



**“On the Internet, nobody knows you’re a dog.”**

# THREATS TO DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS 1



*Jane Q. Public*

*Big Bank*

client's  
machine

server's  
machine

**“How do I know I am connecting to my bank?”**

**Maybe an attacker . . .**

- . . . sends you phishing email (pretending to be from your bank) and you click on a link in it**
- . . . gets access to your packet stream and changes the IP destination addresses**
- . . . hijacks the DNS entry of bigbank.com**
- . . . hijacks routing to the IP address of bigbank.com**

# THREATS TO DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS 2



*Jane Q. Public*

client's  
machine

## WHO COULD SPY ON THEM OR TAMPER WITH COMMUNICATION?

- the networks themselves
- people who . . .
  - . . . tap a wire
  - . . . penetrate an infrastructure machine
  - . . . put a wireless receiver near a transmitter
  - . . . connect to a wired broadcast medium such as a cable network

*Big Bank*

server's  
machine

## WHAT CAN ATTACKERS DO?

read data

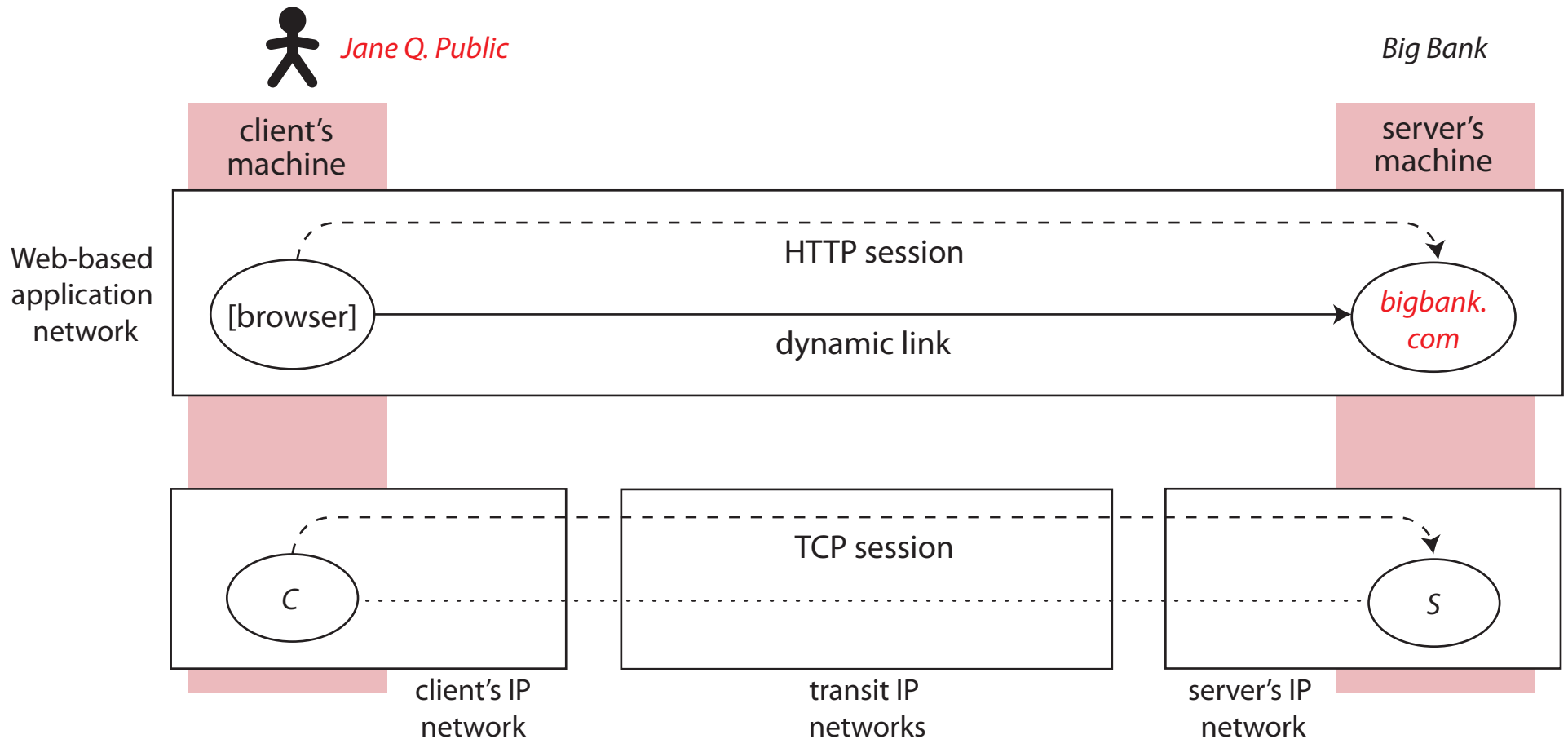
modify packets

absorb packets

inject packets into the stream

# “WHOM AM I TALKING TO?”

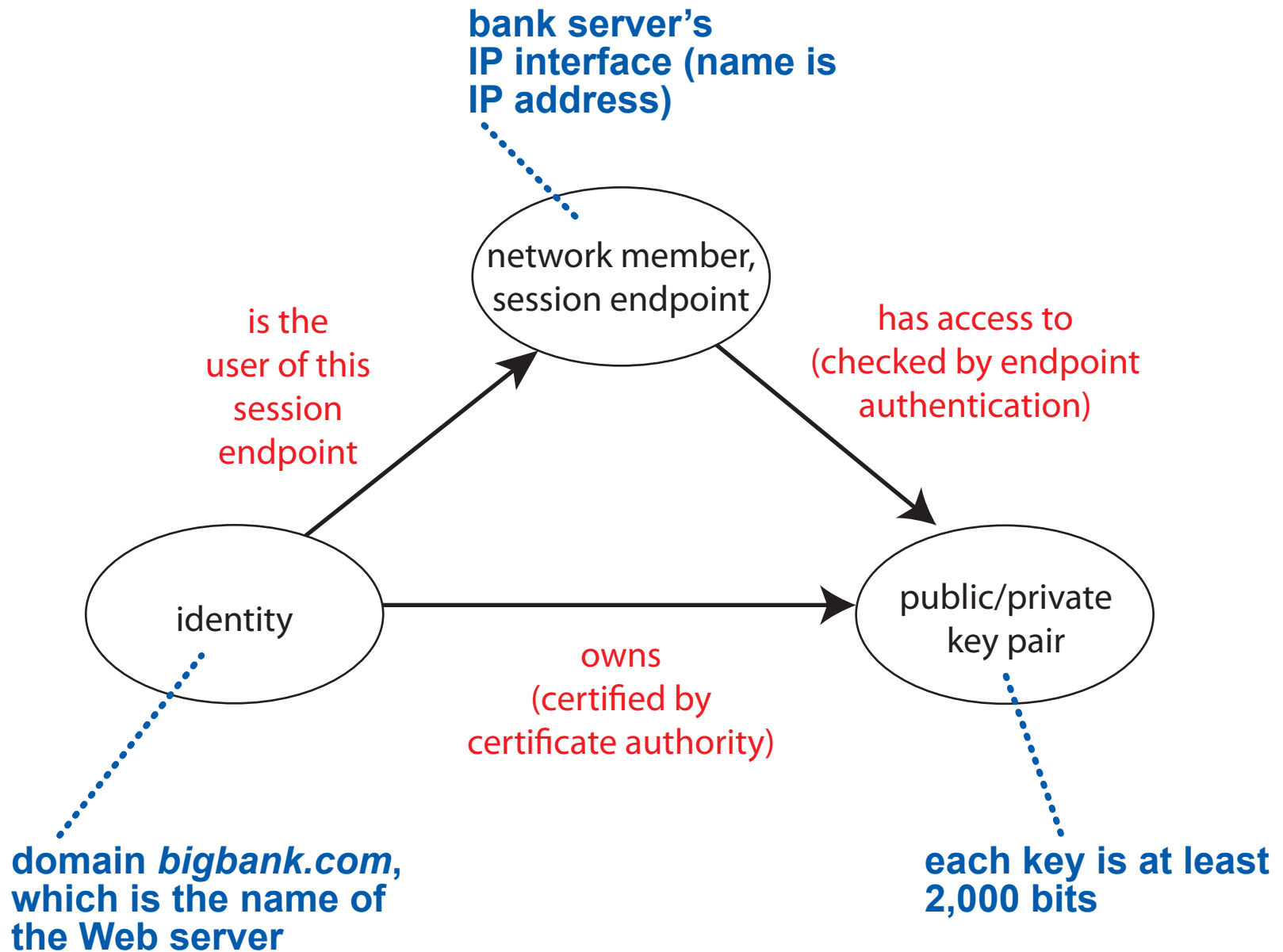
*the answer (whatever it is) is an identity*



**most likely, the bank wants as identity the user name  
“Jane Q. Public,” . . .**

**. . . and asks for a password for endpoint authentication**

# IDENTITIES USED IN SESSION PROTOCOLS



# PUBLIC-KEY ENCRYPTION

$$K^+(K^-(data)) = K^-(K^+(data))$$

BUT knowing one of the pair, it is very difficult to compute the other!

CHALLENGER B

VERIFIABLE ENDPOINT A

Are you A, who has public  
key  $K^+$ ? Nonce  $n$

$K^-(n)$

$$K^+(K^-(data)) = n$$

OK!

# THE TLS HANDSHAKE

accomplishes . . .

- (1) agreement on cipher suite,
- (2) endpoint authentication of server,
- (3) key exchange

can also authenticate initiating endpoint of session, but this is not done by normal Web services (user has history with the site, not a certificate)

important to do a good job of this

verify certificate, extract public key  $K^+$ , generate pre-master-secret

CLIENT B

SERVER A

cipher suites I support,  
my nonce NB

choice of cipher suite,  
my nonce NA, my certificate

important to use an up-to-date one, cf. TLS 1.3

$K^+$  (pre-master-secret)

using private key  $K^-$ , compute  $K^-(K^+(\text{pre-master-secret}))$  to get pre-master-secret

from pre-master-secret, NB, and NA, compute 2 encryption keys and 2 authentication keys

from pre-master-secret, NB, and NA, compute 2 encryption keys and 2 authentication keys

lots of keys!

# A HIGH-LEVEL IDENTITY IS MOBILE

## CLIENT CAN ...

- log in from another computer
- disconnect identity from session by logging out
- move around while using a mobile device (even if the identity goes with the device)

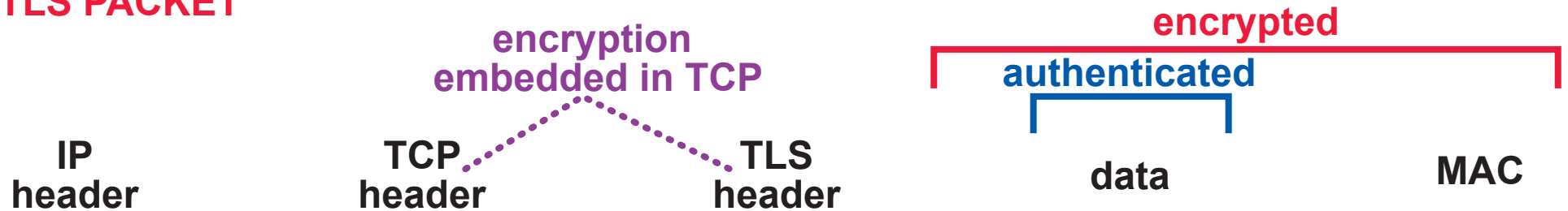
## SERVER CAN ...

- lend keys and certificate to a trusted representative, e.g., a content-delivery network
- attach a digital signature to data, so its identity can travel anywhere with the data

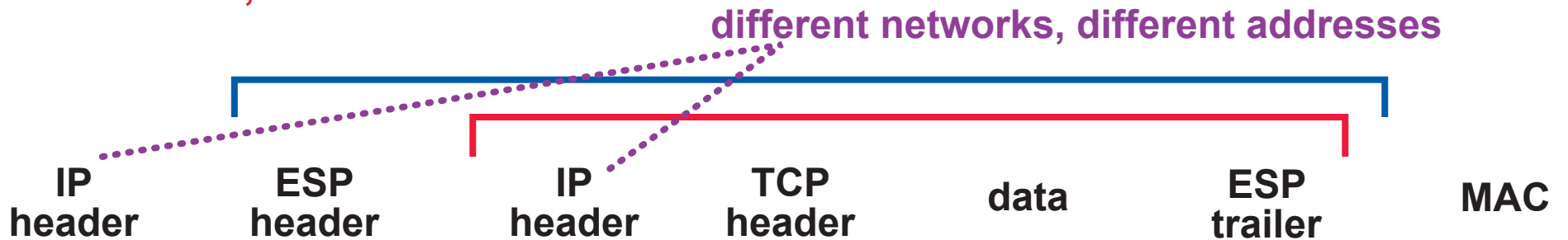


# DATA ENCRYPTION AND MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION 1

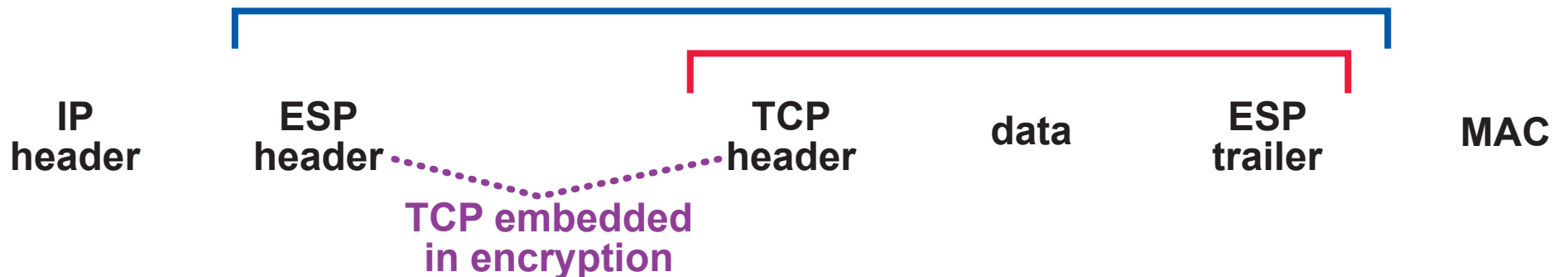
## TLS PACKET



## ESP PACKET, TUNNEL MODE



## ESP PACKET, TRANSPORT MODE



# MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION 2

## TLS PACKET



$$\text{MAC} = H(\text{data} + \text{key})$$

cryptographic  
hash function

authentication key, just  
for this direction, and known  
by both endpoints

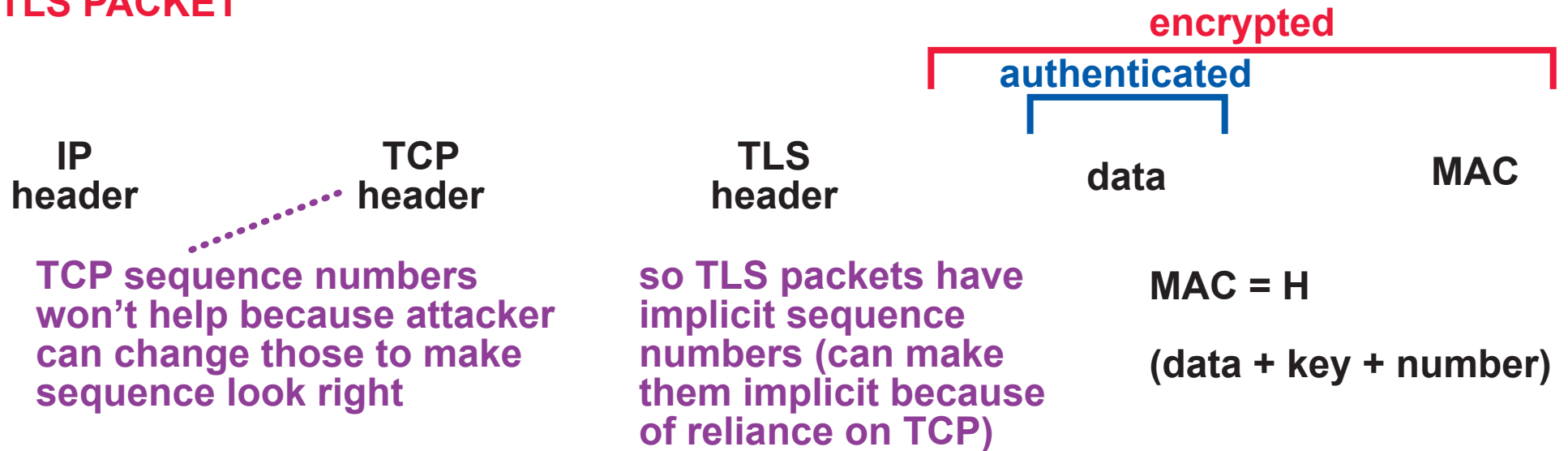
recipient recomputes  
same formula, checks  
that it is the same as MAC

# MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION 3: THE CATCH

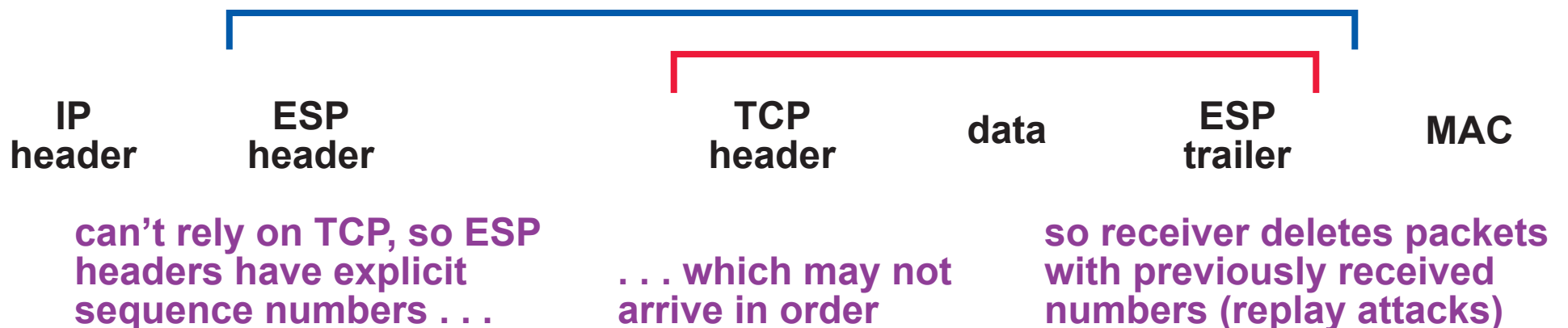
MAC ensures that received packet came from sender without modification.

But attacker could still delete, re-order, or **replay** packets.

## TLS PACKET



## ESP PACKET, TRANSPORT MODE



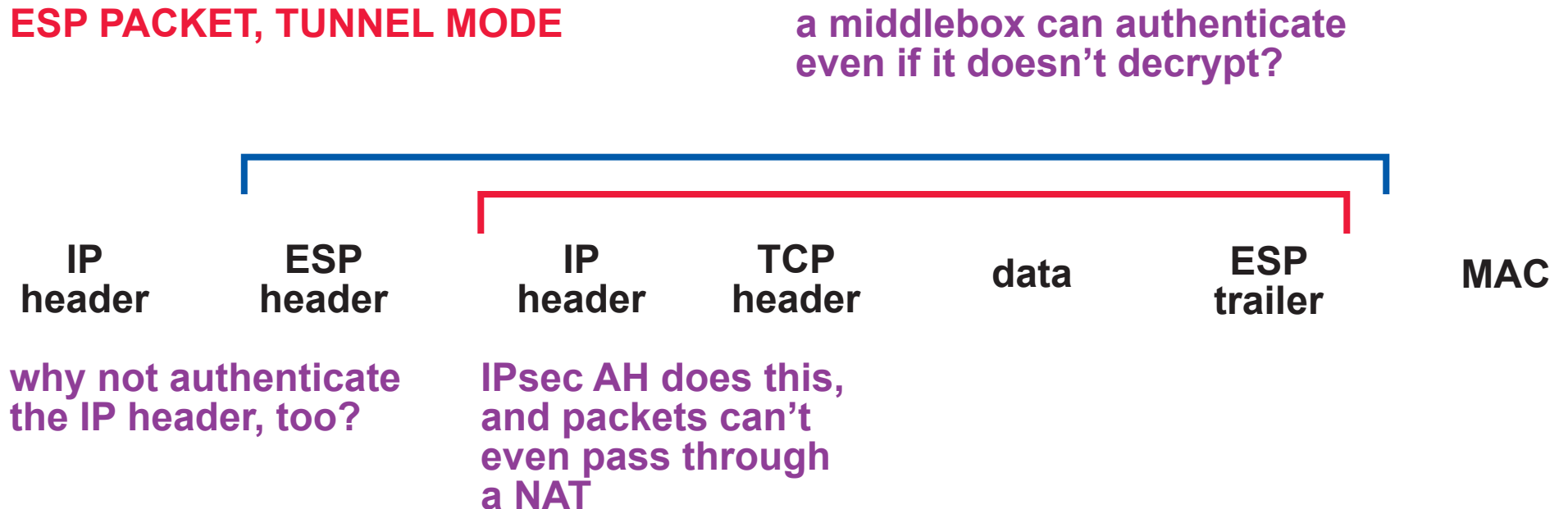
# ENCRYPTION AND AUTHENTICATION 4: SCOPES

WHY ARE THE SCOPES OF ENCRYPTION AND AUTHENTICATION DIFFERENT?

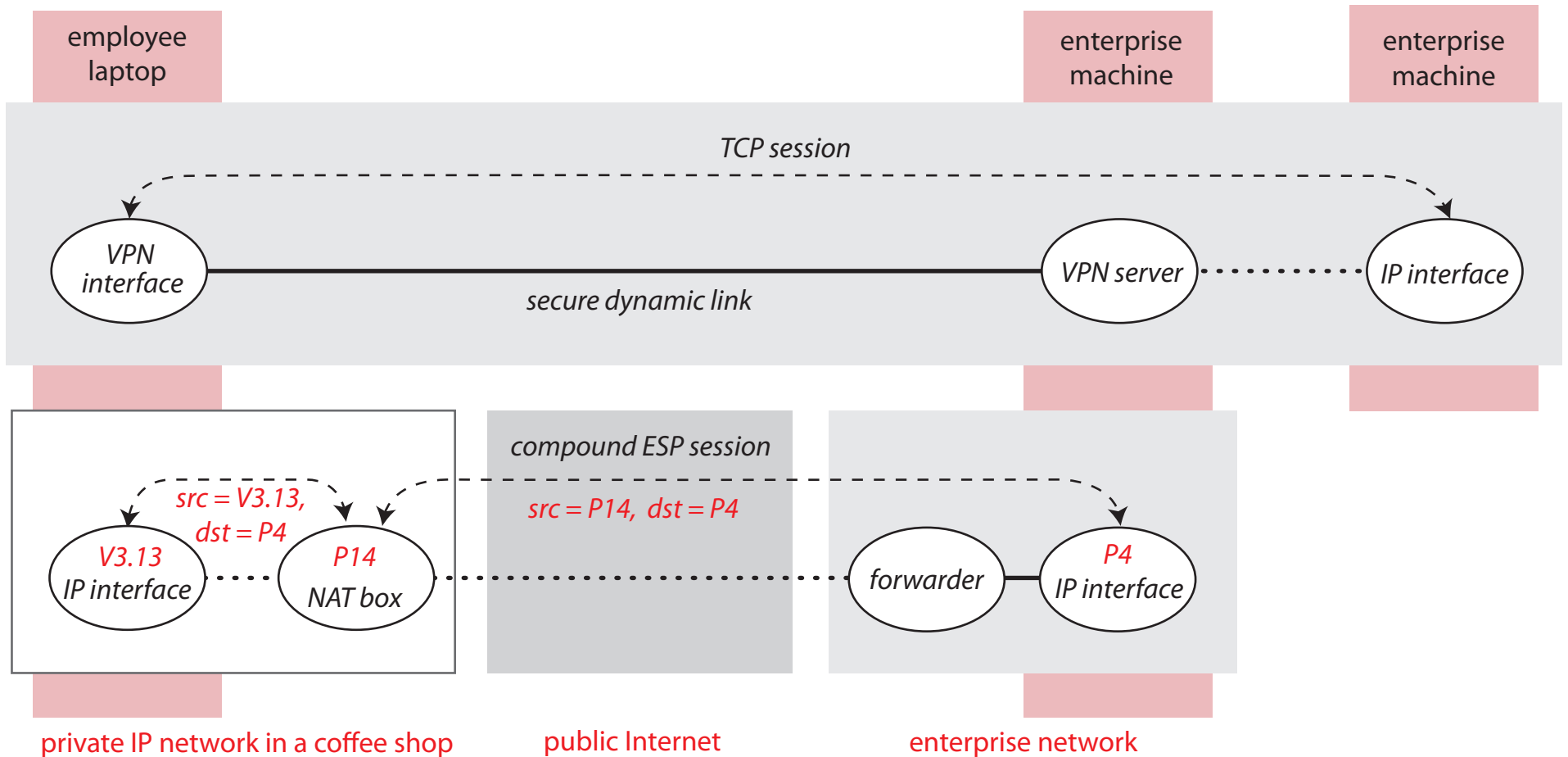
## TLS PACKET



## ESP PACKET, TUNNEL MODE



# POOR COMPOSITION: SHOULD WORK, BUT DOES NOT



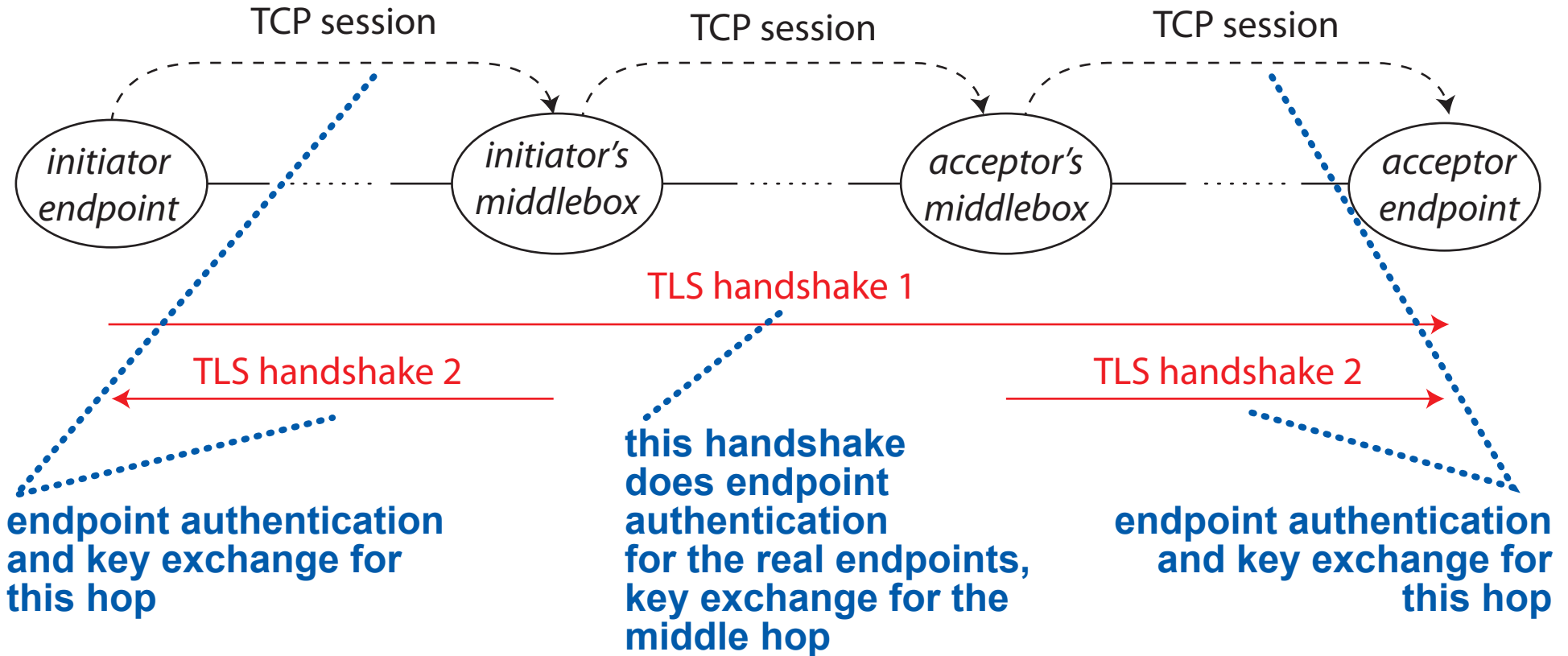
**Why? A NAT cannot make a compound ESP session, because the session identifier is not standard.**

**Ugly hack: pretend UDP has persistent sessions, use with well-known port 4500, this signals endpoints that ESP is embedded inside UDP.**

# ENCRYPTION AND MIDDLEBOXES 1

IF THE MIDDLEBOXES HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS AS ADJACENT ENDPOINTS, THEY CAN BECOME PART OF THE TLS SCHEME

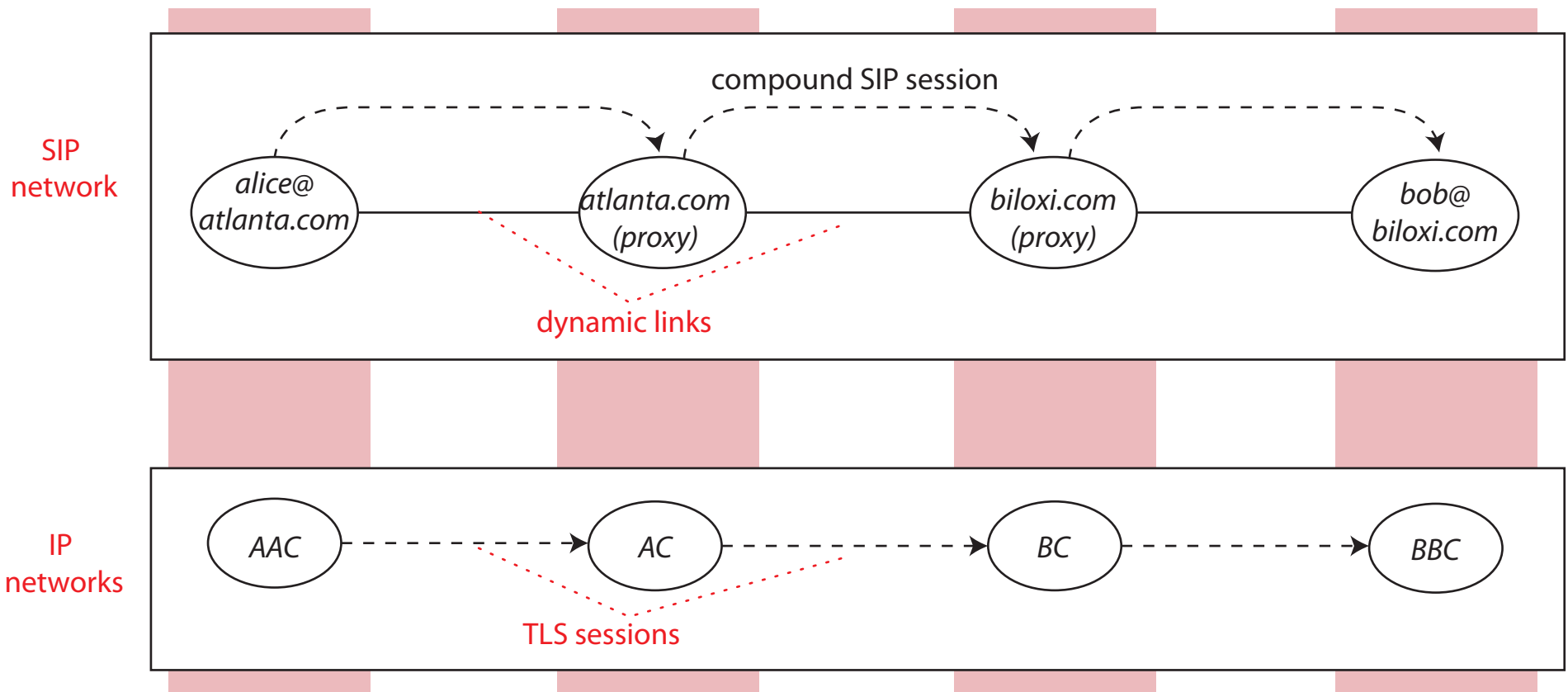
middleboxes could be doing security, performance optimization



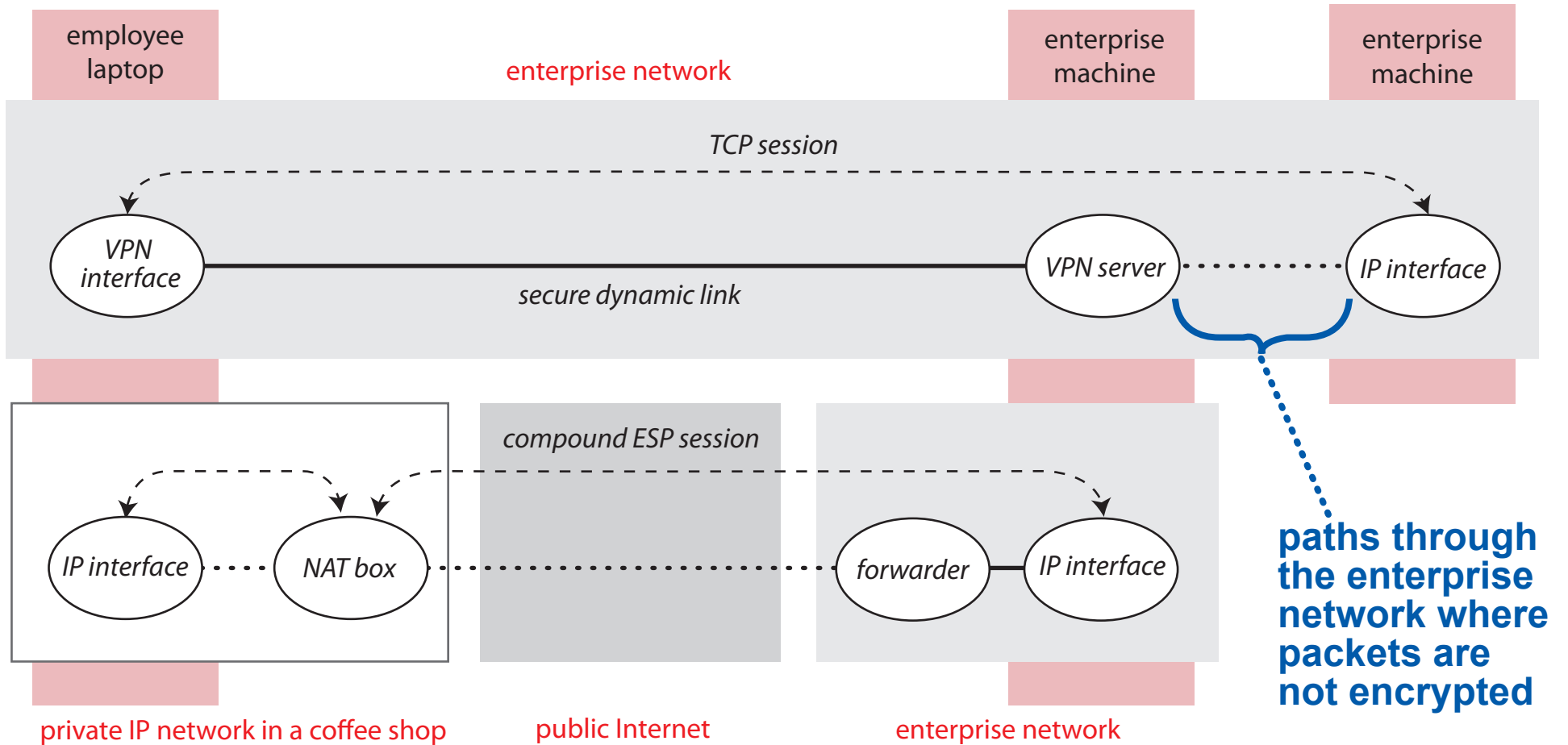
# ENCRYPTION AND MIDDLEBOXES 2

TRUSTED MIDDLEBOXES ARE PART OF THE APPLICATION

—ABOVE THE ENCRYPTION!



# ENCRYPTION AND MIDDLEBOXES 3

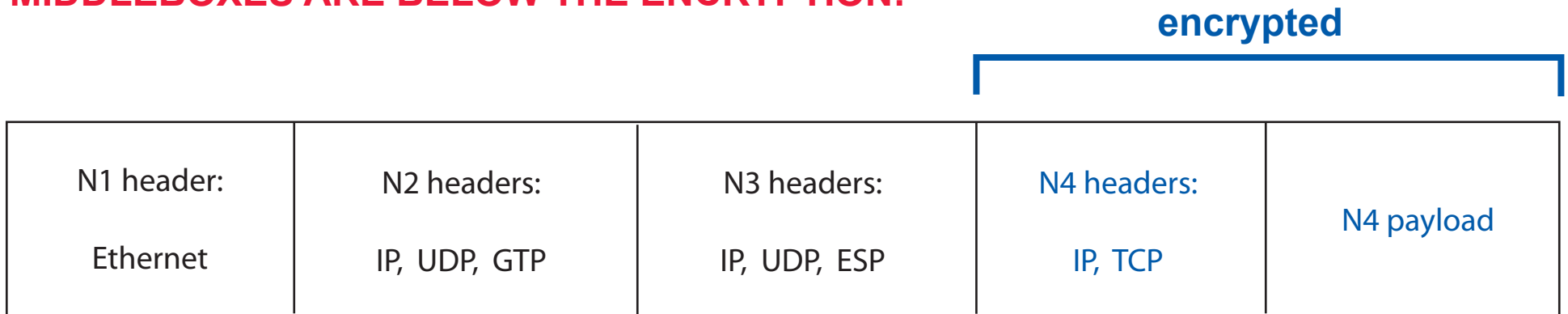


**SIDESTEP THE ENCRYPTION!**



# ENCRYPTION AND MIDDLEBOXES 4

**MIDDLEBOXES ARE BELOW THE ENCRYPTION!**



**at Level 4, everything  
in the packets is  
encrypted**



**at Level 3, data is  
encrypted, headers  
are not**



**Level 2 is a cellular network,  
which has several  
middleboxes that may care  
about Level 3 headers**



# SECURITY FOR CONTROL PROTOCOLS

BECAUSE THEY  
CHANGE THE STATE  
OF THE NETWORK!

## CANNOT ALWAYS USE TLS OR ESP

- in session-location mobility, an identity must update its own location, but may not have a certificate or past history with the server
- control protocols can be very high-volume (DNS, routers exchanging filtering information)
- protocols may be too old

*and attackers can afford a lot of tries,  
guessing how to get in,  
because there is little risk*

# HELP FOR CONTROL PROTOCOLS

*at least, when updates  
are requested*

## DON'T ACCEPT UNSOLICITED REPLIES

e.g., ARP accepts unsolicited replies to requests . . .

. . . which are broadcast to every member of network . . .

. . . so any member of network can reply "I have requested IP address"

## CHECK REPLIES FOR CREDIBILITY

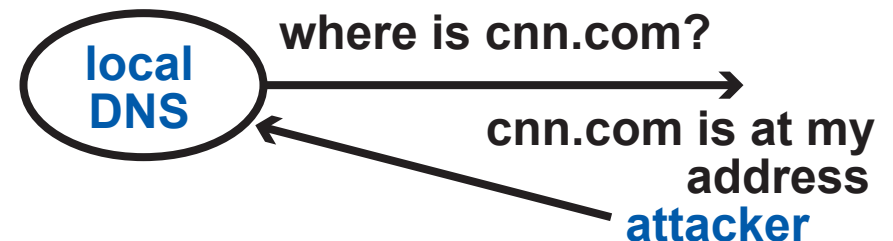
in the U.S., the closest cnn.com server is not in Brazil

*woe to those late-blooming U.S. services whose IP addresses are in Brazil*

## USE NONCES OR RANDOMIZATION TO PREVENT "OFF-PATH" ATTACKS

attacker queries local server for cnn.com

*so local server may need to query another server, if no cache or old cache*



to prevent this, server can put a nonce (random number) in a new or unused field of the request . . .

. . . and expect the reply to carry the same information