

DOTS
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Use Cases for DDoS Open Threat Signaling (DOTS) Telemetry
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Abstract

Denial-of-service Open Threat Signaling (DOTS) Telemetry enriches the base DOTS protocols to assist the mitigator in using efficient ~~DDoS-attack-mitigation~~ **DDoS attack mitigation** techniques in a network. This document presents sample use cases for DOTS ~~Telemetry~~ **Telemetry**. **It discusses in particular** what components are deployed in the network, how they cooperate, and what information is exchanged to effectively use these techniques.

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1. Introduction

Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, such as volumetric attacks and resource-consumption attacks, are critical threats to be handled by service providers. When such DDoS attacks occur, service providers have to mitigate them immediately to protect or recover

their services.

Therefore, for service providers to immediately protect their network services from DDoS attacks, DDoS mitigation needs to be highly automated. To that aim, multi-vendor components involved in DDoS attack detection and mitigation should cooperate and support standard interfaces.

DDoS Open Threat Signaling (DOTS) is a set of protocols for real-time signaling, threat-handling requests, and data filtering between the multi-vendor elements [RFC9132][RFC8783]. DOTS Telemetry enriches the DOTS protocols with various telemetry attributes allowing optimal DDoS attack mitigation [I-D.ietf-dots-telemetry]. This document presents sample use cases for DOTS Telemetry, which makes concrete overview and purpose described in [I-D.ietf-dots-telemetry]: what components are deployed in the network, how they cooperate, and what information is exchanged to effectively use attack-mitigation techniques.

2. Terminology

The readers should be familiar with the terms defined in [RFC8612] and [I-D.ietf-dots-telemetry].

In addition, this document uses the following terms:

Top-talker: A list of attack sources that are involved in an attack and which are generating an important part of the attack traffic.

Supervised Machine Learning: A machine-learning technique in which labeled data is used to train the algorithms (the input and output data are known).

Unsupervised Machine Learning: A machine learning technique in which unlabeled data is used to train the algorithms (the data has no historical labels).

3. Telemetry Use Cases

This section describes DOTS telemetry use cases that use attributes included in DOTS telemetry specifications [I-D.ietf-dots-telemetry].

3.1. Mitigation Resources Assignment

3.1.1. Mitigating Attack Flow of Top-talker Preferentially

~~Recent reported large DDoS attacks which exceeded 1 Tps.~~

Some transit providers have to mitigate such large-scale DDoS attacks using ~~DMSes~~

~~(DDoS DDoS Mitigation System) Systems (DMSes)~~ with limited resources, which is already deployed in their network. **For example, recent reported large DDoS attacks exceeded 1 Tps.**

The aim of this use case is to enable transit providers to use their DMS efficiently under volume-based DDoS attacks whose volume is more than the available capacity of the DMS. To enable this, the attack traffic of top talkers is redirected to the DMS preferentially by cooperation among forwarding nodes, flow collectors, and orchestrators.

Figure 1 gives an overview of this use case. Figure 2 provides an example of a DOTS telemetry message body that is used to signal ~~top-talkers~~ **top-talkers (2001:db8::2/128 and 2001:db8::3/128)**.

(Internet Transit Provider)

```

          +-----+          +-----+ e.g., SNMP
e.g., IPFIX +-----+| DOTS |          |<---
    --->| Flow      ||C<---S| Orchestrator | e.g., BGP Flowspec
        | collector |+          |         |<---> (Redirect)
          +-----+          +-----+

          +-----+
e.g., IPFIX +-----+| e.g., BGP Flowspec
    <---| Forwarding ||<--- (Redirect)
        | nodes      ||
        |             ||
[ Target ]<=====|=====DDoS Attack
[ or ]          | +=====[top talker]
[ Targets ]     | || +=====[top talker]
                +----|||----+
                  || ||
                  || ||
                
```

```

        |// |//
+-----x--x-----+
| DDoS      | e.g., SNMP
| mitigation |<---
| system    |
+-----+

```

* C is for DOTS client functionality
 * S is for DOTS server functionality

Figure 1: Mitigating DDoS Attack Flow of ~~Top-talker~~ **Top-talkers** Preferentially

```

{
  "ietf-dots-telemetry:telemetry": {
    "pre-or-ongoing-mitigation": [
      {
        "target": {
          "target-prefix": [
            "2001:db8::1/128"
          ]
        },
        "total-attack-traffic-protocol": [
          {
            "protocol": 17,
            "unit": "megabit-ps",
            "mid-percentile-g": "900"
          }
        ],
        "attack-detail": [
          {
            "vendor-id": 32473,
            "attack-id": 77,
            "start-time": "1645057211",
            "attack-severity": "high",
            "top-talker": {
              "talker": [
                {
                  "source-prefix": "2001:db8::2/128",
                  "total-attack-traffic": [
                    {
                      "unit": "megabit-ps",
                      "mid-percentile-g": "100"
                    }
                  ]
                },
                {
                  "source-prefix": "2001:db8::3/128",
                  "total-attack-traffic": [
                    {
                      "unit": "megabit-ps",
                      "mid-percentile-g": "90"
                    }
                  ]
                }
              ]
            }
          ]
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}

```

Figure 2: **An** Example of Message Body to Signal Top-Talkers

~~In this use case, the~~

The forwarding nodes send ~~statics-of~~ traffic **flow statistics** to the flow collectors using, e.g., IPFIX [RFC7011]. When DDoS attacks occur, the flow collectors identifies the attack traffic and send information of the top-talkers to the orchestrator using the "target-prefix" and ~~"top-talkers"~~ **"top-talkers"** DOTS telemetry attributes. The orchestrator, then, checks the available capacity of the DMSes by using a network management protocol, such as SNMP [RFC3413]. After that, the orchestrator orders the forwarding nodes to redirect as much of the top talker's traffic to the DMS as possible by dissemination of ~~flow-specification-rules~~ **Flow Specifications** relying upon tools, such as BGP Flowspec [RFC8955].

~~In this use case, the~~

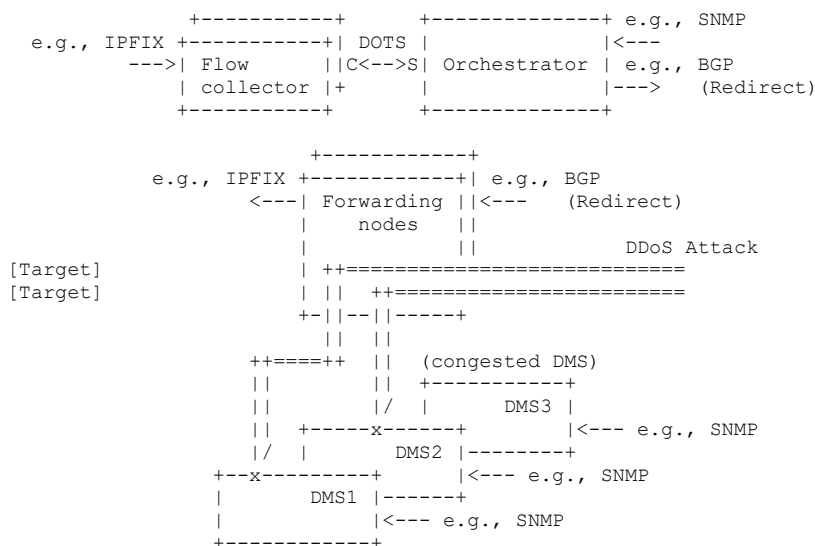
The flow collector implements a DOTS client while the orchestrator implements a DOTS server.

3.1.2. Optimal DMS Selection for Mitigation

Transit providers can deploy their DMSes in clusters. Then, they can select the DMS to be used to mitigate a DDoS attack under attack time.

The aim of this use case is to enable transit providers to select an optimal DMS for mitigation based on the volume of the attack traffic and the capacity of a DMS. Figure 3 gives an overview of this use case. Figure 4 provides an example of a DOTS telemetry message body that is used to signal various attack traffic percentiles.

(Internet Transit Provider)



* C is for DOTS client functionality
 * S is for DOTS client functionality

Figure 3: Optimal DMS Selection for Mitigation

```

{
  "ietf-dots-telemetry:telemetry": {
    "pre-or-ongoing-mitigation": [
      {
        "target": {
          "target-prefix": [
            "2001:db8::1/128"
          ]
        },
        "total-attack-traffic": [
          {
            "unit": "megabit-ps",
            "low-percentile-g": "600",
            "mid-percentile-g": "800",
            "high-percentile-g": "1000",
            "peak-g": "1100",
            "current-g": "700"
          }
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}
    
```

Figure 4: Example of Message Body with Total Attack Traffic

~~In this use case, the~~

The forwarding nodes send ~~statics of~~ traffic flow statistics to the flow collectors using, e.g., ~~IPFIX [RFC7011]~~ IPFIX. When DDoS attacks occur, the flow collectors identify the attack traffic and send information of the attack traffic volume to the orchestrator using the "target-prefix" and "total-attack-traffic" DOTS telemetry attributes. The orchestrator, then, checks the available capacity of the DMSes using a network management protocol, such as ~~SNMP [RFC3413]~~ SNMP. After that, the orchestrator selects an optimal DMS to which each attack traffic should be redirected. For example, ~~the a simple algorithm of~~ the DMS selection algorithm is to choose a DMS whose available capacity is greater than the "peak-g". "peak-g" attribute indicated in the DOTS telemetry message. The orchestrator then orders the appropriate forwarding nodes to redirect the attack


```
    ]
  }
}
```

Figure 6: An Example of Message Body with Total Attack Traffic and Total Traffic

~~In this use case, the~~

The forwarding nodes send ~~status-of~~ traffic ~~flow statistics~~ to the flow collectors using, e.g., ~~IPFIX [RFC7011]~~. ~~IPFIX~~. When DDoS attacks occur, the flow collectors identify attack traffic and send information of the attack traffic volume to the orchestrator using a "target-prefix" and ~~"total-attack-traffic"~~ ~~"total-attack-traffic"~~ DOTS telemetry attributes. On the other hands, ~~the~~ ~~underlying~~ forwarding nodes send volume of the total traffic passing the node to the orchestrator using "total-traffic" telemetry attributes. The orchestrator then selects an optimal path to which each attack-traffic flow should be redirected. For example, the simple algorithm of the selection is to choose a path whose available capacity is greater than the ~~"peak-g"~~. ~~"peak-g"~~ ~~attribute that was indicated in~~ a DOTS telemetry message. After that, the orchestrator orders the appropriate forwarding nodes to redirect the attack traffic to the optimal DMS by dissemination of ~~flow-specification-~~ ~~rules~~ Flow Specifications relying upon tools, such as BGP ~~Flowspec [RFC8955]~~. ~~Flowspec~~.

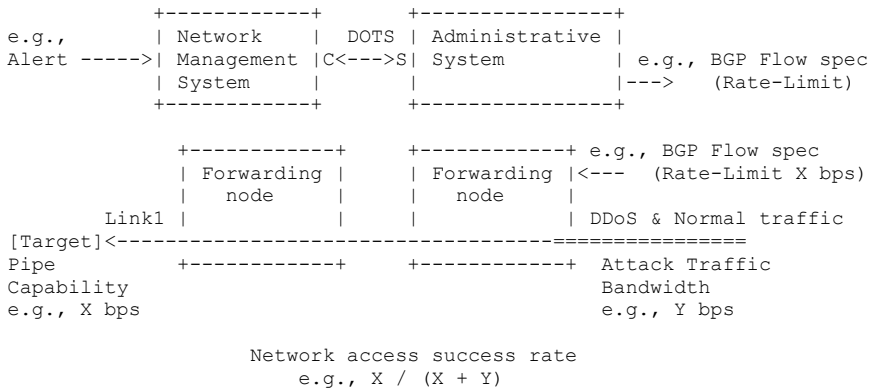
The detailed path selection algorithm is out of the scope of this document.

3.1.4. Short but Extreme Volumetric Attack Mitigation

Short, but extreme volumetric attacks, such as pulse wave DDoS attacks, are threats to internet transit provider networks. The feature of the attack is that start from zero and go to maximum values in a very short time span, then go back to zero, and back to maximum, repeating in continuous cycles at short intervals. It is difficult for them to mitigate an attack by DMS by redirecting attack flows because it may cause route flapping in the network. The practical way to mitigate short but extreme volumetric attacks is to offload mitigation actions to a forwarding node.

The aim of this use case is to enable transit providers to mitigate short but extreme volumetric attacks. Furthermore, the aim is to estimate the network-access success rate based on the bandwidth of attack traffic. Figure 7 gives an overview of this use case. Figure 8 provides an example of a DOTS telemetry message body that is used to signal total pipe capacity. Figure 9 provides an example of a DOTS telemetry message body that is used to signal various attack traffic percentiles and total traffic percentiles.

(Internet Transit Provider)



* C is for DOTS client functionality
* S is for DOTS client functionality

Figure 7: Short but Extreme Volumetric Attack Mitigation

```
{
  "ietf-dots-telemetry:telemetry-setup": {
    "telemetry": [
      {
        "total-pipe-capacity": [
          {
            "link-id": "link1",
            "capacity": "1000",
            "unit": "megabit-ps"
          }
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}
```



```

        "current-g": "700"
      }
    ],
    "total-attack-traffic-protocol": [
      {
        "protocol": 17,
        "unit": "megabit-ps",
        "mid-percentile-g": "500"
      },
      {
        "protocol": 15,
        "unit": "megabit-ps",
        "mid-percentile-g": "200"
      }
    ],
    "total-attack-connection": [
      {
        "mid-percentile-l": [
          {
            "protocol": 15,
            "connection": 200
          }
        ],
        "high-percentile-l": [
          {
            "protocol": 17,
            "connection": 300
          }
        ]
      }
    ],
    "attack-detail": [
      {
        "vendor-id": 32473,
        "attack-id": 77,
        "start-time": "1641169211",
        "attack-severity": "high"
      },
      {
        "vendor-id": 32473,
        "attack-id": 92,
        "start-time": "1641172811", "1641172809",
        "attack-severity": "high"
      }
    ]
  ]
}

```

Figure 12: Example of Message Body with Total Attack Traffic, Total Attack Traffic Protocol, Total Attack Connection and Attack Type
~~In this use case, attack~~

Attack mappings are shared using the DOTS data channel in ~~advance~~, **advance**

(Section 8.1.6 of [I-D.ietf-dots-telemetry]). The forwarding nodes send ~~statics of~~ traffic **flow statistics** to the flow collectors using, e.g., ~~IPFIX [RFC7011]~~, **IPFIX**.

When DDoS attacks occur, the flow collectors identify attack traffic and send attack type information to the orchestrator the using

"vendor-id" and "attack-id" telemetry attributes. The ~~orchestrator then~~ **orchestrator**,

then, resolves abused port **numbers** and orders **relevant** forwarding nodes to block the **amp amplification** attack traffic flow by dissemination of ~~flow-specification-rules-relying~~

~~upon tools, such as BGP Flowspec Flow Specifications, e.g. [RFC8955]. On the other hand, Also~~, the orchestrator orders **relevant** forwarding nodes to redirect other traffic than the **amp amplification** attack traffic **by using** a routing ~~proteced~~ **protocol**, such as ~~BGP [RFC4271]~~.

~~In this use case, the BGP.~~

The flow collector implements a DOTS client while the orchestrator implements a DOTS server.

3.2. Detailed DDoS Mitigation Report

It is possible for the transit provider to add value to the DDoS mitigation service by reporting on-going and detailed DDoS countermeasure status to the enterprise network. In addition, it is possible for the transit provider to know whether the DDoS countermeasure is effective or not by receiving reports from the enterprise network.

The aim of this use case is to share the information about on-going


```

    }
  ]
}

```

Figure 15: An Example of Message Body with Total Traffic, Total Attack Traffic ~~Protect~~ Protocol, and Attack Detail

~~In this use case, the~~

The network management system in the enterprise network reports limits of incoming traffic volume from the transit provider to the orchestrator in the transit provider in advance. It is reported by using "total-pipe-capacity" telemetry attribute in DOTS telemetry setup.

When DDoS attacks occur, DDoS ~~Orchestration mitigation orchestration~~ [RFC8903] is carried out in the transit provider. Then, the DDoS mitigation systems reports the status of DDoS ~~counter-measure countermeasures~~ to the orchestrator sending ~~"attack-~~ ~~detail"~~ "attack-detail" telemetry attributes. After that, the orchestrator integrates the reports from the DDoS mitigation system, while removing duplicate contents, and send it to a network administrator using DOTS telemetry periodically.

During the DDoS mitigation, the orchestrator in the transit provider retrieves link congestion status from the network ~~administrator manager~~ in the enterprise network using "total-traffic" telemetry attributes. Then, the orchestrator checks whether the DDoS ~~countermeasure is countermeasures are~~ effective or not by comparing the "total-traffic" and the "total-pipe-capacity"-

~~In this use case, the~~ ~~pipe-capacity" attributes.~~

The DMS implements a DOTS server while the orchestrator ~~implements behaves as a~~ DOTS client and a server in the transit provider. In addition, the network administrator implements a DOTS client.

3.3. Tuning Mitigation Resources

3.3.1. Supervised Machine Learning of Flow Collector

DDoS detection based on tools, such as ~~IPFIX [RFC7011]~~, IPFIX, is a lighter weight method of detecting DDoS attacks than DMSes in internet transit provider networks. On the other hand, DDoS detection based on the DMSes is a more accurate method ~~of for~~ detecting attack traffic ~~of~~ ~~DDoS attacks~~ better than flow monitoring.

The aim of this use case is to increases flow collector's detection accuracy by carrying out supervised machine-learning techniques according to attack detail reported by the DMSes. To use such a technique, forwarding nodes, flow collector, and a DMS should cooperate. Figure 16 gives an overview of this use case. Figure 17 provides an example of a DOTS telemetry message body that is used to signal various total attack traffic percentiles and attack detail.

```

          +-----+
          +-----+| DOTS
e.g., IPFIX | Flow      ||S<---
          --->| collector ||
          +-----+

          +-----+
e.g., IPFIX +-----+|
          <---| Forwarding ||
          |   nodes      ||          DDoS Attack
[ Target ] | +=====
          |  || +=====
          |  || || +=====
          +---||-|| ||-+
              || || ||
              || || ||
          DOTS +---X--X--X--+
          --->C| DDoS      |
              | mitigation |
              | system    |
          +-----+

* C is for DOTS client functionality
* S is for DOTS client functionality

```

Figure 16: Training Supervised Machine Learning of Flow ~~Collector~~ Collectors


```

          |/
DOTS +---X-----+
--->C| DDoS      |
      | mitigation|
      | system    |
      +-----+

```

* C is for DOTS client functionality
* S is for DOTS client functionality

Figure 18: Training Unsupervised Machine Learning of Flow ~~Collector~~ Collectors

```

{
  "ietf-dots-telemetry:telemetry-setup": {
    "telemetry": [
      {
        "baseline": [
          {
            "id": 1,
            "target-prefix": [
              "2001:db8:6401::1/128"
            ],
            "target-port-range": [
              {
                "lower-port": "53"
              }
            ],
            "target-protocol": [
              17
            ],
            "total-traffic-normal": [
              {
                "unit": "megabit-ps",
                "mid-percentile-g": "30",
                "mid-percentile-g": "50",
                "high-percentile-g": "60",
                "peak-g": "70"
              }
            ]
          }
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}

```

Figure 19: An Example of Message Body with Traffic Baseline

~~In this use case, the~~

The forwarding nodes carry out mirroring traffic destined IP address. The DMS then identifies "clean" traffic and reports the baseline attributes to the flow collector using DOTS telemetry.

The flow ~~collector then collector, then~~, carries out unsupervised machine learning to be able to carry out anomaly detection.

~~In this use case, the~~

The DMS implements a DOTS client while the flow collector implements a DOTS server.

4. Security Considerations

DOTS telemetry security considerations are discussed in Section 14 of [I-D.ietf-dots-telemetry]. ~~This document does not add new considerations.~~ These considerations apply for the communication interfaces where DOTS is used.

Some use cases involve controllers, orchestrators, and programmable interfaces. These interfaces can be misused by misbehaving nodes to further exacerbate a DDoS attacks. Section 5 of [RFC7149] discusses some generic security considerations to take into account in such contexts (e.g., reliable access control). Specific security measures depend on the actual mechanism used to control underlying forwarding nodes and other controlled elements. For example, Section 13 of [RFC8955] discusses security considerations that are relevant to BGP Flow Specifications. IPFIX-specific considerations are discussed in Section 11 of [RFC7011].

5. IANA Considerations

This document does not require any action from IANA.

6. Acknowledgement

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