

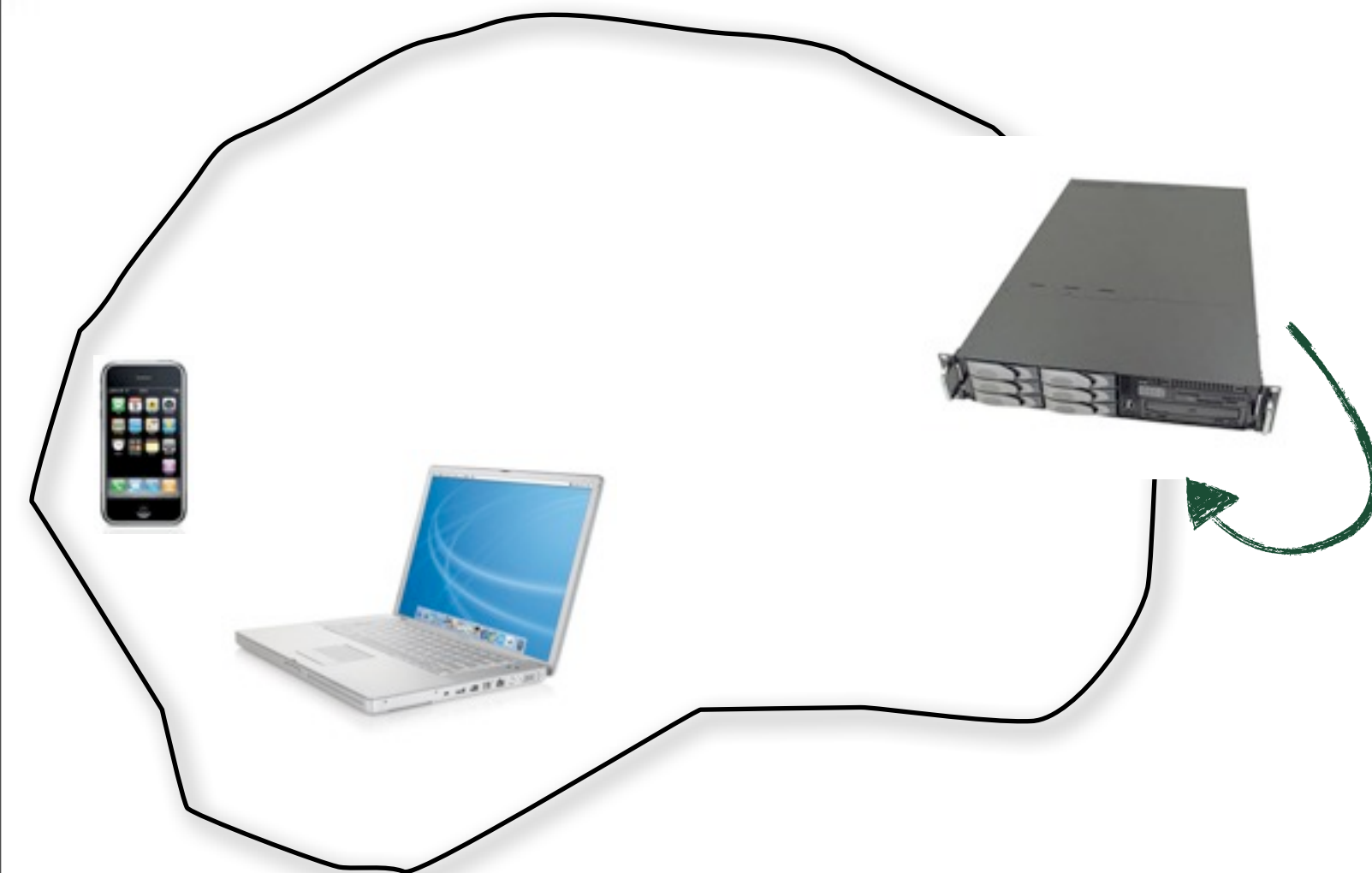
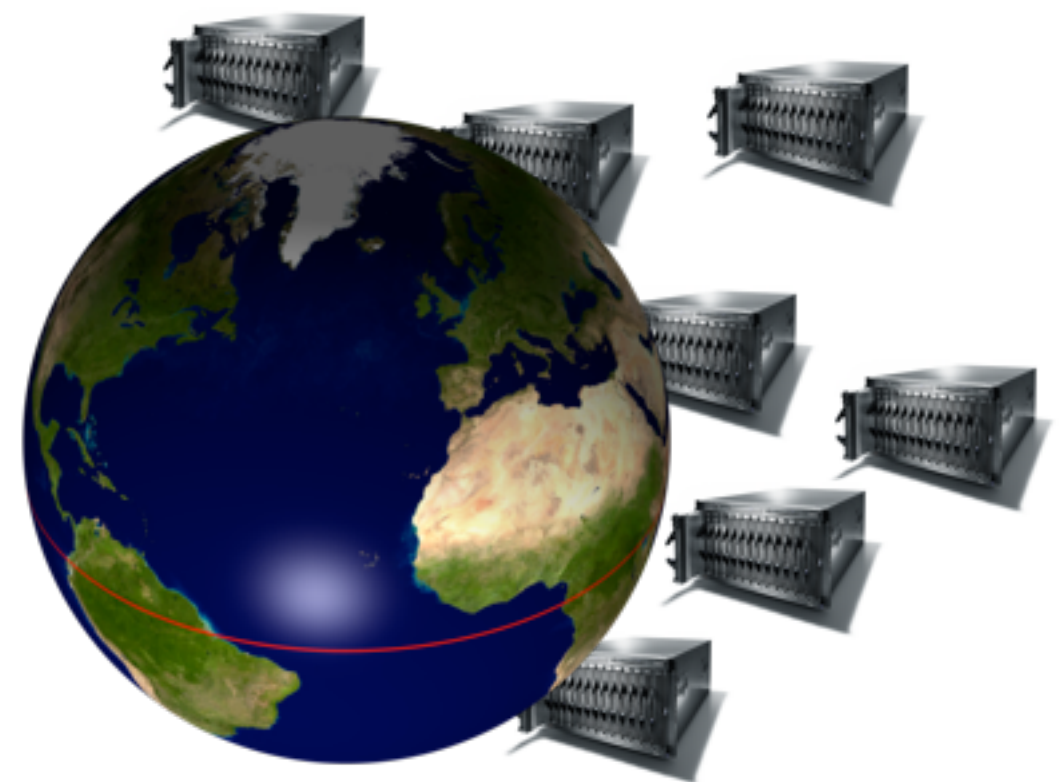
Introduction to DNS and its vulnerabilities

Olaf M. Kolkman
olaf@nlnetlabs.nl

A photograph showing four chestnuts on a light-colored surface. Three chestnuts are whole, displaying their characteristic smooth, brown, slightly textured outer shells. The fourth chestnut, located in the bottom left corner, is cut open lengthwise, revealing a smooth, light-brown, and glossy inner surface.

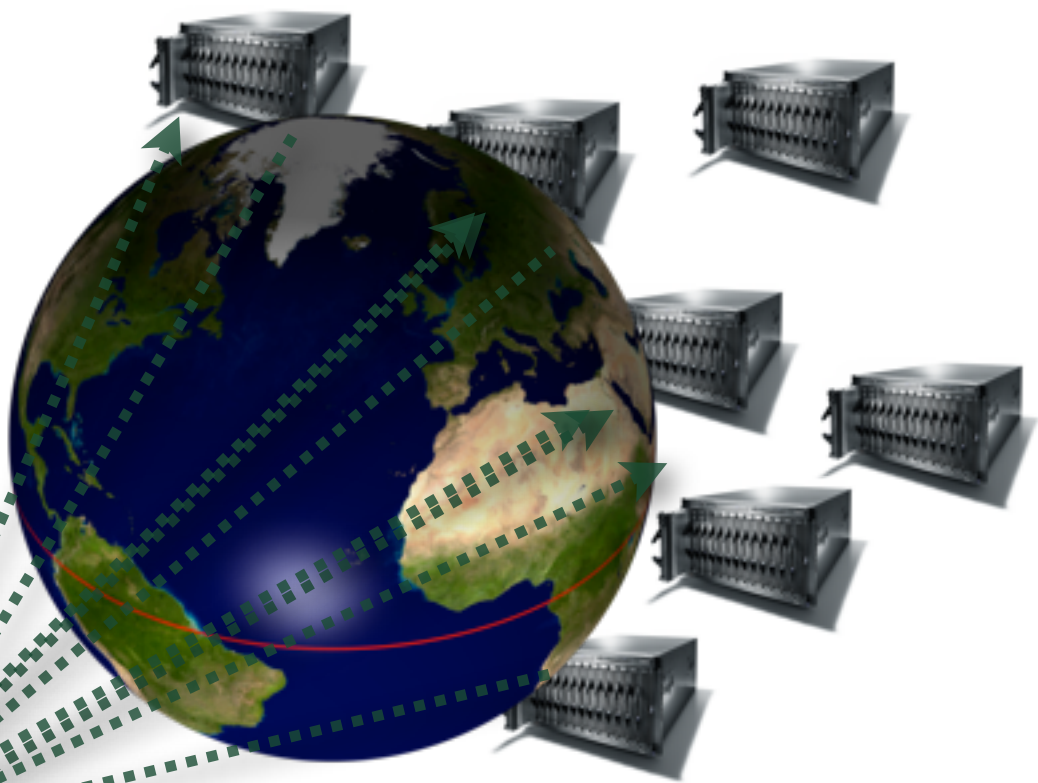
DNS and DNSSEC in a Nutshell





1010111001010111011001011001110010111101111
0011101011111111000111101101000111110111
1111101010001111010101001001001111101111
001010010111000001101000010000001000001
00001110111010011101001011101100001111
1000101101110010110100001000110010001
0001110100110110111000111111010111
0010101110100011001110001111010111
01011100100100110001011011011111
1001010011000111100001001100
00100101000111110010101011
1110001011110011010011011
1011011011110111101111
000101100101001010101
00011100100100101
111011011100110111
1100110000011111
0111110000
01010101

**Recursive Nameserver
Recurses over
Authoritative
nameservers**

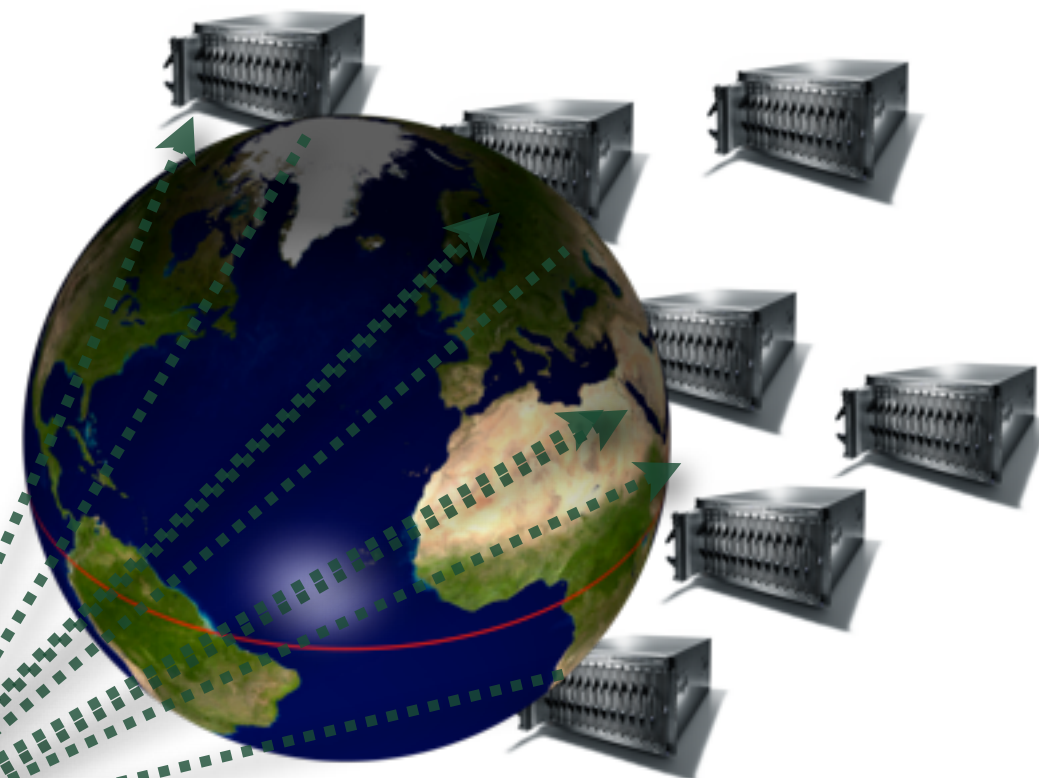


**Device queries
Recursive
Nameserver**

Results are cached

**The DNS is highly
distributive**

**Recursive Nameserver
resolves over
iterative
nameservers**



Results are cached

**Device queries
Recursive
Nameserver**



**The DNS is highly
distributive**

**Recursive Nameserver
resolves over
hierarchical
nameservers**



**DNS is implemented
through 100s of
thousands of
machines**

**Device queries
Recursive
Nameserver**



Authoritative Nameservers **ROOT**



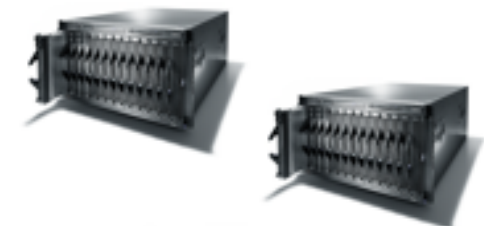
Stub Resolver



Recursive Nameservers



NL



NLnetLabs.NL

Authoritative Nameservers **ROOT**



Stub Resolver

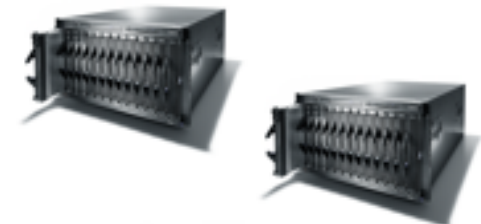
Recursive Nameservers



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NL



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101011100101011101100101100111001011101111
0011101011111111000111101101000111110111
111110101000111101010100100100111110111
00101001011100000110100001000000100000
00001110111010011101001011101100001111
1000101101110010110100001000110010000
0001110100110110111000111111010101
00101011101000110011100011110101
1010111001001001100010111011111
10010100110000111000001001100
11100010111100111010010101
10110110111011110111101111
00010110010100101001
00111001001001111100101010101
1110001011110011101001010101
1111110001

Stub Resolver



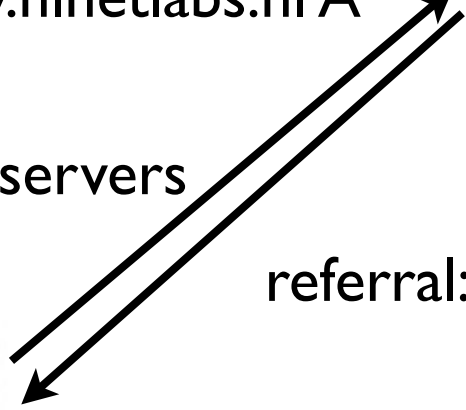
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Recursive Nameservers



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referral: nl NS

Authoritative Nameservers



ROOT

NL



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root.hints: location of the root servers

101011100101011101100101100111001011101111
0011101011111111000111101101000111110111
1111101010001111010101001001001111101111
001010010111000001101000010000001000001
00001110111010011101001011101100001111
10001011011100101101000010001100100001
0001110100110110111000111111010101
00101011101000110011100011110101
1001010011000111000001001100
111000101111001101001101
101101101110111101110111
00010110010100101001
00010110010100101001
111011110001

Stub Resolver



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Recursive Nameservers



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Authoritative Nameservers **ROOT**



referral: nl NS

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referral: nlnetlabs.nl NS

NL



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root.hints: location of the root servers

101011100101011101100101100111001011101111
0011101011111111000111101101000111110111
111110101000111101010100100100111110111
0010100101110000111010000100000100001
0000111011101001110100101110110000111
1000101101110010110100001000110010001
0001110100110110111000111111010111
00101011101000110011100011110111
101011001001001100010111011111
1001010011000111100001001100
111000101111001110100111
10110110111011110111
00010110010100101001
00010110010100101001
11011110001

Stub Resolver

Recursive Nameservers

Authoritative Nameservers **ROOT**

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referral: nl NS

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referral: nlnetlabs.nl NS

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root.hints: location of the root servers

101011100101011101100101100111001011101111
0011101011111111000111101101000111110111
111110101000111101010100100100111110111
00101001011100000110100001000001000001
0000111011101001110100101101100001111
1000101101110010110100001000110010000
00011101001101101100011111101010
00101011101000110011100011110101
1001010011000111000001001100
11100010111100110100101
10110110111011110111
00010110010100101001
00010110010100101001

Stub Resolver



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Recursive Nameservers



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Authoritative Nameservers **ROOT**



referral: nl NS

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referral: nlnetlabs.nl NS

NL



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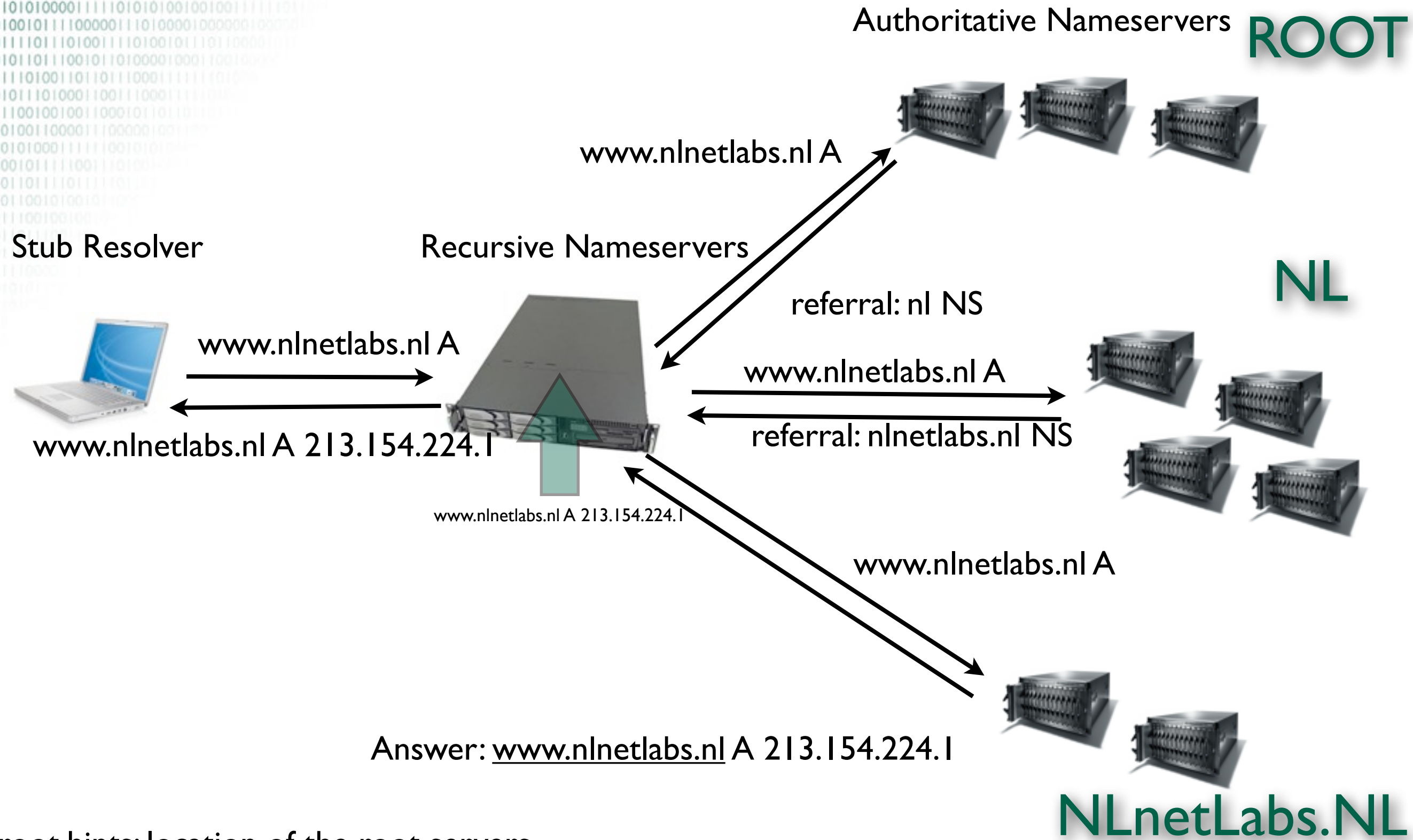
Answer: www.nlnetlabs.nl A 213.154.224.1

NLnetLabs.NL



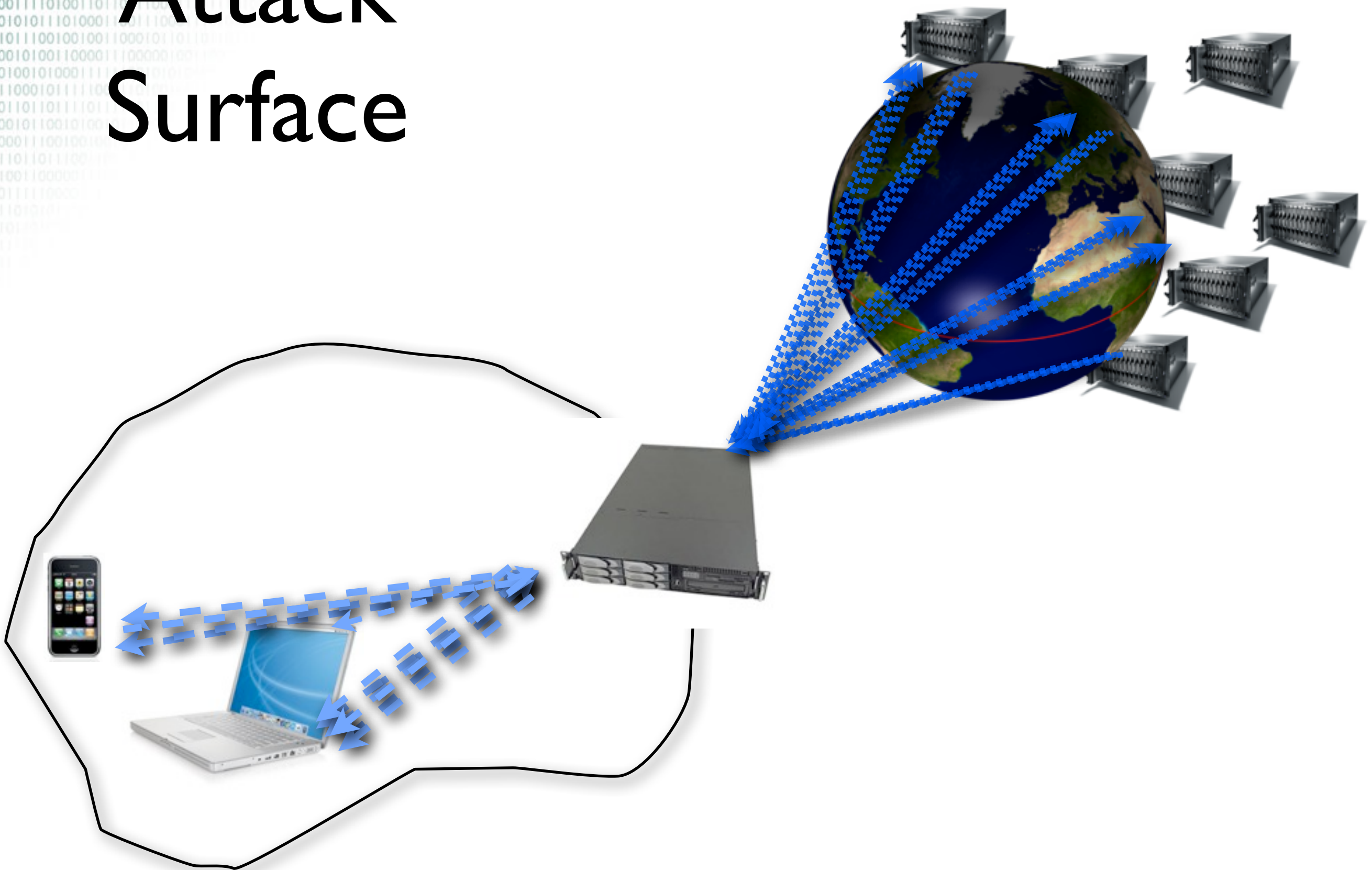
root.hints: location of the root servers

10101110010101110110010110011100101110111
0011101011111111000111101101000111110111
111110101000111101010100100100111110111
001010010111000011101000100000100001
0000111011101001110100101110110000111
100010110111001011010000100011001000
000111010011011011100011111101010
001010111010001100111000111101010
100101001100011100001001100
1110001011110011101001010
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11100101000111110010101001

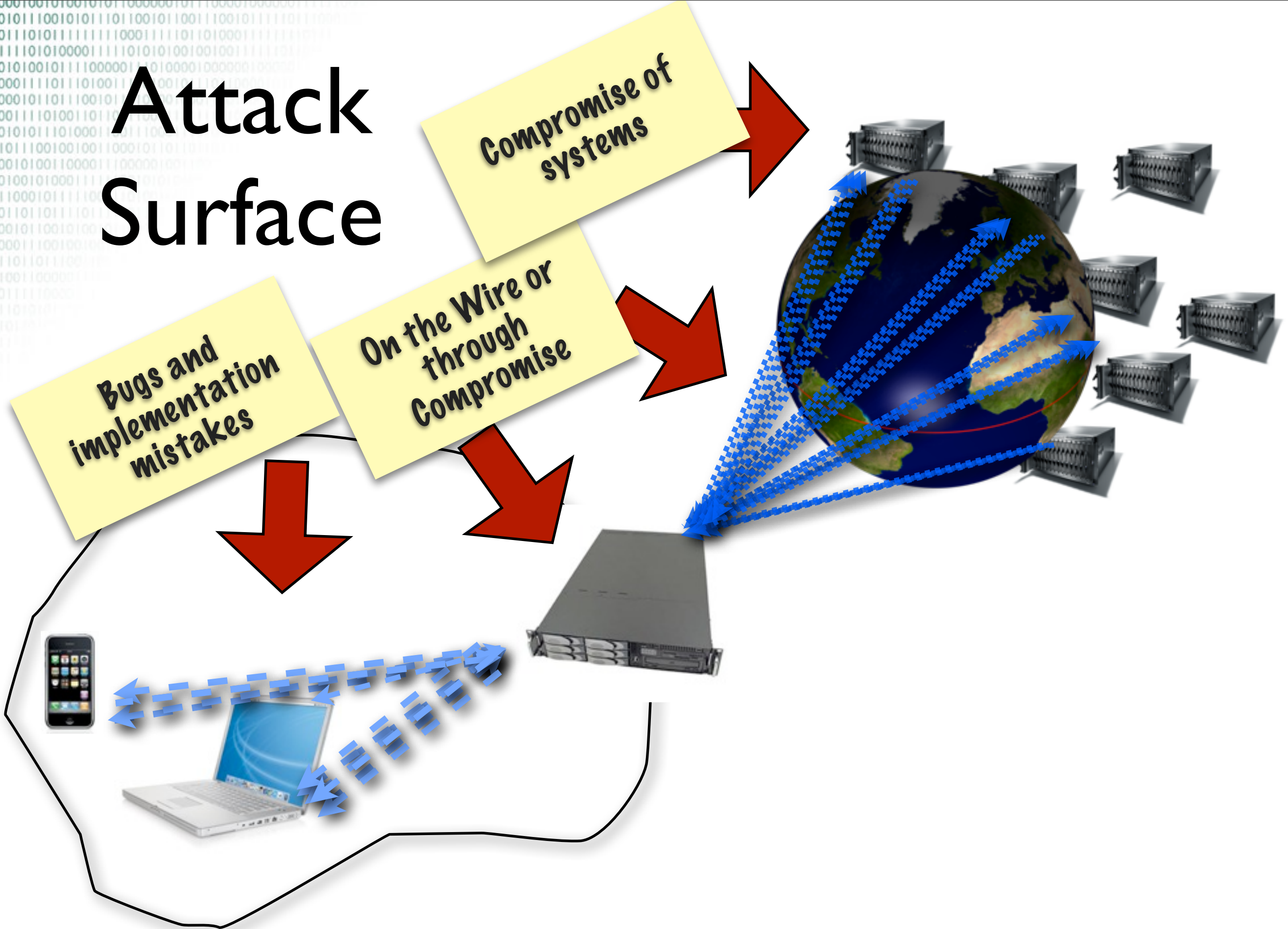


root.hints: location of the root servers

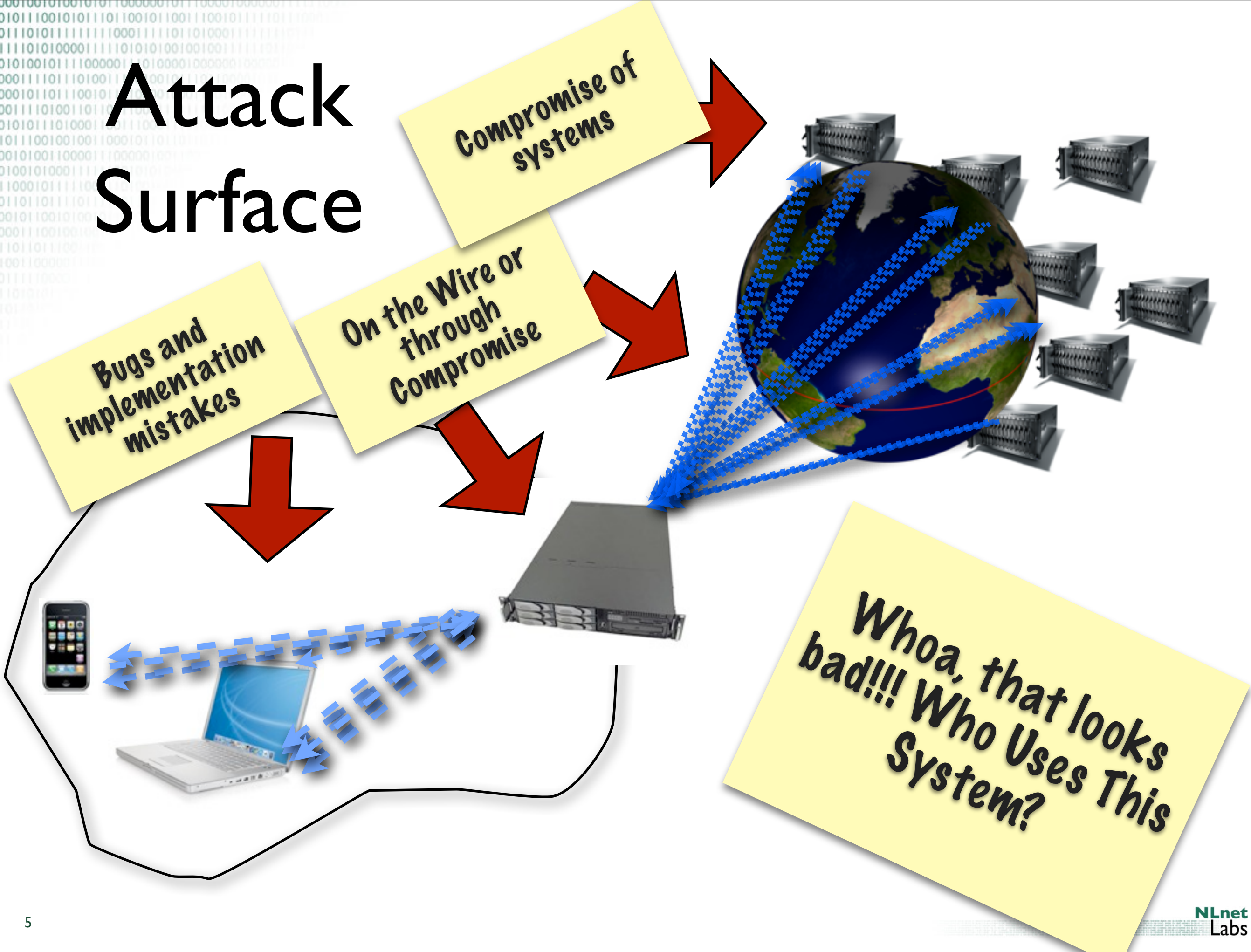
Attack Surface



Attack Surface



Attack Surface



enterprise

Recursive DNS

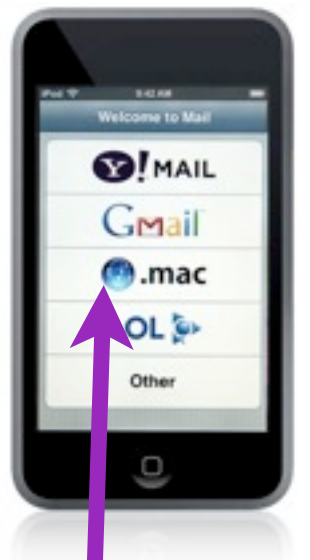


Mail server

Internet

enterprise

Recursive DNS



Mail server



Mail server

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NLnet
Labs

enterprise

Recursive DNS



Mail server

Internet

enterprise

Recursive DNS



Internet



Mail server

<http://www.nlnetlabs.nl/>
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enterprise



Recursive DNS



Mail server



Mail server

Internet



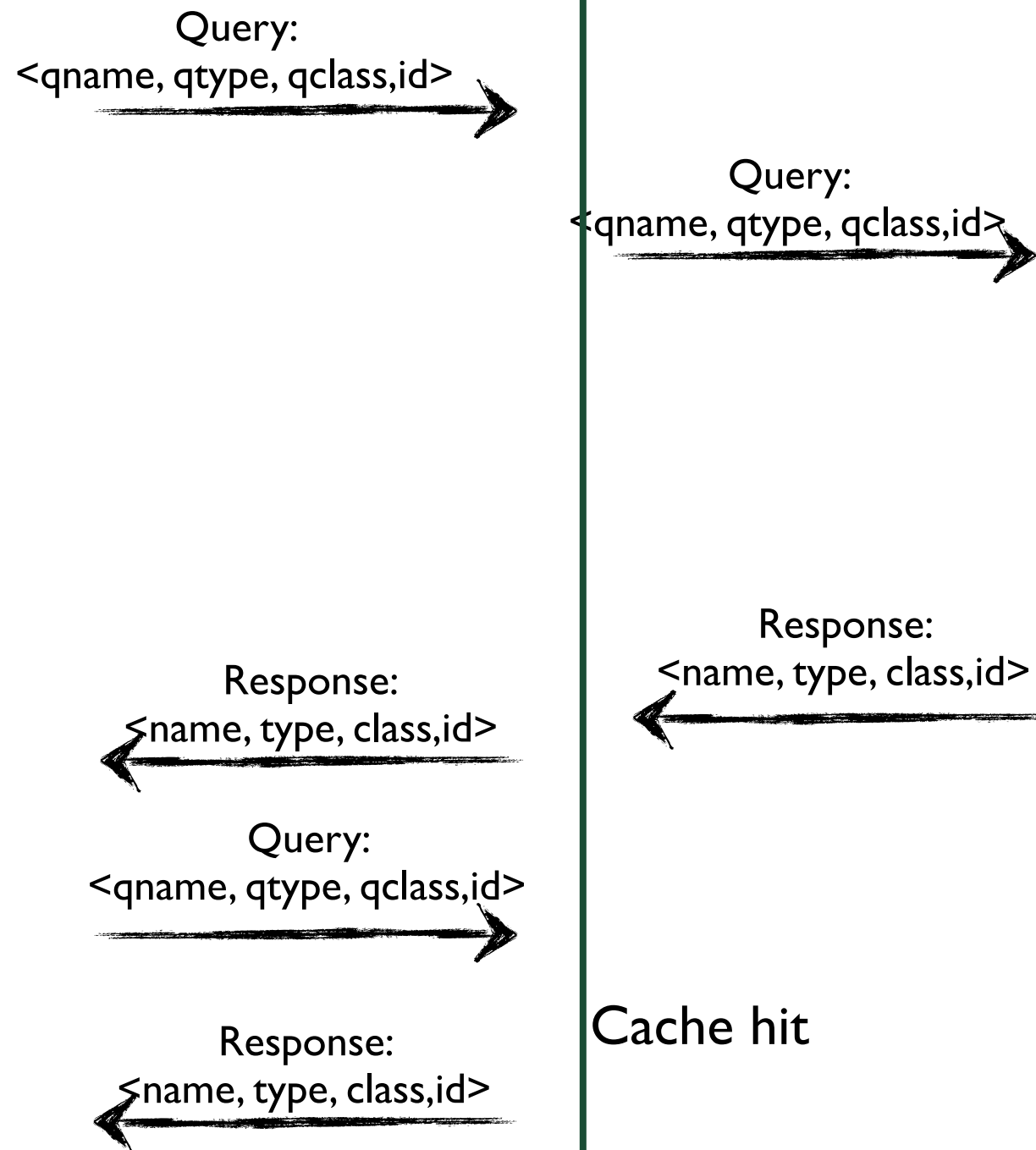
Labs

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Atacker



Cache hit

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Attacker

Query:
<qname, qtype, qclass,id>

Query:
<qname, qtype, qclass,id>

Response:
<name, type, class,id>

Response:
<name, type, class,id>

Response:
<name, type, class,id>

Query:
<qname, qtype, qclass,id>

Response:
<name, type, class,id>

Cache hit

Success depends on
legacy and speed of
network.

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Attacker

And on various
properties that the
attacker needs to
match

Query:
qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Query:
<qname, qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Cache hit

Success depends on
legacy and speed of
network.

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Attacker

And on various
properties that the
attacker needs to
match

Query ID

Query:
<qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Query:
<qname, qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Cache hit

Success depends on
legacy and speed of
network.

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Attacker

And on various
properties that the
attacker needs to
match

Query ID

Source Port

Query:
<qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Query:
<qname, qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Cache hit

Success depends on
legacy and speed of
network.

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Attacker

And on various
properties that the
attacker needs to
match

Query ID

Source Port

0X20

Query:
qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

<qname, qtype, qclass, id>

Response:
<name, type, class, id>

Cache hit

Success depends on
legacy and speed of
network.

TTL saves you?!?
I don't think so....



Dan Kaminsky's image from zdnet.com

**Security
Popstar**

STUB
Resolver

Recursive
Nameserver

Authoritative
Nameserver

Attacker

Query:
asdf23sadf.webcam.com

Query:
asdf23sadf.webcam.com

Response:
webcam.com NS ns1.webcam.com
ns1.webcam.com A 10.6.6.6

Try
Delegations

Response:
asdf23sadf.webcam.com

Query:
www.webcam.com

Response:
www.webcam.com

Query to 10.6.6.6
asdf23sadf.webcam.com

Query to 10.6.6.6
www.webcam.com

Abuse a 25 year
old protocol
requirement

**Do attacks
happen in
practice?**

Would you notice?

**Would you
tell?**



**Do attacks
happen in
practice?**

**Why would one
attack the DNS?**

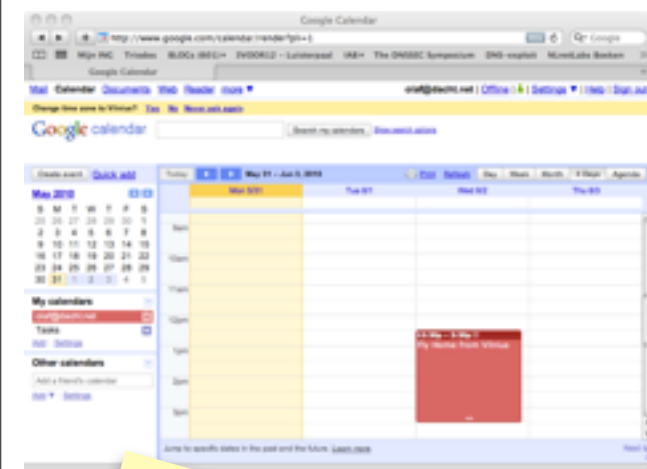
**While one could be
doing other things**

***How to
Protect?***

Why would one
attack the DNS?

Short-selling
your stock

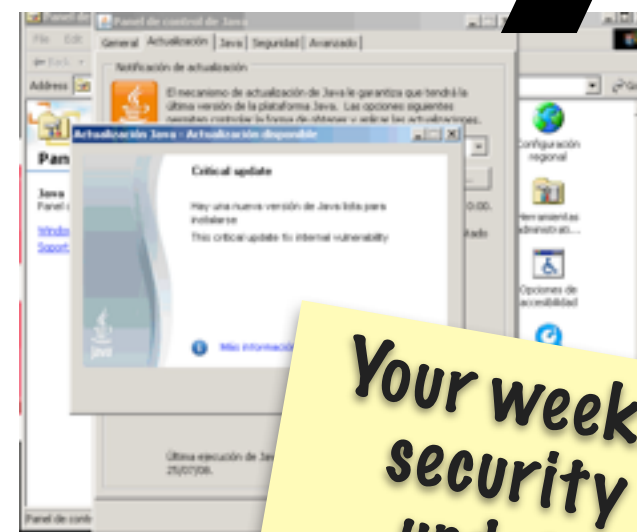
Follow the Money



Organizing your
life



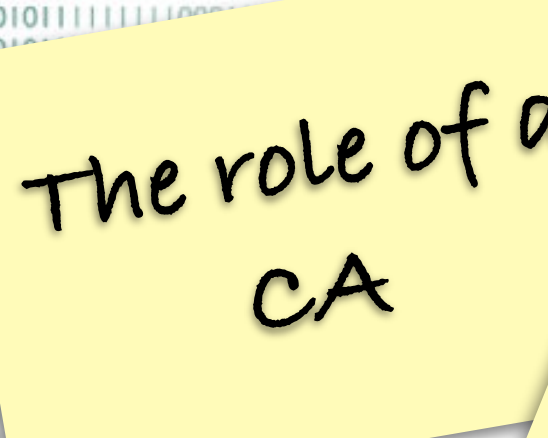
Paying
your Tax



Your weekly
security
update

Money

**Don't all these
transactions use
SSL and
Certificates?**



The role of a
CA

a

3rd party
trust broker



The role of a
CA

3rd party
trust broker

Subject
Requests



The role of a
CA

3rd party
trust broker

Subject
Requests

RA performs
checks



The role of a
CA

3rd party
trust broker

Subject
Requests

RA performs
checks

RA tells CA
to sign



The role of a
CA

3rd party
trust broker

Subject
Requests

RA performs
checks

RA tells CA
to sign

Browser trusts
CA signed
certificates



The role of a
CA

3rd party
trust broker

Subject
Requests

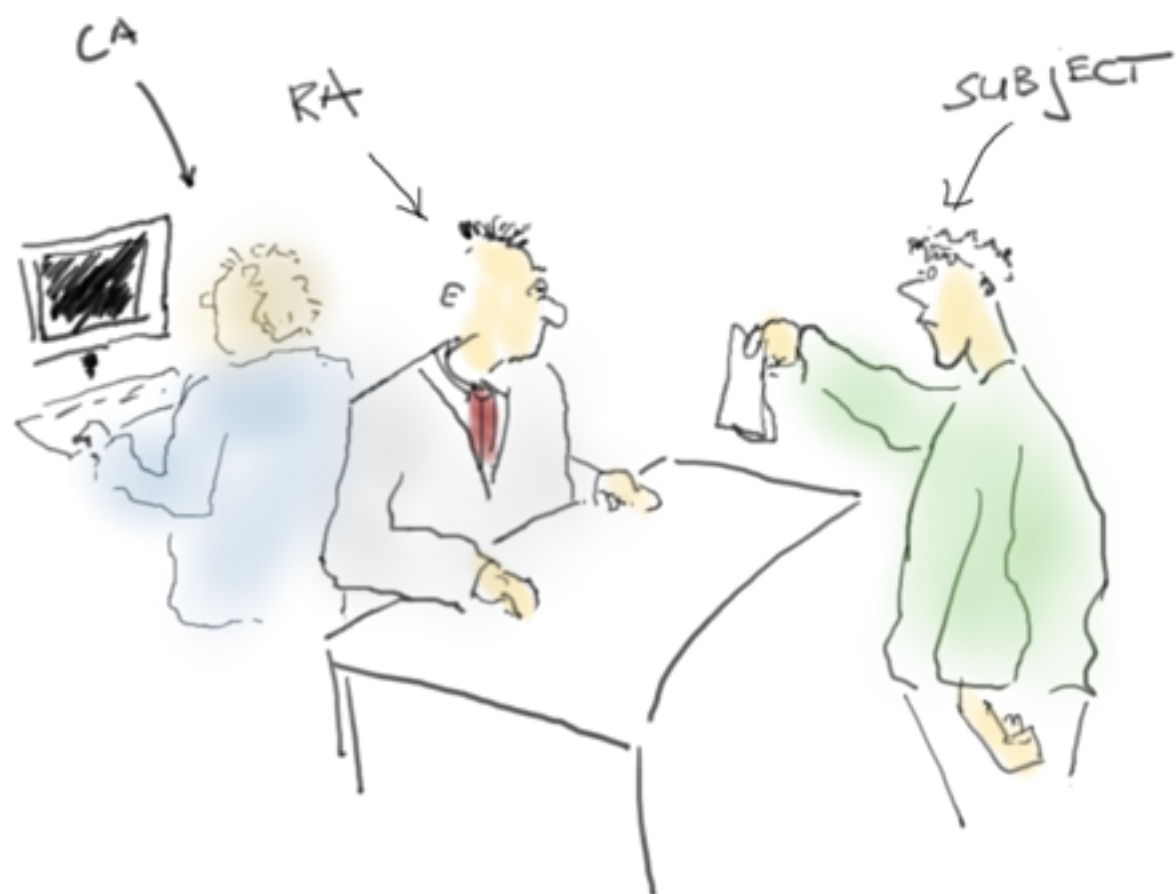
RA performs
checks

RA tells CA
to sign

Browser trusts
CA signed
certificates



EV
Extended
validation



However all these
little men are a wee
bit expensive

However all these
little men are a wee
bit expensive



A hand-drawn sketch of a man in a green shirt, looking surprised or shouting, with an arrow pointing to his head labeled 'SUBJECT'. The man has a large nose, wide eyes, and an open mouth. He is holding a small white object in his right hand. The word 'SUBJECT' is written in capital letters above him, with an arrow pointing down to his head.

AUTOMATE THE LOT

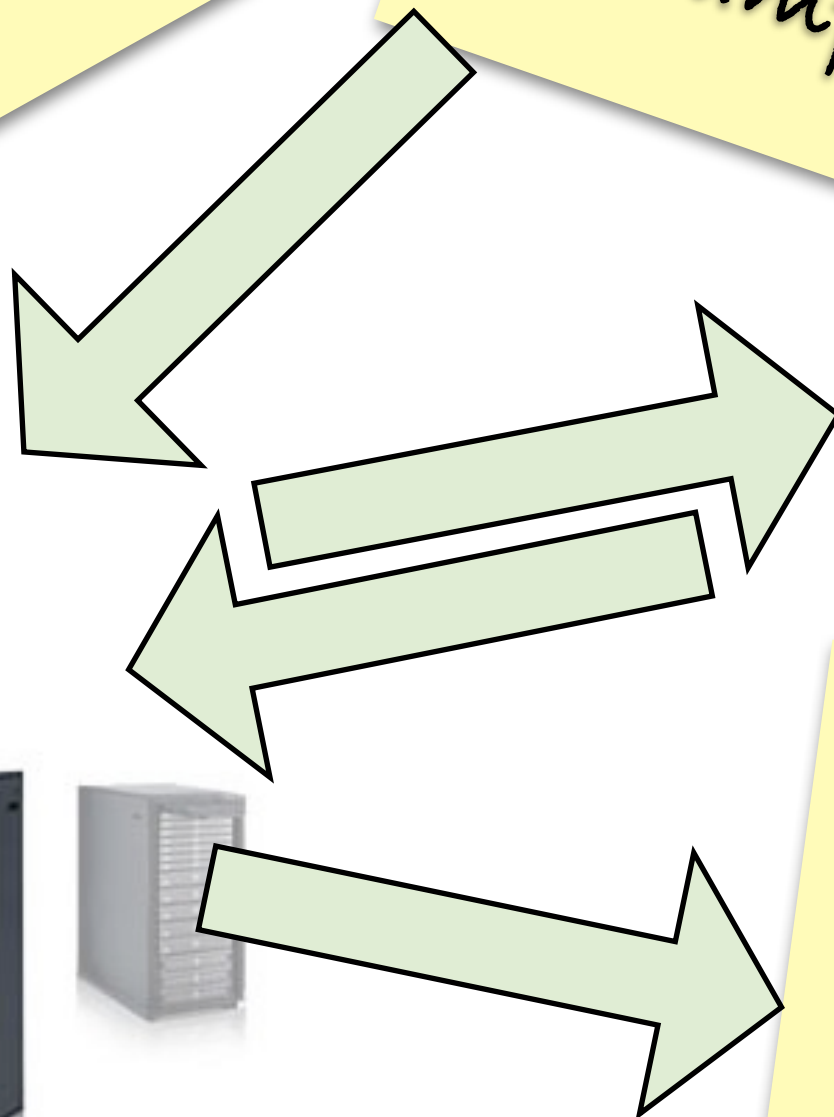
1010111001010111011001011001
001110101111111100011111
11111010100001111010
0010100101110000
000011101110
100010110
000111
00

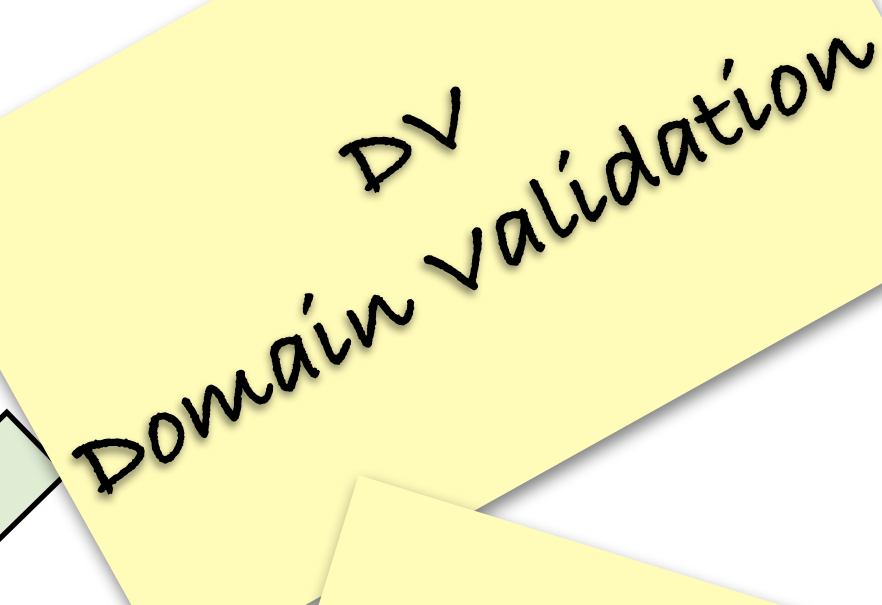
DV
Domain validation

Subject: Please
sign certificate for
Example.com

RA sends a mail to
well known address
@example.com

When mail
returned CA will
sign





DV
Domain validation

All these checks are based on information fetched from the DNS

Hold that thought
for Jakob's presentation



Provisioning
Vulnerabilities

DNS System
Vulnerabilities

Registrars
& Registrants

Server vulnerability

Man in the Middle

Secondary
DNS

primary
DNS

Registry

Secondary
DNS

spoofing
&
Man in the
Middle

What can one do to
protect...
(skipping DNSSEC)

Taking Unbound as example

Other servers might make other choices, but any modern resolver takes similar approaches

~~Unbound~~



Security Choices in Unbound

- In general, a modern paranoid resolver
- DNSSEC support.
- RFC 2181 support completely
 - Fine grained. Keeps track of where RRSets came from and won't upgrade them into answers.
 - Does not allow RRSets to be overridden by lower level rrsets

Filtering

- Scrubber:
- Only in-bailiwick data is accepted in the answer
- The answer section must contain only answer
- CNAME, DNAME checked that chain is correct
 - CNAME cut off and only the first CNAME kept
 - Lookup rest yourself do not trust other server
 - DNAME synthesize CNAME by unbound do not trust other server. Also cut off like above.
- DNAME from cache only used if DNSSEC-secure.

Filtering II

- No address records in authority, additional section unless relevant – i.e. mentioned in a NS record in the authority section.
- Irrelevant data is removed
 - When the message only had preliminary parsing and has not yet been copied to the working region of memory

Entropy

- Randomness protects against spoof
 - Arc4random() (OpenBSD): crypto strong.
May not be perfectly random, but predicting it is a cryptographical breakin.
 - Real entropy from OS as seed
- Query id – all 16 bits used.
- Port randomisation – uses all 16bits there, goes out of its way to make sure every query gets a fresh port number

Entropy II

- Destination address, and ipv4/ipv6. RTT band of 400msec (=everything).
- Its not the timewindow but the randomness
- Query aggregation – same queries are not sent out – unless by different threads
- Qname strict match checked in reply
- 0x20 option
- Harden-referral-path (my draft) option
- Can use multiple source interfaces!
 - 4 outgoing IP address add +2 bits



Other measures

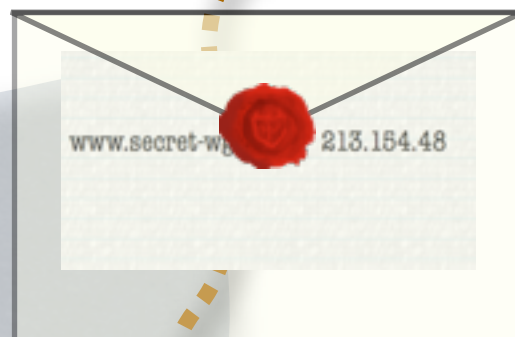
- Not for the wire itself
 - Heap function pointer protection (whitelisted)
 - Chroot() by default
 - User privileges are dropped (lots of code!)
 - ACL for recursion
 - No detection of attacks – assume always under attack
 - version.bind hostname.bind can be blocked or configured what to return (version hiding)
 - Disprefer recursion lame servers – they have a cache that can be poisoned

Arms Race...

Introducing
DNSSEC

End to End Security

Registrars
& Registrants



Secondary
DNS



primary
DNS



Registry



Secondary
DNS



DNSKEY:
public key from
the keypair

RRSIG: Signatures
made with a private
key from the keypair

All done using
Public Key crypto

NSEC and NSEC3
For pre-calculated
Denial of Existence

DS
For delegating
Security

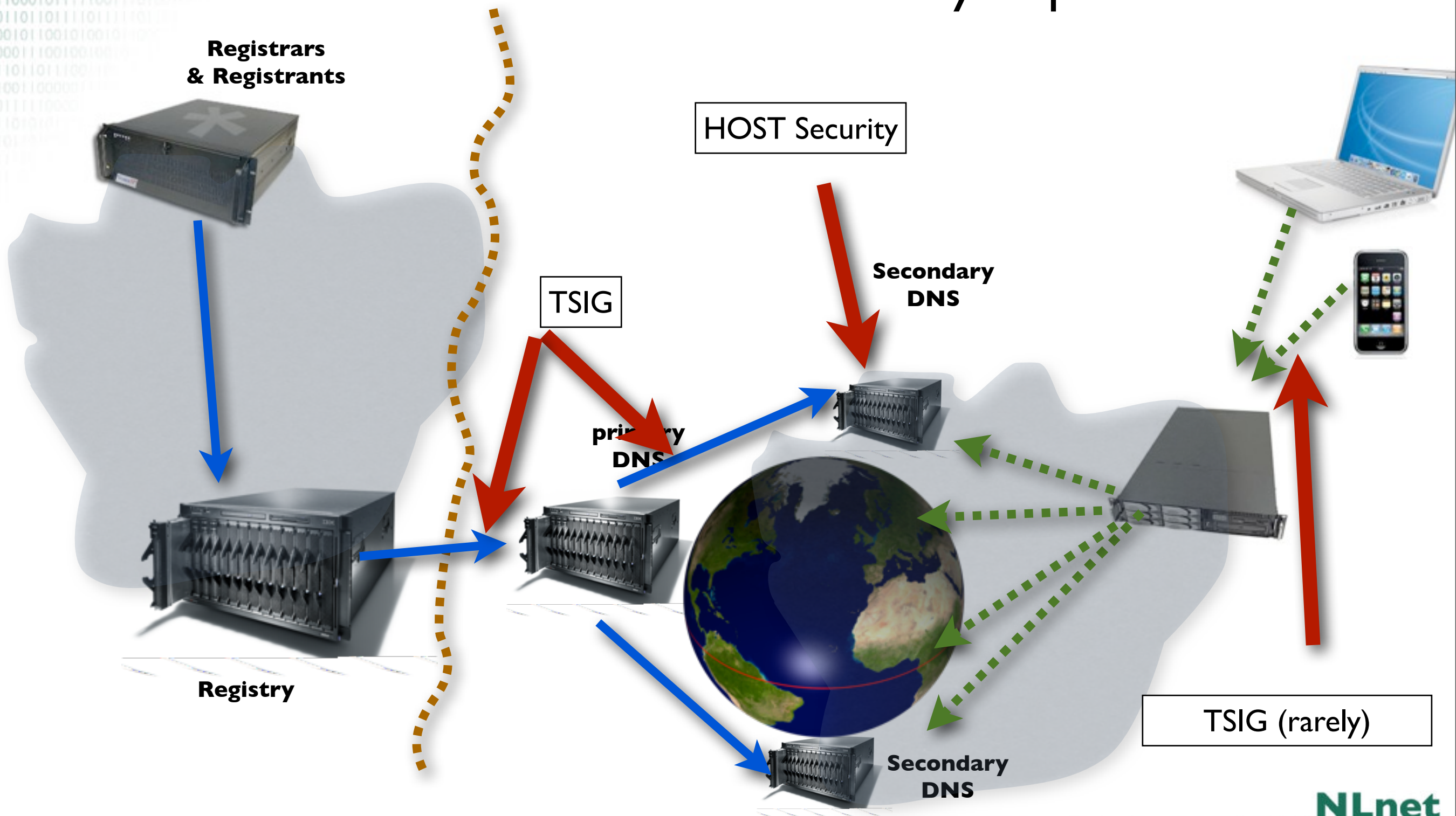
But more on that later

Let us have a look at
another cryptographic
DNS protection
mechanism

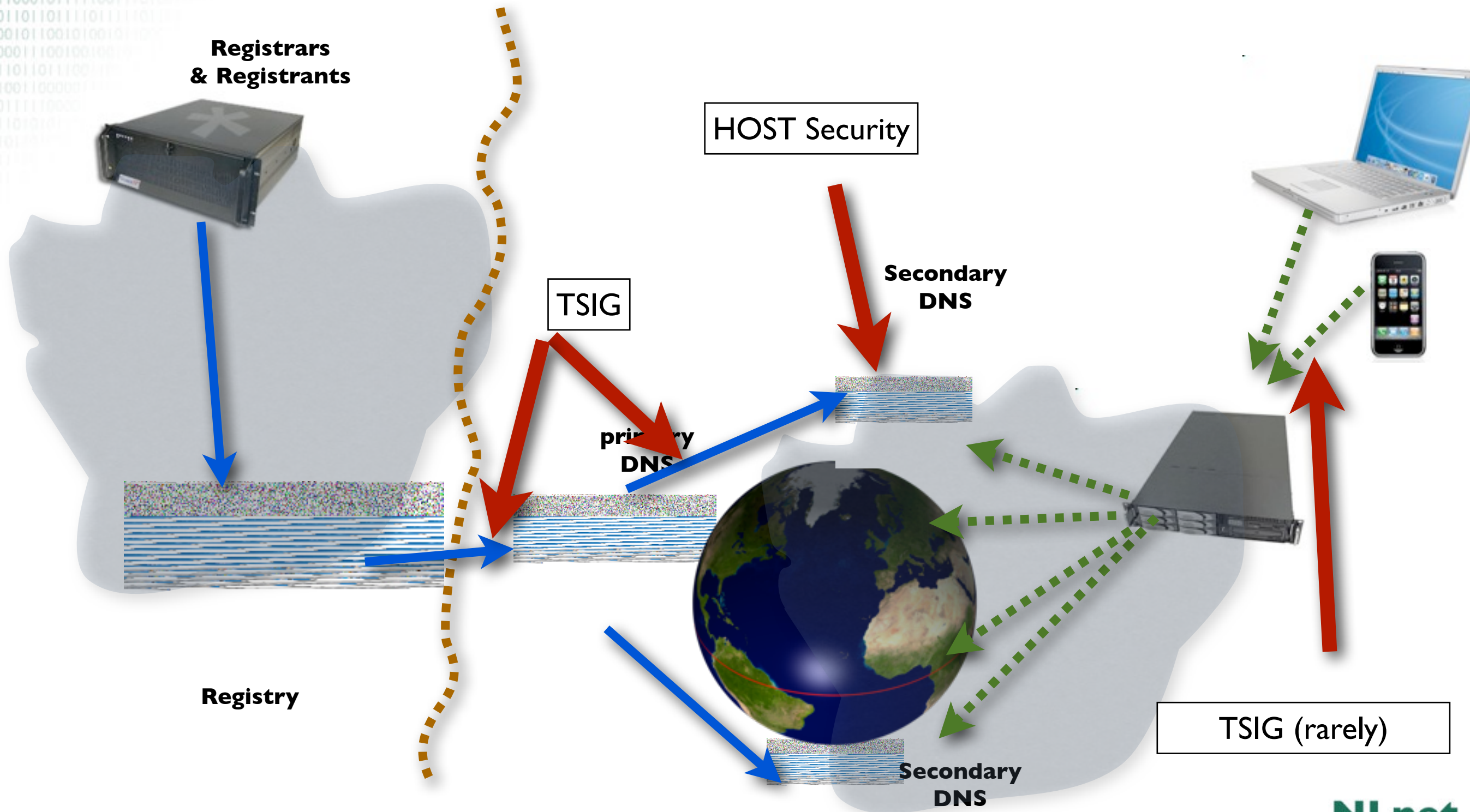
Securing Host-Host Communication

Data flow through the DNS

What should you protect...



Data flow through the DNS



Transaction Signature: TSIG

- TSIG (RFC 2845)
 - Authorising dynamic updates and zone transfers
 - Authentication of caching forwarders
 - Independent from other features of DNSSEC
- One-way hash function
 - DNS question or answer and timestamp
- Traffic signed with “shared secret” key
- Used in configuration, **NOT** in zone file

TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

Slave

Master

TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

Slave

KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

Master

TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

Slave

KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

Master

KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

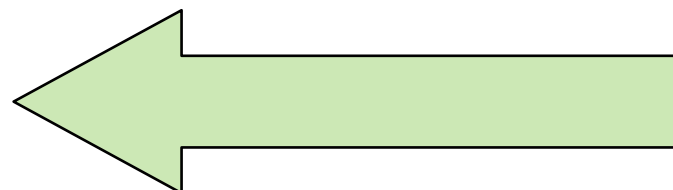
AXFR

Slave

KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

Master

KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t



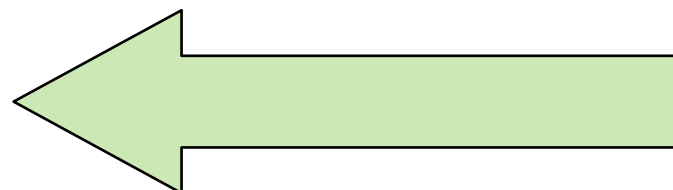
TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

AXFR
Sig: B1@F00

Slave
KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

Master
KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t



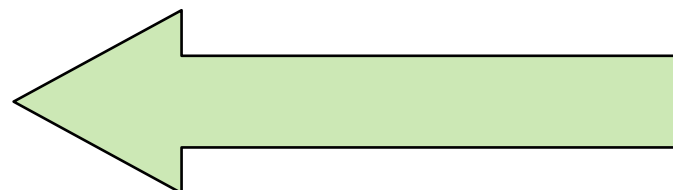
TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

AXFR
Sig: B1@F00

Slave
KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

Master
KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t



TSIG Example

Query: AXFR

Slave

KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t

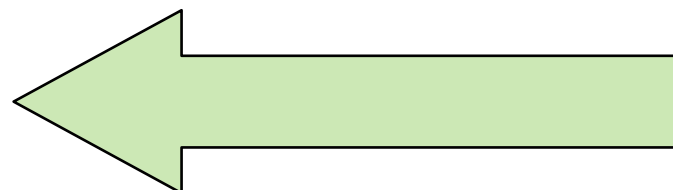
AXFR

Sig: B1@F00

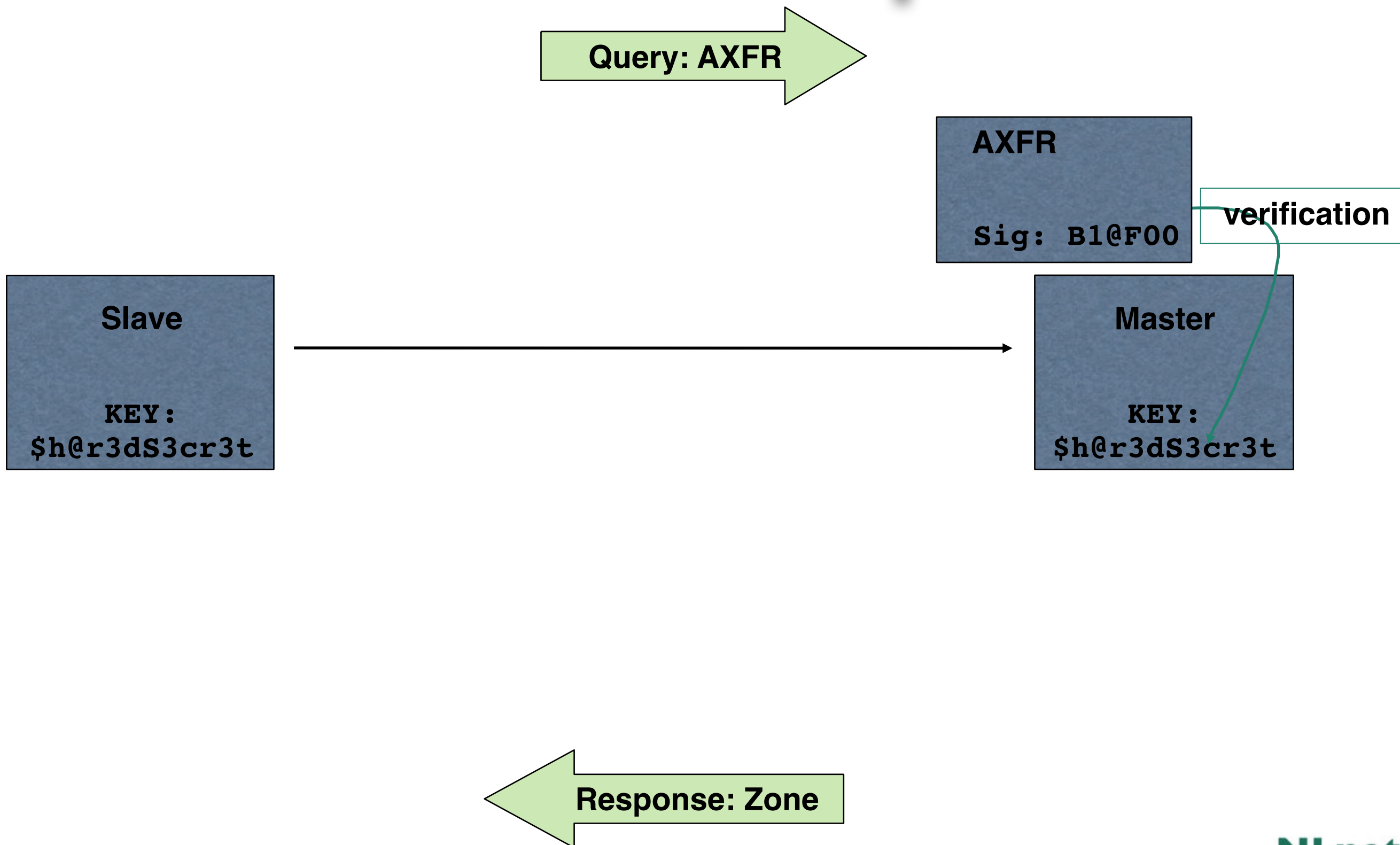
verification

Master

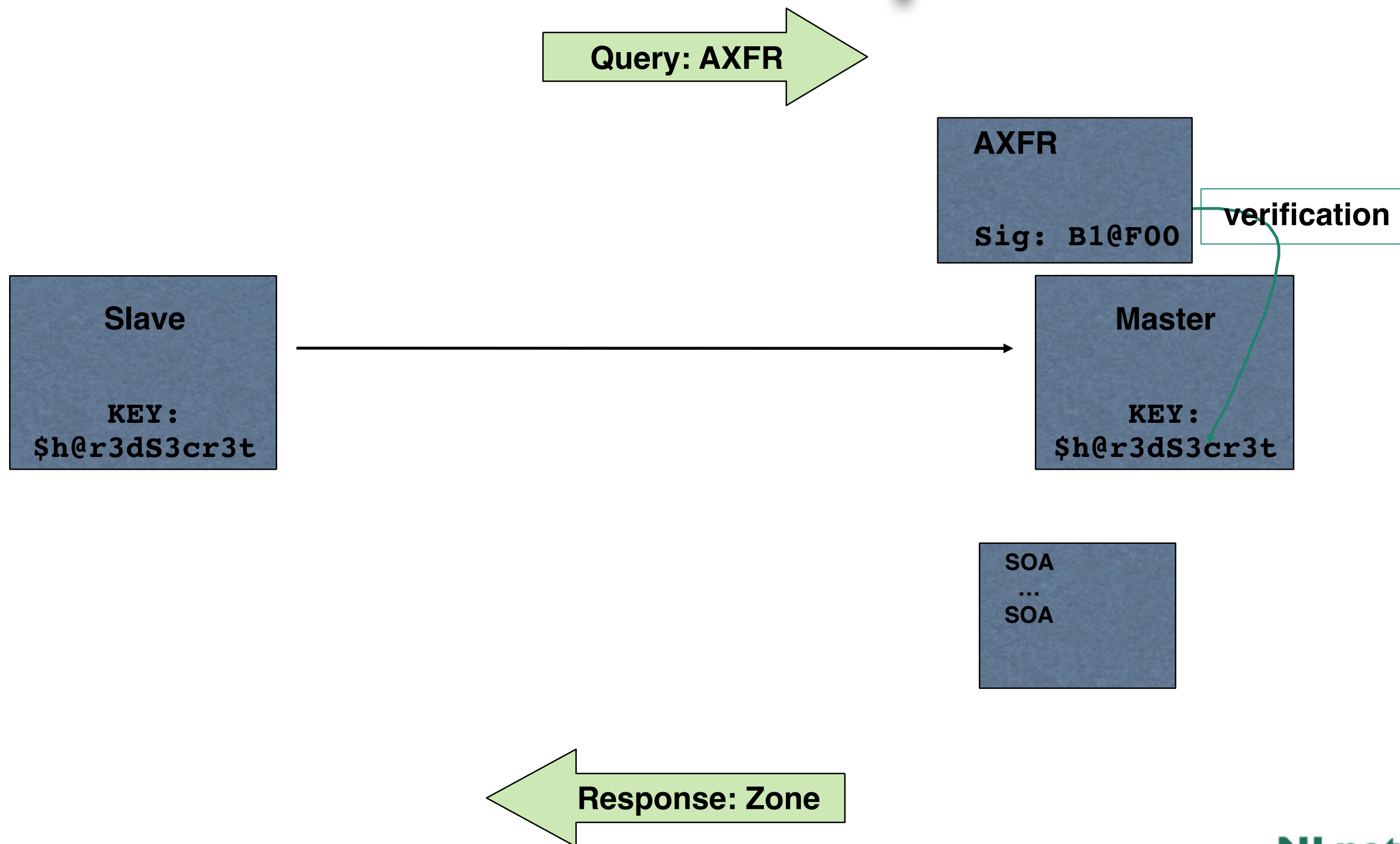
KEY:
\$h@r3dS3cr3t



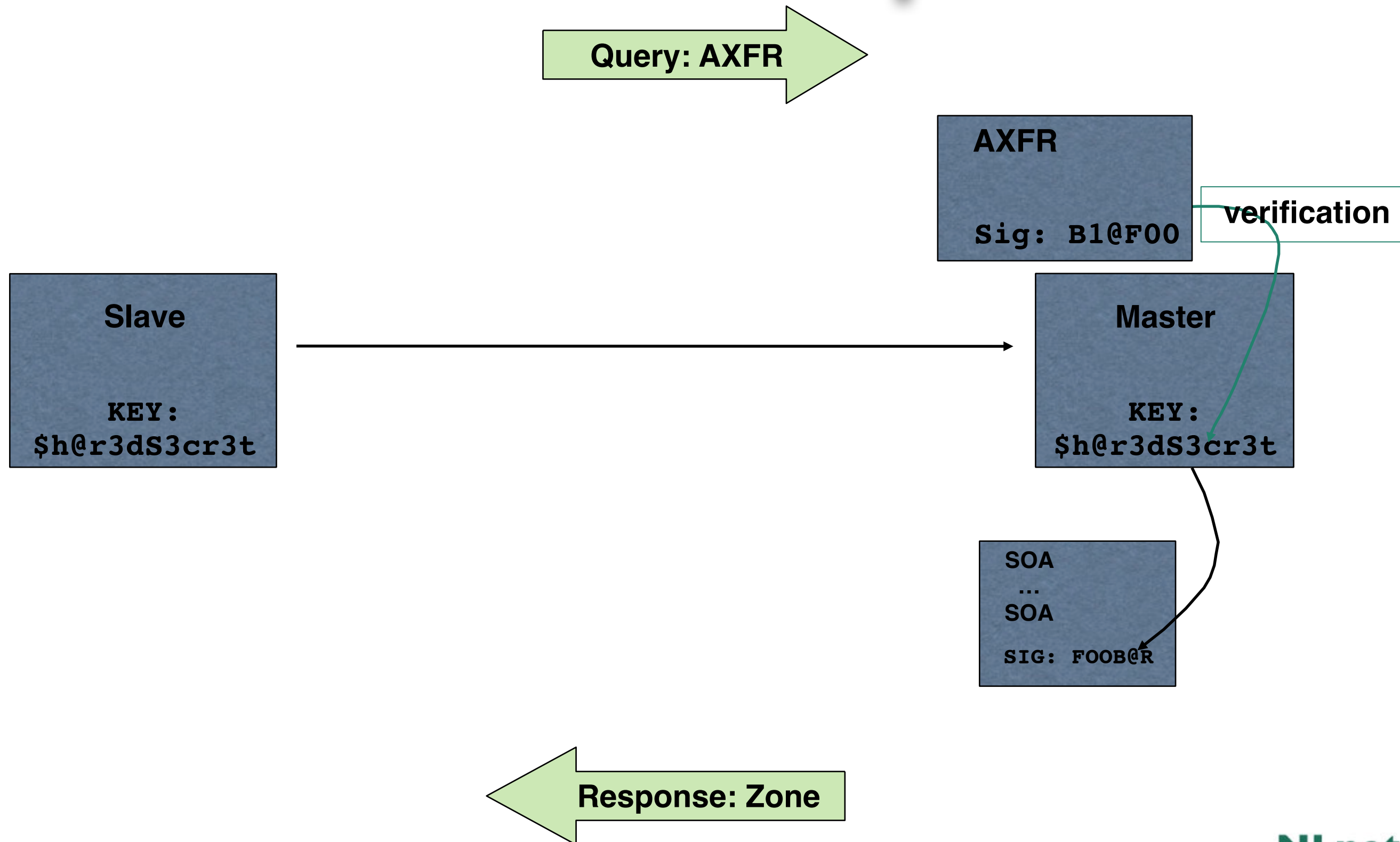
TSIG Example



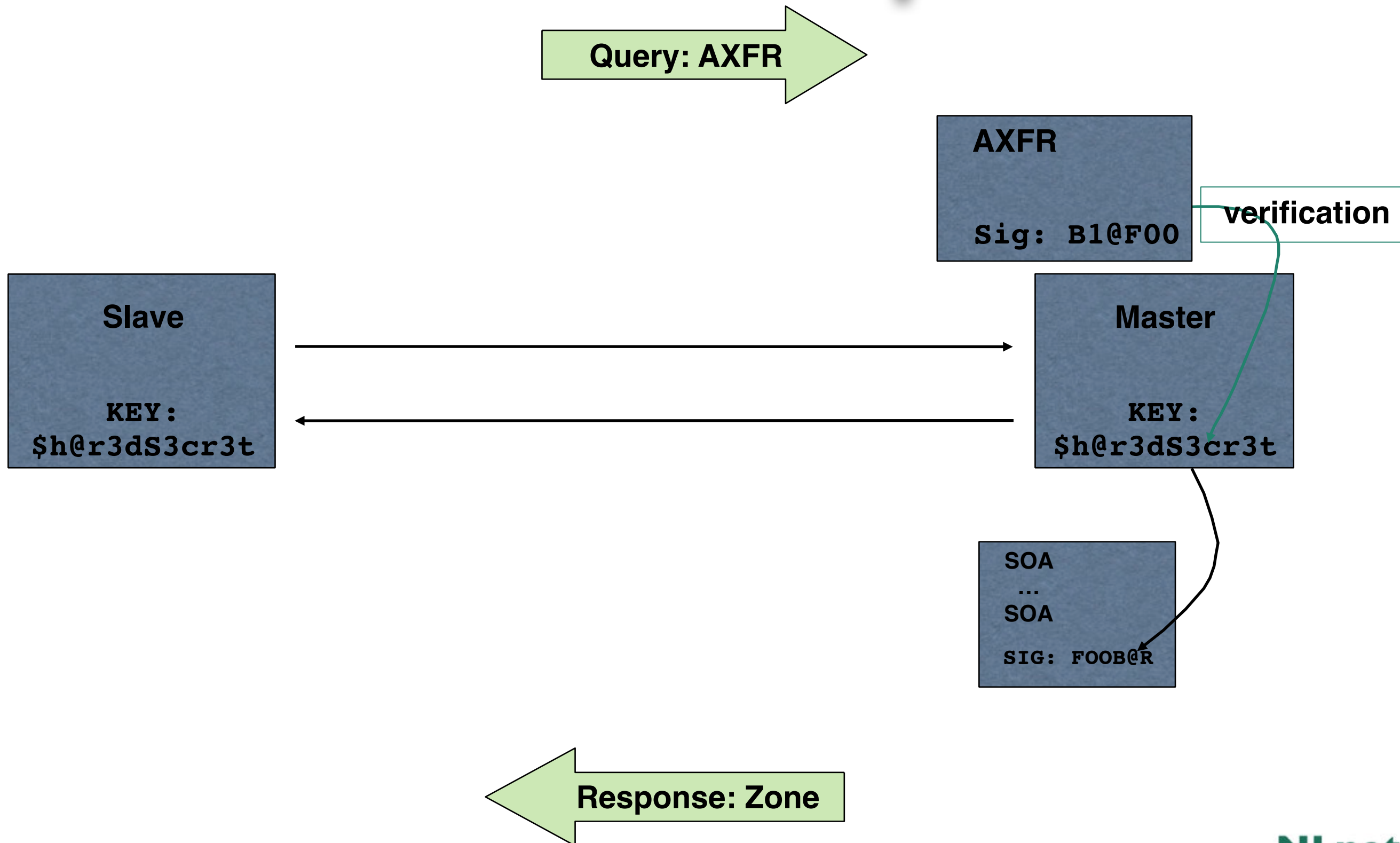
TSIG Example



TSIG Example

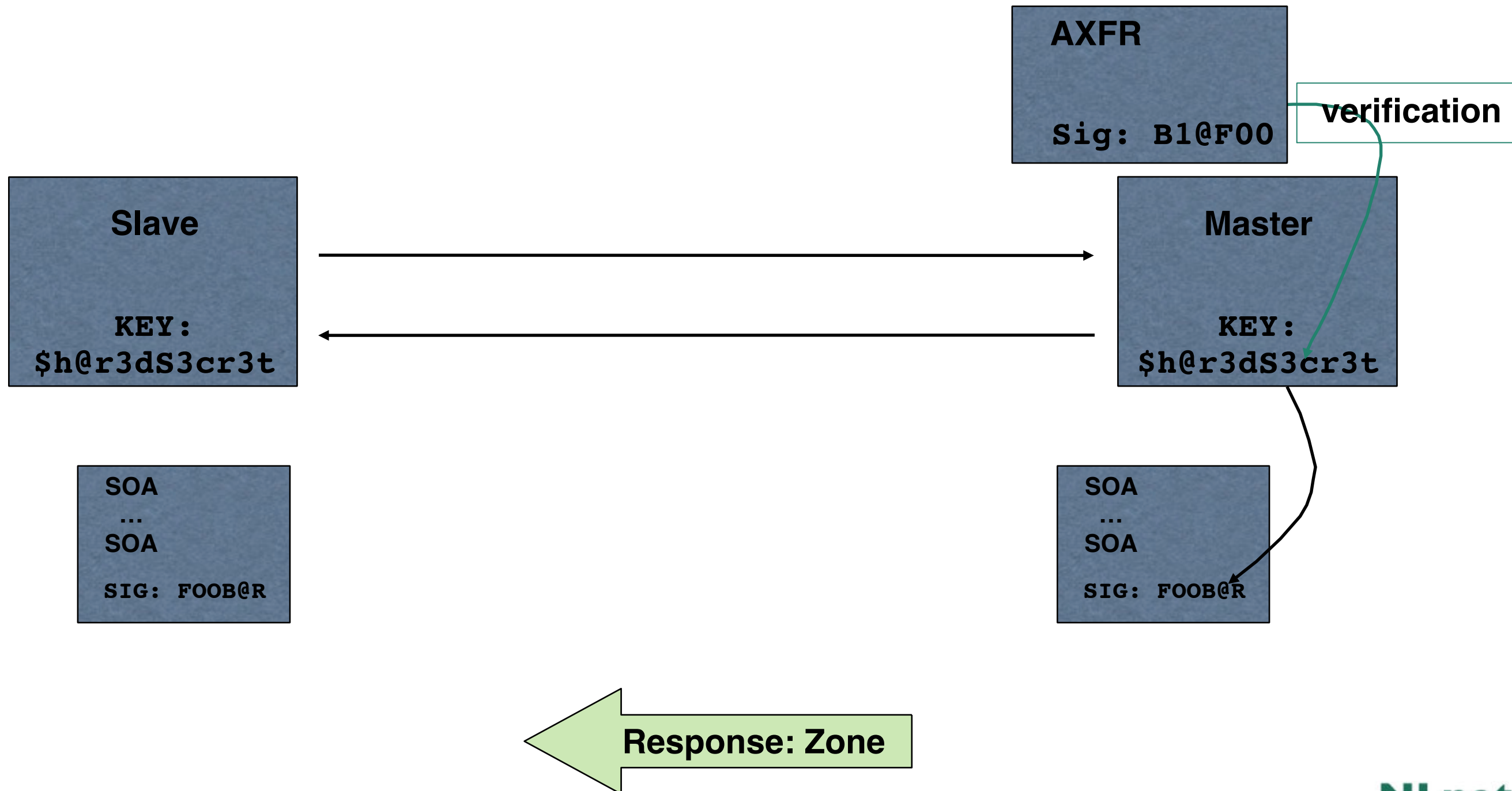


TSIG Example

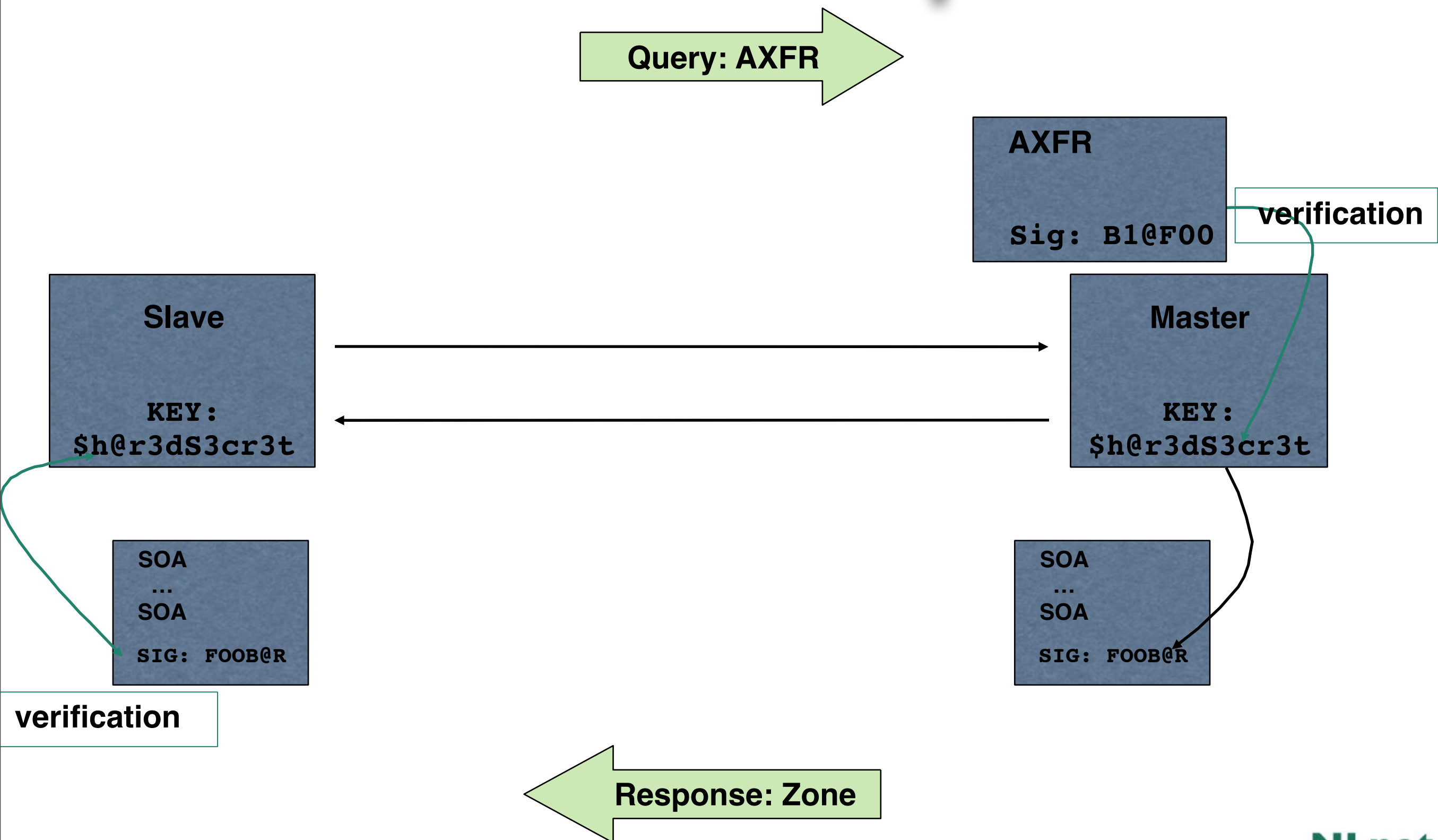


TSIG Example

Query: AXFR



TSIG Example



TSIG for Zone Transfers

1. Generate secret
2. Communicate secret
3. Configure servers
4. Test

Importance of the Time Stamp

- TSIG/SIG(0) signs a complete DNS request / response with time stamp
 - To prevent replay attacks
 - Currently hardcoded at five minutes
- Operational problems when comparing times
 - Make sure your local time zone is properly defined
 - `date -u` will give UTC time, easy to compare between the two systems
 - Use NTP synchronisation!

Authenticating Servers Using SIG(0)

- Alternatively, it is possible to use SIG(0)
 - Not yet widely used
 - Works well in dynamic update environment
- Public key algorithm
 - Authentication against a public key published in the DNS
- SIG(0) specified in RFC 2931

Cool Application

- Use TSIG-ed dynamic updates to configure your laptops name
- My laptop is know by the name of aagje.secret-wg.org
 - <http://ops.ietf.org/dns/dynupd/secure-ddns-howto.html>
 - Mac OS users: there is a bonjour based tool.
 - www.dns-sd.org

