A Blockchain-based Mapping System

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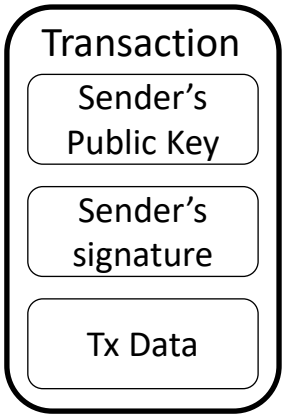
http://openoverlayrouter.org

A short Blockchain tutorial

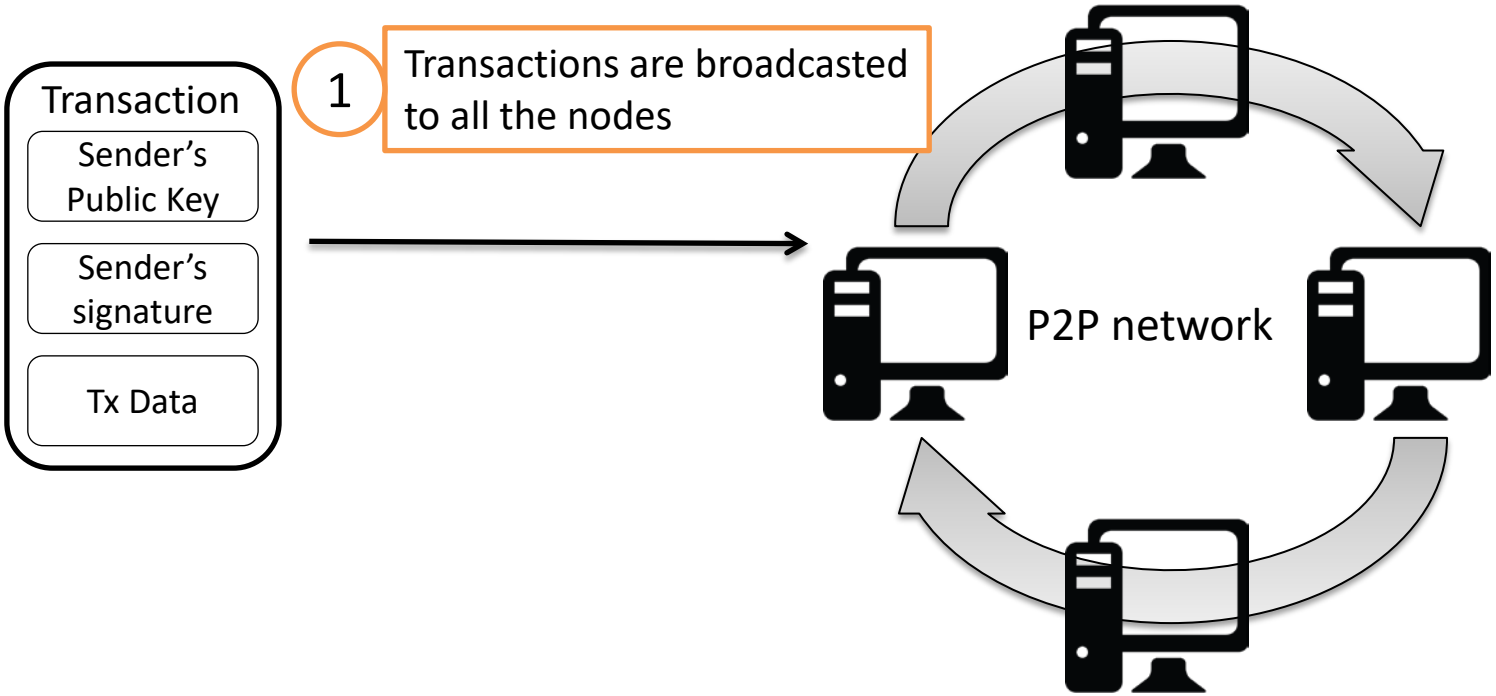
Blockchain - Introduction

- Blockchain = decentralized, secure and trustless database
- Add blocks of data one after another
- Protected by two mechanisms:
  - Chain of signatures
  - Consensus algorithm
- First appeared: Bitcoin, to exchange money
- Many more applications are possible

Blockchain - Transactions



Blockchain - Transactions



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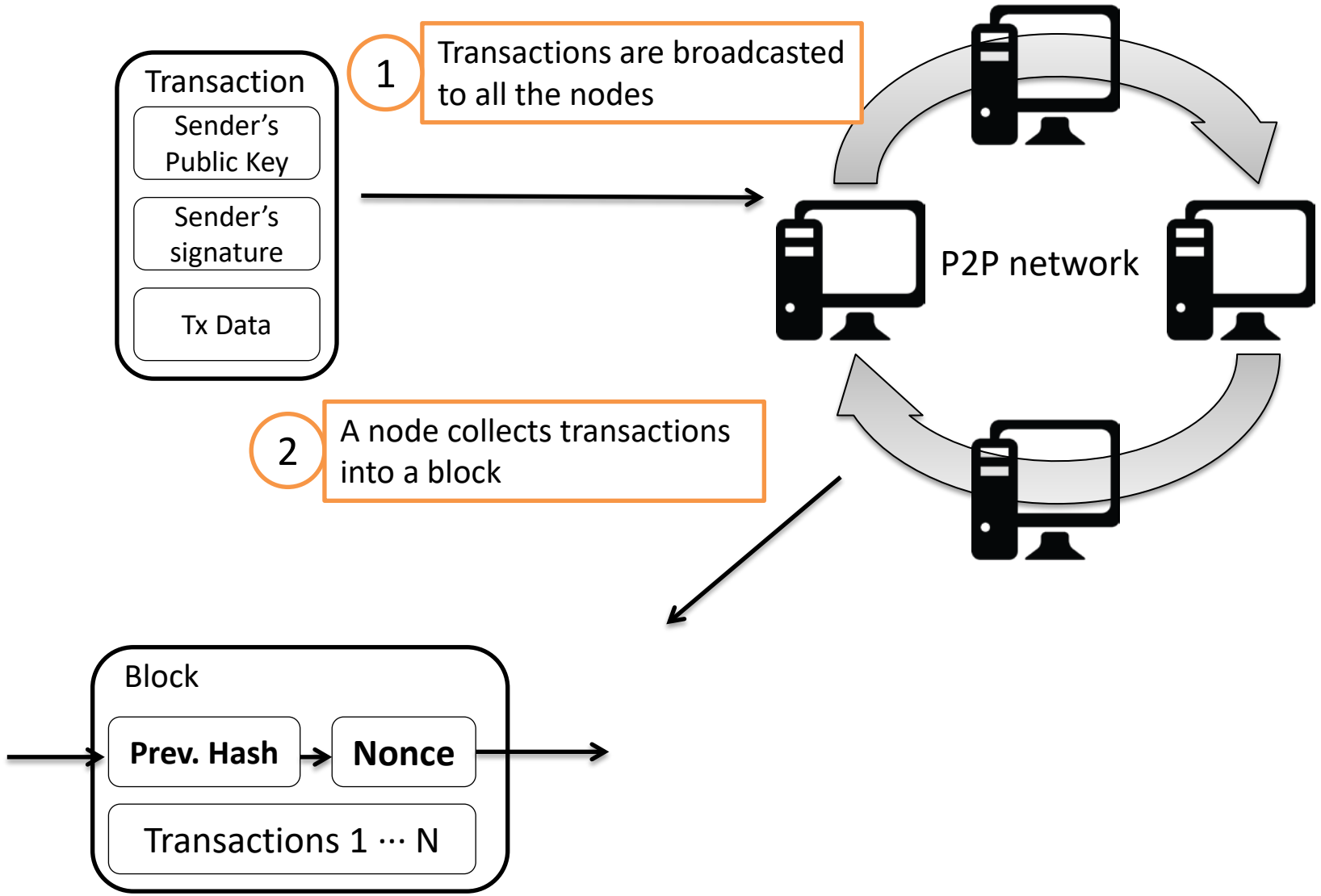

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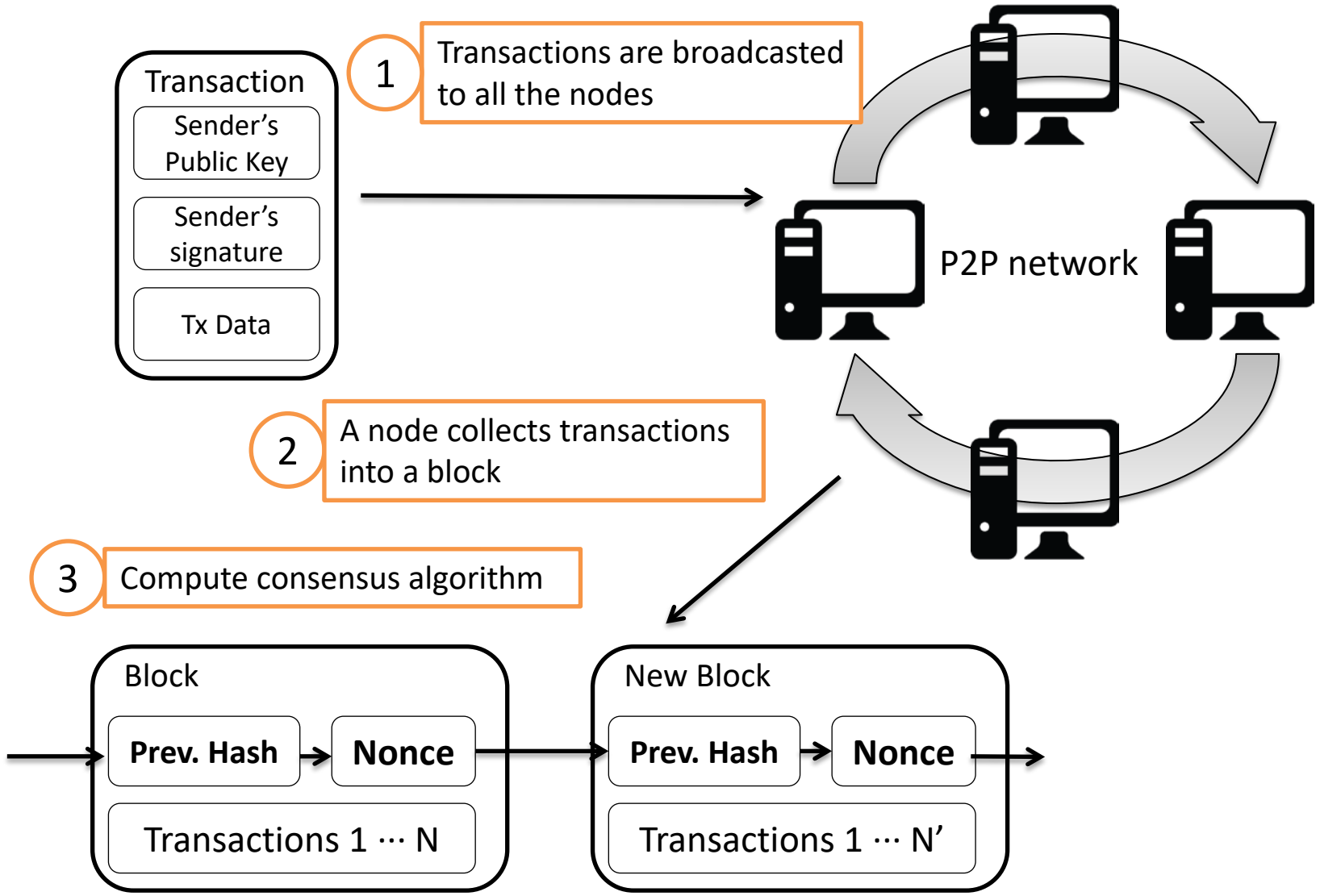

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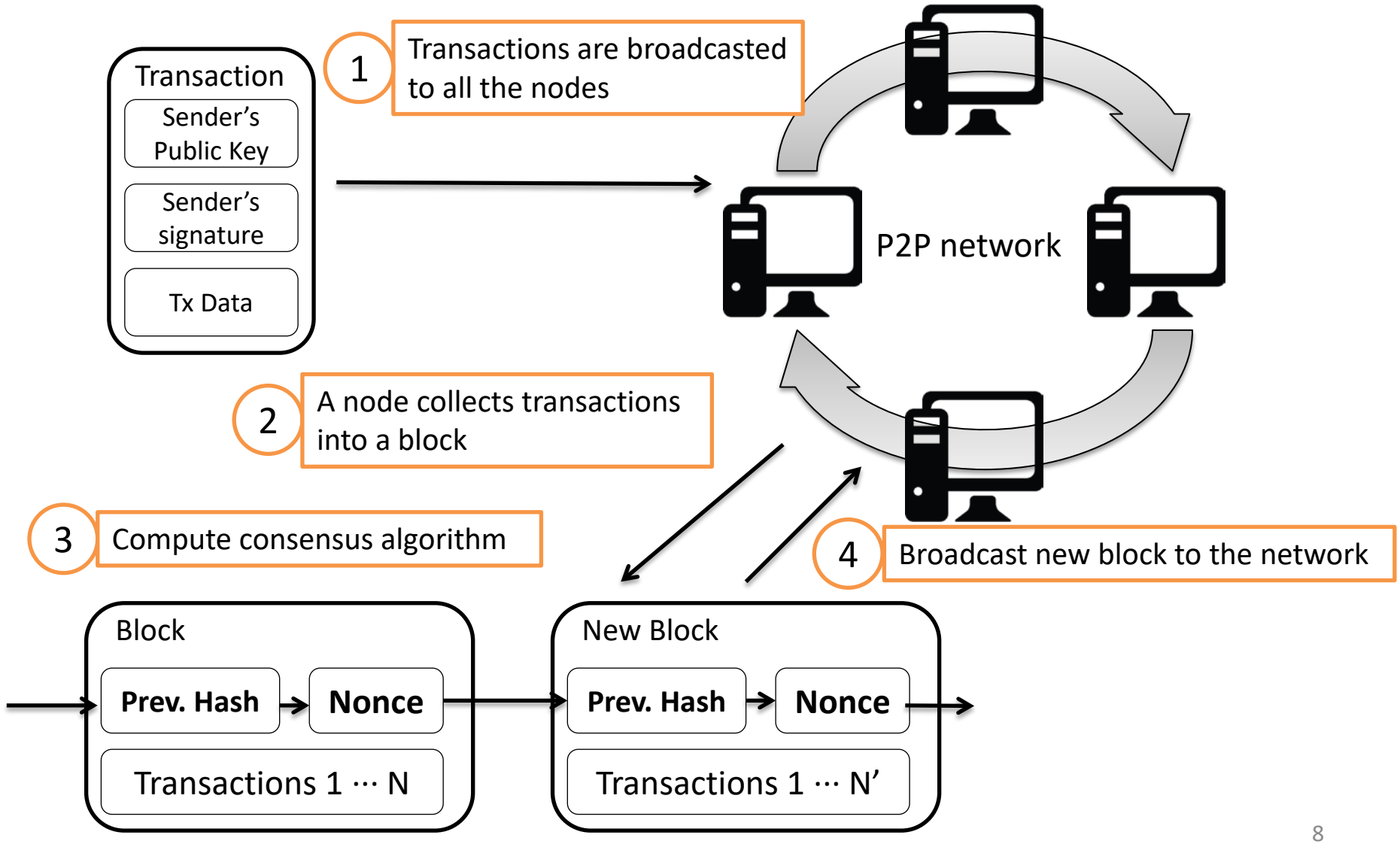

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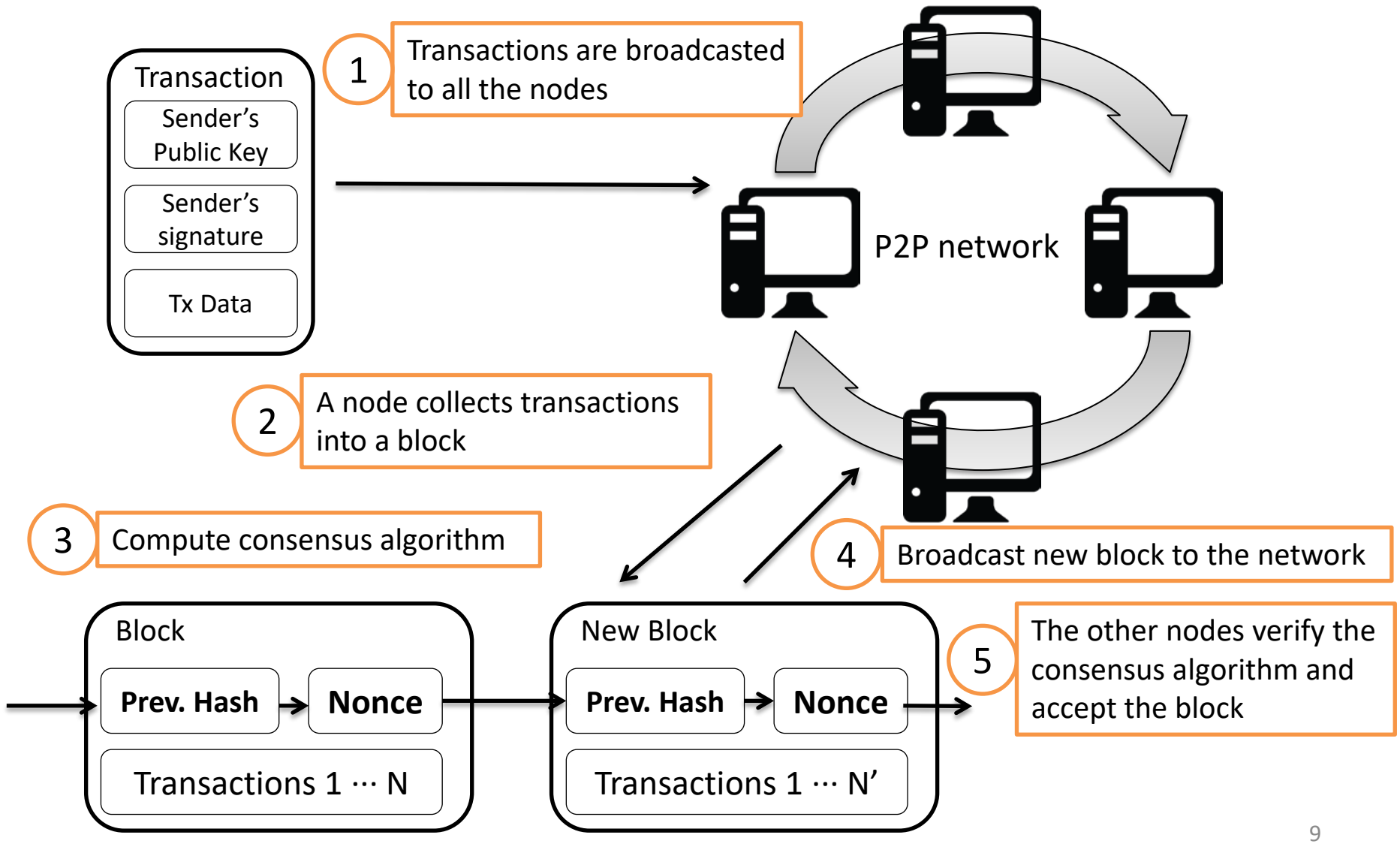


Blockchain - Properties

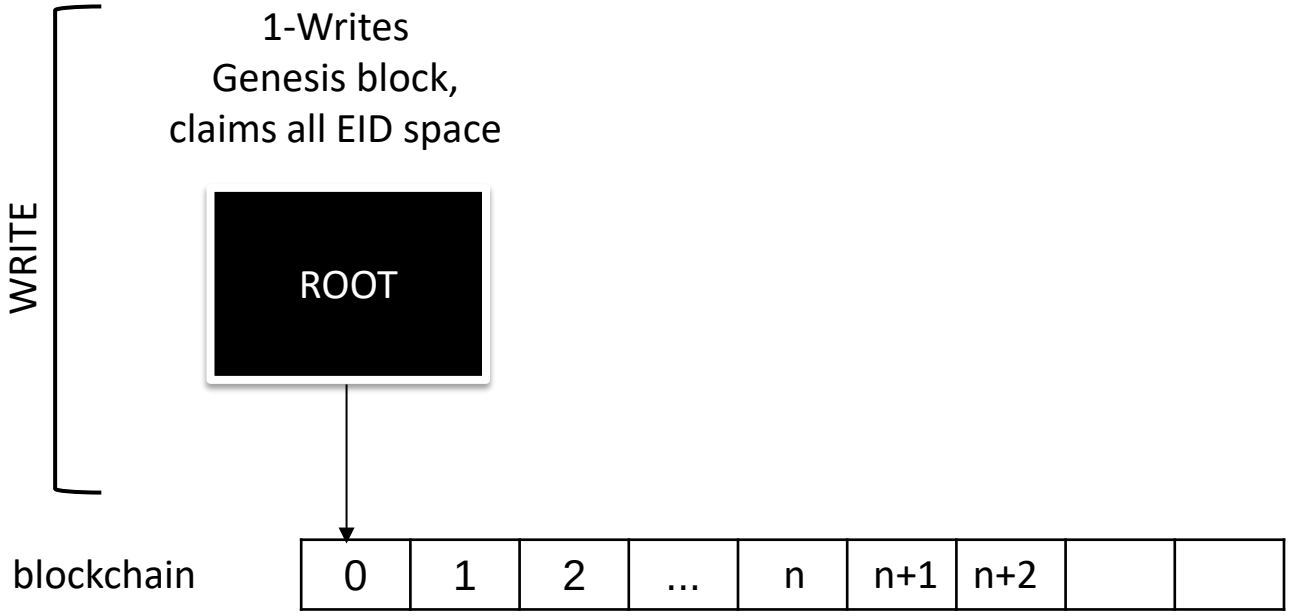
- Decentralized: all nodes have the entire blockchain
- No prior trust required
- Append-only and immutable: added transactions cannot be modified
- Verifiable

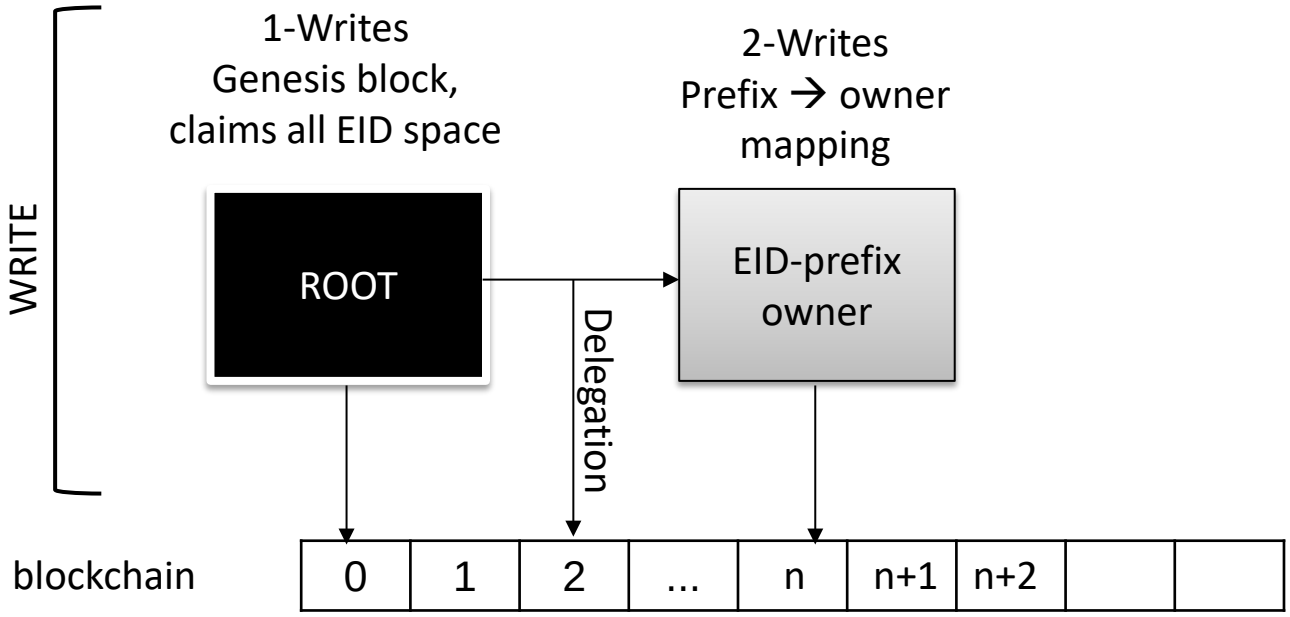
"Blockchain Technology", Sutardja Center (UC Berkeley)
http://scet.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/BlockchainPaper.pdf

A Blockchain-based Mapping System **Overview**

Basic Idea

- **Objective**: Store mappings in the blockchain
- EID prefixes are distributed to all participants
- Each owner writes their mappings (EID-to-RLOC) in the blockchain
- Map Resolvers read the blockchain to find the mappings
- **Idea**: A mapping is equivalent to a bitcoin transaction
  - Wallet: One (or more) mappings
  - Transaction: Defining a mapping
  - Blockchain: A public ledger of the mappings, from the current owner to the root


1-Writes
Genesis block,
claims all EID space
WRITE
ROOT
blockchain
0
1
2
...
n
n+1
n+2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Genesis block,
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2-Writes
Prefix → owner
mapping
WRITE
ROOT
EID-prefix
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Delegation
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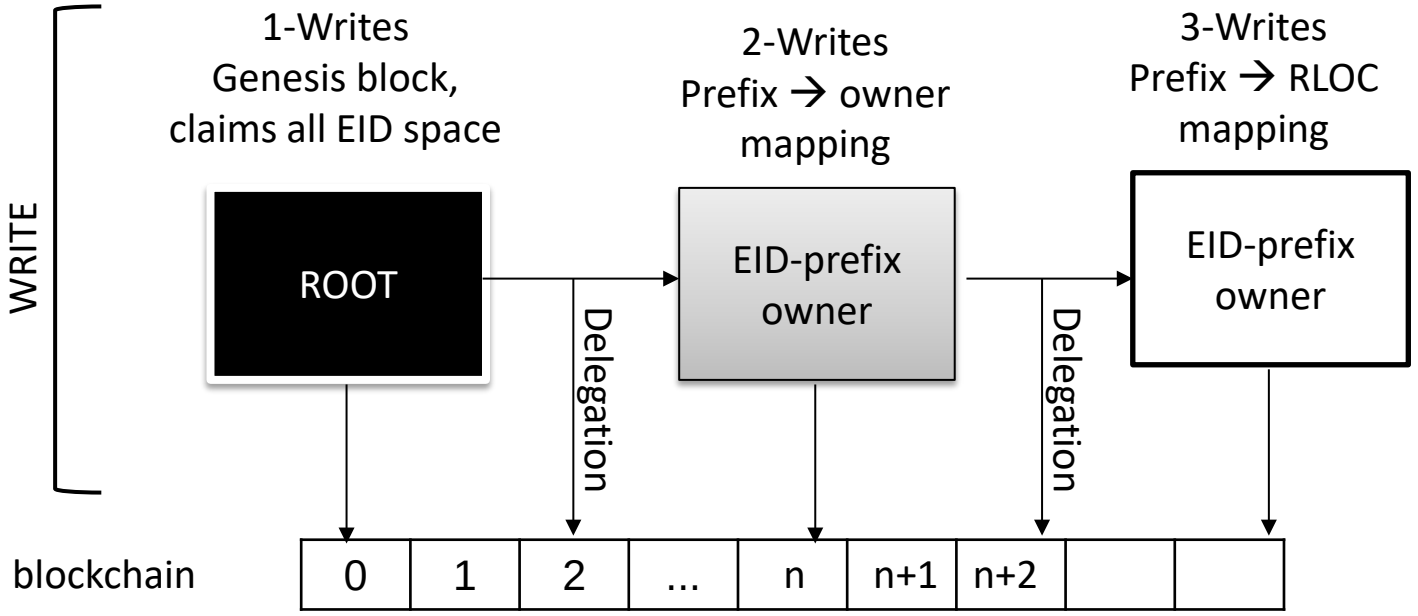
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Genesis block,
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3-Writes
Prefix → RLOC
mapping
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EID-prefix
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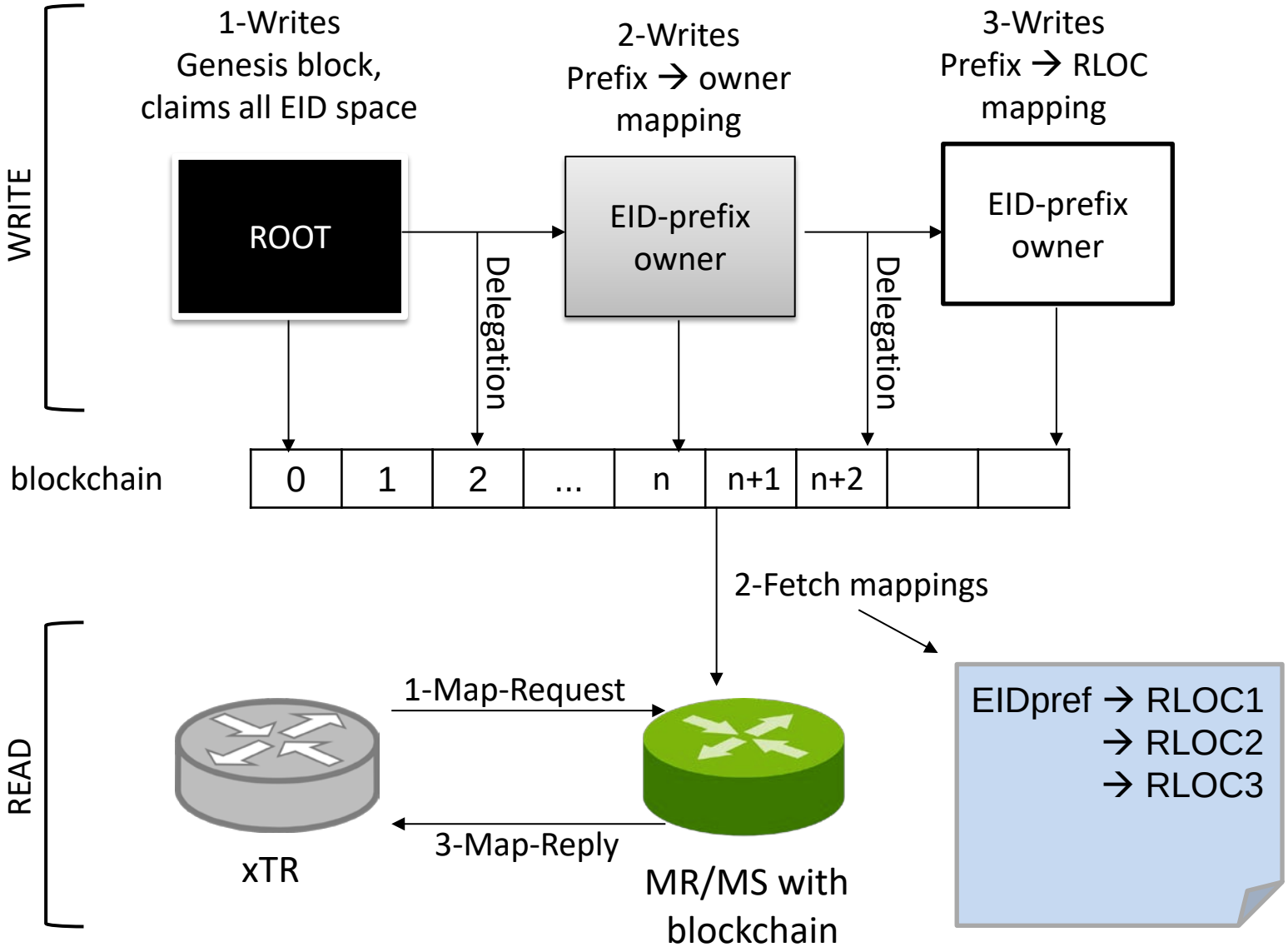
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Delegation
EID-prefix
owner
Delegation
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blockchain
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2-Fetch mappings
READ
1-Map-Request
3-Map-Reply
xTR
MR/MS with
blockchain
EIDpref → RLOC1
→ RLOC2
→ RLOC3

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Infrastructure less and decentralized
- Fast lookup

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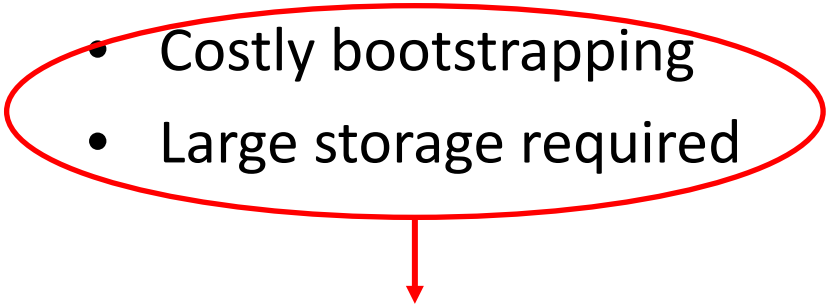

Can be mitigated using a dedicated chain

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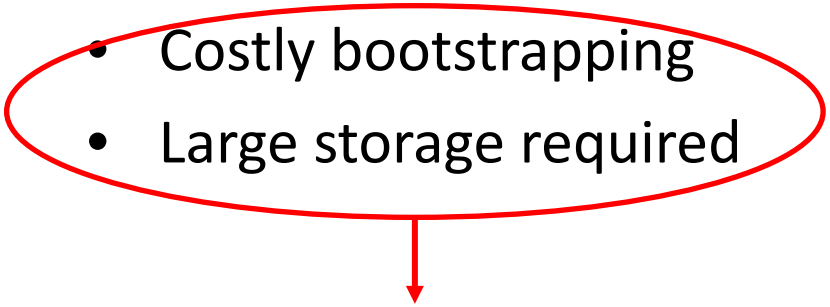


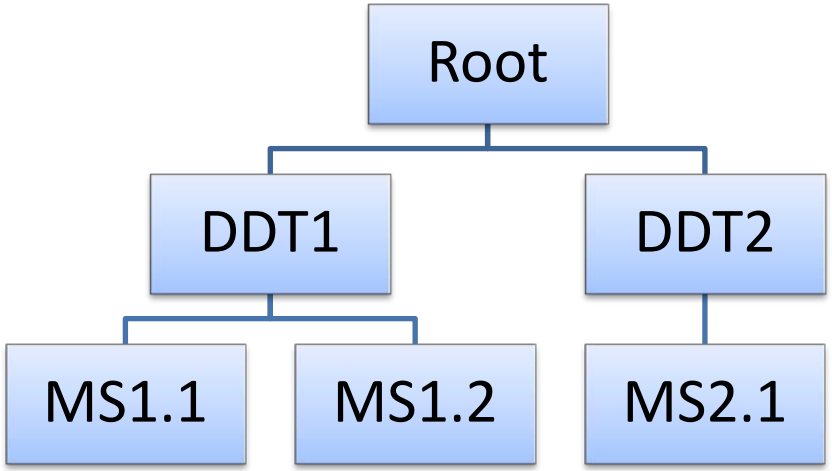
Can be mitigated using a dedicated chain

Throughput depends on:

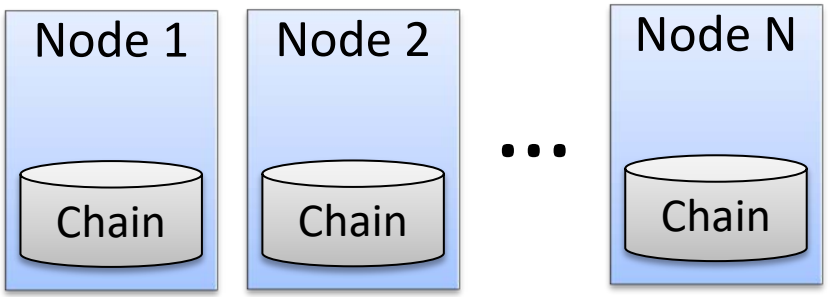
- Propagation speed in the P2P network
- Consensus algorithm

Comparison with LISP-DDT*

LISP-DDT



Blockchain



+ Fast update → Dynamic mappings
- Manual configuration
- First query slow

+ No infrastructure
+ Easy management
+ First query fast
- Update Delay → Static mappings

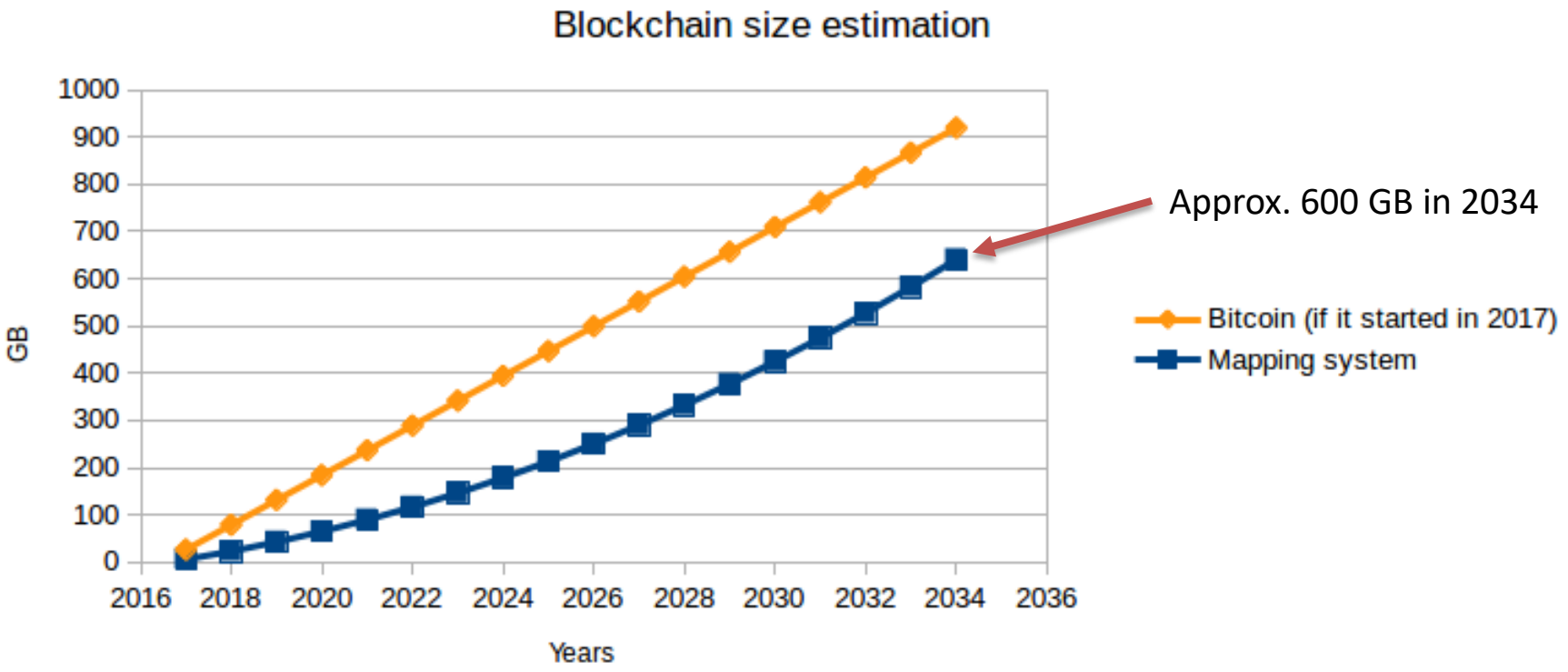
*Delegated Database Tree: hierarchical delegation of prefixes, similar to DNS

Issues with RPKI

	RPKI	Blockchain
Anonymity [1]	Prefixes linked to owner name	Prefixes linked to a public key
Revocation	Performed by CAs	Performed automatically (validity time) or impossible
Certificate management [2]	Complex	No certificates

[1] Wählisch, Matthias, et al. "RiPKI: The tragic story of RPKI deployment in the Web ecosystem." *Proceedings of the 14th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks*. ACM, 2015.
[2] George, Wes. "Adventures in RPKI (non) Deployment." NANOG, 2014.

Scalability



- One mapping for each block of /24 IPv4 address space
- Growth similar to BGP churn*
- Prefix delegation + mappings
- Each transaction approx. 400 bytes
- Only prefixes: approx. 40 GB in 20 years (worst case + BGP table growth*)

*Source: http://www.potaroo.net/ispcol/2017-01/bgp2016.html

A Blockchain-based Mapping System **Prototyping**

Design considerations

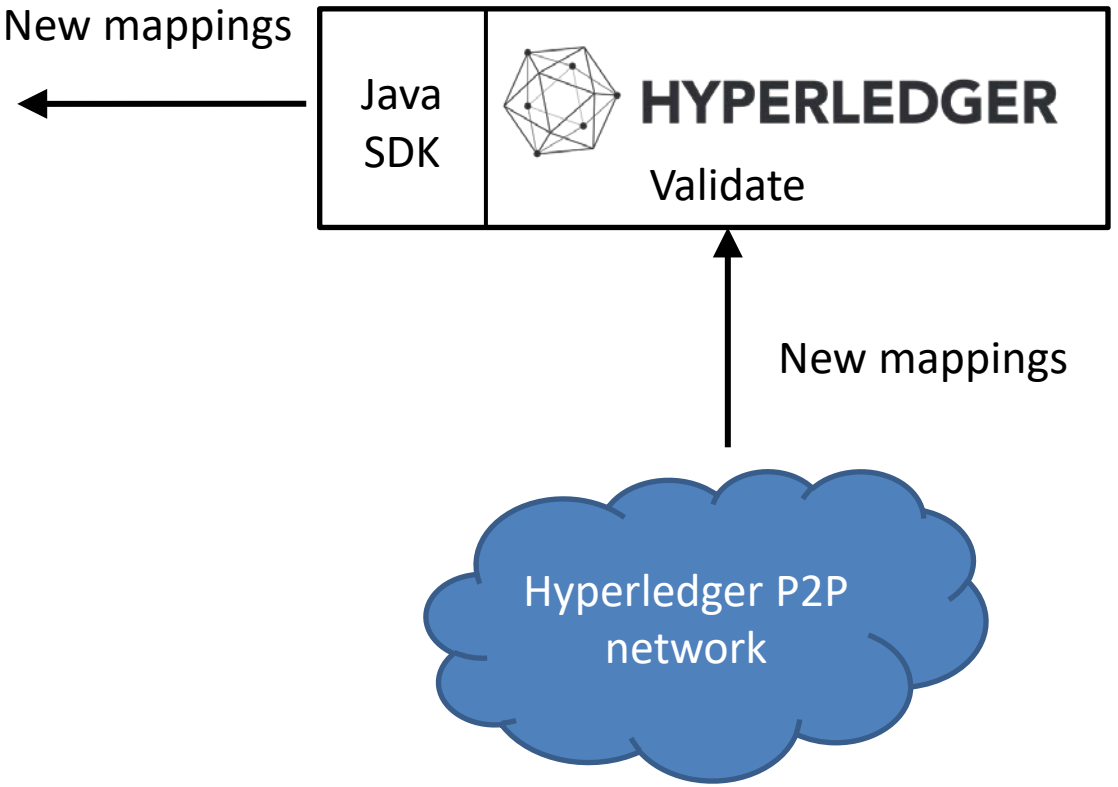
- Bitcoin is too restrictive:
  - Only for money transfer
  - Huge blockchain file size (approx. 100 GB)
  - High bootstrap time (several days*)
  - Low throughput (7 transactions/sec.)
- New blockchain technologies:
  - More scalable
  - Smart contracts

*depends on connection speed

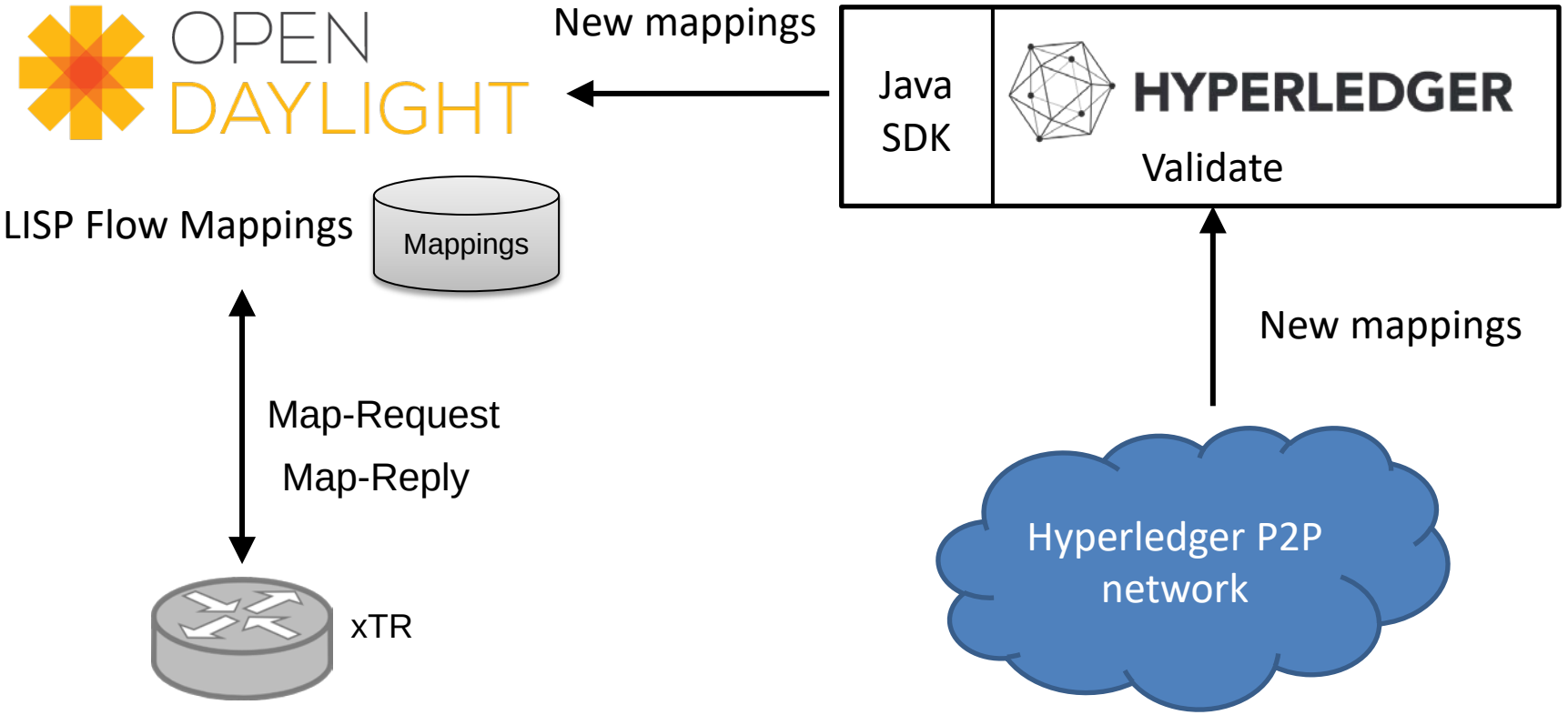
Dedicated chain

- Public (anyone can use it) but dedicated (only for mappings)
- It only stores:
  - Prefix delegations
  - Mappings
  - Map Server addresses → fast updates
- Automate functions with smart contracts:
  - Add new mapping
  - Revoke
  - Rekey
  - Verify mapping

Prototype

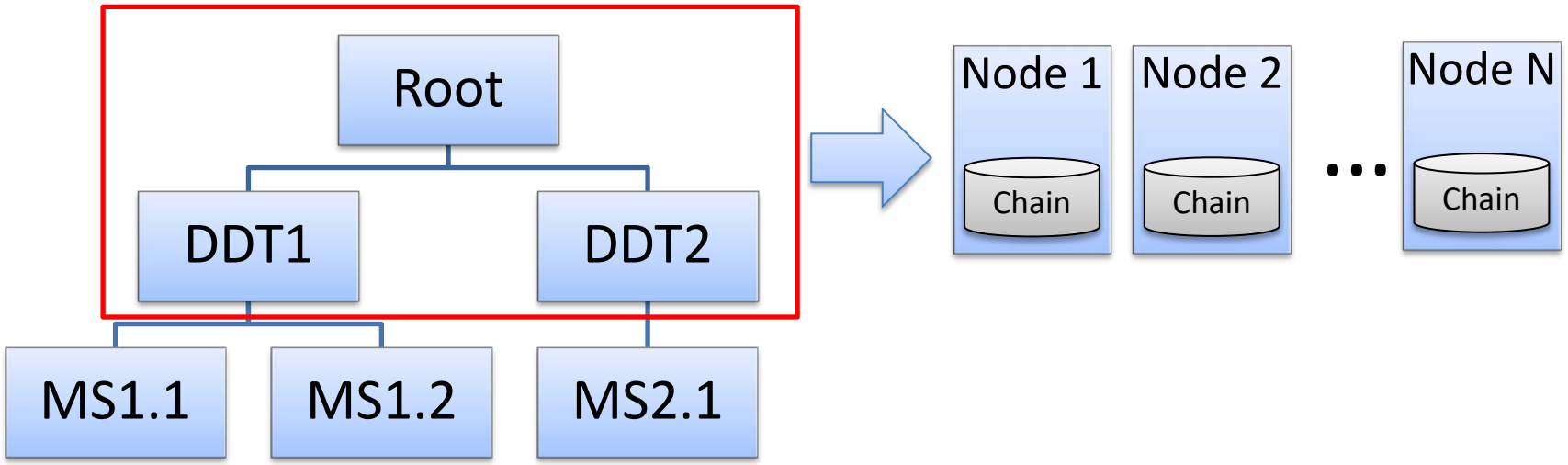

New mappings
Java
SDK
HYPERLEDGER
Validate
New mappings
Hyperledger P2P
network

Prototype


OPEN DAYLIGHT
New mappings
Java SDK
HYPERLEDGER
Validate
LISP Flow Mappings
Mappings
New mappings
Map-Request
Map-Reply
Hyperledger P2P network
xTR

Deployment

- LISP Beta Network
- Uses LISP-DDT*
- Replace DDT nodes with this prototype



*http://ddt-root.org/

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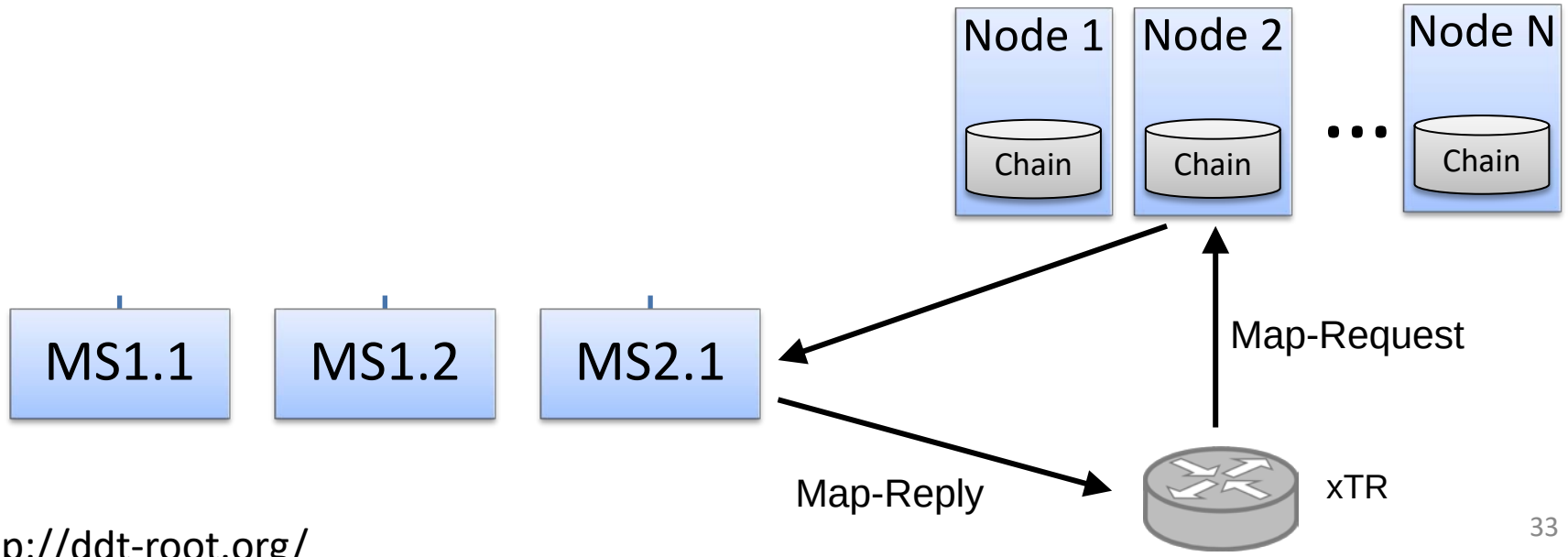

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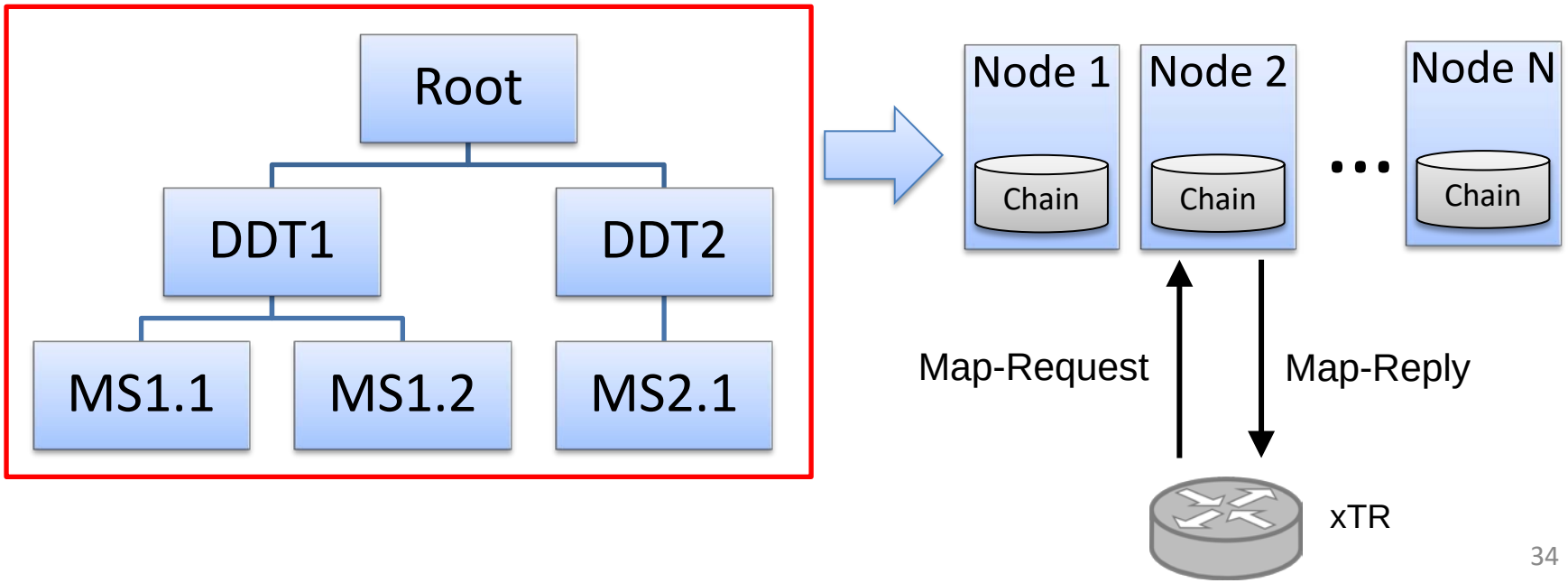
Deployment

- LISP Beta Network
- Full mapping system
- Less Map Servers



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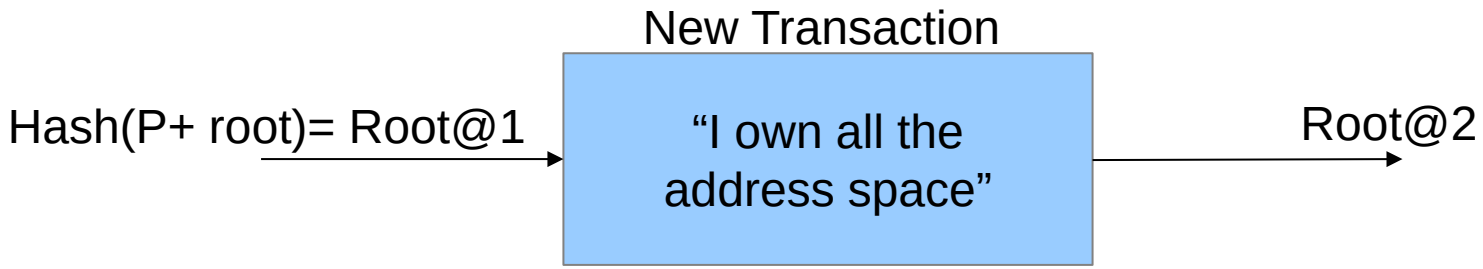
A Blockchain-based Mapping System **Appendix: transaction examples**

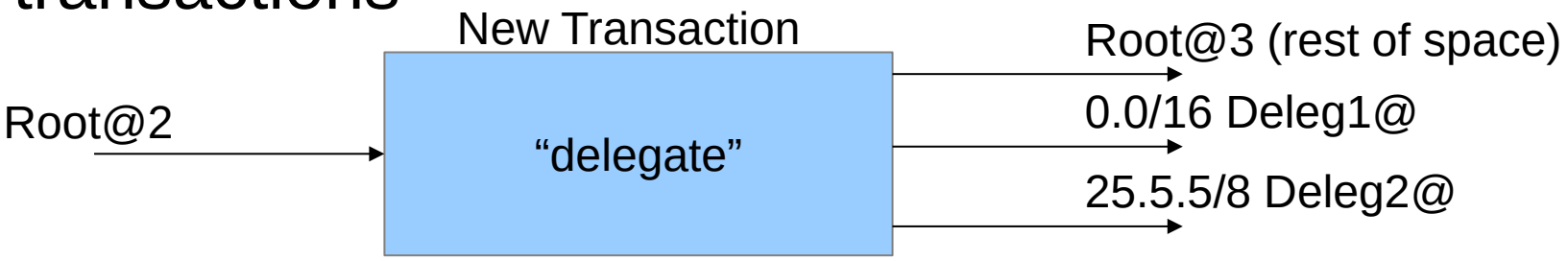
First transaction

- Map-Resolver trust the Public Key of the Root, that initially claims all EID space by writing the genesis block
- Root can delegate all EID space to itself and use a different keypair

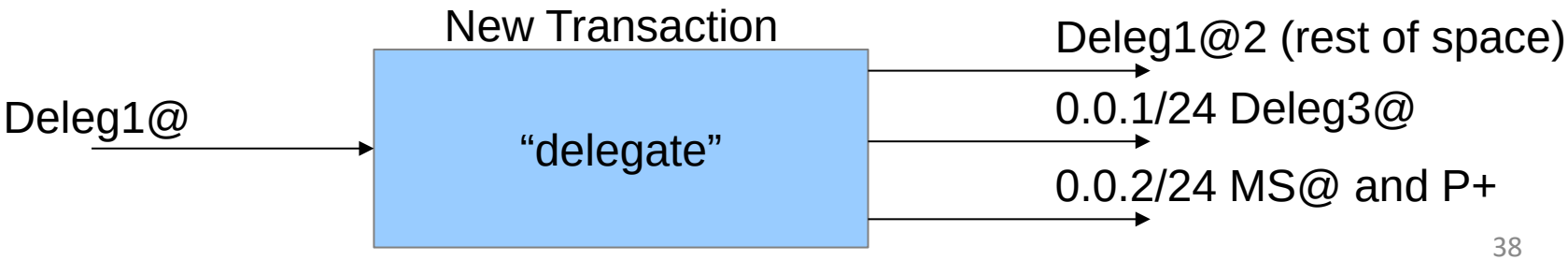


Prefix delegation

- Root delegates EID-prefixes to other entities (identified by Hash(Public Key)) by adding transactions

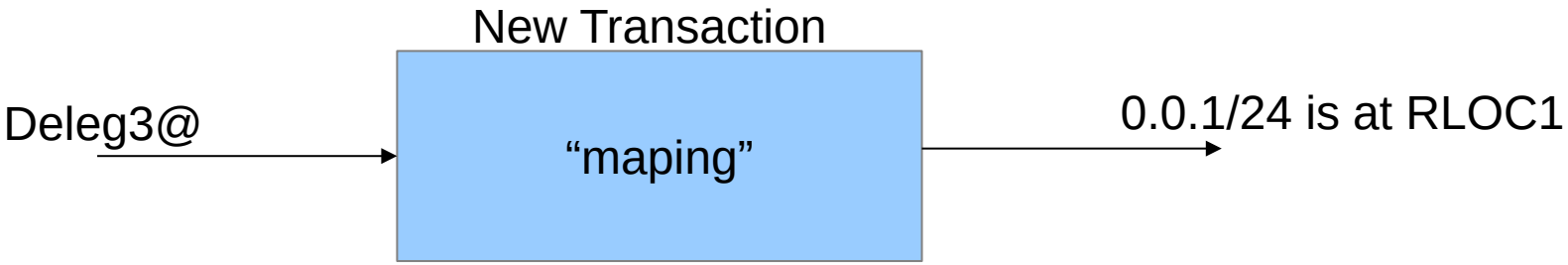


- Owners can further delegate address blocks to other entities or write MS addresses (and MS’s Public Key)



Writing mappings

- Just like delegating a prefix, but instead of the Map Server address, we write the mapping

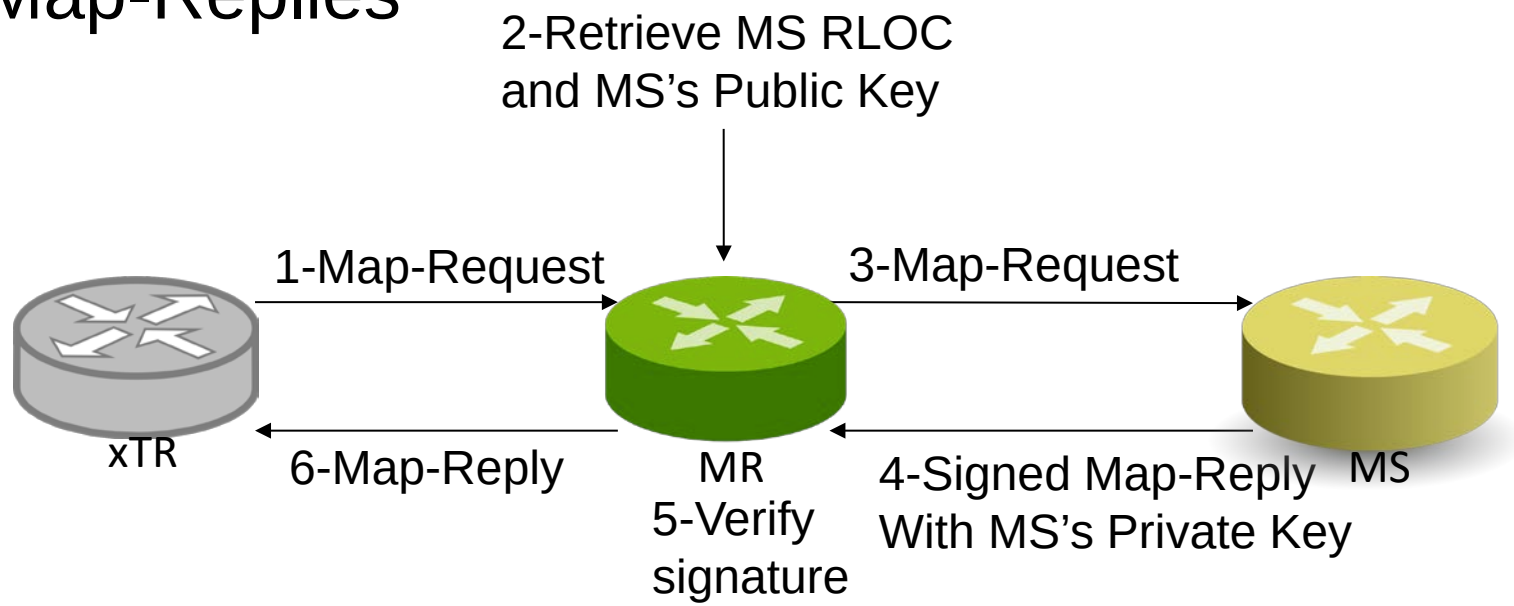


Rekeying

- Delegating the owned EID-prefixes to itself using a new key set.
- Simpler than traditional rekeying schemes
- Can be performed independently, i.e. each owner can do it without affecting other owners
- Same procedure for mappings

Map-Reply Authentication

- MS public key can also be included in the delegations
- Since blockchain provides authentication and integrity for this key, MRs can use it to verify Map-Replies



More about the Consensus Algorithm

- Rules used by nodes to agree on which data to accept
- Eg. Bitcoin uses Proof of Work
- Miners compute Proof of Work
  - Finding a nonce that when added to the data makes its hash start with N zeros.
  - Hard
- Other algorithms are being explored:
  - Proof of Stake: nodes with more assets are more likely to add blocks
  - Practical Byzantine Fault Tolerant: reach a minimum number of endorsements from nodes in order to add data
  - Deposit-based: assets are lost if a node performs an illegal operation (security deposit)

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/consensus-mechanisms-used-blockchain-ronald-chan