Crawling Tor Hidden Service with Dockers

Youngseok Lee Chungnam National University University of California, Davis

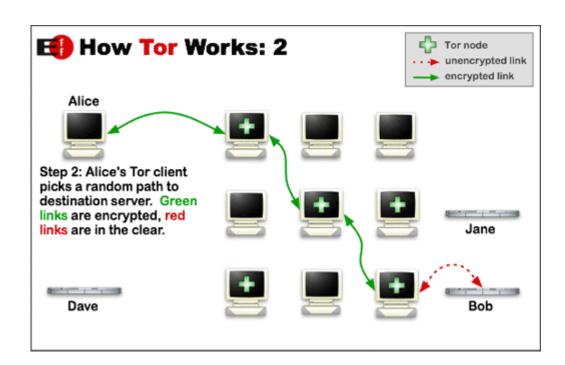
Tor and Hidden Service

Tor (The onion router) https://www.torproject.org/

Special network that supports anonymous communication using onion routing

 \circ One kind of Deep web \leftarrow \rightarrow Surface web

Called a Dark net



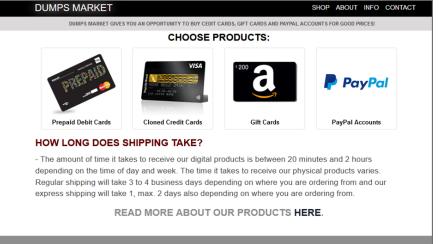
Hidden Service

Hidden Service

http://3g2upl4pq6kufc4m.onion/ - DuckDuckGo Search Engine

- Web site or server that only receives inbound connections through Tor
- Use a special address called "onion address" consisting of 16 alphanu meric characters instead of IP address or common domain
- Many markets where various illegal goods are traded, and communities that deal with dangerous contents





Crawling Tor Hidden Service

Problem

Crawl Tor hidden services quickly

Constraints

- Due to encryption and peer-to-peer connection of Tor, the access to the Tor hidden service is slow
- Hidden services are often opened and closed frequently

Challenges

- Slow to collect and analyze dynamically changing Tor hidden services
- o How much computing resources can we put?

Related Work

- Discover hidden service at protocol level [1]
- Observation of Tor service through port scan [2]
- Observed onion requests on global public DNS A and J root no des and investigate the dynamic nature of the request [3]

^[1] Lina. Zhen. et al. "Protocol-level hidden server discoverv." INFOCOM. 2013 Proceedinas IEEE. IEEE. 2013.

Î2Î Birvukov. Alex. et al. "Content and popularity analysis of Tor hidden services." *Distributed Computing Systems Workshops (ICDCSW), 2014 IEEE 34th International Conference on* IEEE, 2014

^[3] Thomas, Matthew, and Aziz Mohaisen. "Measuring the Leakage of Onion at the Root." ACM WPES (2014).

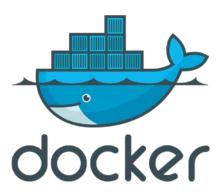
Proposal: Virtualized Crawler on the Cloud

- On the cloud
 - Amazon AWS or MS Azure
 - Distributed data centers on the globe
 - Flexible to manage network resources

- Virtualization
 - Docker
 - We can maximize the utilization of computing resources
 - We can probe more Tor hidden services with the same resource

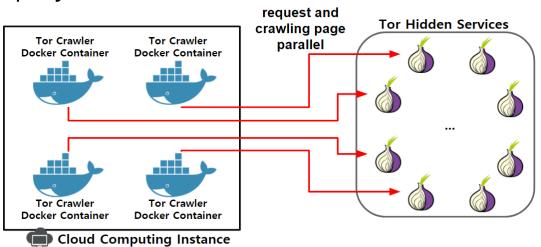
Docker

- Docker is a widely used virtualization software
- Easily deploy virtualized computing resources to the cloud using Docker Image
- Dockers provide containers for abstraction and automation of o perating system images
- This allows similar instances of collecting Tor using a large number of instances even for fewer instances.



Docker-based Hidden Service Crawler and Anal yzer

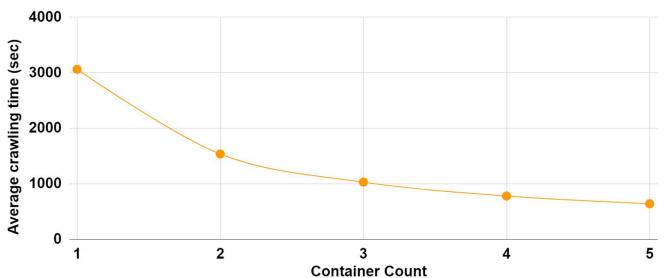
- Run one or more docker containers in one instance, such as Mic rosoft Azure or Amazon EC2.
 - We use a docker to collect and analyze hidden services using fewer in stances.
 - Each Docker container, a virtualized Linux server, performs as a Tor cr awler.
- Create an image of a dedicated Docker to facilitate configuration n and deployment for the crawler.



amazon

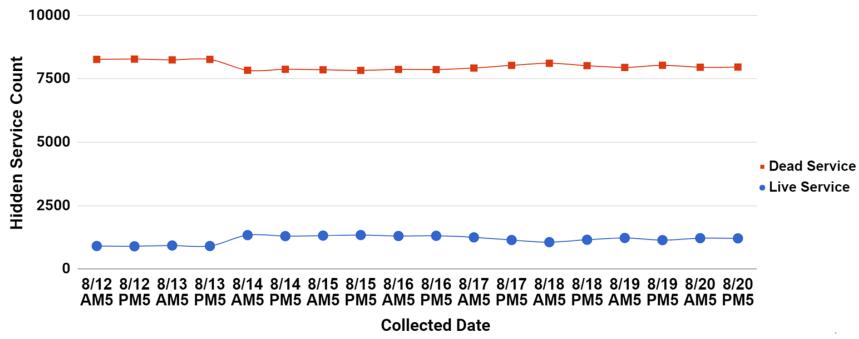
Crawling Time with Docker

- Experiment on Microsoft Azure's 2 core 7GB memory instance
- Measures the crawling time according to the number of contain ers for 100 onion addresses
 - For one container, it takes 3,062 seconds.
 - With five Docker containers, it needs an average of 640 seconds (4.78 times fast than one container)



Hidden Service Page Status

- How Tor hidden services of 9,176 addresses change their states over 9 days.
- During the observation period, the hidden service averaged 1,1 66 alive during the whole period and 8,010 services were dead.



Content categorization of Hidden Services

- Marketplace(20%)
 - illegal transaction services for prohibited goods such as hacking requests, hitman service, cloned credit cards, and drugs take 16%
- Community(14%)
 - there are communities about the illegal themes such as drug dealers and pedophilia
- Bitcoin laundry services(6%)

where users may send Bitcoin with the promotion to receive the return

s of 10x to 100x coins.

Contents Category	Percentage(%)
Marketplace	20
Community	14
Hidden Service directory	12
Personal Blog	9
Onion address sales page	9
Unknown page	9
Bitcoin laundering	6
Wiki	5
Apache default setting page	5
Journalist, Movement organization	4
Software distribution, sales	4
Illegal file sharing	3

Summary

- Crawling of Tor hidden services
 - Improving performance with virtualization and cloud
- Ongoing work
 - Automation of virtualizing and controlling crawling instances on the cl oud
 - Detail analysis of Tor hidden service content