

# Basic Course on Onion Routing



Paul Syverson  
*U.S. Naval Research Laboratory*  
*paul.syverson@nrl.navy.mil*

*SAC Summer School*  
*Mount Allison University Aug 10, 2015*

# Course Outline

- Lecture 1: Basics and Formalization
  - Usage examples, basic notions of traffic-secure communications, mixes and onion routers
  - Onion routing design basics: circuit construction protocols, network discovery
  - Formalization and analysis, possibilistic and probabilistic definitions of anonymity
- Lecture 2: Security for the real world
  - Simple demo of obtaining/using Tor
  - Security of obtain/using Tor
  - Adding network link awareness
  - Importance of modeling users
  - Importance of realistic and practical
    - Adversary models
    - Security definitions

“Our motivation here is not to provide anonymous communication, but to separate identification from routing.”

- “Proxies for anonymous routing”. Reed, Syverson, and Goldschlag. ACSAC 1996

# A Motivational Use Case Example

- Navy Petty Officer Alice is on temporary duty out of the U.S.



# ANTITERRORISM



## Don't be a Target



Items that display your DOD affiliation may also help identify you as a potential target.

Not all threats are predictable or can be recognized in advance. As a result, you should concentrate on not being an easy target for attack.

Reduce your exposure by being anonymous and blending in with your surroundings.

- Do not wear clothing or carry items that might attract criminal attention
- Remain low key and do not draw attention to yourself
- Avoid places of high criminal activity

In addition to blending in, try to reduce your vulnerability and exposure:

- Select places with security measures appropriate for the local threat
- Be unpredictable and vary your routes and times of travel
- Travel with a friend or in a small group
- Use automobiles and residences with adequate security features

You can greatly increase your personal protection posture by remaining anonymous and reducing your exposure.

*Select Next to continue.*



Anticipate



Be Vigilant



Don't be a Target



Respond & Report

# Motivational Use Case Example

- Safe back in her hotel, PO Alice wants to read and/or post to [sealiftcommand.com](http://sealiftcommand.com)
  1. The site is blocked where she is deployed
  2. The Internet is monitored where she is deployed



**MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND**

f Like 4k

ABOUT MSC

MARITIME EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

START THE PROCESS

CONTACT US

A plugin is required to play additional media on this page. [Please download Adobe Flash Player.](#)

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Military Sealift Command Accepts Navy's Newest Ship, USNS William McLean

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — Military Sealift Command accepted delivery of dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12) during a ceremony at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego Sept. 28. The 689-foot long McLean, designated T-AKE 12, is the 12th of 14 new [Read More](#) →

## LET'S TALK JOBS

📡 Career Fairs RSS. [View all career fairs](#) →

**11.03.11 MSC Career Fair**  
San Francisco, CA | 9:30AM - 1:30PM

**11.03.11 MSC Career Fair – MILITARY ONLY**  
Millington, TN | 11AM - 3PM

**11.03.11 MSC Career Fair**  
Pensacola, FL | 11AM - 3PM


**11.09.11 Hire a Vet Career Fair**  
Raleigh, NC | 10AM - 3PM

**11.10.11 Recruit Military Veterans Expo**  
Miami, FL | 11AM - 3PM

## NOW HIRING

📡 Now Hiring RSS. [View all open positions](#) →

 **Able Seaman**  
Announcement open 1 November through 30 November 2011.

 **Medical Services Officer**  
Announcement open 3 October 2011, with periodic cut-offs.

 **Second Cook**  
Announcement open 5 October 2011, with periodic cut-offs.

## GETTING STARTED

Resources to help you take command of your career.

Choose a Resource

Your previous experience can make a difference in a maritime career with MSC

-  **Current Mariners**
-  **Departing Military**
-  **Maritime School Graduates**
-  **Entry Level/Skilled Laborers**



# Take Command of Your Career®

# Use Case Example

- Safe back in her hotel, PO Alice wants to read and/or post to [sealiftcommand.com](http://sealiftcommand.com)
  1. The site is blocked where she is deployed
  2. The Internet is monitored where she is deployed



# Connecting when overseas



Navy PO Alice  
in her hotel



# Connecting when overseas



Navy PO Alice  
in her hotel



Contacted:  
sealiftcommand.com  
08/09/2015, 9PM,  
20 min, encrypted



# Connecting when overseas



Navy PO Alice  
in her hotel



Contacted:  
sealiftcommand.com  
08/09/2015, 9PM,  
20 min, encrypted  
Rm: 216  
Ckout on:  
08/14/2015



# Security of operations concern as well as personnel security concern



Navy PO Alice  
in her hotel



Contacted:  
nrl.navy.mil  
08/09/2015, 9PM,  
20 min, encrypted  
Rm: 216  
Ckout on:  
08/14/2015



# Some more government uses

- Open source intelligence gathering
- Sensitive communications with untrusted/untrusting parties
- Encouraging open communications with citizens
- Reduce risk/liability from data breaches, DNS hijacks,...
- Location protected servers for defense in depth
- Protecting the public infrastructure
  - Interacting with network sensors

# Officer Alice

- Setting up a sting operation:
  - as a collaborator
  - as a service provider
- Monitoring criminal activity online
- Encouraging anonymous tips

# Corporation Alice

- Checking out the competition
- Exploration of collaborations and partnerships
- Patent searches
- Protecting her customers

# Researcher/Reporter/Rights Worker Alice

- Gathering information while protecting sources
- Accessing information that is locally censored or monitored
- Reporting information that is locally censored or monitored



# Ordinary citizen Alice

- Protecting her behavior from:
- Cyberstalking abusive ex-spouse
- Behavior tracking, DNS shenanigans by her ISP
- Misunderstanding from her employer when she investigates disease info for an ailing friend
- Harassment for blogging her views
- Spear phishers watching her log into her bank

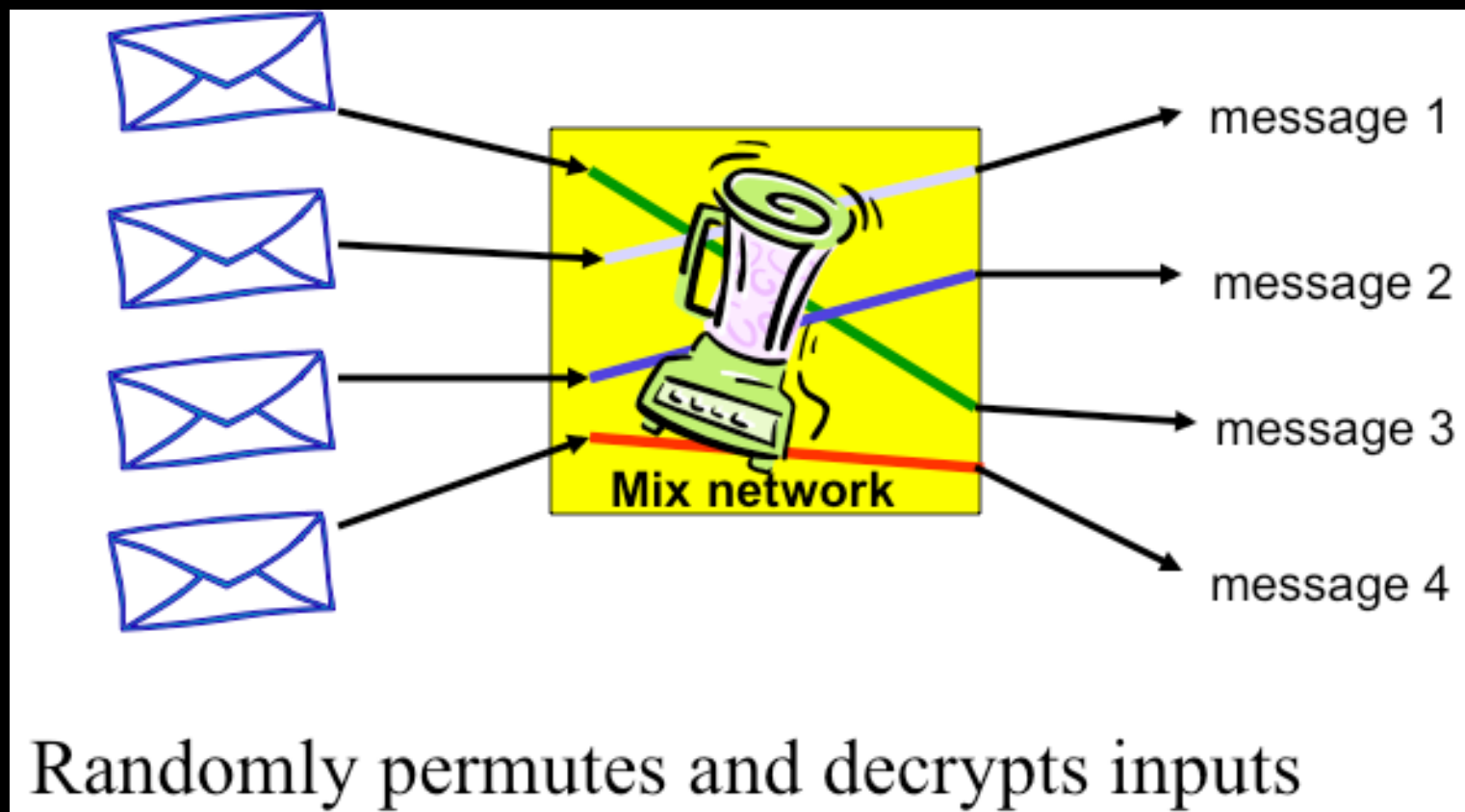
# Recent U.N. Human Rights Commission Report Conclusion

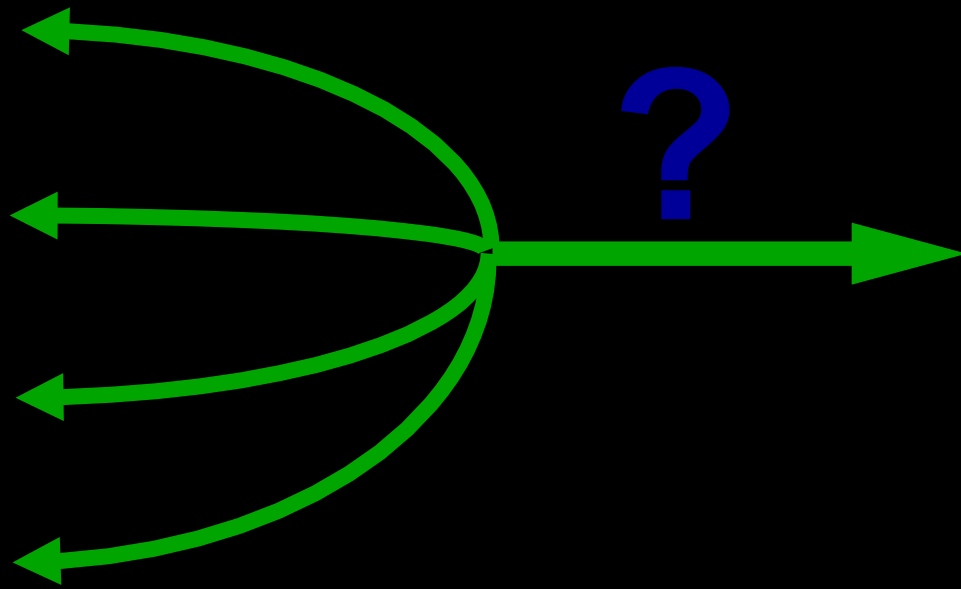
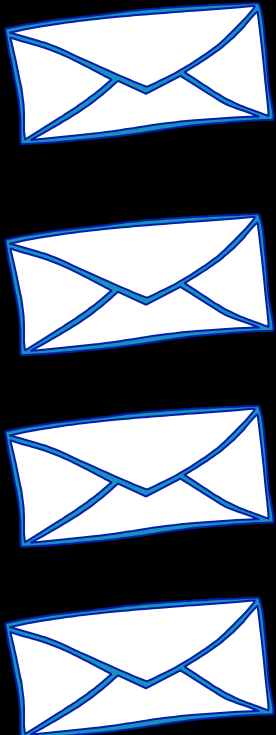
“States should promote strong encryption and anonymity.”

- Also specifically mentions the importance of protecting IP address, and Tor as an important technology protecting freedom to hold and express opinions.

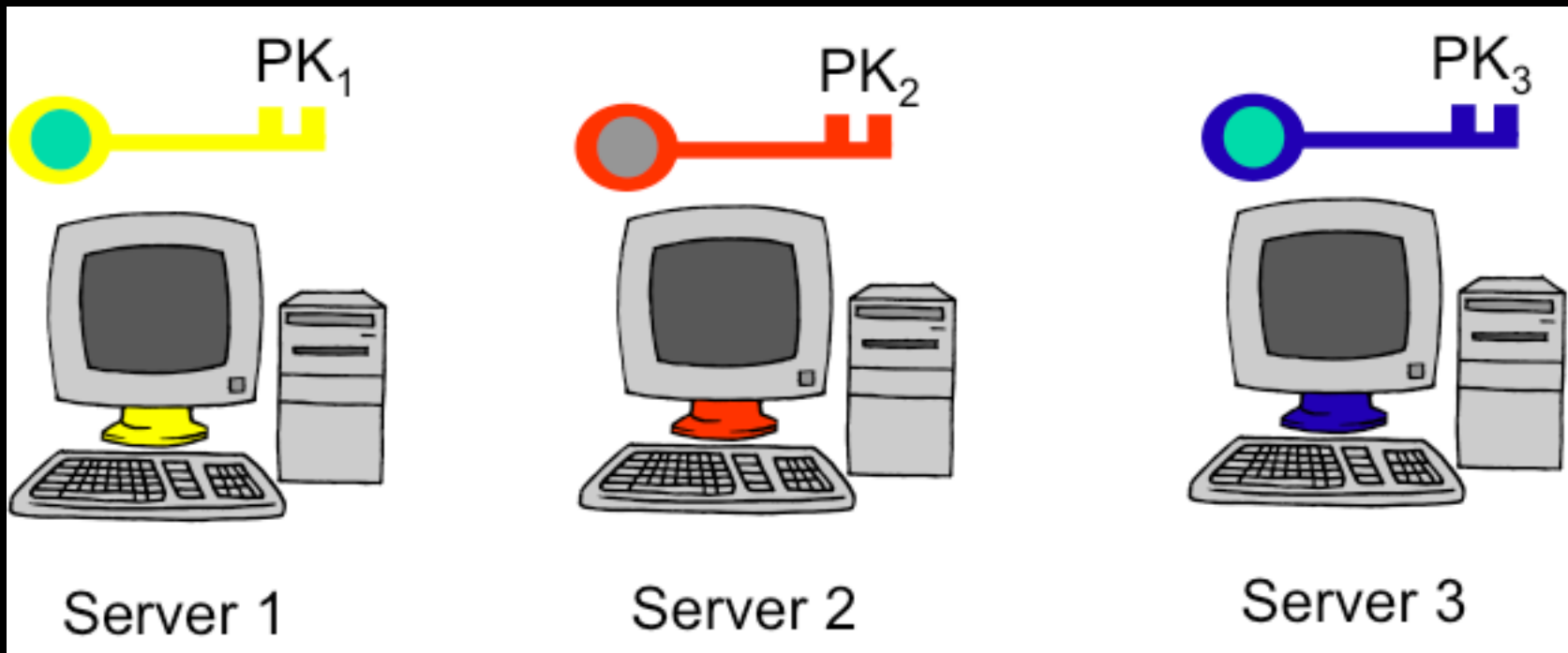
# First Anonymous Comms Design (Chaum Mix)

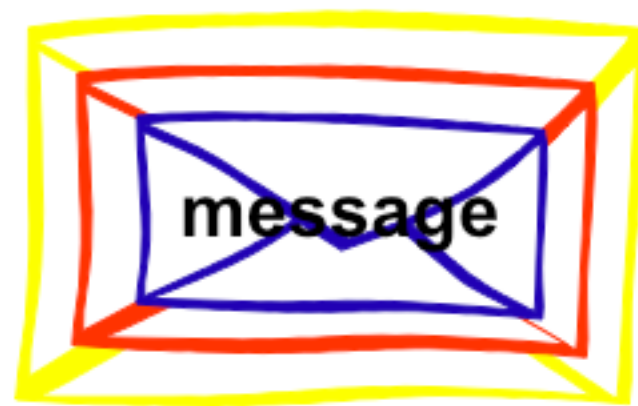
- Untraceable Electronic Mail, Return addresses, and Digital Pseudonyms – David Chaum, CACM 1981



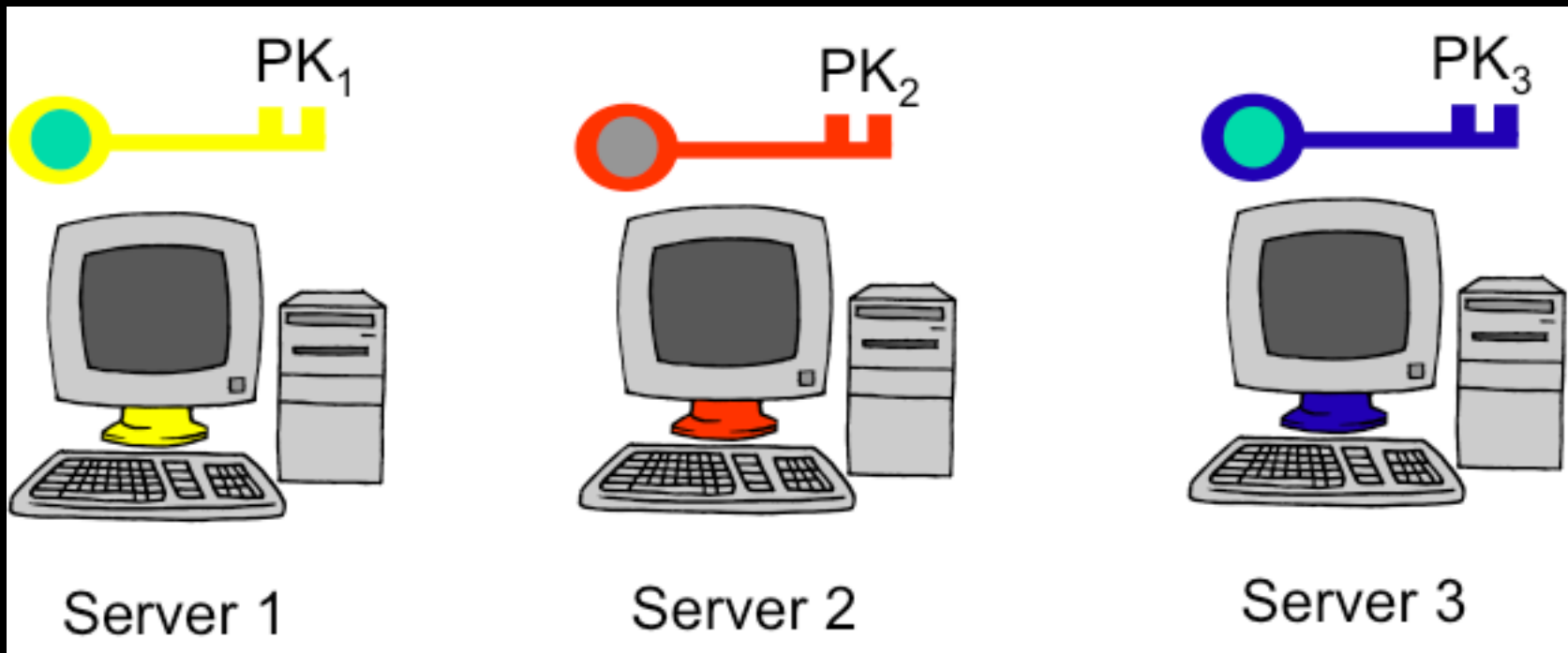


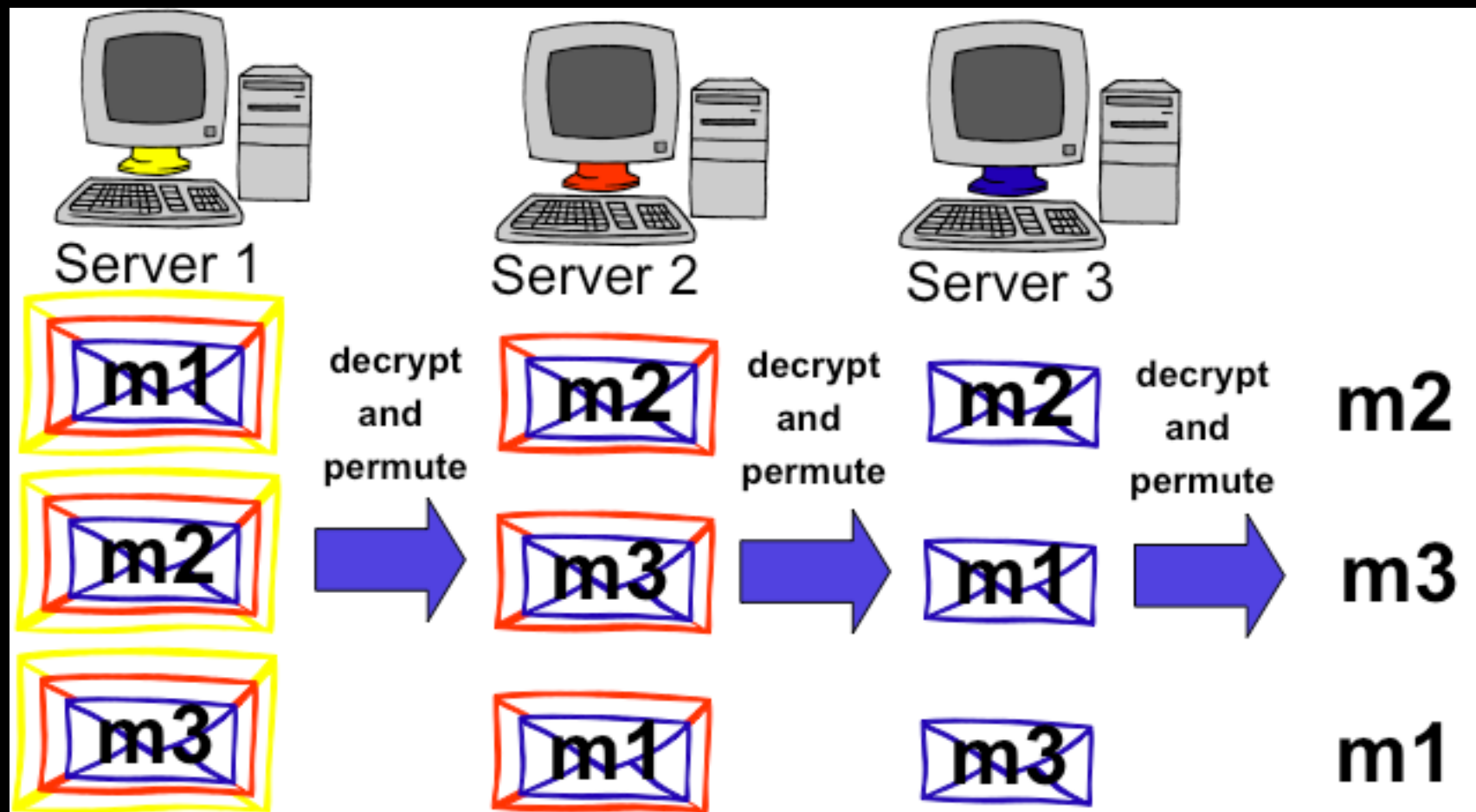
message 2





$$\text{Ciphertext} = E_{PK_1}[E_{PK_2}[E_{PK_3}[\text{message}]]]$$







# Mixes

- Invented by Chaum 1981 (not counting ancient Athens)
- As long as one mix is honest, network hides anonymity up to capacity of the mix
- Sort of
  - Flooding
  - Trickleing
- Many variants
  - Timed
  - Pool
  - ...

# Athenian Jury Ballots (4<sup>th</sup> C BCE)



Also had cool randomized jury selection mechanism (kleroterion)

# Mixes

- Invented by Chaum 1981 (not counting ancient Athens)
- As long as one mix is honest, network hides anonymity up to capacity of the mix
- Sort of
  - Flooding
  - Trickleing
- Many variants
  - Timed
  - Pool
  - ...

# Chaum '81: First Adversary Model

1. “No one can determine anything about the correspondences between a set of sealed items and the corresponding set of unsealed items, or create forgeries without the appropriate random string or private key.”

Crypto is black-box secure (Dolev-Yao Model)

2. “Anyone may learn the origin, destination(s), and representation of all messages in the underlying telecommunication system and anyone may inject, remove, or modify messages.”

Active and Global Adversary

# David Chaum: Way Ahead of His Time



In 1981

- SMTP was one year in the future
- IRC was seven years in the future
- The Web (Mosaic) was twelve years in the future
- (Dolev-Yao Model was two years in the future)
- Explicitly recognized and countered replay attacks



# 1993: The Web takes off

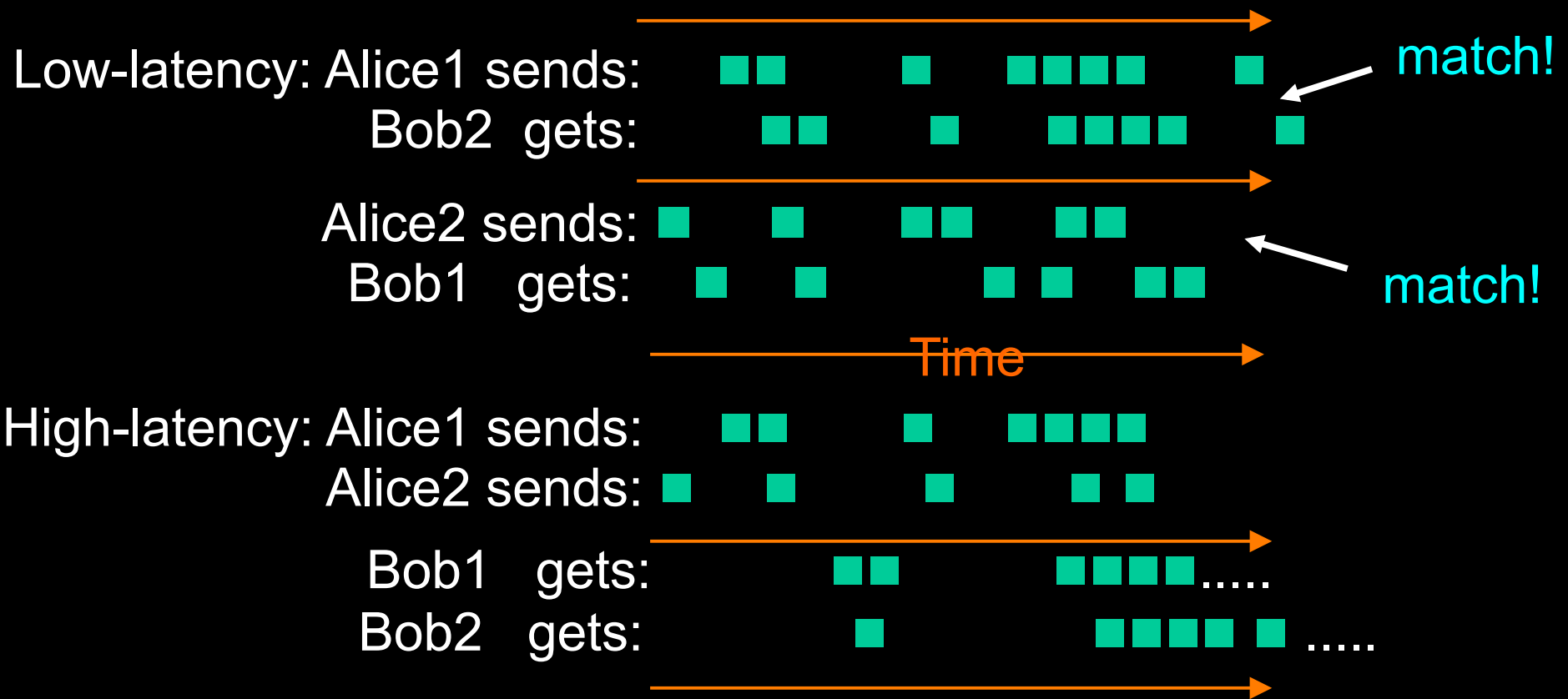
A useful adversary model must fit usage environment

- Application protocols must function
- Usability is a security property

Both interactivity and low-latency break Chaum's assumptions

- Web comms mostly based on bidirection TCP connections
- Web comms are low latency

# Low-latency systems are vulnerable to correlation by a global adversary



These attacks work in practice. The obvious defenses are expensive (like high-latency), useless, or both.

# Connecting when overseas



Navy PO Alice  
in her hotel





# Practical Secure Solutions



Solution must

- Carry traffic bidirectionally with low latency
- But that is broken against our adversary model?!

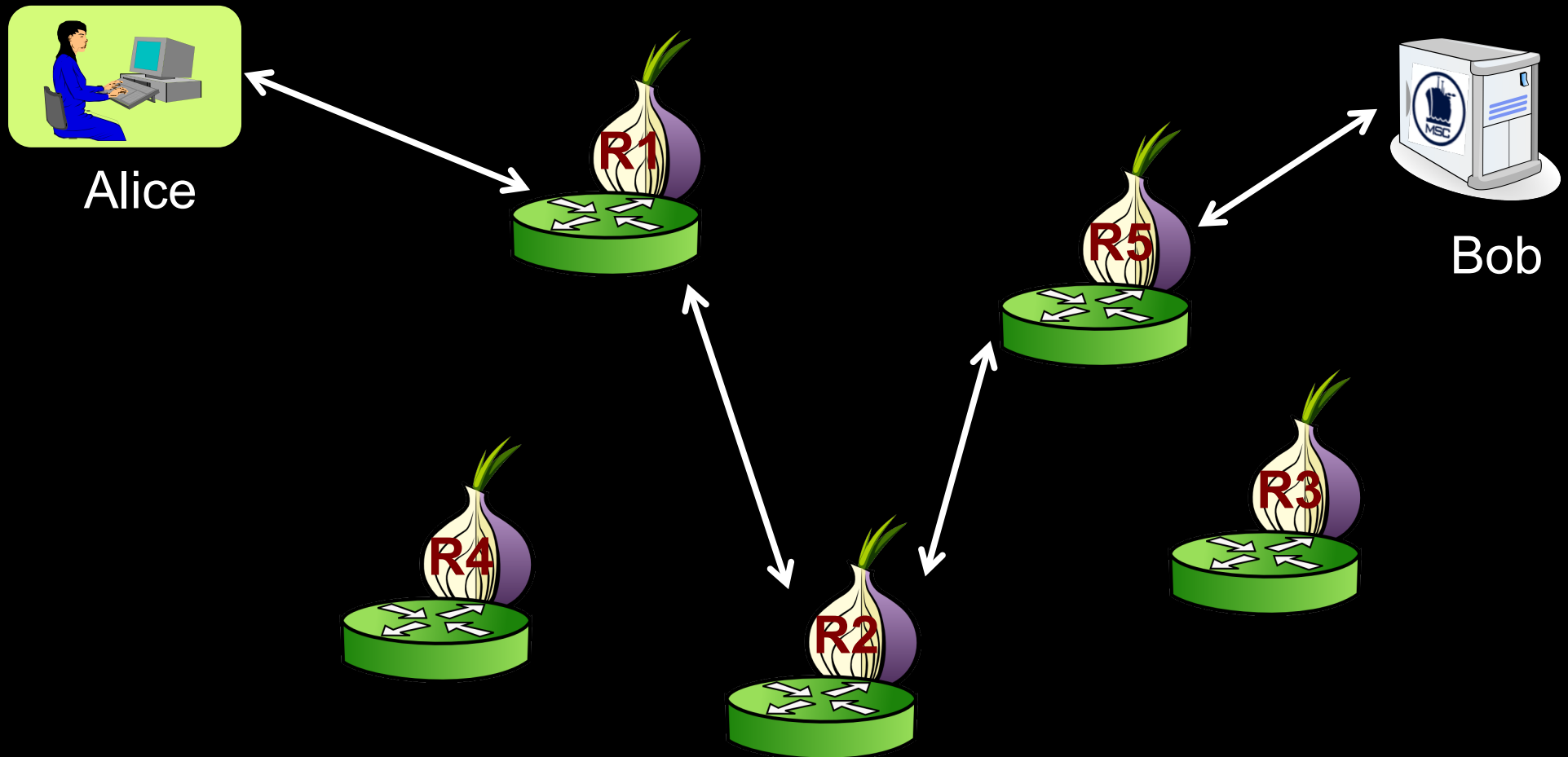
# Practical Secure Solutions



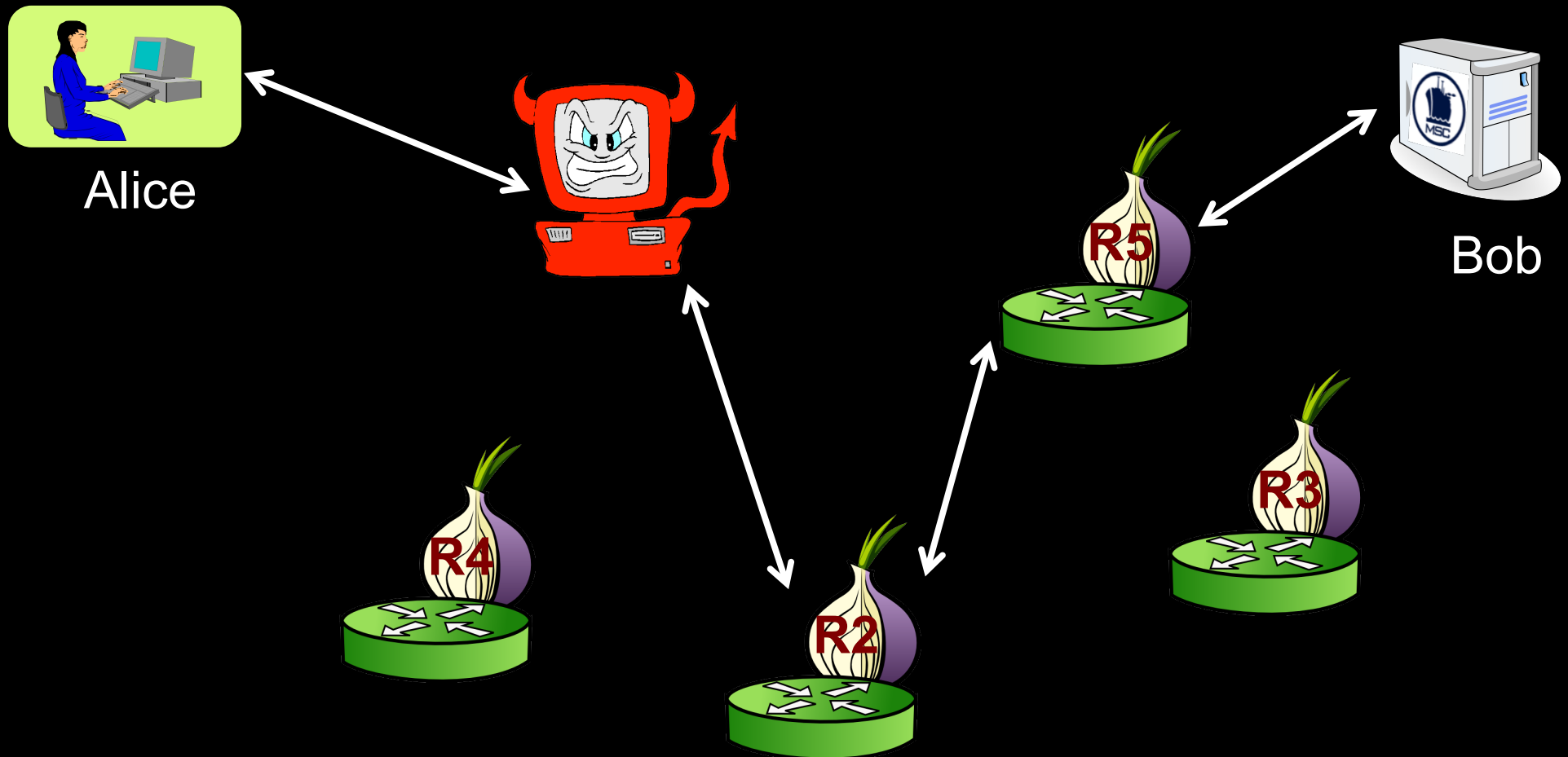
Solution must

- Carry traffic bidirectionally with low latency
- But that is broken against our adversary model?!
- So need a design making global adversary unlikely
  - very large and diversely managed network
- Carry traffic for a diverse user population
  - not just Navy or U.S. govt.
  - cannot have single point of failure/trust for any type of user
    - Diversely managed infrastructure
    - Open source

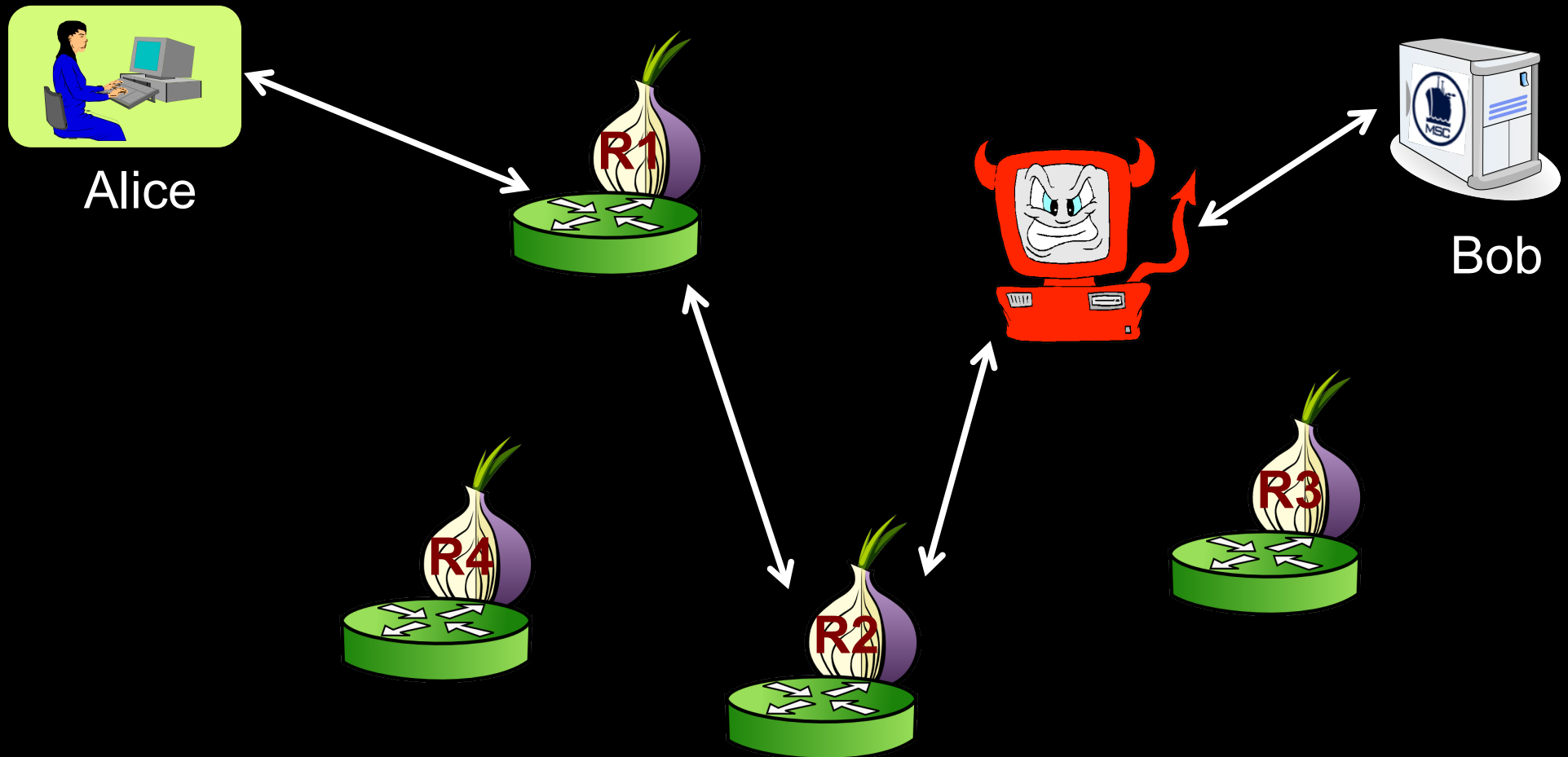
Network of diversely managed relays so that no single one can betray Alice.



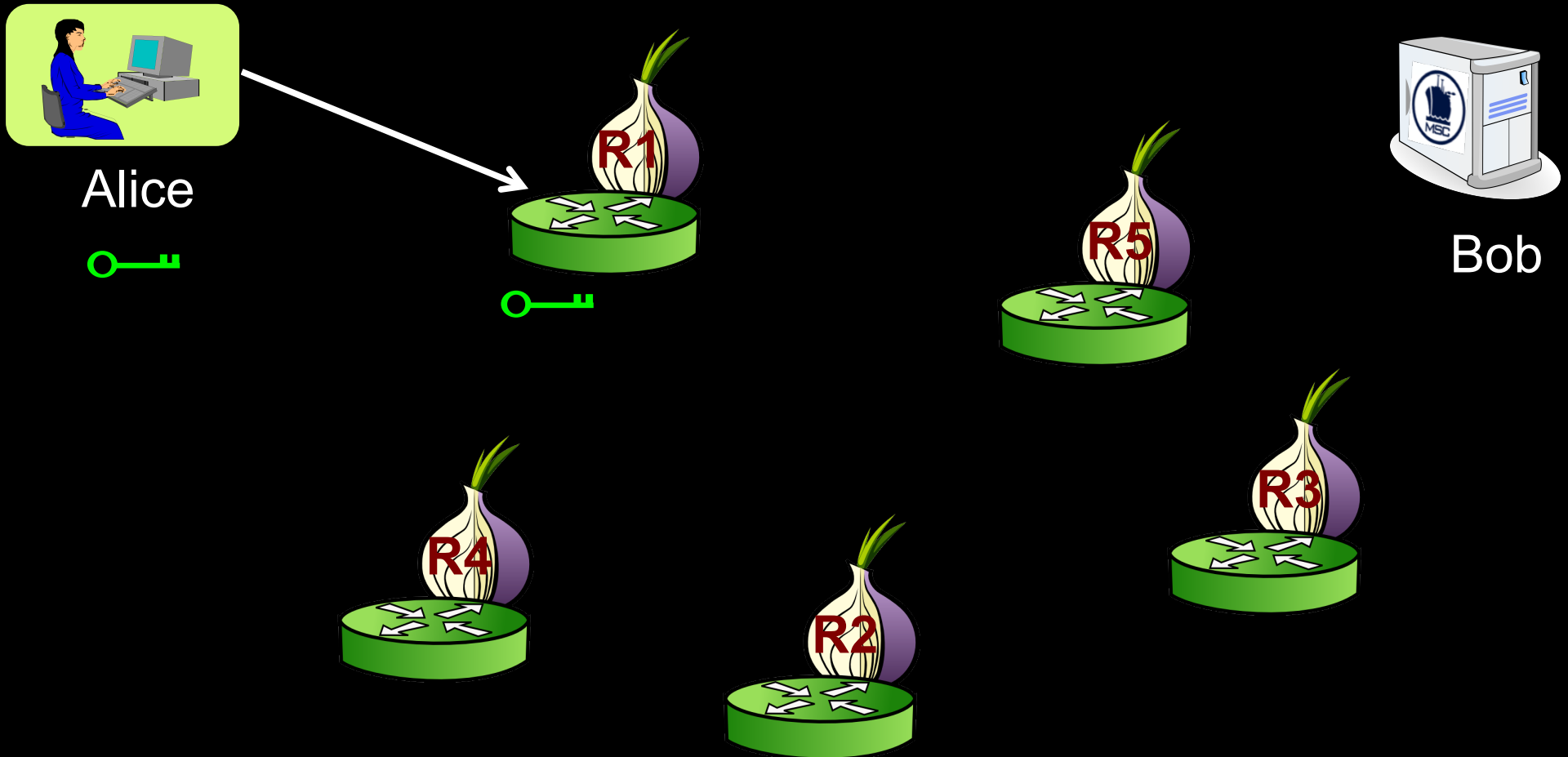
A corrupt first hop can tell that Alice is talking, but not to whom.



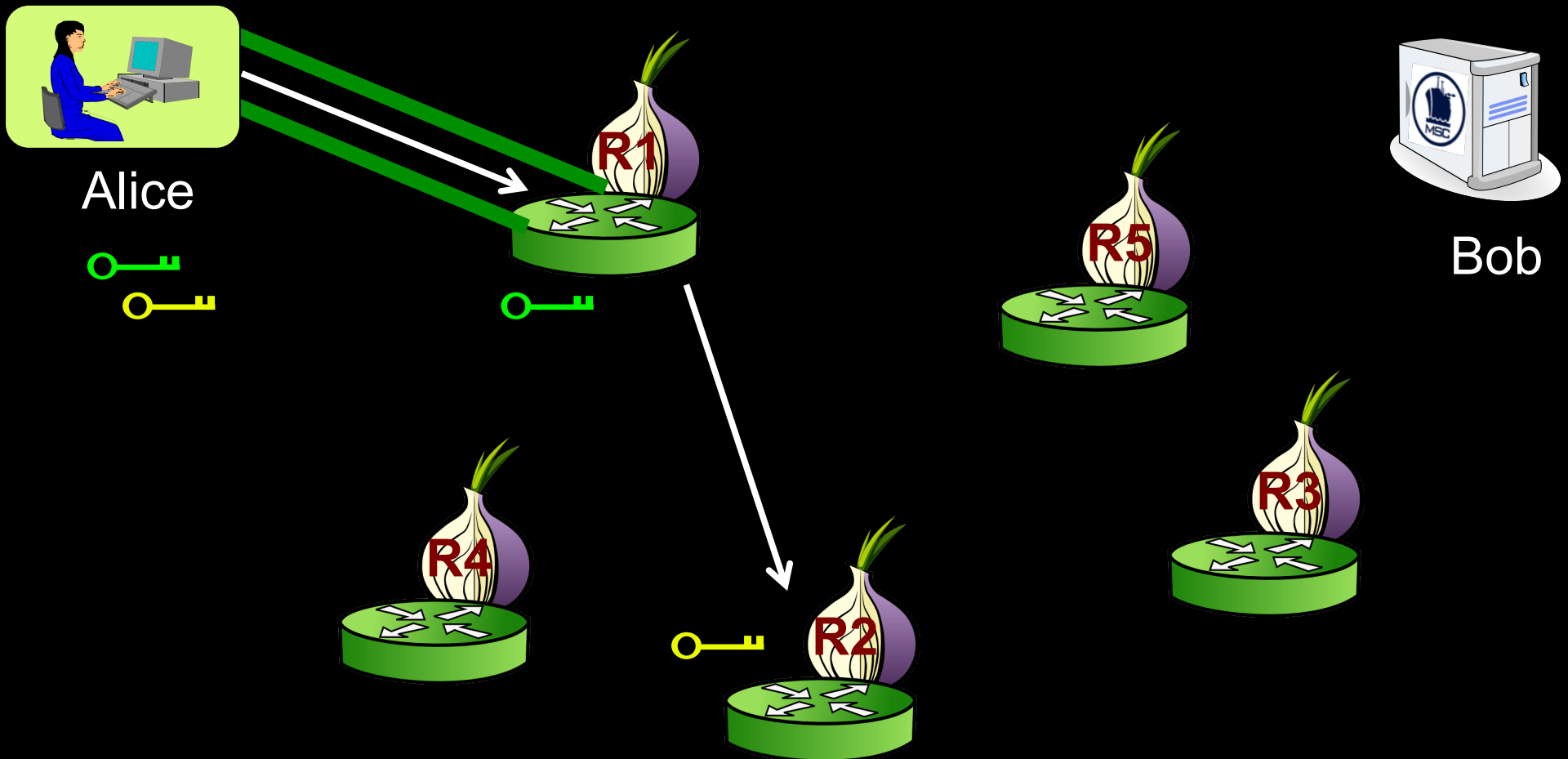
A corrupt last hop can tell someone is talking to Bob, but not who.



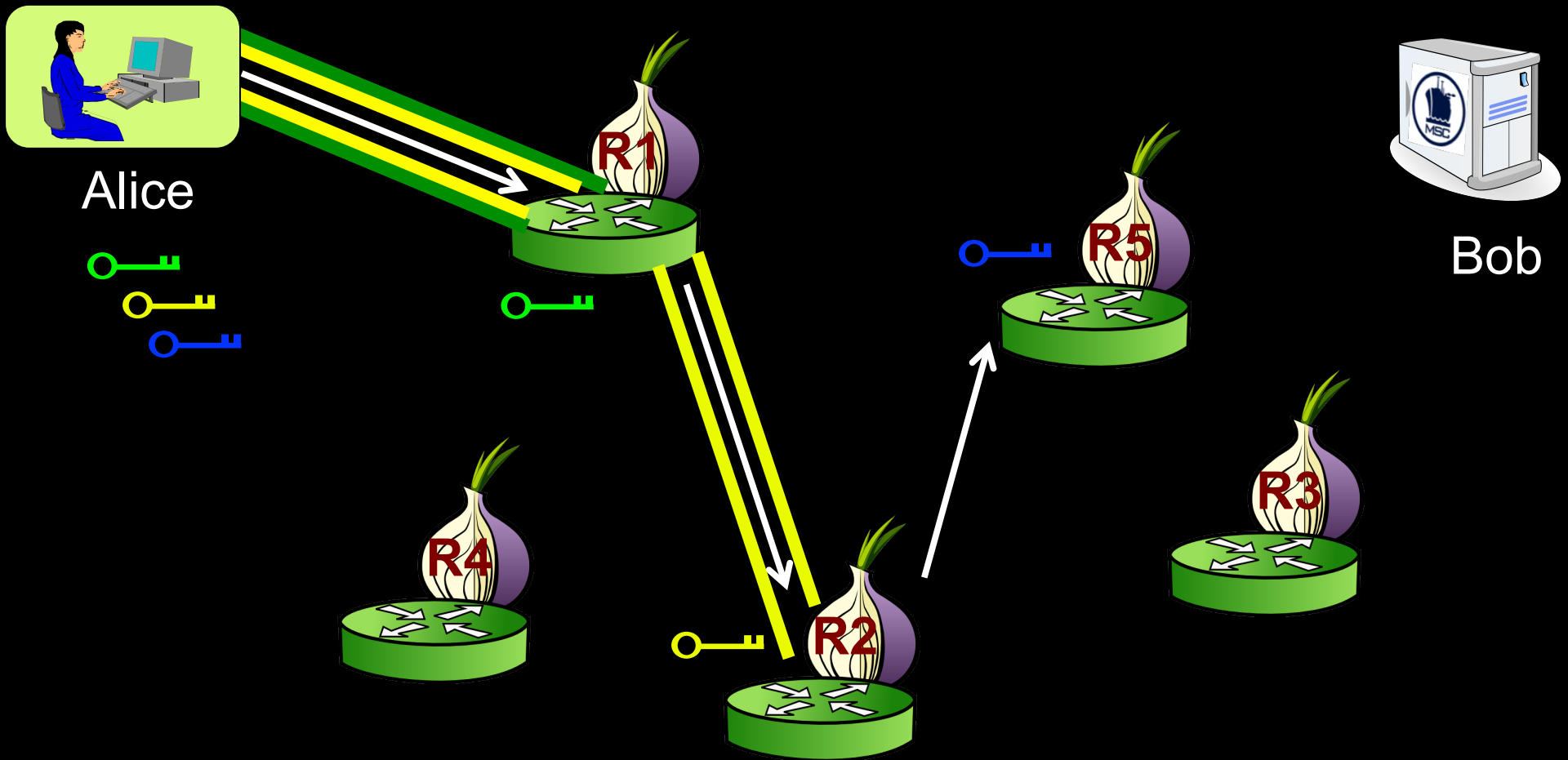
# Onion Routing: Circuit construction



# Onion Routing: Circuit construction

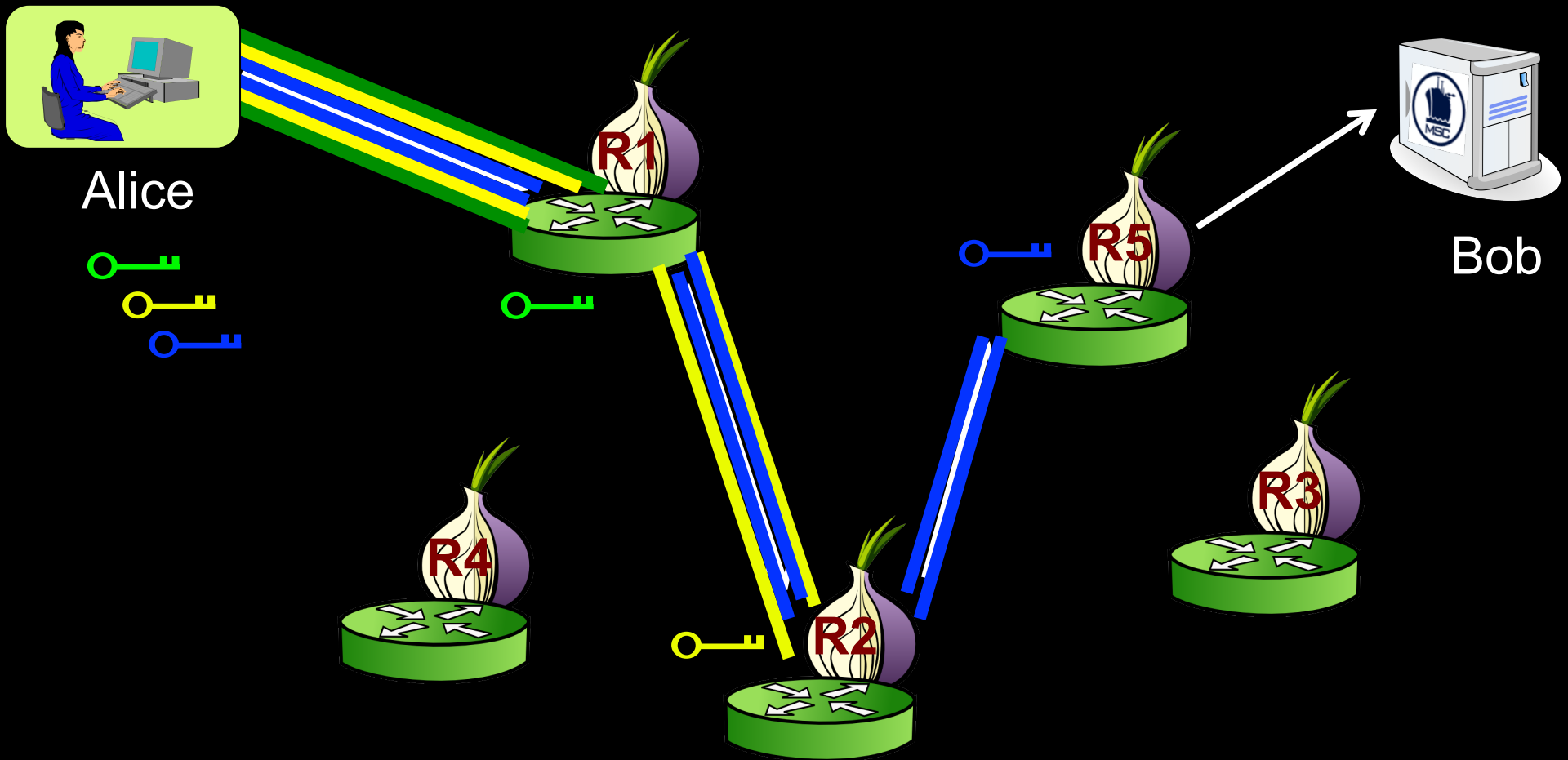


# Onion Routing: Circuit construction

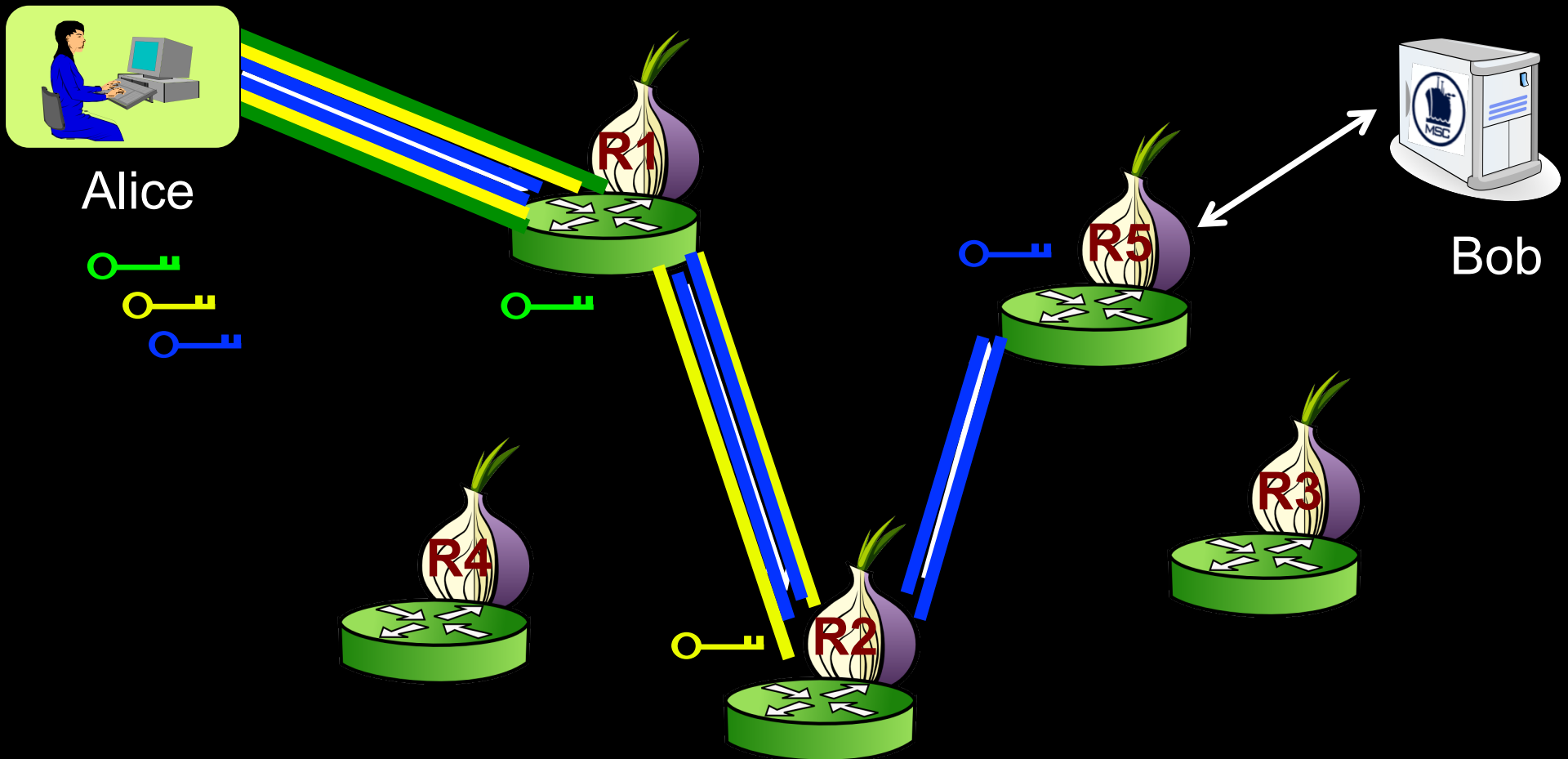




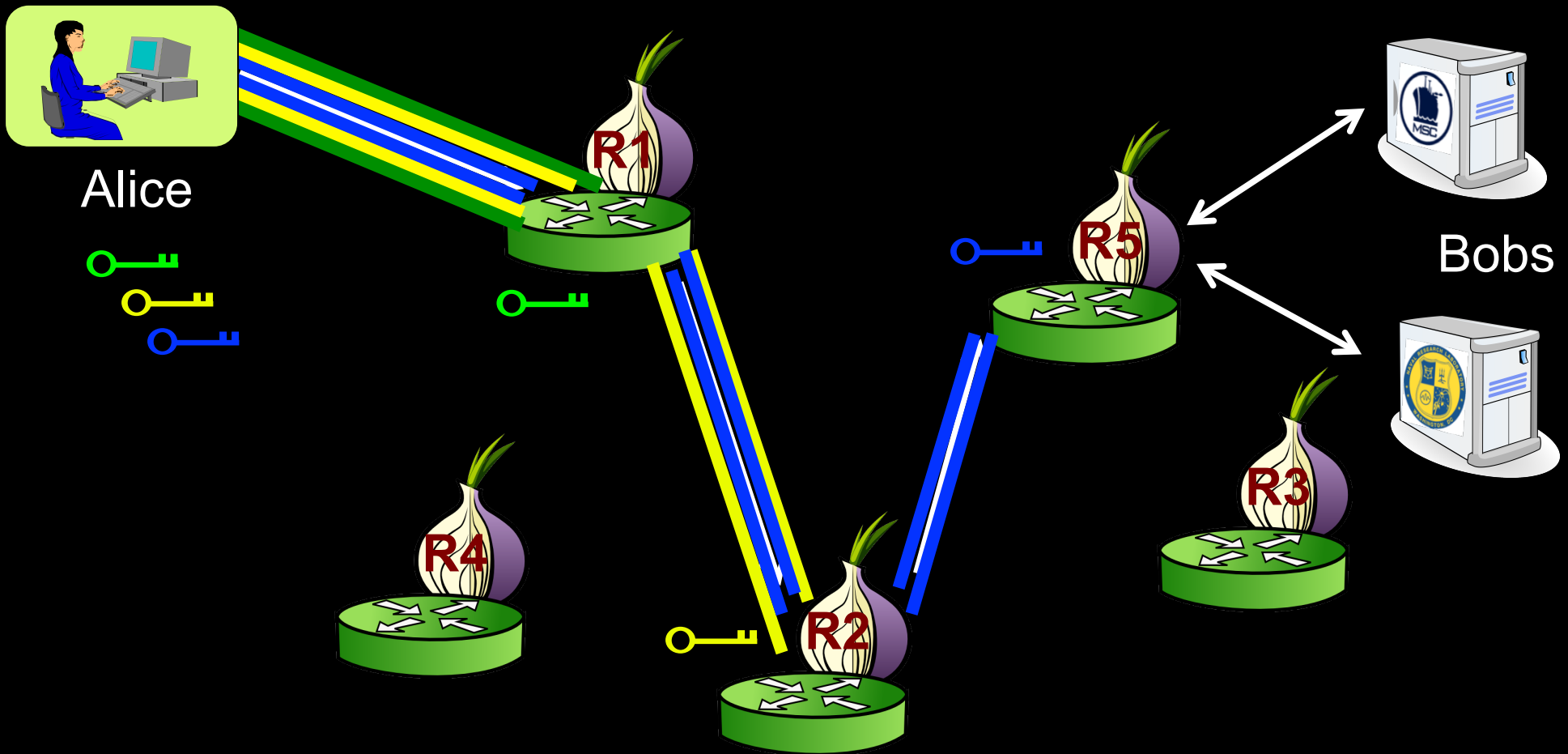
# Onion Routing: Connection creation



# Onion Routing: Data Exchange



# Onion Routing: Data Exchange



That's onion routing in a nutshell

# What onion routing is NOT: Mixes

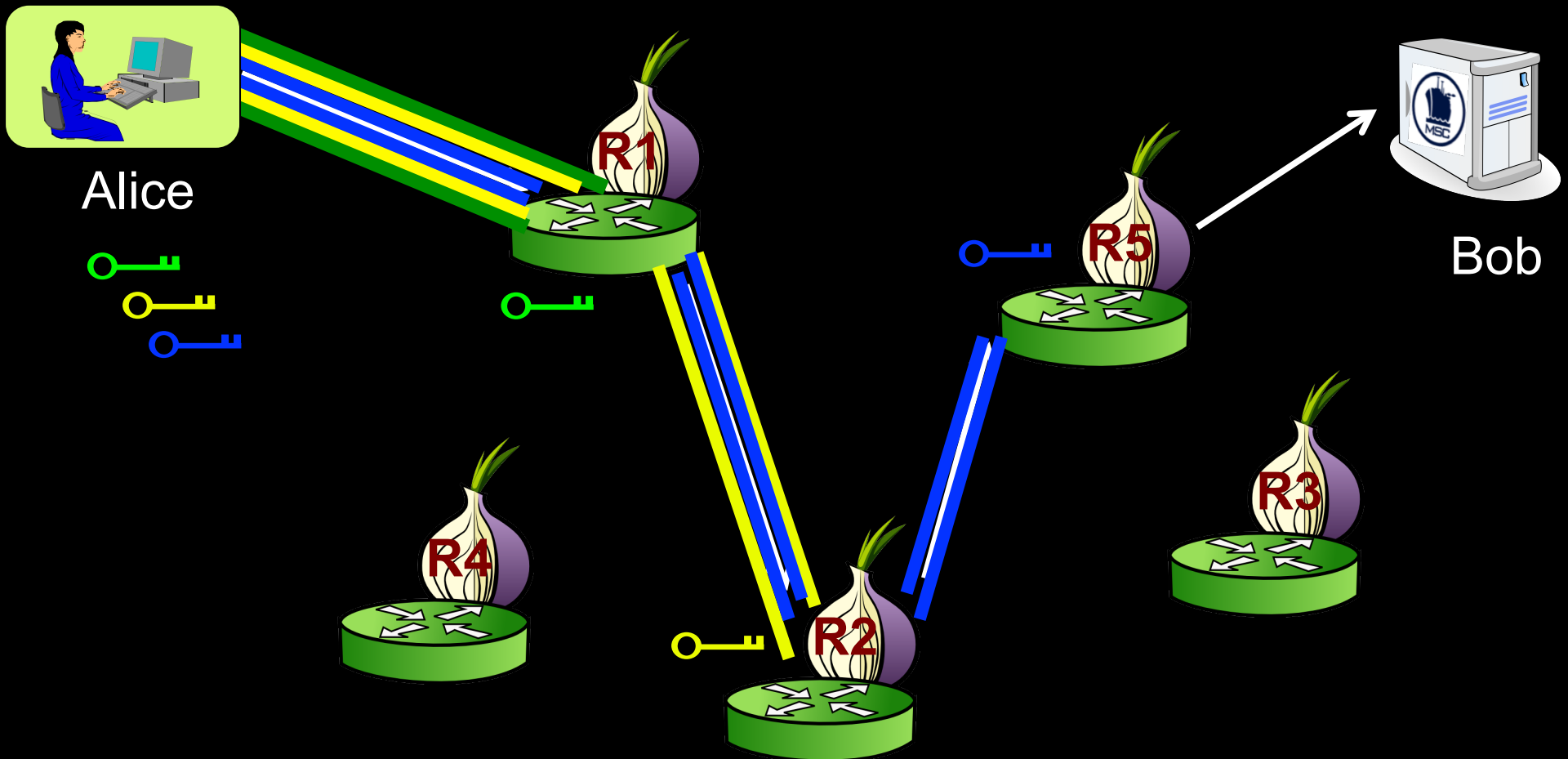
- Entirely different threat model
  - mixes are based on an adversary not being able to correlate inputs and outputs he sees
  - onion routing is based on an adversary not being able to see both inputs and outputs to correlate
- Entirely different communications paradigm: Circuit based encryption vs. per message
  - onion routing supports bidirectional communication
  - onion routing supports low-latency communication
- Can be combined to make mixing onion routers, but not typically done or desired

# What onion routing is

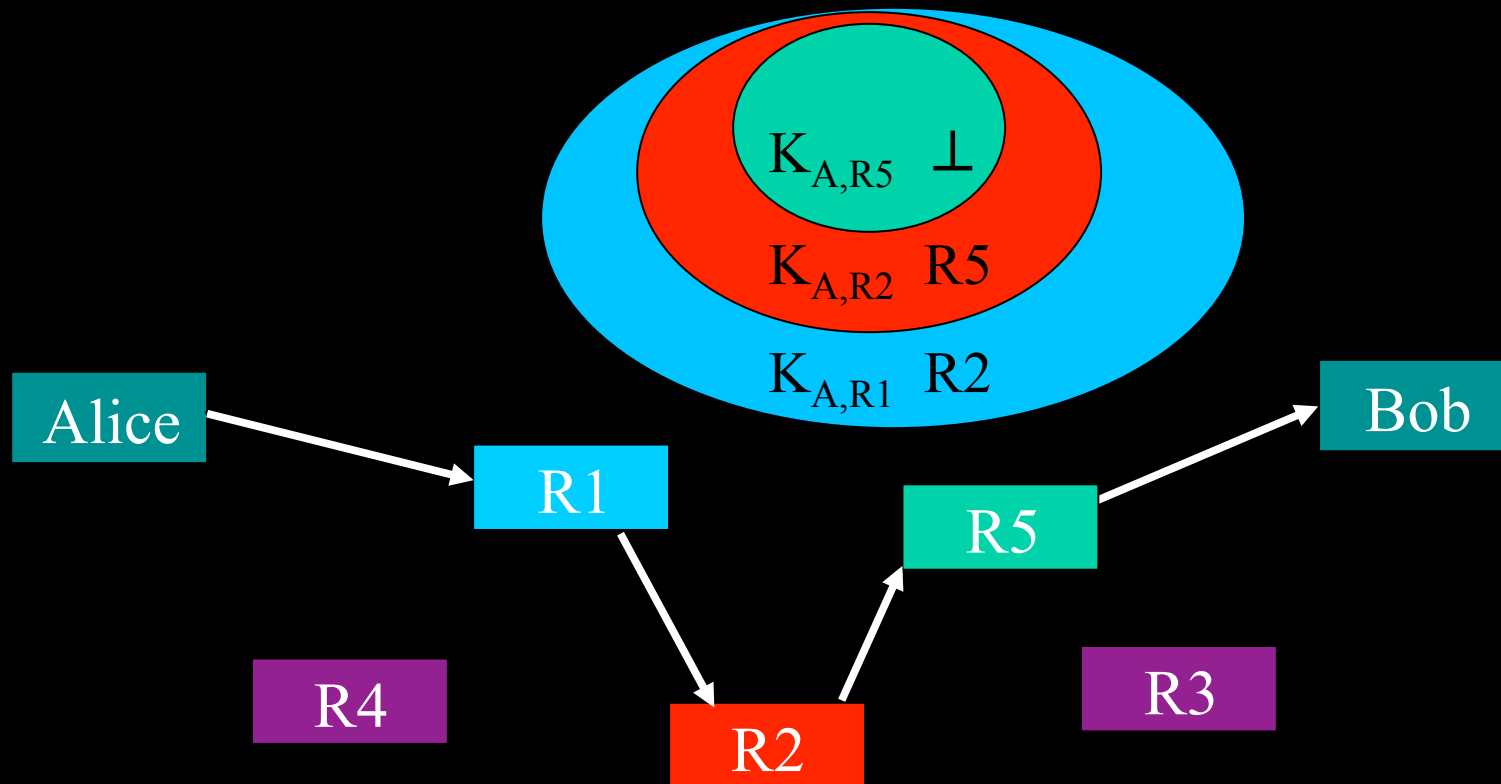
- Uses expensive crypto (public-key) to lay a cryptographic circuit over which data is passed
- Typically uses free-route circuit building to make location of circuit endpoints unpredictable

# Why call it “onion routing”?

## Answer: Because of the original key distribution data structure



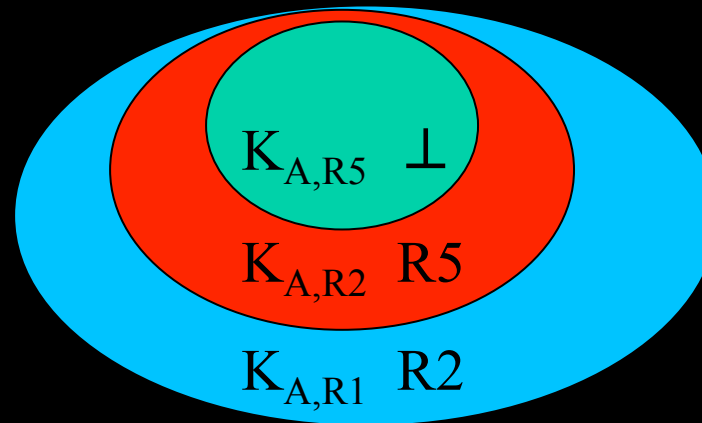
# Why is it called onion routing?



- Onion: Just layers of public-key crypto
  - Nothing in the center, just another layer



# Circuit setup



- NRL v0 and v1 onion routing and also ZKS Freedom network used onions to build circuits
  - Lacked Forward Secrecy
  - Required storing record of onions against replay
- Tor (NRL v2) uses one layer “onion skins”
  - ephemeral Diffie-Hellman yields forward secrecy
  - No need to record processed onions against replay
  - From suggestion out of Zack Brown’s Cebolla

# Aside: Why is it called 'Tor' and what does 'Tor' mean?

- Frequent question to Roger c. 2001-2: Oh you're working on onion routing... which one?
- Roger: *THE* onion routing. The original onion routing project from NRL.
- Rachel: That's a good acronym.
- Roger: And it's a good recursive acronym.
- Plus, as a word, it has a good meaning in German (door/gate/portal) and Turkish (fine-meshed net)

# Aside: Why is it called 'Tor' and what does 'Tor' mean?

- We foolishly called the first Tor paper “Tor: the second generation onion router”
- But this was very confusing
  - ‘Tor’ stands for “The onion routing” or “Tor’s onion routing”. It does not stand for “the onion router”
  - The paper is about the whole system, not just the onion routers
  - Tor is not the second generation

# Onion routing origins: Generation 0

- Fixed-length five-node circuits
- Integrated configuration
- Static topology
- Loose-source routing
- ★ Partial active adversary
- Rendezvous servers and reply onions

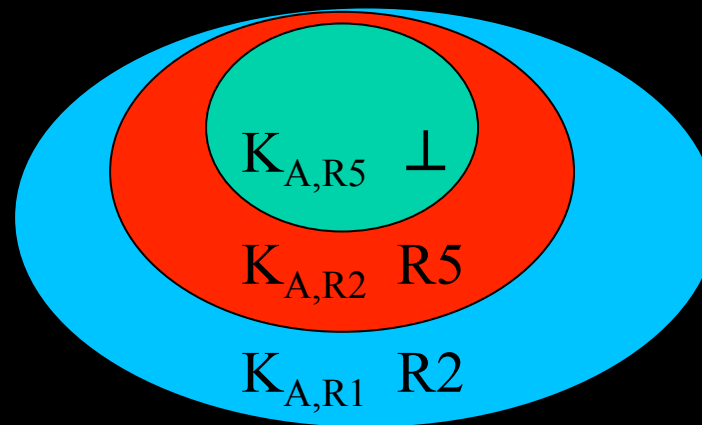
# Onion routing, the next generation

- ★ Running a client separated from running an OR
- Variable length circuits (up to 11 hops per onion---or tunnel for more)
- Application independent proxies (SOCKS) plus redirector
- ★ Entry policies and exit policies
- Dynamic network state, flat distribution of state info
- Multiplexing of multiple application connections in single onion routing circuit
- Mixing of cells from different circuits
- Padding and bandwidth limiting

# Third-generation onion routing (Tor)

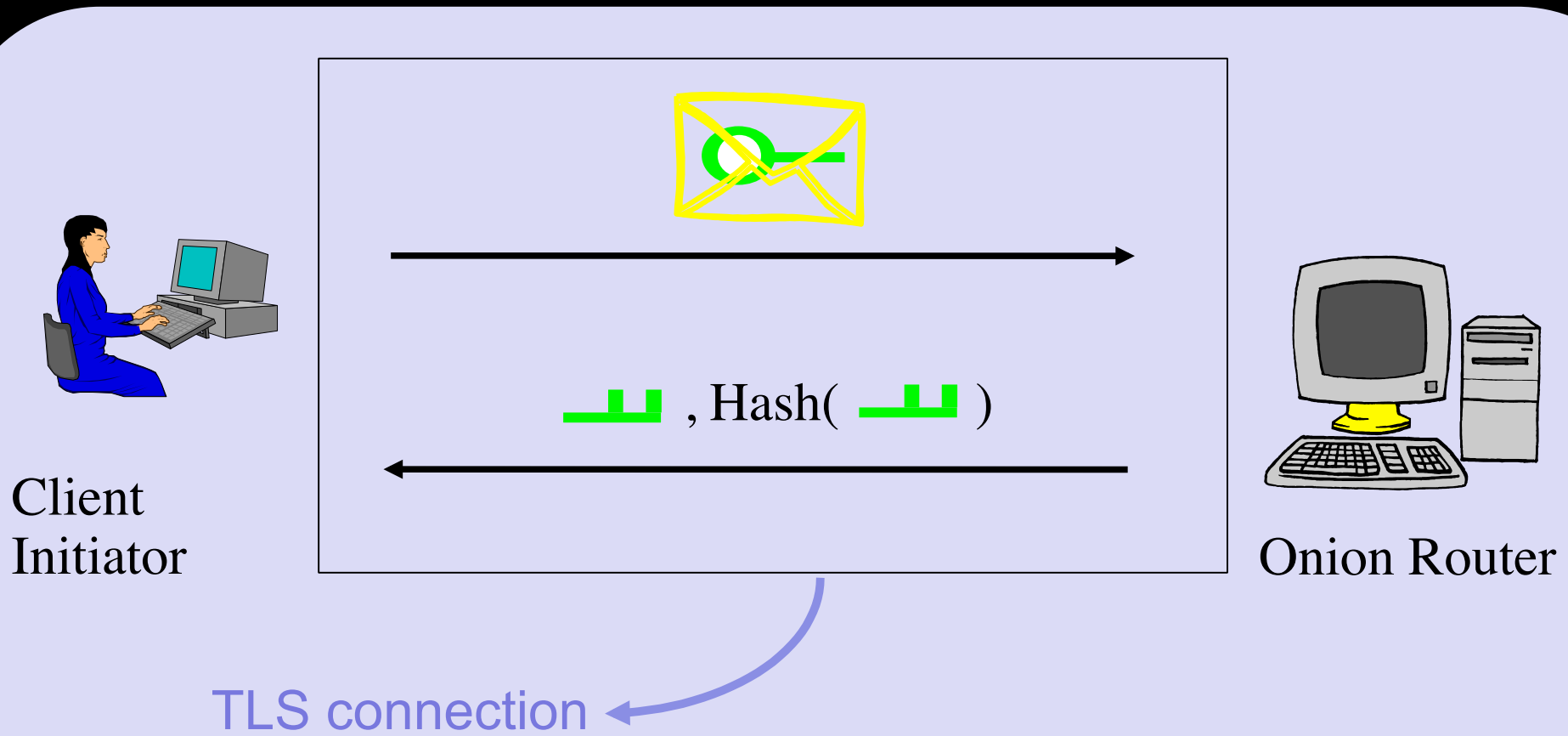
- ★ Onion skins, not onions: Diffie-Hellman based circuit building
- Fixed-length three-hop circuits
- Rendezvous circuits and hidden servers
- Directory servers, caching (evolved w/in Tor)
- Most application specific proxies no longer needed (still need e.g. for DNS)
- Congestion control
- End-to-end integrity checking
- No mixing and no padding

# Circuit setup



- NRL v0 and v1 onion routing and also ZKS Freedom network used onions to build circuits
  - Lacked Forward Secrecy
  - Required storing record of onions against replay
- Tor (NRL v2) uses one layer “onion skins”
  - ephemeral Diffie-Hellman yields forward secrecy
  - No need to record processed onions against replay
  - From suggestion out of Zack Brown’s Cebolla

# Original Tor Circuit Setup (Create)

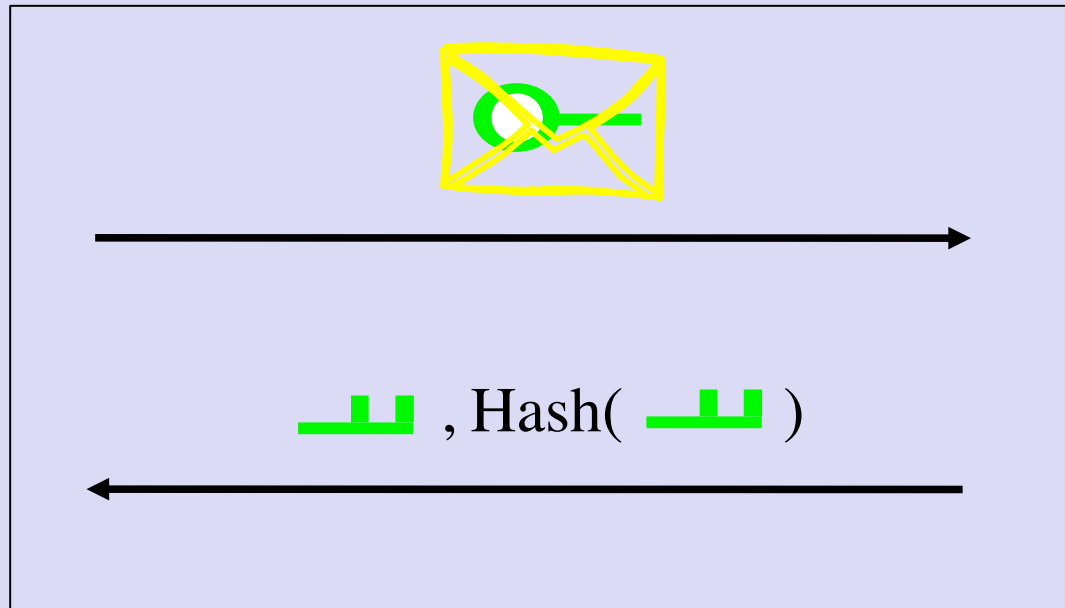




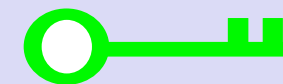
# Original Tor Circuit Setup (Create)



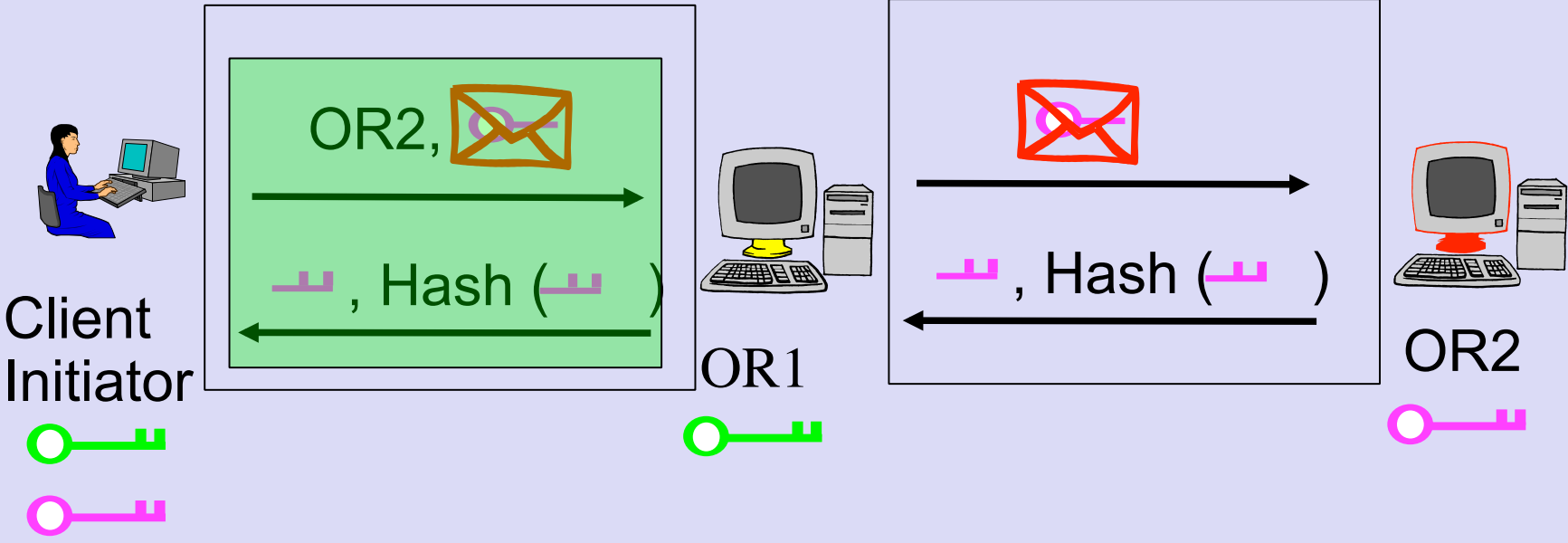
Client  
Initiator



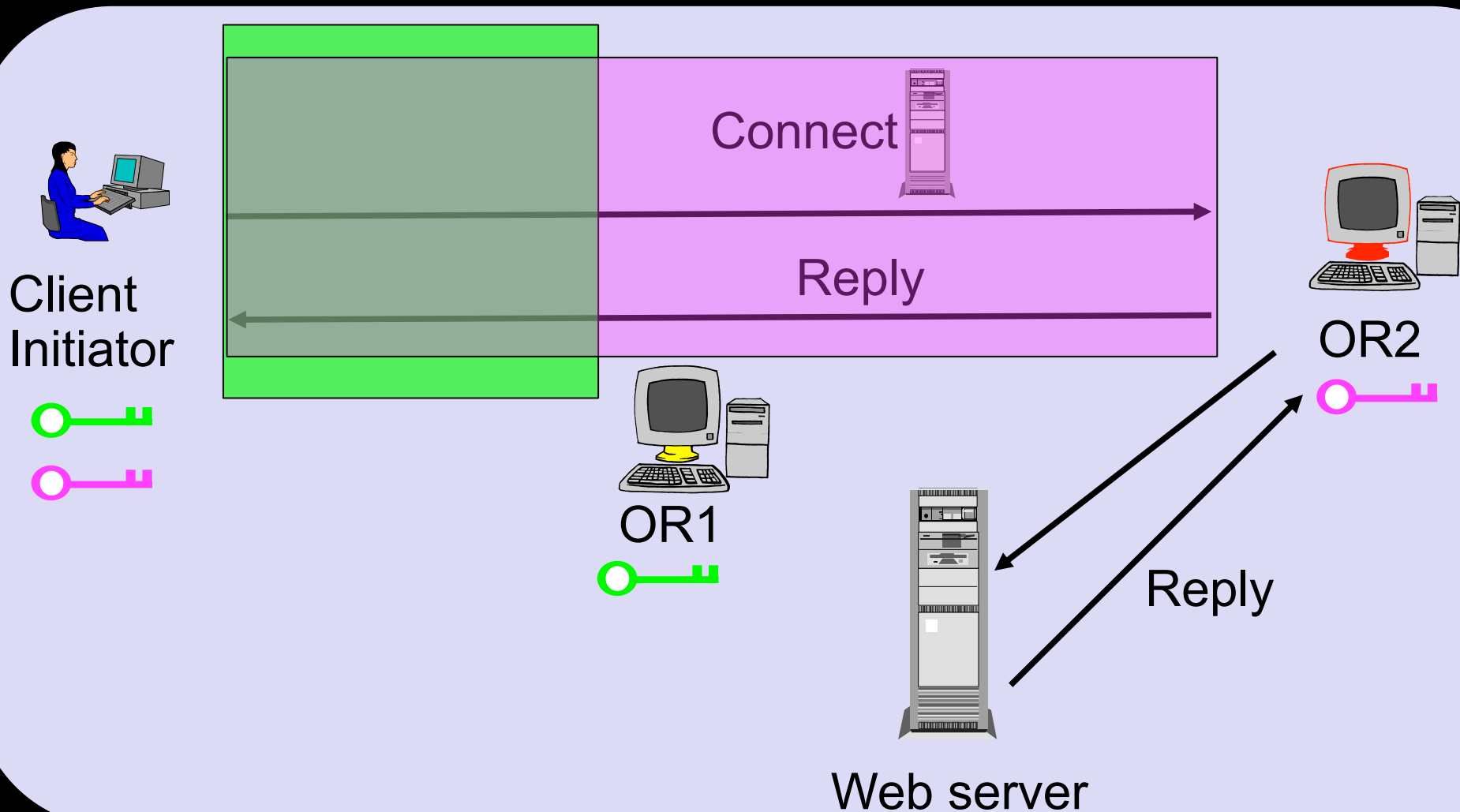
Onion Router



# Original Tor Circuit Setup (Extend)



# Original Tor Circuit Setup (Begin) and Data Flow

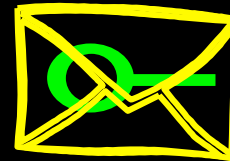


# Why a Tor authenticated key establishment protocol

- Designing your own authentication protocol is error prone. Why not use an established protocol in the first place?
- Answer 1: We require only one-way authentication. Two way wastes expensive computation.
- Answer 2: To fit whole messages inside Tor cells. A public key and a signature don't both fit in one 512-byte cell.
- Protocol was verified using the NRL protocol analyzer in the Dolev-Yao model.
- In 2005 Ian Goldberg found flaw in the way Tor implemented this protocol (checking that a public value was not based on a weak key).
- In 2006 Ian proved the (properly implemented) protocol secure in the random oracle model.

# Circuit establishment efficiency

- Original Tor Authentication Protocol (TAP) uses RSA to encrypt the Diffie-Hellman public key



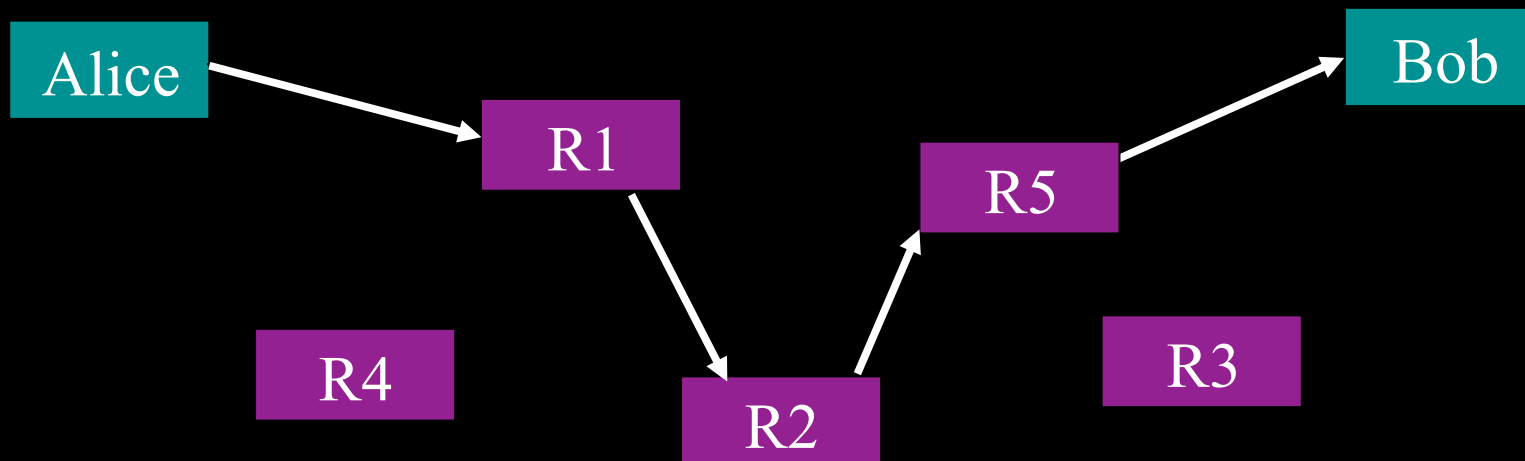
- New/Old idea (1<sup>st</sup> considered in 1996): Let the nodes use published public DH keys
- Clients create ephemeral DH keys to combine with published node DH keys (ElGamal key exchange aka half-certified Diffie-Hellman exchange)
- Saves one exponentiation at client and one at node for each node in circuit (about half current load)
- Significantly reduces Tor overhead for running a volunteer node

# Brief history of using Diffie-Hellman in Tor Circuit Establishment

- 1996:** We (Goldschlag, Reed, me) considered including DH keys in layers of circuit-establishment onion
- For computational efficiency (not considering Forward Secrecy then)
- 2004:** TAP replaces onions, includes DH for Forward Sec. (Dingledine, Mathewson, me)
- Verified using NRL Protocol Analyzer in Dolev-Yao Model
- 2005:** Goldberg verifies TAP in Random Oracle Model
- 2007:** We (Øverlier and me) propose “fourth protocol”, DH-based authentication and key-establishment (with informal security argument)
- 2012:** Goldberg, Stebila, and Ostaoglu break fourth protocol, introduce ntor
- 2013:** ECDH (curve 25519) version of ntor included in Tor stable release

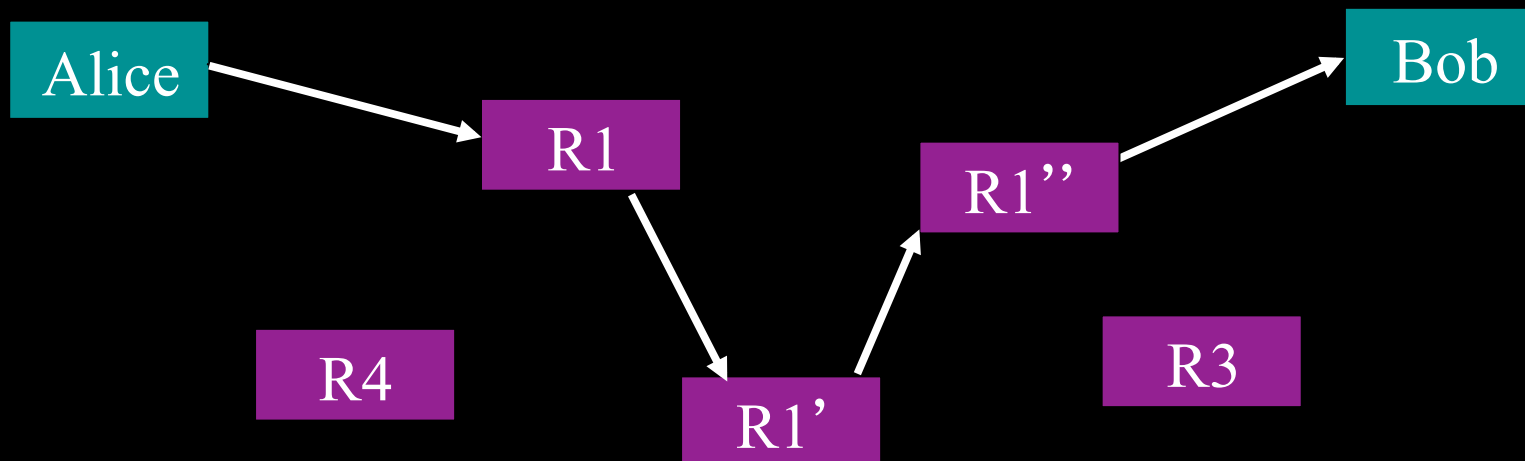
# Network and Route Discovery

- Alice has to know a set of nodes and pick a route from them
  - Must know how to find R1
  - Must learn more network nodes to pick a route
  - Cannot trust R1 to tell about the rest of the network



# Network and Route Discovery

- Alice has to know a set of nodes and pick a route from them
  - Must know how to find R1
  - Must learn more network nodes to pick a route
  - Cannot trust R1 to tell about the rest of the network





# How do we know where to build a circuit? Network discovery.

- Important for all clients to get same picture of network to avoid epistemic partitioning
- Initial onion routing design had trivial/brittle solution
  - network and identity keys simply hard coded in prototypes
- Next generation had a design for flat flooding of network state to all relays
  - complex, tricky, scales in principal but ?
  - not ever deployed in practice
- Tor has a directory system: See next slides
- Bridge distribution: Should have gone to FOCI.

# Tor Directory Version 1

- Directory authorities serve
  - Relay descriptors containing e.g. identity keys & IP addresses
  - Network status: whether relays are up or down
- Network caches added to prevent DirAuths from being comms bottleneck

# Tor Directory Version 2

## Issue 1:

- As Tor network grew so did size of directory
  - large downloads a problem
- Most descriptor info relatively persistent

## Solution:

- Directory authorities serve
  - Network status summary: Hashes of each relay's current descriptor
  - Clients retrieve full descriptors only for relays they don't know or that have changed

# Tor Directory Version 2

## Issue 2:

- Version 1 DirAuths function independently
  - trust bottleneck
  - Risk grows with number of DirAuths

## Solution:

- Clients trust statements about relays made by majority of DirAuths

# Tor Directory Version 3

**Issue 1:** Descriptors contain much useful info  
not needed for basic contact

**Solution:** Microdescriptors go into consensus

- Identity key, address, exit ports
- Good for about a week typically

# Tor Directory Version 3

**Issue 2:** Update and synch. Issues can lead to clients having different network views

**Solution:** Collective DirAuth vote on network consensus

**Issue 3:** Identity keys for DirAuths most sensitive data

**Solution:** Create DirAuth network info signing keys and keep identity keys offline

# Onion routing started from a practical motivation

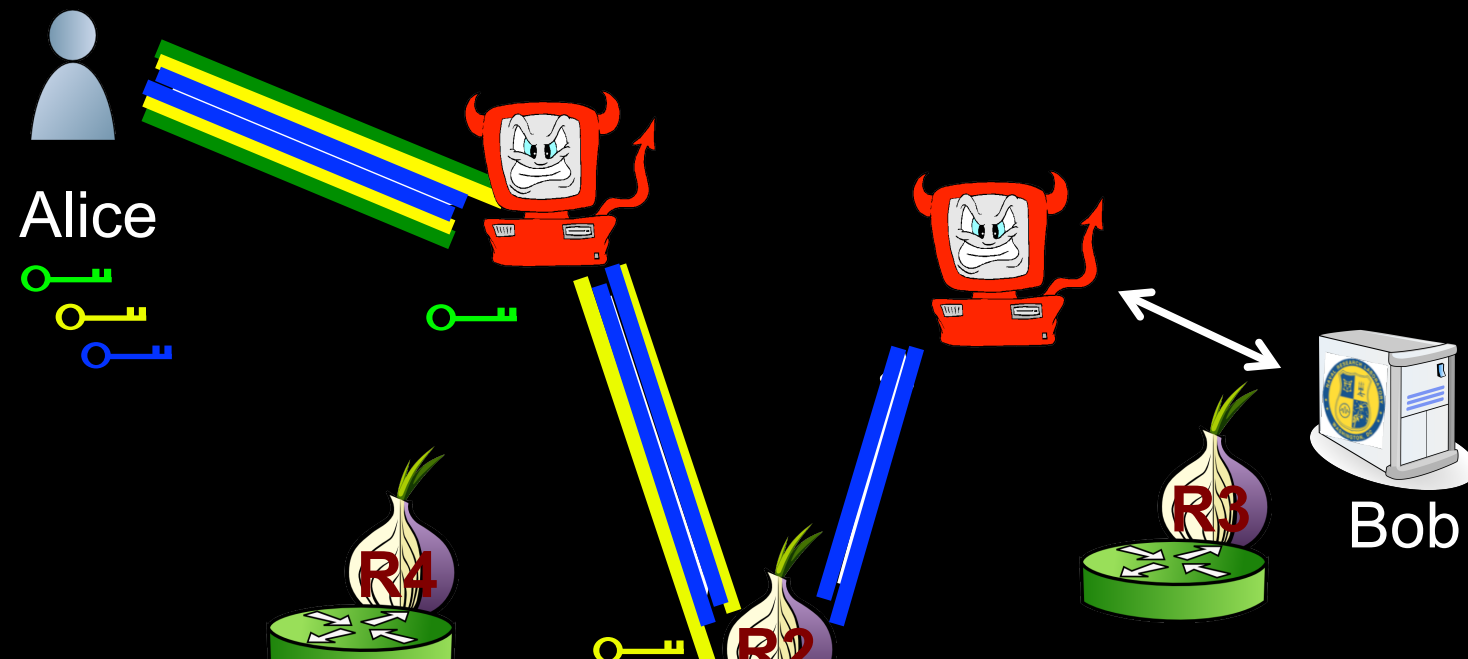
- How do we know the whole enterprise is not fundamentally broken on an abstract level?
- Where's the underlying theory to back this up?
- Note: OK not to have a rigorous notion of security at first
  - Analyses based on state of the art would have been misleading
  - Global Passive Adversary both too strong and too weak
    - Cf. “Why I’m not an Entropist” and “Sleeping Dogs Lie in a Bed of Onions but Wake when Mixed”

# Anonymous Communication c. 2000

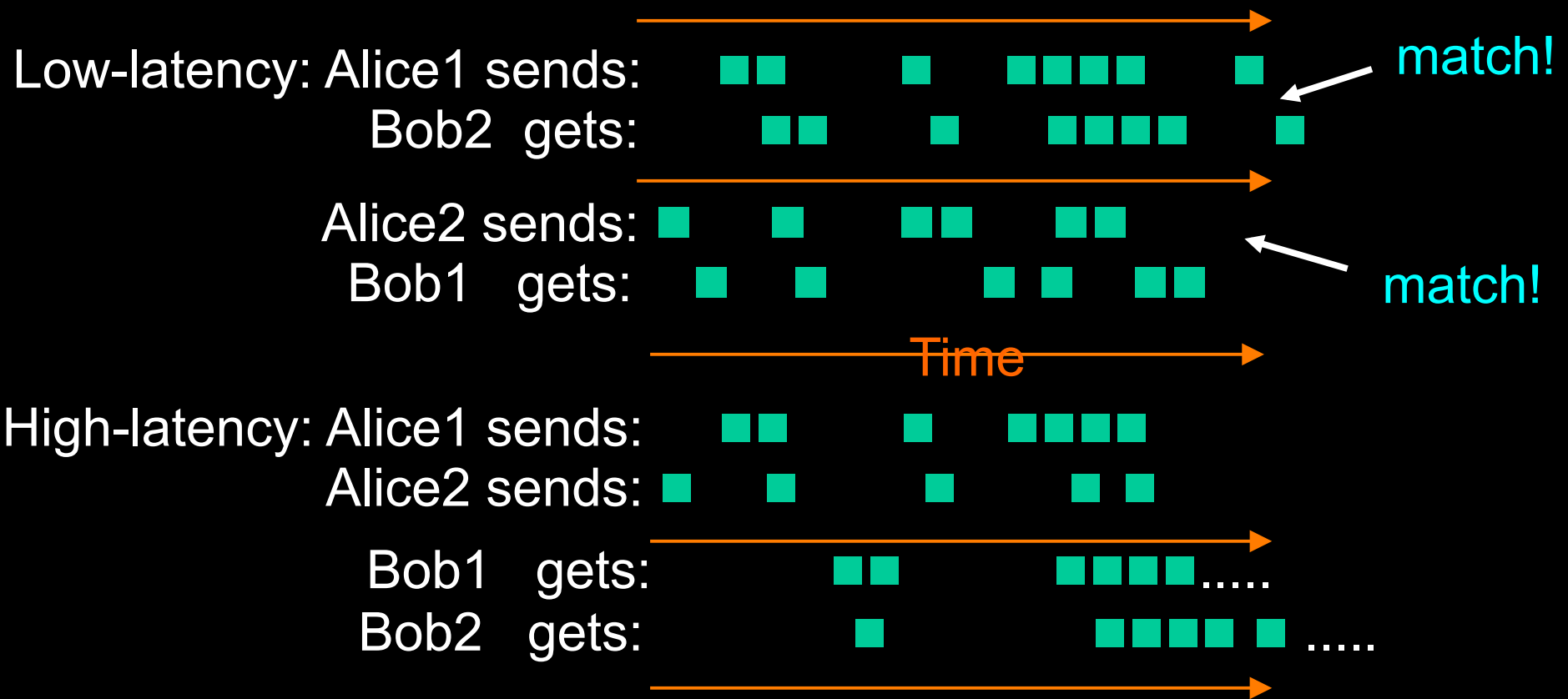
	Deployed	Analyzed
Mix Networks	+	+
Dining cryptographers	-	+
Onion routing	+	-
Crowds	-	+



# Adversary observing all traffic entering and leaving network breaks onion routing



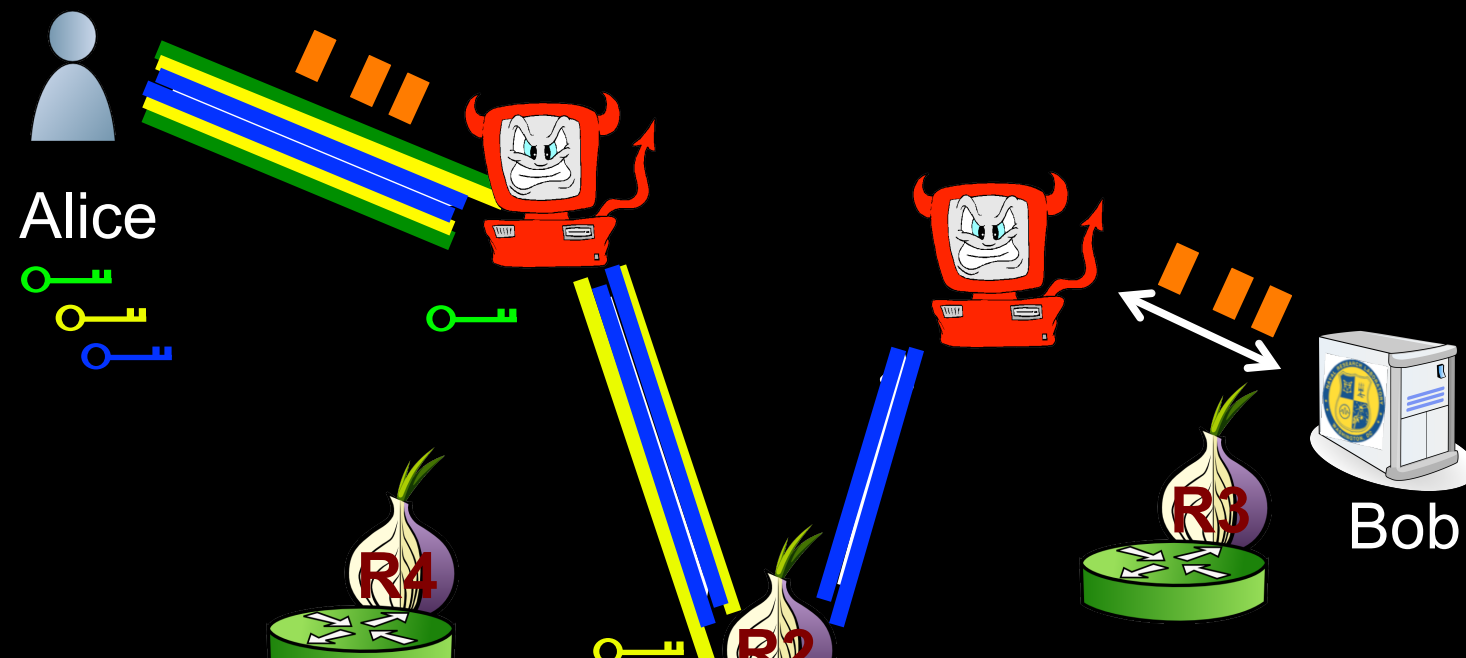
# Low-latency systems are vulnerable to correlation by a global adversary



These attacks work in practice. The obvious defenses are expensive (like high-latency), useless, or both.

# Adversary observing all traffic entering and leaving network breaks onion routing

- “Towards an Analysis of Onion Routing Security” Syverson et al. PETS 2000
- Presented and analyzed adversary model assumed in prior onion routing work
  - Network of  $n$  onion routers,  $c$  compromised onion routers
  - Security approx.  $c^2 / n^2$



# Formal analysis of onion routing

1. Possibilistic characterization using I/O automata
2. Probabilistic analysis abstracting I/O automata characterization to a black box
3. Representing black-box results in standard cryptographic models

# Possibilistic Analysis Overview

- Formally model onion routing using input/output automata
- Characterize the situations that provide anonymity

# Possibilistic Analysis Overview

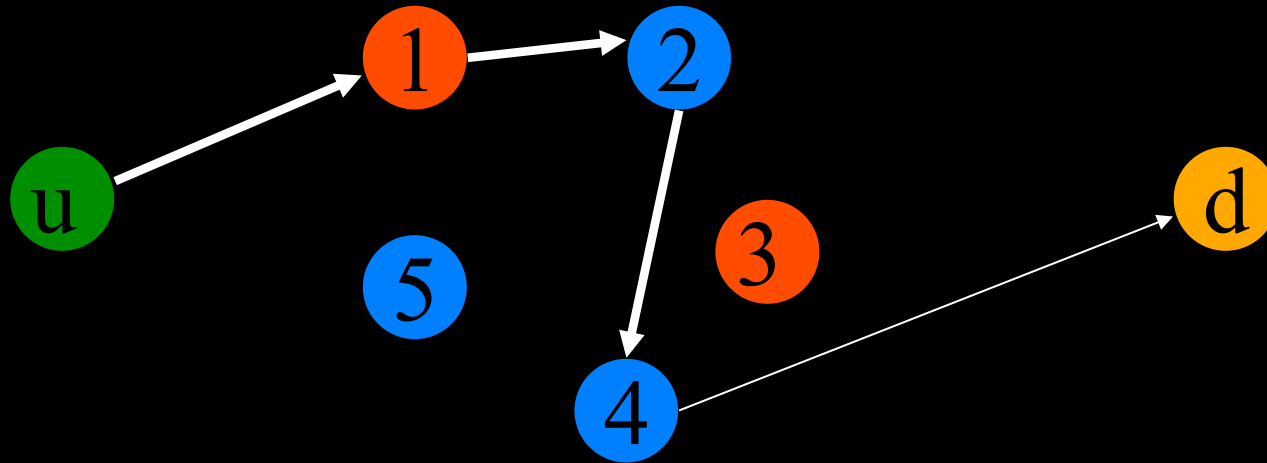
- Formally model onion routing using input/output automata
  - Simplified onion-routing protocol
  - Non-cryptographic analysis
- Characterize the situations that provide anonymity

# Possibilistic Analysis Overview

- Formally model onion routing using input/output automata
  - Simplified onion-routing protocol
  - Non-cryptographic analysis
- Characterize the situations that provide anonymity
  - Send a message, receive a message, communicate with a destination
  - Possibilistic anonymity

# Main Theorem

[“A Model of Onion Routing with Provable Anonymity”, Feigenbaum, Johnson, and Syverson, in FC07



Main theorem: Adversary can only determine the parts of a circuit it controls or is next to.



# Anonymous Communication

- *Sender anonymity*: Adversary can't determine the sender of a given message
- *Receiver anonymity*: Adversary can't determine the receiver of a given message
- *Unlinkability*: Adversary can't determine who talks to whom

# Model

- Constructed with I/O automata
  - Models asynchrony
  - Relies on abstract properties of cryptosystem
- Simplified onion-routing protocol
  - No key distribution
  - No circuit teardowns
  - No separate destinations
  - No streams
  - No stream cipher
  - Each user constructs a circuit to one destination
  - Circuit identifiers

# Input/Output Automata

- States
- Actions
  - Input, output, internal
  - Actions transition between states
- Every state has *enabled* actions
- Input actions are always enabled
- Alternating state/action sequence is an *execution*
- In *fair* executions actions enabled infinitely often occur infinitely often
- In *cryptographic* executions no encrypted control messages are sent before they are received unless the sender possesses the key

# I/O Automata Model

## .Automata

- User
- Server
- Fully-connected network of FIFO Channels
- Adversary replaces some servers with arbitrary automata

## .Notation

- $U$  is the set of users
- $R$  is the set of routers
- $N = U \cup R$  is the set of all agents
- $A \subseteq N$  is the adversary
- $K$  is the keyspace
- $l$  is the (fixed) circuit length
- $k(u, c, i)$  denotes the  $i$ th key used by user  $u$  on circuit  $c$

# User automaton

```
1:  $c \in \{(r_1, \dots, r_l) \in R^l \mid \forall_i r_i \neq r_{i+1}\}$ ; init: arbitrary ▷ User's circuit
2:  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ; init: random ▷ Circuit identifier
3:  $b \in \mathbb{N}$ ; init: 0 ▷ Next hop to build


---


4: procedure START
5:   SEND( $c_1, [i, 0, \{\text{CREATE}\}_{k(u,c,1)}]$ )
6:    $b = 1$ 
7: end procedure
8: procedure MESSAGE( $msg, j$ ) ▷  $msg \in M$  received from  $j \in N$ 
9:   if  $j = c_1$  then
10:    if  $b = 1$  then
11:      if  $msg = [i, 0, \text{CREATED}]$  then
12:         $b++$ 
13:        SEND( $c_1, [i, 0, \{[\text{EXTEND}, c_b, \{\text{CREATE}\}_{k(u,c,b)}]\}_{k(u,c,b-1), \dots, k(u,c,1)}]$ )
14:      end if
15:    else if  $b < l$  then
16:      if  $msg = [i, 0, \{\text{EXTENDED}\}_{k(u,c,b-1), \dots, k(u,c,1)}]$  then
17:         $b++$ 
18:        SEND( $c_1, [i, 0, \{[\text{EXTEND}, c_b, \{\text{CREATE}\}_{k(u,c,b)}]\}_{k(u,c,b-1), \dots, k(u,c,1)}]$ )
19:      end if
20:    else if  $b = l$  then
21:      if  $msg = [i, 0, \{\text{EXTENDED}\}_{k(u,c,b-1), \dots, k(u,c,1)}]$  then
22:         $b++$ 
23:      end if
24:    end if
25:  end if
26: end procedure
```

# Server automaton

```
1:  $keys \subseteq K$ , where  $|keys| \geq |U| \cdot \lceil \frac{1}{2} \rceil$ ; init: arbitrary ▷ Private keys
2:  $T \subset N \times \mathbf{N} \times R \times \mathbf{Z} \times keys$ ; init:  $\emptyset$  ▷ Routing table
3: procedure MESSAGE( $[i, n, p], q$ ) ▷  $[i, n, p] \in M$  received from  $q \in N$ 
4:   if  $[q, n, \emptyset, -1, k] \in T$  then ▷ In link created, out link absent
5:     if  $\exists_{s \in R-r, b \in P} p = \{[EXTEND, s, b]\}_k$  then
6:       SEND( $s, [minid(T, s), b]$ )
7:        $T = T - [q, n, \emptyset, -1, k] + [q, n, s, -minid(T, s), k]$ 
8:     end if
9:   else if  $[s, m, q, -n, k] \in T$  then ▷ In link created, out link initiated
10:     if  $p = CREATED$  then
11:        $T = T - [s, m, q, -n, k] + [s, m, q, n, k]$ 
12:       SEND( $s, [i, m, \{EXTENDED\}_k]$ )
13:     end if
14:   else if  $\exists_{m > 0} [q, n, s, m, k] \in T$  then ▷ In and out links created
15:     SEND( $s, [i, m, \{p\}_{-k}]$ ) ▷ Forward message down the circuit
16:   else if  $[s, m, q, n, k] \in T$  then ▷ In and out links created
17:     SEND( $s, [i, m, \{p\}_k]$ ) ▷ Forward message up the circuit
18:   else
19:     if  $\exists_{k \in keys} p = \{CREATE\}_k$  then ▷ New link
20:        $T = T + [q, n, \emptyset, -1, k]$ 
21:       SEND( $q, [i, n, CREATED]$ )
22:     end if
23:   end if
24: end procedure
```

# Anonymity

## Definition (configuration):

A **configuration** is a function  $U \rightarrow R^l$  mapping each user to his circuit.

# Anonymity

## Definition (configuration):

A **configuration** is a function  $U \rightarrow R^l$  mapping each user to his circuit.

## Definition (indistinguishability):

Executions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are **indistinguishable** to adversary  $A$  when his actions in  $\beta$  are the same as in  $\alpha$  after possibly applying the following:

$\xi$ : A permutation on the keys not held by  $A$ .

$\pi$ : A permutation on the messages encrypted by  
by  
a key not held by  $A$ .



# Anonymity

## Definition (anonymity):

User  $u$  performs action  $\alpha$  ***anonymously*** in configuration  $C$  with respect to adversary  $A$  if, for every execution of  $C$  in which  $u$  performs  $\alpha$ , there exists an execution that is *indistinguishable* to  $A$  in which  $u$  does not perform  $\alpha$ .

# Anonymity

## Definition (anonymity):

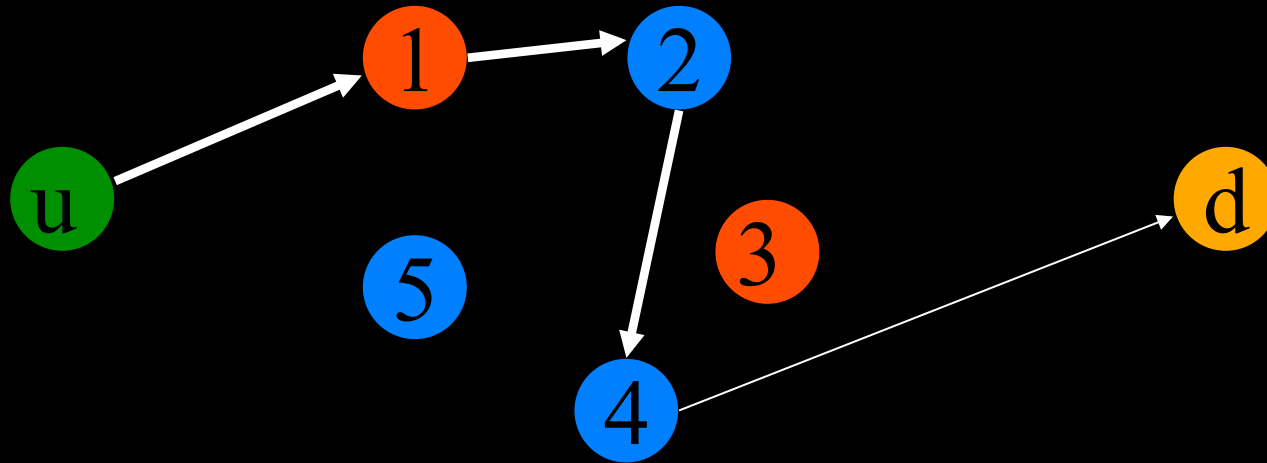
User  $u$  performs action  $\alpha$  **anonymously** in configuration  $C$  with respect to adversary  $A$  if, for every execution of  $C$  in which  $u$  performs  $\alpha$ , there exists an execution that is *indistinguishable* to  $A$  in which  $u$  does not perform  $\alpha$ .

## Definition (unlinkability):

User  $u$  is **unlinkable** to  $d$  in configuration  $C$  with respect to adversary  $A$  if, for every fair, cryptographic execution of  $C$  in which  $u$  talks to  $d$ , there exists a fair, cryptographic execution that is indistinguishable to  $A$  in which  $u$  does not talk to  $d$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $C$  and  $D$  be configurations for which there exists a permutation  $\rho: U \rightarrow U$  such that  $C_i(u) = D_i(\rho(u))$  if  $C_i(u)$  or  $D_i(\rho(u))$  is compromised or is adjacent to a compromised router. Then for every fair, cryptographic execution  $\alpha$  of  $C$  there exists an indistinguishable, fair, cryptographic execution  $\beta$  of  $D$ . The converse also holds.

# Main Theorem



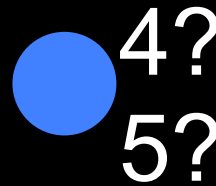
Main theorem: Adversary can only determine the parts of a circuit it controls or is next to.

# Unlinkability

**Corollary:** A user is unlinkable to its destination when:

# Unlinkability

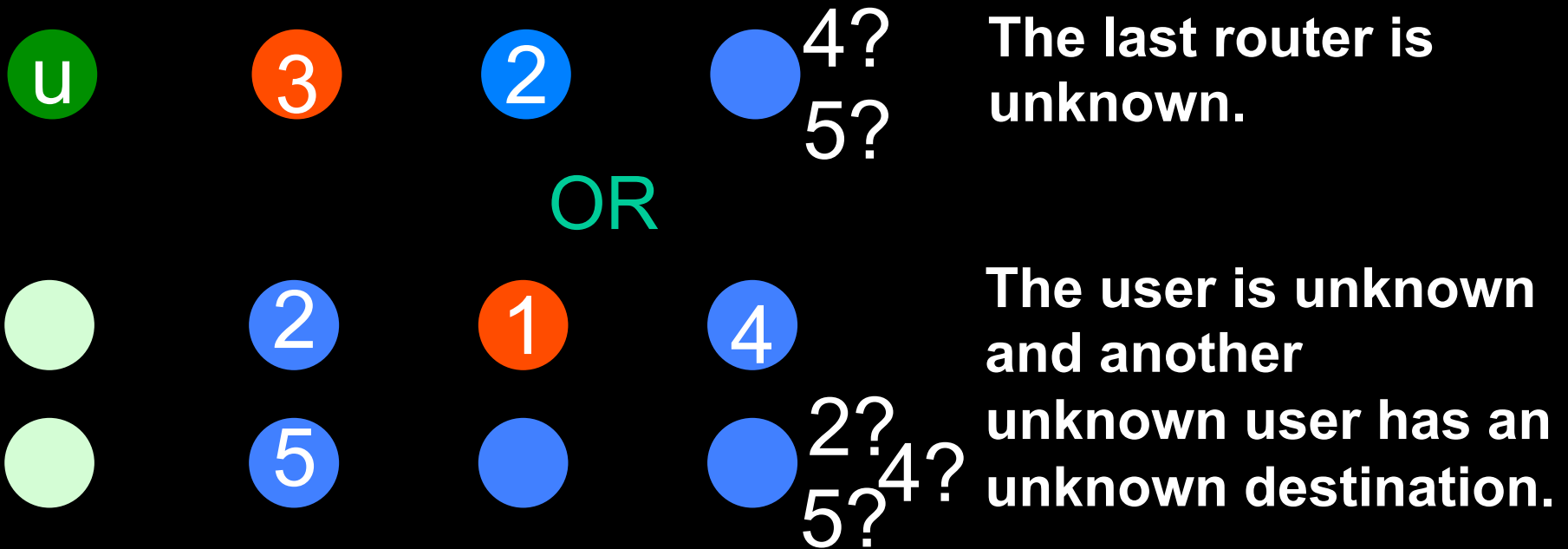
**Corollary:** A user is unlinkable to its destination when:



The last router is unknown.

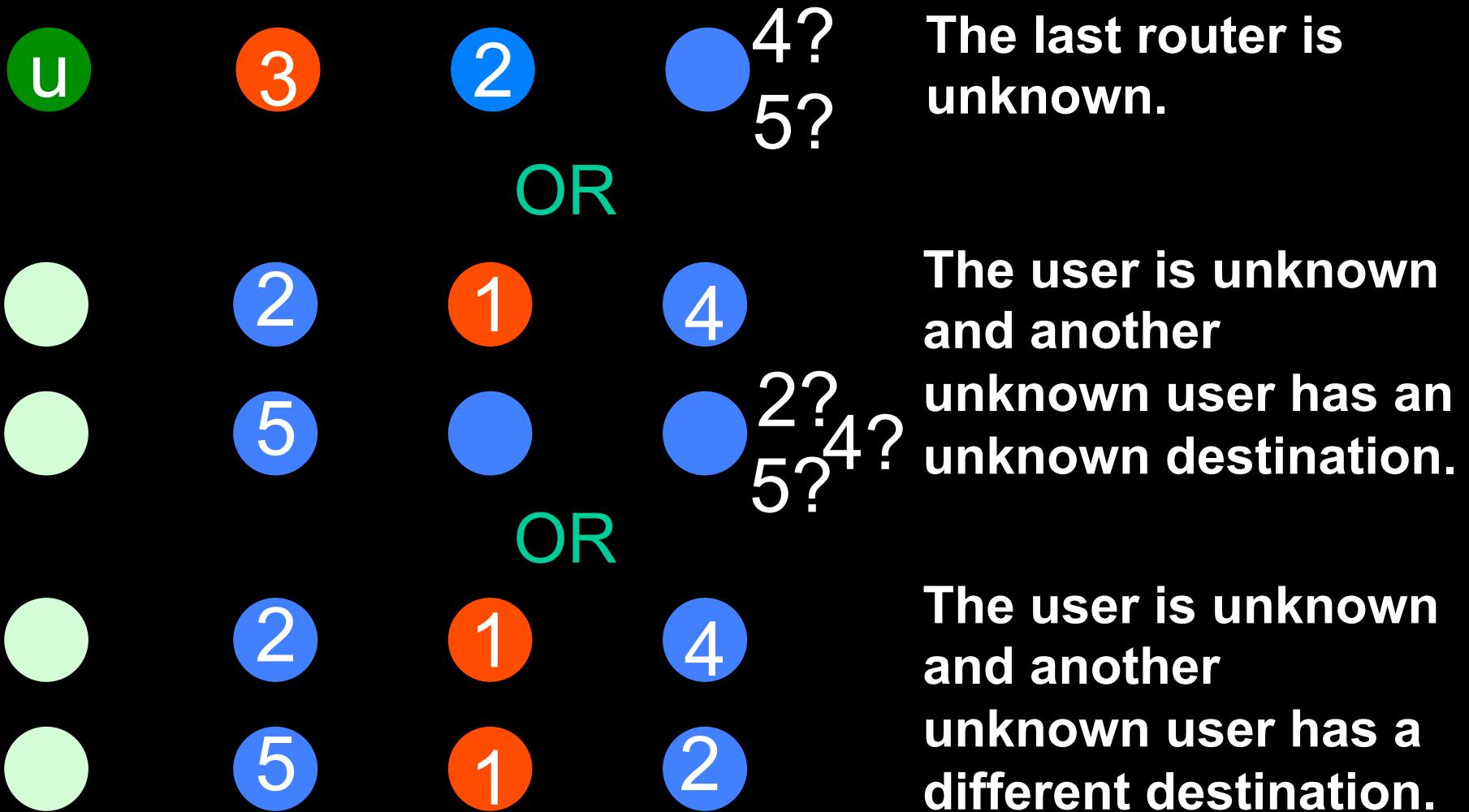
# Unlinkability

**Corollary:** A user is unlinkable to its destination when:



# Unlinkability

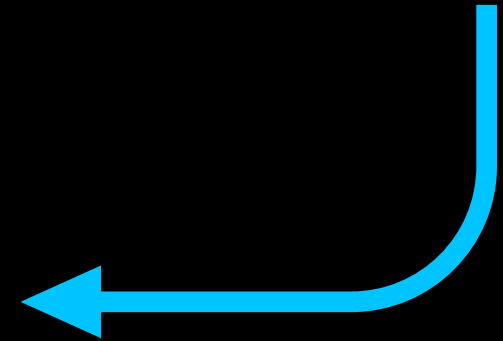
**Corollary:** A user is unlinkable to its destination when:



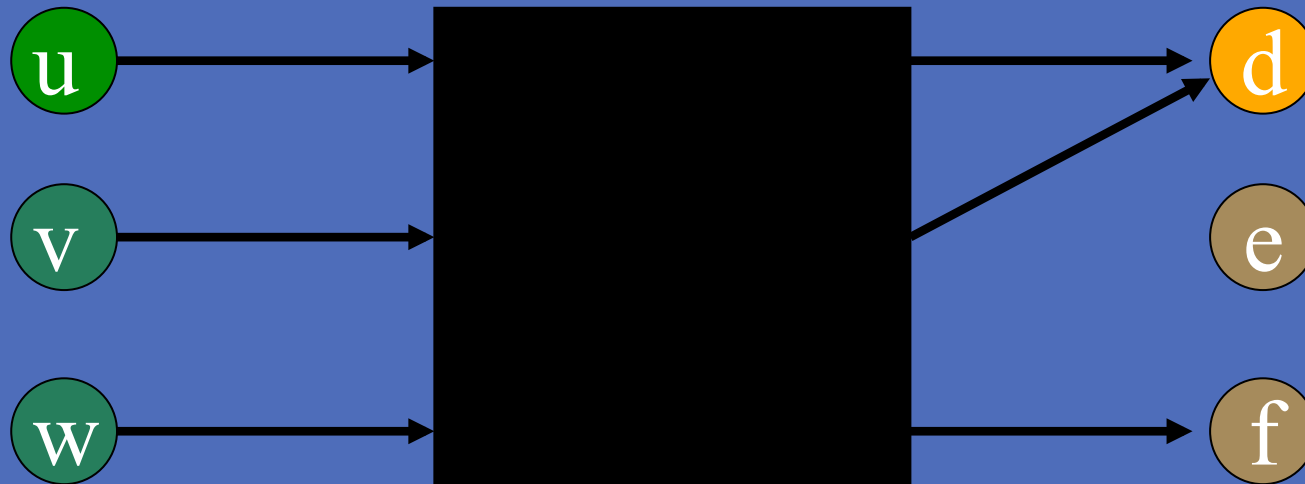


# Probabilistic anonymity

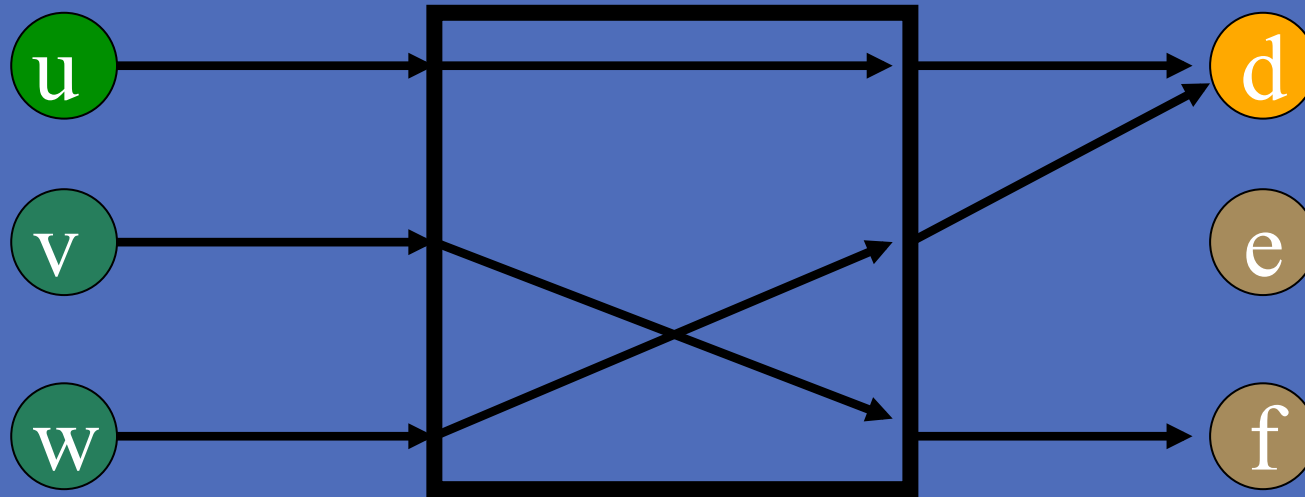
- Possibilistic result is nice, but we would like to quantify the anonymity provided by a system
- And we want to use a black box model, like this



# Black-box Abstraction

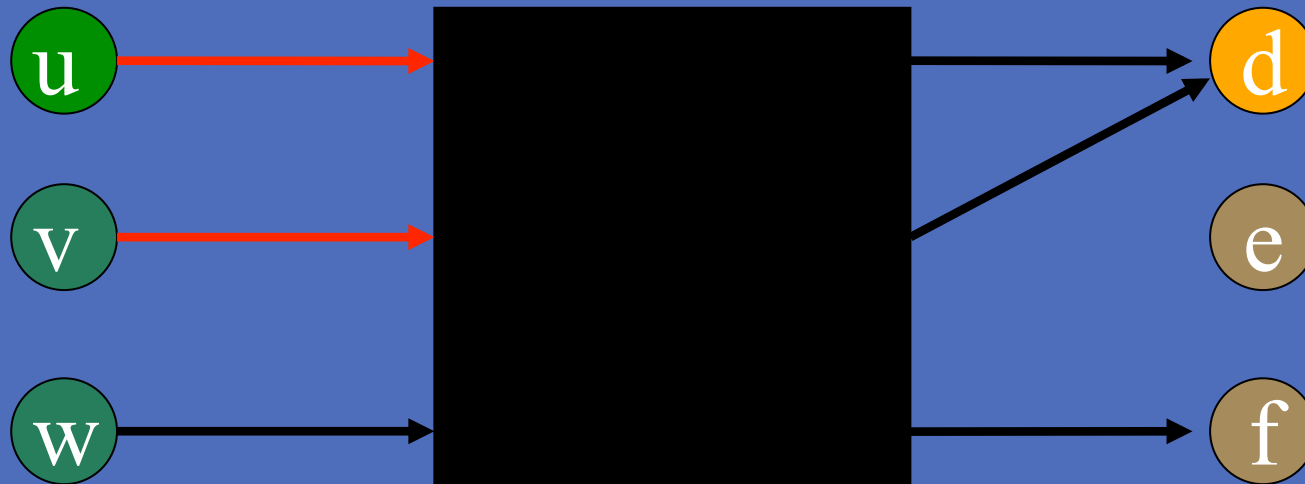


# Black-box Abstraction



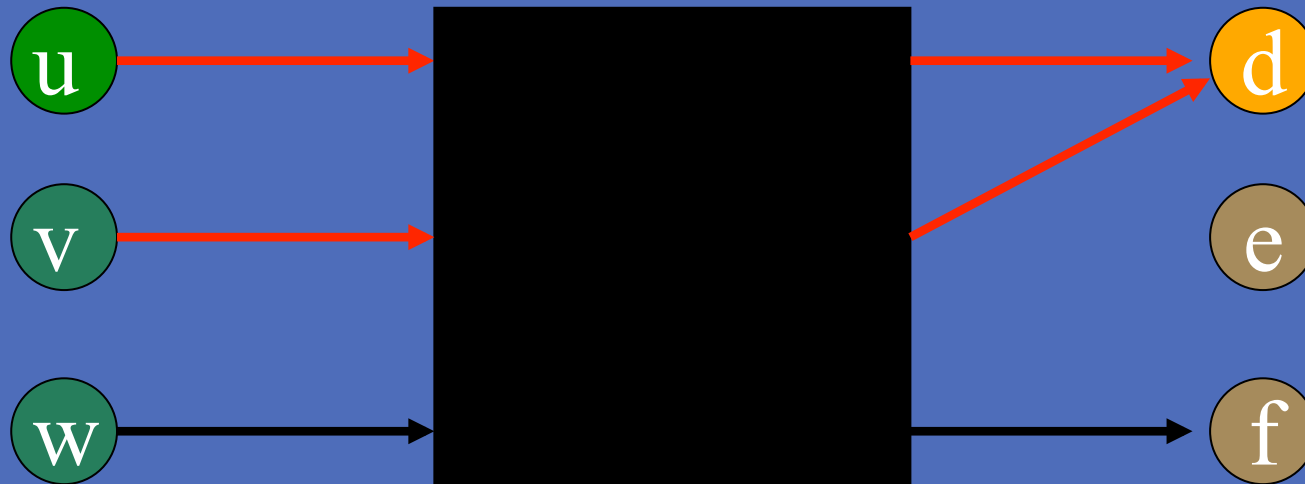
1. Users choose a destination

# Black-box Abstraction



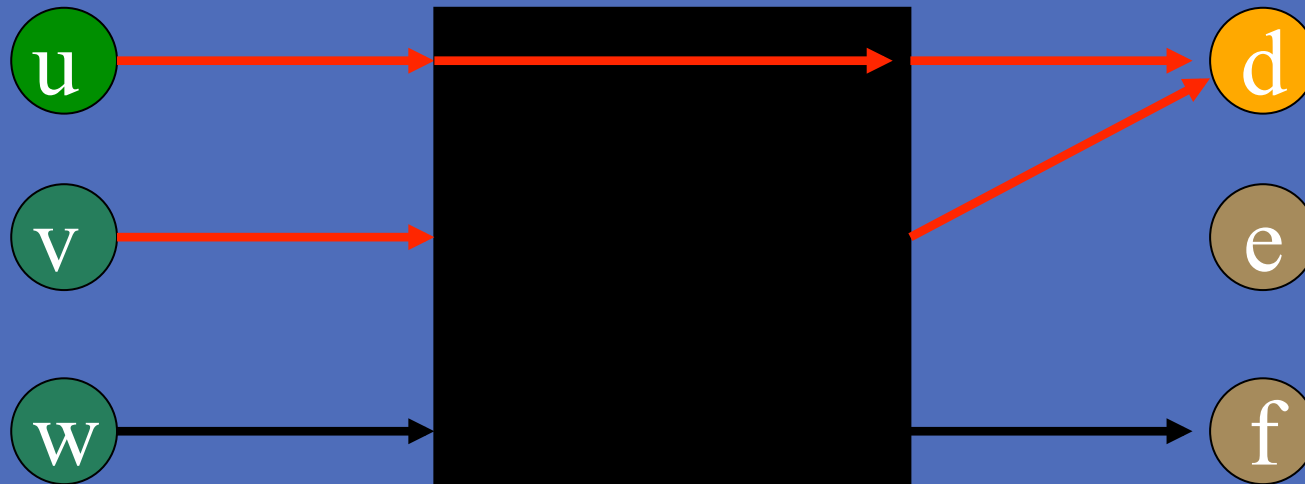
1. Users choose a destination
2. Some inputs are observed

# Black-box Abstraction



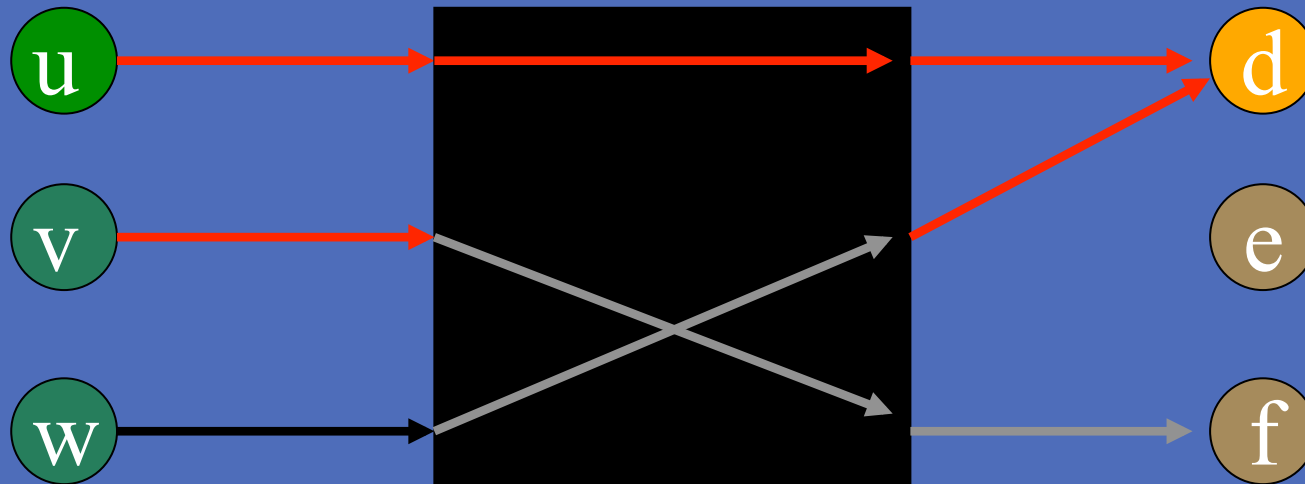
1. Users choose a destination
2. Some inputs are observed
3. Some outputs are observed

# Black-box Anonymity



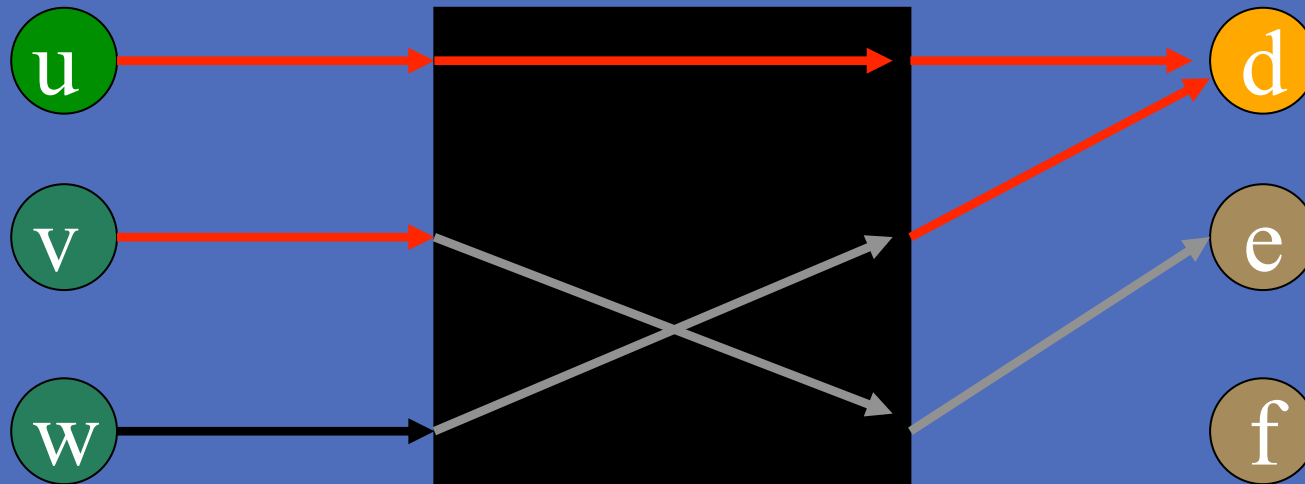
- The adversary can link observed inputs and outputs of the same user.

# Black-box Anonymity



- The adversary can link observed inputs and outputs of the same user.
- Any configuration consistent with these observations is indistinguishable to the adversary.

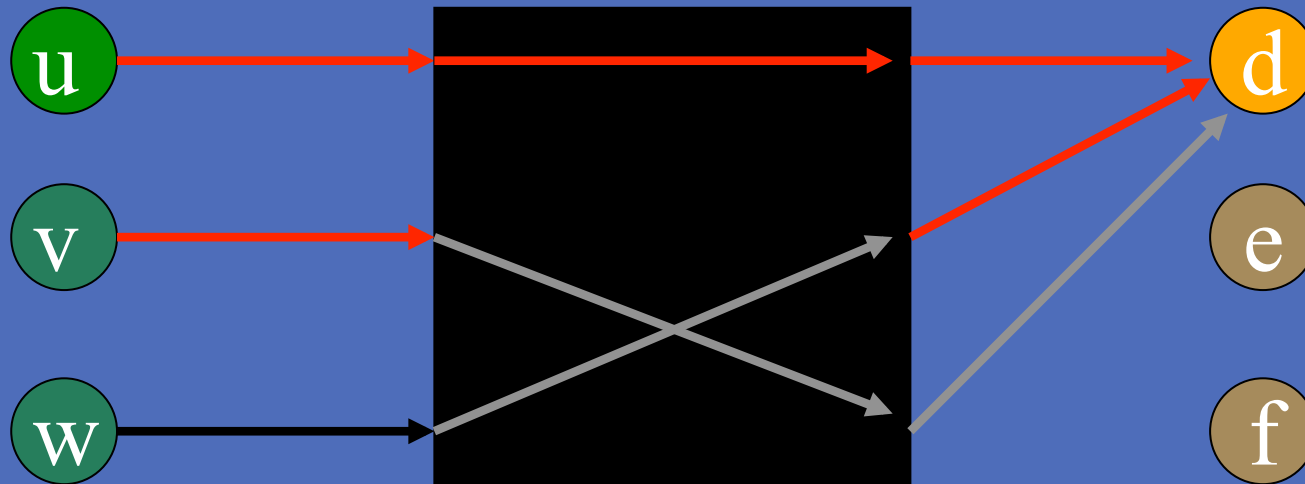
# Black-box Anonymity



- The adversary can link observed inputs and outputs of the same user.
- Any configuration consistent with these observations is indistinguishable to the adversary.



# Black-box Anonymity



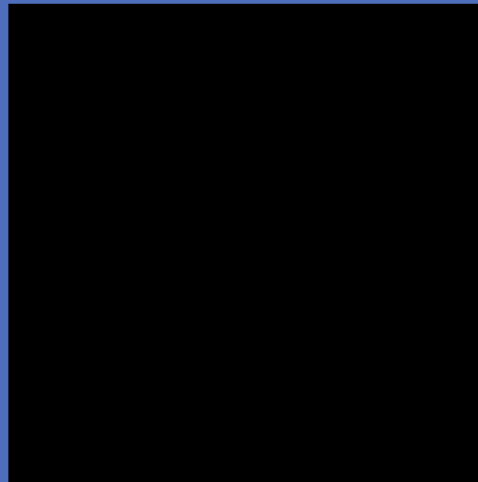
- The adversary can link observed inputs and outputs of the same user.
- Any configuration consistent with these observations is indistinguishable to the adversary.

# Probabilistic Black-box

u

v

w



d

e

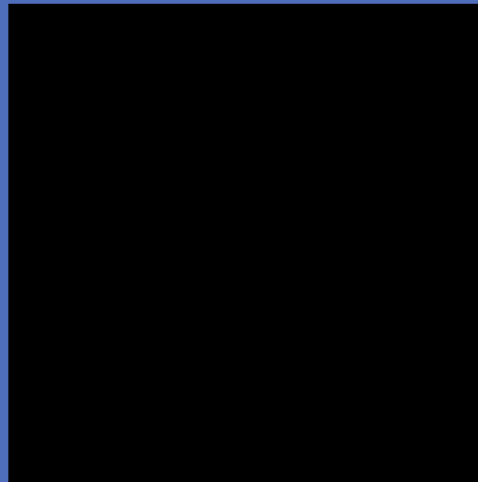
f

# Probabilistic Black-box

u

v

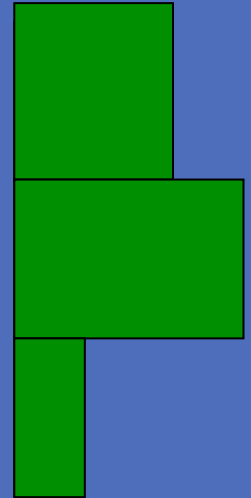
w



d

e

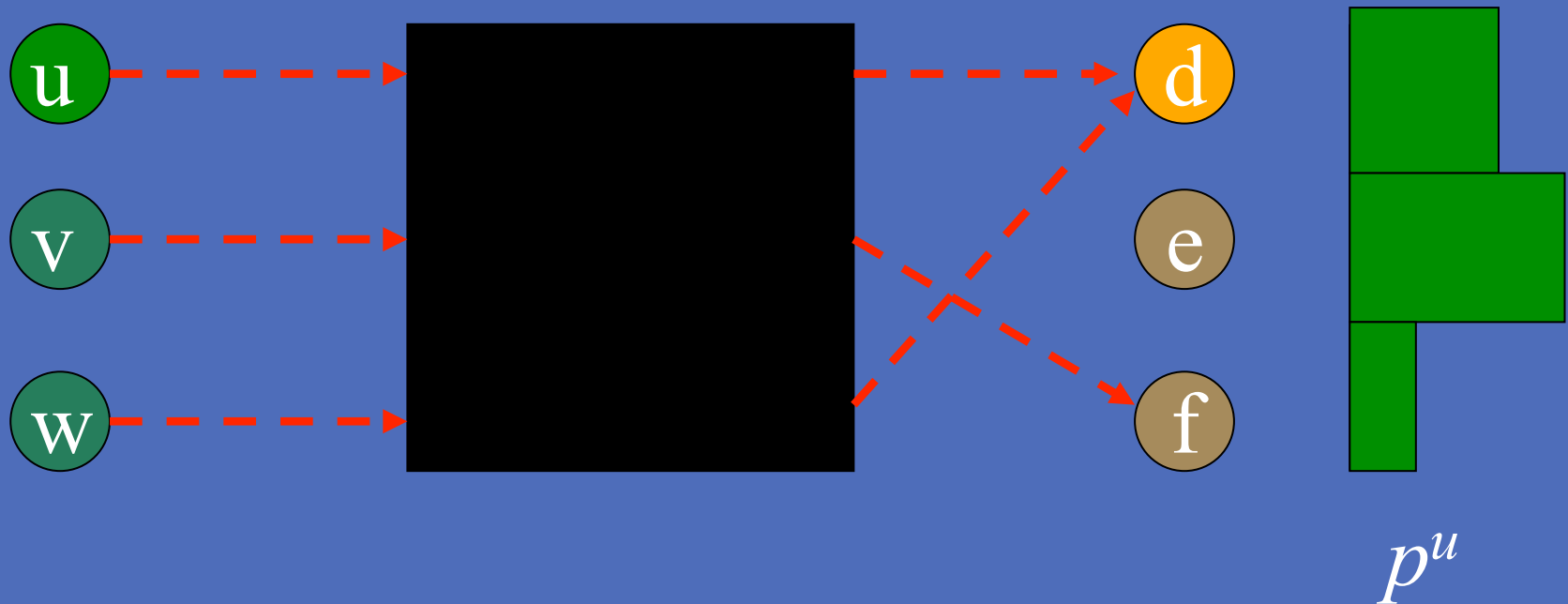
f



$p^u$

- Each user  $v$  selects a destination from distribution  $p^v$

# Probabilistic Black-box



- Each user  $v$  selects a destination from distribution  $p^v$
- Inputs and outputs are observed independently with probability  $b$

# Anonymity Analysis Results of Black Box

- *“Probabilistic Analysis of Onion Routing in a Black-box Model” Feigenbaum, Johnson and Syverson WPES07*
- Can lower bound expected anonymity with standard approximation:  $b^2 + (1-b^2)p^u_d$
- Worst case for anonymity is when user acts exactly unlike or exactly like others
- Worst-case anonymity is typically as if  $\sqrt{b}$  routers compromised:  $b + (1-b)p^u_d$
- Anonymity in typical situations approaches lower bound

# Formal analysis of onion routing

- [FJS07a] - Onion-routing I/O-automata model
  - Possibilistic anonymity analysis
- [FJS07b] - Onion-routing abstract model
  - Probabilistic anonymity analysis

# Problem

- [FJS07a] - Onion-routing I/O-automata model
  - Possibilistic anonymity analysis
- [FJS07b] - Onion-routing abstract model
  - Probabilistic anonymity analysis
- [...] - How do we apply results in standard cryptographic models?

# Problem

- [FJS07a] - Onion-routing I/O-automata model
  - Possibilistic anonymity analysis
- [FJS07b] - Onion-routing abstract model
  - Probabilistic anonymity analysis
- [...] - How do we apply results in standard cryptographic models?
- [CL05] - “Onion routing” formalized with Universal Composability (UC)
- “A Formal Treatment of Onion Routing” Camenisch & Lysyanskaya, CRYPTO 05
  - No anonymity analysis, not onion routing



# Problem

- [FJS07a] - Onion-routing I/O-automata model
  - Possibilistic anonymity analysis
- [FJS07b] - Onion-routing abstract model
  - Probabilistic anonymity analysis
- [...] - How do we apply results in standard cryptographic models?
- [CL05] - “Onion routing” formalized with Universal Composability (UC)
  - “A Formal Treatment of Onion Routing” Camenisch & Lysyanskaya, CRYPTO 05
  - No anonymity analysis, not onion routing
- [FJS12] – Onion-routing UC formalization
  - “Free” probabilistic anonymity analysis

# Onion-Routing UC Ideal Functionality

- “Probabilistic Analysis of Onion Routing in a Black-box Model” Feigenbaum, Johnson and Syverson ACM TISSEC 2012

Upon receiving destination  $d$  from user  $U$

$$x \leftarrow \begin{cases} u & \text{with probability } b \\ \emptyset & \text{with probability } 1-b \end{cases}$$

$$y \leftarrow \begin{cases} d & \text{with probability } b \\ \emptyset & \text{with probability } 1-b \end{cases}$$

Send  $(x,y)$  to the adversary.

$\mathcal{F}_{\text{OR}}$

# Black-box Model

- Ideal functionality  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{OR}}$
- Environment assumptions
  - Each user gets a destination
  - Destination for user  $u$  chosen from distribution  $p^u$
- Adversary compromises a fraction  $b$  of routers before execution

# UC Formalization

- Captures necessary properties of any cryptographic implementation
- Easy to analyze resulting information leaks
- Functionality is a composable primitive
- Anonymity results are valid in probabilistic version of I/O-automata model

# Problem

- [FJS07a] - Onion-routing I/O-automata model
  - Possibilistic anonymity analysis
- [FJS07b] - Onion-routing abstract model
  - Probabilistic anonymity analysis
- [...] - How do we apply results in standard cryptographic models?
- [CL05] - “Onion routing” formalized with Universal Composability (UC)
  - *“A Formal Treatment of Onion Routing”* Camenisch & Lysyanskaya, CRYPTO 05
- [FJS12] – Onion-routing UC formalization
  - “Free” probabilistic anonymity analysis
- [BGKM12] - Onion routing formalized with UC
  - Our work will provide anonymity

# Ideal Functionality modeling more of reality

- “Provably Secure and Practical Onion Routing” Backes, Goldberg, Kate, and Mohammadi, IEEE CSF12
- Functionality can actually send messages
- Also presented ideal functionality covering key exchange, circuit building
  - Needs wrapper to hide irrelevant circuit-building options
- Shown to UC-emulate  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{OR}}$

# Course Outline

- Lecture 1: Basics and Formalization
  - Usage examples, basic notions of traffic-secure communications, mixes and onion routers
  - Onion routing design basics: circuit construction protocols, network discovery
  - Formalization and analysis, possibilistic and probabilistic definitions of anonymity
- Lecture 2: Security for the real world
  - Simple demo of obtaining/using Tor
  - Security of obtain/using Tor
  - Adding network link awareness
  - Importance of modeling users
  - Importance of realistic and practical
    - Adversary models
    - Security definitions