

Stop, Don't Click Here Anymore

Boosting Website Fingerprinting By Considering Sets of Webpages

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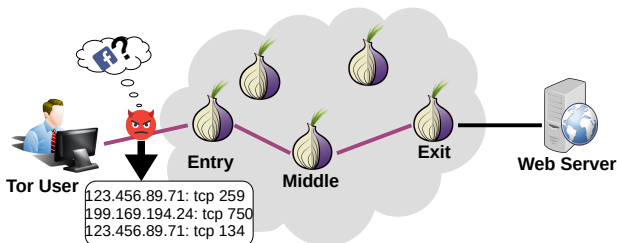
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Motivation

- **The Tor network:** *most popular low-latency anonymization network*

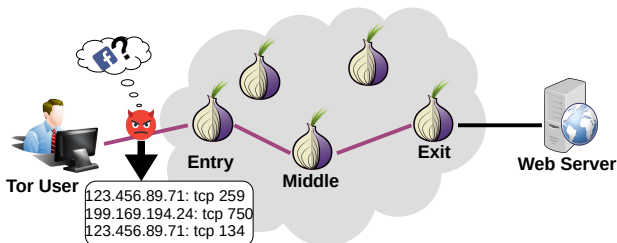
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- **Problem: Tor is vulnerable to website fingerprinting (WFP)**
 - ▶ Infer website accessed without breaking the encryption
 - ▶ Using only packet sizes, direction, and timestamps
 - ▶ High efficiency in laboratory settings



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- **Limitations**

- ▶ *Scalability* in real-world settings still *under research*
- ▶ Typical scenario: detection of *isolated webpage loads*



However,

users visit multiple pages of a website sequentially, e.g., by following links!

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- **Novel fingerprinting strategies for our new evaluation setting**
 - ▶ *Use of voting* to boost existing webpage classifiers
 - Six different voting-based fingerprinting strategies
 - ▶ *Set-aware classifier* based on multi-instance learning (MIL)

Our Contributions

- **Novel evaluation setting**
 - ▶ *Consecutive user's visits* of multiple pages of a website
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 - ▶ *Use of voting* to boost existing webpage classifiers
 - Six different voting-based fingerprinting strategies
 - ▶ *Set-aware classifier* based on multi-instance learning (MIL)
- **Limited protection provided by existing WFP defenses**
 - ▶ Up to five times less effective than expected or even completely useless

Our Novel Fingerprinting Techniques

- **Voting-based strategies**

- ▶ Train state-of-the-art webpage classifier on multiple pages of websites
- ▶ Compute probability of a single page to belong to a website
- ▶ Calculate joint probability of pages belonging to a website

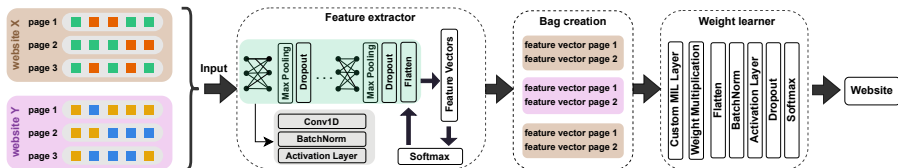
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- **Set-aware MIL-based classifier**

- ▶ A set of pages belonging to single website forms a *bag*
- ▶ Learn a classification model to predict labels of bags
- ▶ Adaptive learning of weights for single pages in a bag



Analysis of Our Fingerprinting Techniques (1/3)

- **Dataset and evaluation setup**

- ▶ *100 monitored websites* from different categories, layout, and content
- ▶ *90 different pages* per website
- ▶ Four state-of-the-art webpage classifiers
- ▶ 10-fold cross-validation for all experiments

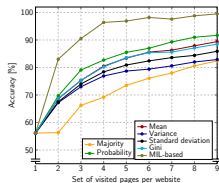
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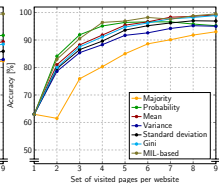
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• Evaluation in laboratory settings

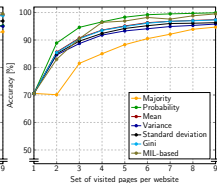
- ▶ Users browse consecutively multiple pages of a single website
- ▶ Increase of the detection rate *by almost 30% to 40%*



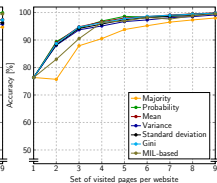
(a) CUMUL



(b) k-FP



(c) DF



(d) Var-CNN

Analysis of Our Fingerprinting Techniques (2/3)

- **Impact of different training tactics**
 - ▶ *Our voting-based strategies*
 - 70 training pages are enough to obtain high accuracy
 - ▶ *Our set-aware MIL-based classifier*
 - Use of two training bags
 - Over 90% accuracy when four pages are consecutively visited
 - ▶ We refer to our paper for the extensive analysis of our methods

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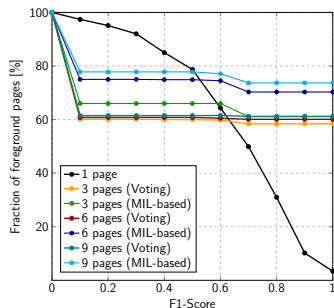
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- **Real-world evaluation**

- ▶ Use of 5000 unmonitored websites
- ▶ Our methods achieve *F1-scores of 1.0* for *more than half* of the websites
- ▶ When visiting *at least three consecutive pages* of a website



Analysis of Our Fingerprinting Techniques (3/3)

- **Increased robustness against existing WFP defenses**
 - ▶ Increase of the detection rate *up to 5 times*
 - ▶ No protection by defenses with low implementation costs

Defense	Classifier	Set of pages								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamaraw	Voting	4.61	7.20	9.93	12.47	12.67	14.07	16.27	17.80	18.93
	MIL-based	–	5.37	7.25	8.81	10.79	12.19	13.77	14.73	16.36
CS-BuFlo	Voting	10.89	18.13	23.33	33.27	37.40	43.93	46.93	52.47	56.00
	MIL-based	–	12.89	19.25	24.77	29.62	34.19	37.18	40.21	43.17
TrafficSliver-Net	Voting	19.92	29.93	34.48	38.73	40.45	42.79	43.80	44.85	46.55
	MIL-based	–	10.40	14.48	18.62	22.06	25.67	28.69	32.18	35.21
WTF-PAD	Voting	90.72	99.20	99.73	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	MIL-based	–	98.28	99.61	99.89	99.99	99.99	99.99	100.00	100.00
RegulaTor	Voting	17.17	27.67	38.27	44.20	50.20	56.20	61.53	63.60	64.87
	MIL-based	–	16.11	22.83	27.77	31.89	36.19	40.29	43.44	46.48
FRONT	Voting	67.00	88.60	96.87	98.73	99.40	99.67	99.87	99.93	100.00
	MIL-based	–	86.41	94.82	97.70	98.85	99.38	99.55	99.77	99.86

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*Stop, Don't Click Here
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By Considering Sets of
Subpages*



*We are hiring!
See our open
positions.*