Evaluation Methodologies for Internet Security Technology (EMIST)

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What is EMIST?
- A multi-institution project to develop rigorous testing methodologies, tools, and benchmarks for important classes of Internet attacks and defenses
- A companion project to DETER: a remotely accessible experimental testbed, based on Utah Emulab, that allows researchers to evaluate Internet cyber security technologies in a realistic, but quarantined environment

Our Objectives
- Identify limitations of analytical, simulation and emulation models
- Quantify the impact of attacks against congestion control (TCP) and routing (BGP/OSPF) and their defenses
- Design scale-down techniques for experimental scenarios, without loss of fidelity

Our Accomplishments
- Designed and implemented:
  - A scriptable event system for experiment control and automation
  - Instrumentation and experimental data processing tools
  - A software-based link monitor
- Modeled, simulated, and emulated attacks against congestion control

Lessons Learned
- Simulation models do not capture the intricacies of real systems
- Small differences in emulation testbed capabilities have a significant impact on results
- Attacks may have unforeseen interactions with protocols, e.g., BGP routing

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