

# BGP Hijackers That Evade Public Route Collectors

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# **BGP Prefix Hijacking**

### **Documented Suspicious BGP Hijacks:**

- Targets 2022: Governmental infrastructure [1], Cryptocurrency services [2], etc.
- Incidents 2021: 775 suspicious BGP hijacks [3].
- Incidents 2020: 2255 suspicious BGP hijacks [4].
- Incidents 2019: 1727 suspicious BGP hijacks [4].

[1] Luconi V. Et al. "Impact of the first months of war on routing and latency in Ukraine", Computer Networks Journal

- [2] <u>https://www.kentik.com/blog/bgp-hijacks-targeting-cryptocurrency-services/</u>
- [3] <u>https://www.manrs.org/2022/02/bgp-security-in-2021/</u>
- [4] <u>https://www.manrs.org/2021/03/a-regional-look-into-bgp-incidents-in-2020/</u>









Not Sufficient for all forms of hijacks







# **Current Hijack Solutions**

★ Current Commercial solutions rely on *Route collectors* & *Looking Glasses*.

### Route Collectors (RC):

BGP speaking devices that collect & report routes received from their neighbors.

### Public Route Collector Infrastructure:

- Namely: RIPE-RIS and Routeviews.
- Collection of multiple route collectors distributed around the world.





















**BGP Feeder Device** 





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## **Presentation Topic**

### This Presentation:

How capable are hijackers to design stealthy hijacks not visible by RCs?



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### This Presentation:

How capable are hijackers to design stealthy hijacks not visible by RCs?

### Our Experiments:

- BGP hijack Simulations.
- Real-world experiments using the PEERING Testbed.



## What we Learned

### For a Hijacker to hide from Public RCs:

- Knowledge about which BGP feeders will report the attack matters.
- Knowledge about routing policies of other ASes matters.
- Where the hijack is exported matters.



- Knowledge about feeders matters.
- → Unaffected region feeders:
  Do not observe the hijack.
- → Affected region feeders:
  Will observe the hijack.



*Fig:* Vodafone (AS55410) leaking Comcast (AS7015) prefixes (16-04-21) (Source: Cisco BGPstream monitoring service)



### To design not observable hijacks by public RCs:

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- Knowledge about which BGP feeders will report the attack matters.
- Knowledge about routing policies of other ASes matters.
  - > Baseline hijacker: Traditional hijacker does not deliberately avoid RCs.
  - > *Realistic hijacker:* Limited knowledge inferred from routes public RCs disclose.
  - > Omniscient hijacker: Knows routing policies of every AS in the topology.







Less Visible Hijacks







#### Baseline Hijackers (forged path shape):

- Type-0: { ASH }
- Type-1: { ASH, ASV }
- Type-N: { ASH, ..., ASV }

*Higher* Type: *Longer* forged paths





#### Baseline Hijackers (forged path shape):

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Longer forged

paths

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Median Visibility

- Type-1: 101 monitors
- Type-2: 40 monitors
- Type-3: 19 monitors
- Type-4: 10 monitors





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#### Realistic Hijackers:

- Completely stealthy: 62% sims
- Less visible than baseline
- Shorter Type-4: 95% exported routes





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#### **Omniscient Hijackers:**

• Completely stealthy





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### Baseline Hijackers:

Cannot stealthily intercept > 2% Internet



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Cannot stealthily intercept > 2% Internet

#### Realistic & Omni Hijackers:

- Stealthily intercepts > 2% Internet: 1.65% and 5.65% sims (respectively)
- Up to 16.2% & 23.5% Internet Stealthily intercepted (respectively)



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	Customers	Peers	Transits
Type-1			
Type-4			
Realistic			
Omni			

Table: Reason why forged routes were visible



- Knowledge about which BGP feeders will report the attack matters.
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	Customers	Peers	Transits
Type-1	0.3%	47%	99%
Type-4			
Realistic			
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	Customers	Peers	Transits
Type-1	0.3%	47%	99%
Type-4	0.0%	24%	99%
Realistic			
Omni			

#### Table: Reason why forged routes were visible

#### Peers:

• Path lengths matter more for such neighbors.

### Transit Providers:

• Business relations matter more.



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- Where the hijack is exported matters.

	Customers	Peers	Transits
Type-1	0.3%	47%	99%
Type-4	0.0%	24%	99%
Realistic	0.0%	3%	99%
Omni			

### **Realistic Hijackers**

- Easy to hide when exporting to Peer links.
- Hard to hide when exporting to transits.

#### Table: Reason why forged routes were visible



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- Where the hijack is exported matters.

	Customers	Peers	Transits	
Type-1	0.3%	47%	99%	
Type-4	0.0%	24%	99%	
Realistic	0.0%	3%	99%	
Omni	0%	0%	0%	

#### Table: Reason why forged routes were visible

### **Realistic Hijackers**

- Easy to hide when exporting to Peer links.
- Hard to hide when exporting to transits.

### Omni Hijackers

• Completely stealthy.



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### Real World Set-up:

- ✤ Victim: Testbed site at Wisconsin.
- ✤ *Hijacker:* Testbed site at *GRNET* and *AMS-IX*.
- **Goal:** Design a stealthy hijack not observable by public RCs.



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- ✤ Safe: Will <u>not</u> report the attack.
- ✤ Dangerous: Will report the attack.



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→ Goal: Design a stealthy hijack not observable by public RCs.

- ✤ Safe: Will <u>not</u> report the attack.
- Dangerous: Will report the attack.
- ★ A Proximity Classifier (AS-path lengths).
- ★ A business relationship Classifier (Gao-Rexford).





		GRNET Transit ASN 5408	AMS Transit ASN 8283	AMS Transit ASN 12859	AMS Peer ASN 9002	AMS Peer ASN 6461	AMS Peer ASN 52320
# Total Monitors							
% Monitors Correctly Classified Proximity Classifier	Accuracy						
	Sensitivity (Specificity)						
% Monitors Correctly Classified Business Classifier	Accuracy						
	Sensitivity (Specificity)						



		GRNET Transit ASN 5408	AMS Transit ASN 8283	AMS Transit ASN 12859	AMS Peer ASN 9002	AMS Peer ASN 6461	AMS Peer ASN 52320
# Total Monitors		663	695	683	652	653	653
% Monitors Correctly Classified Proximity Classifier	Accuracy						
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	Sensitivity (Specificity)						



		GRNET Transit ASN 5408	AMS Transit ASN 8283	AMS Transit ASN 12859	AMS Peer ASN 9002	AMS Peer ASN 6461	AMS Peer ASN 52320
# Total Monitors		663	695	683	652	653	653
% Monitors Correctly Classified Proximity Classifier	Accuracy	78%	74%	84%	97%	93%	99%
	Sensitivity (Specificity)	13% <i>(</i> 99%)	62% (93%)	75% (91%)	100% <i>(97%)</i>	<b>10%</b> (94%)	100% <i>(99%)</i>
% Monitors	Accuracy						
Correctly Classified Business Classifier	Sensitivity (Specificity)						
		·					

Transits: Average Accuracy = 78%

Proximity classifier <u>not</u> sufficient

(Overestimates Safe Monitors)

Peers: Possible to identify all dangerous monitors Usually High specificity & sensitivity (Outliers may exist)



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	Sensitivity (Specificity)	13% (99%)	62% (93%)	75% (91%)	100% <i>(</i> 97%)	<b>10%</b> (94%)	100% <i>(</i> 99%)
% Monitors Correctly Classified Business Classifier	Accuracy	90%	92%	89%	Same	Same	Same
	Sensitivity (Specificity)	95% <i>(89%)</i>	96% <i>(86%)</i>	97% (81%)	Same	Same	Same

Transits: Average Accuracy = 90%

reduces FNs (dangerous misclassifications) by <= 91%

Higher Sensitivity at the cost of Specificity

Peers: Practically unchanged





- RQ: How capable hijackers are to hide from Route Collectors (RCs)?
- What we learned:

 $\succ$ 

 $\succ$ 

Future Work:

 $\succ$ 

 $\succ$ 



## Conclusions

- RQ: How capable hijackers are to hide from Route Collectors (RCs)?
- What we learned:
  - Traditional RCs may be vulnerable to stealthy attacks if the following properties hold:
    (1) Feeder reports their best routes to RC and (2) RC is Public.
  - Stealthy hijacks: may thrive in *Peer* links.
  - > *Transit* links: Harder for hijackers to completely hide.
- Future Work:
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## Conclusions

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- What we learned:
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  - Stealthy hijacks: may thrive in *Peer* links.
  - > *Transit* links: Harder for hijackers to completely hide.
- Future Work: Solutions against stealthy attacks.
  - Selecting new feeders in more strategic locations.
  - Benefits of BGP Monitoring Protocol (BMP).







## Appendix



## **Appendix – Topologies With More IXP Links**



#### Adding more IXP links

- No impact to success rate
- Visible hijacks: stealthier

### 90th percentile visibility

- Type-1: 28% less monitors
- Type-4: 50.9% less monitors
- Realistic: 48.3% less monitors



## **Appendix – Topologies With More IXP Links**



#### Adding more IXP links

• Stealthy hijacks more impactful

### Traditional Topology (IXP0)

- Type-1: 0.7% affected ASes
- Realistic: 16.2% affected ASes
- Omni: 23.5% affected ASes

### Fully IXP Topology (IXP100)

- Type-1: 2.2% affected ASes
- Realistic: 45.5% affected ASes
- Omni: 49.0% affected ASes



## **Appendix – Topologies With More Monitors**



#### **Non-Reactive Hijackers**

 Prevents attacks affecting > 2% Internet



## **Appendix – Topologies With More Monitors**





### **Proximity Classifier – Reason for Misclassifications**

Proximity Classifier: Reason for Misclassification (FP / FN)	GRnet Transit ASN 5408	AMS Transit ASN 8283	AMS Transit ASN 12859	AMS Peer ASN 9002	AMS Peer ASN 6461	AMS Peer ASN 52320
1. Shortest AS-Path	FP: 1	FP: 2	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 1	FP: 0
Violation	FN: 140	FN: 158	FN: 79	FN: 0	FN: 8	FN: 0
a) Longer Path preferred	FP: 0	FP: 1	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 1	FP: 0
	FN: 139	FN: 157	FN: 79	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
b) Victim Path not	FP: 1	FP: 1	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0
observed	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
c) Hijacker Path not	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0
observed	FN: 1	FN: 1	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 8	FN: 0
3. Tie breakers	FP: 2	FP: 15	FP: 29	FP: 15	FP: 33	FP: 1
Violations	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
d) Victim path preferred	FP: 2	FP: 15	FP: 29	FP: 15	FP: 33	FP: 1
	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
Total (FP / FN)	FP: 3	FP: 17	FP: 29	FP: 15	FP: 34	FP: 1
	FN: 140	FN: 158	FN: 79	FN: 0	FN: 8	FN: 0



## **Gao-Rexford Classifier – Reason for Misclassifications**

Gao Rexford Classifier Reason for Misclassification (FP / FN)	GRnet Transit ASN 5408	AMS Transit ASN 8283	AMS Transit ASN 12859	AMS Peer ASN 9002	AMS Peer ASN 6461	AMS Peer ASN 52320
1. Gao Rexford	FP: 52	FP: 27	FP: 48	FP: 3	FP: 2	FP: 1
Violation	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
a) customer - provider	FP:1 FN:0	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 0 FN: 0
b) customer - peer	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 6 FN: 0	FP: 20 FN:0	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 0 FN: 0	FP: 0 FN: 0
c) peer - provider	FP: 51 FN: 0	FP: 21 FN: 0	FP: 28 FN:0	FP: 3 FN: 0	FP: 2 FN: 0	FP: 1 FN: 0
2. Shortest AS-Path	FP: 1	FP: 2	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 1	FP: 0
Violation	FN: 8	FN: 17	FN: 9	FN: 0	FN: 8	FN: 0
d) Longer Path preferred	FP:0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 1	FP: 0
(Same Gao relation)	FN: 4	FN: 13	FN: 9	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
e) Longer Path preferred	FP: 0	FP: 1	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0
(Unknown relation)	FN: 3	FN: 3	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
f) Victim Path not	FP: 1	FP: 1	<b>FP</b> : 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0
observed	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
g) Hijacker Path not	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0	FP: 0
observed	FN: 1	FN: 1	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 8	FN: 0
3. Tie breakers	FP: 2	FP: 8	FP: 17	FP: 15	FP: 33	FP: 1
Violations	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
h) Victim nath proferred	<i>FP</i> : 2	FP: 8	FP: 17	FP: 15	FP: 33	FP: 1
n) viciim pain prejerrea	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0	FN: 0
Total (FP/FN)	FP: 55 FN: 8	FP: 37 FN: 17	FP: 65 FN: 9	FP: 18 FN: 0	FP: 36 FN: 8	FP: 2 FN: 0