(Im)possibility of Enumerating Zombies

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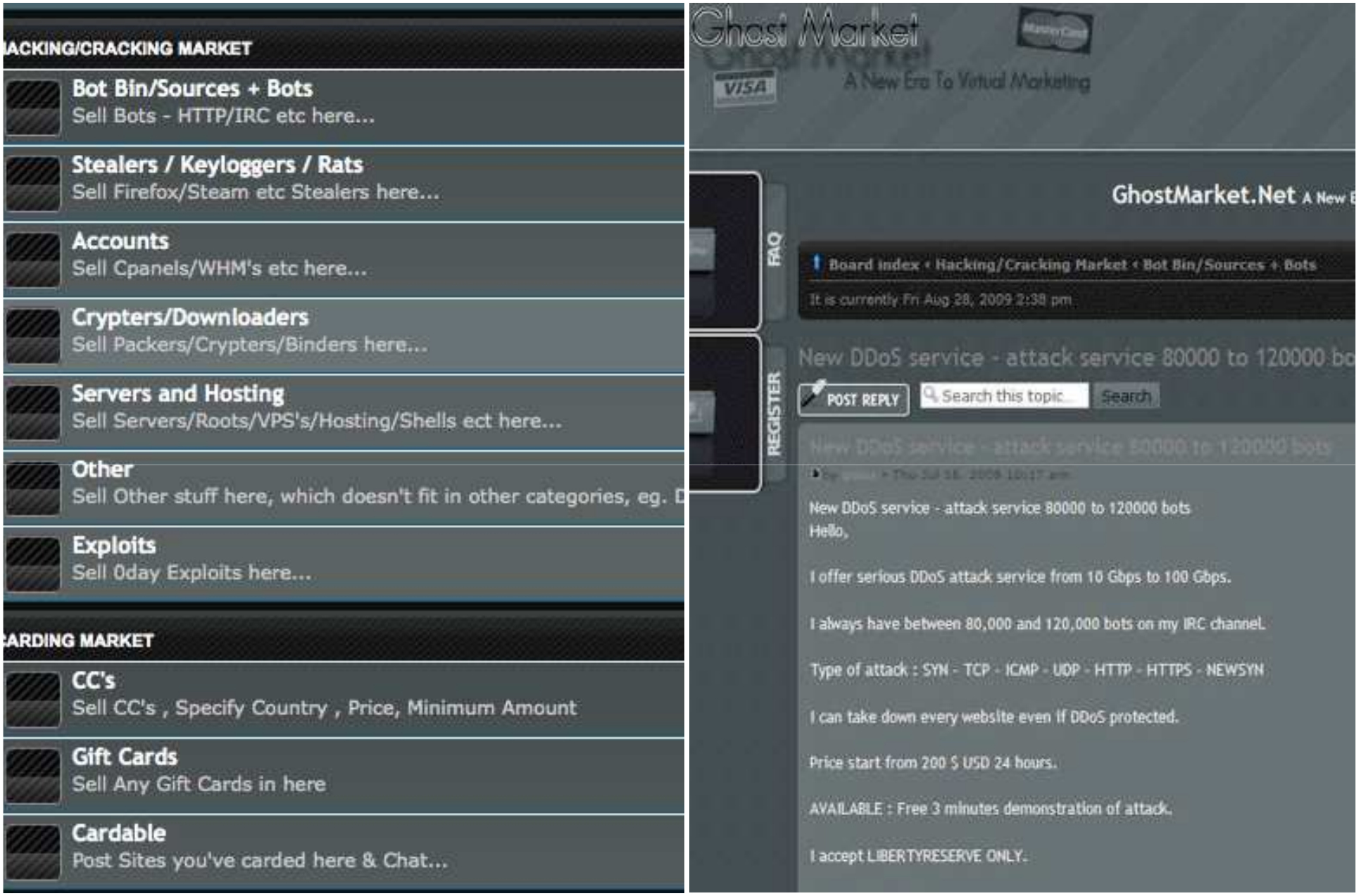


From Gunter Ollmann at Damballa's blog

Botnet and DDoS

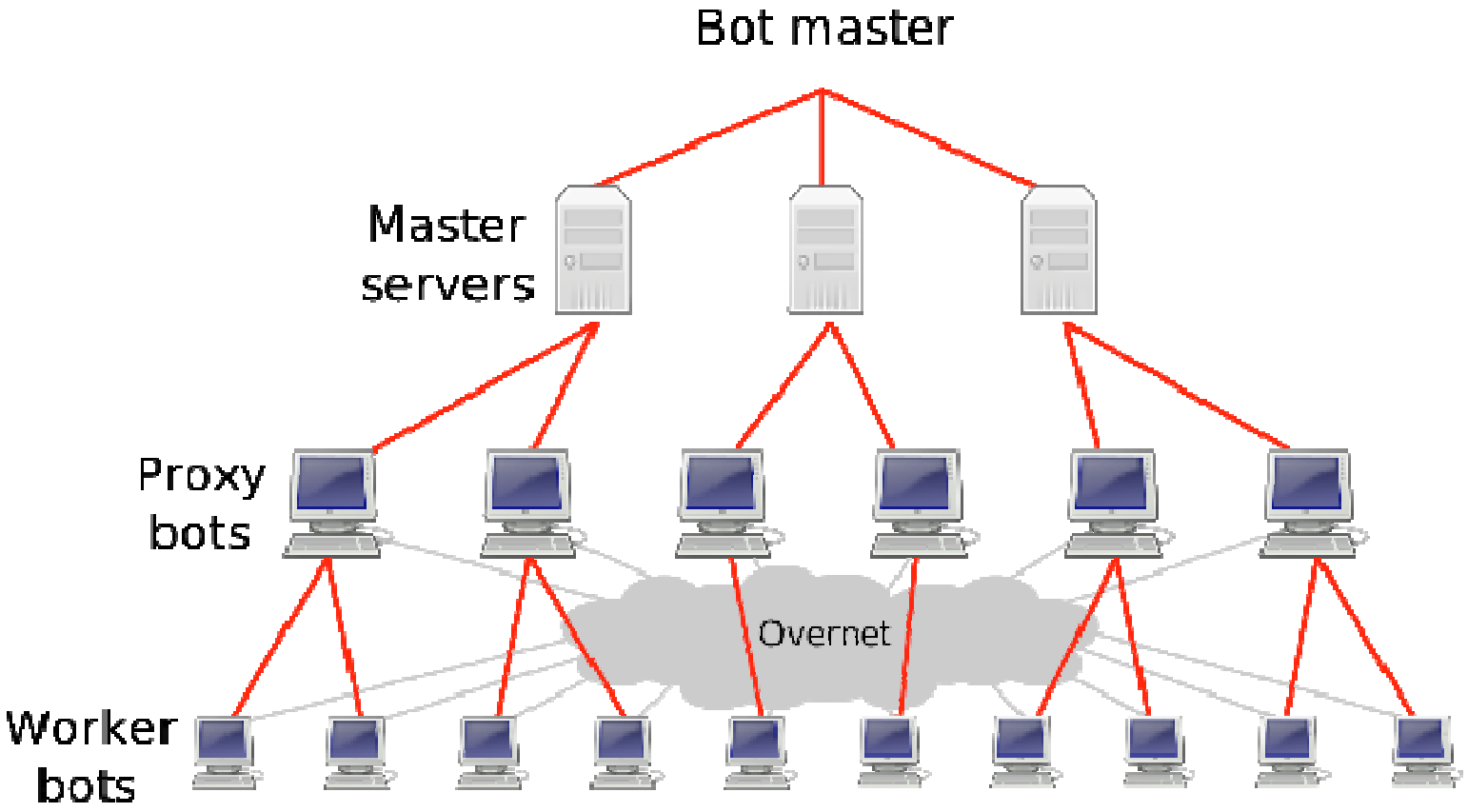
- Botnets becoming the major tool for DDoS
- 5 million nodes Botnet
  - 5 PHz CPU (1 GHz CPU/bot)
  - 5 PB RAM (1 GB RAM/bot)
  - 5 TB upload bandwidth (1 MB/bot)
- When we detect DDoS, we might be too late!
- Either kill the botnet or
  - at least, find zombies!

Botnet Architectures

- Centralized
  - IRC
  - Central server is a critical weak point
  - If disabled, the botnet fails

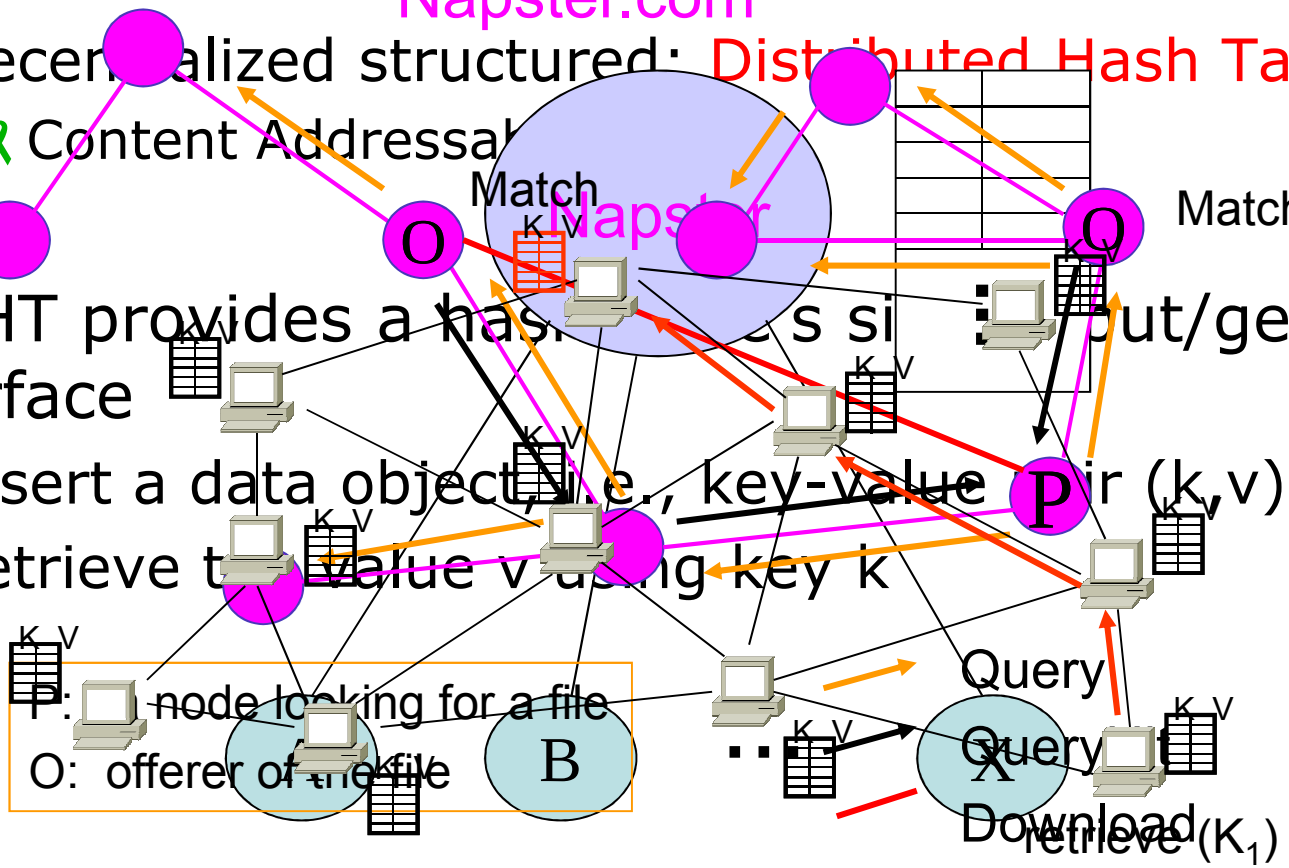
- Decentralized
  - More robust
  - Often P2P architecture
  - Each peer performs server functions

Decentralized Botnet Architecture

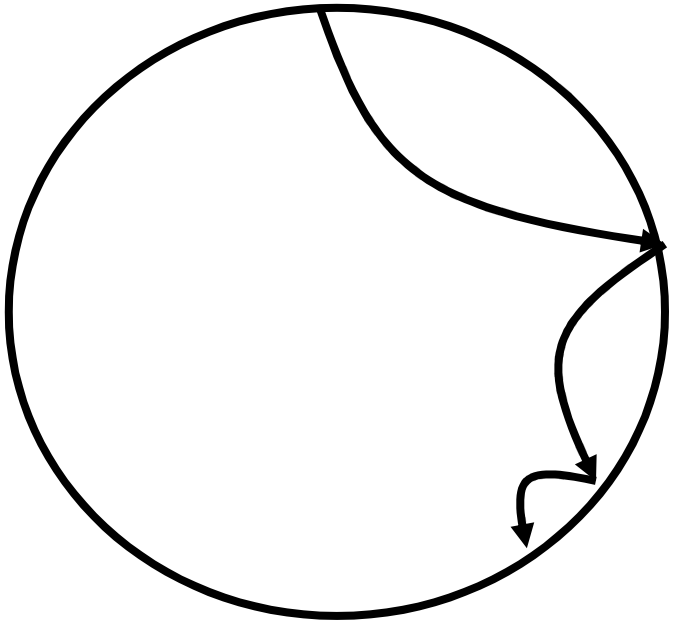


P2P Systems

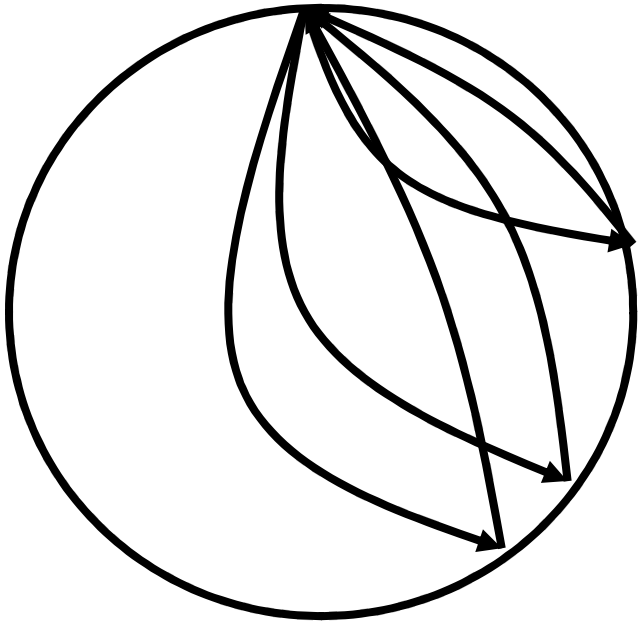
- How to find the desired information?
  - Centralized structured: Napster
  - Decentralized unstructured: Gnutella
  - Decentralized structured: Distributed Hash Table
    - Content Addressable
- A DHT provides a hash table like put/get interface
  - Insert a data object, i.e., key-value pair (k,v)
  - Retrieve the value v using key k



P2P Routing Type



Recursive Routing



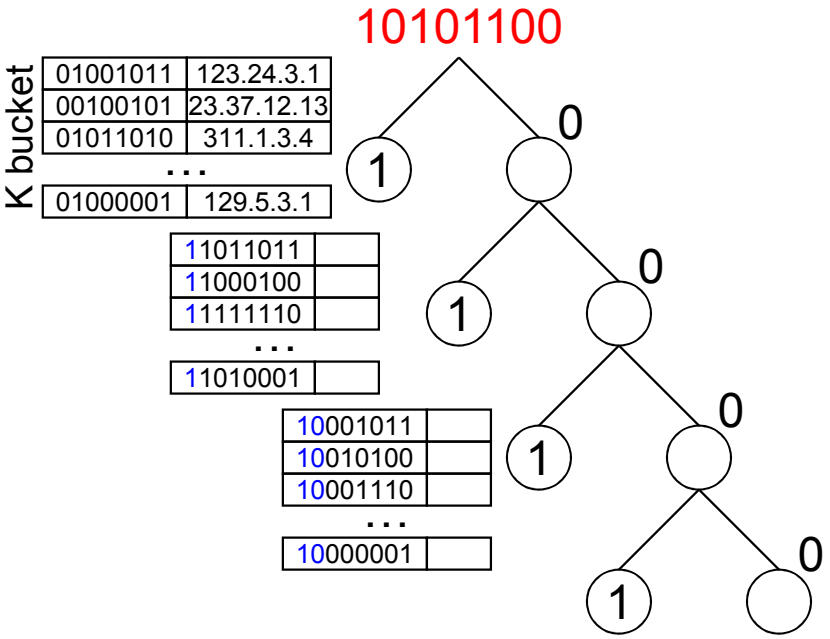
Iterative Routing

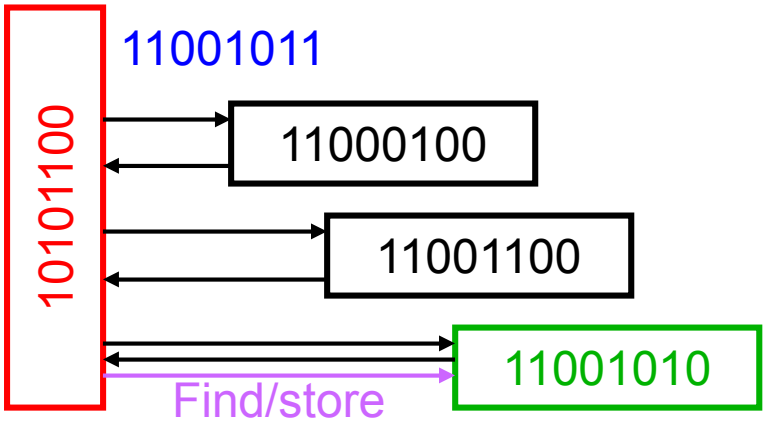
DHT Protocol Message Types

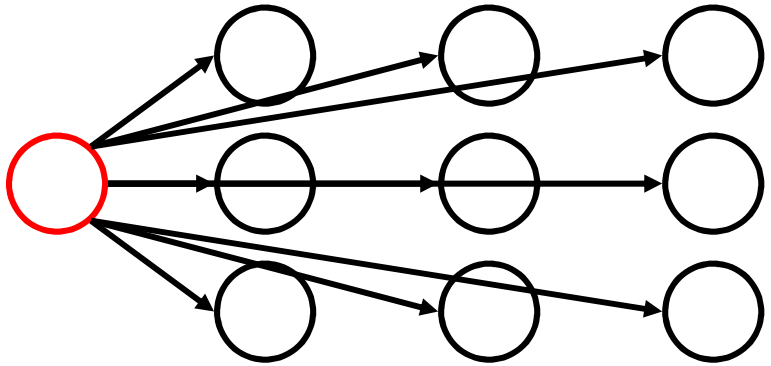
- Connect
  - To start a node, it needs other contacts for its routing table.
  - Ask other nodes about their contacts.
- Publicize
  - Ping message to check/verify liveness
- Routing
  - Returns k contacts

- Publish
  - Store information
- Search
  - Find published information

Kademlia Protocol







- d(X, Y) = X © Y
- An entry in k-bucket shares at least k-bit prefix with the nodeID
  - k=20 in overnet
- Add new contact if
  - k-bucket is not full

- Parallel, iterative, prefix-matching routing
- Replica roots: k closest nodes

Storm Worm operation

- Usually infected by clicking links in spam mail, malicious binaries, and everything else
- Installs rootkit
- Disable windows firewall
- Overnet routing table bootstrapping
- Connect to overnet
- Put and get a lot of hashes
- Download and decrypt secondary injection URL
- Execute secondary injection

Finding Nodes in a P2P Network

Take 1: Confirmation Attack

- If handshake algorithm is known, crawl the whole Internet!
- Example: Conficker C
- Expensive
- Yelling from admins ;-)

Take 2: Global Observer

- If network signature is known, each ISP checks if its client is infected!
- Sharing information

- No incentive for ISP
- Politics!

Take 3: Targeted Enumeration

- If we know what they are looking for
- Conficker A and B C&C channel blocked by Microsoft and Cabal group

Take 4: Crawler

- A node relies on other nodes to publish/search information

- Two possible cases
  - Iterative routing: information about other nodes have to be sent to help routing
  - Bootstrap: Need to know information about other nodes to start a node

- Algorithm

  Input: IP = {known IPs having bots}

  ```
  While (1){
     Send connect or search;
     Receive and store IP;
     If no new IPs are found, break;
  }
  ```

  Output *IP*

Take 4: Crawler (cnt)

- Pros
  - Quickly find nodes reachable from outside
    - 11 minutes to crawl 2M Kad Network [Steiner 07]
- Cons
  - Nodes behind a firewall/NAT box cannot be found
    - Typically, worker bots…

Take 5: Passive P2P Monitoring

- Input
  - *IP* = {known IPs having bots}
  - *PPM nodes* = {n_1, n_2, …, n_k}

- Algorithm

```
PPM nodes join Storm overnet
While (1){
   Receive packets from Storm and store IP;
}
```

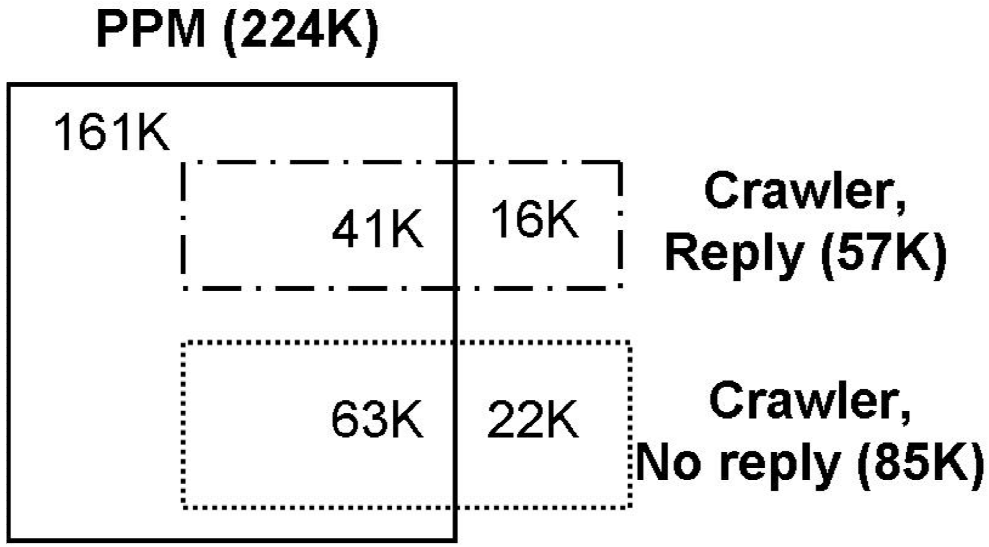
- Output *IP periodically*

P2P Network Monitoring (cnt.)

- Pros
  - Continuous monitoring
  - Sufficient backpointers by running it long time
    - Eclipse Attack
- Cons
  - Passive…
  - Spoofed communication?

P2P Network Monitoring Result

- Aug 30, 2007
  - Collect 24G of logs from 256 nodes
  - Initial IP: Results of one targeted attack (180 IPs)
  - Detect 230k (probable) bots
- Jan 28, 2008

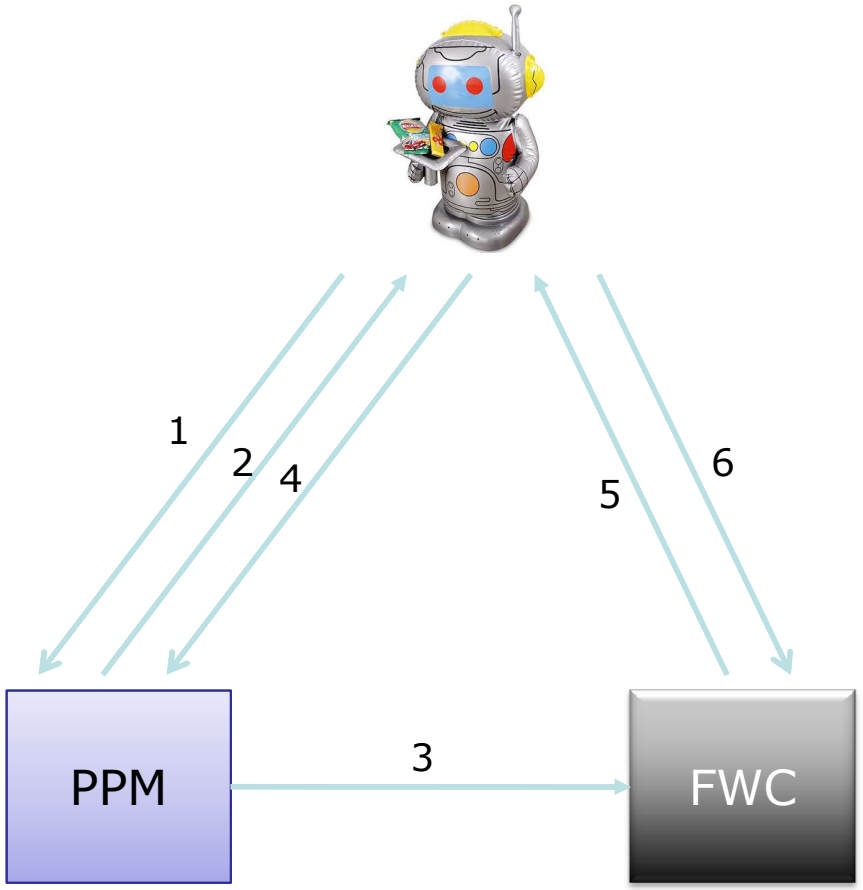


  - Why are they different?

Firewall/NAT Checker

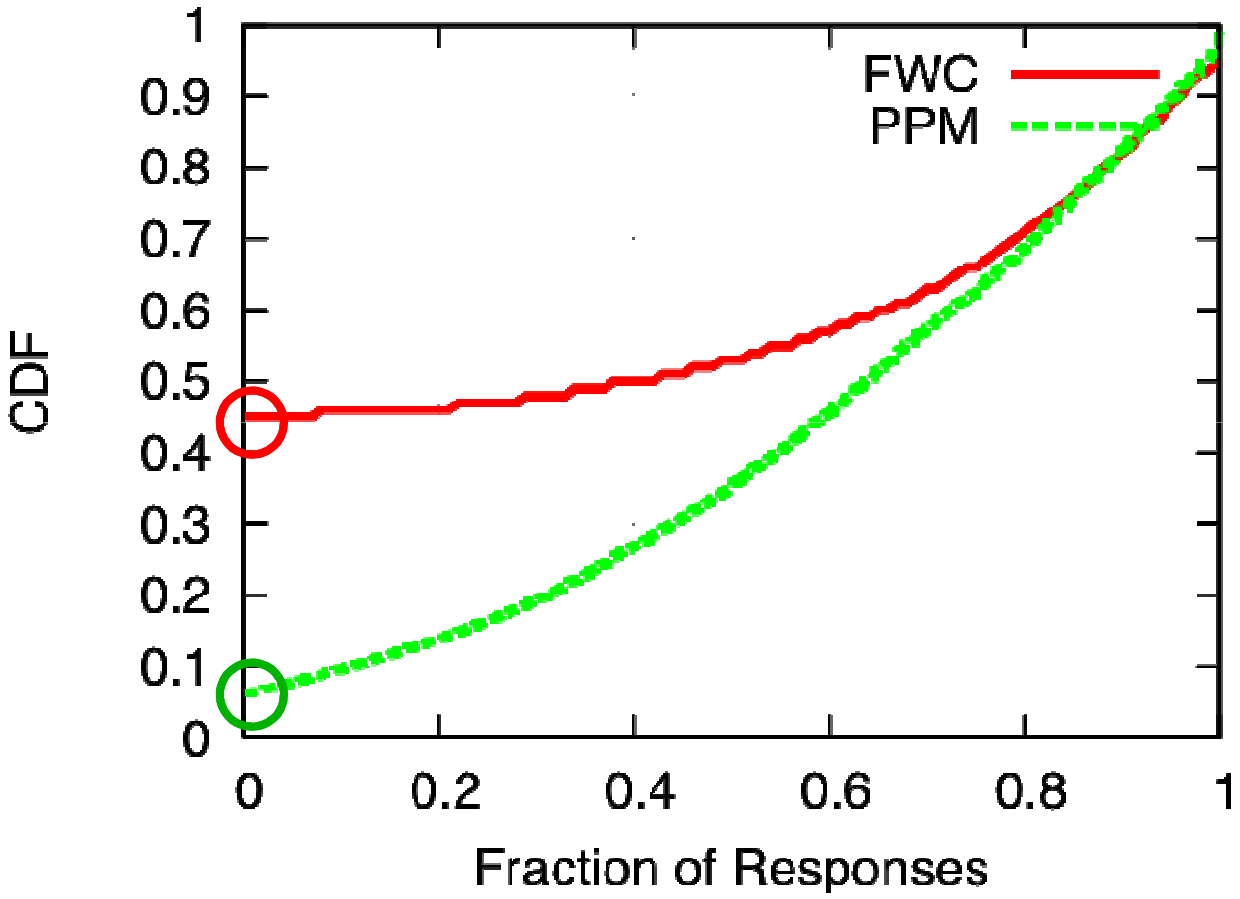
- Possible reason could be because of NAT boxes and firewalls.
  - Not reachable by crawler
  - But, they can still send queries to PPM.
- How do we verify that a node is under firewall/NAT?

Firewall Checker Design

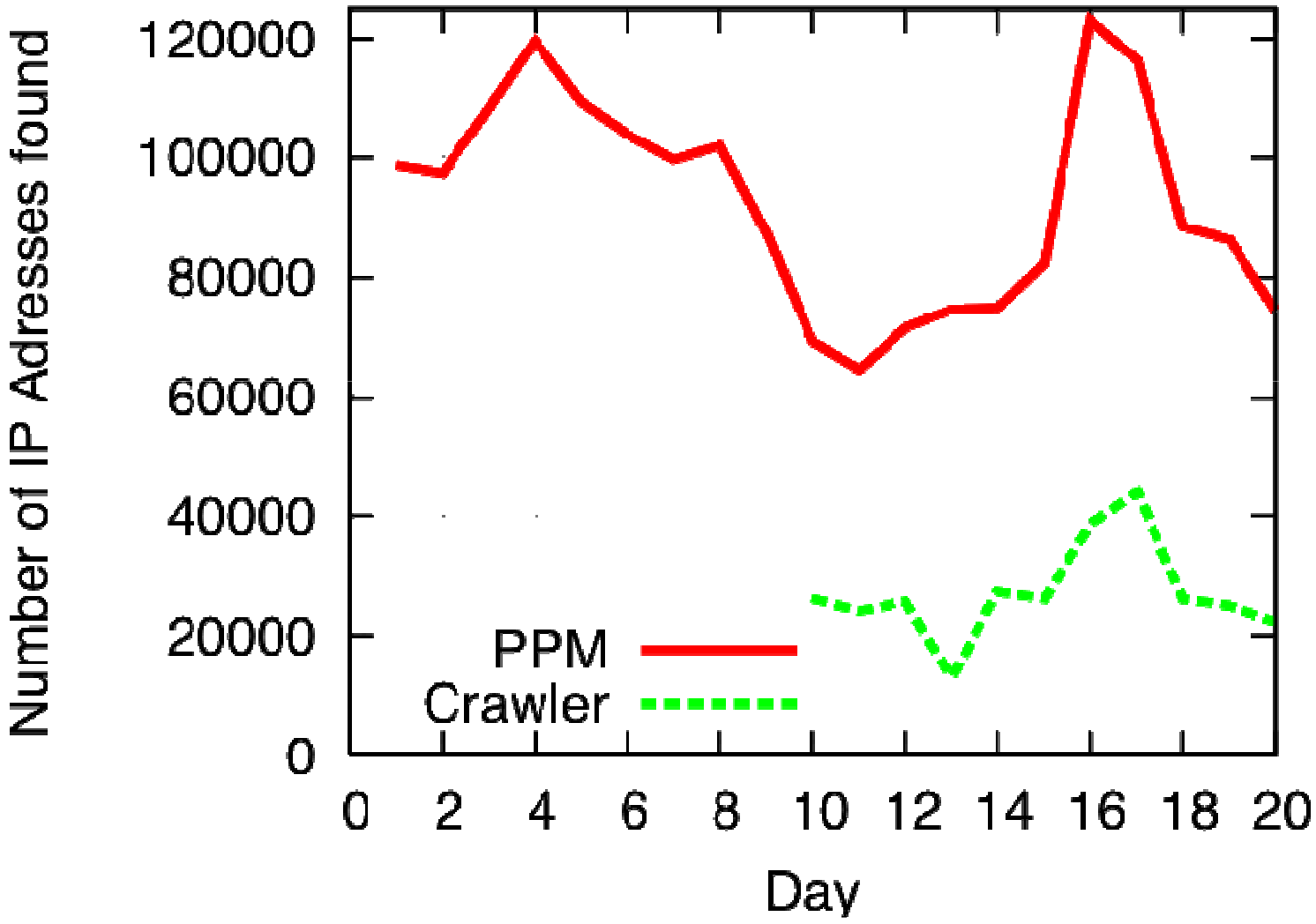


- Message 4 means bot IP is not spoofed.
- Message 6 means bot is under firewall/NAT box.

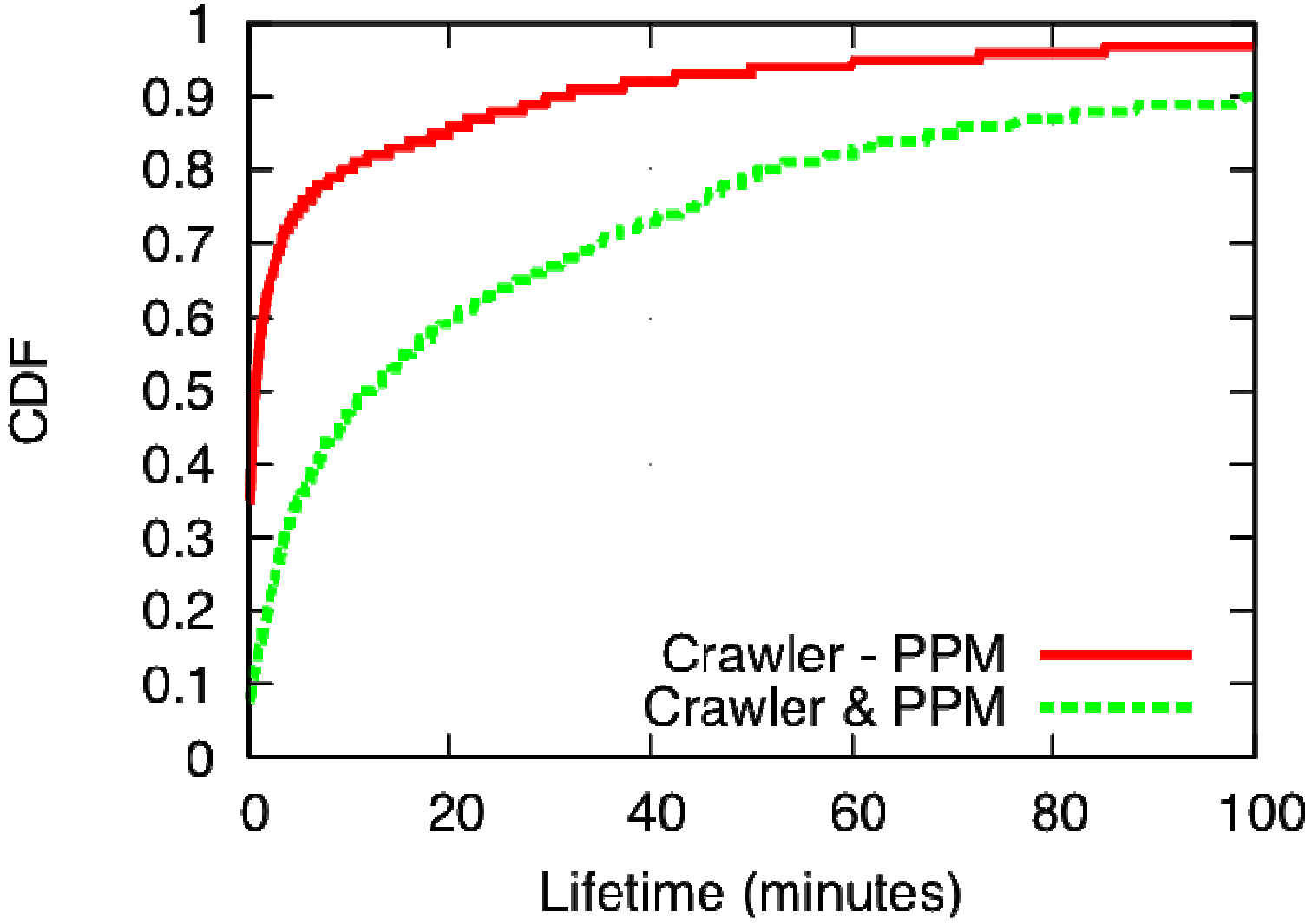
Result (PPM vs. FWC)



Crawler vs. PPM: # of Ips found



Lifetime of Ips found by Crawler, PPM



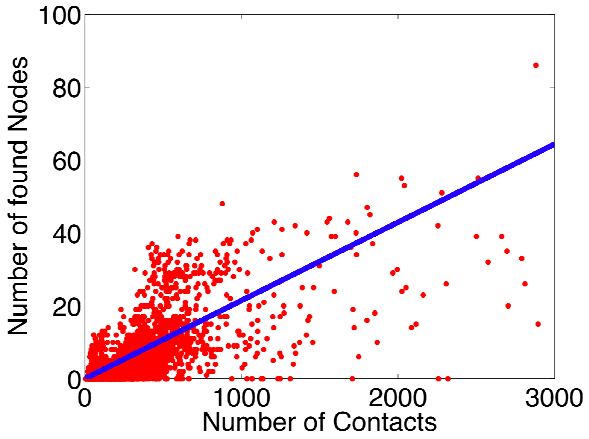
Analysis of Coverage of PPM

- When
  - p is the probability of PPM receiving a message from a bot for a particular hash
  - k is the number of nodes a bot sends a message with that hash to
- Then probability of PPM receiving a message from a bot is calculated as

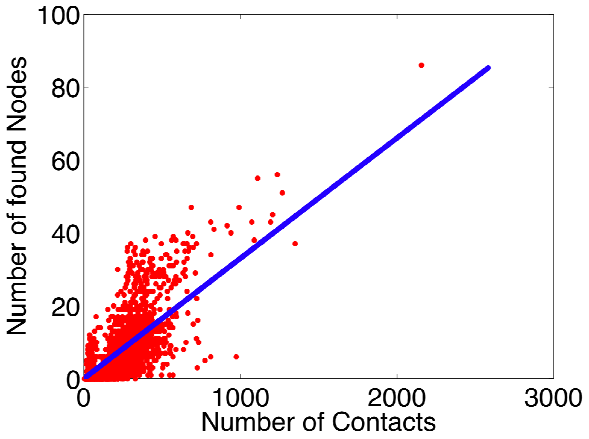
  $L = 1 - (1 - p)^k$

- How do we obtain p and k?
  - Experimentally

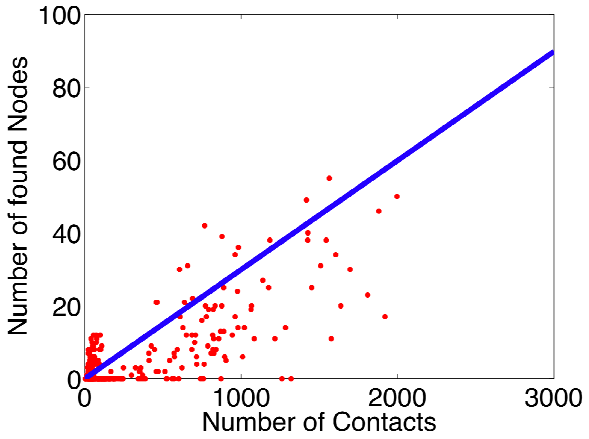
In- degree comparison



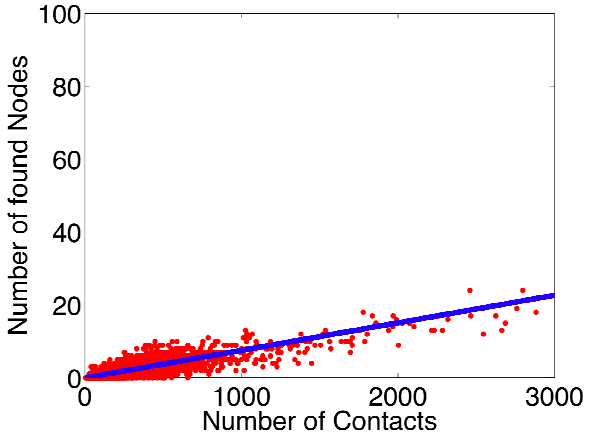
Search



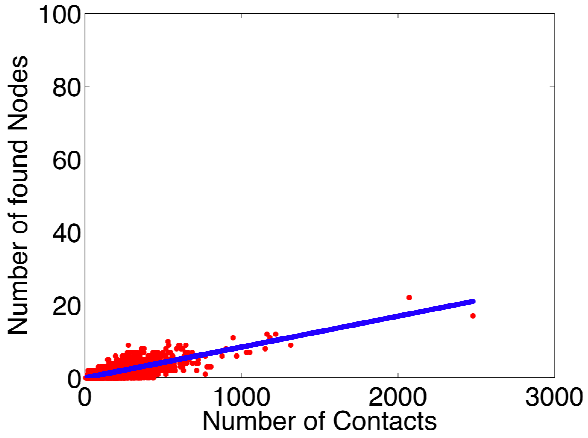
Get



Put



Search



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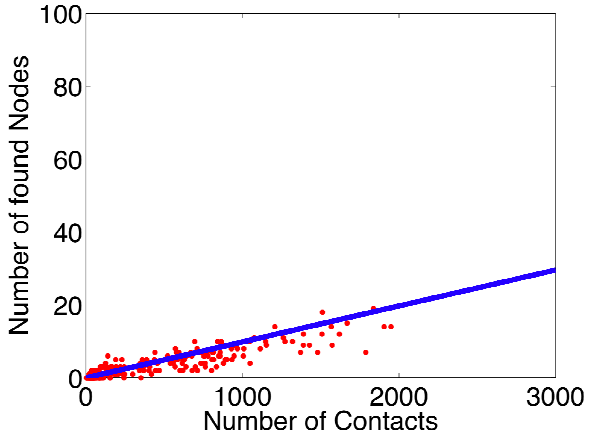
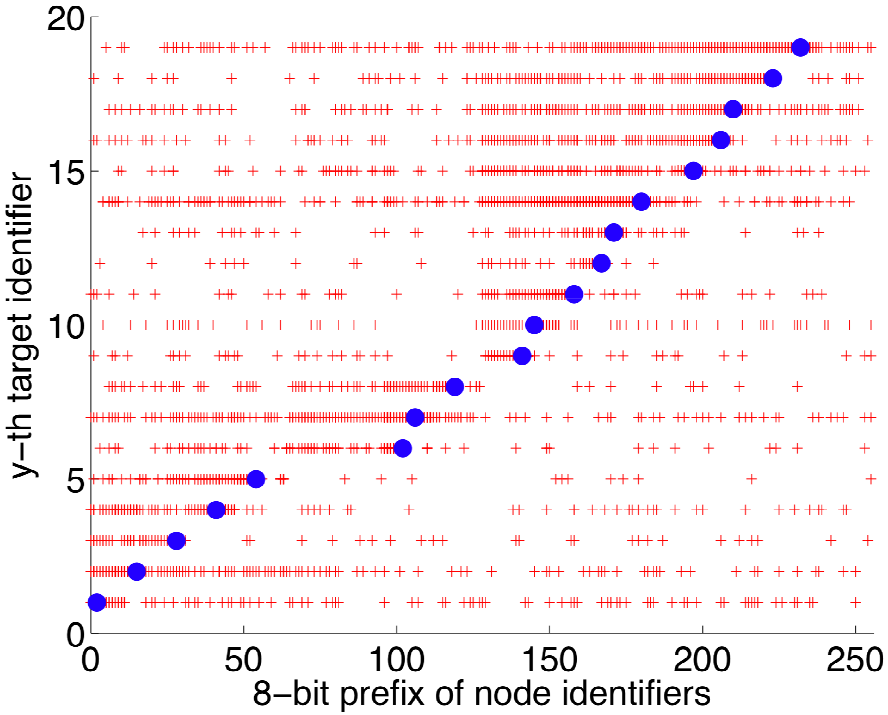
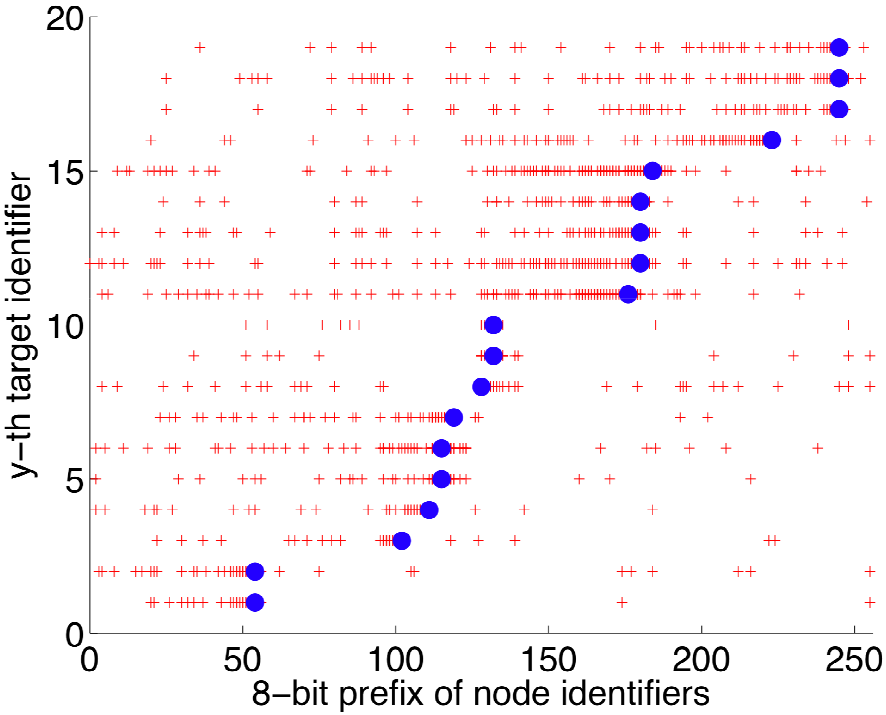


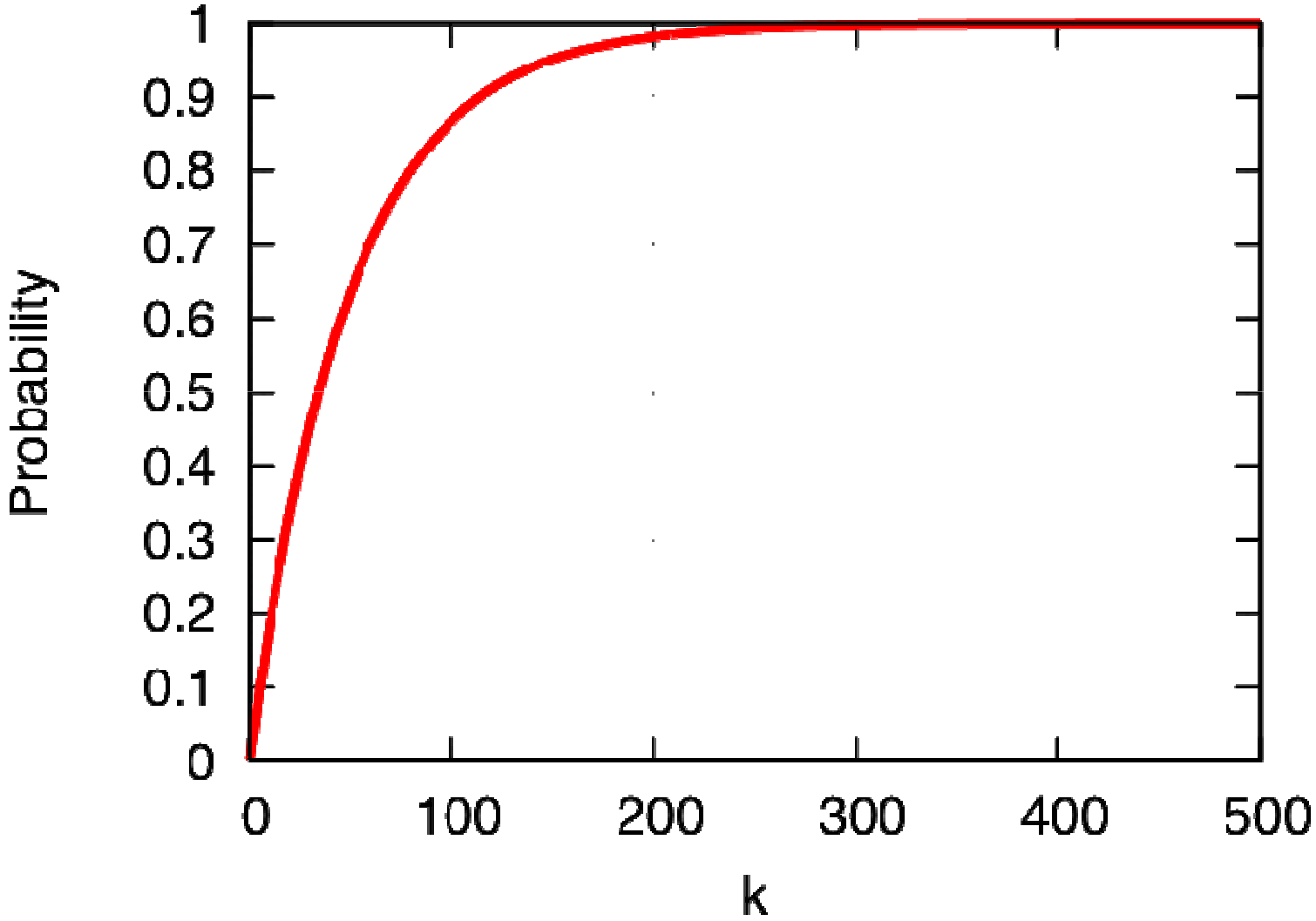
Put

Node distribution: search/publish





256 Node PPM Coverage (k message)



Future Botnets

- Current botnet design is terrible!
- Does unenumerable botnet exist?

Questions?

Send e-mail to kyd@cs.umn.edu