



# BLACK HOLE DETECTION IN PACKET NETWORKS

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JUNIPER  
NETWORKS

Driven by  
Experience™

# Background

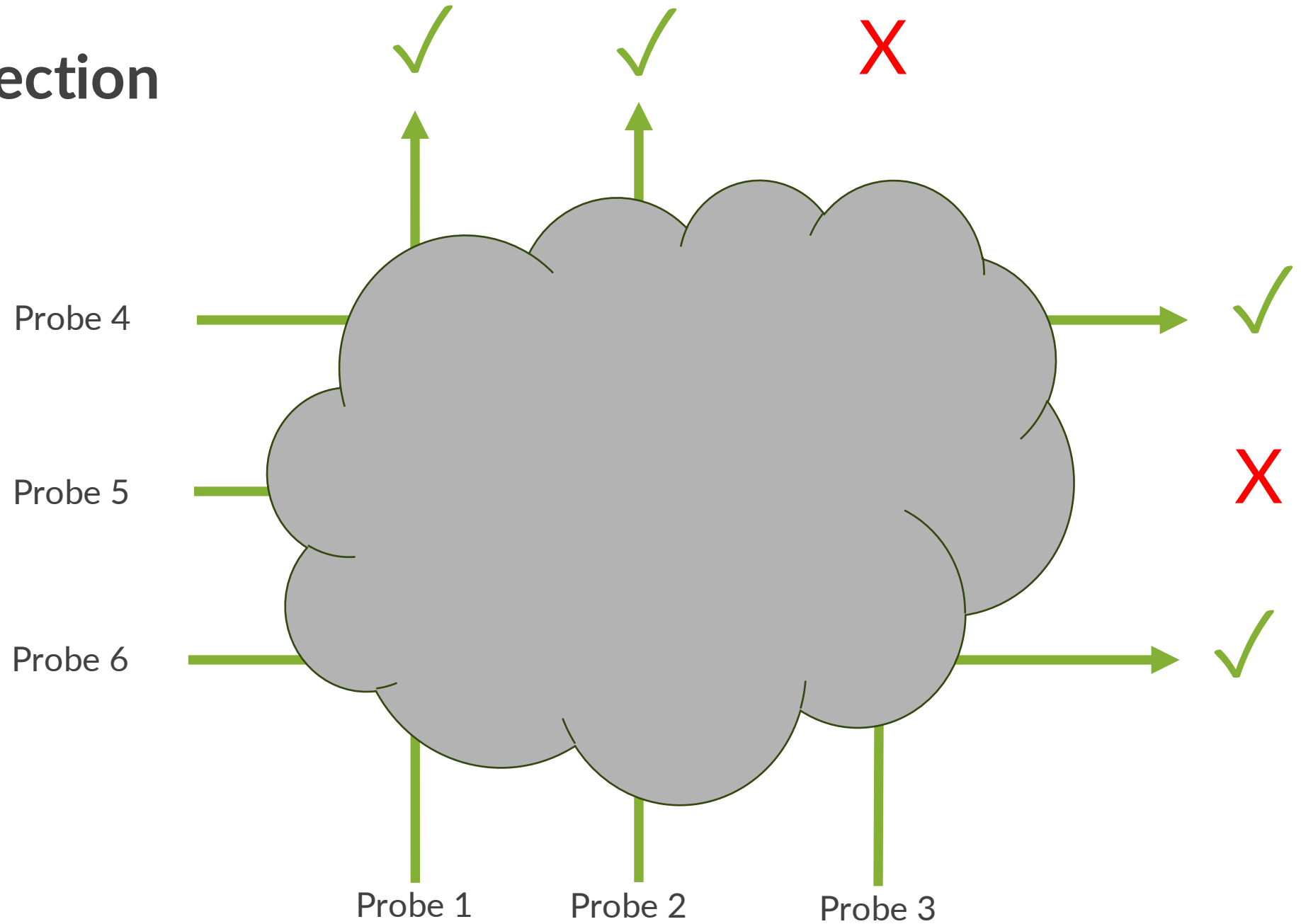
Traditionally, identifying the location and the cause of packet drops (“black-holes”) in a network is quite time-consuming: “Needle in a haystack”.

Transient drops are particularly difficult to detect.

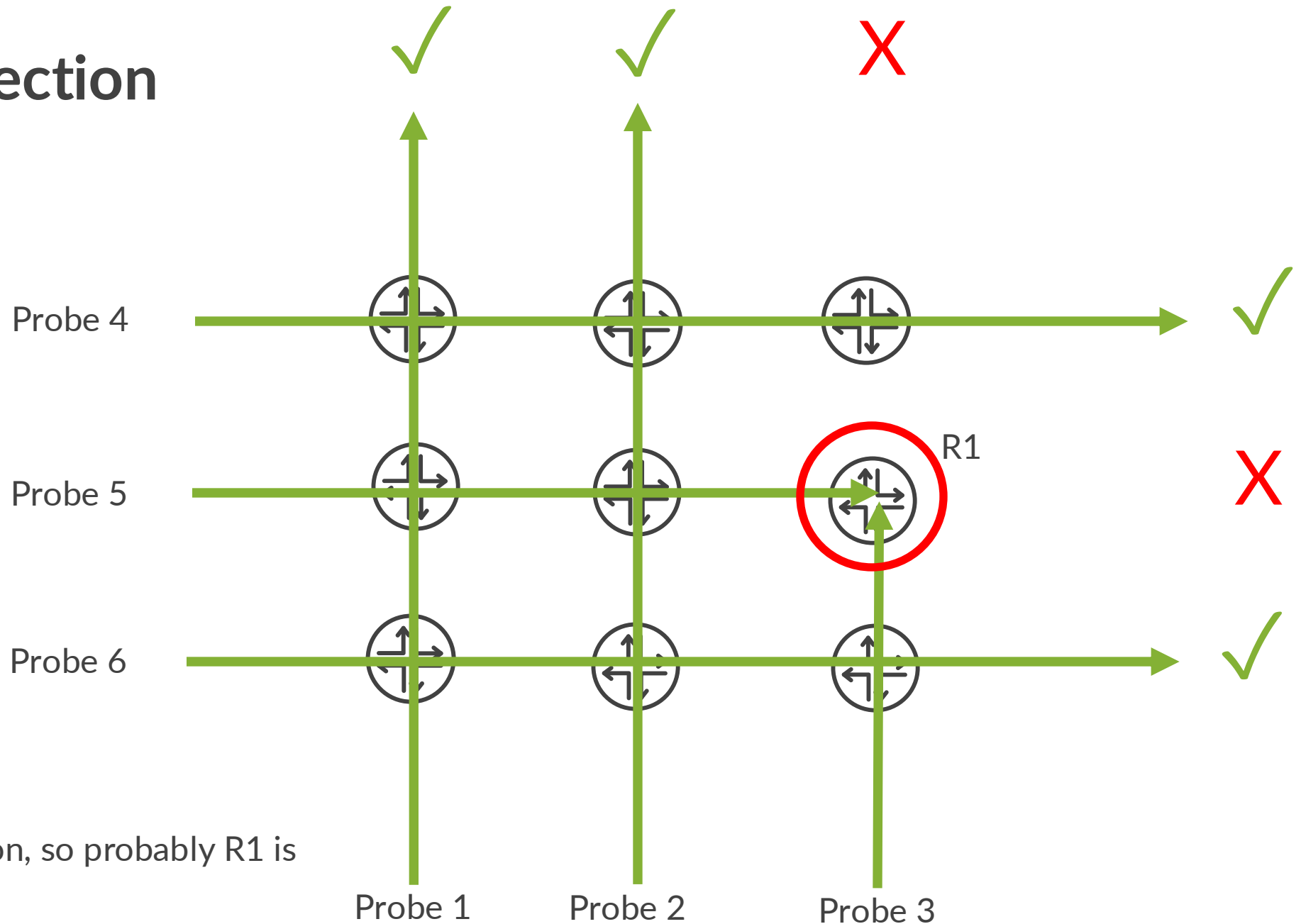
Two main approaches to detection:

- Indirect Detection
- Direct Detection

# Indirect Detection



# Indirect Detection



- Probe 3 is not arriving
- Probe 5 is not arriving
- They have R1 in common, so probably R1 is black-holing

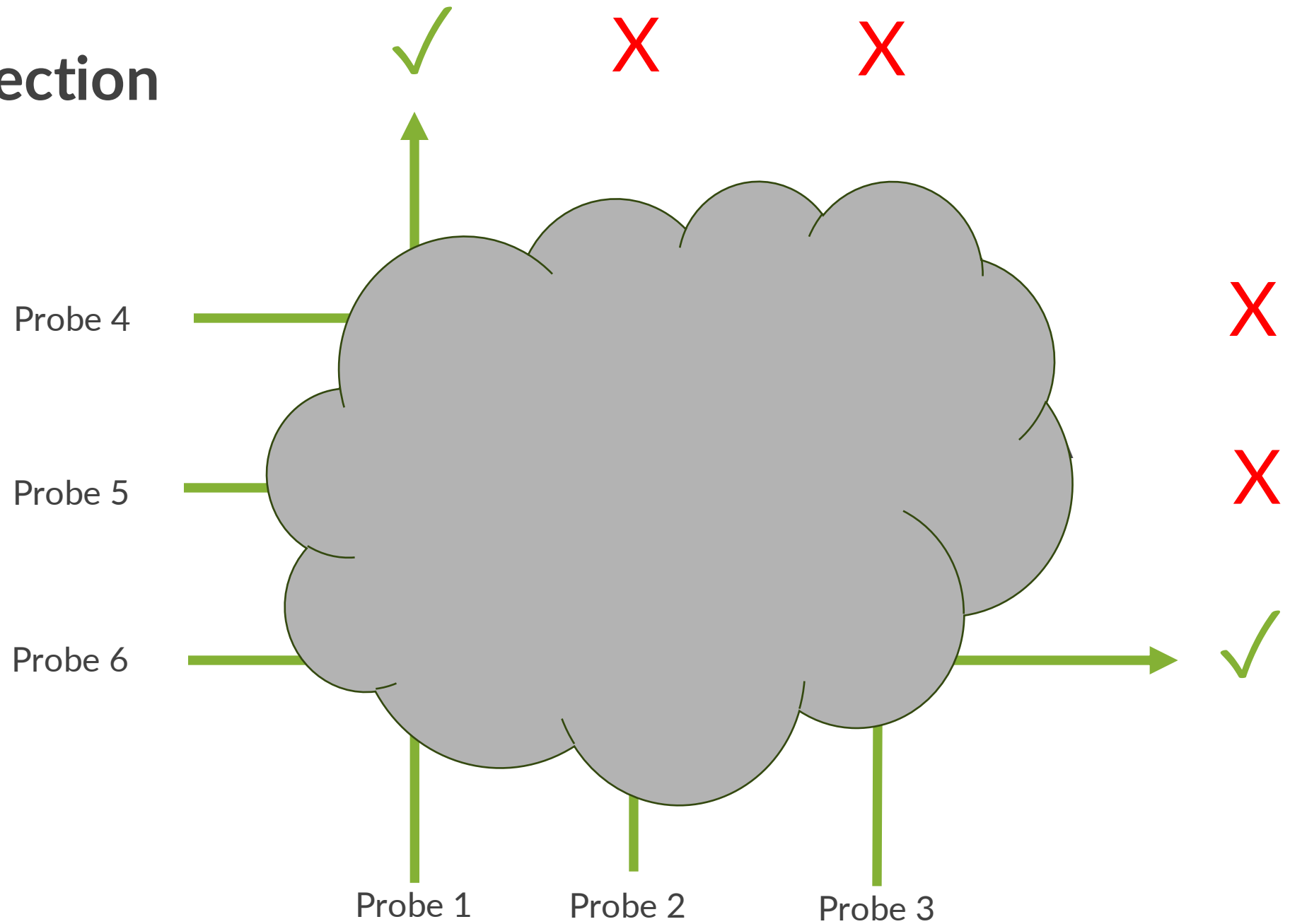
# Issues with Indirect Detection

A black-hole may only affect packets with particular characteristics, and the probes might not have those characteristics.

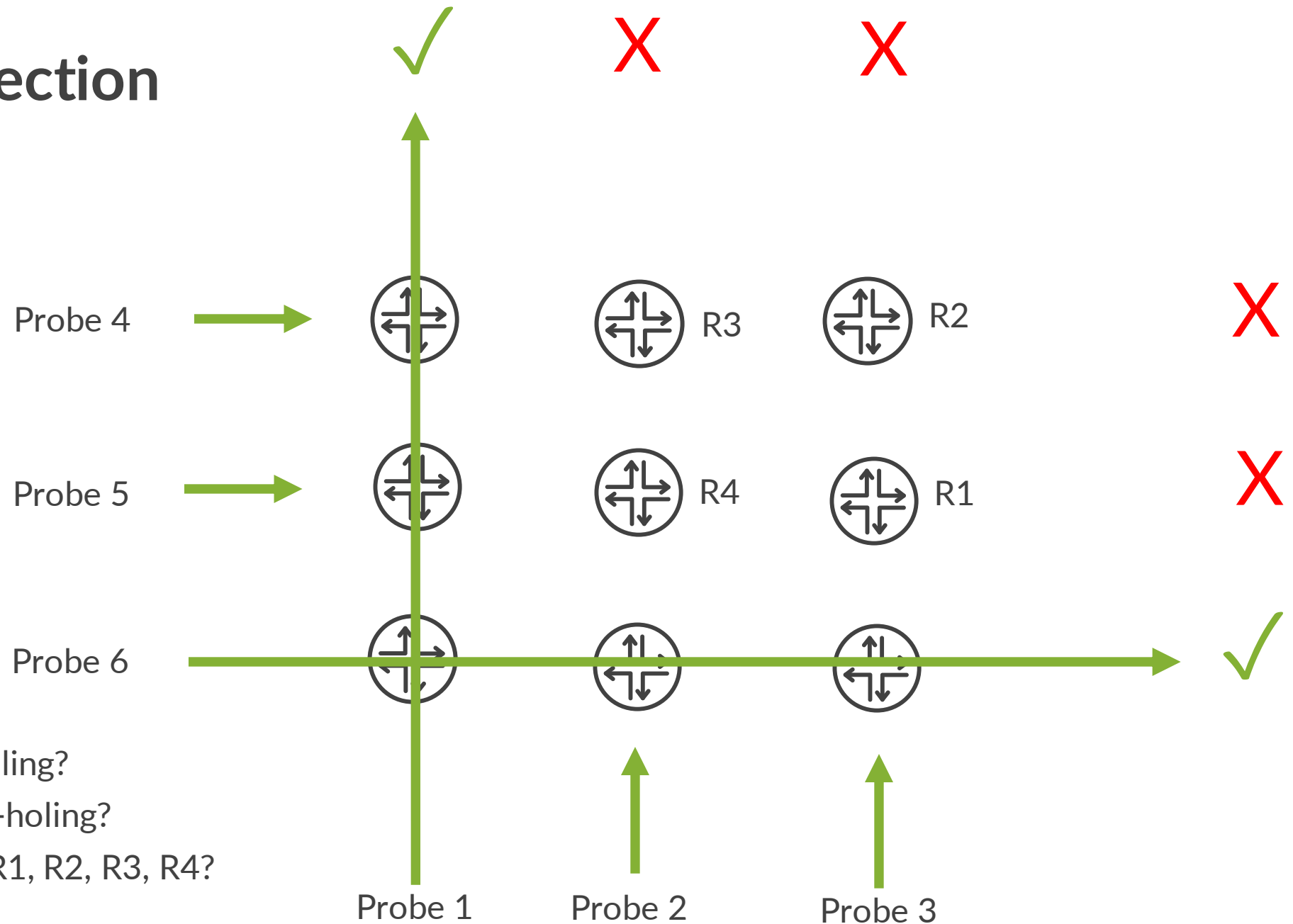
Triangulation becomes increasingly difficult in a large network

- For example, if there is more than one blackhole present...

# Indirect Detection



# Indirect Detection



- Are R3 and R1 black-holing?
- Or are R2 and R4 black-holing?
- Or more than 2 out of R1, R2, R3, R4?

# Direct detection

Key principle:

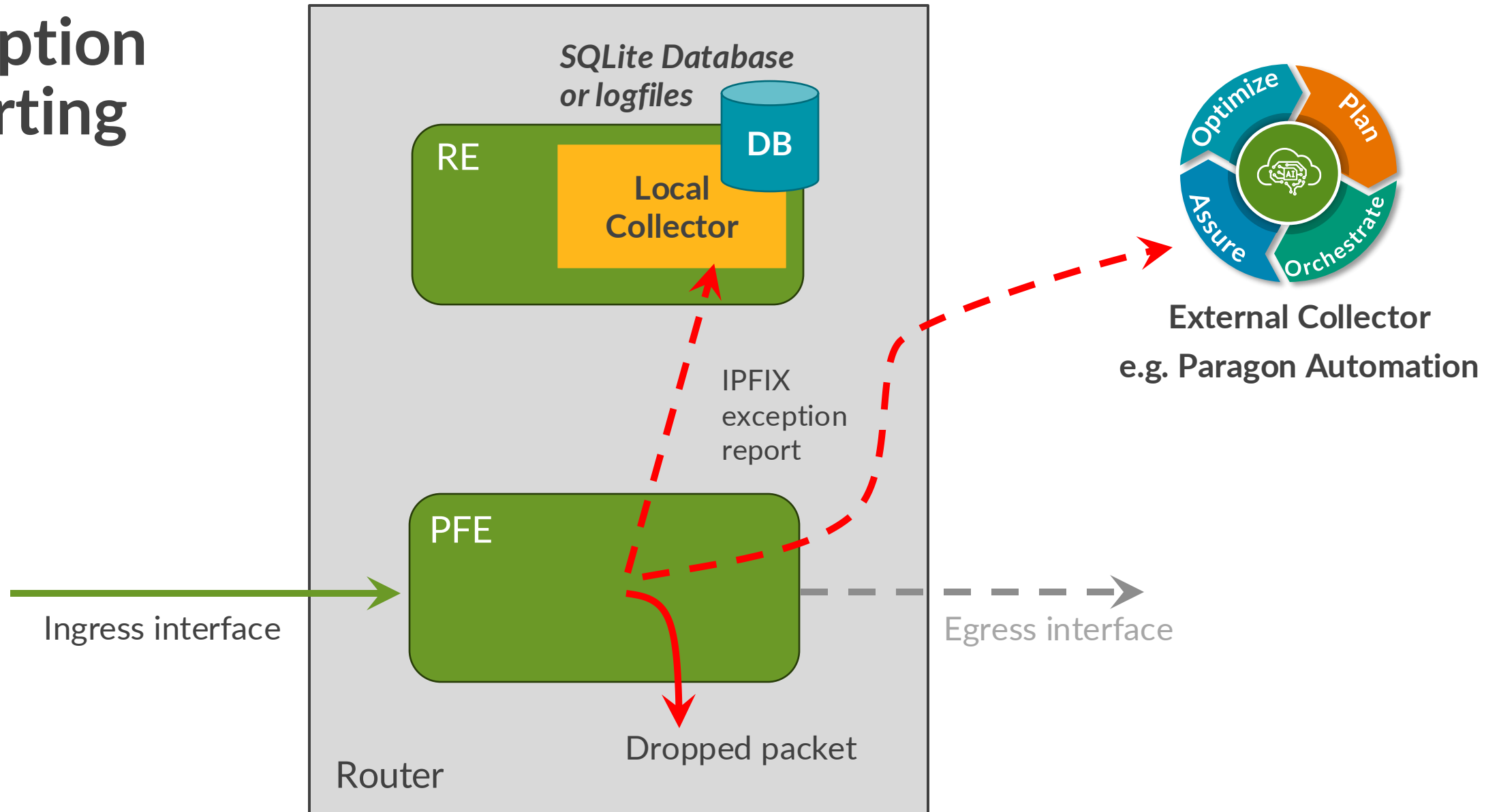
A router *knows* why it is dropping a packet.

So it can proactively send a report about it! (an *exception report*)

Works with any kind of packet e.g. IPv4, IPv6, MPLS, Layer 2 etc



# Exception reporting



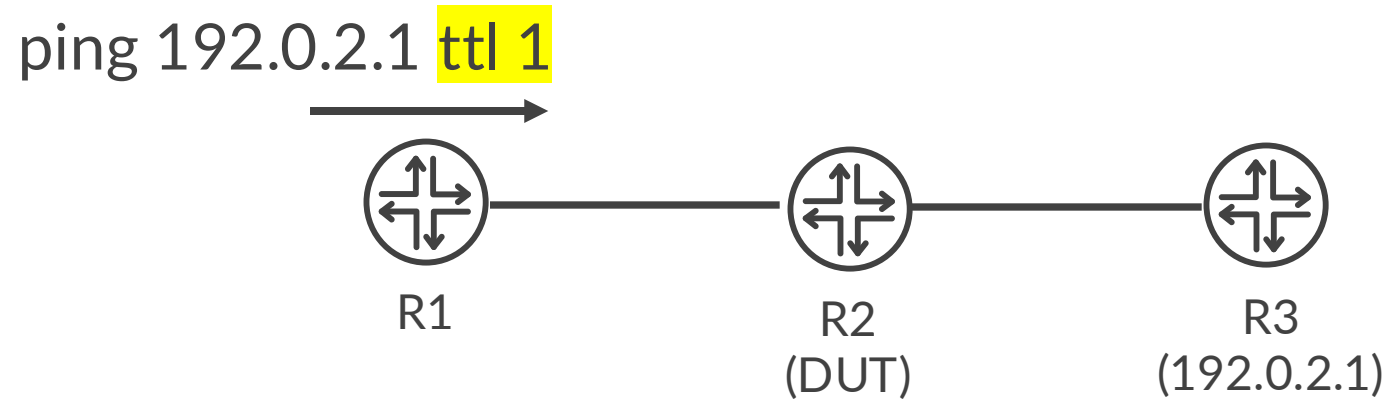
Available in Junos since 2021: "Juniper Resiliency Interface (JRI)"

Deployed in multiple production networks

# Examples of forwarding exception categories

- Unknown address family
- No matching IP prefix in FIB
- No matching MPLS label in FIB
- TTL expired
- Unknown VLAN tag
- MAC learn limit exceeded
- GRE mismatch
- MTU exceeded
- Various packet errors e.g. header errors, checksum errors, length not matching declared length...

# Easy to setup test



# Example exception report (local collector)

\*\*\*\*\* IPFIX \*\*\*\*\*

Version: 10

Length: 106

Export time: 1695116517

Seq no: 3397

ObservationDomainID: 65536

setID: 1024

setLength: 90

field\_type: exceptionCode, field\_length: 2

value: TTL Expired

field\_type: nhIndex, field\_length: 4

value: 707

field\_type: oifIndex, field\_length: 4

value: 0

field\_type: underlyingiifIndex, field\_length: 4

value: 0

field\_type: iifIndex, field\_length: 4

value: 362

field\_type: flowDirection, field\_length: 1

value: 00

field\_type: dataLinkFrameSize, field\_length: 2

value: 1446

field\_type: dataLinkFrameSection, field\_length: 64

value: 2c6bf561 482a2c6b f5e6d72a 88470002

31014500 05948050 00000101 b4480b65

69010b00 006b0800 d64b023a 00006509

6ce50007 b6370809 0a0b0c0d 0e0f1011

↻ First N bytes of the packet (64 in this example)

# IETF work: IPFIX extensions

IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX) Information Elements Extension for Forwarding Exceptions

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-mvmd-opsawg-ipfix-fwd-exceptions/>

```
IP Flow Information Export
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: 22 March 2024

C. Munukutla
S. Vaid
Juniper Networks, Inc.
A. Mahale
D. Patel
Google, Inc.
19 September 2023
```

```
IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX) Information Elements Extension for
Forwarding Exceptions
draft-mvmd-opsawg-ipfix-fwd-exceptions-08
```

- Proposes new IPFIX Information Elements for reporting exceptions
- Propose putting Forwarding Exception reason codes in the IANA registry (e.g. 2 = TTL\_EXPIRY)

# New IPFIX Information Elements defined in the IETF draft (highlighted in green)

\*\*\*\*\* Netflow/IPFIX \*\*\*\*\*

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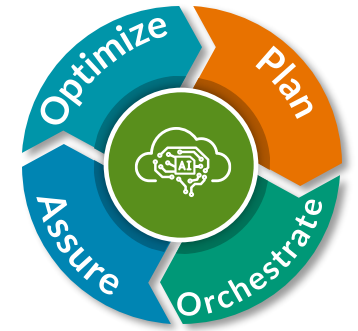
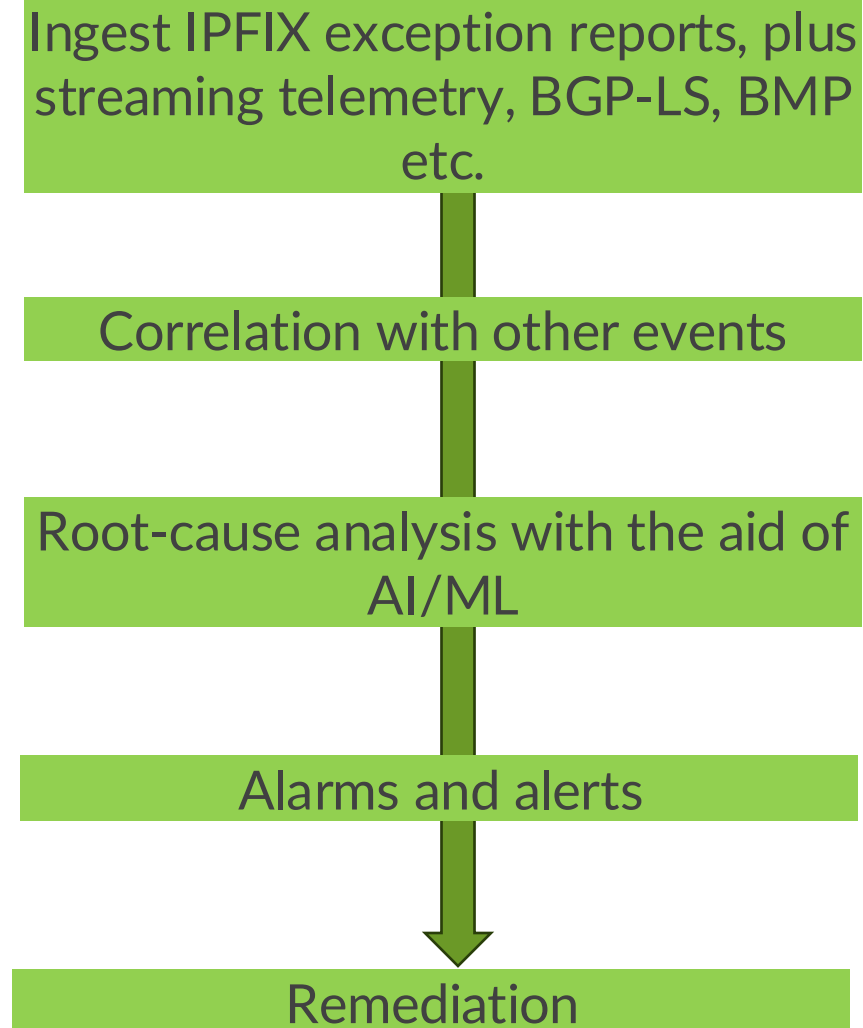
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6ce50007 b6370809 0a0b0c0d 0e0f1011

# The role of the external collector



Paragon Automation

# Further information

- Juniper Techpubs link:
  - <https://www.juniper.net/documentation/us/en/software/junos/flow-monitoring/topics/topic-map/resiliency-exception-reporting.html>
- Blog:
  - <https://community.juniper.net/blogs/julian-lucek/2024/01/02/detection-of-blackholes-in-networks-using-jri>





# THANK YOU

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