THE ETHICS OF ACTIVIST DDOS ACTIONS:
A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

MOLLY SAUTER

@ODDLETTERS

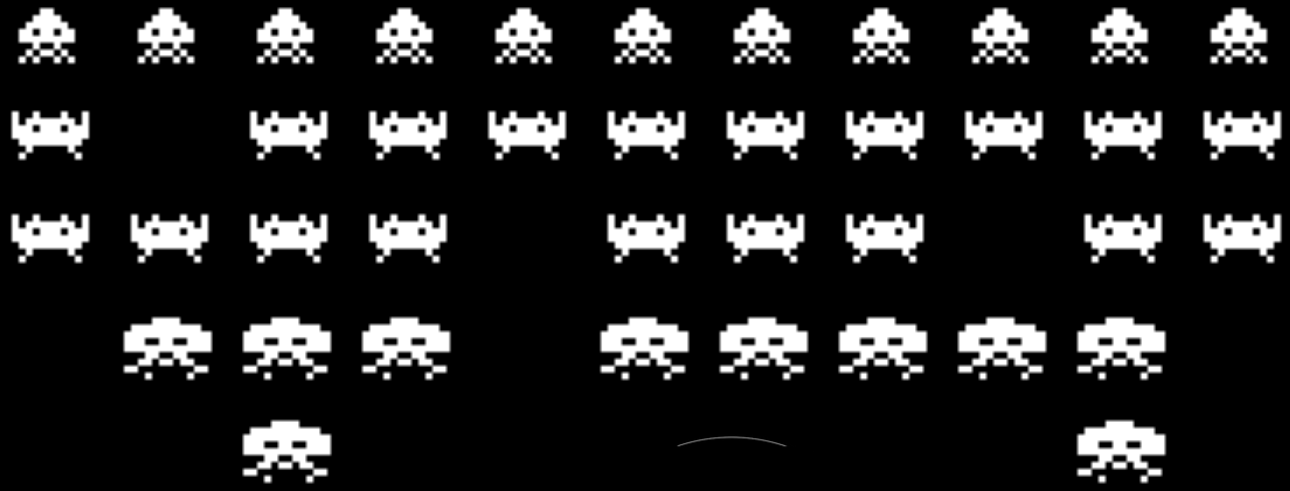COMPARATIVE MEDIA STUDIES

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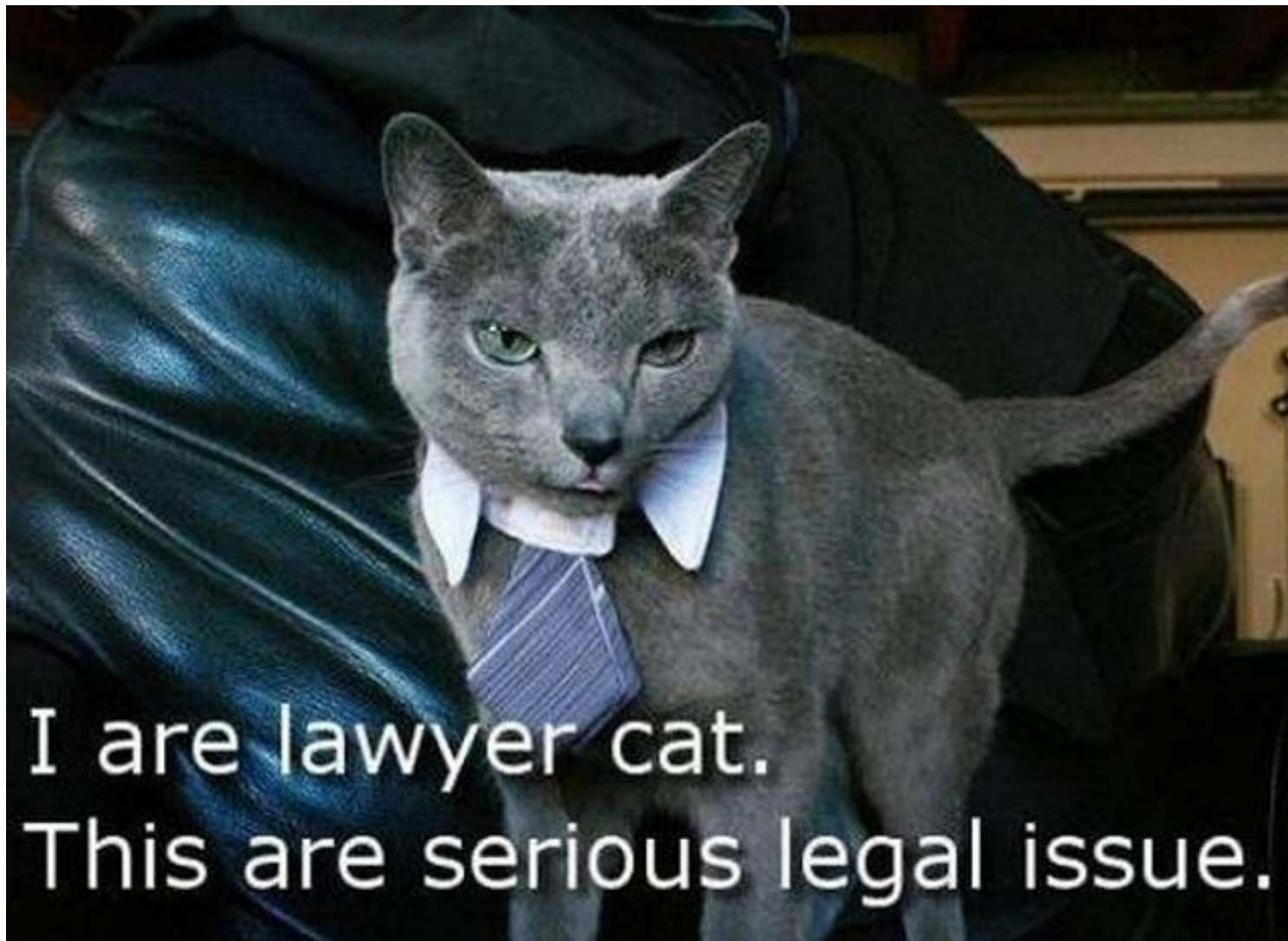
-Technical + legal note

-Criticisms of activist DDOS actions

-Analytical framework

-Next steps

SCORE: 160   LIVES:

Unlike this cat, I am not a lawyer

I are lawyer cat.
This are serious legal issue.

CRITICISM OF DDOS ACTIONS

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direct action
vs
"symbolic"/attention-oriented activism

CRITICISM OF DDOS ACTIONS

Success.

What is it?

"Permanent Culture of Resistance"

Revelation of "hidden transcripts"

Biographical Impact

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

-Intended effects/actual effects

-Context within a greater campaign

-Technology utilized

-Participant + organizer population

INTENDED EFFECTS/ACTUAL EFFECTS

-IGC/Euskal Herria Journal action (1997)

    -targeting an ISP to remove online content

-EDT/Lufthansa action (2001)

    -targeting an airline's homepage to stop corporate behavior

-etoy/toywar (1999)

    -targeting an e-commerce store to draw attention to a legal dispute

CONTEXT WITHIN LARGER CAMPAIGN

-EDT/Lufthansa action (2001)

   -connections with the "Deportation Class" action

-etoy/toywar (1999)

TECHNOLOGY USED

-FloodNet, LOIC, etc

   -"automated" vs "manual" actions

-Operation Payback

   -Botnets: volunteer vs non volunteer

   -Exploits

PARTICIPANT + ORGANIZER POPULATIONS

-Informed consent

-Risk awareness

-Training and support

NEXT STEPS

-Develop analysis for state/state-related actors

-Adapt the framework from a reflective to a prescriptive model

THANKS!

Questions?

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