

# DDoS Attack & Defense

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**DDoS?**

**DoS?**

# DOS

DISK  
OPERATING  
SYSTEM

## DoS?

Welcome to FreeDOS

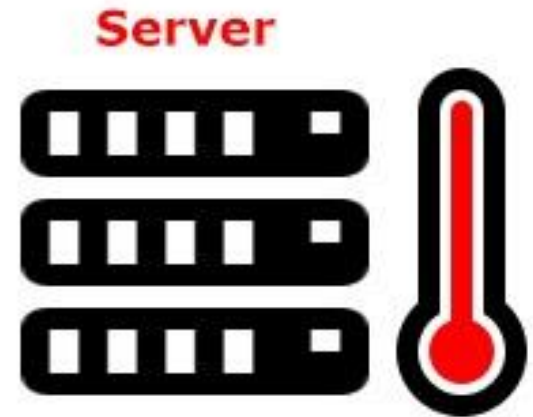
CuteMouse v1.9.1 alpha 1 (FreeDOS)  
Installed at PS/2 port  
C:\>ver

FreeCOM version 0.82 pl 3 XMS\_Swap (Dec 10 2003 06:49:21)

C:\>dir  
Volume in drive C is FREEDOS\_C95  
Volume Serial Number is 0E4F-19EB  
Directory of C:\

FDOS		<DIR>	08-26-04	6:23p
AUTOEXEC	BAT	435	08-26-04	6:24p
BOOTSECT	BIN	512	08-26-04	6:23p
COMMAND	COM	93,963	08-26-04	6:24p
CONFIG	SYS	801	08-26-04	6:24p
FDOSBOOT	BIN	512	08-26-04	6:24p
KERNEL	SYS	45,015	04-17-04	9:19p
6 file(s)		142,838 bytes		
1 dir(s)		1,864,517,632 bytes free		

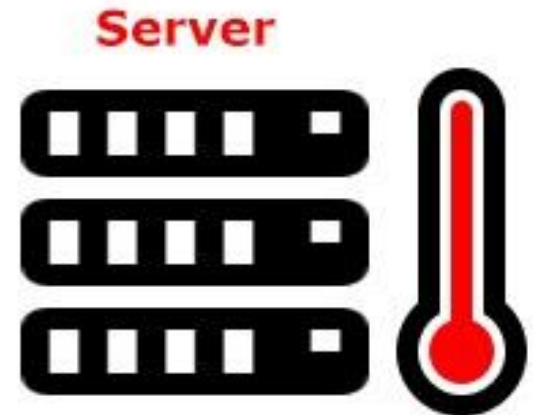
C:\>\_



# DoS!

## Denial-of-Service Attack:

control an attacking computer/device;  
flood victim with superfluous requests;  
overload victim and prevent it from  
fulfilling some legitimate requests;

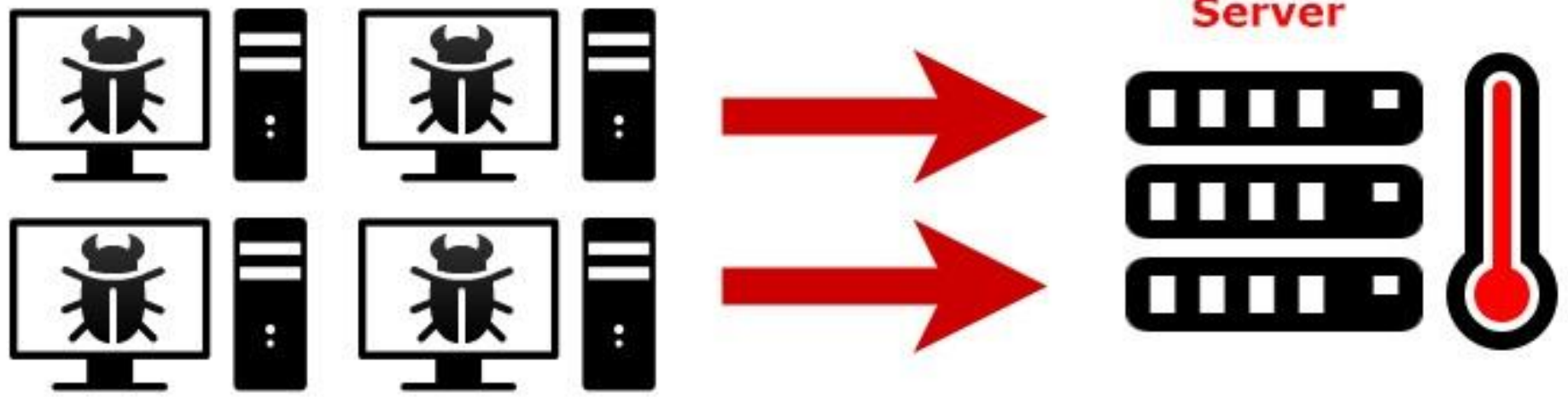


# DoS!?

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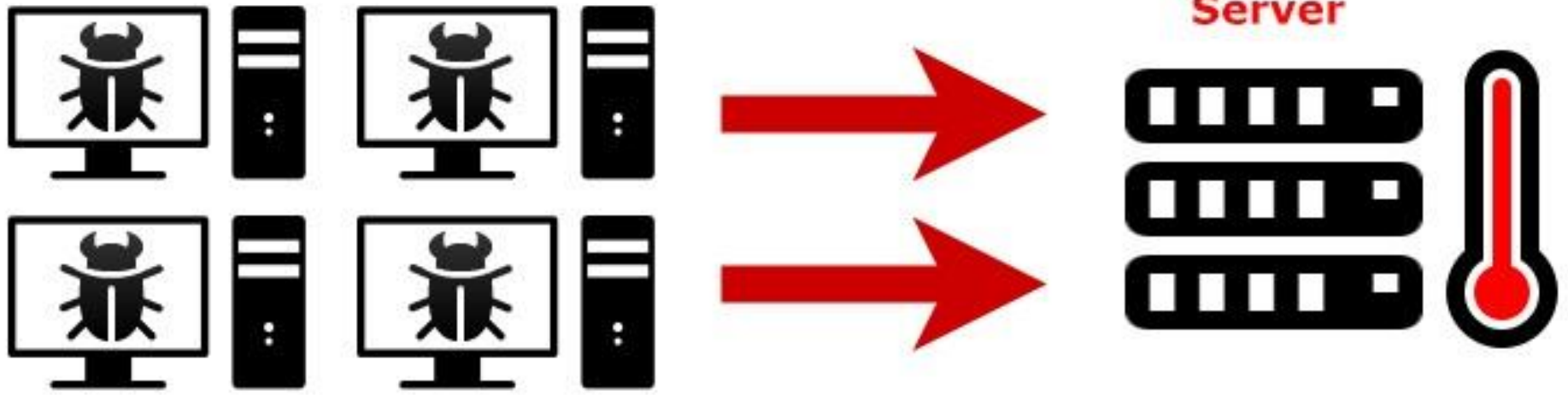
defense: block the attacking source



# DDoS!!

## Distributed Denial-of-Service Attack:

control many different attacking sources;  
make it harder to stop the attack simply by  
blocking a single source;



# DDoS!!

**Distributed Denial-of-Service Attack:**

how to attack?

how to defend?



# **DDoS!!**

**Distributed Denial-of-Service Attack:**  
how to attack a network service?

# Ping Flood

- Exploit Internet Control Messge Protocol (ICMP)  
an internet layer protocol used by network devices to communicate;  
also used by network diagnostic tools such as traceroute and ping;
- ICMP Echo Request: sender to receiver
- ICMP Echo Reply: receiver to sender

# Ping Flood

- **Attack principle**

both incoming ICMP Echo Request and outgoing ICMP Echo Reply consume bandwidth;

overwhelm the target device's ability to respond to a high number of requests and/or overload the network connection with bogus traffic

# Ping Flood

- **Attack principle**

The **attacker** sends many ICMP echo request packets to the targeted server using multiple devices;

The **targeted server** then sends an ICMP echo reply packet to each requesting device's IP address as a response.

Attacker

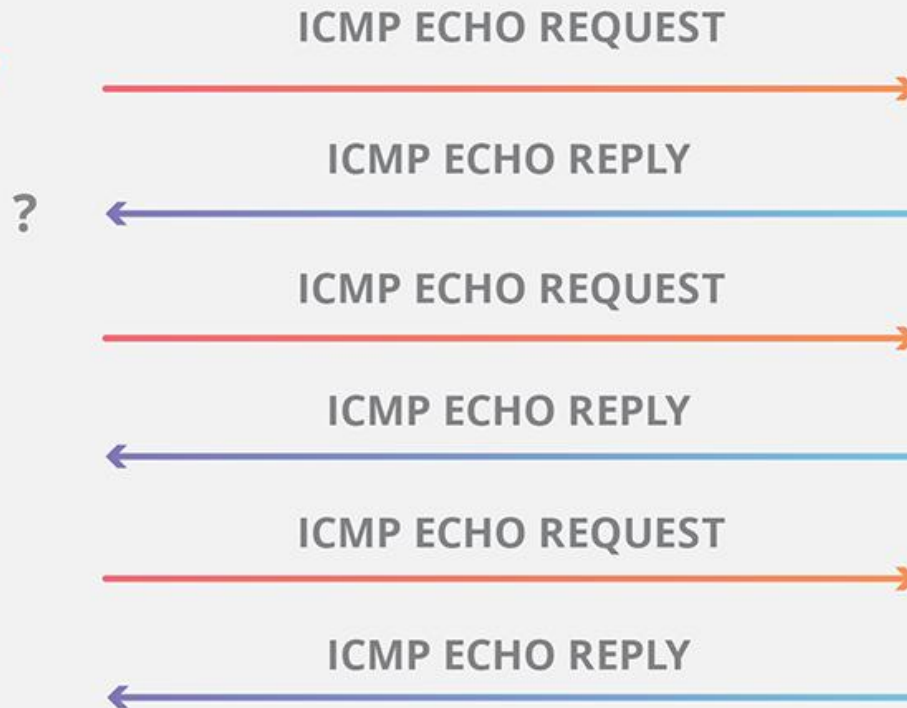


Bot



# Ping Flood

Target



# Ping Flood

- **Attack principle**

saturate the target device's capacity by sending many requests;

- **Solution**

disable the ICMP functionality of the target device;

(make the device unresponsive to ping requests and traceroute requests)

# OSI 5 Layer Model

## Application

Defines how individual applications communicate. For example, **HTTP** defines how browsers send requests to web servers.

## Transport

Allows a client to establish a connection to specific services (e.g., web server on port 80). Provides reliable communication.

## Network

Responsible for packet forwarding. How to get a packet to the final destination when there are many hops along the way.

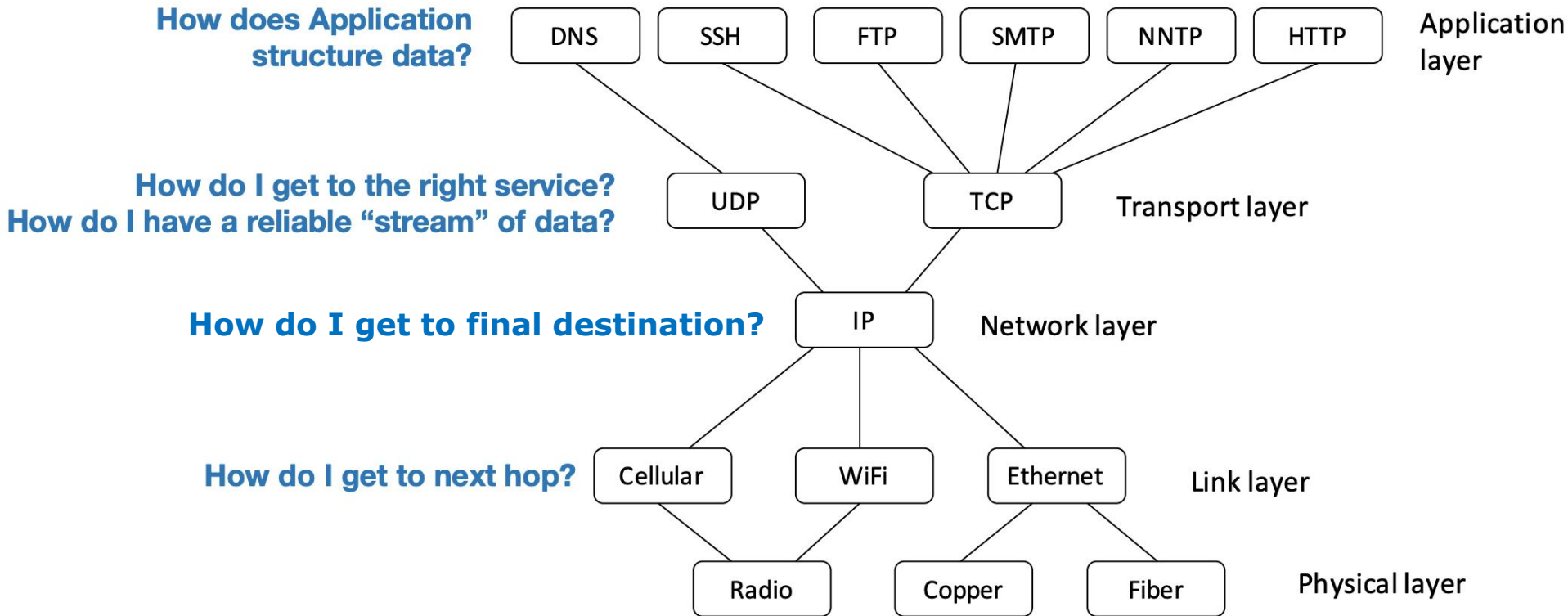
## Data Link

How to get packet to the next hop. Transmission of data frames between two nodes connected by a physical link.

## Physical

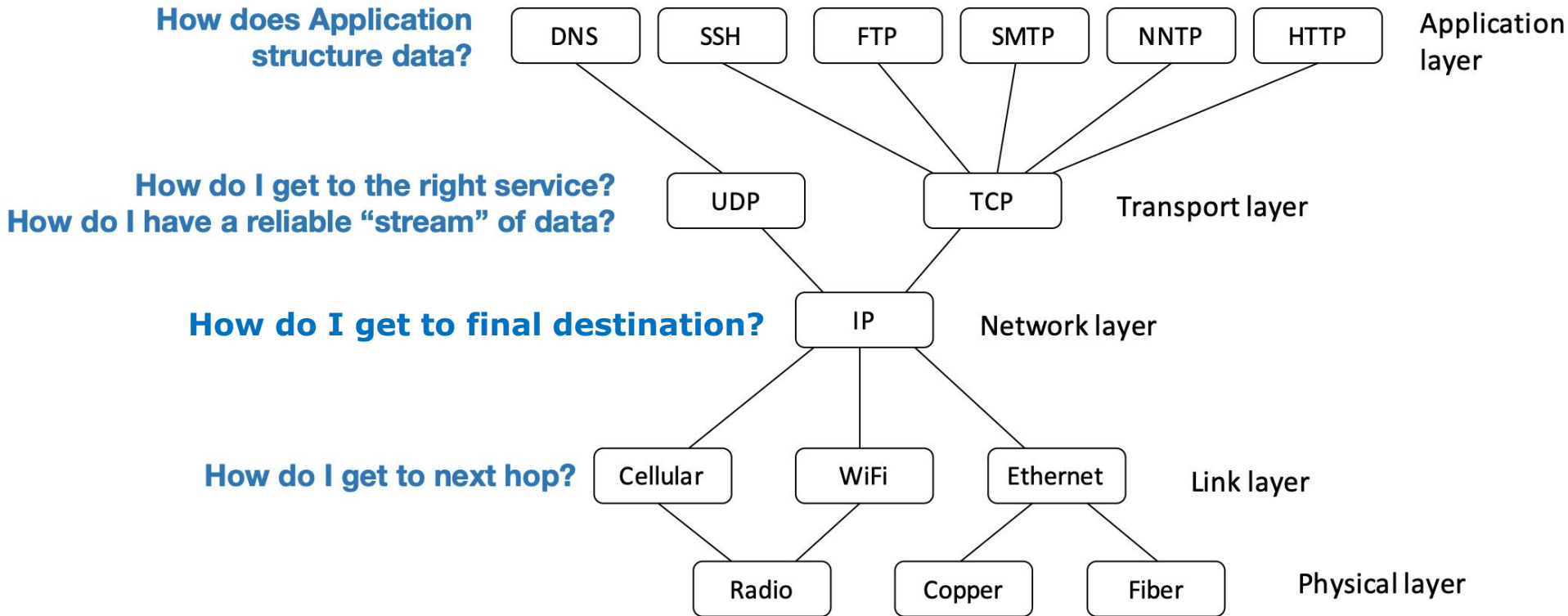
How do bits get translated into electrical, optical, or radio signals

# OSI 5 Layer Model



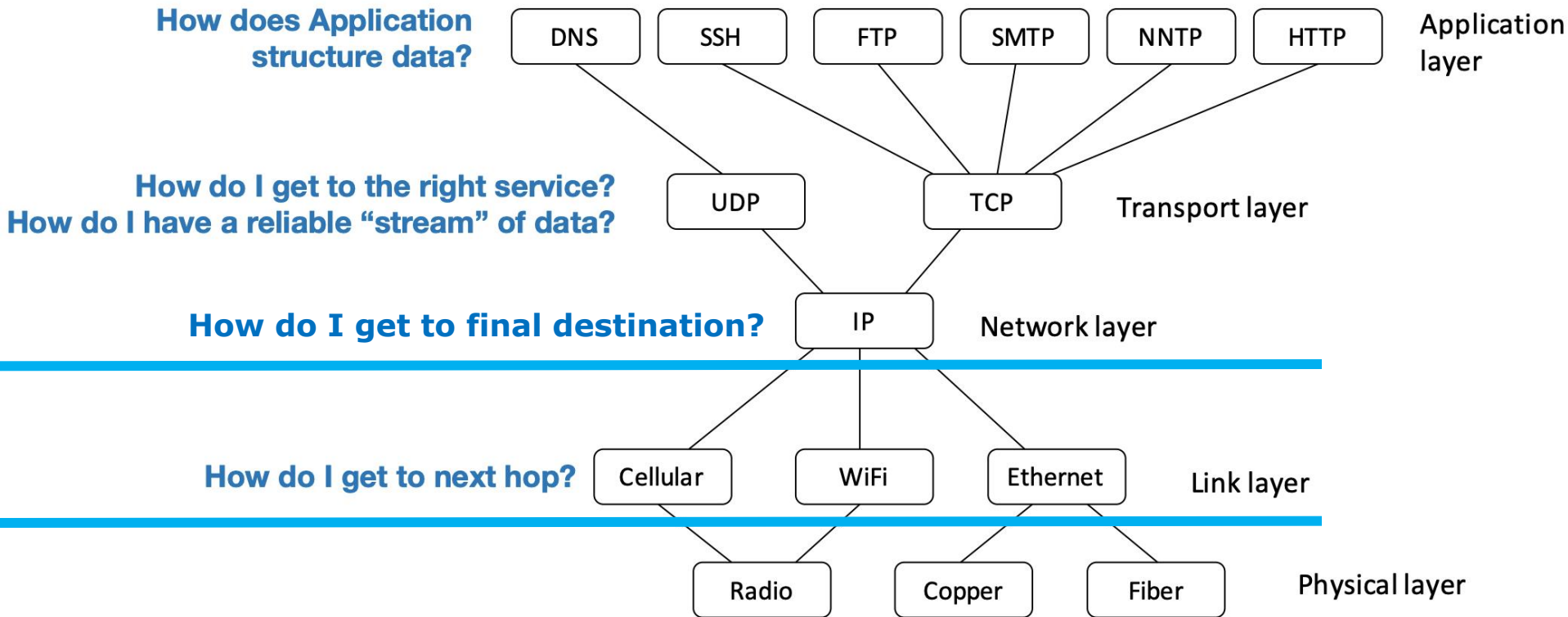


# OSI 5 Layer Model



how to ddos at each layer?

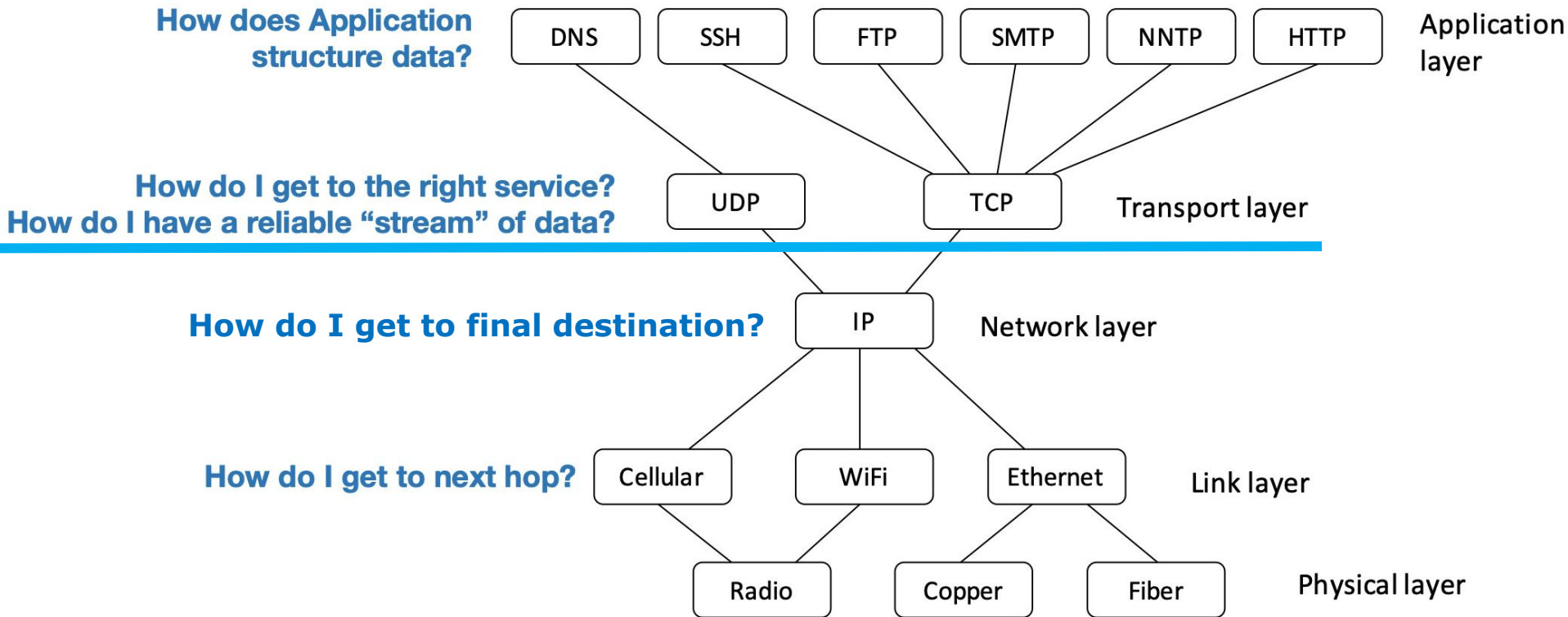
# OSI 5 Layer Model



link/IP layer:

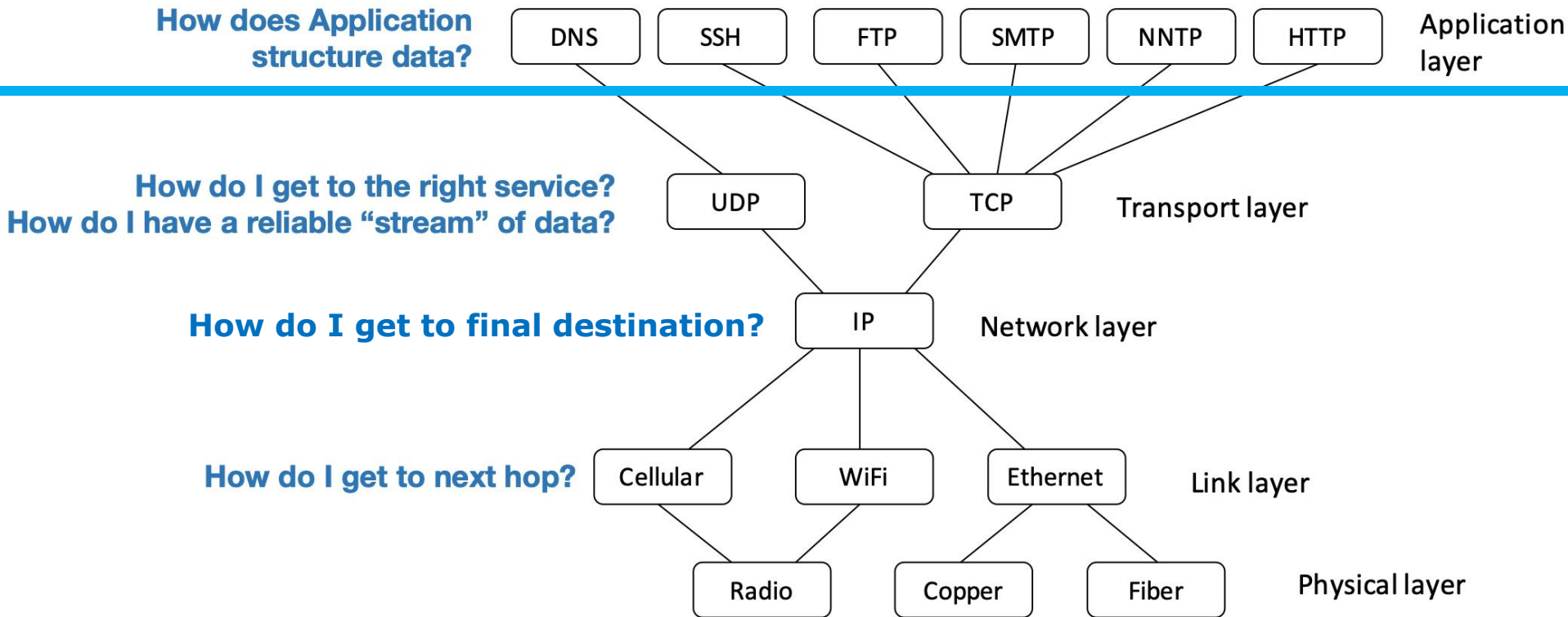
send too much traffic for switches/routers to handle

# OSI 5 Layer Model



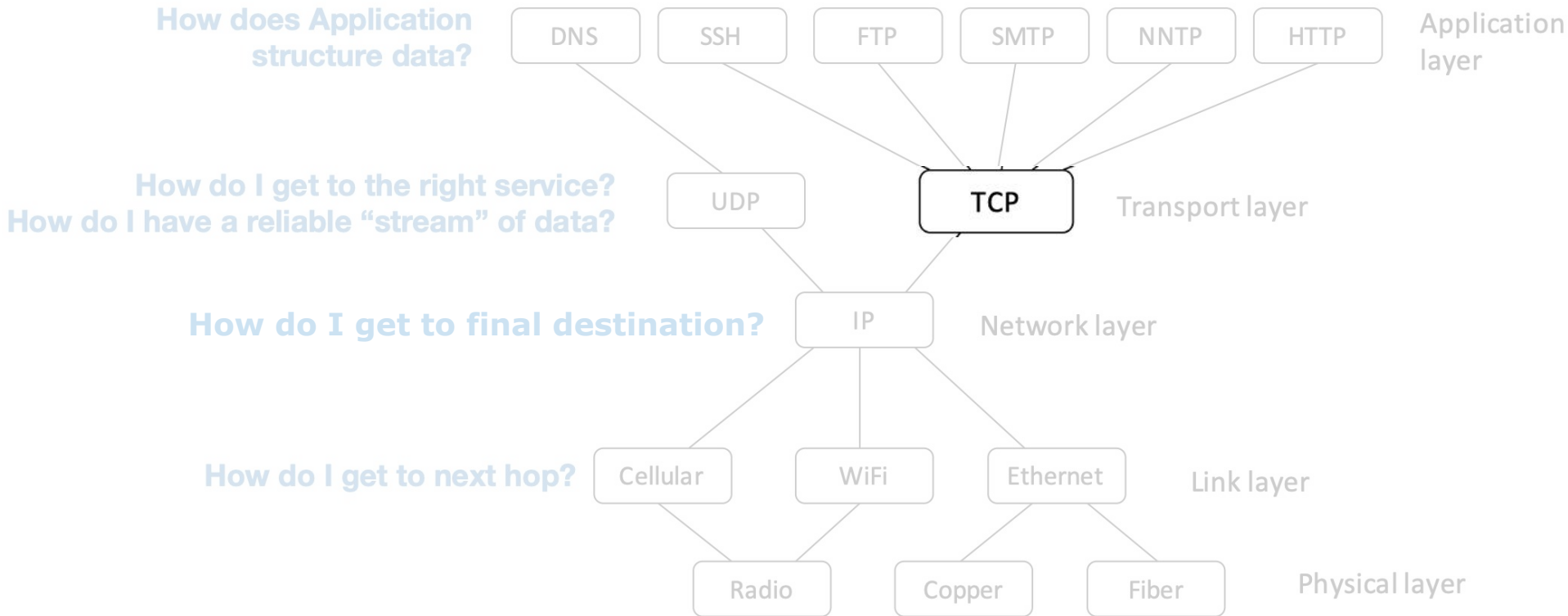
transport layer:  
require servers to maintain large number of  
concurrent connections or state

# OSI 5 Layer Model

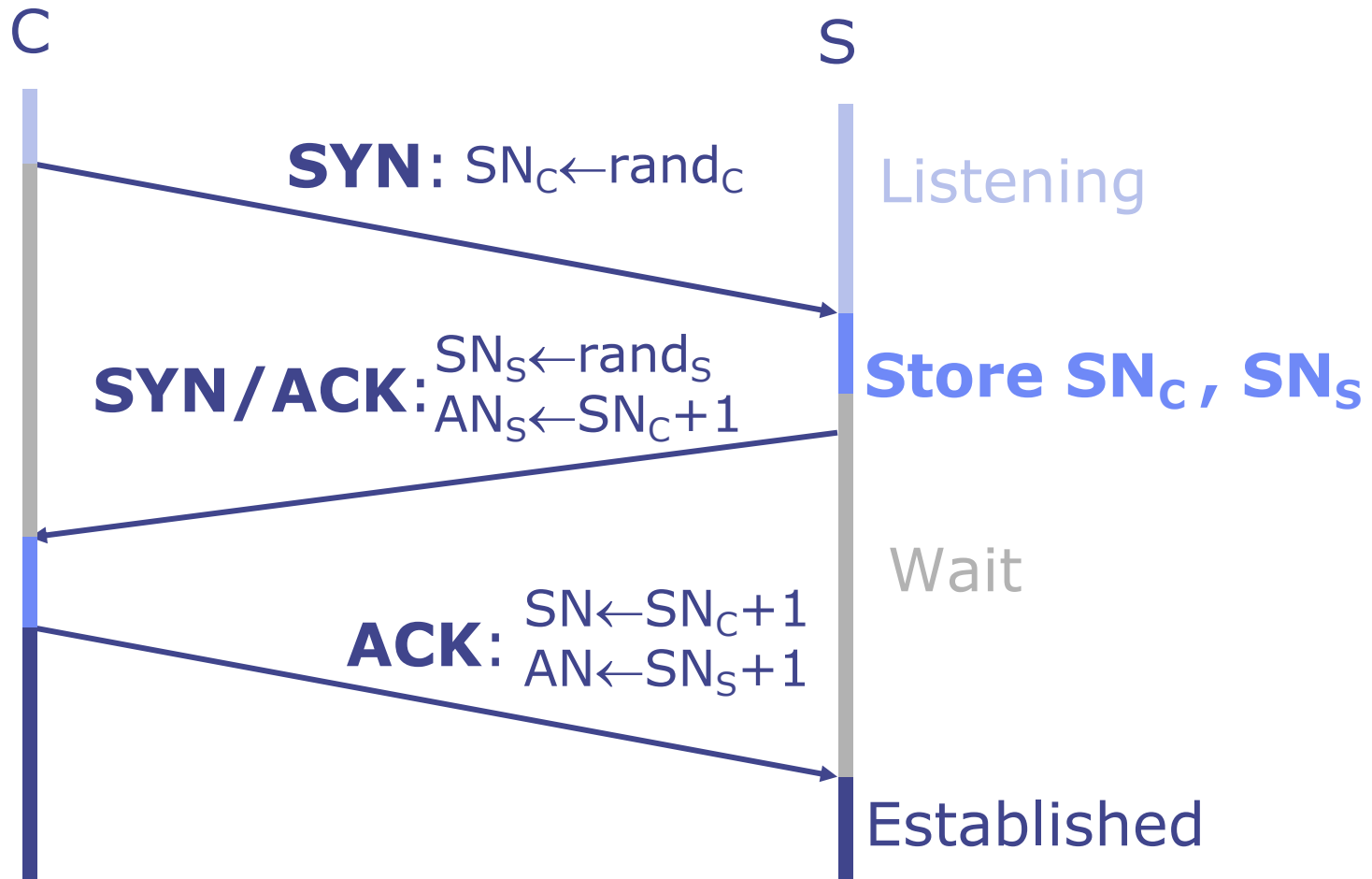


application layer:  
require servers to perform expensive queries or  
cryptographic operations

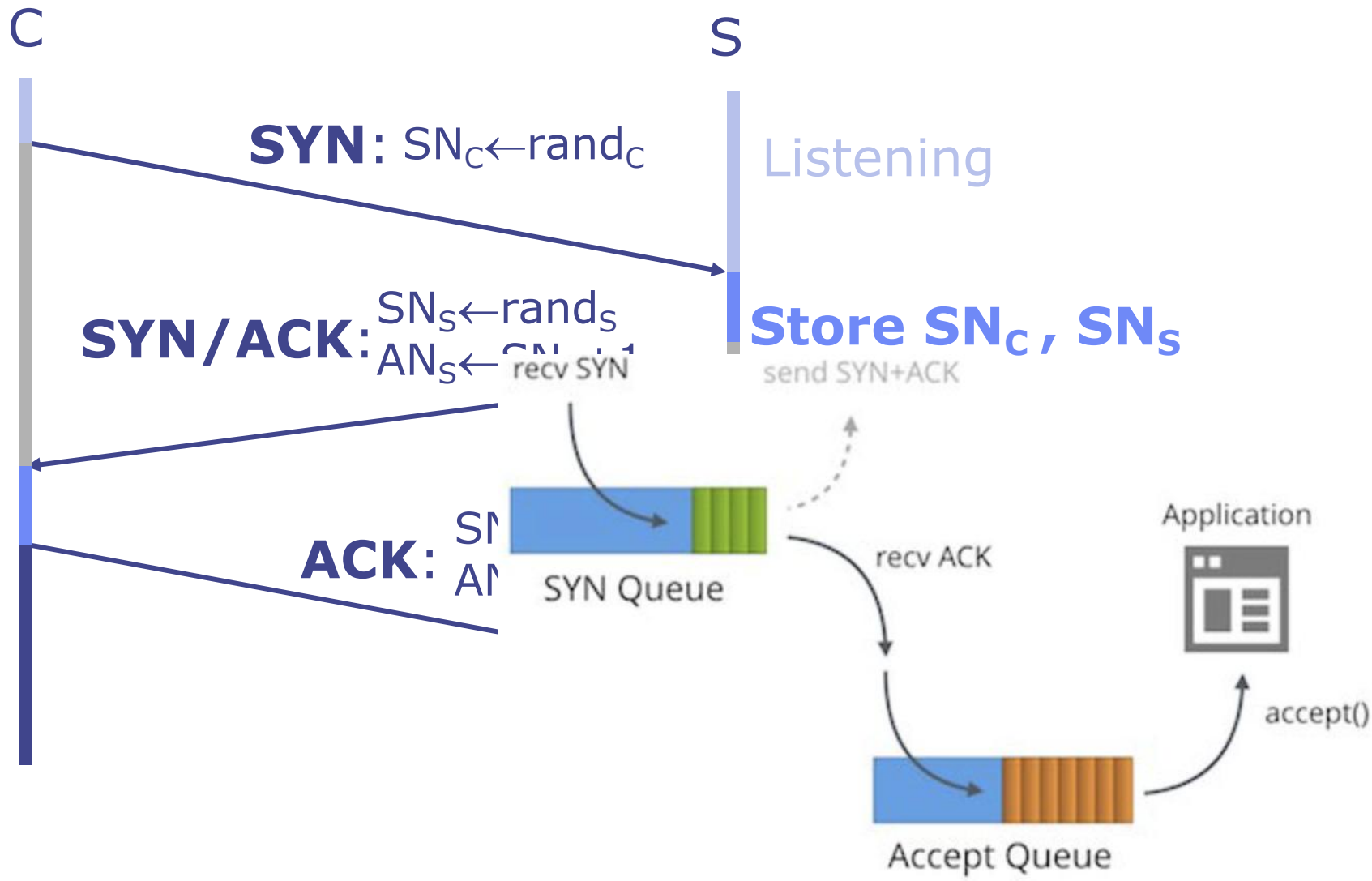
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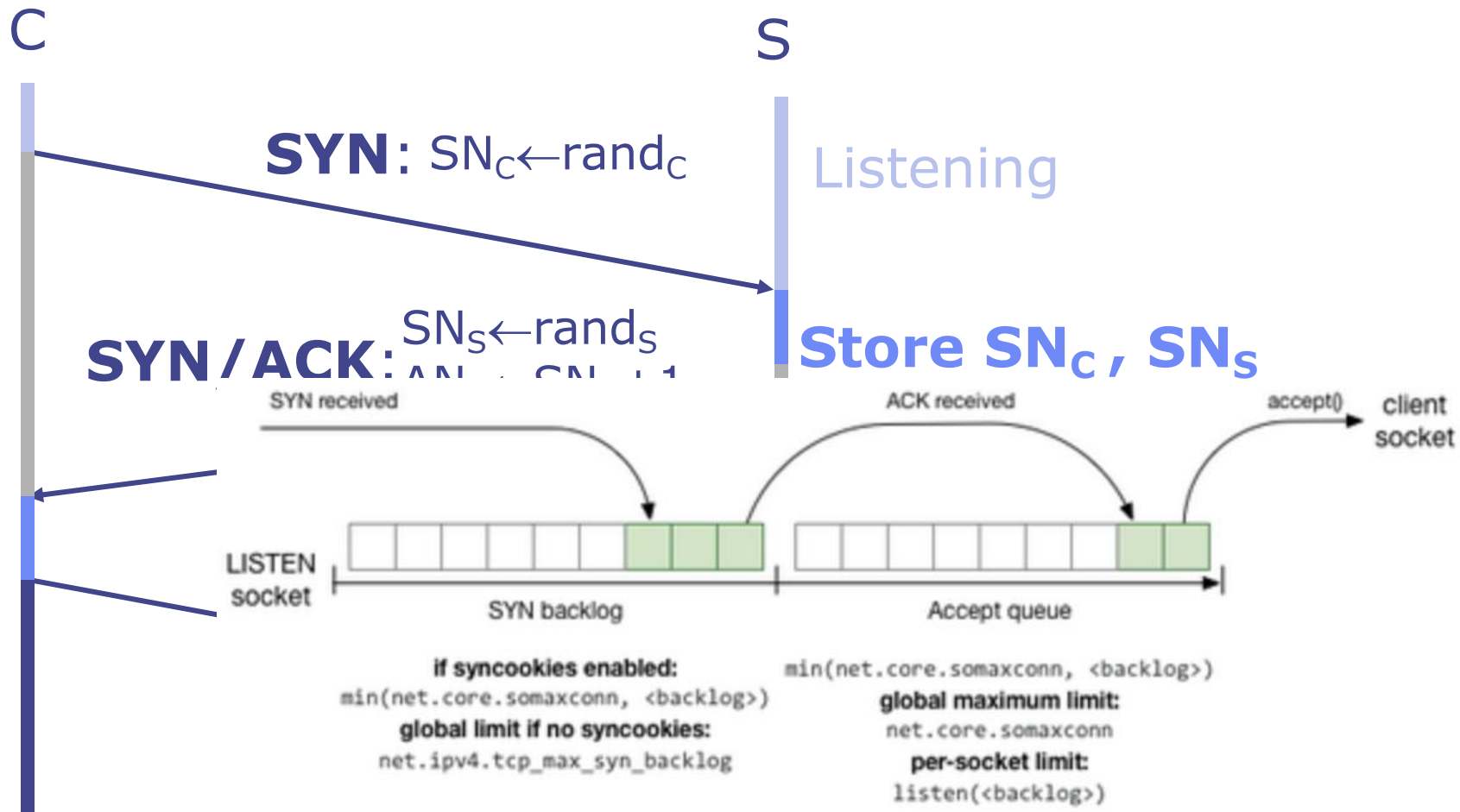
# TCP Handshake



# TCP Handshake

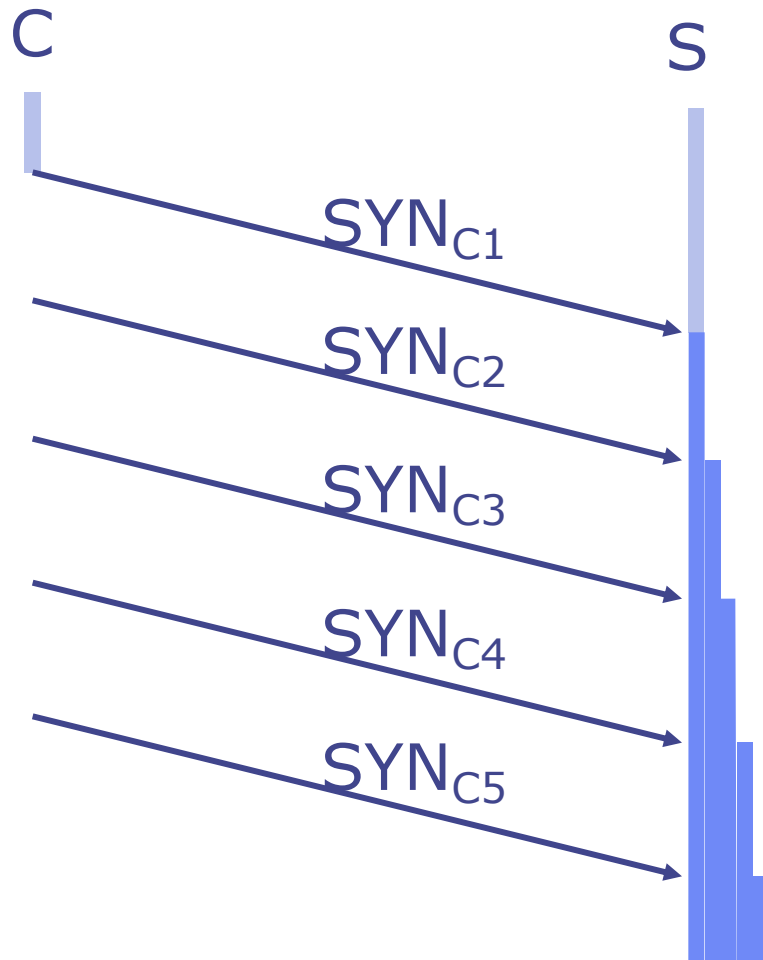


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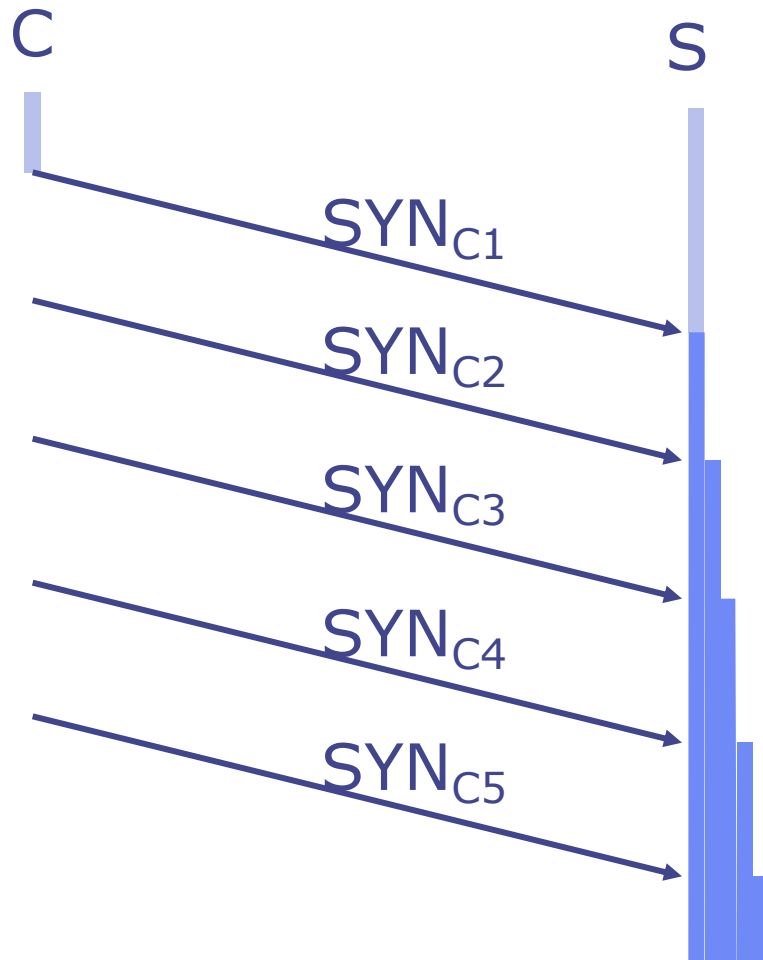
# TCP SYN Flood



Single machine:

- SYN packets with random source IP addresses
- Fill up backlog queue on server
- No further connections possible

# TCP SYN Flood



## IP Spoofing:

- SYN packets with random source IP addresses
- Fill up backlog queue on server
- No further connections possible

# TCP SYN Flood

- **Queue size**

commonly set as 128 by default on some Linux systems;

- **Timeout**

evict a backlog entry if no ack is received until timeout, e.g., 3 mins

- **Attack example:**

attacker sends 128 SYN every 3 mins without responding with ACK pkts

# TCP SYN Flood

- **Attack principle**

server commits resources (memory)  
before confirming identify of client  
(when client responds)

- **Solution?**

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increase backlog queue size

# TCP SYN Flood

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(when client responds)

- **Solution?**

increase backlog queue size

attacker sends more SYN packets!

# TCP SYN Flood

- **Attack principle**

server commits resources (memory)  
before confirming identify of client  
(when client responds)

- **Solution?**

decrease timeout

# TCP SYN Flood

- **Attack principle**

server commits resources (memory)  
before confirming identify of client  
(when client responds)

- **Solution?**

decrease timeout

interrupt normal service requests!



# SYN Cookies

- **Goal**

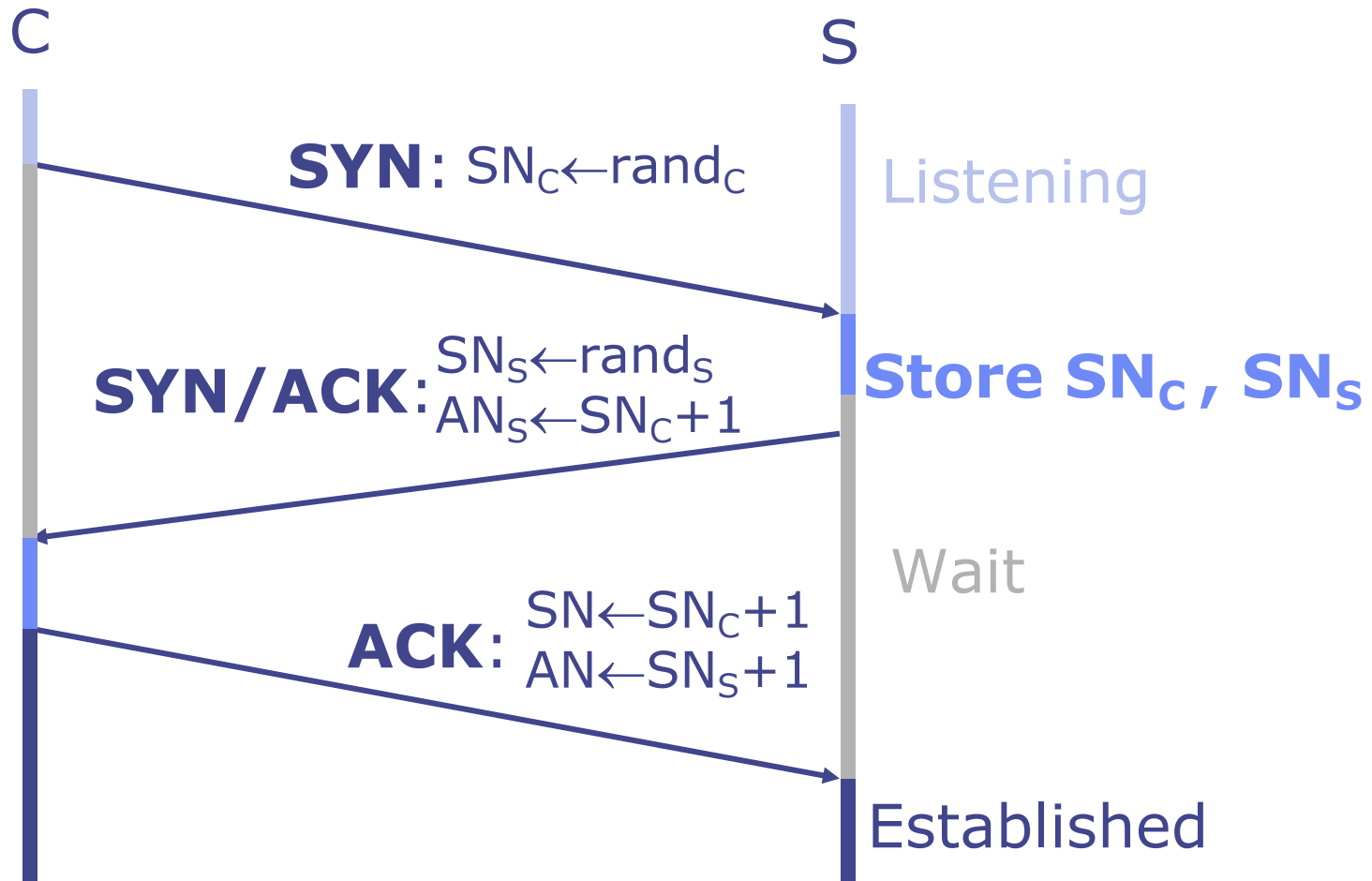
avoid state storage on server  
until 3-way handshake completes

- **Idea**

server sends necessary states to client  
along with SYN-ACK;

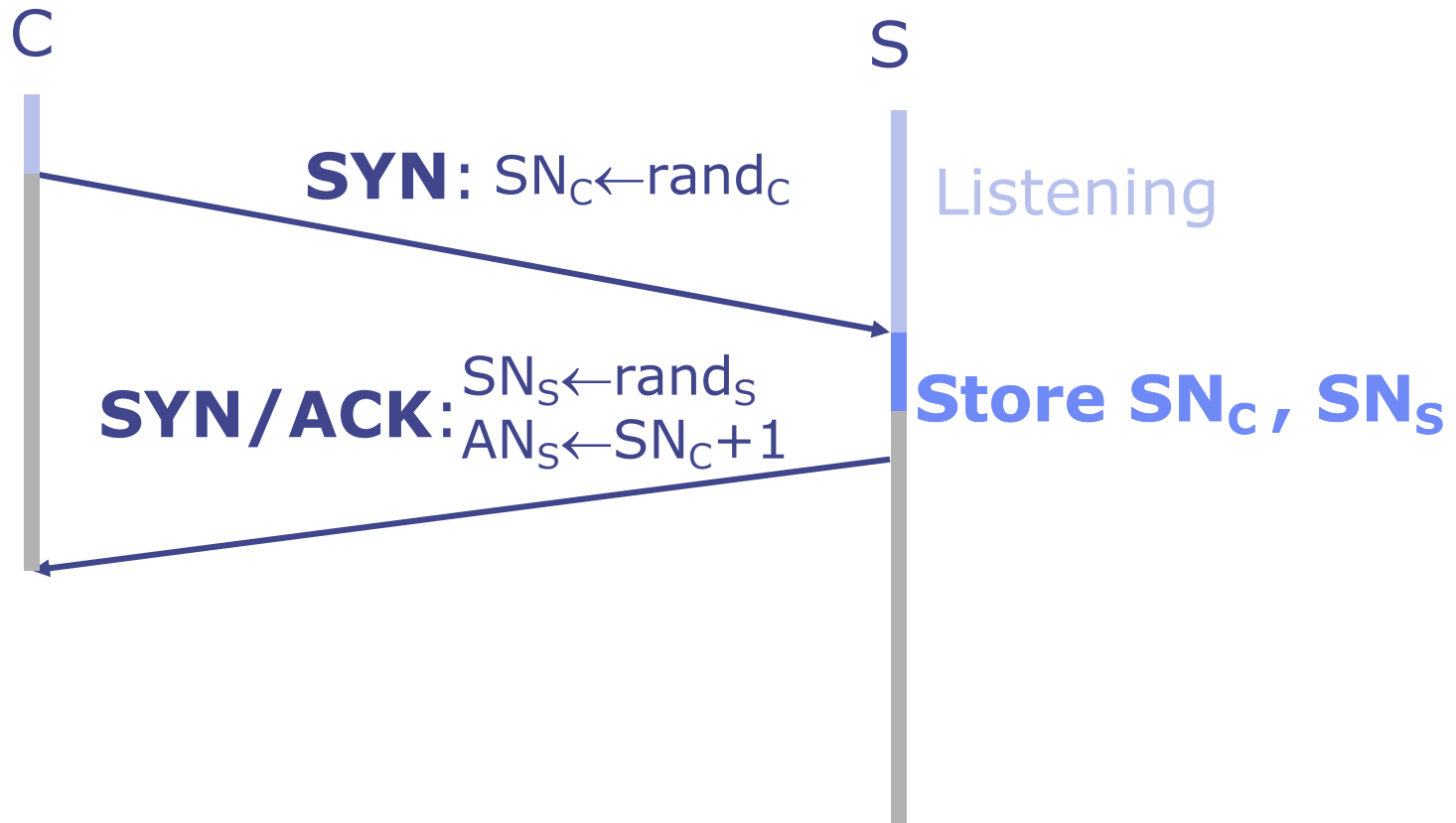
client sends these states back to server  
along with ACK;

# SYN Cookies



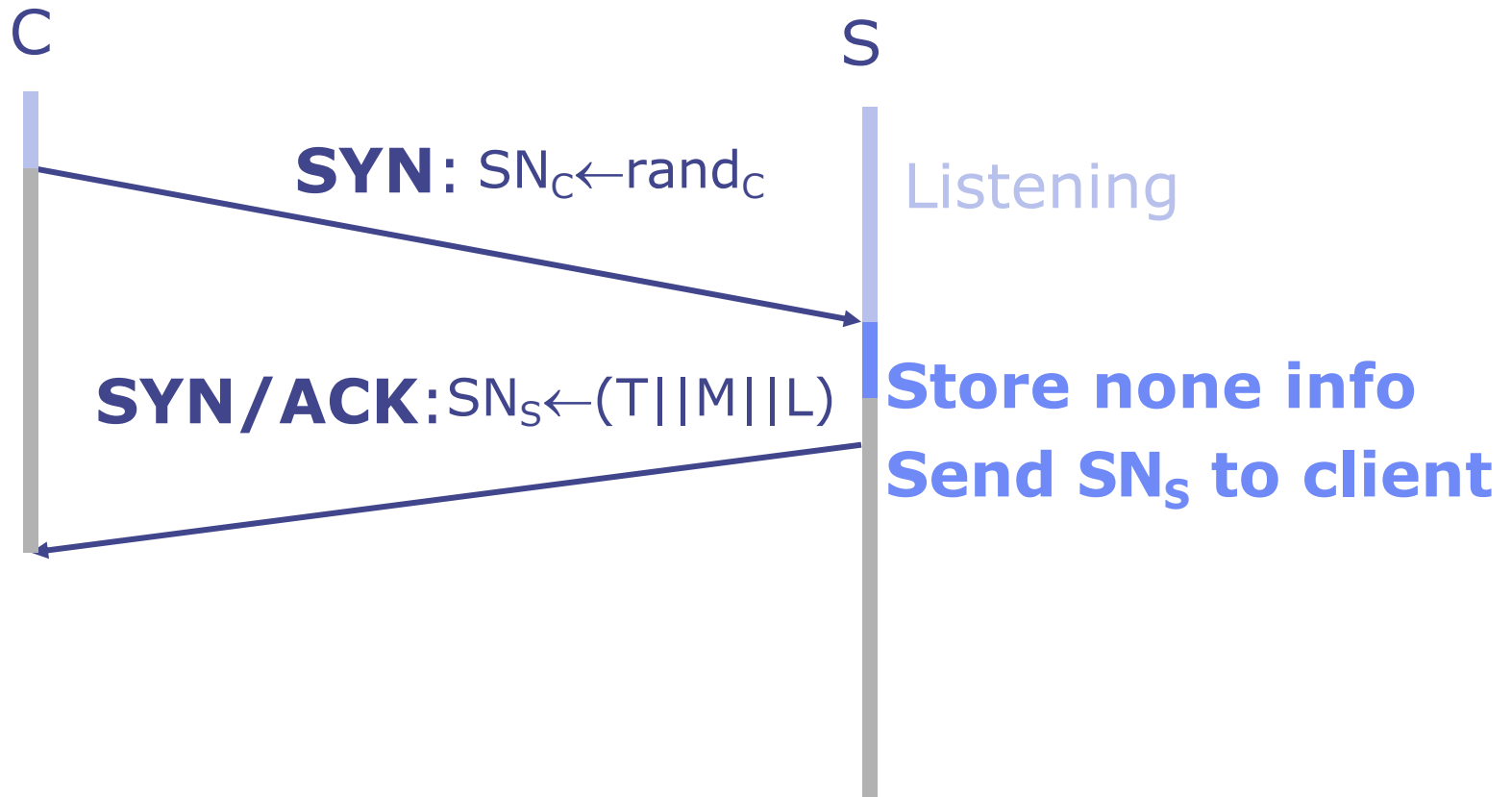
traditional TCP handshake

# SYN Cookies



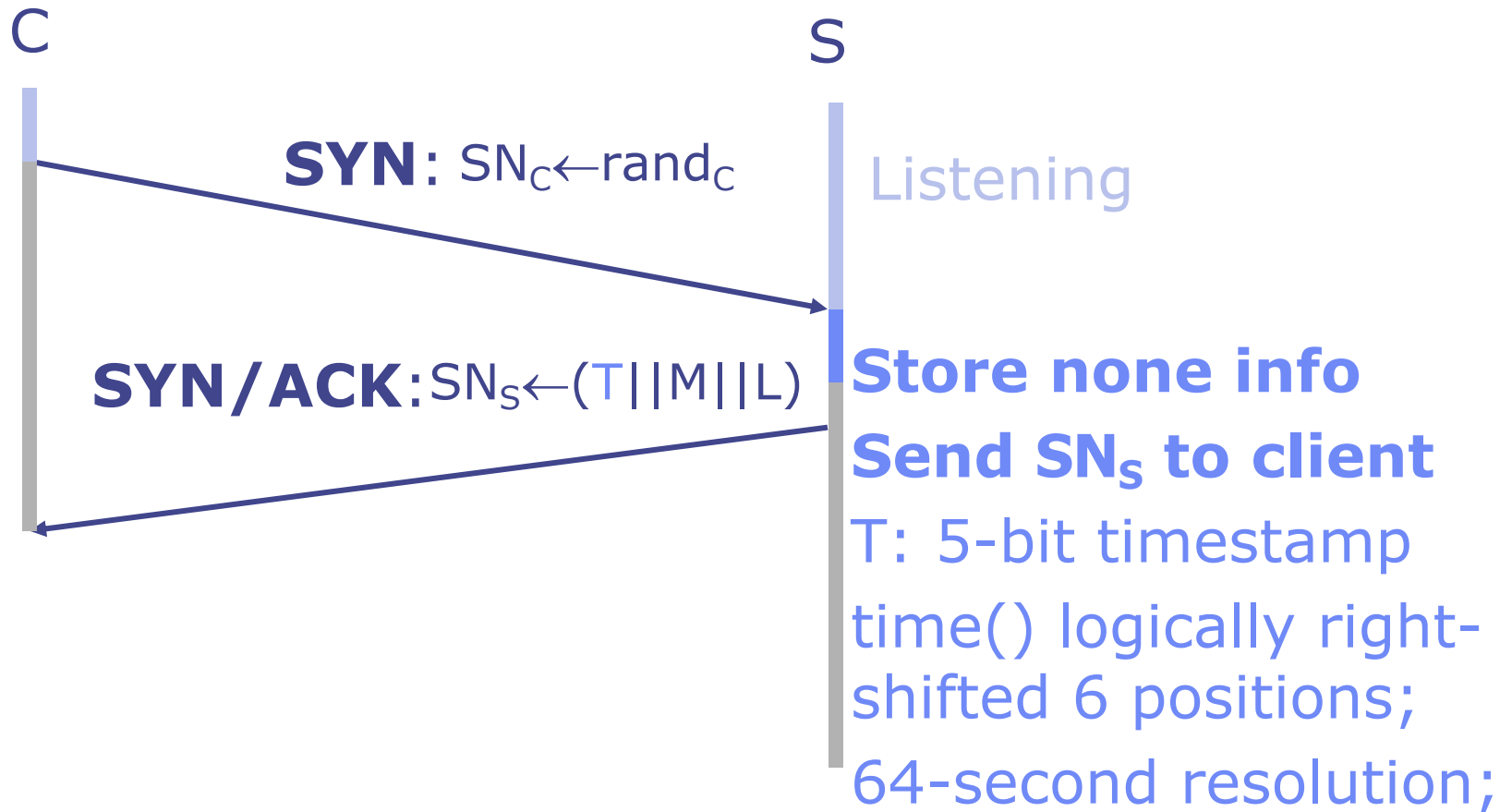
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# SYN Cookies



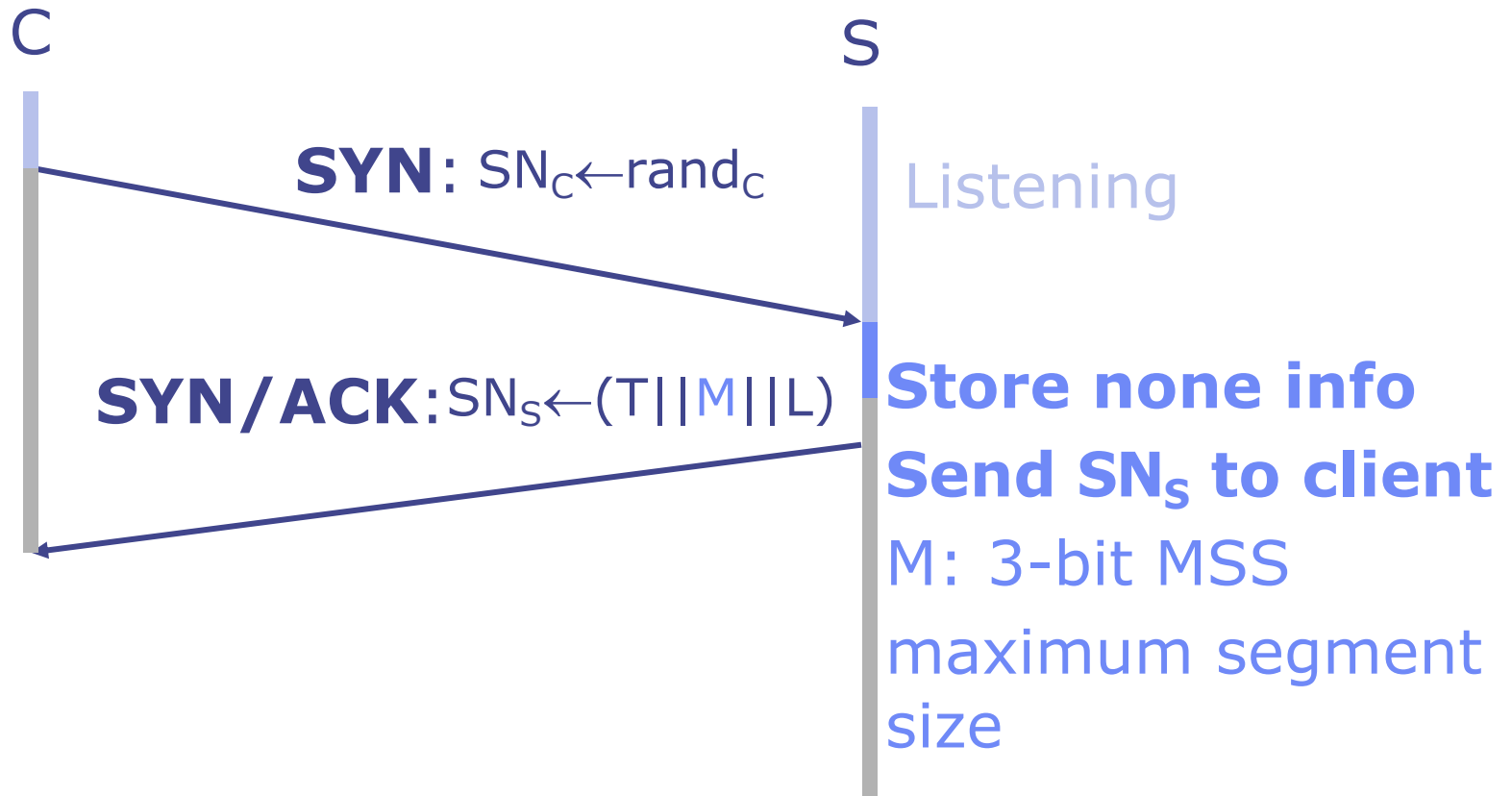
SYN cookies

# SYN Cookies



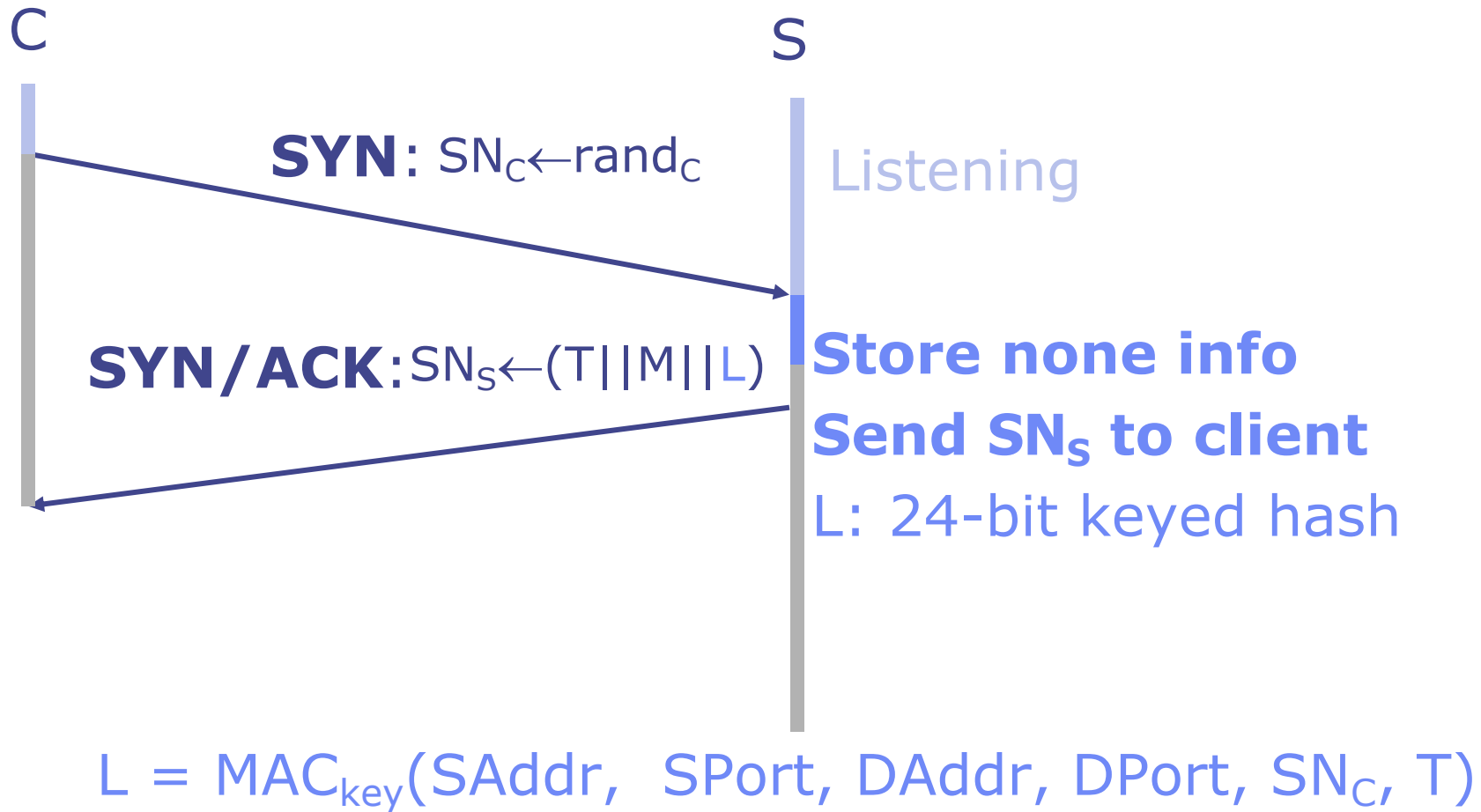
SYN cookies

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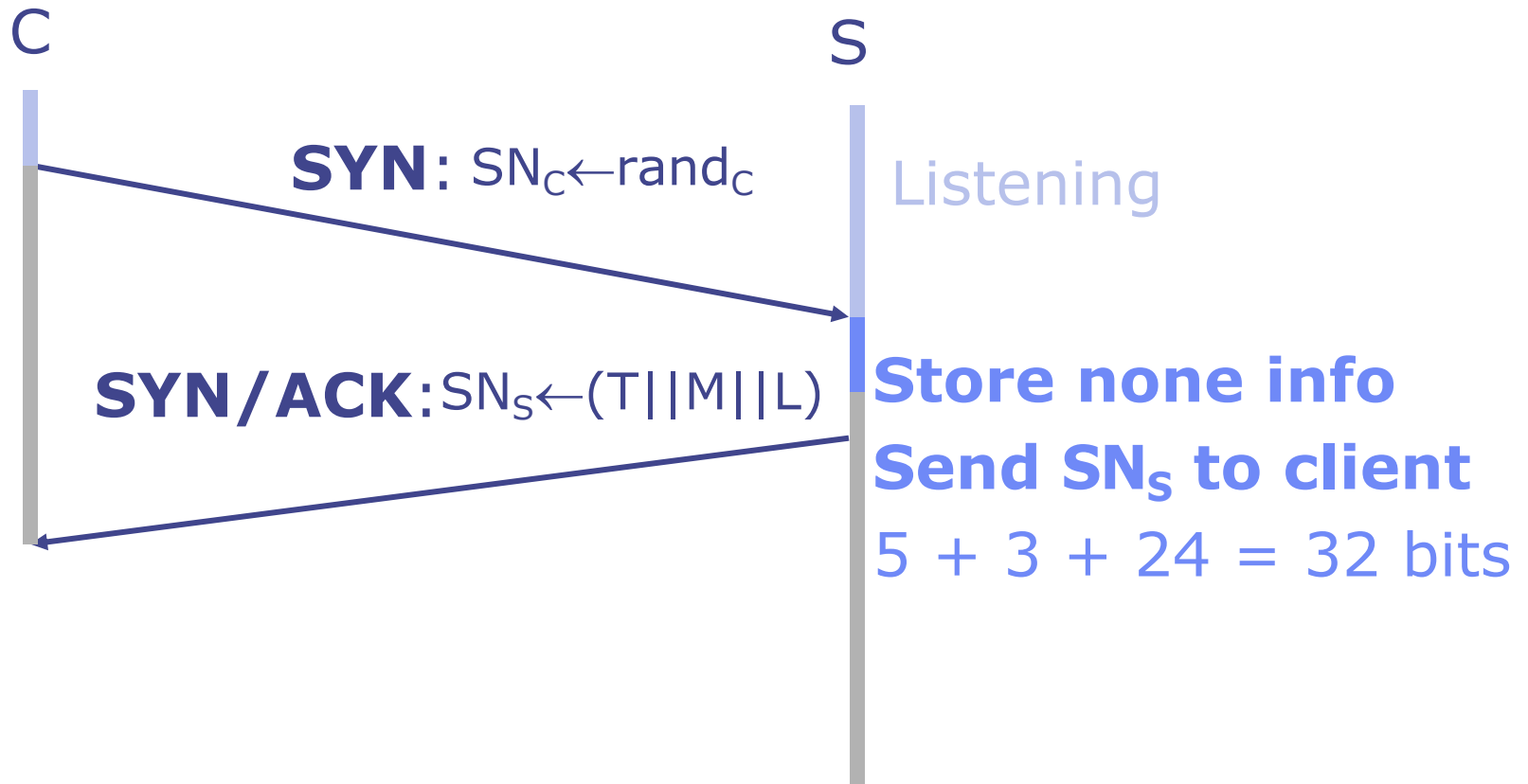
SYN cookies

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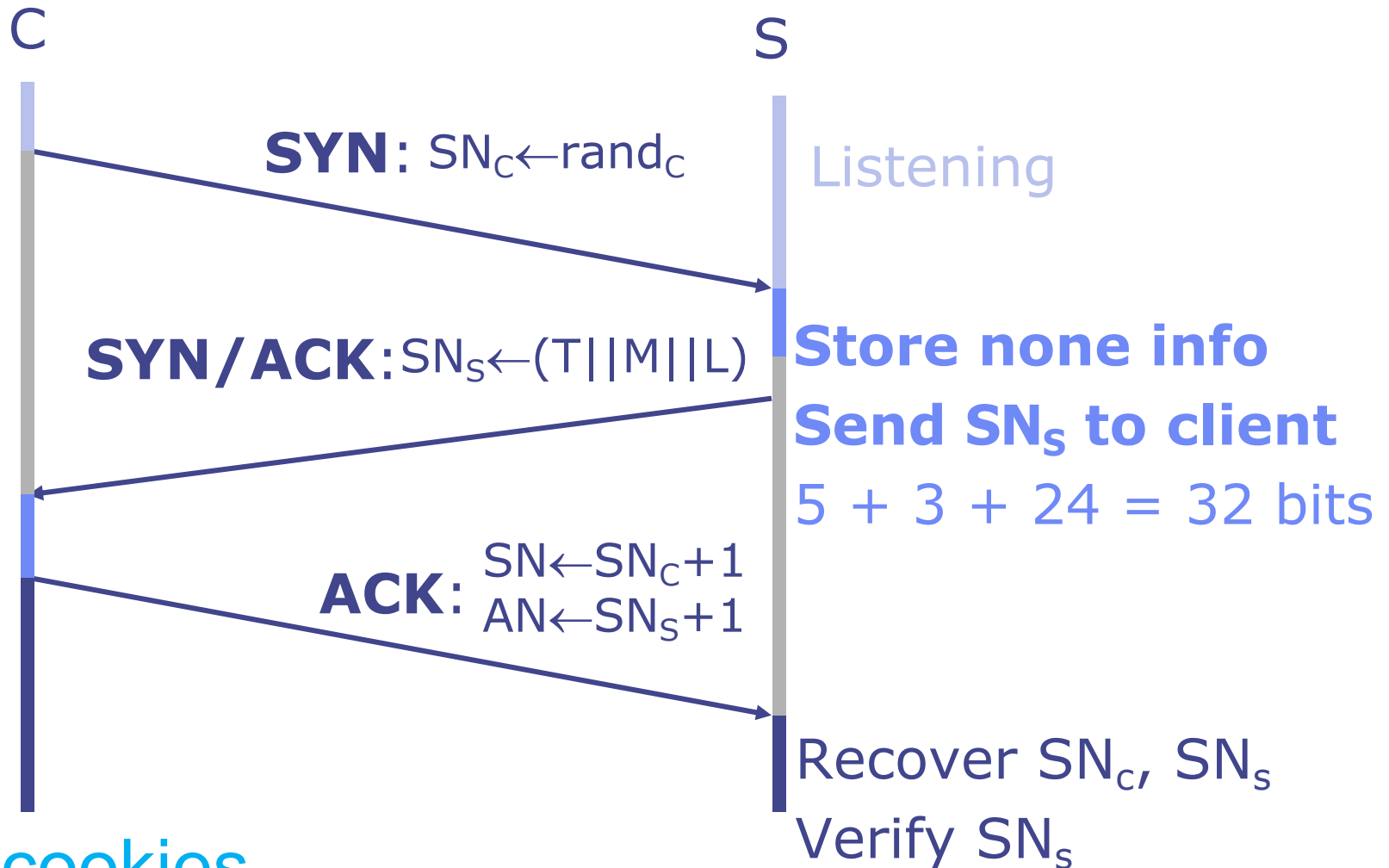
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SYN cookies

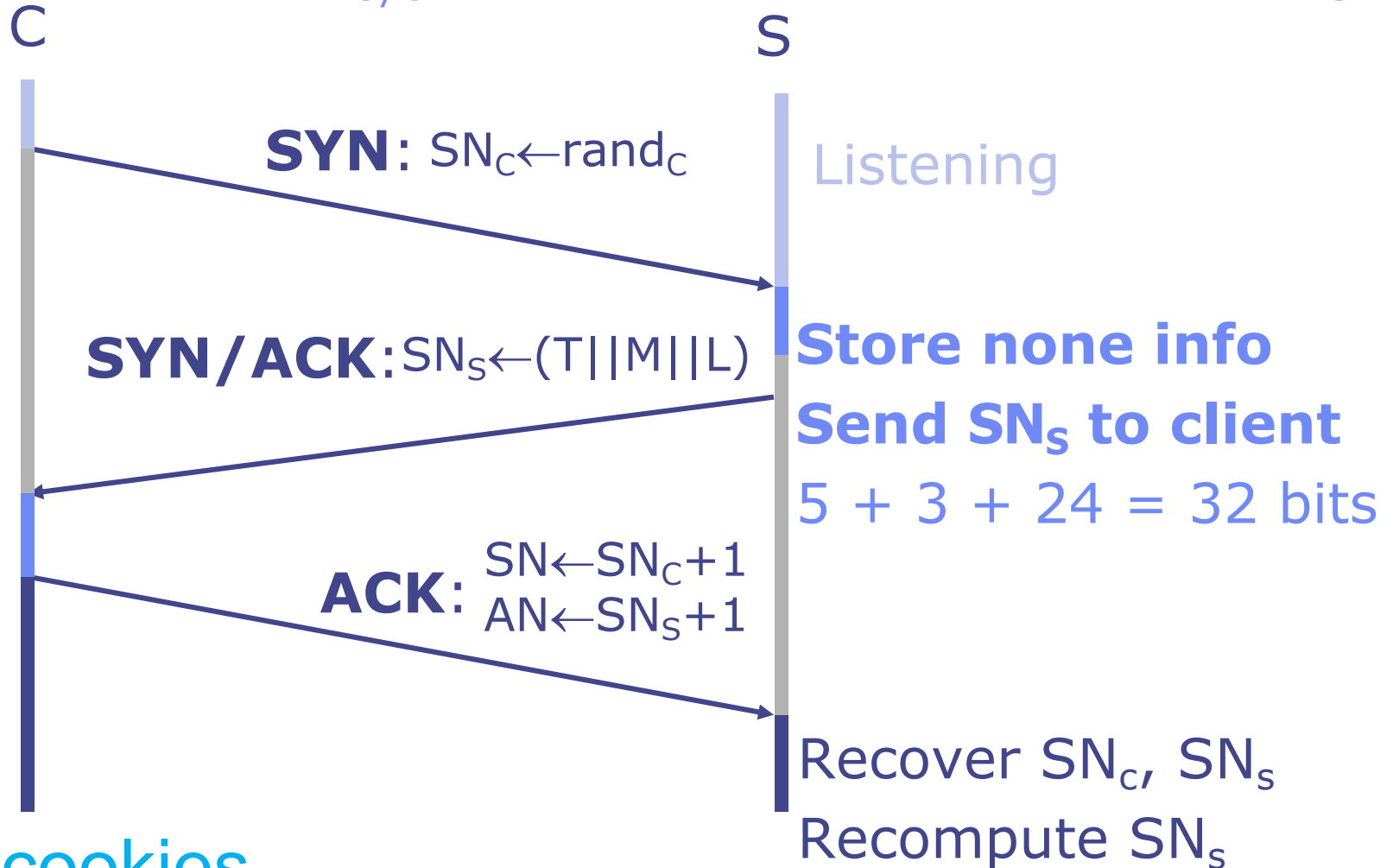


# SYN Cookies

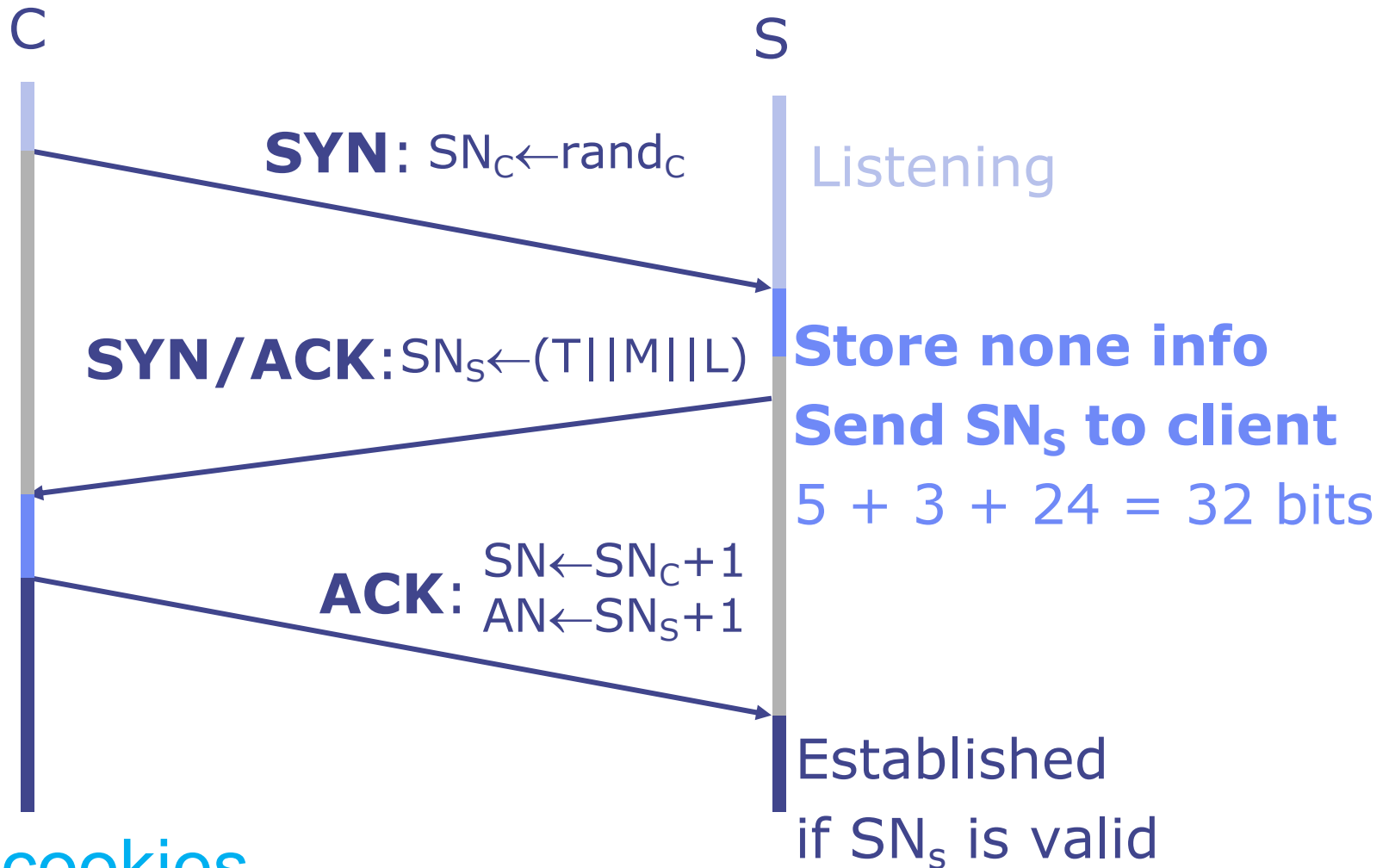


# SYN Cookies

$$L = \text{MAC}_{\text{key}}(\text{SAddr}, \text{SPort}, \text{DAddr}, \text{DPort}, \text{SN}_C, T)$$



# SYN Cookies



# TCP SYN Flood Backscatter

- SYN with forged source IP  $\Rightarrow$  SYN-ACK to random host

# TCP SYN Flood Backscatter

- SYN with forged source IP  $\Rightarrow$  SYN-ACK to random host

backscatter packets  
can be used for  
detecting DDoS

**DDoS attacks so far**

Attacker



Bot



# Ping Flood

Target



ICMP ECHO REQUEST

ICMP ECHO REPLY

?

ICMP ECHO REQUEST

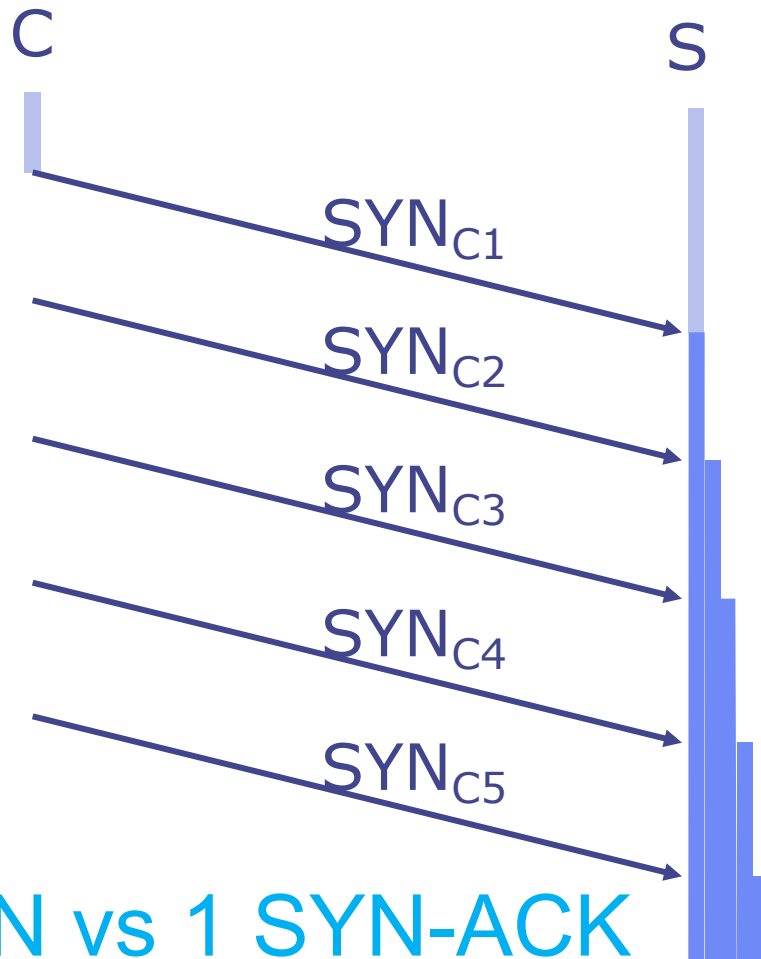
ICMP ECHO REPLY

ICMP ECHO REQUEST

ICMP ECHO REPLY

1 request vs 1 reply

# TCP SYN Flood



Single machine:

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- No further connections possible



# **symmetric DDoS attack**

the amount of bandwidth the targeted device consumes is simply the sum of the total traffic sent from each attacker/bot;

# **symmetric DDoS attack**

the attacker requires a substantial amount of traffic to succeed;

how to attack with less effort?

# **asymmetric DDoS attack**

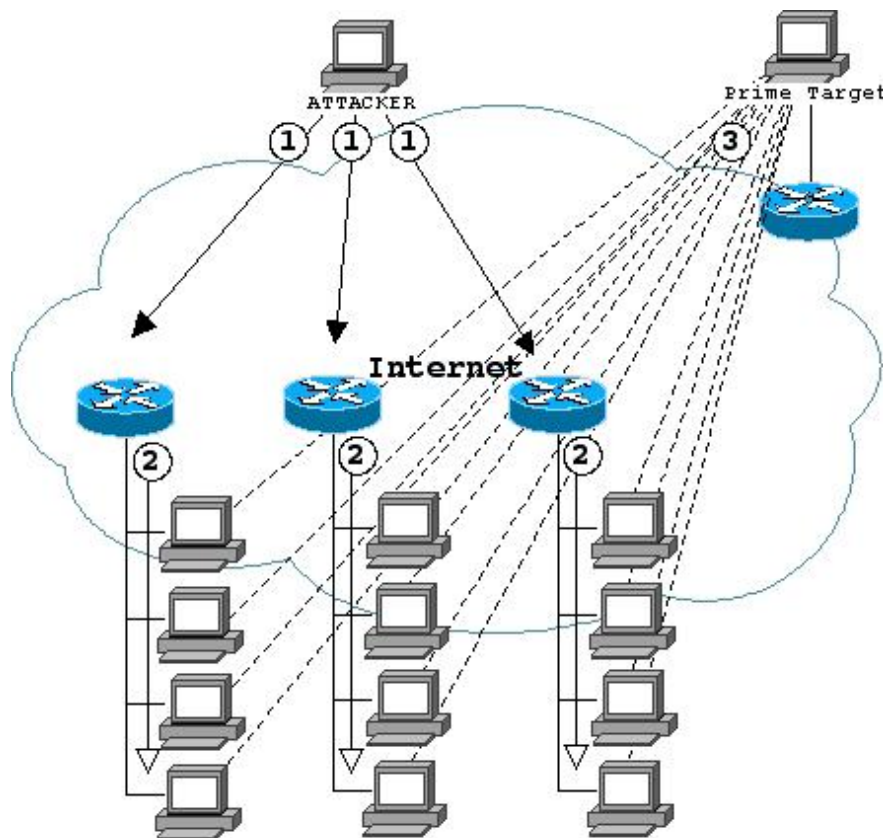
a relatively small number or low levels of resources are required by an attacker to cause a significantly greater number or higher level of target resources to malfunction or fail

# Smurf Attack

- Amplify the effect of ping flood
  - Exploit IP broadcast address
  - Forward the single ICMP Echo Request to any other hosts in the same network
  - Each host responds with an ICMP Echo Reply
- 
- 1 request vs many replies

# Smurf Attack

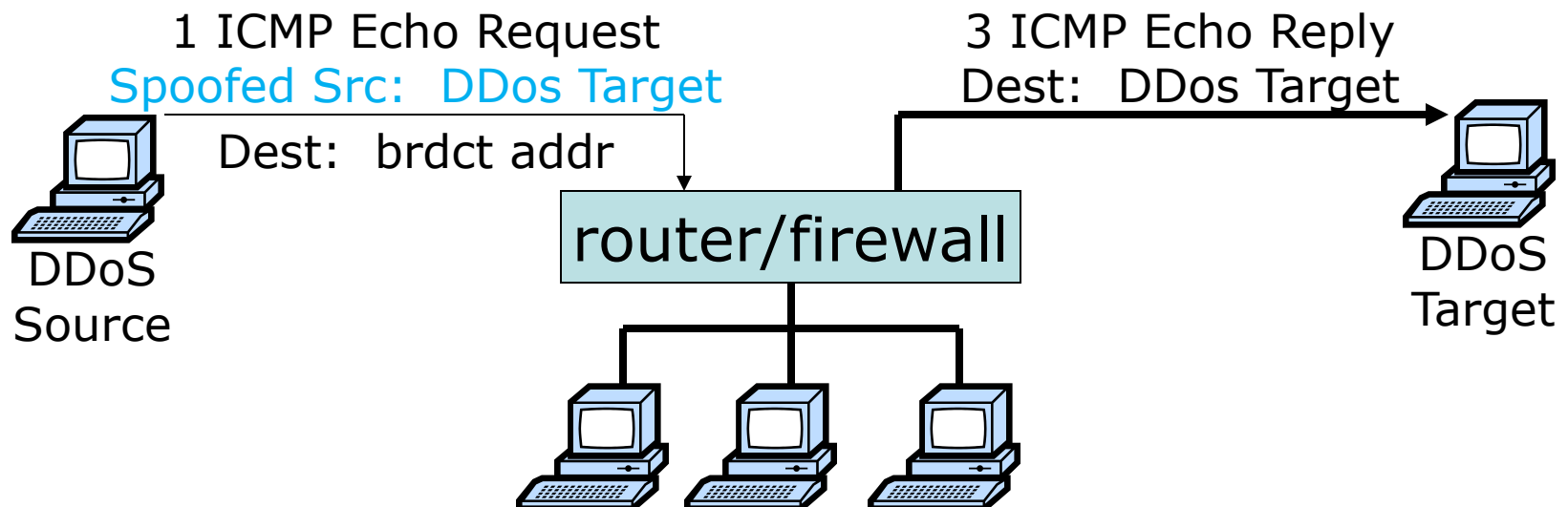
- Amplify the effect of ping flood
- 1 request vs many replies



router and firewall  
as amplifier

# Smurf Attack

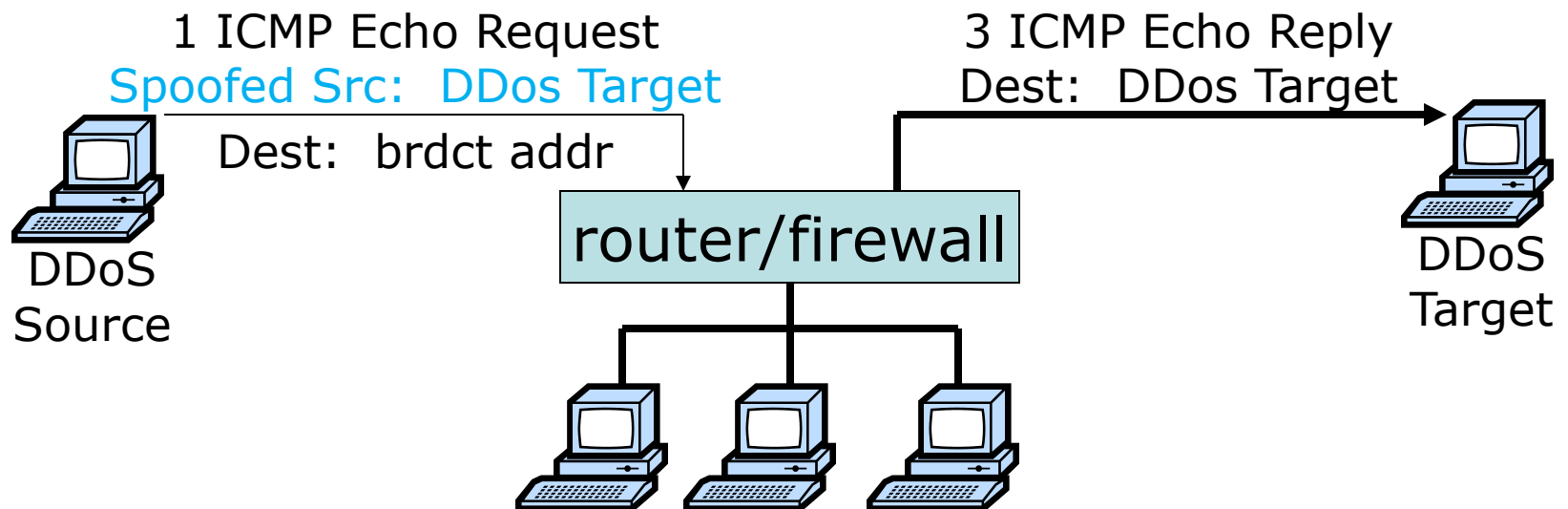
- Attack with an ICMP Echo Request with **spoofed source IP address of the targeted server** and destination IP address of an IP broadcast address



# Smurf Attack

- **Solution**

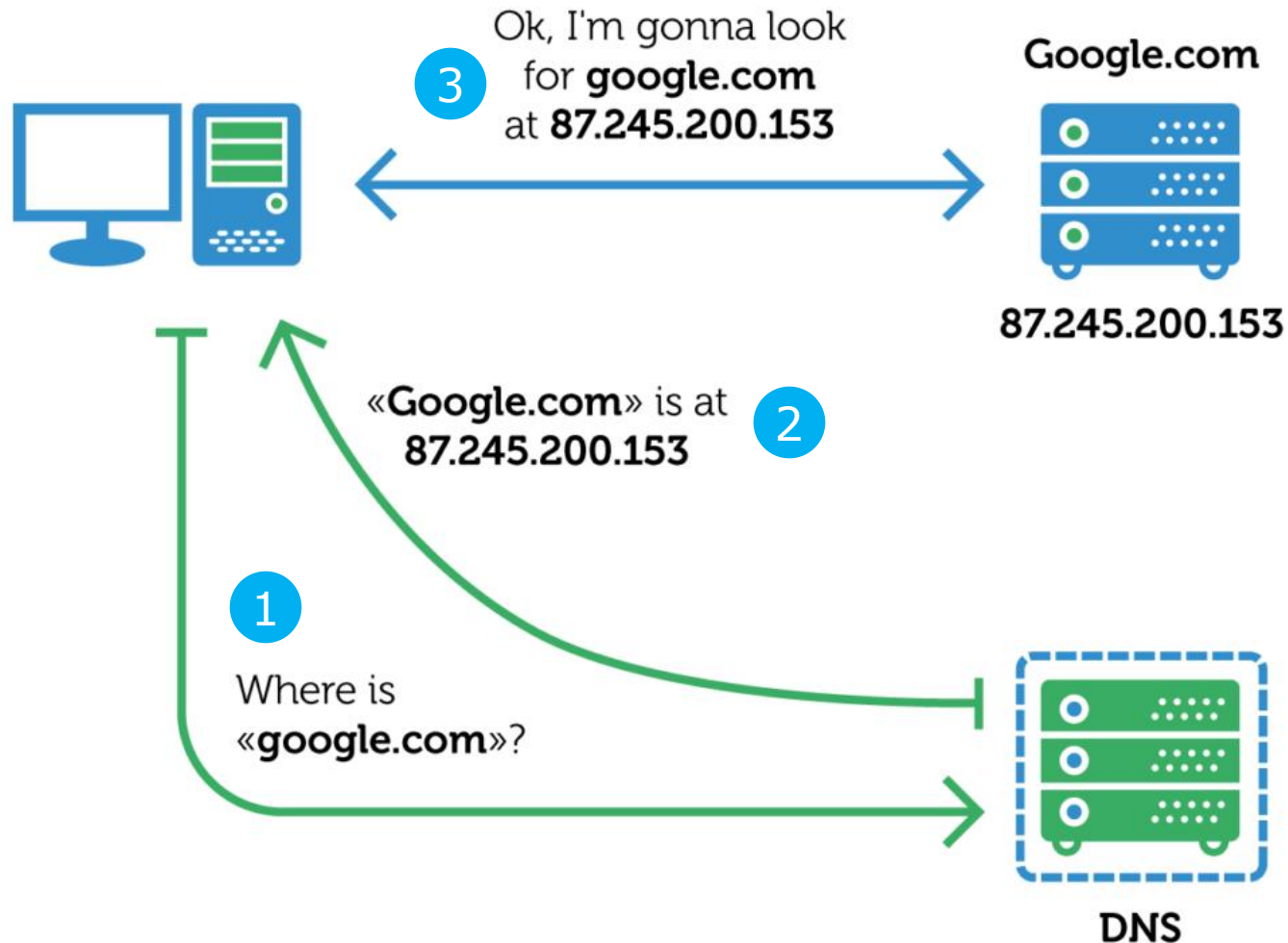
disable IP broadcast addresses on router and firewall, or  
reject external packets to brdct addr



**asymmetric DDoS attack**  
any other amplifiers?



# DNS Resolver

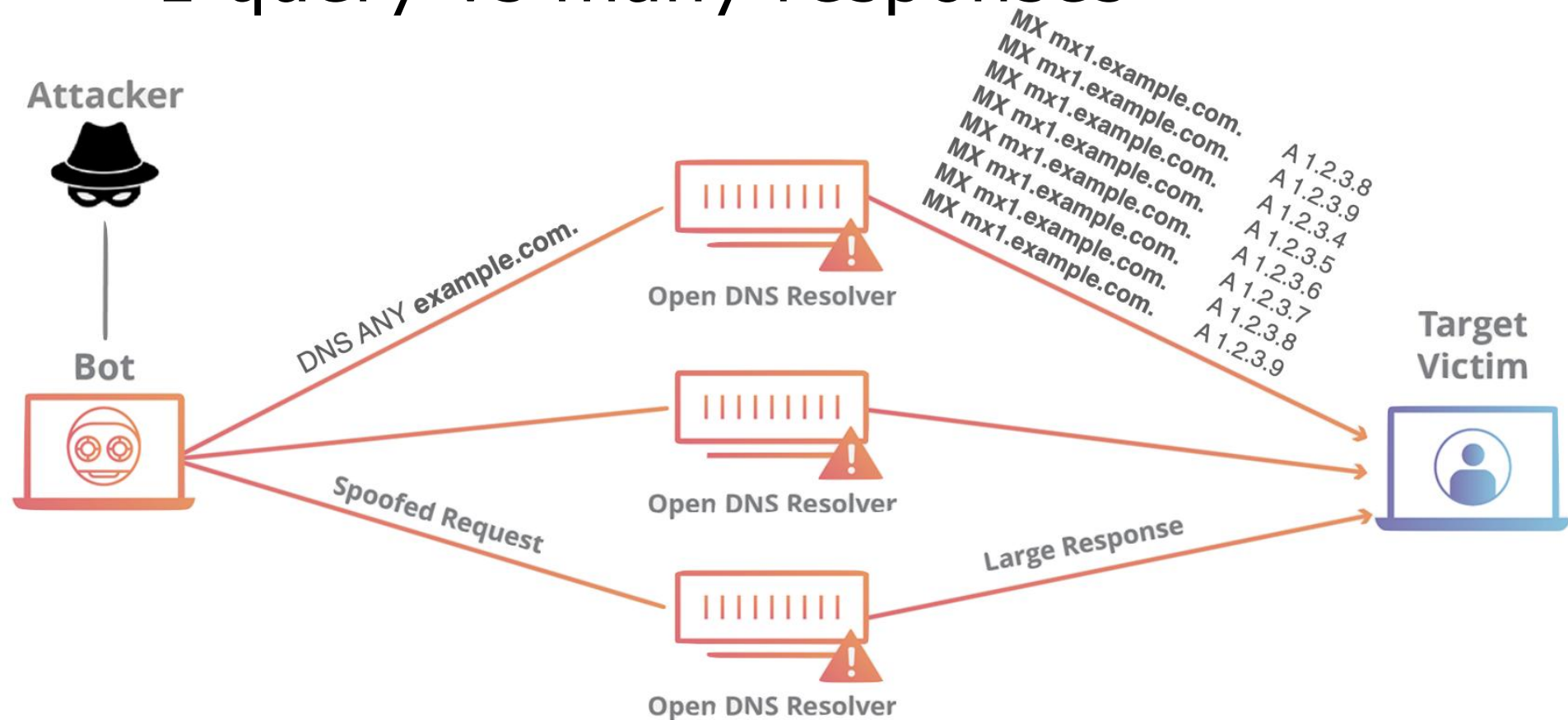


# DNS Amplification Attack

- Leverage open DNS resolvers
- Exploit DNS query of type ANY that retrieves all the available types for a given name

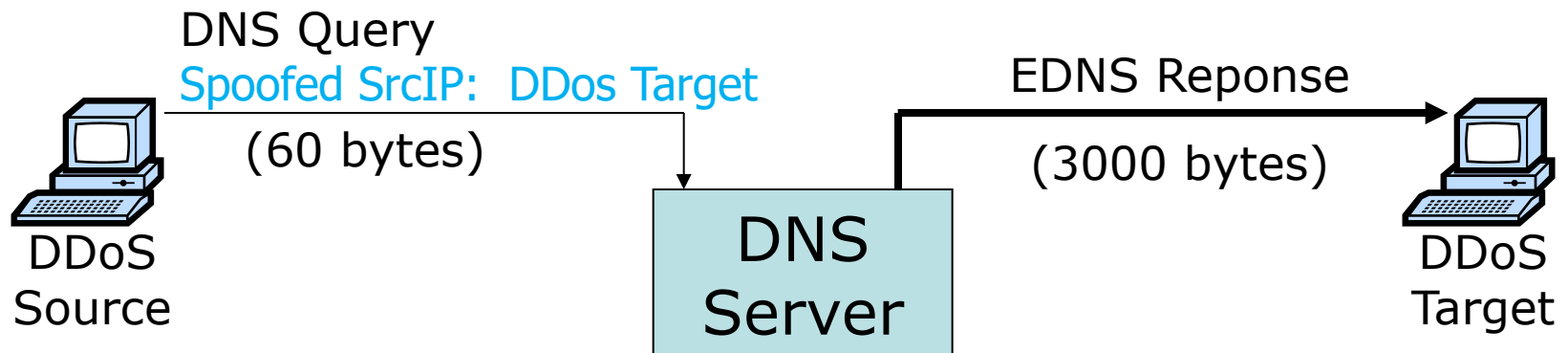
# DNS Amplification Attack

- Amplify the effect of DNS query
- 1 query vs many responses



# DNS Amplification Attack

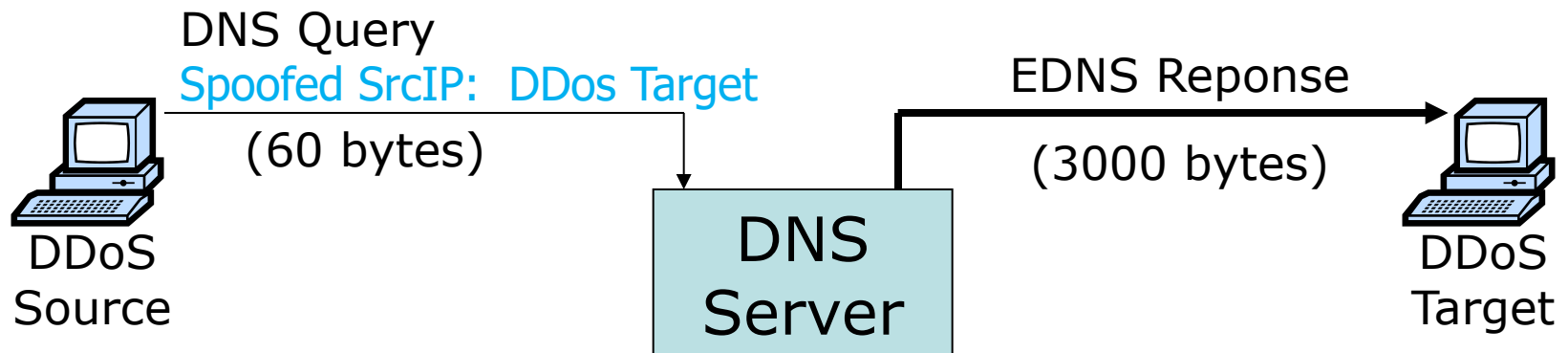
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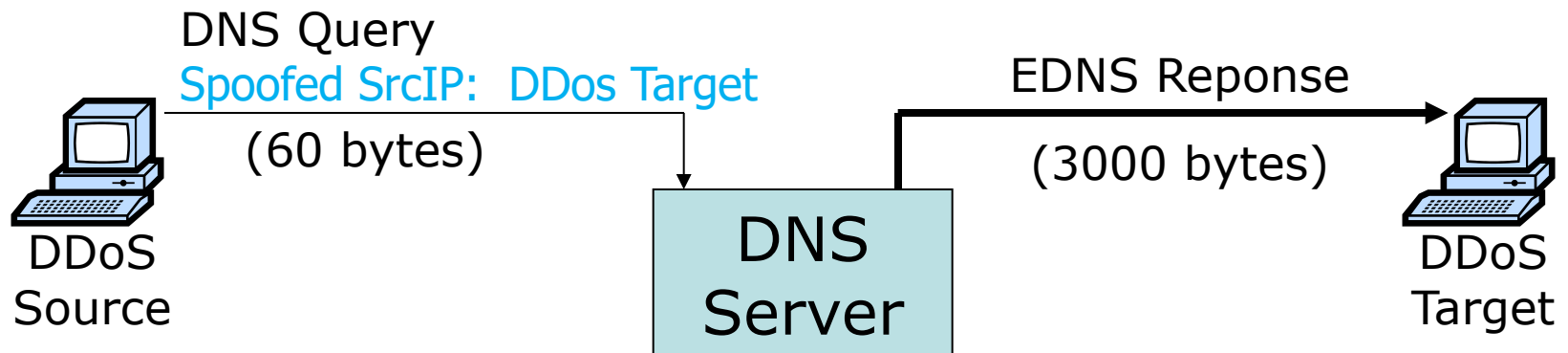
EDNS: Extension Mechanisms for DNS  
sends DNS data in larger UDP packets



# DNS Amplification Attack

- **Solution**

reduce the number of open resolvers;  
source IP verification – stop spoofed  
packets leaving network;

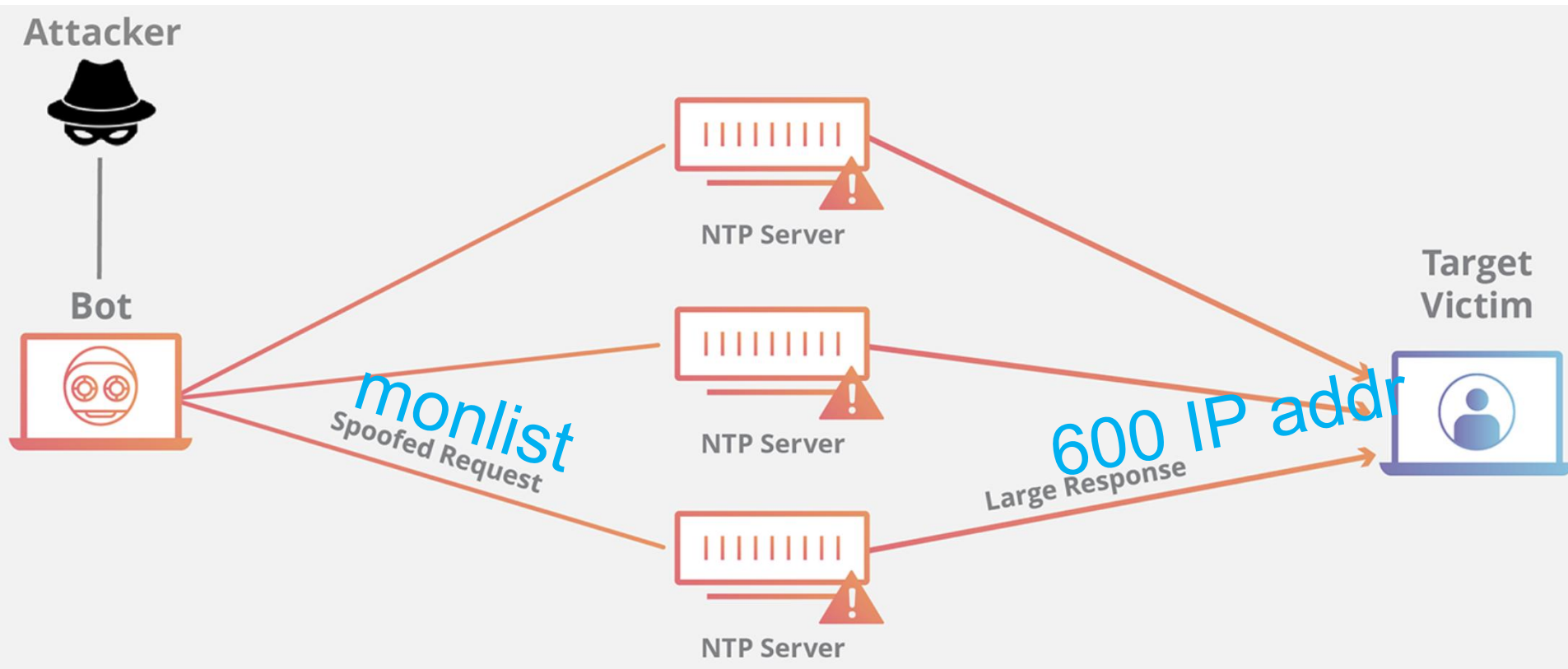


# NTP Amplification Attack

- Leverage Network Time Protocol (NTP) servers
- Exploit **monlist** command that triggers a response with the last 600 source IP addresses of requests made to the NTP server

# NTP Amplification Attack

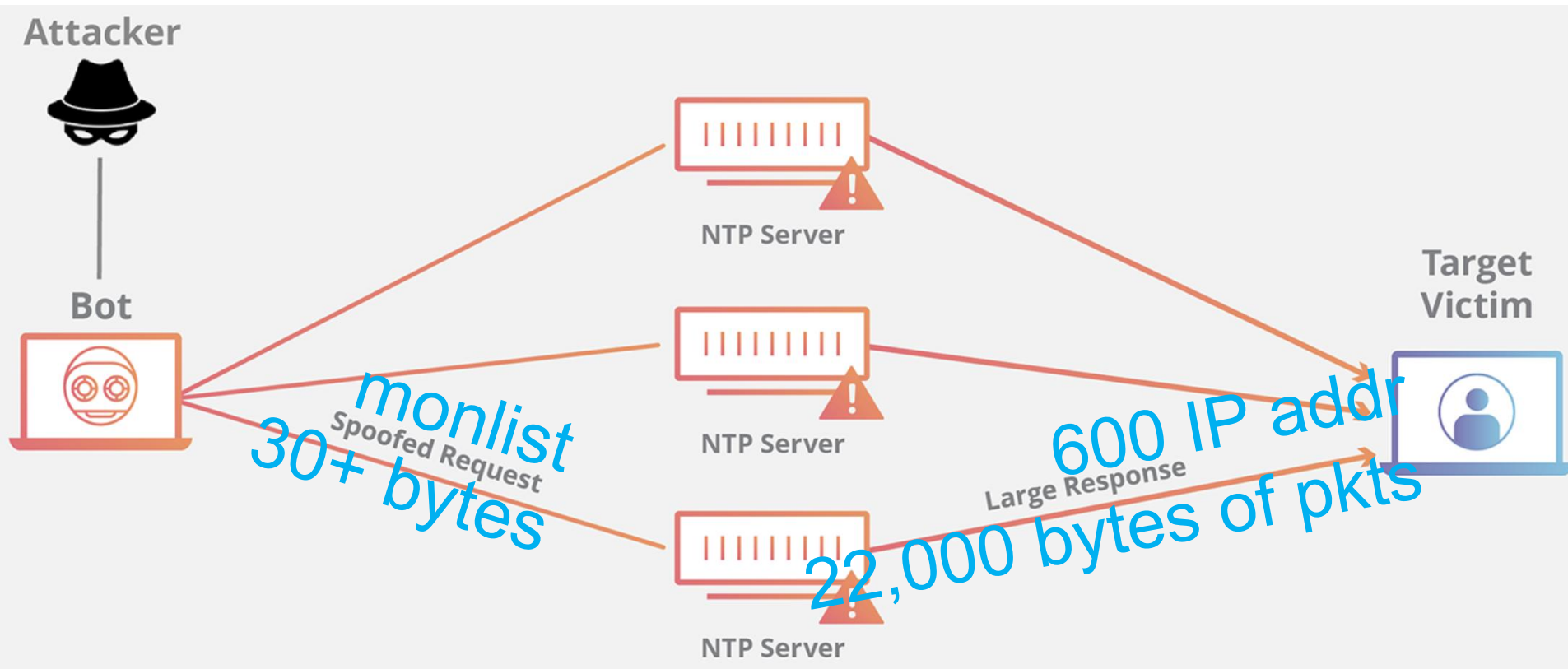
- Amplify the effect of NTP query
- 1 query vs a large response





# NTP Amplification Attack

- Amplify the effect of NTP query
- 1 query vs a large response

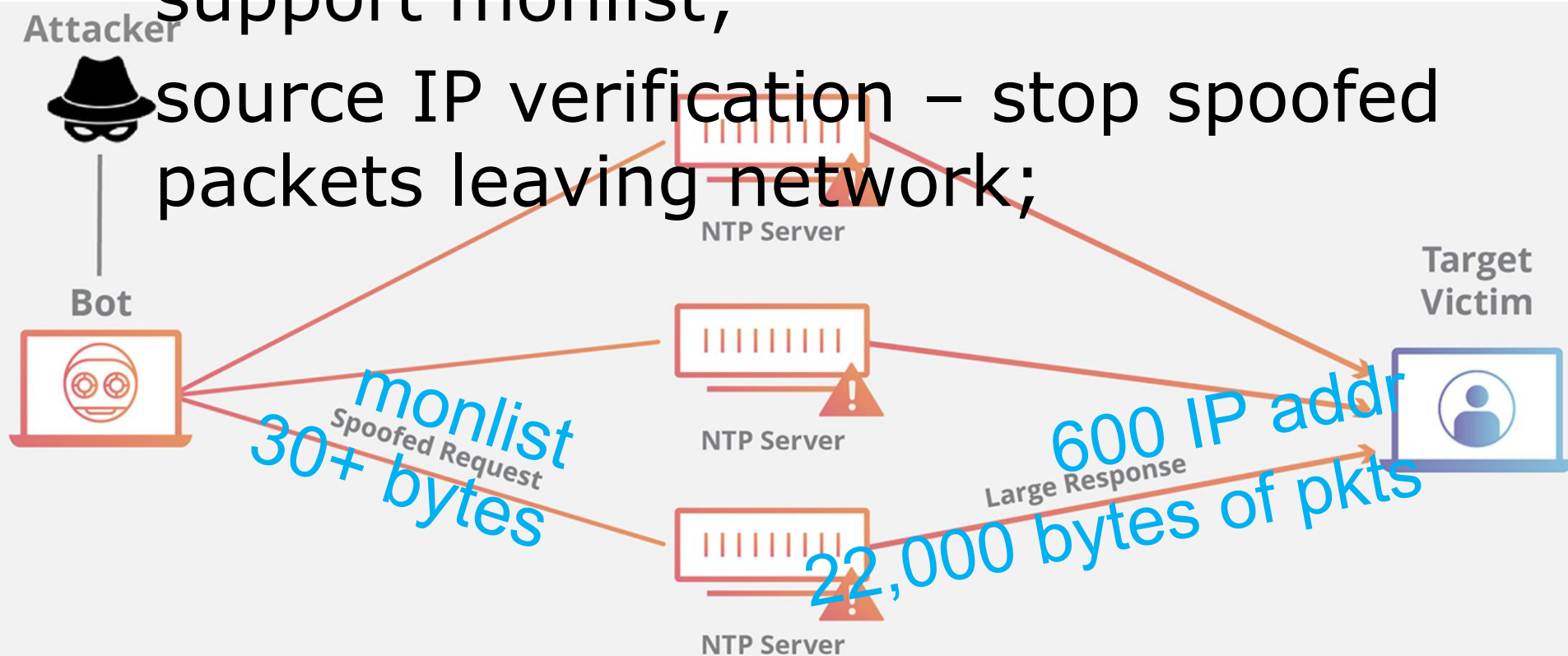


# NTP Amplification Attack

- **Solution**

reduce the number of NTP servers that support monlist;

source IP verification – stop spoofed packets leaving network;

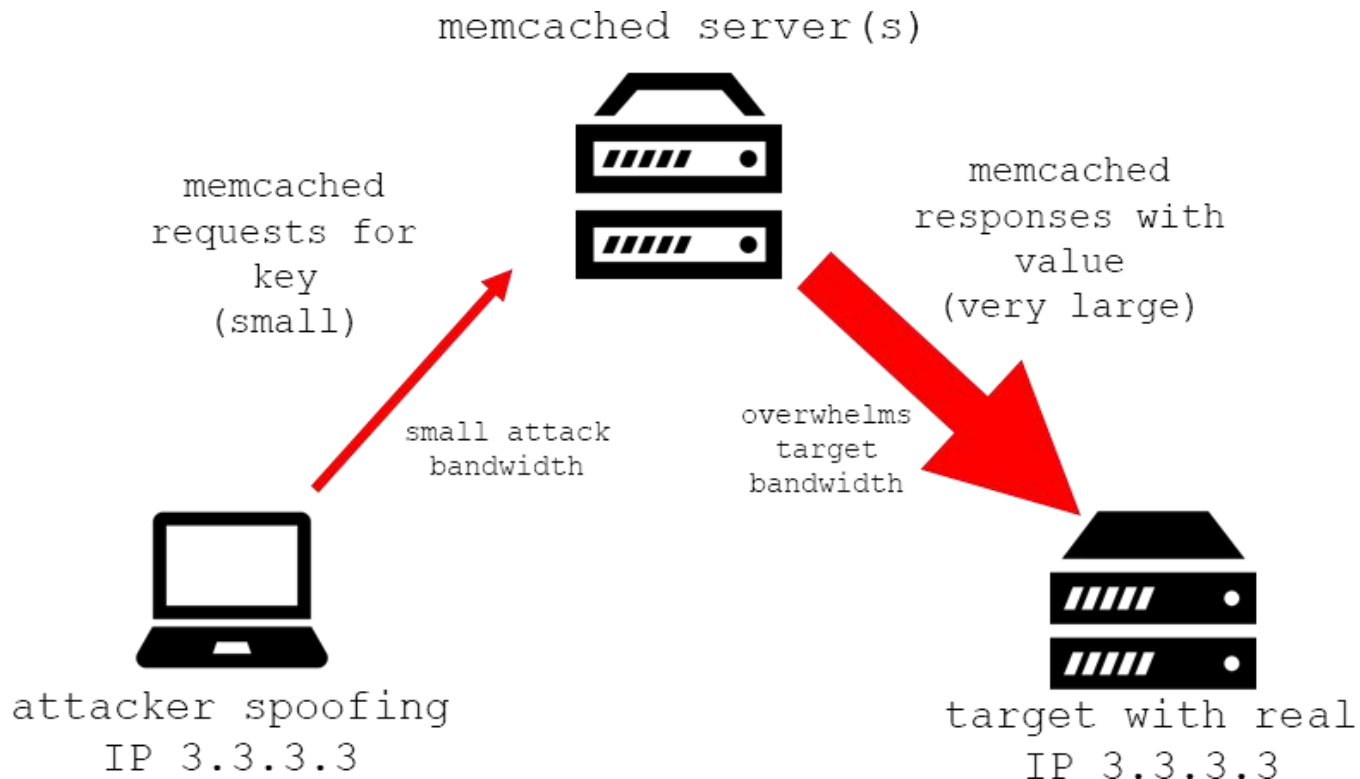


# Memcached Attack

- Leverage Memcached servers a general-purpose distributed memory-caching system for speeding up websites and networks
- Exploit **memcached request** that triggers a response with a large volume of data to target

# Memcached Attack

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# Memcached Attack

- **Attack principle**

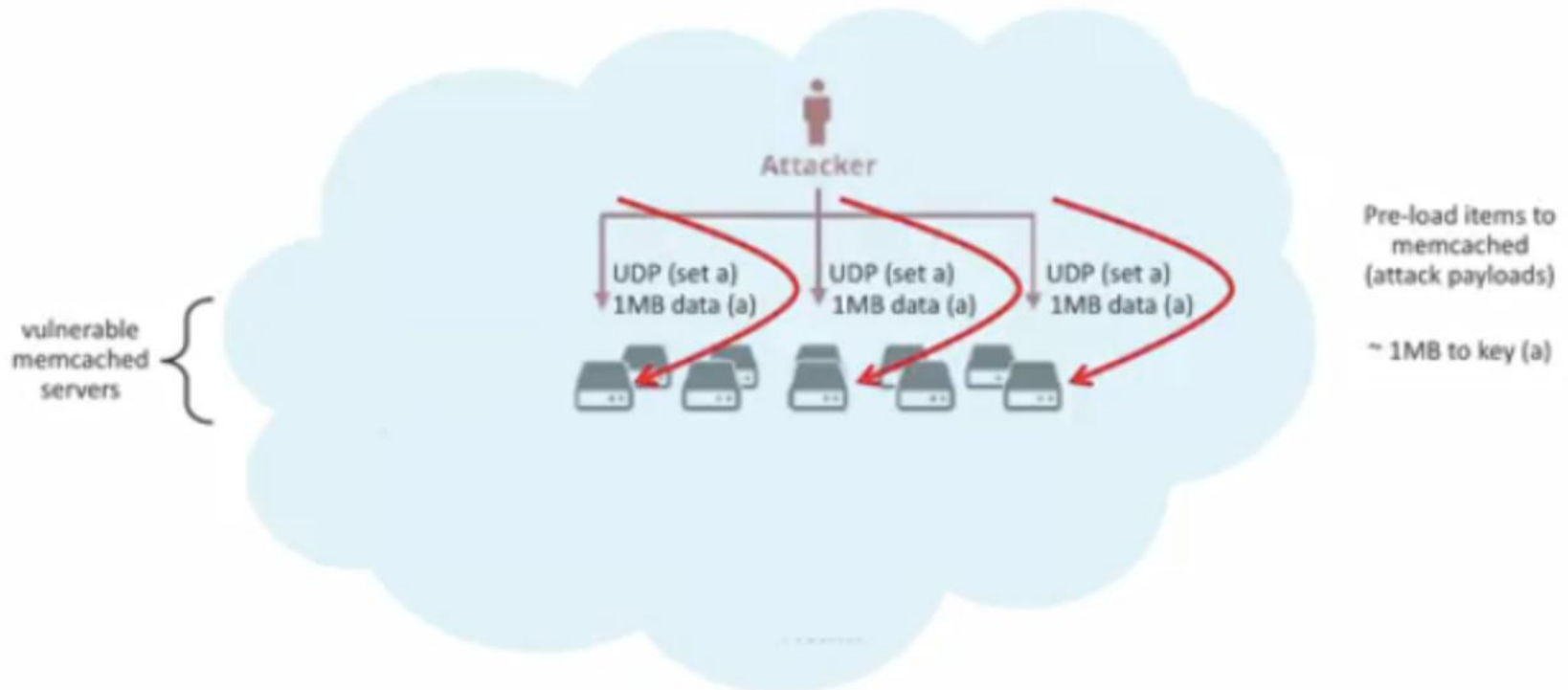
preload large data to Memcached server;

spoof request to preloaded data from target;

# Memcached Attack

- **Attack principle**

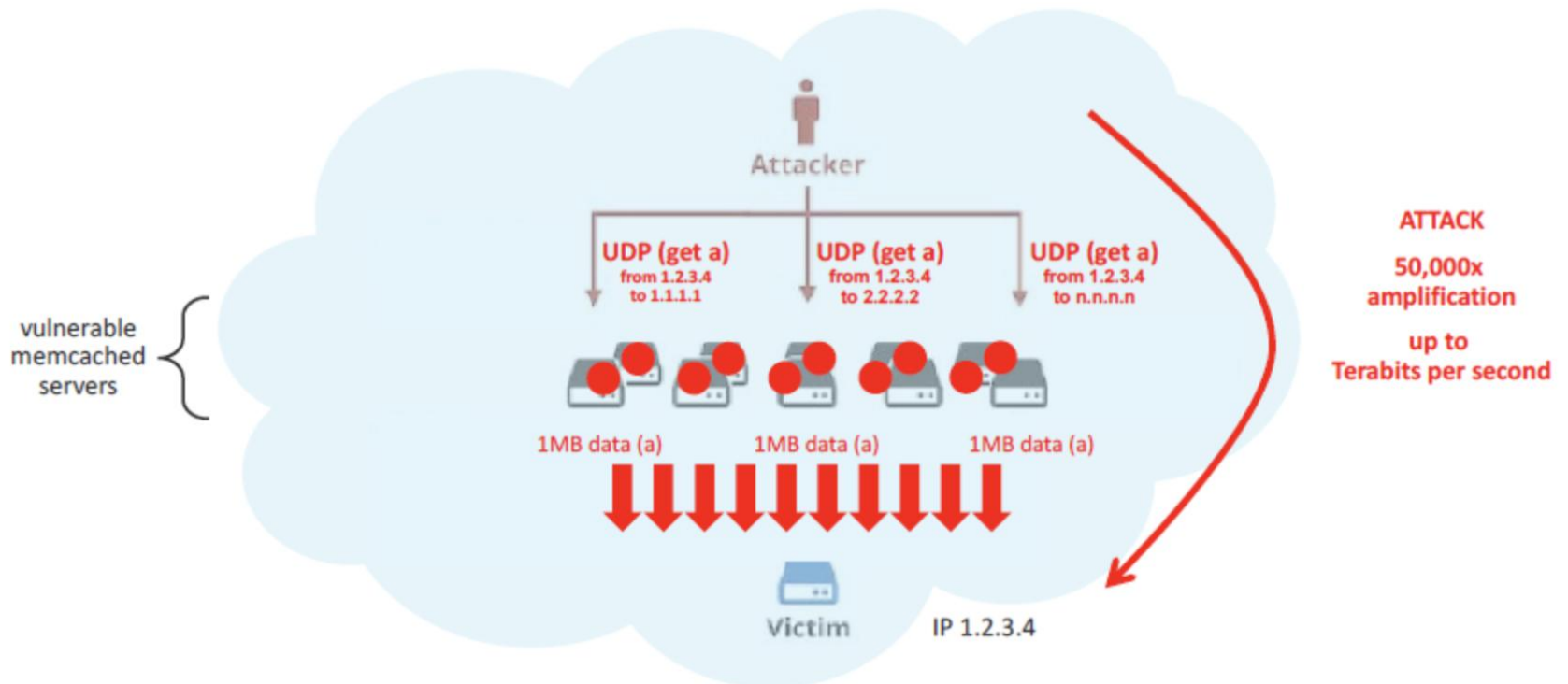
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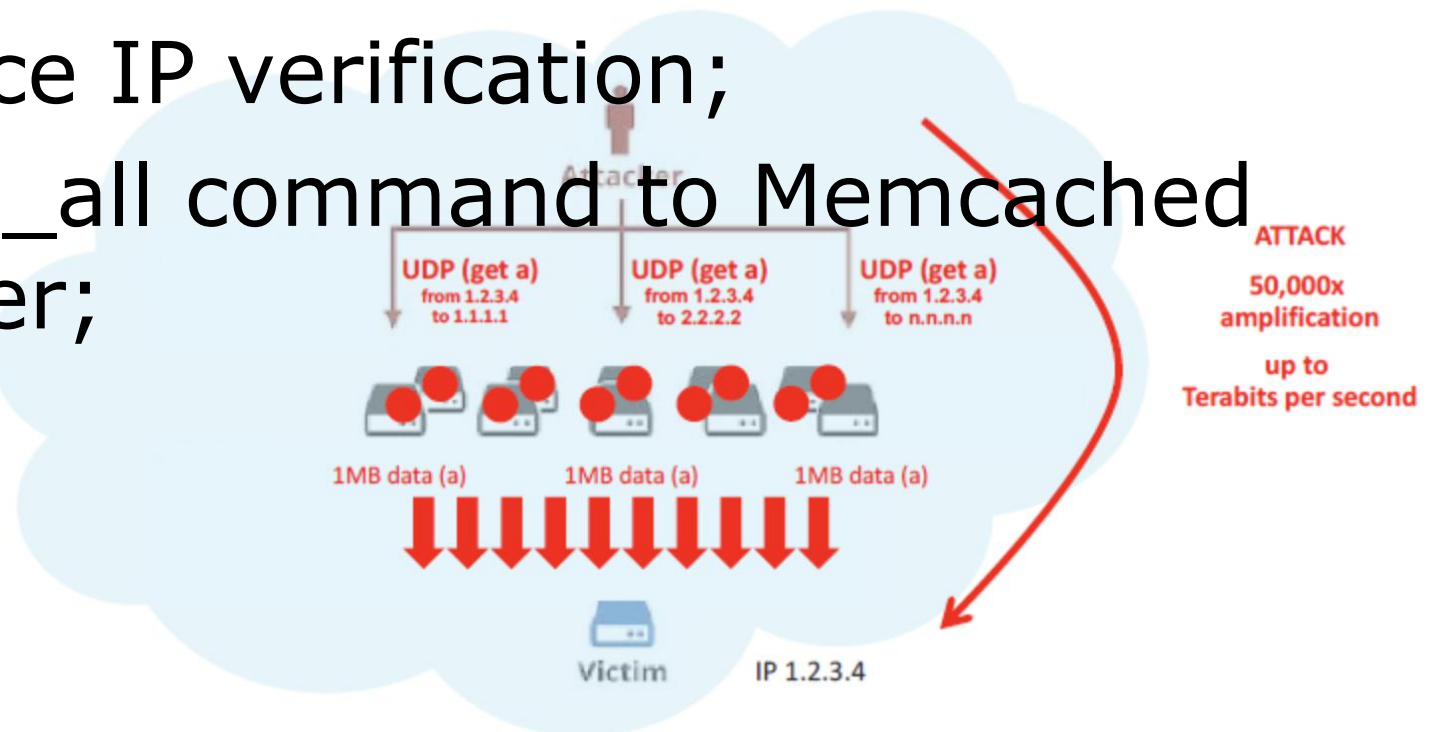


# Memcached Attack

- **Solution**

disable UDP on Memcached server;  
firewall Memcached server;  
source IP verification;  
flush\_all command to Memcached  
server;

vulnerable  
memcached  
servers



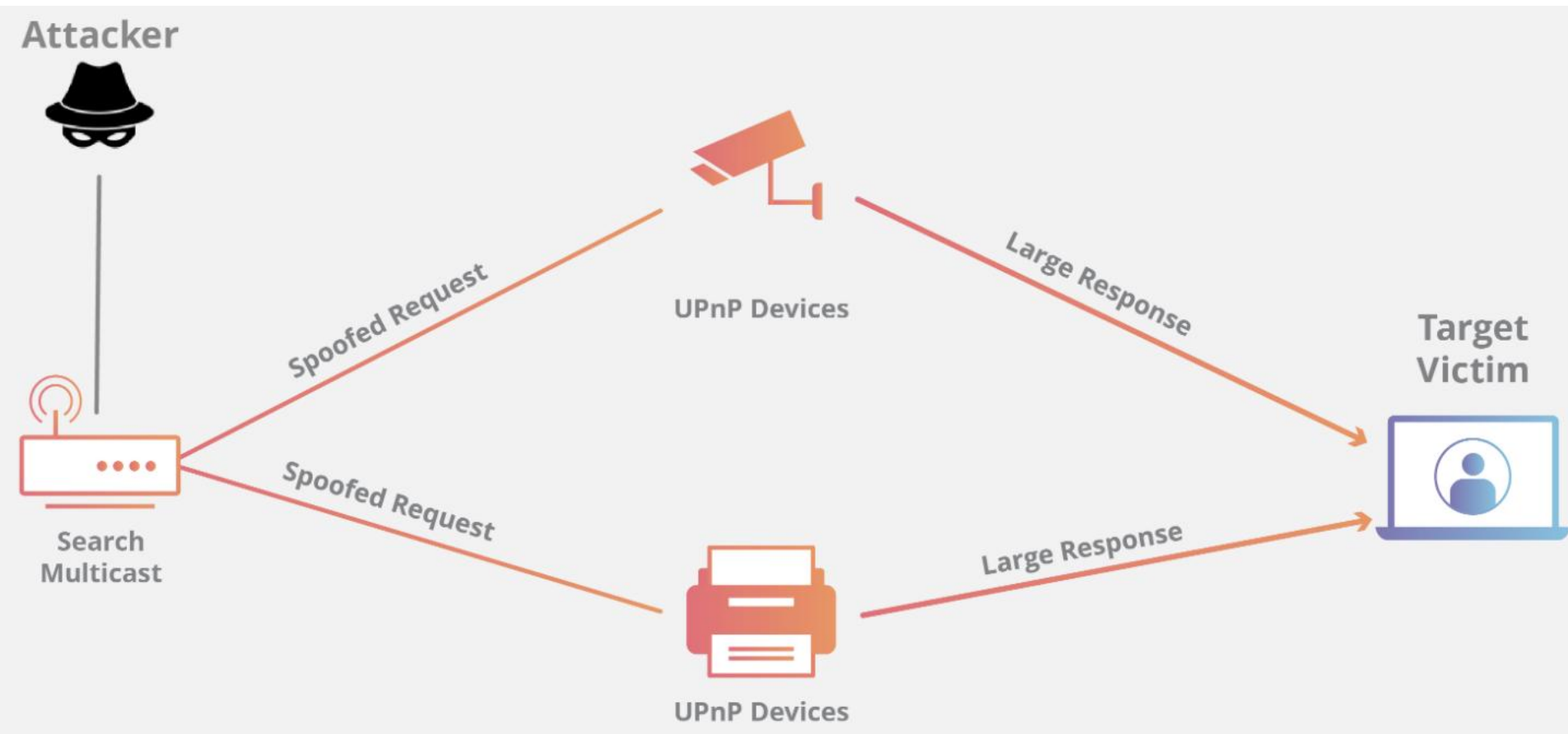


# SSDP Attack

- Leverage Simple Service Discovery Protocol (SSDP)
- Exploit **Universal Plug and Play (UPnP)** networking protocols that trigger UPnP devices to respond with a complete list of all services it has to offer

# SSDP Attack

- Exploit SSDP and UpnP



# SSDP Attack

- **Attack principle**

1. the attacker conducts a scan looking for plug-and-play devices that can be utilized as amplification factors;

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# SSDP Attack

- **Attack principle**

1. the attacker conducts a scan looking for plug-and-play devices that can be utilized as amplification factors;
2. as the attacker discovers networked devices, they create a list of all the devices that respond;
3. the attacker creates a UDP packet with the spoofed IP address of the targeted victim.

# SSDP Attack

- **Attack principle**

4. the attacker then uses a botnet to send a spoofed discovery packet to each plug-and-play device with a request for as much data as possible by setting certain flags, specifically `ssdp:rootdevice` or `ssdp:all`;

# SSDP Attack

- **Attack principle**

5. as a result, each device will send a reply to the targeted victim with an amount of data up to about 30 times larger than the attacker's request;

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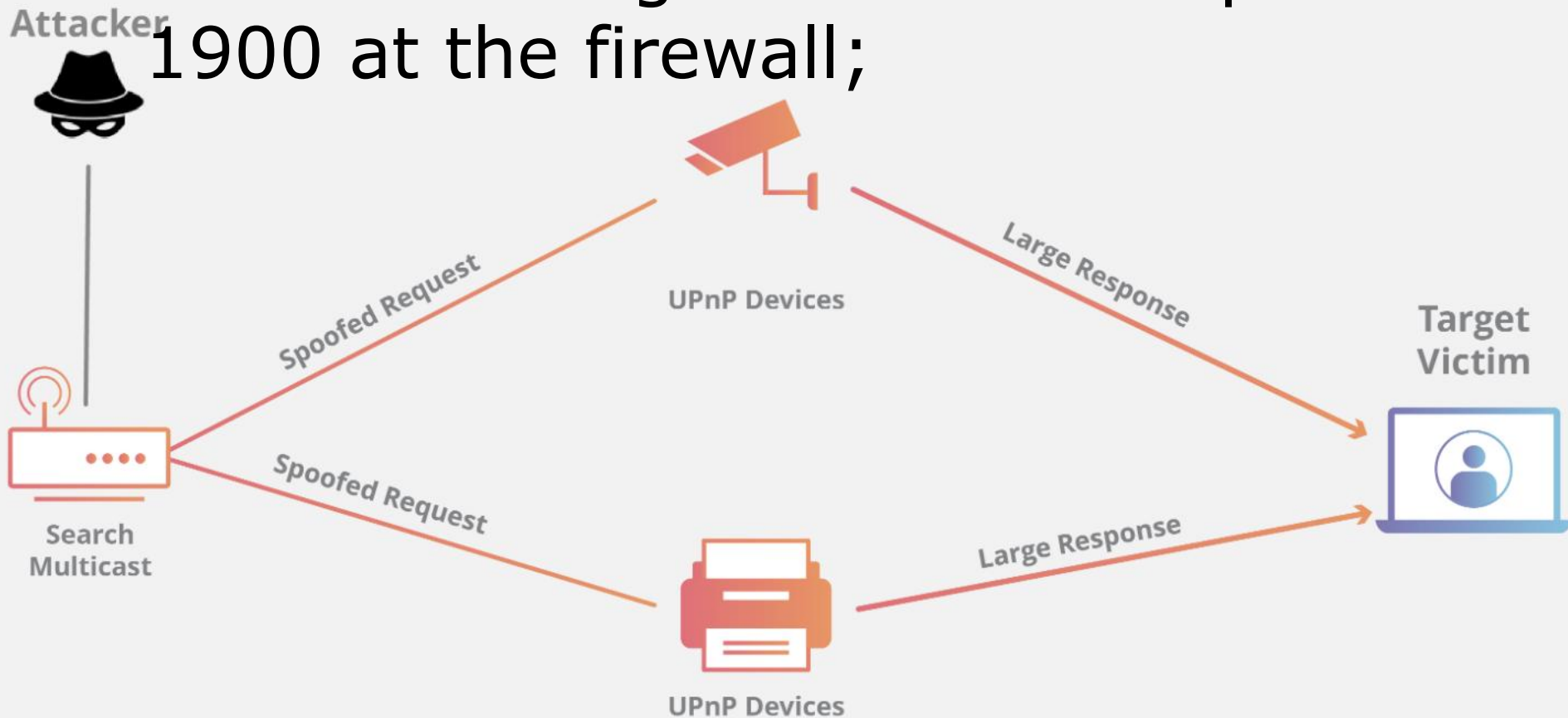
6. the target then receives a large volume of traffic from all the devices and becomes overwhelmed, potentially resulting in denial-of-service to legitimate traffic;



# SSDP Attack

- **Solution**

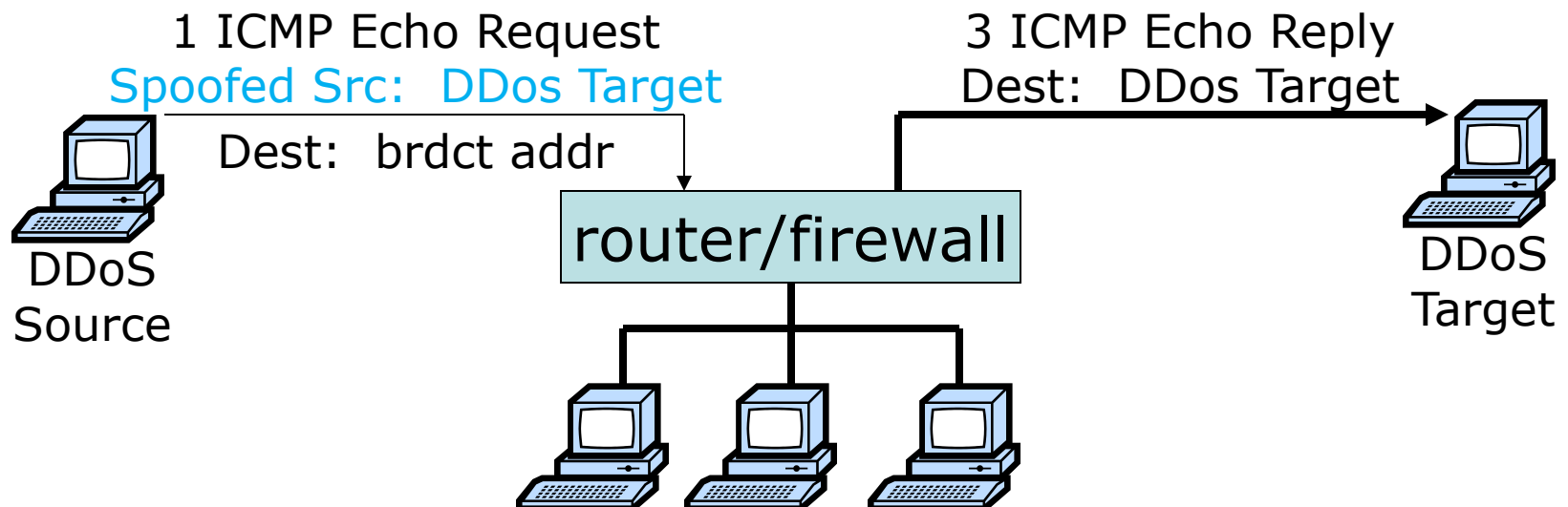
block incoming UDP traffic on port 1900 at the firewall;



**asymmetric DDoS attack**  
exploit traffic amplifier so far

# Smurf Attack

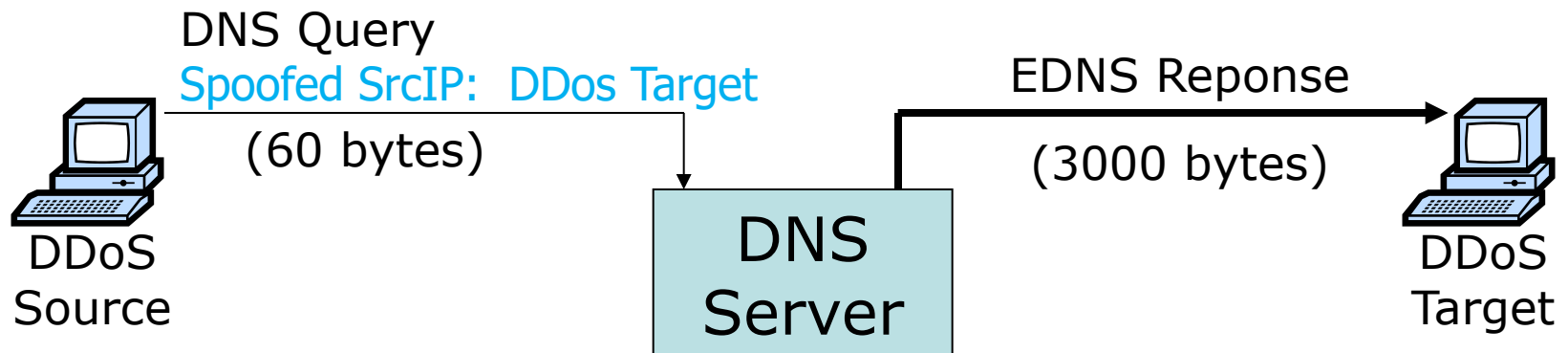
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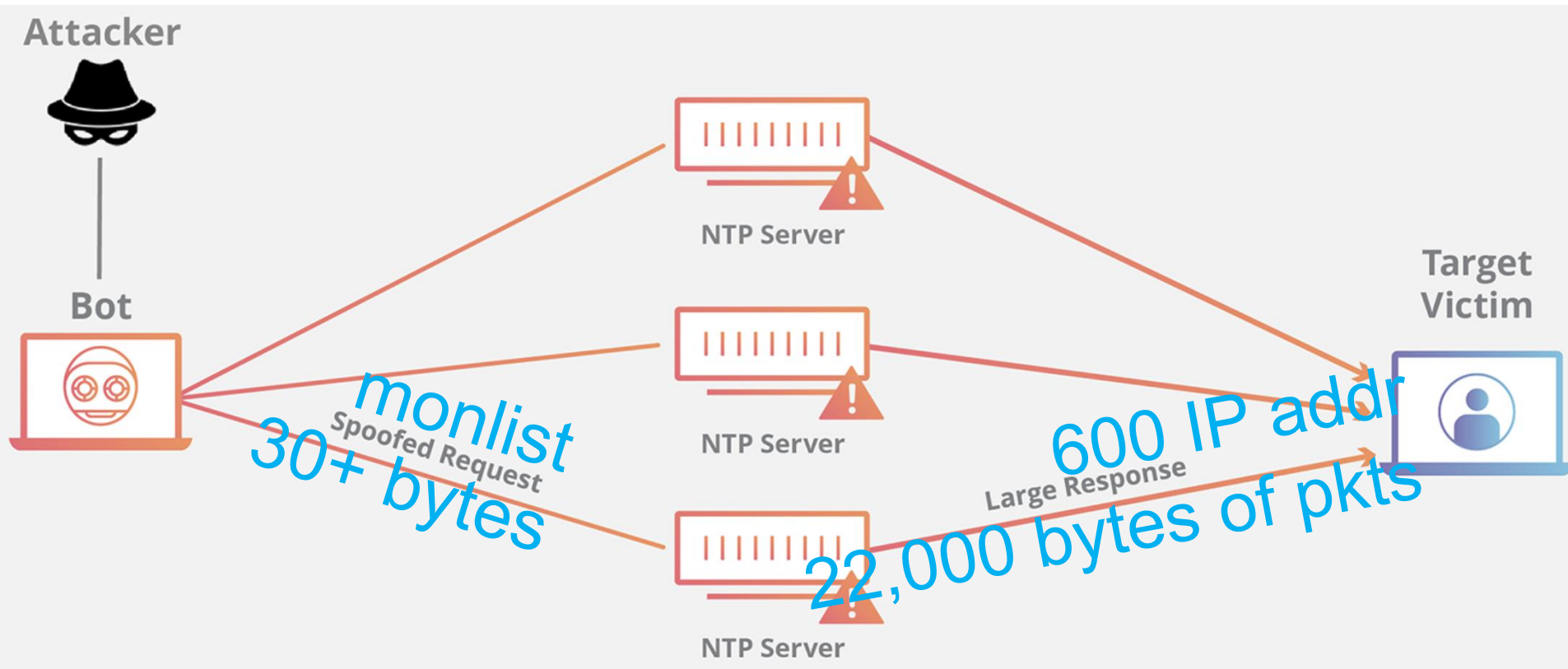
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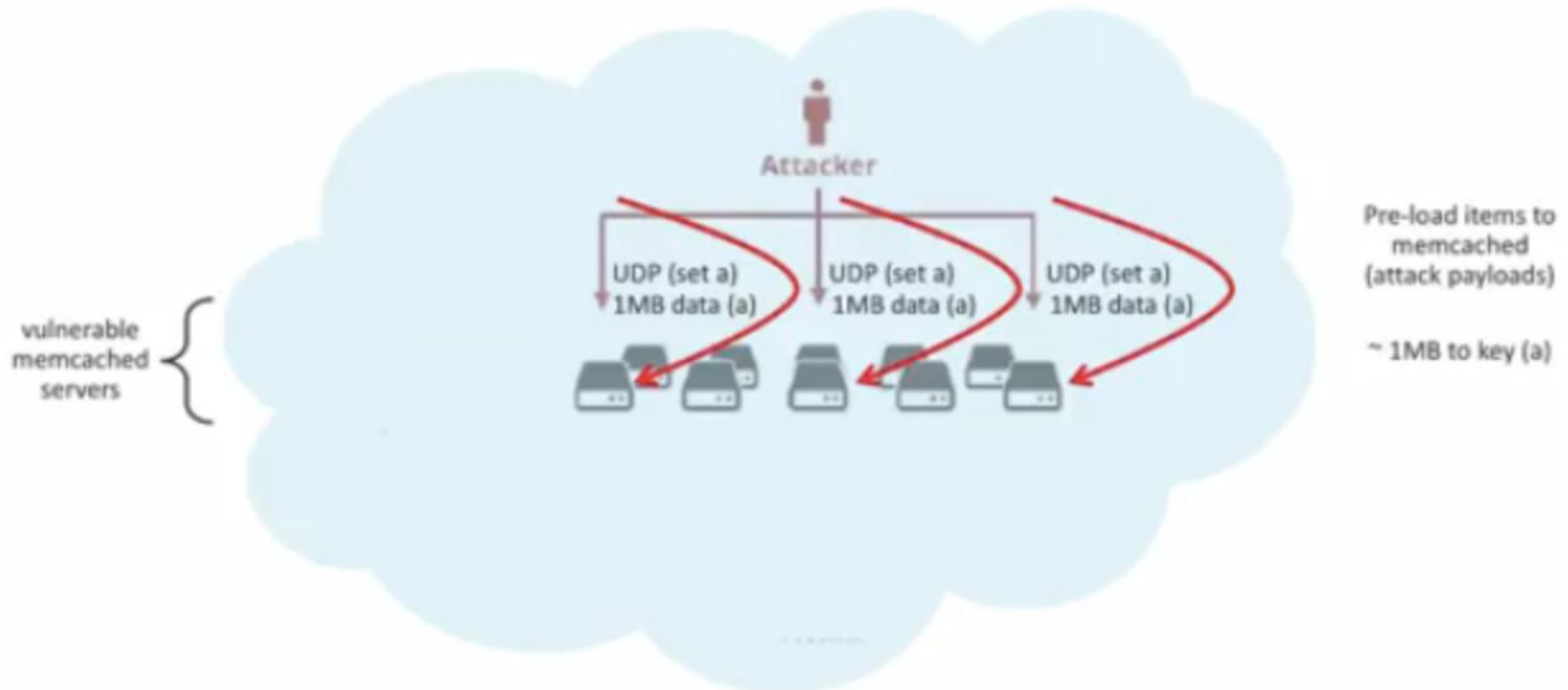
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# Memcached Attack

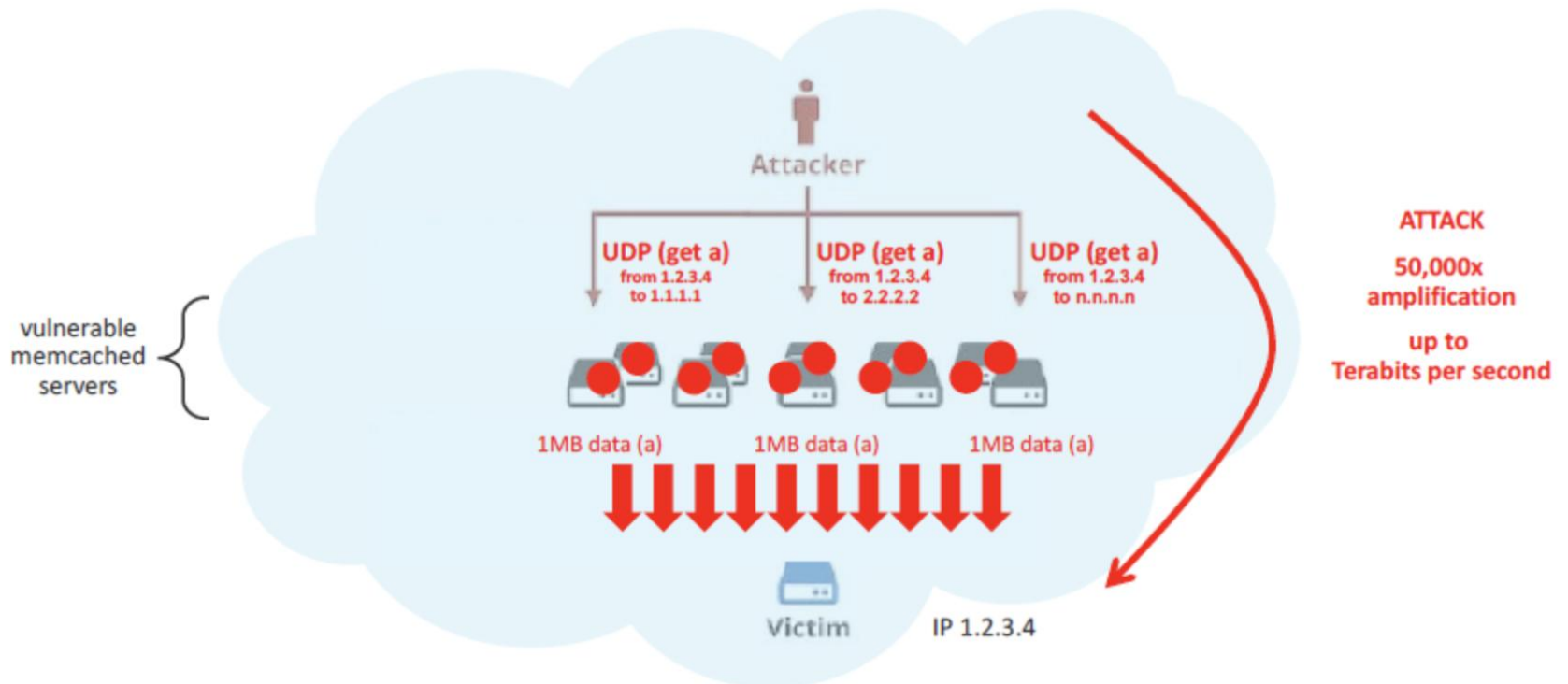
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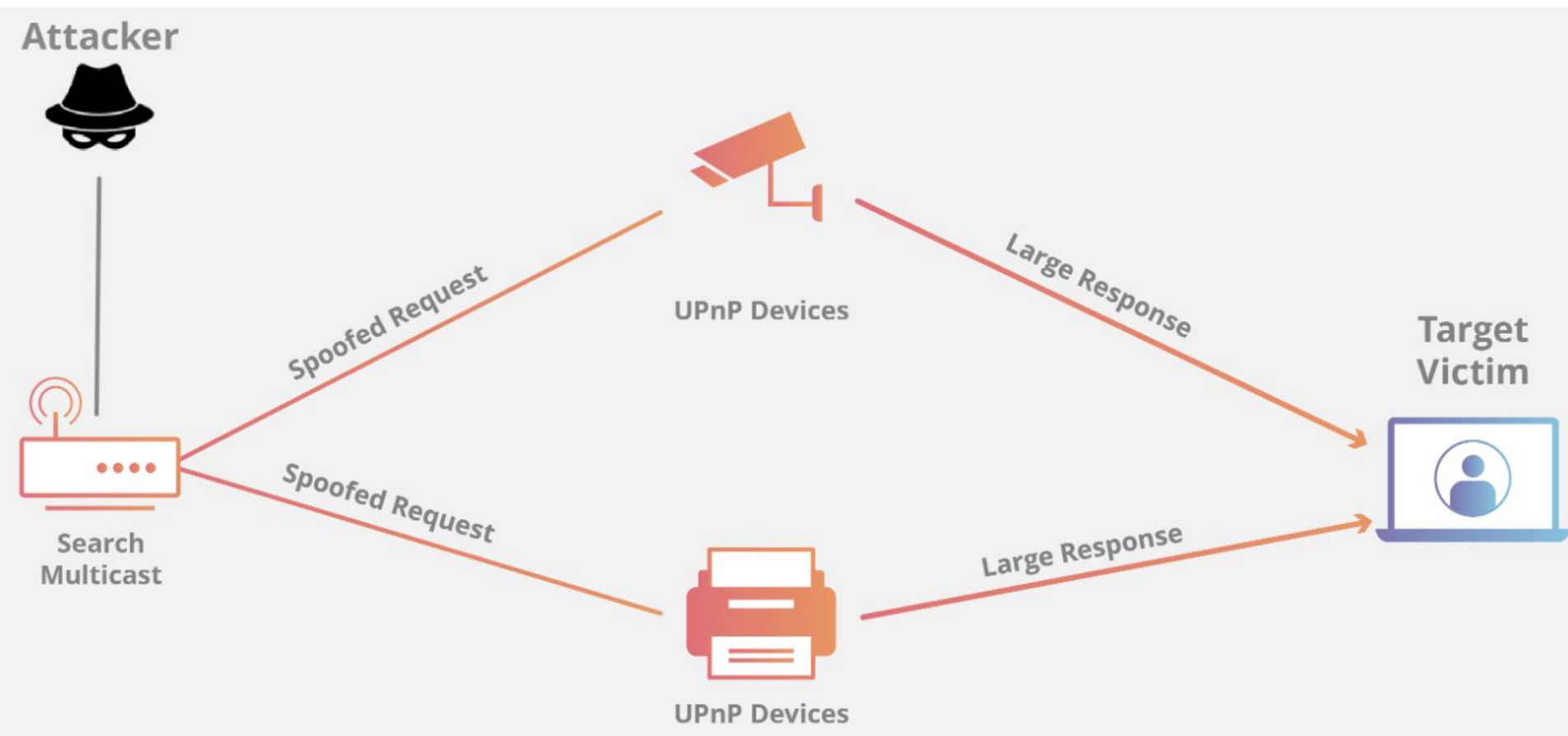
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spoof request to preloaded data from target;



# SSDP Attack

- Exploit SSDP and UpnP



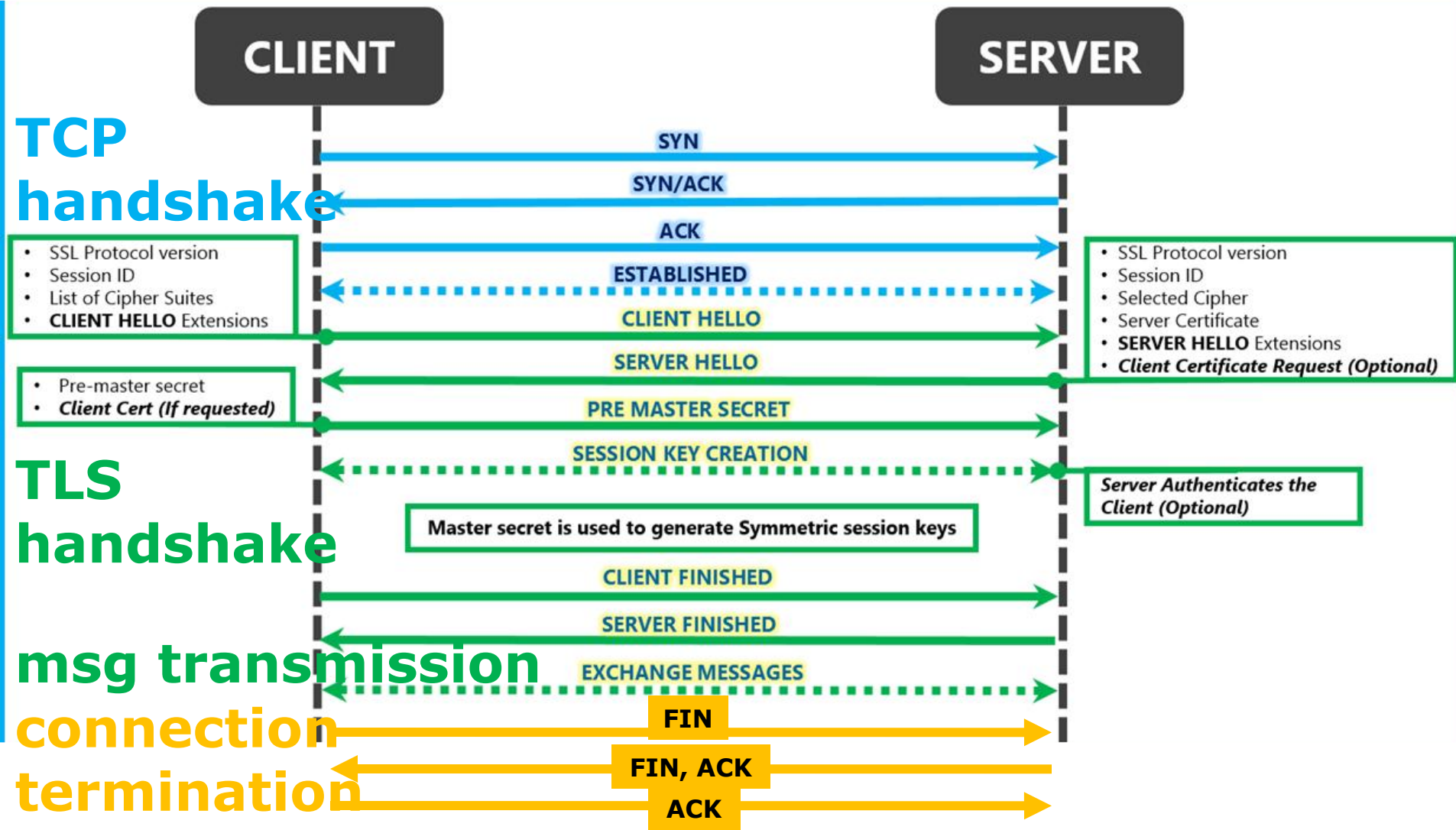


# **asymmetric DDoS attack**

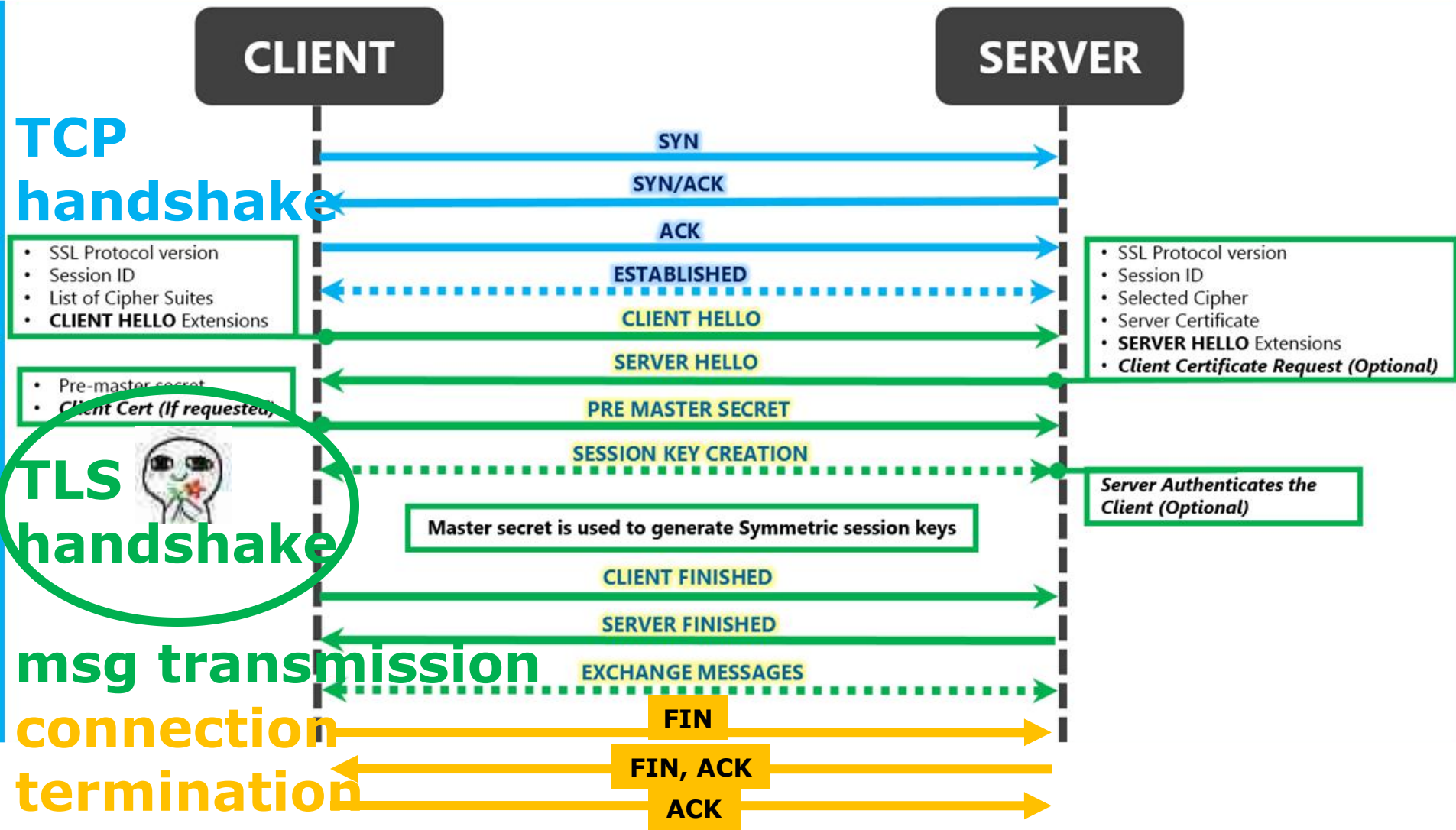
computation asymmetry:

server costs more computation resources  
than attacker for a service request

# Secure Connection

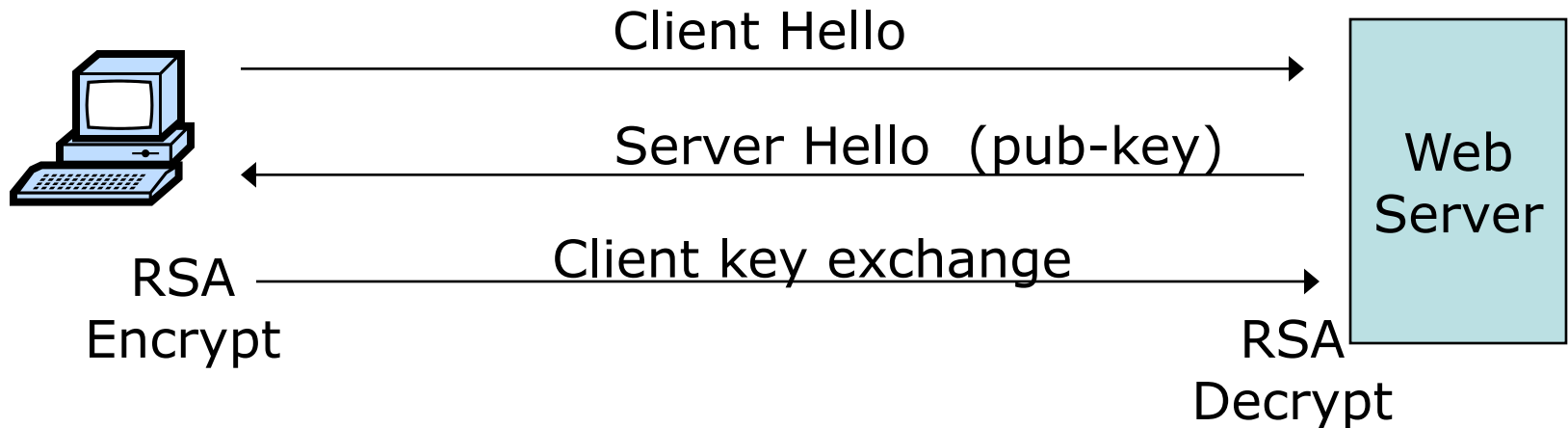


# SSL/TLS Handshake



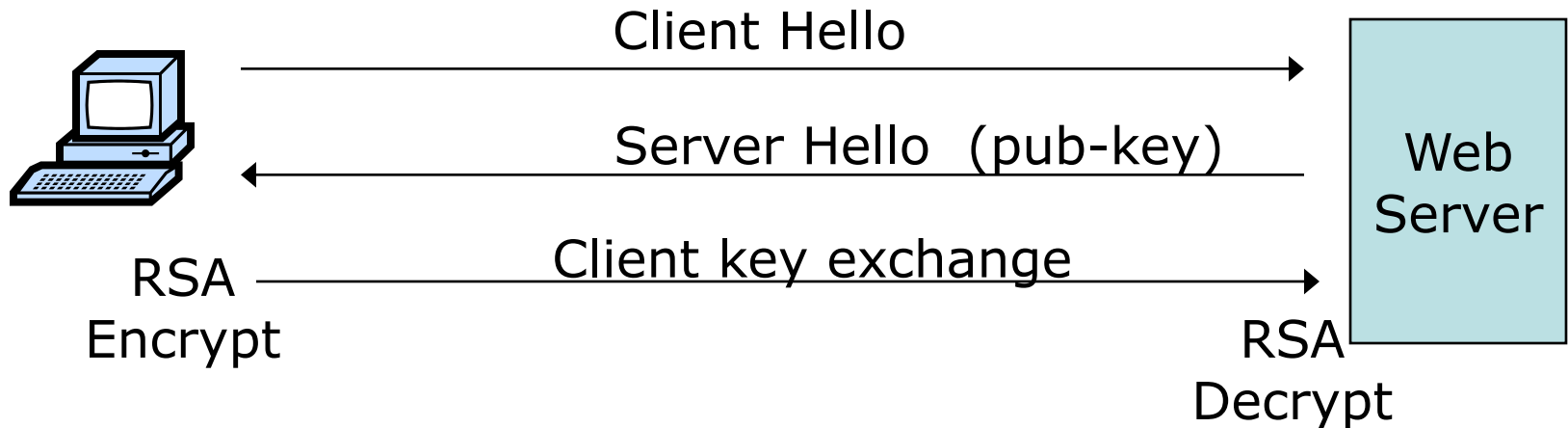
# SSL/TLS Flood

- Exploit SSL/TLS handshake requests to drain server resources



# SSL/TLS Flood

- Exploit SSL/TLS handshake requests to drain server resources



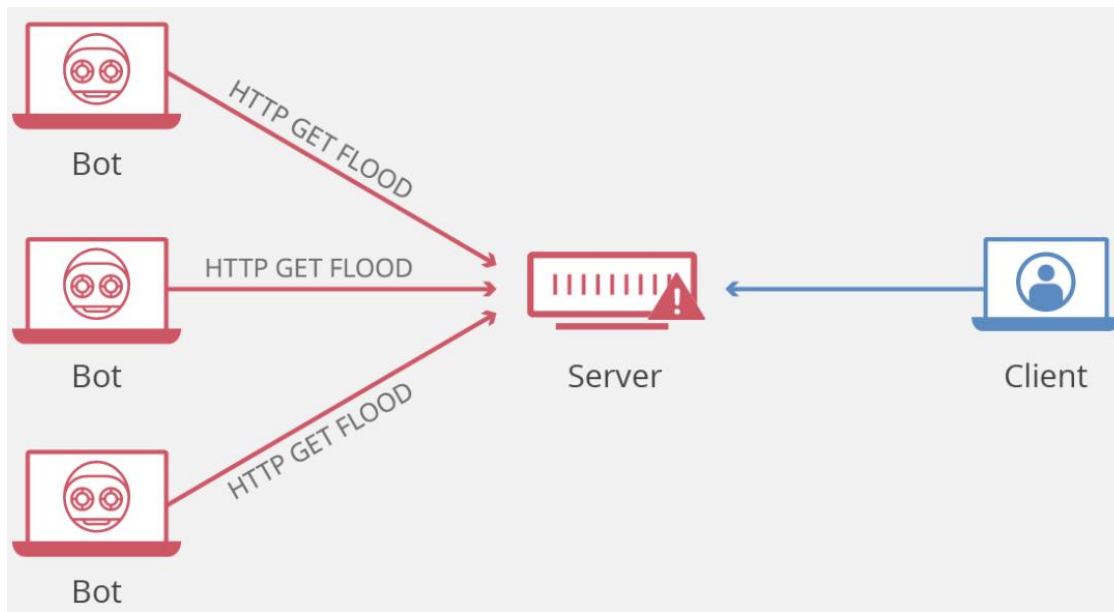
- RSA-enc speed  $\approx$  10x RSA-dec speed
- Single machine can bring down ten web servers

# HTTP Flood

- Command attackers to:
  - Complete real TCP connection
  - Complete TLS Handshake
  - GET large image or other content

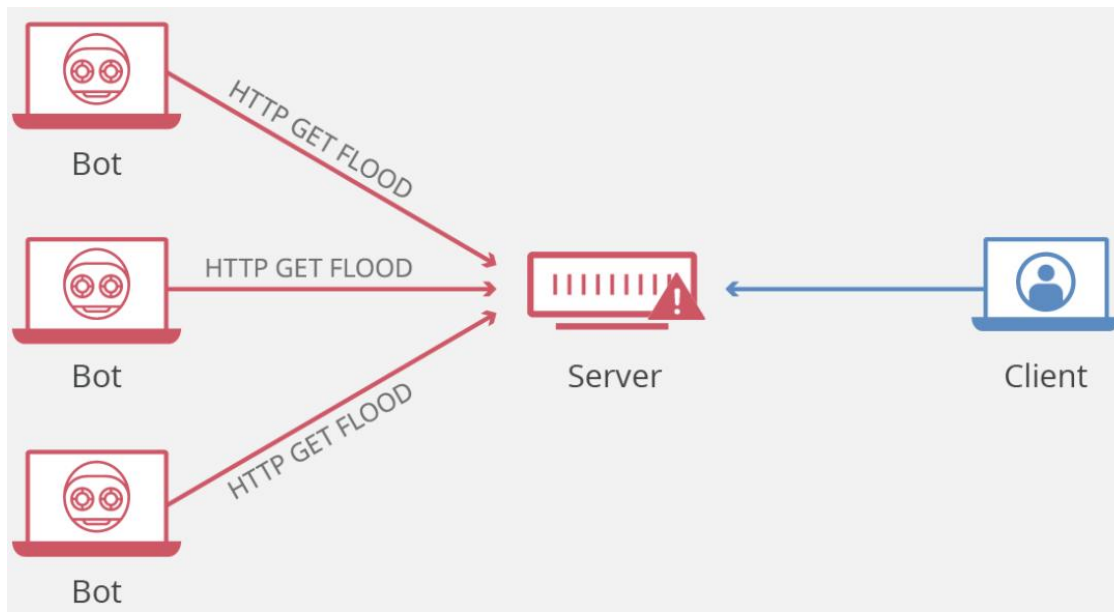
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# HTTP Flood

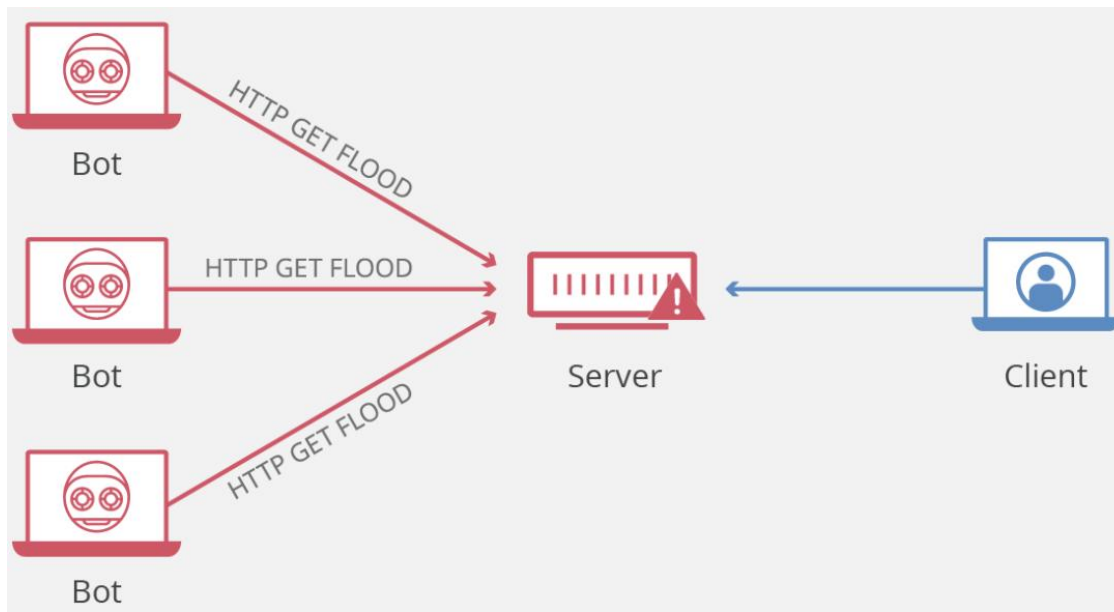
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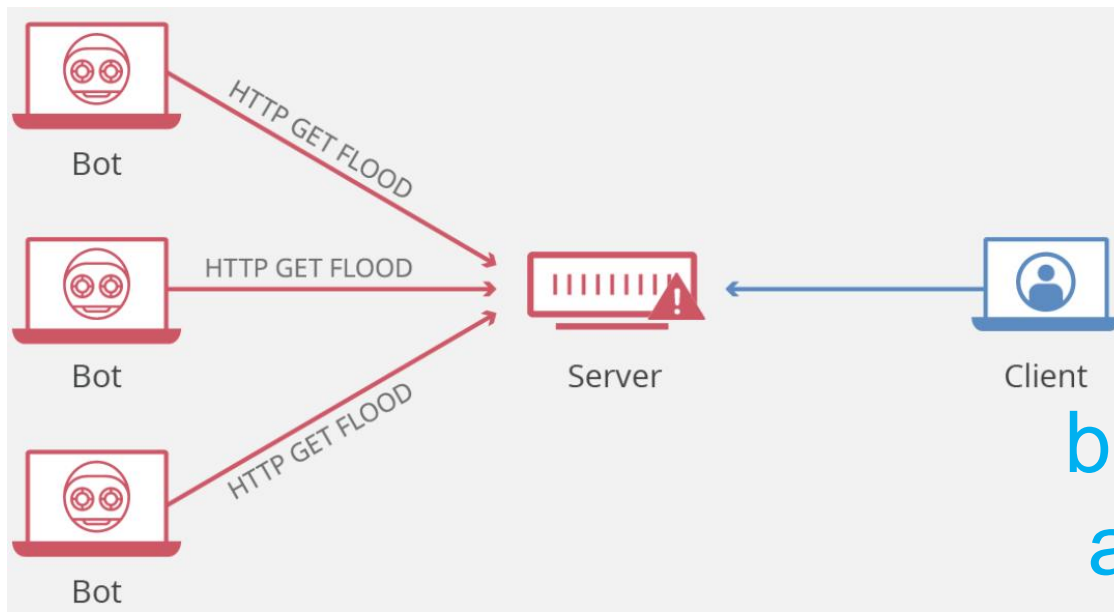
# HTTP Flood

- Command attackers to:  
Complete real TCP connection  
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**POST** large image or other content



# HTTP Flood

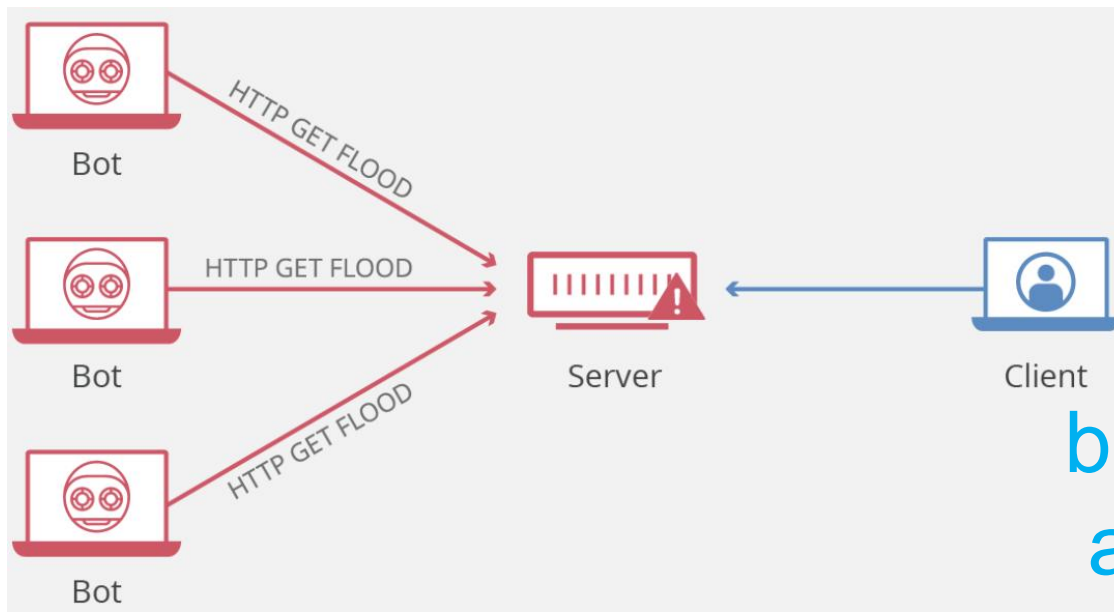
- Command attackers to:  
Complete real TCP connection  
Complete TLS Handshake  
**GET/POST** large image or other content



**Solution:**  
block or rate limit  
attacking source

# HTTP Flood

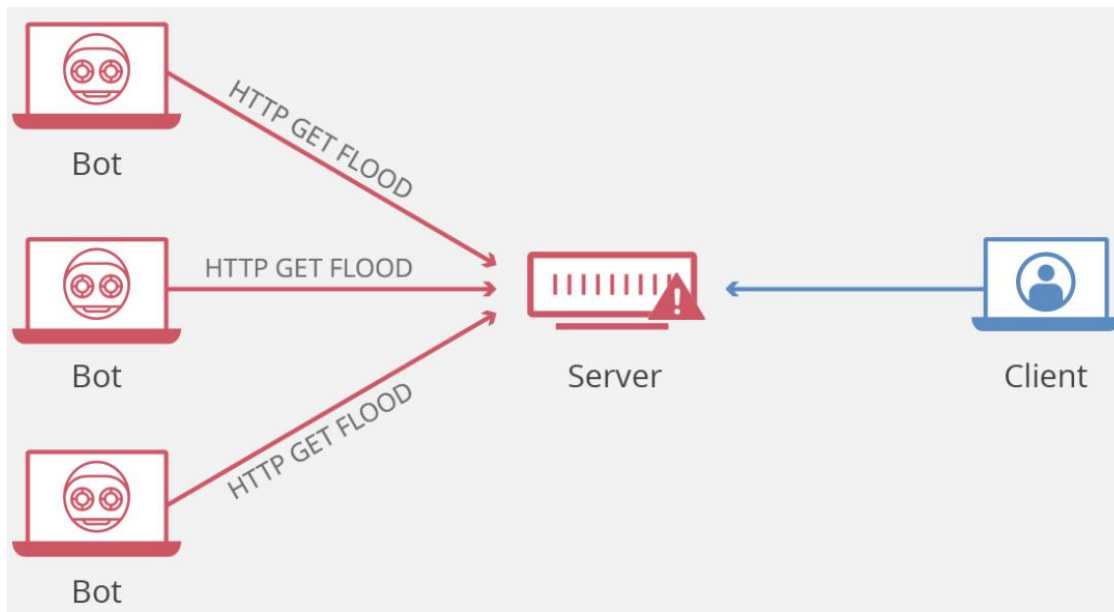
- Command attackers to:  
Complete real TCP connection  
Complete TLS Handshake  
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**Solution:**  
block or rate limit  
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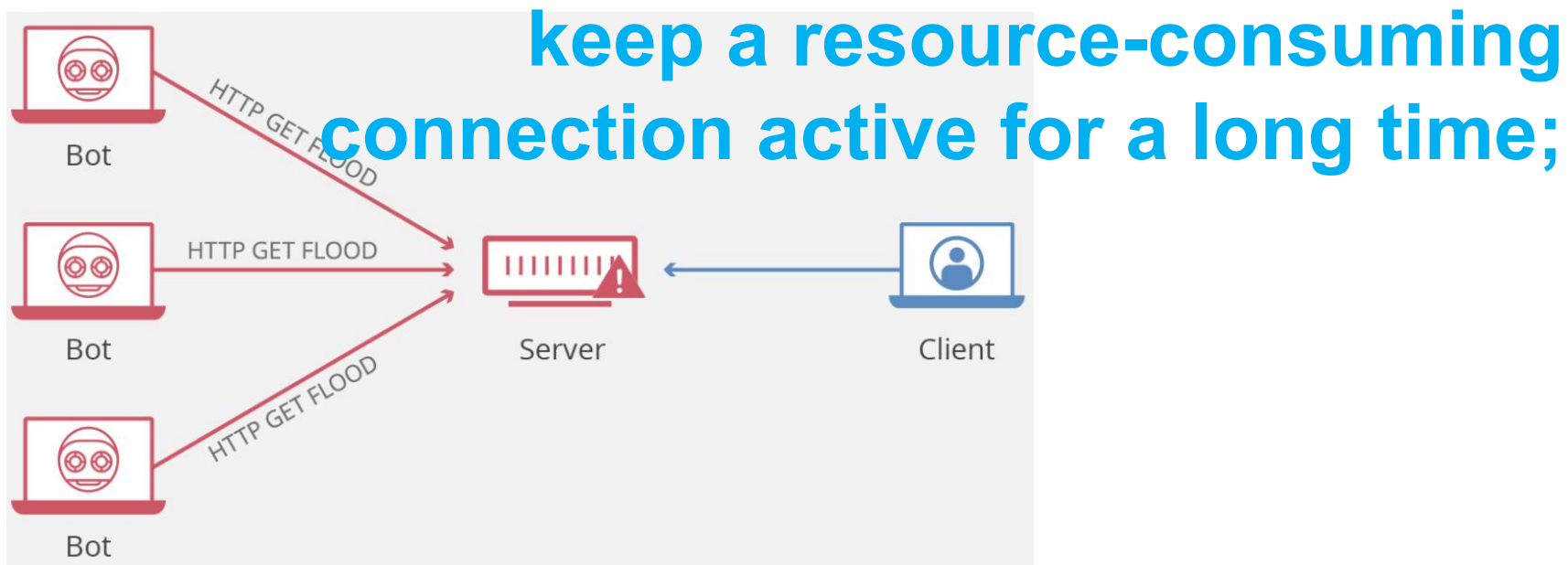
# Fragmented HTTP Flood

- Establish a valid HTTP connection
- Split HTTP packets into tiny fragments
- Send fragments to the target as slowly as it allows before it times out



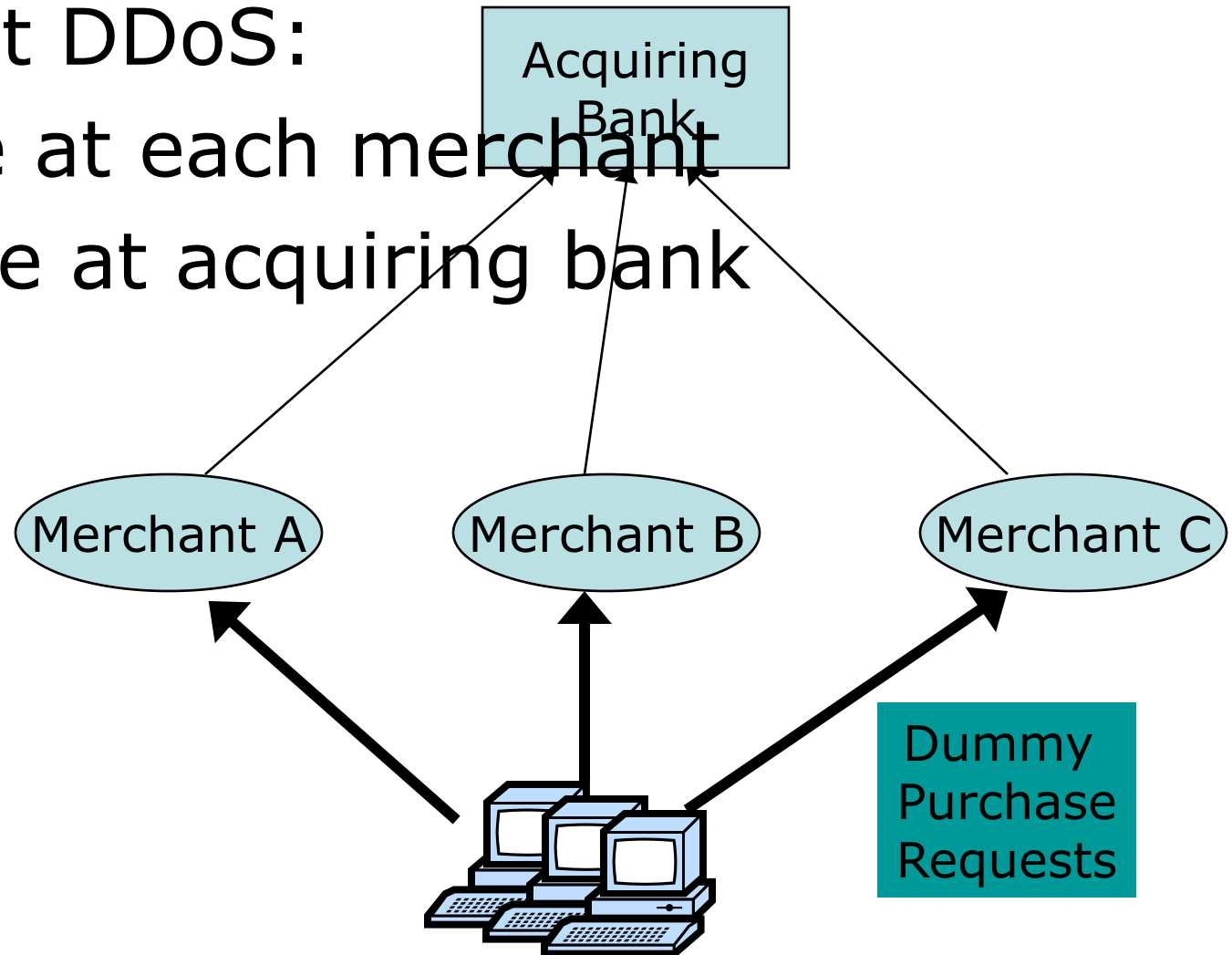
# Fragmented HTTP Flood

- Establish a valid HTTP connection
- Split HTTP packets into tiny fragments
- Send fragments to the target as slowly as it allows before it times out



# Payment DDoS

- Payment DDoS:  
low rate at each merchant  
high rate at acquiring bank



**asymmetric DDoS attack**

bring down the entire server so far

# **asymmetric DDoS attack**

bring down the entire server so far  
weakest link?!





# **asymmetric DDoS attack**

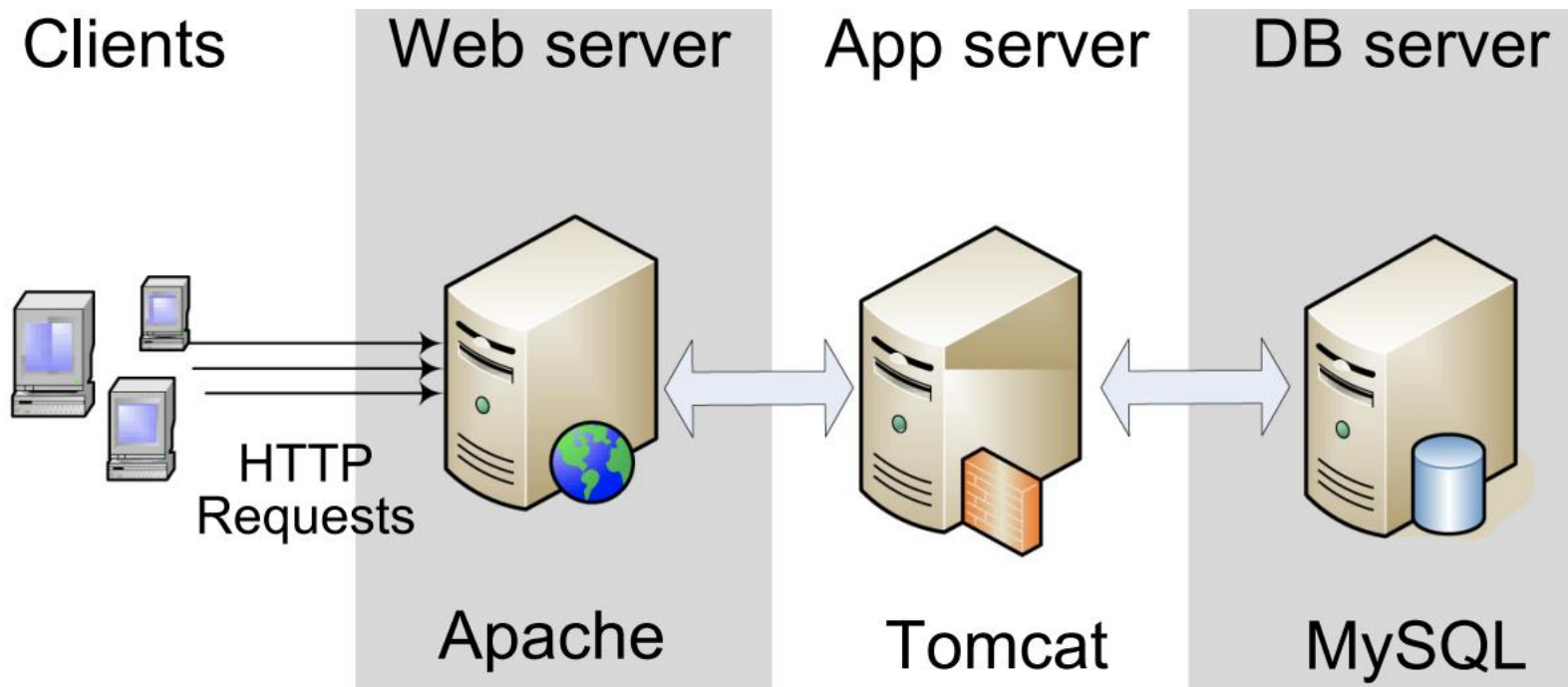
bring down the entire server so far

weakest link from inside



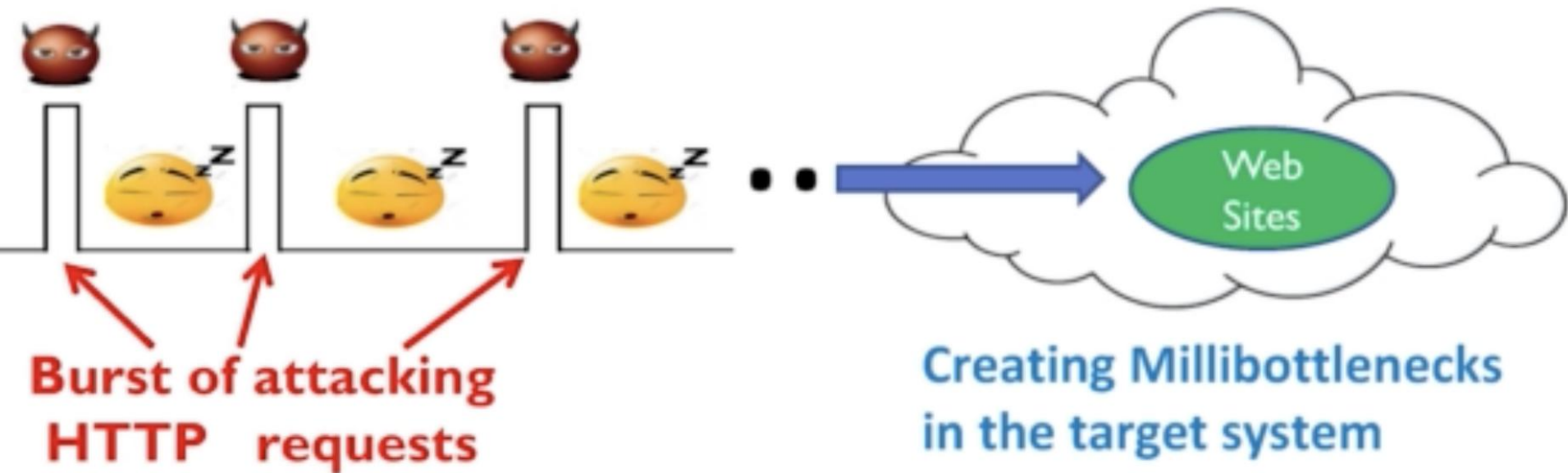
# Tail Attack

- Tail attacks on **n-tier web applications**
- Identify weakest link across tiers



# Tail Attack

- Tail attacks on n-tier web applications
- Saturate weakest link w/ low-rate traffic



**Attack goal: 95<sup>th</sup> percentile response time > 1 second**

# **asymmetric DDoS attack**

bring down the entire server so far

weakest link from outside



# SDN CrossPath Attack

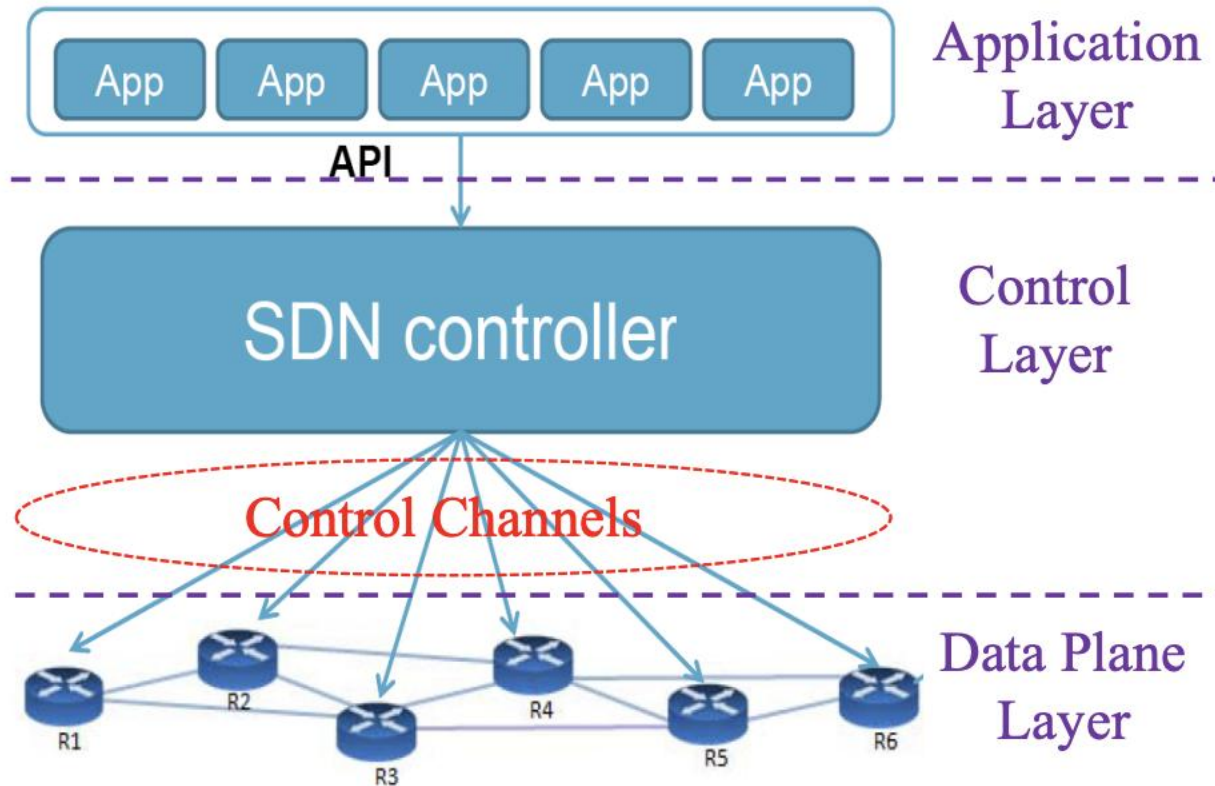
- Disrupt SDN control channel via shared links
- Do not directly attack SDN controller
- Instead, block control messages with attacking traffic

# SDN CrossPath Attack

- SDN: Software-Defined Networking
  - separate control and data planes
  - take centralized network control
  - enable network programmability

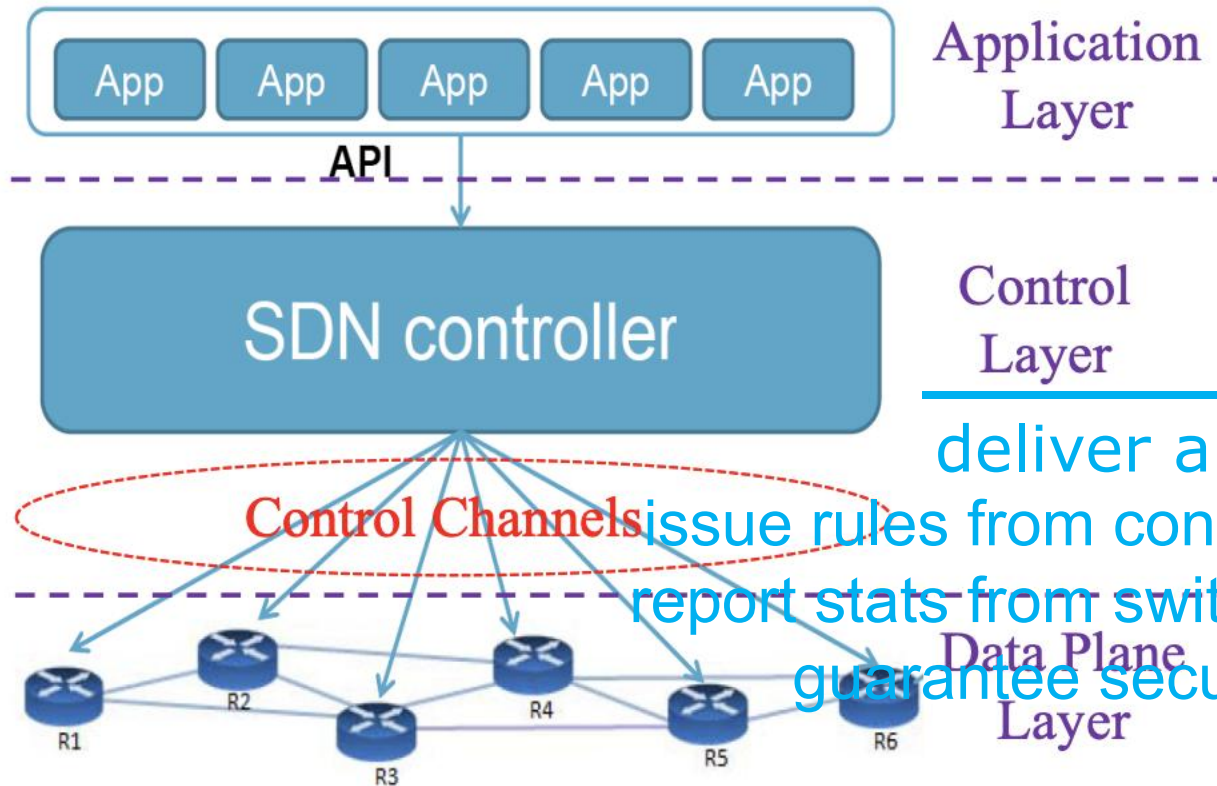
# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Three-layer architecture



# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Three-layer architecture



Application  
Layer

Control  
Layer

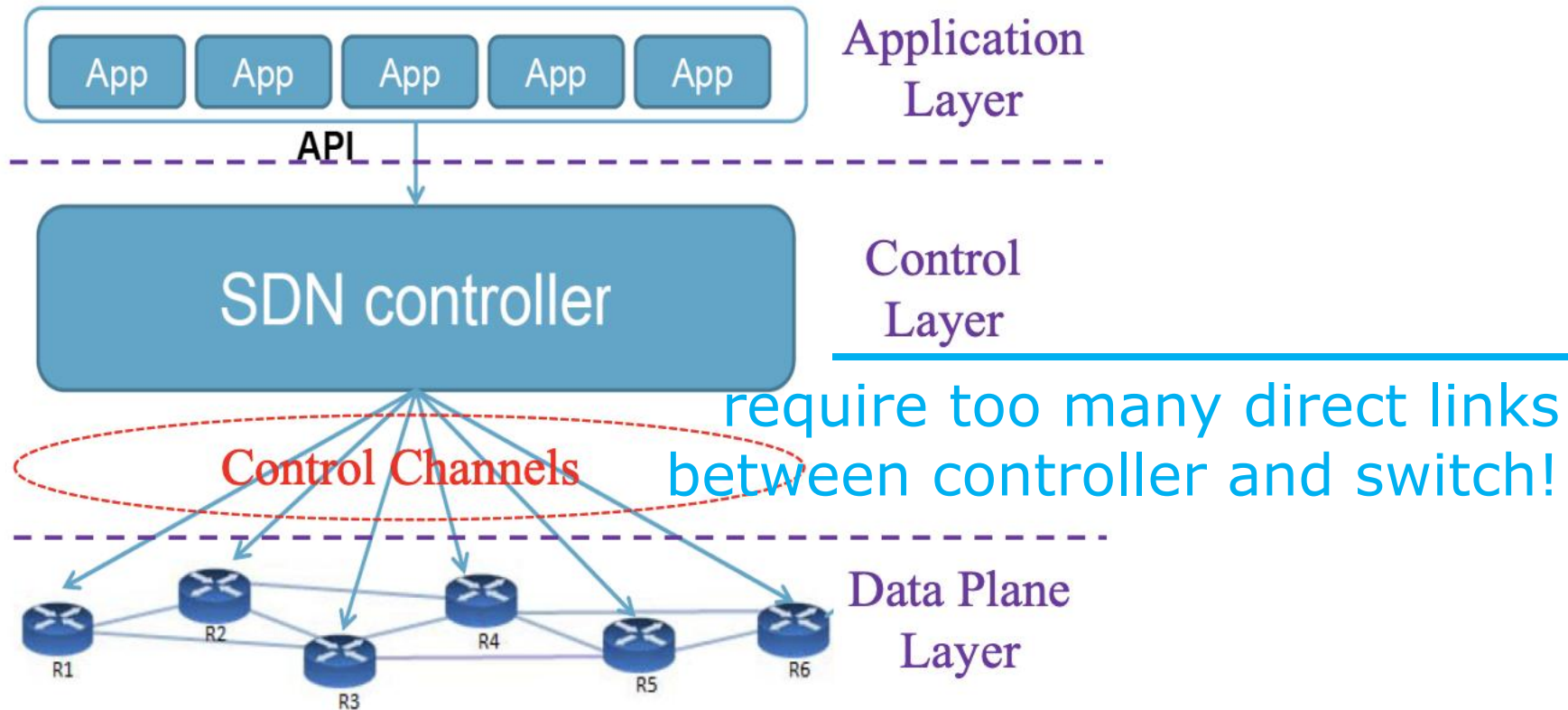
deliver all control traffic;  
issue rules from controller to switches;  
report stats from switches to controller;  
guarantee security and reliability;

Data Plane  
Layer



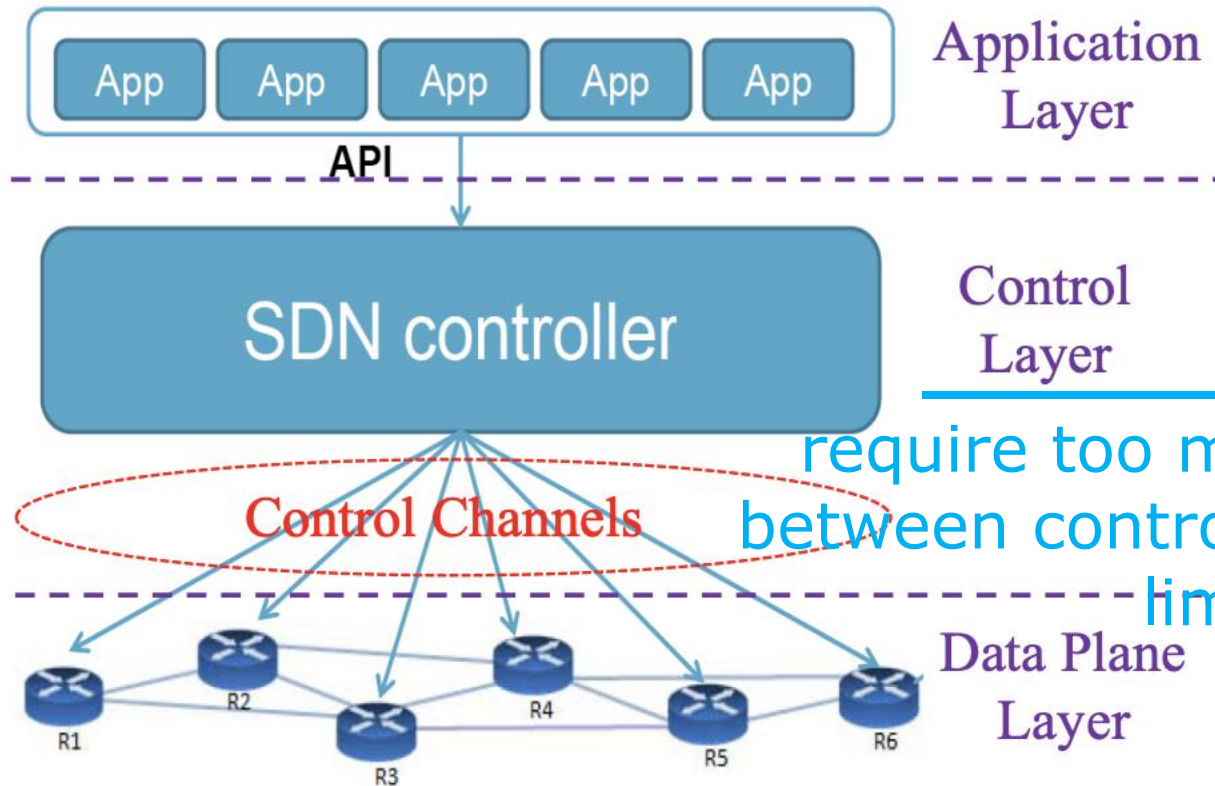
# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Three-layer architecture



# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Three-layer architecture



Application  
Layer

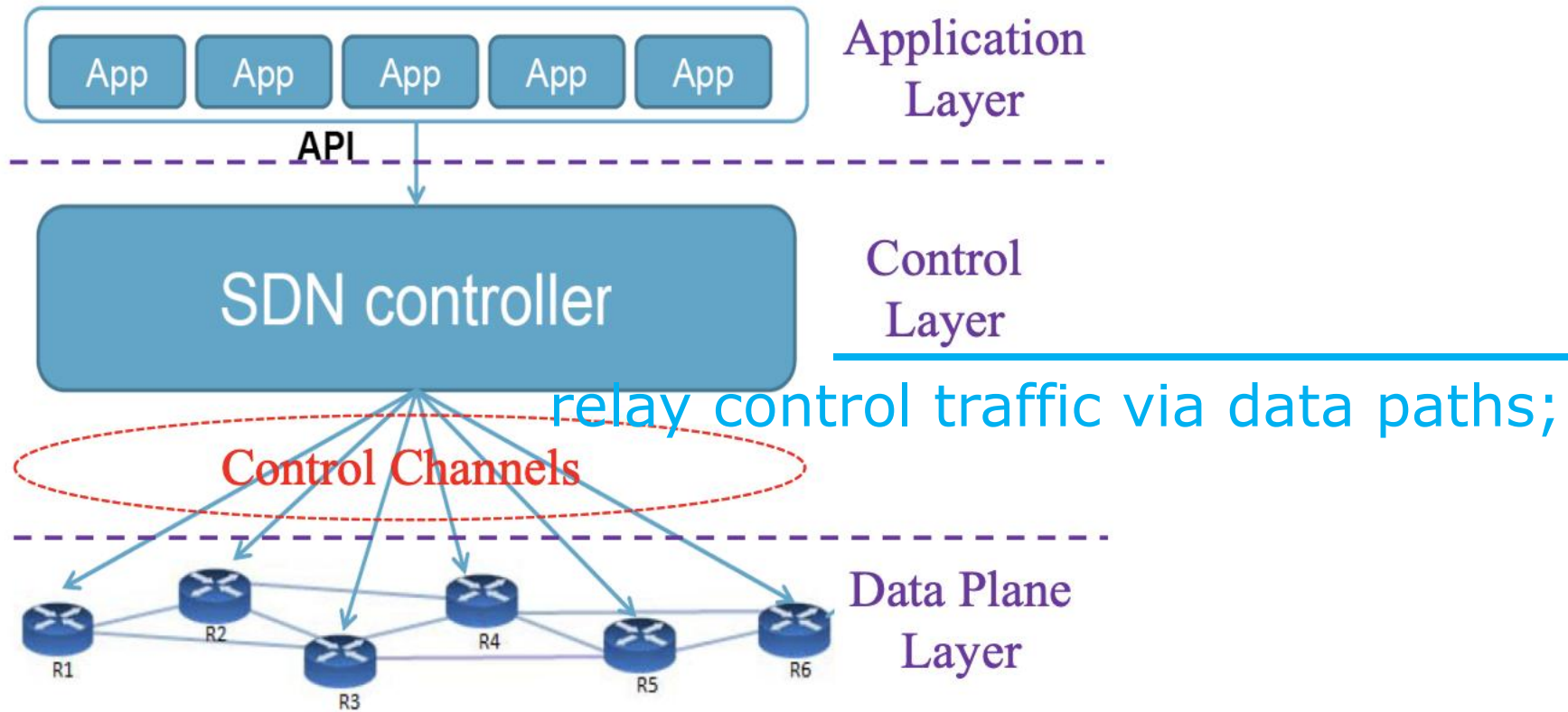
Control  
Layer

Data Plane  
Layer

require too many direct links  
between controller and switch!  
limited scalability;

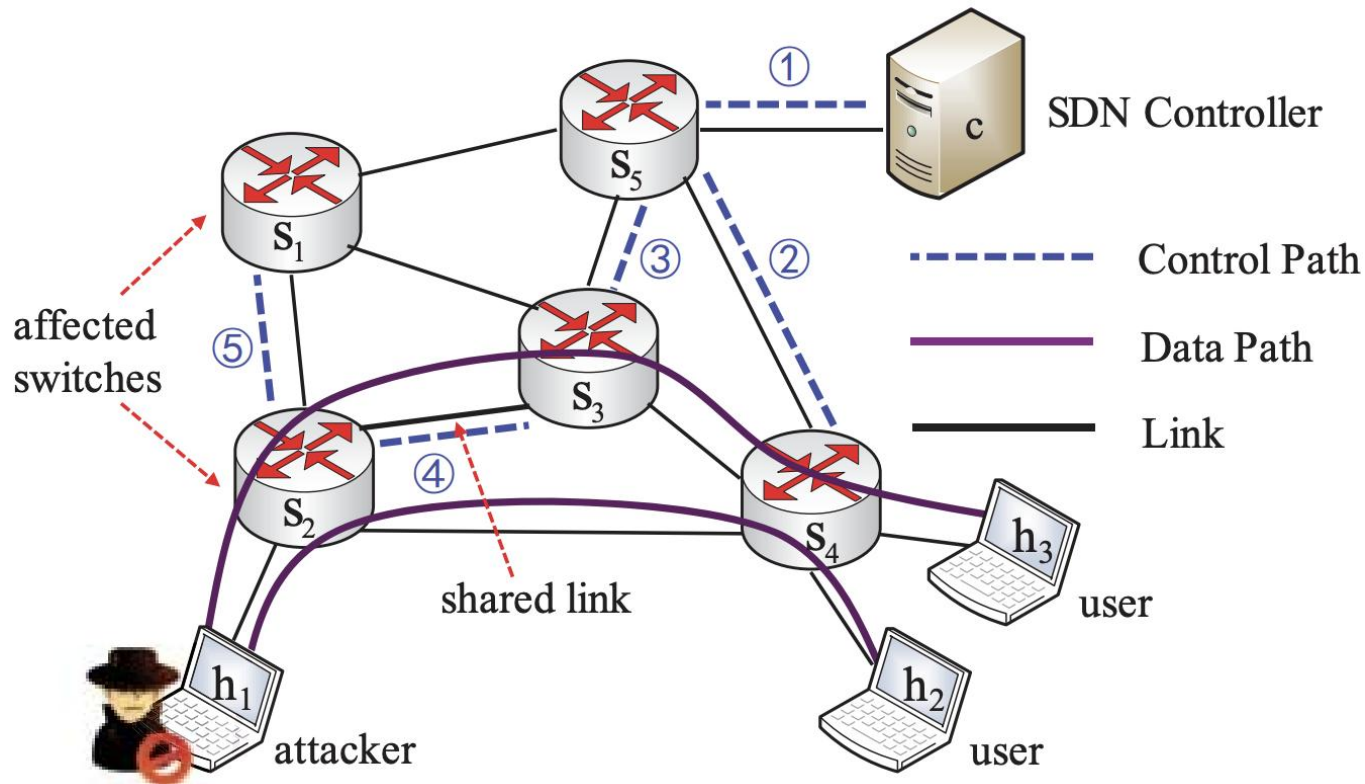
# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Introduce shared links



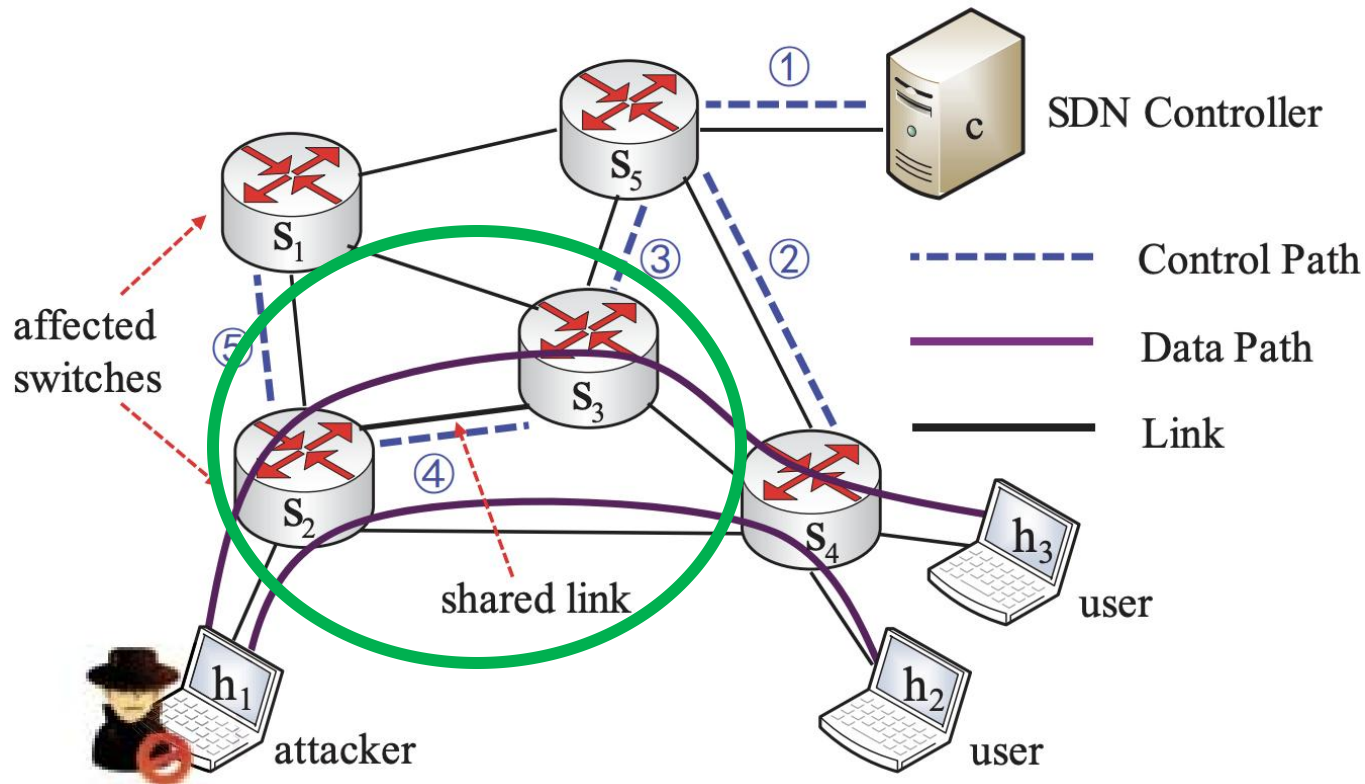
# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Introduce shared links



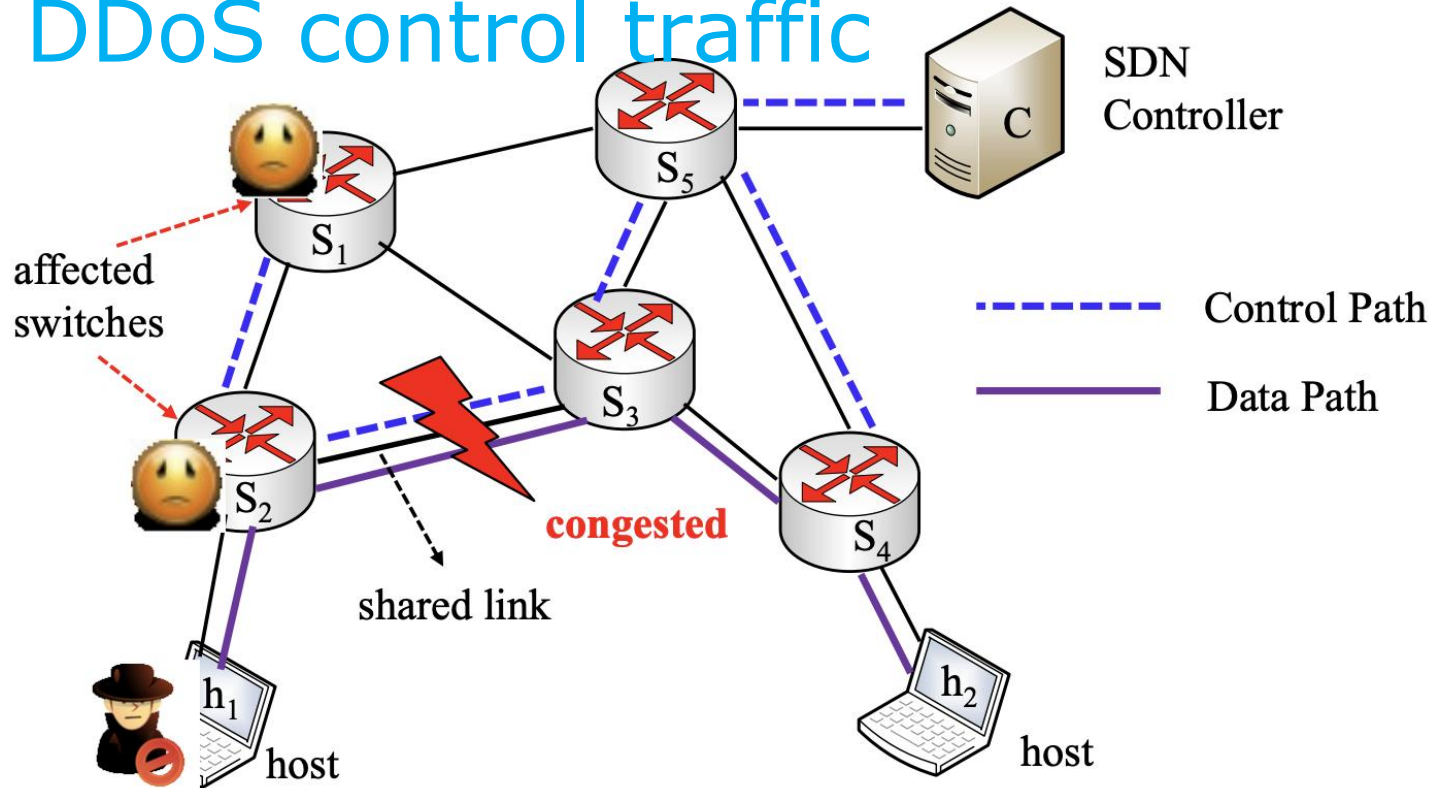
# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Introduce shared links: control&data



# SDN CrossPath Attack

- Send data traffic to congest shared links
- DDoS control traffic



**DDoS attacks so far**

# **DDoS defenses**



# **DDoS defenses**

make server harder to be attacked

# **DDoS defenses**

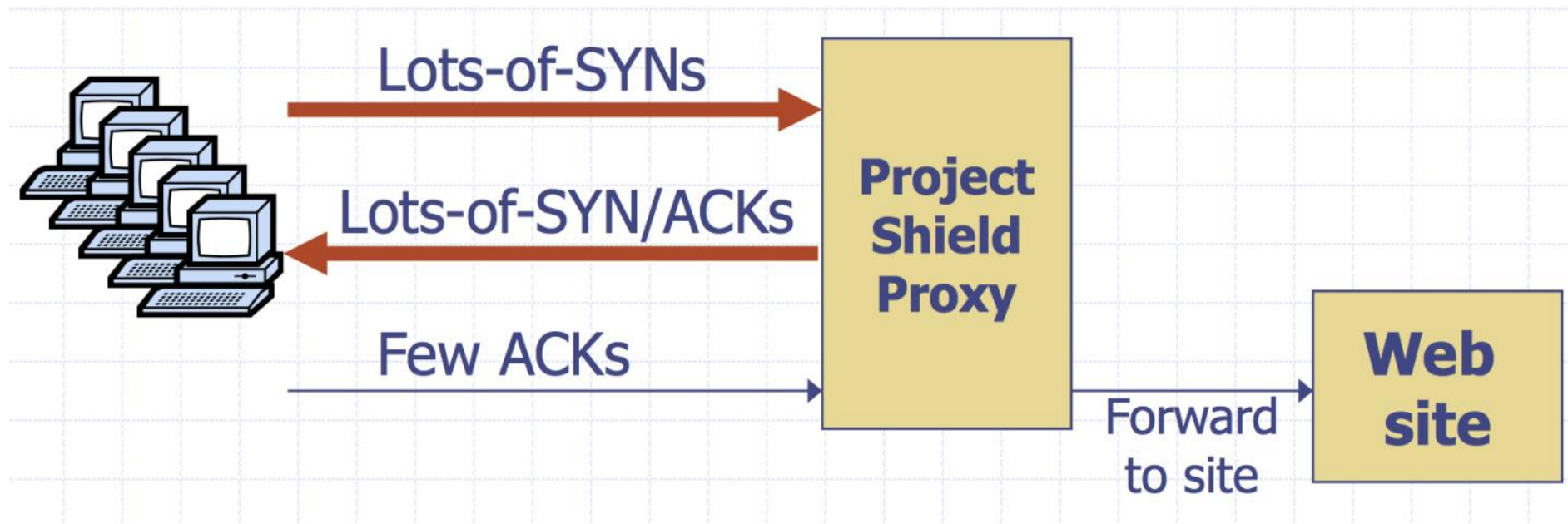
make server harder to be attacked:  
enrich server with more resources;

# **DDoS defenses**

make server harder to be attacked;  
enrich server with more resources;  
leverage the sources of others;

# Google Project Shield

- Use Google bandwidth to shield vulnerable websites



# **DDoS defenses**

make server harder to be attacked:  
detect and filter attack traffic

# **DDoS defenses**

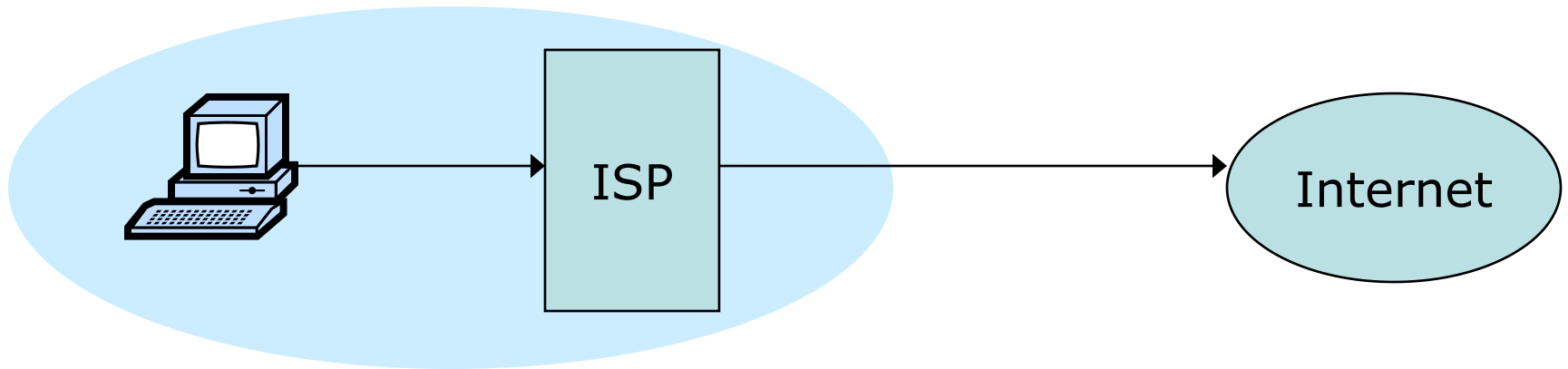
make server harder to be attacked:  
detect and filter attack traffic  
with spoofed IP addresses

# Ingress Filtering

- How to find packet origin?

# Ingress Filtering

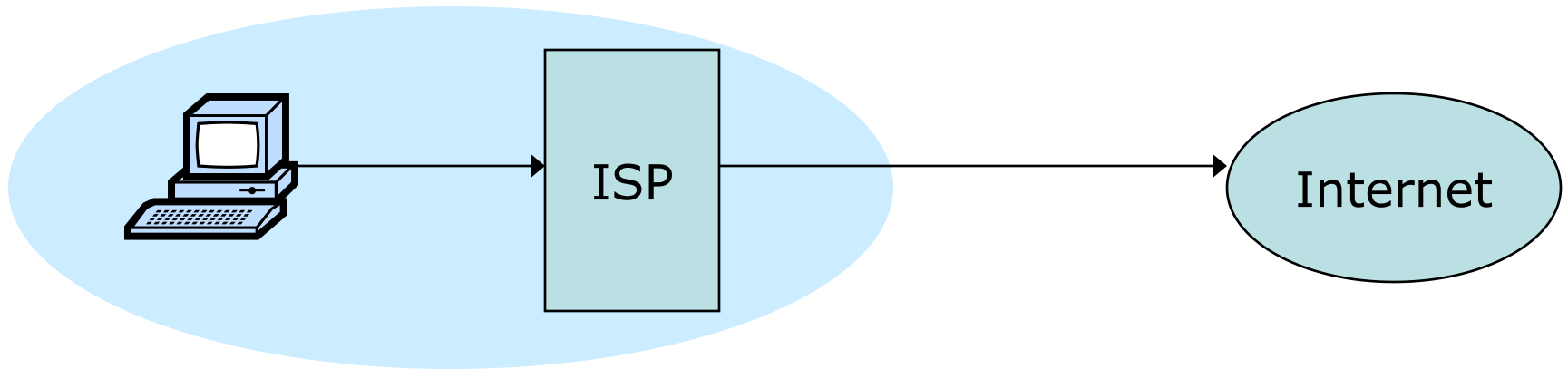
- How to find packet origin?





# Ingress Filtering

- How to find packet origin?



- Ingress filtering policy:  
ISP only forwards packets with legitimate source IP

# Ingress Filtering

## Implementation challenges:

- All ISPs need to do this — requires global coordination:

If 10% of networks don't implement, there's no defense;

No incentive for an ISP to implement — doesn't affect them;

# Ingress Filtering

## Implementation challenges:

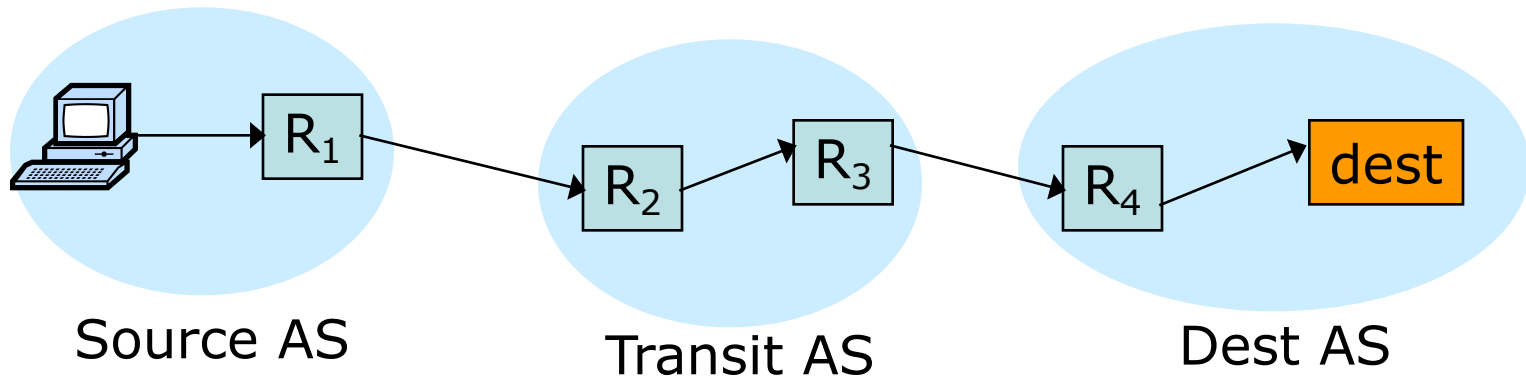
- As of 2017 (from CAIDA):
  - 33% of autonomous systems allow spoofing;
  - 23% of announced IP address space allow spoofing;

# Ingress Filtering

- Can transit AS verify packet origin?

# Ingress Filtering

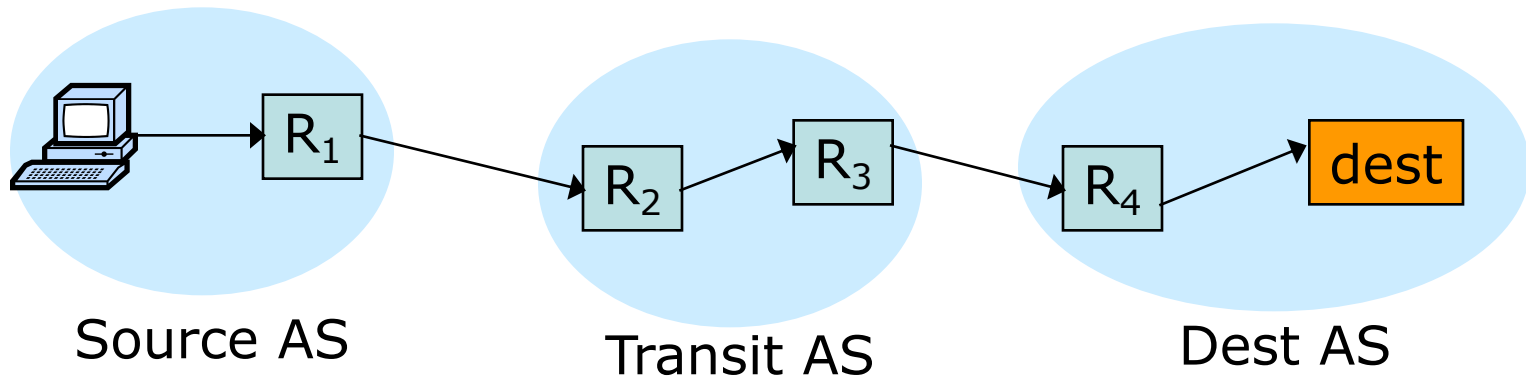
- Can transit AS verify packet origin? **No**



- Routing protocols care about only destination IP addresses

# Ingress Filtering

- Can transit AS verify packet origin? Yes



- Routing protocols care about only destination IP addresses
- Were routing protocols modified...

# Traceback

- Goal
  - given set of attack packets
  - determine path to source
- How
  - change routers to record info in packets

# Traceback

- Goal
  - given set of attack packets
  - determine path to source
- How
  - change routers to record info in packets
- Assumptions
  - trusted routers
  - sufficient packets to track
  - stable route from attacker to victim



# Traceback

- Write path into packets

router adds its own IP address to packet

victim reads path from packet

# Traceback

- Write path into packets

router adds its own IP address to packet

victim reads path from packet

- Limitations

requires space in packet

path can be long

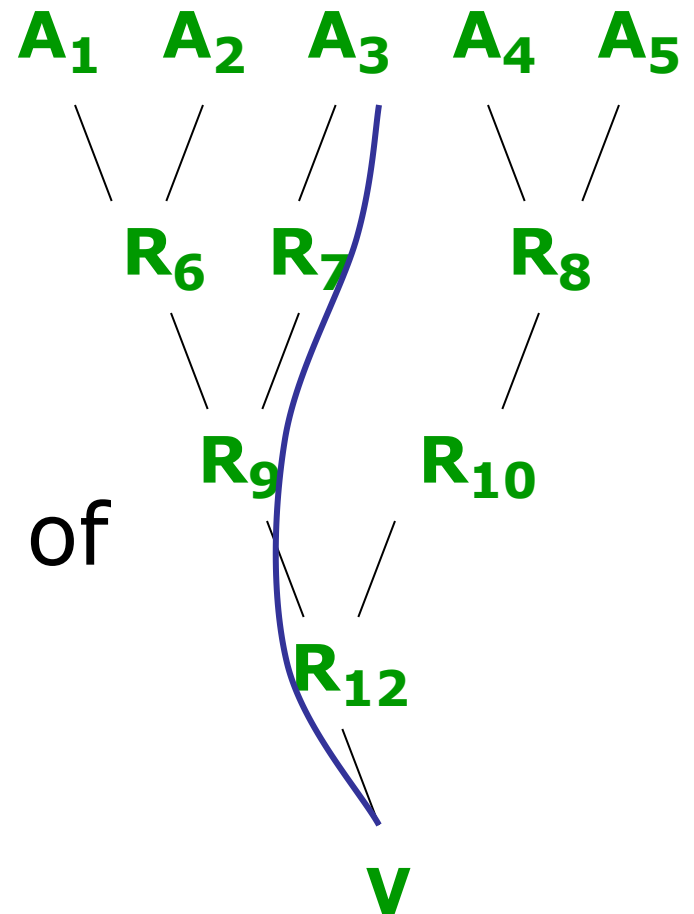
no extra fields in current IP format

(changes to packet format too much to expect)

# Traceback

- Sample and Merge

store one link in each  
packet;  
router probabilistically  
stores own address;  
fixed space regardless of  
path length;



# Traceback

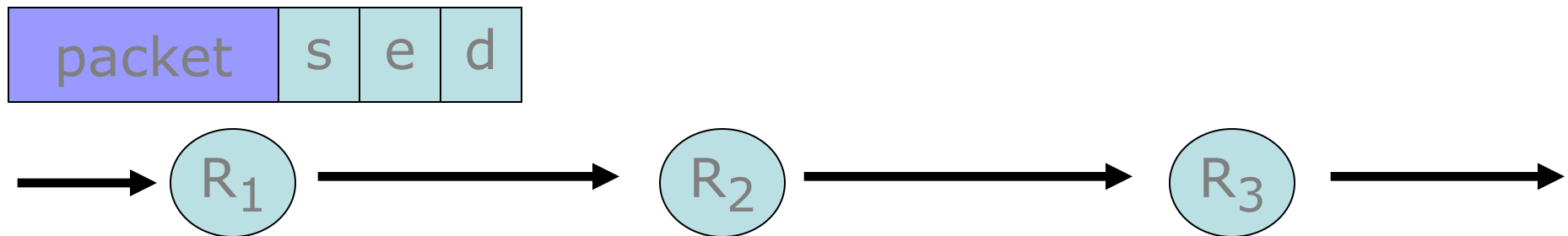
- Edge Sampling: fields into packet  
edge: *start* and *end* IP addresses  
distance: no. of hops since edge stored
- Marking procedure of router R
  - if coin turns up heads (with probability  $p$ ) then
    - write R into start address
    - write 0 into distance field
  - else
    - if distance == 0 write R into end field
    - increment distance field

# Traceback

- Packet received

$R_1$  receives packet from source or another router;

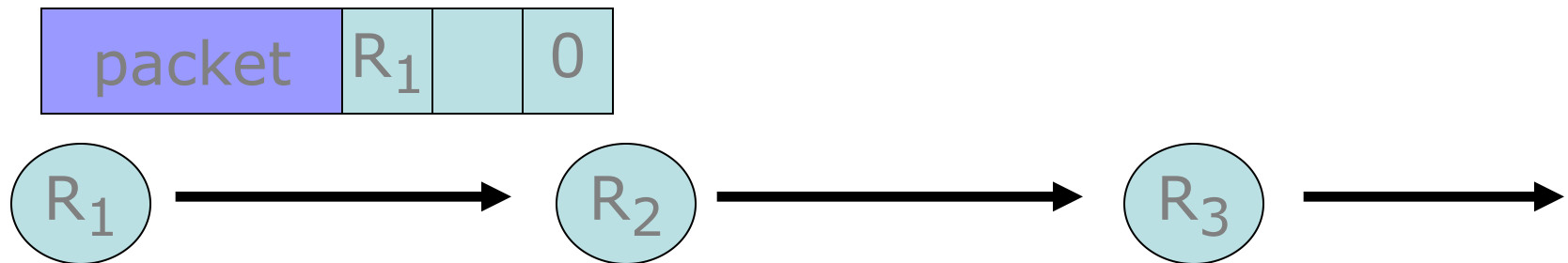
packet contains space for start, end, distance;



# Traceback

- Begin writing edge

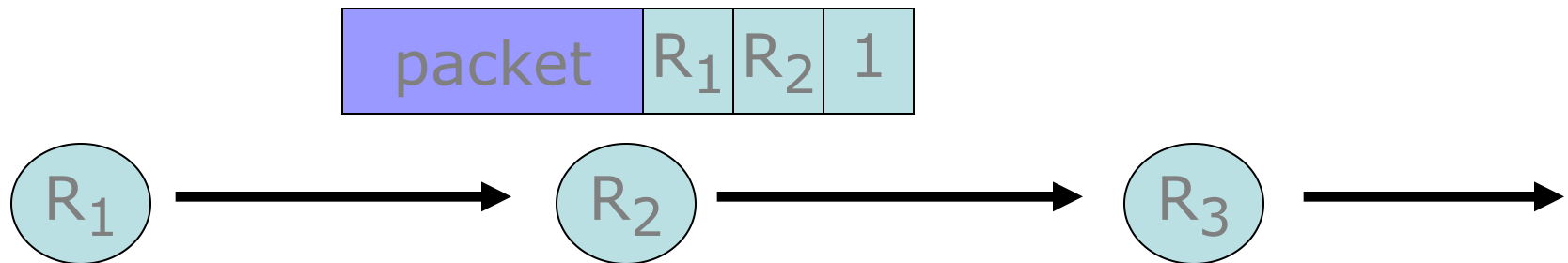
$R_1$  chooses to write start of edge;  
sets distance to 0;



# Traceback

- Finish writing edge

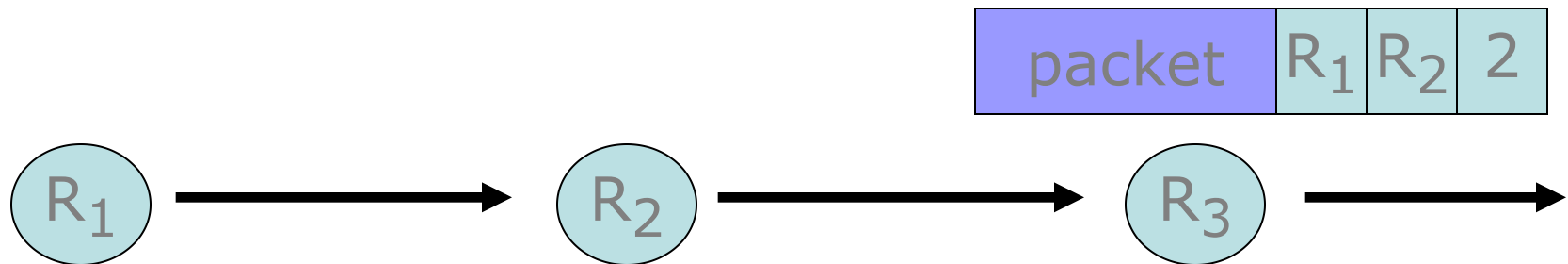
$R_2$  chooses not to overwrite edge;  
distance is 0: write end of edge,  
increment distance to 1;



# Traceback

- Increment distance

$R_3$  chooses not to overwrite edge;  
distance > 0: increment distance to 2;

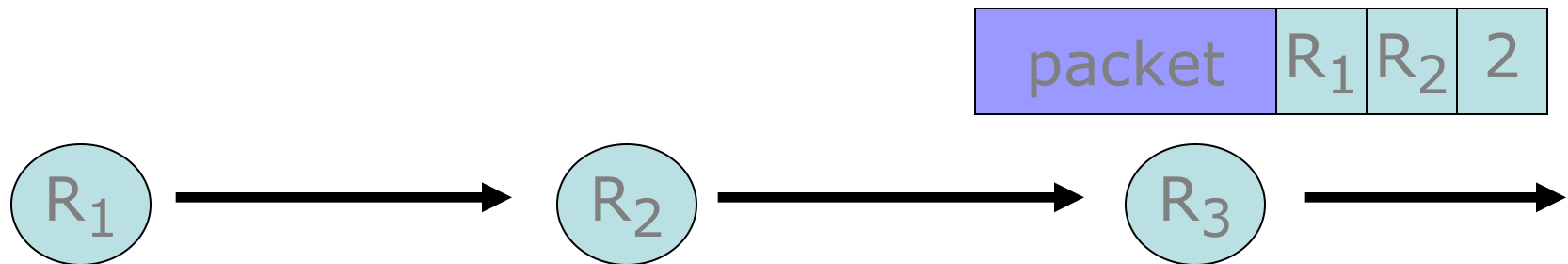




# Traceback

- Increment distance

$R_3$  chooses not to overwrite edge;  
distance > 0: increment distance to 2;

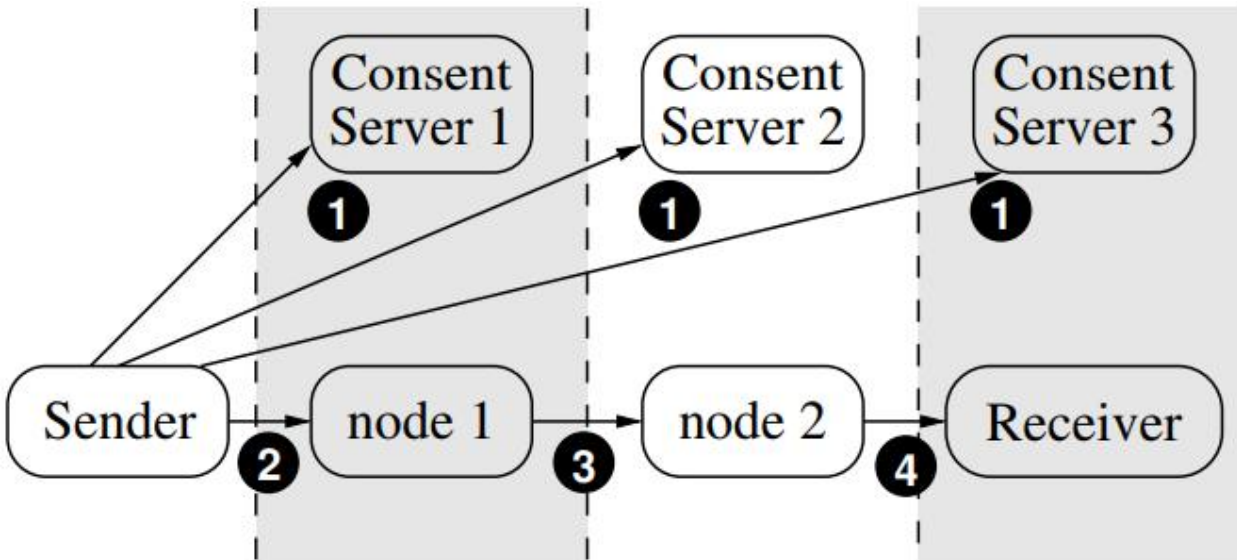


- Were routing protocols modified...**

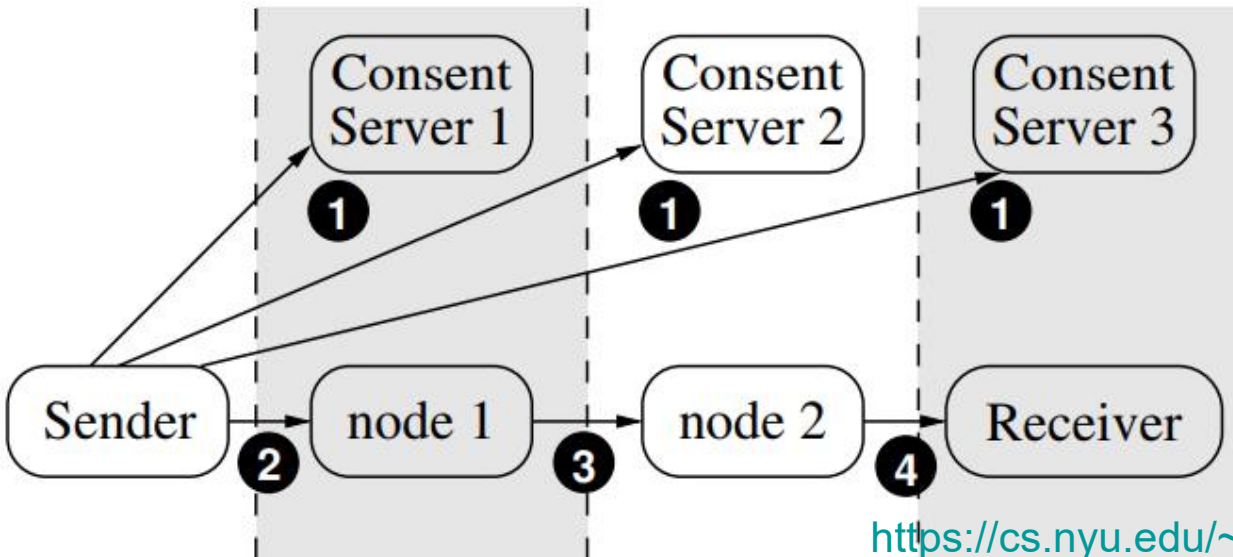
# Path Validation

- **PoC: Proof of Consent**  
certify the provider's consent to carry traffic along the path
- **PoP: Proof of Provenance**  
allow upstream nodes to prove to downstream nodes that they carried the packet

# Path Validation



# Path Validation



<https://cs.nyu.edu/~mwalfish/papers/icing-conext11.pdf>

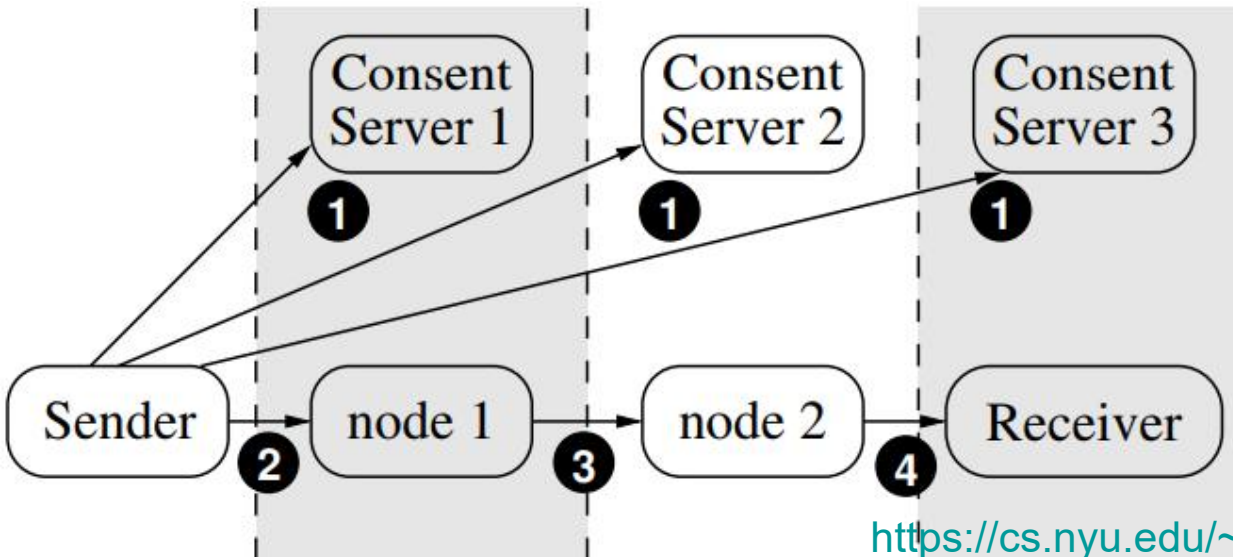
$P$	$N_0$	$N_1$	$N_2$	$N_3$
$V_1$	$A_1 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,1}$			
$V_2$	$A_2 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,2}$			
$V_3$	$A_3 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,3}$			
	Payload			

2

$N_0$	$N_1$	$N_2$	$N_3$
$A_1 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,1}$			
$A_2 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,2} \oplus \text{PoP}_{1,2}$			
$A_3 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,3} \oplus \text{PoP}_{1,3} \oplus \text{PoP}_{2,3}$			
Payload			

4

# Path Validation



<https://cs.nyu.edu/~mwalfish/papers/icing-conext11.pdf>

$P$	$N_0$	$N_1$	$N_2$	$N_3$
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$V_2$	$A_2 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,2}$			
$V_3$	$A_3 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,3}$			
	Payload			

$N_0$	$N_1$	$N_2$	$N_3$
$A_1 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,1}$			
$A_2 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,2} \oplus \text{PoP}_{1,2}$			
$A_3 \oplus \text{PoP}_{0,3} \oplus \text{PoP}_{1,3} \oplus \text{PoP}_{2,3}$			
Payload			

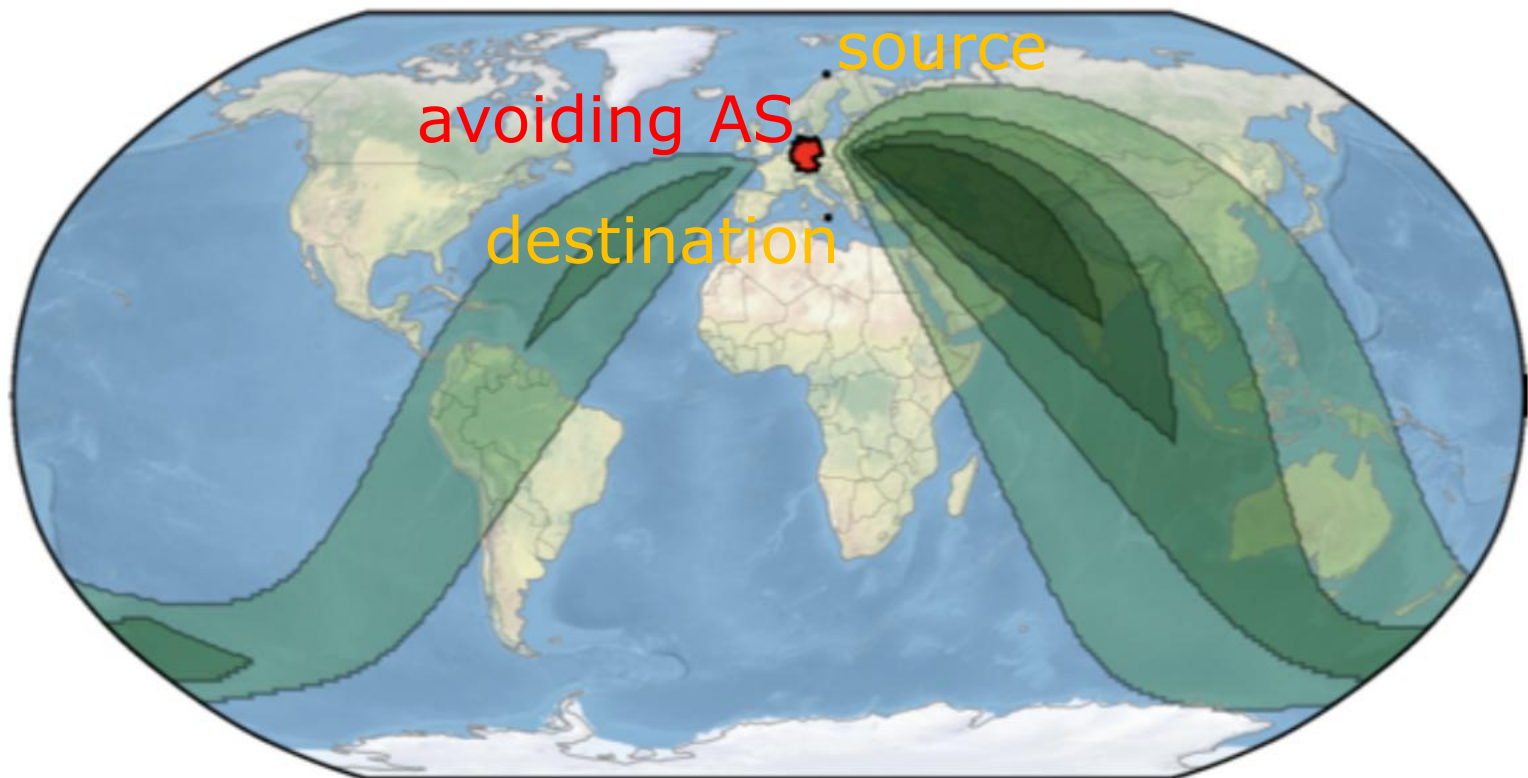
- Were routing protocols modified...

# Alibi Routing

- How to verify that a packet DO NOT transmit via a specific AS?

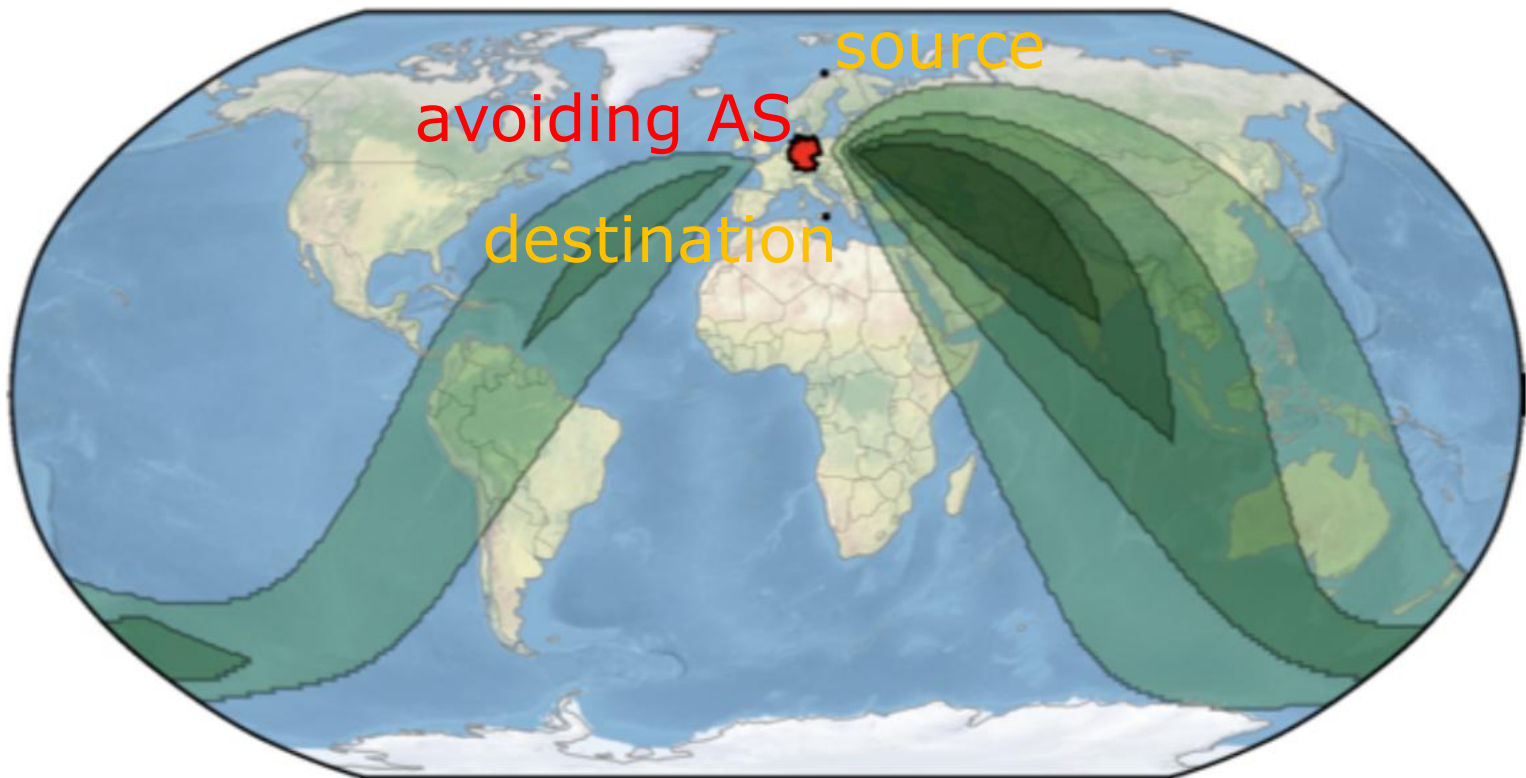
# Alibi Routing

- How to verify that a packet DO NOT transmit via a specific AS?



# Alibi Routing

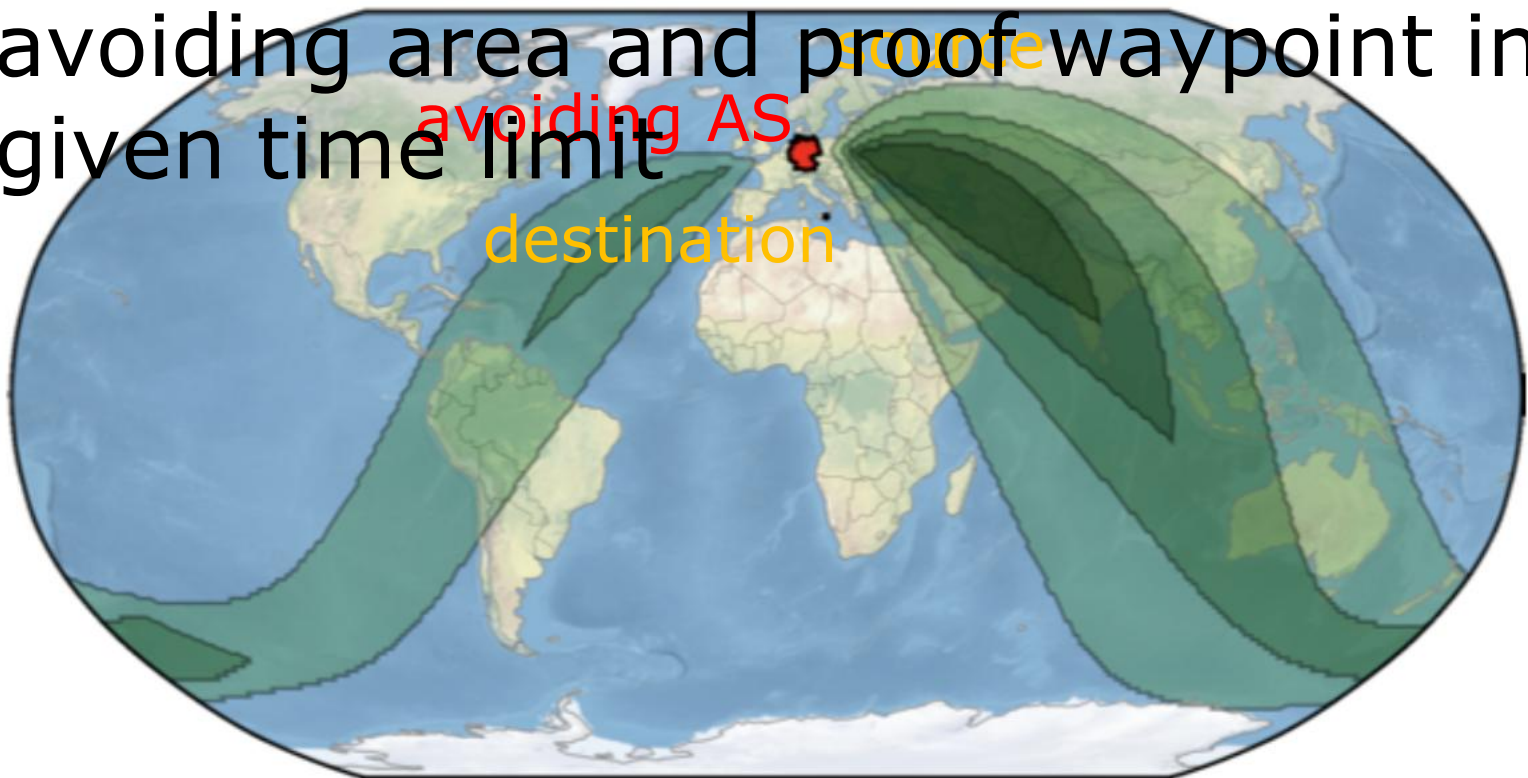
- Introduce proof waypoint





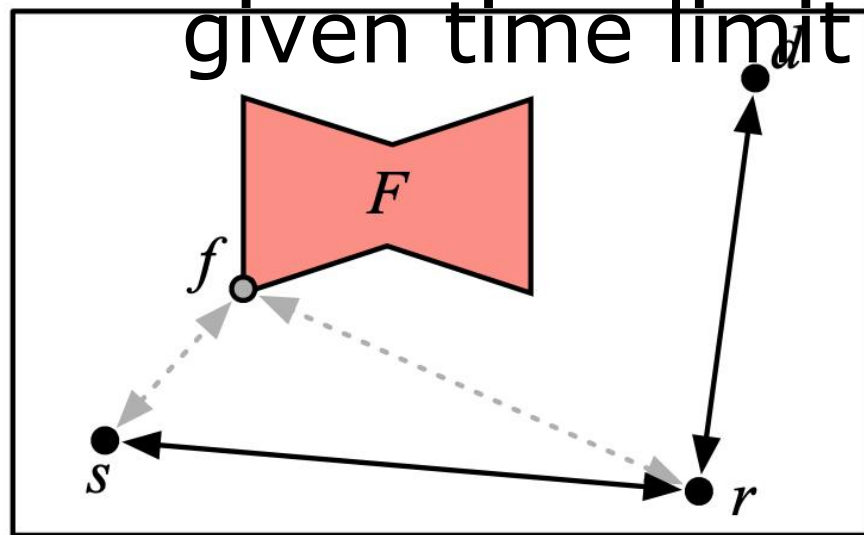
# Alibi Routing

- Introduce **proof waypoint** such that packets cannot transmit via both avoiding area and proof waypoint in a given time limit

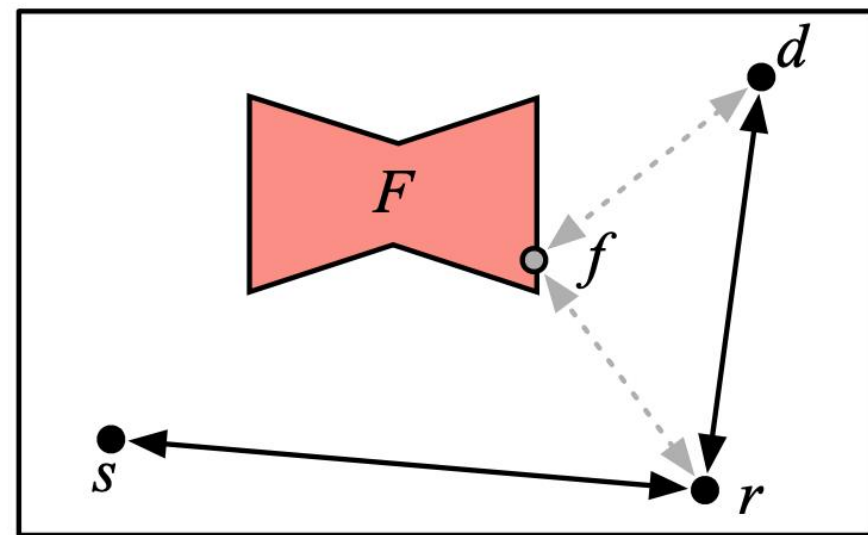


# Alibi Routing

- Introduce **proof waypoint** such that packets cannot transmit via both avoiding area and proof waypoint in a given time limit



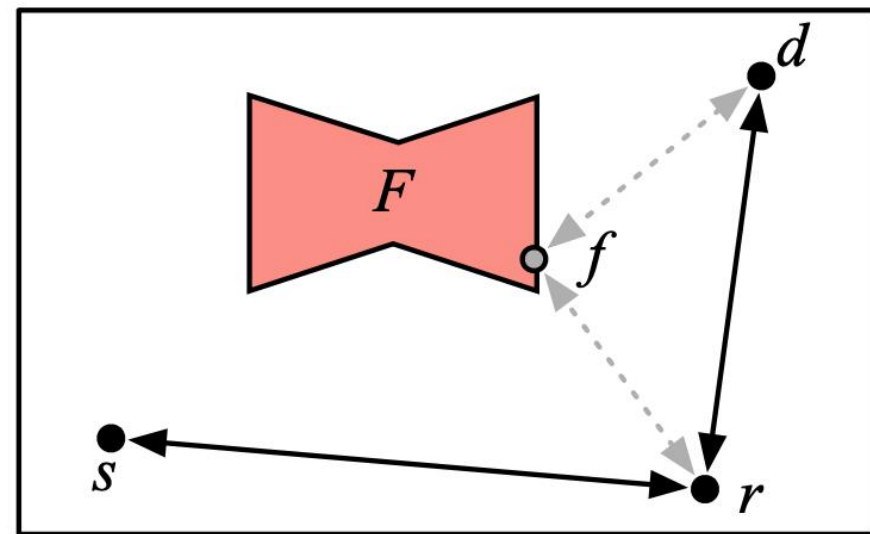
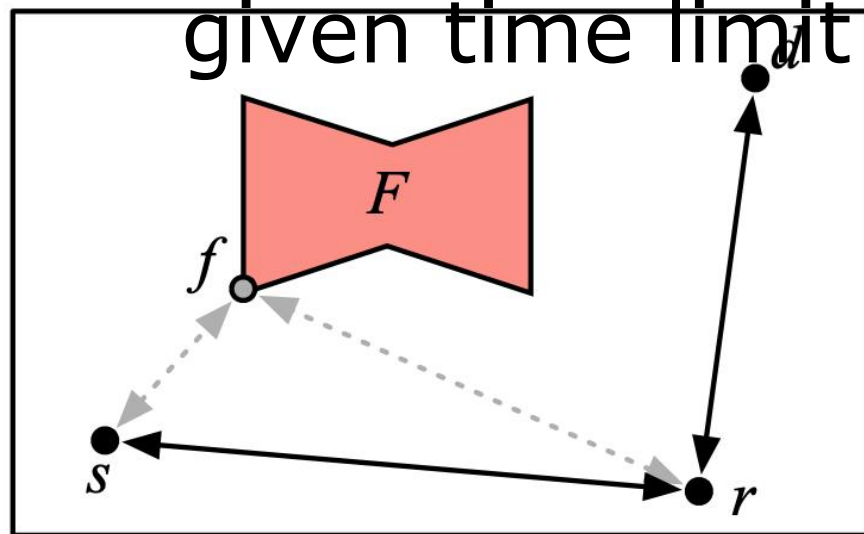
(a)  $R(s,r) + R(r,d) \ll \min_f \{R(s,f) + R(f,r)\} + R(r,d)$



(b)  $R(s,r) + R(r,d) \ll R(s,r) + \min_f \{R(r,f) + R(f,d)\}$

# Alibi Routing

- Introduce **proof waypoint** such that packets cannot transmit via both avoiding area and proof waypoint in a given time limit



• **Were routing protocols modified...**

(a)  $R(s,r) = R(r,d) \ll \min_f \{R(s,f) + R(f,r)\} + R(r,d)$

(b)  $R(s,r) = R(r,d) \ll R(s,r) + \min_f \{R(r,f) + R(f,d)\}$

# **DDoS defenses**

make attacker harder to attack

# **DDoS defenses**

make attacker harder to attack

cost more resources from attacker

# Client Puzzles

- Idea

what if we force every client to do moderate amount of work for every connection they make?

- Example

server sends: C

client: given challenge C find X s.t.

$$\text{LSB}_n(\text{SHA-1}(C||X)) = 0^n$$

# Client Puzzles

- Benefits

invoked upon attack detection;  
can tune  $n$  in reactive to amount of attack traffic;

- Limitations

require changes to protocols, clients, and servers;  
during attack, hurts low-power legitimate clients (e.g., phones);

# CAPTCHA

- Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart



# CAPTCHA

- Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart
- challenge–response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human

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- Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart
- challenge–response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human

验证码:



# CAPTCHA

- Text, image, audio...

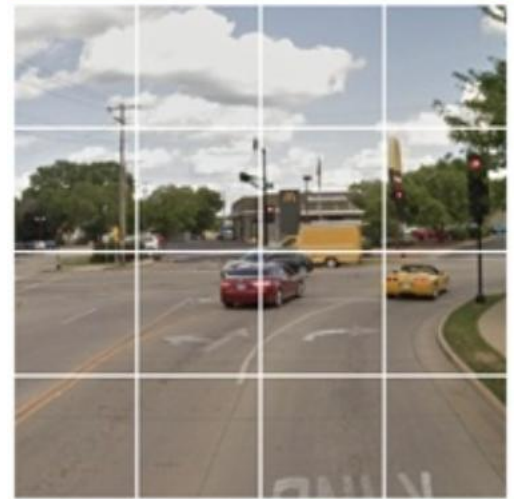
YAHOO!

Yahoo! Mail sign up form Captcha

zAmpeJ

[Try new characters](#)

Select all squares with  
**traffic lights**  
If there are none, click skip



SKIP

morning overtook

Type the two words:



**reCAPTCHA**  
stop spam.  
read books.

# CAPTCHA

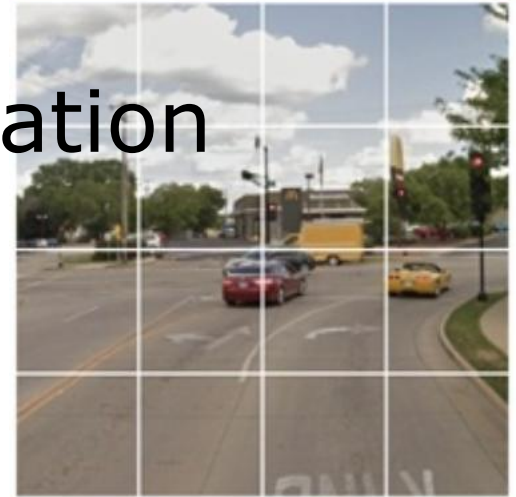
- Vulnerable to auto-identification

YAHOO! Yahoo! Mail sign up form Captcha

zAmpeJ

[Try new characters](#)

Select all squares with  
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SKIP

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Type the two words:



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# CAPTCHA

- Adversarial CAPTCHA



“Panda”

57.7% confidence

$+\epsilon *$



$\text{sign}(\nabla_x J(\theta, x, y))$

$=$



“Gibbon”

99.3% confidence

**dndyjmzxixi**





qydszsyd ✨





# Readings

- What is a DDoS Attack?  
by CLOUDFLARE
- Protocol Security and DoS Attacks  
by Dan Boneh and Zakir Durumeric
- Denial of Service Attacks  
by Zulfikar Ramzan

**Thank You**