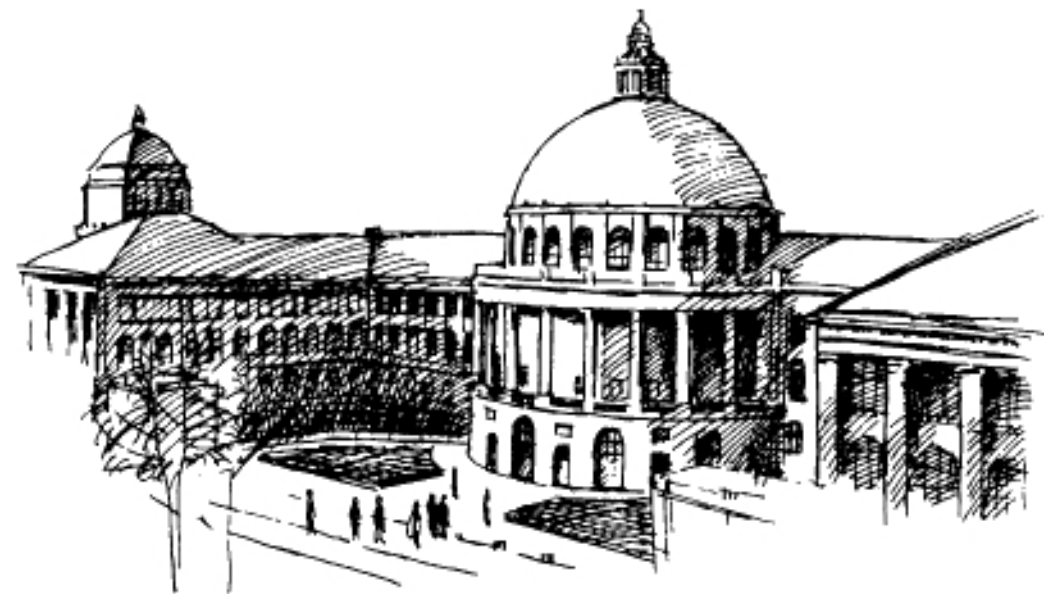


# SCiON: A Secure Internet Architecture

**Markus Legner**  
**Network Security Group**  
**ETH Zürich**

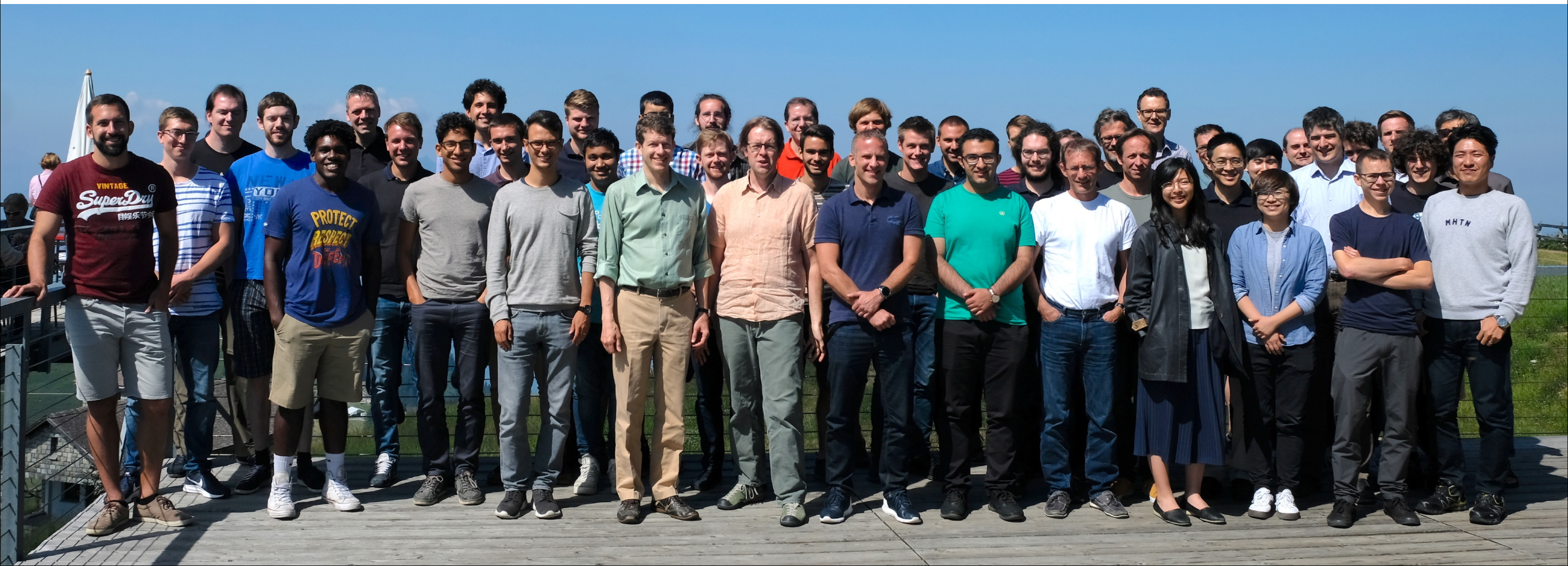
SiNOG 6.0, May 2019





# SCION Core Project Team

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- Programming Methodology: Marco Eilers, [Peter Müller](#)
- Uni Magdeburg: [David Hausheer](#), UIUC: [Yih-Chun Hu](#), NTU: [Hsu-Chun Hsiao](#)





# Internet Security Issues

THE VERGE

TECH ▾ SCIENCE ▾ CULTURE ▾

TECH CYBERSECURITY ENTERPRISE

Hackers emptied E  
basic infrastructure

By Russell Brandom | @russellbrandom | Apr 24, 2018, 1:40p

f t SHARE

BORDER GATEWAY PROTOCOL —

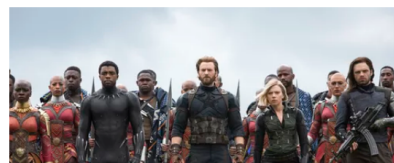
## How 3ve's BGP hijackers eluded the Internet—and made \$29M

3ve used addresses of unsuspecting owners—like the US Air Force.

DAN GOODIN - 12/21/2018, 6:30 PM



MOST READ



THE ACCIDENTAL LEAK —

## Google goes down after major BGP mishap routes traffic through China

Google says it doesn't believe leak was malicious despite suspicious appearances.

DAN GOODIN - 11/13/2018, 8:25 AM

# What is different in SCION?

- 1 Path-aware networking
- 2 New routing and forwarding architecture
- 3 Provable security: Protocol + Code
- 4 Heterogeneous trust model
- 5 Built-in DDoS defense mechanisms





# Path-aware Networking

- 1 Path-aware networking



# High Assurance for Network Paths

## Current Internet

- ✗ No assurance on and control over packets path across the Internet
- ✗ Frequent prefix hijacking

## New Approach

SCION

- ◆ Allow both sender and receiver to control the communication path
- ◆ Provide assurance on packet's path by the network

Traceroute Path 3: from New York, NY to Los Angeles, CA via *Belarus*

LEGEND ● → NORMAL ● → HIJACKED



## Result

SCION

- ✓ Geofencing
  - ▶ Ensure that packet stays within certain jurisdiction
- ✓ Resilience against hijacking attacks
- ✓ Built-in multipath support



# New Routing and Forwarding Architecture

- 2 New routing and forwarding architecture
- 1 Path-aware networking



# High Assurance for Routing and Forwarding

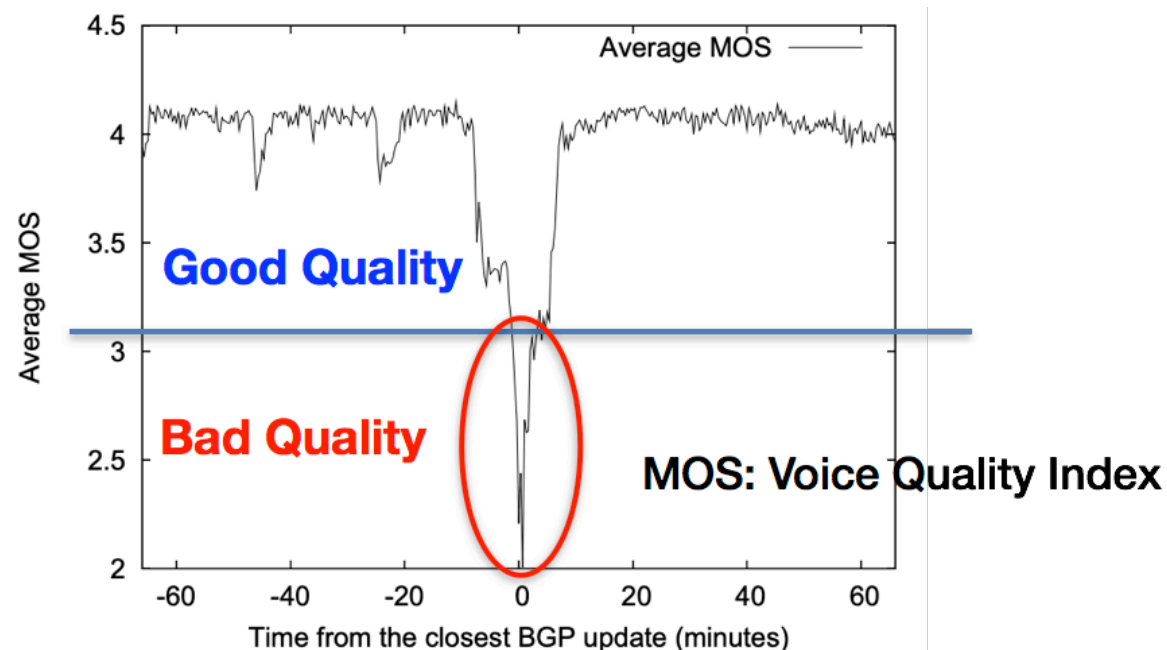
## Current Internet

- ✗ BGP slow to converge to stable state
- ✗ Lack of separation between control and data plane leads to outages

## New Approach

SCION

- ◆ Fast converging routing process
- ◆ Authenticated routing messages
- ◆ Simple and stateless routers



## Result

SCION

- ✓ Increases availability of the Internet
- ✓ Increases Quality of Experience (QoE)



# Provable Security: Protocol + Code

- 3 Provable security:  
Protocol + Code
- 2 New routing and  
forwarding  
architecture
- 1 Path-aware  
networking



# High Assurance for Protocols and Code

## Current Internet

- ✗ Problems with BGP protocol
- ✗ Faulty router implementations

## New Approach

SCION

- ◆ Formally modeled and verified protocols
- ◆ Formally verified implementations

NEWS

### Cisco patches bug that crashed 1% of Internet



#### Oversized AS paths: Cisco IOS bug details

Numerous articles describing the widespread routing instabilities caused by [sloppy parser of a small router vendor](#) (including posts at [BGPmon](#), [Renesys](#), [Arbor Security](#) and [my blog](#)) hinted that the unusual BGP update caused so many problems because the ISPs were using outdated Cisco IOS releases. This is definitely not the case; all classic IOS releases were affected.

## Result

SCION

- ✓ Increase resiliency against failures due to faulty design and implementation
- ✓ Obtain high assurance for communication



# Heterogenous Trust Model



# Heterogeneous Trust Models & Network Sovereignty

## Current Internet

- ✗ Either no trust model or global roots of trust
- ✗ Whoever controls the global root of trust can shut down parts of the Internet

## New Approach

SCION

- ◆ Isolation domains define **sovereign Internet region**
- ◆ Each isolation domain can choose its own trust roots

## Internet Kill Switch

#KEEPIRON

**More African governments blocked the internet to silence dissent in 2016**

By Abdi Latif Dahir • December 31, 2016

**Could the U.S. shut down the internet?**



By John D. Sutter, CNN

February 3, 2011 -- Updated 1523 GMT (2323 HKT) | Filed under: [Web](#)

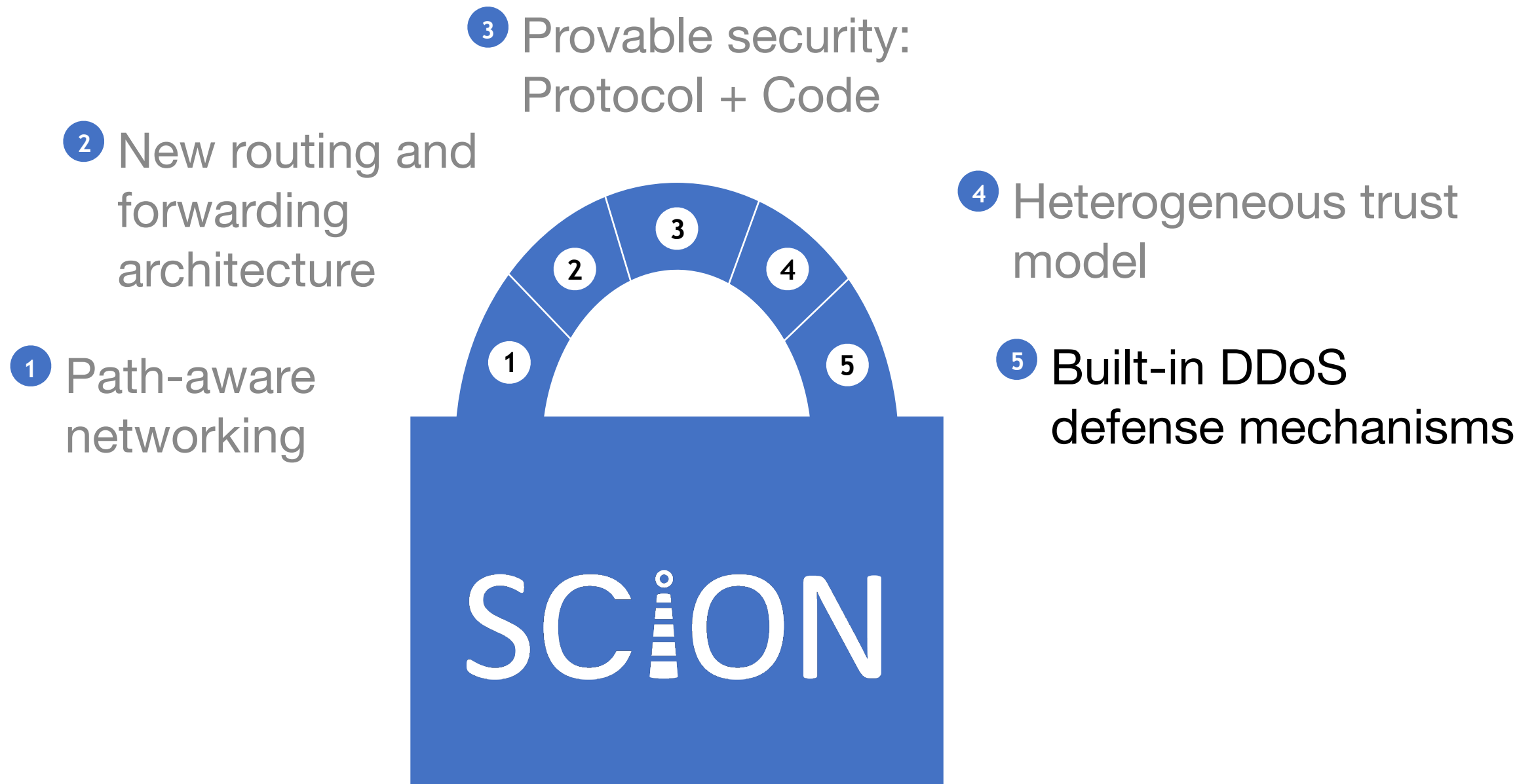
## Result

SCION

- ✓ Autonomy/Sovereignty for infrastructure, e.g., at national level
- ✓ No kill switches



# Built-in DDoS Defense Mechanisms



# Built-in DDoS Defense Mechanisms

## Current Internet

- ✗ DDoS or routing attacks prevent communication
- ✗ No communication guarantees on today's Internet

The average DDoS attack cost for businesses rises to over \$2.5 million



Chalubo botnet wants to DDoS from your server or IoT device

SophosLabs • SophosLabs Uncut • BillGates • Chalubo • downloader • ELF • Elknot • Honeypot • Linux • malware

## New Approach

SCION

- ◆ Secure by design
  - ▶ Most attacks are prevented by construction
- ◆ **Multipath** communication and source authentication
- ◆ Dynamic global bandwidth-reservation system

## Result

SCION

- ✓ Reduce malicious traffic on the Internet
- ✓ Guaranteed communication despite DDoS attacks

# SCION in a Nutshell

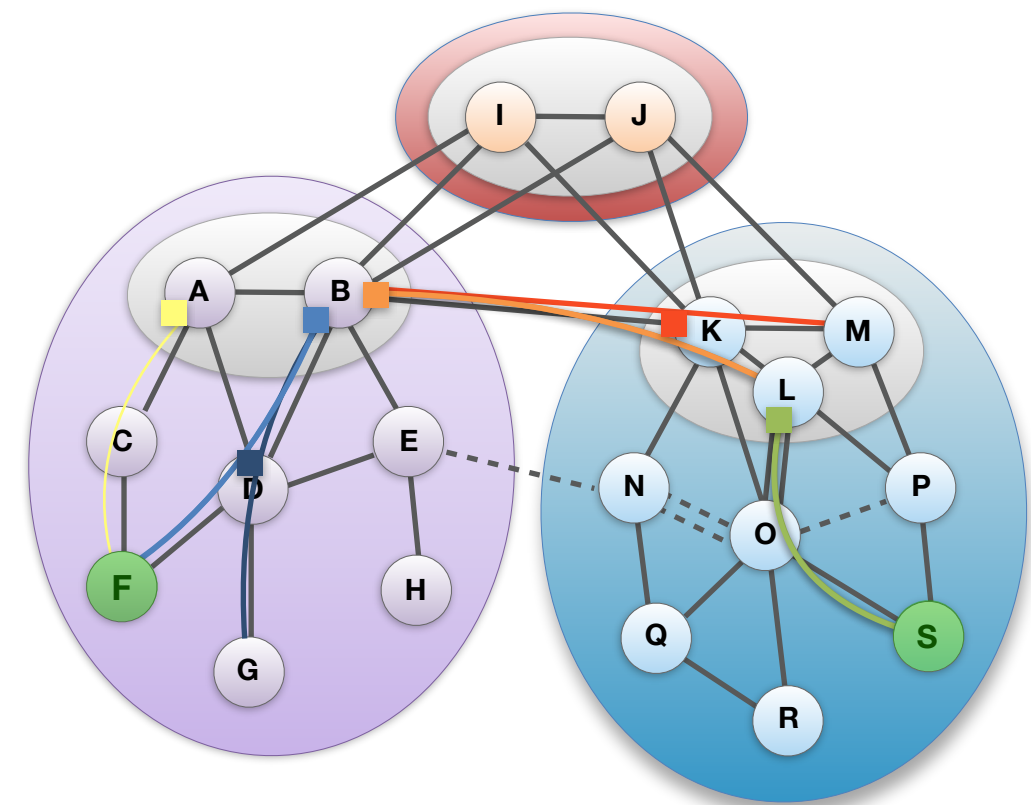
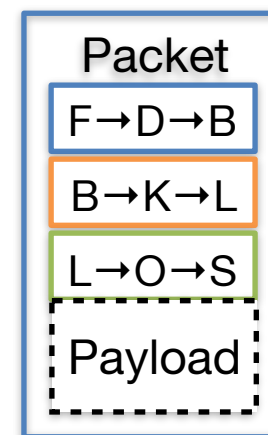
## 💡 Path-based Network Architecture

### Control Plane - Routing

- ❖ Constructs and disseminates **Path Segments**

### Data Plane - Packet forwarding

- ❖ Combine **Path Segments** to **Path**
- ❖ Packets contain Paths
- ❖ Routers forward packets based on Path
  - ▶ Simple routers, stateless operation

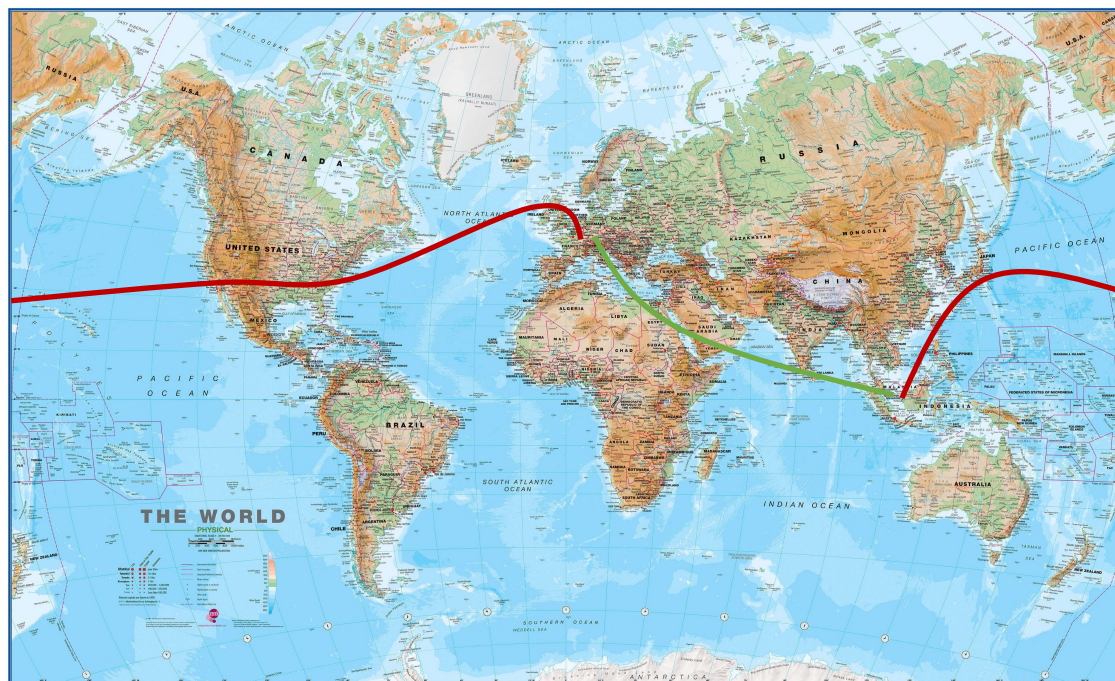


Isolation Domains (ISDs)



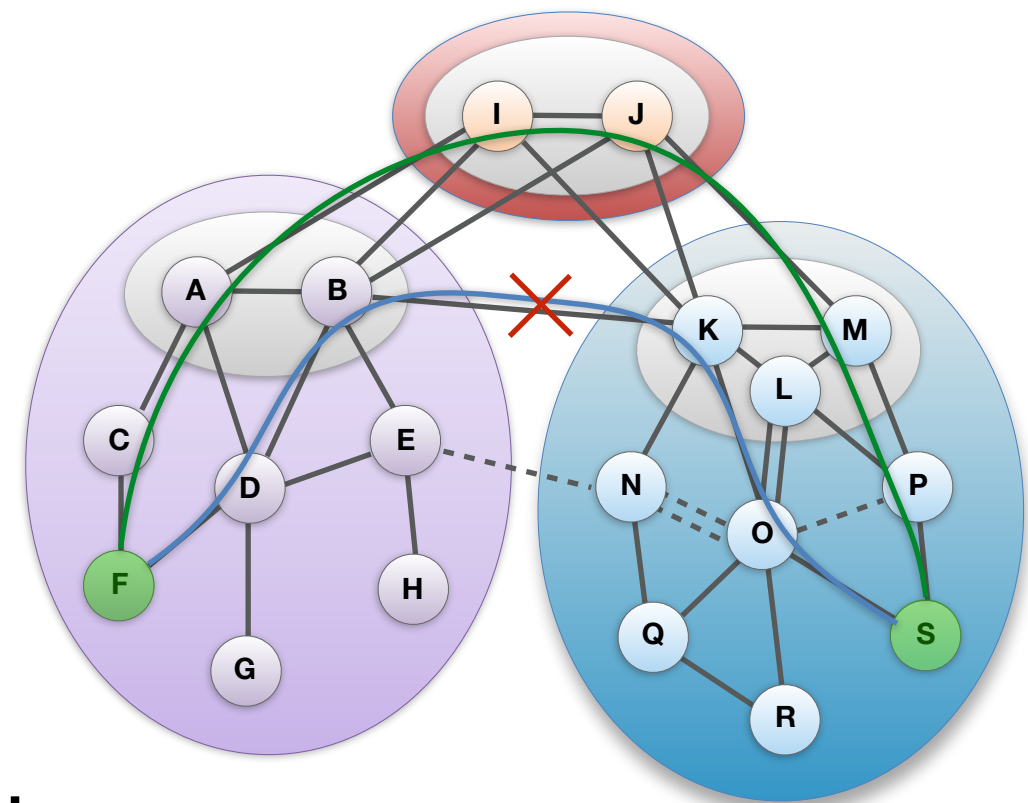
# Use Case: Low-Latency Connectivity

- Generally, two paths exist between Europe and Southeast Asia
  - **High latency, high bandwidth:** Western route through US, ~450ms RTT
  - **Low latency, low bandwidth:** Eastern route through Suez canal, ~250ms RTT
- BGP is a “money routing protocol”, traffic follows cheapest path, typically highest bandwidth path
- Depending on application, either path is preferred
- With SCION, both paths can be offered!



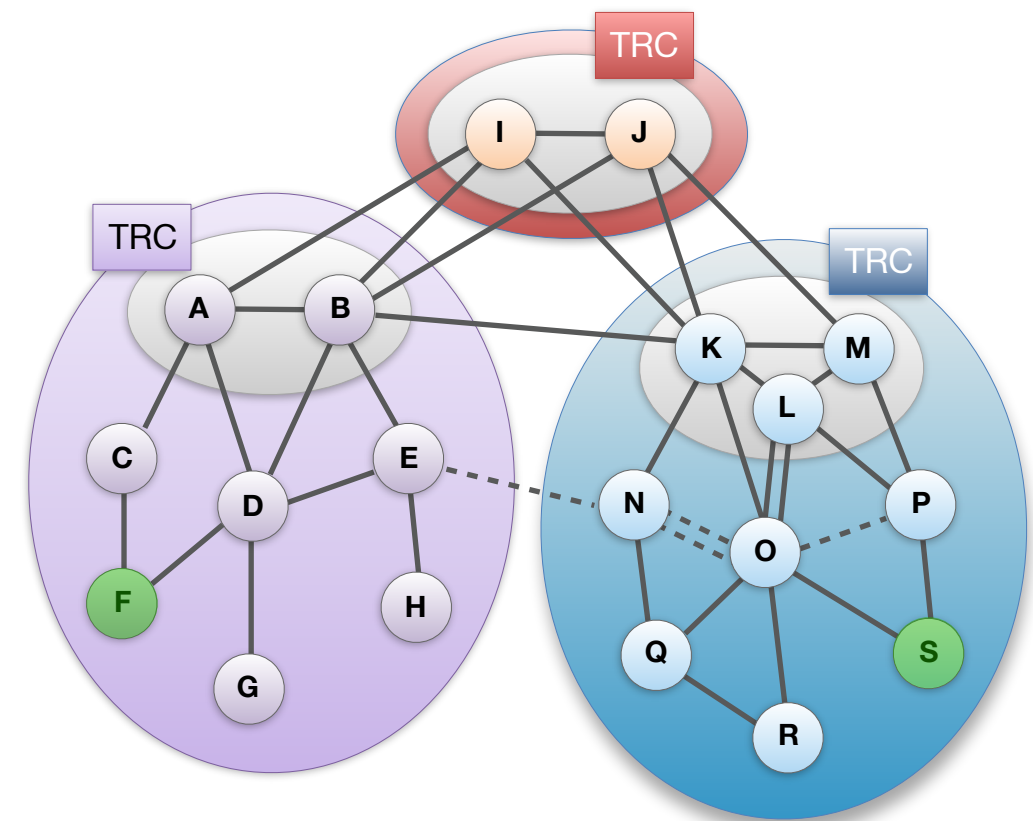
# Use Case: High-Speed Interdomain Failover

- Common failure scenarios in current Internet
  - Long-term failures (infrequent): large-scale failures require hours until BGP re-stabilizes
  - Intermediate-term failures (at each inter-domain router or link failure): 3-5 minutes until path is cleanly switched
  - Short-term failures (frequent): during BGP route change, routing loop during 5-10 seconds
- SCION: multiple paths available to end hosts
- Backup path is already set up and ready to be used when a link failure is observed
- Result: failover within milliseconds!

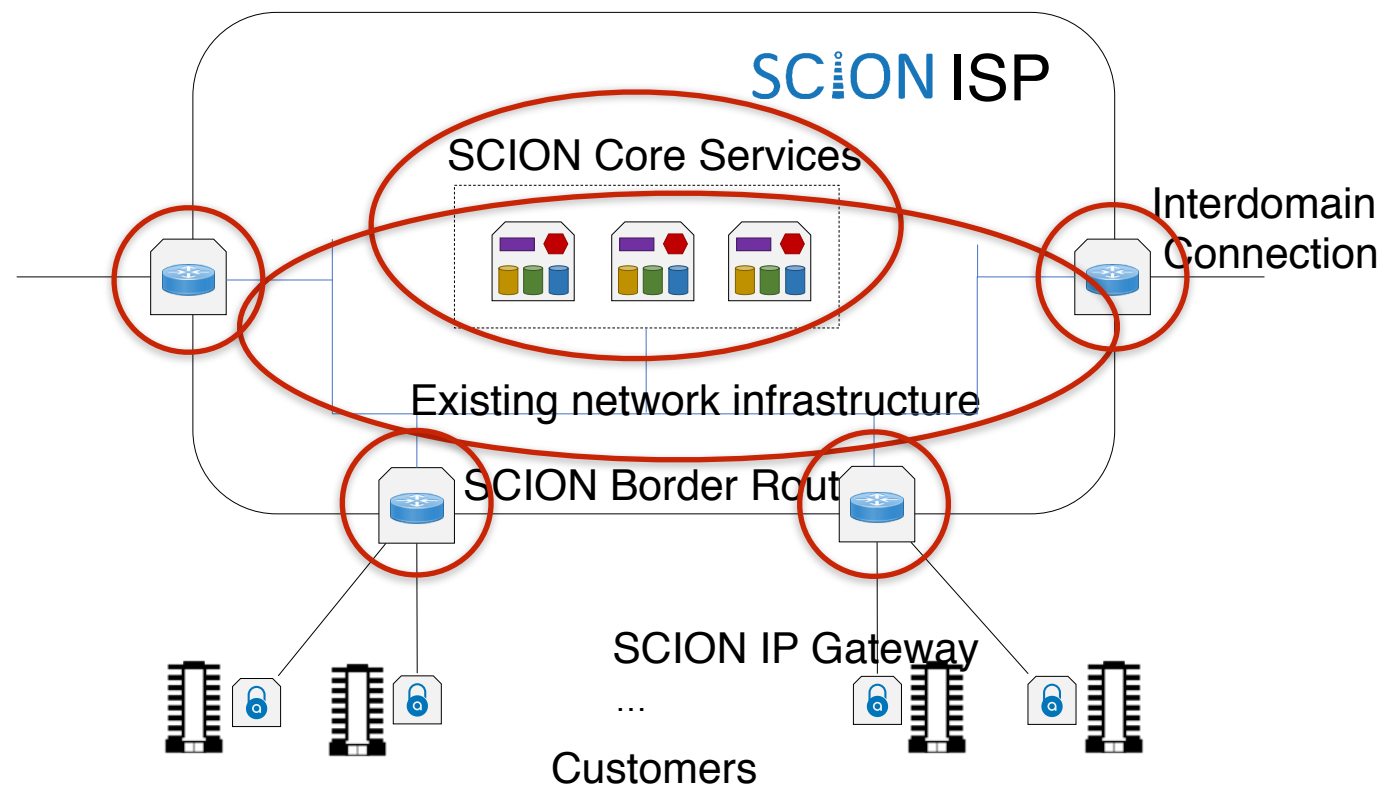


# Use Case: Internet Sovereignty

- Isolation Domains (ISD) guard Internet against external influence
- **Per-ISD trust roots** remove dependence on external roots of trust
- Enables clean **trust scoping**
- Provides transparency on which entities need to be trusted in any verification



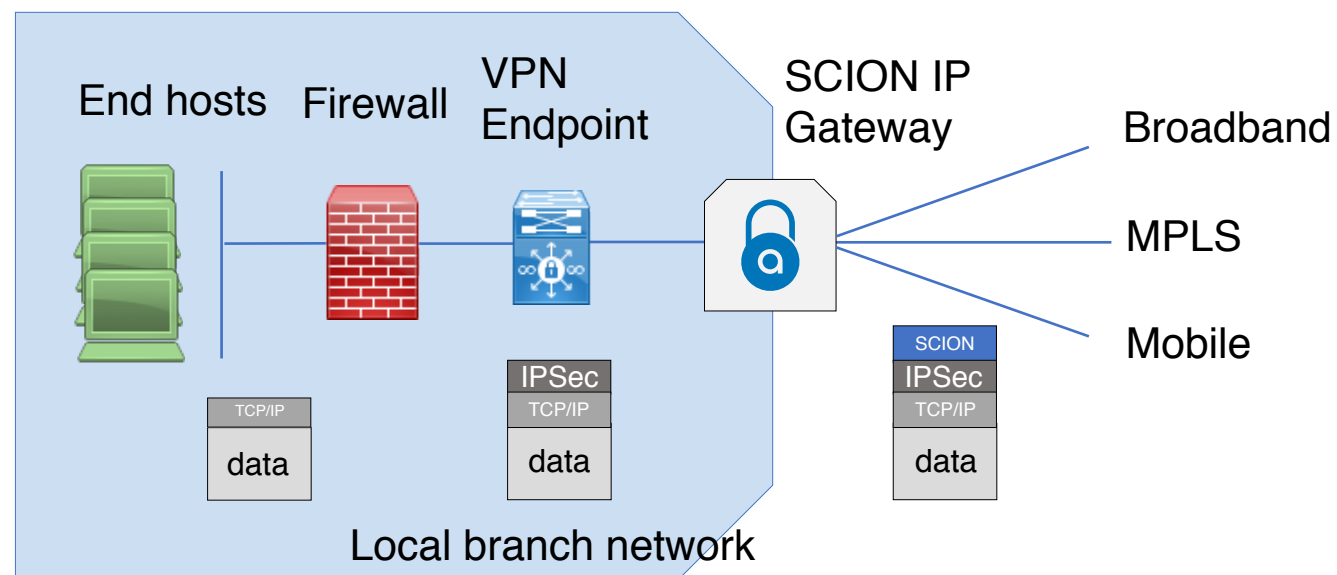
# How to Deploy SCION – Core Network



- Two components: SCION core services (control plane) and SCION border routers (data plane)
- SCION reuses existing intra-domain networking infrastructure—**no need to upgrade all networking hardware**



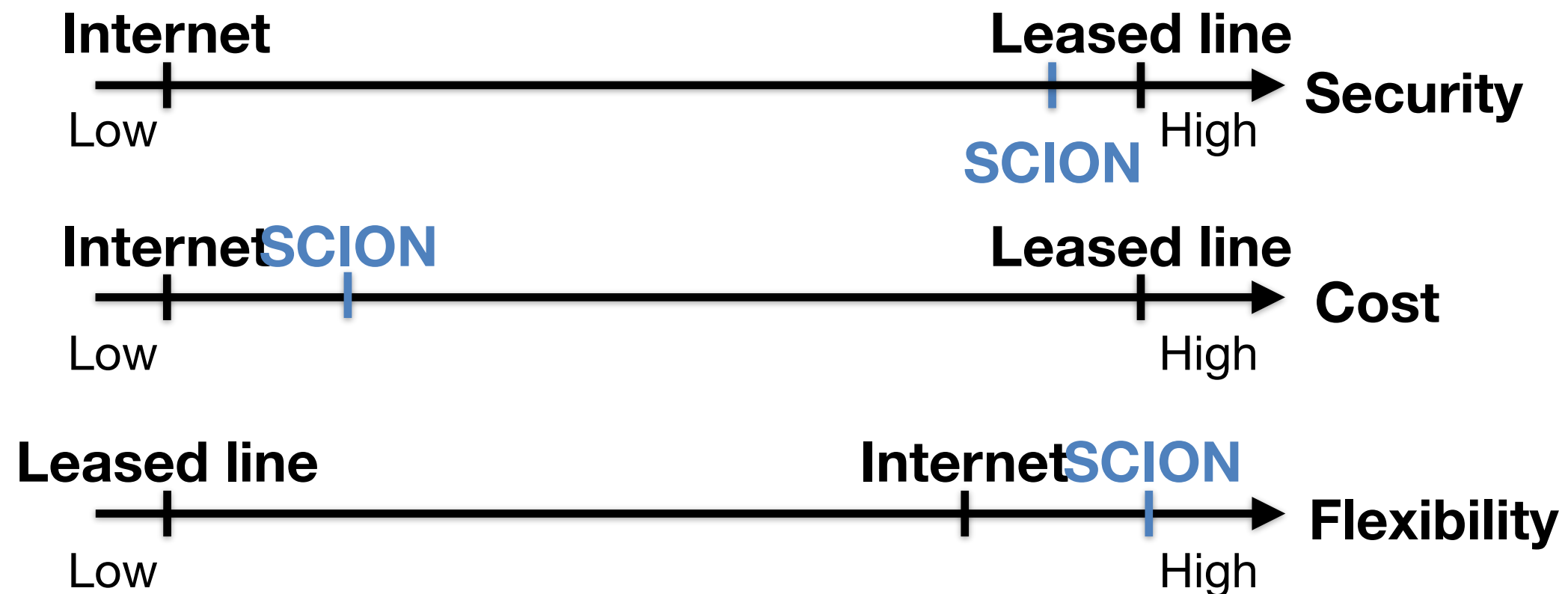
# How to Deploy SCION – End Domains



- SCION IP Gateway enables seamless integration of SCION capabilities in end-domain networks
- No upgrades of end hosts or applications needed
- SCION is transport-agnostic thus can work over many different underlying networks

# Value Proposition for Customers

- SCION offers highly secure and available Internet communication with built-in DDoS defense



# Value Proposition for ISPs

- New service offerings for customers
  - Premium link offerings
  - Geofencing, path choice
  - Business continuity (high availability / fast failover)
  - Pseudo-leased line
- Lower network management overhead
- Increased network capacity utilization

# Current Deployment Status

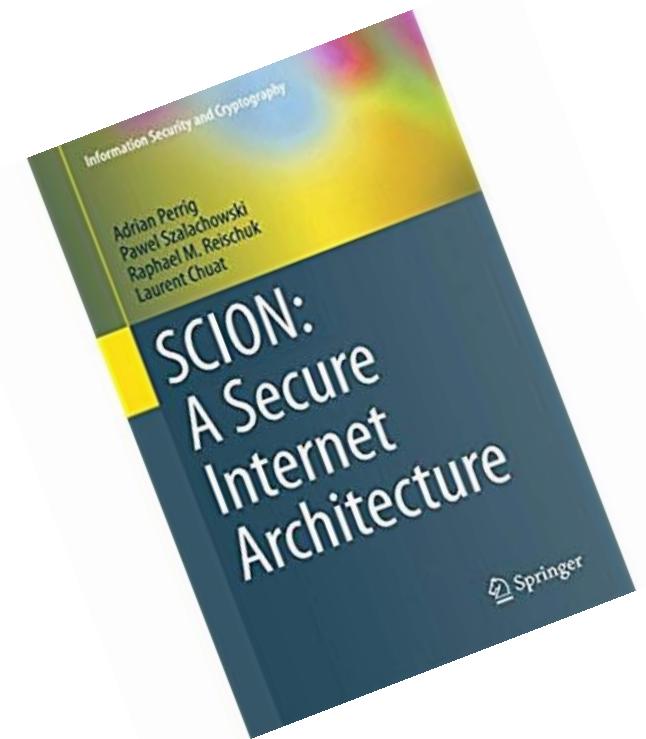
- Commercial Network (Anapaya)
  - ISPs: Deutsche Telekom, Swisscom, SWITCH, Init7
  - Bank deployment: 4 major Swiss banks, some in production use
  - Swiss government has SCION in production use
- Research Network (SCIONLab)
  - ISPs: Swisscom, SWITCH, KDDI, GEANT, DFN
  - Korea: KISTI (KREONET), KU, KAIST, ETRI
  - Deployed 50 ASes worldwide
  - Global interest, e.g., ESA





# Online Resources

- <https://www.scion-architecture.net>
  - Book, papers, videos, tutorials
- <https://www.scionlab.org>
  - SCIONLab testbed infrastructure
- <https://www.anapaya.net>
  - SCION commercialization
- <https://github.com/scionproto/scion>
  - Source code



# Conclusion: SCION is a disruptive technology that we can use today

- Clean-slate Internet architecture built on solid security foundations
- New security properties:
  - Geofencing
  - Verified protocols and code
- Improved communication efficiency
  - Increased bandwidth via multipath communication
  - Decreased latency thanks to path optimization
  - Fast failover using backup paths



# **Scalability, Control, and Isolation on Next-Generation Networks**