SCION
ELEVATING SECURE COMMUNICATION

OVERCOMING DEPLOYMENT AND APPLICATION CHALLENGES: INTRODUCING THE SCION EDUCATION NETWORK

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Overcoming Deployment and Application Challenges: Introducing the SCION Education Network

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Benefits of a SCION Connection

Security: Authenticated control plane and resilience against path hijacks

Stability: Native multipath capability at the network level with rapid path failover ensures high stability despite link failures at the physical layer

Control: Path-awareness for end hosts enables application-specific path control and optimization

E.g., possibility for traffic geofencing determined by the sender

Protection: Hidden paths and sender-based path selection increase protection against DDoS attacks.

Performance: SCION applications can select the best paths based on latency, bandwidth, loss, or jitter

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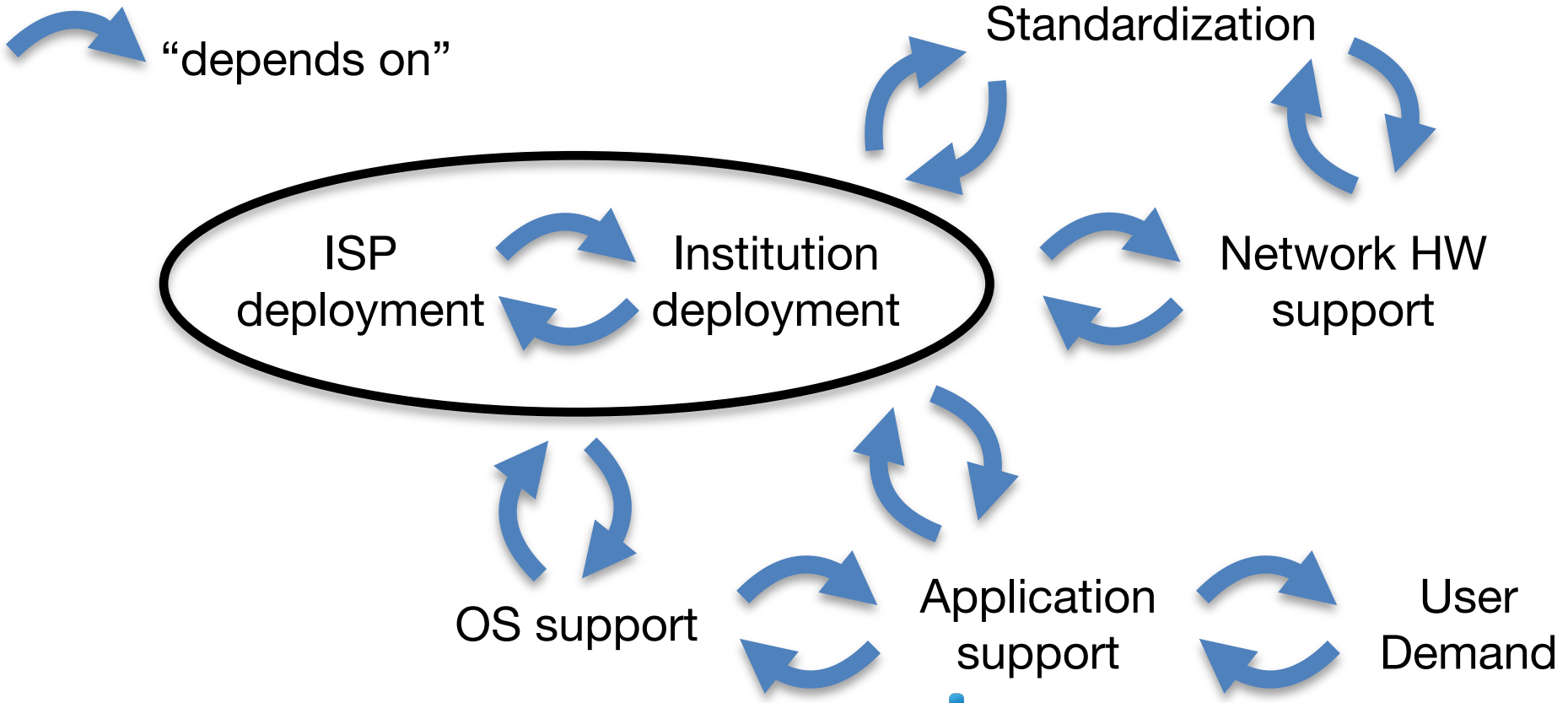
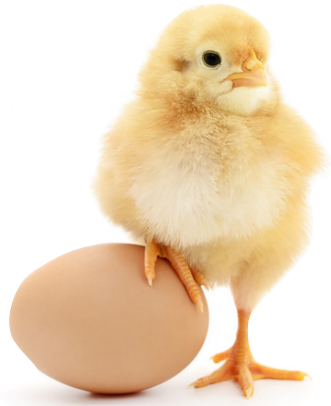
Exciting Development

- If the local network supports SCION, then any application on any device can use native SCION connectivity
- So everyone here in this room is one application update away from using SCION on their device!
- Goal: by next SCION Day, many participants' devices will have applications that can natively use SCION

Deployment Challenges

- Disruptive technologies often face adoption challenges
- Several circular dependencies complicate deployment





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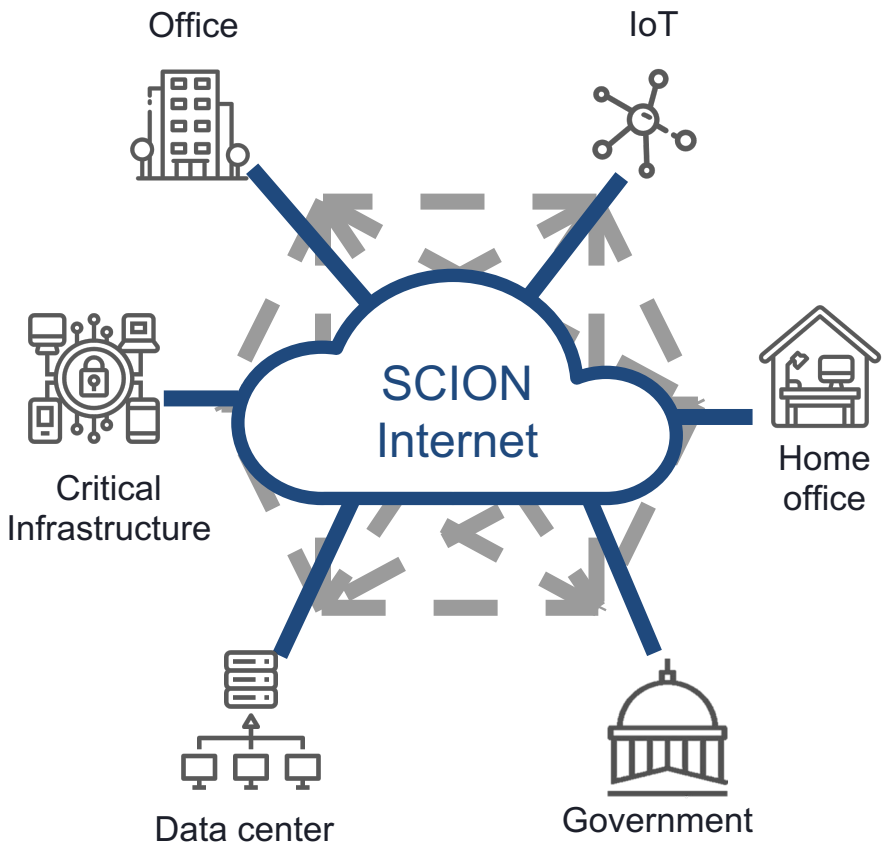
Main Use Case: Communication among Community

Single SCION connection offers secure communication to any other entity on SCION network

- ⊕ High availability, secure against DDoS and routing attacks
- ⊕ Geofencing
- ⊕ High efficiency through path optimization
- ⊕ Fast failover
- ⊕ Easy to extend to new use cases
- ⊕ Low cost
- ⊖ Initial setup requires effort
- ⊖ Training required for network admins

Takeaway:
Single SCION connection approximates a leased line to all SCION destinations



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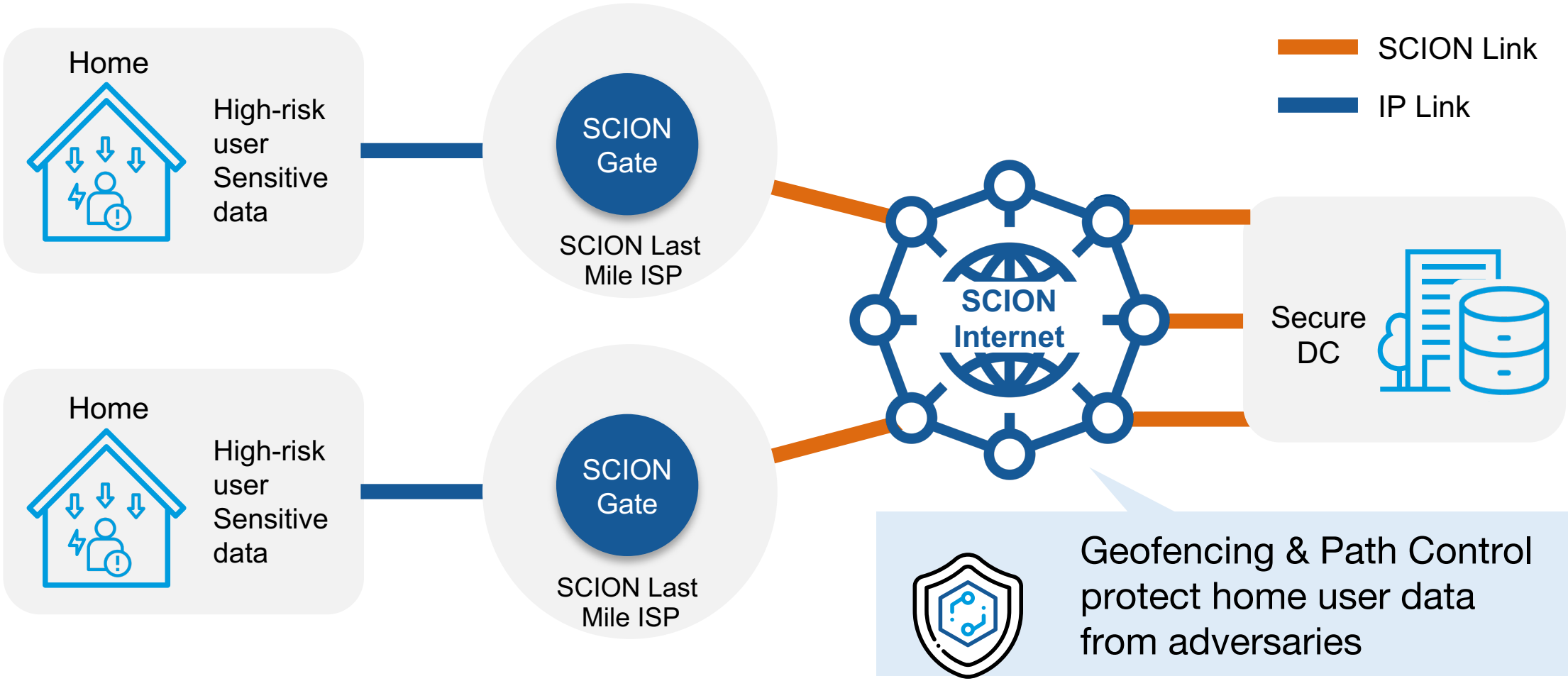
SCION Production Network

- **Not an overlay!**
  BGP-free global communication
  - Fault independent from BGP protocol
- Deployment with international ISPs
  - First **global public secure** communication network
- Construction of SCION network backbone at select locations to bootstrap adoption

ANAPAYA
cyberlink
interCloud
proximus
telindus
SWITCH
swisscom
axpo
swissix
LG U+
vtx
Sunrise
GÉANT

GATE Approach for Secure Small-Site Communication

Seamless secure SCION for remote users



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Ecosystem nurtured by SCION Association

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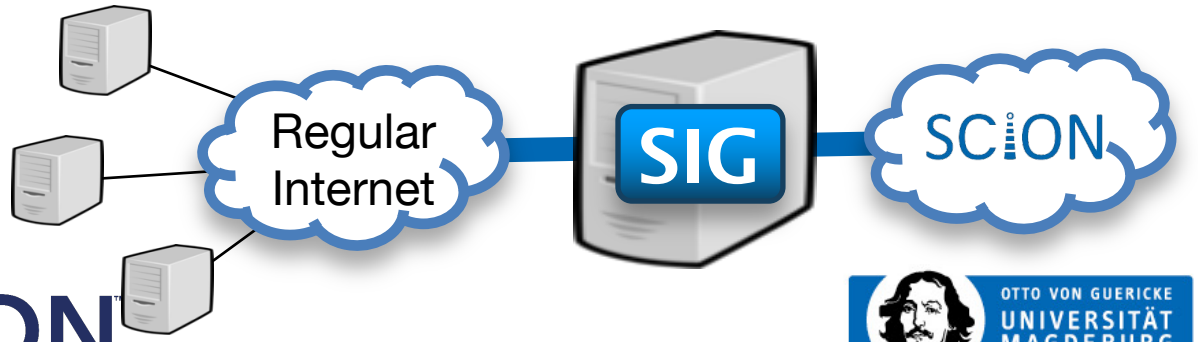
SCION Access for Universities and Research Institutes

- Connect universities and research institutes with SCION
- Participate in research on emerging topics of path-aware networking and multipath communication
  - True inter-domain multipath
  - Software packages and setup instructions are provided for different platforms to enable use of SCION native application

- SCION IP Gateway (SIG) enables use of regular IP applications
  - Using SCION for users not involved in network research is no harder than using regular Internet services



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Academia as Early Adopters Build Critical Mass!

- Many large Universities with 10’000+ hosts: possibility to get to a 1 million hosts with access to native SCION connectivity
- National Research and Education Networks (NREN) and Universities embrace innovation
- Compelling use cases
  - Next-generation Internet research infrastructure
  - DDoS defense
  - Security-sensitive data transmission
  - Next-generation web browsing
  - High-speed Hercules file transfer and LightningFilter firewall

Global SCION Education Network

Main networks providing connectivity: GÉANT, Kreonet, SWITCH

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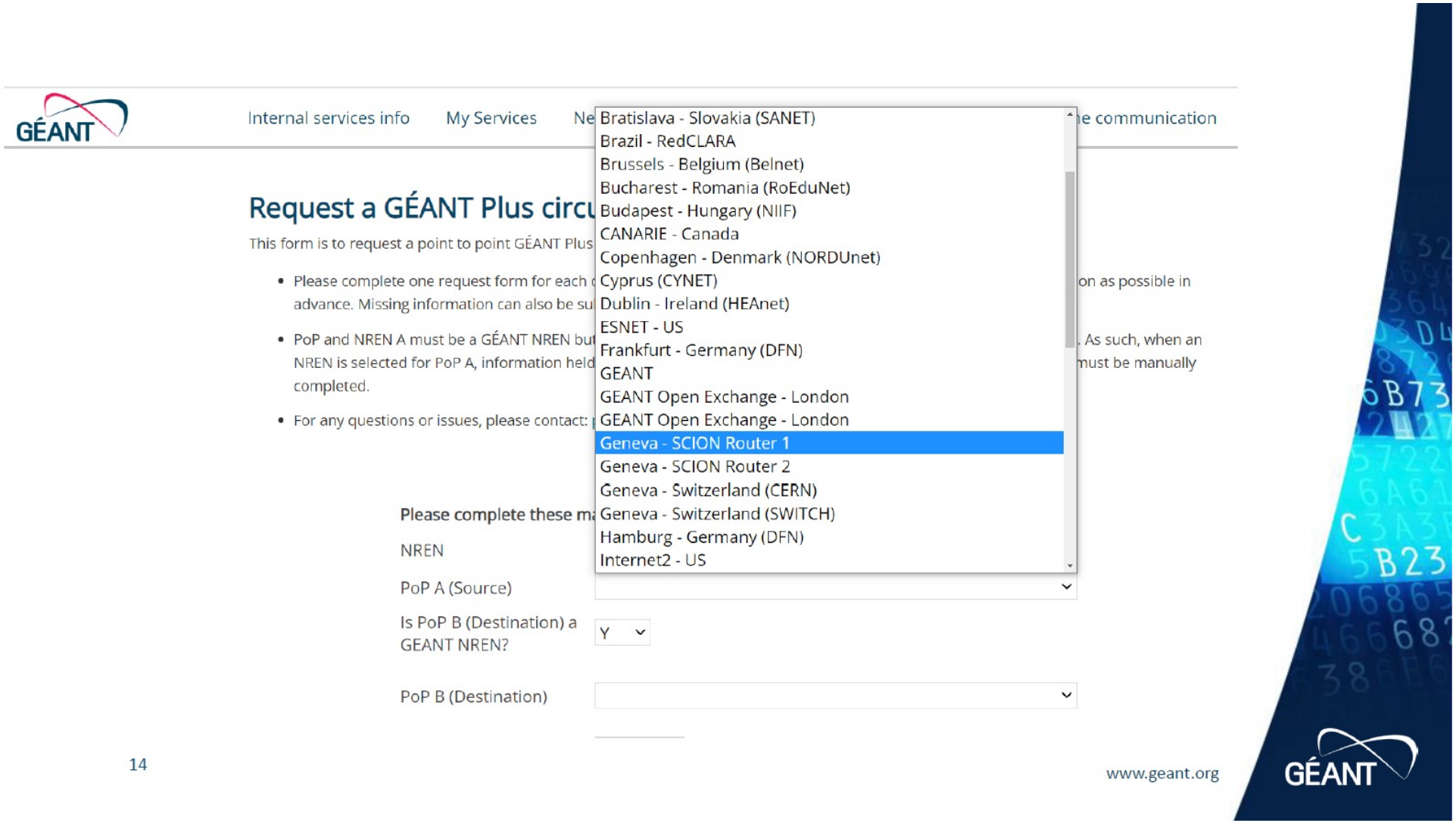
SCION @ GEANT



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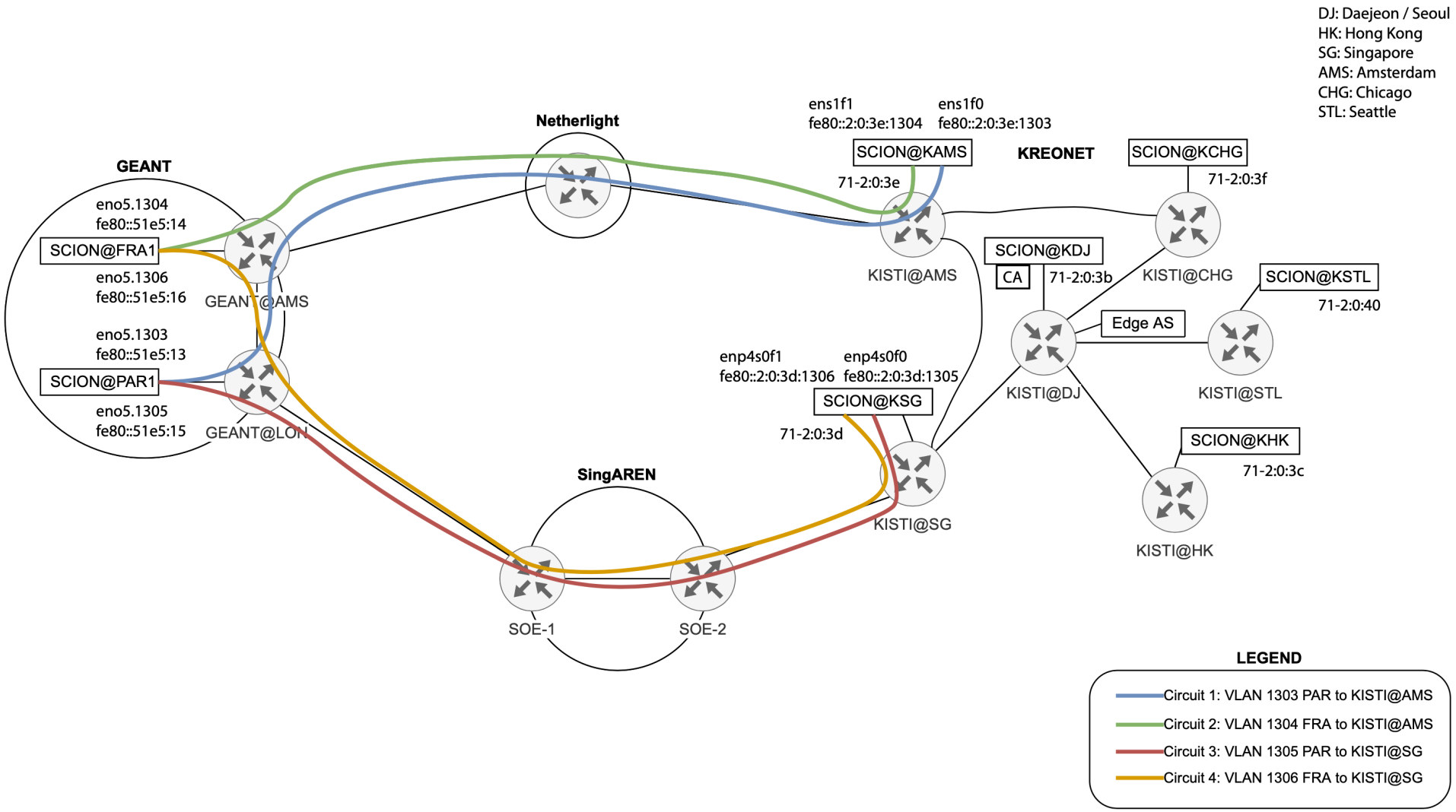
SCION @ Kreonet



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SCION @ SWITCH

SWITCHlan SCION Access

Factsheet

More security, reliability and control: SWITCHlan SCION access provides the best conditions for ensuring that your data is only transferred to the parts of the internet that you want it to reach.

The secure internet architecture of the next generation

These days, digitalisation requires secure networks that are easy to control. However, the foundation of the internet was laid last century without any special security mechanisms, and it has hardly been updated since. That makes it vulnerable. Nowadays, cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities to such a degree that IT departments spend the majority of their time trying to prevent and eliminate cyber threats. This observation concerns not only the multitude of security risks, but also aspects of the transport network. It's high time for an upgrade. SCION (Scalability, Control, and Isolation On Next-Generation Networks) is that upgrade. SWITCHlan SCION access combines the security, reliability and control of private networks with the flexibility of the public internet. The technology was developed at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. SWITCH has supported SCION's development at ETH Zurich since 2015.

How you benefit

- **Security by design:** SWITCHlan SCION access protects against cyber attacks such as prefix hijacking and specific DDoS attacks
- **New security features:** path control and path verification
- **Path control:** you define the networks to which your data is confined; you define the route your data packets take
- **Path verification:** the path and integrity of all packages is cryptographically secured and verifiable
- **Multi-pathing:** reliable data transfer via multiple network paths at the same time
- **Cybersecurity:** your data can no longer be redirected during transfers; protection against DDoS reflection attacks
- **Isolation domains:** trust limited to participants of an ISD (no more global trust roots)

High degree of reliability

SCION's architecture gives you a high degree of reliability with various features and new concepts. As a result, some attacks can be prevented from the very outset: SCION is immune to prefix hijacking. What is more, the technology reduces the risk of exposure to distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks through hidden paths and source authentication. The protection provided against address spoofing even prevents susceptibility to DDoS reflection attacks.

Reliability and performance through multi-pathing

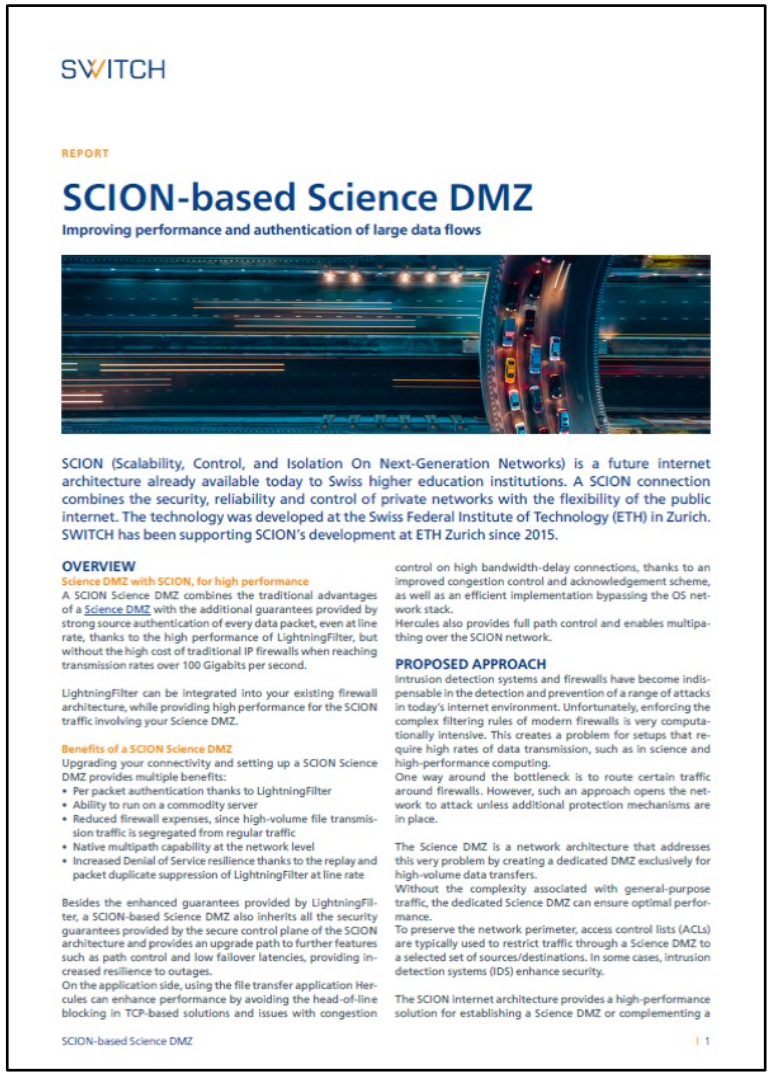
Multi-pathing allows the SCION protocol to open up multiple potential paths that can be used simultaneously. This increases the usable capacity in the network and enables faster switching in the event of path failures, provided that the application supports this function.

In this instance, the granularity of the path selection is restricted to the transfer points between networks (autonomous systems). The path within a network is not subject to the control of SCION, meaning alternative paths cannot be used there.

More control with SCION

SCION gives you path control over your end-to-end communication, allowing you to avoid certain network sections such as networks in unstable regions. Control over path choice also allows you to make selections regarding available bandwidths and latencies. This increases the security of your data in terms of how it is handled. You get more control over the transport route of your sensitive data.

SWITCH



SWITCH

REPORT

SCION-based Science DMZ

Improving performance and authentication of large data flows

SCION (Scalability, Control, and Isolation On Next-Generation Networks) is a future internet architecture already available today to Swiss higher education institutions. A SCION connection combines the security, reliability and control of private networks with the flexibility of the public internet. The technology was developed at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. SWITCH has been supporting SCION's development at ETH Zurich since 2015.

OVERVIEW

Science DMZ with SCION, for high performance

A SCION Science DMZ combines the traditional advantages of a Science DMZ with the additional guarantees provided by strong source authentication of every data packet, even at line rate, thanks to the high performance of LightningFilter, but without the high cost of traditional IP firewalls when reaching transmission rates over 100 Gigabits per second.

LightningFilter can be integrated into your existing firewall architecture, while providing high performance for the SCION traffic involving your Science DMZ.

Benefits of a SCION Science DMZ

Upgrading your connectivity and setting up a SCION Science DMZ provides multiple benefits:

- Per packet authentication thanks to LightningFilter
- Ability to run on a commodity server
- Reduced firewall expenses, since high-volume file transmission traffic is segregated from regular traffic
- Native multipath capability at the network level
- Increased Denial of Service resilience thanks to the replay and packet duplicate suppression of LightningFilter at line rate

Besides the enhanced guarantees provided by LightningFilter, a SCION-based Science DMZ also inherits all the security guarantees provided by the secure control plane of the SCION architecture and provides an upgrade path to further features such as path control and low failover latencies, providing increased resilience to outages.
On the application side, using the file transfer application Hercules can enhance performance by avoiding the head-of-line blocking in TCP-based solutions and issues with congestion control on high bandwidth-delay connections, thanks to an improved congestion control and acknowledgement scheme, as well as an efficient implementation bypassing the OS network stack.
Hercules also provides full path control and enables multipathing over the SCION network.

PROPOSED APPROACH

Intrusion detection systems and firewalls have become indispensable in the detection and prevention of a range of attacks in today's internet environment. Unfortunately, enforcing the complex filtering rules of modern firewalls is very computationally intensive. This creates a problem for setups that require high rates of data transmission, such as in science and high-performance computing.
One way around the bottleneck is to route certain traffic around firewalls. However, such an approach opens the network to attack unless additional protection mechanisms are in place.

The Science DMZ is a network architecture that addresses this very problem by creating a dedicated DMZ exclusively for high-volume data transfers.
Without the complexity associated with general-purpose traffic, the dedicated Science DMZ can ensure optimal performance.
To preserve the network perimeter, access control lists (ACLs) are typically used to restrict traffic through a Science DMZ to a selected set of sources/destinations. In some cases, intrusion detection systems (IDS) enhance security.

The SCION internet architecture provides a high-performance solution for establishing a Science DMZ or complementing a

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https://www.switch.ch/scion/

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Cyber-Defence Campus Connections

- Armasuisse has Cyber-Defence (CYD) campuses in Lausanne, Thun, and Zürich
  - All campuses are now connected through the SCION network, including CCDCOE NATO campus in Tallinn
- CYD researchers are studying vulnerabilities and defenses for critical infrastructures
- SCION is now an active research project

CYD | CYBER DEFENCE CAMPUS

CCDCOE
Tallinn, Estonia

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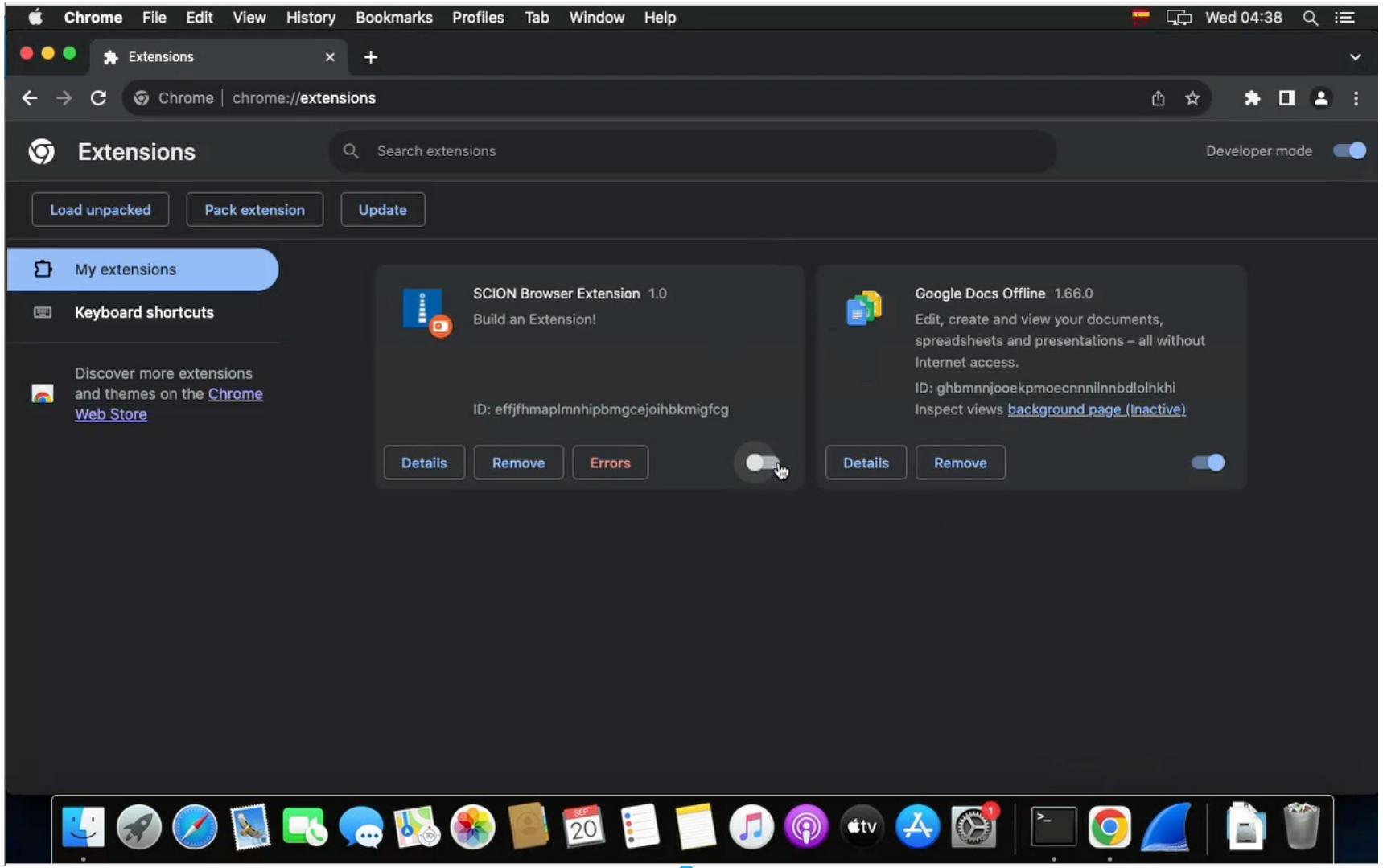
brave SCION

- Collaboration with Brave browser team to build native SCION communication into browser
- Without OS support, SCION-enabled browser can directly fetch web pages over the SCION network if host is within SCION-enabled network
- Compelling advantages
  - Download speed optimization
  - Specific optimizations possible: low carbon footprint paths, low delay, high bandwidth, low jitter, low loss, …
- 60M enabled devices would help spur SCION adoption

brave Demo



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Conclusion

- SCION production network is expanding
- Ambitious goal: Provide 1M hosts access to native SCION connectivity through global education network
- Native SCION applications emerging
  - Possibility to use SCION after app update

- More information:
  https://sciera.readthedocs.io/
  https://cloud.inf.ethz.ch/s/NRi3Za6pEd8Wyfy

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