

Radical Technology Collective

Asymmetric Warfare Against the
Surveillance State



Asymmetric Warfare



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Asymmetric warfare

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Asymmetric warfare is *war* between **belligerents** whose relative military power differs significantly, or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly.

"Asymmetric warfare" can describe a conflict in which the resources of two belligerents differ in essence and in the struggle, interact and attempt to exploit each other's characteristic weaknesses. Such struggles often involve strategies and tactics of **unconventional warfare**, the "weaker" combatants attempting to use strategy to offset deficiencies in quantity or quality.^[1] Such strategies may not necessarily be militarized.^[2] This is in contrast to *symmetric warfare*, where two powers have similar military power and resources and rely on tactics that are similar overall, differing only in details and execution.

- Our idea of Asymmetric Warfare:
Expend less cost for more damage

The Surveillance State - Past



- Middleborough Talking CCTV Pilot Program, 2007

The Surveillance State - Future

- Police forces all over the UK will be manned aircraft from a national fleet, according to Home Office plans. Last month it was revealed that modified military aircraft drones will carry out surveillance on everyone from protesters and antisocial motorists to fly-tippers, and will be in place in time for the 2012 Olympics.

- <http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2010-02/>

On Software Freedom

- Free Software is a matter of liberty, not price.
- Free Software provides the user certain essential freedoms:
 - Freedom to use
 - Freedom to study/modify
 - Freedom to share
- Free Software is both more secure, and more compatible with anarchist ideals.

Talk Outline

- Data at Rest
- Data in Motion
- Conclusion: Standing Orders for Asymmetric Warfighters



Securing Data at Rest



Password Security

- Passwords are human
- Good Passwords:
 - Are phrases
 - Have a wide *character set*
- Tips for remembering Passphrases
 - Quotes
 - Replace letters with upper-case letters, numbers, or punctuation
 - Password lists – secured by a “master password”

Secure Deletion

- Even after deleting a file, it still exists on your hard disk and can be recovered.

Implementing Secure Deletion

- Windows:
 - Sdelete (from Microsoft Sysinternals)
 - Eraser Portable (from PortableApples)
- Apple:
 - Finder > Secure Empty Trash
- GNU/Linux
 - THC's **srm**
 - GNU **shred**
 - **wipe**

Backups

- Should be off-site (not on the same hard drive) and encrypted
- You should back up anything you would want after getting raided/struck by lightning

Implementing Backups

- Microsoft Windows:
 - Built-in backup tool into encrypted store
 - Amanda
- Apple OS X:
 - Built-in backup tool into encrypted store
 - Amanda
- GNU/Linux:
 - **duplicity** and Deja-Dup

Distributed Data Stores

- Like backing up to the Internet!
- If there's something that CAN'T be deleted, the best way to back it up is to share it with everyone.
- If it's private, you can encrypt it and distribute the key later.

Implementing Distributed Data Stores

- BitTorrent (deluge-torrent.org)
- Freenet (freenetproject.org)
- Just sharing files ("sneakernet")

Encryption

- File encryption
- Directory encryption
- Full/Whole Disk Encryption

File Encryption

- Microsoft Windows:
 - Toucan (portableapps.com/apps)
- Apple OS X:
 - ???
- GNU/Linux
 - GNU Privacy Guard
- All Platforms:
 - Truecrypt (truecrypt.org)
 - 7zip

Directory Encryption

- Microsoft Windows:
 - Filesystem Encryption (right-click directory>properties and check "encrypt")
- Apple OS X:
 - Apple FileVault
- GNU/Linux
 - encfs
 - Ecryptfs (built into Ubuntu)
- Truecrypt

Whole Disk Encryption

- GNU/Linux
 - Installer option in Ubuntu (select "encrypted LVM")
- Apple OS X:
 - ???
- Microsoft Windows
 - Truecrypt
 - BitLocker (non-free)



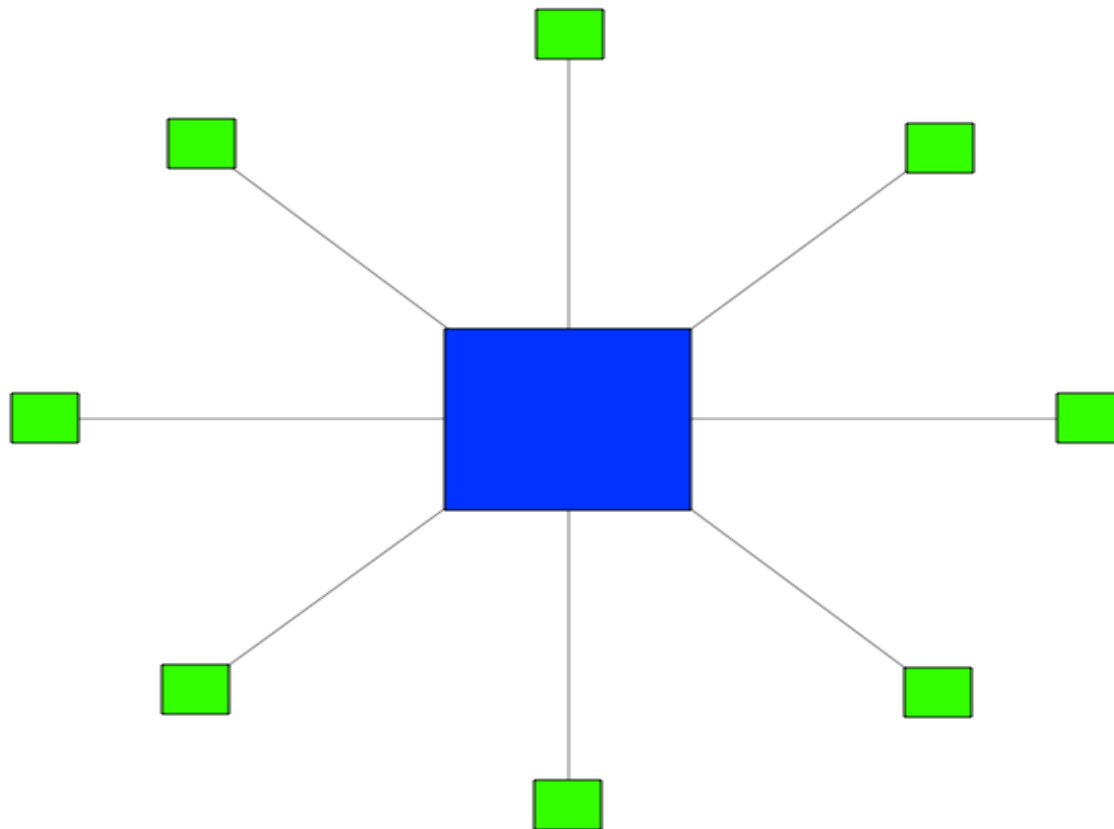
Securing Data in Motion



Data in Motion

- Communications
 - Email
 - Instant Messaging
- Transmitted Data
 - Web browsing

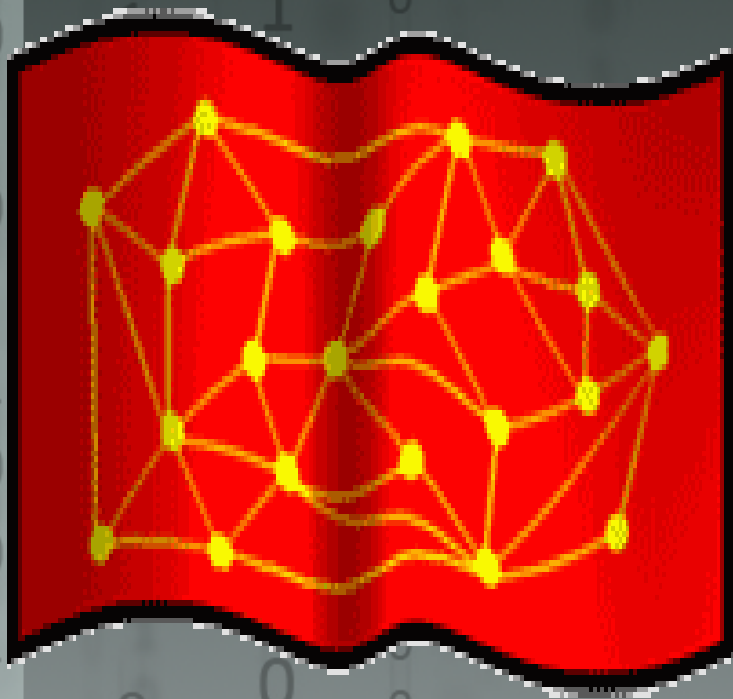
Service Providers



Friendly Service Providers

- Riseup Collective (riseup.net)
- Activix (activix.org)
- Various "hacker-friendly"/"warez-friendly" offshore hosts
- You!

You are the friendliest service provider of all



- We must work towards an Internet where communications is not mediated by "service providers", but is direct
- This makes us autonomous
- autonomo.us

Data in Motion

- What you're talking ABOUT
- Who you're talking TO

What you're talking about

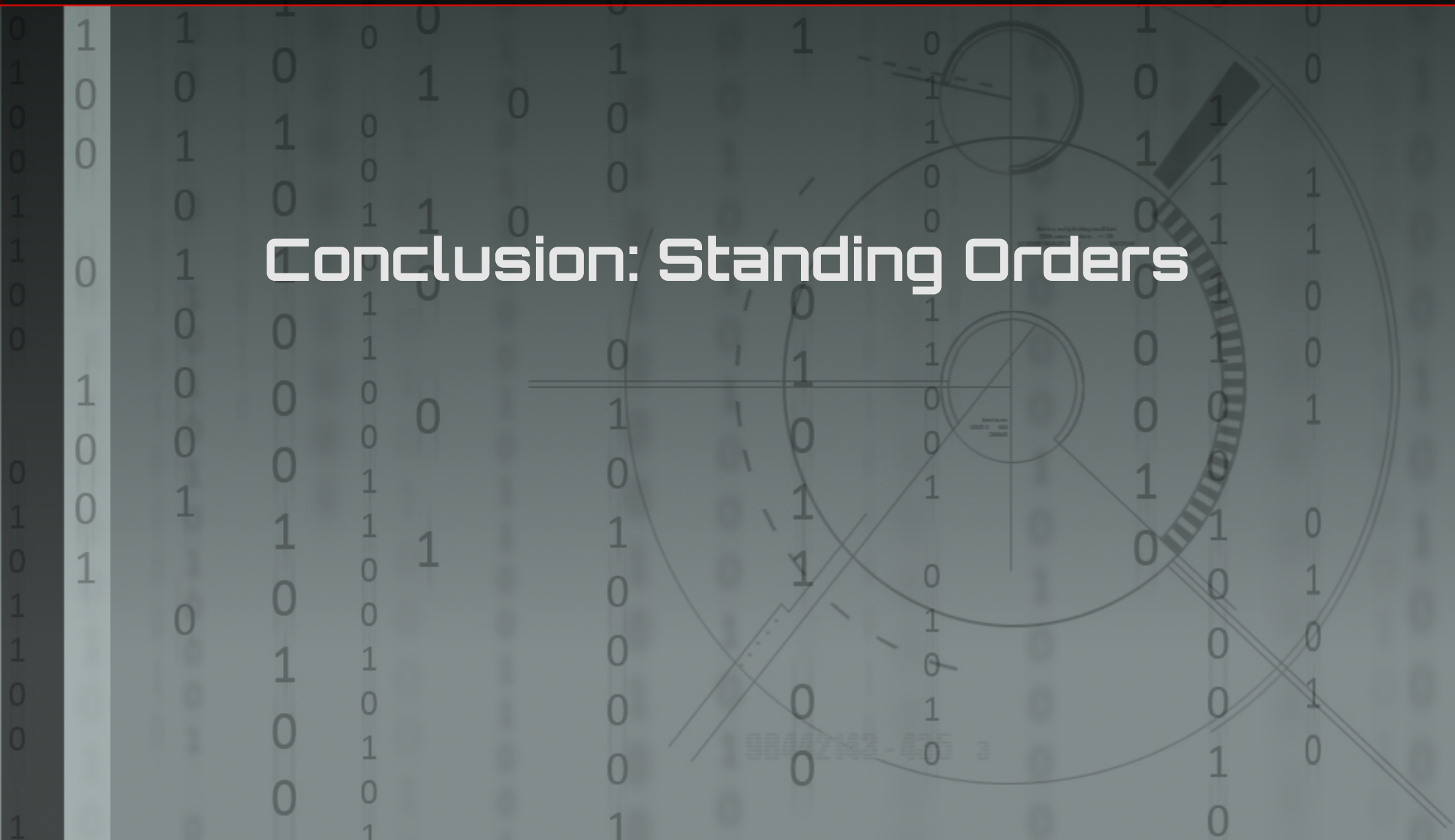
- Encryption Systems
 - Web - HTTPS
 - "httpseverywhere" add-on from EFF for Firefox
 - IM - OTR
 - Adium for OS X
 - Pidgin and Pidgin-OTR for GNU/Linux and Windows
 - Email - OpenPGP
 - Thunderbird + Enigmail + GNU Privacy Guard

Who you're talking to

- General Purpose
 - Tor – Anonymizing network overlay
- Email
 - Mixminion/Mixmaster
 - perfectprivacy.de

On Handles

- Detective work is what the cops are best at
- Use handles not connected with you at all
- Randomly generated names are better



Conclusion: Standing Orders

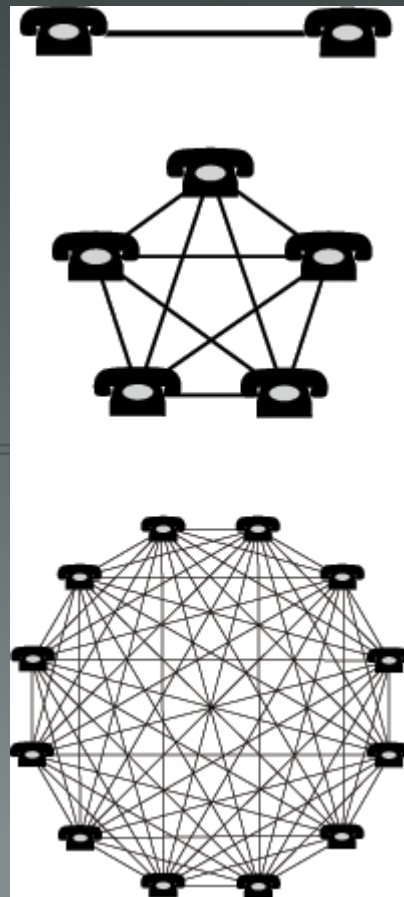
The background features a dark grey field with faint, repeating binary code (0s and 1s) in a grid pattern. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams, including a circular gauge with a needle and a scale, and various geometric lines and circles, suggesting a complex system or network architecture.

Standing Order #1: Default Deny

The background features a dark grey field with faint, repeating binary code (0s and 1s) in a light grey color. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams, including a circular gauge with a needle, a crosshair, and various geometric lines and circles, suggesting a precision or engineering theme.

**Standing Order #2:
Some is better than none**

Standing Order #3: the Network Effect



Get In Touch

- rtc@riseup.net
- <https://we.riseup.net/radtechcol>
- <http://groups.fsf.org/wiki/Group:RTC>
- **apt-get install anarchism**