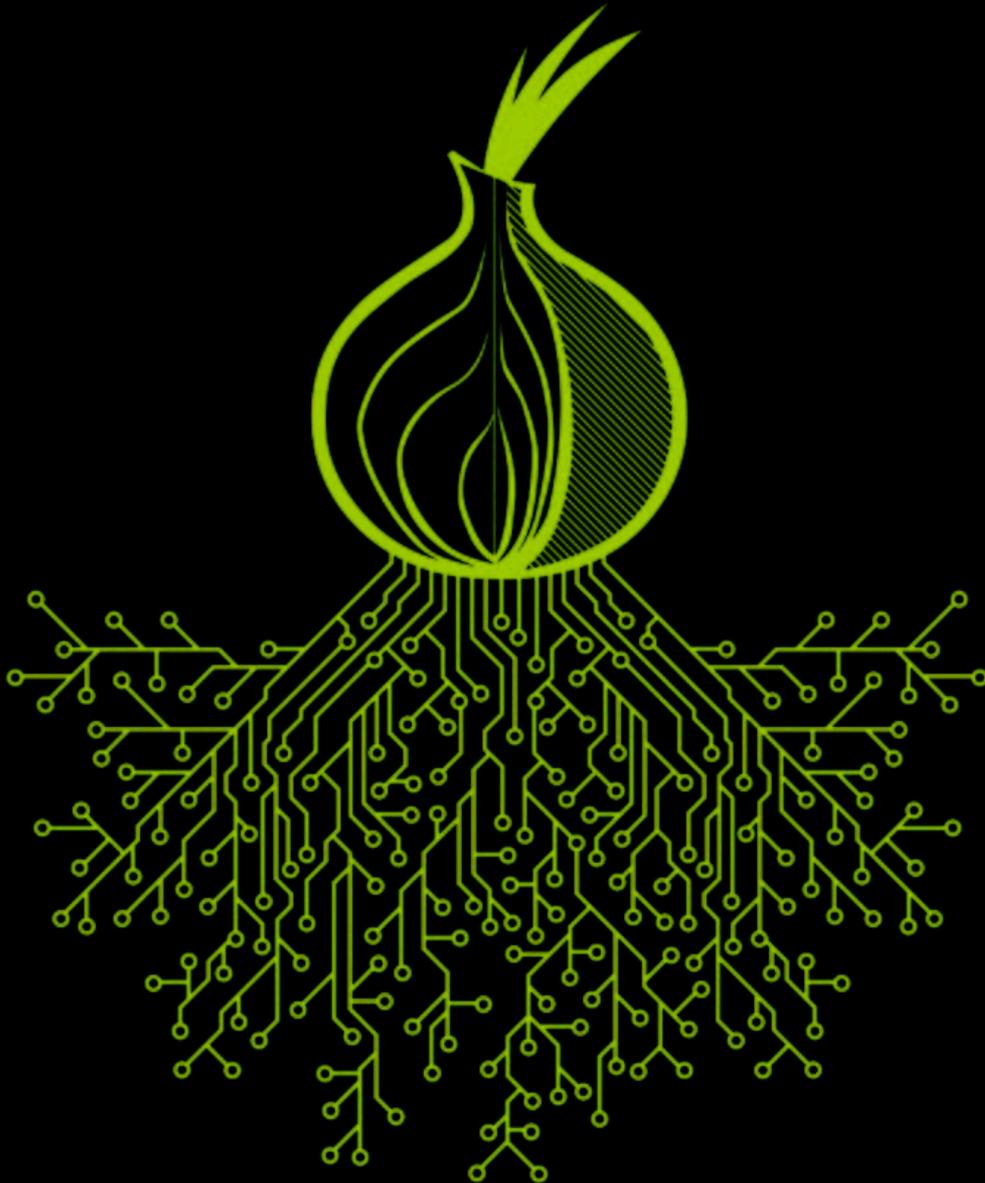


# The Tor Project



*Our mission is to advance human rights and freedoms by creating and deploying free and open privacy and anonymity technologies, supporting their unrestricted availability and use, and furthering their scientific and popular understanding.*

# Metadata

*Data* about data

"Metadata was traditionally in the card catalogs of libraries"

— Wikipedia



“We kill people based on metadata”

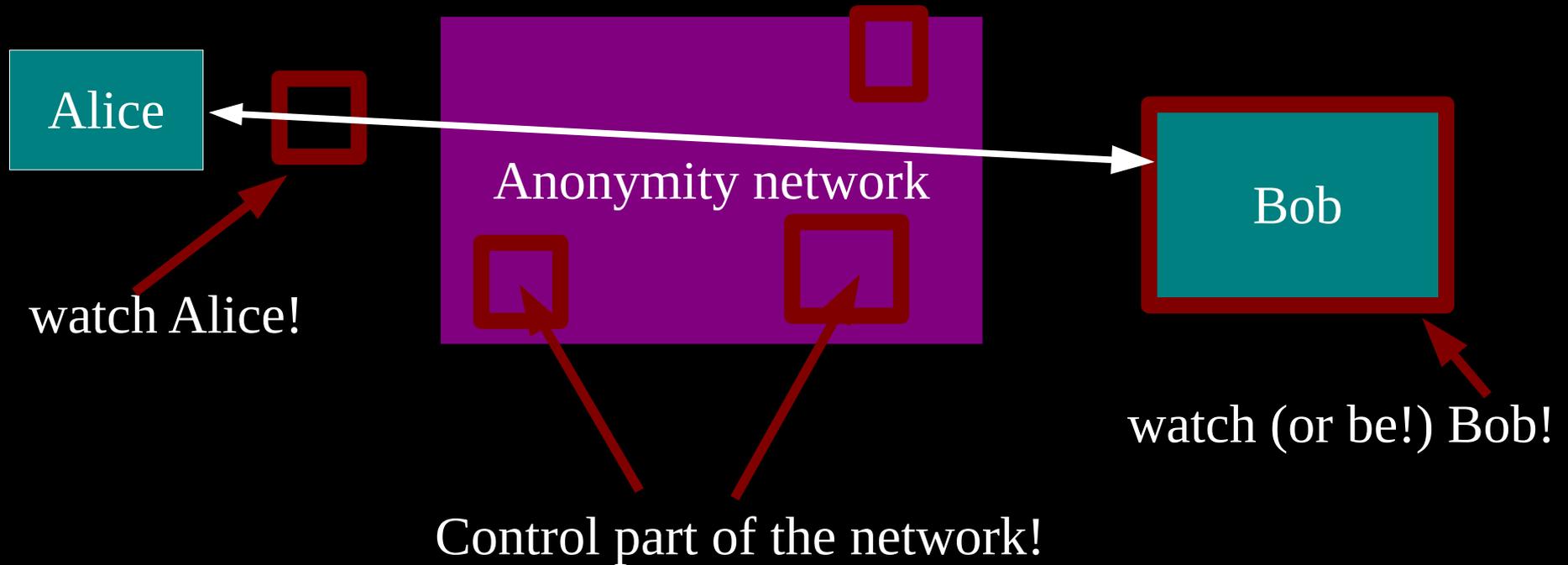


- Online Anonymity
  - Open Source
  - Open Network
- Community of researchers, developers, users and relay operators.
- U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

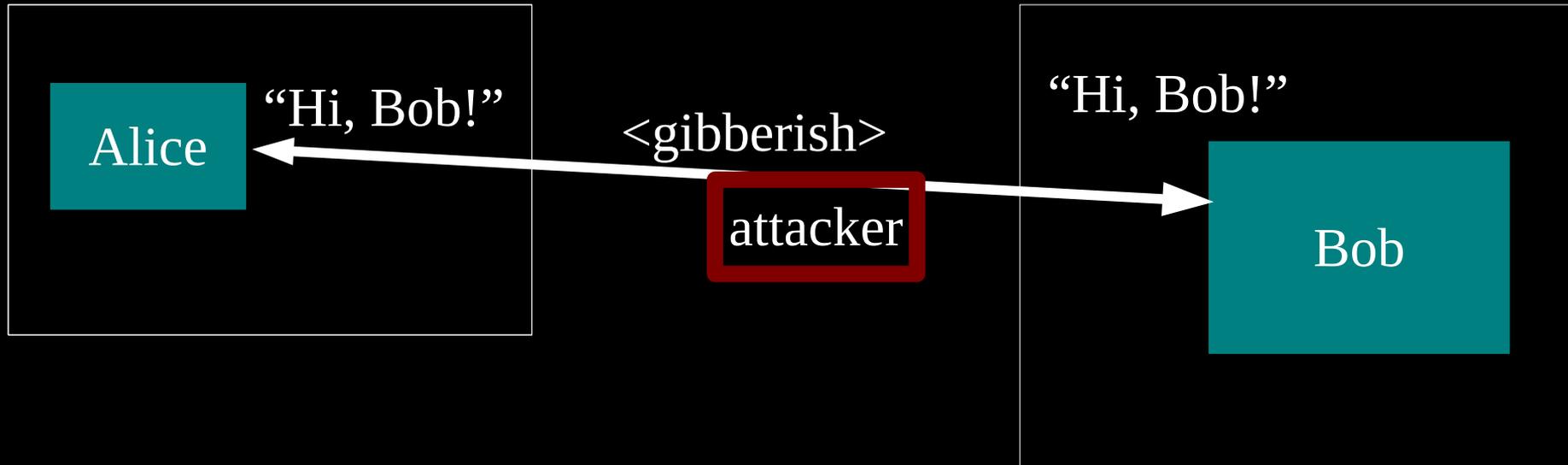
A large, empty stadium with rows of grey seats curving away from the viewer. The seats are arranged in a semi-circular pattern, and the stadium floor is visible in the distance. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is blueish-grey.

Estimated 2,000,000+  
daily Tor users

# Threat model: what can the attacker do?



# Anonymity isn't encryption: Encryption just protects contents.



# Privacy by promise, privacy by design

“You can't prove it was me!”

“Promise you won't look!”

“Promise you won't remember!”

“Promise you won't tell!”

“I didn't write my name on it!”

“Isn't the Internet already anonymous?”

# **Anonymity serves different interests for different user groups.**

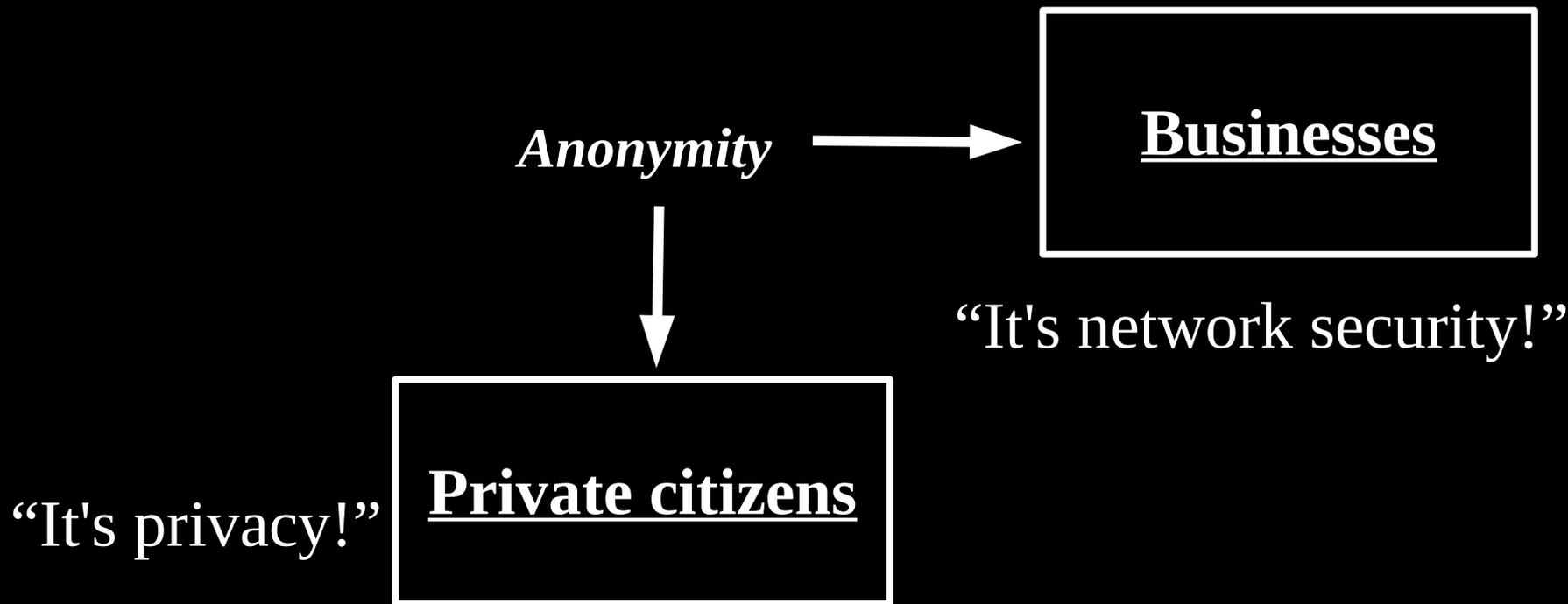
*Anonymity*



“It's privacy!”

**Private citizens**

# **Anonymity serves different interests for different user groups.**



# Anonymity serves different interests for different user groups.

“It's traffic-analysis resistance!”

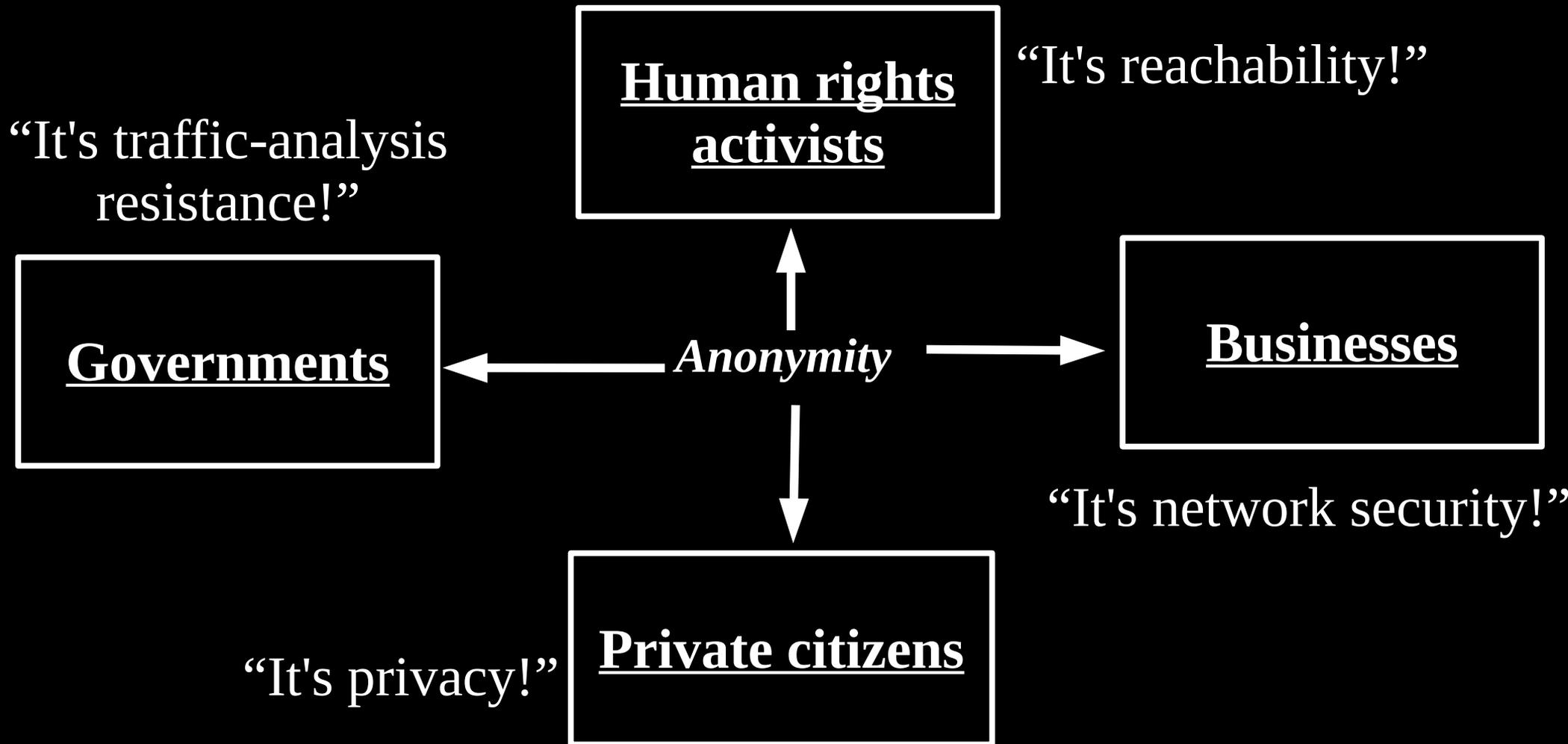


“It's network security!”

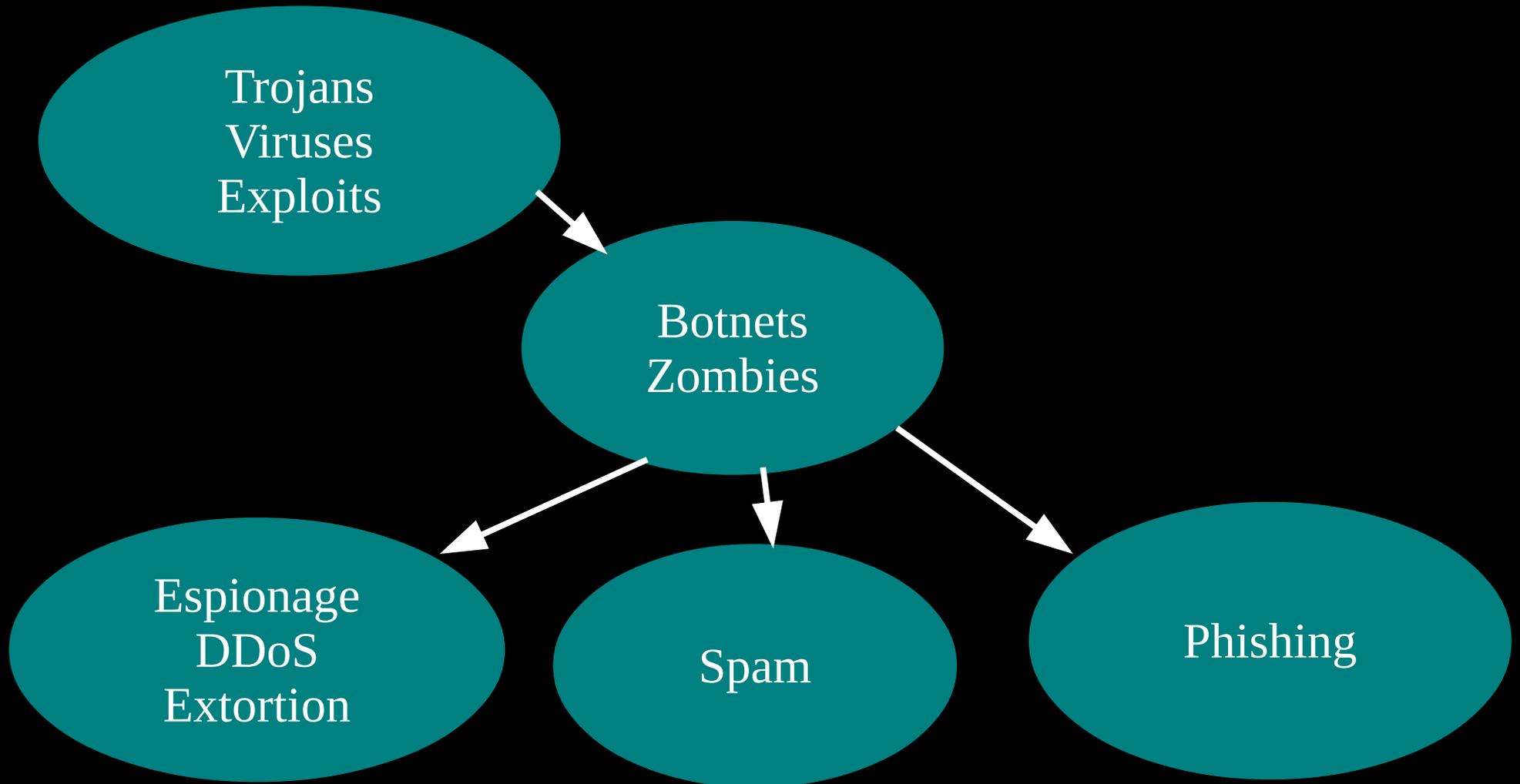
“It's privacy!”



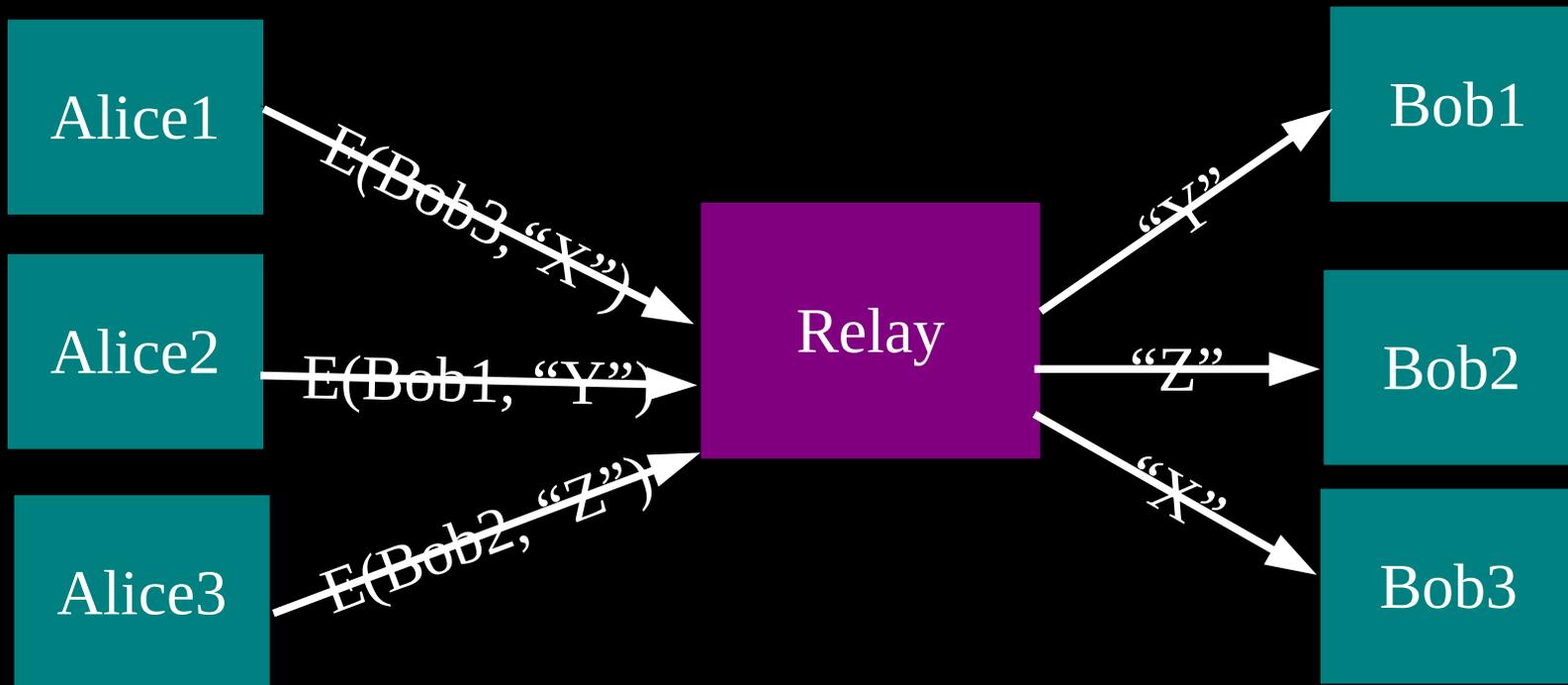
# Anonymity serves different interests for different user groups.



# Current situation: Bad people on the Internet are doing fine

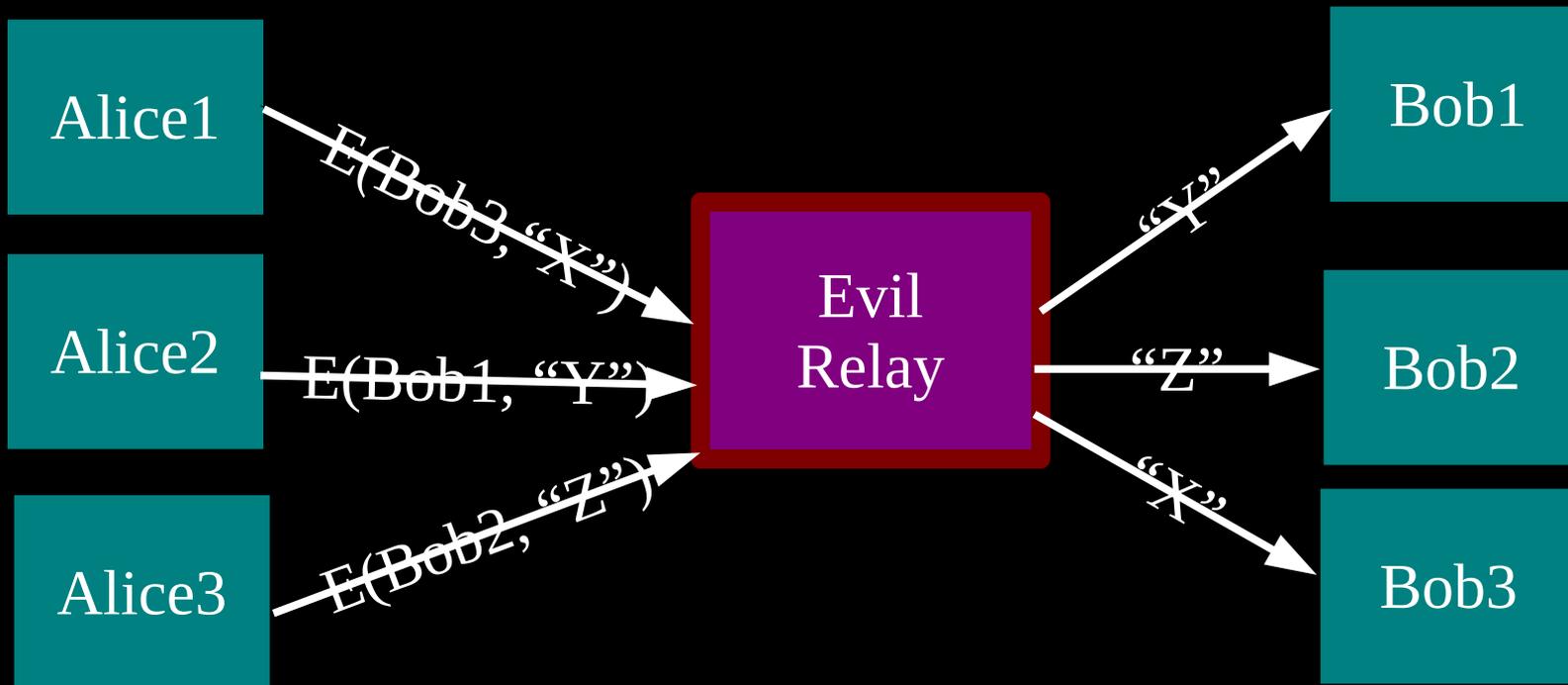


# The simplest designs use a single relay to hide connections.

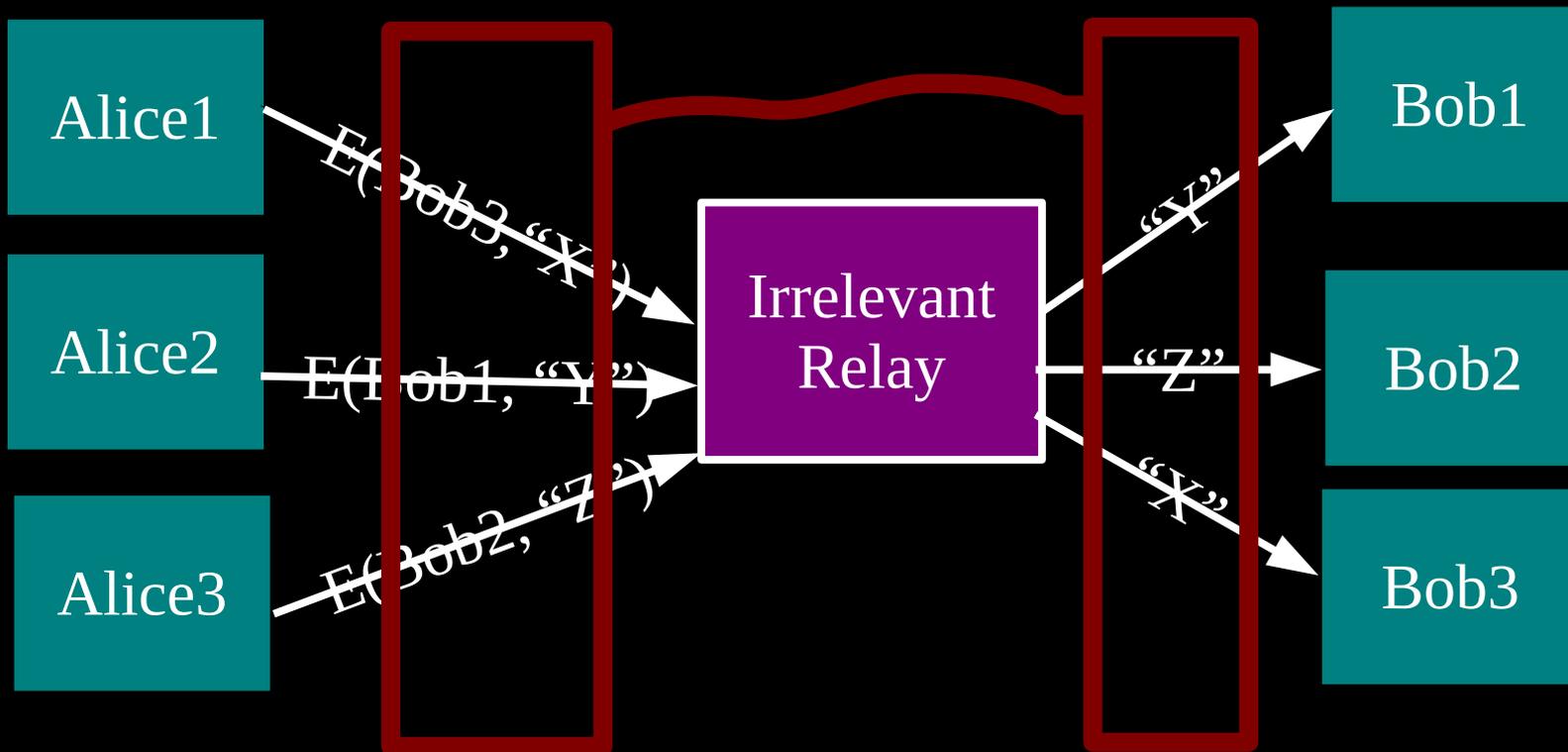


(example: some commercial proxy providers)

**But a single relay (or eavesdropper!)  
is a single point of failure.**

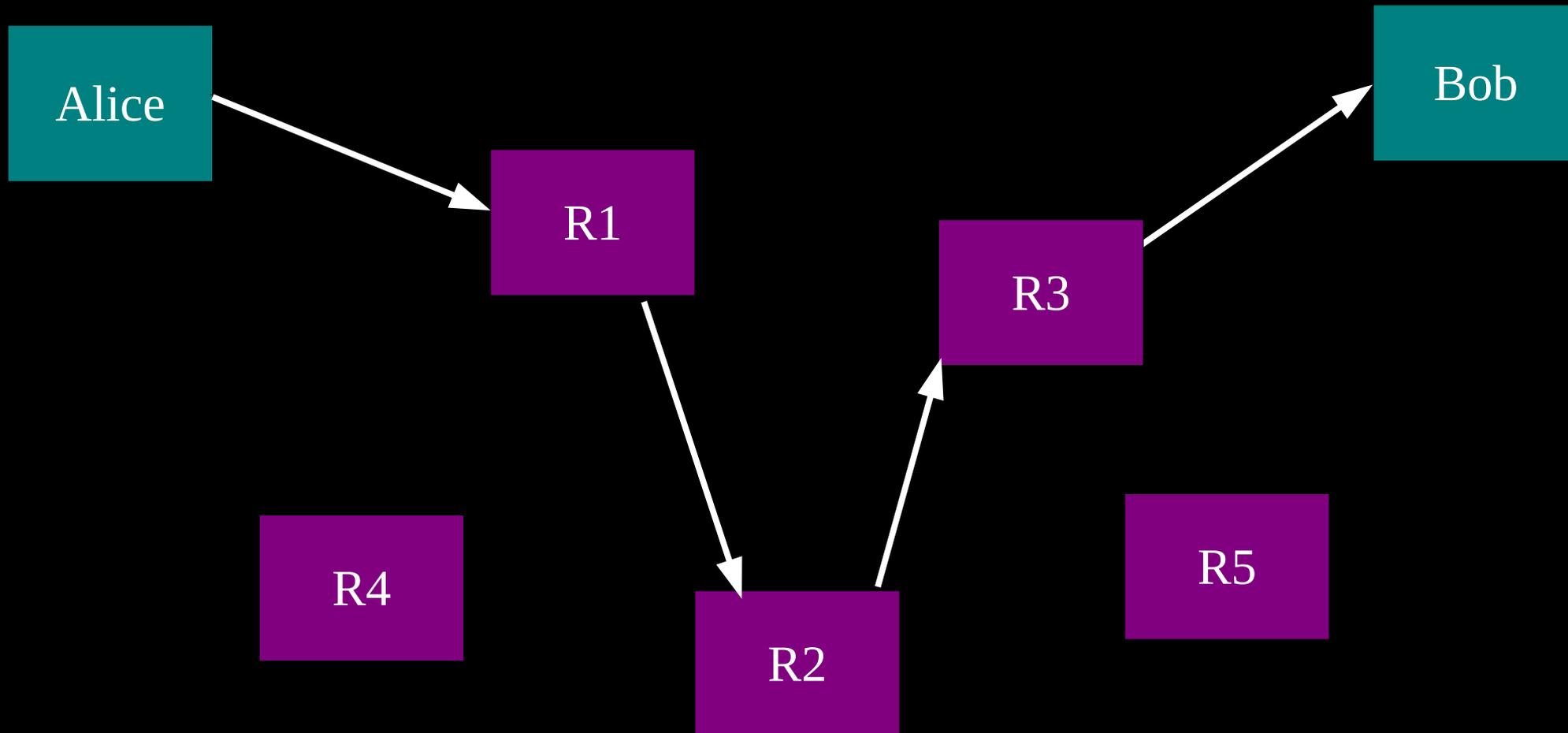


... or a single point of bypass.

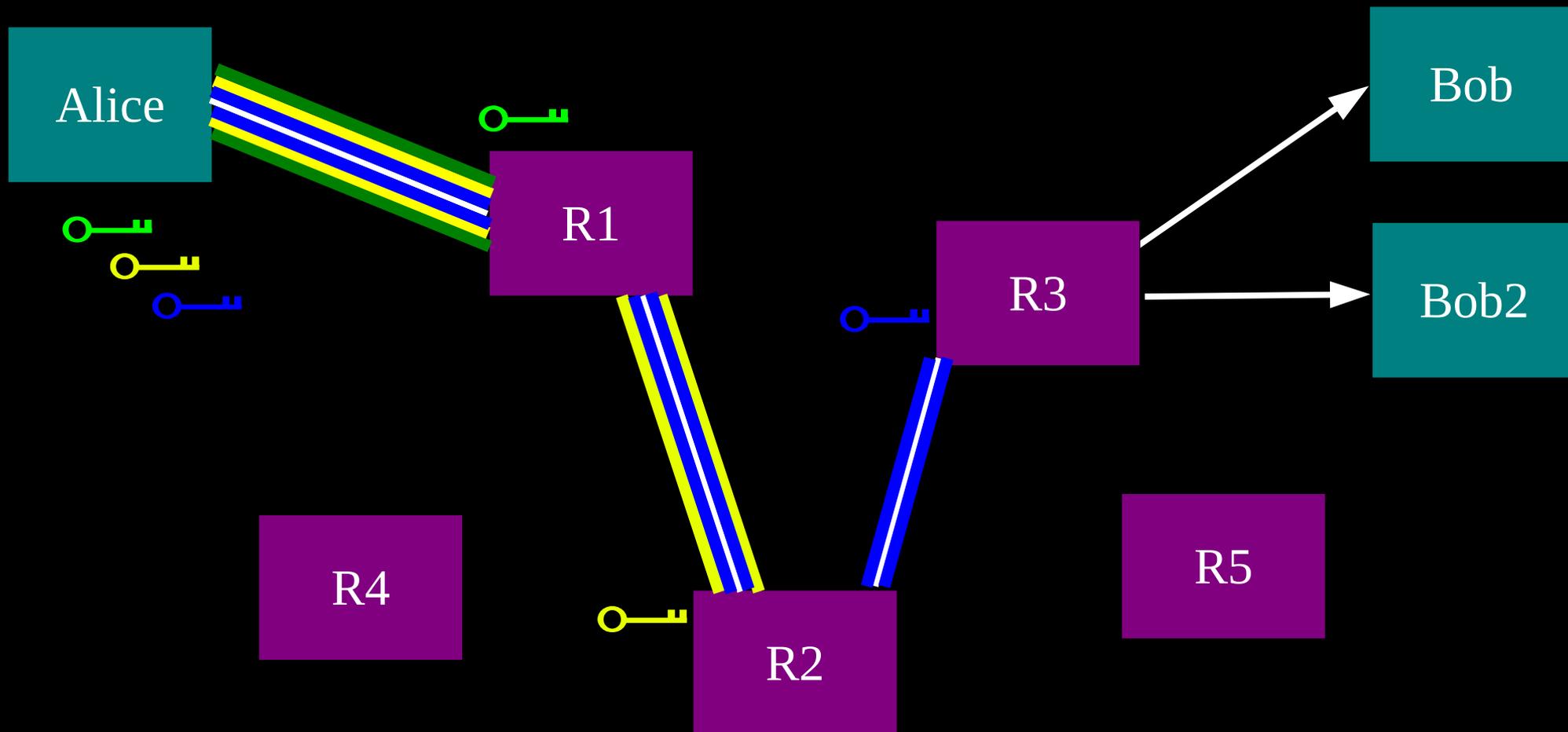


Timing analysis bridges all connections through relay  $\Rightarrow$  An attractive fat target

**So, add multiple relays so that no single one can betray Alice.**

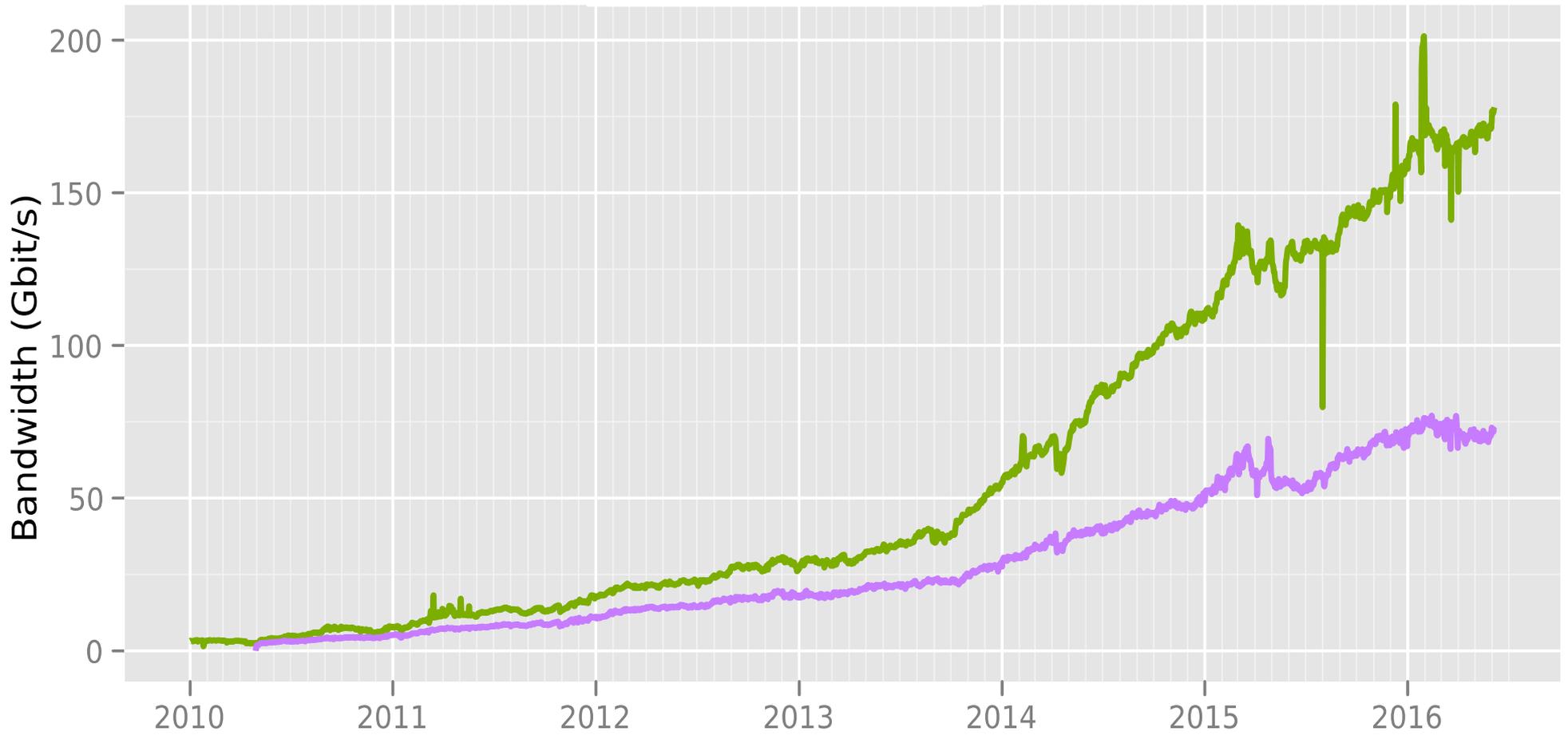


**Alice makes a session key with R1  
...And then tunnels to R2...and to R3**



# Total relay bandwidth

- Advertised bandwidth
- Bandwidth history



The Tor Project - <https://metrics.torproject.org/>

# Tor's safety comes from diversity

- #1: Diversity of relays. The more relays we have and the more diverse they are, the fewer attackers are in a position to do traffic confirmation. (Research problem: measuring diversity over time)
- #2: Diversity of users and reasons to use it. 50000 users in Iran means almost all of them are normal citizens.

New Identity

Cookie Protections

Preferences...

About Torbutton...

Open Network Settings...

# Congratulations!

This browser is configured to use Tor.

*You are now free to browse the Internet anonymously.*

[Test Tor Network Settings](#)



Search securely with Startpage.

## What Next?

Tor is NOT all you need to browse anonymously! You may need to change some of your browsing habits to ensure your identity stays safe.

[Tips On Staying Anonymous »](#)

## You Can Help!

There are many ways you can help make the Tor Network faster and stronger:

- [Run a Tor Relay Node »](#)
- [Volunteer Your Services »](#)
- [Make a Donation »](#)

The Tor Project is a US 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the research, development, and education of online anonymity and privacy. [Learn more about The Tor Project »](#)

# Orbot

🔥 Connected to the Tor network

 Orbot   

powered by The Tor Project 

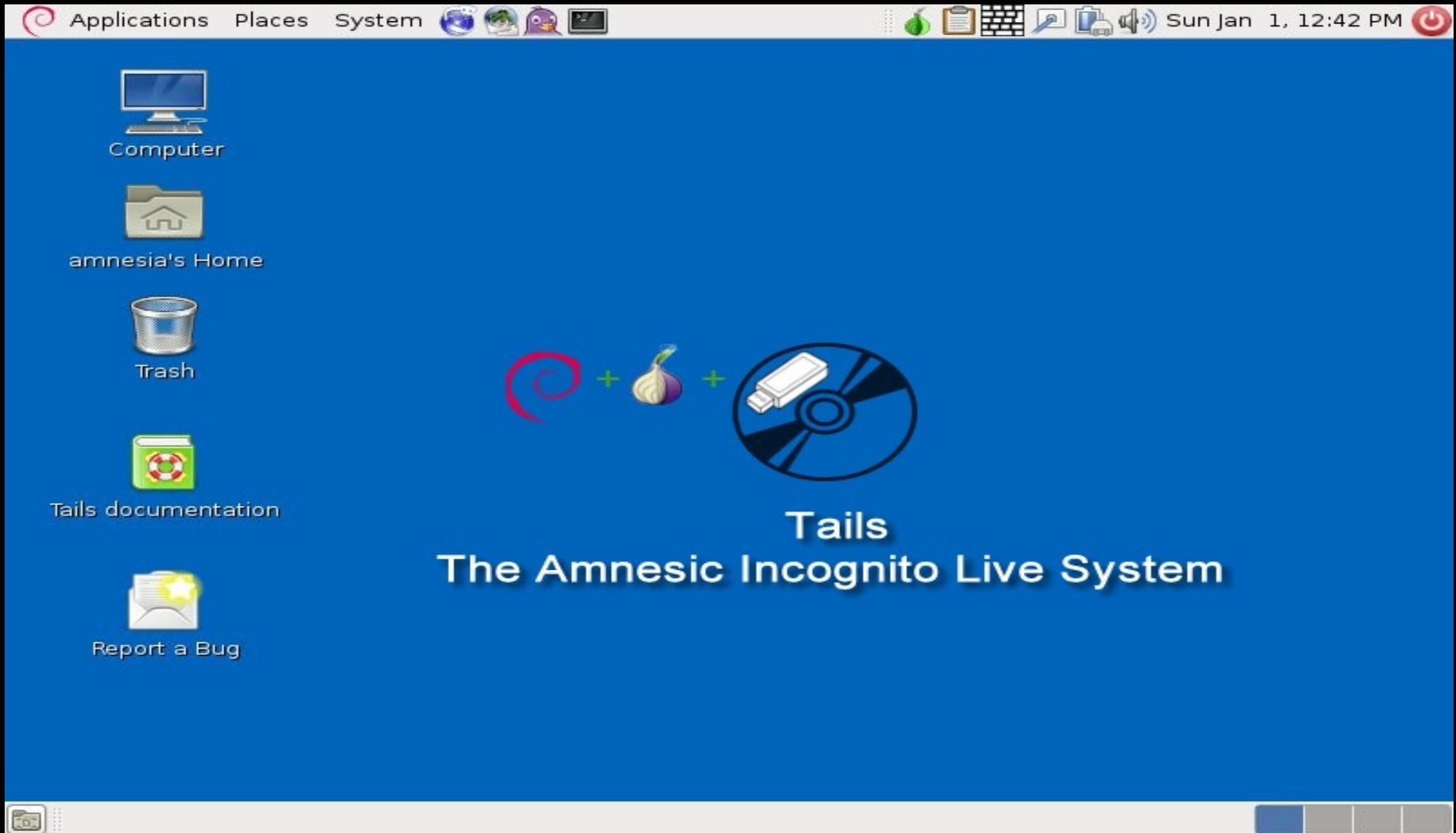
  


Connected to the Tor network

Download	<input type="button" value="Log"/>	Upload
98.2kbps / 94.1KB		4.5kbps / 18.4KB

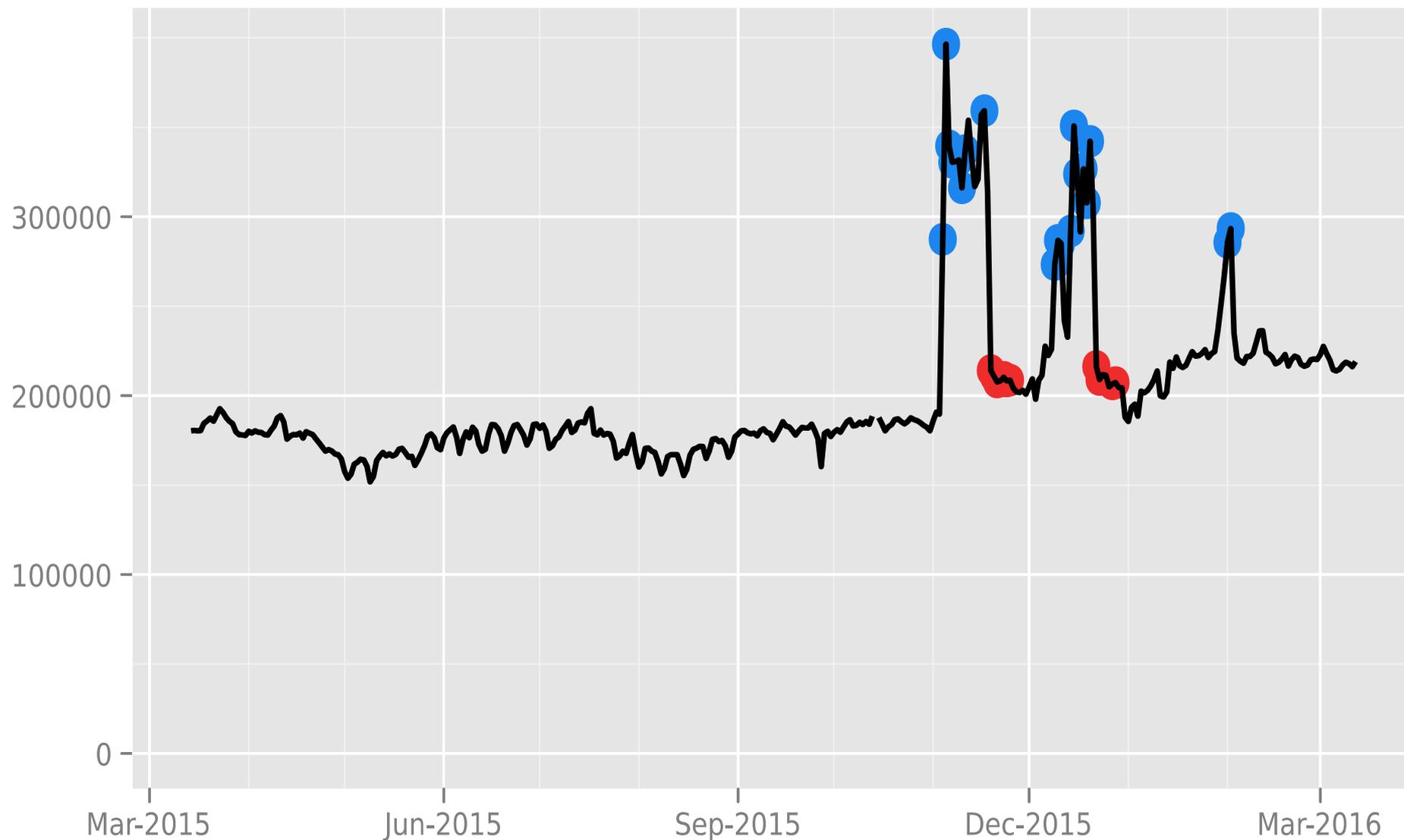
←    🏠    ☰

# Tails LiveCD



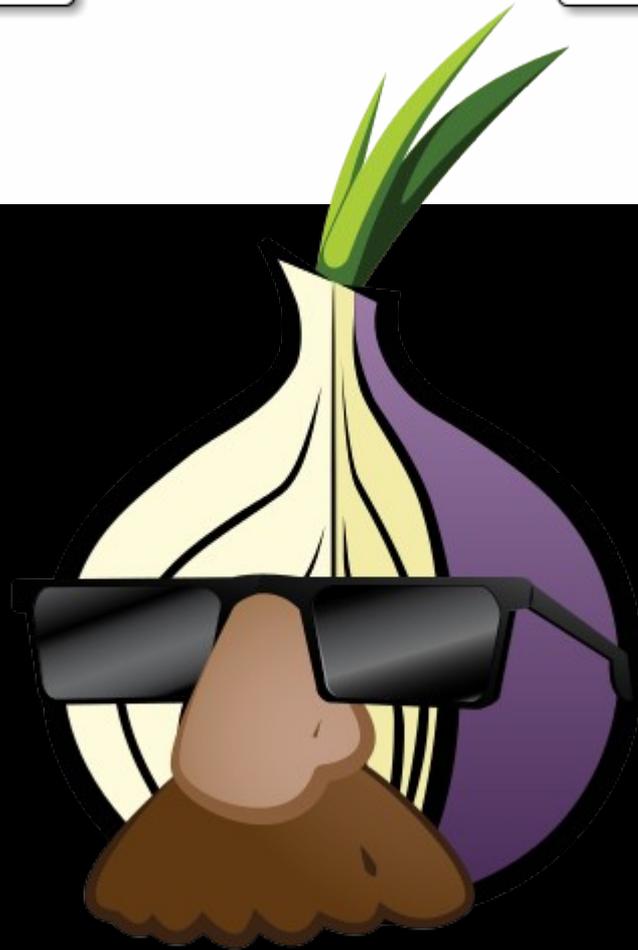
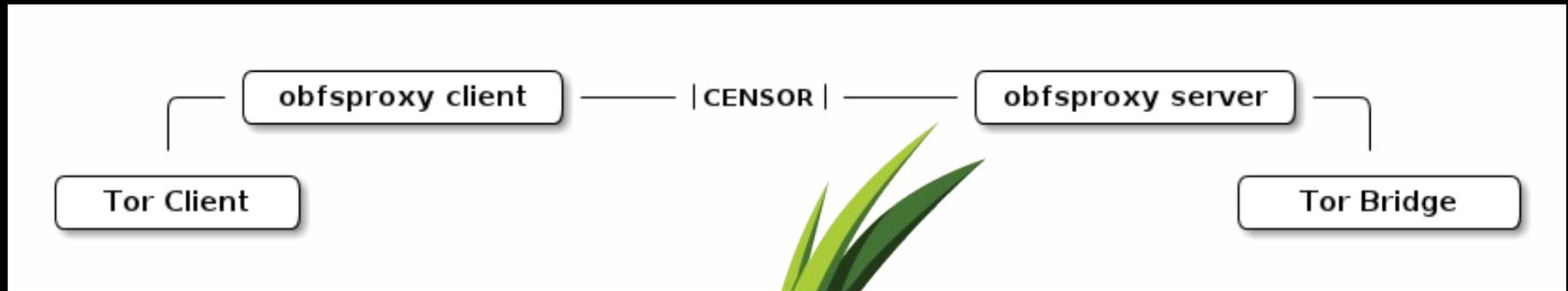


# Directly connecting users from Russia



The Tor Project - <https://metrics.torproject.org/>

# Pluggable transports



# Pluggable transports

- Flashproxy (Stanford), websocket
- FTEProxy (Portland St), http via regex
- Stegotorus (SRI/CMU), http
- Skypemorph (Waterloo), Skype video
- uProxy (Google), webrtc
- Lantern (BNS), social network based
- ScrambleSuit (Karlstad), obfs-based
- Telex (Michigan/Waterloo), traffic divert<sub>26</sub>

riseup.net



# Welcome to Riseup Black

This is the home of the Riseup "Black" services, our new enhanced security VPN and (soon) Encrypted application.

**Important:** To avoid possible issues, you will need to create a new account (this means a new username) for these services. But don't fear, you will be later able to use your current username if you want.

[Download Bitmask](#)[Log In](#)

Log in to change your account settings or create support tickets for Riseup Black services.

[Sign Up](#)

Create a new user account for Riseup Black. For greater security, we strongly recommend you create your account via the Bitmask application instead. Remember: to avoid possible issues, you cannot use your current riseup.net username at this stage. But don't fear, you will be able to do it later.

# Hidden Services

- The “.onion” addresses
  - 16 characters long (base32)
  - E.g: *nzh3fv6jc6jskki3.onion*
- Client and Server hide their location
- Can be used for various kinds of TCP traffic
- Everything stays **inside** the Tor network

# Tor Hidden Services: 1

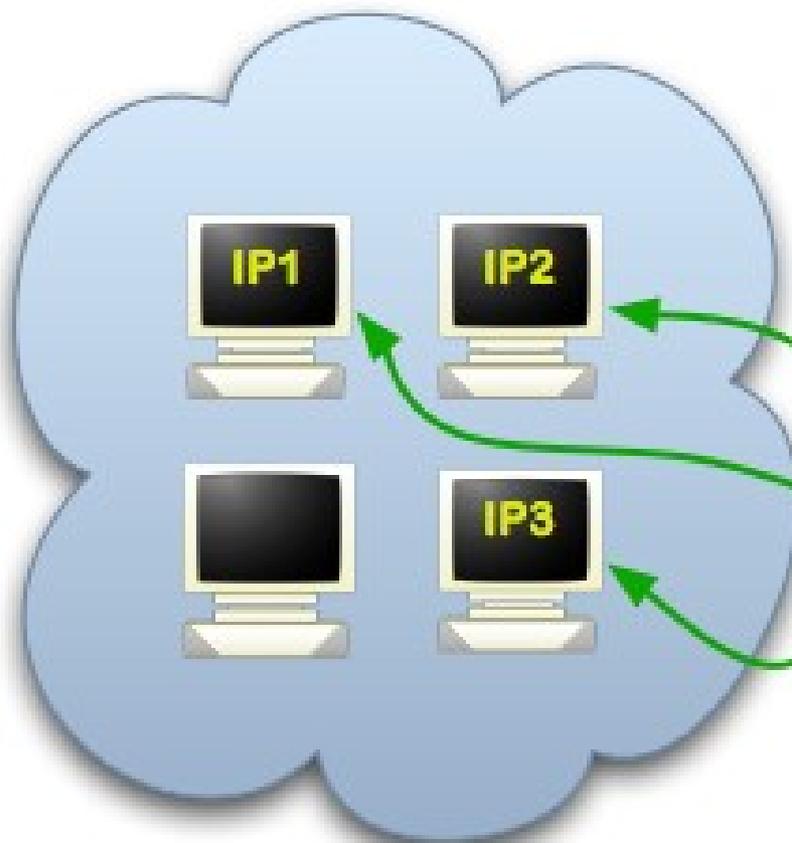
Step 1: Bob picks some introduction points and builds circuits to them.



Alice



DB



Tor cloud



Tor circuit

IP1-3

Introduction points

PK

Public key

cookie

One-time secret

RP

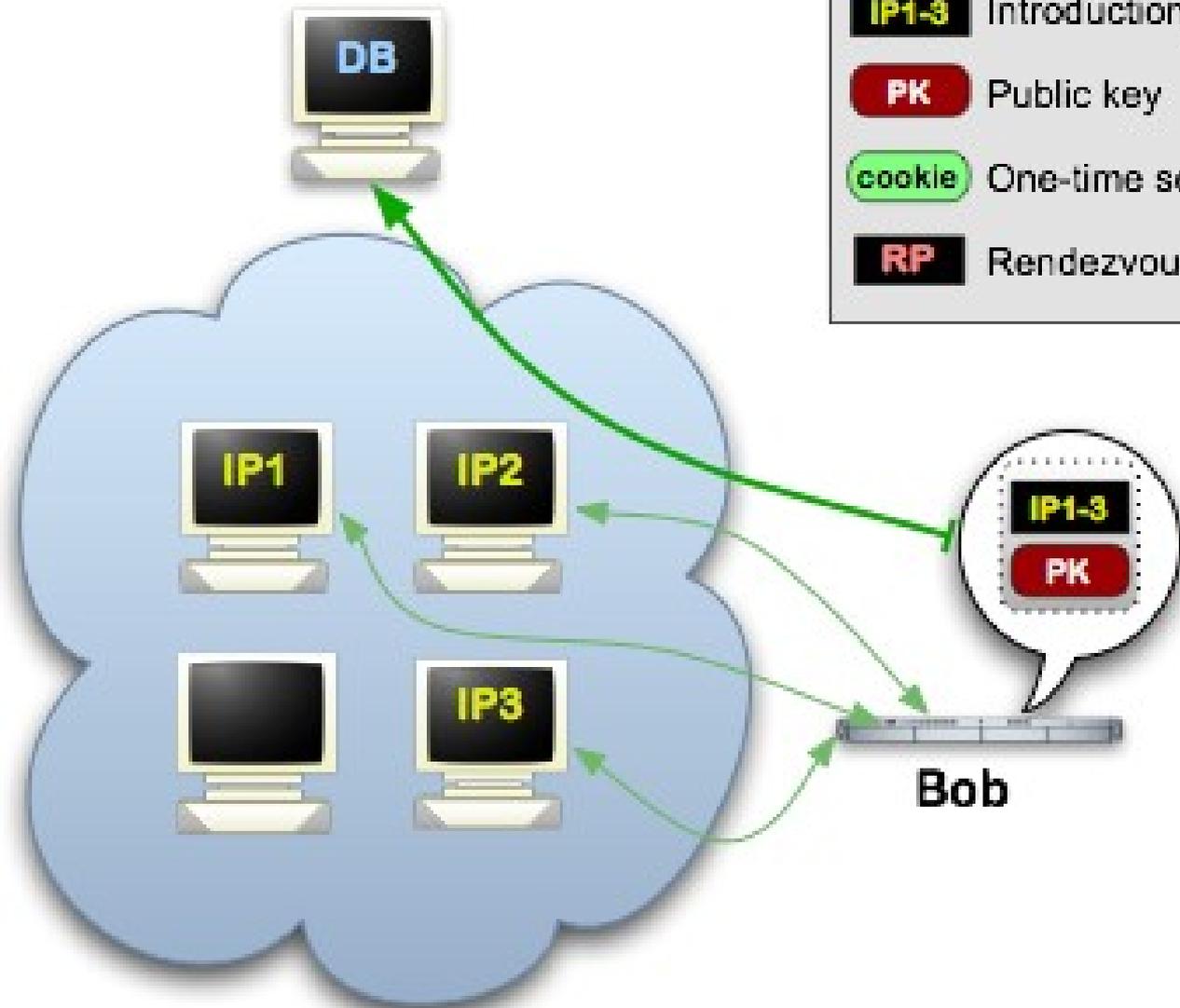
Rendezvous point

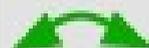


Bob

# Tor Hidden Services: 2

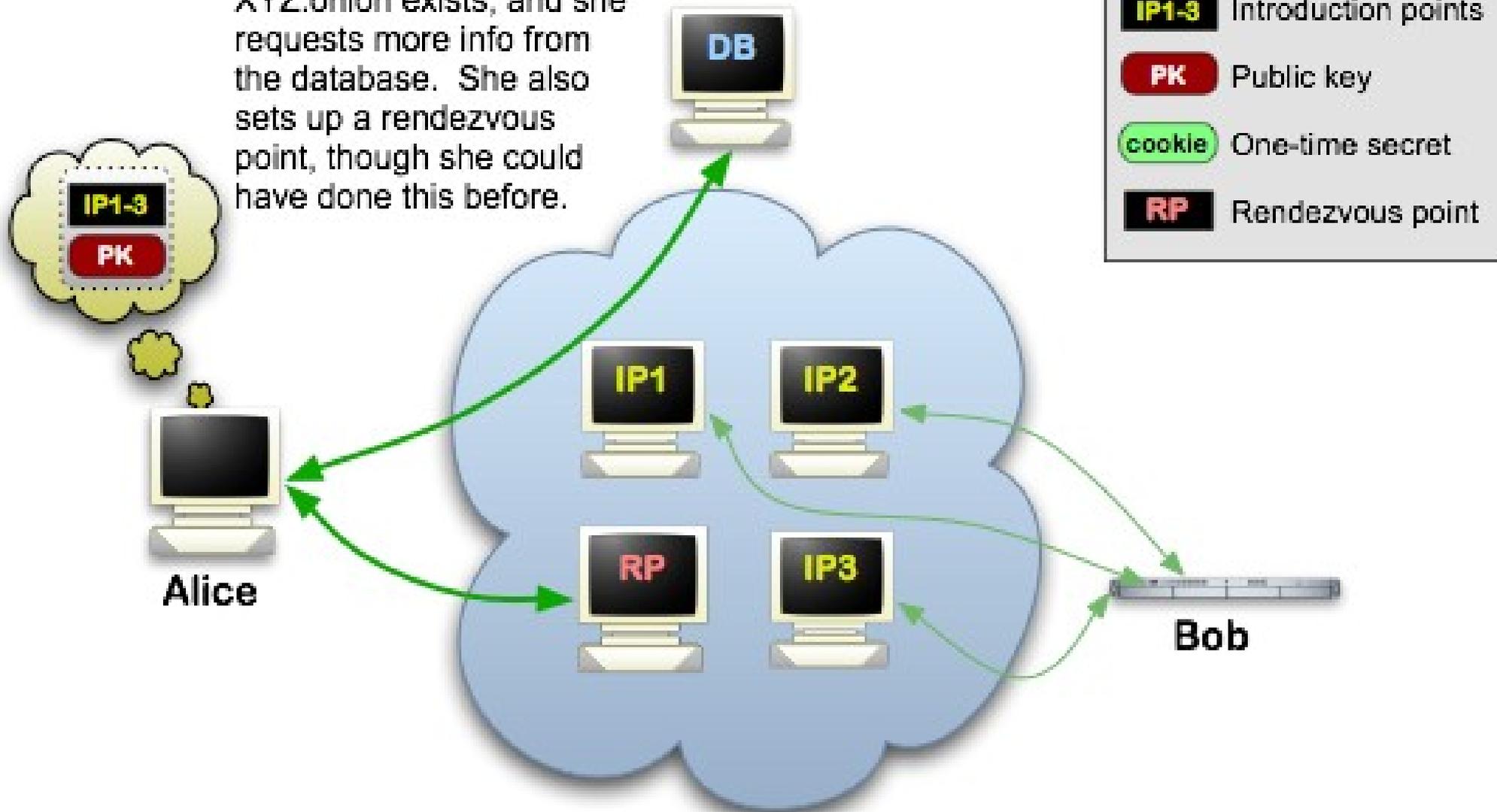
**Step 2:** Bob advertises his hidden service -- XYZ.onion -- at the database.



-  Tor cloud
-  Tor circuit
-  IP1-3 Introduction points
-  PK Public key
-  cookie One-time secret
-  RP Rendezvous point

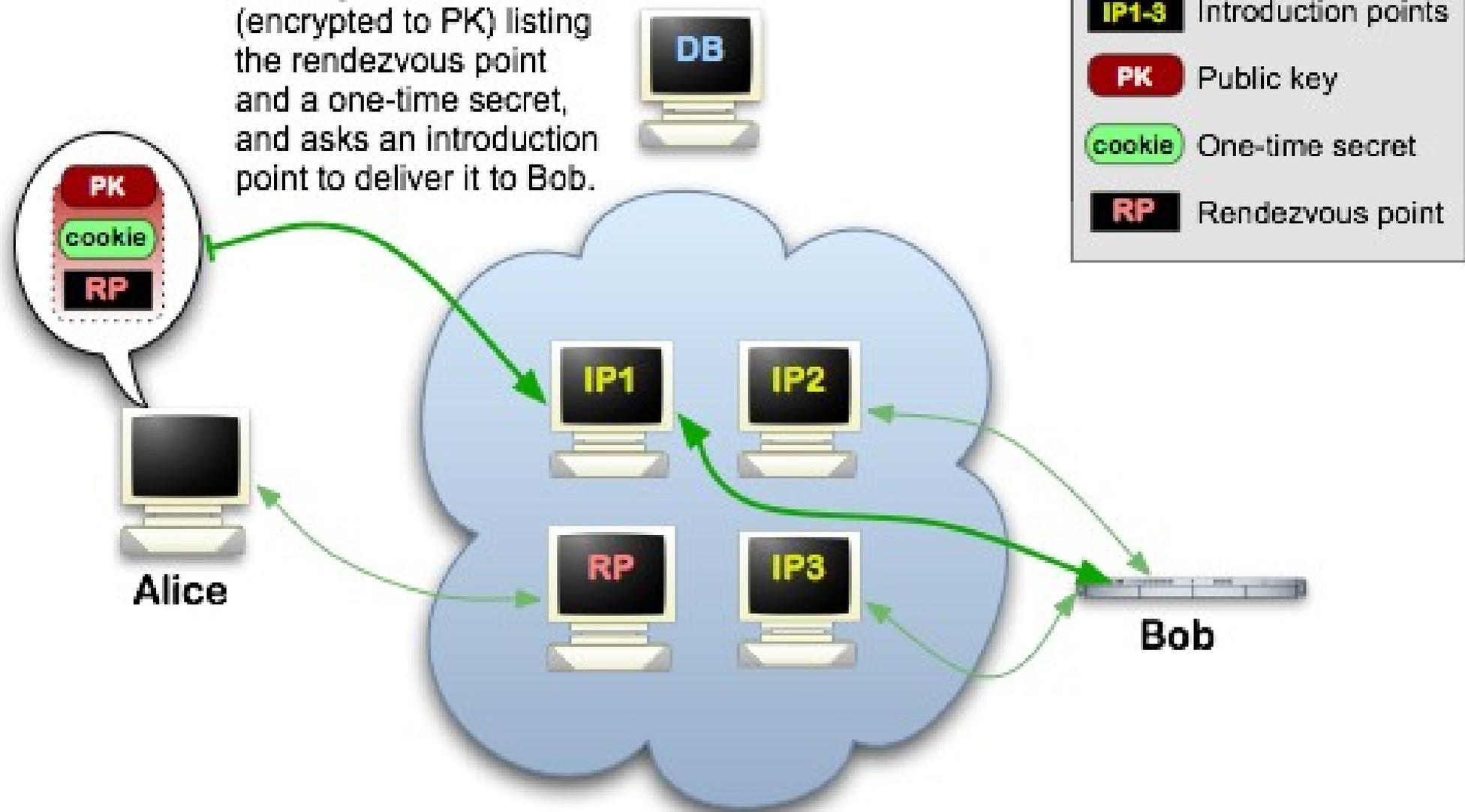
# Tor Hidden Services: 3

**Step 3:** Alice hears that XYZ.onion exists, and she requests more info from the database. She also sets up a rendezvous point, though she could have done this before.



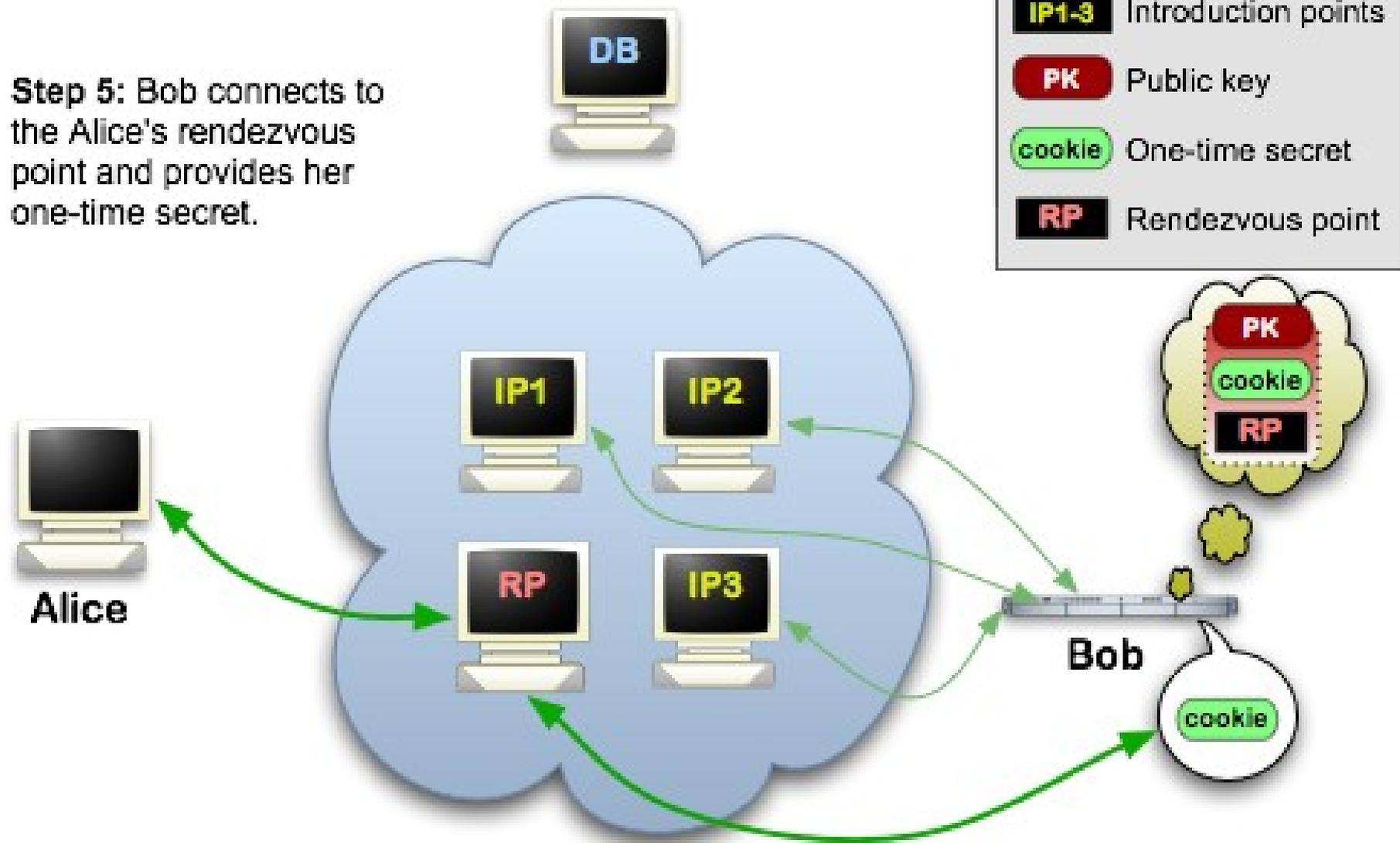
# Tor Hidden Services: 4

**Step 4:** Alice writes a message to Bob (encrypted to PK) listing the rendezvous point and a one-time secret, and asks an introduction point to deliver it to Bob.



# Tor Hidden Services: 5

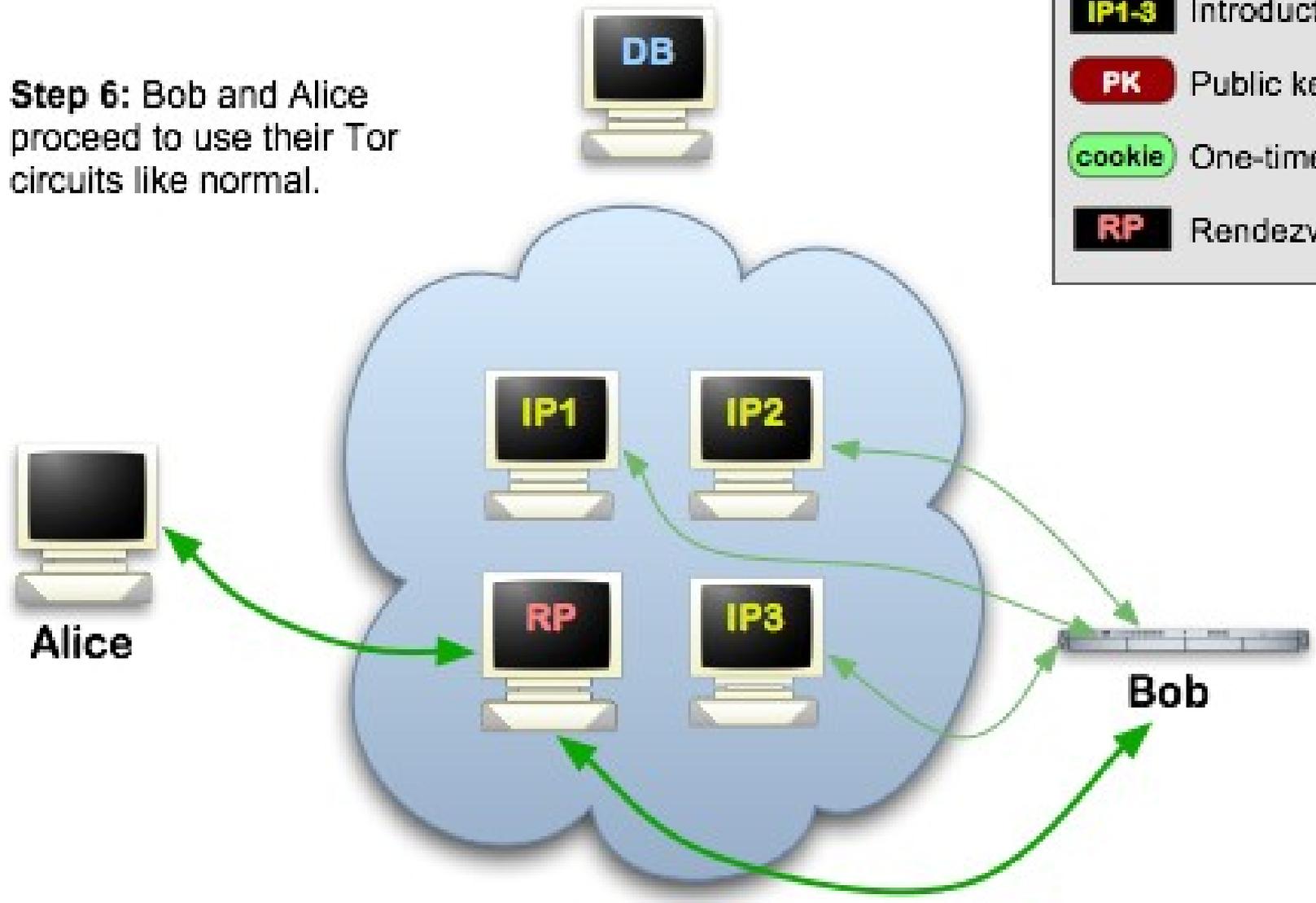
Step 5: Bob connects to the Alice's rendezvous point and provides her one-time secret.



# Tor Hidden Services: 6

Step 6: Bob and Alice proceed to use their Tor circuits like normal.

-  Tor cloud
-  Tor circuit
- IP1-3** Introduction points
- PK** Public key
- cookie** One-time secret
- RP** Rendezvous point



# Onion Service Properties

---

- Self authenticated  
(self-verifying?)
- End-to-end encrypted
  - NAT punching
- Limited surface area

# Takeaways

---

**More variation** in onion services than people think.

Still a **tiny** fraction of overall Tor traffic.

Upcoming technical work to make them **harder / better / stronger / faster**.

Please **deploy** an onion address for your website/service

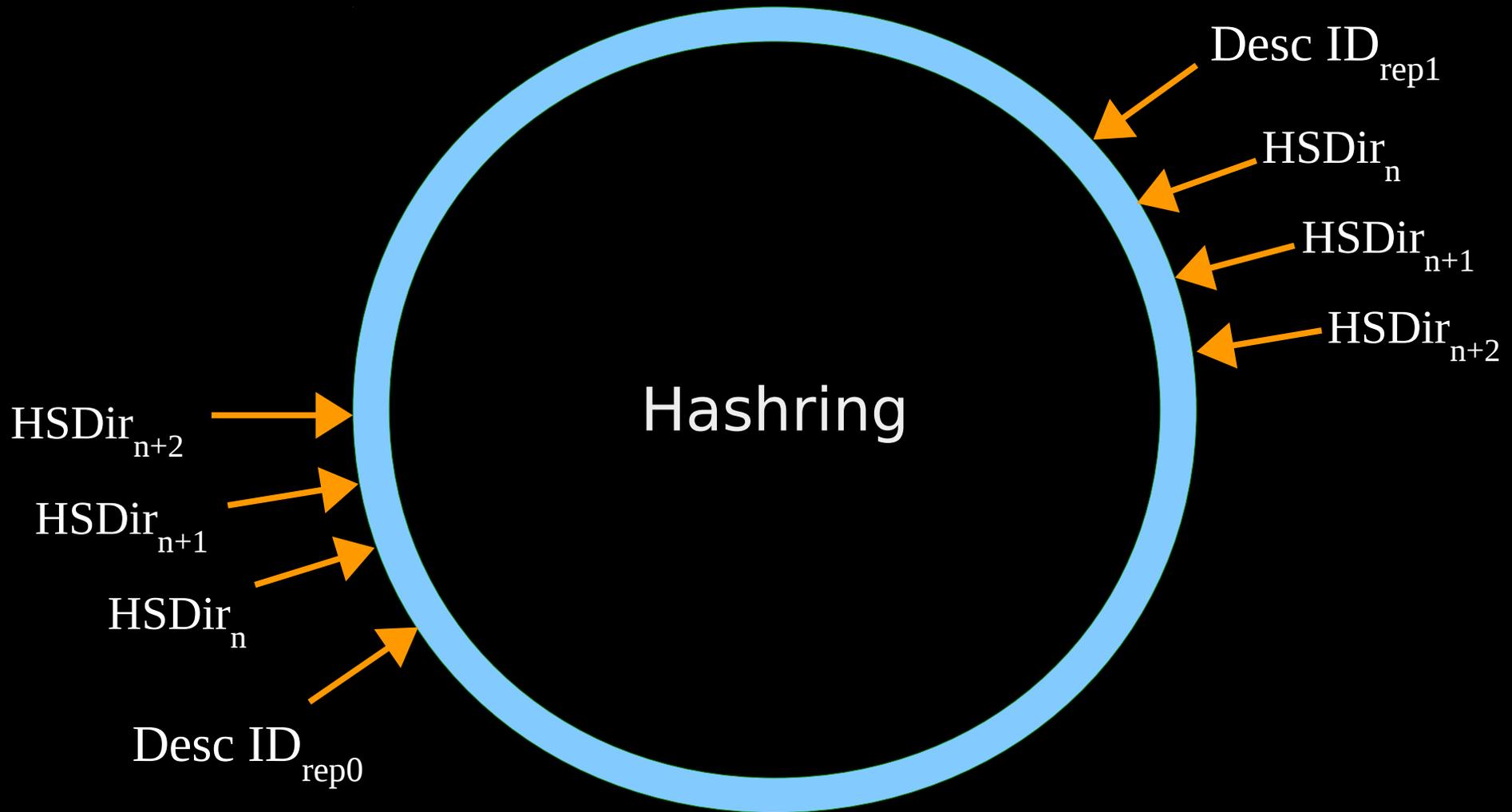
# Current Security Problems

---

- Onion identity keys are **too short!**
- You can choose relay identity keys to **target** a particular onion service
- You can run relays to **harvest** onion addresses
- **Sybil** attacks remain an issue for Tor in general
- Guard **discovery** attack (proposal 247)
- Website **fingerprinting** for onion services?

# HS Directory

**Desc ID** = H(onion-address | H(time-period | descriptor-cookie | replica))



# HSDir Predictability

**Desc ID** = H(onion-address |  
H( **time-period** | descriptor-cookie | replica))

 Invariant

*time-period span*

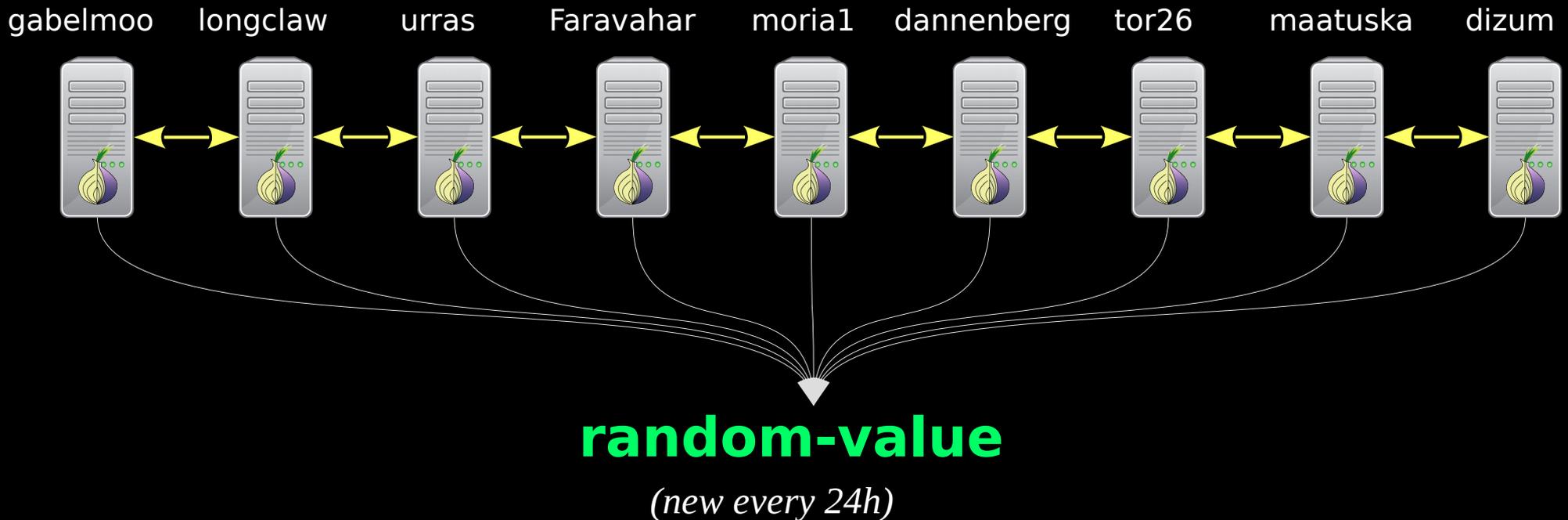


# Shared Randomness

*Proposal 250*

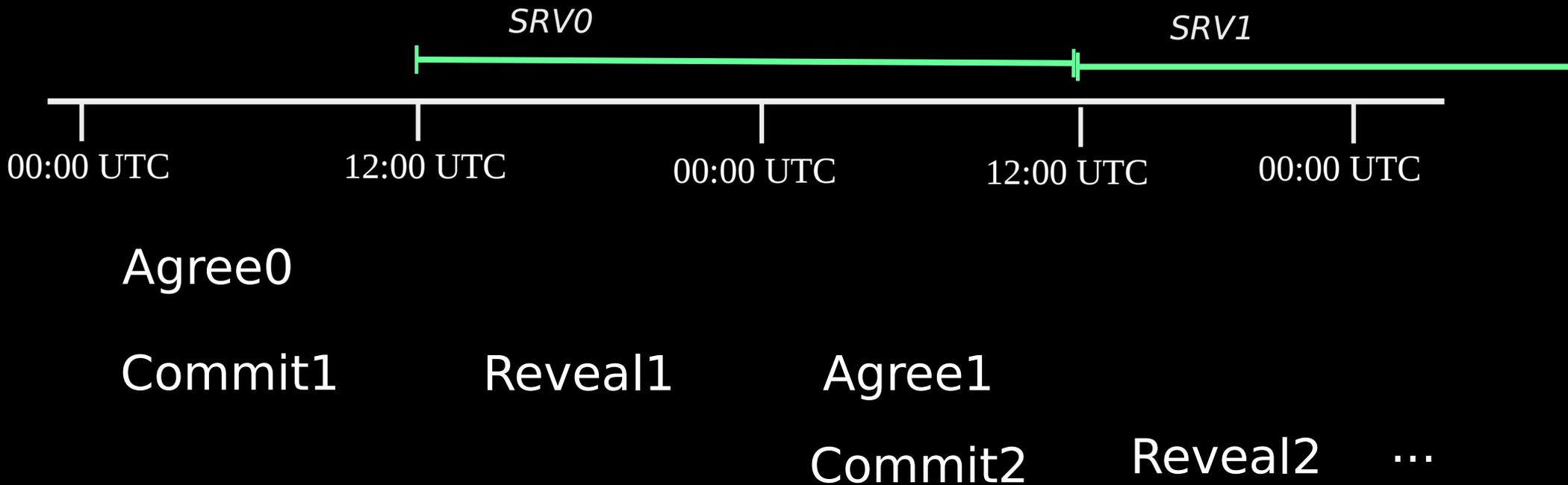
**Desc ID** = H(onion-address |  
H( **time-period** | **random-value** | descriptor-cookie | replica))

 Invariant



# Shared-Random-Value phases

---



# Guidelines for doing your Tor research safely/ethically

---

- Try to attack only yourself / your own traffic
- Only collect data that is **acceptable** to make public
- Don't collect data you don't need (minimization)
- Limit the granularity of data (e.g. add noise)
- Describe benefits and risks, and explain why benefits outweigh risks
- Consider auxiliary data when assessing the risks
- Use a Test network whenever possible

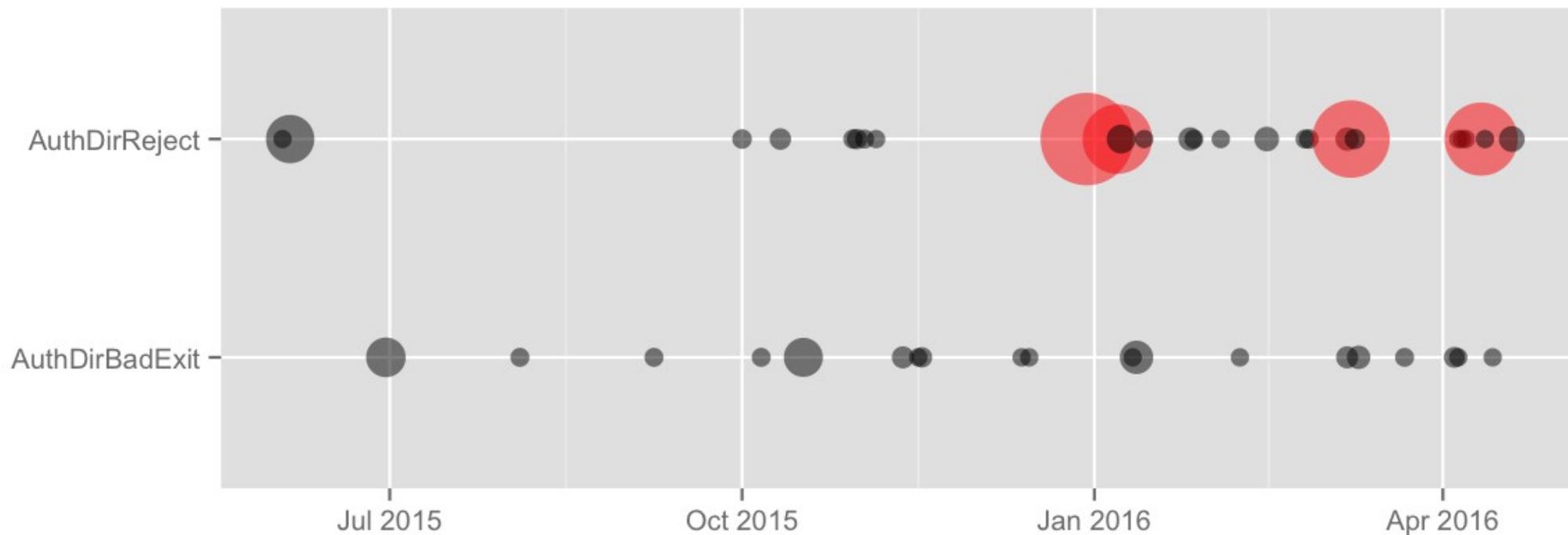
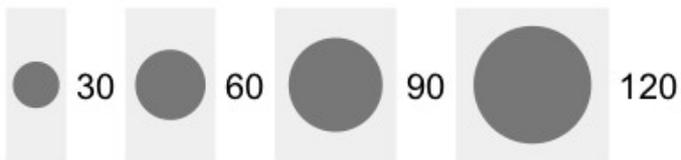
# Tricky Edge Cases

---

## Onion address harvesting

- Get them by googling for .onion? **Ok.**
- Get them by being Verisign and looking at the root nameservers? **Hm. Ok?**
- Get them by being Comcast and looking at your DNS logs? **Hm. Ok?**
- Get them by running a Tor relay, getting the HSDir flag, and logging what you see? **Hm. Not Ok.**

Number of excluded relays





## Tor Research Safety Board

*This page is under construction. Don't believe everything on it yet!*

- [What is the Tor Research Safety Board?](#)
- [What are the safety guidelines?](#)
- [How can I submit a request for advice?](#)
- [What are some example papers that are in-scope?](#)
- [Who is on the Board?](#)
- [FAQ](#)

---

### What is the Tor Research Safety Board?

We are a group of researchers who study Tor, and who want to **minimize privacy risks while fostering a better understanding of the Tor network and its users**. We aim to accomplish this goal in three ways:

1. developing and maintaining a set of guidelines that researchers can use to assess the safety of their Tor research.
2. giving feedback to researchers who use our guidelines to assess the safety of their planned research.

# Better Crypto



# Bigger Onion Address

---

From 16 characters:

**nzh3fv6jc6jskki3.onion**

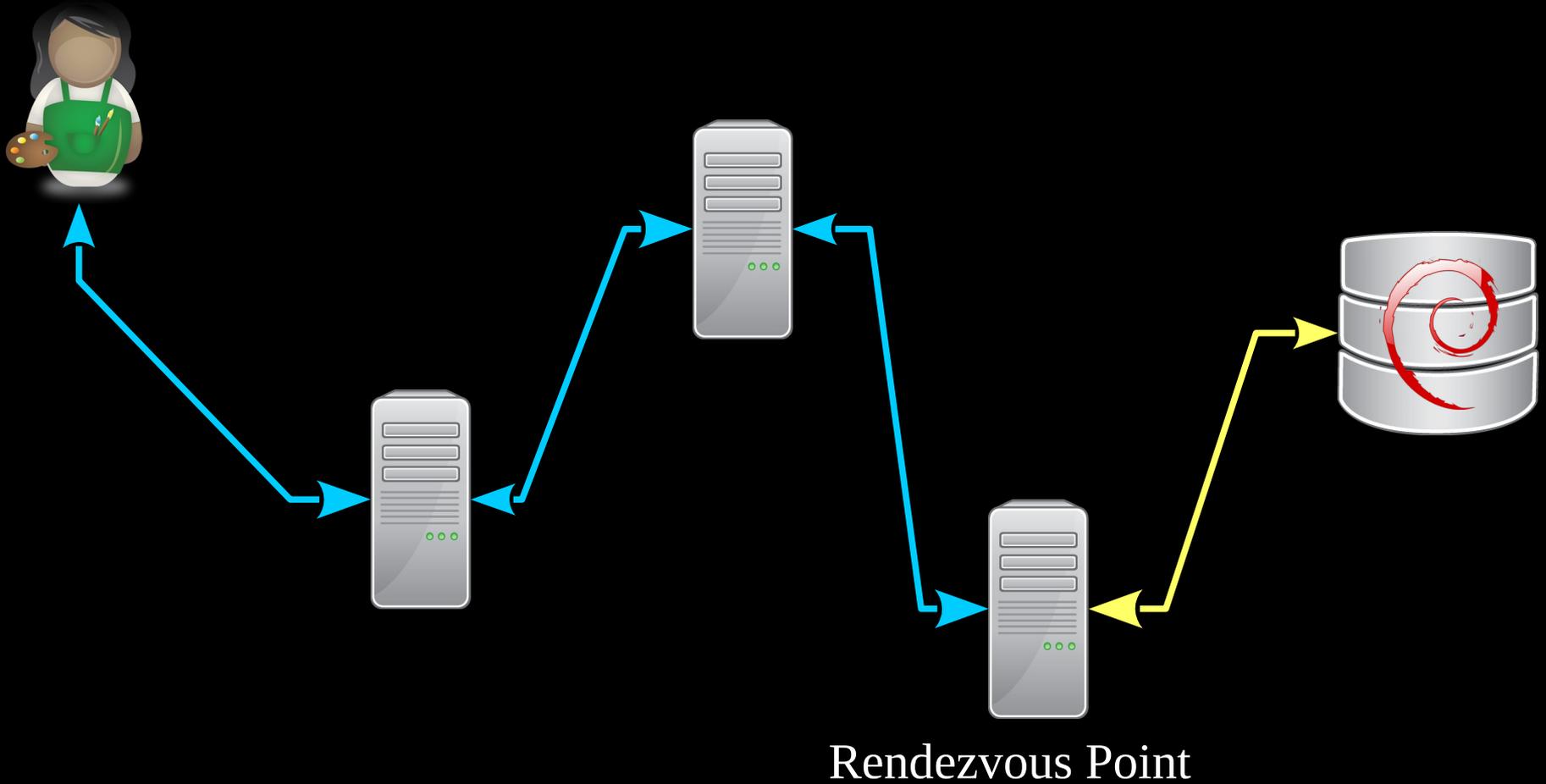
... to 52 characters:

**a1uik0w1gmfq3i5ievxdm9ceu27e88g6o7pe0rffdw9jmntwkdsd.onion**

*(ed25519 public key base32 encoded)*

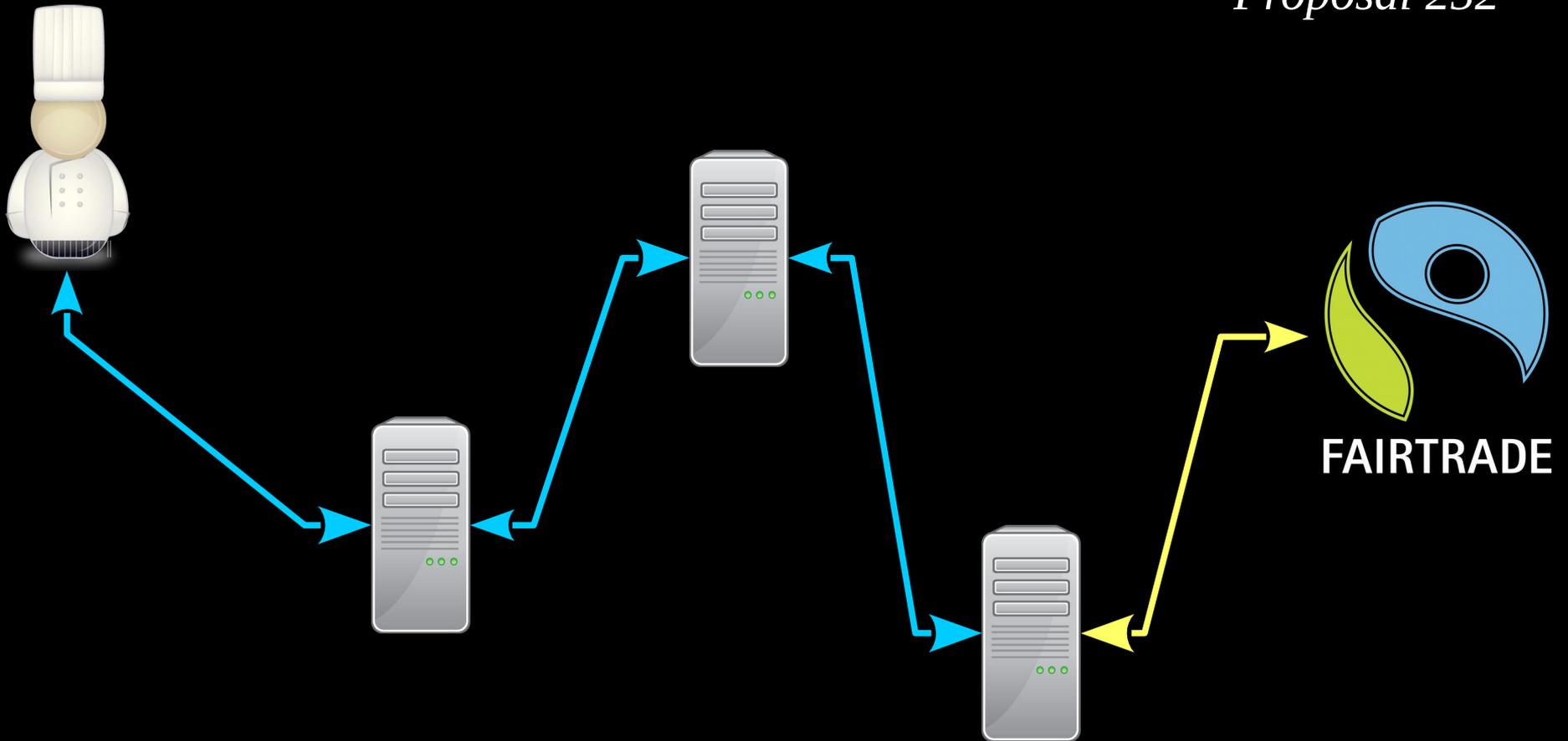
# Rendezvous Single Onion Services (RSOS)

*Proposal 260*



# Single Onion Services (SOS)

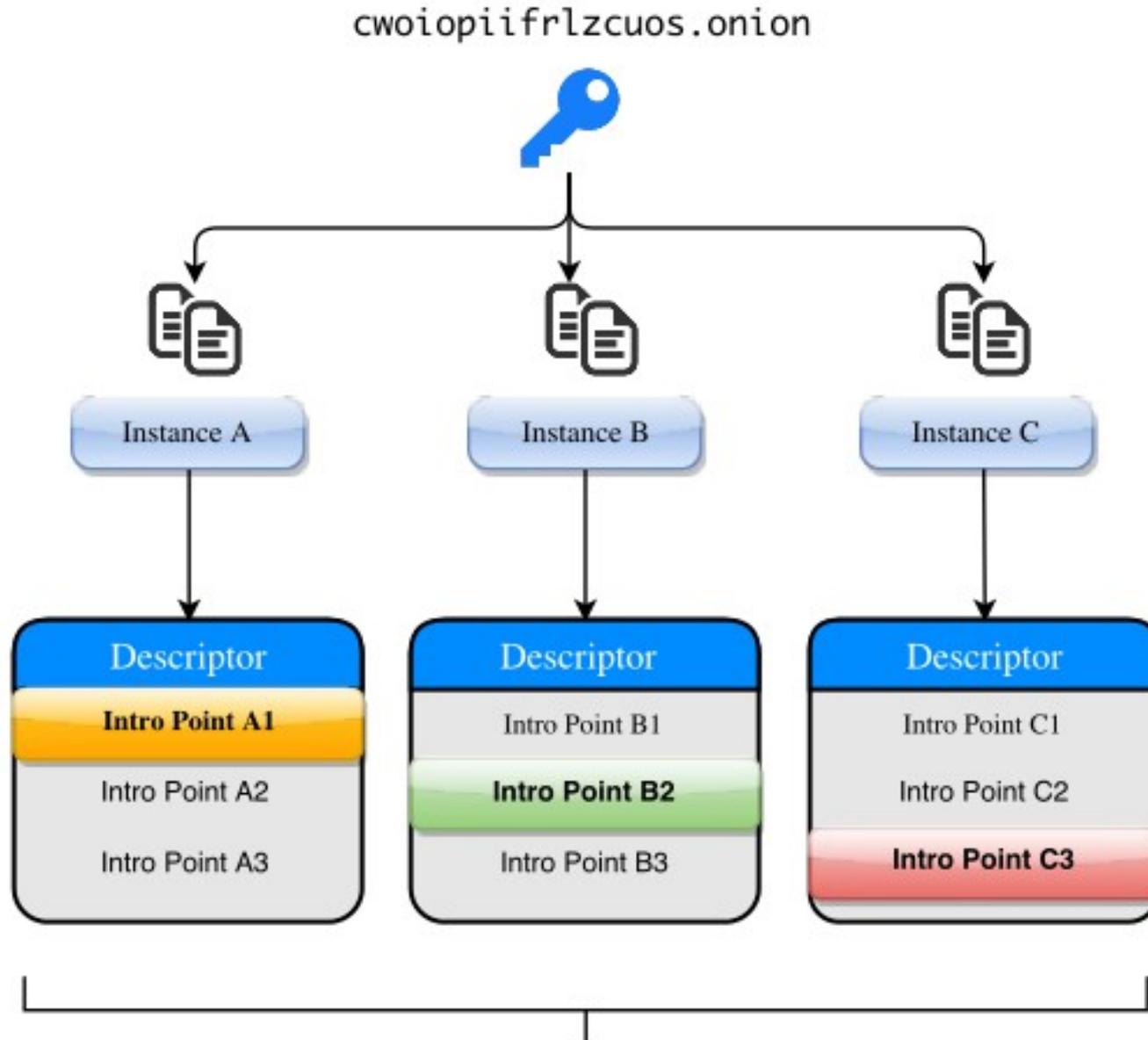
*Proposal 252*



The circuit is extended to the service.  
**No Introduction nor Rendezvous.**

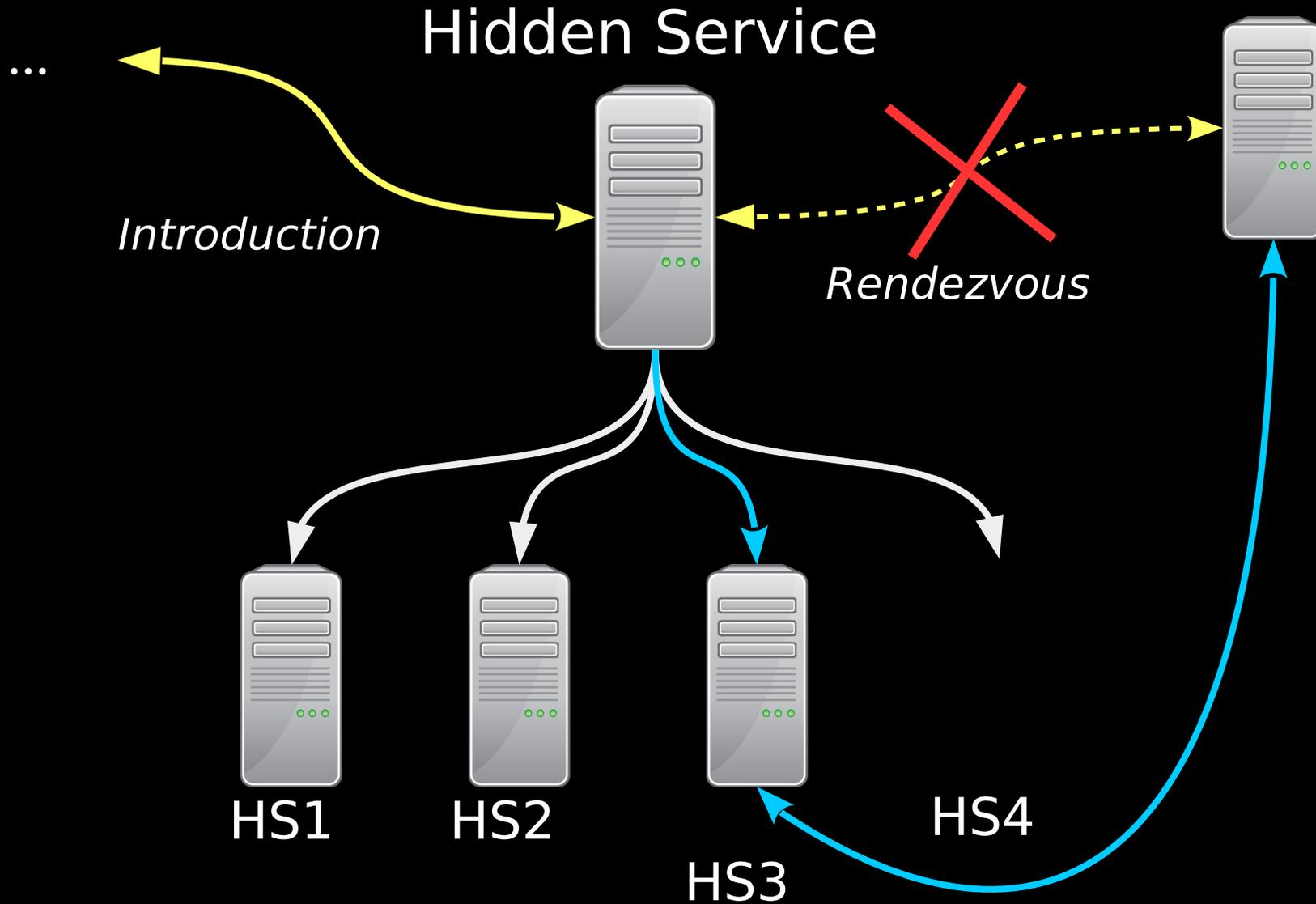
# OnionBalance - TSoP

<https://onionbalance.readthedocs.org>



# Load Balancing

Proposal 255







“Still the King of high secure,  
low latency Internet Anonymity”

Contenders for the throne:

- None

## NSA targets the privacy-conscious

von J. Appelbaum, A. Gibson, J. Goetz, V. Kabisch, L. Kampf, L. Ryge

One of NSA's German targets is 212.212.245.170. The string of numbers is an IP address assigned to Sebastian Hahn, a computer science student at the University of Erlangen. Hahn operates the server out of a grey high-security building a few kilometers from where he lives. Hahn, 28 years old and sporting a red beard, volunteers for the Tor Project in his free time. He is especially trusted by the Tor community, as his server is not just a node, it is a so-called Directory Authority. There are nine of these worldwide, and they are central to the Tor Network, as they contain an index of all Tor nodes. A user's traffic is automatically directed to one of the directory authorities to download the newest list of Tor relays generated each hour.

```
if START_DIRECTORY
then
  * Fingerprint for authoritative directories awaiting the directory protocol.
  *
  fingerprint["anonymous/tor/node/authority"] = $dir_authority
and ($dir_authority or prepubdir/anonymous/tor/directory);
if END_DIRECTORY
```

Hahn's predecessor named the server Gabelmoo, or Fork Man, the nickname of a local statue of Poseidon. After a look at the NSA source code, Hahn quickly

Nächster Sendetermin

Do, 08.01.2015 | 21:45

### WEITERE INFORMATIONEN



03.07.14 | 17:15 Uhr

#### Quellcode entschlüsselt: Beleg für NSA-Spionage in Deutschland

Deutsche, die sich mit Verschlüsselung im Internet beschäftigen, werden gezielt vom US-Geheimdienst NSA ausgespäht. | [mehr](#)

**0%\***

**\*Percentage of child porn hosted on onion services,  
according to the Internet Watch Foundation's  
2015 Annual Report**