



# Risky BIZness

## Risks Derived from Registrar Name Management



**Applied Networking Research Prize | IETF 115 London**  
9th November 2022

Gautam Akiwate, Stefan Savage, Geoffrey M. Voelker, KC Claffy

# 10000ft Summary

Story of how well-meaning standards can encourage operational practices that lead to issues.

# Mystery #1: Nameserver Change Whodunnit?

White County, Georgia Official Domain: *whitecounty.net*

[whitecounty.net](http://whitecounty.net)

Parent Zone

[ns1.hemc.net](http://ns1.hemc.net)

[ns2.internetemc.com](http://ns2.internetemc.com)

Child Zone

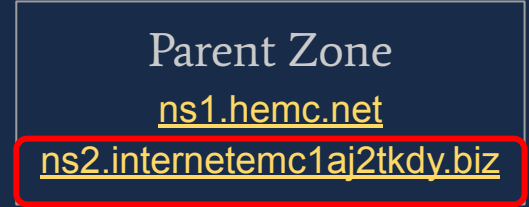
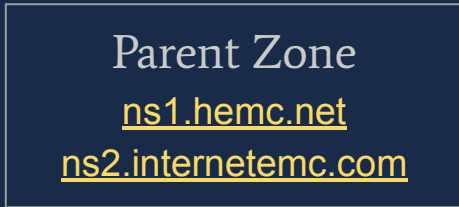
[ns1.hemc.net](http://ns1.hemc.net)

[ns2.internetemc.com](http://ns2.internetemc.com)

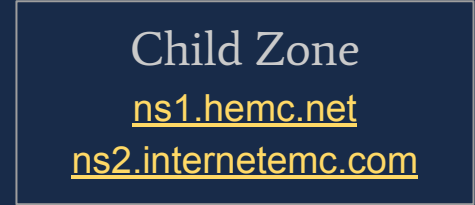
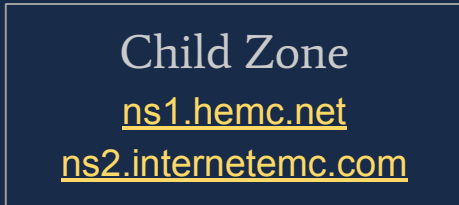
# Mystery #1: Nameserver Change Whodunnit?

White County, Georgia Official Domain: *whitecounty.net*

whitecounty.net



*July 01, 2019*



# Mystery #1: Nameserver Change Whodunnit?

Why did the nameserver change?

Who changed the nameserver?

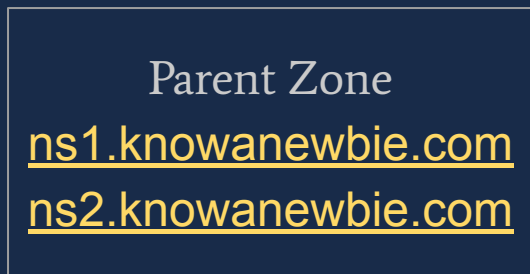
## Mystery #2: DROPTHISHOST Anomaly

**33%** of nameservers in the last 9 years ending in *.biz* are dropthis-host-xxxx.biz

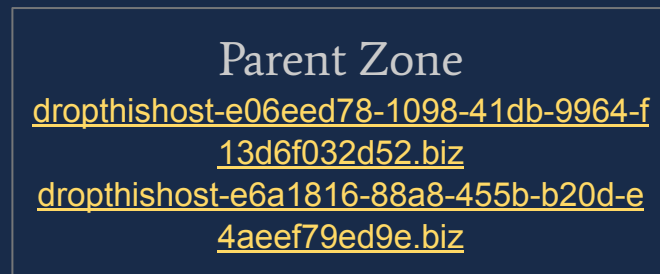
## Mystery #2: DROPTHISHOST Anomaly

33% of nameservers in the last 9 years ending in *.biz* are droptthishost-xxxx.biz

yourgadgetnews.com



*Jan 09, 2016*



## Mystery #2: DROPTHISHOST Anomaly

Why did the nameservers change?

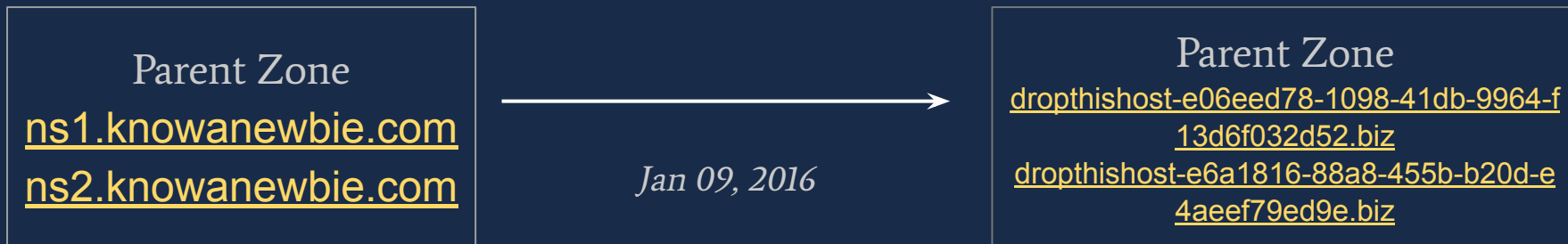
Who changed the nameservers?



## Mystery #2: DROPTHISHOST Anomaly

33% of nameservers in the last 9 years ending in *.biz* are droptthishost-xxxx.biz

[yourgadgetnews.com](#)



Large numbers indicate systemic issue.

# Changes to DNS Configuration: Behind the Scenes

How do updates to DNS Configuration propagate?

Parent Zone

**Registry**

**Registrar**

Child Zone

**Registrant**

# Changes to DNS Configuration: Behind the Scenes

How do updates to DNS Configuration propagate?

Parent Zone

**Registry**

**Registrar**

Child Zone

**Registrant**

←  
Web Portal / API

# Changes to DNS Configuration: Behind the Scenes

How do updates to DNS Configuration propagate?

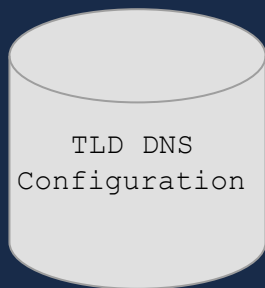


# Changes to DNS Configuration: Behind the Scenes

How do updates to DNS Configuration propagate?

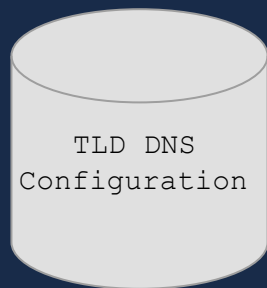


# Extensible Provisioning Protocol: Mental Model

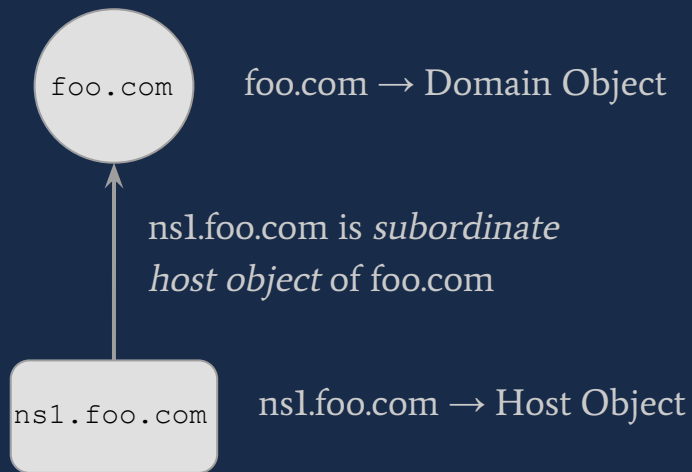


Registry TLD DNS Configuration == Database

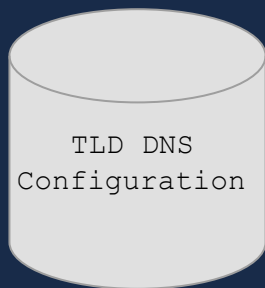
# Extensible Provisioning Protocol: Mental Model



Registry TLD DNS Configuration == Database



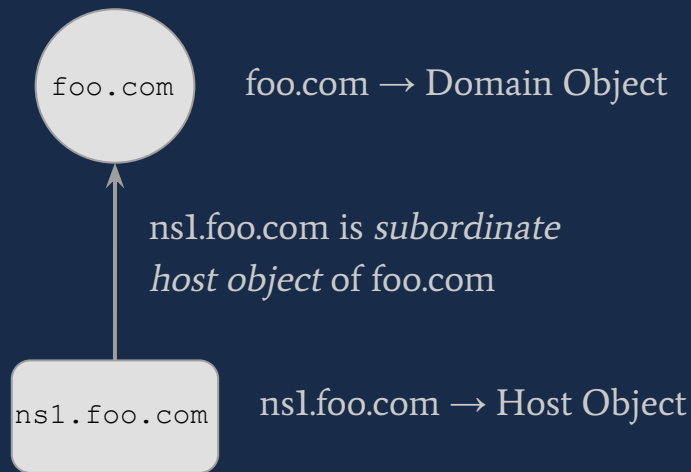
# Extensible Provisioning Protocol: Mental Model



Registry TLD DNS Configuration == Database

EPP as the specification on how this database

can be modified.

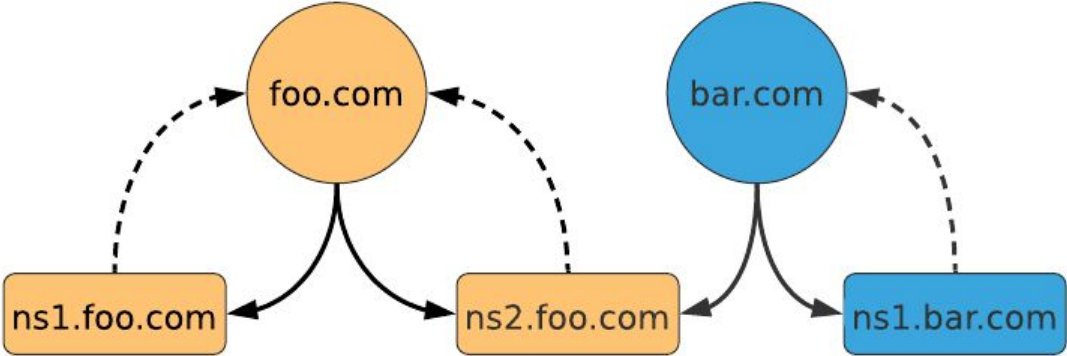




# EPP Mental Model



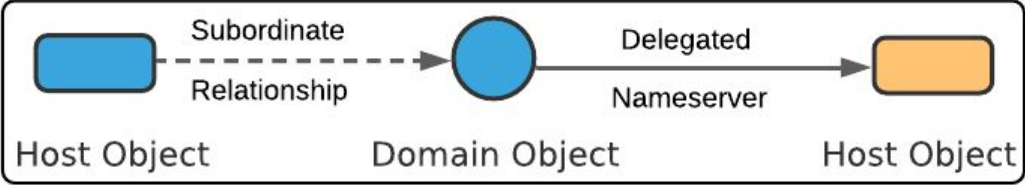
# EPP Mental Model



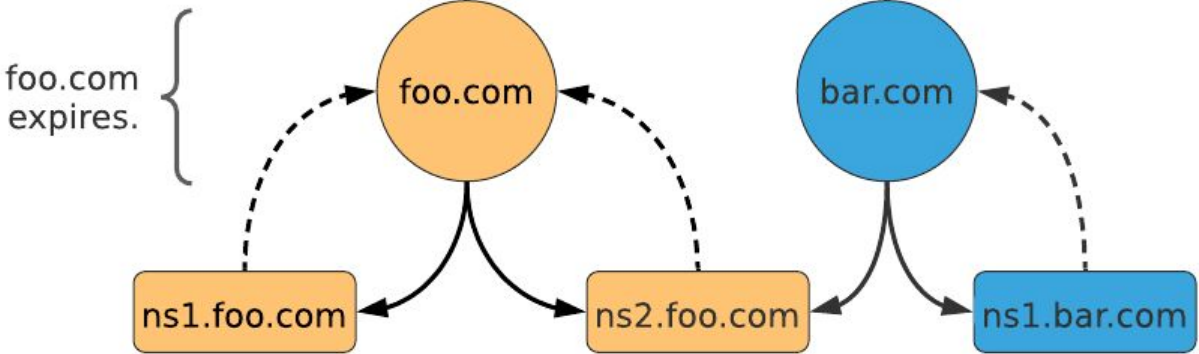
Registrar A



Registrar B



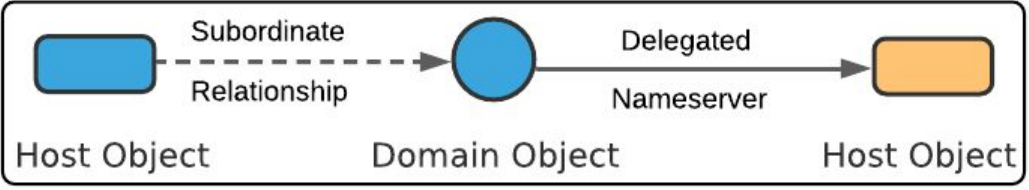
# EPP Mental Model



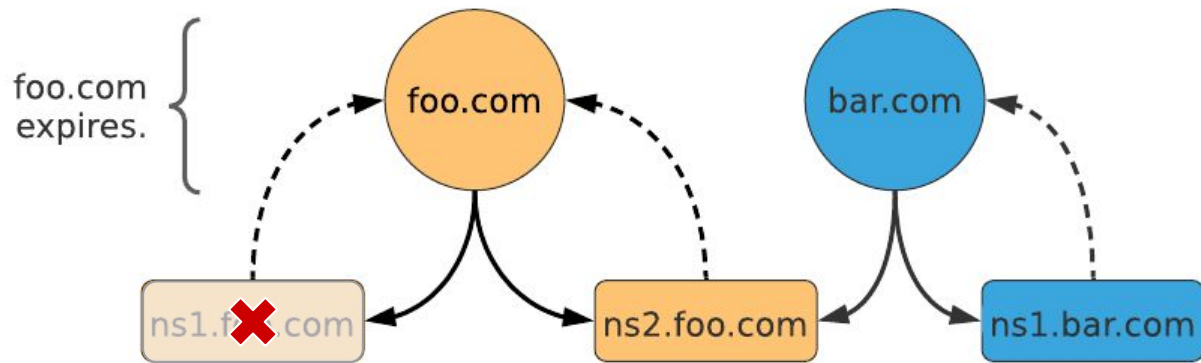
Registrar A



Registrar B



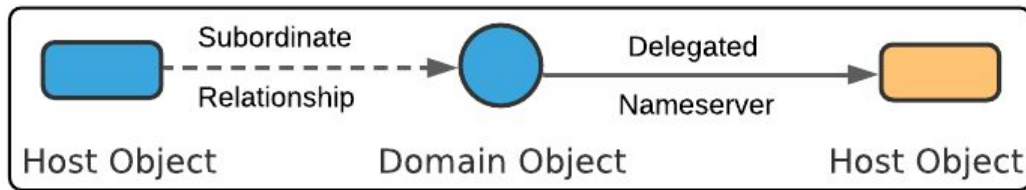
# EPP Mental Model



Registrar A

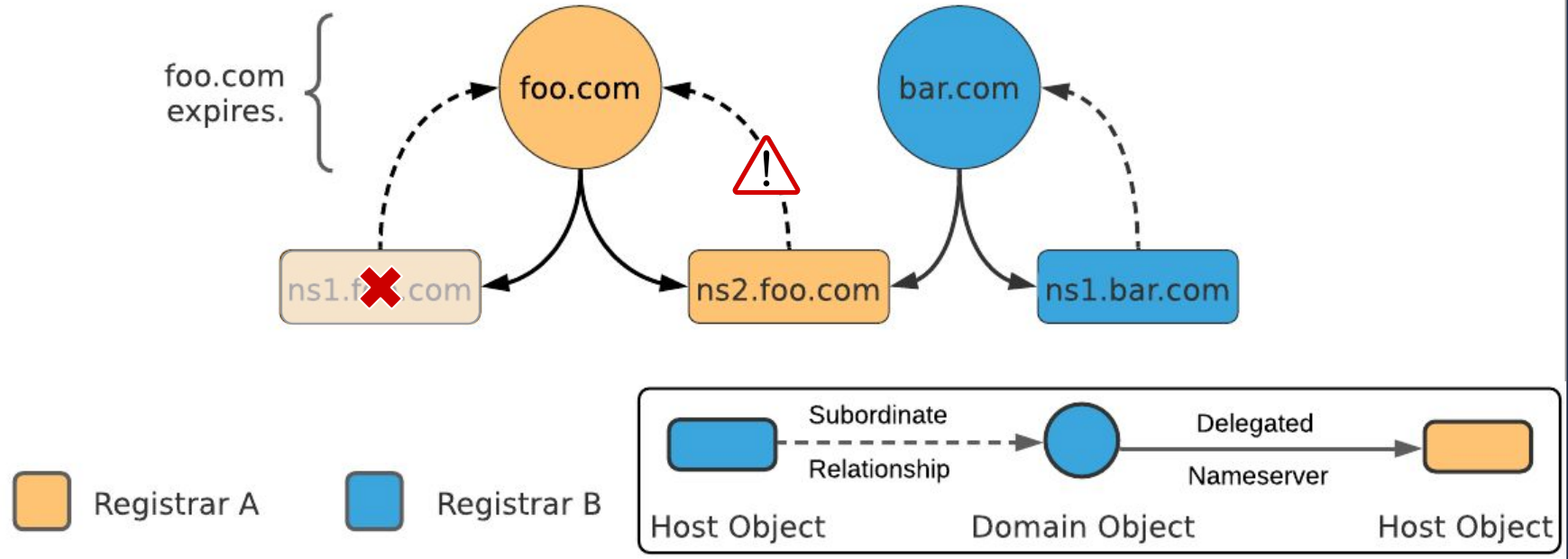


Registrar B



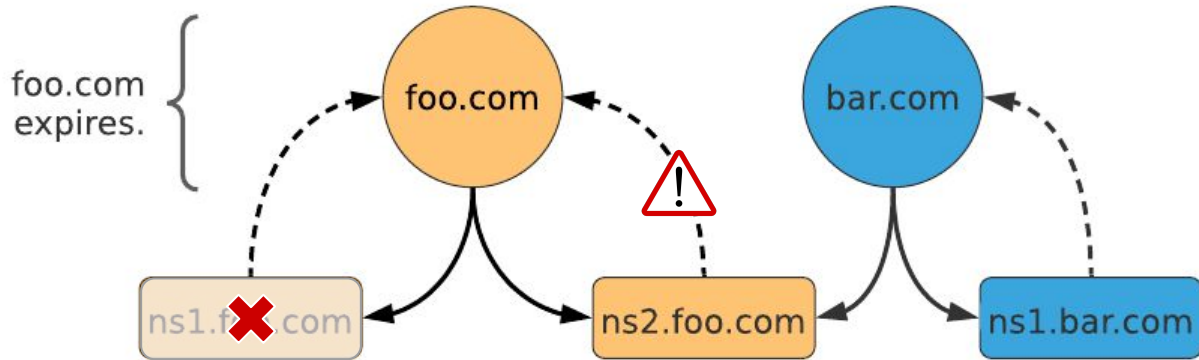
# EPP Mental Model

*EPP Constraint: host object referenced by another domain object cannot be deleted.*

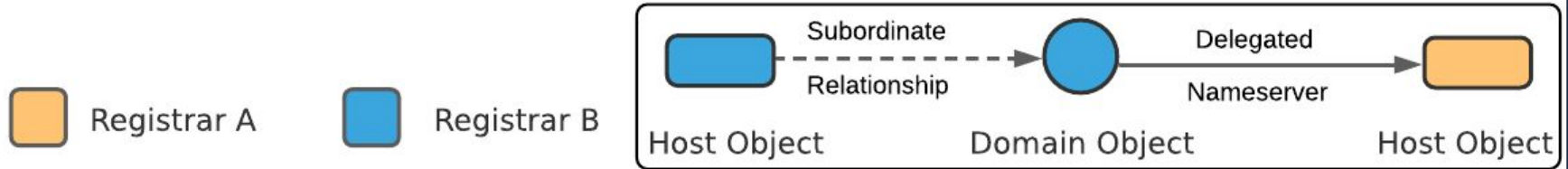


# EPP Mental Model

*EPP Constraint: host object referenced by another domain object cannot be deleted.*



*EPP Workaround: Rename host object.*



# Host Object Renaming Constraints

- If renamed within the same TLD, EPP requires the domain object must exist.
  - ns2.foo.com CANNOT be renamed to drophishost-xxxx.com  
if drophishost-xxxx.com does NOT exist
- EPP cannot check references to external TLDs.
  - ns2.foo.com CAN be renamed to drophishost-xxxx.biz  
even if drophishost-xxxx.biz does NOT exist

# Host Object Renaming Constraints

- If renamed within the same TLD, EPP requires the domain object must exist.
  - ns2.foo.com CANNOT be renamed to drophishost-xxxx.com  
if drophishost-xxxx.com does NOT exist
- EPP cannot check references to external TLDs.
  - ns2.foo.com CAN be renamed to drophishost-xxxx.biz  
even if drophishost-xxxx.biz does NOT exist
- Drop ns2.foo.com altogether.



# Host Object Renaming Constraints

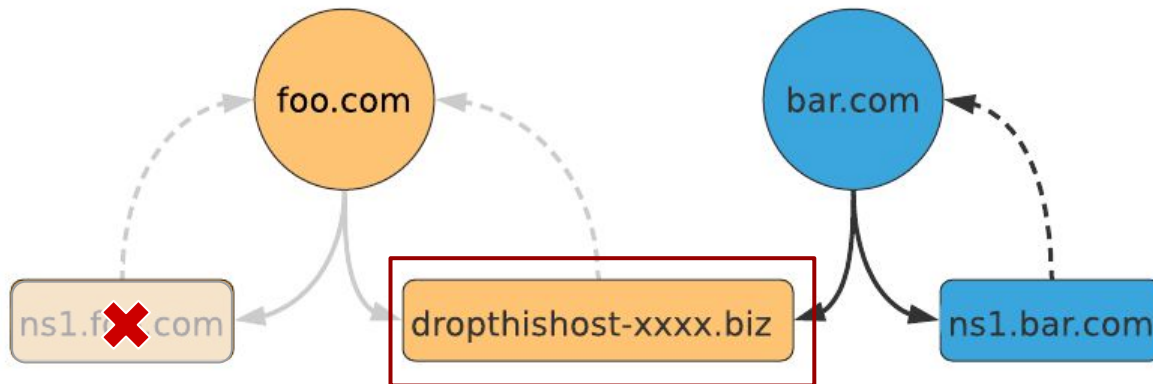
- If renamed within the same TLD, EPP requires the domain object must exist.
  - ns2.foo.com CANNOT be renamed to drophishost-xxxx.com  
if drophishost-xxxx.com does NOT exist
- EPP cannot check references to external TLDs.
  - ns2.foo.com CAN be renamed to drophishost-xxxx.biz  
even if drophishost-xxxx.biz does NOT exist
- ~~Drop ns2.foo.com altogether.~~

# Registrar Renaming Options

## Registrar A Options

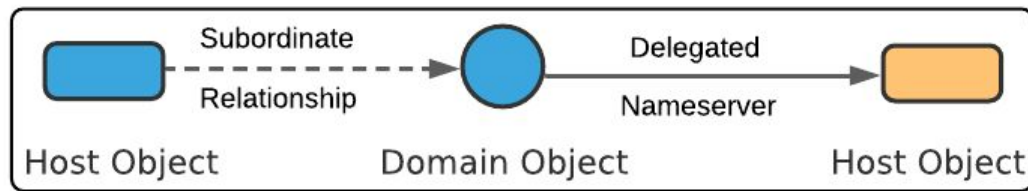
1. Rename NS to a “sink” domain owned by Registrar A
  - a. Internet.bs used dummys.com
  - b. Registrar A is responsible for queries and upkeep of sink domain.
2. Rename NS to a “random” domain in a different TLD
  - a. Different TLD bypasses EPP check.
  - b. Registrar does not have to handle queries or upkeep any domains.
  - c. Potential security risk.

# EPP Mental Model

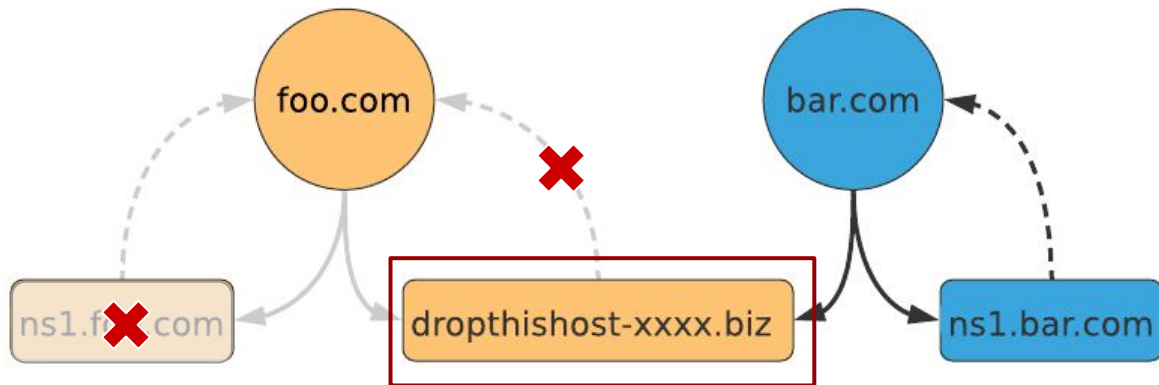


Registrar A

Registrar B

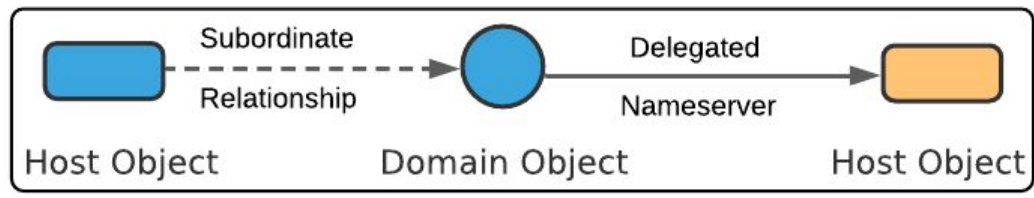


# EPP Mental Model

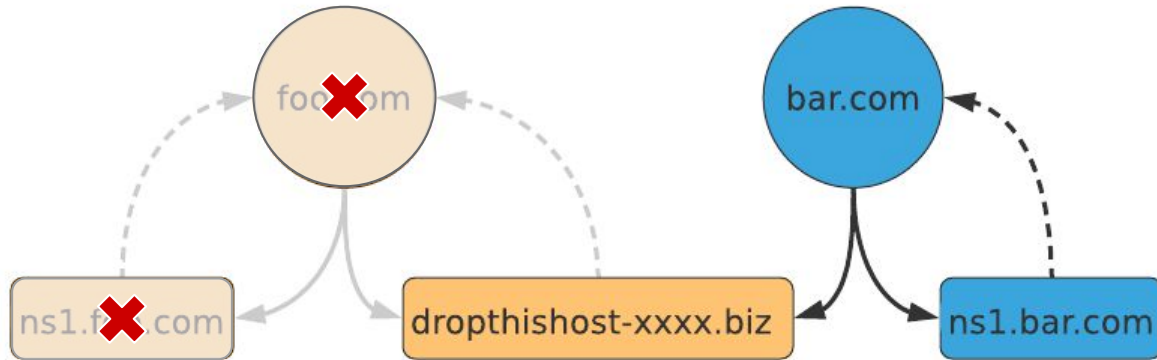


Registrar A

Registrar B



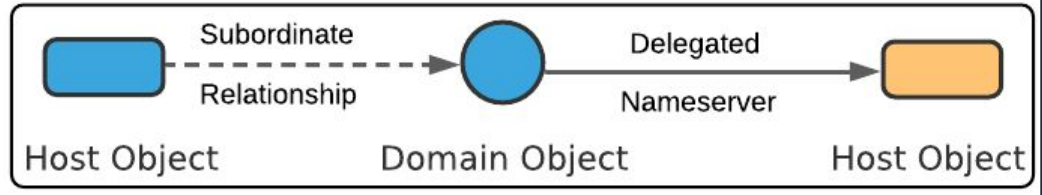
# EPP Mental Model



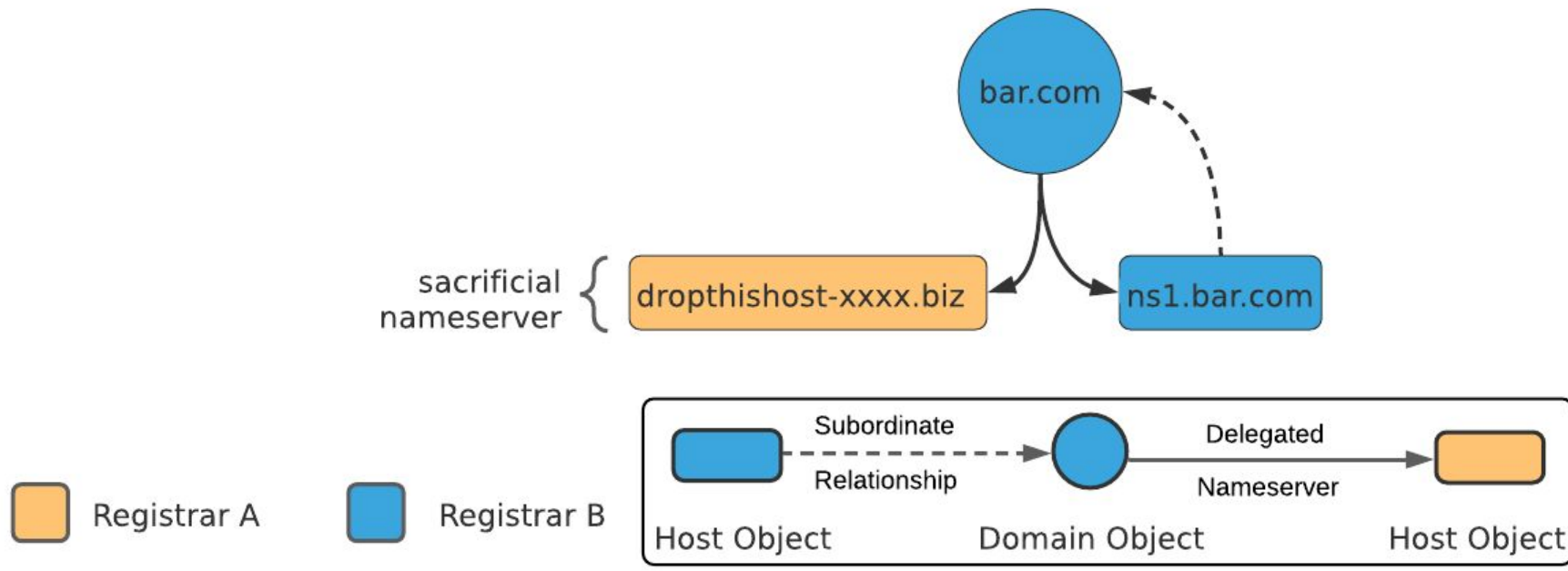
Registrar A



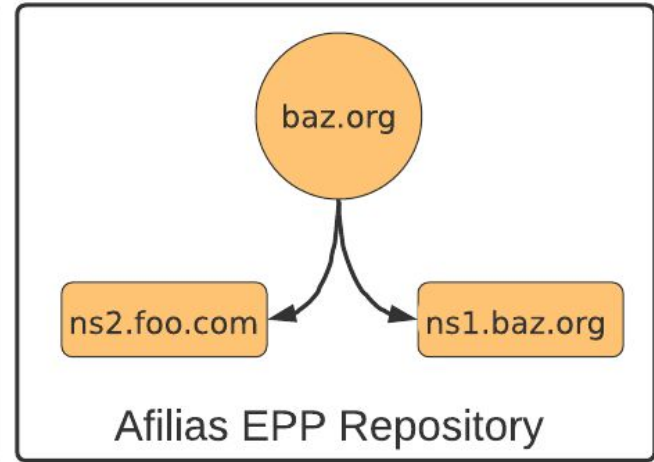
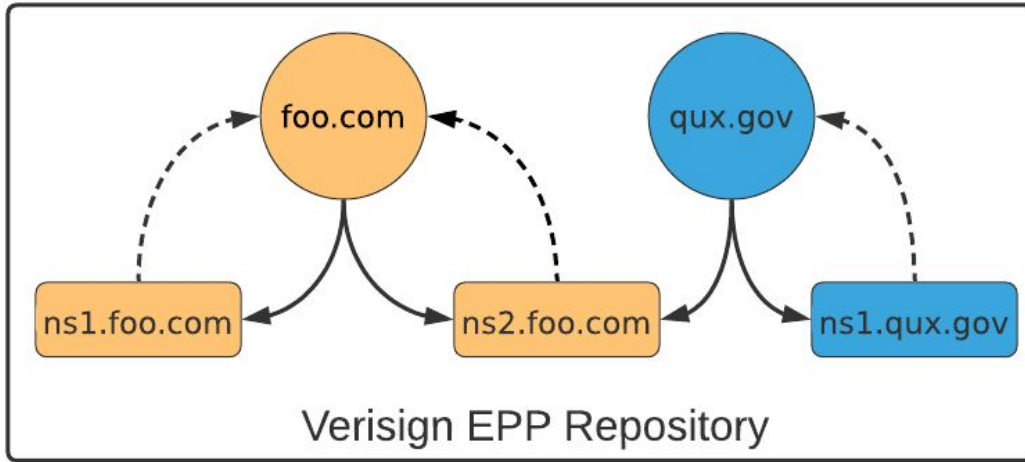
Registrar B



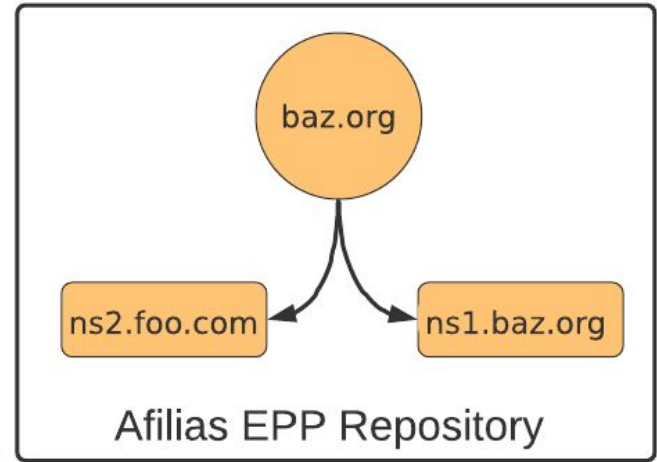
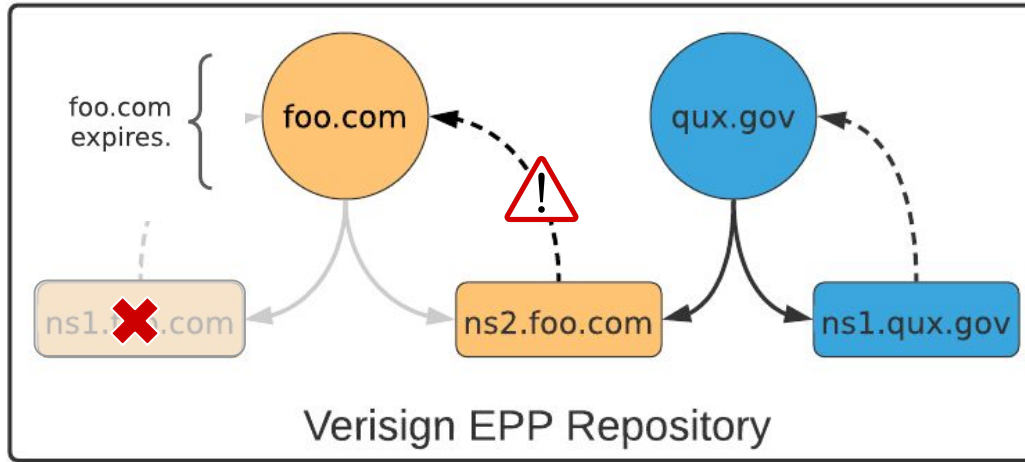
# EPP Mental Model



# Renaming Effects Across TLDs

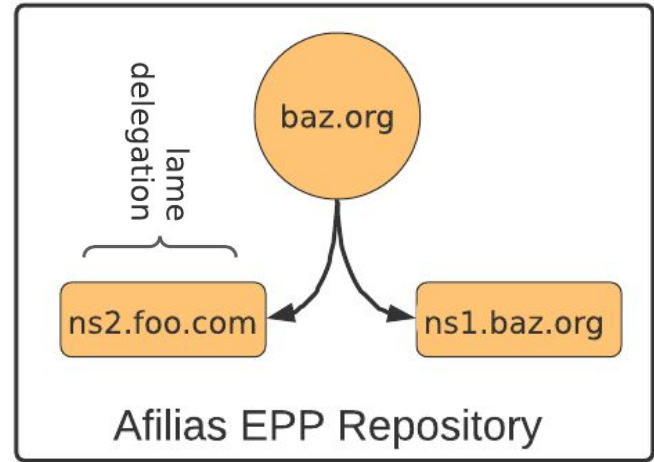
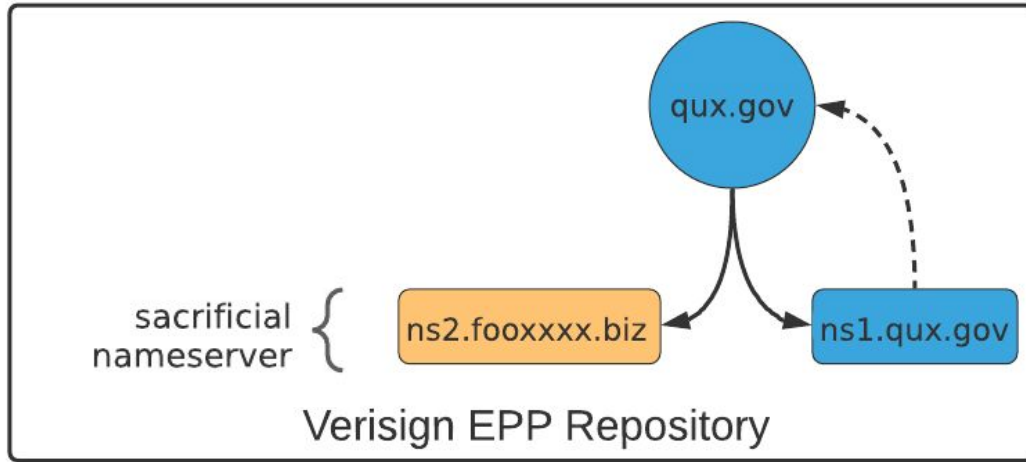


# Renaming Effects Across TLDs





# Renaming Effects Across TLDs



# EPP Renaming Summary

- EPP consistency constraints lead to unintuitive consequences on domain deletion
- Security risk without any action from domain owner
  - Opaque to the domain owner and even it's own registrar
  - Re-registering the expired domain “foo.com” does not fix the issue
- Affects domains even in “restricted” TLDs like **.gov** and **.edu**
  - Even though no registrars in “restricted” TLDs

# Identifying Sacrificial Nameservers

# Identifying Sacrificial Nameservers: Longitudinal Analysis

- Three properties of sacrificial nameservers
  - Sacrificial nameservers only exist in the TLD zone files (parent zone)
  - Good renaming idioms use non-existent domain names i.e., lame delegated on creation
  - EPP renamings affect domains within a single database

# Identifying Sacrificial Nameservers: Longitudinal Analysis

- Three properties of sacrificial nameservers
  - Sacrificial nameservers only exist in the TLD zone files (parent zone)
  - Good renaming idioms use non-existent domain names i.e., lame delegated on creation
  - EPP renamings affect domains within a single database
- Use 9 years of zone files spanning 1250 TLDs (CAIDA-DZDB)
- Modify methodology used to identify lame delegations
  - Unresolved Issues - IMC' 20
- Apply methodology to ~20M nameservers in the zone files.
  - Details in paper.

# Hijackable Renaming Idioms

Renaming Idiom Sink Domain	Registrar	# of Sacrificial Nameservers	# of Affected Domains	Example Renaming ns1.foo.com
PLEASEDROPTHISHOST	GoDaddy	75,030	217,952	pleasedroptthishostxxxxx.foo.biz
DROPTHISHOST	GoDaddy	40,374	109,478	droptthishost-xxxxx.biz
DELETED-DROP	Internet.bs	3,511	9,289	deleted-xxxxx.drop-xxxxxx.biz
123.BIZ	Enom	5,799	7,157	ns1.foo123.biz
xxxxx.{BIZ, COM}	Enom	54,752	164,264	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
xxxxx.BIZ	DomainPeople	654	3,304	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
xxxxx.BIZ	Fabulous.com	334	1,223	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
xxxxx.BIZ	Register.com	388	1,570	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
<b>Total</b>		180,842	<b>512,715</b>	

# Hijackable Renaming Idioms

Renaming Idiom Sink Domain	Registrar	# of Sacrificial Nameservers	# of Affected Domains	Example Renaming ns1.foo.com
PLEASEDROPTHISHOST	GoDaddy	75,030	217,952	pleasedroptthishostxxxxx.foo.biz
DROPTHISHOST	GoDaddy	40,374	109,478	droptthishost-xxxxx.biz
DELETED-DROP	Internet.bs	3,511	9,289	deleted-xxxxx.drop-xxxxxx.biz
123.BIZ	Enom	5,799	7,157	ns1.foo123.biz
xxxxx.{BIZ, COM}	Enom	54,752	164,264	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
xxxxx.BIZ	DomainPeople	654	3,304	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
xxxxx.BIZ	Fabulous.com	334	1,223	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
xxxxx.BIZ	Register.com	388	1,570	ns1.fooxxxxx.biz
<b>Total</b>		180,842	<b>512,715</b>	

32% of affected domains were hijacked by registering the sacrificial nameserver domain

# Hijacked Domains

- Hijackers seem to have two main uses
  - Ads
  - Search Engine Optimization
- Opportunistic hijacks!



# Remediation

# Prevent Creation of New Sacrificial Nameservers

- Worked with the three registrars with largest impact to prevent creation of new sacrificial nameservers using “sink” domains.
  - Prevented ~30K domains from being hijackable.
- New Renaming Idioms
  - GoDaddy - drophishost-xxxx.as112.arpa
  - Enom - xxxx.delete-registration.com
  - Internet.bs - xxxx.notaplaceto.be

# Remediate Currently Hijacked Domains

- Created per registrar lists of affected domains.
  - Make available lists to registrar community to address currently affected domains.
- Notable remediation efforts by GoDaddy, and MarkMonitor.

# Need for Long Term Solutions

- “Sink” domains not a good long term solution.
  - Multiple instances of “sink” domains becoming available for registration.
  - Single registration gets all domains.
- Potential Solutions
  - Use .alt TLD --- [RFC Draft](#)
  - Delete NS without renaming

## Changes to EPP?

Any long term solution needs to be codified as a change to EPP!

Prevent relapse to old renaming idioms.

Not all EPP instances support proposed solutions.

# Zooming Out: The Larger Picture

Infrastructure Hijacks

Opportunistic Hijacks

Targeted Hijacks

Risky BIZness: IMC 2021

# Zooming Out: The Larger Picture

Infrastructure Hijacks

Opportunistic Hijacks

Risky BIZness: IMC 2021

Targeted Hijacks

Retroactive Identification: IMC 2022



**CISA**  
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

Emergency Directive 19-01

Original Release Date: January 22, 2019

Applies to: All Federal Executive Branch Departments and Agencies, Except for the  
Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, and Office of the Director of  
National Intelligence

---

FROM:

Christopher C. Krebs   
Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security

CC:

Russell T. Vought  
Director (Acting), Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT:

**Mitigate DNS Infrastructure Tampering**



# DNS Hijacking Abuses Trust In Core Internet Service

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS  
OF SEA TURTLE VICTIMS

● PRIMARY TARGETS ● SECONDARY TARGETS

TALOS

SWEDEN

**Widespread DNS Hijacking Activity Targets Multiple Sectors**

UNITED STATES

ALBANIA  
CYPRUS  
LEBANON  
LIBYA  
EGYPT  
TURKEY  
ARMENIA  
SYRIA  
IRAQ  
JORDAN

**Global DNS Hijacking Campaign:  
DNS Record Manipulation at  
Scale**

DNSpionage Campaign Targets Middle East

# Safran Aircraft Engine Company (Circa 2014)

Safran Aircraft Engine Company (previously Snecma) a French aerospace company

The French Connection: French Aerospace-Focused CVE-2014-0322 Attack Shares Similarities with 2012 Capstone Turbine Activity

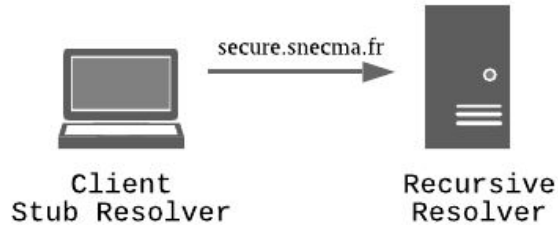


**BUSINESS NEWS**

FEBRUARY 18, 2014 / 12:29 PM / UPDATED 9 YEARS AGO

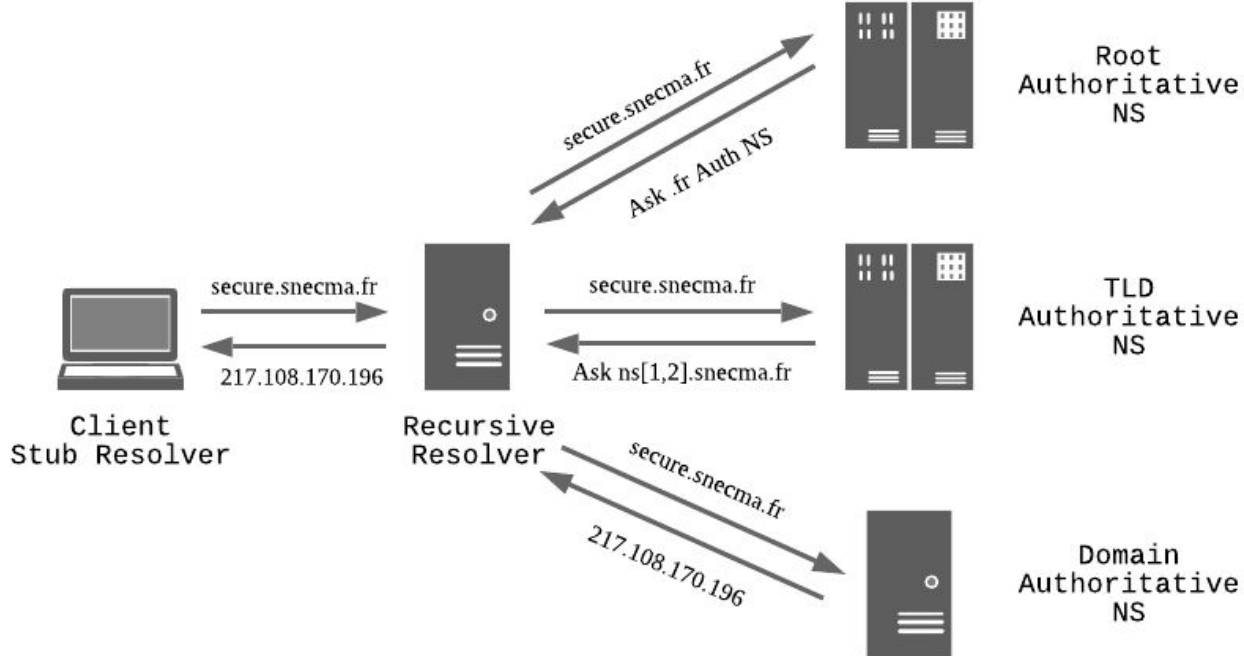
**Exclusive: France's Snecma targeted by hackers  
- researcher**

# Client Logging Into “Secure” Network...

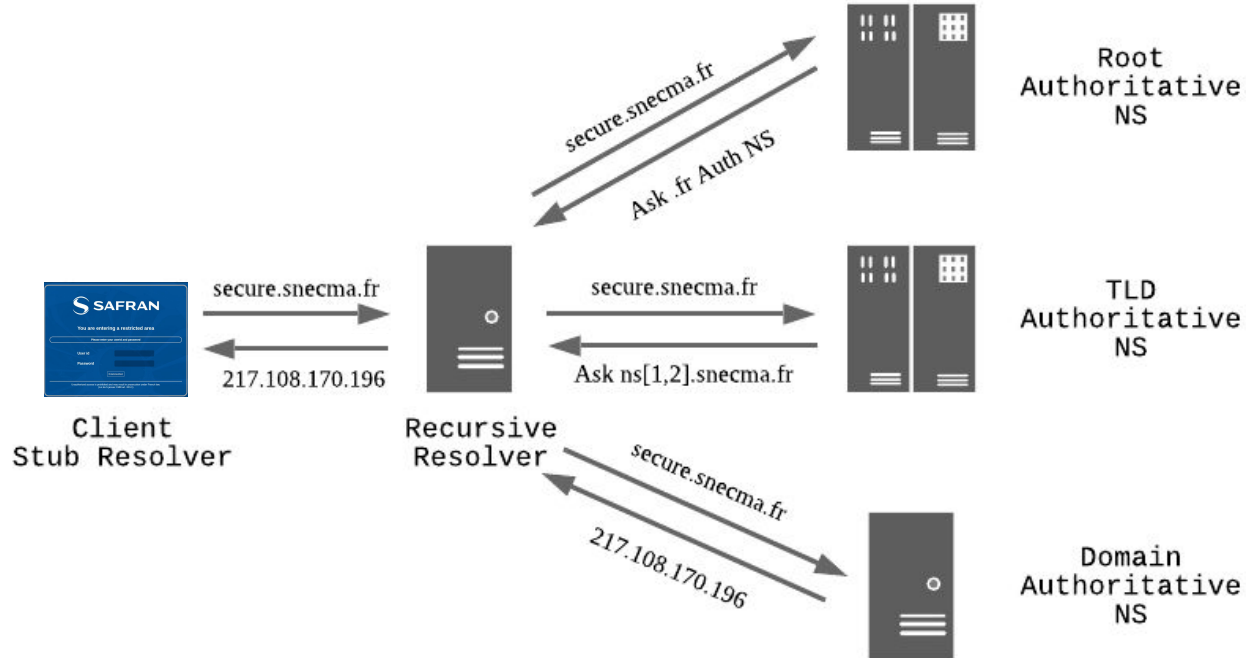


The image shows a login page for SAFRAN. At the top left is the SAFRAN logo, consisting of a stylized 'S' in a circle followed by the word 'SAFRAN' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text 'You are entering a restricted area' is displayed. Underneath this is a white rounded rectangle containing the instruction 'Please enter your userid and password'. Below this instruction are two input fields: 'User id' and 'Password', each with a dark blue placeholder box. A 'Connecter' button is located below the password field. At the bottom of the page, there is a small line of text: 'Unauthorized access is prohibited and may result in prosecution under French law. (Loi du 5 janvier 1988 art. 323-1)'.

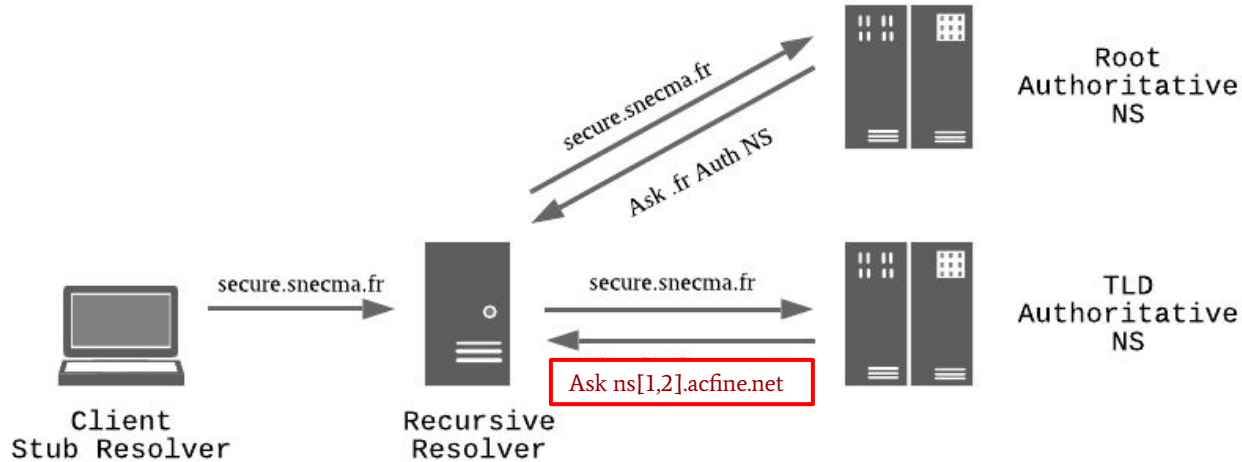
# Normal Resolution



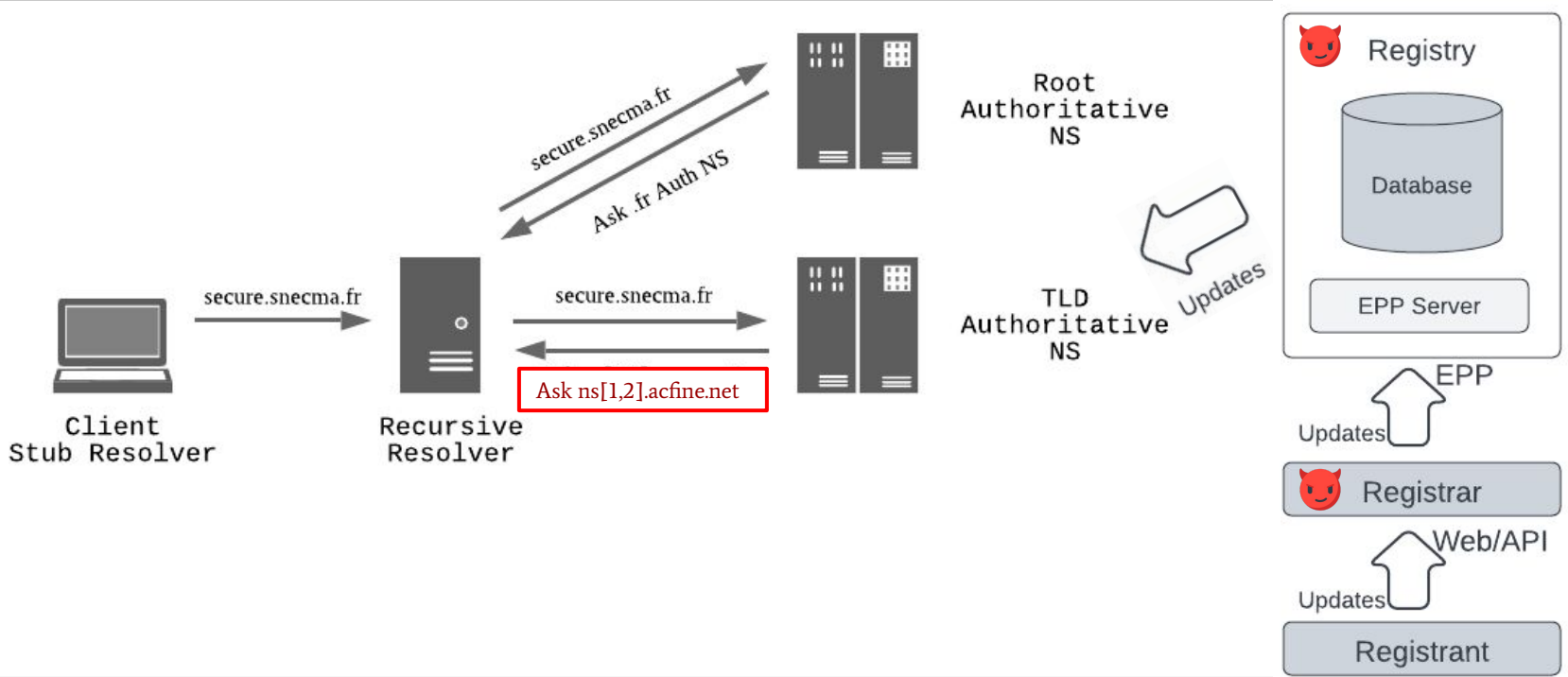
# Normal Resolution



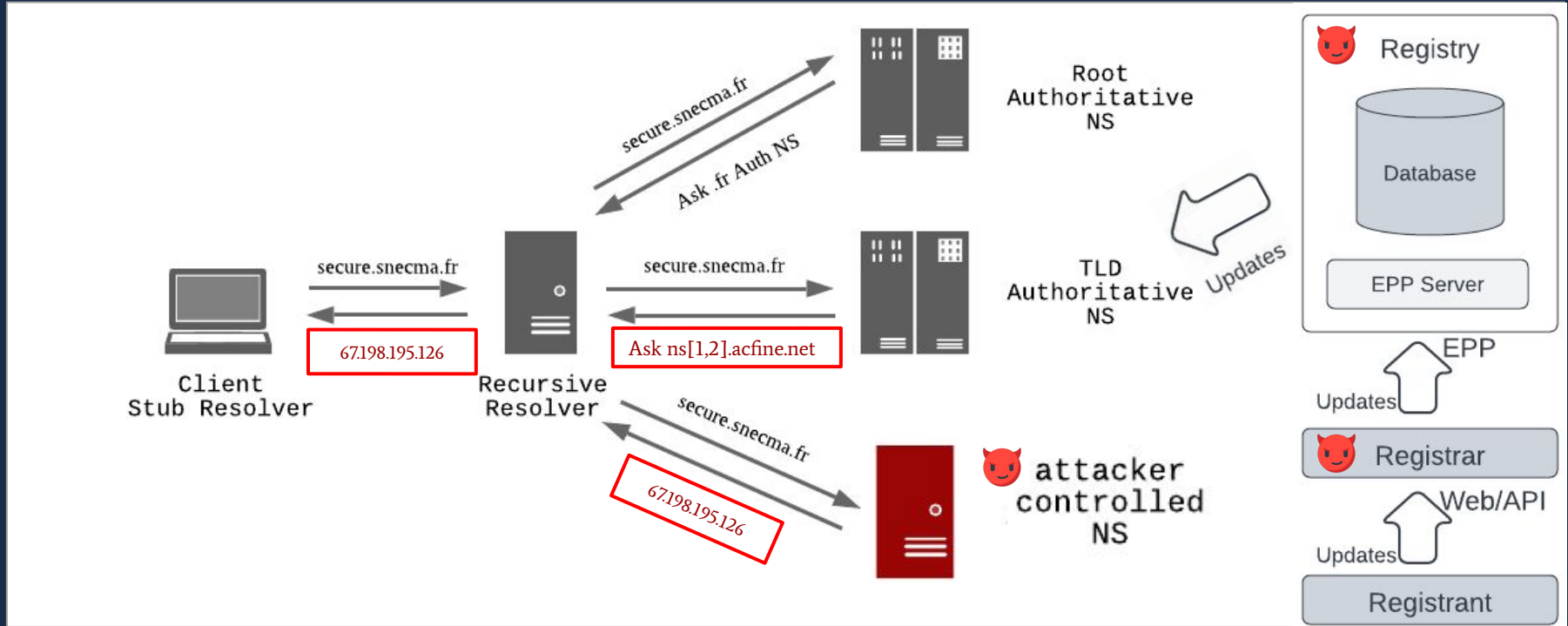
# Malicious DNS Delegation Update (Circa 2014)



# Attackers Target DNS Delegation Update Mechanism

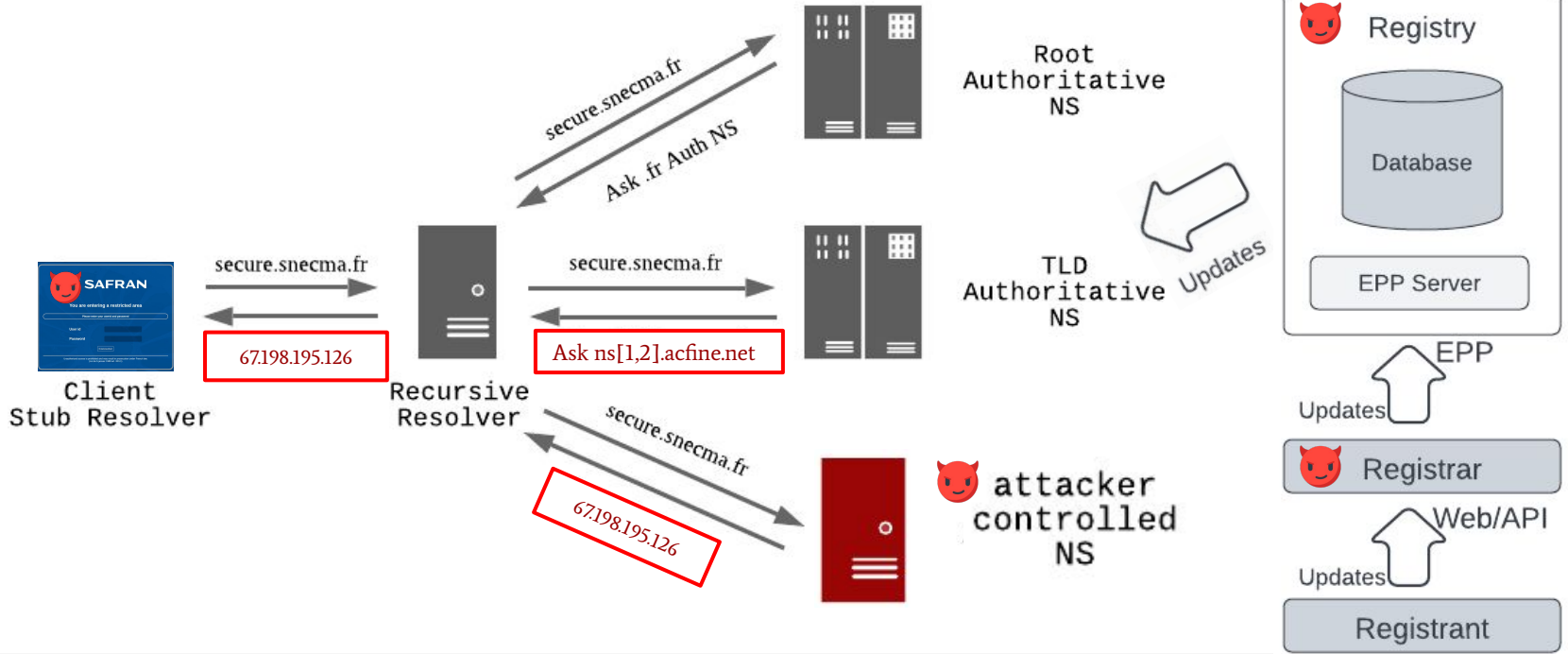


# Attackers Redirect All Users





# Attackers Redirect All Users



# What about TLS Certificates?



## Your connection is not private

Attackers might be trying to steal your information from **secure.snecma.fr** (for example, passwords, messages, or credit cards). [Learn more](#)

NET::ERR\_CERT\_AUTHORITY\_INVALID

Advanced

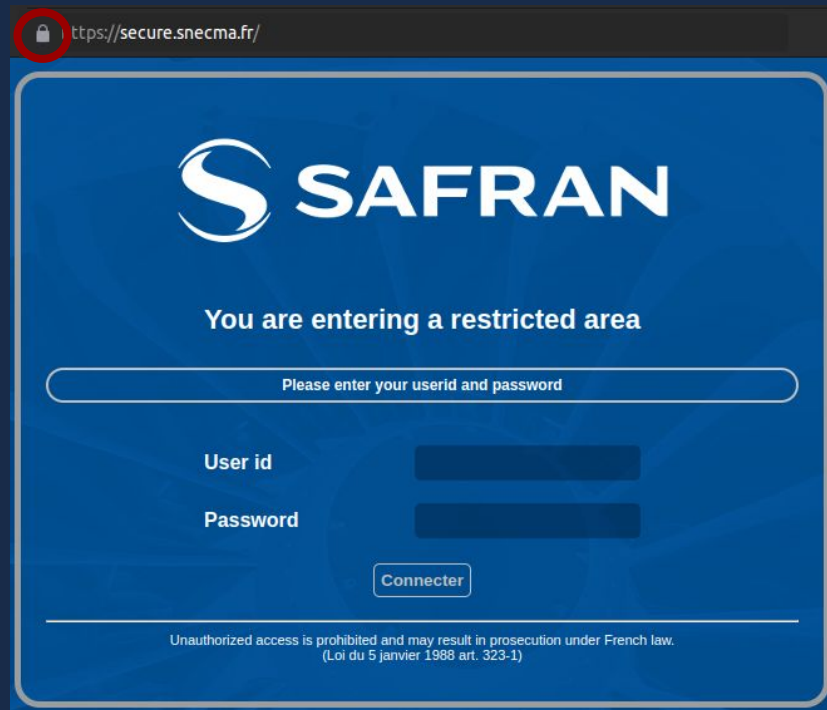
Back to safety

# Implicit Trust Dependence

- TLS protects against AiTM  
(adversary-in-the-middle) attacks
- Automated TLS Certificate Issuance using  
“Domain Validation” uses DNS to  
authenticate domain “ownership”

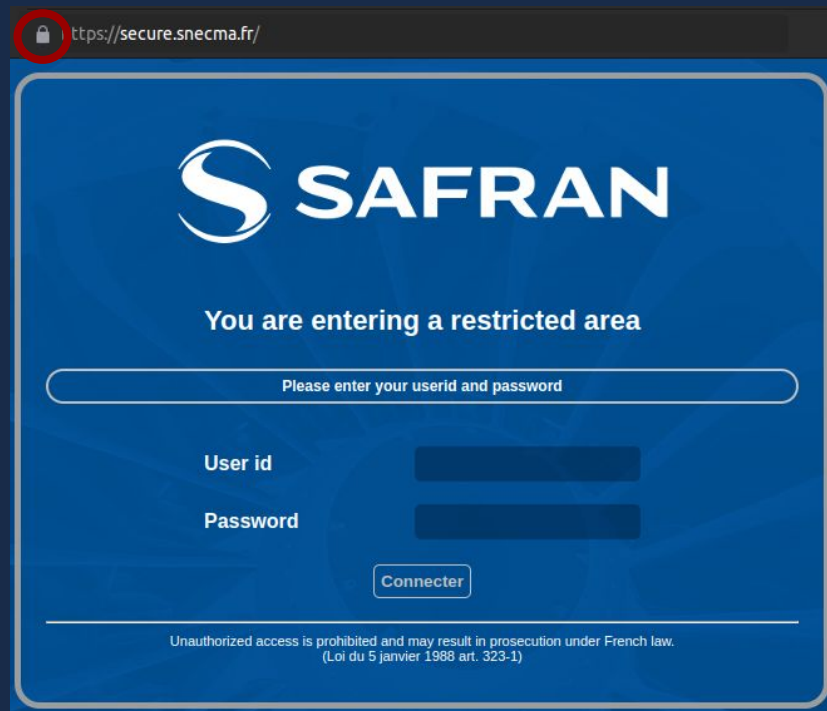
# Implicit Trust Dependence

- TLS protects against AiTM (adversary-in-the-middle) attacks
- Automated TLS Certificate Issuance using “Domain Validation” uses DNS to authenticate domain “ownership”
- Attacker controls DNS → can obtain TLS certificates for the domain
  - Malicious but legitimate!



# Implicit Trust Dependence

- TLS protects against AiTM (adversary-in-the-middle) attacks
- Automated TLS Certificate Issuance using “Domain Validation” uses DNS to authenticate domain “ownership”
- Attacker controls DNS → can obtain TLS certificates for the domain
  - Malicious but legitimate!



CT Logs allow for auditing!

# Anatomy of a Targeted Infrastructure Hijack

- Acquire ability to control DNS delegations
  - Hijacks characterized by multiple brief updates to evade detection
  - Attacker can bypass protections
- Attacker infrastructure to mimic target domain
  - Responds with maliciously obtained TLS certificate
  - Cannot be distinguished from legitimate infrastructure
- Harvest credentials or compromise redirected users to infiltrate target organization

## The Goal

Construct a methodology to retroactively identify targeted domain hijacks in the wild as an independent third-party.

# Hijacked Domains

Identified 41 domains as hijacked

- 33 domains re-identified and verified from previous reports
- 8 domains not previously identified

High confidence manually evaluated hijacks!

Many many more domains where there is circumstantial evidence



# Kyrgyzstan Hijacks

	Hijacked Domains			Attacker Infrastructure		
Date	Domain	Target	Organization	Malicious IP	Malicious ASN	Geo
Dec'20	fiu.gov.kg	mail	Financial Intelligence Service	178.20.41.140	AS 48282	Russia
Dec'20	invest.gov.kg	mail	Investment Portal	94.103.90.182	AS 48282	Russia
Dec'20	mfa.gov.kg	mail	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	94.103.91.159	AS 48282	Russia
Jan'21	infocom.kg	mail	Internet Services Provider	195.2.84.10	AS 48282	Russia

Type	Hij.	Targeted Domain Information			Cross Ref		Attacker Infra. (Transient)			Legitimate Infra. (Stable)	
		CC	Domain	Sub.	pDNS	crt	IP	ASN	CC	ASNs	CCs
T1	May'18	AE	mofa.gov.ae	webmail	✓	✓	146.185.143.158	14061	NL	[5384,202024]	[AE]
T1	Sep'18	AE	adpolice.gov.ae	advpn	✓	✓	185.20.187.8	50673	NL	[5384]	[AE]
T1*	Sep'18	AE	apc.gov.ae	mail	✗	✓	185.20.187.8	50673	NL	[5384]	[AE]
T2	Sep'18	AE	mgov.ae	mail	✓	✓	185.20.187.8	50673	NL	[202024]	[AE]
T1	Jan'18	AL	e-albania.al	owa	✓	✓	185.15.247.140	24961	DE	[5576]	[AL]
T2	Nov'18	AL	asp.gov.al	mail	✓	✓	199.247.3.191	20473	DE	[201524]	[AL]
T1	Nov'18	AL	shish.gov.al	mail	✓	✓	37.139.11.155	14061	NL	[5576]	[AL]
T1	Dec'18	CY	govcloud.gov.cy	personal	✓	✓	178.62.218.244	14061	NL	[50233]	[CY]
P-IP	Dec'18	CY	owa.gov.cy	.	✓	✓	178.62.218.244	14061	NL	[50233]	[CY]
T1	Dec'18	CY	webmail.gov.cy	.	✓	✓	178.62.218.244	14061	NL	[50233]	[CY]
P-IP	Jan'19	CY	cyta.com.cy	mbx	✓	✓	178.62.218.244	14061	NL	—	—
T1	Jan'19	CY	sslvpn.gov.cy	.	✓	✓	178.62.218.244	14061	NL	[50233]	[CY]
T1	Feb'19	CY	defa.com.cy	mail	✓	✓	108.61.123.149	20473	FR	[35432]	[CY]
T1	Nov'18	EG	mfa.gov.eg	mail	✓	✓	188.166.119.57	14061	NL	[37066]	[EG]
T2	Nov'18	EG	mod.gov.eg	mail	✓	✓	188.166.119.57	14061	NL	[25576]	[EG]
T2	Nov'18	EG	nmi.gov.eg	mail	✓	✓	188.166.119.57	14061	NL	[31065]	[EG]
T1	Nov'18	EG	petroleum.gov.eg	mail	✓	✓	206.221.184.133	20473	US	[24835,37191]	[EG]
T1	Apr'19	GR	kyvernisi.gr	mail	✓	✓	95.179.131.225	20473	NL	[35506]	[GR]
T1	Apr'19	GR	mfa.gr	pop3	✓	✓	95.179.131.225	20473	NL	[35506,6799]	[GR]
T2	Sep'18	IQ	mofa.gov.iq	mail	✓	✓	82.196.9.10	14061	NL	[50710]	[IQ]
P-IP	Nov'18	IQ	inc-vrdl.iq	.	✓	✓	199.247.3.191	20473	DE	[50710]	[IQ]
P-NS	Dec'18	JO	gid.gov.jo	.	✓	✓	139.162.144.139	63949	DE	—	—
P-NS	Dec'20	KG	fiu.gov.kg	mail	✓	✓	178.20.41.140	48282	RU	—	—
T1	Dec'20	KG	invest.gov.kg	mail	✓	✓	94.103.90.182	48282	RU	[39659]	[KG]
T1	Dec'20	KG	mfa.gov.kg	mail	✓	✓	94.103.91.159	48282	RU	[39659]	[KG]
P-NS	Jan'21	KG	infocom.kg	mail	✓	✓	195.2.84.10	48282	RU	—	—
T1	Dec'17	KW	csb.gov.kw	mail	✓	✓	82.102.14.232	20860	GB	[6412]	[KW]
P-IP	Dec'18	KW	dgca.gov.kw	mail	✓	✓	185.15.247.140	24961	DE	—	—
T1*	Apr'19	KW	moh.gov.kw	webmail	✗	✓	91.132.139.200	9009	AT	[21050]	[KW]
T2	May'19	KW	kotc.com.kw	mail2010	✓	✓	91.132.139.200	9009	US	[57719]	[KW]
P-IP	Nov'18	LB	finance.gov.lb	webmail	✓	✓	185.20.187.8	50673	NL	—	—
P-IP	Nov'18	LB	mea.com.lb	memail	✓	✓	185.20.187.8	50673	NL	—	—
T1	Nov'18	LB	medgulf.com.lb	mail	✓	✓	185.161.209.147	50673	NL	[31126]	[LB]
T1	Nov'18	LB	pcm.gov.lb	mail1	✓	✓	185.20.187.8	50673	NL	[51167]	[DE]
P-IP	Oct'18	LY	embassy.ly	.	✓	✗	188.166.119.57	14061	NL	—	—
P-NS	Oct'18	LY	foreign.ly	.	✓	✓	188.166.119.57	14061	NL	—	—
T1	Oct'18	LY	noc.ly	mail	✓	✓	188.166.119.57	14061	NL	[37284]	[LY]
T1	Jan'18	NL	ocom.com	connect	✓	✓	147.75.205.145	54825	US	[60781]	[NL]
P-NS	Jan'19	SE	netnod.se	dnsnodeapi	✓	✓	139.59.134.216	14061	DE	—	—
T1	Mar'19	SY	syriatel.sy	mail	✓	✓	45.77.137.65	20473	NL	[29256]	[SY]
P-NS	Dec'18	US	pch.net	keriomail	✓	✓	159.89.101.204	14061	DE	—	—

# Targeted Hijacks Summary

- Traditional mechanisms not effective against DNS infrastructure hijacks
  - Attackers can bypass DNSSEC and TLS since they control DNS Infrastructure
- Need for more transparency and proactive measurements to understand how to mitigate future hijacks

# Christmas RFC Wishlist

# Christmas RFC Wishlist

EPP Updates

DNS Transparency

Certificate Transparency ++

# EPP Updates

- Codify changes to EPP to prevent creation of sacrificial nameservers
  - .alt TLD
  - Drop NS without renaming
- Consistency across TLDs?
  - Different registries communicate domain deletions.

# DNS Transparency

- Organizations cannot tell if their nameservers ever changed!
  - Have ietf.org nameservers changed recently? [[No, as per zone file data...](#)]
  - But hijacks last for as little as 15 minutes and zone files updated daily.
  - Think “supply chain attacks”
  - Continuous monitoring?
- Certificate Transparency like transparency with DNS
  - Append only changes to domain nameservers at TLDs?

# Certificate Transparency ++

- Certificate Transparency has been a great resource to identify bad actors.
- Certificate Authorities (CAs) do a lot of work to issue certificates
- ACME Transaction Information
  - DNS queries from multiple vantage points
  - IP which initiated the certificate request



# Collaborators

Geoffrey Voelker

Ian Foster

KC Claffy

Mattijs Jonker

Raffaele Sommese

Stefan Savage

Zakir Durumeric

# Questions?

gakiwate -- at -- cs.stanford.edu

# Backup

Tar. Date	CC	Targeted Domain		Cross Ref.		Attacker Infra. (Transient)			Legit. Infra. (Stable)	
		Domain	Sub	pDNS	crt	IP	ASN	CC	ASNs	CCs
Apr'20	AE	milmail.ae	—	✗	✗	194.152.42.16	47220	RO	[5384]	[AE]
Apr'20	AE	mocaf.gov.ae	—	✗	✗	194.152.42.16	47220	RO	[5384]	[AE]
Apr'20	AE	moi.gov.ae	—	✗	✗	194.152.42.16	47220	RO	[5384]	[AE]
Dec'20	AE	epg.gov.ae	—	✗	✗	159.69.193.152	24940	DE	[202024]	[AE]
Jun'20	CH	parlament.ch	—	✗	✗	8.210.146.182	45102	SG	[61098,3303]	[CH]
Nov'20	GH	nita.gov.gh	—	✗	✗	78.141.218.158	20473	NL	[37313]	[GH]
Sep'17	JO	psd.gov.jo	mail	✗	✗	185.162.235.106	50673	NL	[8934]	[JO]
Jun'20	KZ	zerde.gov.kz	—	✗	✗	8.210.190.81	45102	SG	[48716,15549]	[KZ]
Nov'20	LT	stat.gov.lt	—	✗	✗	8.210.190.214	45102	SG	[6769]	[LT]
Jul'20	LV	iem.gov.lv	—	✗	✗	8.210.199.85	45102	SG	[8194, 25241]	[LV]
Nov'20	LV	zva.gov.lv	—	✗	✗	8.210.36.66	45102	SG	[8194, 199300]	[LV]
Apr'18	MA	justice.gov.ma	micj	✓	✗	188.166.160.110	14061	DE	[6713]	[MA]
Apr'20	MA	mem.gov.ma	—	✗	✗	47.75.34.153	45102	HK	[6713]	[MA]
Oct'20	MM	mofa.gov.mm	—	✗	✗	47.242.150.18	45102	US	[136465]	[MM]
Nov'20	PL	knf.gov.pl	—	✗	✗	103.195.6.231	64022	HK	[34986]	[PL]
May'20	SA	cmail.sa	—	✗	✗	194.152.42.16	47220	RO	[49474]	[SA]
Sep'20	TM	turkmenpost.gov.tm	—	✗	✗	185.229.225.228	41436	NL	[20661]	[TM]
Aug'20	US	manchesternh.gov	—	✗	✗	8.210.210.235	45102	SG	[13977]	[US]
Dec'20	US	batesvillearkansas.gov	host	✗	✗	95.179.153.176	20473	NL	[32244]	[US]
Apr'19	VN	ais.gov.vn	intranet	✓	✗	45.77.45.193	20473	SG	[131375,63748]	[VN]
Dec'20	VN	mofa.gov.vn	—	✗	✗	45.77.27.9	20473	JP	[24035]	[VN]
Mar'20	VN	cpt.gov.vn	—	✗	✗	103.213.244.205	136574	JP	[63747]	[VN]
Mar'20	VN	most.gov.vn	—	✗	✗	103.213.244.205	136574	JP	[38731,131373]	[VN]
Sep'20	VN	vass.gov.vn	—	✗	✗	47.74.3.121	45102	JP	[18403]	[VN]

# zimbra

## Вход

Для продолжения работы с сервисом электронной почты необходимо установить обновление безопасности: [Скачать обновление](#)

Имя пользователя

Пароль

 [Показать](#)

Вход

Запомнить меня

Версия

По умолчанию



# zimbra

## Вход

To continue using the email service, you must install the security update: [Download Update](#)

Имя пользователя

Пароль

 [Показать](#)

Вход

Запомнить меня

Версия

По умолчанию



# Focus on Operational Requirements of Hijack

**Requirement #1:** Update DNS resolutions to malicious IP for the duration of hijack

**Requirement #2:** Obtain new TLS certificate to prevent warnings

**Requirement #3:** Attacker Infrastructure set up to use maliciously obtained new TLS certificate at a malicious IP address which the target domain resolves to intermittently

## Key Insight

Attacker infrastructure will appear in global IP scans looking for certificates.

# Identifying Targeted DNS Infrastructure Hijacks: Intuition

Global IP Scans

Identify Attacker Infrastructure.  $IP_A + Cert_A$

Passive DNS

Corroborate target domain was redirected to  $IP_A$

CT Logs

Corroborate  $Cert_A$  was issued during redirection

## Hijack Evidence

DNS Redirection + New Certificate + Use of New Certificate at Redirected IP

# How to Identify Attacker Infrastructure?



# Map Observable Infrastructure

“Observable Infrastructure for a domain”

*IP addresses and certificates that secure and serve the domain*

# Observable Infrastructure



*IP:* 217.108.170.196

*Port:* 443

*Certificate:* <A>

*SANs:* [secure.snecma.fr]

# Observable Infrastructure



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

# Scan #1



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1

## Scan #2



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1

# Scan #3



**IP:** 67.198.195.126  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <B>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** US  
**AS:** 35908  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Comodo  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #2



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1

# Scan #3



**IP:** 67.198.195.126  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <B>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** US  
**AS:** 35908  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Comodo  
**Sensitive:** True



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1

Legitimate or Malicious?

# Scan #4



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1



# Longitudinal View: Deployment Maps

Date	Stable Deployment	Transient Deployment
Scan #1	AS3215 [FR] certs [A]	
Scan #2	AS3215 [FR] certs [A]	
Scan #3	AS3215 [FR] certs [A]	AS35908 [US] certs [B]
Scan #4	AS3215 [FR] certs [A]	

# Suspicious Deployments → Potential Attacker Infrastructure



**IP:** 67.198.195.126  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <B>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** US  
**AS:** 35908  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Comodo  
**Sensitive:** True


Deployment #2



**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1

# Suspicious Deployments → Potential Attacker Infrastructure



**IP:** 67.198.195.126  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <B>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** US  
**AS:** 35908  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Comodo  
**Sensitive:** True

**IP:** 217.108.170.196  
**Port:** 443  
**Certificate:** <A>  
**SANs:** [secure.snecma.fr]  
**Geolocation:** France  
**AS:** 3215  
**Browser Trusted:** True  
**Issuing CA:** Let's Encrypt  
**Sensitive:** True

Deployment #1

- #1: Check Passive DNS if secure.snecma.fr was redirected to 67.198.195.126
- #2: Check CT Log to see if Cert <B> was issued during redirection