

# Attack Traceback

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**Attack Detected!**

**Attack From Where?**

# **Attack From Where?**

does source IP address say it all?

# **Attack From Where?**

remember IP spoofing?

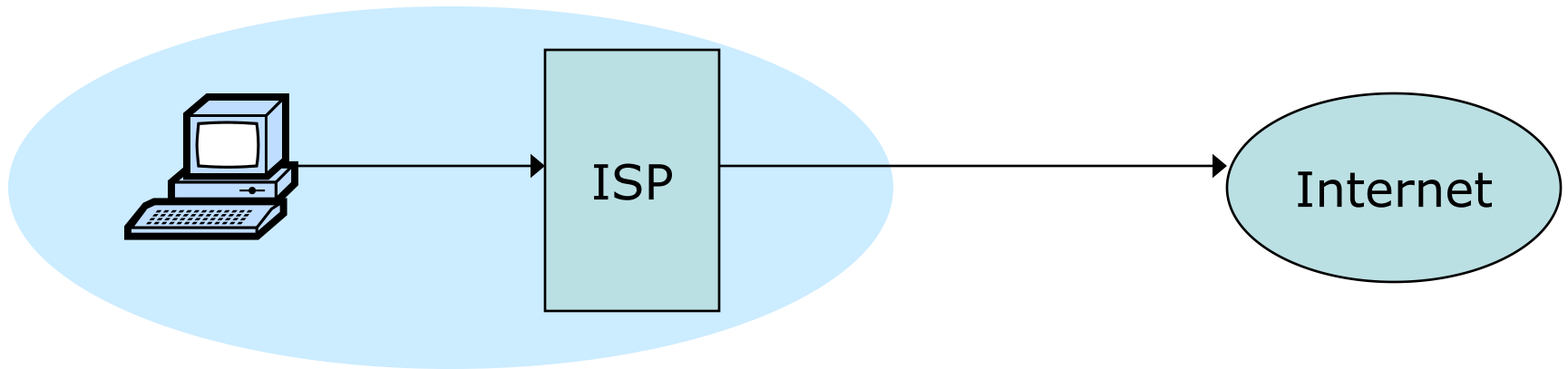
# **Attack From Where?**

remember IP spoofing?

does ingress filtering filter them all?

# 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;

# **Let Transit Routers Help!**

“ To remember where you come from  
is part of where you're going.

~ Anthony Burgess

# IP Traceback

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

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- 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

# IP Traceback

- Write path into packets

router adds its own IP address to packet

victim reads path from packet

- Deterministic Packet Marking

# IP 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

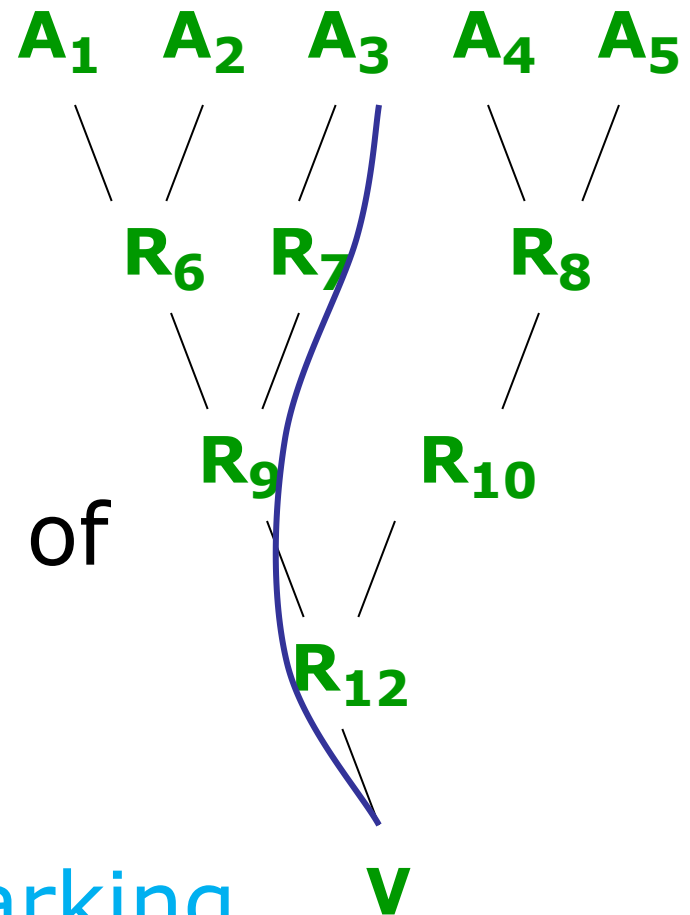
no extra fields in current IP format

(changes to packet format too much to expect)

# IP Traceback

- Sample and Merge

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



- Probabilistic Packet Marking

# IP 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

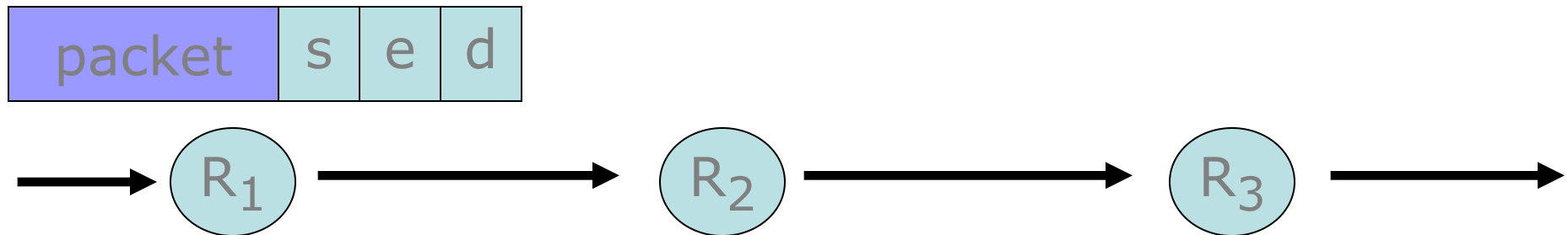


# IP Traceback

- Packet received

$R_1$  receives packet from source or another router;

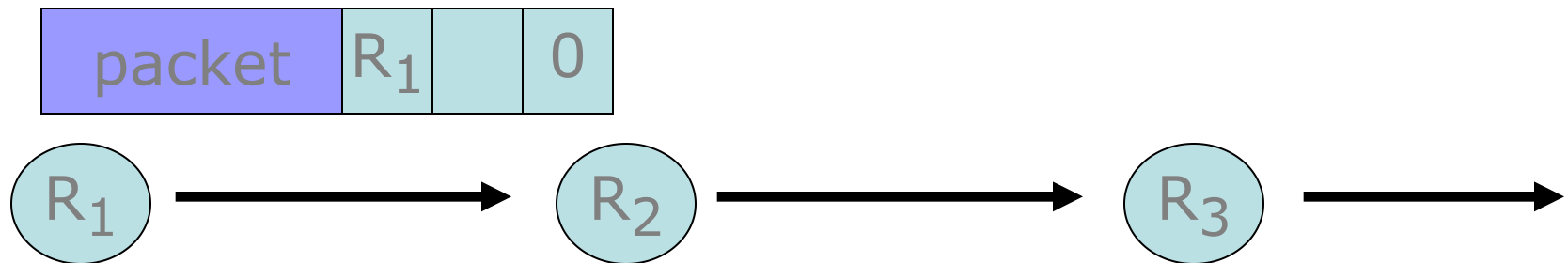
packet contains space for start, end, distance;



# IP Traceback

- Begin writing edge

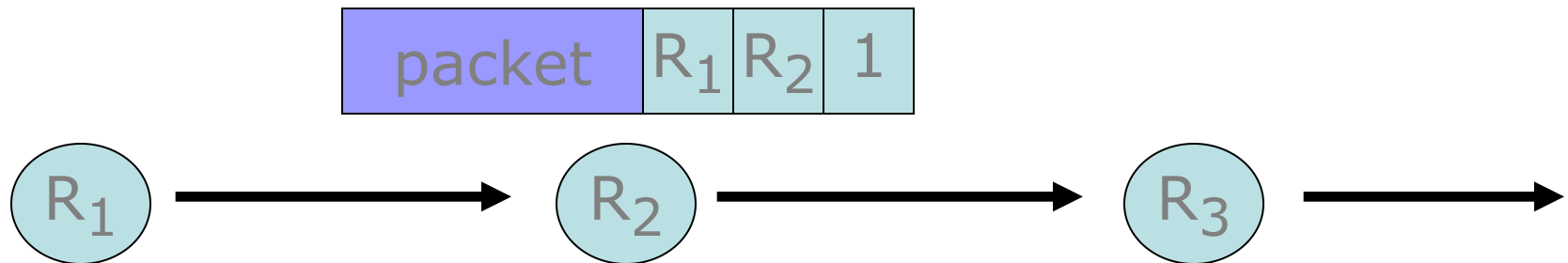
$R_1$  chooses to write start of edge;  
sets distance to 0;



# IP Traceback

- Finish writing edge

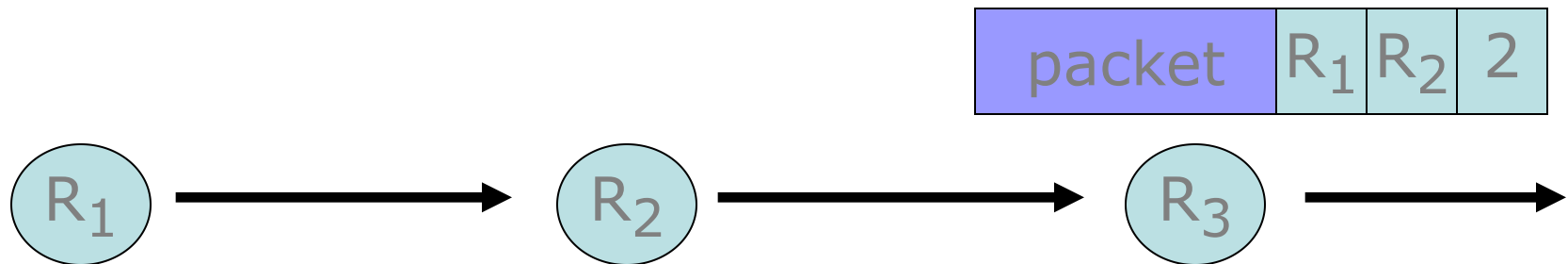
$R_2$  chooses not to overwrite edge;  
distance is 0: write end of edge,  
increment distance to 1;



# IP Traceback

- Increment distance

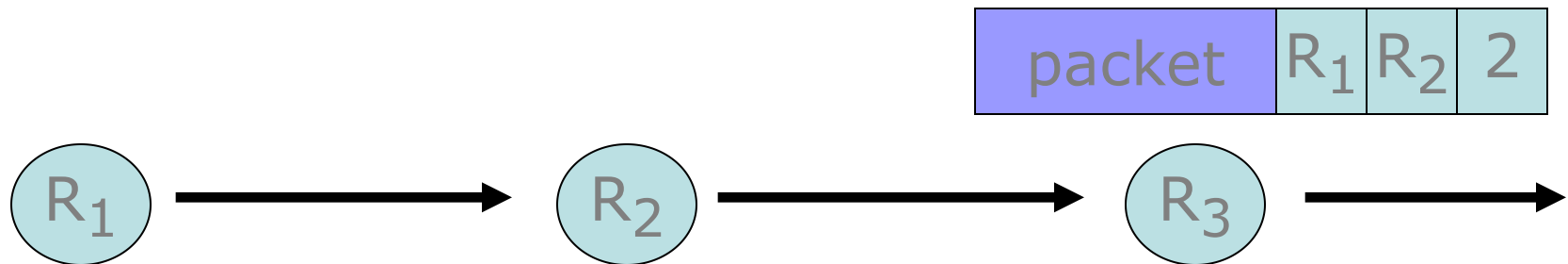
$R_3$  chooses not to overwrite edge;  
distance > 0: increment distance to 2;



# IP Traceback

- Increment distance

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



- What if traceback fields are tampered with...

# ICMP Traceback

- iTrace
- Each router samples one of packets it is forwarding and copies the contents and adjacent routers' info into an ICMP traceback message
- Router uses HMAC and X.509 digital certificate for authenticating traceback messages
- Router sends ICMP traceback messages to the destination

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# ICMP Traceback

- iTrace
- Require all the routers transmitting attack traffic be enabled with iTrace to construct an entire attack path
- yet ICMP packets are usually filtered... because of ICMP Ping Flood Attack...



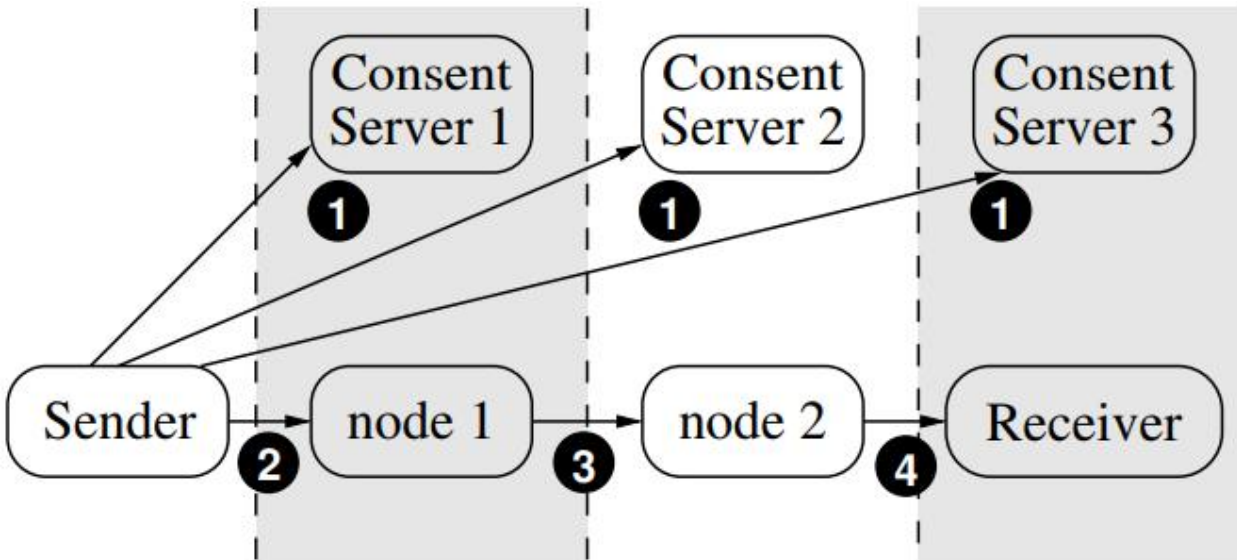
# ICMP Traceback

- iTrace
- Require all the routers transmitting attack traffic be enabled with iTrace to construct an entire attack path
- yet ICMP packets are usually filtered... because of ICMP Ping Flood Attack...
- yet not all packets are sampled on every hop

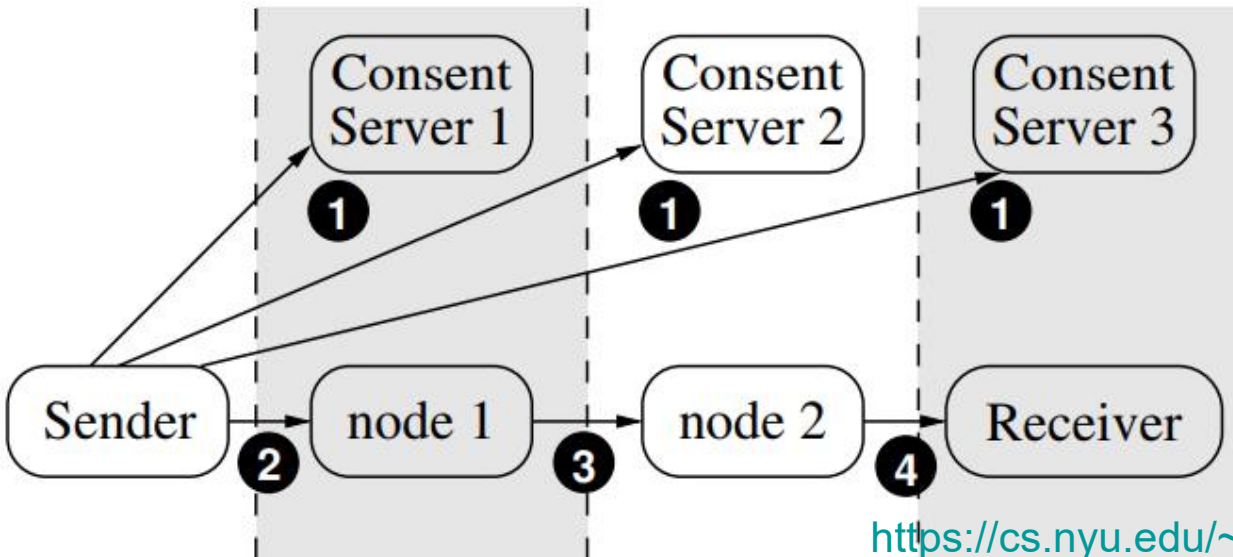
# Path Validation

- **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

**how frequent is attack?**

should every packet be always marked?

**how frequent is attack?**

should some packet be always sampled?

**Let Transit Routers Help!**  
only when needed

# Link Testing

- Traceback from the router closest to the victim
- Determine the upstream link that is used to carry out the attack traffic
- Recursively apply the previous technique until the attack source is reached



# Link Testing

- Traceback from the router closest to the victim
- Determine the upstream link that is used to carry out the attack traffic
- Recursively apply the previous technique until the attack source is reached
- Has to take effect while the attack is in progress

# Link Testing

- Traceback from the router closest to the victim
- Determine the upstream link that is used to carry out the attack traffic
- Recursively apply the previous technique until the attack source is reached
- Input Debugging
- Controlled Flooding

# Input Debugging

- Find attack signature, the common feature contained in all attack packets
- Communicate the attack signature to the upstream router, which then filters attack packets and determines the port of entry
- Recursively apply the previous technique on the upstream routers until reaching the attack source

# Input Debugging

- Find attack signature, the common feature contained in all attack packets
- Communicate the attack signature to the upstream router, which then filters attack packets and determines the port of entry
- A considerable management overhead at the ISP level to communicate and coordinate the traceback

# Controlled Flooding

- Need collaborative hosts
- Force the hosts to flood the links to upstream routers
- Since buffer on victim is shared by all incoming links, flooding the link carrying out attack leads to drops of attack packets
- Recursively apply the previous technique on the upstream routers until reaching the attack source

# Controlled Flooding

- Need collaborative hosts
- Force the hosts to flood the links to upstream routers
- Since buffer on victim is shared by all incoming links, flooding the link carrying out attack leads to drops of attack packets
- Require an accurate topology map  
High overhead given multiple attacking sources (e.g., DDoS)

**post-attack traceback?**  
link testing requires ongoing attack...

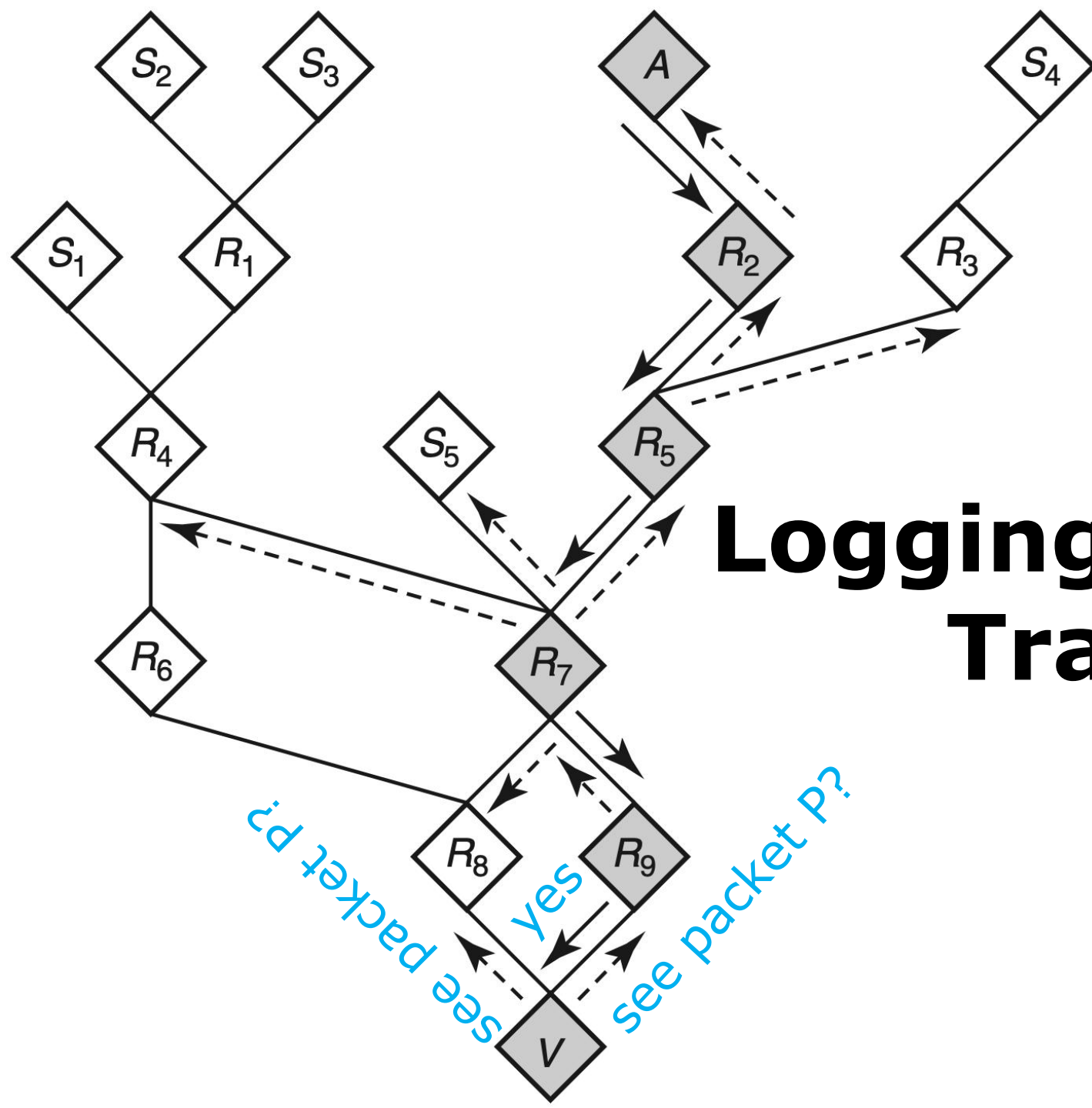
# **Let Transit Routers Help!**

log packets on routers to support query



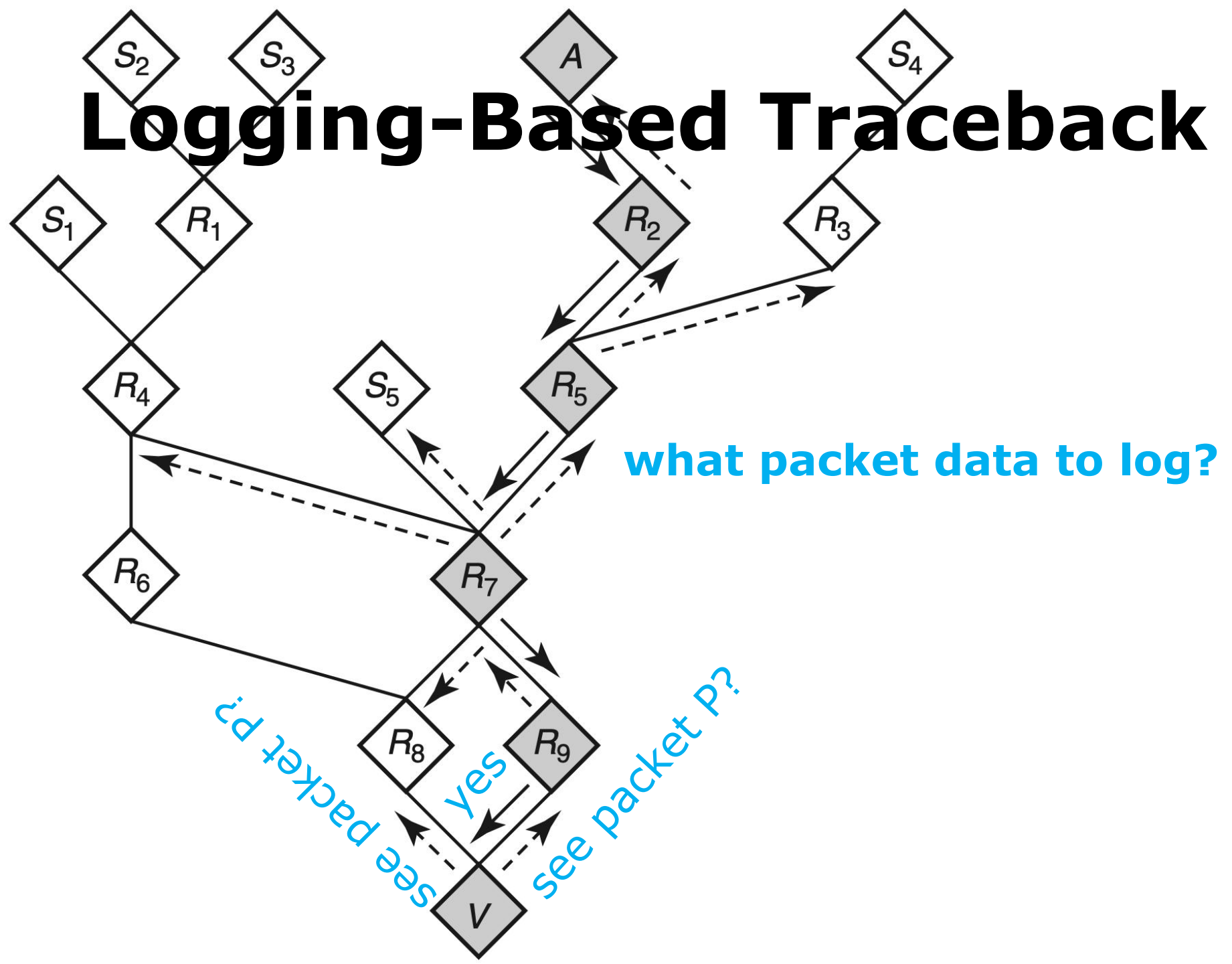
# Logging-Based Traceback

- Routers store packet logs
- Victim queries the closest routers about packet appearance of attack packets
- The router containing attack packets recursively query upstream routers until reaching the attack source



# Logging-Based Traceback

# ~~Logging-Based Traceback~~



# Logging-Based Traceback

- Raw packets?  
high storage overhead on routers
- Hash of invariant content per packet?  
still high storage overhead given high traffic rate

# Logging-Based Traceback

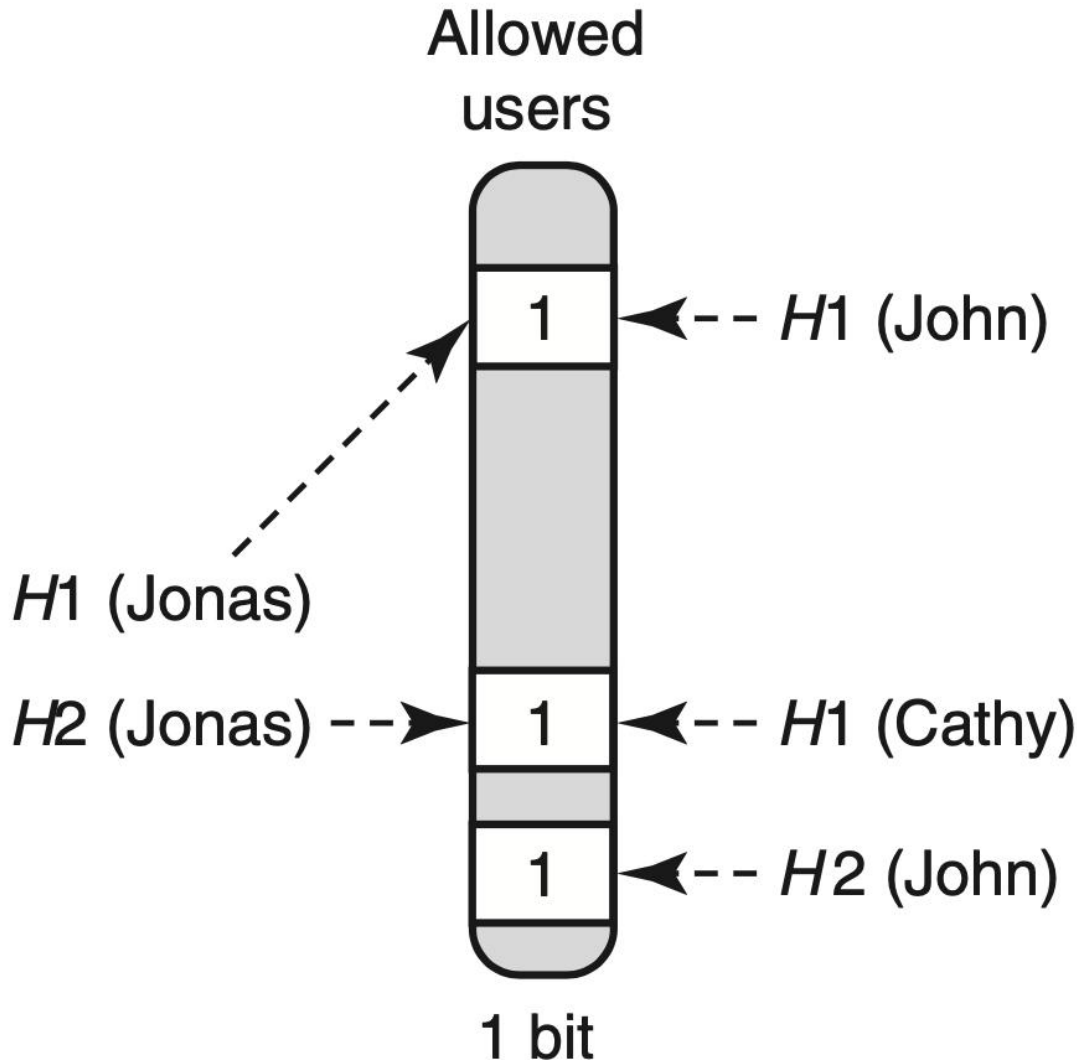
- Raw packets?  
high storage overhead on routers
- Hash of invariant content per packet?  
still high storage overhead given high traffic rate
- How to efficient membership query?

# Bloom Filter

- Efficient set membership query using multiple hashes per set elements
- Use a bitmap, a bit of which is set if one element is hashed to this position

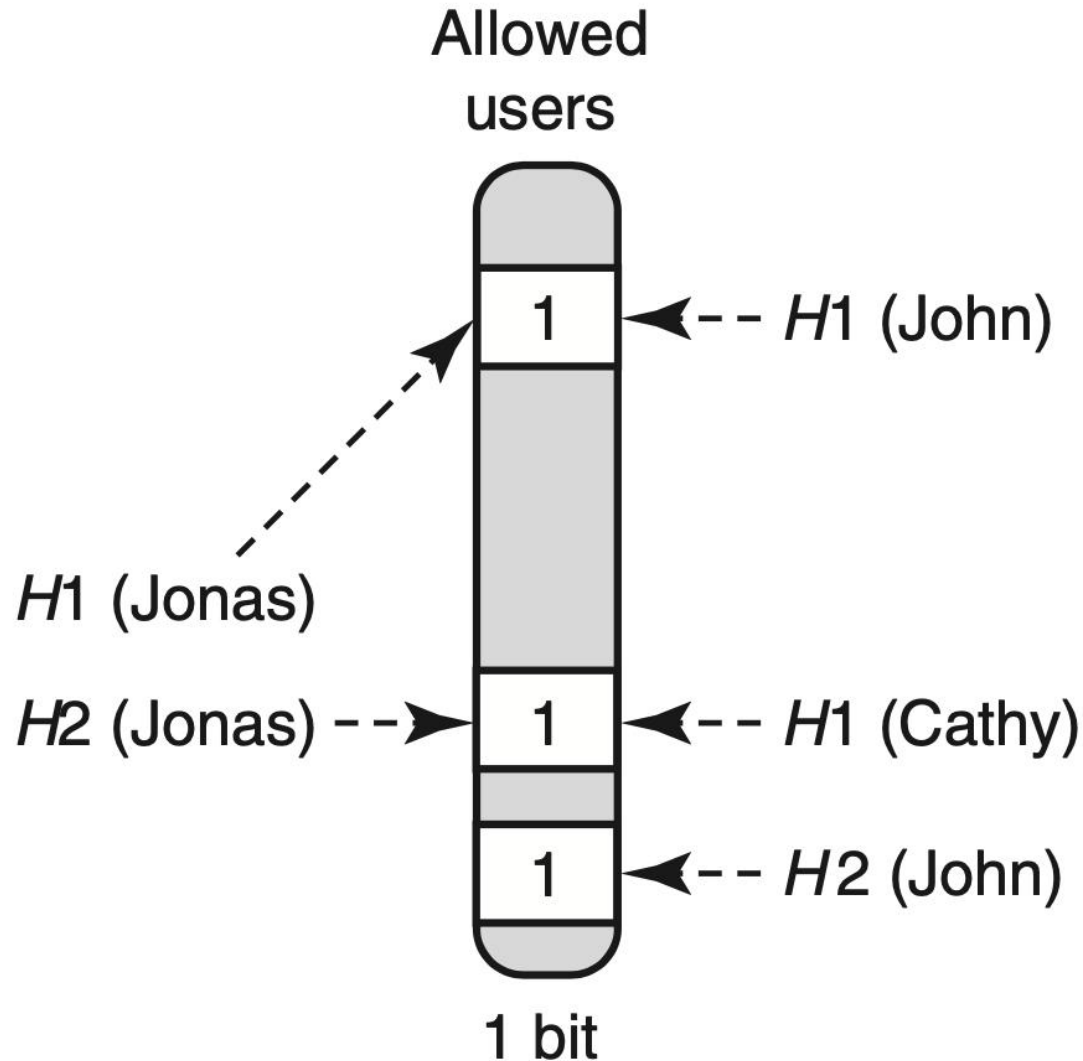
# Bloom Filter

Is Cathy an allowed user?



# Bloom Filter

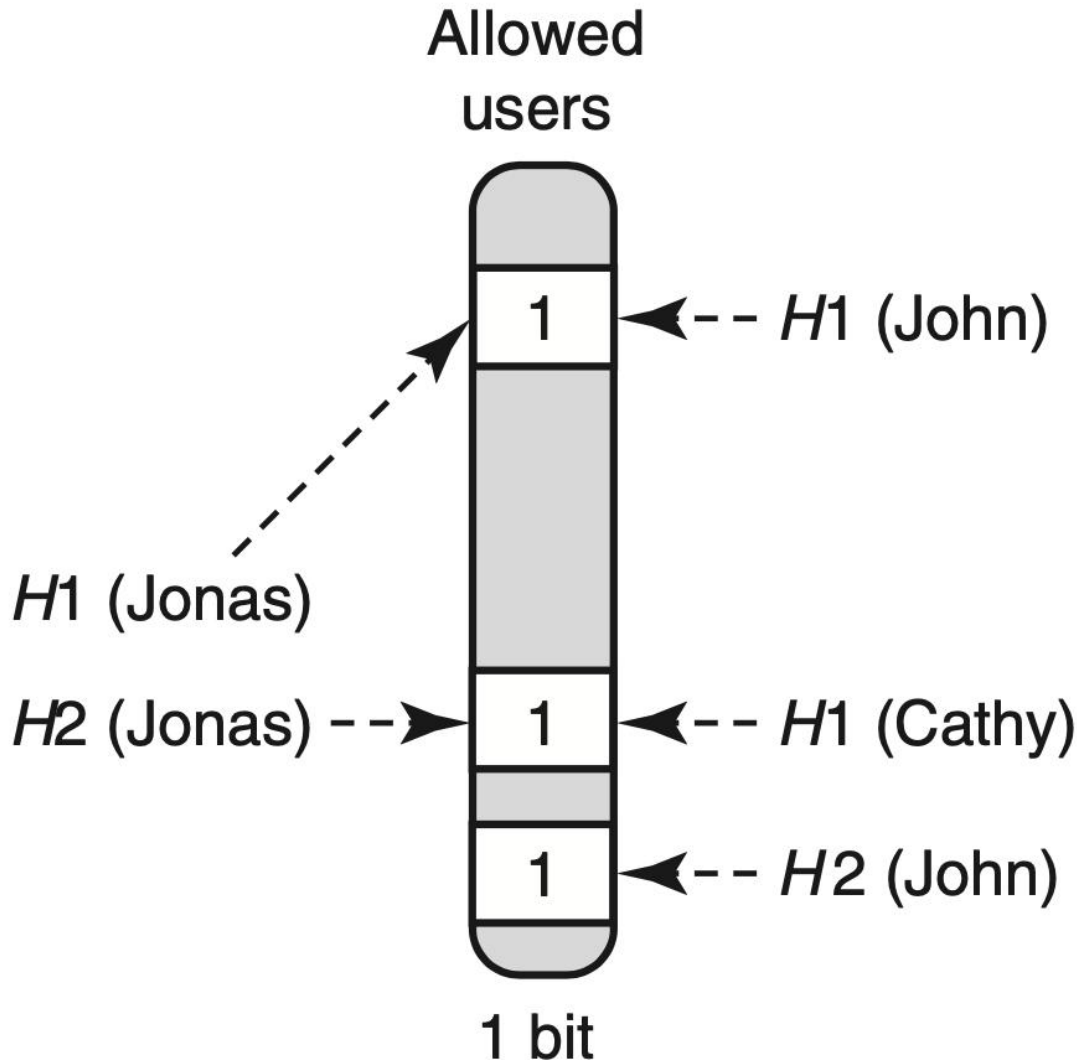
Is Jonas an allowed user?





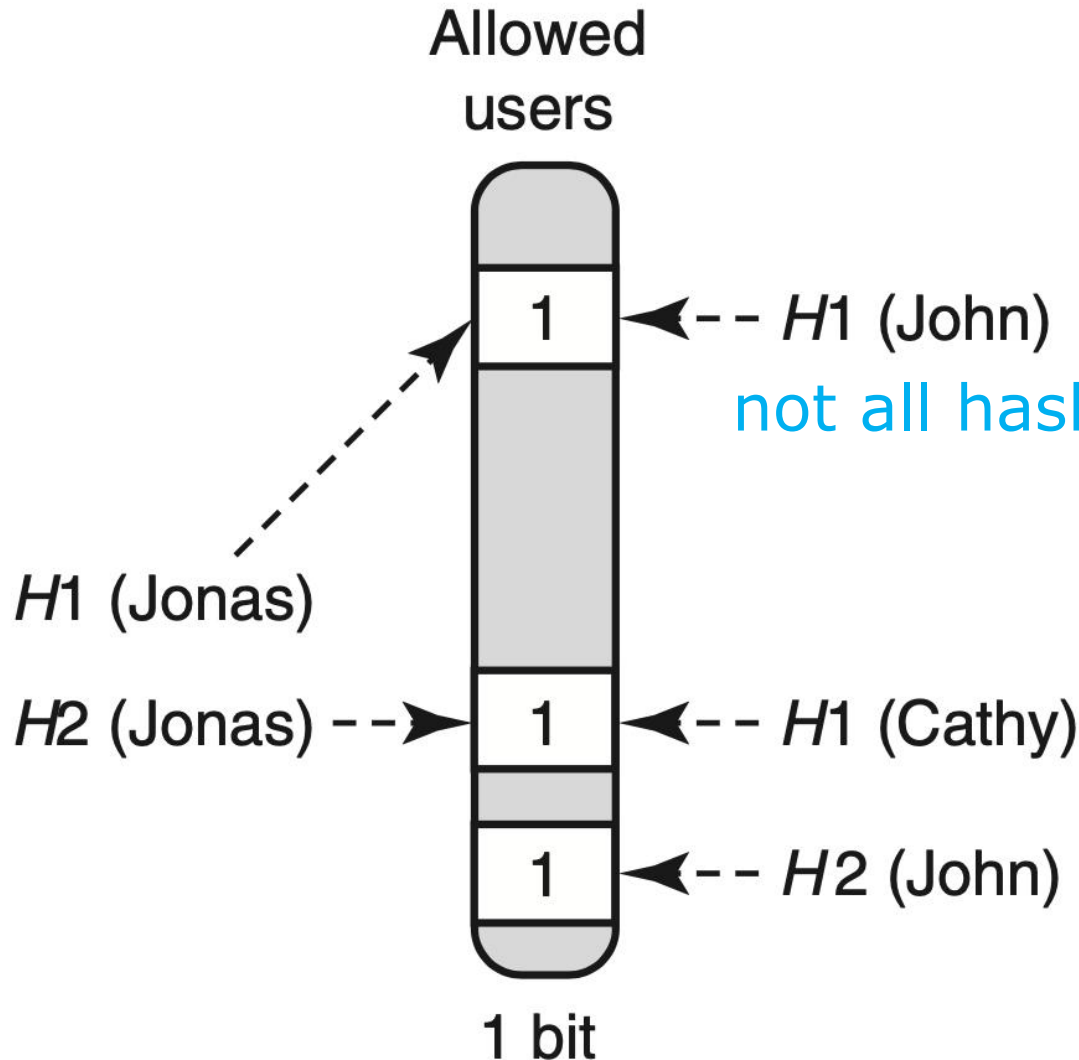
# Bloom Filter

Is John an allowed user?



# Bloom Filter

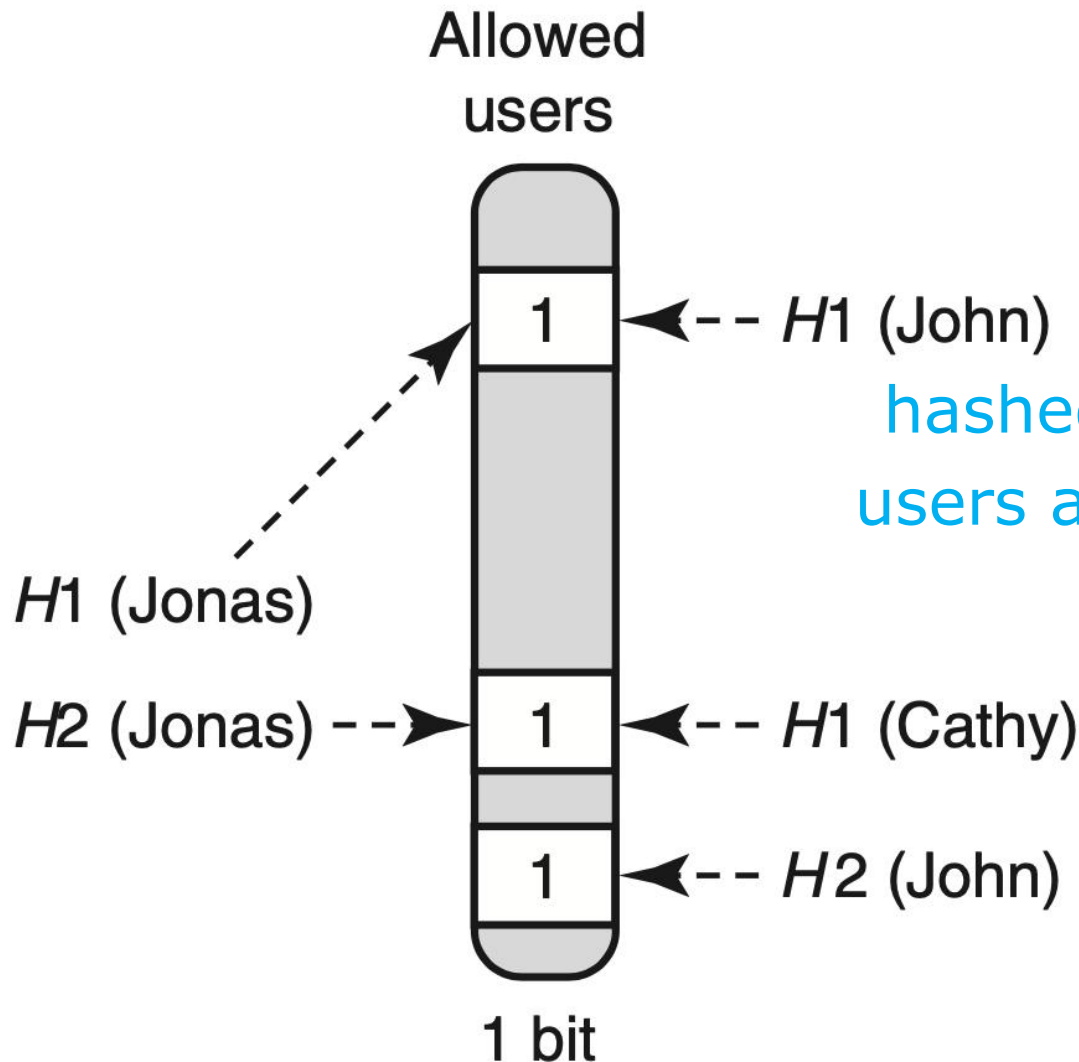
Is Cathy an allowed user?



No False Negative:  
For users not in,  
not all hashed positions are set.

# Bloom Filter

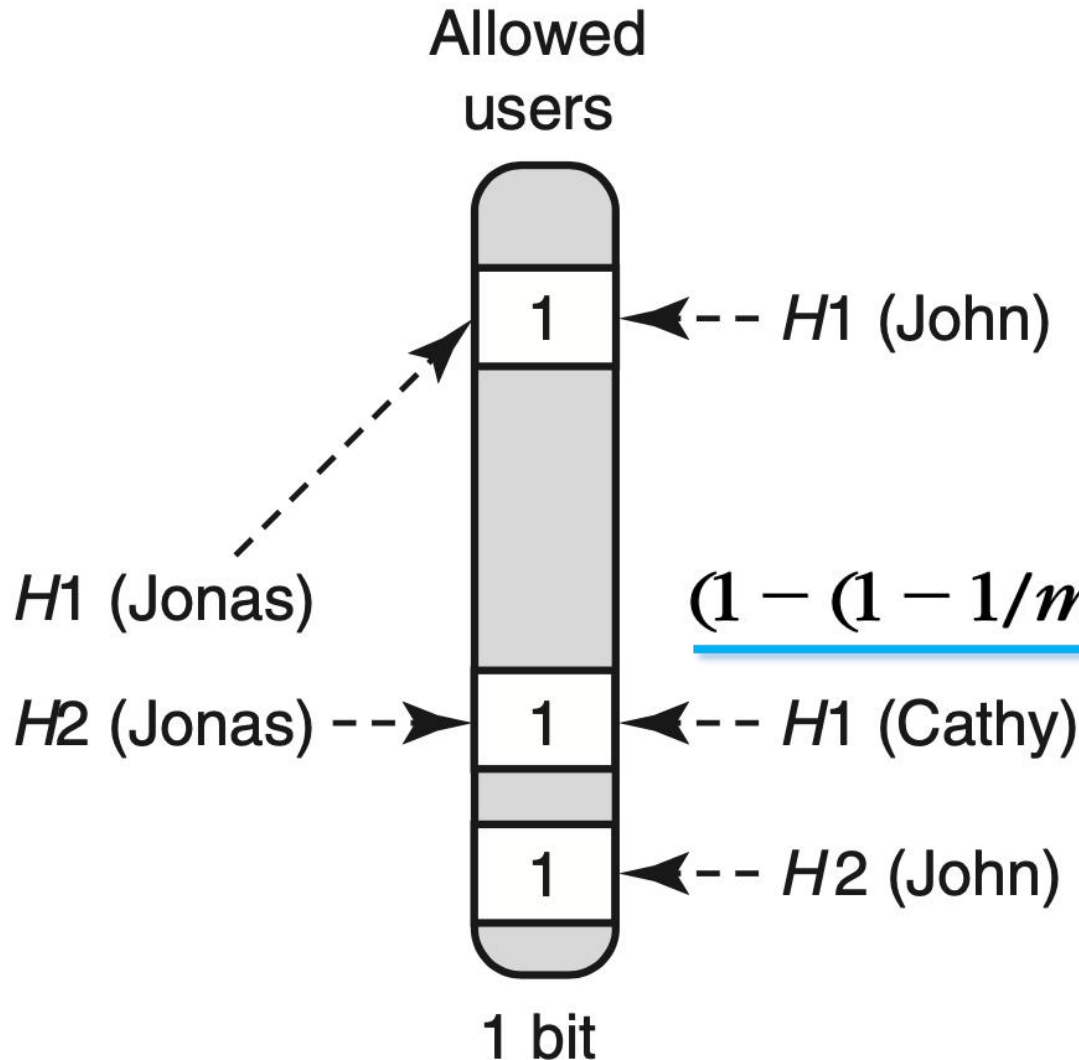
Is Jonas/John an allowed user?



Yet False Positive:  
For users with all  
hashed positions being set,  
users are not necessarily in.

# Bloom Filter

Is Jonas/John an allowed user?

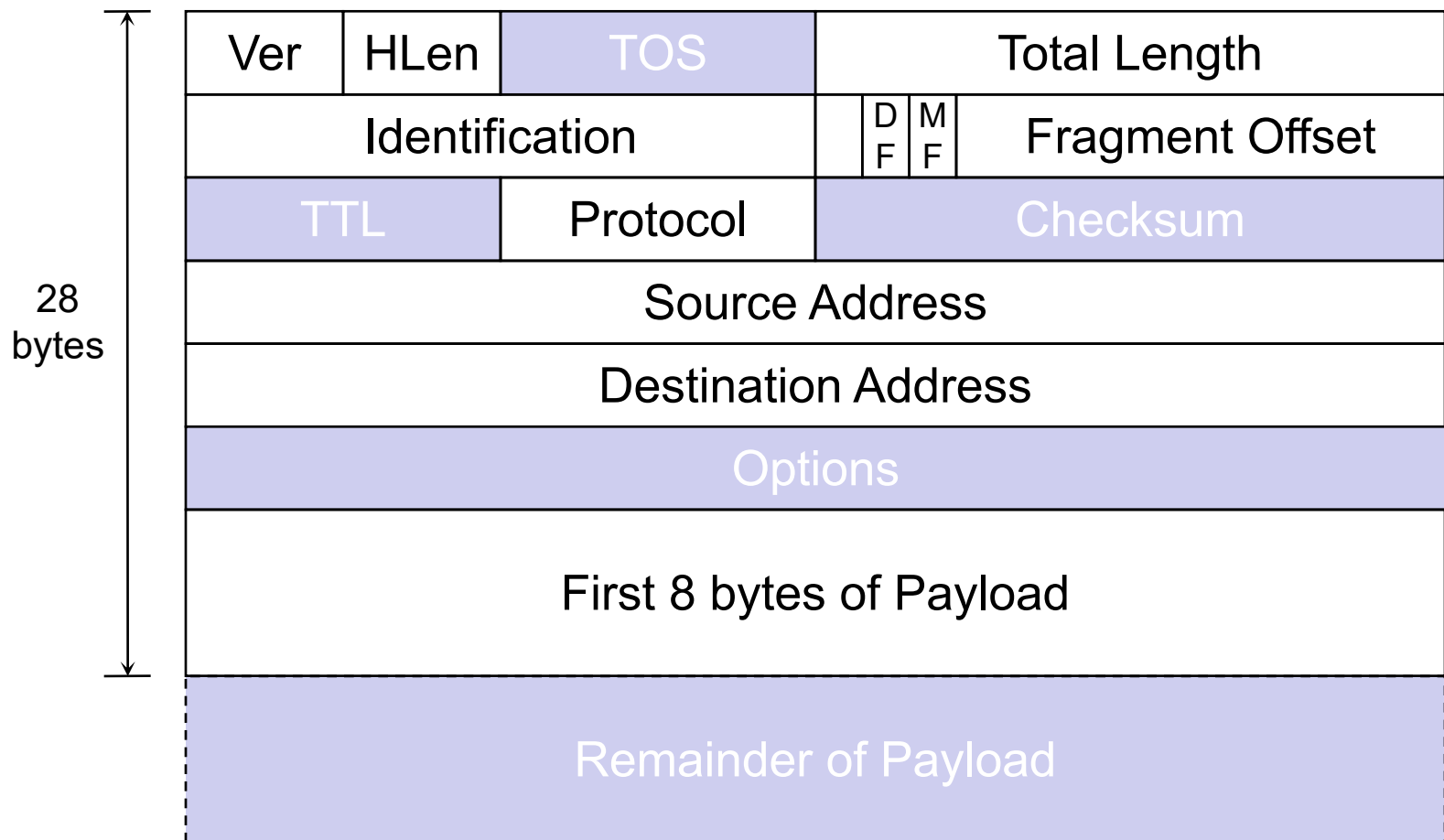


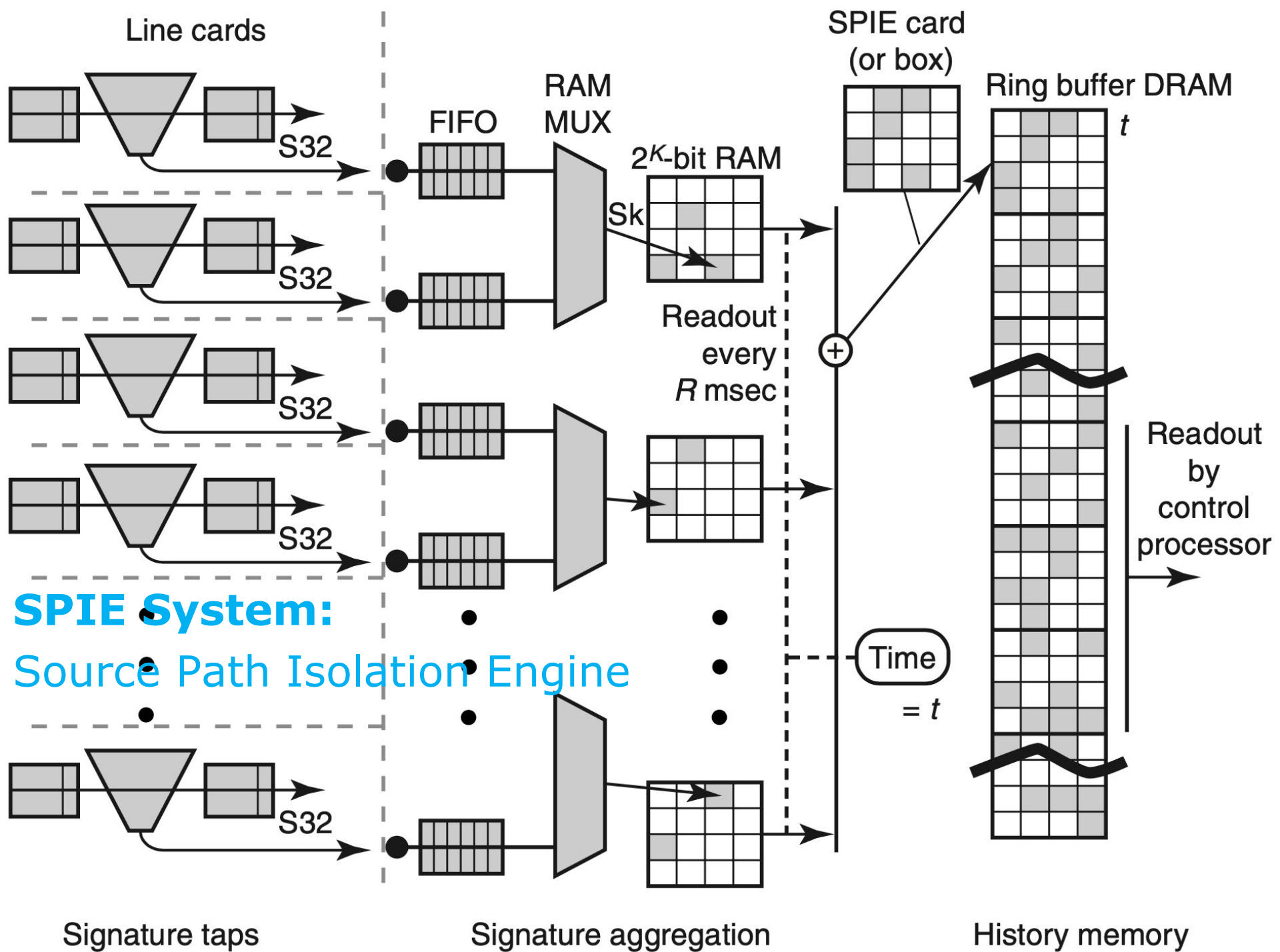
Yet False Positive:  
m-size bitmap,  
n members,  
k hash functions:

$$(1 - (1 - 1/m)^{kn})^k \approx (1 - e^{-kn/m})^k$$

# Bloom Filter

- Hash invariant content of packets





# Performance Comparison

	Management overhead	Network overhead	Router overhead	Distributed capability	Post-mortem capability	Preventative/ reactive
Ingress filtering	Moderate	Low	Moderate	N/A	N/A	Preventative
Link testing						
Input debugging	High	Low	High	Good	Poor	Reactive
Controlled flooding	Low	High	Low	Poor	Poor	Reactive
Logging	High	Low	High	Excellent	Excellent	Reactive
ICMP Traceback	Low	Low	Low	Good	Excellent	Reactive
Marking	Low	Low	Low	Good	Excellent	Reactive





**were routing protocols modified...**

# Readings

- Practical Network Support for IP Traceback  
by Stefan Savage et al.
- Network Security Know It All  
by James Joshi

**Thank You**