



## Privacy Policy Evaluation

SIDN Labs Sinkhole

Date

10 October 2021

To

Classification

Public

Author

Privacy Board

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### Policy

Title of policy	Sinkhole
Policy start date	10 October 2021
Date of evaluation	10 October 2021

### Purpose limitation

GDPR applicable? Will any personal data be processed? Will personal data be processed on an automated or semi-automated basis, or will personal data contained in a file be processed manually?

Yes  No

*The Privacy Board considers that the project will involve the processing of personal data. The Sinkhole study involves the processing of data about domain names and IP addresses. Such data may include personal data in some cases.*

*Automated processing of personal data is also carried out. Hence, the GDPR may be deemed applicable.*

### Purpose

The purpose must be specific, explicitly defined and legitimate.

Is the purpose specific, explicitly defined and legitimate?

Yes  
 No, insofar as



*The Sinkhole project involves the registration of domain names in order to gather data on the behaviour of botnets, which are often used for DDoS attacks. By analysing DNS query data, it is sometimes possible to identify domain names intended for use in botnets, before they are registered. Such domain names can then be registered by SIDN Labs and sinkholes linked to them, in order to gather large amounts of information about botnet clients. The set-up also enables the identification of resolver bugs that are vulnerable to abuse.*

*The Privacy Board considers that the privacy policy defines the purposes of the processing in specific and explicit terms. The Privacy Board additionally considers that preventing DDoS attacks and other forms of abuse constitutes a legitimate purpose.*

#### Legitimate basis

The evaluation must address the proportionality and subsidiarity of the processing (i.e. whether the interest served by processing is important enough to justify any resulting loss of privacy, and whether the purpose could be served by any other, less intrusive means).

Is the legitimate basis clear?

- Yes  
 No

*The Privacy Board considers that the project serves a reasonable interest: the collection of information about botnets and the identification of vulnerable resolvers contribute to the security of .nl.*

#### Safeguards and control measures

##### Purpose limitation

Are there adequate safeguards to ensure that personal data is not used for purposes other than that for which it was obtained?

- Yes  
 No

*Access to the data will be restricted to SIDN Labs staff. Access will be by means of strong user name-password combinations or public/private keys.*

##### Retention period

Is personal data retained for any longer than necessary for the defined purpose?

- Yes, data is retained for longer than necessary; corrective measures required.  
 No



*The data will be retained for no more than eighteen months. Retention for that period is necessary to observe whether and, if so, how infections diminish over time. For example, it might be possible to observe geographical differences in the infection rate decline. The Privacy Board considers that the retention period of eighteen months is appropriate in the context of the defined purpose.*

**Data set limitation**

Is the entire data set necessary for the defined purpose, or could a more limited data set be used?

- Yes
- No; corrective measures required.

*The Privacy Board considers that the data set used is the minimum required for the fulfilment of the defined purpose of the processing.*

**Data reliability**

What is done to ensure that the gathered data is accurate?

*The data is obtained by SIDN's own monitoring.*

**Data processors**

Who processes the data? Who else has access to the data?

*Authorised personnel within SIDN Labs have access.*

**Data security**

How is the data protected against loss and unauthorised processing?

*The data will be accessible only from the SIDN network or via a secure VPN tunnel. Authorised users within SIDN Labs will require a user name and password to access the data.*

**Other**

**Special personal data**

Is any special personal data processed?

- Yes
- No

**Notification of Data Protection Officer**

Has the Data Protection Officer been notified in connection with inclusion in the Processing Register?

- Yes
- No

The processing is to be recorded if any significant new processing is involved.



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## Subjects' rights

If the personal data is not obtained from the subjects, but by other means, is the origin recorded?

- Yes  
 No

*The domain names to be linked to the sinkholes will be identified using ENTRADA data. The data on botnet clients will be collected and recorded by SIDN's own sinkhole system.*

## Retention within EU

Is any data transferred to a country outside the EU?

- Yes  
 No

*No data is to be transferred to a country outside the EU.*

## Conclusion

### Evaluation

What is the conclusion of the Privacy Board's evaluation?

*The Privacy Board approves the Privacy Policy for the Sinkhole project.*