

# Data Leak Detection As a Service



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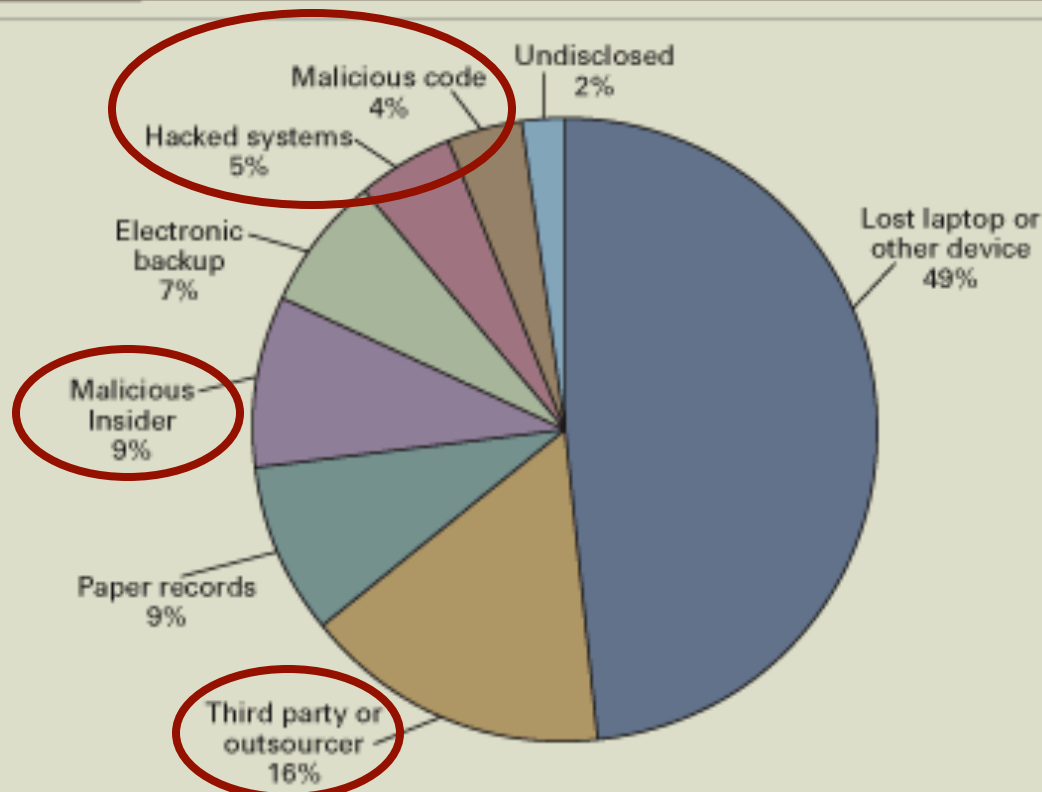
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# Data breach, data leak, data exfiltration, data exportation

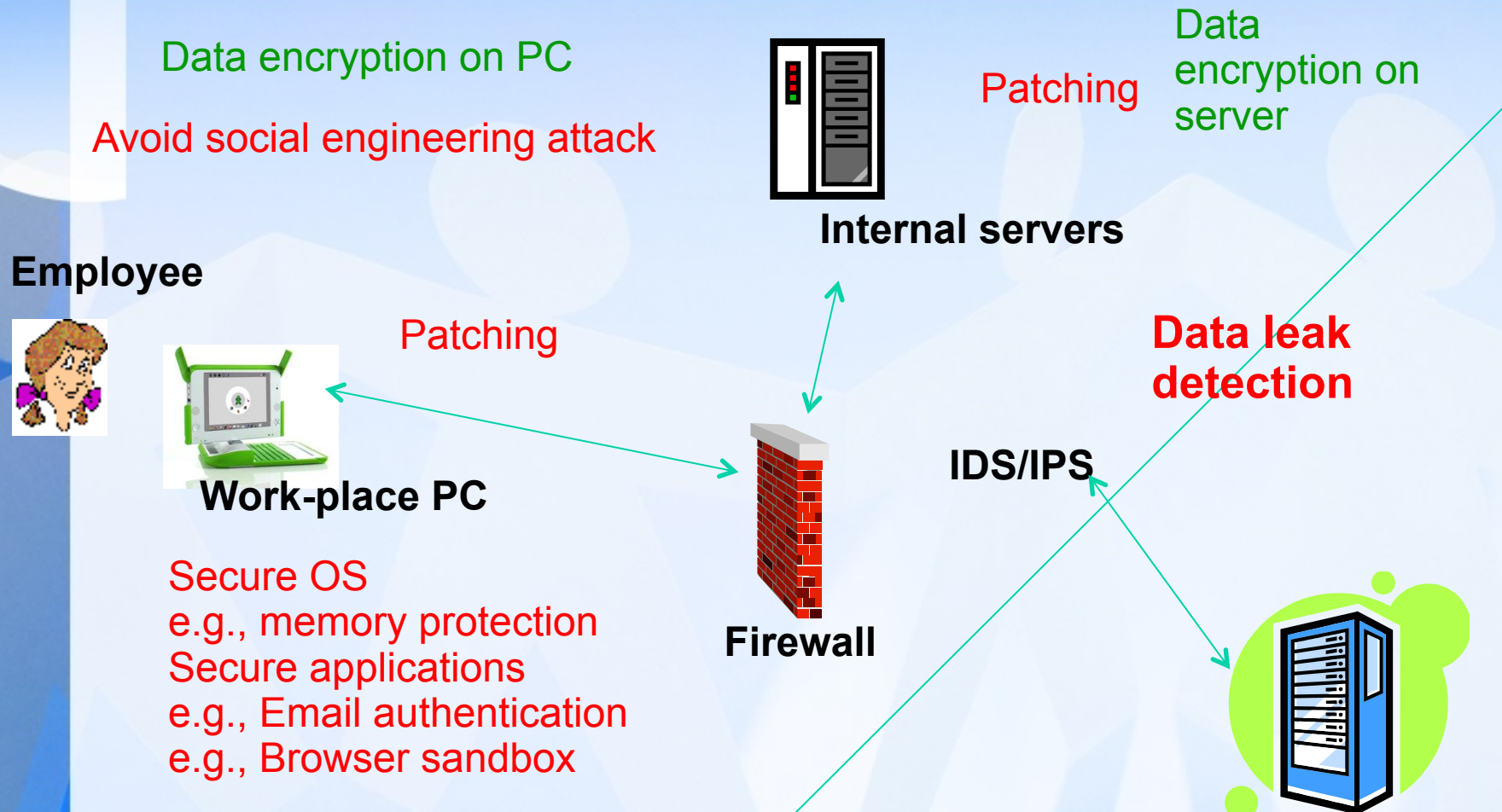


## Primary Cause of a Data Breach



Note: Total exceeds 100 percent due to rounding.  
Source: Ponemon Institute

# Multiple points where you may stop some data leak



How to minimize the exposure of sensitive data during inspection?

Our solution: inspection based on special irreversible digests

# Data Loss Prevention in the Cloud



**Problem:** Data leaked through human errors, malware, insiders

e.g., Hydraq malware, Wikileaks

**Solution:**



**Challenge:** To preserve data privacy

Issues: providers' trustworthiness, cloud's security

➡ data owner does not reveal sensitive data to providers

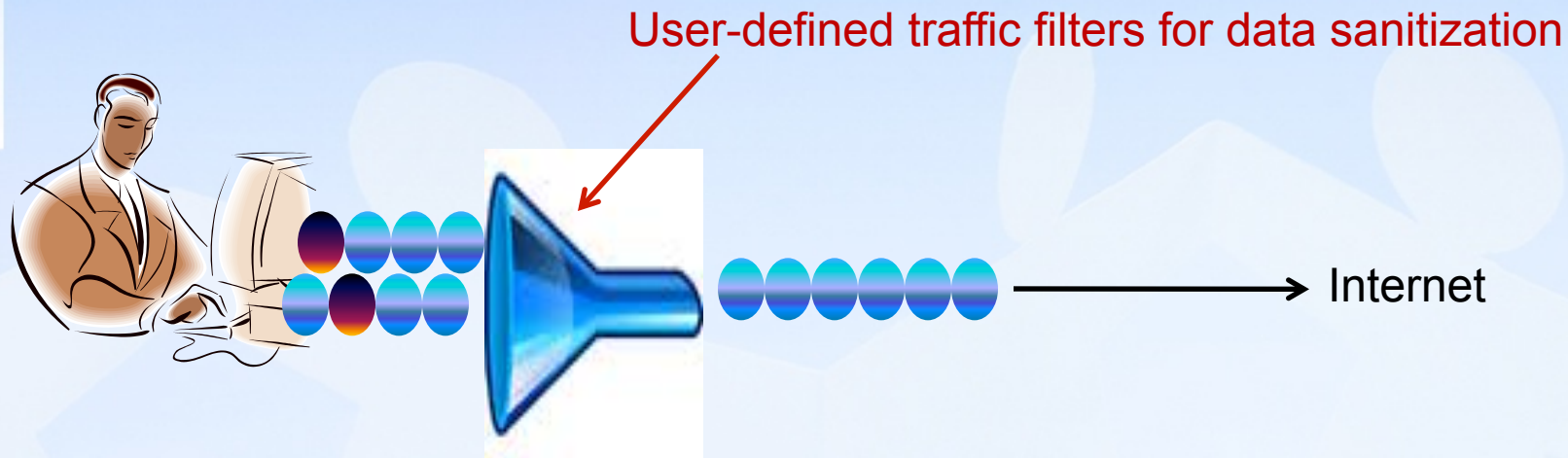
**Our algorithm:** Providers inspect traffic for patterns, without knowing what sensitive data is.



# Other DLP deployment scenarios and data exposure



- Personal firewall on PC

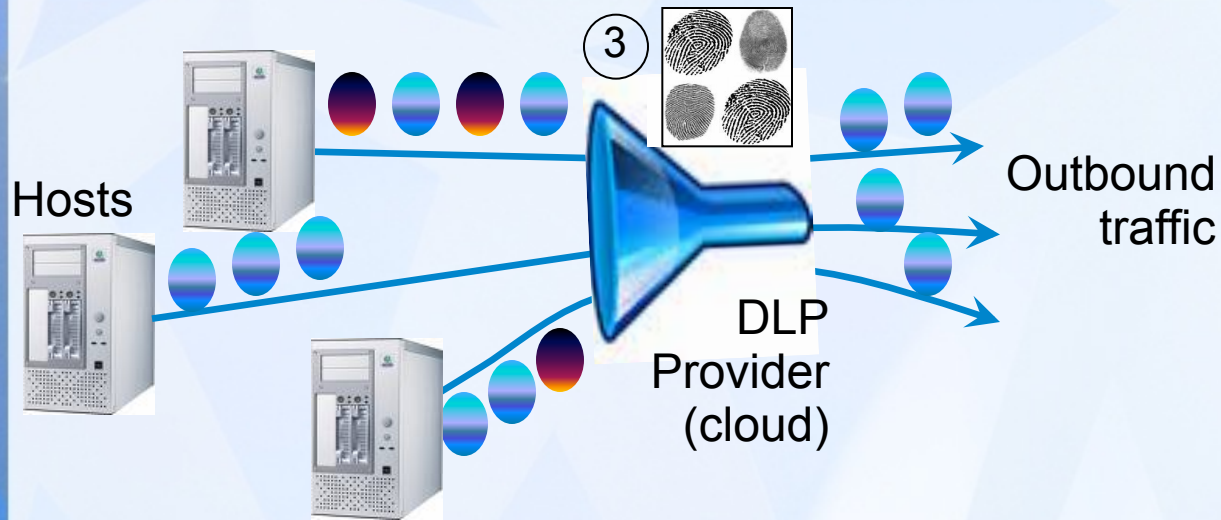
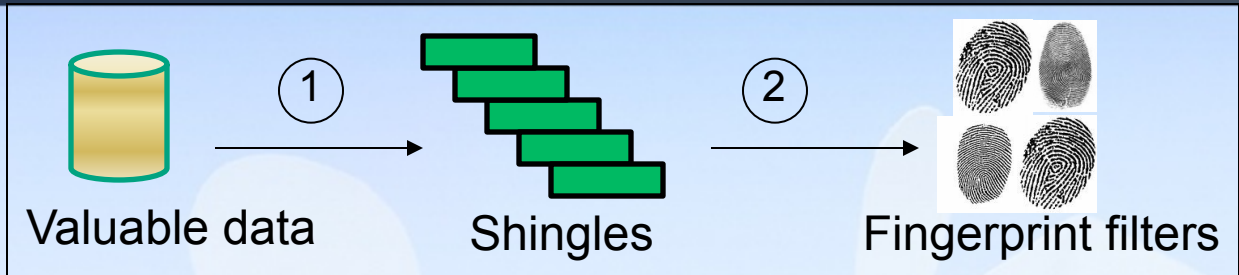


- Local area networks of organizations  
To deploy DLP filter at gateway routers

Data may be of any size or type


**Need to avoid exposing sensitive data at filters**

# Overview of Our Architecture



Types of players:

- 1. Data owner
- 2. User
- 3. DLP provider (**honest-but-curious**)

 Sensitive data

Shingles are a sequence of fixed-size contiguous words (q-gram);  
Mozilla is aware of a critical vulnerability

Mozilla is  
ozilla is a  
zilla is aw  
illa is awa



## **Our Security/Privacy Goal:**

Data owner delegates DLP provider to detect data leak caused by malicious attackers (i.e., malware infecting hosts or insider), without revealing sensitive data to provider.

Assume that the traffic is not encrypted;

Host-based detection needed for encrypted traffic.

# An example of fingerprints on shingles of two similar messages



## Sensitive data to be protected

Critical vulnerability in Firefox 3.5 and Firefox 3.6

10.26.10 - 02:30pm

Update (Oct 27, 2010 @ 20:12):

A fix for this vulnerability has been released for Firefox and Thunderbird users.

Firefox 3.6.12 and 3.5.15 security updates now available

Thunderbird 3.1.6 and 3.0.10 security updates now available

Issue:

Mozilla is aware of a critical vulnerability affecting Firefox 3.5 and Firefox 3.6 users. We have received reports from several security research firms that exploit code leveraging this vulnerability has been detected in the wild.

Impact to users:

Users who visited an infected site could have been affected by the malware through the vulnerability. The trojan was initially reported as live on the Nobel Peace Prize site, and that specific site is now being blocked by Firefox's built-in malware protection. However, the exploit code could still be live on other websites.

10 smallest fingerprints: (4482868, 5207155, 5538456, 16590970, 18891336, 28959745, 29523072, 30605011, 46912339, 47163843)

Total fingerprints set size: 756

SHA-1:

3c1e4ca6505e5d307cfe105104233e1b82b39b33

## Captured payload in outbound traffic

<p>Critical vulnerability in Firefox 3.5 and Firefox 3.6</p>

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10 smallest fingerprints: (4482868, 5538456, 16590970, 18891336, 28959745, 29523072, 30605011, 46912339, 47163843, 60018488)

Total fingerprints set size: 806

SHA-1:

e86d8771e82c613706fab67adbee2e2b0e8e762e



# Rabin's Fingerprint



$$A(t) = a_1 t^{m-1} + a_2 t^{m-2} + \dots + a_m$$

$$f(A) = A(t) \bmod P(t)$$

$A = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)$  is a binary string

$P$  is a irreducible polynomial.

## **An example**

$110101 \bmod 101 = 11$  is equivalent to:

$$X^5 + X^4 + X^2 + 1 \bmod X^2 + 1 = X + 1$$

**Advantages: oneway, fast**

```

          1110
          ----
101 ) 110101
      101
      ---
        11101
         101
         ---
           1001
            101
            ---
              011
```

In binary:

- $1 - 0 = 1$
- $0 - 1 = -1 = 1$
- So it is just XOR operation 9

# A naïve data-loss detection protocol



- 1. Data pre-processing* -- data owner computes digests; and reveals to DLP provider **a subset of the digests**
  - e.g., to select a smallest 20 fingerprints to release
- 2. Traffic pre-processing* – DLP provider collects outbound network traffic of data owner; and computes digests of packets
- 3. Inspection* – DLP provider alerts data owner if traffic digests match data digests
  - e.g., based on pre-defined threshold

**Sensitivity test** 
$$\frac{\text{Number of sensitive-data fingerprints per packet}}{\text{Total fingerprints per packet}}$$

# The naïve detection leaks info to DLP provider if there is a match ☹️



Company A has a secret recipe:  
fish with garlic bake 20-min 450F



2. Fingerprints **375835** and **949609**

DLP provider

1. Compute digest =  $f(\text{data})$

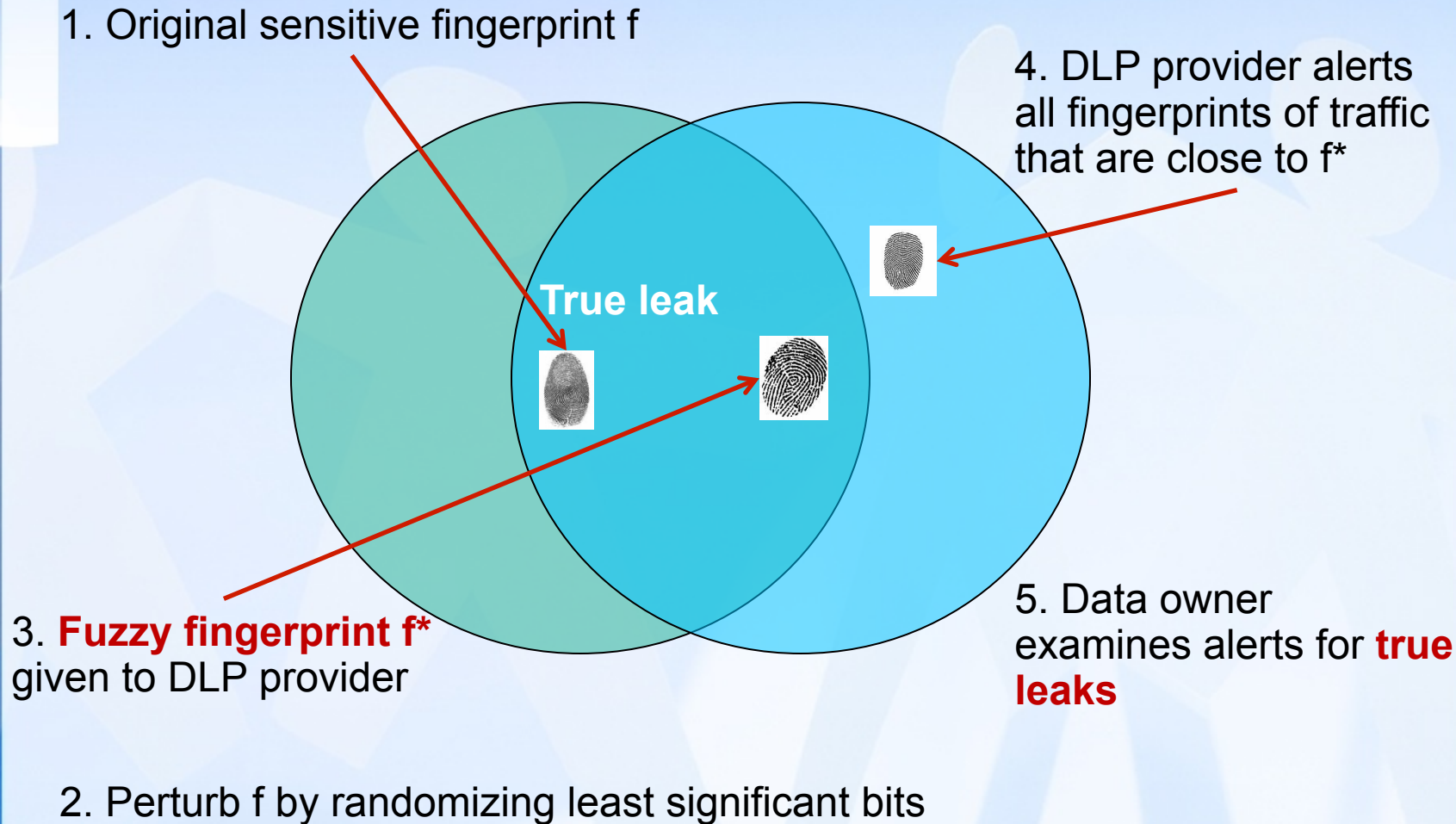
8-gram	fingerprint
<b>Fish wit</b>	<b>375835</b>
ish with	907948
sh with	867025
h with g	098600
with ga	114534
<b>with gar</b>	<b>949609</b>
...	...

3. Monitor the traffic of A

4. Find a packet whose fingerprints contain **375835** and **949609**

DLP has the content of the packet,  
Thus learns the secret recipe ☹️

# Our solution: fuzzy fingerprint – to hide sensitive fingerprint in a crowd



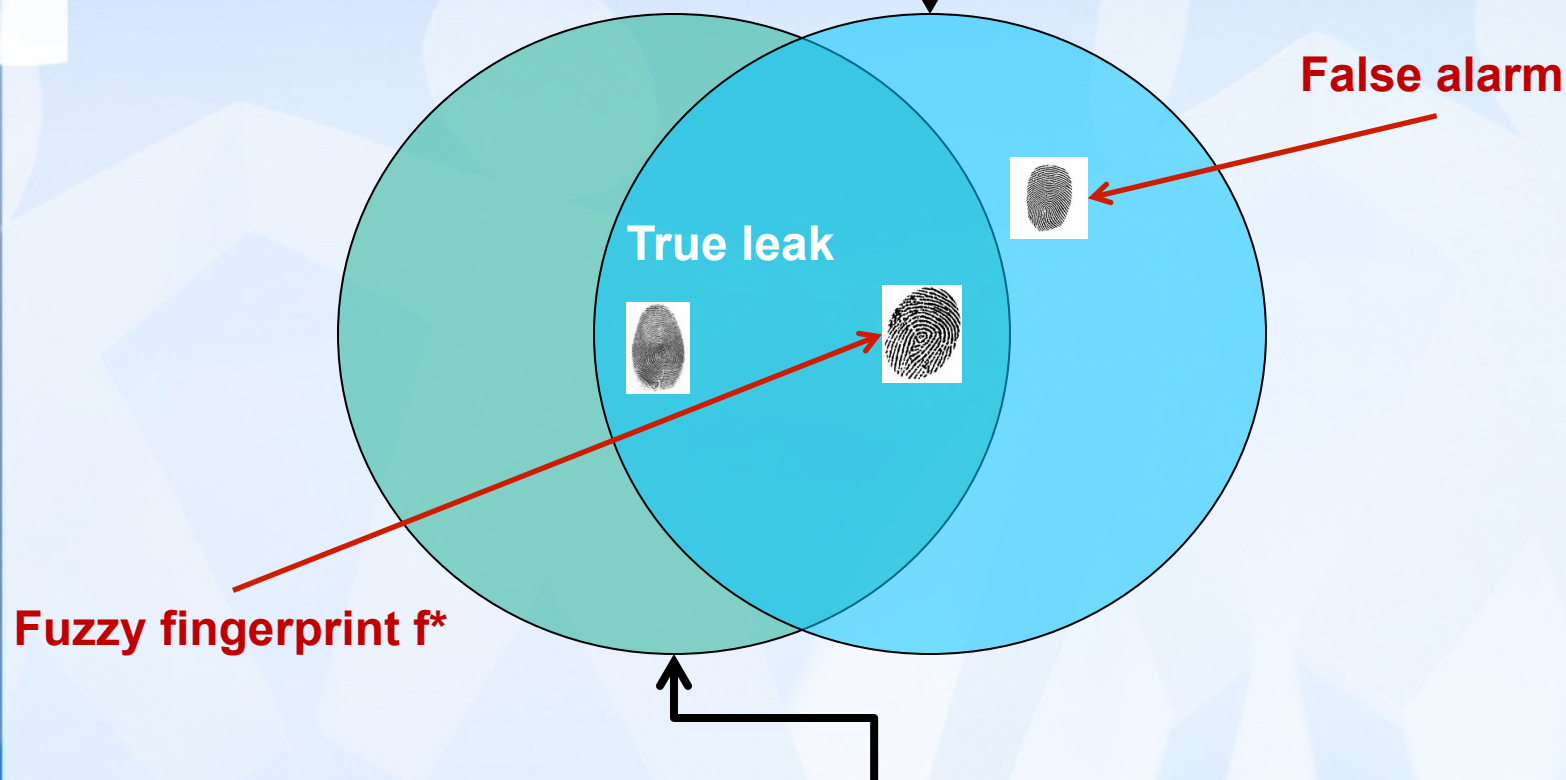
Similar to the k-anonymity in relational DB



# Hide fingerprints in a crowd

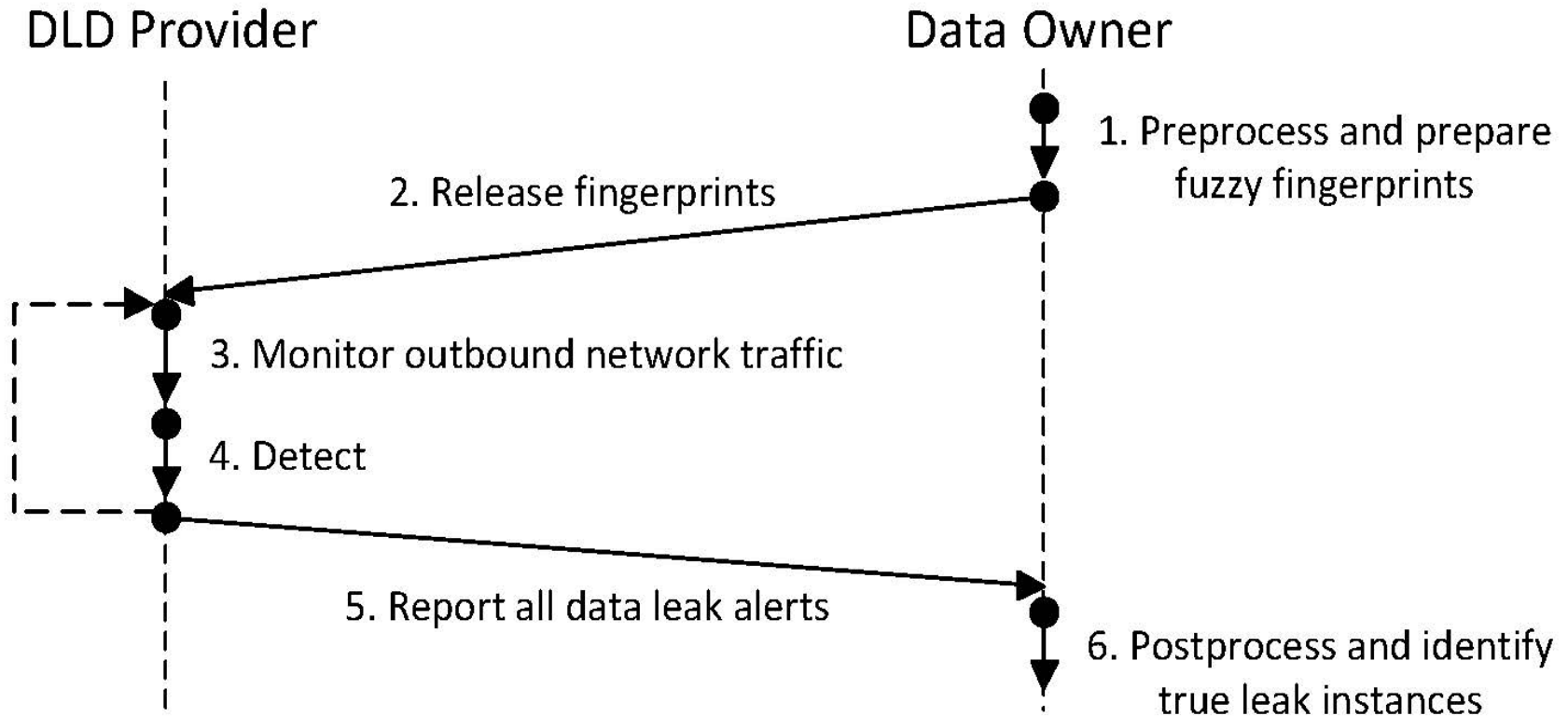


How big is the crowd?



Data owner: how to perturb the sensitive fingerprint?

# Operations in Fuzzy Fingerprints



DLD provider cannot distinguish true leaks and false alarms



# Generalization – bit mask

Sensitive fingerprint f    01000101111011010111100010  
 Fuzzy fingerprint f\*     01000101111011100010111011

Perturb least significant bits

Data owner may randomize arbitrary bit positions

Sensitive fingerprint f    01000101111011010111100010  
 Bit mask                        +++   +++   +     +   +   +++   ++   ++  
 Bit may change →          ← No change  
 Fuzzy fingerprint f\*          1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 0

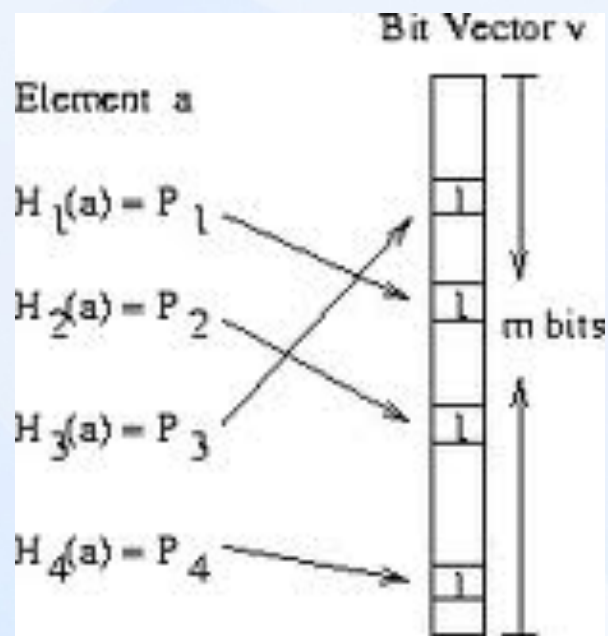
DLP provider applies bit mask to traffic; and reports fingerprint that matches non-changing bits;

# Implementation and experiments



Implemented all components of our framework in Python including packet collection, shingling, Rabin fingerprinting

**Fingerprint filter = Bloom filter + Rabin fingerprint**



**Bloom filter for membership test**  
**Space saving**

**Pybloom library**

**Experimental condition:**

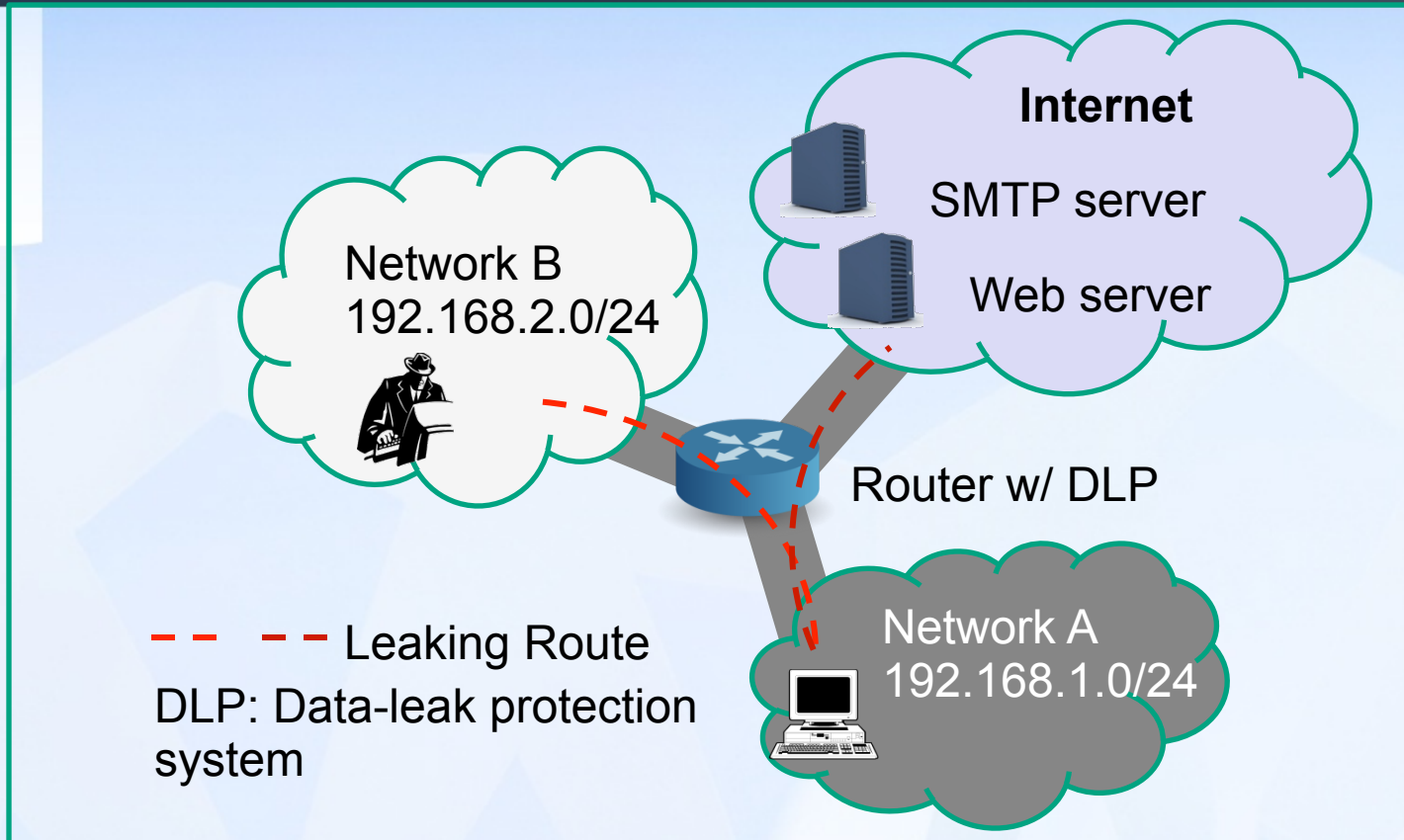
8-byte shingle

32-bit polynomial

1024-byte packet payload



# Setup of the malware test



We detect packets whose sensitivity values are above a threshold

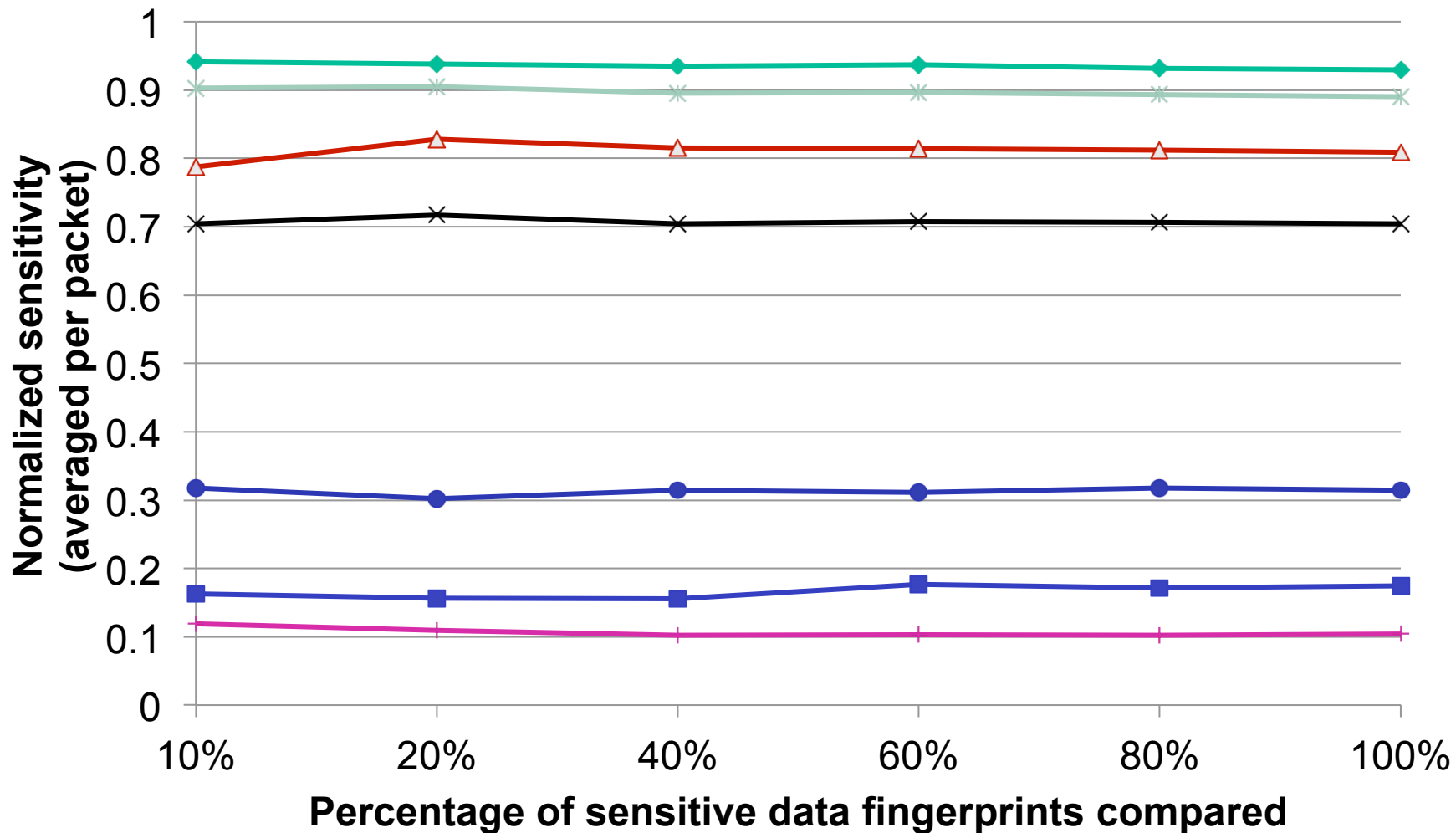
**Sensitivity test:** 
$$\frac{\text{Number of sensitive-data fingerprints per packet}}{\text{Total fingerprints per packet}}$$

# Preliminary experiments on privacy-preserving network traffic filtering



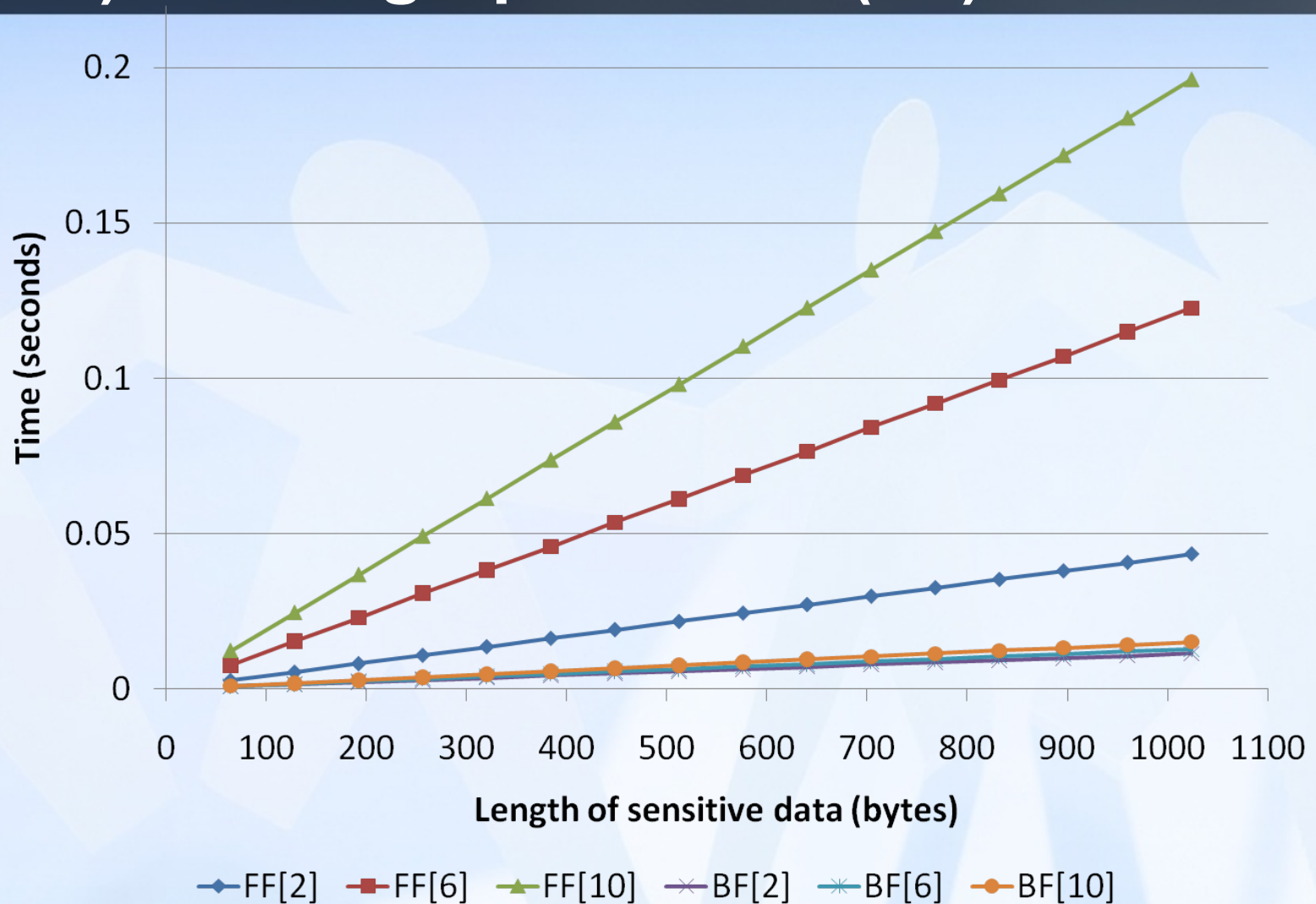
Leaking Methods	Protocol	Traffic	# of sensitive pkt found	Maximum sensitivity	Average sensitivity in sensitive pkts
Backdoor	TCP	Out	19	0.97	0.93
Keylogger	SMTP	Out	3	0.23	0.18
Malicious Browser Extension	SMTP	Out	20	0.97	0.81
Wiki System (MediaWiki)	HTTP	All	41	0.97	0.70
		Out	20	0.97	0.89
Blog System (WordPress)	HTTP	All	37	0.95	0.31
		Out	22	0.25	0.10

# Detection rates vs. size of partial fingerprint sets used



- ◆ Backdoor
- ◆ Wiki [out]
- ▲ Mal-extension
- ◆ Wiki [all]
- Blog [all]
- Keylogger
- ◆ Blog [out]

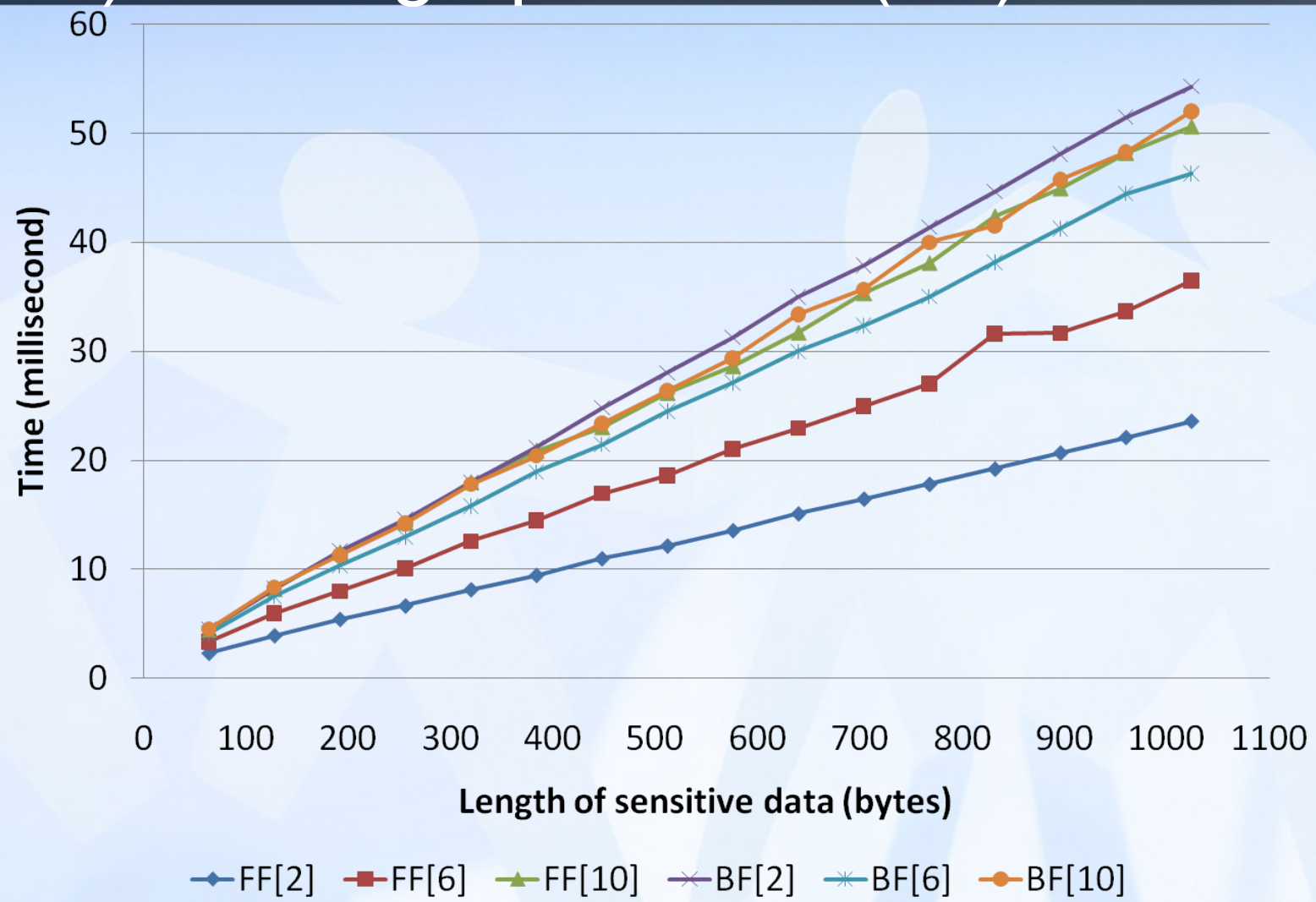
# Overhead for preparing the Bloom filter (BF) and fingerprint filter (FF)



BF w/ SHA-1 is slightly faster to prepare than FF



# Overhead of detection with Bloom filter (BF) and fingerprint filter (FF)



FF is slightly faster than BF for detection (fingerprinting is faster than hashing)

# Summary on data leak detection as a service



- **Detection rates do not decrease much with fewer fingerprints** 😊
  - Even when 7 fingerprints used
  - Better privacy for data owner, revealing less info to provider
- **Noise tolerance if local data features are preserved**
  - E.g., Wiki
  - Pervasive noise destroys patterns, e.g., Blog
    - Shorter shingles increase false positives
- **Set intersection based tests are fast**
- **Experimentally validate min-wise independence**
  - Allowing the use of partial fingerprints for detection

<http://malaga.cs.vt.edu/demo/shingle.html> for our demo

The first privacy-aware data leak protection solution



Thank you very much!

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