

Flash Proxy

In an article titled *Recent ideas for circumventing Internet filtering* [1], Dan Boneh introduces a rapid proxy creation scheme that can be used to overcome Internet censorship. In regions of the world that censor Internet traffic, any long-living proxy to the outside world that bypasses censorship rules is often blacklisted. Such blocking can be overcome by creating many short-lived proxies that appear and disappear too quickly for any adversary to spot and blacklist.

Boneh uses Flash to implement a proxy that exists only for the duration of a user's session. When a cooperating website places such a Flash proxy on their website, any user to that website becomes an available short-lived proxy node. With the aid of a facilitation program to make the initial connection, the Flash proxy acts as a middleman passing data to and from the censored client.

Reliability is achieved by having the censored client simultaneously maintain connections to multiple Flash proxies, so when one disappears, a connection can still be maintained.

Flash Proxy project website: <http://crypto.stanford.edu/flashproxy/>

References

- [1] Dan Boneh. Recent ideas for circumventing internet filtering. *XRDS*, 18:36–40, December 2011.