



# SITCH v3.3

Inexpensive, coordinated GSM anomaly detection

# About Me

- 2000: Technology career started (I can get paid for this??)
- 2003: Started building with Linux
- Came to infosec through systems and network engineering, integration
- Security tools and integration (SIEM, HIDS, etc...)
- Current: R&D

# About You

- Background in systems and network engineering
- Interested in GSM threat detection
- Tinfoil hat not required... but not unwelcome!

“Thoughts and opinions expressed are my own. If you take anything away from this talk and act on it, I’m not responsible if you go to jail, become a pariah, or your dog stops liking you. Know the laws you’re subject to and operate accordingly.”

–Ashmastaflash

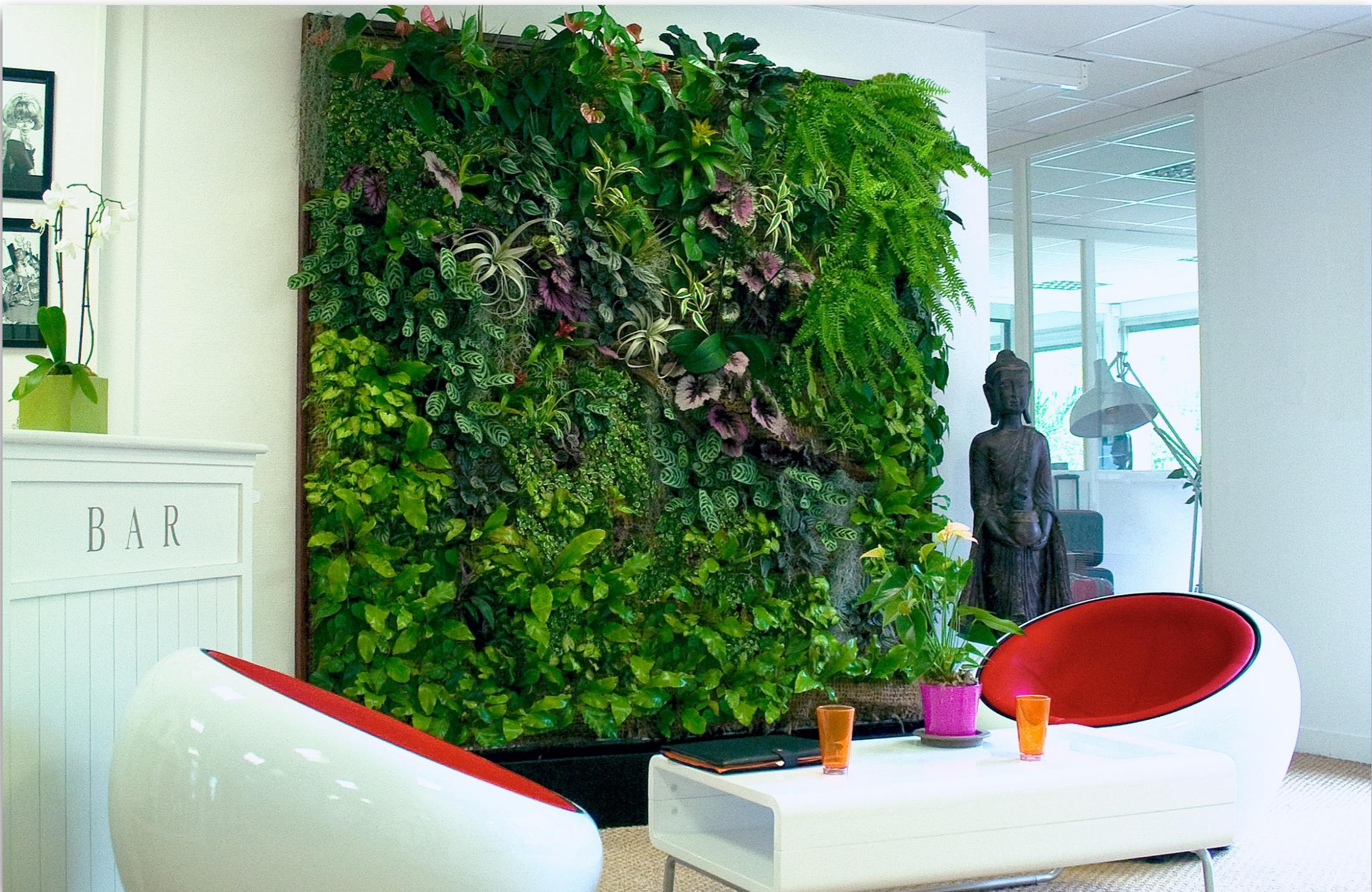
# What We're Covering Today

- Why Care?
- Current Threat and Detection Landscape
- Project Goals
- SITCH: MkI
- SITCH: MkII
- Service Architecture
- SITCH: MkIII
- Lessons Learned / Future Plans
- Prior Art
- Q&A

# Why Care?

- Invasions of privacy are bad, even when they're unnoticed.
- Industrial espionage costs money and jobs.

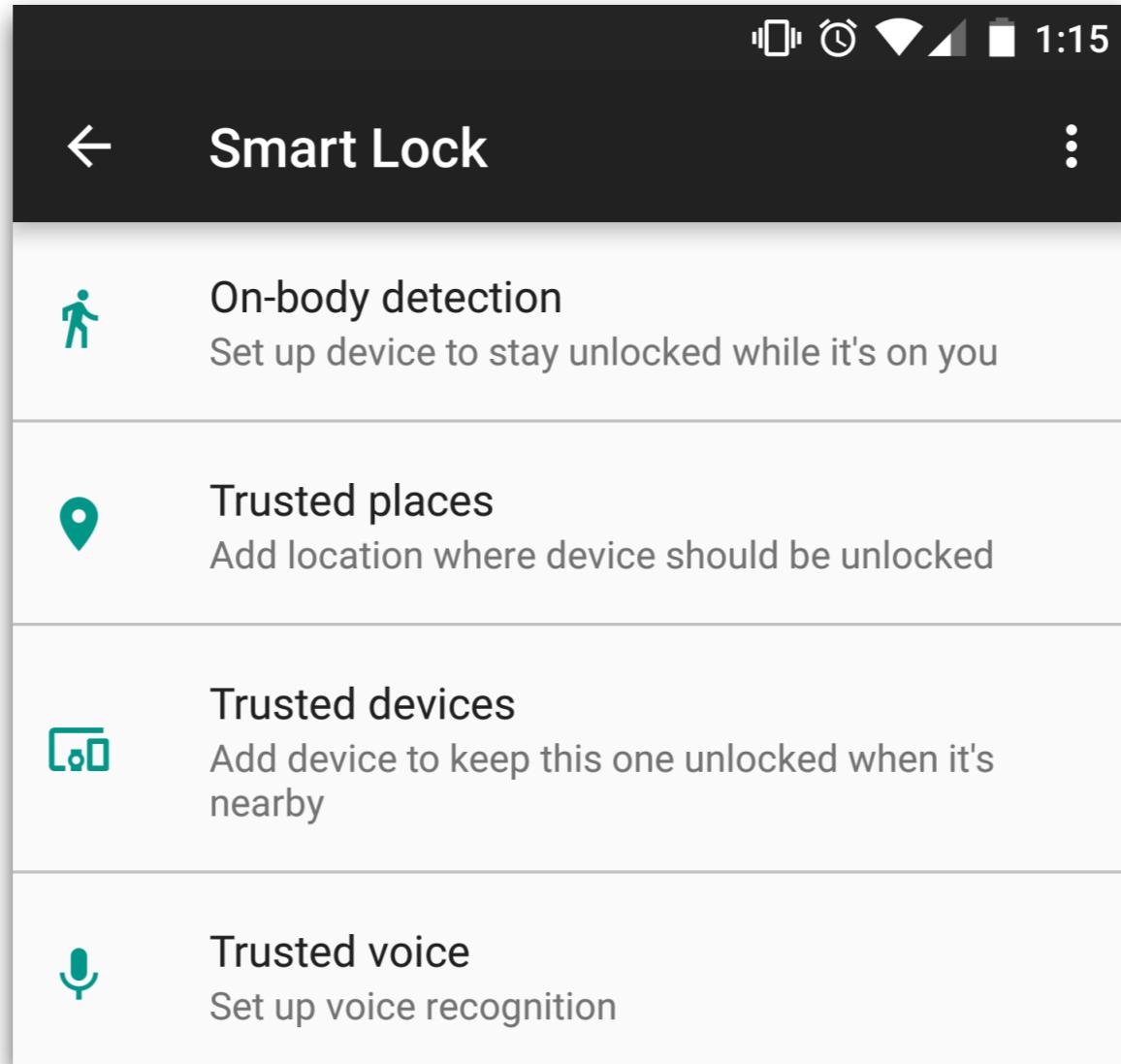
# WTF Is Under All That??



# Is Anybody Home?



# why would you even...



# ...think about geo-unlocking

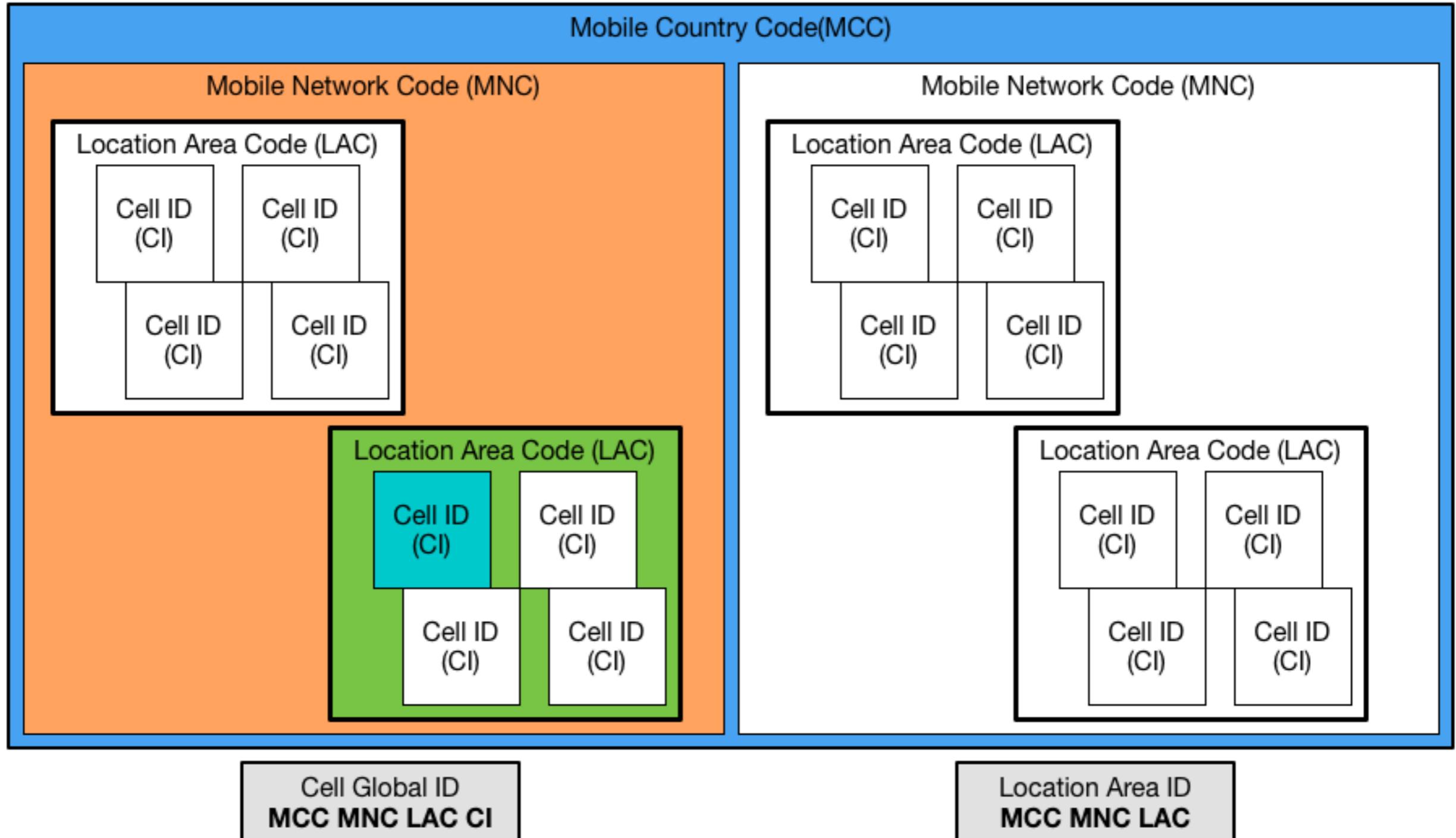
## DEF CON 23

- Low-cost GPS Simulator - GPS Spoofing by SDR
  - Lin Huanh, Qing Yang from Qihoo 360 Unicorn Team
  - Use SDR (USRP, BladeRF)

# Terminology

- Software Defined Radio (SDR): Using software to perform signal processing in concert with an adjustable-frequency RF receiver
- ARFCN: Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number
- BTS: Base Transceiver Station
- CGI: Cell Global ID (MCC + MNC + LAC + CI)
  - MCC: Mobile Country Code
  - MNC: Mobile Network Code
  - LAC: Location Area Code
  - CI: Cell ID
- LAI: Location Area ID (CGI minus Cell ID)
- IMSI: International Mobile Subscriber Identity

# GSM Addressing



# Threat and Detection Landscape

- Malicious Devices
- Indicators of Attack
- Existing Detection Methods

# Hacked Femtocell

Trusted part of provider's  
network

Your phone doesn't know  
it's evil



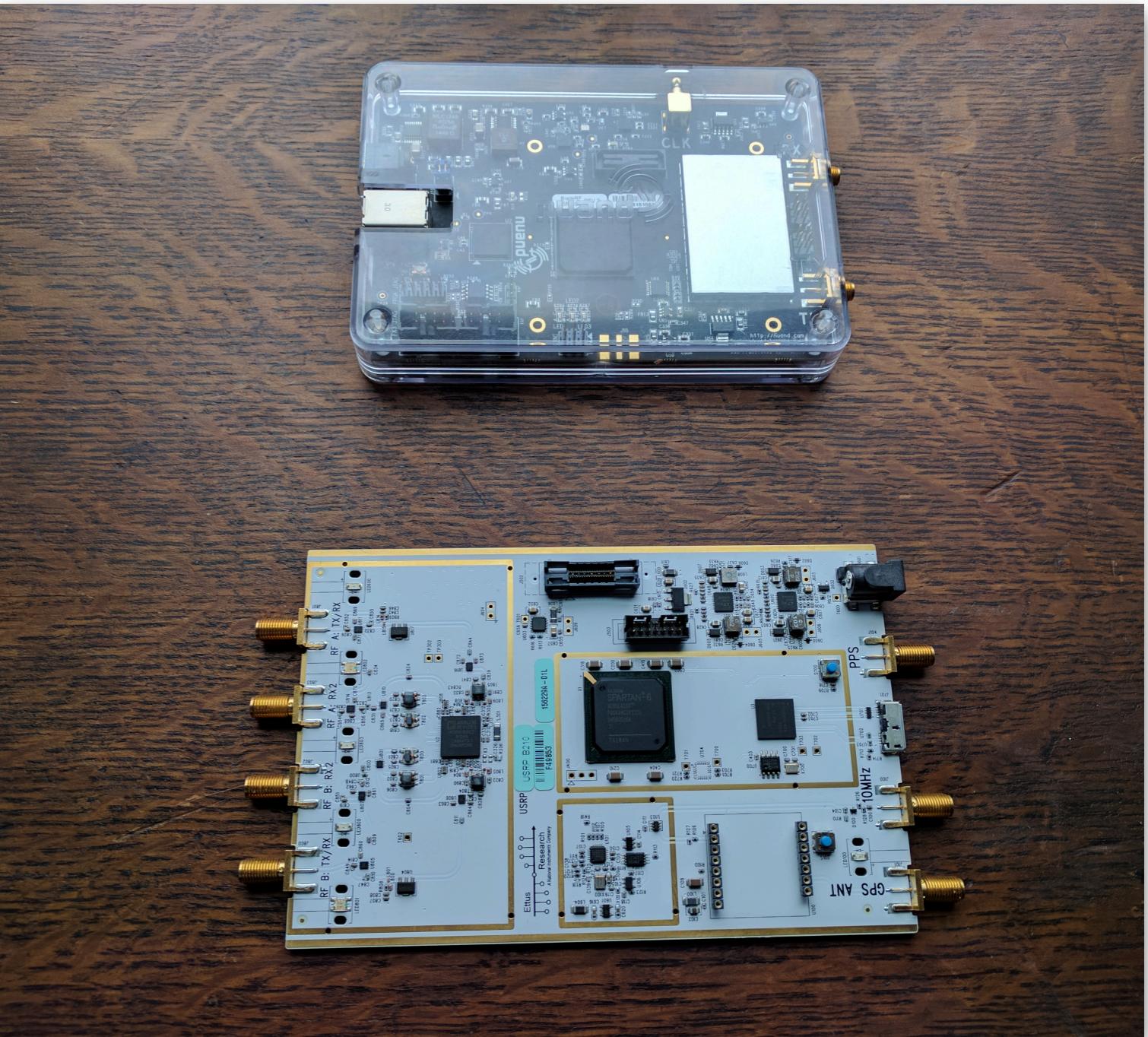
# Evil BTS

Handset will automatically  
associate, unable to  
assert trustworthiness



# GPS Simulator

Causes clock drift and  
incorrect location  
detection



# Indicators of Attack

- ARFCN over threshold
- ARFCN outside forecast
- Unrecognized CGI
- Gratuitous BTS re-association
- BTS detected outside of range

# Detection Methods

- Commercial Options:
  - Pwnie Express
  - Bastille Networks
- Open Source:
  - Fake BTS
  - AIMSICD
  - Femto Catcher

# Project Goals

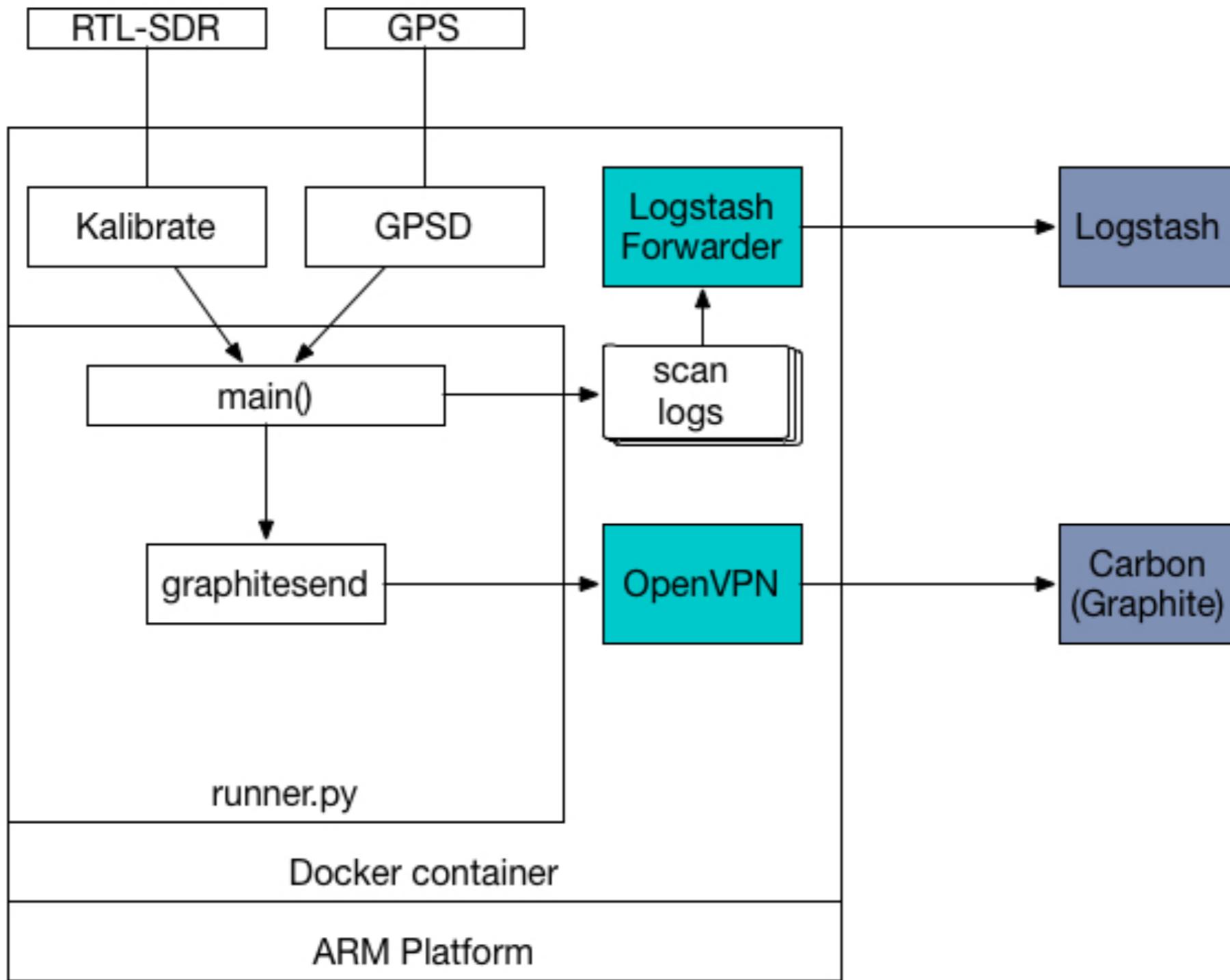
- Inexpensive
  - Cost < Price of malicious device
- Small footprint, low power requirements preferred
- Functional Targets: Indicators of Attack (IOA) Coverage
- Centrally managed software and configuration



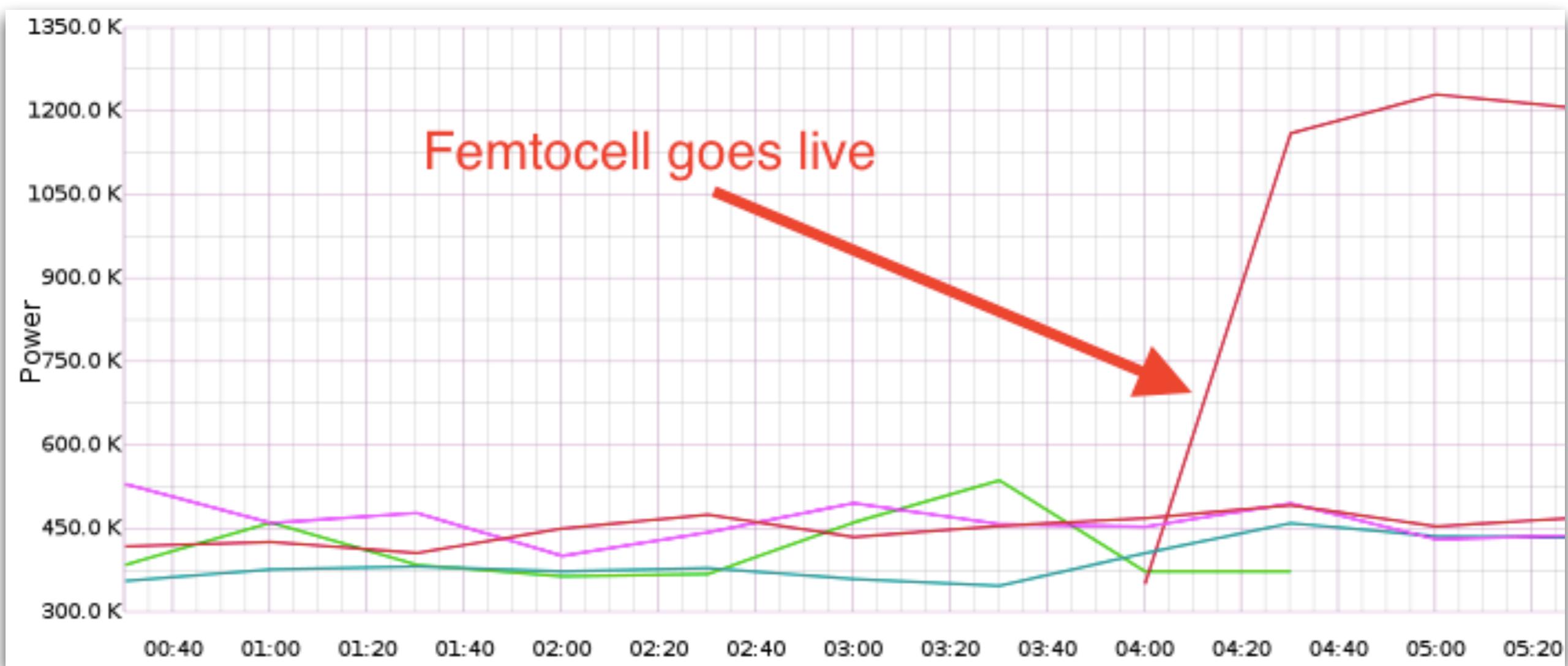
# SITCH

Situational Information from Telemetry and Correlated Heuristics

# SITCH Sensor MkI



# SITCH Sensor MkI



# MKI Results

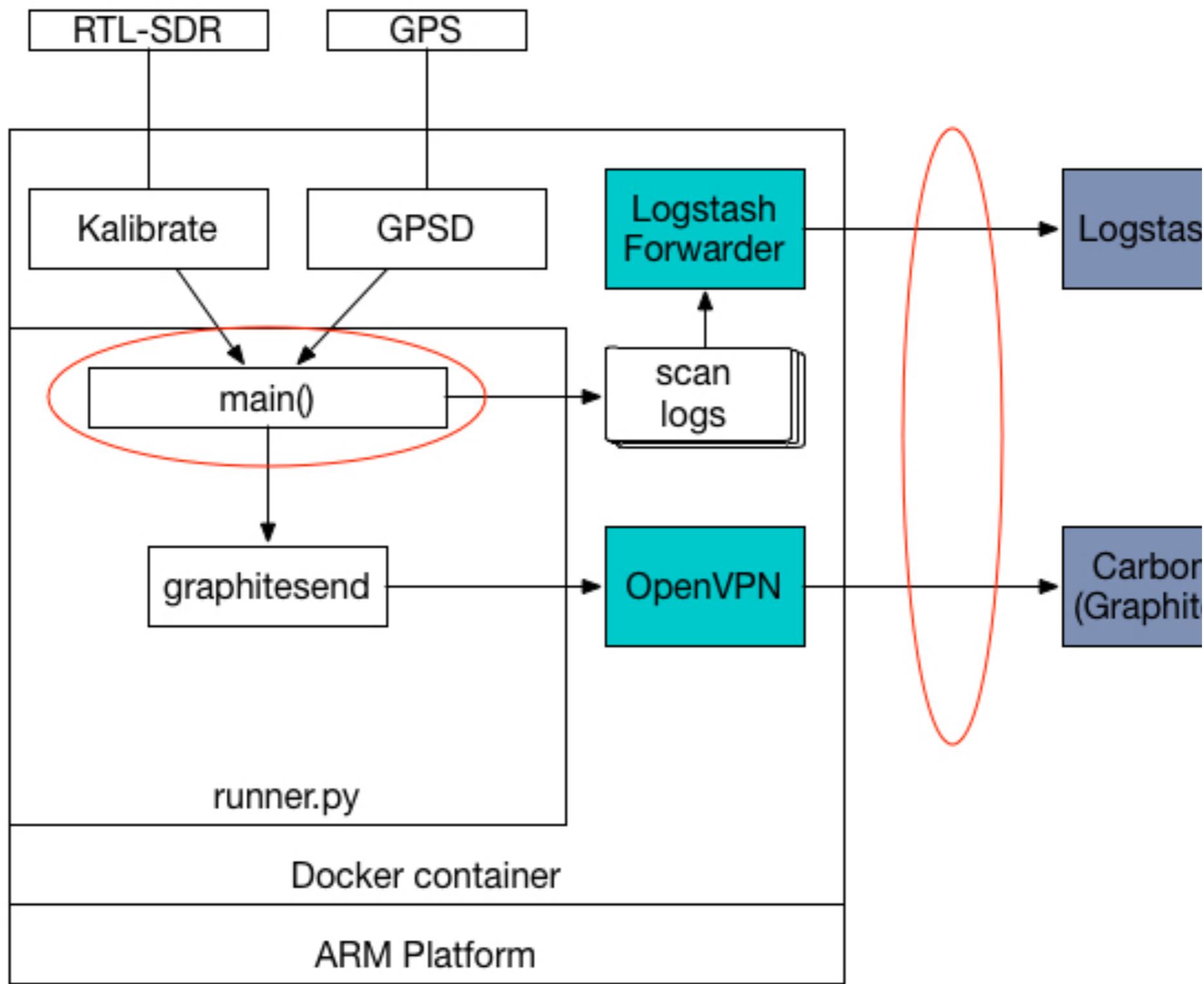
| Targets                       | MKI Coverage |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| ARFCN over threshold          | YES          |
| ARFCN outside of forecast     | YES          |
| Unrecognized CGI              | NO           |
| Gratuitous BTS re-association | NO           |
| BTS detected outside of range | NO           |
| Price                         | ~\$100       |

# Releasing MkI?

No.



# What's wrong with Mkl?



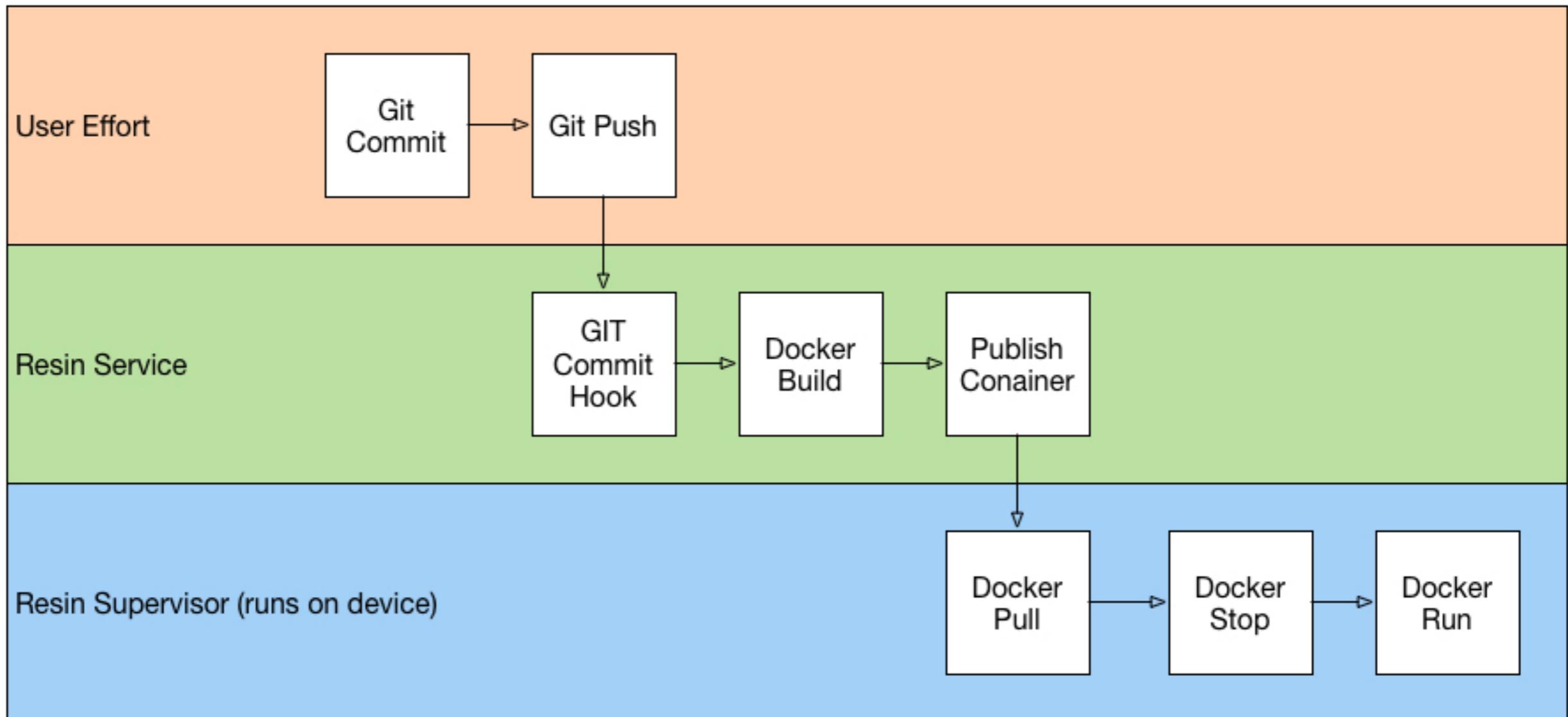
# Live demo?

- Friday the 13th
- Holiday weekend
- Last night: full moon



MakeAGIF.com

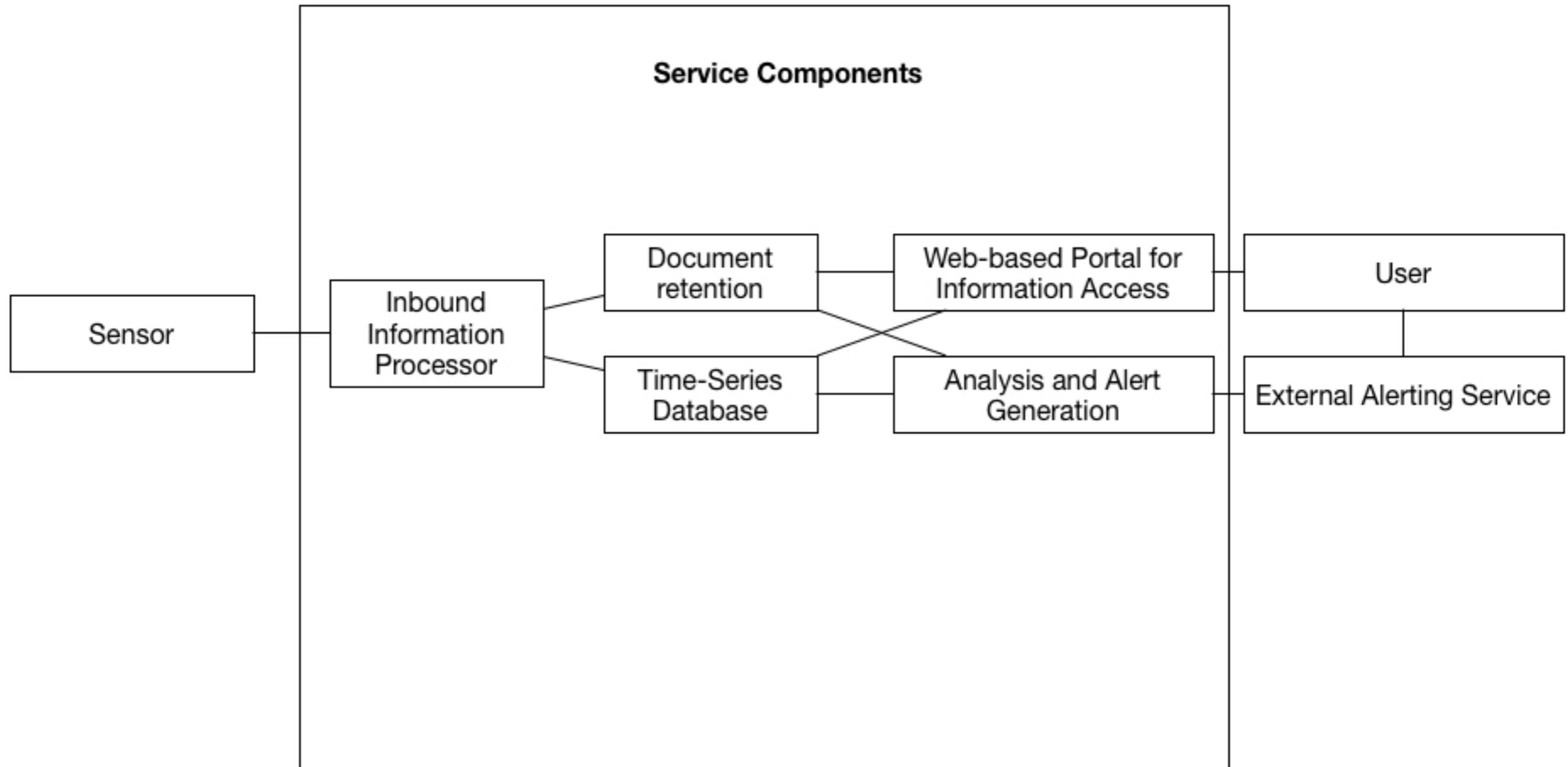
# Deployment Pipeline



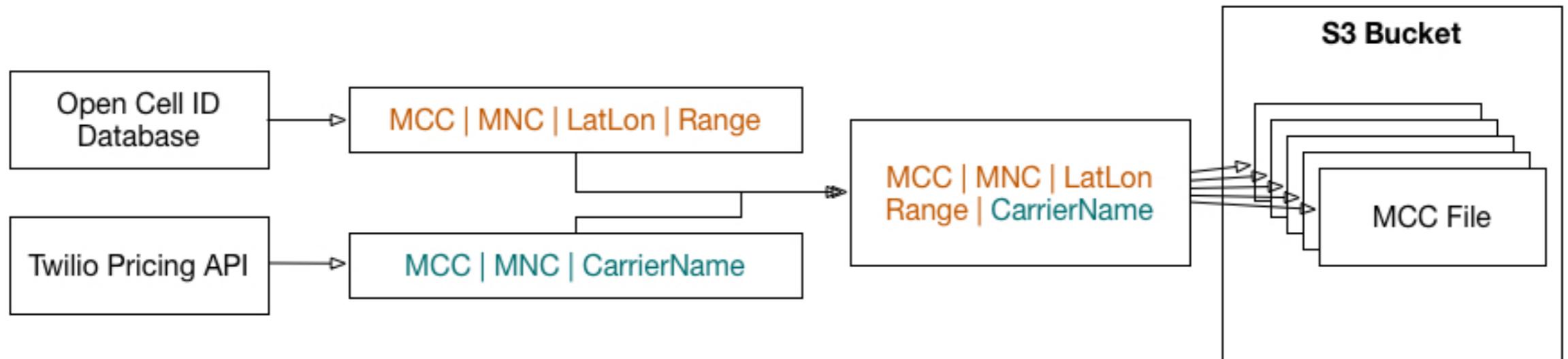
# Service-Side Software

| Tool                 | Purpose  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Logstash</b>      | Inbound Information Processing<br>Alert delivery                 |
| <b>Elasticsearch</b> | Scan document retention  |
| <b>InfluxDB</b>      | Time-series database<br>Statistical analysis of time-series data |
| <b>Kibana</b>        | Browse scans   |
| <b>Chronograf</b>    | Dashboard for InfluxDB   |
| <b>Telegraf</b>      | TSDB alerting (replaces graphite-beacon)                         |
| <b>Vault</b>         | Secret management  |
| <b>Resin</b>         | Sensor software management                                       |
| <b>Slack</b>         | Notifications  |

# SITCH Service Architecture

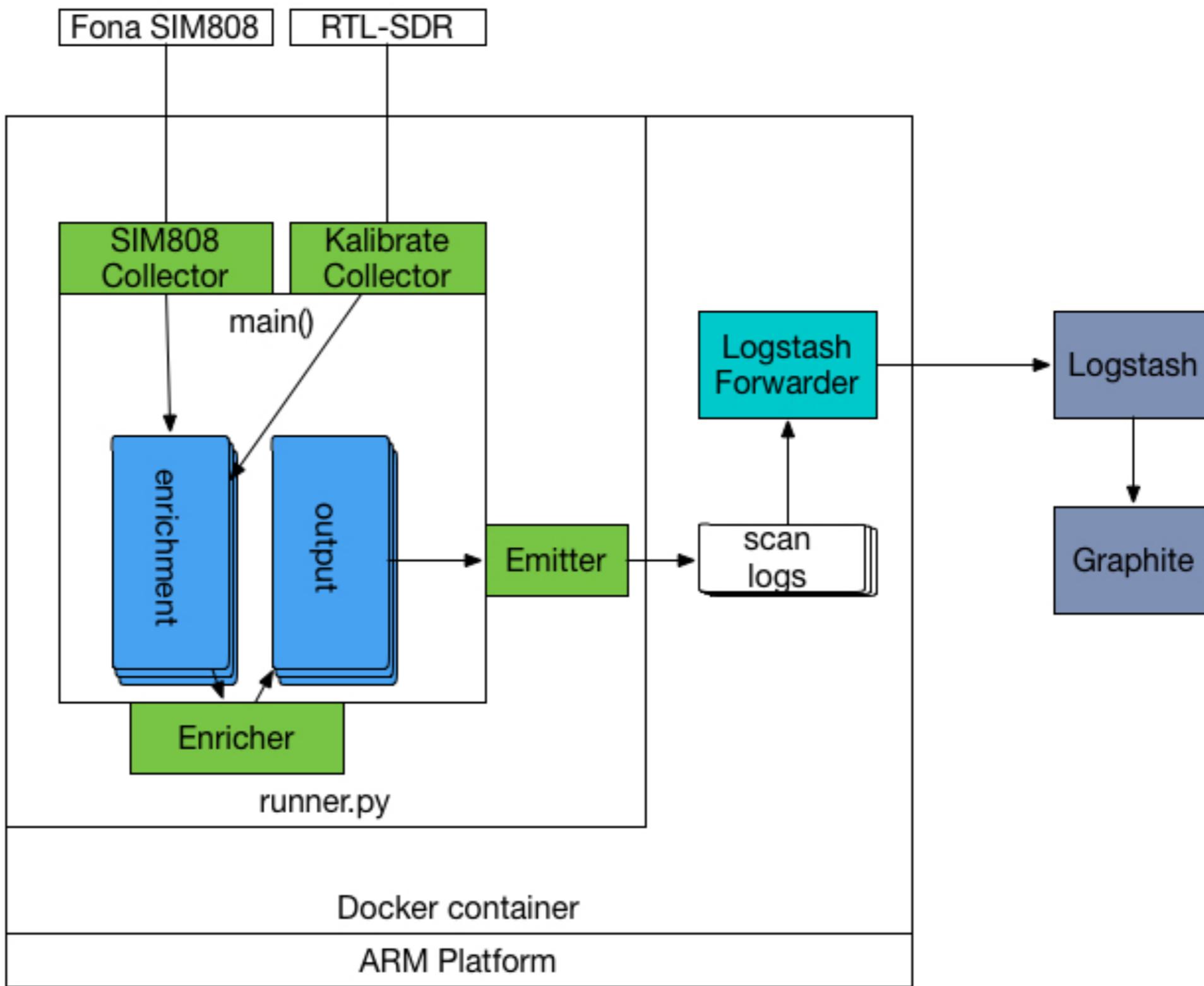


# SITCH Intelligence Feed

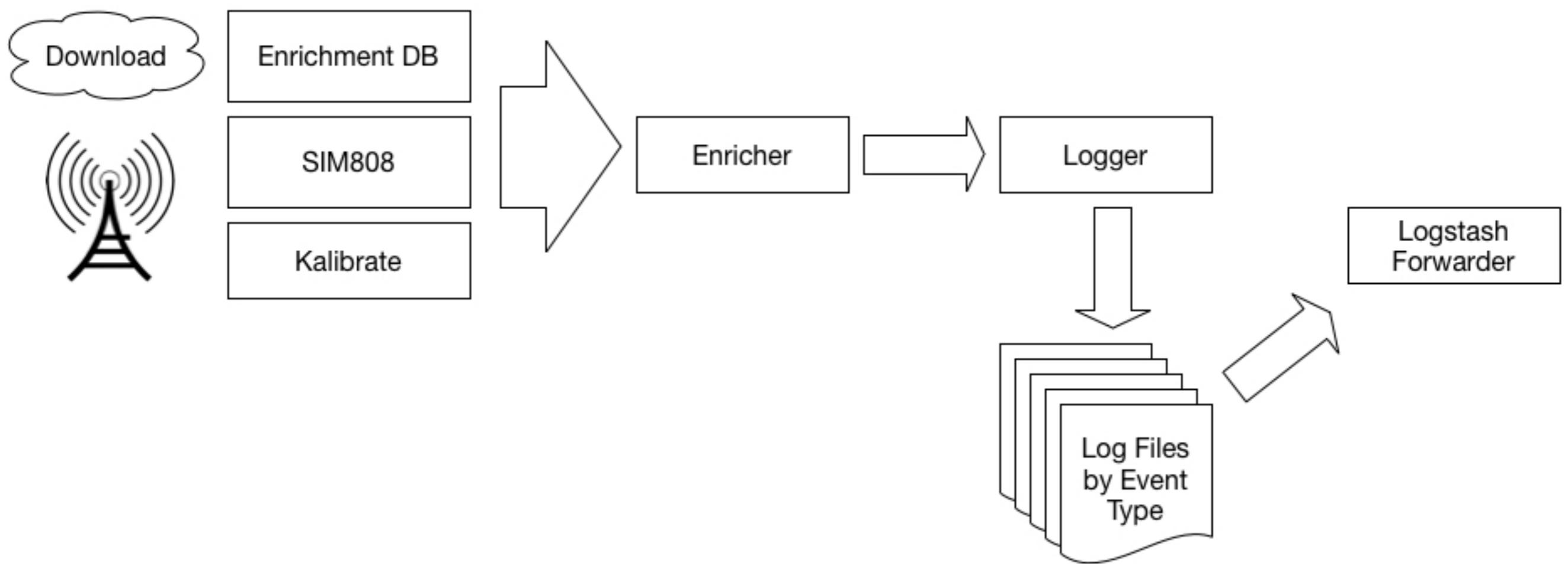


- OpenCellID Database:
  - MCC, MNC, Lat, Lon, Range
- Twilio:
  - MCC, MNC, CarrierName

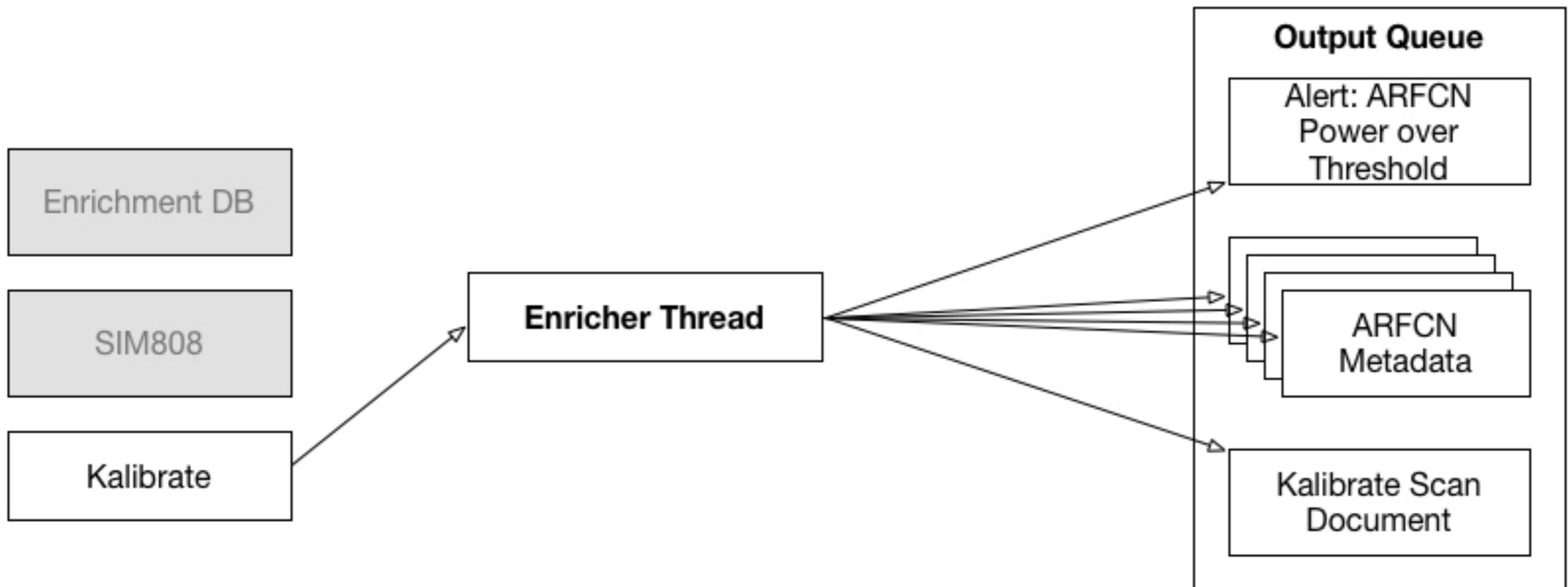
# SITCH Sensor MkII



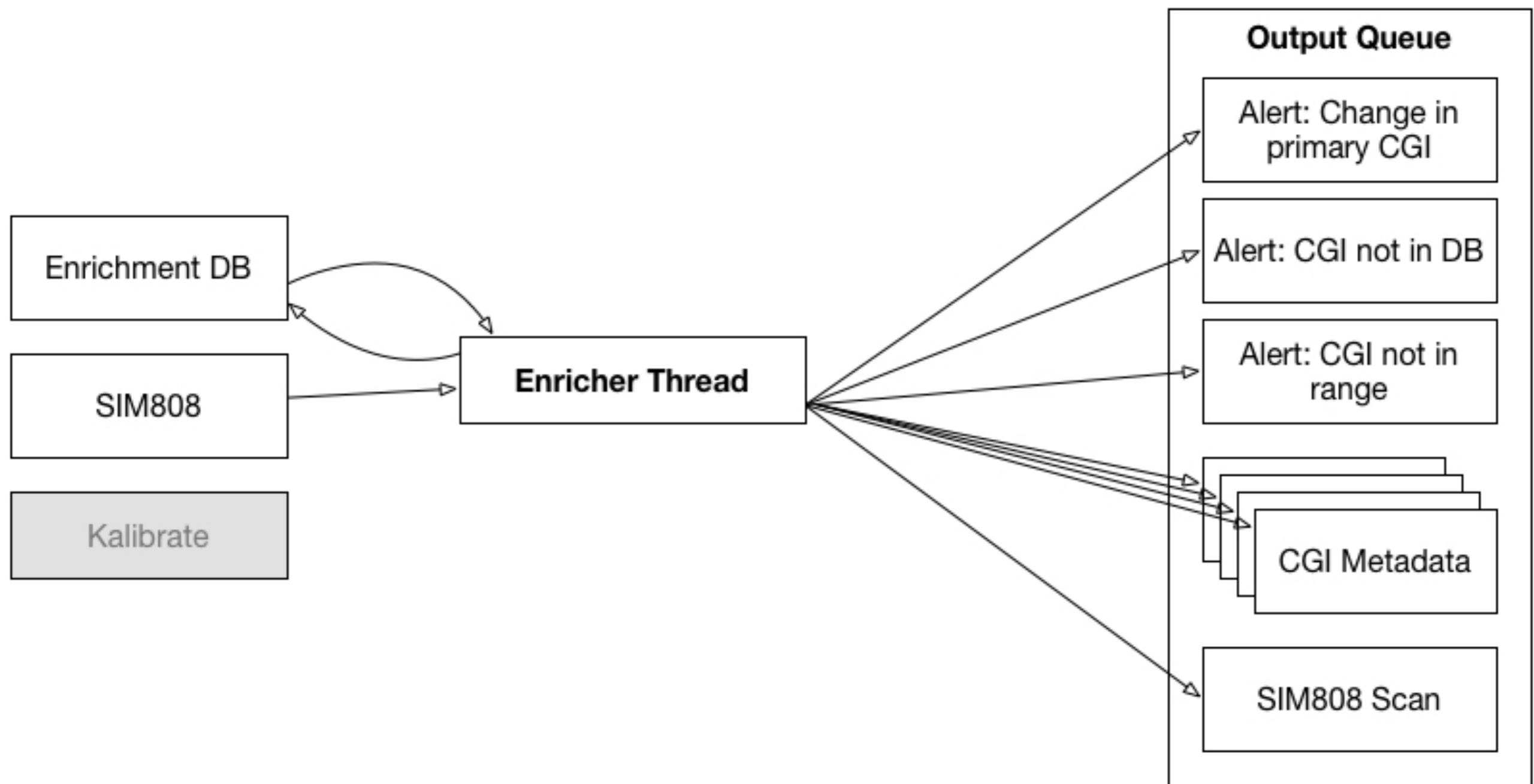
# SITCH Sensor MkII



# SITCH Sensor MkII



# SITCH Sensor MkII



# SITCH Sensor MkII

#sitchalerts

2 members | Add a topic

 **WhateverMan** BOT 10:26 AM

Message Type: 120 | Original Message: BTS not in feed database! Info: ARFCN: 0666 mcc: 310 mnc: 266 lac: 275 cellid: 20082 Site: cabronum\_test | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

Message Type: 120 | Original Message: BTS not in feed database! Info: ARFCN: 1696 mcc: 310 mnc: 266 lac: 275 cellid: 42302 Site: cabronum\_test | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

Message Type: 120 | Original Message: BTS not in feed database! Info: ARFCN: 1702 mcc: 310 mnc: 266 lac: 275 cellid: 42301 Site: cabronum\_test | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

Message Type: 120 | Original Message: BTS not in feed database! Info: ARFCN: 1698 mcc: 310 mnc: 266 lac: 275 cellid: 20271 Site: cabronum\_test | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

Message Type: 120 | Original Message: BTS not in feed database! Info: ARFCN: 1692 mcc: 310 mnc: 266 lac: 275 cellid: 20081 Site: cabronum\_test | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

 **WhateverMan** BOT 11:03 AM

Message Type: 200 | Original Message: ARFCN 666 is over threshold at cabronum\_test! | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

 **WhateverMan** BOT 12:07 PM

Message Type: 120 | Original Message: BTS not in feed database! Info: ARFCN: 1702 mcc: 310 mnc: 266 lac: 275 cellid: 20084 Site: cabronum\_test | Host ID: c10357c2224e2aedcdf13310938391cd97a5b1afbca40a59477a6c407e7dab

 **WhateverMan** BOT 12:27 PM

# SITCH Sensor MkII

#sitchalerts    2 members | Add a topic

WhateverMan BOT 11:21 PM  
[BEACON] CRITICAL <Holt-Winters Aberration: ARFCN power (Kalibrate)>  
`holtWintersAberration(channels.cabronum_test.abe1f70e7a813d599bdffd36cf31504f  
f048cdda9cd4656df09aee2ddab48d.GSM-850.232.kal_power)` failed. Current value:  
475.2K  
[View Graph](#)

[BEACON] NORMAL <Holt-Winters Aberration: ARFCN power (Kalibrate)>  
`holtWintersAberration(channels.cabronum_test.abe1f70e7a813d599bdffd36cf31504f  
f048cdda9cd4656df09aee2ddab48d.GSM-850.232.kal_power)` is back to normal.

WhateverMan BOT 11:51 PM  
[BEACON] CRITICAL <Holt-Winters Aberration: ARFCN power (Kalibrate)>  
`holtWintersAberration(channels.cabronum_test.abe1f70e7a813d599bdffd36cf31504f  
f048cdda9cd4656df09aee2ddab48d.GSM-850.232.kal_power)` failed. Current value:  
200.1K  
[View Graph](#)

[BEACON] CRITICAL <Holt-Winters Aberration: ARFCN power (Kalibrate)>  
`holtWintersAberration(channels.cabronum_test.abe1f70e7a813d599bdffd36cf31504f  
f048cdda9cd4656df09aee2ddab48d.GSM-850.231.kal_power)` failed. Current value:  
217.8K  
[View Graph](#)

[BEACON] CRITICAL <Holt-Winters Aberration: ARFCN power (Kalibrate)>

+    😊

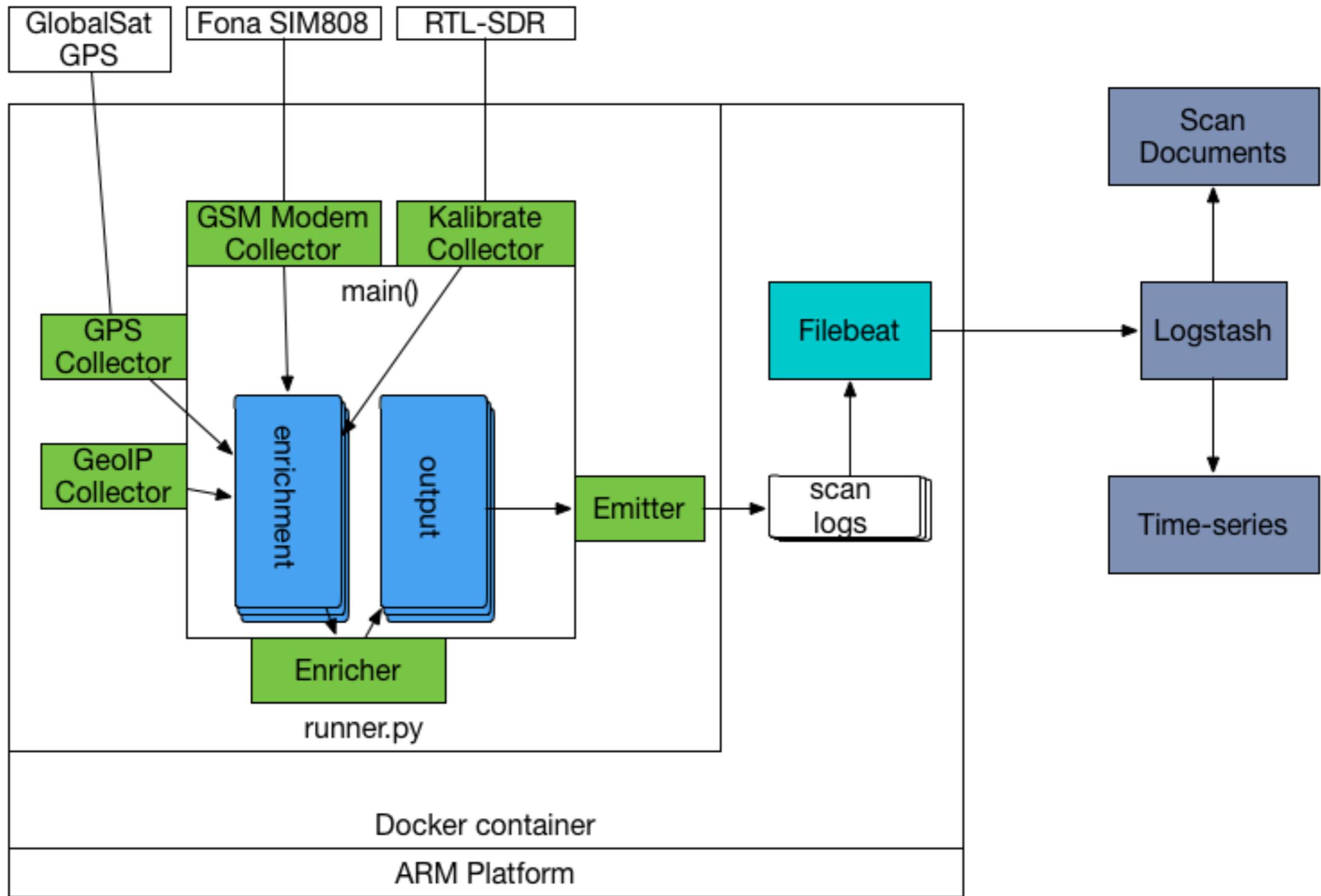
# Return to Demo!

- Slack alerts
- Chronograf visuals
- Kibana scan search
- Resin logs

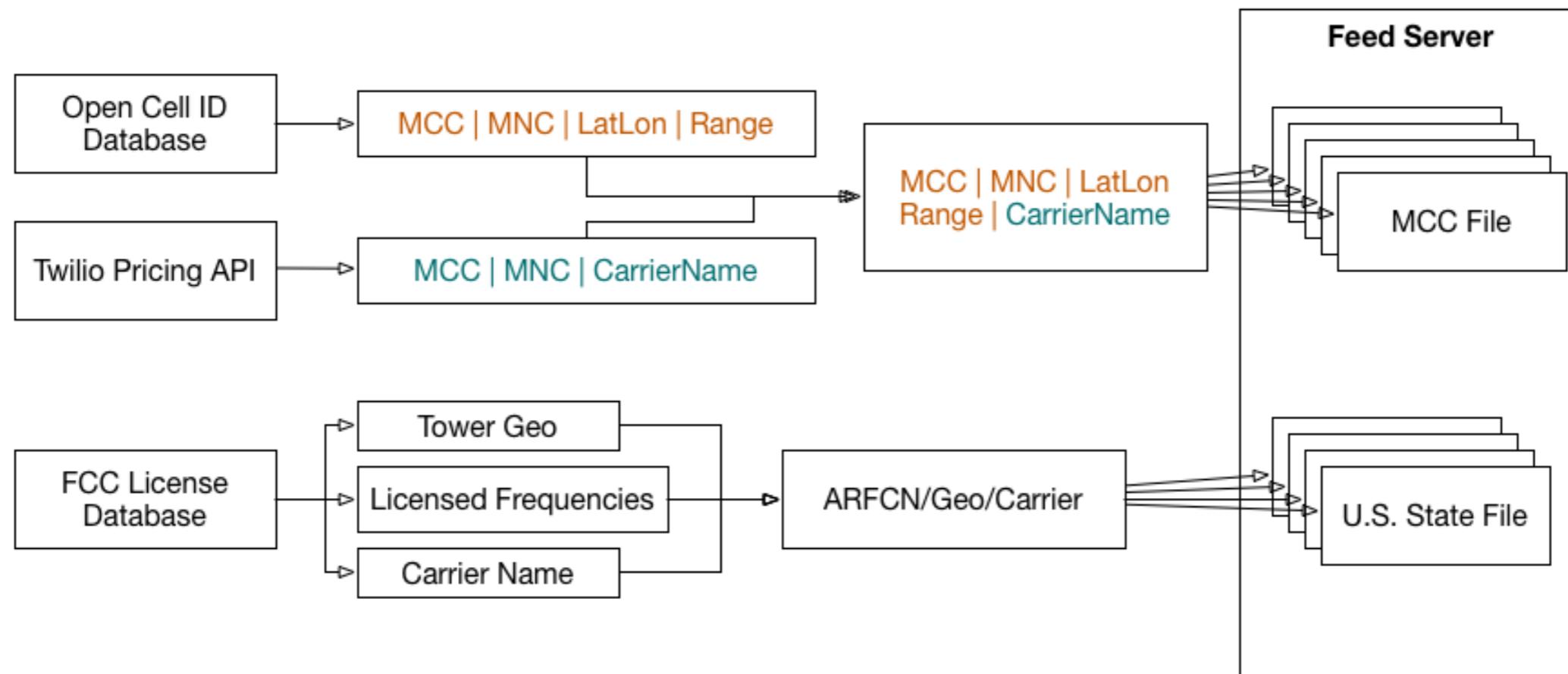
# MkI, MkII Summary

| Targets                       | MkI Coverage | MkII Coverage |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| ARFCN over threshold          | YES          | YES           |
| ARFCN outside of forecast     | YES          | YES           |
| Unrecognized CGI              | NO           | YES           |
| Gratuitous BTS re-association | NO           | YES           |
| BTS detected outside of range | NO           | YES           |
| Price                         | ~\$100       | ~\$150        |

# SITCH Sensor MkIII



# SITCH Feed (current)



- **OpenCellID Database:**
  - MCC, MNC, Lat, Lon, Range
- **Twilio:**
  - MCC, MNC, CarrierName
- **FCC DB:**
  - Tower Geo, Licensed frequencies, Carrier name

# MkI, MkII, MkIII Summary

| Targets                              | MkI    | MkII   | MkIII  |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>ARFCN over threshold</b>          | YES    | YES    | YES    |
| <b>ARFCN outside of forecast</b>     | YES    | YES    | YES    |
| <b>Unrecognized CGI</b>              | NO     | YES    | YES    |
| <b>Gratuitous BTS re-association</b> | NO     | YES    | YES    |
| <b>BTS detected outside of range</b> | NO     | YES    | YES    |
| <b>Unlicensed ARFCN</b>              | NO     | NO     | YES    |
| <b>Geo drift</b>                     | NO     | NO     | YES    |
| <b>Service heartbeats</b>            | NO     | NO     | YES    |
| <b>Price</b>                         | ~\$100 | ~\$150 | ~\$180 |

# Also in MkIII

- USB TTY interrogation
  - Detects and assigns GPS, GSM modem
- GSM modem configuration to Elasticsearch
- More verbose device initialization messages

# Lessons Learned

- Feeds for CA:USA are around 100MB
  - 1.8MB is California FCC records
- OpenCellID is interesting... but not reliable
- Signal strength is the most reliable indicator
- Refining the funnel

# Going Forward

- OpenCellID → Mozilla Locations Services API
- Gnuradio = pure SDR
- Geofencing LAI

# Prior Art

- DIY Cellular IDS (Davidoff, Fretheim, Harrison, & Price, Defcon 21)
- Traffic Interception and Remote Mobile Phone Cloning with a Compromised Femtocell (DePerry, Ritter, & Rahimi, Defcon 21)
- Introduction to SDR and the Wireless Village (DaKahuna & Satanklawz, Defcon 23)
- <http://fakebts.com> - Fake BTS Project (Cabrera, 2014)
- How to Build Your Own Rogue GSM BTS for Fun and Profit (Simone Margaritelli)
- Low-cost GPS Simulator - GPS Spoofing by SDR (Lin Huangm Qing Yang)
- Gnuradio (many)
- Gr-gsm (Krysik, et al.)
- Kalibrate (thre.at)

# **Q&A**

# Further Info

- <http://sitch.io>
- Twitter:
  - **@sitch\_io**
  - **@ashmastaflash**
- <https://github.com/sitch-io>

# #OMW2 Scan Your GSM

