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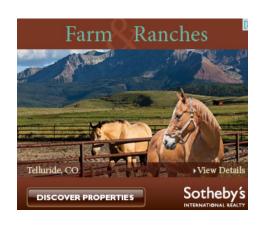
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1 of 8

/chinaprobing.jpg)In the cat-and-mouse game between Chinese censors and Internet users, the government seems to be testing a new mousetrap-one that may be designed to detect and block tunnels through its Great Firewall even when the data in those tunnels is aimed at a little-known computer and obscured by encryption.

In recent months, administrators of services with encrypted connections designed to allow users secure remote access say they've seen strange activity coming from China: When a user from within the country attempts to reach a server abroad, a string of seemingly random data hits the destination computer before he or she can connect, sometimes followed by that user's communication being mysteriously dropped.



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The anti-censorship and anonymity service

instance, has found that many of its "bridge ESS (HTTP://WWW.FORBES.COM/BUSINESS/) privately-placed servers around the world designed to

INVESTING (HTTP://Www.forbes.com/investing/) Technology (HTTP://www.forbes.com/technology/) connect users to the rest of Tor's public network of traffic

ENTREPRENEURS (HTTP://www.forbes.com/entrepreneurs/) re-routing computers-have become inaccessible to Chinese users

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LISTS (HTTP://WWWFEWFBEWMWH,LEFTE/project's executive director. Users have

told him that other censorship circumvention services like Ultrasurf and Freegate have seen similar problems, he says.

Share Conference Someone will try to connect, then there's a weird sca

working," says Lewman. "We see weird t school of S a semidconsisten

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Ing America /degrees/online Lewman believes that him in a's internet sewice provide testing a new csystem that that than merely shock in addre

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snooping government like indecipherably scrambled web traffic. The Chinese government after all, wouldn't be likely to block all encrypted connections, such as corporate VPNs, Lewman points out. "If Foxconn were disconnected from Apple, that would be big problem," he says.

In the mean time, only a small fraction of Tor's Chinese users are experiencing the issue, implying that it may be just a subset of Chinese broadband providers experimenting with the new tool, says Lewman.

China's sniffing around encrypted traffic isn't limited to the United States. Leif Nixon, an IT security administrator at the National Supercomputer Centre of Sweden at Linkoping University, says he independently spotted the phenomenon hitting his servers a full year ago, when Chinese students or researchers tried to log on to the Centre's systems through SSH connections, and wrote a blog post about his findings earlier this

know what the probes are supposed to accomplish," he wrote at that the government is looking for

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certain services it doesn't approve of, like open proxies or Tor
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relays, and that precise fingerprinting may be too expensive. ENTREPRENEURS HTTP://www.forbes.com/entrepreneurs/loan/inspection/method similar/to fuzzing, LEADERSHIP (WITTP://WWW.forbes.com/Lifestyle/)

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It also matches the known repulsive censorship the Chinese

government subjects its citizens to," he added. "I stro es. Haucation Products this probing of our systems that the Chinese governm

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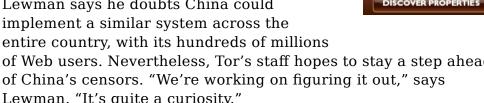
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In 2009, Iran similarly began trying to distinguish connections to Tor bridge nodes from other encrypted traffic and block the service, Lewman says. Tor responded by finding ways to change its behavior to better fit in with other services online, such as adjusting how often it changed the SSL certificate that identifies the service to users.

Lewman says he doubts China could DISCOVER PROPERTIES of Web users. Nevertheless, Tor's staff hopes to stay a step ahead Lewman. "It's quite a curiosity."



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# 3D-Printed Gun Creator Cody Wilson Lands Quarter Million Dollar Book Deal

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When Cody Wilson published the blueprint for the first fully 3D-printable gun on the web last spring, the controversy around that digital weapon led to its being downloaded 100,000 times in two days. Now Simon & Schuster is hoping the same sort of buzz can sell books.

# CONFERENCES AND MORE

Wilson, who leads the 3D-printed gun group Defense Distributed, signed a quarter-million dollar deal with Simon & Schuster's Gallery in the weathers to write sines of fiction book

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> The book's working title is *Negative Liberty*, Wilson says, based one graines plan of free donor from external restraints in libertarian

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The whole point to me is to add to the hacker mythology and to
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have a very, very accurate and contentious portrayal of what we

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political orientation, a lasting remark," he says, "It won't be a manifesto. But culturally I hope to leave a couple of zingers...a Share

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Internet (http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2013/05 /09/state-department-demands-takedown-of-3d-printable-gun-forpossible-export-control-violation/), citing potential violations of weapons export restrictions-a legal debate that has yet to be settled.

More recently, Wilson has focused instead on Bitcoin (http://www.forbes.com/ebooks/secret-money-living-on-bitcoin/), working with a group of anarchist developers known as UnSystem to build a piece of software for the anonymous spending and receiving of bitcoins called Dark Wallet (http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2013/10 /31/darkwallet-aims-to-be-the-anarchists-bitcoin-app-of-choice/). But Wilson, who was until recently a law student at the University of Texas, expects that he may soon be embroiled in a legal battle with the government over his firearm 3D-printing project.

- conferences"AP least now if I'm in prison I'll have something to do," Wilson says, mostly joking. But he adds, more seriously, that he may

need the book's advance to fund a court battle he anticipates

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over his publication of the Liberator file. "In the worst case, I can

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at least bankroll my own legal defense." ENTREPRENEURS (HTTP://WWW.FORBES.COM/ENTREPRENEURS/) OP/ED (HTTP://WWW.FORBES.COM/OPINIONS/)

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