Introduction to Computer Networks

CS640

Software-Defined Networking

https://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~mgliu/CS640/S25/index.html

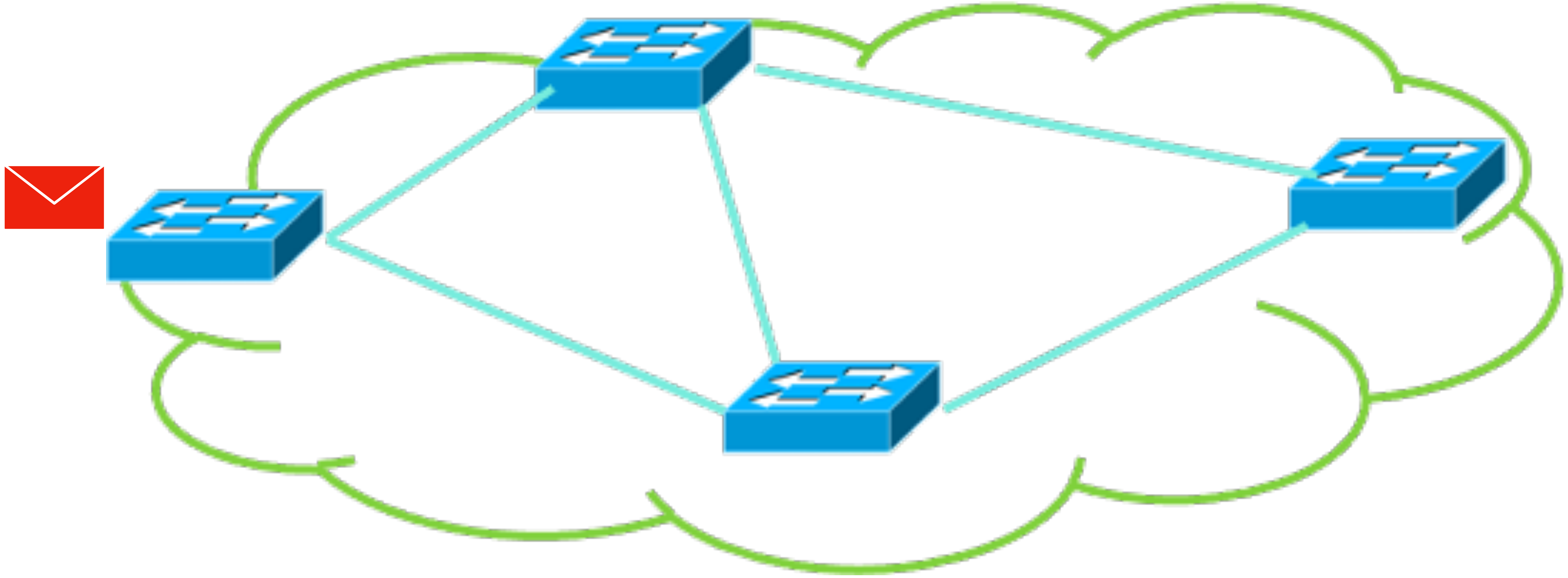
Ming Liu
mgliu@cs.wisc.edu

Outline

- Last
  - Link State Routing
- Today
  - Software-Defined Networking
- Announcements
  - Quiz2 today

Traditional L3 Networks: Data Plane

- Data plane
  - Move packets across different devices along the communication path



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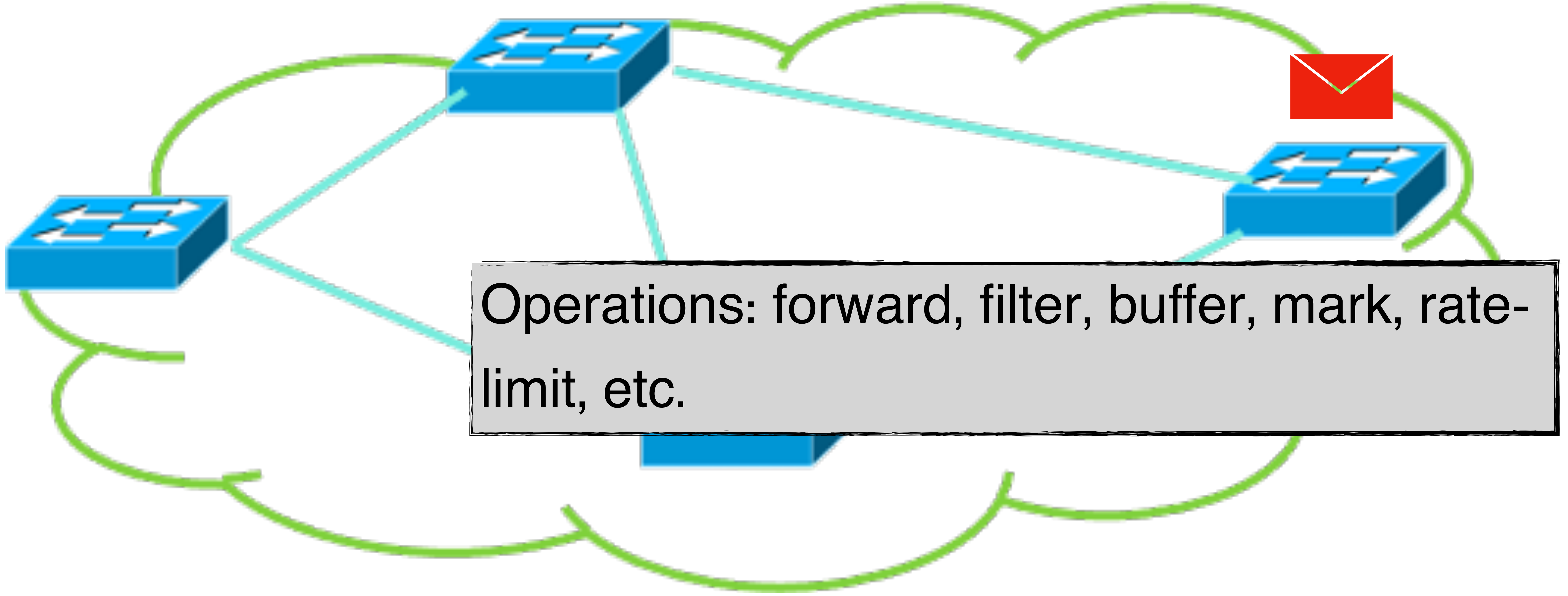
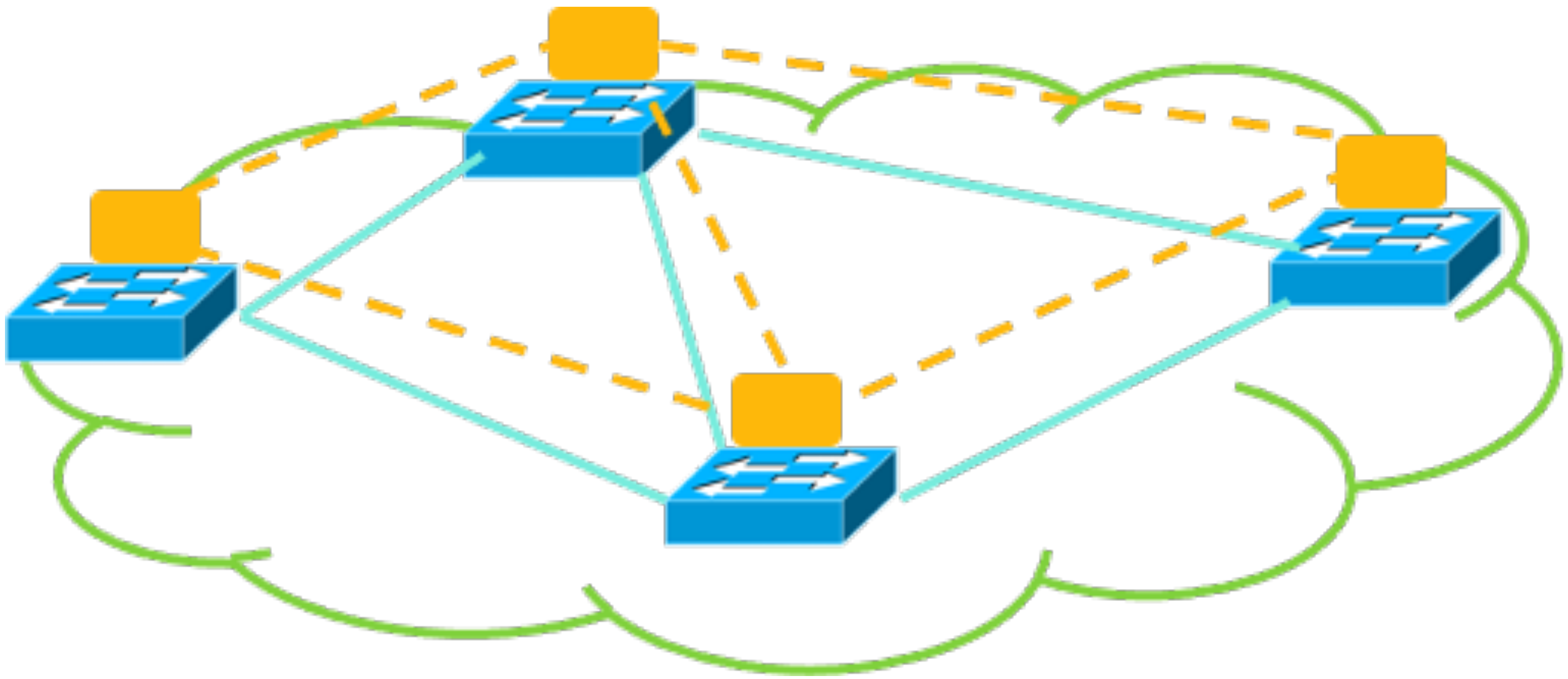


Traditional L3 Networks: Control Plane

- Control plane
  - Decide the packet communication path via the distributed algorithm



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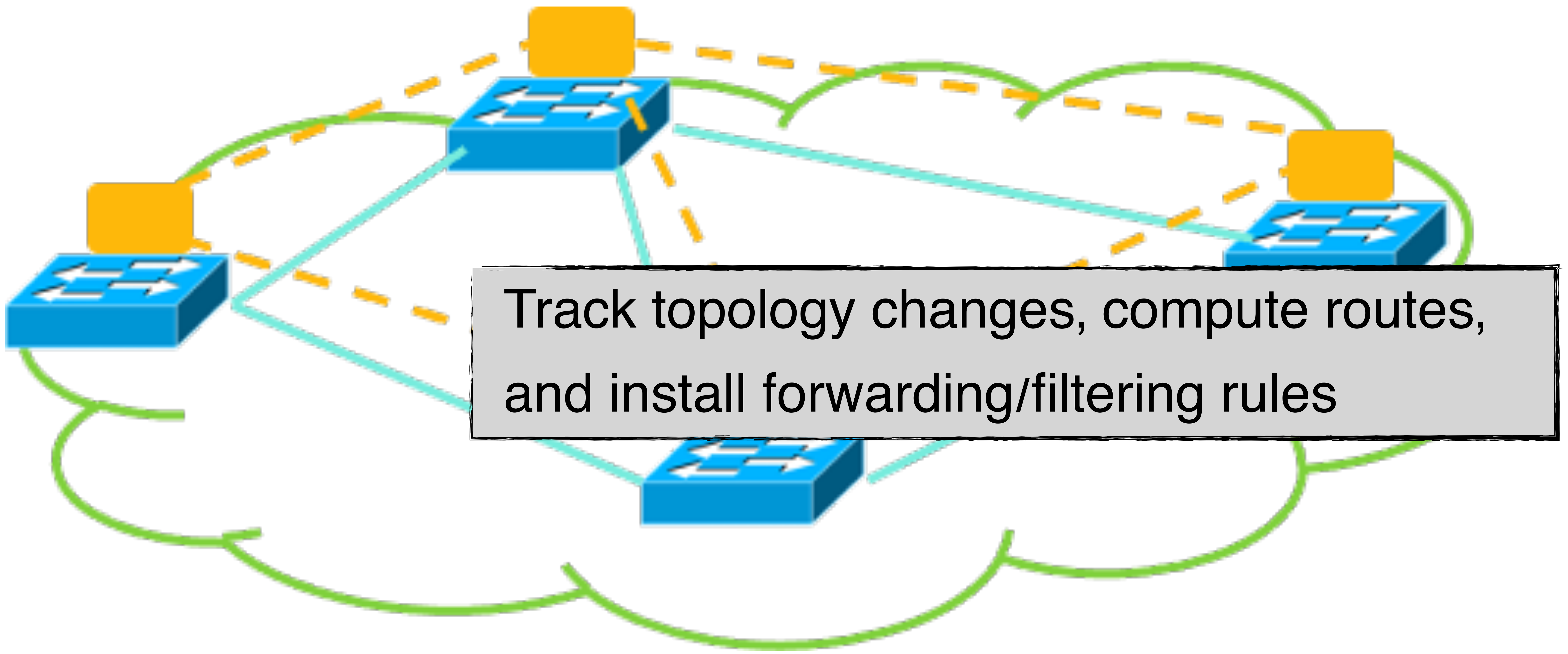
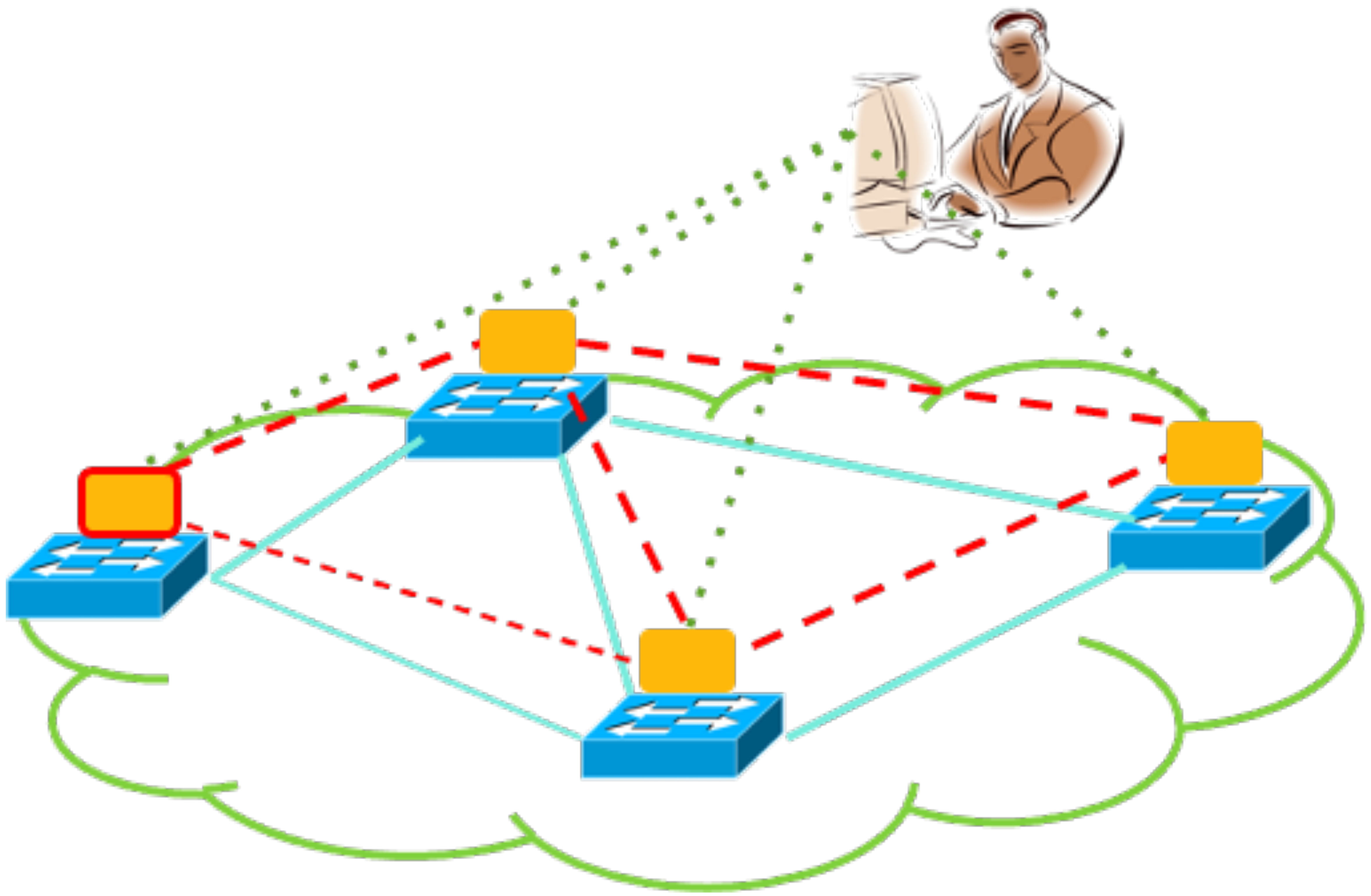


Traditional L3 Networks: Management Plane

- Management plane
  - Configure, monitor, and management the communication device



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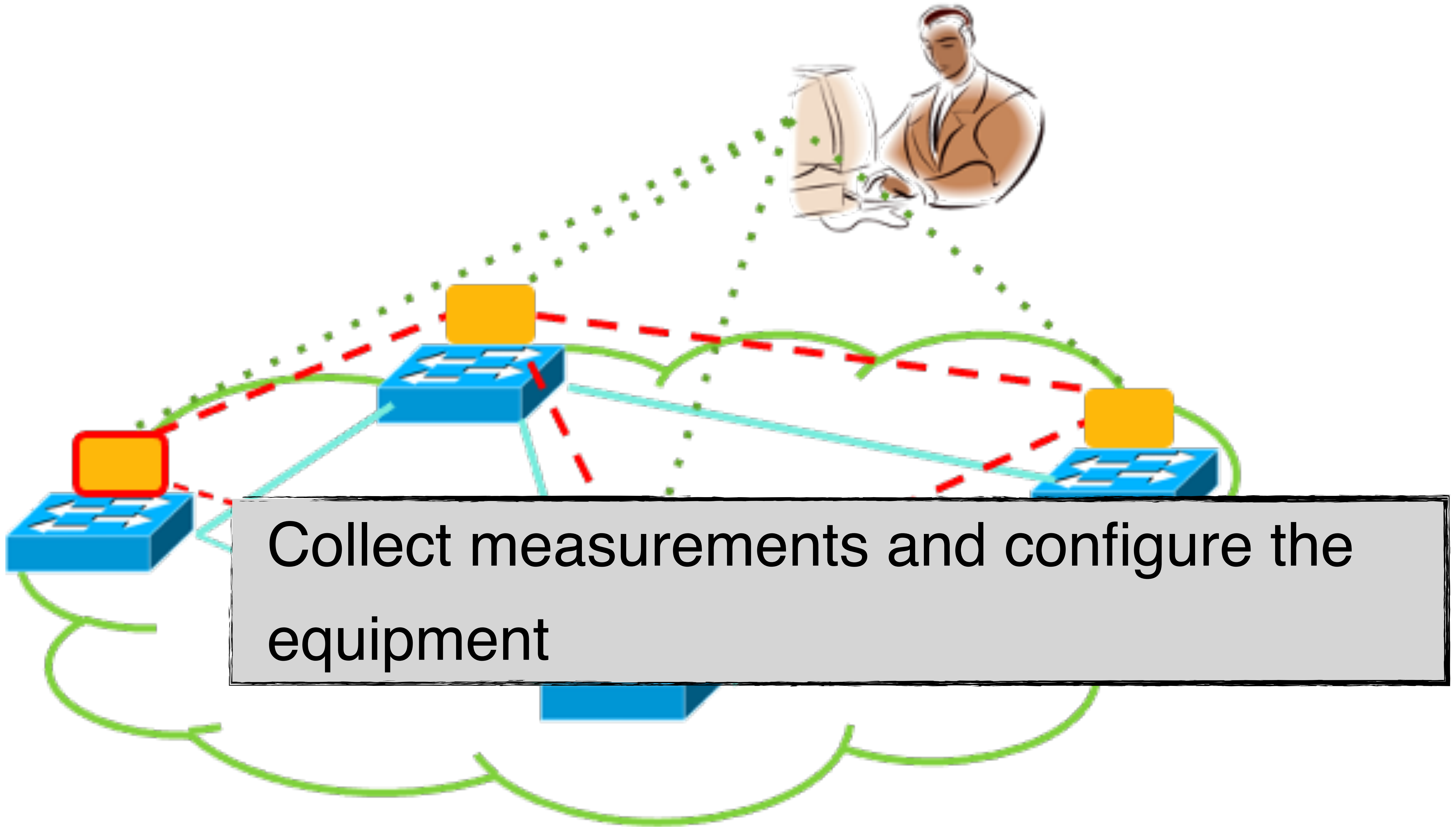

Shortest Path Routing

- Management plane: set the link weights
- Control plane: compute shortest paths via the routing algorithm
- Data plane: forward packets to the next hop

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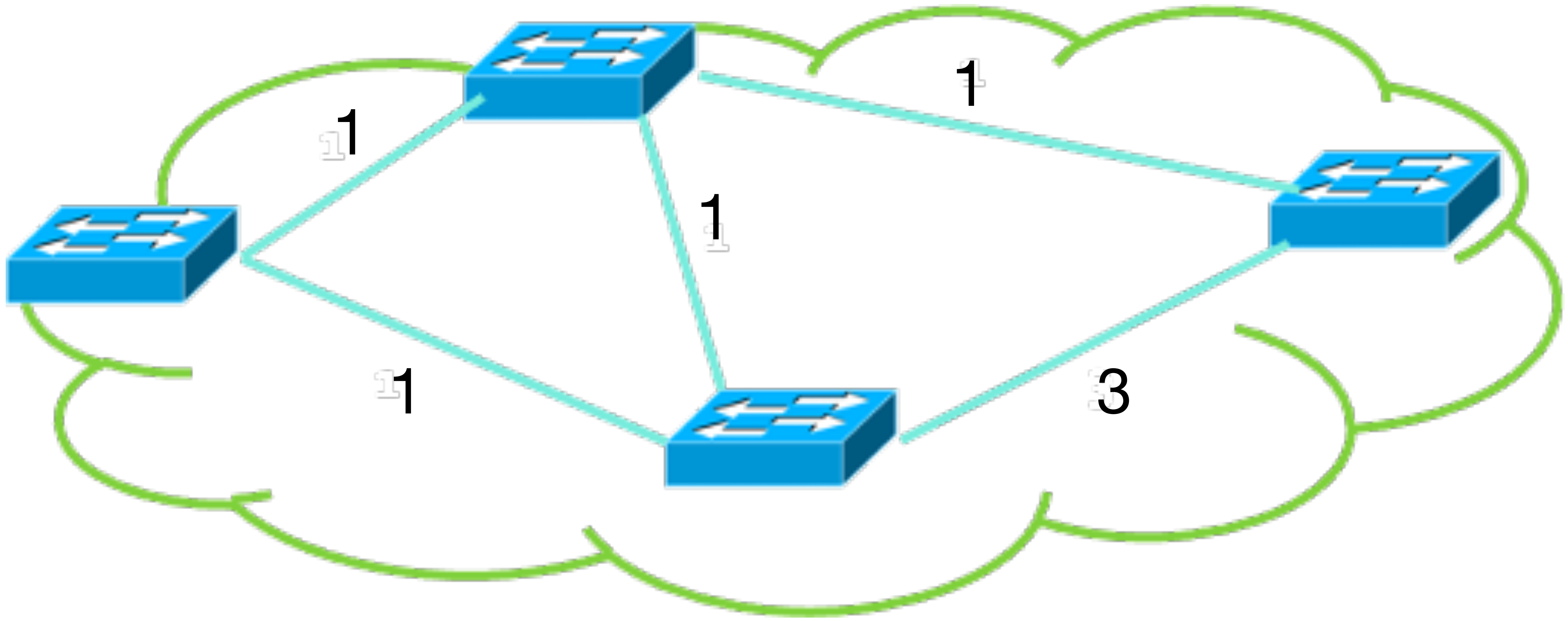
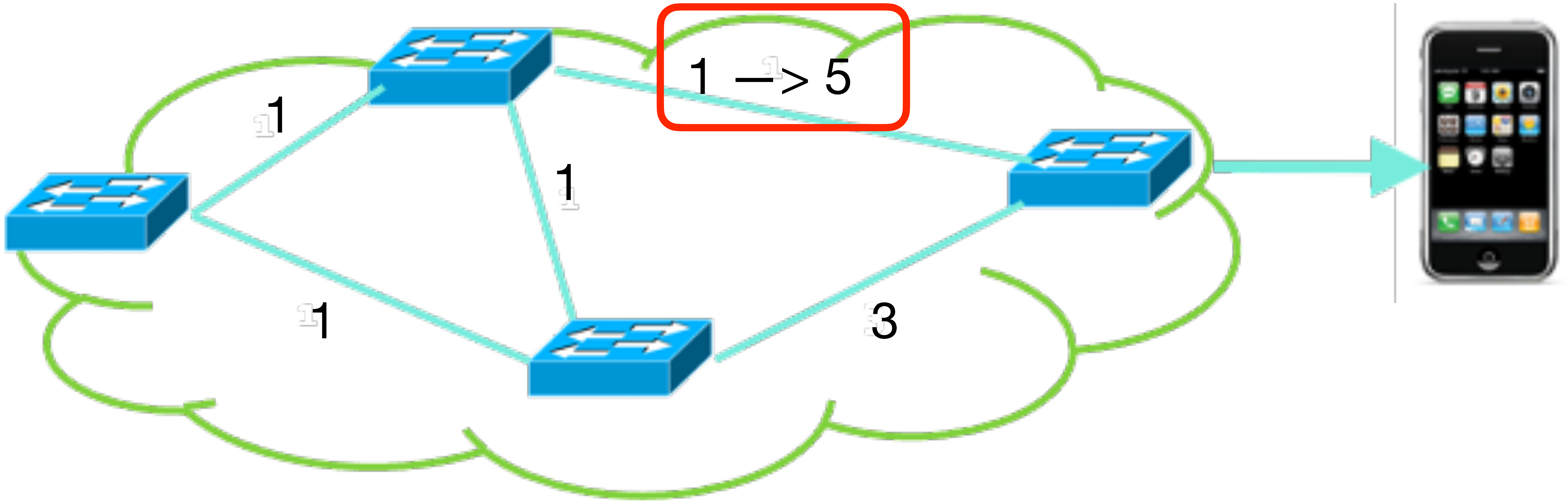


How can we introduce new designs in the networking layer?

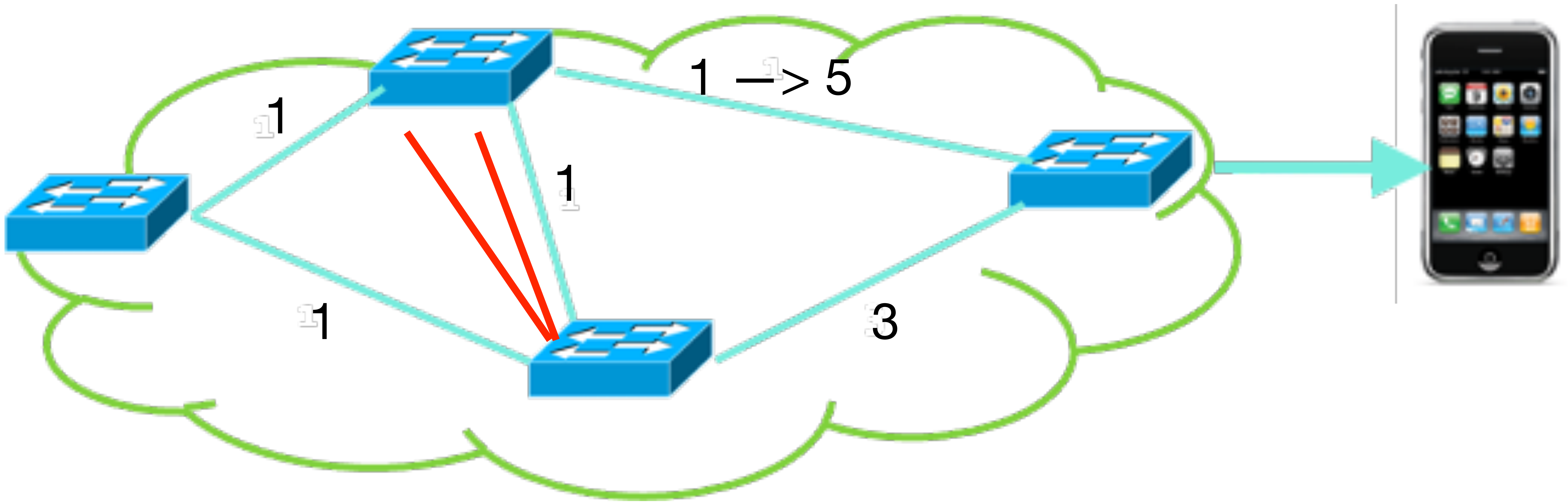
Example #1: Adaptive Routing

- Integrate traffic engineering into the routing algorithm
  - Change link weights
  - Add a new routing path
  - Avoid the congested path

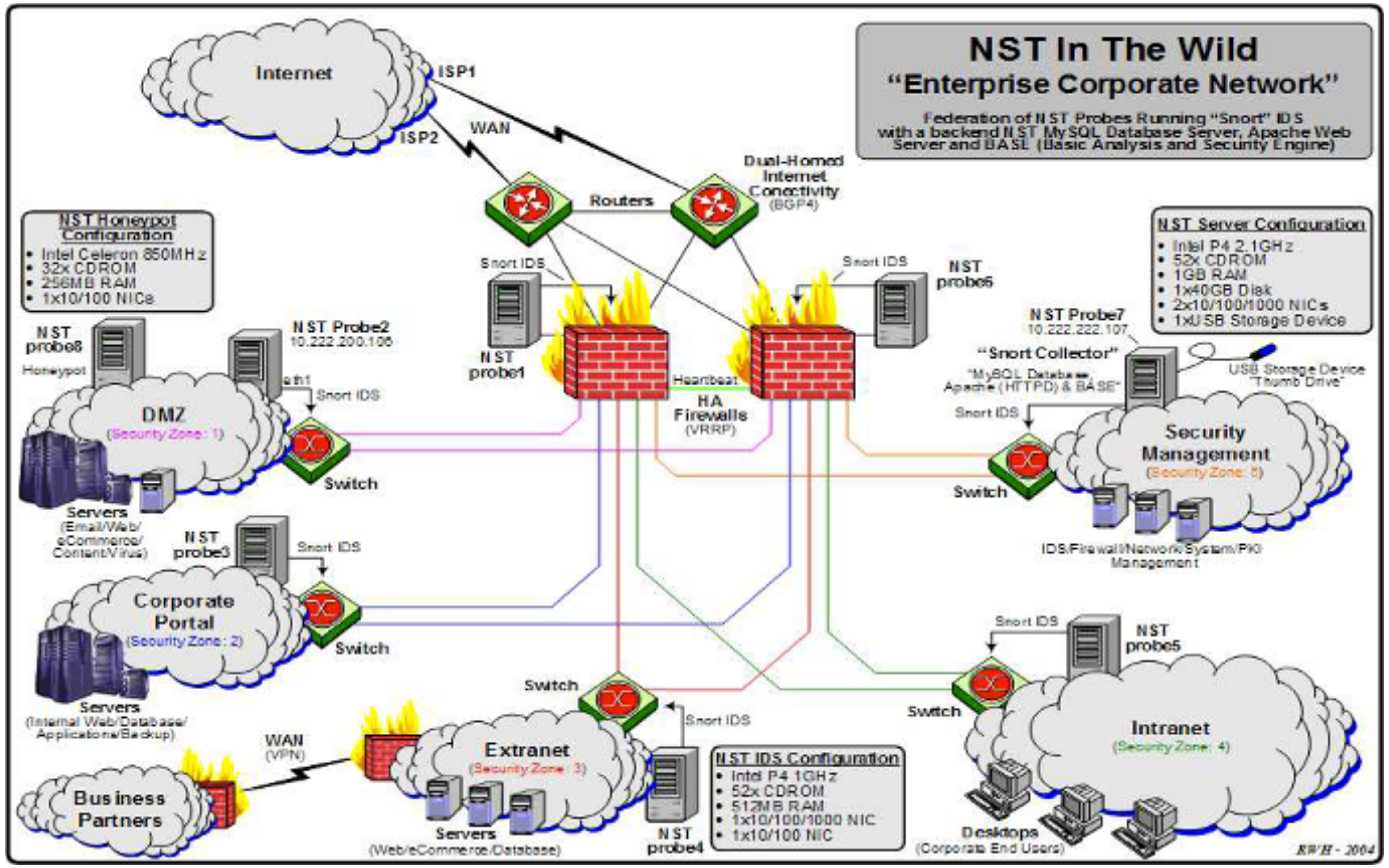


Example #2: Avoid Transient Anomalies

- Distributed protocol under race conditions
  - Temporary disagreement among the nodes
  - Cause packets stuck in the loop
  - Even though the changes were planned well



Messy Enterprise Networks

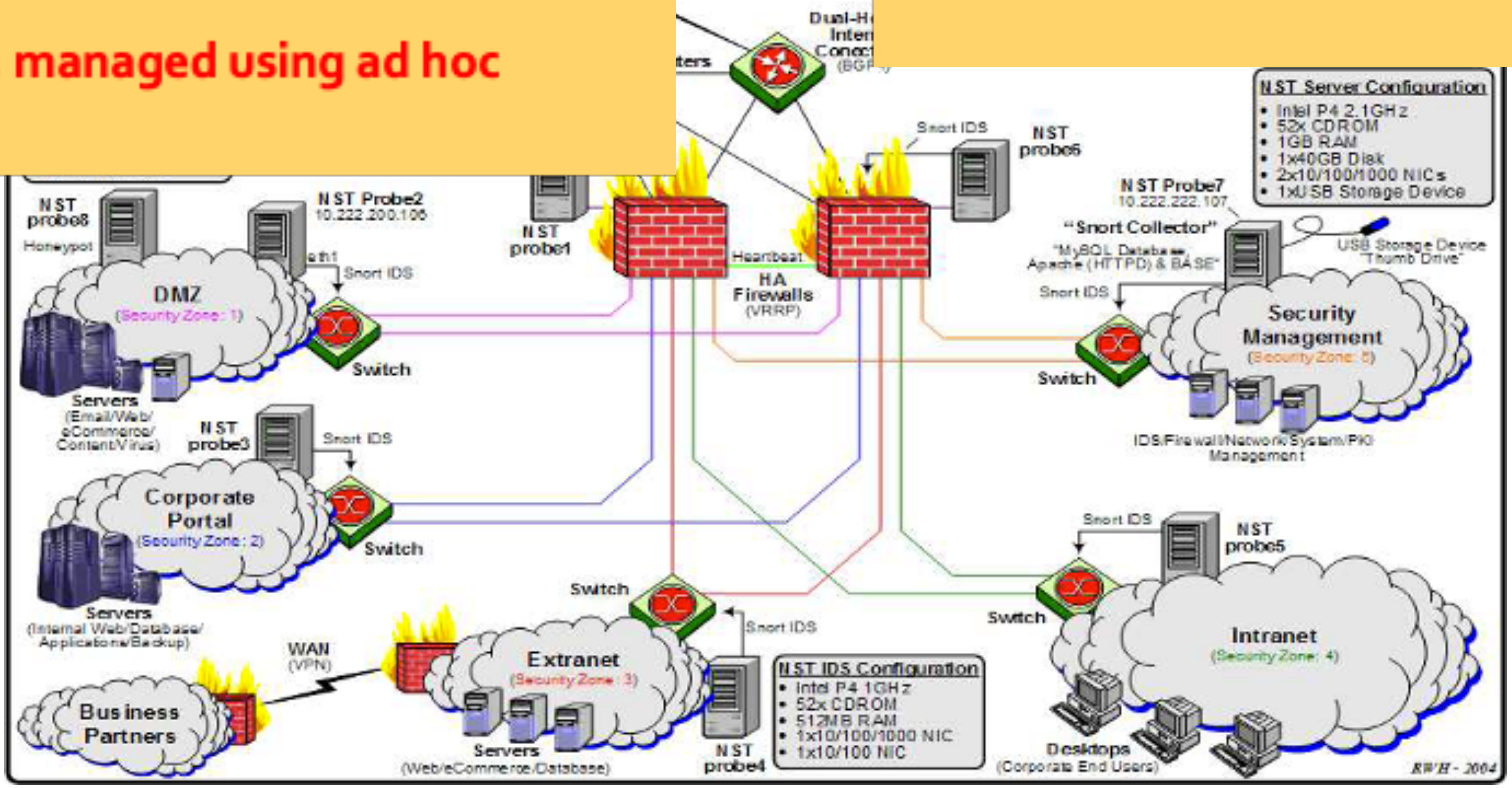


Messy Enterprise Networks

Other mgmt/control plane functions: access control, Quality-of-Service, overlays, service interposition, billing, DDoS protection

Non-routing state, managed using ad hoc mechanisms

Many boxes (routers, switches, firewalls, …), with different interfaces.



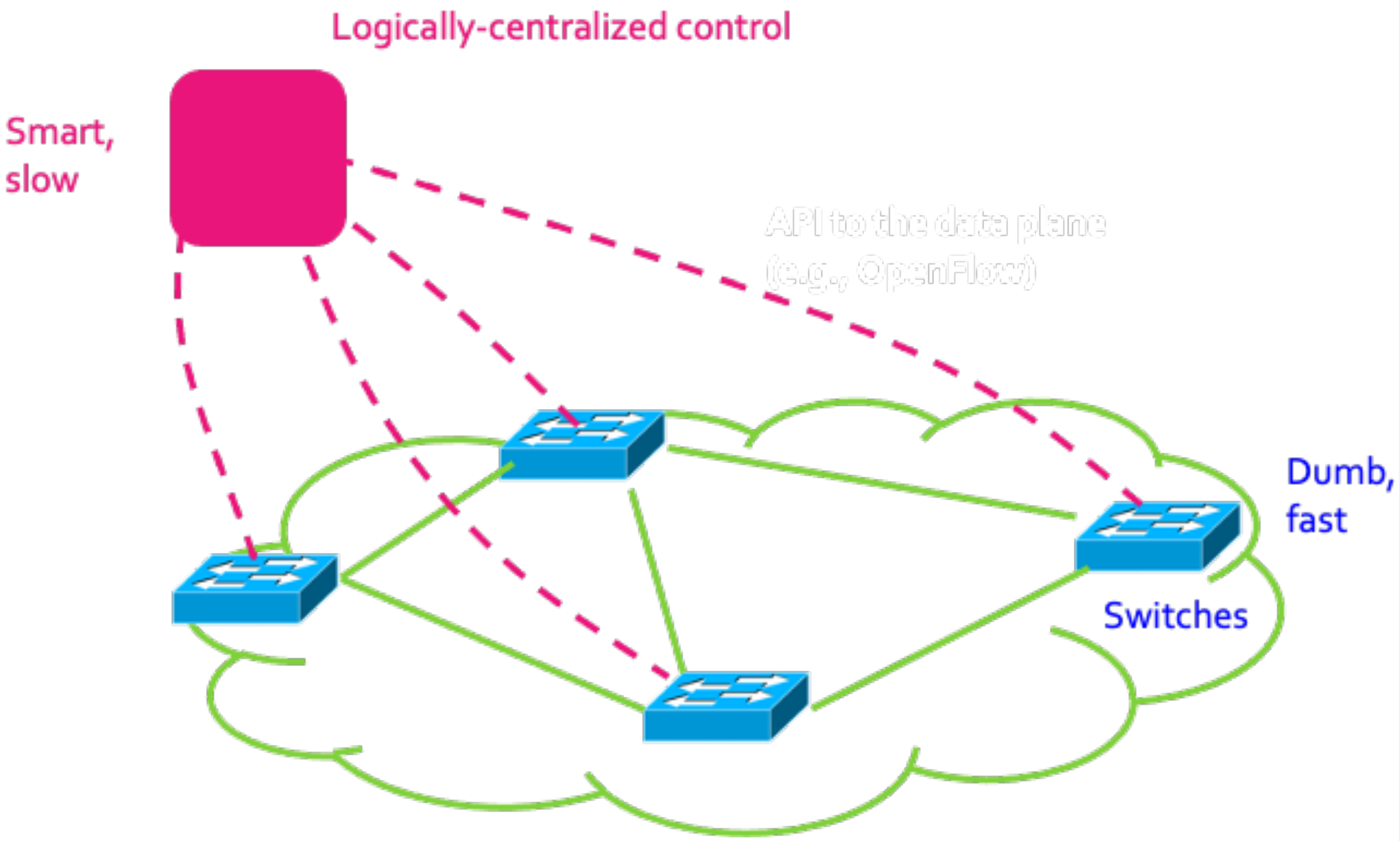
How can we simplify the network management and keep innovations?

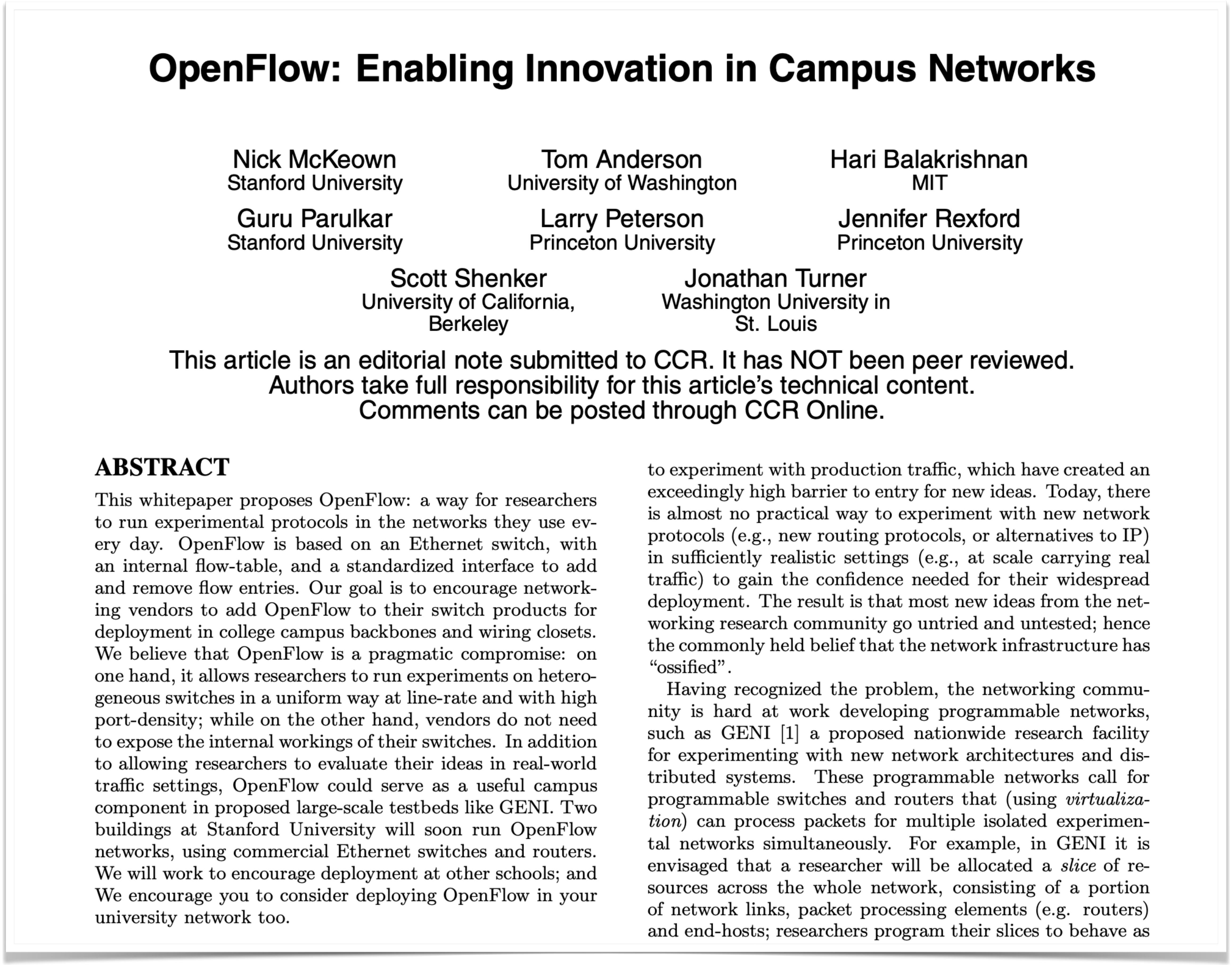
Why is this hard?

- #1: Closed equipment
  - Software tightly coupled with hardware
  - Vector-specific interfaces
- #2: Distributed control plane
  - Fast and reliable distributed algorithms are non-trivial to build
- #3: Ad-hoc device management
  - Great hardware heterogeneity
- #4: Slow protocol standardization
  - Many years of discussion between the communication and vendors

Solution: Software-Defined Networking

Software-Defined Networking (SDN)





OpenFlow: Enabling Innovation in Campus Networks

Nick McKeown
Stanford University

Tom Anderson
University of Washington

Hari Balakrishnan
MIT

Guru Parulkar
Stanford University

Larry Peterson
Princeton University

Jennifer Rexford
Princeton University

Scott Shenker
University of California, Berkeley

Jonathan Turner
Washington University in St. Louis

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ABSTRACT

This whitepaper proposes OpenFlow: a way for researchers to run experimental protocols in the networks they use every day. OpenFlow is based on an Ethernet switch, with an internal flow-table, and a standardized interface to add and remove flow entries. Our goal is to encourage networking vendors to add OpenFlow to their switch products for deployment in college campus backbones and wiring closets. We believe that OpenFlow is a pragmatic compromise: on one hand, it allows researchers to run experiments on heterogeneous switches in a uniform way at line-rate and with high port-density; while on the other hand, vendors do not need to expose the internal workings of their switches. In addition to allowing researchers to evaluate their ideas in real-world traffic settings, OpenFlow could serve as a useful campus component in proposed large-scale testbeds like GENI. Two buildings at Stanford University will soon run OpenFlow networks, using commercial Ethernet switches and routers. We will work to encourage deployment at other schools; and We encourage you to consider deploying OpenFlow in your university network too.

to experiment with production traffic, which have created an exceedingly high barrier to entry for new ideas. Today, there is almost no practical way to experiment with new network protocols (e.g., new routing protocols, or alternatives to IP) in sufficiently realistic settings (e.g., at scale carrying real traffic) to gain the confidence needed for their widespread deployment. The result is that most new ideas from the networking research community go untried and untested; hence the commonly held belief that the network infrastructure has "ossified".

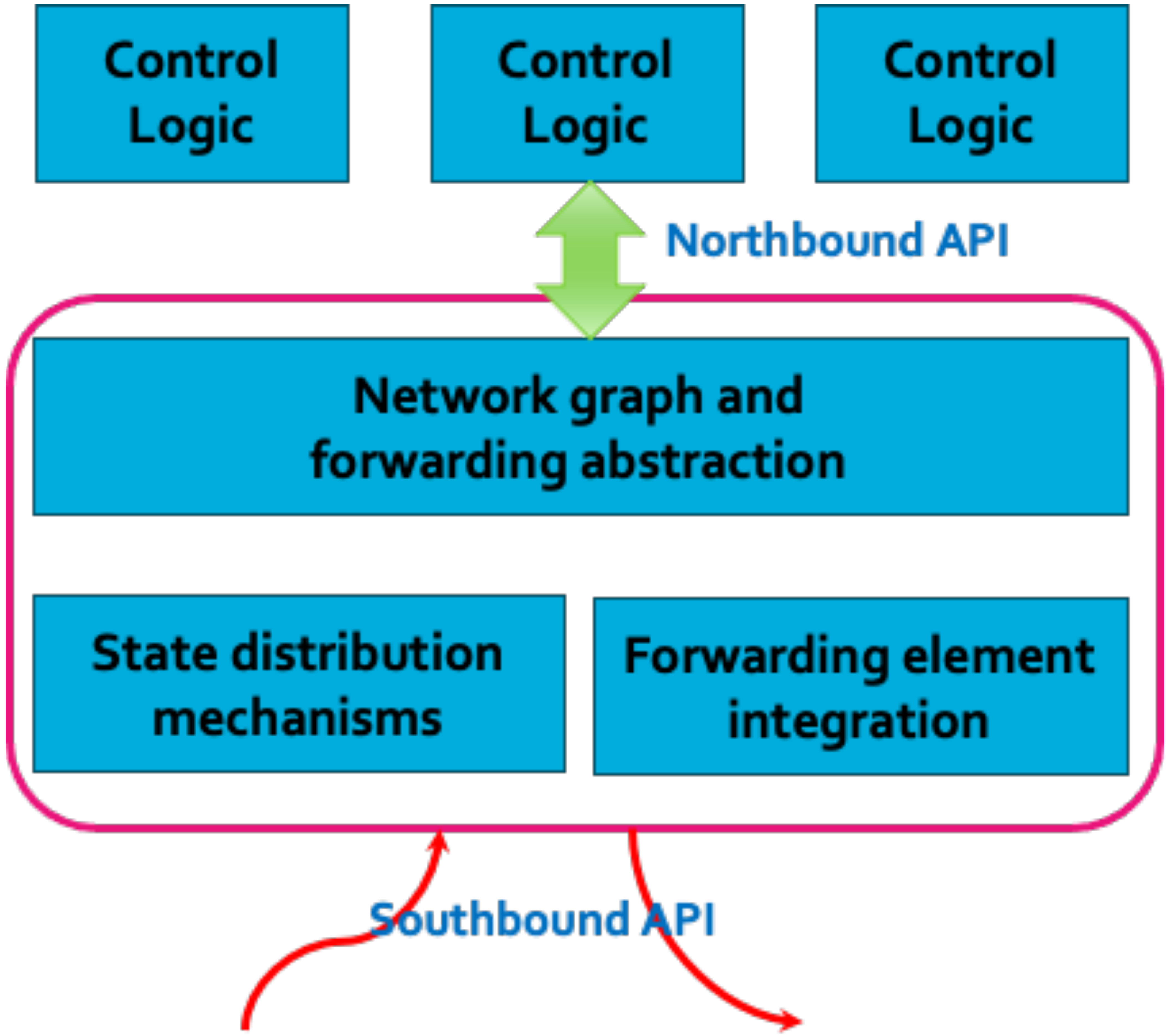
Having recognized the problem, the networking community is hard at work developing programmable networks, such as GENI [1] a proposed nationwide research facility for experimenting with new network architectures and distributed systems. These programmable networks call for programmable switches and routers that (using *virtualization*) can process packets for multiple isolated experimental networks simultaneously. For example, in GENI it is envisaged that a researcher will be allocated a *slice* of resources across the whole network, consisting of a portion of network links, packet processing elements (e.g. routers) and end-hosts; researchers program their slices to behave as

SDN Hardware Architecture

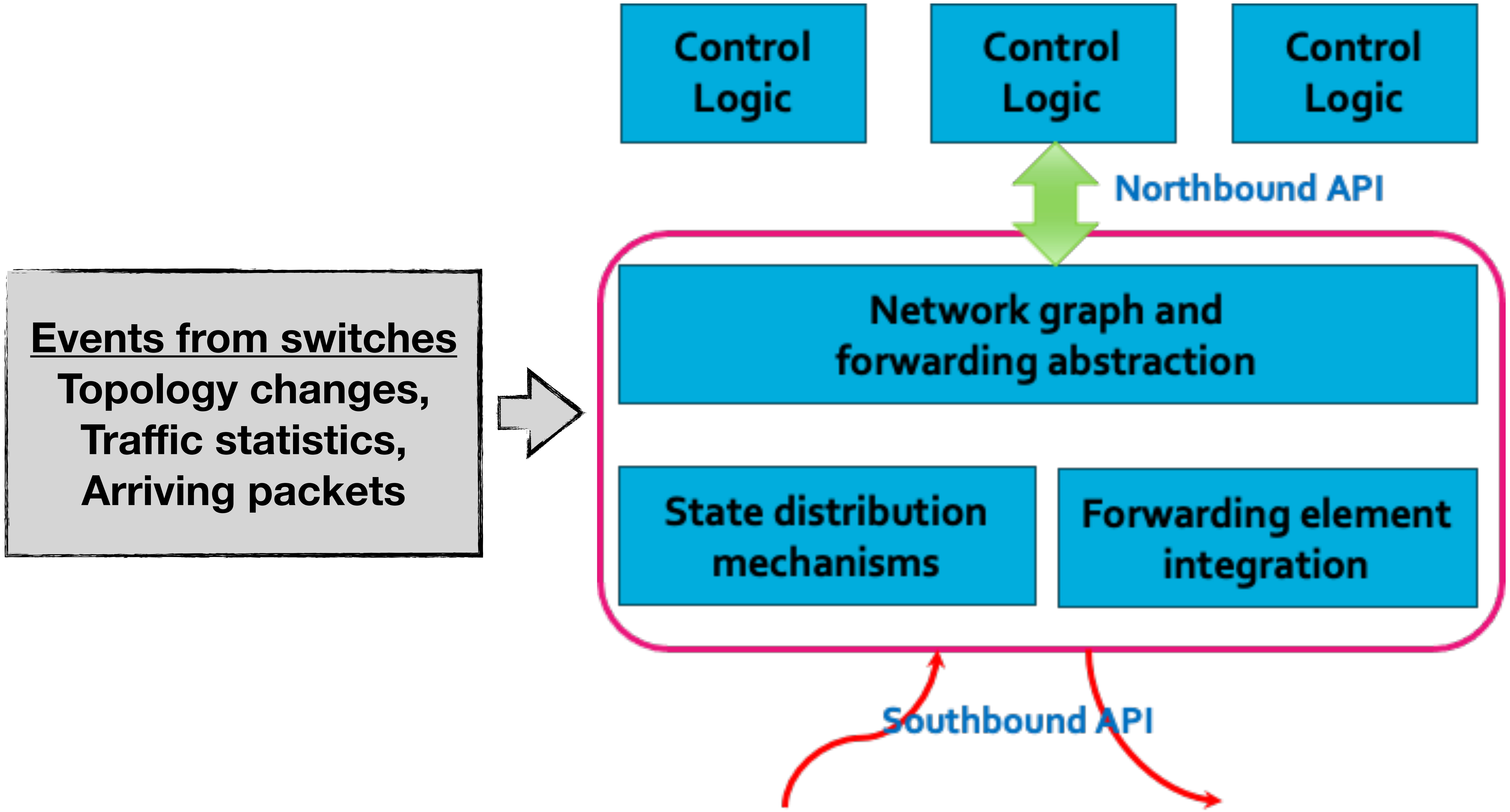
- #1: Central controller
  - General-purpose servers
  - Provide connectivity to all the routers in the managed domain

- #2: Router/Switch
  - Run a simple forwarding data-plane

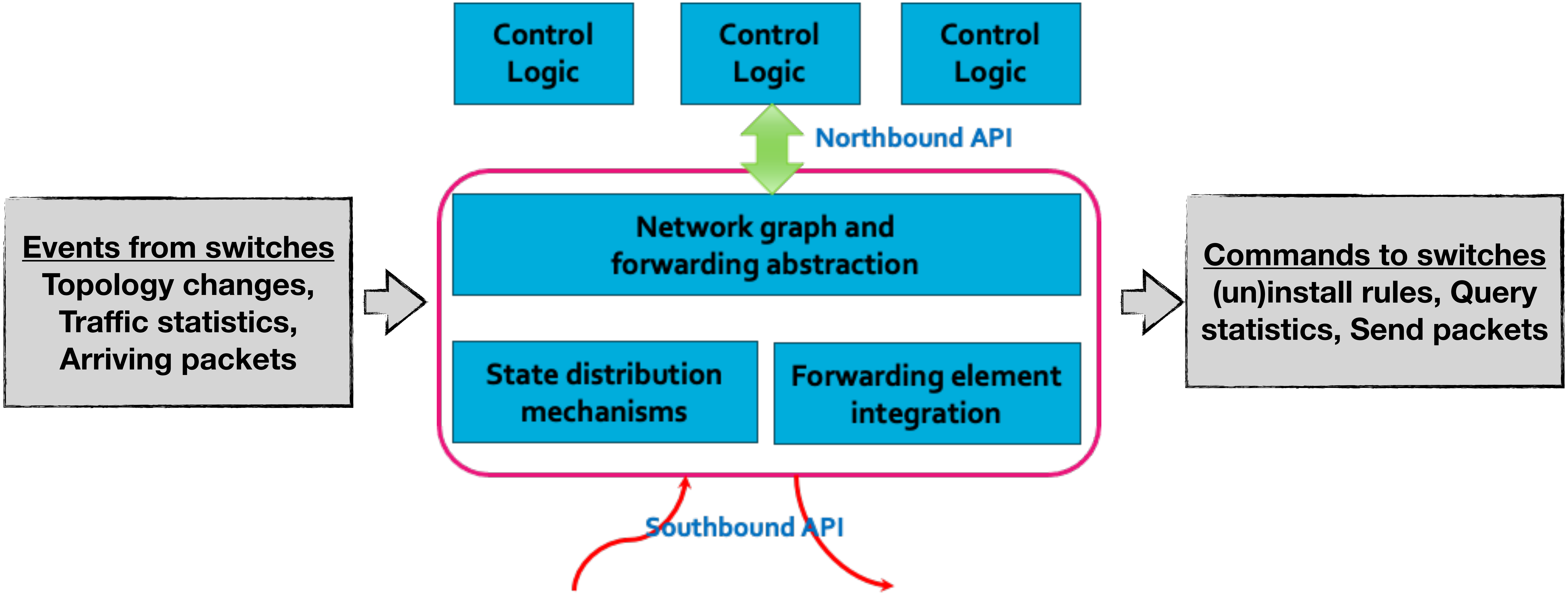
SDN Software Stack



SDN Software Stack



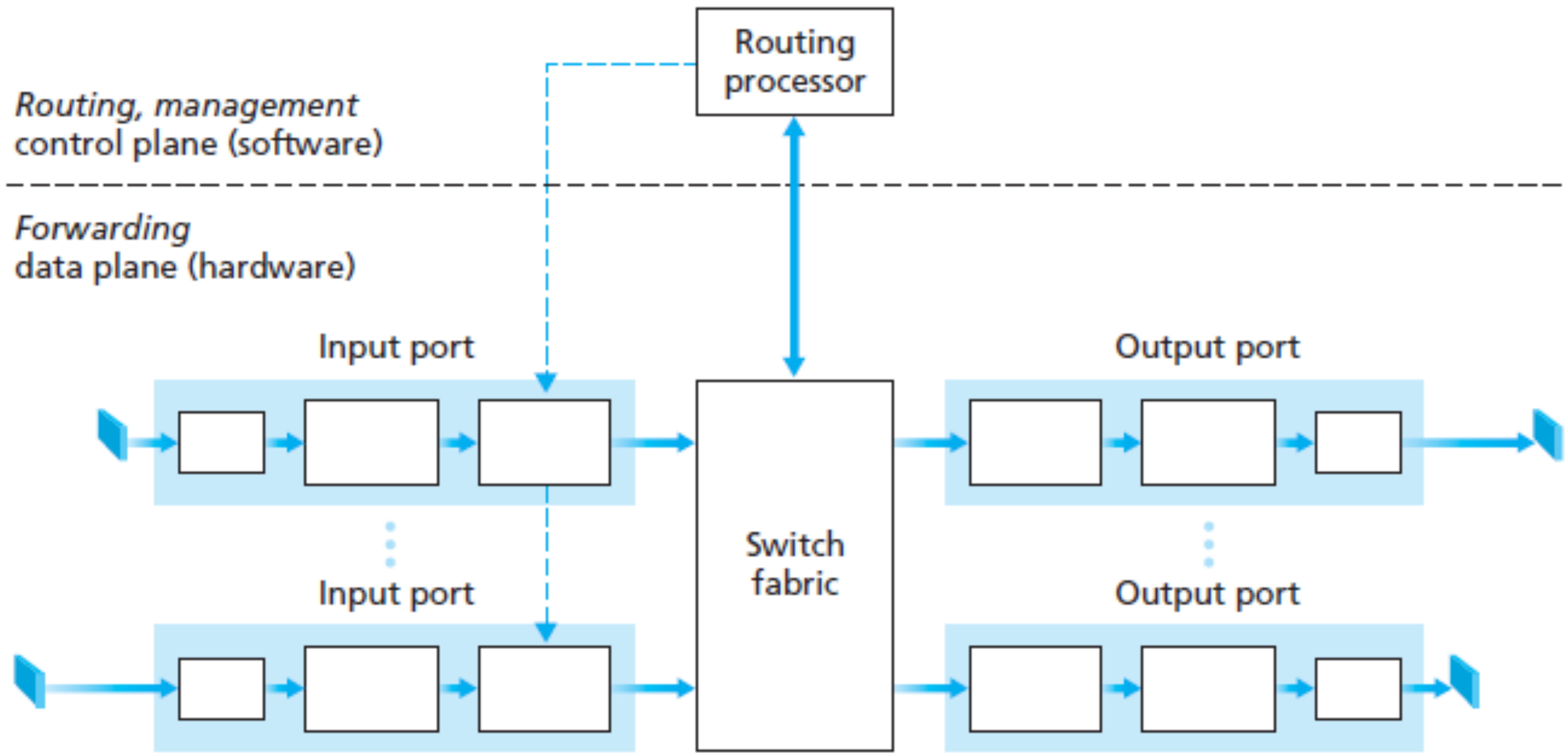
SDN Software Stack



How does SDN work exactly?

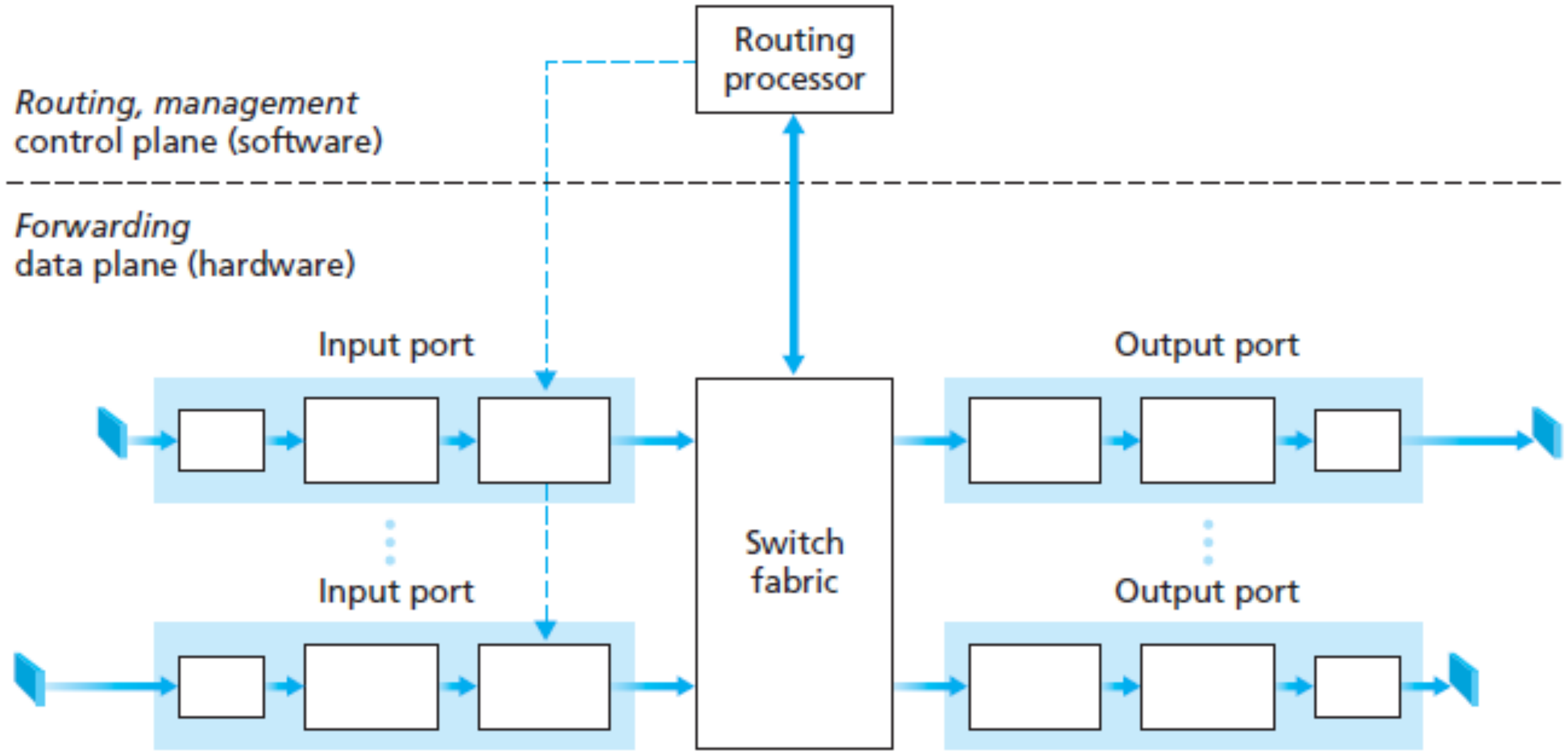
Packet Forwarding w/o SDN

- Packets are forwarded based on the routing table
  - The Routing processor runs the routing algorithm and constructs the table



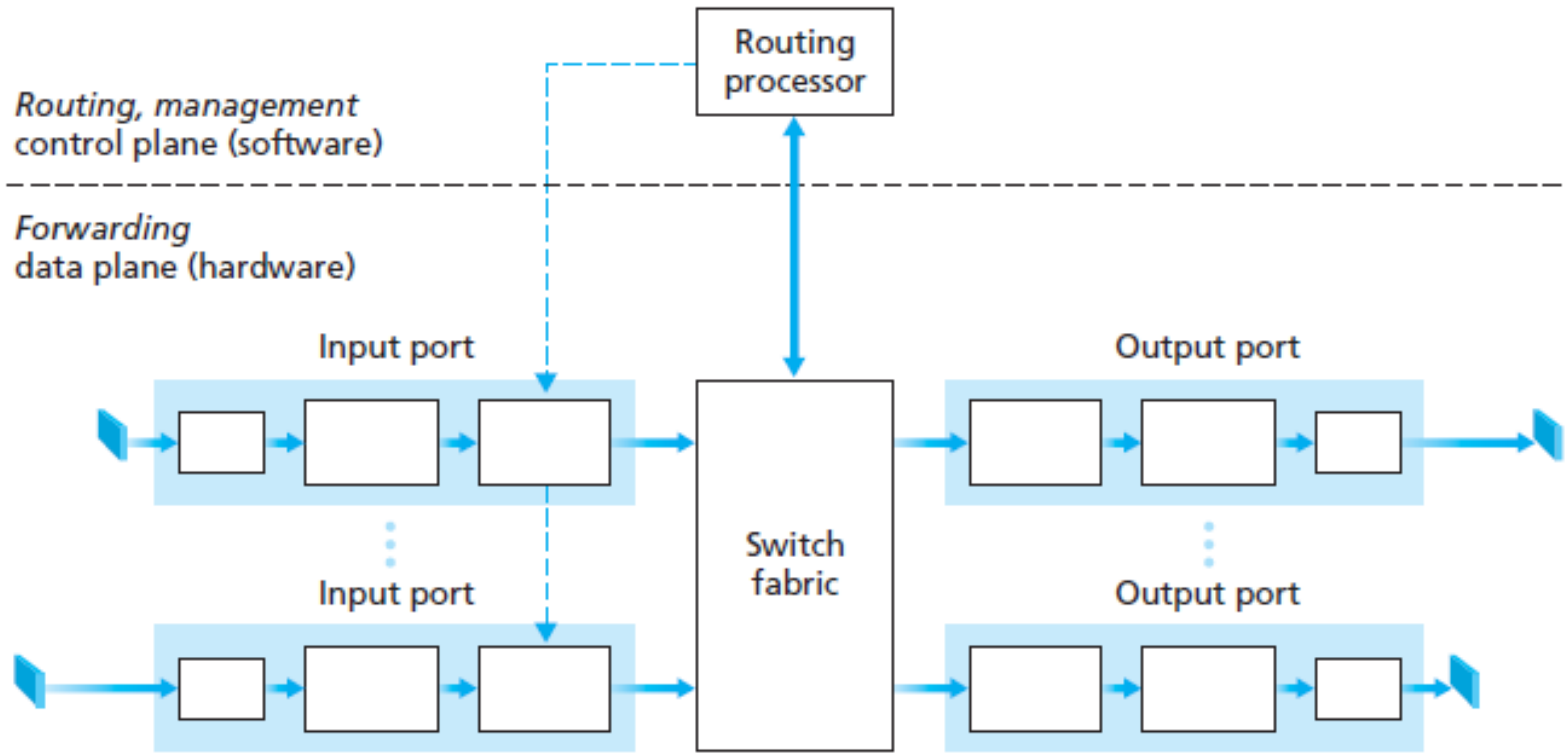
Packet Forwarding w/ SDN

- Has the data-plane changed?



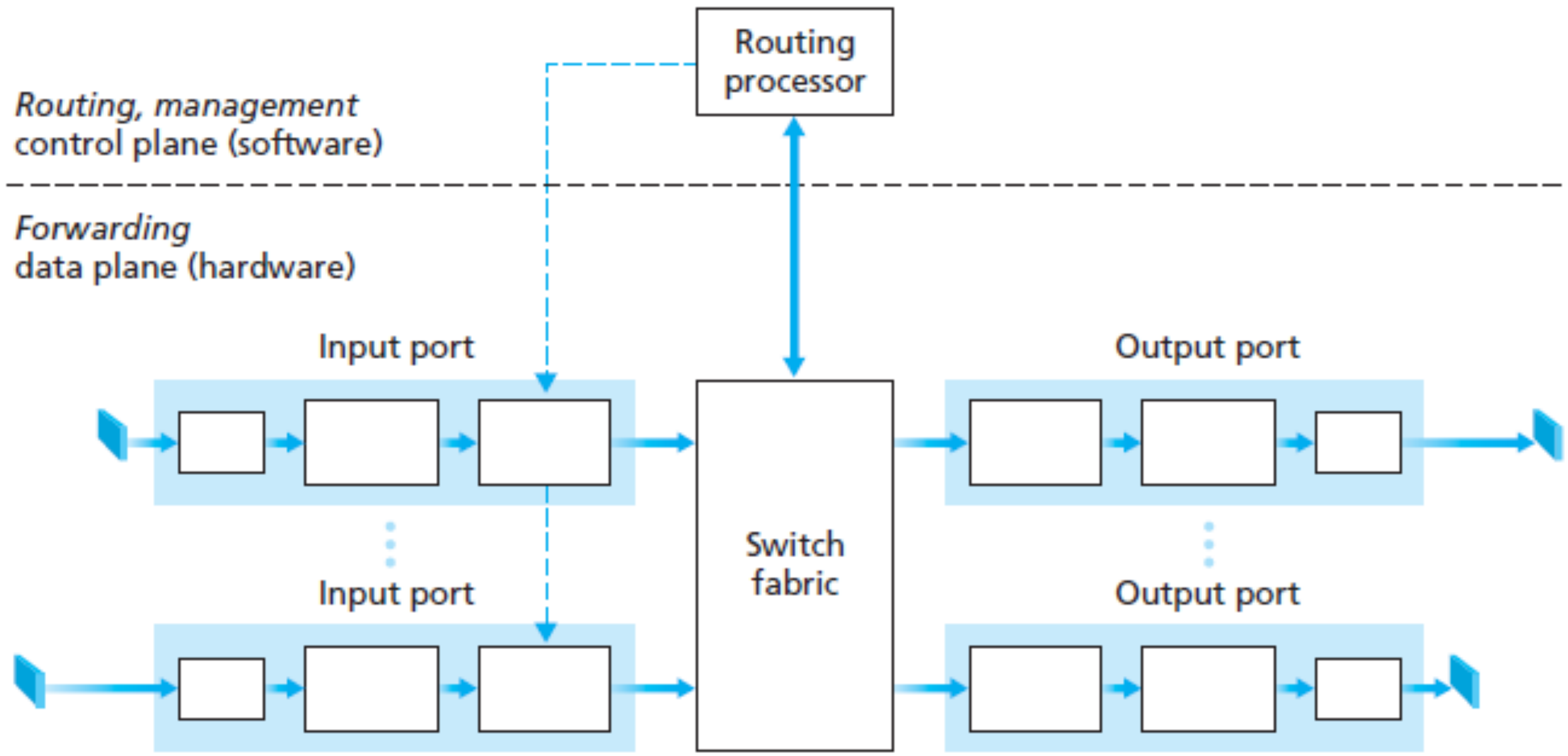
Packet Forwarding w/ SDN

- Has the data-plane changed?
  - No



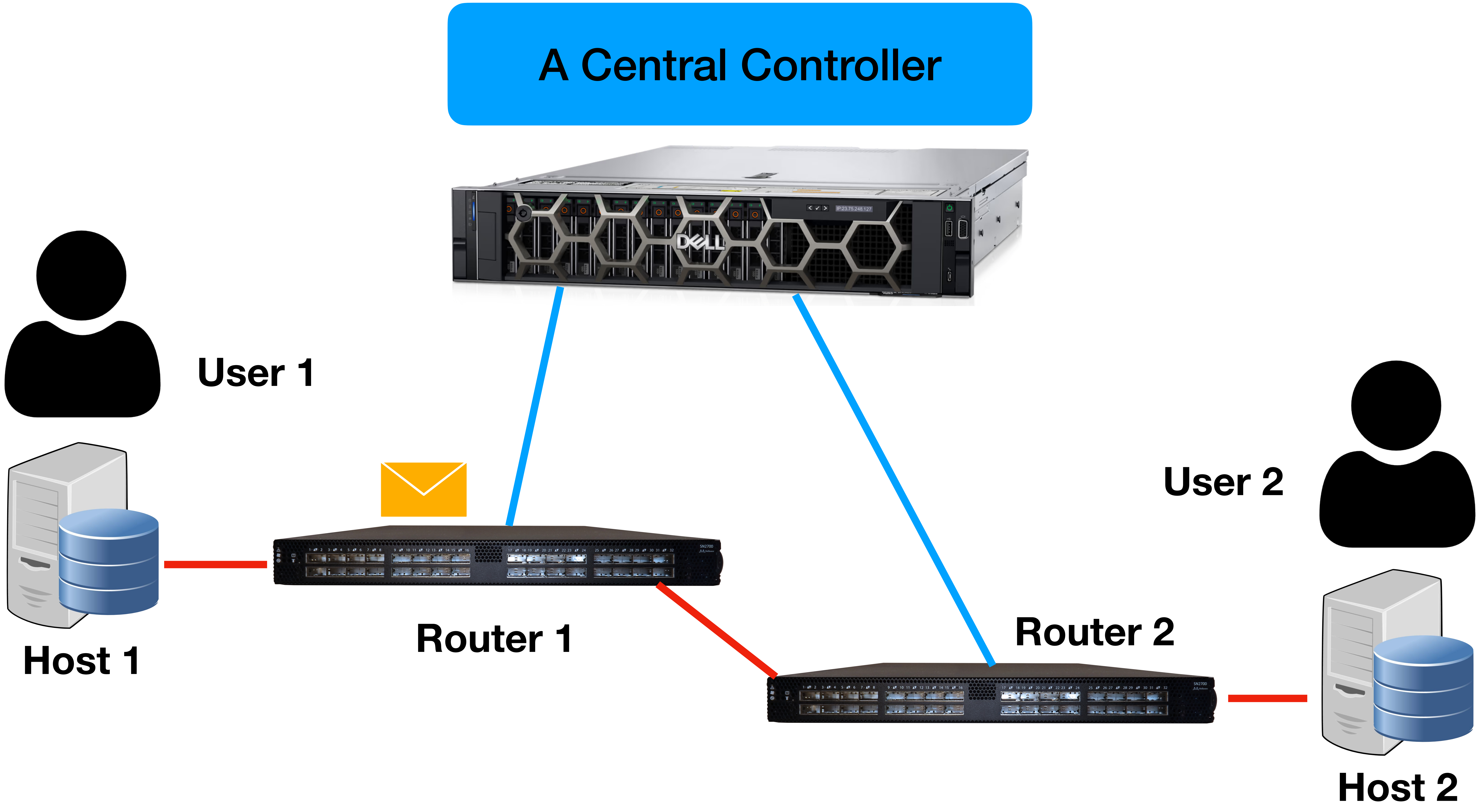
Packet Forwarding w/ SDN

- Has the data-plane changed?
  - No
- When missing in the routing table
  - Packets are forwarded to the central controller!



The Controller Capability

- #1: Global view
- #2: Programmability



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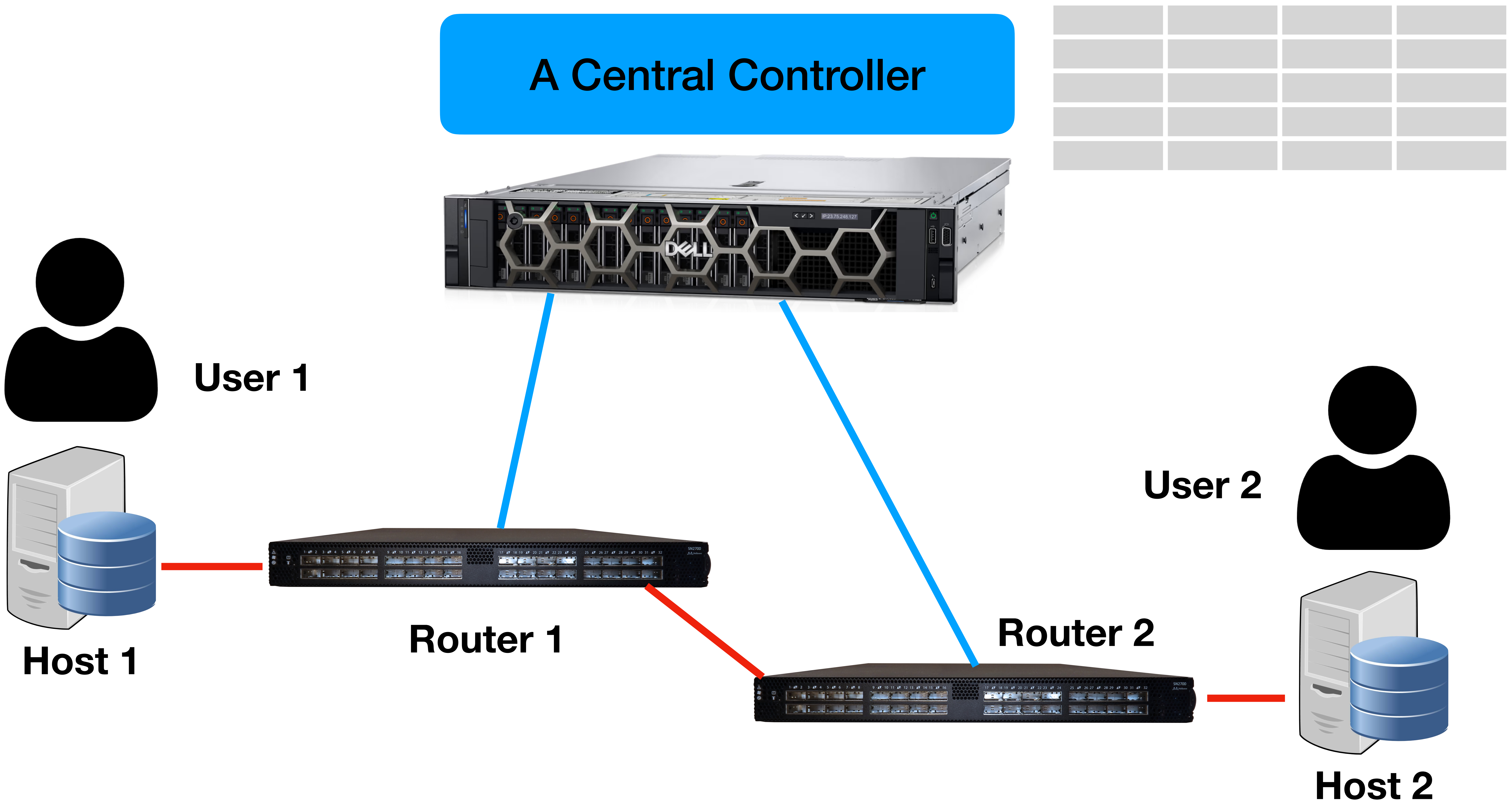


Data-Plane Language System

- Packet-handling rules
  - Pattern: match packet header bits
  - Actions: drop, forward, modify, send to the controller
  - Priority: disambiguate overlapping patterns
  - Counters: #bytes and #packets

1. src=1.2.*.*, dest=3.4.5.* → drop
2. src = *.*.*.*, dest=3.4.* → forward(2)
3. src=10.1.2.3, dest=*.*.*.* → send to controller

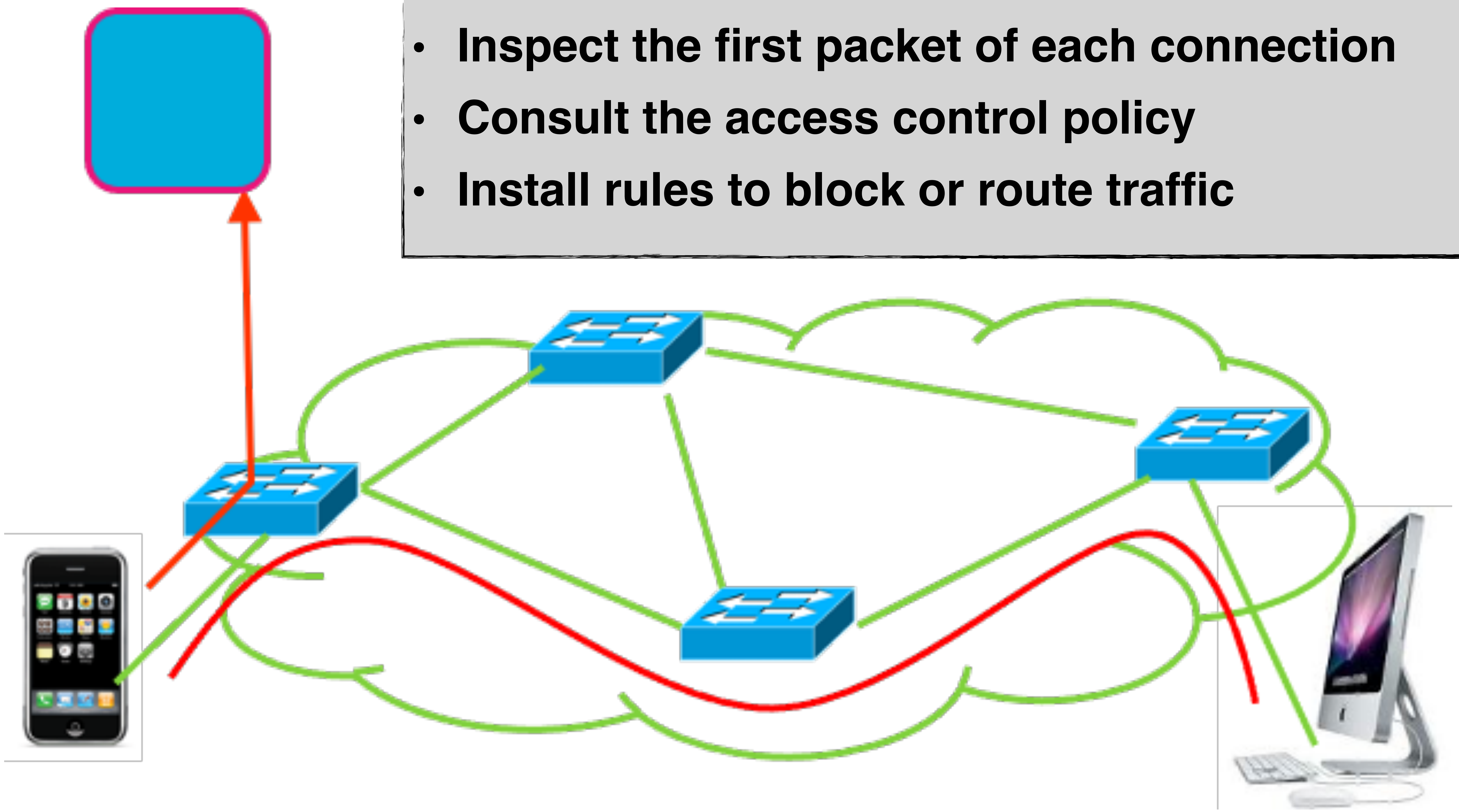
SDN Application Example

- Use cases
  - Dynamic access control
  - VM mobility/migration
  - Network virtualization
  - Load balancing
  - Traffic Engineering

- Commercial products
  - Network virtualization: Nicira/VMware/Broadcom, Azure, Google, etc.
  - Traffic engineering: Google’s B4, Microsoft’s SWAN, etc.

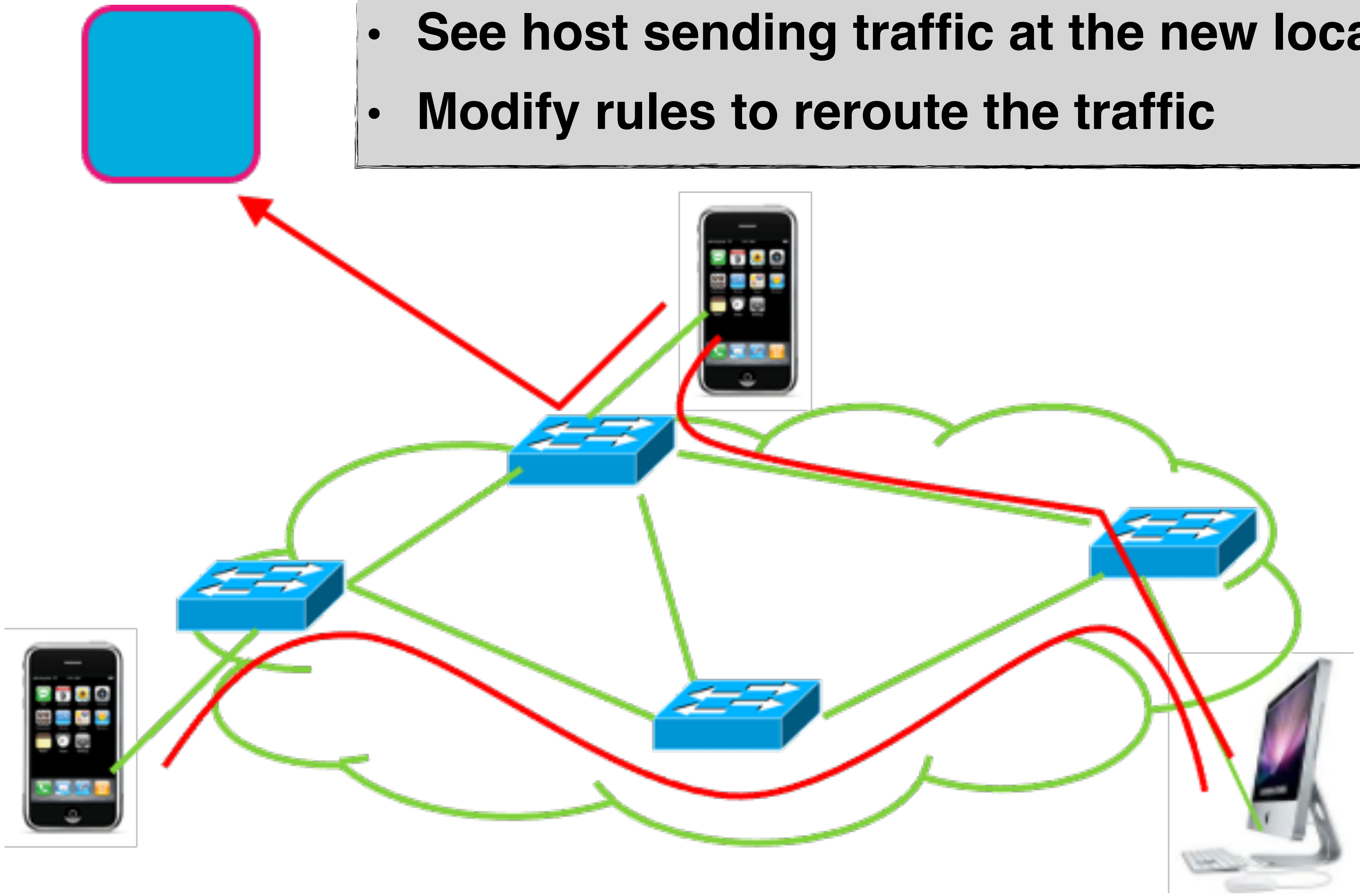
Example #1: Dynamic Access Control

- **Inspect the first packet of each connection**
- **Consult the access control policy**
- **Install rules to block or route traffic**



Example #2: Seamless Mobility/Migration

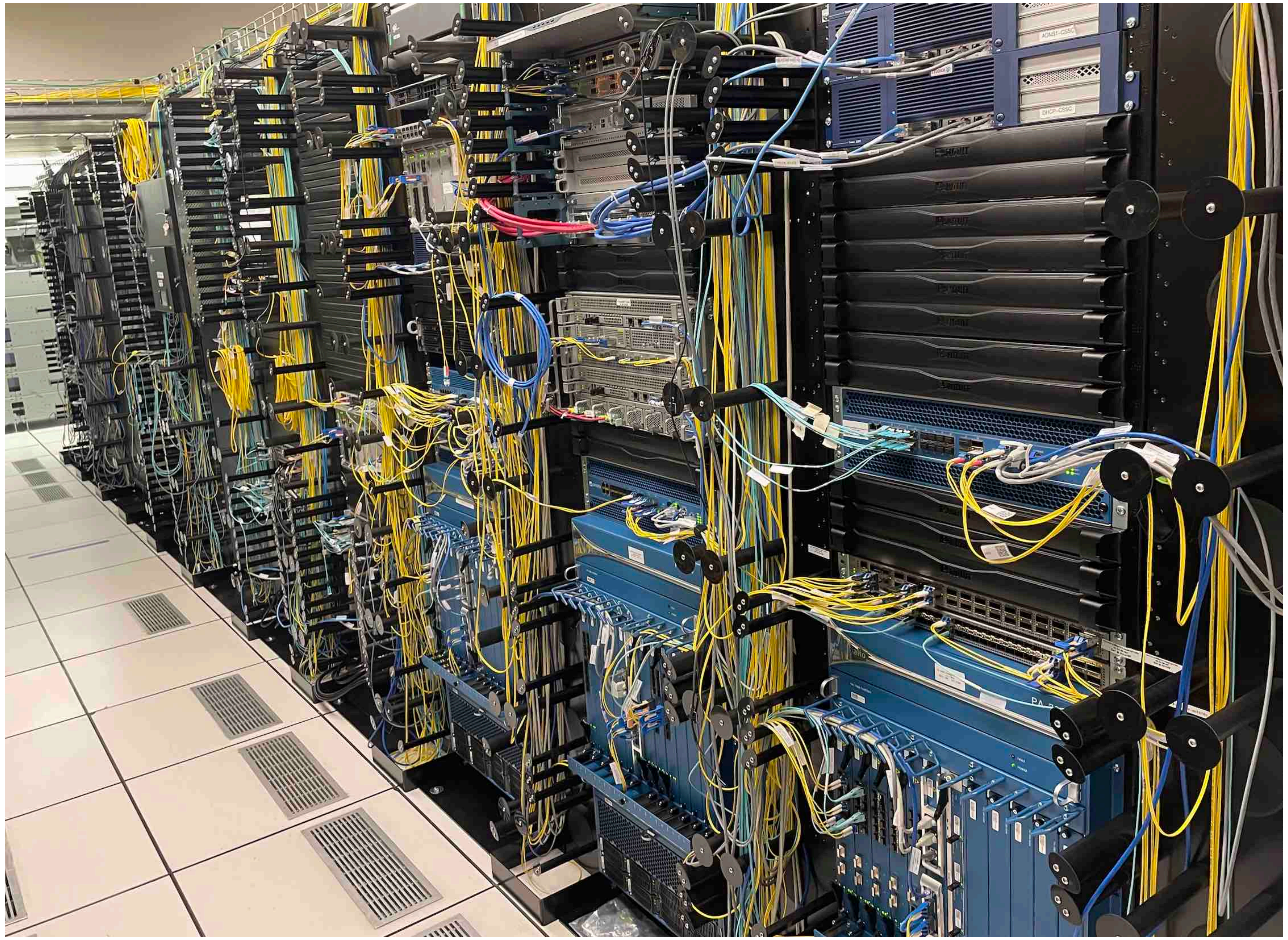
- **See host sending traffic at the new location**
- **Modify rules to reroute the traffic**



SDN/OpenFlow in the Wild

- Open Networking Foundation
  - Create software-defined networking standards
- Commercial OpenFlow Switches
  - Cisco, HP, NEC, Quanta, Dell, IBM, Juniper,…
- Controllers/Languages
  - NOX, Beacon, Floodlight, Nettle, NOIX, POX
  - Frenetic, MAPLE, Aspera, Pyretic
- Network deployments
  - Campus networks + commercial deployments

SDN@UW-Madison Campus Backbone



The efficacy of SDN highly depends on how effective the underlying distributed systems are!

Summary

- Today
  - Software-Defined Networking

- Next lecture
  - Inter-domain Routing