

# Network Security and Measurement

## - BGP Hijacking and RPKI -

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmidt

<http://inet.haw-hamburg.de> | [t.schmidt@haw-hamburg.de](mailto:t.schmidt@haw-hamburg.de)

# Agenda

BGP Hijacking

Resource Public Key Infrastructure

Monitoring with the RTRlib

Measuring the RPKI

Stealing resources from the Internet

# BGP HIJACKING

# How can an Attacker Try to Hijack Your IP Prefix?

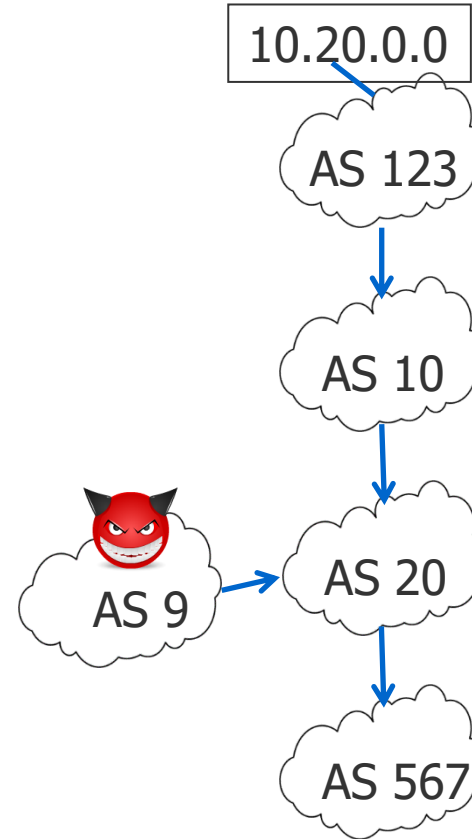
## You

AS 123 announces IP prefix 10.20.0.0/16

## Me

Receive a BGP update with path 123, 10, 20, 567

## Attacker



# How can an Attacker Try to Hijack Your IP Prefix?

## You

AS 123 announces IP prefix 10.20.0.0/16

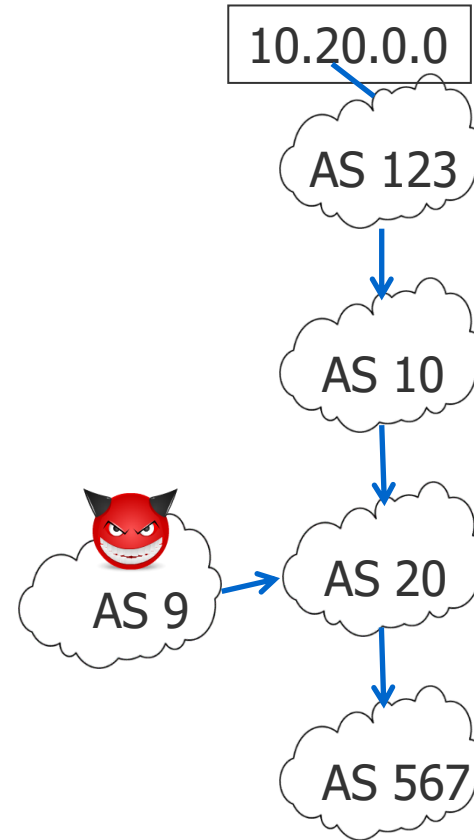
## Me

Receive a BGP update with path 123, 10, 20, 567

Receive a BGP update with path 9, 20

## Attacker

Announces 10.20.0.0/16



# How can an Attacker Try to Hijack Your IP Prefix?

## You

AS 123 announces IP prefix 10.20.0.0/16

## Me

Receive a BGP update with path 123, 10, 20, 567

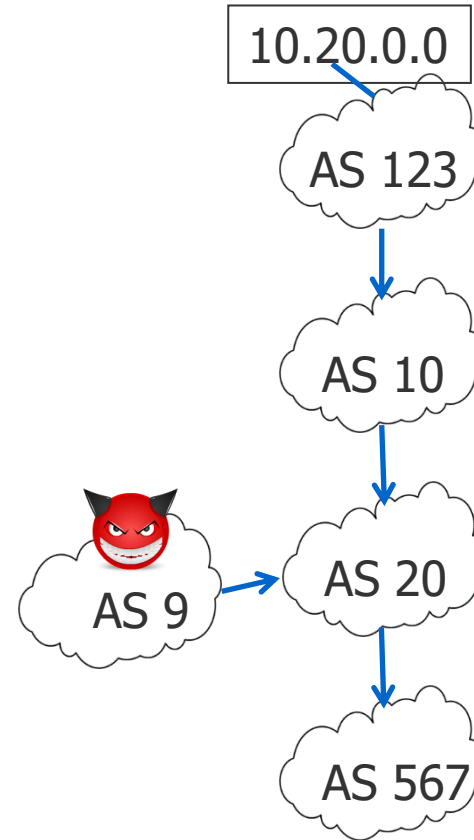
Receive a BGP update with path 9, 20

Receive a more specific prefix

## Attacker

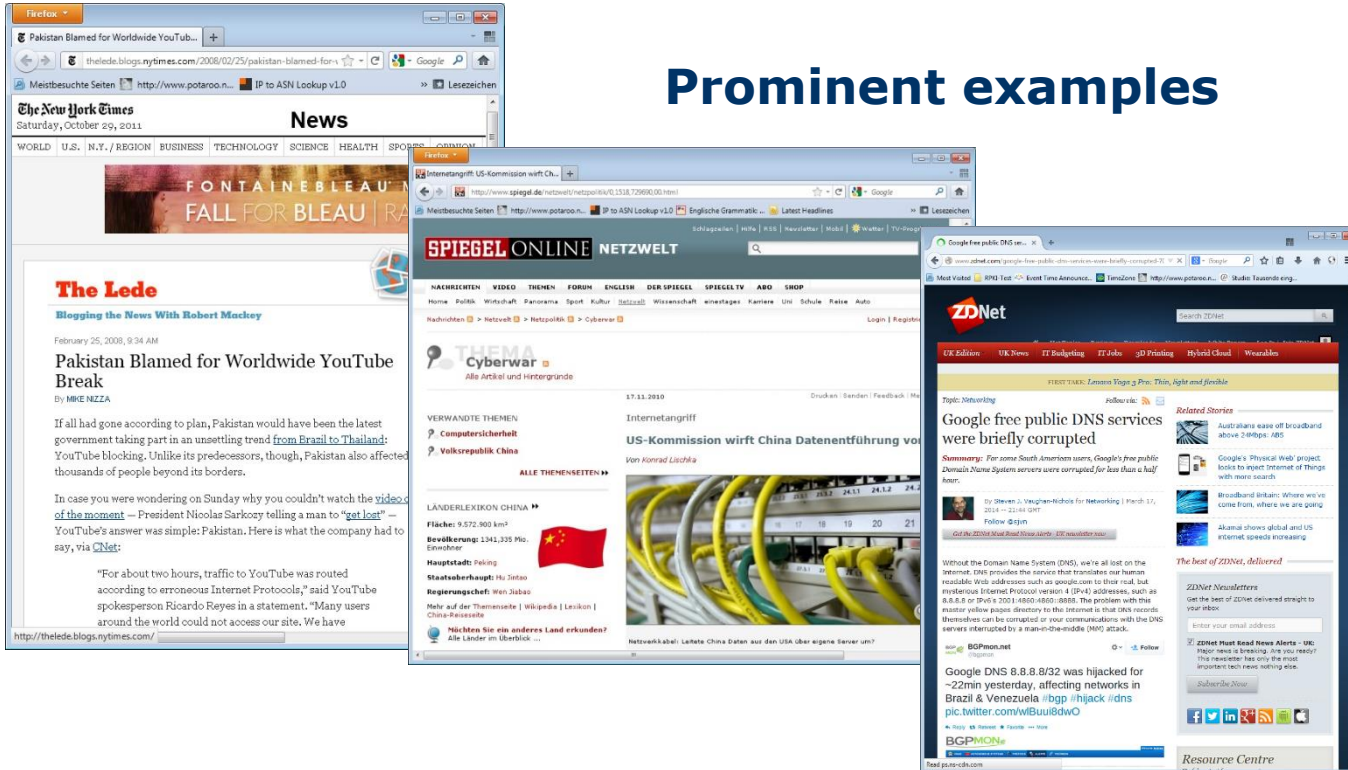
Announces 10.20.0.0/16

Announces 10.20.30.0/24



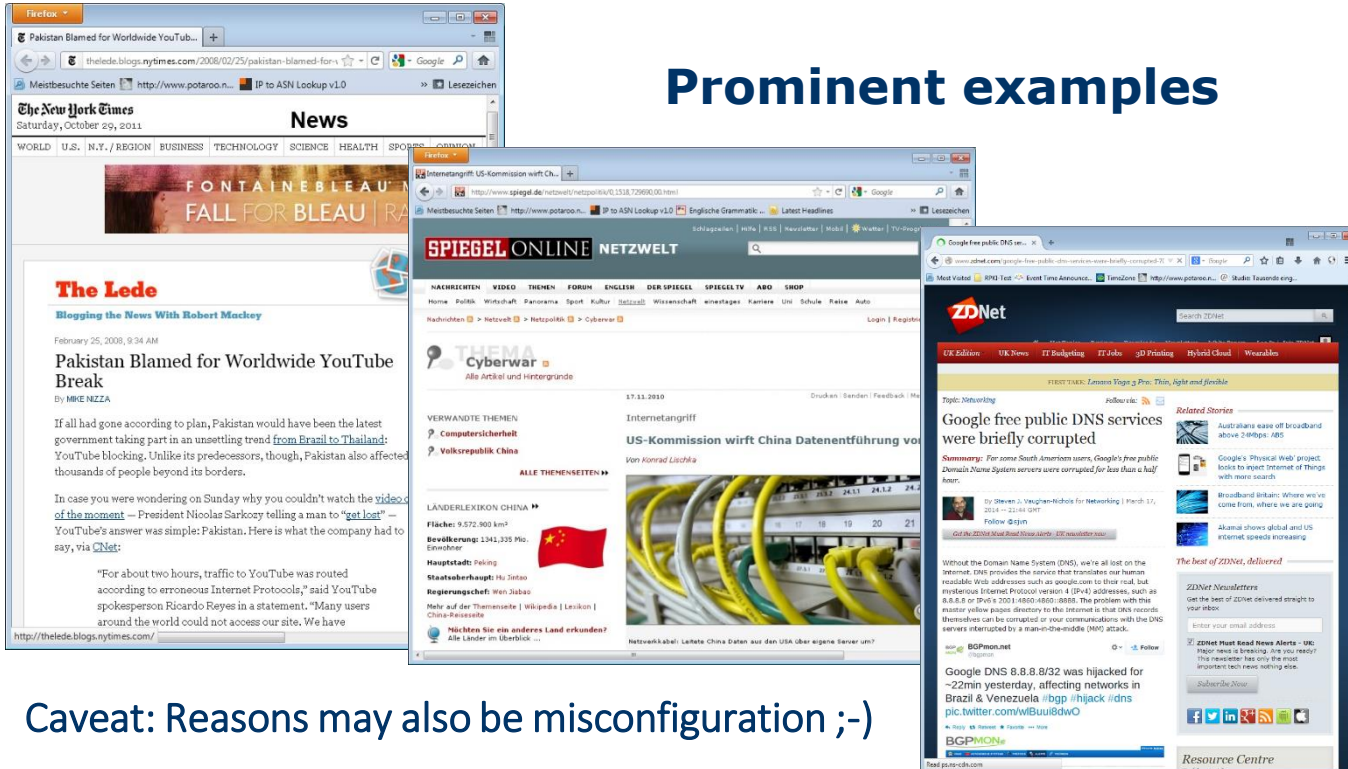
# Hijacks in the Real World?

## Prominent examples



# Hijacks in the Real World?

## Prominent examples



Caveat: Reasons may also be misconfiguration ;-)



# Problem

BGP is based on trust between peers

## **Implications**

Any BGP speaker can claim to own an IP prefix

Any BGP speaker can modify the AS path

Receiver of a BGP update cannot verify the correctness of the data

## **Compromise**

Filtering

Considering data of the Internet Routing Registry

⇒ This is not enough anymore!

# Protection Concepts

## 1. Prefix Origin Validation

- Mapping of IP prefixes and origin AS necessary
  - Including cryptographic proof
  - Prefix owner should be able to authenticate *Origin AS(es)*
- BGP router compares BGP update with mapping

## 2. Path Validation

- BGP path information are cryptographically secured
  - Paths will be signed hop-wise
- BGP routers validate hops

## Challenges

Cryptographic operations are complex  
Minimize additional load at routers

# Protection Concepts

**RPKI: Resource Public  
Key Infrastructure**  
RFCs 6480, 6811

**BGPsec: Secure BGP**  
RFC 8205

## 1. Prefix Origin Validation

- Mapping of IP prefixes and origin AS necessary
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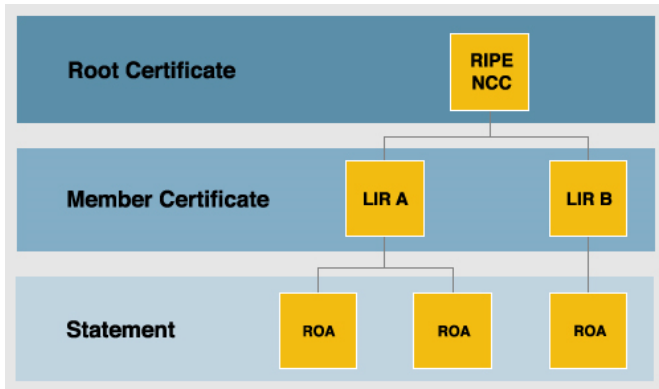
## Challenges

Cryptographic operations are complex  
Minimize additional load at routers

Validating the prefix origins

**RPKI**

# Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI)



Source: RIPE

System that allows to attest the usage of IP addresses and ASNs (i.e., Internet resources)  
 RPKI includes cryptographically provable certificates

Certificate hierarchy reflects IP-/AS-allocation in the Internet

Currently, each RIR creates a self-signed root certificate

Implementation of the RPKI started January '11  
 All RIRs participate

# Routing Origination Authorization (ROA)

## Content of a ROA

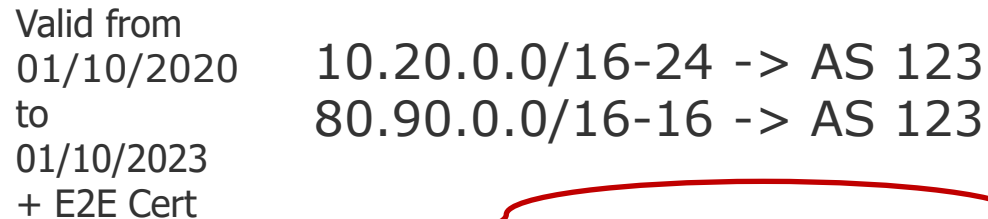
- Set of IP prefixes with minimal and maximal (optional) length
- An AS number allowed to announce the prefixes
- End-Entity-Certificate

ROA will be signed with the certificate of the RPKI

Note: Multiple ROAs per IP prefix possible

Example:

ROA



```
Valid from  
01/10/2020    10.20.0.0/16-24 -> AS 123  
to  
01/10/2023    80.90.0.0/16-16 -> AS 123  
+ E2E Cert
```

AS 123 is allowed to announce network range 10.20.0.0/16 to 10.20.0.0/24 and 80.90.0.0/16 from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2020 until 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 2023

# RPKI & ROA

All certificates including ROAs will be published in RPKI repositories

- Each RIR (including RIPE NCC ;) operates one
- ISPs can maintain their own repository
- Information of all repositories describe the overall picture

Check if AS is allowed to announce IP prefix

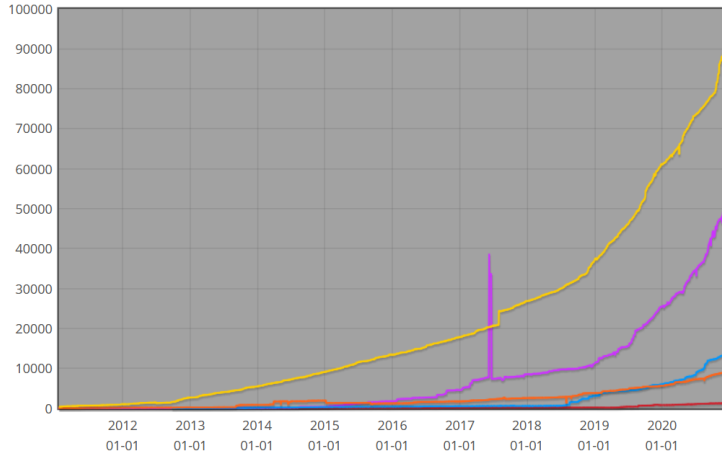
= check the corresponding ROA

- Corresponding ROA will be determined based on CIDR
- ROA needs cryptographic verification
- ROAs implements a positive attestation
  - If a ROA for a prefix exists, announcements of all origin ASes that are not included will be considered INVALID

# Current Deployment: # IP prefixes in ROAs

IPv4 prefixes in ROAs  AfrinIC  APNIC  ARIN  LACNIC  RIPE NCC

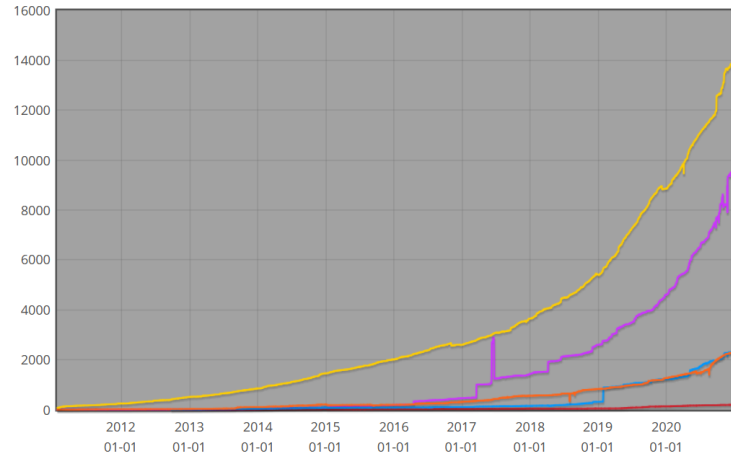
This graph shows the total amount of distinct IPv4 prefixes found in the ROAs



IPv4

IPv6 prefixes in ROAs  AfrinIC  APNIC  ARIN  LACNIC  RIPE NCC

This graph shows the total amount of distinct IPv6 prefixes found in the ROAs



IPv6

<http://certification-stats.ripe.net/>



# Prefix Origin Verification & RPKI

Validation process consists of two steps

## 1. Validation of ROAs

- Performed at external cache

## 2. Validation of BGP updates

- Performed at BGP router
- No additional cryptographic operations necessary

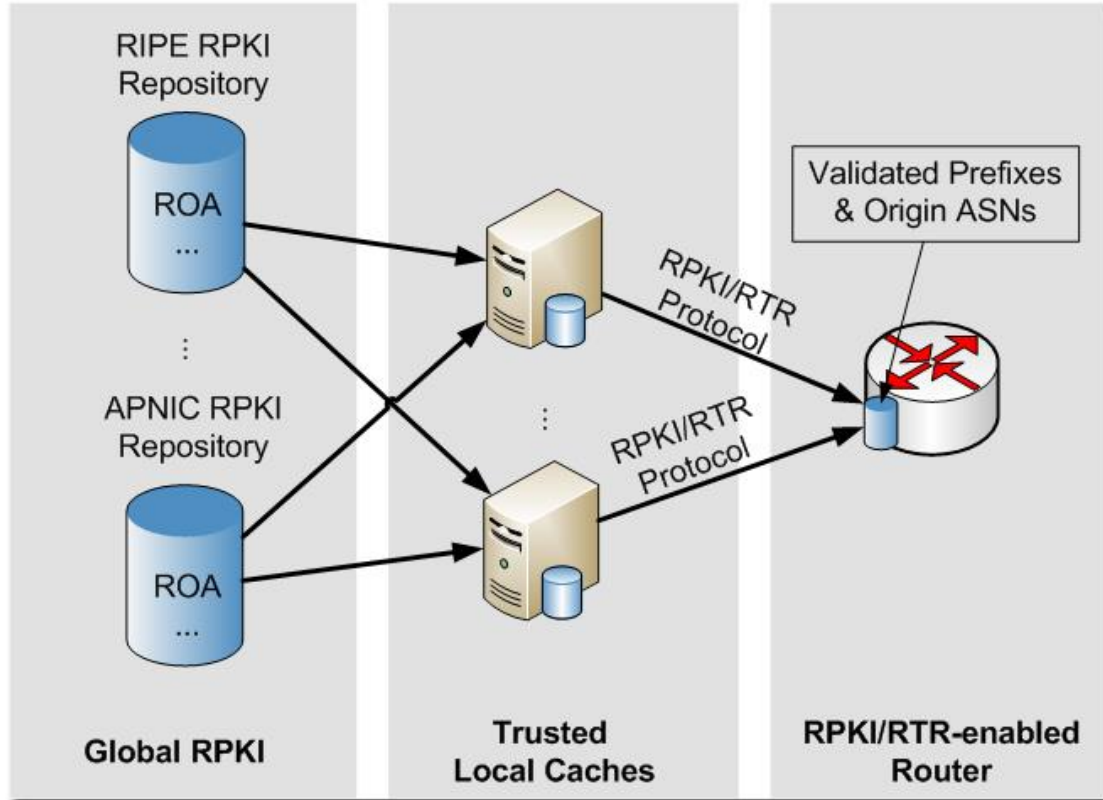
IETF “RPKI/RTR protocol” manages push of *valid* ROAs from cache to BGP router

- Implementations for Cisco and Juniper available
- Open Source BGP daemons on the way

Evaluation result of BGP update: VALID, INVALID, NOT\_FOUND

- Combine the outcome with BGP policies

# Architecture Overview



# Validation Outcome

Validation of an ASN/Prefix pair against RPKI results in either

## **Valid**

If at least one valid ROA exists that covers the announced prefix and matches the BGP origin AS, with max length less or larger than the BGP prefix length

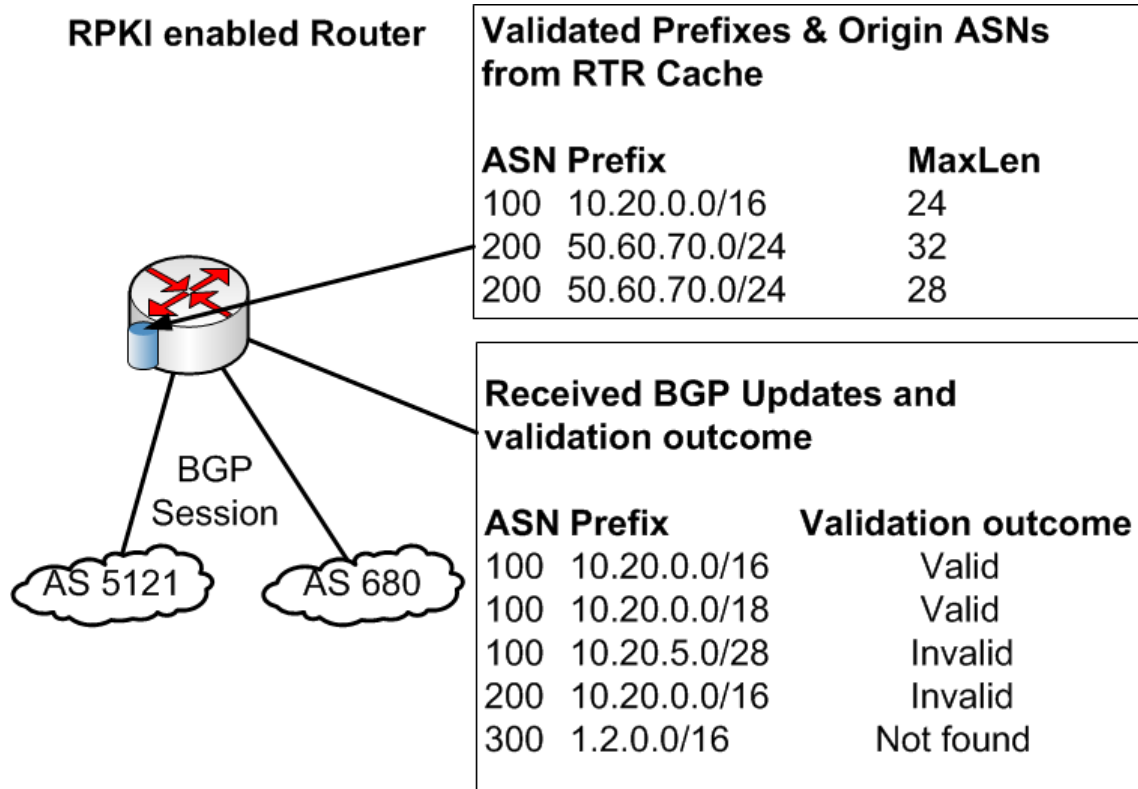
## **Invalid**

If no covering ROA matches the BGP origin AS or the announced prefix is more specific

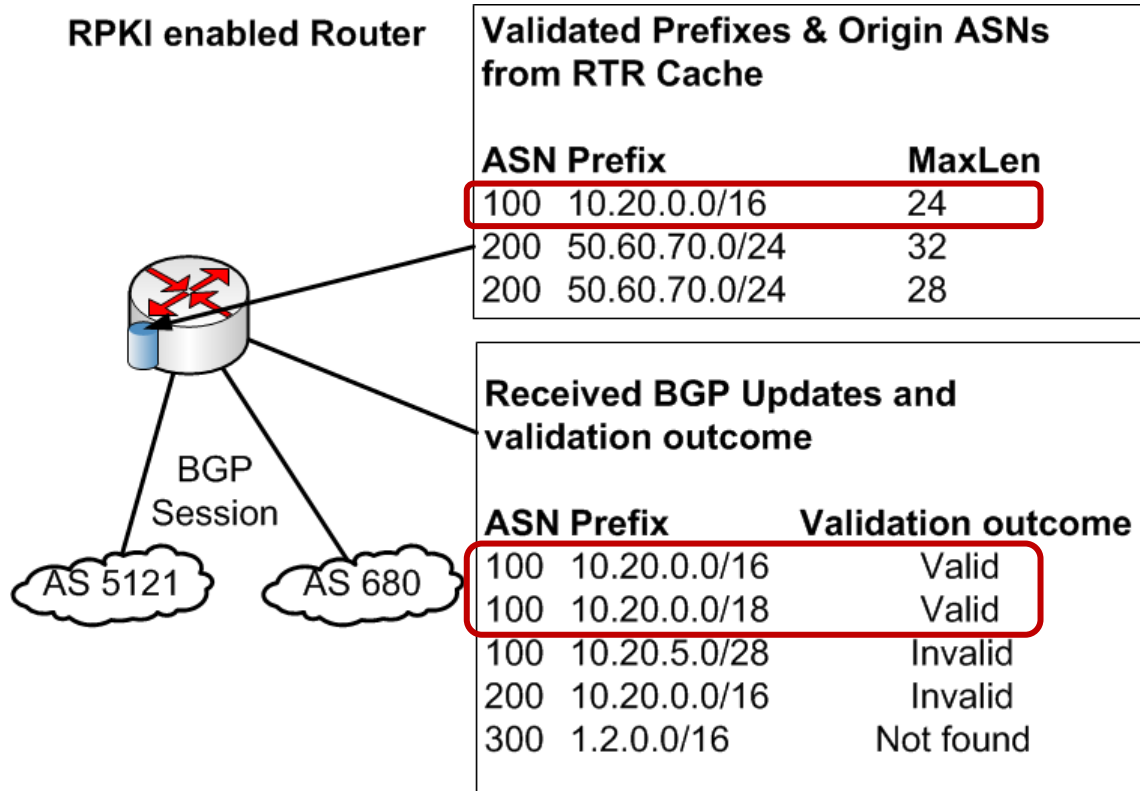
## **Not Found**

If no covering ROA exists

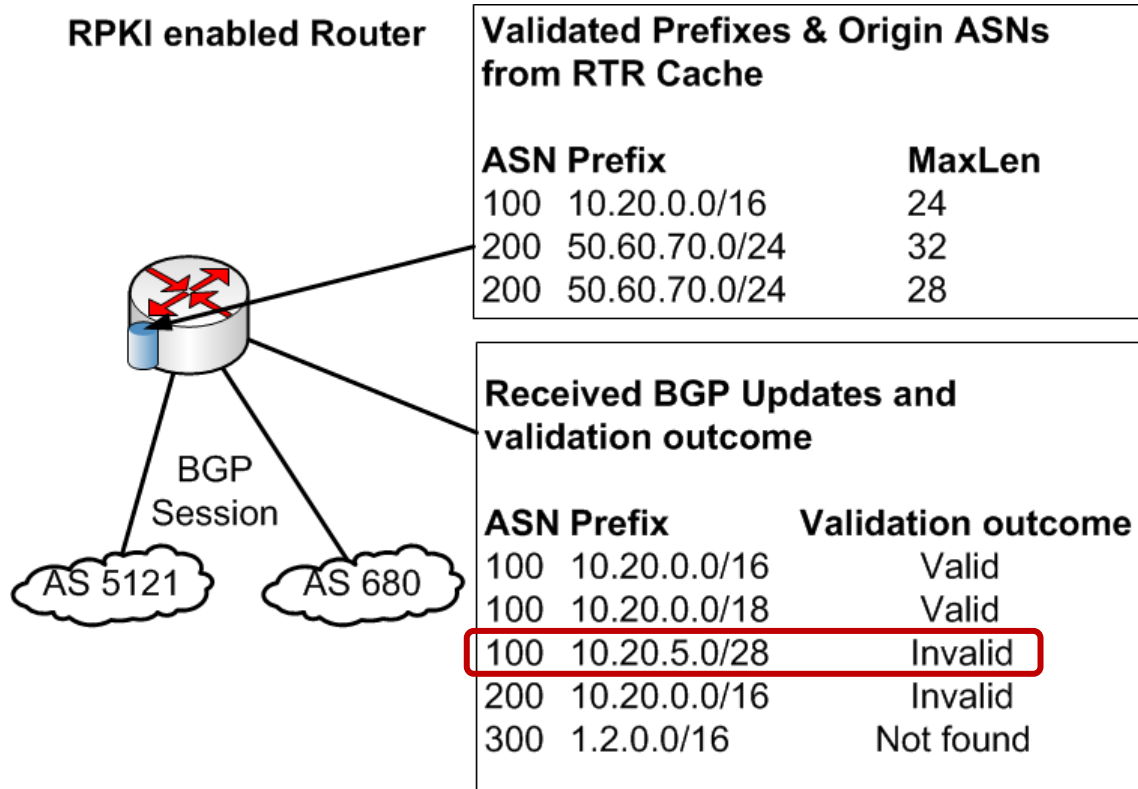
# Validation Outcome - Examples



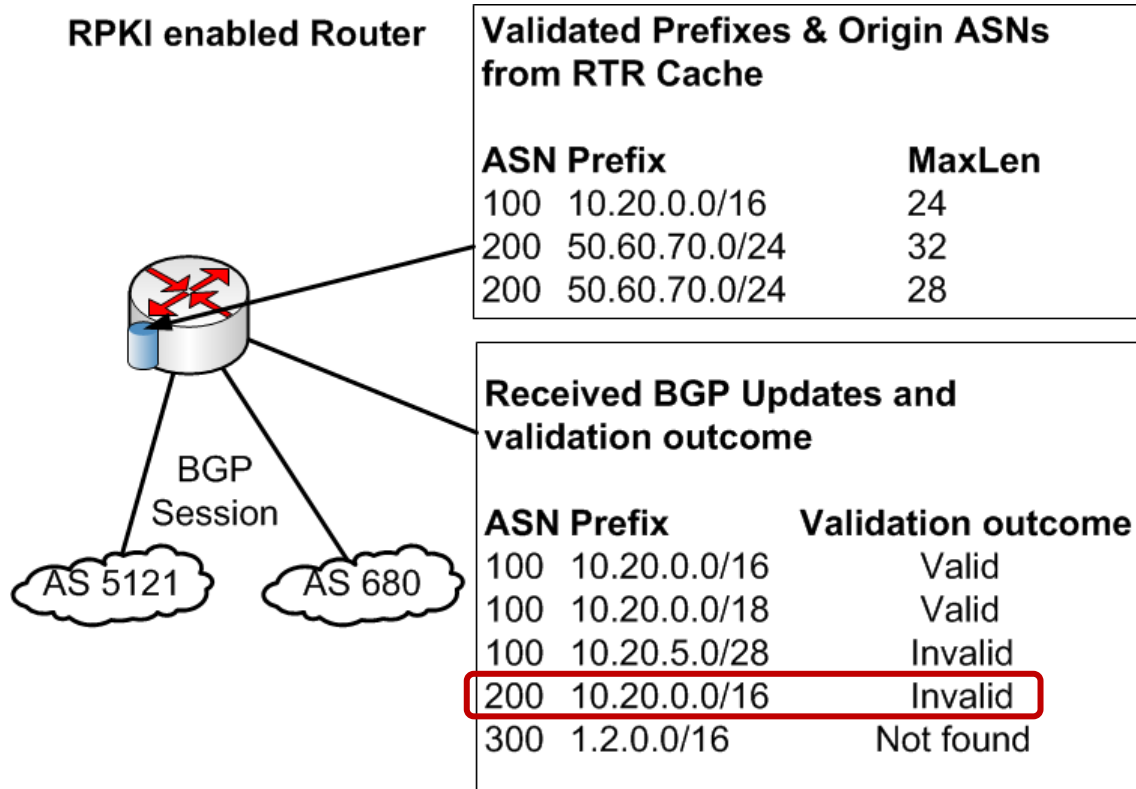
# Validation Outcome - Examples



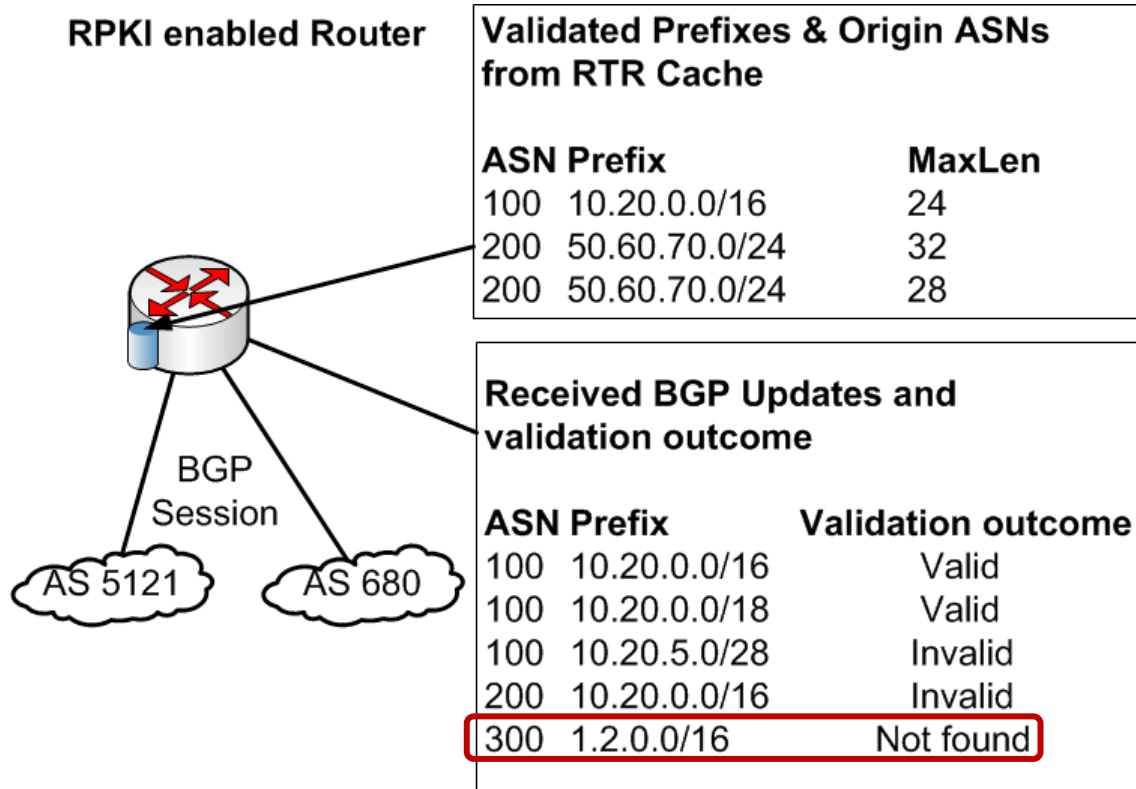
# Validation Outcome - Examples



# Validation Outcome - Examples

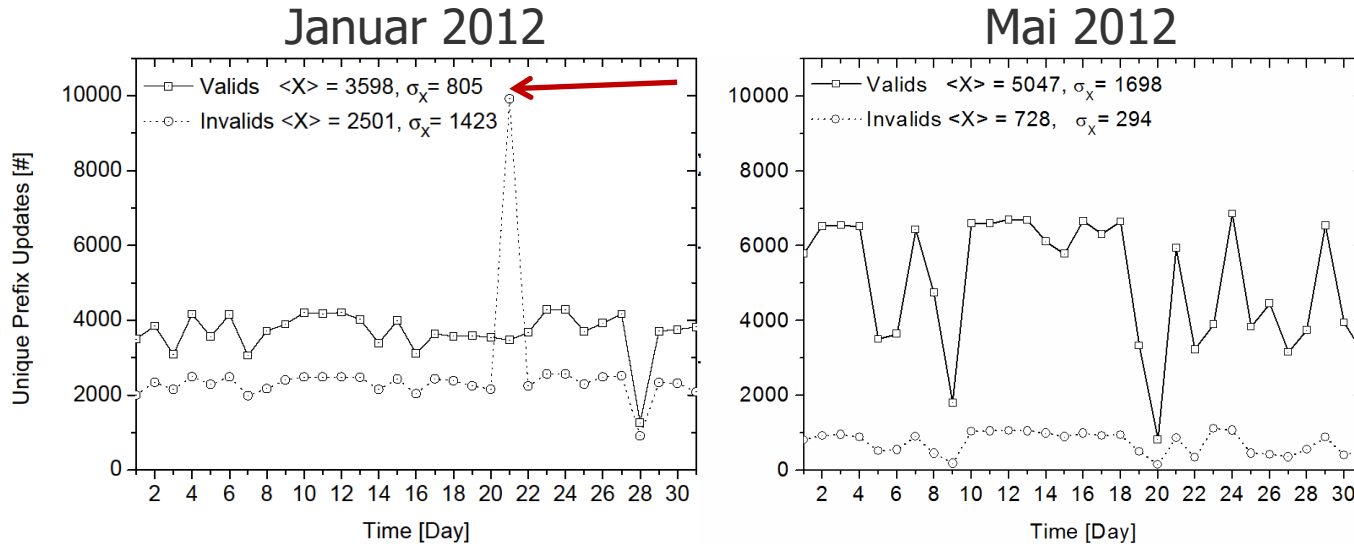


# Validation Outcome - Examples



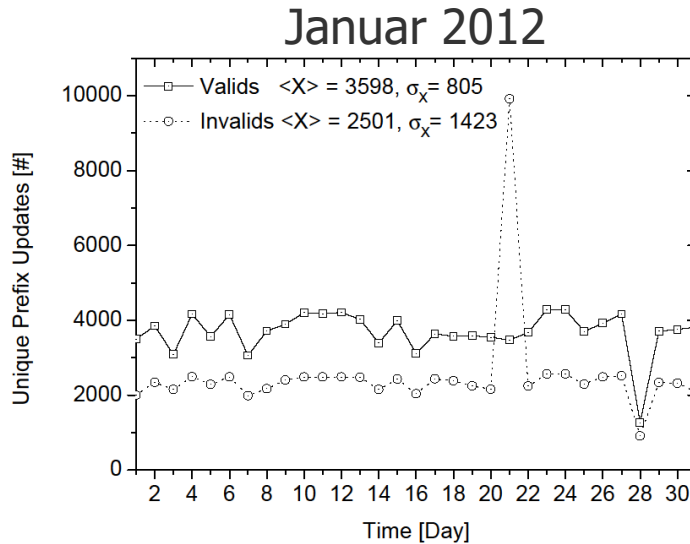


# Zero-day Measurements: Valide vs. Invalide BGP Updates

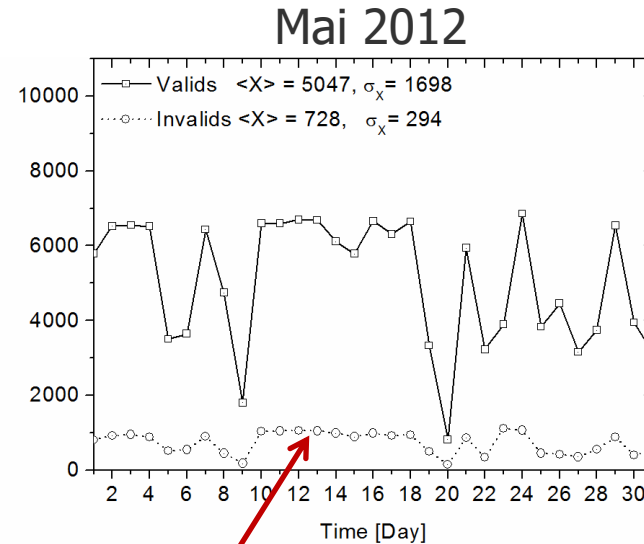


Number of invalids  
decreases over time

# Zero-day Measurements: Valide vs. Invalide BGP Updates



Number of invalids  
decreases over time



Are these updates  
really hijacks??

# Some Common Pitfalls - Examples

## Case 1: Missing Customer (or Sibling) Legitimation

ROA created: 12.0.0.0/8-9 -> AS 7018

AS 27487 announces 12.0.19.0/24

AS 2386 announces 12.1.216.0/24

⇒ Consider sub-allocations, start most specific

Both announcements are  
invalid if no ROAs exists

## Case 2: (De-)Aggregation

ROA created: 78.192.0.0/10-10 -> AS 12322

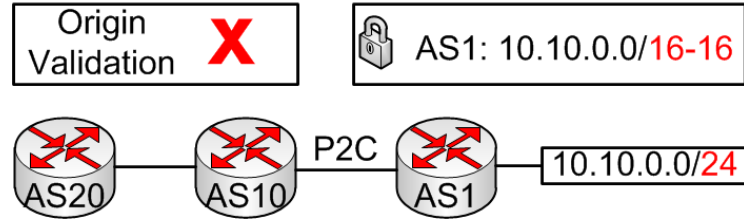
Usual announcement: 78.192.0.0/10

For 30 minutes: 78.192.10.0/24 ...

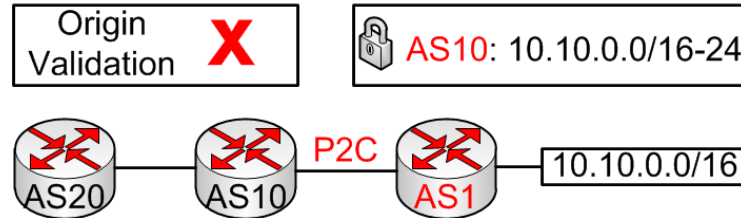
⇒ Configure the max ROA prefix length explicitly

# Common Pitfalls – Overview (1)

Valid origin, announced prefix is more specific

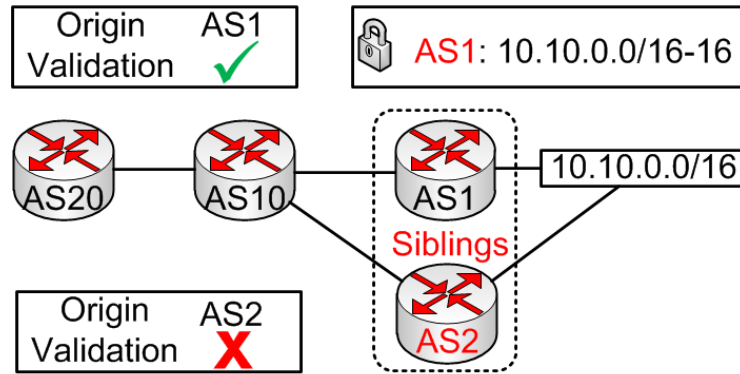


Provider does not consider customers



# Common Pitfalls – Overview (2)

Additional AS of a company is not authorized



Monitoring with the RPKI Router Part

# RTRLIB

# What is the RTRlib?

## General objective

Implementation of the RPKI-RTR client protocol in C

## Details

Fetch validated prefixes + origin ASes from RPKI cache

Keep the routers validation database in sync

Provide an interface between local database and routing daemon to access validated objects

Allow also for validation of BGP updates

Conforms to relevant IETF RFCs/drafts

It's open-source: <http://rpki.realmv6.org>

# Applications

Extension of BGP daemons

- Now part of FRR, (Quagga), BIRD (code-wise), and commercial products

## Monitoring of the RPKI deployment

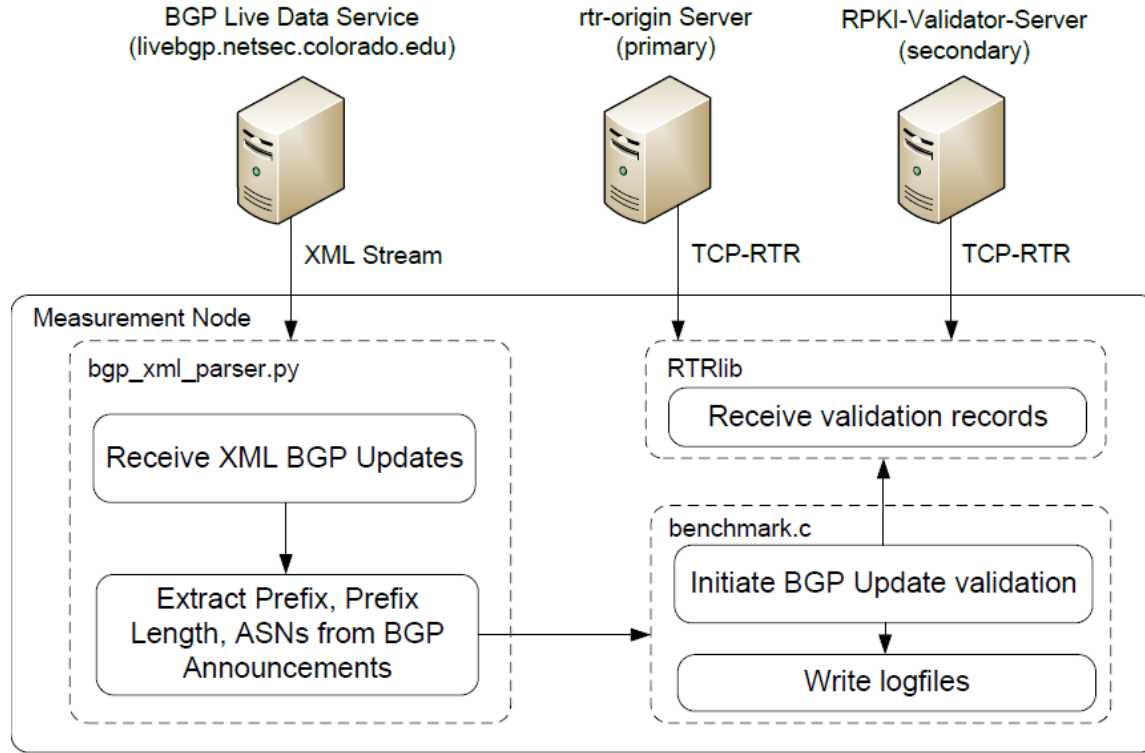
- Integrate the library in your Python/Perl ... scripts
- Particularly suitable for real-time monitoring

Testing purposes

- Evaluate performance of your RPKI/RTR cache server
- Play around with BGP update validation



# Monitoring Scenario (Example)



Going wild

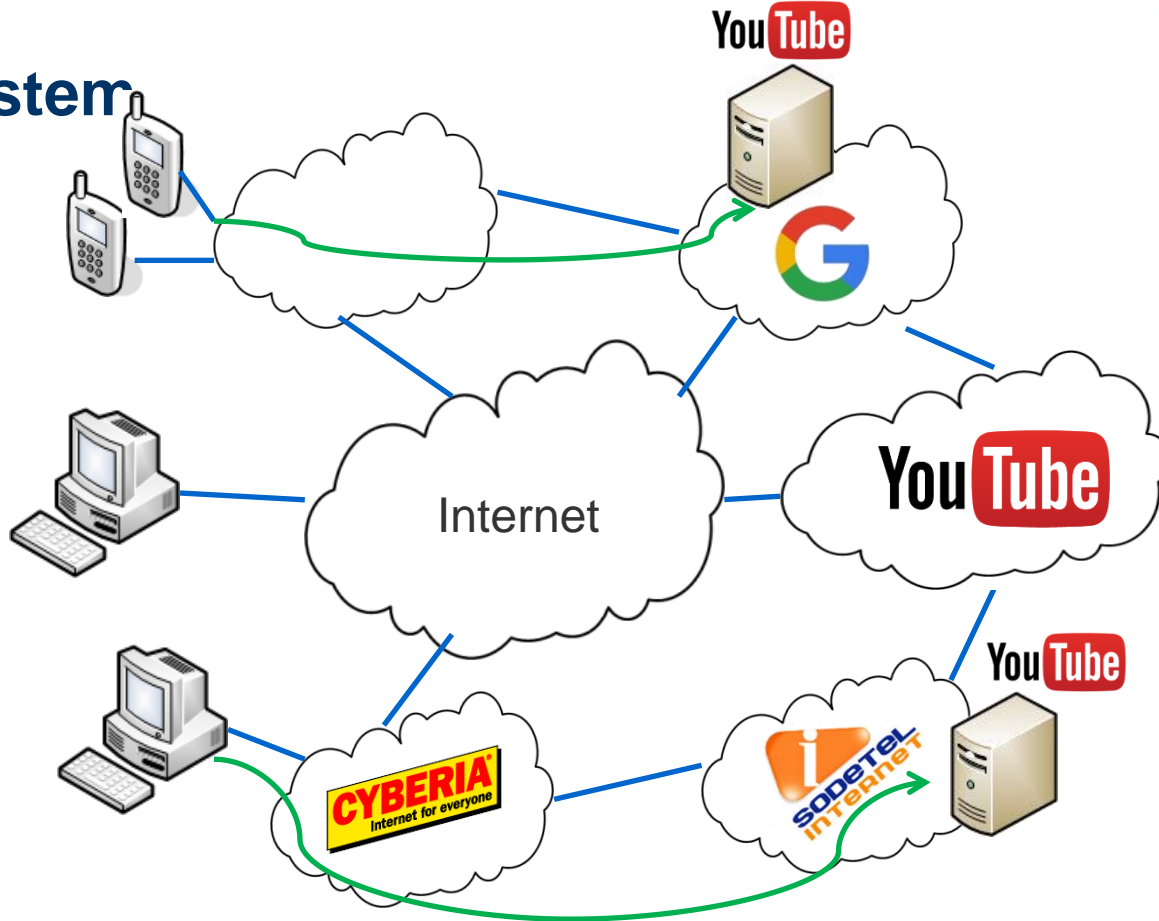
# MEASURING THE RPKI

# Which web servers are secured by the RPKI?

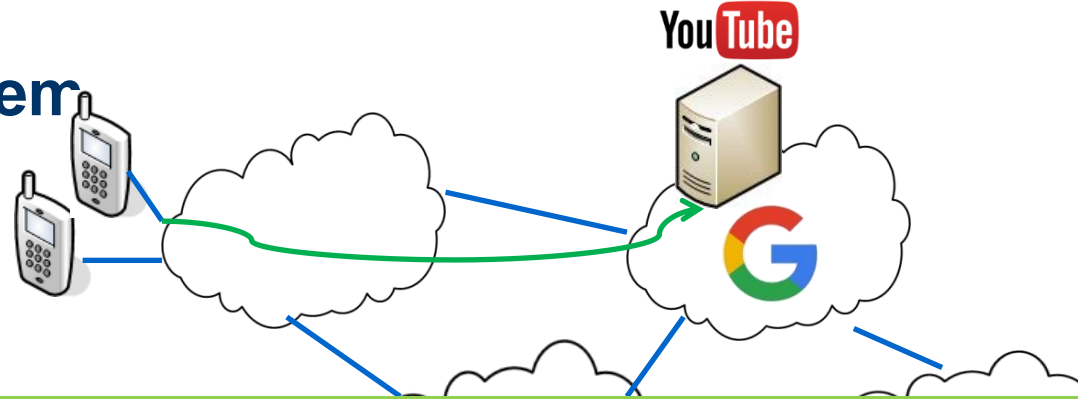
Empirically explore the relationship  
between web hosting infrastructure and  
RPKI deployment.

[HotNets `15]

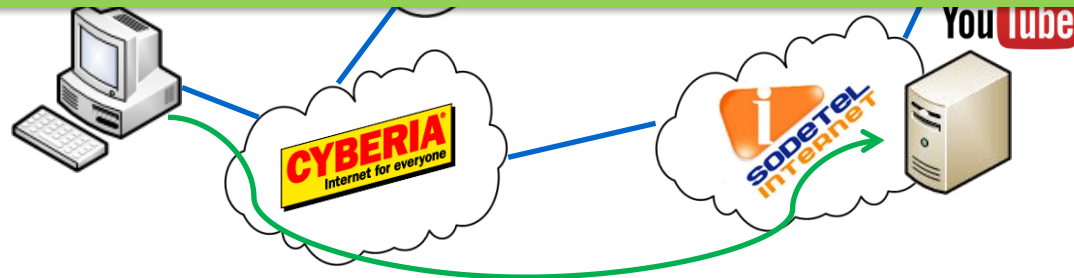
# Web Ecosystem



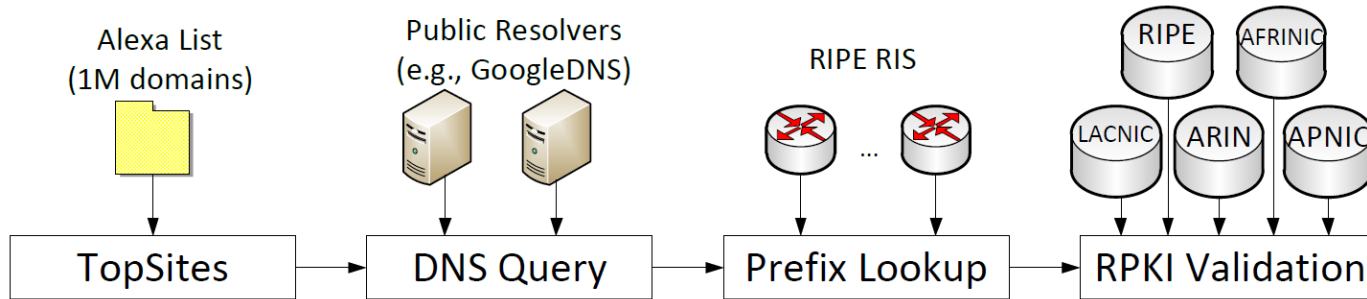
# Web Ecosystem



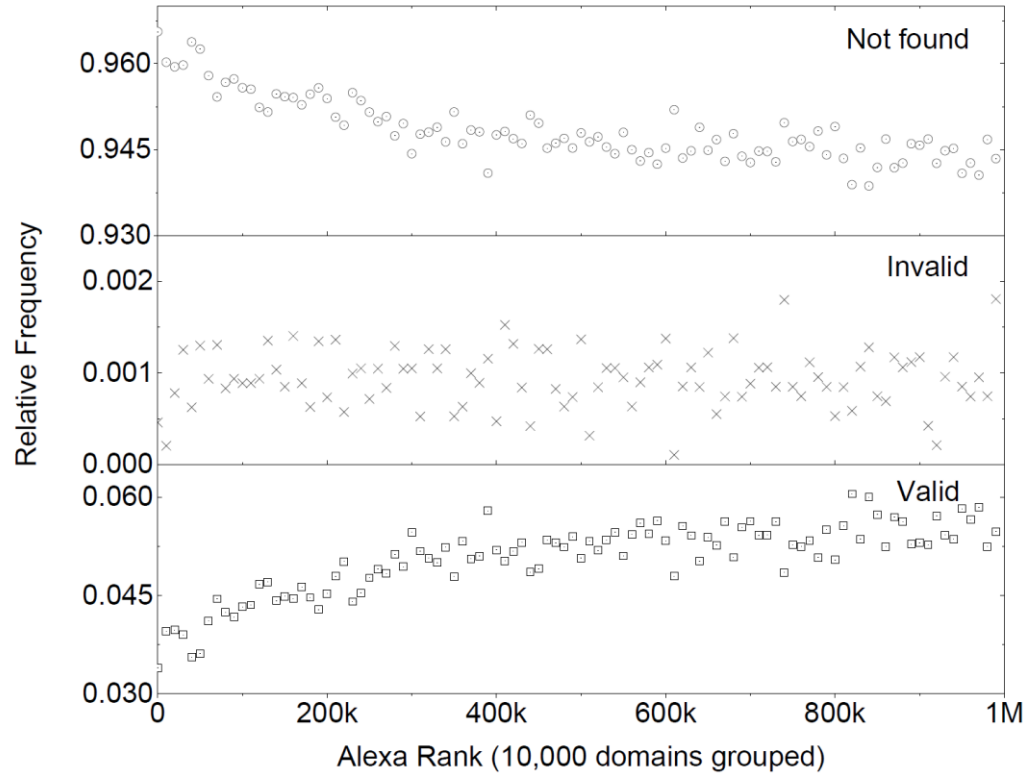
CDNs make web access faster.  
But measurements and security more challenging



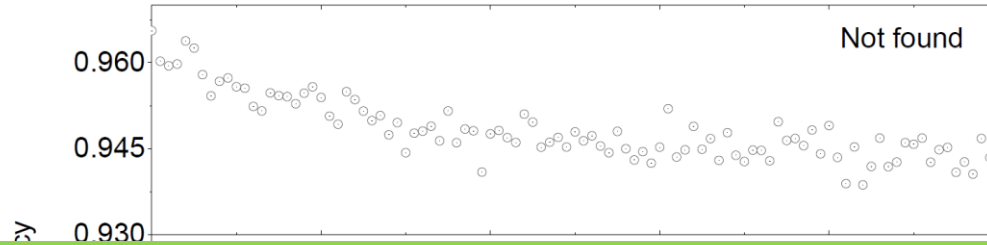
# Measurement Methodology



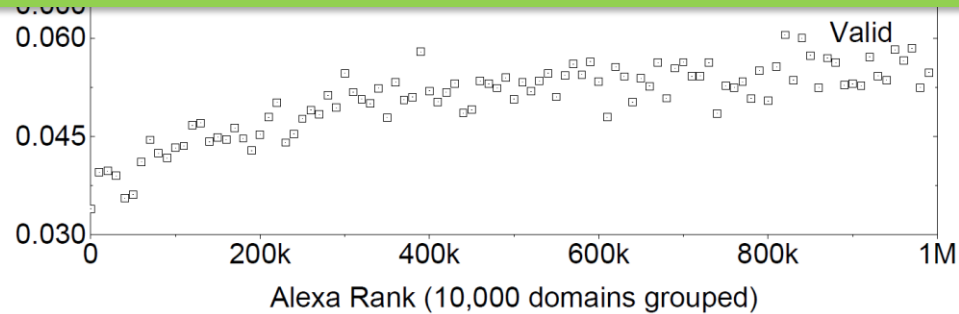
# RPKI Validation Outcome for 1M Web Sites



# RPKI Validation Outcome for 1M Web Sites

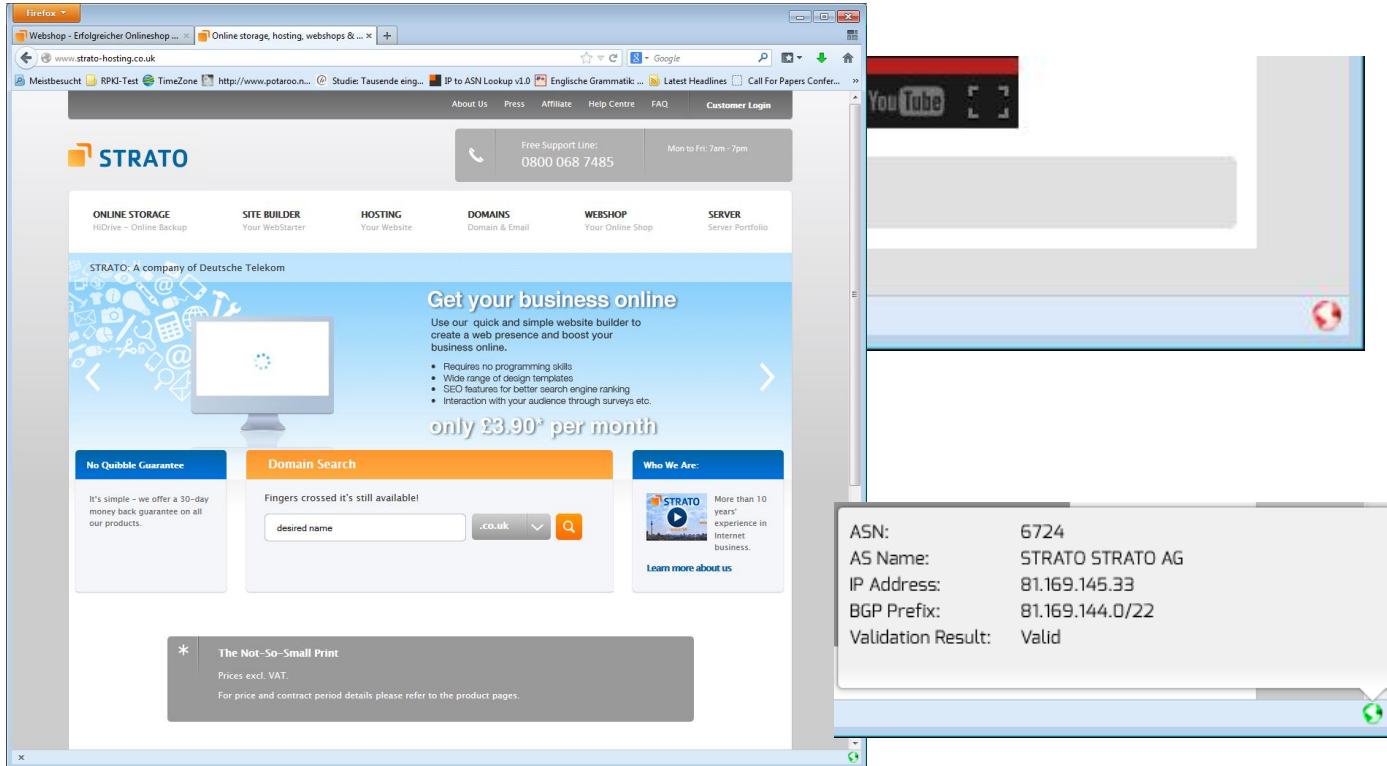


**More popular sites are less secured!**





# Validation in Web-Browser



The screenshot shows the Strato website in a Firefox browser window. The website features a navigation menu with categories: ONLINE STORAGE (HiDrive - Online Backup), SITE BUILDER (Your WebStarter), HOSTING (Your Website), DOMAINS (Domain & Email), WEBSHOP (Your Online Shop), and SERVER (Server Portfolio). A main banner promotes a website builder with the headline "Get your business online" and a price of "only £3.90\* per month". Below the banner are sections for "No Quibble Guarantee", "Domain Search" (with a search input field containing "desired name" and a ".co.uk" dropdown), and "Who We Are" (highlighting 10 years of experience).

Overlaid on the bottom right of the browser window is a validation box containing the following information:

ASN:	6724
AS Name:	STRATO STRATO AG
IP Address:	81.169.145.33
BGP Prefix:	81.169.144.0/22
Validation Result:	Valid

At the bottom of the browser window, a small grey box contains the following text:

\* The Not-So-Small Print  
Prices excl. VAT.  
For price and contract period details please refer to the product pages.

# Study: ROA and ROV [SIGCOMM CCR '18]

Route Origin  
Authorization (ROA)

Prefix owner authorizes AS to  
originate a set of prefixes

Route Origin  
Validation (ROV)

BGP router validates received  
routes using ROA information

# Motivation & Research Problem

Goal: Which ASes use ROV-based filtering policies?

Assess impact of defense mechanisms

Track deployment over time

Create an incentive to deploy

Challenge: Private router configurations must be inferred

# Controlled Experiments: Setup

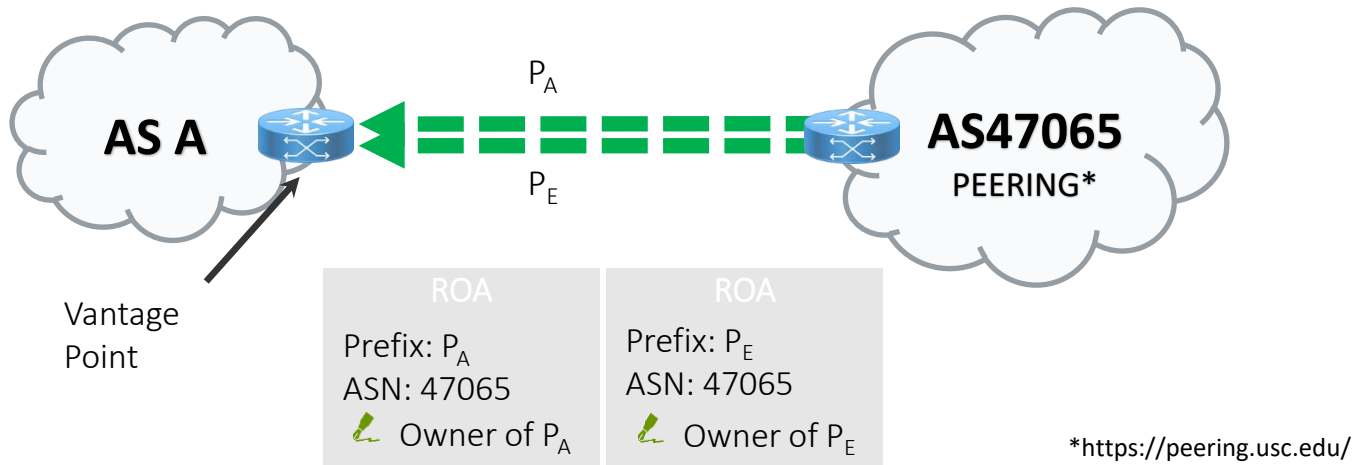
## Hand-crafted ROAs *and* BGP Updates

Goal: Find ASes that filter invalid routes

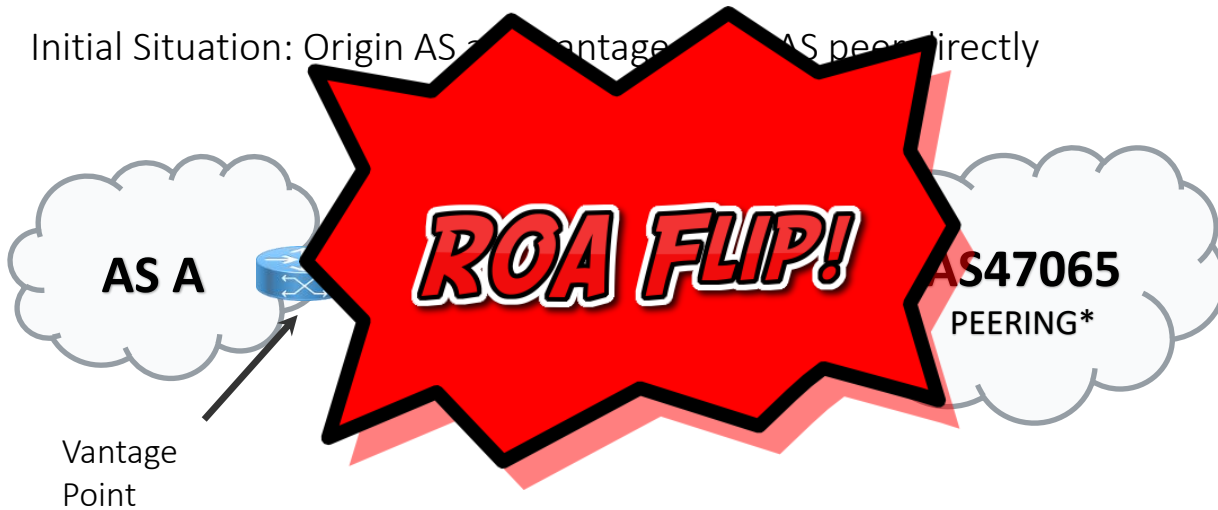
BGP	RPKI
Announce prefixes $P_A$ (Anchor) and $P_E$ (Experiment)	Issue ROAs for both prefixes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Same RIR DB route object</li><li>✓ Same prefix length</li><li>✓ Announced at the same time</li><li>✓ Announced to same peers</li><li>✓ Announced from same origin AS</li></ul>	<p><math>P_A</math> announcement is always <i>valid</i>.</p> <p>Periodically change ROA for <math>P_E</math> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Flips announcement from <i>valid</i> to <i>invalid</i> to <i>valid</i> daily.</li></ul>

# Controlled Experiments

Initial Situation: Origin AS and vantage point AS peer directly



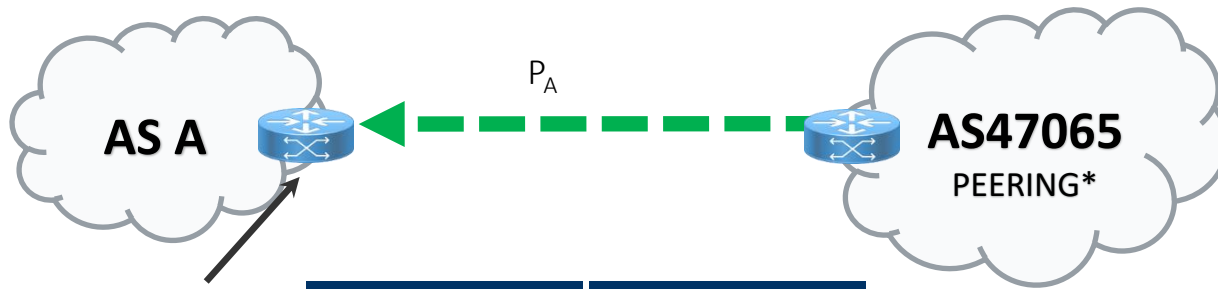
# Controlled Experiments





\*<https://peering.usc.edu/>

# Controlled Experiments

Observation: Vantage point exports no route for  $P_E$



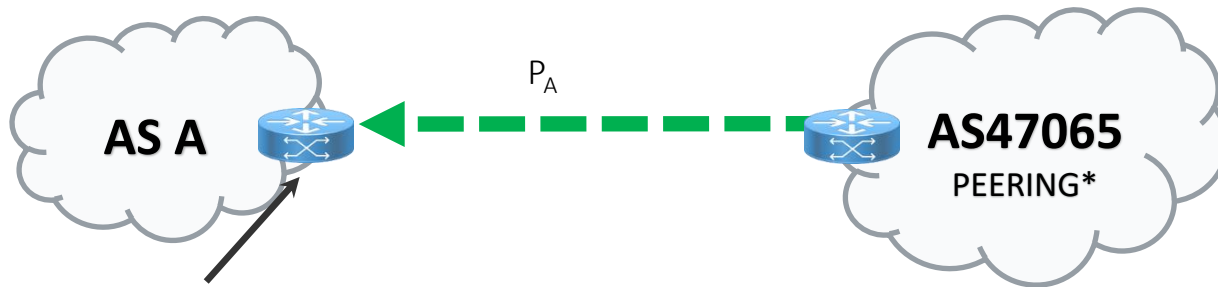
Vantage  
Point

ROA	ROA
Prefix: $P_A$	Prefix: $P_E$
ASN: 47065	ASN: 51224
 Owner of $P_A$	 Owner of $P_E$

\*<https://peering.usc.edu/>

# Controlled Experiments

Observation 1: Vantage point exports no route for  $P_E$



Vantage  
Point

Conclusion: Vantage point is using  
ROV-based filtering

\*<https://peering.usc.edu/>



# Controlled Experiments Results

Before October 20<sup>th</sup> 2017:

- (At least) Three ASes drop invalid routes

October 20<sup>th</sup> 2017:

- AMS-IX Route Server changes ROV based filtering to 'opt-out'
- 50+ ASes “drop” invalid routes

Full talk on [Youtube](#)

# Literature

Andreas Reuter, Randy Bush, Italo Cunha,  
Ethan Katz-Bassett, Thomas C. Schmidt &  
Matthias Wählisch (2018).

Towards a Rigorous Methodology for  
Measuring Adoption of RPKI Route Validation  
and Filtering. *ACM SIGCOMM Computer  
Communication Review*, 48, 19-27.

## Towards a Rigorous Methodology for Measuring Adoption of RPKI Route Validation and Filtering

Andreas Reuter  
Freie Universität Berlin  
andreas.reuter@fu-berlin.de

Randy Bush  
IJ Research Lab / Dragon  
Research  
randy@psg.com

Italo Cunha  
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais  
cunha@dcc.ufmg.br

Ethan Katz-Bassett  
Columbia University  
ethan@ee.columbia.edu

Thomas C. Schmidt  
HAW Hamburg  
t.schmidt@haw-hamburg.de

Matthias Wählisch  
Freie Universität Berlin  
m.waehlisch@fu-berlin.de

### ABSTRACT

A proposal to improve routing security—Route Origin Authorization (ROA)—has been standardized. A ROA specifies which network is allowed to announce a set of Internet destinations. While some networks now specify ROAs, little is known about whether other networks check routes they receive against these ROAs, a process known as Route Origin Validation (ROV). Which networks blindly accept invalid routes? Which reject them outright? Which de-preference them if alternatives exist?

Recent analysis attempts to use uncontrolled experiments to characterize ROV adoption by comparing valid routes

Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) [12] is a specialized PKI to help secure Internet interdomain routing by providing attestation objects for Internet resource holders (i.e., IP prefixes and AS numbers). The RPKI publishes Route Origin Authorization (ROA) objects, each specifying which AS is allowed to announce an IP prefix. Using ROA data, a BGP router can perform RPKI-based origin validation (ROV) verifying whether the AS originating an IP prefix announcement in BGP is authorized to do so [14] and labeling the route as valid or invalid. The validity of a route can be used as part of the router's local BGP policy decisions, e.g., filtering routes that reflect invalid announcements or

ROV Deployment Monitor: [rov.rpki.net](http://rov.rpki.net)

# Literature

M. Wählisch, R. Schmidt, T. C. Schmidt, O. Maennel, S. Uhlig, G. Tyson (2015).

RIPPKI: The Tragic Story of RPKI Deployment in the Web Ecosystem. *14th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (HotNets)*.

## RiPKI: The Tragic Story of RPKI Deployment in the Web Ecosystem

Matthias Wählisch  
Freie Universität Berlin  
m.waehlich@fu-berlin.de

Robert Schmidt  
Freie Universität Berlin  
rs.schmidt@fu-berlin.de

Thomas C. Schmidt  
HAW Hamburg  
t.schmidt@haw-hamburg.de

Olaf Maennel  
Tallinn U. of Technology  
olaf.maennel@ttu.ee

Steve Uhlig  
Queen Mary Univ. London  
steve@eecs.qmul.ac.uk

Gareth Tyson  
Queen Mary Univ. London  
g.tyson@qmul.ac.uk

### ABSTRACT

Web content delivery is one of the most important services on the Internet. Access to websites is typically secured via TLS. However, this security model does not account for prefix hijacking on the network layer, which may lead to traffic blackholing or transparent interception. Thus, to achieve comprehensive security and service availability, additional protective mechanisms are necessary such as the RPKI, a recently deployed Resource Public Key Infrastructure to prevent hijacking of traffic by networks. This paper argues two positions. First, that modern web hosting practices make route protection challenging due to the propensity to spread

### Keywords

BGP, RPKI, secure inter-domain routing, deployment, hosting infrastructure, CDN

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Website security is a long pursued and rather esoteric goal. Traditionally, it has been approached from an end-to-end perspective (e.g. TLS), largely because this is easily within the sphere of control of any web provider. However, as evidenced by many prominent attacks, this is frequently insufficient. This is because various third party infrastructure dependencies exist that make us vulnerable to attack, e.g. within BGP, DNS,