



# Business Information Security

## Week 09: Security Technology (Part 2)

- Proxies (continued)
- Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)
- Intrusion Detection Systems (IDSs)

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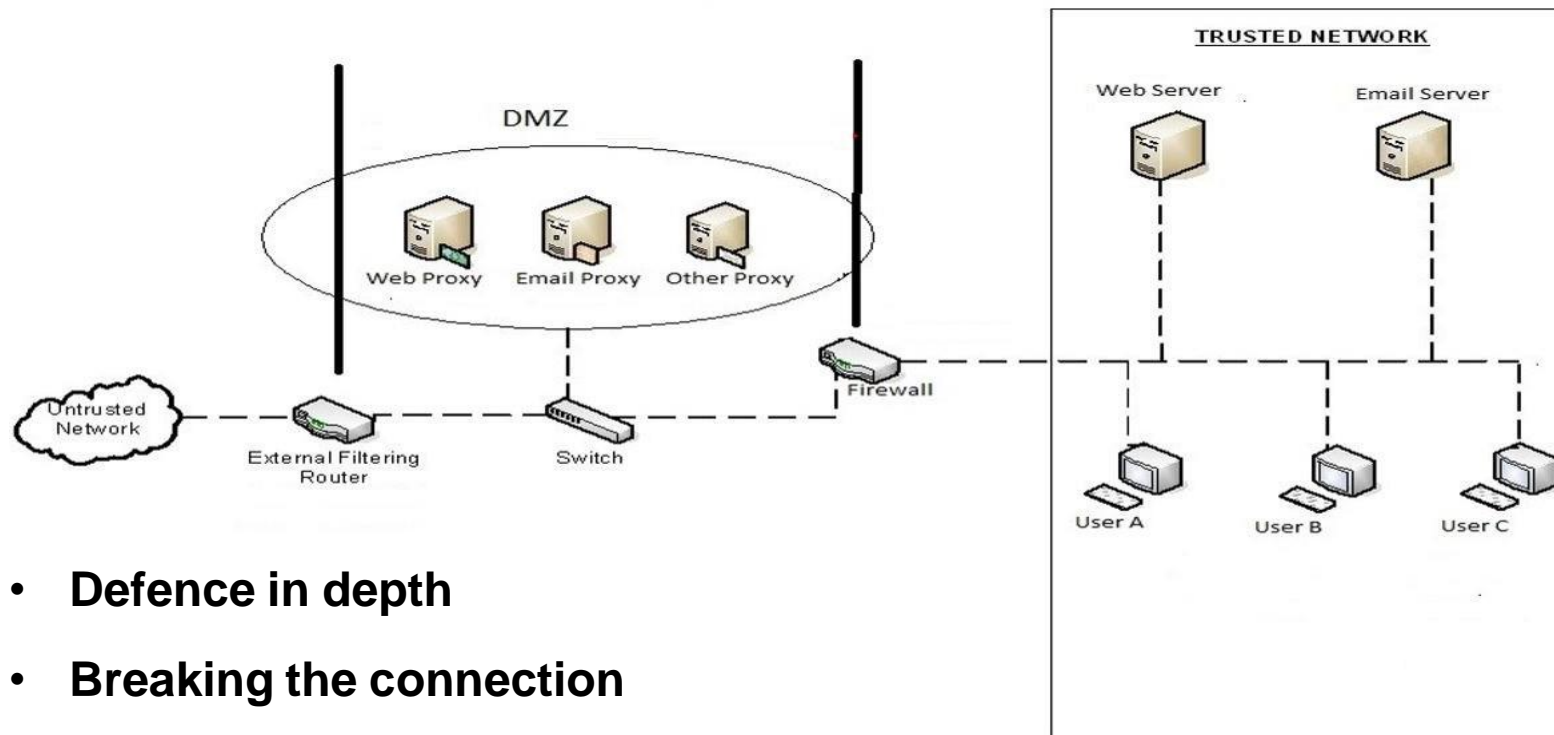
Semester 2, 2024

# Overview - Network building blocks/Terminology

- HUB      Layer 1 Physical
- Bridge    Layer 2 Data Link
- Switch    Layer 2 Data Link
- Router    Layer 3 Network
- Firewall   Layer 3/4 Network/Transport
- DMZ
- Server
- Proxy      Layer 7/4 Application/Transport
- VPN
- IDS

# Security: the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Let's talk more about the 'proxy' concept



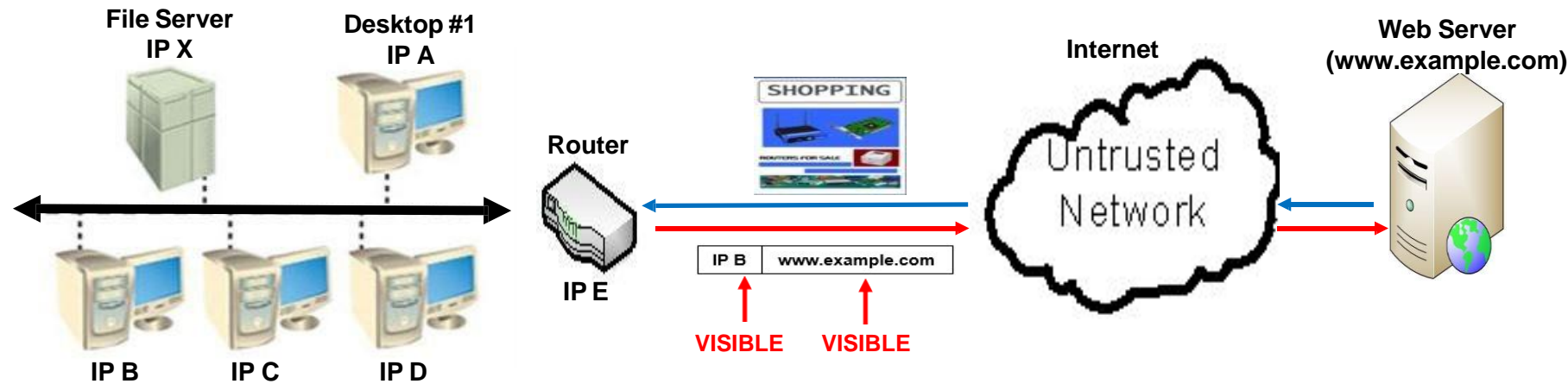
- Defence in depth
- Breaking the connection
- Scope

# Home web surfing – what is happening?



- **Basis of online business – but no security unless we add it (refer back to TLS discussion)**
- **What information is available to the business Web Server?**  
***WhatIsMyIPAddress.com (or worse, <https://amiunique.org/fp>)***
- **Now let's consider the same web request from a business network**

# Business web surfing – what is happening?



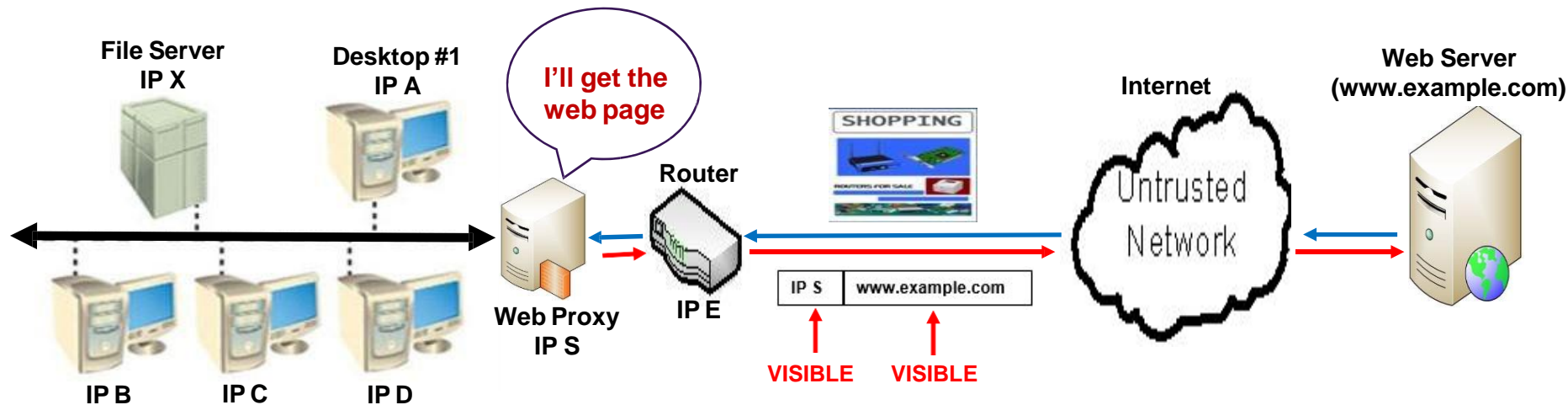
- It's easy to build up (profile) a business network which has no controls in place to mitigate this risk!
- **From a hacker/security analyst viewpoint – easier to attack what you know!**

BUSINESS NETWORK PROFILE (Externally Compiled)	
Desktop #1	IP A
Desktop #2	IP B
Desktop #3	IP C
Desktop #4	IP D
Router	IP E
File Server	Not known (as yet)



**POOR SECURITY**

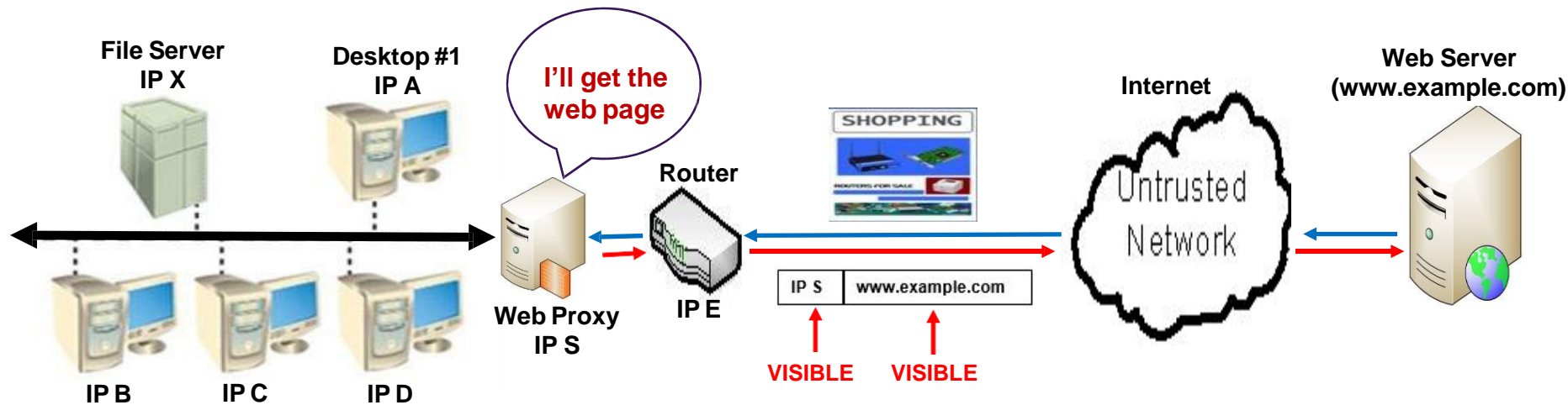
# Business web surfing – with a **proxy** - what is happening?



BUSINESS NETWORK PROFILE (Externally Compiled)	
Desktop #1	Not known
Desktop #2	Not known
Desktop #3	Not known
Desktop #4	Not known
Web Proxy	IP S
Router	IP E
File Server	Not known

➡ IMPROVED SECURITY

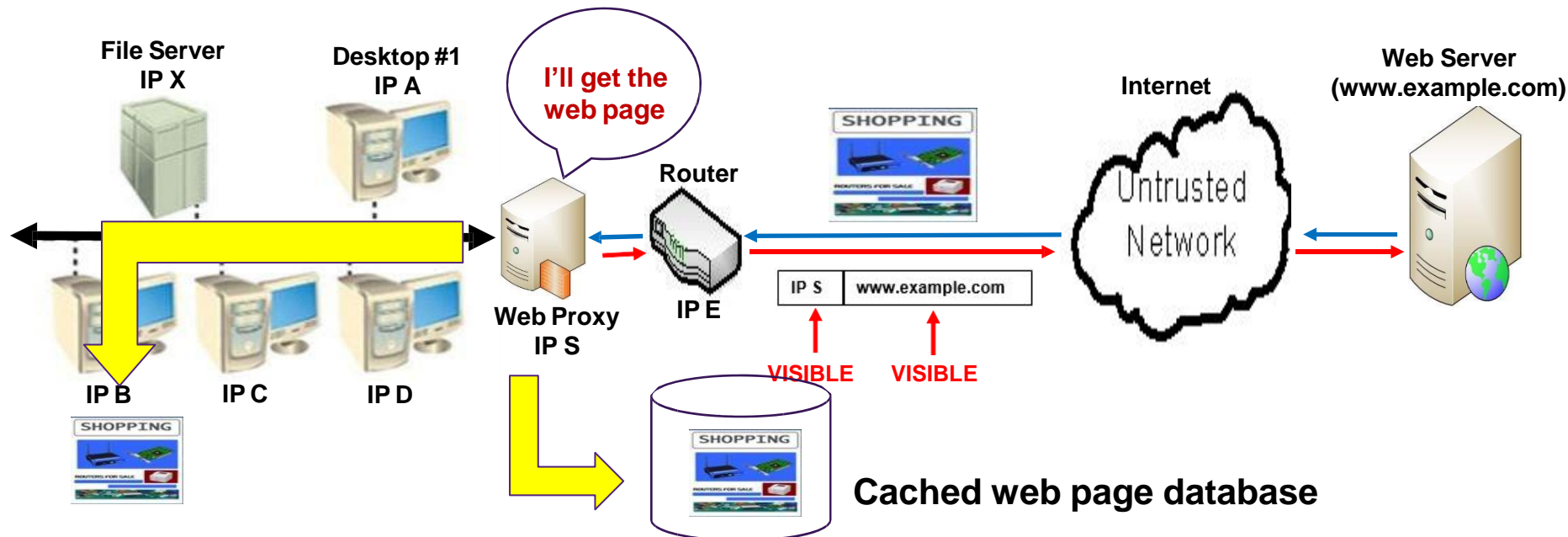
## The benefits of a proxy (#1)



### Benefit #1:

- **Privacy** (for individual machines & the network overall)
- **Privacy** in terms of web surfing history – this is a large component of ‘business intelligence’ – the outside world knows the web sites we visit – how long we stay on these sites – what parts of these sites we access. Web sites we visit have a very good idea of our details – including (approximately) where we live.

## The benefits of a proxy (#2)

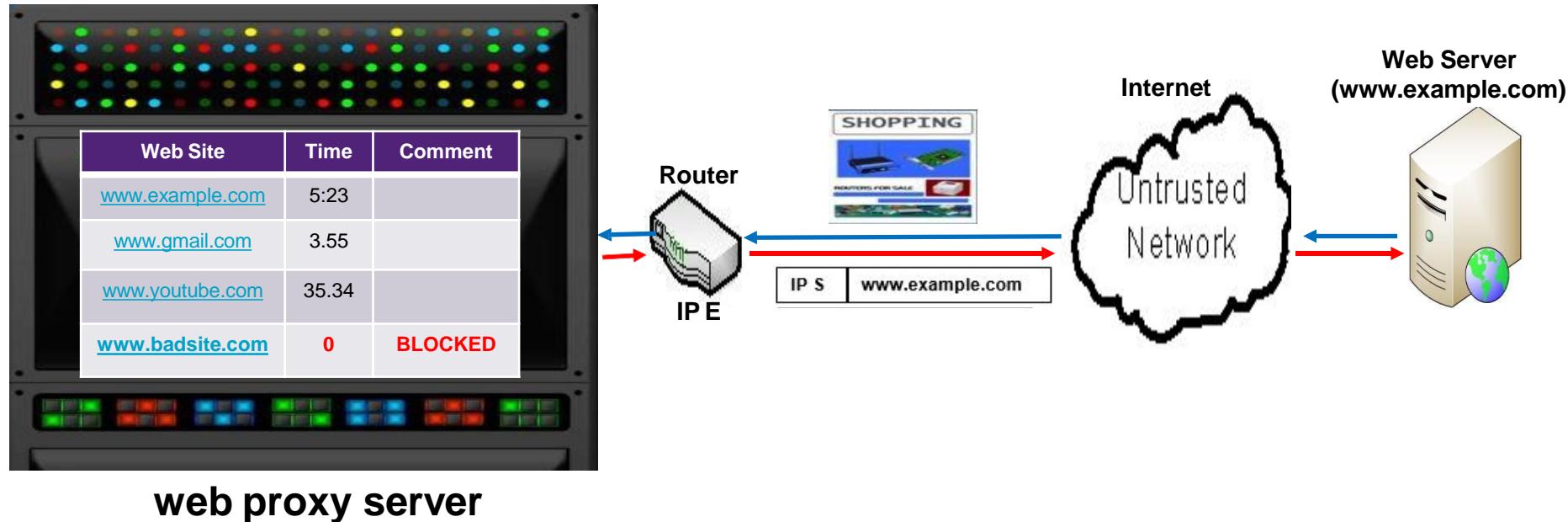


### Benefit #2:

- **Speed** – faster retrieval of web pages **AND**
- **Bandwidth** – reduces the need to go out onto the Internet – this is being responsible at a corporate level – it should be part of the **Issue Specific Security policy** ('**Planning**' in week 3)



## The benefits of a proxy (#3)



### Benefit #3:

- **Management** – web usage enforced as per Issue Specific Security
- **Activity logging** – we see this in all entries – this is just an example
- **'Blacklisted Sites'** – we see this in the 4th entry – the proxy stops the corporate network being used for 'undesirable' activities
- All these details are logged for a long term record and ongoing analysis
- We shall come back to this issue – **proxies assist in good management of corporate policy**

# Proxy types

## Transparent Proxy

- **Definition:** A transparent proxy, also known as an intercepting or inline proxy, intercepts the client's requests without modifying them.
- **Characteristics:**
  - The client is unaware of the proxy's presence.
  - The client's IP address is visible to the destination server.
  - Often used for content filtering, caching, and monitoring.

## Non-Transparent Proxy

- **Definition:** A non-transparent proxy, also known as an anonymous proxy, modifies the client's requests before forwarding them to the destination server.
- **Characteristics:**
  - The client is aware of the proxy's presence.
  - The client's IP address is hidden from the destination server.
  - Often used for privacy, security, and bypassing geo-restrictions.

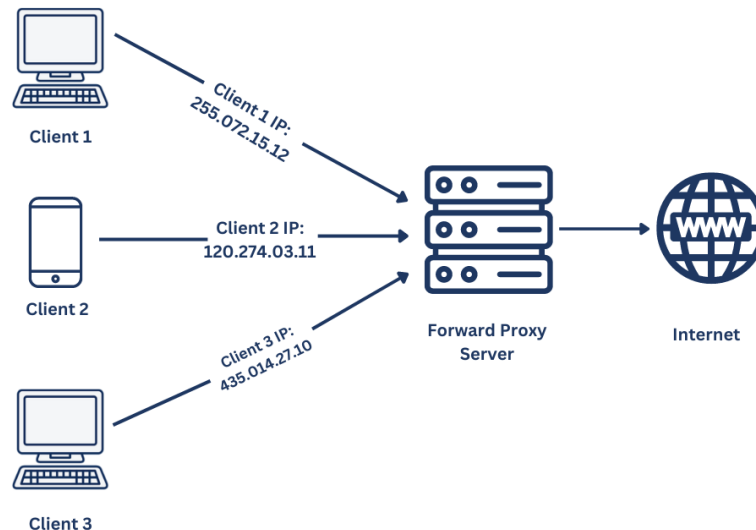
## Explicit Proxy

- **Definition:** An explicit proxy requires the client to configure their browser or application to use the proxy server.
- **Characteristics:**
  - The client must be configured to use the proxy.
  - Can be either transparent or non-transparent.
  - Often used in corporate environments for access control and monitoring.

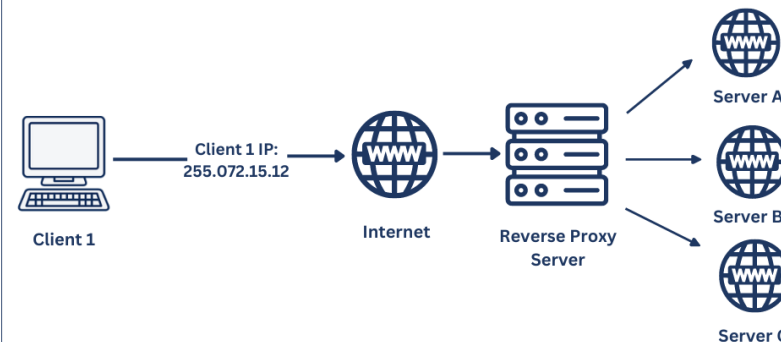
# Proxies – in summary

- **Proxies are firewalls** – application ‘layer’ firewalls
- Proxies are **specialized** – they only deal with ‘their’ protocol (e.g. web, email) – this is completely different to layer 3/4 firewalls that look at everything (all protocols)
- **Proxies can analyse the data in packets** – again this is different to layer 3/4 firewalls that only analyse the packet headers – proxies are therefore slower than packet filtering firewalls – **but the ‘nasty stuff’ is always in the data!**
- Proxies are very **efficient in implementing corporate web policy**
- We have talked about a proxy as a single role entity – actually there are ‘**forward**’ and ‘**reverse**’ proxies (diagram below) – we treat them as a single entity

Forward Proxies



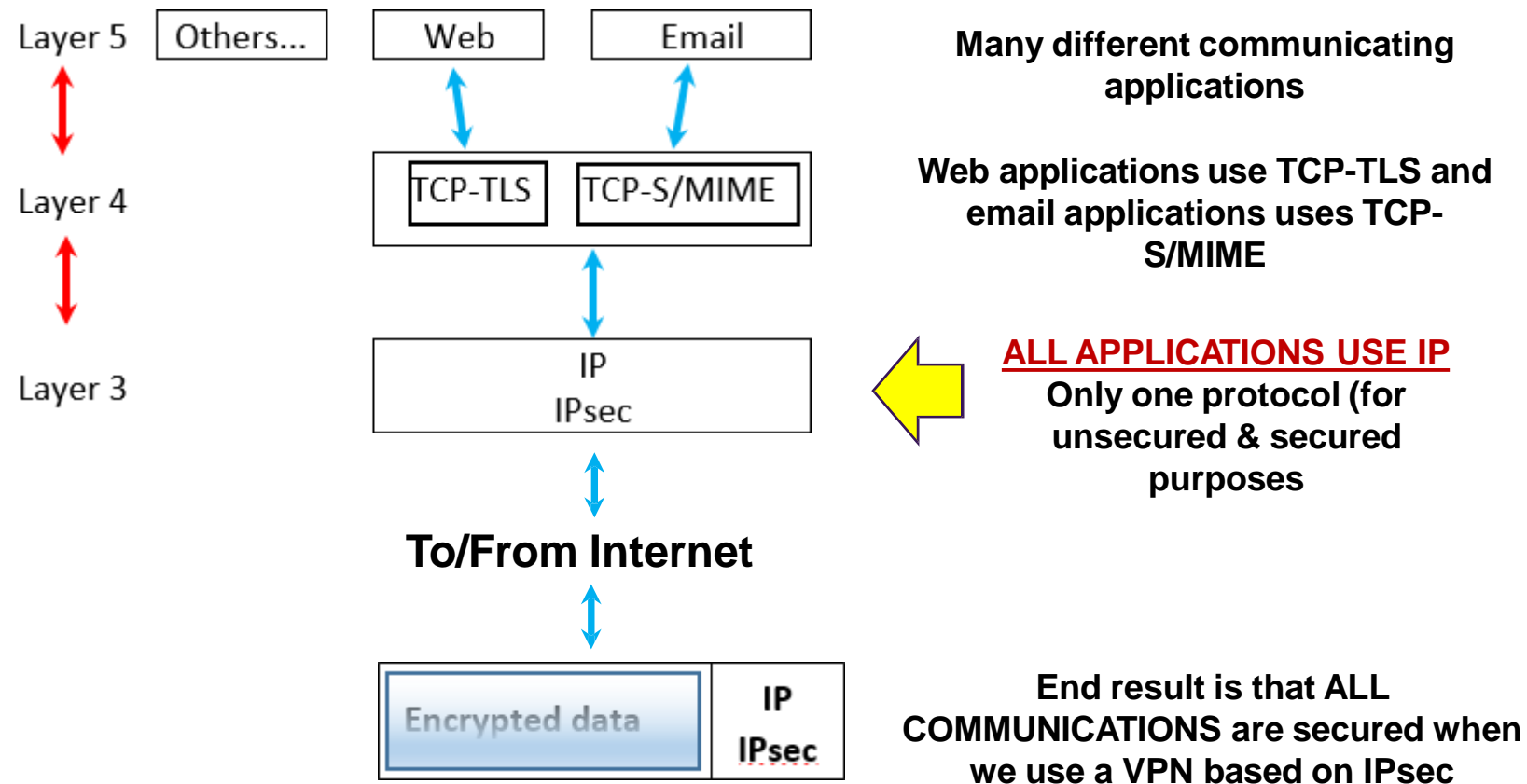
Reverse Proxies



# Virtual private networks (VPNs)

- **Transparent proxies cannot encrypt data!**
- A significant **need for private, secure network connection** between **businesses** (e.g. professional practices, SMEs, even corporates); any entity using data communication capability of *unsecured, public* network
- The **need to maintain the business policies** when workers are remote from the business (but using the business network). This usually involves the **VPN working in cooperation with the corporate proxy server.**
- VPN must accomplish:
  - **Encryption of ALL incoming and outgoing data**
  - **Authentication**

# VPN – encryption/decryption of ALL outgoing data

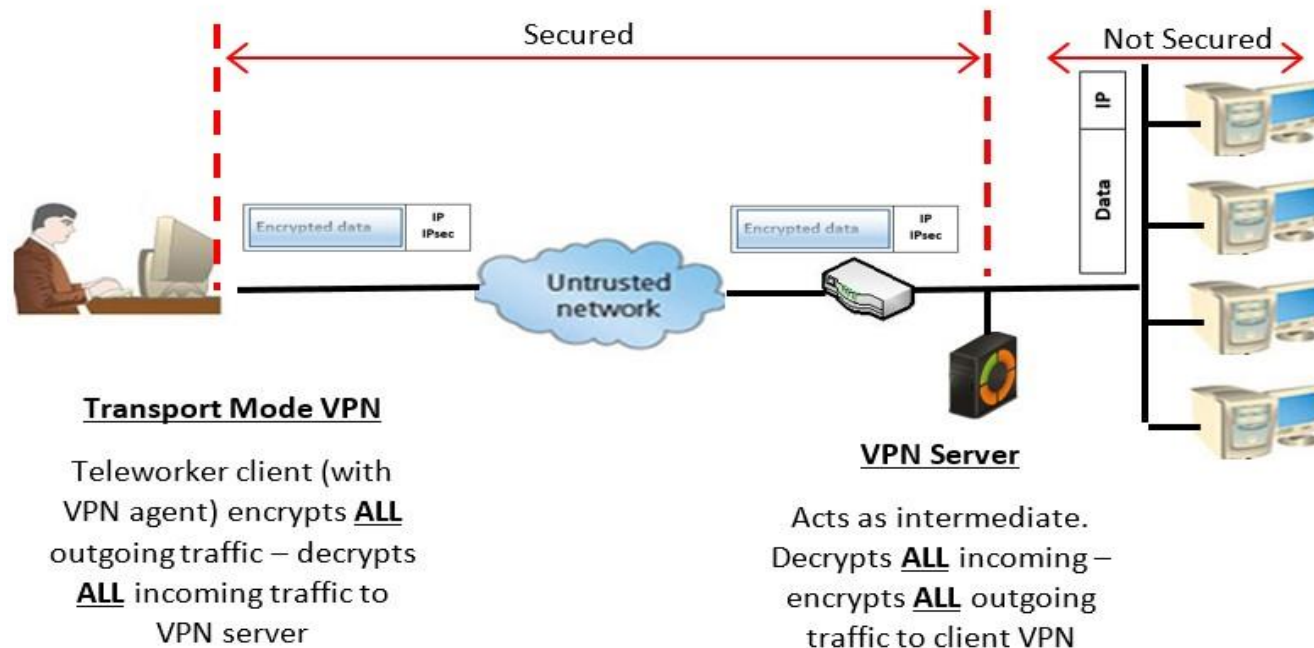


This is exactly the result that many situations need - all communications secured – regardless of the type of sending application! Let's consider two popular scenarios for VPN usage in business

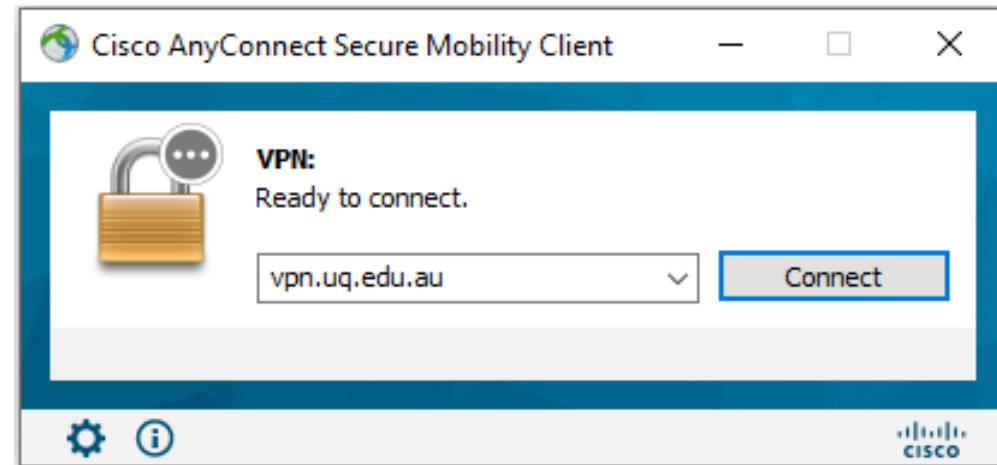
# Virtual private networks (VPNs) – Design #1

## (1) Transport mode

- **Allows user to establish secure link directly with remote host, encrypting only data contents of packet**
- **Most popular use:**
  - Remote access worker connects to office network over Internet by connecting to a VPN server on the perimeter
  - We say that using the VPN puts the remote worker '*behind*' the firewall/router – '*inside*' their work network. The worker can use all her/his usual work resources from home.



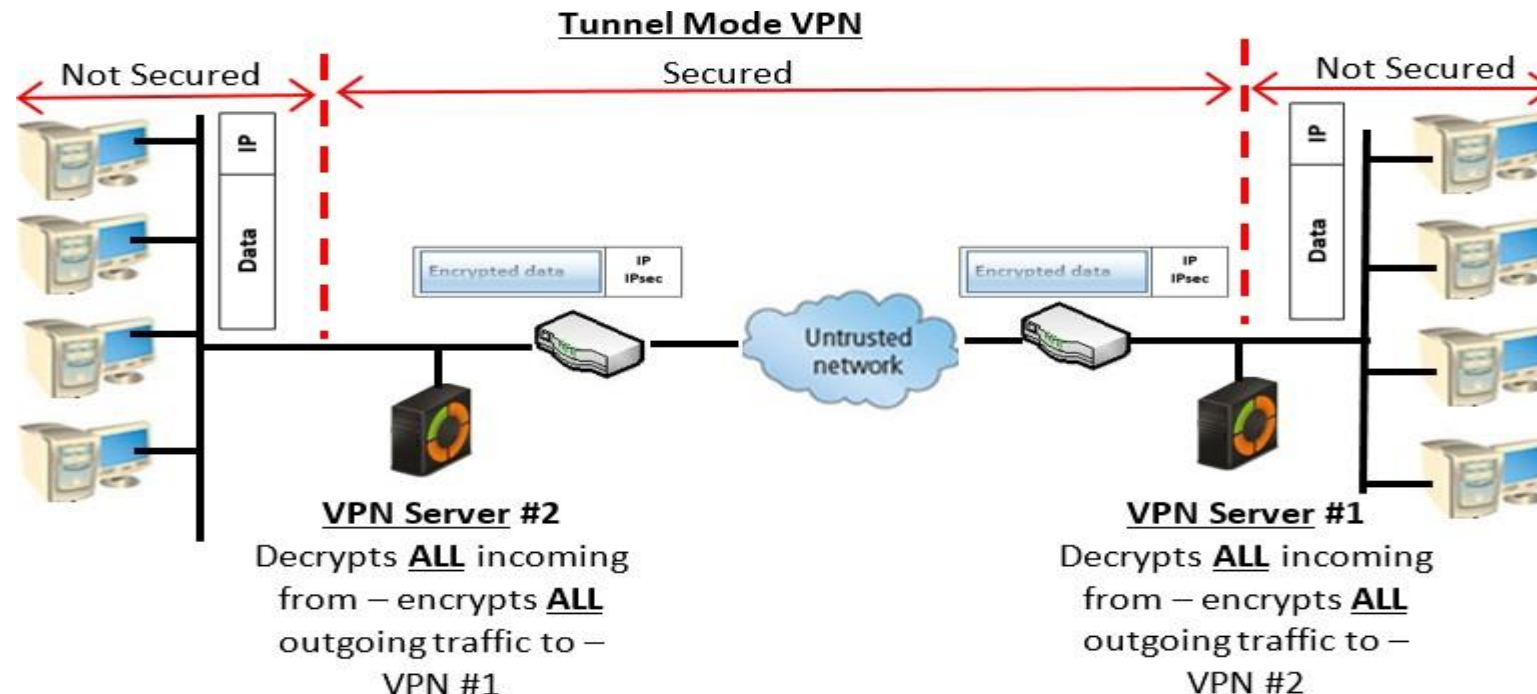
# Example Transport Mode: Cisco AnyConnect for UQ



# Virtual private networks (VPNs) – Design #2

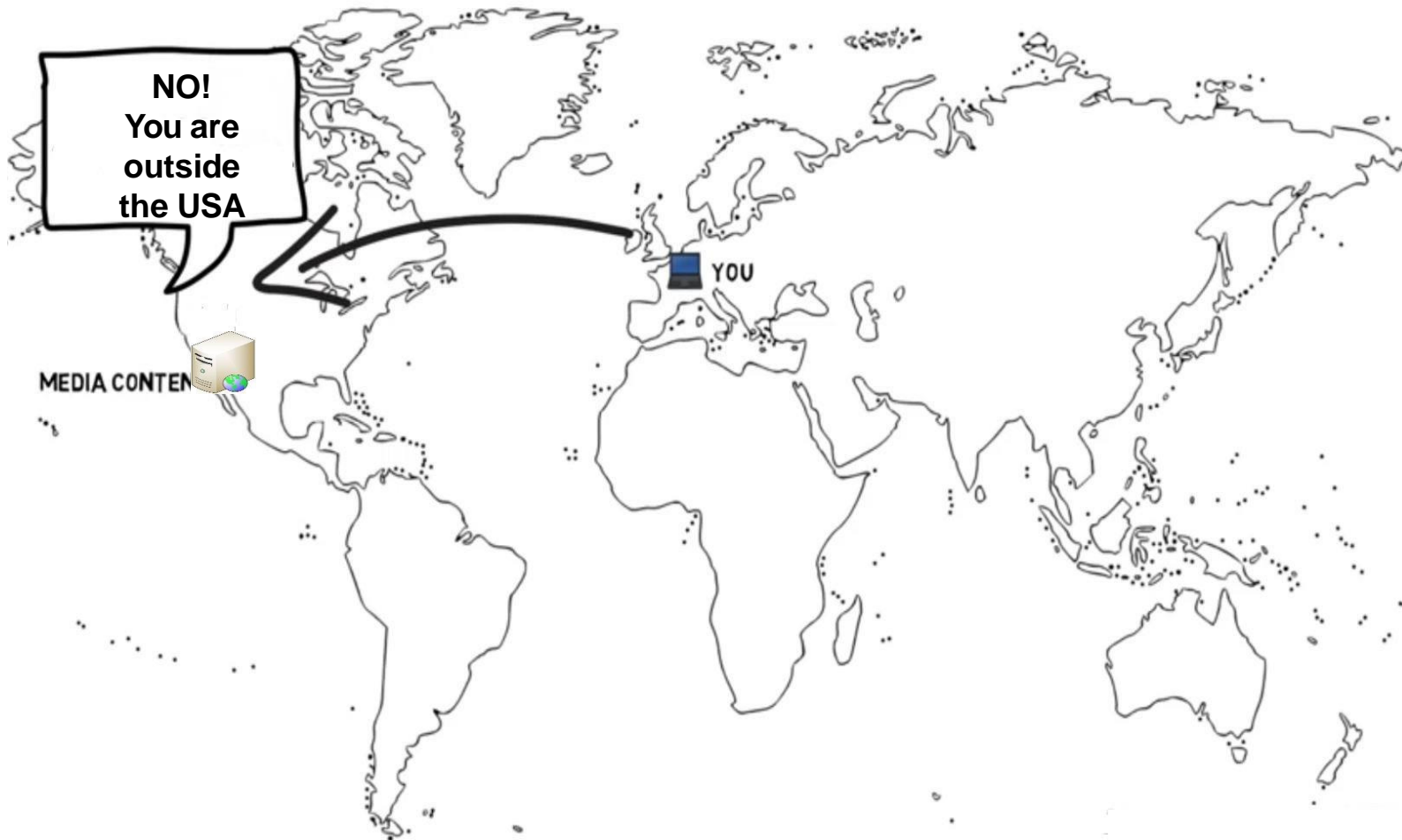
## (2) Tunnel mode

- Organization establishes two perimeter tunnel servers
- These servers act as encryption points, encrypting all traffic that will traverse unsecured network
- Very popular secure solution for professional practices (e.g. medical, legal, dental)

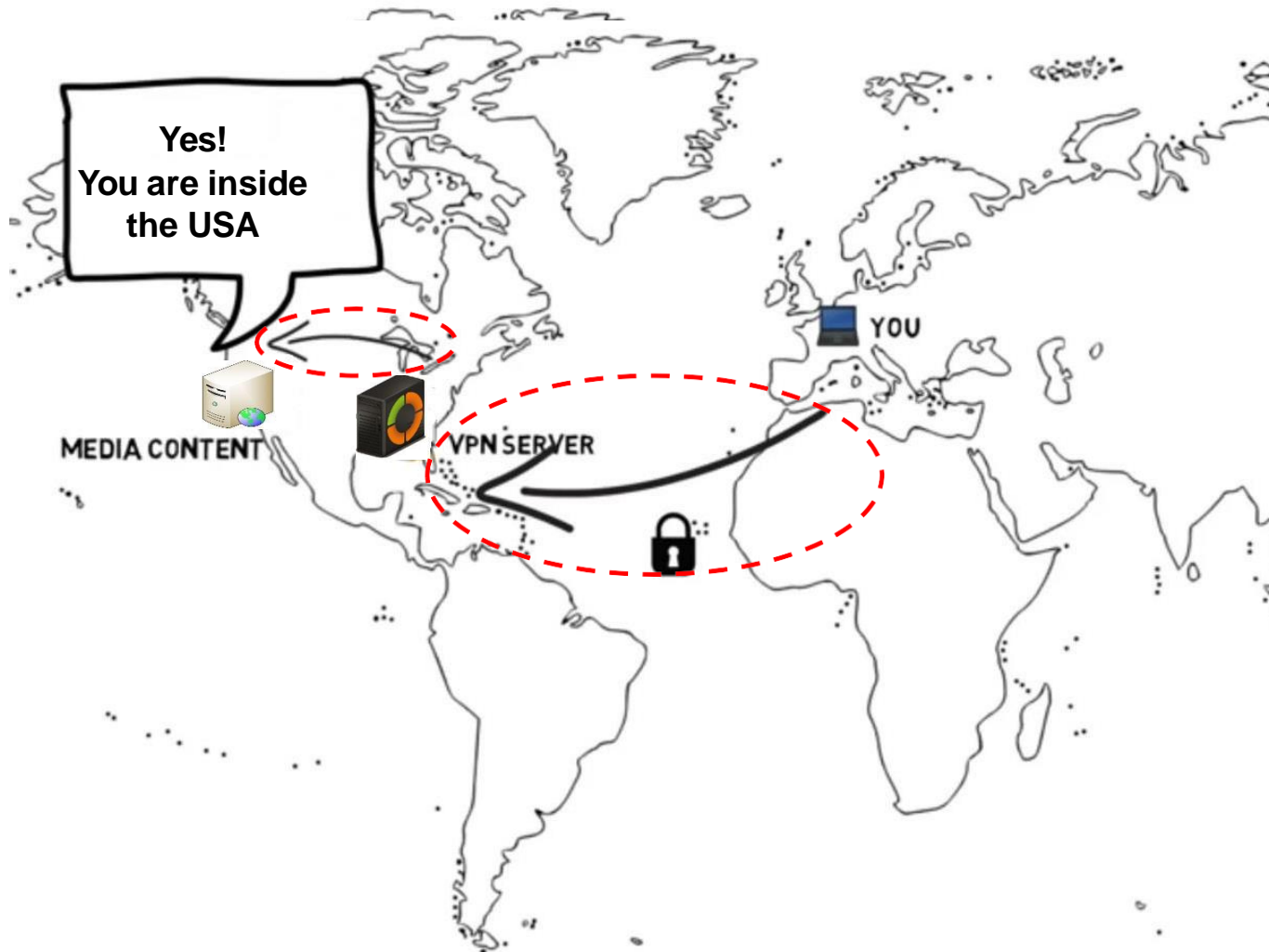




## ‘Geographical’ restrictions to certain services are problematic



## VPN – ‘geographical’ restrictions to certain services may be avoided!



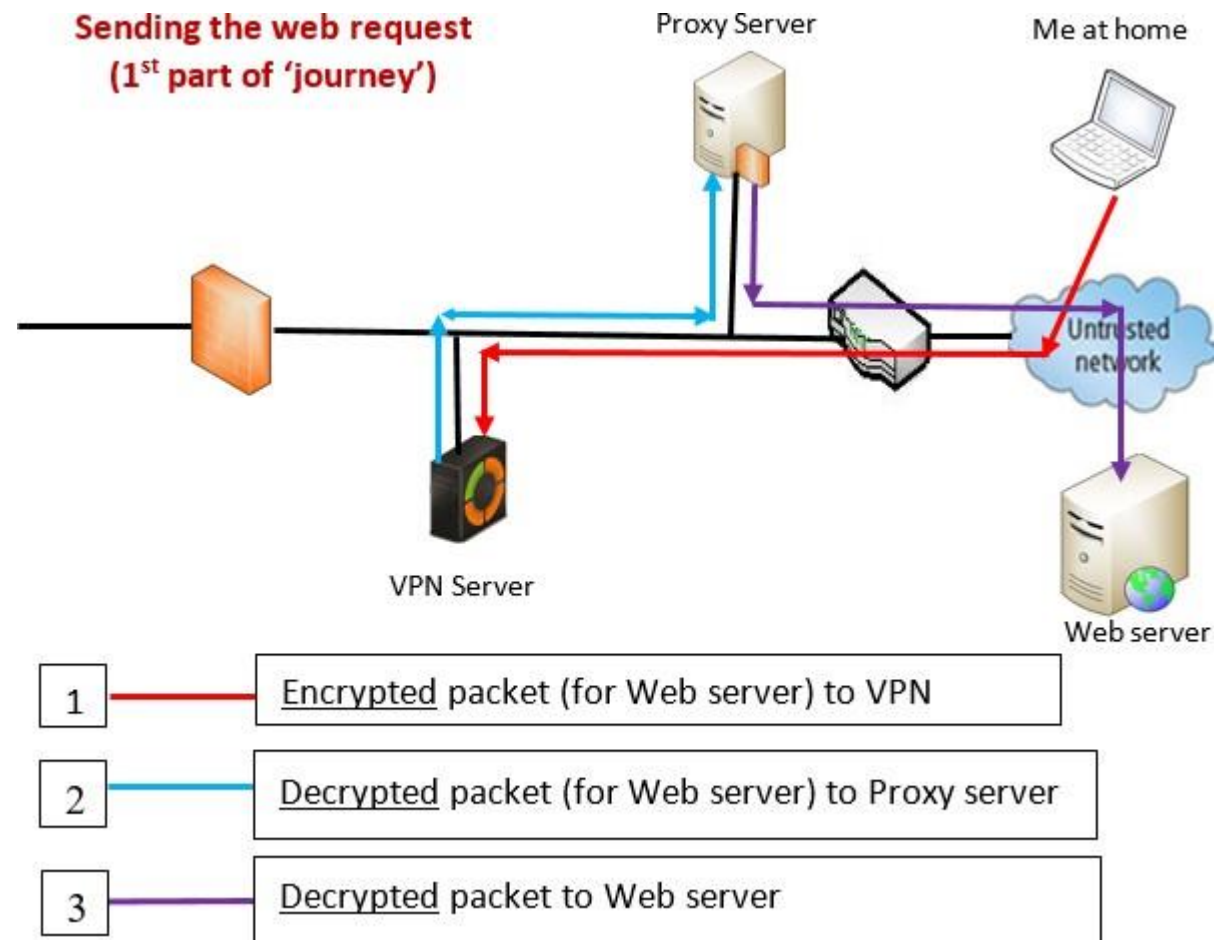
### Issues:

- 1) Bandwidth – geography near your streaming server
- 2) Streaming service blocks VPNs / proxy servers
- 3) Legality of VPN use up to the country
- 4) Private users of VPNs should not assume that no ‘activity logging’ is recorded – anonymity may not be totally guaranteed

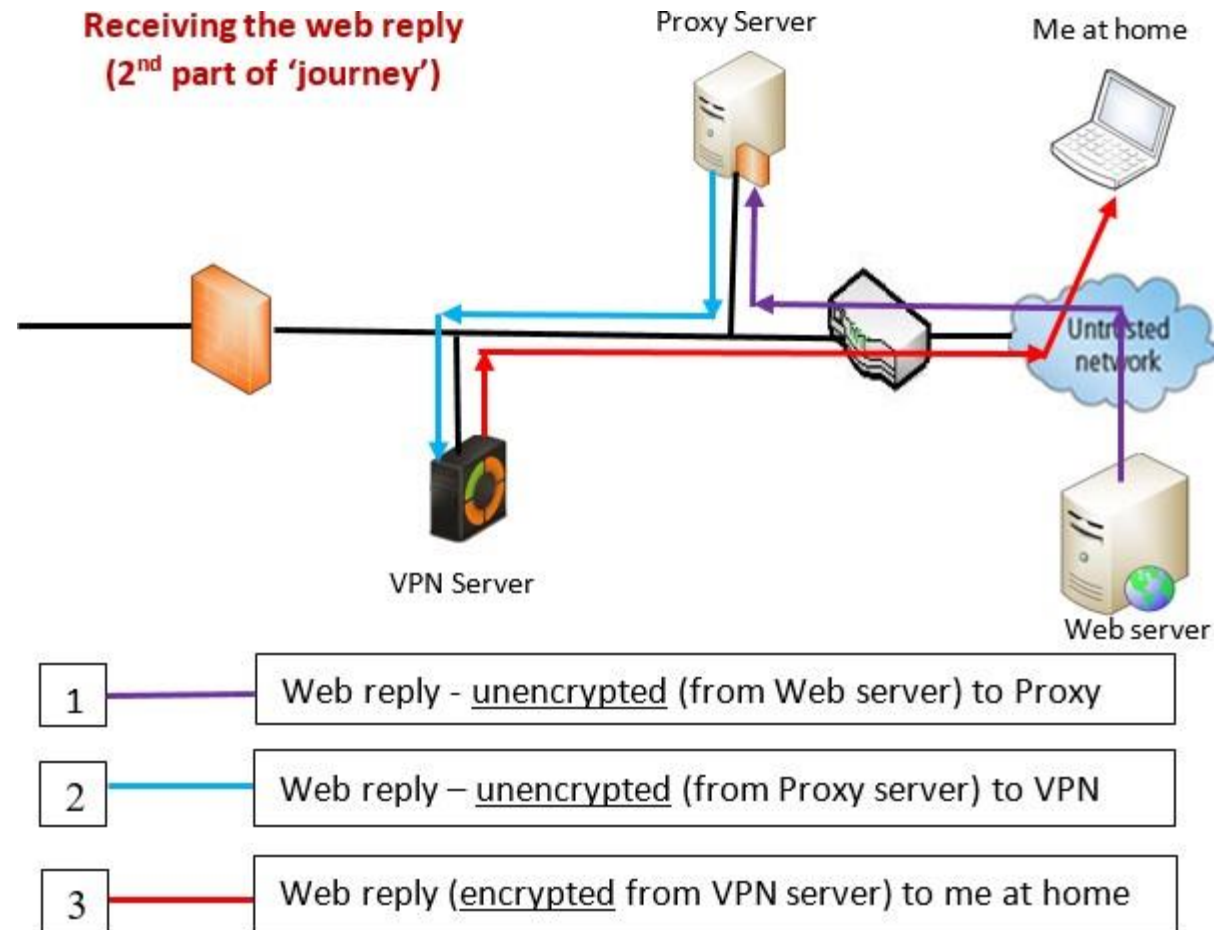
# VPNs – the ‘business case’

1. VPNs provide a cheap, secure and flexible way to extend the ‘boundaries’ of the business network
  - The ‘teleworker’ – becoming more popular in many sectors
  - Business to business linkages – opening up (in a secure way) the necessary resources to business partners
2. In the ‘teleworker’ model, the VPN also means that the remote network users (i.e. the ‘teleworkers’) must follow the same corporate policies as workers ‘within’ the network must embrace. This is a good result for the organization.
3. Point 2 is further enhanced (for web usage) when we consider how a VPN server and a Web Proxy server interact – we now look to consider this!

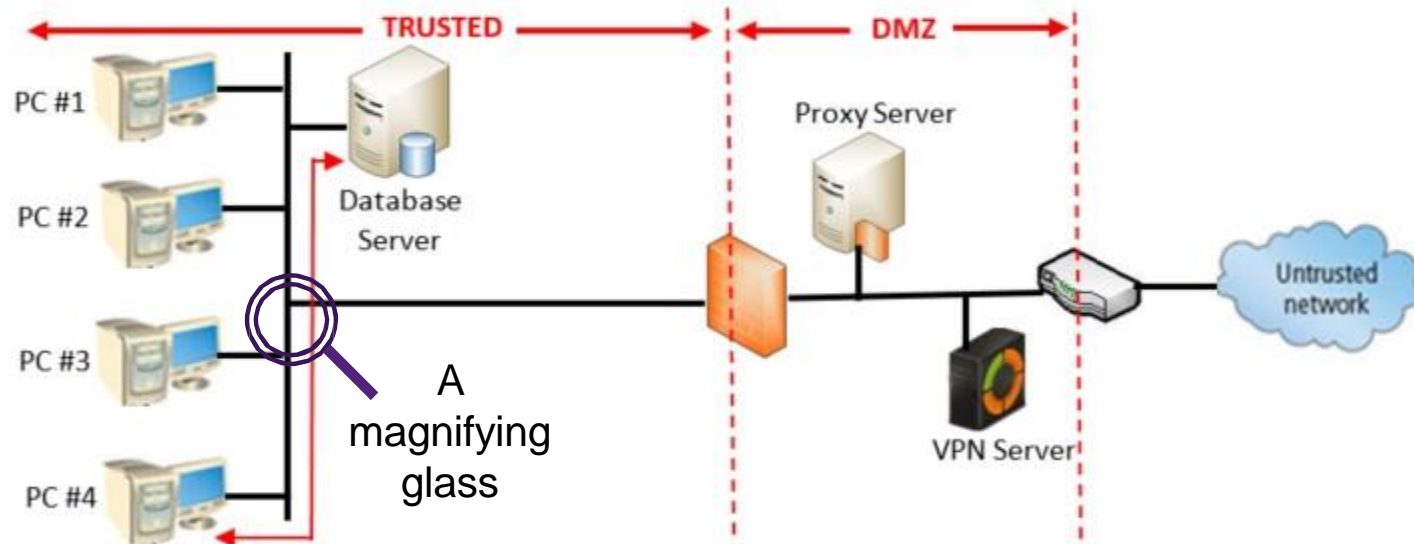
# Proxies AND VPNs – working together #1



## Proxies AND VPNs – working together #2



# Intrusion Detection System (IDS) : Introduction – why needed?

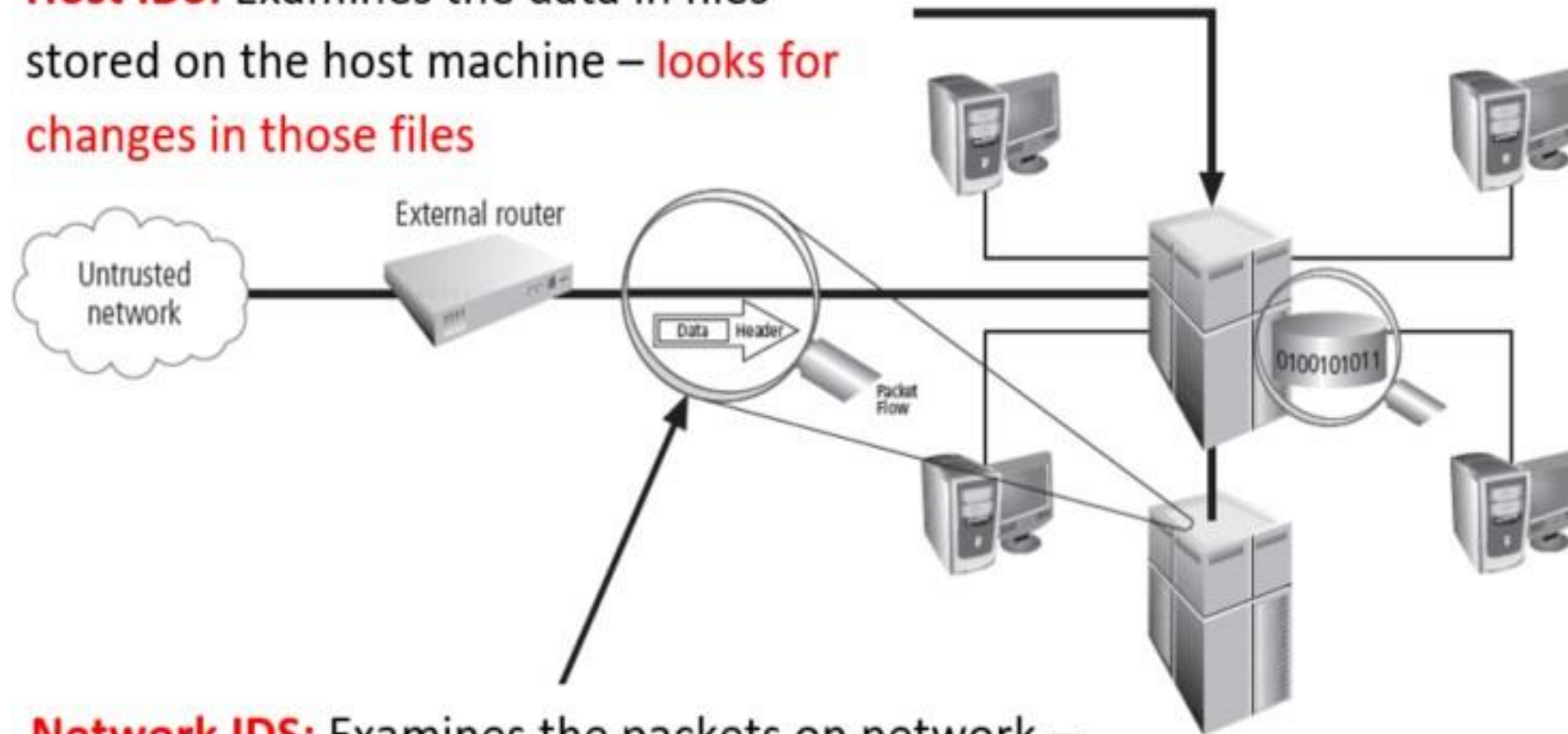


- We have a 'secure' network: firewalls, proxy, VPN server, 'defence in depth'
- At least 50% of security incidents originate INSIDE the organization
- At staff member (PC #4) is a disgruntled employee – plans to steal corporate data (stored on the database server)
  - The employee plans the incident – stays late to avoid other staff
  - What is in place to stop this – the employee is 'behind' all the existing controls!

**We need something like a 'magnifying glass' over the internal network - IDS**

# IDS (intrusion detection systems) – strategy in overview

**Host IDS:** Examines the data in files stored on the host machine – looks for changes in those files



HIDS: L6 & 7  
NIDS: L3 & 4

**Network IDS:** Examines the packets on network – looks for unusual patterns or suspicious contents



# Intrusion Detection System (IDS) : Some Terminology

An intrusion detection system (IDS) – a software system - will:

- detect a violation of its configuration and activate alarm
- enable administrators to configure systems to notify them directly of trouble

## Important terminology

- Intrusion: type of attack on information assets in which instigator attempts to gain entry into or disrupt system with harmful intent
- Incident response: identification of, classification of, response to, and recovery from an incident
- Intrusion prevention: consists of activities that seek to deter an intrusion from occurring
- Intrusion detection: consists of procedures and systems created and operated to detect system intrusions



# IDS – More terminology

- Alert or alarm
- False attack stimulus – event causes alarm – but no attack - false alarm **this is a nuisance – can be time consuming for IT staff**
- **False negative** – does not respond to actual attack – **this is very bad – must be avoided if possible (accuracy of IDS)**
- False positive – alarm/alert – but no attack – **again, a nuisance!**
- Noise – ‘normal’ ongoing activity – usual operating situation

# Why use an IDS

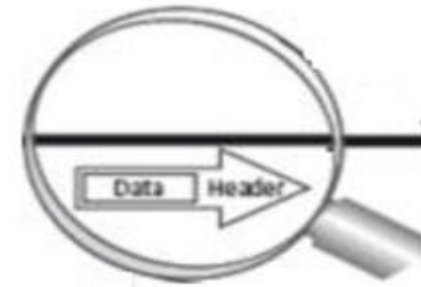
- **Prevent problem behaviors** by increasing the perceived risk of discovery and punishment
- To **manage insider risk** – to complement firewalls
- **Detect attacks** and other security violations
- **Detect preambles** to attacks
- **Provide useful information** about intrusions that take place (remember our discussion about '*risk actuals*' – the actual security incidents that the organization experiences)

# IDS: 2 types of operating scope & 2 detection methods used

- IDS **operating scope**:
  - Network-based - NIDS
  - Host-based - HIDS
  - Application-based - AIDS (we do not treat this type)
- All IDSs use one of **two detection methods**:
  - Signature-based
  - Statistical anomaly-based

# Detection method (1) : signature-based IDS

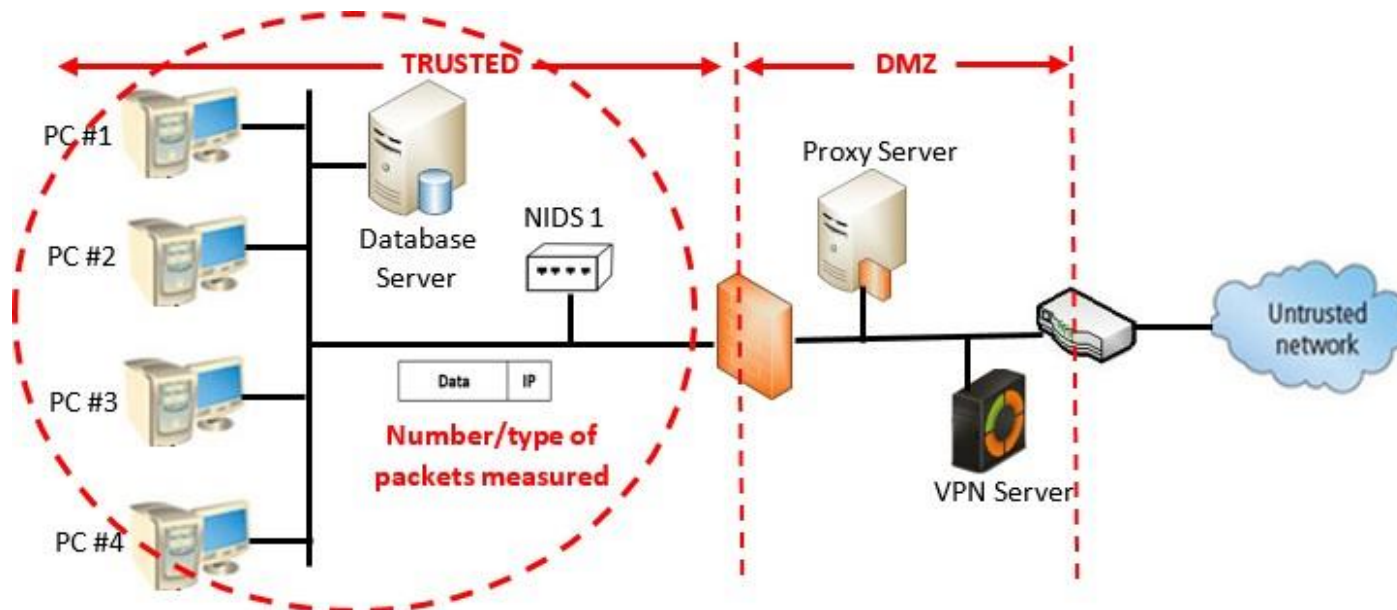
- Examine data traffic in **search of patterns that match known signatures**
- Widely used because many attacks have clear and distinct signatures (patterns)
- Problem with this approach: **as new attack strategies are identified, the IDS's database of signatures must be continually updated** (very similar to the virus 'pattern-matching approach')



Looking in each 'packet' for known signatures or patterns (of attacks)

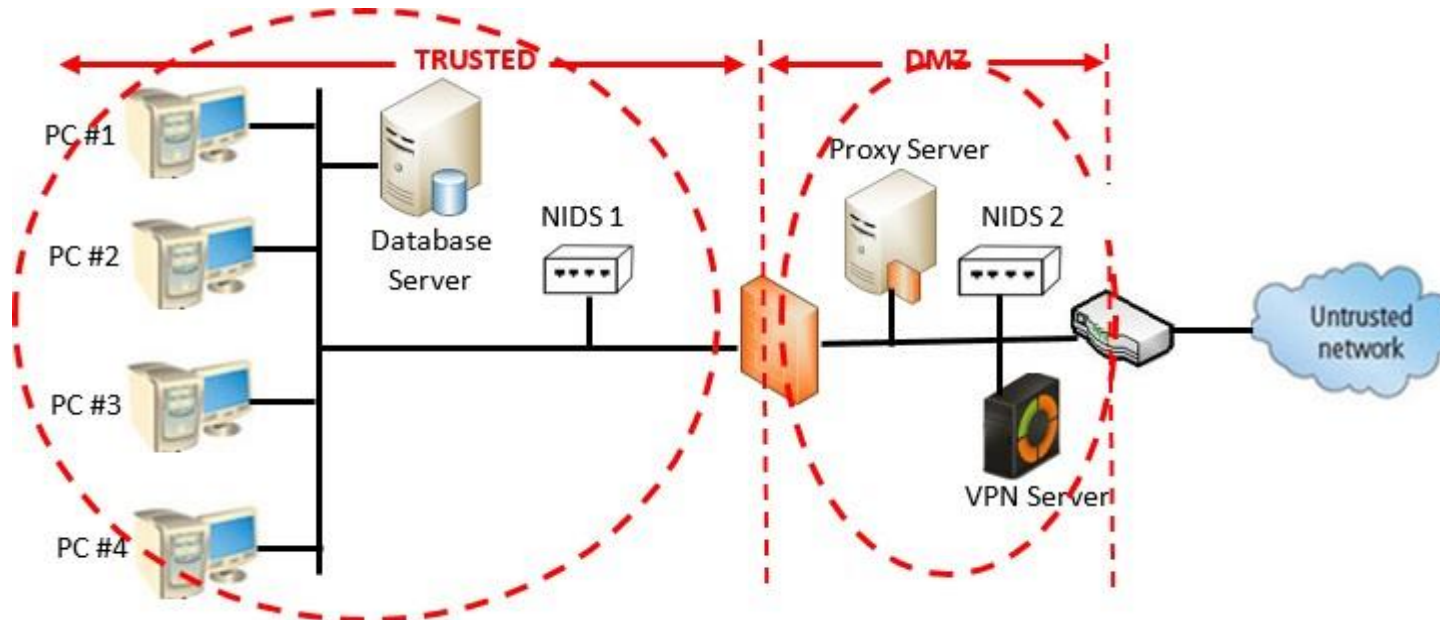
## Detection method (2) : statistical anomaly-based IDS

- The statistical anomaly-based IDS (stat IDS) or behavior-based IDS **sample network activity to compare to traffic that is known to be normal**
- **When measured activity is outside baseline setting, IDS will trigger an alert**
- This type of IDS **can detect new types of attacks**, but requires much more overhead and processing capacity than signature-based - may generate many false positives



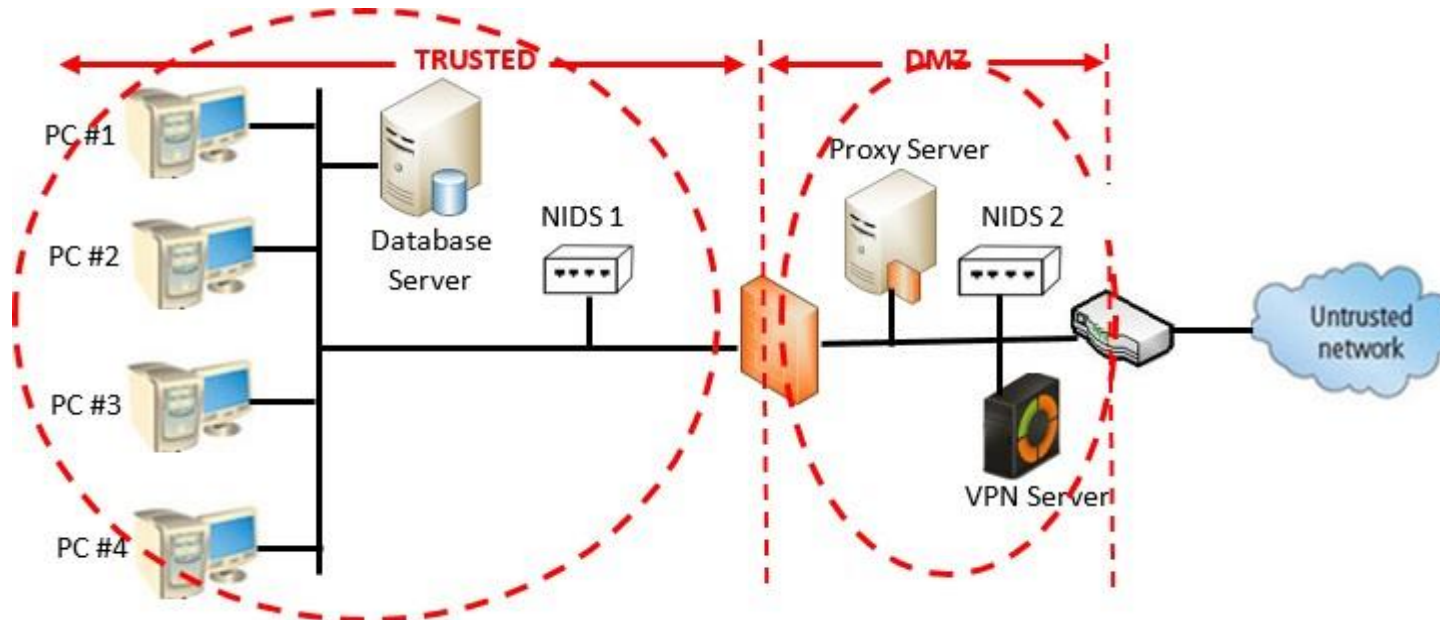
# IDS Scope (1): Network-Based IDS (NIDS)

- **Scope** – where we place the IDS and the boundary set for the operation of the IDS
- Resides on computer or appliance connected to segment of an organization's network; looks for signs of attacks
- Installed at specific place in the network where it can watch traffic going into and out of particular network segment



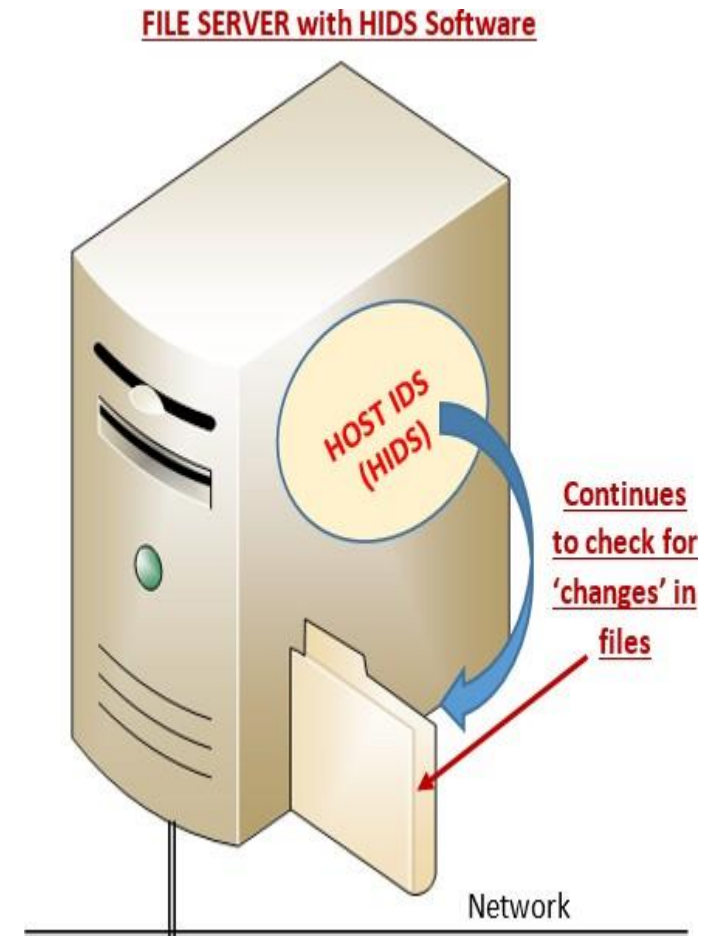
# Advantages and Disadvantages of NIDSs

- Good network design and placement of NIDS can enable organization to use a few devices to monitor large network
- NIDSs **not usually susceptible to direct attack** and may not be detectable by attackers
- **Can become overwhelmed by network volume** and fail to recognize attacks
- **Cannot analyze encrypted packets AND cannot reliably ascertain if attack was successful or not**



## IDS Scope (2): Host-based IDS

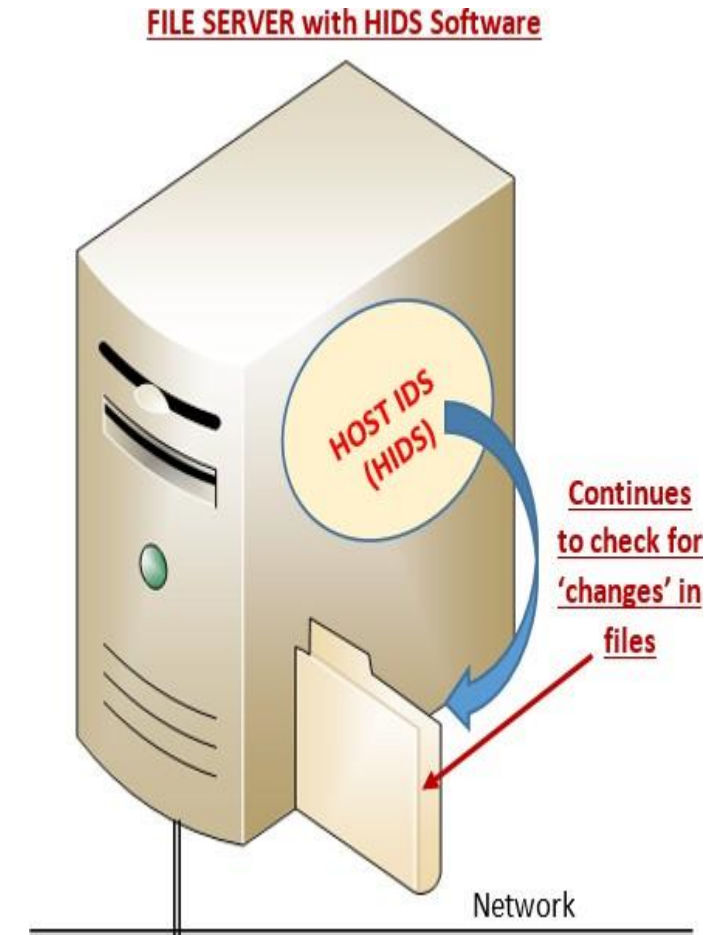
- Host-based IDS (HIDS) resides on a particular computer or server and monitors activity only on that system
- Benchmark and monitor the status of key system files and detect when intruder creates, modifies, or deletes files
- Most HIDSs work on the principle of configuration or change management
- Advantage over NIDS: can usually be installed so that it can access information decrypted before/after traveling over network
- Can detect local events on host systems and detect attacks that may elude a network-based IDS





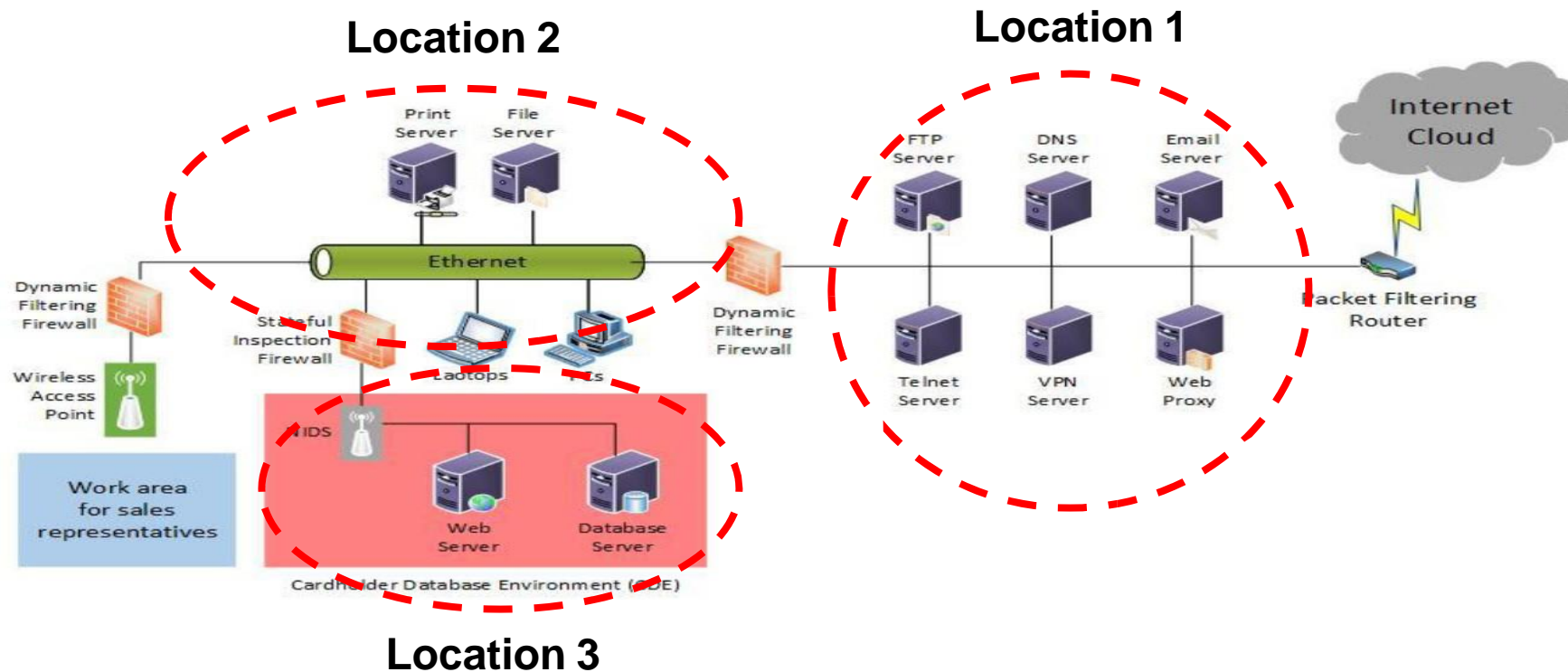
# Advantages and Disadvantages of HIDSs

- Vulnerable both to direct attacks and attacks against host operating system
- Susceptible to some denial-of- service attacks
- Can use large amounts of disk space
- Can inflict a performance overhead on its host systems



# Deploying Network-Based IDSs

- NIST recommends several locations for NIDS machines
  - **Location 1: behind external firewall, in the network DMZ**
  - **Location 2: On major network backbones**
  - **Location 3: On critical subnet(s)**



# Summary

- 'build a secure network'
- Proxy servers
- Virtual Private Networks (servers)
- Intrusion Detection Systems
  
- After the break – payment systems & payment standards



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**“Somebody broke into your computer, but it looks like the work of an inexperienced hacker.”**

```
end;
func, std::vector<int>

write(Endtext);
end.
CREATE TABLE product(
class MultinomialNB(object):
def __init__(self):
2}))
self.X = None
self.y = None
def __loading(self):
self.list_labels = cl.Counter(s
int acc(std::function<int(int, int)> fun
auto it = operands.begin();
int result = func(*it, *(++it));
if (operands.size() > 2) {
for (++it; it!=operands.end(); ++it)
result = func(result, *it);
}
}
return result;
CDog& operator=(C
```

**Thank you**