	0	2	77
119-224-73-172.callip	80	194.15.141.69	13	7	2	0	32	93
cpe-144-137-66-77.lnse	6500	194.15.141.69	40	7	2	0	21	98
94.23.184.100	6000	194.15.141.69	17	7	2	0	9	103
162.255.212.162.inn-add	25565	194.15.141.69	38791	7	2	0	0	110
239.246.154.177.deltai	80	194.15.141.69	16	7	2	0	8	114
pool-173-71-75-209.cmd	80	194.15.141.69	19	7	2	0	2	115
201.171.243.177.dsl.dy	80	194.15.141.69	3	7	2	0	16	120
host86-174-38-212.rang	3074	194.15.141.69	1	7	2	0	0	124
cpe-172-251-214-27.soc	3074	194.15.141.69	1	7	2	0	0	125
cpe-72-182-50-237.aust	80	194.15.141.69	2	7	2	0	25	137
66-169-191-142.dhcp.ft	67	194.15.141.69	287	7	2	0	3	141
ip68-14-142-149.r.i.r.i.	80	194.15.141.69	13	7	2	0	42	163
affordable.hgh-perfor	9987	194.15.141.69	34	7	2	0	14	175
c-98-239-104-19.0.hsd1.	3074	194.15.141.69	4	7	2	0	27	176
cpcl-hart14-2-0-cust.33	80	194.15.141.69	2206	7	2	0	5	190
ntpl.mmo.netnad.s.e	123	194.15.141.69	45196	4	4	0	1039	203
110-174-130-135.stat.ic	6500	194.15.141.69	17	7	2	0	6	204
c-24-35-112-153.cust.on	80	194.15.141.69	136	7	2	0	5	209
c-50-149-194-70.hsd1.t	80	194.15.141.69	4	7	2	0	3	217
ntpl.sth.netnad.s.e	123	194.15.141.69	45022	4	4	0	1000	218
cpcl2-perm13-2-0-cust.93	80	194.15.141.69	152	7	2	0	1	223
101.167.22.79	6500	194.15.141.69	23	7	2	0	3	225
172-9-192-130.lights.pe	80	194.15.141.69	166	7	2	0	0	231
108-222-193-172.lights	3074	194.15.141.69	6	7	2	0	16	247
v-74-91-123-196.urman-	27025	194.15.141.69	65	7	2	0	1	272
65.52.24.110	80	194.15.141.69	2108	7	2	0	0	280
198.24.187.41	80	194.15.141.69	30	7	2	0	39	287
pool-71-183-222-135.ny	80	194.15.141.69	5	7	2	0	104	303
94.23.184.200	6000	194.15.141.69	2	7	2	0	0	310
ns394890.ip-176-3-1-117	80	194.15.141.69	595	7	2	0	1	318
24-119-20-63.cpe.cable	3074	194.15.141.69	1	7	2	0	0	321
c-75-72-118-222.hs.dl.m	3074	194.15.141.69	7	7	2	0	15	324
88.247.203.8.stat.ictt	25565	194.15.141.69	618	7	2	0	2	325
wsip-70-184-7-6-13.0.t.c	80	194.15.141.69	250	7	2	0	0	343
76-220-29-27.lights.pe	80	194.15.141.69	5	7	2	0	13	3667
142-196-165-57.res.bhn	40031	194.15.141.69	7	7	2	0	4	3688
c-24-22-71-132.hs.dl.or	3074	194.15.141.69	2	7	2	0	0	3692
172.56.6.23	3074	194.15.141.69	4	7	2	0	14	3711
datacenter.lghost.t.com	9987	194.15.141.69	45	7	2	0	25	3713
cl12-104-14-26.roch.d5	6500	194.15.141.69	27	7	2	0	4	3747
122.sub-70-195-0.mvzw	3074	194.15.141.69	20	7	2	0	24	3752
50-89-149-133.res.bhn	80	194.15.141.69	113	7	2	0	1	3756
99-72-206-4.lights.pe	80	194.15.141.69	209	7	2	0	1	3759
ip22-169-15-186.ct.co	80	194.15.141.69	324	7	2	0	1	3761
97-86-112-43.dhcp.euc	3074	194.15.141.69	62	7	2	0	4	3767
172.56.15.46	80	194.15.141.69	78	7	2	0	1	3806
cpcl-leic15-2-0-cust.14	80	194.15.141.69	173	7	2	0	2	3613
gamma.irc.soc.iagame.r	80	194.15.141.69	1445	7	2	0	0	3645
ip68-224-152-140.lv.lv	3074	194.15.141.69	4	7	2	0	14	3655
239.246.154.177.deltai	80	194.15.141.69	16	7	2	0	8	3657
pool-71-190-169-81.nyc	3074	194.15.141.69	99	7	2	0	1	3698
88.243.108.185.dynami	80	194.15.141.69	2392	7	2	0	2	3728
119-224-73-172.callip	53	194.15.141.69	16	7	2	0	6	3728
cpe-144-137-66-77.lnse	80	194.15.141.69	291	7	2	0	4	3728
94.23.184.200	3074	194.15.141.69	15	7	2	0	4	3728
ns394890.ip-176-3-1-117	80	194.15.141.69	793	7	2	0	0	3733
24-119-20-63.cpe.cable	80	194.15.141.69	144	7	2	0	1	3740
c-75-72-118-222.hs.dl.m	3074	194.15.141.69	3488	7	2	0	0	3748
88.247.203.8.stat.ictt	80	194.15.141.69	3868	7	2	0	0	3785
wsip-70-184-7-6-13.0.t.c	80	194.15.141.69	14	7	2	0	3	3790
76-220-29-27.lights.pe	80	194.15.141.69	9	7	2	0	10	3995
142-196-165-57.res.bhn	6500	194.15.141.69	29	7	2	0	3	3996
198.24.187.41	6010	194.15.141.69	2658	7	2	0	1	3801
pool-71-183-222-135.ny	80	194.15.141.69	2	7	2	0	15	3801
94.23.184.200	22025	194.15.141.69	3488	7	2	0	0	3801
ns394890.ip-176-3-1-117	3074	194.15.141.69	2	7	2	0	0	3805
24-118-21-23.8.hs.dl.m	80	194.15.141.69	1408	7	2	0	2	3811
24-180-129-11.dhcp.alid	80	194.15.141.69	333	7	2	0	1	3812
68-202-176-195.res.bhn	80	194.15.141.69	7	7	2	0	14	3827
147-92-169-192.stat.ic	28015	194.15.141.69	3213	7	2	0	0	3838
94.24.207.15	80	194.15.141.69	1835	7	2	0	7	3851
bsk.bespoke.rtr.at	27900	194.15.141.69	11407	7	2	0	0	3861
c-950465.virtua.com.br	33592	194.15.141.69	715	7	2	0	1	3865
c-50-166-161-241.hsd1.	80	194.15.141.69	100	7	2	0	15	3870
66-55-129-154.constant	30365	194.15.141.69	13	7	2	0	15	3880
ns37118-23-17-187-133	4101	194.15.141.69	20368	7	2	0	0	3881
23.235.23.28	53	194.15.141.69	22	7	2	0	2	3891
ip68-14-142-149.r.i.r.i.	80	194.15.141.69	3488	7	2	0	0	3891
adsl-176-202-133-1.ds1.	3074	194.15.141.69	131	7	2	0	3	3907
108.170.47.01	25565	194.15.141.69	325	7	2	0	0	3907

3 Vulnerable Servers



Check Any Host

```
ntpdc -c monlist hostname
```

Block Bad NTP

By default, exchange time with everybody, but don't

allow configuration.

#

restrict -4 default kod notrap nomodify nopeer noquery

restrict -6 default kod notrap nomodify nopeer noquery

#

Local users may interrogate the ntp server closely.

restrict 127.0.0.1

restrict ::1

Cisco Router

! Core NTP configuration

ntp server 24.16.172.107 ! ntp.psg.com

ntp server 147.28.0.36 ! rip.psg.com

ntp server 147.28.0.62 ! psg.com

!

access-list 46 remark utility ACL to block everything

access-list 46 deny any

!

access-list 47 remark NTP peers/servers we sync to/with

access-list 47 permit 24.16.172.107

access-list 47 permit 147.28.0.36

access-list 47 permit 147.28.0.62

access-list 47 deny any

!

! NTP access control

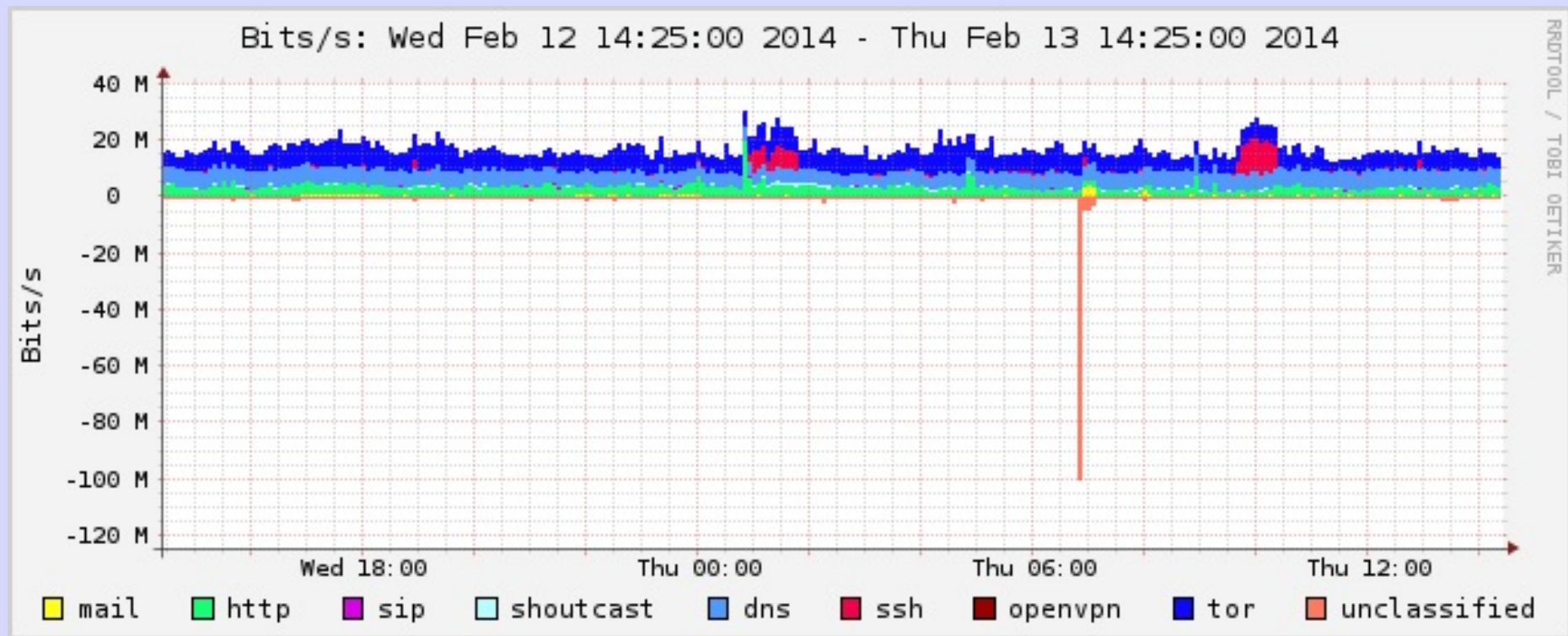
ntp access-group query-only 46 ! deny all NTP control queries

ntp access-group serve 46 ! deny all NTP time and control by default

ntp access-group peer 47 ! permit sync to configured peer(s)/server(s)

ntp access-group serve-only 46 ! deny NTP time sync requests

chargen is Vulnerable



NetFlow Told Me

Dst IP Addr	Bytes(%)	pps	bps	bpp
98.128.37.190	3.7 G(98.7)	3020	28.0 M	1157

Src IP Addr	Bytes(%)	pps	bps	bpp
124.158.127.250	26.0 M(0.7)	600	6.0 M	1241
111.1.20.239	21.1 M(0.6)	474	4.9 M	1277
218.75.208.104	20.6 M(0.5)	484	4.7 M	1222
198.180.150.9	18.3 M(0.5)	30	318398	1287
202.100.85.51	18.0 M(0.5)	418	4.1 M	1237
210.245.86.132	17.7 M(0.5)	416	4.1 M	1223
222.188.10.160	17.7 M(0.5)	407	4.1 M	1248
61.143.139.34	16.8 M(0.4)	391	3.9 M	1233
119.97.222.23	16.8 M(0.4)	390	3.9 M	1231
211.140.116.106	16.6 M(0.4)	377	3.8 M	1269

Src Port	Bytes(%)	pps	bps	bpp
0	2.2 G(58.9)	1588	13.9 M	1093
19	1.5 G(40.0)	1152	11.3 M	1228

Dst Port	Bytes(%)	pps	bps	bpp
0	2.2 G(58.8)	1152	11.3 M	1228

All UDP Services
are
Vulnerable

But
Do NOT Block
UDP

Look at Each Service
Throttle,
Manage, or
Disable