
The Nym Network: Design and Challenges

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Résumé

Over the past six years, the Nym project (nym.com) has been building a decentralized privacy infrastructure to support privacy-enhanced applications. In March 2025, Nym launched NymVPN, its first consumer-facing product: a privacy-centric decentralized VPN (dVPN) running on the Nym network. This talk presents the architectural design of the Nym network, a system composed of several integrated components and privacy-preserving technologies that together provide robust network-level privacy. The design aims to support a wide range of use cases while maintaining decentralization and financial sustainability. We will walk through the network's key components, including the mixnet, dVPN, anonymous credential system, and economic incentives, and explain how they interact to deliver privacy for end users. We will also explore the trade-offs involved in their implementation and highlight open challenges that remain on the path toward scalable, user-friendly privacy infrastructure.

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