



# Adversarial Network Forensics in Software Defined Networking

*Stefan Achleitner, Thomas La Porta, Trent Jaeger, Patrick McDaniel*





# Why Software Defined Networking?



# Why Software Defined Networking?



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## Software Defined Networking (SDN) Market is Expected to Reach \$132.9 Billion by 2022

Jun 28, 2016, 09:30 ET from [Allied Market Research](#)



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ted to Reach \$132.9 Billion

## 5G Depends on SDN & NFV



Linda Hardesty  
January 25, 2016  
8:27 am PT



Last year at [Mobile World Congress](#) in Barcelona, the [first inklings](#) of 5G were discussed. This year, 5G will probably be all over the place — and [software-defined networking \(SDN\)](#) and [network functions virtualization \(NFV\)](#) will play important roles, especially in terms of a new network topology.

The goals for 5G are 1,000-times higher system capacity; 100-times increase in data rates; connectivity enablement for 100-times more devices; latency reduced to 1 millisecond from 5 ms; and energy savings. So says Raj Singh, general manager of the wireless broadband group at [Cavium](#).



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## Software-Defined Networking will be a critical enabler of the Internet of Things

SDN will support IoT by centralizing control, abstracting network devices, and providing flexible, dynamic, automated reconfiguration of the network

By Jeff Reed, VP of the Enterprise Infrastructure and Solutions Group, Cisco  
Network World | JUN 5, 2015 8:36 AMPT

5G Depe

Last year at [Mobile World Congress](#) in Barcelona, the [first inklings of 5G](#) were discussed. This year, 5G will probably be all over the place — and [software-defined networking \(SDN\)](#) and [network functions virtualization \(NFV\)](#) will play important roles, especially in terms of a new network topology.

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## SDN vital to IoT



By Jim Duffy

Managing Editor, Network World | SEP 7, 2014 9:00 PM PT



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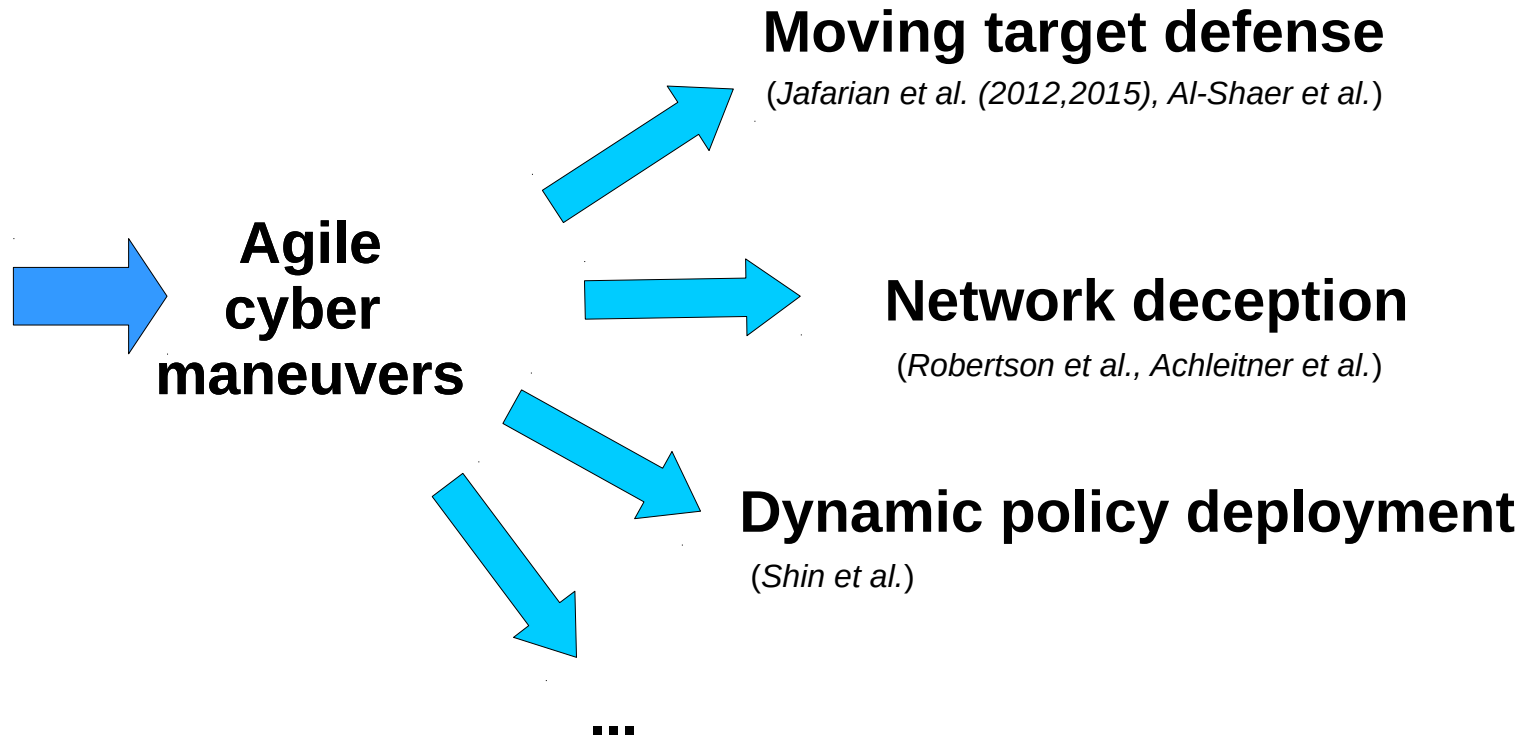
# Why Software Defined Networking?







# Software Defined Networking Enables dynamic and flexible reconfiguration of networks



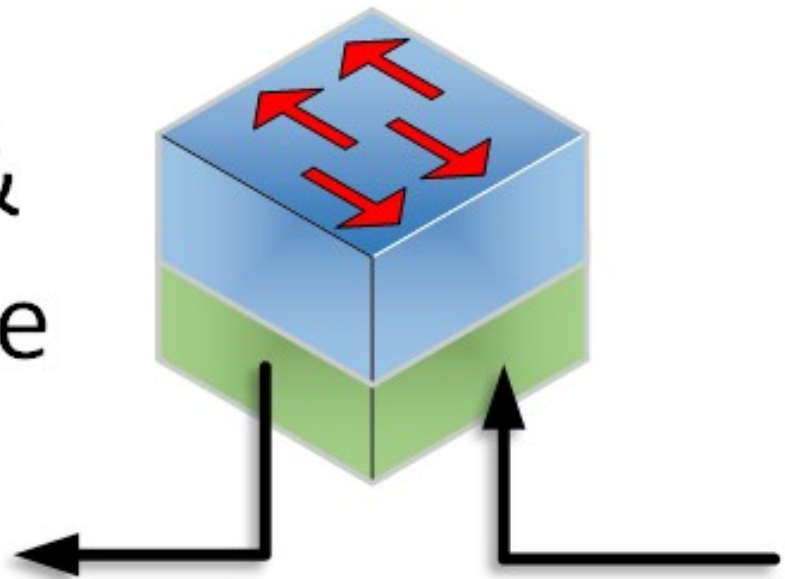
- Jafarian et al. "Adversary-aware IP address randomization for proactive agility against sophisticated attackers," in IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (2015)
- Jafarian et al. "Openflow random host mutation: transparent moving target defense using software defined networking," in Proceedings of the first workshop on Hot topics in software defined networks (2012)
- Al-Shaer et al. "Random host mutation for moving target defense," in Security and Privacy in Communication Networks (2013)
- Robertson et al. "CINDAM: Customized Information Networks for Deception and Attack Mitigation," in SASO Workshop (2015)
- Shin et al. "Avant-guard: Scalable and vigilant switch flow management in software-defined networks," in Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Computer & Communications Security (2013)
- Achleitner et al. "Cyber Deception: Virtual Networks to Defend Insider Reconnaissance", ACM CCS International Workshop on Managing Insider Security Threats (2016)



- **What is SDN?**

# Conventional network

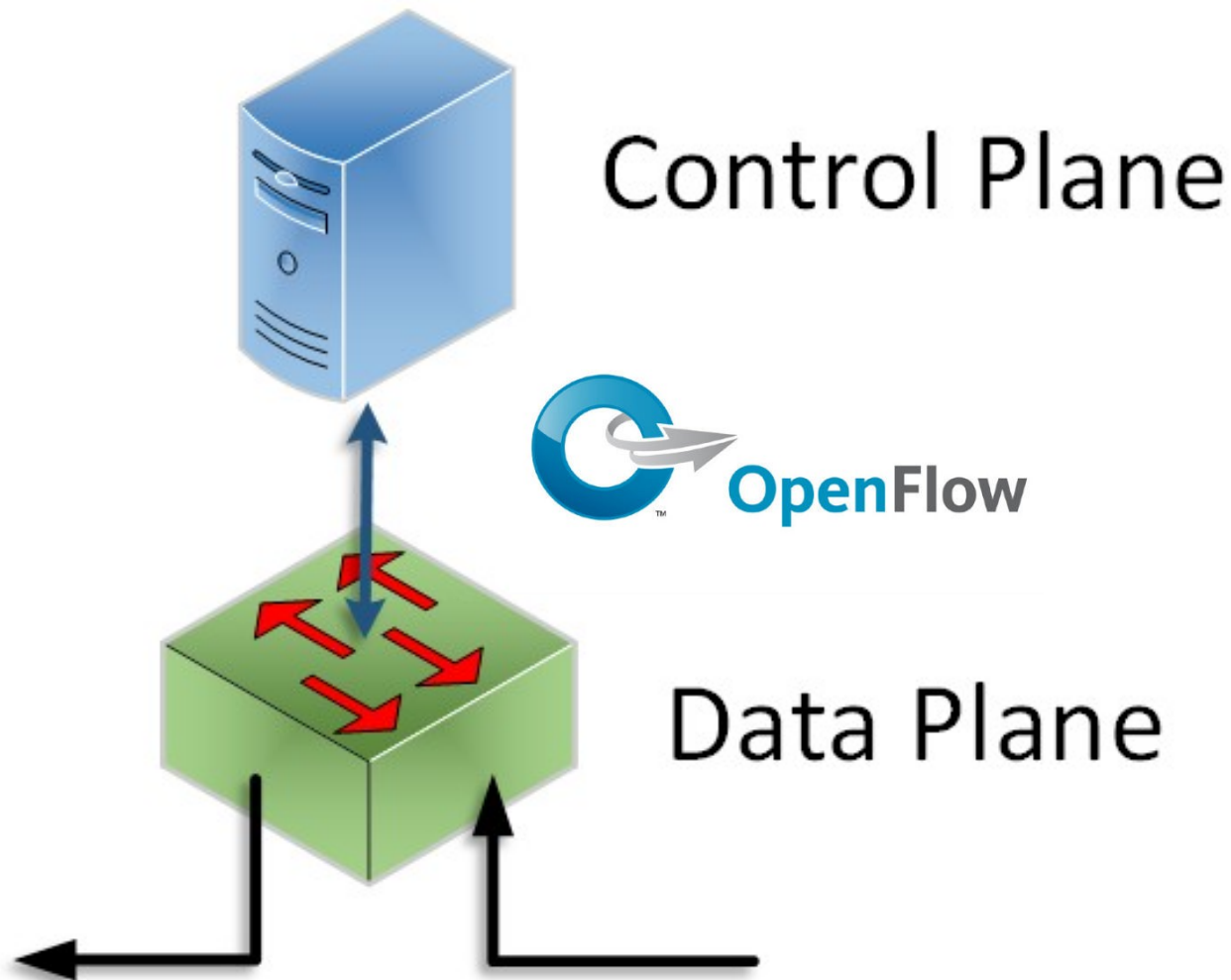
Control &  
Data Plane





- **What is SDN?**

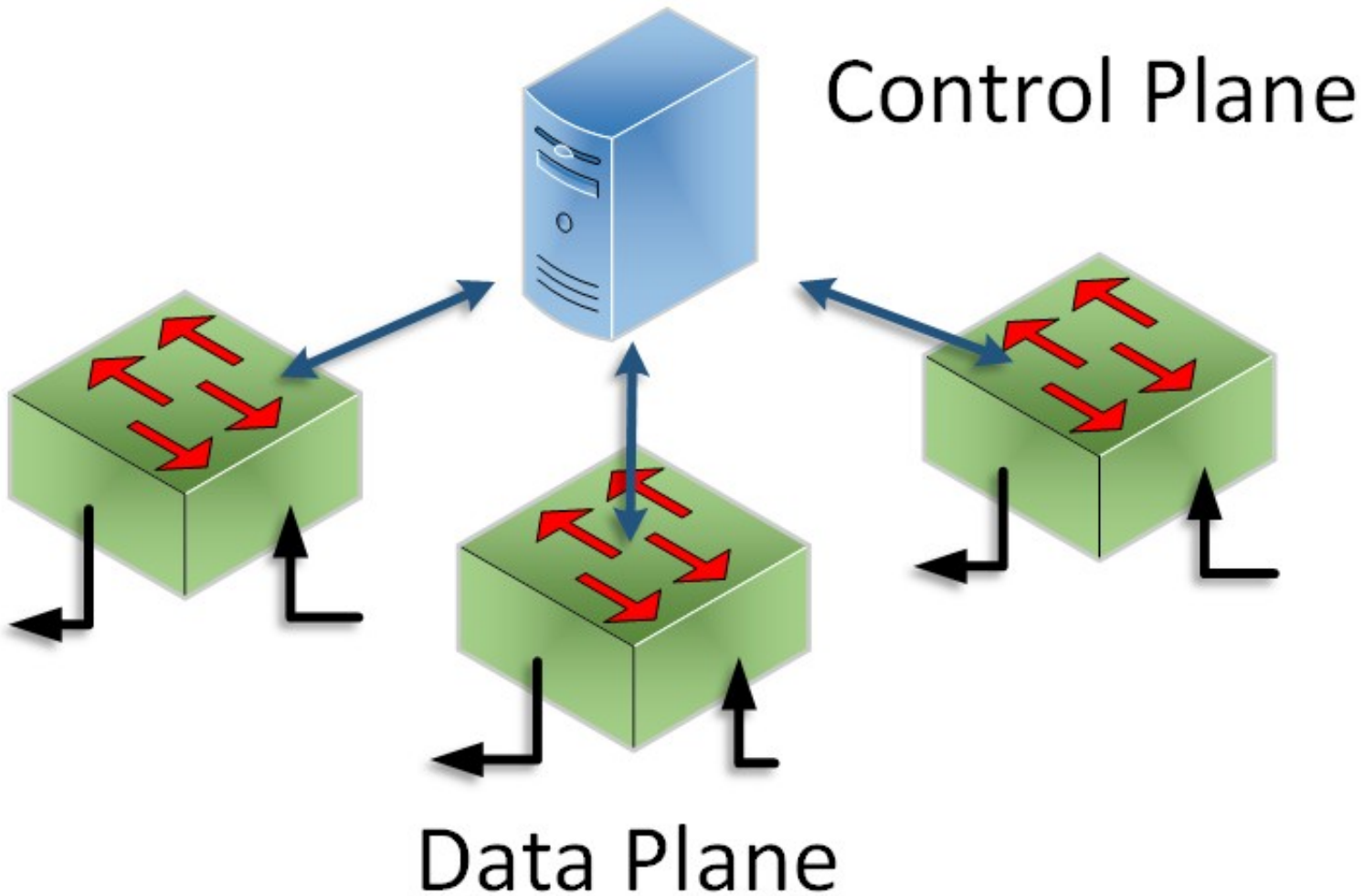
# Software Defined Network





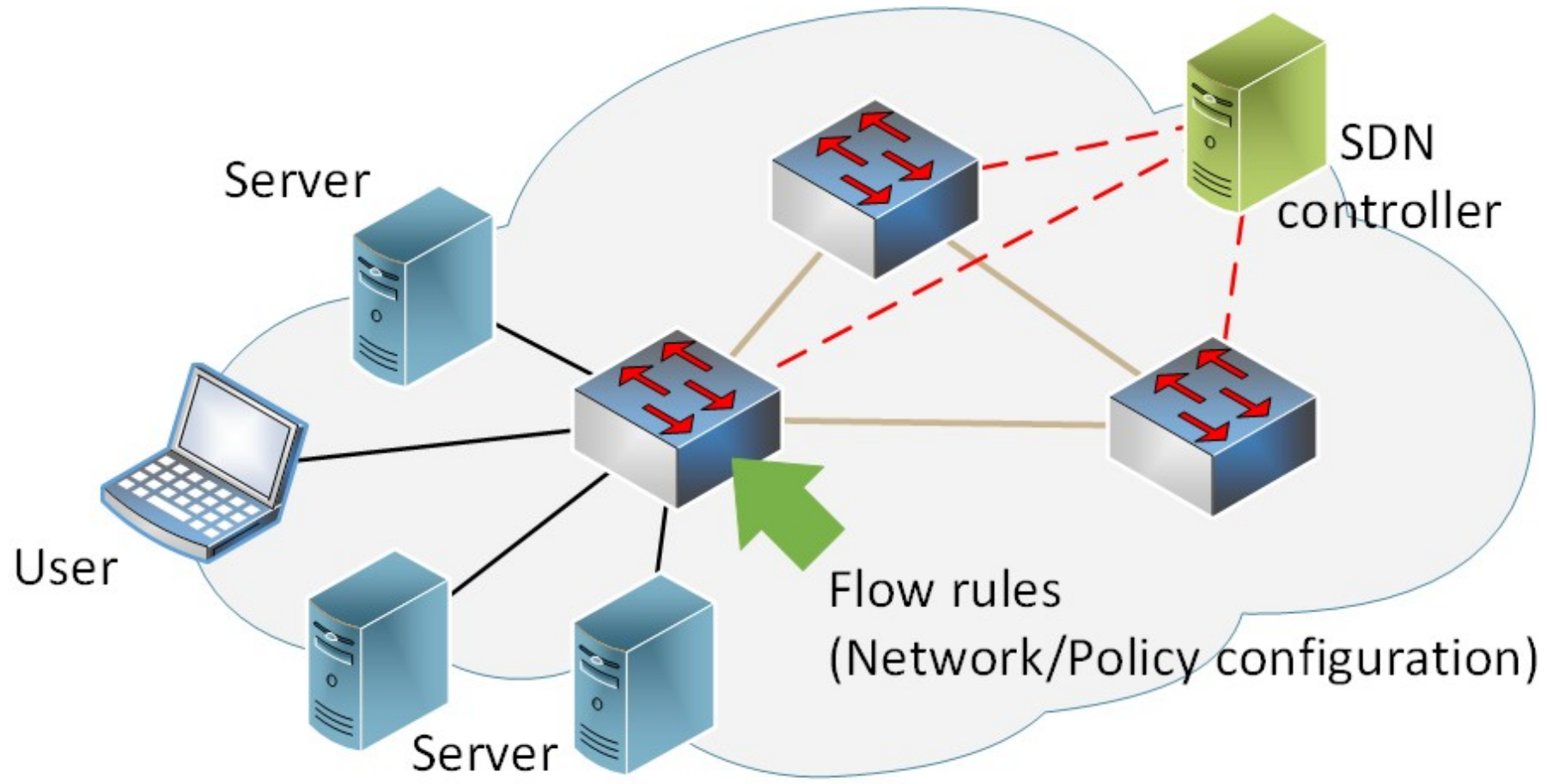
- **What is SDN?**

# Software Defined Network





- **SDN separates control- and data-plane**
- **Forwards traffic based on flow rules**





- SDN makes forwarding decisions

match: *Set[field=value]* --> action: *Set[action field=value]*



00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1



SDN  
Element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.2



- SDN makes forwarding decisions

match: *Set[field=value]* --> action: *Set[action field=value]*



00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1

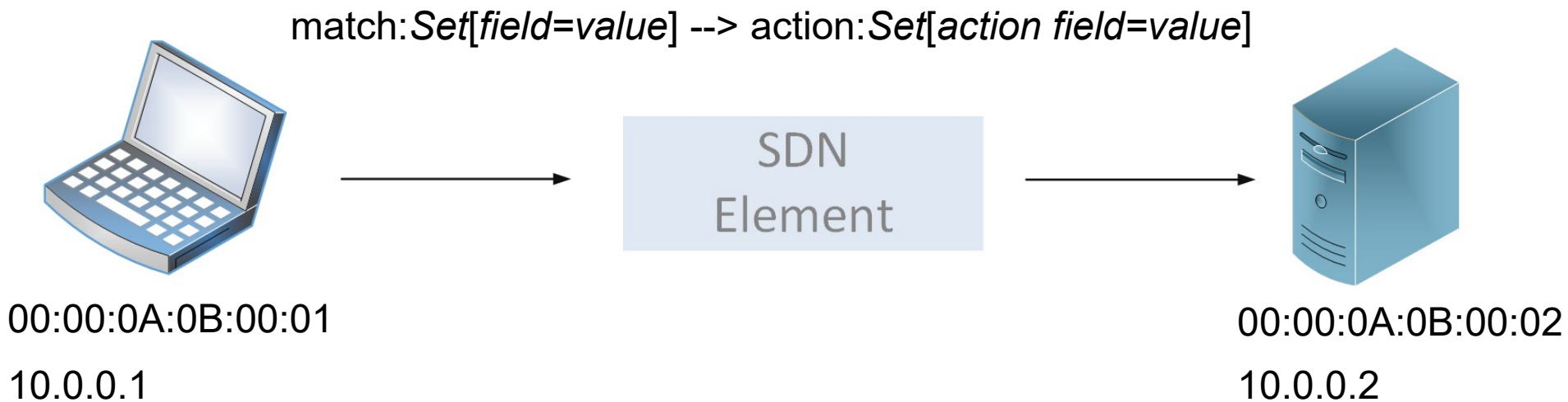


00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.2

match: IPsrc=10.0.0.1, IPdst=10.0.0.2 --> action: out\_port=2



- SDN makes forwarding decisions



match:IPsrc=10.0.0.1, IPdst=10.0.0.2 --> action:out\_port=2  
match:IPsrc=10.0.0.1 --> action:mod\_IPsrc=10.0.0.10, out\_port=2





- **SDN makes forwarding decisions**

match: *Set[field=value]* --> action: *Set[action field=value]*



00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1

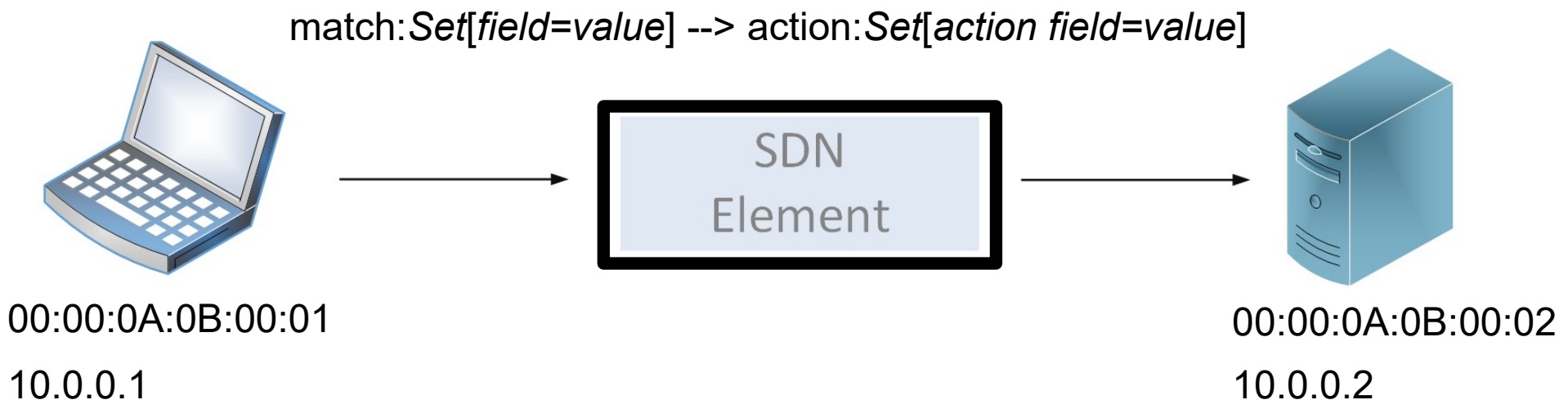


00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.2

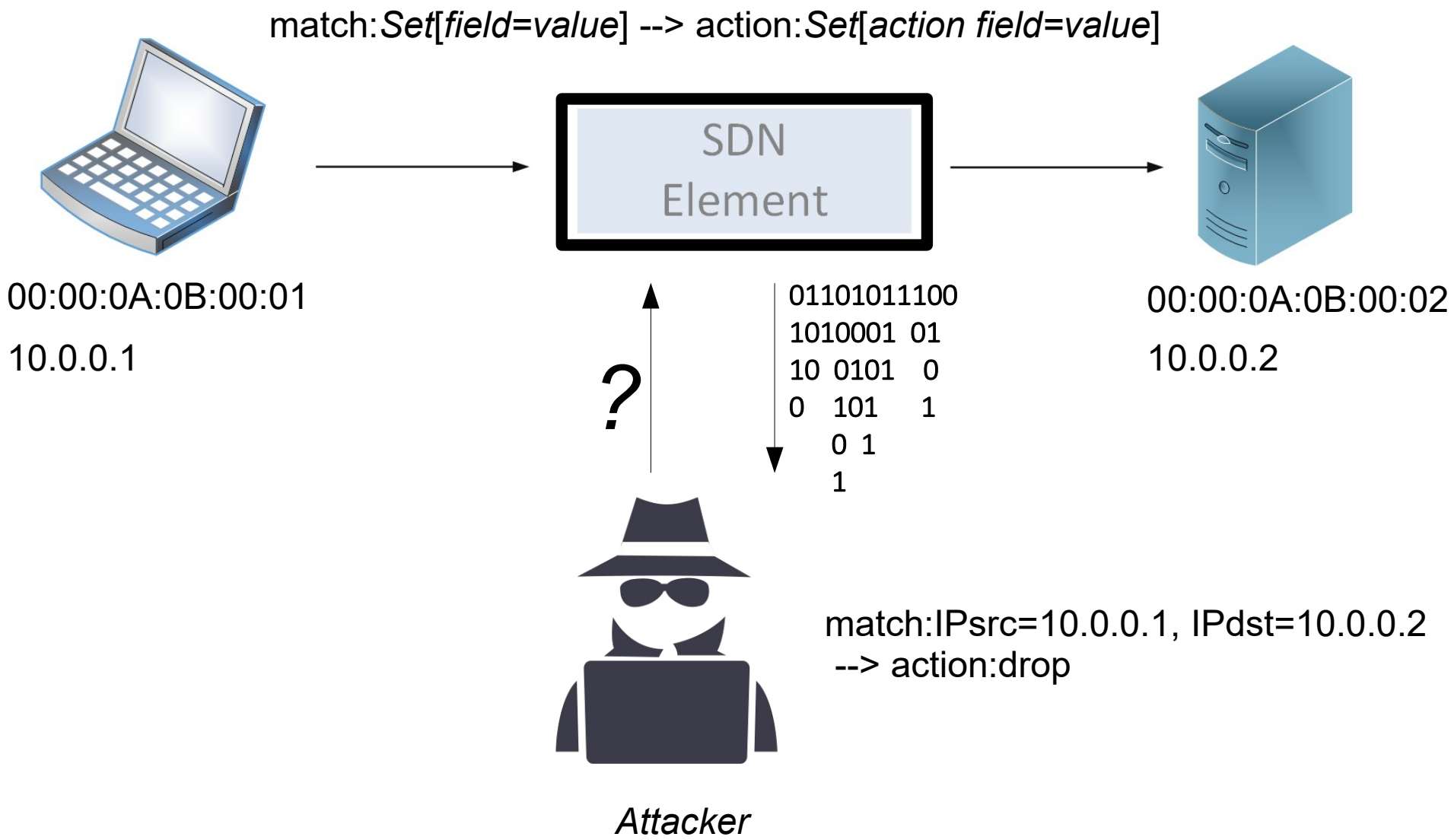
match:IPsrc=10.0.0.1, IPdst=10.0.0.2 --> action:out\_port=2  
match:IPsrc=10.0.0.1 --> action:mod\_IPsrc=10.0.0.10, out\_port=2  
match:IPsrc=10.0.0.1, IPdst=10.0.0.2 --> action:drop



- SDN element can be seen as a black box

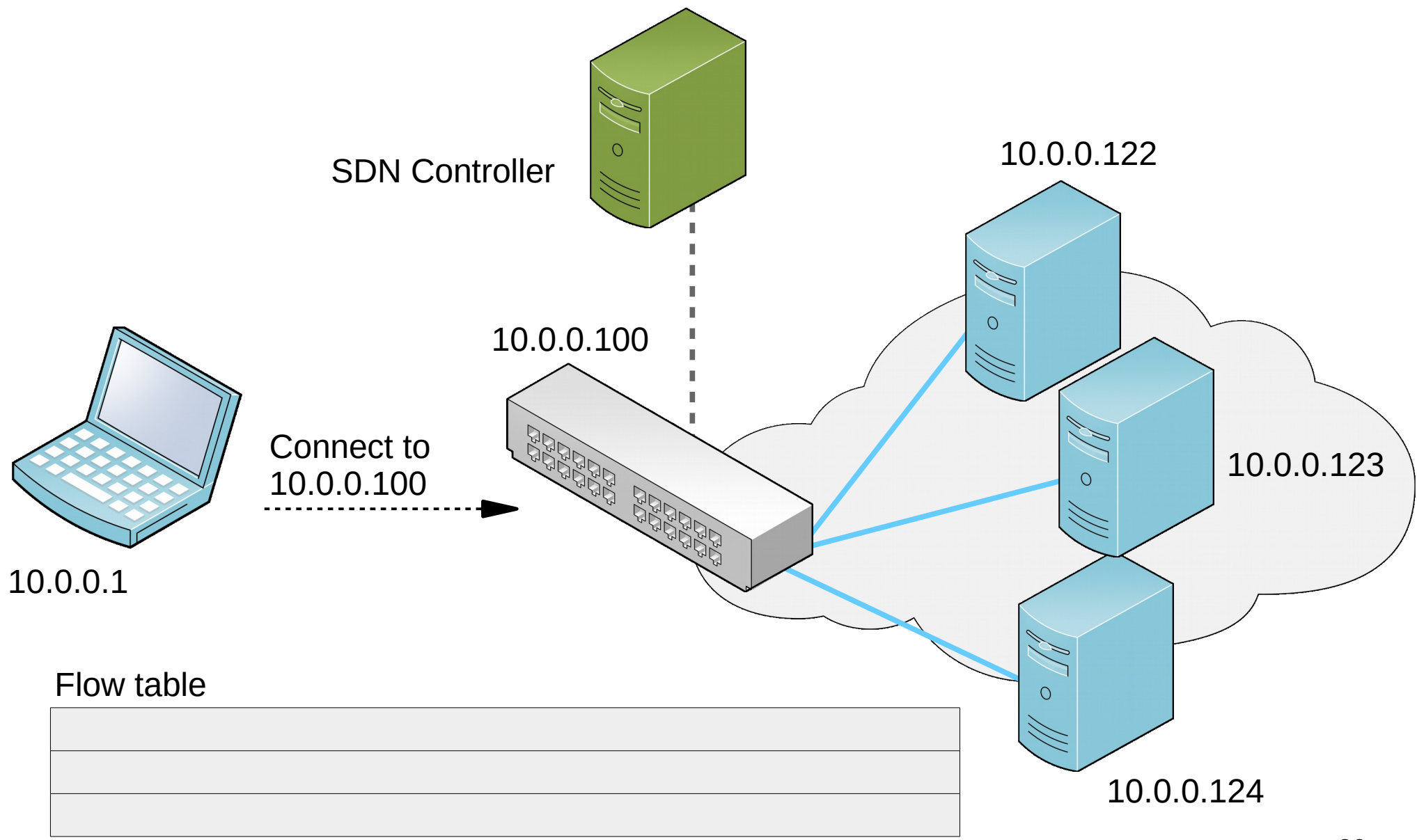


• Can an attacker reconstruct the details of flow rules?



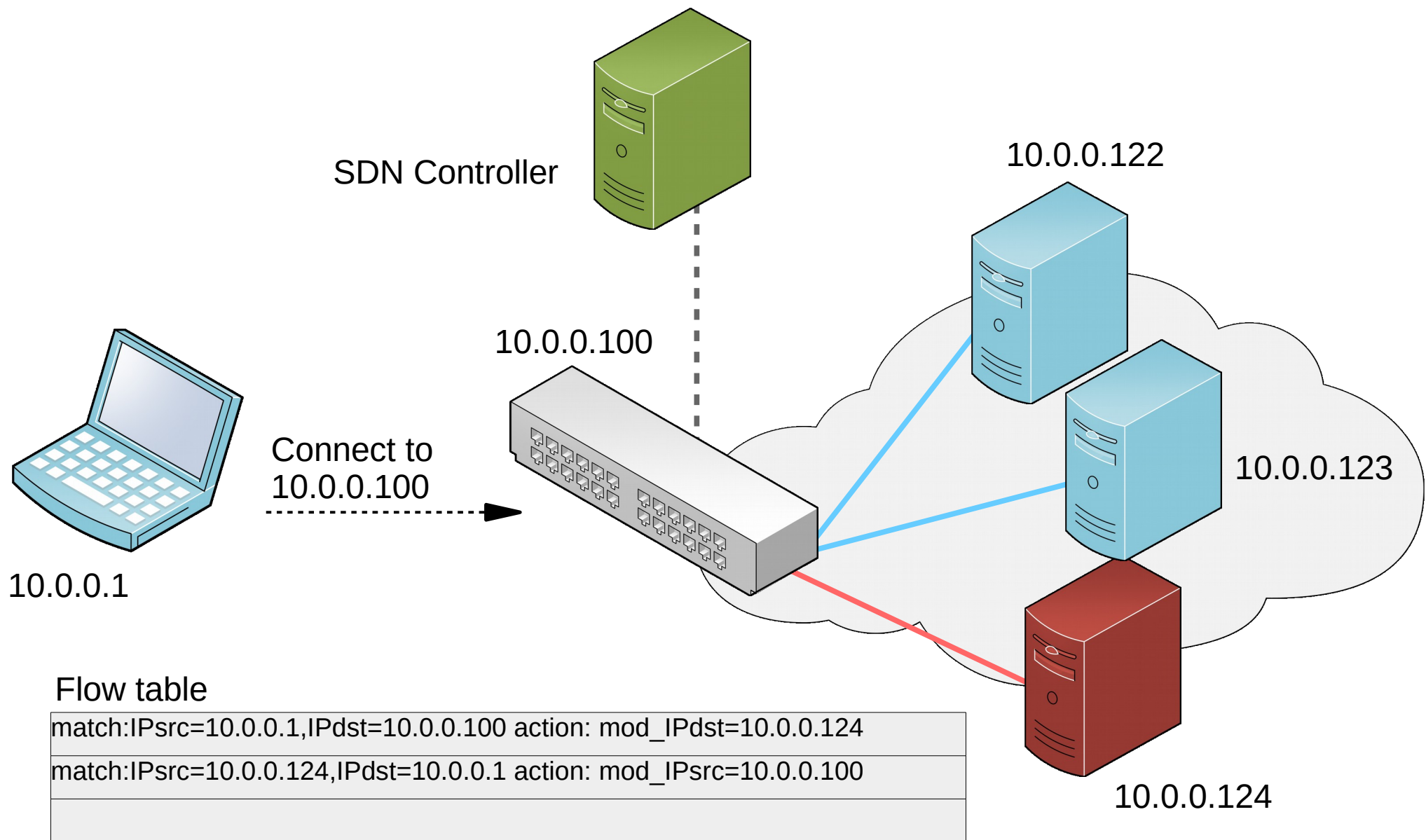


# • Load Balancing as a Service

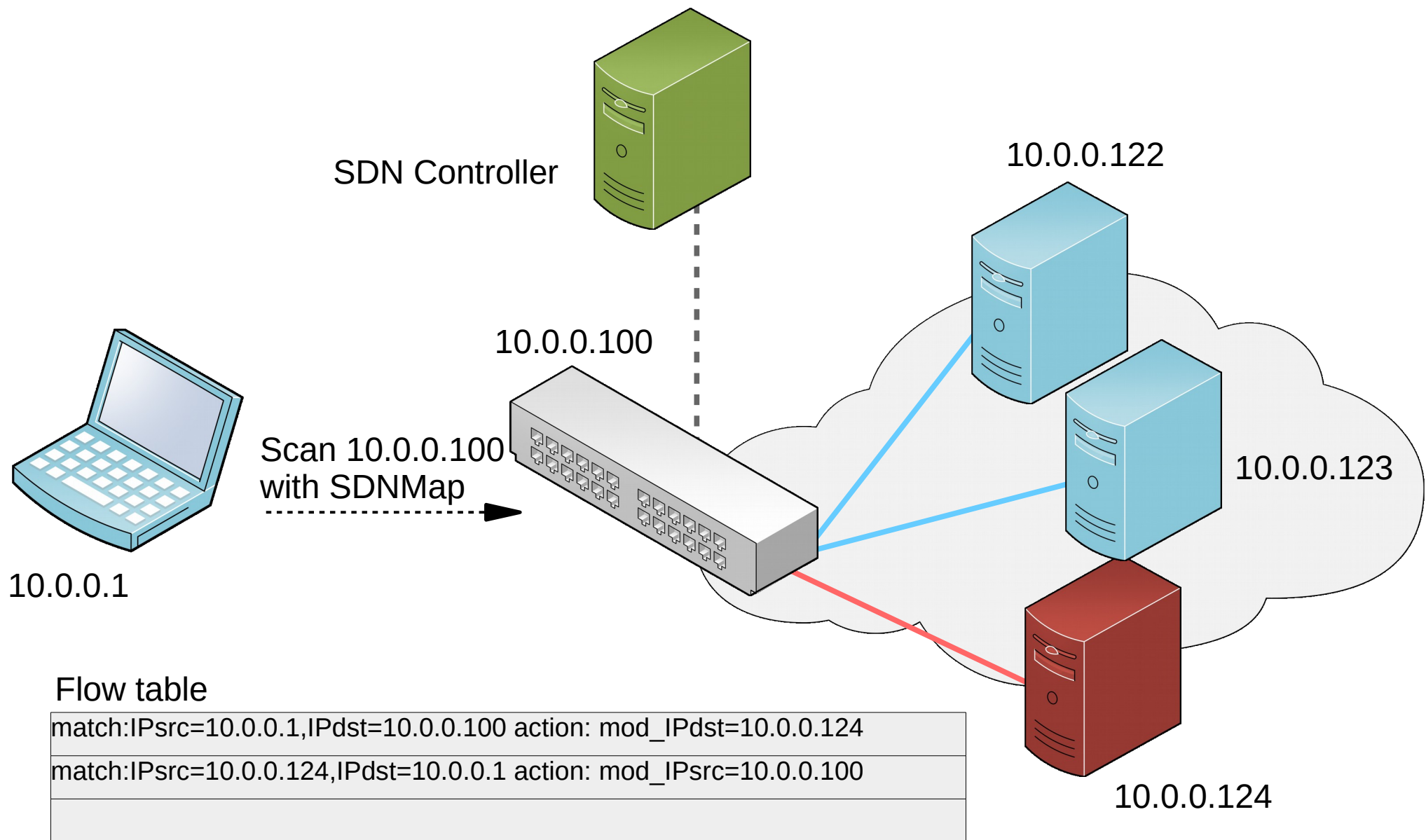




# • Load Balancing as a Service



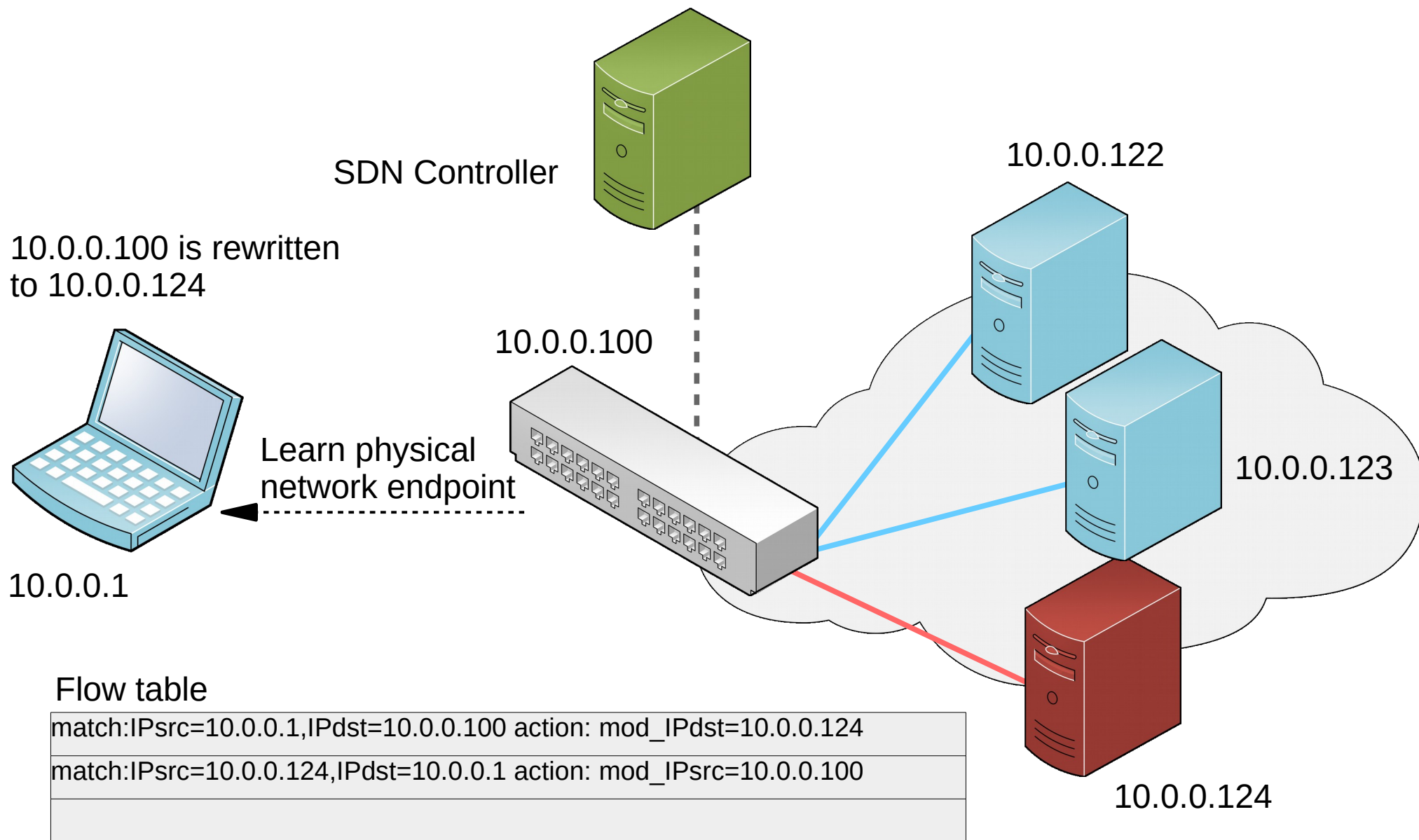
# • Load Balancing as a Service





# • Load Balancing as a Service

<https://youtu.be/9v7mjMrkxHk>





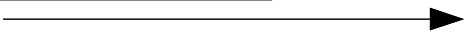
# • How do we reconstruct rules – IP rewriting?



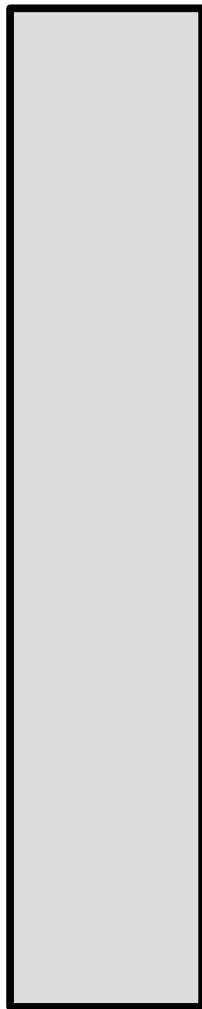
00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1

**UDP**

IP src:	10.0.0.1
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
Port src:	345
Port dst:	56748



SDN element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.22 (10.0.0.2)



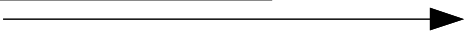
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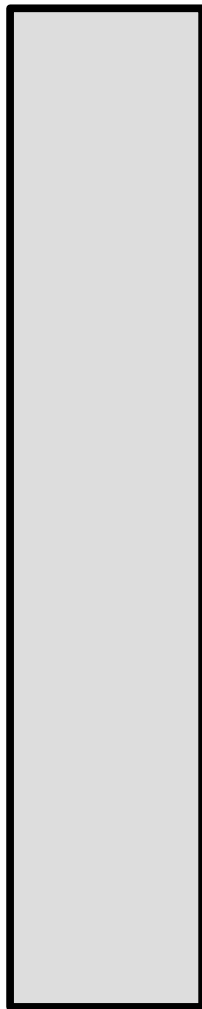
00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1

### UDP

IP src:	10.0.0.1
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
Port src:	345
Port dst:	56748



SDN element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.22 (10.0.0.2)

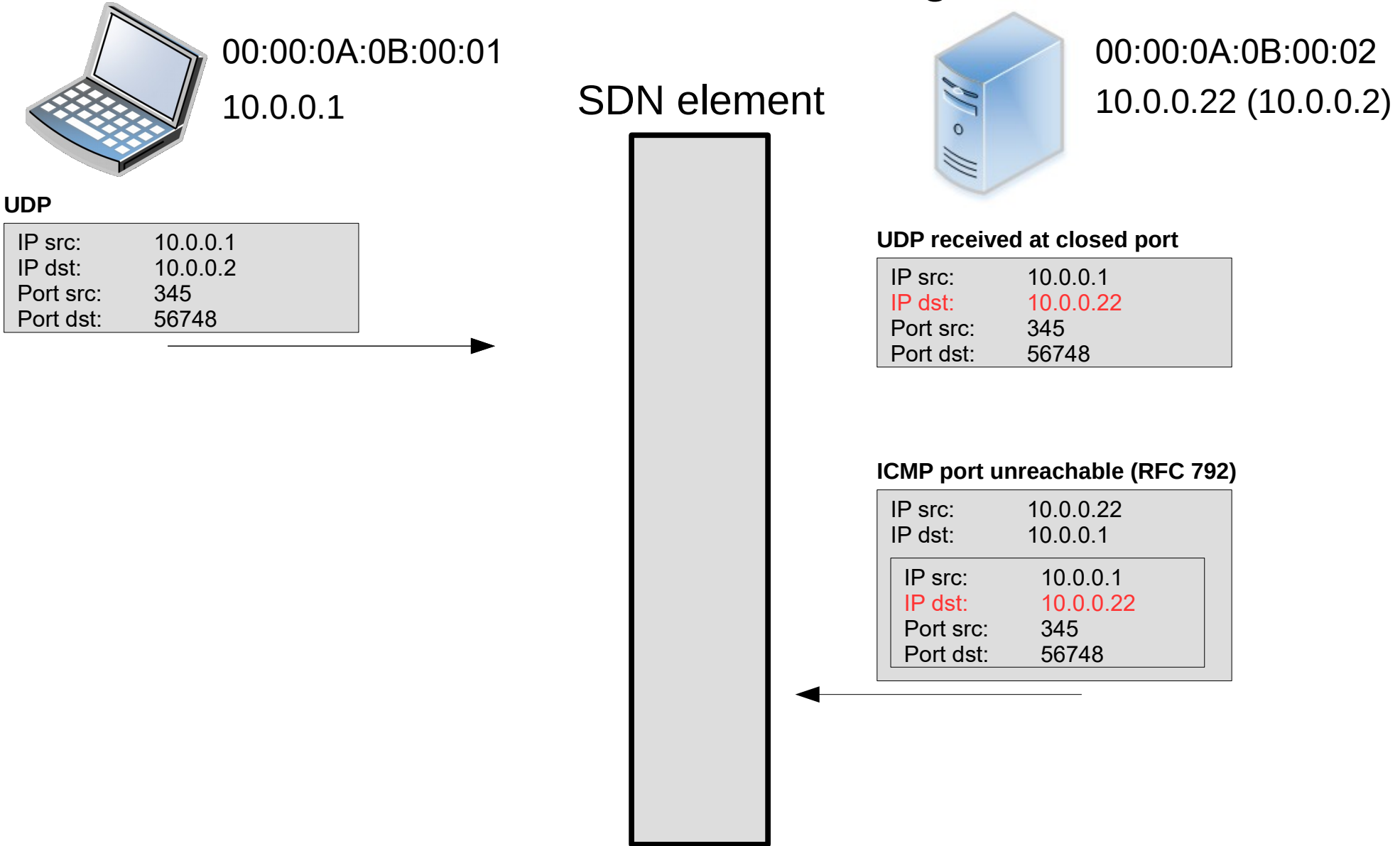
### UDP received at closed port

IP src:	10.0.0.1
IP dst:	10.0.0.22
Port src:	345
Port dst:	56748



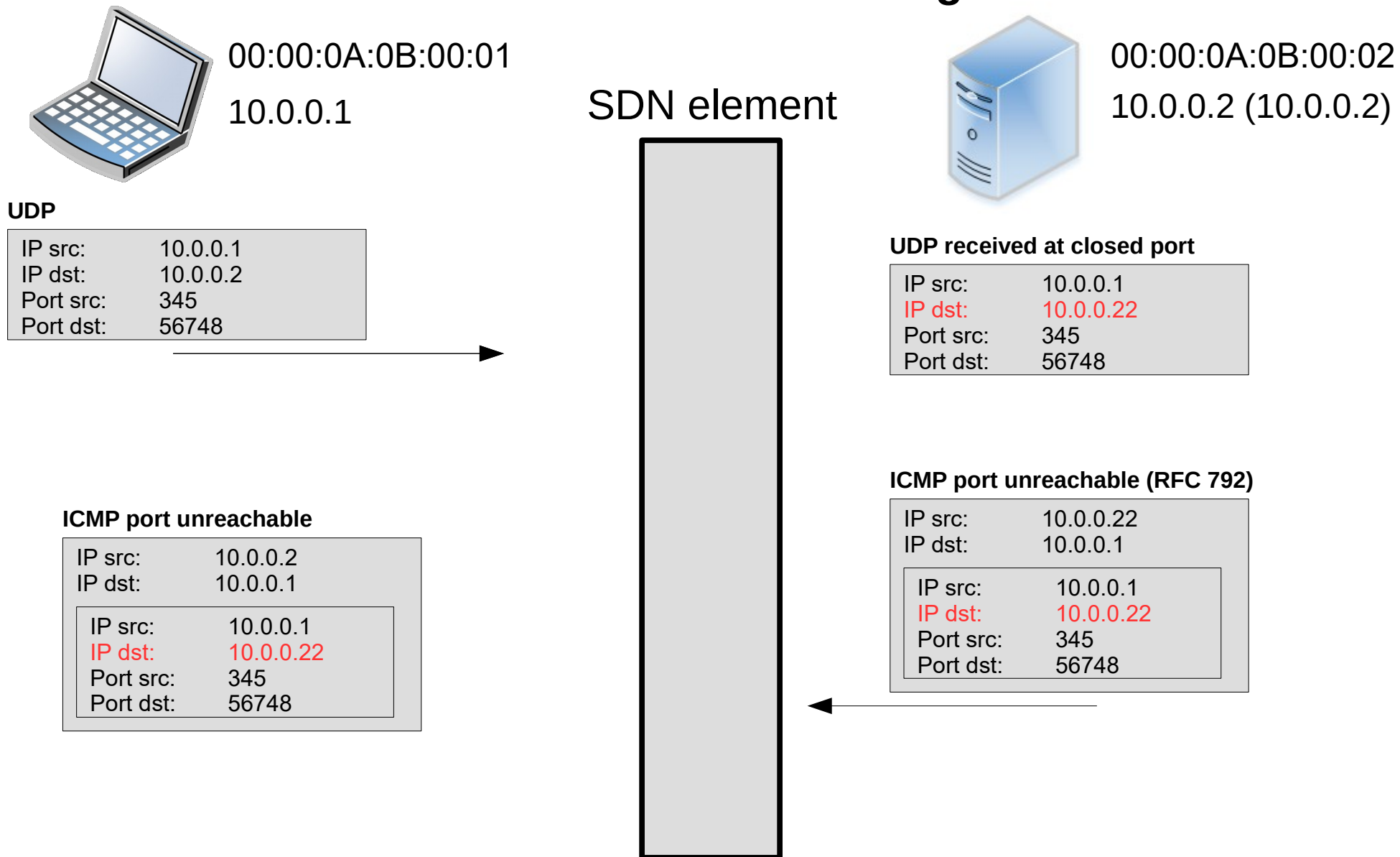


# • How do we reconstruct rules – IP rewriting?



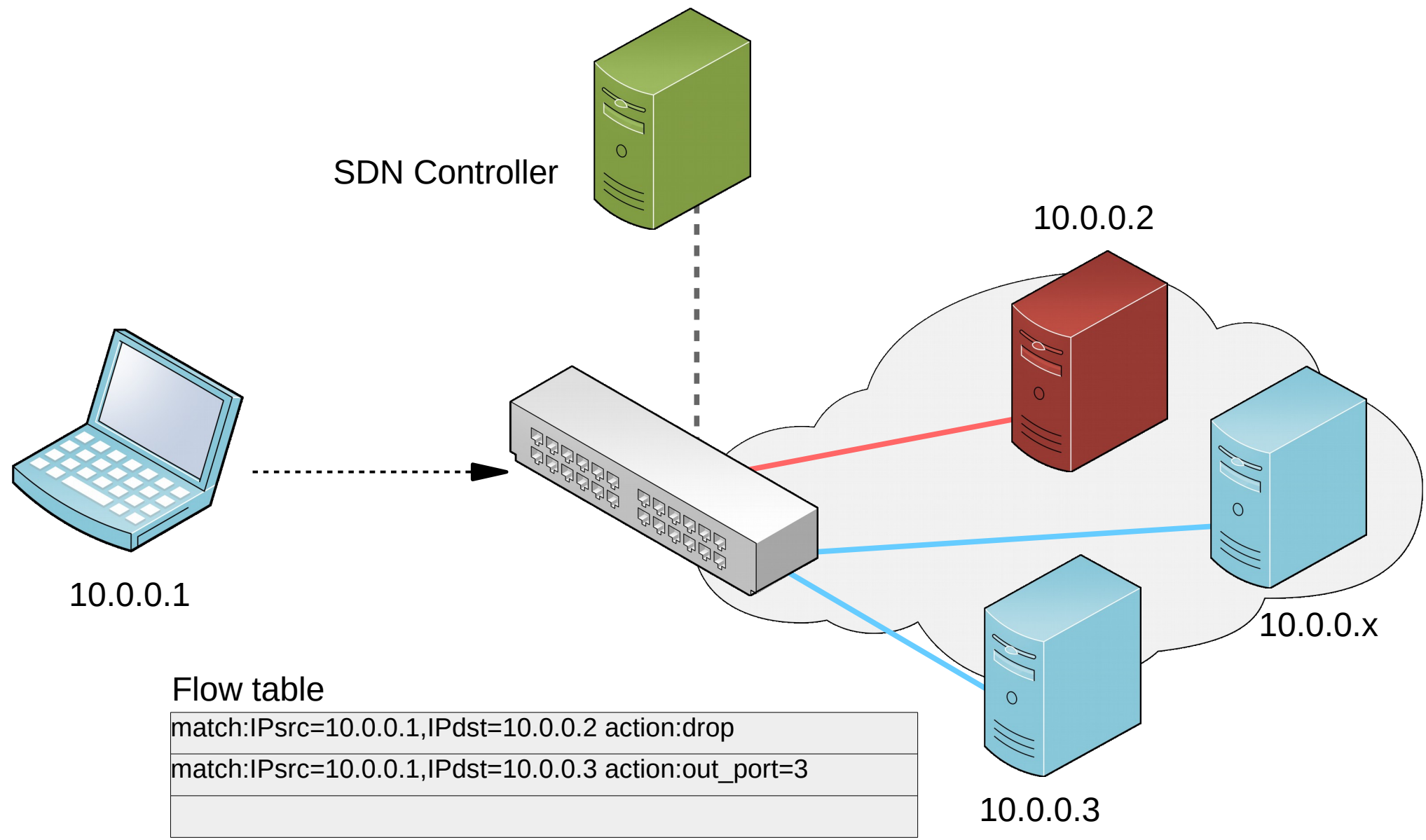


## • How do we reconstruct rules – IP rewriting?

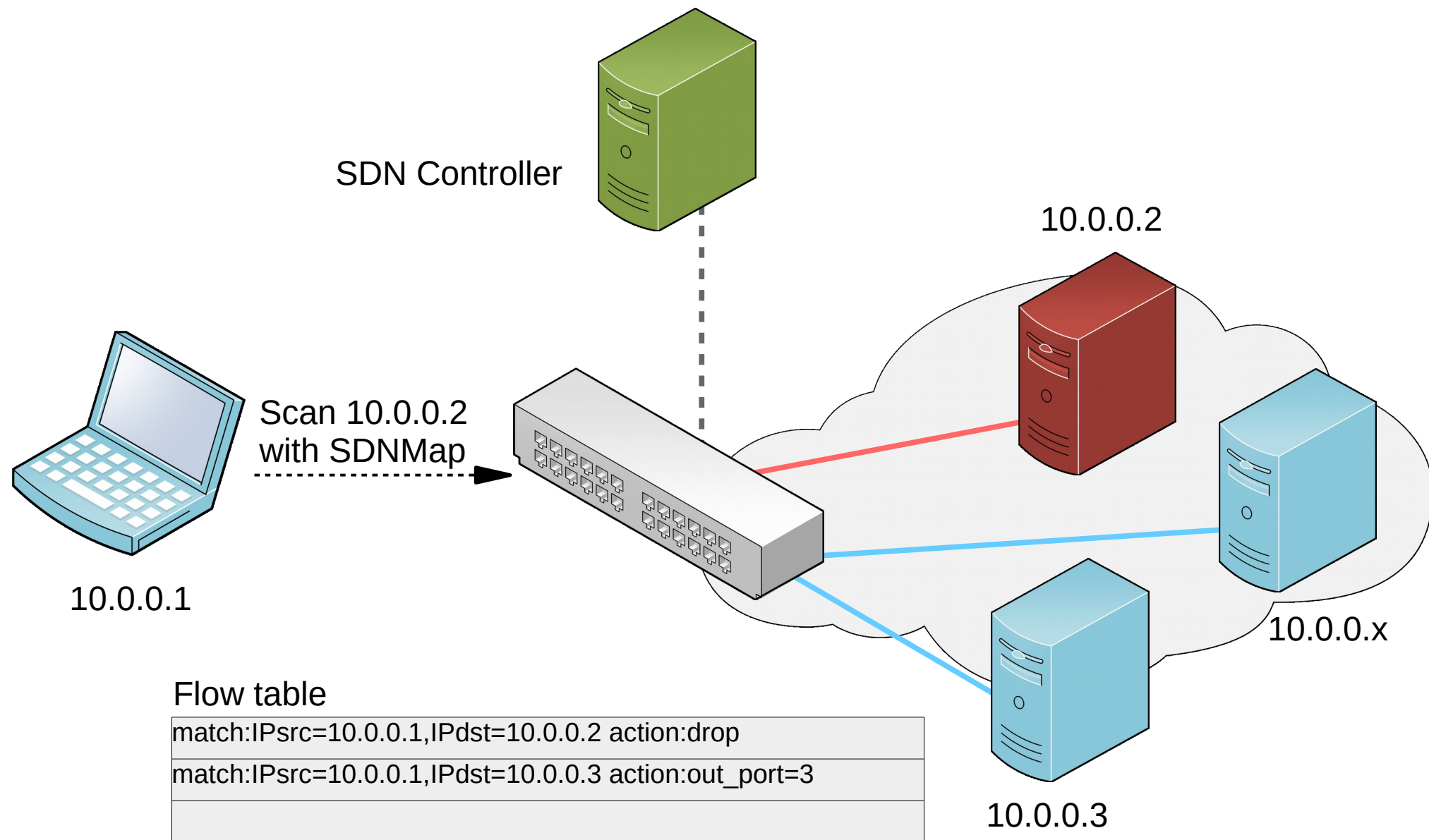




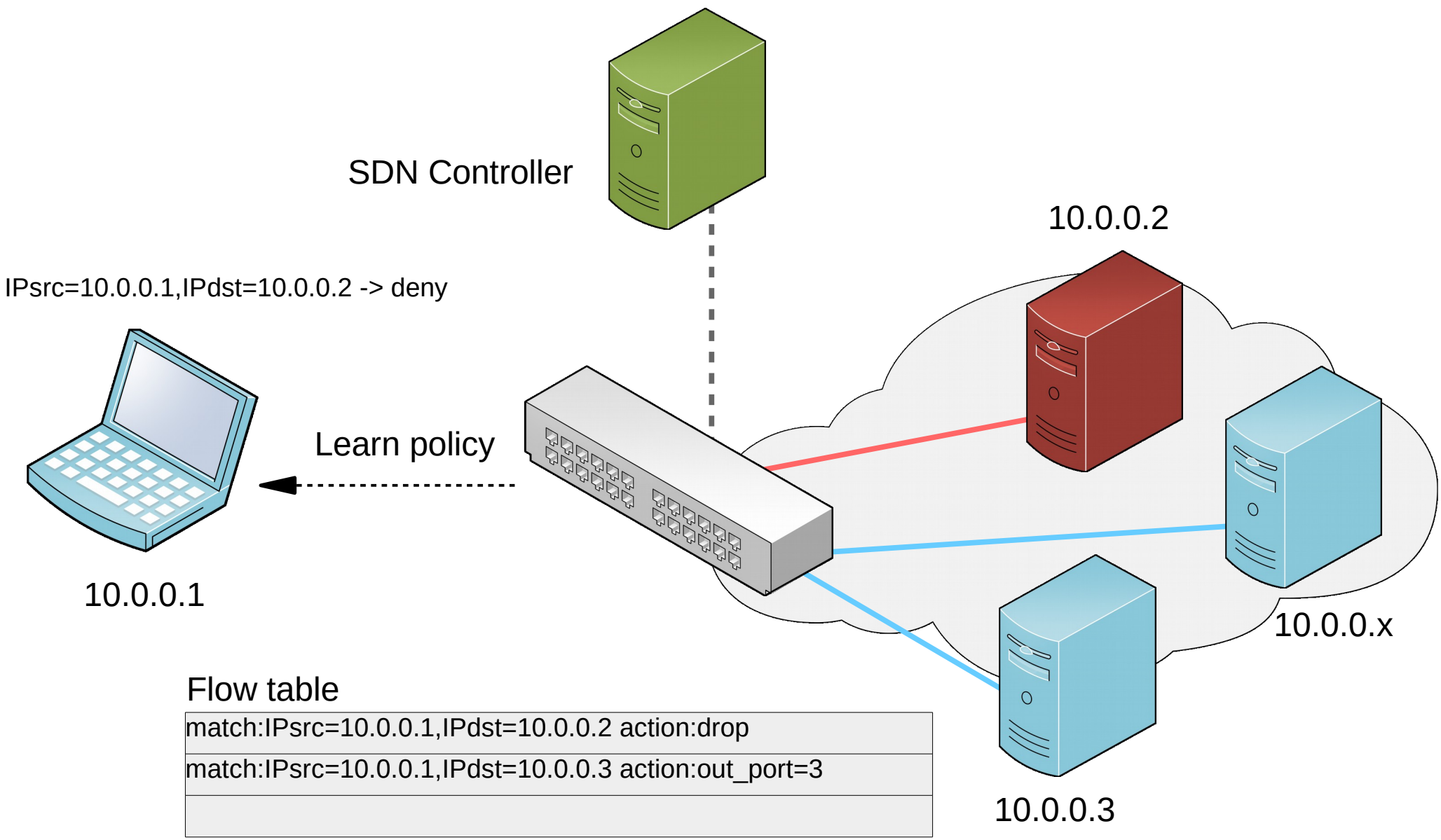
# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario



# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario



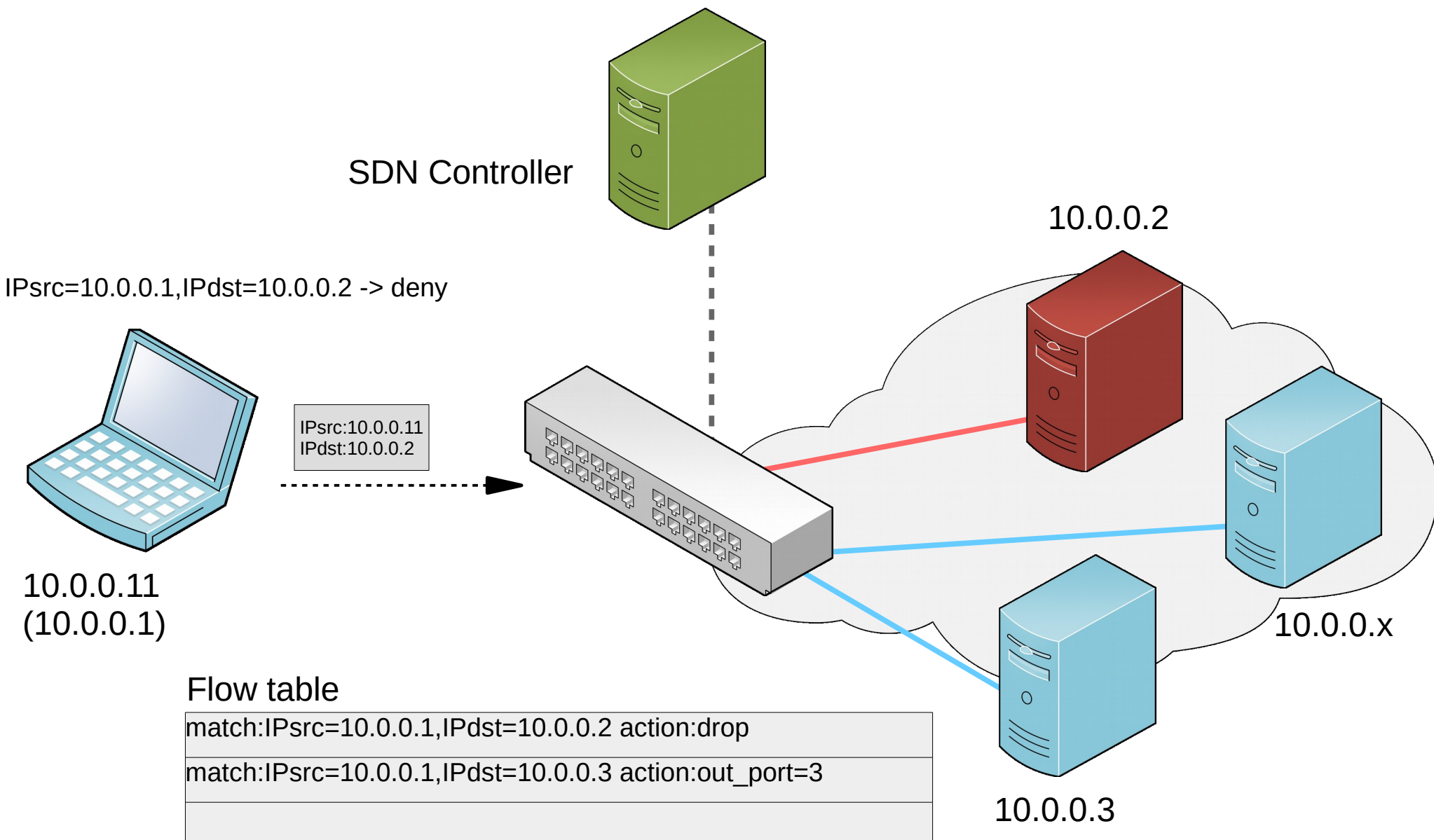
# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario





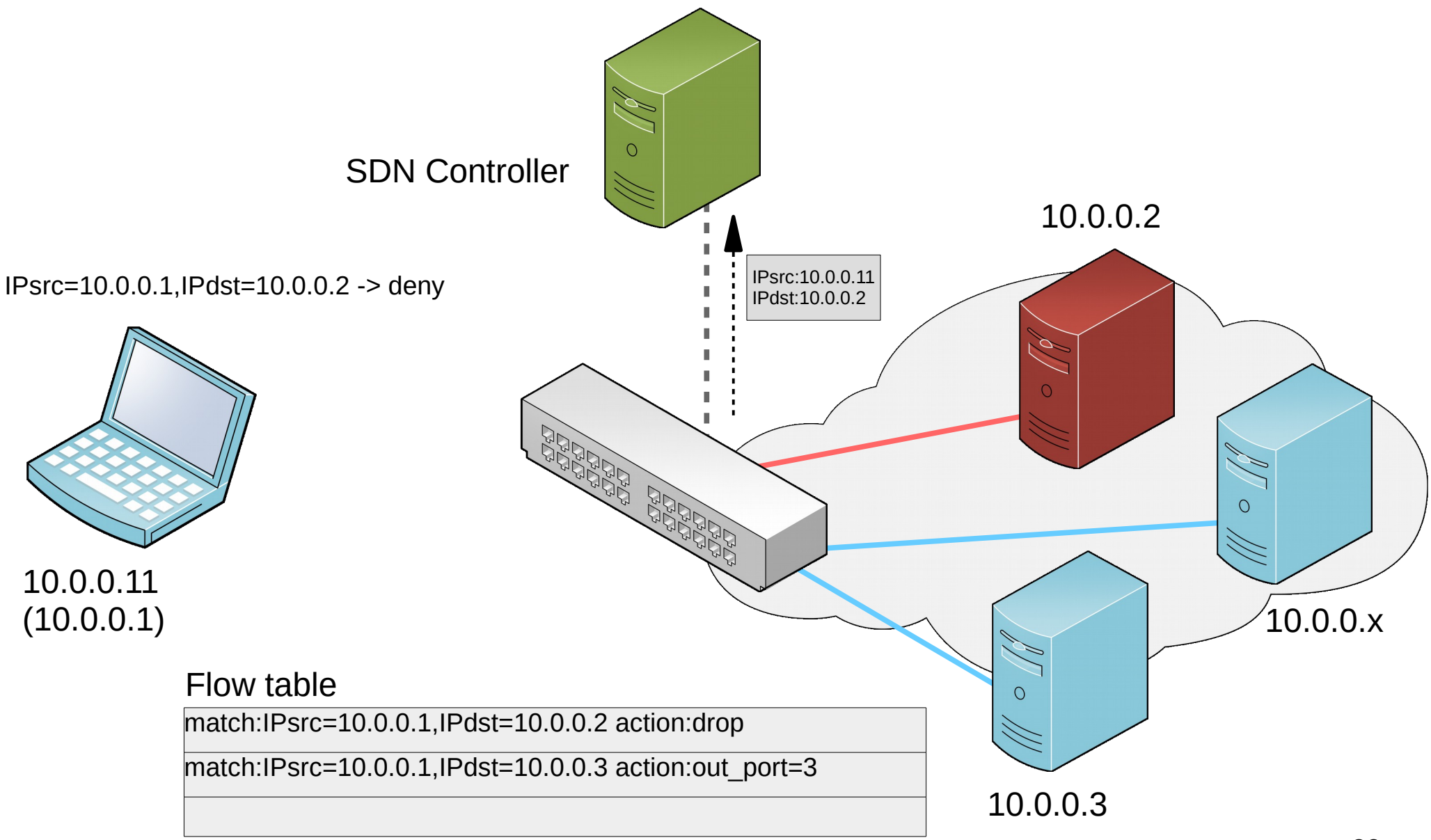


# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario

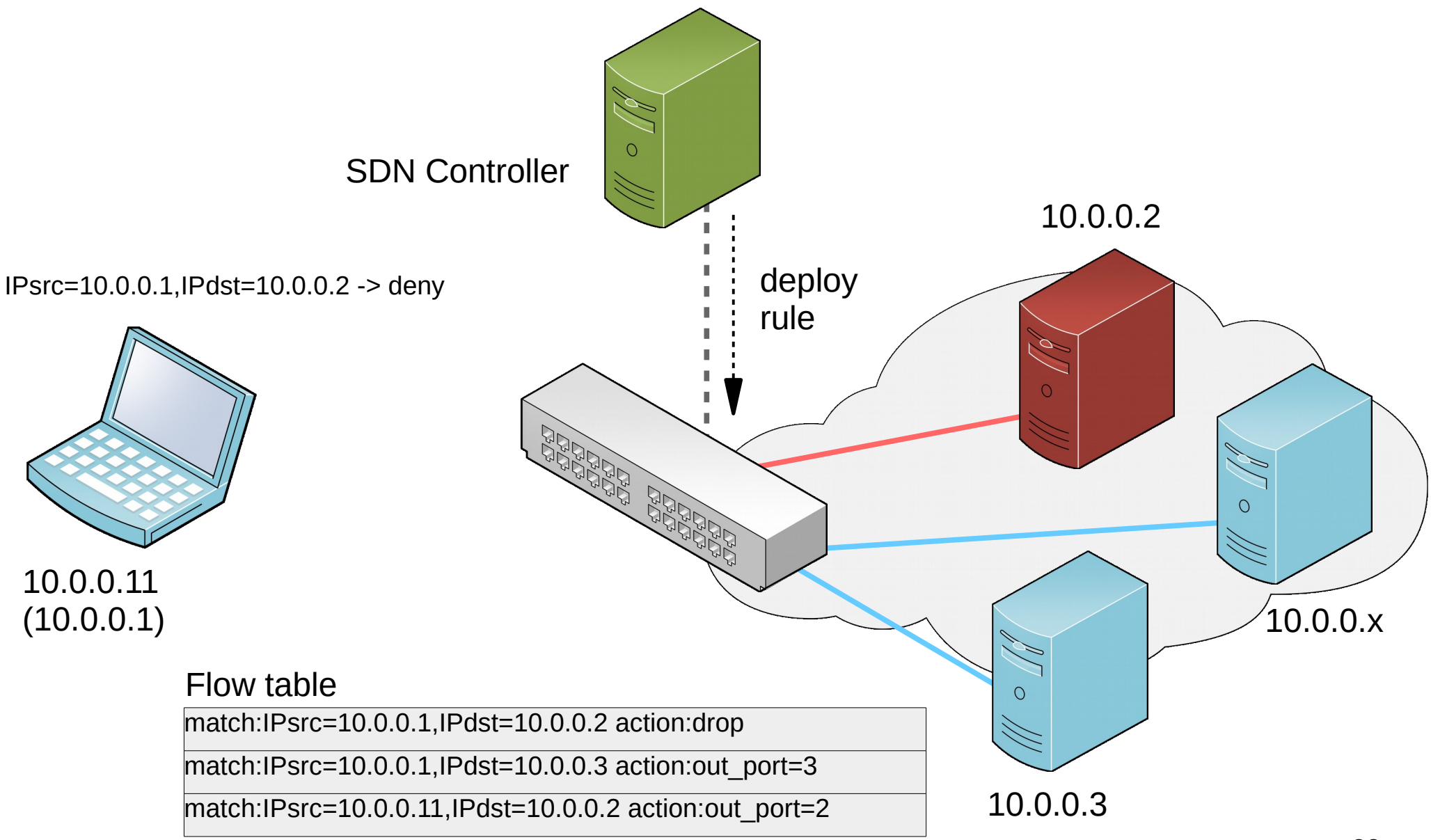




# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario



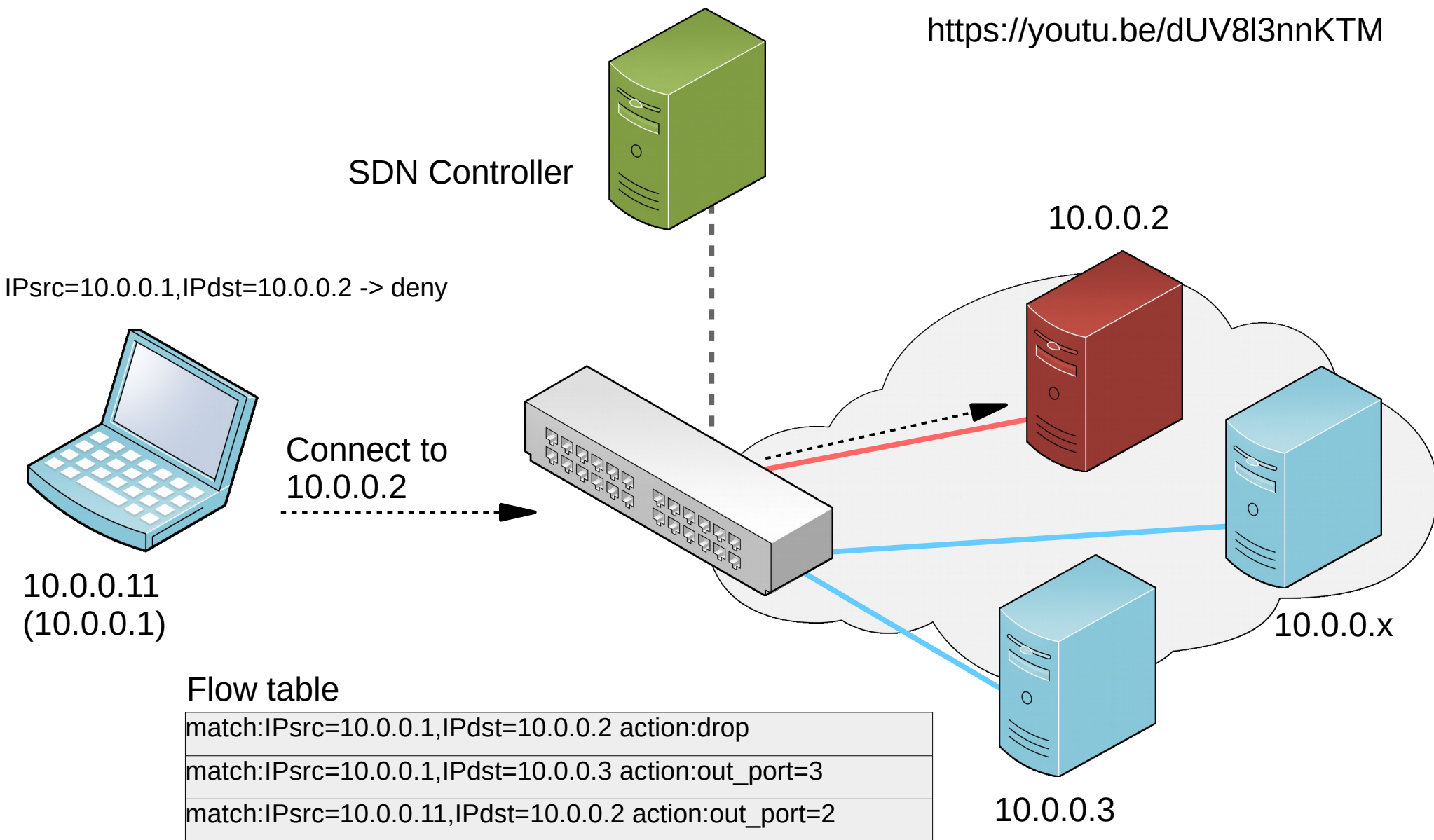
# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario





# Floodlight's Access Control List scenario

<https://youtu.be/dUV8l3nnKTM>





# • How do we reconstruct rules – IP addresses?



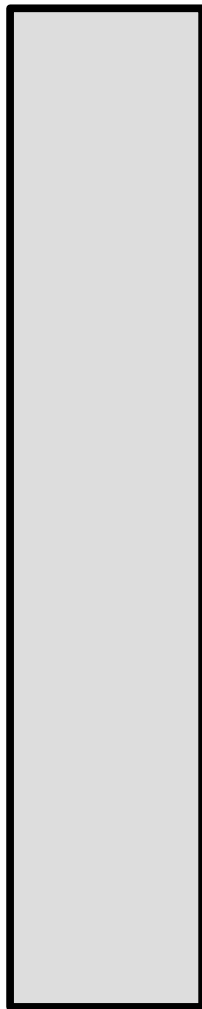
00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1

### Probe request

IP src:	10.0.0.1
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
MAC src:	00:00:0A:0B:00:01
MAC dst:	00:00:0A:0B:00:02



SDN element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.2





# • How do we reconstruct rules – IP addresses?



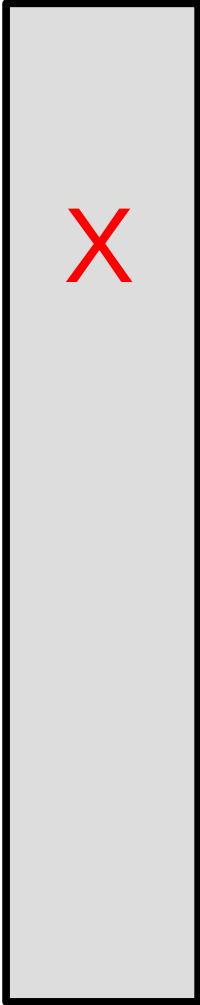
00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1

Probe request

IP src:	10.0.0.1
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
MAC src:	00:00:0A:0B:00:01
MAC dst:	00:00:0A:0B:00:02



SDN element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.2



# • How do we reconstruct rules – IP addresses?

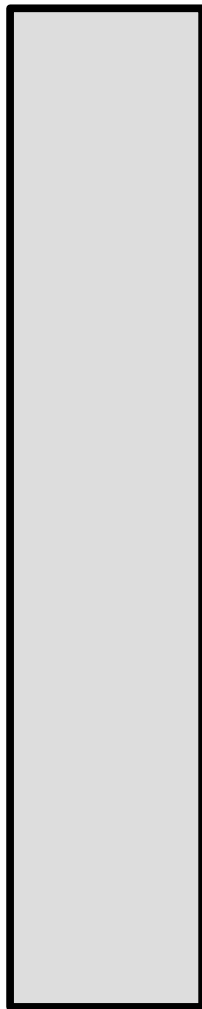


00:00:0A:0B:00:01  
10.0.0.1



00:00:0A:0B:00:02  
10.0.0.2

SDN element



Probe request

IP src:	10.0.0.11
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
MAC src:	00:00:0A:0B:00:01
MAC dst:	00:00:0A:0B:00:02





## • How do we reconstruct rules – IP addresses?



00:00:0A:0B:00:01

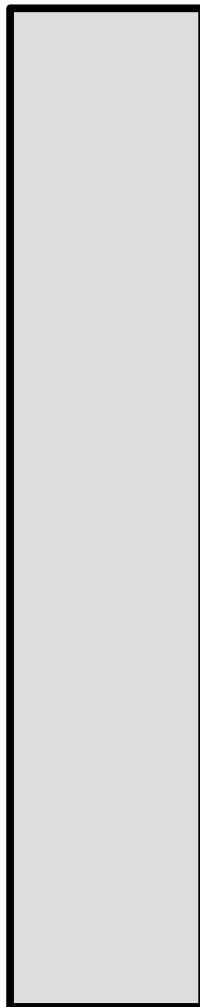
10.0.0.1

### Probe request

IP src:	10.0.0.11
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
MAC src:	00:00:0A:0B:00:01
MAC dst:	00:00:0A:0B:00:02



SDN element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02

10.0.0.2

### ARP request

ARP BROADCAST
"Who has?"
IP address 10.0.0.11





## • How do we reconstruct rules – IP addresses?



00:00:0A:0B:00:01

10.0.0.1

### Probe request

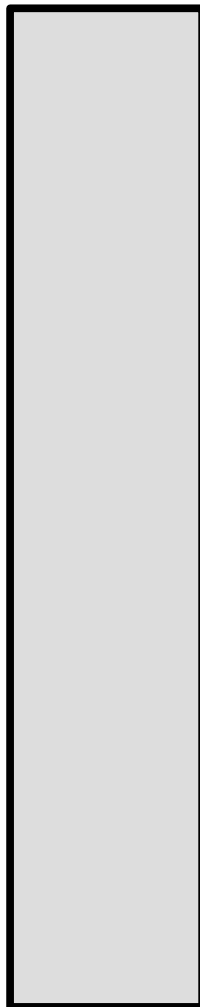
IP src:	10.0.0.11
IP dst:	10.0.0.2
MAC src:	00:00:0A:0B:00:01
MAC dst:	00:00:0A:0B:00:02

### ARP request

ARP BROADCAST
“Who has?”
IP address 10.0.0.11

By receiving the ARP request, sender can determine that the correct IP src is checked in the flow rule!

SDN element



00:00:0A:0B:00:02

10.0.0.2

### ARP request

ARP BROADCAST
“Who has?”
IP address 10.0.0.11



- **Many security issues arise with the possibility of SDN rule reconstruction**

<b>Reconstruction Scenarios</b>	<b>Applications/Deployments</b>
ACL's	Floodlight OpenSource SDN controller
Firewalls	Floodlight OpenSource SDN controller
Moving Target Defense	OpenFlow random host mutation INFOCOM 2015 HotSDN 2012
Role-based access control	Brocade SDN configuration scenarios
Load Balancing as a Service	OpenStack Quantum LBaaS





## SDNMap reconstructed flow rule fields

OpenFlow field	Type	SDNMap
Ingress port (SIP) (used/not used)	M	✓
MAC destination address (HWd)	M	✓
MAC source address (HWs)	M	✓
Ethernet type (PT)	M	✓ (ARP, IP)
IPv4 protocol (PT)	M	✓ (ICMP, TCP, UDP)
IPv4 source address (IPs)	M	✓
IPv4 destination address (IPd)	M	✓
TCP/UDP source port (POs)	M	✓
TCP/UDP destination port (POd)	M	✓
Egress action (FA) (forward/drop)	A	✓
Modify IPv4 src address (rIPs)	A	✓
Modify IPv4 dst address (rIPd)	A	✓



## Defending SDN rule reconstruction

- Prevent ARP spoofing



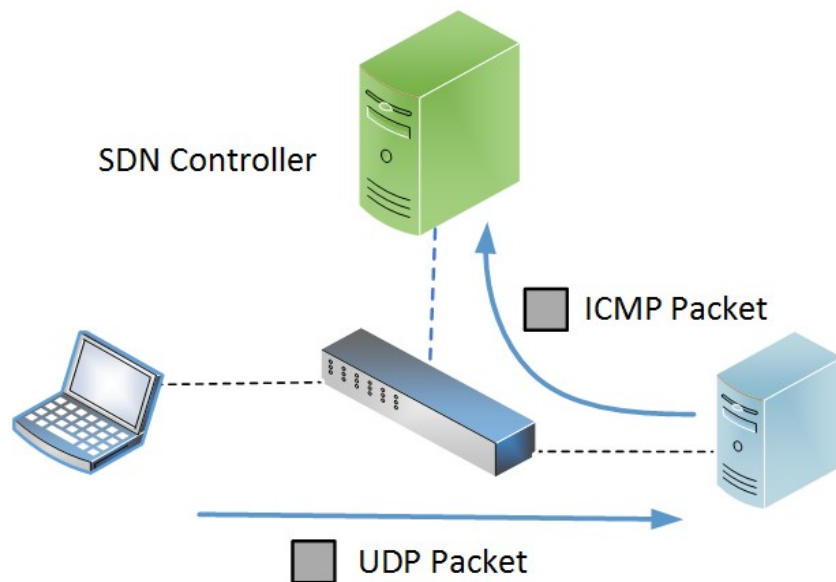
## Defending SDN rule reconstruction

- Prevent ARP spoofing
  - Alternative: ICMP redirection



## Defending SDN rule reconstruction

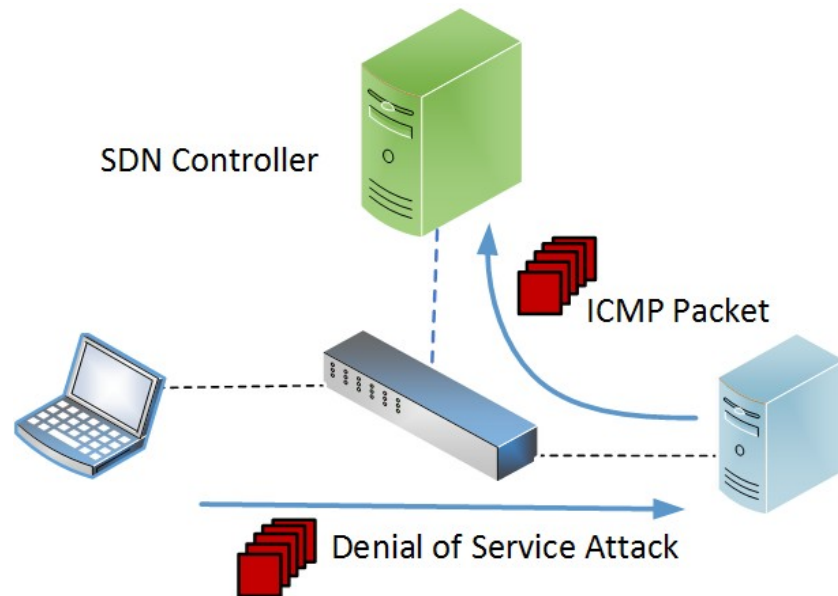
- Prevent ARP spoofing  
→ Alternative: ICMP redirection
- Rewrite nested packets in controller





## Defending SDN rule reconstruction

- Prevent ARP spoofing  
→ Alternative: ICMP redirection
- Rewrite nested packets in controller

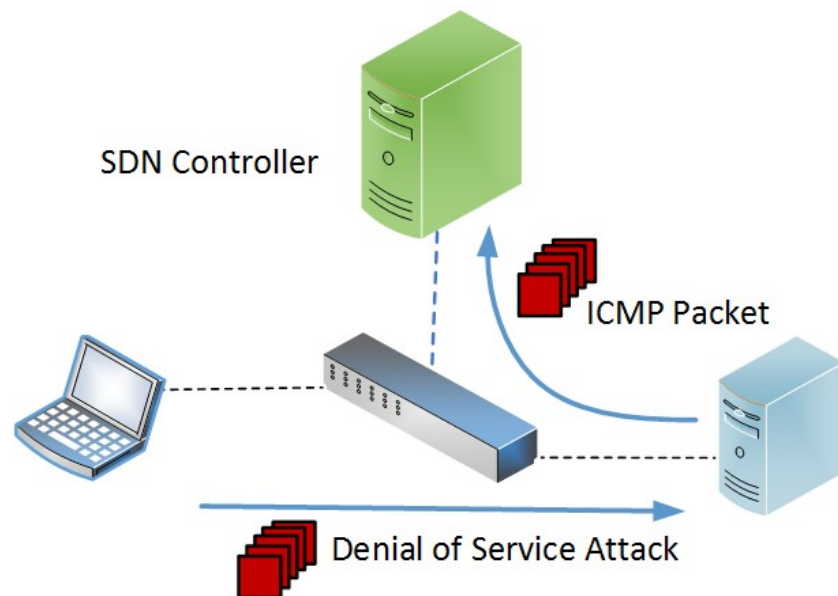






## Defending SDN rule reconstruction

- Prevent ARP spoofing  
→ Alternative: ICMP redirection
- Rewrite nested packets in controller



- Specify secure policies for flow rule construction



Paper:

## **Adversarial Network Forensics in Software Defined Networking**

*Stefan Achleitner, Thomas La Porta, Trent Jaeger, Patrick McDaniel*

2017 ACM Symposium on SDN Research (SOSR)

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***Best Student Paper Award***



# Thank you!

Contact:  
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