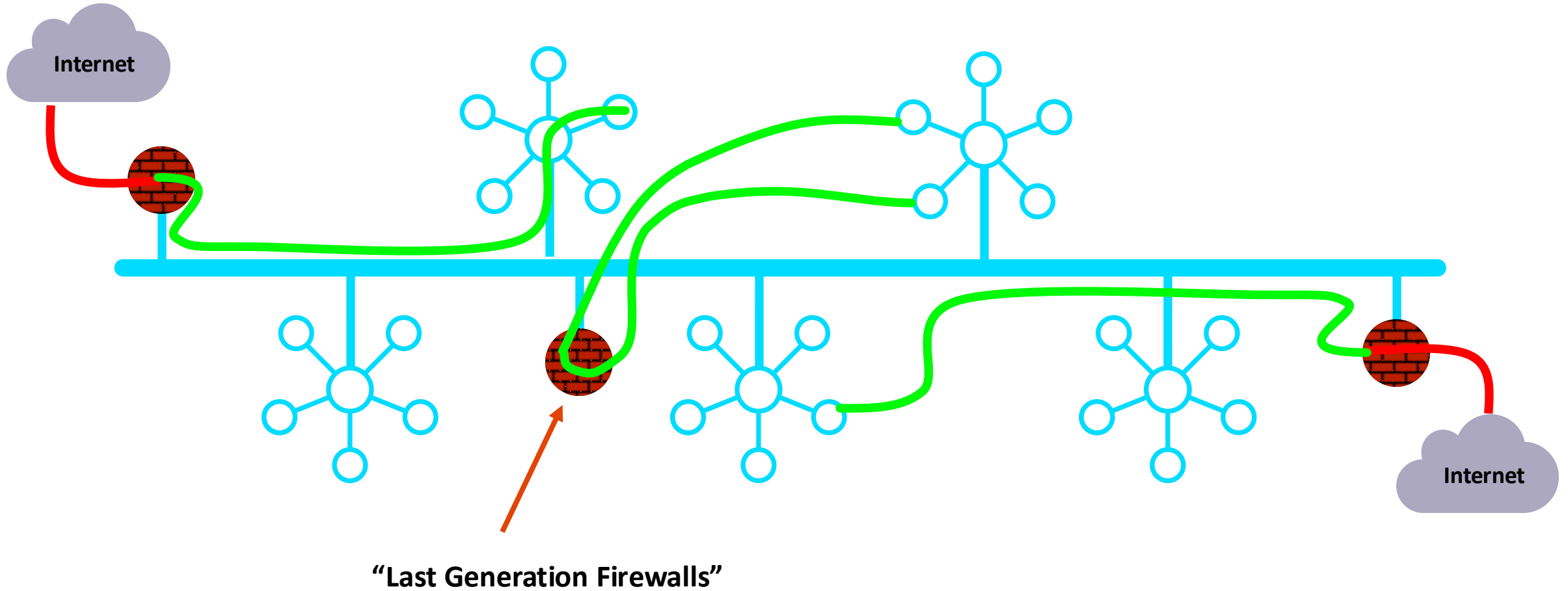




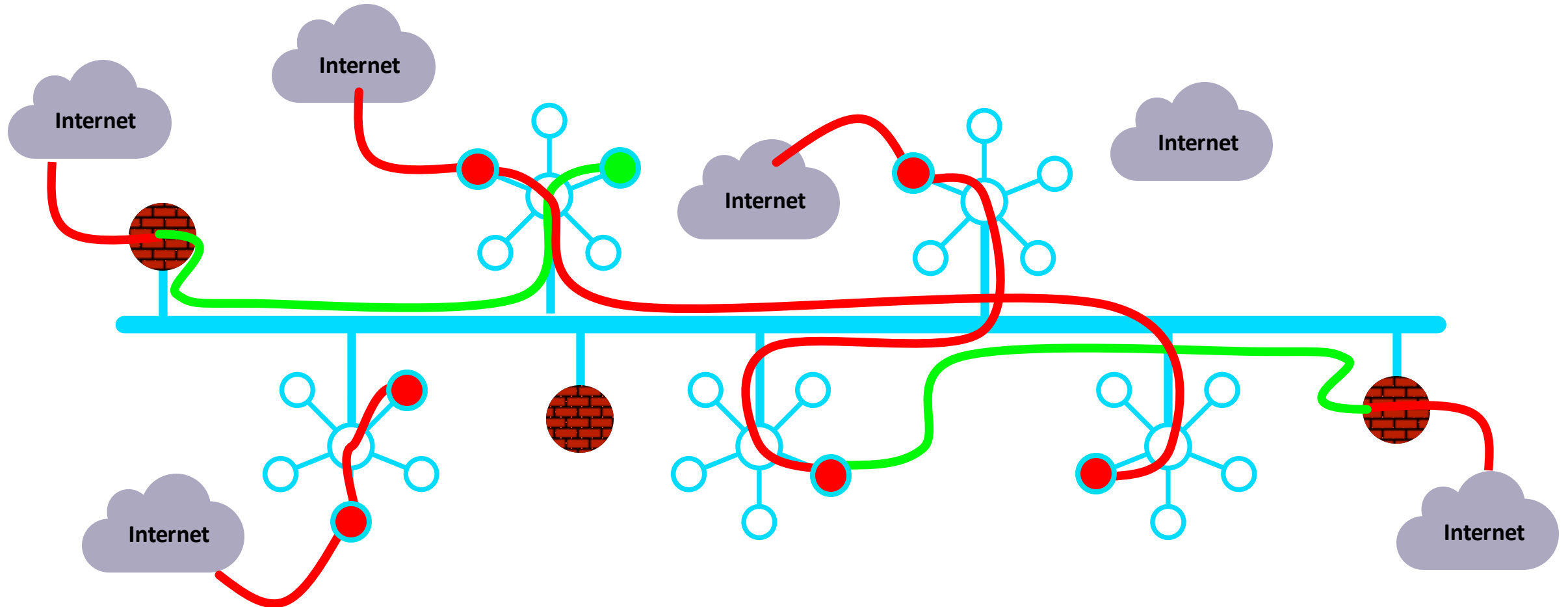
Distributed Cloud Firewall

ACE Team

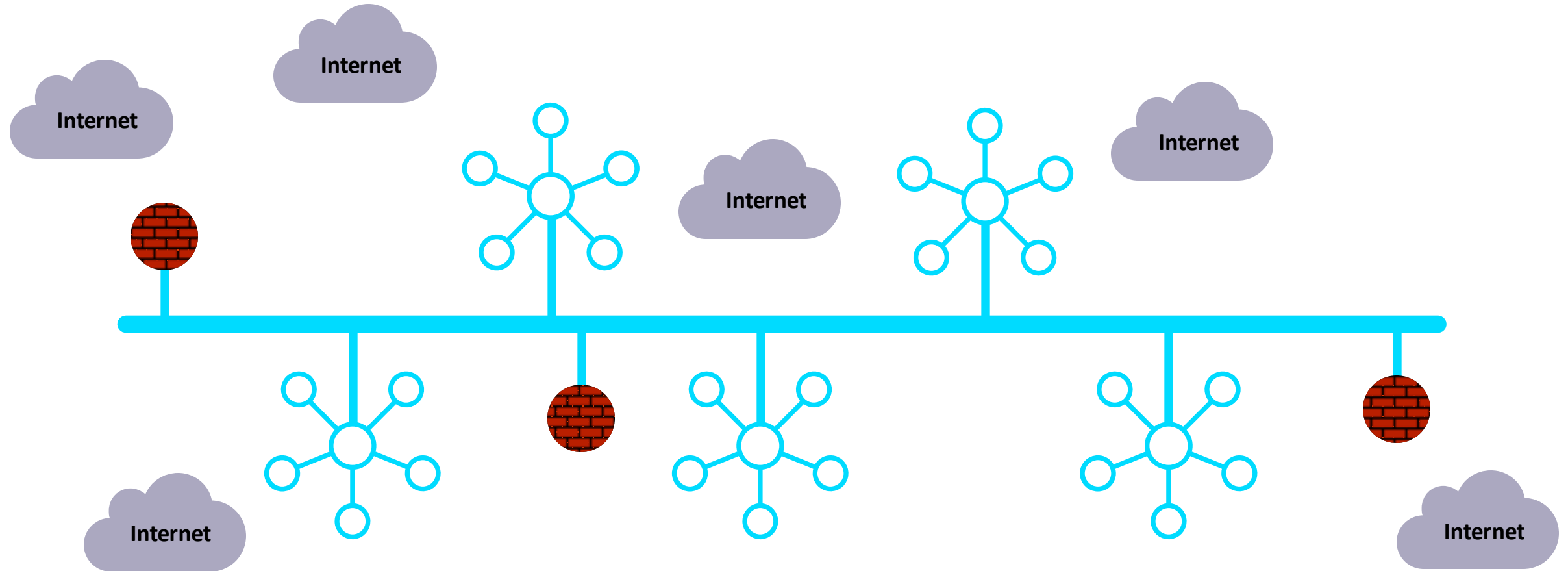
As Architected with Lift-and-Shift, Bolt-on, Data Center Era Products...



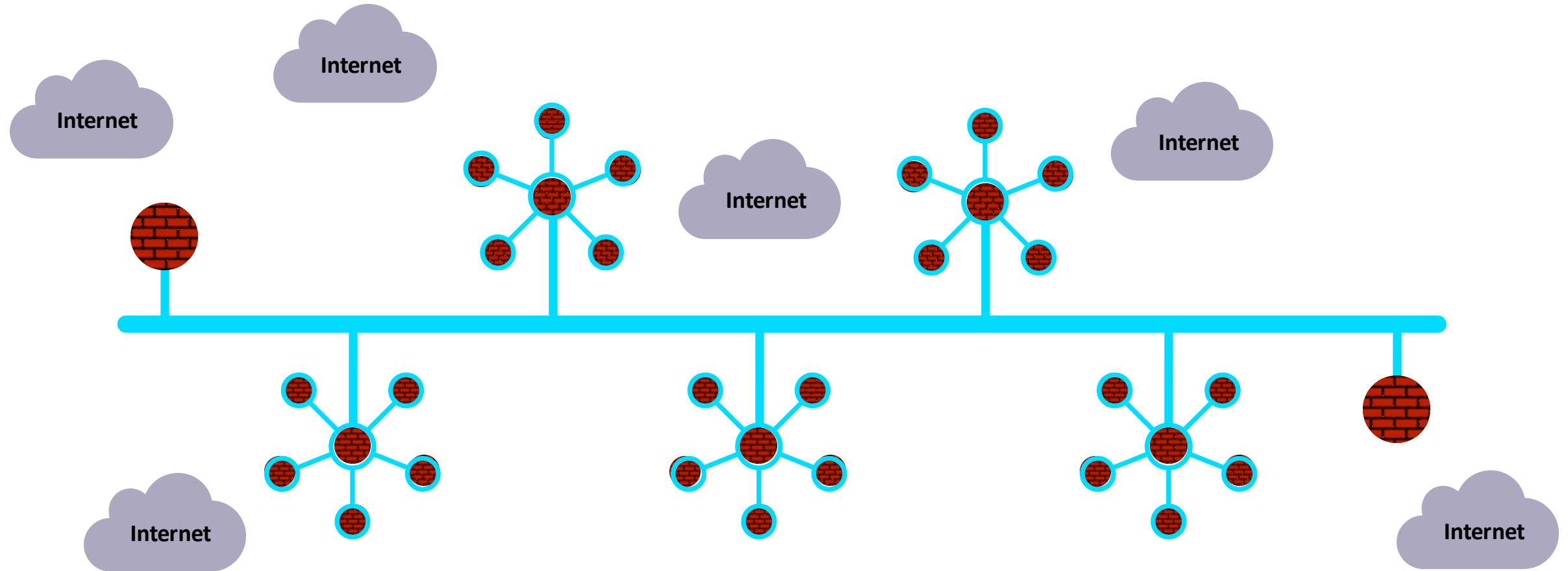
In Reality...



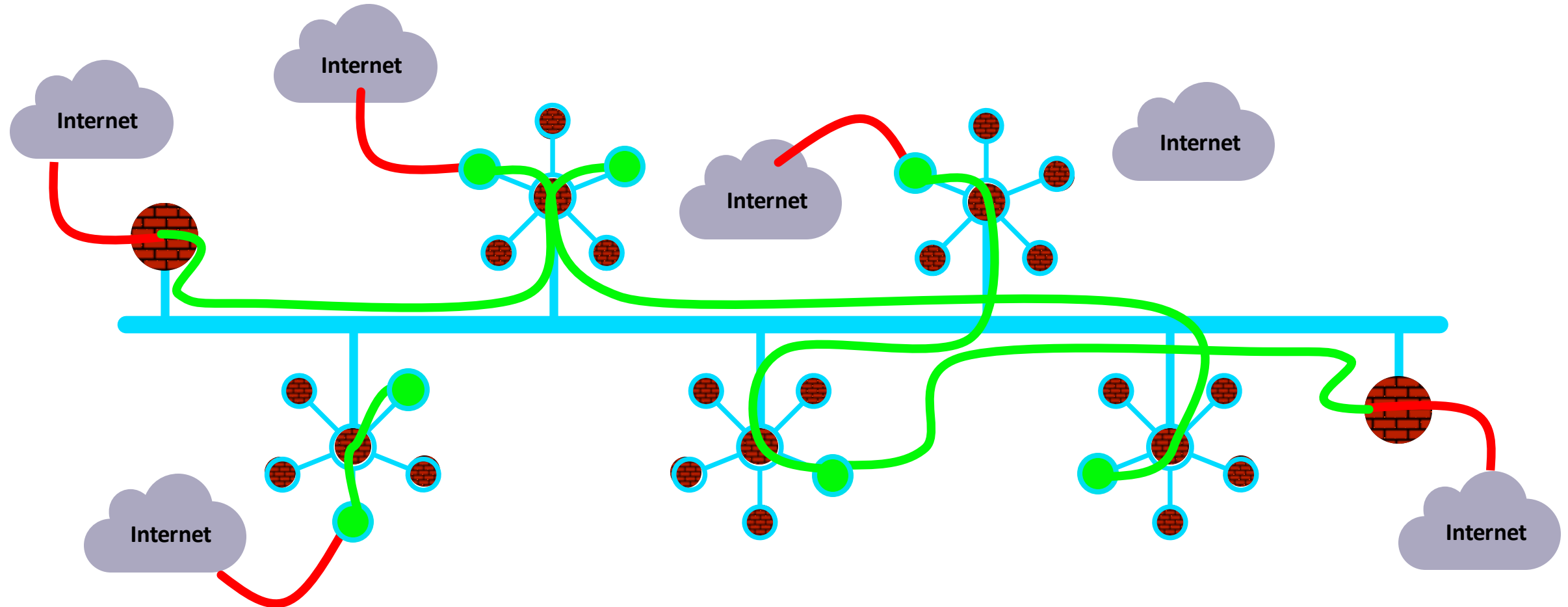
What If... the architecture was built for cloud



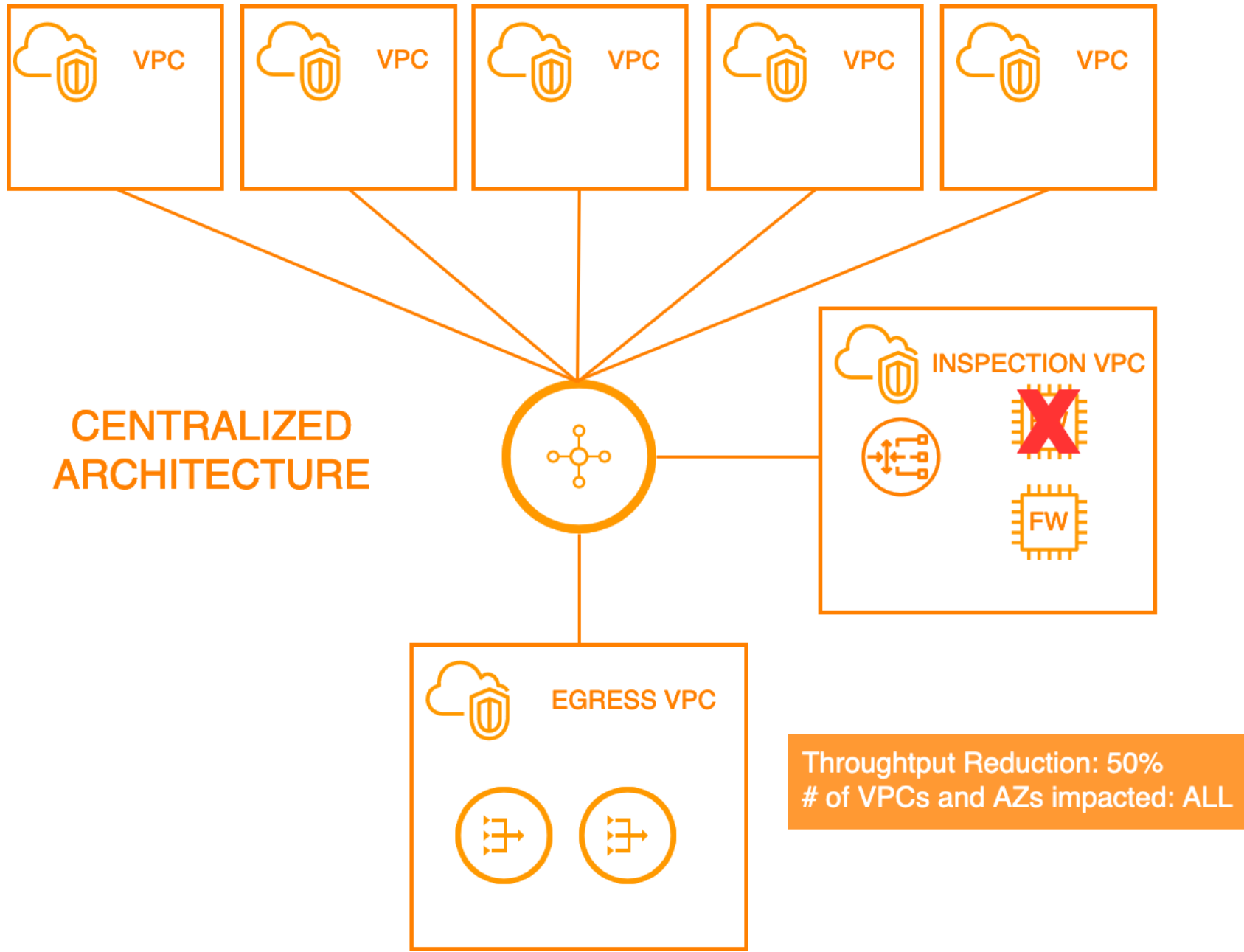
Firewalling Functions were Embedded in the Cloud Network Everywhere...



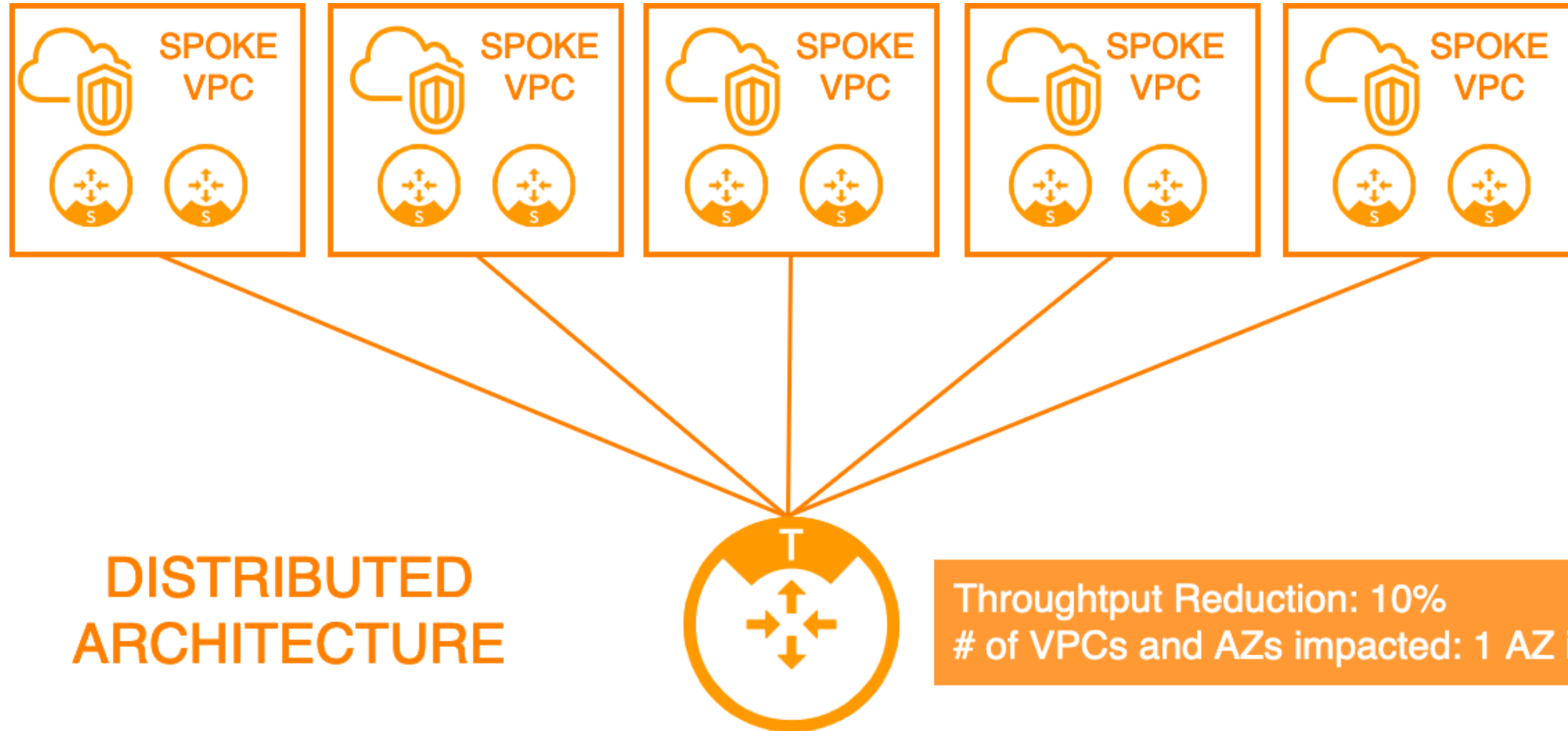
Distribution of the Security Services into the Spokes



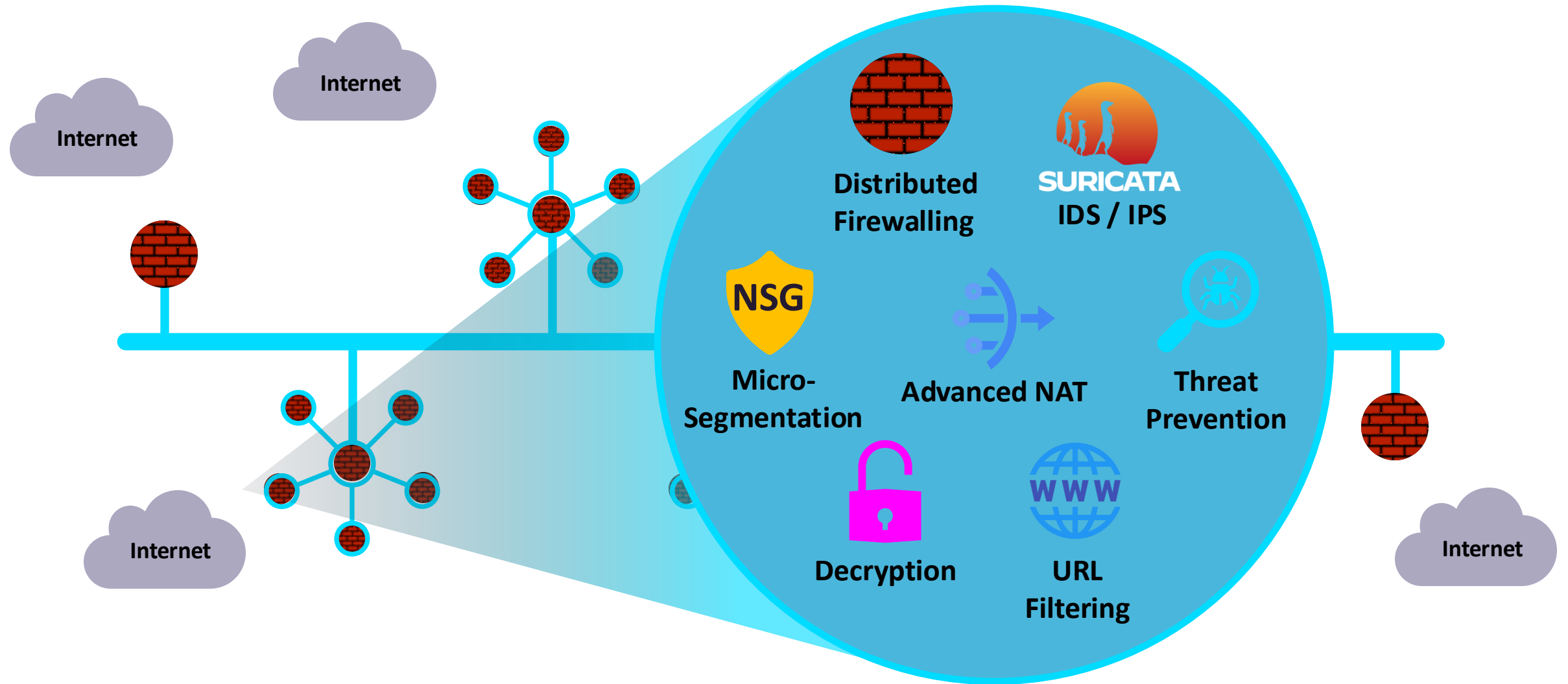
Impact of Failure – Centralized Architecture



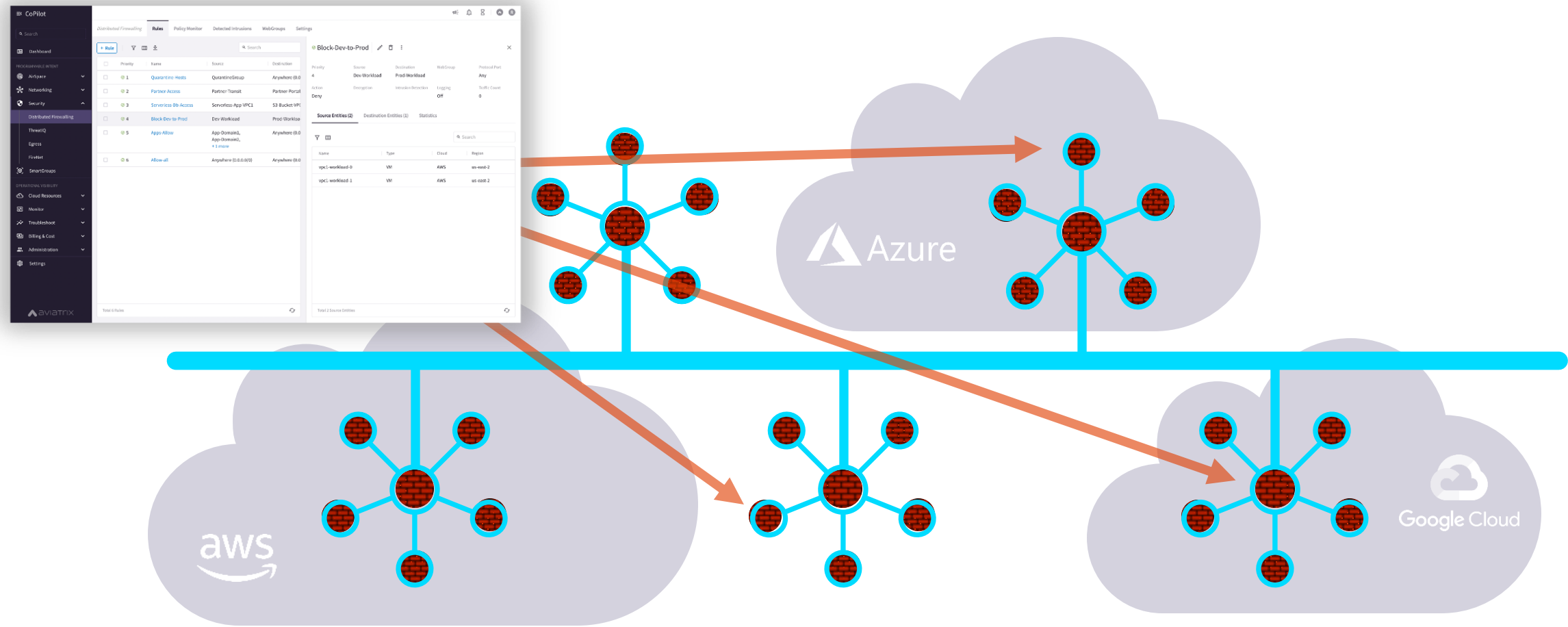
Impact of Failure – Distributed Architecture



And, What If it was more than just firewalling...



Policy Creation Looked Like One Big Firewall ... A Distributed Cloud Firewall...



Where and How Policies Are Enforced Is Abstracted...

SmartGroups: Definition

- A firewall rule consists of two important initial elements (i.e. *L3 info*):

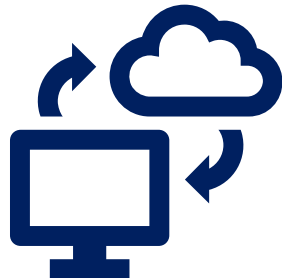
- Source
- Destination

- **What is a SmartGroup?**

A SmartGroup identifies a group of resources that have similar policy requirements and are associated to the same *logical container*.

- The members of a SmartGroup can be classified using *different* methods:

- Virtual Machines
- Subnets
- VPC/Vnets
- Kubernetes
- Hostnames
- External Connections (S2C)



Smart Groups Creation



CoPilot

Groups

SmartGroups ExternalGroups WebGroups Settings

+ SmartGroup

Refetch CSP Resources

Name

Resource Type

Rule References

Accenture_Demo

VMs

App-Backend

App-Frontend

Huss-App-FE

Lab-1-Sao

Specific-Smartgroup

accounting-backend-api-dev

accounting-backend-api-prod

accounting-frontend-web-dev

accounting-frontend-web-prod

app

crm-app

crm-dev-db

Create SmartGroup

Name

BU1

Resource Selection

Preview (3)

Resource Types: VM, Subnet, and VPC/VNet are supported only on public AWS, Azure, and GCP clouds.

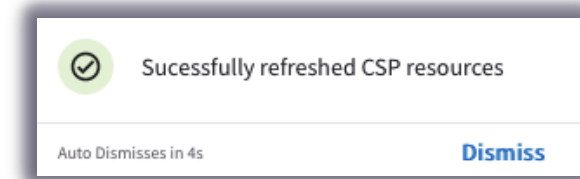
+ Resource Type

Virtual Machines

Matches all conditions (AND)

Environment dev

Cancel Save



Create SmartGroup

Name

BU1

Resource Selection

Preview (3)

Name

Type

Cloud

Region

accounting-web-dev

VM

AWS

us-east-1

engineering-web-dev

VM

AWS

us-east-2

marketing-web-dev

VM

Azure ARM

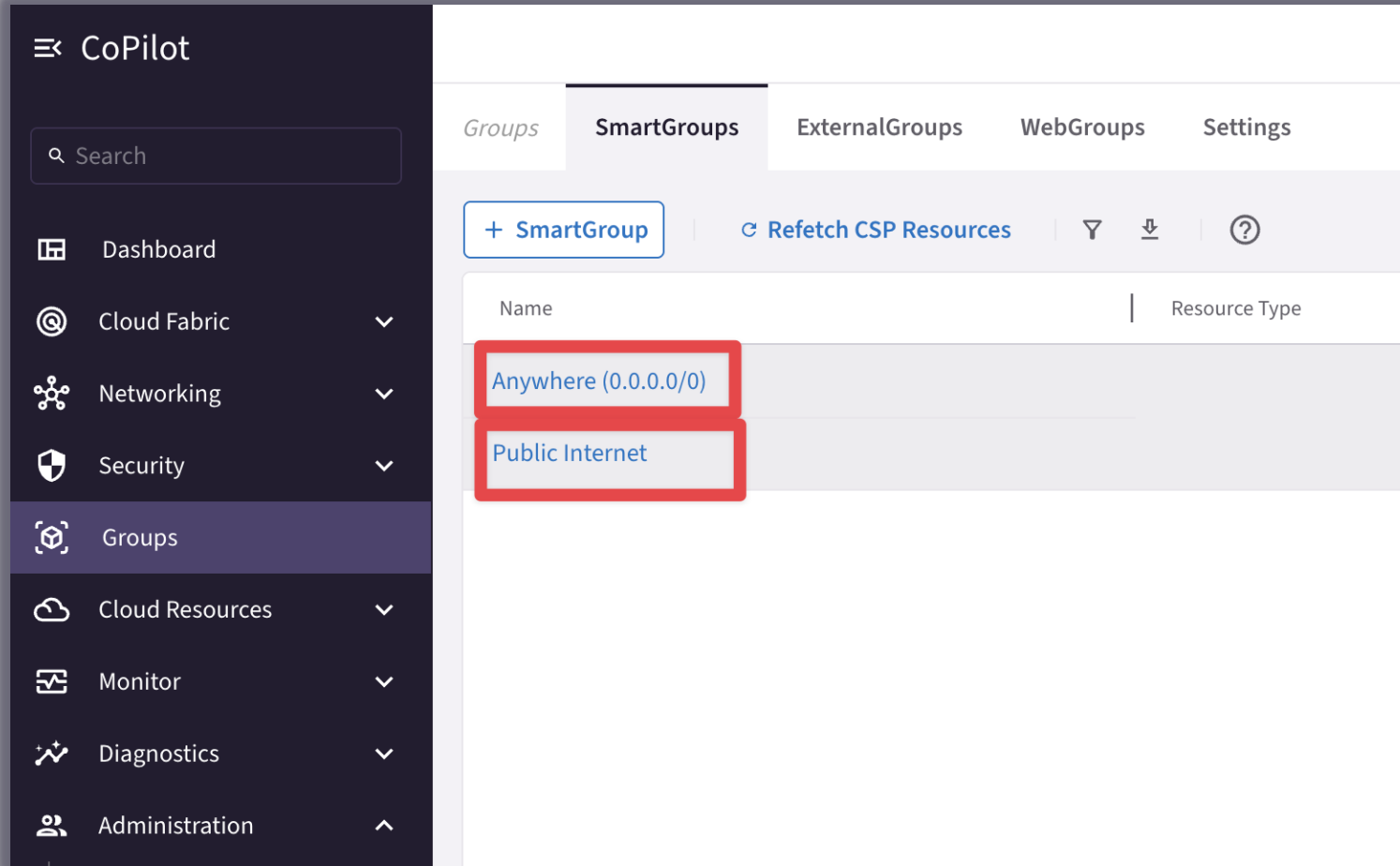
northeurope

Total 3 Resources

Cancel Save

- Controller polls the CSPs to retrieve inventory (about VPCs, instances etc.) every **15 minutes** (can be modified)
- CoPilot queries Controller every **1 hour** (can be modified)
- On-demand refresh of tags is available

Pre-defined Smart Groups



The screenshot shows the AviaTriX CoPilot interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with a search bar and a menu containing: Dashboard, Cloud Fabric, Networking, Security, Groups (highlighted), Cloud Resources, Monitor, Diagnostics, and Administration. The main panel has tabs for Groups, SmartGroups (selected), ExternalGroups, WebGroups, and Settings. Below the tabs are buttons for '+ SmartGroup', 'Refresh CSP Resources', a filter icon, a download icon, and a help icon. A table displays pre-defined SmartGroups:

Name	Resource Type
Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0)	
Public Internet	

- **Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0)** → RFC1918 routes + Default Route (IGW)
- **Public Internet** → Default Route (IGW)

Enabling Distributed Cloud Firewall



Distributed Cloud Firewall provides granular network security controls for distributed applications in the cloud, with a zero-trust architecture and a centralized policy management across multiple clouds.

[Manage Add-on Features](#)

[Enable Distributed Cloud Firewall](#)

- Enabling the Distributed Cloud Firewall without configured rules will deny all previously permitted traffic due to its implicit Deny All rule.
- To maintain consistency, a **Greenfield Rule** will be created to allow traffic that maintains the current state, facilitating the creation of custom rules for specific security needs.

Distributed Cloud Firewall

Rules

Monitor

Detected Intrusions

Settings

+ Rule

Actions



Search

<input type="checkbox"/> Priority	Name	Source	Destination	WebGroup	Protocol	Ports	Action
<input type="checkbox"/> 214748...	Greenfield-Rule	Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0)	Anywhere (0.0.0.0...		Any		Permit
<input type="checkbox"/> 214748...	DefaultDenyAll	Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0)	Anywhere (0.0.0.0...		Any		Deny

The Greenfield-Rule Structure



Edit Rule: Greenfield-Rule

⚠ Rules will be applied only on AWS, AWS Gov, ARM, ARM Gov, and GCP

Name
Greenfield-Rule

Source SmartGroups
Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0) x

Destination SmartGroups
Anywhere (0.0.0.0/0) x

WebGroups

Protocol
Any

Port
All
Specify multiple ports (e.g. 80) and/or port ranges (e.g. 80-8080)

Rule Behavior Enforcement ☒ Logging ☐

Action
Permit

SG Orchestration [ⓘ] ☐ Off

Ensure TLS ☐ Off

TLS Decryption ☐ Off

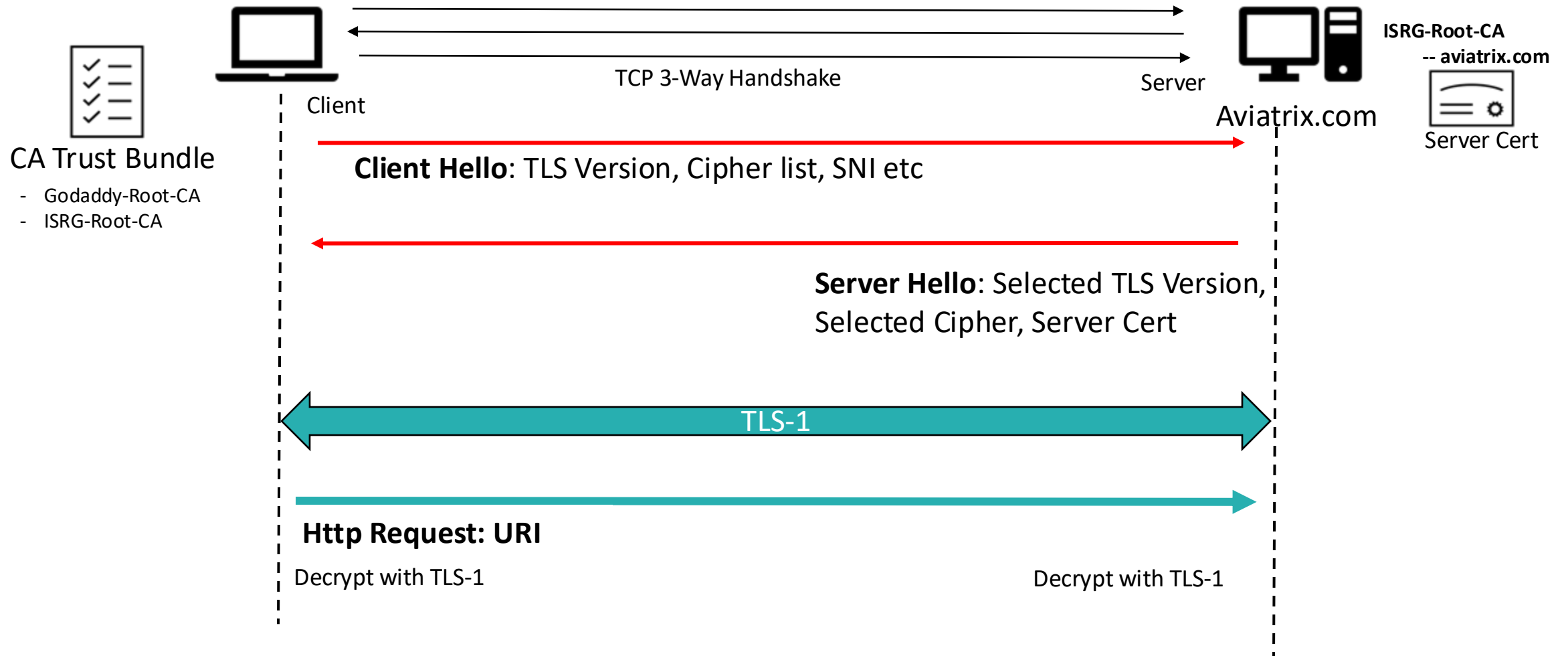
Intrusion Detection (IDS) ☐ Off

Rule Priority

Cancel Save In Drafts

- **Source SmartGroups:** Anywhere(0.0.0.0/0)
- **Destination SmartGroups:** Anywhere(0.0.0.0/0)
- **Protocol:** Any
- **Action:** Permit
- Can be **edited** and **deleted**
- It can be **moved** when new rules are created like any other rules
- If it is the only rule present in the rules base, it is allocated above the implicit deny-all rule

TLS Decryption: Basic TLS Connection



TLS Decryption: PKI/ KMS and Trust Bundle

Certificate Hierarchy

- Root
 - Intermediate
 - Server Cert (Leaf Cert)

Certificate Fields

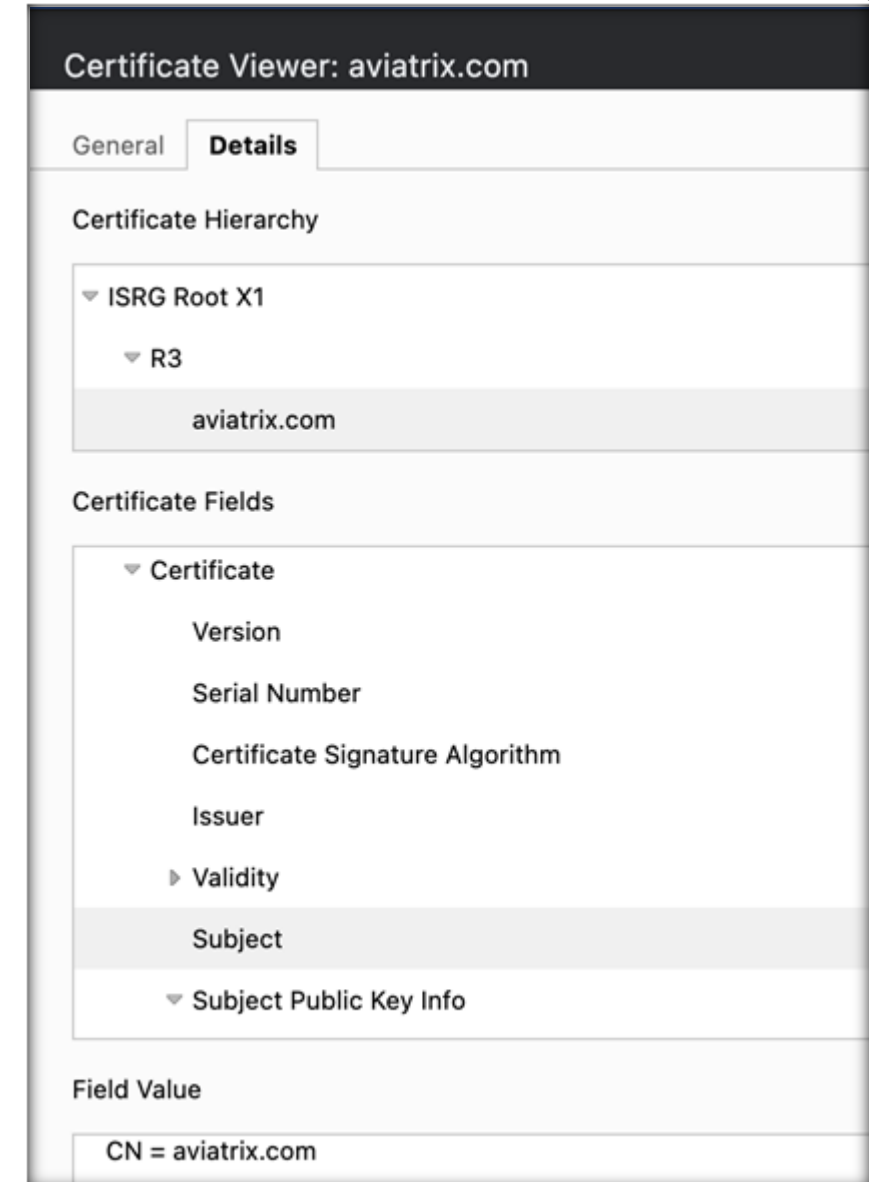
- Issuer
- Validity
- Subject

Trusted Root CA Bundle

Used by the Client and/or Proxy Gateway to Identify/ Trust the Original Server Cert

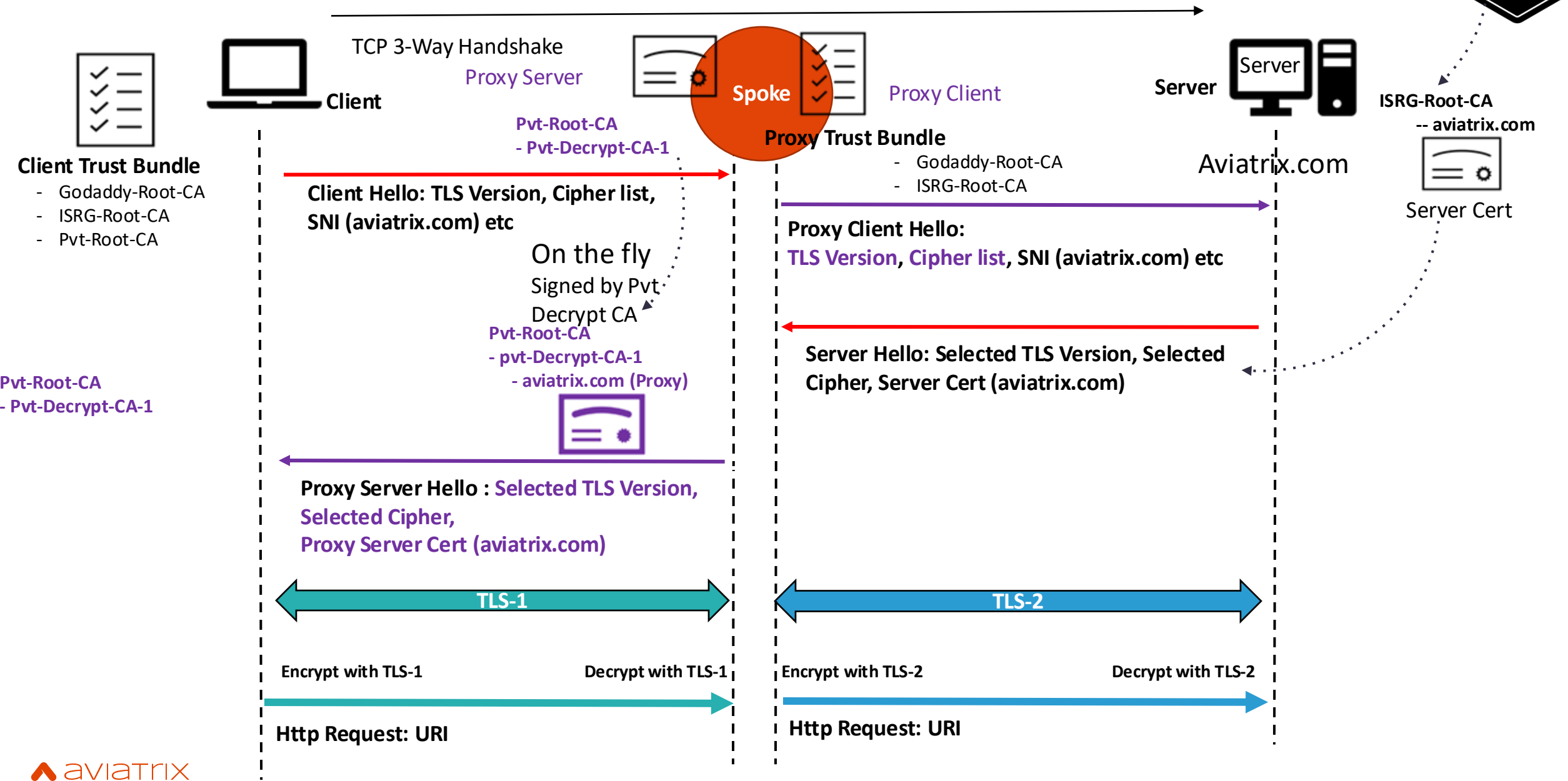
Decryption CA Cert

Used by the Decryption/Proxy gateway to generate a new Proxy-Server Cert and Sign it with the Decryption CA Cert



TLS Decryption: Basic TLS Decryption

Signed by
Public CA



TLS Decryption: Decryption CA Cert

1. Download the Decryption CA Bundle.
2. Distribute the bundle across all the workloads.

ⓘ Decrypt CA Certificates should be trusted by the Source SmartGroup virtual machines when TLS Decryption is enabled for proxy.

Action

Permit



SG Orchestration ⓘ

☒ On

Ensure TLS

☐ Off

TLS Decryption

☒ On

Intrusion Detection (IDS)

☐ Off

Decrypt CA Certificates should be trusted by the **Source SmartGroup** virtual machines when TLS Decryption is enabled for proxy.

Distributed Cloud Firewall
Rules
Monitor
Detected Intrusions
Settings

Security Group (SG) Orchestration Preview

SG Orchestration adds control for both Intra-VPC Traffic and Inbound Internet Access on desired VPC/VNets.

Orchestration	Enabled On
Complete	1 VPC/VNets

[Pause Next Cycle](#)

[View in Topology](#) [Manage](#)

Decryption CA Certificate

Certificate

Expires in 10 years (Self-Signed)

[Renew Certificate](#)

Enforcement

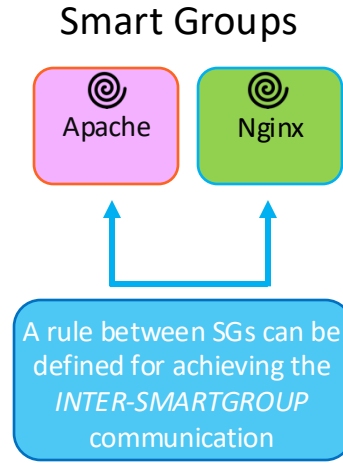
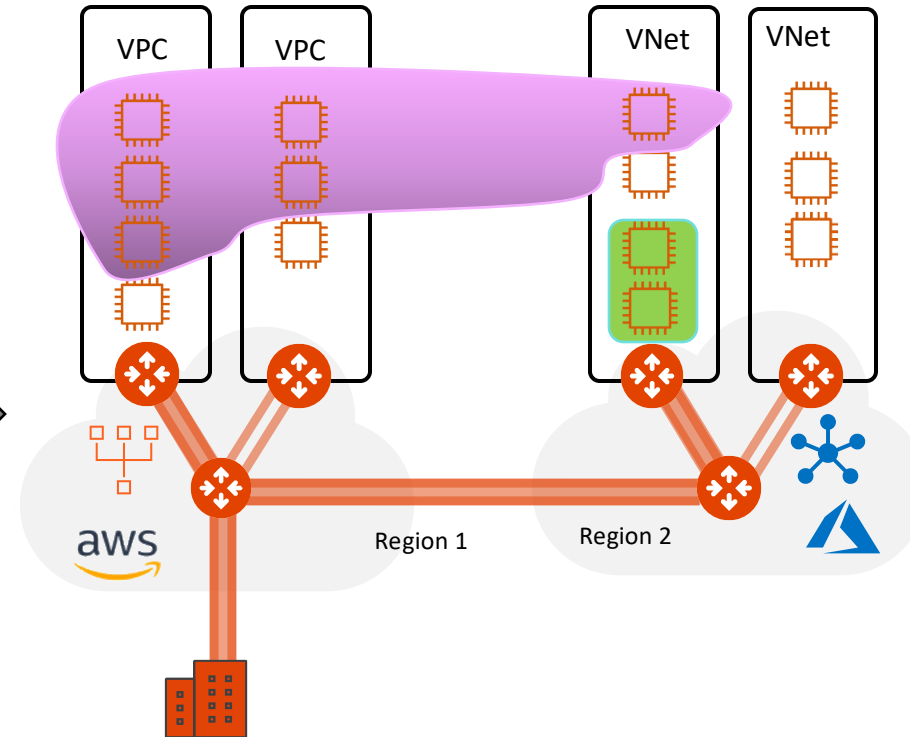
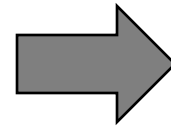
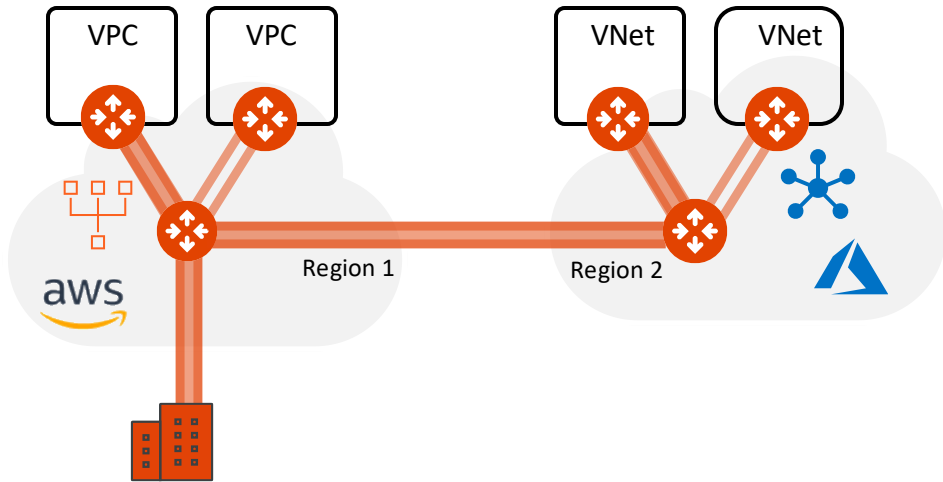
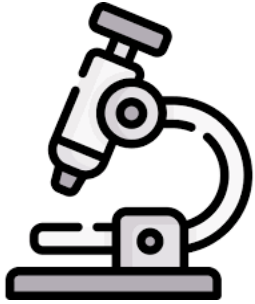
Permissive

Trust Bundle

default-trustbundle

[Download Certificate](#)

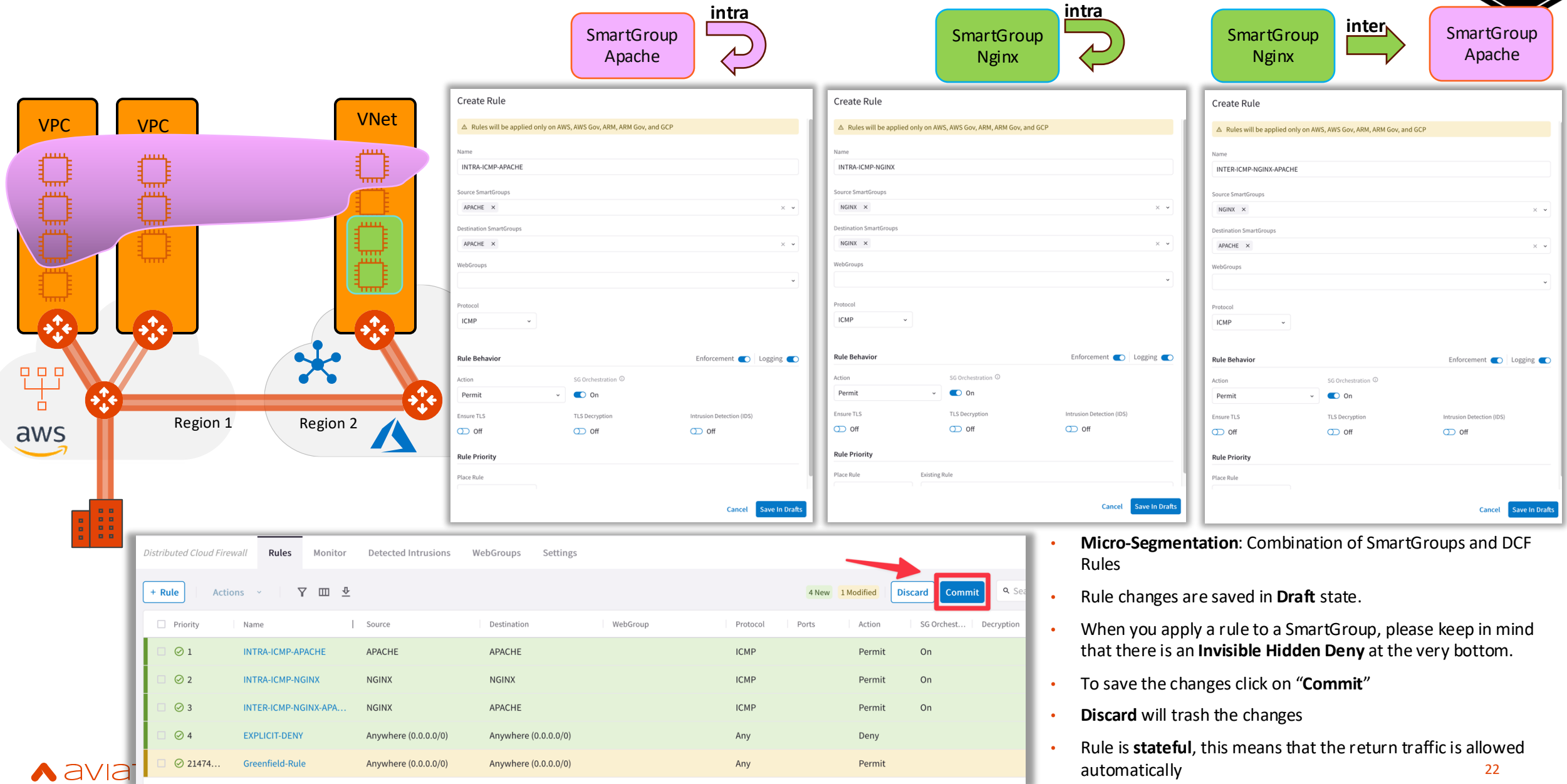
Distributed Cloud Firewall Rule Types: Intra-rule vs. Inter-rule



- **INTRA-RULE:** is defined within a Smart Group, for dictating what kind of traffic is allowed/prohibited among all the instances that belong to that Smart Group

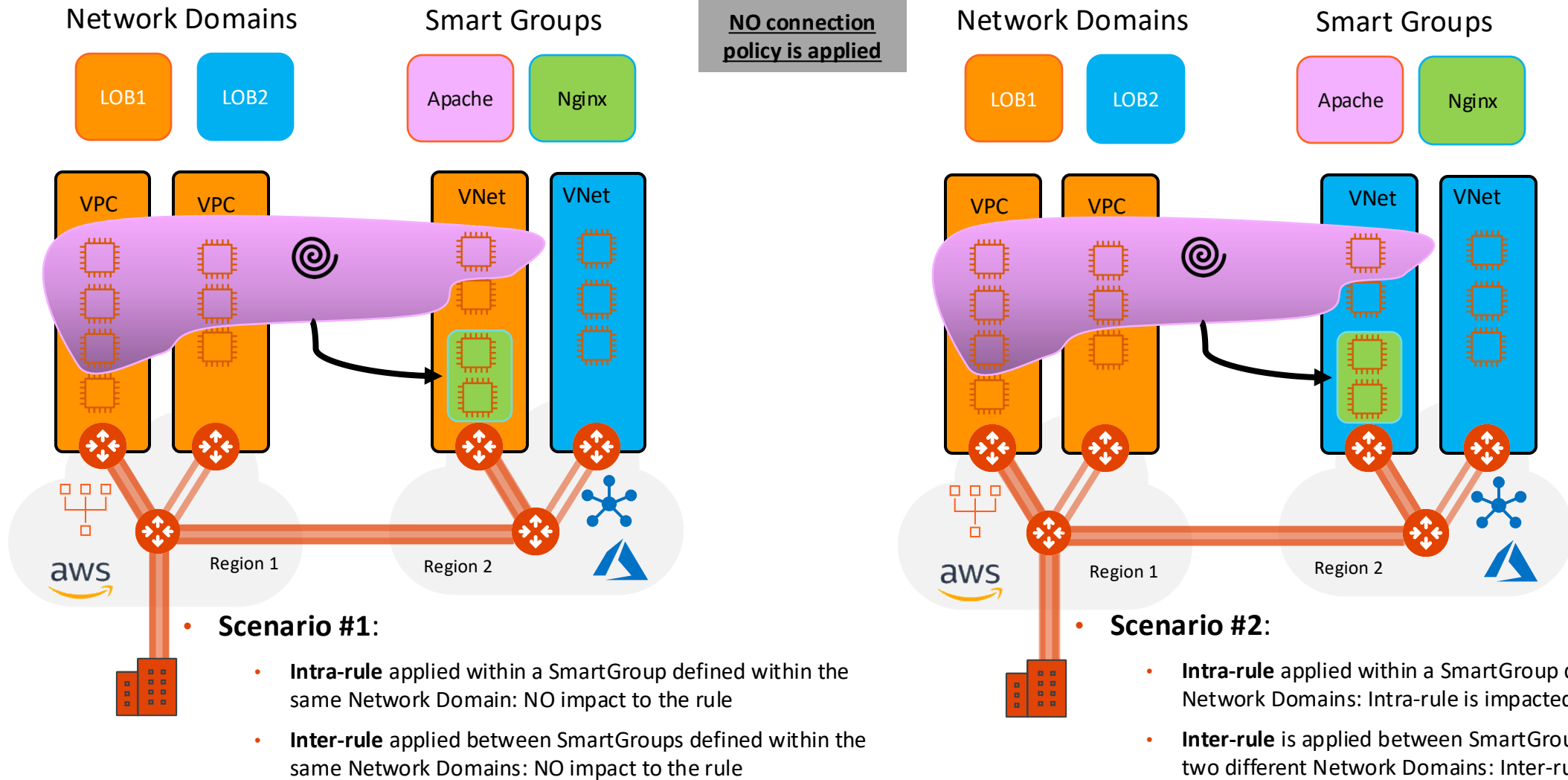
- **INTER-RULE:** is defined among Smart Groups, for dictating what kind of traffic is allowed/prohibited among two or more Smart Groups.

Micro-Segmentation: SmartGroups, Intra-Rules and Inter-Rules



- **Micro-Segmentation:** Combination of SmartGroups and DCF Rules
- Rule changes are saved in **Draft** state.
- When you apply a rule to a SmartGroup, please keep in mind that there is an **Invisible Hidden Deny** at the very bottom.
- To save the changes click on **"Commit"**
- **Discard** will trash the changes
- Rule is **stateful**, this means that the return traffic is allowed automatically

Network Segmentation & Distributed Cloud Firewall Rule together

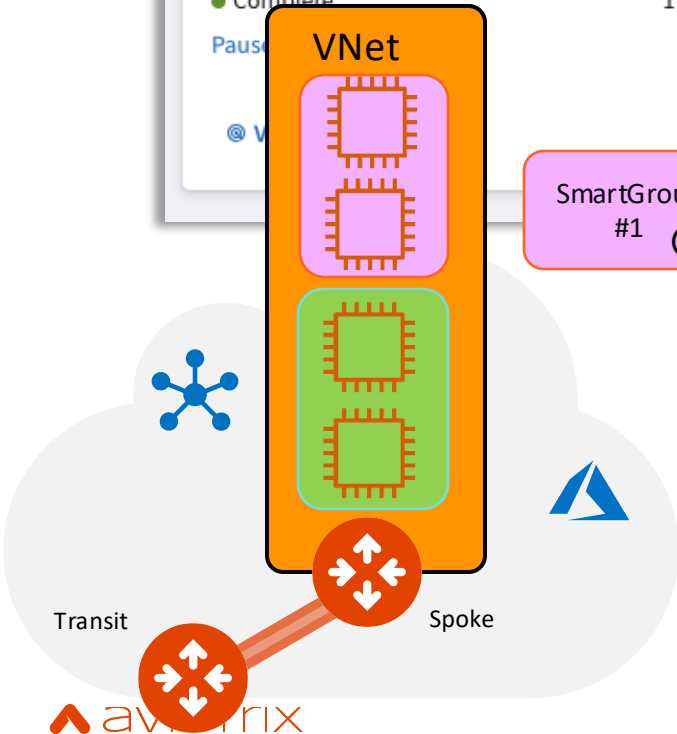
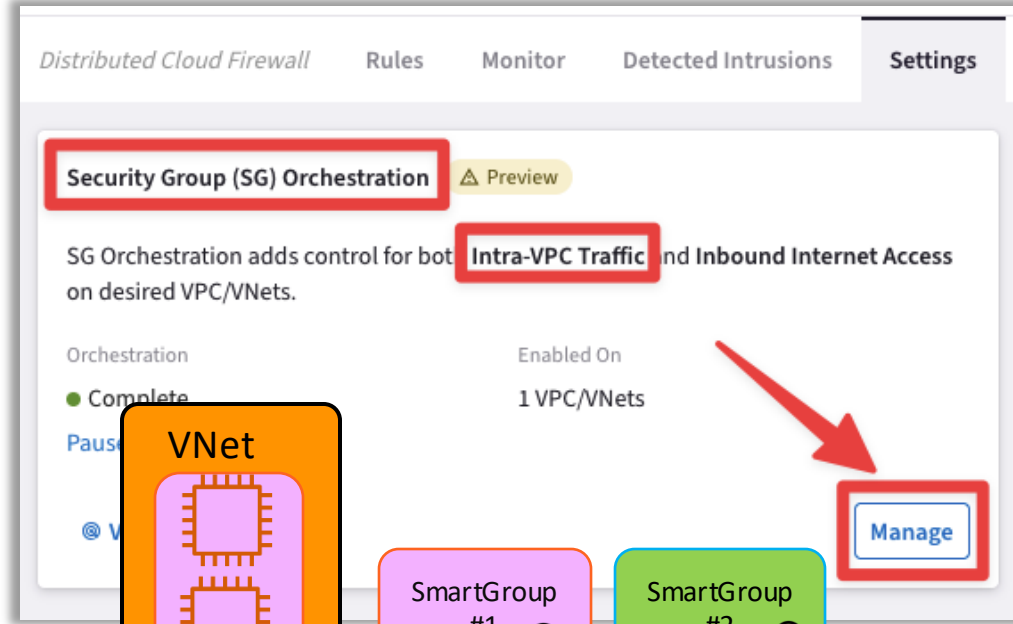


Caveat:

- Network Segmentation and Distributed Firewalling are **NOT** mutually exclusive!
- Network Segmentation takes **precedence** over the extent of a SmartGroup

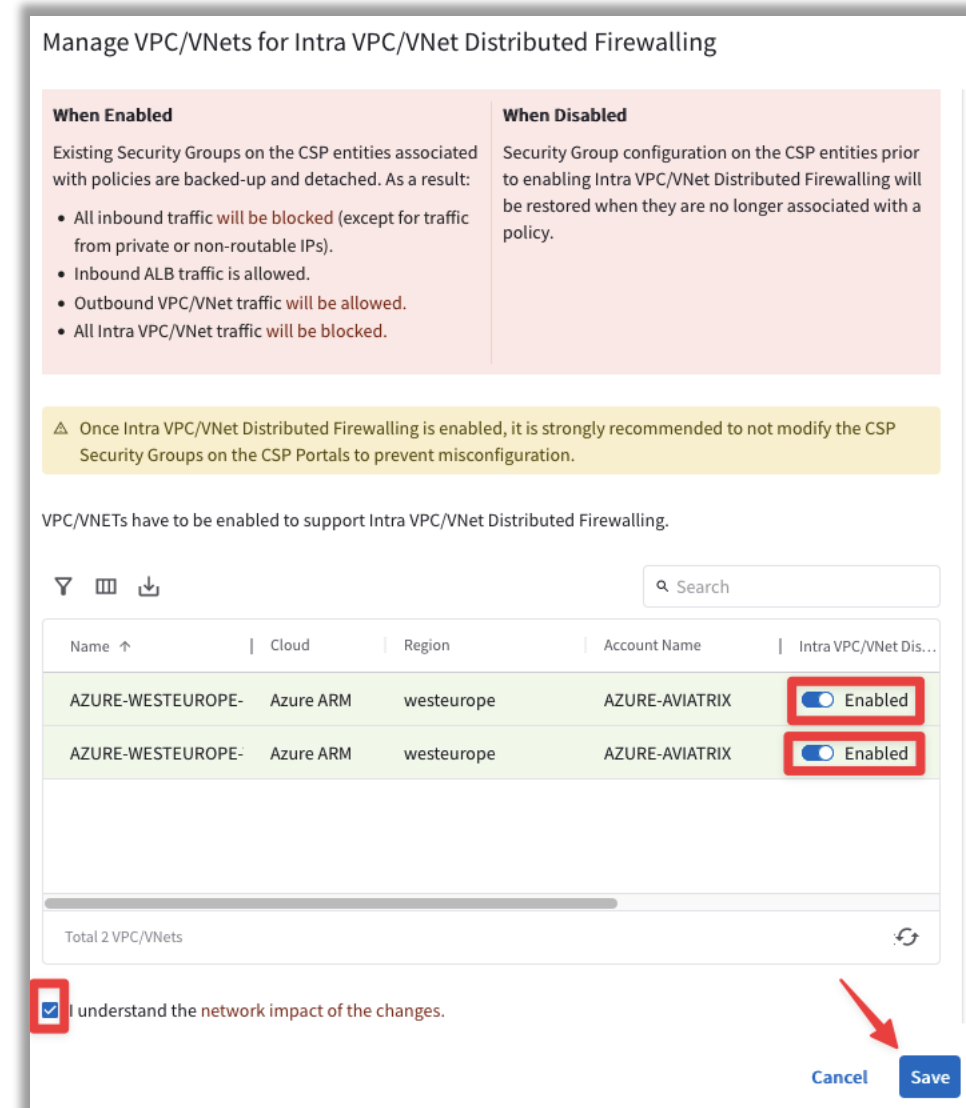
Security Group (SG) Orchestration: Intra VPC/VNet Traffic Control

Enable the feature on the relevant VPC/VNet



- If you enable the **Security Group (SG) Orchestration** (aka *Intra-VPC Traffic Control*), the SmartGroups defined within the same VPC/VNet will not be able to communicate with each other, unless an inter rule is applied between them.
- This is pure L4 separation, leveraging the Native Cloud Constructs (such as SG, NSG and ASG). This is not L7 inspection.

CAVEAT: Available in AWS/Azure



Rule Enforcement



Create Rule

⚠ Rules will be applied only on AWS, AWS Gov, ARM, ARM Gov, and GCP

Name
Allow-HTTPS

Source SmartGroups
AVX-FRANKFURT-PROD1

Destination SmartGroups
Public Internet

WebGroups
Any-Web

Protocol
TCP

Port
443

Specify multiple ports (e.g. 80) and/or port ranges (e.g. 80-8080)

Rule Behavior

Enforcement ☒ Logging ☐

Action
Permit

SG Orchestration ☐ Off

Ensure TLS ☐ Off

TLS Decryption ☐ Off

Intrusion Detection (IDS) ☐ Off

Rule Priority

Cancel Save In Drafts

☐ Enforcement ON

- Policy is enforced in the Data Plane

☐ Enforcement OFF

- Policy is NOT enforced in the Data Plane
- The option provides a *Watch/Test* mode
- Common use case is with deny rule
- Watch what traffic hits the deny rule before enforcing the rule in the Data Plane.

Rule Logging



Create Rule

Rules will be applied only on AWS, AWS Gov, ARM, ARM Gov, and GCP

Name: Allow-HTTPS

Source SmartGroups: AVX-FRANKFURT-PROD1

Destination SmartGroups: Public Internet

WebGroups: Any-Web

Protocol: TCP, Port: 443

Specify multiple ports (e.g. 80) and/or port ranges (e.g. 80-8080)

Rule Behavior

Action: Permit

SG Orchestration: Off

Ensure TLS: Off, TLS Decryption: Off, Intrusion Detection (IDS): Off

Rule Priority:

Enforcement: ☒ Logging: ☒

Cancel Save In Drafts

Monitor

Auto Refresh ☐ Search All Logs

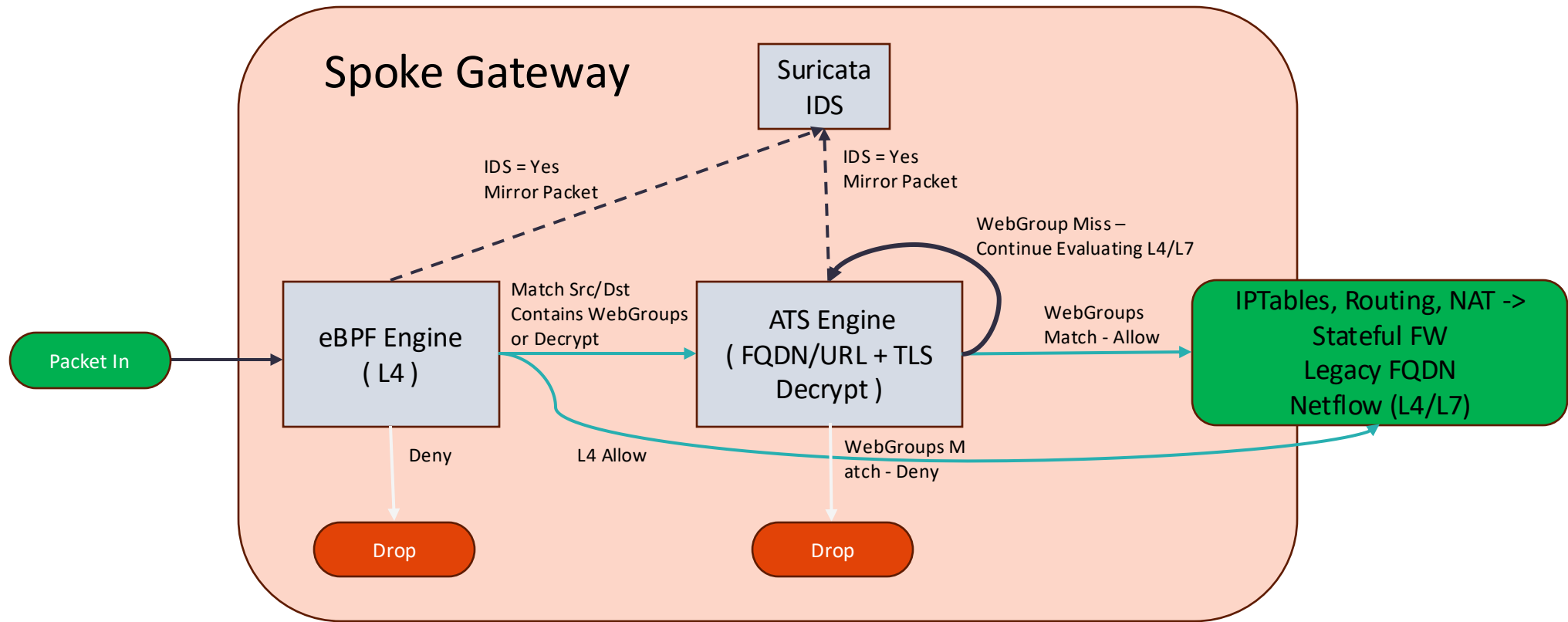
Timestamp	Rule	Source IP	Destination IP	URL	Protocol	Source Port	Destination Port	Action	Enforced
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:04 PM	default-deny-all	10.2.5.141	10.4.2.10		TCP	44324	3306	Deny	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:03 PM	default-deny-all	10.2.5.149	10.4.2.10		TCP	57200	3306	Deny	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:03 PM	allow-internet-https	10.2.2.40	209.85.202.138		TCP	56834	443	Permit	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:03 PM	allow-internet-https	10.2.2.40	23.217.72.114		TCP	44650	443	Permit	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:03 PM	allow-internet-https	10.2.2.70	209.85.203.102		TCP	57610	443	Permit	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:03 PM	default-deny-all	10.1.5.13	10.2.5.163		TCP	56230	443	Deny	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:03 PM	allow-internet-https	10.2.2.70	2.18.237.177		TCP	41148	443	Permit	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:01 PM	allow-k8s-prod-marketing	10.1.5.57	10.2.5.161		TCP	34700	443	Permit	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:01 PM	allow-internet-https	10.1.5.13	151.101.3.52		TCP	47030	443	Permit	On
Mar 25, 2025 5:54:01 PM	allow-internet-https	10.1.5.47	147.75.40.148		TCP	60574	443	Permit	On

Logging can be turned ON/OFF per rule

Configure Syslog to view the logs

DFW Engines At-a-Glance

- **eBPF** (extended Berkeley Packet Filter) Engine (L4) → Stateful Firewall Rule (forwarding path)
- WebProxy **ATS** (Apache Traffic Server) Engine (L7) → it is triggered whether WebGroups or TLS Decryption are required
- **Suricata** Engine (DPI) → Signature of the payload (only in IDS mode at the moment)





Next: Lab 11 – Distributed Cloud Firewall