BGPSTREAM

a framework for historical analysis
and real-time monitoring of BGP data

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BGPSTREAM

BGP data analysis for the masses

- Set of libraries, APIs and tools for live and historical BGP data analysis

- Simple API
- Versatile
- Facilitates reproducibility and repeatability
- Realtime monitoring

- Stable: *https://bgpstream.caida.org*

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MOTIVATION

Why BGPStream?

- BGP research and monitoring is important
- Lots of existing BGP measurement data
  - Route Views and RIPE RIS have >15 years of data (16TB)
- **BUT**, distinct lack of good tooling for processing/analyzing BGP data
  - State of the art?

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THE BGPSTREAM FRAMEWORK

An overview

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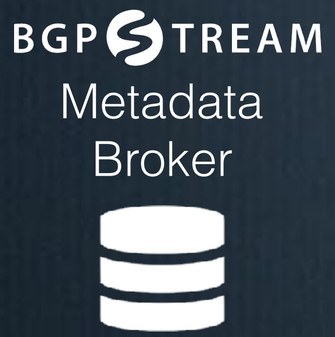

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THE BGPSTREAM FRAMEWORK

An overview

BGPSTREAM
Metadata
Broker

BGPSTREAM
User Libraries

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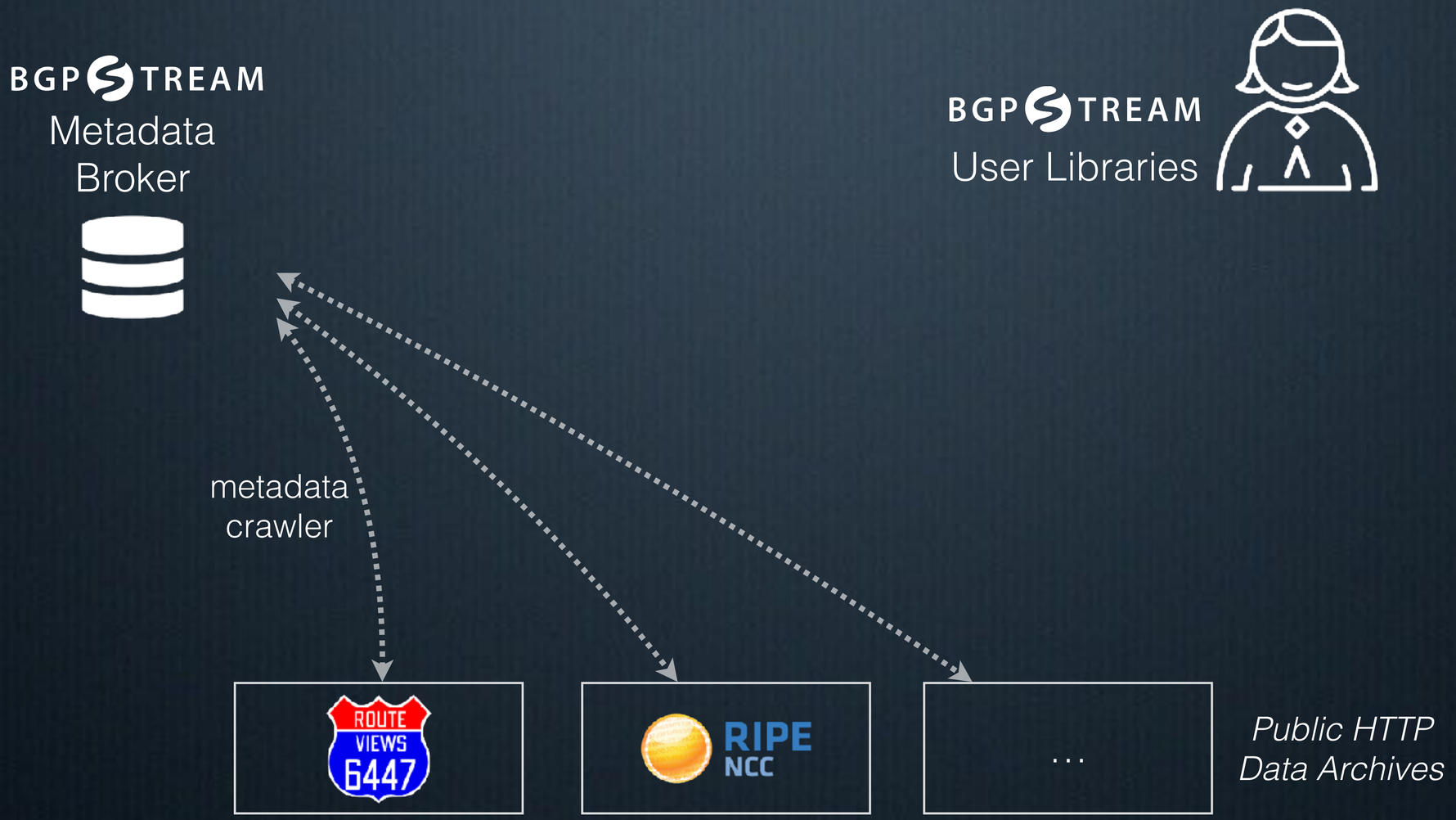

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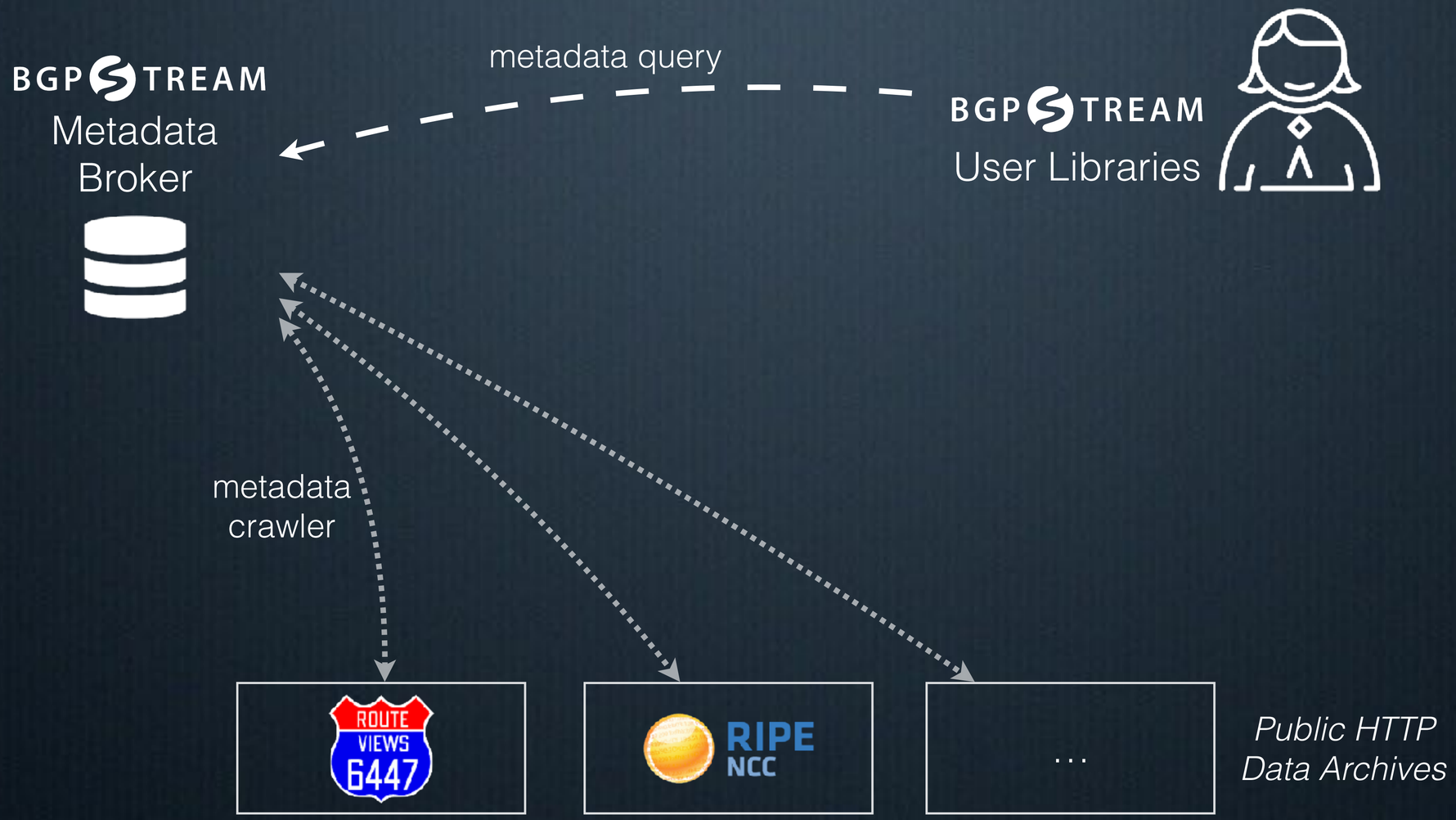

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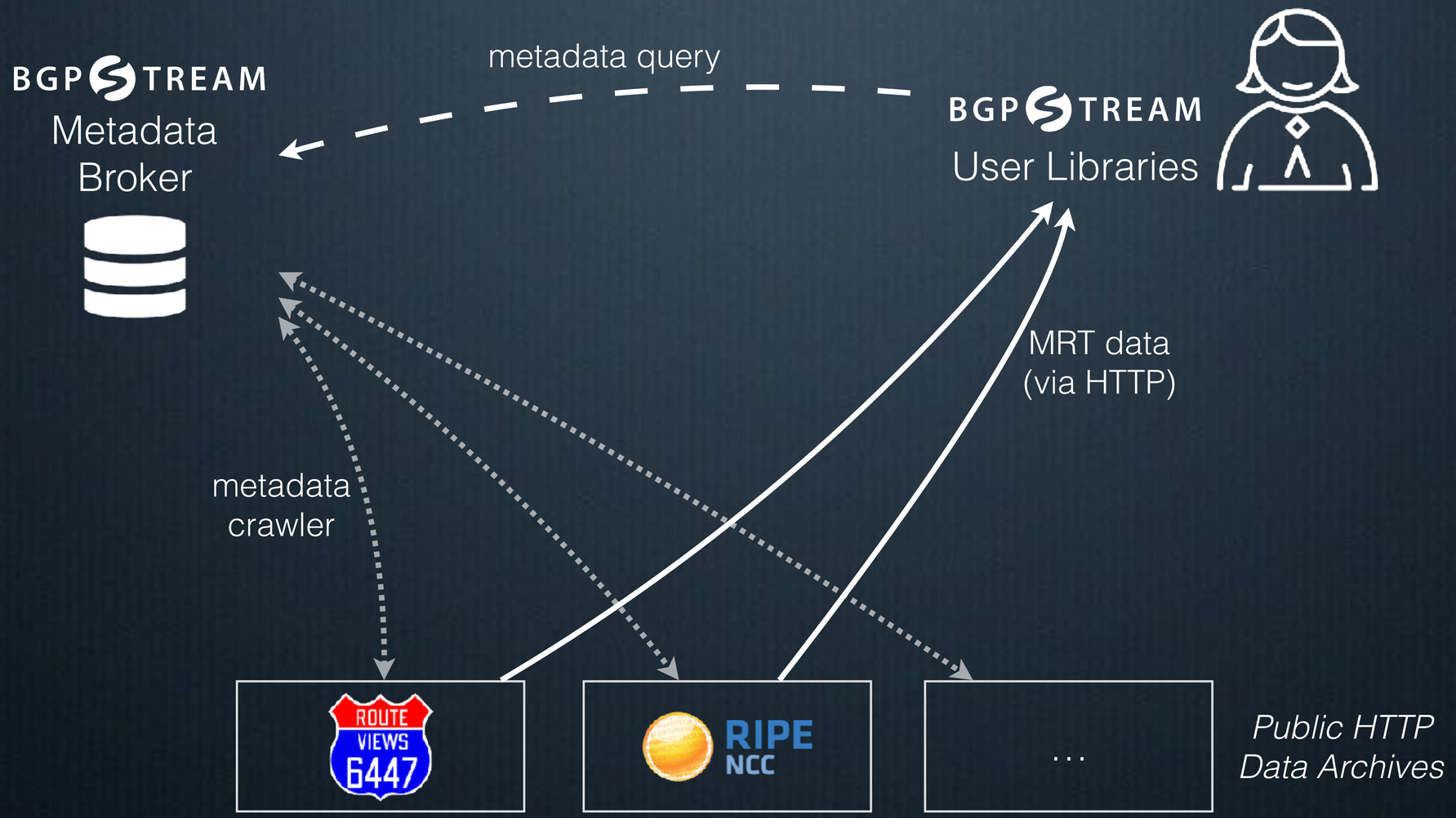

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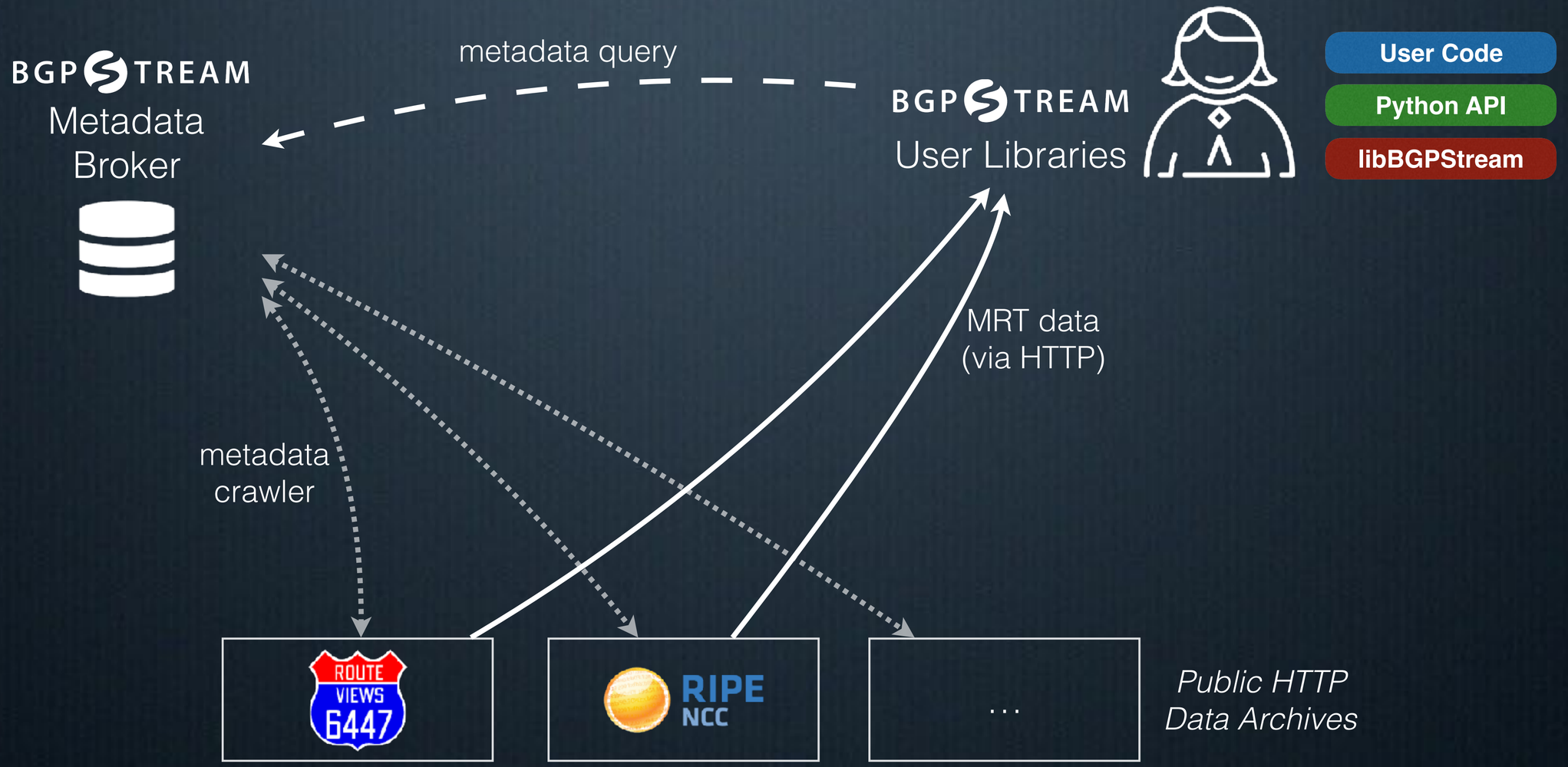

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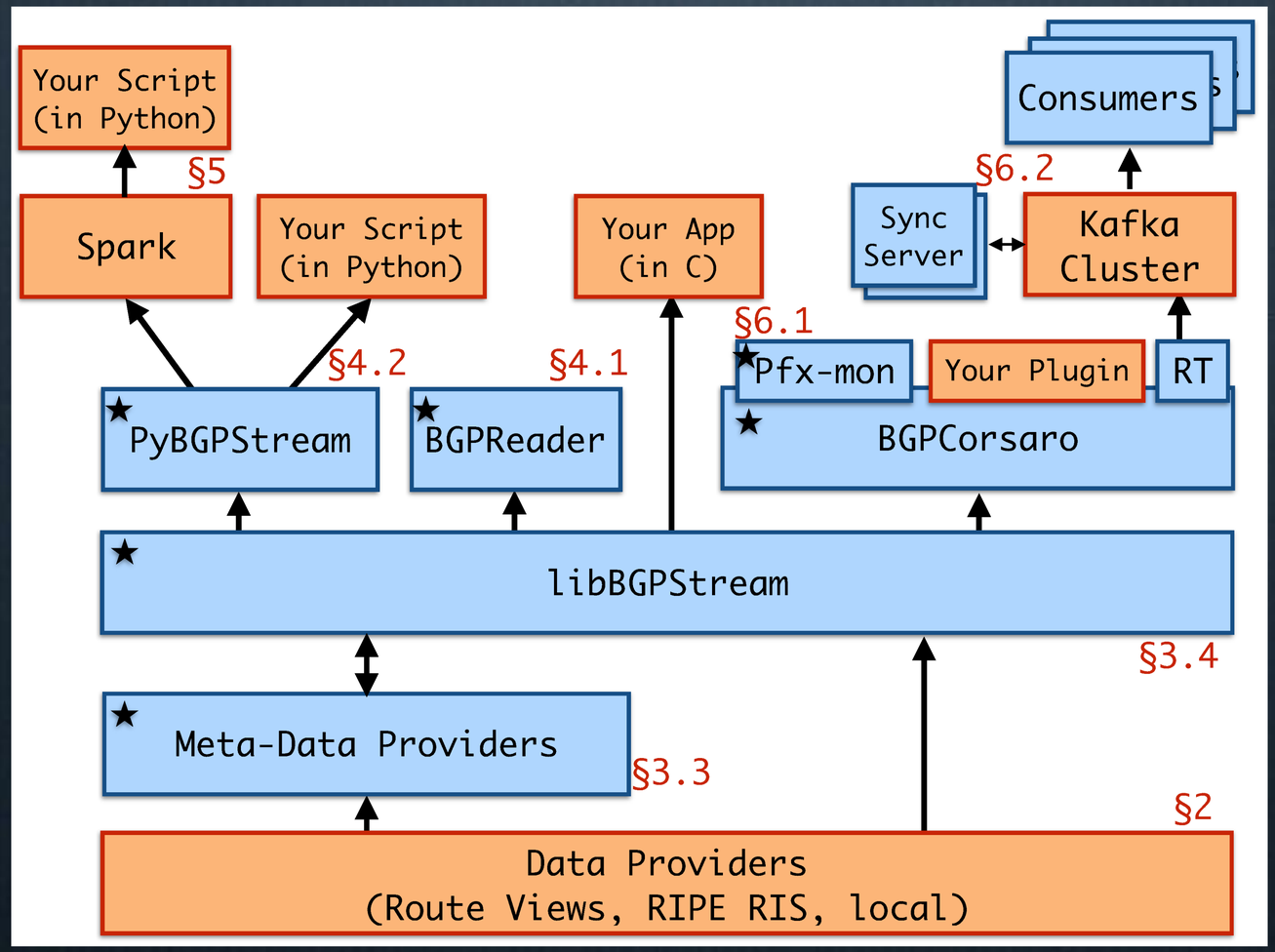
THE BGPSTREAM FRAMEWORK

Stacked view



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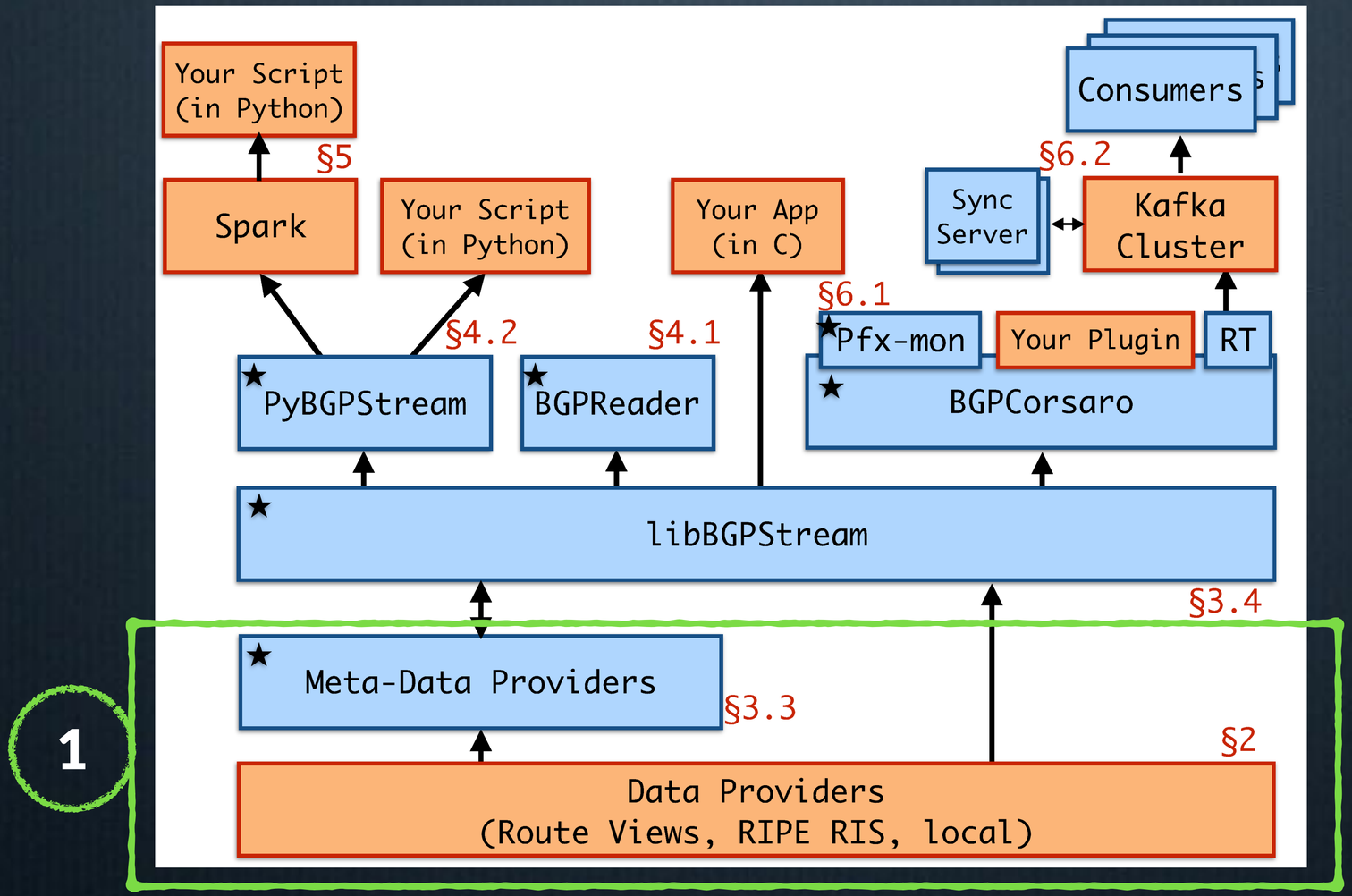

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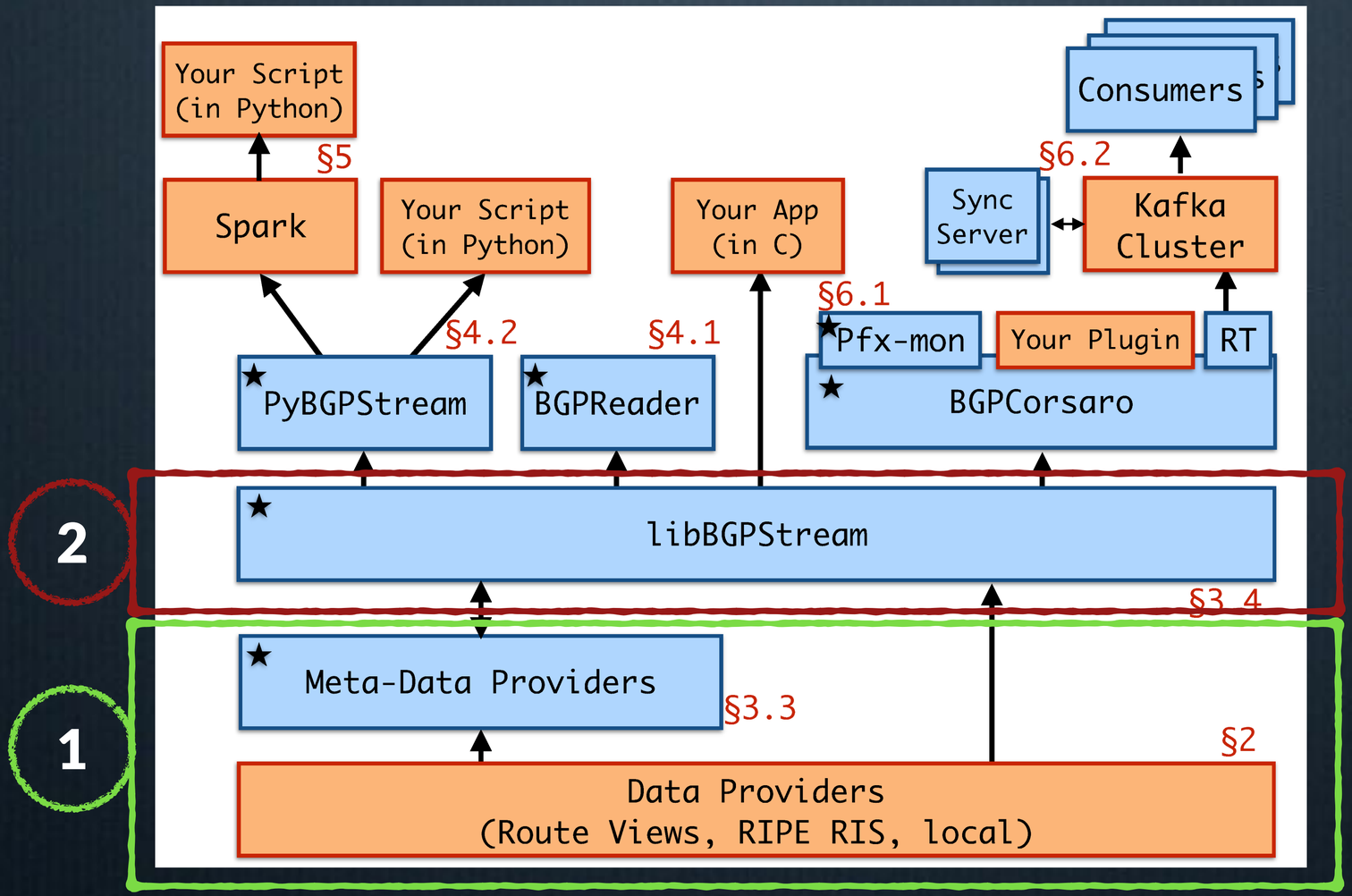

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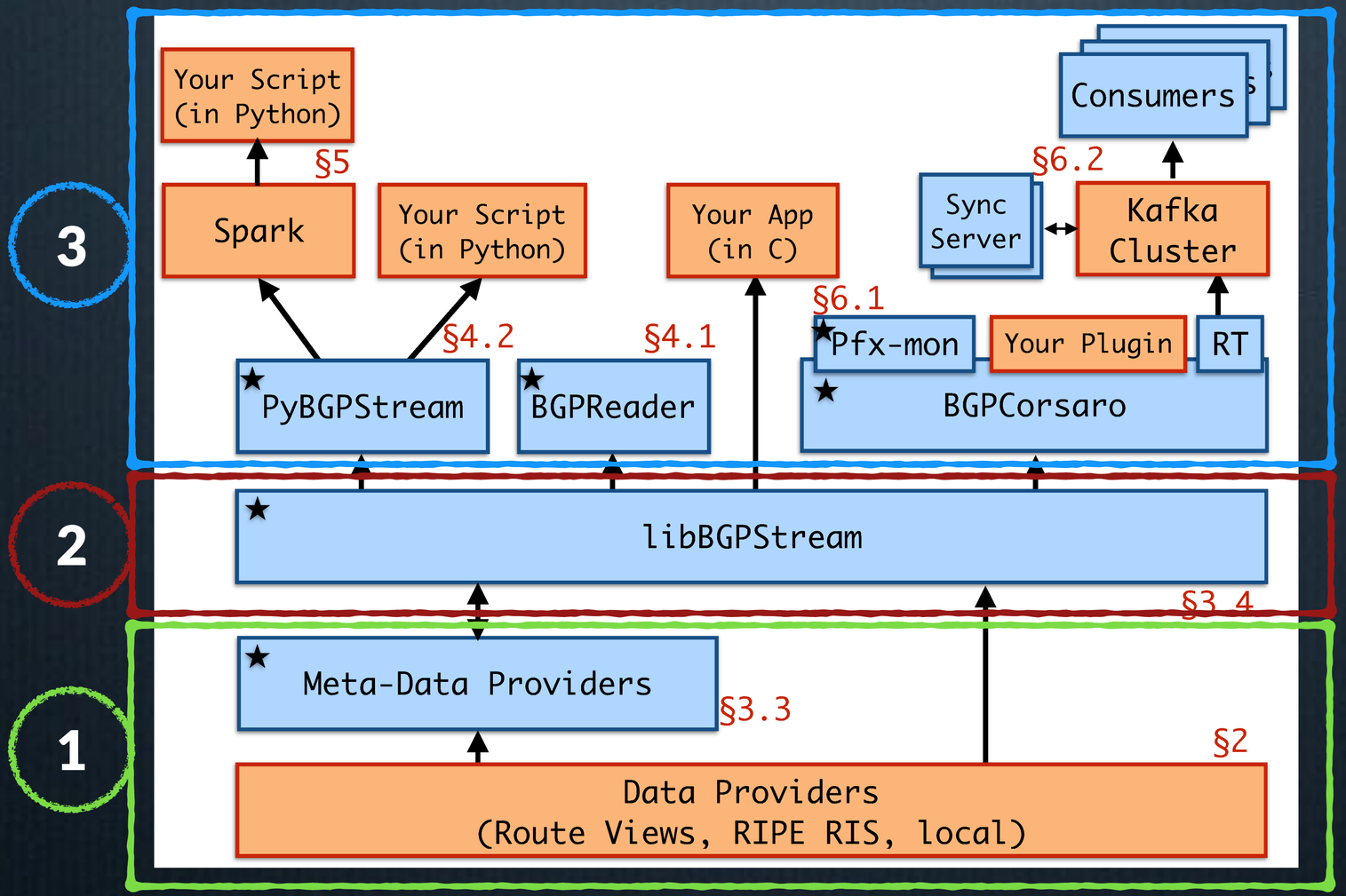

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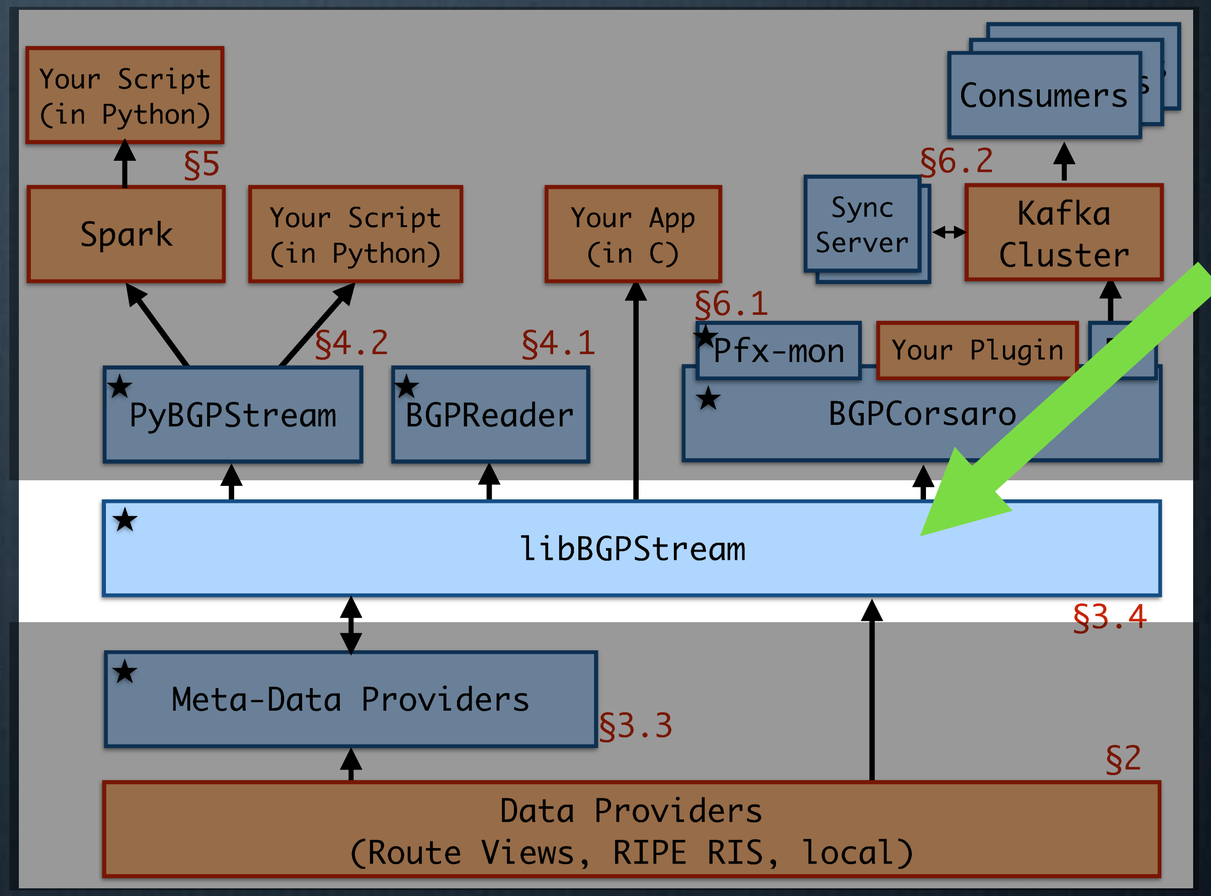
BGPSTREAM USER LIBRARY

libBGPStream

- Issues queries to metadata broker
- Retrieves data *directly* from Data Providers
  - Currently supports MRT (RFC 6396)
- De-multiplexes data from many sources into a single stream
- Provides time-ordered sorting



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RECORDS & ELEMS

Extracting information from MRT

- *BGPStream Record*:
  - Encapsulates an MRT record
  - Adds metadata (e.g. collector)
- **MRT records (may) contain info for multiple peers/prefixes**
  - E.g. routes to a single prefix from multiple peers in a RIB dump
- **Records are decomposed into *BGPStream Elems*:**
  - E.g. prefix announcement from a single peer

BGPStream Record

Field	Type	Function
project	string	project name (e.g., Route Views)
collector	string	collector name (e.g., rrc00)
type	enum	RIB or Updates
dump time	long	time the containing dump was begun
position	enum	first, middle, or last record of a dump
time	long	timestamp of the MRT record
status	enum	record validity flag
MRT record	struct	de-serialized MRT record

BGPStream Elem

Field	Type	Function
type	enum	route from a RIB dump, announcement, withdrawal, or state message
time	long	timestamp of MRT record
peer address	struct	IP address of the VP
peer ASN	long	AS number of the VP
prefix*	struct	IP prefix
next hop*	struct	IP address of the next hop
AS path*	struct	AS path
community*	struct	community attribute
old state*	enum	FSM state (before the change)
new state*	enum	FSM state (after the change)

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C API

Specifying a stream

```c
#include <bgpstream.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
  /* Allocate memory for a bgpstream instance */
  bgpstream_t *bs = bs = bgpstream_create();
  /* Allocate memory for a re-usable bgprecord instance */
  bgpstream_record_t *record = bgpstream_record_create();
  /* To hold a pointer to a BGPStream elem */
  bgpstream_elem_t *elem = NULL;

  /* Select bgp data from RRC06 and route-views.jinx collectors only */
  bgpstream_add_filter(bs, BGPSTREAM_FILTER_TYPE_COLLECTOR, "rrc06");
  bgpstream_add_filter(bs, BGPSTREAM_FILTER_TYPE_COLLECTOR, "route-views.jinx");

  /* Process updates only */
  bgpstream_add_filter(bs, BGPSTREAM_FILTER_TYPE_RECORD_TYPE, "updates");

  /* Select a time interval to process:
   * Sun, 10 Oct 2010 10:10:10 GMT -  Sun, 10 Oct 2010 11:11:11 GMT */
  bgpstream_add_interval_filter(bs, 1286705410, 1286709071);

  /* Start the stream */
  bgpstream_start(bs);

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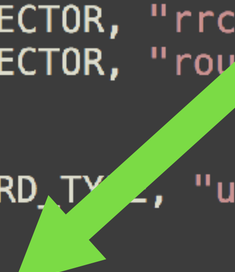

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C API

Consuming the stream

```
26  /* Read the stream of records */
27  while (bgpstream_get_next_record(bs, record) > 0) {
28    if (record->status != BGPSTREAM_RECORD_STATUS_VALID_RECORD) {
29      continue;
30    }
31    while ((elem = bgpstream_record_get_next_elem(record)) != NULL) {
32      /* process the elem */
33    }
34  }
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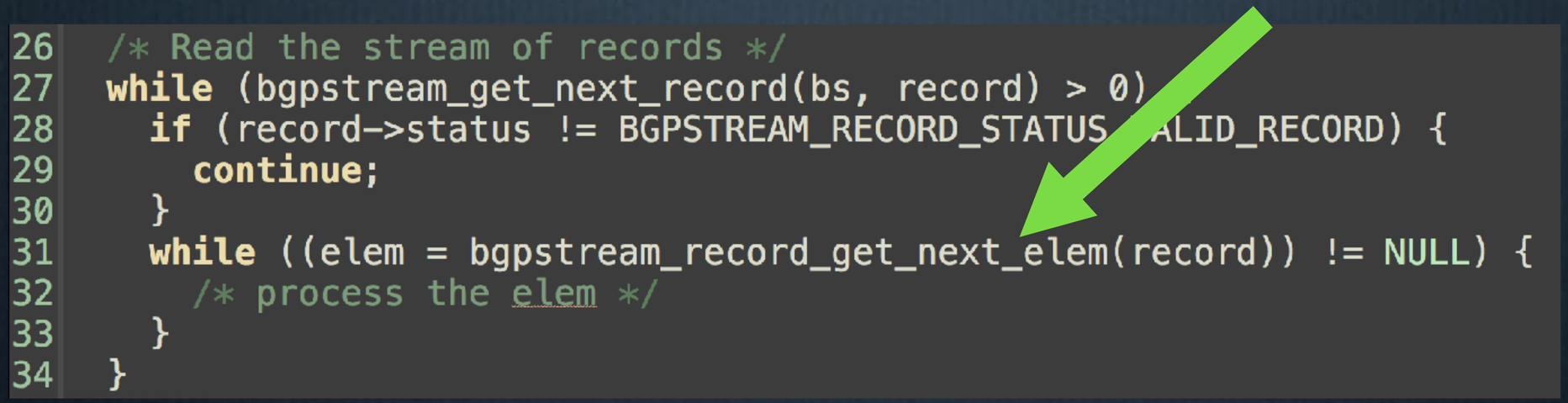

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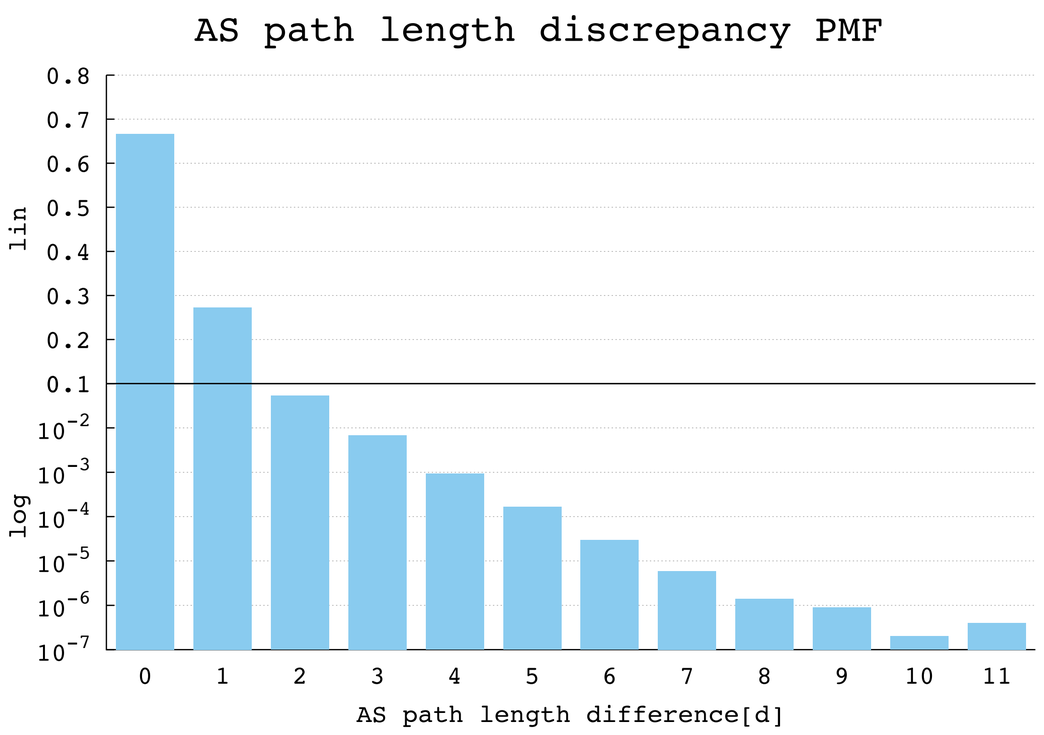
PTHON BINDINGS - CASE STUDY

Studying AS path inflation using PyBGPStream

How many AS paths are longer than the shortest path between two ASes?




```
from _pybgpstream import BGPStream, BGPRecord, BGPElem
from collections import defaultdict
from itertools import groupby
import networkx as nx

stream = BGPStream()
as_graph = nx.Graph()
rec = BGPRecord()
bgp_lens = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(lambda: None))
stream.add_filter('record-type','ribs')
stream.add_interval_filter(1438415400,1438416600)
stream.start()

while(stream.get_next_record(rec)):
    elem = rec.get_next_elem()
    while(elem):
        monitor = str(elem.peer_asn)
        hops = [k for k, g in groupby(elem.fields['as-path'].split(" "))]
        if len(hops) > 1 and hops[0] == monitor:
            origin = hops[-1]
            for i in range(0,len(hops)-1):
                as_graph.add_edge(hops[i],hops[i+1])
            bgp_lens[monitor][origin] = \
                min(filter(bool,[bgp_lens[monitor][origin],len(hops)]))
        elem = rec.get_next_elem()
for monitor in bgp_lens:
    for origin in bgp_lens[monitor]:
        nxlen = len(nx.shortest_path(as_graph, monitor, origin))
        print monitor, origin, bgp_lens[monitor][origin], nxlen
```

30 LINES OF PYTHON CODE

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PY BGPSTREAM

Python bindings

- Single script includes data specification and analysis logic:
  - Enhances reproducibility/repeatability
- All of the power of the C API, available in Python

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bgp_lens = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(lambda: None))
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30 LINES OF PYTHON CODE

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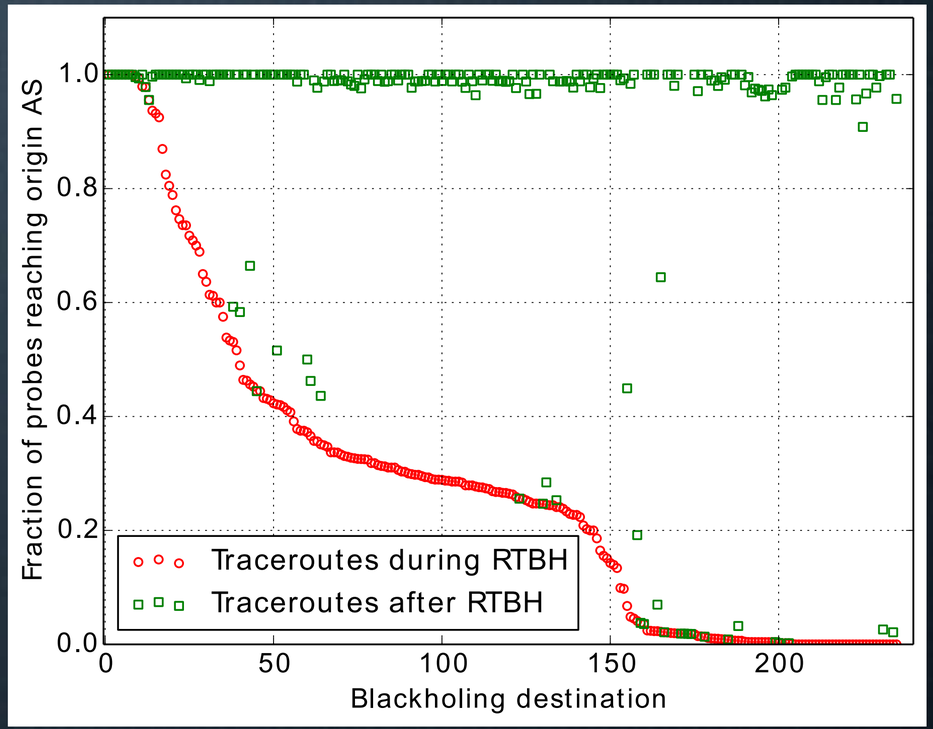
PYTHON BINDINGS - CASE STUDY

Timely reactive measurements

- We monitor **community-based black-holing**
  - **Victim of DoS attack** announces prefix with special community attribute to **request neighbors drop traffic**
- We trigger traceroutes to characterize the black-holing **event** (using 50-100 probes per event)
  - probed 253 victims (90-95% of black-holing events) while black-holing in effect
- ***Combined passive control-plane and active data-plane measurements to capture and investigate transient routing policies***



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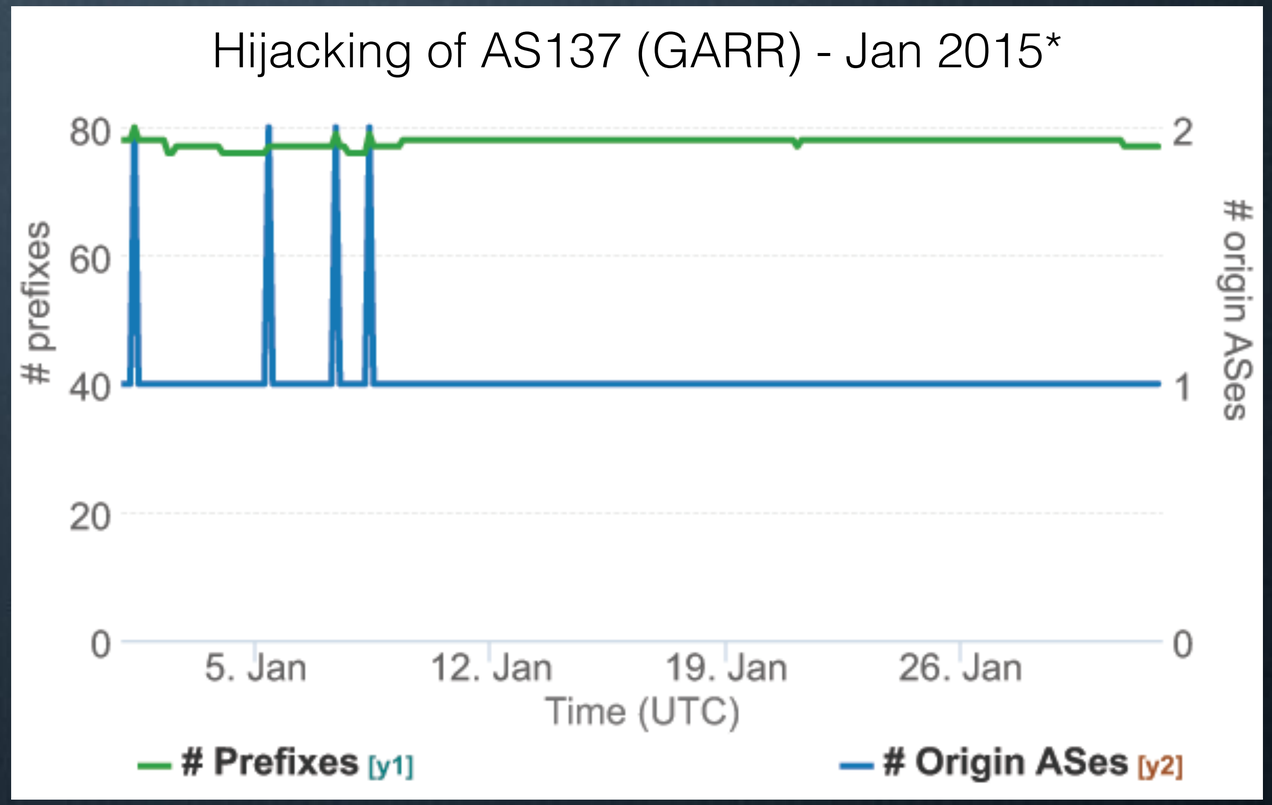
BGPCORSARO

Continuous realtime monitoring

- Plugin-based tool for processing live BGP data
- Continuously **extracts derived data** from BGPStream in **regular time bins**
- Incl. *"prefix-monitor"* sample plugin
  - Monitor your own address space
  - How many prefixes/origin ASes?



*originally described by Dyn Research:
http://research.dyn.com/2015/01/vast-world-of-fraudulent-routing/

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BIG DATA

BGP data analysis for the 1%

- *“Students can write scripts to analyze BGP data, but I need to do REAL analysis…”*
- We conducted a proof-of-concept study using PyBGPStream with Apache Spark:
- Analyzed 15 years of data:
  - one RIB per month
  - all Route Views and RIPE RIS collectors
  - > 3000 RIBs, ~44 billion BGPStream Elems
- See the paper for more details about lessons learned

- PyBGPStream/Spark template script: https://github.com/CAIDA/bgpstream

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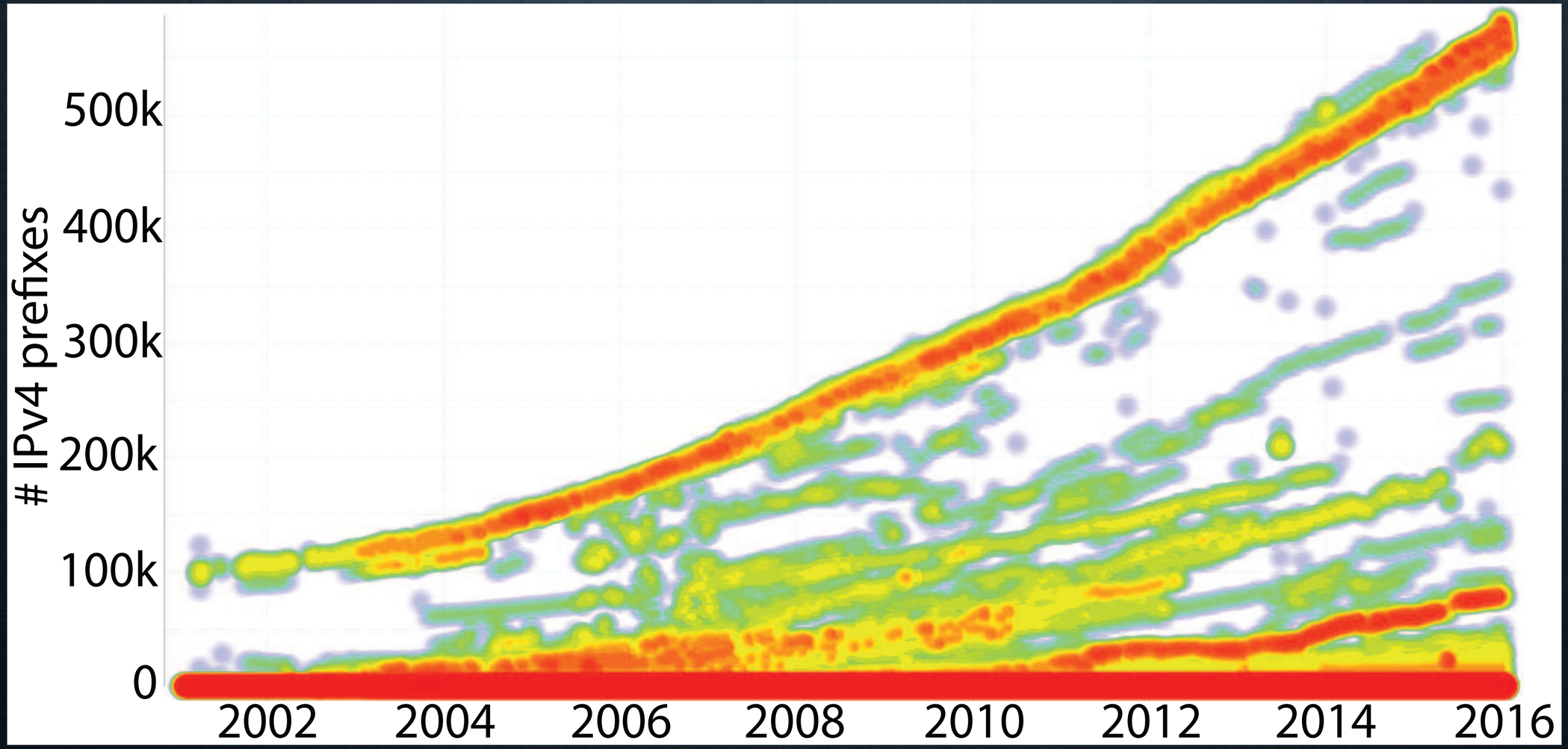
BIG DATA - CASE STUDIES

Routing table size over time



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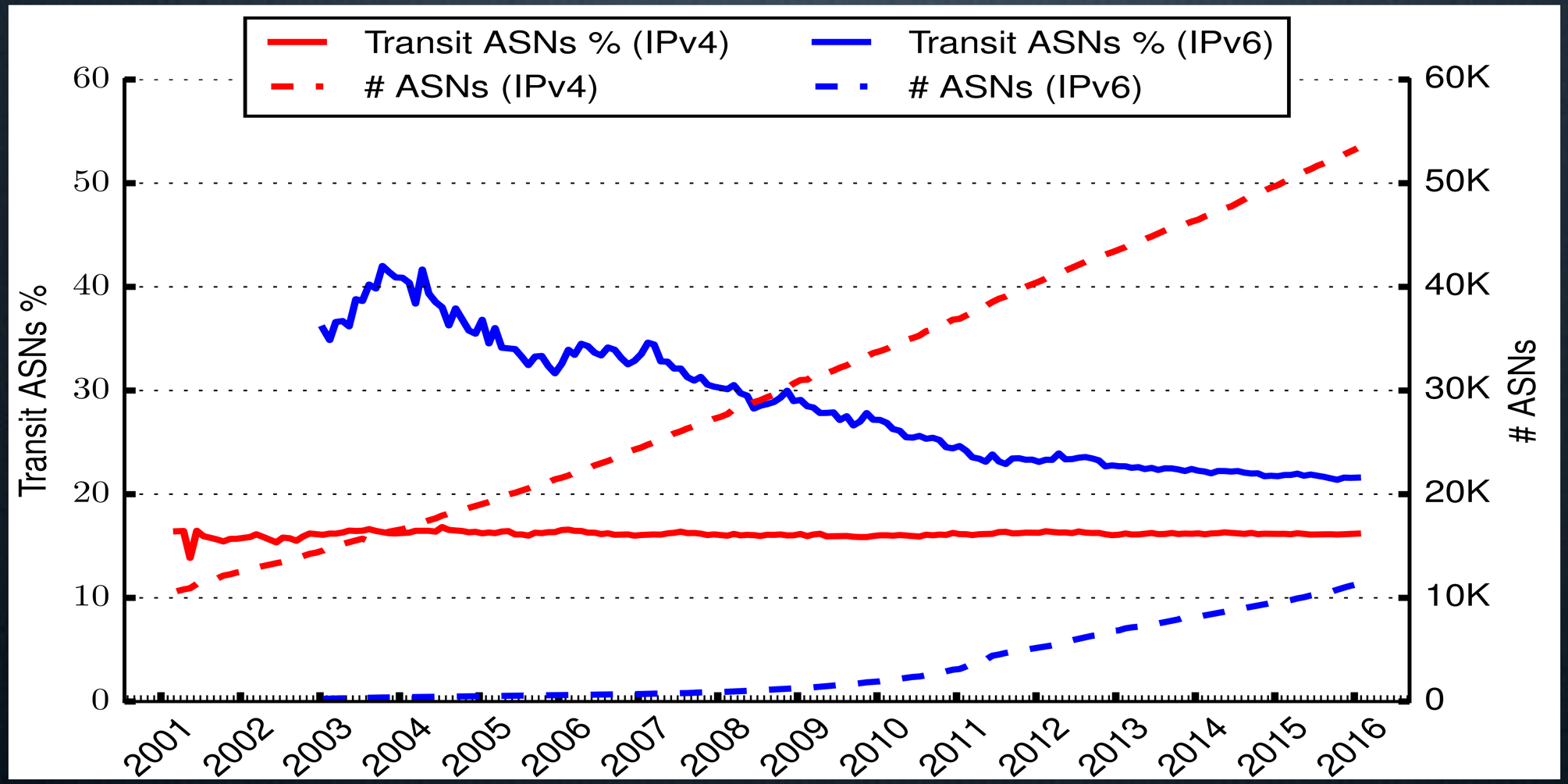
BIG DATA - CASE STUDIES

Transit ASes over time



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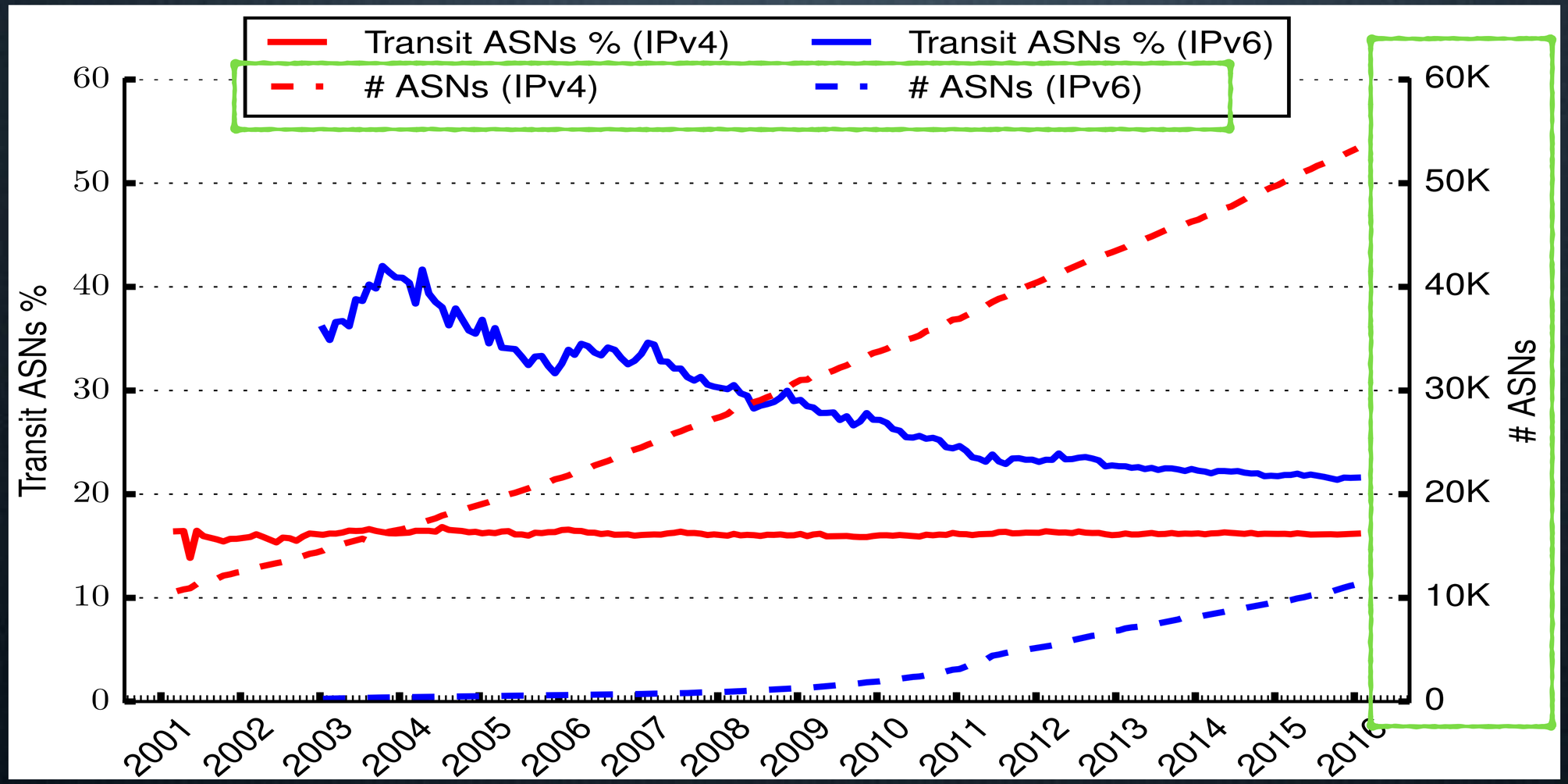

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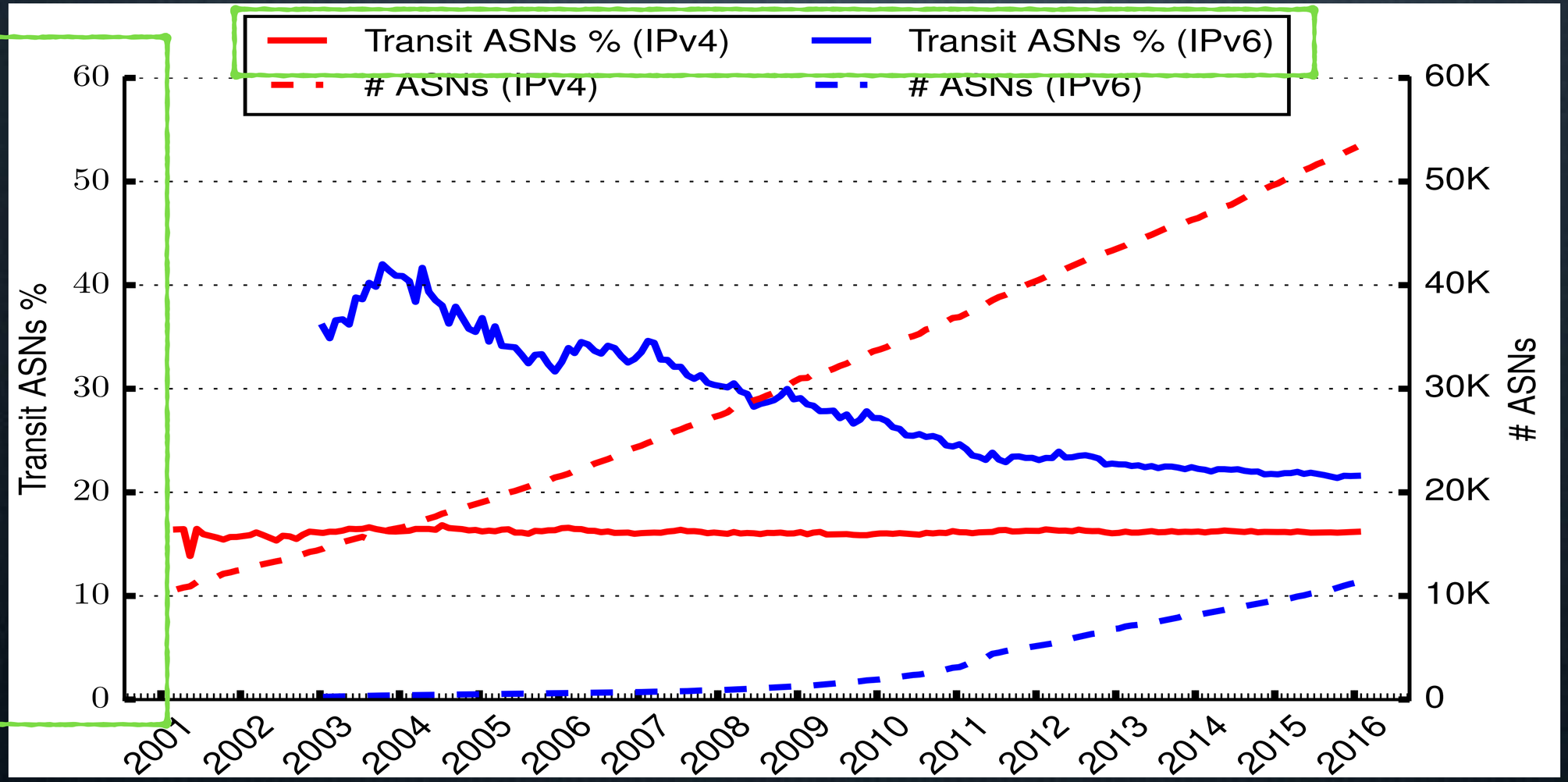

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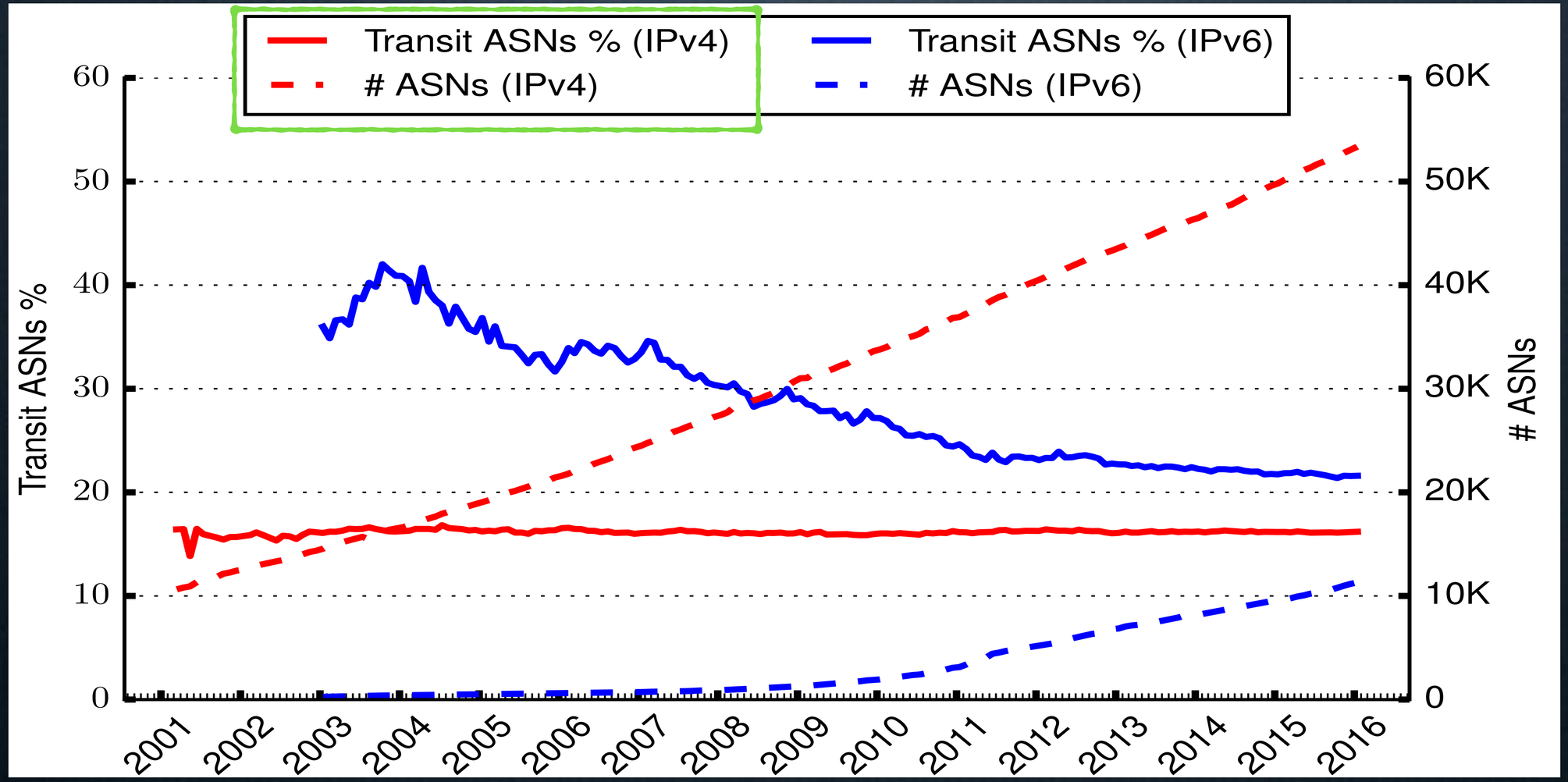

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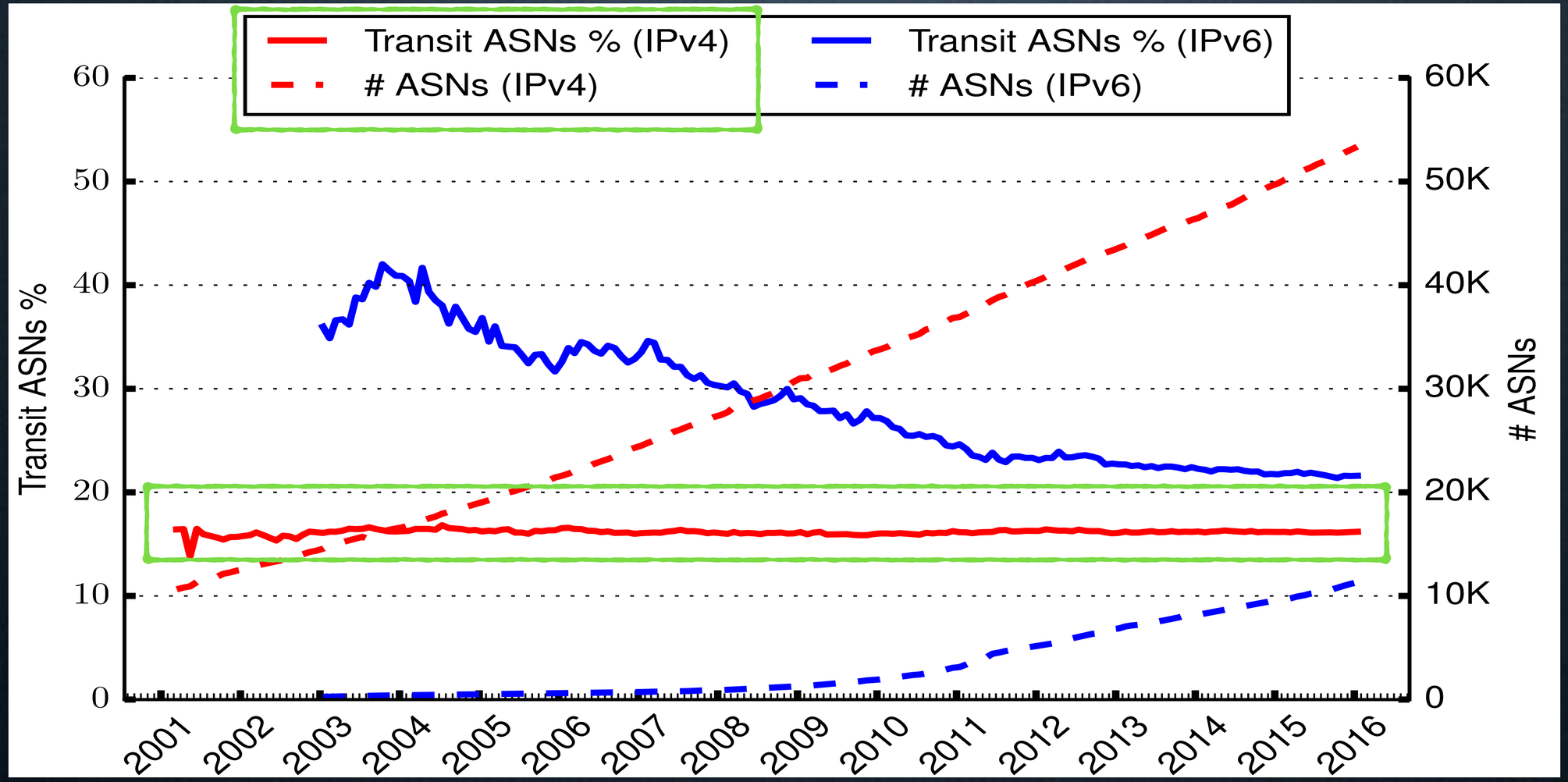

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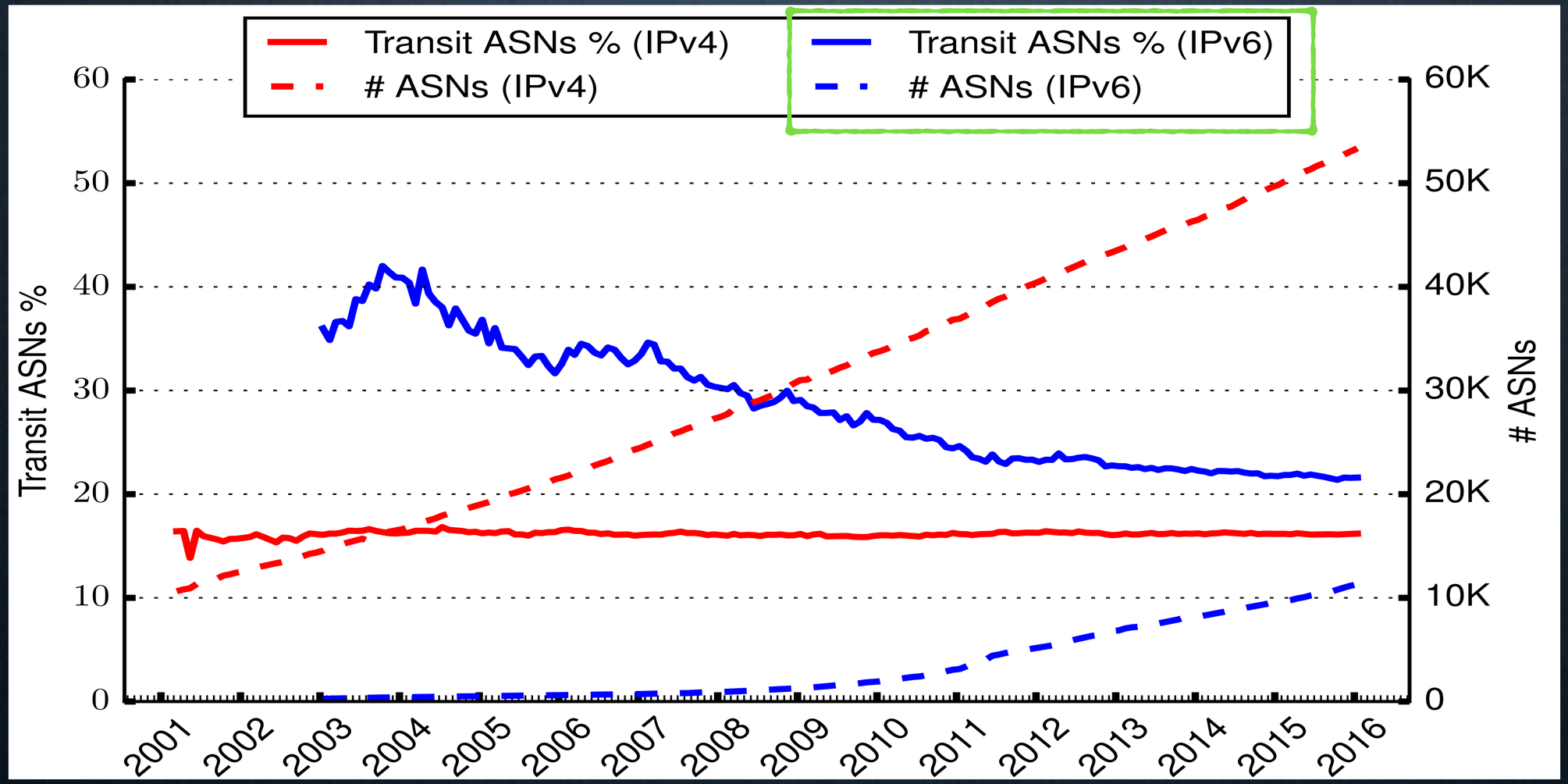

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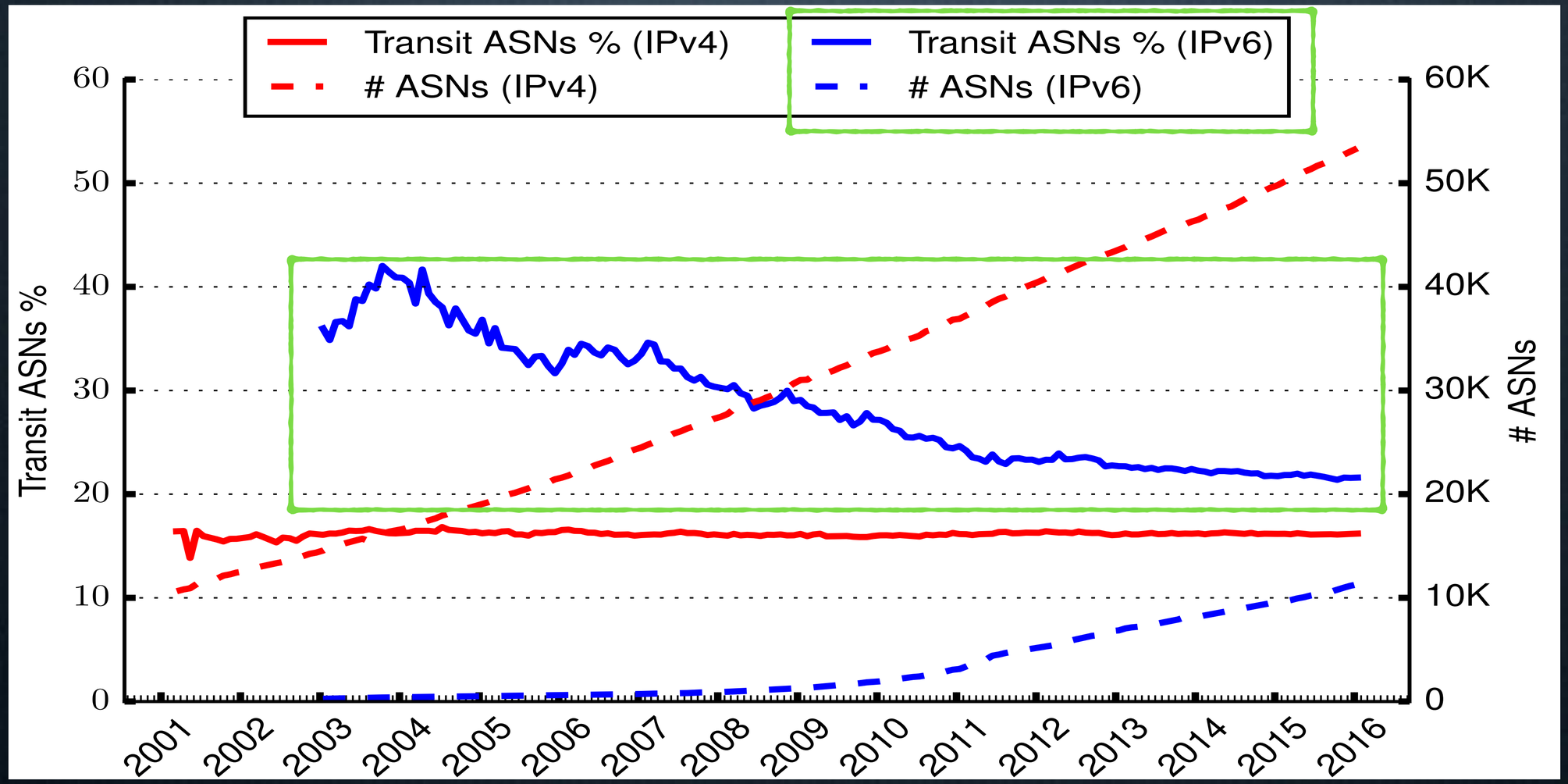

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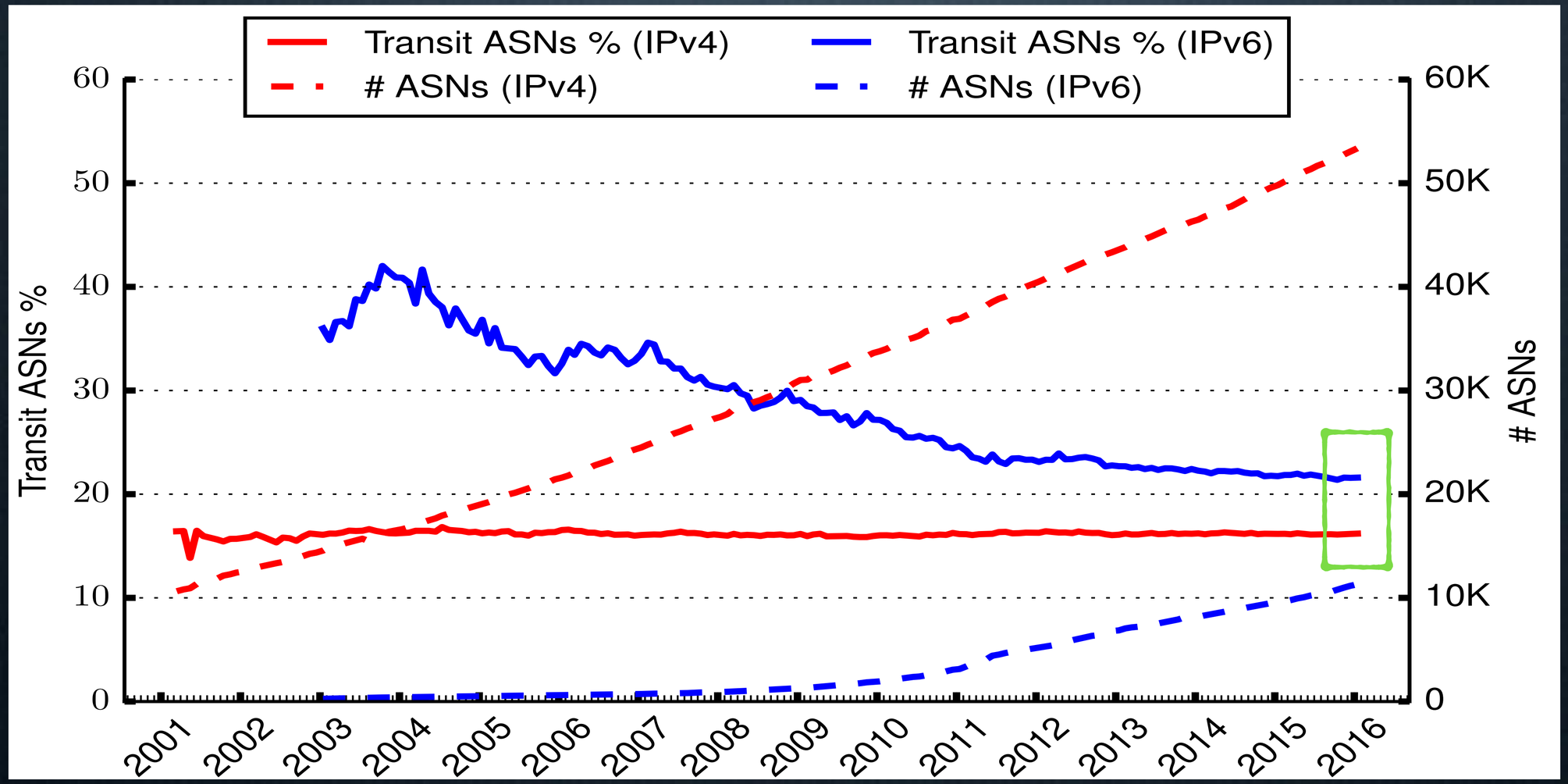

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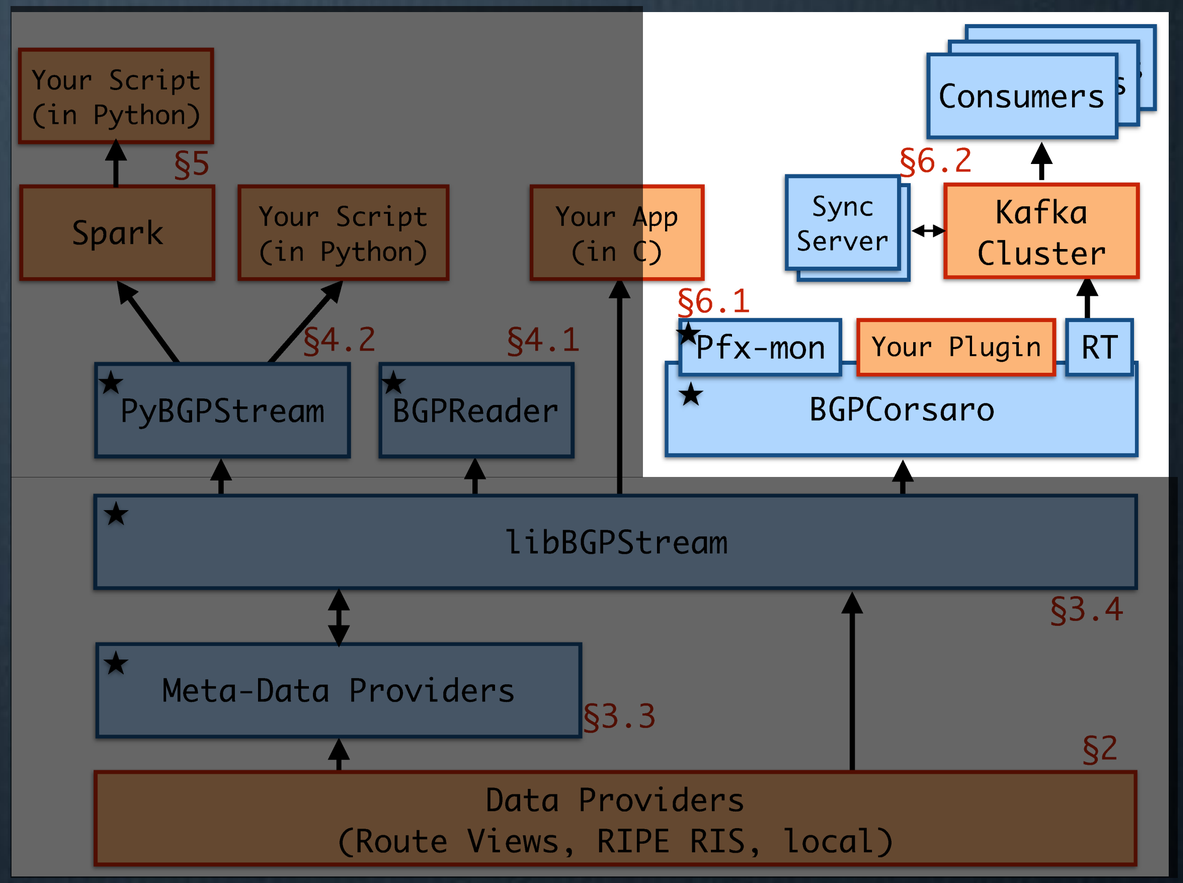
COMPLEX MONITORING INFRASTUCTURE

- E.g. realtime global monitoring for:
  - Internet outages
  - BGP hijacking attacks
- Leveraging BGPCorsaro and BGPStream
- But there are additional challenges…



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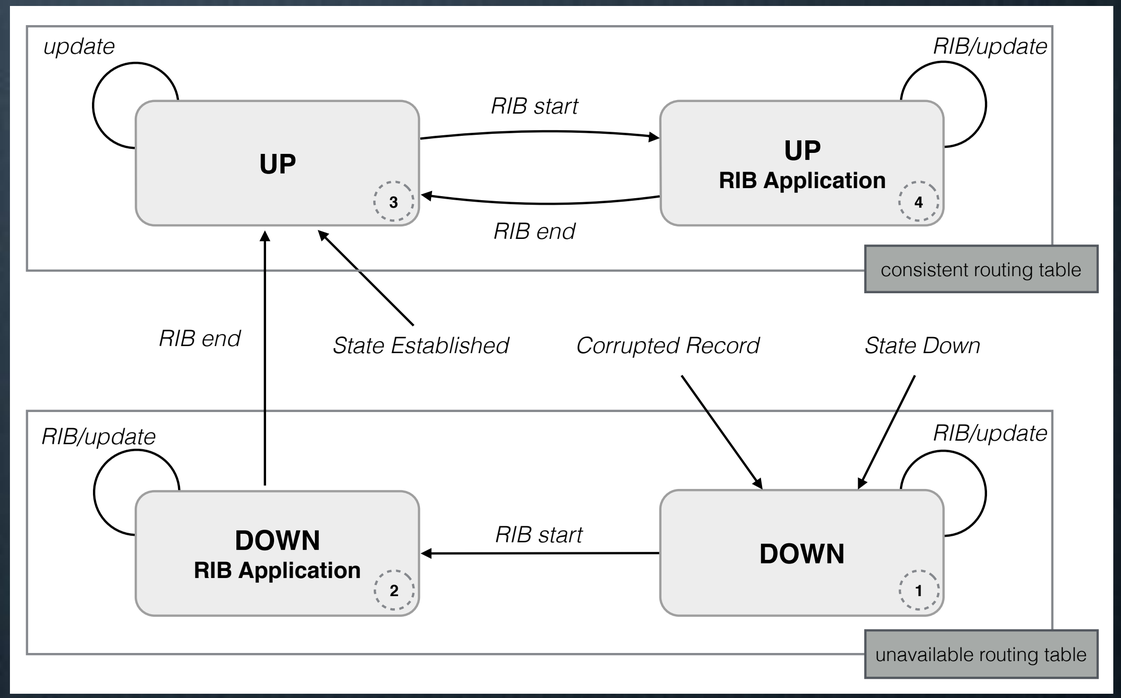
ROUTING TABLES

Continuously rebuilding the state of each peer

- Goal: infer per-peer routing tables every **minute**
  - Route Views and RIPE RIS sample peer routing tables every 4, 8 **hours** respectively
- We infer intermediate states from updates
  - we use RIBs as “sync frames”
  - process modeled as a finite state machine
  - implemented as a BGPCorsaro plugin
  - error rates of 10^{-8} (RIS) and 10^{-5} (RV)



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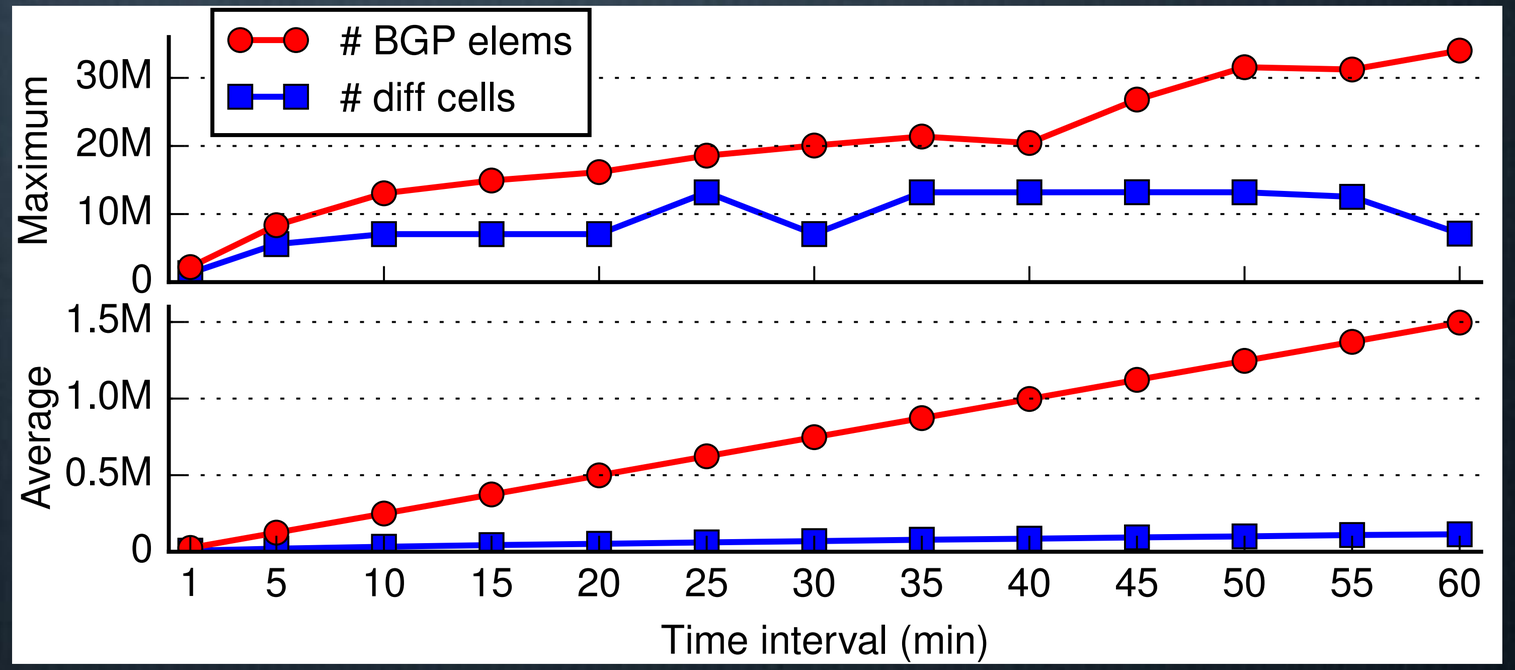
DATA REDUCTION

Removing redundancy in updates

- Significant redundancy in update messages
- Output only changes between successive peer routing tables
- Reduces data volume:
  - 3x reduction at 1min compared to updates



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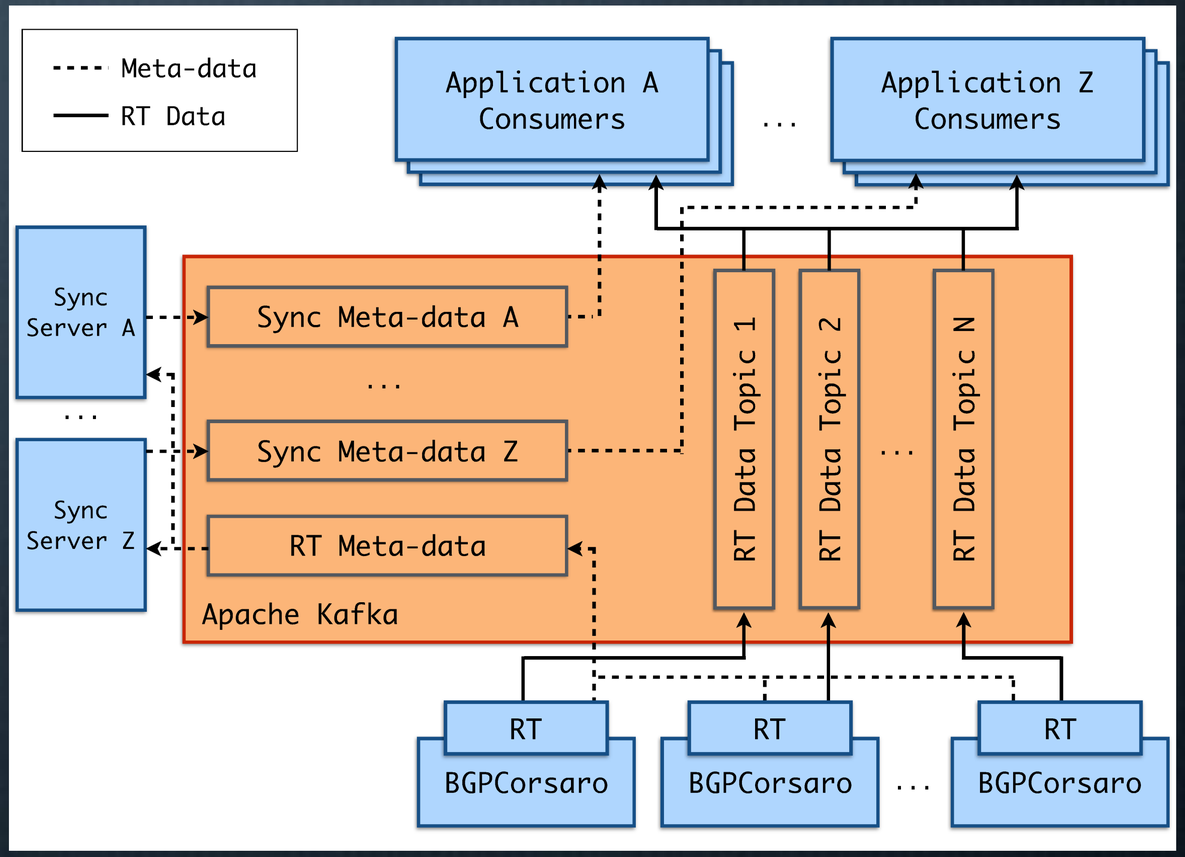
SYNCHRONIZATION

Aligning distributed data into a global view

- Data from different projects and collectors is available at different times

- There is a trade-off:
  - Buffer size
  - Latency
  - Completeness



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SYNCHRONIZATION

Aligning distributed data into a global view

- Data from different projects and collectors is available at different times

- There is a trade-off:
  - Buffer size
  - Latency
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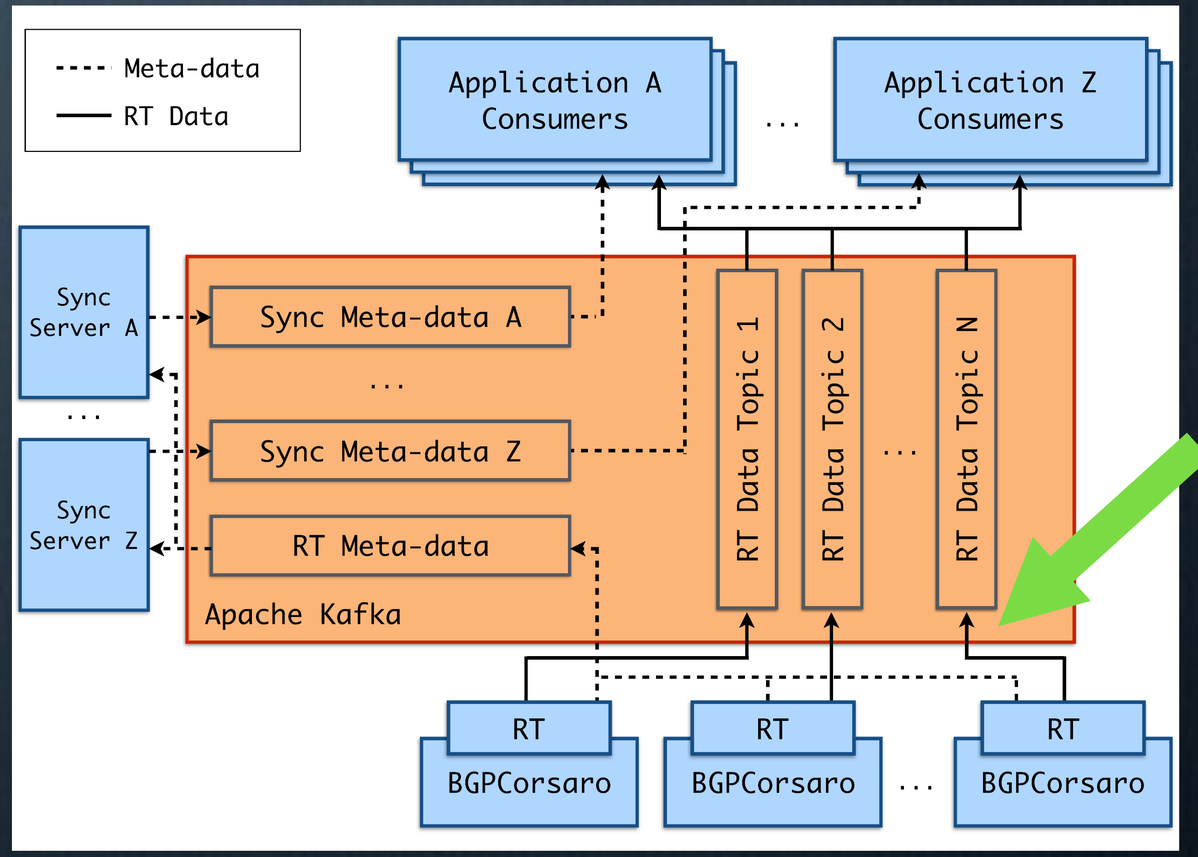

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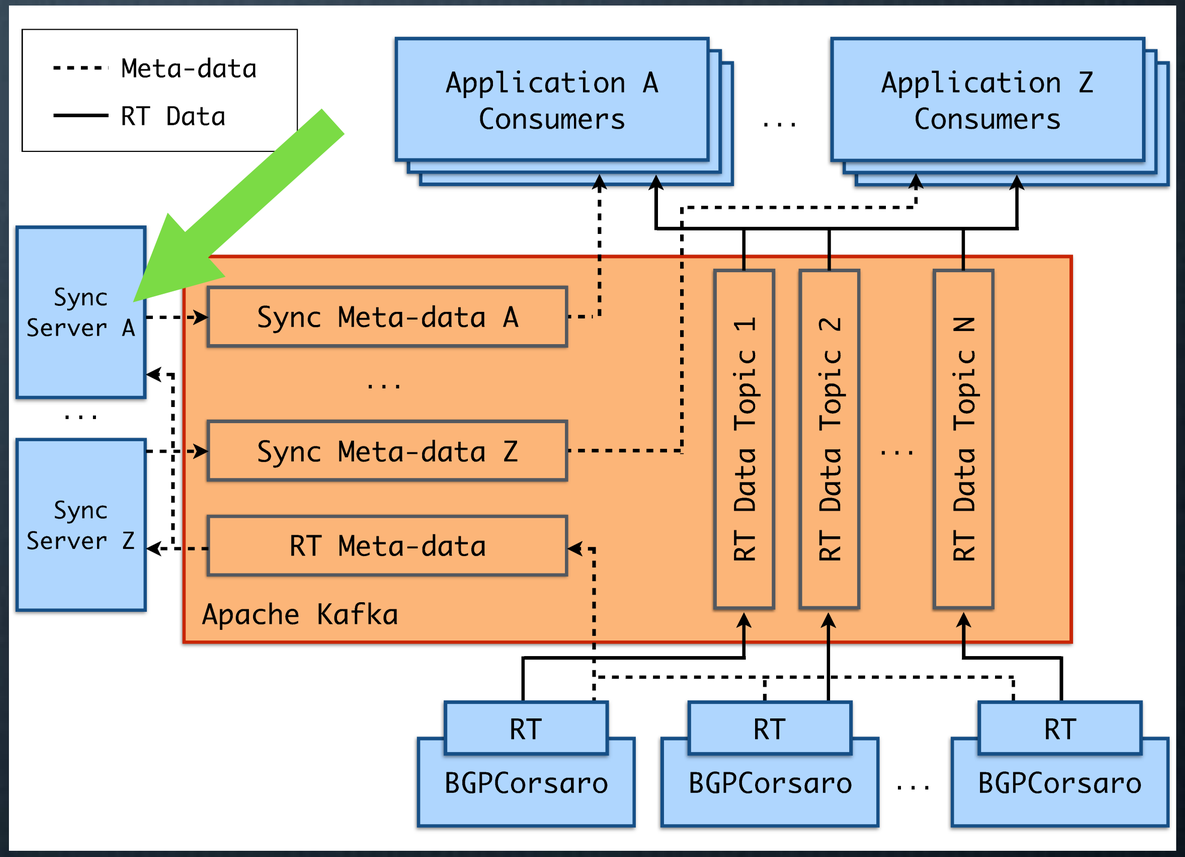

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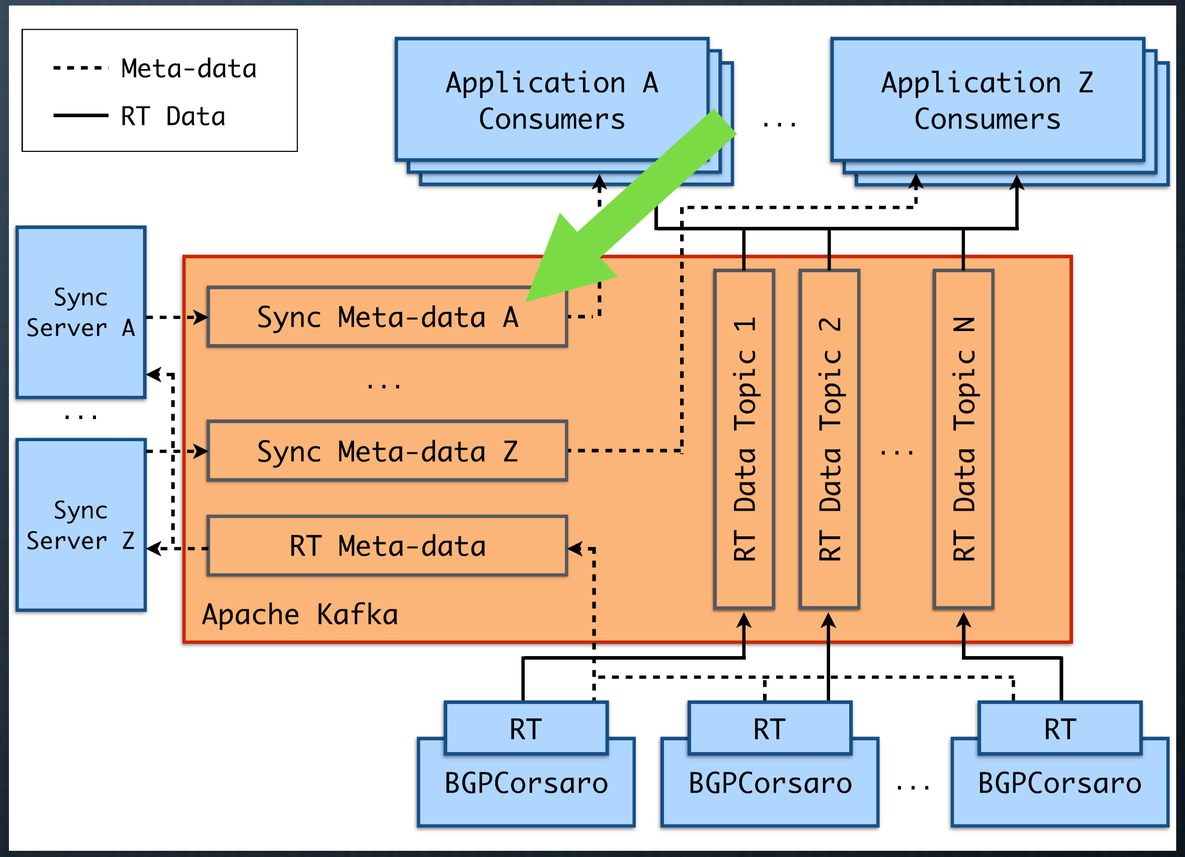

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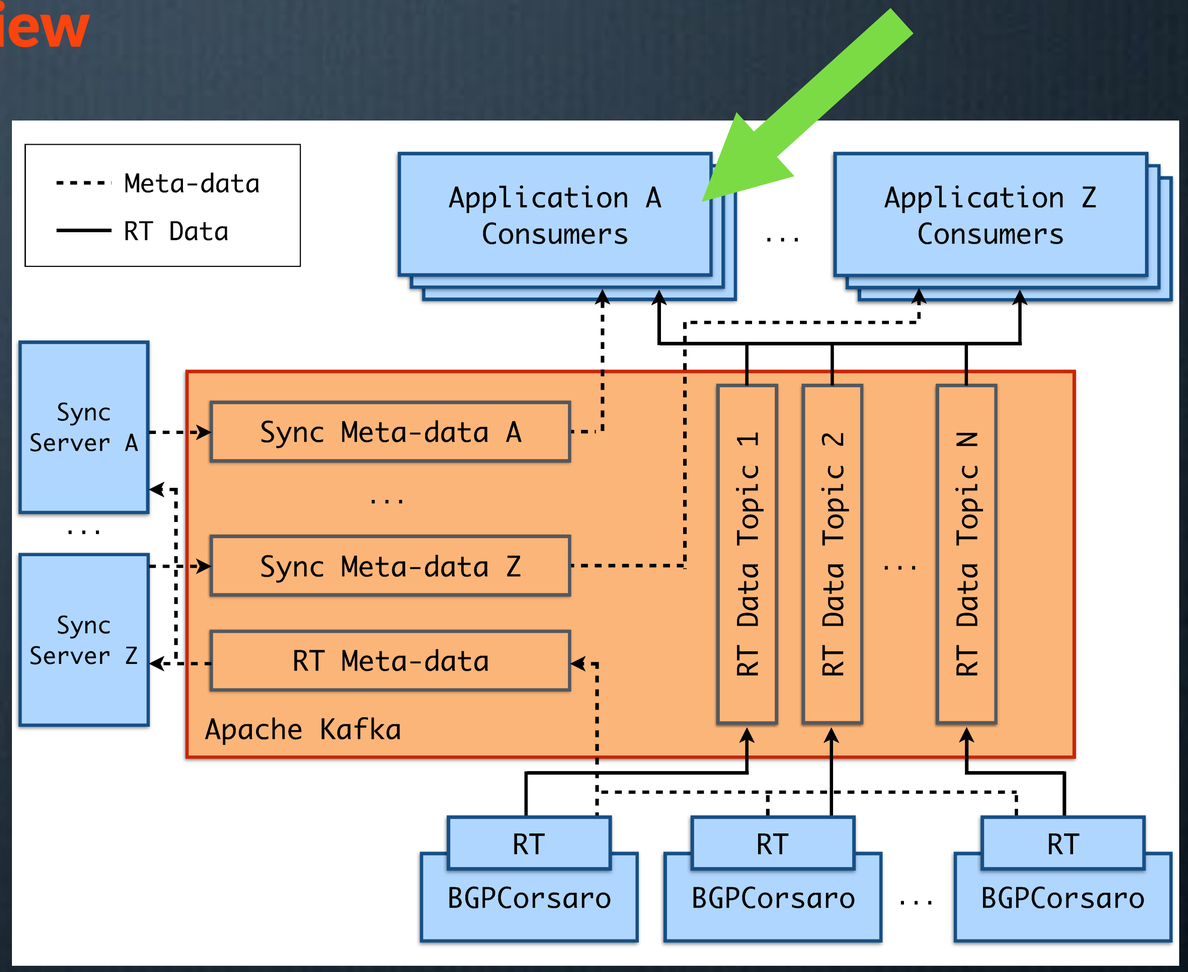

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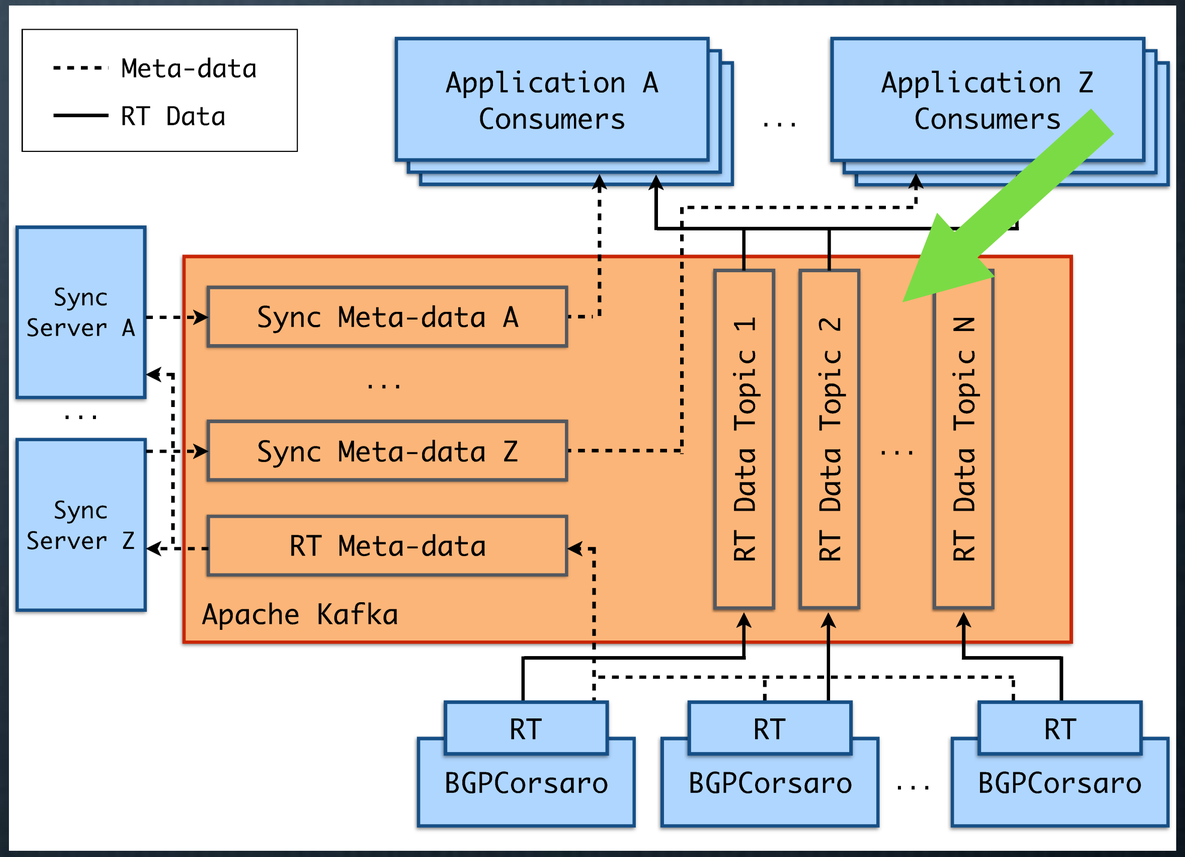

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A TEAM EFFORT

There's lots to be done

- **We're not alone in working to modernize BGP analysis/monitoring:**
  - Route Views & OpenBMP (Cisco), RIPE RIS Streaming, BGPmon
- **Some coordination between efforts:**
  - Hosted BGP Hackathon in collaboration with Route Views/RIPE/BGPmon
  - Ongoing active collaboration with OpenBMP developers

- **BGPStream is complementary:**
  - Allows users to easily take advantage of collection advancements
  - With little/no changes to code

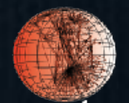
SUMMARY

Easier, faster, less error-prone BGP data analysis

- Improves repeatability, reproducibility and share-ability

- Give it a try!
  - *https://bgpstream.caida.org*
- Give us feedback!
  - *https://github.com/caida/bgpstream*

- We’re busy adding support for BMP (OpenBMP)
- Next, support for RIPE RIS Streaming
- Coming soon: integration with RTRlib for RPKI validation (thanks to Freie Universität Berlin)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DELAYS

Getting updates dumps

- 5 (RIS) and 15 (RV) minutes delay due to file rotation duration
- plus small amount of variable delay due to publication infrastructure
- But, 99% of Updates dumps are available in < 20 minutes after the dump was begun

THE CASE FOR SUPPORTING MRT

… for the moment

- *"MRT is dead, why not support a modern collection format?"*

- MRT is still the de-facto standard for BGP data collection
- Loads of *historical* MRT data
  - Route Views and RIPE RIS have >14 years of data (XXTB)
- Vast majority of *new* data collected is still MRT

- Users shouldn't have to care about collection format
- BGPStream: support for MRT internally, but other formats are coming…

BGPREADER

CLI with parseable ASCII output

- Supports all the filters that libBGPStream supports
- Drop-in replacement for *bgpdump*

BGPSTREAM.CAIDA.ORG

Real people are using it!

- **Stable**: version 1.0 was released over a year ago
- **Maintained**: version 1.1 released in Feb — 1.2 coming soon.
- **Documented:** API documentation and tutorials at bgpstream.caida.org
- **Community involvement via GitHub:**
  - Several community-contributed Pull-Requests,
  - Incl. pending PR to add support for RPKI

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FILTERS

Analyze only what you're interested in

- Time
- Collector
- Updates and/or RIBs
- Prefix*
- Community*