

# Target Generation for IPv6 Hitlists

**Lion Steger**, Liming Kuang, Johannes Zirngibl  
Georg Carle, Oliver Gasser



Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

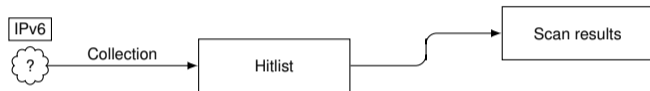
Chair of Network Architectures and Services  
School of Computation, Information, and Technology  
Technical University of Munich

## Motivation



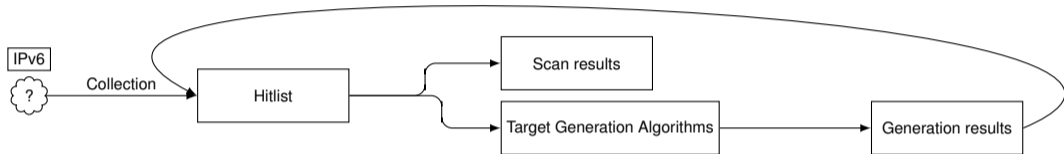
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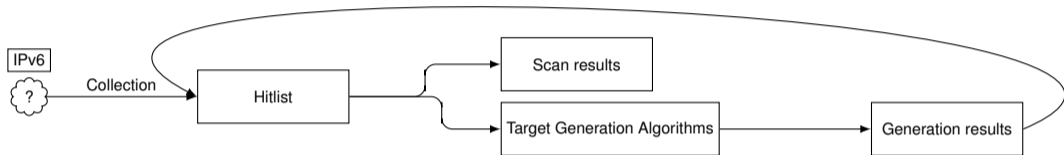
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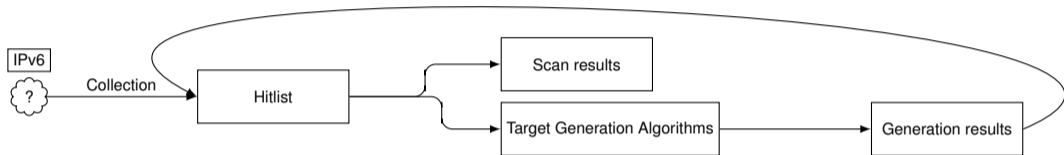
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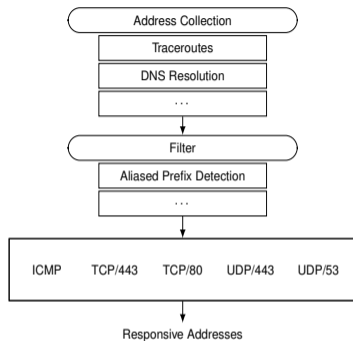
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- What output do they produce and how do we evaluate it?

## The IPv6 Hitlist service

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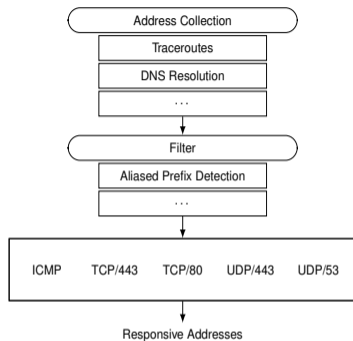
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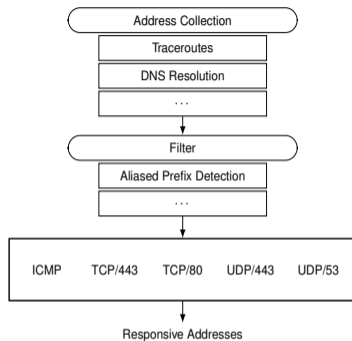
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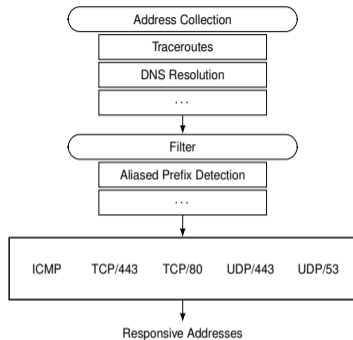
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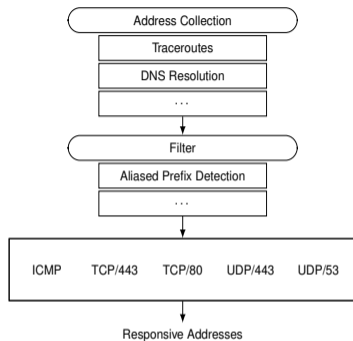
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  - Generate new addresses from Hitlist addresses.
  - Used to increase coverage of the IPv6 address space by 168%.



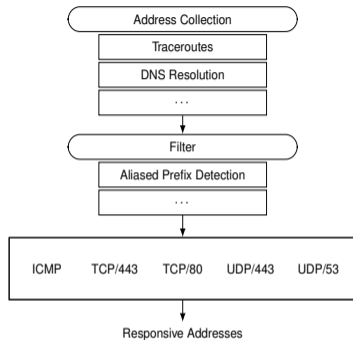
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- More TGAs and inputs were evaluated in 2023.<sup>3</sup>



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## Category distribution

- Addresses from different network types as inputs.

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  - Community-maintained database.
  - Offers categorization on AS-level.
  - Includes 11 categories, we chose 5.
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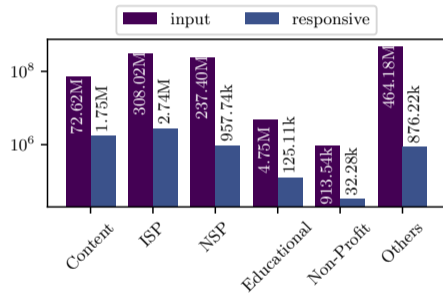
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- Most frequent categories are ISP, CDN and NSP.



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## Category Behavior

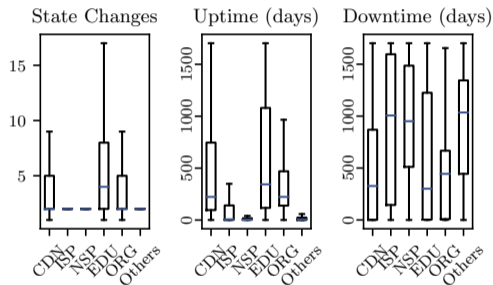
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### Difference in **temporal stability**:

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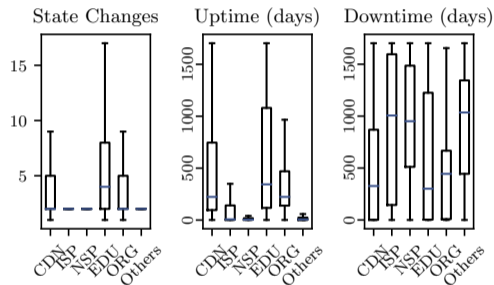


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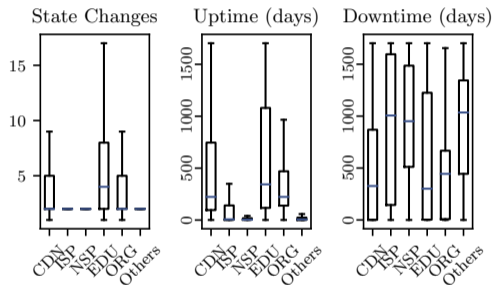


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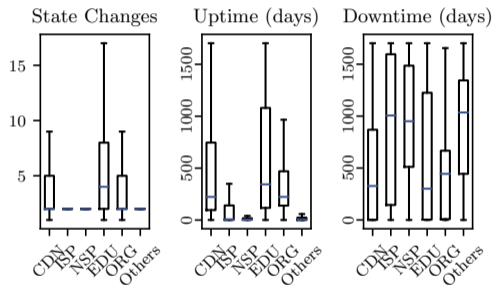


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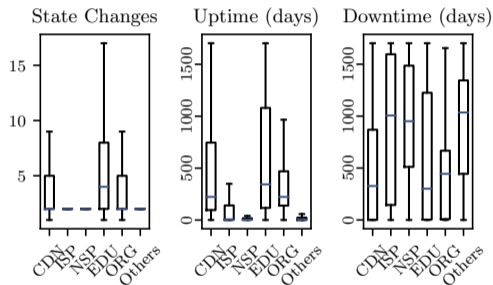


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- Should be considered in longitudinal measurements.



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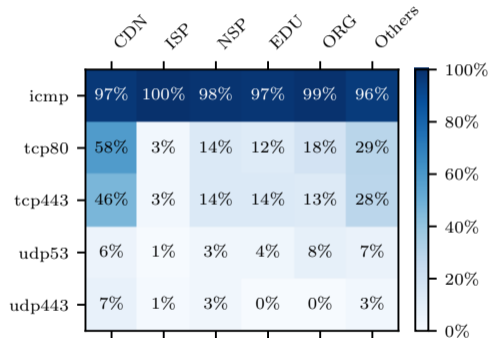
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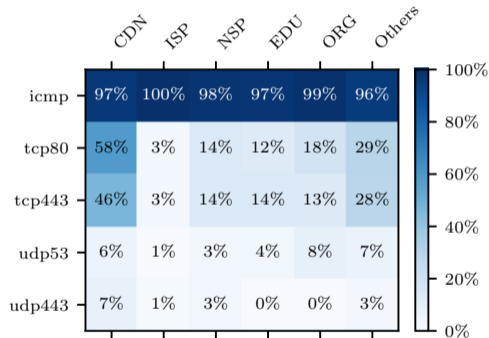


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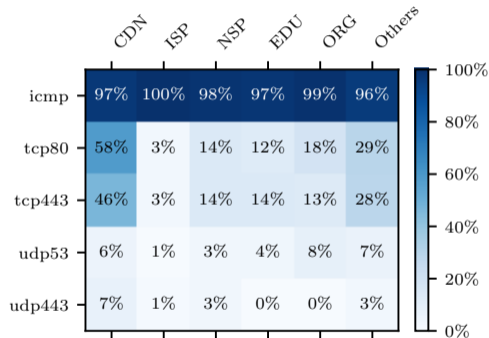


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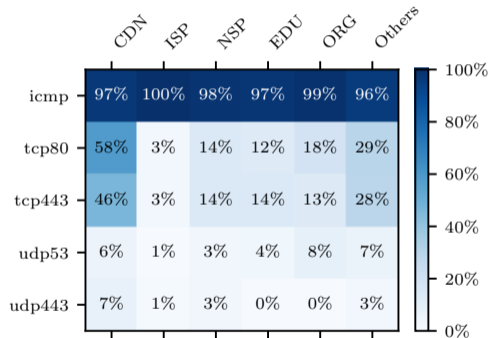


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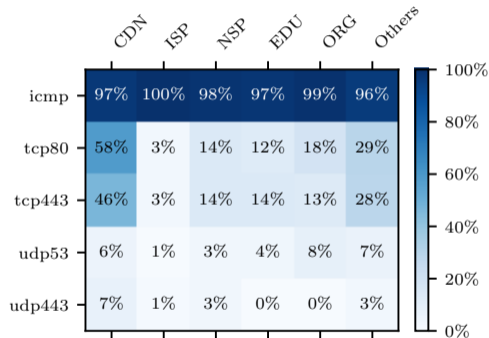


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- Port responses are important depending on use case.



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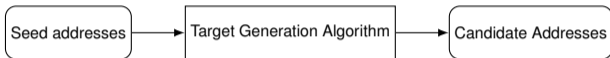
Seed addresses

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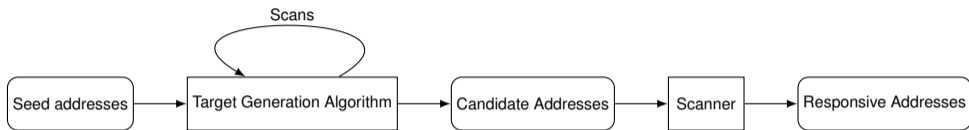


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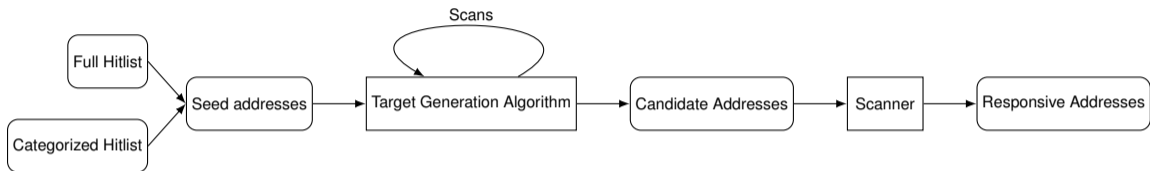
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- Some algorithms implement custom scanning to dynamically adapt generation.
- We use the full Hitlist ([default input](#)) as well as the categorized Hitlist ([specific input](#)).

# Target Generation

## Target Generation Algorithms

- So far we evaluated 10 open source algorithms from peer-reviewed publications.

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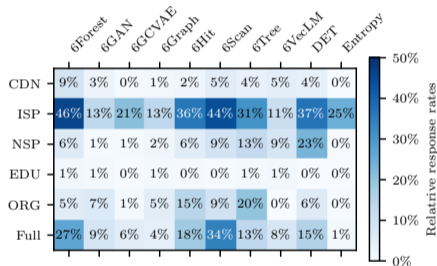
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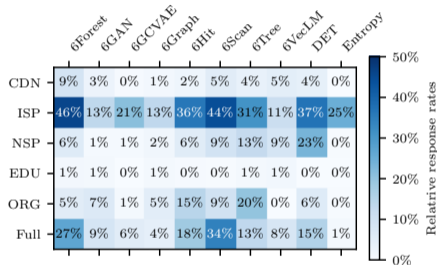
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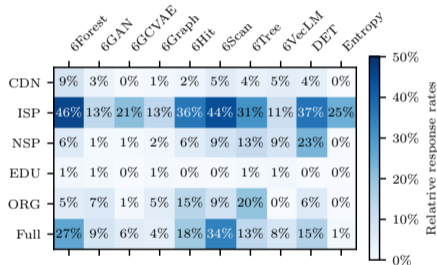
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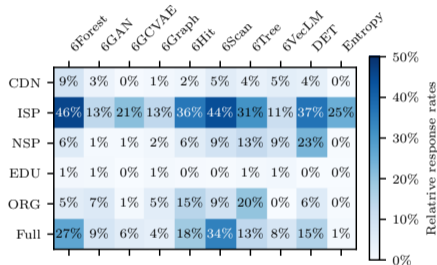
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- ISP input yields more responsive addresses.



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## Future Work: More Target Generation Algorithms

- The TGA field grew considerably in the last two years.

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- Increasing focus on [seedless prefixes](#).
  - Address pattern [transfer](#) from seeded to unseeded pfxs.
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<https://ipv6hitlist.github.io>

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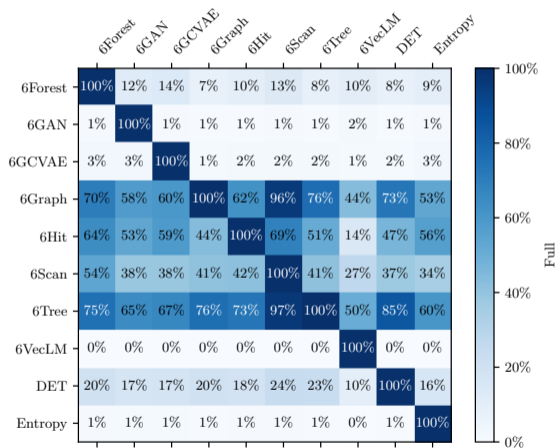
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- TGAs by default are biased towards ISP addresses.
  - Default input leads to ICMP-biased responsiveness.
  - Response rates vary depending on input.  
→ **Filtering input can avoid biased candidate addresses.**



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# Backup

## Cross-algorithm responsiveness



# Backup

## Generation results

	6Graph		6Scan		6VecLM		...
	cand.	resp.	cand.	resp.	cand.	resp.	...
ISP	25M	3M	8M	4M	18k	2k	...
EDU	2M	22k	10M	38k	84k	1k	...
Non-Profit	296k	15k	10M	946k	0	0	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Full	106M	5M	6M	2M	49k	4k	...

- Size of candidates (cand.) varies greatly from 18 k (or zero for 6VecLM) to 106 M.
- Size of candidate set depends on algorithm as well as input.

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