

On the Robustness of Random Walk Algorithms for the Detection of Unstructured P2P Botnets

Dominik Muhs ¹

Steffen Haas ²

Thorsten Strufe ¹

Mathias Fischer ²

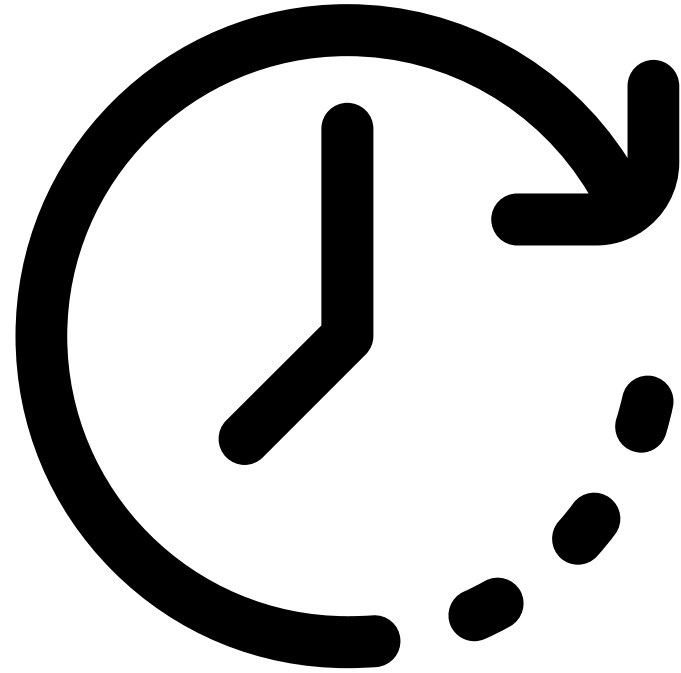


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Dresden, Germany
first.last@tu-dresden.de



² Universität Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany
first.last@informatik.uni-hamburg.de

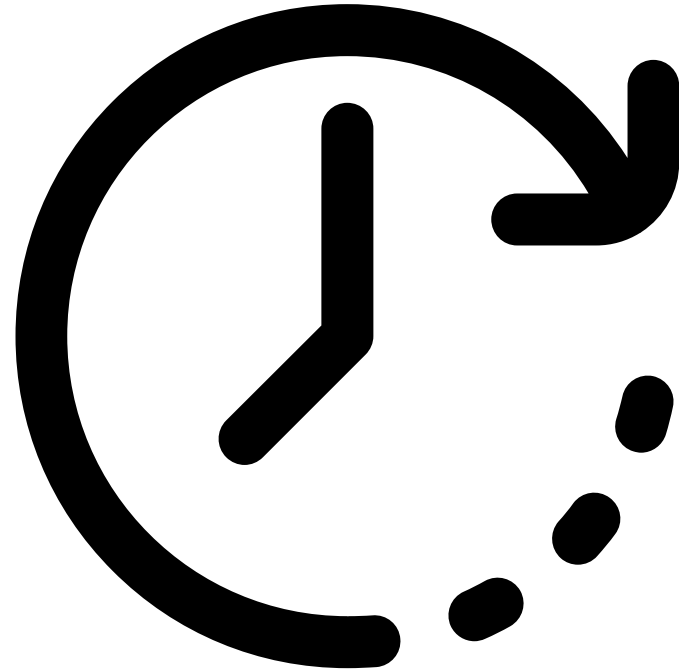
Outline



[7]

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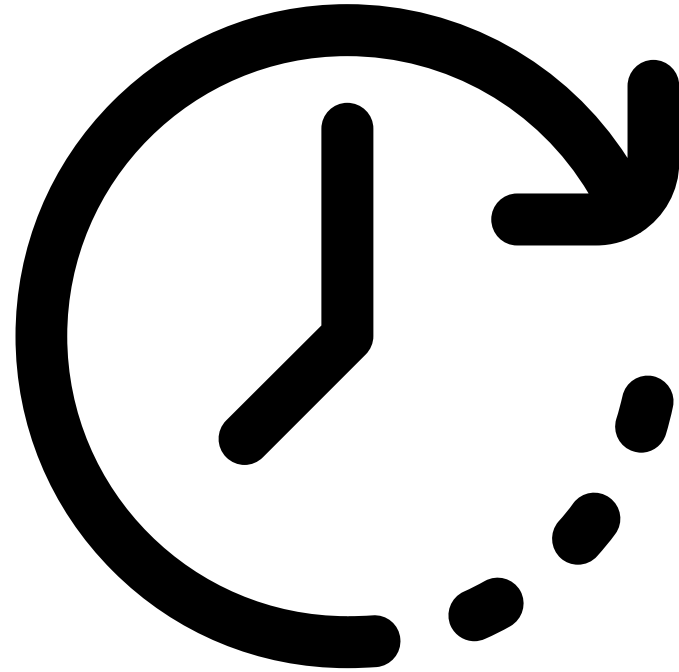
I. Motivation



[7]

Outline

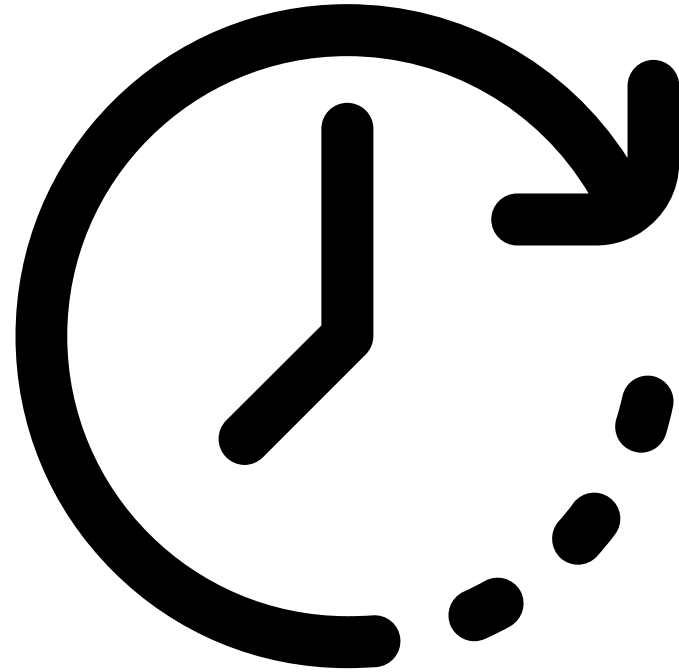
- I. Motivation
- II. Botnets
 - 1. Definition
 - 2. Graph Model



[7]

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- I. Motivation
- II. Botnets
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- III. Random Walks



[7]

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I. Motivation

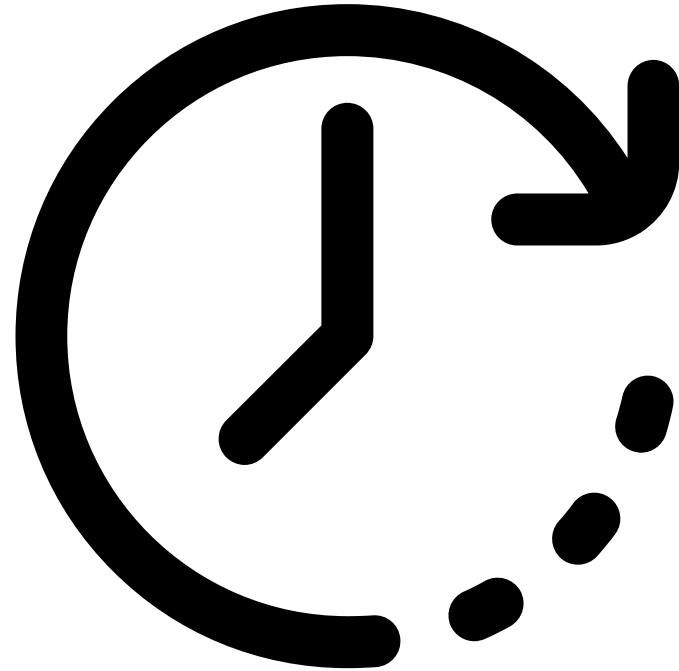
II. Botnets

1. Definition

2. Graph Model

III. Random Walks

IV. Analysis and Detection



[7]

Outline

I. Motivation

II. Botnets

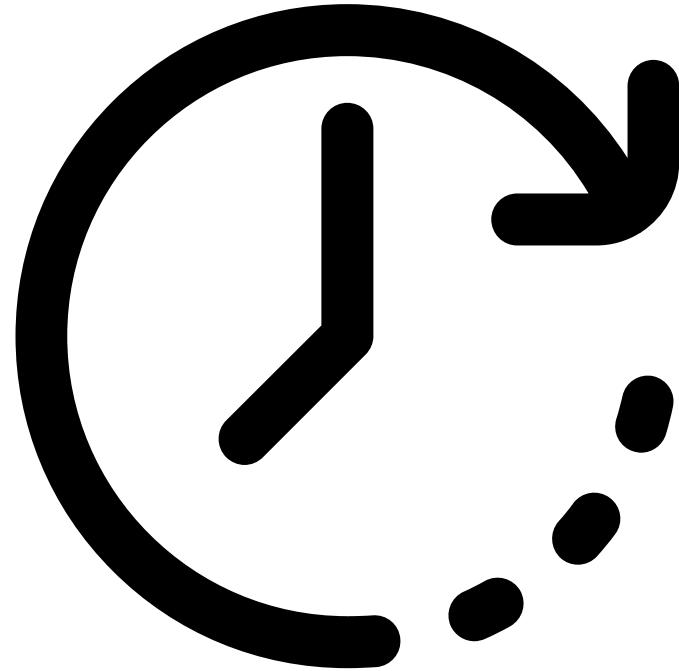
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V. Limiting Knowledge



[7]

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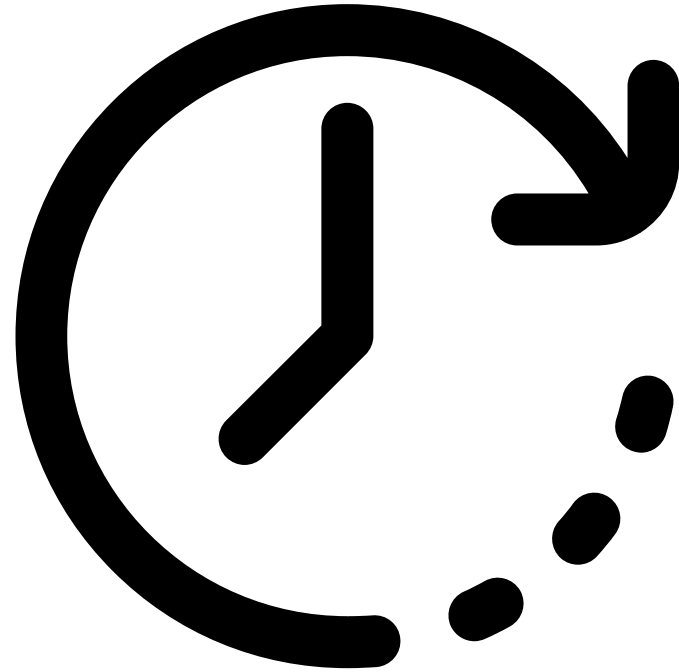
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VI. Results



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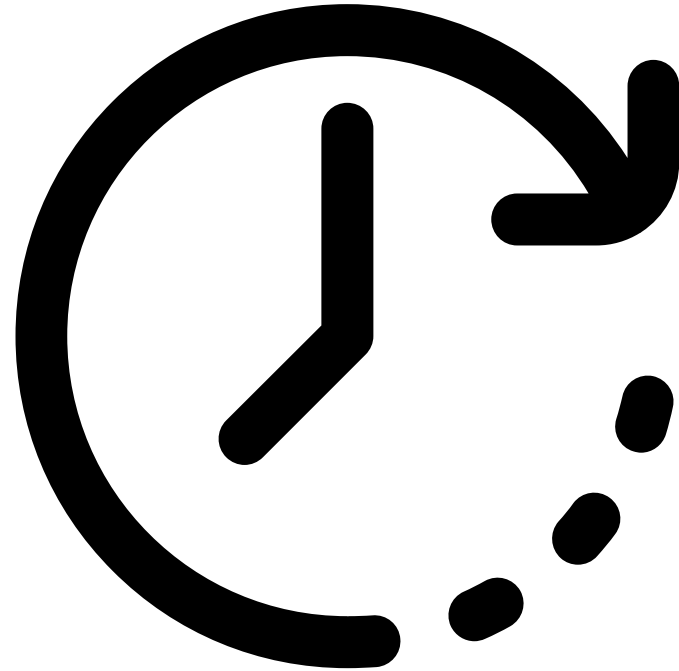
III. Random Walks

IV. Analysis and Detection

V. Limiting Knowledge

VI. Results

VII. Conclusion



[7]

The image shows the top portion of a web article from The Register. The site's logo, 'The Register', is prominently displayed in white on a red background, with the tagline 'Biting the hand that feeds IT' underneath. Below the logo is a horizontal navigation bar with various categories: DATA CENTRE, SOFTWARE, SECURITY, DEVOPS, BUSINESS, PERSONAL TECH, and SCIENCE. The article's category, 'Security', is highlighted in red. The main headline, 'Mysterious Hajime botnet has pwned 300,000 IoT devices', is in large, bold black text. A sub-headline, 'The Dark Knight of malware's purpose remains unknown', is in a smaller black font. The byline, 'By John Leyden', is in blue, followed by the date and time, '27 Apr 2017 at 16:02'. At the bottom right of the article header, there is a comment count '17' with a speech bubble icon and a 'SHARE' button with a downward arrow.

The Register
Biting the hand that feeds IT

DATA CENTRE SOFTWARE SECURITY DEVOPS BUSINESS PERSONAL TECH SCIENCE

Security

Mysterious Hajime botnet has pwned 300,000 IoT devices

The Dark Knight of malware's purpose remains unknown

By [John Leyden](#) 27 Apr 2017 at 16:02

17  [SHARE ▼](#)

The image is a tilted screenshot of a ZDNet news article. At the top, the ZDNet logo is on the left, followed by a search bar. To the right of the search bar is a navigation bar with links for 'AFRICA', 'UK', 'ITALY', 'SPAIN', 'MORE', 'NEWSLETTERS', and 'ALL WRITERS'. Below this is a banner for 'MUST READ' with the headline 'NEW GMAIL: GOOGLE OVERHAULS G SUITE WITH MORE AI, LESS CLUTTER'. The main article title is 'Satori botnet successor targets Ethereum mining rigs'. Below the title is a sub-headline: 'Updated: A variant of the botnet targets rigs to covertly replace their wallet addresses.' The author information at the bottom left shows a profile picture and the text 'By Charlie Osborne for Zero Day | January 17, 2018 -- 12:28 GMT (12:28 GMT) | Topic: Security'. On the bottom right, there is a 'SHARE' button and a comment count of '17'.

ZDNet

DATA CENT

AFRICA UK ITALY SPAIN MORE NEWSLETTERS ALL WRITERS

MUST READ NEW GMAIL: GOOGLE OVERHAULS G SUITE WITH MORE AI, LESS CLUTTER

Satori botnet successor targets Ethereum mining rigs

Updated: A variant of the botnet targets rigs to covertly replace their wallet addresses.

By Charlie Osborne for Zero Day | January 17, 2018 -- 12:28 GMT (12:28 GMT) | Topic: Security

17 SHARE



TECHNICA

UK ITALY SPAIN MORE NEWSLETTERS ALL WRITERS

IT TAKES A VILLAGE —

100,000-strong botnet built on router 0-day could strike at any time

New strain of Mirai is sophisticated, locked, and loaded.

DAN GOODIN - 12/5/2017, 2:34 PM

Satori mining rig

Updated: A variant of wallet addresses.



By Charlie Osborne for Zero Day | January 17, 2018

Ethereum

their

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SC UK

NEWS

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THE CYBERSECURITY SOURCE

SC Media US > Other > Research > Malicious bot traffic climbs 9.5 percent in 2017, says report

by Bradley Barth, Senior Reporter

March 27, 2018

Malicious bot traffic climbs 9.5 percent in 2017, says report



By Charlie Osborne for Zero Day | Jan

EDITION: ▼

AFRICA

UK

ITALY

SPAIN

MORE ▼

NEWSLETTERS

ALL WRITERS



ZDNet



MUST READ **NEW GMAIL: GOOGLE OVERHAULS G SUITE WITH MORE AI, LESS CLUTTER**

A new Mirai-style botnet is targeting the financial sector

The researchers say it's the largest attack since the Mirai-powered cyberattack in October 2016 that took down large swathes of the Western internet.



By [Zack Whittaker](#) for [Zero Day](#) | April 5, 2018 -- 13:00 GMT (14:00 BST) | Topic: [Security](#)

... 7.5 percent in 2017, says report



wallet as



By [Charlie Osborne](#) for [Zero Day](#) | Jan

EDITION: AFRICA UK ITALY SPAIN MORE NEWSLETTERS ALL WRITERS

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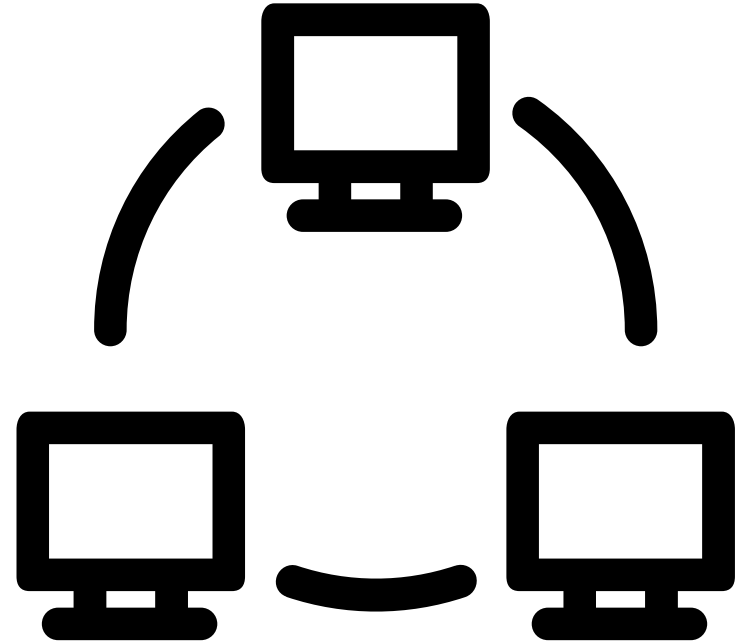
MUST Security News > Internet of Things > "Hide 'N Seek" Botnet Uses Peer-to-Peer Infrastructure to Compromise IoT Devices

A "Hide 'N Seek" Botnet Uses Peer-to-Peer Infrastructure to Compromise IoT Devices

January 26, 2018

By Charlie Osborne for Zero Day

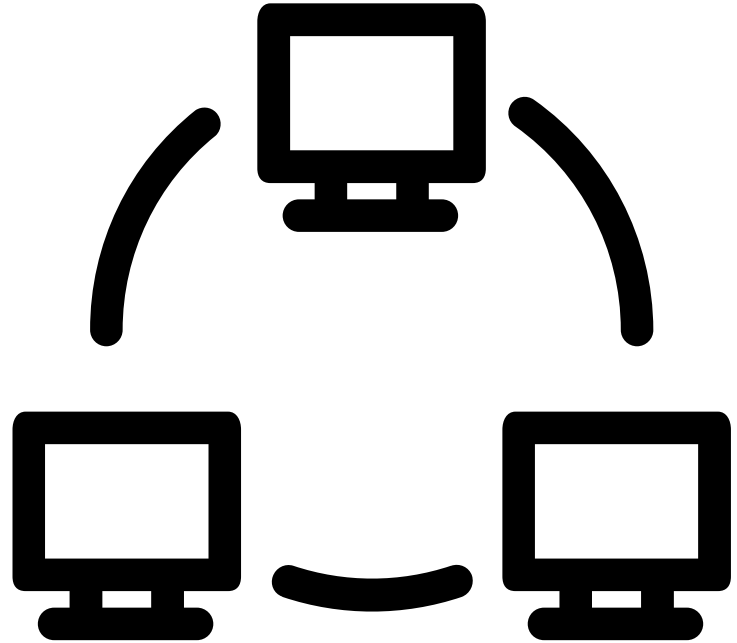
What are Botnets?



[9]

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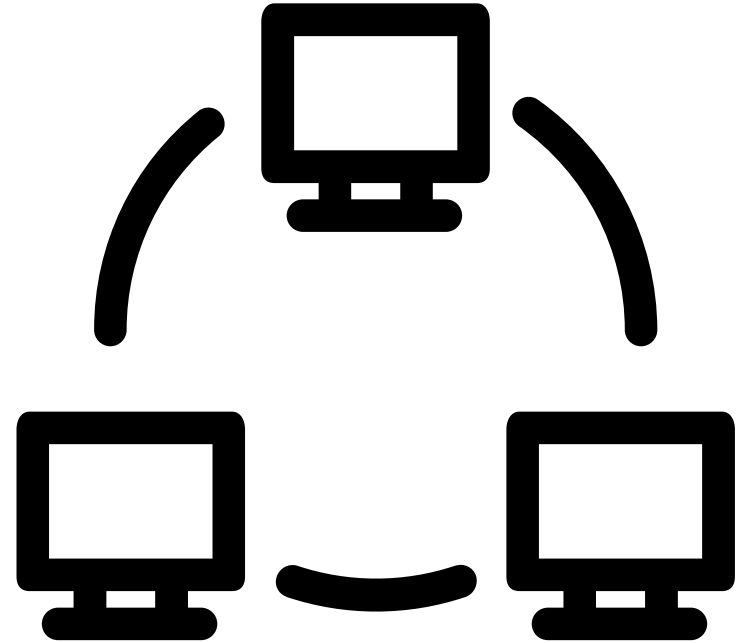
- Device collection



[9]

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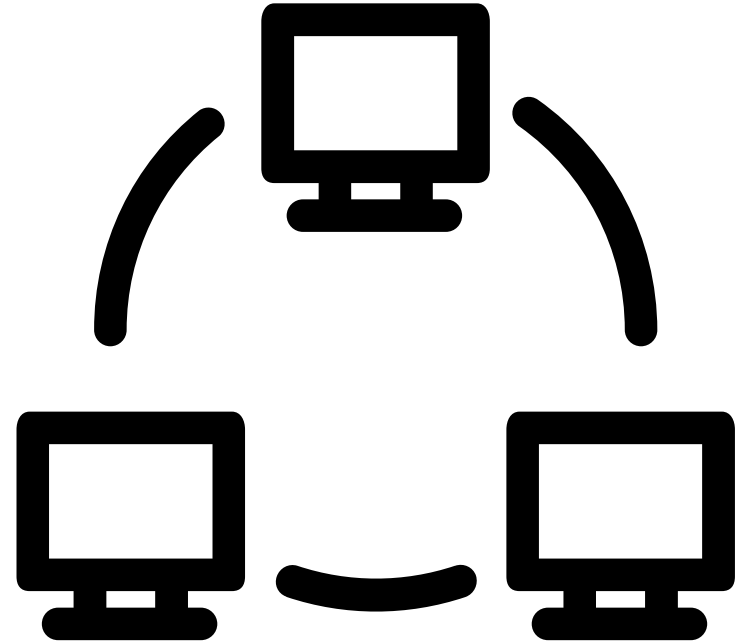
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- Internet-connected



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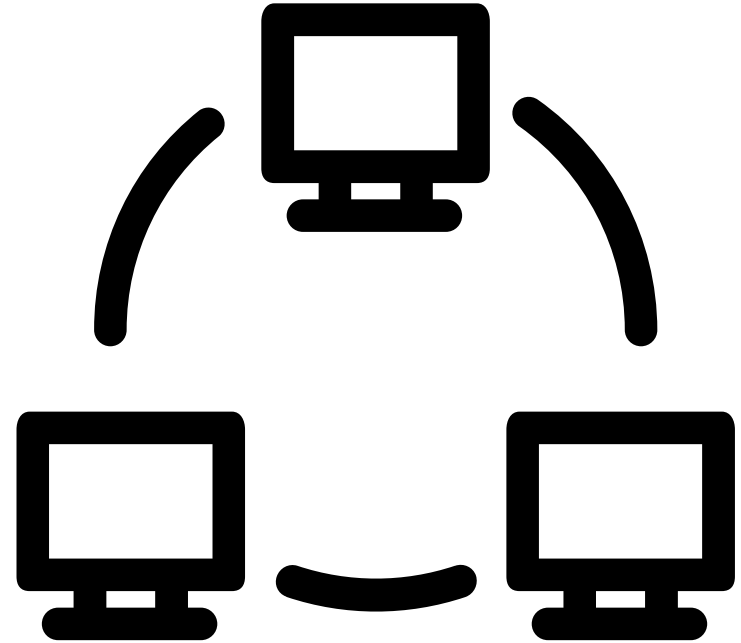
- Device collection
- Internet-connected
- Malware-infected



[9]

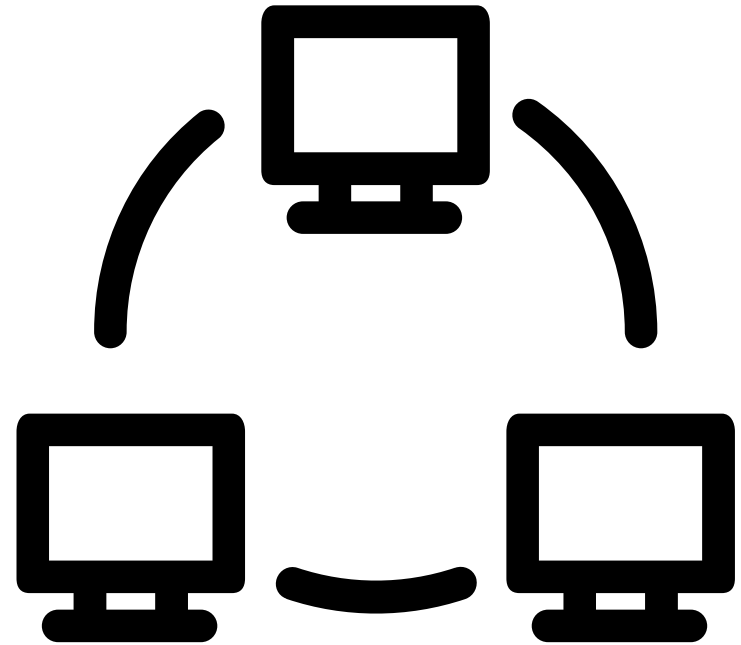
What are Botnets?

- Device collection
- Internet-connected
- Malware-infected
- Remotely controlled (usually centralized)



[9]

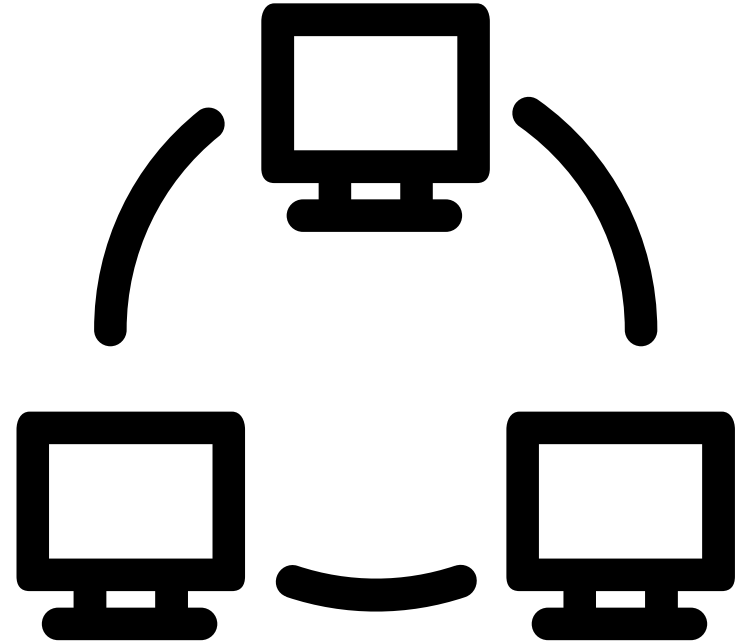
Why are Botnets bad?



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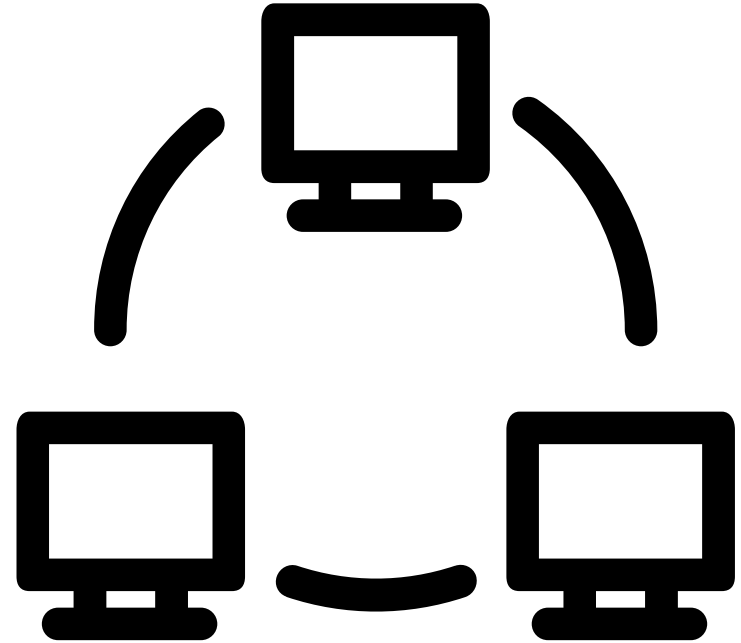
- Clickfraud



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Why are Botnets bad?

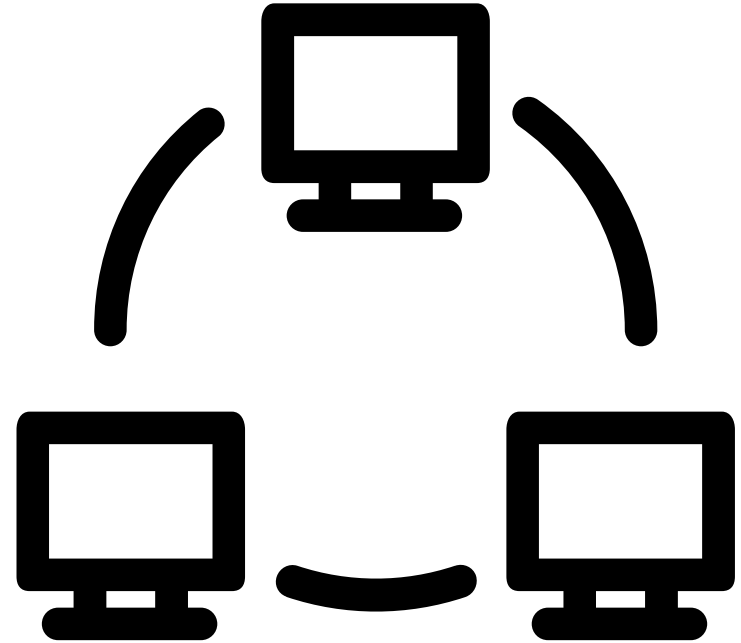
- Clickfraud
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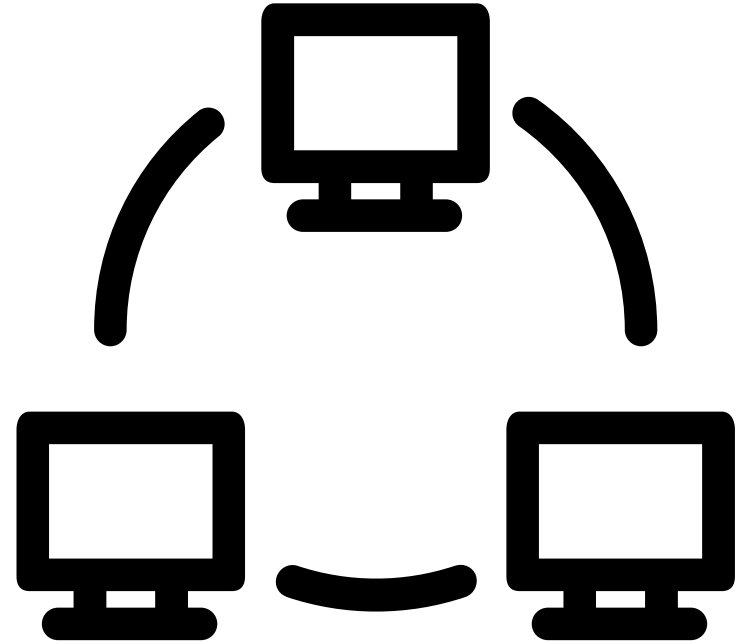
- Clickfraud
- Spam
- DDoS attacks



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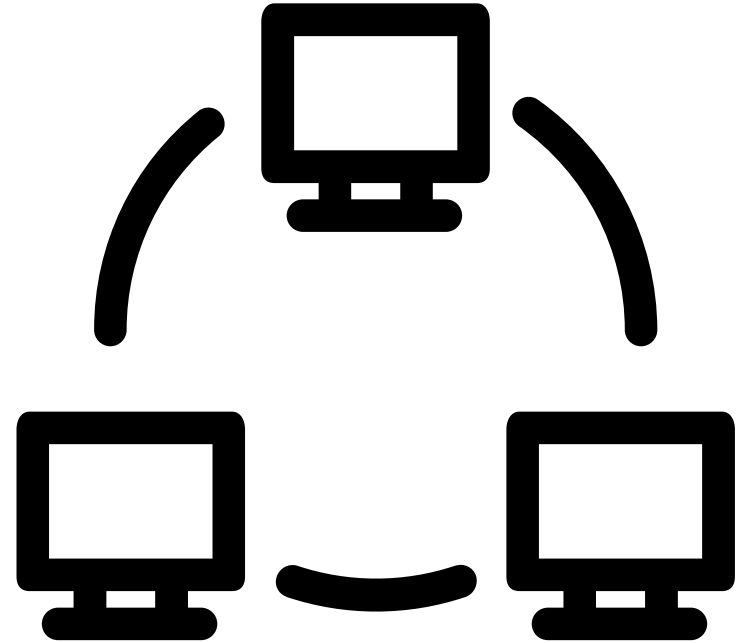
- Clickfraud
- Spam
- DDoS attacks
- Cryptocurrency mining



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Why are Botnets bad?

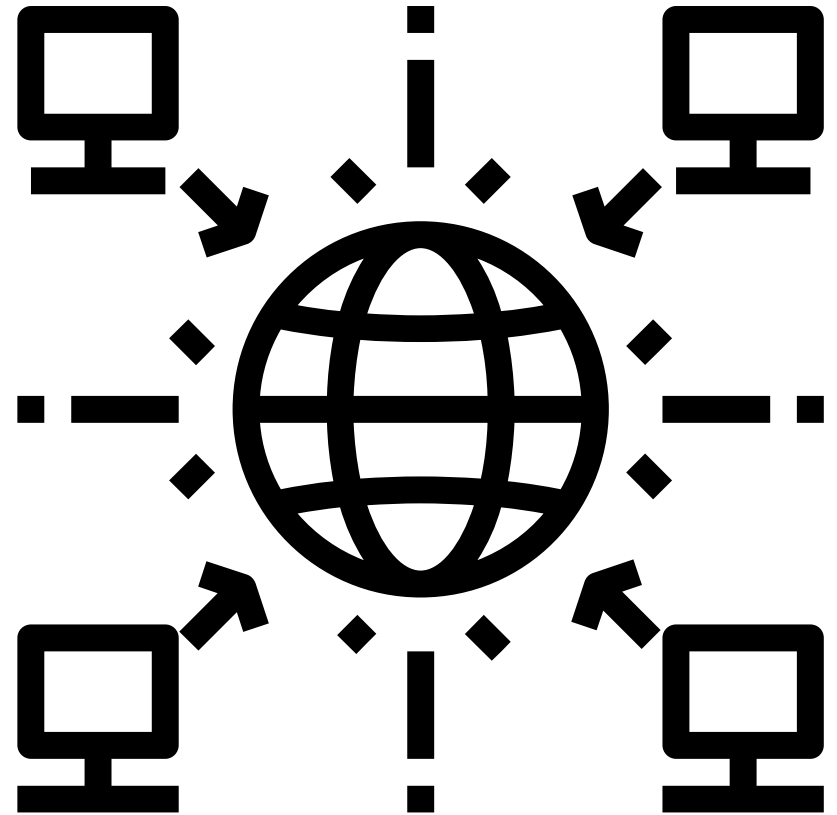
- Clickfraud
- Spam
- DDoS attacks
- Cryptocurrency mining
- Intellectual property theft



[9]

Topological Categories

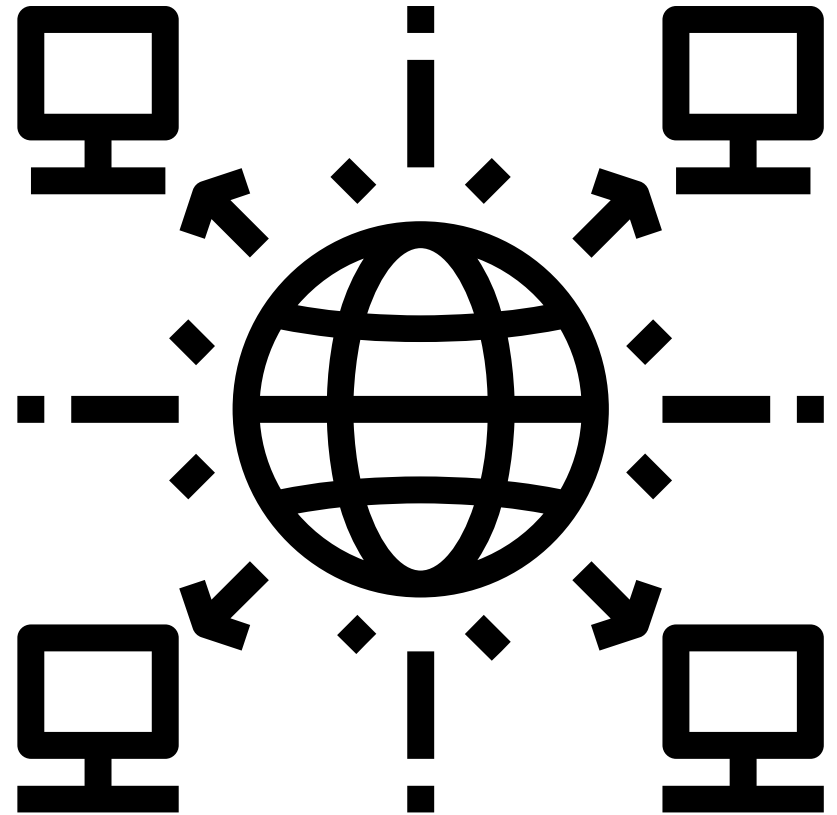
- Centralized



[8]

Topological Categories

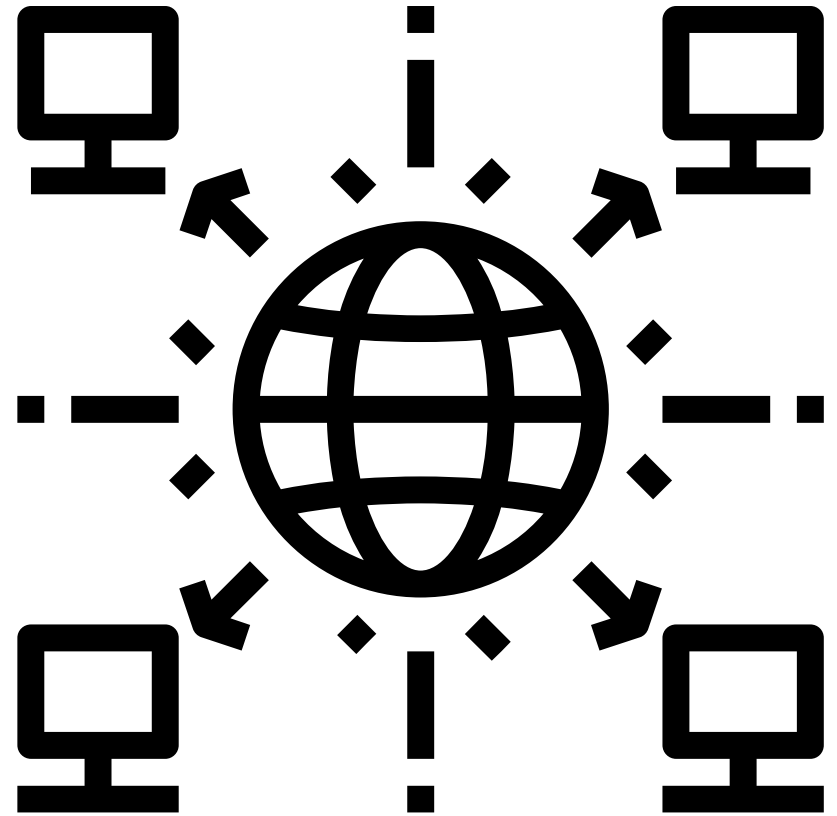
- Centralized
- Decentralized



[8]

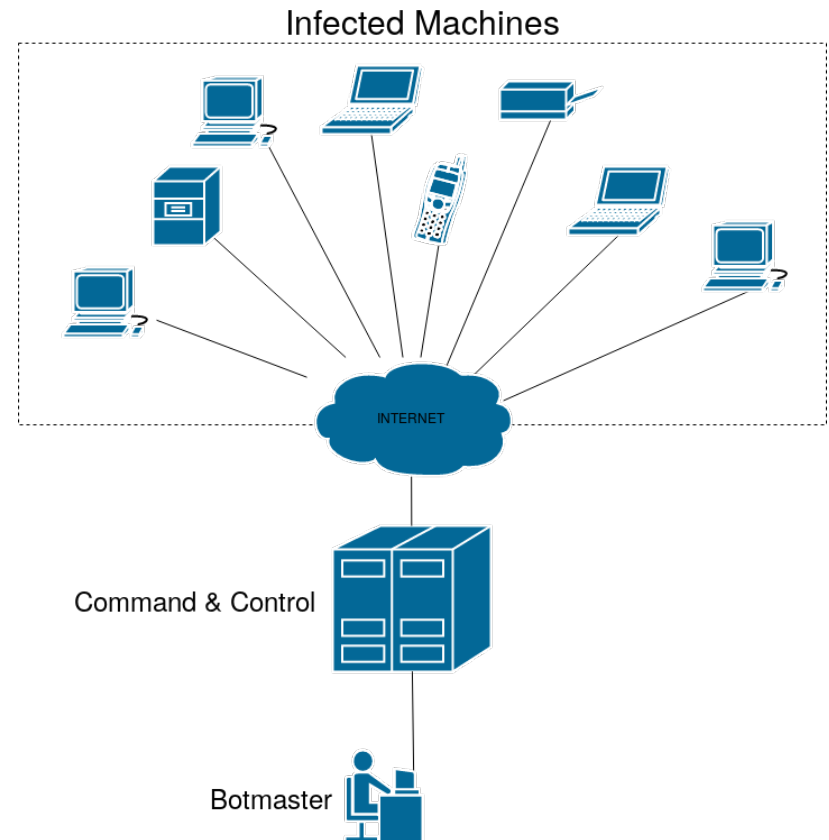
Topological Categories

- Centralized
- Decentralized
 - Structured
 - Unstructured



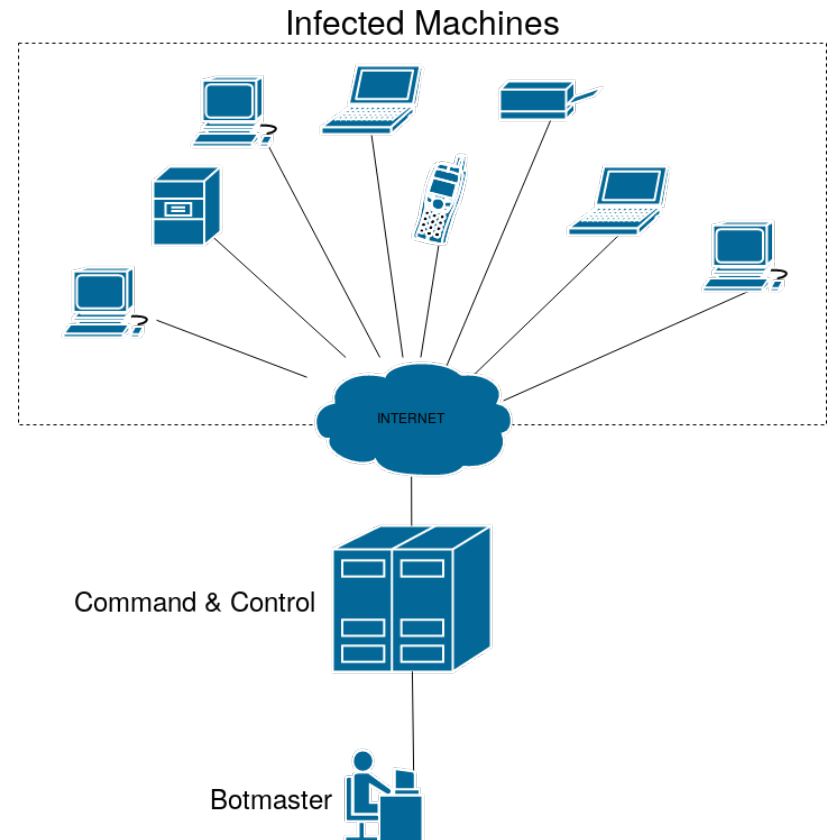
[8]

Centralized Botnets



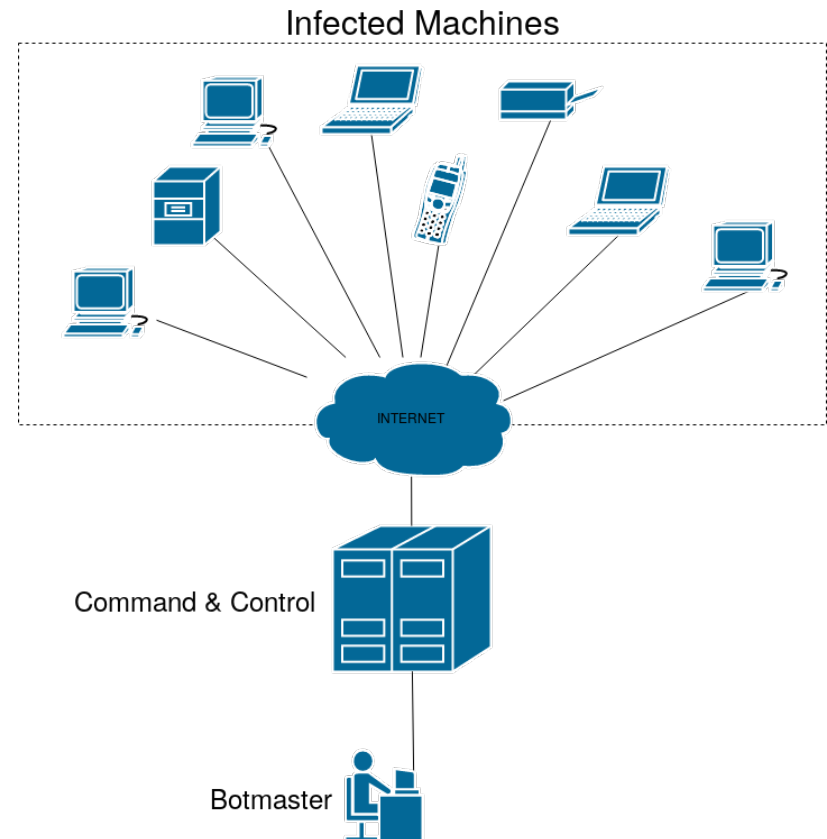
Centralized Botnets

- Central C2 server



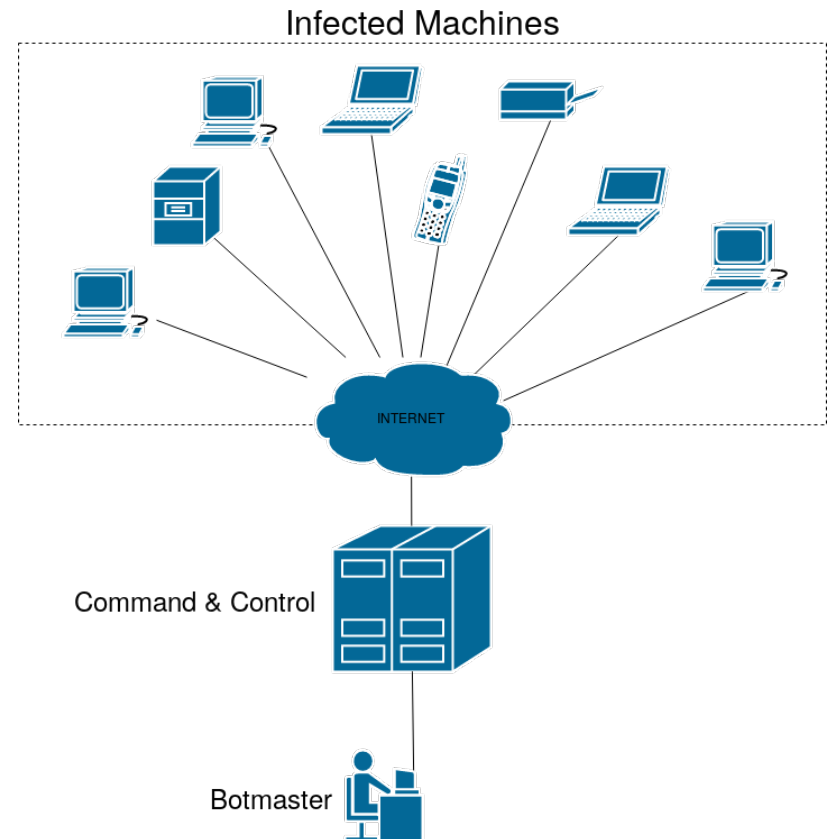
Centralized Botnets

- Central C2 server
- Star topology



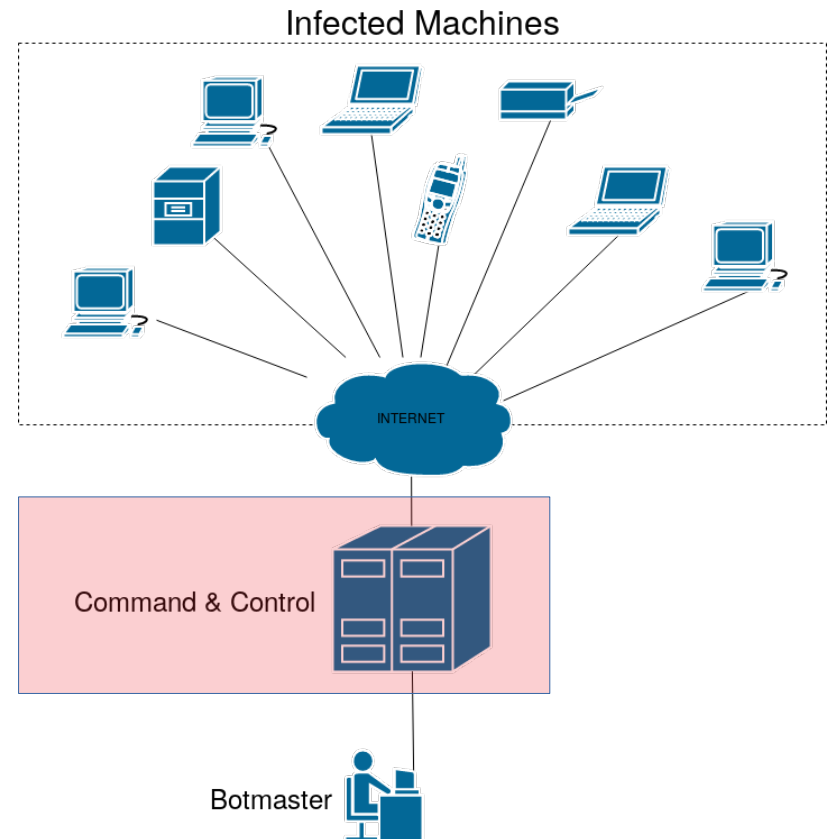
Centralized Botnets

- Central C2 server
- Star topology
- IRC/HTTP/...

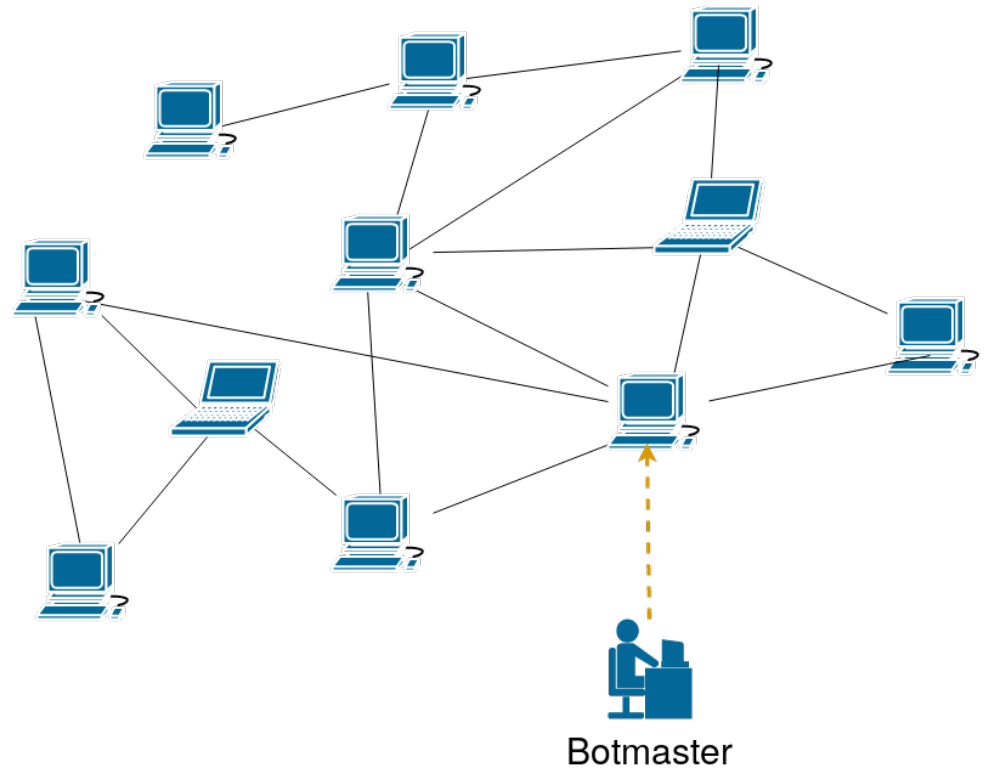


Centralized Botnets

- Central C2 server
- Star topology
- IRC/HTTP/...
- Single point of failure

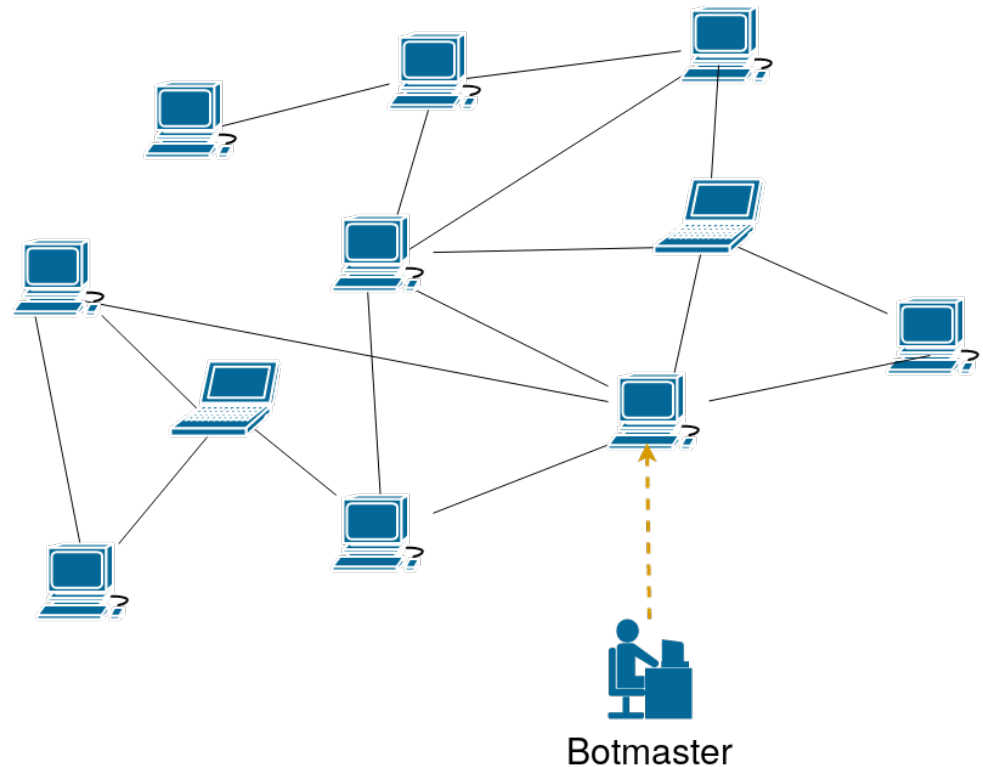


Structured P2P Botnets



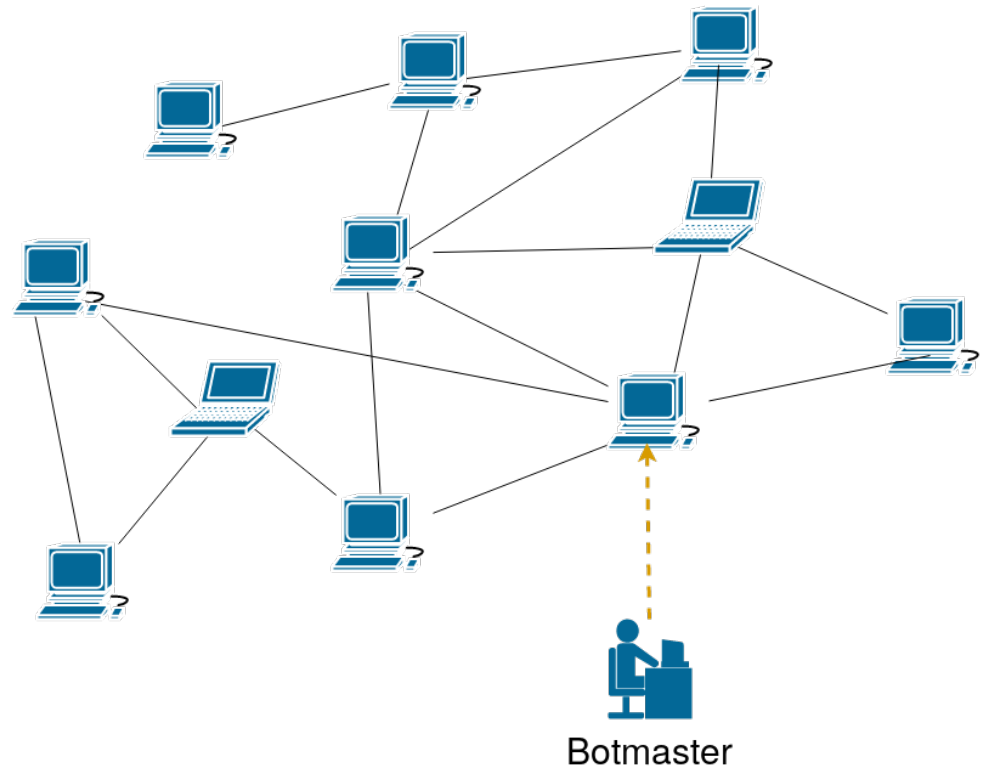
Structured P2P Botnets

- No C2 server



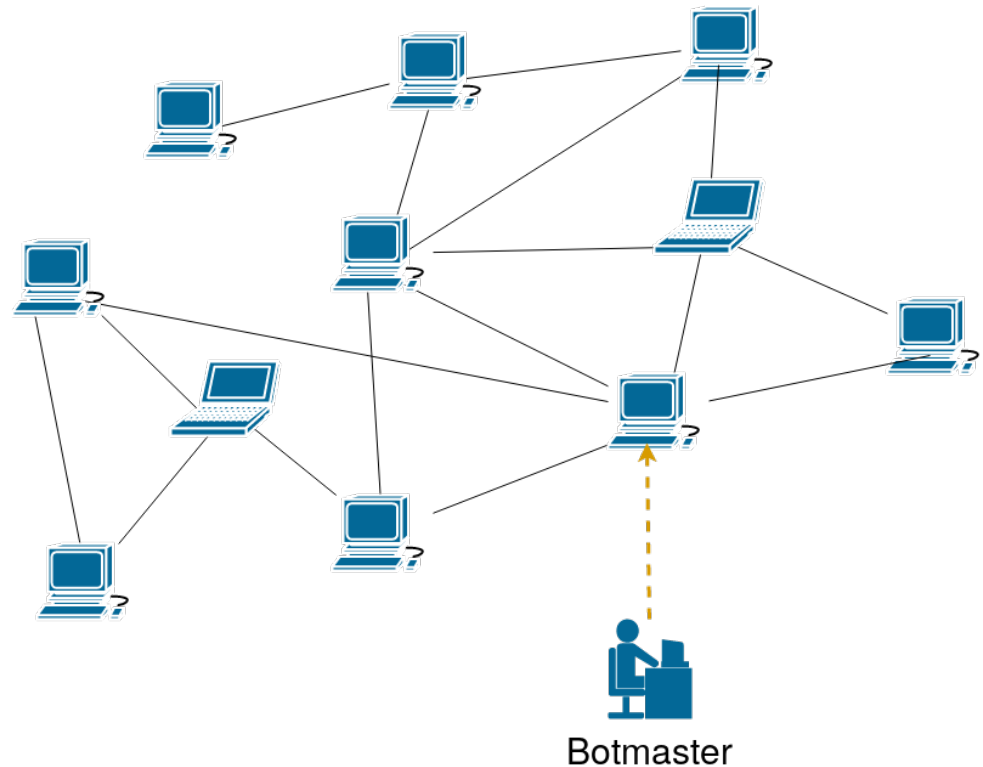
Structured P2P Botnets

- No C2 server
- Hard to take down



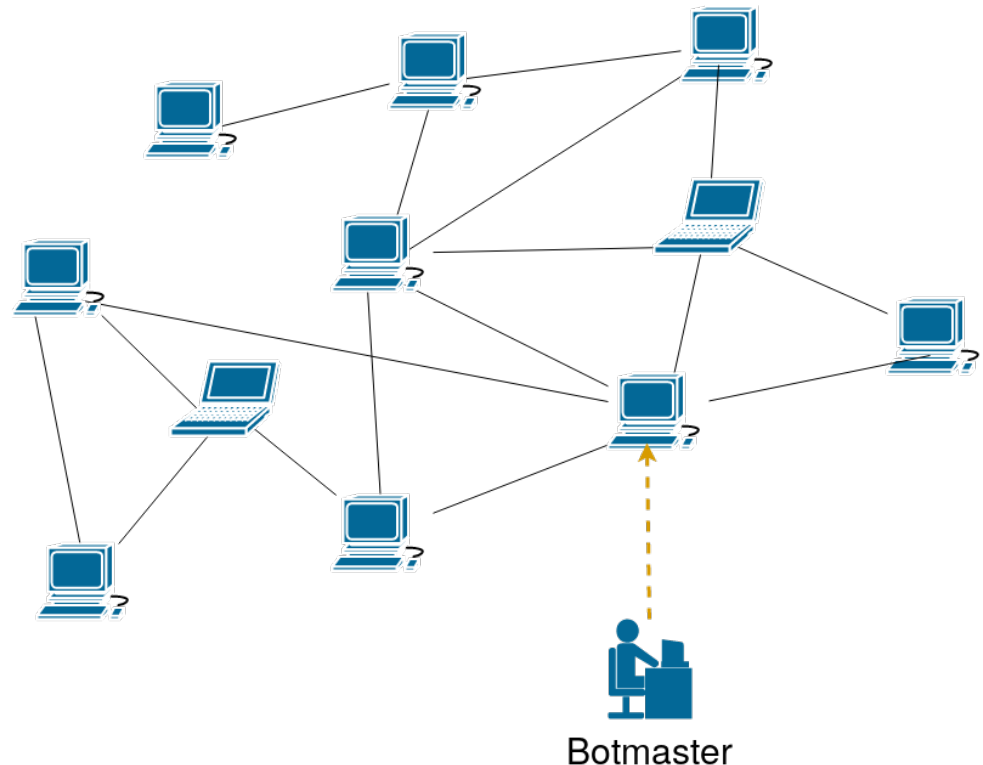
Structured P2P Botnets

- No C2 server
- Hard to take down
- Specific rule set

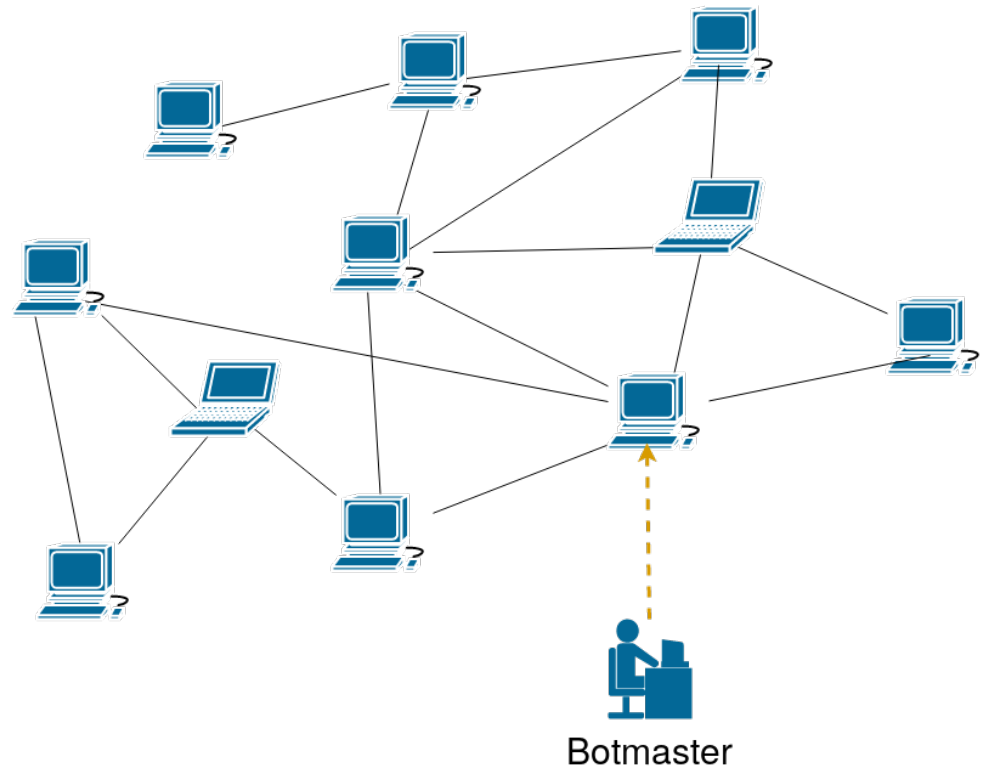


Structured P2P Botnets

- No C2 server
- Hard to take down
- Specific rule set
- Kademlia, Chord

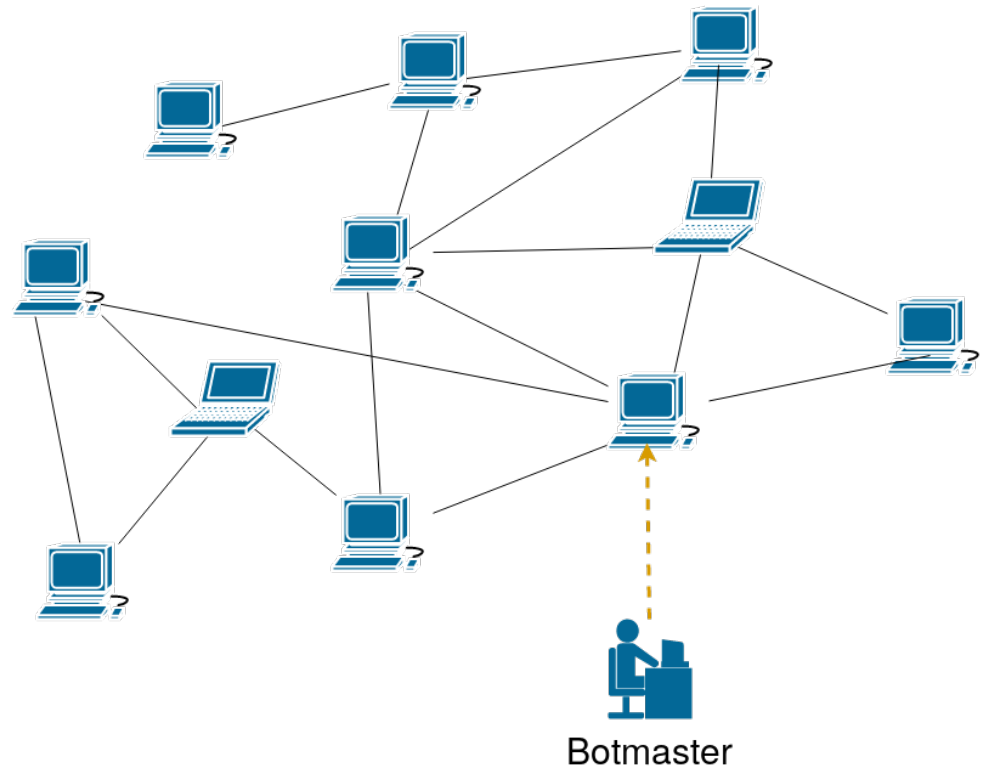


Unstructured P2P Botnets



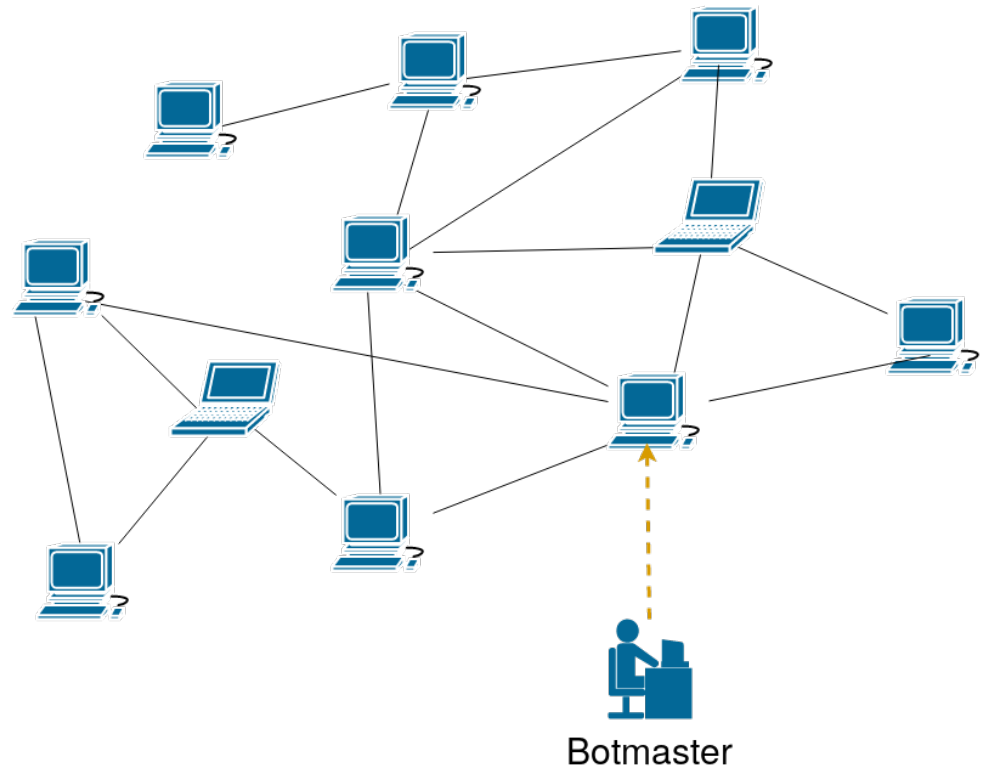
Unstructured P2P Botnets

- Randomized



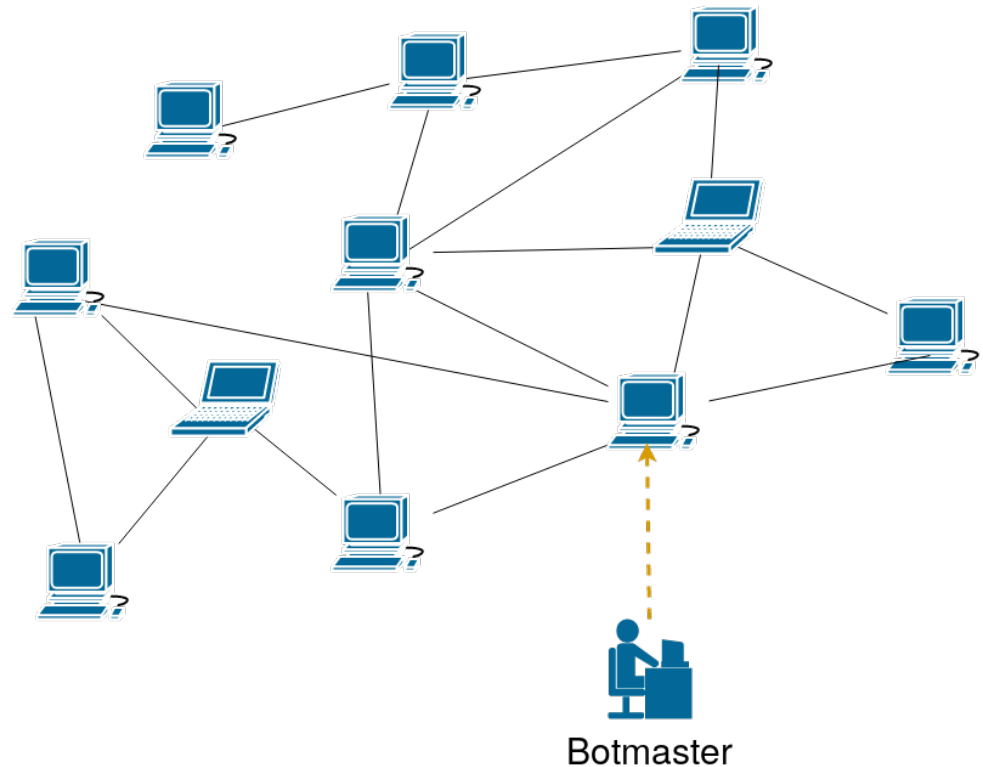
Unstructured P2P Botnets

- Randomized
- Evade topological matching



Unstructured P2P Botnets

- Randomized
- Evade topological matching
- Statistical methods necessary



Existing Approaches

0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	0

[7]

Existing Approaches

- Leverage graph models

0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	0

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Existing Approaches

- Leverage graph models
- ... and random walks

0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0
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Existing Approaches

- Leverage graph models
- ... and random walks
- Focus on structured botnets [10, 11, 12]

0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	0

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Existing Approaches

- Leverage graph models
- ... and random walks
- Focus on structured botnets [10, 11, 12]
- Do not use open technologies

0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	0

[7]

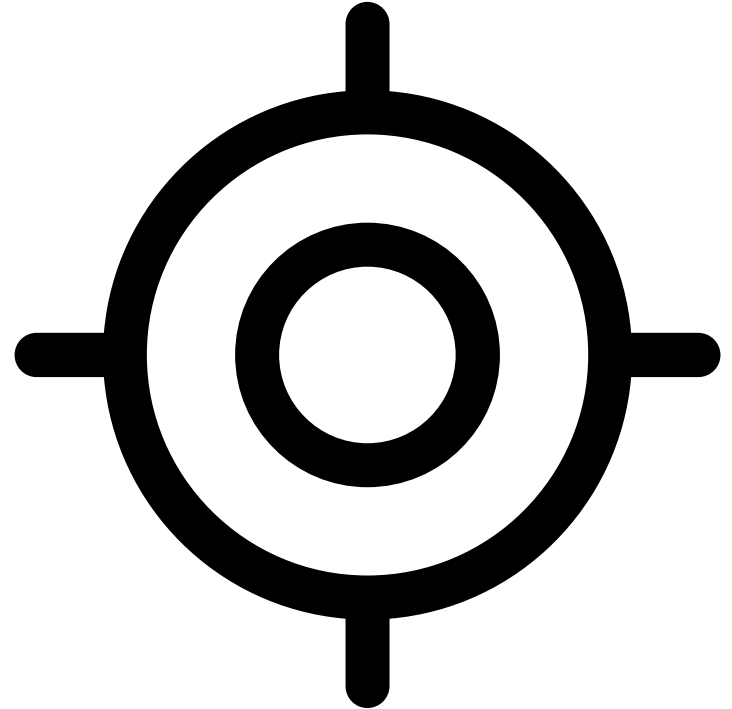
Existing Approaches

- Leverage graph models
- ... and random walks
- Focus on structured botnets [10, 11, 12]
- Do not use open technologies
- Often assume complete knowledge on botnet communication

0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	0

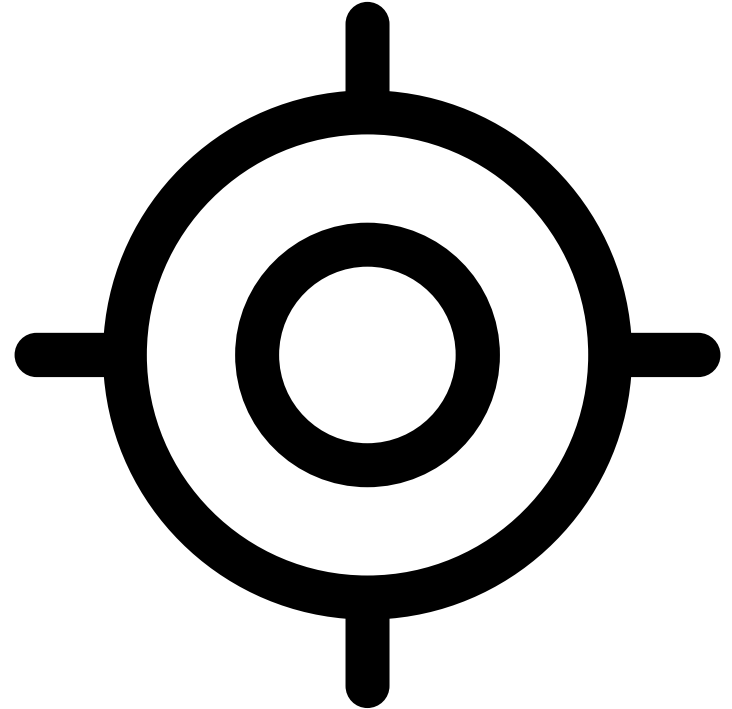
[7]

Our Approach



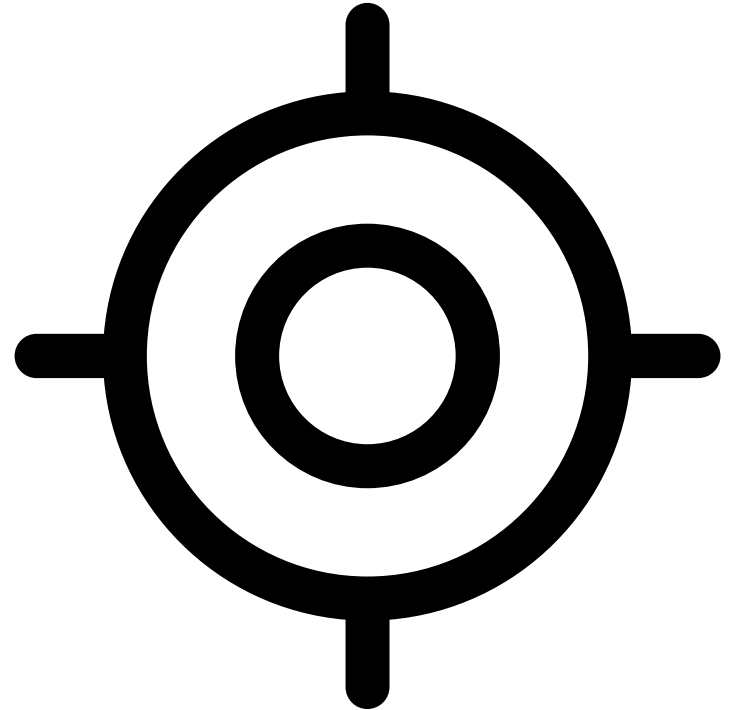
Our Approach

- Leverages random walks



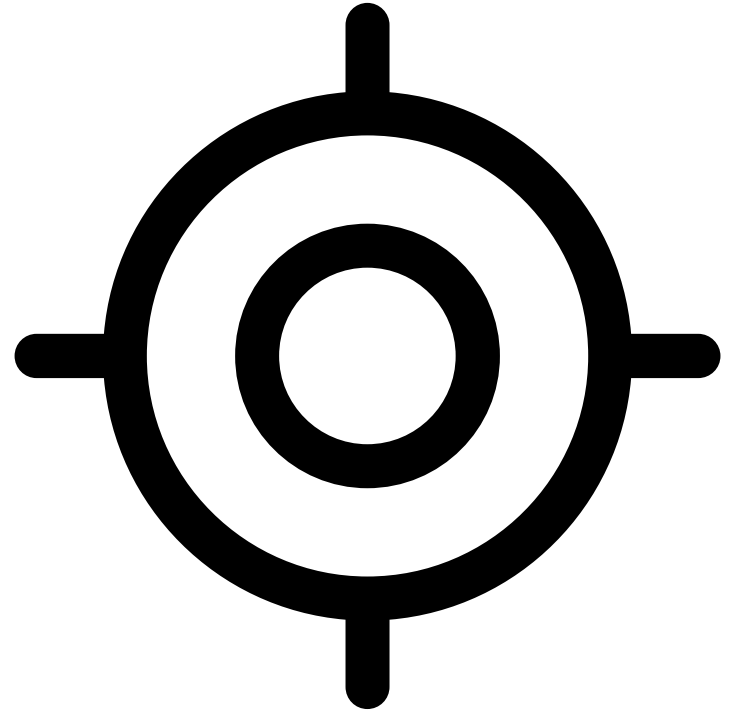
Our Approach

- Leverages random walks
- Uses open-source technologies



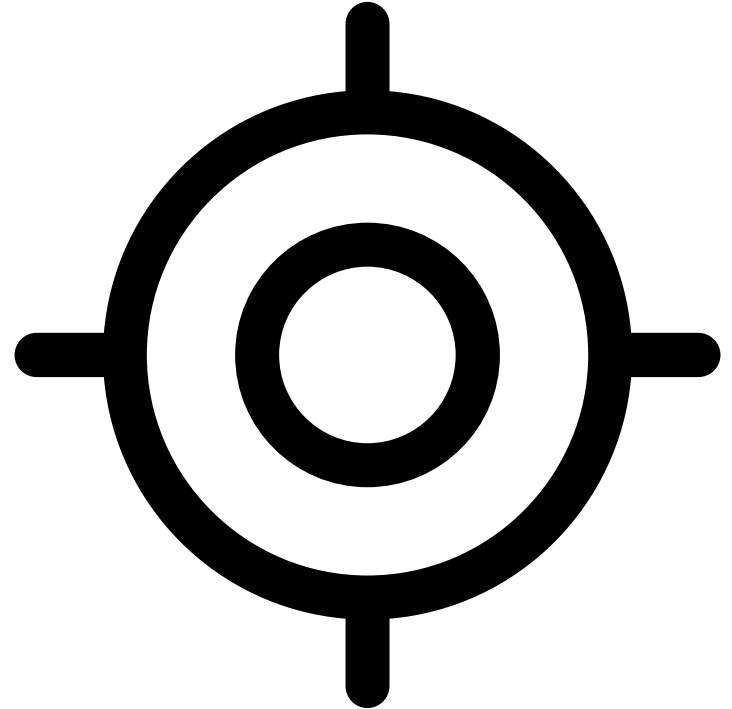
Our Approach

- Leverages random walks
- Uses open-source technologies
- Tested on unstructured botnets



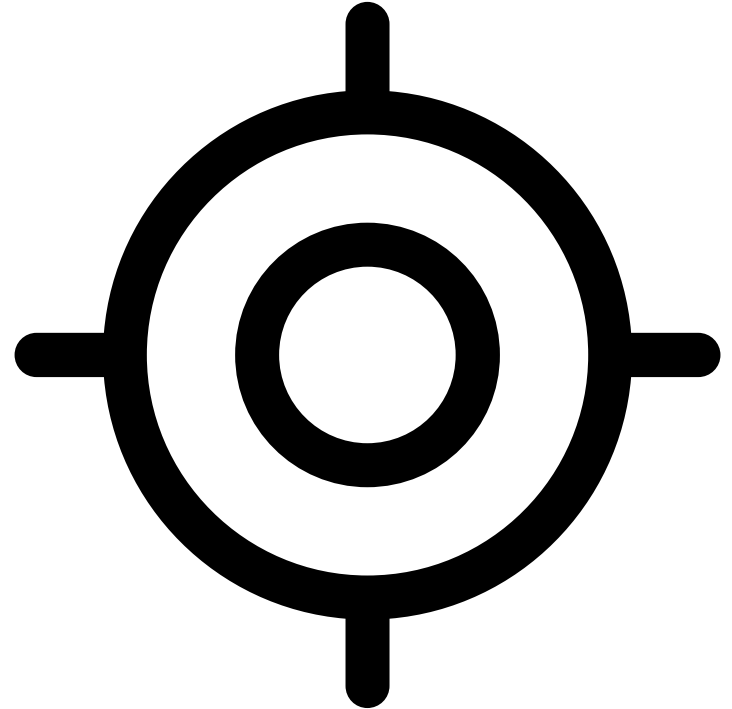
Our Approach

- Leverages random walks
- Uses open-source technologies
- Tested on unstructured botnets
- Precise when information is limited

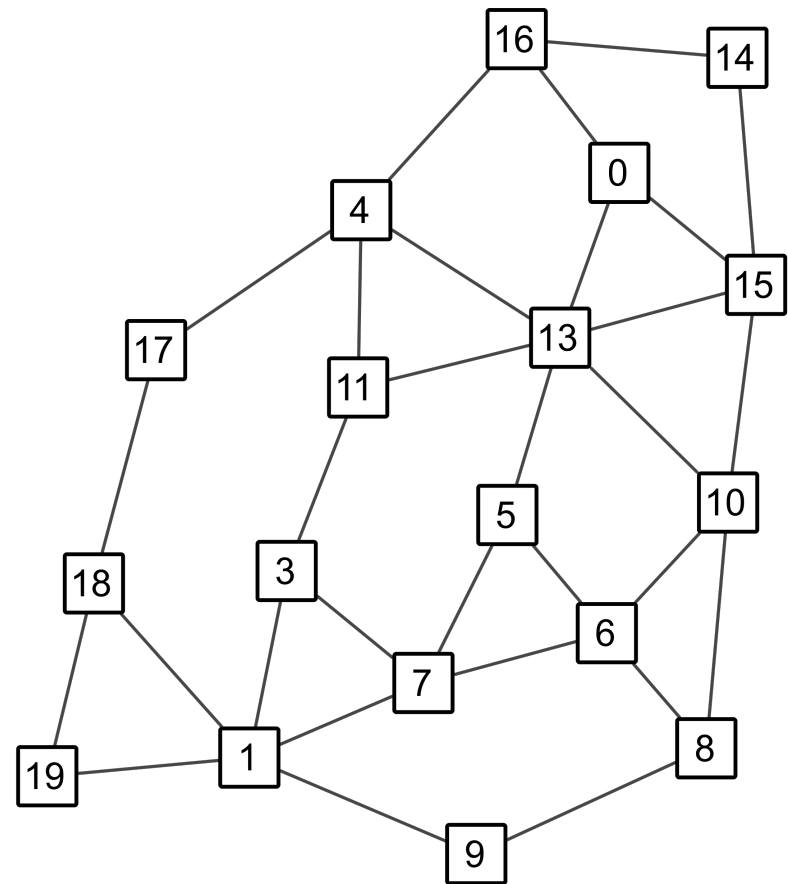


Our Approach

- Leverages random walks
- Uses open-source technologies
- Tested on unstructured botnets
- Precise when information is limited
- Can be combined with other approaches

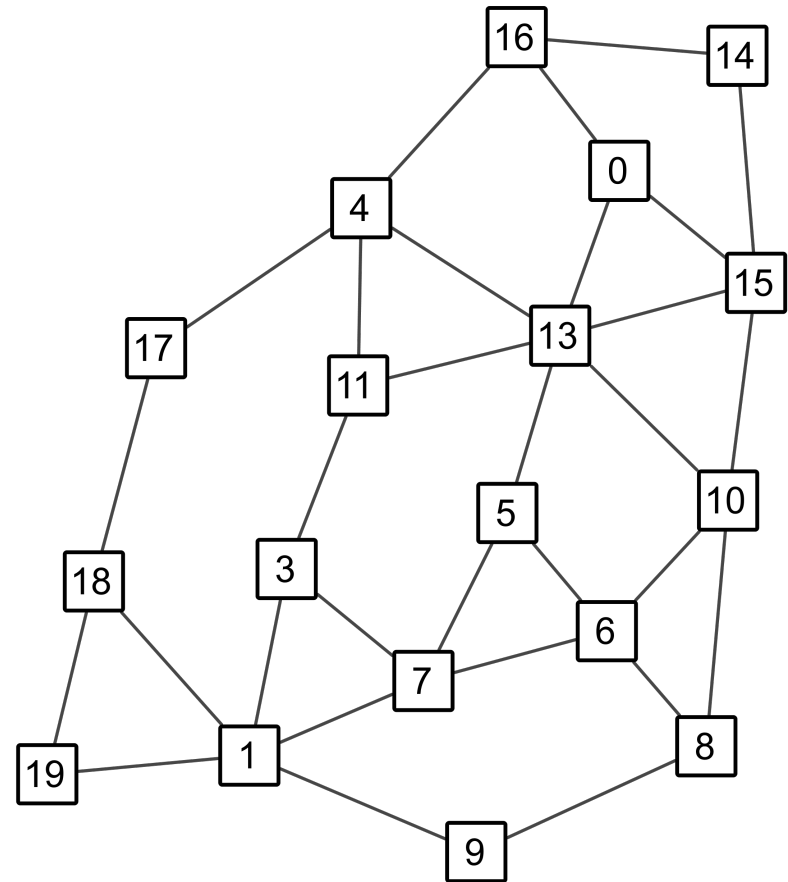


Communication Graph



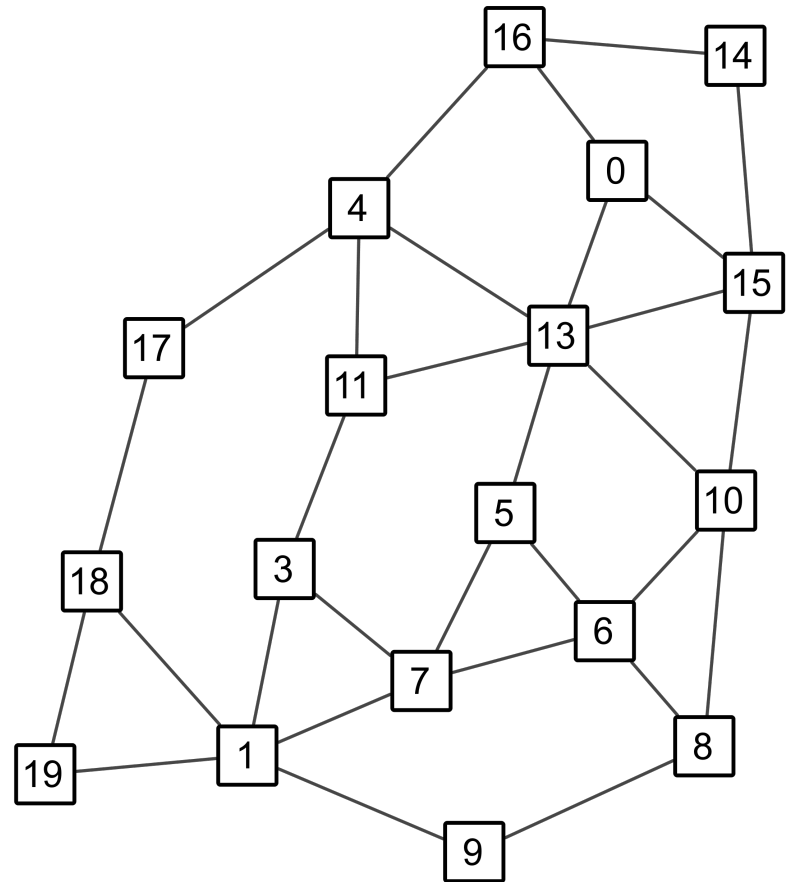
Communication Graph

- No payload data needed



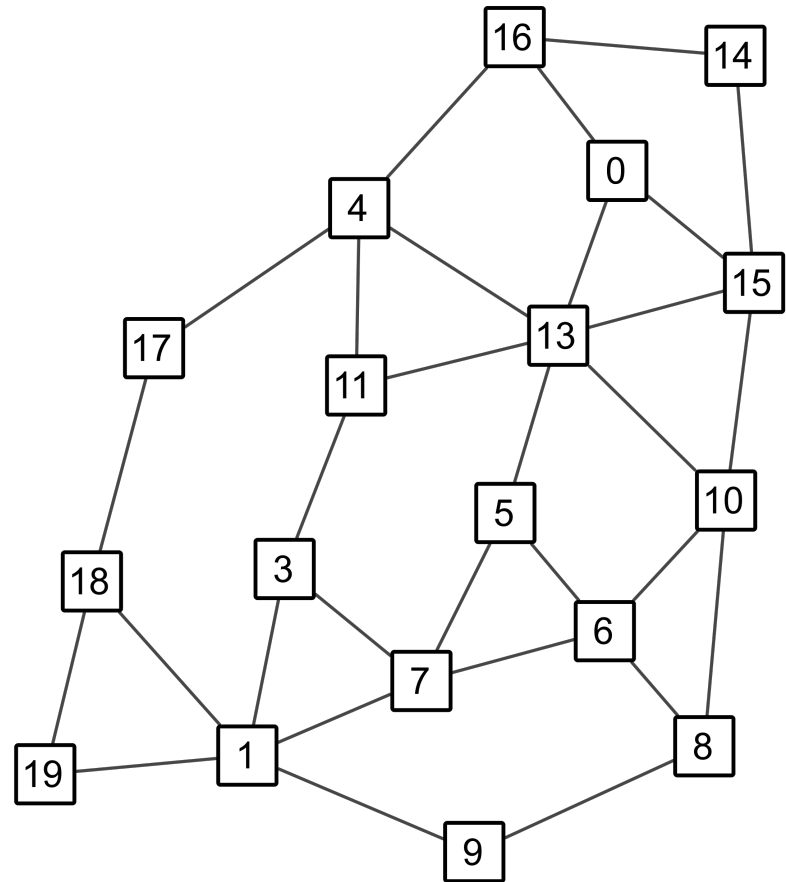
Communication Graph

- No payload data needed
- Network operator's view



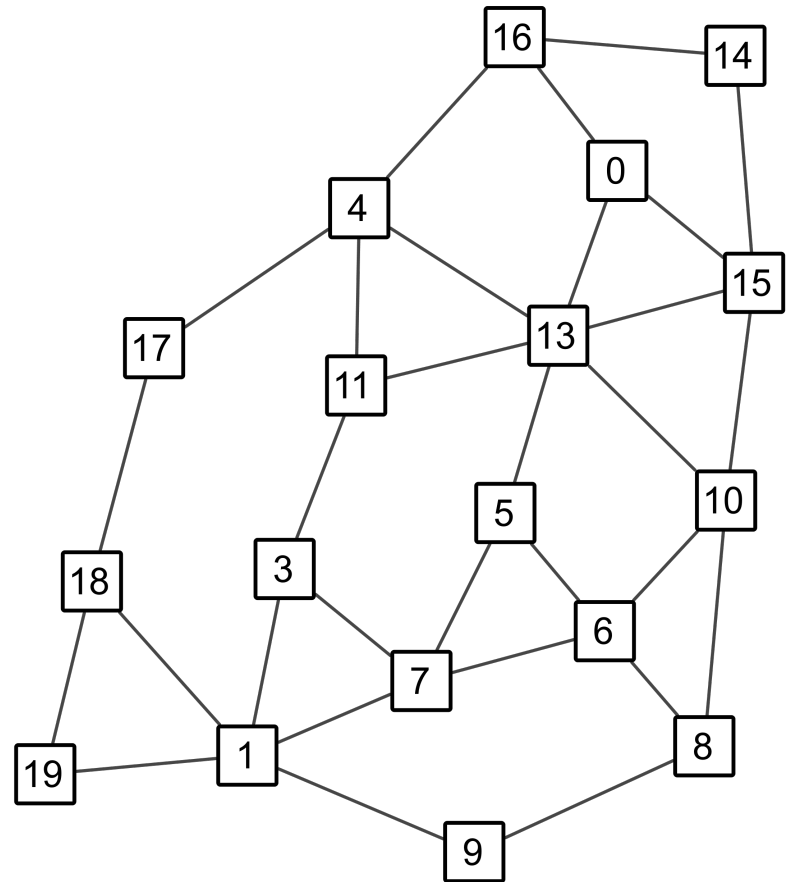
Communication Graph

- No payload data needed
- Network operator's view
- Aggregated NetFlow data



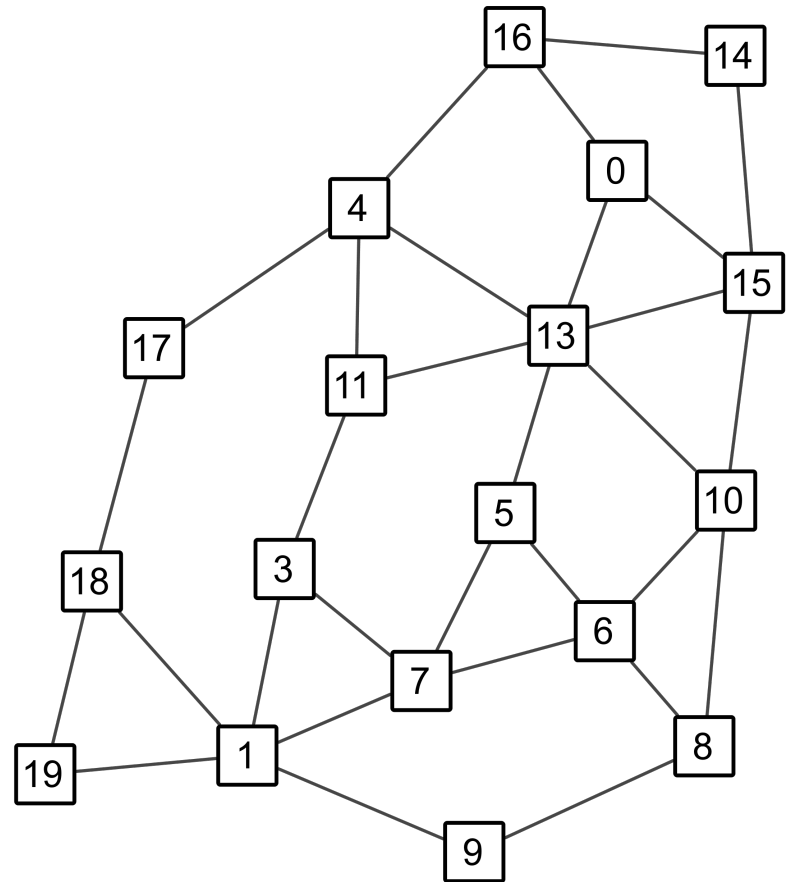
Communication Graph

- No payload data needed
- Network operator's view
- Aggregated NetFlow data
- Idea: extract well-connected subgraph

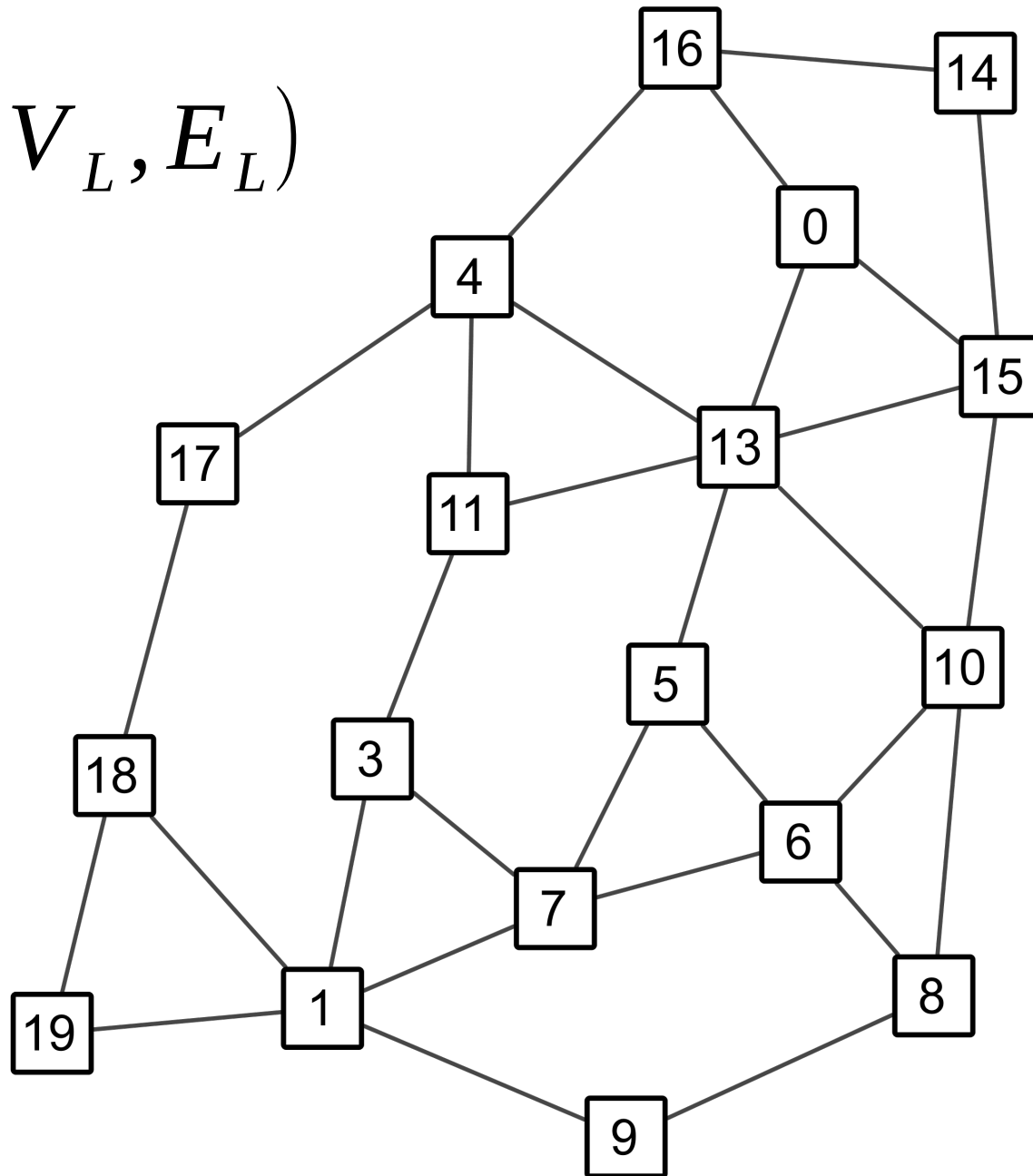


Communication Graph

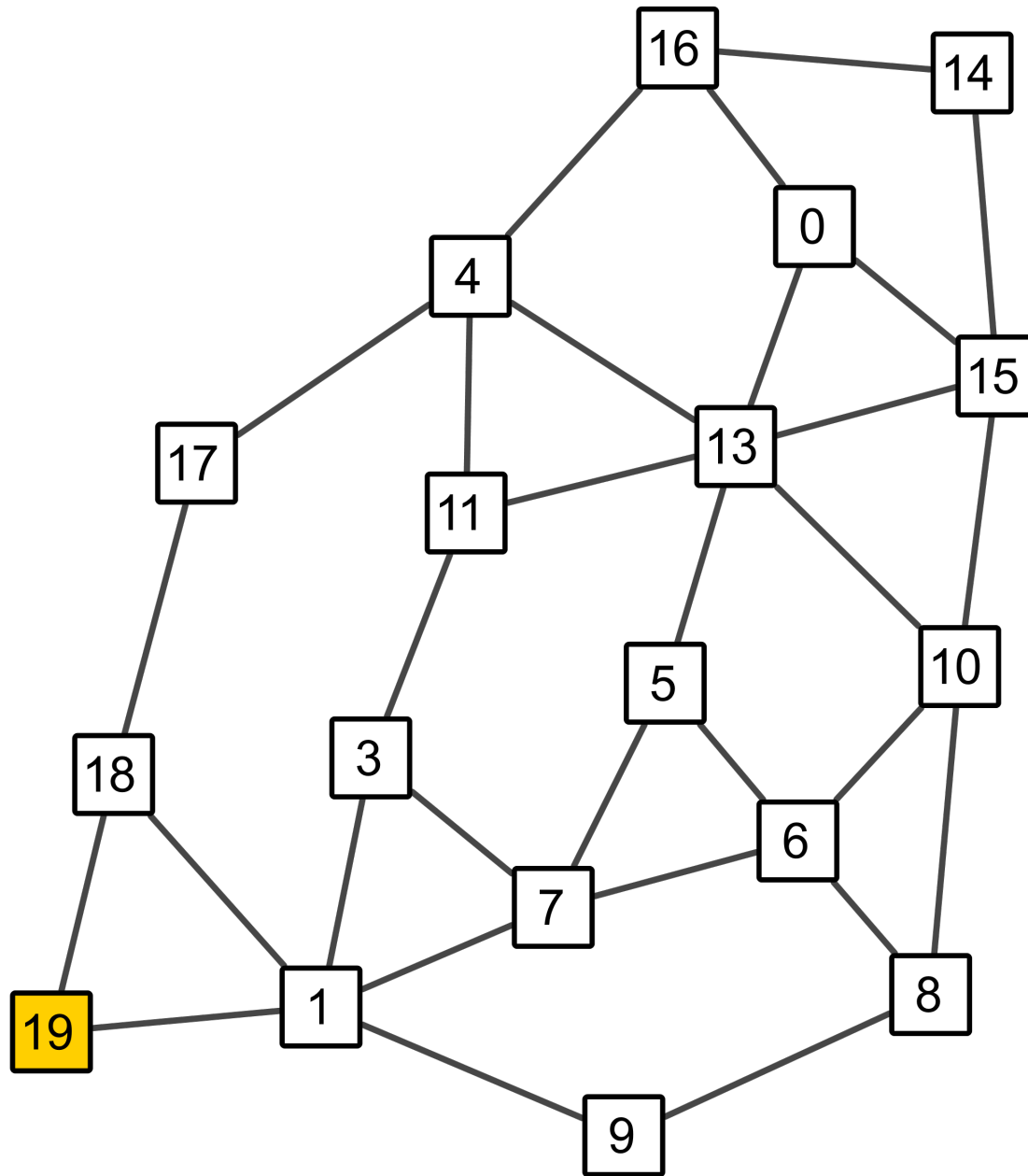
- No payload data needed
- Network operator's view
- Aggregated NetFlow data
- Idea: extract well-connected subgraph
- Approach: Random Walks



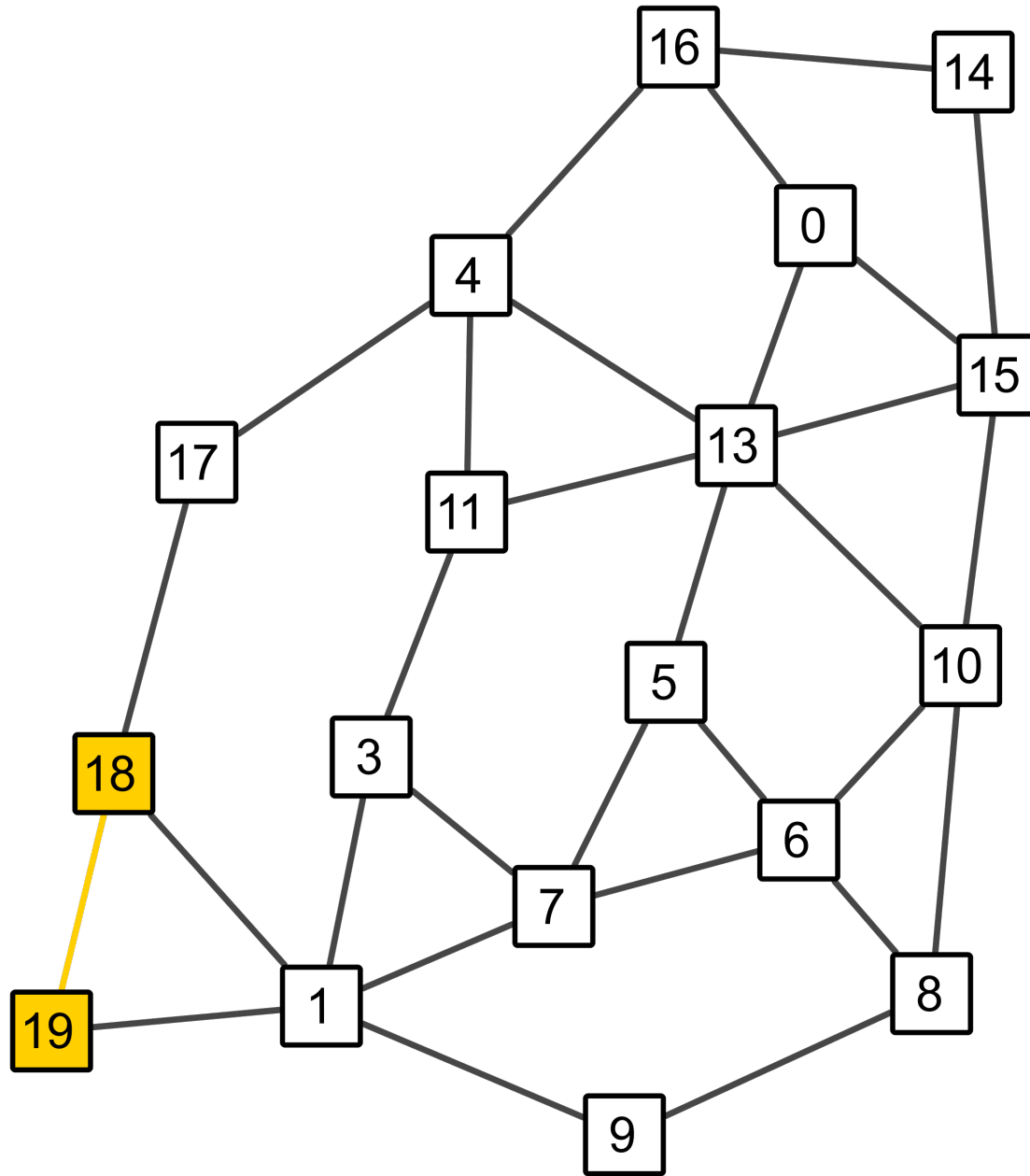
$$G_L = (V_L, E_L)$$



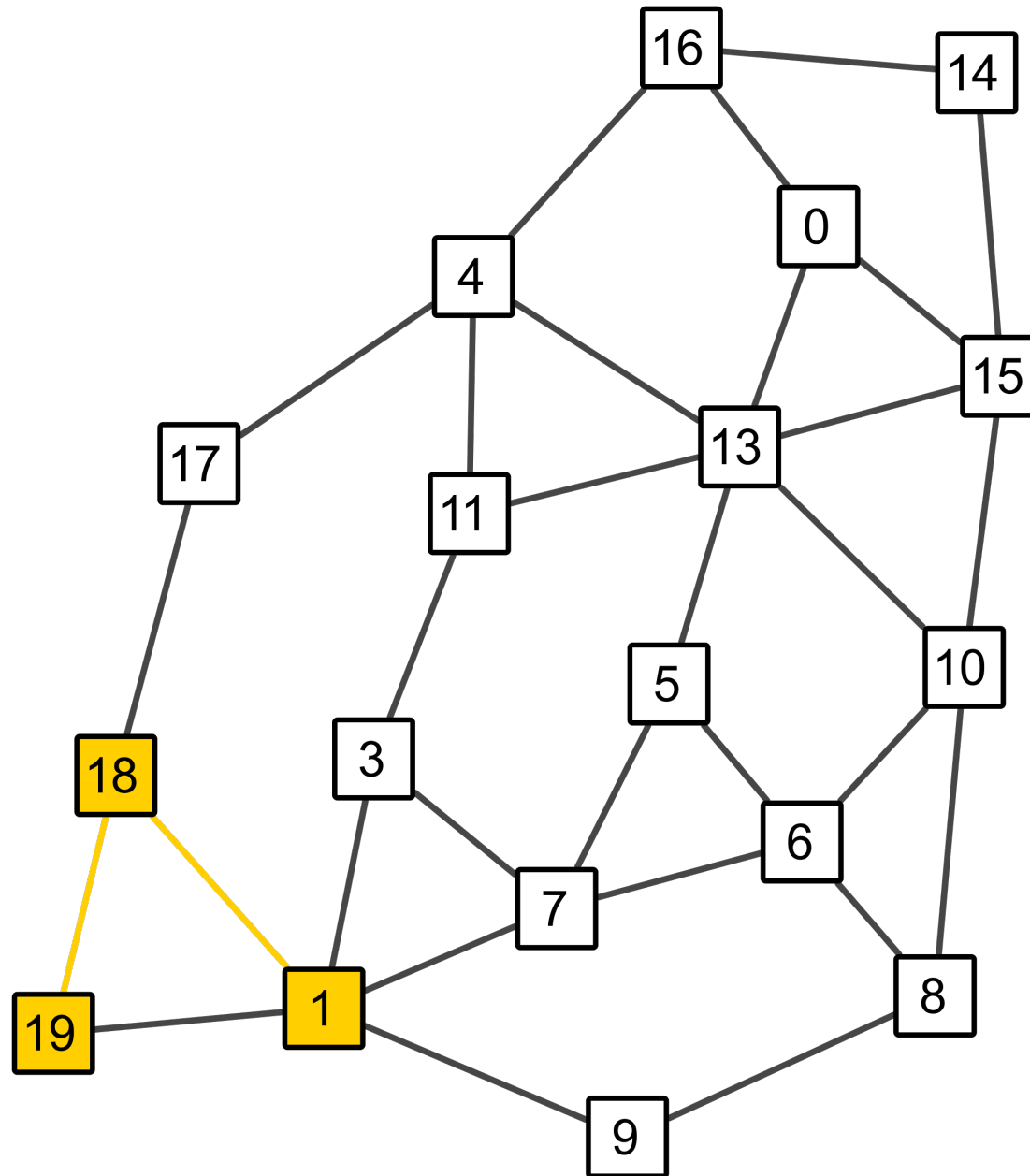
$k=0$



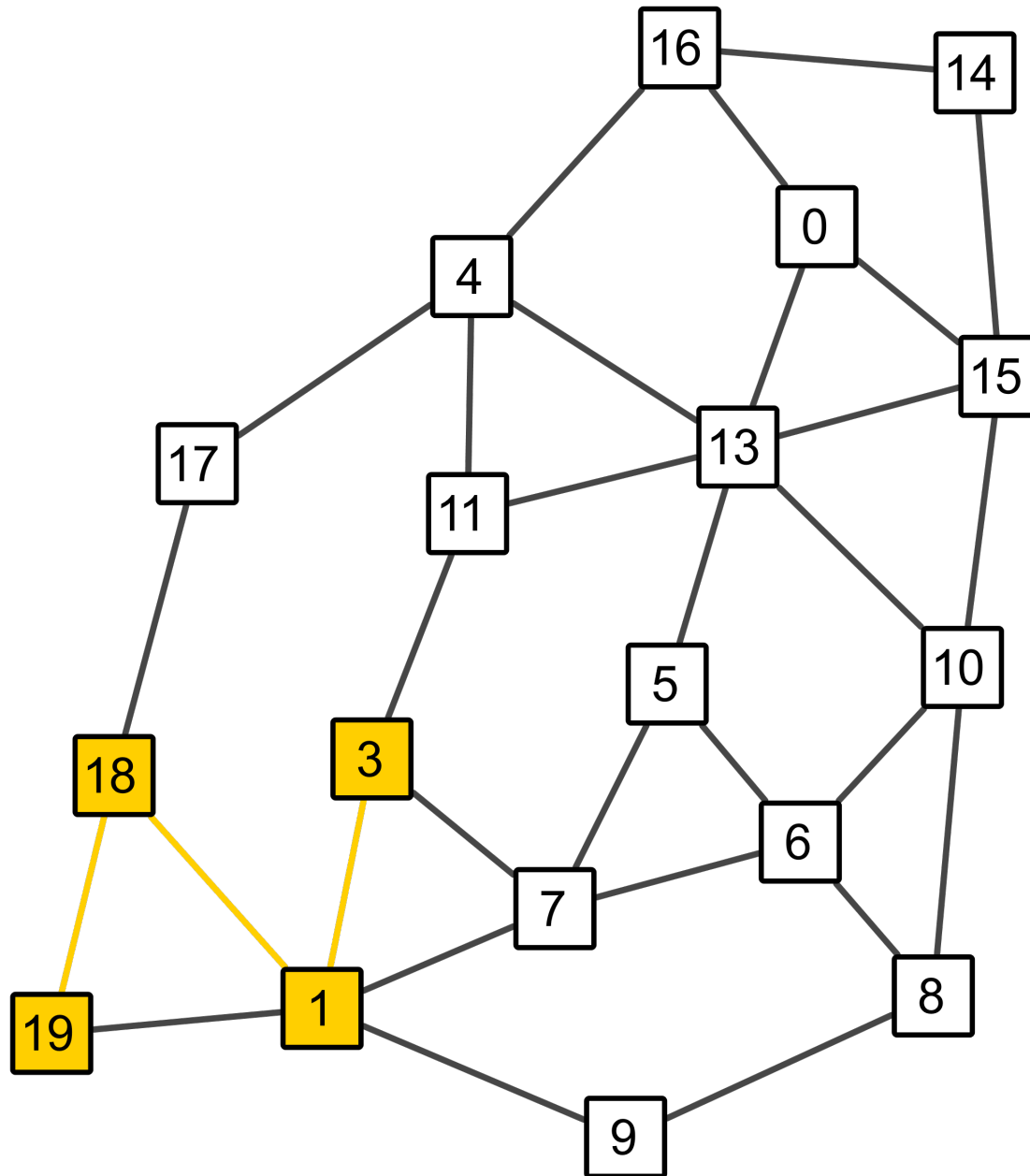
$k=1$



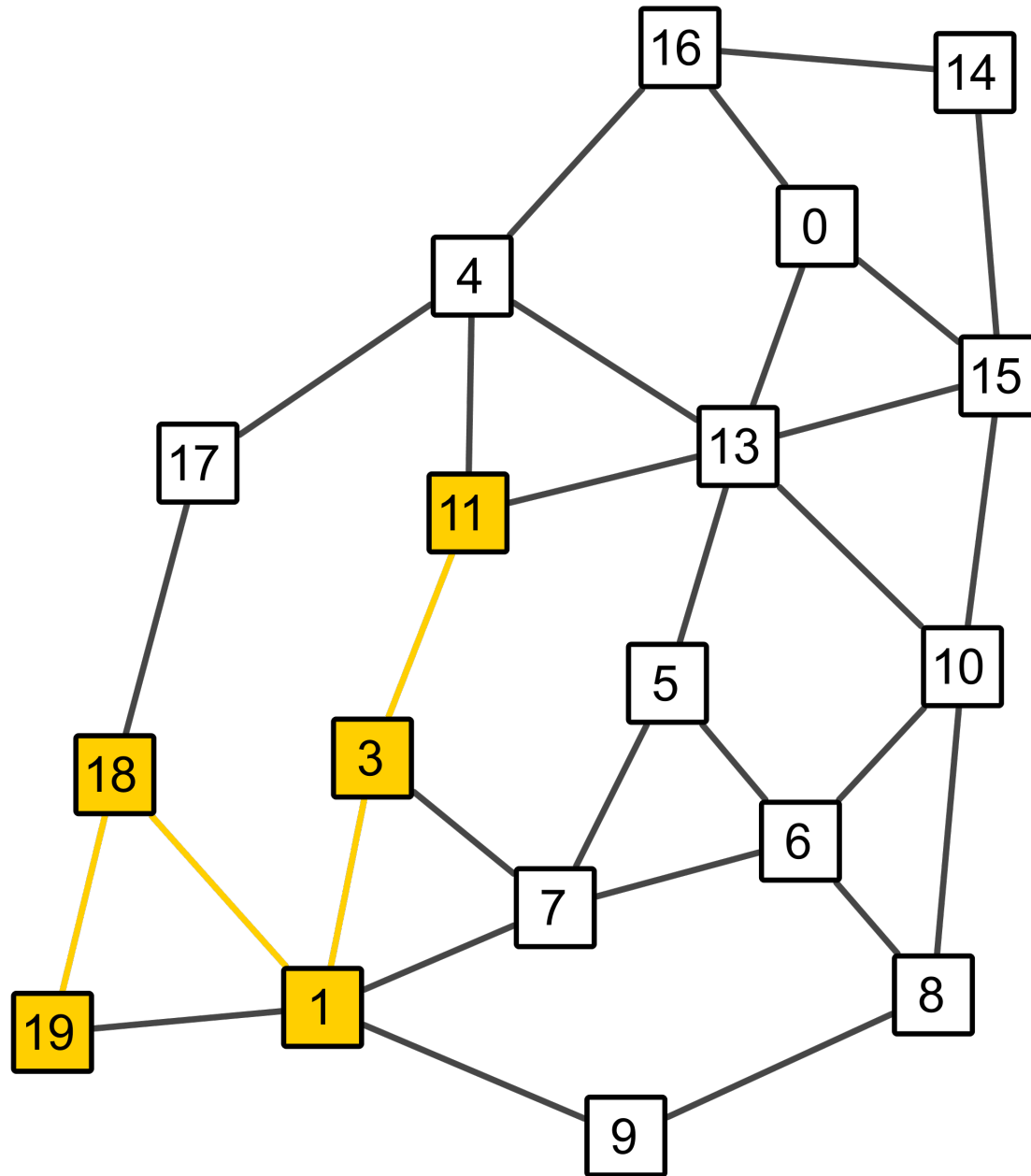
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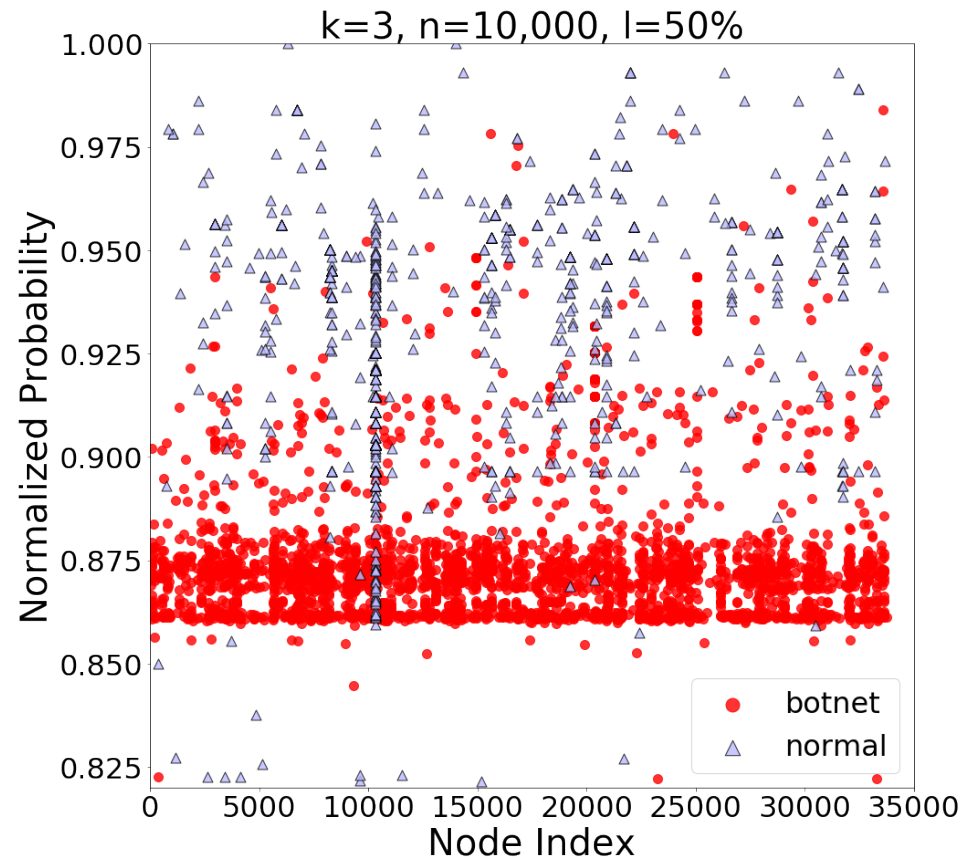
$k=3$



$k=4$

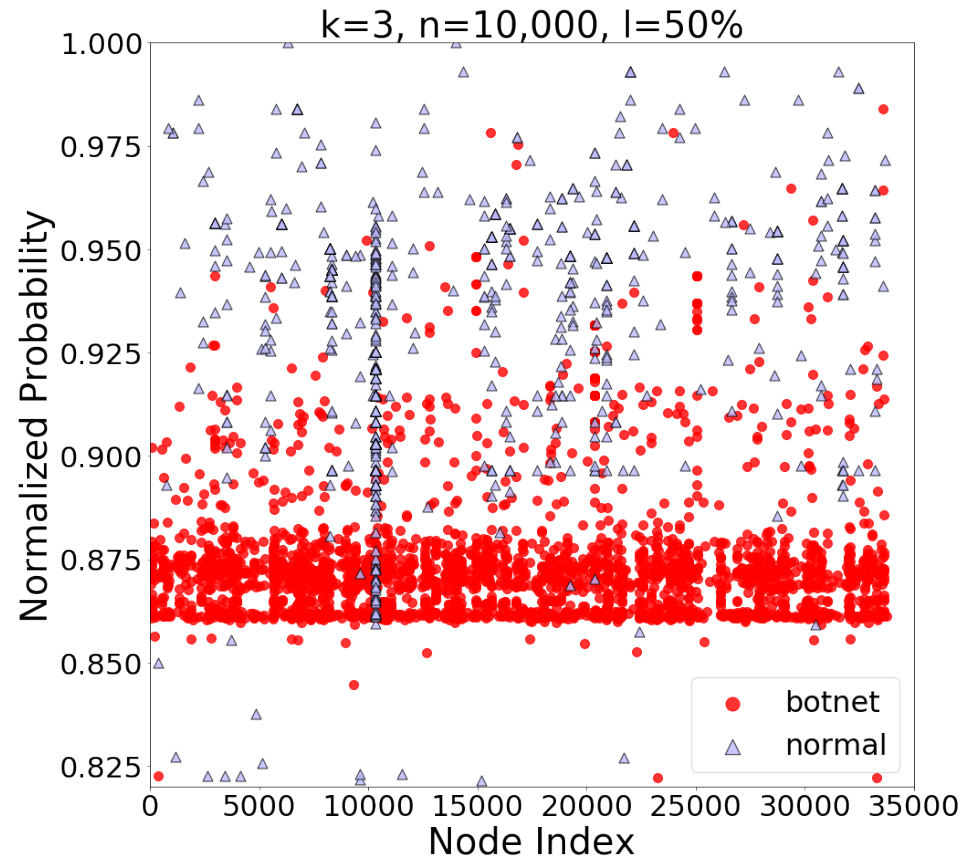


Probability Distribution



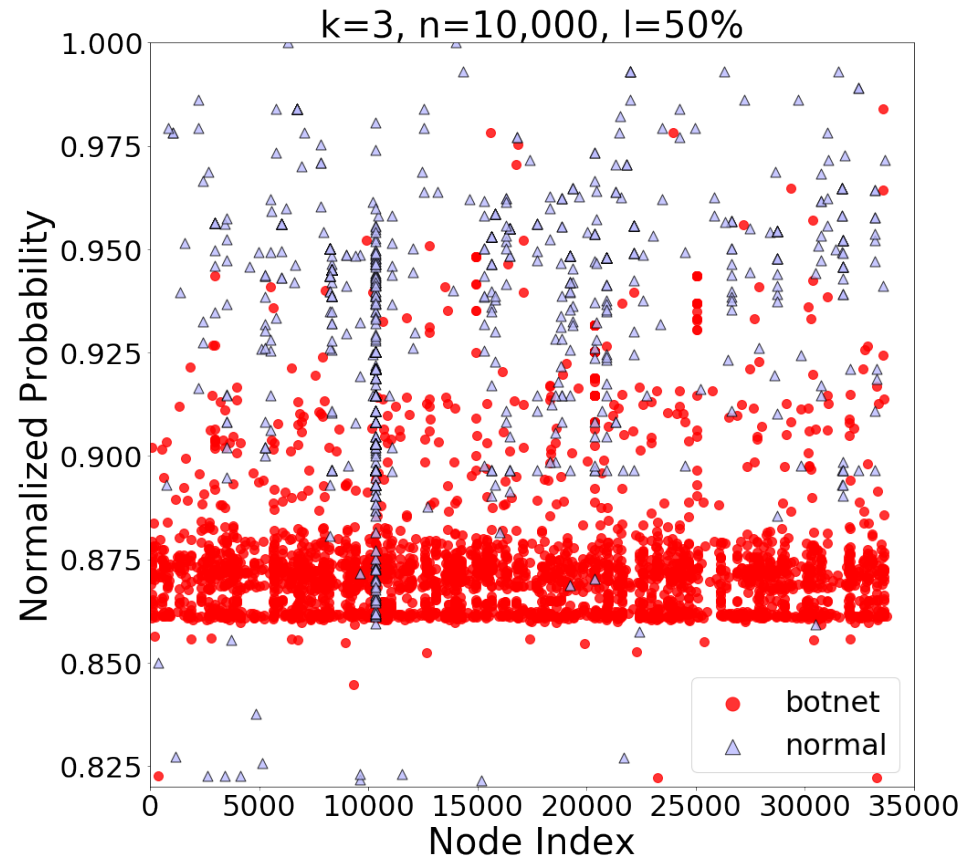
Probability Distribution

- $n=10,000$ walks



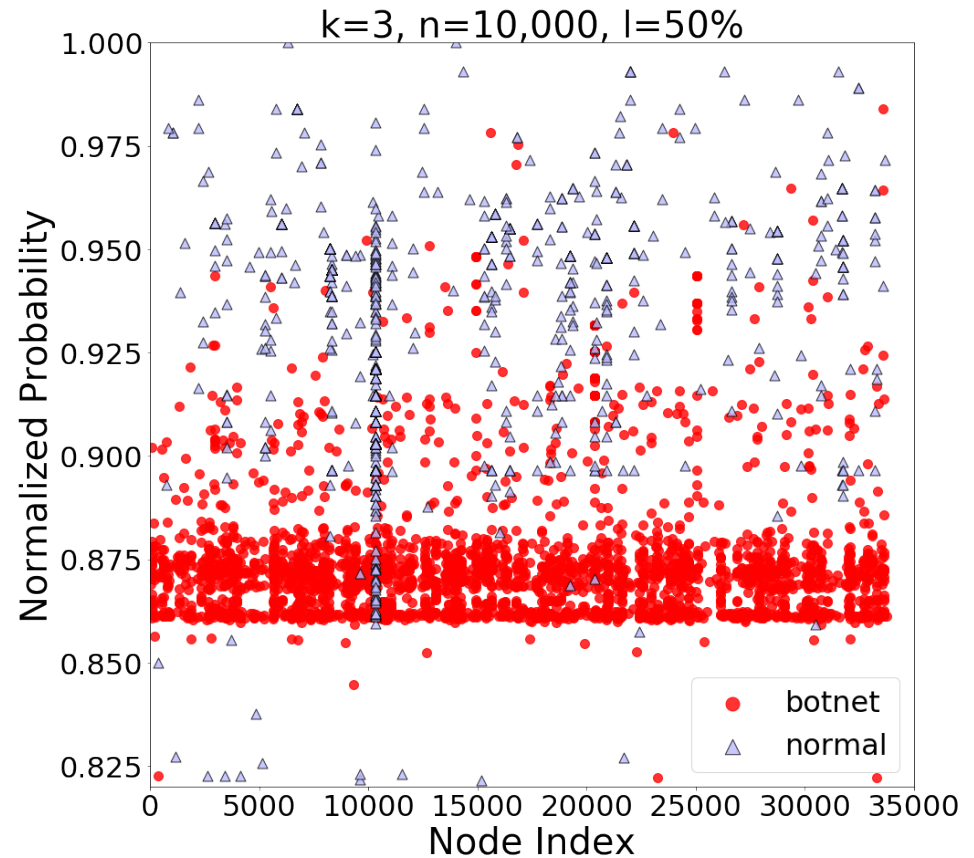
Probability Distribution

- $n=10,000$ walks
- Of length $k=3$



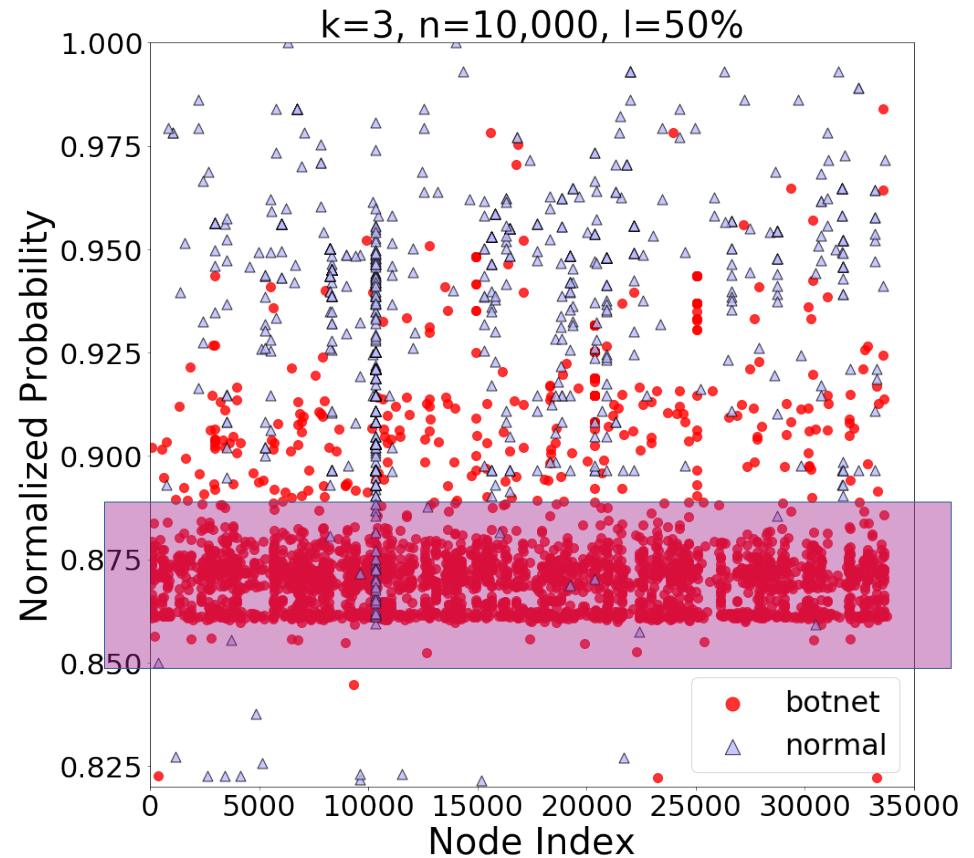
Probability Distribution

- $n=10,000$ walks
- Of length $k=3$
- With loss $l=0.5$

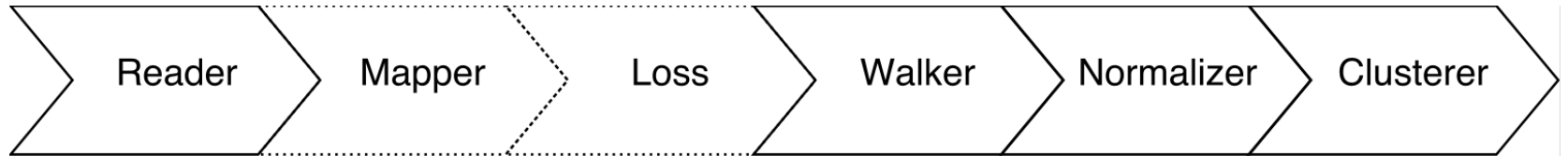


Probability Distribution

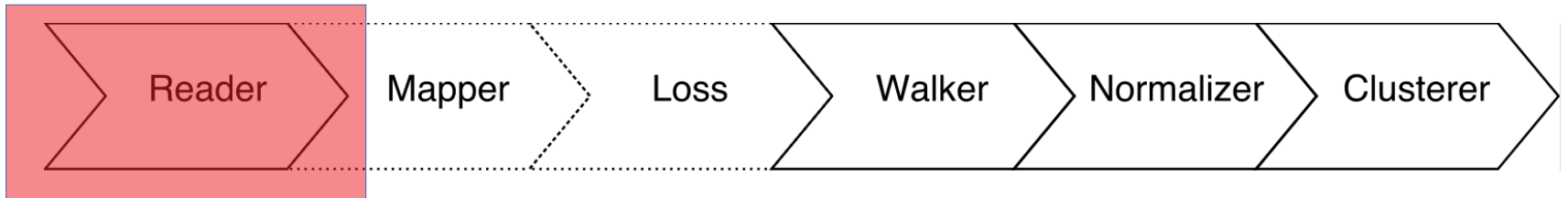
- $n=10,000$ walks
- Of length $k=3$
- With loss $l=0.5$
- Fast-mixing artifact



The Analysis Pipeline

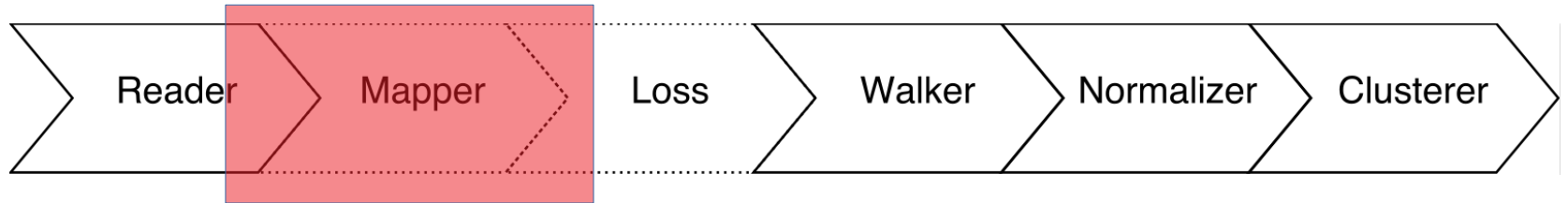


The Analysis Pipeline



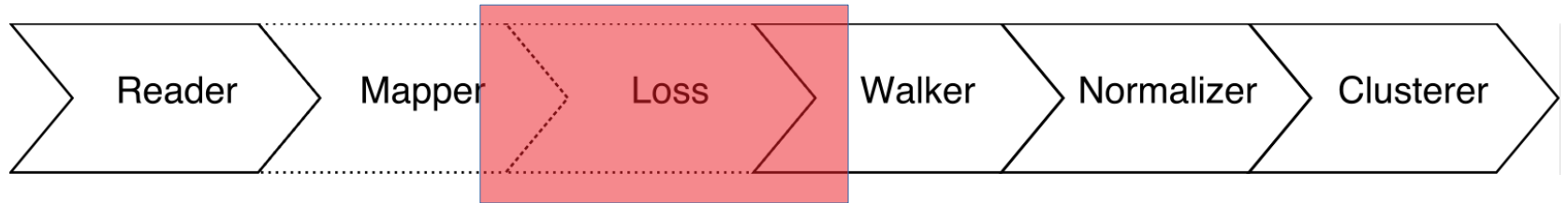
- Aggregate NetFlow data (Python 3.6, networkx)

The Analysis Pipeline



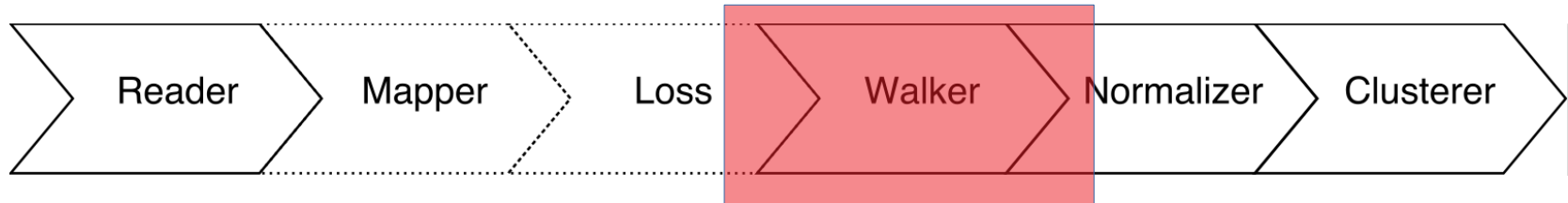
- Aggregate NetFlow data (Python 3.6, networkx)
- Evaluation steps:
 - Botnet node mapping

The Analysis Pipeline



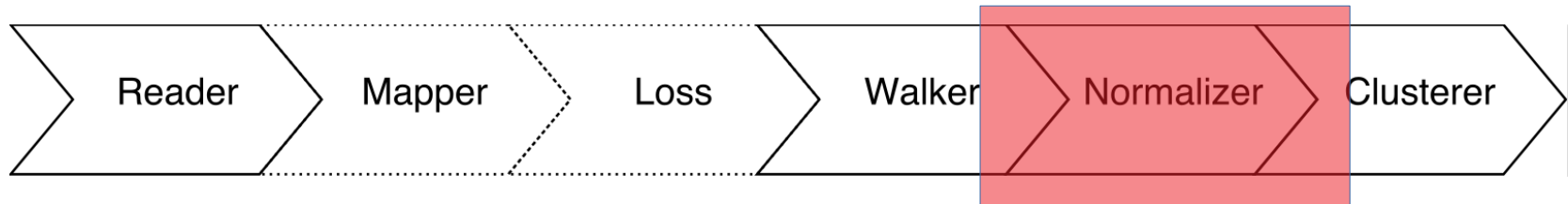
- Aggregate NetFlow data (Python 3.6, networkx)
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 - Apply loss functions

The Analysis Pipeline



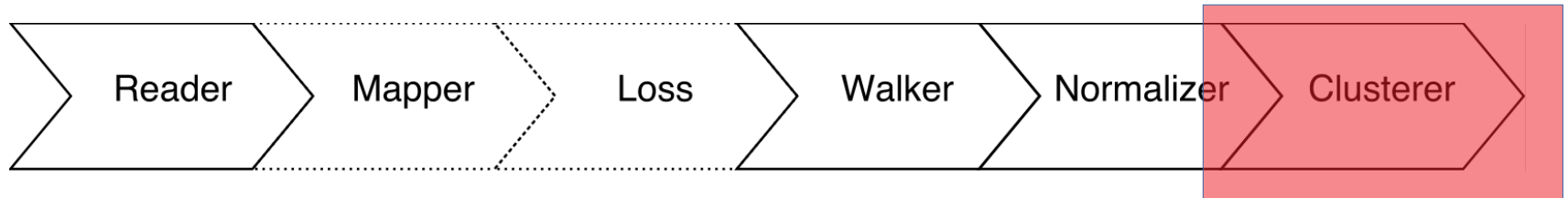
- Aggregate NetFlow data (Python 3.6, networkx)
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The Analysis Pipeline



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The Analysis Pipeline



- Aggregate NetFlow data (Python 3.6, networkx)
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- Execute random walks (numpy)
- Normalize resulting probability distribution
- Cluster walk destinations (DBSCAN)

The Test Dataset

	Carrier Graphs		Botnet Graphs	
	TW07	CTU11	ZA24	SA25
Network Diameter	7	12	5	5
Number of Nodes	66 408	38 130	4805	1422
Average Node Degree	2.103	2.062	187.415	416.769
Number of Edges	139 628	78 626	734 010	592 646
Average Path Length	3.959	2.808	2.163	1.776
Average Clustering Coefficient	7×10^{-4}	3×10^{-3}	0.327	0.605

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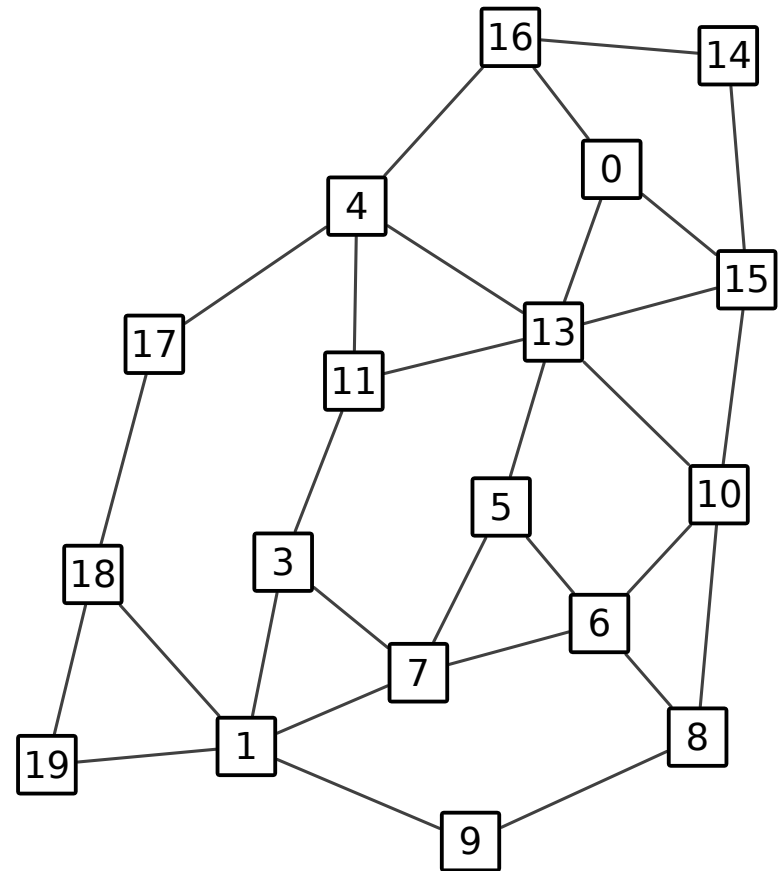
- CTU11 from Czech Technical University

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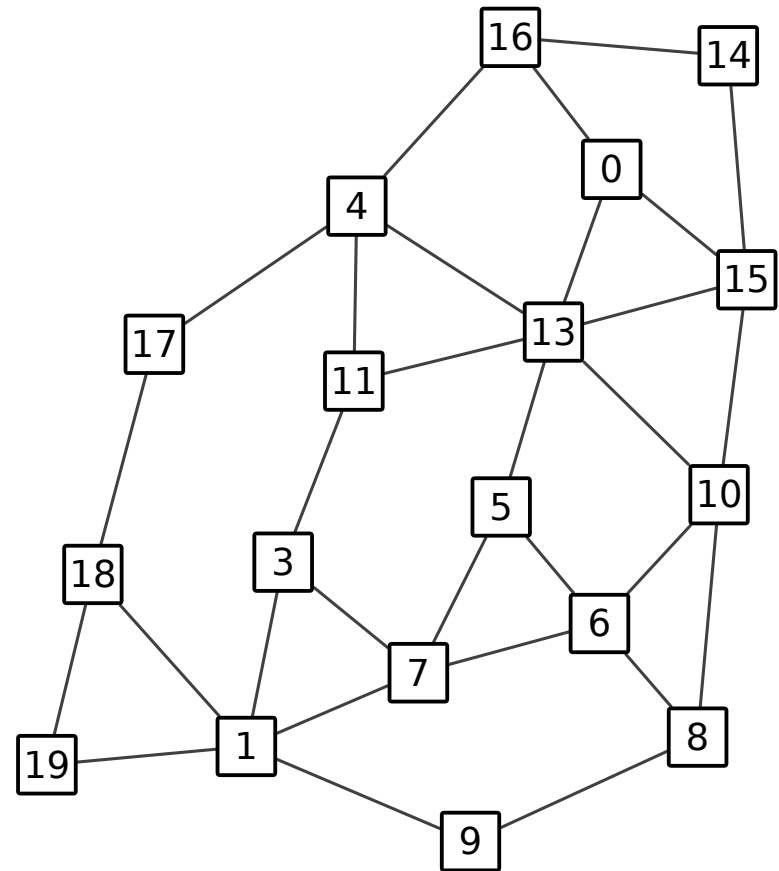
- CTU11 from Czech Technical University
- ZA24 ZeroAccess communication graph

Loss Strategies



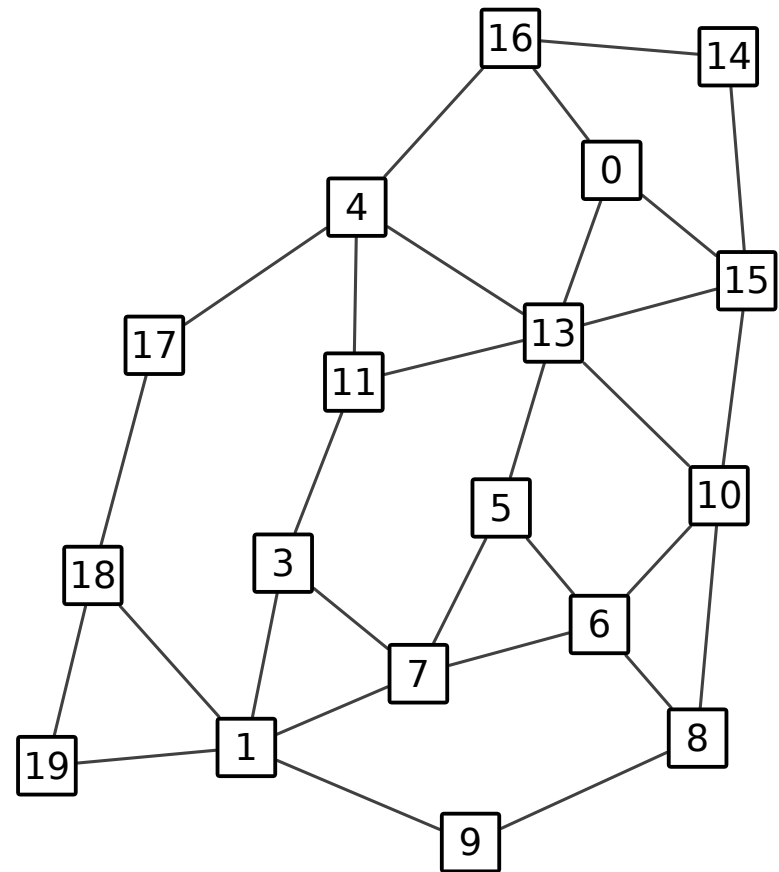
Loss Strategies

- Other approaches do not evaluate limited network view



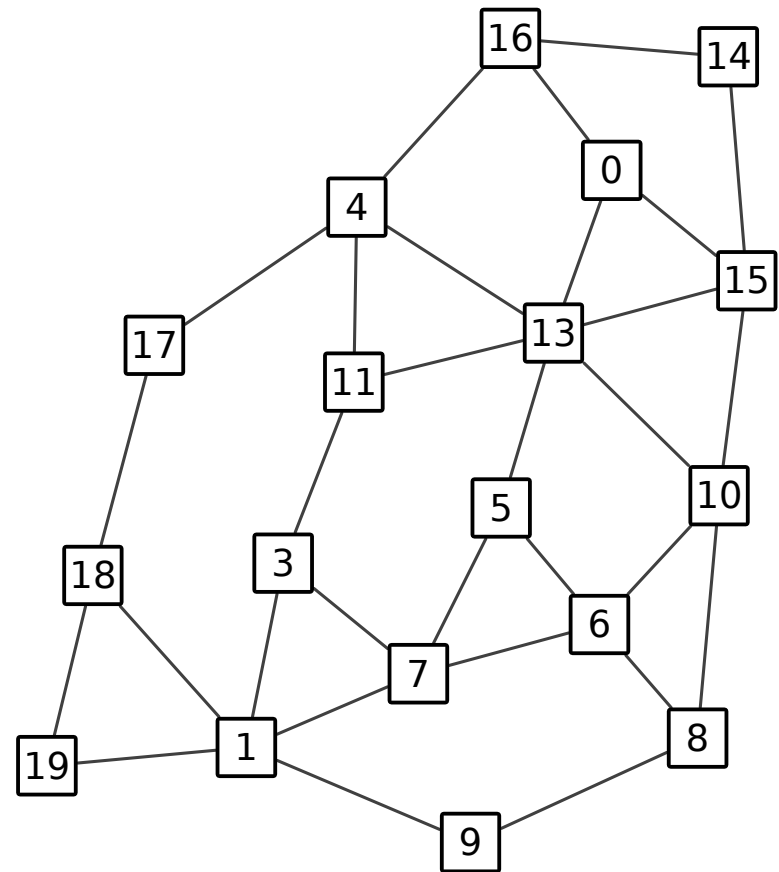
Loss Strategies

- Other approaches do not evaluate limited network view
- Unrealistic assumptions:
 - All communication relationships captured



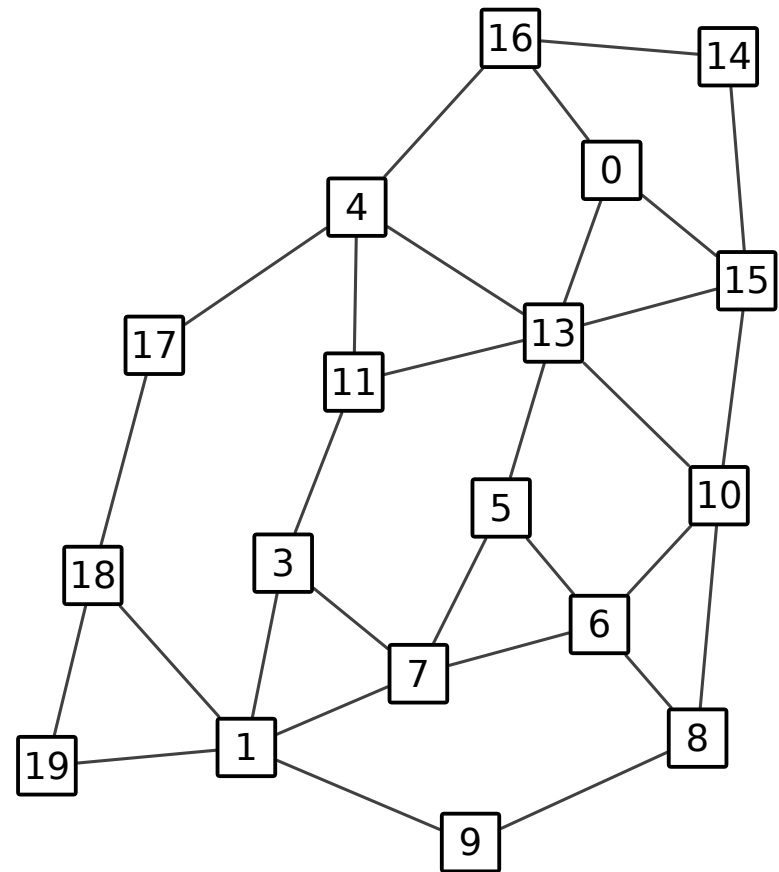
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- Other approaches do not evaluate limited network view
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 - Complete botnet in known network

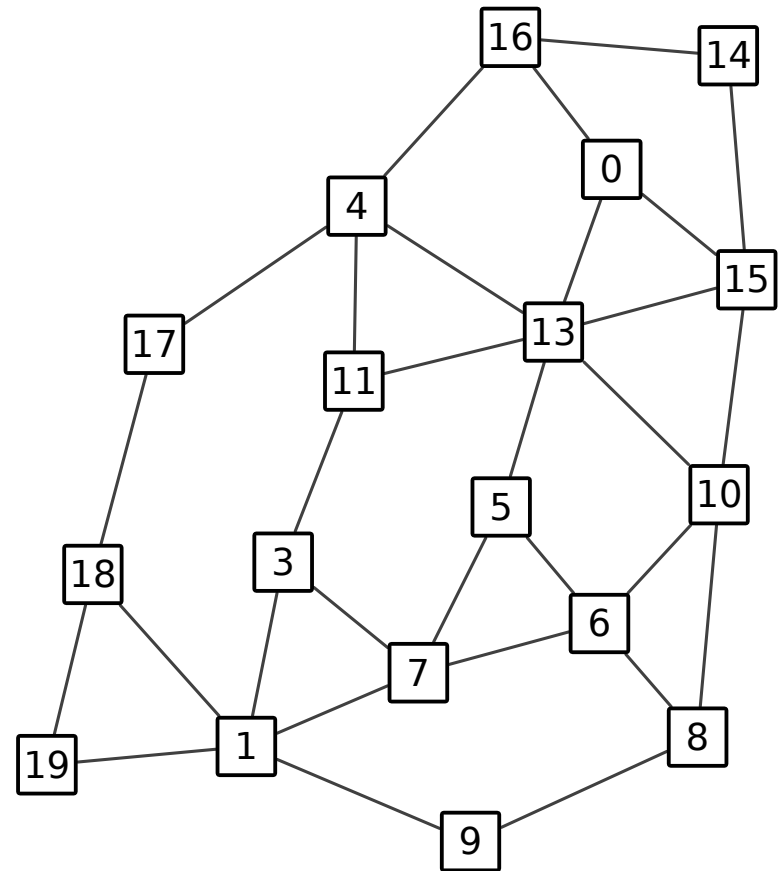


Loss Strategies

- Other approaches do not evaluate limited network view
- Unrealistic assumptions:
 - All communication relationships captured
 - Complete botnet in known network
- Solution: Simulate loss on communication graph

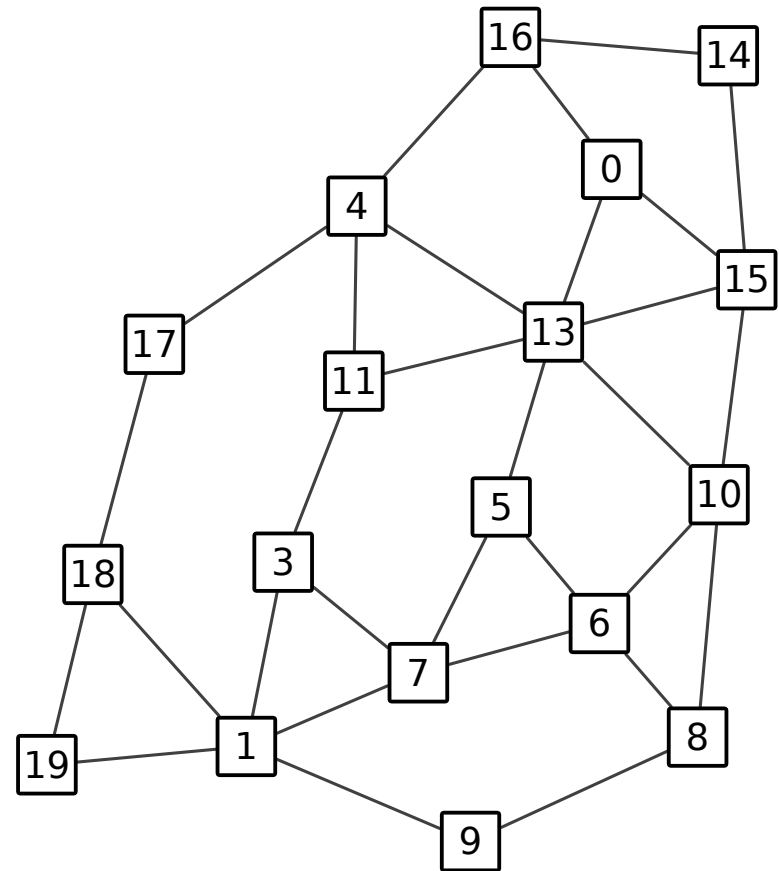


Random Botnet Edge Deletion



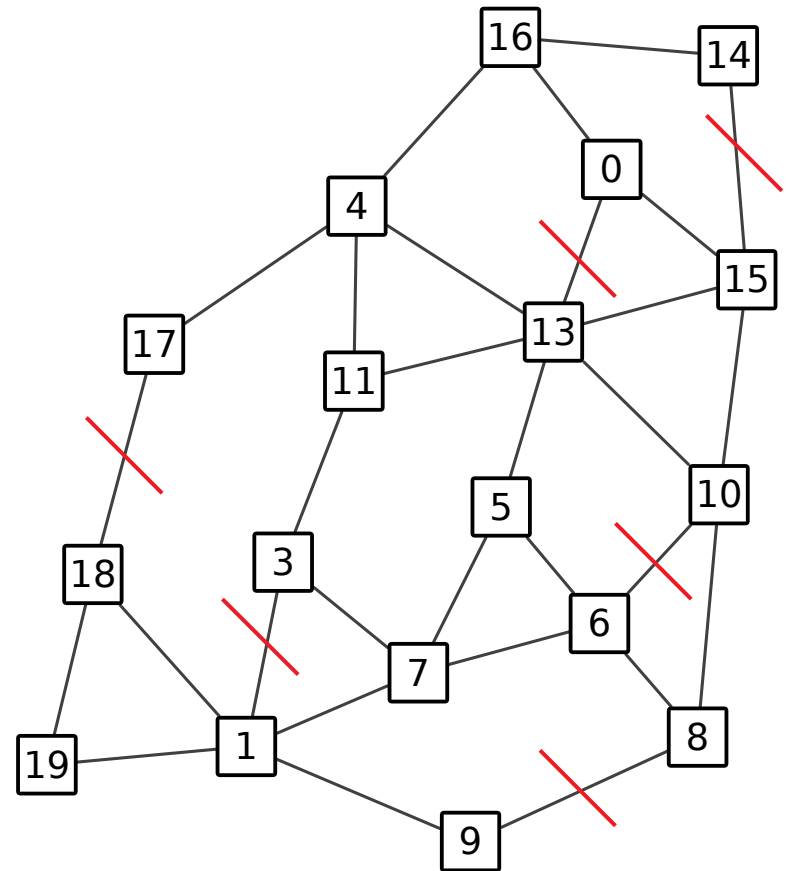
Random Botnet Edge Deletion

- Random subset of botnet edges



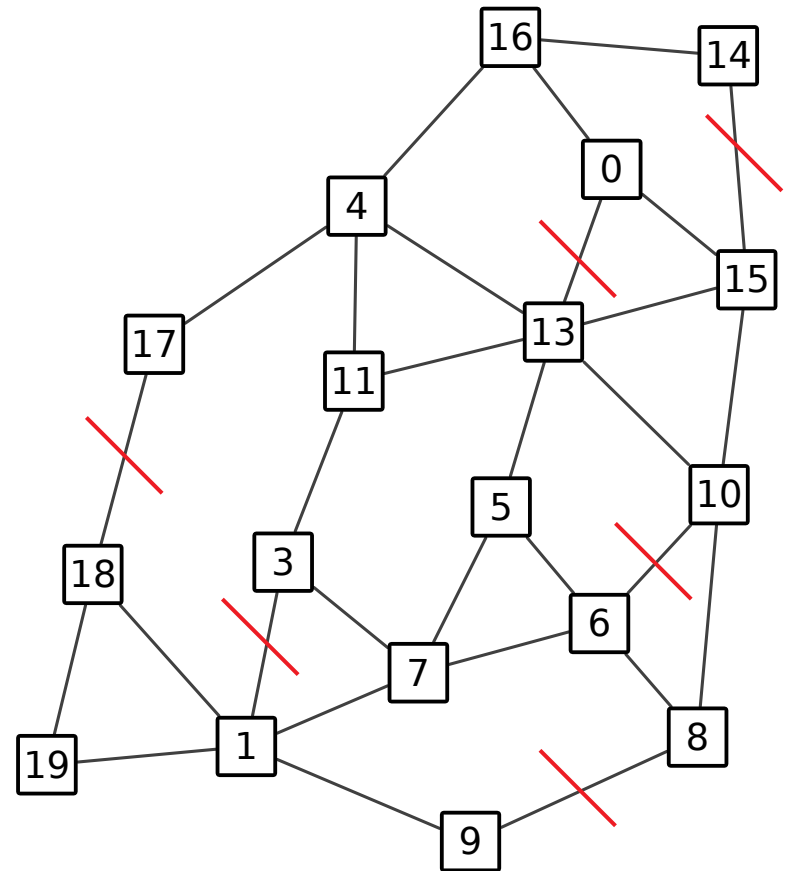
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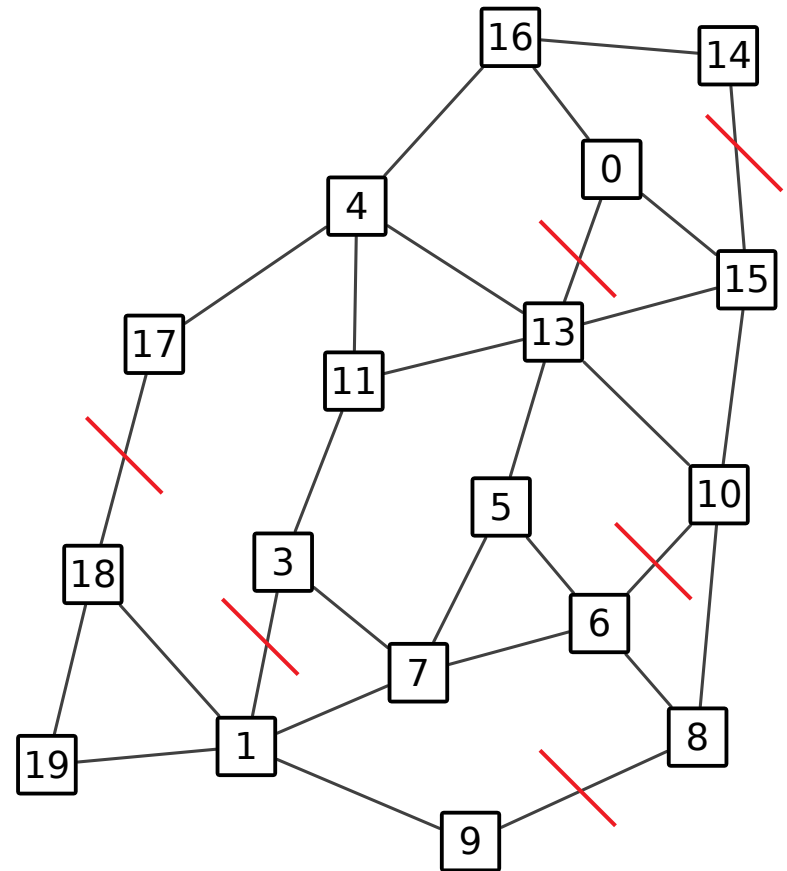
Random Botnet Edge Deletion

- Random subset of botnet edges
- Out-of-view connections



Random Botnet Edge Deletion

- Random subset of botnet edges
- Out-of-view connections
- ISP-related loss (e.g. 1:256 sampling)



RBED Robustness

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- Random Botnet Edge Deletion

RBED Robustness

- Random Botnet Edge Deletion

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{tp}{tp + fp}$$

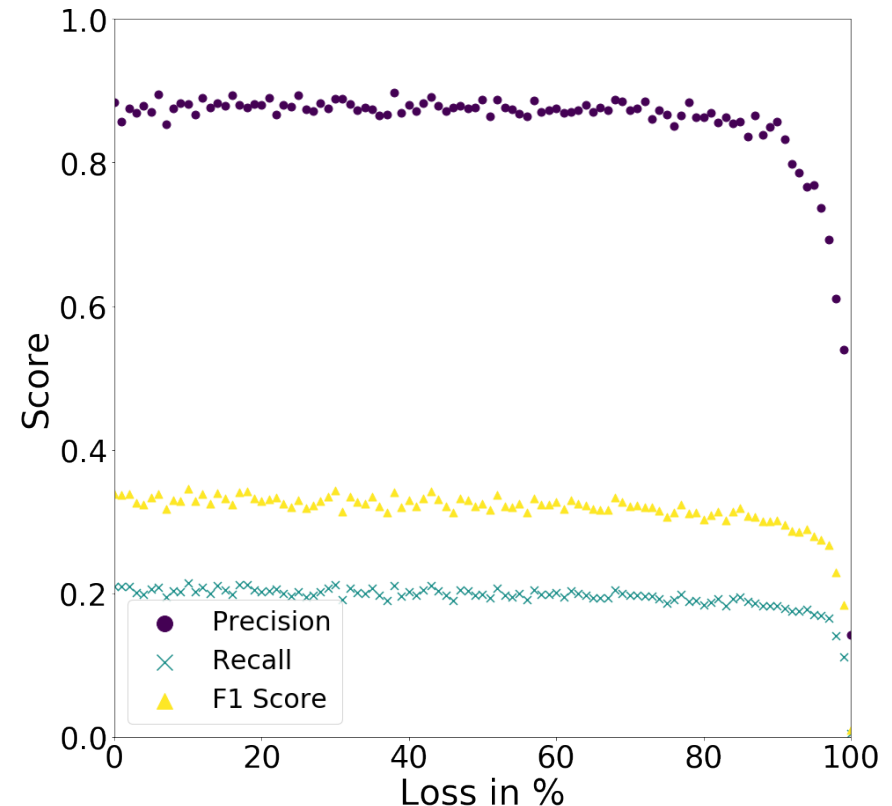
$$\text{Recall} = \frac{tp}{tp + fn}$$

RBED Robustness

- Random Botnet Edge Deletion

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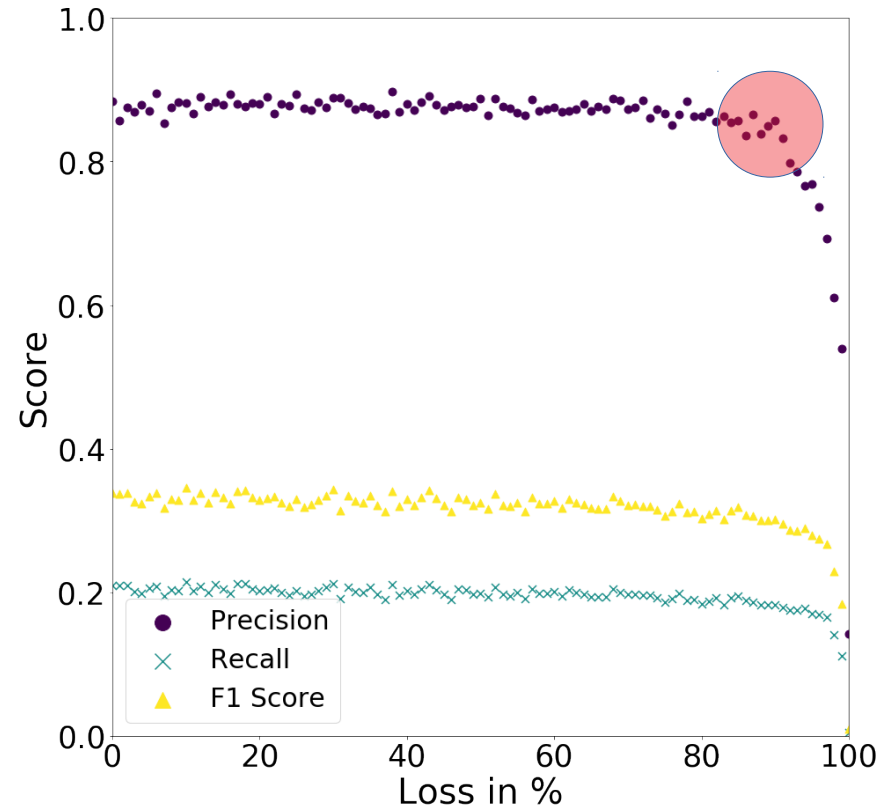


RBED Robustness

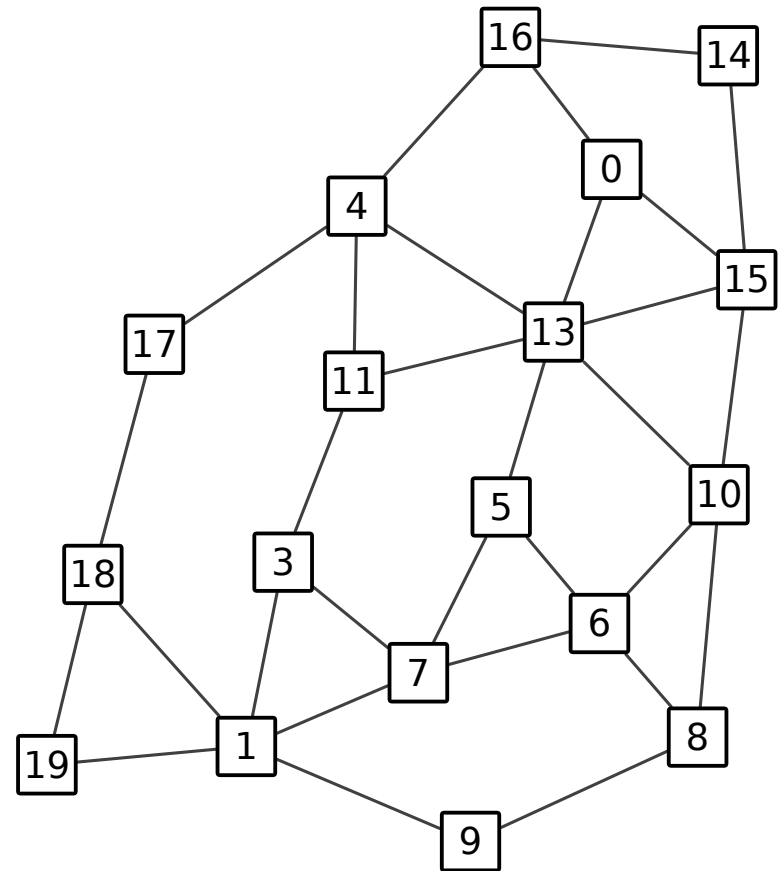
- Random Botnet Edge Deletion
- 90% loss – 83% precision

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{tp}{tp + fp}$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{tp}{tp + fn}$$

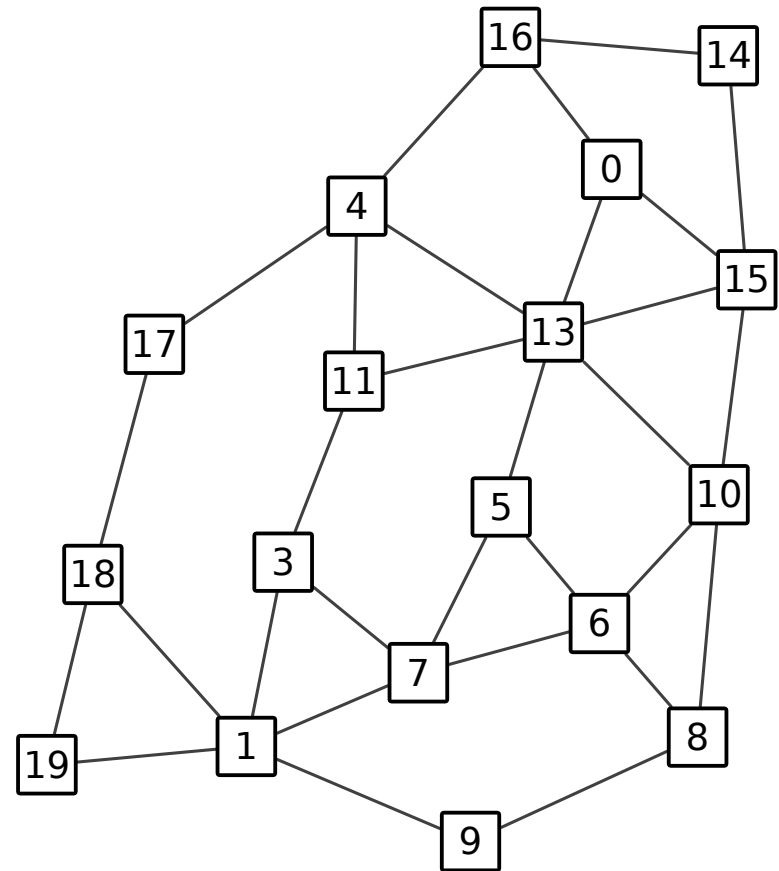


Host-based Visibility



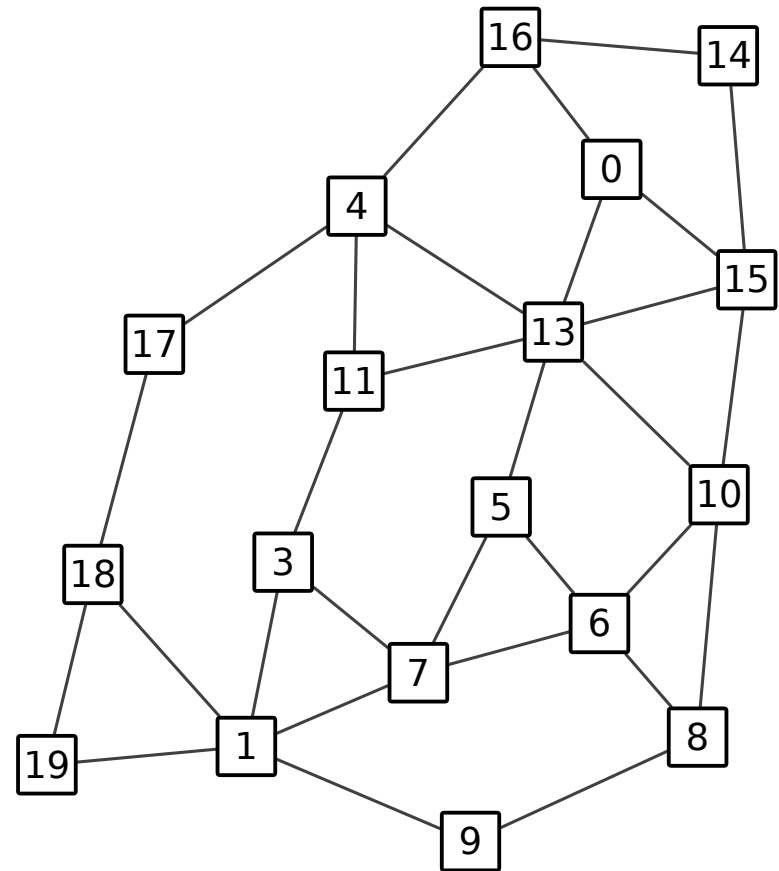
Host-based Visibility

- Sensor deployment



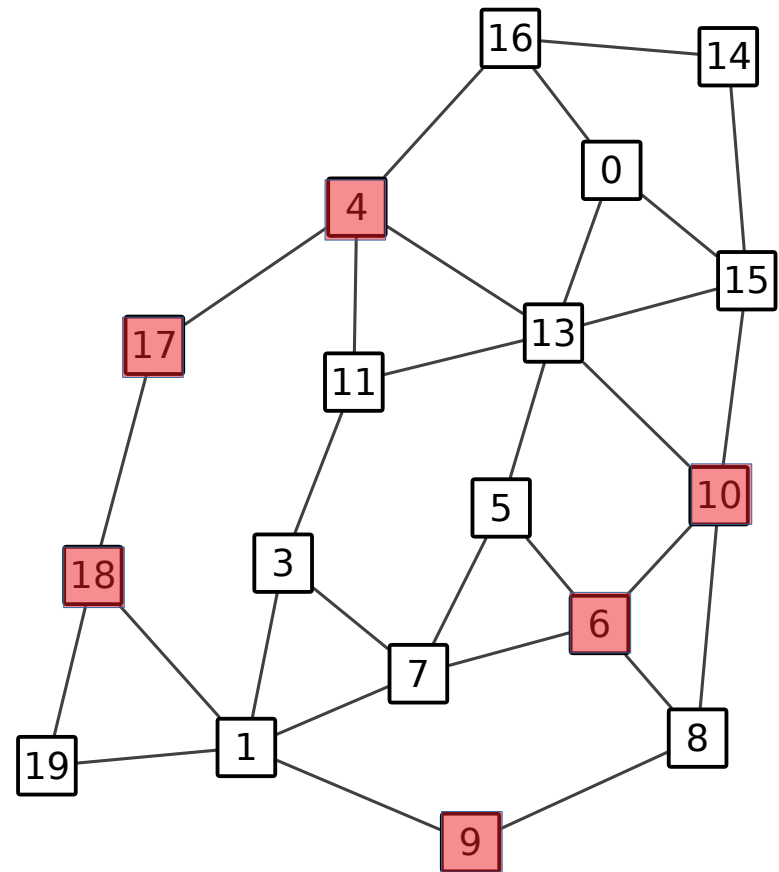
Host-based Visibility

- Sensor deployment
- Randomly chosen



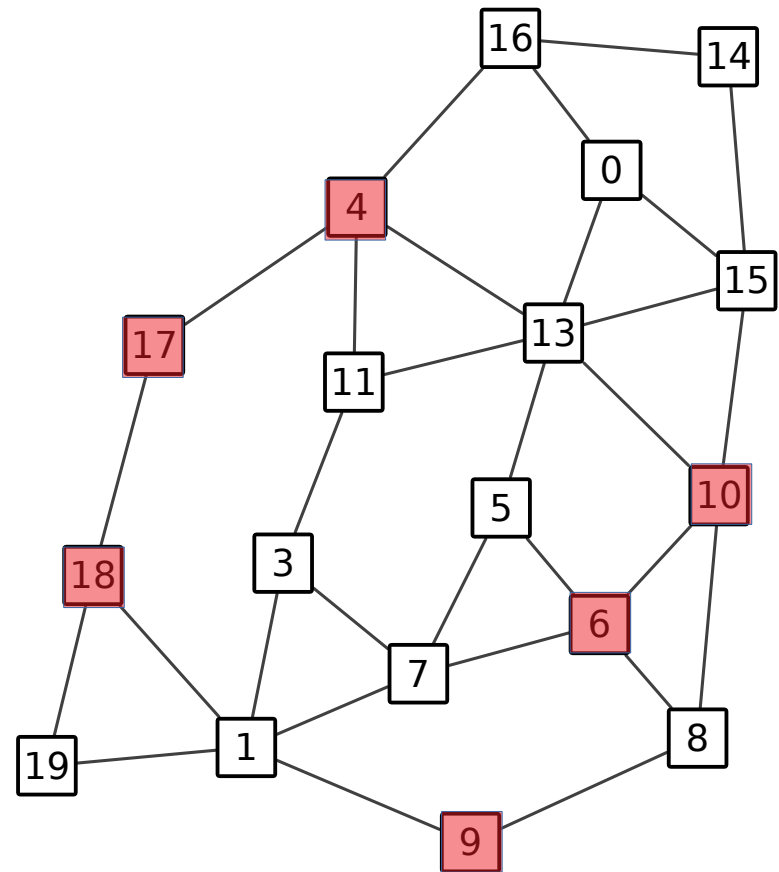
Host-based Visibility

- Sensor deployment
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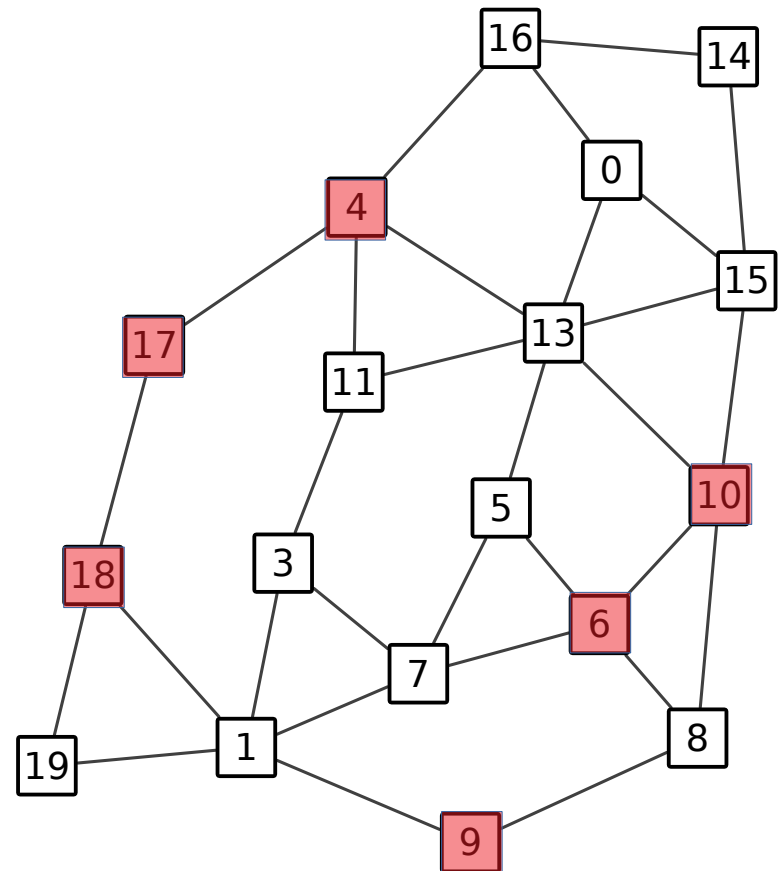
Host-based Visibility

- Sensor deployment
- Randomly chosen
- No communication between unmonitored hosts



Host-based Visibility

- Sensor deployment
- Randomly chosen
- No communication between unmonitored hosts
- Honeypot scenario

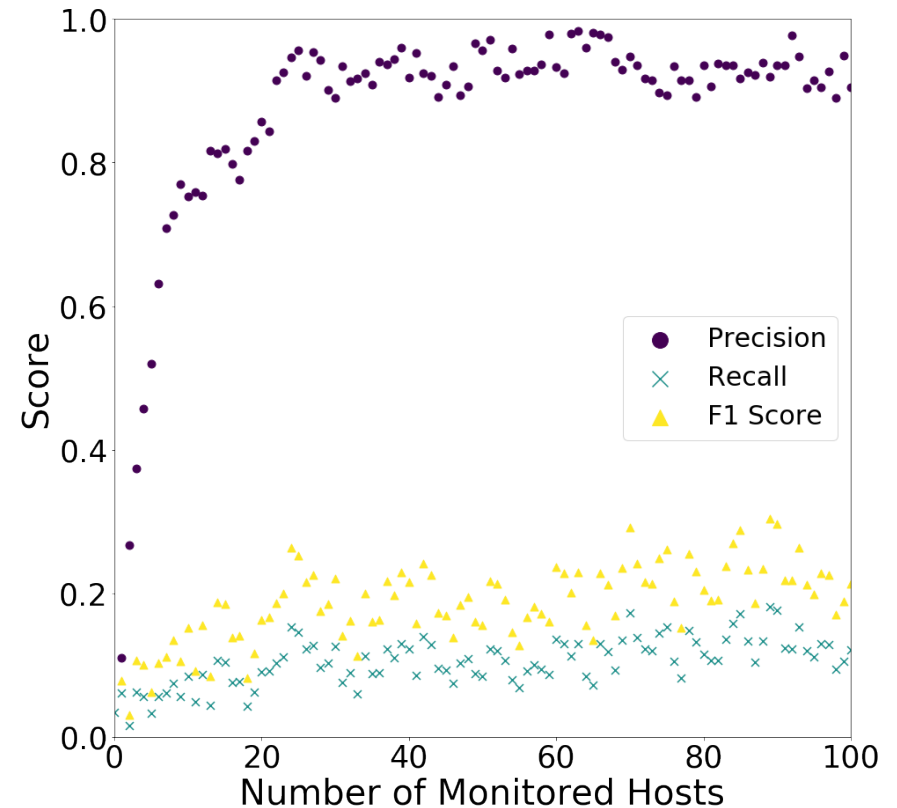


Sensor-Network Robustness

- Sensor deployment

Sensor-Network Robustness

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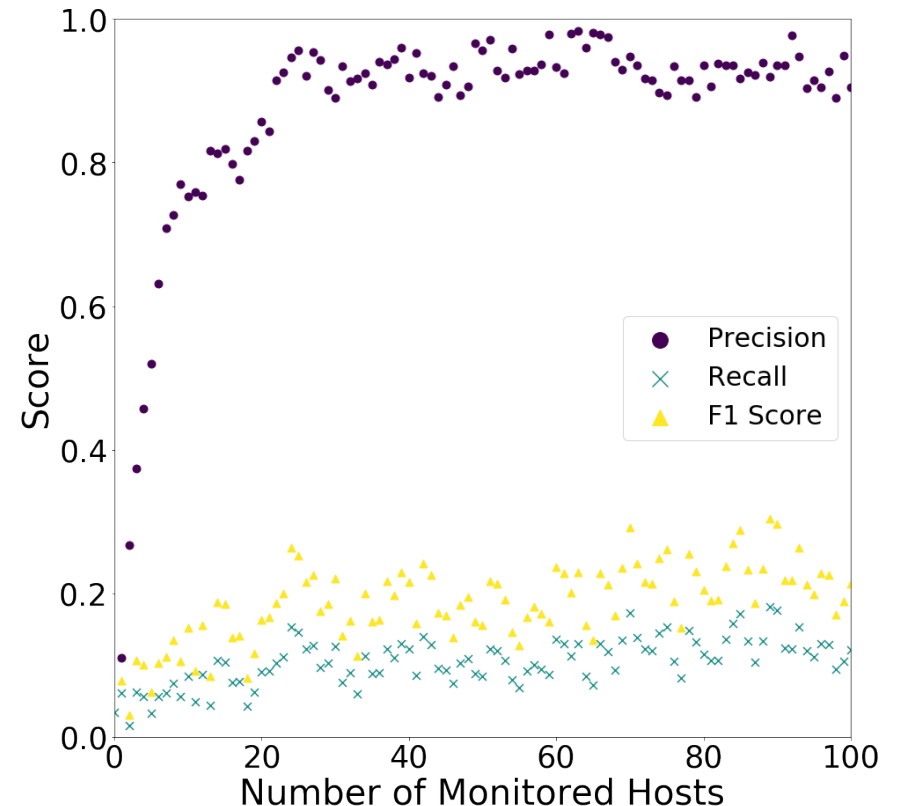


Sensor-Network Robustness

- Sensor deployment

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{tp}{tp + fp}$$

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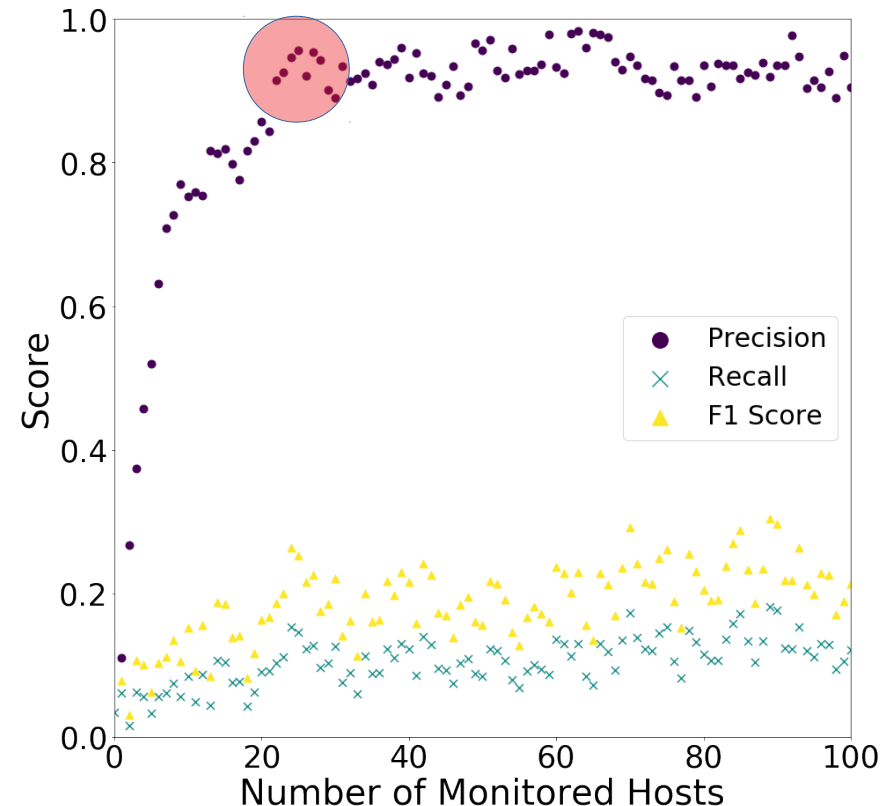


Sensor-Network Robustness

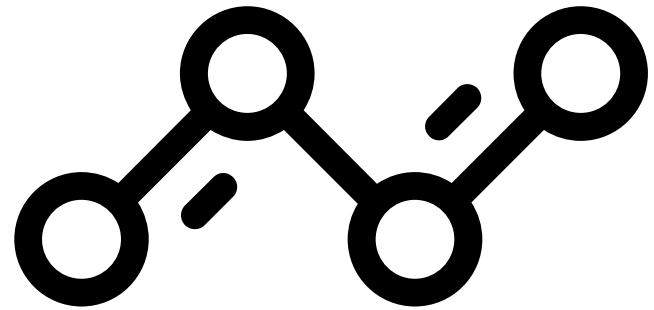
- Sensor deployment
- 25 sensors – 90% precision

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{tp}{tp + fp}$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{tp}{tp + fn}$$



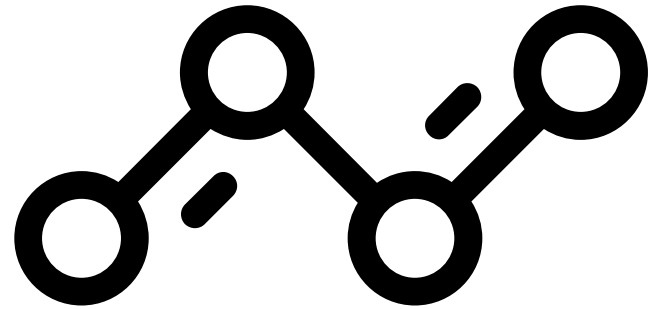
Conclusion



[7]

Conclusion

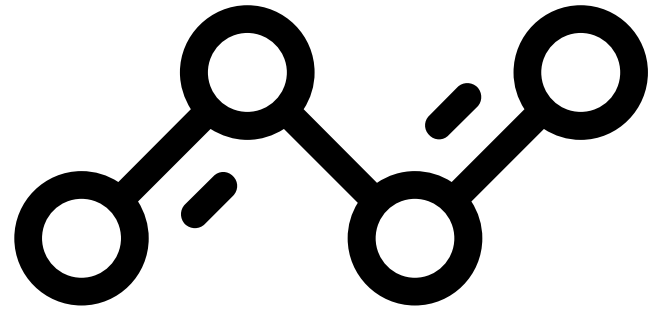
- Structured and unstructured botnets: fast-mixing



[7]

Conclusion

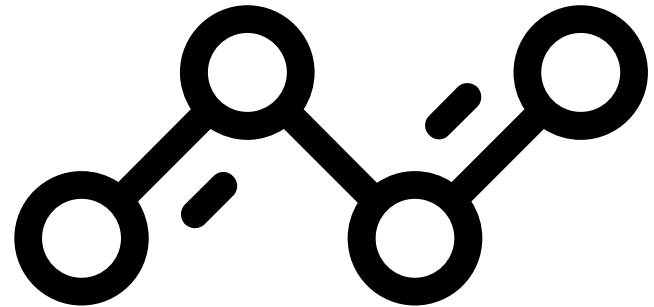
- Structured and unstructured botnets: fast-mixing
- High-precision detection
 - 83% precision



[7]

Conclusion

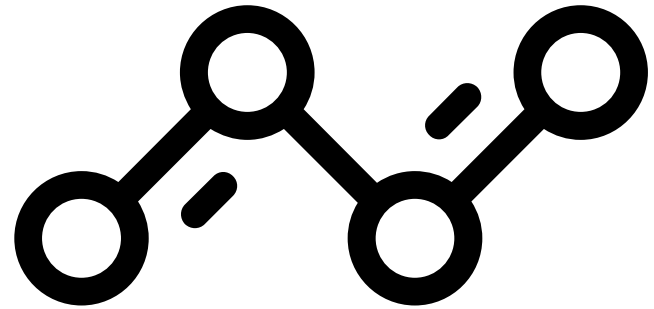
- Structured and unstructured botnets: fast-mixing
- High-precision detection
 - 83% precision
 - With 90% missing edges



[7]

Conclusion

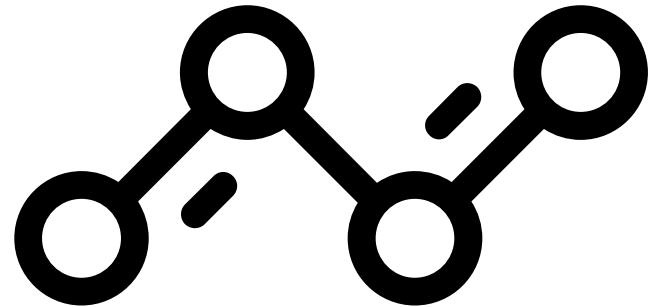
- Structured and unstructured botnets: fast-mixing
- High-precision detection
 - 83% precision
 - With 90% missing edges
- Simple architecture



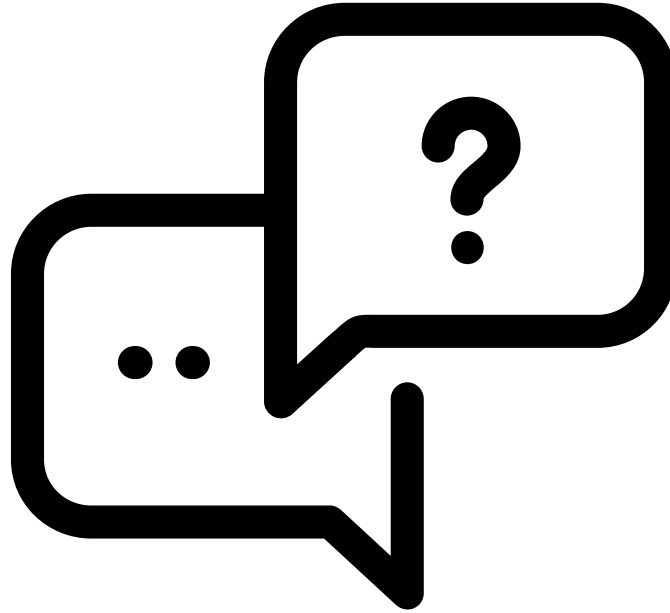
[7]

Conclusion

- Structured and unstructured botnets: fast-mixing
- High-precision detection
 - 83% precision
 - With 90% missing edges
- Simple architecture
- Only open-source algorithms



[7]



[7]

Thanks!
Questions?

References

- [1] http://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/04/27/hajime_iot_botnet/
- [2] <https://www.zdnet.com/article/satori-botnet-successor-targets-ethereum-mining-rigs/>
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- [5] <https://www.zdnet.com/article/new-mirai-style-botnet-targets-the-financial-sector/>
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- [7] Icon made by Freepik from <https://www.flaticon.com/>
- [8] Icon made by dDara from <https://www.flaticon.com/>
- [9] Icon made by Kiranshastry from <https://flaticon.com/>
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