# BGP Prefix Delegations: A Deep Dive

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# **Border Gateway Protocol**

De-facto standard for inter-domain routing



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- De-facto standard for inter-domain routing
- Prefix announcements



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- De-facto standard for inter-domain routing
- Prefix announcements 1.0.0/23 1.0.0/24 Traffic engineering **AS'** 30 **AS**<sup>20</sup> **AS 10**

# Routing Table Growth



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### **Prefix Delegations**



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# Agenda

- Tracking delegations
  - Delegation indentification
    - based on overlapping prefix pairs and origin AS
  - Delegation classification
    - based on AS path information
- Understanding delegations
  - AS size and business relations
    - CAIDA customer cone and AS business relationships
  - Data plane
    - CAIDA Ark traceroutes

# **Delegation Identification**

 Based on overlapping prefixes announced by two different ASes





 Based on AS path information



- Based on AS path information
- Agnostic to business relationships between delegator and delegatee

BGP announcements 2.0.0.0/16 ... delegator 2.0.0.0/24 ... delegator ... delegatee









#### BGP announcements 2.0.0.0/16 ... delegatee ... delegator 2.0.0.0/24 ... delegatee



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# BGP announcements2.0.0/16 ... delegatee ... delegator2.0.0/24 ... delegator ... delegatee









# Share of all delegations in 2016:

# **60% 10% 29% 1%**

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# Delegator vs. Delegatee Cdown Customer cone 0 N e egatee S 50 500 10000 100 10 delegator size

# Delegator vs. Delegatee

#### Customer cone



# Delegator vs. Delegatee

#### Customer cone



#### **Business relation:**



• For 80% of AS pairs: P2C



























# AS size: delegator vs delegatee:









# **Case Studies**

- AS7922 (Comcast, ISP)
  - delegates since 2009; in 2016: 3.5k delegations
  - stable growth
  - almost entirely to small ASes (cone size 1)
  - diverse US companies



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- AS7922 (Comcast, ISP)
  - delegates since 2009; in 2016: 3.5k delegations
  - stable growth
  - almost entirely to small ASes (cone size 1)
  - diverse US companies
- AS31377 (Akamai, CDN)
  - delegated from 2011-2014; up to 3.8k delegations
    - succeeded by AS35994; in 2016: 5.5k delegations!
  - irregular growth
  - to many large ASes incl. Tier-1 (cone size up to 10k)
  - world-wide

Cdown

Cup

# **Case Studies**

AS7922 (Comcast, ISP)
delegates since 2009; in 2016: 3.5k delegations

#### Observed types of delegations depend on the business model of the involved ASes.

- irregular growth

- to many Tier-1 ASes (cone size up to 10k)
- world-wide

Cdown

Cup

# **Delegation Classes Over Time**



### Effects on Path Selection



### Effects on Path Selection





20% of delegations have varying ingress

#### Effects on Path Selection



#### Effects on Path Selection





5% of delegations have varying ingress<sub>16</sub>

### Effects on Path Selection





57% of delegations have varying ingress



# Summary + Ongoing Work

- Prefix delegation classification and characterization
  - All kind of ASes involved
  - Delegations up and across AS level hierarchy
  - Type of delegation affects path selection
  - Historical evolution; growth will continue
- Comparison of deaggregation and delegation: IPv4 vs. IPv6
- Comparison of delegations in different regions (e.g., RIPE, ARIN)

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