

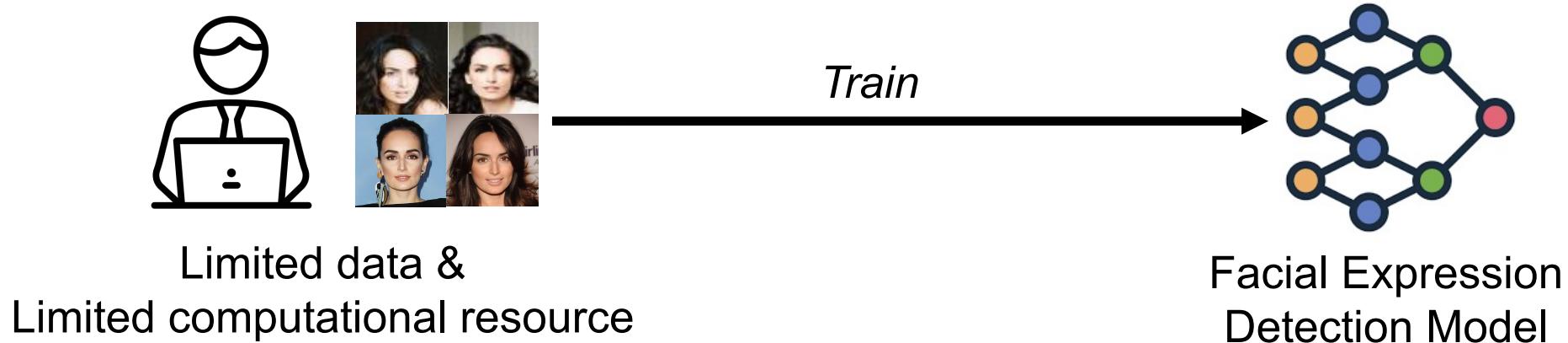
# Crafter: Facial Feature Crafting against Inversion-based Identity Theft on Deep Models

Shiming Wang, Zhe Ji, Liyao Xiang, Hao Zhang,  
Xinbing Wang, Chenghu Zhou, Bo Li



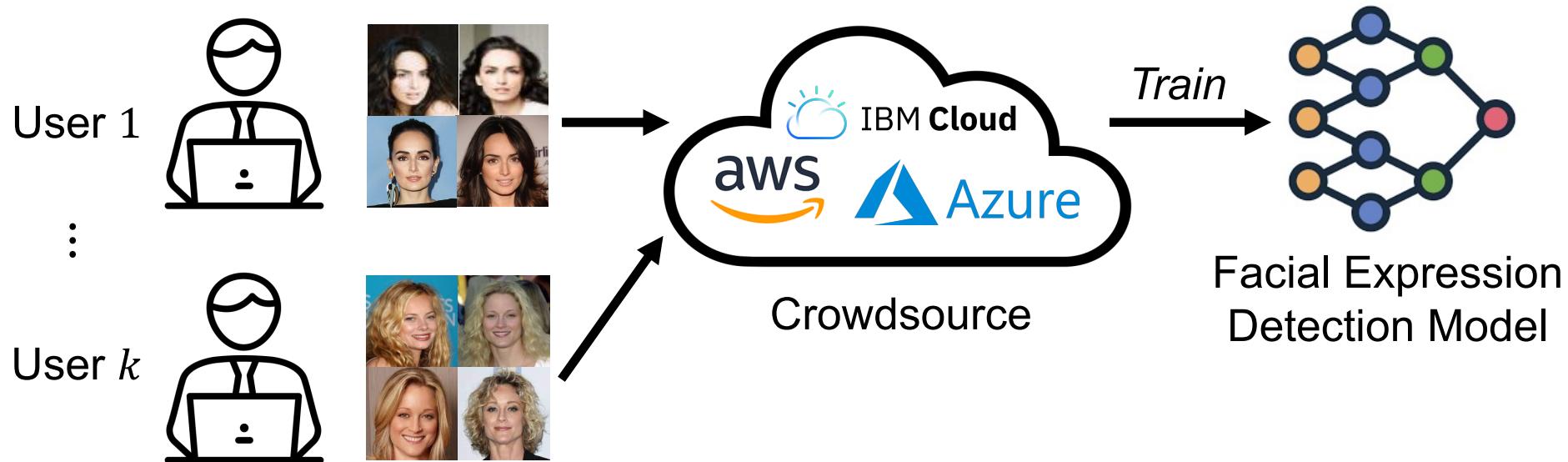
# Machine Learning as a Service

## Example 1: Training deep learning task.



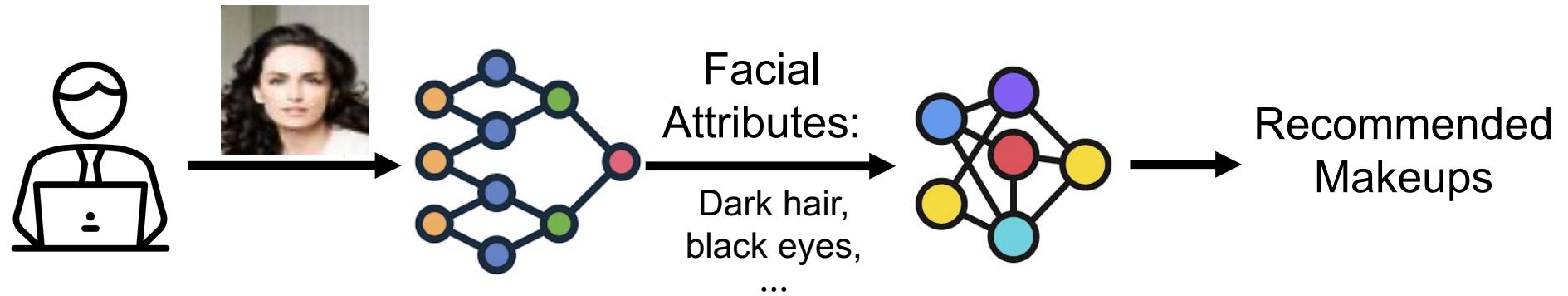
# Machine Learning as a Service

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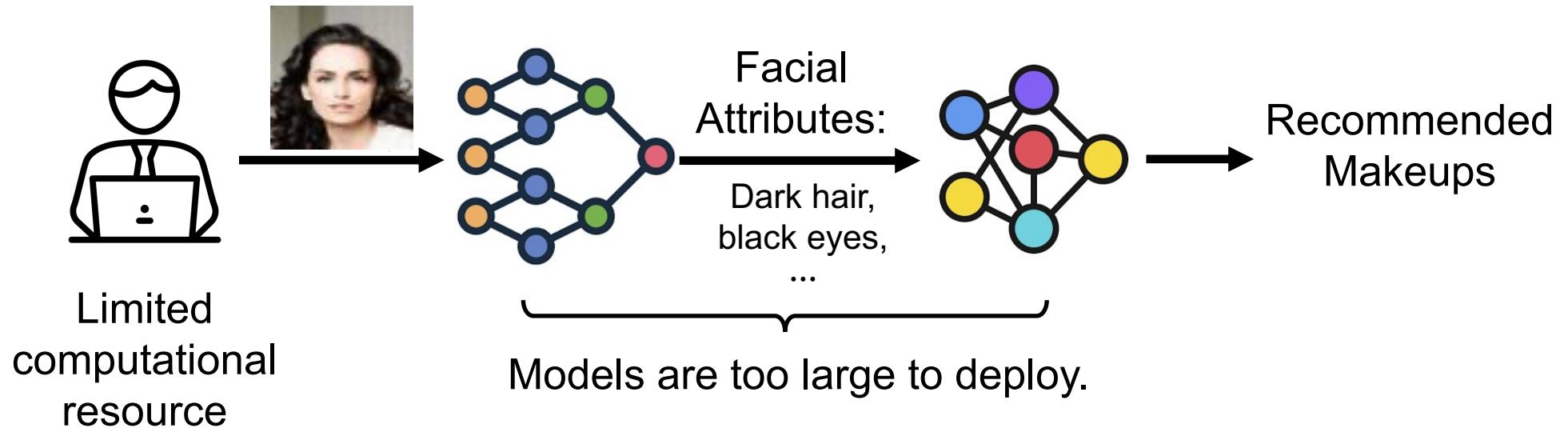
# Machine Learning as a Service

## Example 2: Inference deep learning task.



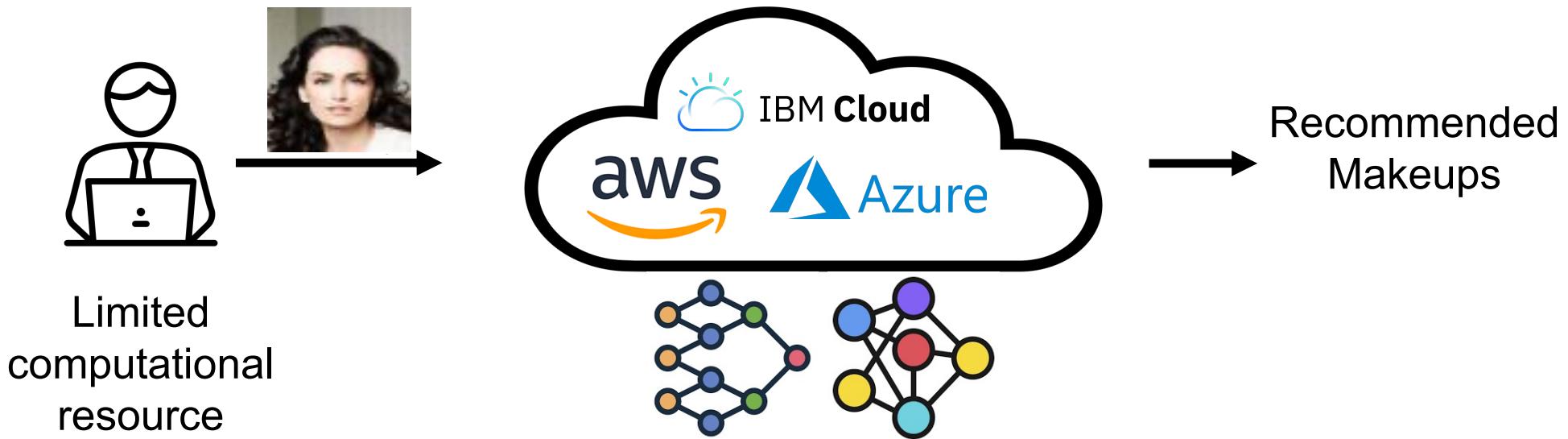
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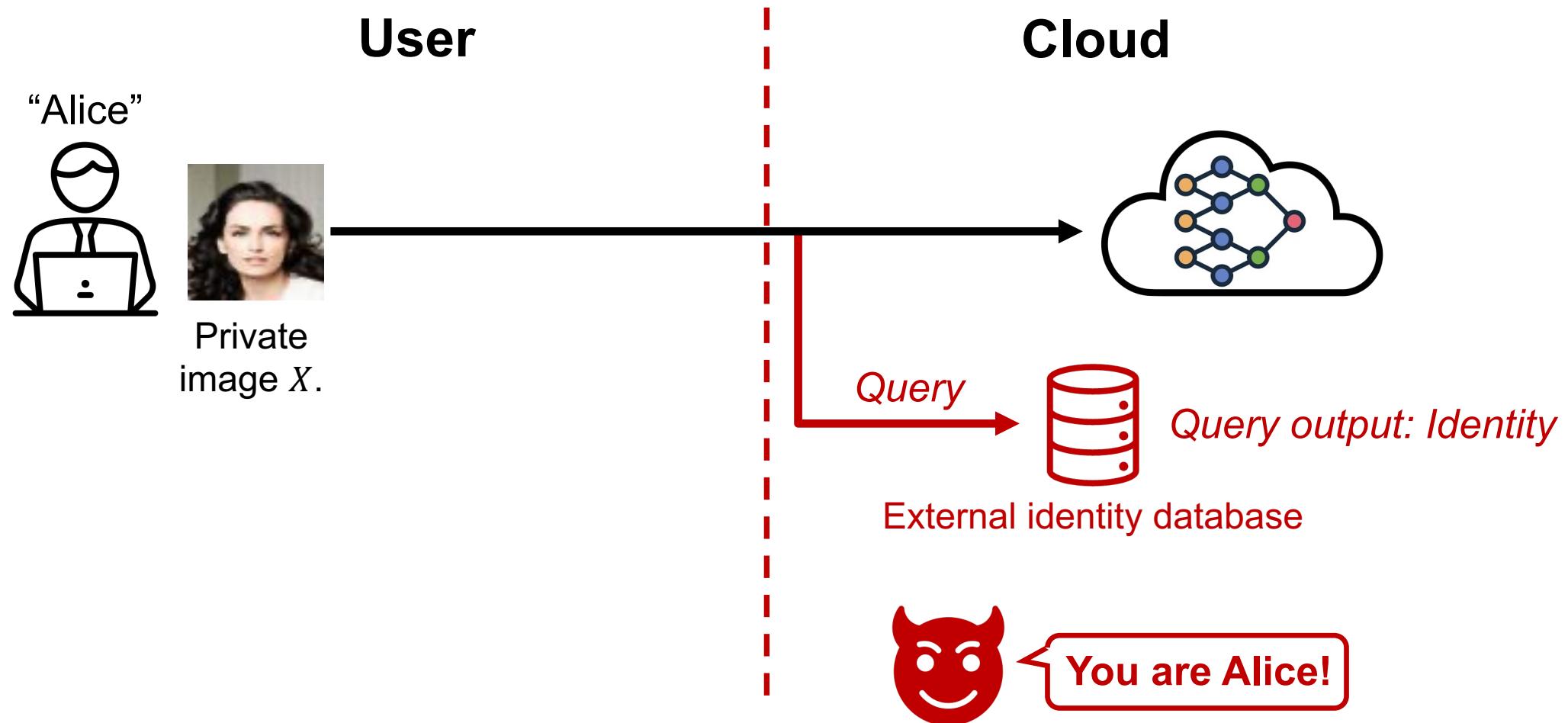


# Machine Learning as a Service

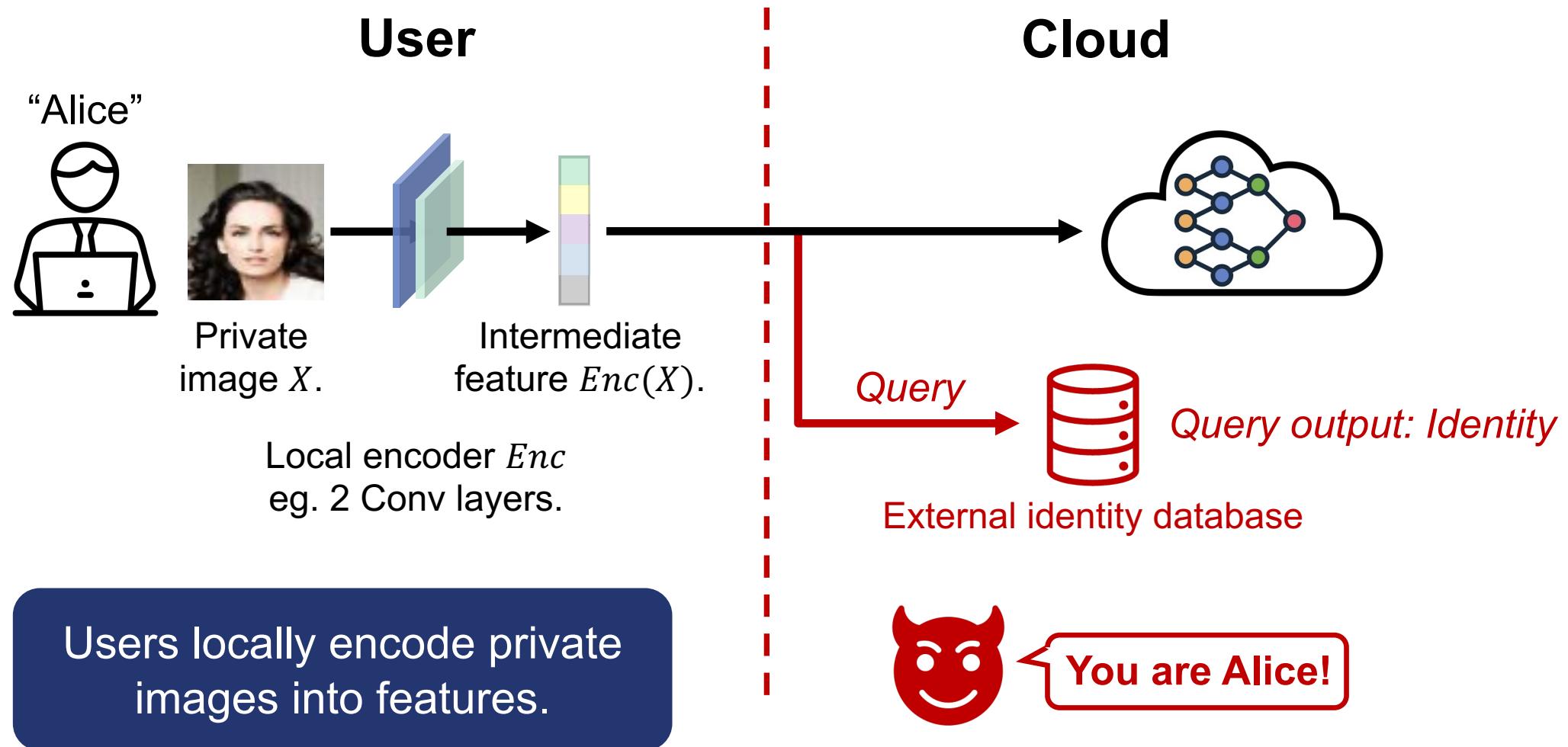


Users are motivated to share their facial images with the cloud.

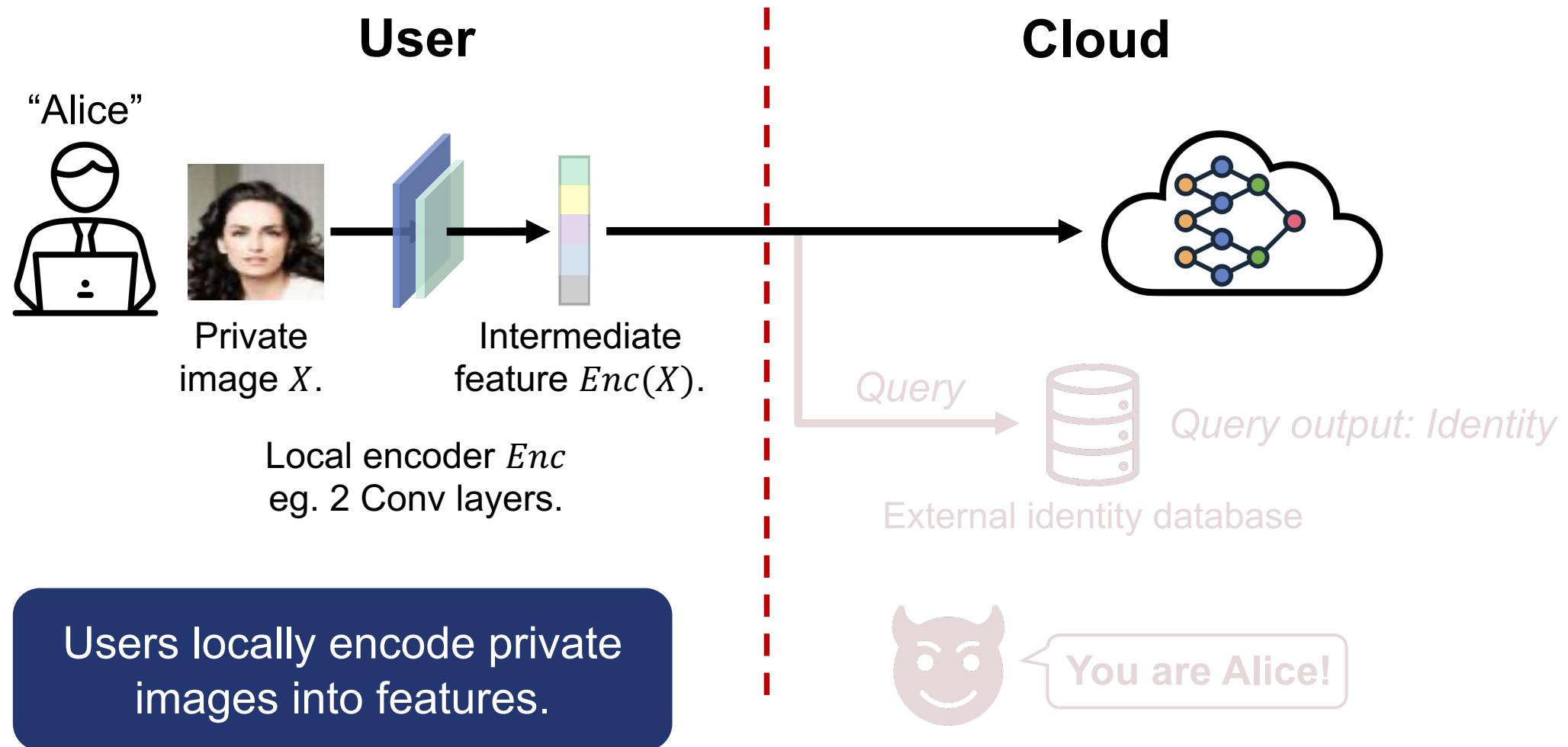
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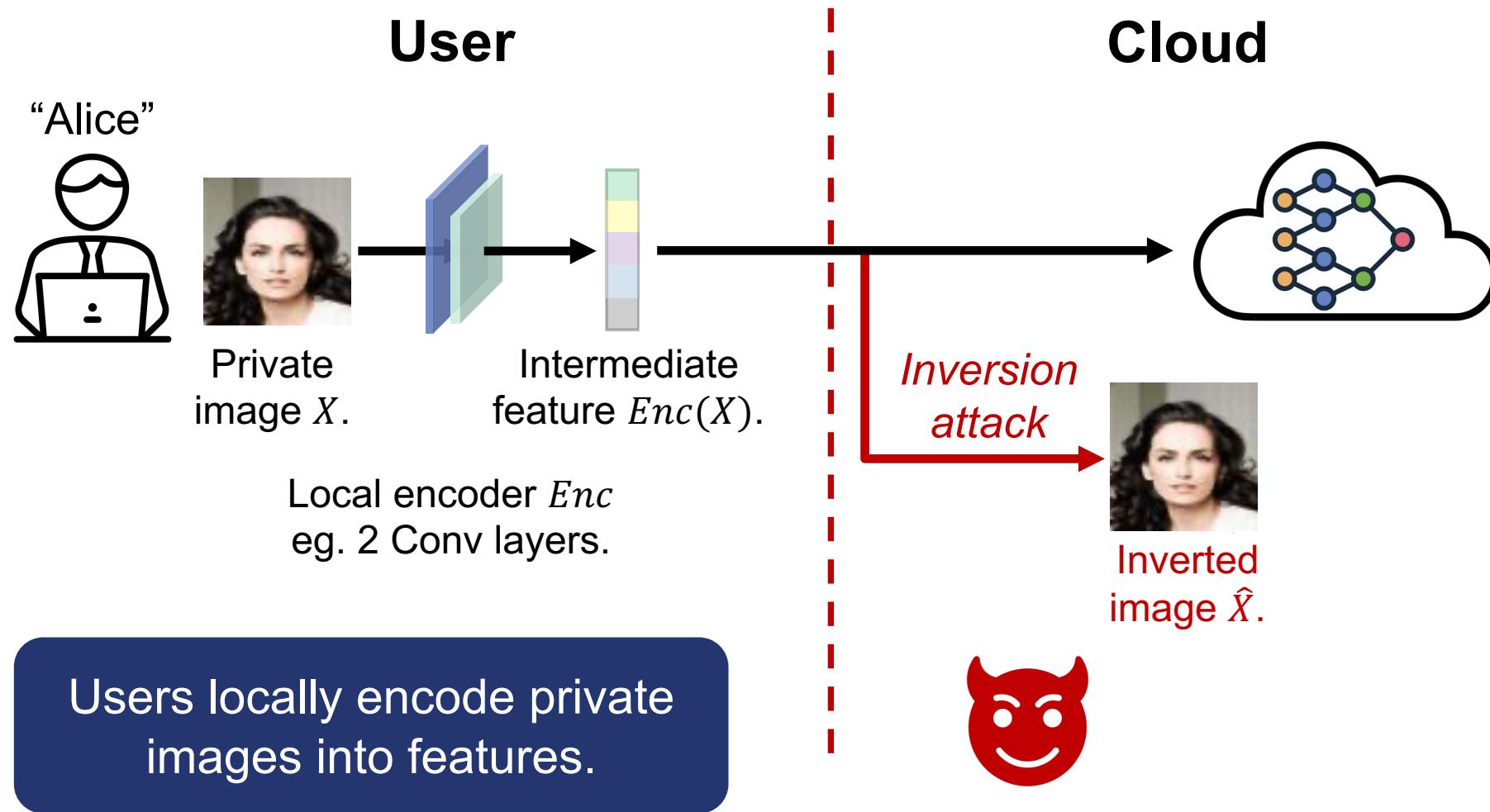
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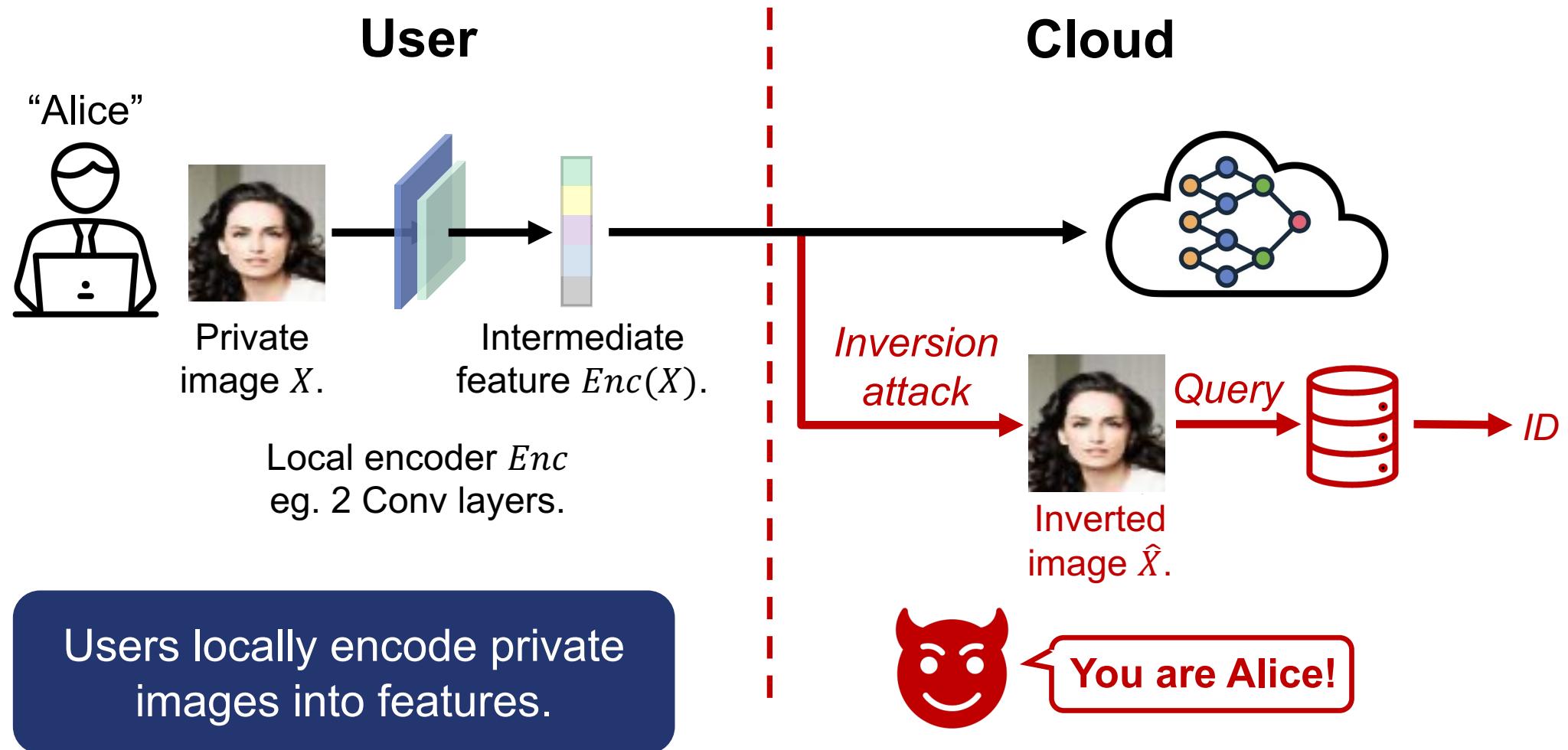
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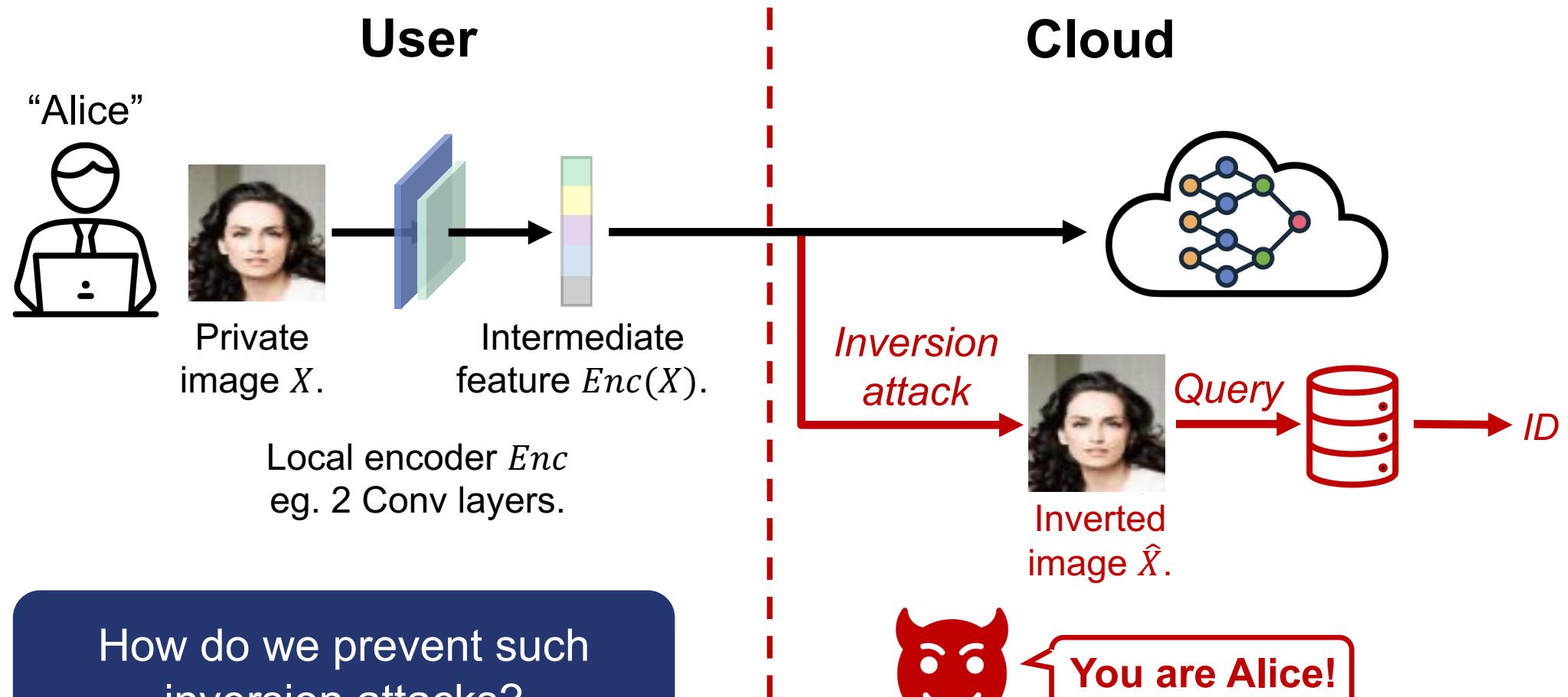
# Privacy Concern: Identity Theft



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# Privacy Concern: Identity Theft



# Defending Inversion-based Identity Theft

## Previous Defense:

*AdvLearn*<sup>[1]</sup>, *Disco*<sup>[2]</sup>, *TIPRDC*<sup>[3]</sup>

- Vulnerable against adaptive attacks;
- Fail to balance privacy & utility;
- Limited application scenarios.

[1] Xiao et al. “Adversarial learning of privacy-preserving and task-oriented representations ”, 2020

[2] Singh et al. “Disco: Dynamic and invariant sensitive channel obfuscation for deep neural networks ”, 2021

[3] Li et al. “Tiprdc: task-independent privacy-respecting data crowdsourcing framework for deep learning with anonymized intermediate representations ”, 2020

# In Our Work



## Crafter Defense:

User-end feature crafting that protects identity info against various inversion attacks, while preserving data utility.



Threat Model



Intuitions & Design

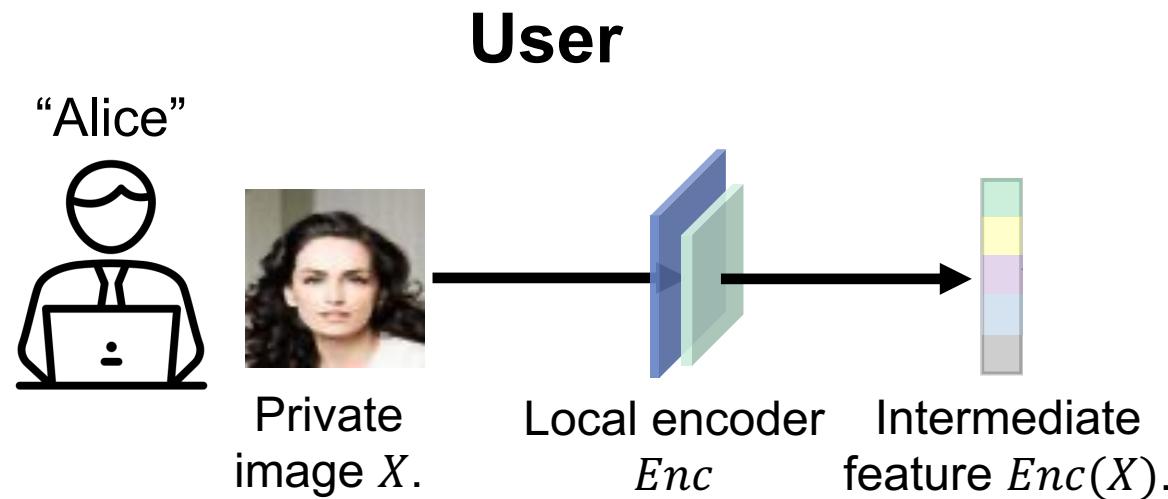


Evaluation

# Threat Model

## Black-box inversion attack:

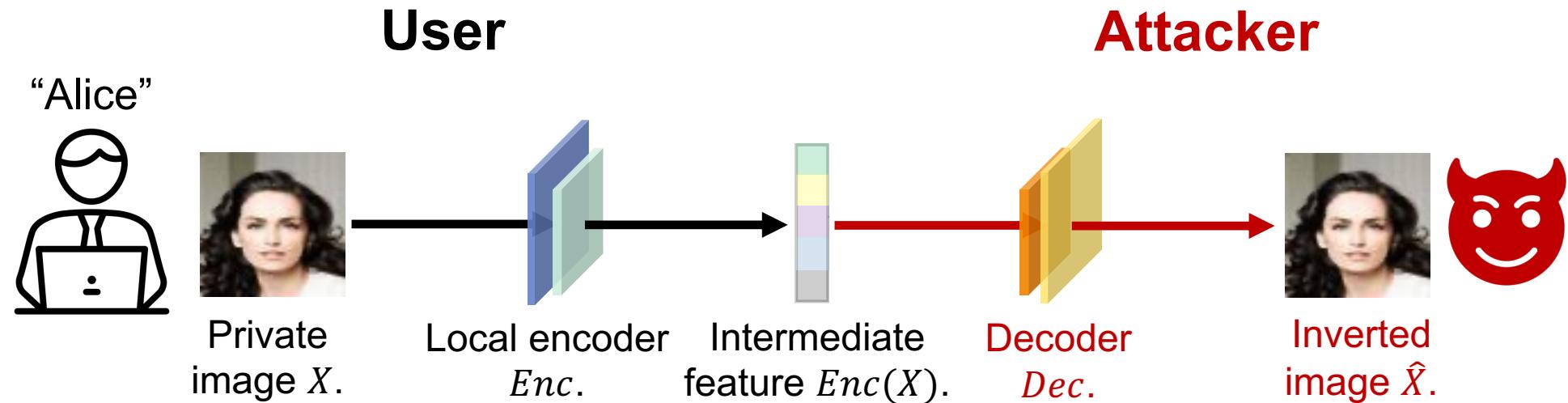
- Access to public images; query access to the local  $Enc$ .



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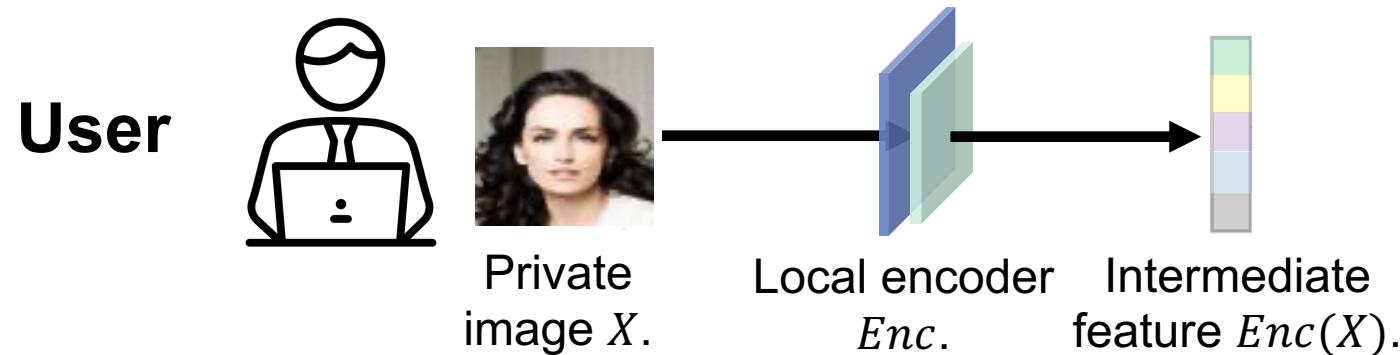
- Access to public images; query access to the local  $Enc$ .
- Train a decoder network  $Dec$ .



# Threat Model

## White-box inversion attack:

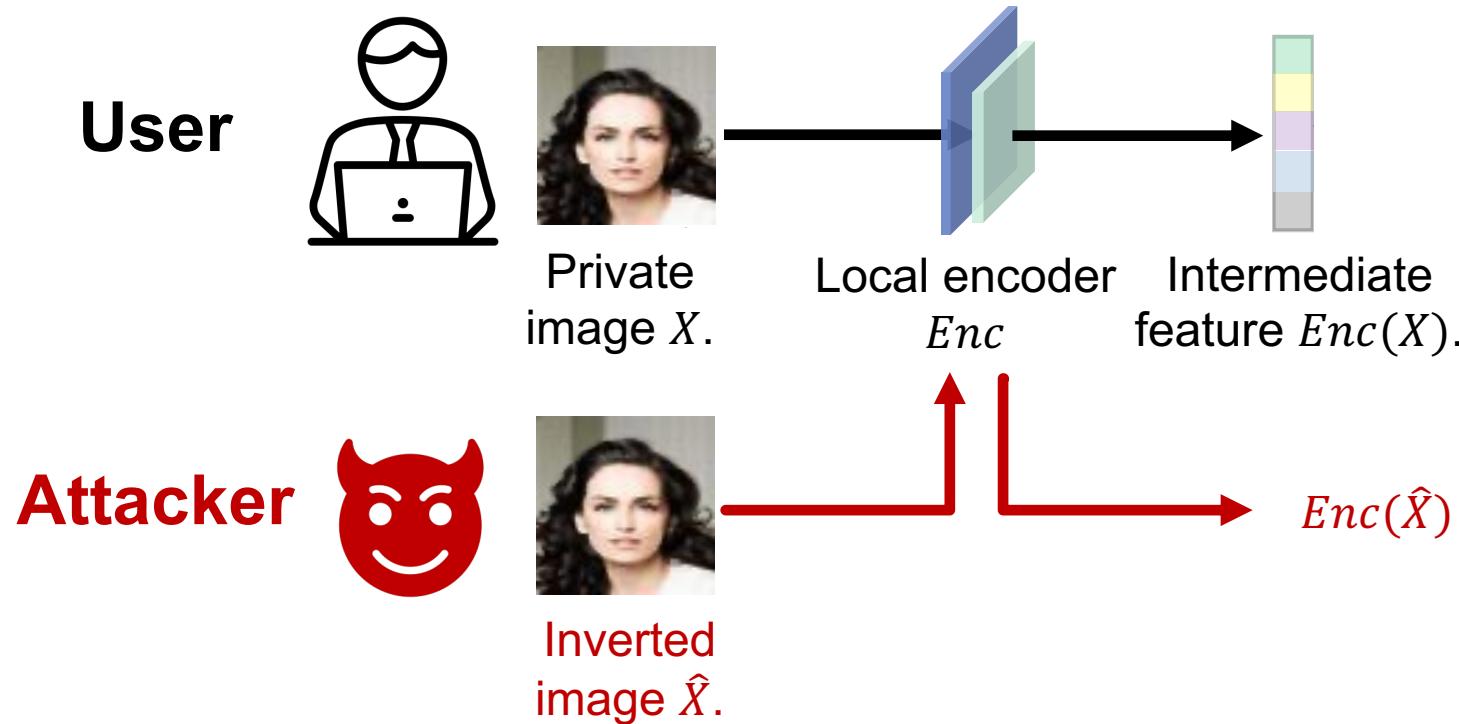
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# Threat Model

## White-box inversion attack:

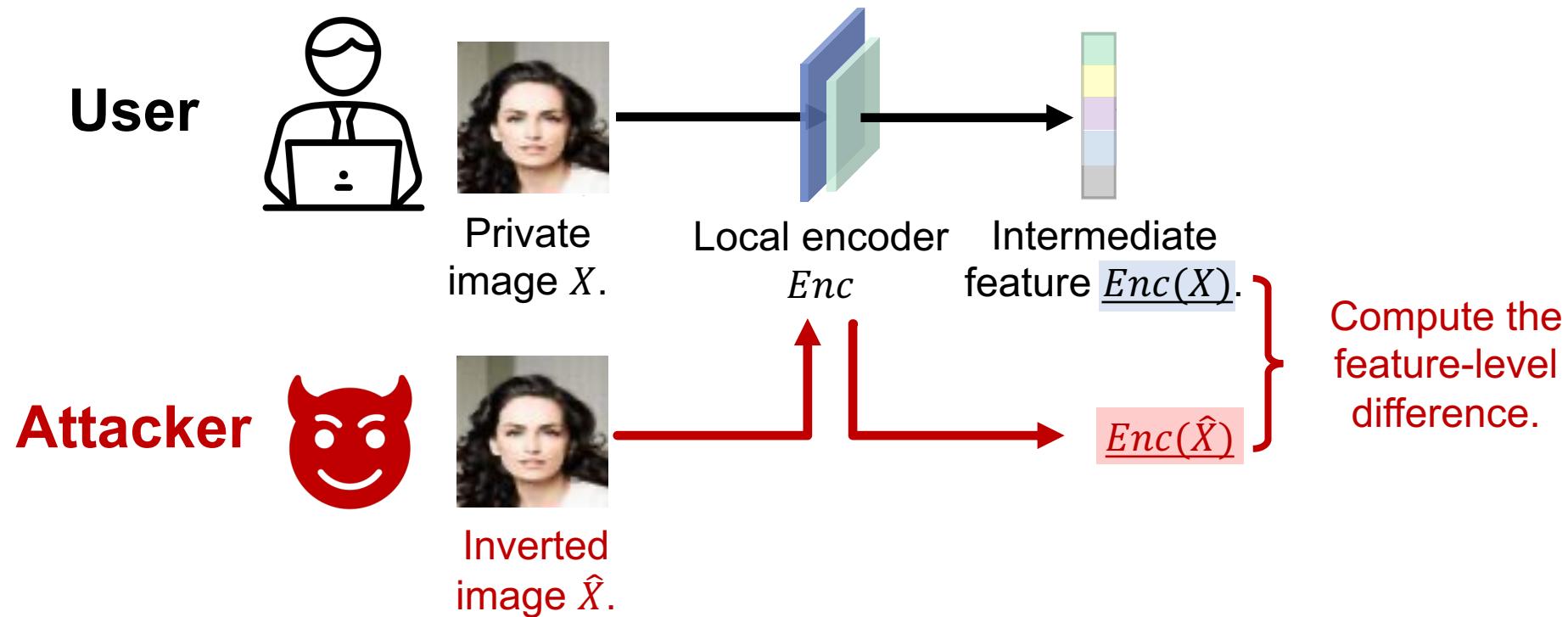
- Access to public images; access to the local  $Enc$  and its parameters.
- Optimize over the inverted image.



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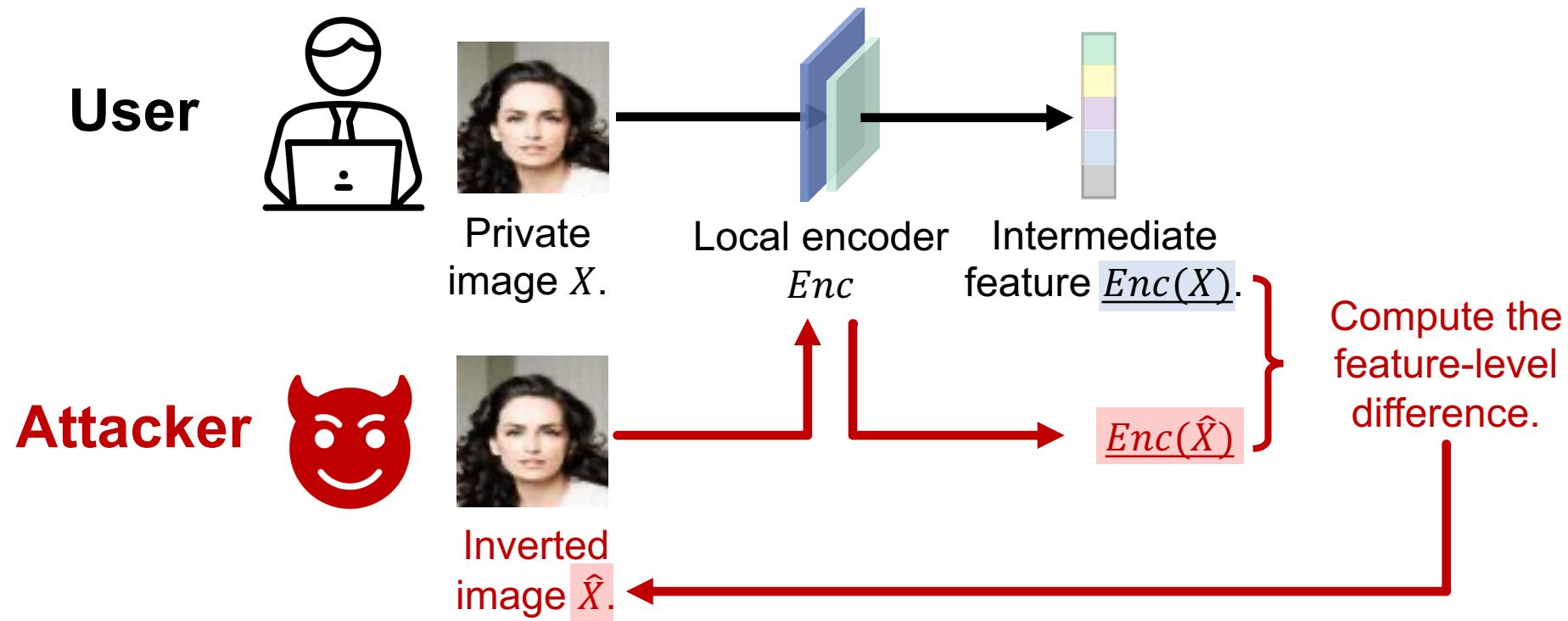
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- Access to public images; access to the local  $Enc$  and its parameters.
- Optimize over the inverted image.

+ Pretrained public generator  $G$ .

*In practice:*

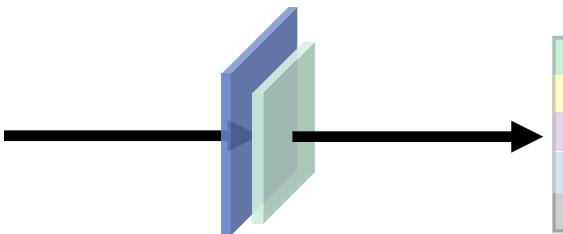
Attacker



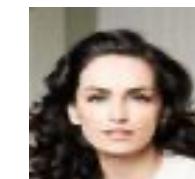
User



Private  
image  $X$ .



Local encoder      Intermediate  
 $Enc$                   feature  $\underline{Enc}(X)$ .



Inverted  
image  $\hat{X}$ .

$Enc$

$\underline{Enc}(\hat{X})$

Compute the  
feature-level  
difference.

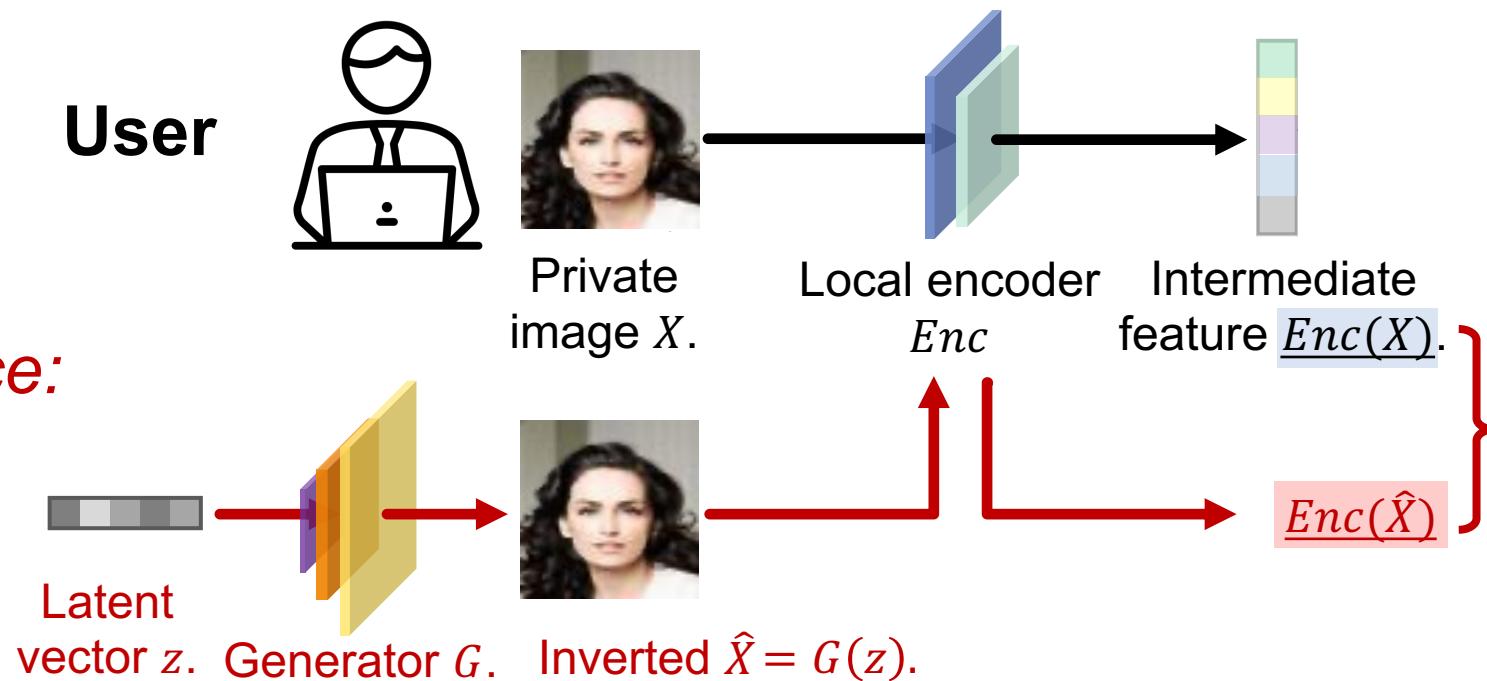
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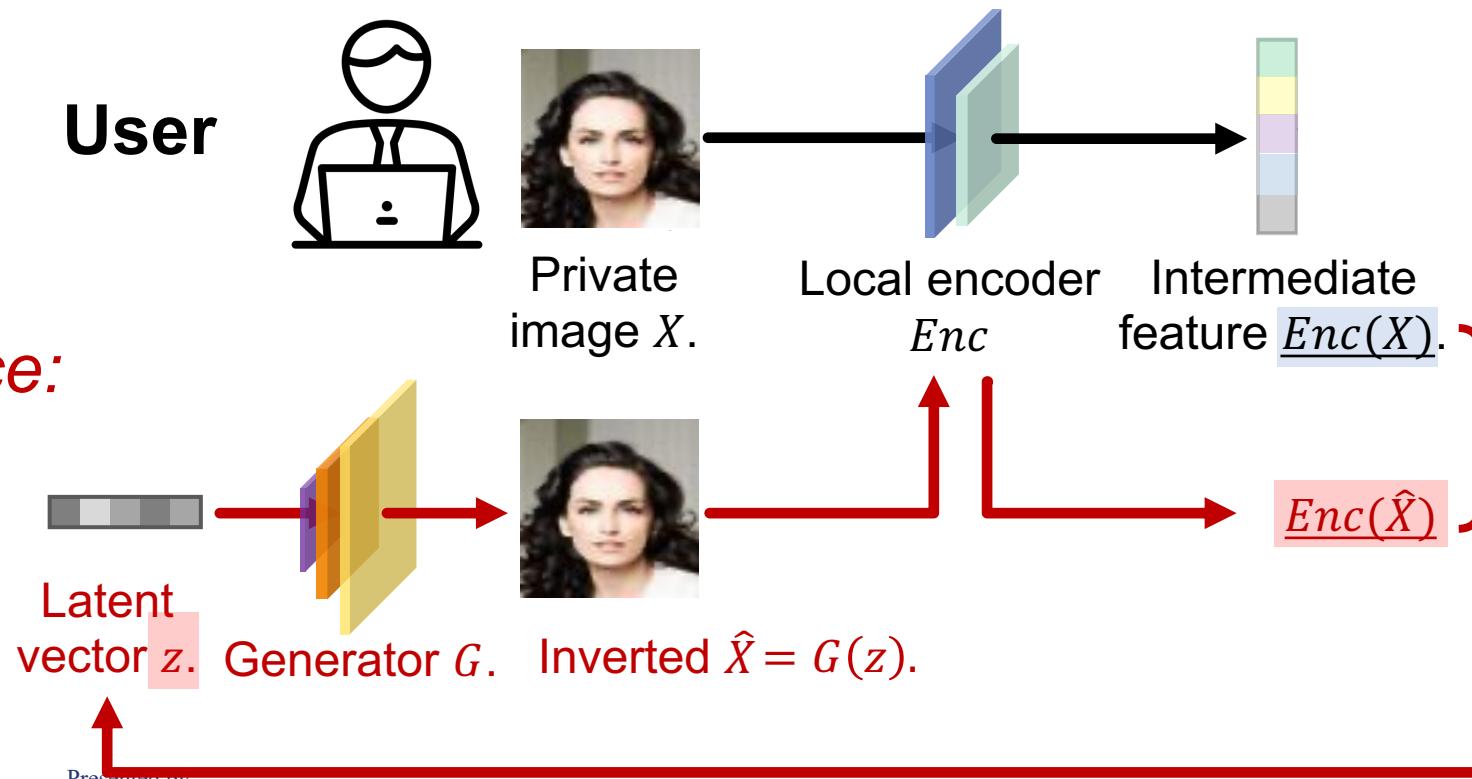
# Threat Model

## White-box inversion attack:

- Access to public images; access to the local  $Enc$  and its parameters.
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*In practice:*



# Defense Intuitions

**Privacy goal:** Inverted image does not look like Alice.

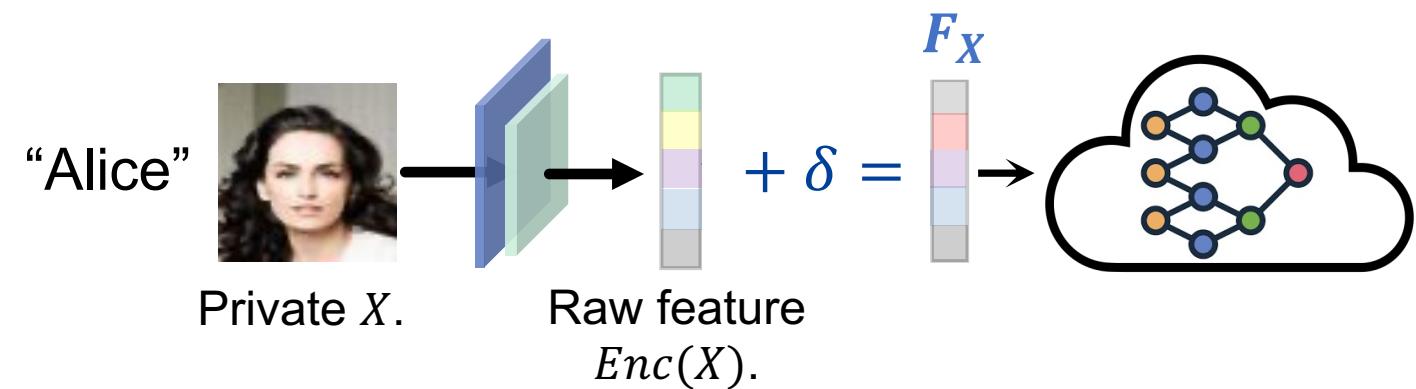
**Utility goal:** Feature completes cloud tasks well.

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**General intuition:** Perturb the feature.



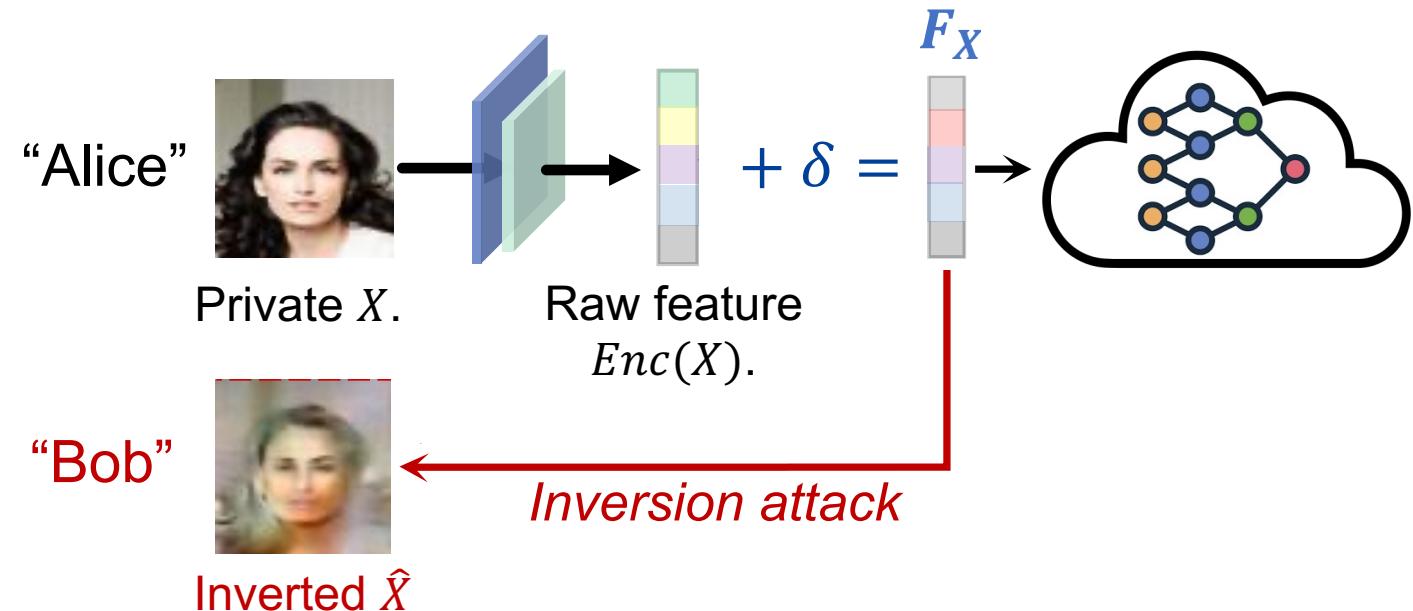
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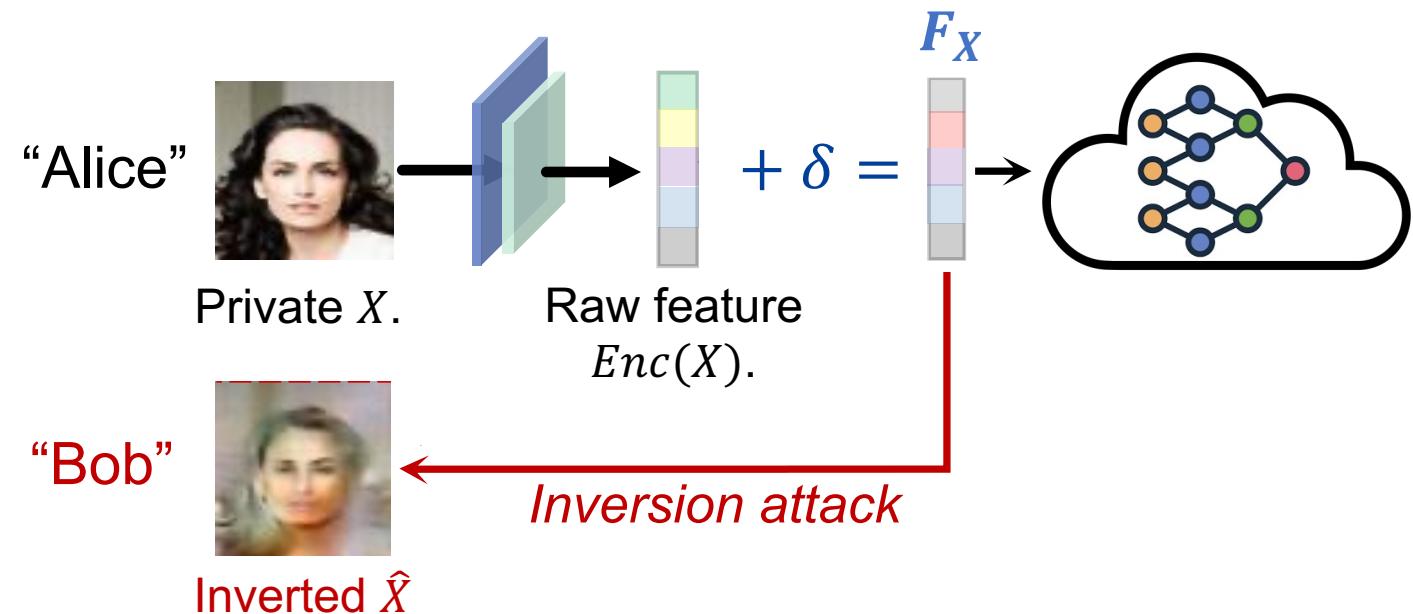
# Defense Intuitions

**Privacy goal:** Inverted image does not look like Alice.

**Utility goal:** Feature completes cloud tasks well.

**General intuition:** Perturb the feature.

- (*Privacy*) Mislead a simulated inversion attacker.
- (*Utility*) Keep the perturbation small.



# Defense Intuitions (Utility)

**Utility loss:**  $L_{utility}$  = perturbation magnitude.

**Preserves utility:** Cloud model is robust against minor perturbation.

**Utility task agnostic:**  $L_{utility}$  independent from cloud model

→ deployable as a plug-in.

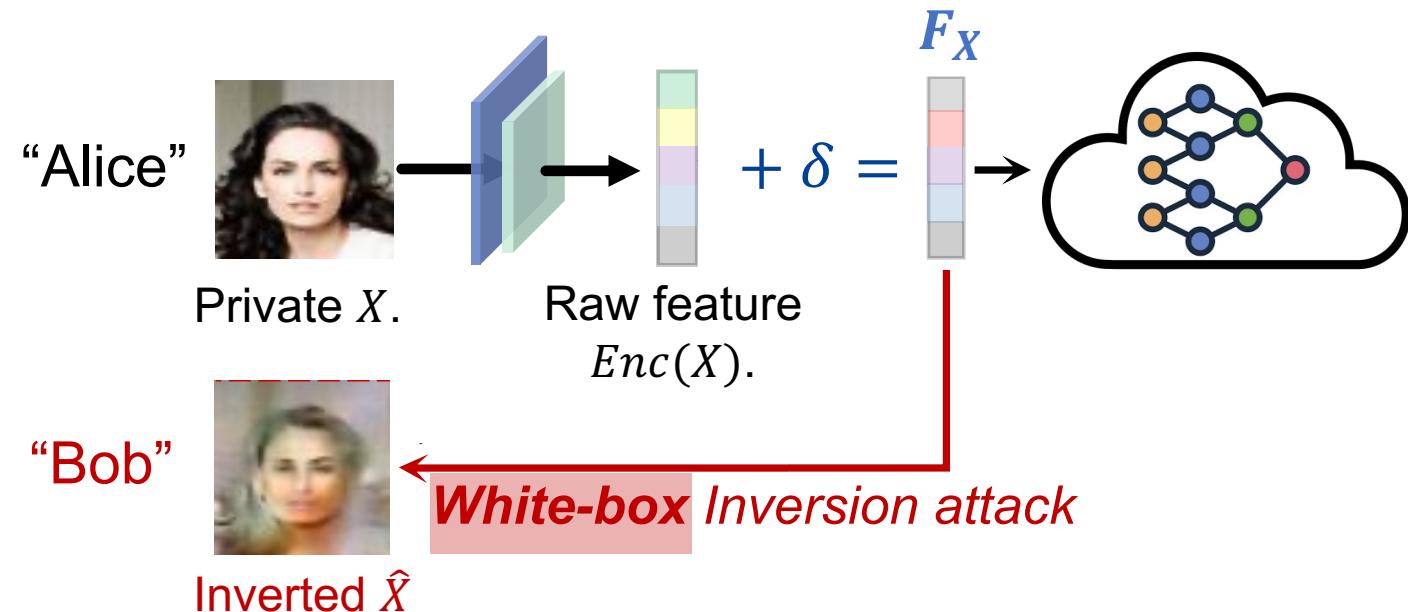
# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

**Challenge 1:** *Robust against both black- & white-box inversion.*

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

**Challenge 1:** Robust against both black- & white-box inversion.

**Intuition:** White-box attack is stronger; simulate a **white-box attacker**.



# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

**Challenge 2:** *Robust against adaptive attacks.*

*Attacker tries to bypass a fixed defense.*

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**Previous defense:** Push the attacker away from the private image.

“Stay Away”

Tit for tat between attacker & defense.

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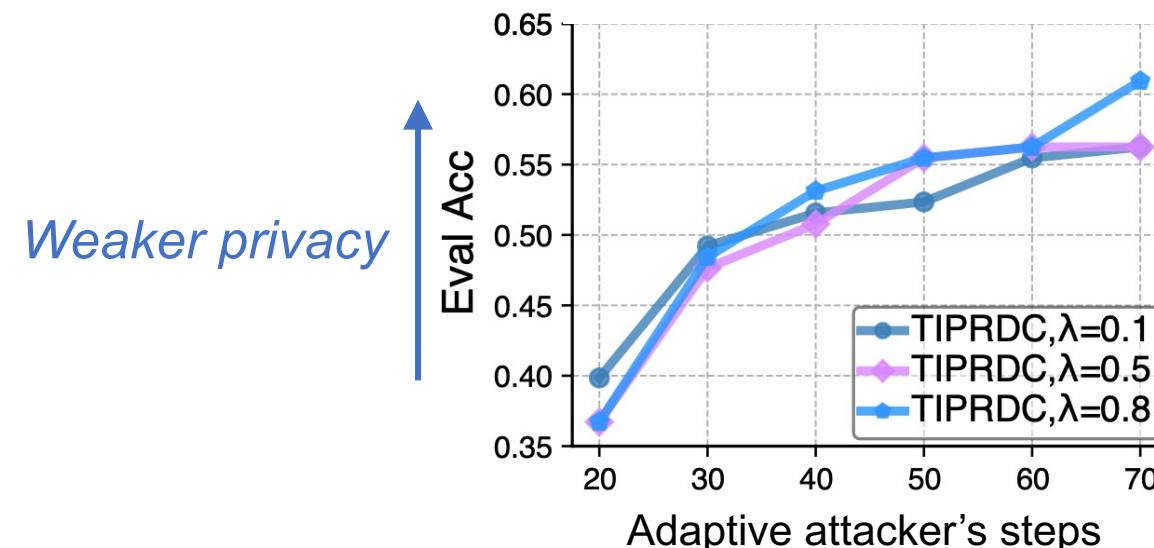
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Why is “Stay Away” vulnerable against adaptive attacks?

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

A game view:

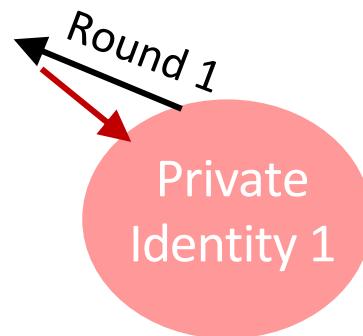
Attack →  
Defense →



# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

A game view:  
Attack →  
Defense →

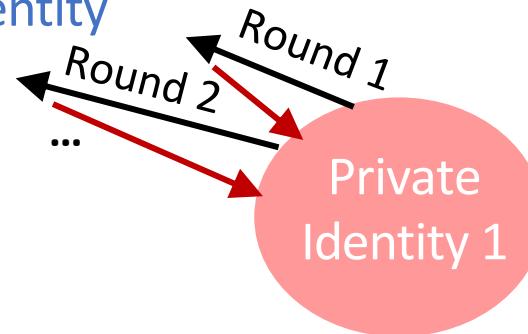
Conventional:  
stay away from  
private identity



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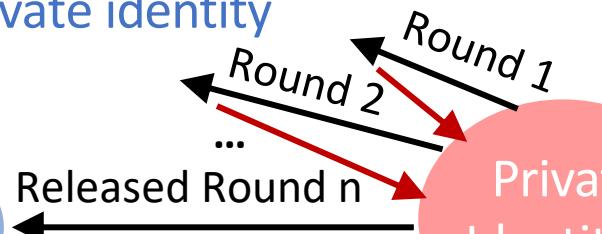
Attack →  
Defense →

Conventional:

stay away from  
private identity

Released  
Feature 1

Private  
Identity 1



*A stationary point.*

*But not equilibrium (there is NO equilibrium in reality).*

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

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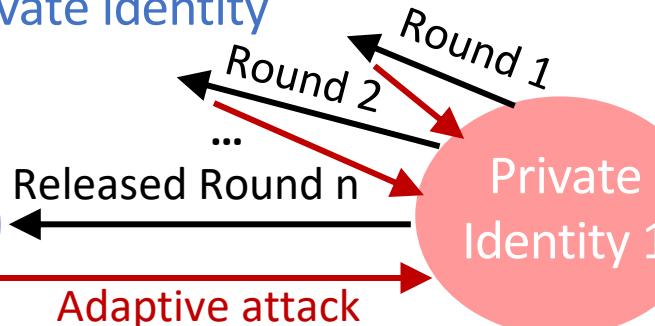
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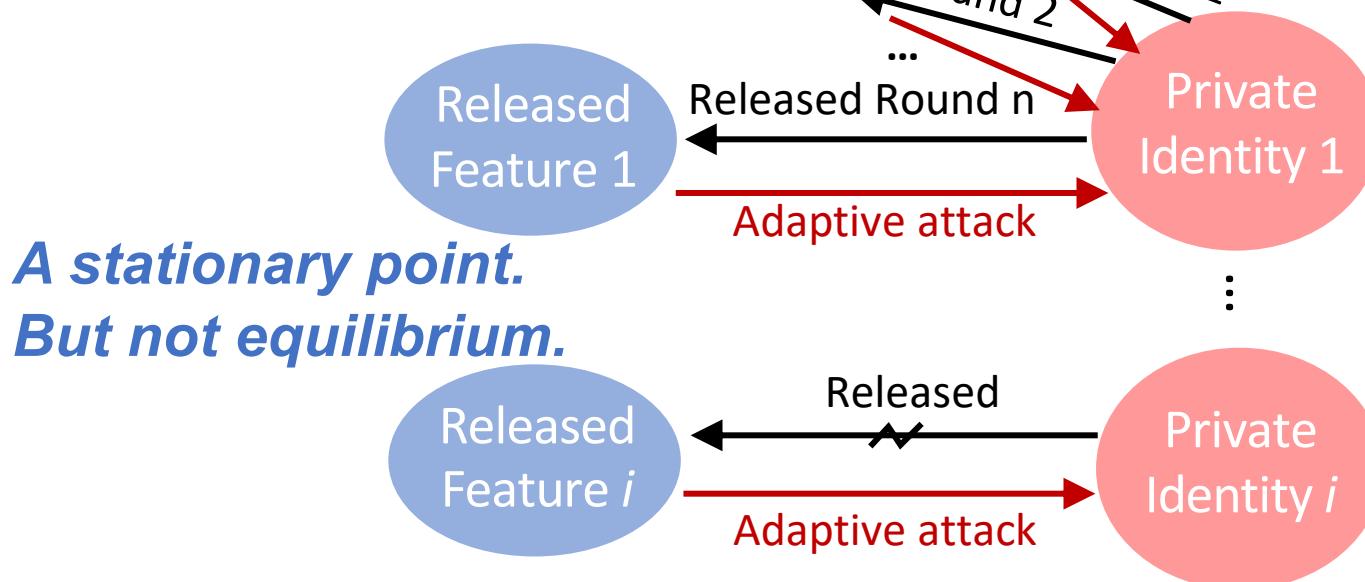
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# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

## Challenge 2: *Robust against adaptive attacks.*

*Attacker tries to bypass a fixed defense.*

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**Our Intuition:** Limit attacker's **knowledge gain** from the exposed feature.

“Get Close”

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“Get Close”

= **Prior** vs. **Posterior**

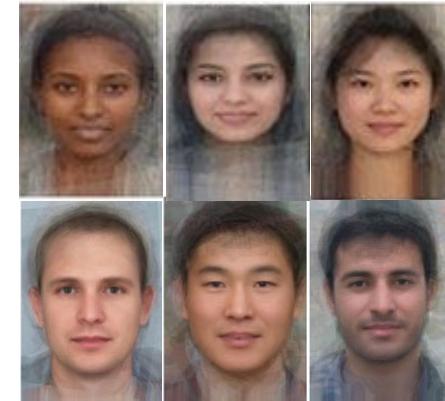
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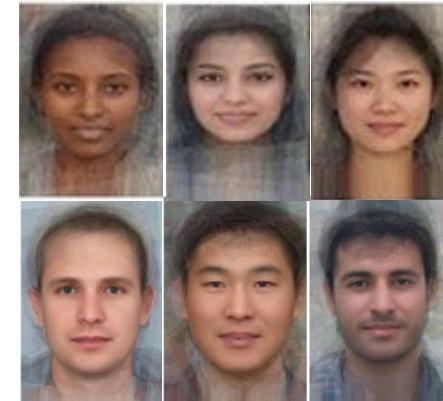
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We use:  $G(z_{random})$

↓                      →  
Public generator    Random latent vectors



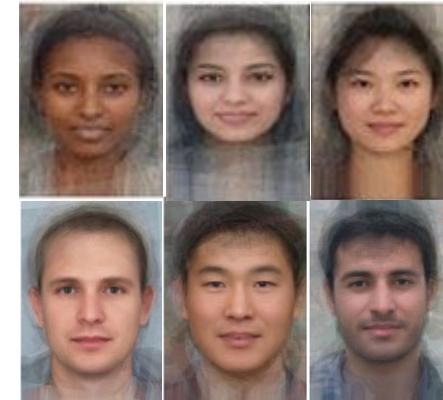
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**Posterior:** Image  $\hat{X}$  inverted from feature  $F_X$ .

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy)

“Get Close”

: Minimize distance between prior & posterior.

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We use: Earth-Mover distance *EMD*.

**Privacy loss:**  $L_{privacy} = EMD$  between inverted image  $\hat{X}$  & average face.

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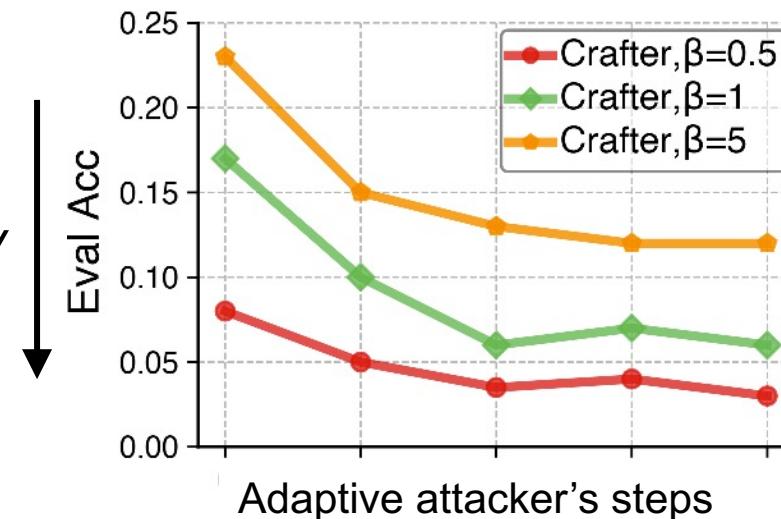
Find a feature perturbation that 1) is small;  
2) draws inverted image close to  
public average faces.

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy+Utility)



: Minimize distance between prior & posterior.

*Stronger privacy*



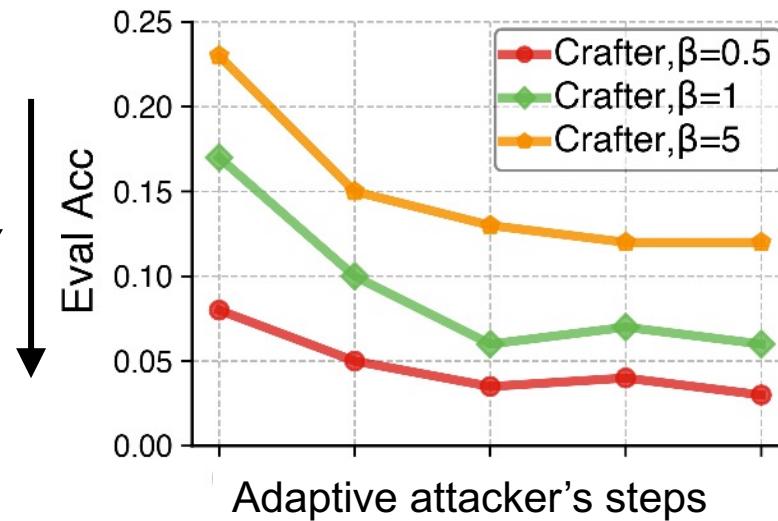
***Adaptive attackers can only get worse!***

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy+Utility)

“Get Close”

: Minimize distance between prior & posterior.

*Stronger privacy*



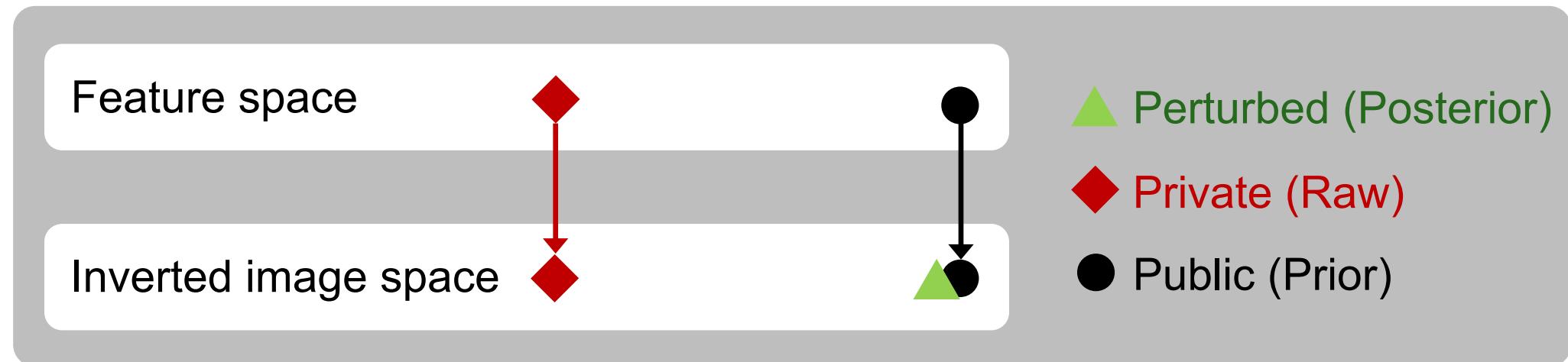
Why is “Get Close” robust against adaptive attacks?

# Defense Intuitions (Privacy+Utility)



Find a feature perturbation that

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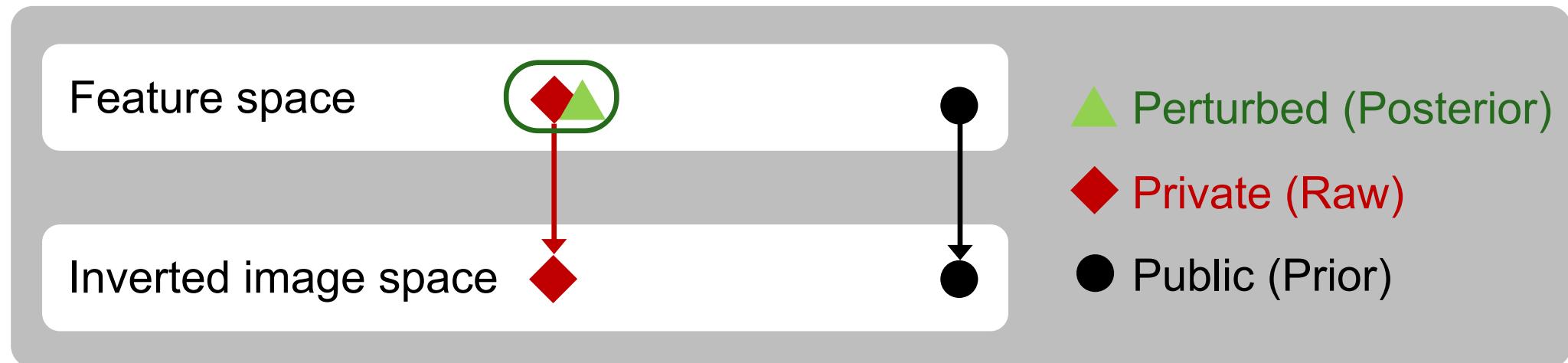


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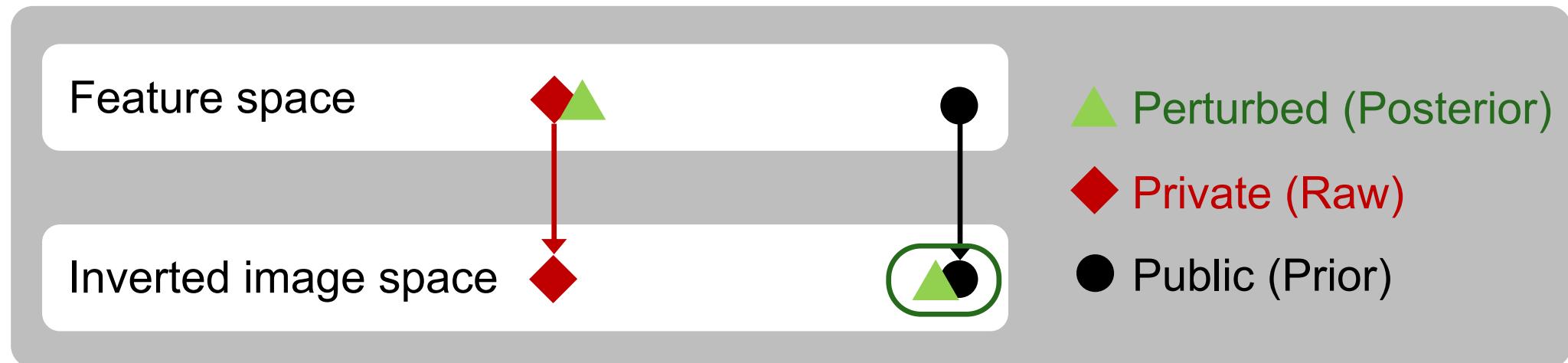


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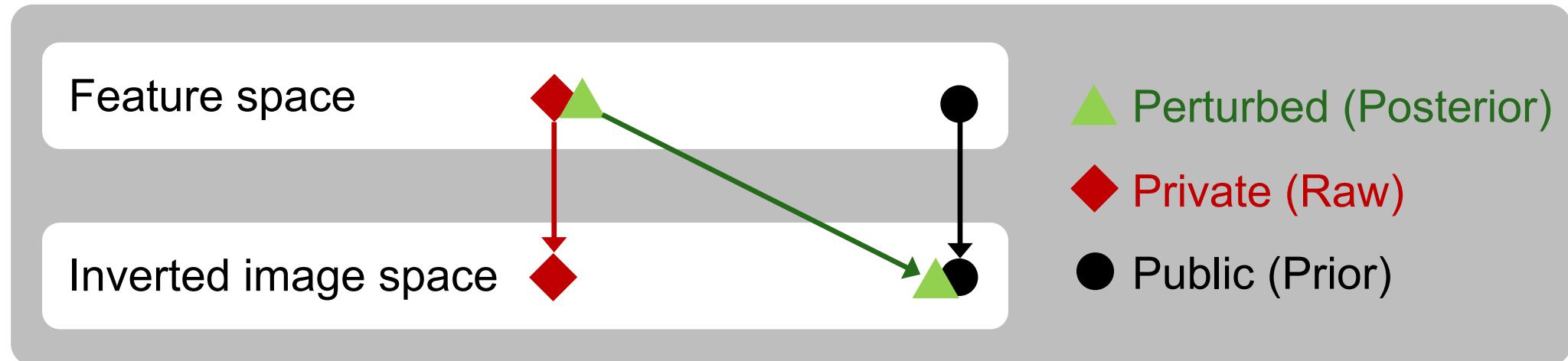
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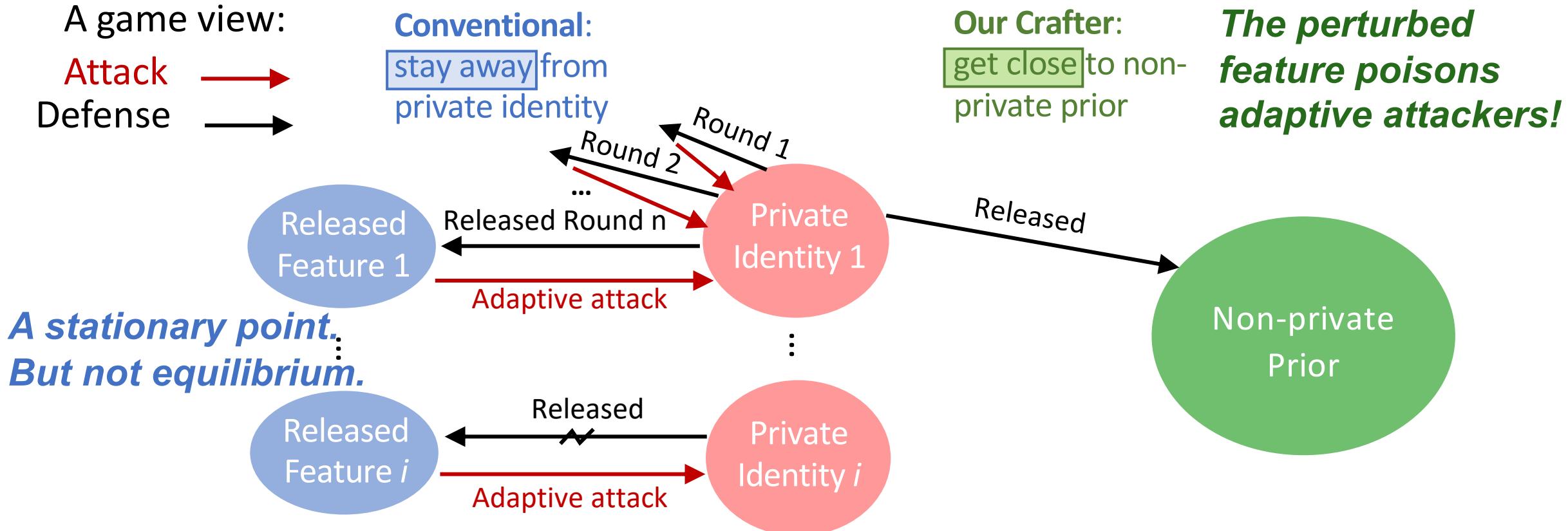
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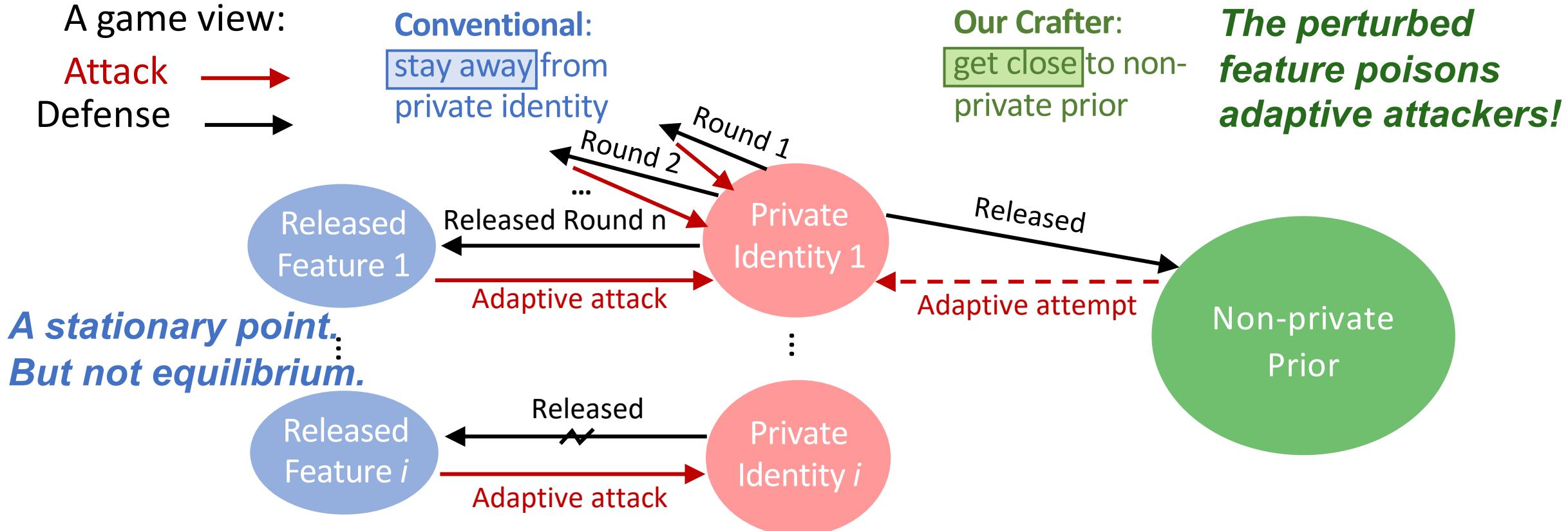
*The perturbed  
feature poisons  
adaptive attackers!*



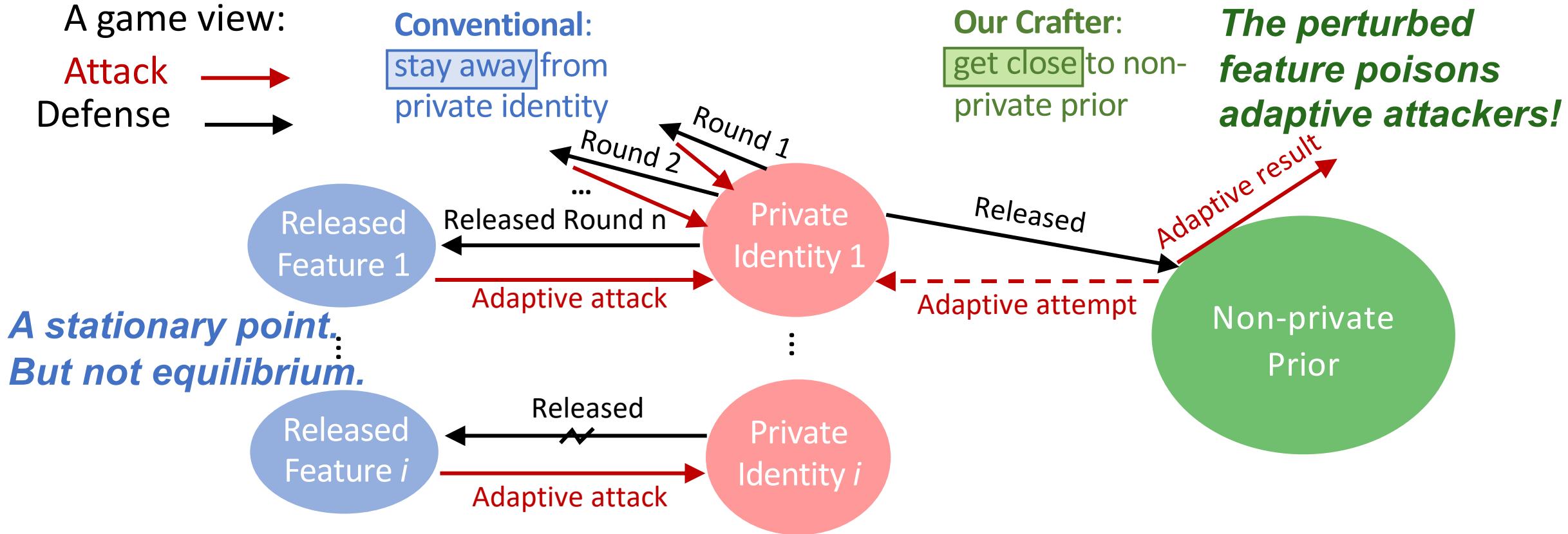
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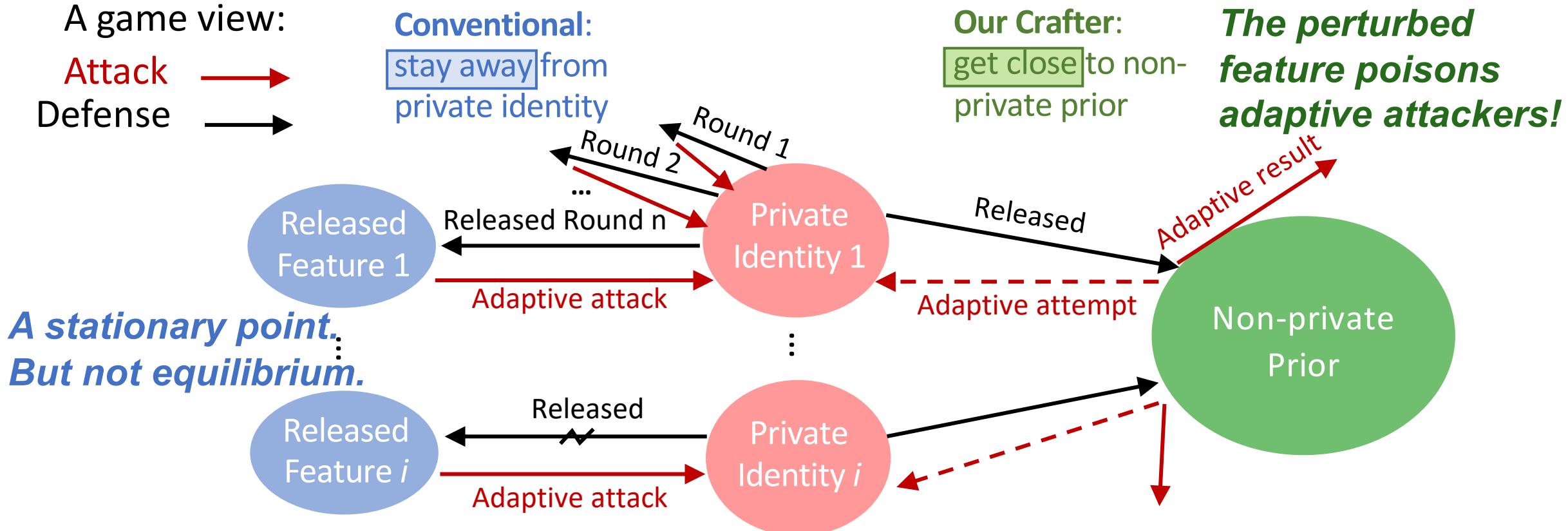
# Crafter



# Crafter



# Crafter



# Evaluation

## Datasets

### CelebA (64\*64)

- 40 binary utility attributes

### LFW (128\*128)

- 10 binary utility attributes

### VGGFace2 (112\*112)

- 5-class hair color utility attribute

## Baselines

### *AdvLearn*

- Deployment scenario

### *Disco*

- Deployment scenario
- Improves upon AdvLearn with a pruner

### *TIPRDC*

- Development scenario

Xiao et al. "Adversarial learning of privacy-preserving and task-oriented representations ", 2020

Singh et al. "Disco: Dynamic and invariant sensitive channel obfuscation for deep neural networks ", 2021

Li et al. "Tiprdc: task-independent privacy-respecting data crowdsourcing framework for deep learning with anonymized intermediate representations ", 2020

# Evaluation

## Tradeoff parameter.

- **AdvLearn:** {0.1, 0.5, 0.8}
- **Disco:** {0.2, 0.6, 0.8}
- **TIPRDC:** {0.1, 0.5, 0.8}

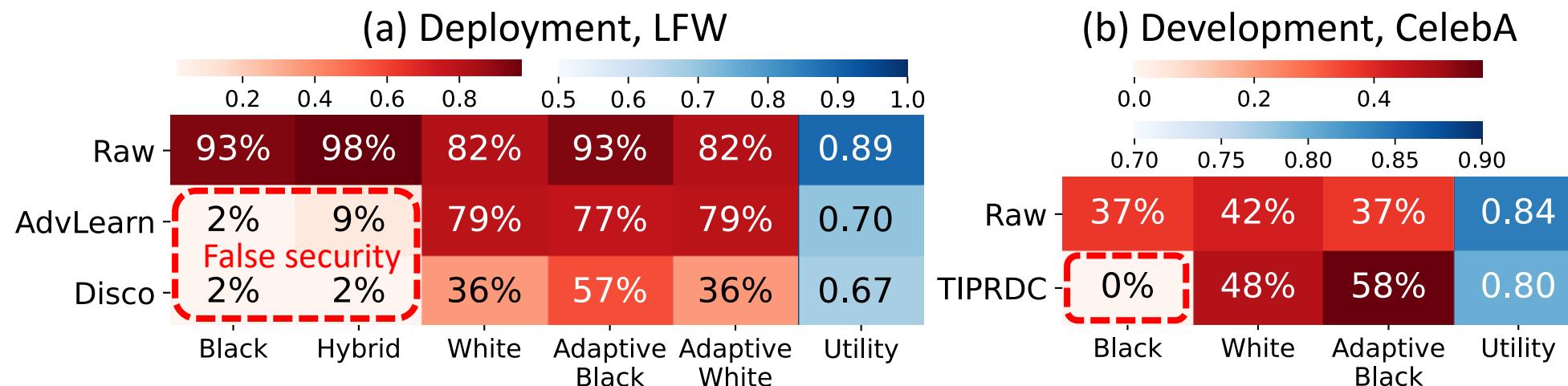
## Privacy Metrics.

- **Eval Acc:** identification accuracy of the inverted images.
- **Feature Similarity:** cosine similarity between of the raw & inverted images.
- **SSIM:** pixel-level resemblance between the raw & inverted images.
- **Human study:** 35 human feedbacks, Macro-F1 score of reidentification.

# Evaluation

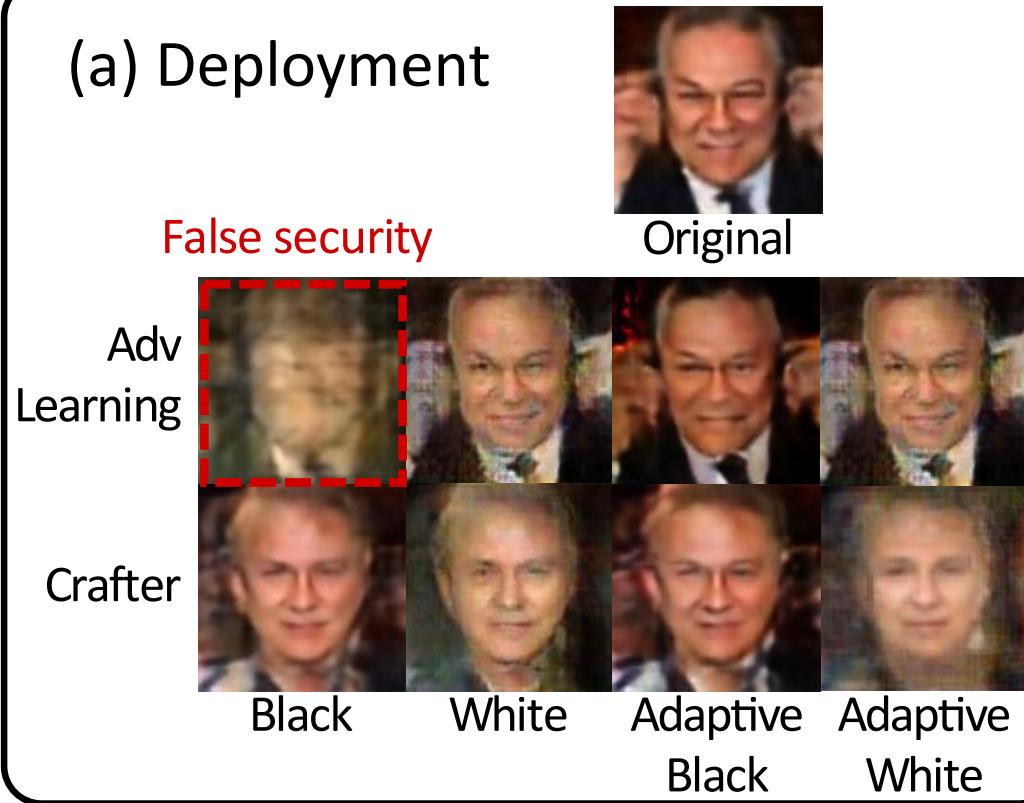
**Baselines:** vulnerable against adaptive attacks → **false security**.

- Crafter:**
- robust against both back- & white-box inversion,
  - robust against adaptive inversions
  - maintains high utility performance.

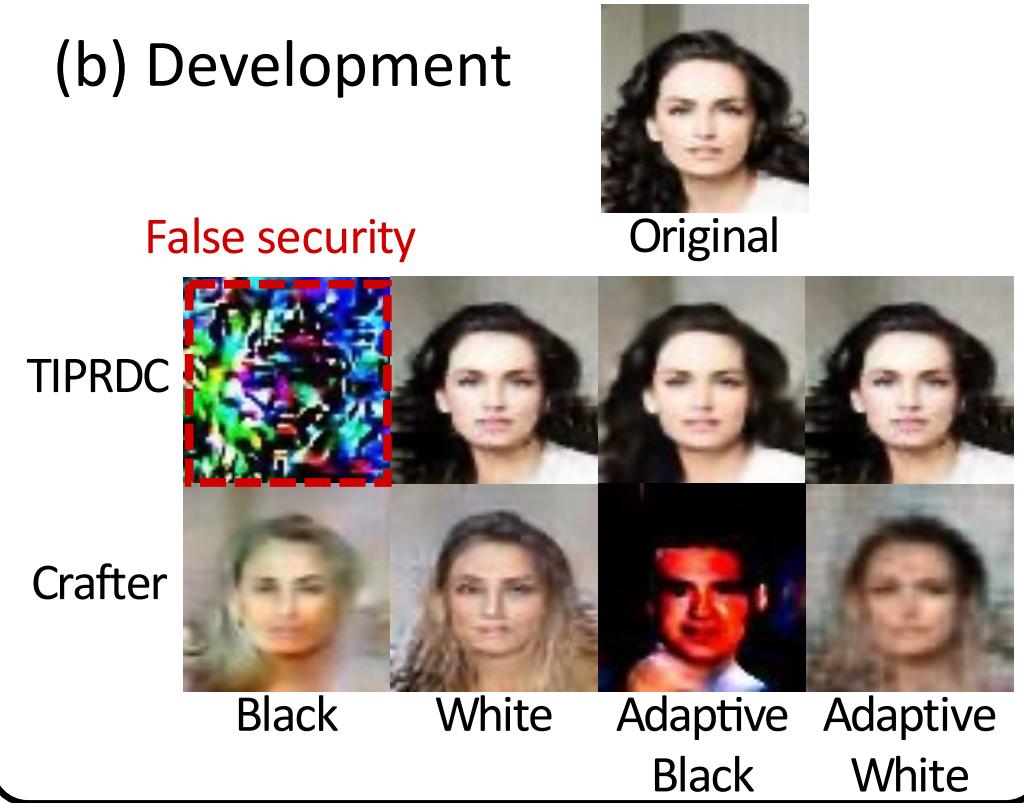


# Evaluation

(a) Deployment



(b) Development



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Code Available @GitHub ➡

