



DNSSEC Workshop at the



21 October 2020

*Everything you ever wanted to know  
about caching resolvers but were afraid to ask*

AMSTERDAM APRIL 2017  
**DNS MEASUREMENTS**  
HACKATHON

Participants:

Andrea Barberio, Petros Gigis, Jerry Lundström,  
Teemu Ryttilahti, Willem Toorop

Goal:

Provide insight into caching resolver capabilities



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**DNS MEASUREMENTS**  
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## Capabilities & properties

Basic : IPv6, TCP, TCP over IPv6

Security: DNSSEC validation, Algorithm support,  
TA's Root KSK Sentinel, NXdomain rewrite

Privacy : Qname minimization, EDNS Client Subnet



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**DNS MEASUREMENTS**  
HACKATHON

**Some msms need just a zone**

IPv6, DNSSEC validation, NXdomain rewriting

**Some need authoritative perspective**

TCP, Qname minimization, EDNS Client subnet

**dnsthoughtd**



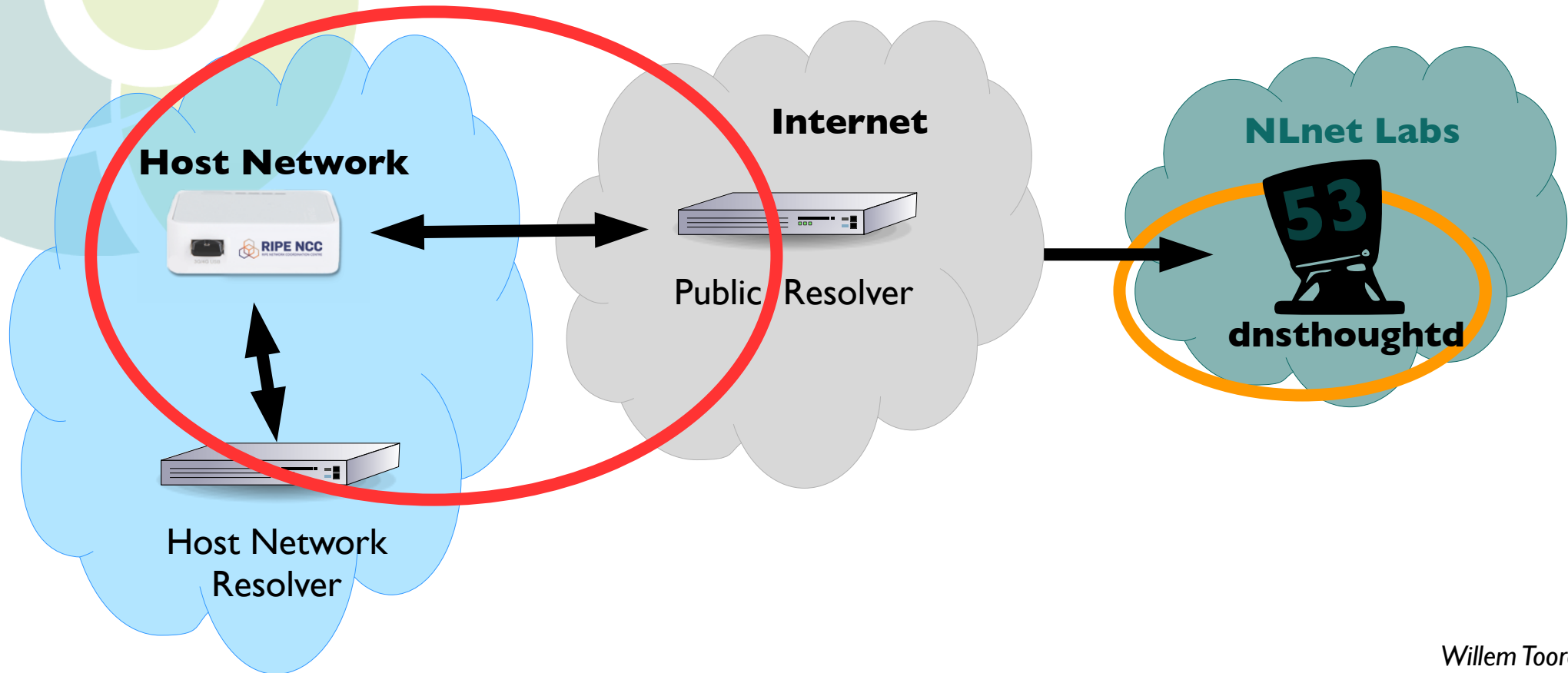
# dnsthoighd

```
willem@makaak: ~  
willem@makaak:~$ dig @9.9.9.9 tc.ripe-hackathon6.nl netlabs.nl AAAA  
; <<>> DiG 9.11.0-P2 <<>> @9.9.9.9 tc.ripe-hackathon6.nl netlabs.nl AAAA  
; (1 server found)  
;; global options: +cmd  
;; Got answer:  
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 61711  
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1  
  
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:  
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 4096  
;; QUESTION SECTION:  
;tc.ripe-hackathon6.nl netlabs.nl. IN      AAAA  
  
;; ANSWER SECTION:  
tc.ripe-hackathon6.nl netlabs.nl. 0 IN      AAAA      2620:171:f9:f0::8  
  
;; Query time: 15 msec  
;; SERVER: 9.9.9.9#53(9.9.9.9)  
;; WHEN: Mon Oct 08 15:10:12 CEST 2018  
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 88  
  
willem@makaak:~$ dig -x 2620:171:f9:f0::8 +short  
res110.ams.rdns.pch.net.  
willem@makaak:~$
```

I



# The RIPE Atlas perspective





# The RIPE Atlas perspective

	Probe ASN	Resolver ASN	Authoritative ASN
Internal	<b>X</b>	=	<b>X</b>
Forwarding	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Z</b>
	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
External	<b>X</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>Z</b>



# Qname minimization

```
willem@makaak: ~  
willem@makaak:~$ dig @1.1.1.1 qnamemintest.internet.nl TXT  
  
; <<>> DiG 9.11.0-P2 <<>> @1.1.1.1 qnamemintest.internet.nl TXT  
; (1 server found)  
;; global options: +cmd  
;; Got answer:  
;; ->HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 33167  
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 2, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1  
  
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:  
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 1452  
;; QUESTION SECTION:  
;qnamemintest.internet.nl.      IN      TXT  
  
;; ANSWER SECTION:  
qnamemintest.internet.nl. 10      IN      CNAME   a.b.qnamemin-test.internet.nl.  
a.b.qnamemin-test.internet.nl. 10 IN      TXT     "HOORAY - QNAME minimisation is enabled on your resolver :!)"  
  
;; Query time: 20 msec  
;; SERVER: 1.1.1.1#53(1.1.1.1)  
;; WHEN: Mon Oct 08 15:26:41 CEST 2018  
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 157  
  
willem@makaak:~$
```

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DNS MEASUREMENTS

## Measurements for all probes every hour

query	msm ID
<prb_id>.<time>.ripe-hackathon6.nl netlabs.nl AAAA	8310366
<prb_id>.<time>.tc.ripe-hackathon4.nl netlabs.nl A	8310360
<prb_id>.<time>.tc.ripe-hackathon6.nl netlabs.nl AAAA	8310364
qnamemintest.internet.nl TXT	8310250
nxdomain.ripe-hackathon2.nl netlabs.nl A	8311777
whoami.akamai.net A	8310245
o-o.myaddr.l.google.com TXT	8310237
secure.ripe-hackathon2.nl netlabs.nl A	8311760
bogus.ripe-hackathon2.nl netlabs.nl A	8311763

**Thank you Emile Aben!**



DNSThought



Enter probe id... 🔍

MAIN NAVIGATION

- Home
- Per probe
- Per resolver
- QNAME Map
- Global Map
- About

Per probe | Overview of probe 31568 Prototype

🏠 Home > Per probe

Overview: - x

- The probe can connect to a name server ✔
- The probe resolver is able to perform DNS IPv4 TCP ✔
- The probe resolver is able to perform DNS IPv6 TCP ✔
- The probe resolver have IPv6 capability ✔
- The probe resolver offers QNAME minimization ✔
- The probe resolver does not deliver edns subnet info ✘

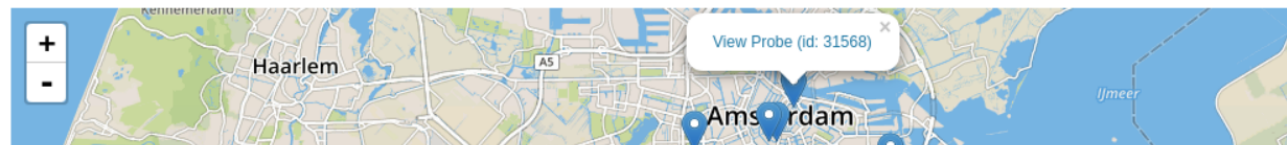
Availability per DNS Resolver - x

Resolver IP	Last Hour	Last 6h
192.87.36.36	1	1
195.169.124.124	1	1

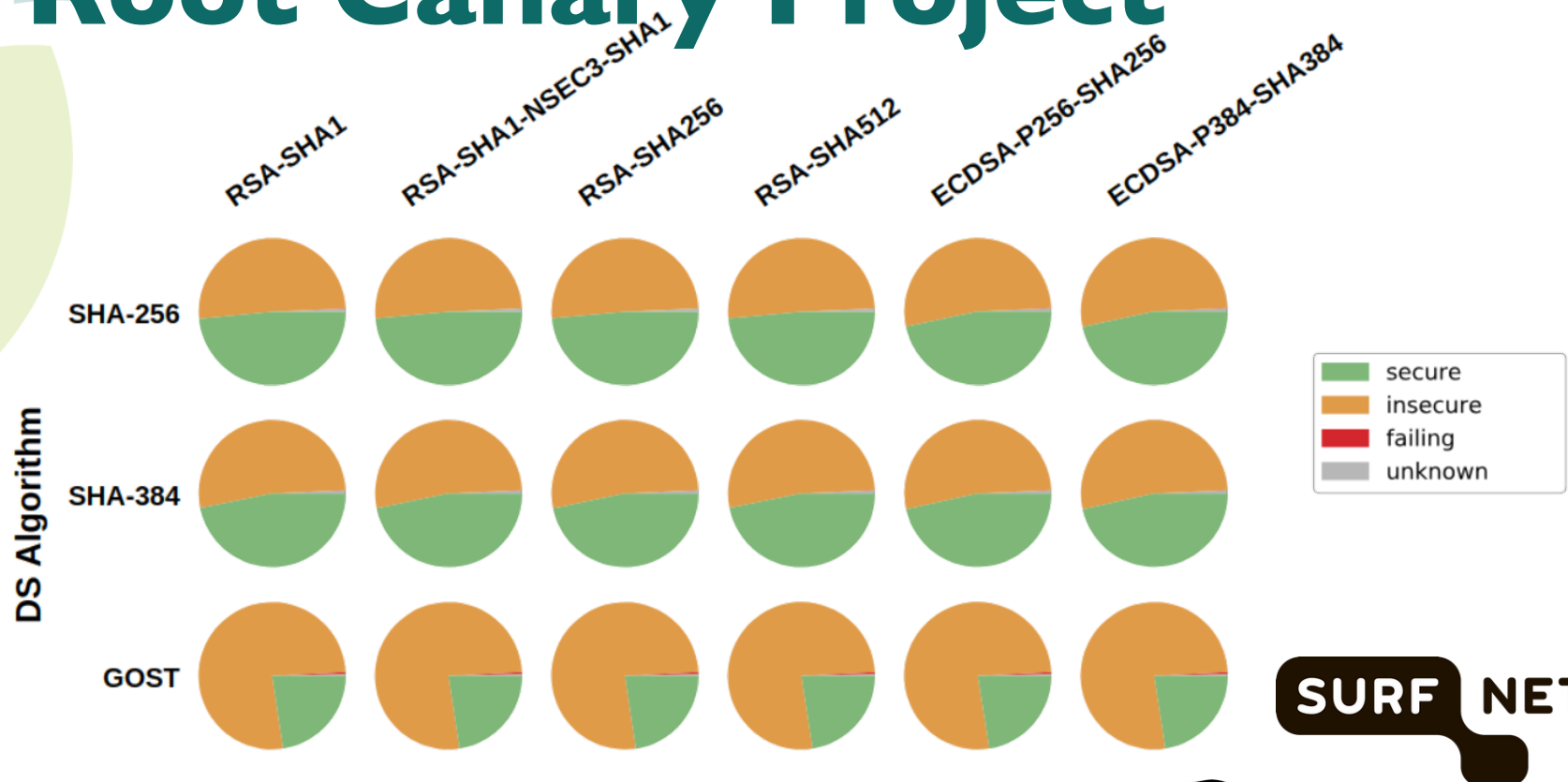
Capabilities per DNS Resolver - x

resolver IP	resolver net	resolver ASN	edns0 client subnet	IPv6 capability	IPv4 TCP	IPv6 TCP	QNAME minimization
195.169.124.124	<a href="#">195.169.0.0/16</a>	1103	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
192.87.36.36	<a href="#">192.87.0.0/16</a>	1103	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Probe Map of AS v4: 1103 | v6: 1103 - x



# Root Canary Project



- Participation with Roland van Rijswijk - Deij
- Measurements started 20 June 2017





# Root Canary Project

RSA-SHA1

RSA-SHA1-NSEC3-SHA1

RSA-SHA256

RSA-SHA512

ECDSA-P256-SHA256

ECDSA-P384-SHA384

DS Algorithm

SHA-256

SHA-384

GOST

DS  
Algorithm

DNSKEY  
Algorithm

NSEC  
version

secure.  
bogus.

d1  
d2  
d3  
d4

a1  
a3  
a5  
a6  
a7  
a8  
a10  
a12  
a13  
a14  
a15  
a16  
a23?

n1  
n3

.rootcanary.net

Index of /raw - Chromium

Index of /raw

dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/raw/

<a href="#">8926853</a>	secure.d2a1n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSA/MD5 support
<a href="#">8926854</a>	bogus.d2a1n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSA/MD5 support
<a href="#">8926855</a>	secure.d2a3n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY DSA support
<a href="#">8926856</a>	bogus.d2a3n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY DSA support
<a href="#">8926857</a>	secure.d2a5n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA1 support
<a href="#">8926858</a>	bogus.d2a5n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA1 support
<a href="#">8926859</a>	secure.d2a6n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY DSA-NSEC3 support
<a href="#">8926860</a>	bogus.d2a6n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY DSA-NSEC3 support
<a href="#">8926861</a>	secure.d2a7n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA1-NSEC3 support
<a href="#">8926862</a>	bogus.d2a7n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA1-NSEC3 support
<a href="#">8926863</a>	secure.d2a8n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA256 support
<a href="#">8926864</a>	bogus.d2a8n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA256 support
<a href="#">8926865</a>	secure.d2a10n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA512 support
<a href="#">8926866</a>	bogus.d2a10n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY RSASHA512 support
<a href="#">8926867</a>	secure.d2a12n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ECC-GOST support
<a href="#">8926868</a>	bogus.d2a12n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ECC-GOST support
<a href="#">8926869</a>	secure.d2a13n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ECDSAP256SHA256 support
<a href="#">8926870</a>	bogus.d2a13n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ECDSAP256SHA256 support
<a href="#">8926871</a>	secure.d2a14n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ECDSAP384SHA384 support
<a href="#">8926872</a>	bogus.d2a14n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ECDSAP384SHA384 support
<a href="#">8926873</a>	secure.d2a15n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ED25519 support
<a href="#">8926874</a>	bogus.d2a15n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ED25519 support
<a href="#">8926875</a>	secure.d2a16n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ED448 support
<a href="#">8926876</a>	bogus.d2a16n1.rootcanary.net	A DS SHA256, DNSKEY ED448 support

SHA384

rootcanary.net



https://rootcanary.org/test.html - Chromium

https://rootcanary.org/te x +

rootcanary.org/test.html

DS Algorithm	RSA-MD5	DSA	RSA-SHA1	DSA-NSEC3-SHA1	RSA-SHA1	RSA-SHA1-NSEC3-SHA1	RSA-SHA256	RSA-SHA512	ECC-GOST	ECDSA-P256-SHA256	ECDSA-P384-SHA384	ED25519	ED448
SHA-1													
SHA-256													
GOST													
SHA-384													

- DNSSEC validation succeeded for this DS and signing algorithm combination
- This DS and signing algorithm combination are not validated by your resolver(s)
- This DS and signing algorithm lead to a SERVFAIL

**Re-run test**



# More measurements

- Moritz Muller joined too
- Root KSK Sentinel msms since 19 July 2018



	<b>query</b>		<b>msm ID</b>
	<code>root-key-sentinel-not-ta-19036.d2a8n3.rootcanary.net</code>	<b>A</b>	15283670
	<code>root-key-sentinel-not-ta-20326.d2a8n3.rootcanary.net</code>	<b>A</b>	15283671

*With validating resolvers we have three situations:*

- 1. Key 20326 has not been picked up (yet)*
- 2. Key 20326 is a valid TA, and key 19036 is still a valid TA*
- 3. Key 20326 is a valid TA, and key 19036 is removed*

*For these situations (1, 2,3), measurements for:*

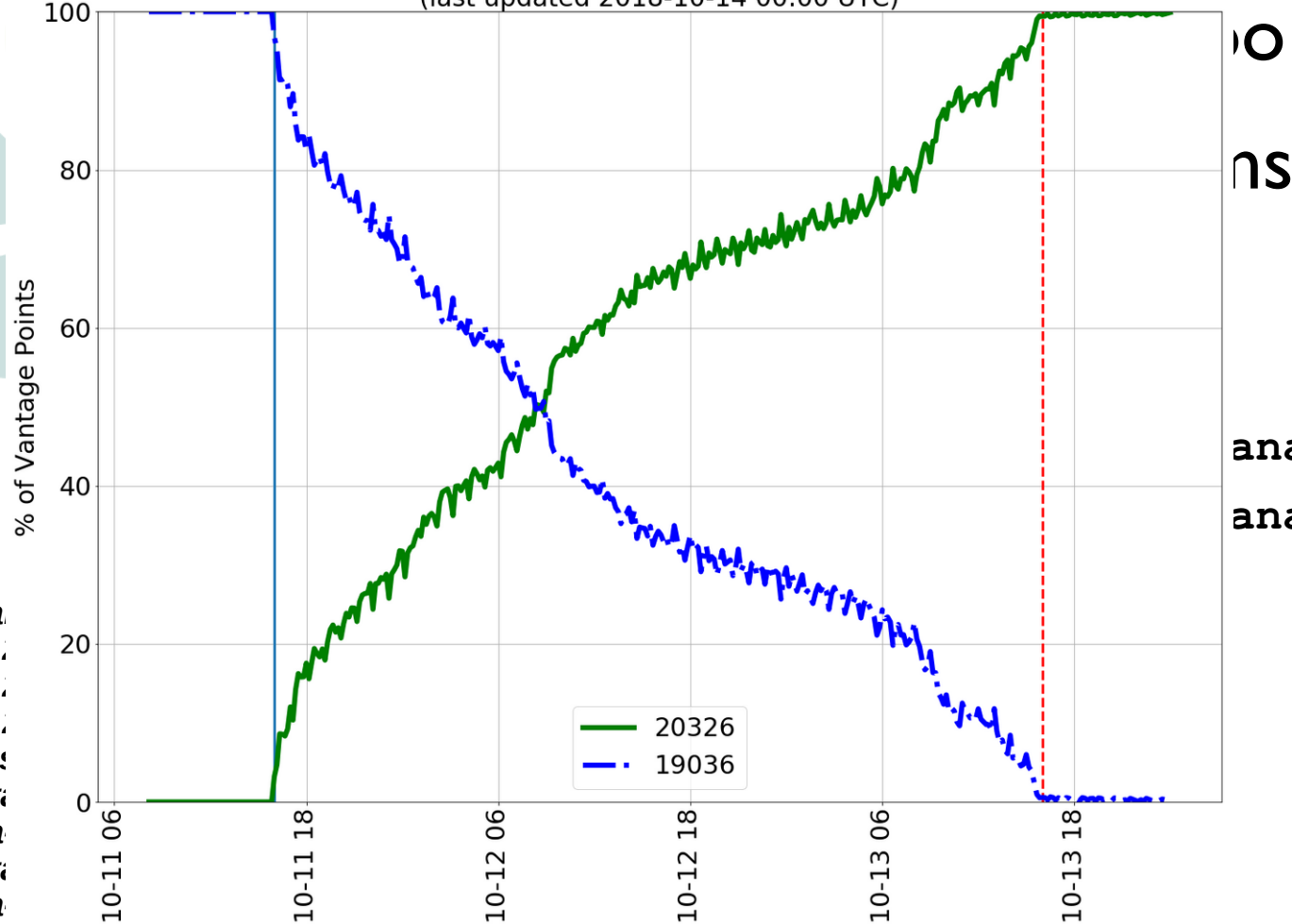
- (not-ta-19036 is-ta-20326) results in 1: (S S), 2: (S A), 3: (A A)*
- ( is-ta-19036 is-ta-20326) results in 1: (A S), 2: (A A), 3: (S A)*
- (not-ta-19036 not-ta-20326) results in 1: (S A), 2: (S S), 3: (A S)*
- ( is-ta-19036 not-ta-20326) results in 1: (A A), 2: (A S), 3: (S S)*

Willem Toorop

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# More measurements

Seen KSK RRSIGs from RIPE Atlas Resolvers  
(last updated 2018-10-14 00:00 UTC)



**msm ID**

anary.net A 15283670  
anary.net A 15283671

With va  
1. Key  
2. Key  
3. Key  
For the  
- (not-t  
- (is-ta  
- (not-t  
- (is-ta

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# More measurements



## Roll, Roll, Roll your Root: A Comprehensive Analysis of the First Ever DNSSEC Root KSK Rollover

Moritz Müller  
University of Twente and SIDN Labs

Matthew Thomas  
Verisign

Duane Wessels  
Verisign

Wes Hardaker  
USC/Information Sciences Institute

Taejoong Chung  
Rochester Institute of Technology

Willem Toorop  
NLnet Labs

Roland van Rijswijk-Deij  
University of Twente and NLnet Labs

### ABSTRACT

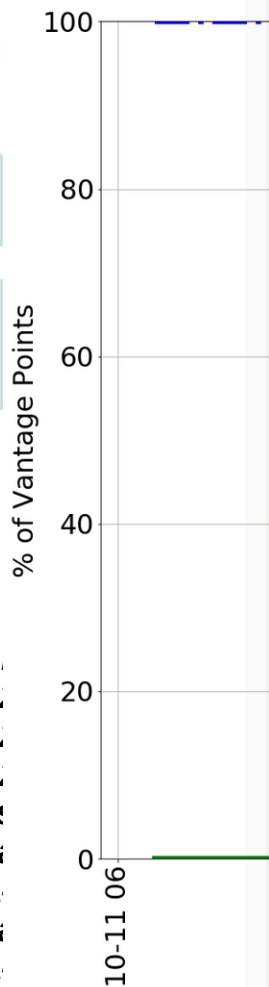
The DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) add authenticity and integrity to *the* naming system of the Internet. Resolvers that validate information in the DNS need to know the cryptographic public key used to sign the root zone of the DNS. Eight years after its introduction and one year after the originally scheduled date, this key was replaced by ICANN for the first time in October 2018. ICANN considered this event, called a *rollover*, “an overwhelming success” and during the rollover they detected “no significant outages”.

In this paper, we independently follow the process of the rollover starting from the events that led to its postponement in 2017 until the removal of the old key in 2019. We collected data from multiple vantage points in the DNS ecosystem for the entire duration of the rollover process. Using this data, we study key events of the rollover. These events include telemetry signals that led to the rollover being postponed, a near real-time view of the actual rollover in resolvers and a significant increase in queries to the root of the DNS once the old key was revoked. Our analysis contributes significantly to identifying the causes of challenges observed during the rollover. We show that while from an end-user perspective, the roll indeed passed without major problems, there are many opportunities for improvement and important lessons to be learned from events that occurred over the entire duration of the rollover. Based on

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Domain Name System (DNS) is *the* naming system of the Internet. Since 2010, the root of the DNS is secured with the DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), adding a layer of authenticity and integrity. DNSSEC uses public-key cryptography to sign the content in the DNS and enables recursive resolvers<sup>1</sup> to validate that the information they receive is authentic. The sequence of cryptographic keys signing other cryptographic keys is called a *chain of trust*. The public key at the beginning of this chain of trust is called a *trust anchor*. Validators have a list of trust anchors, which they trust implicitly. The Root Key Signing Key (KSK) acts as the trust anchor for DNSSEC and this cryptographic key was added to the root zone in July 2010. Eight years later, and after a one year delay, the KSK was replaced for the very first time, following established policy that requires regular rollovers of the Root KSK [1]. This event, usually referred to as the Root KSK Rollover (hereafter “the rollover”), required years of preparation and was considered risky. Stakeholders expected, in the worst case, millions of Internet users (up to 13%) to become unable to resolve a domain name [2].

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the organization responsible for coordinating and rolling the key, collected feedback from the community before the rollover. Two risks were most feared: (i) resolvers that would not update their



With va  
1. Key  
2. Key  
3. Key  
For the  
- (not-t  
- (is-ta  
- (not-t  
- (is-ta

**msm ID**

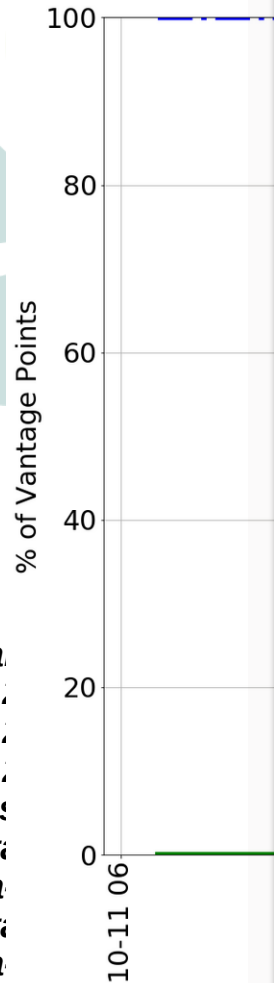
15283670

15283671

Willem Toorop

ght @ICANN69 17/41

# More measurements



## Roll, Roll, Roll

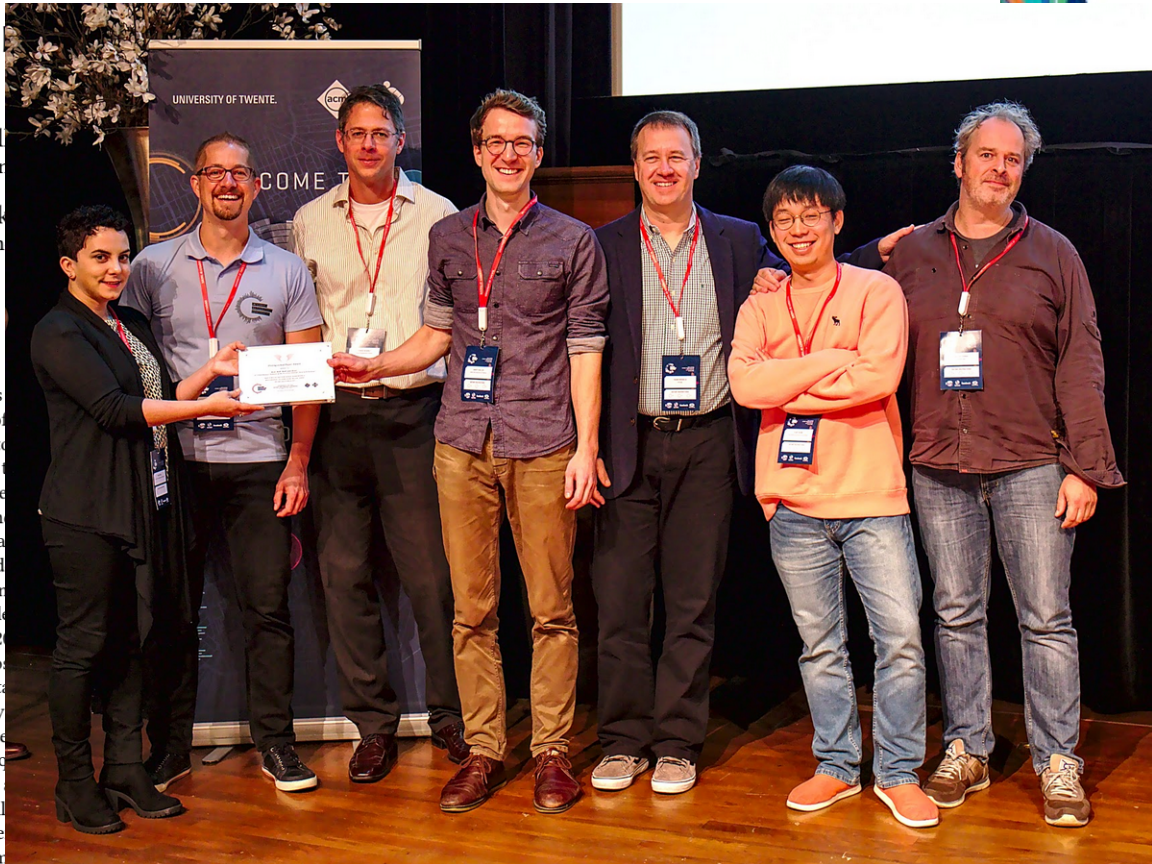
Moritz Müller  
University of Twente and

Wes Hardaker  
USC/Information Sciences Institute

### ABSTRACT

The DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) provide integrity to the naming system of the Internet. Information in the DNS needs to be signed to be used to sign the root zone of the Internet. The root zone was replaced by ICANN for the first time in 2010 and one year after the rollover they considered this event, called a rollover, and during the rollover they discovered several issues.

In this paper, we independently measure the impact of the removal of the old key in 2010 and 2011. We show that the rollover process resulted in a loss of 2% vantage points in the DNS ecosystem. These events include telemetry data collection, a postponed, a near real-time view of the rollover and a significant increase in the number of queries for the old key was revoked. Our goal is to identify the causes of challenges during the rollover. We show that while from an operational perspective the rollover passed without major problems, there were several improvements and important lessons to be learned from events that occurred over the entire duration of the rollover. Based on



ABS

h ID  
3670  
3671

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light @ICANN69 18/41

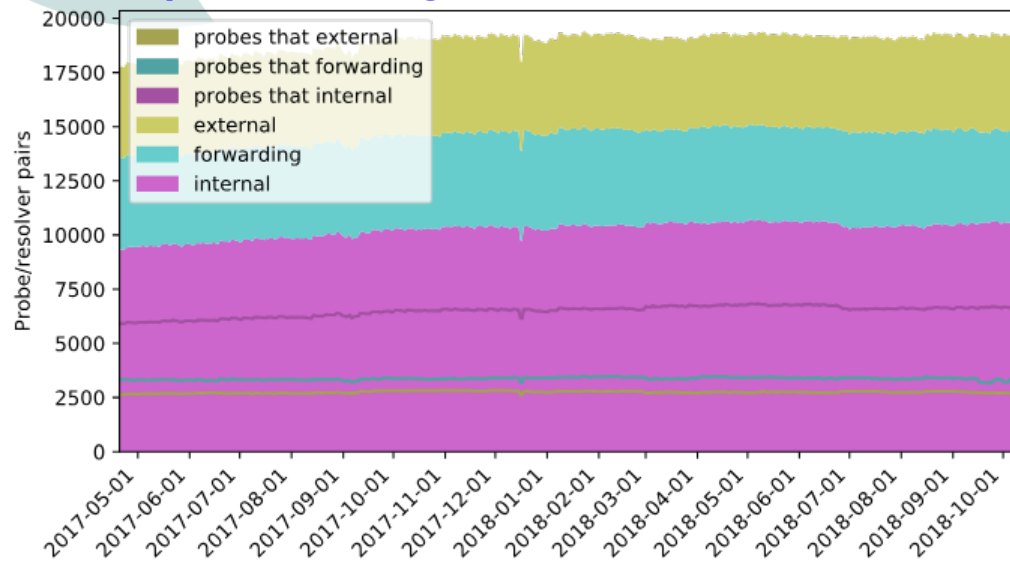
With va  
1. Key  
2. Key  
3. Key  
For the  
- (not-t  
- (is-ta  
- (not-t  
- (is-ta

the key, collected feedback from the community before the rollover. Two risks were most feared: (i) resolvers that would not update their

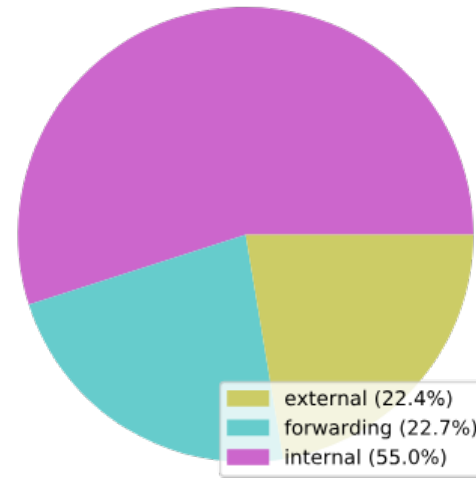
# 1½ years of measurements

## Internal, Forwarding & External

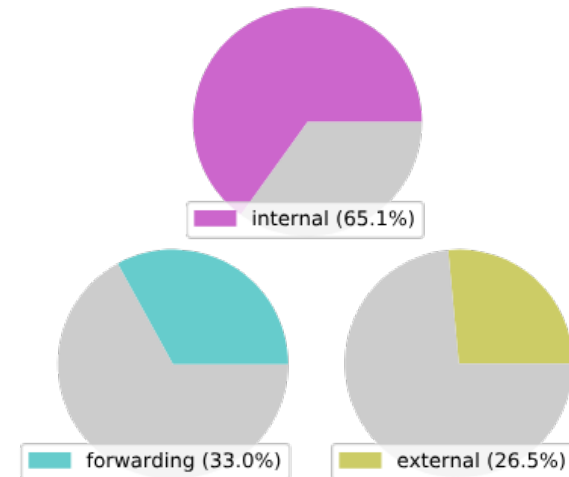
[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#int\\_fwd\\_ext](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#int_fwd_ext)



with 19082 resolvers



with 10155 probes



Willem Toorop

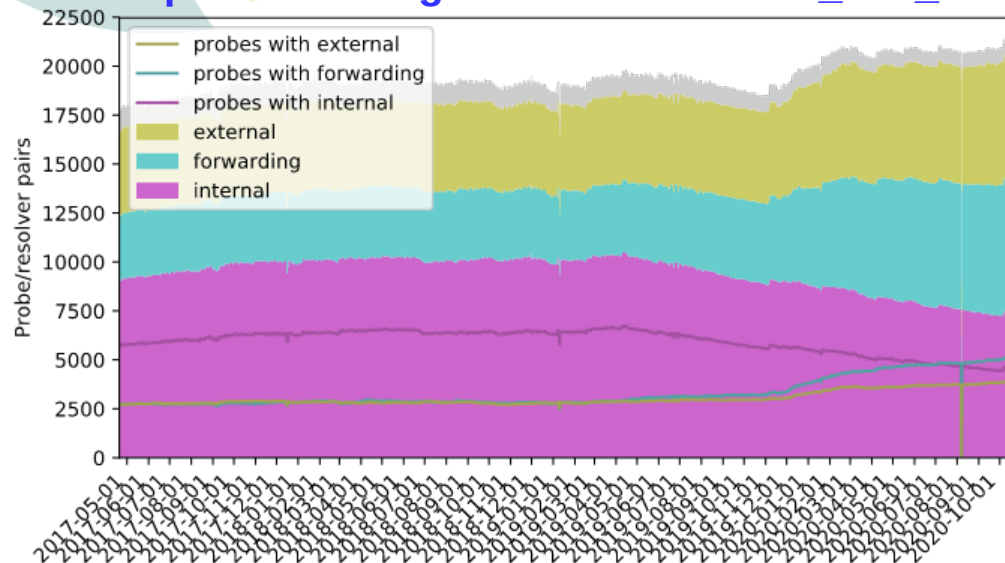
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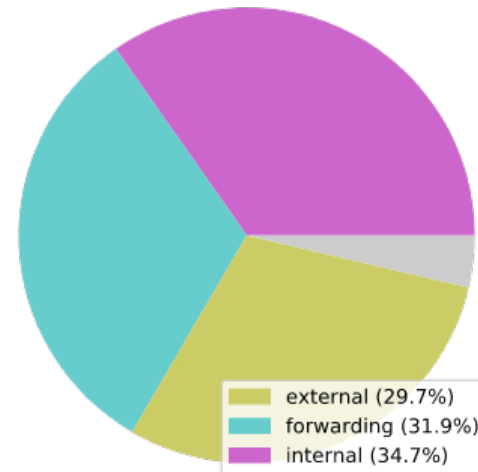
# 3½ years of measurements

## Internal, Forwarding & External

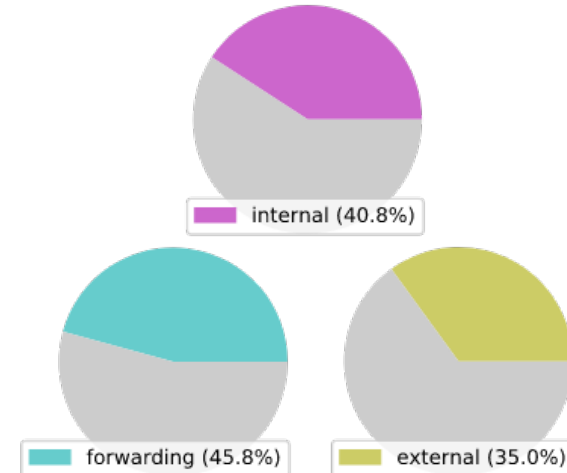
[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#int\\_fwd\\_ext](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#int_fwd_ext)



with 21181 resolvers



with 11095 probes



Willem Toorop

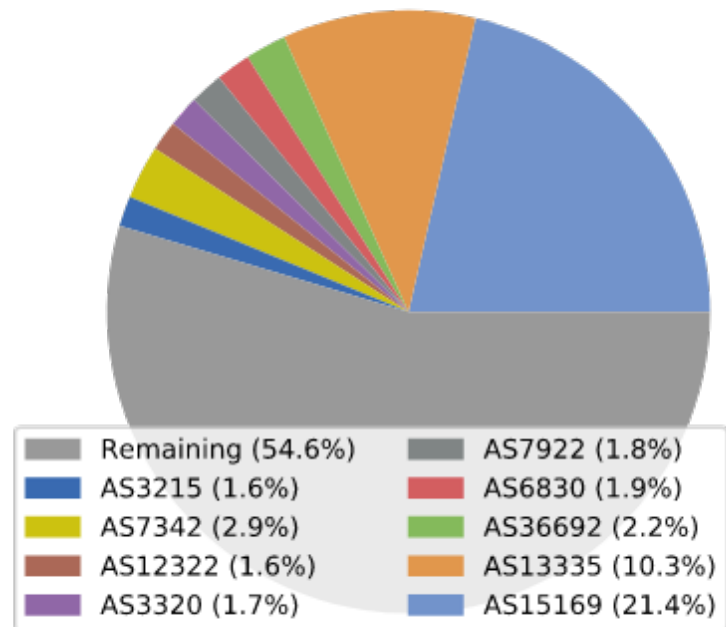
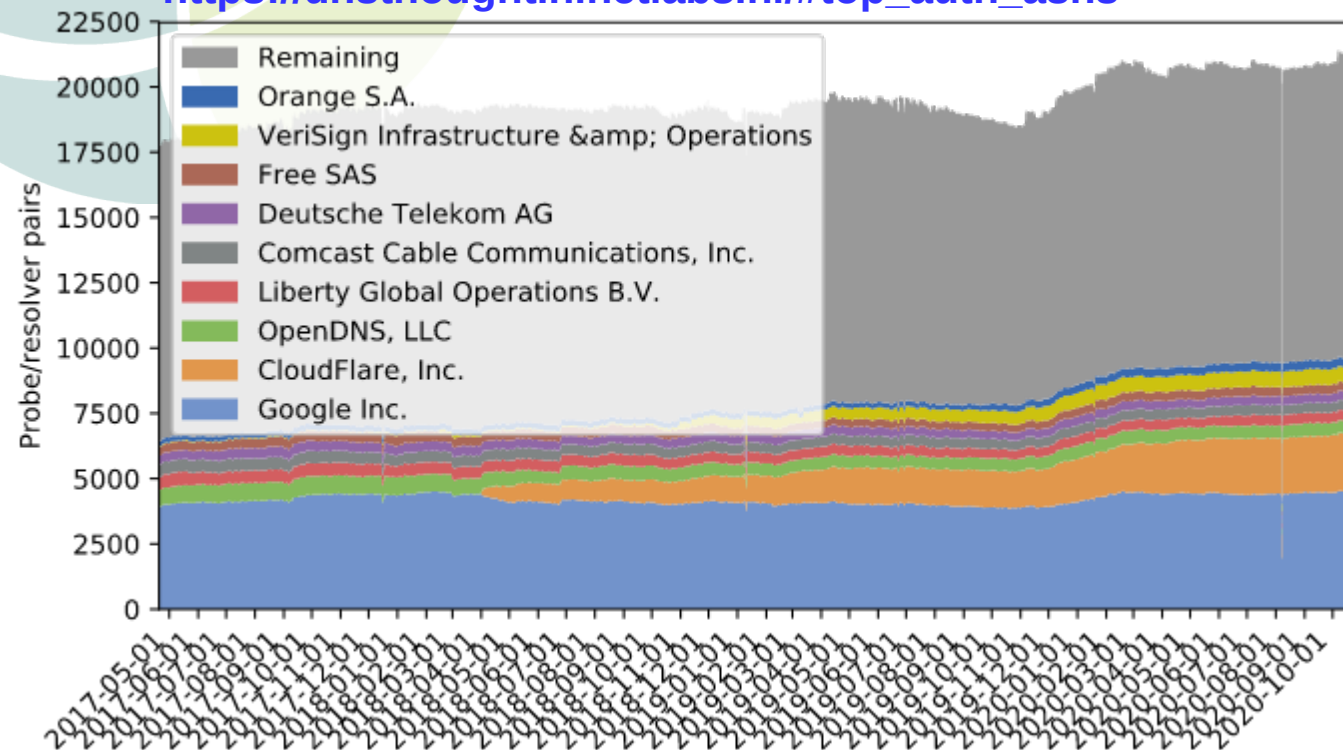
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# 3½ years of measurements

## Top 10 ASNs seen @ authoritative

[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#top_auth_asns)

with 21181 resolvers



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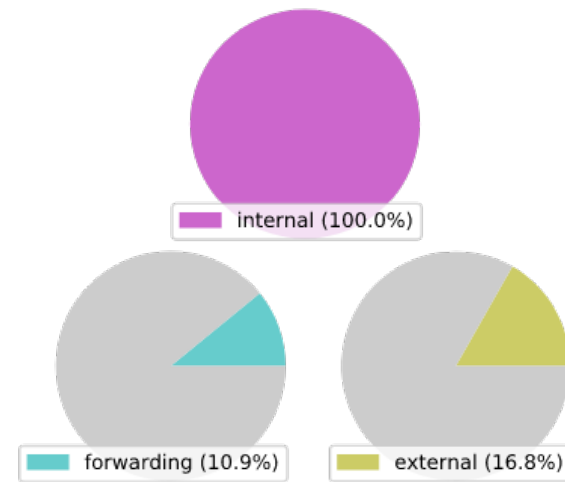
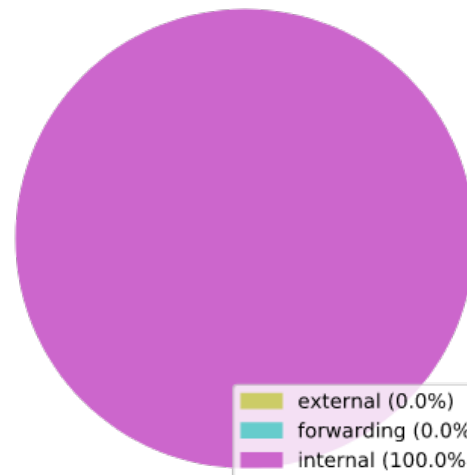
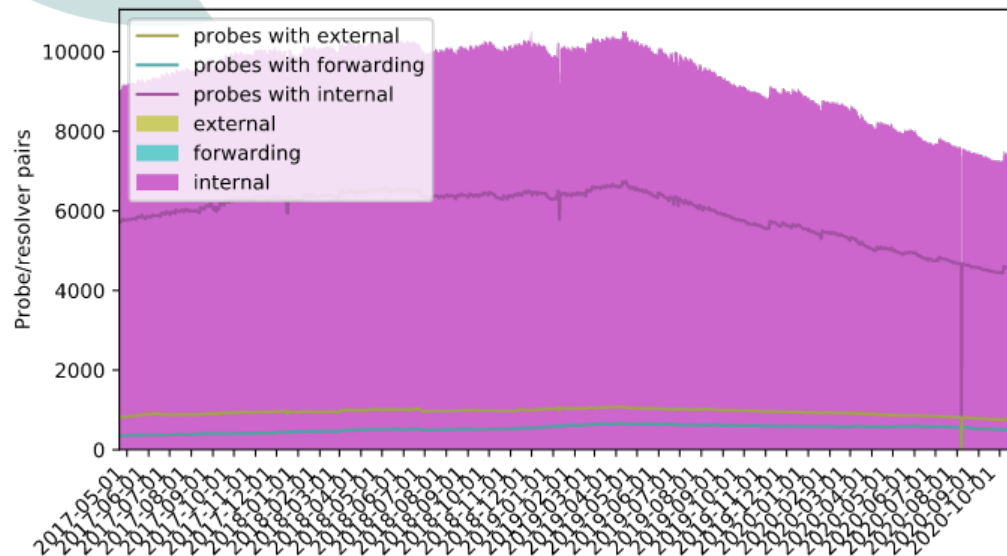
have the same ASN as the probe (internal)

[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/is\\_internal/#int\\_fwd\\_ext](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/is_internal/#int_fwd_ext)

# Internal

with 7358 resolvers

with 4530 probes



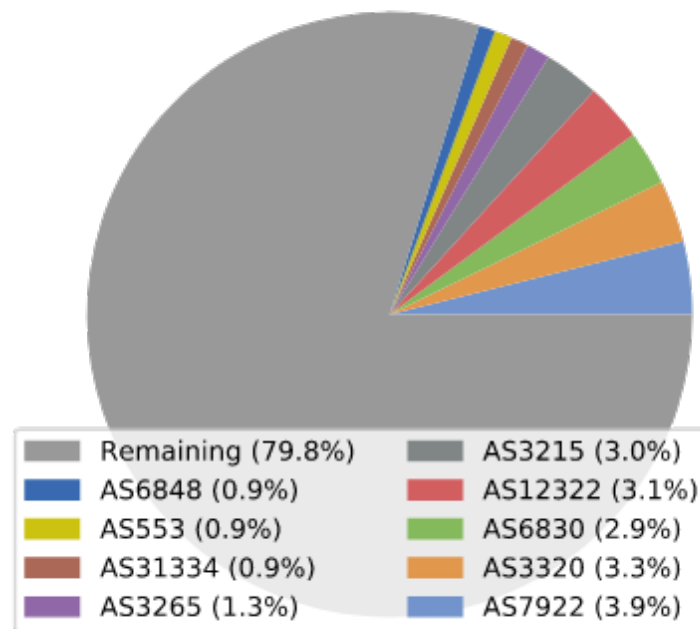
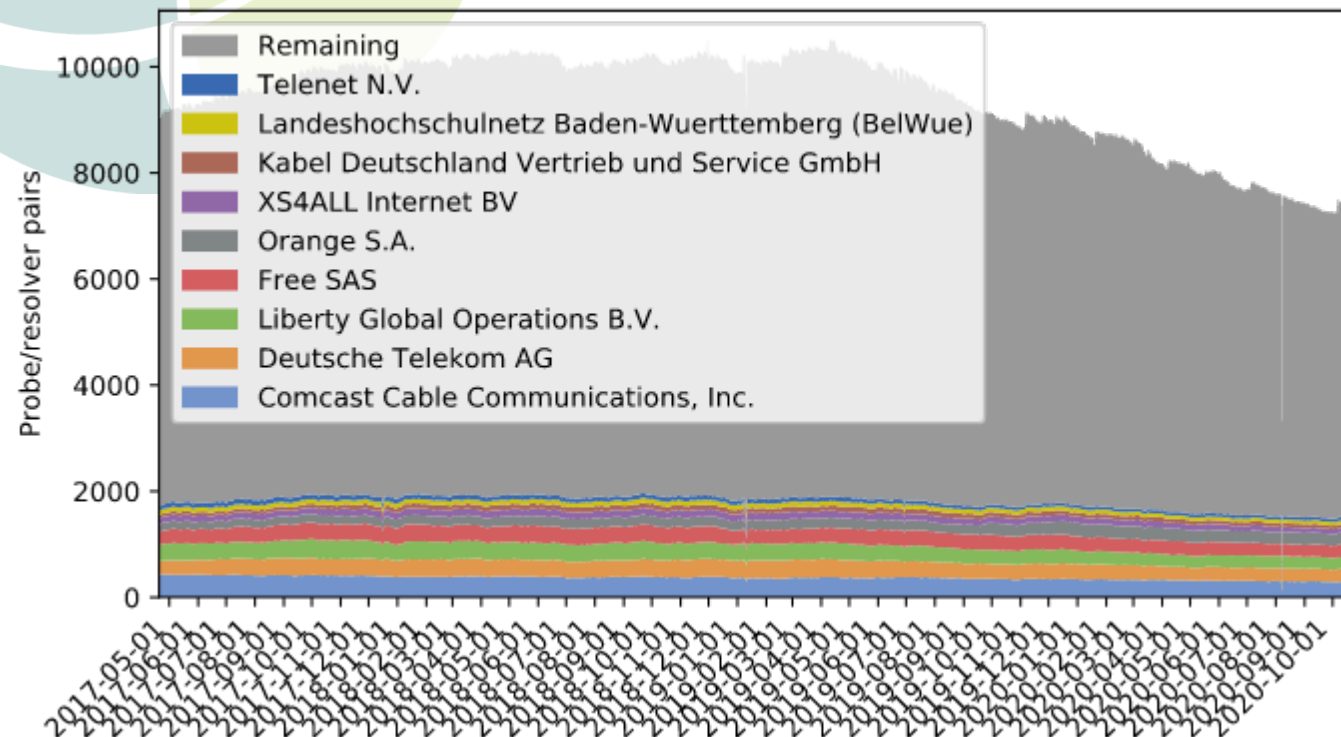


have the same ASN as the probe (internal)  
[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/is\\_internal/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/is_internal/#top_auth_asns)

# Top 10 ASNs seen @ authoritative

# Internal

with 7358 resolvers



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forwarding to a resolver with a different ASN  
[https://dnsthoight.nlnetlabs.nl/is\\_forwarding/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnsthoight.nlnetlabs.nl/is_forwarding/#top_auth_asns)

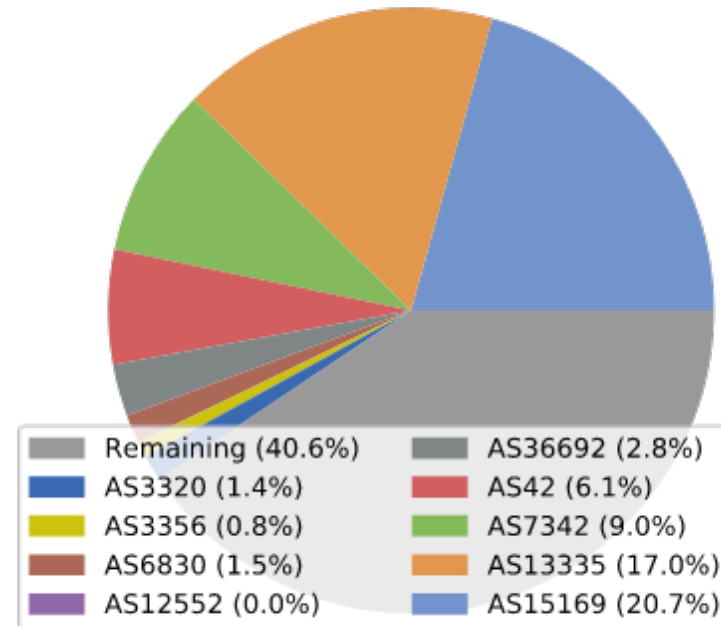
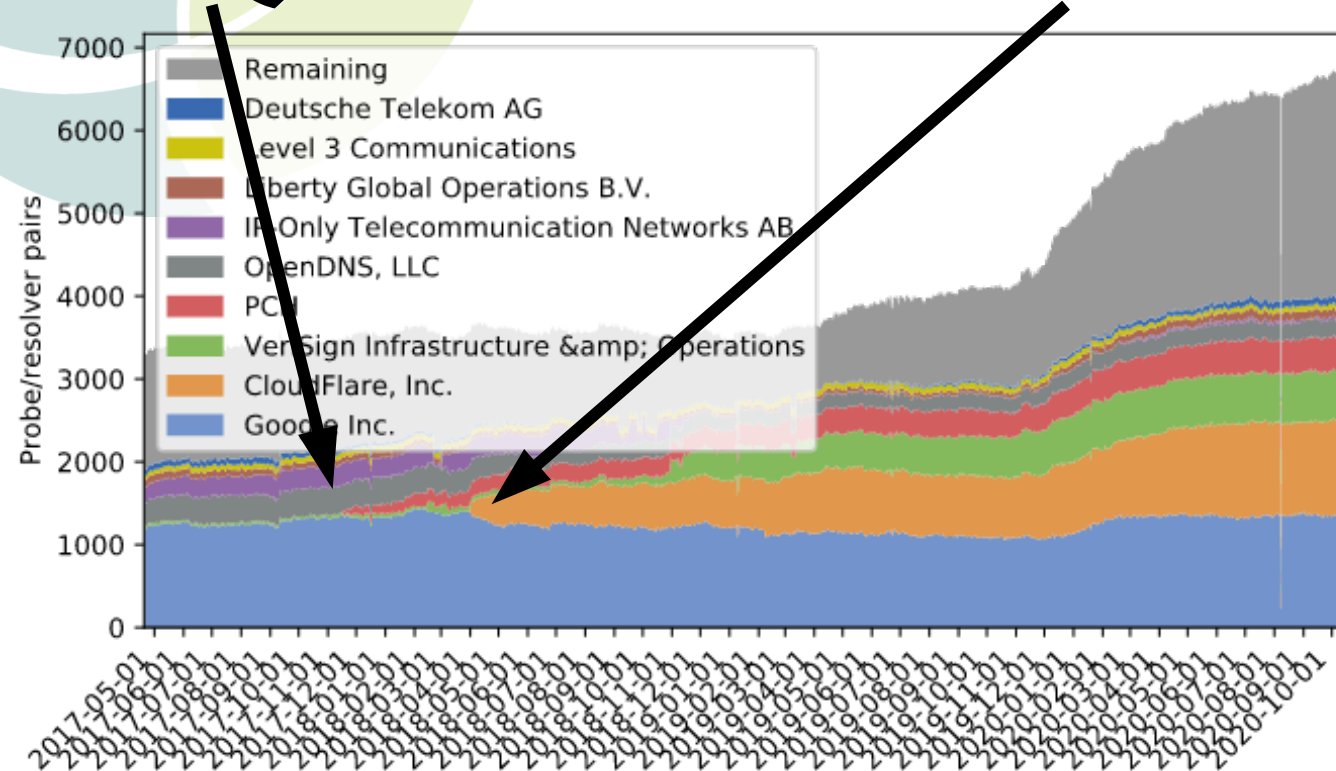
# Forwarding

## Top 10 ASNs seen @ authoritative

**16 November '17**  
**PCH = Quad9**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 Cloudflare**

with 6753 resolvers



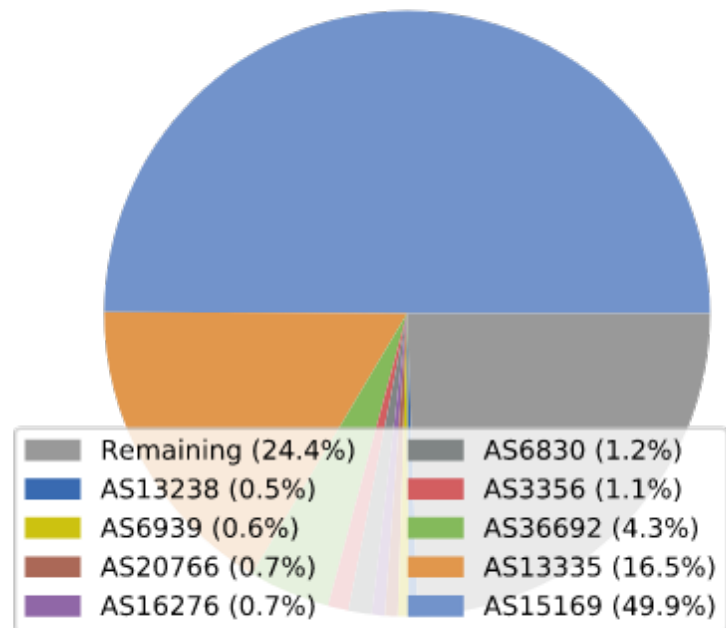
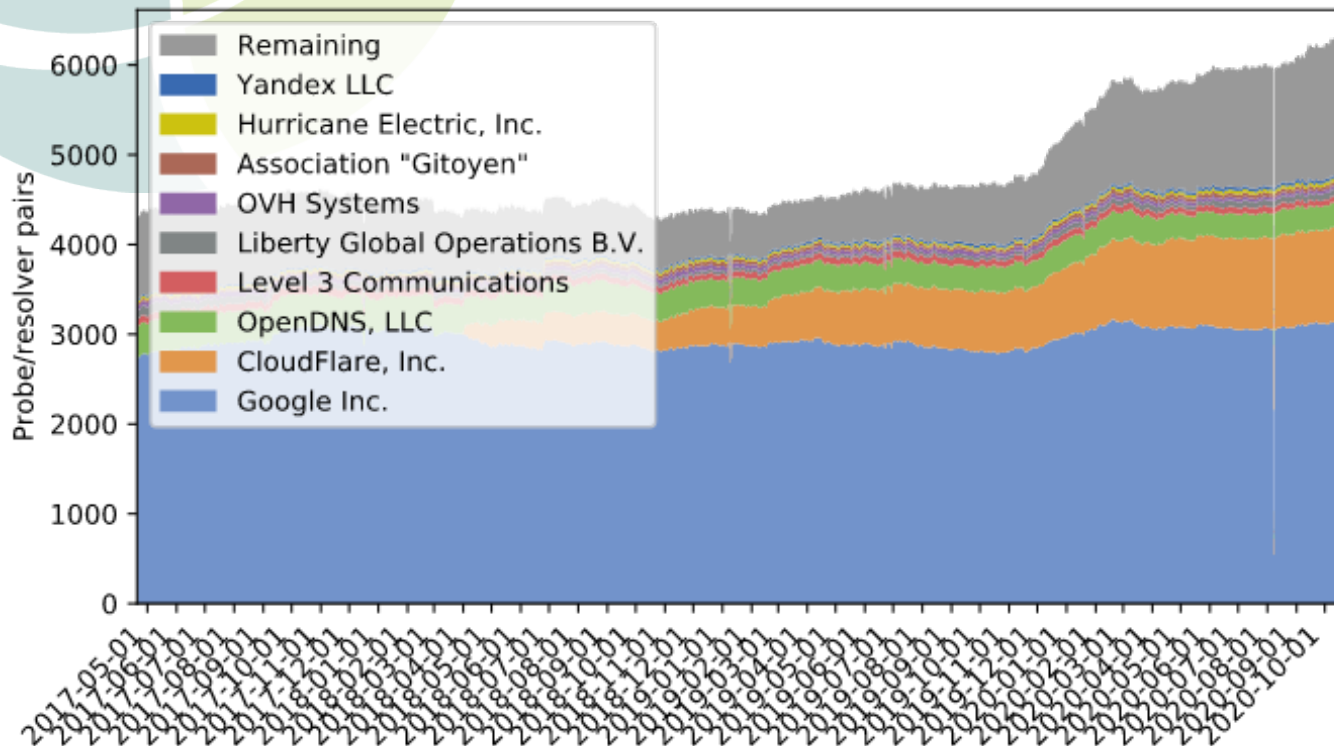
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have a ASN different from the probe ASN  
[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/is\\_external/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/is_external/#top_auth_asns)

# Top 10 ASNs seen @ authoritative

with 6291 resolvers



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# Internal, Forwarding, External



## Diversity

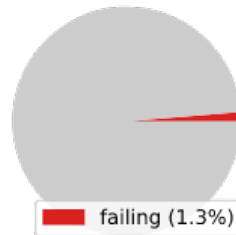
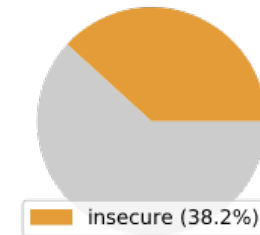
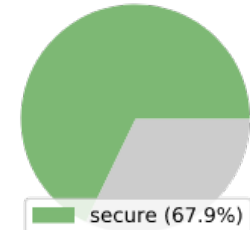
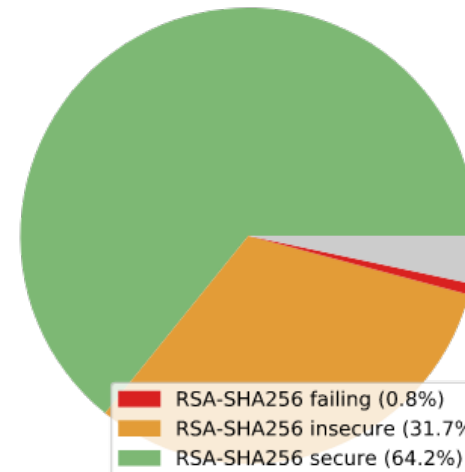
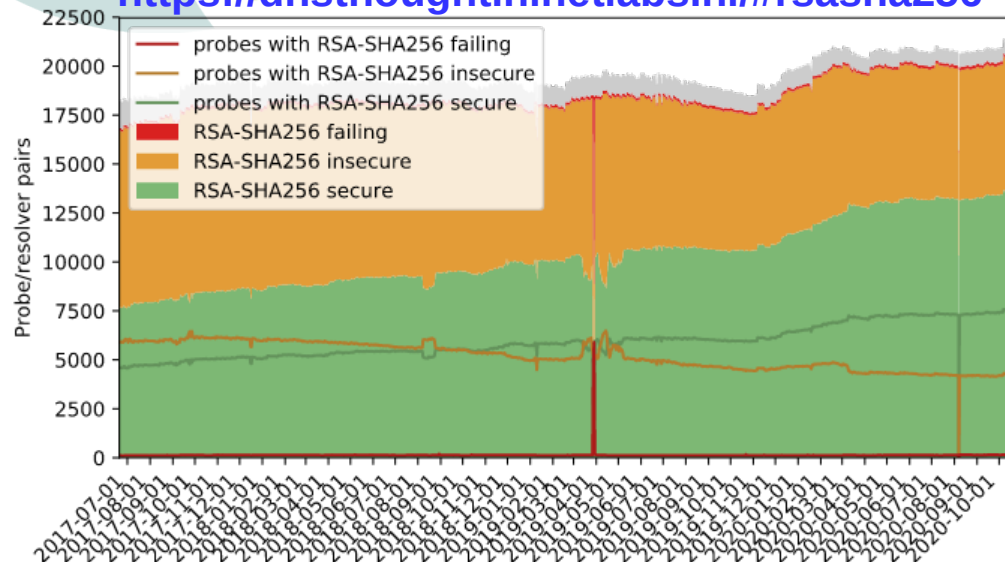
# DNSSEC

## RSA-SHA256 support

with 21181 resolvers

with 11095 probes

<https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/#rsasha256>



# validate DNSKEY algorithm RSA-SHA256

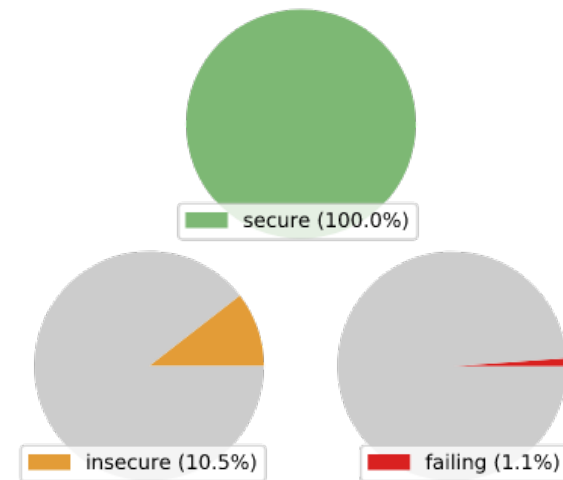
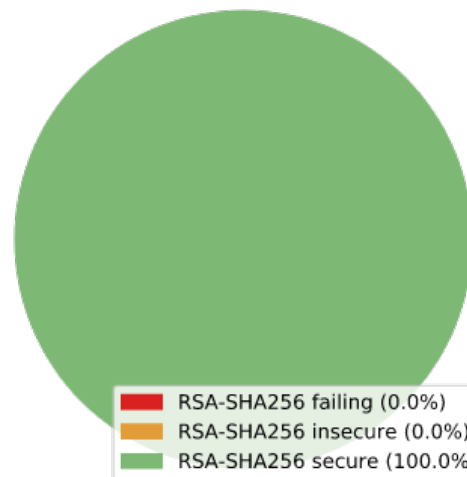
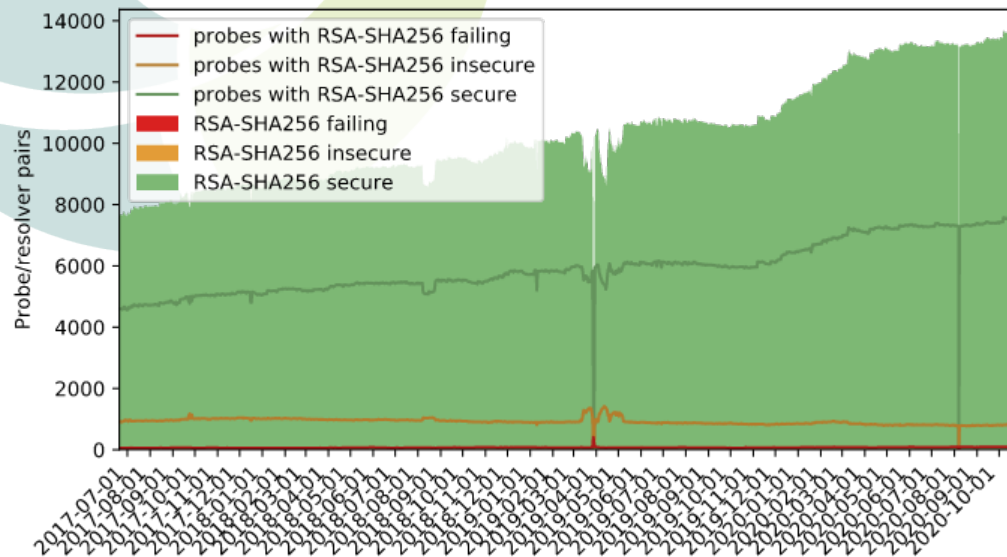
[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/can\\_rsasha256/#rsasha256](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/can_rsasha256/#rsasha256)

# DNSSEC

## RSA-SHA256 support

with 13595 resolvers

with 7529 probes



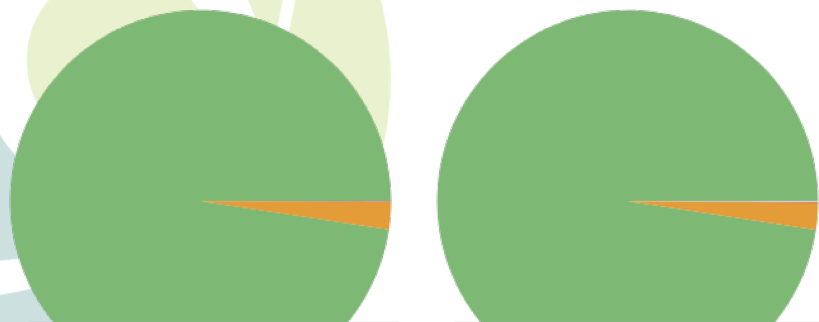
- 67.9% of probes has validating resolver
- 10.5% of those have a non validating resolver too
- So realistically only 60.77% of probes is protected



# With DNSSEC validating resolvers

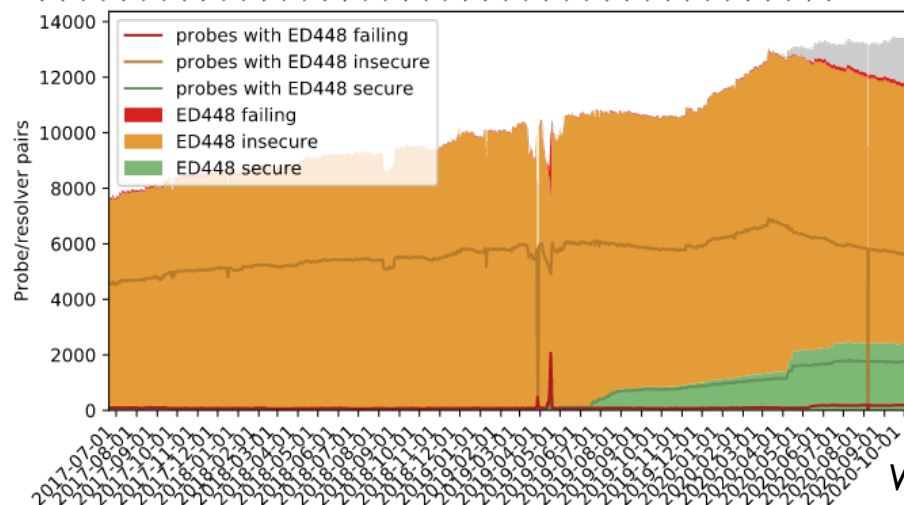
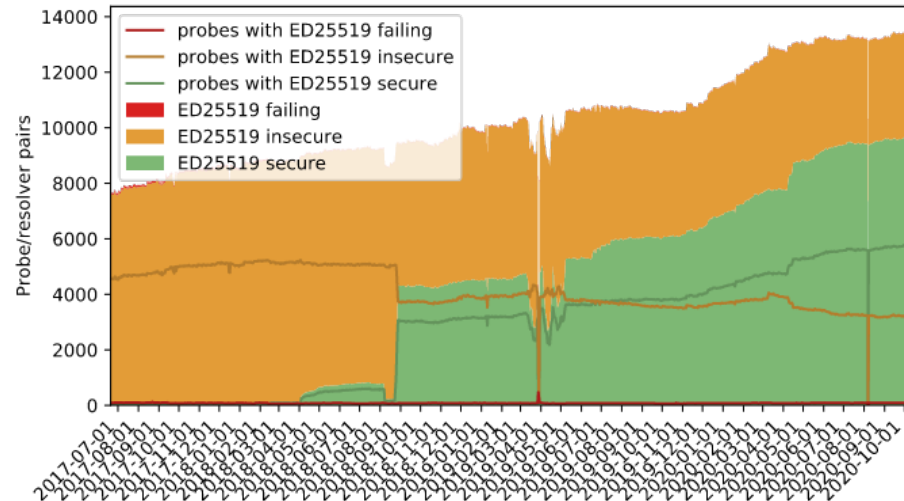
[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/can\\_rsasha256/#ed448](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/can_rsasha256/#ed448)

# DNSSEC



ECDSA-P256-SHA256 failing (0.0%)  
ECDSA-P256-SHA256 insecure (2.3%)  
ECDSA-P256-SHA256 secure (97.6%)

ECDSA-P384-SHA384 failing (0.1%)  
ECDSA-P384-SHA384 insecure (2.3%)  
ECDSA-P384-SHA384 secure (97.6%)



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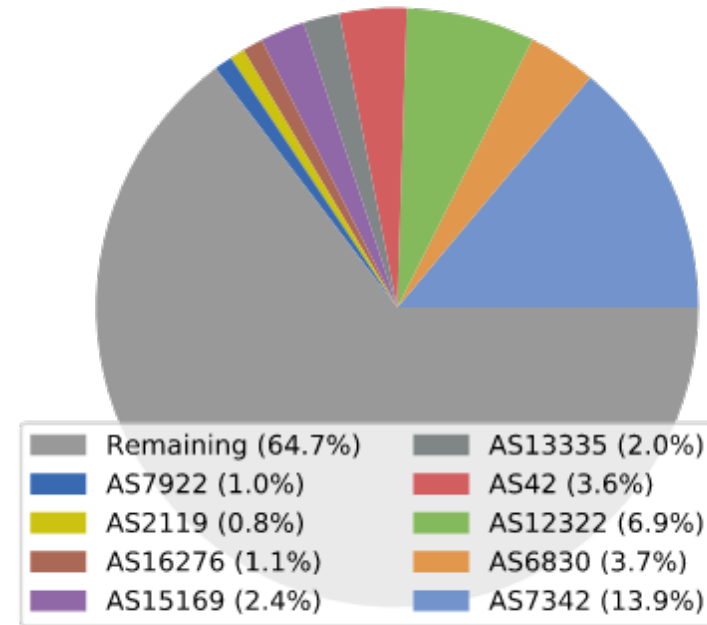
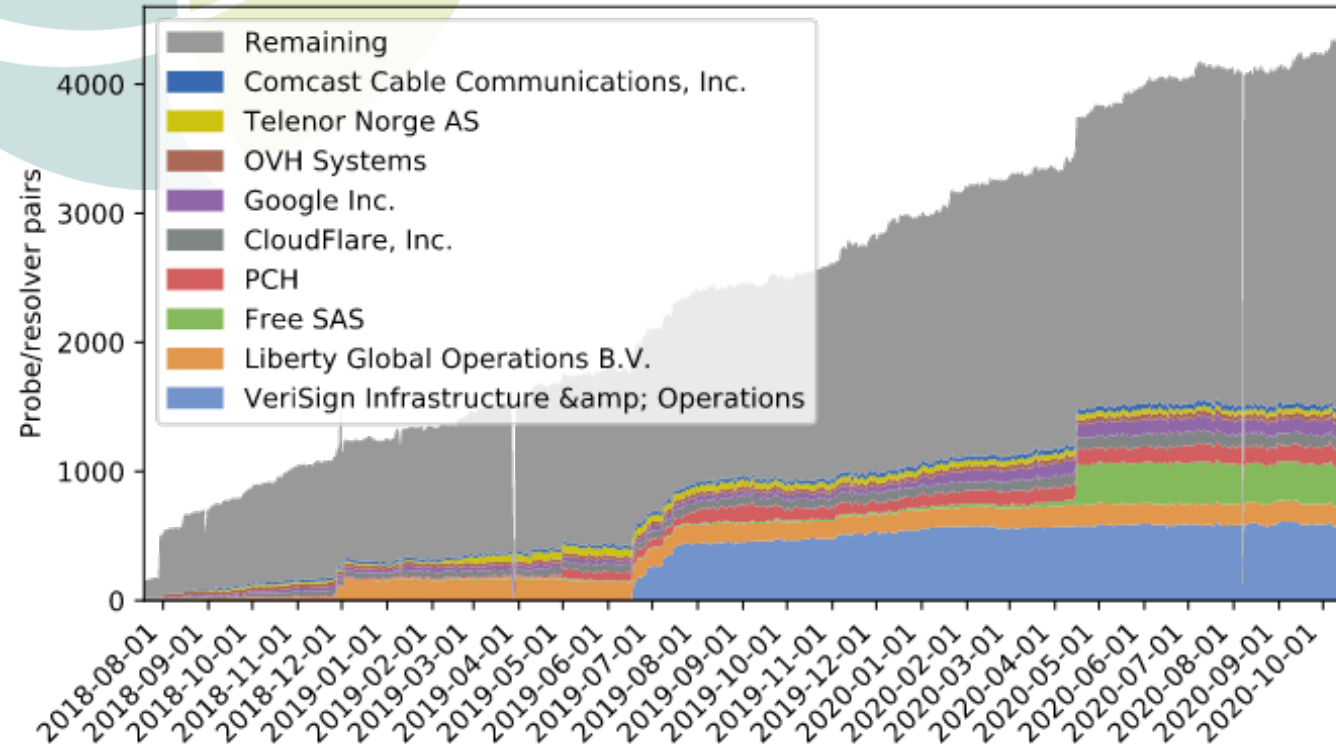
root KSK sentinel support

[https://dnsthoight.nlnetlabs.nl/has\\_ta\\_20326/#top\\_resolver\\_asns](https://dnsthoight.nlnetlabs.nl/has_ta_20326/#top_resolver_asns)

# DNSSEC

## Root Key Trust Anchor Sentinel

with 4344 resolvers  
In 2654 probes



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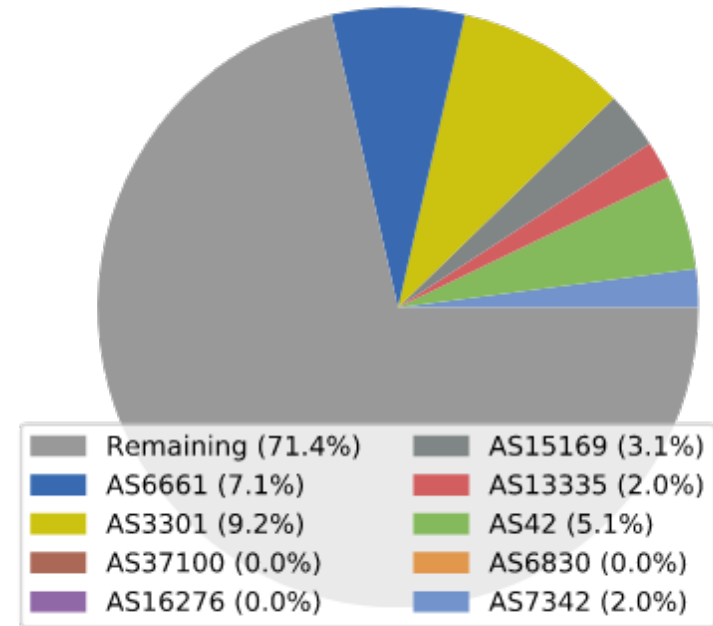
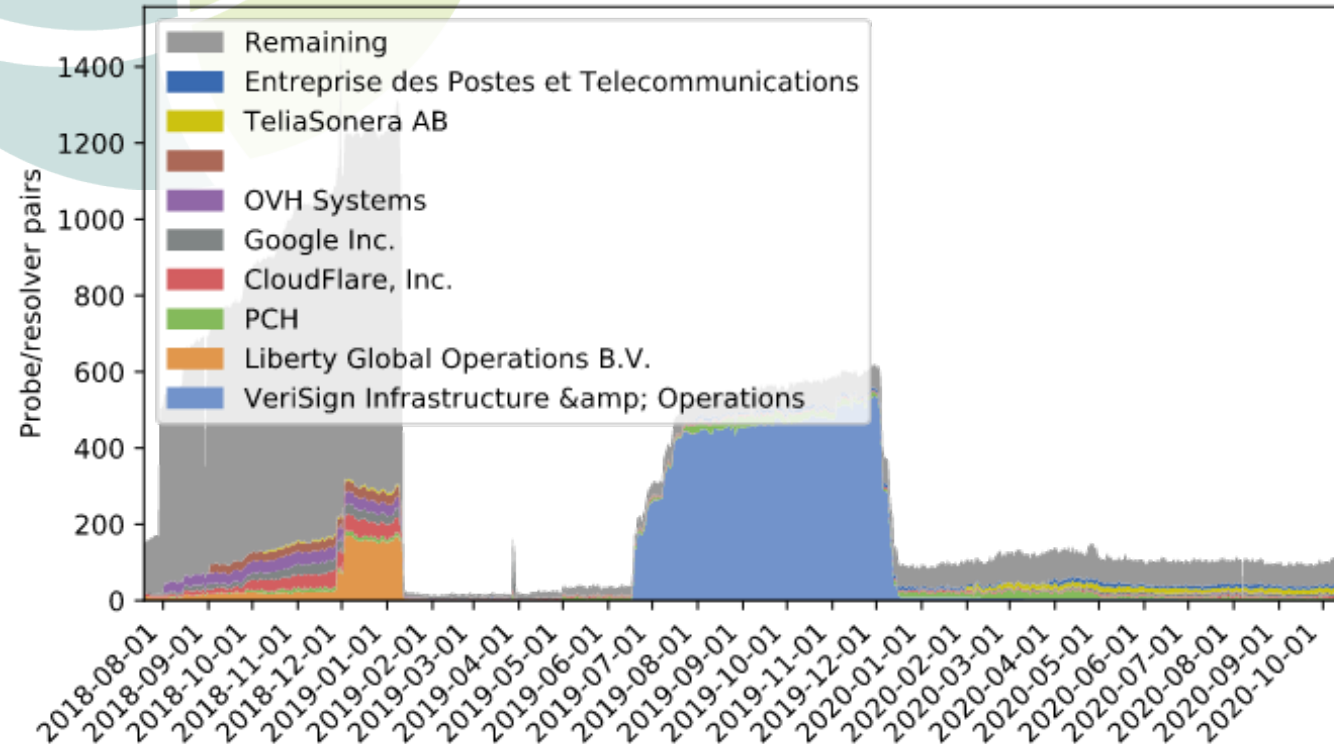
root KSK sentinel support

[https://dnstthought.nlnetlabs.nl/has\\_ta\\_19036/#top\\_resolver\\_asns](https://dnstthought.nlnetlabs.nl/has_ta_19036/#top_resolver_asns)

# DNSSEC

## Root Key Trust Anchor Sentinel

with 98 resolvers  
In 74 probes



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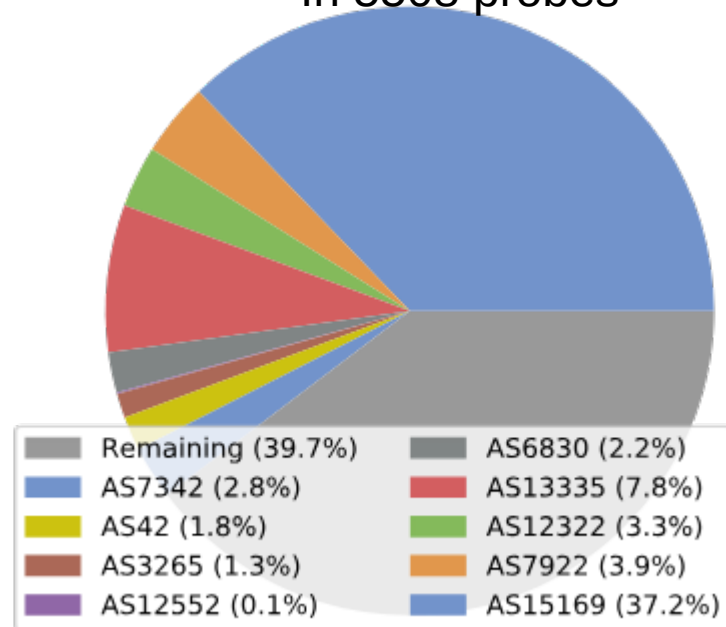
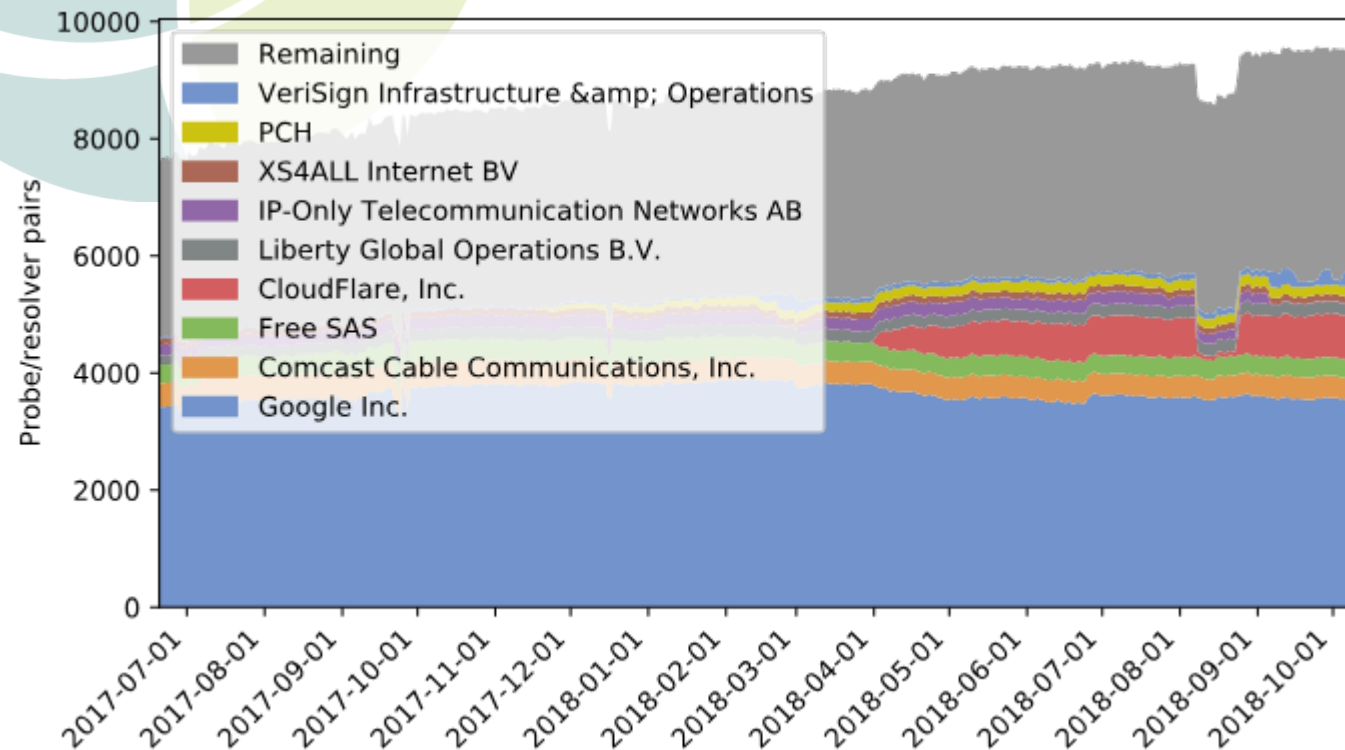
# validate DNSKEY algorithm RSA-SHA256

[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/can\\_rsasha256/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/can_rsasha256/#top_auth_asns)

# DNSSEC

## Strange dent in August

with 9493 resolvers  
In 5508 probes



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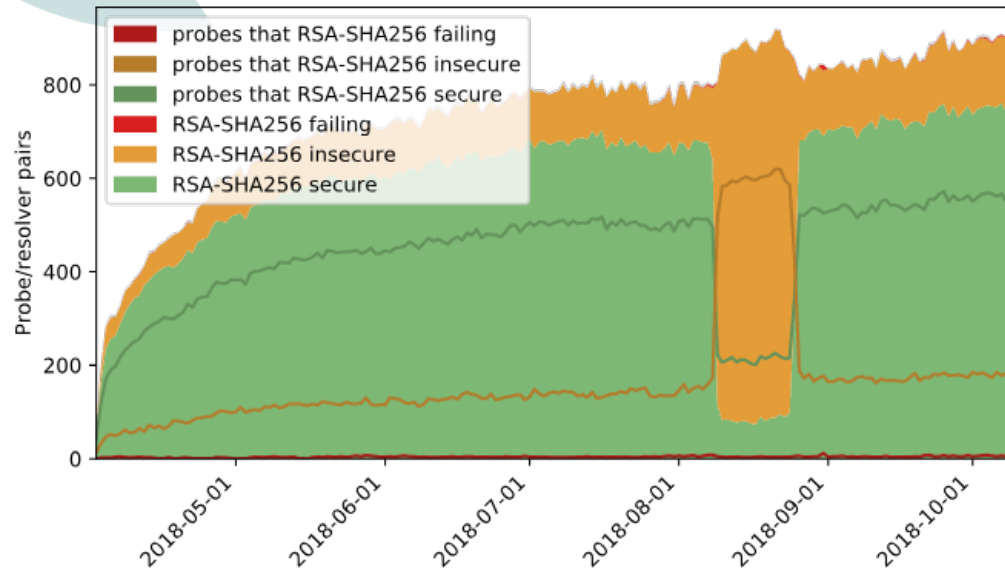
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coming from AS13335

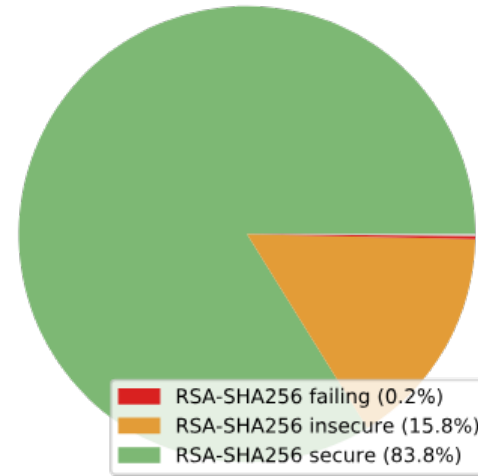
[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/auth\\_AS13335/#rsasha256](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/auth_AS13335/#rsasha256)

# DNSSEC

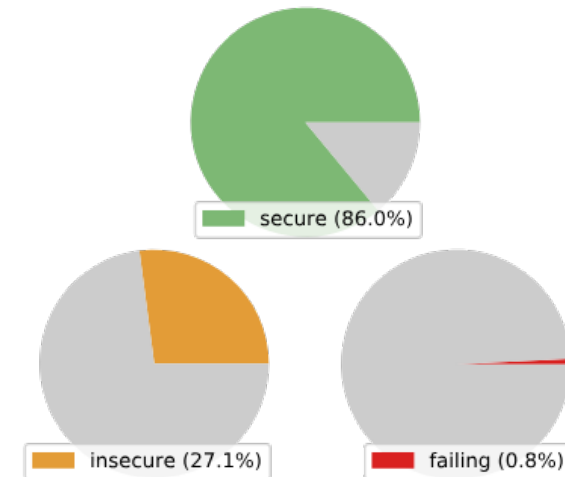
## Strange dent in August



with 897 resolvers



with 650 probes



Willem Toorop

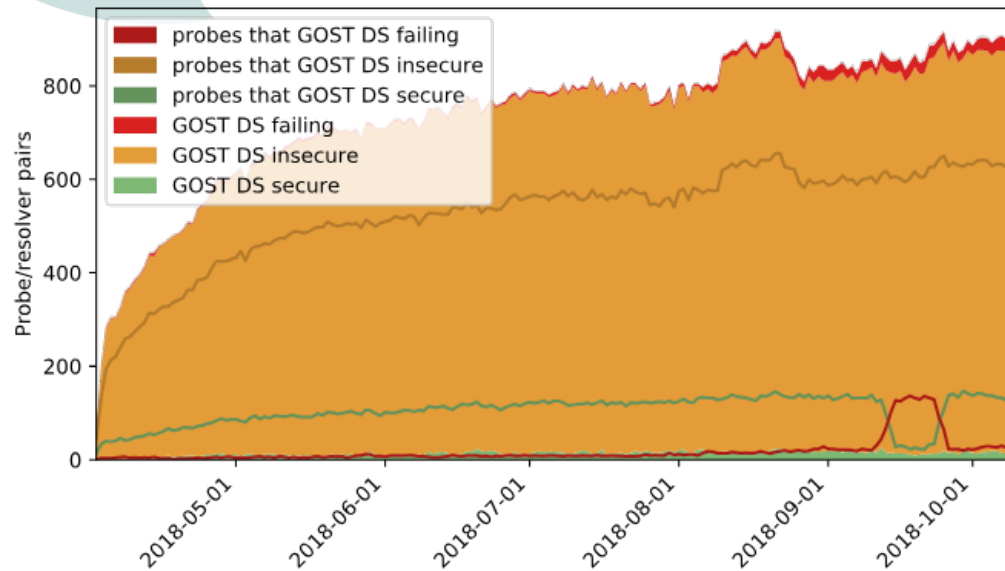
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coming from AS13335

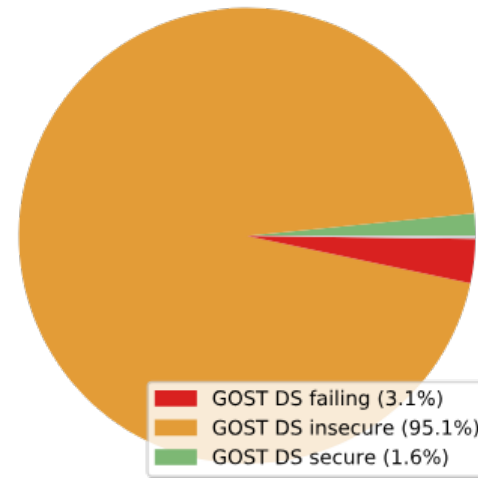
[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/auth\\_AS13335/#gost](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/auth_AS13335/#gost)

# Strange broken GOST DS in September

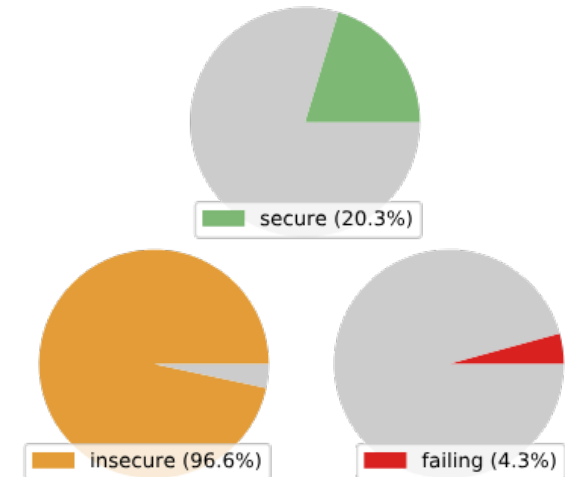
# DNSSEC



with 897 resolvers



with 650 probes



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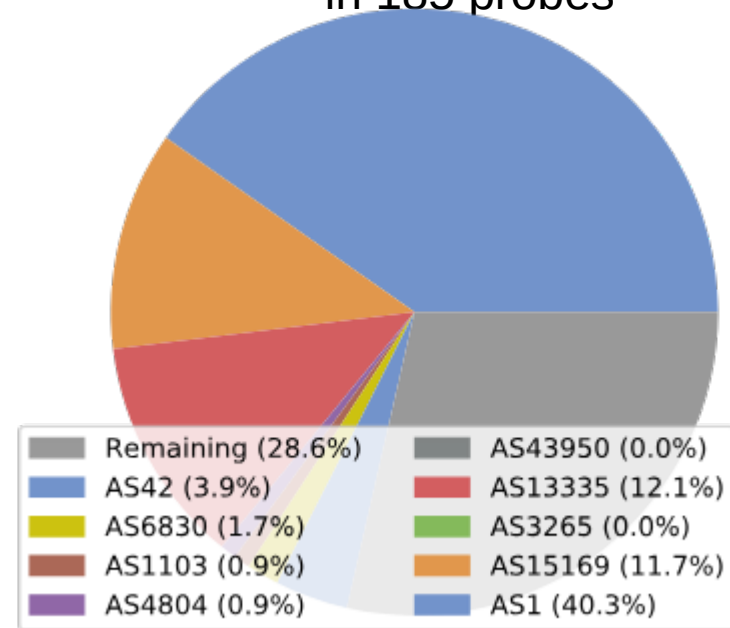
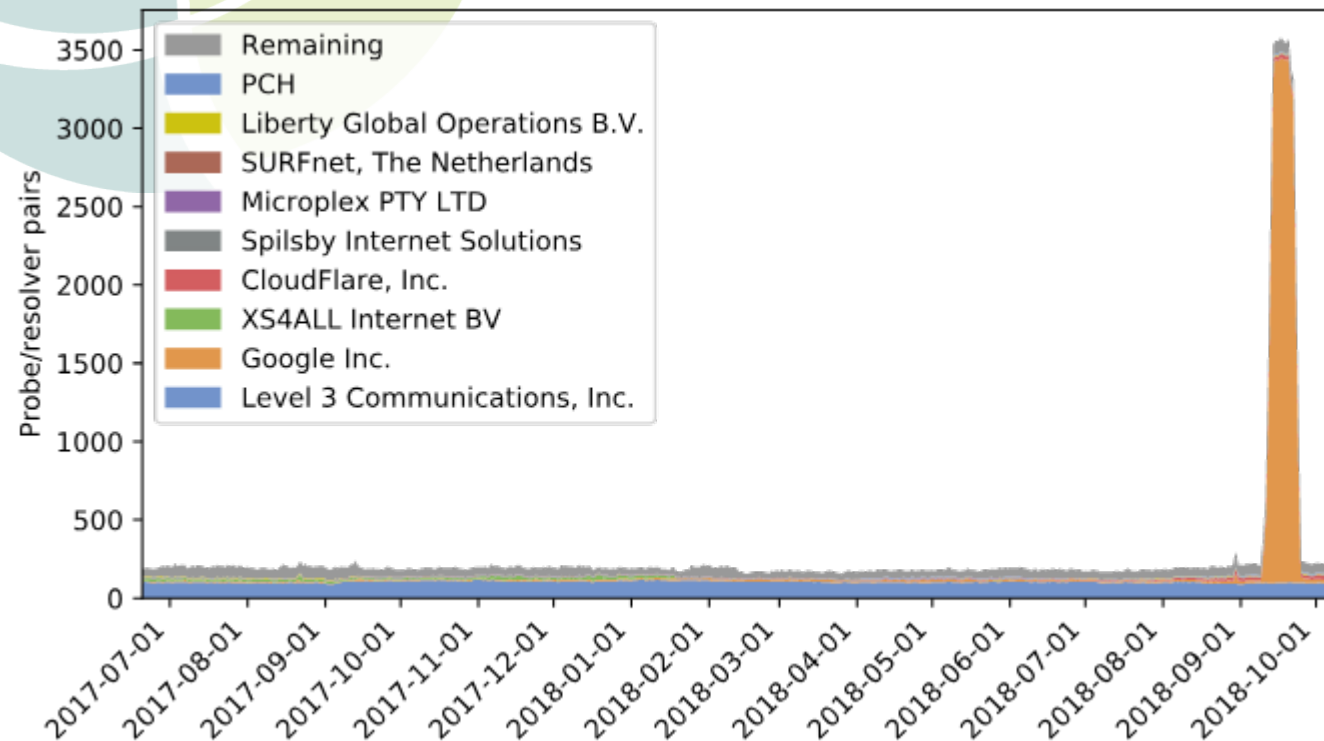
broken DS algorithm GOST validation support

[https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/broken\\_gost/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/broken_gost/#top_auth_asns)

# DNSSEC

## Strange broken GOST DS in September

with 231 resolvers  
in 185 probes



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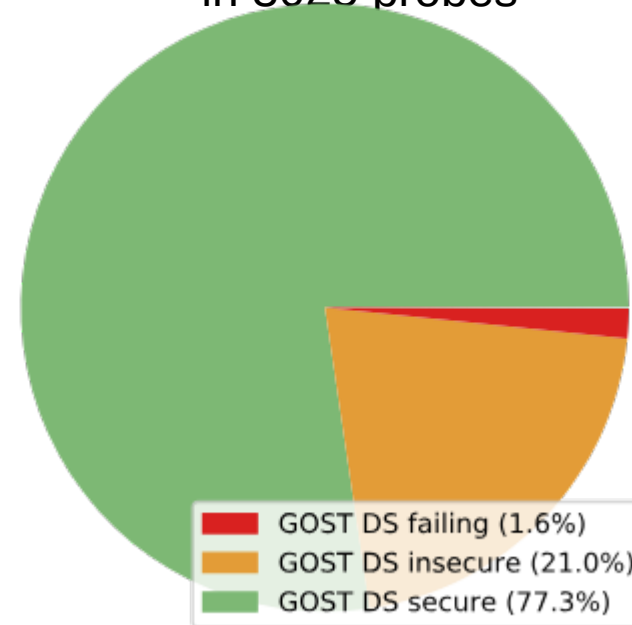
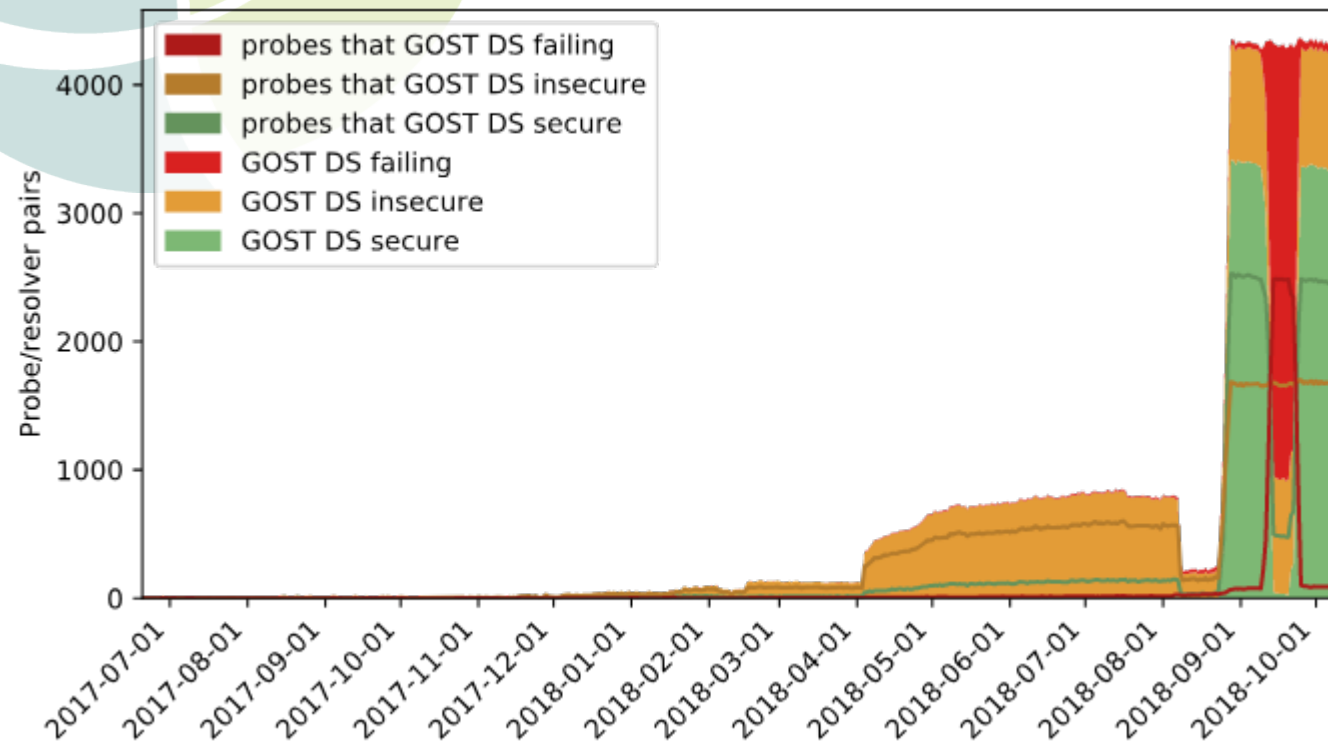


validate DNSKEY algorithm ED25519  
[https://dnsthoight.nlnetlabs.nl/can\\_ed25519/#gost](https://dnsthoight.nlnetlabs.nl/can_ed25519/#gost)

# The two incidents side by side

# DNSSEC

with 4304 resolvers  
in 3025 probes



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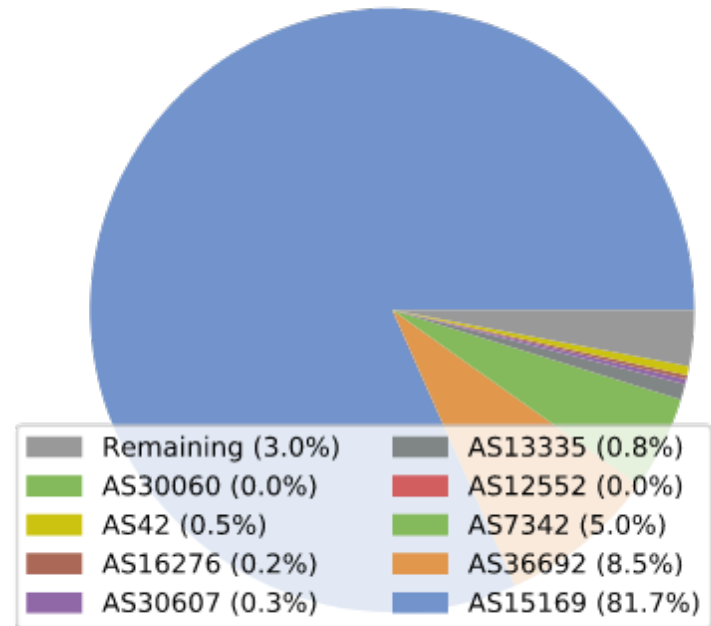
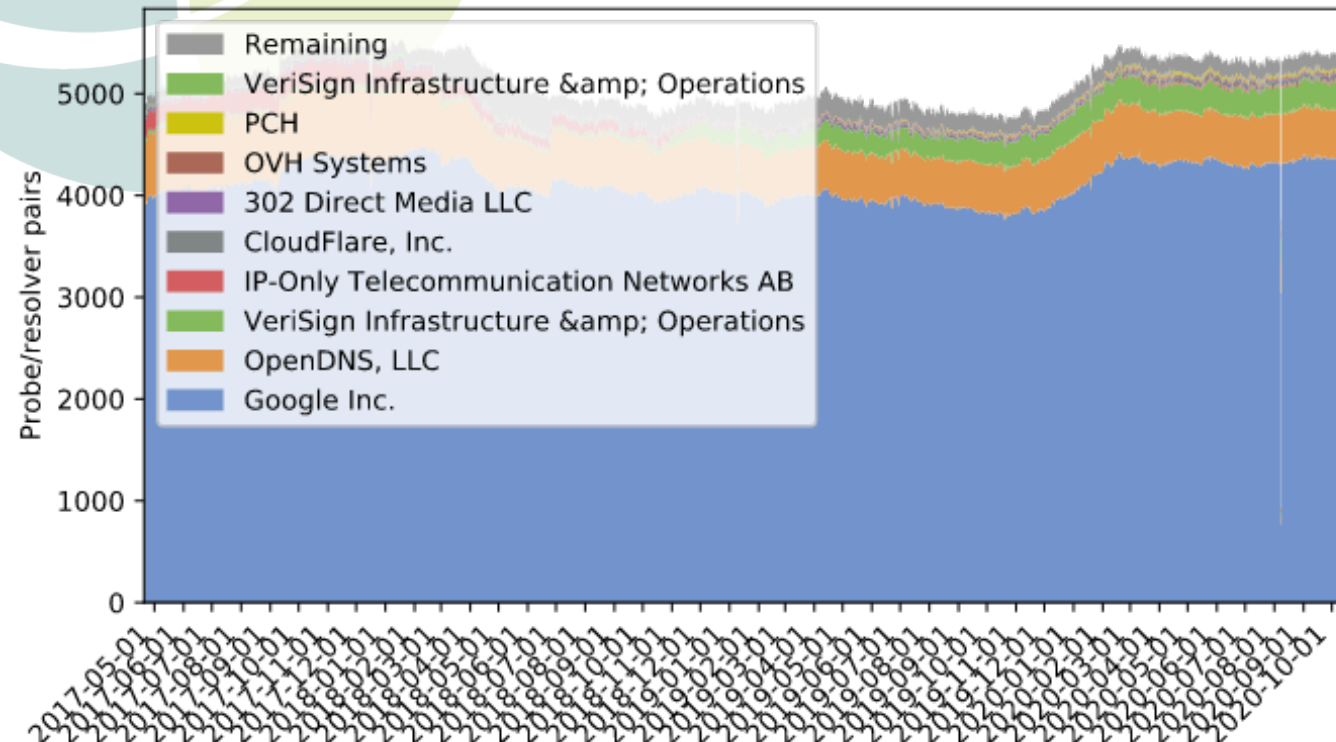
send an EDNS Client Subnet option

[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/does\\_ecs/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/does_ecs/#top_auth_asns)

# Send an EDNS Client Subnet option

# Privacy

With 5417 (25.6%) resolvers  
in 3720 (33.5%) probes



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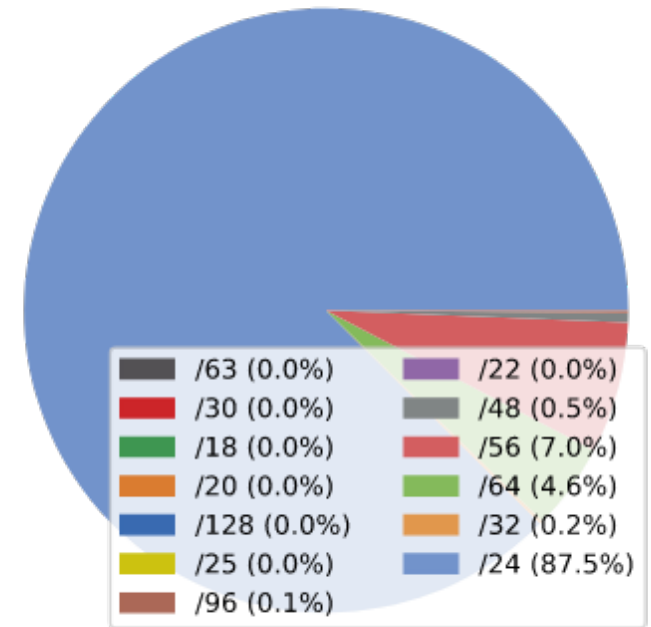
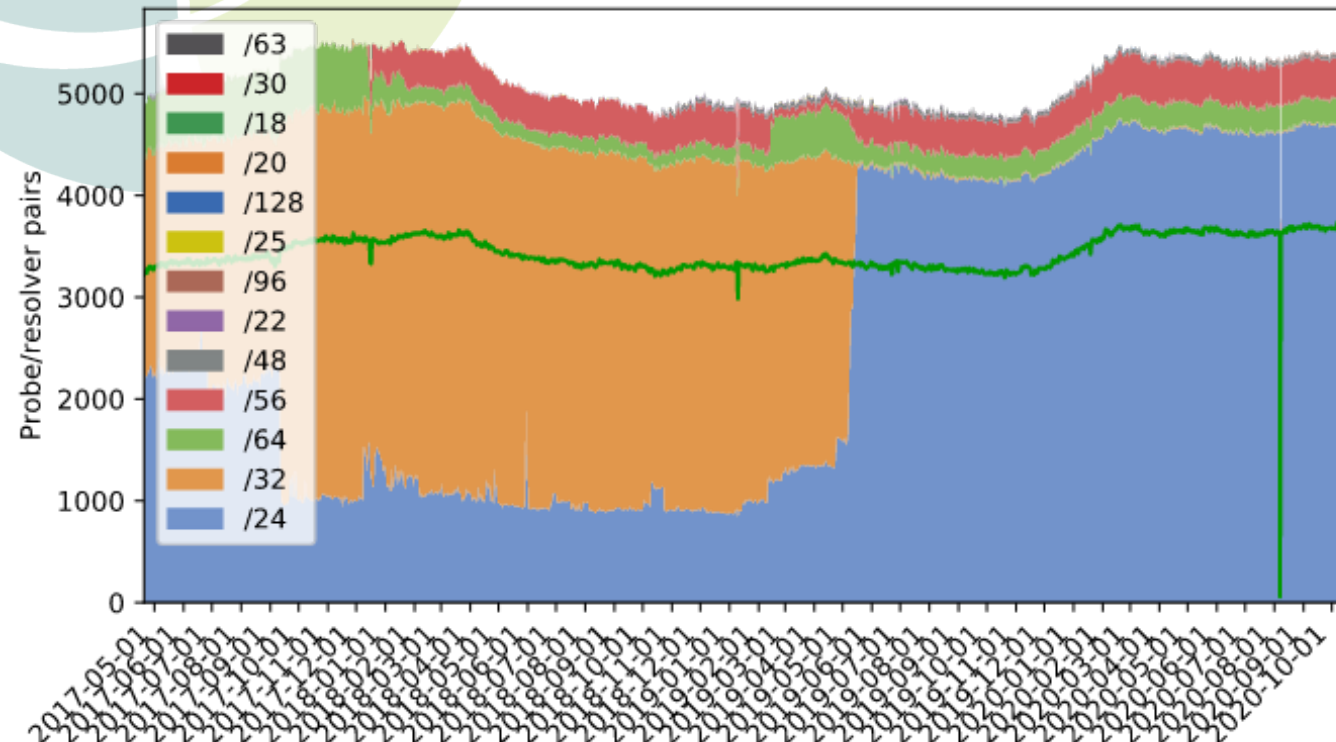
# Top EDNS Client Subnet masks

[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/does\\_ecs/#ecs\\_masks](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/does_ecs/#ecs_masks)

# Send an EDNS Client Subnet option

# Privacy

With 5417 (25.6%) resolvers  
in 3720 (33.5%) probes



Willem Toorop

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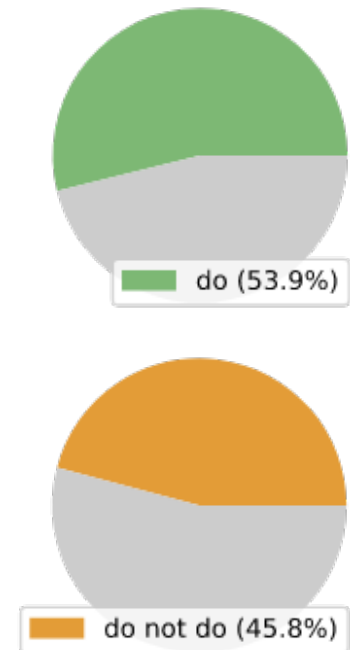
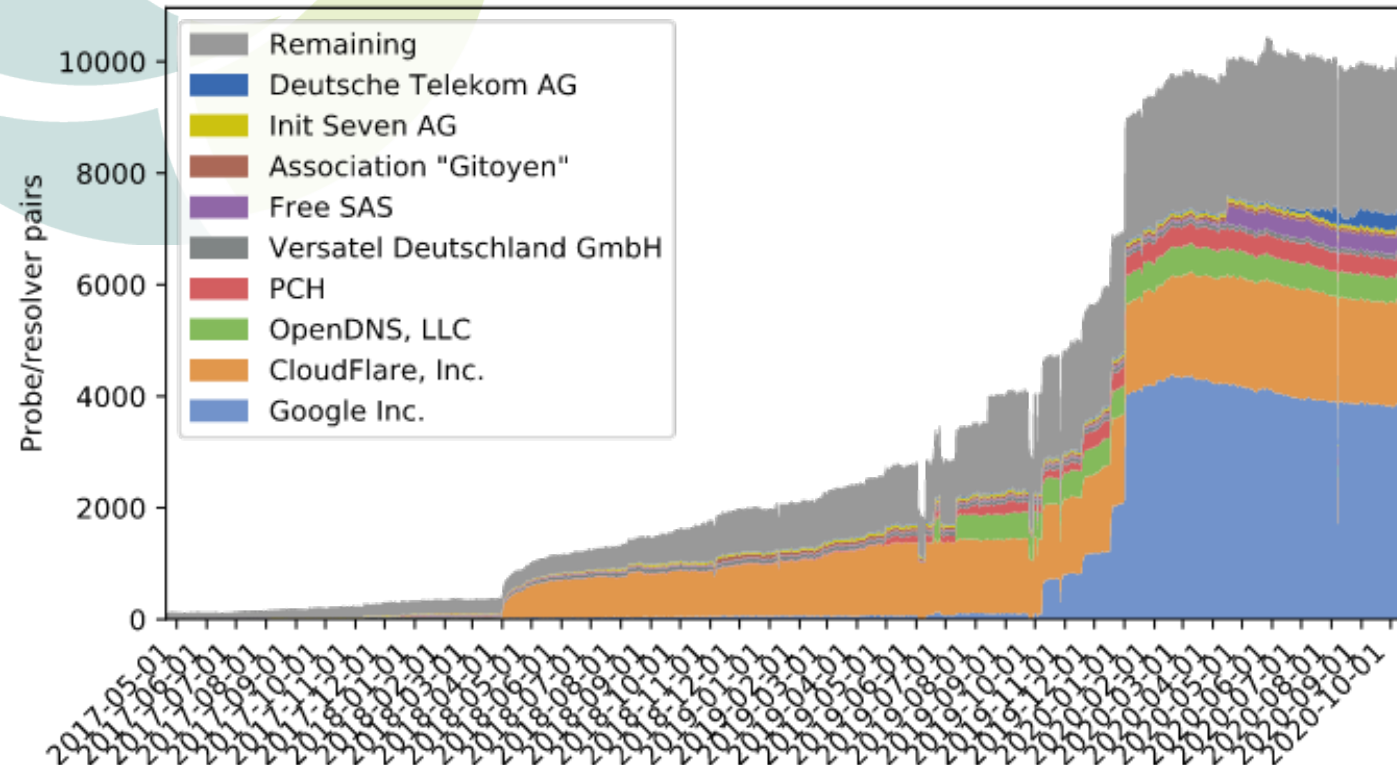
# do QNAME Minimization

[https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/does\\_qnamemin/#top\\_auth\\_asns](https://dnstought.nlnetlabs.nl/does_qnamemin/#top_auth_asns)

# Privacy

# QNAME Minimization

With 9971 (8.5%) resolvers in 5976 (11.2%) probes





# do QNAME Minimization

# Privacy Minimization

solvers in 5976 (11.2%) probes

## A First Look at QNAME Minimization in the Domain Name System

Wouter B. de Vries<sup>1</sup>, Quirin Scheitle<sup>2</sup>, Moritz Müller<sup>1,3</sup>, Willem Toorop<sup>4</sup>,  
Ralph Dolmans<sup>4</sup>, Roland van Rijswijk-Deij<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Twente, <sup>2</sup>TUM, <sup>3</sup>SIDN Labs, <sup>4</sup>NLnet

**Abstract.** The Domain Name System (DNS) is a critical part of the Internet and Internet infrastructure; DNS lookups precede almost any other network activity. However, DNS lookups may contain private information about the sites a user contacts, which has spawned efforts to protect privacy of user contacts, as transport encryption through DNS-over-TLS or DNS-over-HTTPS. In this work, we provide a first look on the resolver-side technique of QNAME minimization (*qmin*), which was standardized in March 2017 in RFC 7816. *qmin* aims to only send minimal information to authoritative name servers, reducing the number of servers that full DNS queries are exposed to. Using passive and active measurements, we show the slow but steady adoption of *qmin* on the Internet, with a surprising number of implementations of the standard. Using controlled experiments in a test-bed, we validate lookup behavior of various resolvers, and show that *qmin* both increases the number of DNS lookups by up to 10% and also leads to up to 5% more failed lookups. We conclude our work with a discussion of *qmin*'s risks and benefits, and give advice for implementers.

**Keywords:** DNS · Privacy · QNAME Minimization · Measurement



# DNSThought

- Public, though rough, interface to data available <https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/>
- ATLAS msm ids & raw processed data available too <https://dnsthought.nlnetlabs.nl/raw>
- Wish list:
  - Auth IP from the measured property
  - Results in time series database
  - Interactive UI (zooming)
  - Better DS algorithm detection
  - Msms for: RTT, PMTU, DoT/DoH, DNS Cookies, etc. etc. etc.

**Questions**

**Suggestions**

