

# DNS Magnitude

„How popular is this Domain?“  
yet another (DNS based) approach

# Motivation

Hey buddy - do ya know how popular my Domain Name is?

Well, it had 94132 queries. Yesterday, that is.

Uhm, ok. Is that like - a lot?

Ah, well, we have like 530 millions queries each day. so, well, sort of in the middle.

Am i popular? Like where on a 0-10 scale, huh?

- Single, easy to understand „popularity“ figure
- Based on DNS statistics  
(because that's what we have?)
- Copy „Earthquake magnitude“ figures  
(because everybody knows them)
- **„DNS Magnitude“?**

# DNS Data Exploration

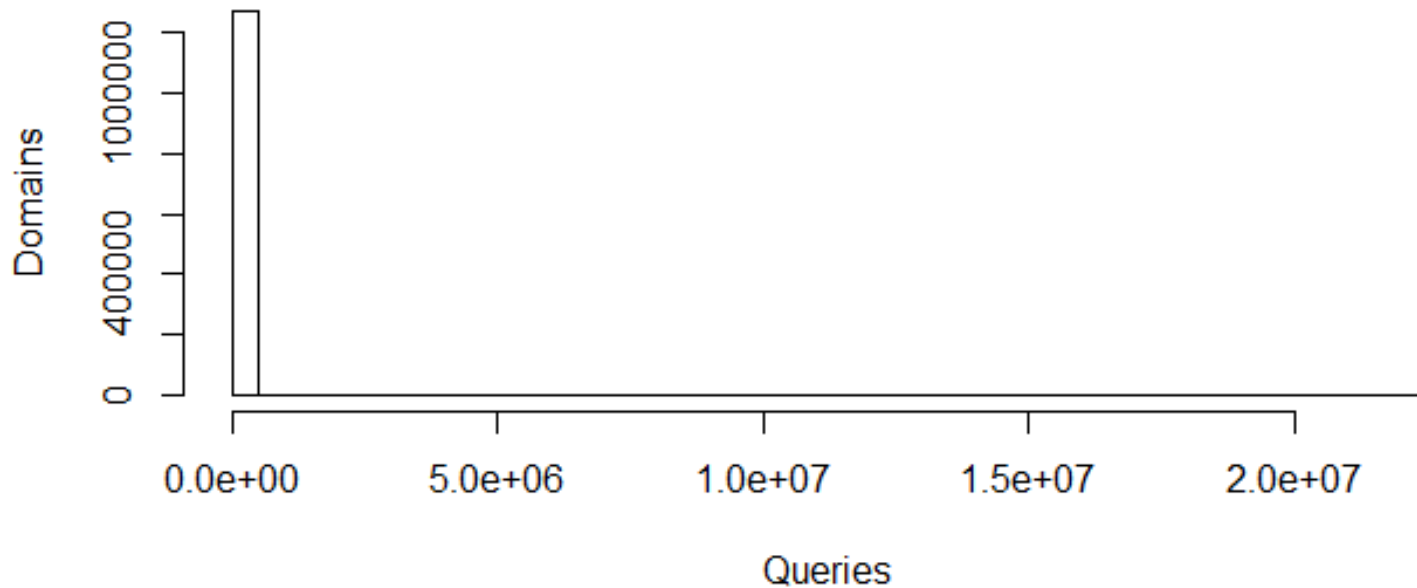
- Basis: DNS „query impact“ of a domain
  - Assumption: Popular (..) domain -> higher query rate
- Single day: ~450 million queries
  - About 20% NXDOMAINS (not considered)
  - Queries for almost all existing domains
  - Problem: Extremely high disparity



# „queries by domain“ disparity

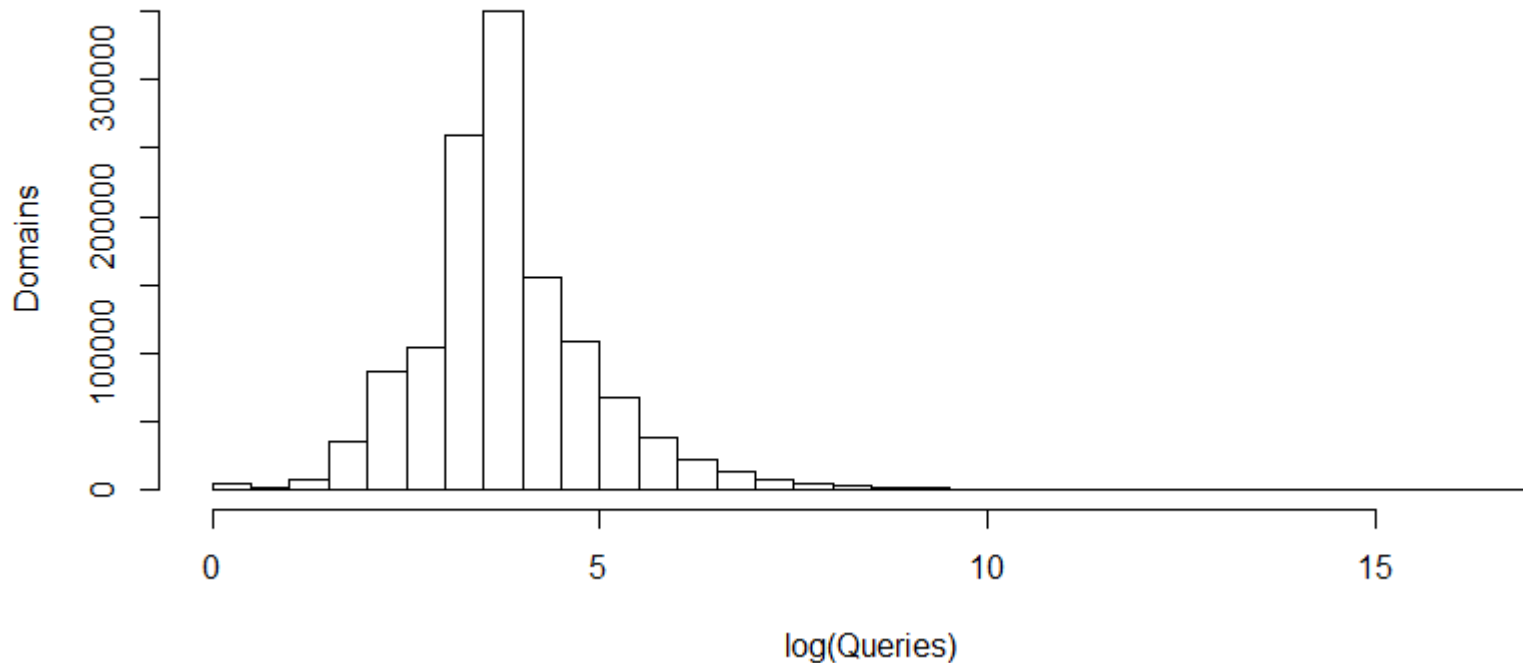
- Top 1% of domains: **62%** of queries

Number of Domains vs. Queries



# Logarithmic Scale?

Number of Domains vs. log(Queries)



- Looks more „natural“!
- Earthquake magnitudes use logarithmic scales too

## Limit Scale to 0-10?

- Definition: Magnitude 10 = all queries on single Domain
  - Example:  $0 < \ln(Q_{Dx}) < 16.91$
  - Scale to  $\ln(\text{totalqueries})$
- Hence:

$$\text{mag}_{Dx} = \frac{\ln(Q_{Dx})}{\ln(\sum_{k=1}^n Q_{Dk})} * 10$$



# First try... Queries-based

- Dominated by infrastructure domains
- TTL has a big impact!

domain	queries	query_mag	
anexia.at	22124665	<b>8.678725</b>	<- ISP, low TTL (120s!)
univie.ac.at	20824366	<b>8.647643</b>	<- auth. Servers for .at
telekom.at	3573045	<b>7.743087</b>	<- ISP
ns.at	3398512	<b>7.717387</b>	<- auth. Servers for .at
nessus.at	3031900	<b>7.658810</b>	<- Registrar
chello.at	1613822	<b>7.335218</b>	<- ISP
internic.at	1391180	<b>7.259037</b>	<- Registrar
at	1240702	<b>7.200293</b>	<- zone apex
t-systems.at	1055778	<b>7.117468</b>	<- ISP
inode.at	1027223	<b>7.103398</b>	<- ISP



## How to get around TTL impact?

- TTL expiration triggers query from same source IP address
- Approach: Count unique resolvers rather than queries
  - No matter if they query a domain once or 1000 times per day
- New basis: Number of distinct src IP addresses per domain





## Hosts based top10 – Better...

- TTL effect seems reduced
- Still dominated by infrastructure zones

	domain	queries	hosts	query_mag	host_mag	
1	univie.ac.at	20824366	394542	8.647643	<b>9.401667</b>	
2	telekom.at	3573045	223838	7.743087	<b>8.988109</b>	
3	chello.at	1613822	183470	7.335218	<b>8.843006</b>	
4	nessus.at	3031900	167832	7.658810	<b>8.778005</b>	
5	inode.at	1027223	134049	7.103398	<b>8.614014</b>	
6	regdns5.at	830090	132637	6.994053	<b>8.606288</b>	<- TTL 10800
7	ns.at	3398512	128279	7.717387	<b>8.581912</b>	
8	google.at	724264	124449	6.924069	<b>8.559796</b>	<- TTL 10800
9	anexia.at	22124665	118241	8.678725	<b>8.522460</b>	<- TTL 120
10	nic.at	623485	118055	6.847181	<b>8.521311</b>	<- TTL 900

# DNS Magnitude

- Current working definition

$$mag_{Dx} = \frac{\ln(H_{Dx})}{\ln(H_{tot})} * 10$$

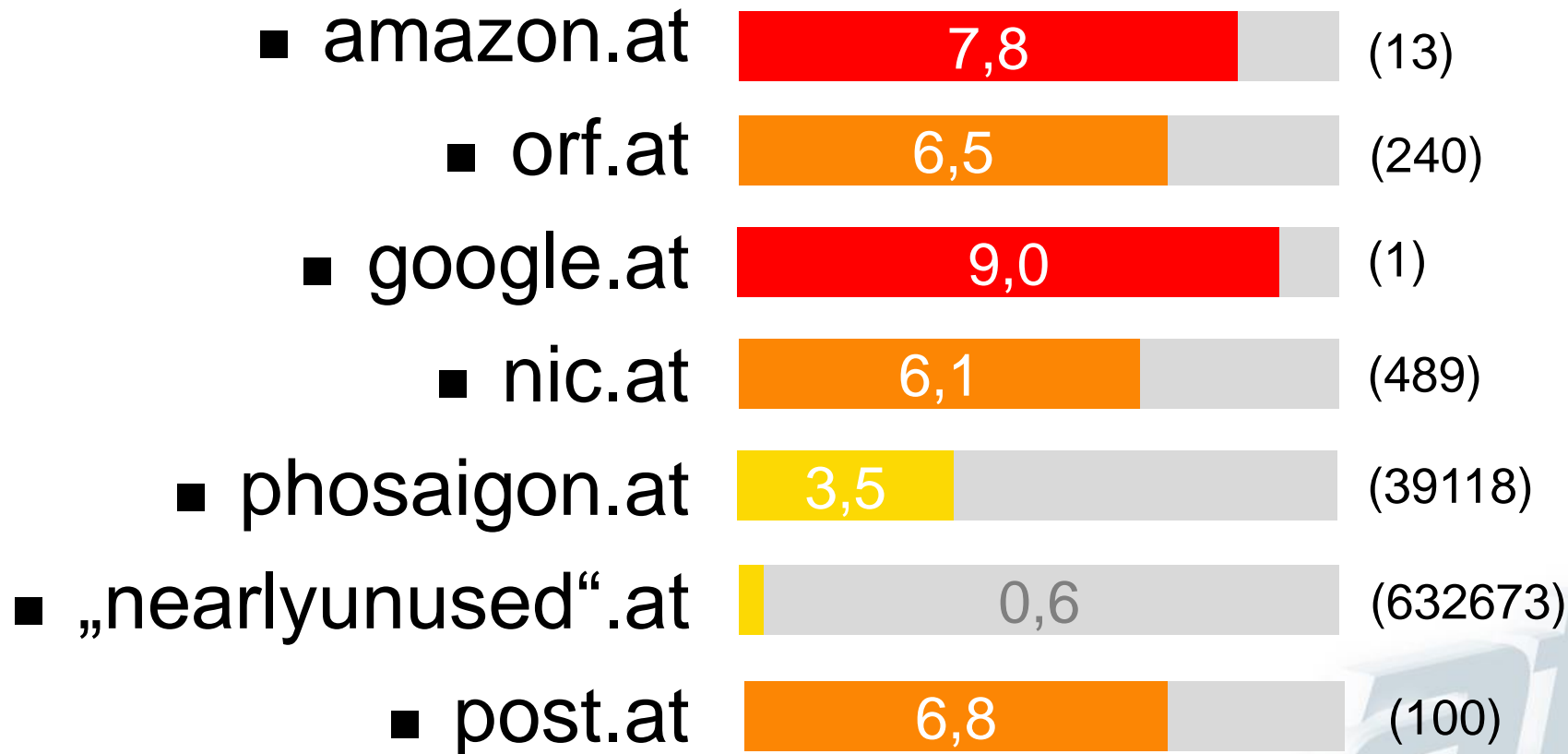


## Go for services? Web:

- A/AAAA record and www.% or origin
  - Total 44M queries, 397k hosts (1 day)

	domain	queries	hosts	query_mag	host_mag
1	google.at	398699	105154	7.323973	<b>8.968340</b>
2	ebay.at	234151	72845	7.021699	<b>8.683625</b>
3	tripadvisor.at	209471	48626	6.958443	<b>8.370149</b>
4	airbnb.at	254649	48373	7.069360	<b>8.366103</b>
5	yelp.at	146933	41204	6.757051	<b>8.241693</b>
6	groupon.at	125715	36463	6.668477	<b>8.146886</b>
7	vistaprint.at	110861	29375	6.597066	<b>7.979238</b>
8	gmx.at	59330	27845	6.242019	<b>7.937751</b>
9	transfermarkt.at	88722	27689	6.470549	<b>7.933394</b>
10	kriesi.at	82103	27248	6.426516	<b>7.920942</b>

## Some examples („web“ based)



# Current (early) applications

- Internal „BI“ panel

Domain	Flags	Mag	Transaction
██████████.at €7.50	SPT	2.5	billwithdraw-2
██████████.or.at €1.50	SPT	3.2	billwithdraw-2
██████████.at €30.28	SPT	4.5	billwithdraw-2
██████████.at €7.50	SPT	2.8	billwithdraw-2
██████████.bau.at €15.00	SPT	3.9	billwithdraw-2
restaura██████████.at €30.00	SPT	3.6	billwithdraw-2
██████████.music.at €7.50	SPT	2.8	billwithdraw-2
██████████.ety.at	SPT		billwithdraw-2
██████████.at €6.00	SPT	3.4	billwithdraw-2
██████████.at €10.00		3.3	billwithdraw

somedomain.at  6.5



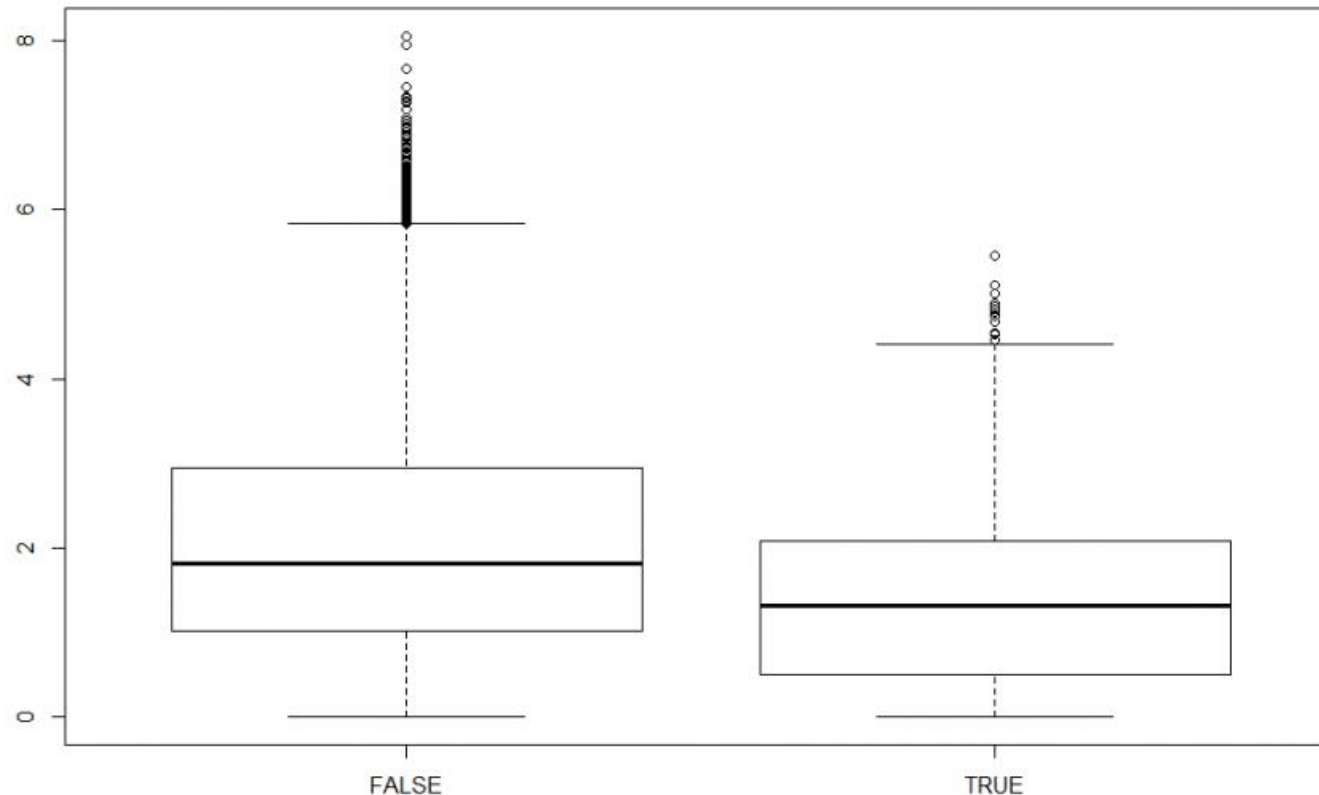
# NXDOMAINs



## Top NXDOMAINs

Rank	Domain	Magnitude
#1	████████.ac.at	6,4
#2	sex.████████.at	6,4
#3	████████.at	6,3
#4	████████.at	6,2
#5	██████████.at	6,1
#6	id.████████.at	6,0
#7	████████.ac.at	6,0
#8	████████.co.at	6,0
#9	████████.at	6,0
#10	installati████████.at	5,9

# Application – Delete propensity



- Correlation lower than expected
- But no domain deleted with mag > 5.8!
- Delete Prediction: Input to a neural network (WIP)

## Tools used

- ENTRADA/Hadoop (Storage)
- Impala (SQL-Queries)
- R (prototyping)
  - PHP for production (shhh, don't tell anybody! ;)
- Results stored in Redis
- Airflow for Orchestration
- ~300 lines of code in total





## Further work

- Refine algorithm (a-z query clients, „long tail“ scale)
- NZRS work, Alexa 1M, Umbrella Top 1M list
- Study impact of DNS parameters
  - TTL
  - Prefetching
  - Future: QNAME minimization?
- ISP recursive resolvers – better vantage point?



# Thanks for listening!

- Questions? Suggestions?
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