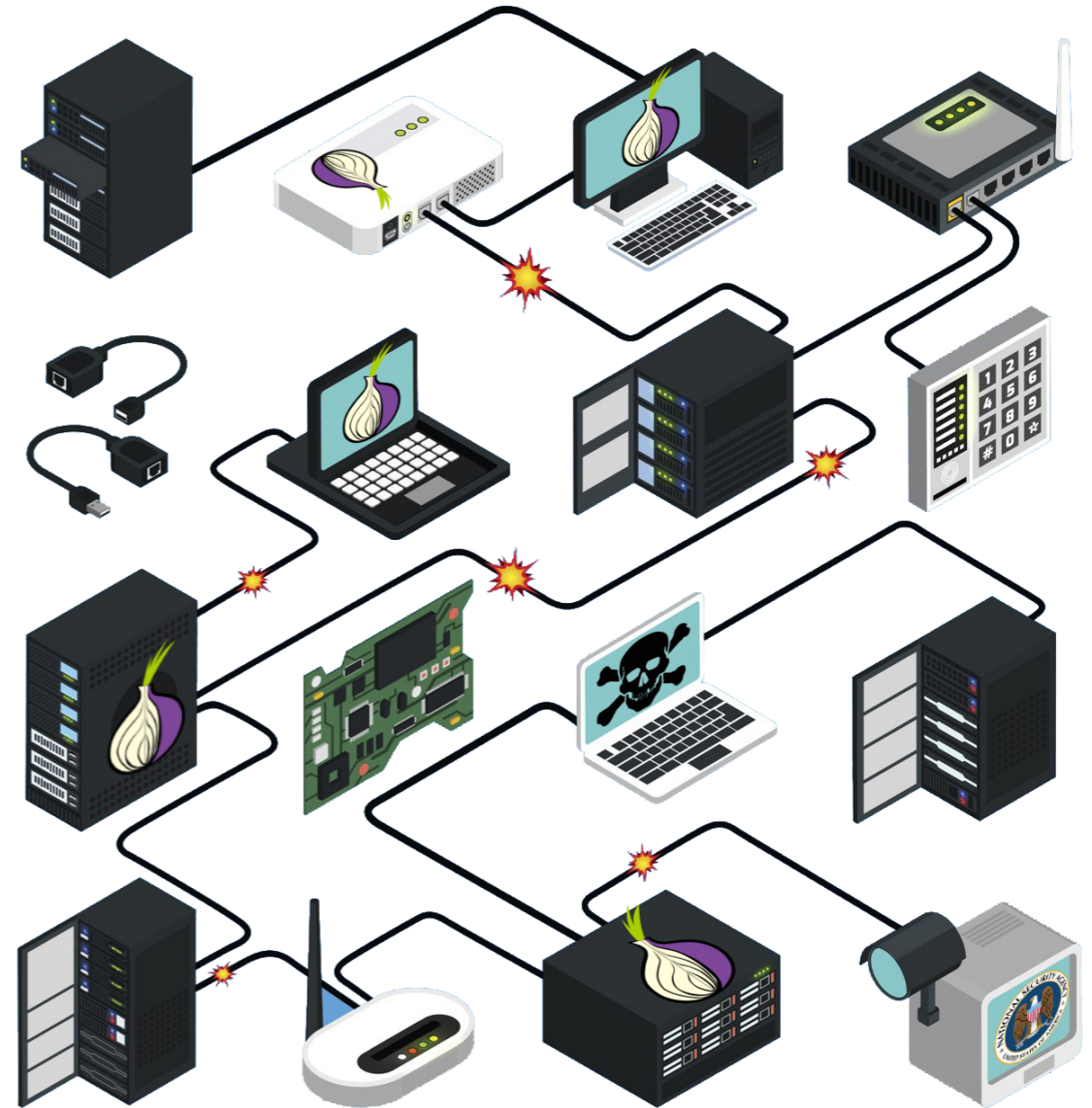


# Technical introduction

## The Network



# Sharing is Caring

*Please copy, share, and remix!*

grab a copy of the presentation:

[github.com/francisco-core/technical-intro-to-tor/](https://github.com/francisco-core/technical-intro-to-tor/)



This presentation is under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License



**On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog.**



*“Remember when, on the Internet,  
nobody knew who you were?”*

***Why is there a need for privacy?***

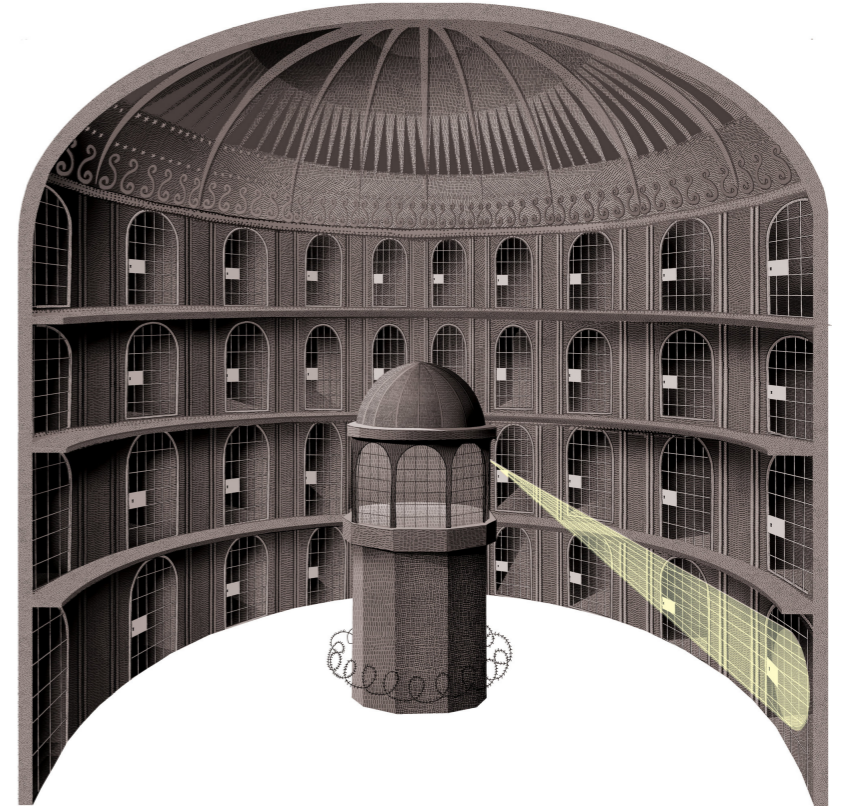
# Privacy

**gives people a safe place**

**If everything is recorded, you never know what is going to be used against you**

**You self-censor**

Observation changes behavior



**Privacy is essential  
for a **Free Society****

**MASS SURVEILLANCE  
HAS NO PLACE  
IN A FREE AND  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY**

**PRIVACY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**But...**

**The Internet is NOT a private place**

**With no additional protection**

**we are exposed**

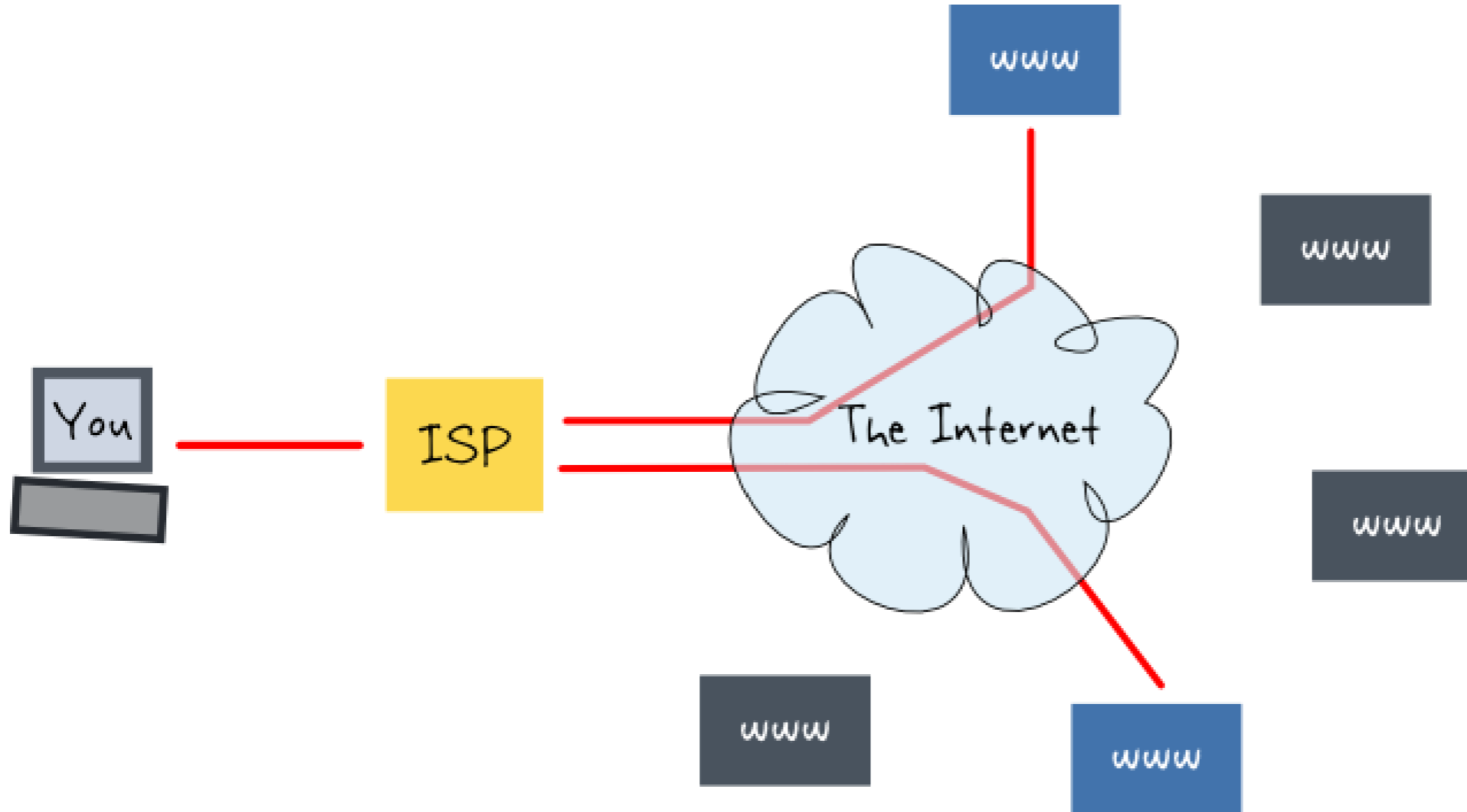
# IP addresses are geolocated and sent along with each message



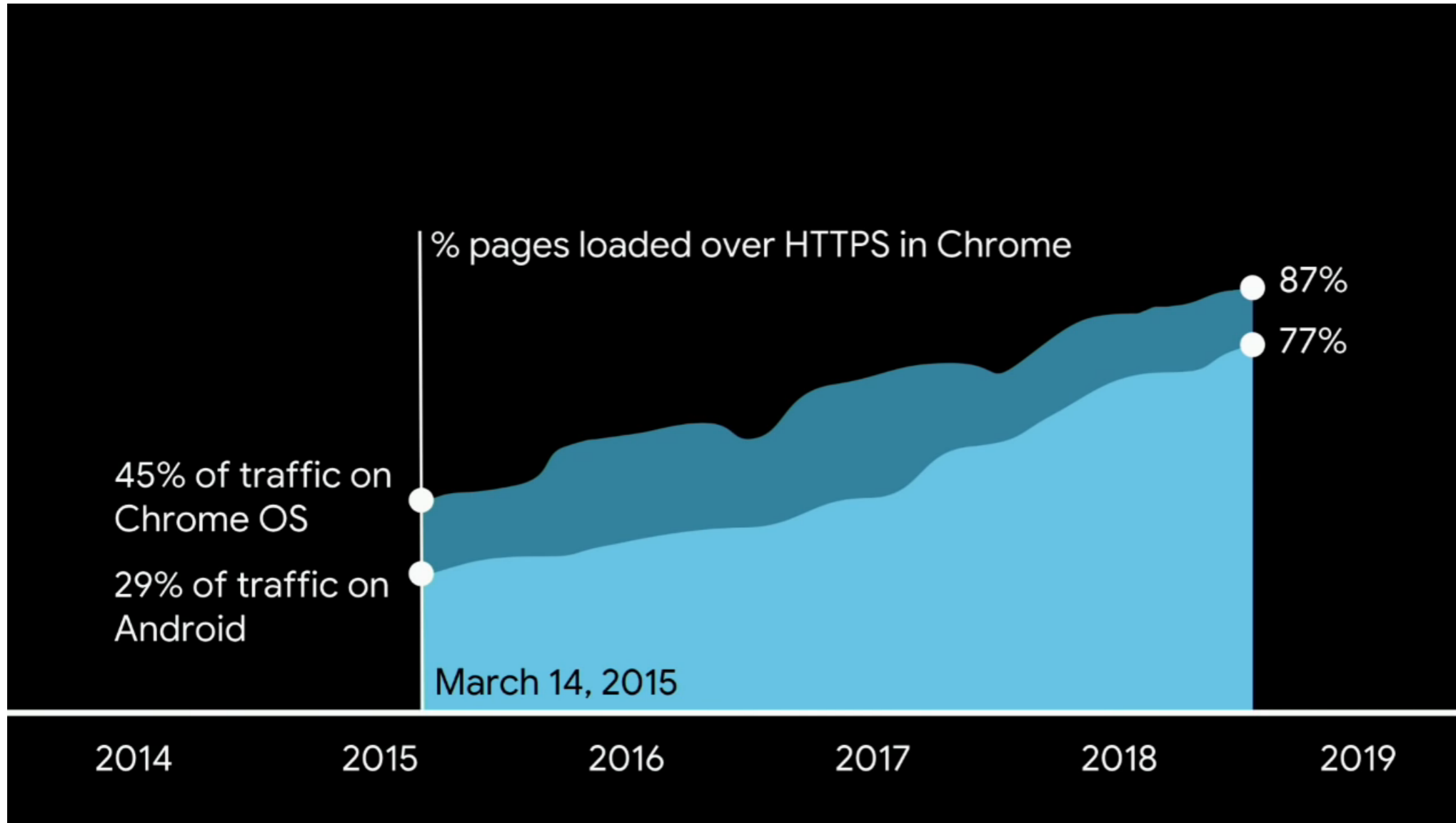
## TCP/IP Packet

IP Header	Version	IHL	Type of Service	Total Length				
	Identification			Flags	Fragment Offset			
	Time to Live	Protocol=6 (TCP)		Header Checksum				
	Source Address							
	Destination Address							
	Options			Padding				
	Source Port			Destination Port				
	Sequence Number							
	Acknowledgement Number							
	Data Offset		U R G	A P S K	P R S H	S Y N T	F I N	Window
Checksum			Urgent Pointer					
TCP Options				Padding				
TCP Data								

# ISPs know every website you visit / services you use



# HTTPS wide deployment is very recent



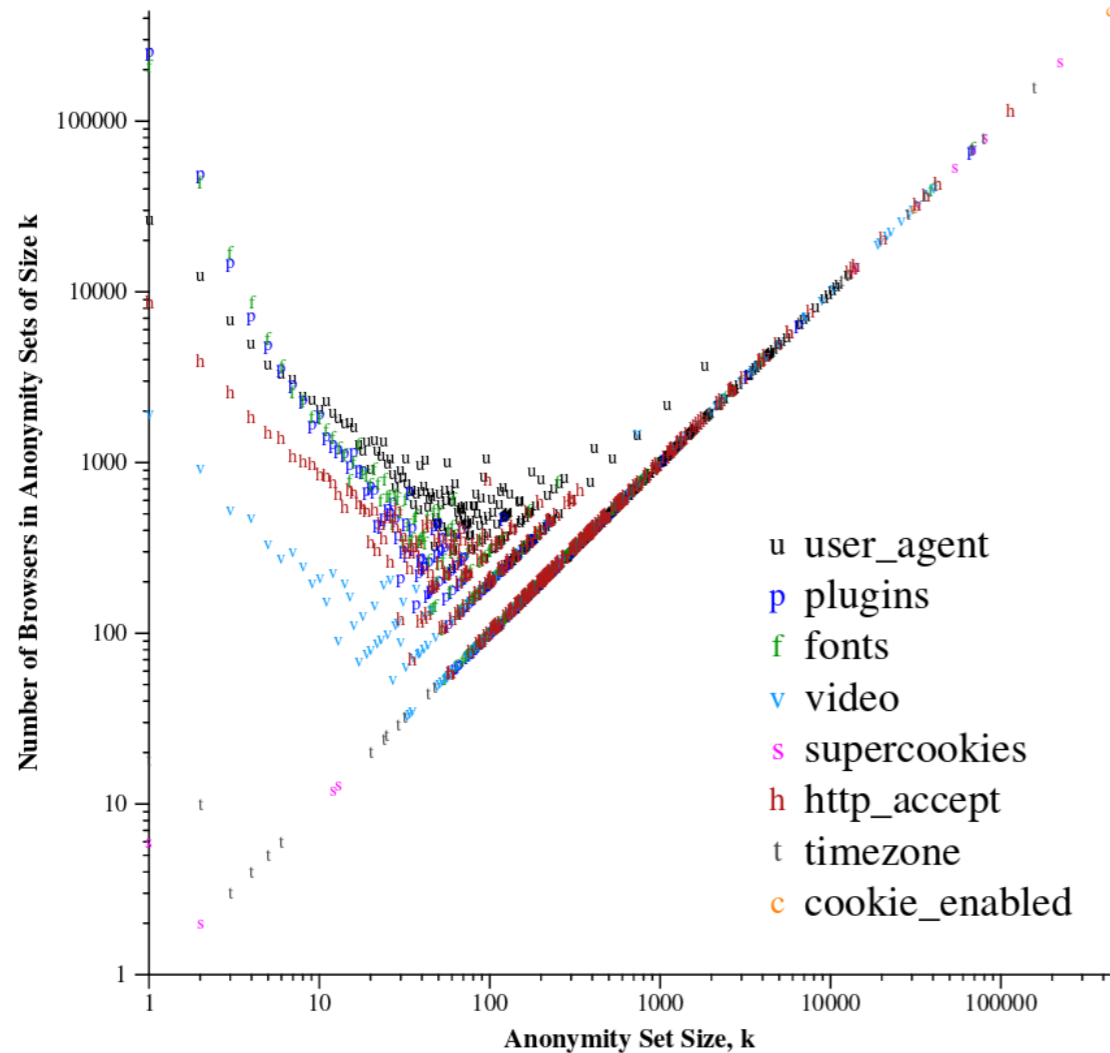
# Cookies

**Cookies** have been preverted from their original function and abused to **track people** online for marketing purposes.



Name	Domain	Path	Expires on	Last accessed on	Value	HttpOnly	sameSite
CONSENT	.youtube.com	/	Sun, 10 Jan 2038 07:...	Sun, 02 Dec 2018 0...	YES+PT.en...	false	Unset
GPS	.youtube.com	/	Sun, 02 Dec 2018 0...	Sun, 02 Dec 2018 0...	1	false	Unset
PREF	.youtube.com	/	Fri, 20 Nov 2020 17:...	Sun, 02 Dec 2018 0...	f1=5000000...	false	Unset
ST-1dplipd	.youtube.com	/	Wed, 21 Nov 2018 ...	Wed, 21 Nov 2018 ...	itct=CFIQ3D...	false	Unset
ST-1dzec5	.youtube.com	/	Thu, 11 Oct 2018 1...	Thu, 11 Oct 2018 1...	itct=CFcQ3...	false	Unset
ST-1mnkp15	.youtube.com	/	Fri, 23 Nov 2018 16:...	Fri, 23 Nov 2018 16:...	itct=CDwQL...	false	Unset
ST-1nmw1ag	.youtube.com	/	Sun, 02 Dec 2018 0...	Sun, 02 Dec 2018 0...	itct=CFQQ3...	false	Unset
ST-1tgvznc	.youtube.com	/	Sat, 06 Oct 2018 12...	Sat, 06 Oct 2018 12...	itct=CFMQp...	false	Unset
ST-1y3a62l	.youtube.com	/	Sun, 25 Nov 2018 0...	Sun, 25 Nov 2018 0...	itct=CD4QL...	false	Unset
ST-3zqc6r	.youtube.com	/	Wed, 21 Nov 2018 ...	Wed, 21 Nov 2018 ...	itct=CFYQ3...	false	Unset
ST-10ibu86	.youtube.com	/	Fri, 05 Oct 2018 13:...	Fri, 05 Oct 2018 13:...	itct=CFcQLD...	false	Unset
ST-14h6oq	.youtube.com	/	Sun, 30 Sep 2018 1...	Sun, 30 Sep 2018 1...	itct=CFYQ3...	false	Unset
ST-20xet5	.youtube.com	/	Fri, 05 Oct 2018 11:...	Fri, 05 Oct 2018 11:...	itct=CE8Q3...	false	Unset

# Browser Fingerprinting



Browser Characteristic	bits of identifying information	one in $x$ browsers have this value	value
Limited supercookie test	0.35	1.27	DOM localStorage: Yes, DOM sessionStorage: Yes, IE userData: No
Hash of canvas fingerprint	8.67	406.34	fcef380b67fa405ef000dd07bfc0c479
Screen Size and Color Depth	2.52	5.74	1920x1080x24
Browser Plugin Details	1.34	2.54	undefined
Time Zone	3.19	9.15	0
DNT Header Enabled?	1.09	2.13	False
HTTP_ACCEPT Headers	2.15	4.44	text/html, */*; q=0.01 gzip, deflate, br en-US,en;q=0.5
Hash of WebGL fingerprint	12.41	5438.45	e5db811ae893509209a2cf50e6d6a0aa
Language	0.96	1.95	en-US
System Fonts	9.63	792.73	Arial, Bitstream Vera Sans Mono, Bookman Old Style, Calibri, Cambria, Century Schoolbook, Courier, Courier New, Helvetica, Palatino, Palatino Linotype, Times, Times New Roman, Wingdings 2, Wingdings 3 (via javascript)
Platform	3.36	10.28	Linux x86_64
User Agent	12.78	7025.26	Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Fedora; Linux x86_64; rv:63.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/63.0
Touch Support	0.56	1.47	Max touchpoints: 0; TouchEvent supported: false; onTouchStart supported: false
Are Cookies Enabled?	0.21	1.15	Yes

from a *"How Unique Is Your Web Browser?"* by Peter Eckersley

# Passive Analysis of the Internet Backbone

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN

Hotmail! Google skype paltalk.com YouTube AOL mail

Gmail facebook YAHOO! Apple

**SPECIAL SOURCE OPERATIONS**

(TS//SI//NF) **FAA702 Operations**  
Two Types of Collection

**PRISM**

**Upstream**

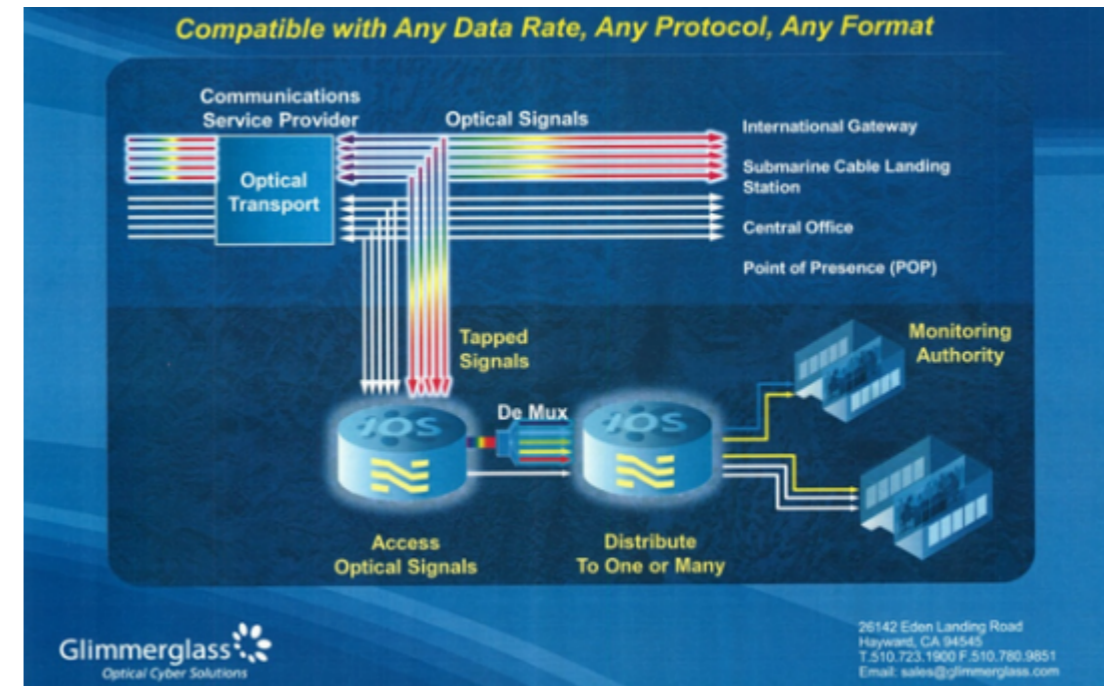
- Collection of communications on fiber cables and infrastructure as data flows past. (FAIRVIEW, STORMBREW, BLARNEY, OAKSTAR)

**PRISM**

- Collection directly from the servers of these U.S. Service Providers: Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, PalTalk, AOL, Skype, YouTube, Apple.

**You Should Use Both**

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN





# Surveillance Capitalism

The business model where data is money



**driving force**  
of surveillance

# So, what do we do about it?

We create an anonymity network on top  
of a non-anonymous one

yeah, Computer Science has wonders like these

# Approaches to Privacy and Anonymity

There are various approaches to anonymity online, with different trade-offs.

# Single Proxy / VPN

## PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY WITH A VPN TUNNEL

Private Internet Access® VPN Service encrypts your connection and provides you with an anonymous IP to protect your privacy.

GET STARTED NOW >

OpenVPN, PPTP and IPSEC/L2TP VPN  
Tunnels from only \$3.33/mo\*



anonymous IP



My Account

Get Started



SAVE 49%

## Amplify the entire Internet

#1 Trusted leader in VPN

High speed, ultra secure and easy to use. Instant setup.

Get ExpressVPN →

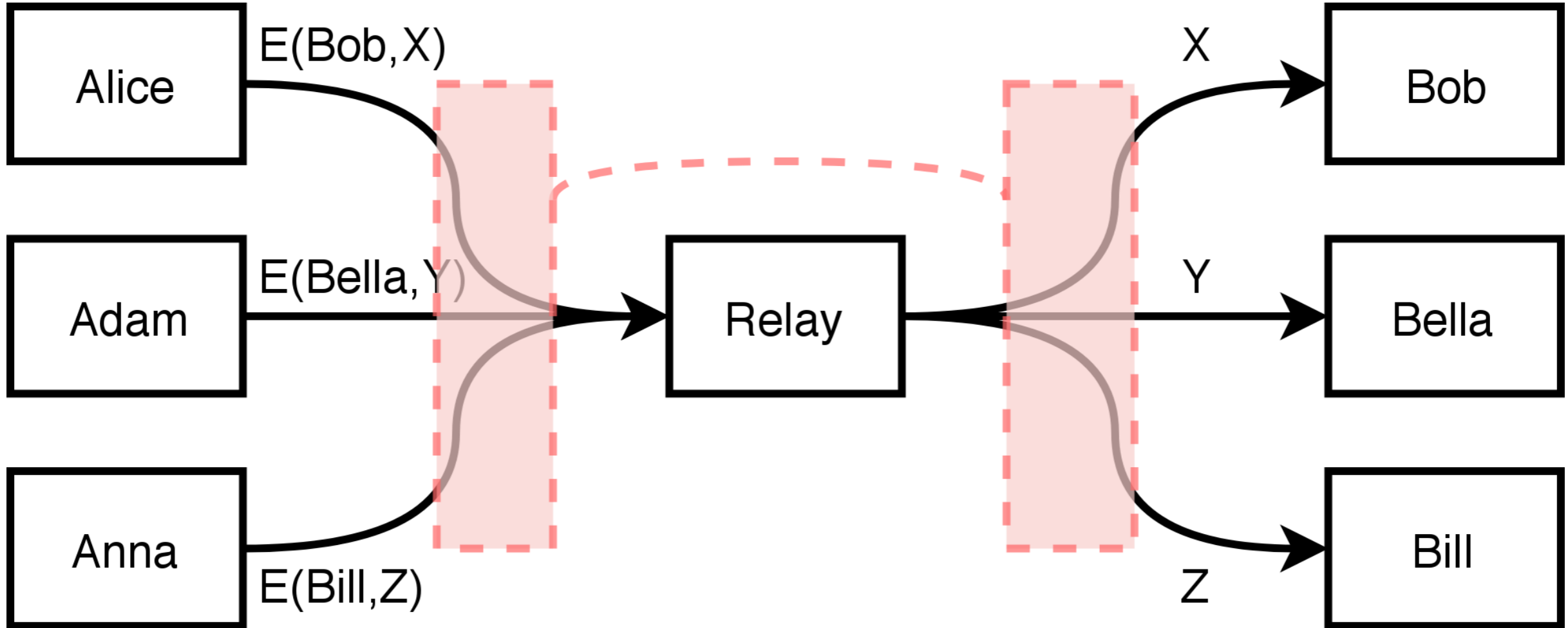
ultra secure

30-day money-back guarantee



Need help? Chat with us!

# Single Proxy / VPN



# Major Flaws

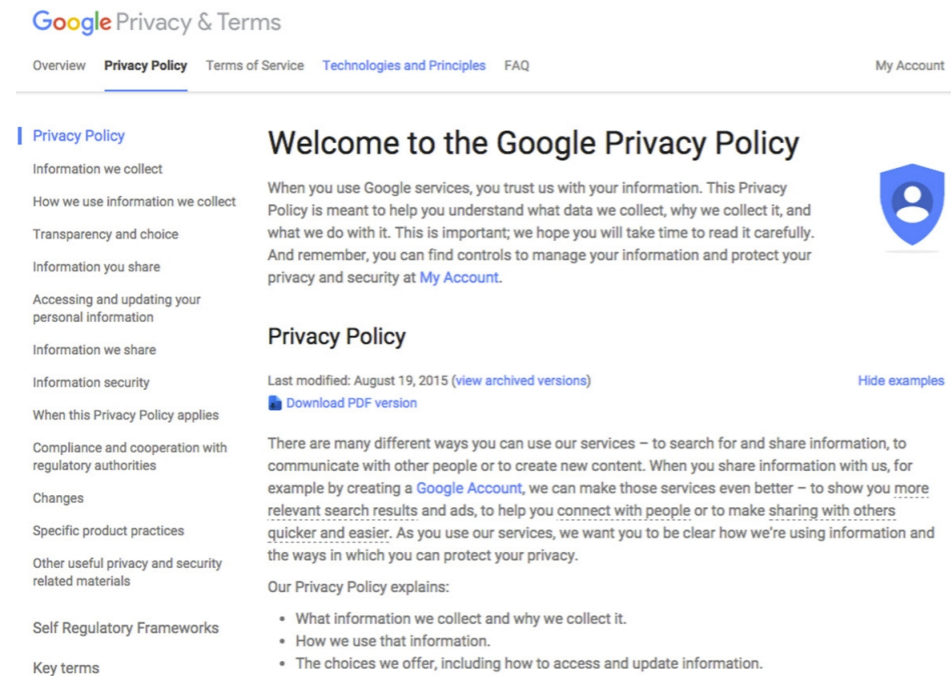
**1. Trust**

**2. Liability for the Provider**

**3. Traffic Correlation**

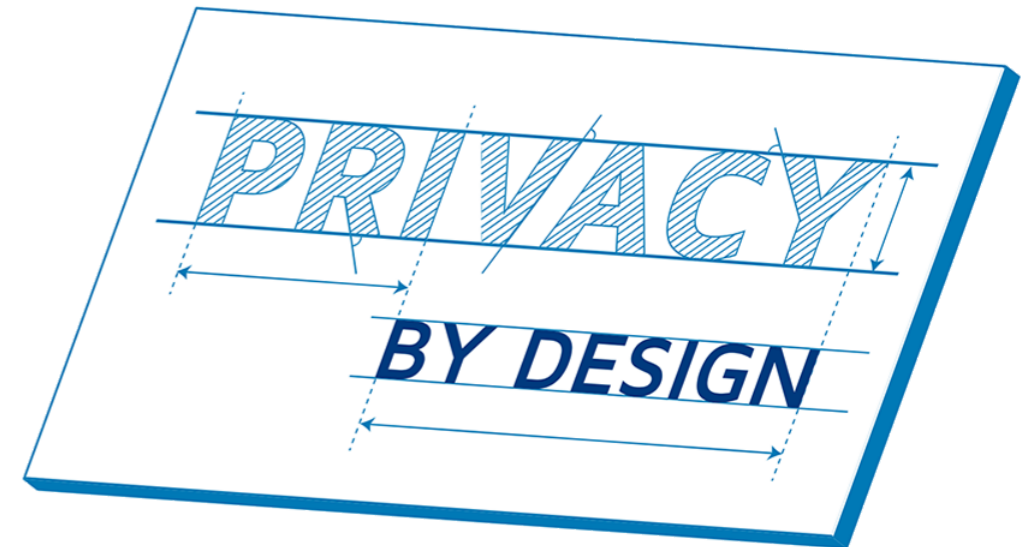
# 1. We have to Trust

## privacy by Policy



The screenshot shows the Google Privacy Policy page. At the top, it says "Google Privacy & Terms" with navigation links for "Overview", "Privacy Policy", "Terms of Service", "Technologies and Principles", and "FAQ". There is a "My Account" link on the right. A left sidebar lists various sections of the policy, with "Privacy Policy" selected. The main content area is titled "Welcome to the Google Privacy Policy" and includes a blue shield icon with a person silhouette. Below this, it says "Privacy Policy" and "Last modified: August 19, 2015 (view archived versions)". There is a "Download PDF version" link and a "Hide examples" link. The main text explains that the policy is meant to help users understand data collection and usage, and provides a list of key points: "What information we collect and why we collect it.", "How we use that information.", and "The choices we offer, including how to access and update information."

## privacy by Design



## 2. Liability for the Provider



### *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

*SUBJECT: NATIONAL SECURITY LETTERS*

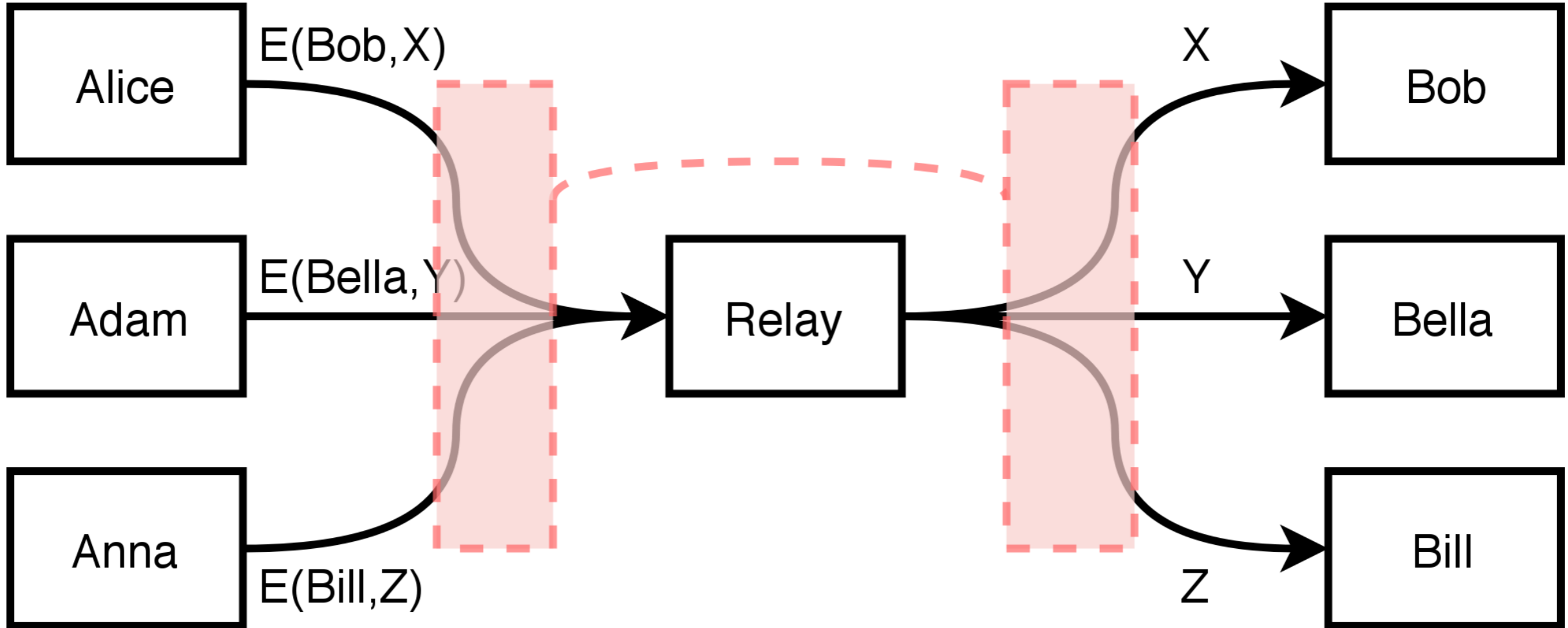
*FOLDER: MODEL LETTERS E+AI*

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 2709(c)(1), I certify that a disclosure of the fact that the FBI has sought or obtained access to the information sought by this letter may endanger the national security of the United States, interfere with a criminal, counterterrorism, or counterintelligence investigation, interfere with diplomatic relations, or endanger the life or physical safety of a person. Accordingly, 18 U.S.C. § 2709(c)(1) and (2) prohibits you, or any officer, employee, or agent of yours, from disclosing this letter, other than to those to whom disclosure is necessary to comply with the letter or to an attorney to obtain legal advice or legal assistance with respect to this letter.

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 2709(c)(3), you are directed to notify any persons to whom you have disclosed this letter that they are also subject to the nondisclosure requirement and are therefore also prohibited from disclosing the letter to anyone else.



### 3. Traffic Correlation



# Our activities are linkable

| A lead can lead to everything else

# VPNs are Pseudonymous

Through fingerprinting it is possible to indentify users

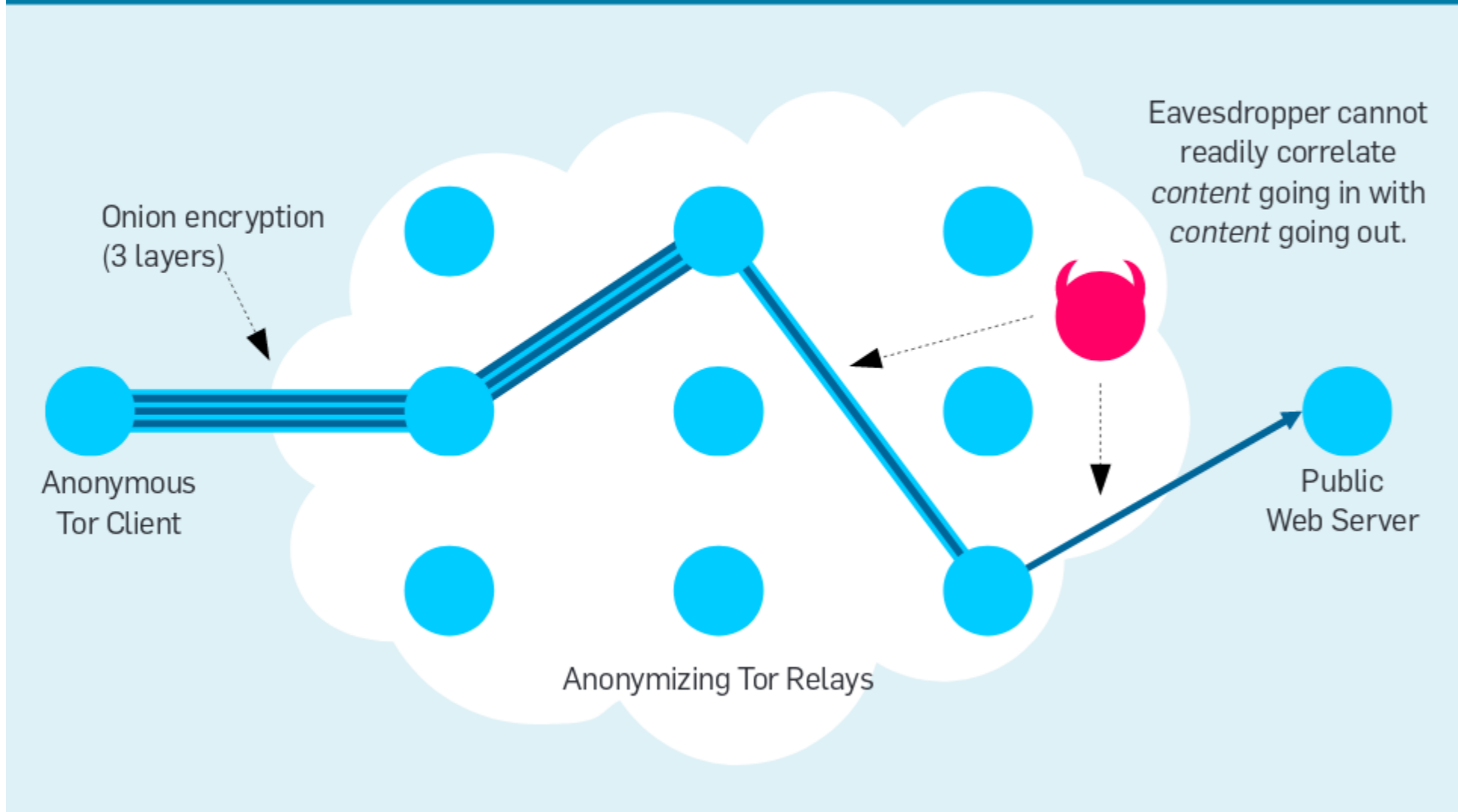
# **Anonymity is Hard**

# Onion Routing

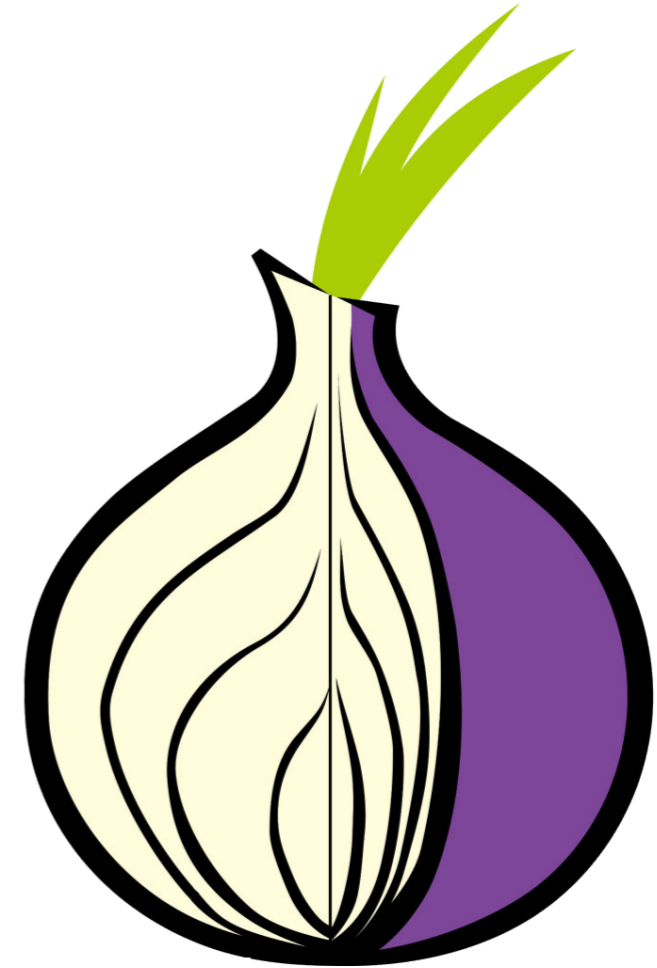
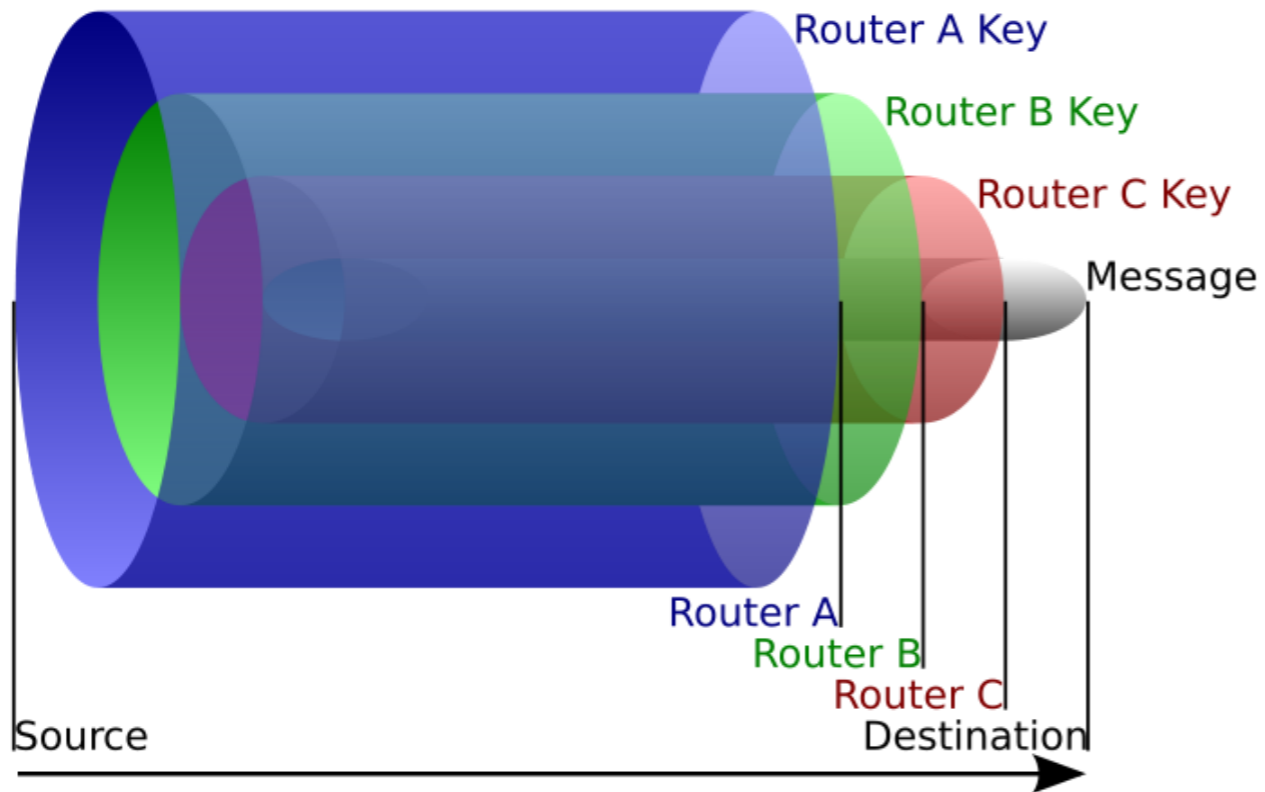
- **use a chain of relays**
- **public key encryption for each of them**

# Onion Routing

Figure 1. Onion routing.



# I don't see any onions there...

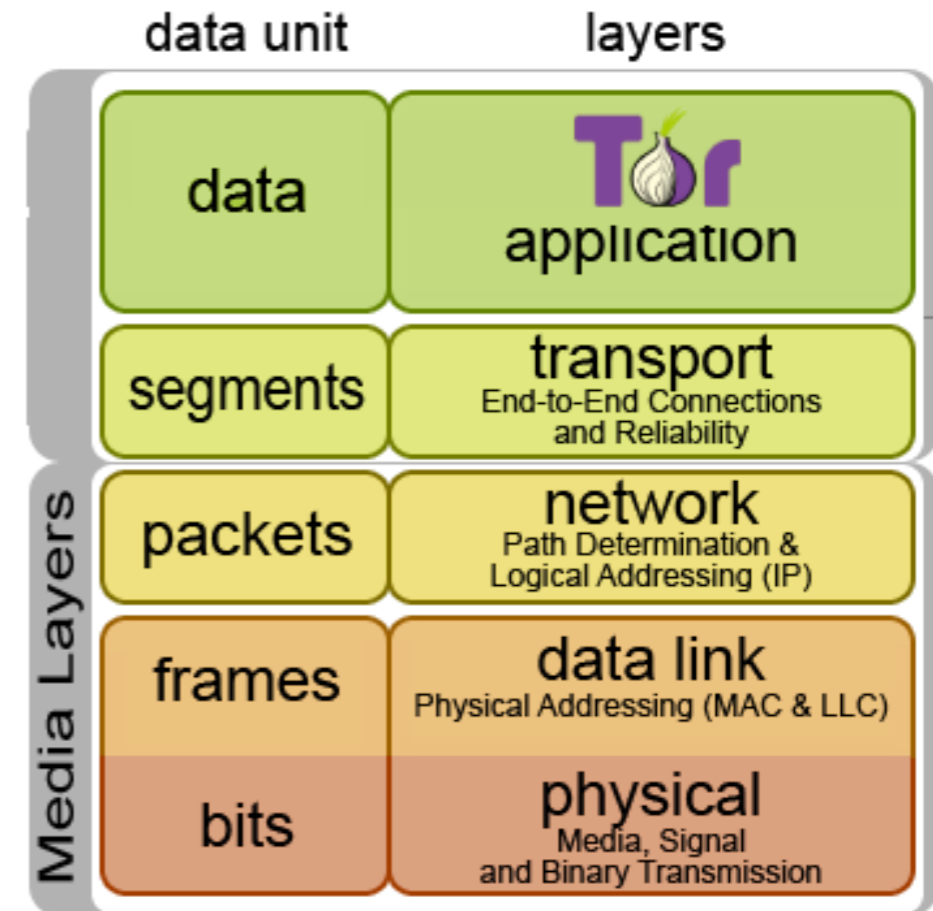
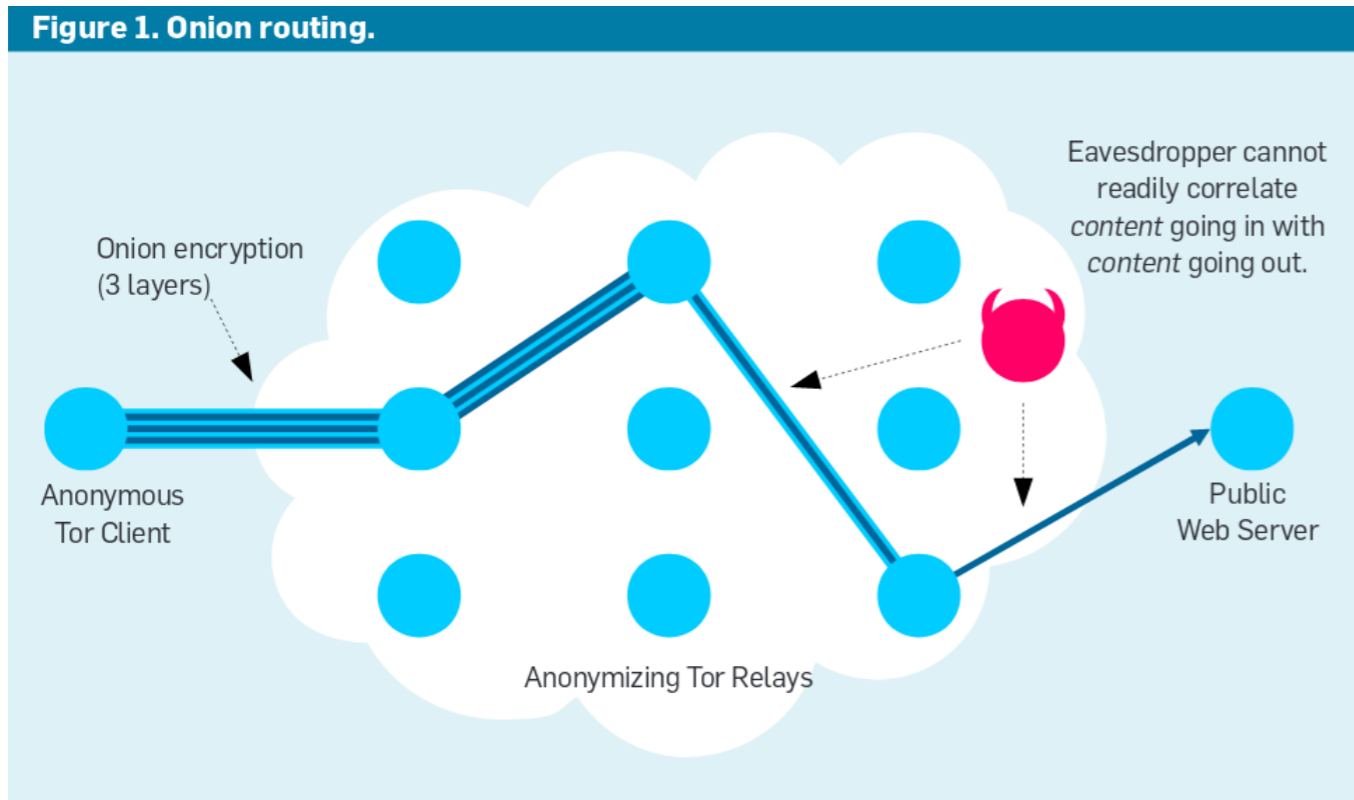


The *onion pattern* also comes up when we think of internet packets and their layers

# Tor implements Onion Routing as an **overlay network**

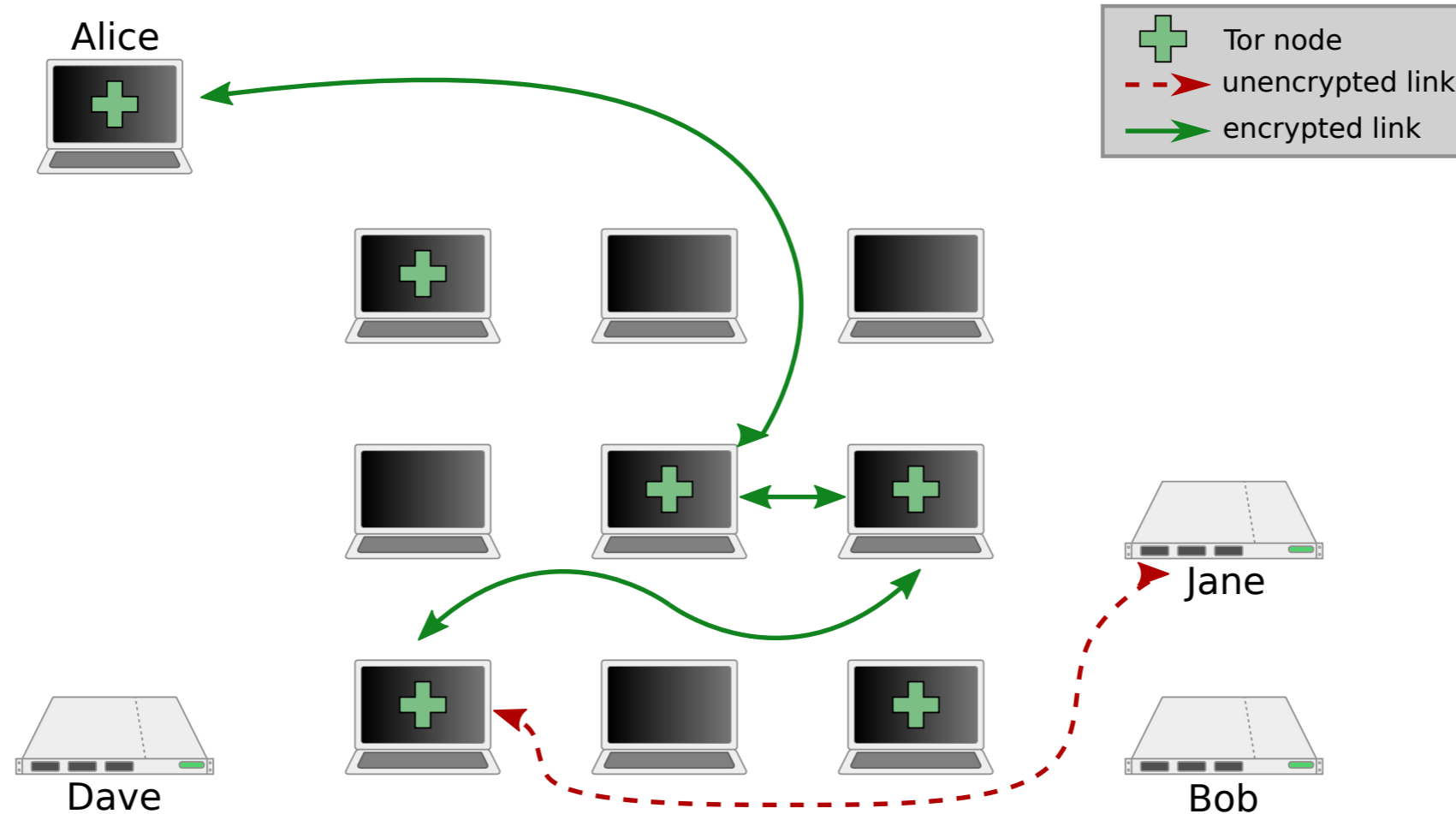
Designed to anonymize any TCP-based applications through transparent proxy settings

Figure 1. Onion routing.



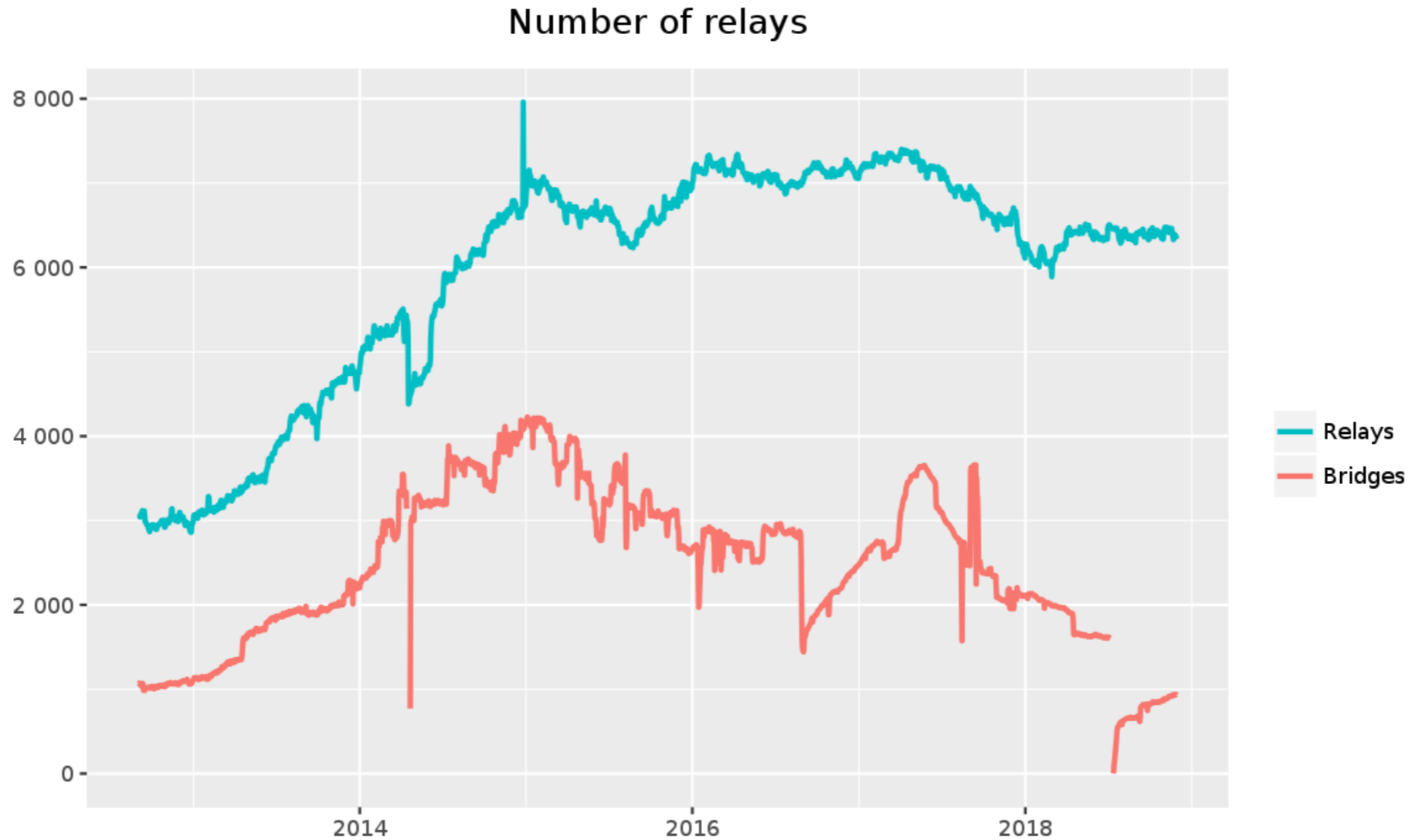


# Onion Circuit



A circuit is a sequence of 3 nodes: **Guard**, **Middle** and **Exit**

# Nodes are ran by **Volunteers** all around the World



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

# Not all Volunteers have good intentions

Tor is resistant to **bad relays** to a certain extent

But if they are too many it harms the network and some uses might get de-anonymised

**How to decide which nodes are part of the network?**

# Consensus Mechanism

MORIA1 - 128.31.0.39 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
TOR26 - 86.59.21.38 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
DIZUM - 194.109.206.212 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
TONGA - 82.94.251.203 - BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
GABELMOO - 131.188.40.189 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
DANNENBERG - 193.23.244.244 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
URRAS - 208.83.223.34 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
MAATUSKA - 171.25.193.9 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
FARAVAHAR - 154.35.175.225 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
LONGCLAW - 199.254.238.52 - RELAY AUTHORITY



Anyone can see the votes of each relay by downloading

`http://[directory_authority]/tor/status-vote/current/consensus/`

Typically this is fetched through http but now it can be fetched through tor, leaving less traces that the user is using tor.

The **consensus status** can be found [here](#)

**Your computer chooses the circuit**

# Anonymity is Fragile

Everything we do is identifying:

- the pattern of our browsing habits
- the way we write text
- the way we code
- our typing speed, etc

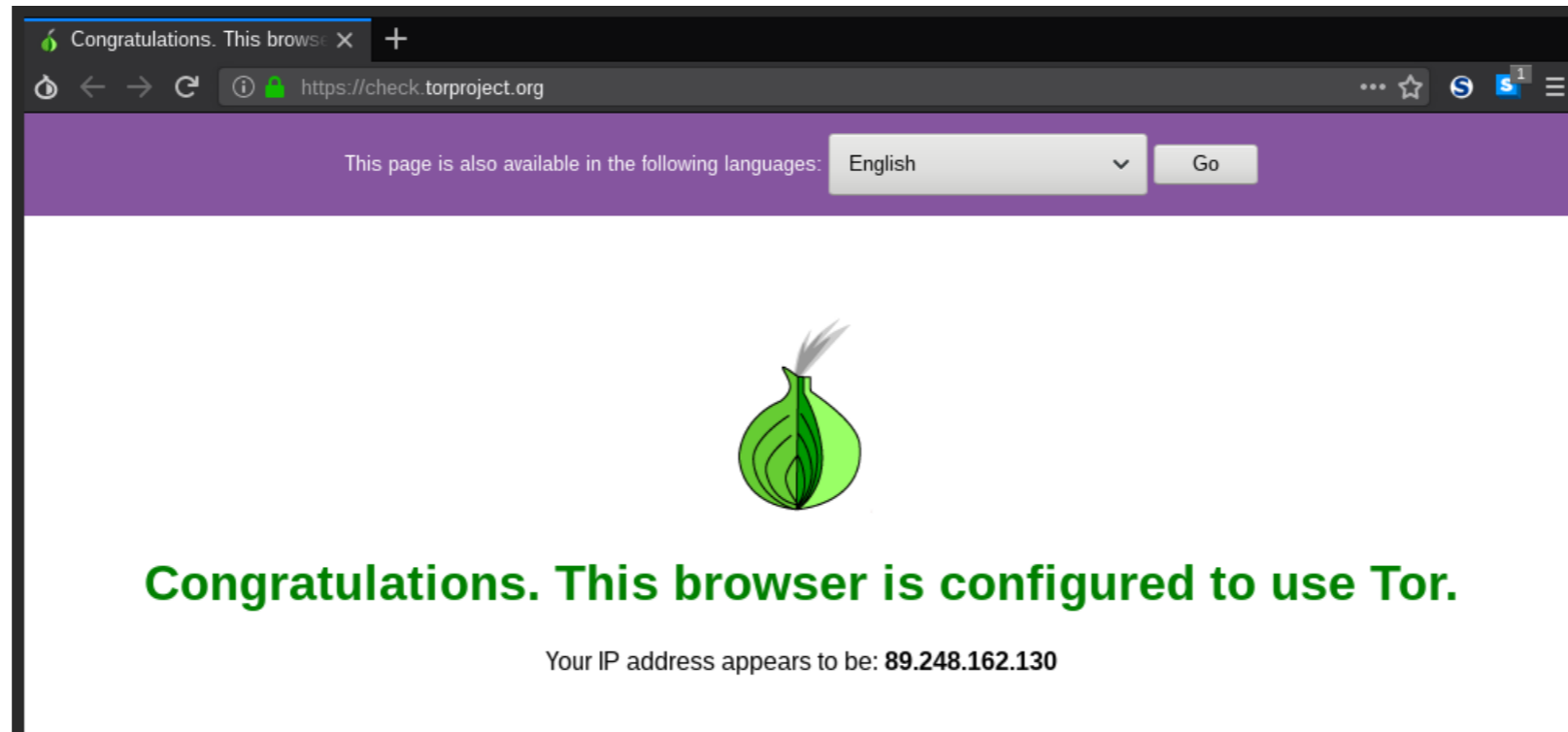
This means that

**Tor alone is not enough**

# Tor Browser

A browser developed by the Tor Project that:

- sends traffic through the Tor network
- Implements additional measures to prevent the user to unwittingly giving away her/his identity

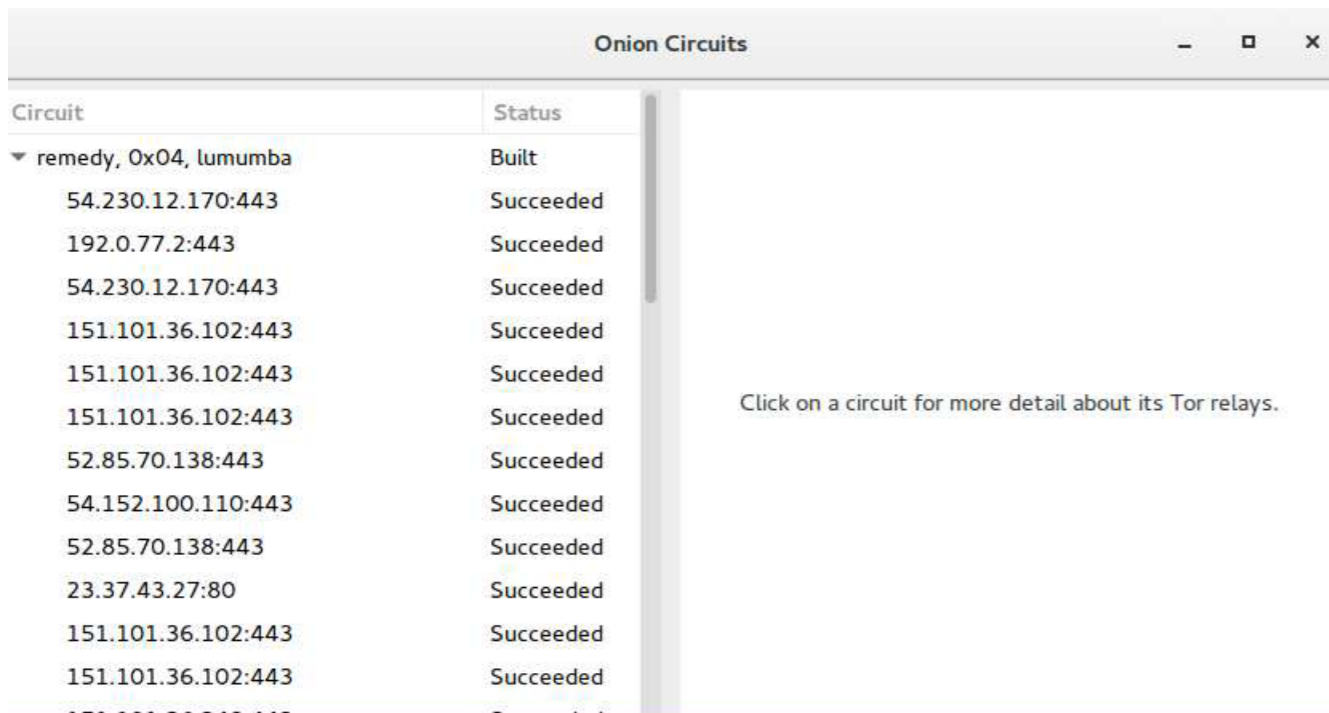




# Stream Isolation

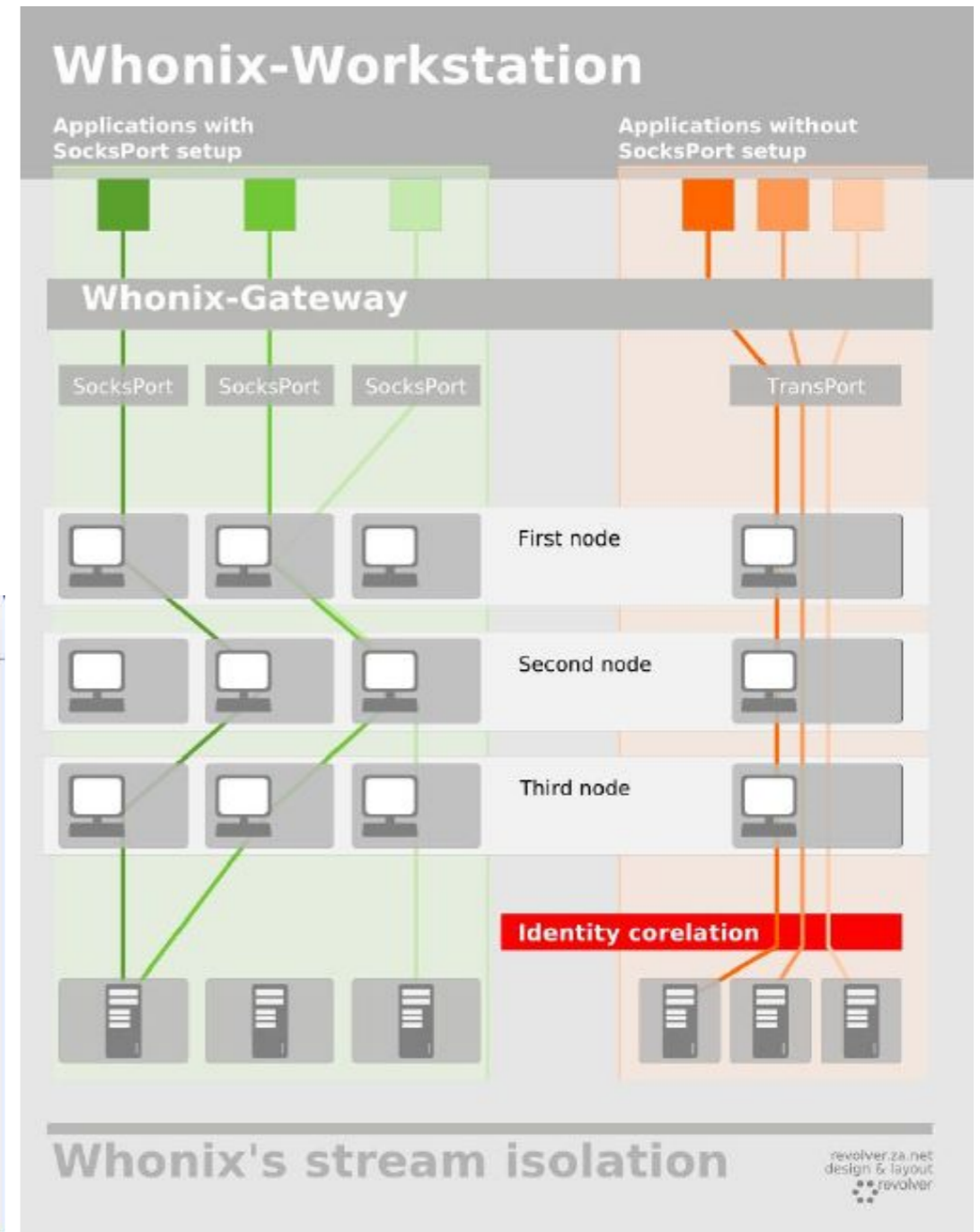
**Identity Correlation:** If the user is reading emails at the same time of browsing the web the activities can be correlated and the user identified

To fight this Tor implements **Stream Isolation**  
Creates a different circuit for each website / applic.



Circuit	Status
▼ remedy, 0x04, lumumba	Built
54.230.12.170:443	Succeeded
192.0.77.2:443	Succeeded
54.230.12.170:443	Succeeded
151.101.36.102:443	Succeeded
151.101.36.102:443	Succeeded
151.101.36.102:443	Succeeded
52.85.70.138:443	Succeeded
54.152.100.110:443	Succeeded
52.85.70.138:443	Succeeded
23.37.43.27:80	Succeeded
151.101.36.102:443	Succeeded
151.101.36.102:443	Succeeded

Click on a circuit for more detail about its Tor relays.



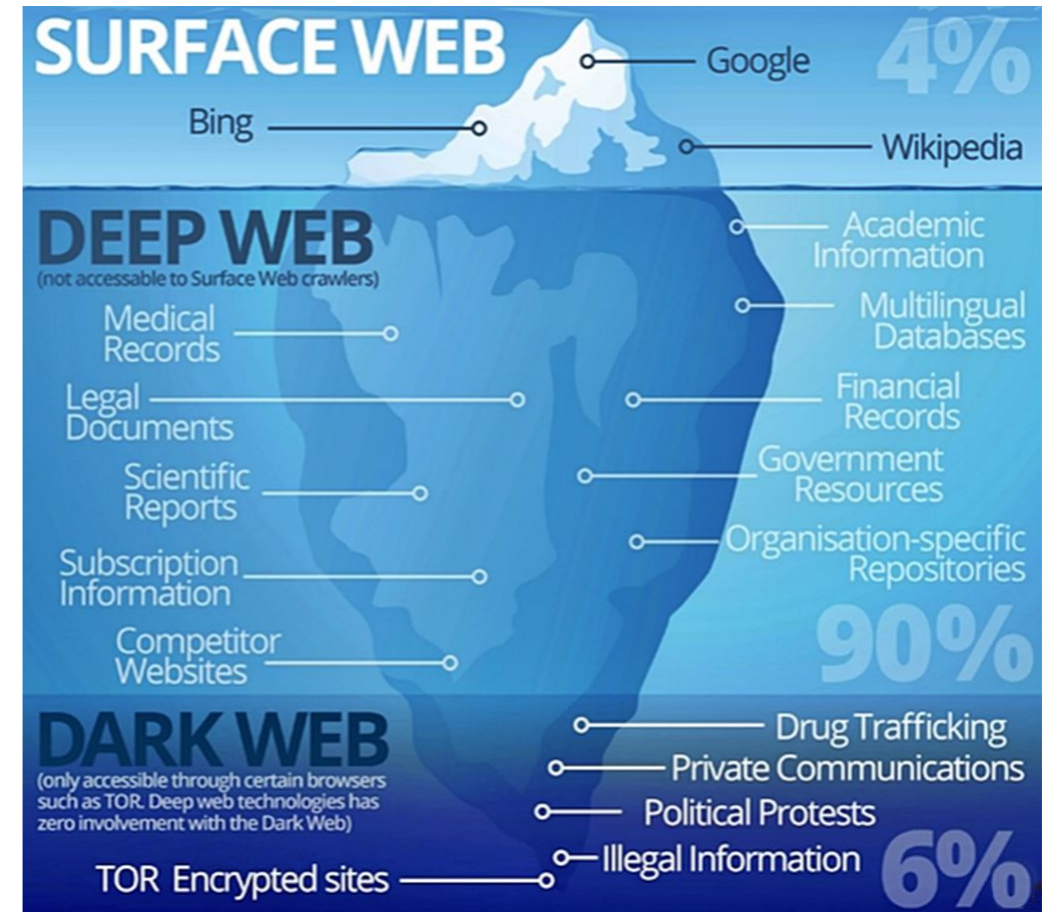
# Onion Services

"End-to-End" Anonymity

Aka. "" The Dark Web ""

The traffic never leaves the Tor network

Privacy for the user and the website operator.



example of **misinformation**  
about onion services

(they only account for 3% of all tor traffic)

## How does it look like?

Version 2: <http://qubesos4rrrrz6n4.onion/>

Version 3: <http://sik5nlgfc5qylnnsr57qrbm64zbdx6t4lreyhpon3ychmxmiem7tiodad.onion/>

# Self Authentication

**No need** for Certificate Authorities

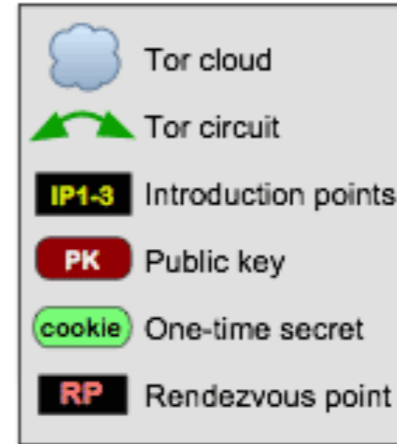
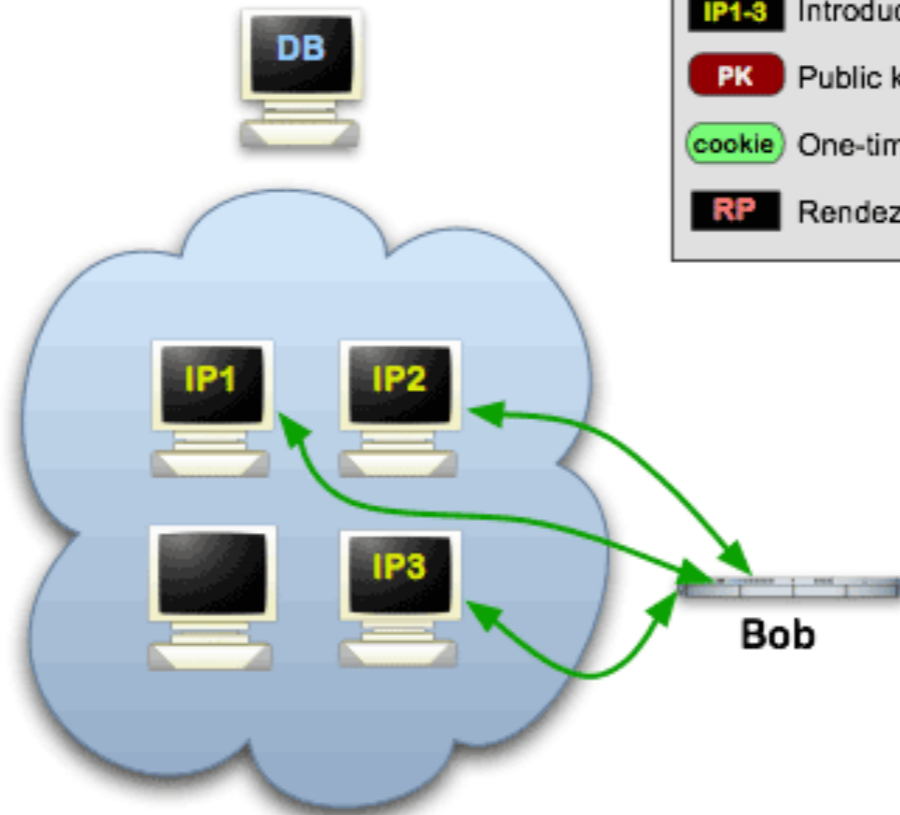
**The URL is the public key**

correct URL = correct website

<http://sik5nlqfc5qylnnsr57qrbm64zbdx6t4lreyhpon3ychmxmiem7tiodad.onion/>

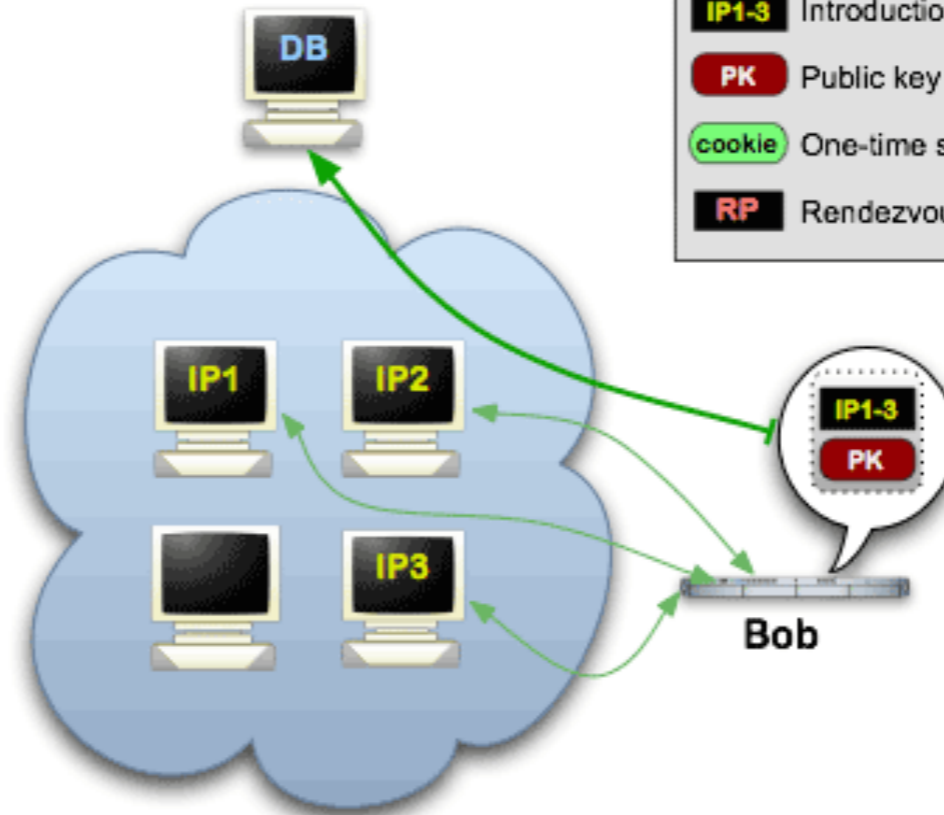
# Tor Onion Services: Step 1



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



# Tor Onion Services: Step 2

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

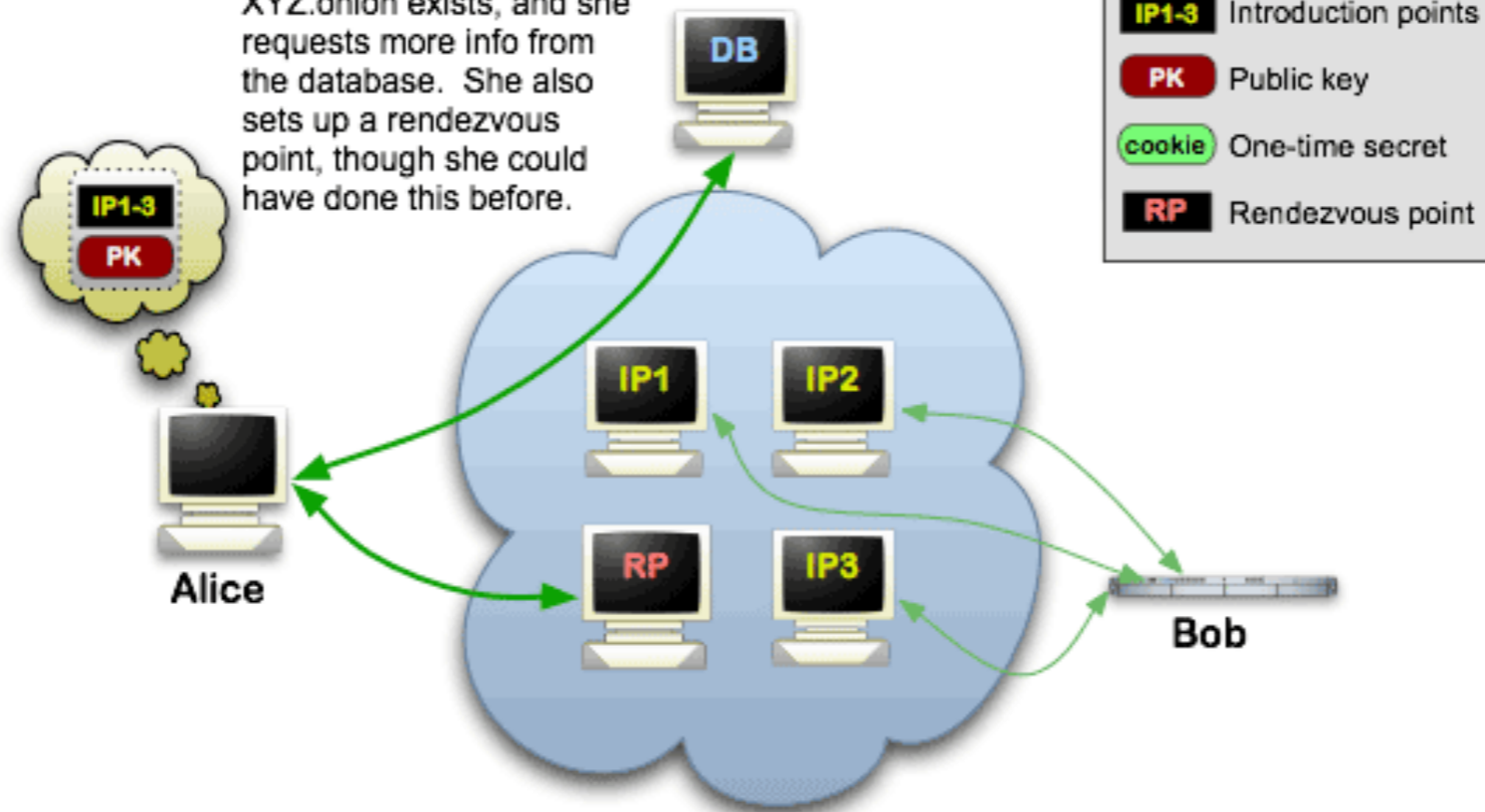


-  Tor cloud
-  Tor circuit
-  IP1-3 Introduction points
-  PK Public key
-  cookie One-time secret
-  RP Rendezvous point



## Onion Services: Step 3

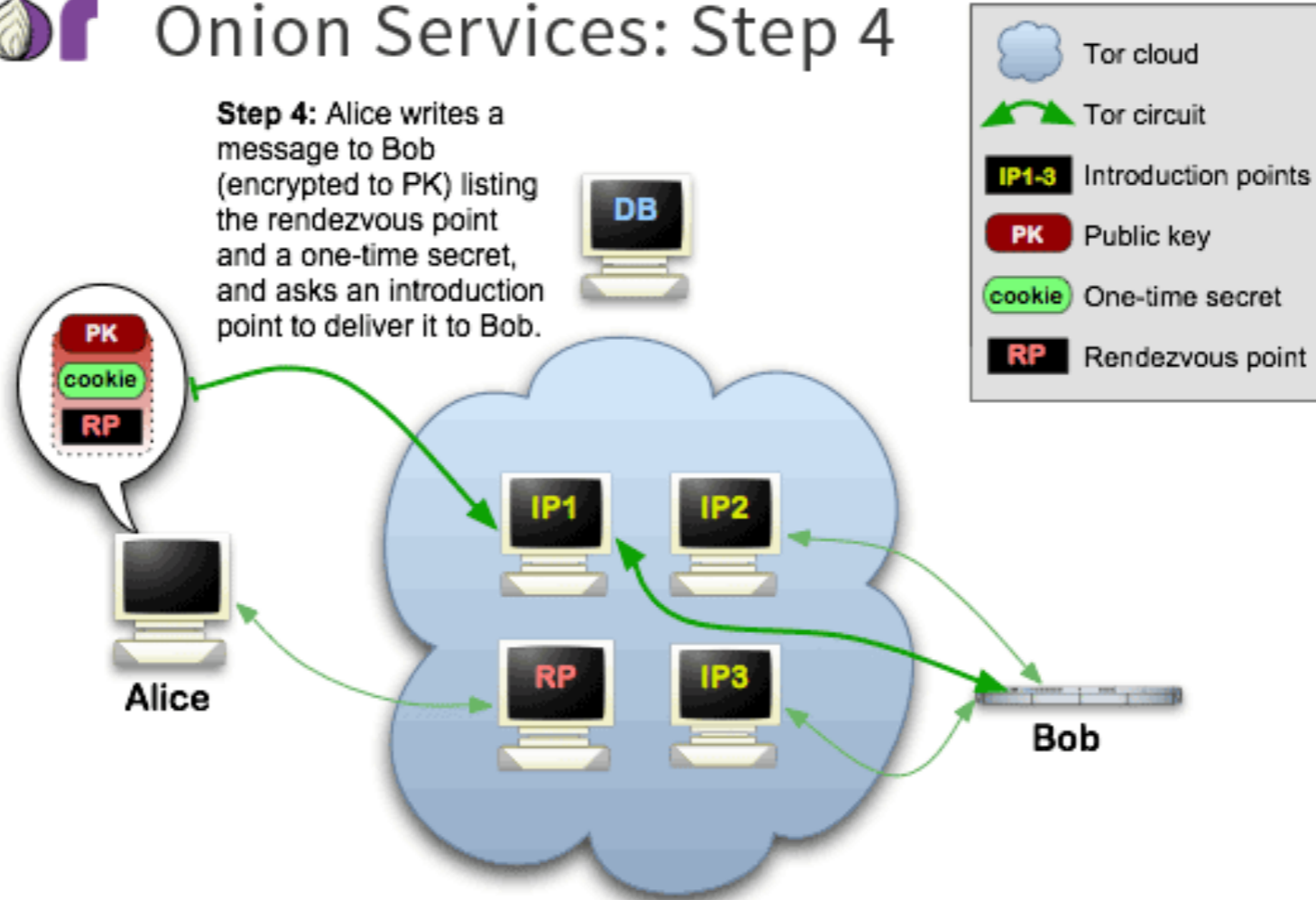
**Step 3:** Alice hears that XYZ.onion exists, and she requests more info from the database. She also sets up a rendezvous point, though she could have done this before.





## Onion Services: Step 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.

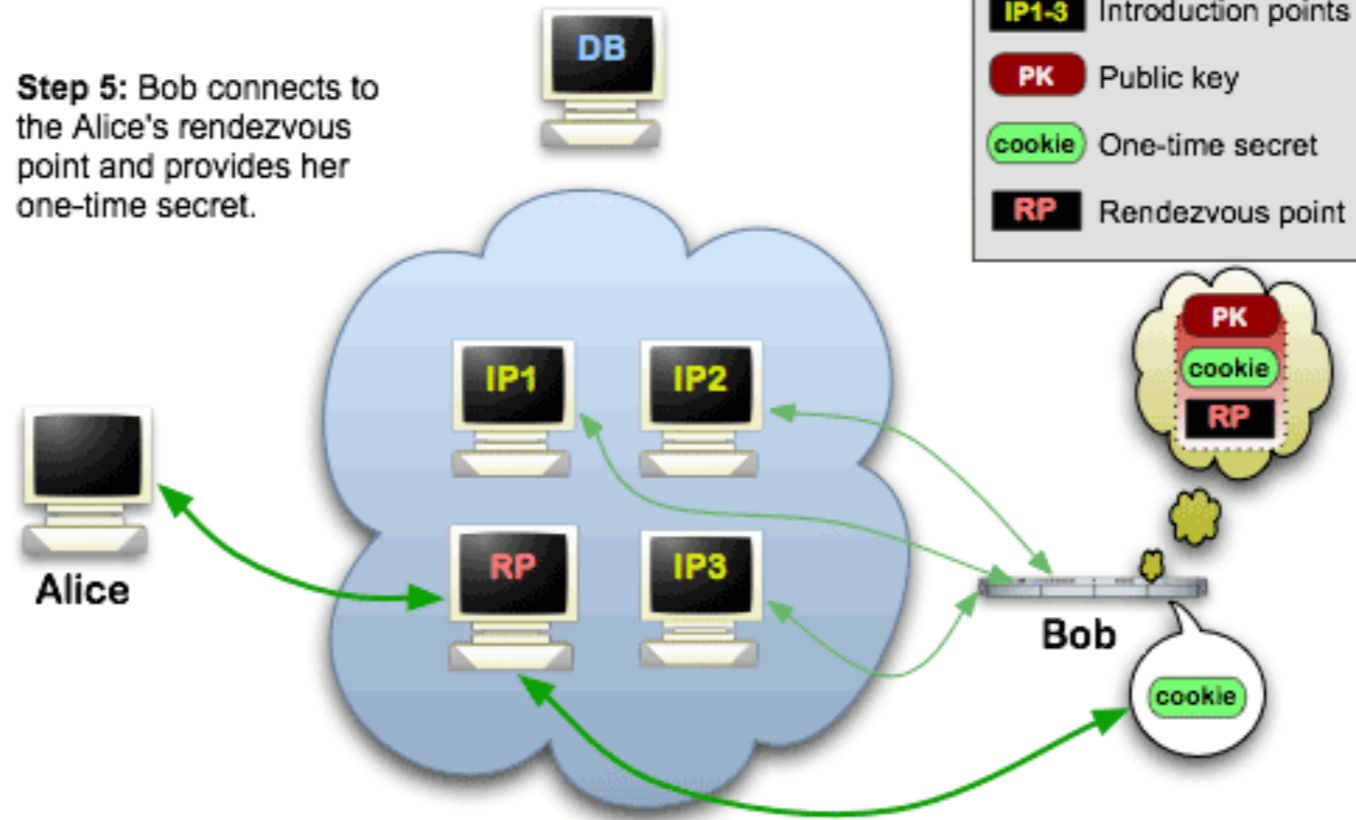






# Onion Services: Step 5

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



# Censorship Resistance

A direct consequence of anonymity

If I don't know who you are or where you go,  
I cannot block you access based on that information

# Resources

Where you can find more information about how Tor works:

- [A soft introduction to the Tor network written in Spanish](#)
- [Read the Original paper of tor](#)
- Thirteen key design changes since the original 2004 paper: [part one](#), [part two](#), [part three](#).
- [Tor Documentation](#)

# Image credits

*Copyright of the images to their respective owner. Used for the purpose of illustration*

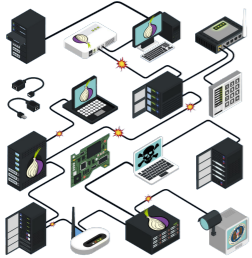

image	credit
	<p>Hard to credit but it seems to come from an article from <a href="#">wired</a>. The image was based on that one, but modified to add all of tor and nsa's logos.</p>
	<p>"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog" The <a href="#">famous cartoon</a> by Peter Steiner.</p>



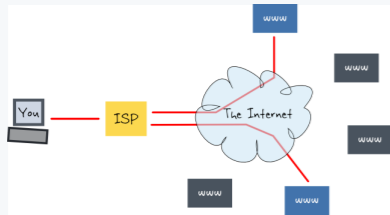
image  
image

MASS SURVEILLANCE  
HAS NO PLACE  
IN A FREE AND  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

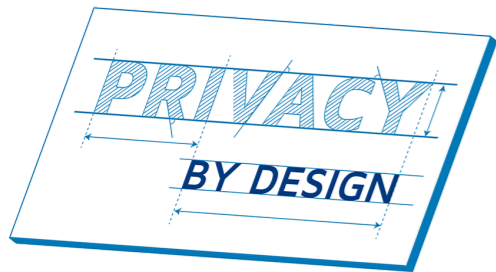
PRIVACY  
INTERNATIONAL

credit  
credit

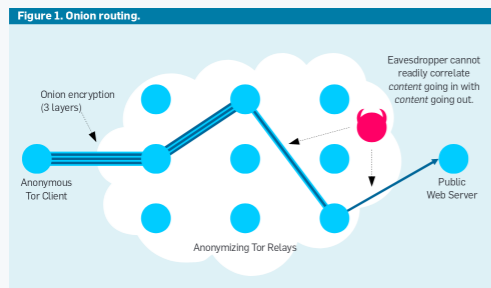
made by [Privacy International](#)



Taken from [this blog](#)

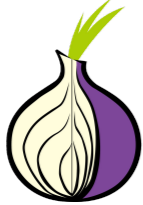


privacy by design logo is from the [Privacy by Design Foundation](#)



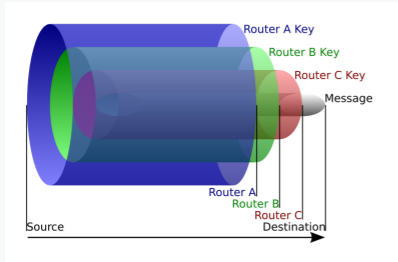
From Brian Ford's article "[Seeking Anonymity in an Internet Panopticon](#)"

image

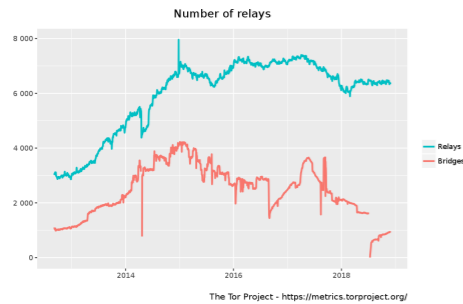


credit

Tor's logo



Wikimedia Commons



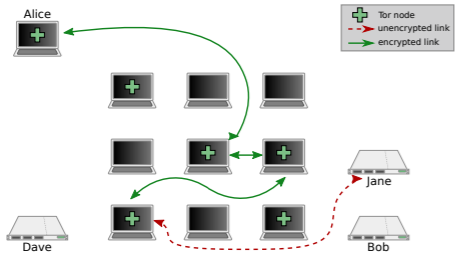
You can find more fancy graphics of on [tor metrics](#)

MORIA1 - 128.310.39 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
TOR26 - 86.59.21.38 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
DIZUM1 - 194.109.206.212 - RELAY AUTHORITY  
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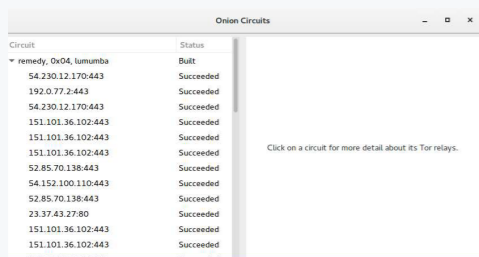
Taken from [this article](#) detailing the consensus mechanism

image  
image



credit  
credit

more similar diagrams [here](#)



[Onion Circuits](#) is an application for viewing the current open and build tor circuits. It's quite good for new people using tor as they can see all that is going on in the background without it being too technical.

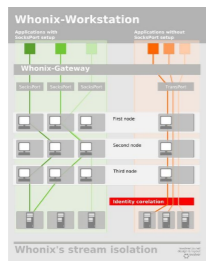


Image of stream isolation of [whonix](#). Taken from their wiki.



Hard to credit, but easy to love.  
It seems the oldest version of the image comes from [here](#).