nDPI: what's new, what's next and what is it useful for?

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Who am I?

- Ivan Nardi, @ Al2M
 - lawful interception, investigation analysis, big data retention
 - voice/IP metadata collection, processing and reporting
 - network probes and DPI

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nDPI: what is it?

- An open-source library providing:
 - deep packet inspection engine for network visibility: protocol classification, metadata extraction, flow risks computation
 - basic blocks for a cyber-security application
 - algorithms for data analysis:
 - data forecasting and anomaly detection
 - clustering and similarity evaluation
 - (sub-)string searching and IP matching
 - probabilistic data structures: bloom filters, cardinality estimation



nDPI: some statistics

- In the last year (i.e. from ntopconf22)
 - 24 contributors
 - -~600 commits



nDPI: what is it useful for?

- Protocol classification and statistics
 - small ISP: statistics about Youtube/Netfix traffic to optimize peering
- Firewall: block/allow some kind of traffic
 - with subscriber info, block/allow rules per user
 - zero-rating applications (by ISPs)
- Cybersecurity applications
- Bandwidth control & QoS



nDPI: what is it useful for?

- Block of (only) BitTorrent traffic on a VPN free plan
- Traffic control on enterprise VPNs
- Active honeypot
- Algorithms: detect performance regressions via statistical anomaly detection
 - https://netflixtechblog.com/fixingperformance-regressions-before-theyhappen-eab2602b86fe



nDPI: what's new

- Usual, boring stuff:
 - be sure that old stuff is still working...
 - new flow risks and ~50 new protocols: some VPNs, some games, few streaming services...
 - better performances, less resources, better testing
 - better internal algorithms
 - add some general statistics: Patricia tree, automa, LRU cache...
- Some documentation skeletons

nDPI: what's new

- Better identification of VoIP/RTP traffic, even when it is explicitly blocked:
 - Zoom classification
 - RTP stream type (audio, video, screen sharing)
- More algorithms: bloom filter, count-min Sketch, popcount



nDPI: what's new

- Better custom rules (support for custom BPF protocol definition using nBPF)
- Add an heuristic to detect fully encrypted flows
- Preliminary work to handle ECH
- Detection of (illegal) gambling sites



nDPI: fuzzing support

- What is fuzzing? This bash one liner but fancier:
 - while 1; do ./a.out < /dev/urandom &; done
- oss-fuzz integration started 4 years ago



nDPI: fuzzing support

Fuzzing Introspection of OSS-Fuzz projects

Fuzz Introspector	Suggest ideas	Report issues			
Show - entries					Search:
Project name		Language	Fuzz target count	Runtime code coverage	Total lines
go-containerregistry		go	1	98.75	160
evo-inflector		java	1	98.50	133
faad2		с	5	97.49	12185
md4c		с	1	97.39	4290
tailscale		go	1	96.73	153
uint256		go	2	96.62	1686
jsonparser		go	14	96.38	773
cgif		с	1	96.19	919
gonids		go	1	96.08	1021
nats		go	2	95.91	709
cppitertools		C++	1	95.51	401
h3		с	20	94.88	3868
ndpi		C++	27	94.85	39480
jbig2dec		C++	1	93.48	5657
pcre2		C++	1	93.48	16202



nDPI: whats' next

- Usual, boring stuff: more protocols, better performances, more flow risks, more configuration options, better multi-core support...
- Significant improvements on BitTorrent, STUN (i.e. VoIP apps) and VPN traffic
- A new algorithm to detect DGA domains?
- Better handling of asymmetric traffic

