

# Inferring BGP Blackholing Activity in the Internet

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# Motivation

**KrebsOnSecurity**  
In-depth security news and investigation

**KrebsOnSecurity Hit With**

uesday evening, KrebsOnSecurity.com was the target of a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack designed to succeed thanks to the hard work of the engineers at Akamai from such digital sieges. But according to Akamai, this attack they'd seen previously, and was among the most severe.

**Octave Klaba**  
@olesovhcom  
Senior owner, co-founder, and co-CEO of KrebsOnSecurity.com

**Octave Klaba / Oles**  
@olesovhcom

**@Dominik28111** we got 2 huge multi DDoS:  
1156Gbps then 901Gbps

```

141822|961266pps|10164065688bps
7039|36447333pps|310431776768bps
|11518142pps|98140493136bps
900|3450300pps|29380814296bps
040|22434666pps|191048318976bps
007039|93766762pps|799069437952bps
41900|3450300pps|29380814296bps
92|16026379pps|136649443464bps
7045|25634000pps|218305615104bps
|11529383pps|98233070032bps
959|7555266pps|64350808032bps
044|14566000pps|124009818792bps
007045|72241333pps|615385180840bps
41959|7555266pps|64350808032bps
51|11529383pps|98233070032bps
  
```

RETWEETS: 138    GEFÄLLT: 125

**Dyn Statement on 10/21/2016 DDoS Attack**

Company News // Oct 22, 2016 // Kyle York

It's likely that at this point you've seen some of the many news accounts of the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack Dyn sustained against our Managed DNS infrastructure this past Friday, October 21. We'd like to take this opportunity to share additional details and context regarding the attack. At the time of this writing, we are carefully monitoring for any additional attacks. Please note that our investigation regarding root cause continues and will be the topic of future updates. It is worth noting that we are unlikely to share all details of the attack and our mitigation efforts to preserve future defenses.

# Standardized Blackholing Triggering

[\[Docs\]](#) [\[txt|pdf\]](#) [\[draft-ietf-grow-b...\]](#) [\[Diff1\]](#) [\[Diff2\]](#)

INFORMATIONAL

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)  
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T. King  
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October 2016

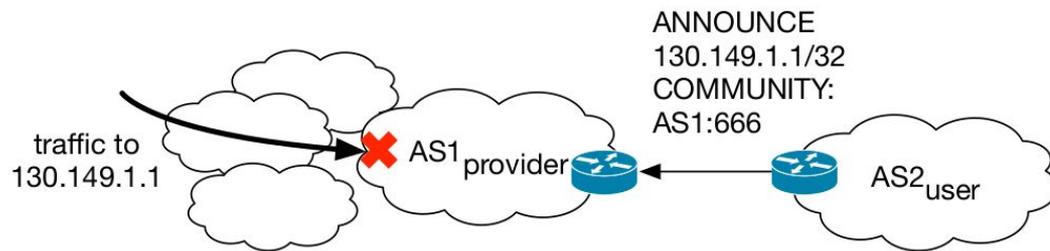
## **BLACKHOLE Community**

### Abstract

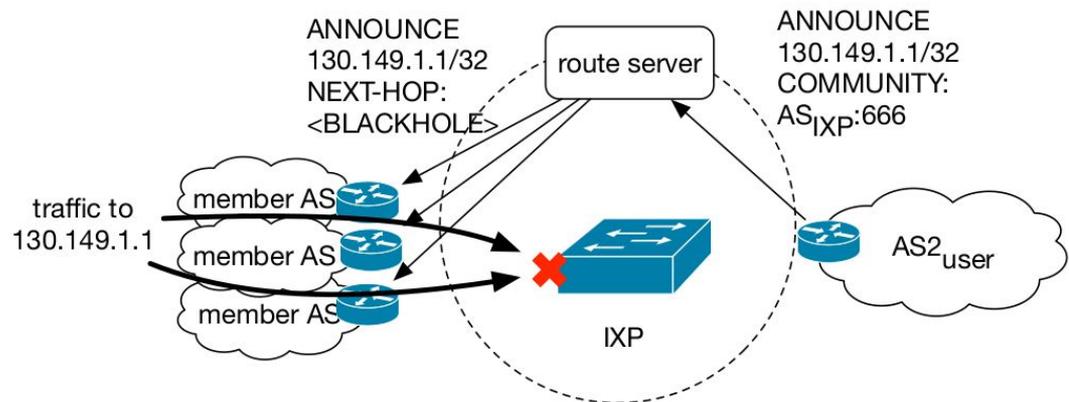
This document describes the use of a well-known Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) community for destination-based blackholing in IP networks. This well-known advisory transitive BGP community named "BLACKHOLE" allows an origin Autonomous System (AS) to specify that a neighboring network should discard any traffic destined towards the tagged IP prefix.

# Blackholing

Blackholing [RFC1997, RFC7999]



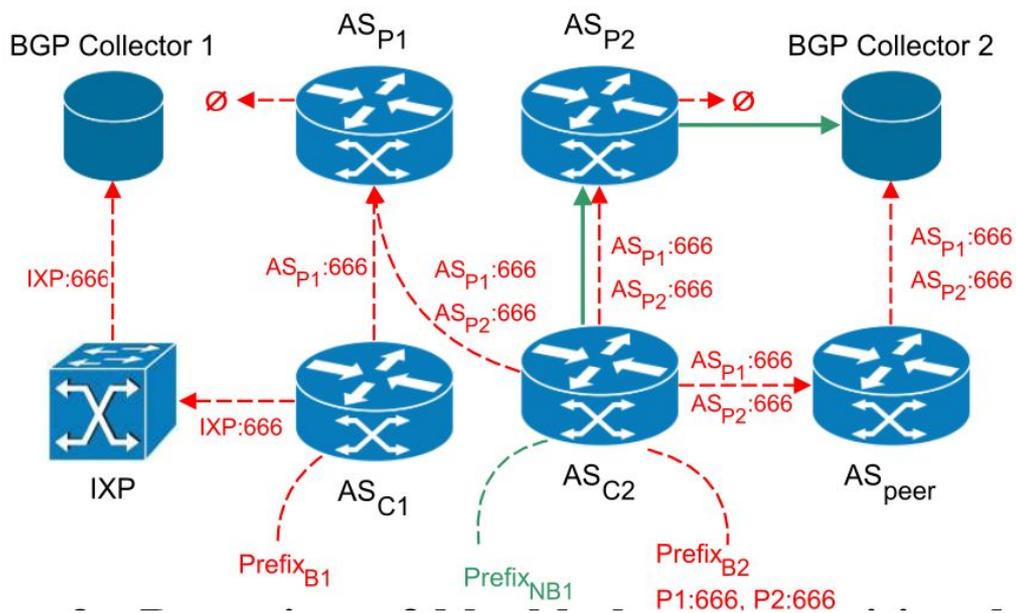
Blackholing at IXPs



# Research Goals

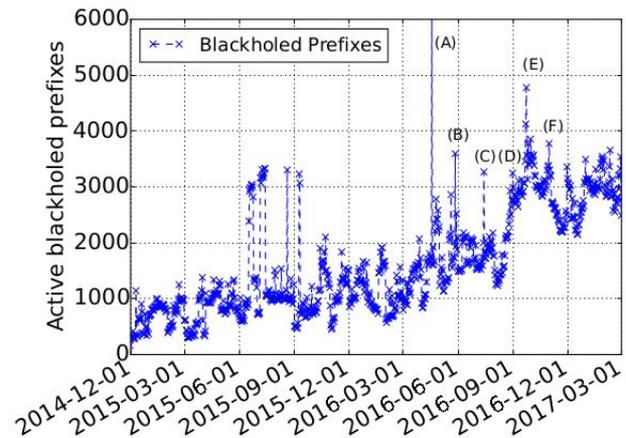
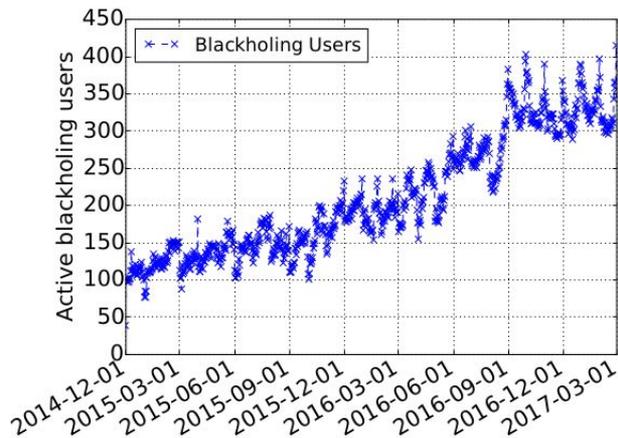
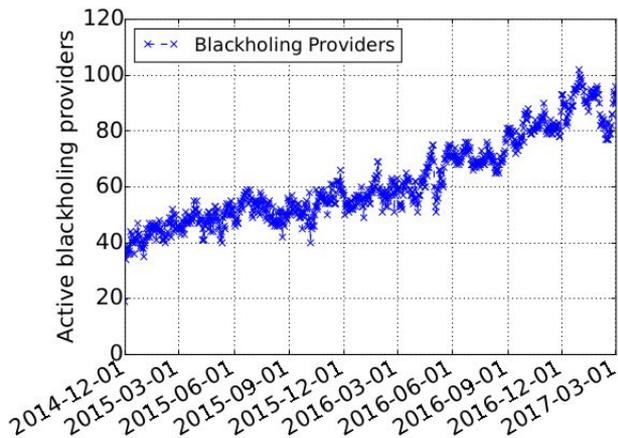
- Internet wide-adoption
- Profile the targets using blackholing
- Blackholing practices
- Network efficacy

# Blackhole Communities, Vantage Points

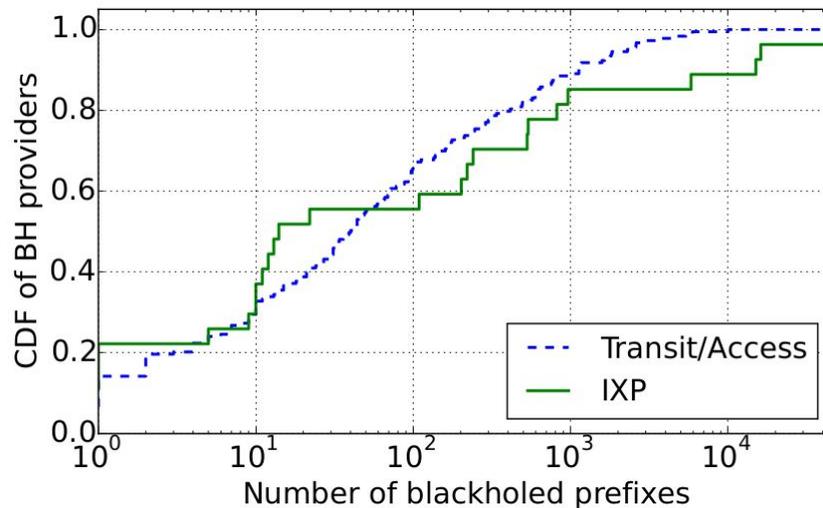
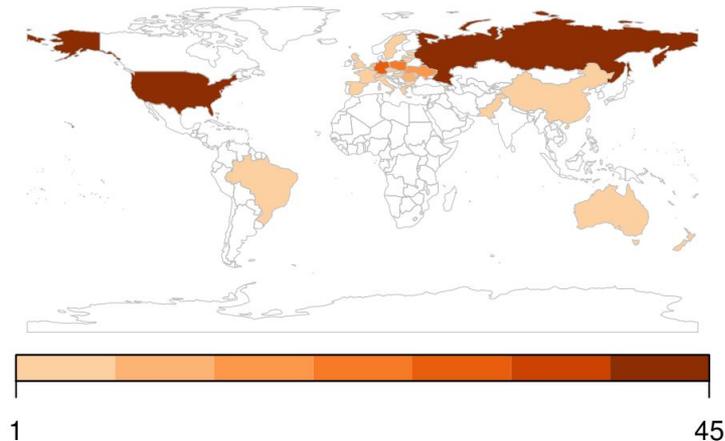


# Inferring BGP Blackholing Activity

- BH providers: 100% increase, transit ASes only 18%
- BH users: 600% increase
- BH prefixes: 485 → 4,683 and 161,031 different uniques
- A) Attack on Russian gov, D) Olympic Games, E) “Kerbs on Security”

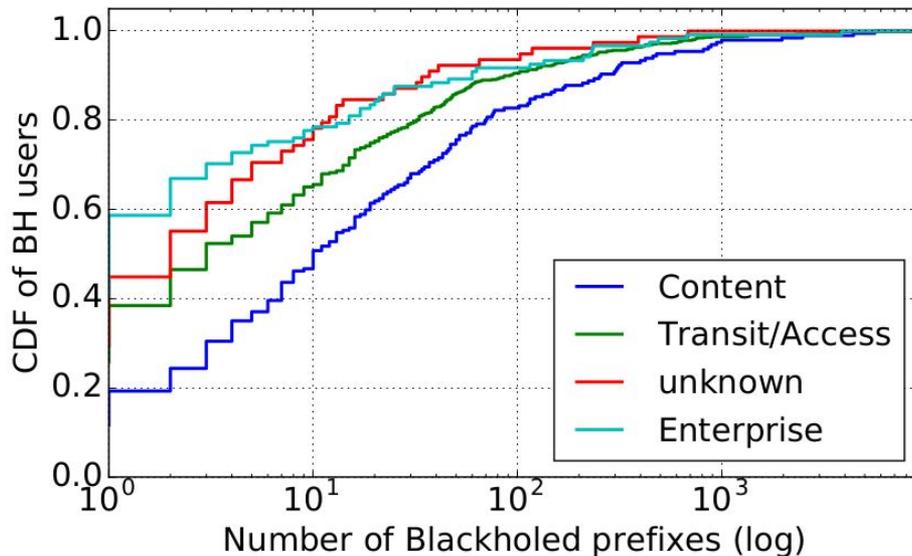
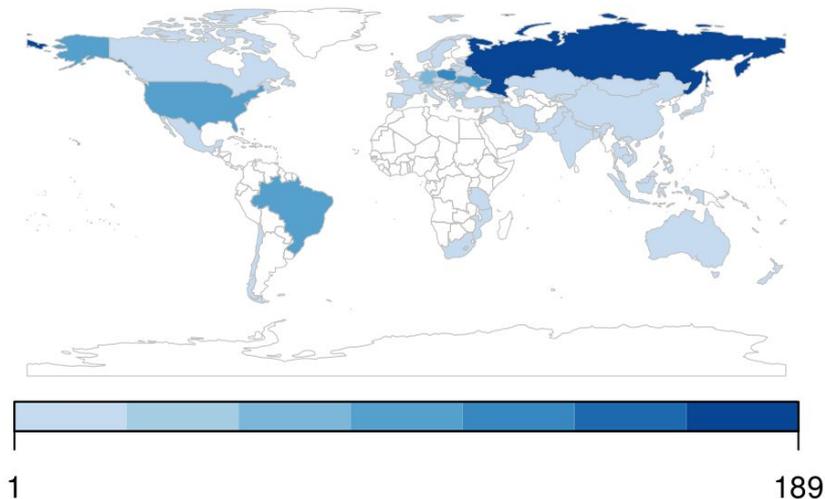


# Blackholing Provider ASes



- USA, Russia, Central Europe-centric
- 184 ASes out of 242 are transit/access providers, ~10% IXPs
- Prefixes for transit/access: a few to more than 1,000, only 20 with 1000+

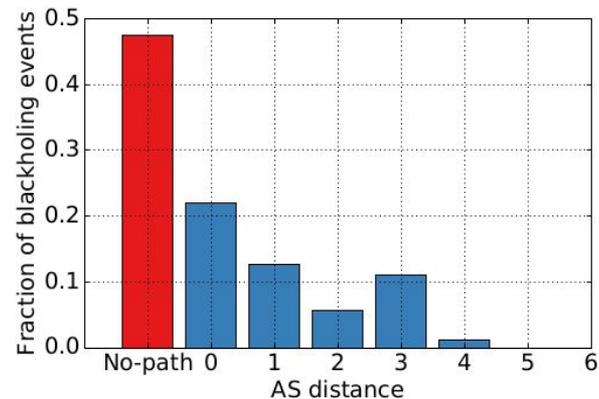
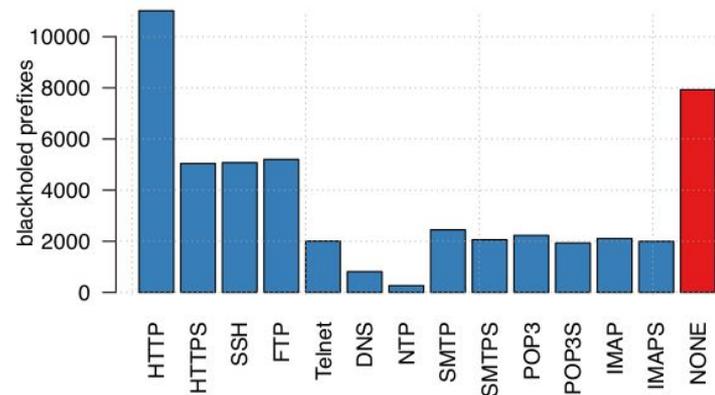
# Blackholing User ASes



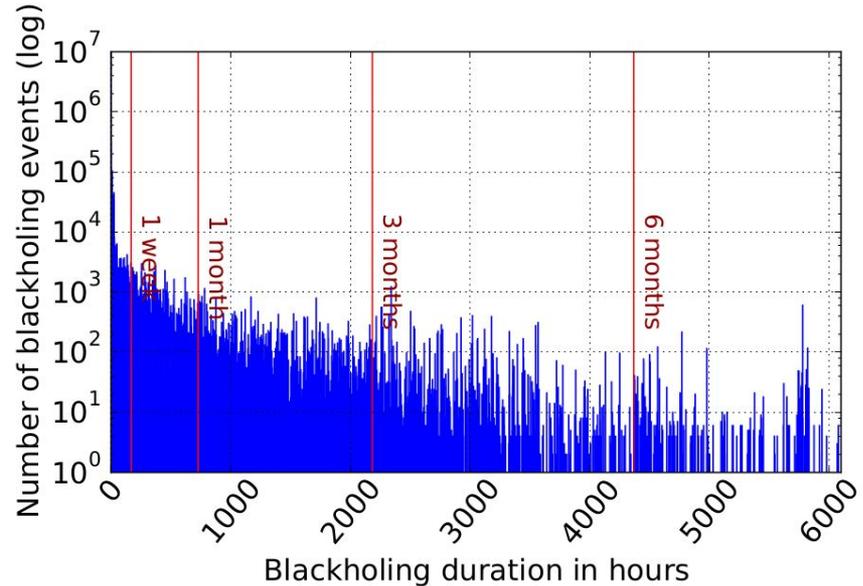
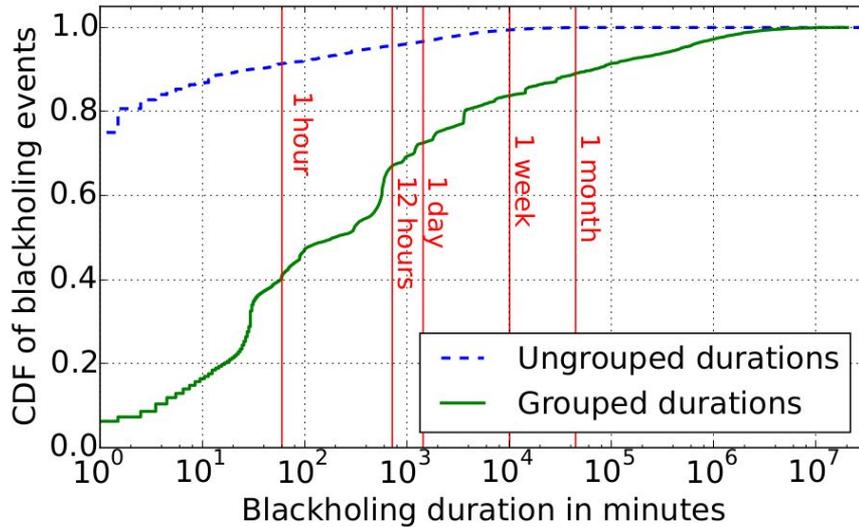
- Obviously Russia, US, and central Europe, but also Brazil and Ukraine
- Content providers dominant, 18% of users account for 43% prefixes
- Mostly small cloud providers and hosters

# Blackholed Services and AS Distance

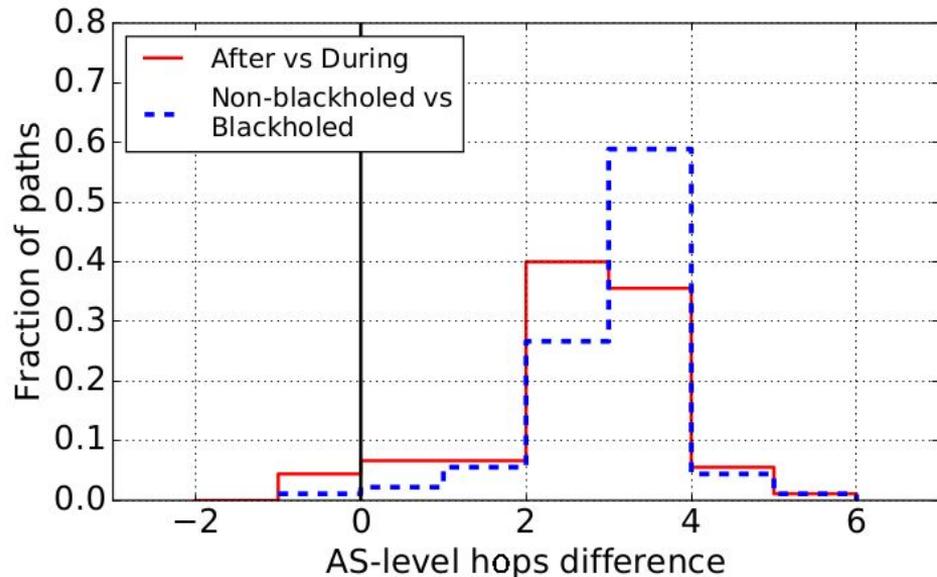
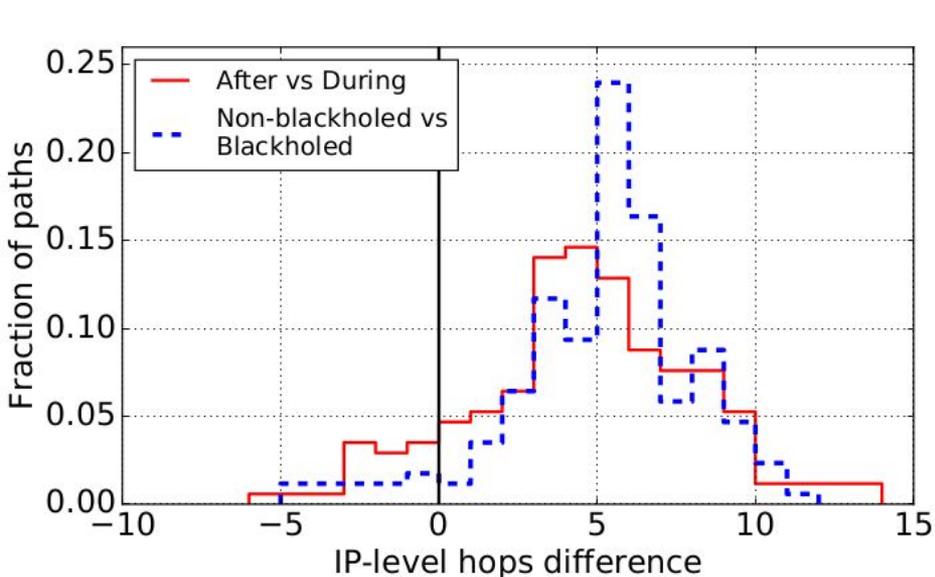
- Open host ports for 60%
  - http dominant with 53%, 61% replied to HTTP GET
  - https, ssh, ftp
- -1: BH provider does not appear in AS path
- 0: First hop (~10%)
- 1 → 6: At least one hop (~30%)



# Blackholing “Events” - Durations



# Verification - Active Measurements



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# Conclusion

- First Internet-wide study of the state and adoption of blackholing
- Significantly increased adoption, more cyber-attacks and threats(?)
- Rise of blackholing users and prefixes, but limited geographical spread
- 400 users and up to 5K prefixes per day
- Need for more fine-grained blackholing?

## Inferring BGP Blackholing Activity in the Internet

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### ABSTRACT

The Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) has been used for decades as the de facto protocol to *exchange* reachability information among networks in the Internet. However, little

Internet is an uncoordinated global communication system [32], it took a substantial effort to achieve stable global connectivity in the face of outages and disasters [24, 61], independent routing decisions [38], attacks [54], and mis-configuration

