

# Measuring Adoption of Security Additions to the HTTPS Ecosystem

**Quirin Scheitle**

July 16, 2018

Applied Networking Research Workshop (ANRW)  
Montreal

Chair of Network Architectures and Services  
Department of Informatics  
Technical University of Munich



This presentation is based on the following publications:

Mission Accomplished? HTTPS Security after DigiNotar

*Johanna Amann\**, *Oliver Gasser\**, *Quirin Scheitle\**, *Lexi Brent*, *Georg Carle*, *Ralph Holz*  
Proceedings of the Internet Measurement Conference (IMC 2017), London, UK, Nov. 2017

A First Look at Certification Authority Authorization (CAA)

*Quirin Scheitle*, *Taejoong Chung*, *Jens Hiller*, *Oliver Gasser*, *Johannes Naab*, *Roland van Rijswijk-Deij*, *Oliver Hohlfeld*, *Ralph Holz*, *Dave Choffnes*, *Alan Mislove*, *Georg Carle*  
ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communications Review (CCR), Apr. 2018

The HTTPS ecosystem has seen the addition of various security extensions over the past decade, most standardized at IETF.

This body of work aims to assess the *quality* and *quantity* of adoption of these security extensions in the Internet, using active and passive measurements, and controlled experiments.

Highlights in measurements methodology:

- 192M domains scanned from 2 vantage points, using IPv4 and IPv6
  - Large target population avoids bias from, *e.g.*, top lists
- Passive observations on 3 continents, observing 2.4bn TLS connections

Mechanism	Standard-ized	Deployment		Effort	Availability Risk
		Overall	Top 10K↓		
SCSV	2015	49.2M	6789	none	low
CT-x509	2013	7.0M	1788	none	none
HSTS	2012	0.9M	349	low	low
CT-TLS	2013	27,759	171	high	none
HPKP	2015	6616	156	high	high
HPKP PL.	2012	479	150	high	high
HSTS PL.	2012	23,539	144	medium	medium
CAA	2013	3057	20	medium	low
TLSA	2012	973	3	high	medium
CT-OCSP	2013	191	0	low	none

- High risk and high effort extensions see low deployment
- Highest deployment for technologies without configuration effort: SCSV (software update), CT-x509 (automatically included in certificate)

Mechanism	Standard-ized	Deployment		Effort	Availability Risk
		Overall	Top 10K↓		
SCSV	2015	49.2M	6789	none	low
CT-x509	2013	7.0M	1788	none	none
HSTS	2012	0.9M	349	low	low
CT-TLS	2013	27,759	171	high	none
HPKP	2015	6616	156	high	high
HPKP PL.	2012	479	150	high	high
HSTS PL.	2012	23,539	144	medium	medium
CAA	2013	3057	20	medium	low
TLSA	2012	973	3	high	medium
CT-OCSP	2013	191	0	low	none

- High risk and high effort extensions see low deployment
- Highest deployment for technologies without configuration effort: SCSV (software update), CT-x509 (automatically included in certificate)

Domain	Type	Flags	Tag	Value
tum.de	CAA	0	issue	"letsencrypt.org"
tum.de	CAA	0	issue	"pki.dfn.de"

Table 1: Exemplary CAA section of DNS zone file

- Controlled Experiment: Assess CA rigor
- Assess Market Adoption
- Role of DNS Providers

	Configuration	Expected
D1	signed, restrictive	refuse
D2	signed, timeout	refuse
D3	permissive, but critical unknown	refuse
D4	unsigned, timeout	informational
D5	CNAME to D1	refuse
D6	CNAME to NODATA www.D1	informational

Table 3: Test domains and expected CA behavior.

We conduct two rounds of tests, 1 month apart, so CAs have opportunity to fix.

CA ↓	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Expected →	R	R	R	*	R	*
RapidSSL	RR	R <b>I</b>	RR	RI	-R	-I
Comodo	<b>I</b> R	<b>II</b>	<b>I</b> R	II	-R	-I
Let's Encrypt	RR	RR	RR	RR	-R	-I
GoDaddy	RR	RR	RR	II	-R	-I
StartCom	RR	<b>II</b>	RR	RI	- <b>I</b>	-I
Buypass	RR	<b>I</b> R	RR	CI	-R	-R
Certum	RR	<b>I</b> R	R <b>I</b>	II	- <b>I</b>	-I
DigiCert	RR	-R	-R	-I	-R	-I
AlphaSSL	-R	-R	-R	-I	-R	-I
SSL.com	- <b>I</b>	- <b>I</b>	-R	-I	-R	-I
Symantec	-R	-R	-R	-I	-R	-I
GeoTrust	-R	- <b>I</b>	-R	-I	-R	-I

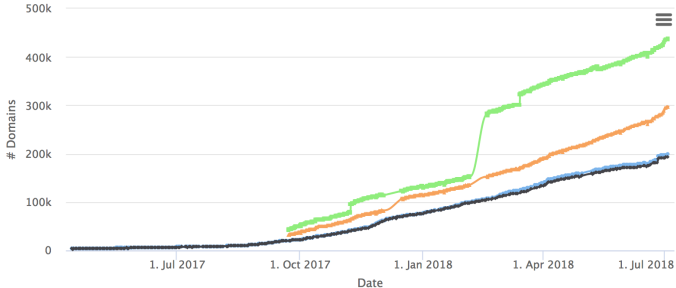


Large-Scale Active DNS Scans, configurable live view:

<https://caastudy.github.io>

## CAA Adoption

Note: We have removed some invalid data points, for example in early December and in early February. The removed data points were typically caused by network problems, sometimes due to explosive growth.



DNS Operator	CAA Support	% Domains
<i>T1</i> : GoDaddy, Amazon, Google, Cloudflare <i>T2</i> : 1&1, OVH	✓	49.4%
Alibaba, Network Solutions, eNom, Bluehost, NameCheap, WIX, HostGator, NameBright, register.com, 123-reg, WordPress, Xinnet, DreamHost, Yahoo, Rightside, DNSPod	✗	29.6%
Parking Services	–	21.0%

Table 8: CAA configurable at 6 of the top 31 DNS operators as of February 16, 2018 (T2), up from 4 on November 18, 2017 (T1).

These top 31 DNS providers covered 54% of the com/net/org domains.

- HTTPS security extensions differ vastly in scope and deployment
- Low risk and effort technologies are much more widely deployed
- CAA: Mixed CA rigor, encouraging market adoption, DNS provider support as a critical factor
- Data, software, and tools are publicly available:  
<https://github.com/tumi8/imc17-missionaccomplished>  
<https://caastudy.github.io>