

Anonymity: a cursed blessing

Panel on Web Privacy and Anonymity

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Anonymity--what is it good for?

- Commerce
- Counseling
- Whistleblowing
- Free Speech
- Polling, Voting, Surveying
- etc., etc.

What's there to hide?

- Name, id, account, etc.
- Location (at all levels of granularity)
- Linkability
- Timing?
- Volume?

Who to hide from?

- Intended recipient
- Casual eavesdropper
- Professional eavesdropper
- Global observer
- Oneself?

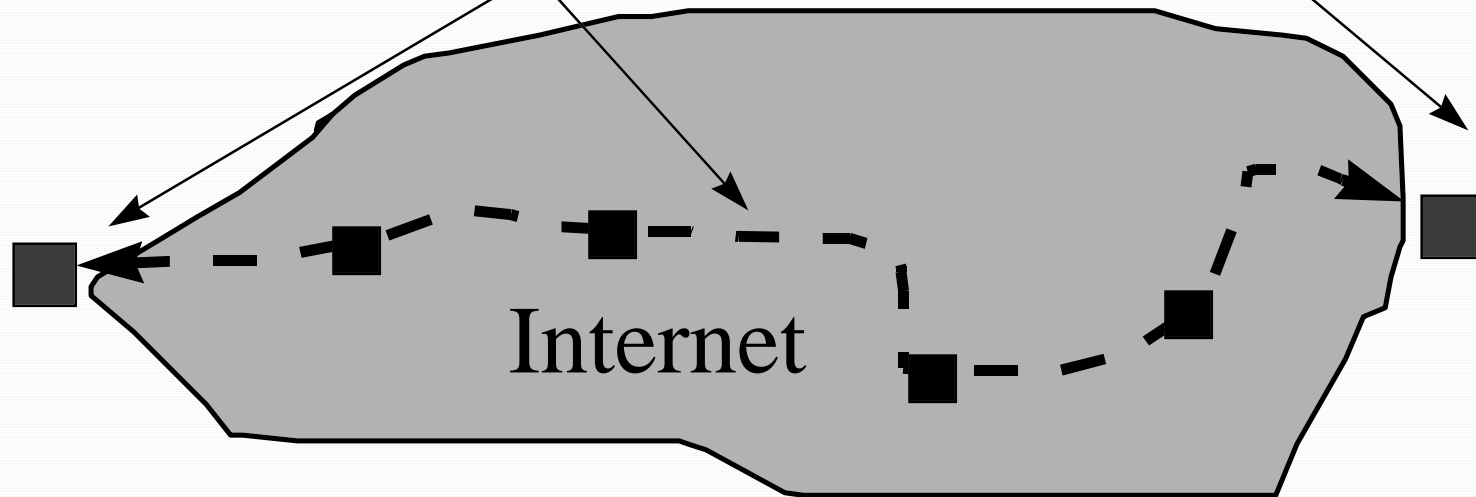
Anonymity Types

1. Transport

www.anonymizer
remailers
MIXs

2. Mechanism-specific

e-cash, e-check
CAFÉ, Mondex
net news



Internet Anonymity Today

- WWW Anonymizer
- Anonymous remailers
- Usenet newsgroups

Best anonymity today: mixmaster+news

Internet Anonymity Needs

- MIXs for synchronous communication
- Court -- means of arbitration
- Universal certification

BTW,

- Chaum's style MIX "gauntlet" not well-suited to Internet
- more research needed
- example of current work: Fasbender et. al (Aachen)