

# DNS Firewalls with BIND: ISC RPZ and the IID Approach

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# About the Presenters



Paul Vixie  
Chairman and Founder  
Internet Systems Consortium



Rod Rasmussen  
President and CTO  
IID (Internet Identity)



# Logistics

- Webinar is 1 hour long
- A recording will be available in 3 business days at <http://www.isc.org/webinars>
- Participants are muted
- Use the Q&A Tab to submit questions



# Agenda

- Building DNS Firewalls with RPZ – Paul Vixie
- DNS Firewall – Rod Rasmussen
- Q&A Session





# Building DNS Firewalls With RPZ

Paul Vixie  
Internet Systems Consortium



# DNS firewalls

- A DNS firewall examines responses to queries, passes some, blocks others.
- Responses can be “examined” for any content.
- “Block” action can discard, modify, or replace the original response.



# The hard part

- The essence of a DNS firewall is simple.
- What's hard? Maintenance.
- How to provide the data that guides its behavior?
- How to update that data easily?
- How to share that data with others?



# More about RPZ

- DNS firewall rules carried inside DNS zones.
- Rules published, subscribed, shared by normal DNS zone transfer protocol
  - Including IXFR, NOTIFY, TSIG.
  - So, propagation is timely, efficient, and authentic.



# RPZ inspection capabilities

- If the name being looked up is X.
- If the response contains any IP address in range X.
- If a listed name server name is X.
- If any returned name server IP address is in range X.



# RPZ action capabilities

- Synthesize NXDOMAIN.
- Synthesize CNAME.
- Synthesize NODATA.
- Synthesize an answer.
- Answer with the truth.



# Implications

- Controlled Balkanization.
- Open market for (many) producers and (many) consumers.
- Differentiated service at a global scale.
- Instantaneous takedown.



# Status

- RPZ is open and unencumbered.
- Implemented only in BIND (so far).
- Performance reasonable (~15%).
- New features backward compatible.
- ISC standard not an IETF standard.
- We hope for other implementations.





# DNS Firewalls

Rod Rasmussen  
IID (Internet Identity)  
President and CTO



# Critical Internet Security Problems

- Malware command-and-control
- Malware infection sites
- APT attacks
- Phishing and spear phishing



# Solution

- DNS Firewall
- Over 80% of malware uses DNS to communicate. Using a DNS firewall is an easy way to stop this.
- Network professionals and security pros working together for mutual benefit



# ActiveTrust<sup>®</sup> Resolver

- Leverages “big data” on Internet security events to create intelligence that prevents enterprise employee and system connections to known malicious Internet locations
- IID identifies and takes down thousands of malicious Internet locations a week
- Brings in data feeds and works with hundreds of global law enforcement, security vendors, security researchers
- Instantly alerts SOC/NOC of problems on enterprise networks via unique “TrapTrace” feature



## **Collective Intelligence**

- Latest actionable intelligence on malicious Internet locations
- Share findings from unique customer relationships – one of the best networks around
- Aggregates many of the most robust threat intelligence streams in the industry



# ActiveTrust<sup>®</sup> Resolver

## Feed Delivery

- Real-time threat updates via RPZ push capability
- Daily pre-determined malicious domains
- Feed empowers your own DNS infrastructure to provide robust security network wide with no new overhead



# ActiveTrust<sup>®</sup> Resolver

## TrapTrace

- RPZ redirection enables enterprise security personnel to instantly be notified when a compromised machine tries to:
  - Access a command-and-control server
  - Transmit sensitive data to a known drop zone
  - Connect to spear phishing site





**HID**

ACTIVELY SECURING THE EXTENDED ENTERPRISE

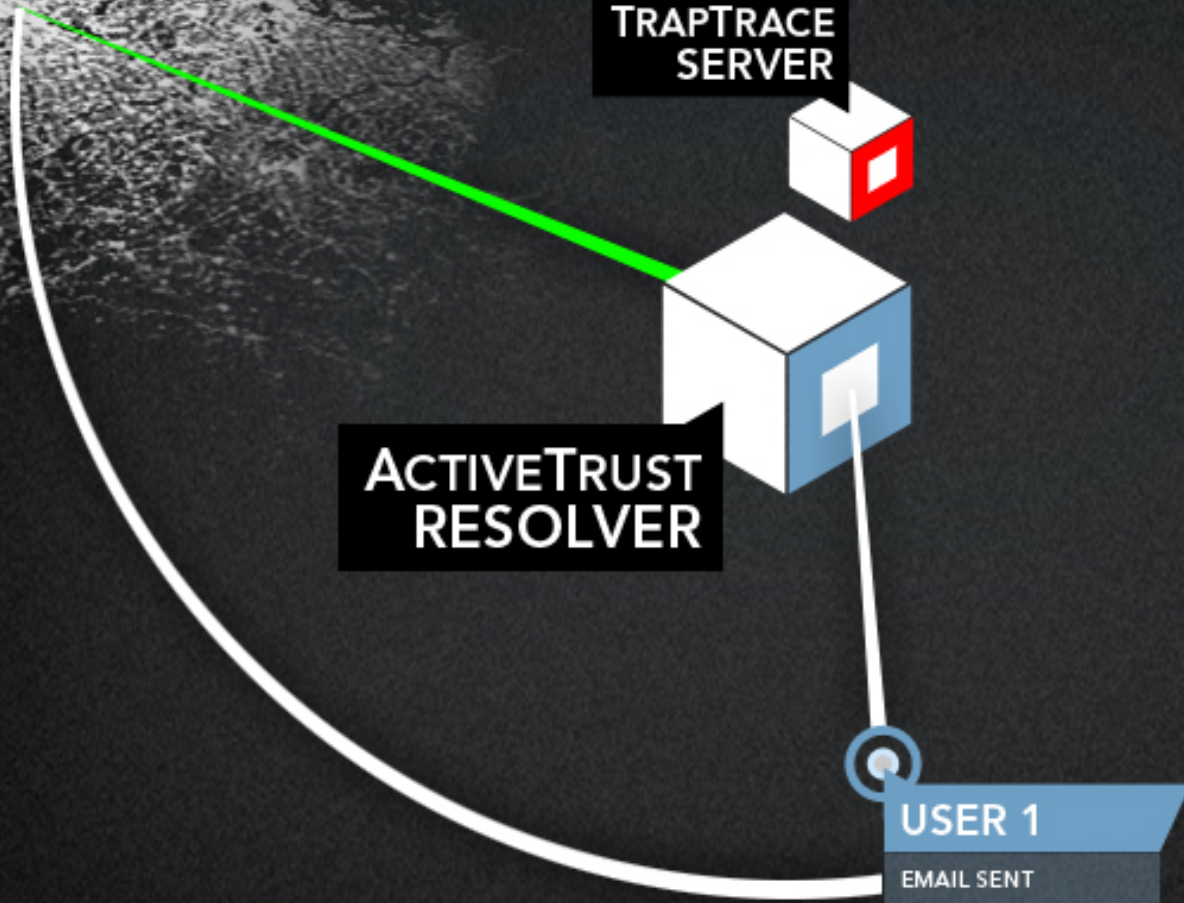
**INTERNET**

**TRAPTRACE  
SERVER**

**ACTIVETRUST  
RESOLVER**

**USER 1**

EMAIL SENT







**HID**

ACTIVELY SECURING THE EXTENDED ENTERPRISE

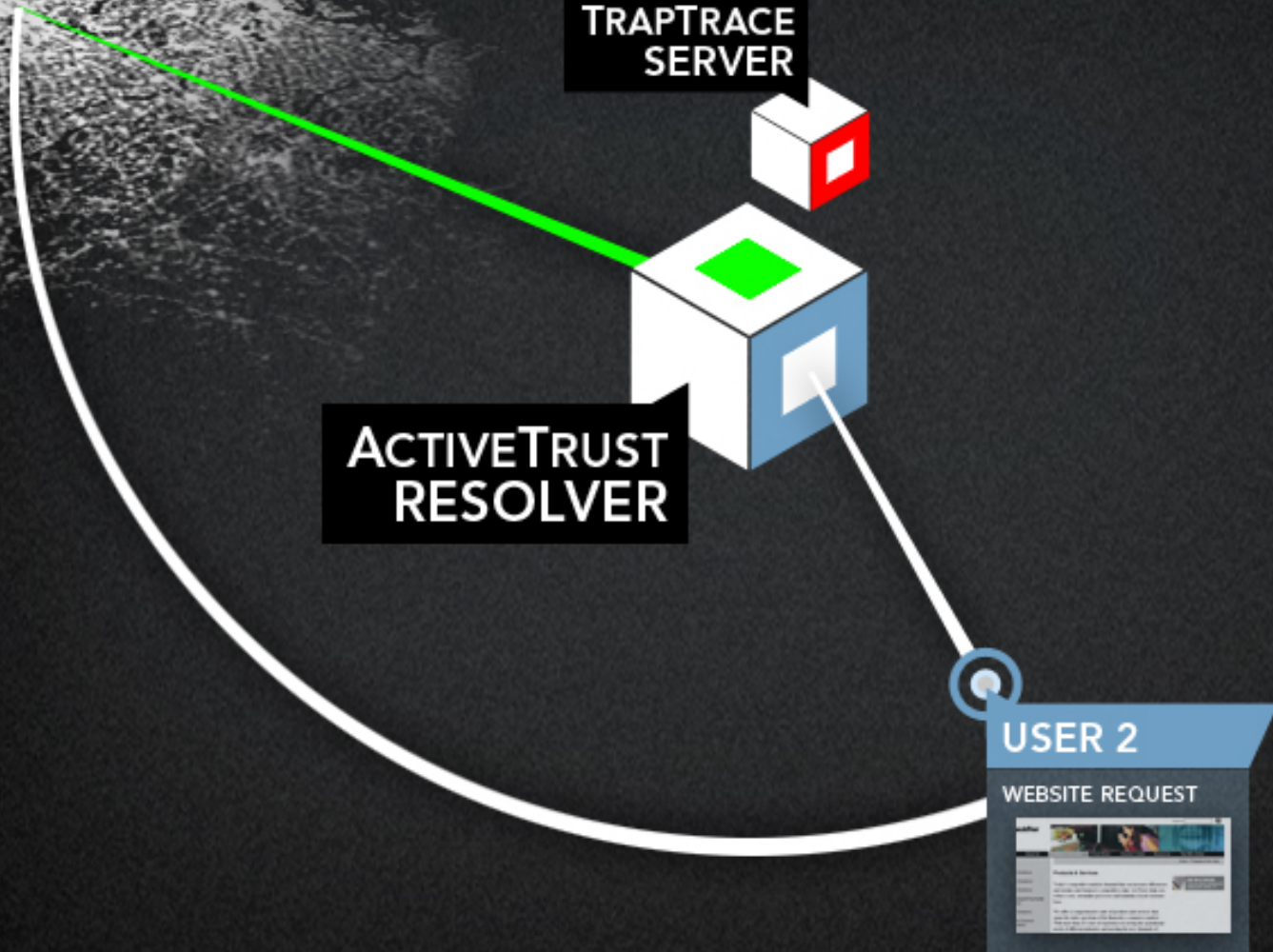
**INTERNET**

**TRAPTRACE  
SERVER**

**ACTIVETRUST  
RESOLVER**

**USER 2**

WEBSITE REQUEST





**DD**  
ACTIVELY SECURING THE EXTENDED ENTERPRISE

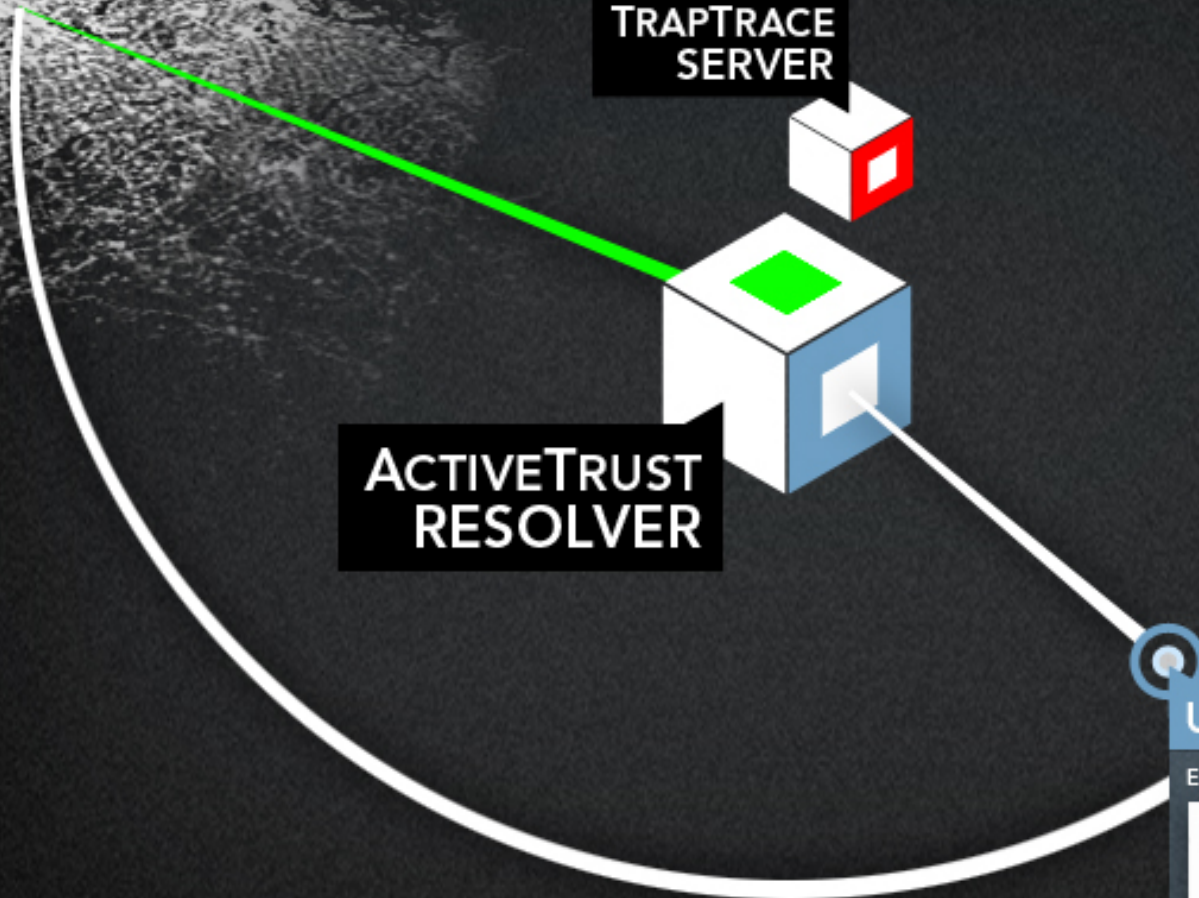
**INTERNET**

**TRAPTRACE  
SERVER**

**ACTIVETRUST  
RESOLVER**

**USER 3**

EMBEDDED VIDEO







**HID**

ACTIVELY SECURING THE EXTENDED ENTERPRISE

**INTERNET**

**TRAPTRACE  
SERVER**

**ACTIVETRUST  
RESOLVER**

**SECURITY TEAM** 

**ALERT**

PC #4  
May 2, 2011 05:32:44  
bad.host.com  
Known Spear Phishing Domain  
Probable User Attack

**USER 4**

WEBSITE REQUEST



**WARNING**



**HID**

ACTIVELY SECURING THE EXTENDED ENTERPRISE

**INTERNET**

**TRAPTRACE  
SERVER**

**SECURITY TEAM**



**ALERT**

PC #5  
May 2, 2011 05:32:44  
bad.host.com  
Known Malware C&C  
Probable Infection

**ACTIVETRUST  
RESOLVER**

**USER 5**

SURREPTITIOUS  
MALWARE  
COMMUNICATIONS

**BLOCKED**

# Use Cases: Malware and APT Attacks

- Malware command-and-control
- APT attacks



# Summary

- Over 80% of malware uses DNS to communicate. Using a DNS firewall is an easy way to stop this.
- IID provides solution with actionable intelligence via RPZ feeds and unique TrapTrace feature
- By bridging gap between network administrators and security professionals, DNS firewalls are protecting real customers against real threats
- IID and ISC are ready to help



# Take Action

- Go to [www.internetidentity.com/solutions/activetrust-resolver](http://www.internetidentity.com/solutions/activetrust-resolver)
- Email [dnsfirewall@internetidentity.com](mailto:dnsfirewall@internetidentity.com)





# Questions





# About IID

**Trust IID to proactively protect against the latest cyber threats:**

- Five of the top six banks in the U.S.
- Largest government agencies worldwide
- Leading financial services firms, e-commerce, social networking and ISP companies

Headquartered in Tacoma, Washington

[www.internetidentity.com](http://www.internetidentity.com)



# About ISC

- Non-profit dedicated to Internet infrastructure
- Software: BIND9, (BIND10,) ISC DHCP, ...
- Operations: F-Root, Hosted@ISC, ...
- Protocols: about two dozen IETF RFC's
- Policy: Internet governance (e.g., SOPA)
- Commercial services:
  - support, training, feature development
  - registry services for new gTLD's
  - DNS hosting (public-facing or "secondary")



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