Ostra: Leveraging trust to thwart unwanted communication

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Unwanted communication

- Unwanted communication is a known problem
  - Spam in email

- Spreading to popular emerging systems
  - Example: Mislabeled videos plaguing YouTube

- Usual defenses don’t work
  - Content filtering on video content?
Ostra: A new approach
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No requirement of strong identities
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Sybils
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Ostra: Leveraging trust

- We present Ostra, a new approach
  - Prevents unwanted communication in an existing system
    - Examples: Email, Skype, IM, YouTube

- Ostra uses the relationships which exist between users
  - Often already present (i.e. social networks)

- Ostra has desirable properties
  - Does not require global user identities
  - Does not rely on automatic content classification
  - Respects recipient’s notion of wanted/unwanted communication
Thanks!