



# See Like a Bat

Using Echo-Analysis to Detect  
Man-in-the-Middle Attacks in LANs

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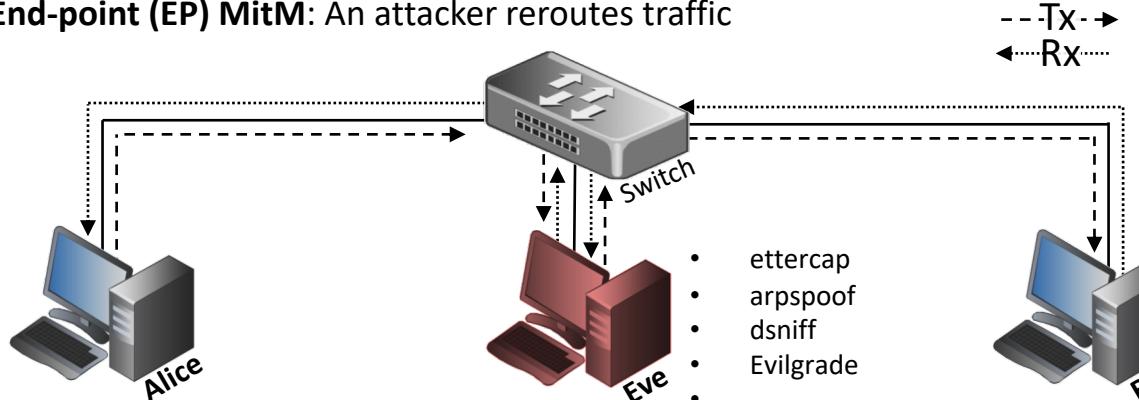
Ben-Gurion University, Israel

## Co-authors:

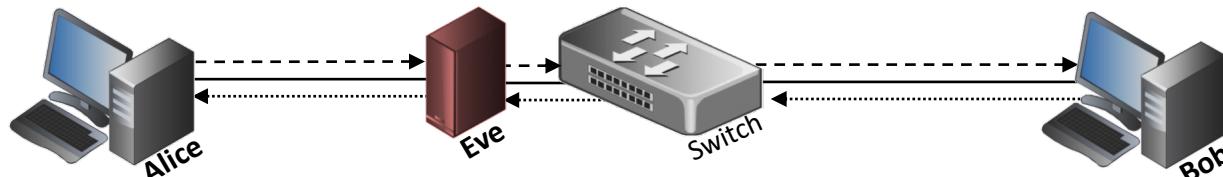
Naor Kalbo,  
Dr. Asaf Shabtai,  
Prof. Yuval Elovici

## Motivation

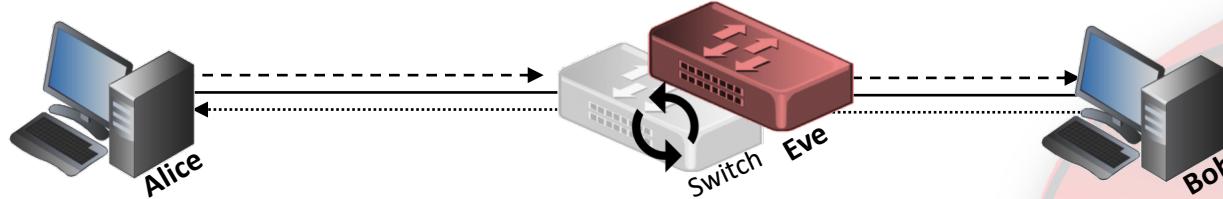
**End-point (EP) MitM:** An attacker reroutes traffic



**In-line (IL) MitM:** An attacker physically intercepts traffic



**In-Point (IP) MitM:** An attacker replaces an existing network switch

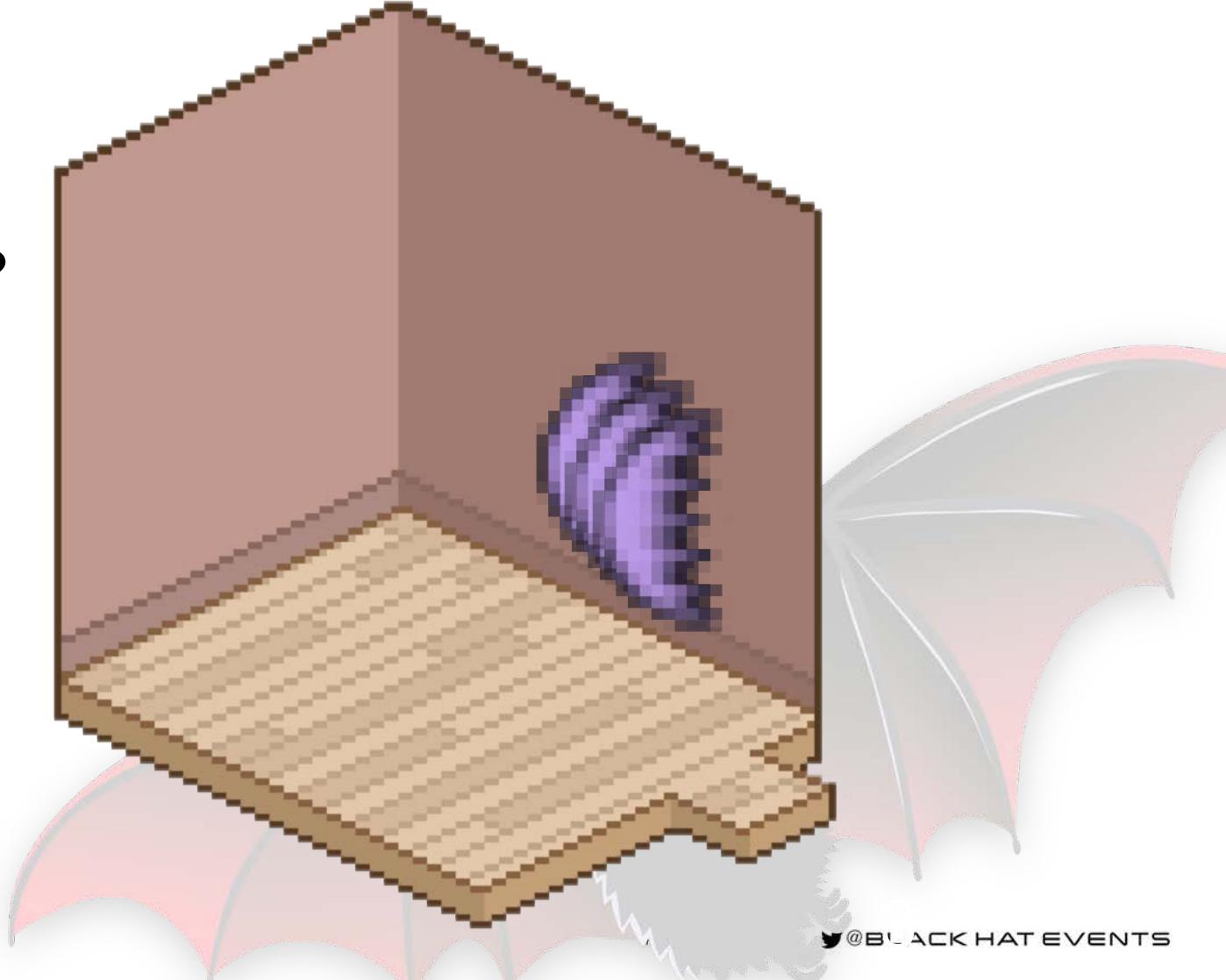


### Current Detection Methods:

- Don't generalize to different attacks
- Not portable (e.g., expensive NIDS)
- Generate false positives  
(are passive, thus subject to noise and activity).

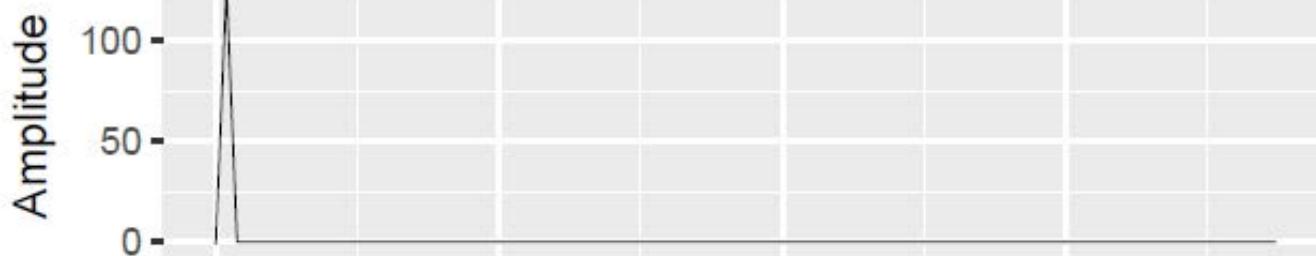
Instead of **passive sensing**,  
let's use **active sensing**.

**What if we could see like a bat?**

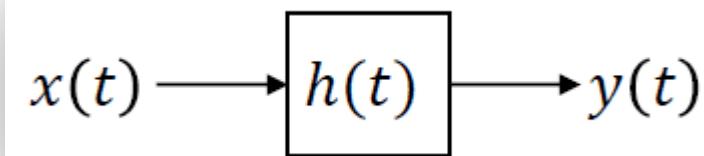


## Physical World: (acoustics) Environment Modeling

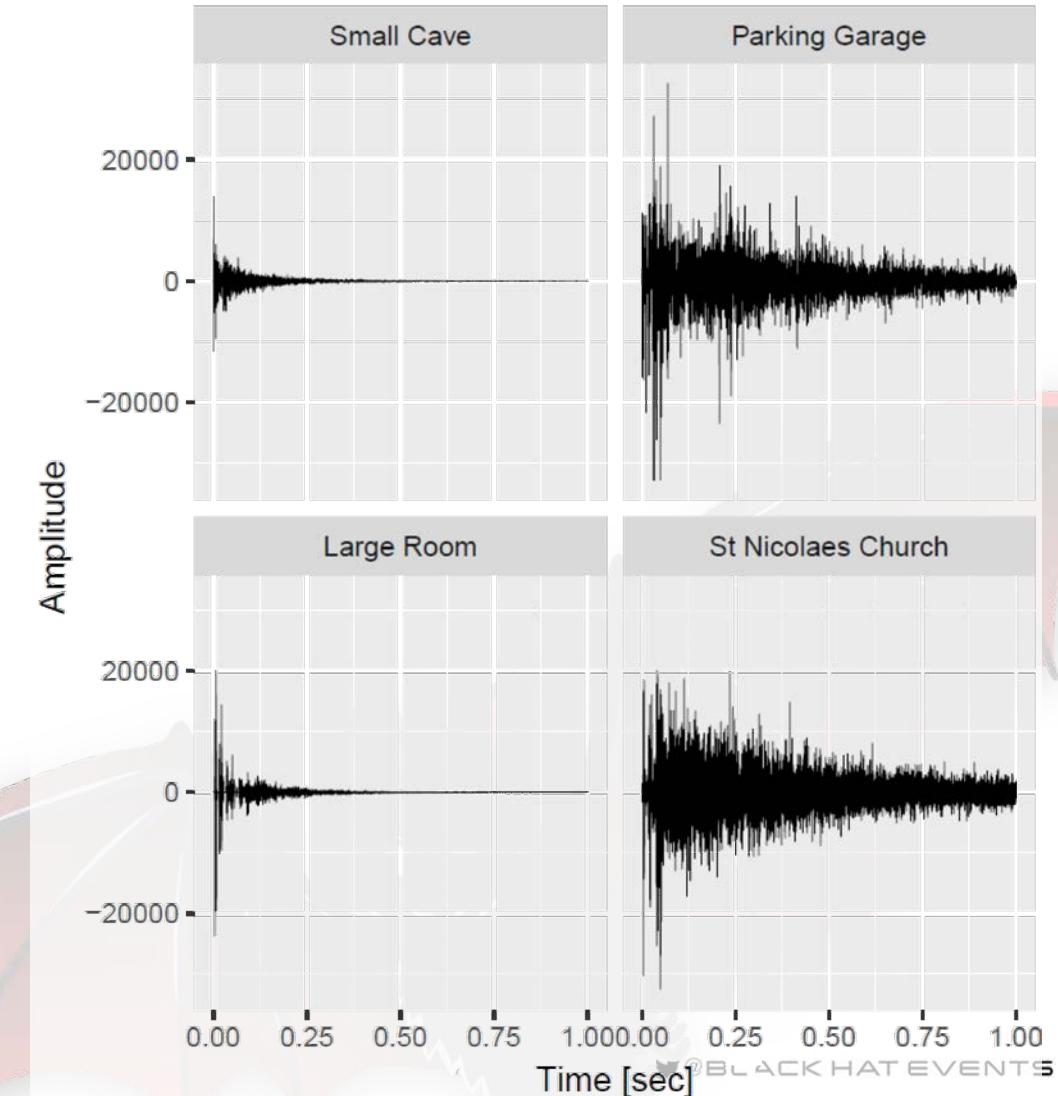
Direct – Pulse



LTI – Linear Time Invariant System



Example Impulse Responses



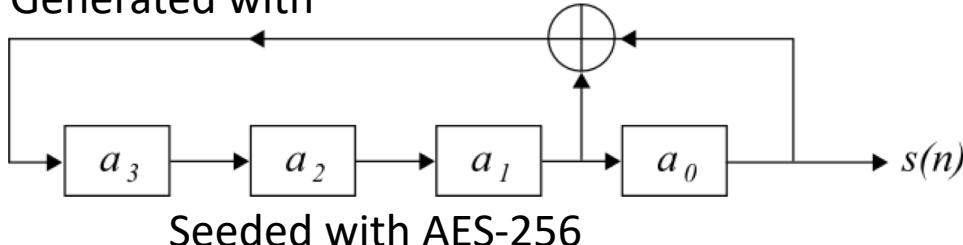
## Physical World: (acoustics) Environment Modeling

Indirect – Maximum Length Sequence (MLS)

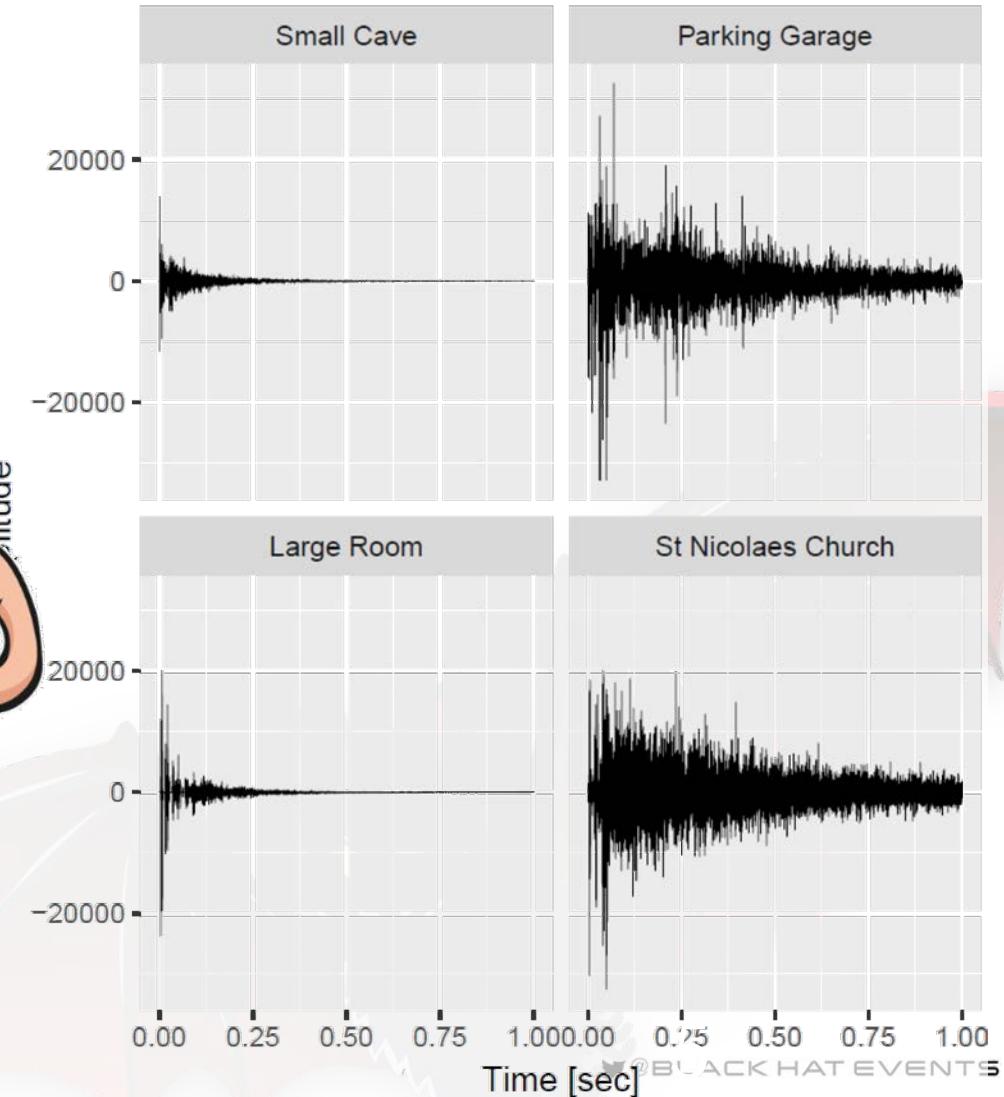


11010010110100100110111010001001...

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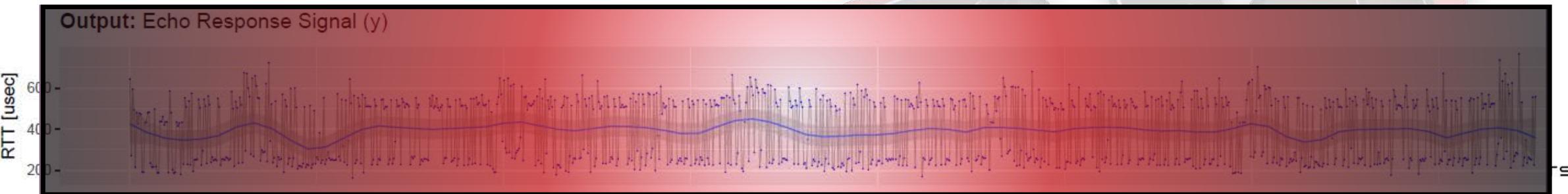
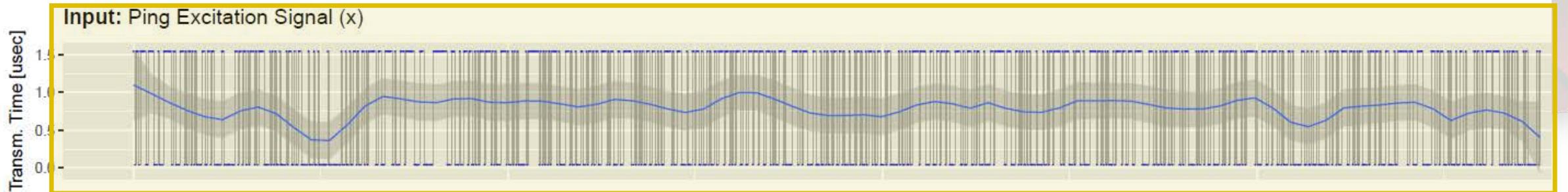
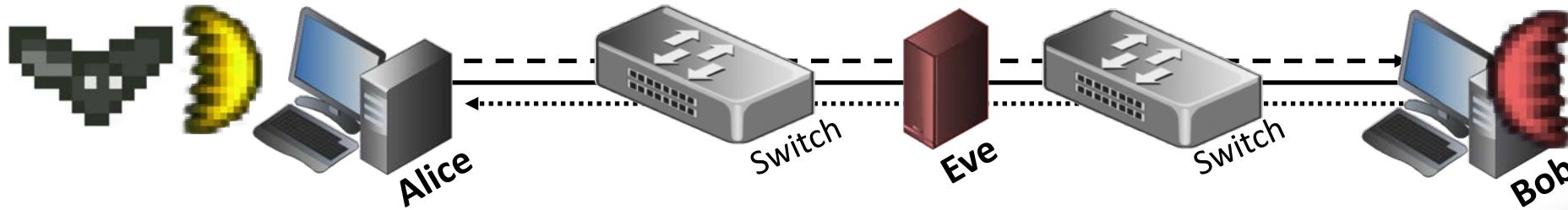


Example Impulse Responses



## Virtual World: Environment Modeling

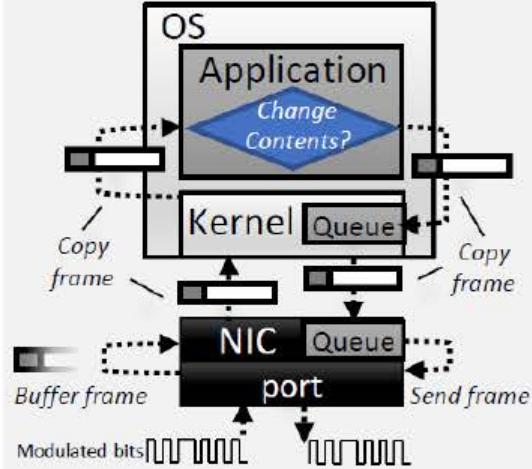
How can we apply this to a LAN?



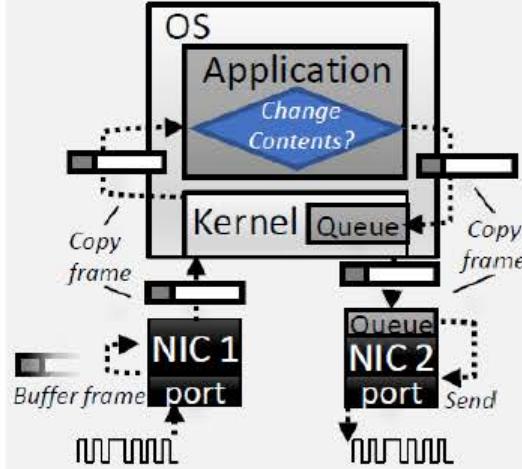
## Virtual World: Environment Modeling

All MitM attacks buffer packets to read/change them.  
The software/hardware affect the processing time **of a burst**.

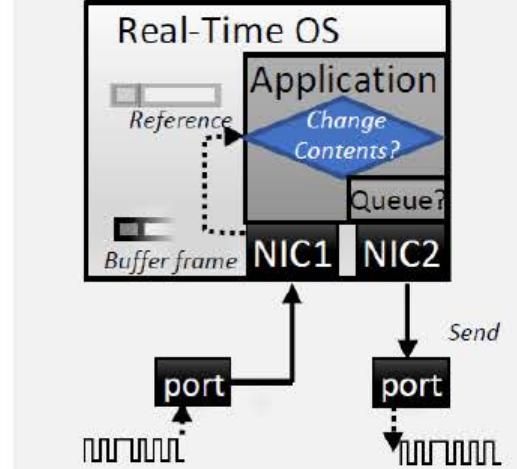
**(1) End-Point MitM** using a  
*Traffic Diversion* such as ARP (EP-TD)



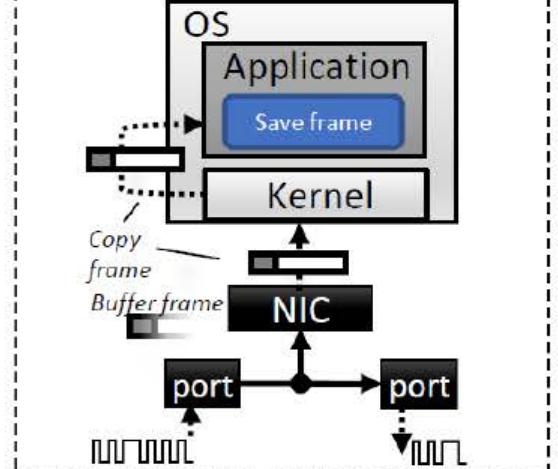
**(2) In-Line MitM** using a  
*Network Bridge* (IL-NB)

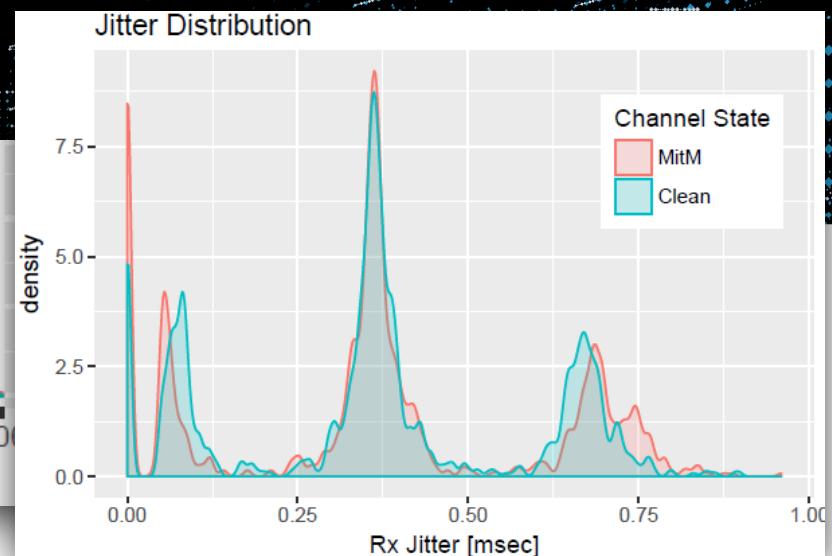
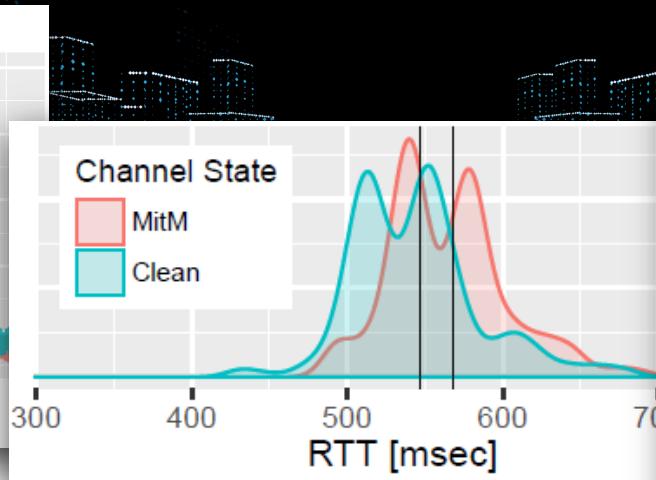
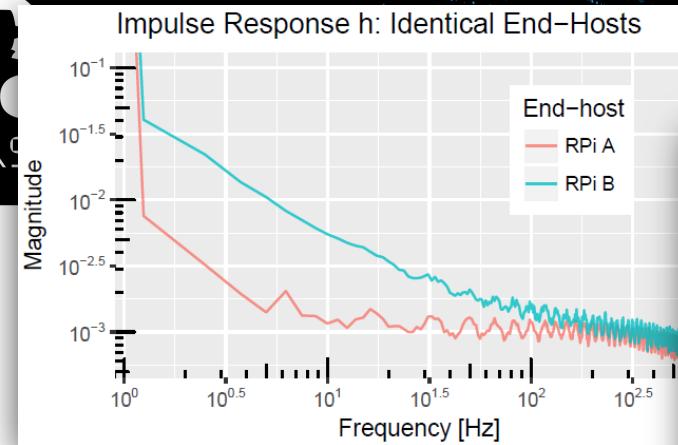


**(3,4) In-Line/In-Point MitM** using  
*Dedicated Hardware* (IL-DH)



**(5) In-Line Passive Wiretap (IL-PW)**  
*Cannot interact with the network*





$$E_h = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \left| \frac{Y[k]}{X[k]} \right|^2$$

The Impulse Response's Average Energy

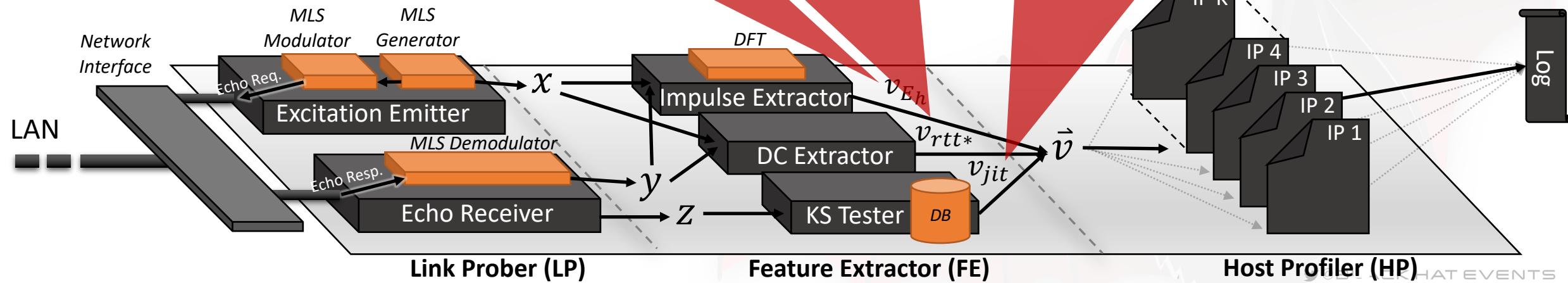
$$\nu_{jit} = \frac{2}{N} \sum y[i] \cdot x[i]$$

The Average RTT of the largest packets in the probe

$$p_{ jit } = \log[ \max\{ p_{z_0,z_1}, p_{z_0,z_2}, \dots, p_{z_0,z_m} \} ]$$

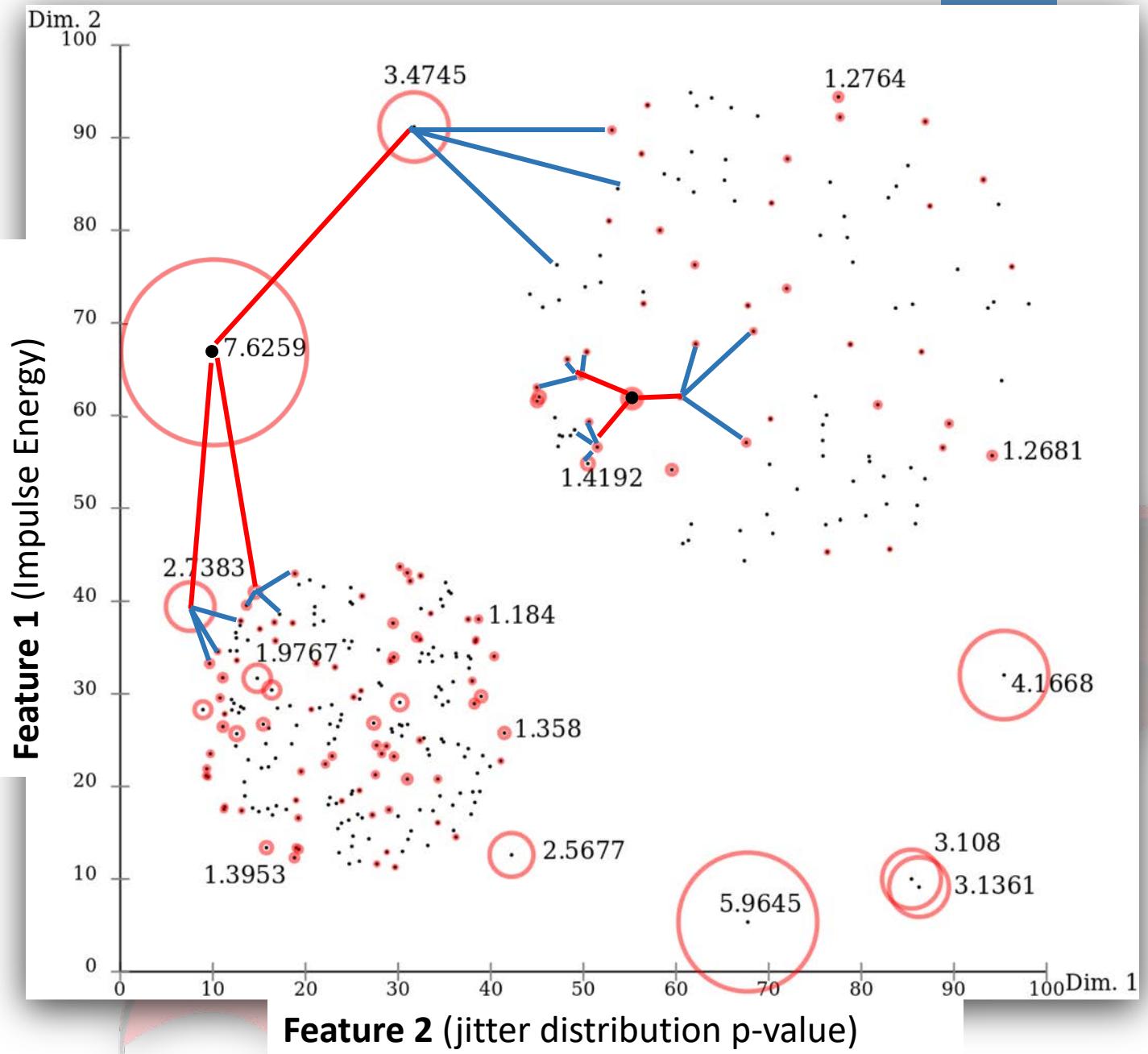
The p-value of the response's jitter

Anomaly Detection Models



## Building a Profile for a Target IP Local Outlier Factor

The abnormality of an observation is relative to its neighbor's density (not just distance)



## Vesper: Evaluation Setup

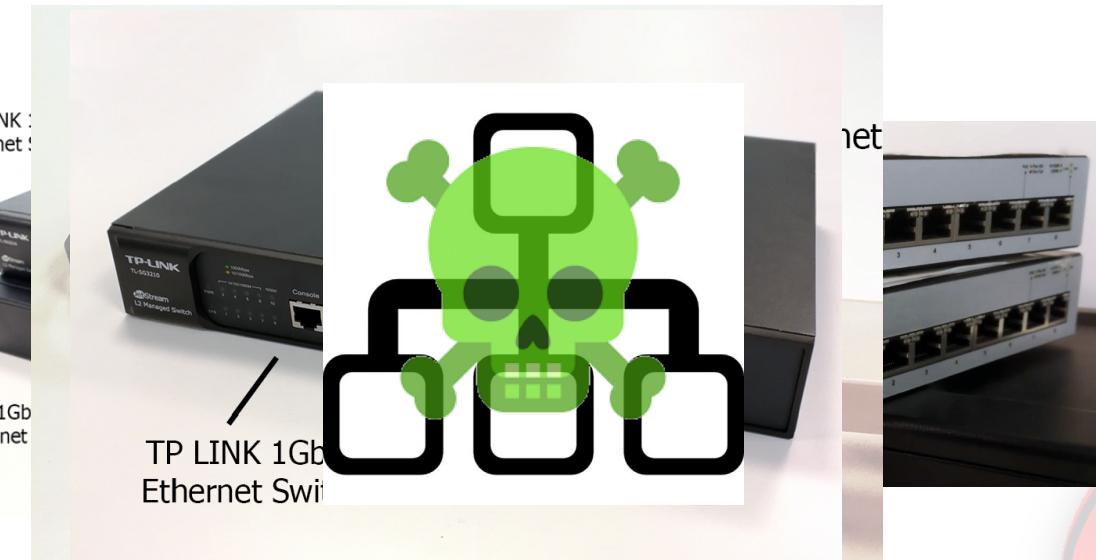
### Attacks:

**Traffic Diversion:** ARP Poisoning

**Network Bridge:** Raspberry Pi

**Network Bridge:** Switch (1Gbps)

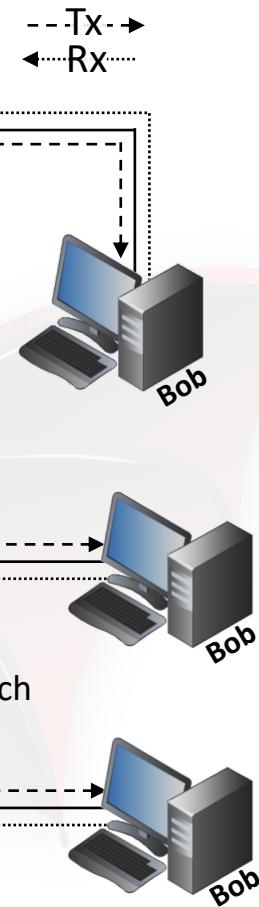
**Device Swapping:** 1Gps Switches



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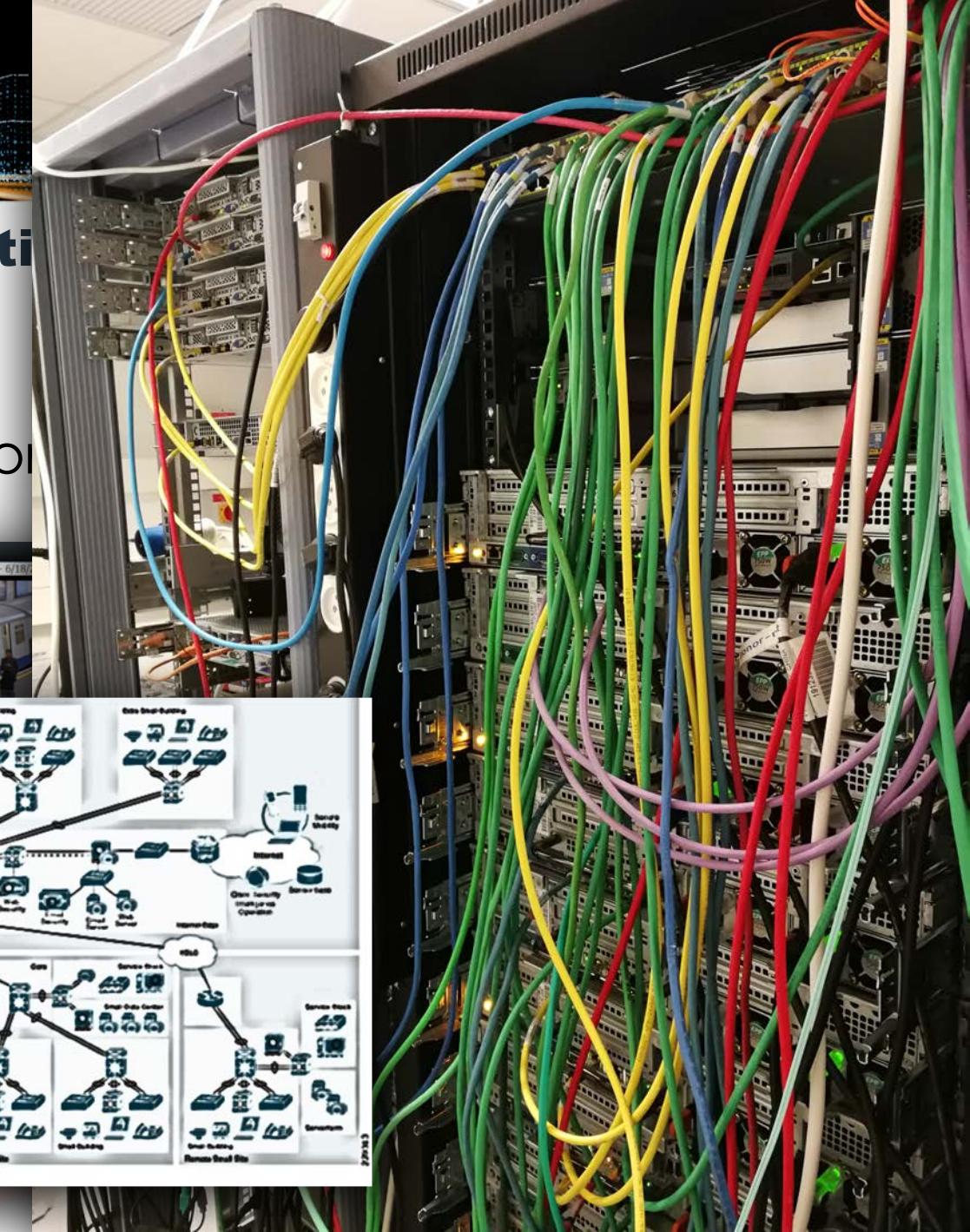
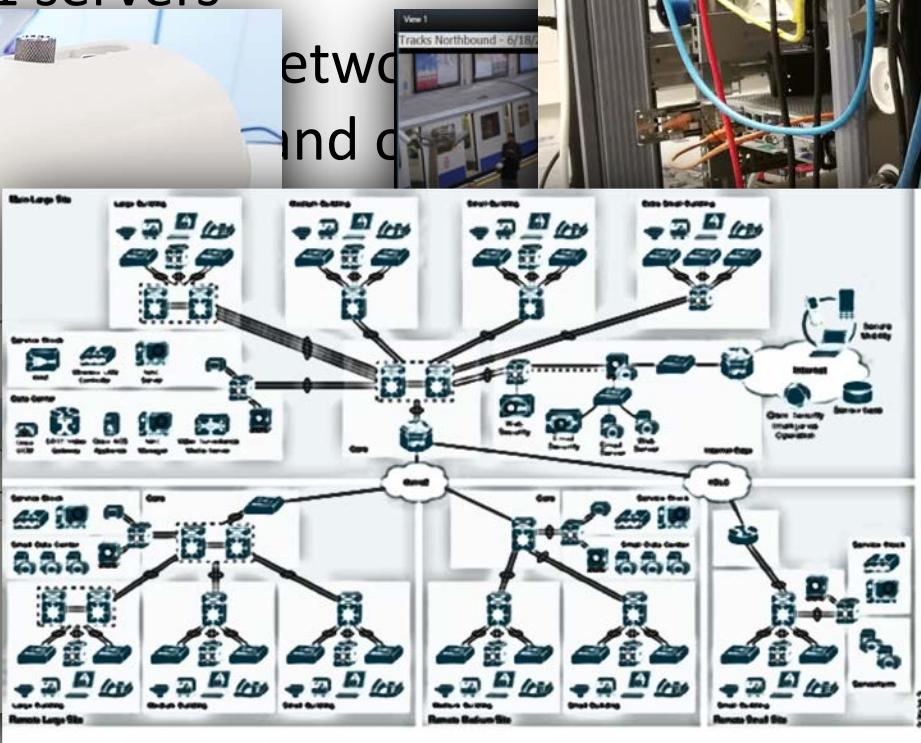
## Vesper: Evaluati Setup

### Networks:

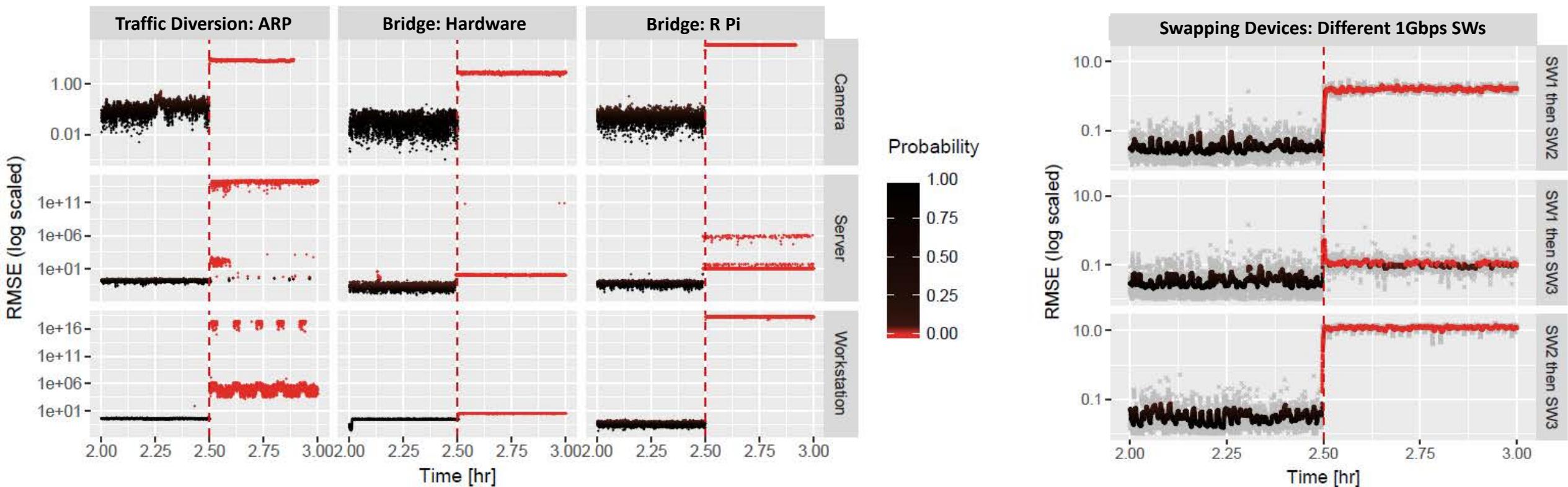
**Surveillance Network:** 7 switches, 13 network cameras

**Server Network:** 3 switches, 61 servers

La

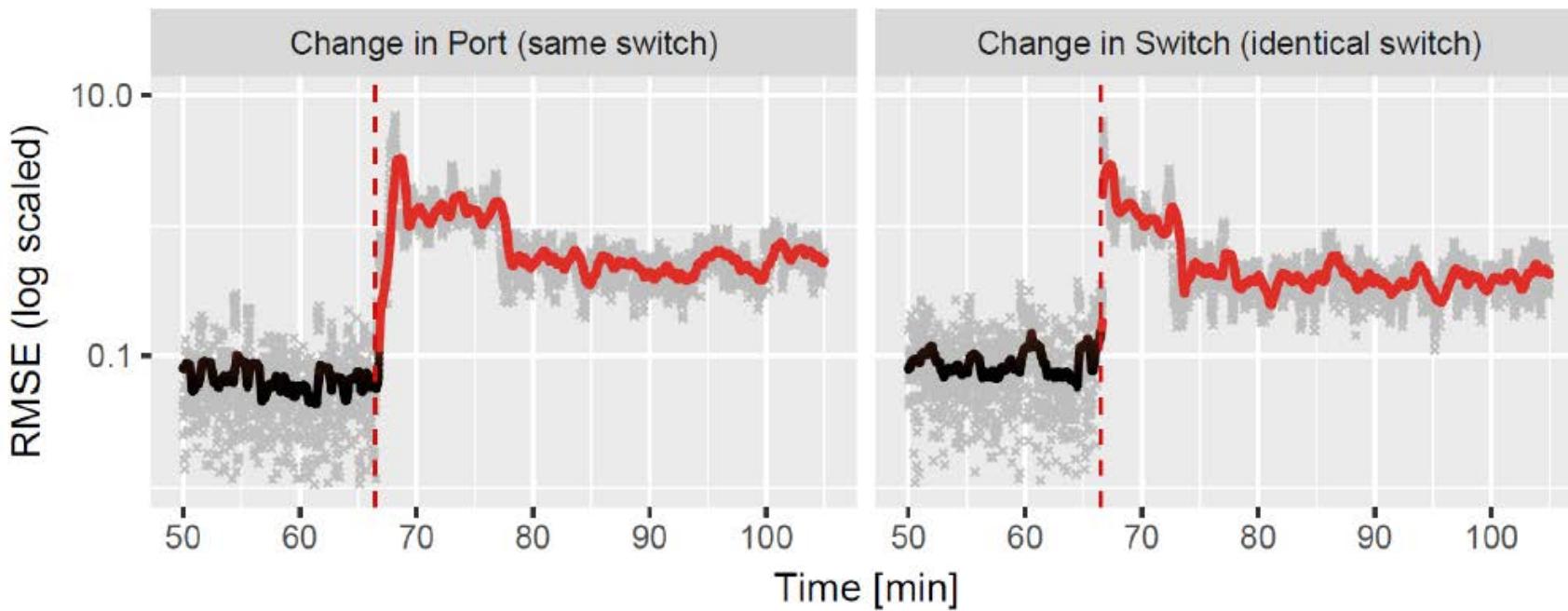


## Vesper: Evaluation One Intermediary Switch



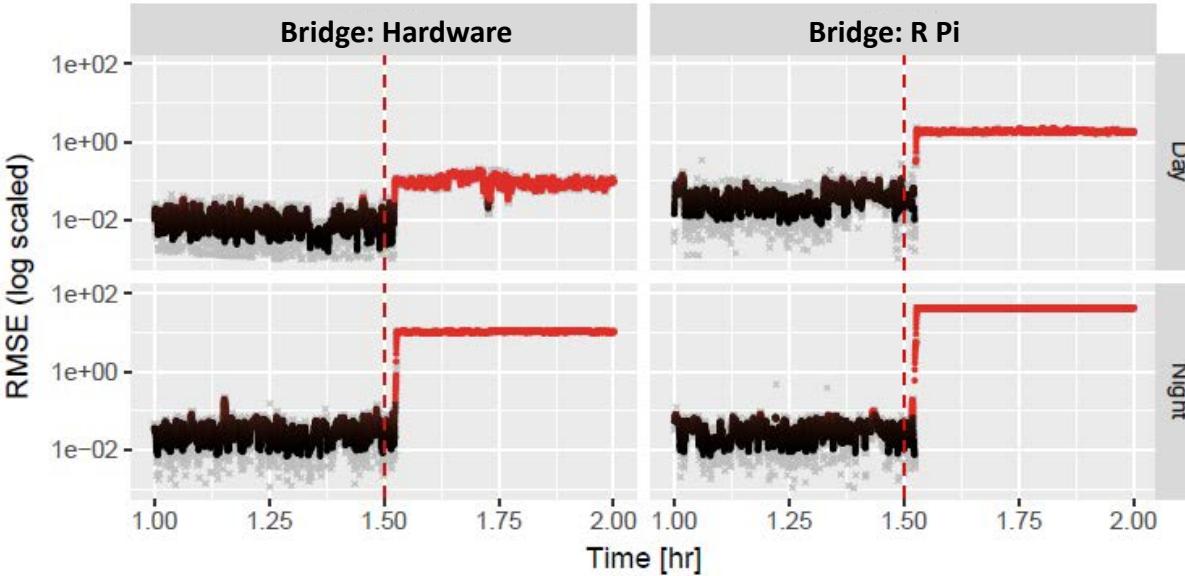
## Vesper: Evaluation One Intermediary Switch

Swapping Devices: Identical 1Gbps SWs



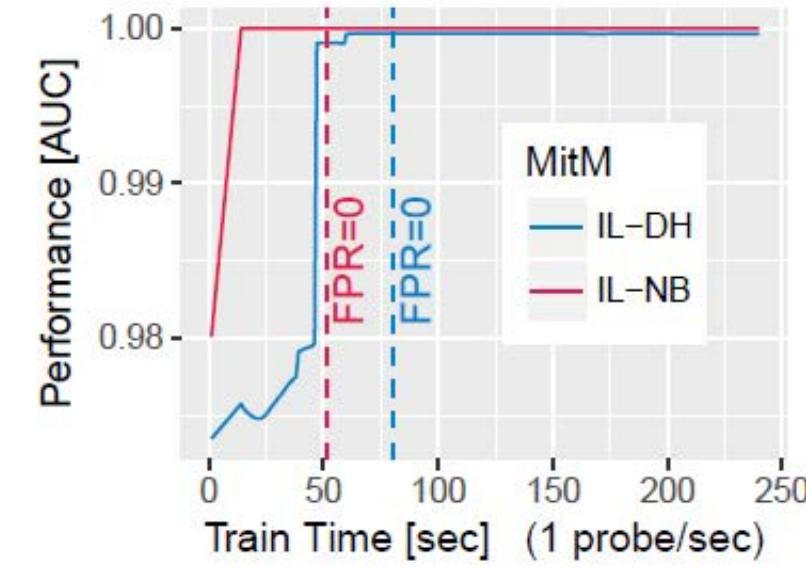
## Vesper: Evaluation Multiple Intermediary Switches

Across 5 large switches with 350 active hosts



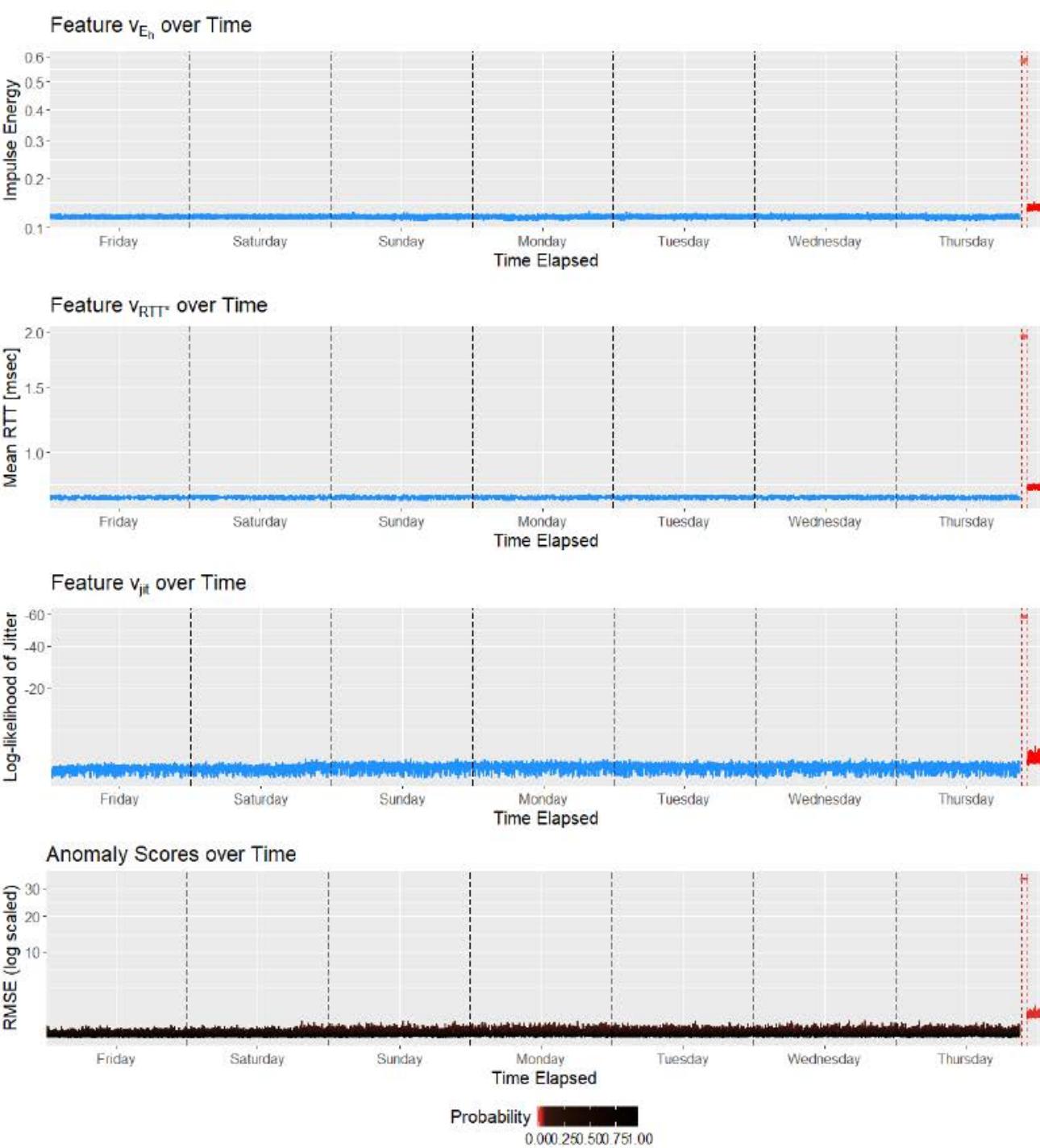
(Attacking our secretary)

Affect of Probe size and Train Time

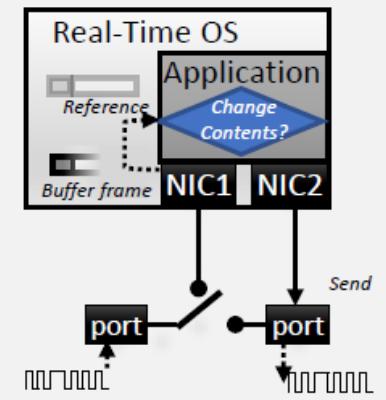


# Vesper: Evaluation

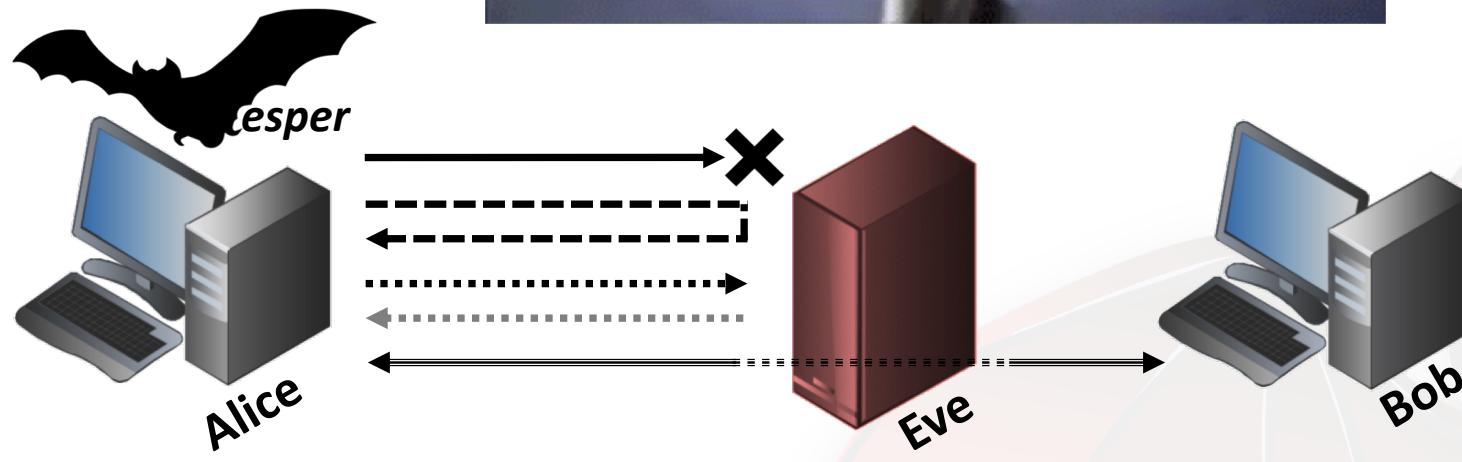
Long-term: 7 days



In-Line MitM using Dedicated Hardware (IL-DH), and has a bypass to evade detection.



## Attacks Against Vesper



**ICMP Path During Attack**

- DoS
- Spoof
- Replay
- Bypass

## Attacks Against Vesper



Feature	Adversarial Attack											
	DoS			Spoof			Replay			Bypass		
	EP	IL	IP	EP	IL	IP	EP	IL	IP	EP	IL	IP
$v_{Eh}$	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	-	○	○
$v_{rtt^*}$	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	-	○	○
$v_{jit}$	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	-	○	○

EP: End-Point MitM  
IL: In-Line MitM  
IP: In-Point MitM

**Detection**

- Weak
- Modest
- Strong

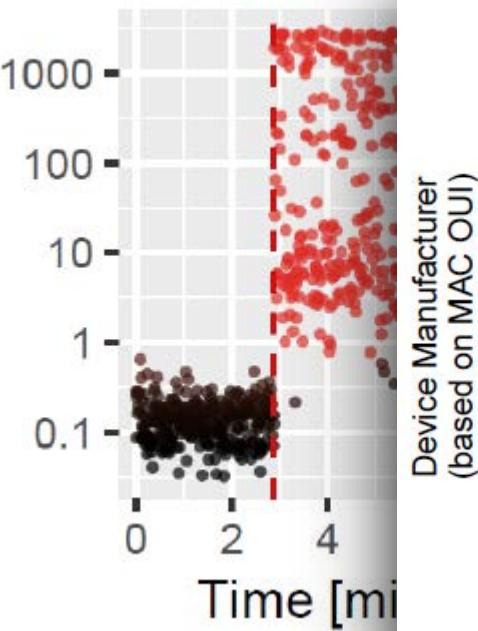
Feature	Strengths			Weaknesses		
	$v_{Eh}$	Detecting Replay Attacks	Has 1D Collision Space	$v_{rtt^*}$	Detecting Additional Hops	Detecting Spoof Attacks
$v_{jit}$	Detecting Spoofing Attacks		Detecting Replay Attacks			

Feature	Strengths	Weaknesses
$v_{Eh}$	Detecting Replay Attacks	Has 1D Collision Space
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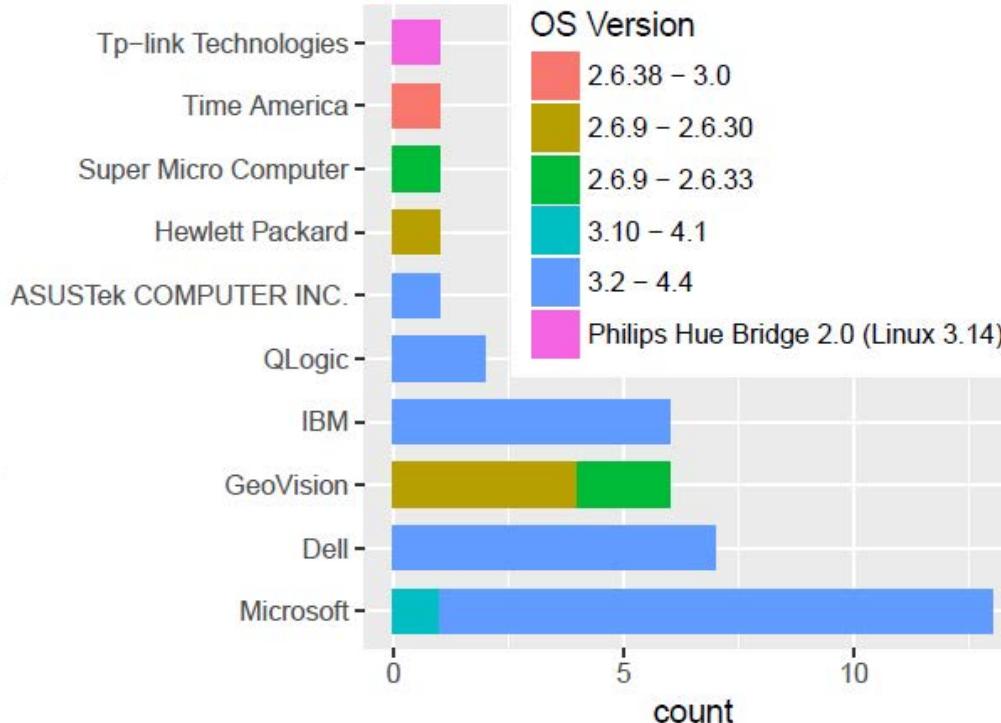
# Attacks Against Vesper

**Replay**

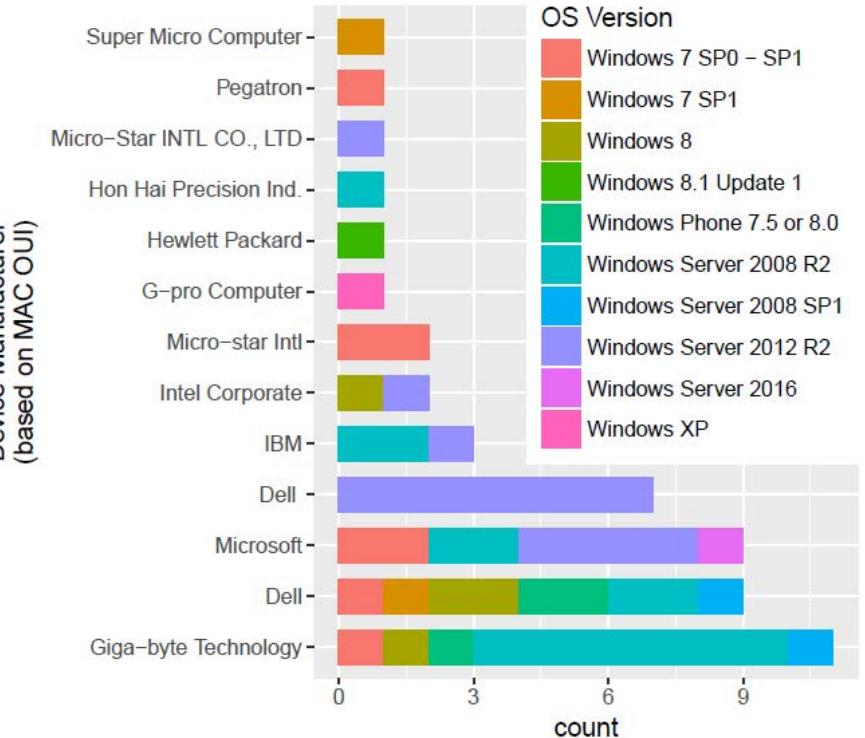
Anomaly Score



**Bypass**



**Spoof**



## Download Vesper

<https://github.com/ymirsky/Vesper>

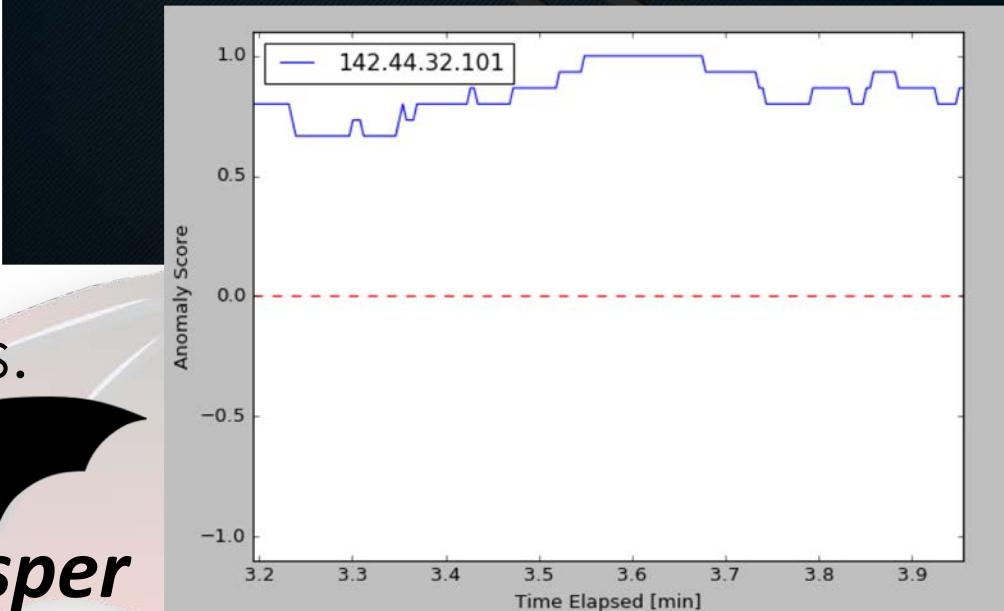
# GitHub

### A lite version of Vesper (v1.0):

- Python with C++ cython wrapper
- Linux only (tested on Kali)
- Monitors and plots multiple IPs
- Will not alert during adversarial attacks
- Will not detect swapping with identical devices, but will detect different models.

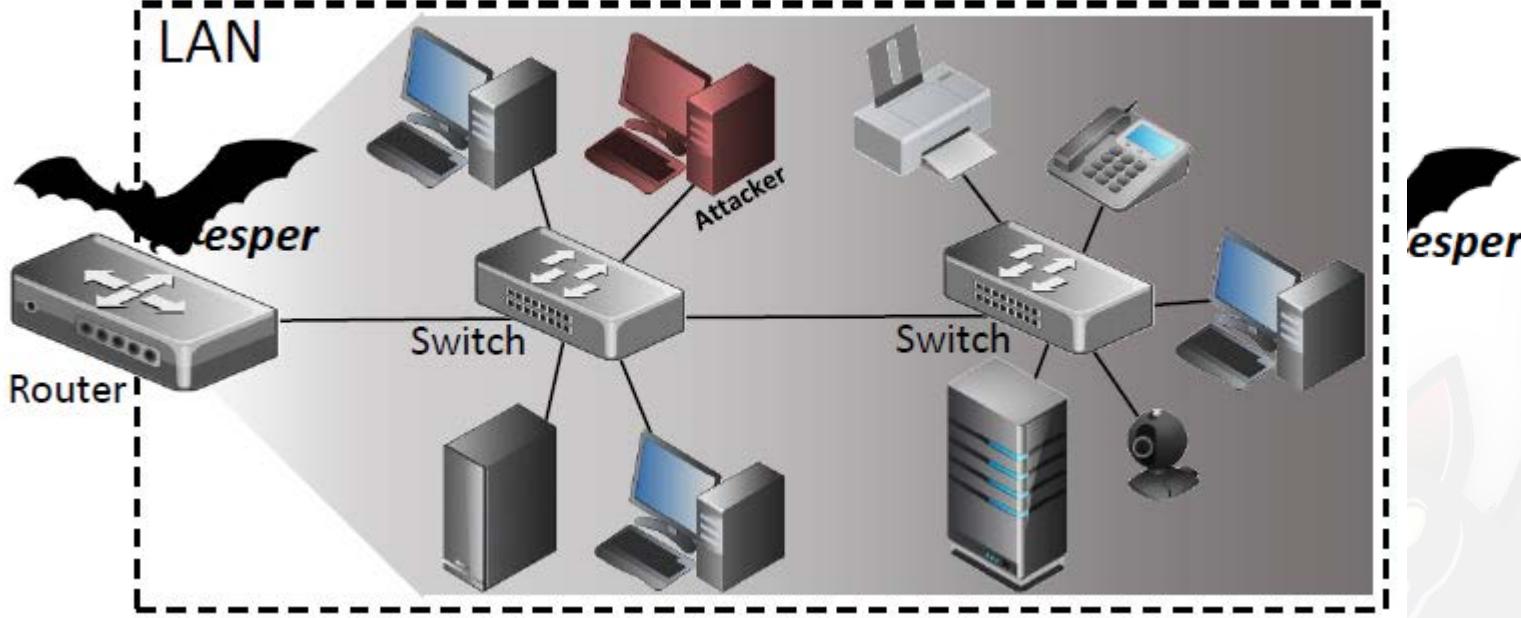


```
Vesper Status -- Runtime: 0:03:57.293602
+-----+
| IP      | Status | Score | Profile | Tx Freq [kH] | Probe Duration | Note |
+-----+
| 142.44.32.101 | Normal | 0.87 | Trained | 1.56 | 158.26 ms |          |
+-----+
Sent 1,049 probes.
```

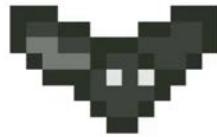


## Vesper: Deployment Strategies

On a Router: Vesper protects the LAN members' outbound traffic



## Black Hat Sound Bytes



- In a LAN, we can detect a MitM by “bouncing” virtual signals off hosts.
- The approach detects all LAN-based MitM attacks regardless of
  - Forensic evidence or
  - Attack implementation (*ARP, DNS Spoof, network bridge, ...*)
- Implemented at software level & Robust to adversarial attacks

Tool and whitepaper available for download:  
<https://github.com/ymirsky/Vesper>





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