



# MapKIT—Mapping Key Internet Terrain

### Challenge:

- Hackers, terrorists or nation states, can disrupt, intercept or manipulate the Internet traffic of entire countries or regions by targeting structural weaknesses of the Internet topology.
- Goal: Identify strategic points in the macroscopic Internet topology constitute *key terrain in the cyberspace* battlefield.
- Collecting and interpreting data about the Internet connectivity of a country is challenging.

#### Solution:

 Through a novel multi-layer mapping effort, we aim at identifying important components of the Internet topology of a country/region— Autonomous Systems (ASes), Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), PoPs, colocation facilities, and physical cable systems which represent the "key terrain" in cyberspace.

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## Scientific Impact:

Contribute to a better understanding and modeling of key weakness of the Internet infrastructure in countries that expose them to targeted attacks by state actors and organized groups

Data and models also relevant to resiliency of critical infrastructure (e.g., preparedness to natural disasters)

Provide input for political scientists and international relations researchers to reason about "opportunity and willingness" to engage into large-scale cyber conflict

#### Broader Impact and Broader Participation:

The Internet is a critical infrastructure on which all other critical infrastructures depend: safety and prosperity of our society as well as international relations depend on cybersecurity. Yet the exposure of a country's Internet macroscopic infrastructure to targeted attacks with potential massive impact is unclear. This project tries to bridge this crucial gap.