

False immunity: long prefixes that bypass ROV

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CHI-NOG 13

Agenda

- 1 A surprising route hijack
- 2 Edge case: Traffic Engineering (TE)
- 3 Edge case: Remote-Triggered Blackhole (RTBH)
- 4
- 5 Questions?

A surprising route hijack

The image features two thin, yellow, curved lines that intersect. One line starts from the bottom left and curves upwards and to the right. The other line starts from the top center and curves downwards and to the right, crossing the first line.

RPKI-ROV milestone

- ROAs exist for around 60% of BGP prefixes

Routing statistics

Statistics about relevant global routing table entries  

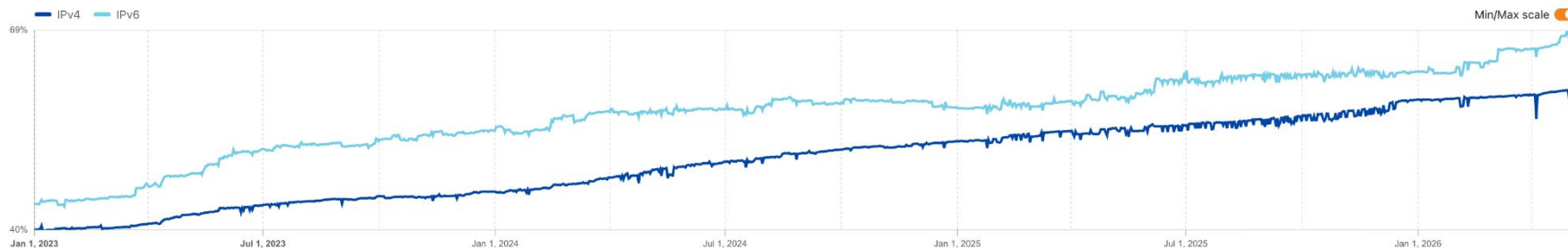
ASes	Prefixes	RPKI valid	RPKI invalid	RPKI unknown
115K IPv4: 78,882 IPv6: 36,586	1.4M IPv4: 1,162,296 IPv6: 259,398	894K (62%) IPv4: 712,635 IPv6: 181,733	18K (1.3%) IPv4: 15,550 IPv6: 2,409	524K (36%) IPv4: 442,427 IPv6: 81,493

Data generated at May 4, 2026, 14:00 UTC



RPKI ROA deployment

Share of globally announced BGP prefixes covered by valid RPKI ROAs over time  



Validating routes

- Every major network should be running ROV
- Enforce BGP route matches ROA
- Feeling pretty safe against origin hijacks

NAME	TYPE	DETAILS	STATUS ▲	ASN ?
Lumen	transit	signed + filtering	safe	3356
Arelion (formerly Telia)	transit	signed + filtering	safe	1299
Cogent	transit	signed + filtering	safe	174
NTT	transit	signed + filtering	safe	2914
Sparkle	transit	signed + filtering	safe	6762
Hurricane Electric	transit	signed + filtering	safe	6939
GTT	transit	signed + filtering	safe	3257
TATA	transit	signed + filtering	safe	6453
Zayo	transit	signed + filtering	safe	6461
PCCW	transit	signed + filtering	safe	3491
Vodafone	transit	signed + filtering	safe	1273
RETN	transit	partially signed + filtering	safe	9002
Orange	transit	signed + filtering	safe	5511
Telstra International	transit	signed + filtering	safe	4637
Telefonica/Telixius	transit	signed + filtering	safe	12956
Comcast	ISP	signed + filtering	safe	7922
AT&T	ISP	signed + filtering	safe	7018
Verizon	ISP	signed + filtering	safe	701
Liberty Global	transit	signed + filtering	safe	6830

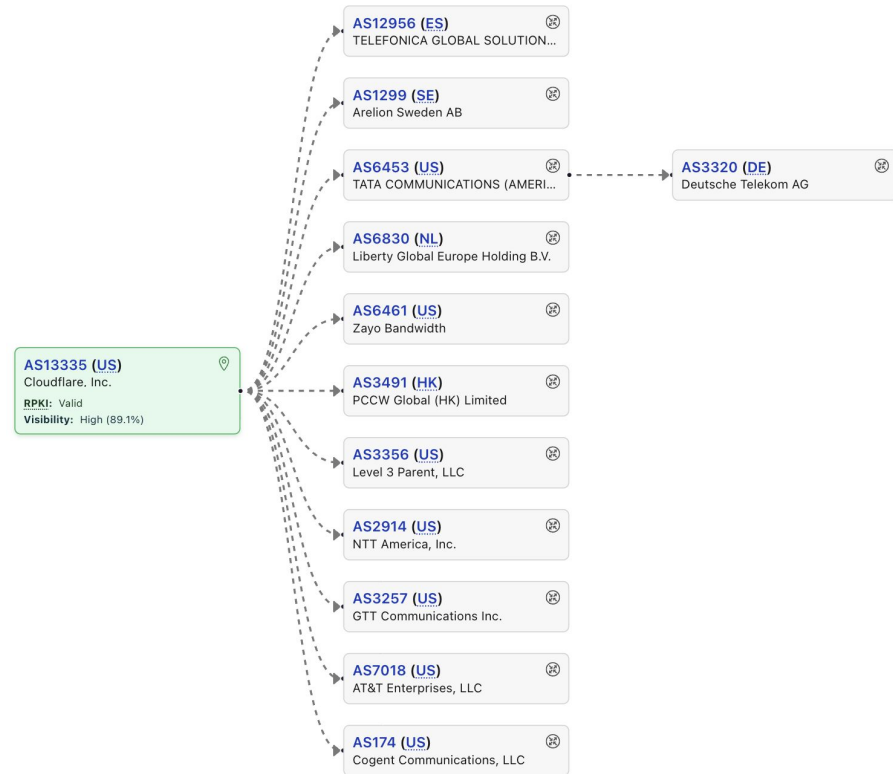
<https://isbgpsafeyet.com/>

General filtering assumptions

- Longer than /24 + /48 are often filtered out (independent of ROV)
- ROV coverage spans **all** prefix lengths
- Use of ROA **maxLength** makes ROV more effective
 - [RFC9319](#): BGP routes should match *minimal* ROA
 - Provides some protection against forged-origin hijacks

Normal route to 1.1.1.1

- AS13335 advertises 1.1.1.0/24
- No more-specifics expected anywhere



1.1.1.0/24 ROA covering 1.1.1.1

Found 1 ROAs and 11 certificates

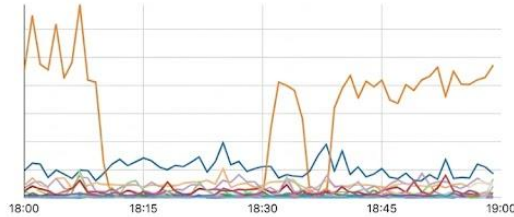
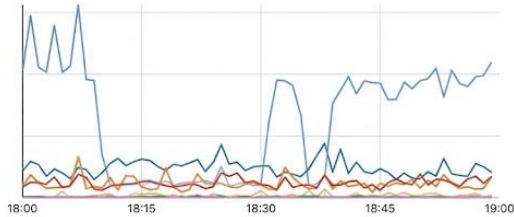
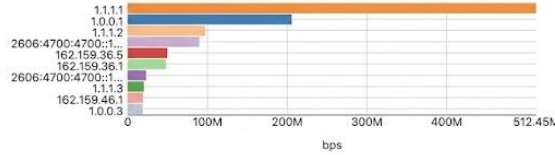
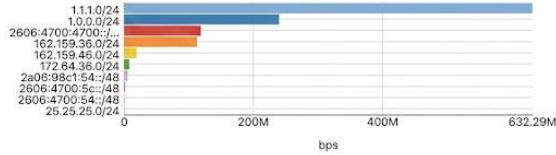
ROAs

ASN	Prefix	Max Length
AS13335	1.1.1.0/24	/24



1-1 of 1 items

1.1.1.1/32 hijack



1.1.1.1/32 (1 entry, 1 announced)

***BGP Preference: 170/-101**

Next hop type: Router, Next hop index: 2490

Source: 212.73.201.90

Next hop type: Router, Next hop index: 3381

Next hop: 212.73.201.90 via et-7/0/17:1.0, selected

Indirect next hop: 0xf8268d88 2097429 INH Session ID: 23852

Local AS: 3356 Peer AS: 3356

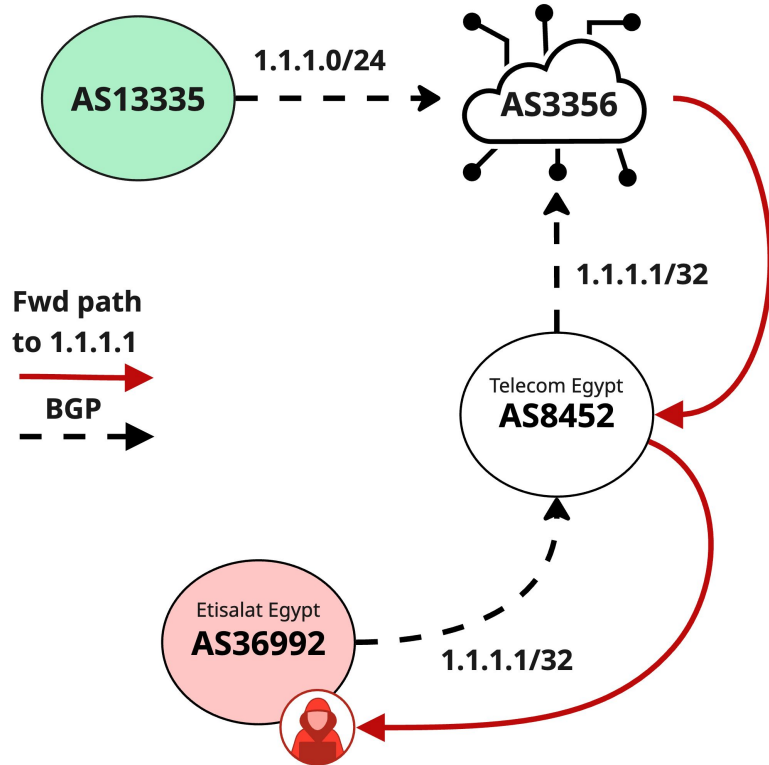
Validation State: unverified

AS path: 8452 36992 I

```
Tracing the route to one.one.one.one (1.1.1.1)
VRF info: (vrf in name/id, vrf out name/id)
 1 1.1.1.1 1 msec 48 msec 49 msec
 2 ae1.3505.edge4.mrs1.neo.colt.net (171.75.8.243) [AS 3356] 145 msec 144 msec 193 msec
 3 TELECOM-EGY.edge4.Marseille1.Level3.net (212.73.253.58) [AS 3356] 194 msec 188 msec *
 4 81.10.87.99 [AS 8452] 173 msec * *
 5 * * *
 6 * * *
 7 * |
```

Unpacking what happened

- AS13335: valid originator
- AS36992: hijacker
- AS8452: hijack acceptor, enabler
- AS3356: hijack acceptor



ROV Bypass

- For $>/24$ prefixes, it appeared AS3356 was running **IRR-only filtering**, allowing invalids
- AS3356: motivation to support customer "TE"
- AS13335 is found (indirectly) within Telecom Egypt's expanded AS-SET

```
→ ~  
→ ~ whois -h rr.ntt.net '!iAS-TEDATA,1' | grep -qw AS13335 && echo "FOUND" || echo "NOT FOUND"  
FOUND  
→ ~  
→ ~ bgpq4 -J4 AS-TEDATA | grep -F " 1.1.1.0/24"  
1.1.1.0/24;  
→ ~
```

False immunity



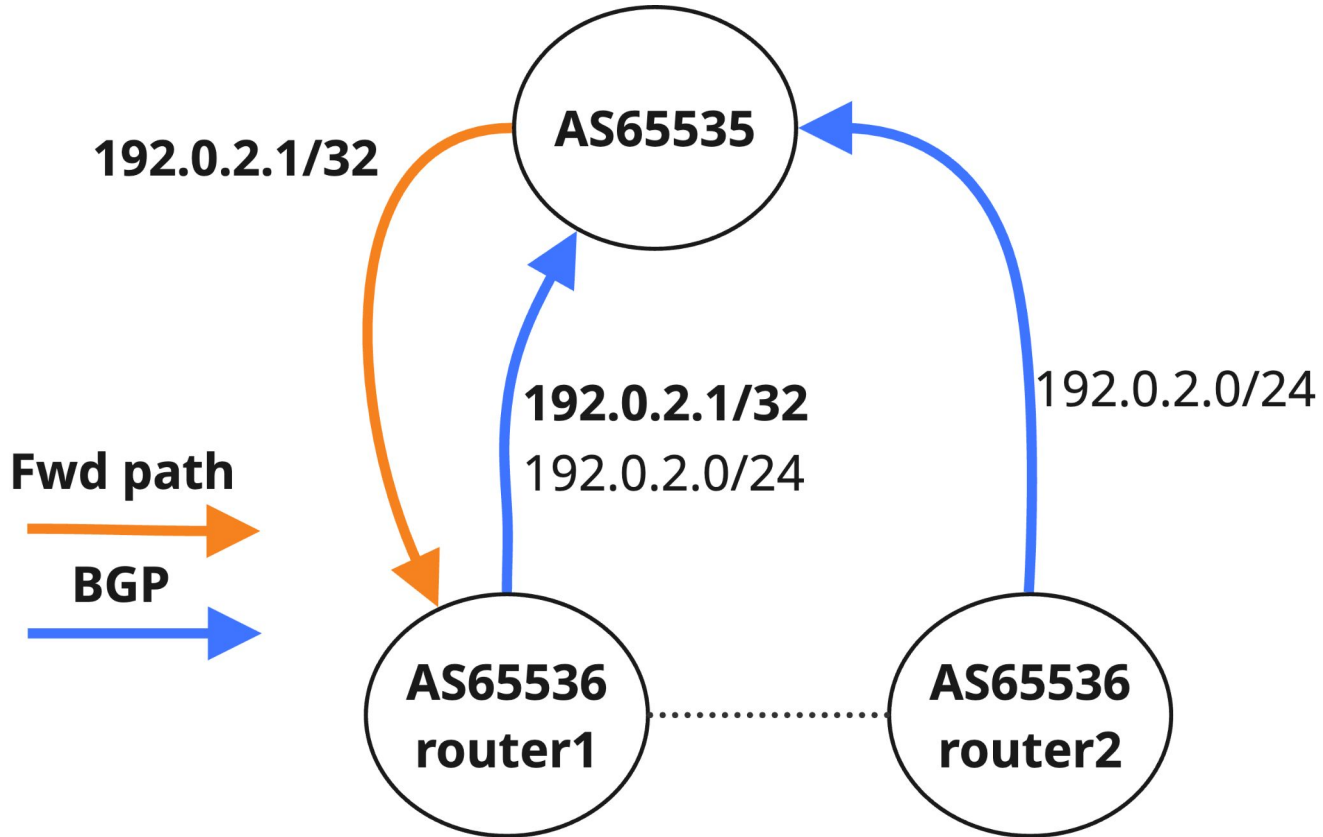
Edge case: Traffic Engineering (TE)

The slide features a white background with two thin, yellow, curved lines that intersect. One line starts from the bottom left and curves upwards towards the right. The other line starts from the top center and curves downwards towards the right, crossing the first line.

TE with long prefixes - why?

- Some customers want to advertise $>/24$ and $>/48$ *within* provider networks
 - Not propagated further to peers outside provider's network
- Motivated by IPv4 address starvation?
- Poor management of load per-prefix?

TE with long prefixes - how?



Potential provider config: ROV bypass

```
bryton@edge01.stl01# show policy-options policy-statement 4-CUSTOMER-FOO-BAR-IN
/* Only check DFZ-eligible prefixes for RPKI-ROV invalid status */
term ROV-DFZ-INVALID {
  from {
    validation-database invalid;
    route-filter 0.0.0.0/0 upto /24;
  }
  then {
    validation-state invalid;
    reject;
  }
}
term ROV-VALID {
  from validation-database valid;
  then {
    validation-state valid;
    next term;
  }
}
/* Here IRR filtering takes place, and long-prefixes may only hit this term */
term ACCEPT-CUSTOMER-IRR {
  from {
    prefix-list-filter 4-foo-bar-customer orlonger;
  }
  then {
    local-preference 140;
    community add CUSTOMER;
    accept;
  }
}
then reject;
```

Test: who allows TE to bypass ROV?

- Advertise /32 + /128 prefixes to peers
 - BGP origin AS != ROA origin AS
 - Find who filters via IRR-only and allows ROV bypass
- Tests limited by:
 - Type of BGP relationship AS13335 has (customer-provider, vs lateral Peer)

Purposely invalid announcements

Validating route **162.159.225.1/32**
from origin **AS13335**

✗ Invalid

1 covering ROA found

Validating route **2606:4700:4f::1/128**
from origin **AS13335**

✗ Invalid

1 covering ROA found

Covering ROAs:

Trust Anchor	Prefix	Max Length	ASN	Expiration	Match
ARIN	162.159.225.0/24	24	209242	in 2 months	✗

Covering ROAs:

Trust Anchor	Prefix	Max Length	ASN	Expiration	Match
ARIN	2606:4700:4f::/48	48	209242	in 2 months	✗

```
➤ ~ bgpq4 -J4 AS13335:AS-CLOUDFLARE | grep 162.159.225.0  
162.159.225.0/24;  
➤ ~ bgpq4 -J6 AS13335:AS-CLOUDFLARE | grep 2606:4700:4f  
2606:4700:4f::/48;
```

Testing method

- Advertise long-invalid prefixes to peers one-by-one
- Ping reachability from looking-glasses, or vantage points
- Record results

NO ROV examples

```
bryton@edge02.dub01> show bgp summary | grep " 6461 "  
94.31.43.25          6461      1447406    88975      0          0 3w6d 19:31:15 Establ  
2a00:16f8:11::22d    6461      3349233    84049      0          0 3w6d 19:30:59 Establ  
  
bryton@edge02.dub01> traceroute 162.159.225.1 next-hop 94.31.43.25  
traceroute to 162.159.225.1 (162.159.225.1) from 94.31.43.26, 30 hops max, 52 byte packets  
 1 ae52.mpr1.dub2.ie.zip.zayo.com.zip.zayo.com (94.31.43.25) 1.637 ms 1.684 ms 1.640 ms  
 2 162.159.225.1 (162.159.225.1) 1.298 ms 1.229 ms 1.274 ms  
  
bryton@edge02.dub01> traceroute 2606:4700:4f::1 next-hop 2a00:16f8:11::22d  
traceroute6 to 2606:4700:4f::1 (2606:4700:4f::1), 64 hops max, 12 byte packets  
 1 2a00:16f8:11::22d (2a00:16f8:11::22d) 3.791 ms 1.284 ms 1.444 ms  
 2 2606:4700:4f::1 (2606:4700:4f::1) 1.290 ms 1.395 ms 1.374 ms
```

162.159.225.1/32 (2 entries, 1 announced)

***BGP Preference: 170/-101**

Next hop type: Indirect, Next hop index: 0

Address: 0x1ba49dad

Next-hop reference count: 459848

Source: 171.75.50.22

AS path: 13335 I (Originator)

ROV examples

Router: gva-b1 / Geneva (Equinix GV2)

Command: show bgp ipv6 unicast 2606:4700:4f::1

```
BGP routing table entry for 2606:4700:4f::1/128
Last Modified: May  1 03:13:31.269 for 00:05:46
Paths: (1 available, no best path)
```

```
Path #1: Received by speaker 0
```

```
13335, (received-only)
```

```
2001:2035:0:2854::2 from 2001:2035:0:2854::2 (172.69.108.1)
```

```
Origin IGP, localpref 100, valid, external
```

Router: gva-b1 / Geneva (Equinix GV2)

Command: ping ipv6 2606:4700:4f::1 timeout 1 source Loopback0

```
Sending 5, 100-byte ICMP Echos to 2606:4700:4f::1, timeout is 1 seconds:
```

```
..UUU
```

```
Success rate is 0 percent (0/5)
```

Results: who allows TE to bypass ROV?

ASN	Name	Result
174	Cogent	ROV
701	Verizon	ROV
1299	Arelion	ROV
2914	NTT	ROV
3257	GTT	ROV
3356	Lumen/Colt/Cirion	NO ROV (<i>IPv4 only</i>)
3491	PCCW	ROV
5511	Orange	ROV

Results: who allows TE to bypass ROV?

ASN	Name	Result
6453	Tata	ROV
6461	Zayo	NO ROV
6762	Sparkle	ROV
6830	Liberty Global	ROV
6939	HE	ROV
7018	AT&T	ROV
12956	Telefonica	ROV

Testing takeaway

- At least two tier-1 ISPs appear to accept RPKI-ROV long-invalid prefixes, ignoring ROV
- Acceptance of IPv4 invalid prefixes may be more likely
- Downstreams of these ISPs will be impacted

Solutions for long prefix TE

- Option 1: don't offer this "TE" method
 - How valid is this customer use-case?
- Option 2: require long maxLength ROAs
 - Advertising upto /32 requires maxLength=32 ROA
 - Customers accept going against RFC9319
 - Forged-origin hijacks may be more effective

The background features several thin, yellow, curved lines that sweep across the page, creating a modern, abstract design.

Edge case: Remote-Triggered Blackhole (RTBH)

Destination-based RTBH

- Customer is getting DDoS attacked toward IP(s)
- Links are congesting
- Customer network signals via BGP for provider to discard traffic to IP(s)
- Congestion resolved since traffic is dropped on provider routers

Blackhole route filtering

- Specialized routing announcement
 - kept internal-only (BLACKHOLE, NO_EXPORT)
- Generally no RPKI-based filtering at all
- Based on IRR objects (AS-SET, route + route6)
- Announcements are expected to be long
 - Customers don't want to blackhole more IPs than they absolutely have to

RTBH hijack

- AS13335: *valid* prefix owner
- AS55720: RTBH *hijacker*
- Accepted by Tier-1 ISP *based on IRR data*

Query Results:

Router: Ashburn, VA - US

Command: show route table inet.0 protocol bgp 162.159.140.238 terse

inet.0: 980113 destinations, 8470679 routes (978951 active, 2448 holddown, 129
+ = Active Route, - = Last Active, * = Both

A	V	Destination	P	Prf	Metric 1	Metric 2	Next hop	AS path
*	?	162.159.140.238/32	B	170	120		to Discard	55720 I
	?		B	170	120		to Discard	55720 I
	?		B	170	120		to Discard	55720 I

Validating route **162.159.140.238/32**

from origin **AS55720**

✗ **Invalid**

2 covering ROAs found

Covering ROAs:

Trust Anchor	Prefix	Max Length	ASN	Expiration	Match
ARIN	162.159.128.0/19	19	13335	in 2 months	✗
ARIN	162.159.128.0/19	19	13335	in 2 years	✗

RTBH solution: more RPKI

- Dedicated RPKI object for RTBH
- Similar to ROA, but “Discard” Origin Authorization
- <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-spaghetti-sidrops-rpki-doa/>
- Problem: re-do of ROA signing effort for DOA

RTBH solution: loose ROV

- Use ROA but extend to /32 prefix-length for **only** RTBH routes - AKA origin-only ROV
- ROV with "loose" method **must** be restricted to BLACKHOLE (RFC7999) routes
- Problem: *slippery* slope
 - Can ruin maxLength ROV (RFC9319) if implemented incorrectly

RTBH loose ROV in the wild (BIRD)

`ignore max length` switch

Ignore received max length in ROA records and use max value (32 or 128) instead. This may be useful for implementing loose RPKI check for blackholes. Default: disabled.

- Is the route a blackhole (RFC 7999)?
 - **If no, the route undergoes strict RPKI validation filtering** (both `origin` and maximum prefix length (`maxLength`)):
 - if the result is `RPKI Valid`, the route is accepted (a missing route object will have no implication in this case)
 - if the result is `RPKI Invalid`, the route is rejected
 - if the result is `RPKI NotFound`, we check if the route is resolvable for its origin ASN (this will be the case if a proper route object exists) and it might get accepted or rejected depending on the result**
 - **If yes, the route undergoes loose RPKI validation filtering** (`origin` only):
 - if the result is `RPKI Valid`, the route is accepted
 - if the result is `RPKI Invalid`, the route is rejected
 - if the result is `RPKI NotFound`, we check if the route is resolvable for its origin ASN (this will be the case if a proper route object exists) and it might get accepted or rejected depending on the result**

Configuration from BIRD

https://bird.network.cz/?get_doc&v=20&f=bird-6.html

- Requires multiple ROA tables to maintain separation of ROV (regular routes) and loose-ROV (RTBH)

Example in the wild: DE-CIX route servers

<https://docs.de-cix.net/article/o80or2w5dl-de-cix-chicago-gl-obepeer-route-server-guide>

RTBH solution: covering route lookup

- Leverage the covering route that *already* passed ROV checks
- Check if RTBH route is received from same neighbor AS (or NEXT_HOP) as covering route
 - If yes: ACCEPT
 - If no: REJECT
- https://iepg.org/2019-03-24-ietf104/blackholing_reconsidered_ietf104_snijders.pdf

Questions?

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