



TURN
IT
UP

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The bridge to possible



IOS-XR7 Innovations

SZTP, App-Hosting, Programmability, Security

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BRKSPG-2024

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Agenda

- The Network OS Overton Window
- Ever-Changing Web and SP Deployment Landscape
- Security + Automation = Hitting the sweet spot!
- Ownership Establishment Basics (RFC 8366)
- Secure ZTP (SZTP) based on RFC 8572
- Application Hosting: Making life easy on Fixed and Modular platforms
- Programmability: APIs at every layer of the Network Stack!
- Security/Trust: Trust tied to HW → Secure Boot + Runtime Security!



*“The Overton Window for the
Networking Industry is
expanding”*



Features

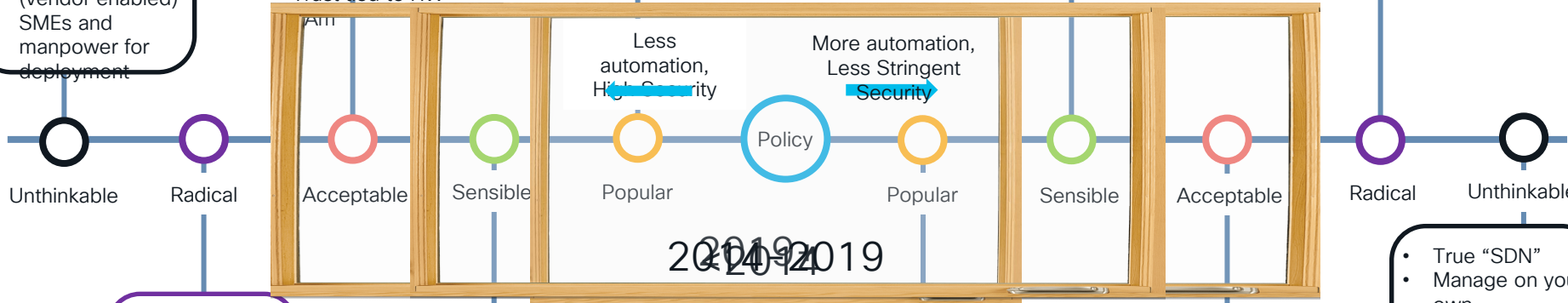
- Near-Zero Automation
- No box failure acceptable
- No redundancy in network design
- Single “neck to choke” for support
- Stringent security (vendor enabled)
- SMEs and manpower for deployment

- CLI (expect style) automation
- Secure Boot with BIOS protection
- Chip/HW protection
- Secure Asset Transfer
- Trust tied to HW

- Software-Only Security Approach
- Redundancy protocols, Backup paths
- MPLS
- SNMP

- Secure TLS based APIs (netconf, gRPC etc.)
- Removable/ modular Features
- ZTP is a must

- Disaggregation of HW & SW
- Custom Routing Protocols
- Controllers (only) for Traffic-Engineering



- ISSU is a must
- Complex one-off features
- Third-party operators for network installations

- APIs for CLI automation
- UEFI secure boot
- Vendor Features to solve critical problems
- RSVP

- SR, SRTE
- Yang APIs for network mgmt.
- Streaming Telemetry

- Completely Automated Deployment (Day0 - DayN)
- APIs at every layer of Stack
- On-box Apps
- SRv6
- ISSU not required

- True “SDN”
- Manage on your own
- >3000:1 device/admin ratio
- Minimal Security (feature network devices)

Ever-Changing Web and SP Deployment Landscape

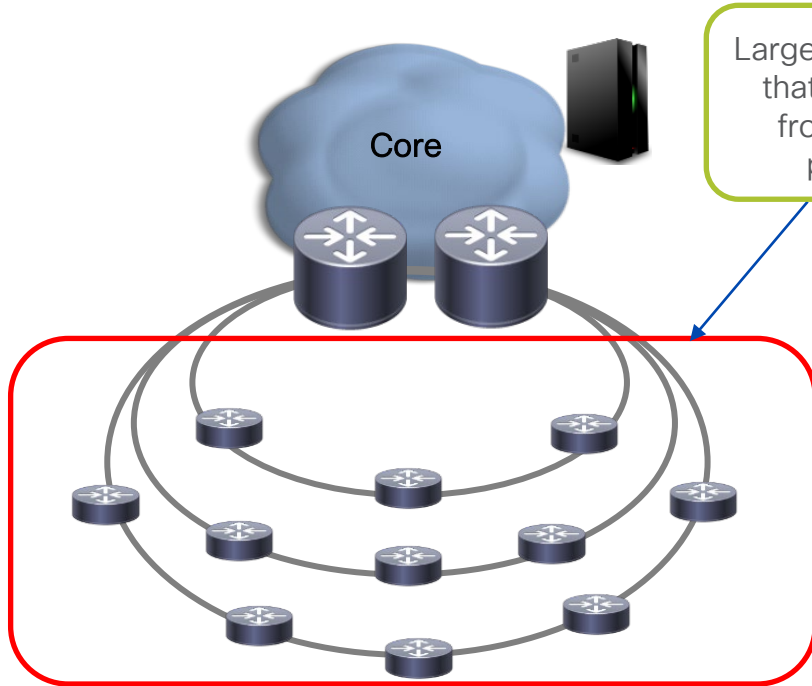
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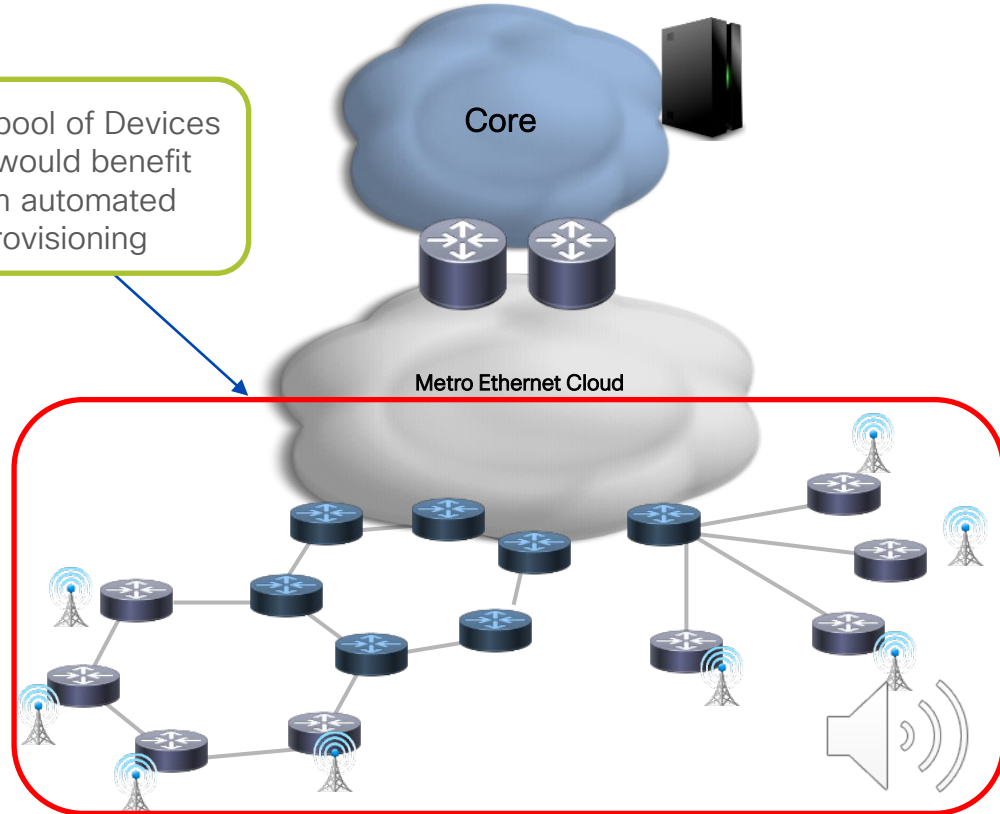
Access +5G Deployments:

Large number of XR7 devices with NCS540L and NCS55xx

Carrier Ethernet Deployment

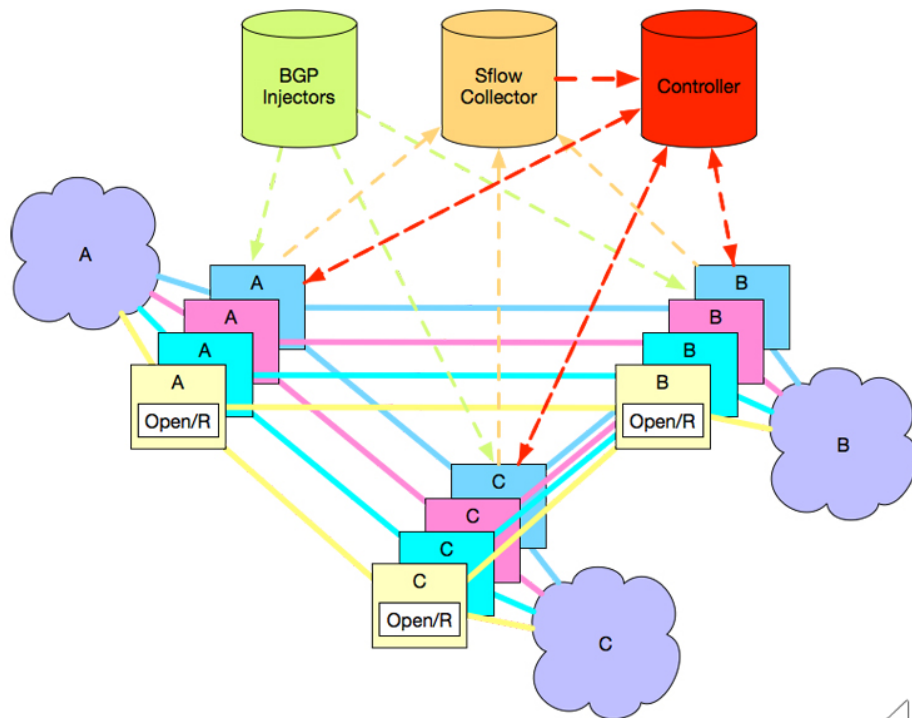


Mobile Backhaul



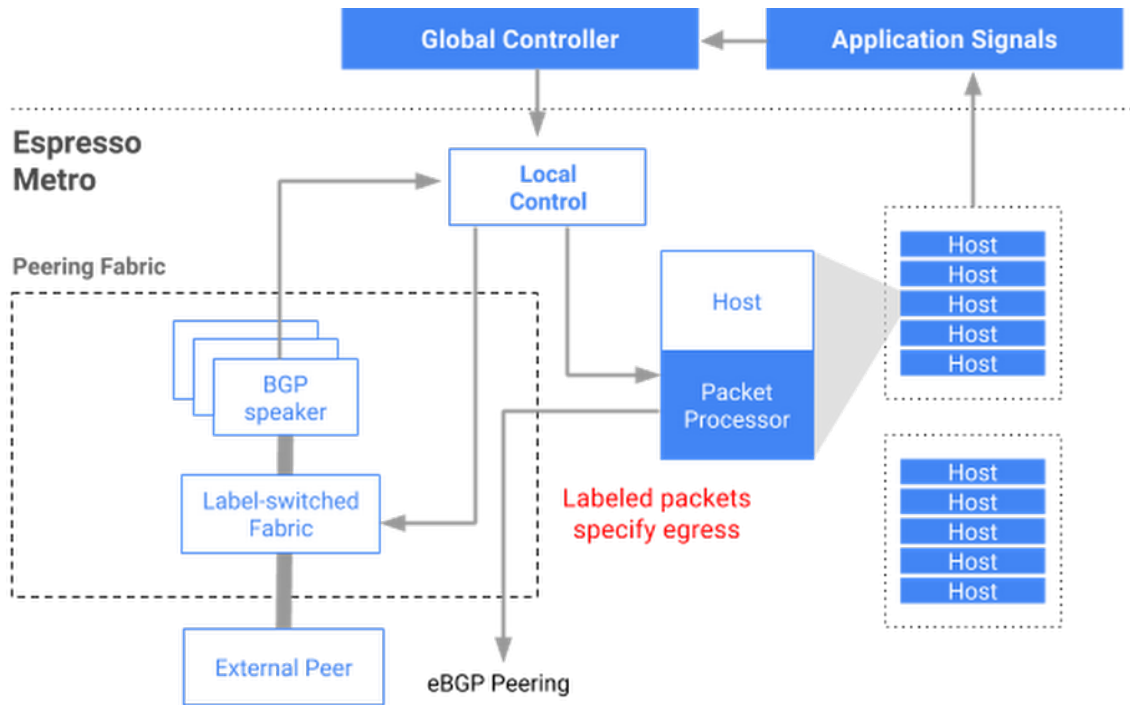
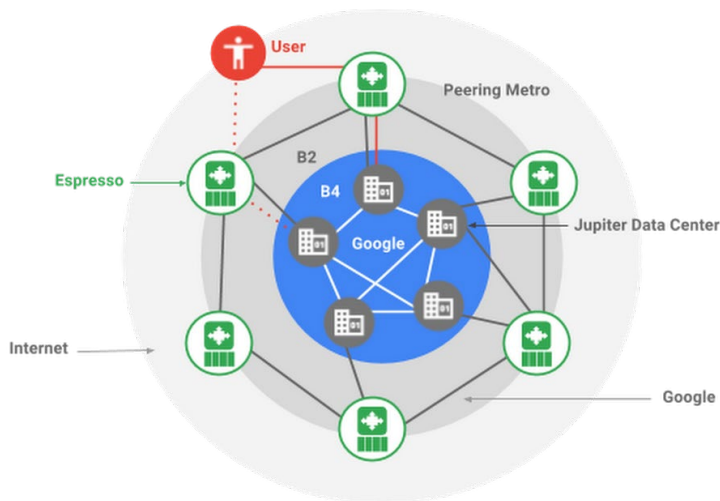
Facebook's Express Back Bone (EBB) Network

- Centralized BGP Route Injectors
- sFlow collectors to feed active demands into the Controller
- Traffic engineering controller, to compute and programs optimum routes
- **Open/R** agents running on-box to provide IGP and messaging functionality.
- LSP agents, also running on-box to interface with the device forwarding tables on behalf of the central controller.



<https://code.fb.com/data-center-engineering/building-the-express-backbone-facebook-s-new-long-haul-network/>

Google's Espresso Metro



<https://www.blog.google/products/google-cloud/making-google-cloud-faster-more-available-and-cost-effective-extending-sdn-public-internet-espresso/>



IOS-XR's lock-step Journey

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The IOS XR Evolution Journey

IOS XR

- 32-bit QNX-based
- SMU based patches
- Highly reliable, large scale routing
- Core and edge use cases

IOS XR 6+

- 64-Bit Linux-based
- Merchant and Cisco silicon
- Cloud-Scale Ready!
 - ✓ Model-driven management + Telemetry
 - ✓ Automated device onboarding - ZTP, iPXE
 - ✓ Hosted third-party software

IOS XR 7+

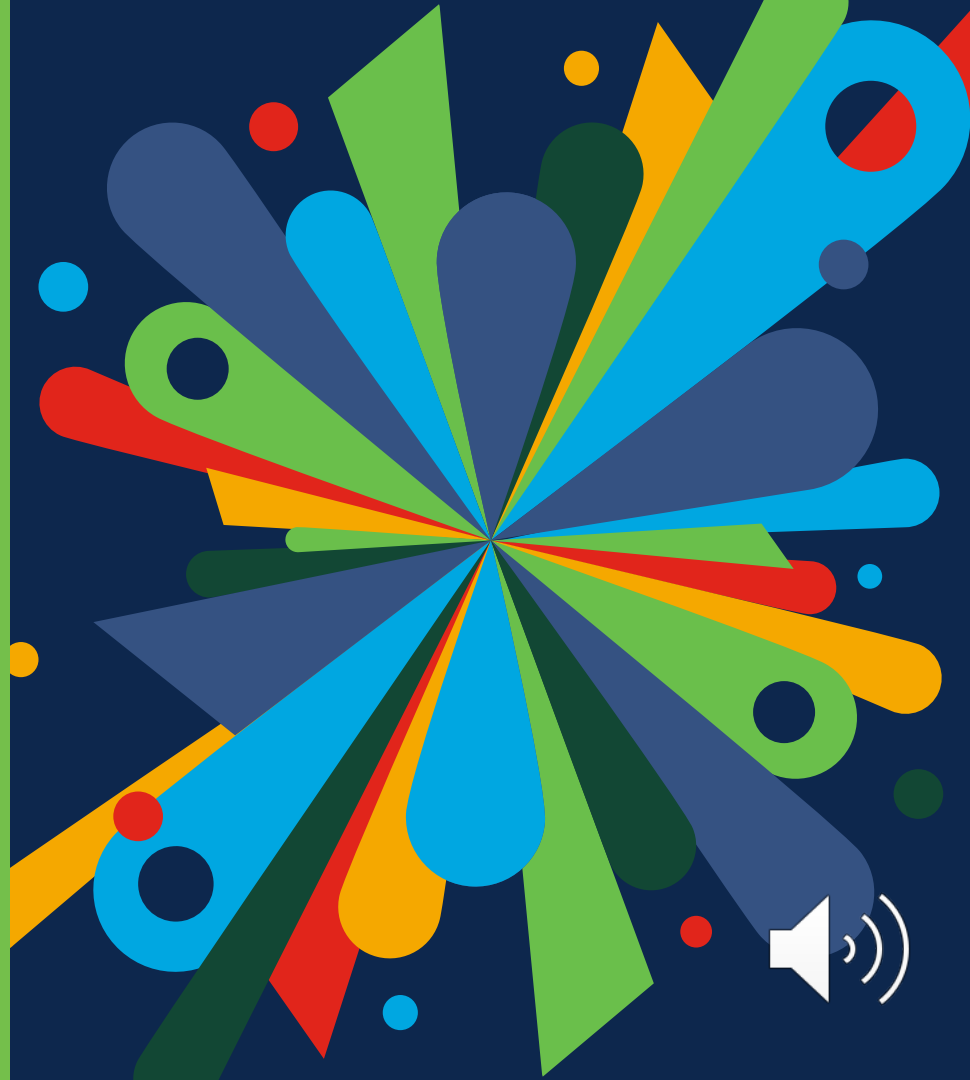
- Advanced flexibility for custom use cases
 - ✓ Model-driven APIs at all layers
- Security enhancements – Establish trust in the HW, SW & Network
- Simplification & Flexible Consumption
 - ✓ Disaggregated SW Offer
 - ✓ Optional SW packages

OS Evolution

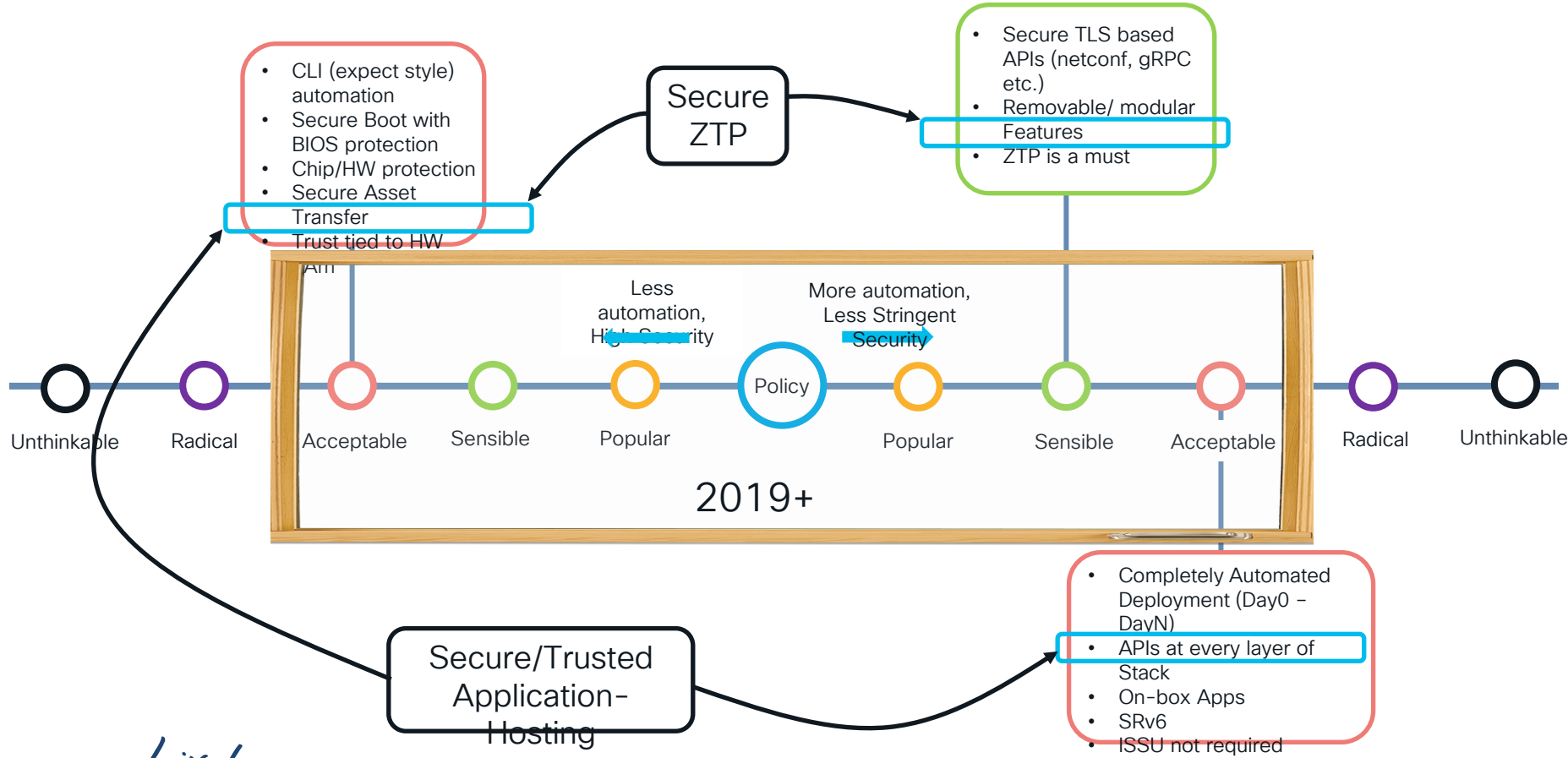


Security +
Automation
= Hitting the sweet
spot!

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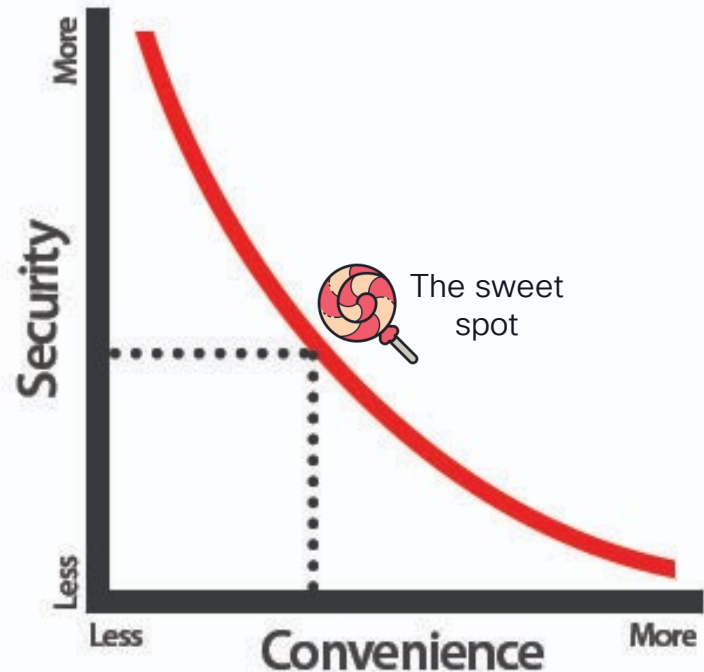
Security + Automation: Marriage NOT made in heaven!



Security and Automation: Finding the sweet spot

- It's pretty well known that Security and Convenience are usually at loggerheads
- Precisely why marrying concepts from opposite sides of the Overton window timeline is difficult
- Secure ZTP (RFC 8572) is a big step forward in the industry for large Datacenter and 5G deployments
- So is the ability to run trusted third-party apps and binaries
- RFC 8366 details some of Ownership establishment methodologies that make these capabilities possible

Security vs. Convenience



Ownership Establishment Basics (RFC 8366)

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Cisco TAm – Hardware-based Trust Anchor

Available on all shipping XR7 platforms (ACT2/Aikido chips)



Anti-Theft and Anti-Tamper Chip Design

Built-In Crypto Functions

Hardware Entropy for RNG*

Secure Storage

- Hardware designed to provide **both End-user and supply chain protections**
 - End-user protections include highly secure storage of user credentials, passwords, settings.
 - **Supply chain protections** -- Cisco SUDI (secure unique device identifier) inserted during manufacturing
- Secured at Manufacturing. No user intervention required
- Ideal for embedded computing like routers and Wi-Fi access points

Unique hardware Identity (SUDI)

“How do I know this is really my router?”

- Unique cryptographic key embedded in hardware trust anchor module within every IOS XR Router
 - Secure Unique Device Identifier (SUDI)
 - Provides 802.1AR Secure Device Identity
 - Immutable key imbedded in Trust Anchor Module at time of manufacture
 - Signed by Cisco for proof of authenticity
 - Includes PID and Serial number of device
- Cryptographically strong identification of remote hardware
- Establishes unique, immutable hardware identity



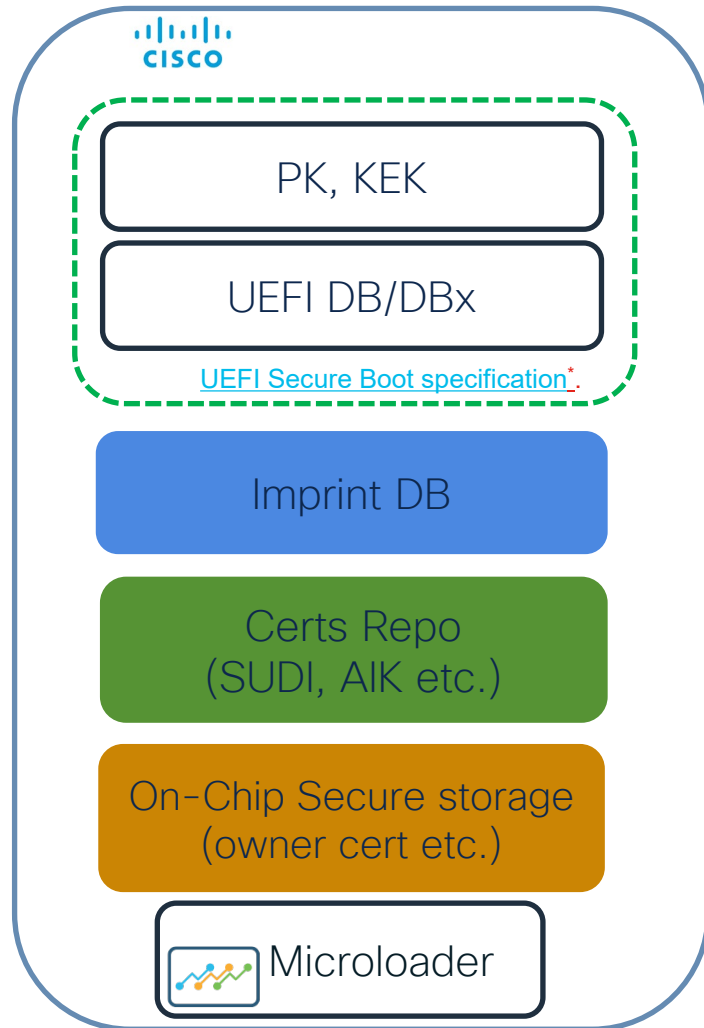
What's in the TAm Chip?

TAm's core functionality

- Microloader
- **UEFI DB** for Cisco's keys to validate the boot artifacts and OS
- **Imprint DB** for Chipguard to store the hashes of ECIDs of CPU & ASIC
- Encryption key for hybrid TAm storage (on disk)
- **SUDI certificate** and Attestation Key
- PCRs for extending hashes (boot and run time)
- Persistent across reloads and Disk Wipeouts

Additional Functionality (Uses on-chip Secure Storage)

- **Owner Certificate (OC)**
- Sensitive Feature Control Flags
 - Enable/disable Secure ZTP
 - Enable/disable anti-theft protection

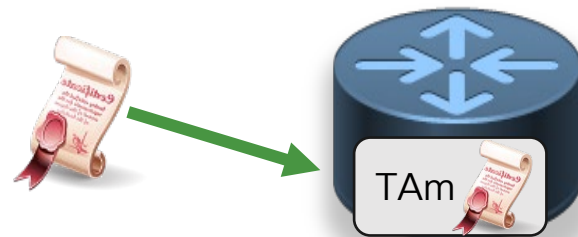


Establishing Ownership on
device:
Owner/Customer Certificate



Establishing Ownership on a new device: Owner Certificates

- By default, Cisco hardware trusts only Cisco as a root CA through certificates burnt into TAM by Cisco Manufacturing
- To extend trust on a new network device the network operator needs to burn their own certificate into the hardware TAM
- To do this, the device must accept the chain of trust associated with the owner cert – cue RFC 8366



Reference: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8366>

How does a router trust an
owner/customer certificate

Using Ownership Vouchers
(RFC 8366)



Ownership Voucher (O.V.) (RFC 8366)

Yang model for O.V.

```
module: ietf-voucher
  yang-data voucher-artifact:
    +---- voucher
      +---- created-on          yang:date-and-time
      +---- expires-on?       yang:date-and-time
      +---- assertion          enumeration
      +---- serial-number      string
      +---- idevid-issuer?     binary
      +---- pinned-domain-cert binary
      +---- domain-cert-revocation-checks? boolean
      +---- nonce?            binary
      +---- last-renewal-date? yang:date-and-time
```

General purpose voucher used to establish ownership in SZTP (RFC 8572) and non-ZTP scenarios (running/provisioned systems)

- CMS artifact signed by the Manufacturer (Cisco) for each HW-TAm enabled node.
- Two Node (read Route-Processor/RP) identifiers:
 - **Serial Number:** Serial number of the router whose ownership must be established.
 - **Pinned-domain-cert (PDC):** A Customer root or intermediate certificate that acts as the chain of trust for other intermediate certs used by the customer.

Reference: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8366>

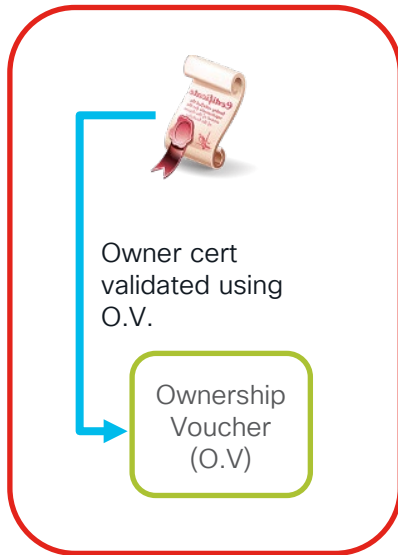
How do you get the Owner cert into the TAm ?

(XR Release 7.5.1)

Based on RFC 8366, Ownership vouchers (O.V.) are used to establish a trust chain for Owner Certificates



Using preferred onboarding technique:
1) CLI/API
2) SZTP



- 1) Using **CLI/API**, accept an owner certificate along with an ownership voucher (OV signed by Cisco)
- 2) Using **SZTP**, a ZTP server offers bootstrapping data that contains an OV and an owner certificate. SZTP automatically burns owner certificate into the TAm

ok, I'll bite.

How do I get
an O.V. for my
router?

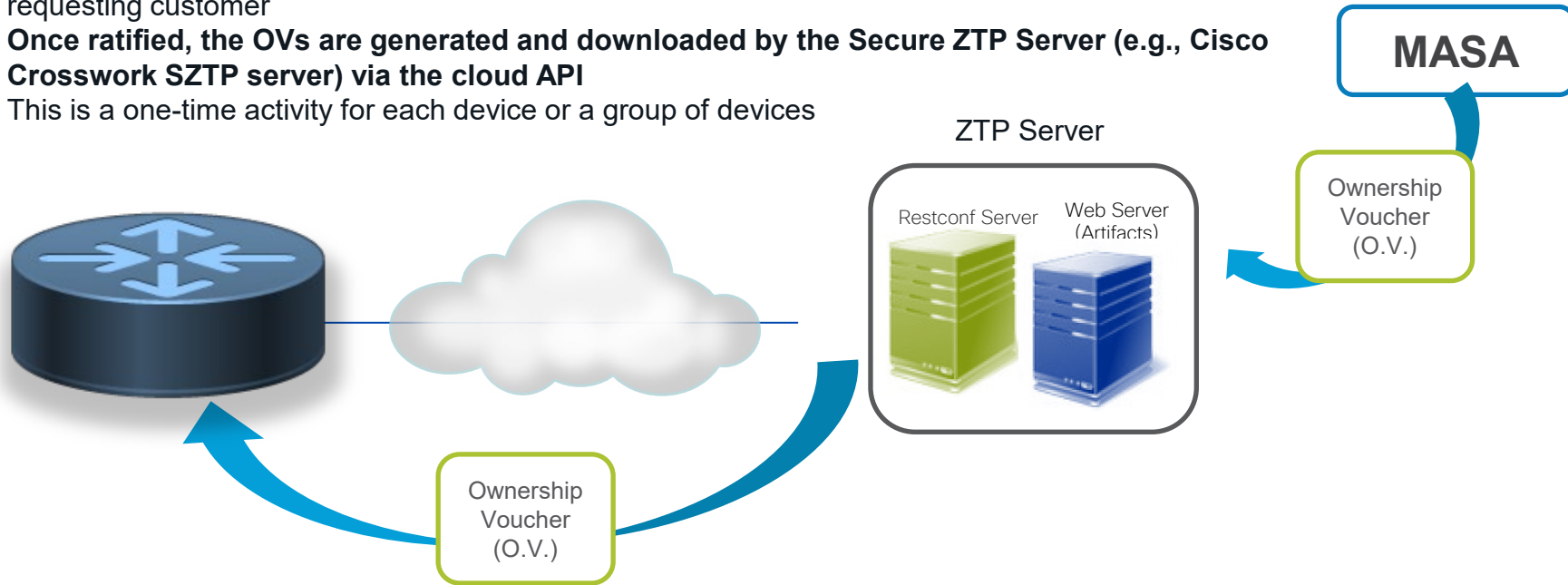
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O.V. Generation. MASA Server for SZTP

(Available Mid 2021)

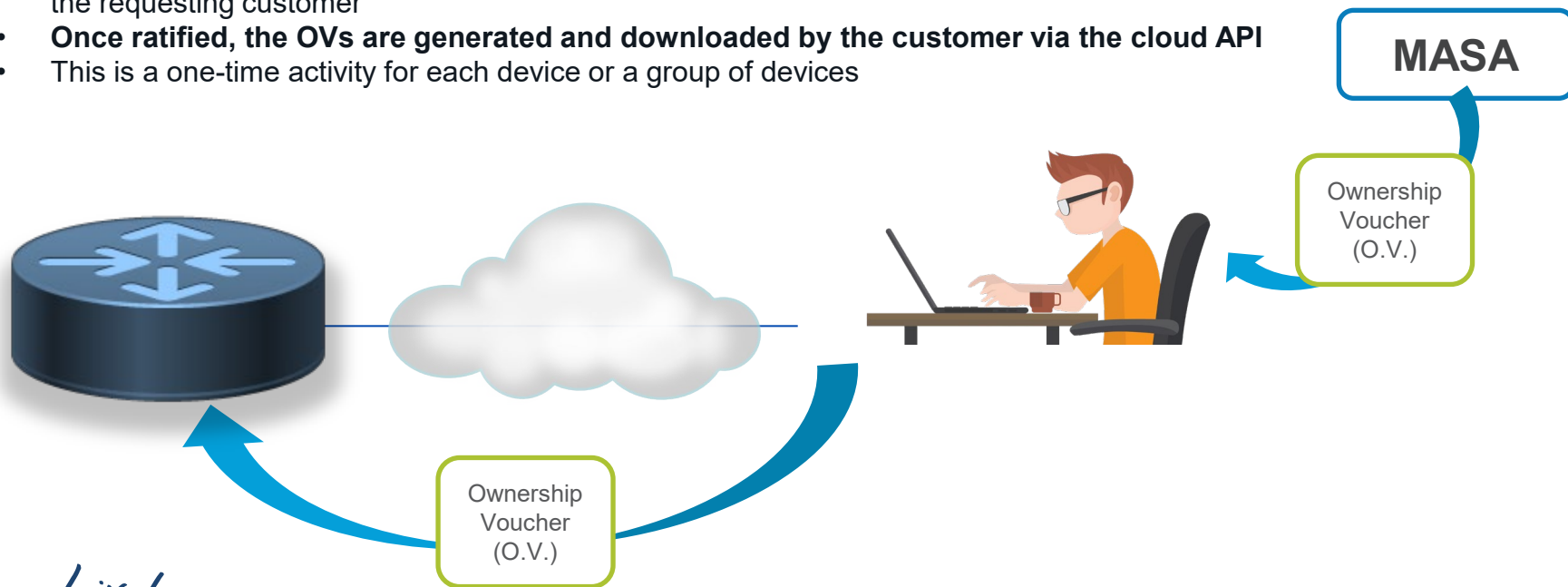
- Automated O.V. generation per device Serial Number (i.e., up to 2 O.V.s per device, one for each RP) in Real time
- **MASA (Manufacturer Authorized Signing Authority)** is a cloud Service that is operated by the Manufacturer (Cisco) to help ratify that Serial Numbers actually belong (i.e., were sold) to the requesting customer
- **Once ratified, the OV's are generated and downloaded by the Secure ZTP Server (e.g., Cisco Crosswork SZTP server) via the cloud API**
- This is a one-time activity for each device or a group of devices



O.V. Generation: MASA Server for non-ZIP Scenarios

(Available Mid 2021)

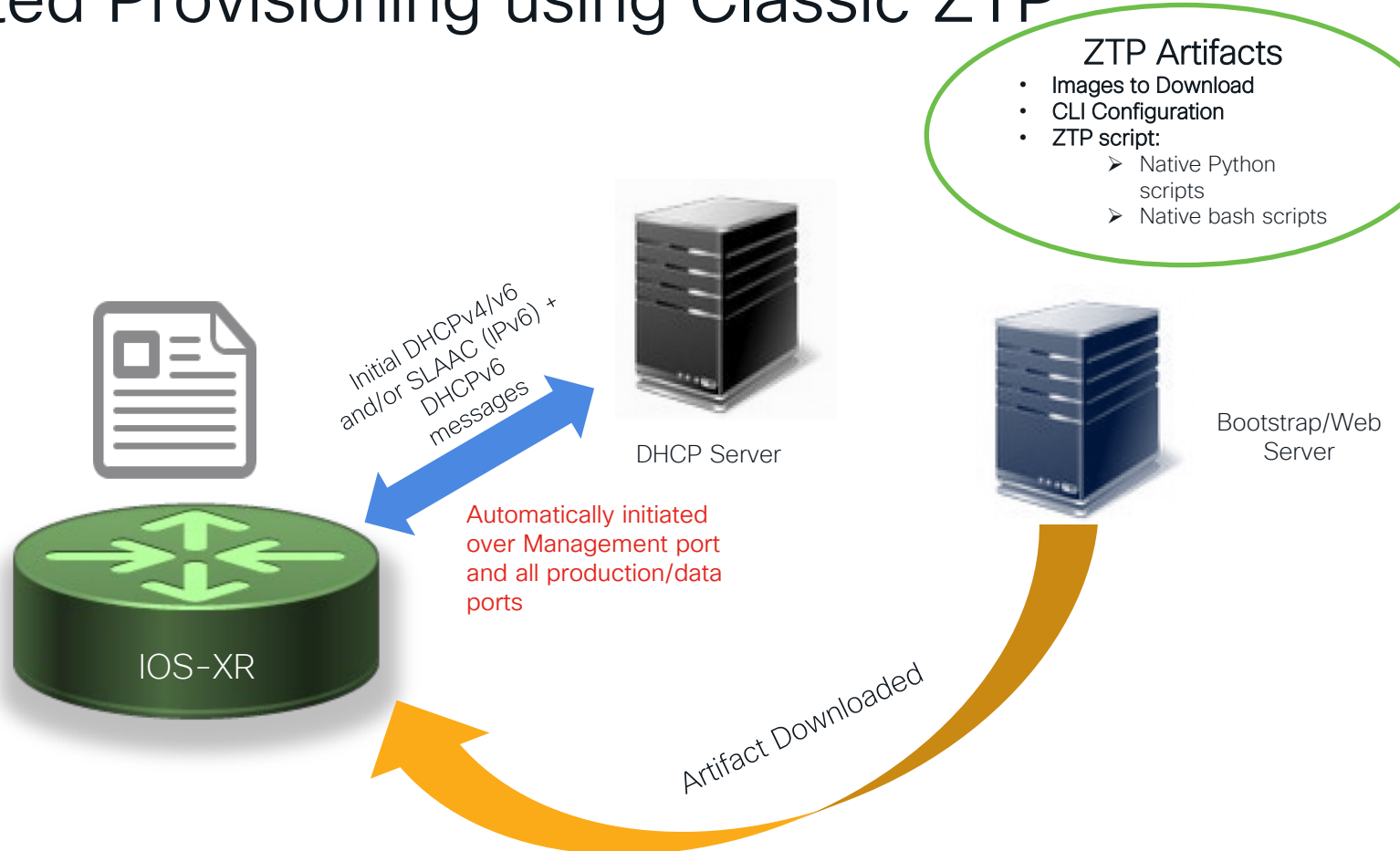
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- **Once ratified, the OV.s are generated and downloaded by the customer via the cloud API**
- This is a one-time activity for each device or a group of devices



Secure ZTP (SZTP) based on RFC 8572

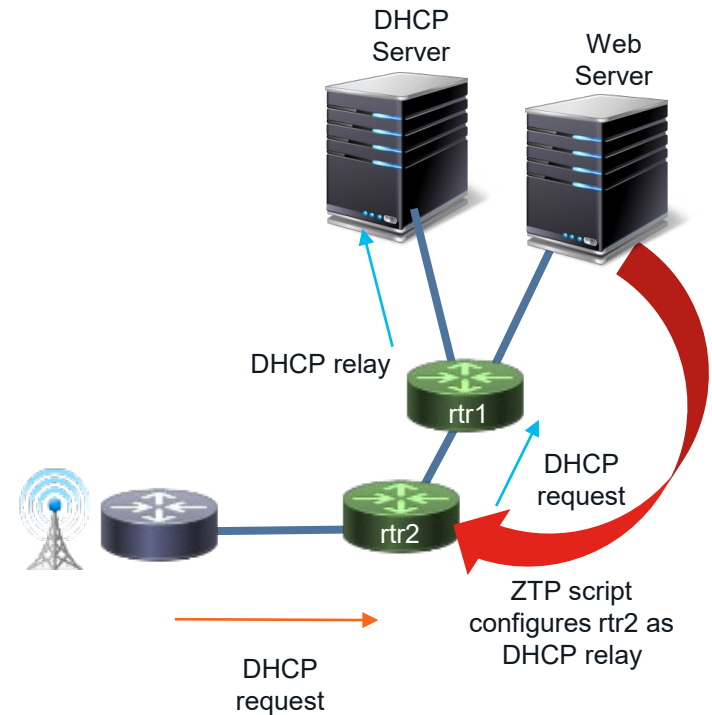


Automated Provisioning using Classic ZTP



Access Networks and SD Deployment Considerations

- Tree based Build-out is the ideal strategy:
 - No out-of-Band Management network to work with
 - Already provisioned device acts as a DHCP relay for the next device in the tree
- **Security is critical:**
 - Access devices are typically in insecure locations
 - Would greatly benefit from secure device onboarding techniques.
- Vlan discovery:
 - Data (Production) ports would be utilized for ZTP
 - These data ports might need to communicate with upstream device over a VLAN



Security Considerations for ZTP

Router/Client Validation

Server must validate router/client cert (SUDI cert) before offering artifacts/secrets/configs



ZTP Server



Router/client

Network/Server Validation

Router/client must validate the server offering artifacts



ZTP Server



Router/client

Artifact Validation

The artifact downloaded from the ZTP/Web server must be validated before being loaded/executed

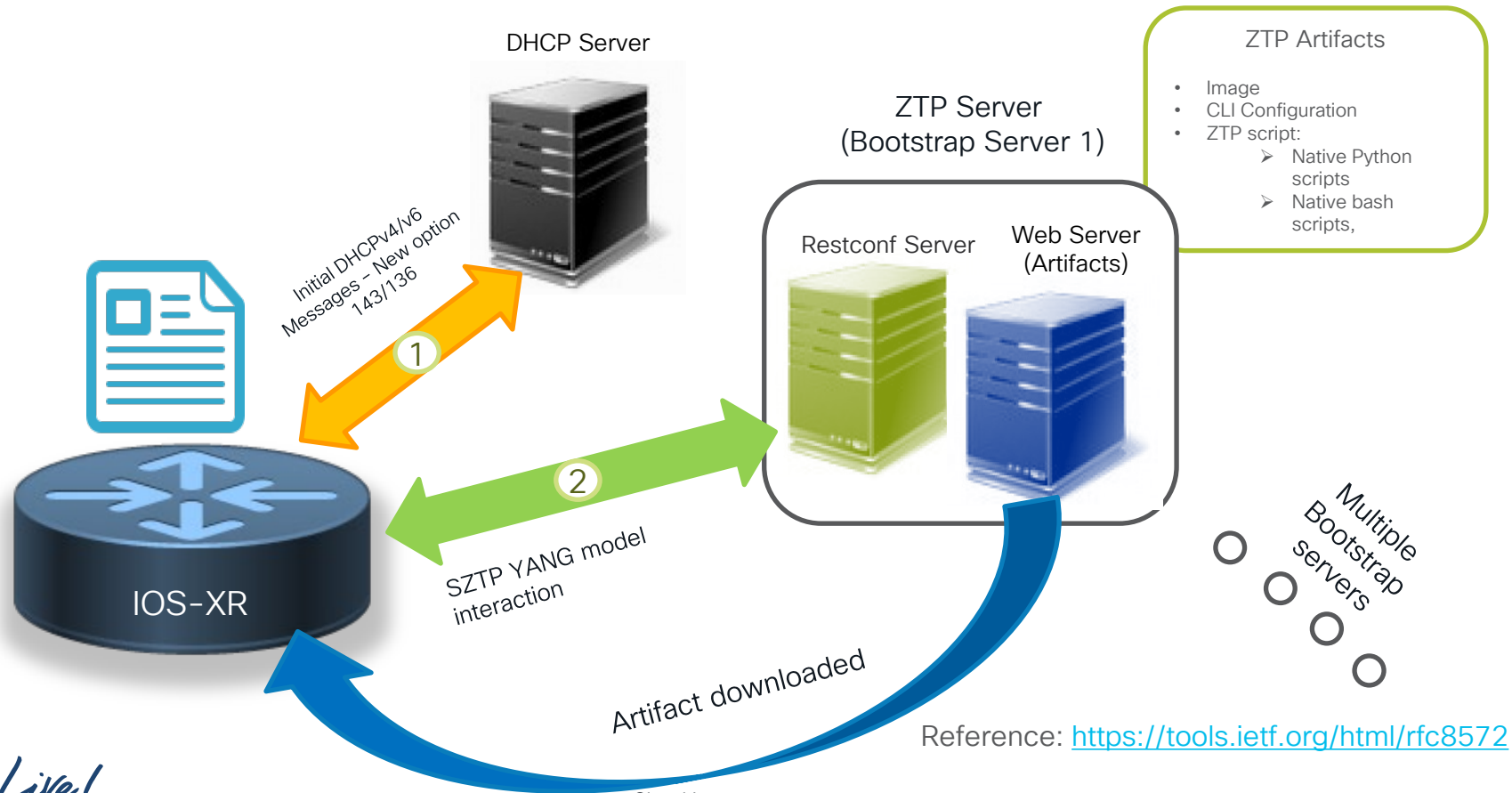


ZTP/Web Server



Router/client

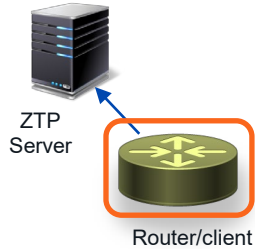
Secure ZTP (SZTP) workflow (based on RFC8572)



From ZTP” to “Secure ZTP” with RFC8572

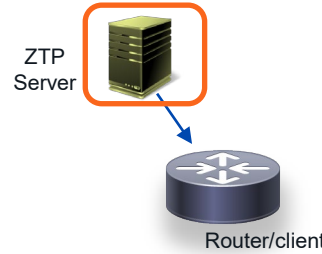
Router/Client Validation

Server must validate router/client cert (SUDI cert) before offering artifacts/secrets/configs



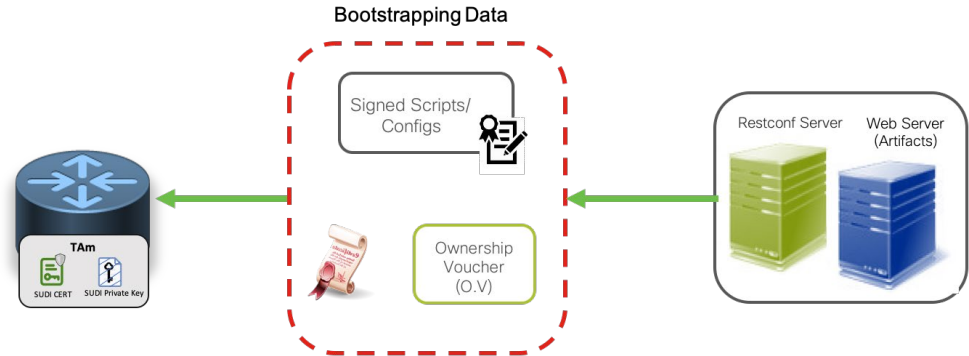
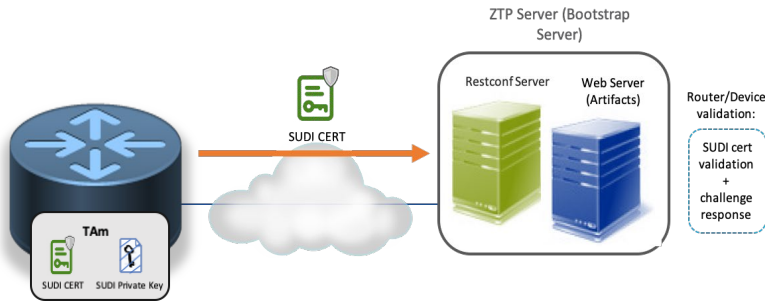
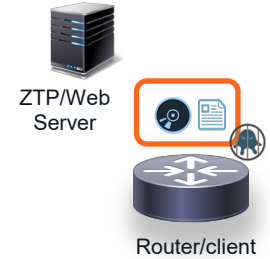
Network/Domain Validation

Router/client must validate the server offering artifacts

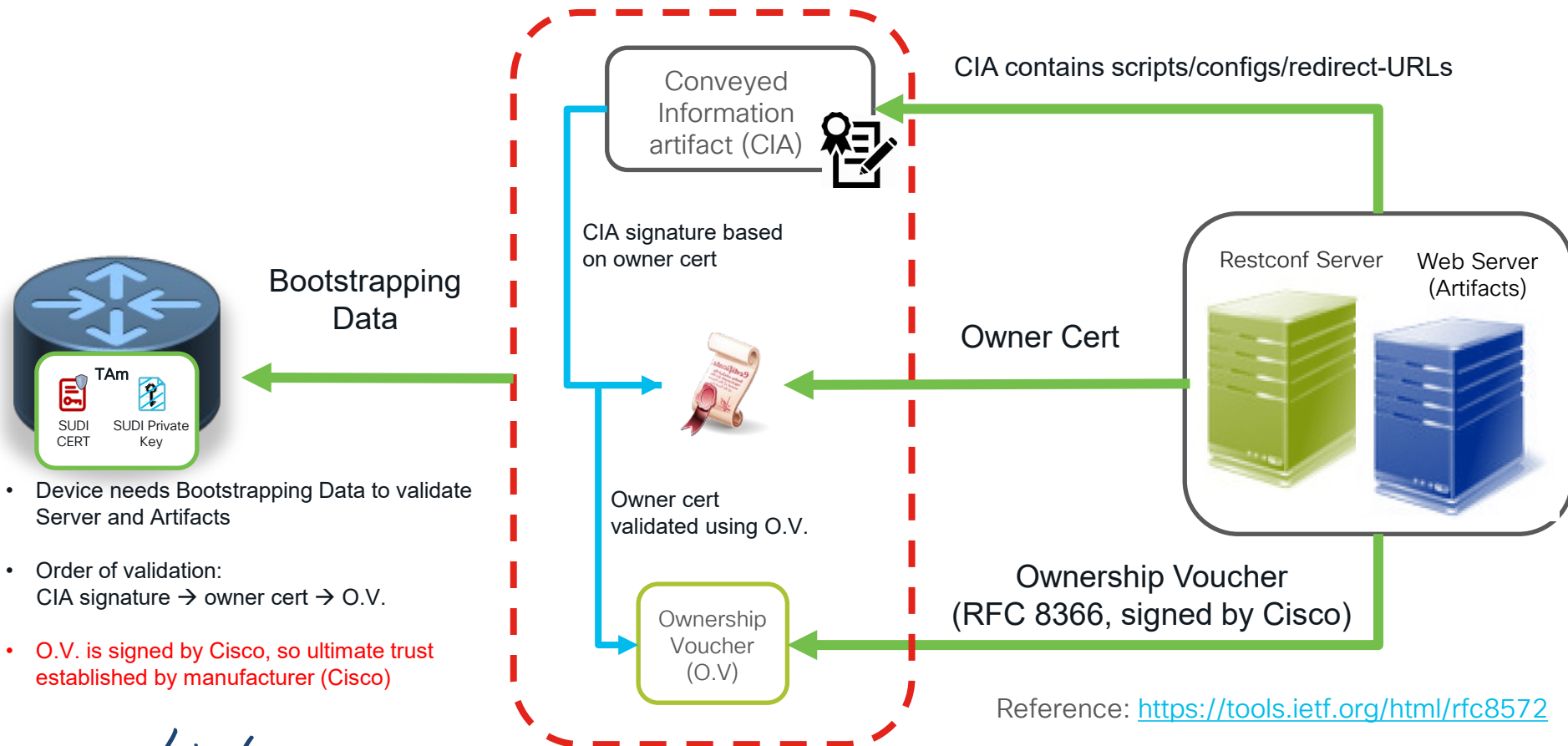


Artifact Validation

The artifact downloaded from the ZTP server must be validated before being loaded/executed

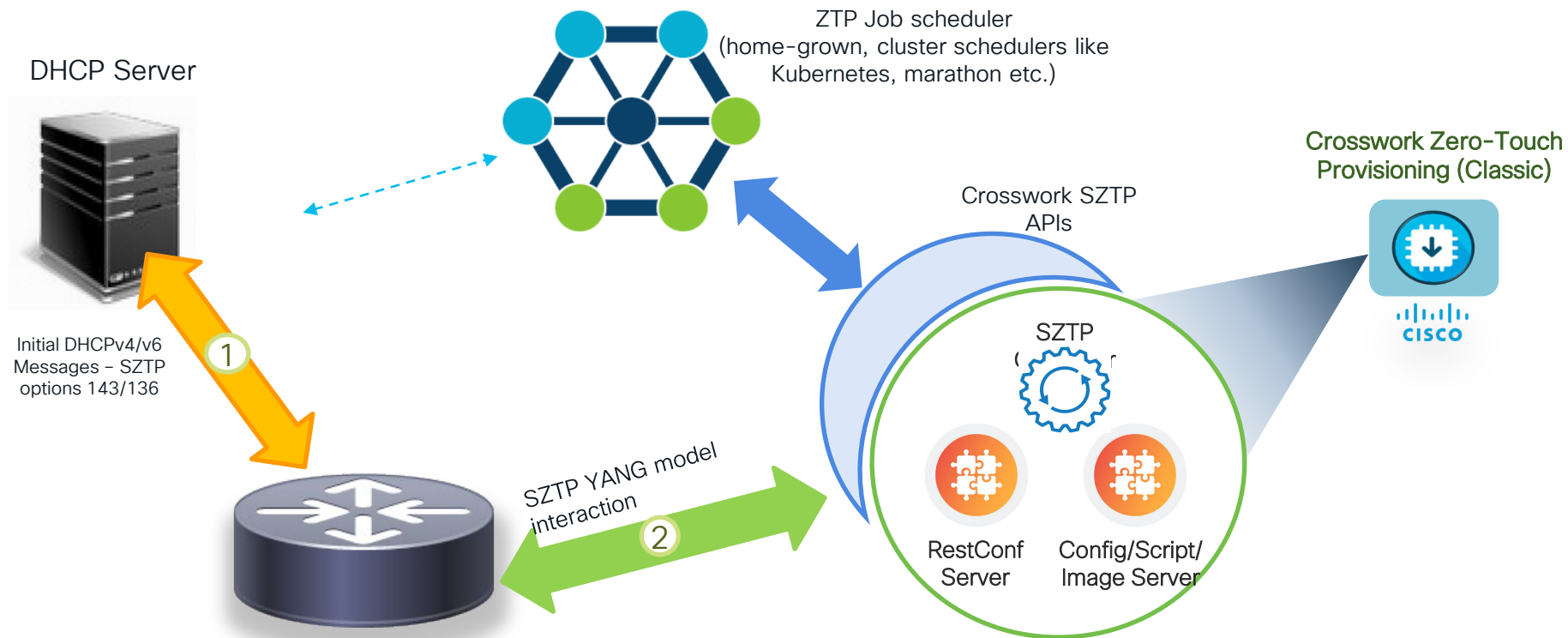


SZIP Artifacts (RFC 8572): ZTP Network/Server + Artifact Validation



- Device needs Bootstrapping Data to validate Server and Artifacts
- Order of validation:
CIA signature → owner cert → O.V.
- O.V. is signed by Cisco, so ultimate trust established by manufacturer (Cisco)

What about the SZTP server? Introducing Cisco Crosswork SZTP server (Release 4.0)



Application Hosting: Making life easy (and Secure) on Fixed and Modular platforms

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What is a “non-XR” application ?

Linux Applications that serve network and operational roles on IOS-XR platforms and are **NOT** part of the IOS-XR codebase

These applications largely come from the following sources:



Custom Applications
(Developed and supported by
Network Operators)

E.g. SWAN , Custom DDOS apps,
Customized Open/R, Custom automation scripts
(python/bash/binaries)



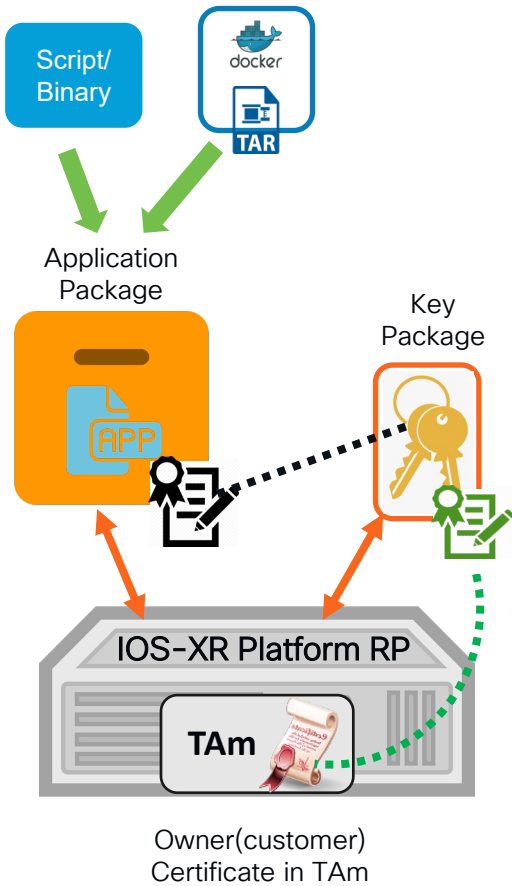
Open-Source Applications
(Developed and supported
by the OSS community)

E.g. xr-auditor, iperf, hping, netnorad ,
Open/R (open-source version), ISC-
DHCP client/server/relay



**Cisco and Partner
Applications**
(Developed and supported by
official Cisco Partners)

E.g. Netrounds, Radware,
thousandeyes

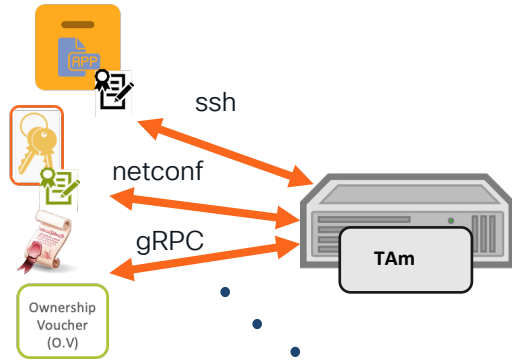


Using the owner cert to onboard Application RPM keys

- Starting with XR7 release 7.5.1, only signed applications can be onboarded on to XR platforms.
- The basic workflow is shown alongside:
 - Owner(Customer) certificate** is onboarded into the hardware TAM of the RP (or both RPs for an HA platform) .
 - A **Key Package signed using the owner certificate** is ratified by XR against the owner cert in TAM and is used to validate application signatures
 - The **Application Package** to be onboarded is signed using the key in the Key package and is installed using **IOS-XR install CLI/APIs on a running system, or SZTP (ztp script calling install) or at boot in a GISO (Install invoked during boot).**
 - The Applications inside the application package can be **scripts/compiled-binaries or Docker (container-based) applications**

Non-XR on-box Application Onboarding Scenarios

Running-System

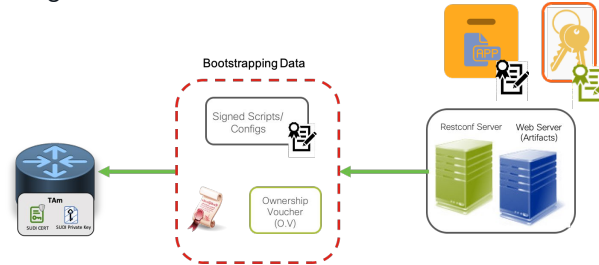


XR CLI/APIs over SSH, netconf, gRPC can be used to onboard all artifacts:

- 1) Ownership Voucher (OV)
- 2) Owner Cert (burn into TAm)
- 3) RPM GPG key package
- 4) Application Package RPM

Secure ZTP (RFC 8572)

a) Using SZTP server

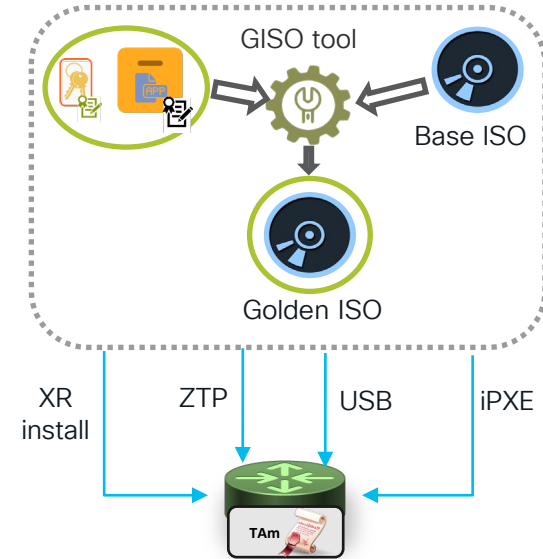


b) Using USB with SZTP (RFC 8572) compliant file format



- SZTP onboards the owner cert (with OV)
- SZTP script onboards the Application and Key Package

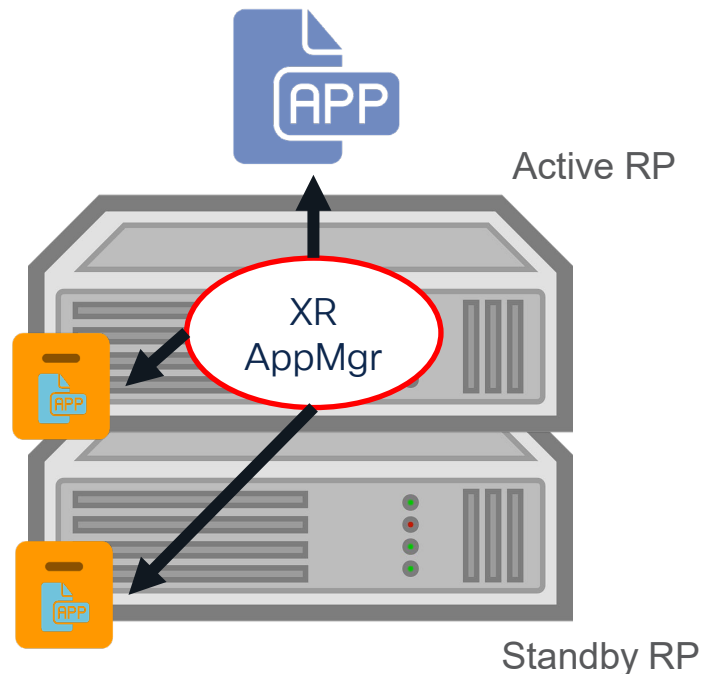
Golden ISO (GISO)



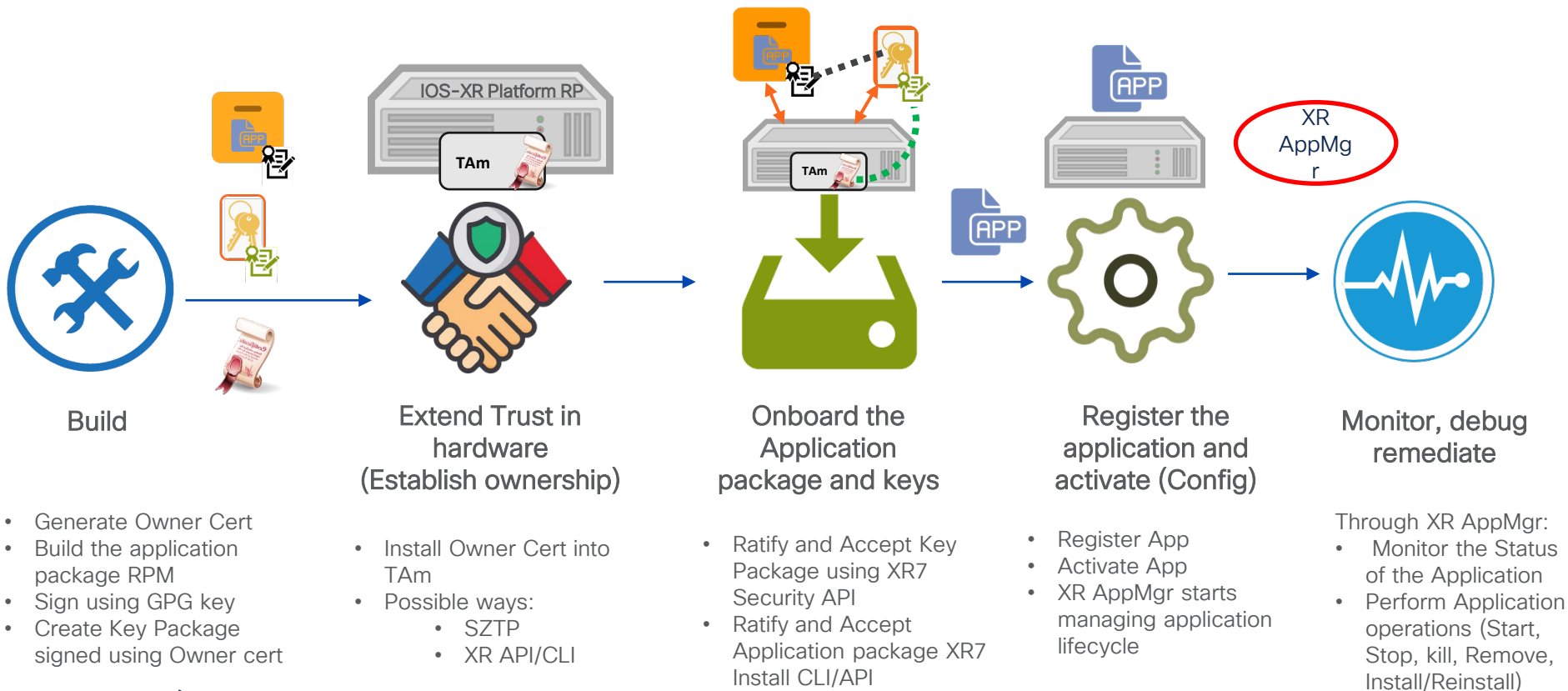
- Owner-Cert+ OV must be onboarded outside the GISO flow (using SZTP or CLI/API)
- GISO only packages the Application Package RPM and Key Package

Introducing XR AppMgr (Release 7.5.1): Consistent Application Management on Fixed and Modular Platforms

- **Manages Application packages** automatically across Dual-RP systems
- **Enables Activation of App** in XR configuration
- **Support Automatic respawning** of an activated App across RP failovers for dual-RP systems and across reloads/power-cycle etc.
- **Support Monitoring capabilities** for the application (Docker container, systemd Service), the apphosting Infra and the XR AppMgr itself.
- **Support adjustment of Apphosting Infrastructure Constraints** (Docker Daemon Settings, cgroups settings etc.)
- **Support individual Application actions** (Start/Stop/Kill/Install/Remove/Update)
- **Provide Appropriate CLI and YANG APIs** for each capability.



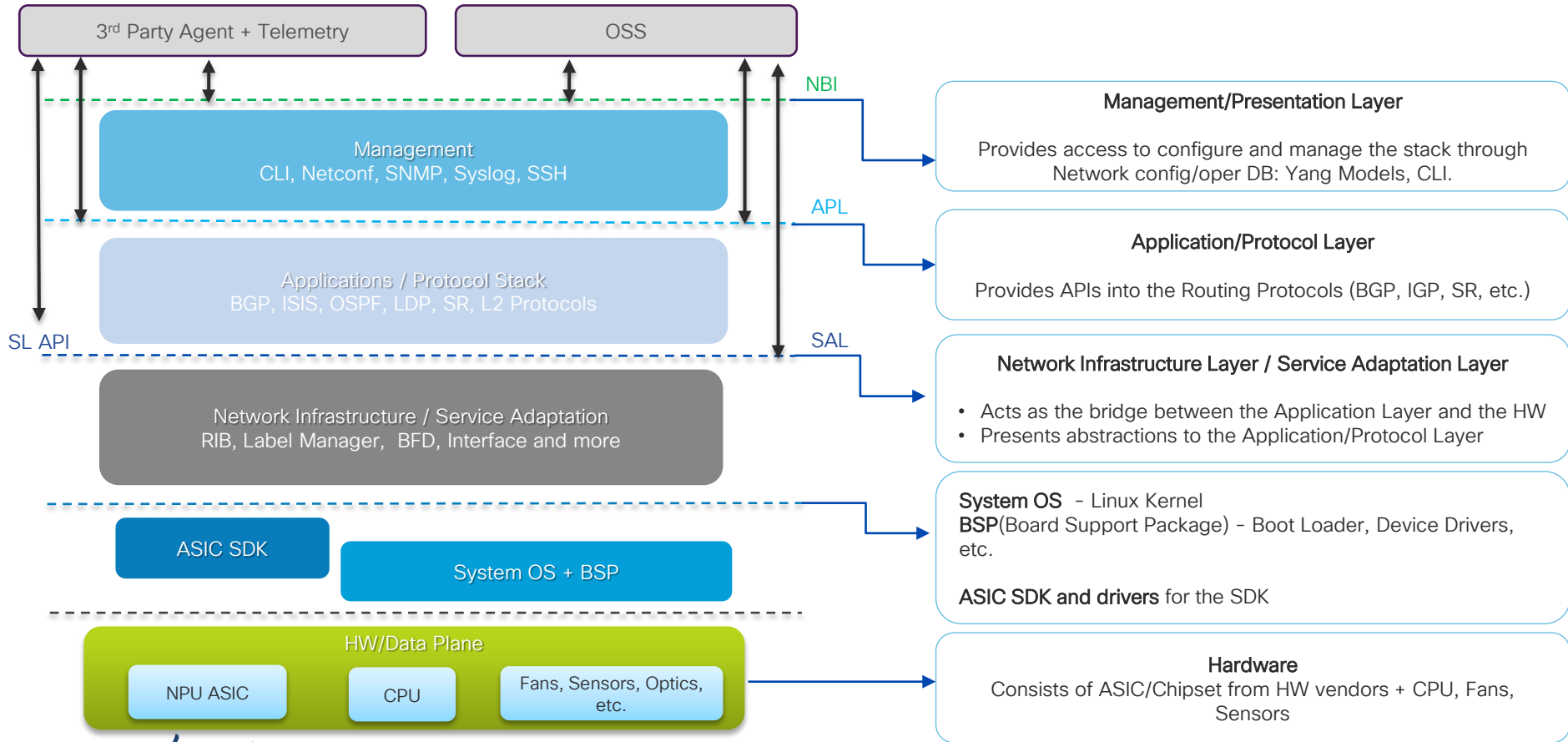
Application Lifecycle (7.5.1+)



Programmability:
APIs at every
layer of the
Network Stack!



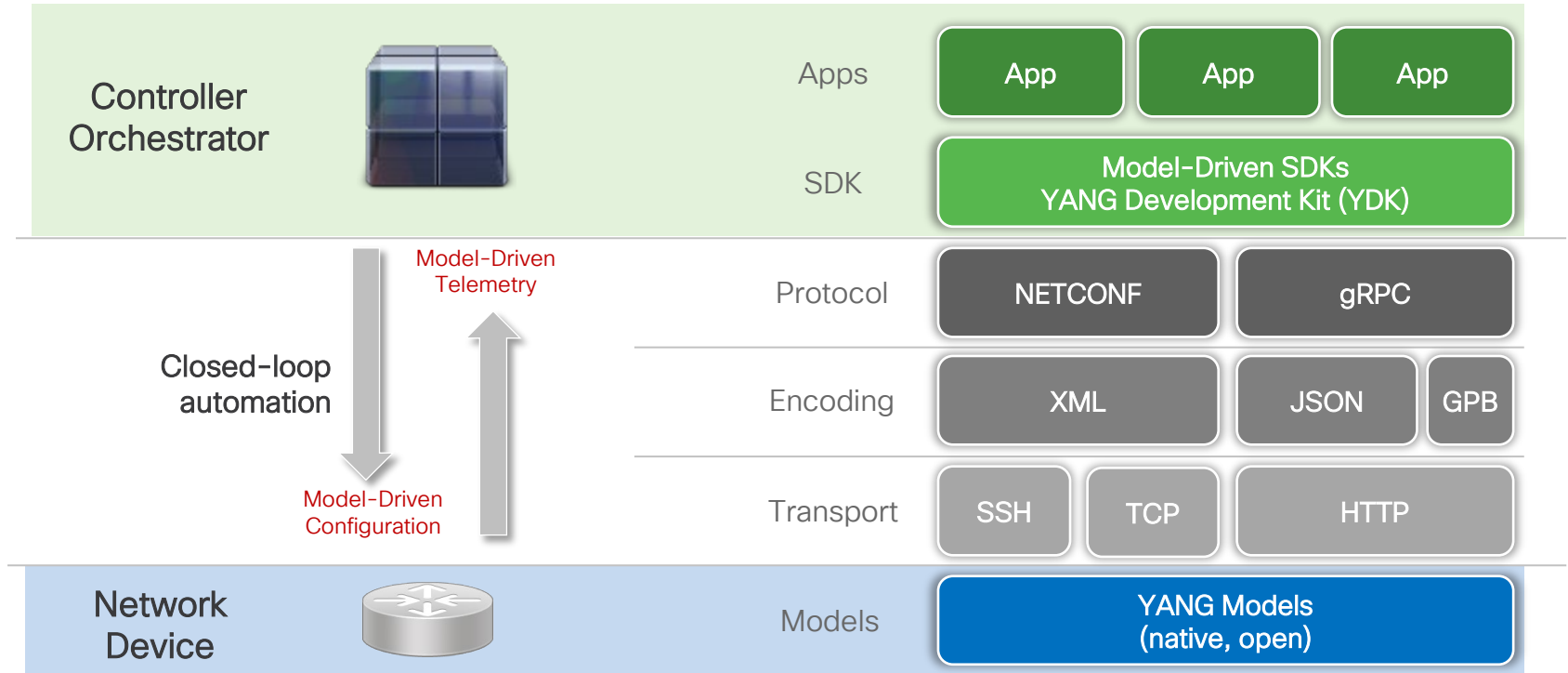
API-Driven, Layered SW Architecture



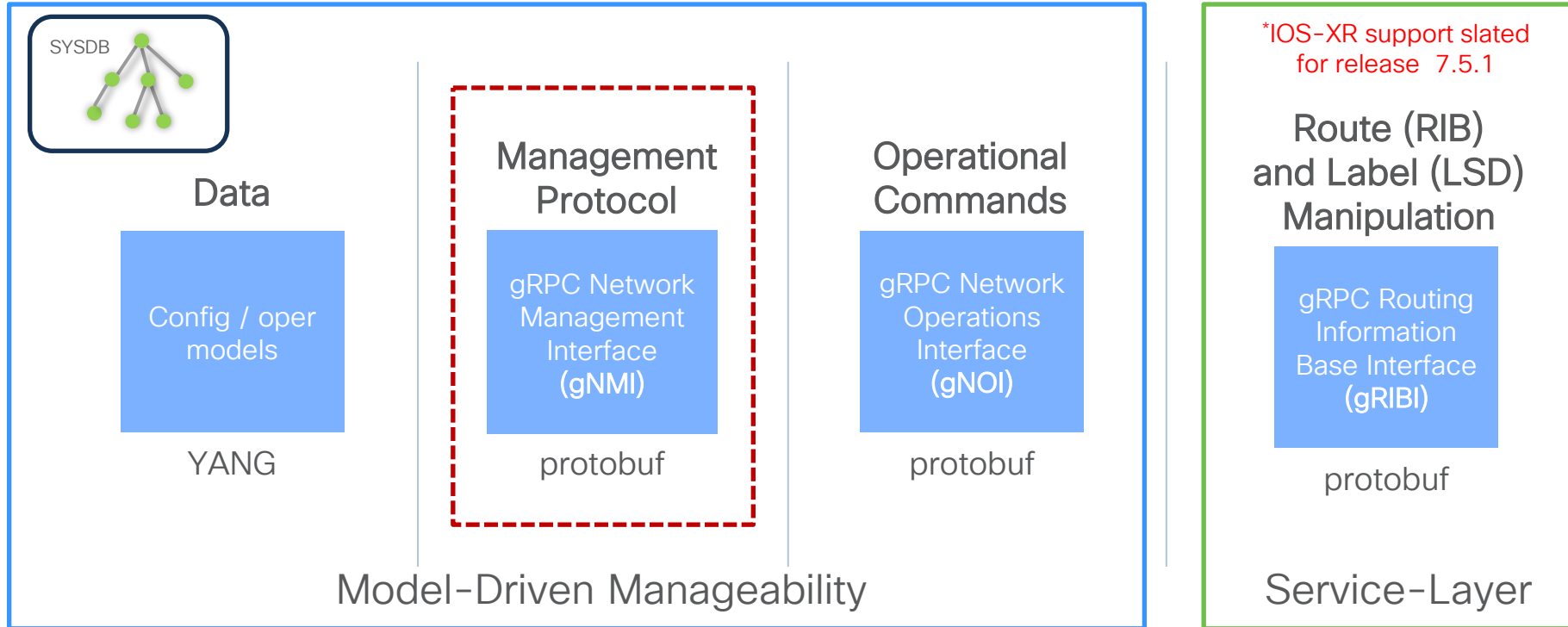
Model-Driven Yang-Based Manageability APIs



Model-Driven Manageability



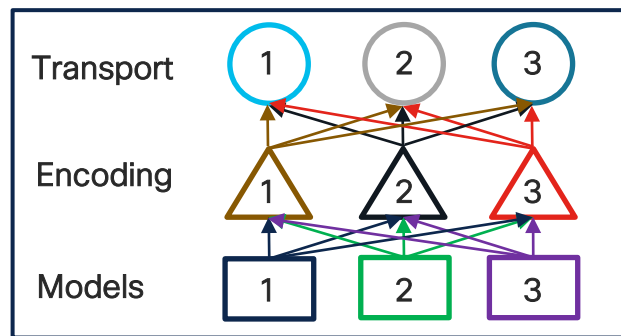
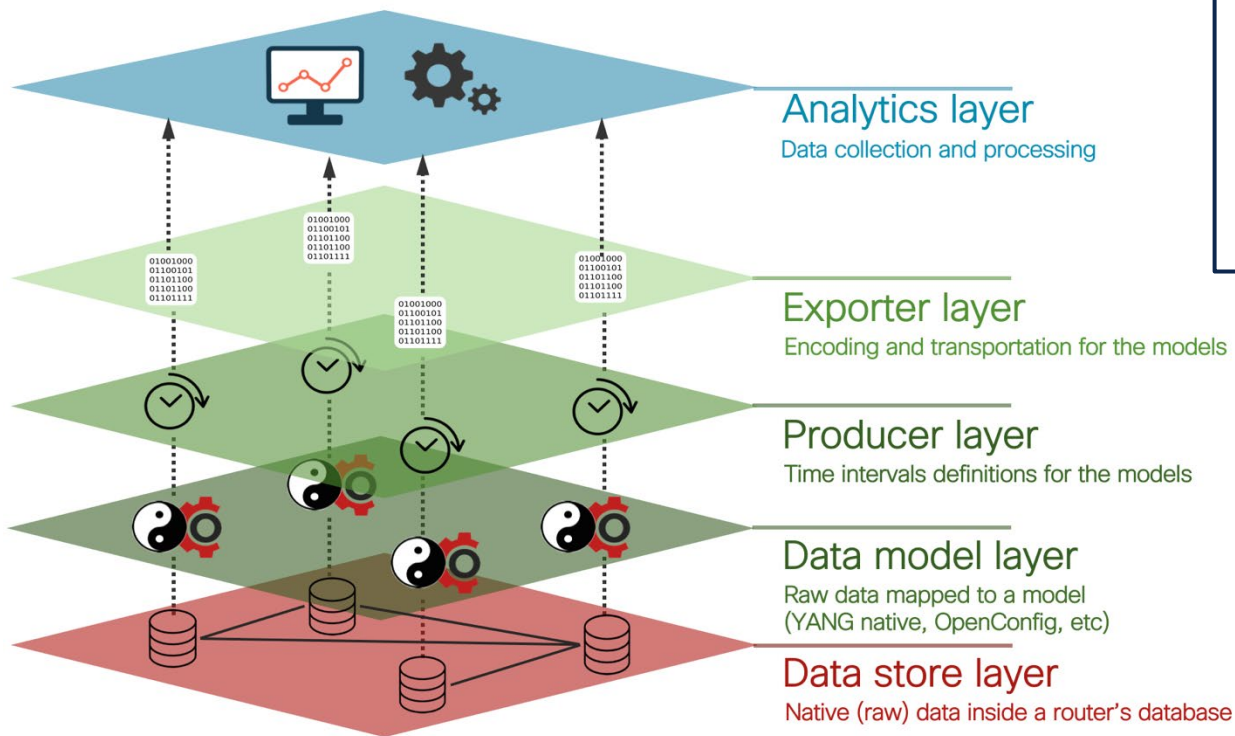
OpenConfig Model Support



Yang-Based Streaming Telemetry



How Do You See Telemetry?



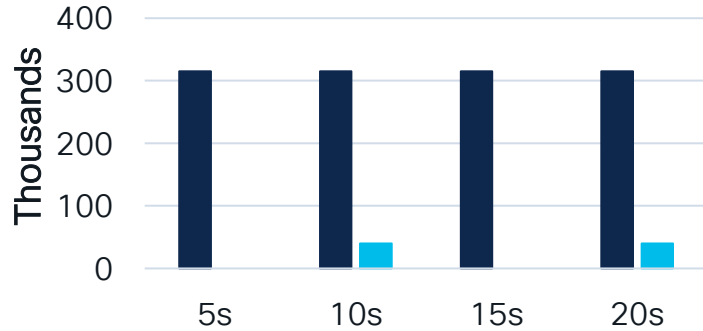
Find tons of Content on Streaming Telemetry with IOS-XR on:



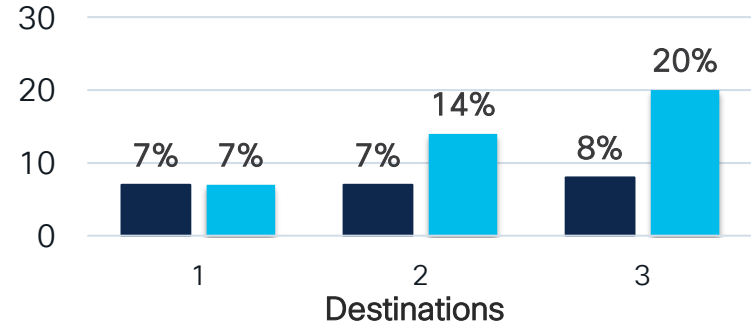
<https://xrdocs.io/telemetry/>

“Pushing” More Data Really Does Work Better

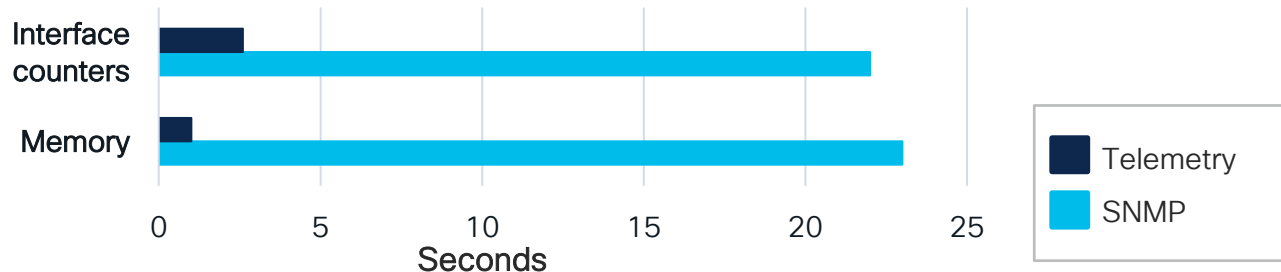
Counters



CPU load



Time to collect all data (chassis, 576x100GE)



- ✓ More counter data
- ✓ Reduction in CPU load
- ✓ Faster collection

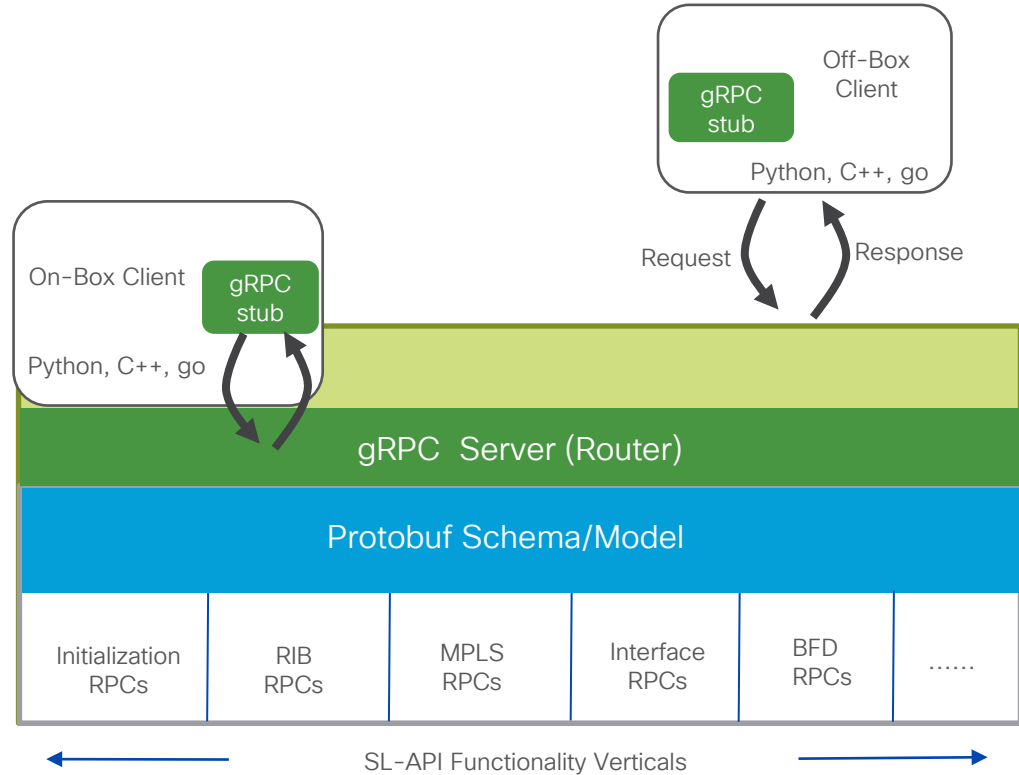
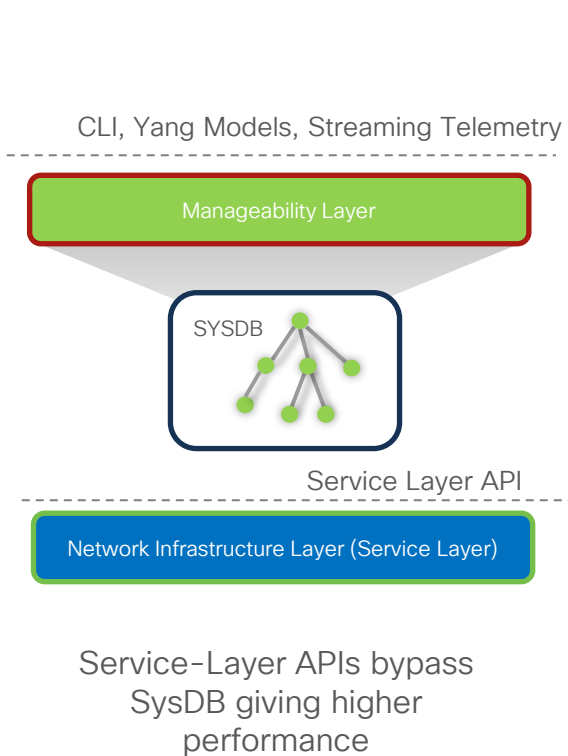
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Model-Driven
Control-Plane APIs
based on gRPC

Service-Layer (SL)
APIs

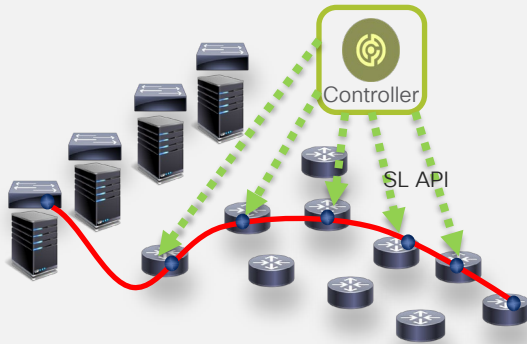


Service Layer API Architecture



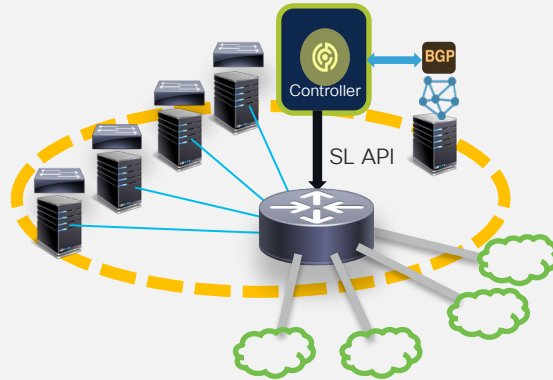
Service Layer API Example Use Cases

Traffic Engineering and Path Selection



Engineering paths for applications through Route/label manipulation, all based on user specific logic

Programmable Route Downloads



Programmable route downloads to CDN PoP routers to optimize TCAM space

Bring your own Protocol/Agent







On-box agents and custom protocols that co-exist with standard protocols to influence routing

Security/Trust:

Trust tied to HW →
Secure Boot + Runtime
Security!

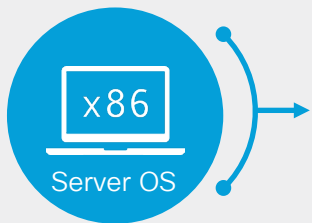


Trusted Network - Strategic Roadmap

Establish Trust in Hardware		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced Hardware Integrity VerificationHardware Crypto and Identity (SUDI)	Protects against: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Counterfeit HardwareHardware Tampering
Verify Trust in OS		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Process Level Signature VerificationSecure Storage for Secrets / Keys	Protects Against: <ul style="list-style-type: none">"Boot-kit" AttacksMalware injection
Maintain Trust at Runtime		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Runtime Protections: ASLR / W^XControl Plane Protection	Protects against: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remote ExploitsDenial of Service
Visualize Trust		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Boot Integrity VerificationProcess Integrity Measurement	Enables: Detection of compromise and Trust Posture Report

Establishing Trust with Secure Boot

UEFI
Secure Boot



Server OS Starts at UEFI BIOS



Power On



Bootloader



OS Kernel

Cisco
Secure Boot



Cisco Root-of-Trust begins in hardware



Power On



Hardware Anchor



CPU Micro loader

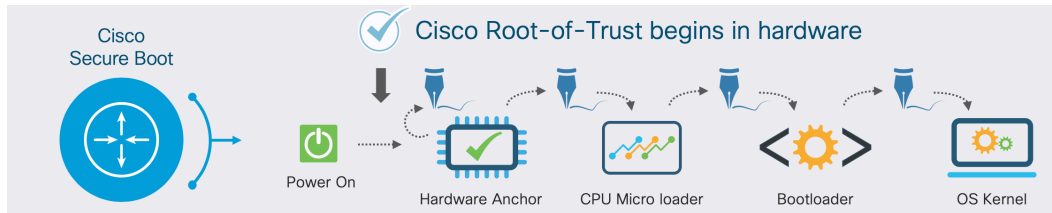


Bootloader



OS Kernel

Secure boot process: Diving Deeper



BIOS launch and verification

1. Cisco public keys in TAM (PK, KEK, DB) are used to verify signatures during the initial boot process. At powerup, a microloader in the TAM first verifies the digital signature of the BIOS using the LDWM key in TAM.
2. BIOS then executes verification of the hardware against Known Good Values (KGVs) of the hardware inside the database in TAM. These known good values are programmed by manufacturing. In the case there is a failure, then the failure is logged.

Bootloader launch and verification

Next, the BIOS verifies the digital signature of bootloader using the <platform-family> key in TAM DB.

Kernel, initrd, grub-config verification

1. Bootloader is launched by BIOS. Bootloader then takes help of BIOS to verify kernel, initrd, and grub-config.
2. Each verification operation is logged. Initrd is then expanded to create the root file system.

Kernel modules verification

1. Kernel is launched and the required keys (PK, KEK, IMA, RPM) are loaded into the kernel keyrings.
2. Kernel then verifies the kernel modules, and the results are logged.

XR process launch

Finally, XR processes are launched and each process is subject to the IMA policy checks to verify signatures on their hashes before launch.

XR RPM installation

1. IOS XR install process installs IOS XR RPMs that are part of the image.
2. The IOS XR install process uses the RPM key loaded from TAM to verify the signatures on all RPMs before installing them.

OS process boot:

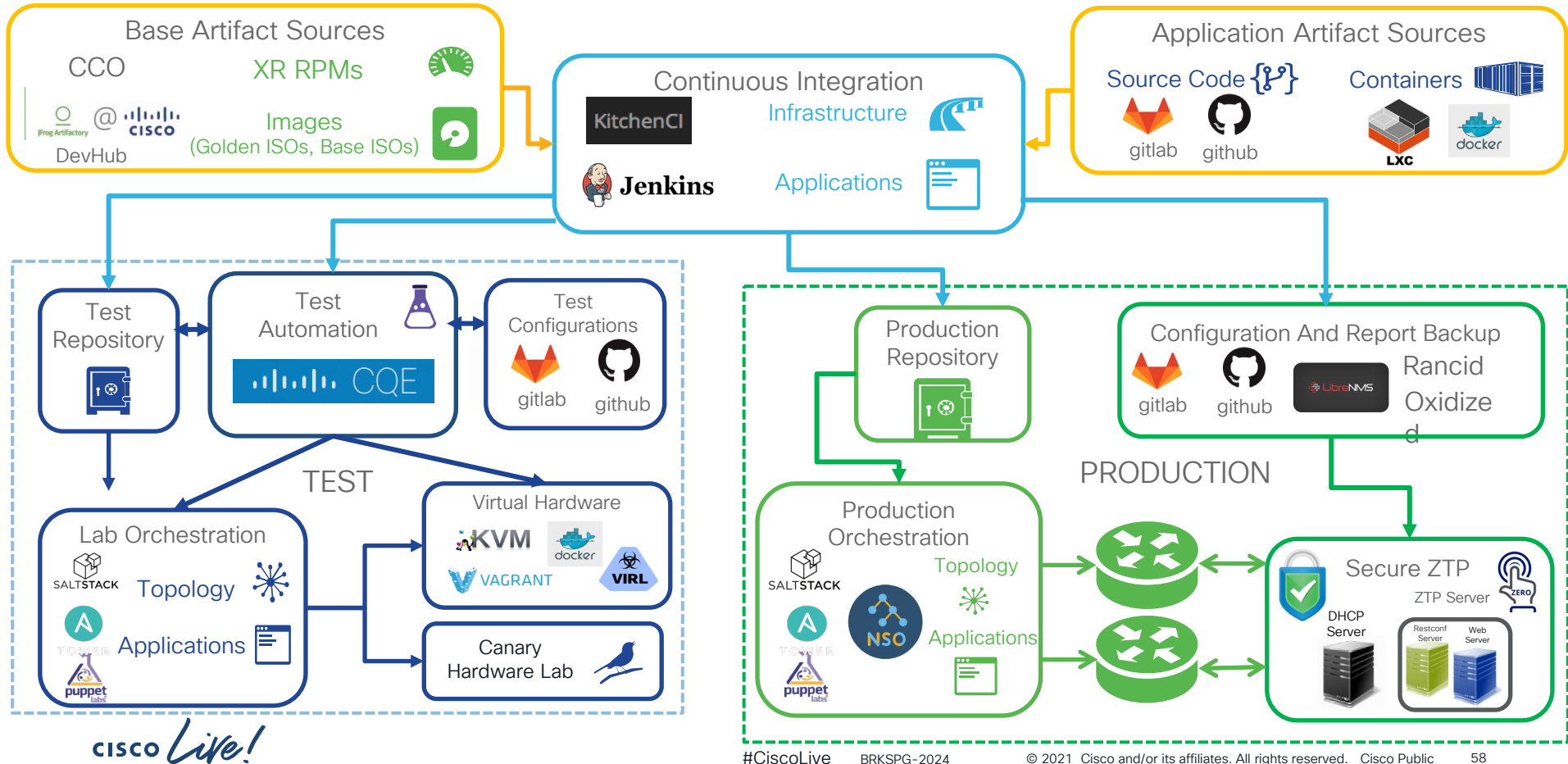
IMA, which is used to validate signatures at runtime, is launched with appropriate IMA policy to validate the init process.

Pushing the envelope with Network CI/CD workflows

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Enabling Network CI/CD with IOS-XR7

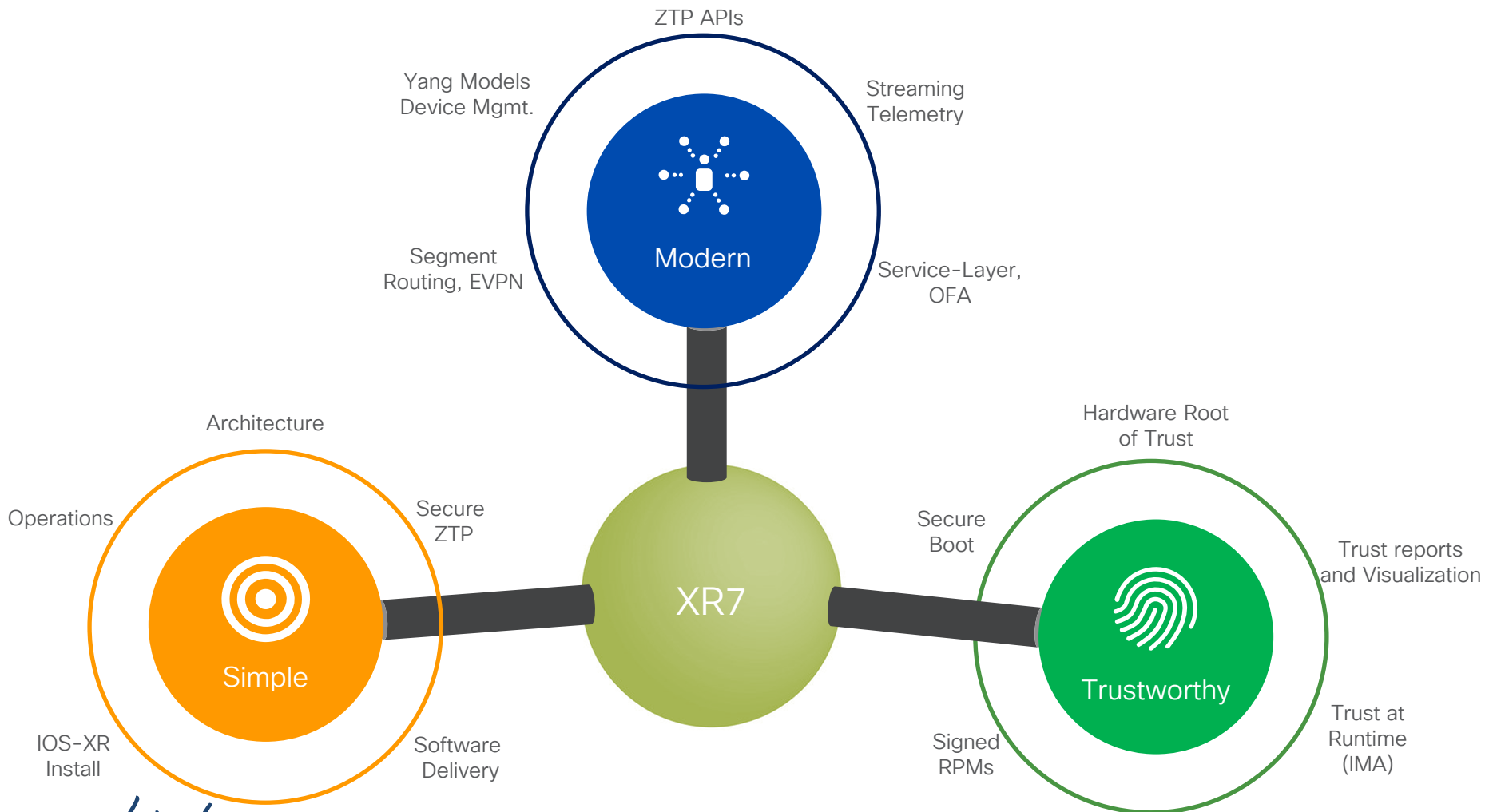


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