

# Constraint Solving

**Florida Tech IoT Security & Privacy Lab**

# 15 Years Ago, The Internet Almost Died

- In 2008, the Conficker virus spread rapidly.
- It targeted an unprotected vulnerability in Windows.
- It communicated to its handlers with a secret channel.

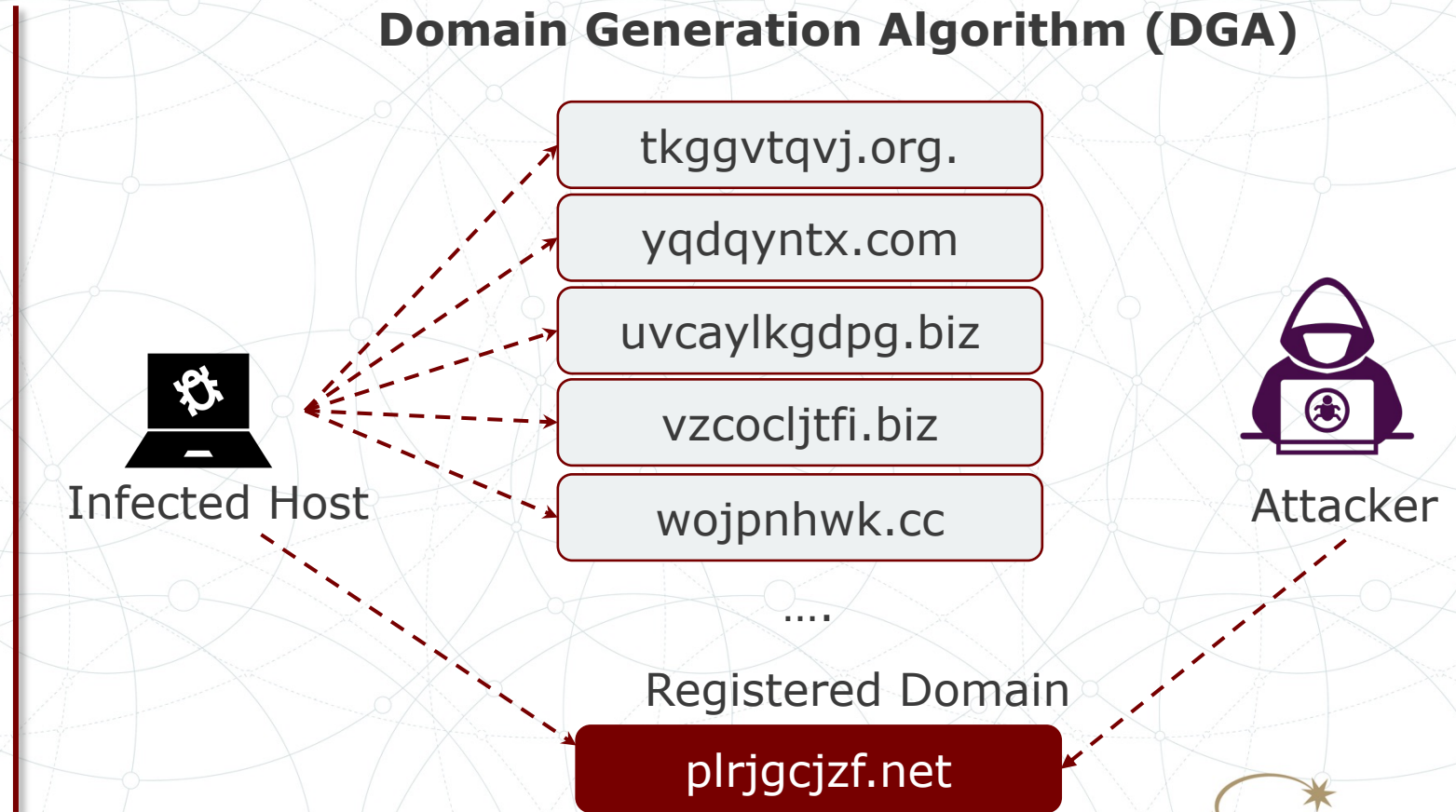


<https://archive.f-secure.com/weblog/archives/00001646.html>



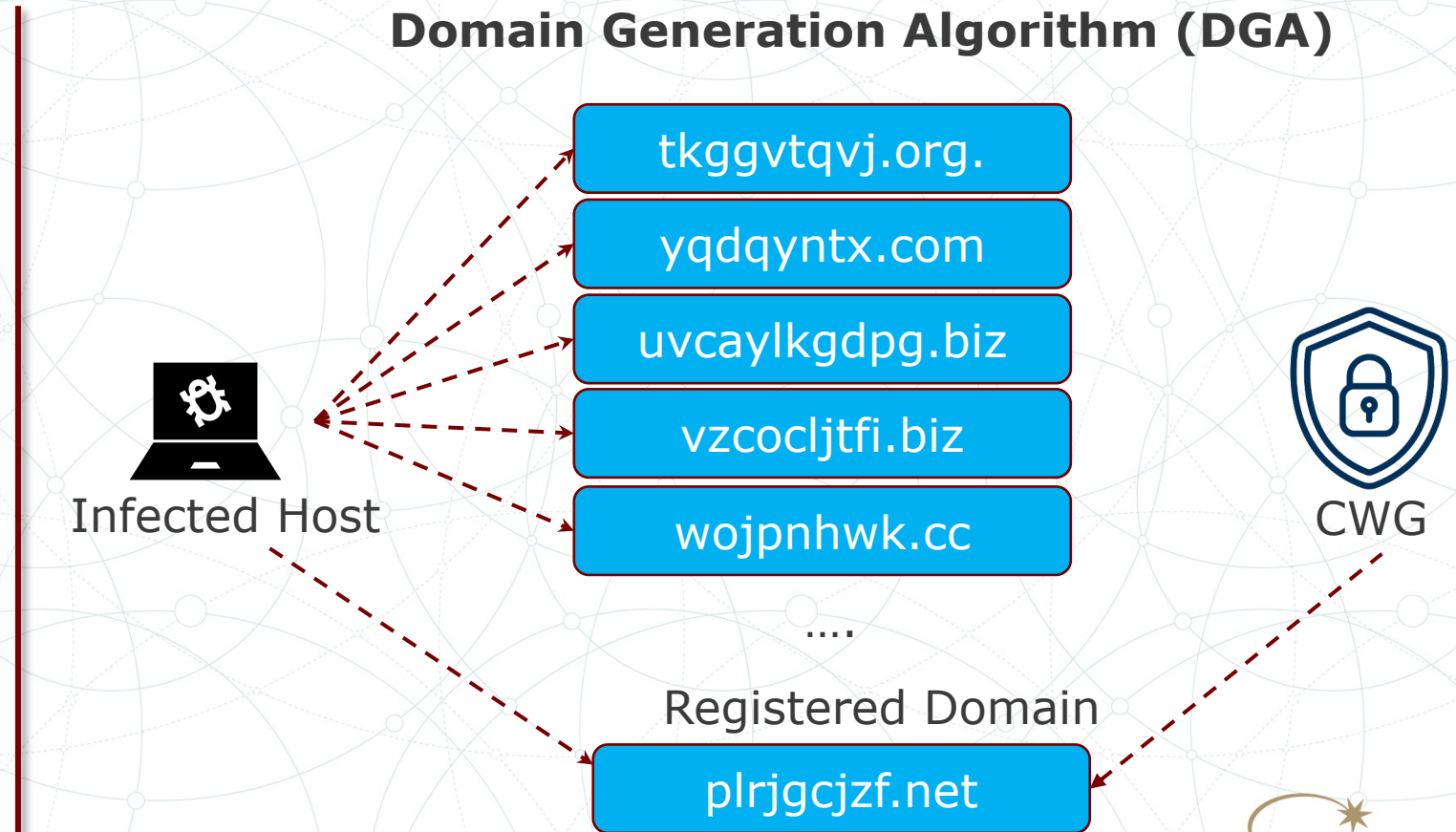
# Confickers Communication Channel

- Conficker used a DGA to create daily list of 500 domain names
- Attackers only registered a few of the actual domain names
- These registered domains served as rendezvous points for the attacker



# Predicting Communication Channel

- The Conficker Working Group (CWG) used **constraint solving** to determine the next domain names for the communication channels
- They registered the domain names before the attackers could and took command of conficker, saving the Internet.





# **Constraint Solving Problems**

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**what does that even mean?**

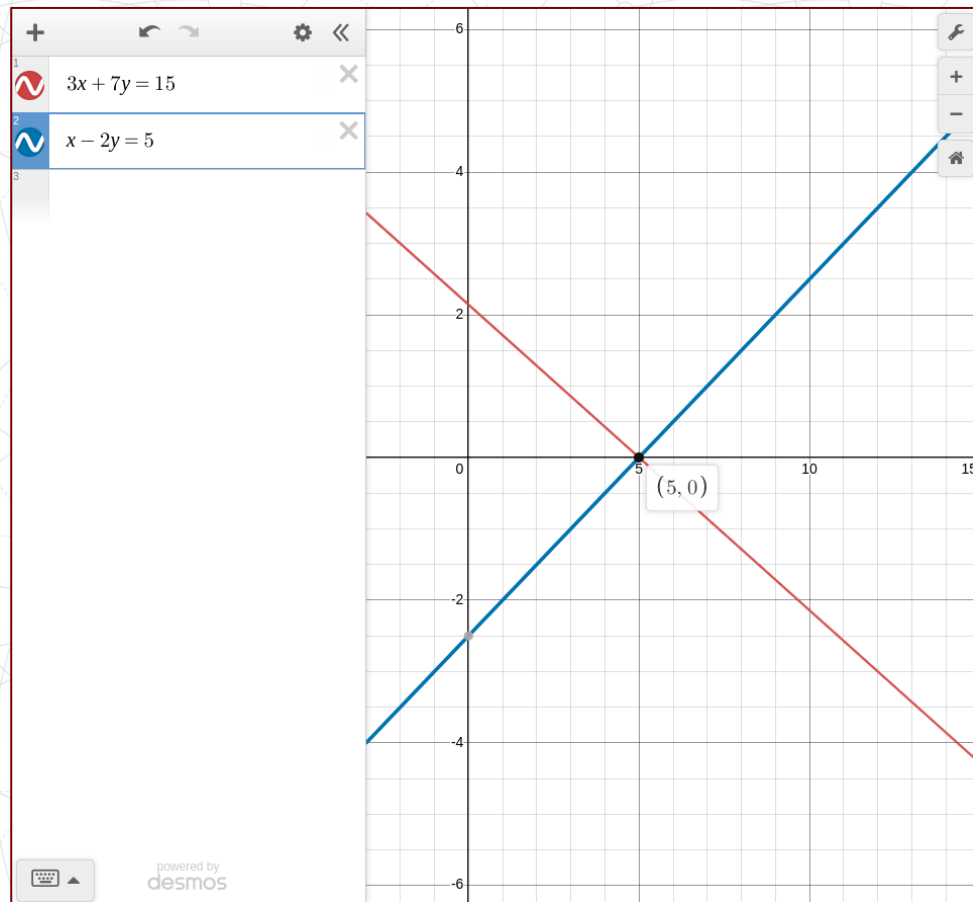
# How fast can you solve this?

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$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 7y &= 15 \\ x - 2y &= 5 \end{aligned}$$



# Systems of Equations



Given the following equations:

$$3x + 7y = 15$$

$$x - 2y = 5$$

Find appropriate values for  $x$  and  $y$ .

# Using Z3 in Python

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$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 7y &= 15 \\ x - 2y &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

# Define Variables

```
x = Real('x')  
y = Real('y')
```

Name of the variable

Type of variable specifies number of bits

# Initialize Solver

$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 7y &= 15 \\ x - 2y &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

```
x = Real('x')
```

```
y = Real('y')
```

```
s = Solver()
```

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Create the **variables** and **solver** objects to find the solution



$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 7y &= 15 \\ x - 2y &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

# Add Constraints

```
x = Real('x')  
y = Real('y')  
  
s = Solver()  
  
s.add(3 * x + 7 * y == 15)  
s.add(x - 2 * y == 5)
```

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Define the **rules (constraints)** for each variable

$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 7y &= 15 \\ x - 2y &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

# Determine Solution

```
x = Real('x')
y = Real('y')

s = Solver()

s.add(3 * x + 7 * y == 15)
s.add(x - 2 * y == 5)

s.check()

print("x:", s.model()[x])
print("y:", s.model()[y])
```

- `s.check()` will return either "sat" or "unsat"
- Print the value of each variable stored in the solver's "model"



$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 7y &= 15 \\ x - 2y &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

# Constraint Solving Steps

```
x = Real('x')
```

```
y = Real('y')
```

```
s = Solver()
```

```
s.add(3 * x + 7 * y == 15)
```

```
s.add(x - 2 * y == 5)
```

```
s.check()
```

```
print("x:", s.model()[x])
```

```
print("y:", s.model()[y])
```

Initialize variables

Initialize solver object

Add constraints

Determine Solution

# But what if the problem was harder?

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$$3x + 7y = 15$$

$$x - 2y = 5$$

$$(x-5)^2/3 + y = 0$$

$$x-5 = y^3$$

$$y = (1/x) - (1/5)$$



# Computers Solve Hard Problems Fast

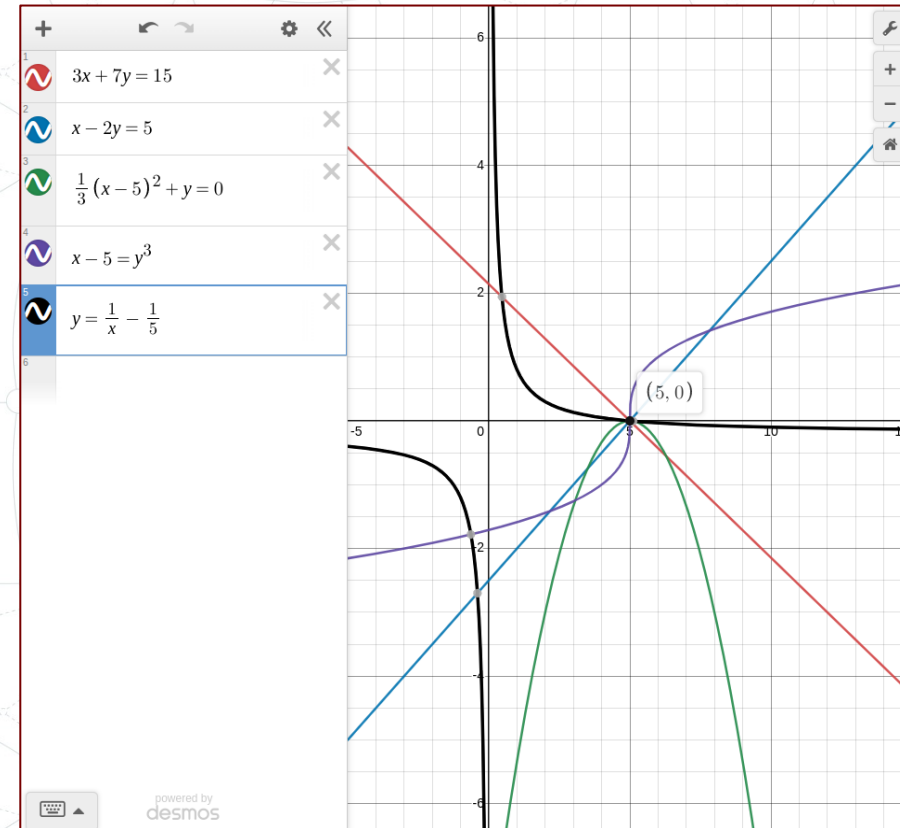
```
x = Real('x')
y = Real('y')

s = Solver()

s.add(3 * x + 7 * y == 15)
s.add(x - 2 * y == 5)
s.add(((x - 5) ** 2)/3 + y == 0)
s.add(x - 5 == y ** 3)
s.add(y == 1 / x - 1 / 5)

s.check()

print("x:", s.model()[x])
print("y:", s.model()[y])
```



# **Beating** Rumpelstiltskin

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**Win the game and escape the forest!**

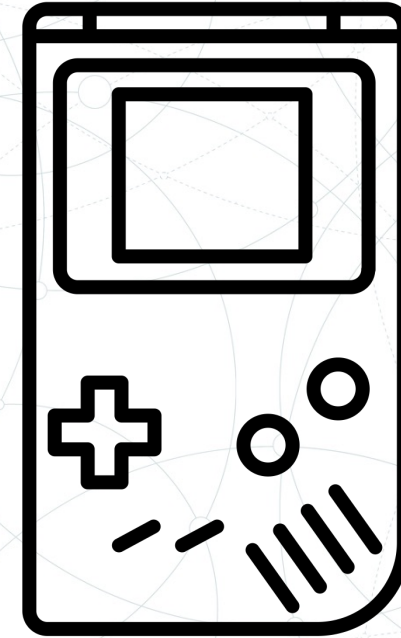


# Solve the Riddle

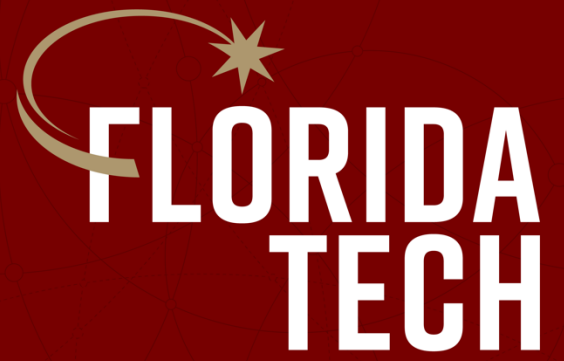
Use what you've learned to guess Rumpelstiltskin's favorite number!

Connect to WiFi Access Point

Go to <http://10.3.141.1> to get started



Initialize variables  
Initialize solver object  
Add constraints  
Determine Solution



**Thank you.**