

Running Software in Albuquerque to Measure Censorship Anywhere

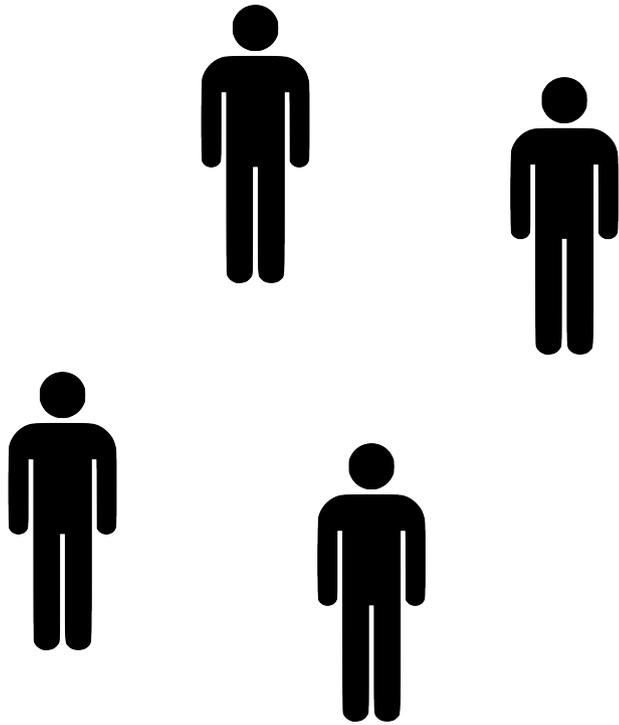
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Roya Ensafi
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University of New Mexico

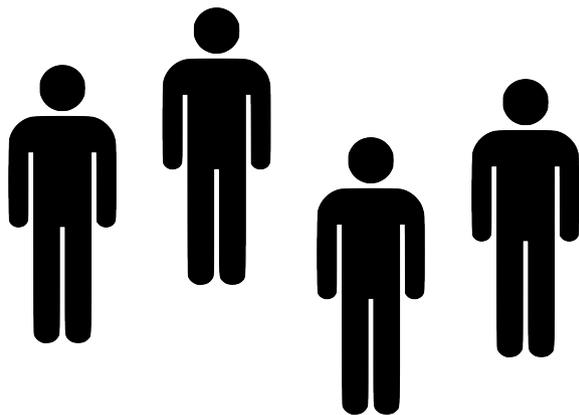
When will Desert Storm invasion begin?



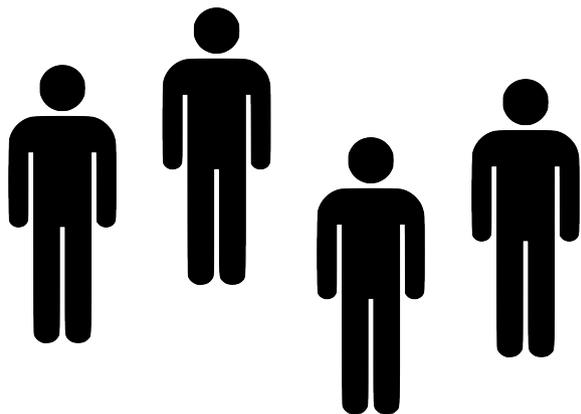
No access to Pentagon



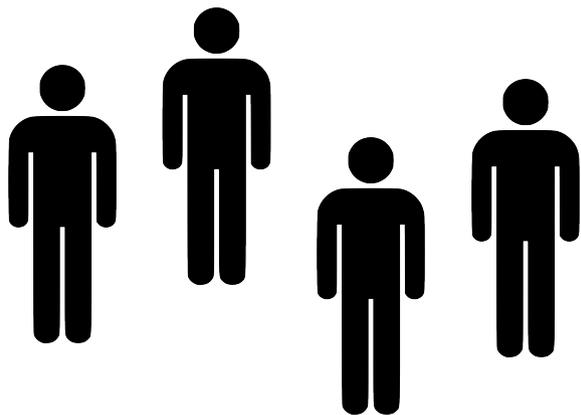
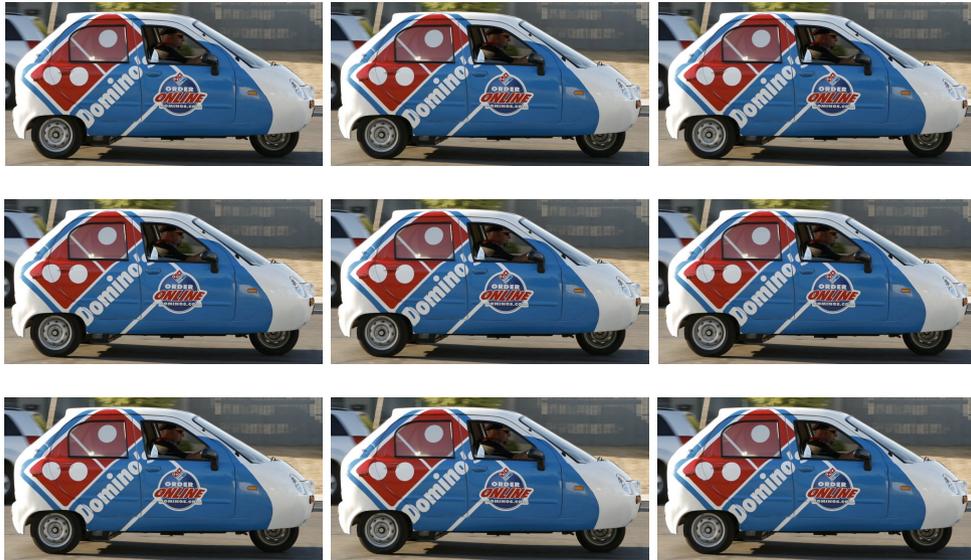
Watch Dominos outside Pentagon



Pentagon deliveries normally



Night before an invasion



Moral of the story

We can measure what
is happening in a thing
*without being in that
thing*



Question

Server



Clients



Can clients
connect
to the server?



Albuquerque

TCP Connection

Server



SYN



SYNACK



ACK



Clients



Albuquerque

Measurement

- Run measurement software over there
- Problem: cannot get software in there
- Or:
 - Not in the right city
 - Not right now
- We don't need measurement software on client, on server, or in between

Client

- Find client with *globally incrementing IP ID*

IP Header

Version / IHL / TOS	Length
ID	Flags / Fragment Offset
TTL / Protocol	Checksum
Source IP	
Destination IP	

- Windows XP, FreeBSD, etc. globally increment this ID

Measure # of packets sent

- Ping every second
- 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009...
 - 1, 1, 1... none sent
- 3003, 3007, 3012, 3016...
 - 4, 5, 4... some sent
- 4000, 5000, 6200, 7300...
 - 1000, 1200, 1100... lots sent

Experiment

Server



Client



Forged
SYN



Albuquerque

No censorship (+1)

Server



Client



SYNACK



RST



Forged
SYN



Albuquerque

Server → Client censored (+0)

Server



Client



~~SYNACK~~



~~SYNACK~~



...

Forged
SYN



Albuquerque

Client → Server censored (>1)

Server



SYNACK



Client



~~RST~~



SYNACK



~~RST~~



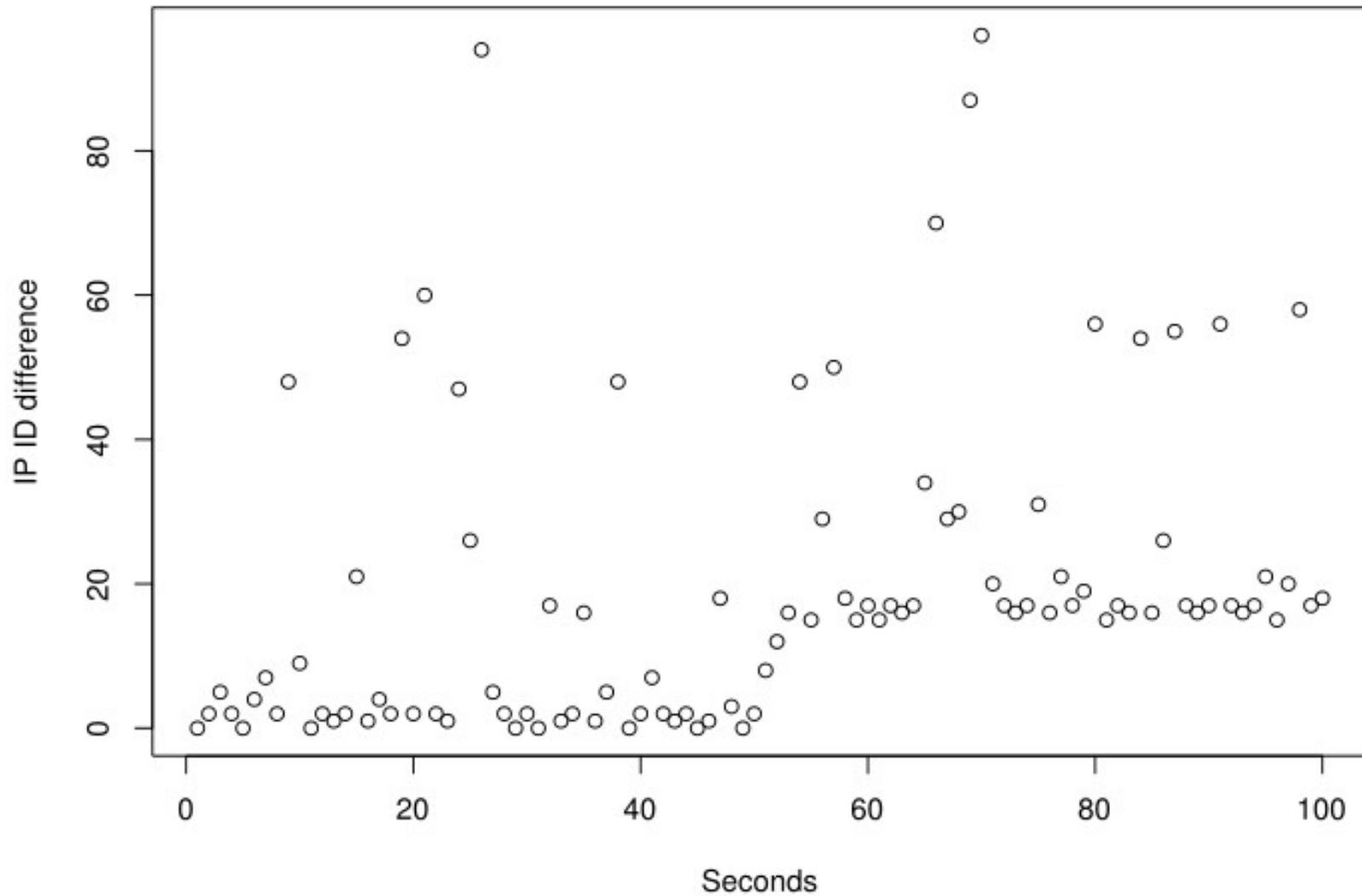
...

Forged
SYN

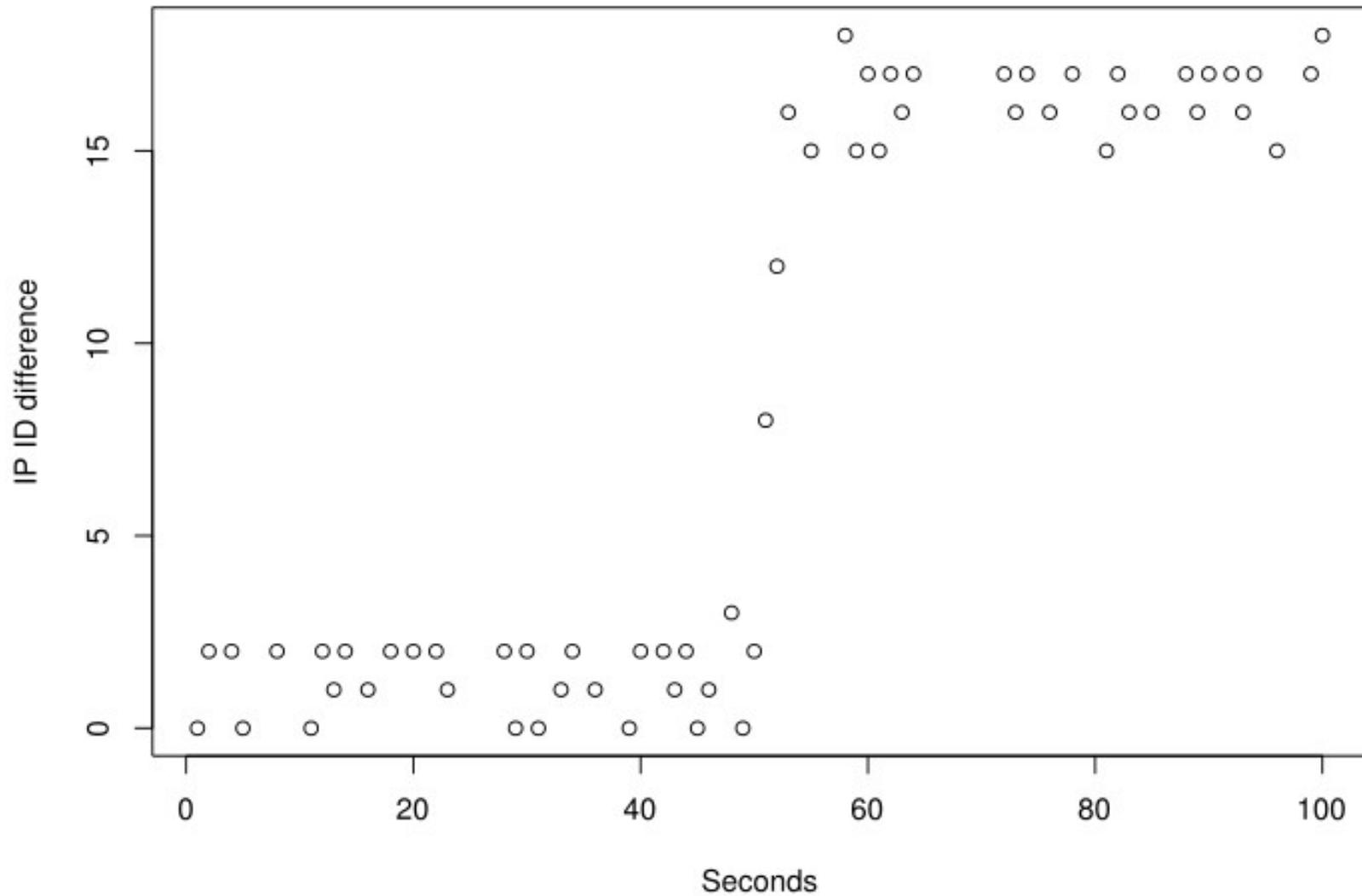


Albuquerque

ARIMA time series



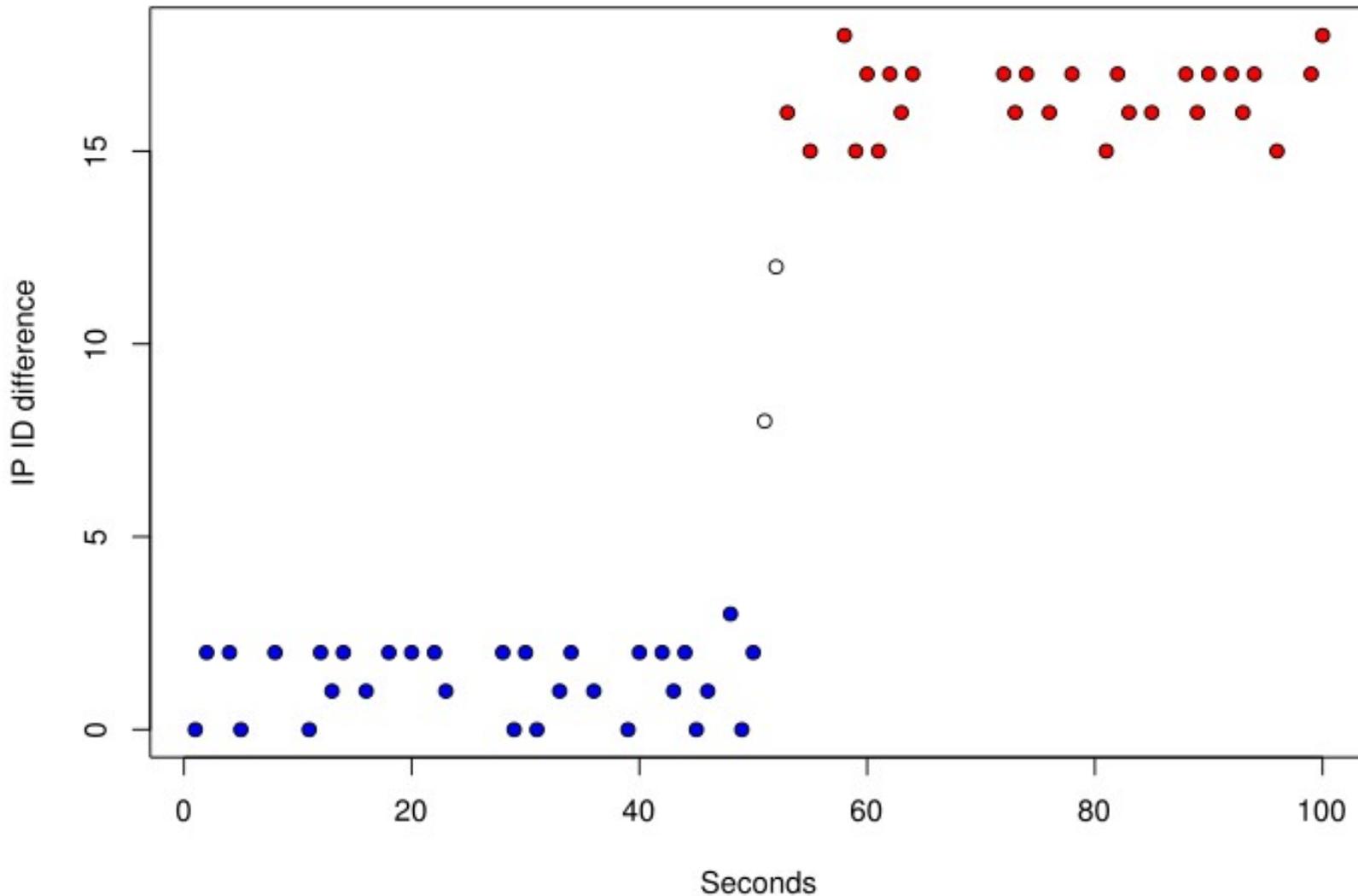
Iterative outlier removal



Intervention analysis

Server → Client 0
No censorship 5
Client → Server 15

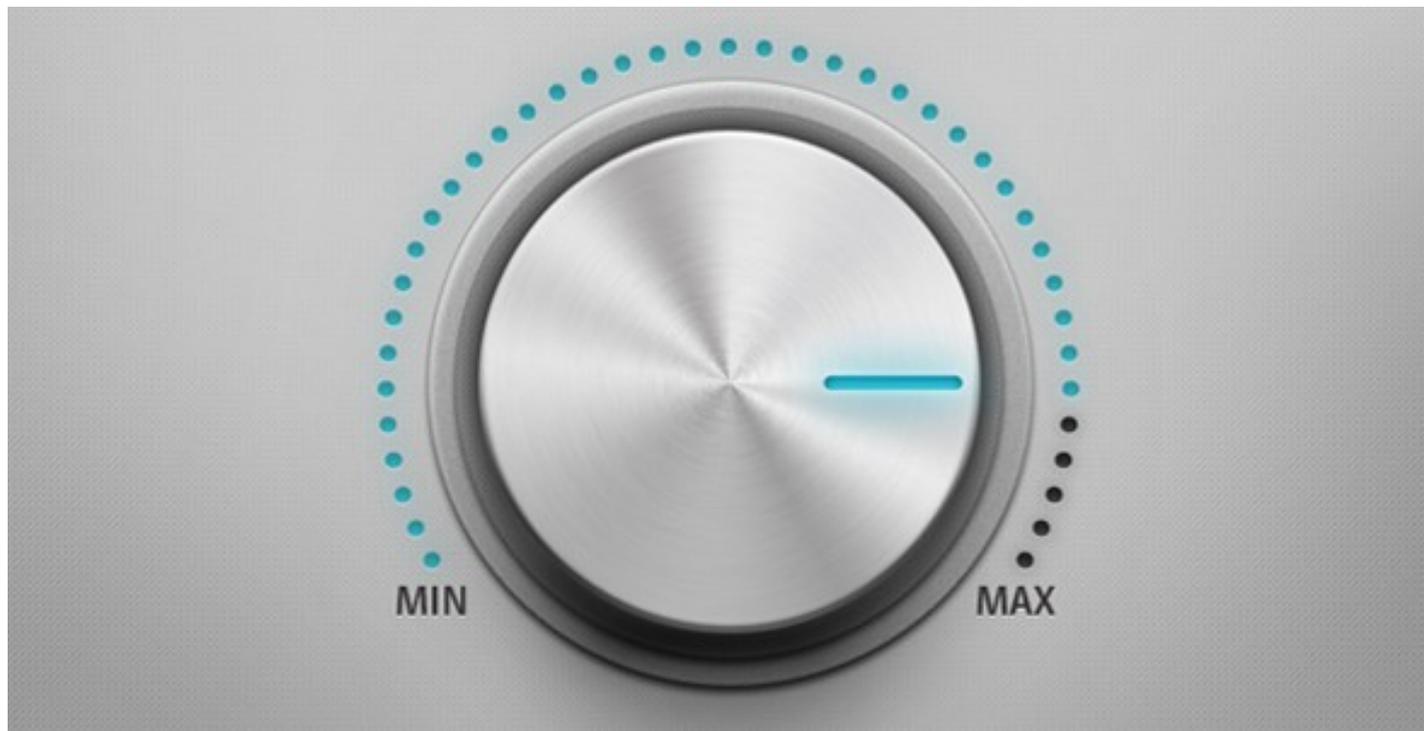
Measured intervention: 15.1
Client → Server filtering!



Ethical concerns

Can clients sending RST's get them hurt?

Ethical Knob



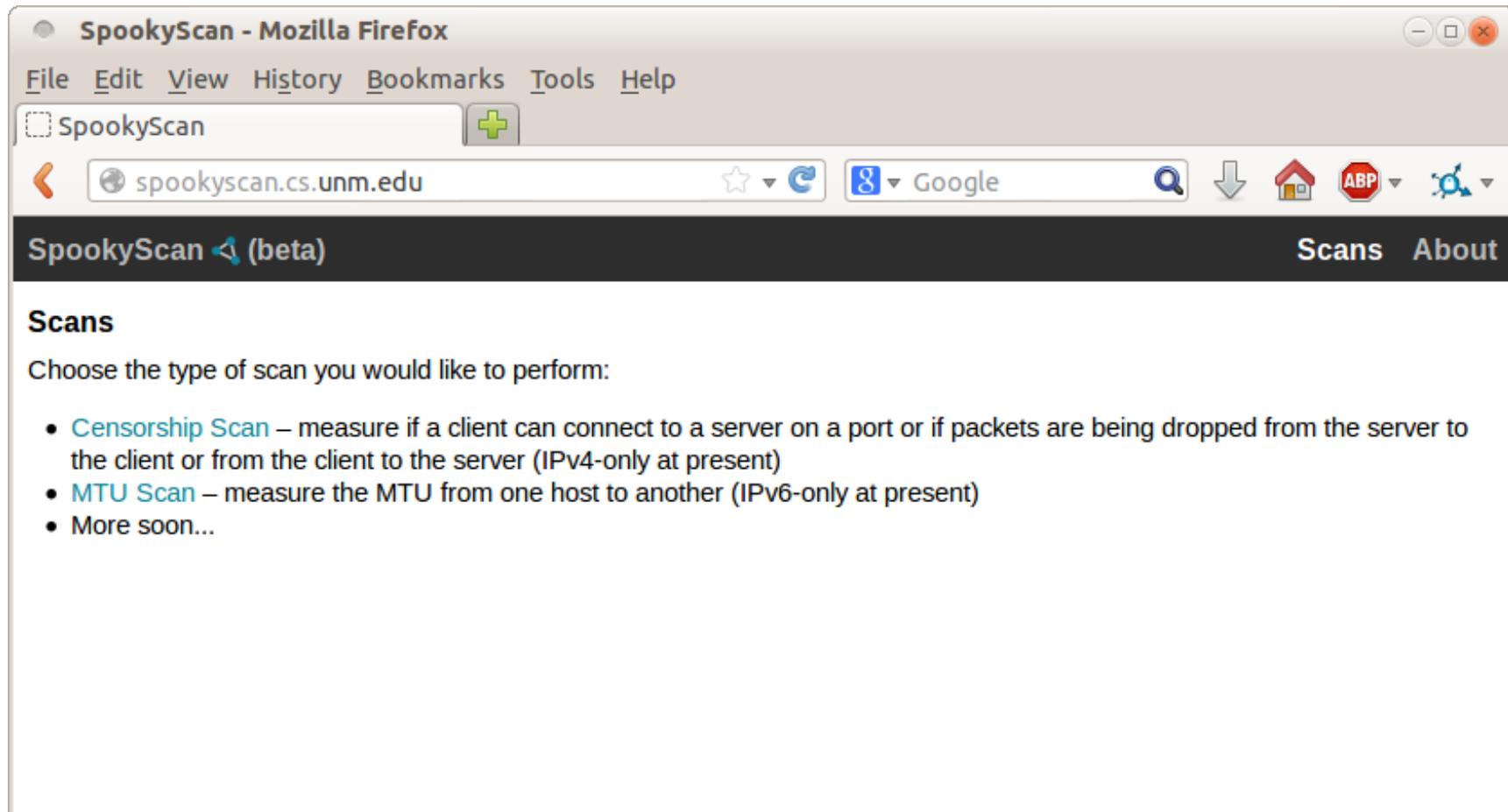
← Decrease clarity

Decrease karma →

Future

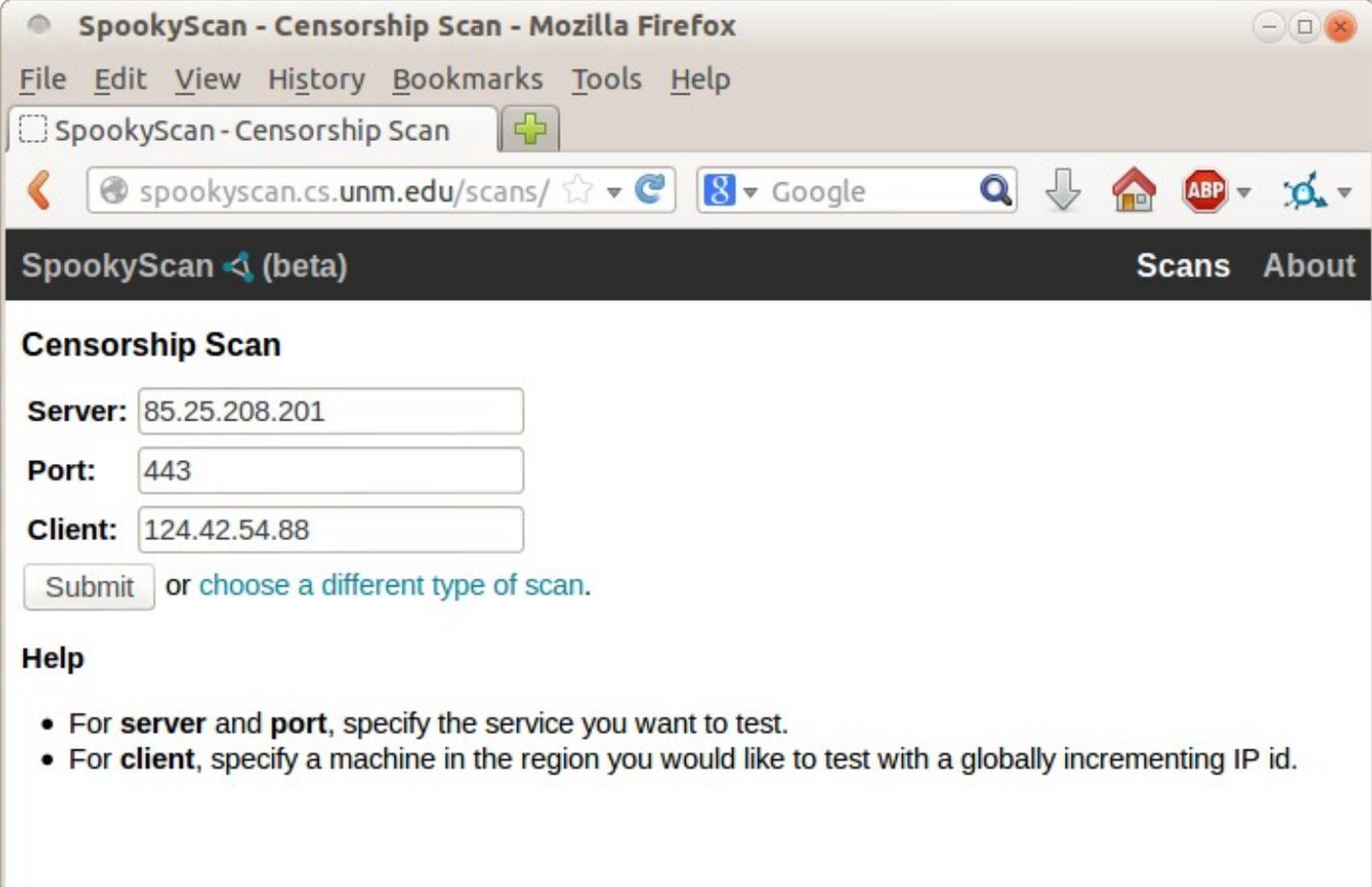
- Gathering data
- Using other shared finite resources
 - Reassembly buffers
 - ...
- Other censorship
 - DNS
 - DPI
 - ...

SpookyScan



Spooky scanning at a distance
<http://spookyscan.cs.unm.edu>

SpookyScan



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window titled "SpookyScan - Censorship Scan - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar contains "spookyscan.cs.unm.edu/scans/". The page header includes "SpookyScan (beta)" and navigation links for "Scans" and "About".

Censorship Scan

Server:

Port:

Client:

or [choose a different type of scan.](#)

Help

- For **server** and **port**, specify the service you want to test.
- For **client**, specify a machine in the region you would like to test with a globally incrementing IP id.

SpookyScan

SpookyScan - View - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

SpookyScan - View

spookyscan.cs.unm.edu/scans/

SpookyScan (beta) Scans About

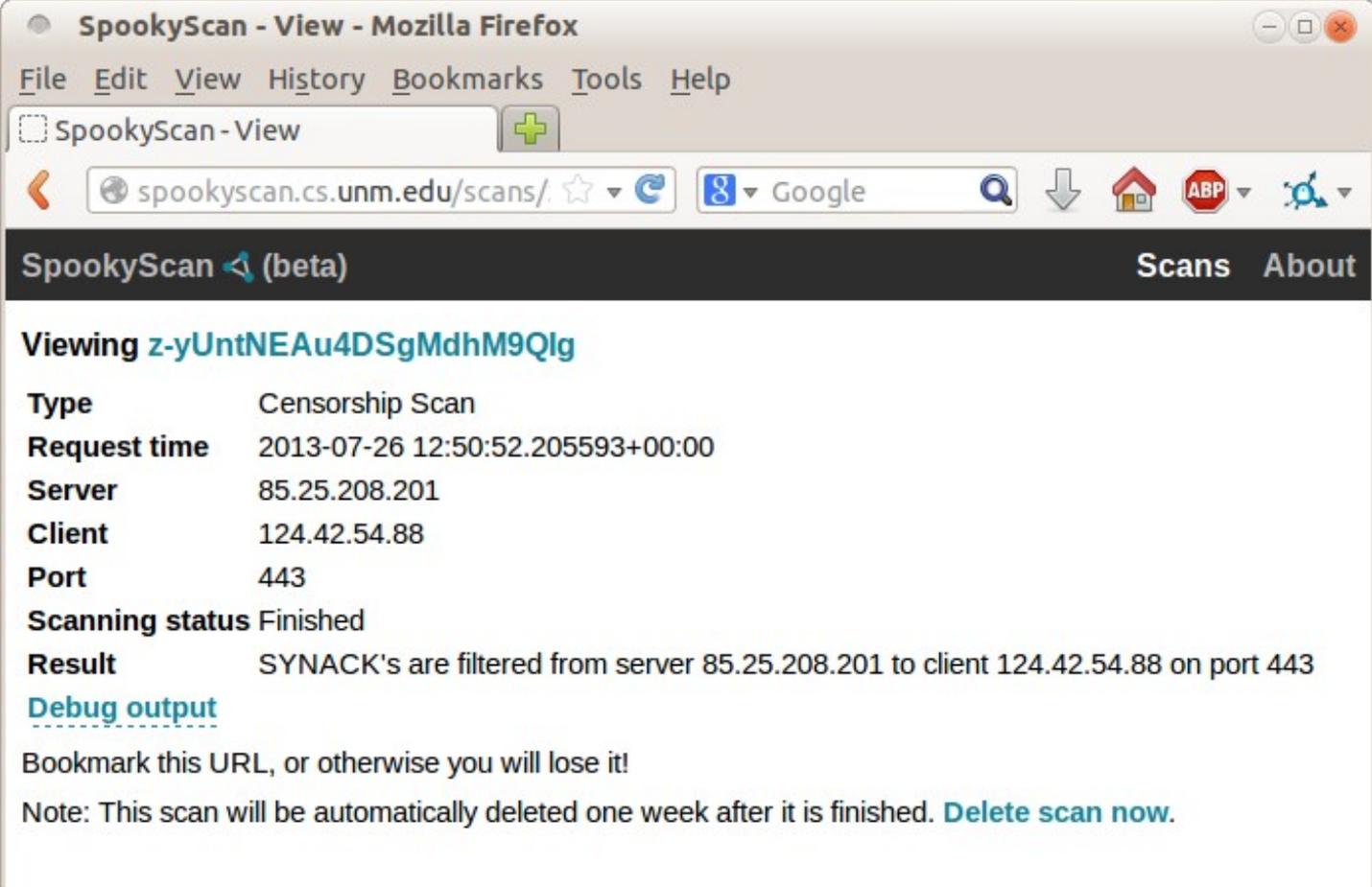
Viewing [z-yUntNEAu4DSgMdhM9Qlg](#)

Type	Censorship Scan
Request time	2013-07-26 12:50:52.205593+00:00
Server	85.25.208.201
Client	124.42.54.88
Port	443
Scanning status	Queued
Queue position	0

Bookmark this URL, or otherwise you will lose it!

Note: This scan will be automatically deleted one week after it is finished. [Delete scan now.](#)

SpookyScan



SpookyScan - View - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

SpookyScan - View

spookyscan.cs.unm.edu/scans/

SpookyScan (beta) Scans About

Viewing [z-yUntNEAu4DSgMdhM9Qlg](#)

Type	Censorship Scan
Request time	2013-07-26 12:50:52.205593+00:00
Server	85.25.208.201
Client	124.42.54.88
Port	443
Scanning status	Finished
Result	SYNACK's are filtered from server 85.25.208.201 to client 124.42.54.88 on port 443

[Debug output](#)

Bookmark this URL, or otherwise you will lose it!

Note: This scan will be automatically deleted one week after it is finished. [Delete scan now.](#)

Acknowledgments

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