

Tor: It can do many things

Iain R. Learmonth

iain@erg.abdn.ac.uk
Electronics Research Group
University of Aberdeen

irl@torproject.org
Tor Project

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What is Tor?

- Tor is free software and an open network that helps you defend against traffic analysis, a form of network surveillance that threatens personal freedom and privacy, confidential business activities and relationships, and state security.
- Groups such as Indymedia recommend Tor for safeguarding their members' online privacy and security.
- Activist groups like the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) recommend Tor as a mechanism for maintaining civil liberties online.
- Corporations use Tor as a safe way to conduct competitive analysis, and to protect sensitive procurement patterns from eavesdroppers.



Image credit: torproject.org

What is Tor, really?

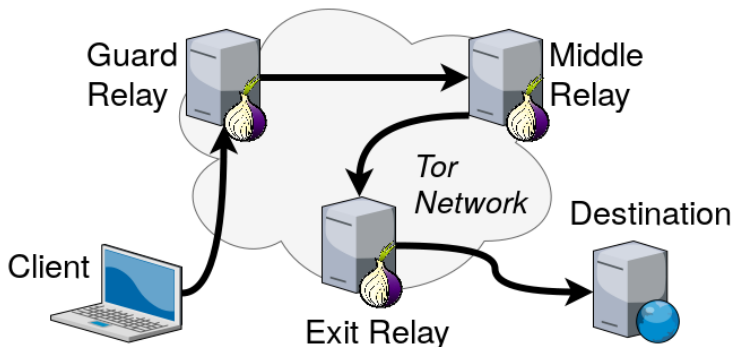
- An Encrypted Low-Latency Anonymising TCP Overlay Network
 - The Tor Protocol Specification¹
 - The tor client software²
 - A network of servers: “relays” and “bridges”³

¹<https://gitweb.torproject.org/torspec.git/tree/tor-spec.txt>

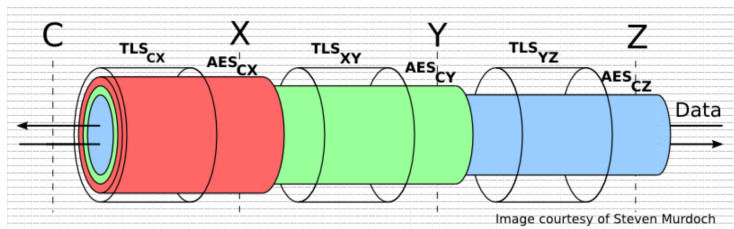
²<https://gitweb.torproject.org/tor.git>

³<https://metrics.torproject.org/networksize.html>

A Typical Tor Connection Path



Encryption



- There are a few layers of encryption
- TLS between hosts, for a single hop
- Layered encryption between the client and the {guard, middle, exit} relays
- The traffic itself may (hopefully) be using encryption also (to avoid exit relay sniffing attacks)

Bridges and Pluggable Transports

- Pluggable Transport Specification⁴

“a generic mechanism for the rapid development and deployment of censorship circumvention, based around the idea of modular sub-processes that transform traffic to defeat censors”

⁴<https://gitweb.torproject.org/torspec.git/tree/pt-spec.txt>

- As long as at least one Tor relay or bridge can be reached, the Internet is accessible unfiltered, uncensored and anonymously

Programmable

- Tor puts the clients in control
- Libraries exist for working with Tor
- Stem is a Python controller library for Tor⁵
- txtorcon is a Twisted-based asynchronous implementation for the Tor control protocol⁶

⁵<https://stem.torproject.org/>

⁶<https://github.com/meejah/txtorcon>

Exit Selection

- It is possible to define characteristics for your circuits
- This could include only using exit relays in certain countries

```
1 import stem.process
2
3 tor_process = stem.process.launch_tor_with_config(
4     config = {
5         'SocksPort': str(SOCKS_PORT),
6         'ExitNodes': '{ru}',
7     },
8     init_msg_handler = print_bootstrap_lines,
9 )
```

Listing 1: Set additional torrc options

Onion Services

- Onion services use .onion special-use domain name (RFC7686)
- They use a variety of path configurations (between 3 and 6 relays)
- As long as you can connect to Tor, you can host an Onion service
- NAT and firewalls have no relevance here

Ephemeral Onion Services

- To create a hidden service required running with the same user as the Tor daemon
- Ephemeral Onion Services can be created by using Tor's control port, removing this limitation

```

1 from stem.control import Controller
2 from flask import Flask
3 app = Flask(__name__)
4
5 @app.route('/')
6 def index():
7     return "<h1>Hi TechMeetup!</h1>"
8
9 print(' * Connecting to tor')
10
11 with Controller.from_port() as controller:
12     controller.authenticate()
13     # Create a hidden service where visitors of port 80 get redirected to local
14     # port 5000 (this is where Flask runs by default).
15     response = controller.create_ephemeral_hidden_service({80: 5000}, await_publication =
        True)
16     print(" * Our service is available at %s.onion, press ctrl+c to quit" % response.
        service_id)
17
18 try:
19     app.run()
20 finally:
21     print(" * Shutting down our hidden service")

```

Listing 2: Ephemeral Onion Services Example

- OnionShare is an open source tool that lets you securely and anonymously share a file of any size
- It makes use of ephemeral onion services in order to allow for an end-to-end connection between the users

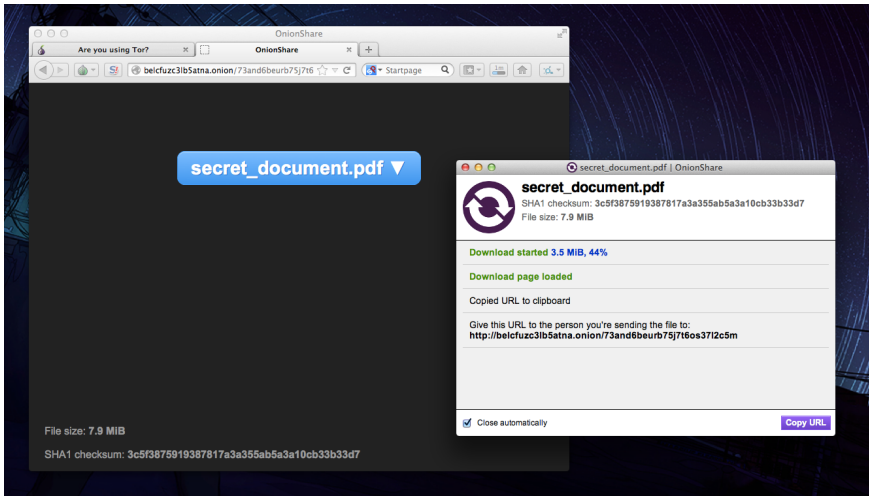


Image credit: Micah Lee

Stealth Hidden Services

- HiddenServiceAuthorizeClient
- If configured, the hidden service is accessible for authorized clients only
- “Basic mode”: many keys for the same onion address are published
- “Stealth mode”: the server publish different onion addresses with each different key

Stealth Hidden Services

- SSH Servers
- Family Calendar
- POP and IMAP Servers
- Weechat Relay
- Internet of Things Onions



Image credit: User:Colin / Wikimedia Commons

Internet of Onions

- Home Assistant⁷ is an open-source home automation platform to monitor, automate, and control various devices without the Cloud
- The backend is developed in Python and is communicating over Websocket with the frontend which is built on Polymer
- In June 2017, over 700 implementations are available including MQTT, MySensors, ZigBee, and Z-Wave
- Use of Home Assistant over Tor has been documented⁸

⁷<https://home-assistant.io/>

⁸<https://home-assistant.io/docs/ecosystem/tor/>

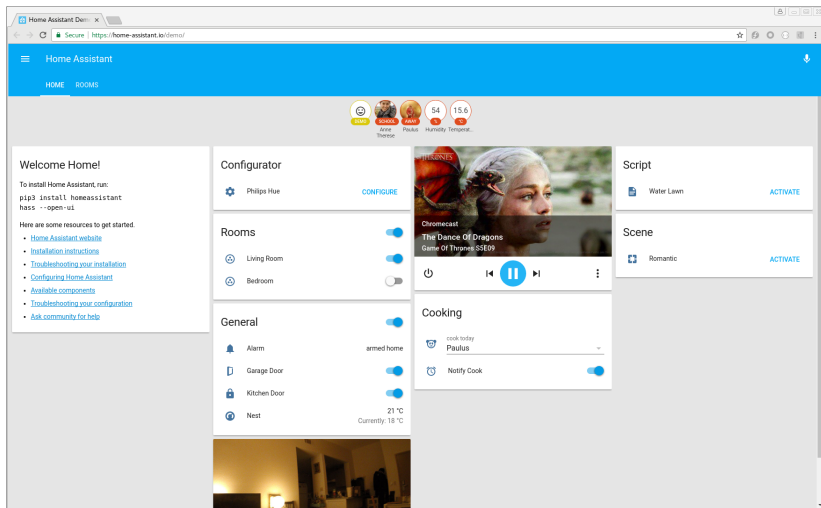


Image credit: User:Fabian.a / Wikimedia Commons

Mobile Apps

- Orbot⁹ is a Tor client for Android
- Orfox¹⁰ is a Tor Browser for Android

⁹<https://guardianproject.info/apps/orbot/>

¹⁰<https://guardianproject.info/apps/orfox/>

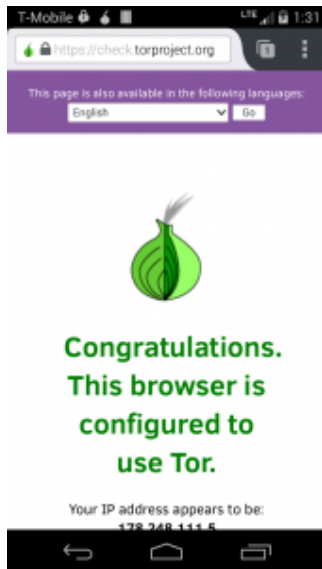


Image credit: guardianproject.info

Integrate Tor into Your App

- NetCipher¹¹ is a library for Android that provides multiple means to improve network security in mobile applications
- It provides best practices TLS settings using the standard Android HTTP methods, HttpURLConnection and Apache HTTP Client
- It provides simple Tor integration, makes it easy to configure proxies for HTTP connections and 'WebView' instances

¹¹<https://guardianproject.info/code/netcipher/>

Facebook Tor Integration

- Facebook provides an Onion service at facebookcorewwwi.onion
- In April 2016 it had been used by over 1 million people monthly, up from 525,000 in 2015¹²
- Facebook added support for Orbot integration to their Android app

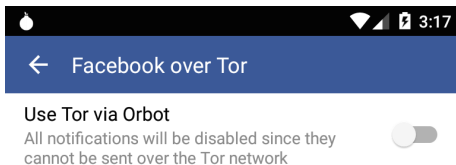


Image credit: Facebook

¹²<https://www.inverse.com/article/14672-facebook-s-dark-web-onion-site-reaches-1-million-monthly-tor-users>

DuckDuckGo Tor Integration

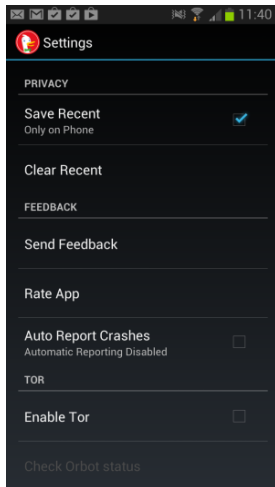


Image credit: ghacks.net

There's even more...

- Globaleaks
<https://www.globaleaks.org/>
- Magic Wormhole
<https://github.com/warner/magic-wormhole>
- Open Observatory of Network Interference
<https://ooni.torproject.org/>
- The Amnesic Incognito Live System
<https://tails.boum.org/>
- Whonix
<https://www.whonix.org/>

Thank you

GPG: A8F7 BA50 41E1 3333 9CBA 1696 **76D5 8093 F540 ABCD**

Slides available at:

<https://people.torproject.org/~irl/2017-06-techmeetup.pdf>