



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**CSIT**

**CENTRE  
FOR SECURE  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGIES**



# SDN AND NFV SECURITY



DR. SANDRA SCOTT-HAYWARD, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST  
COINS SUMMER SCHOOL, 23 JULY 2018

# Queen's University Belfast – Lanyon Building



Est. 1845

**CSIT** CENTRE  
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TECHNOLOGIES

# Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT)

CSIT is the UK's Innovation and Knowledge Centre for Cybersecurity



**CSIT** CENTRE  
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INFORMATION  
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# Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT)

Member of the UK **CYBER GROWTH PARTNERSHIP (CGP) STEERING BOARD**

## 90 PEOPLE

DIRECTOR, 16 ACADEMICS  
16 ENGINEERS, 5 BUS. DEV.,  
15 PDRAs, 29 PhDs, IT/Clerical 9

8 Spin-outs created, start-ups/scale-ups supported

Nucleated the Belfast Cyber Cluster (now 38 companies with >1,200 new jobs)

**HOST THE ANNUAL WORLD CYBER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH SUMMIT**

PART OF RESEARCH COUNCILS UK RCUK

PARTNERSHIP IN CONFLICT CRIME AND SECURITY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

## EST. 2009

BASED IN THE ECIT INSTITUTE  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

INITIAL FUNDING OVER £30M >

## £30M

Additional £15M won in competitive tendering

IN 2015, PHASE 2 CORE FUNDING OF £14M SECURED, WHICH (OVER NEXT 5 YEARS) WILL LEVERAGE

## >£38M

**CSIT** CENTRE FOR SECURE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES



THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION  
2015

# Research Area: Data Security

**Professor Máire O'Neill** - Research Director

- **Quantum Safe Cryptography**
  - *Physically secure efficient quantum-safe hardware and software designs, leads H2020 €3.8M SAFEcrypto Project*
- **Cryptographic hardware and software architectures**
  - *Including lightweight crypto*
- **Physical Unclonable Functions for M2M and IoT authentication**
  - *Strong PUF, Software PUF, resistance to SCA/Modelling attacks*
- **Side Channel Analysis**
  - *Including Machine Learning /Deep Learning SCA*
- **Hardware Trojan detection**



# Research Area: Networked Systems Security

**Professor Sakir Sezer - Research Director**

- **Network Security**
  - *Intrusion detection, WEB security, DDoS detection*
- **Virtual Networks**
  - *including Software Defined Network security*
- **Cloud Computing Security**
  - *VM security , secure segregation, hypervisor security etc.*
- **Mobile & IoT security**
  - *Security policy enforcement, Android Malware etc.*
- **Critical Infrastructure Security**
  - *SCADA, Smart Grid intrusion prevention etc.*
- **Malware/Botnet defence**
  - *Obfuscation strategies, detection algorithms, reverse engineering*



# Research Area: Security Analytics and Event Mgmt.

**Dr Paul Miller** - Research Director

- **Deep learning neural networks**
  - *Android malware detection*
- **Graph Mining**
  - *Network Intrusion Detection and Insurance Fraud Detection*
- **Event Reasoning**
  - *Alert correlation for total network defence*
- **Multimedia content analysis**
  - *Open source intelligence, cyber-physical security*

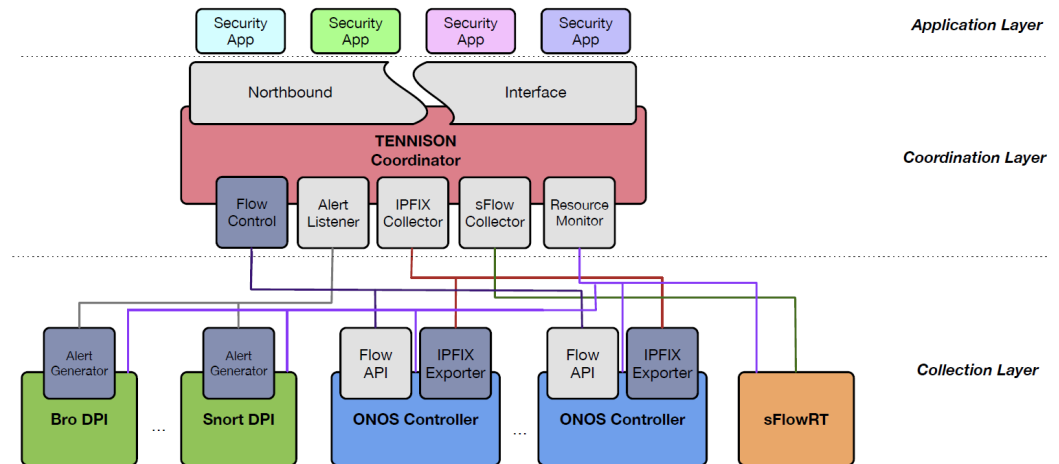
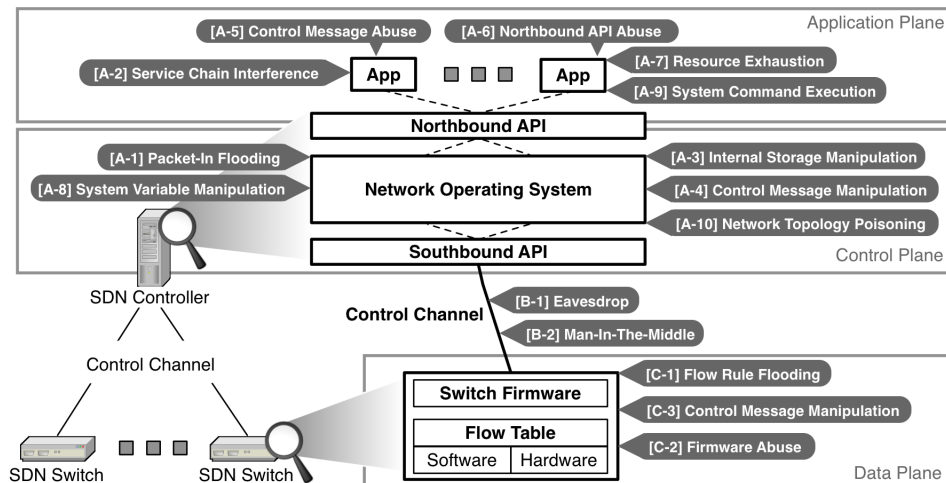




# SDNFV Security Research - Objectives

Identifying, raising awareness, and recommending solutions to potential vulnerabilities in SDNFV network design and deployment.

Exploring scalable, analytics-based monitoring and forensics capabilities, and security solutions for these new network architectures



# Agenda

Morning Session: 9.30am – 1pm

1. What is SDN?
2. What is OpenFlow/P4?  
*Hands-On SDN – Mininet/ONOS*
3. Attacks and Vulnerabilities in SDN
4. Solutions to Security Issues in SDN  
*Demo - AAA*
5. SDN Controller Security evolution  
*Demo- DELTA*

# Agenda

Evening Session: 5pm – 7pm

6. Network Security Enhancements using SDN
7. Stateful Security Mechanisms  
*Demo – OFMTL-SEC*
7. Future Directions a.k.a. Buzzword Bingo 😊

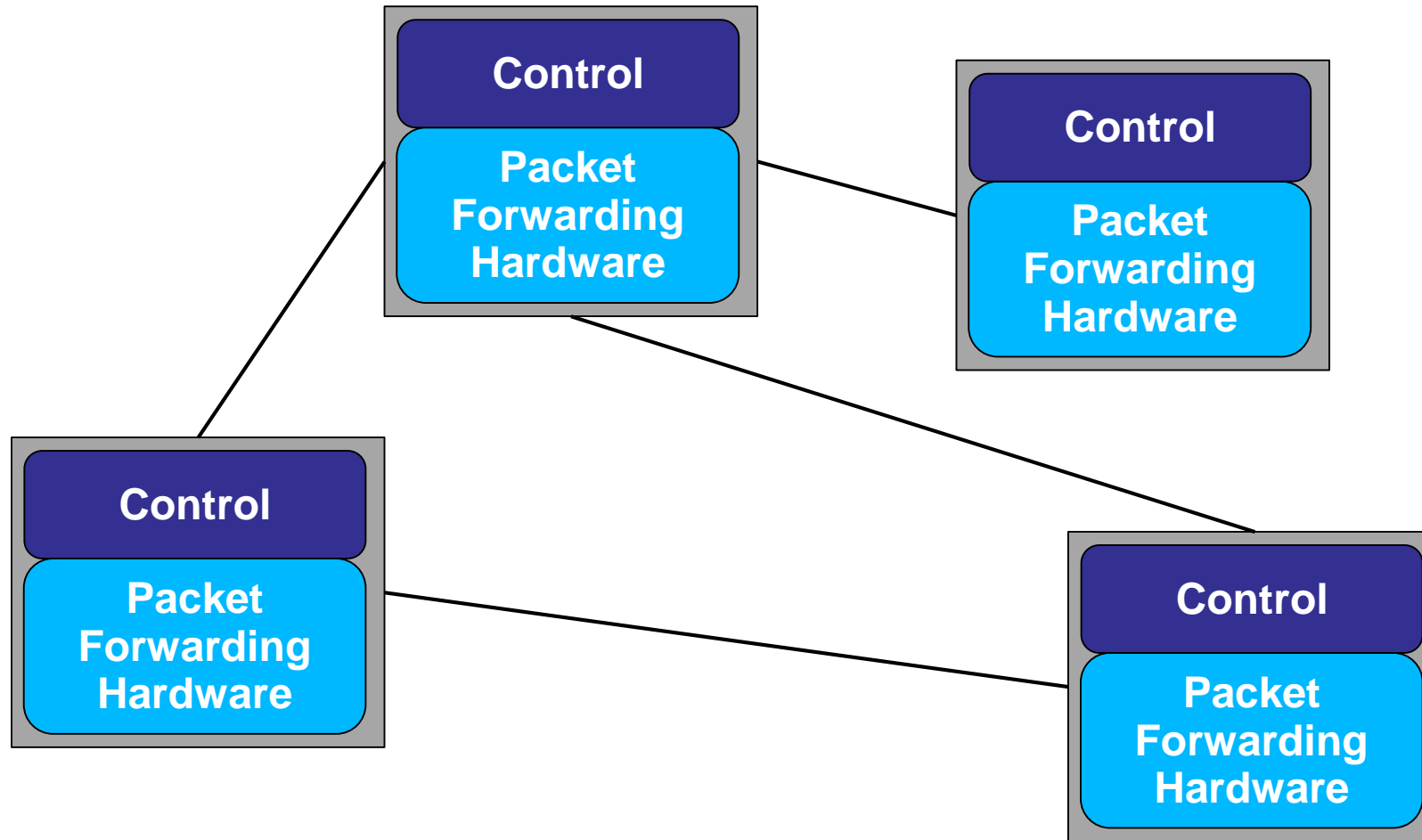


# WHAT IS SDN?



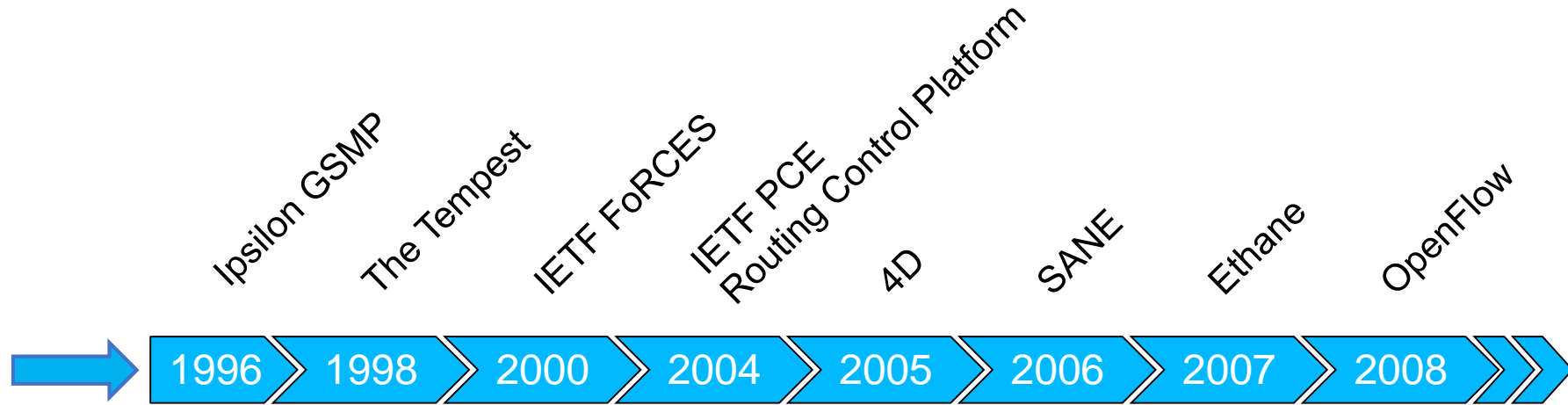
# Traditional Network

Control and Data Planes combined in Network Elements:



# SDN Evolution

Driven by desire to provide user-controlled management of forwarding in network nodes

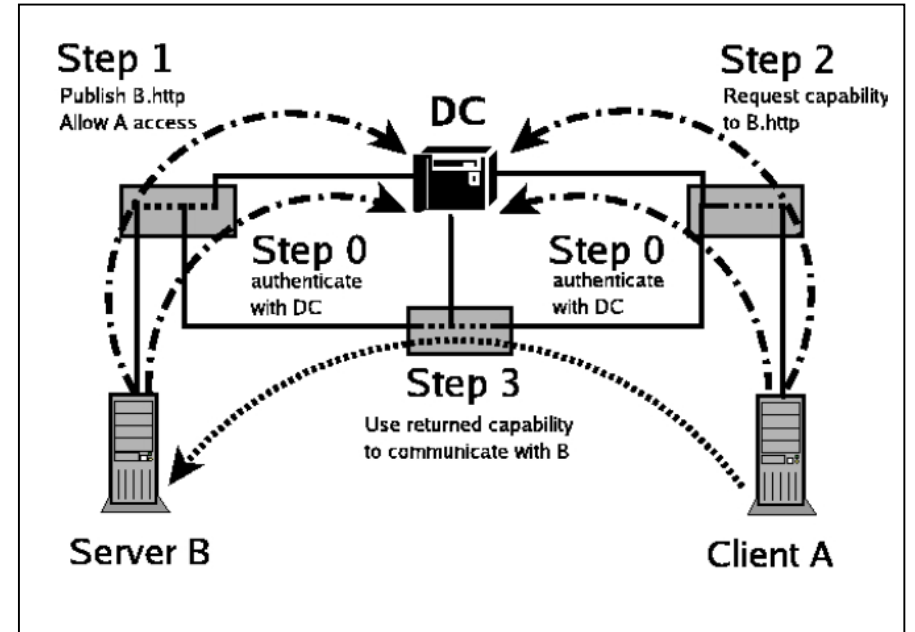


# SANE Architecture

SANE = *Secure Architecture for the Networked Enterprise*

2006 – M. Casado et al.

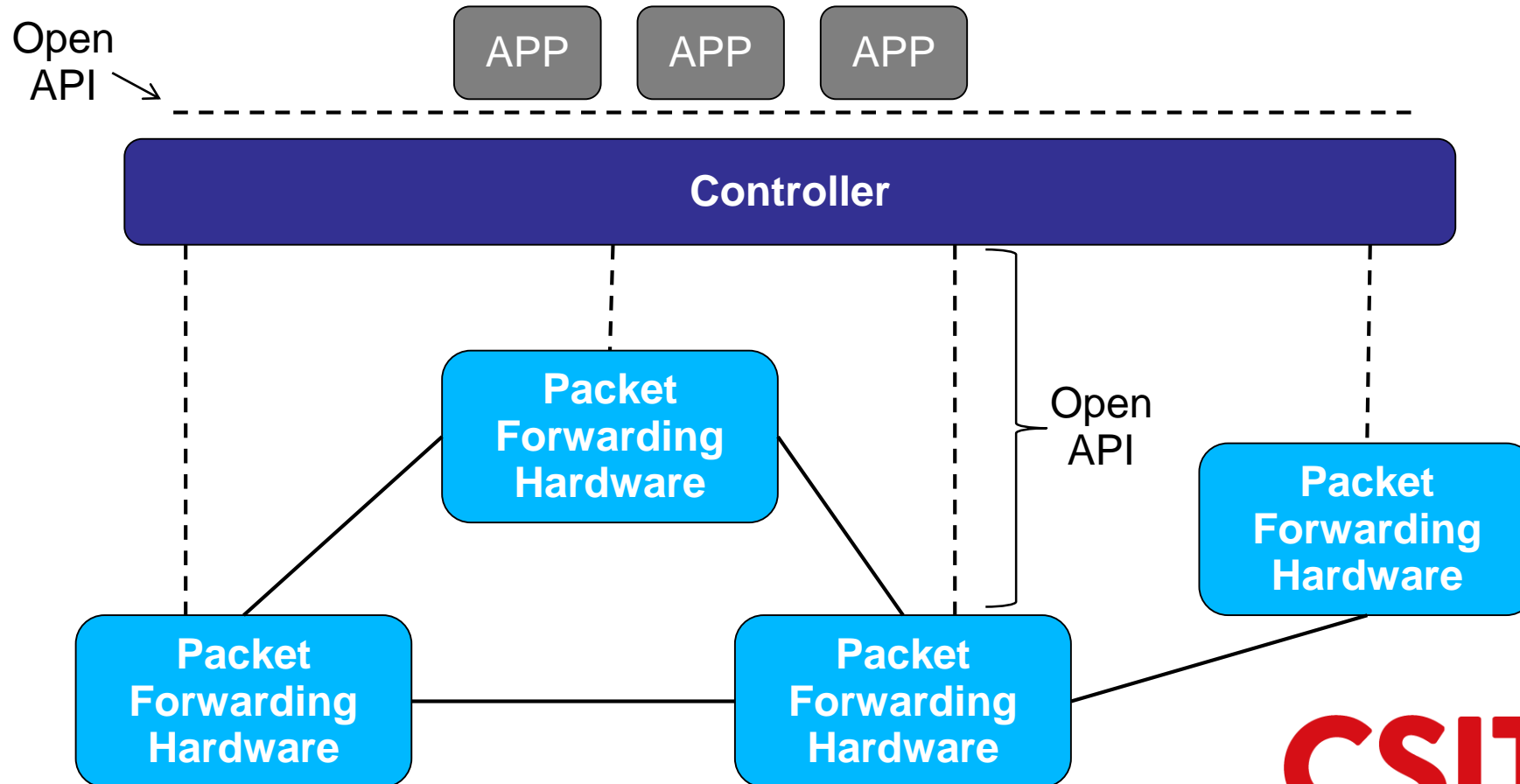
- Logically Centralized Server
  - Trusted Domain Controller (DC)
  - Providing routing and access control decisions
  - Access Control Policies
- Authentication of Hosts and Policy Enforcement
- Principle of least privilege and least knowledge



Casado, M. et al., "SANE: A Protection Architecture for Enterprise Networks," Usenix Security, 2006.

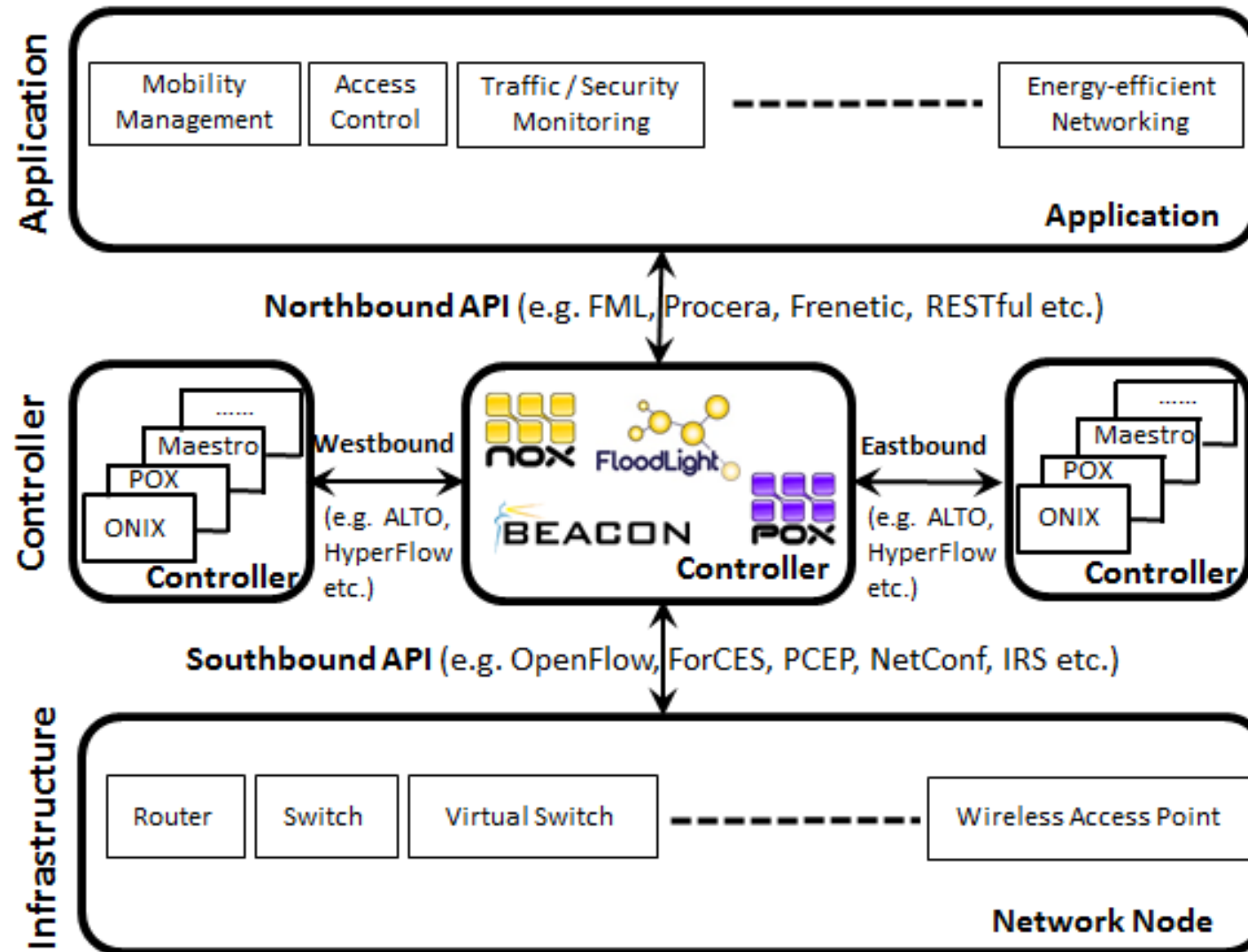
# SDN

Separation of Control and Data Planes:

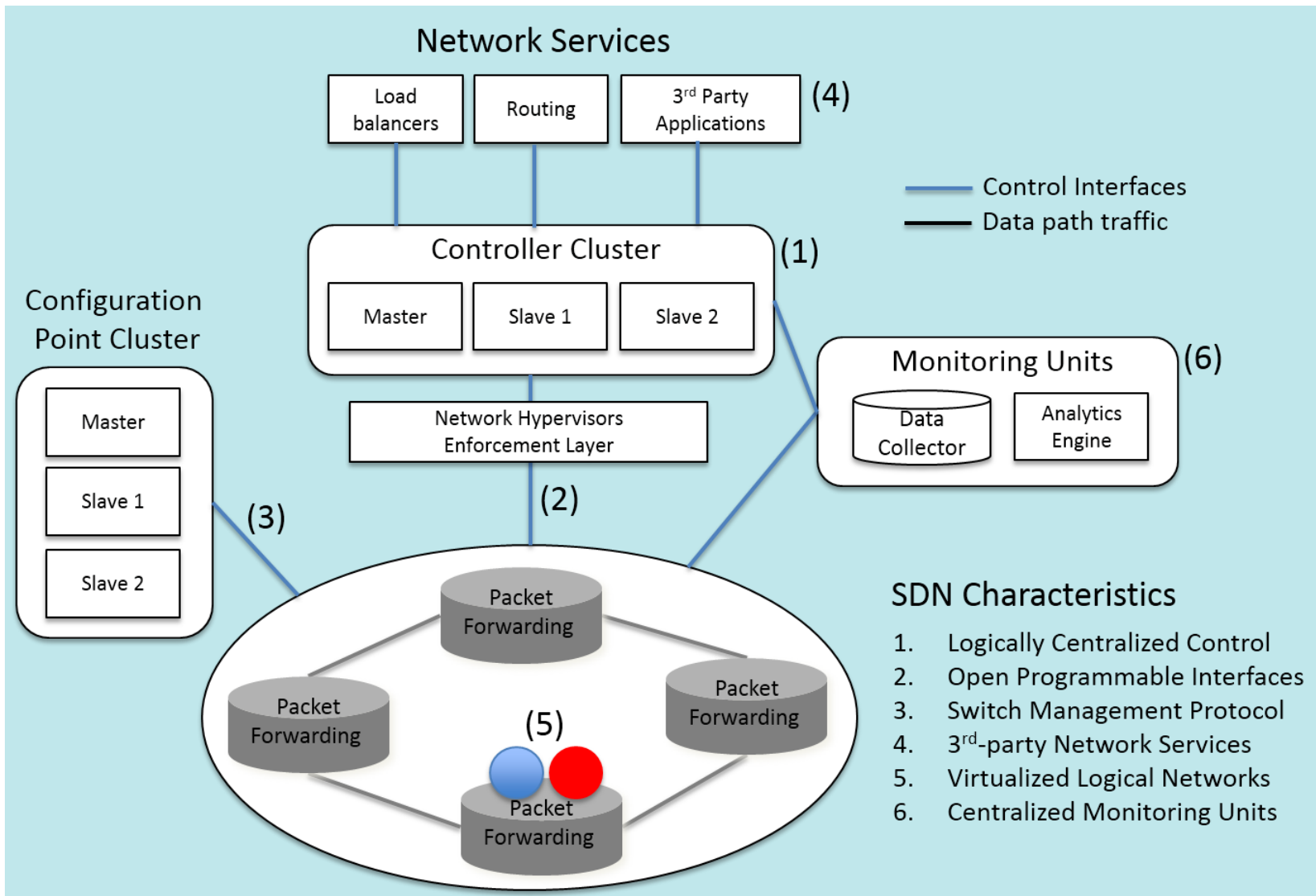




# SDN Architecture



# SDN Characteristics



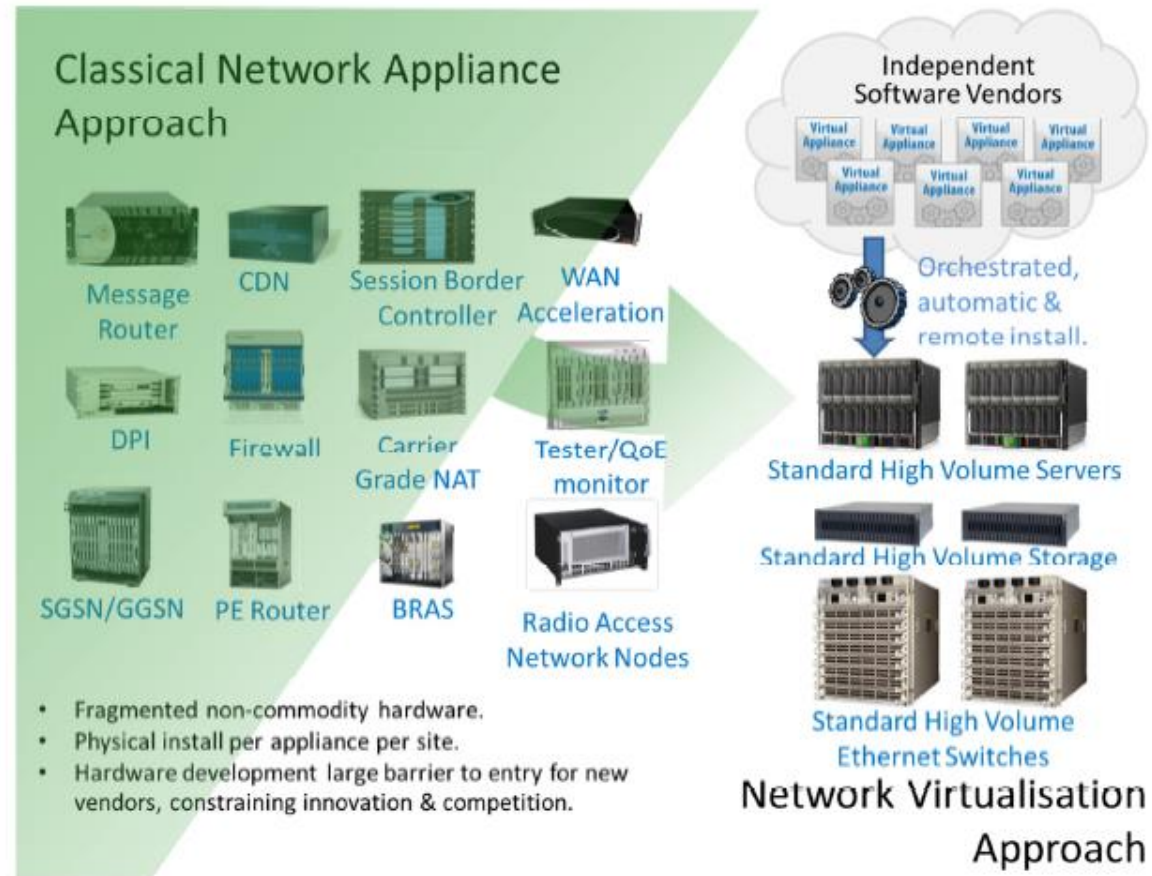
# Network Functions Virtualization

## Network Functions Virtualization –

“...implementation of network functions in software that can run on a range of industry standard server hardware, and that can be moved to, or instantiated in, various locations in the network as required...”

Network Functions Virtualisation – Introductory White Paper, October 2012 -

[http://portal.etsi.org/NFV/NFV\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://portal.etsi.org/NFV/NFV_White_Paper.pdf)



# Hands-On

COINS2018 – SDN Security Tutorial

S. Scott-Hayward

## COINS2018 SDN Security Tutorial

This tutorial provides an introduction to security in SDN using the Mininet network emulation tool and the ONOS SDN controller.

### A. Test Network Configuration

The tutorial uses the provided VirtualBox Image – Mininet-VM.

1. If not already installed, download VirtualBox from <https://www.virtualbox.org>
2. From your Desktop, open VirtualBox
3. Select File -> Import Appliance
4. Browse to the folder where you saved the VBox image
5. Select the image to launch it.
6. At the login, enter *mininet*, password *mininet*
7. Type *startx* to launch the GUI
8. Double-click LXTerminal to launch a new terminal.

### B. Create Mininet Topology and test Mininet commands

1. Change to the onos mininet directory with the following command:  
`cd onos/tools/dev/mininet`
2. Launch wireshark in the background using the command:  
`sudo wireshark &`
3. Enter the following command to create a Mininet tree topology with 3 switches and four hosts:  
`sudo mn --custom onos.py --controller onos,1 --topo tree,2,2`
4. Test out the following commands in mininet:

```
pingall
dpctl dump-flows      (Note the default flows i.e. match and action)
h1 ping h2            (Note the ping response time)
```

Further commands at <http://mininet.org/>

### C. Test ONOS commands from the CLI and GUI

The network you created in B. is controlled by the ONOS controller.

1. Launch the ONOS cli from the same mininet terminal:  
`onos`
2. Test out the following commands in ONOS:  
`apps -a -s`  
`hosts`

COINS2018 – SDN Security Tutorial

S. Scott-Hayward

`nodes`

`devices`

`flows`

3. Open a browser window and launch the ONOS GUI  
<http://192.168.123.1:8181/onos/ui/login.html>  
User: *karaf*, Password: *karaf*

### D. Test the network vulnerability to Denial of Service

The controller-switch communication link and the switch flow table are both vulnerable to DoS attack. Test this vulnerability with the following steps:

1. Check the switch flow table entries:  
From Mininet CLI `dpctl dump-flows`  
From ONOS CLI `flows`  
From ONOS GUI Select a device and flow view
2. Use `hping3` to create a SYN flood attack<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Launch a host terminal  
`xterm h1`
  - b. From this host terminal, launch a simple flood attack  
`hping3 --flood --rand-source 10.0.0.2`  
Find further commands using `hping3 --help`
3. Check the switch flow tables again. What behaviour do you observe? What are the default flows created by ONOS?
4. Change the flow table match setting in the ONOS reactive forwarding application:  
`onos`  
`cfg set org.onosproject.fwd.ReactiveForwarding matchIpv4Address true`
5. Repeat Steps 2 and 3.

### E. Configure ONOS for a secure SDN

The default ONOS configuration has a number of security vulnerabilities. Some protection can be introduced with the following steps:

1. Configure authentication for the CLI, GUI and REST API  
<https://wiki.onosproject.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=4162614>
2. Configure SSL/TLS for controller-switch communication  
<https://wiki.onosproject.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6358090>

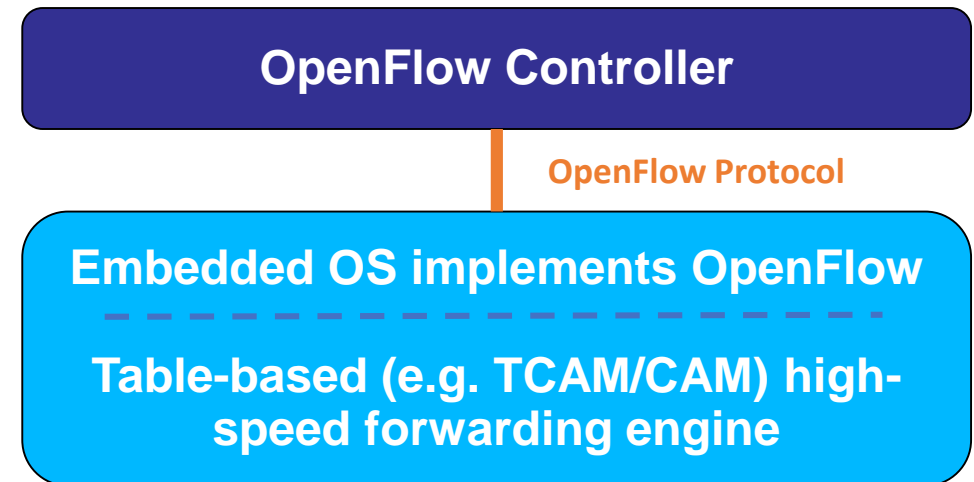
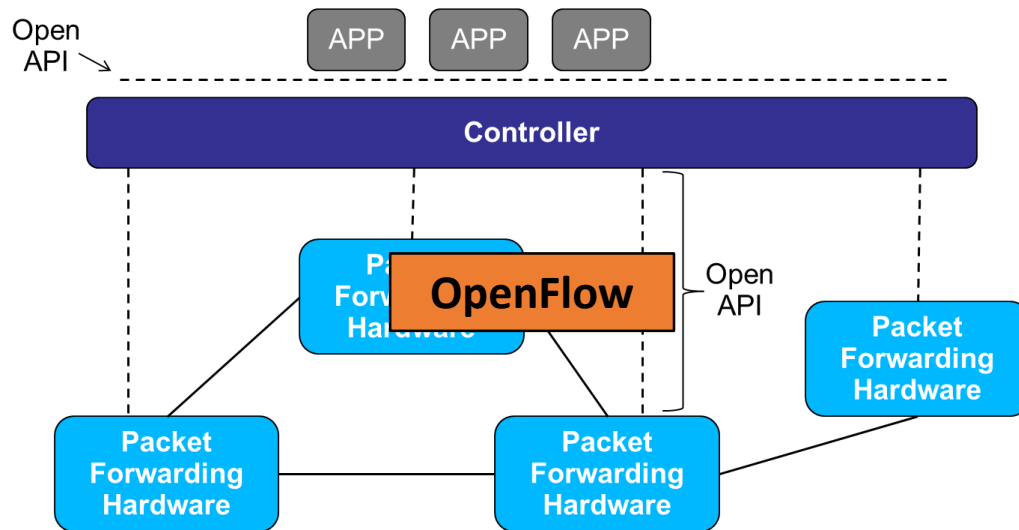
For a controller cluster implementation (i.e. multiple controllers), TLS should also be configured for inter-controller communication.



**WHAT IS  
OPENFLOW/P4?**

# What is OpenFlow?

OpenFlow = A protocol to control the forwarding behaviour of Ethernet switches in a Software Defined Network



# The origin of OpenFlow

## Clean Slate Program at Stanford

- Early work on SANE circa 2006
- Inspired Ethane circa 2007, which lead to OpenFlow

2009 Stanford publishes OF 1.0.0 Specification

2009 Nicira Series A funding

2010 Big Switch seed funding

2011 Open Network Foundation is created

2012 Google announces migration to OpenFlow (migration started in 2009)

Open Networking Foundation owns OpenFlow

# Flow Table (OpenFlow v1.0)

Header Fields	Counters	Actions	Priority
Ingress Port Ethernet Source Addr Ethernet Dest Addr Ethernet Type VLAN id VLAN priority IP Source Addr IP Dest Addr IP Protocol IP ToS ICMP type ICMP code	<b>Per Flow Counters</b> Received Packets Received Bytes Duration seconds Duration nanoseconds	Forward (All, Controller, Local, Table, IN_port, Port# Normal, Flood)  Enqueue Drop Modify-Field	
if Eth Type == ARP		forward Controller	32768



# Flow Table

Each Flow Table entry has two timers:

**idle\_timeout**            seconds of no matching packets after which the flow is removed  
zero means never timeout

**hard\_timeout**            seconds after which the flow is removed  
zero means never timeout

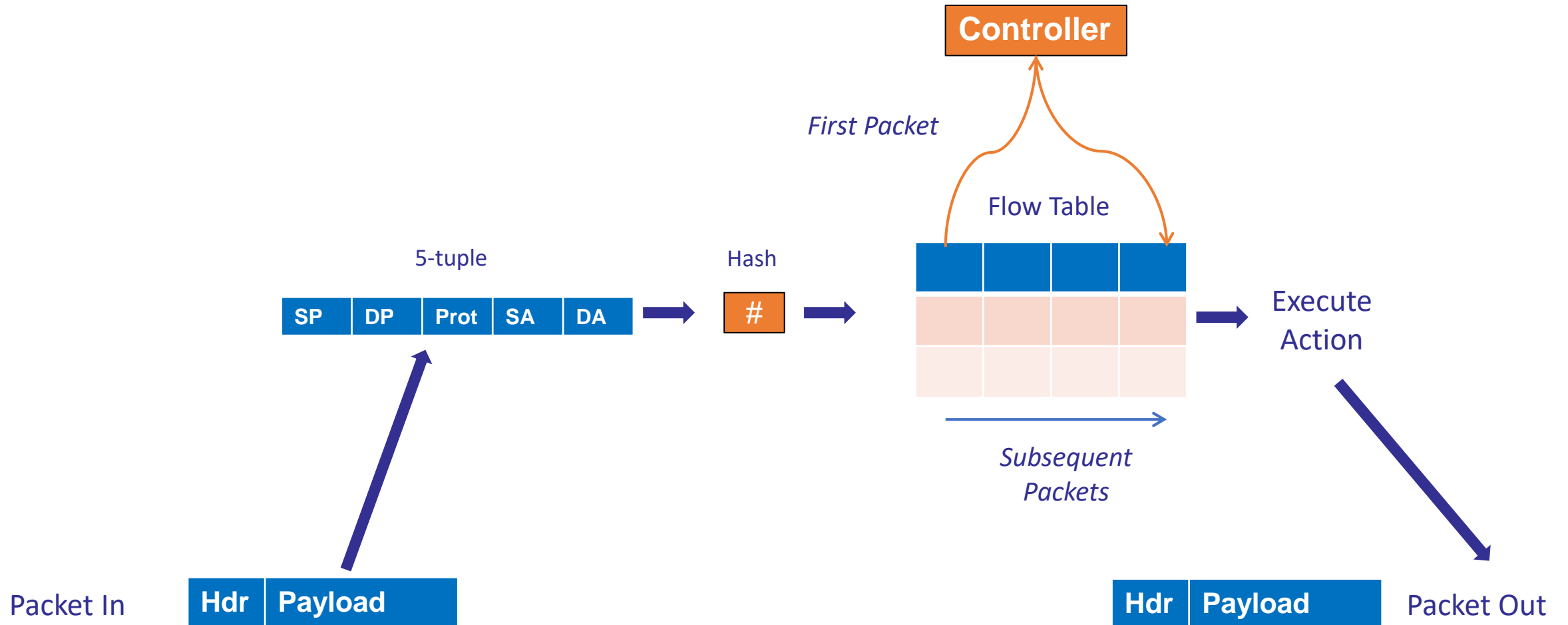
If both `idle_timeout` and `hard_timeout` are set, then the flow is removed when the first of the two expires.

# Proactive vs. Reactive Flows

## Populating the Flow Table

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Proactive | Rules are relatively static, controller places rules in switch before they are required.  |
| Reactive  | Rules are dynamic. Packets which have no match are sent to the controller (packet in). Controller creates appropriate rule and sends packet back to switch (packet out) for processing. |

# Implementing OpenFlow



# Evolution of OpenFlow

## OpenFlow v1.0

Header Fields	Counters	Actions	Priority
---------------	----------	---------	----------

Does packet match flow table entry? If so, perform action.

## OpenFlow v1.5

Match Fields	Priority	Counters	Instructions	Timeouts	Cookie	Flags
--------------	----------	----------	--------------	----------	--------	-------

Metadata	Packet	Action Set
----------	--------	------------

Group ID	Type	Counters	Action Buckets
----------	------	----------	----------------

Does packet match flow table entry? If so, look at instructions ...

# Actions vs. Instructions

OpenFlow v1.1

- Flow entries contain instructions
- Instructions may be immediate action(s), or
- Instructions may set actions in the action set
- Instructions can also change pipeline processing:
  - Goto table X
  - Goto group table entry x

# Statistics/Counters

Counters maintained for each:

- Flow Table                    *Required:* Reference Count (active entries)
- Flow Entry                    *Required:* Duration (seconds)
- Port                            *Required:* Received Packets, Transmitted Packets, Duration (secs)
- Queue                         *Required:* Transmit Packets, Duration (seconds)
- Group                         *Required:* Duration (seconds)
- Group Bucket                *Optional*
- Meter                         *Required:* Duration (seconds)
- Meter Band                  *Optional*

# Evolution of OpenFlow

OpenFlow Version	Match fields	Statistics	# Matches		# Instructions		# Actions		# Ports	
			Req	Opt	Req	Opt	Req	Opt	Req	Opt
v 1.0	Ingress Port	Per table statistics	18	2	1	0	2	11	6	2
	Ethernet: src, dst, type, VLAN	Per flow statistics								
	IPv4: src, dst, proto, ToS	Per port statistics								
	TCP/UDP: src port, dst port	Per queue statistics								
v 1.1	Metadata, SCTP, VLAN tagging	Group statistics	23	2	0	0	3	28	5	3
	MPLS: label, traffic class	Action bucket statistics								
v 1.2	OpenFlow Extensible Match (OXM)		14	18	2	3	2	49	5	3
	IPv6: src, dst, flow label, ICMPv6									
v 1.3	PBB, IPv6 Extension Headers	Per-flow meter	14	26	2	4	2	56	5	3
		Per-flow meter band								
v 1.4	—	—	14	27	2	4	2	57	5	3
		Optical port properties								

Multiple Tables

Controller Role Change

Role Status, Error Codes

D. Kreutz et al., 'Software-Defined Networking: A Comprehensive Survey', proceedings of the IEEE 103, no. 1 (2015): 14-76

v1.5	-	Extensible Flow Entry	14	30	2	5	2	59	5	3
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Egress Ports, Various Security Recommendations

# Securing the OpenFlow Protocol

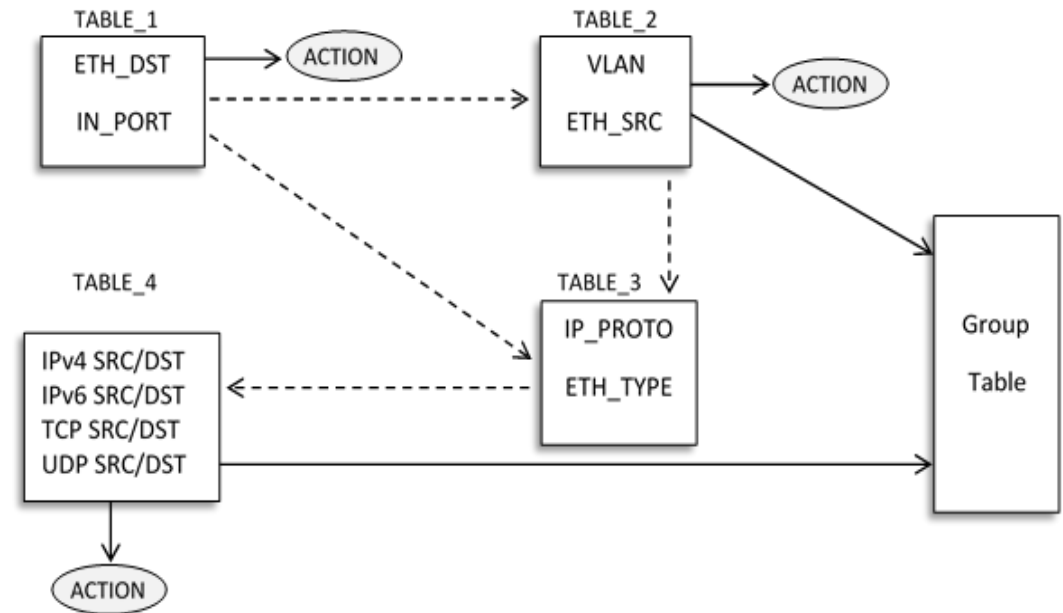
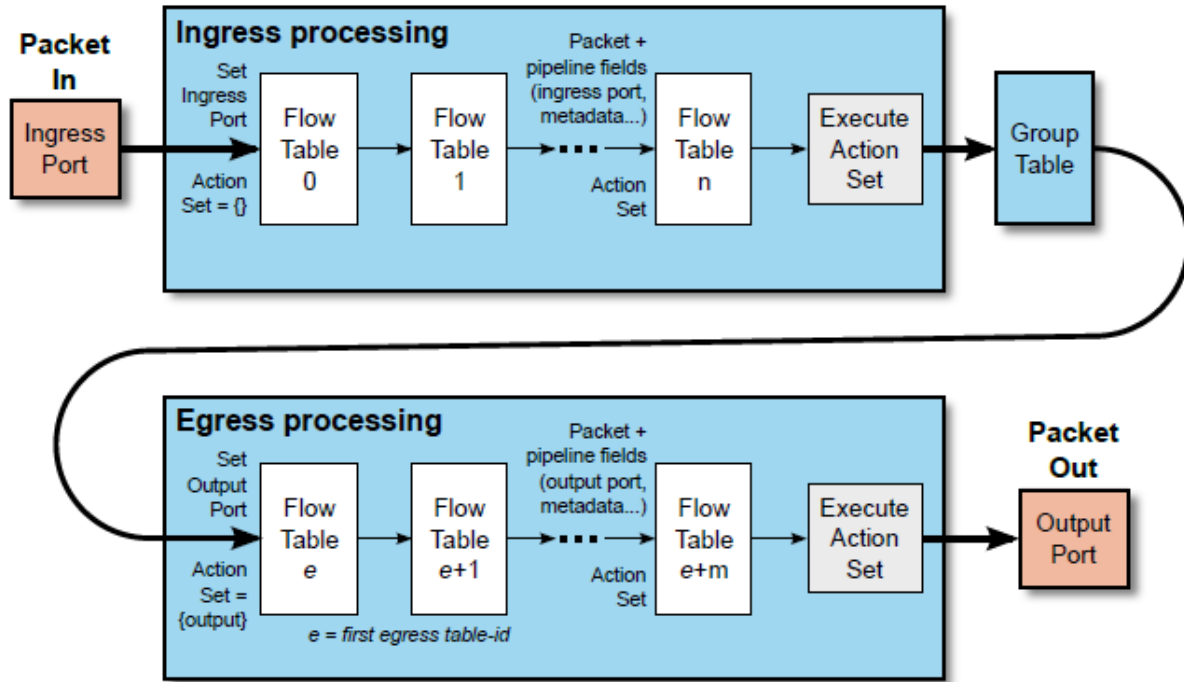
ONF Security WG OpenFlow Switch Specification Analysis:

Recommendations to Extensibility WG – Updates to OF Switch Specification v1.3.5

- Specify that a secure version of TLS is recommended (EXT-525)
- Clarify certificate configuration of the switch (EXT-304)
- Specify that malformed packet refer to those in the datapath (EXT-528)
- Specify how to deal with malformed OpenFlow messages (EXT-528)
- Specify that counters must use the full bit range (EXT-529)



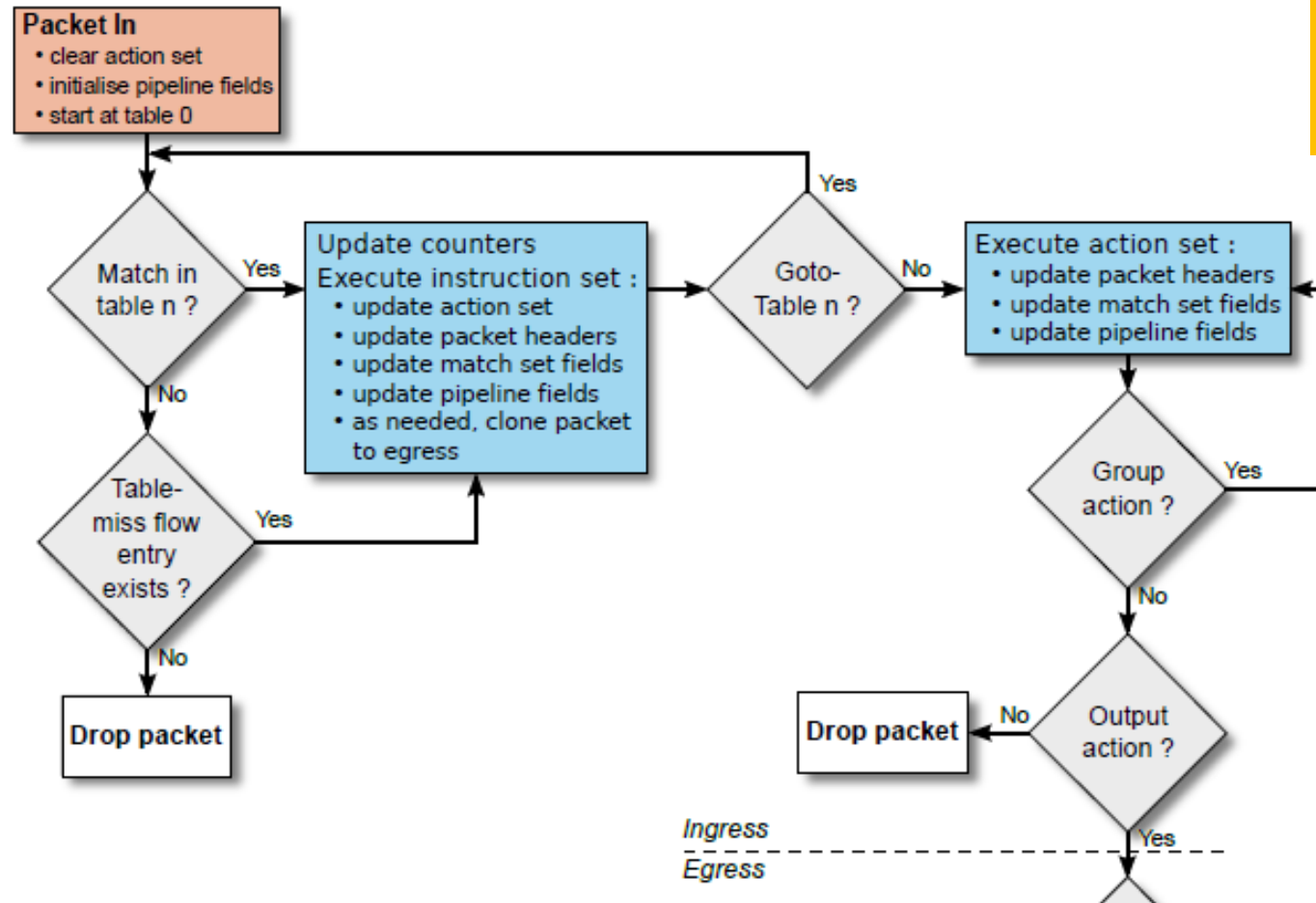
# Pipeline Processing



L2-L3-ACL Pipeline

Open Networking Foundation, 'OpenFlow Switch Specification Version 1.5.1', [www.opennetworking.org](http://www.opennetworking.org)

# Packet flow through OF switch

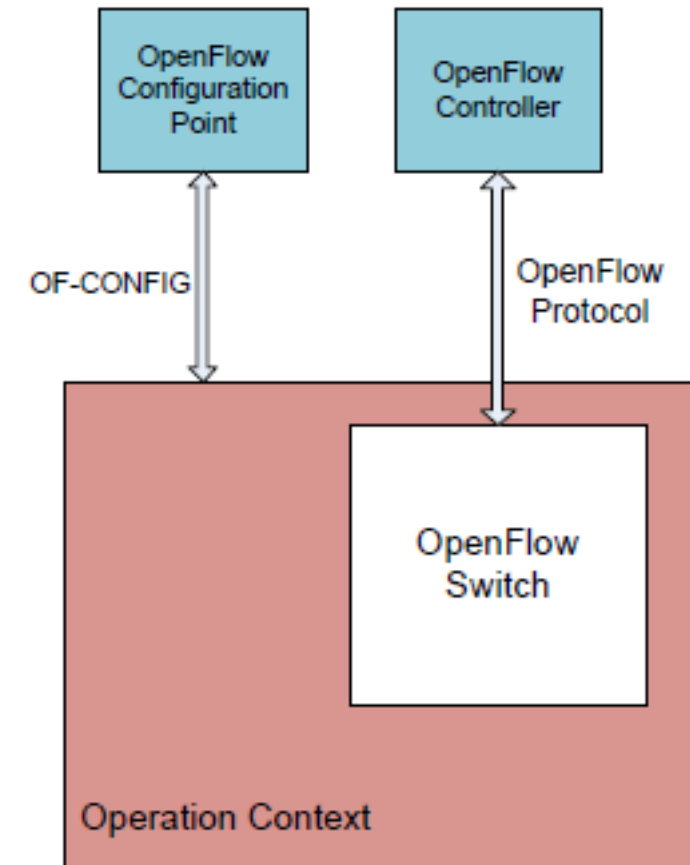


Test your packet pipeline using FlowSim:  
web-based OpenFlow data plane simulator  
designed to teach OF data plane abstractions  
<https://flowsim.flowgrammable.org/>

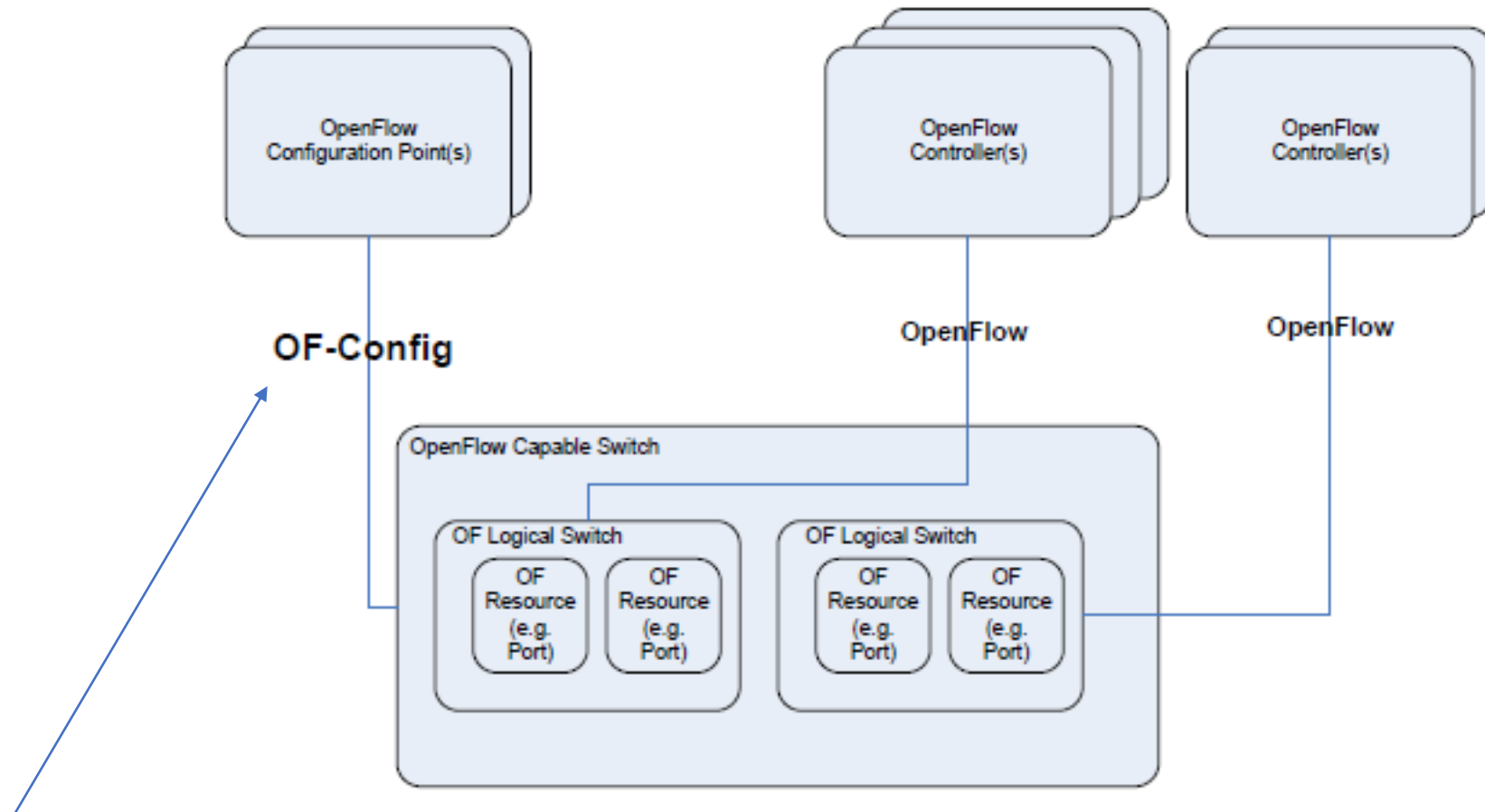
# OF-Config 1.2

OF-Config 1.2 – OpenFlow Management and Configuration Protocol:

“OF-CONFIG defines an OpenFlow switch as an abstraction called an OpenFlow Logical Switch. The OF-CONFIG protocol enables configuration of essential artifacts of an OpenFlow Logical Switch so that an OpenFlow controller can communicate and control the OpenFlow Logical switch via the OpenFlow protocol.”



# OF-Config 1.2



OF-CONFIG uses NETCONF protocol as its transport (implies SSH/TLS)

# OF-Config 1.2

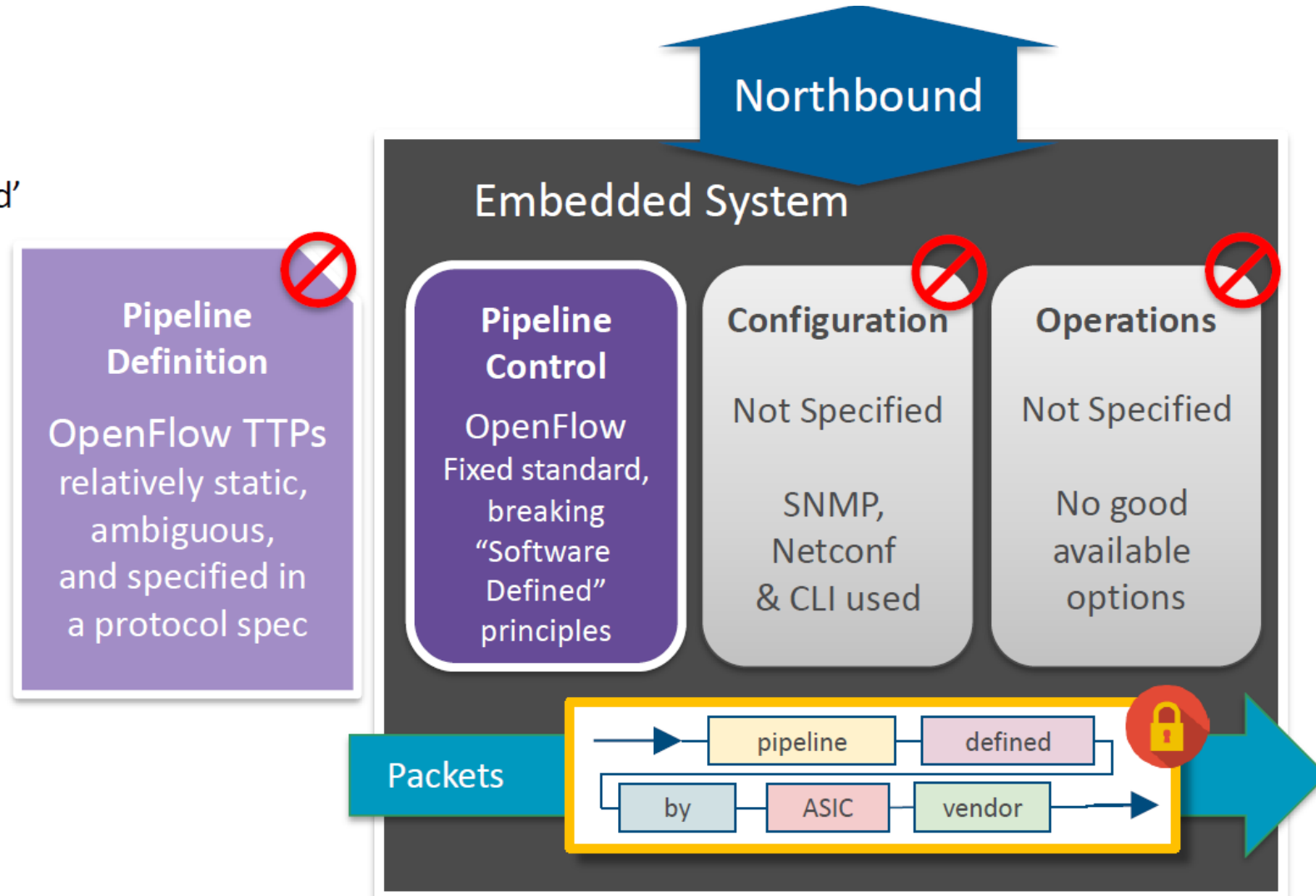
OF-CONFIG 1.2 is focussed on the following functions to configure an OF1.3 logical switch:

- Assignment of one or more OF controllers to OF data planes
- Configuration of queues and ports
- Ability to remotely change some aspects of ports (e.g. up/down)
- Configuration of certificates for secure communication between the OF logical switches and OF controllers
- Discovery of capabilities of an OF logical switch
- Configuration of a set of specific tunnel types such as IP-in-GRE, NV-GRE, VxLAN

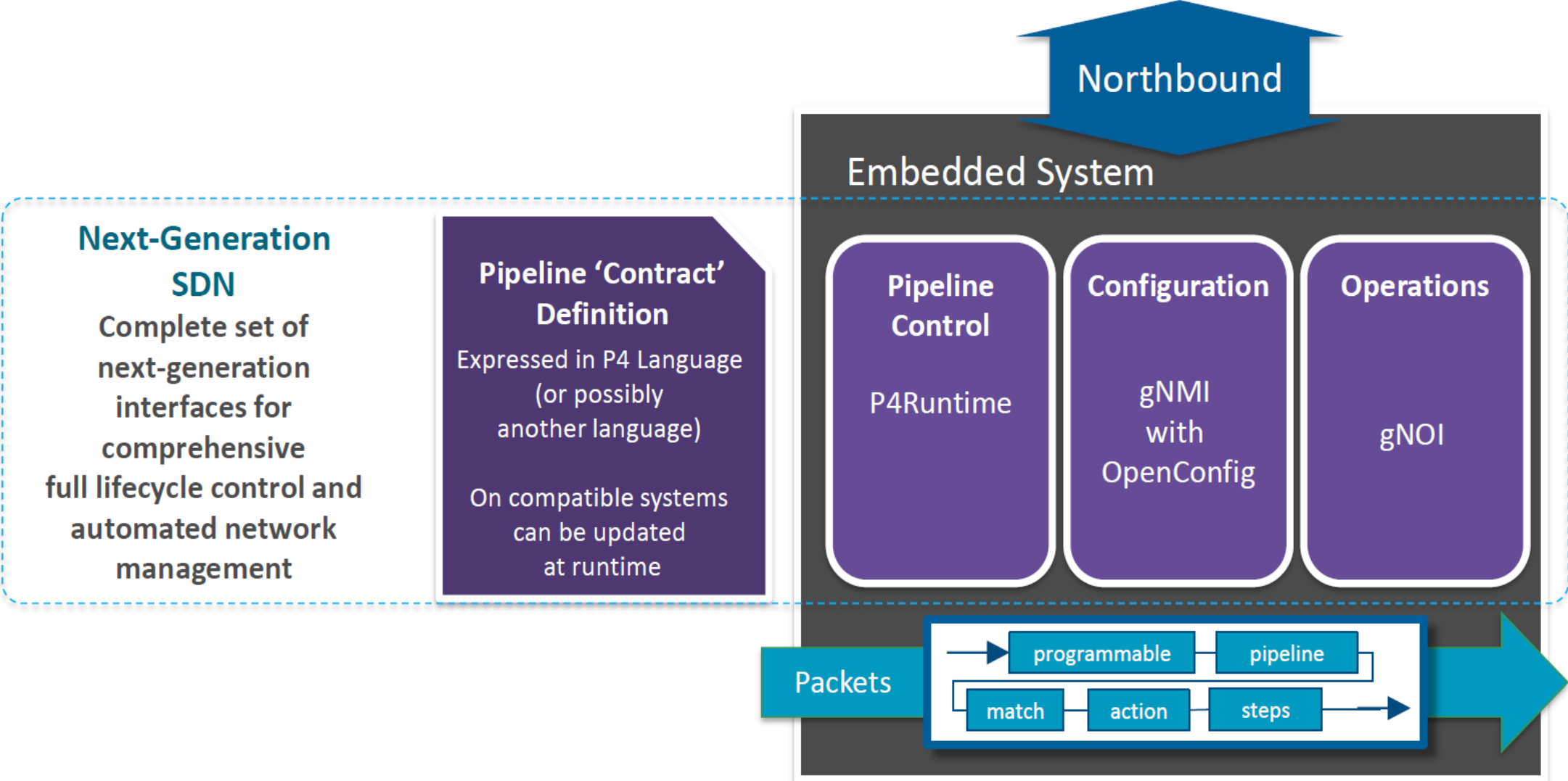
# Improving on OpenFlow?

## OpenFlow

- Addressed 1 of the 4 major areas needed for complete 'software defined' management & control
  - OpenFlow only provides pipeline control
  - Pipeline definition is typically in silicon vendor specs
  - Config & operations not addressed
- Used traditional standards process
  - Not 'software defined'
  - Very long innovation cycle
- Operators found challenges:
  - Proved to be non-deterministic
    - Specifies Match, not Actions
  - Each data plane has differences
  - Hard to deploy latest switching silicon innovations

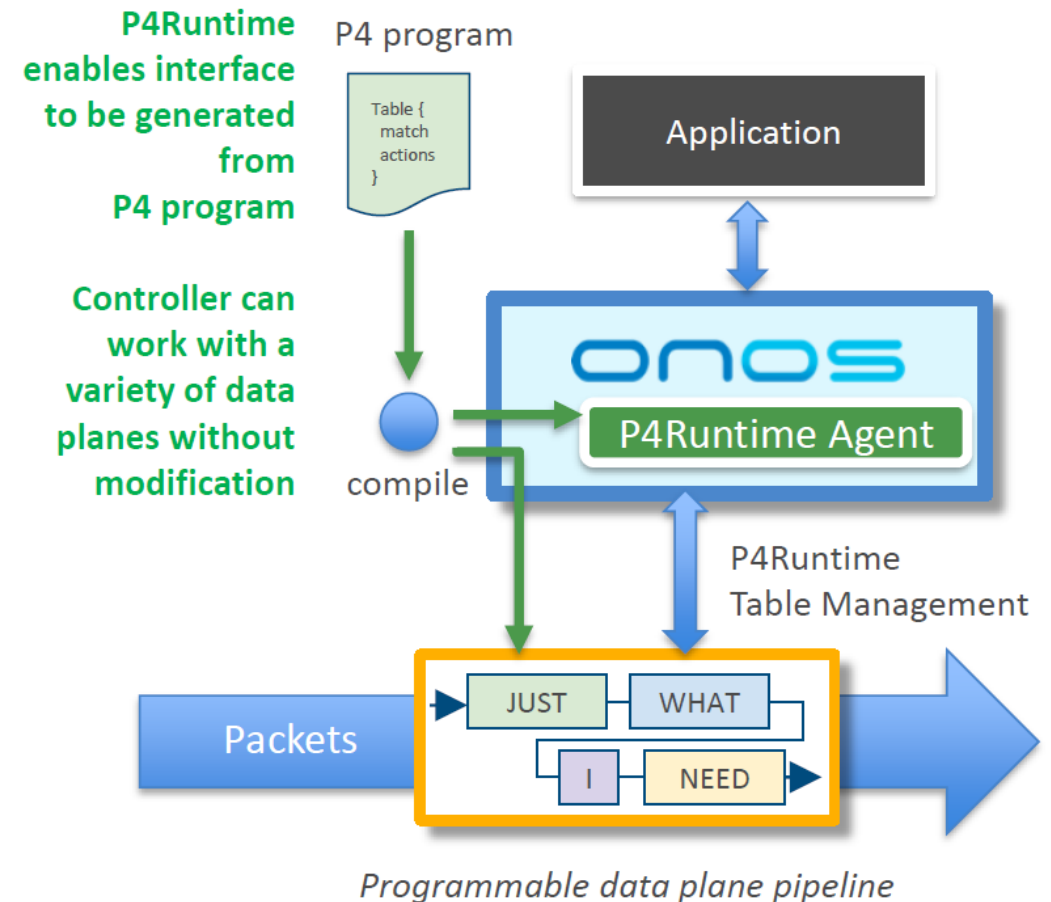


# Next-Generation SDN Interfaces



# P4 (P4.org)

- P4 language consortium becoming a project of the Open Networking Foundation and the Linux Foundation (March 2018)
- P4 – target-independent, protocol-independent
- P4 runtime - extend P4 by adding the API to control/configure the device at the same time as deploying a P4 program to the device
- P4 Implementation issues identified by researchers – limitations of the language and constraints imposed by interface between P4 program and s/w switch (P4 runtime...)

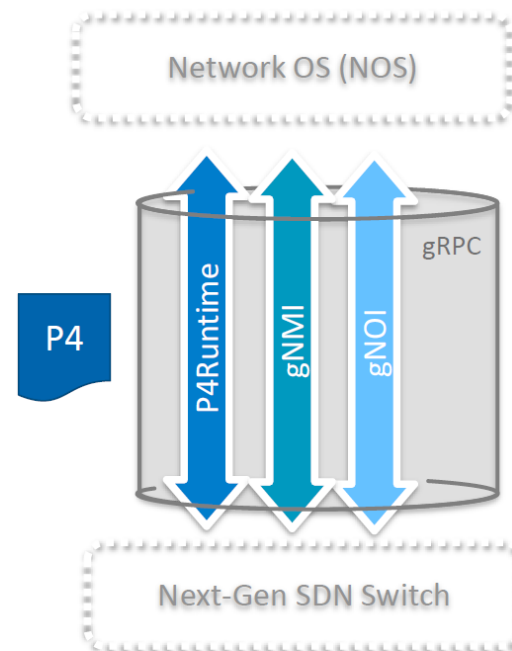




# P4 (P4.org)

- Google next-gen SDN switch to use P4 Runtime to programme it, OpenConfig to manage it, and to be based on the Open Network Linux (ONL) platform/Stratum...

## Next-Generation SDN Interfaces



- P4 (for pipeline definition)
  - Defines the logical pipeline behavior that is silicon-, pipeline-, and pkt header-agnostic
  - Defines 'contract' between NOS and data plane
- P4Runtime (for pipeline control)
  - Message payloads derived from P4 program defining the pipeline
  - Allows for run time changes to the contract on systems with programmable silicon
- gNMI using OpenConfig models (for configuration)
  - Manage configuration (with persistence across reboots)
  - Stream telemetry
- gNOI (for operations)
  - Autonomous actions for debugging and operating a production network
  - Device reboots, key management, BERT & ping testing

All running over gRPC, which has many advantages:

- Built on HTTP/2 for a high speed, bi-directional streaming, multiplexing, security
- Uses ProtoBuf, supporting many more languages and optimized for low latency