Re: JSH: new prime factoring location

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2007−09/msg01843.html

- *From*: richard@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Richard Tobin)

- *Date*: 10 Sep 2007 08:57:13 GMT

In article <fc24dh$3ra$1@xxxxxxxx>,
Joshua Cranmer <Pidgeot18@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:

> One can determine from reverse DNS a qualified name −− including a TLD
> −− for any IP address.

If it has one. It doesn't have to, but almost all do.

> By definition, anything with a .uk TLD will exist
> in the United Kingdom.

Not at all. There are no restrictions on what IP addresses .uk names
can point to, or what names can point to IP addresses located in the
UK. And you can register under most countries' TLDs without being
anywhere near the country.

> Furthermore, from other auxiliary information, it is possible to
> determine the subnet from which a computer hails. For example, doing a
> whois query on my NNTP−Posting−Host reveals that my location is
> administered by a center in Reston, VA. From that data, one can conclude
> that my location is somewhere in the vicinity of said city. Doing a
> whois query on your host information reveals that your location is at
> the University of Edinburgh.

You can tell something about an address from its owner, but I could be
using an Edinburgh University IP address from anywhere in the world,
and when I go to conferences I do exactly that. I don't just mean
logging in to a machine in Edinburgh; I mean using a VPN so that a
machine in Australia has an Edinburgh University IP address.
Similarly I could arrange for one of the IP addresses on my DSL
connection to be routed to a machine anywhere in the world.

In *most* cases you can work out which country a machine is in just

from the ISP. In some cases you can do better by knowing which IP addresses are allocated by which PoPs (Points of Presence). This was especially true in the past when ISPs had geographical numbers for local−rate dial−up, but even then you could dial an ISP in Scotland from a computer in Japan. Now (for DSL) ISPs more often have a single national hub so that you can't tell anything more than the country.

−− Richard
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"Consideration shall be given to the need for as many as 32 characters in some alphabets" − X3.4, 1963.
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