

**NETSCOUT** | Arbor

**Arm Yourself Against DDoS Attacks:  
Using BGP Flow Specification for  
Advanced Mitigation Architectures**  
IX Forum 11

**Kleber Carriello**, Sr. Consulting Engineer  
Arbor Networks

# Are you doing flowspec?

Flowspec is a lot like teenage sex, everyone has been talking about it, nobody really knows how to do it, everyone thinks everyone else is doing it, so everyone claims they are doing it.

Goals:

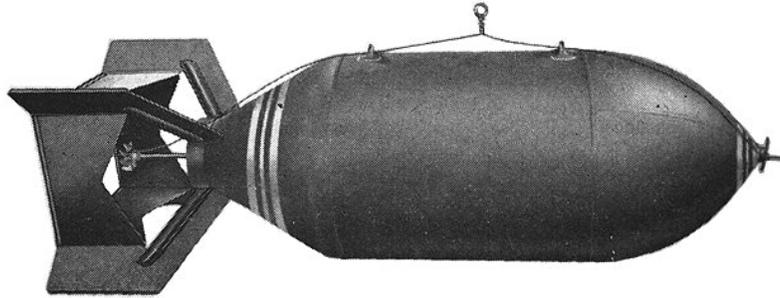
- Flowspec background;
- Primary use cases for flowspec – diverting traffic & blocking traffic;
- Keeping yourself safe when using Flowspec;

Customer 1

## Brazil: Recent history of DDoS (2016 – 2017)

**160 Million Packets Per Second Syn-Flood**

**week long +540Gbps gre-flood attack**



BGP Blackhole



S/RTBH



IDMS (TMS HD-1000)  
Intelligent DDoS Mitigation System

# *BGP Flow Specification (Flowspec)*



# What is BGP Flow specification?

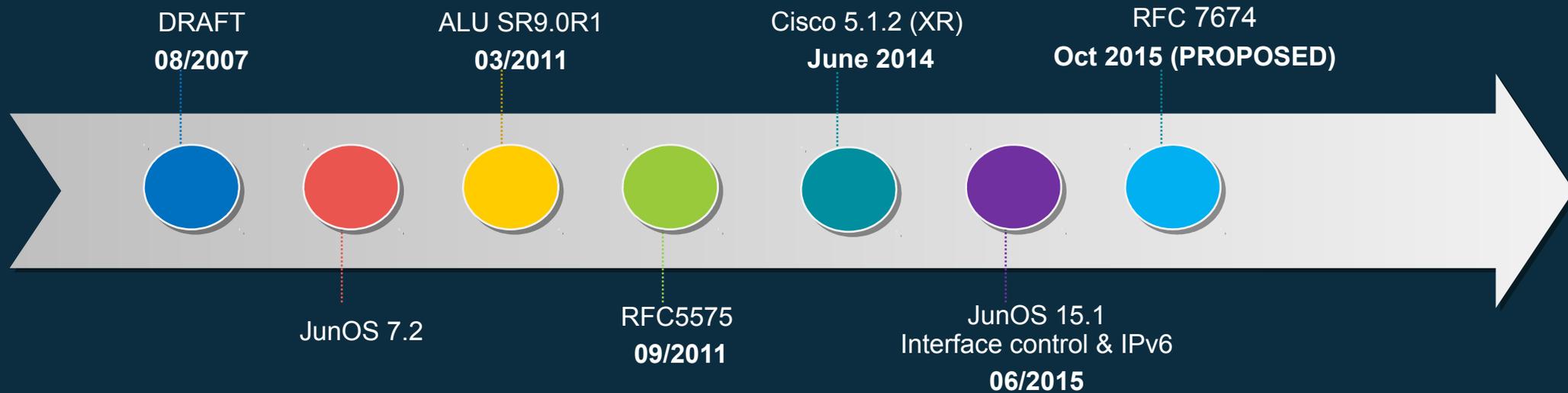
- Layer-4 Router ACLs that can be distributed and managed by BGP
- Provides for ability to match flows on the following items:
  - Source/Dest IP(s)
  - Source/Dest Ports
  - Protocol
  - Packet-Length\*
  - TCP Flags\*
  - Fragmentation Bits\*
- Perform the following actions:
  - Rate-Limit BPS (0-drop)
  - Redirect-to-VRF
  - Set DSCP Values
  - Redirect to IP nexthop\*\*

\*Platform dependent

\*\*RFC still draft & platform dependent

*Manage distribution policy with BGP flexibility!*

# History of Flowspec



# Challenges



Vendor Support



Specifications in flight



Operational Challenges



# Vendor Limits

- Feature parity approaching
- System Limits
- Encoding Differences

Vendor	Table-Limits
Alcatel-Lucent	512
Cisco	3000 (ASR9K)
Juniper	8000

**Advanced Flow Specification**

Enable Flowspec Redirect to IP Nexthop extended community (Simpson draft) 

*You need to understand your device's limits!*

# Flowspec Vendor Parity (Visibility)

- No standard for reporting
- Dropped traffic via Netflow
- Query router via API, SNMP, Yang
- Off-net solutions?

```
RP/0/RSP0/CPU0:edge-frankfurt#sh flowspec afi-all detail
Mon Mar 27 18:53:57.384 UTC

AFI: IPv4
Flow          :Dest:6.6.6.6/32
Actions       :Traffic-rate: 0 bps (bgp.1)
Statistics    (packets/bytes)
Matched      :                1536776/2332825968
Dropped      :                1536776/2332825968
```

Device	Priority	Direction	Network	Port	Count	Bytes	Packets
edge-frankfurt (4)	High	-	-	-	1500	654.2 Mbps	554.3 Mbps
Filtered by Router		OUT			1500	623.8 Mbps	195.5 Mbps
GigabitEthernet0/0/1/1 PEER:ESX12-VMN2:AS65009:SANDERSYS		IN	Network	65009	1500	654.2 Mbps	554.3 Mbps
Bundle-Ether1 BB:CSJC-AS4.1004:AS65530		OUT			1500	334.2 Mbps	168.3 Mbps
Bundle-Ether2 BB:CNYK-AS4.1004:AS65530		OUT			1500	360.2 Mbps	190.4 Mbps

# Flowspec Actions (traffic-rate)

- ❖ Traffic-rate with a value of "0" means drop all traffic
- ❖ BPS only
- ❖ Limit per router
- ❖ Nothing guaranteed!



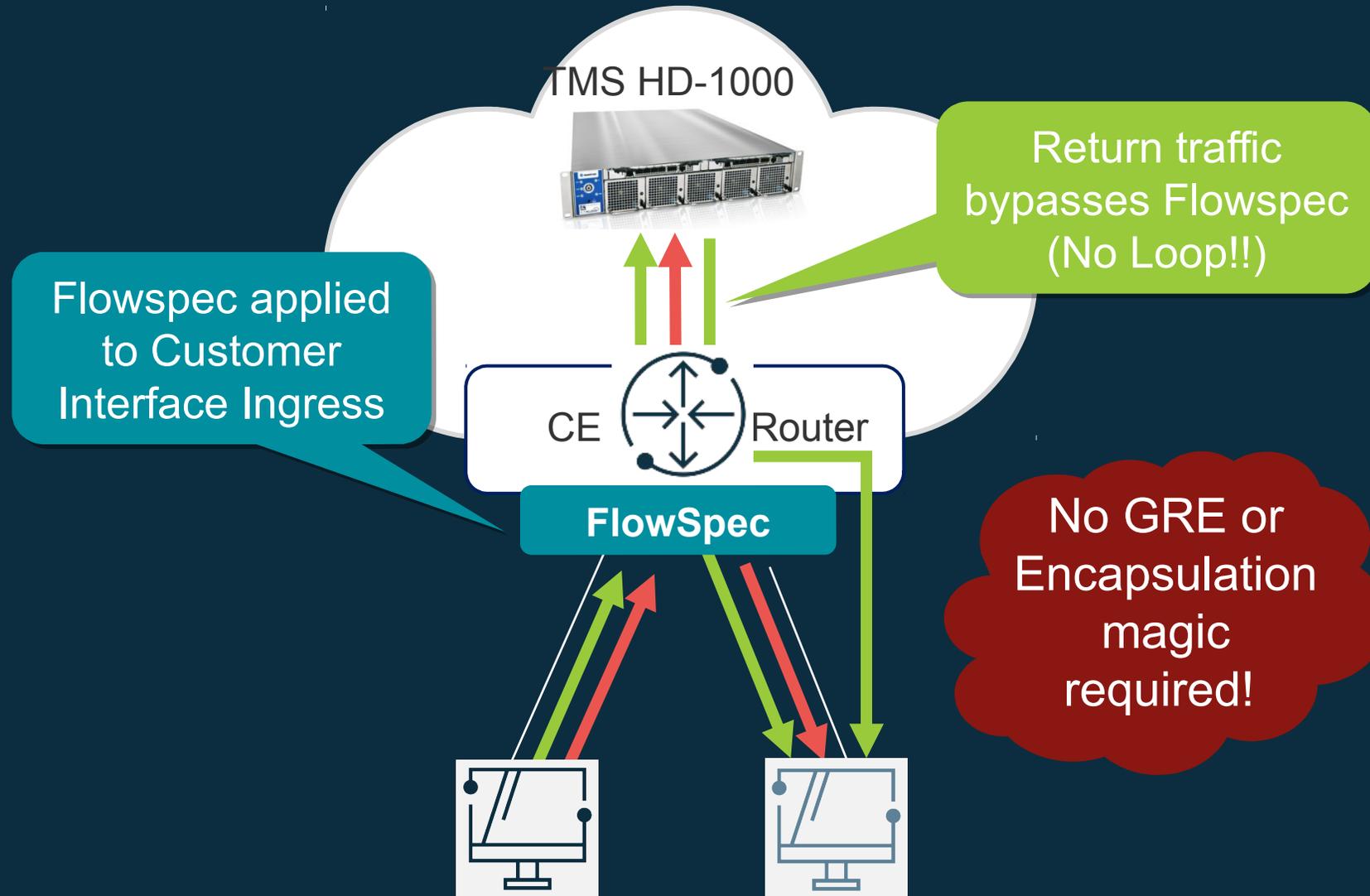
# Per interface settings (Interface-set)

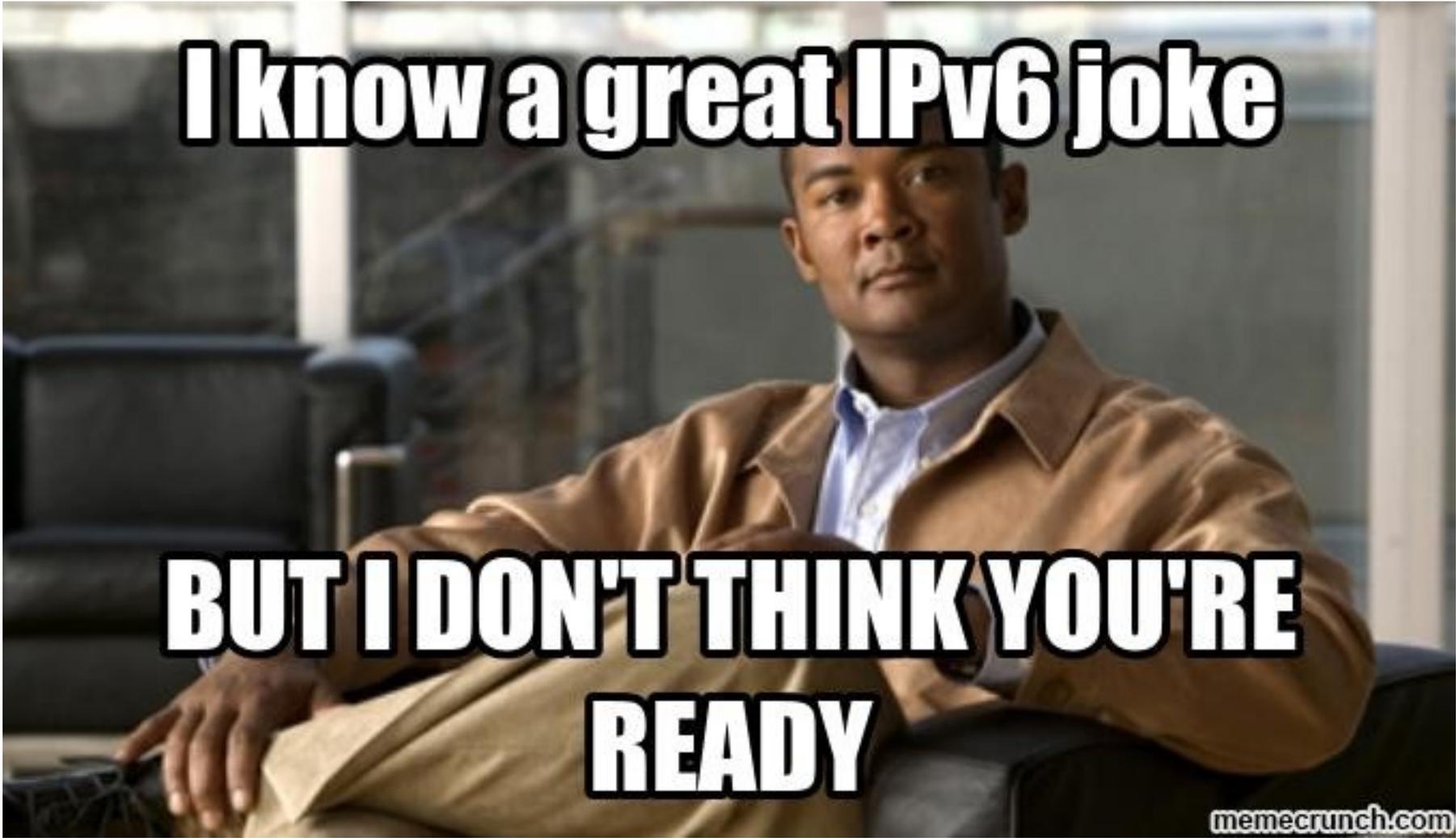
- Provides for policy application ingress on a router interface
- Essentially allows policy based routing (PBR)
- draft-litkowski-idr-flowspec-interfaceset-03.txt
- Specifies interfaces Flowspec rules are applied on the router

## *Benefits:*

- ✓ Allows FS rules to only be applied to untrusted places on the network (Where your attack traffic comes from)
- ✓ Removes return-traffic complexities with scrubbing centers (No GRE!)
- ✓ Simplifies mitigation of East > West or Customer > Customer attacks

# Flowspec – per interface control





# Enabling BGP Flow specification

- Enable the Flowspec address family
- Separate configuration for IPv4 & IPv6

(Cisco)

```
router bgp 65555 bgp
  address-family ipv4 flowspec
  route policy FS_Policy in
  validation disable
  !
  address-family ipv6 flowspec
```

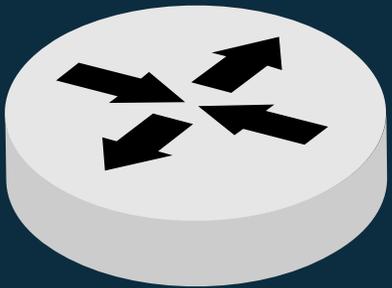
(Juniper)

```
set protocols bgp group ArborSP family inet flow no-validate Flowspec_Policy
```

The screenshot shows a configuration page titled 'Capabilities' under the 'Primary BGP' section. It lists several options with 'Disabled' and 'Enabled' buttons. The 'Flow Specification' option is highlighted with a red border and has its 'Enabled' button selected.

Capability	Disabled	Enabled
4 byte ASN ⓘ	Selected	Disabled
Announce Mitigation Routes ⓘ	Disabled	Selected
Announce IPv6 Mitigation Routes ⓘ	Selected	Disabled
Flow Specification ⓘ	Disabled	Selected

# Disable BGP Flowspec on an interface



## Cisco

```
flowspec local-install interface-all
!  
interface TenGigE0/0/0/1  
    ipv4 flowspec disable  
    ipv6 flowspec disable
```

## Juniper

```
set groups fs-disable interfaces ae100  
set routing-options flow interface-group fs-  
disable exclude
```

# Validating Flowspec (Cisco)

```
RP/0/RSP0/CPU0:edge-frankfurt#show flowspec ipv4 summary
Wed Apr 12 17:44:26.947 UTC
Flowspec VRF+AFI table summary:
VRF: default
  AFI: IPv4
    Total Flows:          1
    Total Service Policies: 0
RP/0/RSP0/CPU0:edge-frankfurt#show flowspec ipv4 detail
Wed Apr 12 17:44:31.754 UTC

AFI: IPv4
Flow          :Dest:7.7.7.7/32,Proto:=17,DPort:=0,SPort:=0
Actions       :Traffic-rate: 0 bps (bgp.1)
Statistics    (packets/bytes)
  Matched     :                0/0
  Dropped     :                0/0
RP/0/RSP0/CPU0:edge-frankfurt#
```

# Validating Flowspec (Juniper)

```
admin@edge-tokyo> show route protocol bgp table inetflow.0

inetflow.0: 1 destinations, 1 routes (1 active, 0 holddown, 0 hidden)
Restart Complete
+ = Active Route, - = Last Active, * = Both

7.7.7.7,* ,proto=17,dstport=0,srcport=0/term:1
    *[BGP/170] 00:00:13, localpref 100, from 172.16.1.71
    AS path: ?, validation-state: unverified
    Fictitious

admin@edge-tokyo> show firewall filter __flowspec_default_inet__

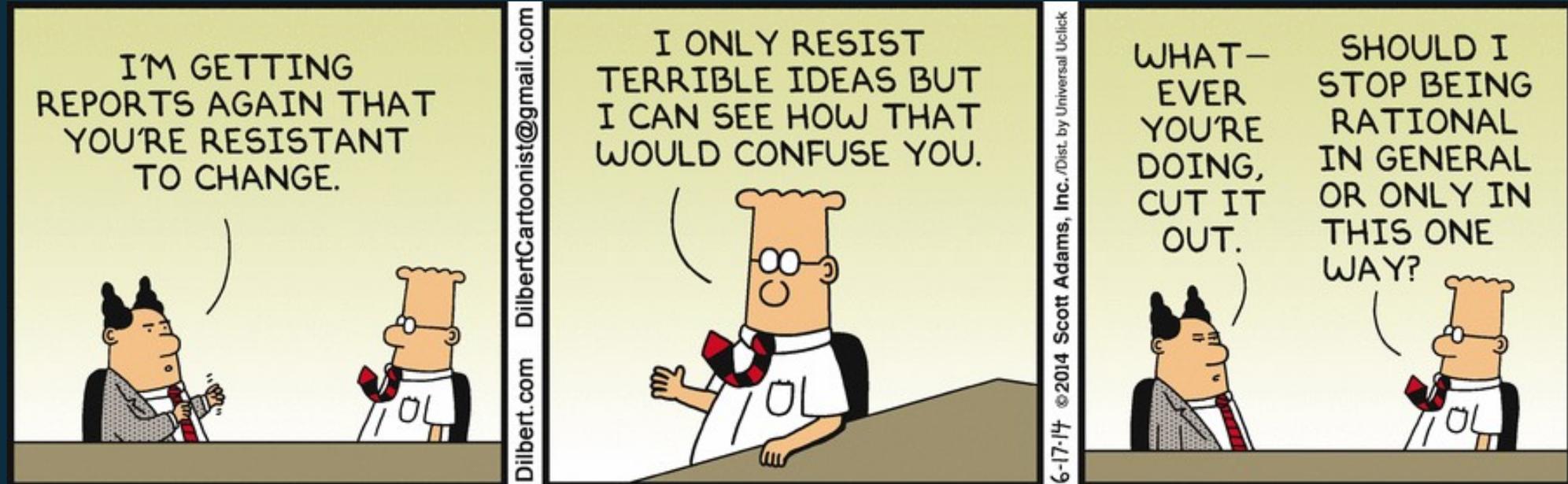
Filter: __flowspec_default_inet__
Counters:
Name                                     Bytes      Packets
7.7.7.7,* ,proto=17,dstport=0,srcport=0 0           0

admin@edge-tokyo> █
```

# Diverting with Flowspec

*Moving traffic on the network*

# Why change?



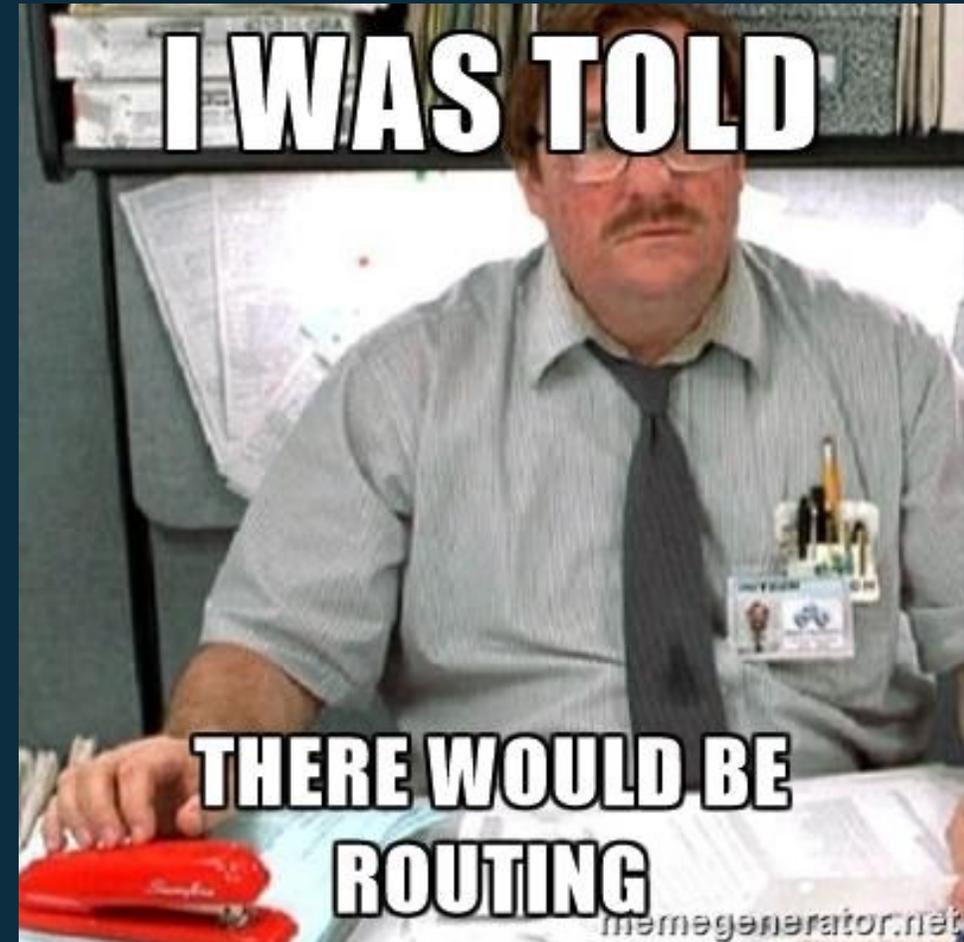
# Flowspec Diversion Methods



IP Address

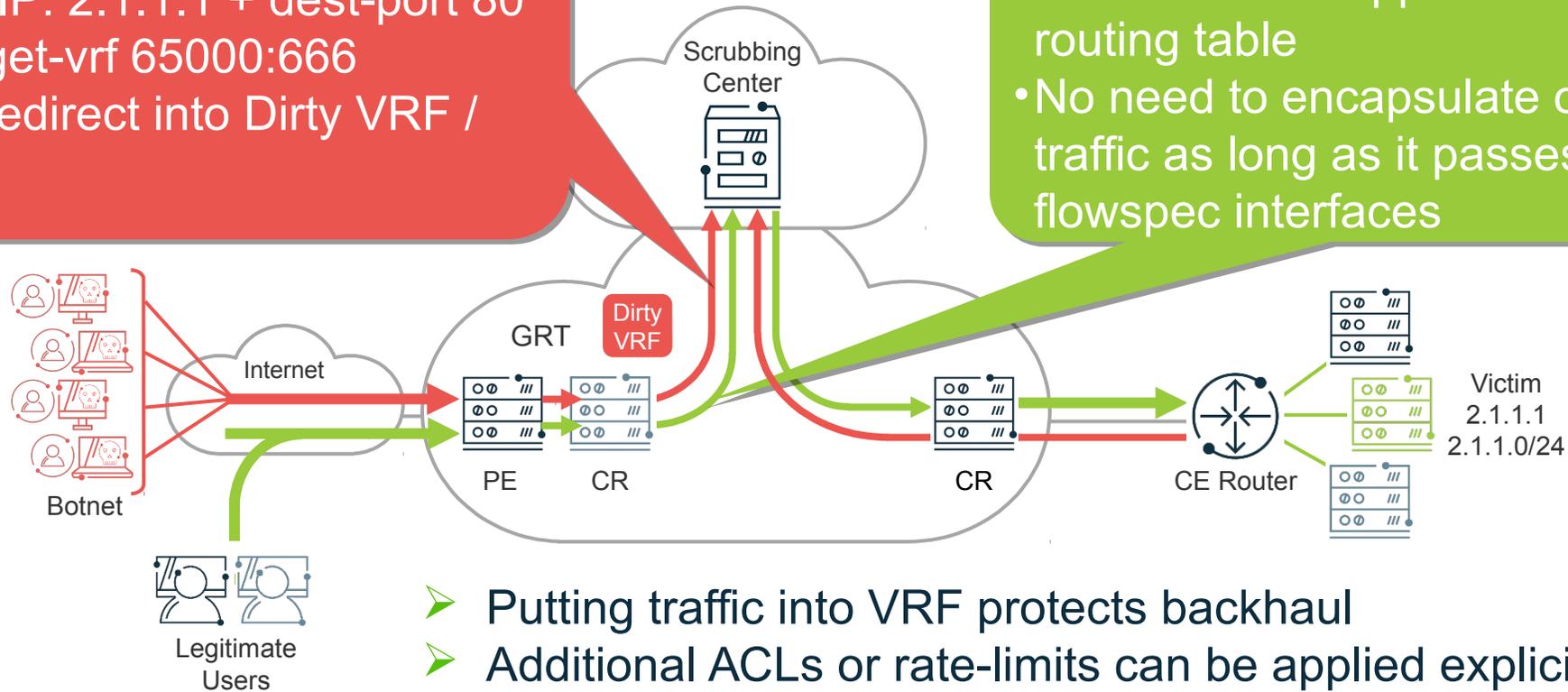


Target-VRF



- BGP FS advertisement
- Rule: Dest-IP: 2.1.1.1 + dest-port 80
- Action: Target-vrf 65000:666
- Traffic will redirect into Dirty VRF / MPLS VPN

- Clean traffic dropped into global-routing table
- No need to encapsulate or route traffic as long as it passes non-flowspec interfaces



- Putting traffic into VRF protects backhaul
- Additional ACLs or rate-limits can be applied explicitly to drop likely bad traffic (SSDP, Chargen, etc.)
- Any router can put traffic into VRF/MPLS-VPN (from PE or CE side)
- Redirect can be combined with flowspec drop rules to dynamically drop known bad ports

# Practice Safe Flowspec



*BGP Flow specification for mitigation*

# Practicing Safe Flowspec



Infrastructure First



Know your victim



Understand your capabilities

# Practicing Safe Flowspec

- NTP, SSDP, Chargen, MSSQL
- Careful with applications: DNS, SYN
- What is the SLA around what you are trying to protect?
  - Residential Users
  - Commercial Customers
  - Critical Infrastructure
- What services do you need to worry about?
- This is a business problem



# Announcement Protection

- Respect your hardware capabilities
- Announcements
  - DDoS Mitigation Gear
  - Peers
  - Customers
  - Other use cases
- BGP policy to manage risk!



# Announcement Protection

- Control rule update rates
- Prefix match validation (BGP ACLs)
- Prefix count restriction
- BGP Communities



# Arbor makes it easier

- Flowspec Blacklist Offloading in TMS 8.1

The screenshot shows the Arbor TMS 8.1 configuration interface. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: Appliance, SNMP, Deployment, ArborFlow, Patch Panel, IPv4 Forwarding, IPv6 Forwarding, Subinterfaces, Ports, IPv4 GRE, IPv6 GRE, **Blacklist Offloading** (highlighted), and Advanced. The main content area is titled "Blacklist Offloading" and contains the following settings:

- Blacklist Offloading:** Two buttons, "None" and "Flow Specification" (selected).
- Block on:** Two buttons, "Source" and "Source+Mitigation" (selected).
- Flow Specification Router:**
  - Target Router:** A dropdown menu with an information icon (i) and the selected value "WHS Test Router: Test (2.2.2.3)".
  - Rules Limit (optional):** A text input field with an information icon (i).

At the bottom of the configuration area are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Save".

# Global vs. Regional Flowspec Announcements

*Announce regionally where you can!*

- DDoS traffic is often not balanced
- Source addresses can vary widely
- Better scale with different announcements in different regions
- Safer when you withdraw announcements

# Q&A / THANK YOU

Contact Information:

**Kleber Carriello**, Sr. Consulting Engineer

[kco@arbor.net](mailto:kco@arbor.net)

