

How to Intercept a Conversation Held on the Other Side of the Planet

Who we are

Sergey Puzankov

Dmitry Kurbatov

Information Security Specialists
Positive Technologies

Topics

Denial of Service on Mobile Switching Center Fraud in SS7 network

Hot for Mobile network operators

Short Message Interception
USSD Money Transfer
Subscriber's Location
Voice Call Interception

Hot for everyone

All of us are subscribers

Service Availability
Quality of Service
Security

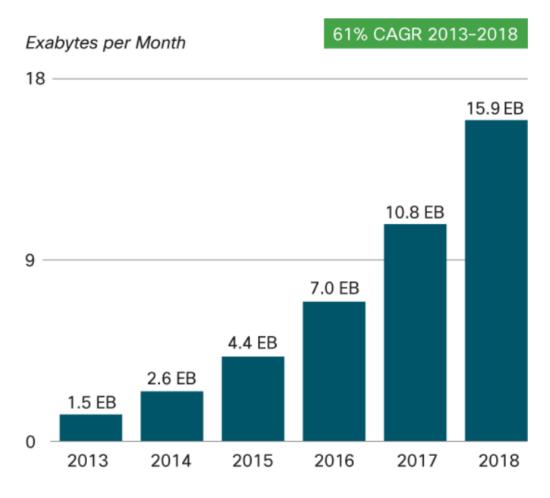


Mobile Services Dynamics

Voice

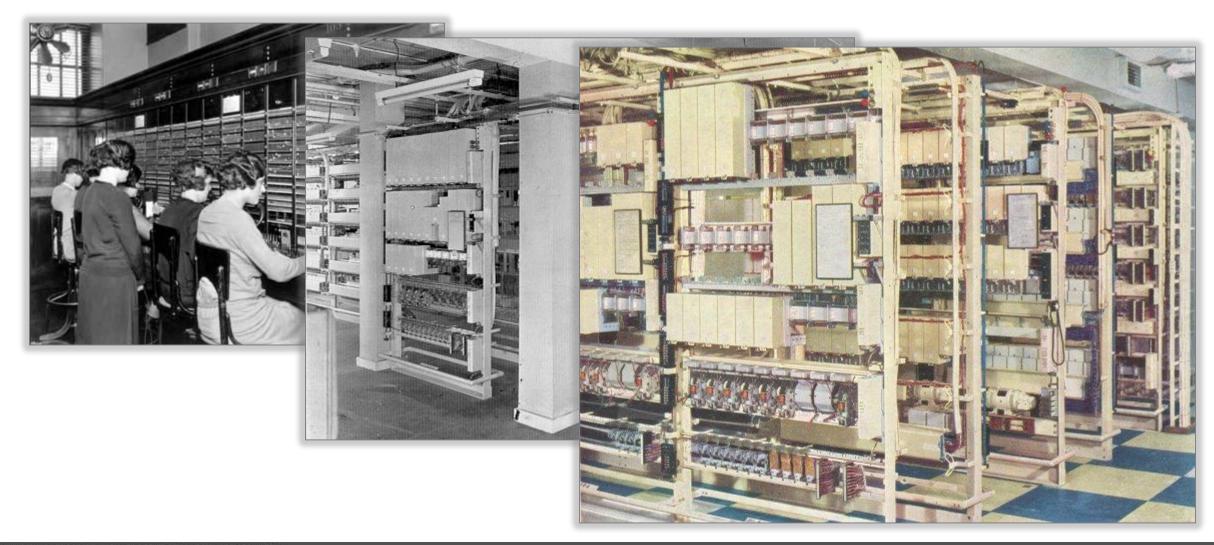
Mobile Data Traffic





Source: Cisco VNI Mobile, 2014

Yesterday: Closed Ecosystems



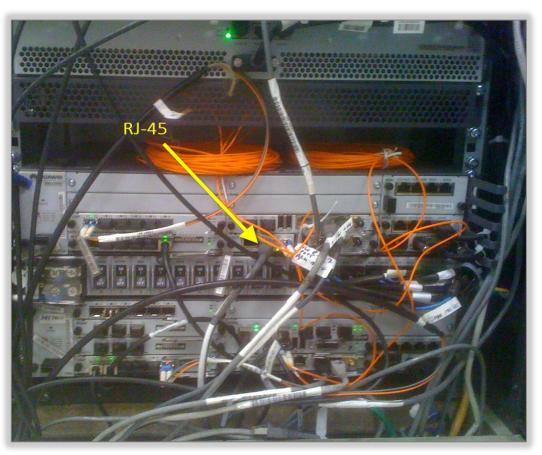
Today: Unified Technologies



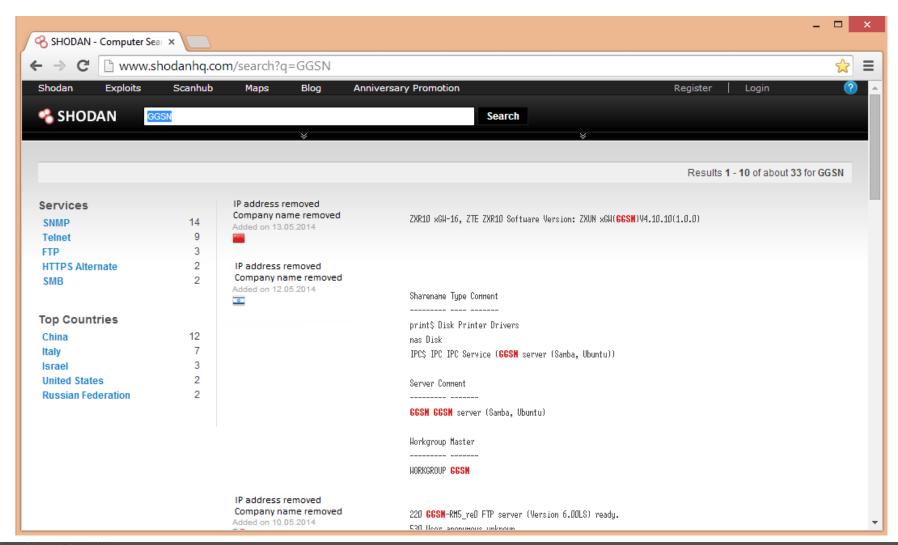


Today: Common Interfaces





Today: IP Connectivity



Today: Widen Borders

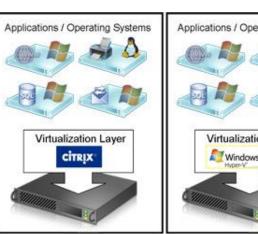
Get your own femtocell

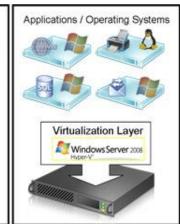
- Hack it
- Upload modified firmware
- Make a call/SMS interception
- Get into IPsec
- Get into Core network

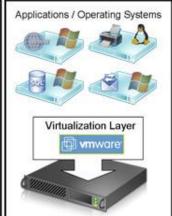


Tomorrow: virtualization





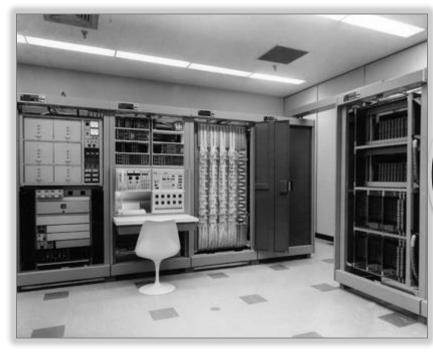






Time Machine

Through SIGTRAN back to 1970's

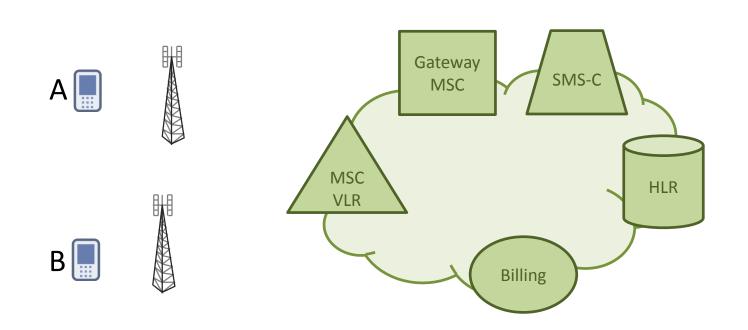






SS7 Network





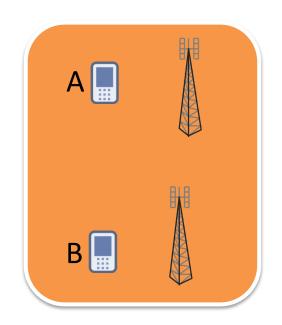
Radio Part

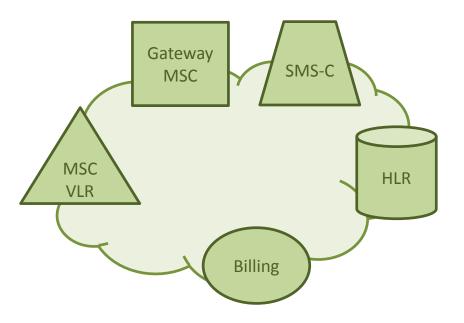
Cell Phone

Base Transceiver Station

Base Station Controller



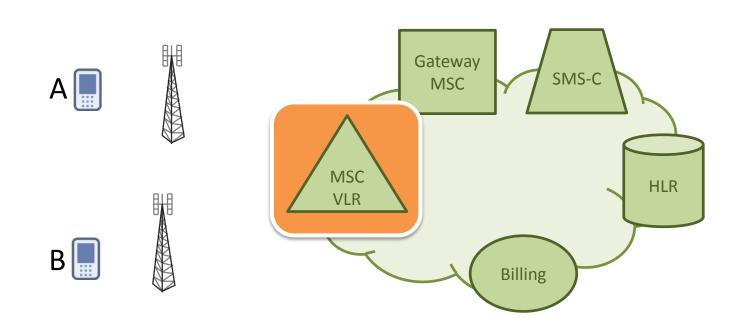




MSC/VLR

Mobile Switching Center Visitor Location Register

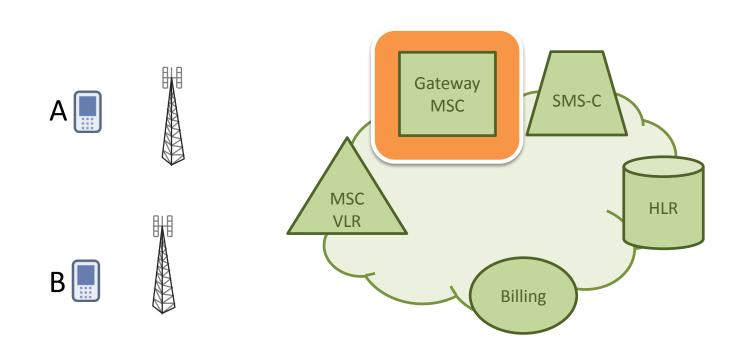




Gateway MSC

Gateway Mobile Switching Center

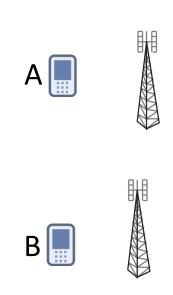


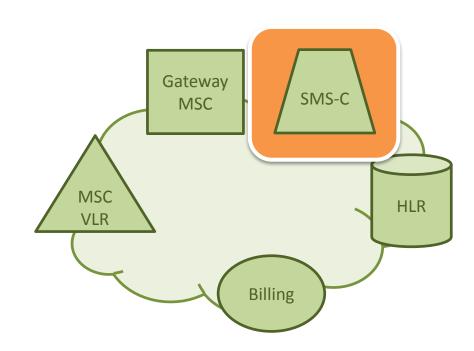


SMS-C

Short Message Service Center



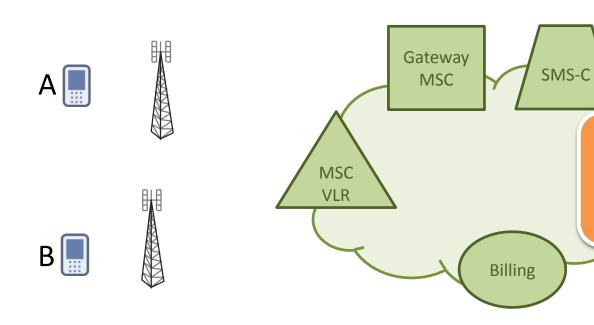




HLR Homey Location Register

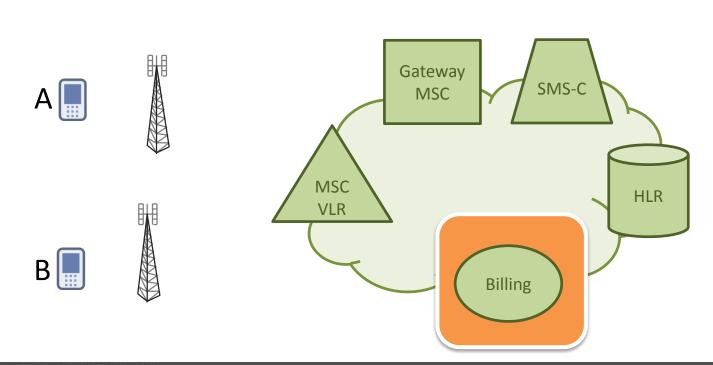


HLR



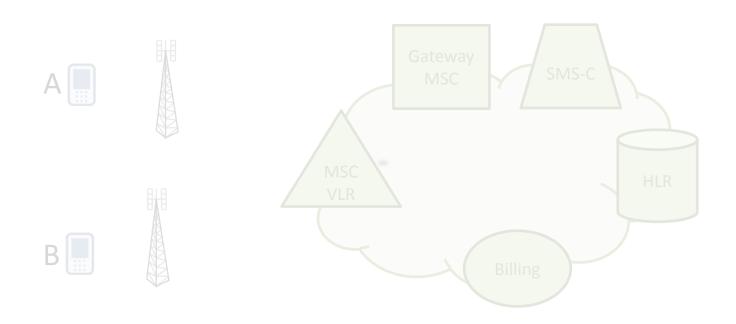
Billing





IDs

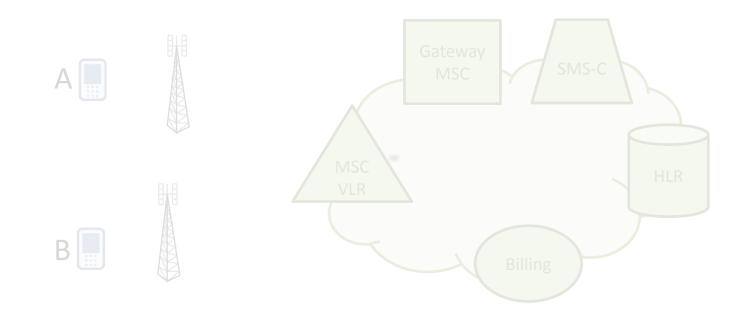
GT – Global Title 0 123 4567890





IDS GT – Global Title 0 123 4567890

MSISDN – A or B mobile numbers 0 123 4567890



IDs

GT – Global Title 0 123 4567890

MSISDN – A or B mobile numbers 0 123 4567890

MSRN – Mobile Subscriber Roaming Number 0 123 4567890

IDs

GT – Global Title 0 123 4567890

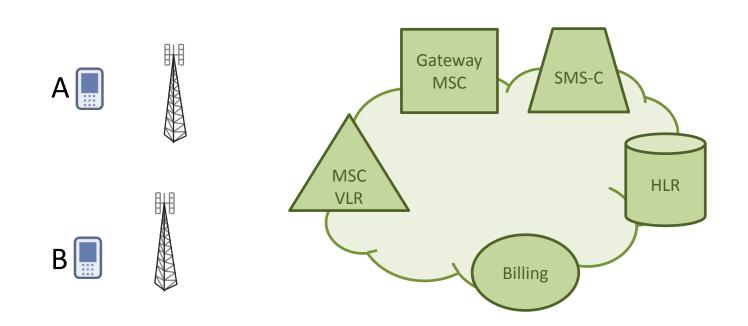
MSISDN – A or B mobile numbers 0 123 4567890

MSRN – Mobile Subscriber Roaming Number 0 123 4567890

IMSI – International Mobile Subscriber Identity 15 digits

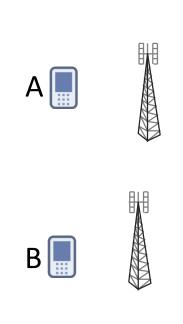
How to get in?

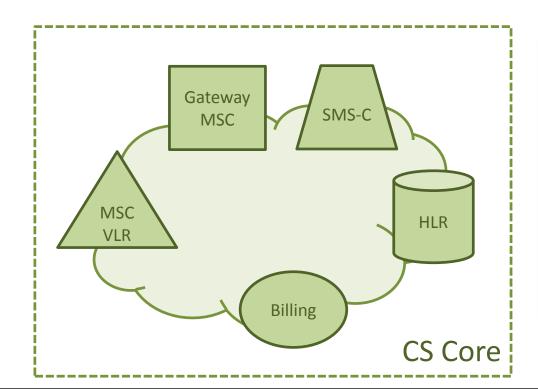


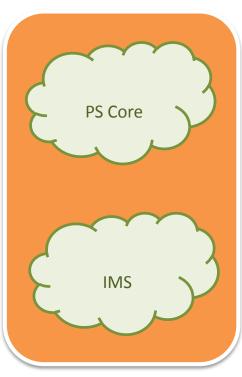


Core Networks



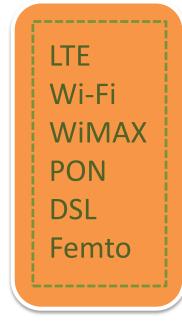


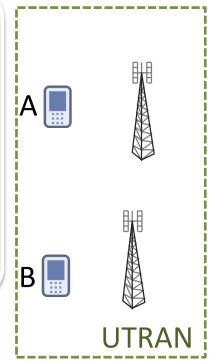


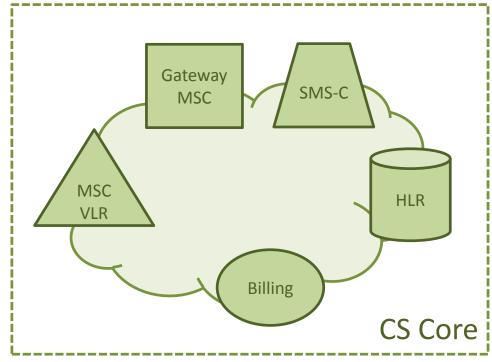


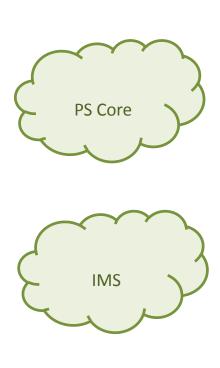
Access Networks





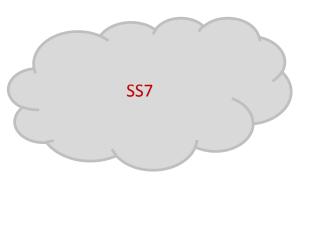


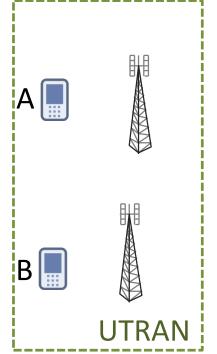


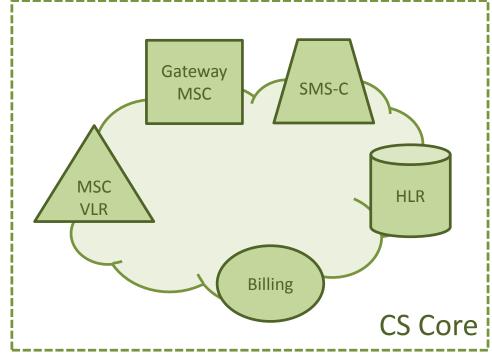


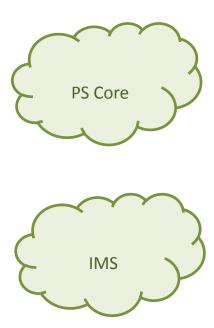
Exchange Points



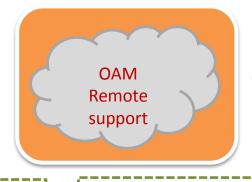






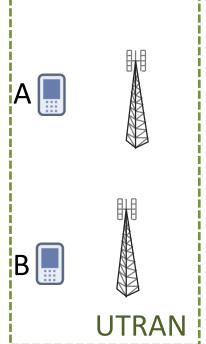


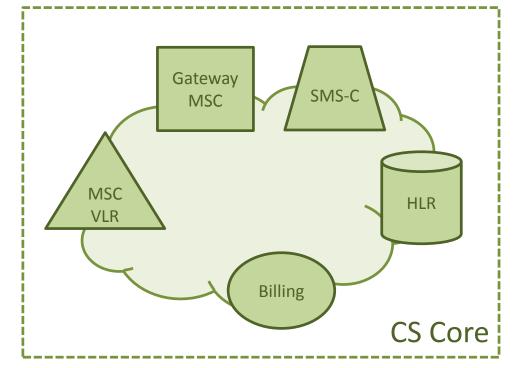
Support

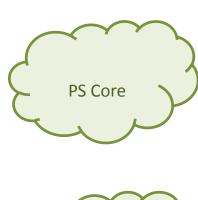




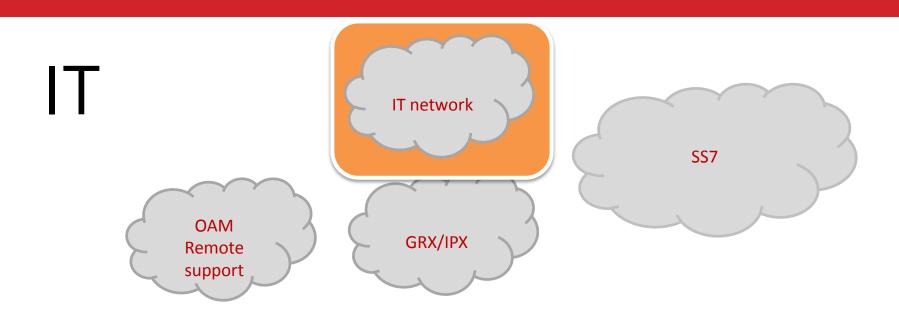


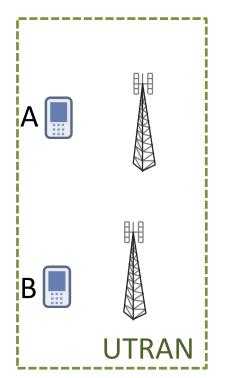


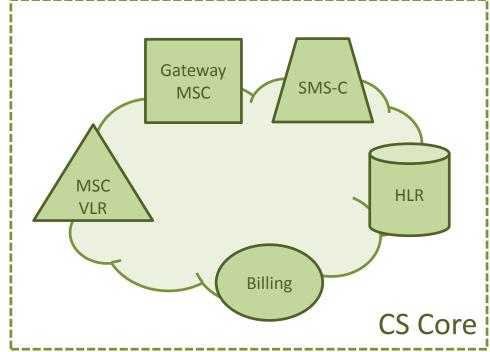


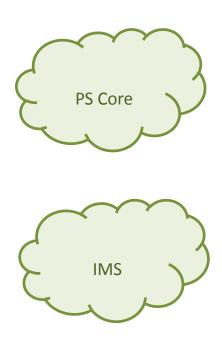












Internet

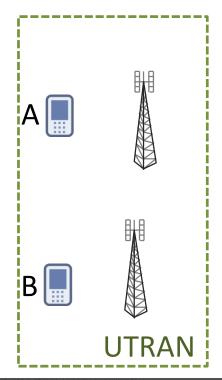


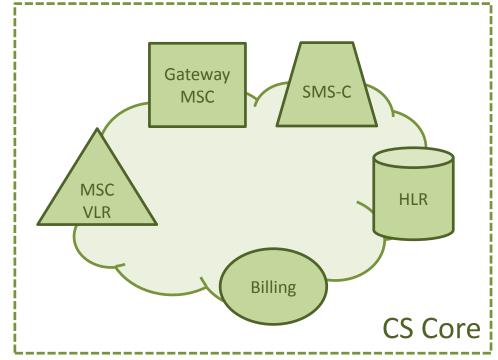


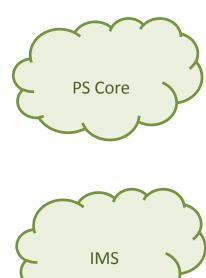




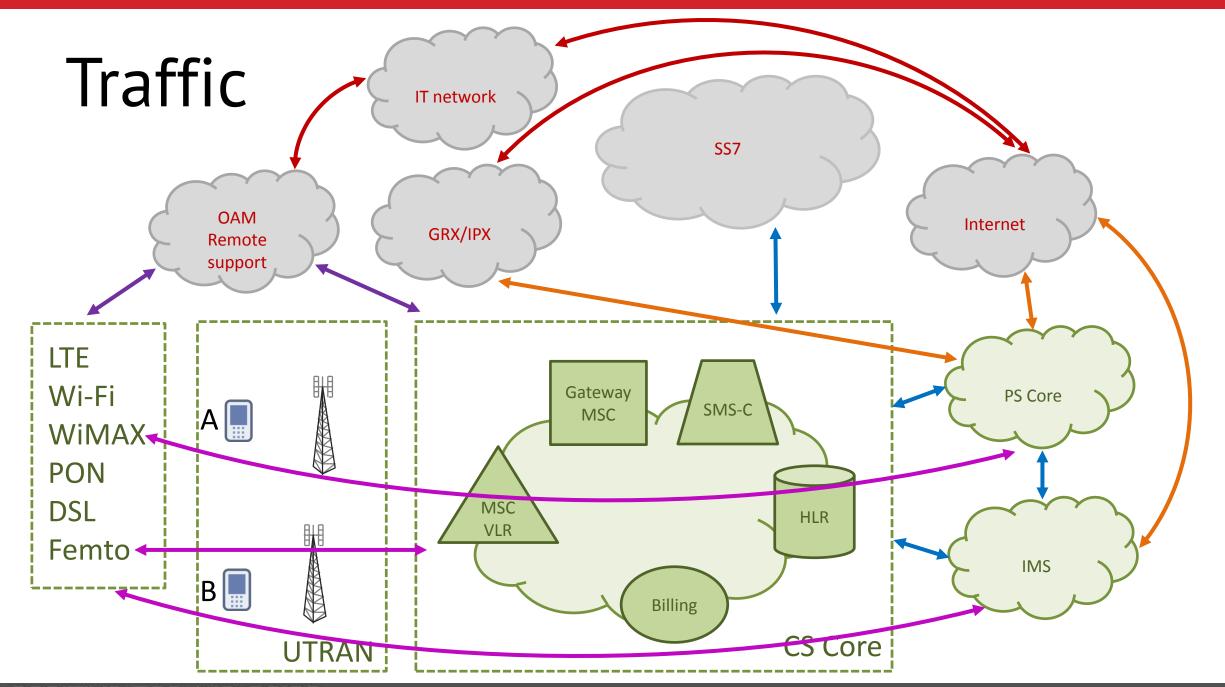


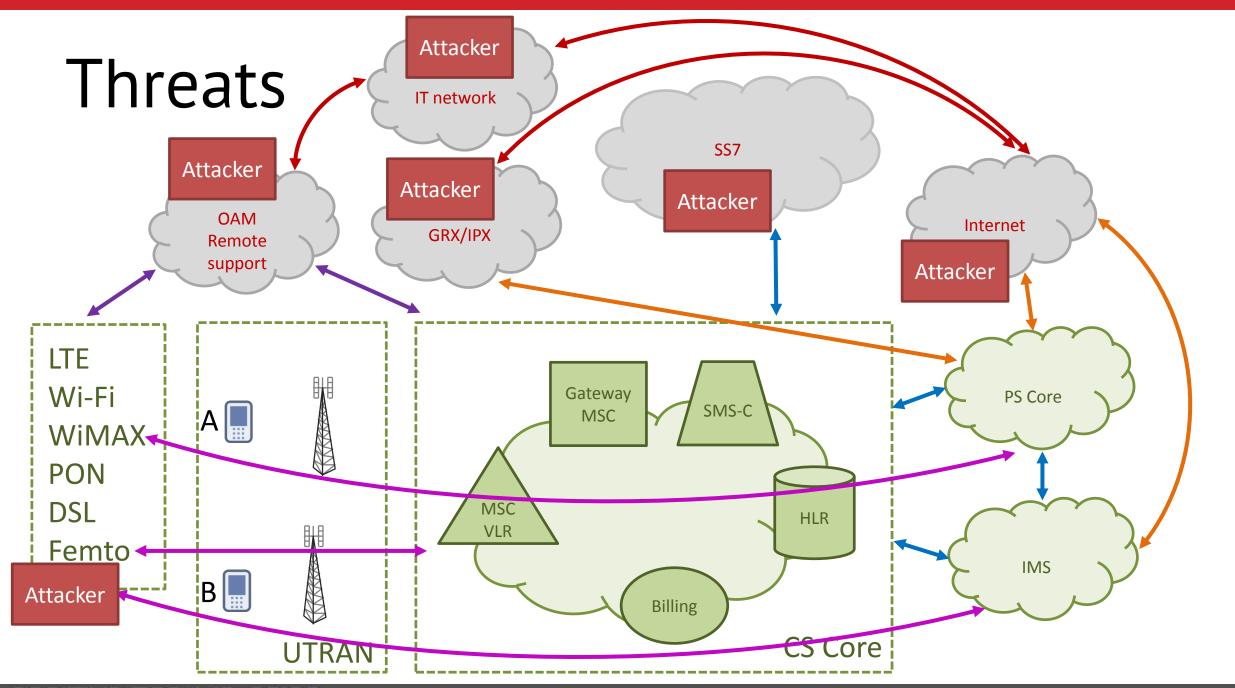


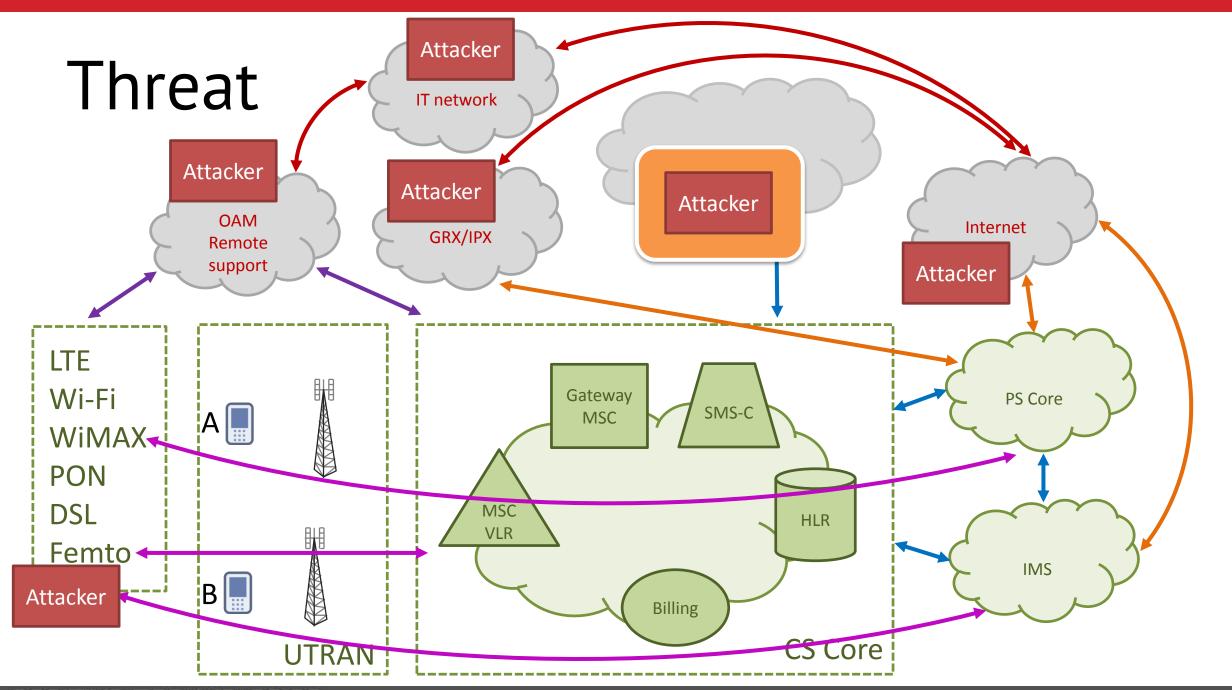












Mobile Switching Center DoS

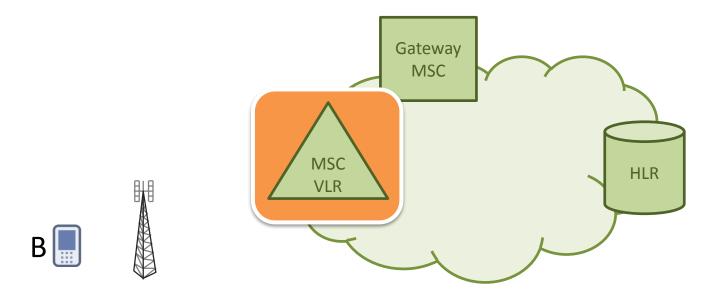
Just like DHCP Starvation

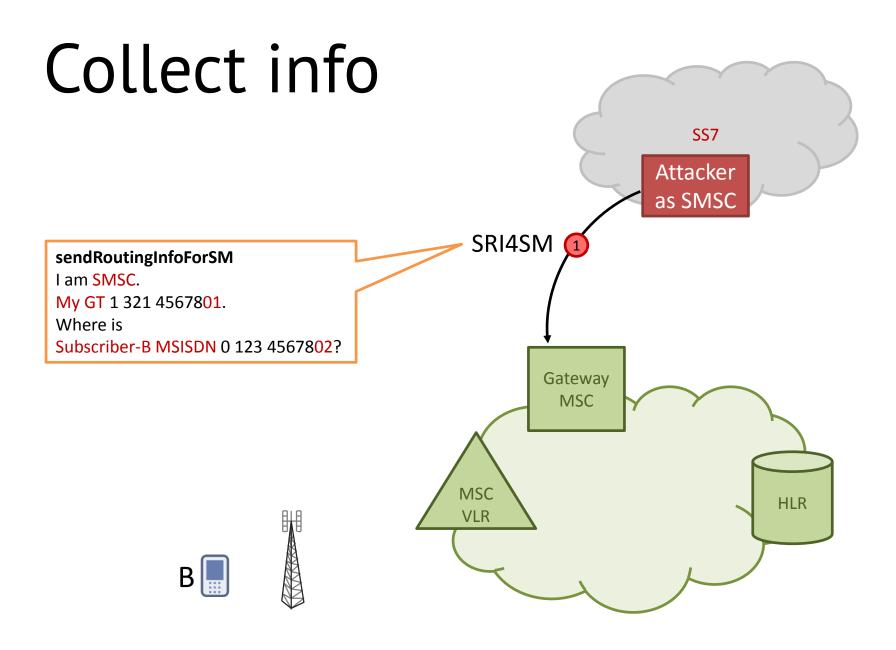
Collect info



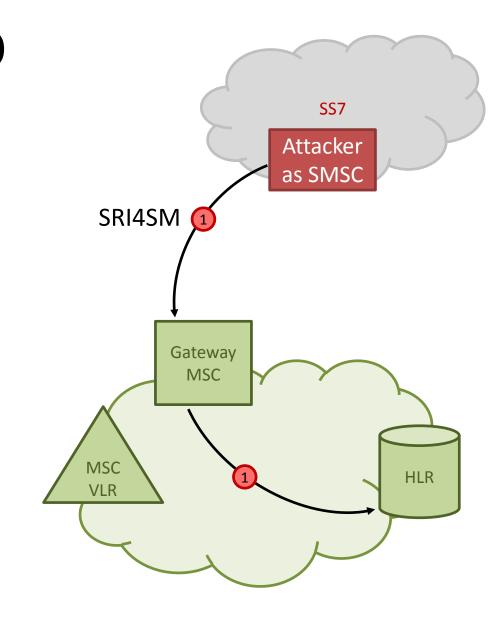
We know

B-Number 0 123 4567802





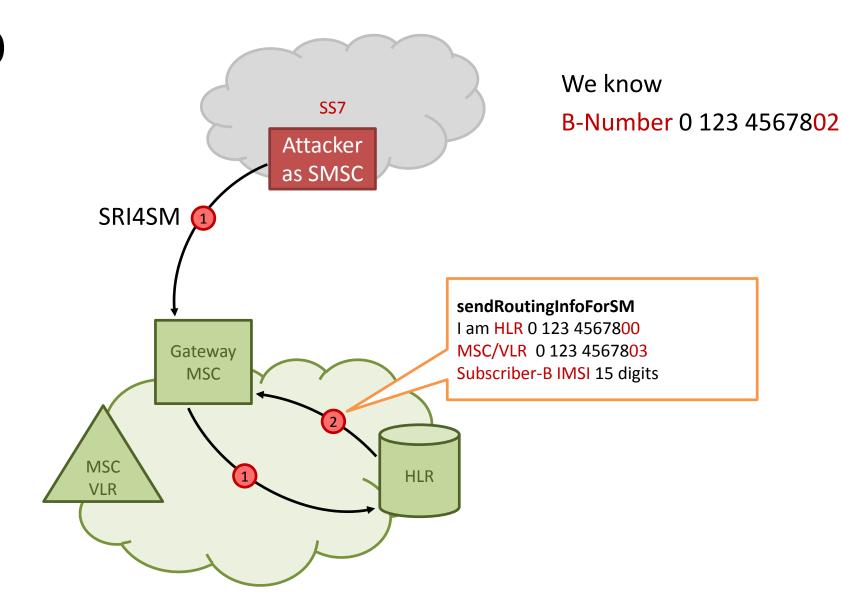
We know



We know











```
Protocol
         Length Info
           194 invoke sendRoutingInfoForSM
GSM MAP
           206 returnResultLast sendRoutingInfoForSM
GSM MAP

⊕ carred Party address (II bytes)

    □ Calling Party address (11 bytes)

    ⊕ Address Indicator

      SubSystem Number: HLR (Home Location Register) (6)
      [Linked to TCAP]

□ Global Title 0x4 (9 bytes)

        Translation Type: 0x00
        0001 .... = Numbering Plan: ISDN/telephony (0x01)
        .... 0001 = Encoding Scheme: BCD, odd number of digits (0x01)
        .000 0100 = Nature of Address Indicator: International number (0x04)

    ⊕ Calling Party Digits: HLR 0 123 4567800

⊕ Transaction Capabilities Application Part

    □ Component: returnResultLast (2)

    □ returnResultLast

        invokeID: 1
      □ resultretres

    opCode: localvalue (0)

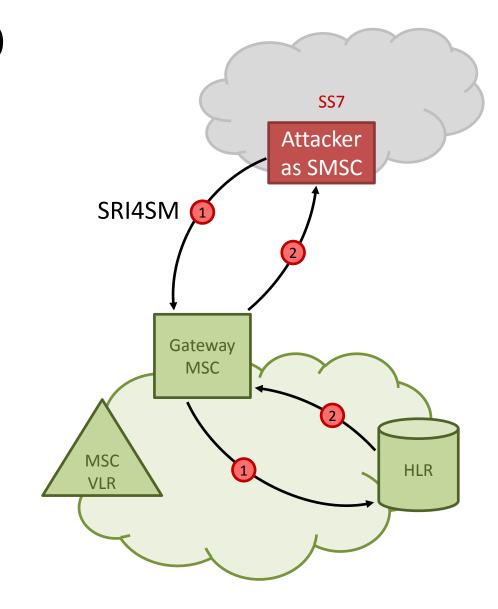
          imsi: Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits
          TBCD digits:
        □ locationInfoWithLMSI
          networkNode-Number: MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803
              1... .... = Extension: No Extension
              .001 .... = Nature of number: International Number (0x01)
                   0001 - Number plan: ISDN/Telephony Numbering (Rec ITU-T E.164) (0x01)
              Address digits:
```

We know

B-Number 0 123 4567802

sendRoutingInfoForSM

I am HLR 0 123 4567800 MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803 Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits



We know

B-Number 0 123 4567802

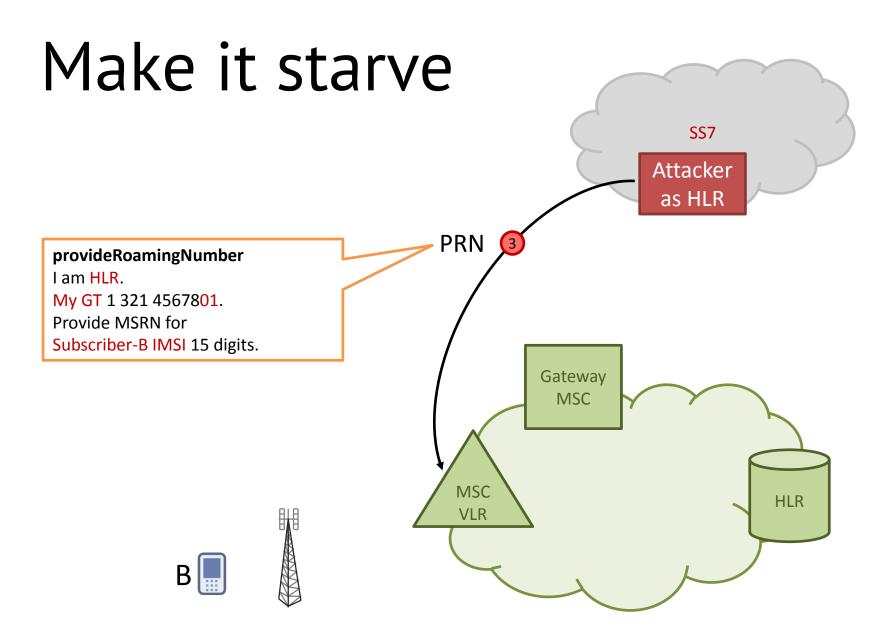
HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

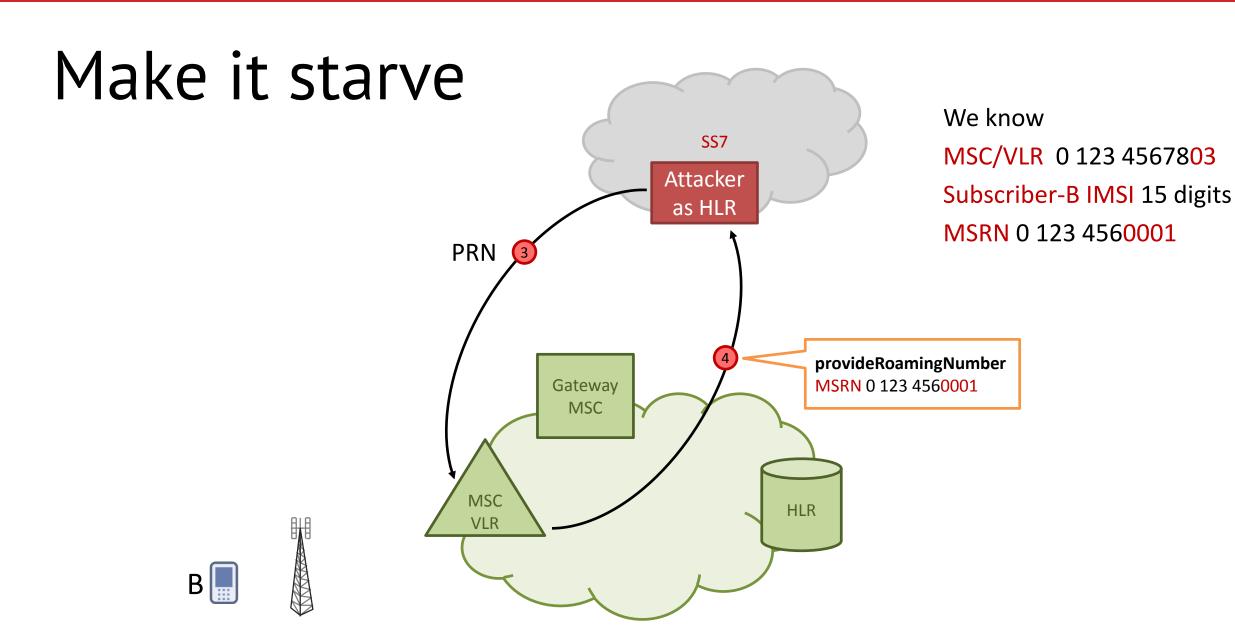
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits







We know
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

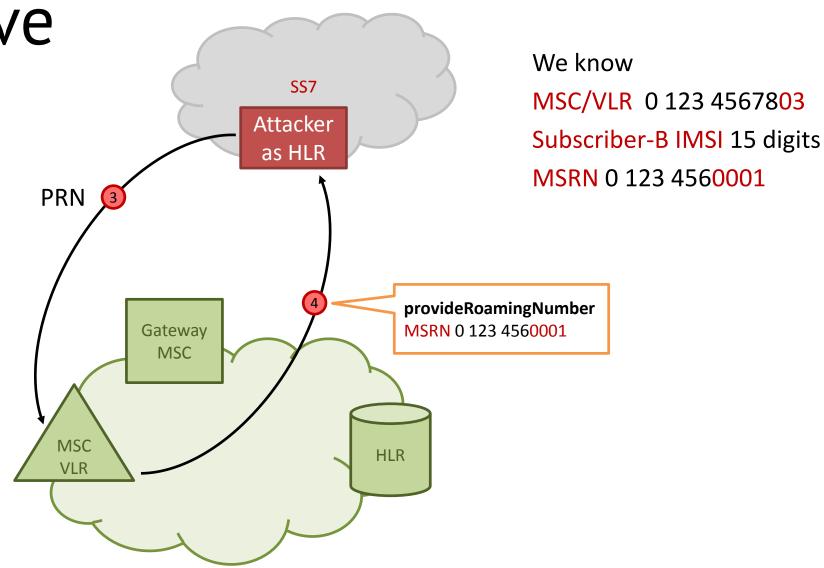


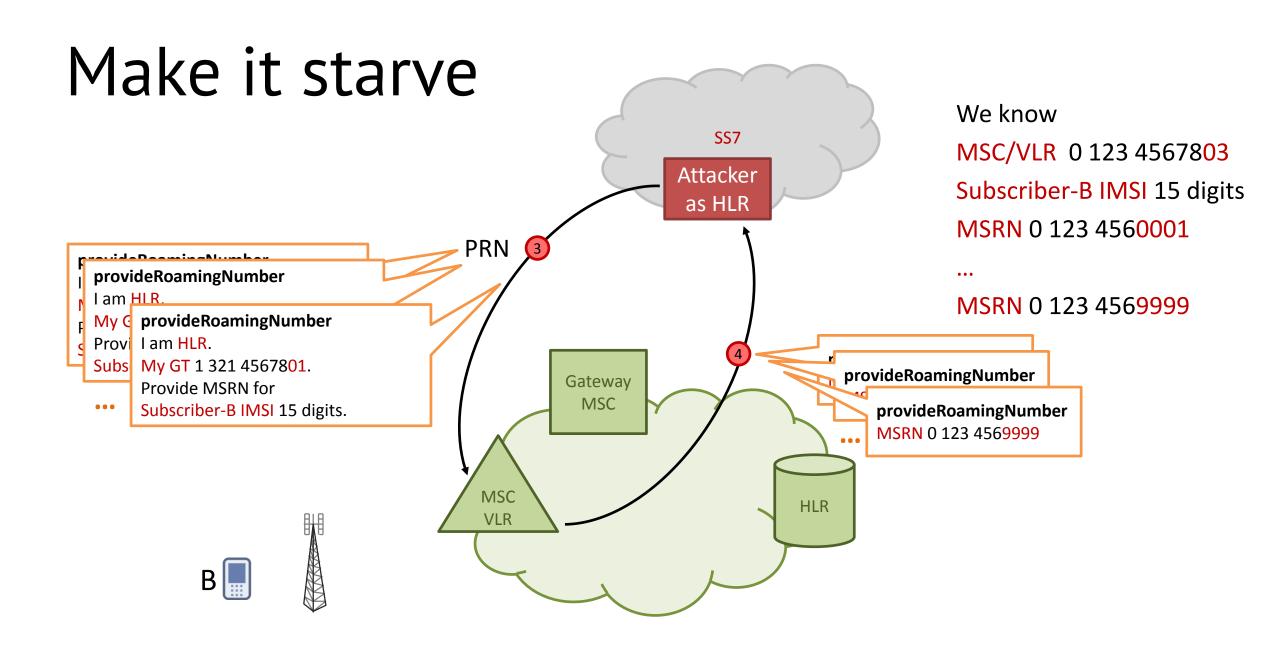
Make it starve

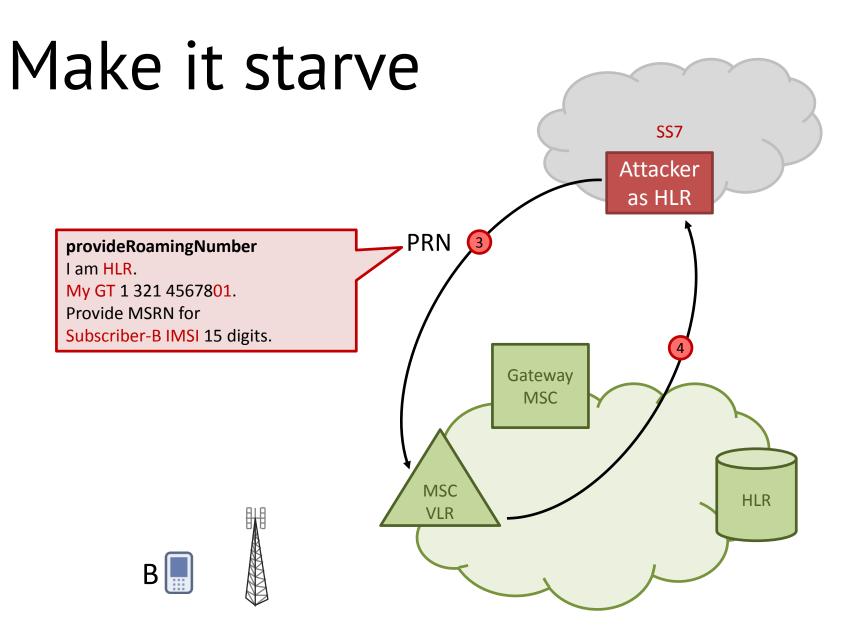
Default timeouts for MSRN:

- Ericsson 30 sec
- Huawei 45 sec









We know

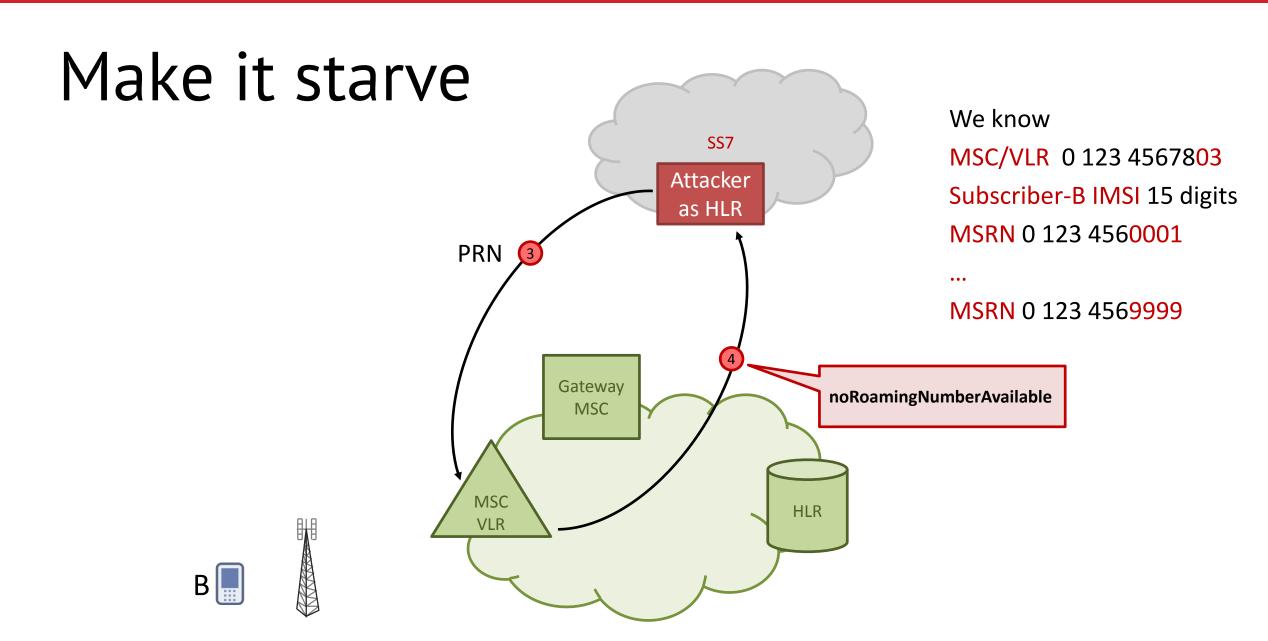
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

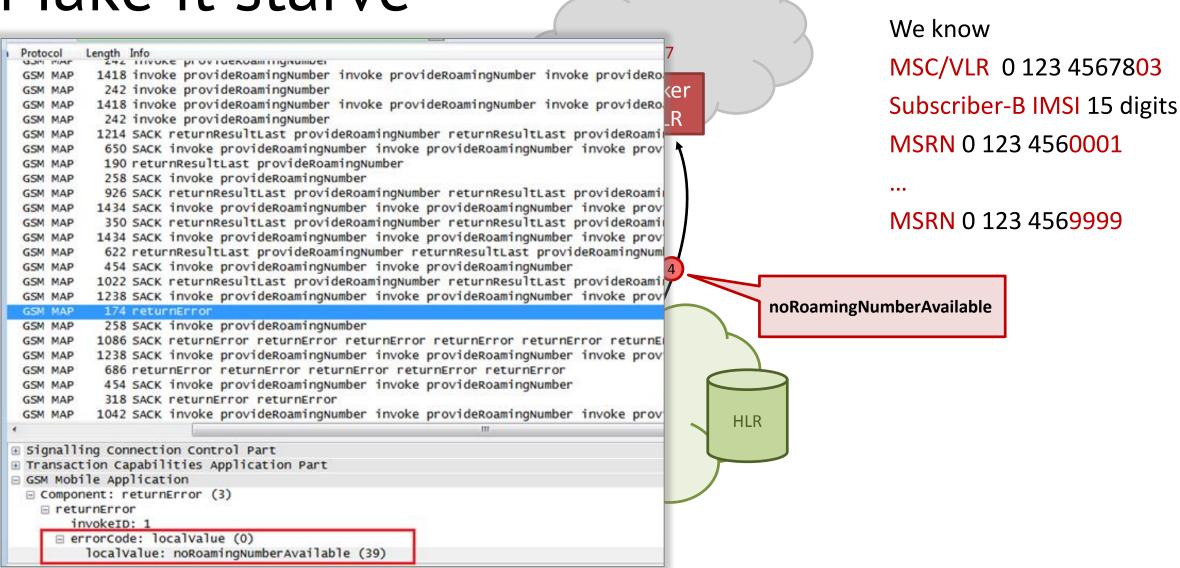
MSRN 0 123 4560001

• •

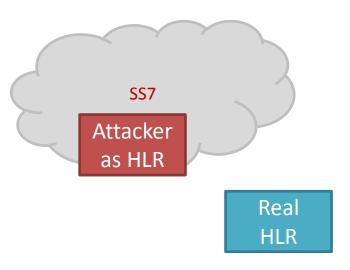
MSRN 0 123 4569999

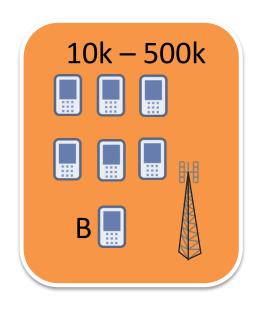


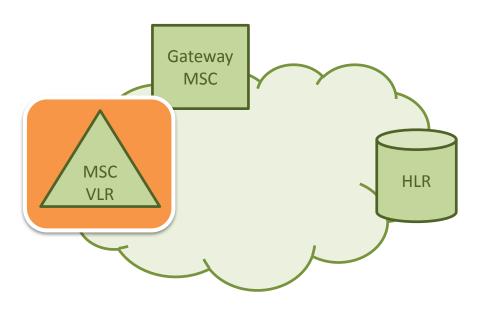
Make it starve

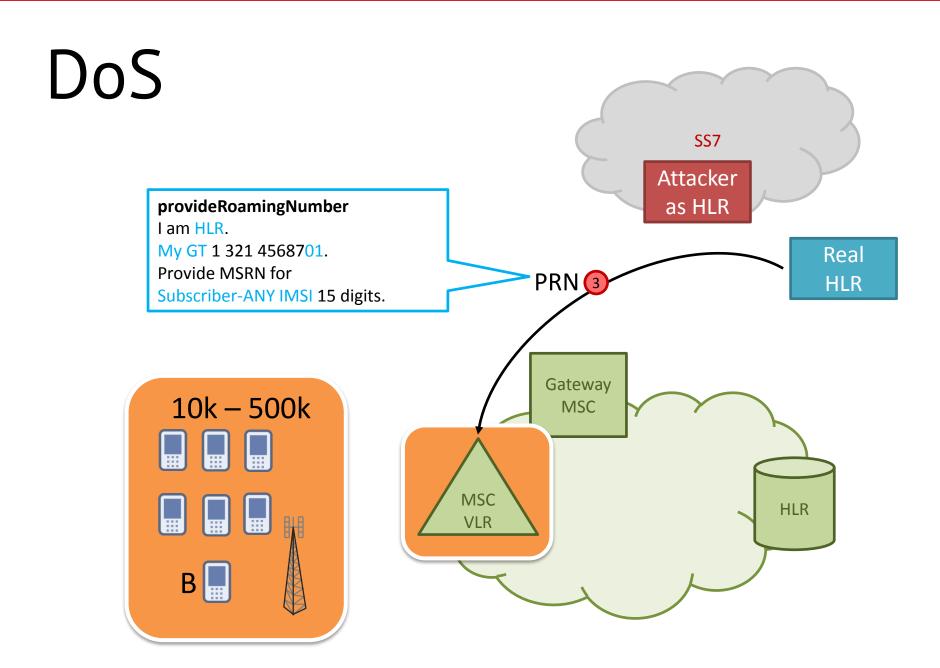


DoS

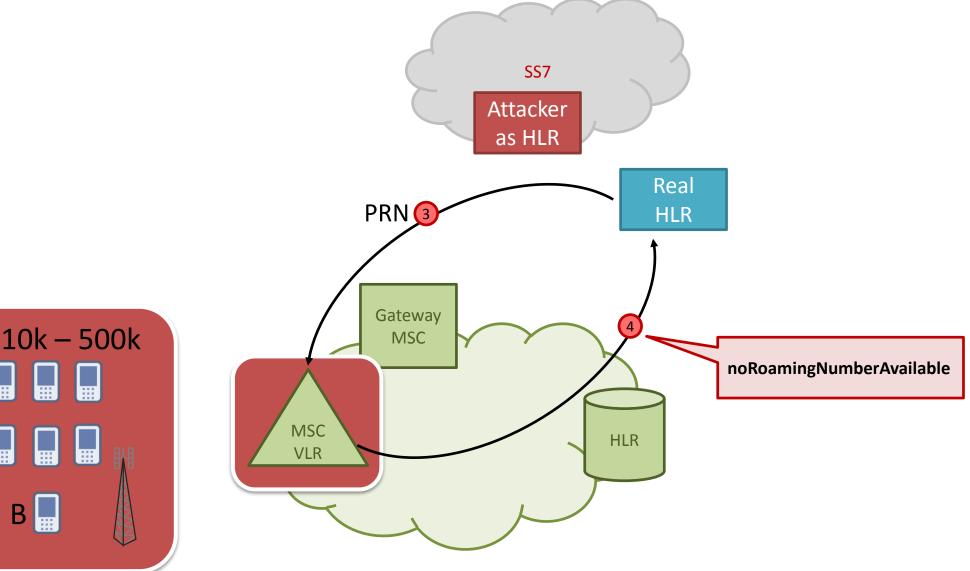


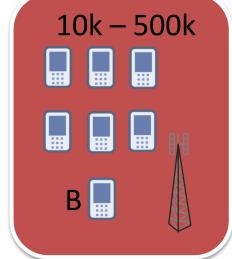






DoS

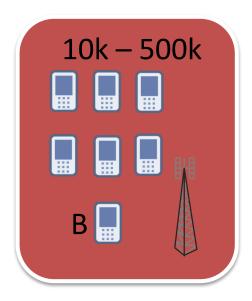


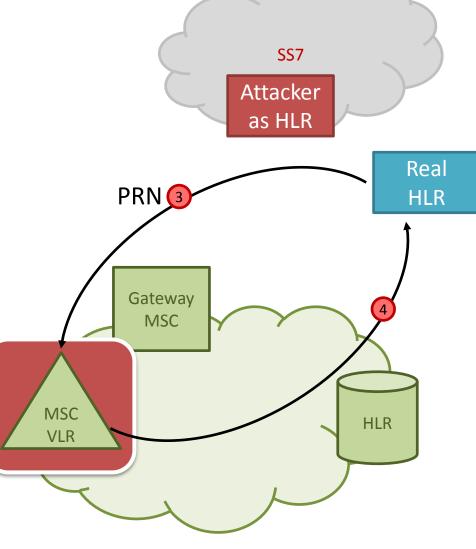


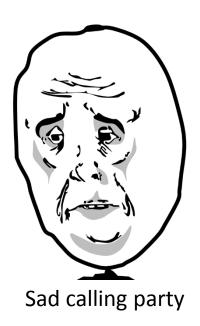
DoS

No incoming

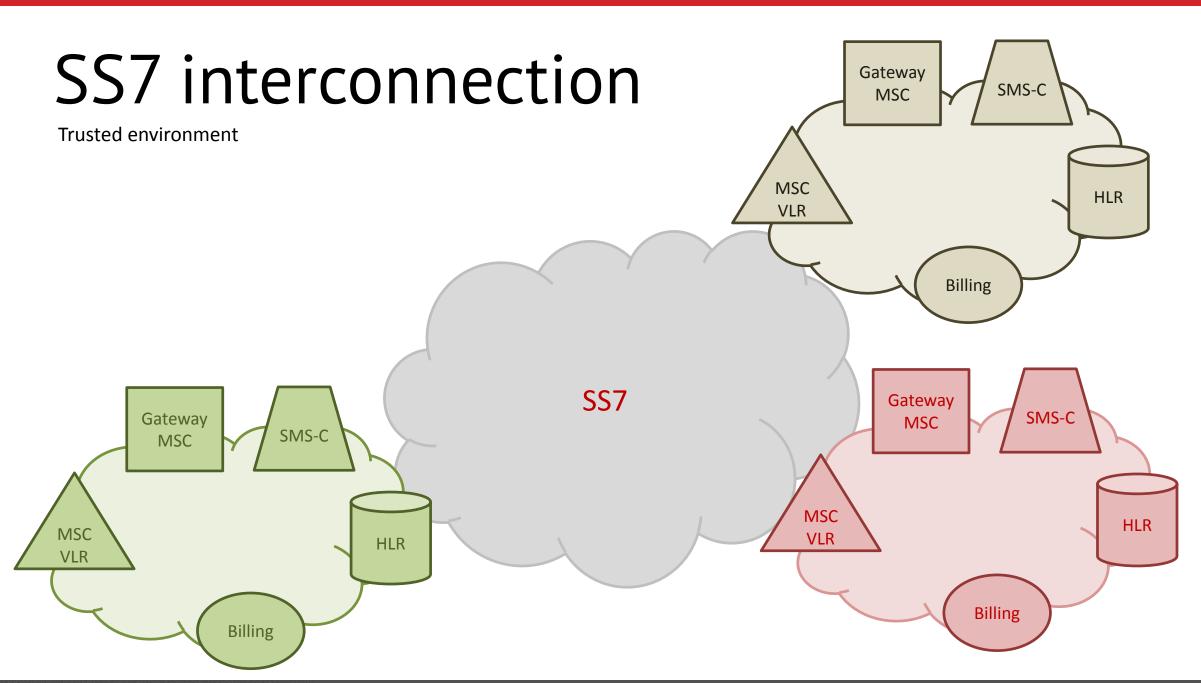
calls





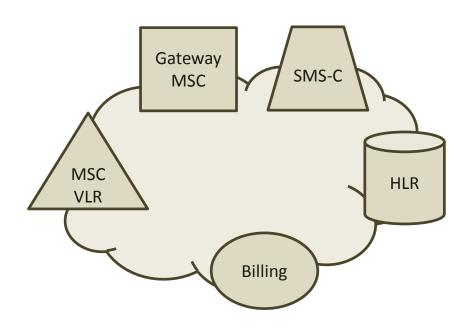


Fraud in SS7

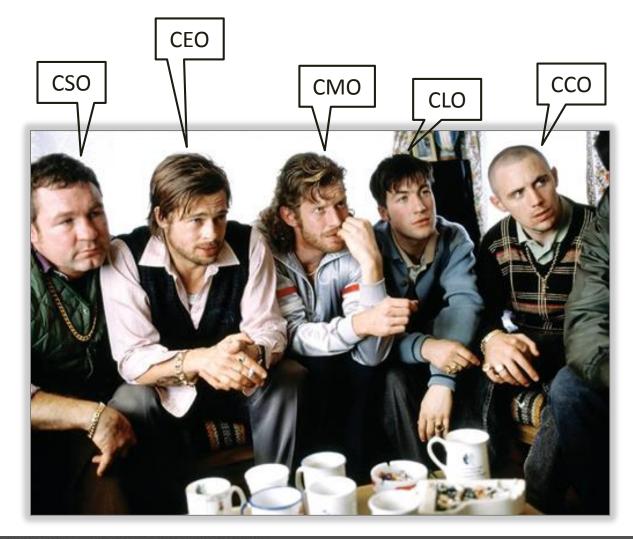


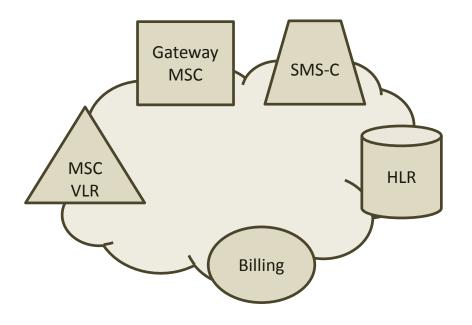
Leadership team





Leadership team





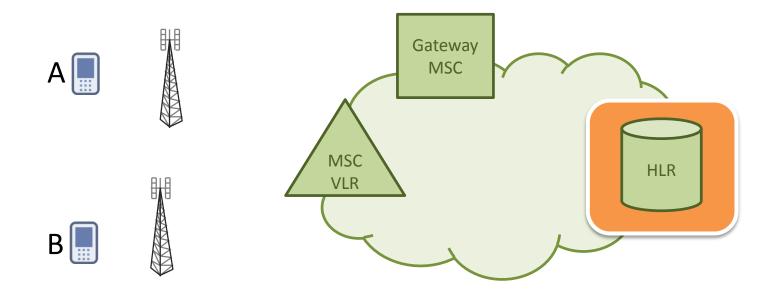
Really?!
Trust them?

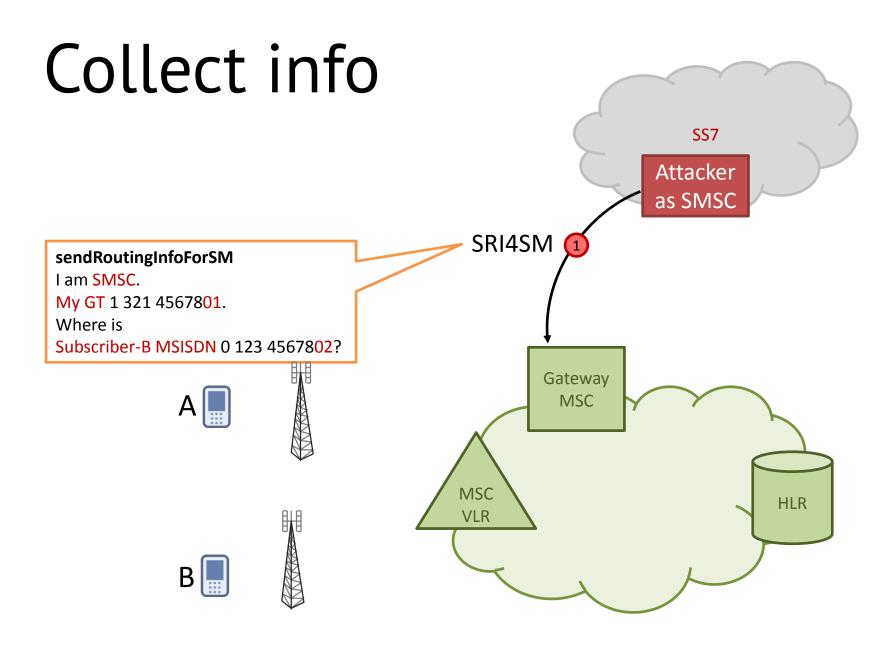
Uncharged calls

- 1) Spoof MSC
- 2) Initiate «home network» call
- 3) Forward call anywhere

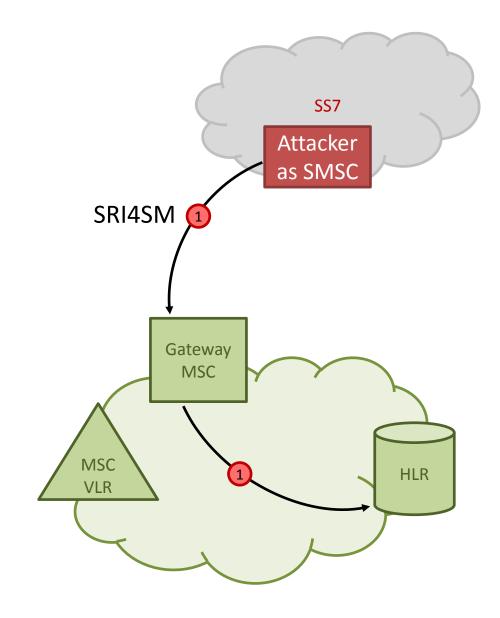


We know

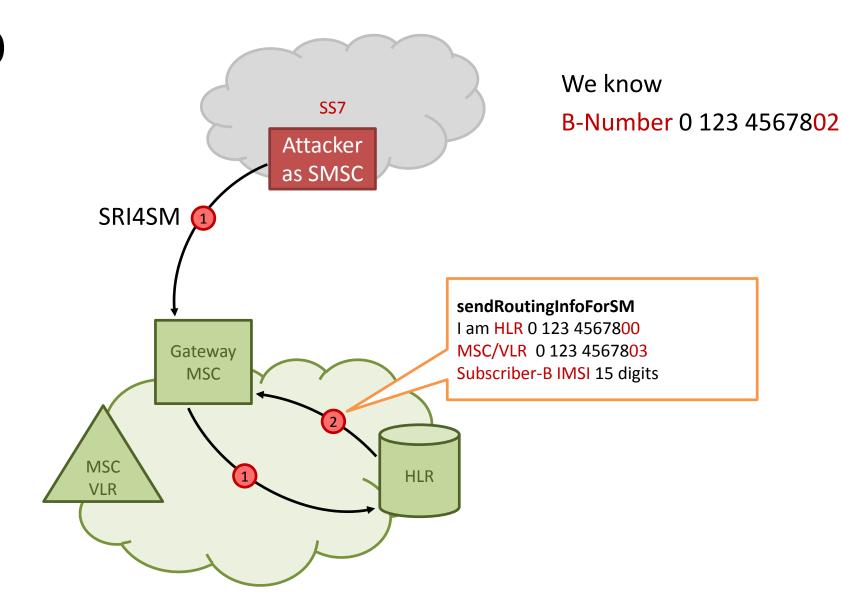


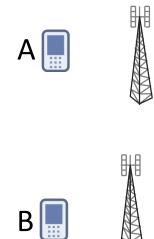


We know



We know





```
Protocol
         Length Info
           194 invoke sendRoutingInfoForSM
GSM MAP
           206 returnResultLast sendRoutingInfoForSM
GSM MAP

⊕ Called Party address (II bytes)

    □ Calling Party address (11 bytes)

    ⊕ Address Indicator

      SubSystem Number: HLR (Home Location Register) (6)
      [Linked to TCAP]

□ Global Title 0x4 (9 bytes)

        Translation Type: 0x00
        0001 .... = Numbering Plan: ISDN/telephony (0x01)
        .... 0001 = Encoding Scheme: BCD, odd number of digits (0x01)
        .000 0100 = Nature of Address Indicator: International number (0x04)

    ⊕ Calling Party Digits: HLR 0 123 4567800

⊕ Transaction Capabilities Application Part

    □ Component: returnResultLast (2)

    □ returnResultLast

        invokeID: 1

□ resultretres

    opCode: localvalue (0)

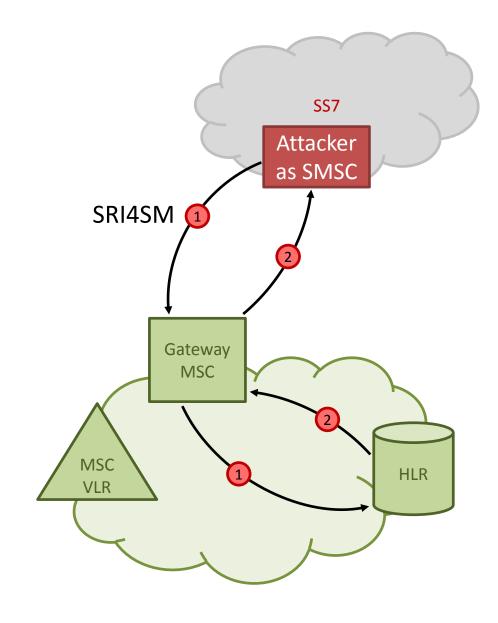
          imsi: Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits
          TBCD digits:
        □ locationInfoWithLMSI
          networkNode-Number: MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803
              1... .... = Extension: No Extension
              .001 .... = Nature of number: International Number (0x01)
                   0001 - Number plan: ISDN/Telephony Numbering (Rec ITU-T E.164) (0x01)
              Address digits:
```

We know

B-Number 0 123 4567802

sendRoutingInfoForSM

I am HLR 0 123 4567800 MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803 Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits



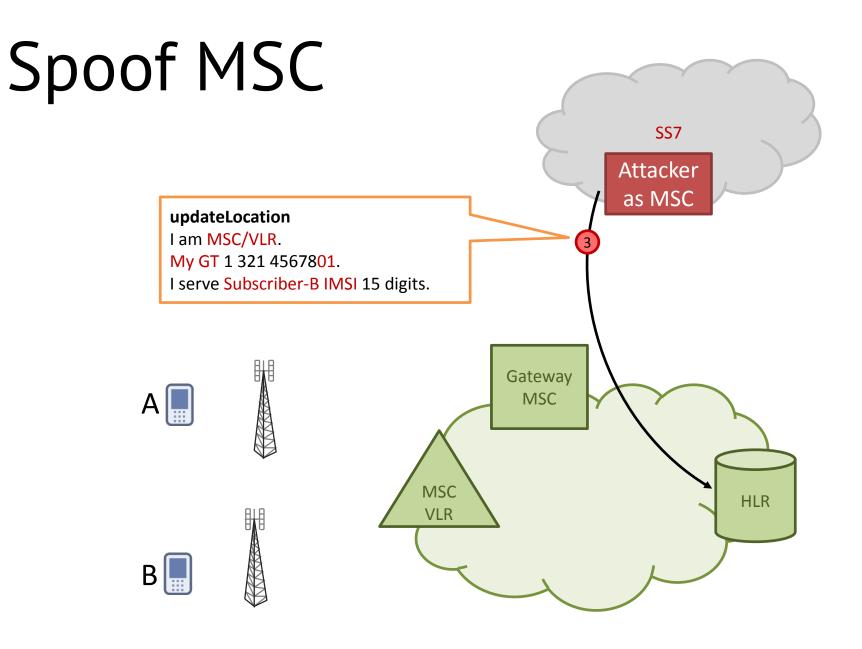
We know

B-Number 0 123 4567802

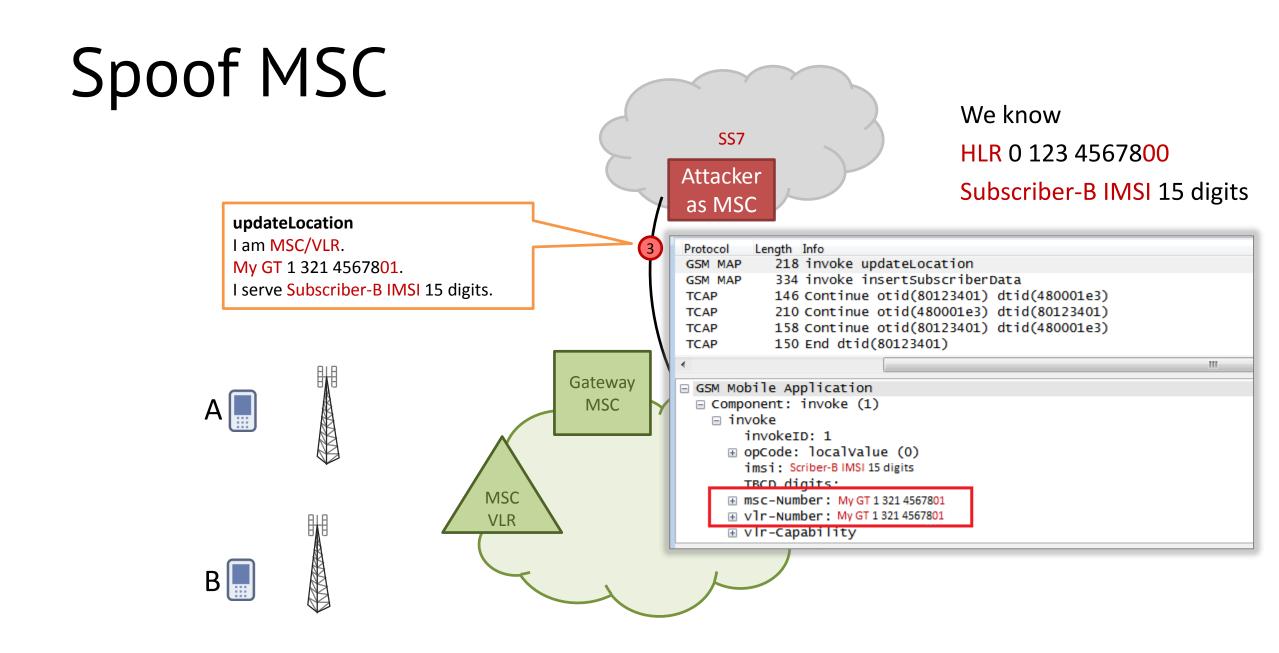
HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

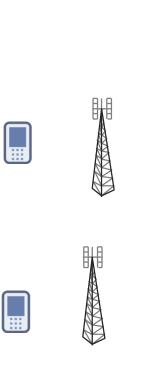
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

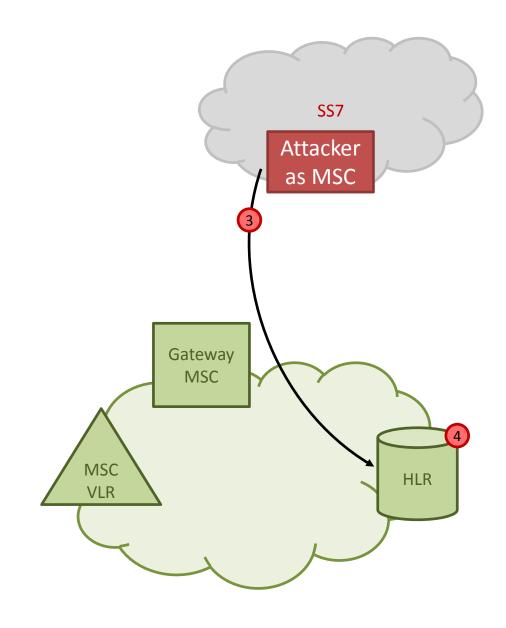


We know
HLR 0 123 4567800
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits



Spoof MSC





We know

HLR 0 123 4567800

Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

HLR stores

Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

Spoof MSC

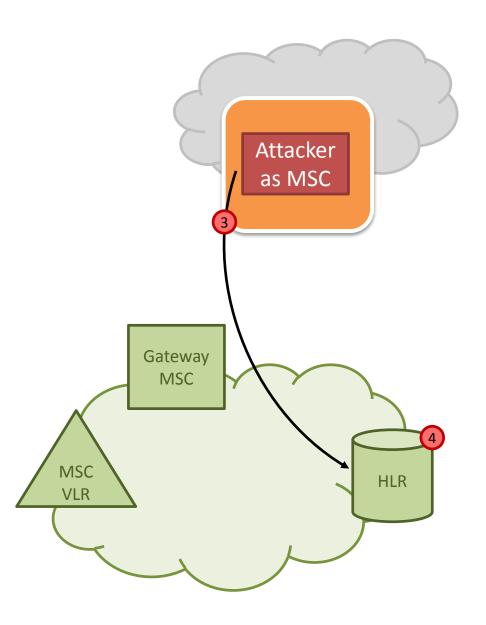
We serve Subscriber-B







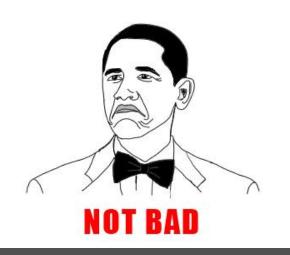




We know
HLR 0 123 4567800
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

HLR stores



Forward a call



A Gateway MSC VLR HLR

HLR stores
Subscriber-B
MSISDN 0 123 4567802
IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

GatewayMSC knows nothing

Forward a call

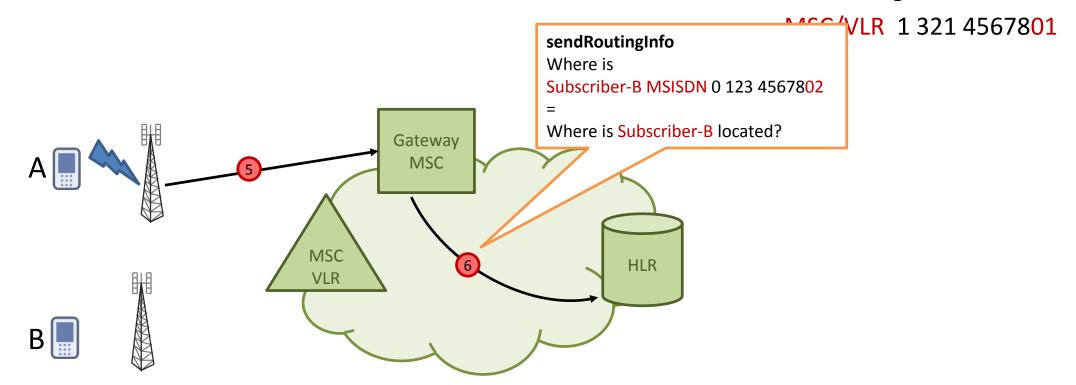


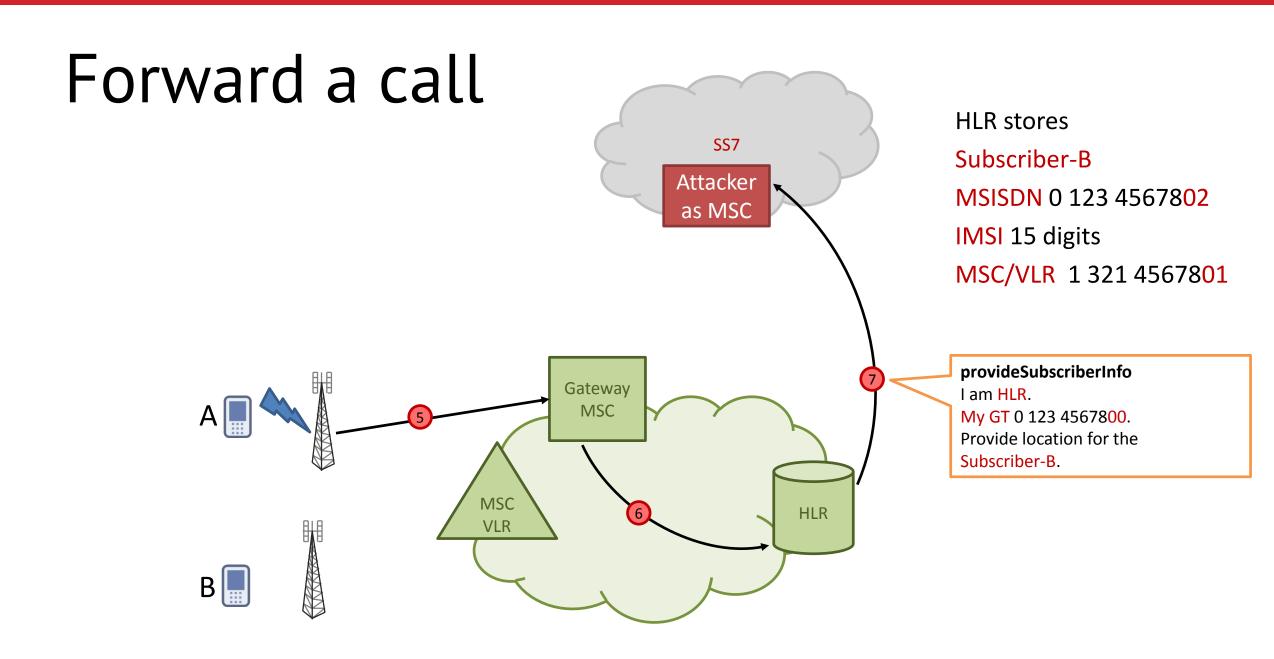
HLR stores

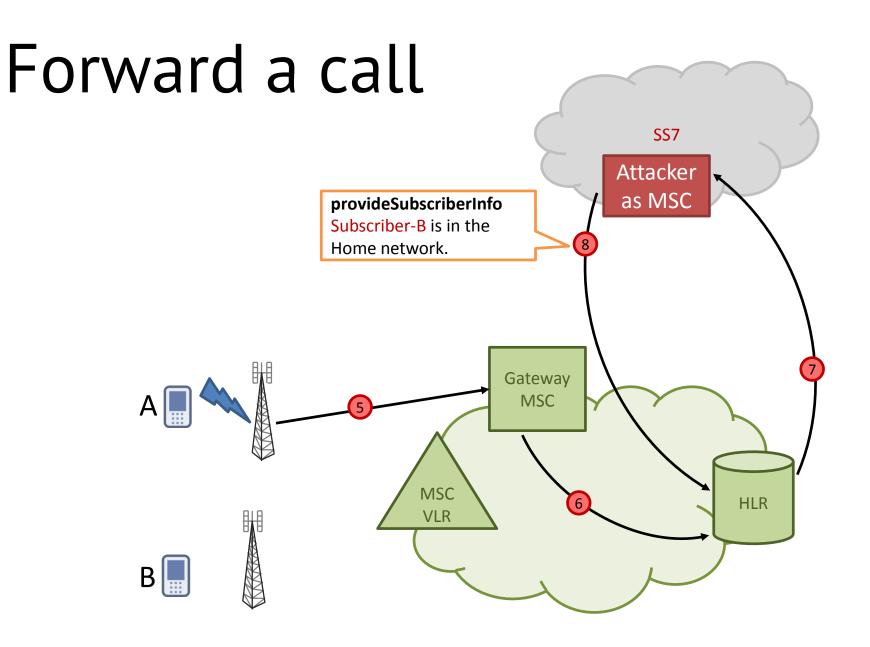
Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

IMSI 15 digits







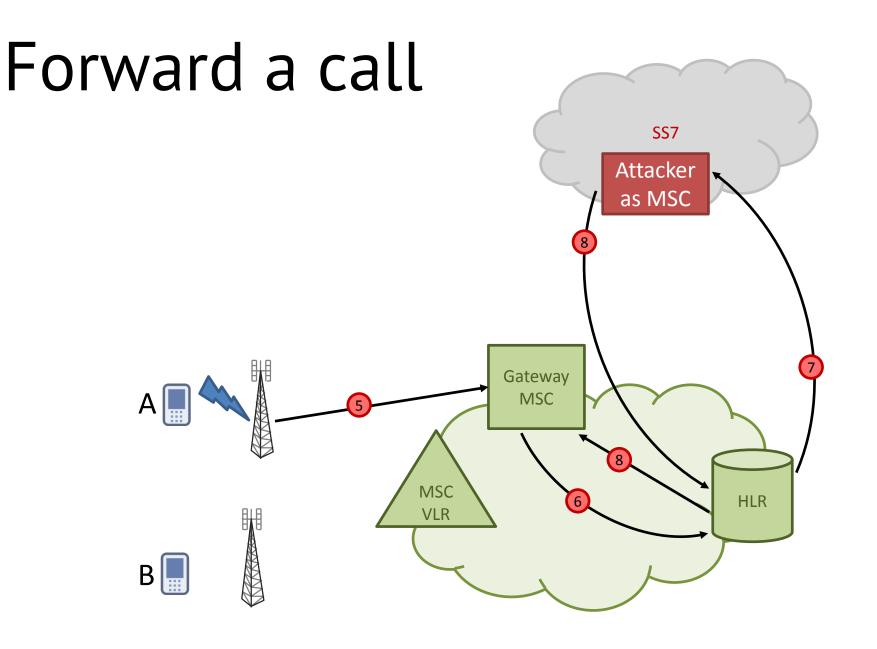
HLR stores

Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801



HLR stores

Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

GatewayMSC knows that Subscriber-B is at home.

This information will be sent to a billing platform.

Forward a call

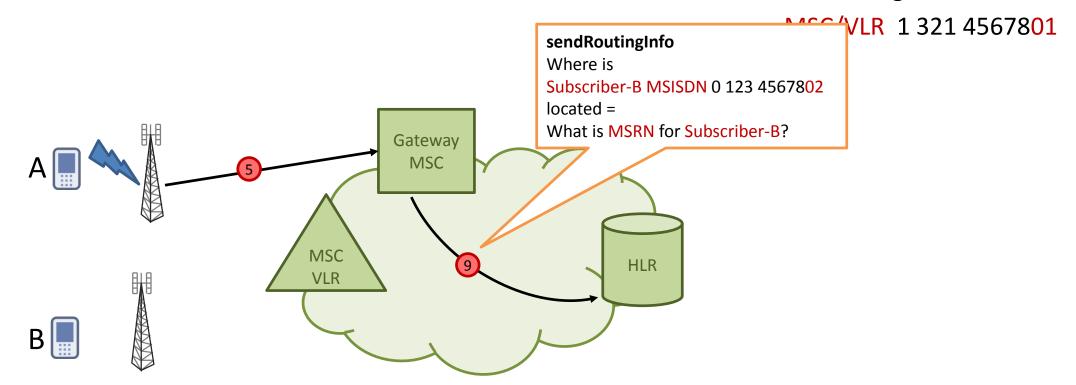


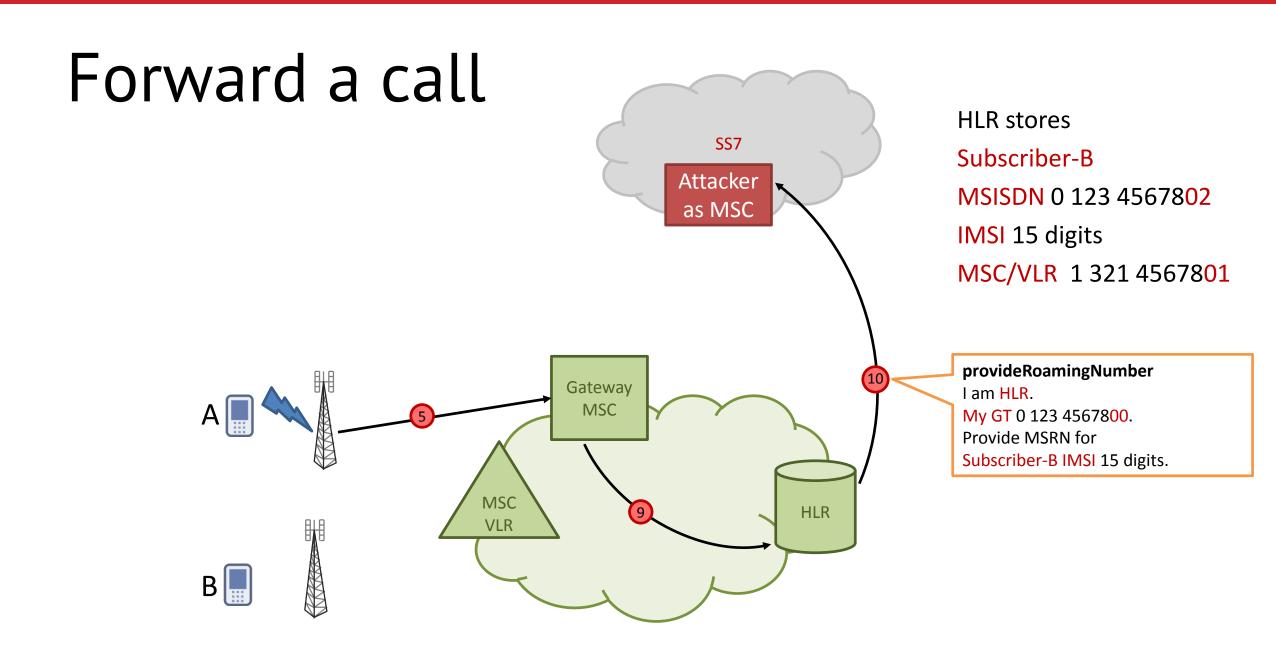
HLR stores

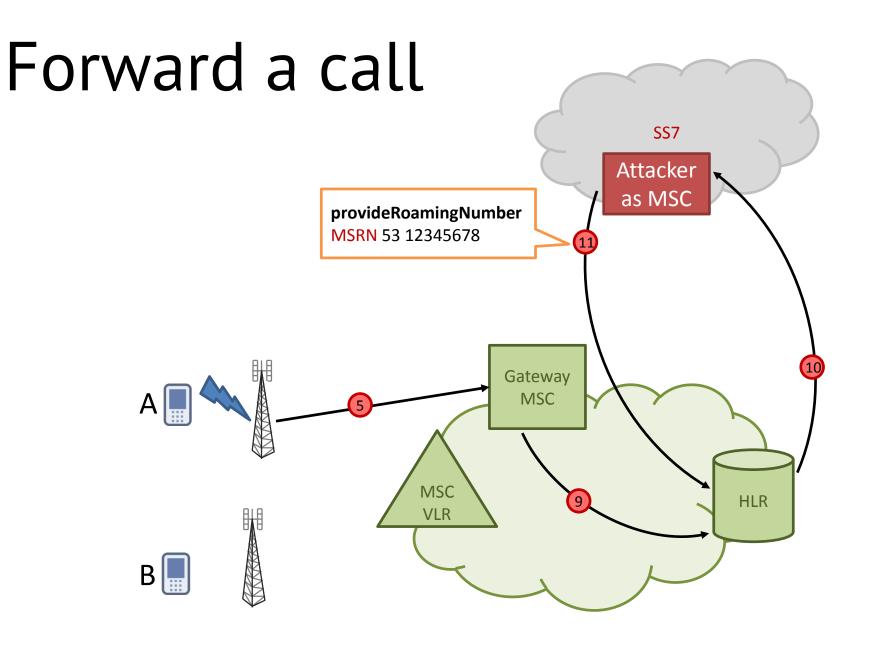
Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

IMSI 15 digits





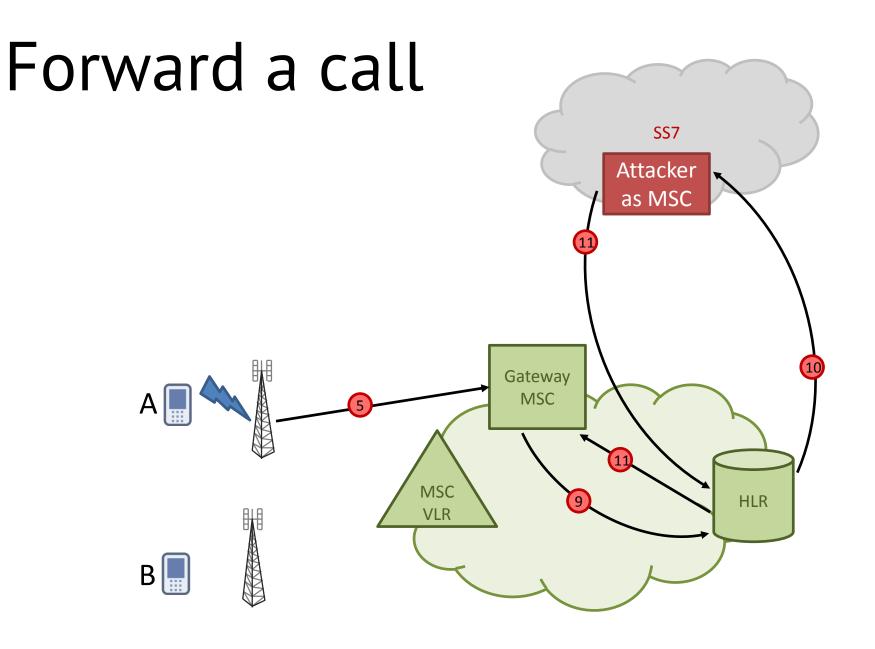


Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801



Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

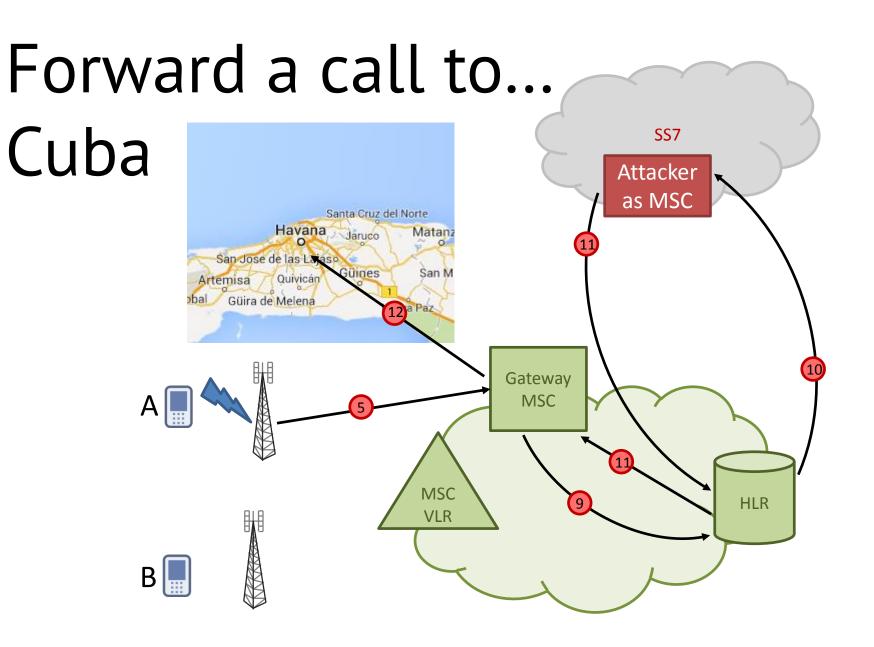
IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

GatewayMSC knows

Subscriber-B

MSRN 53 12345678



Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

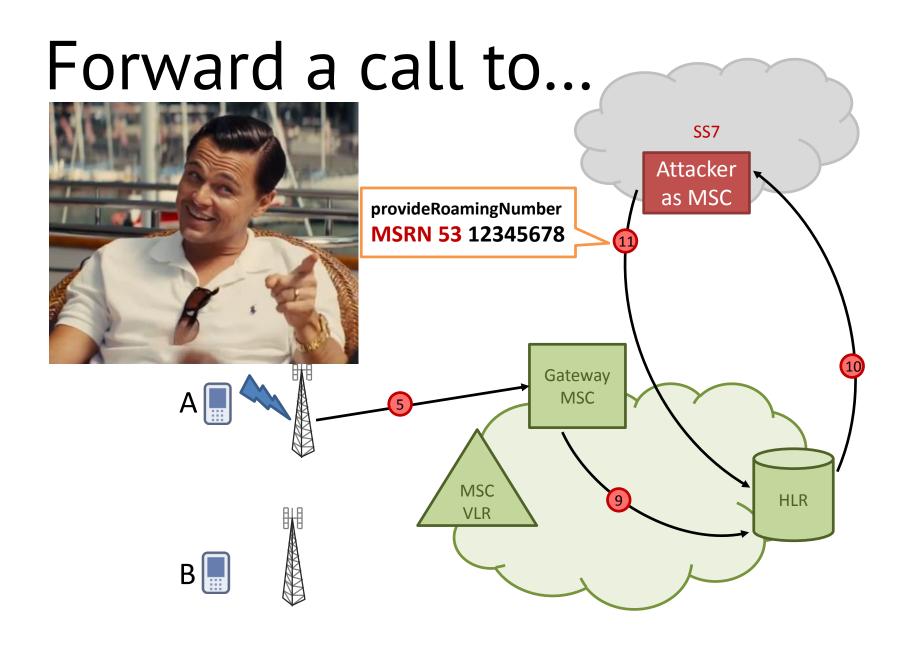
IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

GatewayMSC knows

Subscriber-B

MSRN 53 12345678



Subscriber-B

MSISDN 0 123 4567802

IMSI 15 digits

MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

GatewayMSC knows

Subscriber-B

MSRN 53 12345678

Who pays?

```
Call from A to B while at "home" = $ 0.05
```

Who pays?

$$$1.00 - $0.05 = $0.95 - Attacker profit$$

Who pays?

$$$1.00 - $0.05 = $0.95 - Attacker profit$$

How much Mobile operator loses? Call from MNO to Cuba = \$ 0.30

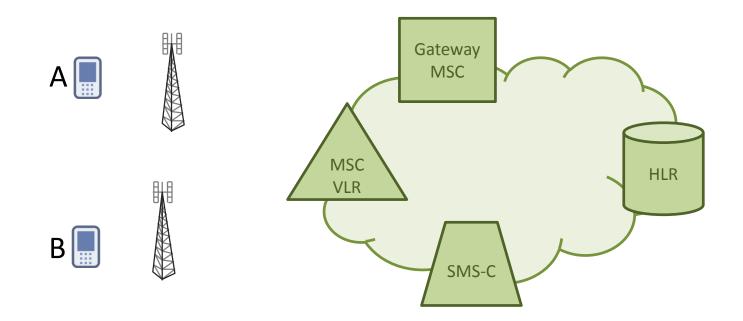
SMS Interception

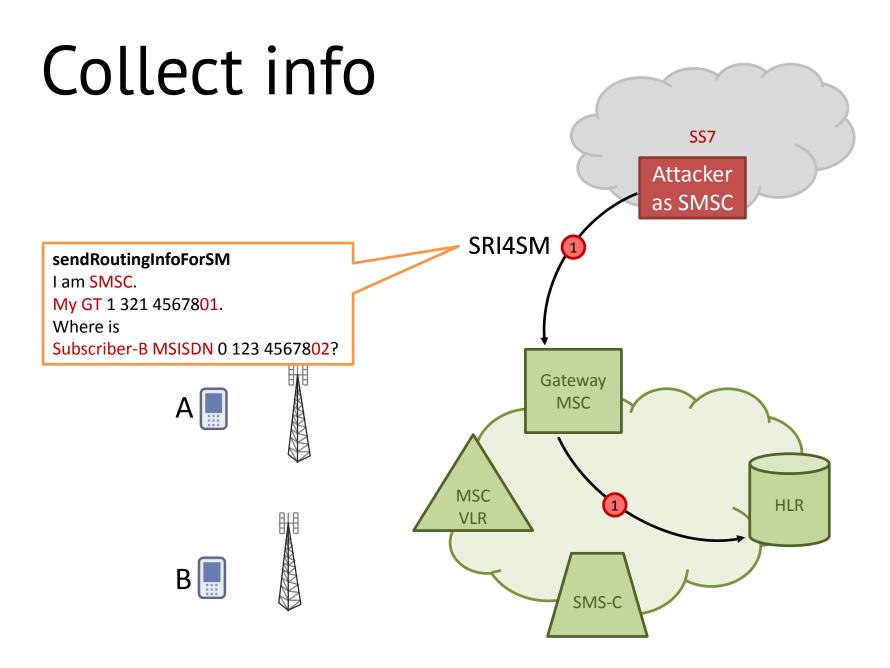
- 1) Collect info
- 2) Spoof MSC
- 3) Receive incoming SMSs

Collect info

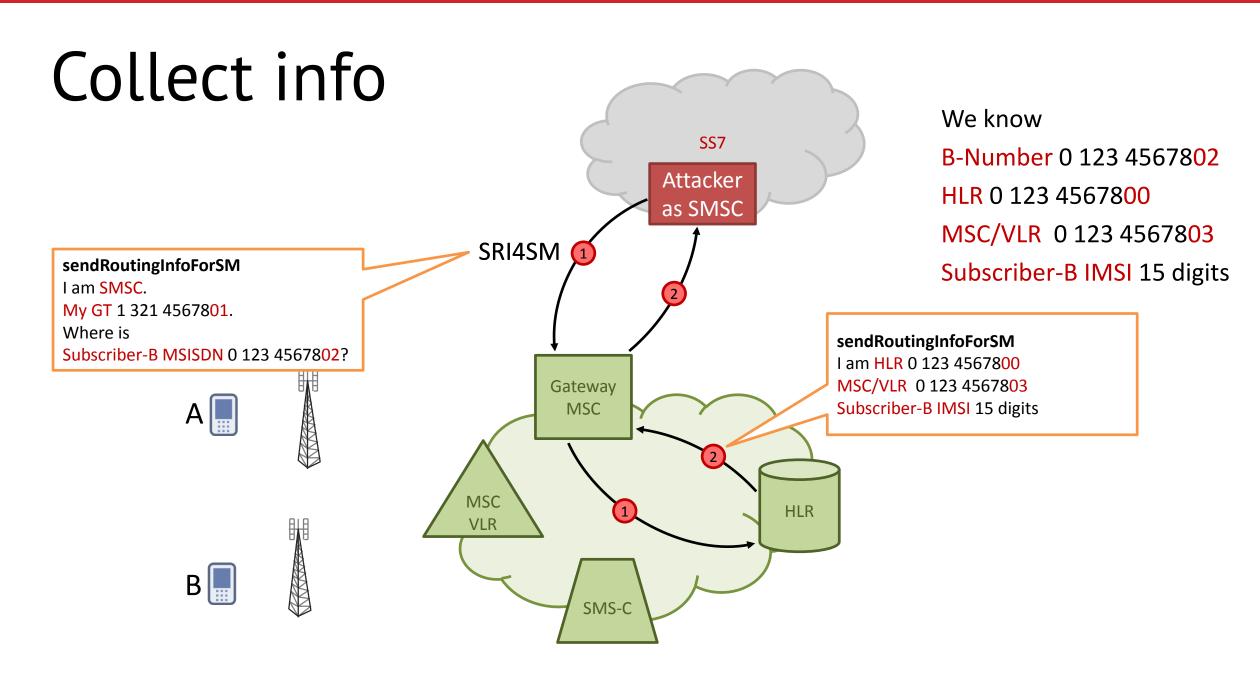


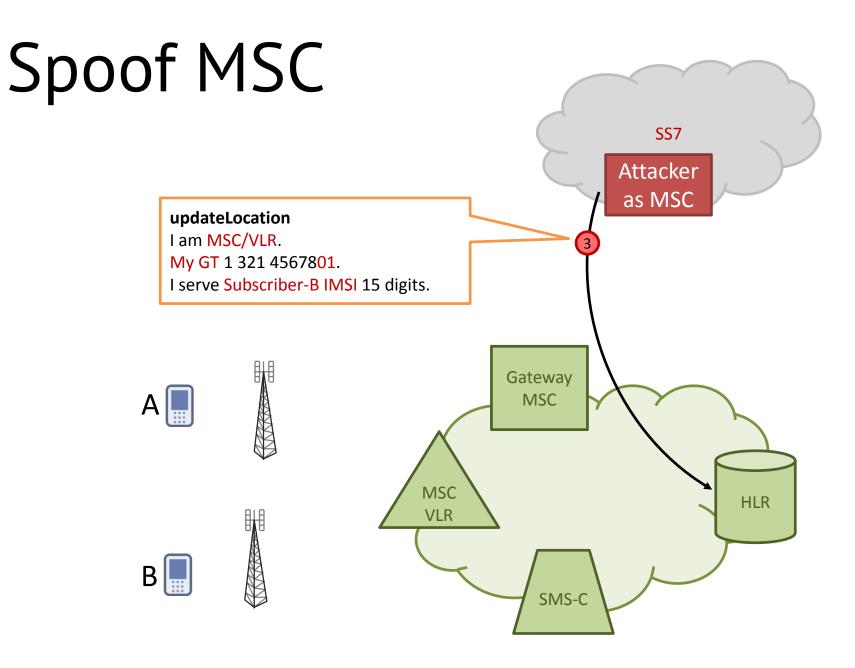
We know





We know





We know
HLR 0 123 4567800
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

Spoof MSC

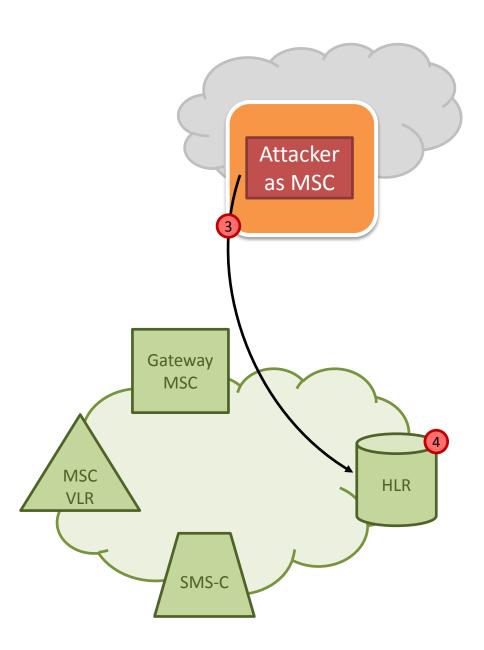
We serve Subscriber-B











We know
HLR 0 123 4567800
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits MSC/VLR 1 321 4567801

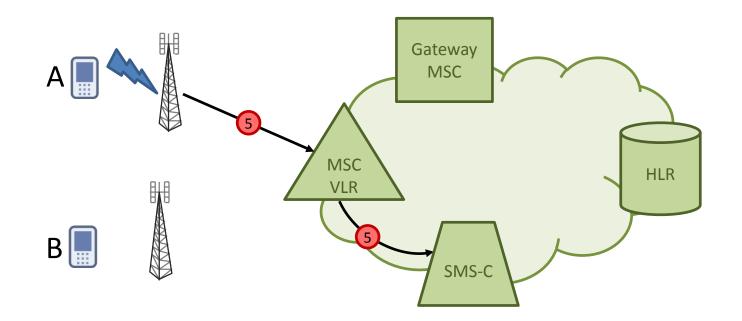
HLR stores



SMS interception



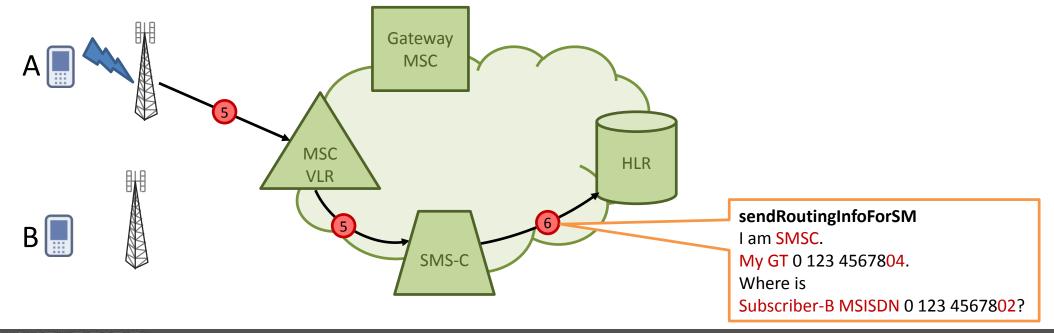
"Hi, meet at 8pm at Baker Street"

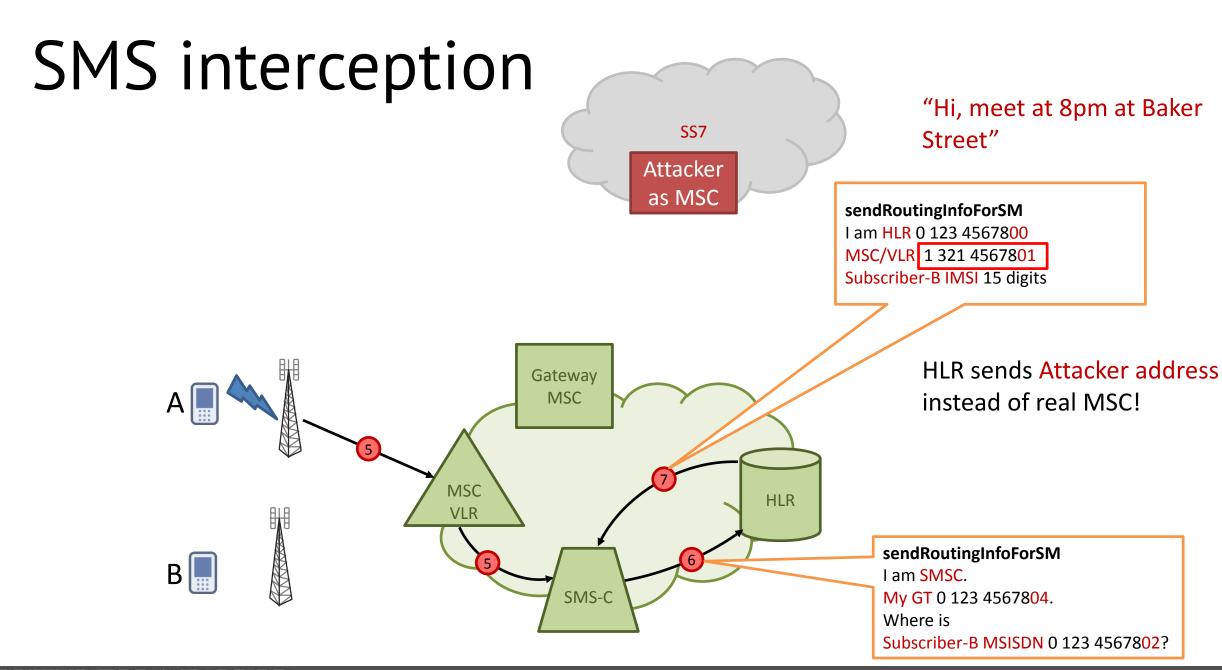


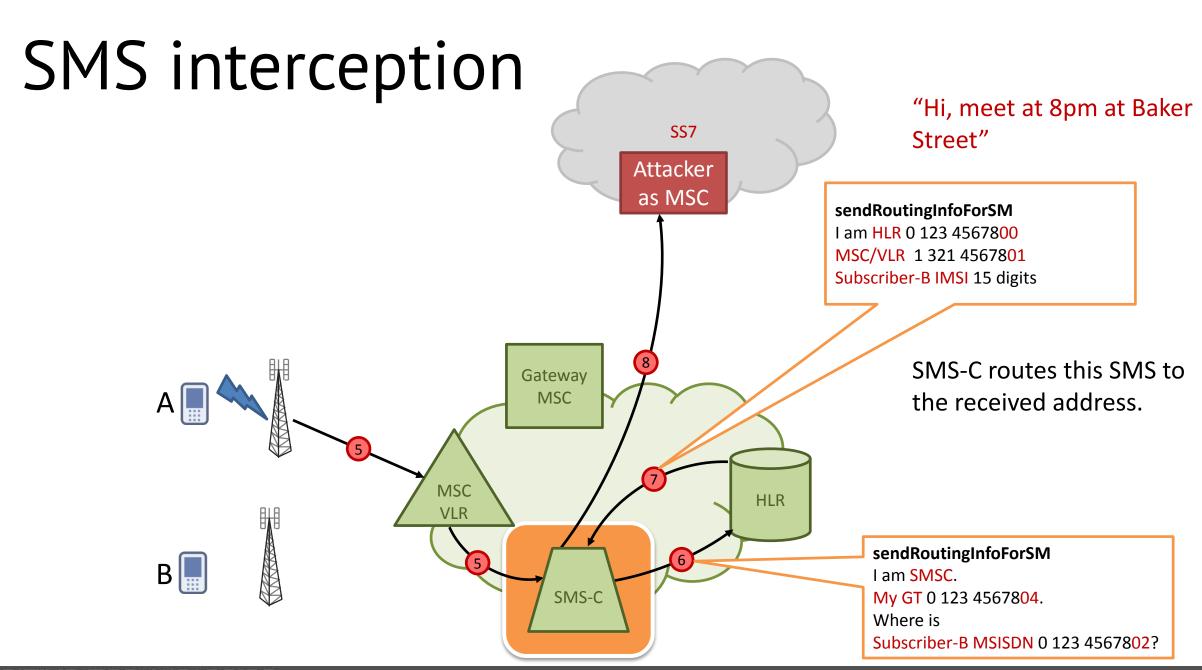
SMS interception

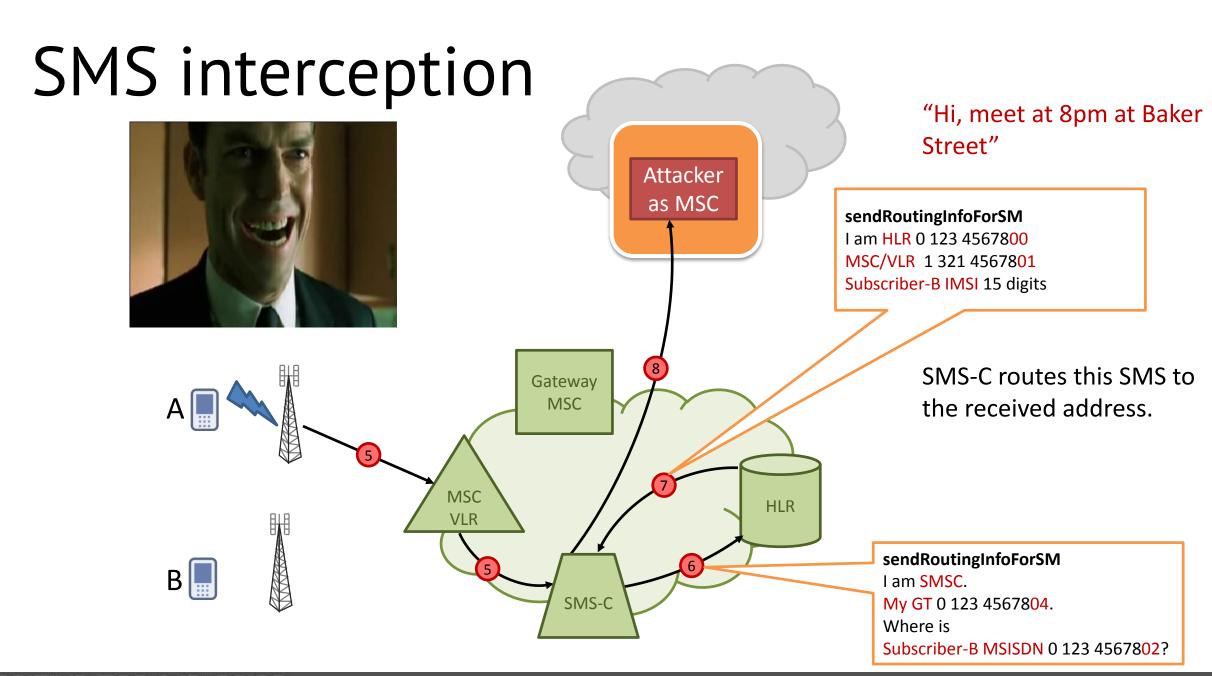


"Hi, meet at 8pm at Baker Street"









SMS interception



- 1. SMS chats
- 2. One time passwords
- 3. Confirmation codes
- 4. Password recovery

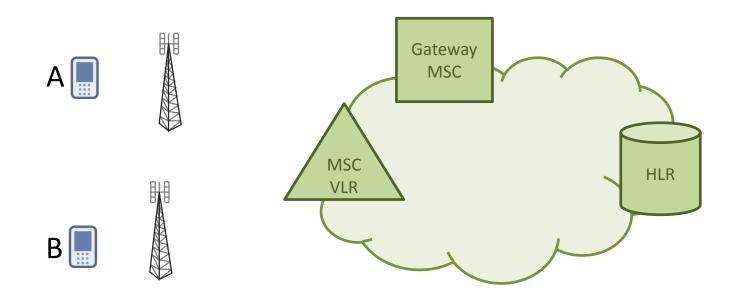
Money Transfer Using USSD

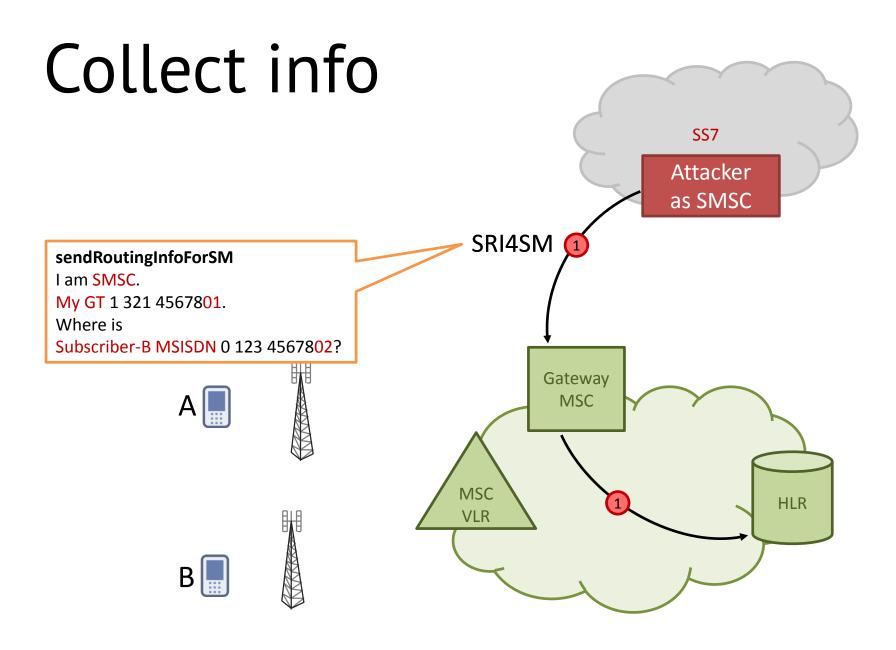
- 1) Collect info
- 2) Request account status
- 3) Transfer money

Collect info

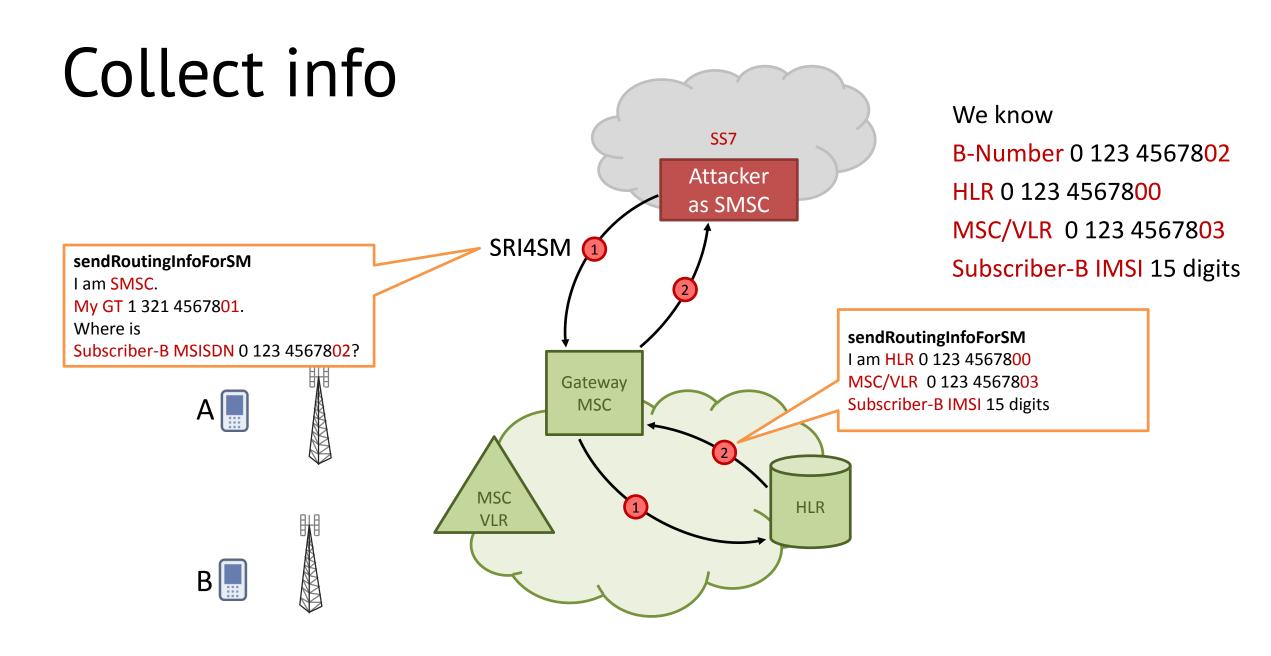


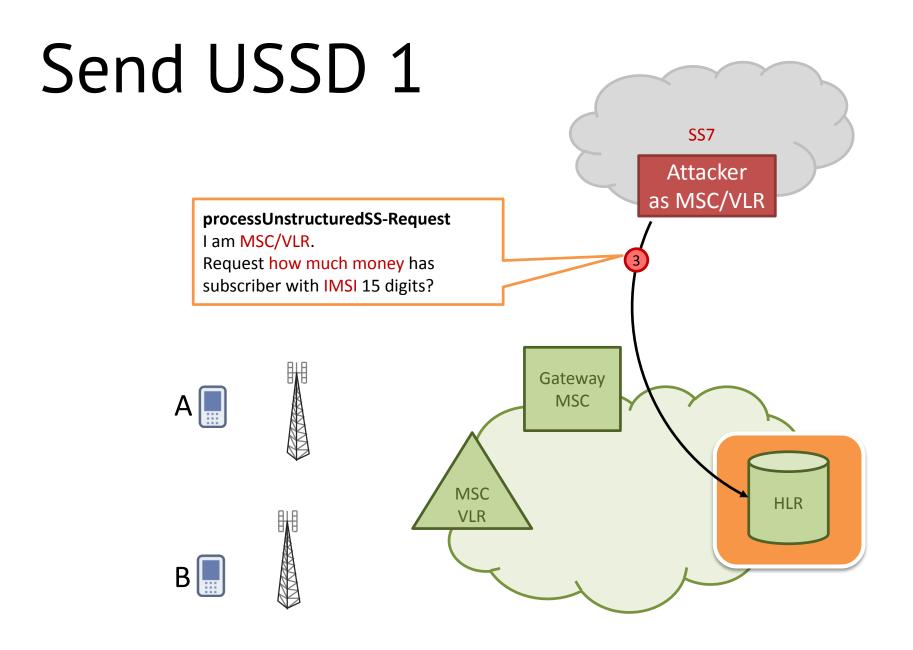
We know





We know



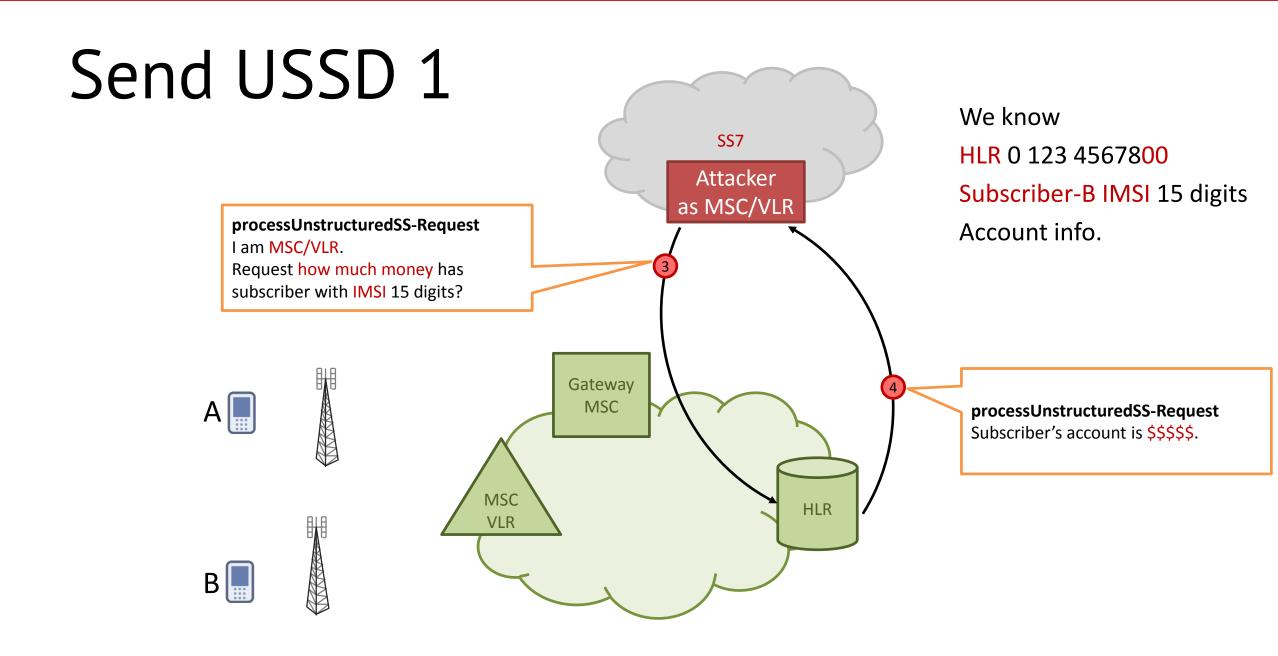


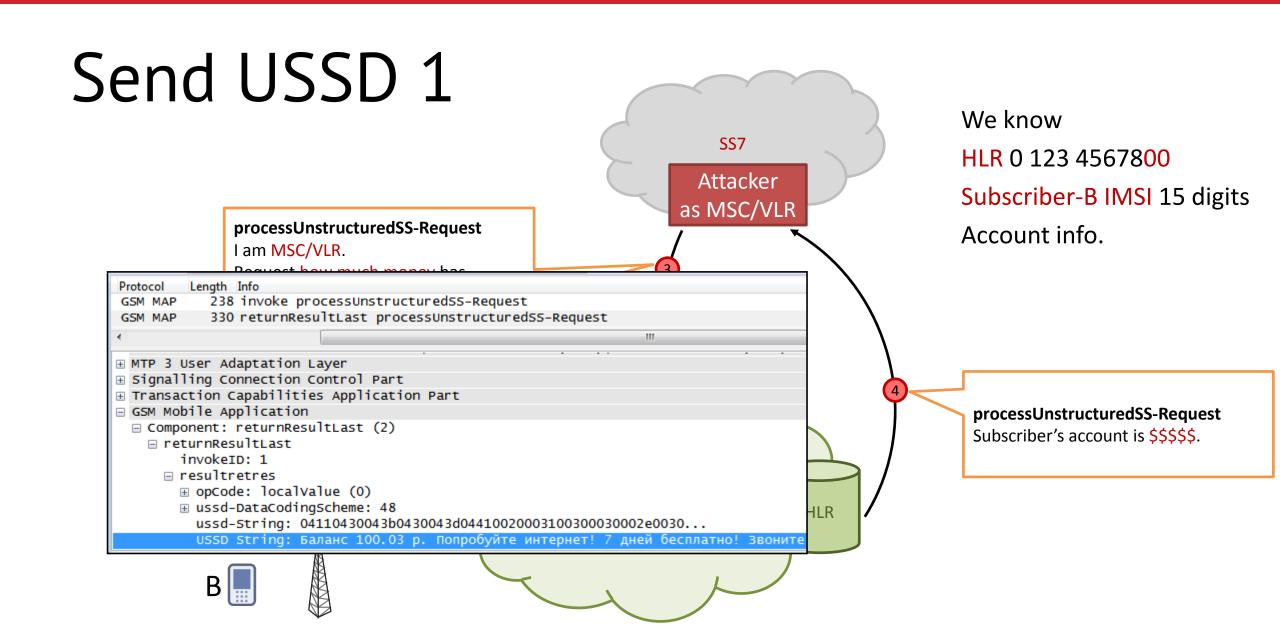
We know

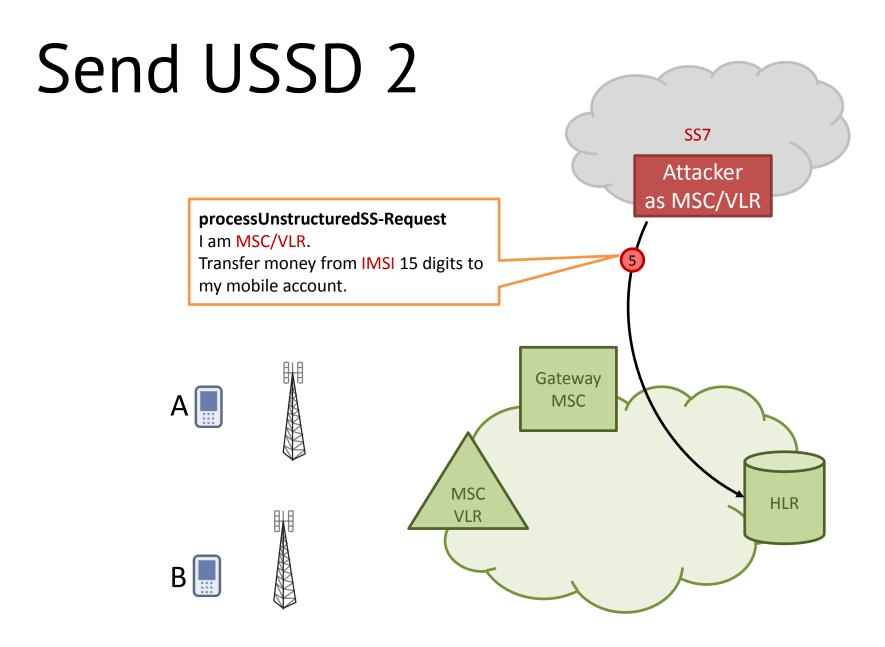
HLR 0 123 4567800

Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits

*100#

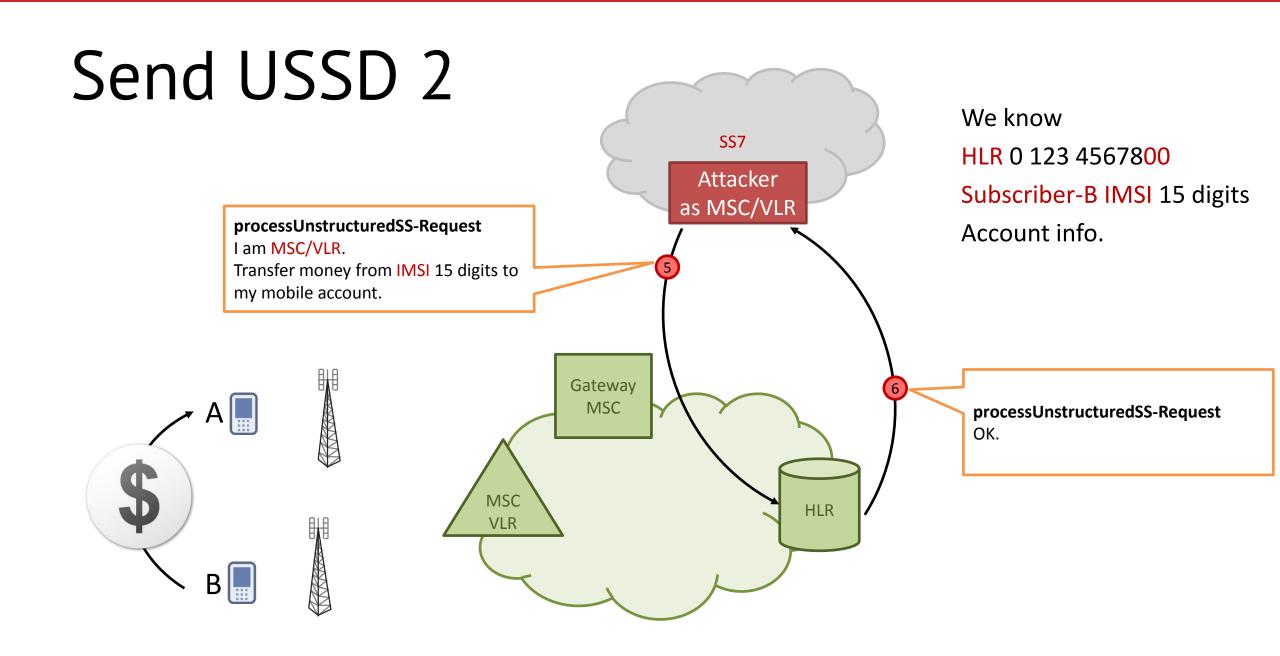


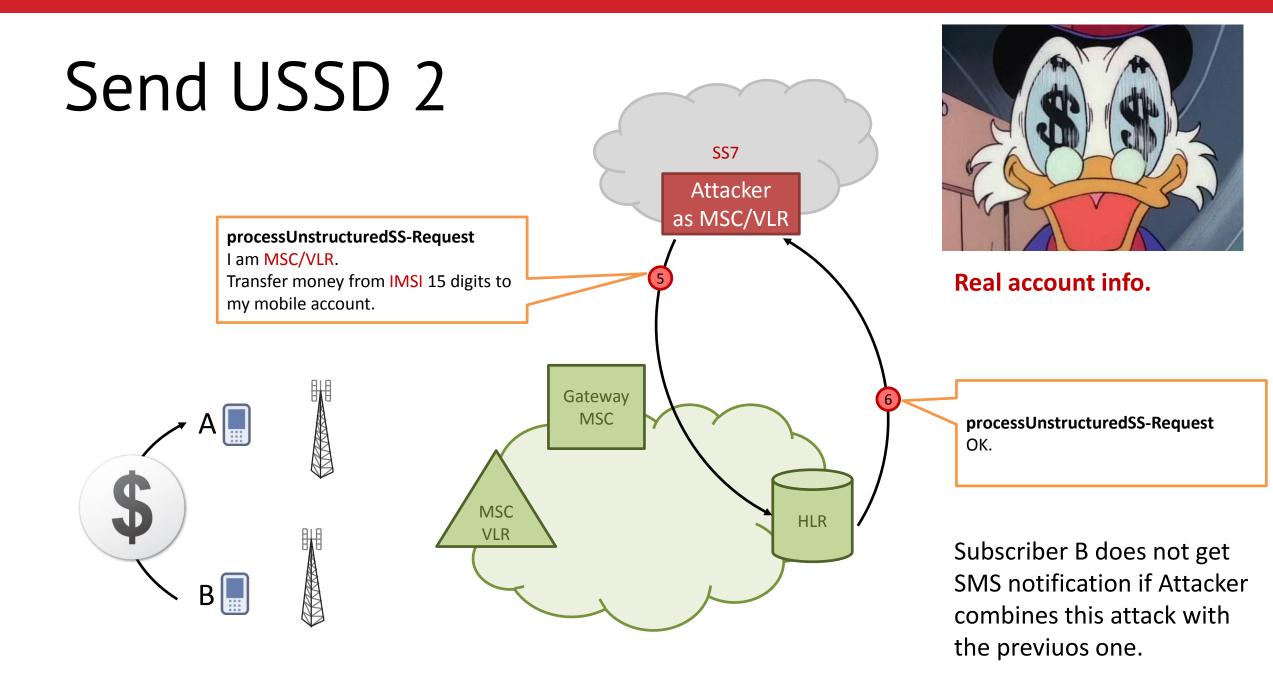


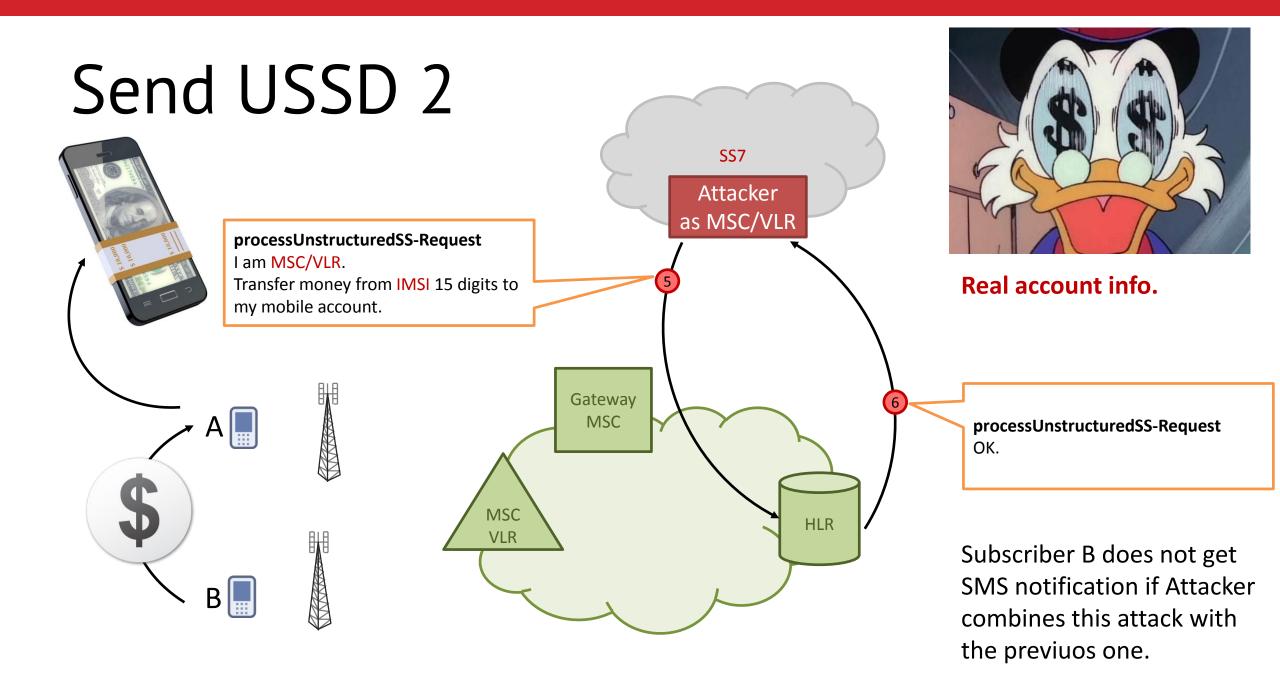


We know
HLR 0 123 4567800
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits
Account info.

*123*01238765400*100#







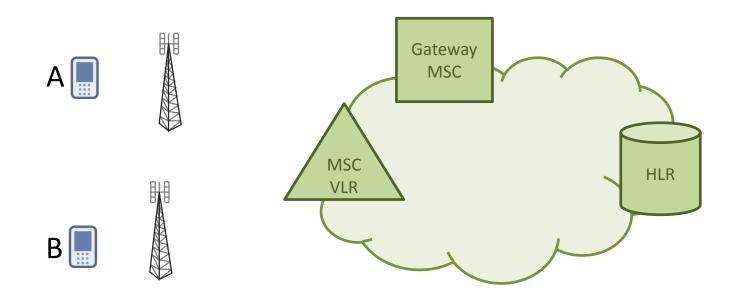
Subscriber Location Discovery

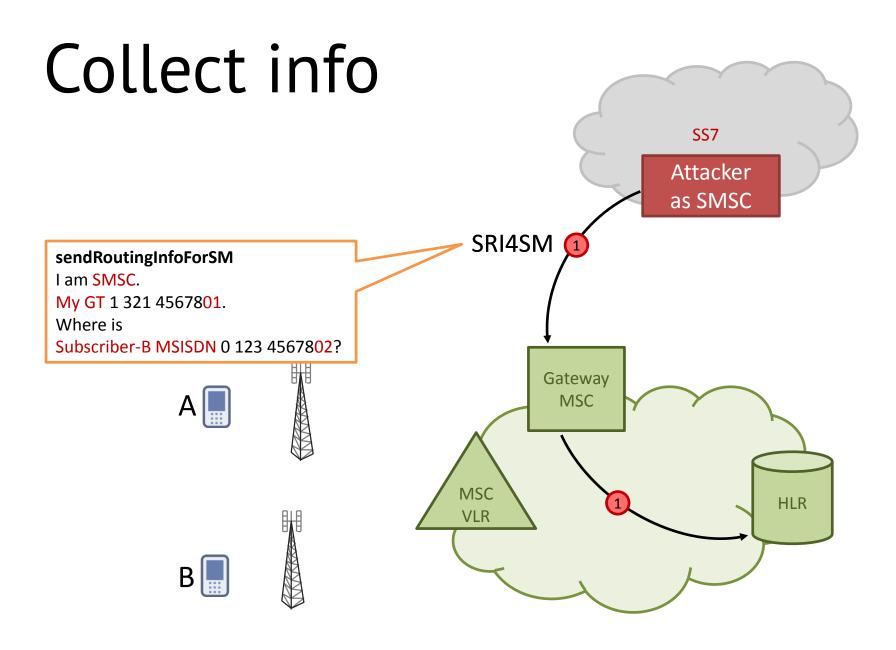
- 1) Collect info
- 2) Receive Cell ID
- 3) Get point on the map

Collect info

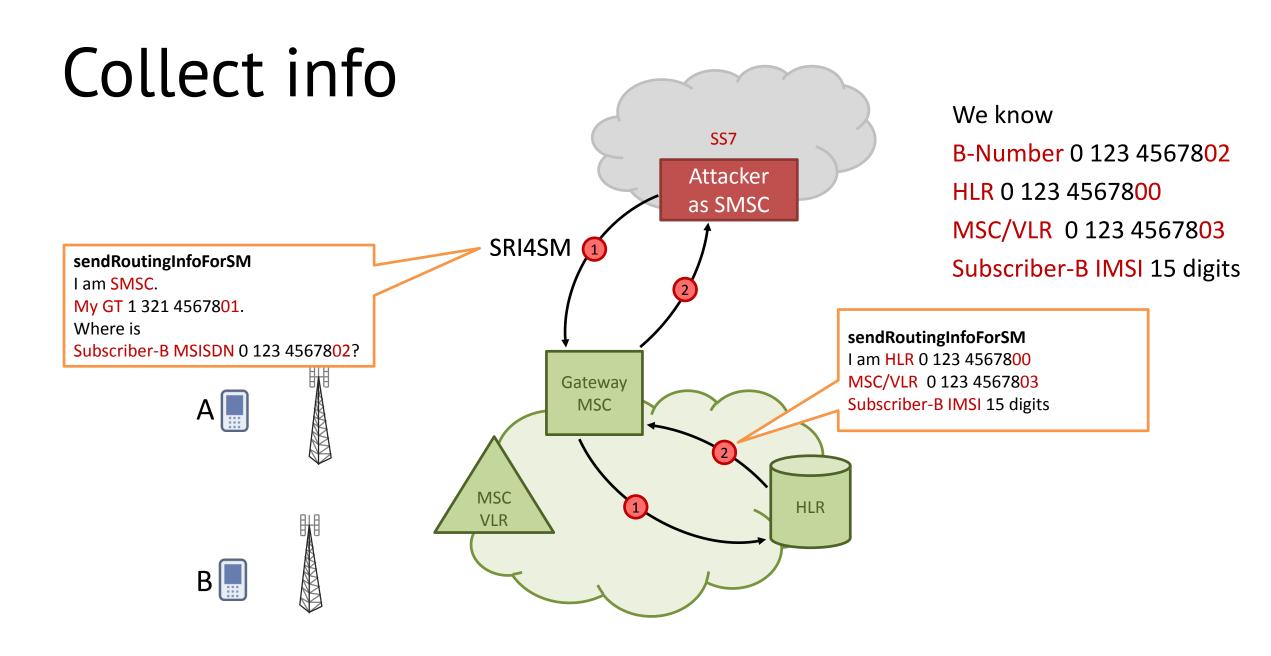


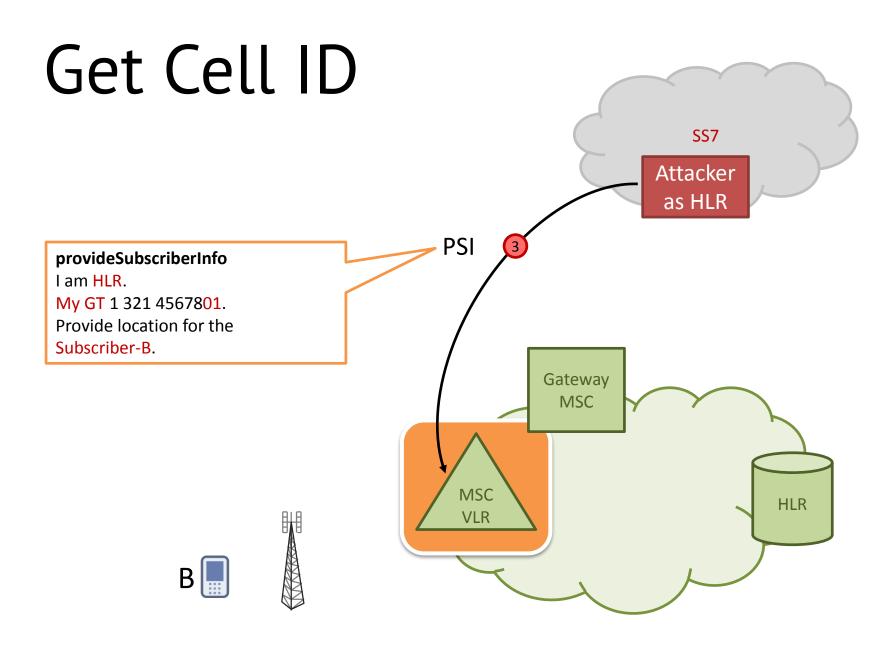
We know





We know



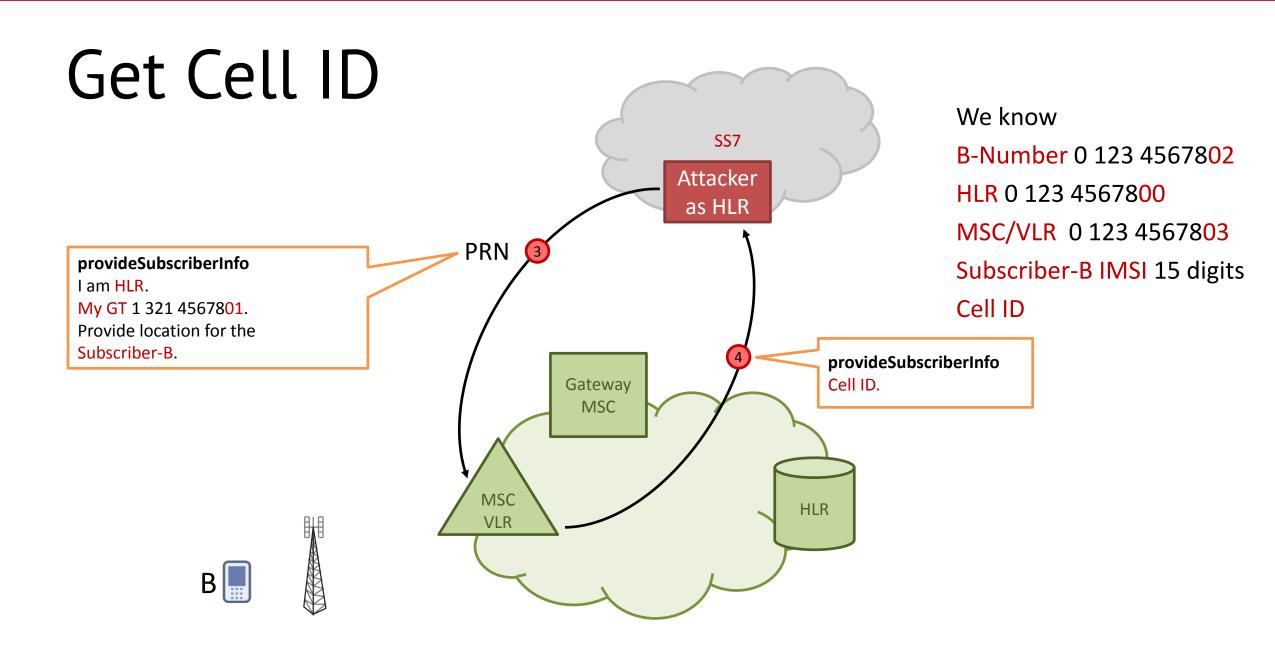


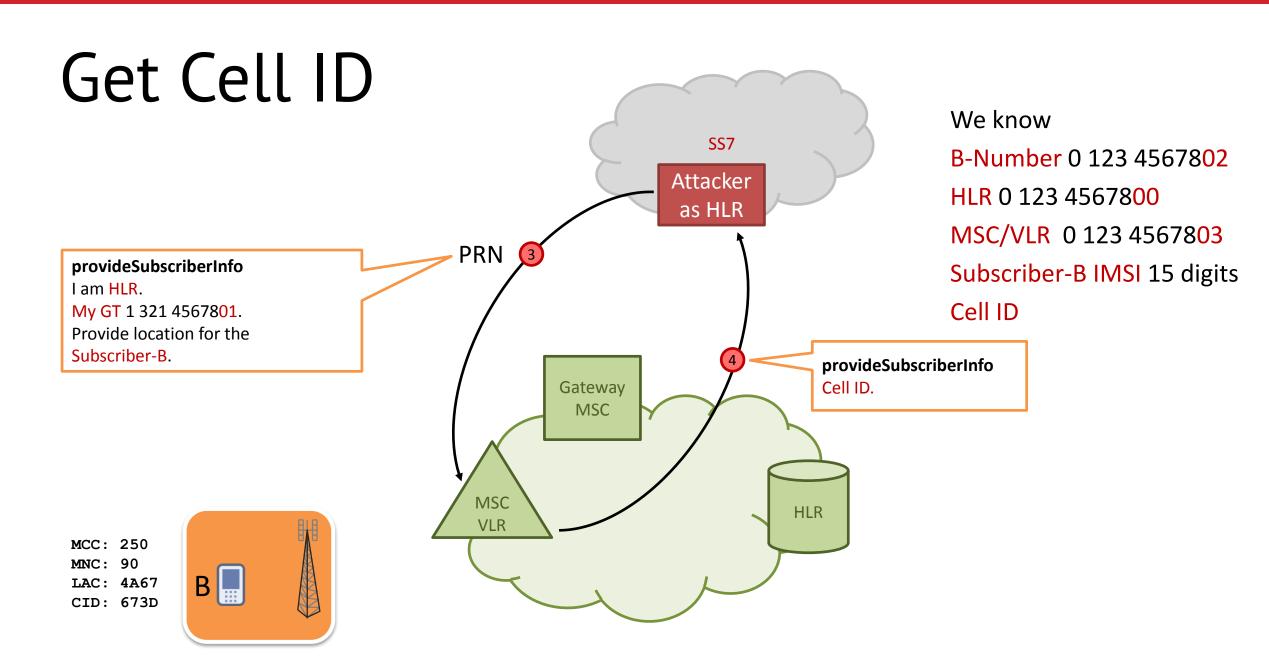
B-Number 0 123 4567802

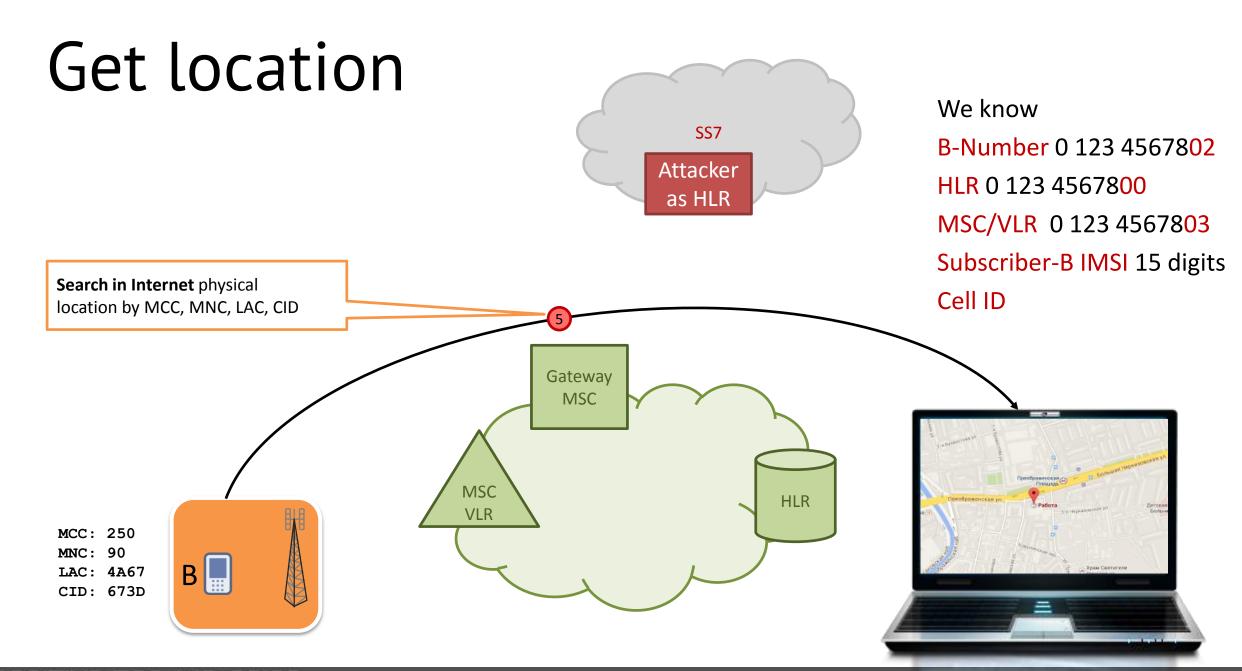
HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

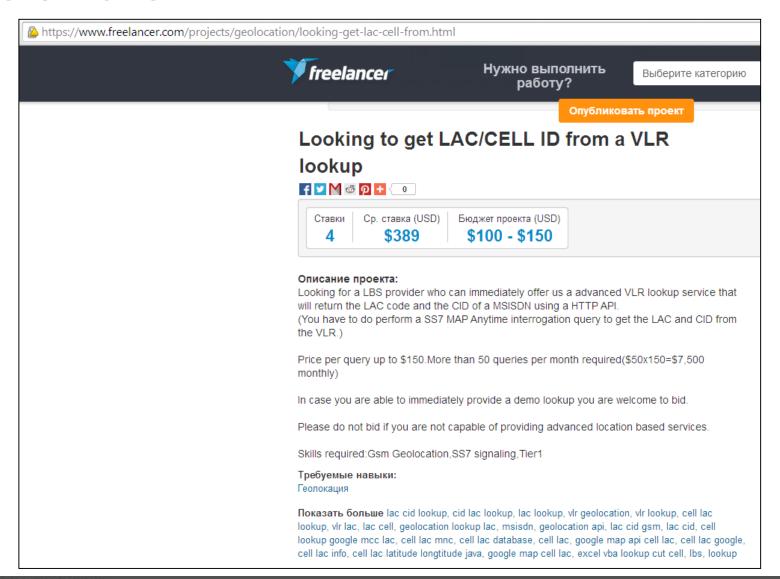
Subscriber-B IMSI 15 digits



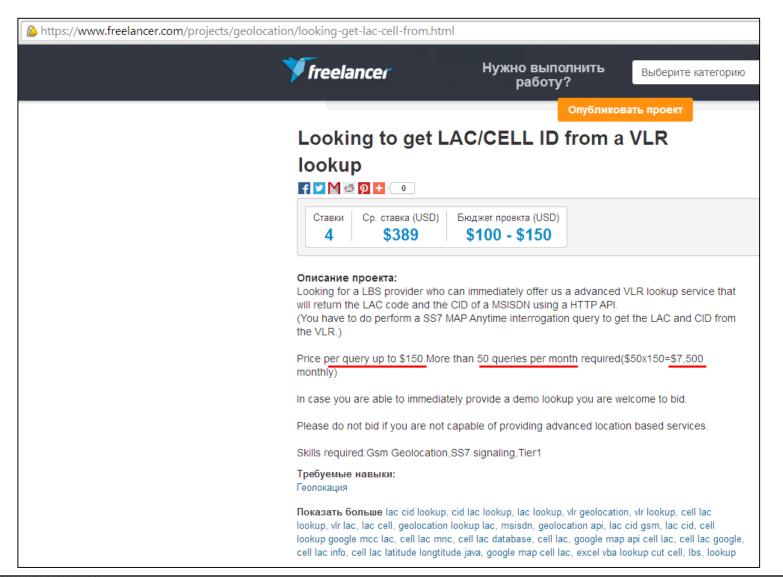




Get location



Get location





Voice Call Interception

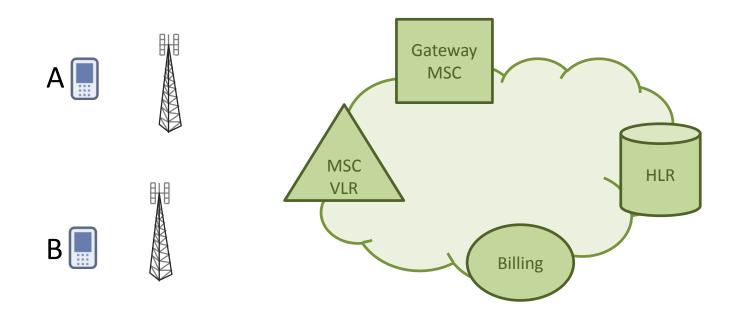
- 1) Collect info
- 2) Change subscriber profile
- 3) Add third party into mobile call

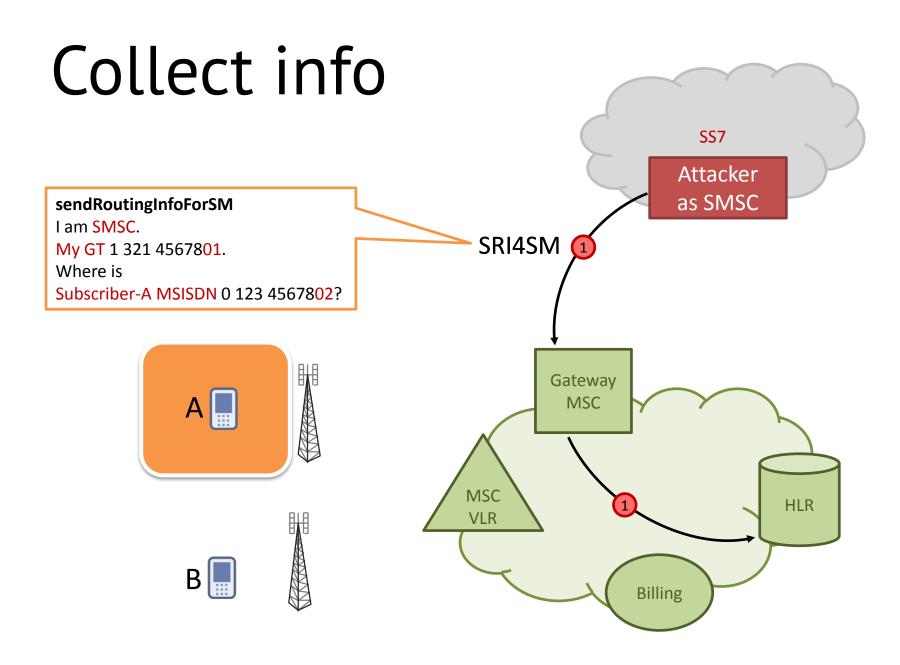
Collect info



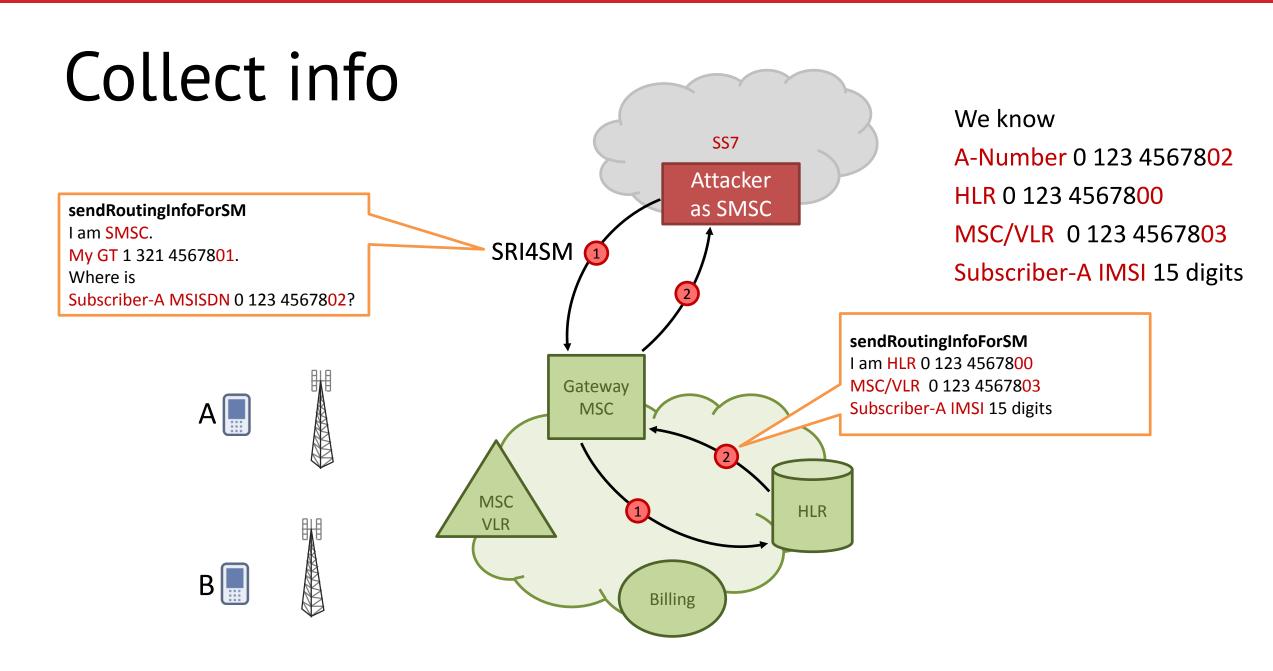
We know

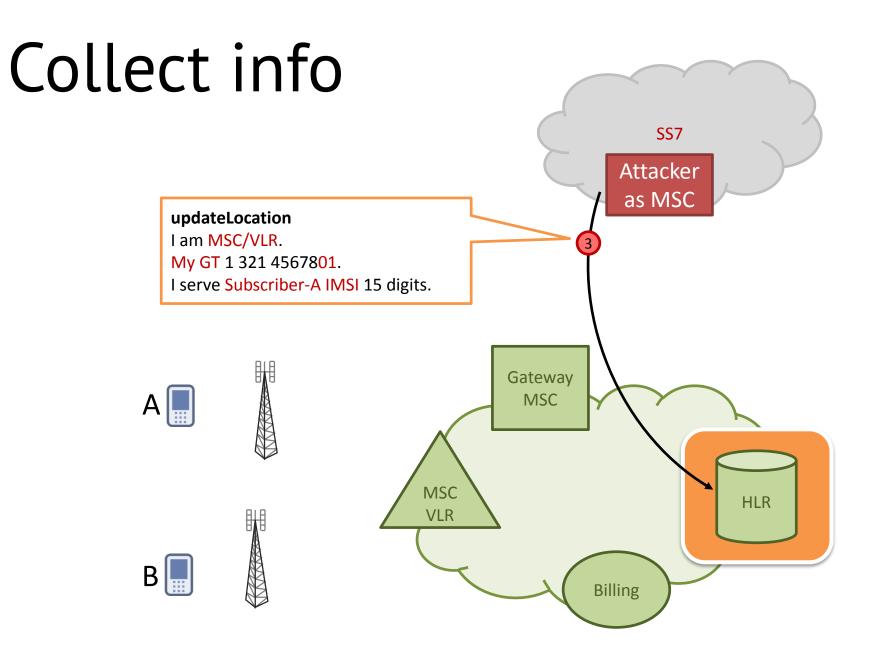
A-Number 0 123 4567802





A-Number 0 123 4567802



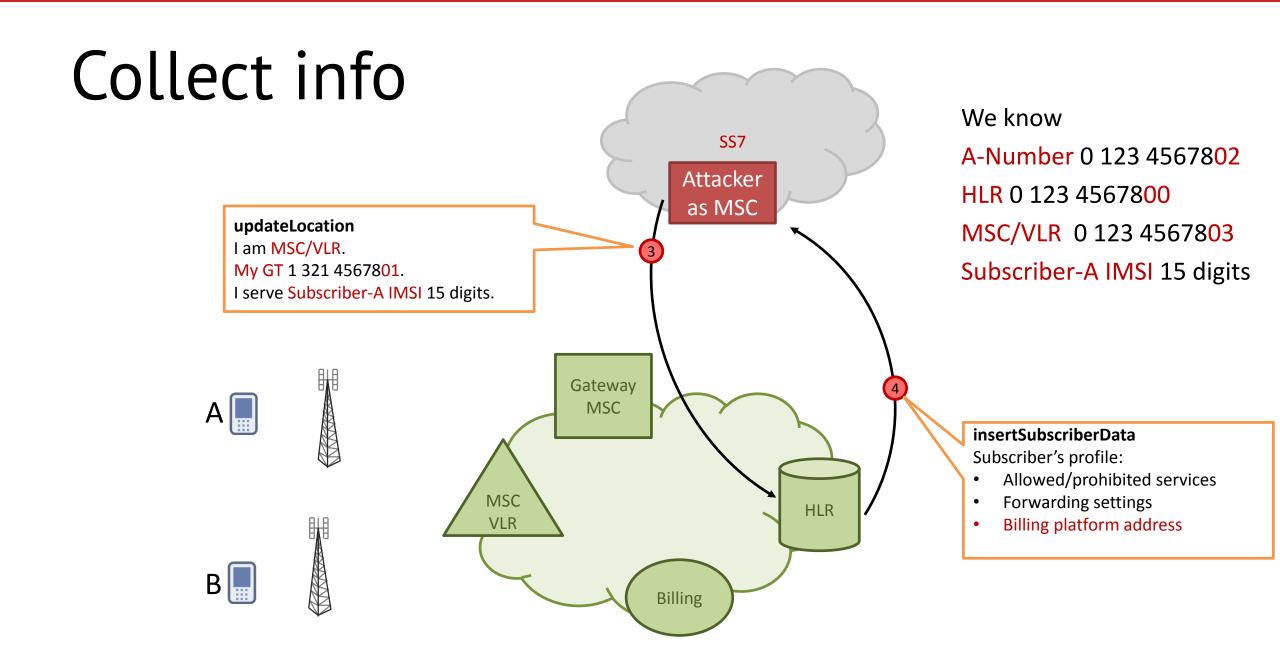


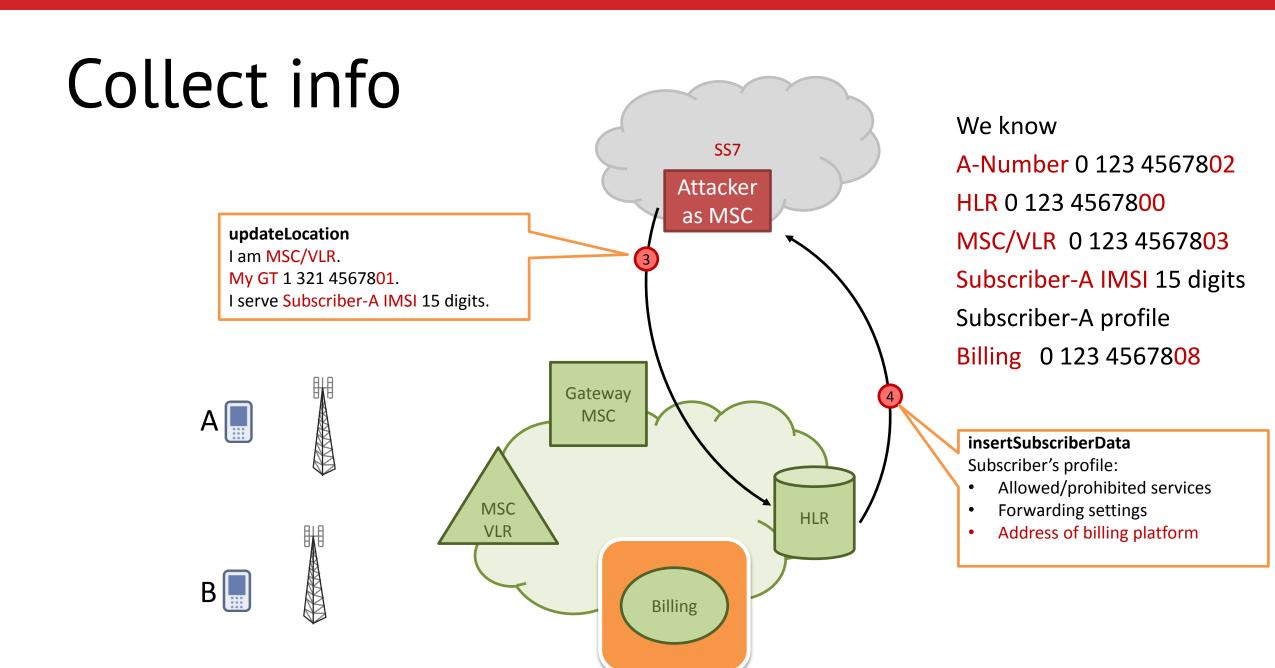
A-Number 0 123 4567802

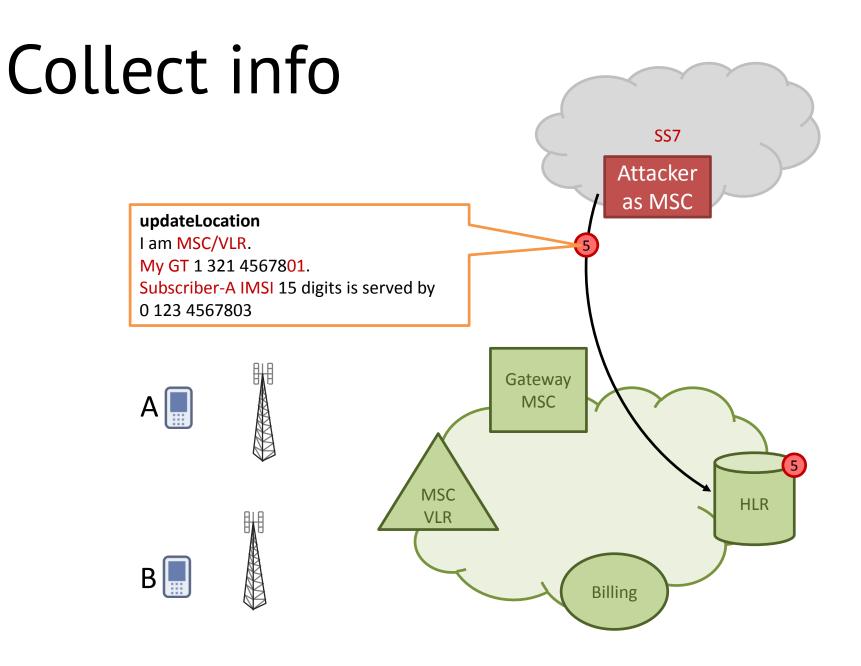
HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits







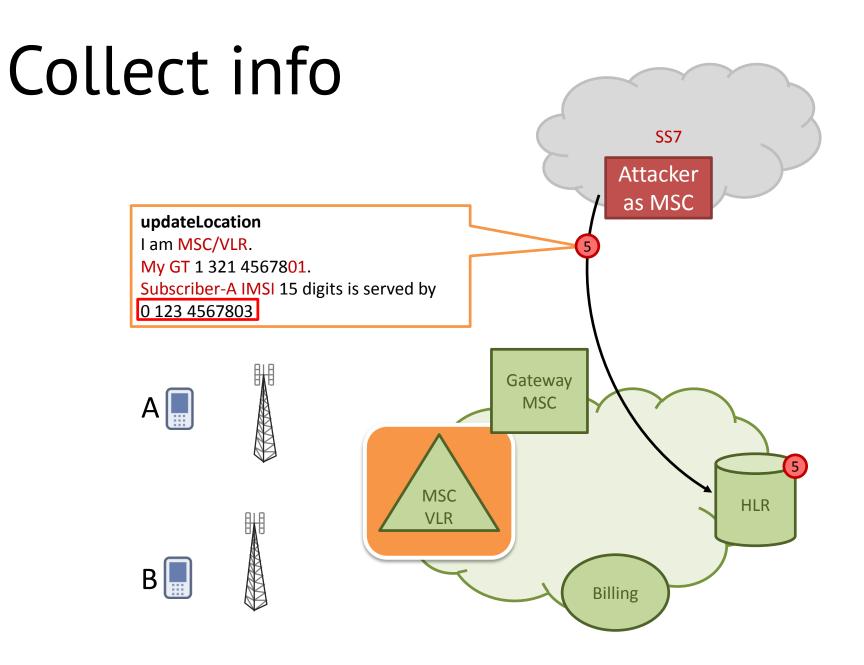
A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile



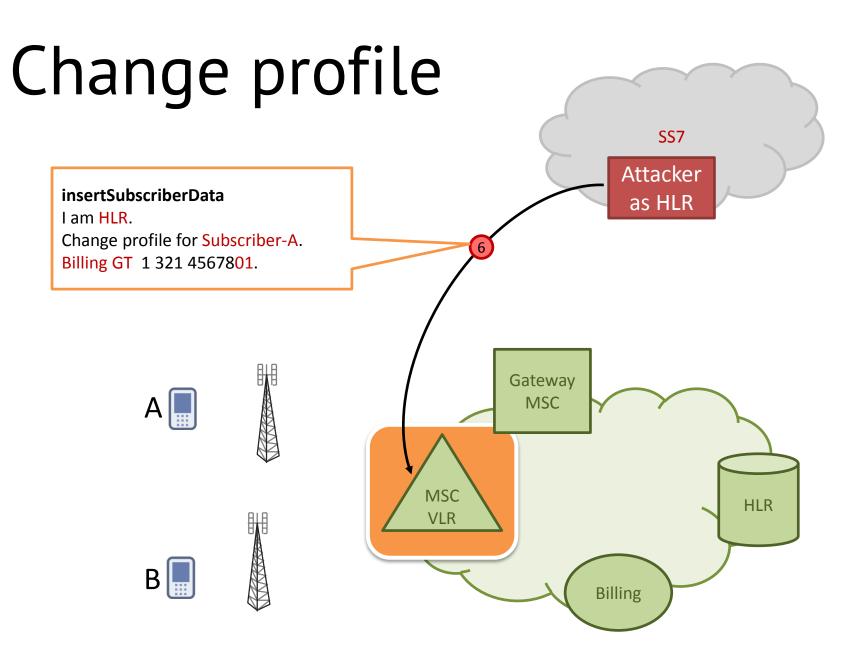
A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile



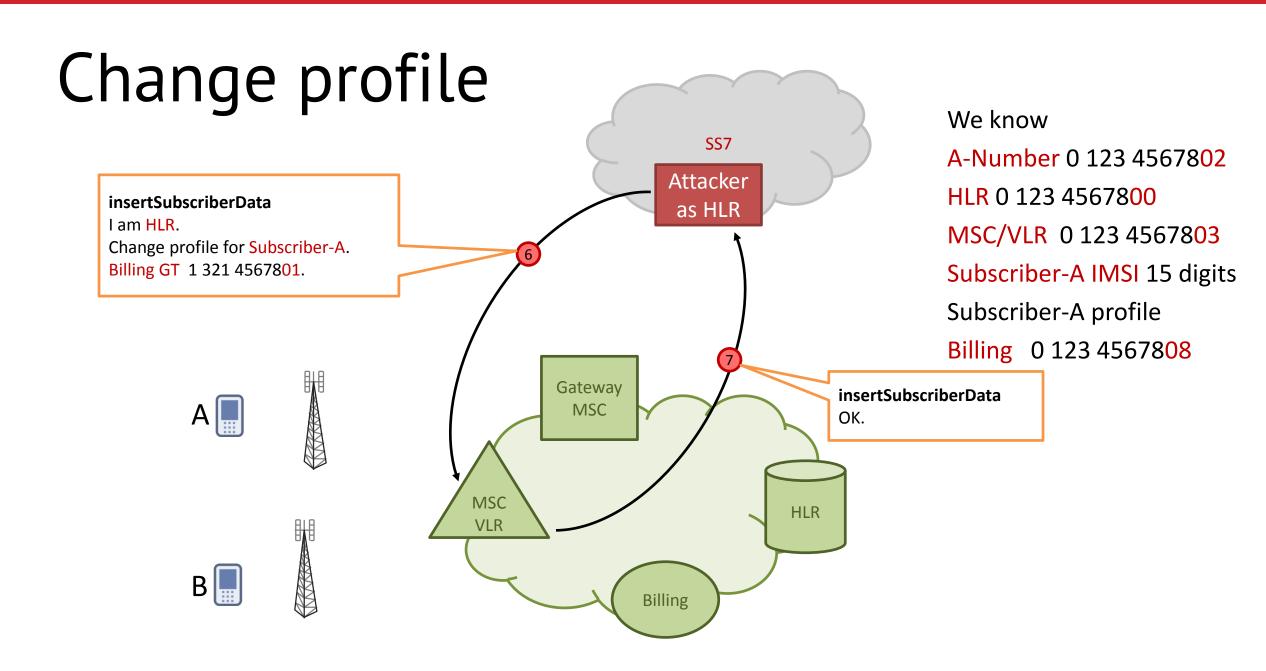
A-Number 0 123 4567802

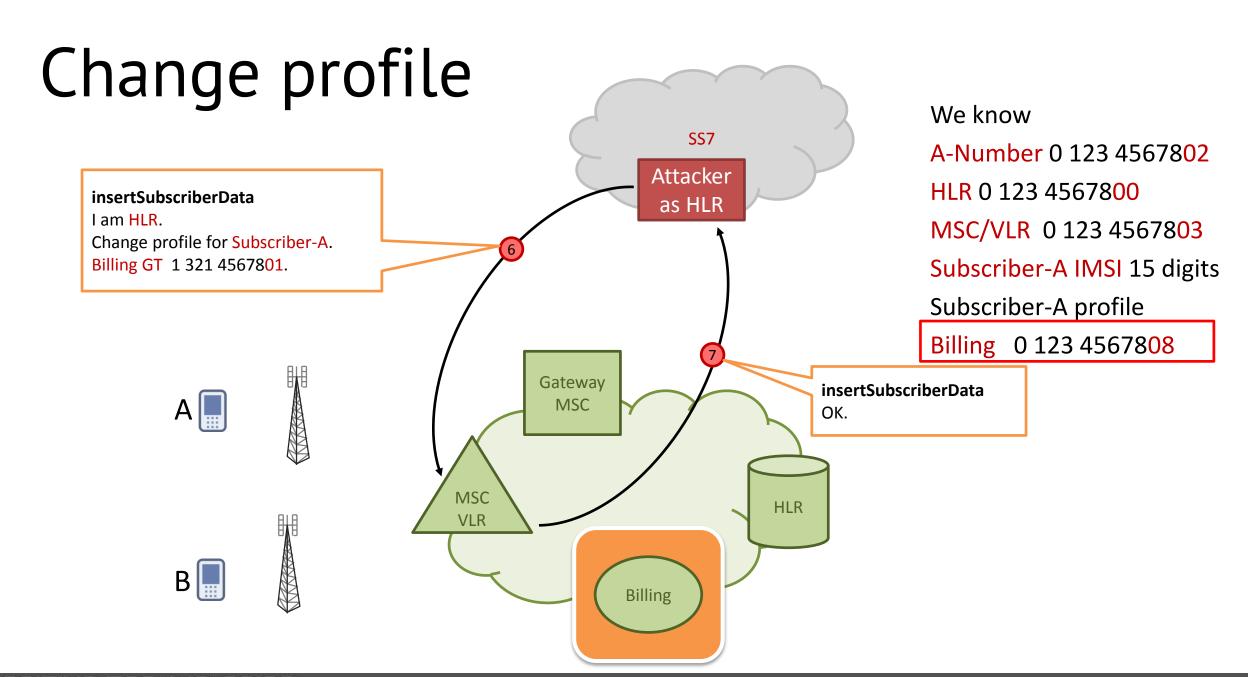
HLR 0 123 4567800

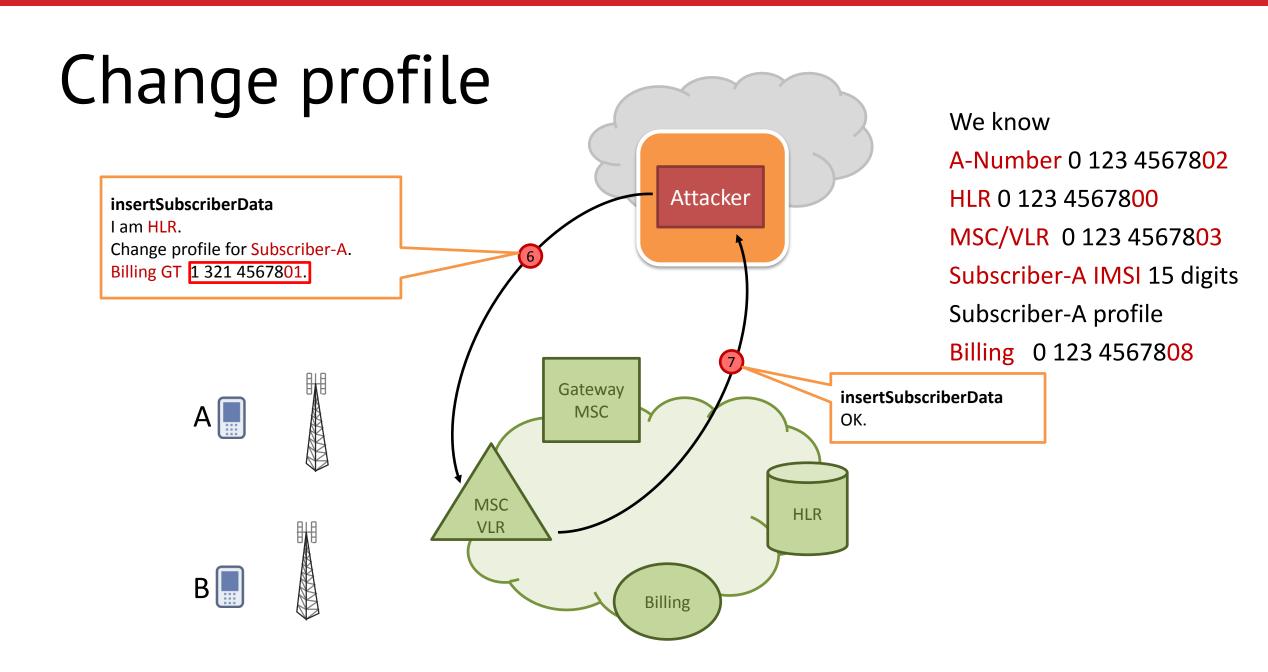
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile



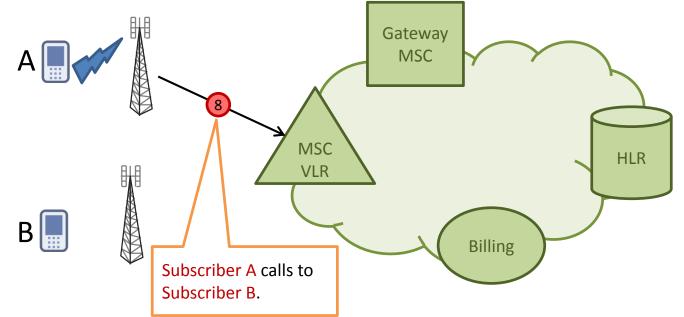




Call interception







We know

A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

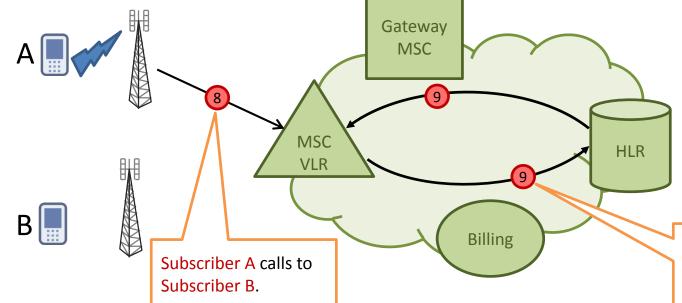
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile

Call interception





We know

A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

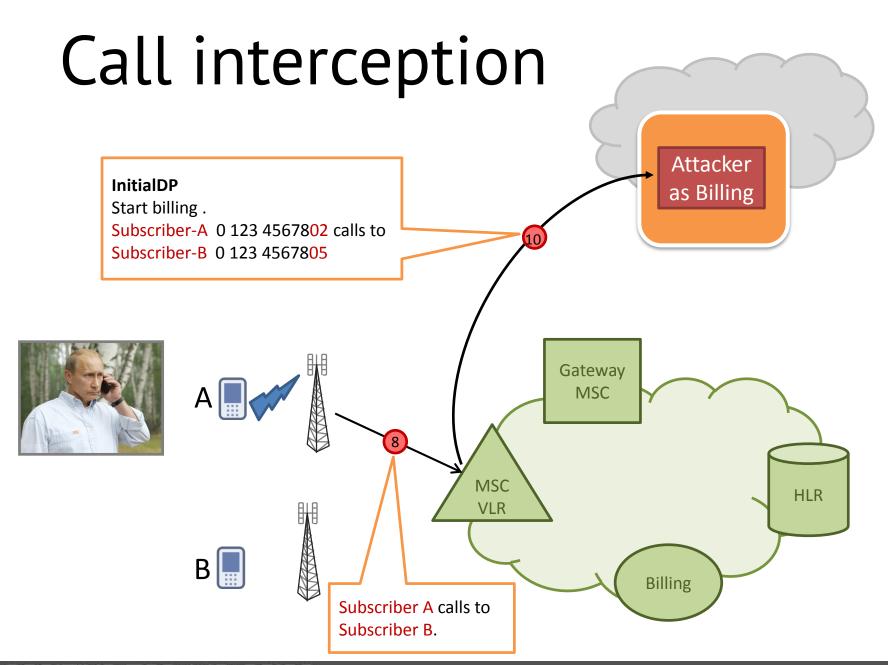
Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile

Billing 0 123 4567808

HLR interrogation procedure:

- sendRoutingInfo
- provideSubscriberInfo



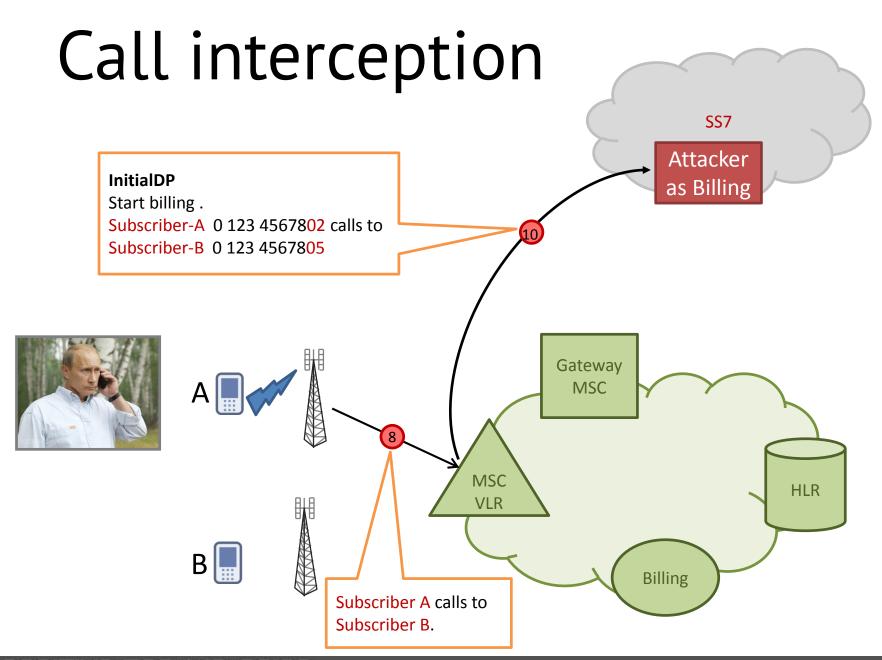
A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile



A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

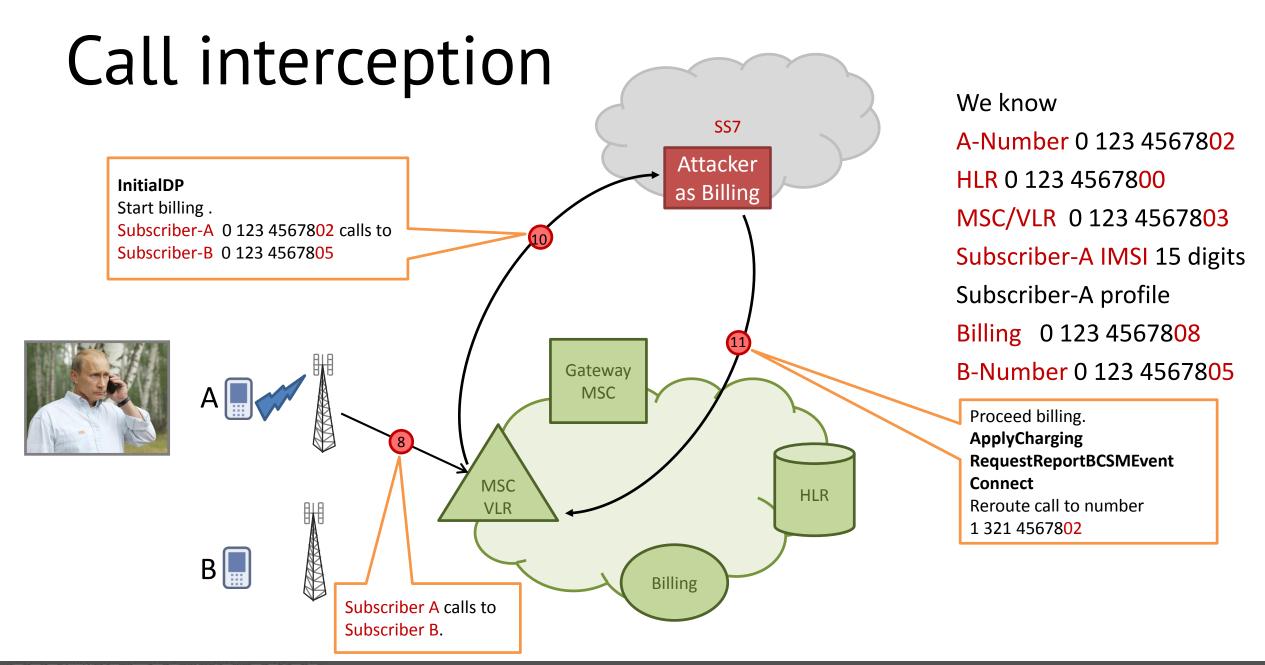
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

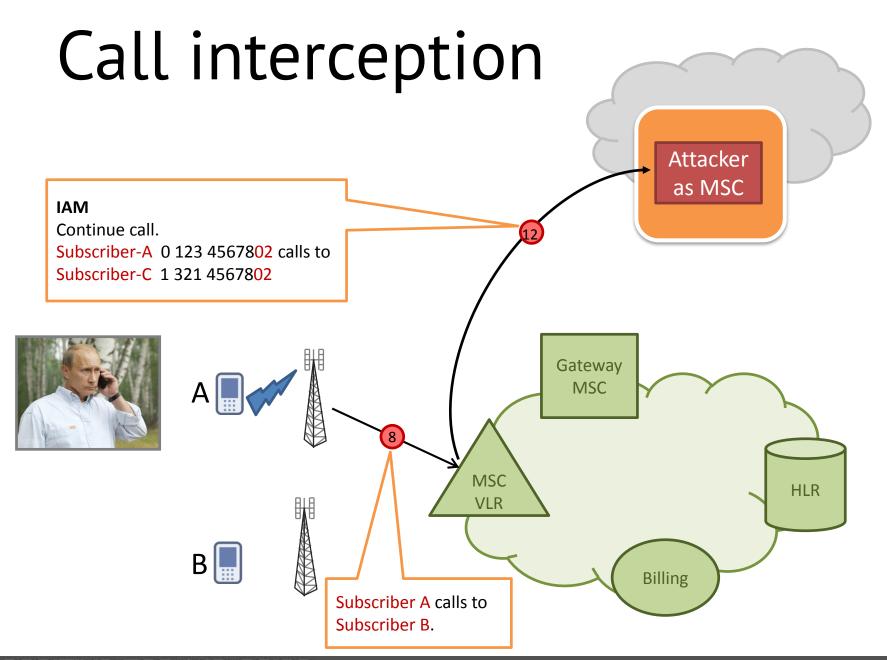
Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile

Billing 0 123 4567808

B-Number 0 123 4567805





A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

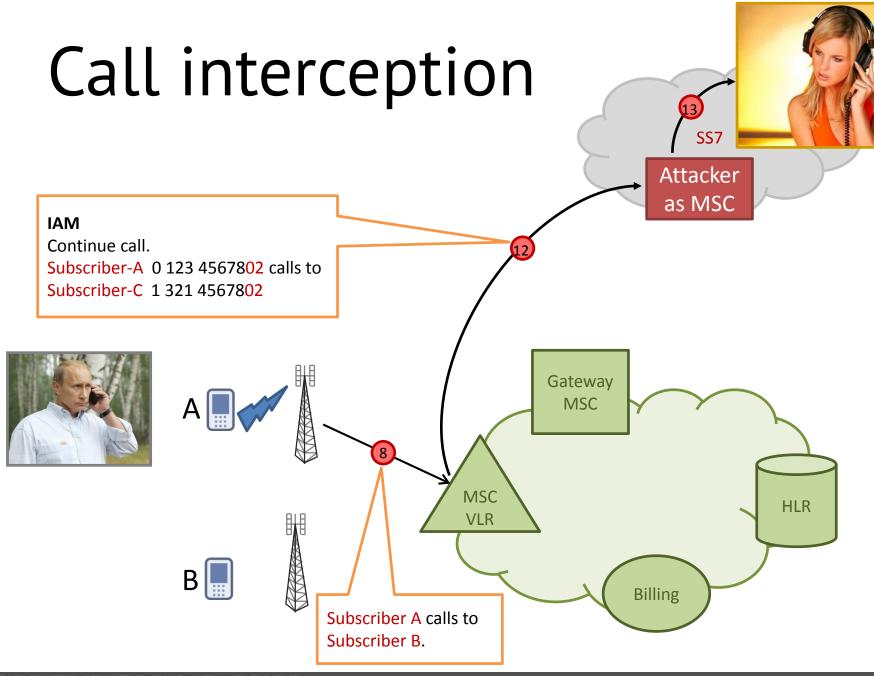
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile

Billing 0 123 4567808

B-Number 0 123 4567805



A-Number 0 123 4567802

HLR 0 123 4567800

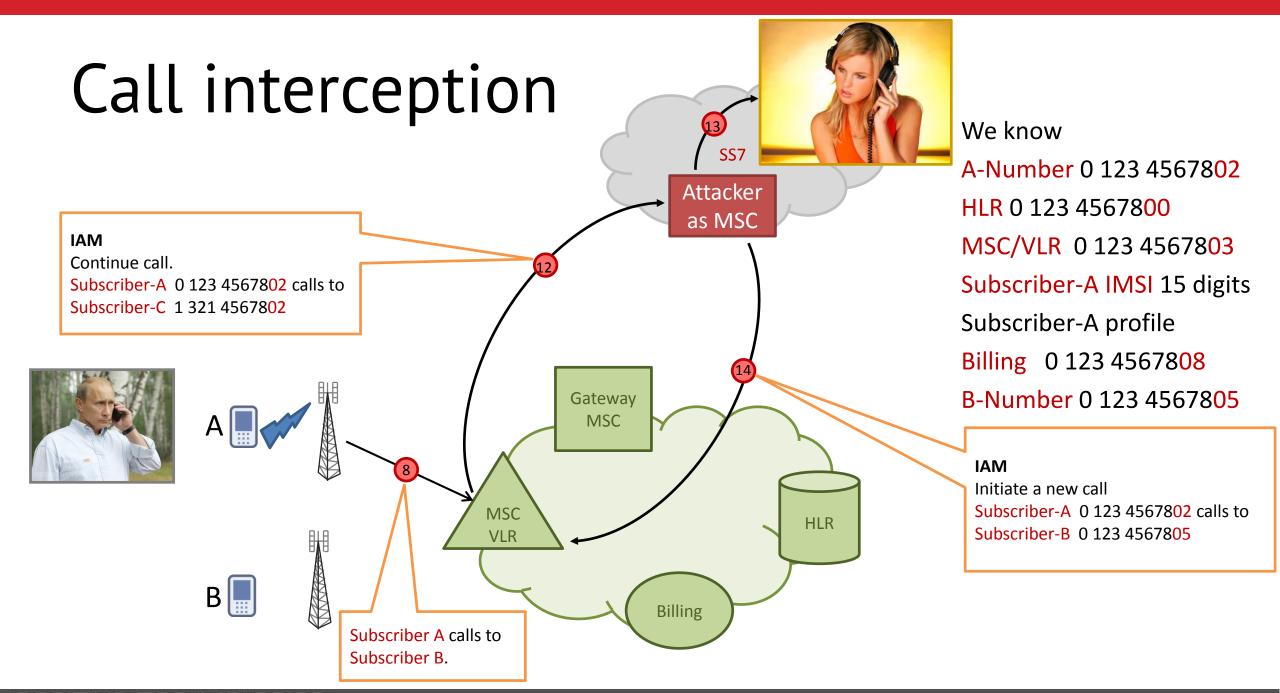
MSC/VLR 0 123 4567803

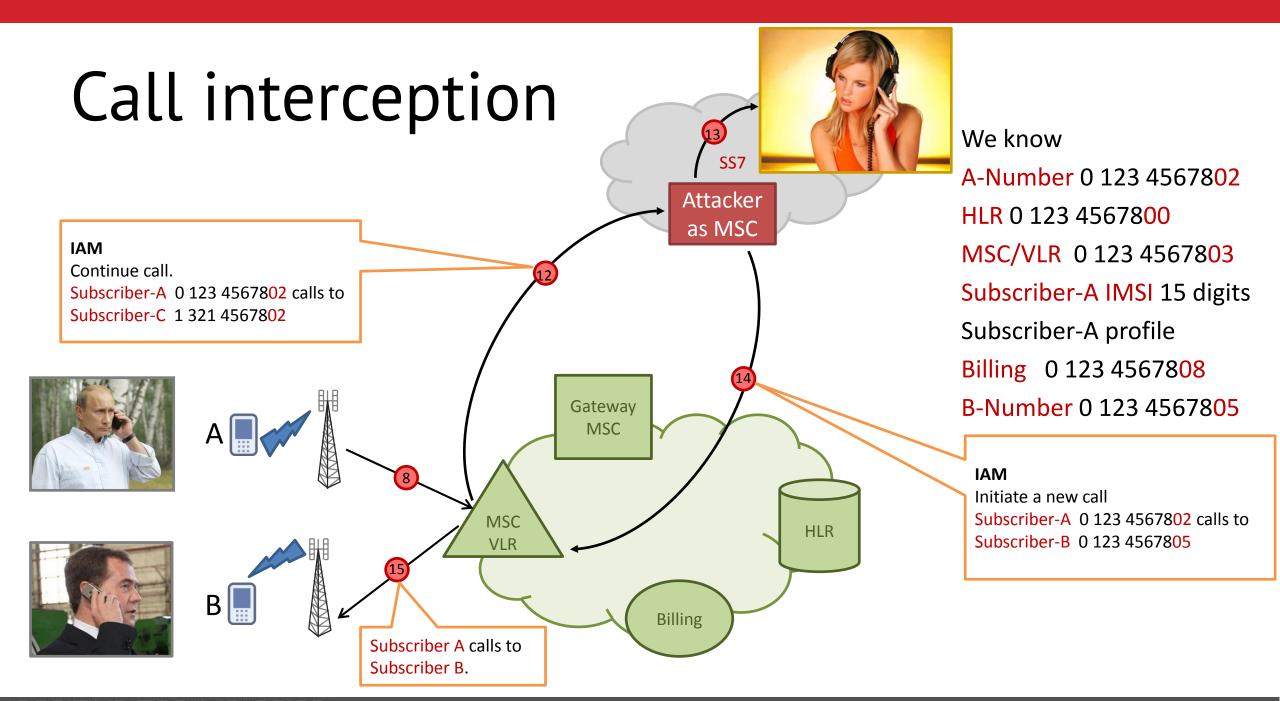
Subscriber-A IMSI 15 digits

Subscriber-A profile

Billing 0 123 4567808

B-Number 0 123 4567805







Conclusion

SS7 rules

Just the tip of the iceberg



The End.

Questions?

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