

Identifying and managing the issues around 5G interconnect security

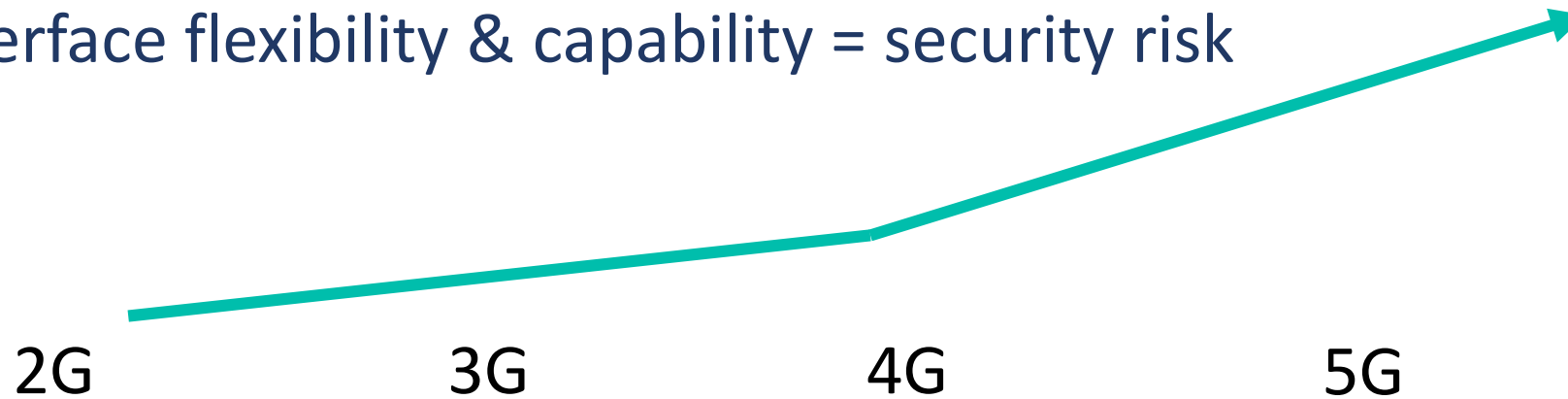
Stephen Buck

Stephen.buck@evolved.intelligence.com

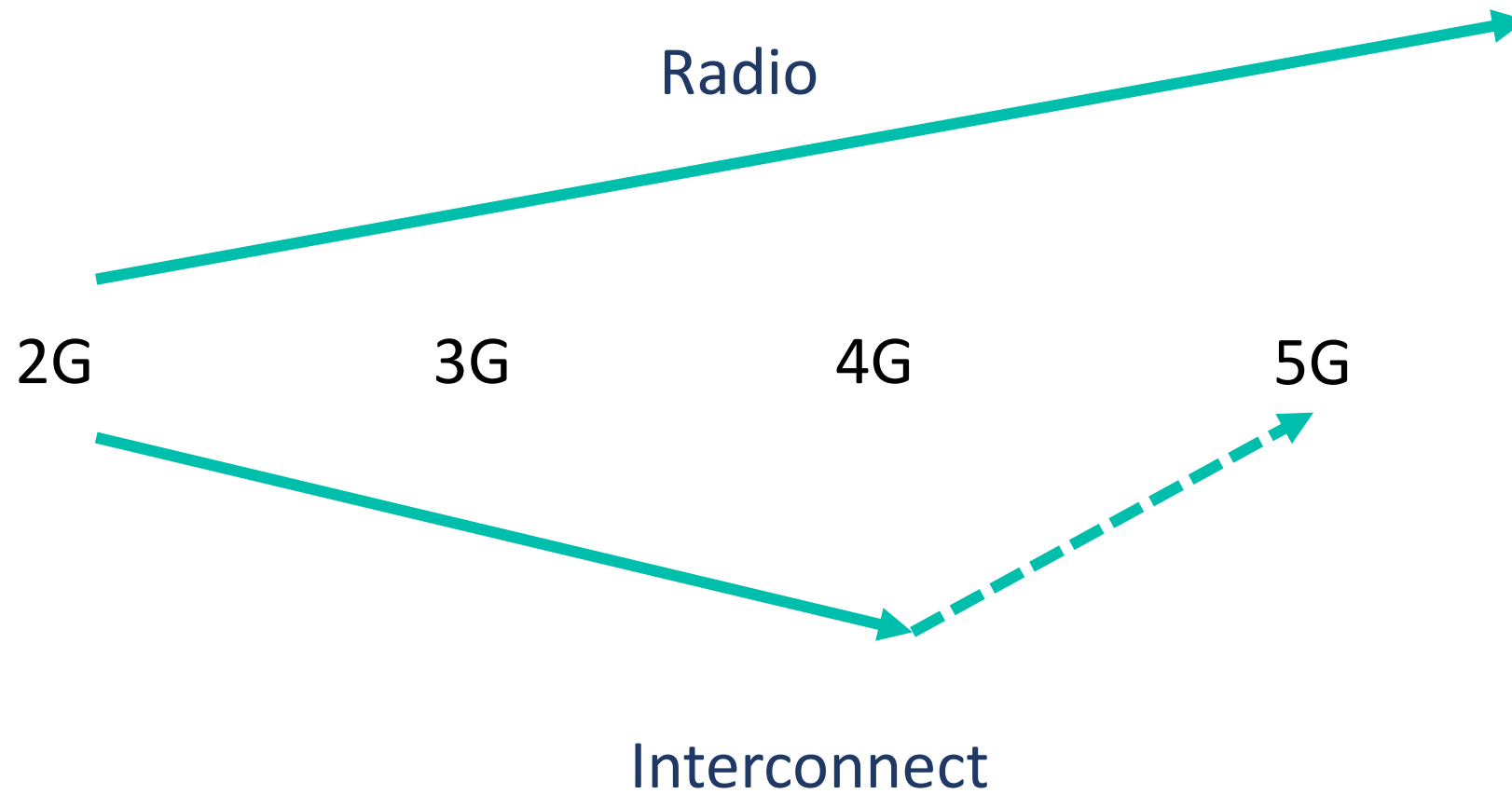
- ❏ Leaders in 2G/3G and 4G signalling firewall
- ❏ Leaders in roaming value added services and analytics
- ❏ Supply both
 - Interconnect/IPX providers (e.g. Syniverse, Comfone etc)
 - Operators (e.g. DTAG, Orange, Vodafone etc)
- ❏ Active in GSMA



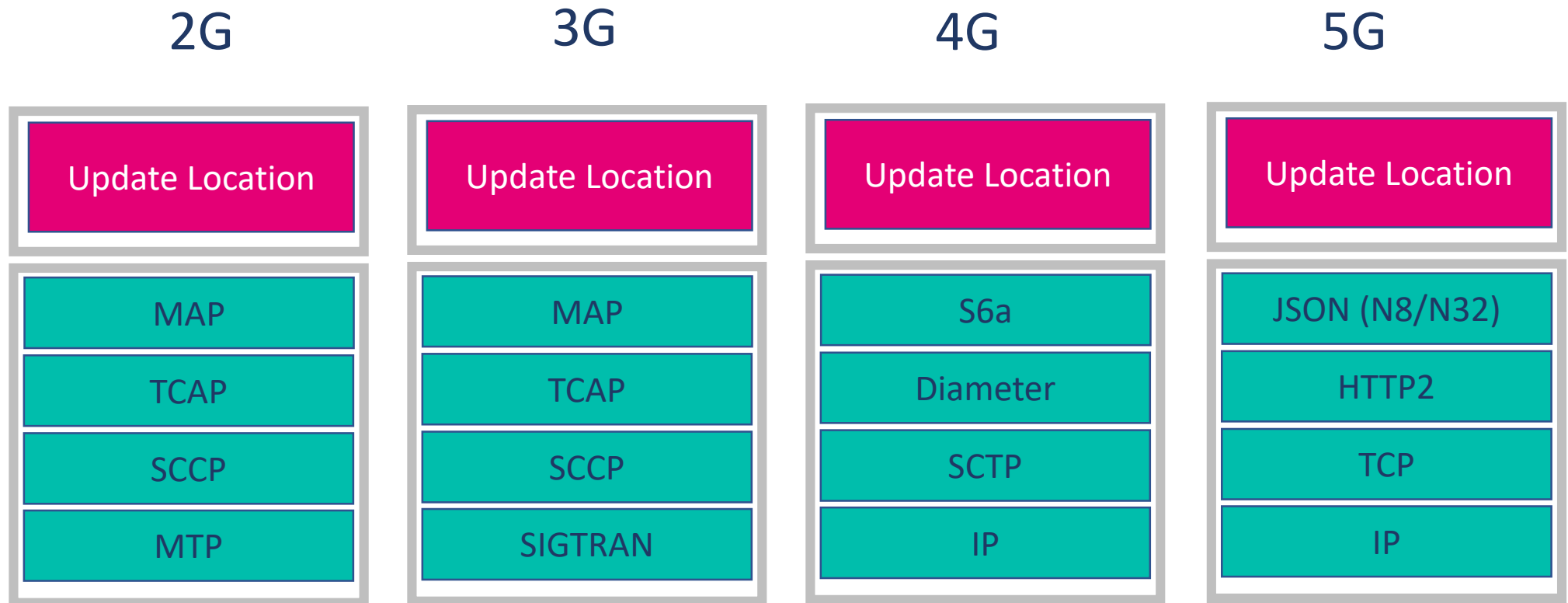
Interface flexibility & capability = security risk



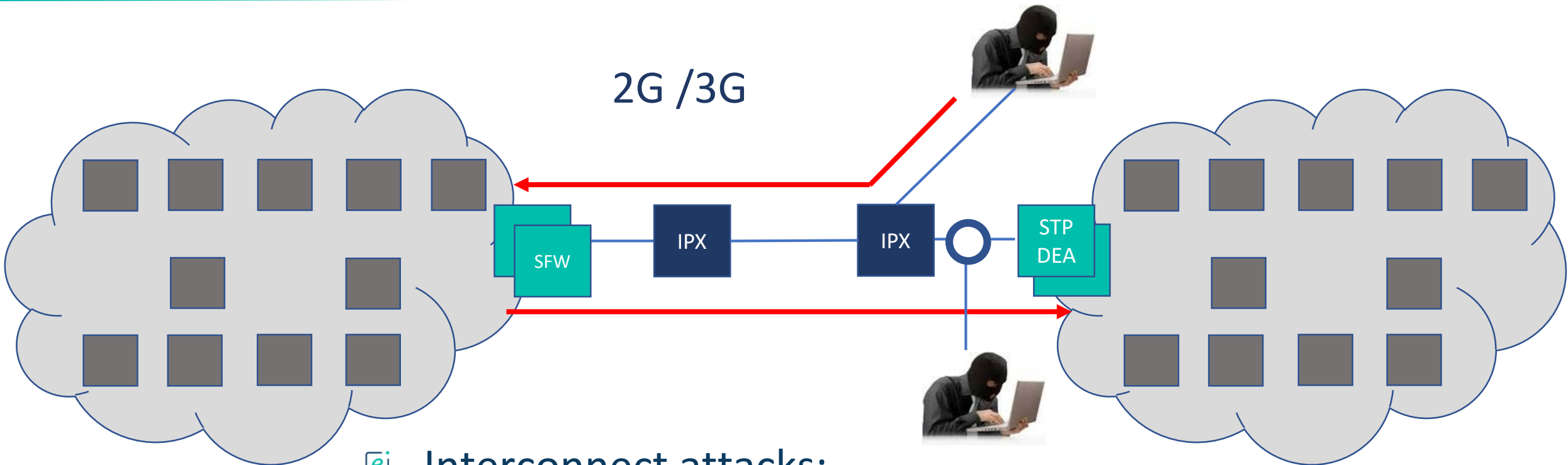
- ❑ 5G service based architecture and exposed web services
- ❑ Necessary for new business models
- ❑ Opens up new risks



Protocol evolution



Parameters	Mostly fixed	Mostly fixed	Flexible AVPs	Free text
E2E security	Not used	Not used	Not used	Being defined
Session	TCAP dialogue	TCAP dialogue	Diameter Req/Resp (id)	Http Req/resp (id)
E2E routing	Global title	Global title	Host/realm route record	Host

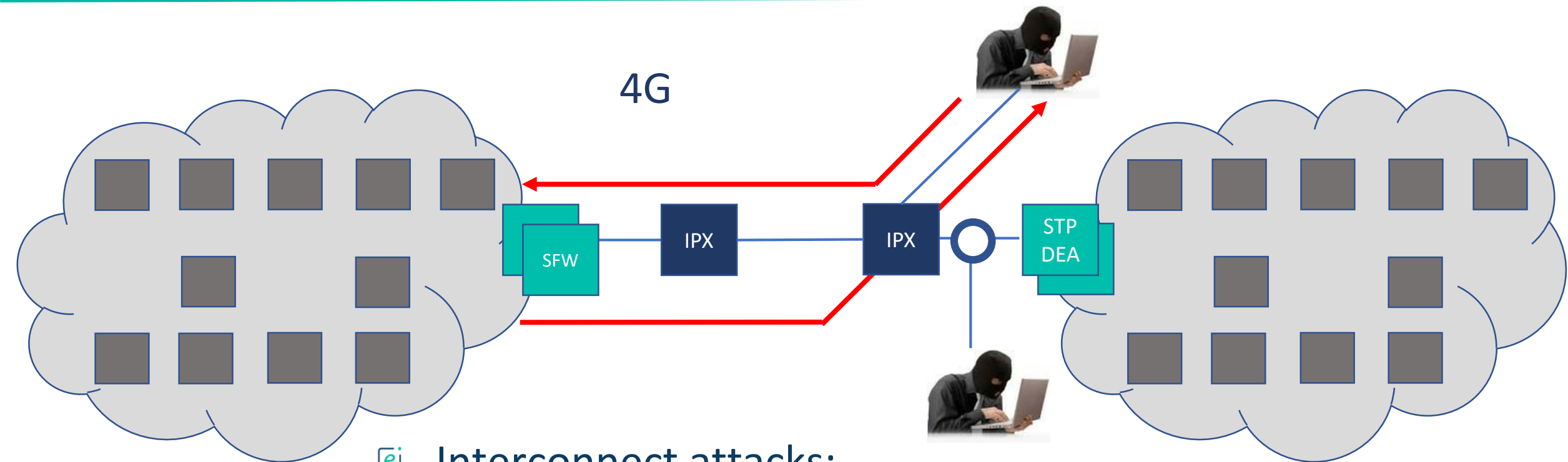


Interconnect attacks:

- Insert messages – intercept, track, deny service
 - E.g. Fake Location update, Fake reset
- Snoop – monitor subscriber information

Defence

- Firewall – interprets what is valid message (e.g. consistency, location, velocity etc)

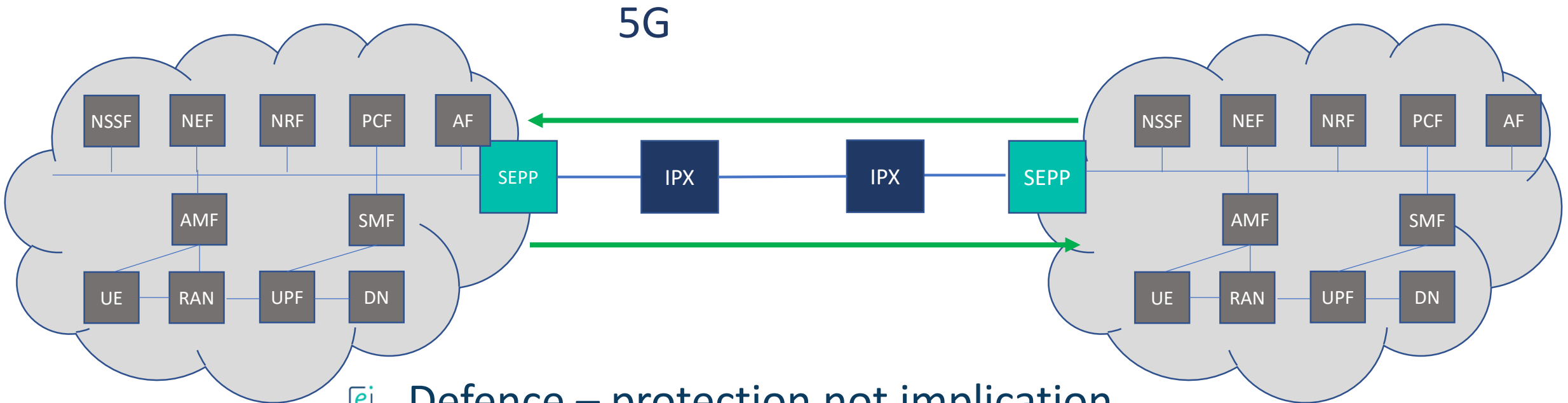


Interconnect attacks:

- Insert messages – intercept, track, deny service
 - E.g. Fake Location update, Fake reset
- Snoop – monitor subscriber information

Defence

- Firewall – interprets what is valid message. Harder to spot spoof.



 **Defence – protection not implication**

- End to End encryption and authentication

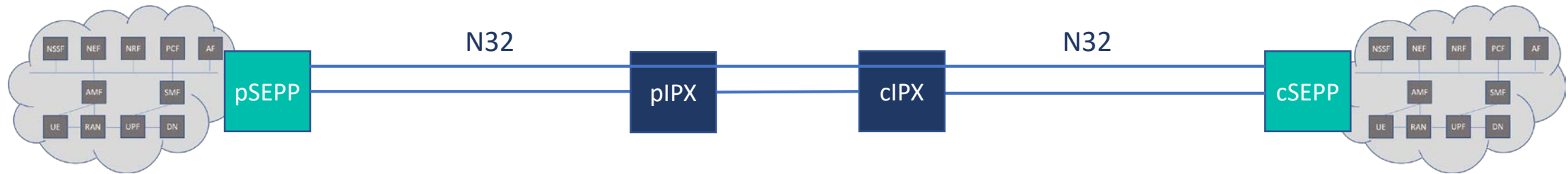
 **IPX needs to inspect and modify messages**





- Provide commercial benefit particularly to smaller operators
- Roaming hub – i.e. Merge small operator to “look” the same
- Roaming services – e.g. VHE, Sponsored roaming

- ❑ Encryption of sensitive parameters not needed by IPX
 - E.g. SUPI/IMSI, keys, (location)
- ❑ Protection against replay attacks
- ❑ Integrity of message
- ❑ Authentication of sender

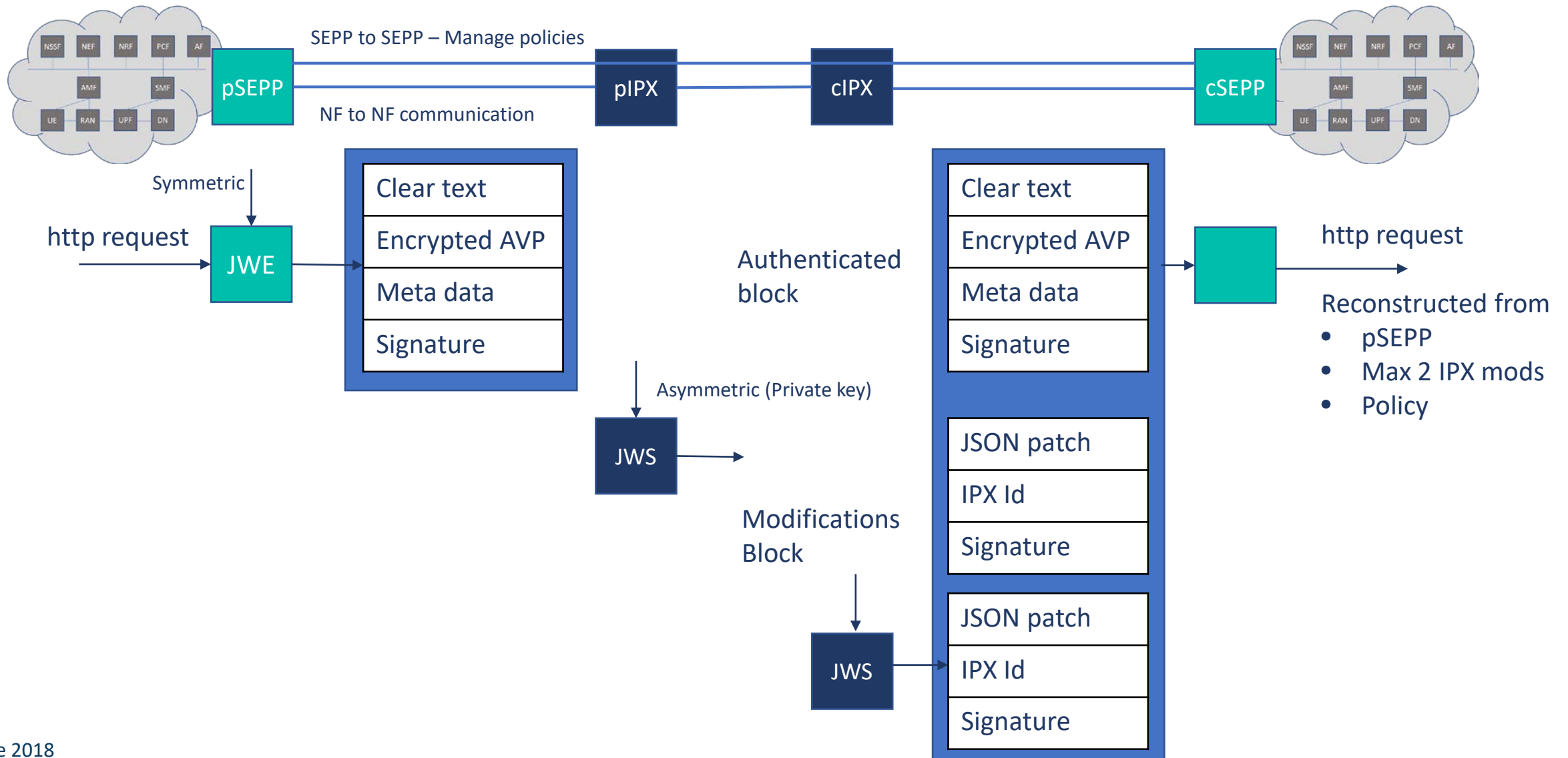
For IPX (i.e. outsource routing, billing, services)

- ❑ Ability to modify parameters (as allowed by operators)
- ❑ Log of IPX making changes
- ❑ Integrity of message



-  SEPP – Provides encryption, integrity and authentication
-  SEPPs authenticated using TLS
 - Negotiate cipher suites for messages over interconnect (N32)
 - Exchange protection policies per NE and roaming partner – what can be modified
-  SEPPs encrypt and sign all messages over N32 using JOSE (JSON web signing encryption)
 - Using JWE – JSON web encryption & signature (with symmetric key from TLS key exchange)
-  IPX modify, append and sign changes
 - Using JWS JSON web signature (IPX private key from client PLMN)

5G interconnect security overview



- ❑ SEPP secures 5G interconnect – encryption, integrity and authentication of signalling
- ❑ Improves security of interconnect versus 2G/3G and 4G even with firewall (but needs to be combined)
- ❑ Enables IPX business model, but allows operators to control what is modified