

Ghost Calls: Abusing Web Conferencing for Covert Command & Control

Adam Crosser



Adam Crosser



Praetorian

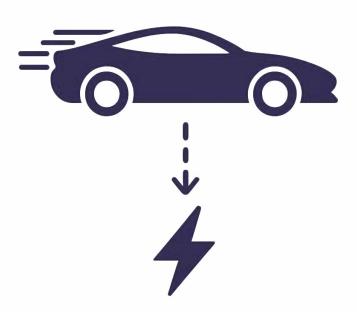
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/adam-crosser-366263265

X: https://x.com/UNC1739

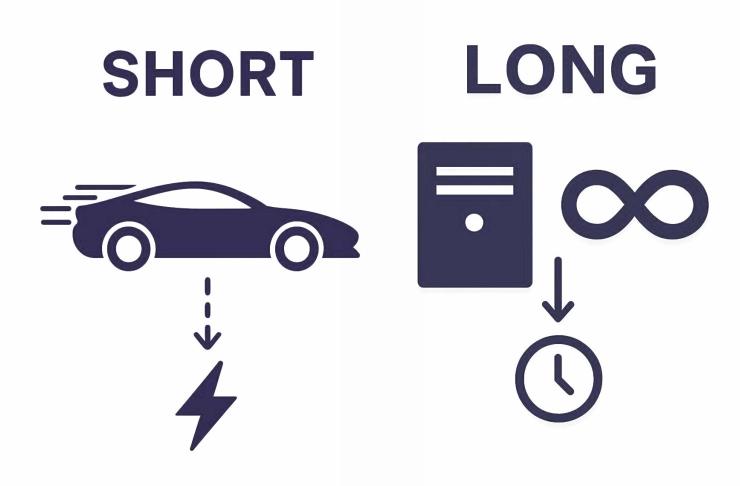




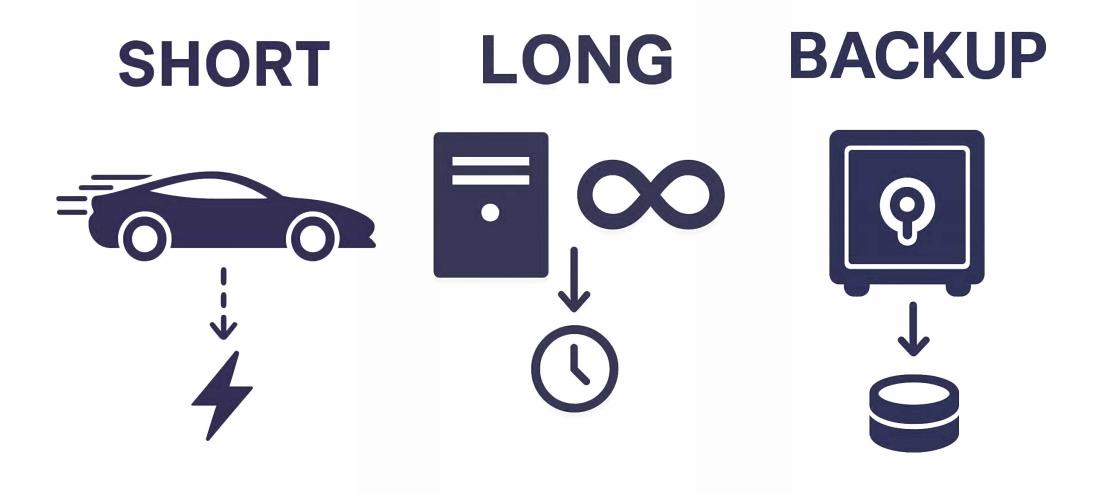
SHORT



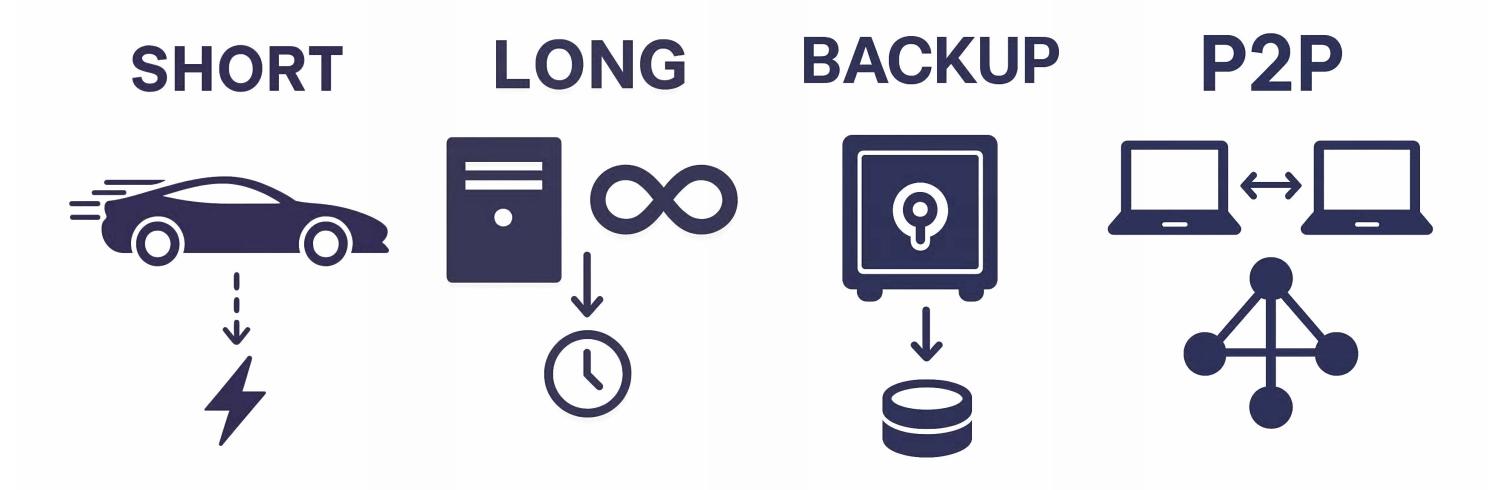














Brainstorming Solutions



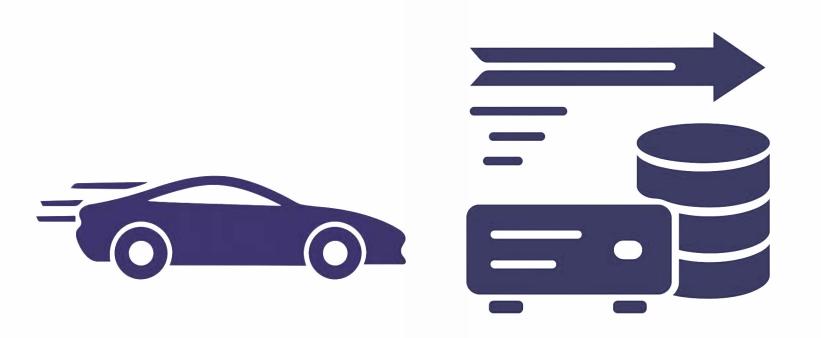


LATENCY

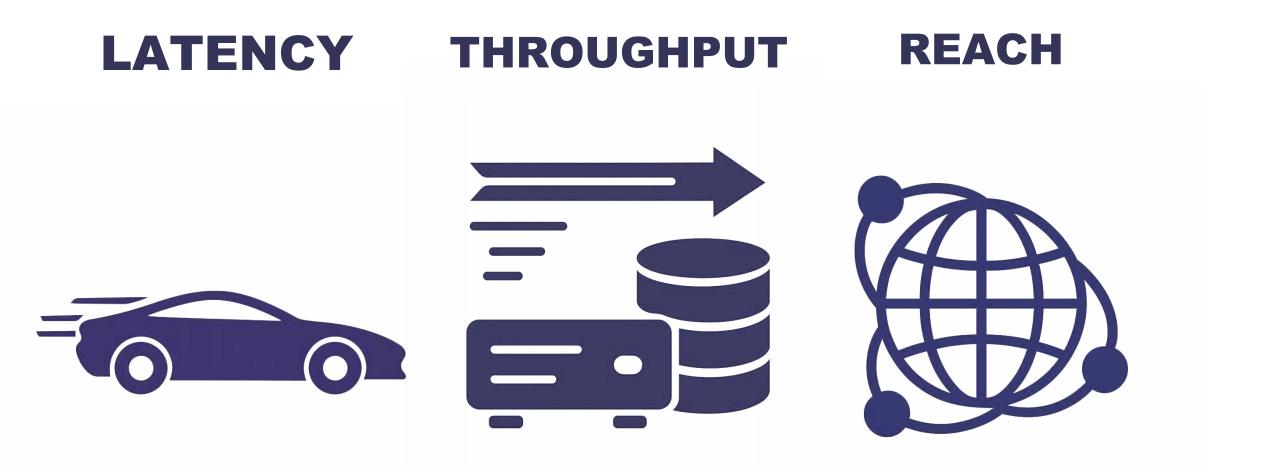




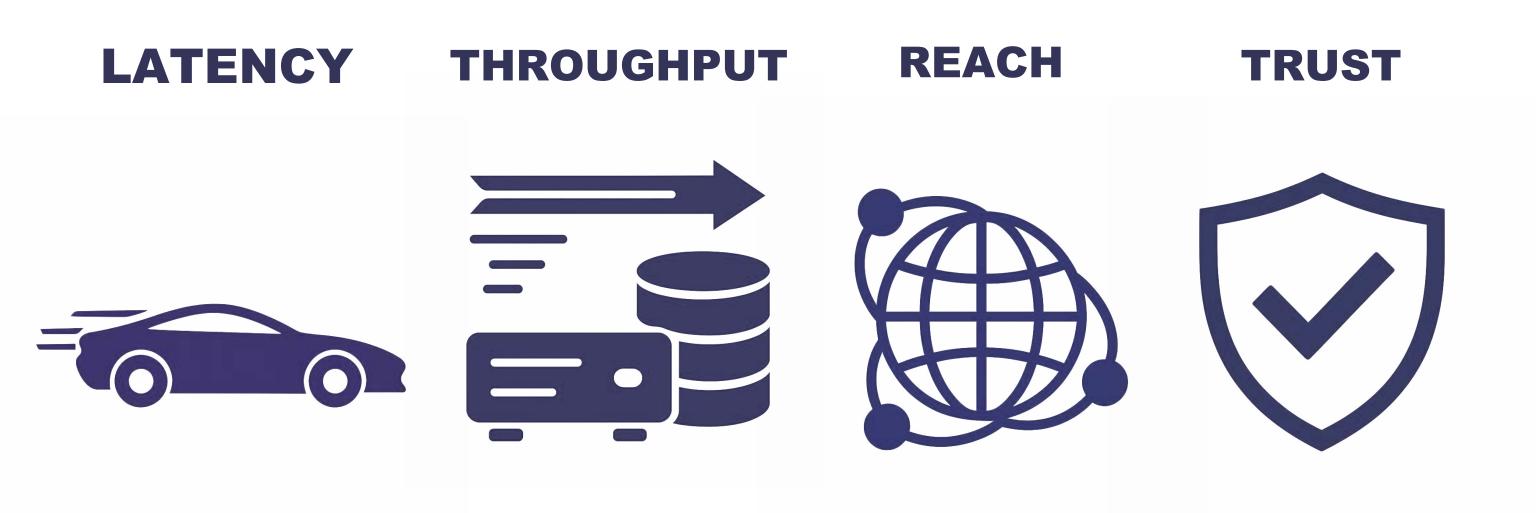
LATENCY THROUGHPUT













- Focused on services egressing from user devices
- Must be broadly used across enterprise roles
- Applicable to non-technical departments (e.g., HR, sales)
- Protocols favored by technical users were excluded
- Thought through common workflows and use-cases

















✓ LATENCY



X THROUGHPUT



REACH



✓ TRUST























Email and Messaging Applications





LATENCY



X THROUGHPUT



REACH



✓ TRUST





- **✓ LATENCY**
- **✓ THROUGHPUT**
- **✓** REACH
- **✓** TRUST



Microsoft Teams Split Tunneling Guidelines

Configure splittunnel VPN We recommend that you provide an alternate path for Teams traffic that bypasses the virtual private network (VPN), commonly known as split-tunnel VPN. Split tunneling means that traffic for Microsoft 365 or Office 365 doesn't go through the VPN but instead goes directly to Microsoft 365 or Office 365. Bypassing your VPN has a positive impact on Teams quality, and it reduces load from the VPN devices and the organization's network. To implement a split-tunnel VPN, work with your VPN vendor.

Other reasons why we recommend bypassing the VPN:

- VPNs are typically not designed or configured to support real-time media.
- Some VPNs might also not support UDP (which is required for Teams).
- VPNs also introduce an extra layer of encryption on top of media traffic that's already encrypted.
- Connectivity to Teams might not be efficient due to hair-pinning traffic through a VPN device.
- Traffic might be routed to a service front door location that is further away from the end user, introducing extra latency and jitter.



https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/prepare-network



Microsoft Teams TLS Inspection

Not using a proxy server is recommended



Many organizations utilize proxy servers today within their network. As Microsoft Teams and Skype for Business traffic is already encrypted, passing this traffic through a proxy server doesn't make the traffic any more secure.

Proxies can cause issues too. Performance-related problems can be introduced to the environment through latency and packet loss by attempting to route Teams traffic through a proxy server. This can be caused by the proxy being unable to handle the amount of traffic passing through it, or by incorrectly routing the traffic to a Microsoft network service front door location that is further away from the end user.

Issues such as these will result in a negative experience within Teams and Skype for Business.

We recommend that Teams traffic bypasses proxy server infrastructure, including SSL inspection. You may wish to achieve this by putting Teams Phones and Meeting Room devices on their own VLAN and providing them with Internet access.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/proxy-servers-for-skype-for-business-online



Zoom Split Tunneling Recommendations

VPN Split Tunneling Recommendations







2025-03-06 16:55:57



Virtual Private Network (VPN) services are crucial to securing data accessed by users working from remote locations.

One of the biggest challenges Zoom customers experience is related to not allowing our real-time media services over UDP 8801-8810 to split tunnel. Not allowing split tunneling for UDP 8801-8810 and TCP 443 to Zoom resources, does cause customers to experience significant additional load on their corporate internet connections due to the Zoom traffic having to enter the corporate network, only to exit again to the Zoom cloud for real-time meeting termination. This also places a significant amount of burden on VPN concentrators and in many cases can cause overloading and congestion of this infrastructure.

https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm kb&sysparm article=KB0065998



Zoom TLS Inspection Recommendations

Proxy server

We support HTTPS/SSL proxy servers via port 443 for Zoom traffic.

Note: This does not apply to the Zoom Phone service.

Zoom automatically detects your proxy settings. In some instances, you may be prompted to enter the proxy username/password.

Note: We recommend allowing zoom.us and *.zoom.us from proxy or SSL inspection.

https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm kb&sysparm article=KB0060548







- Providers aren't being malicious
- Performance is the main design driver
- Latency must be minimized for app reliability
- These configs are often intentional not careless
- Inspection or routing can overwhelm systems

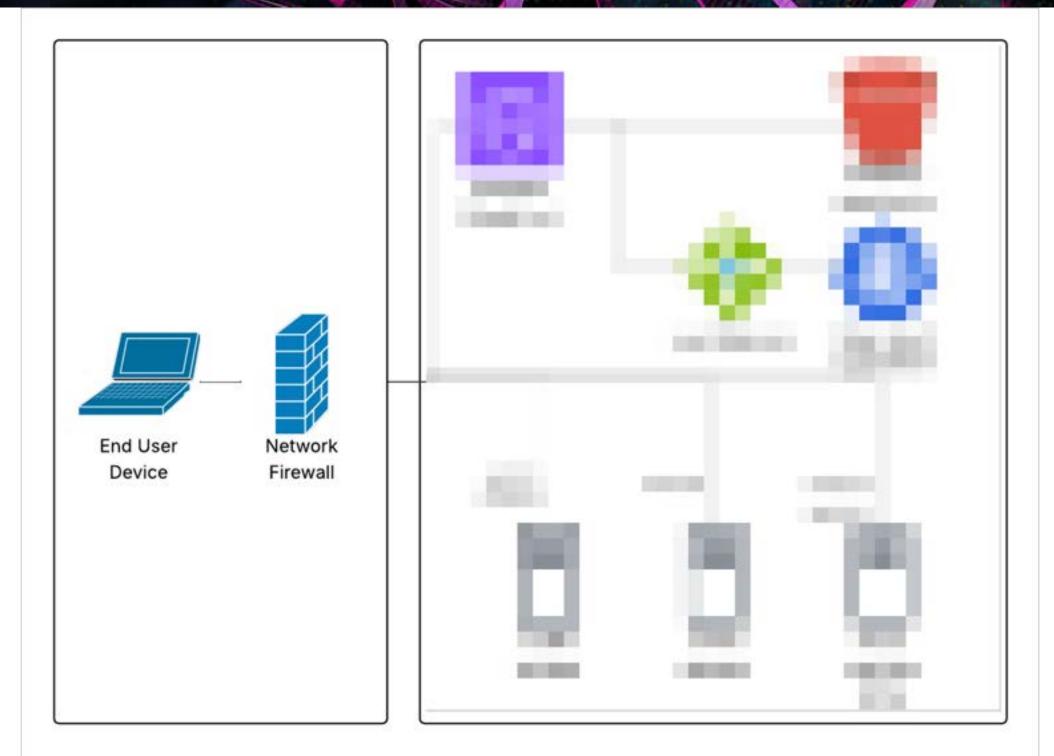




How does it Work?

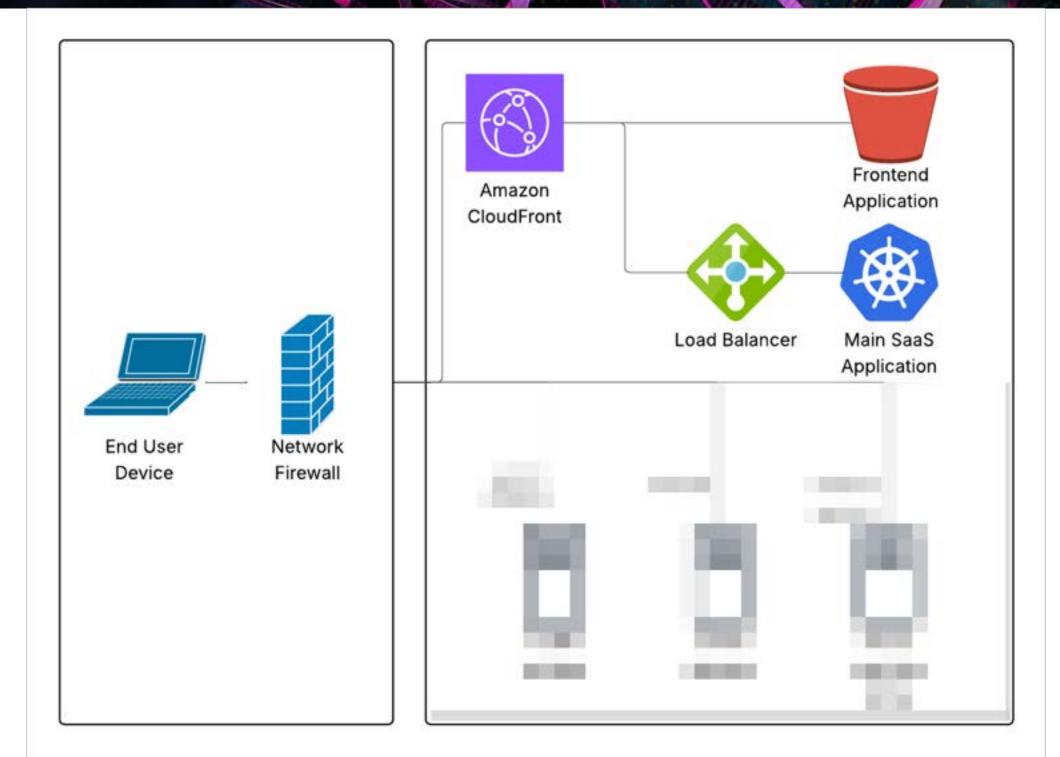


General Web Conferencing Architecture



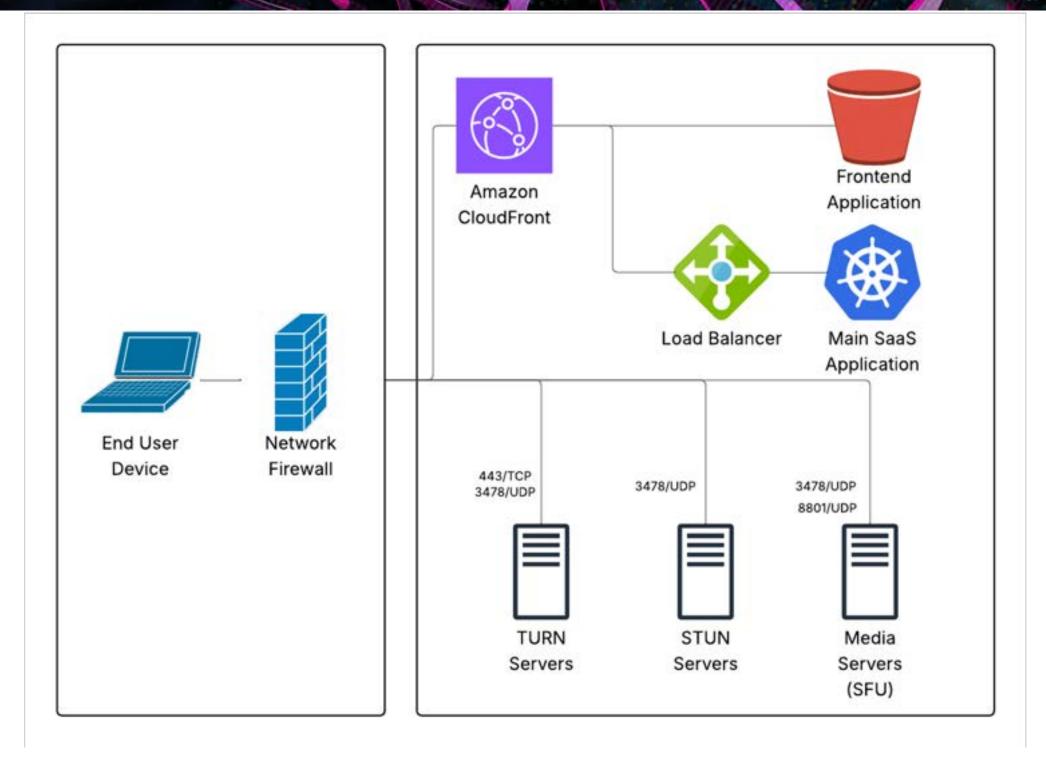


General Web Conferencing Architecture



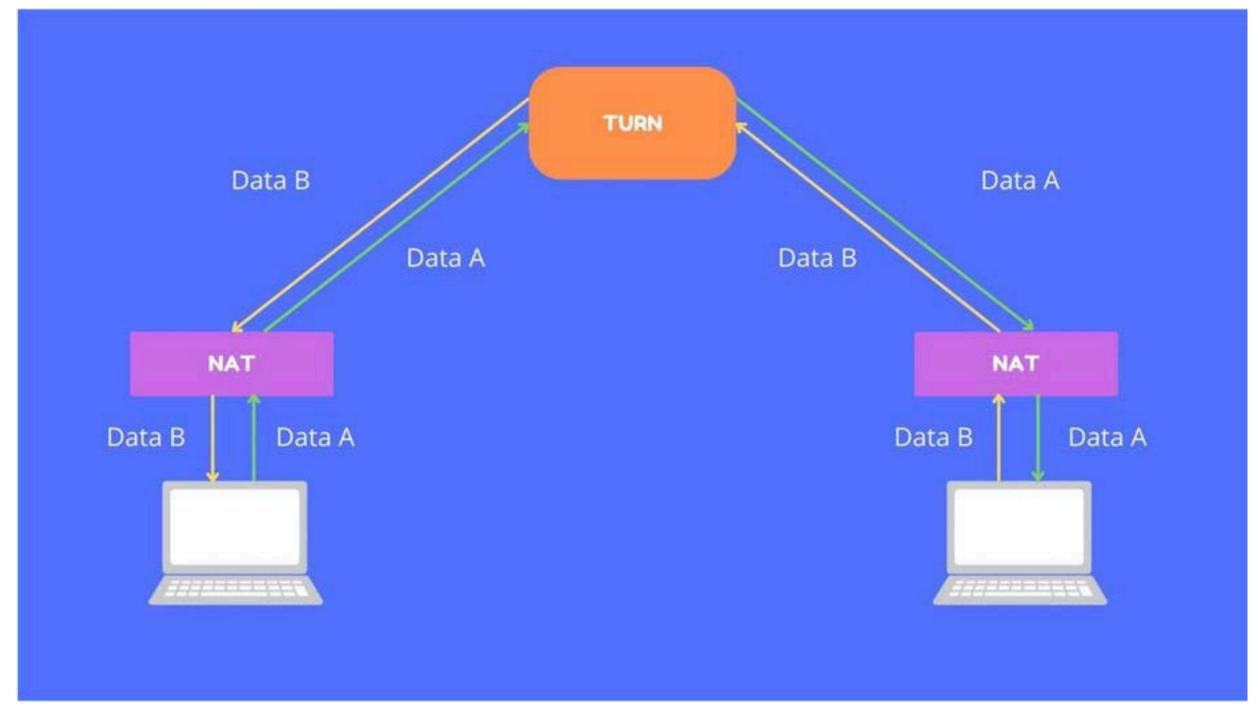


General Web Conferencing Architecture





What is TURN?









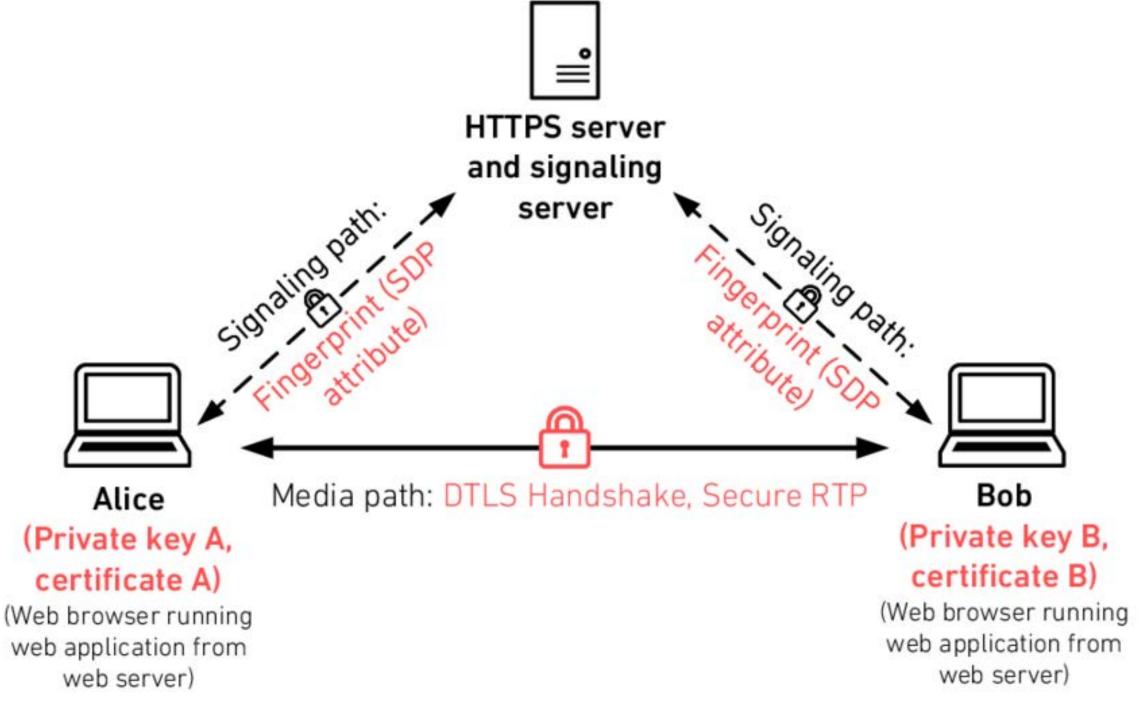








WebRTC Handshake Process





Reverse Engineering Zoom

```
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.41, Dst: 170.114.164.95
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 61029, Dst Port: 8801
Zoom SFU Encapsulation
    Type: 5
    Sequence number: 1278
    Direction: 0 (to Zoom)
Zoom Media Encapsulation
    Type: 16 (Video)
    Sequence number: 1261
    Timestamp: 106179922
    Frame number: 57
    Packets in frame: 2
Real-Time Transport Protocol
  [Stream setup by DECODE AS (frame 28373)]
    10.. .... = Version: RFC 1889 Version (2)
    ..0. .... = Padding: False
     ...1 .... = Extension: True
     .... 0000 = Contributing source identifiers count: 0
    1... True
    Payload type: DynamicRTP-Type-98 (98)
    Sequence number: 24484
     [Extended sequence number: 90020]
    Timestamp: 894589134
     [Extended timestamp: 5189556430]
    Synchronization Source identifier: 0x01000401 (16778241)
    Defined by profile: RFC 5285 One-Byte Header Extensions (0xbede)
    Extension length: 5
  > Header extensions
    Payload [...]: 1c40736b27a5415cf9715dd657876f8c59f14a70c4c6878987c74f26b8123f633690b6ef5ccee1e88f5932228eadc93eefe91c9f2
```



Reverse Engineering Zoom

- > Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.41, Dst: 170.114.164.95
- > User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 61029, Dst Port: 8801
- Zoom SFU Encapsulation



Reverse Engineering Zoom

```
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 61029, Dst Port: 8801
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  Sequence number: 1261
  Timestamp: 106179922
  Frame number: 57
  Packets in frame: 2
Real-Time Transport Protocol
   [Stream setup by DECODE AS (frame 28373)]
```



Building on Existing Work

Enabling Passive Measurement of Zoom Performance in Production Networks



https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3517745.3561414

Custom Wireshark Analyzer for Zoom Desktop Media Traffic



https://github.com/Princeton-Cabernet/zoom-analysis

Reverse Engineering Google Meet

```
Frame 4296: 160 bytes on wire (1280 bits), 160 bytes captured (1280 bits)
Ethernet II, Src: Apple_d5:f9:5f (14:7d:da:d5:f9:5f), Dst: zte_4c:ac:24 (20:08:89:4c:ac:24)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.43, Dst: 74.125.250.251
> User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 63070, Dst Port: 3478
Real-Time Transport Protocol
  > [Stream setup by DTLS-SRTP (frame 2963)]
     10.. .... = Version: RFC 1889 Version (2)
     ..0. .... = Padding: False
     ...1 .... = Extension: True
     .... 0000 = Contributing source identifiers count: 0
    0... = Marker: False
     Payload type: Unassigned (63)
     Sequence number: 24725
     [Extended sequence number: 90261]
    Timestamp: 345165098
     [Extended timestamp: 4640132394]
     Synchronization Source identifier: 0xa11f30c7 (2703175879)
     Defined by profile: RFC 5285 One-Byte Header Extensions (0xbede)
     Extension length: 3

    Header extensions

     > RFC 5285 Header Extension (One-Byte Header)
     > RFC 5285 Header Extension (One-Byte Header)
     > RFC 5285 Header Extension (One-Byte Header)
     SRTP Encrypted Payload: 56046ee649b15872c7d5a1f0b3604bf7ee71d42d8d55062dc3c6a639ae063054d04ea8469f2495cf5c34
     SRTP Auth Tag: 175d3f6ef64838a438b484a7dee2dbbc
```



Reverse Engineering Google Meet

Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.43, Dst: 74.125.250.251

User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 63070, Dst Port: 3478

Real-Time Transport Protocol

[Stream setup by DTLS-SRTP (frame 2963)]

10..... = Version: RFC 1889 Version (2)

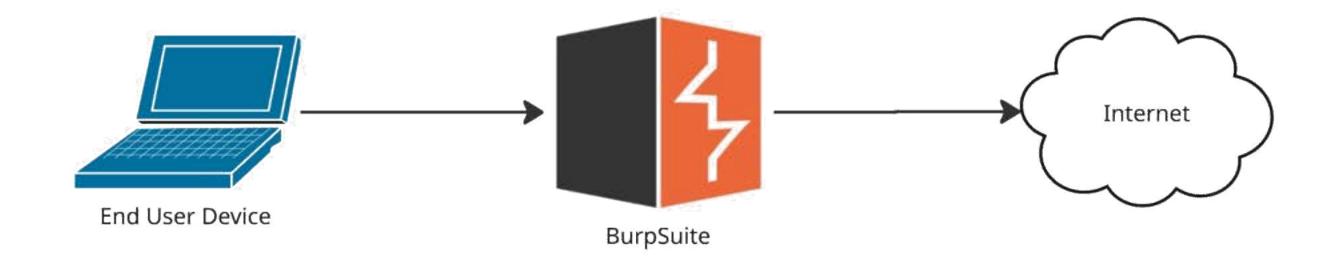
.... = Padding: False

.... = Extension: True

.... 0000 = Contributing source identifiers count: 0



Case Study in Egress Resilience















Custom Protocol over TLS on 443/TCP















WebSockets over HTTPS on 443/TCP









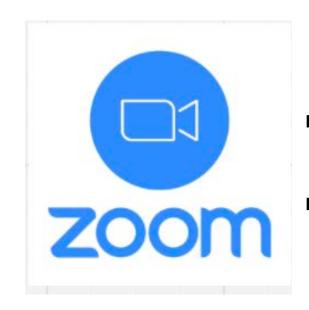
WebSockets over HZ S on 443/TCP











Custom Protocol over 443/TCP

Custom Protocol over 8801/UDP





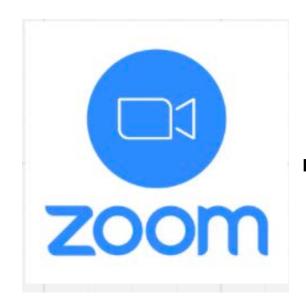




zoom





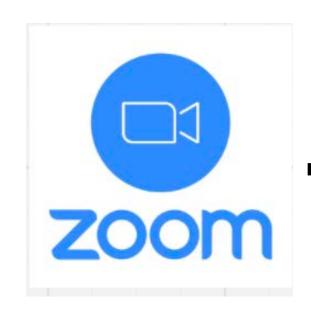


WebSockets over HTTPS on 443/TCP





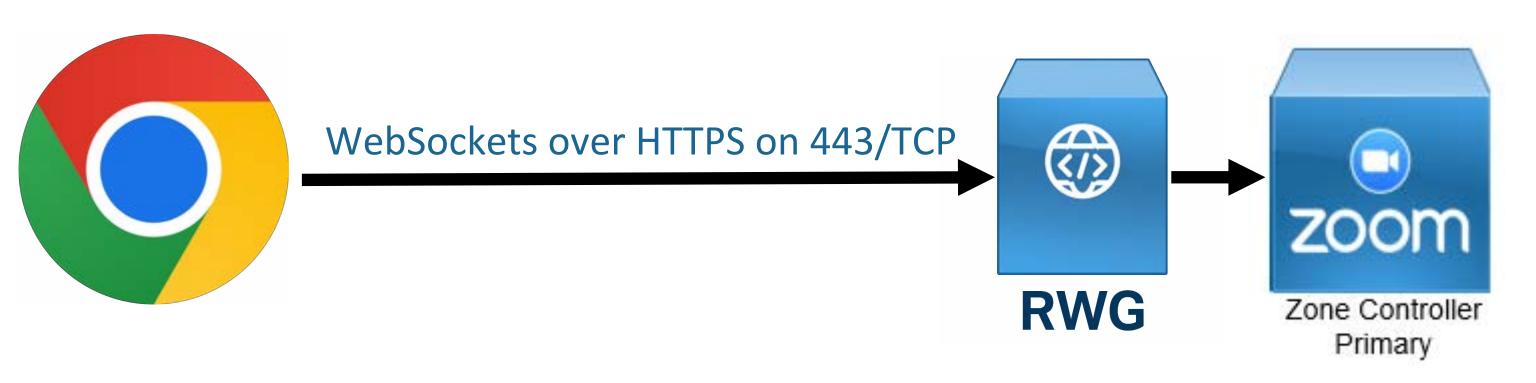




WebSockets over PS on 443/TCP

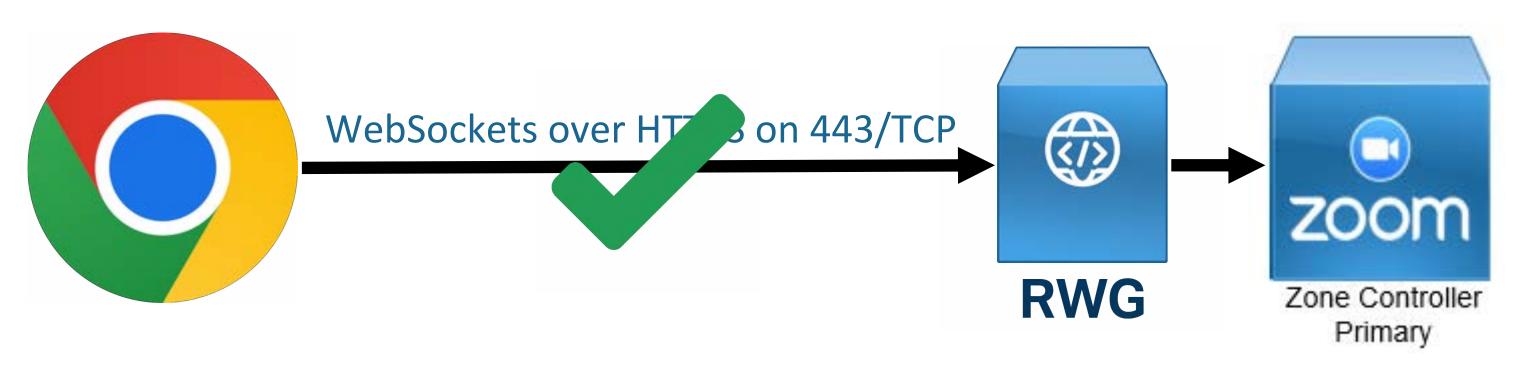






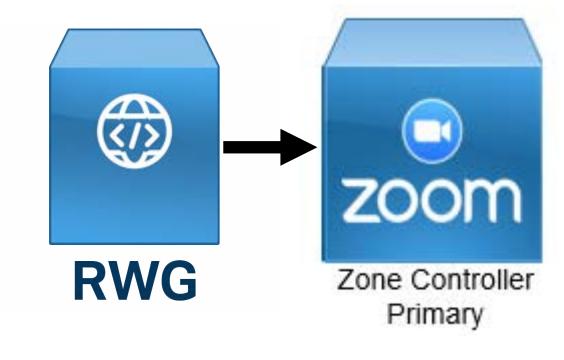


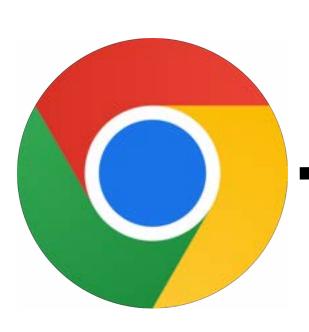








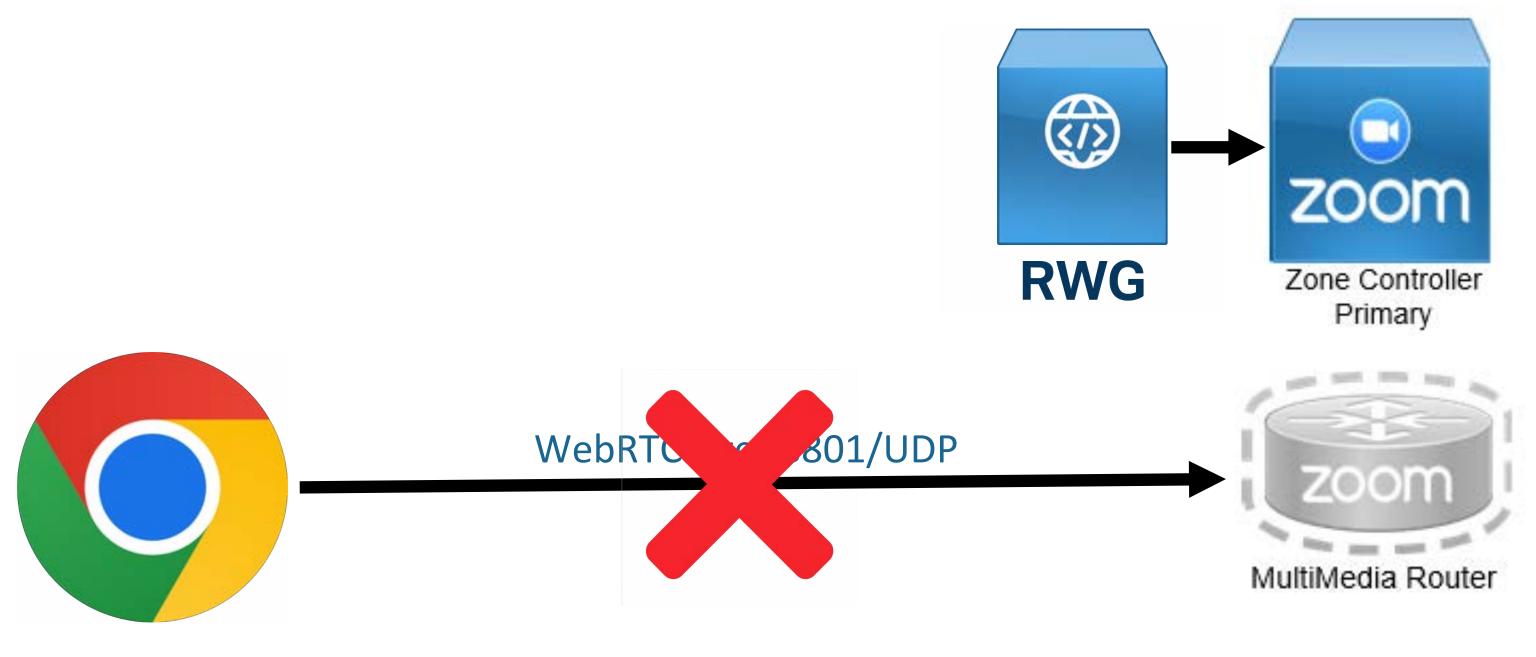




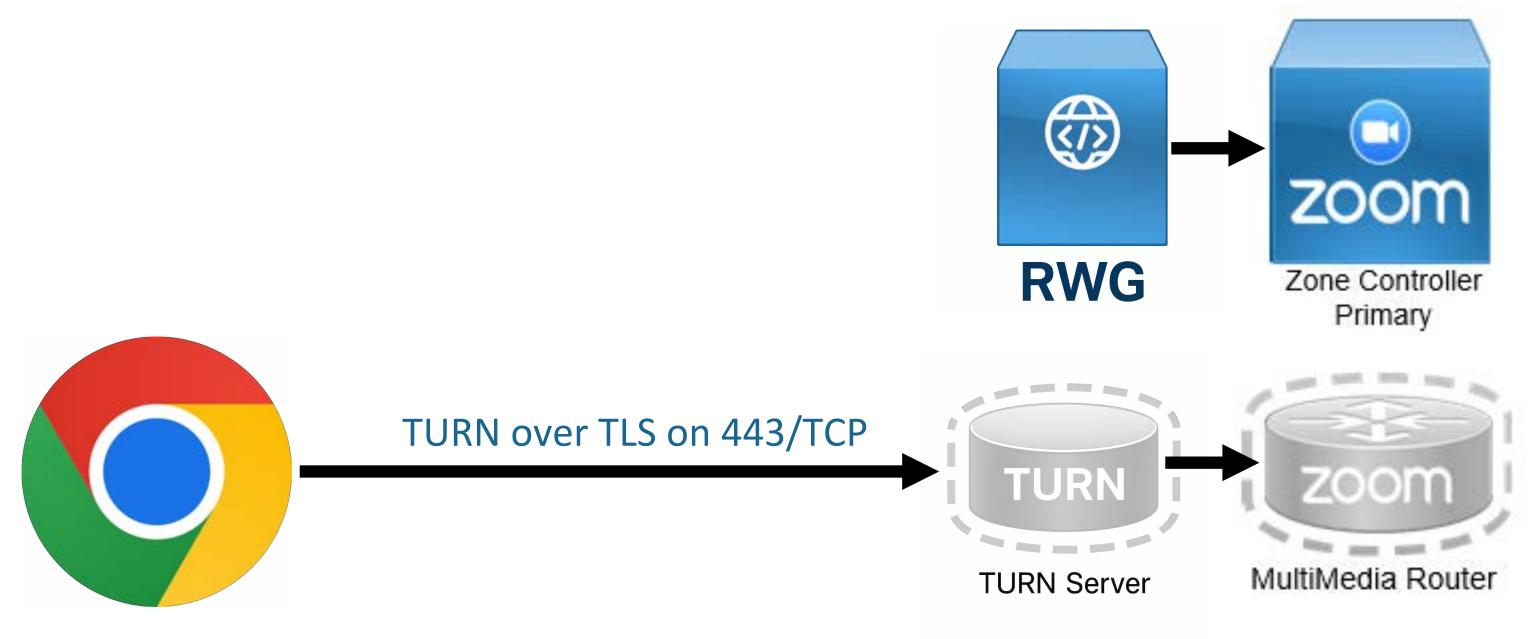
WebRTC over 8801/UDP

MultiMedia Router

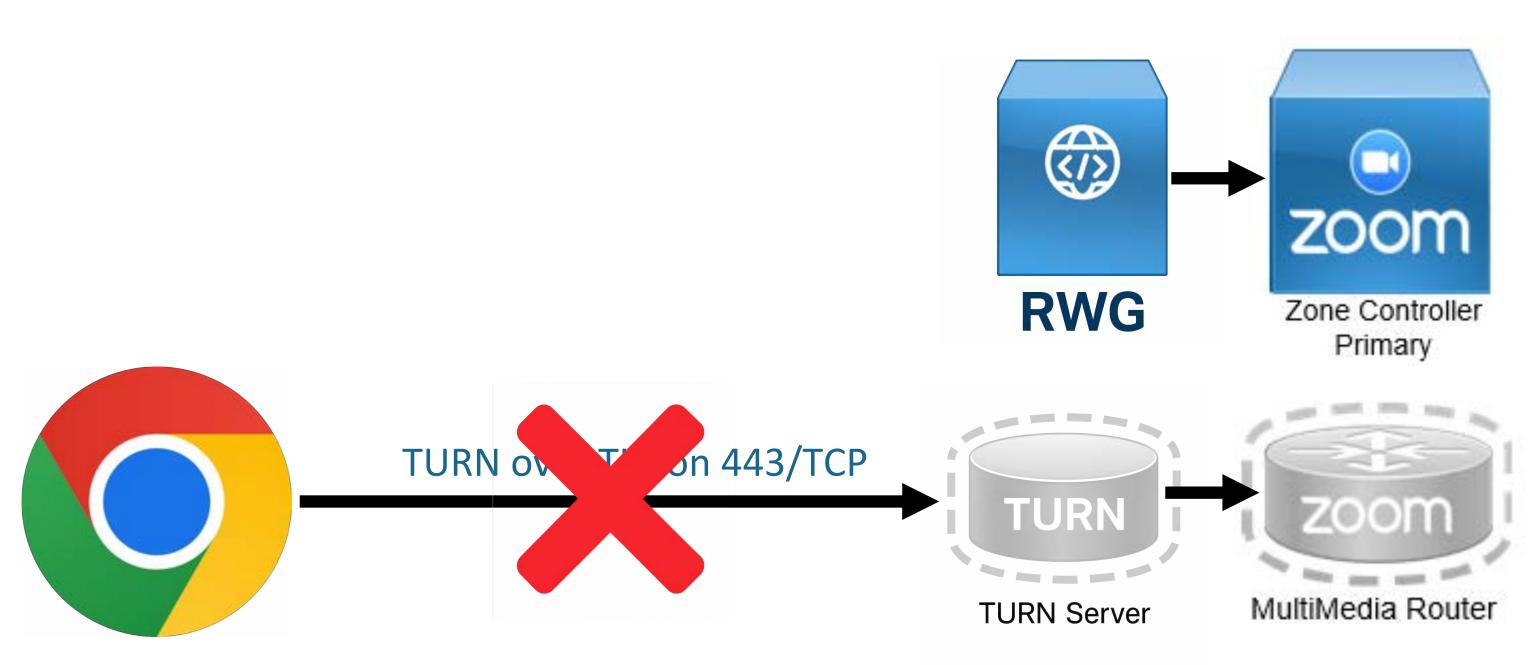




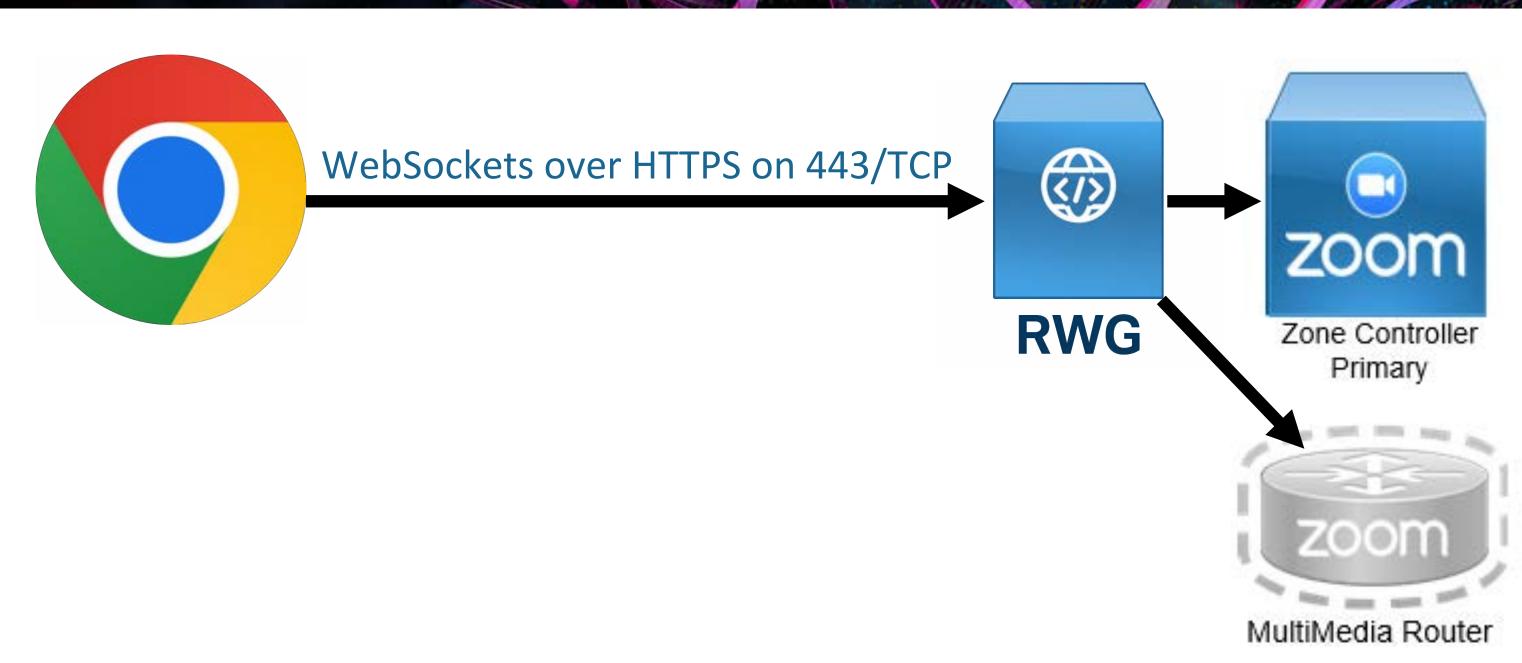




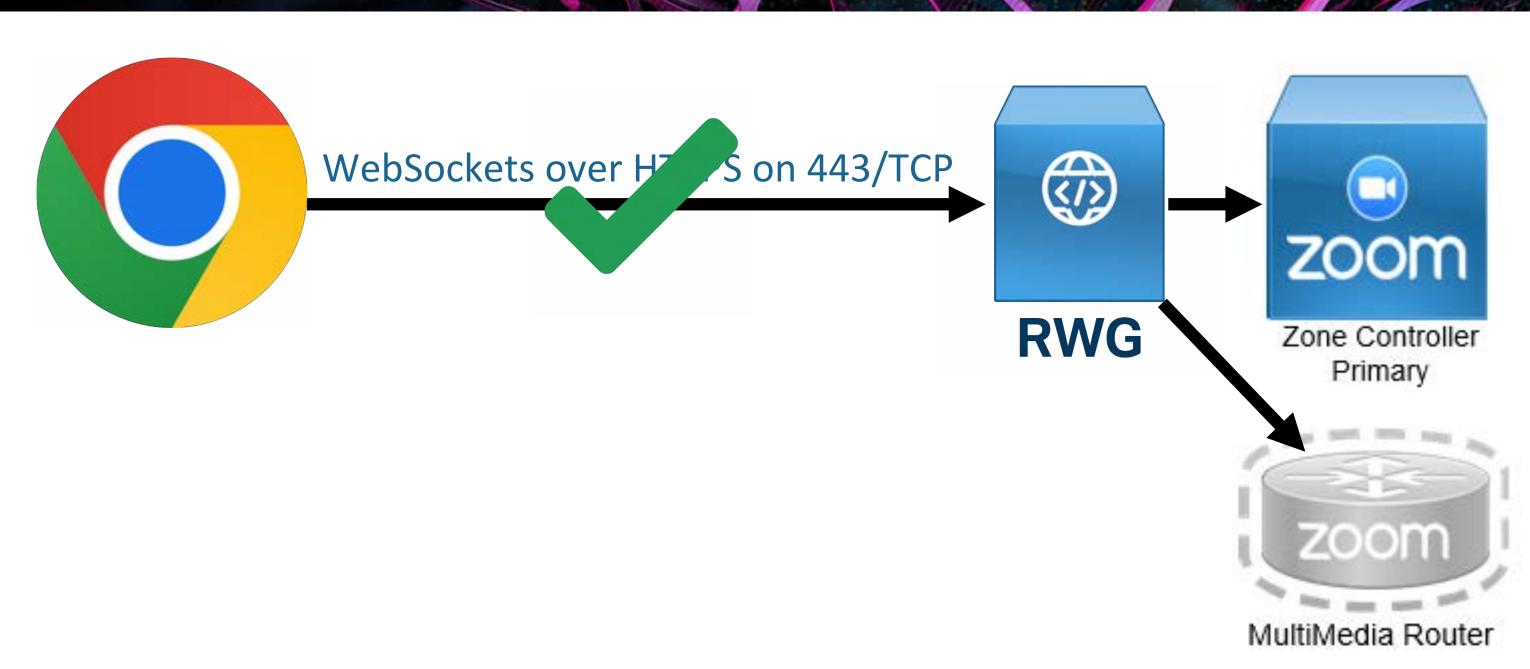














Highly Adaptable to Changing Environments







Developing the Capability



Analyzing Vendor Market Share

Videoconferencing Software	Market Share	,u
Zoom	55.91%	
Microsoft Teams	32.29%	
GoToMeeting	8.81%	
Google Meet	5.52%	
WebEx	7.61%	
RingCentral	5.31%	
FaceTime	2.16%	
Skype	1.41%	
Facebook Messenger	0.75%	
Bluejeans	0.31%	



Source: Statista



Analyzing Vendor Market Share

Videoconferencing Software	Market Share	
Zoom	55.91%	
Microsoft Teams	32.29%	
GoToMeeting	8.81%	
Google Meet	5.52%	





Reverse Engineering Zoom

```
"body":{
  "ABtoken": "3C45E3C9-7F73-2CD4-0C2A-61B0665E2AA7",
 "conID": "81423846-9F1F-D9EF-72D7-1265B18A9BBA",
  "confID": "0C71C7D6-C040-4363-94C1-3175DA4475F7",
 "e2eEncrypt":true,
  "elapsed":0,
  "encType":2,
  "hugeB0":true,
  "mediasdkConfig":{
    "iceServers":[
        "credential": "rlYnbcRe9d5IqRiU/Ukst9QY0C2lidMWRmUQoWVvFoc=",
        "urls": "turns:turnsq02.cloud.zoom.us:443?transport=tcp",
        "username": "81423846-9F1F-D9EF-72D7-1265B18A9BBA: 1741859664289"
        "credential": "y7rK3BSihbZ33NQeVtUsgynrdvJZpYRkUuukI6LaUpU=",
        "urls": "turns:turnsq01.cloud.zoom.us:443?transport=tcp",
        "username": "81423846-9F1F-D9EF-72D7-1265B18A9BBA: 1741859664289"
  "meetingTopic": "Y29sYnkuZWxvdGVzdEBnbWFpbC5jb20ncyBab29tIE1lZXRpbmc",
  "mmrFeature":3204447728.
  "mmrFeatureEx": 4501601879980014,
  "mmrFeatureExStr":"4616187620307367918",
  "mn":"97774758416",
  "participantID":238757,
  "participantIDStr":"238757",
  "reportDomain": "zoomsg134224146206rwg.cloud.zoom.us",
```



Reverse Engineering Zoom

```
"mediasdkConfig":{
 "iceServers":[
      "credential": "rlYnbcRe9d5IqRiU/Ukst9QY0C2lidMWRmUQoWVvFoc=",
      "urls": "turns:turnsg02.cloud.zoom.us:443?transport=tcp",
      "username": "81423846-9F1F-D9EF-72D7-1265B18A9BBA: 1741859664289"
      "credential": "y7rK3BSihbZ33NQeVtUsgynrdvJZpYRkUuukI6LaUpU=",
      "urls": "turns:turnsg01.cloud.zoom.us:443?transport=tcp",
      "username": "81423846-9F1F-D9EF-72D7-1265B18A9BBA: 1741859664289"
```



Zooming in on TURN

Firewall rules for Zoom Meetings and Webinars

Protocol	Ports	Source	‡	Destination
→ ~ nslo	ookup turns	g02.cloud.zoo	om.us	115.110.154.192/26 115.114.56.192/26
Server:	192	.168.1.1		115.114.115.0/26 115.114.131.0/26
Address:	192	.168.1.1#53		120.29.148.0/24 121.244.146.0/27 134.224.0.0/16
				137.66.128.0/17 144.195.0.0/16
Non-authoritative answer:			147.124.96.0/19 149.137.0.0/17	
Name:	turnsg02.cl	oud.zoom.us		156.45.0.0/17 159.124.0.0/16
Address:	134.224.14	7.10		160.1.56.128/25 161.199.136.0/22 162.12.232.0/22
				162.255.36.0/22 165.254.88.0/23



Reverse Engineering Microsoft Teams

Response Pretty Raw Hex Render 1 HTTP/2 200 OK Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store Content-Length: 186 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8 Ms-Cv: lHKzC4UNR0280SVyWrqm+g.0 Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000; includeSubDomains Api-Supported-Versions: 1.0, 2.0 Server-Timing: reglatency;dur=2 X-Cache: CONFIG NOCACHE X-Msedge-Ref: Ref A: C58D8123B9144A1CA7727C9B8DCD5BC8 Ref B: BKK30EDGE0511 Ref C: 2025-03-18T14:10:21Z Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2025 14:10:21 GMT 12 13 "tokens":["realm":"\"rtcmedia\"", "username": "AgAAJKTmRIAB252Px+6sqQkexkR0PUDm73PwpkvWP3IAAAAAdg8G7t0lFUabmHtcNl06RCa80uA=", "password": "InNEjcnomvcTOpPEgPsA800mMkE=" "expires":604800

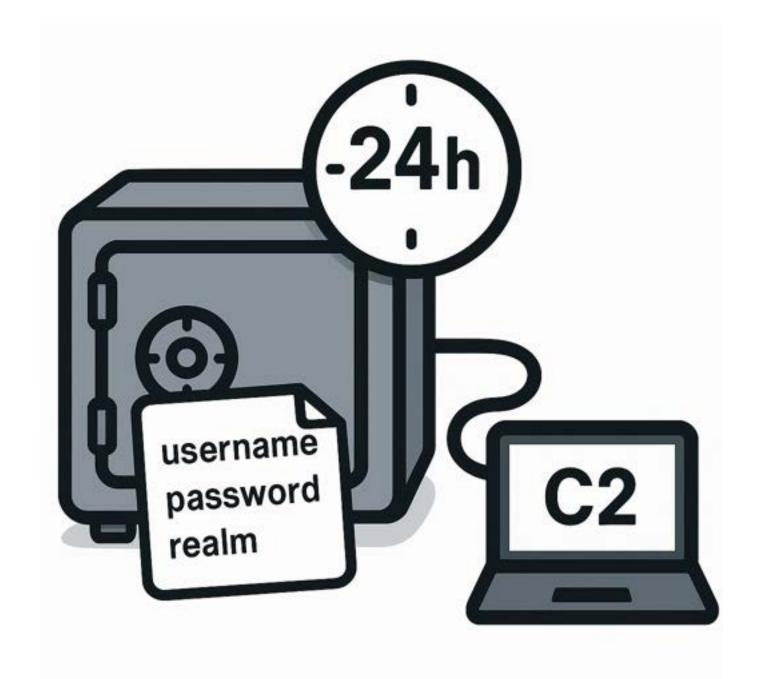


Reverse Engineering Microsoft Teams

```
"tokens":[
   "realm":"\"rtcmedia\"",
    "username": "AgAAJKTmRIAB252Px+6sqQkexkR0PUDm73PwpkvWP3IAAAAAdg8G7t0lFUabmHtcNl06RCa80uA=",
    "password": "InNEjcnomvcTOpPEgPsA800mMkE="
"expires":604800
```

blackhat Observations Regarding TURN Credentials BRIEFINGS

- Usually valid for a couple of days
- Complements an existing long-term channel
- Not tied to specific calls and credentials persist post-session
- Applies to common platforms like Zoom and Teams
- No install or meeting required on the victim side





Building the Tool



- A short-lived tunnel launched from an existing implant
- Used briefly and mimics activity like a video call
- Runs in parallel with long-term infrastructure
- Lightweight enough to avoid clogging that primary channel
- Disguised among high-traffic destinations (e.g., Zoom, Teams)

Most Visited Sites

Domain	Request Volume
google.com	82.450
microsoft.com	67.813
amazon.com	52.209
somebank.com	47.652



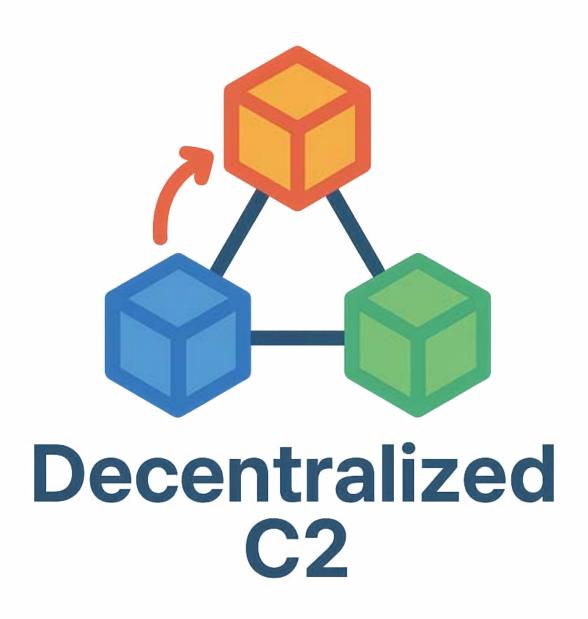


https://github.com/praetorian-inc/turnt



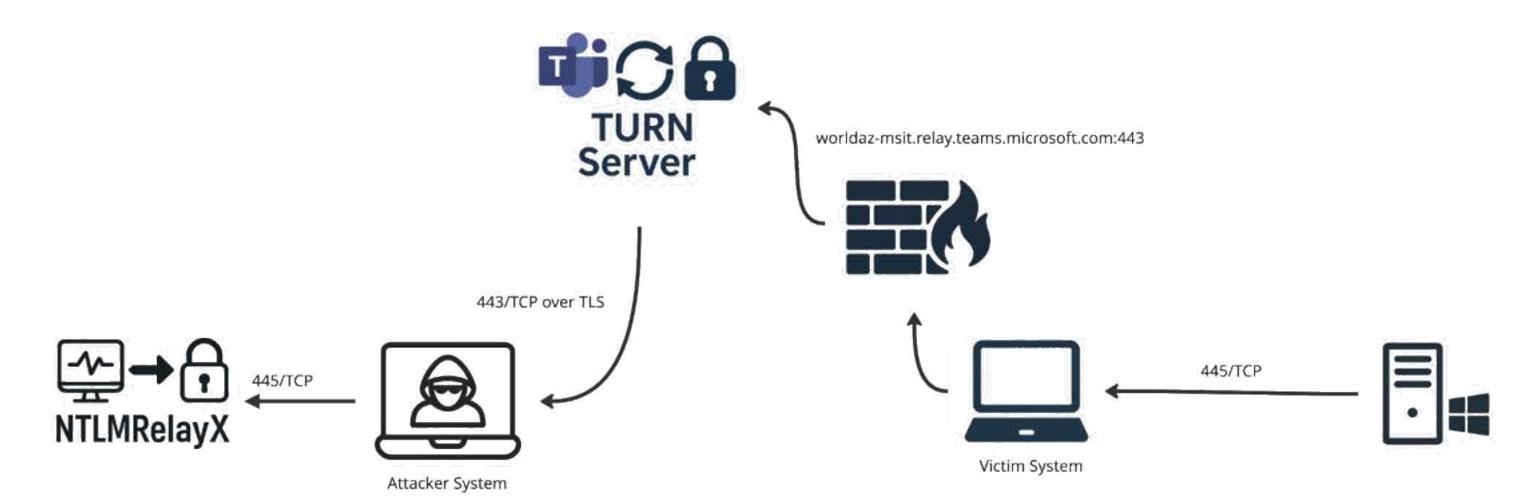
Use-Cases and Capabilities

- Fast tunnel setup during assumed breach scenarios
- No need to provision infrastructure in advance
- Operates from operator laptop or disposable VDI
- Ideal for decentralized red team operations
- Lightweight, flexible, and serverless by design



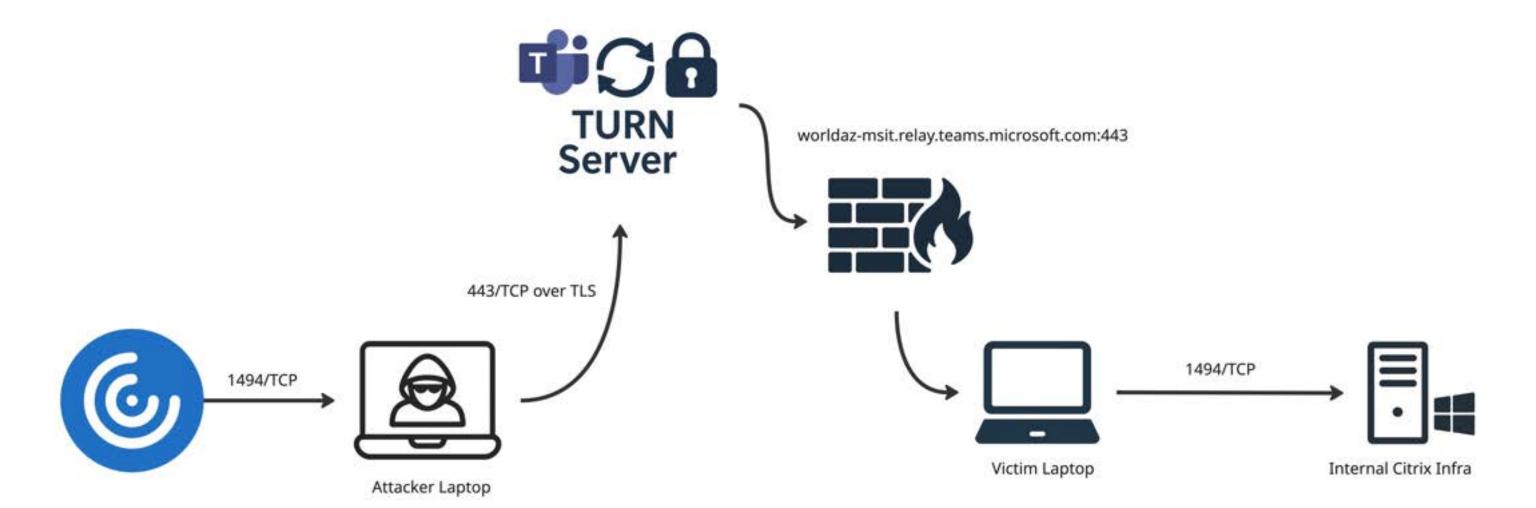


Remote Port Forwarding





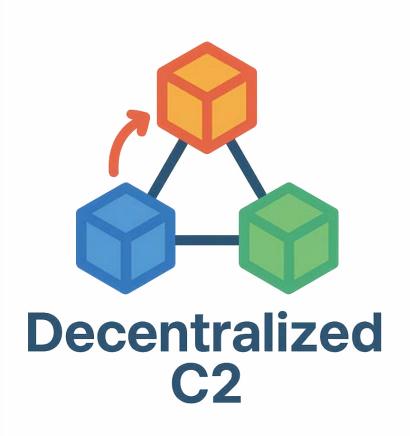
Local Port Forwarding





Use-Cases and Capabilities









Zoom Demo Example Scenario

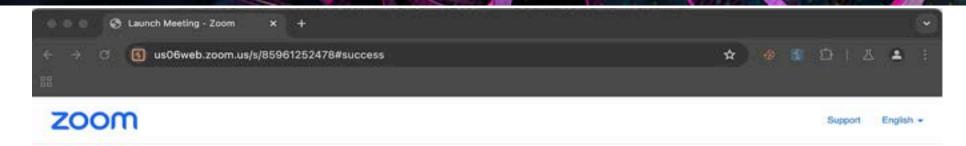
- Obtaining credentials from Zoom
- Victim doesn't need to do anything
- Laptop is the operator laptop
- Example victim system is GCP virtual machine
- Demo downloading file through the channel







Zoom Video Demo



Click Open Zoom Workplace app on the dialog shown by your browser

If you don't see a dialog, click Launch Meeting below

By joining a meeting, you agree to our Terms of Service and Privacy Statement

Launch Meeting

Don't have the Zoom Workplace app installed? Download Now

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Trust Center | Acceptable Use Guidelines | Legal & Compliance | Do Not Sell My Personal Information | Cookie Preferences





Examining Wireshark Traffic (Zoom)

```
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.43, Dst: 170.114.166.217
> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 61862, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 273
 Transport Layer Security
  TLSv1.3 Record Layer: Handshake Protocol: Client Hello
       Content Type: Handshake (22)
       Version: TLS 1.0 (0x0301)
       Length: 268
    Handshake Protocol: Client Hello
         Handshake Type: Client Hello (1)
         Length: 264
         Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
         Random: cfda9068dcfcc75da6d6220358f91edb332335072707b911d42c681f029daa1f
         Session ID Length: 32
         Session ID: fa209d4bc07da86474eca647841334608eab1b481800e7e41deff9d2e02d184f
         Cipher Suites Length: 38
       Cipher Suites (19 suites)
         Compression Methods Length: 1
       Compression Methods (1 method)
         Extensions Length: 153
         Extension: server_name (len=26) name=turnsin01.sin.zoom.us
```



Compression Methods (1 method)

Extensions Length: 153

Examining Wireshark Traffic

```
Handshake Protocol: Client Hello
  Handshake Type: Client Hello (1)
  Length: 264
  Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
  Random: cfda9068dcfcc75da6d6220358f91edb332335072707b911d42c681f029daa1f
  Session ID Length: 32
  Session ID: fa209d4bc07da86474eca647841334608eab1b481800e7e41deff9d2e02d184f
  Cipher Suites Length: 38
  Cipher Suites (19 suites)
  Compression Methods Length: 1
```

Extension: server_name (len=26) name=turnsin01.sin.zoom.us



Microsoft Teams Demo

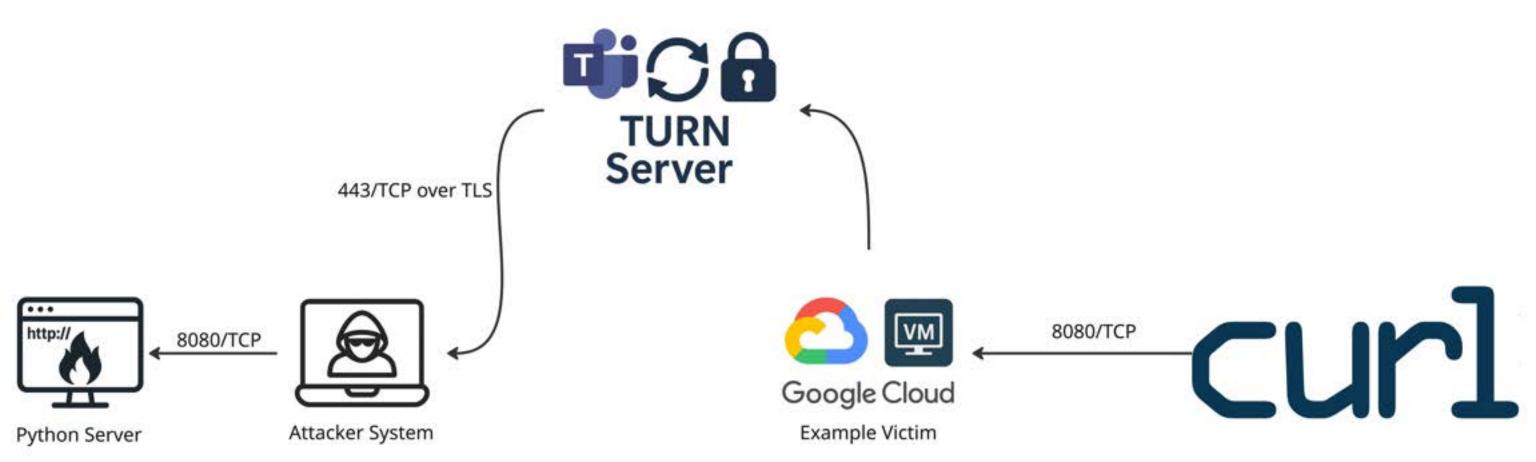
- Show automated retrieval of TURN credentials from Microsoft
- Demonstrate a speed test showing a 100 MB file download
- Demonstrate remote port-forwarding capability
- Lab uses my local laptop and a demo virtual machine in GCP





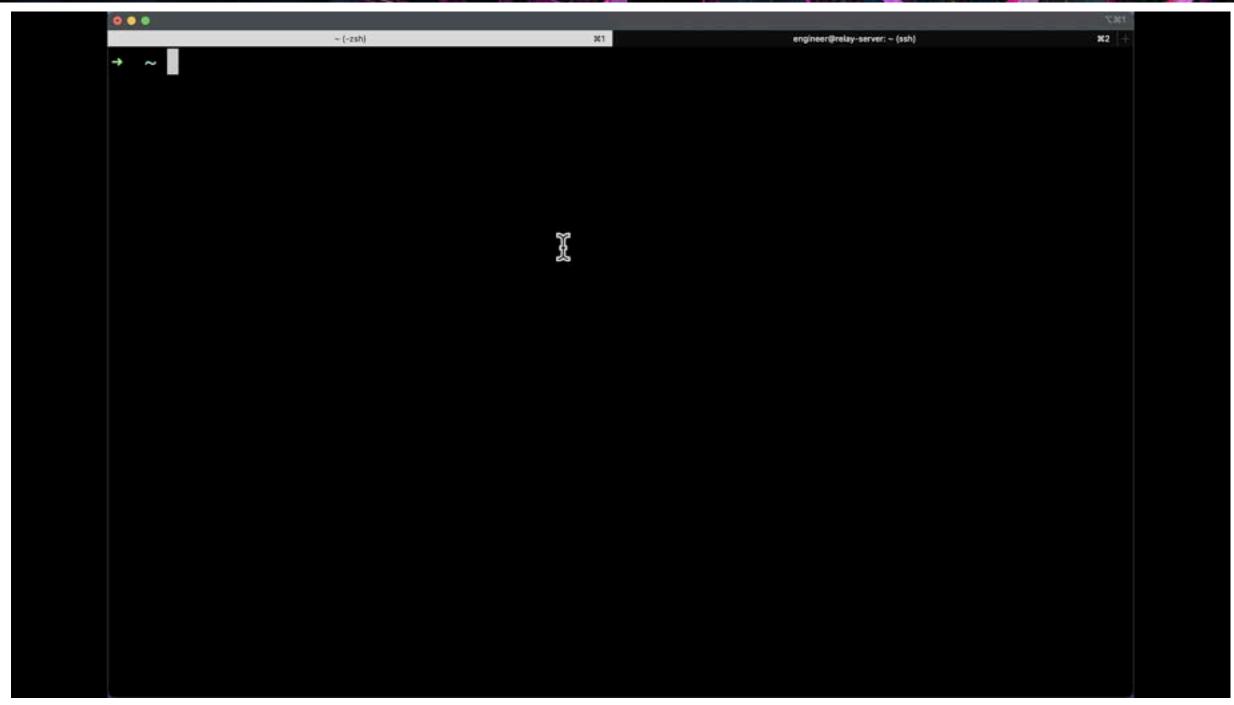


Microsoft Teams Demo





Microsoft Teams Video Demo





Examining Wireshark Traffic

```
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.43, Dst: 52.114.55.197
 Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 60570, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 1429, Ack: 1, Len: 357
  [2 Reassembled TCP Segments (1785 bytes): #30829(1428), #30830(357)]
 Transport Layer Security
  TLSv1.2 Record Layer: Handshake Protocol: Client Hello
       Content Type: Handshake (22)
       Version: TLS 1.0 (0x0301)
       Length: 1780
      Handshake Protocol: Client Hello
         Handshake Type: Client Hello (1)
         Length: 1776
       Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
       Random: 21058fee53f9753786f537e6158e9f9123d3ce824bff6da2a14f47c80a2e9b00
         Session ID Length: 32
         Session ID: 3b39951ffe287758fdf1c8ca54b945f99fc5ae94a7891877b7652a9e148230b5
         Cipher Suites Length: 32
       > Cipher Suites (16 suites)
         Compression Methods Length: 1
       Compression Methods (1 method)
         Extensions Length: 1671
       > Extension: Reserved (GREASE) (len=0)
       > Extension: status_request (len=5)
       > Extension: signature_algorithms (len=18)
       > Extension: key_share (len=1263) X25519MLKEM768, x25519
       > Extension: encrypted_client_hello (len=250)
       Extension: server name (len=43) name=worldaz-msit.relay.teams.microsoft.com
```



Examining Wireshark Traffic



Examining Wireshark Traffic

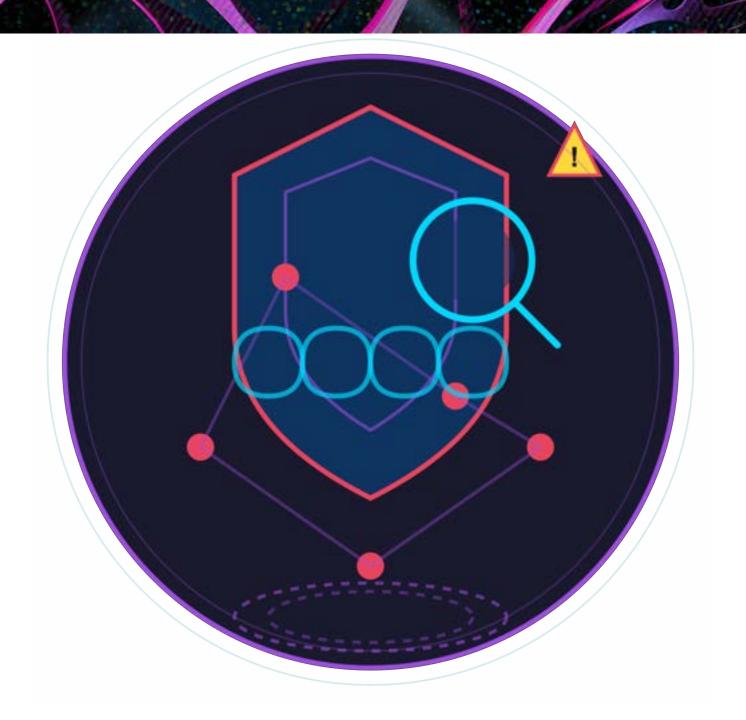
```
Handshake Protocol: Client Hello
  Handshake Type: Client Hello (1)
  Length: 1776
  Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
  Random: 21058fee53f9753786f537e6158e9f9123d3ce824bff6da2a14f47c80a2e9b00
  Session ID Length: 32
  Session ID: 3b39951ffe287758fdf1c8ca54b945f99fc5ae94a7891877b7652a9e148230b5
  Cipher Suites Length: 32
> Cipher Suites (16 suites)
  Compression Methods Length: 1
  Compression Methods (1 method)
  Extensions Length: 1671
> Extension: Reserved (GREASE) (len=0)
> Extension: status_request (len=5)
> Extension: signature_algorithms (len=18)
> Extension: key_share (len=1263) X25519MLKEM768, x25519
> Extension: encrypted_client_hello (len=250)
  Extension: server_name (len=43) name=worldaz-msit.relay.teams.microsoft.com
```

Conclusion



Defensive Considerations

- Detection is hard
- Focus on other points in the kill chain
- Look for attacker tools proxied through the tunnel
- Low signal at network layer
- TURN creds can't be removed





Things to Avoid

- Chasing weak signals like raw traffic volume
- Correlating process-to-destination traffic is noisy
- High effort, low return on detection accuracy
- Hard to distinguish legit conferencing from abuse







- "Read Teaming" targets credentials and shares
- Common targets: Slack,
 SharePoint, GitHub, Jira, etc.
- Targeting credentials and other sensitive data
- Canary tokens reveal enumeration early
- Simple, low-cost, and highly effective control





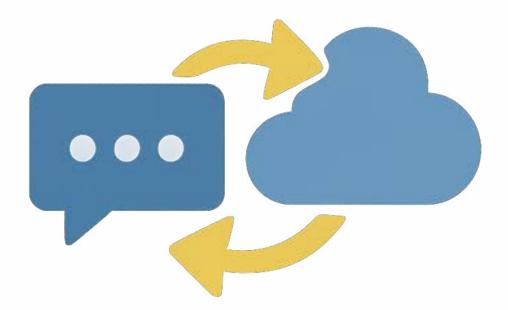
Detecting Proxied Attacker Tooling

- Attackers proxy tools rather than run them locally
- Focus on offensive tool behavior not the channel
- Detect usage of tools like secretsdump.py or Impacket





- Other providers beyond Zoom/Teams also use TURN
- Opportunity for further mapping and validation
- Ideal entry-point project for new researchers
- Doesn't require major tooling changes
- Expands applicability of the core method



Expand Supported Providers



- Current Go binaries weigh in around 2-3 MB
- Porting to C/C++ could reduce size under 1MB
- Smaller payloads improve operational stealth
- Better fit for constrained or ephemeral systems
- Helps with evasion and minimal footprint delivery





- Explore default settings in security appliances
- Identify vendor-based exclusions or allow-listing
- Check if IP ranges are autoapproved by default
- Investigate TLS inspection exemptions for key domains
- Assess how much trust these defaults embed





Takeaways and Questions

- Web conferencing solutions provide a compelling vector for covert short-term command and control channels
- TURNt is a new open-source tool that helps facilitate short-term C2 communication over the TURN protocol
- TURN provides a provider agnostic manner for tunneling traffic through potentially trusted web conferencing infrastructure

Blog Post



Tool Release



LinkedIn

