
TOMORROW starts here.
cisco
Cisco live!

Routing Operations and Features in Cisco IOS Routers

BRKARC-2350

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Customer Support Engineer

What's this all about?

=?

Routing Operations in Cisco IOS Routers
Agenda

- Router Components
- Moving Packets
- CEF, CPU and Memory
- Outbound Load Sharing
- Routing Convergence Improvements




Router Components

Data and Control Planes

Router Components

Data and Control Planes

- Control Plane
  - Control Traffic
    - Routing Updates (BGP, OSPF etc)
    - SSH
    - SNMP
- Data Plane
  - Through traffic (transit not for us!)
    - Routed packets (known via BGP etc)

Brains

Brawn




Router Components

Software Based Routers

Router Components

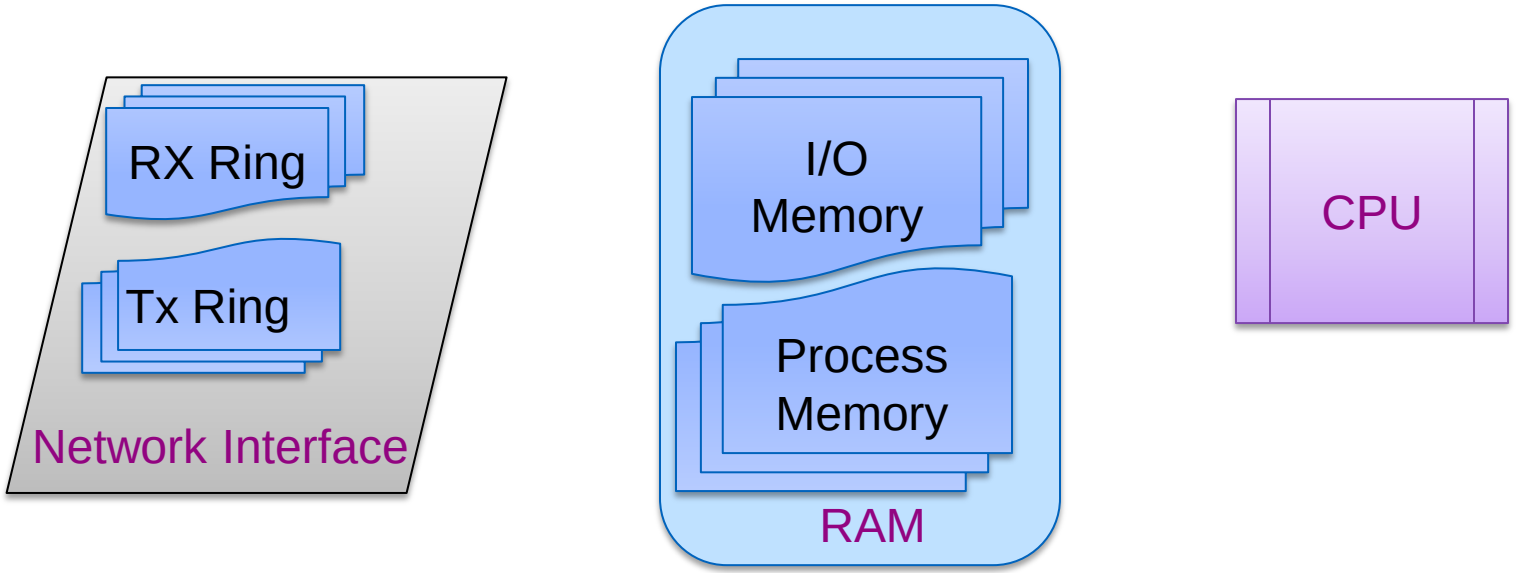
Software Based Routers

- Software Based
  - **Shared** control and data plane
  - General Purpose CPU (slow, but smart – feature rich)
  - CPU responsible for all operations (features and forwarding)

2800/2900/3900/7200 Series Routers are software based

Router Components

Software Based Routers






Router Components

Hardware Based Routers

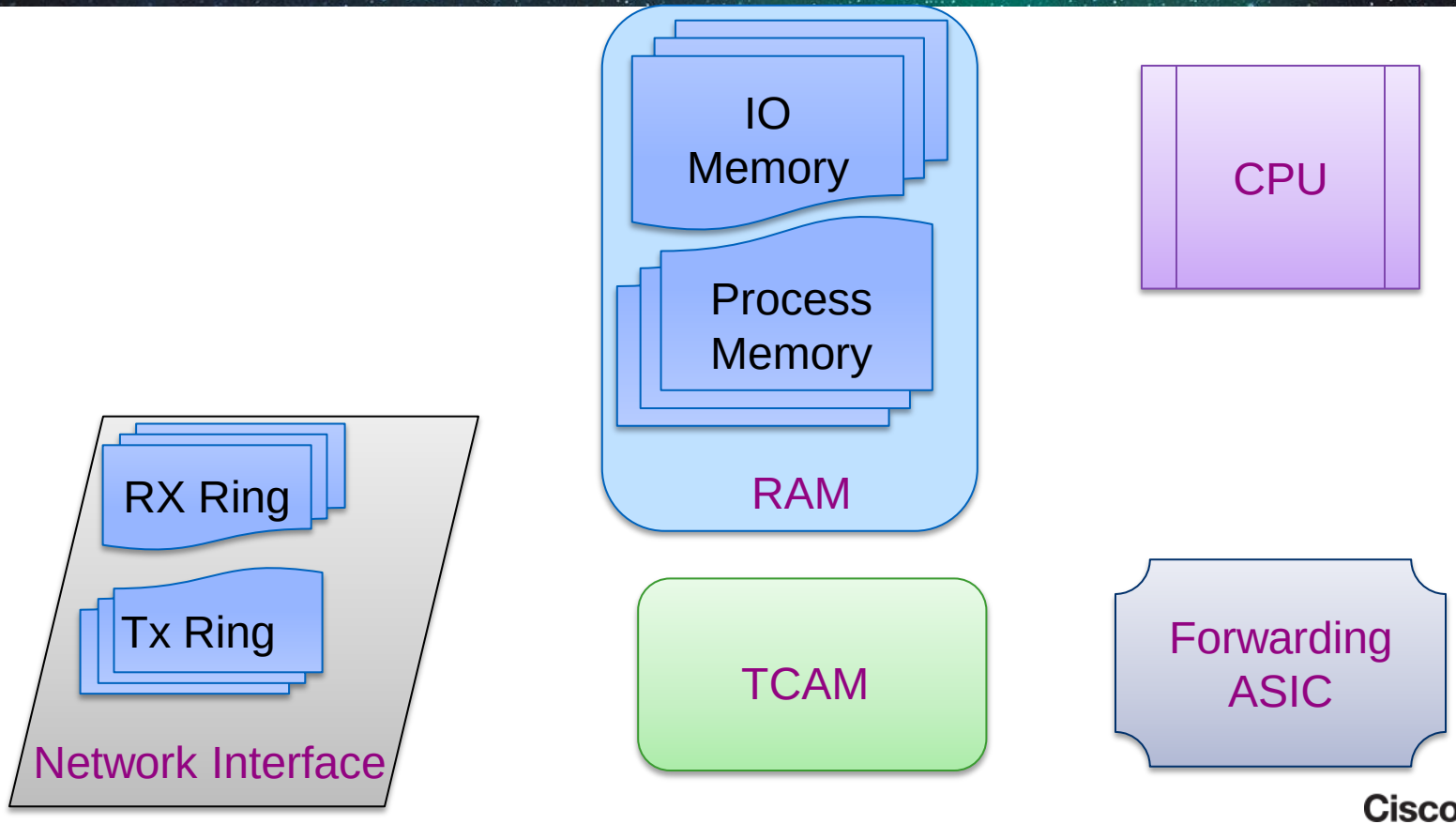
Router Components
Hardware Based Routers

- Hardware based
  - **Separated** control and data plane
  - CPU + ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit)
  - ASIC designed specifically to move packets (fast and dumb)
  - CPU manages control plane
  - CPU only moves packets the ASIC can't (options, fragmentation etc)
  - Data Plane packets sent to the CPU are "punted"

6500/7600/ASR9K/CRS and Nexus 7000 switches are hardware based

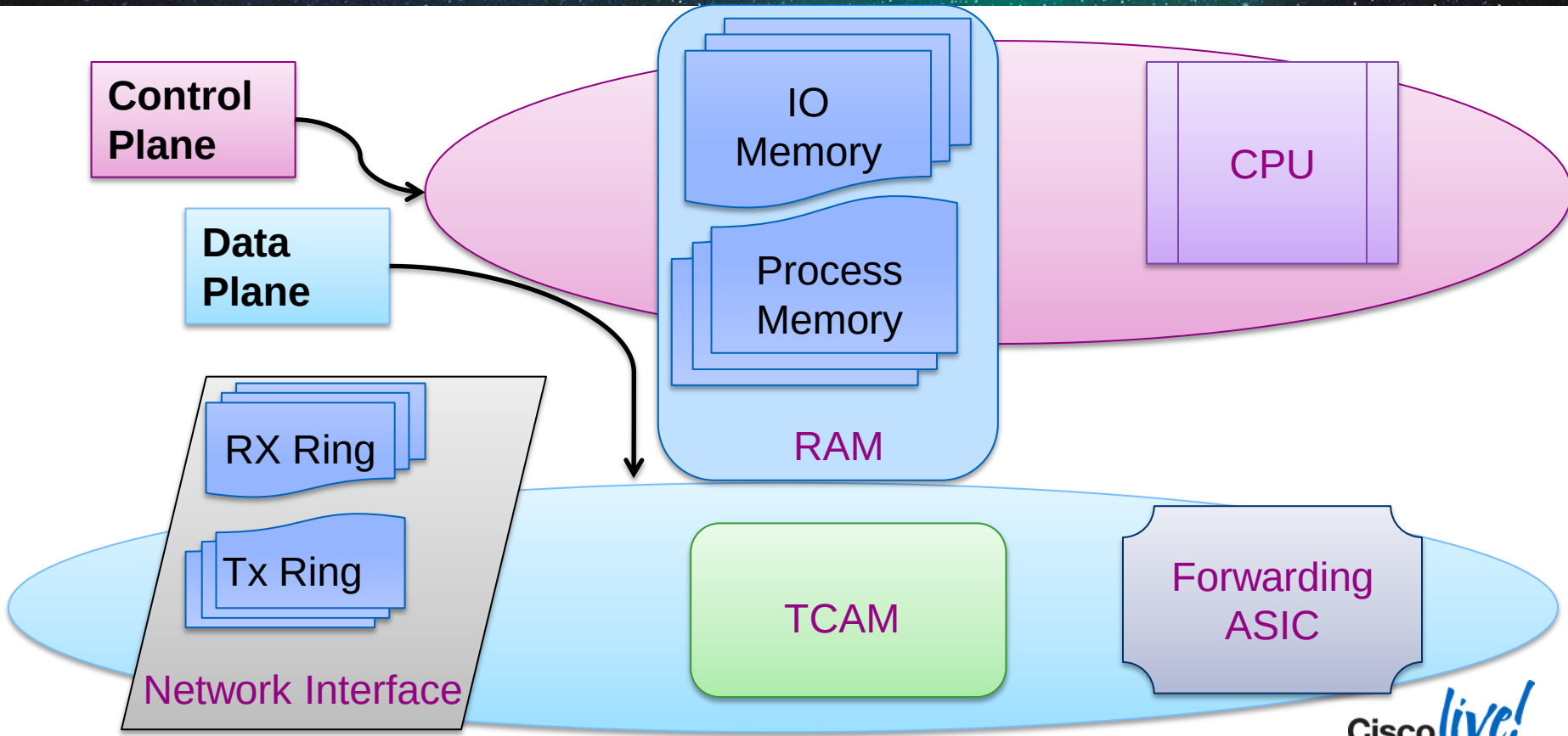
Router Components

Hardware Based Routers



Router Components

Hardware Based Routers



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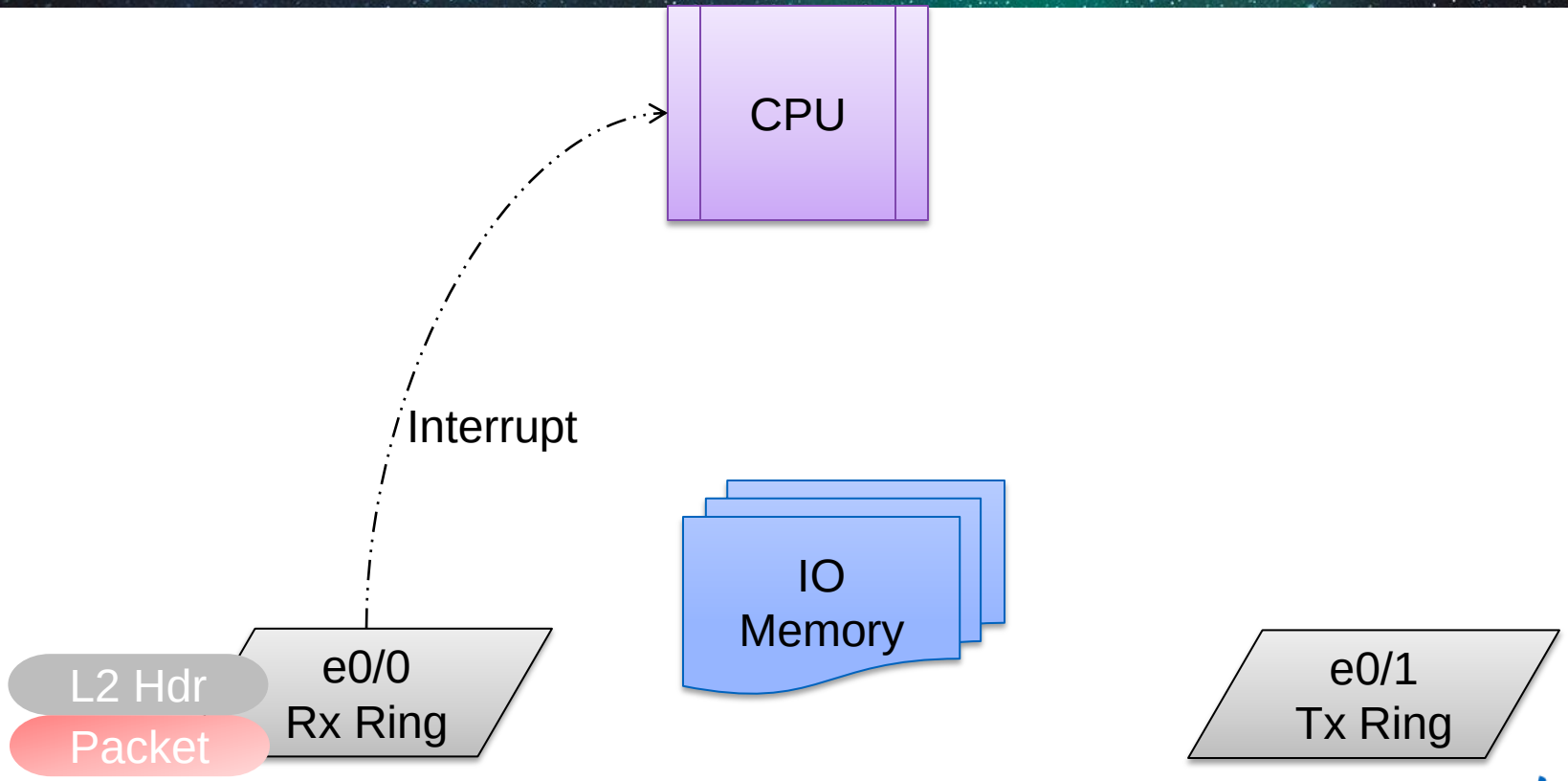
Moving Packets
Overview

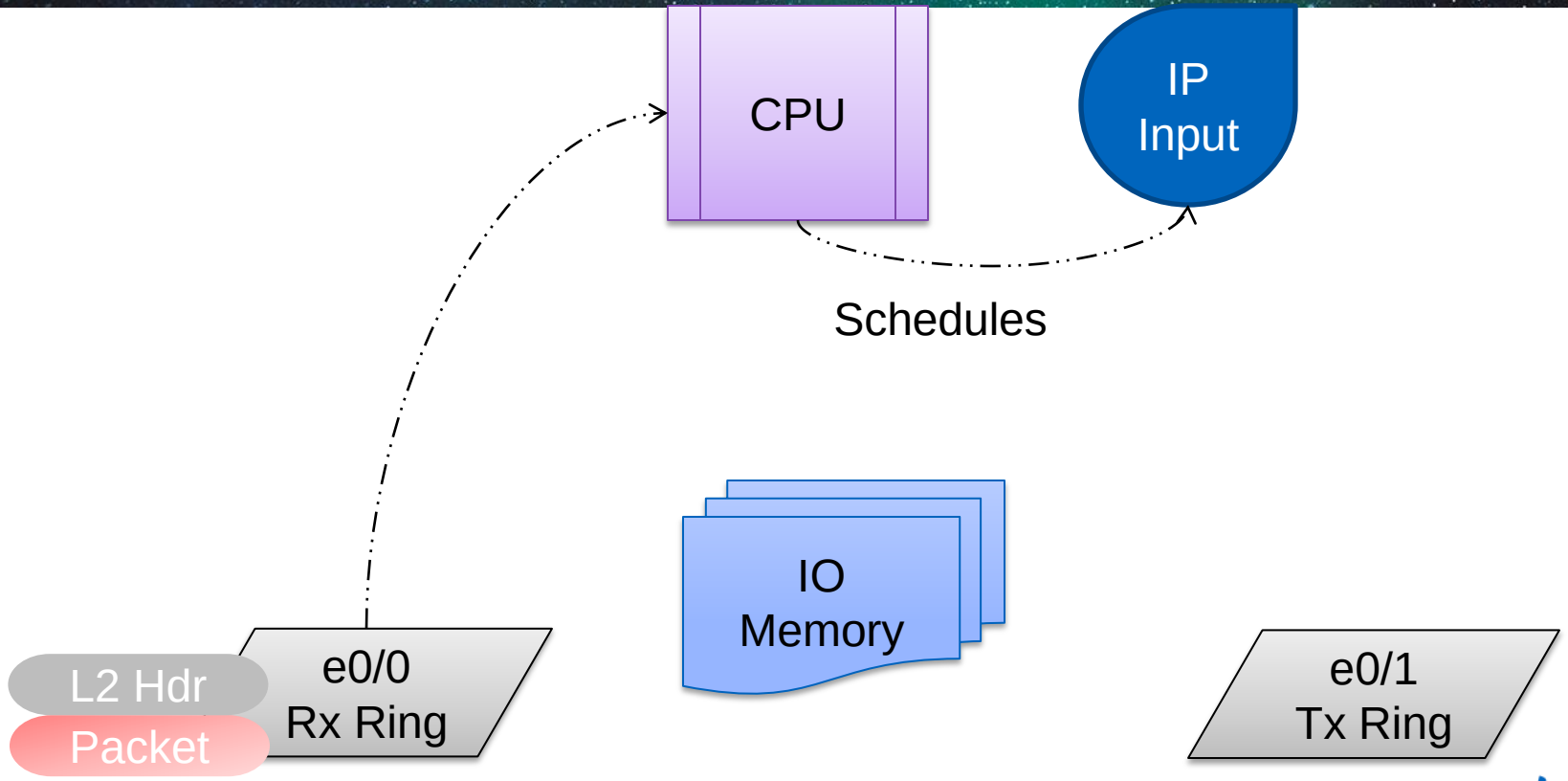
- CEF Switching and Process Switching
  - Fast Switching is deprecated as of 12.4(20)T
  - Not covered today
- CEF Switching is the default
- Process Switching is the fallback
  - Anything CEF can't handle

Moving Packets
Process Switching

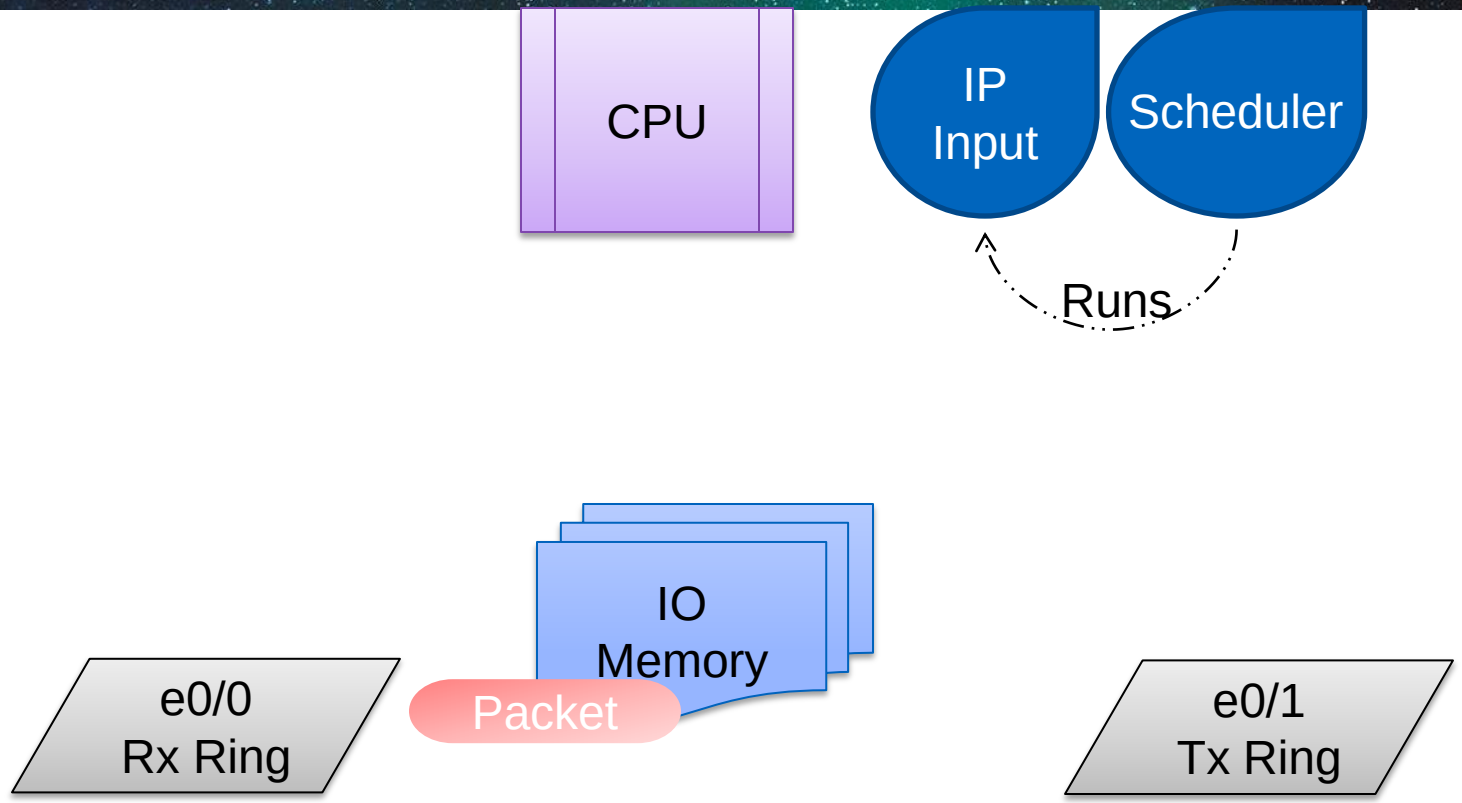


Moving Packets

Process Switching



Moving Packets
Process Switching



Moving Packets
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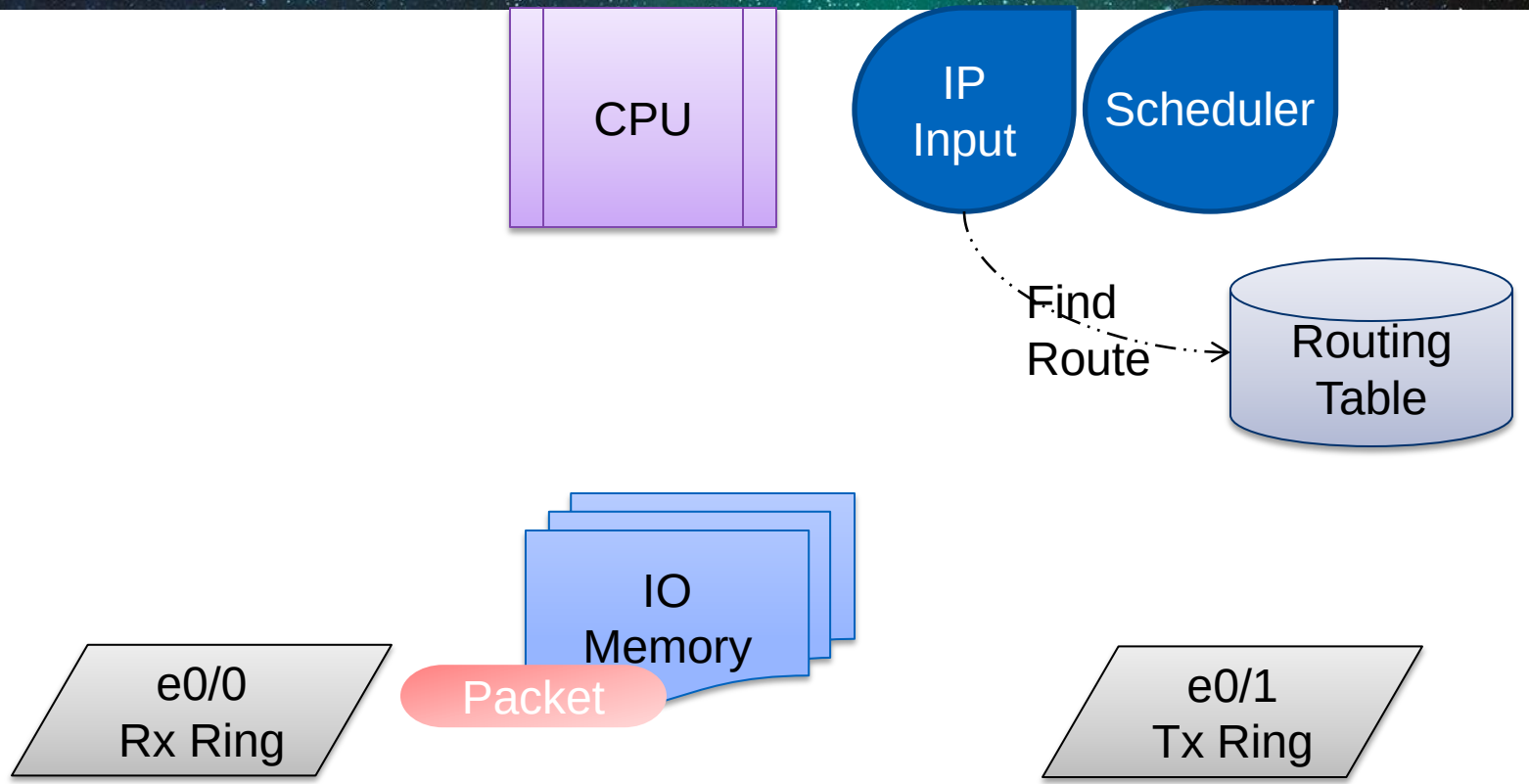

Moving Packets
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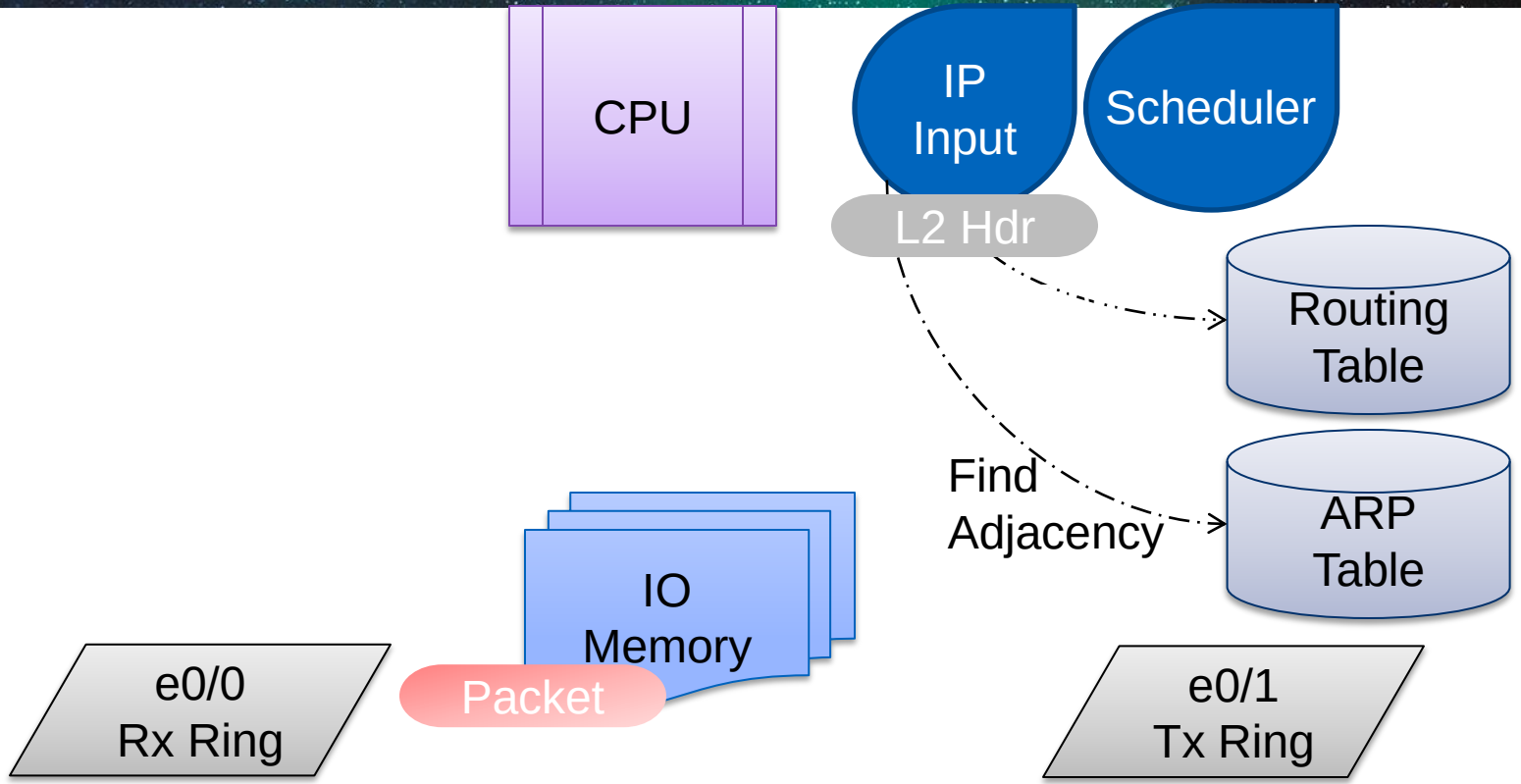

Moving Packets
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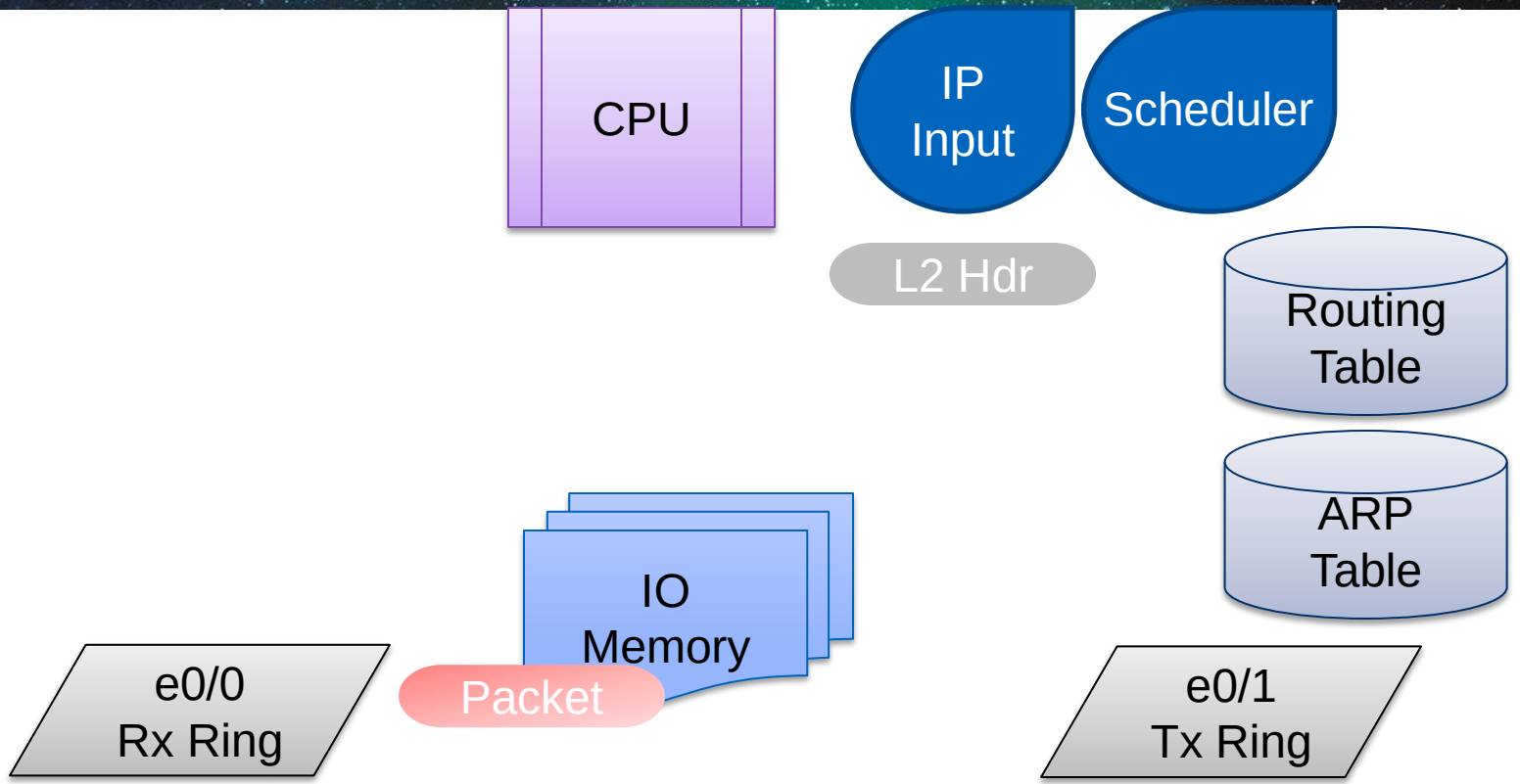
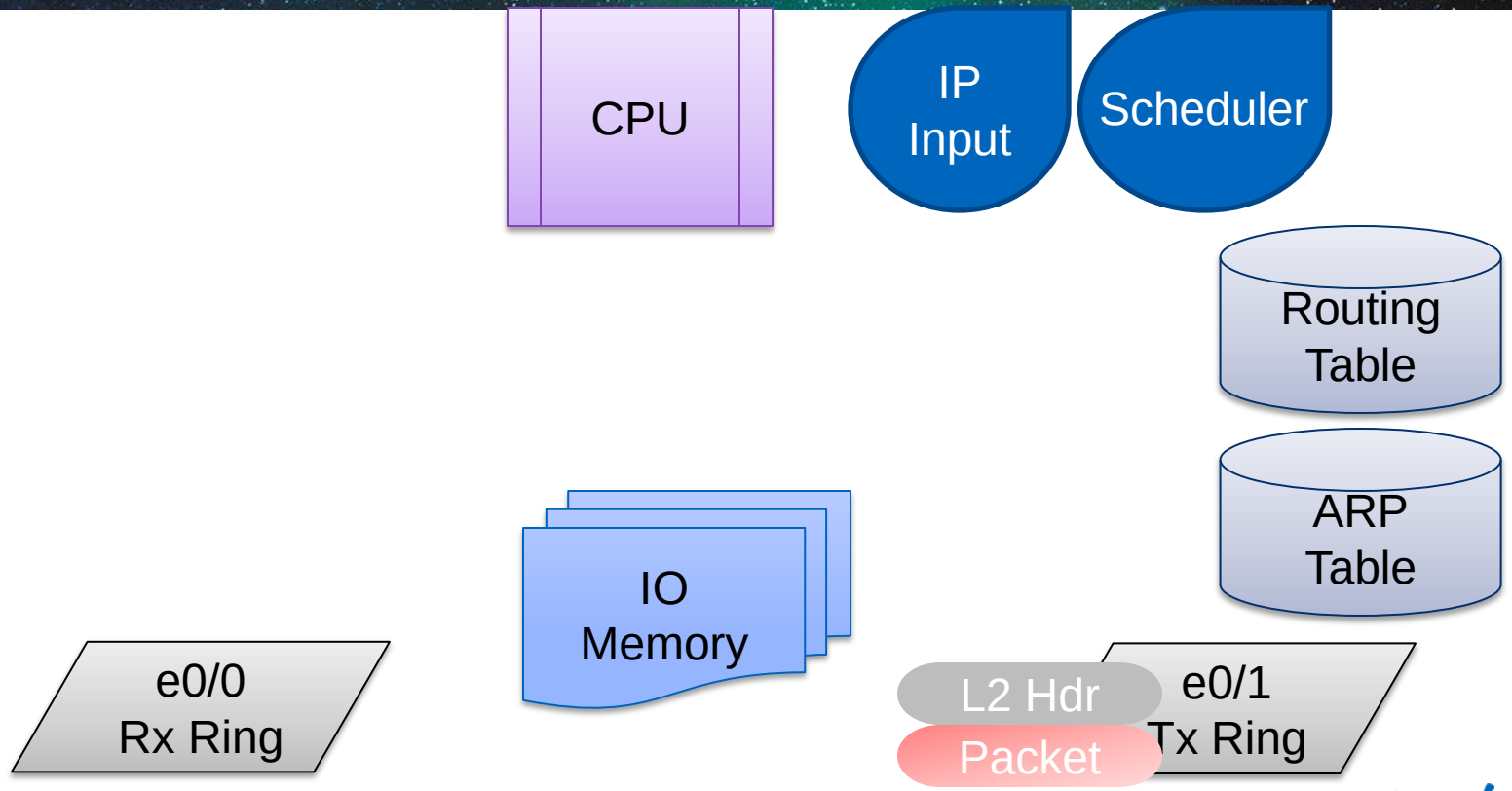


Moving Packets
Process Switching



Moving Packets
Process Switching

- Process Switching is **BAD - CPU Intensive**
- Multiple lookups
- Inefficient data structures
- Process scheduling

- What can we do to improve?
  - Better data structures
  - Pre-compile forwarding information

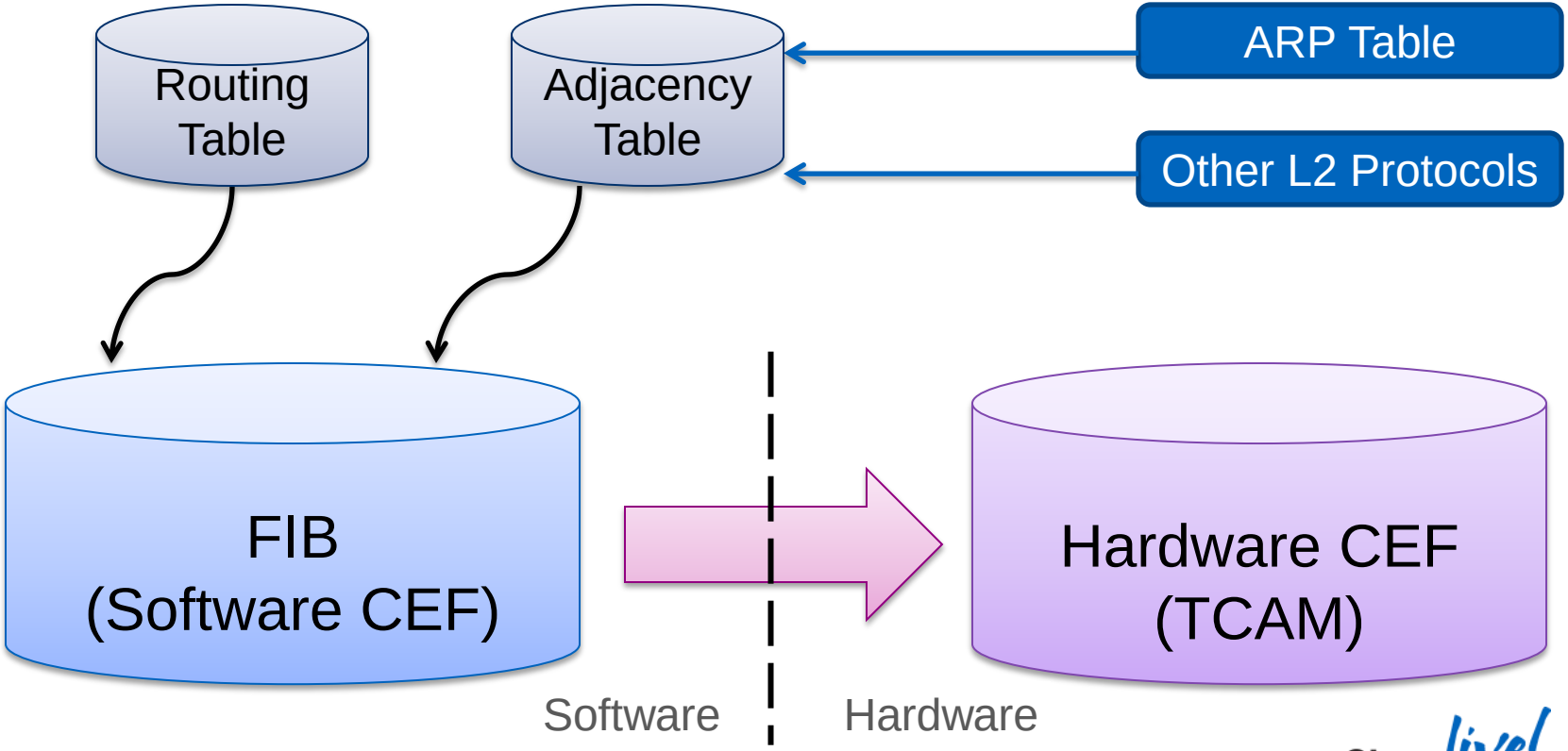



Moving Packets

CEF Switching

The FIB (Forwarding Information Base)

"Show IP CEF"



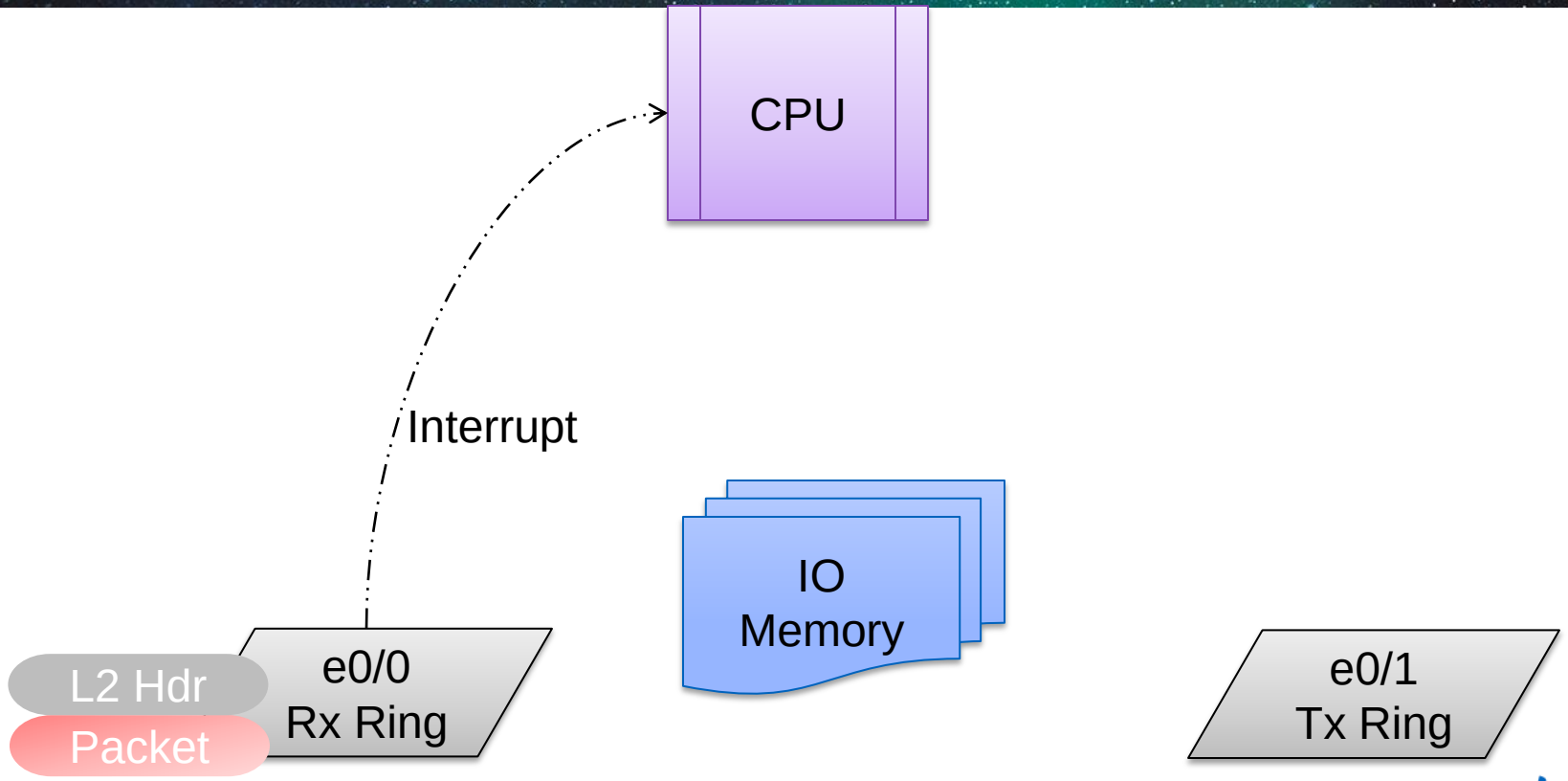
Moving Packets

CEF Overview

- CEF Table = Route + Egress Interface + L2 Destination
- Single lookup (and faster too!)
- No process scheduling

Moving Packets

CEF Switching



Moving Packets

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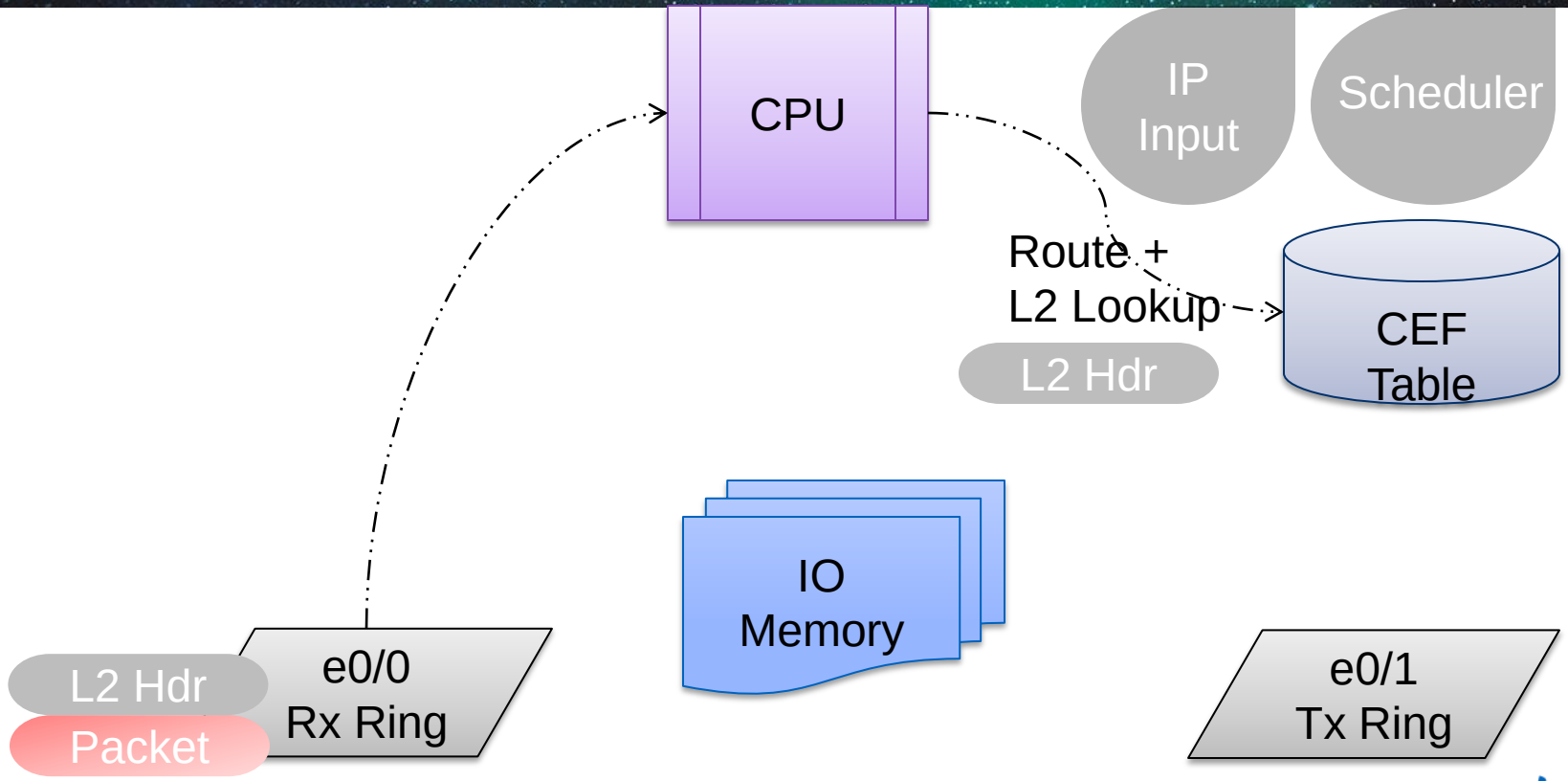
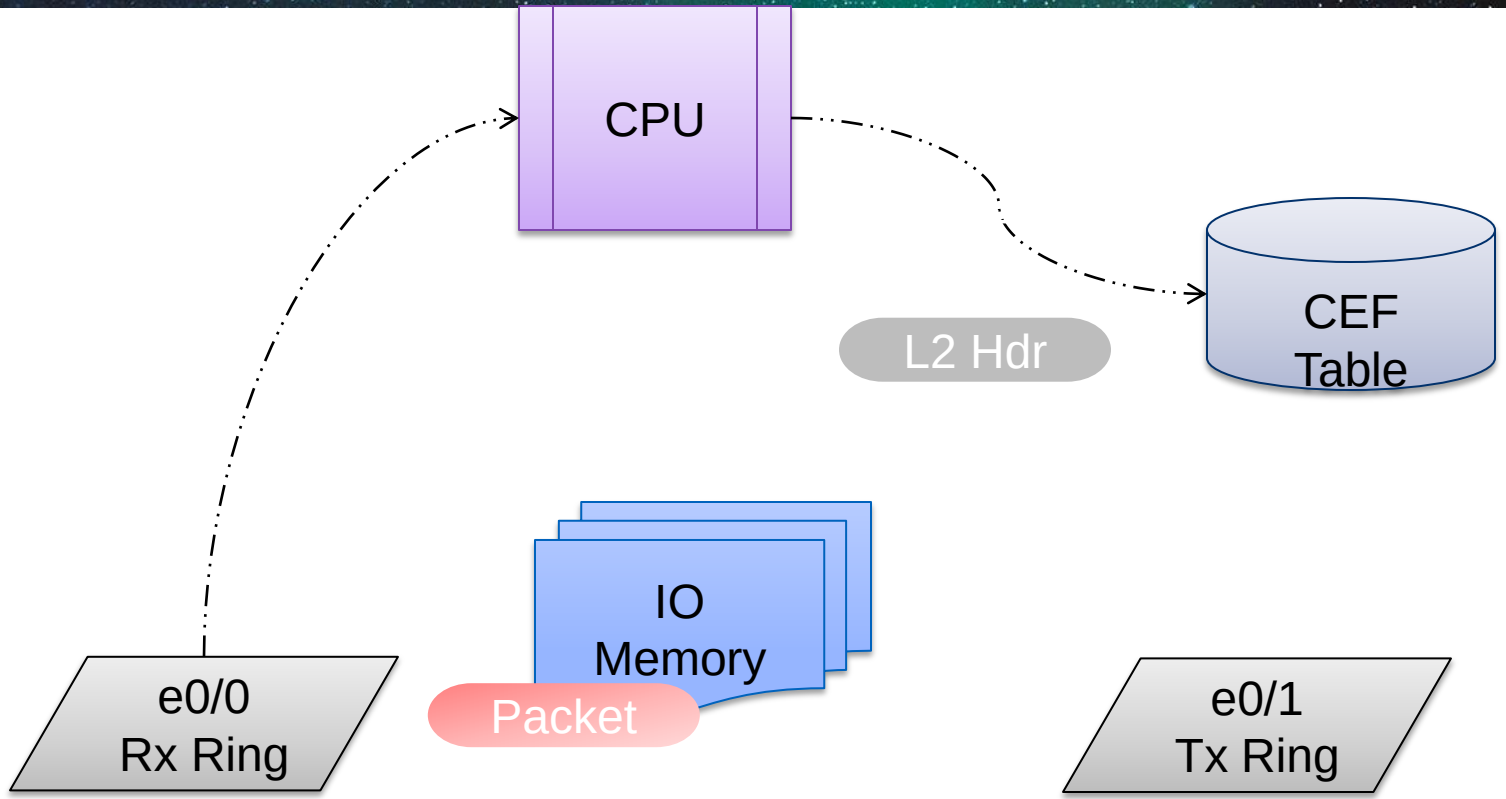


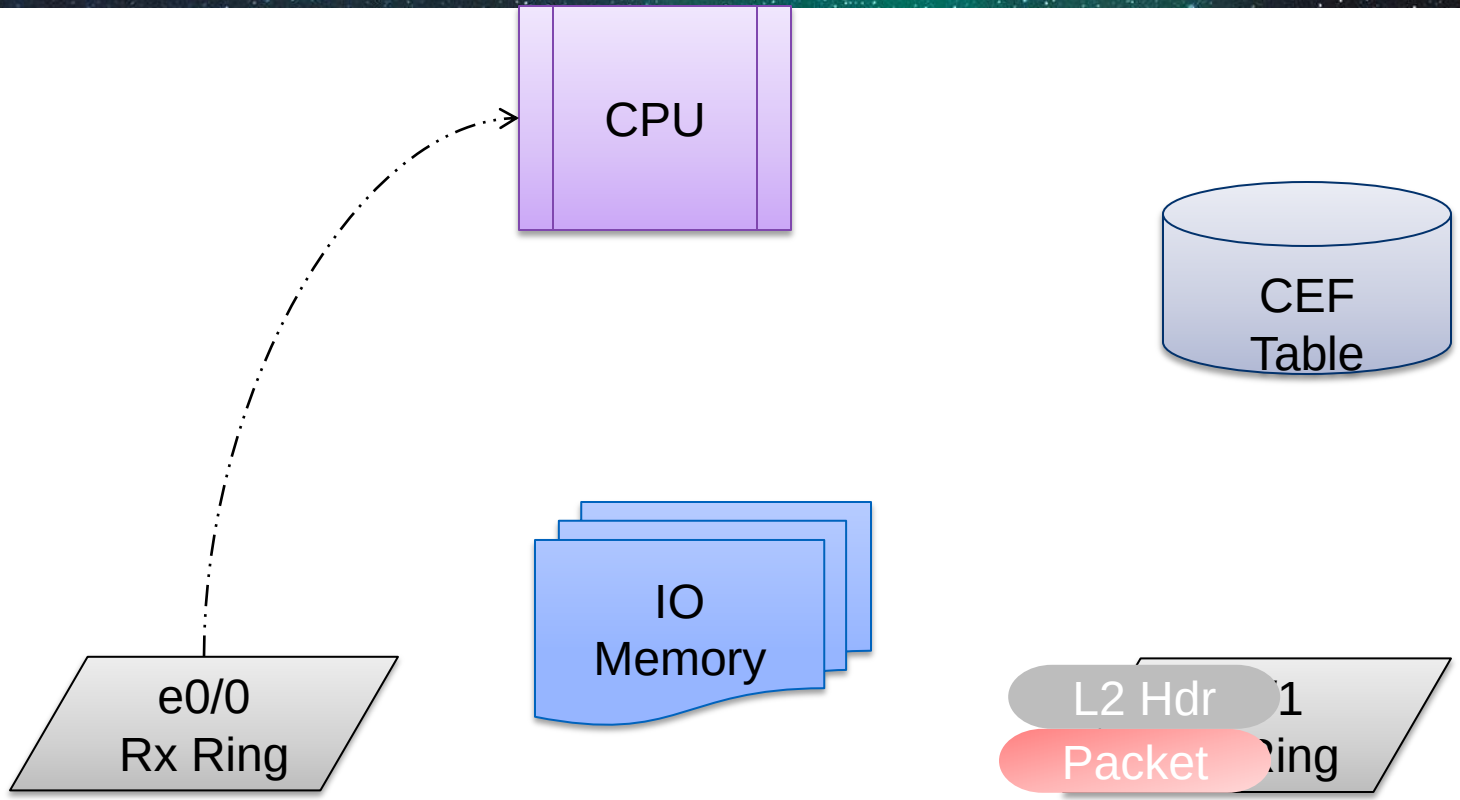
Moving Packets

CEF Switching



Moving Packets

CEF Switching



Moving Packets

CEF Switching - Summary

- Interrupt removes process scheduling
- Pre-compiled Interface + L2 information (cache)
- CEF table data structure improvement
  - RIB is a hash
  - CEF is a mtrie
- **Single lookup** for all necessary forwarding information

Moving Packets

Features and Switching Paths

- Supported in CEF
  - QoS
  - ACL
  - Zone Based Firewall
  - NAT
  - Netflow
  - IPSec
  - GRE
  - PBR
  - Many more!

- Process Switching Only
  - ACL Logging (ie deny any any log)
  - Packets destined to the router (BGP,OSPF ping etc)
  - Packets requiring fragmentation
  - No L2 Adjacency

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CEF and CPU Utilisation

CEF and CPU Utilisation

- CPU does everything
- Processes vs. Interrupts
  - SPF
  - BGP
  - Routed Packets

```
CPU utilization for five seconds: 5%/2%; one minute: 3%; five minutes: 2%
  PID  Runtime (ms)     Invoked   uSecs      5Sec   1Min    5Min  TTY     Process
...
    2          68          585     116     1.00%  1.00%      0%    0     IP Input
   17          88         4232      20     0.20%  1.00%      0%    0     BGP Router
   18         152        14650      10        0%     0%      0%    0     BGP Scanner
...
```

CEF and CPU Utilisation

CPU Utilisation Examples

1. CPU Utilisation due to moderate traffic rates

```
CPU utilisation for five seconds: 47%/46%; one minute: 40%; five minutes: 39%
```

CEF and CPU Utilisation

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CPU utilization for five seconds: 47%/46%; one minute: 40%; five minutes: 39%
```

2. High CPU due to OSPF Reconvergence

```
CPU utilization for five seconds: 99%/3%; one minute: 53%; five minutes: 49%
 PID  Runtime(ms)   Invoked    uSecs     5Sec     1Min    5Min   TTY Process
 357        319932   138750    21039   88.32%   41.18%  36.78%     0 OSPF-1 Router
```

CEF and CPU Utilisation

CPU Utilisation Examples

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 357        319932   138750    21039   88.32%   41.18%  36.78%     0 OSPF-1 Router
```

3. High CPU due to multiple Virtual Exec Processes

```
CPU utilization for five seconds: 99%/3%; one minute: 99%; five minutes: 99%
 PID Runtime(ms)    Invoked      uSecs   5Sec   1Min   5Min TTY Process
   3    24871276   47622133        522 30.62% 31.62% 31.57%   2 Virtual Exec
 122    24812452   47528825        522 30.53% 31.62% 31.60%   3 Virtual Exec
 131    24790280   47490842        522 32.84% 31.88% 31.31%   4 Virtual Exec
```

CEF and CPU Utilisation

Process Priority

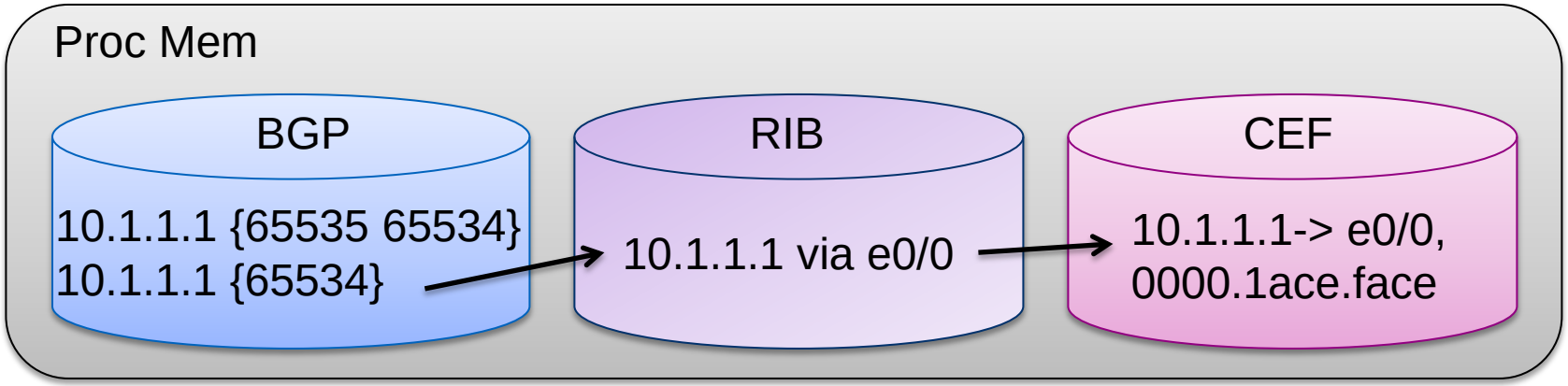
- Processes assigned priority
  - Critical/High/Medium/Low
- Priority Scheduler
- Run to Completion Model
  - Processes choose to suspend
- Interrupts break the rules

Routing Protocols, CEF and Memory

Routing Protocols, CEF and Memory

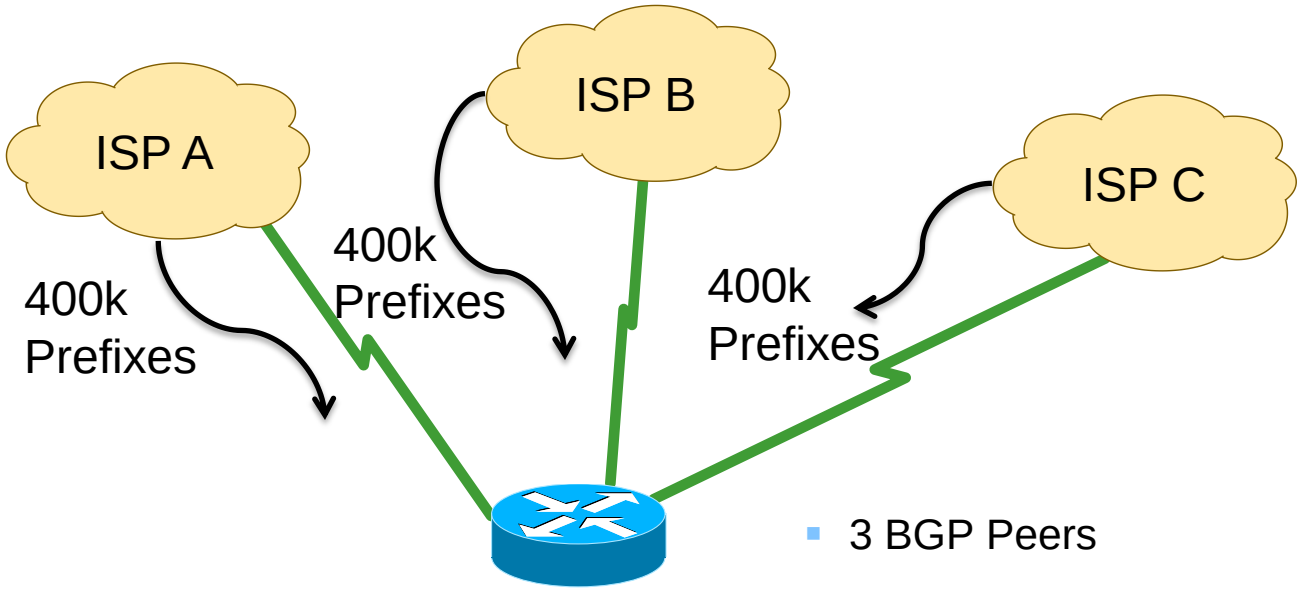
Process Memory

- Routing Protocol, RIB, and CEF each take their own memory
- RIB built from Routing Protocols
- CEF built from RIB



Routing Protocols, CEF and Memory

Memory Utilisation – Multiple Internet Tables



- 3 BGP Peers
- 400k **Identical** Routes
- 15.2(2)T

Routing Protocols, CEF and Memory

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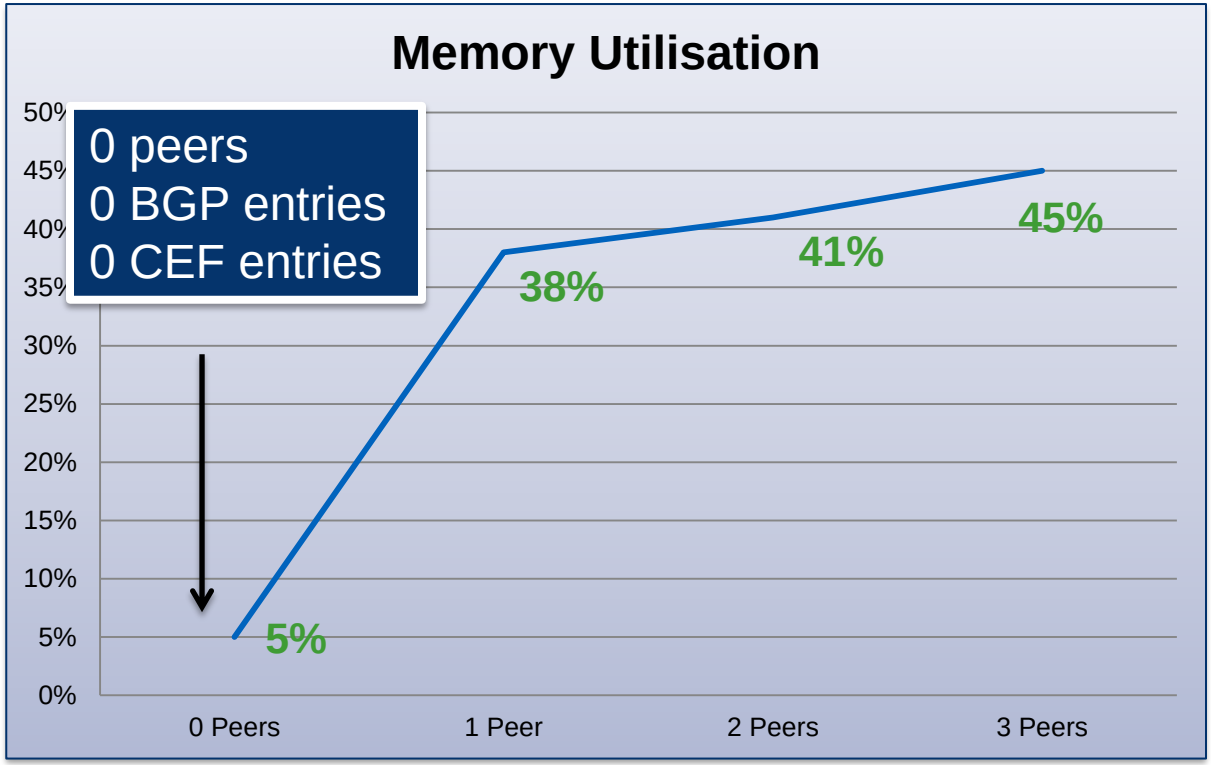

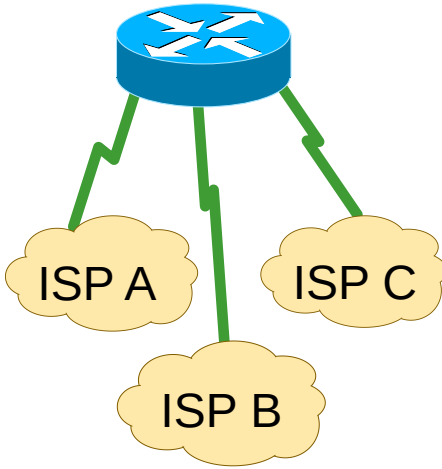

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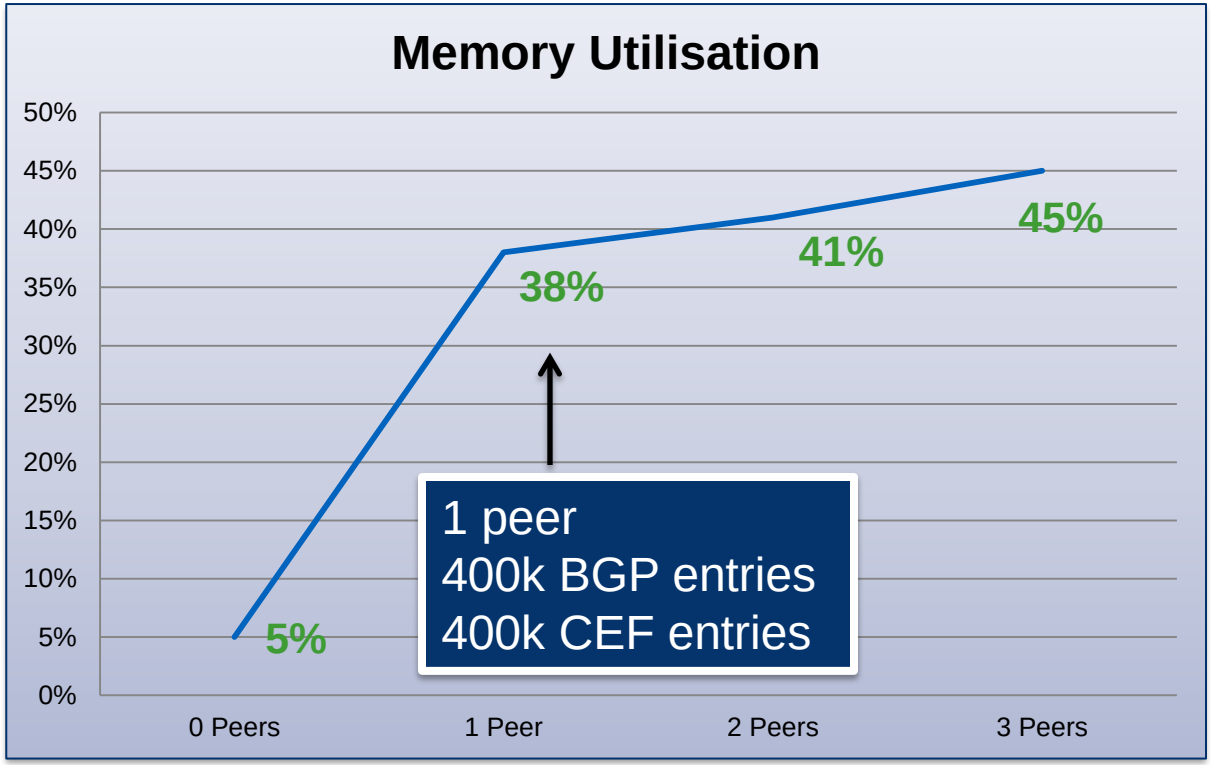

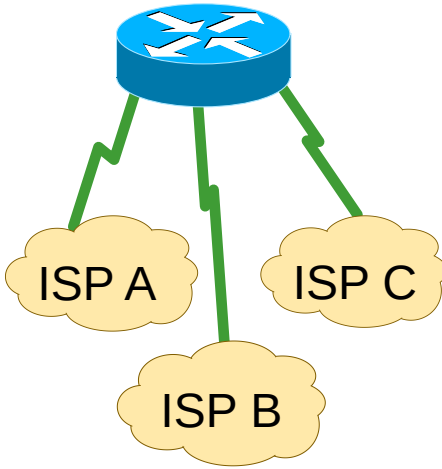

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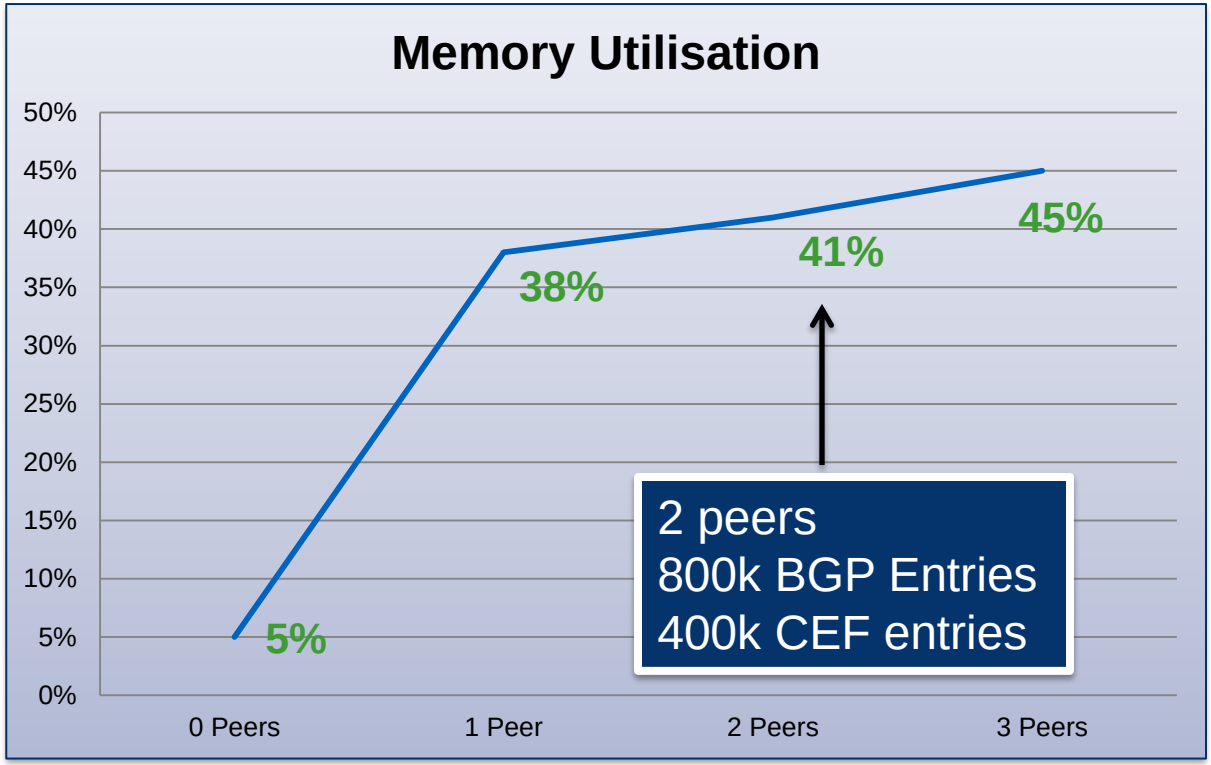

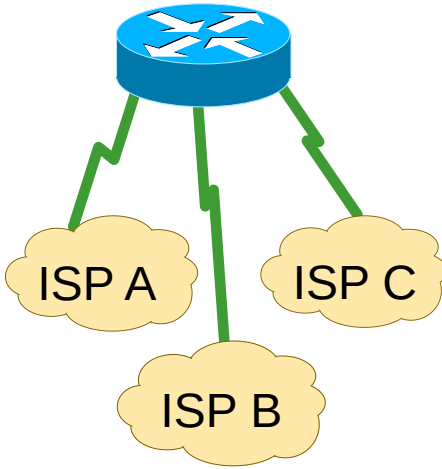

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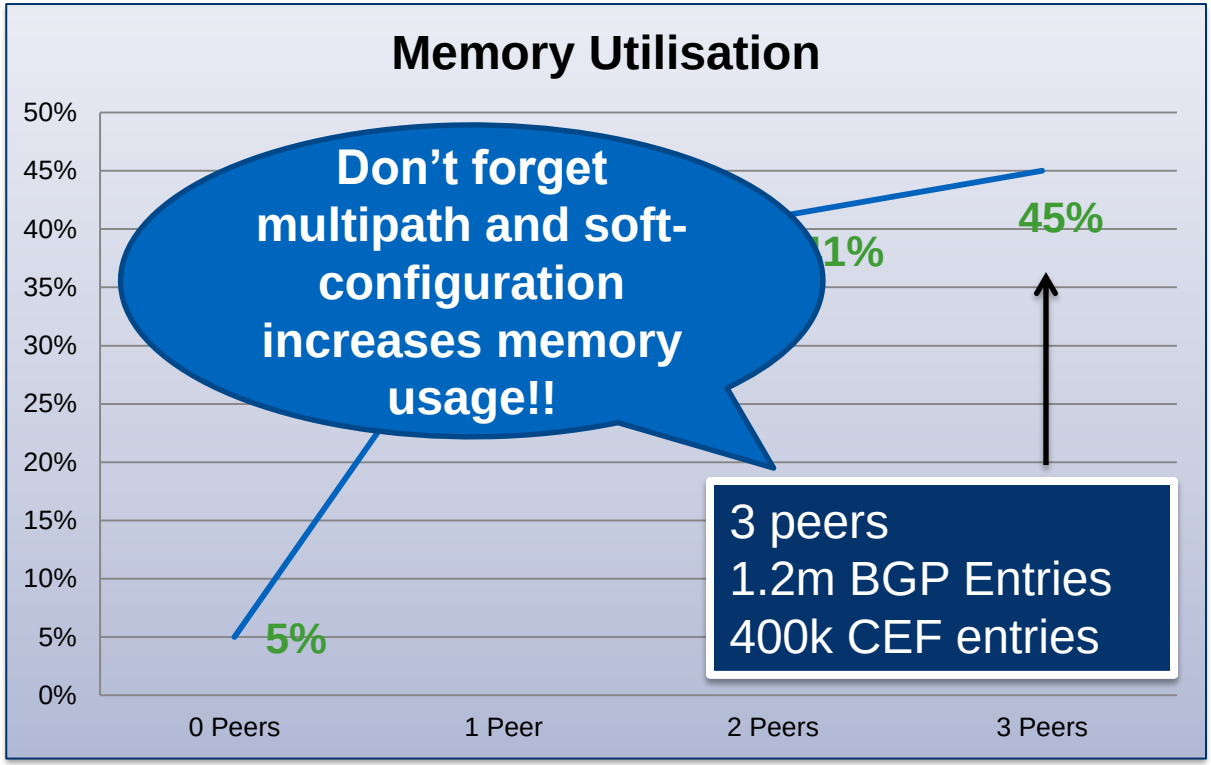

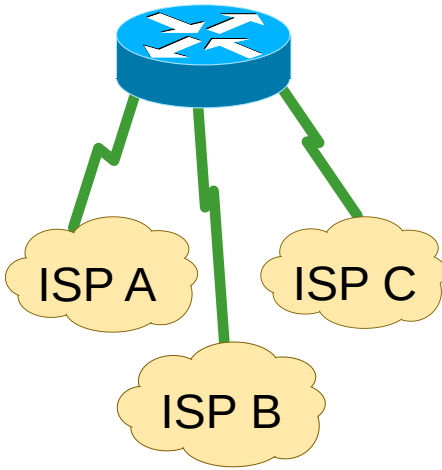

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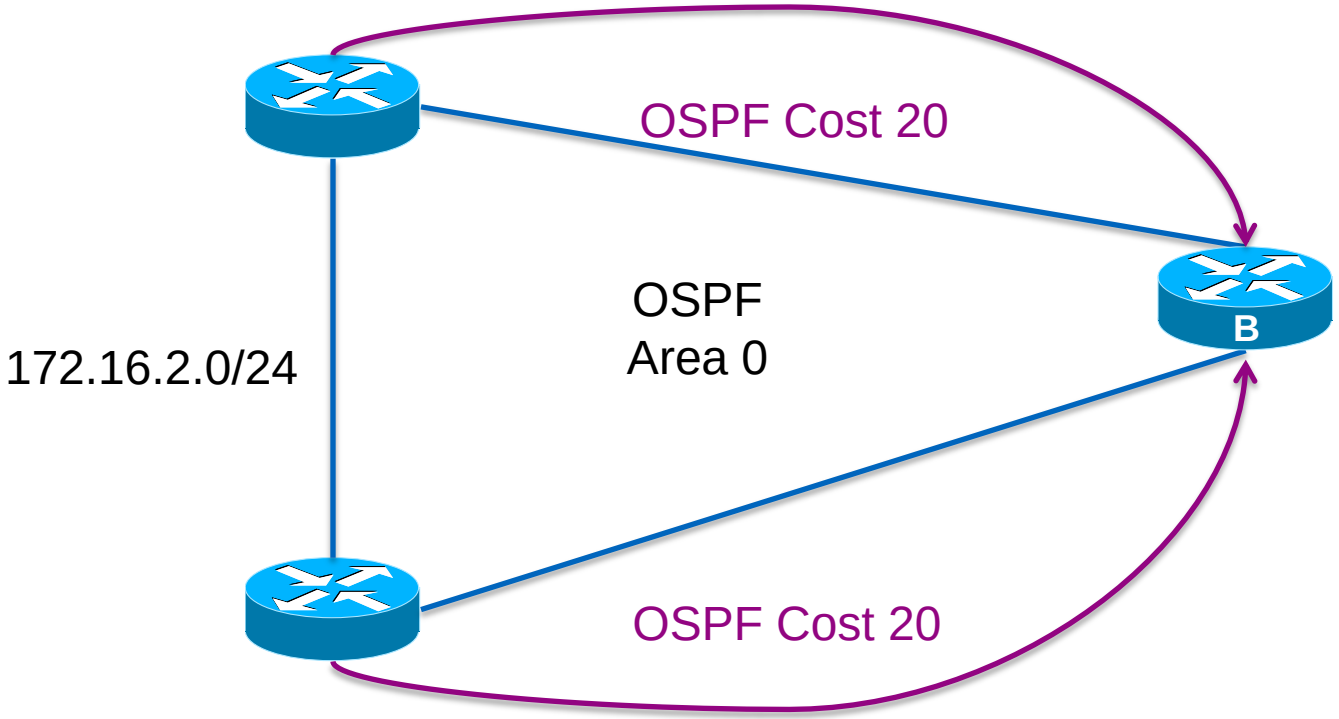
Load Sharing

CEF Load Sharing

Equal Cost Multipath (ECMP)

Equal Cost Overview



Equal Cost Multipath

The Routing Table (Equal Cost)

```
RouterB#show ip route 172.16.2.0

Routing entry for 172.16.2.0/24
  Known via "ospf 1", distance 110, metric 20, type intra area
  Last update from 172.16.1.1 on Ethernet0/0, 1d02h ago
  Routing Descriptor Blocks:

  * 192.168.100.1, from 192.168.200.1, 1d02h ago, via
Ethernet0/1
      Route metric is 20, traffic share count is 1

    172.16.1.1, from 192.168.200.1, 1d02h ago, via Ethernet0/0
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    172.16.1.1, from 192.168.200.1, 1d02h ago, via Ethernet0/0
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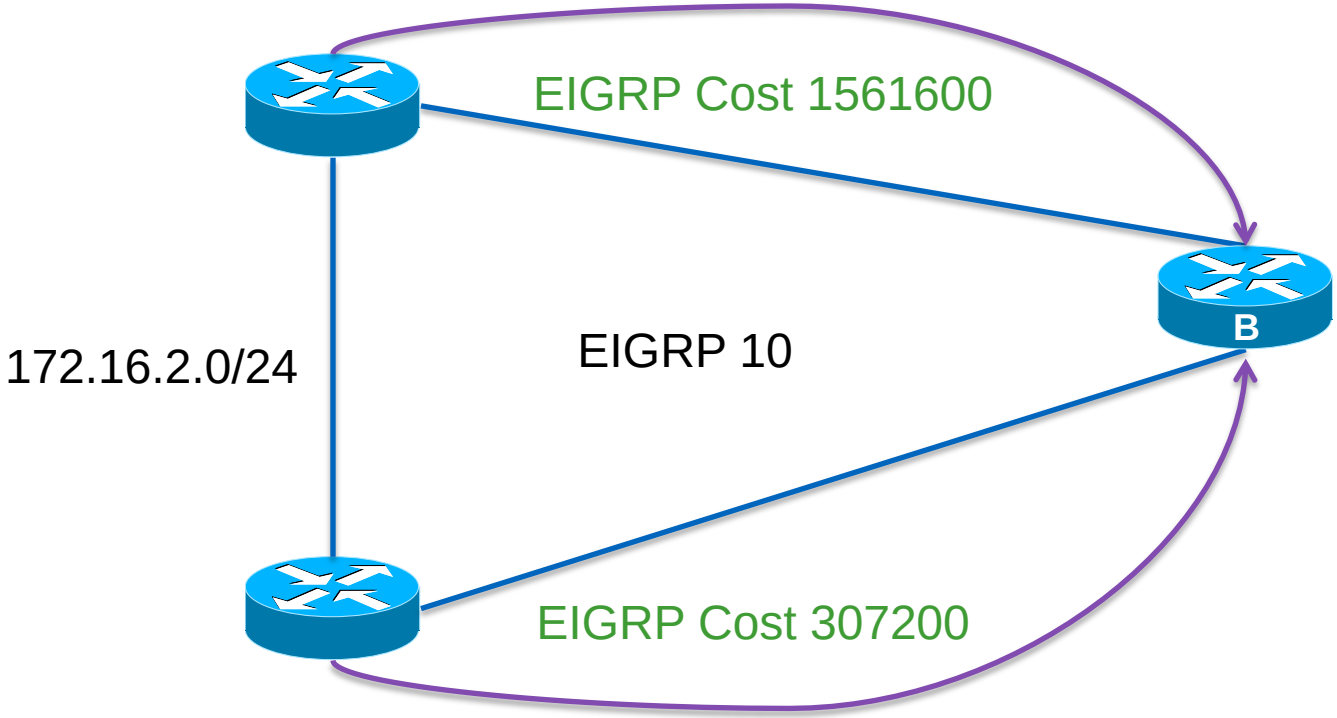
Equal Cost Multipath

Unequal Cost Overview



Equal Cost Multipath

The Routing Table (Unequal Cost)

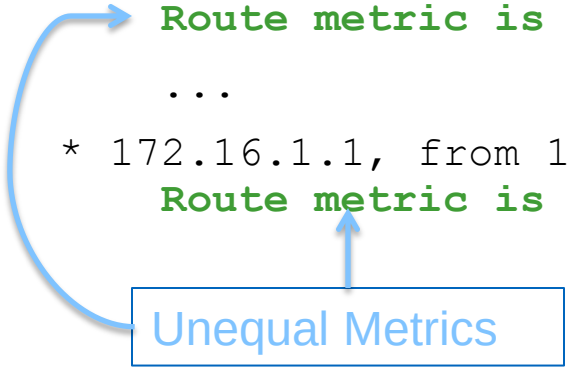
```
RouterB#show ip route 172.16.2.0

Routing entry for 172.16.2.0/24
  Known via "eigrp 10", distance 90, metric 307200, type
internal
  Last update from 172.16.1.1 on Ethernet0/0, 1d02h ago
  Routing Descriptor Blocks:

    192.168.100.1, from 192.168.200.1, 1d02h ago, via
Ethernet0/1
      Route metric is 1561600, traffic share count is 47

      ...

  * 172.16.1.1, from 172.16.1.1, 00:00:16 ago, via Ethernet0/0
      Route metric is 307200, traffic share count is 240
```



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Unequal traffic share count

Equal Cost Multipath

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```

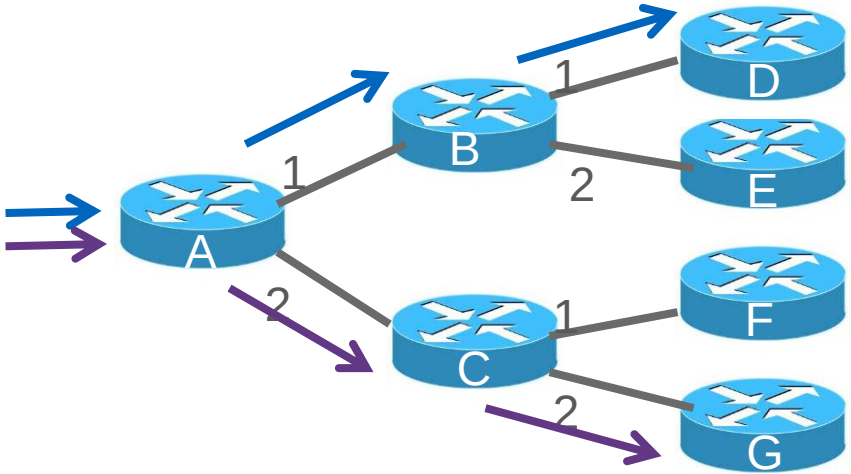
Only accomplished with EIGRP **`variance`**

Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Polarisation

- Hash is deterministic
  - Same input always provides the same output

Packet 1 = src 10.1.1.1 dst 10.2.2.2
Packet 2 = src 10.1.1.1 dst 10.3.3.3



- Without randomisation every router makes the same decision
- Downstream routers never loadshare

Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Hashing Algorithm

- Default hash is “Universal”

  Source IP + Destination IP + Universal Identifier
- Universal ID prevents polarisation
- Other hashes can be used for fixing unequal load sharing

```
RouterB#show cef state
CEF Status:
…
 universal per-destination load sharing algorithm,
id 0F33353C
```

Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Load Sharing Options

- Per-Packet
  - More even load sharing
  - Jitter
  - Out of Order packets (bad for lots of applications)
- Per-Destination (default)
  - Can be less even load sharing
  - Ordered delivery
  - Hashing challenges

Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Hashing

```
RouterB#show ip CEF 172.16.2.1 internal
172.16.2.0/24, epoch 0, RIB[I], refcount 5, per-destination sharing
…
  ifnums:
   Ethernet0/0(3): 172.16.1.1
   Ethernet0/1(4): 192.168.200.1
  path 08172748, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 172.16.1.1 Eth0/0, adj IP adj out Eth0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
  path 08172898, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 192.168.200.1 Eth0/1, adj IP adj out Eth0/1, addr 192.168.200.1
0F75D9F8
  flags: Per-session, for-rx-IPv4, 2buckets
    2 hash buckets
      < 0 > IP adj out of Ethernet0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
      < 1 > IP adj out of Ethernet0/1, addr 192.168.200.1 0F75D9F8
```

Equal Cost Multipath

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   Ethernet0/0(3): 172.16.1.1
   Ethernet0/1(4): 192.168.200.1
  path 08172748, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 172.16.1.1 Eth0/0, adj IP adj out Eth0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
  path 08172898, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 192.168.200.1 Eth0/1, adj IP adj out Eth0/1, addr 192.168.200.1
0F75D9F8
  flags: Per-session, for-rx-IPv4, 2buckets
    2 hash buckets
      < 0 > IP adj out of Ethernet0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
      < 1 > IP adj out of Ethernet0/1, addr 192.168.200.1 0F75D9F8
```

Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Hashing

```
RouterB#show ip CEF 172.16.2.1 internal
172.16.2.0/24, epoch 0, RIB[I], refcount 5, per-destination sharing
…
  ifnums:
   Ethernet0/0(3): 172.16.1.1
   Ethernet0/1(4): 192.168.200.1
  path 08172748, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 172.16.1.1 Eth0/0, adj IP adj out Eth0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
  path 08172898, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 192.168.200.1 Eth0/1, adj IP adj out Eth0/1, addr 192.168.200.1
0F75D9F8
  flags: Per-session, for-rx-IPv4, 2buckets
    2 hash buckets
      < 0 > IP adj out of Ethernet0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
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Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Hashing

```
RouterB#show ip CEF 172.16.2.1 internal
172.16.2.0/24, epoch 0, RIB[I], refcount 5, per-destination sharing
…
  ifnums:
   Ethernet0/0(3): 172.16.1.1
   Ethernet0/1(4): 192.168.200.1
  path 08172748, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
IPv4
  nexthop 172.16.1.1 Eth0/0, adj IP adj out Eth0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
  path 08172898, path list 100071A8, share 1/1, type attached nexthop, for
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  nexthop 192.168.200.1 Eth0/1, adj IP adj out Eth0/1, addr 192.168.200.1
0F75D9F8
  flags: Per-session, for-rx-IPv4, 2buckets
    2 hash buckets
      < 0 > IP adj out of Ethernet0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
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```
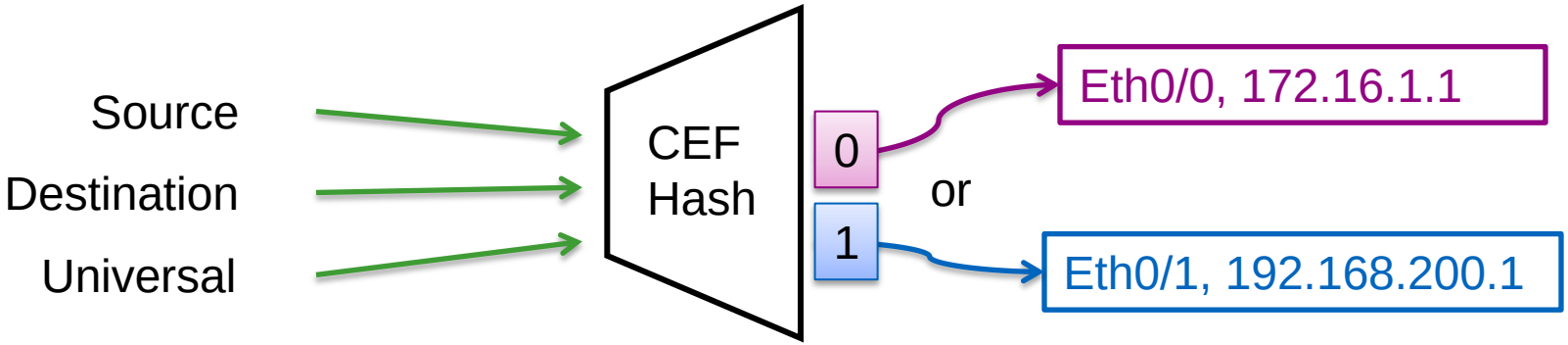

Equal Cost Multipath

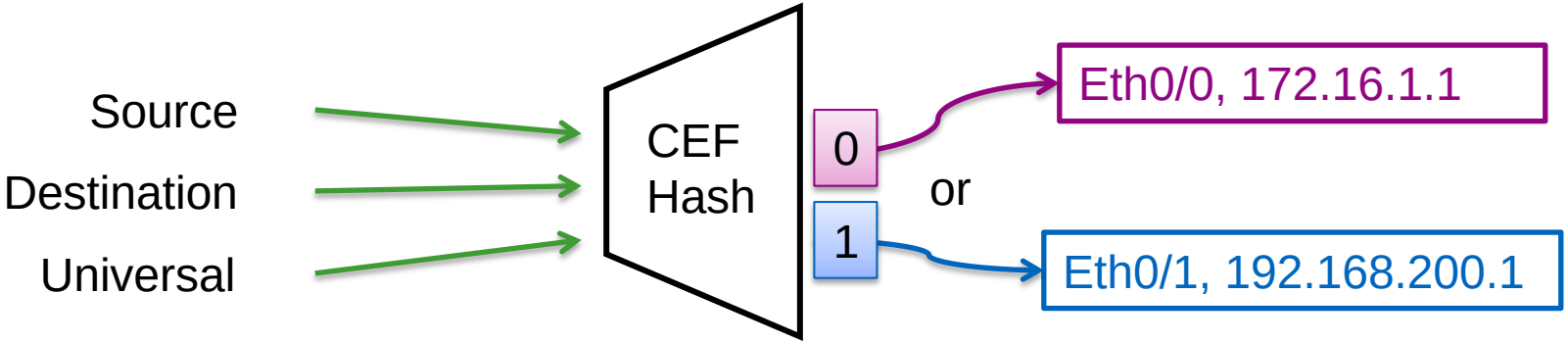
CEF Hashing

```
2 hash buckets
     < 0 > IP adj out Ethernet0/0, addr 172.16.1.1 081E35A0
     < 1 > IP adj out Ethernet0/1, addr 192.168.200.1 0F75D9F8
```



Equal Cost Multipath

CEF Hashing




```
RouterB#show ip CEF exact-route 192.168.2.38 172.16.2.24
192.168.2.38 -> 172.16.2.24 => IP adj out Ethernet0/1  addr 192.168.200.1

RouterB#show ip CEF exact-route 192.168.2.40 172.16.2.24
192.168.2.40 -> 172.16.2.24 => IP adj out Ethernet0/0  addr 172.16.1.1
```

Equal Cost Multipath

Summary

- CEF is built from the routing table
- Load sharing is part of routing decision
- Not 100% equal (60/40)
- Based on Source/Destination IP + Universal ID
- Only one router

How do I load share on more than one router?

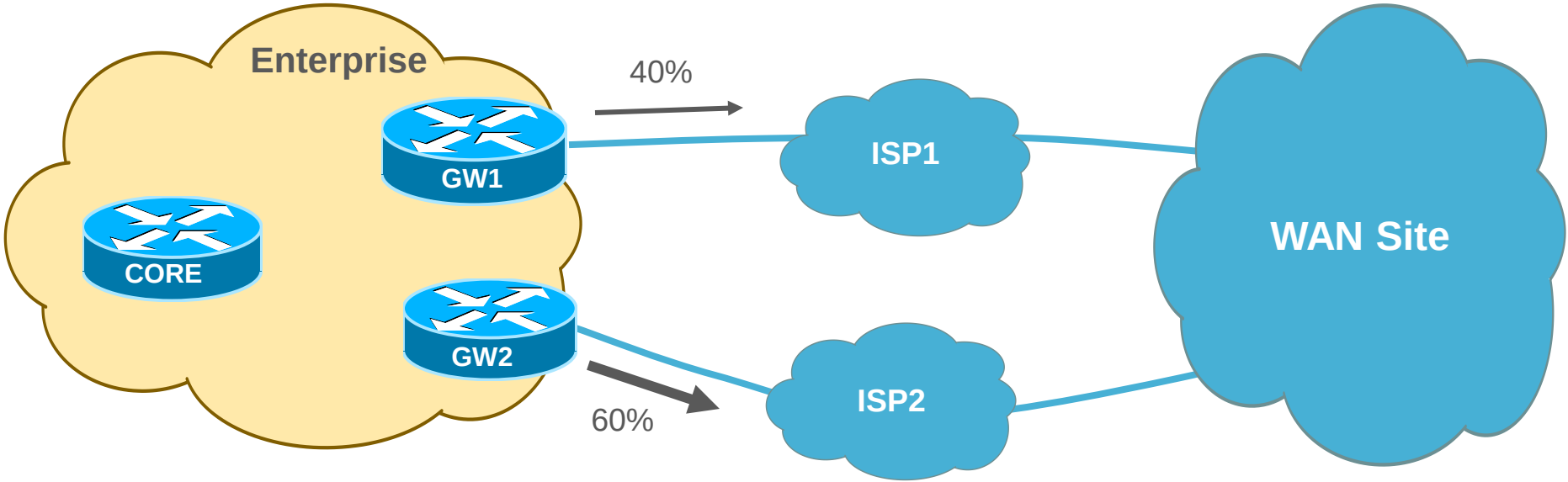



Load Sharing

Outbound Load Sharing with PfR

Load Sharing with PfR

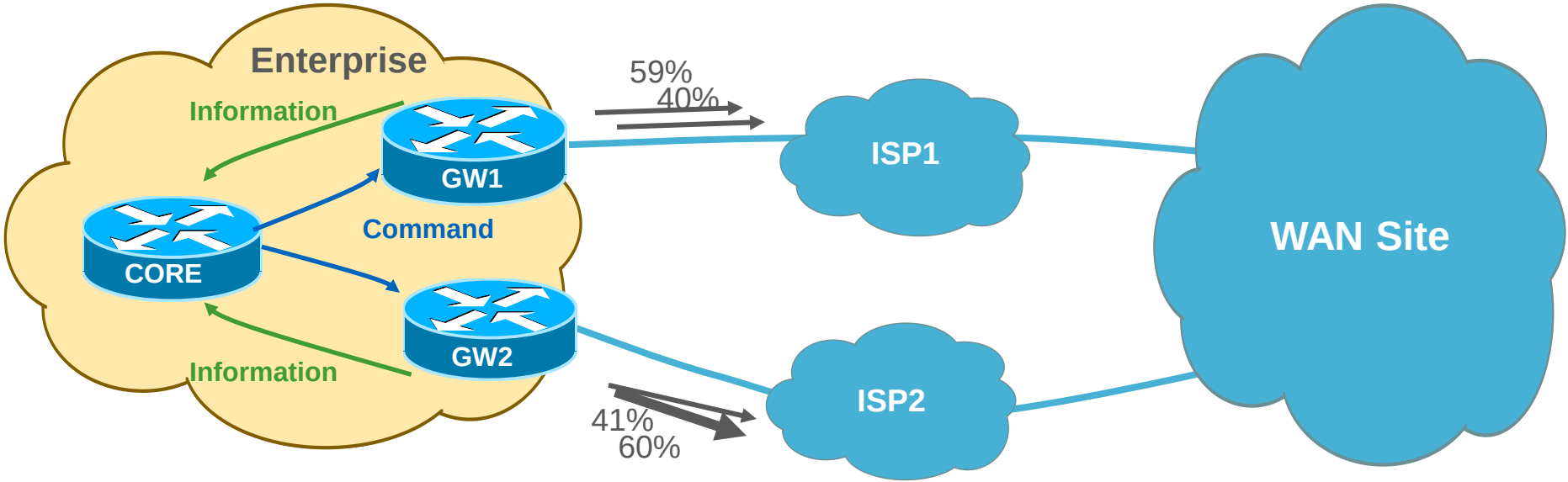
PfR Introduction



Load Sharing with PfR

PfR Introduction

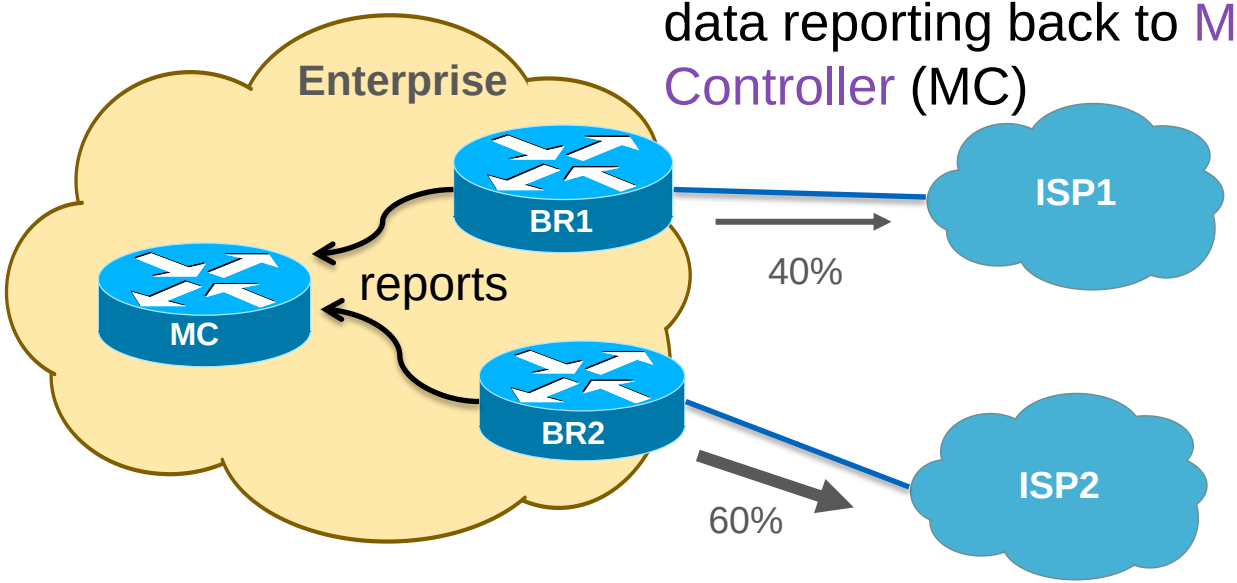
- PfR defines polices and modifies routing
- Allows for dynamic routing changes based on load or delay



Load Sharing with PfR

Operations

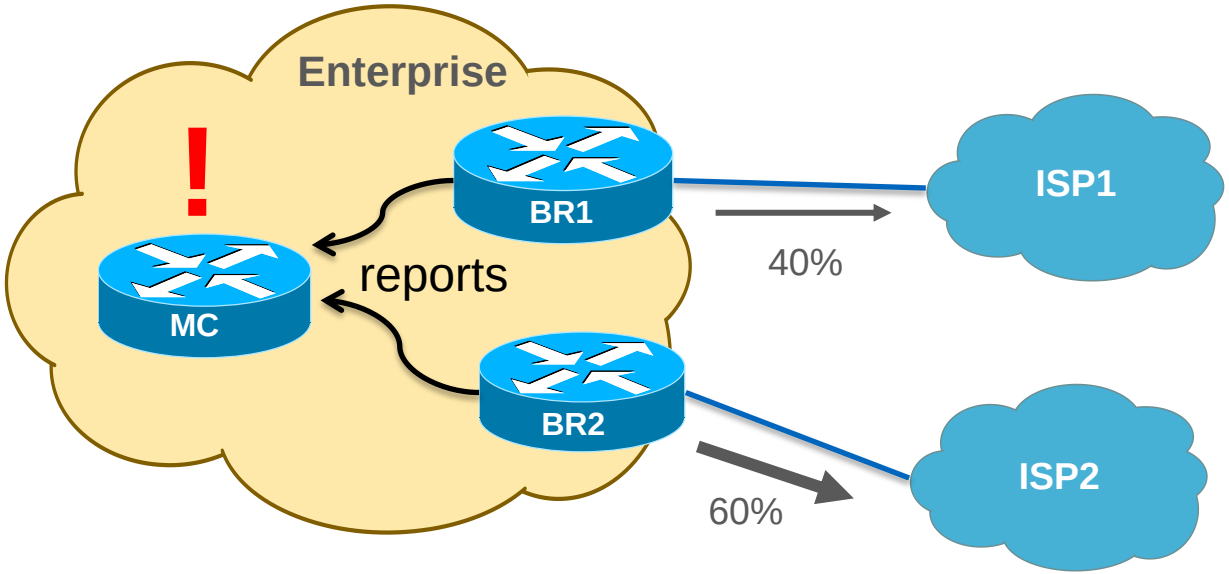
Border Routers(BR) provide constant data reporting back to Master Controller (MC)



BRs can monitor loss, delay, BW, and more

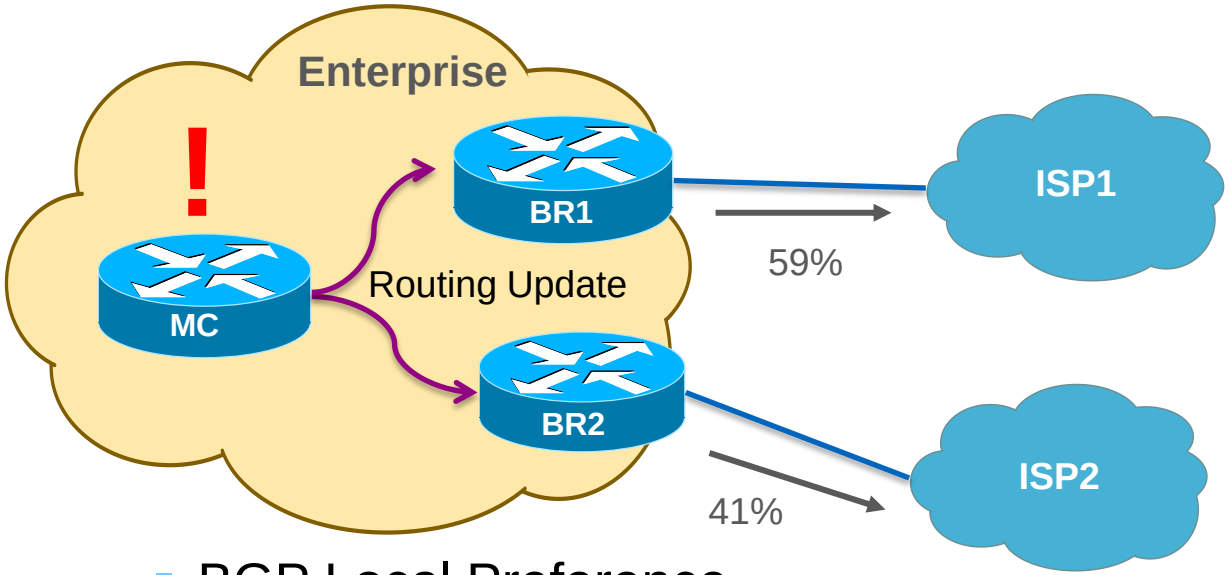
Load Sharing with PfR

Operations



Load Sharing with PfR

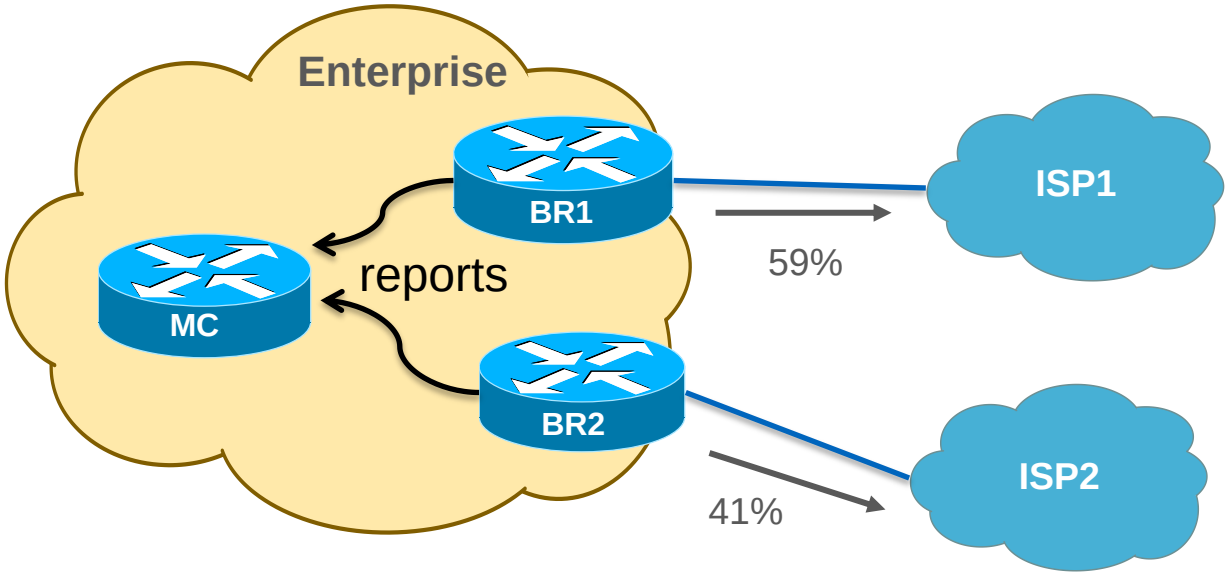
Operations



- BGP Local Preference
- Static Route Injection
- PBR

Load Sharing with PfR

Operations



CEF and RIB behaviours are the same!

PfR simply provides more information

Routing Operations in Cisco IOS Routers

Agenda

- Router Components
- Moving Packets
- CEF, CPU and Memory
- Outbound Load Sharing
- Routing Convergence Improvements

Routing Convergence Improvements

What's to Improve?

- Routing changes are **bad**
- Small changes can require (potentially) large recalculation
- Routing Protocols are slow
  - Failure detection is fast
  - Event propagation + calculation is the bottleneck
- Chain Reaction
  - Protocol Change -> RIB Change -> CEF Change
- Protocol can already know what to do before failure

Routing Convergence Improvements

Failure Detection with BFD

- Bidirectional Forwarding Detection
- **VERY** fast (50ms hello/150ms dead)
- Lightweight
  - 24 bytes BFD Hello vs. 56 byte OSPF Hello
- Handled in Interrupt
- Protocols are BFD clients
- Offloaded to hardware* (HWO)

*12k, 7600 with ES+

Routing Convergence Improvements

OSPF Loop Free Alternate

Routing Convergence Improvements

OSPF Overview

- Link State Algorithm
  - LSDB provides a view of the entire network
- Network changes exchanged via LSA (Link State Advertisement)
  - Multiple events cause throttling (5000ms default)
- SPF algorithm determines best path
  - Runs on receipt of LSA, delayed 5000ms (default)

Routing Convergence Improvements

OSPF Convergence Times

- Convergence =

  Failure Detection + Event Propagation + SPF + FIB Update

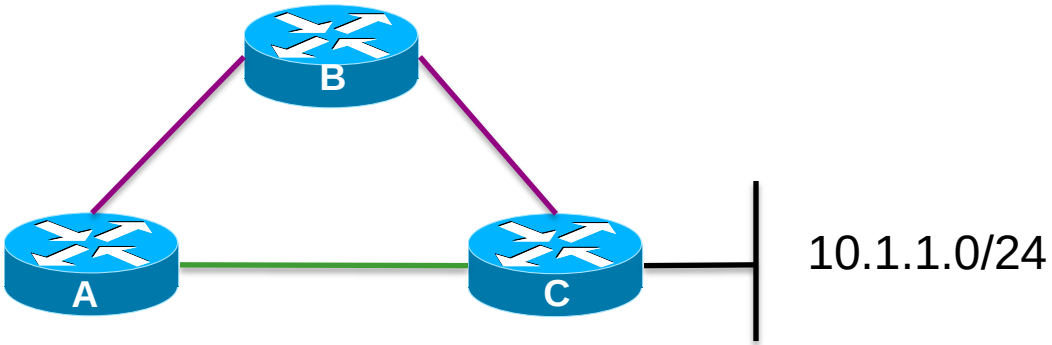
  

- Best case: ~160ms (SPF Tuning + BFD)
- Worst case: ~50 seconds

  (Dead Time + LSA throttle + SPF defaults)
- Failure Detection is **easy** (hardware)
- Control plane is **difficult** (software)

Routing Convergence Improvement

OSPF Loop Free Alternate



- A has a primary (A-C) and secondary (A-B-C) path to 10.1.1.0/24
- Link State allows A to know entire topology
- A should know that B is an alternative path
- **Loop Free Alternate** (LFA)

Routing Convergence Improvements

OSPF Loop Free Alternate

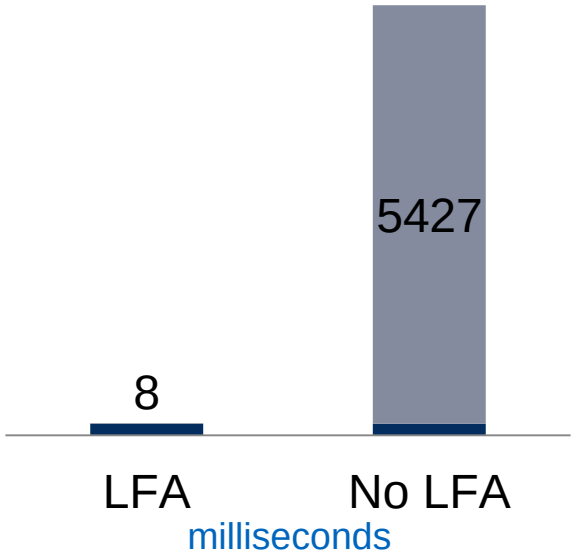
- OSPF presents a primary and backup to CEF
  - Backup calculated from secondary SPF run

```
RouterA# show ip route 10.1.1.0
Routing Descriptor Blocks:
 * 172.16.0.1, from 192.168.255.1, 00:01:57 ago, via Ethernet4/1/0
      Route metric is 2, traffic share count is 1
      Repair Path: 192.168.0.2, via Ethernet4/2/0

RouterA#show ip CEF 10.1.1.0
10.1.1.0/24
  nexthop 172.16.0.1 Ethernet4/1/0
    repair: attached-nexthop 192.168.0.2 Ethernet4/2/0
```

Routing Convergence Improvements

OSPF Loop Free Alternate

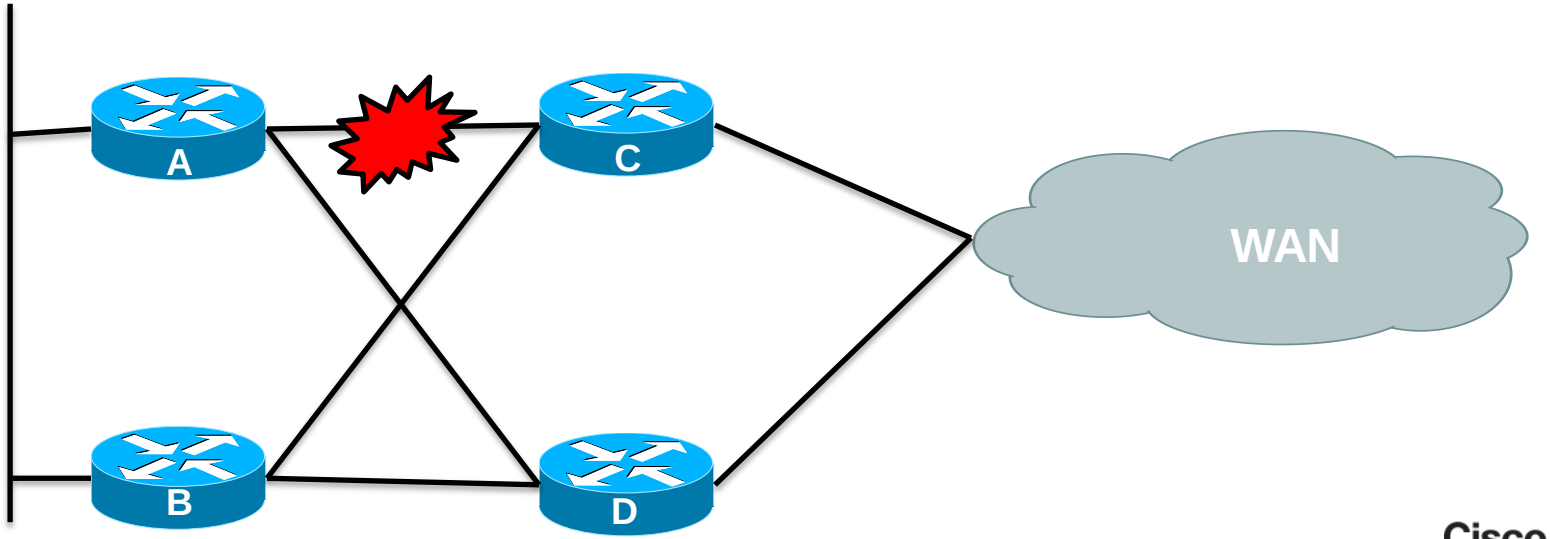
- Aims for <50ms reconvergence
- Triggers as soon as the failure is detected
  - NO fast hellos
  - Use BFD!
- Added to 7600/ASR1000 in 15.1(3)S
  - Not enabled by default



Routing Convergence Improvements

OSPF Loop Free Alternate

- Fast failure detection is key!
- Single Box
- Not a replacement for SPF Tuning



Routing Convergence Improvements

EIGRP Feasible Successor

Routing Convergence Improvements

EIGRP Overview

- Distance Vector Protocol
  - Doesn't see the entire network like OSPF
- Based on QUERY and ACK messages for convergence
  - QUERY sent to determine best path for failed route
  - ACK sent when alternative path found or no other paths
- DUAL algorithm determines best path
  - Runs as soon as all outstanding QUERIES are received
- Query domain size can effect convergence time

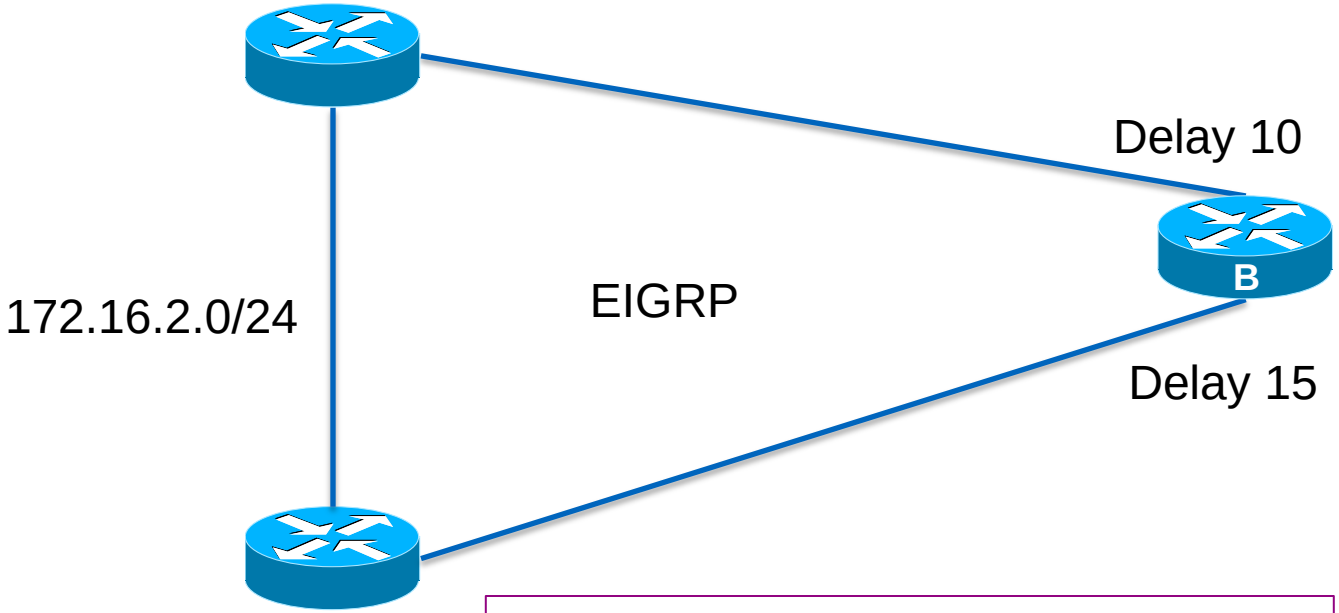
Routing Convergence Improvements

EIGRP Feasible Successors

- EIGRP selects Successor and Feasible Successor (FS)
- Successor is the best route
- FS is 2nd best route
- Must be mathematically loop-free (meets feasibility condition)
- FS acts as a “backup route”
- Kept in topology table (not routing table)
- Up to 6 Feasible Successors
- Built into the protocol, nothing to enable

Routing Convergence Improvements

EIGRP Feasible Successors

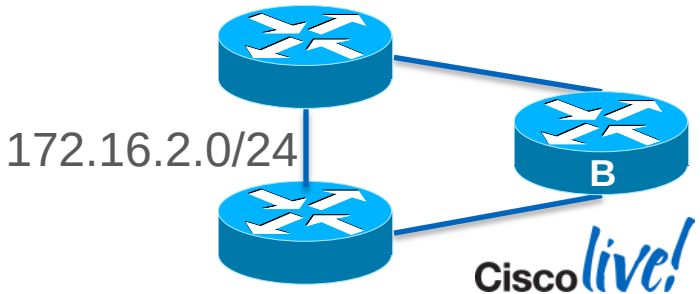


Metric based on bandwidth and delay

Routing Convergence Improvements

EIGRP Feasible Successors

```
RouterB# show ip route 172.16.2.0
Routing entry for 172.16.2.0/24
  Known via "eigrp 10", distance 90, metric 285440, type internal
  Routing Descriptor Blocks:
  * 192.168.200.1, from 192.168.200.1, 00:34:19 ago, via Eth0/1
      Route metric is 285440, traffic share count is 1
```



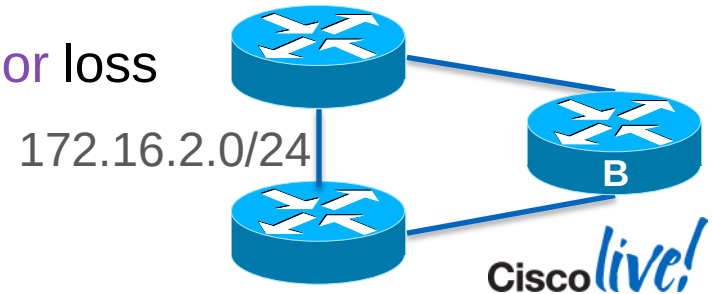
Routing Convergence Improvements

EIGRP Feasible Successors

```
RouterB#show ip eigrp topology
P 172.16.2.0/24, 1 successors, FD is 285440
        via 192.168.200.1  285440/281600), Ethernet0/1
        via 172.16.1.1 (307200/281600), Ethernet0/0
```

Feasible Successor reported distance (281600)
is less than Successor feasible distance (285440)

- Feasibility Condition met
- Instant convergence after Successor loss



Routing Convergence Improvements
EIGRP Loop Free Alternate

- Aims for <50ms reconvergence
- Triggers as soon as the failure is detected
  - Use BFD!
- Behaves in the same way as OSPF LFA
- EIGRP Successor and Feasible Successor (FS) now presented to CEF
- Feasible Successor (FS) is now considered the ‘repair path’
- From 15.2(4)S & 15.2(4)M on 7600/ASR1000

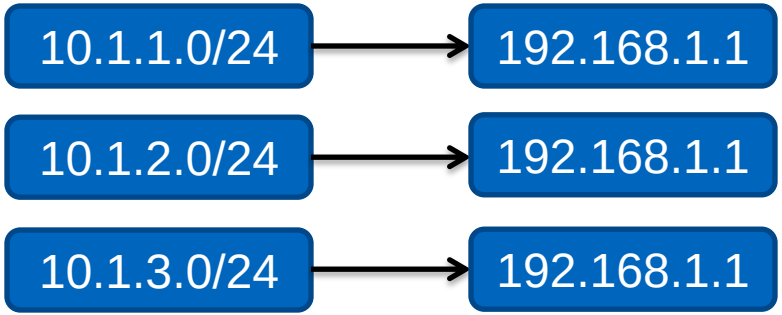
Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP Prefix Independent Convergence (Core)

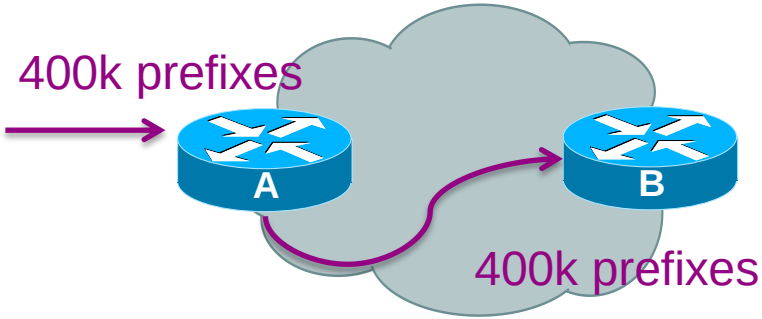
Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP Prefix Independent Convergence

- Today's RIB is flat



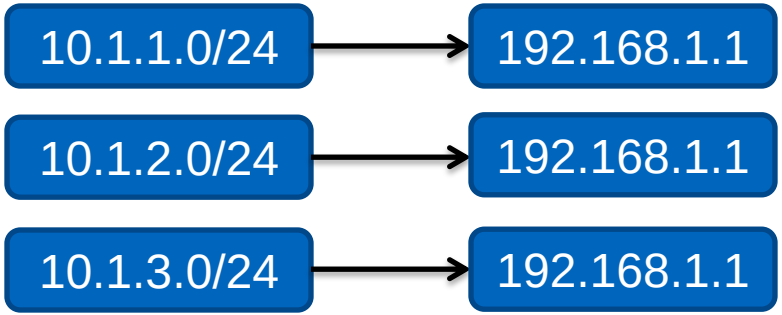
- 400k routes -> 400k updates
- BGP often has same next hop
- We can do better!



Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP Prefix Independent Convergence

- Instead of flat FIB, Hierarchical



Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP Prefix Independent Convergence

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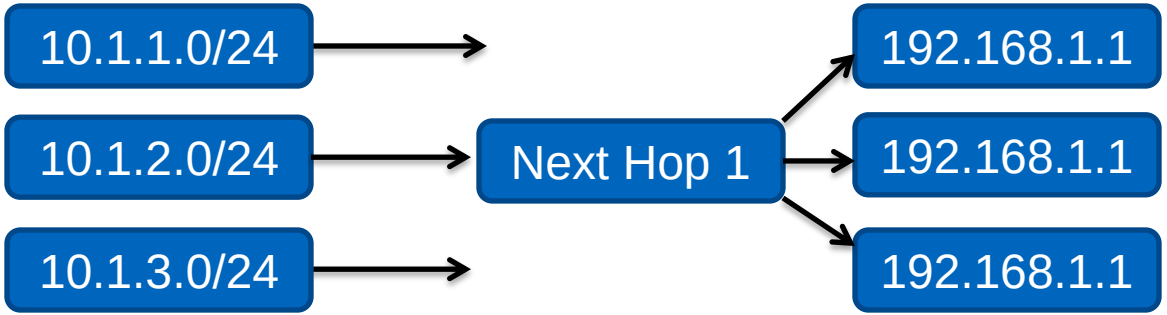
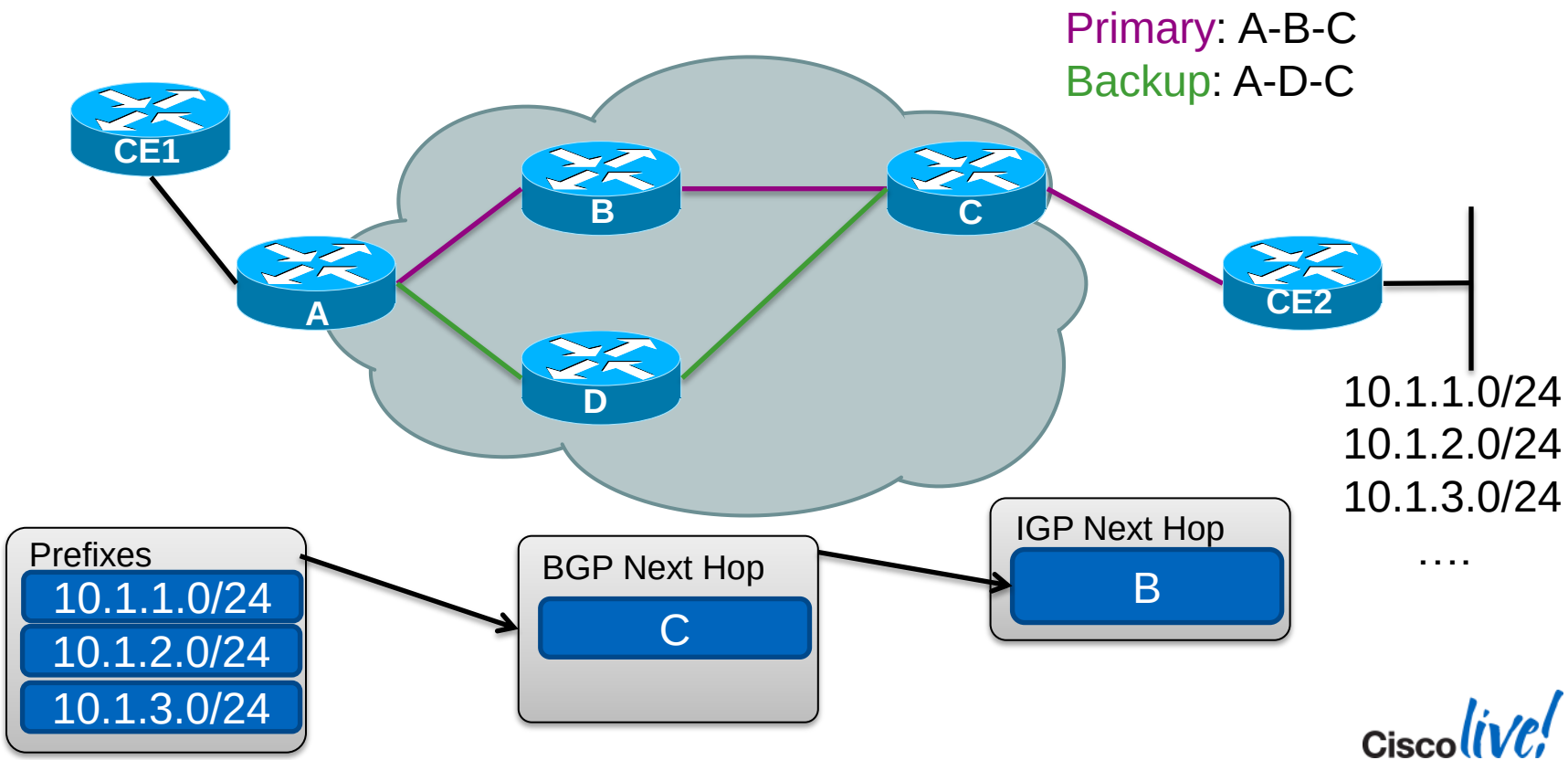


- Single change updates multiple entries
- Convergence time independent from prefix count

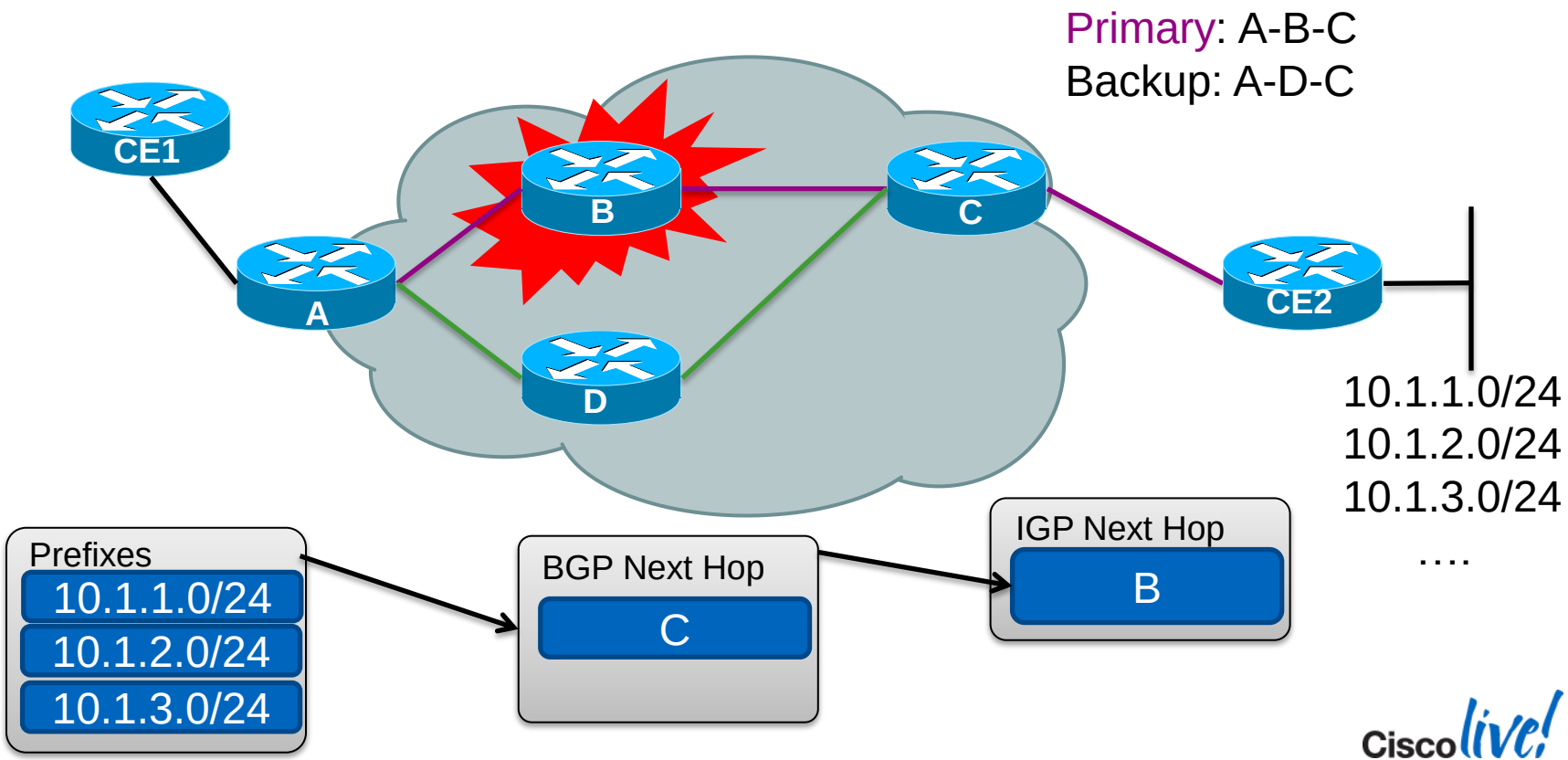
Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP PIC Core



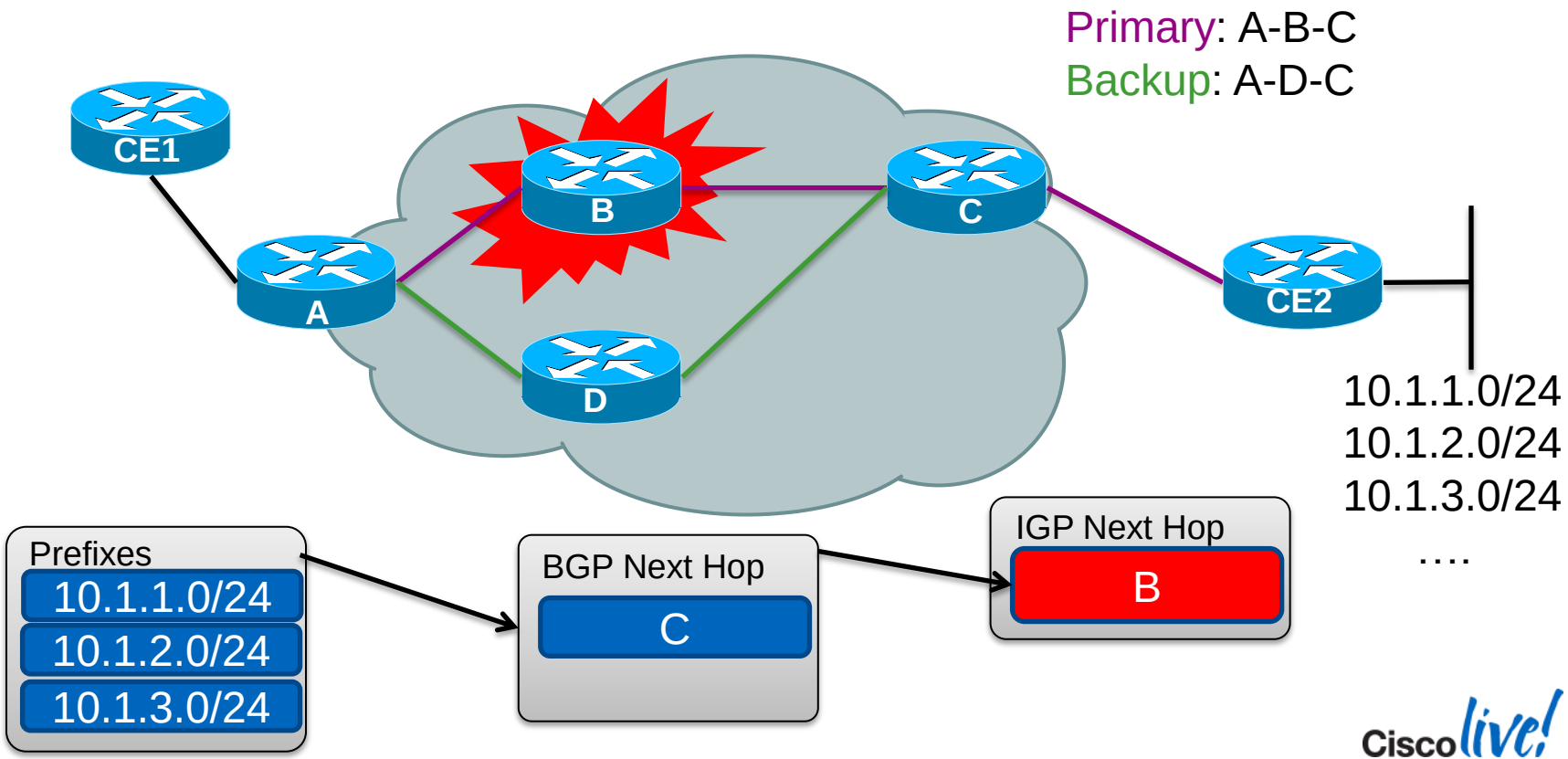
Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP PIC Core



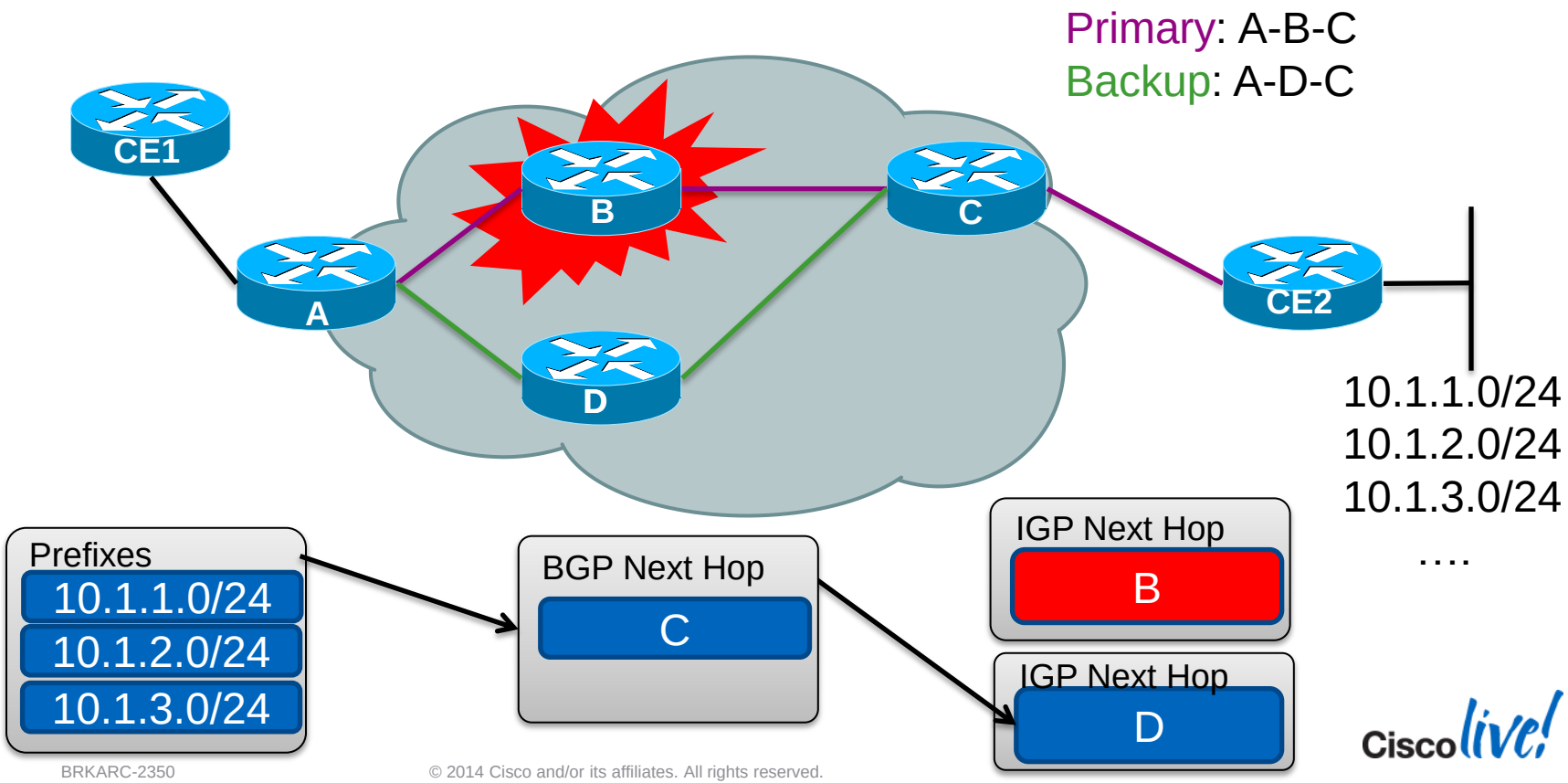
Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP PIC Core



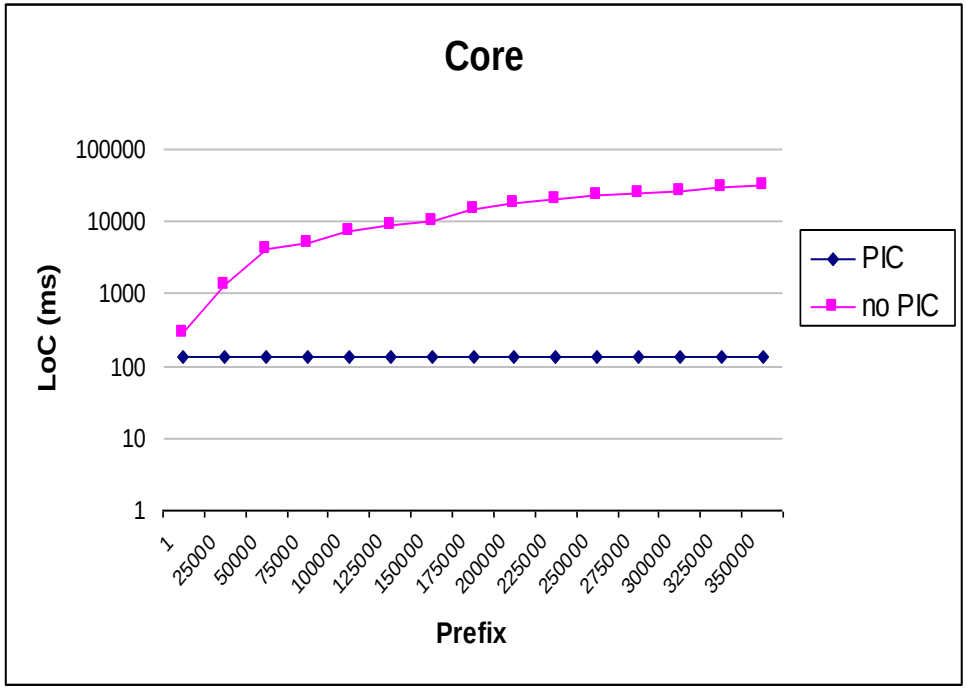
Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP PIC Core



Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP PIC Core



- BGP convergences starts after IGP convergence

Routing Convergence Improvements

BGP PIC Core Recap

- PIC Core part of migration to hierarchical FIB

- Still requires SPF convergence
  - OSPF LFA
  - EIGRP FS

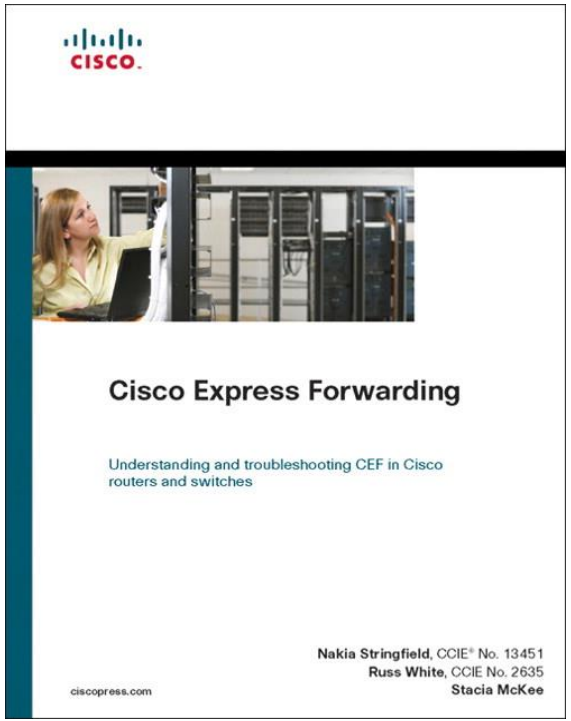


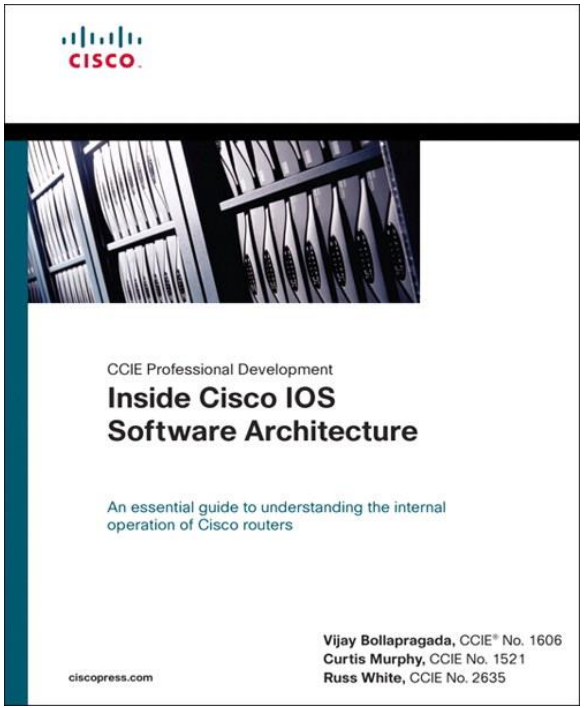

Review

Review

- Router Components
  - Control vs. Data plane
  - Software vs. Hardware based routers
- CPU and Memory
  - Interrupt (CEF) vs. Process (Routing Protocol)
  - Memory concerns for multiple routes
- Load Sharing
  - CEF and PfR
- Routing Enhancements
  - OSPF LFA/EIGRP Feasible Successors/BGP PIC

Further Reading





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