MPLS VPNs Security

Implementations with Mikrotik RouterOS

European MUM – 2014 - Venice / Italy

Wardner Maia

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Wardner __Maia__

Electronic and Telecommunications Engineer;

Internet Service Provider since 1995;

Radio Frequency Trainings since 2002;

Certified Mikrotik Trainer since 2007;

MD Brasil IT & Telecom CTO;

Member of the board of directors of LACNIC.

MD Brasil IT & Telecom

Internet Access Provider in São Paulo state - Brazil;
Telecom equipment manufacturer and integrator;
Mikrotik Training Center since 2007;
Consulting services worldwide.

http://mdbrasil.com.br   http://mikrotikbrasil.com.br

Previous Participations on European MUMs

Wireless Security (2008 – Krakow/PL)

Wireless Security for OLPC project (2009 – Prague/CZ)

Layer 2 Security (2010 – Wroclaw/PL)

Routing Security (2011 – Budapest/HU)

IPv6 Security (2012 - Warsaw/PL)

BGP Filtering (2013 – Zagreb/CR)

http://mikrotikbrasil.com.br/artigos

Motivations to talk about MPLS VPNs Security...

MPLS

- Originally conceived to enhance network forwarding speed and for traffic engineering applications;

- MPLS enlarged its role becoming widely used as a solution for Layer 2 and Layer connectivity between sites.

- VPNs based on MPLS, are responsible for great part of big operators' revenue.

- Small and medium ISPs can be, at the same time, users and providers of such services

MPLS Security

- Usually MPLS is considered as a trusted service provided by equally trusted operators.

- Configuration mistakes or malicious attacks can seriously compromise the availability of the services and also break the confidentiality and integrity of the virtual private networks.

Purpose of the presentation

- To give an overview of the MPLS services and its implementations, the involved concepts, common topologies and its characteristics related to security.

- Tools and techniques to break into a MPLS VPN will be overviewed, as well as the countermeasures and best practices to make such services really secure.

Target Audience:

- ISPs and Telecom operators **providing** MPLS services

- ISPs and Telecom operators **using** MPLS services.

Types of VPNs
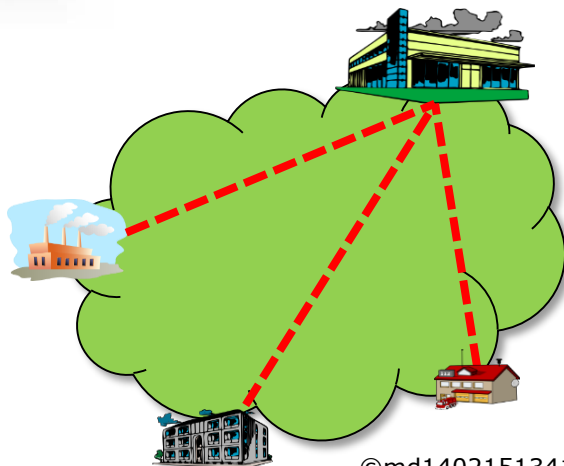## (security)

Secure VPNs

X

Trusted VPNs

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Secure VPNs:

→ Authentication method

Parts are who they say they are;

→ Confidentiality

Data is not readable (understandable) by other parts;

→ Integrity

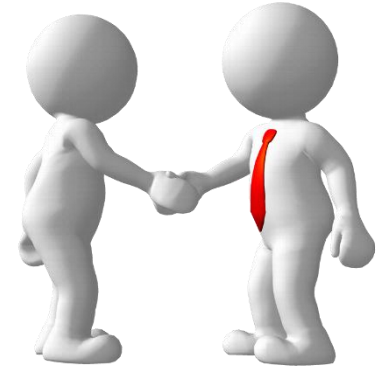Data cannot be modified in transit.

Confidentiality and Integrity should be ensured by an encryption method.

Examples: PPtP/L2TP with MPPE, L2TP with IPSec, etc.

Types of VPNs
(security)

Trusted VPNs:

→ In fact no mandatory security feature

→ Customers **trust** that the data traffic is kept secure by the Service Provider inside its edges.

Examples: Frame Relay, ATM and **MPLS VPN's**

Trusted VPNs:

A "trusted zone" is assumed between Service Provider's edges.

Trusted Zone

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Examples: Frame Relay, ATM and MPLS VPN's

Secure x Trusted

How (In)Secure could be your (Un)Trusted Zone when it comes to MPLS VPNs?

Trusted Zone

Thinking as a Customer:

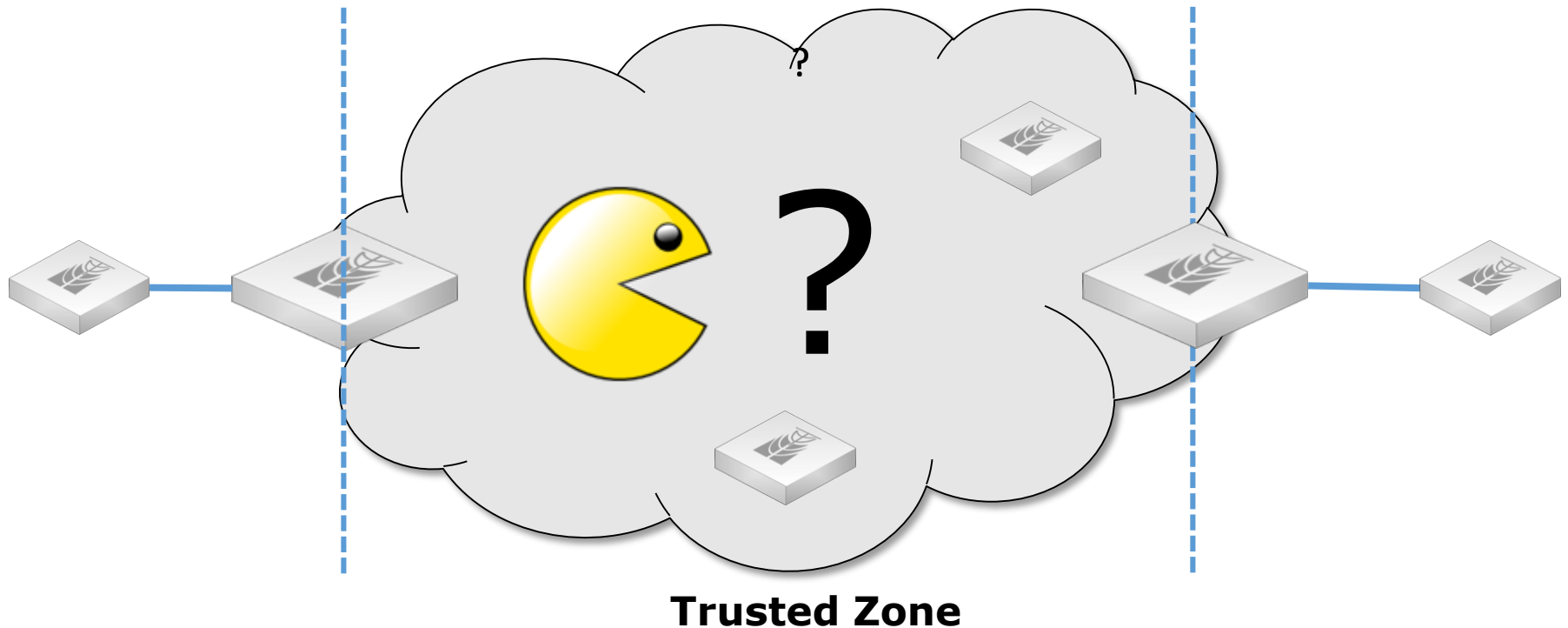> If I bought an Internet Service, I have to mind my own security (Firewall, anti-virus, etc.)

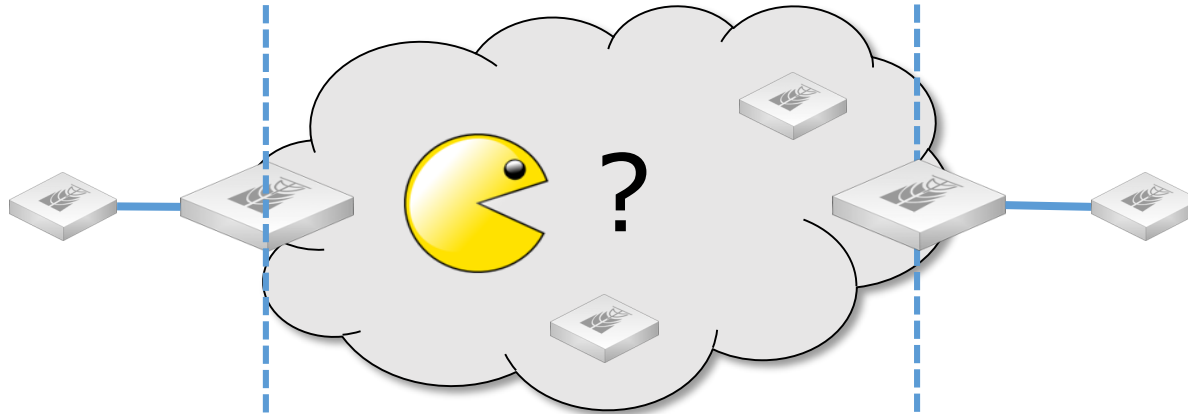> If I bought a VPN Service, my Service Provider has to provide me security. Few security measures are required.

Thinking as a Service Provider:

> If I provide Internet Service, Customers Know that they should take appropriate measures to protect themselves.

> If I provide A VPN Service, it's supposed that Customers trust me. What should I do to deserve that confidence?

As a user:

You have to know the risks and decide if you will trust 100% in your Service Provider or you'll do something to improve your security.

As a Service Provider:

You have to know the possible risks and how to ensure that your network do not expose your customers.

Agenda

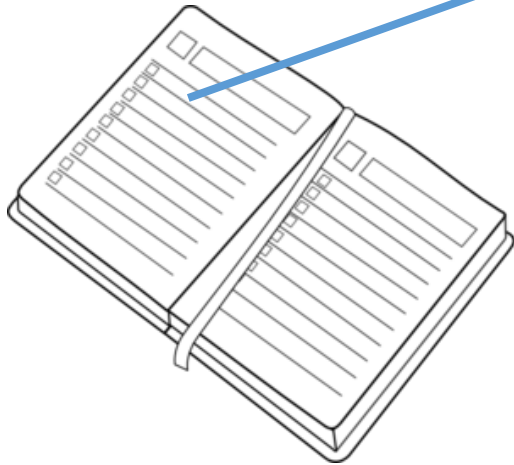Introduction and Motivations ✓

MPLS and VPNs Background

Layer 2 and Layer 3 VPNs configurations

A Working Scenario

MPLS VPNs Threats / Hands on

Defenses – Good practices and recommendations

Conclusions

MPLS Basics

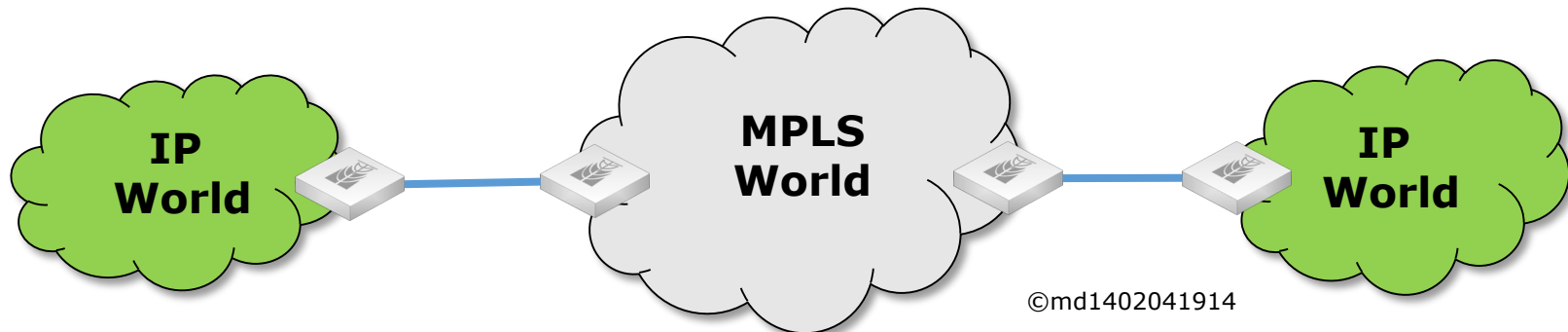MPLS is a framework typically used to enhance an IP network. MPLS ***is not a routing protocol*** - it works with layer 3 routing protocols (BGP, OSPF, static) to integrate network layer routing with label switching.

Main advantages of MPLS:

→ multiple types of traffic coexisting on the same network;

→ traffic management and fast restoration after failures;

→ Higher performance for forwarding.

How MPLS works:

→ Routers on the incoming edge of the MPLS network add an 'MPLS label' to the top of each packet.

→ This label is based on some criteria (e.g. destination IP address) and is then used to steer it through the subsequent routers.

→ The routers on the outgoing edge strip it off before final delivery of the original packet.

IP World

MPLS World

IP World

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The Label:

| Ethernet header | MPLS header | IP header | TCP header | App data | Ethernet trailer |

20 bits				3	1	8
Label				QoS	S	TTL

→ Label value (0 to 15 reserved for special use)

→ QoS: Quality of service

→ S: Bottom of Stack (set to 1 for the last entry in the label)

→ TTL: Time to live

MPLS Terminology:

Label Switch Router (LSR)—A device that forwards labeled entities based upon the label's value.

Label Edge Router (LER)—Resides at the edge of an MPLS network and assigns and removes the labels from the packets.
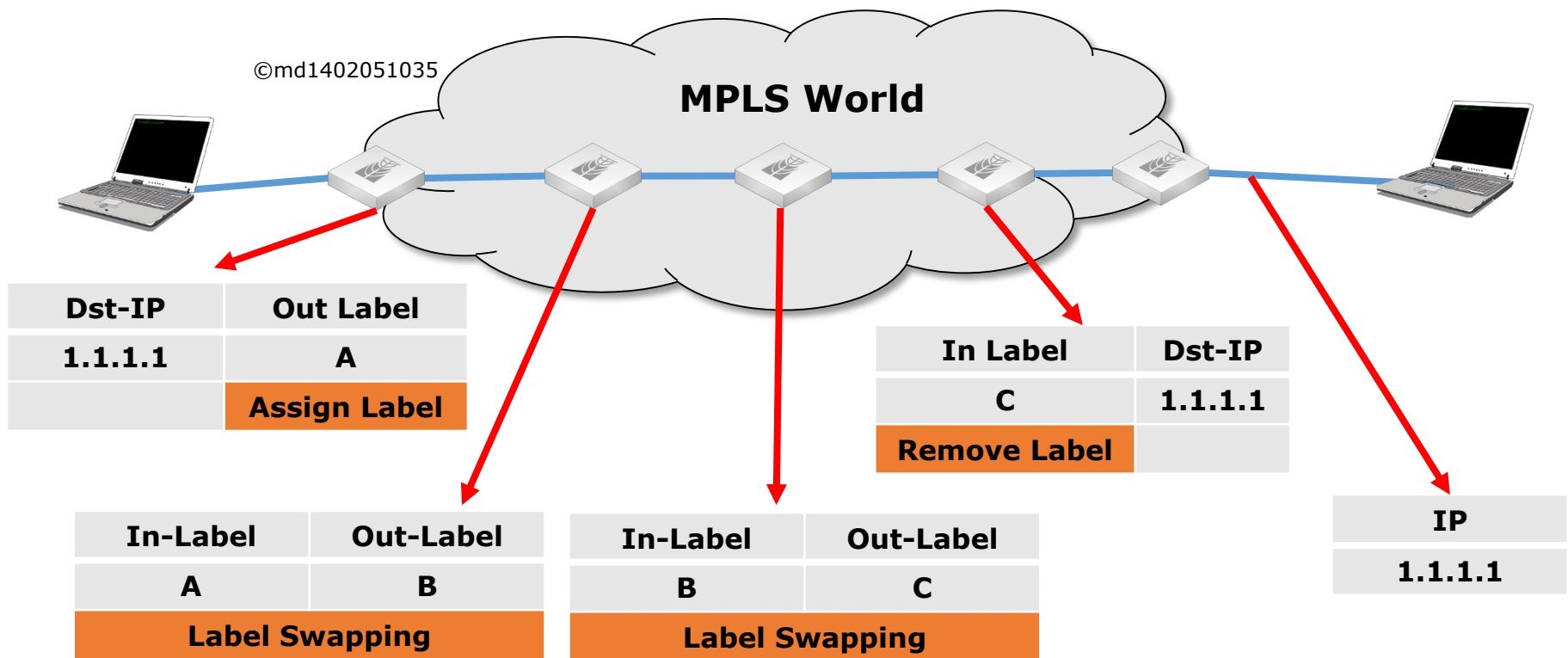
MPLS Terminology:

Label-Switched Path (LSP)—The path defined by the labels through LSRs between end points.

Forward Equivalence Class (FEC) – A representation of a group of packets that share the same requirements for their transport. The assignment of a particular packet to a particular FEC is done just once (when the packet enters the network).
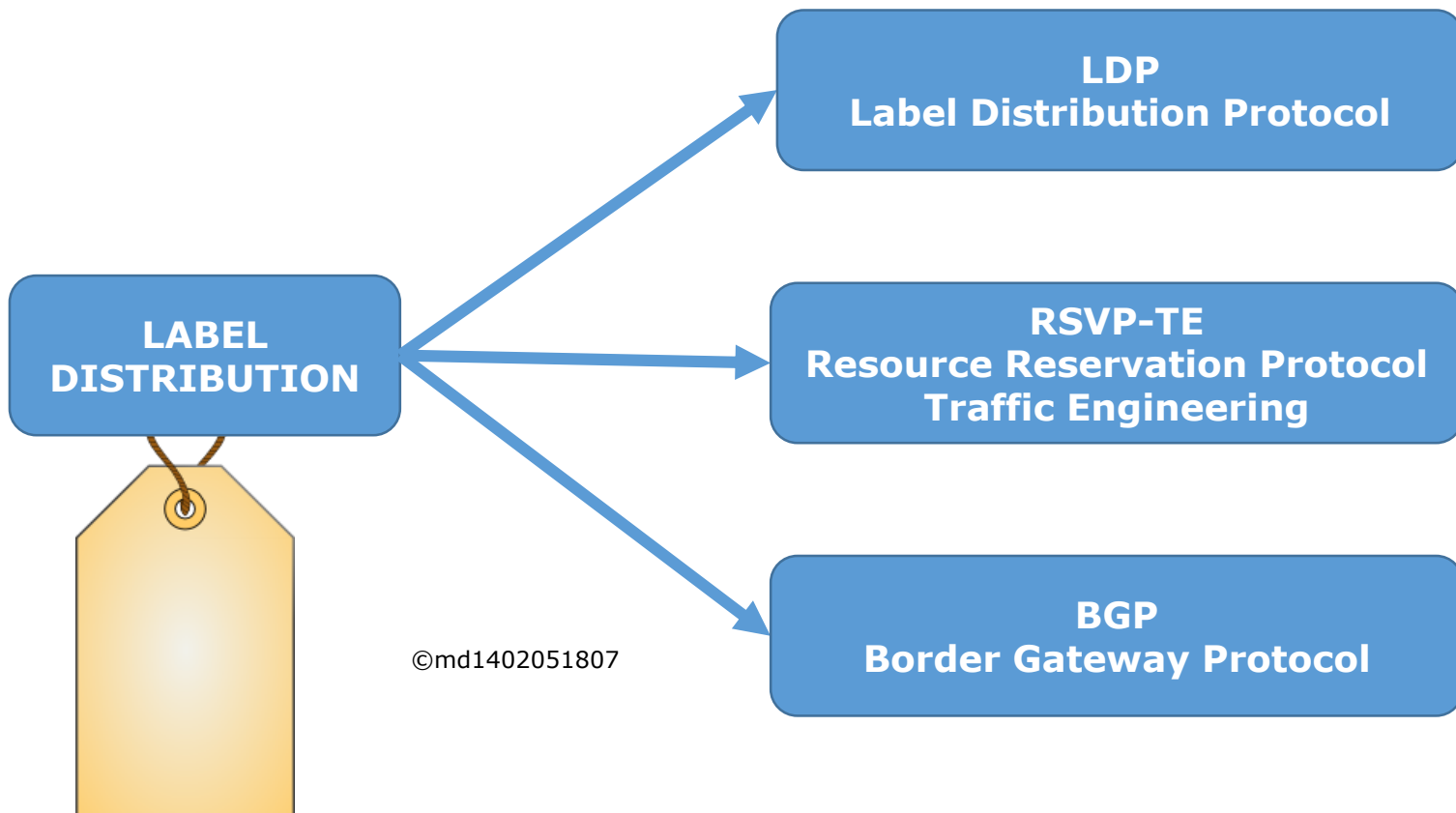
MPLS in action

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MPLS World

Dst-IP	Out Label
1.1.1.1	A
	Assign Label

In-Label	Out-Label
A	B
Label Swapping	

In-Label	Out-Label
B	C
Label Swapping	

In Label	Dst-IP
C	1.1.1.1
Remove Label	

IP
1.1.1.1

Label Distribution:

There are 3 methods for Label distribution:

LABEL DISTRIBUTION

LDP
Label Distribution Protocol

RSVP-TE
Resource Reservation Protocol
Traffic Engineering

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BGP
Border Gateway Protocol

LDP (Label Distribution Protocol)

→ LDP is used between nodes in an MPLS network to establish and maintain the label bindings;

→ LDP has 4 kind of functions:

   → Discovery;

   → Management;

   → Advertisement;

   → Notification.

LDP

LDP (Label Distribution Protocol)

→ In order to MPLS to operate correctly, label distribution information needs to be transmitted reliably. <u>TCP is used to establish sessions between LSR's</u>;

→ <u>UDP is used for functions like discovery and advertisement.</u> Such messages are sent to 224.0.0.2 "all routers in this subnet". It's supposed that all routers are trustworthy;

→ MD5 encryption for LDP messages (RFC5036 session 2.9) isn't yet supported by RouterOS ☹

LDP

RSVP-TE (Resource Reservation Protocol – Traffic Engineering)

→ RSVP-TE is an extension of RSVP protocol and supports the reservation of resources across an IP Network;

→ Applications running on IP end systems can use RSVP to indicate to other nodes the nature of the packet streams they want to receive.

RSVP TE

→ RSVP-TE generally allows the establishment of MPLS label switched paths (LSPs), taking into consideration network constraint parameters such as available bandwidth and explicit hops.

BGP (Border Gateway Protocol)

BGP can be used to transport various protocols besides IPv4. (BGP Multiprotocol or M-BGP)

In MPLS context BGP can be used to signalize information about:

→ Layer 2 VPN's

→ Layer 3 VPN's (VPN-IPv4, or VPNv4)

MPLS VPNs

Types of VPNs
(topology and technology)
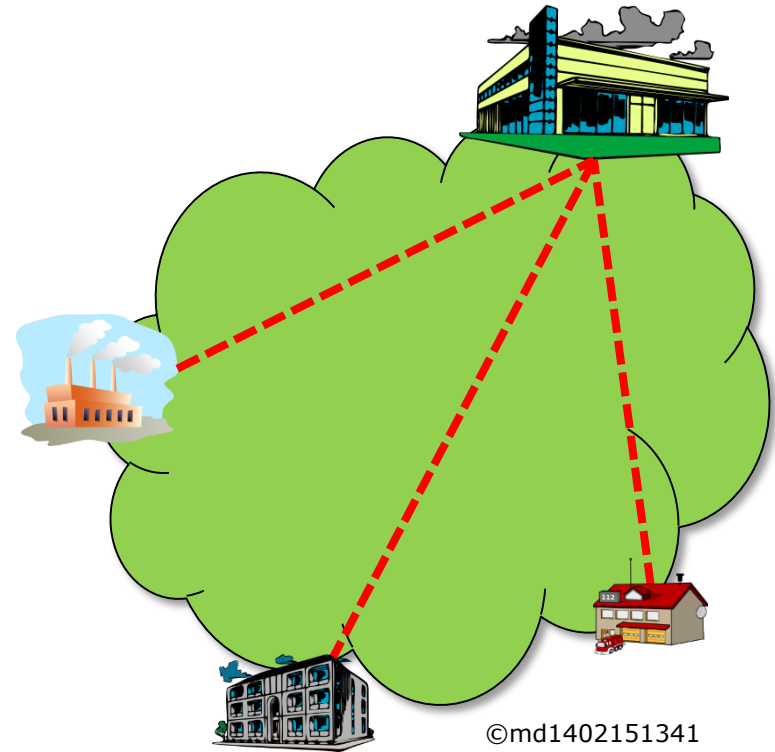
→ **"Traditional" VPNs**

Frame Relay, ATM (Layer 2)
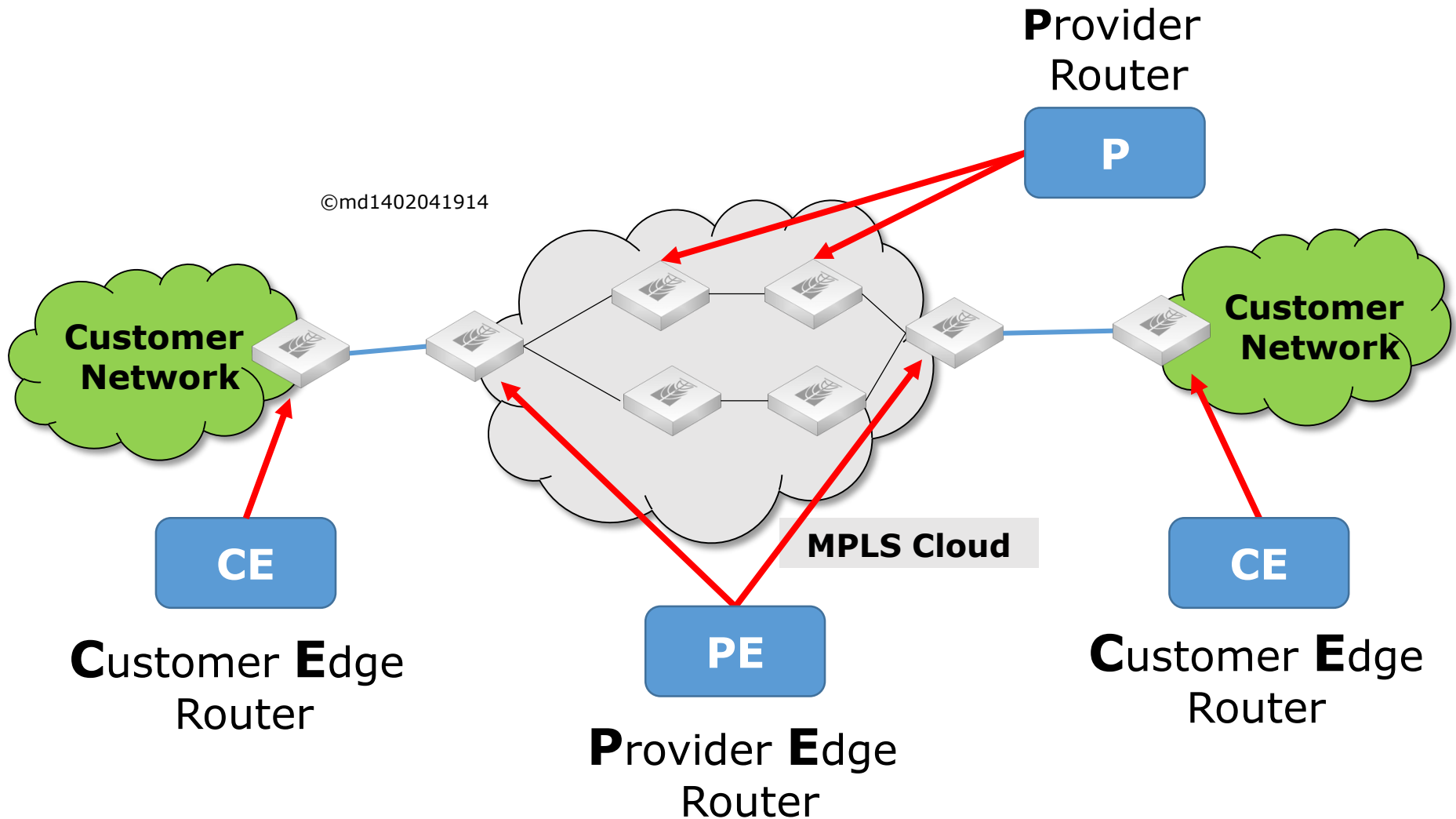
→ **CPE-based VPNs**

L2TP, PPTP, SSTP, etc.

→ **Provider Provisioned VPNs**

MPLS-based Layer 2 and

Layer 3 VPNs

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MPLS VPNs Terminology

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Provider Router

P

Customer Network

Customer Network

CE

CE

MPLS Cloud

PE

Customer **E**dge Router

Customer **E**dge Router

Provider **E**dge Router

Layer2 x Layer3 VPNs

Layer 2:

Transparent to underlying protocols;

Service Provider does not manage customers networks

Layer 3:

Currently only for IPv4 protocol;

More complexity on implementation;

Robust and reliable;

Service Provider manages customer's routing tables.

The decision about the appropriate type of MPLS VPN to use should consider:

→ Type of traffic to be transported;

(when a customer needs transparent connection, definitely he needs Layer2 VPNs)

→ Role of the Service Provider related to Customer's network.

(which grade of efforts on management and provisioning, Providers are willing to have)

Agenda

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Layer3 VPNs

Layer 3 MPLS VPNs

Layer3 VPNs are used to forward IPv4 traffic through a MPLS cloud using a LSP.

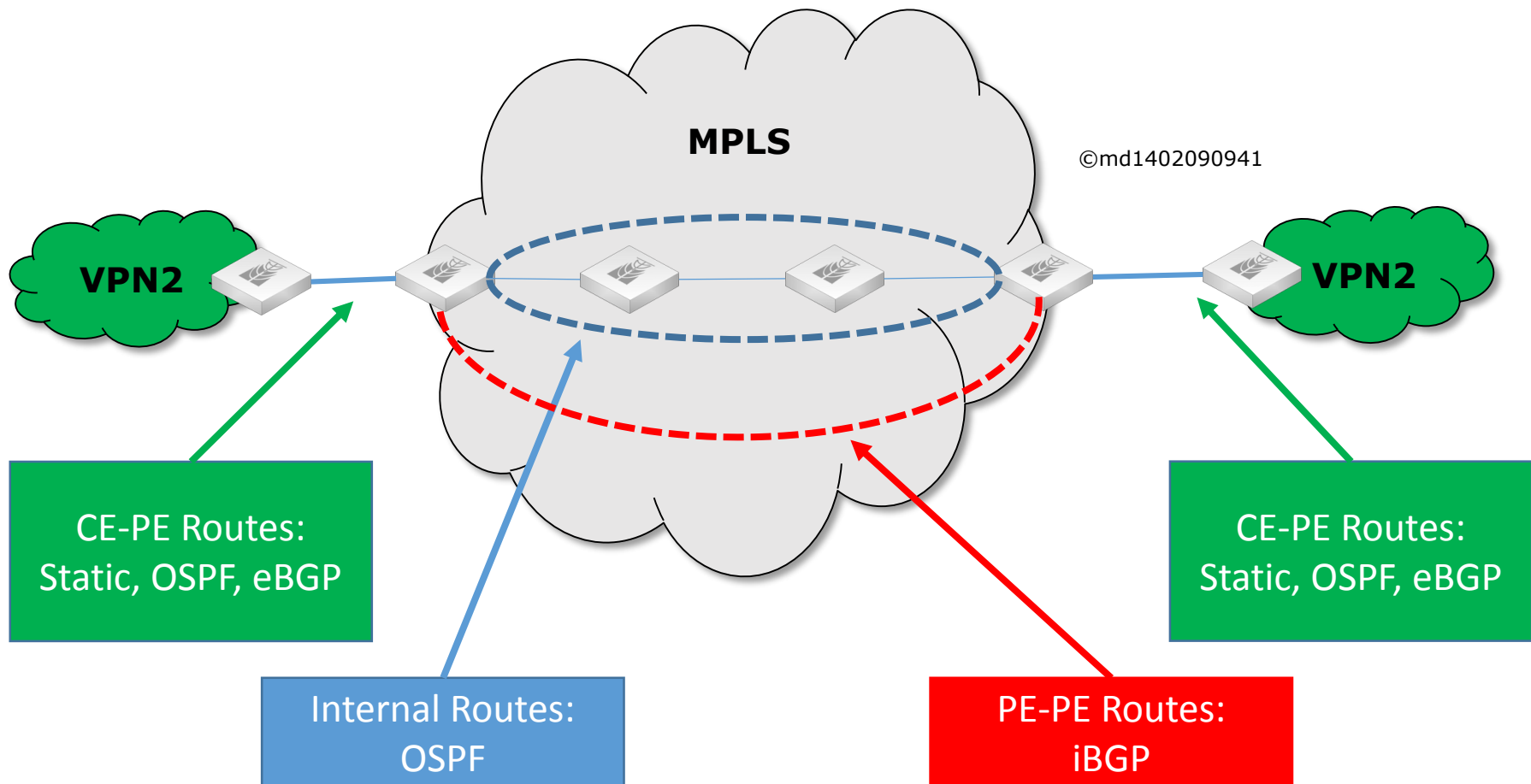Based on RFC 2547 and 2547bis (BGP/MPLS)

Layer 3 MPLS VPNs

With layer 3 MPLS VPNs we can share an infrastructure and run separated virtual routing tables (VRF) without customer's prefixes overlapping.

192.168.1.0/24

192.168.0.0/24

VPN1

VPN1

MPLS

VPN2

VPN2

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192.168.0.0/24

192.168.1.0/24

Layer 3 MPLS VPNs

Different routing protocols can be used in a L3 VPN implementation

MPLS

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VPN2

VPN2

CE-PE Routes:
Static, OSPF, eBGP

CE-PE Routes:
Static, OSPF, eBGP

Internal Routes:
OSPF

PE-PE Routes:
iBGP

Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRF)

Layer 3 MPLS VPNs have 2 important characteristics:

→ On client side can be used either public (exclusive) or private (non exclusive) IP addresses;

→ The same site can be part of more than one VPN;

To use the same set of IP addresses without overlapping, PE routers use multiples routing tables called **VRFs** (Virtual Routing and Forwarding). For each VPN, there is one VRF on PE routers.

Route Distinguisher (RD) [1/2]

Each PE router receives updates via BGP from other PE routers;

The default behavior of BGP would be to choose only one route based on BGP decision criteria;

Because of the possibility of using overlapping IP addresses, there is necessary an attribute called **Route Distinguisher (RD)** to separate routes from different VPNs;

RD is a 64 bit number.

Route Distinguisher (RD) [2/2]

The result of Route Distinguisher + IPv4 is a 96 (64 + 32) bit number

Route Distinguisher	IPv4 Address

This combination creates a new family of addresses, called VPN-IPv4 or VPNv4.

Route Target (RT) [1/2]

As stated previously, one site can participate in more than one VPN;

To separate traffic between sites participating in several VPNs, preventing one PE router to accept routes from VPNs that it not belongs to, attributes from BGP extended communities are used;

Route Target attribute is inserted in each announced route to indicate to which VPN this route belongs to.

Route Target (RT) [2/2]

Each VPN has an exclusive value for Route Target;

When a PE router receives a routing update, it verifies based on the attribute if the corresponding VPN is part of the ones it is configured to work with. Case positive it accepts the route, otherwise, the route is discarded;

The use of Route Targets prevent that PEs work with all routes of all VPNs, helping on scalability of the network.

→ PE routers assign label to prefixes per VPN (Route Distinguisher);

→ Label, route distinguisher and prefixes are exchanged between PEs by BGP Multiprotocol;

→ One PE knows which other PE is responsible for a given prefix in a given VPN;

→ When a packet leaves an ingress PE, the packet has at least 2 labels – one to forward across MPLS cloud and other to identify the VPN and prefix of destination.

Labels for L3 VPNs

When a PE receives a packet destined to a remote site, 2 Labels are inserted:

Layer 2 Header	Label 1	Label 2	IP Datagram

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For the LSP	For destination Network

MPLS Layer 3 VPN in action

CE1 sends a packet to CE2 and PE router insert 2 Labels. First label is used along LSP. Penultimate router strips out first label and the egress router strips out the second label

MPLS

CE1

CE2

Packet to CE2

Packet to CE2

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| Label1 | Label2 |

Label2

Layer 3 MPLS VPNs

One important detail about L3 VPNs is that a "shared" PE router can handle different VRFs

VPN1 Site A

VPN1 Site B

VPN2

VPN3

VRF for VPN1

VRF for VPN2

VRF for VPN3

Global Routing Table – OSPF BGP

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Layer2 VPNs

Layer 2 VPN's

Can be used to transparently transport frames from one site to another, regardless layer 3 protocols.

There is no routing exchange between CE and PE

They can be point-to-point or point-multipoint.

One site can be viewed as a "Big Switch"

Layer 2 MPLS VPNs

Layer2 VPNs establish a tunnel between Ingress (PE) and Egress (PE) routers to transport **any** protocol;

On Customer's Edge, equipment can be routers or single layer2 devices.

Layer 2 VPN's

→ Each L2 VPN establishes a Virtual Circuit (VC) where a VC is a kind of LSP "inside" another LSP

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PE1

PE2

LSP to PE2

VC1

VC2

LSP to PE1

Tunnel Label and VC Label

→ LSPs are responsible to connect PEs and VCs to transport user's frames;

Layer 2 Header	Label 1	Label 2	Ethernet payload

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For the LSP

VC Label

VPLS (Virtual Private LAN Service)

→ VPLS is used for Point-Multipoint Layer2 VPNs;

→ VPLS creates a complete mesh of VCs (for each traffic direction);

→ Clients VPNs are identified by a unique VPN ID (32 bit)

Layer 2 Header	Label 1	Label 2	Ethernet payload

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For the LSP

VC Label

How VPLS works (1/3)

→ Like regular switches learn MAC addresses on physical ports, PE routers learn on their VCs;

→ Each PE keeps, for each VPN, a separate forwarding table called VFI (Virtual Forwarding Instance);

VC12

VC21

8

5

XX:XX:XX:XX:XX:X1

XX:XX:XX:XX:XX:X2

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Layer 2 MPLS VPNs

How VPLS works (2/3)

When a PE receives a frame destined to a MAC address it doesn't have yet in its table, it floods the frame to all VC's. When a response is received, PE insert an entry for the MAC pointing to the VC it received the response.

VPLS ID	MAC Address	VC	Port
100:0	XX:XX:XX:XX:XX:X1	---	5
100:0	XX:XX:XX:XX:XX:X2	VC12	---

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VPLS ID	MAC Address	VC	Port
100:0	XX:XX:XX:XX:XX:X1	VC12	---
100:0	XX:XX:XX:XX:XX:X2	---	8

How VPLS works (3/3)

→ PE routers learn only MAC addresses from the VPNs it belongs to.

→ P Routers don't learn MACs. They only forward traffic based on MPLS Labels.

Implementations with Mikrotik RouterOS

Static VPLS:

Very simple and functional;

Depends on LDP.

BGP VPLS:

Requires Full Mesh iBGP between routers;

More Scalable.

Implementations with Mikrotik RouterOS – BGP VPLS

- Configure peering between routers
- enable address family l2vpn

Layer 2 MPLS VPNs

Implementations with Mikrotik RouterOS – BGP VPLS

Configure BGP VPLS, route distinguisher, route targets
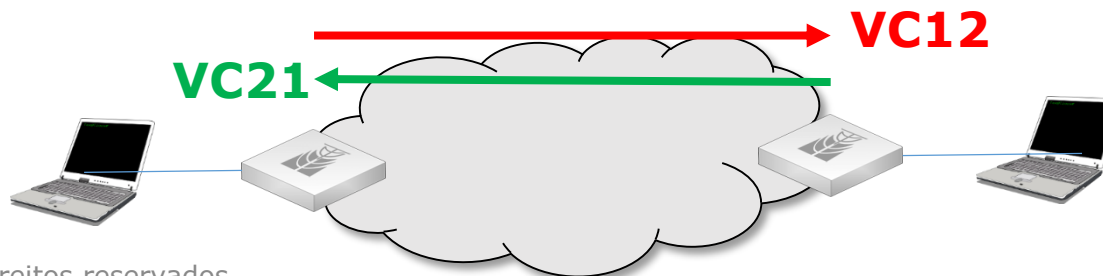
Implementations with Mikrotik RouterOS – BGP VPLS

- Configure a bridge

- Insert only physical ports we want to participate in that bridge;

- VPLS interfaces will appear automatically

VPLS and Spanning Tree

→ Unlike regular switches, PE routers do not rely only on (R)STP – (Rapid) Spanning Tree Protocol to avoid loops in a redundant network.

→ VPLS can use "Split Horizon" technique, ensuring that a frame received from a customer only can be transmitted to another directly connected and not to another participating in the same VPN.

VC12

VC21

Agenda

Introduction and Motivations ✓

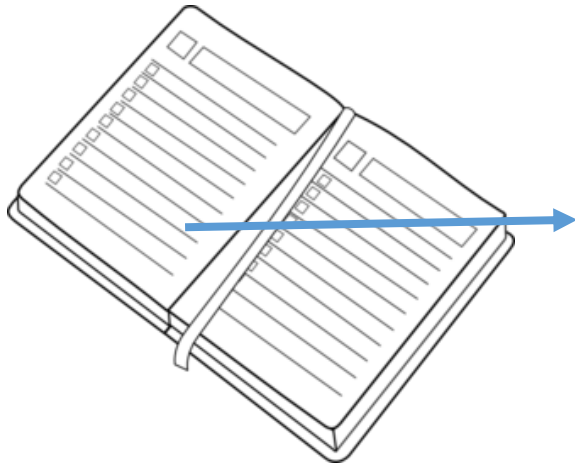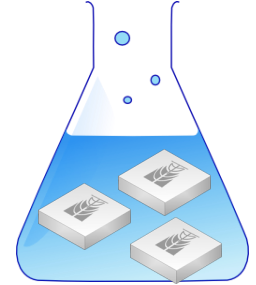MPLS and VPNs Background ✓

Layer 2 and Layer 3 VPNs configurations ✓

A Working Scenario
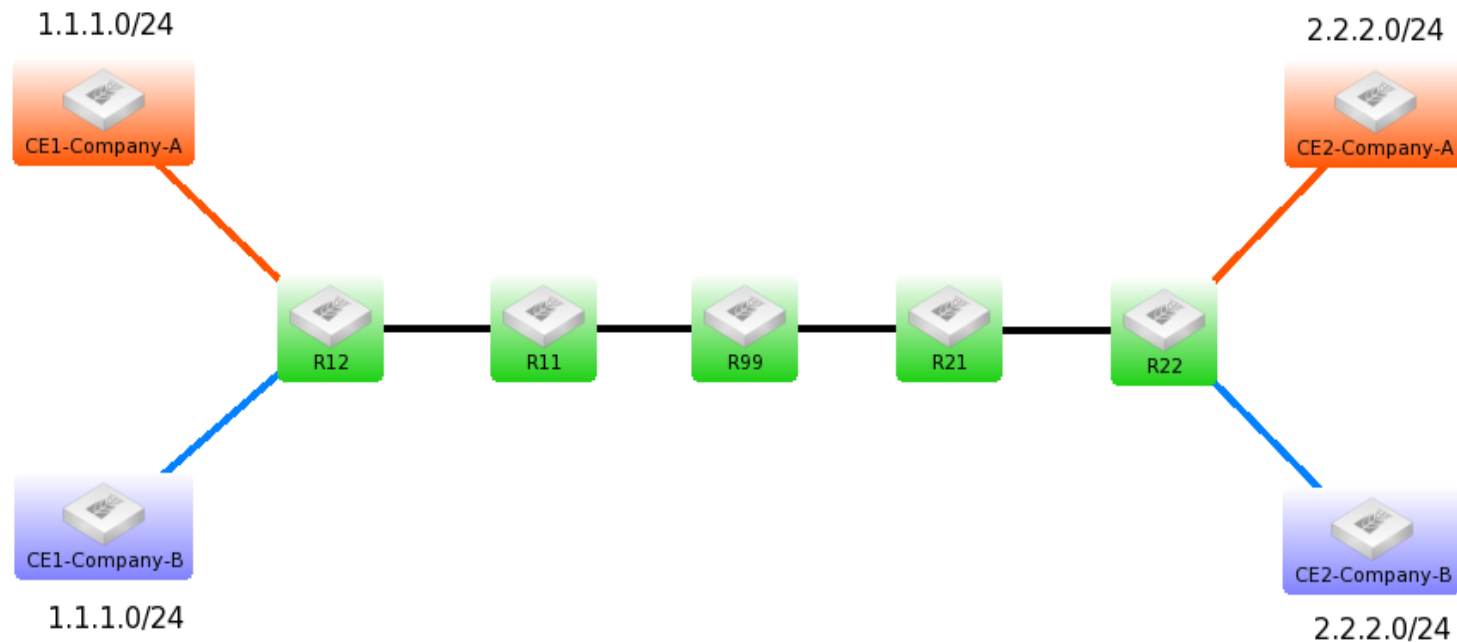
MPLS VPNs Threats / Hands on

Defenses – Good practices and recommendations
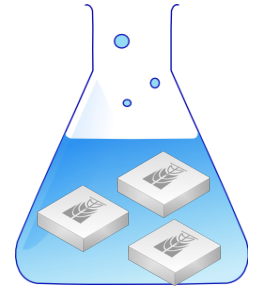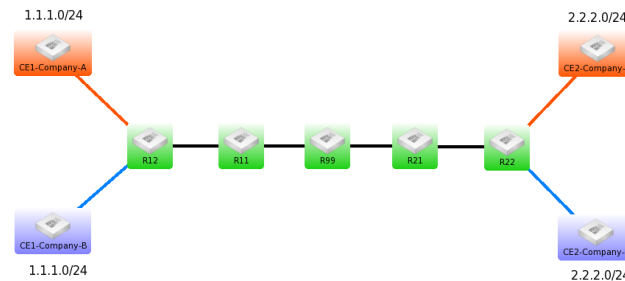
Conclusions

Company A (orange) and B (Blue) are different companies and both use the same address space. VRFs will keep VPNs separated

NB: For sake of simplicity we're using public address space (1.1.1.0/24 and 2.2.2.0/24).

1.1.1.0/24   2.2.2.0/24

CE1-Company-A   CE2-Company-A

R12   R11   R99   R21   R22

CE1-Company-B   CE2-Company-B

1.1.1.0/24   2.2.2.0/24

CE-1-A and CE-1-B have only default route pointing to PE-1.

The same for CE-2-A and Ce-2-B

Route <0.0.0.0/0>

General | Attributes

Dst. Address: 0.0.0.0/0

Gateway: 192.168.1.5

Layer3 VPN
Working Lab

1.1.1.0/24   2.2.2.0/24

CE1-Company-A   CE2-Company-A

R12   R11   R99   R21   R22

CE1-Company-B   CE2-Company-B

1.1.1.0/24   2.2.2.0/24

PE-1 VRF configuration

Route <1.1.1.0/24>

General | Attributes

Dst. Address: 1.1.1.0/24

Gateway: 192.168.1.6

Check Gateway:

Type: unicast

Distance: 1

Scope: 30

Target Scope: 10

Routing Mark: COMPANY-A-VRF
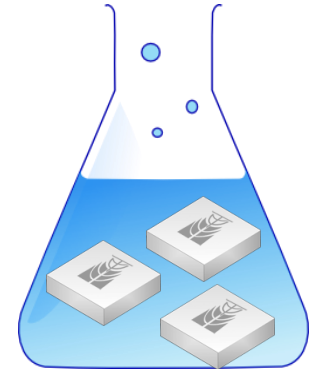
Route <1.1.1.0/24>

General | Attributes

Dst. Address: 1.1.1.0/24

Gateway: 192.168.1.10

Check Gateway:

Type: unicast

Distance: 1

Scope: 30

Target Scope: 10

Routing Mark: COMPANY-B-VRF

VRF <COMPANY-A-VRF>

Routing Mark: COMPANY-A-VRF

Interfaces: toCE1-A

Route Distinguisher: 100:0

Import Route Targets: 100:0

Export Route Targets: 100:0

VRF <COMPANY-B-VRF>

Routing Mark: COMPANY-B-VRF

Interfaces: toCE1-B

Route Distinguisher: 200:0

Import Route Targets: 200:0

Export Route Targets: 200:0

Layer3 VPN
Working Lab

PE-1 BGP / VRF configuration

BGP Peer <PE-2>

General | Advanced | Status

Name: PE-2
Instance: default
Remote Address: 10.0.2.2
Remote Port:
Remote AS: 65000

BGP Peer <PE-2>

General | Advanced | Status

Address Families: ☑ ip ☐ ipv6 ☐ l2vpn ☑ vpn4
Update Source: loopback

BGP VRF <default>

Instance: default
Routing Mark: COMPANY-A-VRF

☑ Redistribute Connected
☑ Redistribute Static

BGP VRF <default>

Instance: default
Routing Mark: COMPANY-B-VRF

☑ Redistribute Connected
☑ Redistribute Static

1.1.1.0/24

CE1-Company-A

2.2.2.0/24

CE2-Company-A

R12 — R11 — R99 — R21 — R22

CE1-Company-B

1.1.1.0/24

CE2-Company-B

2.2.2.0/24

CE-1-A will ping 2.2.2.2 and so does CE-1-B;

/system ssh 2.2.2.2 from will show

Agenda

Introduction and Motivations ✓
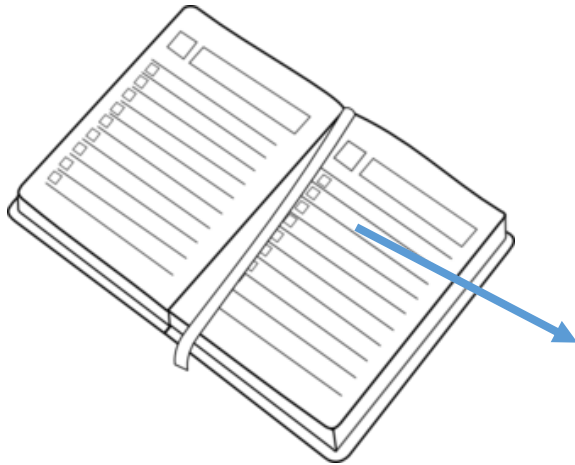
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Attacks against MPLS VPNs

Attacks against MPLS VPNs

Attacks can be divided in Intrusions and Denial of service

Intrusions:

→ Starts with reconnaissance - Label info disclosure and enumeration

→ Injection of rogue Labels and exploration of underlying routing protocols to divert or sniff traffic.

Denial of Service:

→ Exploring topology characteristics (e.g. shared VPN/Internet connection)

→ Again, injection of rogue Labels and exploration of underlying routing protocols to create blackholes.

Attacks against MPLS VPNs

The success of attacks will depend basically of the position of the attacker, that can be

Attacks from other VPNs:

In this case a real customer or a compromised device on customer premises is the vector of attack.

Attacks from the Internet:

As we will see, depending on the Network topology routers can be target for Intrusions/DoS attacks

Attacks from the Core:

Week topologies, physical insecurity and compromised devices can be explored to launch attacks.
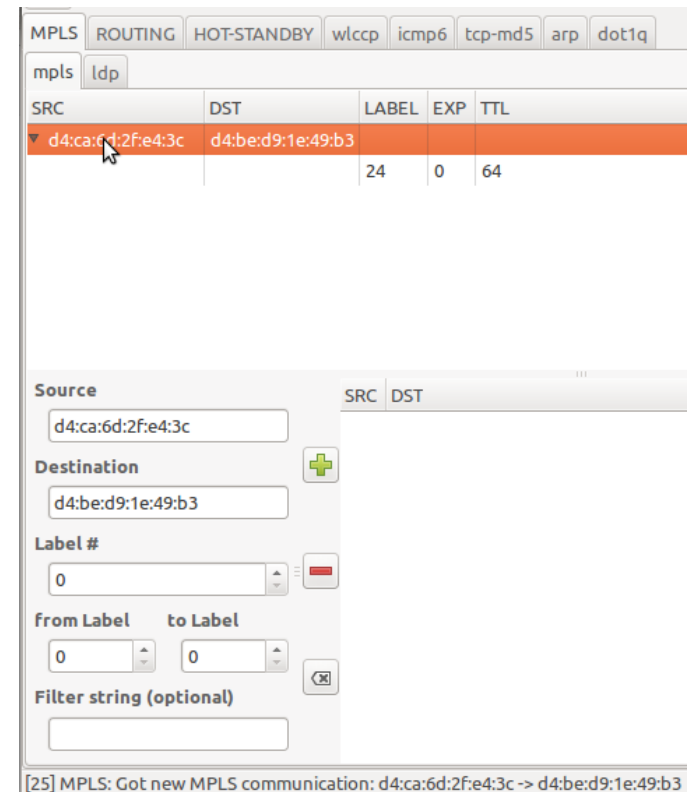
Sounding theoretically?

If all those things sound theoretical to you, just take a look on the appropriate tool!
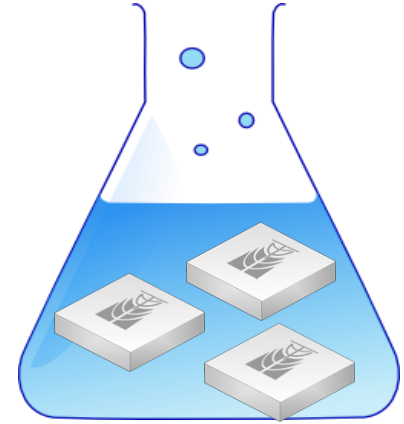
→ Yersinia: Powerful tool for Layer 2 attacks

→ Loki: Complete framework for exploring infrastructure protocols

→ Scapy: Multipurpose packet generator

→ Dsniff, THC, and much more…

Pause for Hands On!

Breaking into OSPF, BGP and MPLS

Tools exist for any kind of attack.

The success of an attack will depend basically on:

→ Position of the attacker

→ Topology of the network

→ How the devices are managed

Only **good practices** can make the Trusted Zone really trustable!

Agenda

Introduction and Motivations ✓
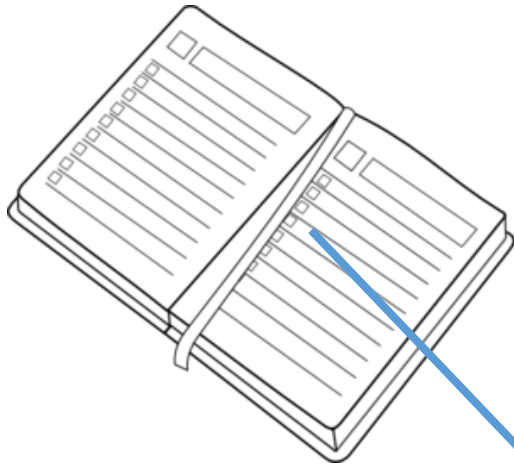
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Good practices and recommendations

1) Operational and devices security

2) Security practices for layer 3 and layer 2 routing and forwarding protocols

3) Topology considerations

4) Using IPSec

Operational and Devices Security

Operational Security (1/2)

Administrators and operators can make mistakes and malicious misconfiguration could also happen. Some guidelines to improve the security:

→ Use RADIUS for router access – no user in the box.

→ Use RANCID to log and notify configuration changes:
    http://falz.net/tech/rancid-mikrotik

→ Operators shouldn't have access to logging facilities.

Operational Security (2/3)

→ Prevent password discovery. Never leave a **.backup** file neither in the box, nor in the cloud, nor in your computer.

See: http://www.mikrotikpassworddiscovery.com

→ Remember that a reset could make a automated backup. Make sure force-backup-booter is disabled.

/system routerboard settings set force-backup-booter=no

Operational Security (3/3)

→ Follow guidelines for Layer 2 Security

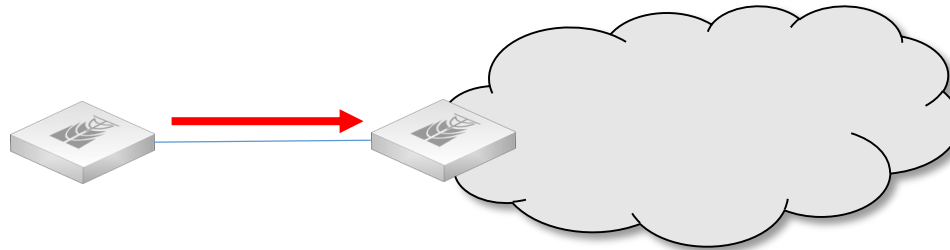Layer 2 Security - MUM 2010

→ Follow guidelines to routing security

Routing Security MUM 2011

→ Follow general security recommendations

Router OS v6 Security MUM 2013 by Tom Smyth

CE specifics (1/3)

Use preferably static routing on the link CE - PE;

Use BGP on CE-PE only if necessary (multi-homed customer)

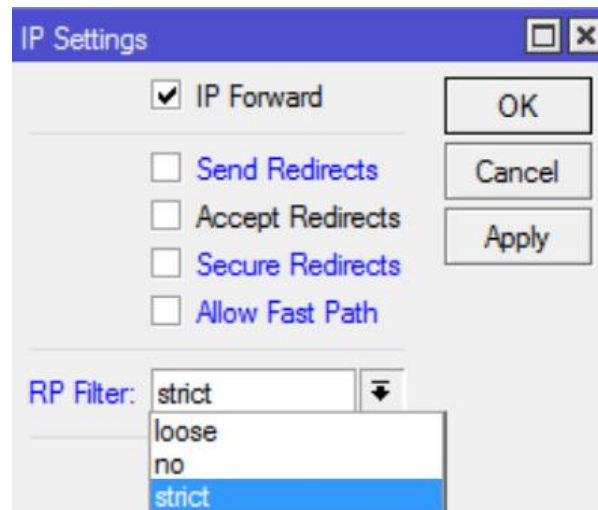Do not use neither OSPF, nor RIP at all

CE Security (2/3)

CEs are part of **your** network. Don't let the customer to take control over it (again take special care on passwords in the box)

Hint → If required give the customer a personal Firewall using Metarouter but keep the main router under your control.

CE Security (3/3)

Protect network against IP address spoofing by enabling
uRFP

PE and P specifics

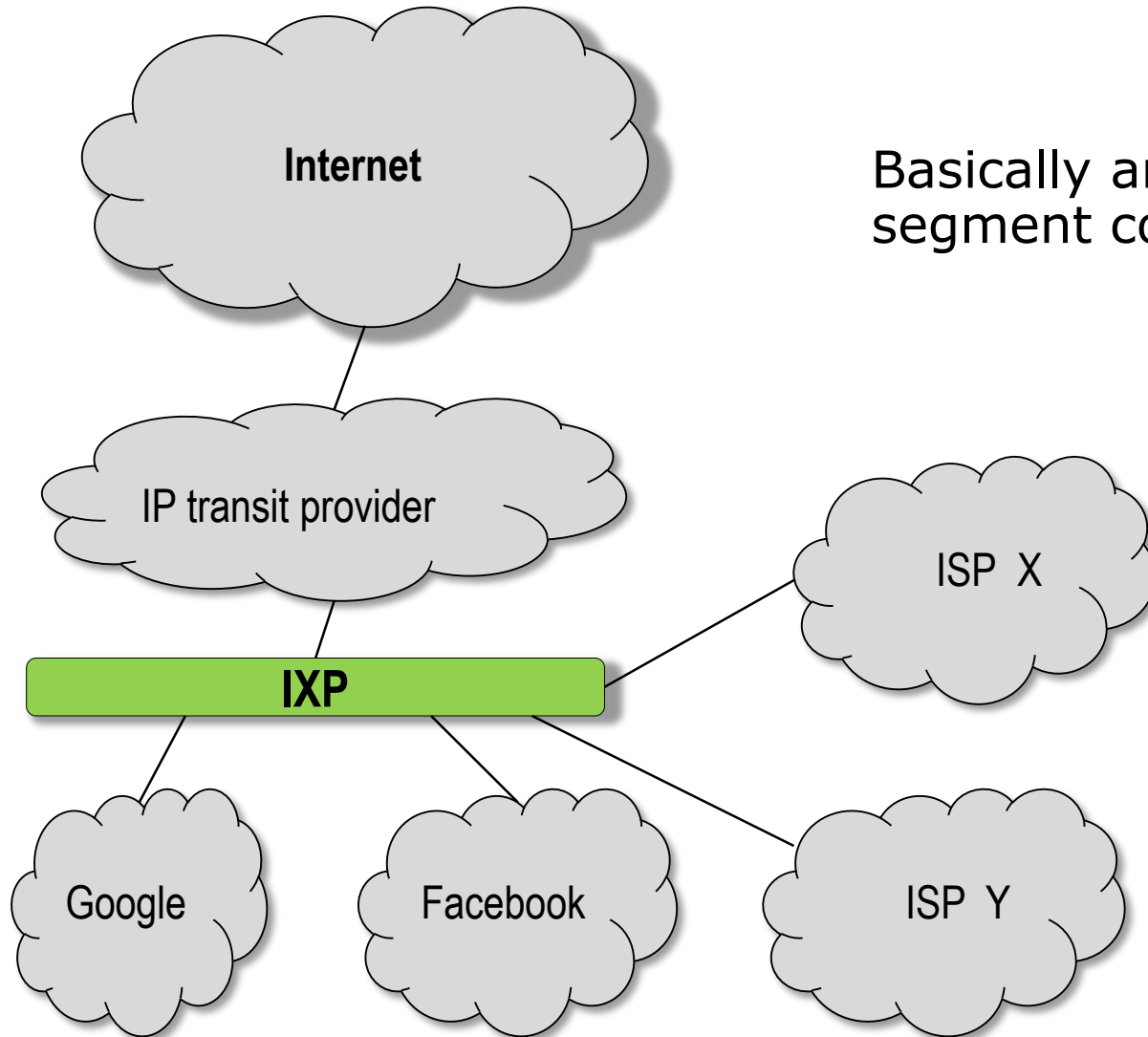PEs are the most critical point in a MPLS VPN. Never install a PE on customer premises (physical security)

Use all previous configurations for CE (except uRPF)

Deny access from CE on all IP addresses that are not necessary for CE operation;
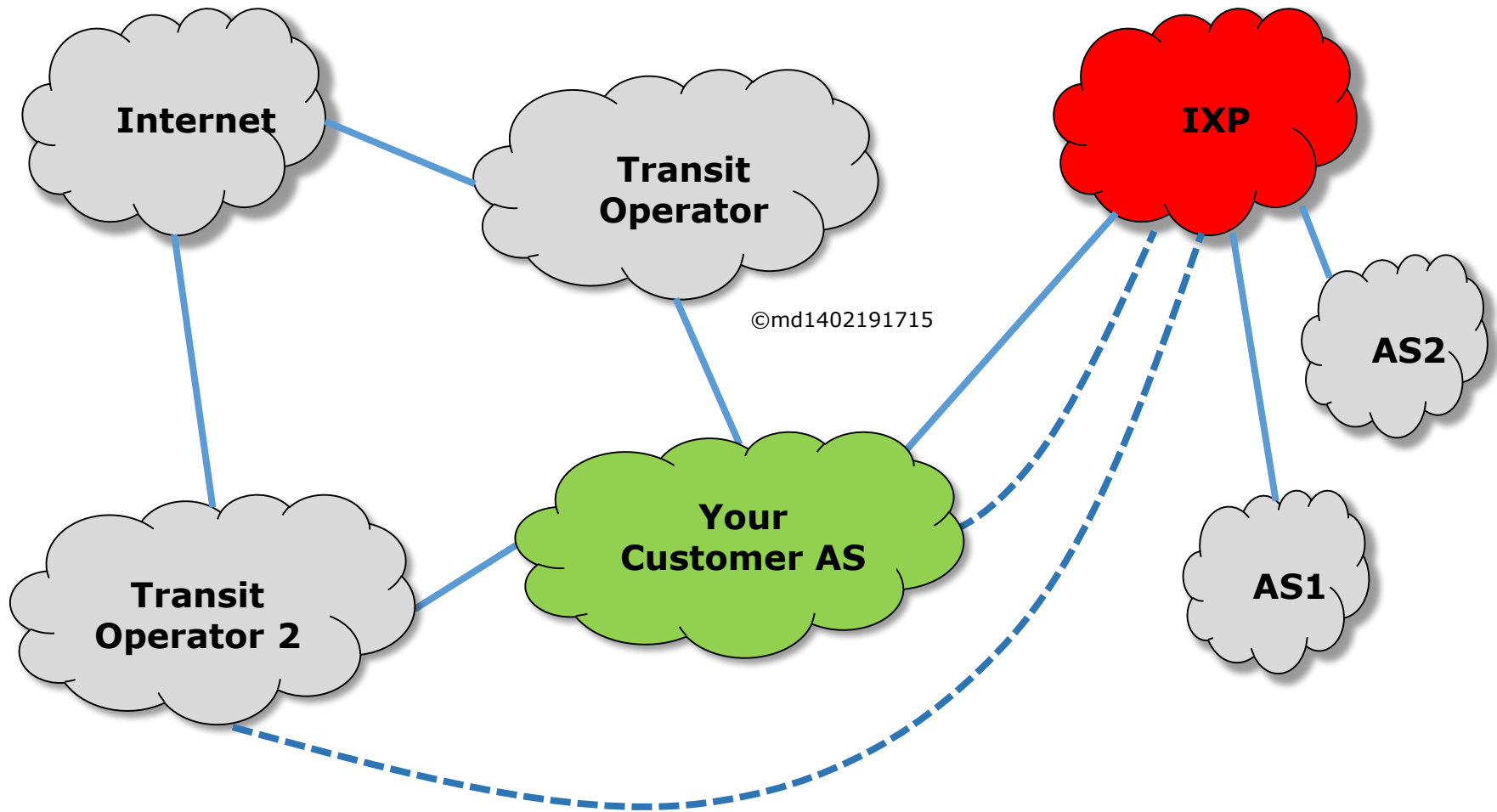
Topology Considerations
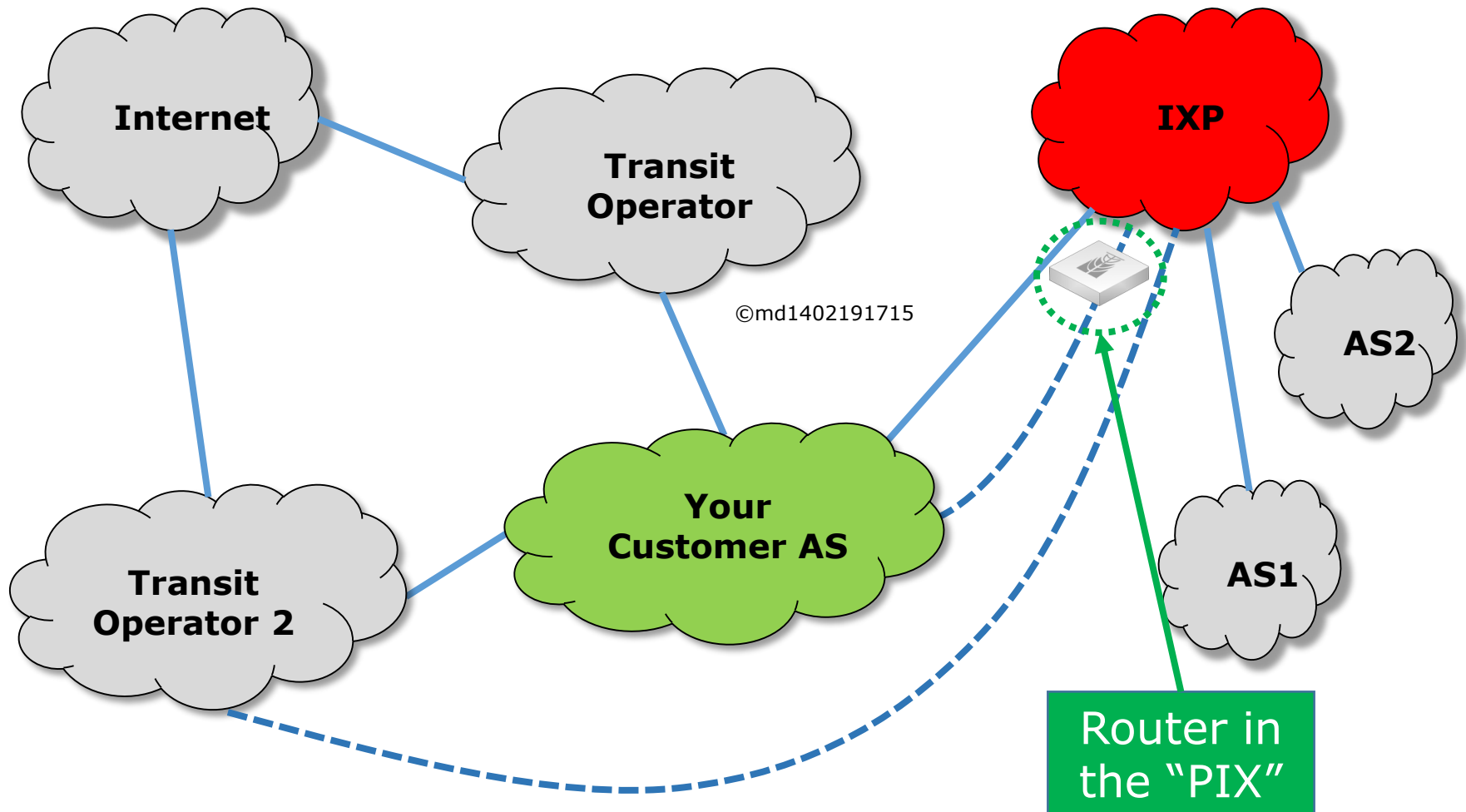
Topology considerations
(Layer 2 Connections)

Internet

IP transit provider

IXP

ISP X

Google

Facebook

ISP Y

Basically an IXP is a Layer2 segment connecting AS's

Topology considerations
(Layer 2 Connections)

Internet

Transit Operator

©md1402191715

IXP

AS2

Transit Operator 2

Your Customer AS

AS1

Router in the "PIX"

Topology Considerations (Internet Provisioning)

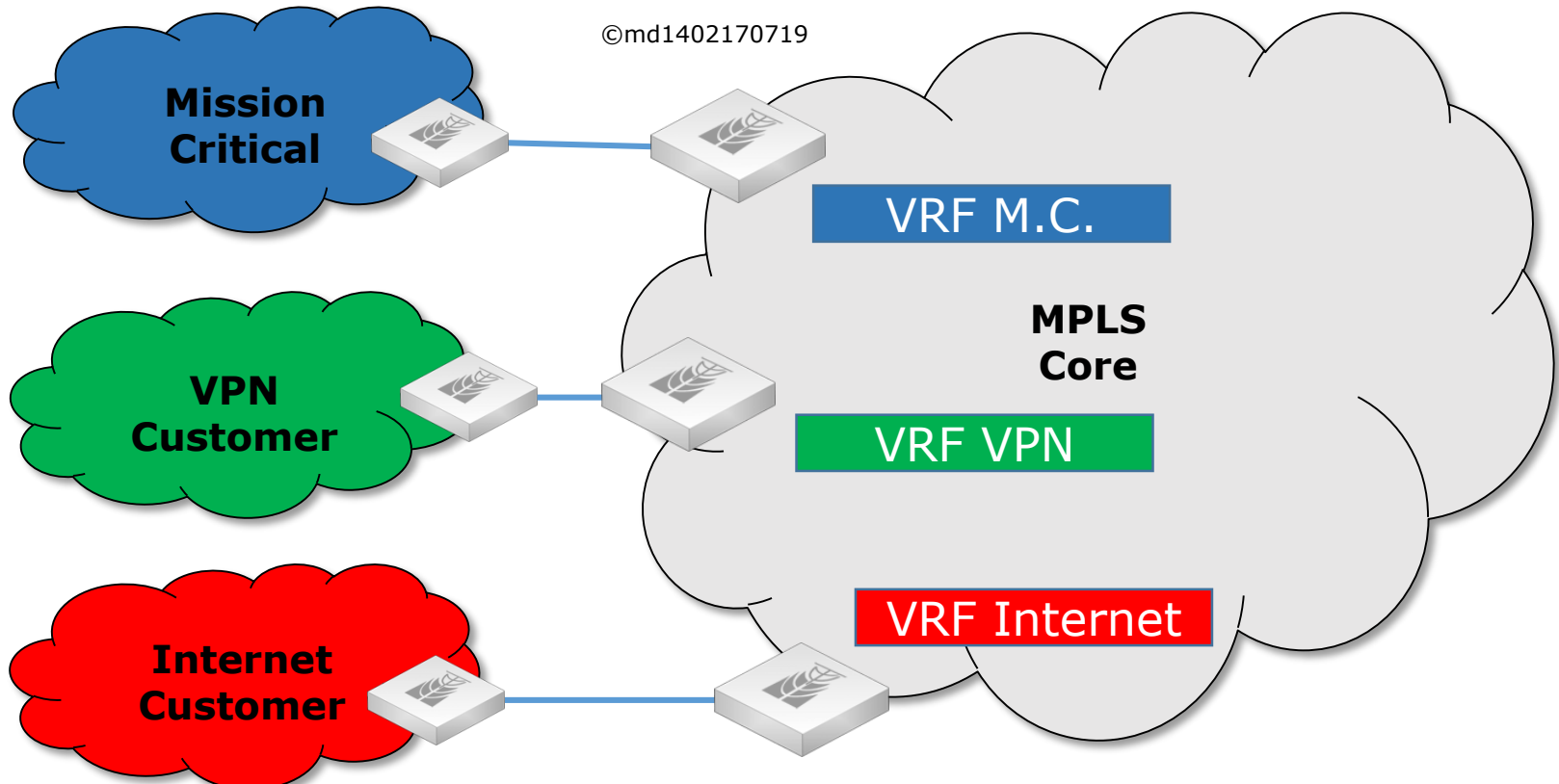PES have limited resources: CPU, memory and bandwidth;
DoS attacks from the Internet can jeopardize VPNs

Topology Considerations (Internet Provisioning)

BCP Recommendation:

→ PE Routers Should Contain Only VRFs of the Same Security Level.

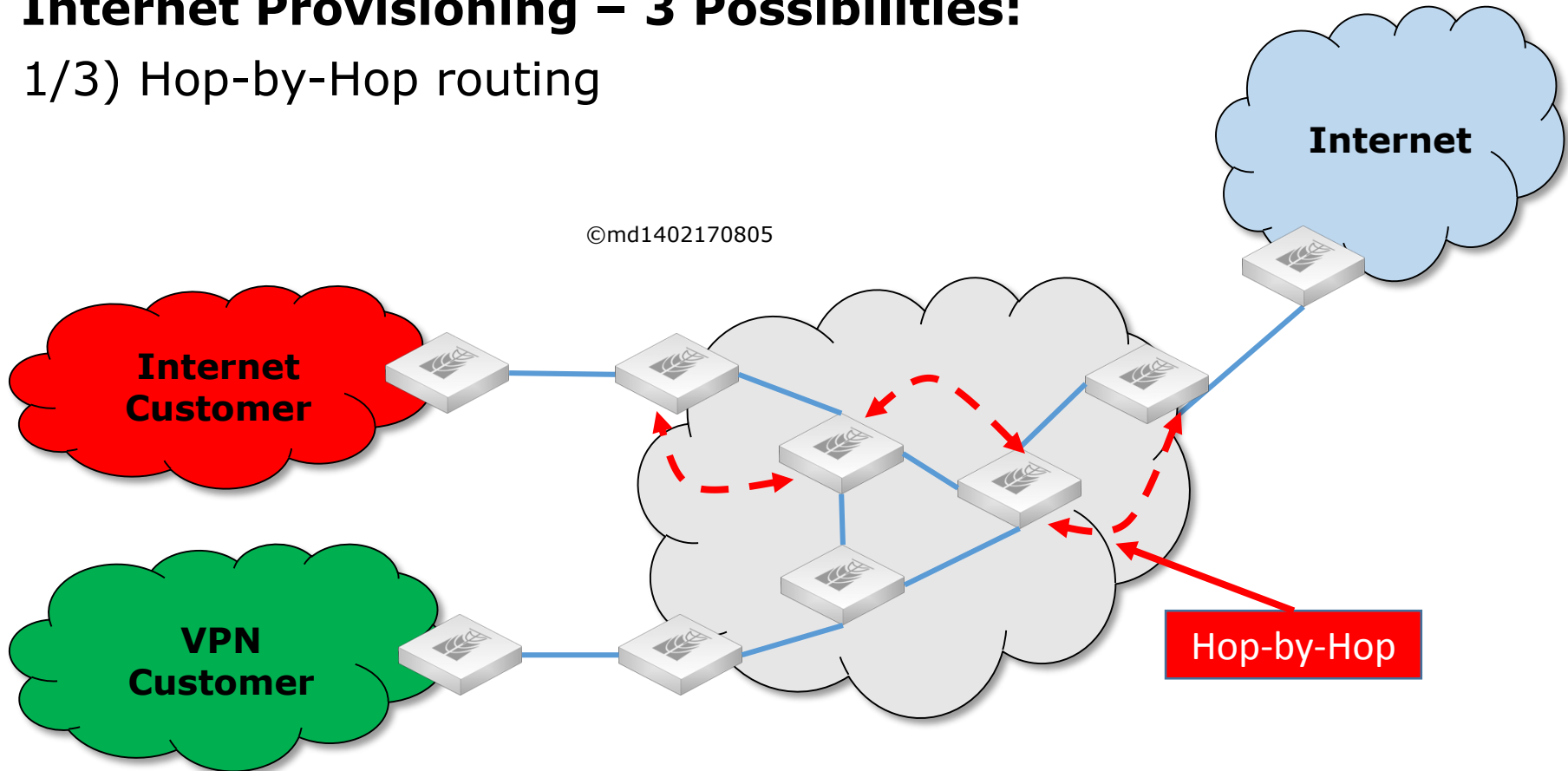

Internet Provisioning – 3 Possibilities:

1/3) Hop-by-Hop routing

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Internet

Internet Customer
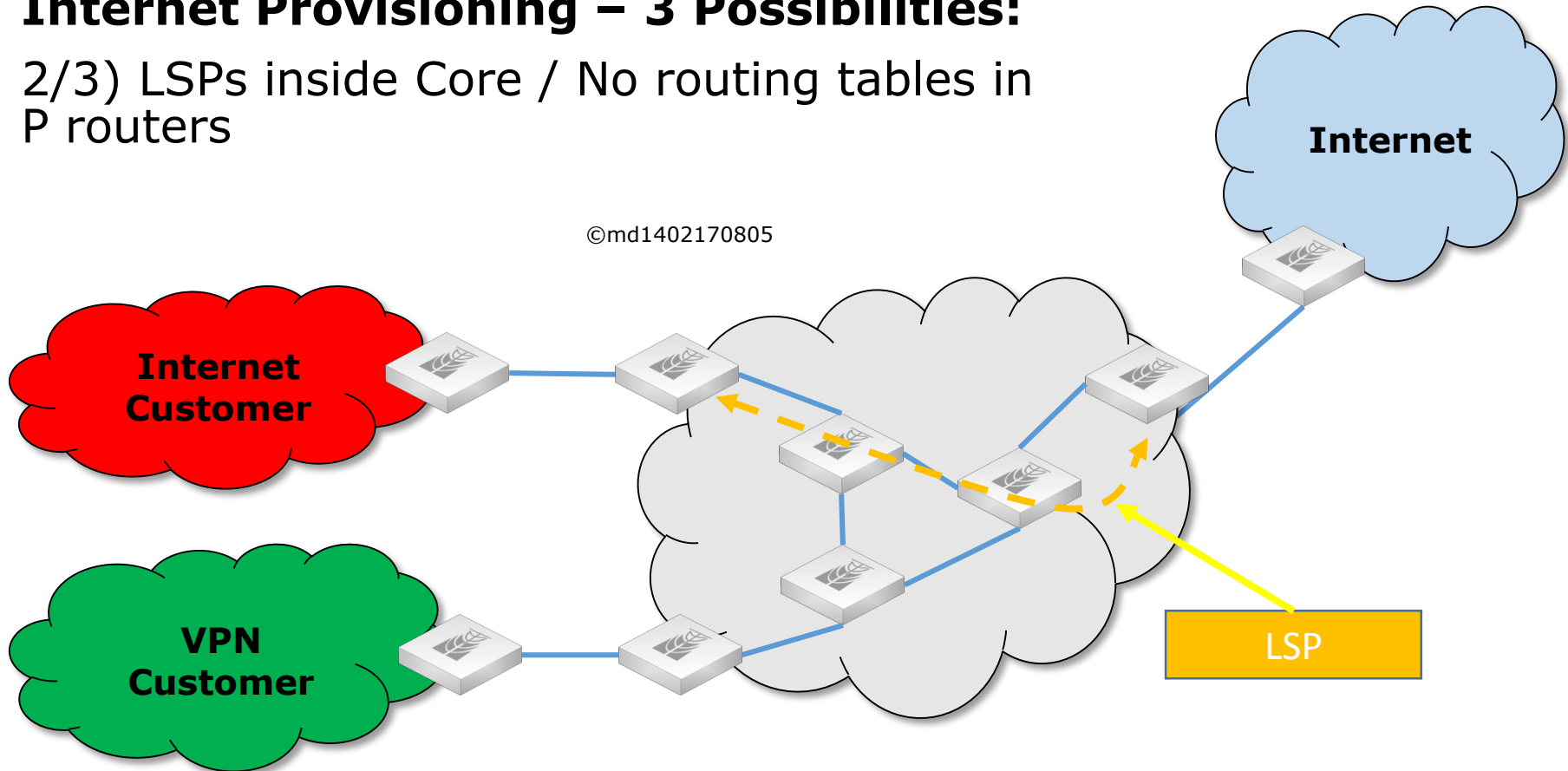
VPN Customer

Hop-by-Hop

→ Full access to Core from Internet!

Internet Provisioning – 3 Possibilities:

2/3) LSPs inside Core / No routing tables in
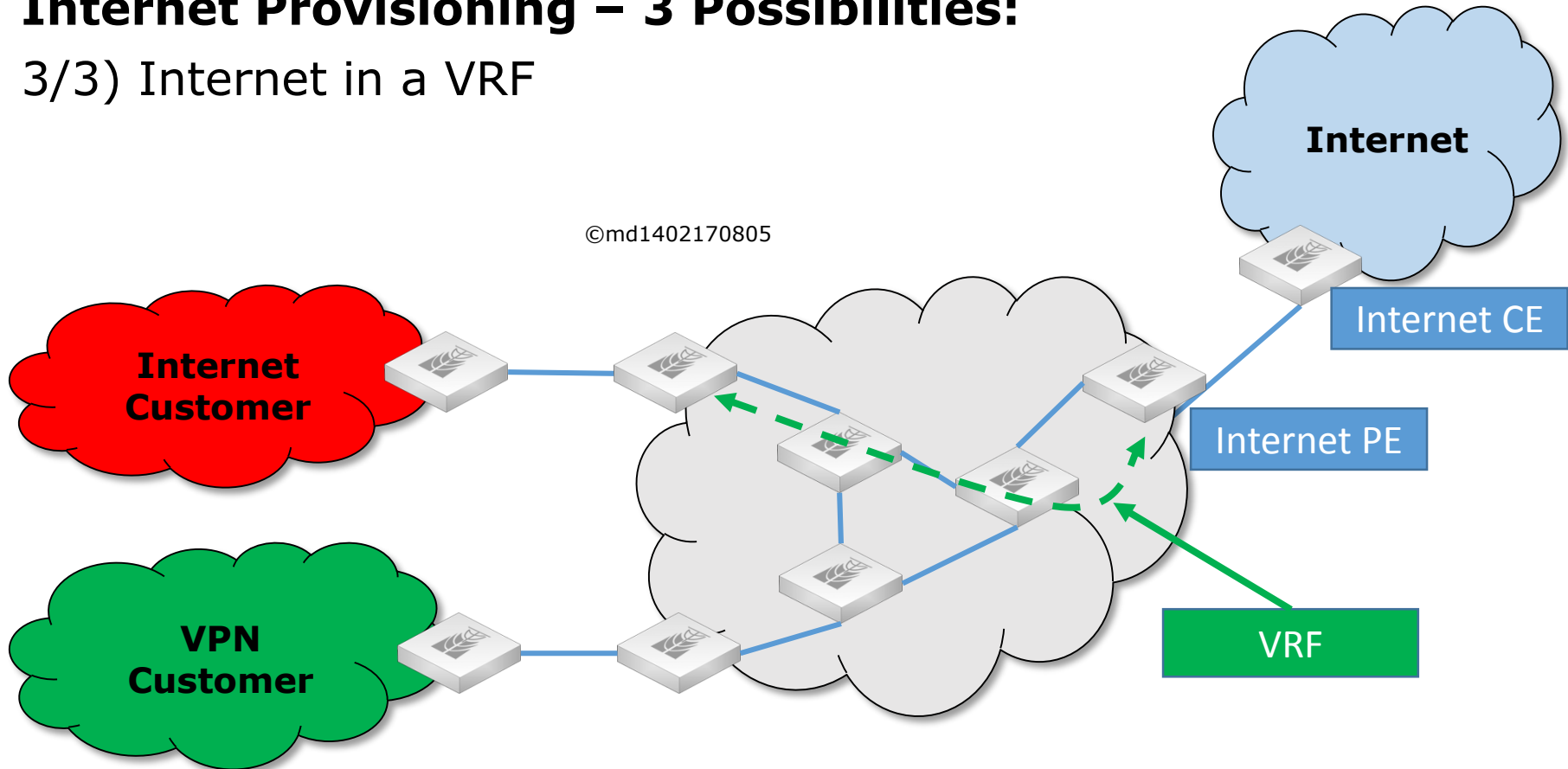P routers

©md1402170805

Internet

**Internet
Customer**

**VPN
Customer**

LSP

→ Full access to PEs / limited access to Ps from Internet

Internet Provisioning – 3 Possibilities:

3/3) Internet in a VRF

Internet

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Internet CE

Internet
Customer

Internet PE

VPN
Customer

VRF

→ No access to core from the Internet!

Securing VPNs with IPSec

Securing VPNs with IPSec

IPSec configurations is out of scope of this work, but is important to mention that

As a user you can prevent your own security using IPSec between devices near to CEs on both sides

As a provider you can make a more robust network using IPSec between PEs.

Agenda

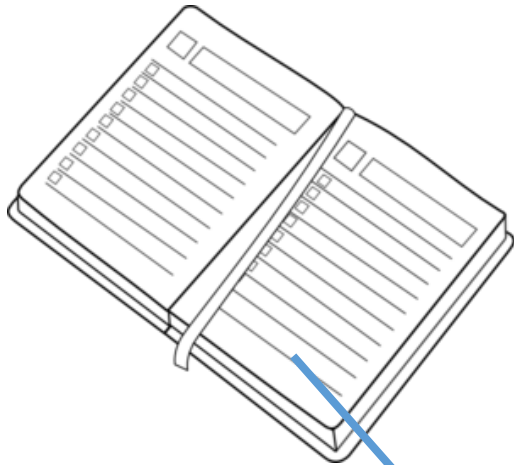Introduction and Motivations ✓

MPLS and VPNs Background ✓

Layer 2 and Layer 3 VPNs configurations ✓

A Working Scenario ✓

MPLS VPNs Threats / Hands on ✓

Defenses – Good practices and recommendations ✓
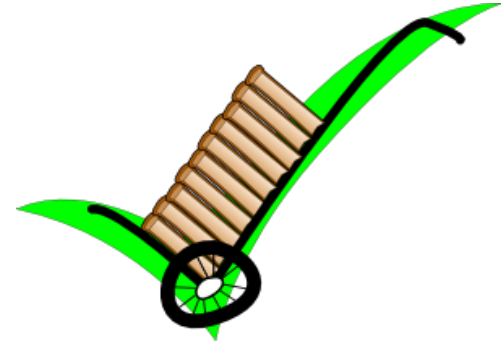
Conclusions and references

Conclusions

Considering:

- Multiple use of protocols, each one with its particular security issues;
- Diversity or Topologies;
- No intrinsic security for the framework;
- Physical location of equipment not always in real secure places;
- Possible operational issues

To secure MPLS VPNs is not a simple task. Only correct planning and strict operational processes will guarantee a acceptable level of security.

References

RFC 5920 - Security Framework for MPLS and GMPLS Networks
http://tools.ietf.org/search/rfc5920

RFC 2547 e RFC 2547bis – BGP/MPLS VPNs
http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2547.html

Security of the MPLS Architecture [MPLS] - Cisco Systems
http://migre.me/hYcet

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http://migre.me/hXXSC

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Behringer, Michael H. and Morrow, Monique J

An Introduction to the tool Loki – Blackhat 2010
Rene Graff, Daniel Mende, Enno Rey

Attacking Internet Backbone Technologies – Blackhat 2009
Rene Graff, Daniel Mende, Enno Rey

Tools:
Loki: http://c0decafe.de
Yersinia: http://www.yersinia.net
Scapy: http://www.secdev.org/projects/scapy/
Dsniff: http://www.monkey.org/~dugsong/dsniff/

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Grazie!