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Analytic Challenges from Active-Passive Integration [REDACTED], S324

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DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSS Manual 1-52, Dated: 20070108, Declassify On: 20320108

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Define shaping, please?

- Working definition: Active implant copies traffic and directs a copy past a passive collector
 - Issues arise when collector is also processing passive traffic simultaneously
- Current: Implants on network infrastructure devices, not user endpoints
- Two types:
 - Physical/link layer:
 - an implant copies and shapes an entire link (E1, STM1) without selection; passive midpoint does selection
 - Network layer:
 - an implant performs *targeted* copying based on IP or application parameters and exfiltrates only the targeted traffic; passive collector may or may not do further selection.

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Examples



- Link layer: BRAVENICKEL project (optical Muxes)
 - Copied link is not disguised, just routed on an unused layer 2 path that a passive collector can monitor
 - Selection happens in the passive collector
- Network layer: APEX for HAMMERMILL (routers)
 - Router is tasked to select and exfil targeted traffic (perhaps all of a particular protocol)
 - Exfil is disguised (“munged”, encrypted) to avoid detection
 - Passive collector looks for IP source/destination address in order to detect the traffic
 - If further selection/processing is to be done in collector, the exfil must be “unwrapped” (unmunged, decrypted)
 - *Exfil can be directed to passive or to TAO by changing the destination address*



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So Why does Jane the Analyst care?

- TAO implants have collection parameters that are put on exfil received thru TAO backend
 - case notation, SIGAD, PDDG, classification/legal authority
- The passive collector has another set of these:
 - Site has a SIGAD, collector has a PDDG, the link it sees the traffic on has a case notation, and the access has a classification floor/legal authority
- Current backend repositories and presenters weren't designed to expect TWO of these!!!
- Which gets put on the data??? And where?
- And (drum roll) ... how do we solve this problem CONSISTENTLY across the enterprise?

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Example: APEX IPSEC VPN collection

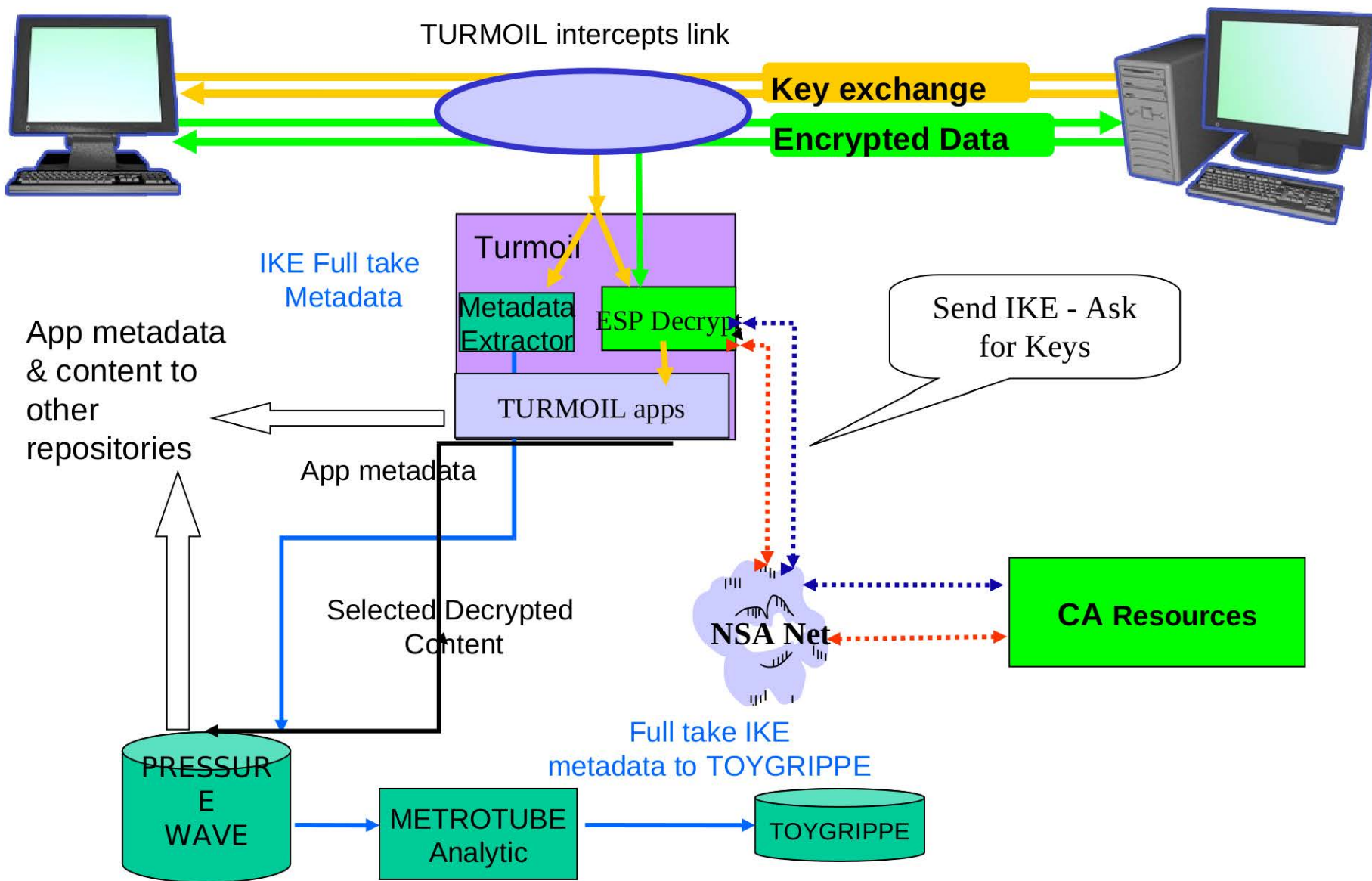
- IPSEC VPN:
 - First packets between the devices establish the parameters and encryption keys (IKE)
 - Following this setup, “content” packets are encrypted and transmitted packet by packet (ESP)
 - CES wants the IKE exchange and maybe the ESP (content)
- TURMOIL passive capability:
 - Passive capability to detect IKE and ESP
 - Metadata record produced for every IKE exchange
 - IKE for *targeted* VPN forwarded directly to CES database
 - For *targeted* VPN, real-time decryption is performed IF CES can provide a key in time
 - Decrypted IP traffic is processed by TURMOIL apps for normal selection (VoIP, webmail, etc, etc)



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Information Technology Directorate (ITD) TURBULENCE Pre-APEX VPN Exploitation



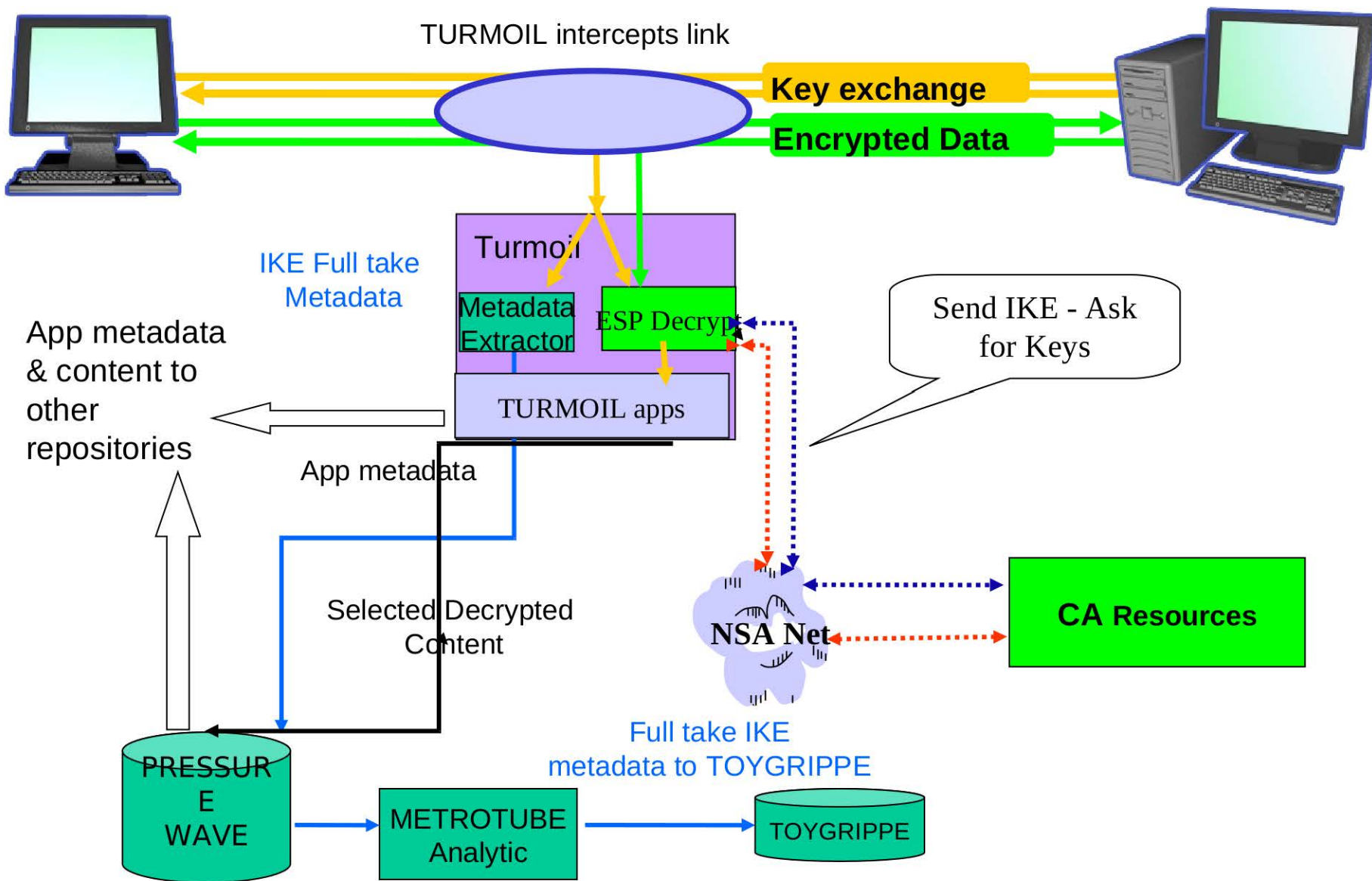
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Information Technology Directorate (ITD) TURBULENCE Pre-APEX VPN Exploitation



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Sounds great, but...



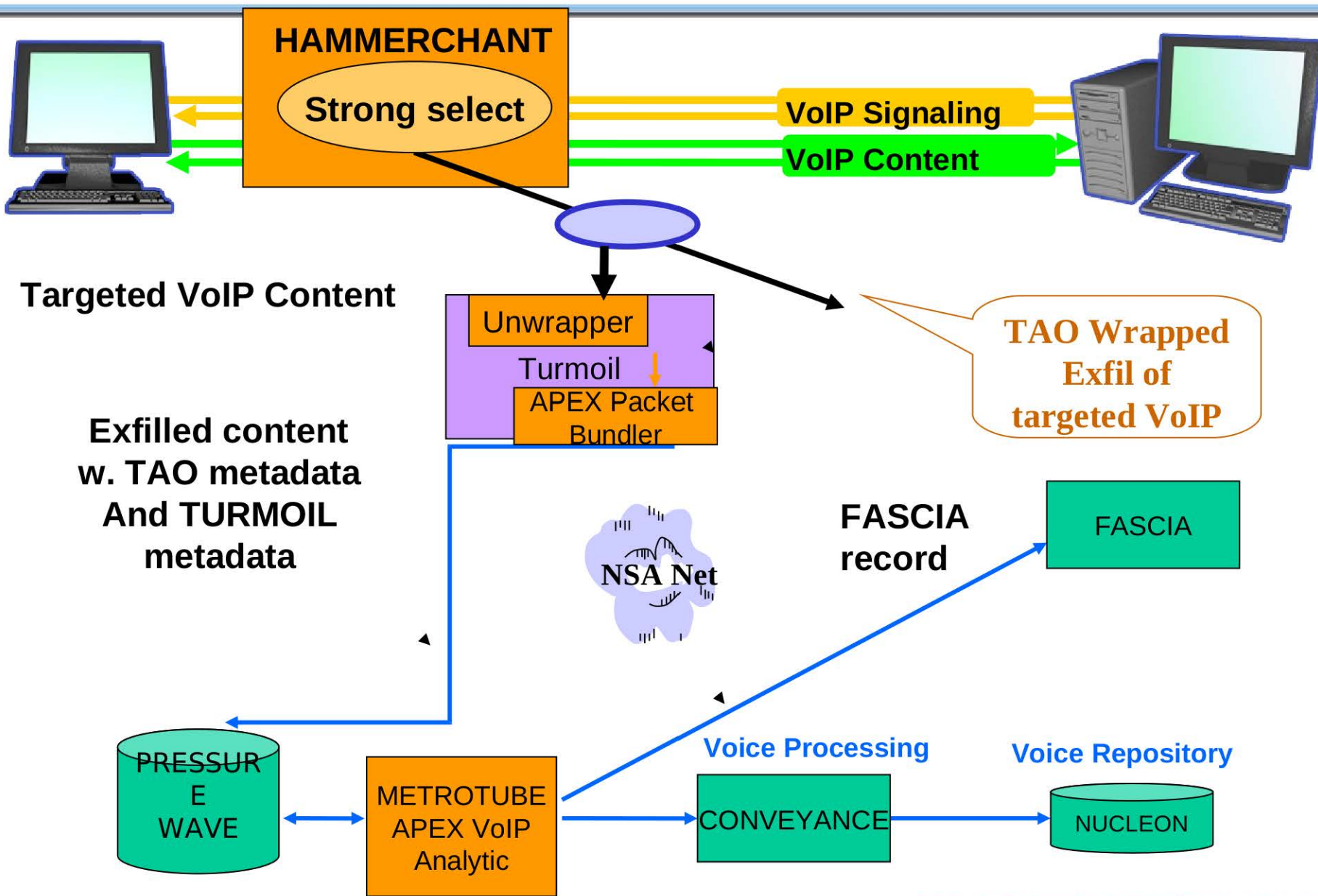
- Now app streams (VoIP, webmail, etc) extracted from the tunnel carry two case notations
- Which gets put into metadata records?
- Both can be carried to PWV – but what happens after that?
- Not to mention...
 - Metadata records about VPN being stored in TOYGRIPPE
 - CES database storing IKE exchange

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Example: TOYGRIPPE metadata record

- Current fields:
 - caseNotation – searchable field
 - sourceID – “The SIGAD of the site that provided the data”
- APEX proposed extension: add
 - Agent CaseNotation
 - Agent ID (UUID)
 - Passive CaseNotation
- Which caseNotation goes into searchable field?
 - Passive records won't have the APEX block
 - TAO-collected records (returned via TAO, not passive) won't have the APEX block





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Shaping is happening now



- Operational (or coming soon) shaping:
 - HAMMERSTONE - TCP traffic to FORNSAT, soon SSO
 - No TURMOIL involvement
 - BRAVENICKEL – one operational flow – past SSO site
 - APEX – VPN metadata by end of June
- *Independent* decisions being made about how to stuff the double metadata into legacy databases

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So what is your job here?

- How do you want to identify the source of your data?
 - Does CaseNotation still make sense in this new world?
- You need to drive processes, systems, & databases toward a CONSISTENT answer
- Transformed systems and tools (METAWAVE, Marina, etc.) need to be designed to do more than accommodate
 - do “the right thing” (whatever you the analysts think that is)
 - Let me guess – you want everything, don’t you?

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Questions?



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