

# DNS-based Countermeasure Technologies for Spam Bot Worm-infected PC terminals in the Campus Network

**Yasuo Musashi,<sup>†</sup> Ryuichi Matsuba,<sup>†</sup> and Kenichi Sugitani<sup>†</sup>**

<sup>†</sup>Centre of Multimedia and Information Technologies  
Kumamoto University 860-8555 JAPAN  
E-mail: musashi@cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp  
Phone +81-96-342-3915 Fax +81-96-342-3829

**Dennis A. Ludeña R.<sup>††</sup> and Hirofumi Nagatomi<sup>††</sup>**

<sup>††</sup>Graduate School of Science and Technology  
Kumamoto University, 860-8555, JAPAN  
E-mail: {dennis}@st.cs.kumamoto-u.ac.jp  
Phone +81-96-342-3013



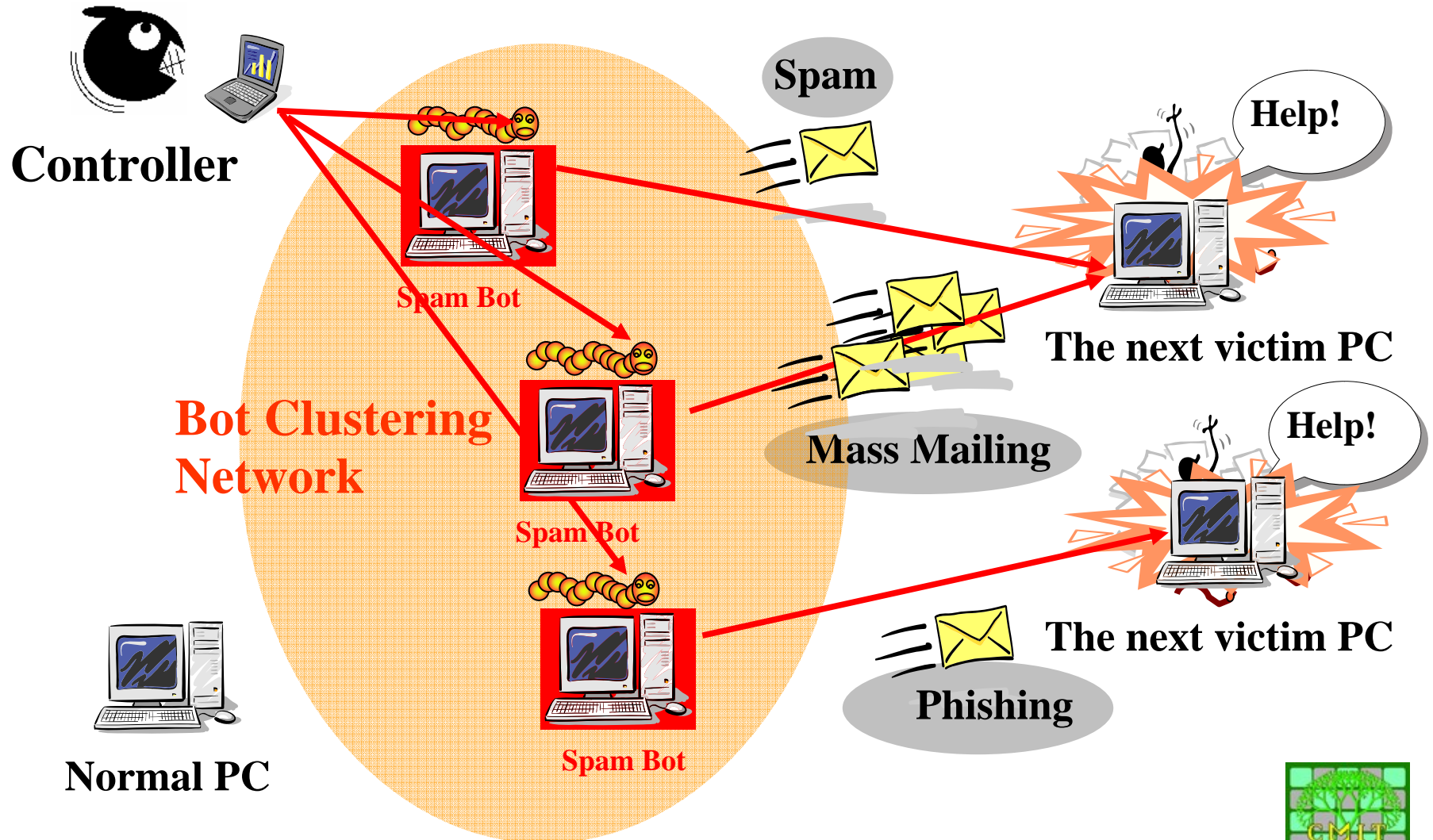
# Typical Functions of Bot Worm-infected PCs

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- **Transmitting of the unsolicited E-mails**
- **A distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack**
- **Self-Propagation or Launching the other internet worms**
- **Spying or disclosure a secret (Information Leakage)**



# A Spam Bot as an SMTP proxy



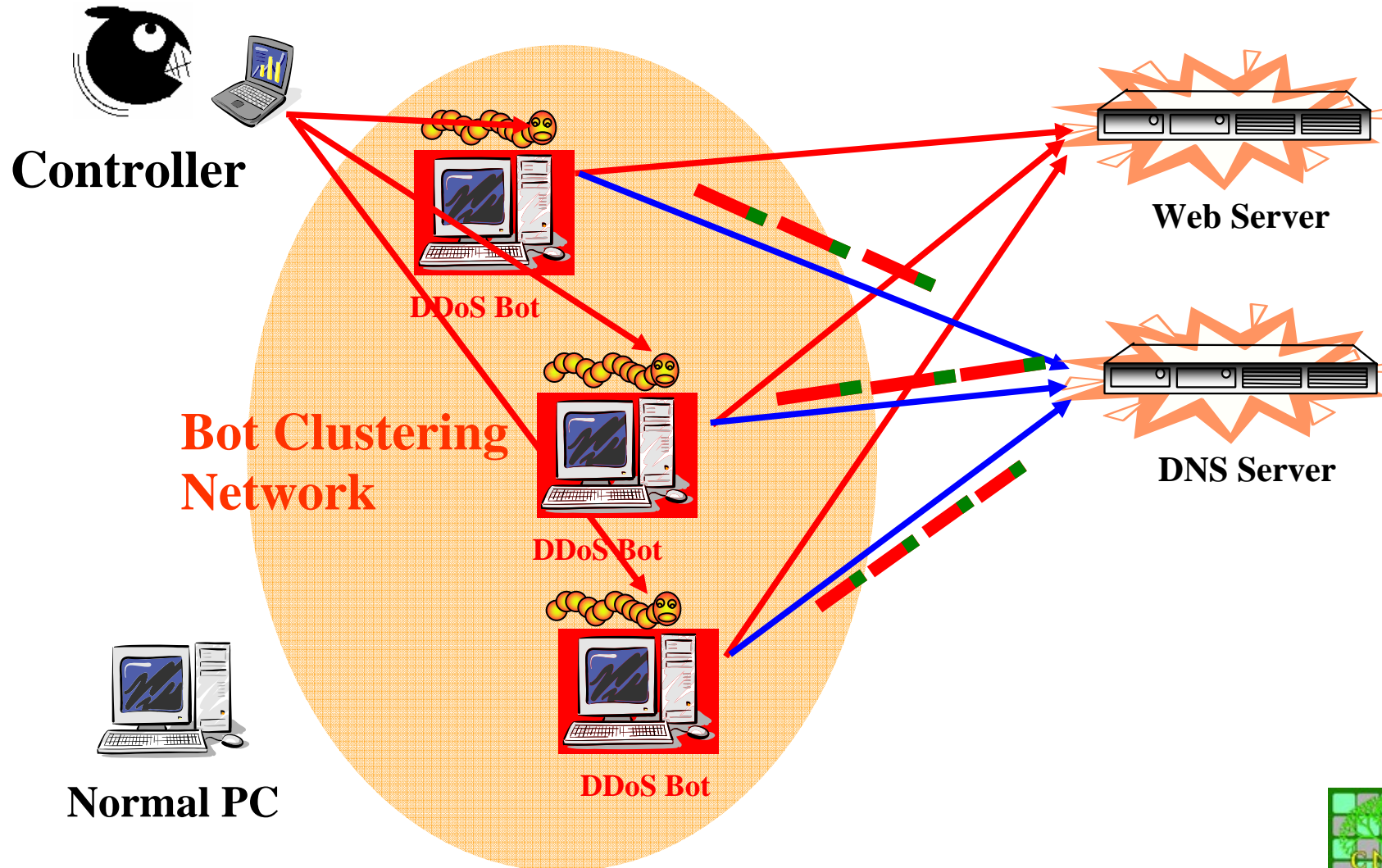
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# A Distributed DoS (DDoS) Cyber Attack

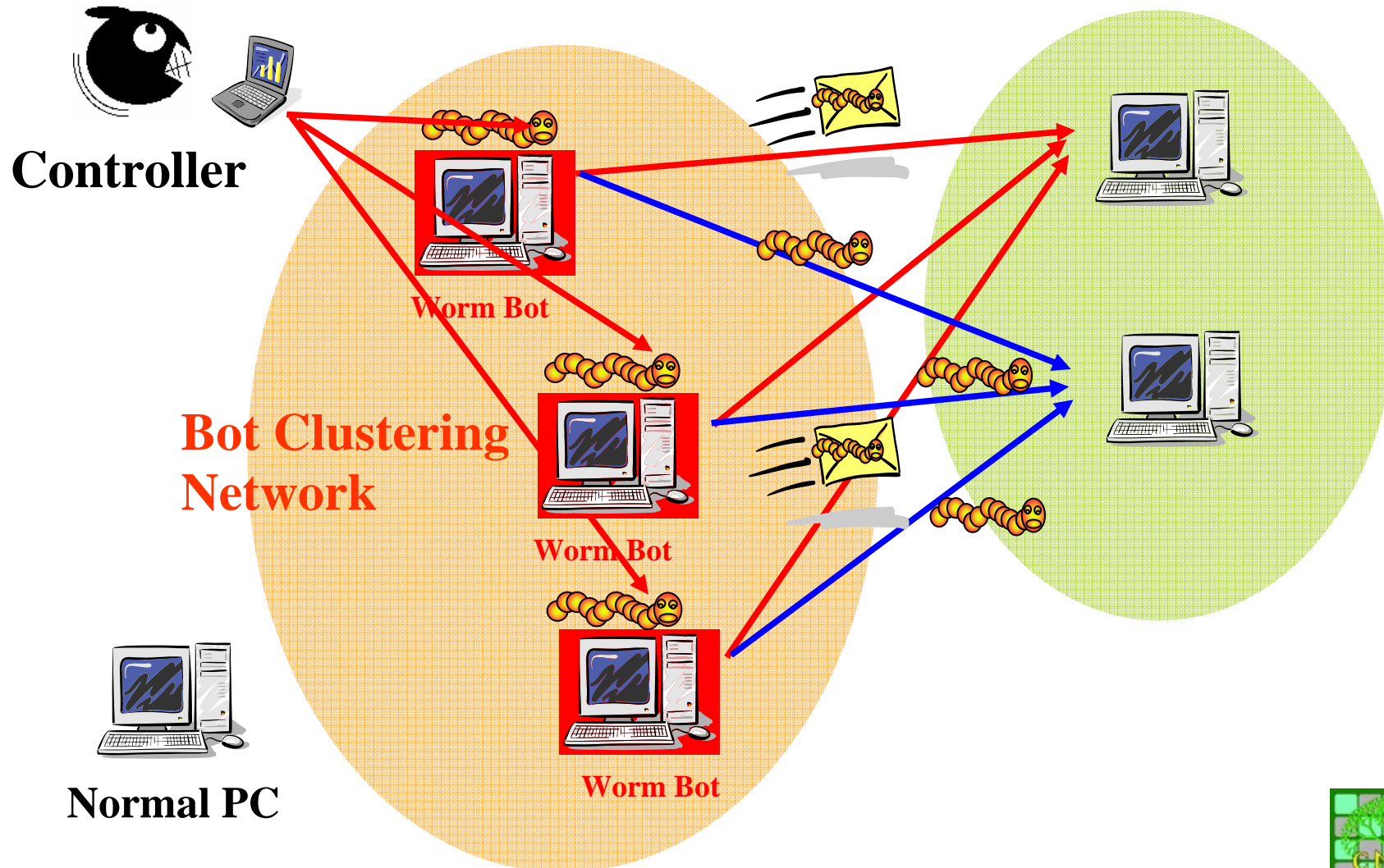


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# Bot Propagation/Launching New Internet Worm



# Typical Functions of Bot Worm-infected PCs

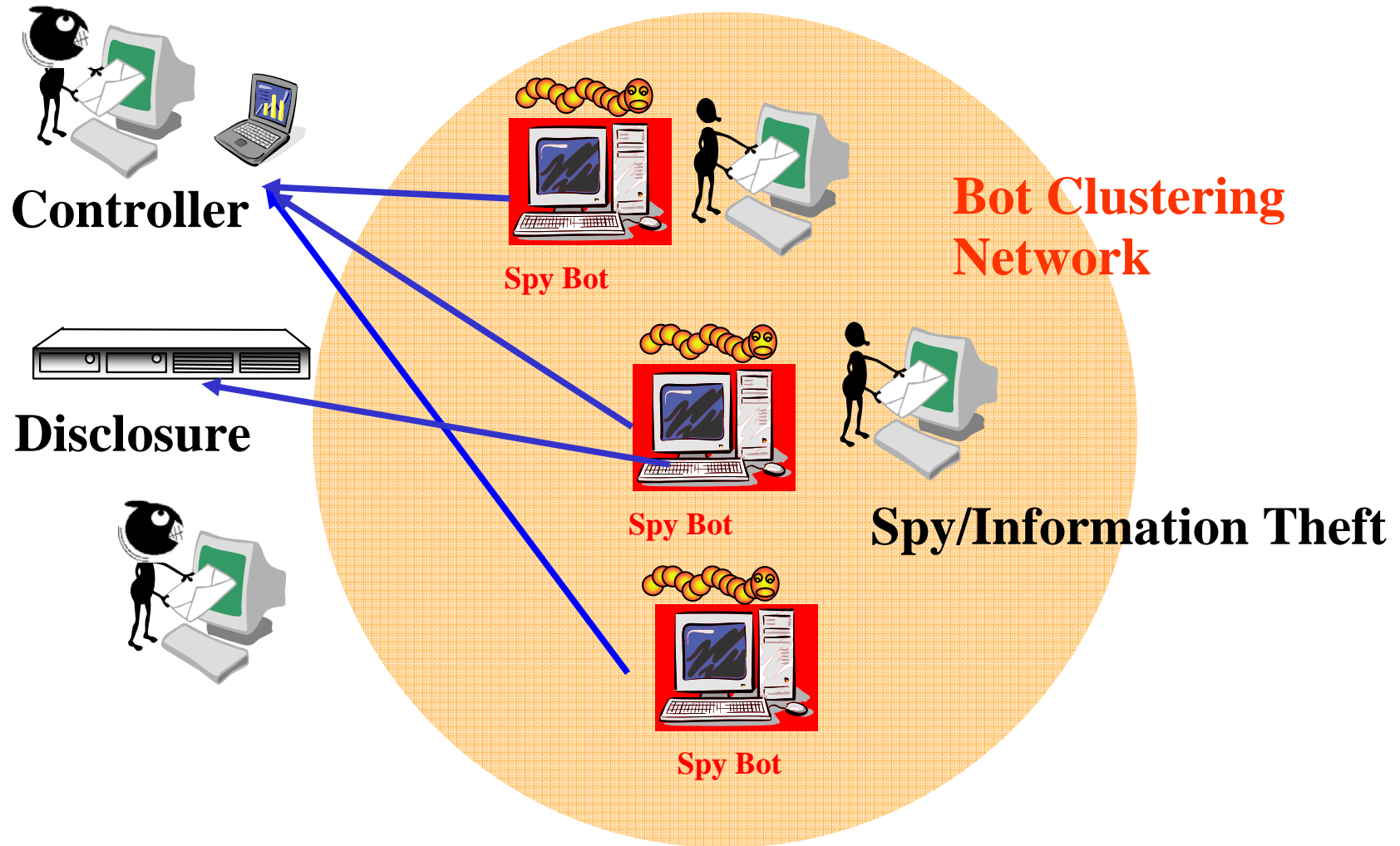
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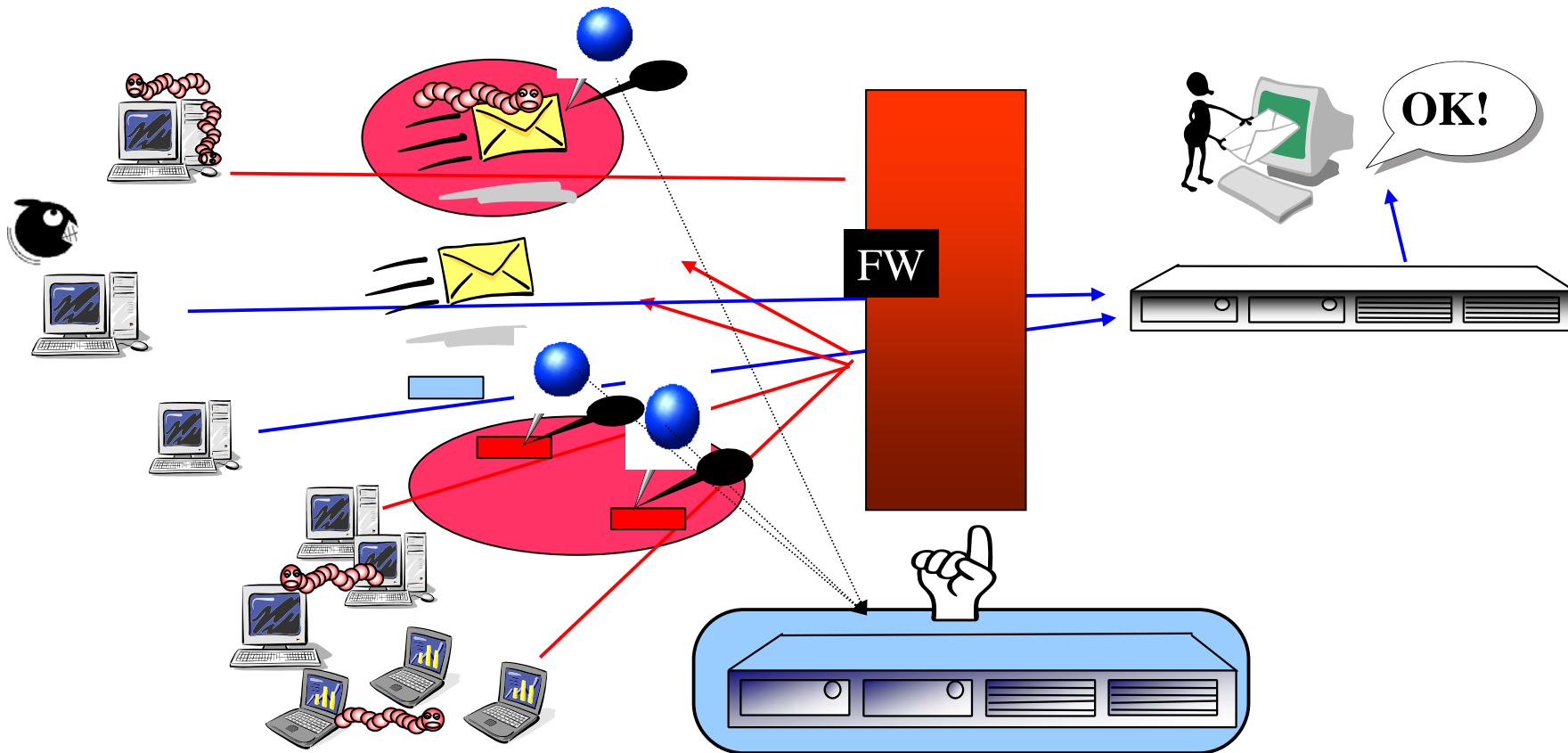




# Information Leakage



# We need Countermeasures against the Bot Worm



# Countermeasures for Today

- **Transmitting of the unsolicited E-mails**
- **A distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack**
- **Self-Propagation or Launching the other internet worms**
- **Spying or disclosure a secret (Information Leakage)**



# Conventional Detection Technologies

- **Direct Observation/Analysis of the traffic packets**

**For instance:**

**E-mail exchange**

**SMTP packets**

**Web access**

**HTTP packets**

- **Weak points**

**(1) Ciphred/Encrypted Data is hardly to decode *i.e.* to hardly find out the security incidents in the encrypted data**

**(2) Privacy Disclosure**

**Direct observation of the network traffic always includes much privacy related information.**



# Why do we observe DNS Query Packets? (Low Privacy)

- **A** resource record (RR) type: a fully qualified domain name (**FQDN**) into the **IP address(es)**
- **PTR** RR type: an **IP address** into the **FQDN**
- **MX** RR: a generic **domain name (DN)** into the **FQDN** of an E-mail server

http://**www.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/**      133.95.21.16

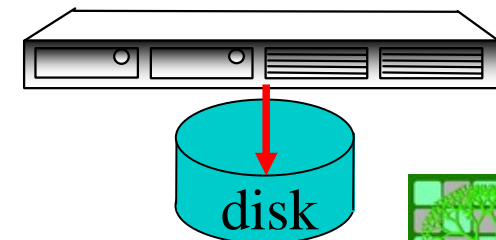
http://**host.domainname/**

http://**FQDN/**      http://**www.DN/**

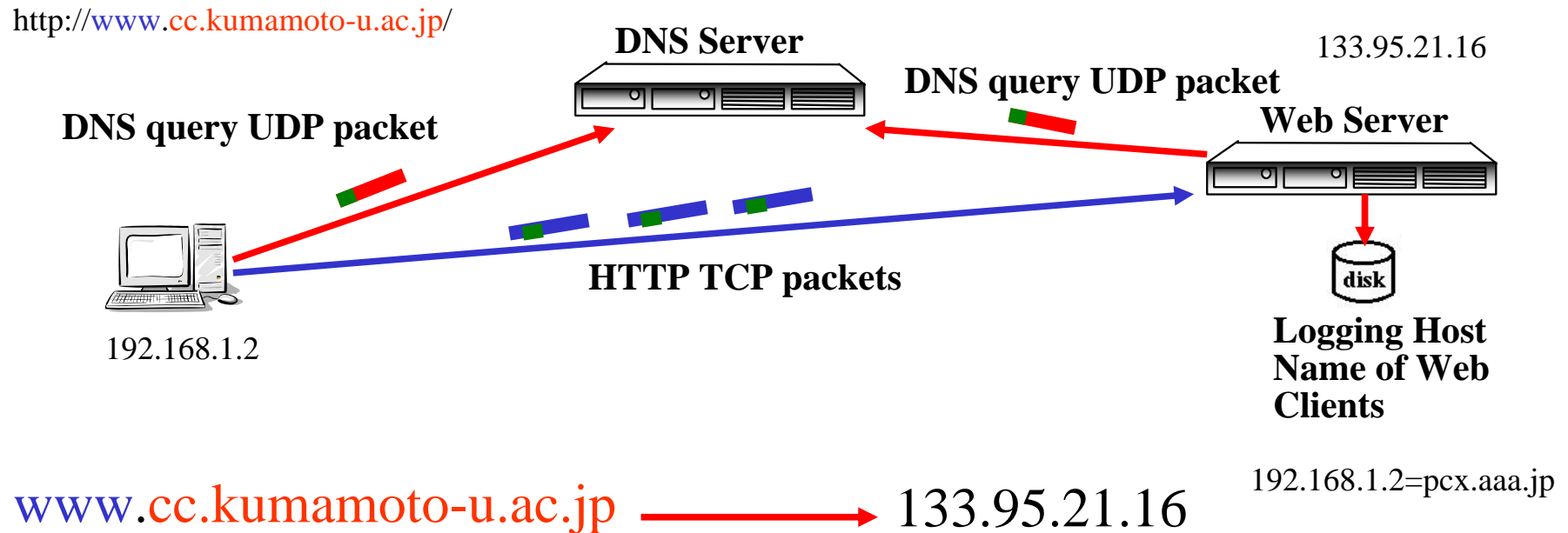
musashi@**cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp**  
account@**domainname**  
account@**DN**

smtp://**nyx.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/**  
smtp://**host.domainname/**  
smtp://**mail.DN/**

```
Mar 17 23:45:22 cupid postfix/smtpd[10877]: connect from aaa.sub.kumamoto-u.ac.jp[133.95.x.y]
Mar 17 23:45:22 cupid postfix/smtpd[10877]: 1487B9D5: client=aaa.sub.kumamoto-u.ac.jp[133.95.x.y]
Mar 17 23:45:26 cupid postfix/cleanup[10879]: 1487B9D5: message-id=<2004031****2.1487B9D5@¥
sub.kumamoto-u.ac.jp>
Mar 17 23:45:26 cupid postfix/smtpd[10877]: disconnect from aaa.sub.kumamoto-u.ac.jp[133.95.x.y]
Mar 17 23:45:26 cupid postfix/qmgr[627]: 1487B9D5: from=<foo@cupid.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp>, size=640,¥
nrcpt=1 (queue active)
Mar 17 23:45:26 cupid postfix/smtp[10880]: 1487B9D5: to=<musashi@sub.kumamoto-u.ac.jp>,
relay=mail.sub.kumamoto-u.ac.jp[133.95.zzz.yyy], delay=4, status=sent (250 Ok: queued as ¥
D48F4C6D4A)
```



# Why do we observing DNS Query Packets



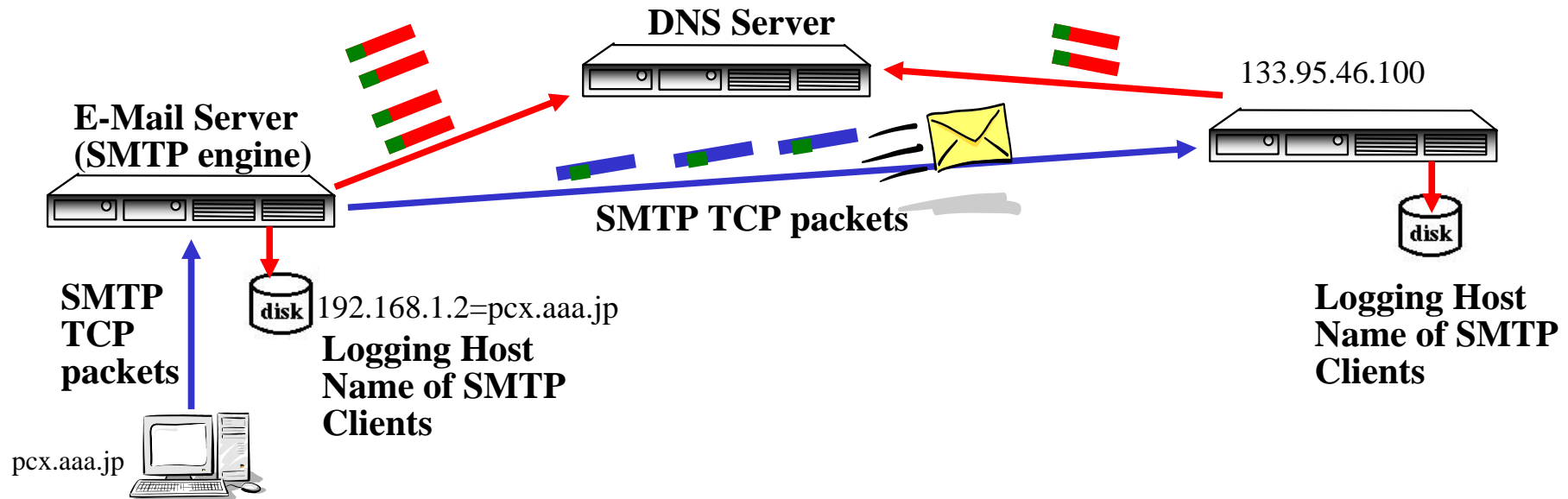
The A (standard) resource record (RR) type DNS query packet transferred to the DNS server

192.168.1.2 → pcx.aaa.jp

The PTR (pointer) RR type DNS query packet transferred to the DNS server



# Why do we observing DNS Query Packets



**cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp** → **nyx.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp**

The MX (Mail eXchange RR type DNS query packet transferred to the DNS server

**nyx.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp** → **133.95.46.100**

The A (Standard) RR type DNS query packet transferred to the DNS server

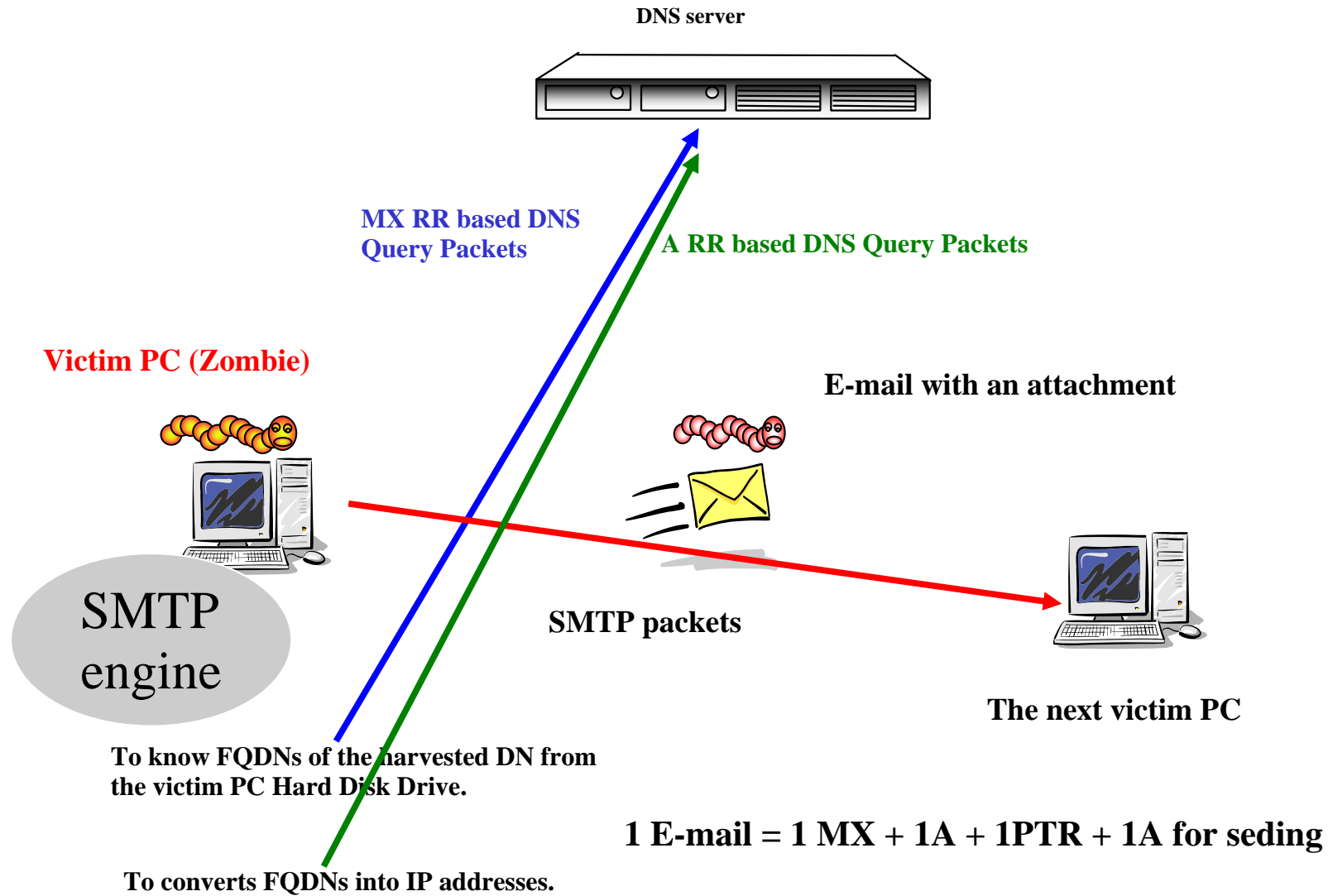
1 SMTP = 1 MX + 1A

1 E-mail = 1 MX + 1A + 1PTR + 1A for sending

1 E-mail = 1PTR + 1A for receiving



# At 29.03.2004, we reported that...





# DNS-based Detection of the Incidents and Related Works

- **Musashi, Matsuba, Sugitani, IPSJ-CSEC19(2002)/CSEC20(2003)**  
<http://www.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/~musashi/200{2,3}p.html>
- **Rikitake, Nogawa, Tanaka, and Shimojo, IPSJ-CSS2003**
- **Matsuba, Musashi, and Sugitani, IPSJ-DSM32(Japan) and ICETA2004 (Košice, Slovakia)**  
<http://www.cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/~musashi/2004p.html>
- **Kristoff, NANOG32, Reston, VA (2004) and Northwestern University**  
<http://www.nanog.org/mtg-0410/kistoff.html>  
<http://aharp.ittns.northwestern.edu/talks/bots-dns.pdf>
- **Whyte, van Oorschot, Kranakis, Carleton Univ., Technical Report**  
[http://www.scs.carleton.ca/research/tech\\_reports/2005/download/TR-05-06.pdf](http://www.scs.carleton.ca/research/tech_reports/2005/download/TR-05-06.pdf)
- **Ishibashi, Toyono, Toyama, Ishino, Ohshima, and Mizukoshi, ACM SIGCOMM workshop, 2005** <http://www.acm.org/sigs/sigcomm/sigcomm2005/paper-IshToy.pdf>
- **Schonewille and van Helmond, University of Amsterdam, SURFnet, 2006**  
<http://staff.science.uva.nl/~delaat/snb-2005-2006/p12/report.pdf>

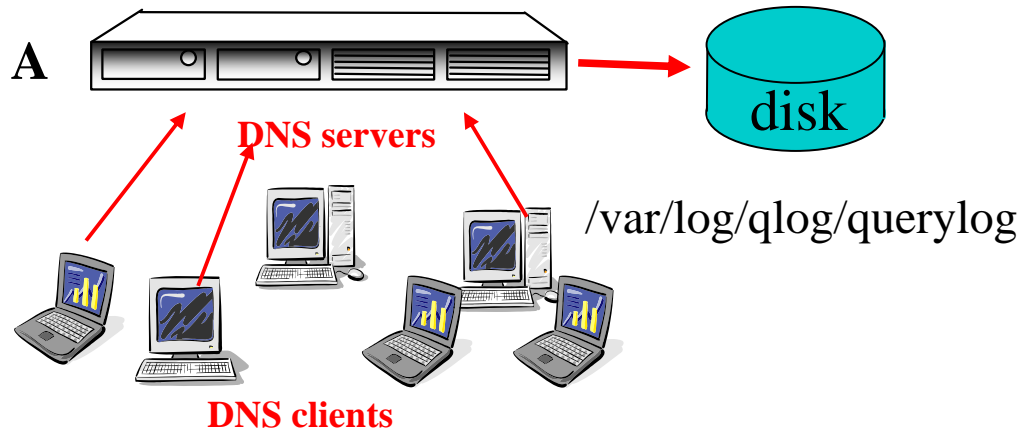


# Log Analysis of the DNS Query Contents

Capturing of DNS query packet by the optional configuration of the DNS server daemon

Intel Xeon 2.4GHz Dual CPU, 1GB main memory,  
Intel 100Mbps NIC, and 80GB ATA 133 HDD

program like BIND: /etc/named.conf



**B**

```
logging {  
    channel qlog {  
        syslog local1;  
    };  
    category queries { qlog; };  
}
```

Optional Configuration of BIND-9.2.6

**C** **Date** **h:m:s** hostname named[PID]: client IP address#port: query: contents of DNS query packet and IN query type

```
Oct 12 08:38:24 kun named[533]: client 133.95.xxx.yyy#39815: query: 130.13.194.xxx.in-addr.arpa IN PTR  
Oct 12 08:38:25 kun named[533]: client 133.95.xxx.yyy#39825: query: dmea.net IN MX  
Oct 12 08:38:43 kun named[533]: client 133.95.xxx.yyy#40010: query: mxwall03.hkabc.net IN A
```

The well-known three DNS query types are:

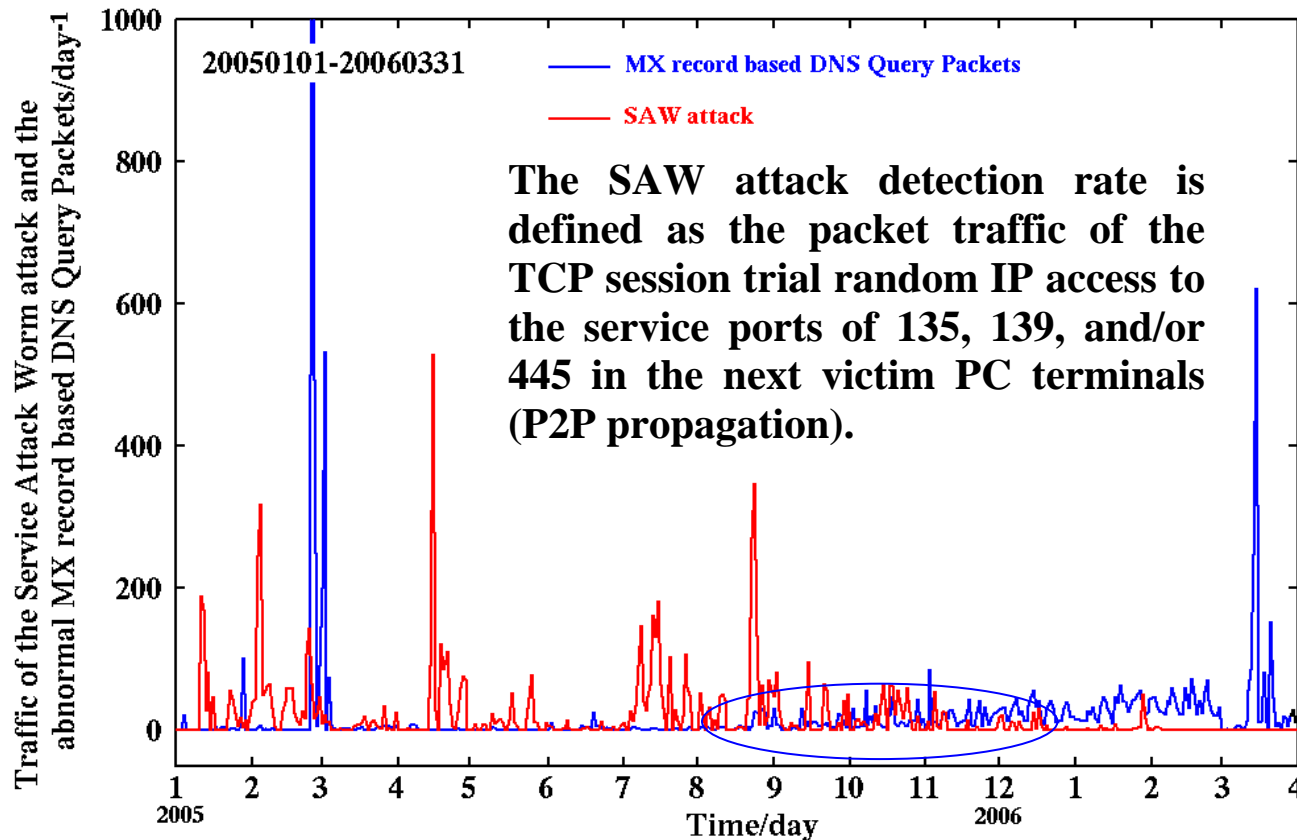
**A** resource record (RR) type: a fully qualified domain name (FQDN) into the IP address(es)

**PTR** RR type: an IP address into the FQDN

**MX** RR type: a generic domain name into the FQDN of an E-mail server

**D** The activities of the service attack worms are captured by the iplog-2.2.3 packet logger program package.

# Detection Rate of the clients-based MX RR Query Access and Service Attack Worm-infected PC terminals



The client-based MX RR DNS traffic synchronizes in almost the same manner with the detection rate of the SAW-infected PCs the late days of August to the middle of December, 2005. After the late days of 2005, it is, however, very difficult to find out the IP addresses of the BW-infected PC terminals by only watching P2P propagation or client MX RR based DNS query traffic (Detection Evasion).



# Detection Strategies

## Statistical Analysis on:

- (1) the **source IP address (IPv4) based** DNS query traffic from the bot worm (BW)-infected PC terminals in the campus network,
- (2) the **IPv6-source IP based** DNS query traffic from the bot worm (BW)-infected PC terminals in the campus network, and
- (3) the **query contents based** DNS query traffic from detection systems on the internet (the other sites) like IDS/IPS, spam filter, etc.

**IDS/IPS=Intrusion Detection/Prevention System**



# Detection Strategies

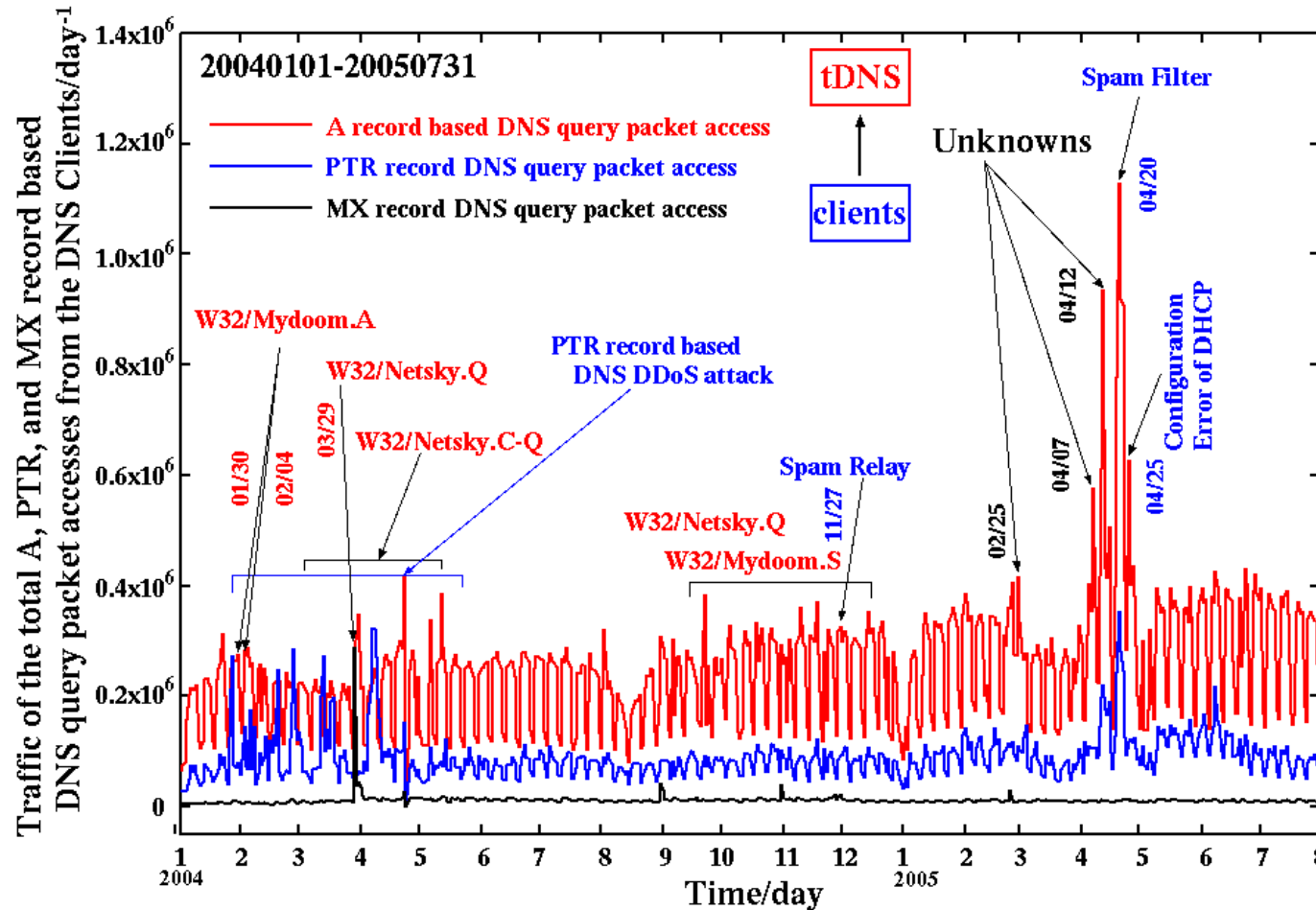
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# DNS Query Traffic includes Worm Information



Traffic of the A resource record based DNS query packets to the top domain DNS server of the university was abnormally increased through the early days of January to the middle days of June, 2005.

**Unknowns: 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2005**



# Example DNS query traffic from the BW-infected PCs

- The PC client A is a top access client in 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2005

Tot: 32,728/day

A: 32,727/day

PTR: 7/day

- The PC clients B and C are a top access client in 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April, respectively

Client B:

Tot: 229,309/day

A: 229,265/day

PTR: 34/day

MX: 1/day

SOA: 8/day

AAAA: 1/day

Client C

400,964/day

400,964/day



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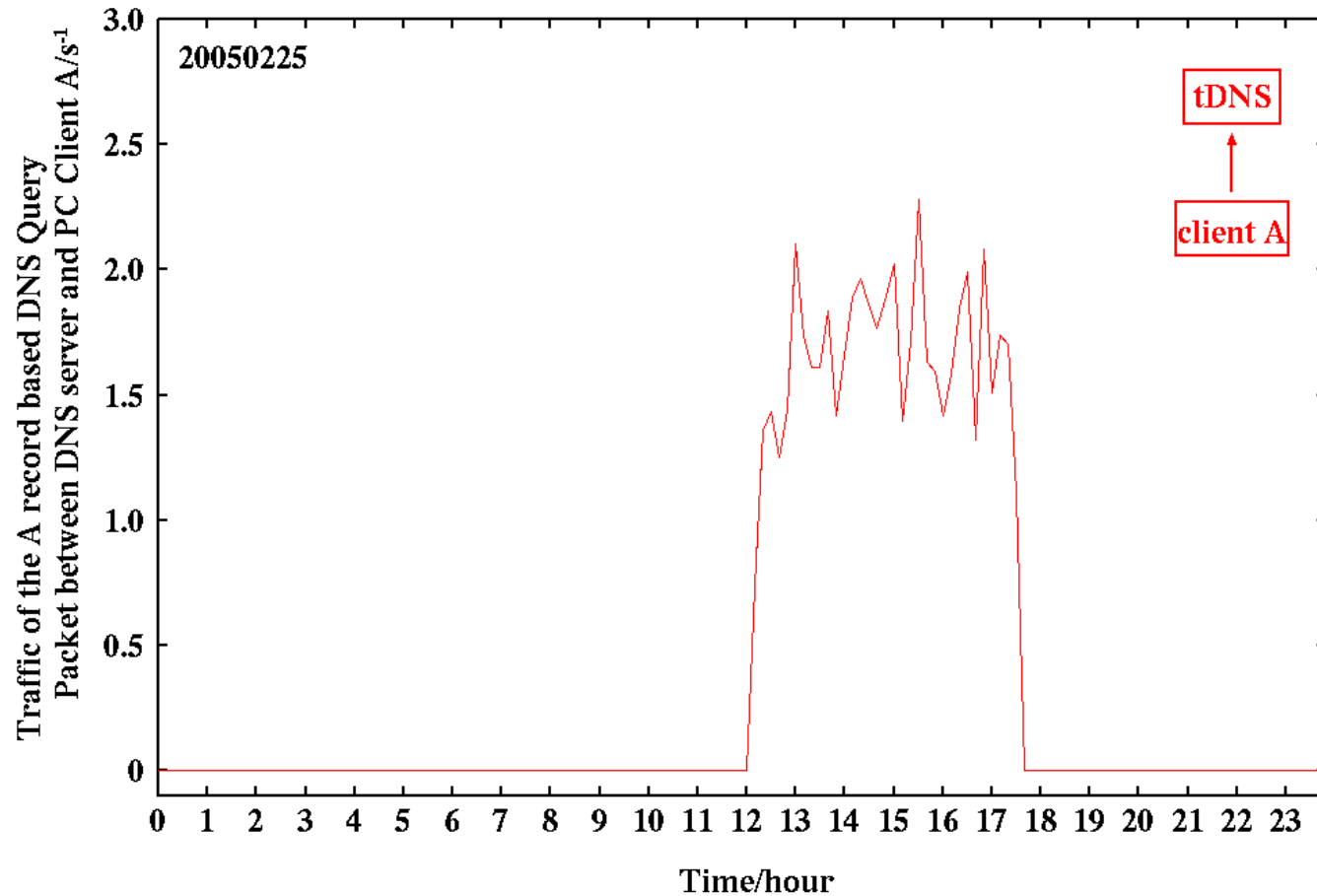
**400,964/day**

**400,964/day**





# Abnormal Traffic of the A RR based DNS Query Packets from the Client A



It took place at February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 12:00-17:30 (Filtered manually).



# Statistics of the DNS Query Contents in the A RR based DNS query Traffic

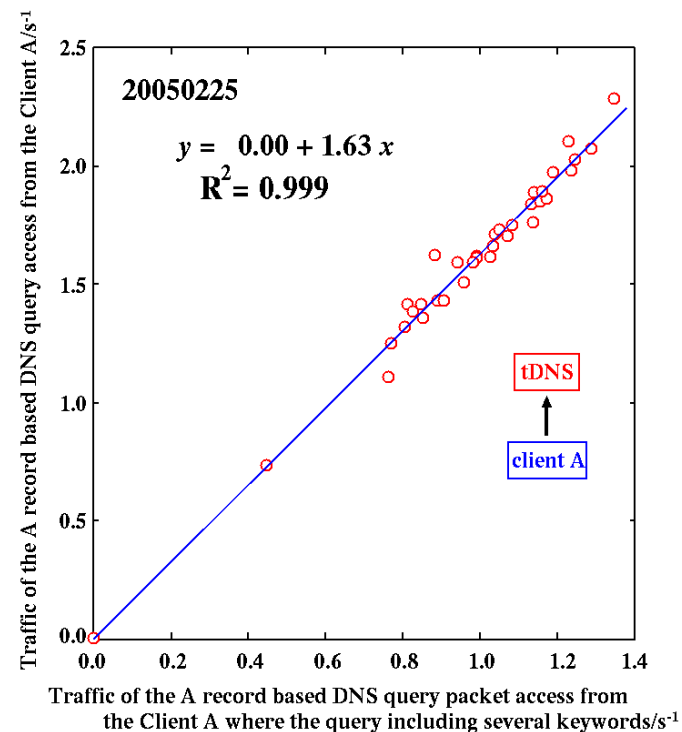
1	2	3	4	5
m 9975	ma 7506	mai 7404	mail 7399	mail. 5894
s 1569	mx 1883	smt 872	smtp 872	smtp. 491
p 566	sm 888	mx1 583	mx1. 451	mail1 229
a 542	in 265	mx0 402	rela 195	mailh 201
c 490	re 237	mx. 378	mx2. 167	mail2 200
i 462	po 231	rel 196	inbo 134	relay 190
n 403	ns 153	mx2 171	spam 101	mailg 162
b 395	sp 143	inb 134	mx01 92	inbou 133
r 363	co 132	pop 118	www. 91	mail- 129
e 341	ba 120	spa 108	serv 79	mails 108
		www 96	mx3. 79	smtp1 96
		bar 85	pop. 76	mx01. 90
		ser 82	barr 73	mail0 74
		mx3 82	post 69	barra 73
		pos 75	emai 67	smtp- 72
		mx- 70	gate 64	serve 70
		gat 67	filt 51	email 67
		ema 67	mx0. 49	mail3 65
		cor 62	mx4. 47	
		web 57		
		ns. 55		
		mta 55		

We can see several significant keywords like “mx”, “ns”, “mail”, “smtp”, “gate”, and “relay” in the head words of query contents.



# Correlation between Total Traffic and Traffic including Several Keywords

1	2	3	4	5
m 9975	ma 7506	mai 7404	mail 7399	mail. 5894
s 1569	mx 1883	smt 872	smtp 872	smtp. 491
p 566	sm 888	smt1 583	mx1. 451	mail1 229
a 542	in 265	mx0 402	rela 195	mailh 201
c 490	re 237	mx. 378	mx2. 167	mail2 200
i 462	po 231	rel 196	inbo 134	relay 190
n 403	ns 153	mx2 171	spam 101	mailg 162
b 395	sp 143	inb 134	mx01 92	inbou 133
r 363	co 132	pop 118	www. 91	mail- 129
e 341	ba 120	spa 108	serv 79	mails 108
		www 96	mx3. 79	smtp1 96
		bar 85	pop. 76	mx01. 90
		ser 82	barr 73	mail0 74
		mx3 82	post 69	barra 73
		pos 75	emai 67	smtp- 72
		mx- 70	gate 64	serve 70
		gat 67	filt 51	email 67
		ema 67	mx0. 49	mail3 65
		cor 62	mx4. 47	
		web 57		
		ns. 55		
		mta 55		

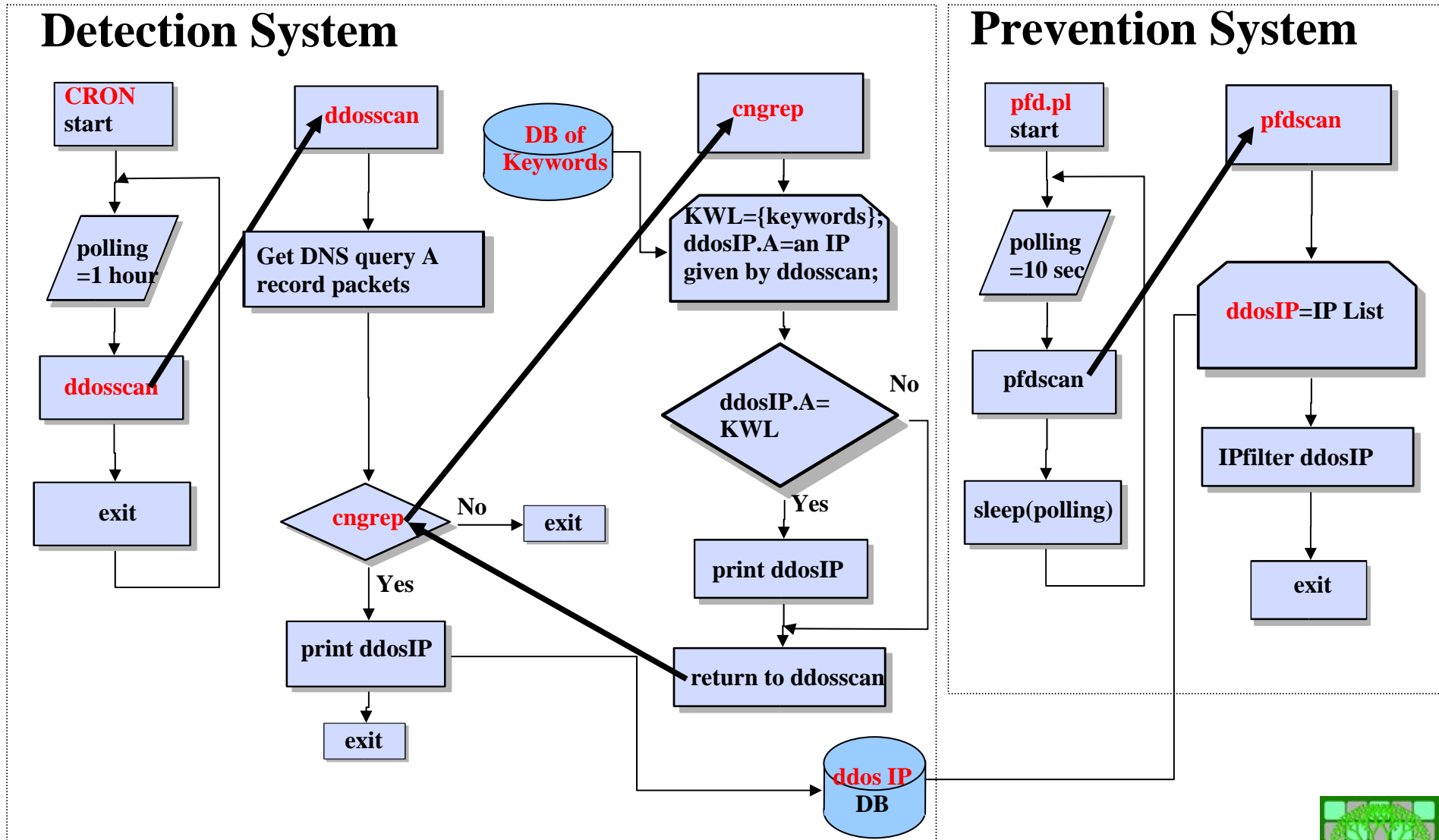


(1) This strong correlation is useful to detect the abnormal traffic of the A RR based DNS query packets (IP addresses of BW- or MMW-infected PC terminals ?).

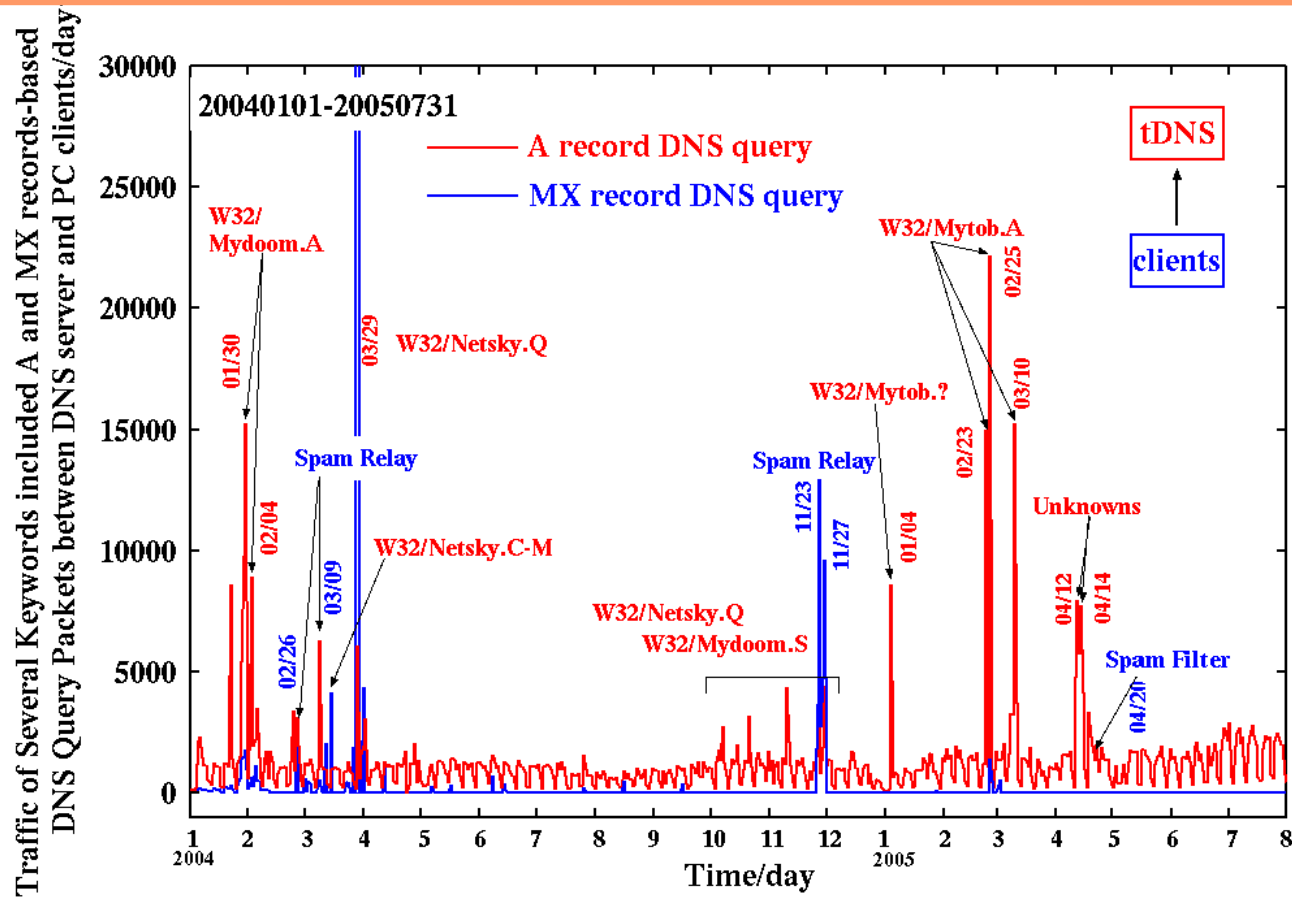
(2) The client A is an Windows PC terminal and we cannot find out any MX-record based DNS query packets from the PC terminal.



# Detection- and Prevention-System of Abnormal Traffic of the A record based DNS Query Packets from non-MX type BW-infected PC bots



# Evaluation of the Detection and Prevention System: ADPS for non-MX type Mass Mailing Worm-infected PCs



Mytob.A (non client MX query type MMW or spam bot) were found but the peaks at April 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> are disappeared or decreased.

# Example DNS query traffic from the BW-infected PCs

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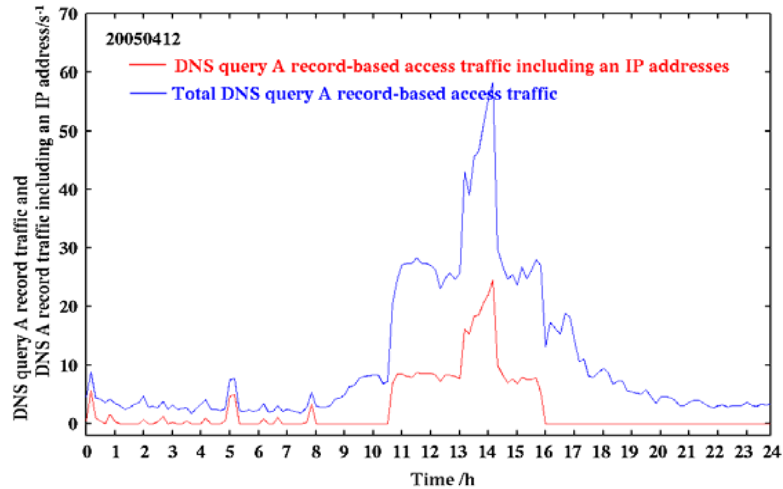
Client C

400,964/day

400,964/day



# Detection of Unusual Traffic of the A RR based DNS Query Traffic

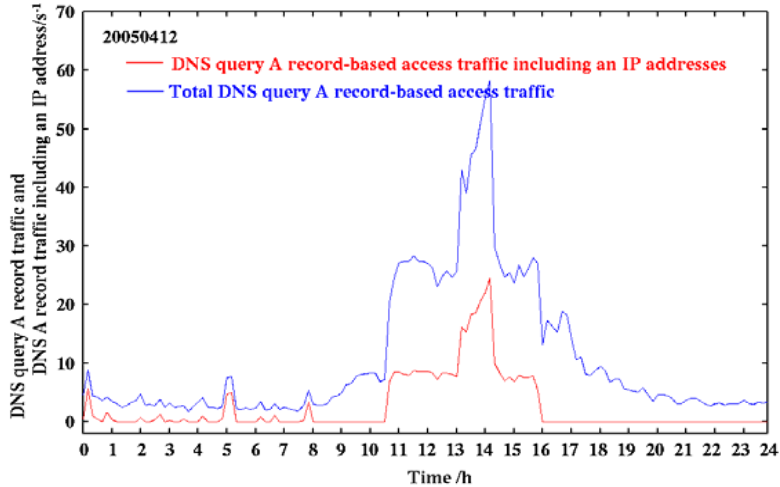


client B		client C	
0.0.0.0	26	***.***.y****.com	12
***.*****-u.ac.jp	13	www.*****m.com	7
133.9*.**.*.192	11	yahoo.co.jp	6
133.9*.**.*.73	10	www.***.***.co.jp	6
133.9*.**.*.66	9	mail.***.com	6
133.9*.**.*.64	9	img.***.co.jp	5
133.9*.**.*.52	9	i.***.jp	5
133.9*.**.*.89	6	ai.***.jp	5
mil.***.*****-u.ac.jp	5	133.9*.**.*.194	5
***.***.*****-u.ac.jp	5	133.9*.20*.2**	5
2**.*.2**.*8	5	127.0.0.1.***-u.ac.jp	5
133.9*.**.*.9	5	127.0.0.1	5
133.9*.**.*.8	5	relay.***.net	4
133.95.**.*.7	5	rd.*****.co.jp	4

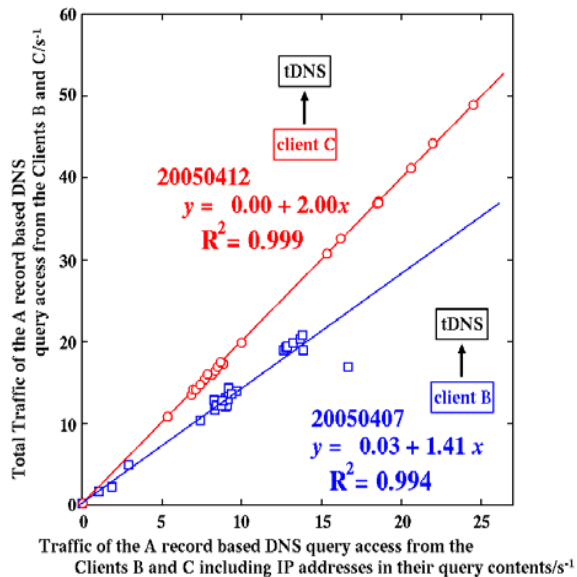
The query contents of the DNS query access packets in the former four peaks, the IP address is directly included. Normally, only FQDN should be included in the contents of the A record based DNS query packets, however, the DNS query packets of the former peaks have IP addresses themselves as their contents. This feature is useful for detection of abnormal traffic of the A RR based DNS query packets.



# Detection of Unusual Traffic of the A RR based DNS Query Traffic



client B		client C	
0.0.0.0	26	***.***.y****.com	12
***.*****-u.ac.jp	13	www.*****m.com	7
133.9*.**.*.192	11	yahoo.co.jp	6
133.9*.**.*.73	10	www.***.***.co.jp	6
133.9*.**.*.66	9	mail.***.com	6
133.9*.**.*.64	9	img.***.co.jp	5
133.9*.**.*.52	9	i.***.jp	5
133.9*.**.*.89	6	ai.***.jp	5
mil.***.*****-u.ac.jp	5	133.9*.**.*.194	5
***.***.*****-u.ac.jp	5	133.9*.20*.2**	5
2**.*.2**.*8	5	127.0.0.1.***-u.ac.jp	5
133.9*.**.*.9	5	127.0.0.1	5
133.9*.**.*.8	5	relay.***.net	4
133.95.**.*.7	5	rd.***.co.jp	4

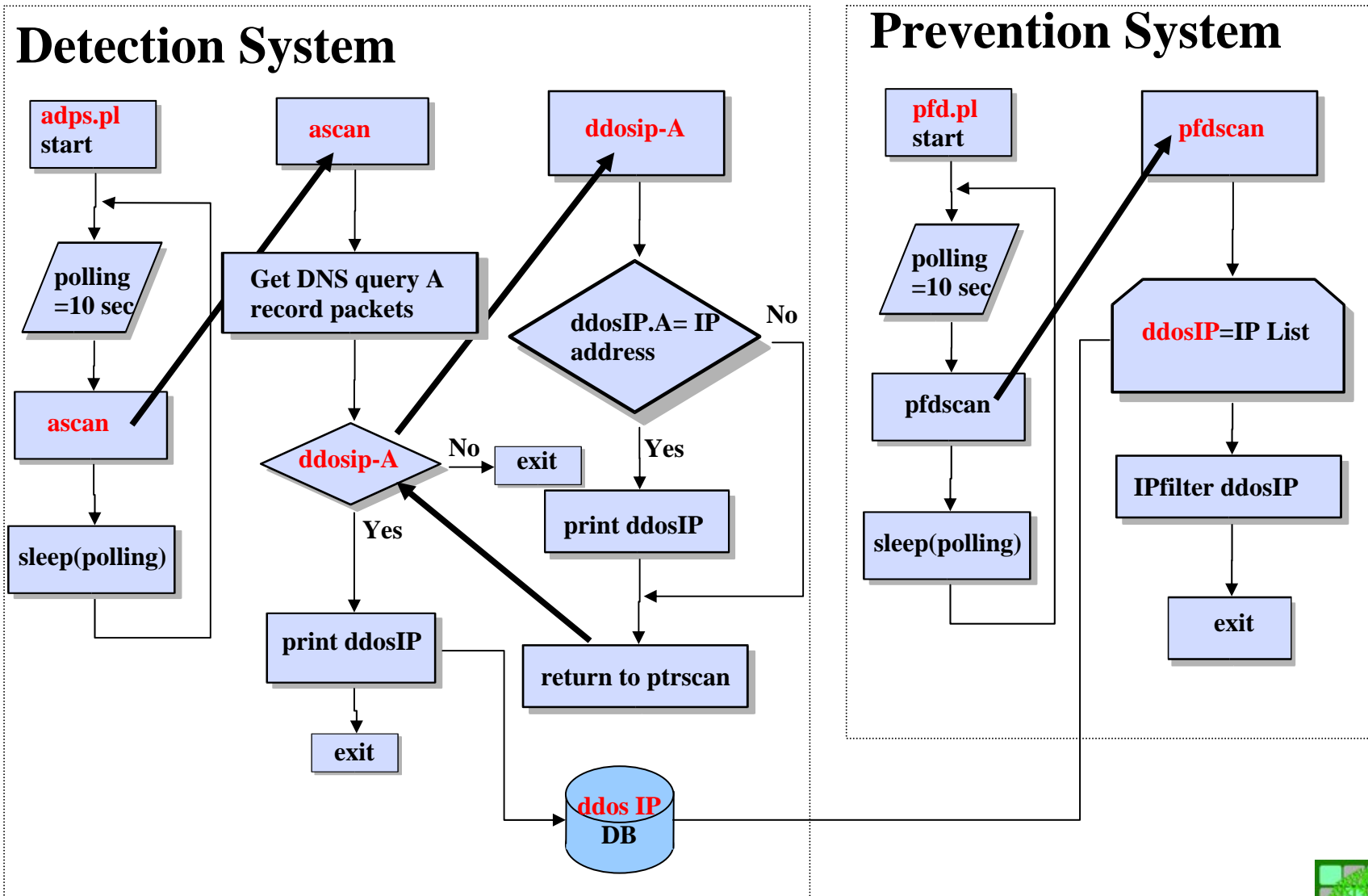


The query contents of the DNS query access packets in the former four peaks, the IP address is directly included. Normally, only FQDN should be included in the contents of the A record based DNS query packets, however, the DNS query packets of the former peaks have IP addresses themselves as their contents. This feature is useful for detection of abnormal traffic of the A record based DNS query packets.

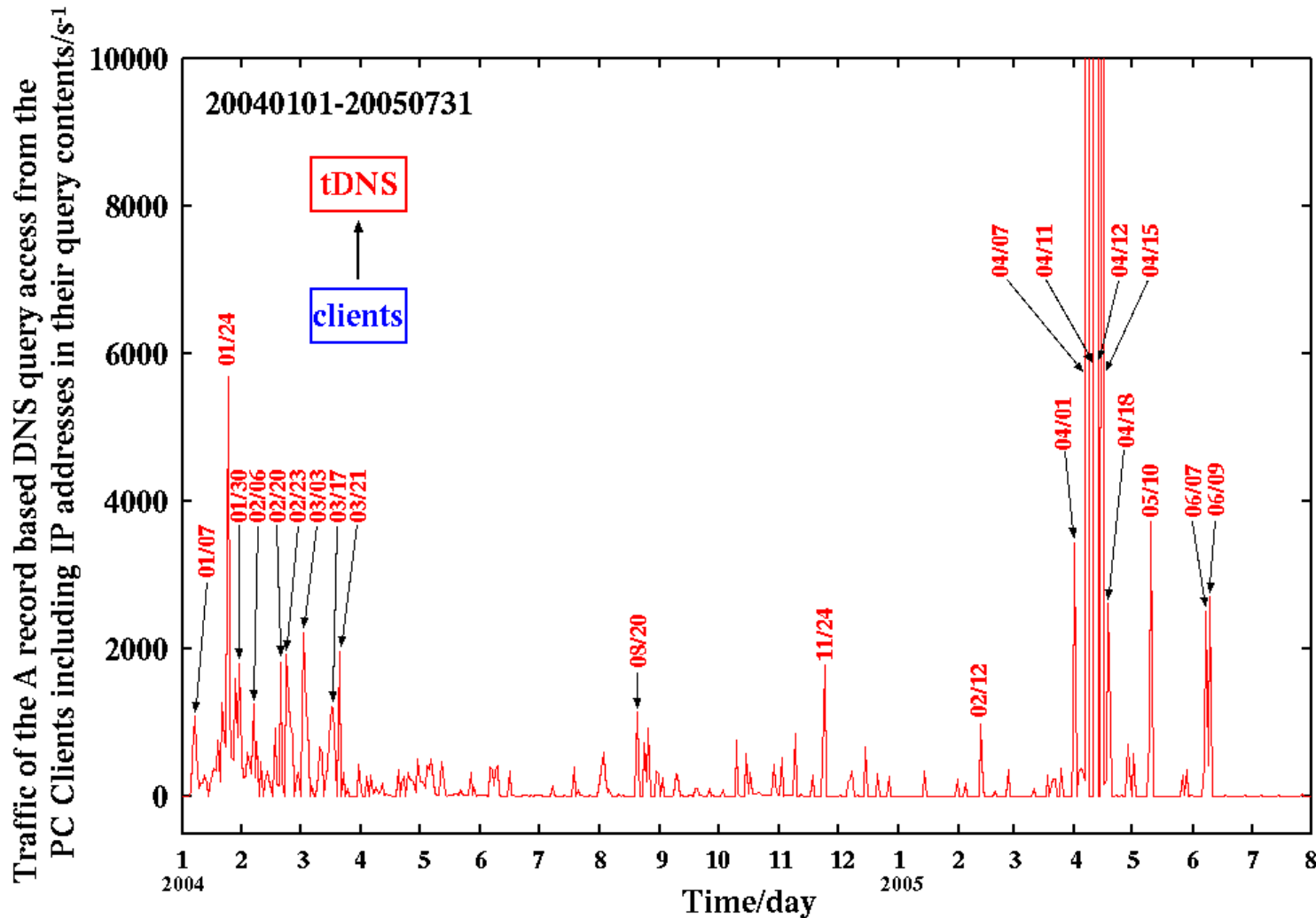




# Detection- and Prevention-System of Abnormal Traffic of the A RR based DNS Query Packets: ADPS for Direct IP



# Evaluation of the Detection and Prevention System: ADPS for Direct IP address included A RR based DNS query packets



# Detection Strategies

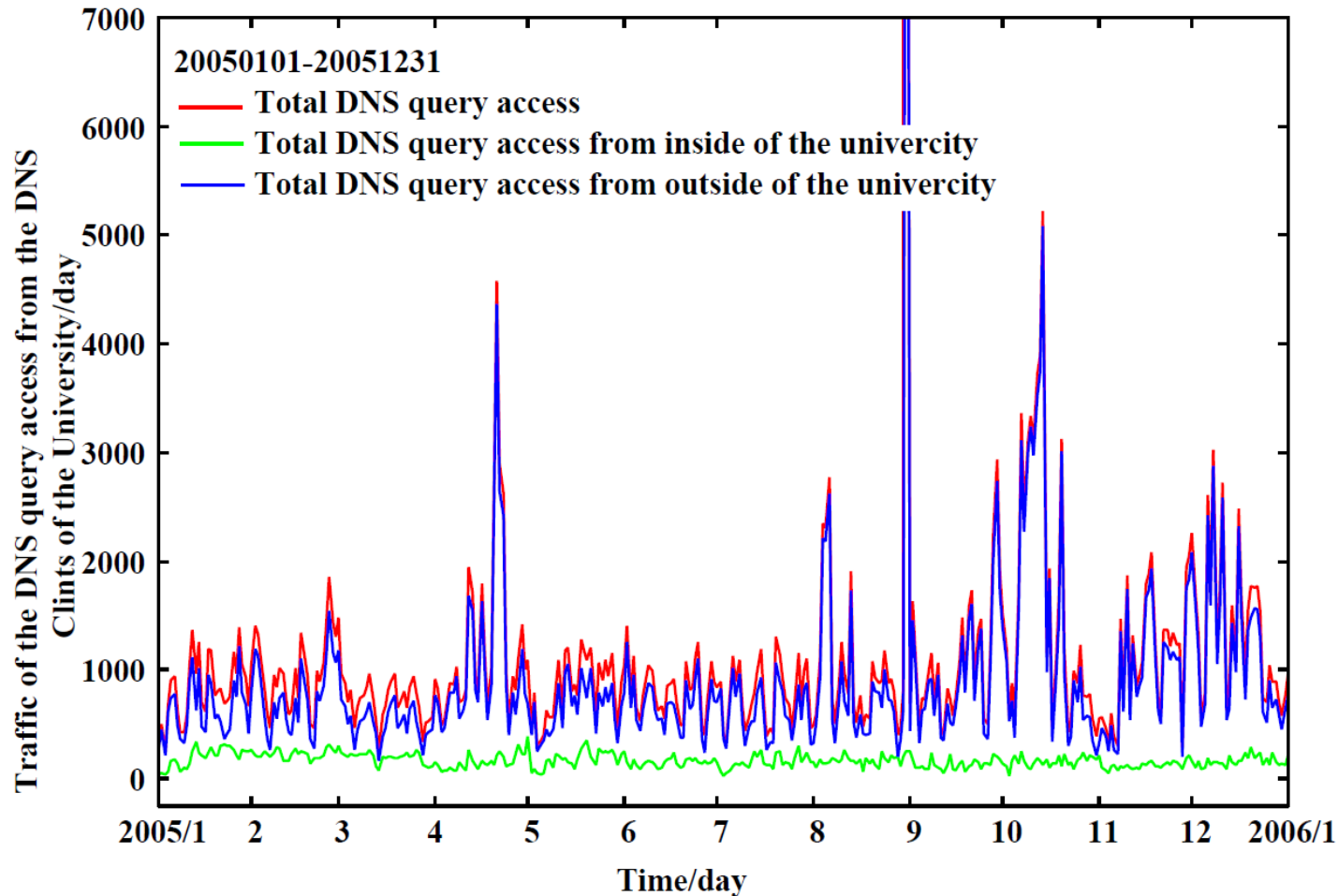
## Statistical Analysis on:

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**IDS/IPS=Intrusion Detection/Prevention System**



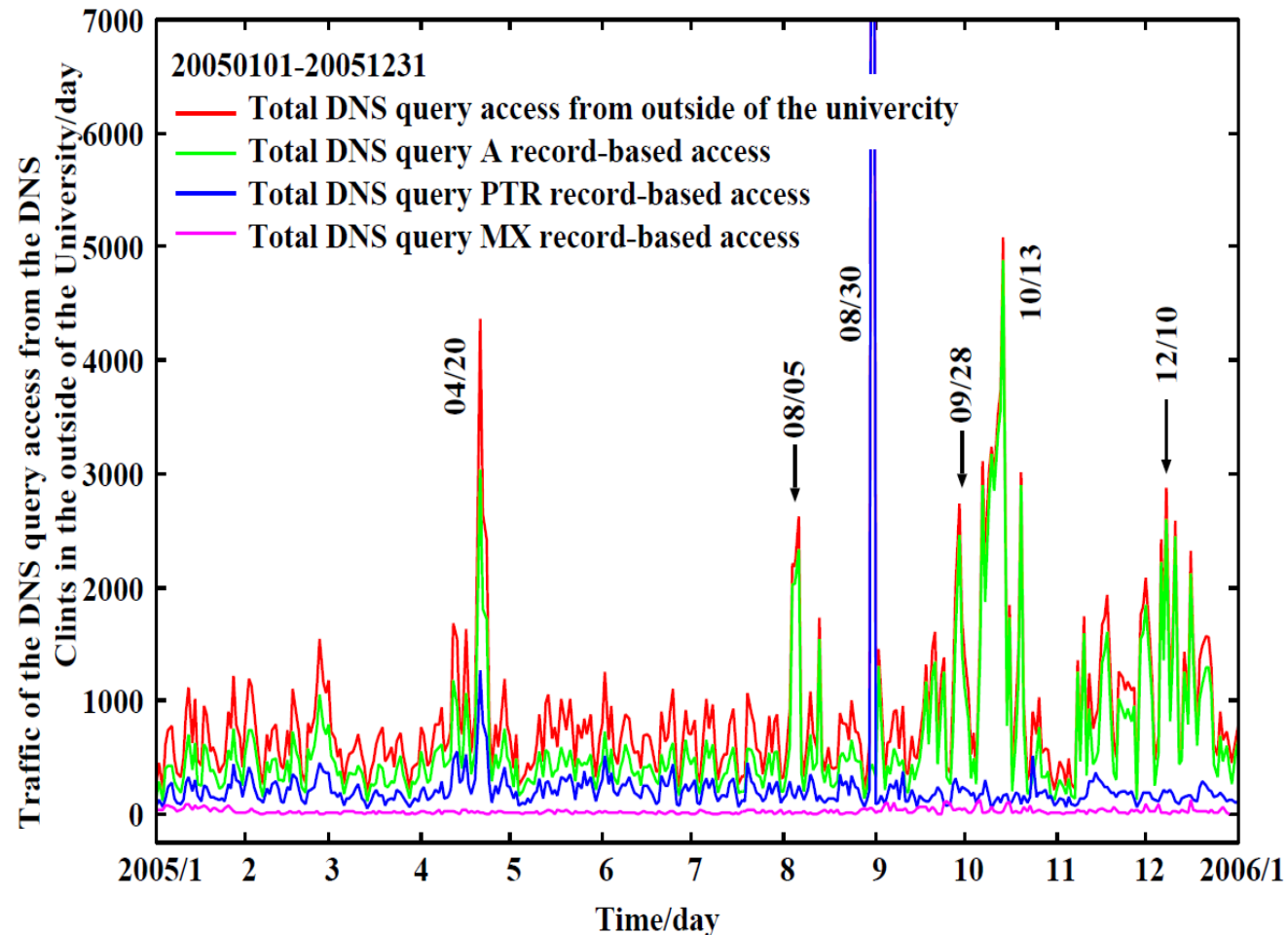
# Total IPv6 based DNS query traffic



The total DNS query traffic from the IPv6-based DNS clients is mainly driven by that from the outside of the campus network.



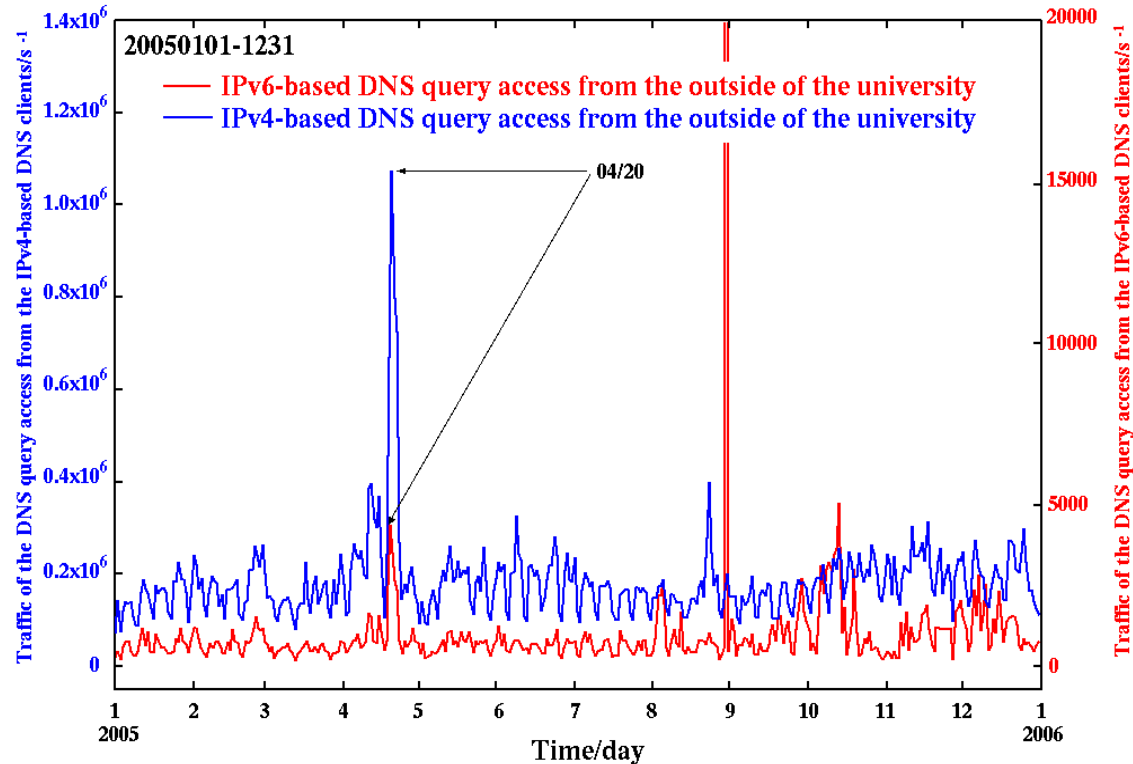
## A, PTR, and MX RRs based DNS Query Traffic (IPv6)



Several interesting peaks can be found: (i) April 20th, (ii) August 5th, (iii) August 30th, (iv) September 28th, (v) October 13th, and (vi) December 10th, 2005.



# Abnormal A and PTR RRs based DNS Query Traffic



**In April 20th, 2005, both IPv6 and IPv4 based DNS query traffics strike two peaks simultaneously.**



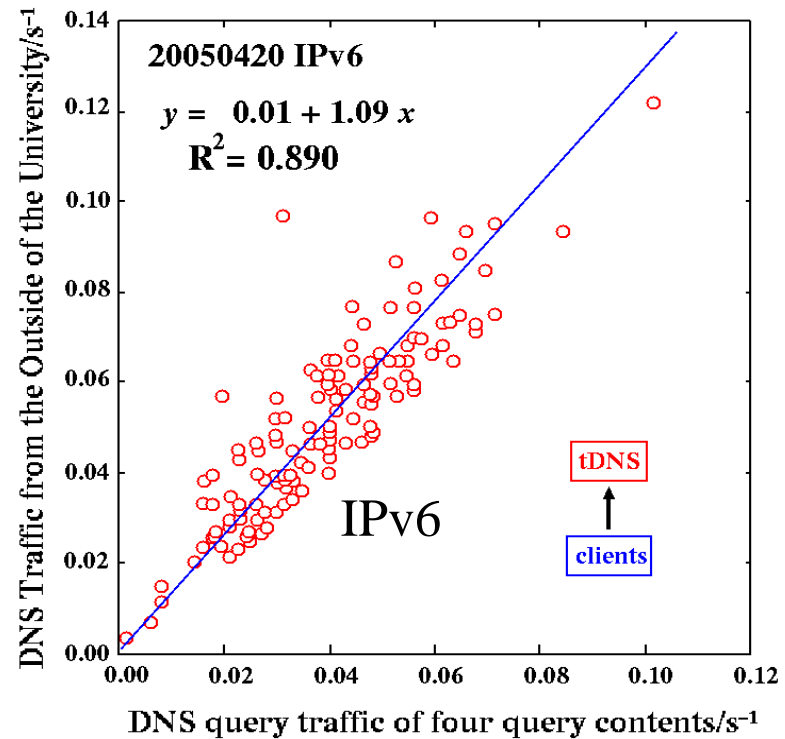
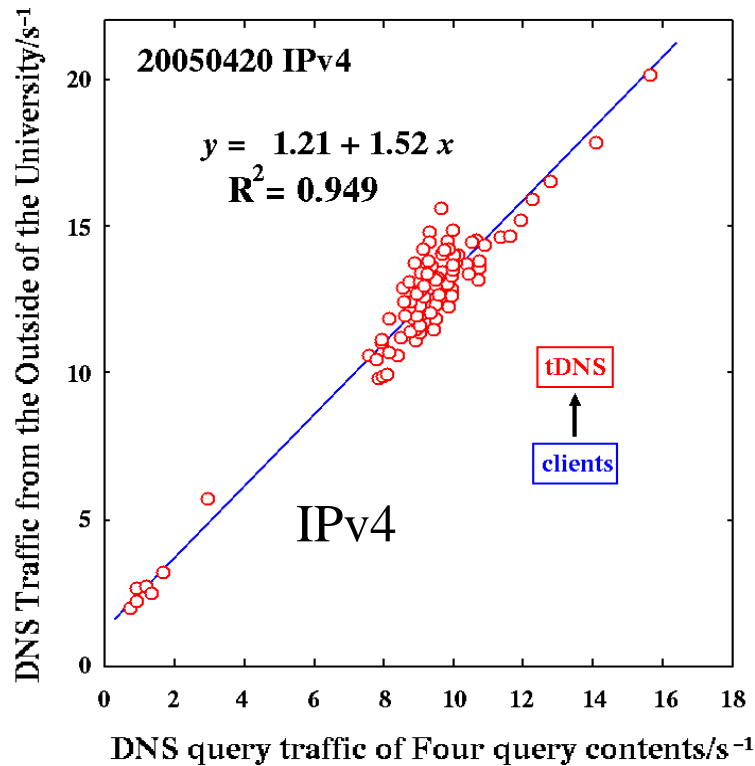
# Abnormal A and PTR RRs based DNS Query Traffic

DNS query contents	IPv4	IPv6
*****.**.kumamoto-u.ac.jp	230,729	1,345
133.95.***.**	216,798	265
***.kumamoto-u.ac.jp	180,298	999
133.95.***.**	152,548	377

In the query contents of the DNS query packets in the peak at April 20th, 2005, the most largest number of contents mainly consist of an FQDN of a local domain E-mail server, an FQDN of top domain DNS server (tDNS), and two IP addresses that related with PC terminals in the local domain, respectively. Since the E-mail server was pointed out as a spam-sender through the day of 20th April, 2005, the top DNS server are severely accessed by the spam-mail detection system/spam filter world-widely at the day.



# Abnormal A and PTR RRs based DNS Query Traffic

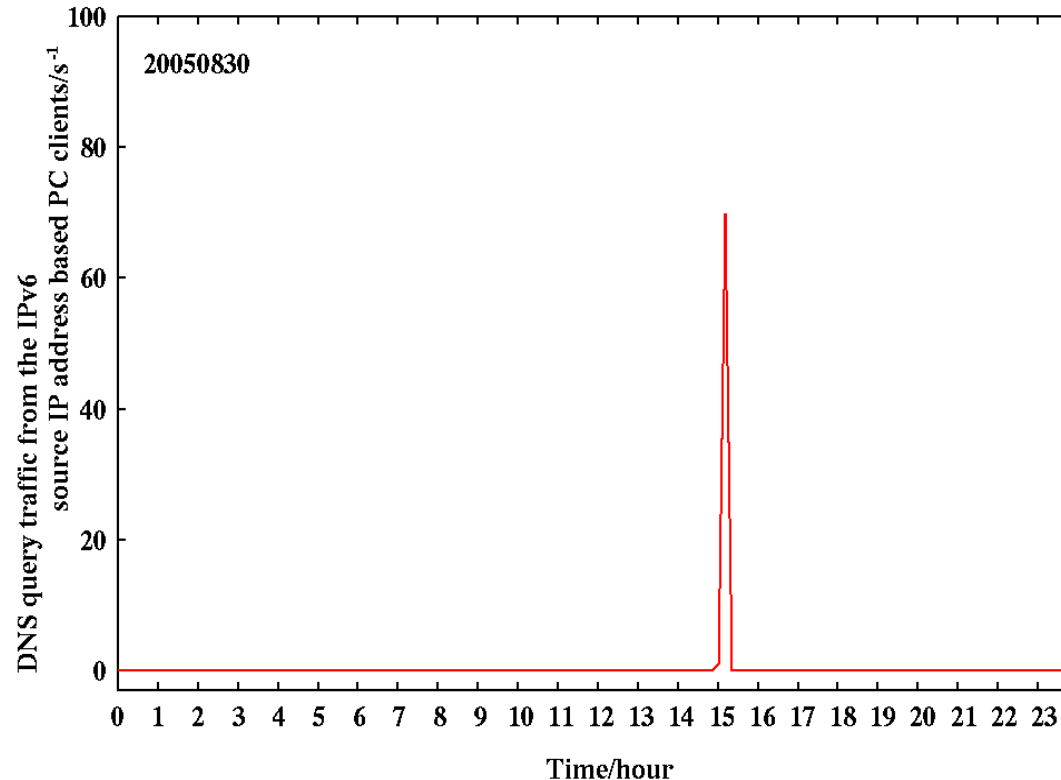


The DNS query traffic from the outside the campus network correlates well with the IPv4- and IPv6 based DNS query traffics including four keywords.





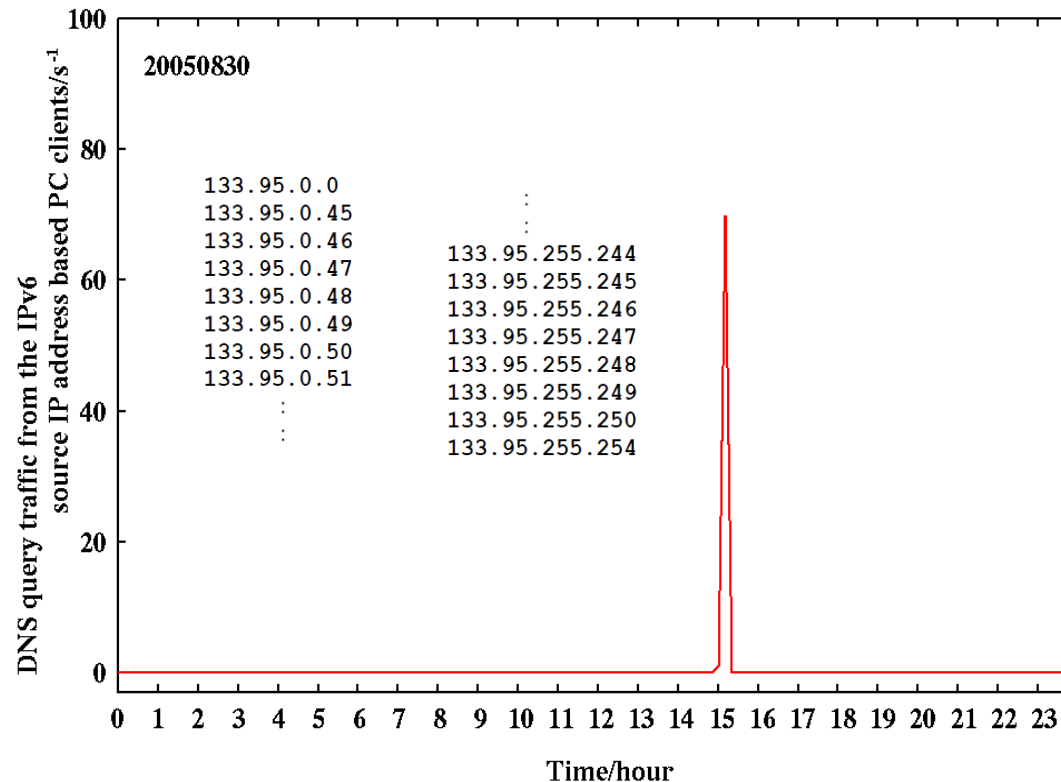
# Abnormal PTR RR based DNS Query Traffic



**The abnormal DNS query traffic is observed in the short period of time through 15:09-15:19 at August 30th, 2005. In the traffic, the two top DNS clients are found and they belong to the same site. The traffic mainly consists of the PTR record based DNS query packets including internal IP addresses of the university. Probably, the DNS clients tried to scan the hosts in the university.**



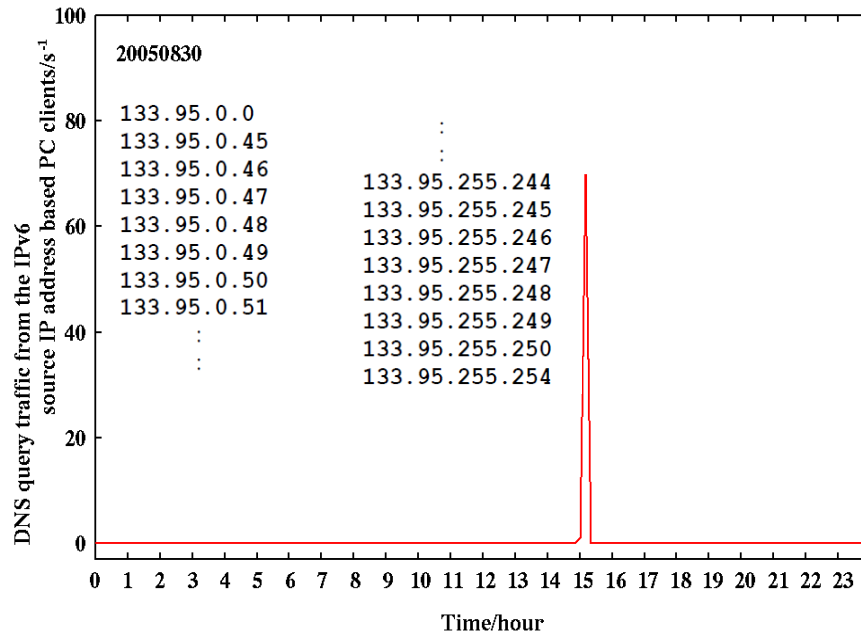
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DNS client IP address	Top access clients
2001:1***:10**::2	22,001
2001:1***:10**::4	20,538
2001:2f8:14:**::64	229
3ffe:8200:0:10:250:****:fe00:****	135
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# Statistics of the source IP address based Abnormal PTR RR type DNS Query Traffic

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# Statistics for the DNS query contents of the Abnormal A RR based DNS Query Traffic

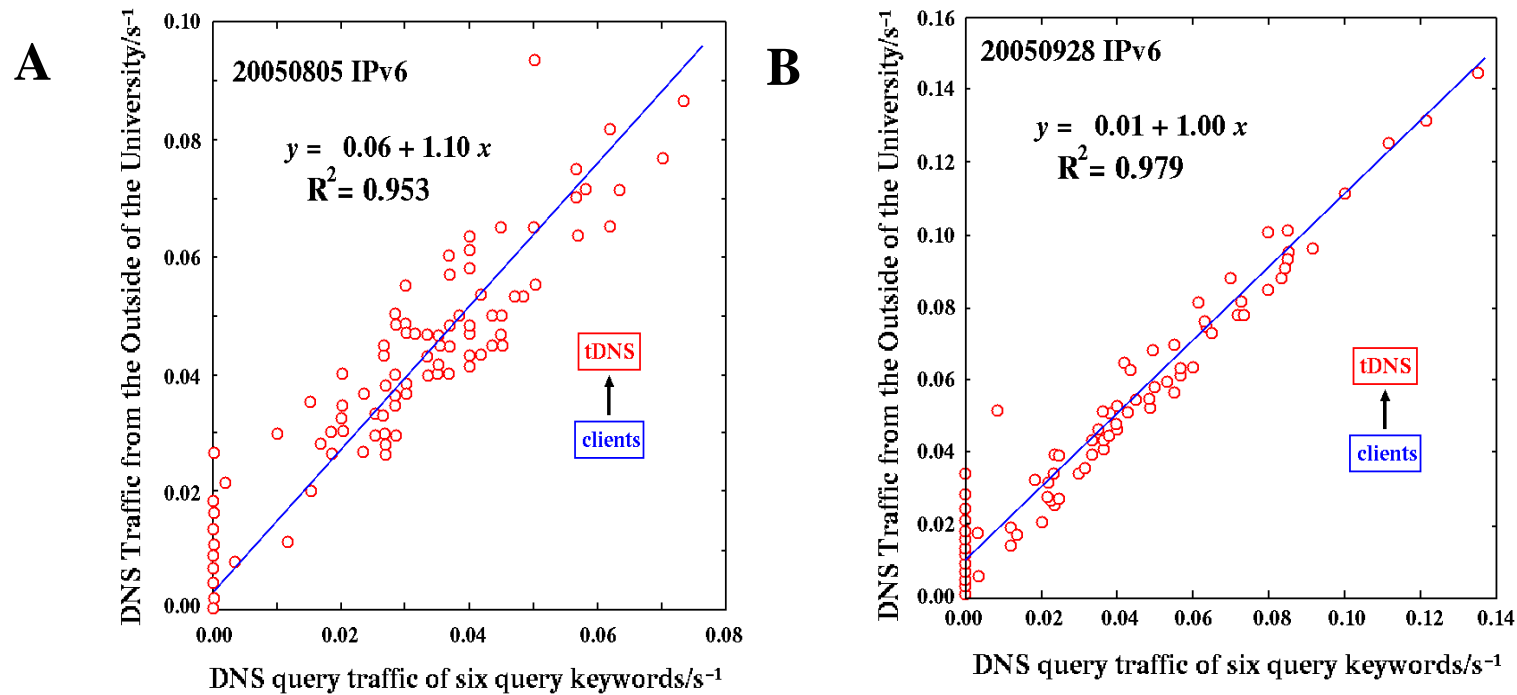
	1	2	3	4	5
m	1041	<b>mx</b> 682	mai 339	<b>mail</b> 339	gate. 233
g	285	ma 345	gat 233	<b>gate</b> 233	<b>relay</b> 207
n	222	ga 259	mx. 231	mx1. 226	mail1 194
r	207	<b>ns</b> 215	mx1 226	mxs. 225	smtp. 172
s	202	re 207	mxs 225	rela 207	mail. 145
k	114	sm 172	ns. 215	<b>smtp</b> 172	kun.k 73
h	51	ku 111	rel 207	kun. 73	hpx.m 51
w	36	hp 51	smt 172	hpx. 51	kuc-. 32
a	24	ww 35	kun 73	kudc 32	mxs.a 27

In August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we can observe that the A RR based DNS query traffic includes several typical keywords as in their query contents *i.e.* “mx”, “ns”, “mail”, “gate”, “smtp”, and “smtp” that were included in the A RR based DNS query traffic from the bot worm (BW) like a W32/Mytob.A BW.

Musashi, Y., et al., *IPSJ SIG Technical Reports, DSM38* , Vol. 2005, No. 83, pp.23-28 (2005).

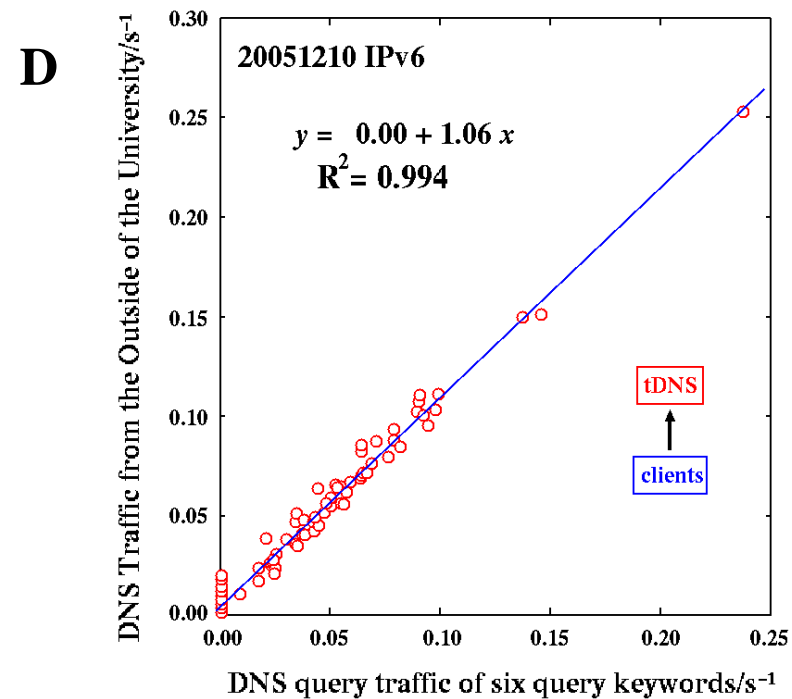
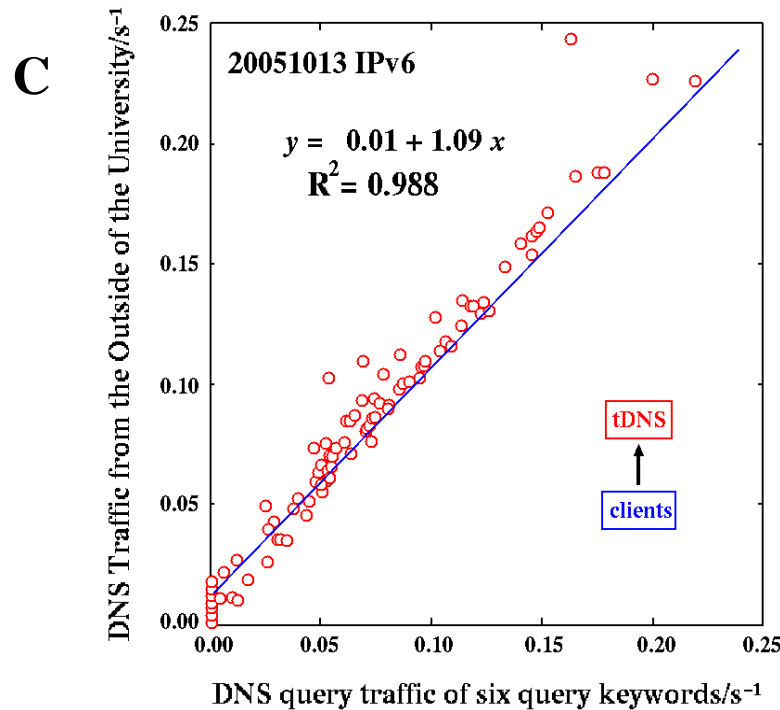


# Several Keywords for Spam Bots in IPv6 based DNS Query Traffic



In August 5<sup>th</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup>, and December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we can observe that the A RR based DNS query traffic includes several typical keywords as in their query contents *i.e.* “mx”, “ns”, “mail”, “gate”, “smtp”, and “smtp” that transmitted by W32/Zotob variants-infected PCs.

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# Detection Strategies

## Statistical Analysis on:

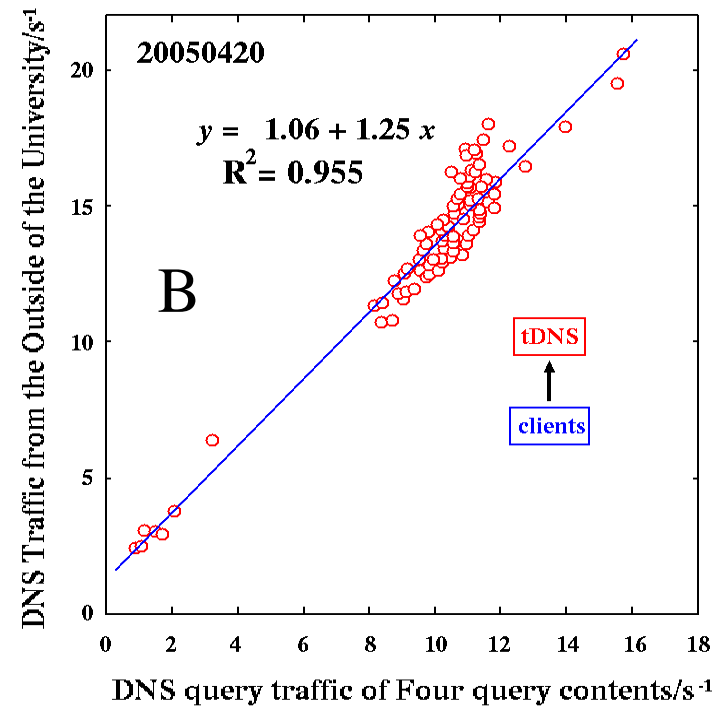
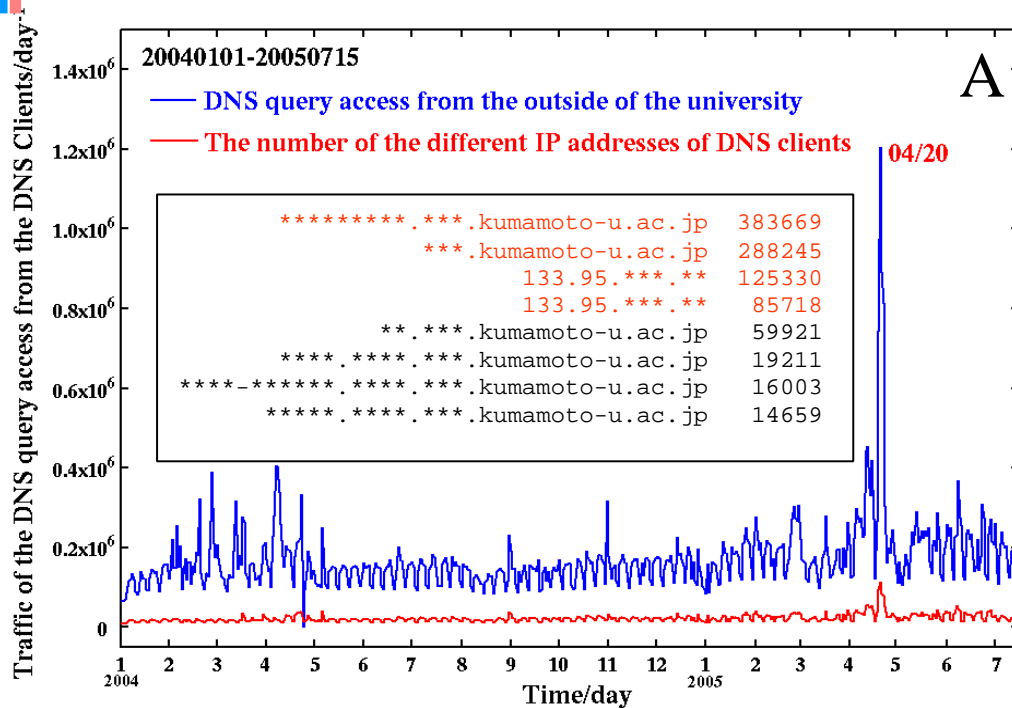
- (1) the source IP address based DNS query traffic from the bot worm (BW)-infected PC terminals in the campus network,
- (2) the IPv6-source IP based DNS query traffic from the bot worm (BW)-infected PC terminals in the campus network, and
- (3) the query contents based DNS query traffic from detection systems on the internet (the other sites) like IDS/IPS, spam filter, etc.

**IDS/IPS=Intrusion Detection/Prevention System**





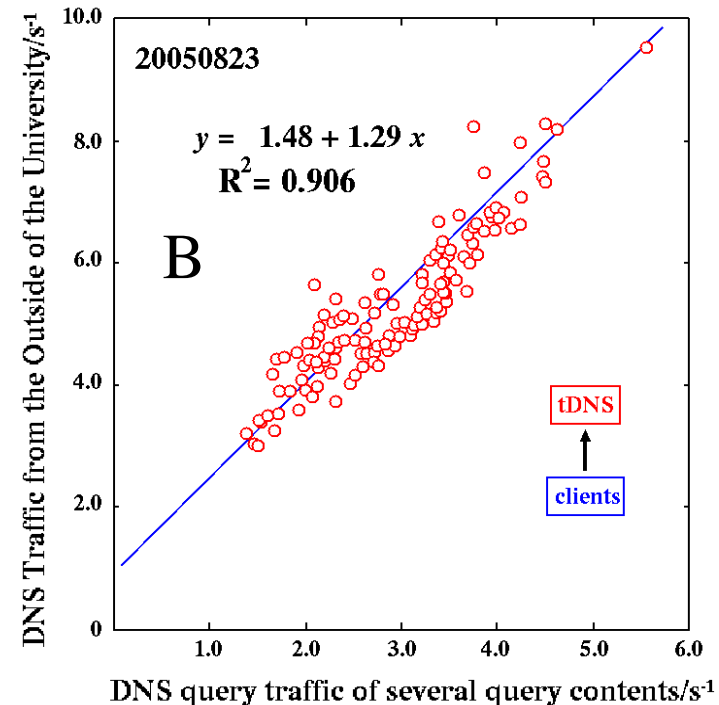
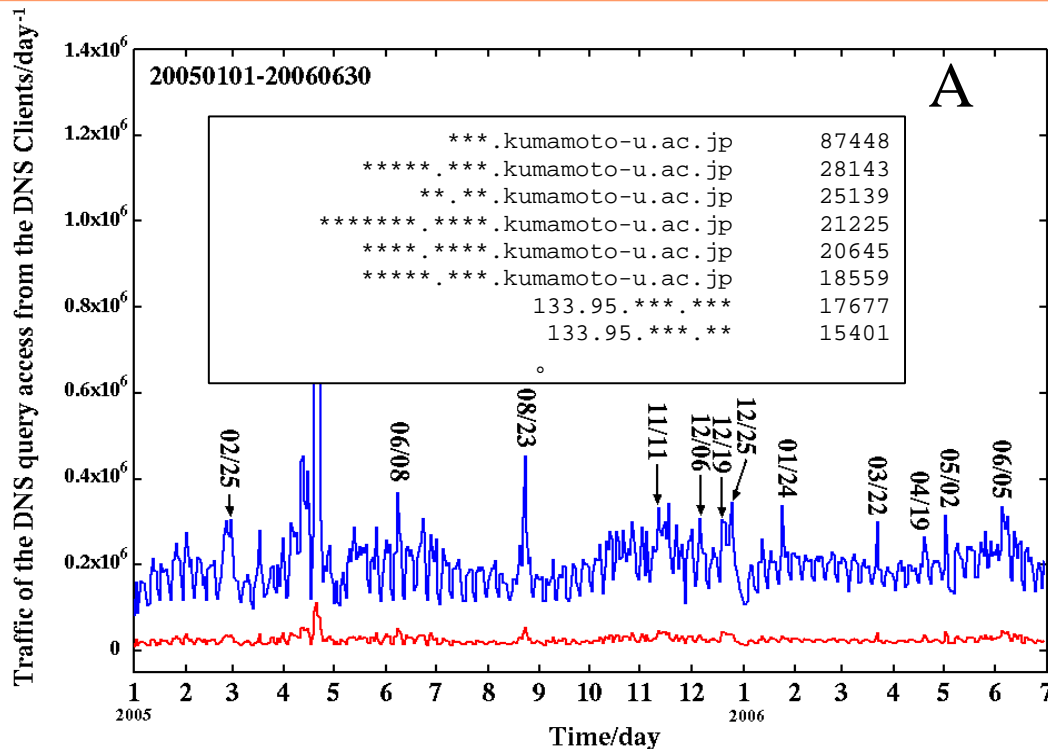
# DNS Resolution Reflection/Degree of Attention?



In the query contents of the DNS query packets in the latter peak, the most largest number of contents mainly consist of an FQDN of a subdomain E-mail server, an FQDN of top domain DNS server (tDNS), and two IP addresses that related with the subdomain, respectively. Since the E-mail server is claimed as a spam-sender through the the day of 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, the top DNS server are severely accessed by the spam-mail detection system/spam filter world-widely at the day.



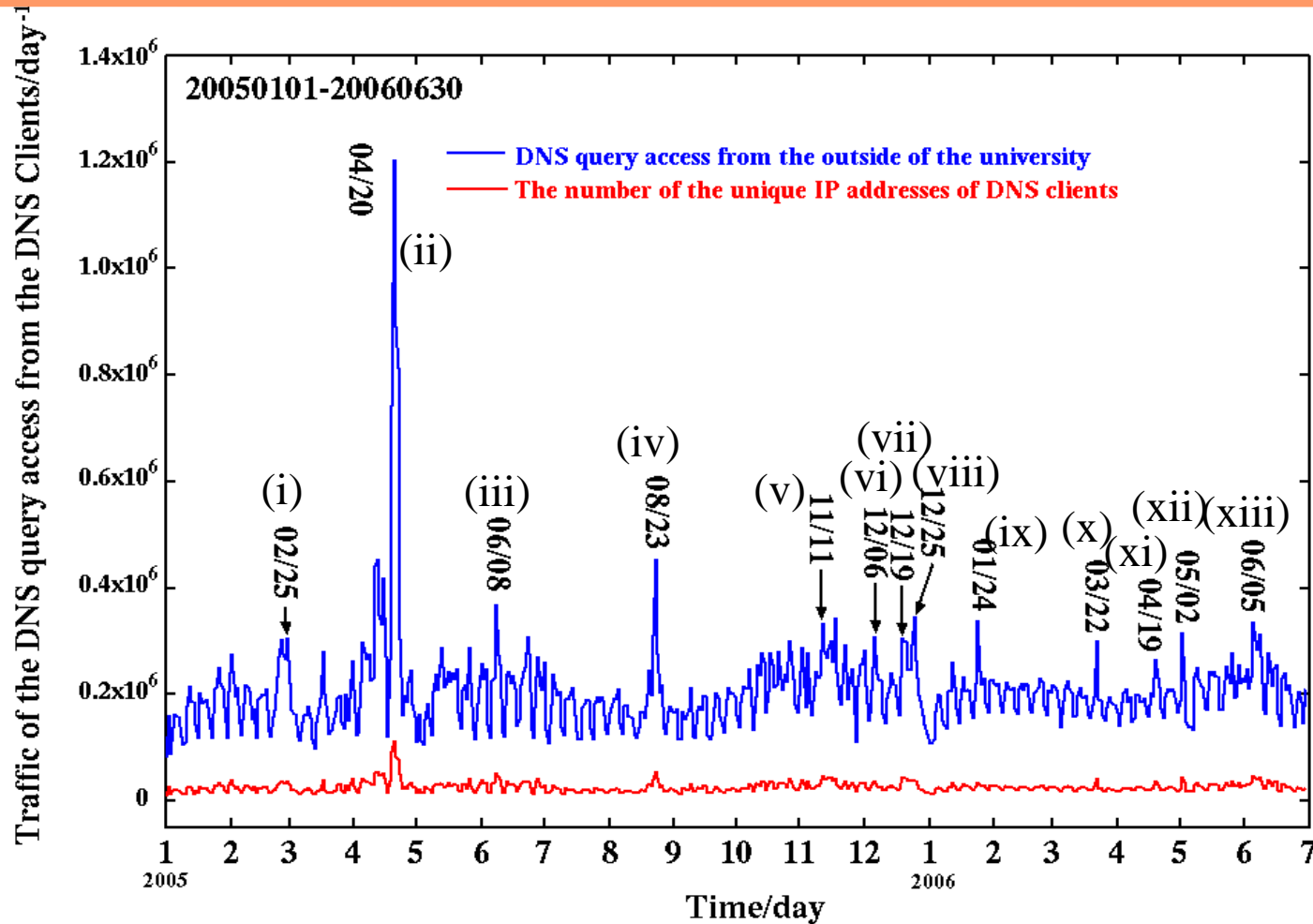
# BW detection by watching the DNS traffic from the outside?



In the query contents of the DNS query packets in the peak at 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2005, the most largest number of contents mainly consist of several FQDNs and IP addresses that related with the local networks. This situation can be already observed in 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, and this feature shows that the query contents-based detection is useful for detection of the BW-infected PCs in the campus network, since infection of new W32/Zotob variants started after the middle days of August, 2005.



# DNS traffic from the outside of the Campus Network



It is of considerable importance to study more on the DNS traffic from the outside of the university.



# Entropy

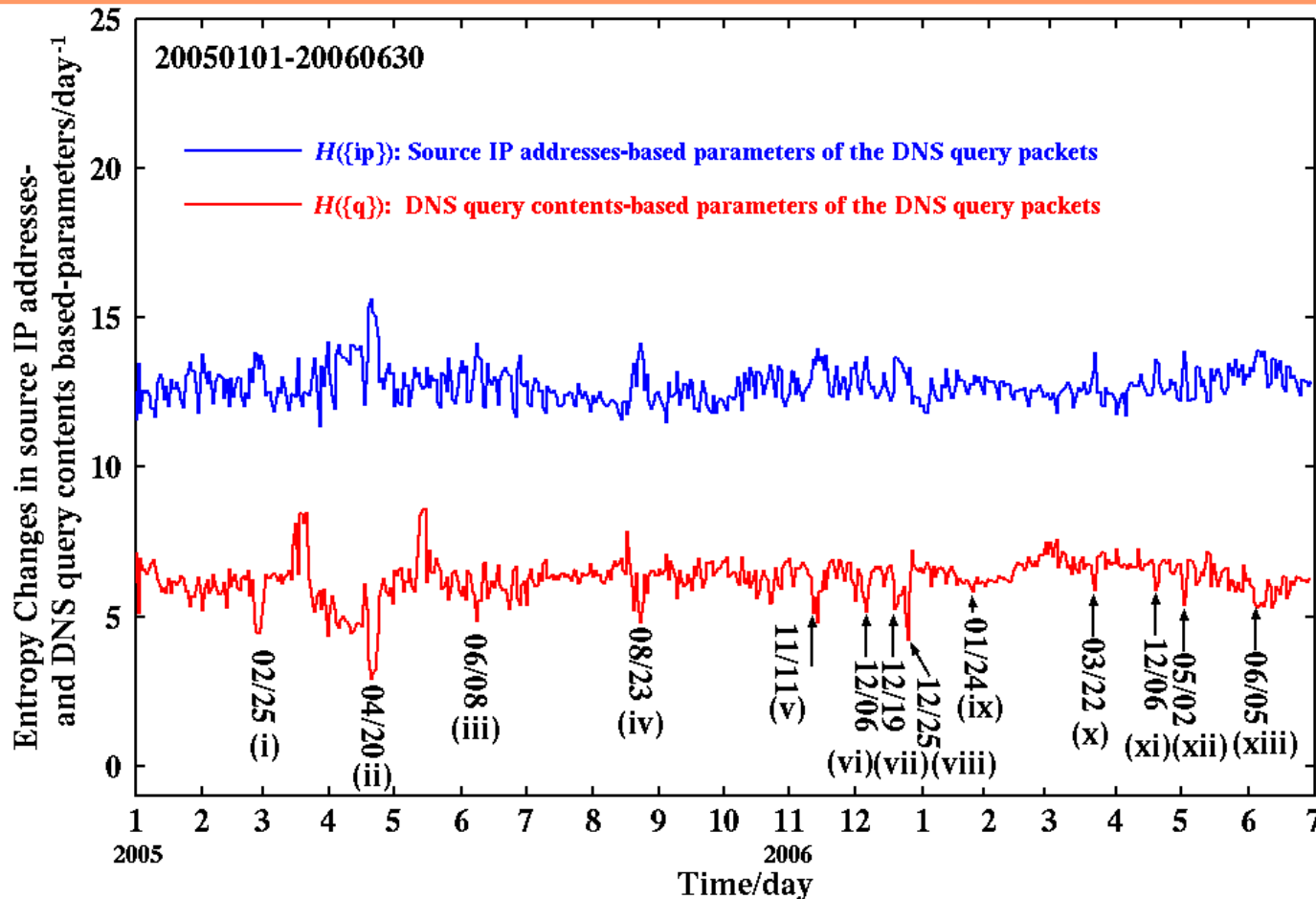
$$H(X) = -\sum_{i \in X} P(i) \log_2 P(i) \quad (1)$$

$$P(i) = \frac{\text{freq}(i)}{\sum_j \text{freq}(j)} \quad (2)$$

```
#!/bin/tcsh -f
cat querylog | grep -v "client 133\.95\." |\
tr '#' ' ' | awk '{print $7}' | sort -r |\
uniq -c | sort -r >freq-sIPaddr
cat querylog | grep -v "client 133\.95\." |\
awk '{print $9}' | sort -r | uniq -c |\
sort -r >freq-querycontents
```



# Entropy Analysis on the unique Source IP address and the DNS query contents in the DNS traffic



Especially, the peaks (i)-(xiii) in the DNS query contents-based entropy curve synchronize in the previous traffic curve of DNS query packets from the outside of the campus network.

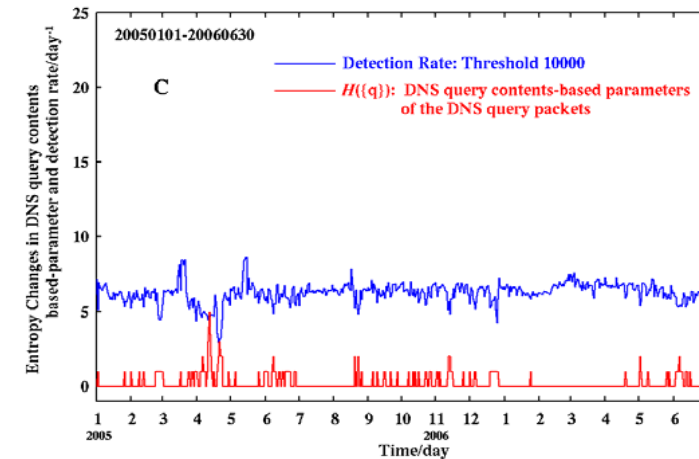
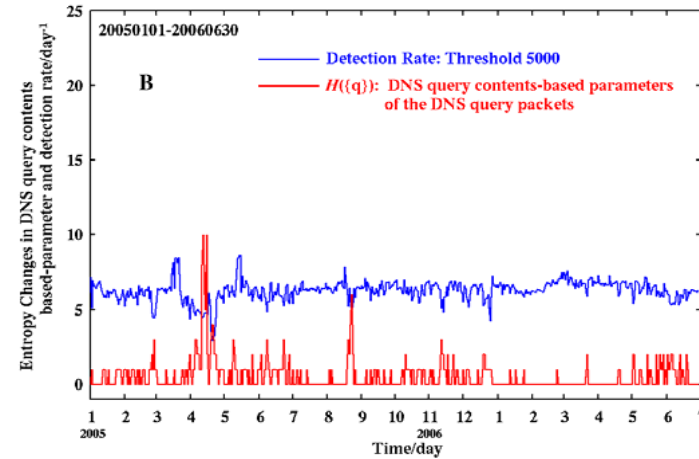
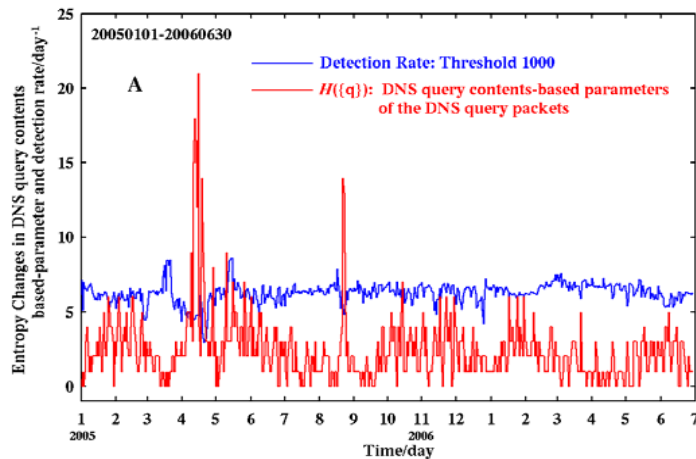


# Prototype of Detection System

```
#!/bin/tcsh -f
cat freq-querycontents | th 1000 >candidate
cat freq-querycontents | th 5000 >warning
cat warning | mail manager@gehogeho.org
cat freq-querycontents | th 10000 |\
awk '{print $1}' >filter
foreach i($filter)
    iptables -A INPUT -s $i -j DROP
    cat filter | mail manager@gehogeho.org
end
```



# Estimation of Entropy and Detection Rate



**Threshold=1000 (Candidate as Listed):**

**False Positive = High**

**False Negative = Low**

**Threshold=5000 (Warning):**

**False Positive = Medium**

**False Negative = Medium**

**Threshold=10000 (Emergency or Critical):**

**False Positive = Low**

**False Negative = High**

# Conclusion and Future Work

We performed detailed statistical analysis on the traffic of the DNS query packets to the top domain DNS (tDNS) server in order to find out a detection method of the bot worm (BW)-infected PC terminals.

- (1) We can observe the source IP address based DNS query traffic from the BW-infected PC terminals, **especially the A RR based DNS query traffic including several keywords.**
- (2) We should pay much attention on **the IPv6 address based DNS query packets that can be used to evade a detection system.**
- (3) We can also observe **the useful DNS query traffic from the outside of the campus network including information on the BW-infected PC terminals in the campus network.**

We are just testing the hybridized detection method and developing the zero-day incident detection system.





# Any Questions?

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