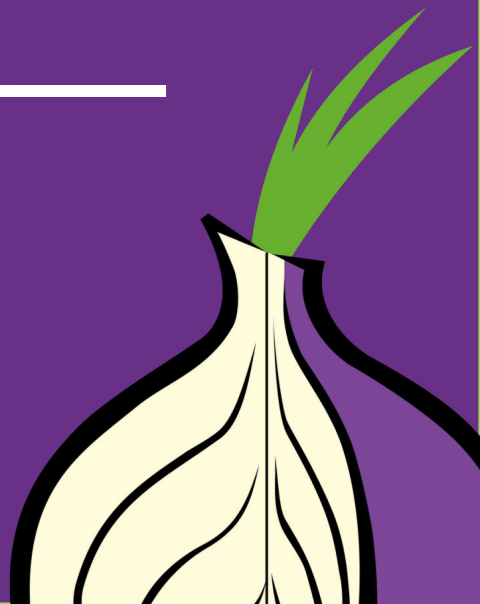


Tor Relay Operator Meetup

March 2nd, 2024 - 19 UTC (online)

- We will start the meetup at 19:05.
- Mute your mic if it isn't already muted.
- Expected meeting length: 60 to 90 minutes.
 - Feel free to ask questions in the chat.
 - Talk soon! =)



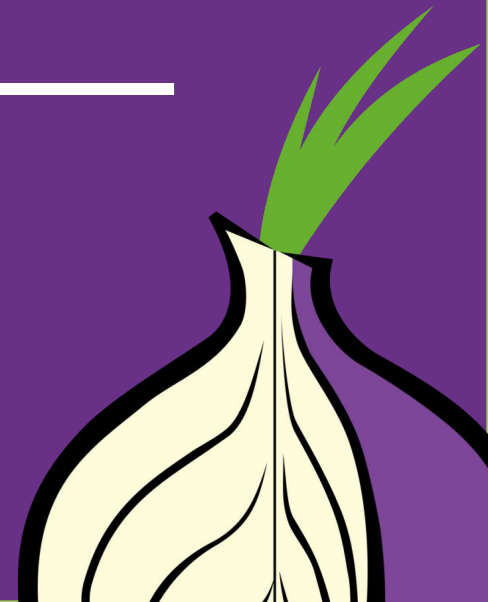
Before we start

- Tor Code of Conduct: <https://community.torproject.org/policies>
- Expectations for Relay Operators:
<https://community.torproject.org/policies/relays/expectations-for-relay-operators>
- Relay operator policies process:
<https://community.torproject.org/policies/relays/001-community-relay-operator-process/>
- Notes: <https://pad.riseup.net/p/tor-relay-meetup-m2-2024-keep>

Agenda

- Announcements
- Status of (d)DoS situation
- Elections & Documented Censorship (February 2024)
- Upcoming Elections in Russia
- Questions & Answers

Announcements



Announcements

- **Tor 0.4.7.x end-of-life:**
<https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/network-health/team/-/wikis/Relay-EOL-policy>
<https://metrics.torproject.org/rs.html#aggregate/version>
- **Tor Metrics first seen bug**
- **Run a Tor relay at your university!** - EFF Challenge <https://toruniversity.eff.org/>
- **We're looking for a new meek bridge volunteer:**
 - We need a server (dedicated or VPS), monthly traffic expected: 25TB, Ram: 4GB or more, 2+ or more cpu cores.
 - SysAdmin hours (low maintenance activity).
 - Interested? Contact us: gus@torproject.org and cohosh@torproject.org!

Announcements

- Tor's Postbox (User Stories): <https://community.torproject.org/outreach/stories/>

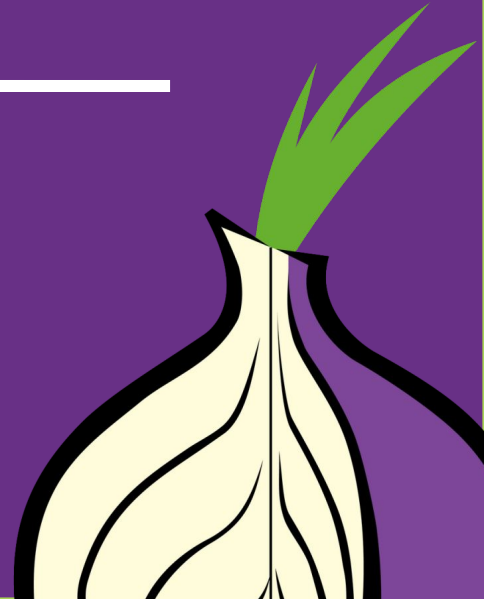


“ I live in Iran and I have been using Tor for censorship circumvention. During political unrest while the government tightens grip on other censorship circumvention alternatives, Tor with obfuscation plugins remain the only solution. Tor changed my personal life in many ways. It made it possible to access information on Youtube, Twitter, Blogger and countless other sites.

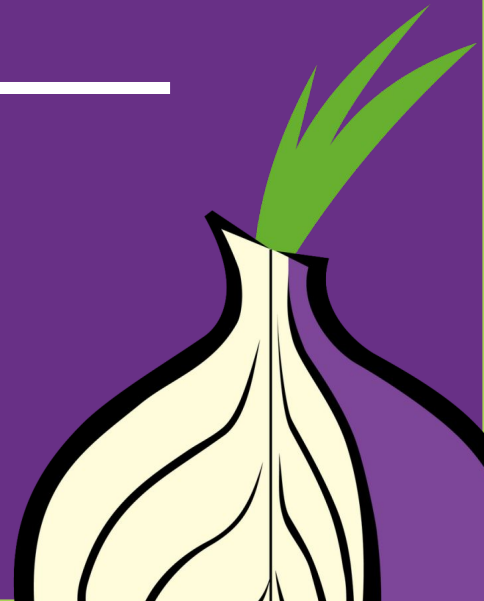
Suad is a pseudonym. This is an anonymous story submitted by a Tor user.

 Copy link

(D)DoS situation update



Elections 2024 (February and March)



Elections in 2024

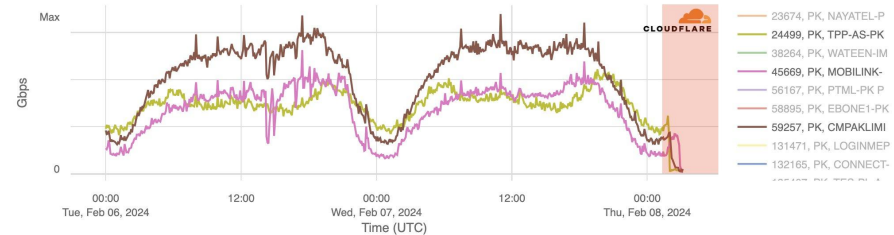
- 2024: the year of Democracy! :)
- More than **65+ elections** happening this year (General, Presidential, Prime Minister, National Assembly, local elections...).
- Online censorship terminology: Internet outages vs Internet shutdowns, Internet filtering...

Censorship documented (2024): Pakistan (Feb 8th)

Three acts:

- **Before the election:** blocked PTI political party sites and investigative news platform.
- **Election day:** regional Internet outages.
- **After the election:** X (twitter.com) was blocked.
- According to some user reports, some VPNs aren't working. Rumors about Sandvine...

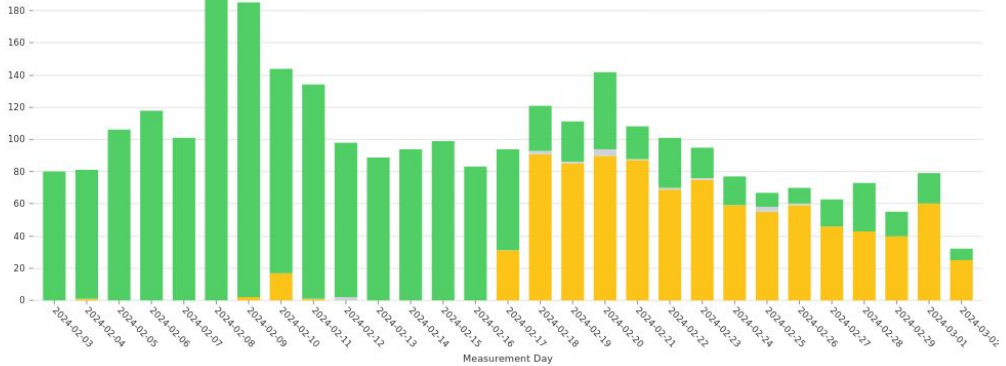
Netflows Gbps by ASN



Web Connectivity Test, twitter.com

Pakistan

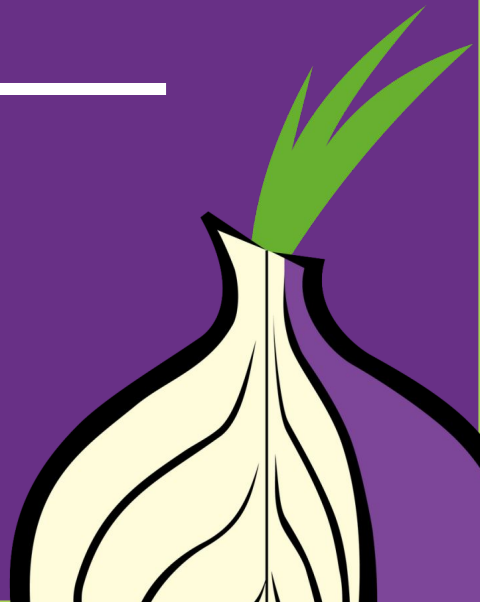
OK Confirmed Anomaly Failure



Documented Censorship (2024)

- Senegal (election was postponed):
 - Internet outages:
<https://www.accessnow.org/press-release/keepiton-senegalese-authorities-access-to-all/>
 - <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/internet-service-restored-senegal-internet-monitor-2024-02-07/>
- Indonesia (14th February), Belarus (25th February), Cambodia (25th February).

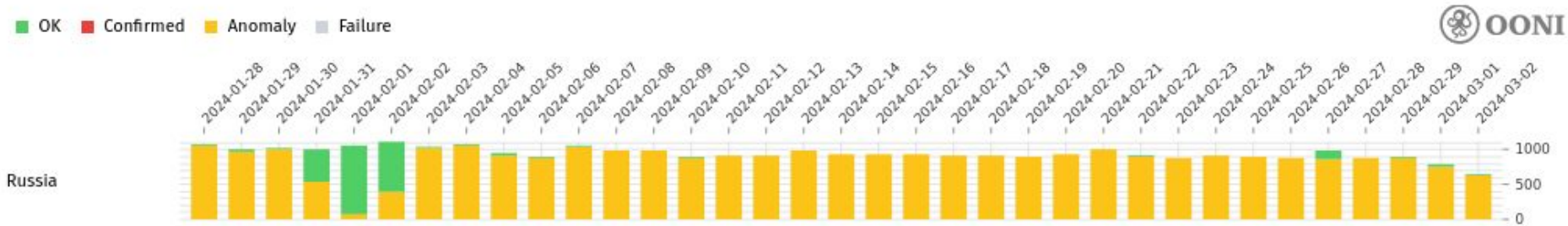
Elections in Russia (2024)



Censorship in Russia - Context

- Blocking VPNs by protocol
- Unblocking and blocking Tor again (1 month ago, OONI)
- Blocking messaging apps in specific regions during unrest/protest

Tor Test



Censorship in Russia - Context

- **Events of February, 27th** - Telegram, YouTube were not working, in some regions internet and mobile connection were switched off for an hour.
- **March 1st** - “Roskomnadzor's Order No. 168”, allows censors to block any resource with censorship circumvention info

Censorship in Russia affects other countries

- Roskomnadzor “shares” methods with Belarus censors.
- Russian-speaking forum deleted anti-censorship used but users from other post-soviet countries
- Telegram failures in Kazakhstan during the events of February, 27th

Call for bridge operators & volunteers

- All pluggable transports are working in Russia at the moment (Obfs4, WebTunnel, Snowflake...)
- We need more bridges one week before the election day (March 17th).
- Avoid overcrowded providers and popular in Russia (Roskomnadzor also knows about them): **Hetzner**, AWS, Digital Ocean...
- Find good providers:

<https://community.torproject.org/relay/community-resources/good-bad-isps/>

Tor obfs4, webTunnel and snowflake guides

- Tor Bridge guides: obfs4:

<https://community.torproject.org/relay/setup/bridge/>

WebTunnel:

<https://community.torproject.org/relay/setup/webtunnel/>

- Snowflake:

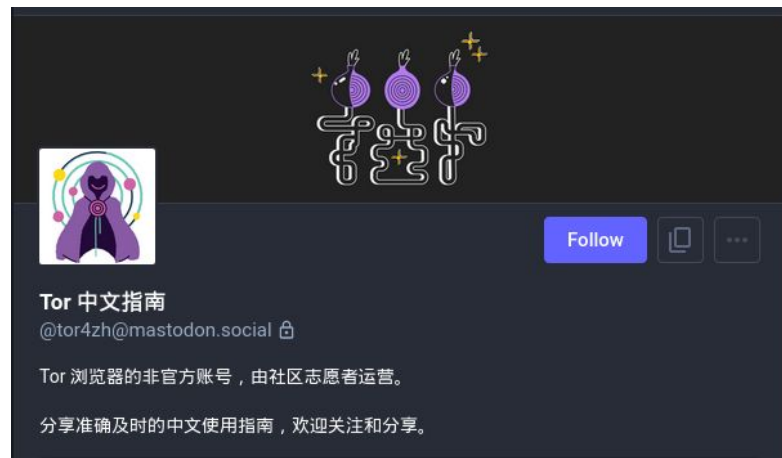
<https://community.torproject.org/relay/setup/snowflake/>

- Script made by Emerald Onion to manage obfs4 bridges:

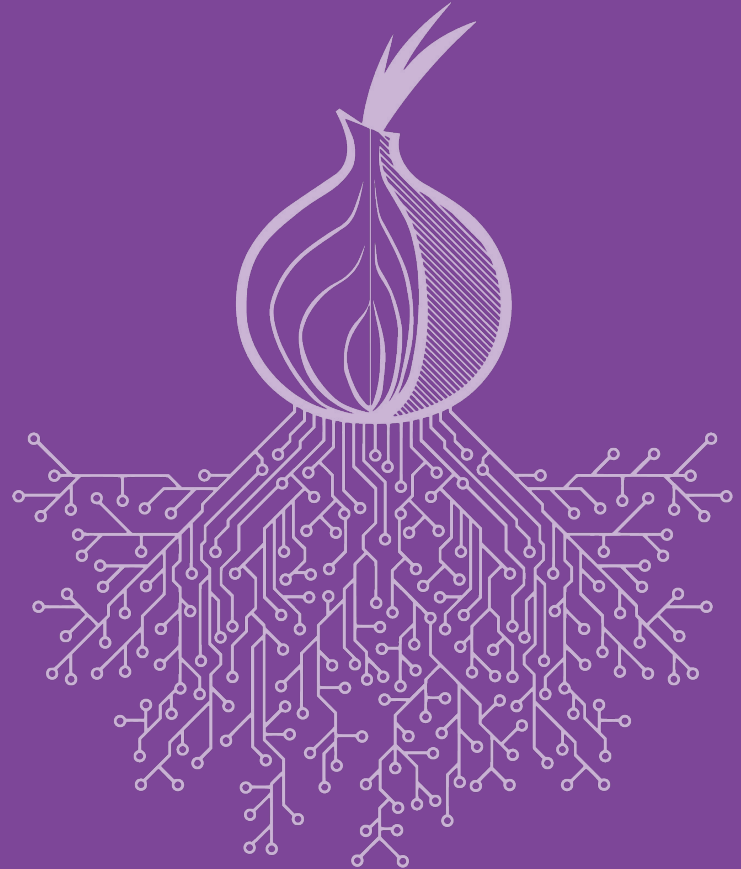
<https://github.com/emeraldonion/bridge-management>

China

- **Two Sessions** is happening this week: March 4th - 5th, conclusion: March 11th.
- Ongoing issue with **Fastly** domain fronting may affect Snowflake users in China (and in other countries too). More about that on Tor Forum.
- New Mastodon account (in ZH): <https://mastodon.social/@tor4zh>



Questions



Thank You!

