

# The Bro Network Security Monitor

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## Brooverview

# Outline

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## Philosophy and Architecture

*A framework for network traffic analysis.*

# Outline

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*A framework for network traffic analysis.*

## History

From research to operations.

# Outline

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## Philosophy and Architecture

*A framework for network traffic analysis.*

## History

From research to operations.

## Architecture

Components, logs, scripts, cluster.

# What is Bro?

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# What is Bro?

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**TCPDUMP**

Packet Capture

# What is Bro?

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The logo for TCPDUMP, featuring the word "TCPDUMP" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. A black line is drawn around the letters, resembling a network cable or a path.

Packet Capture

The logo for Wireshark, featuring the word "WIRESHARK" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue rectangular background that has a white curved shape on the top right corner, resembling a shark's fin.

Traffic Inspection

# What is Bro?

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Packet Capture



Traffic Inspection



Attack Detection

# What is Bro?



Packet Capture

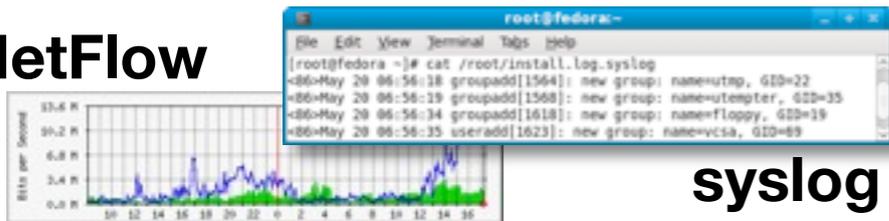


Traffic Inspection



Attack Detection

NetFlow



syslog

Log Recording

# What is Bro?



Packet Capture



Traffic Inspection



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syslog

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Flexibility  
Abstraction  
Data Structures



# What is Bro?



TCPDUMP

Packet Capture



WIRESHARK

Traffic Inspection



Attack Detection



NetFlow

```
root@fedora:~# cat /root/install.log.syslog
<26-May 20 06:56:18 groupadd[1564]: new group: name=utmp, GID=22
<26-May 20 06:56:19 groupadd[1568]: new group: name=utempter, GID=35
<26-May 20 06:56:34 groupadd[1618]: new group: name=floppy, GID=19
<26-May 20 06:56:35 useradd[1623]: new group: name=vcsa, GID=69
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# What is Bro?



TCPDUMP

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WIRESHARK

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SNORT

Attack Detection



*“Domain-specific Python”*

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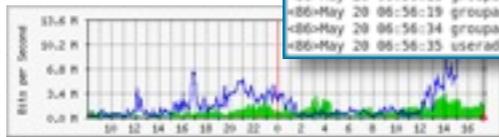
TCPDUMP

WIRESHARK



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Packet Capture

Traffic Inspection

Attack Detection

Log Recording

Flexibility  
Abstraction  
Data Structures

Sum is more than the pieces



*“Domain-specific Python”*



# Philosophy

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Fundamentally different from other IDS.

Reset your idea of an IDS before starting to use Bro.

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Real-time network analysis *framework*.

Primarily an IDS, but many use it for general traffic analysis.

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Policy-neutral at the core.

Can accommodate a range of detection approaches.

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Highly stateful.

Tracks extensive application-layer network state.

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Policy-neutral at the core.

Can accommodate a range of detection approaches.

Highly stateful.

Tracks extensive application-layer network state.

Supports forensics.

Extensively logs what it sees.

# Target Audience

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# Target Audience

---

Network-savvy users.

Requires understanding of your network.

# Target Audience

---

**Network-savvy users.**

Requires understanding of your network.

**Unixy mindset.**

Command-line based, fully customizable.

# Target Audience

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## Network-savvy users.

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## Unixy mindset.

Command-line based, fully customizable.

## Large-scale environments.

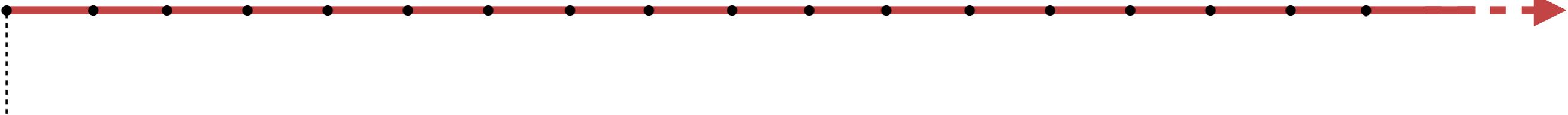
Effective also with liberal security policies.



# Bro History

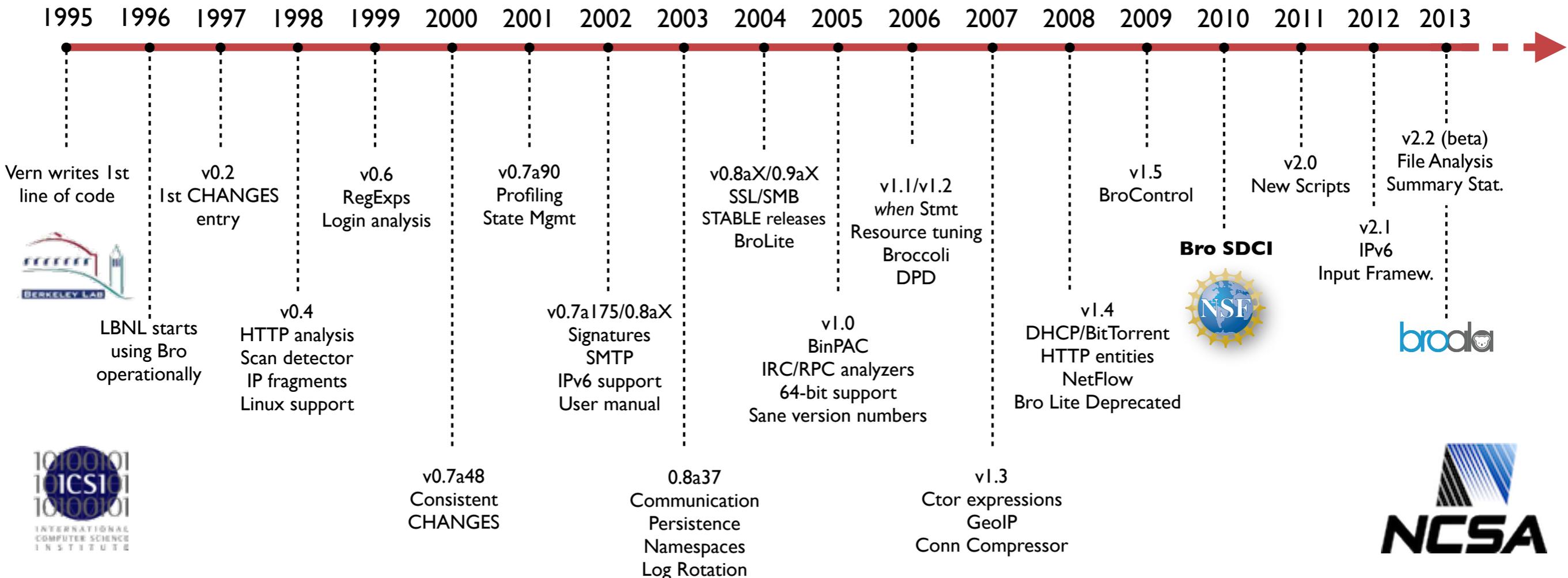


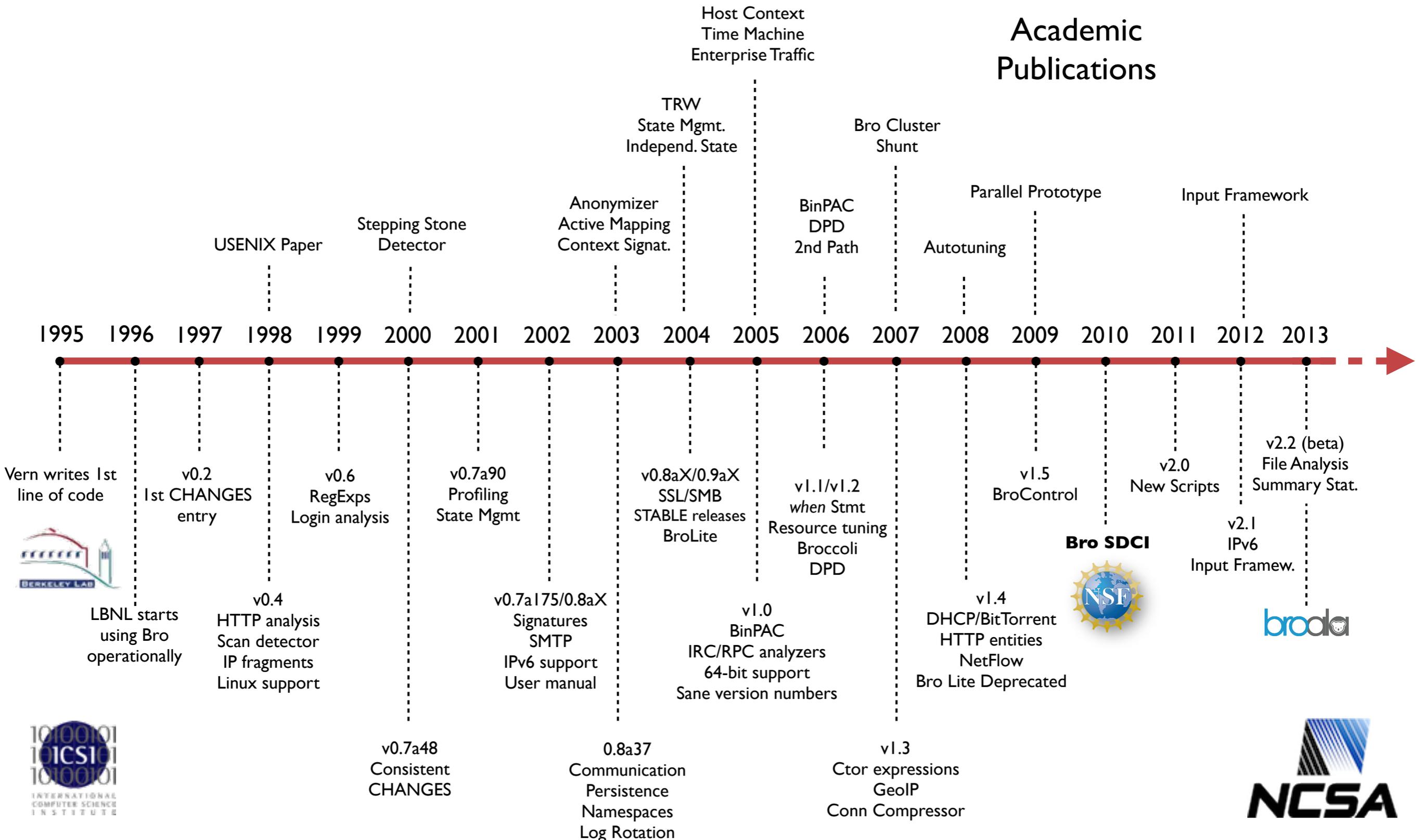
1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013



Vern writes 1st  
line of code







# “Who’s Using It?”

## Installations across the US

Universities  
Research Labs  
Supercomputer Centers  
Fortune 50 Industry

## Examples

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab  
Indiana University  
National Center for Supercomputing Applications  
National Center for Atmospheric Research

*... and many more sites*

## Fully integrated into **Security Onion**

Popular security-oriented Linux distribution



## Recent User Meetings

Bro Workshop 2011 at NCSA  
Bro Exchange 2012 at NCAR  
Bro Exchange 2013 at NCSA

Each attended by about 50-90 operators  
from  
from 30-50 organizations



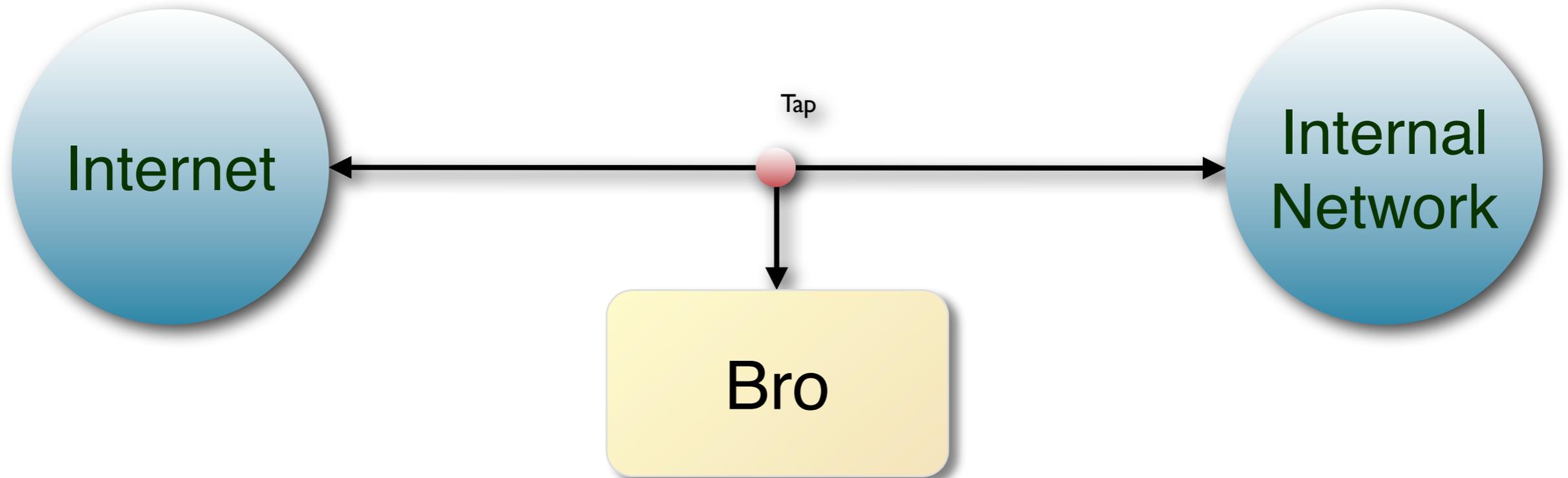
# Deployment

---



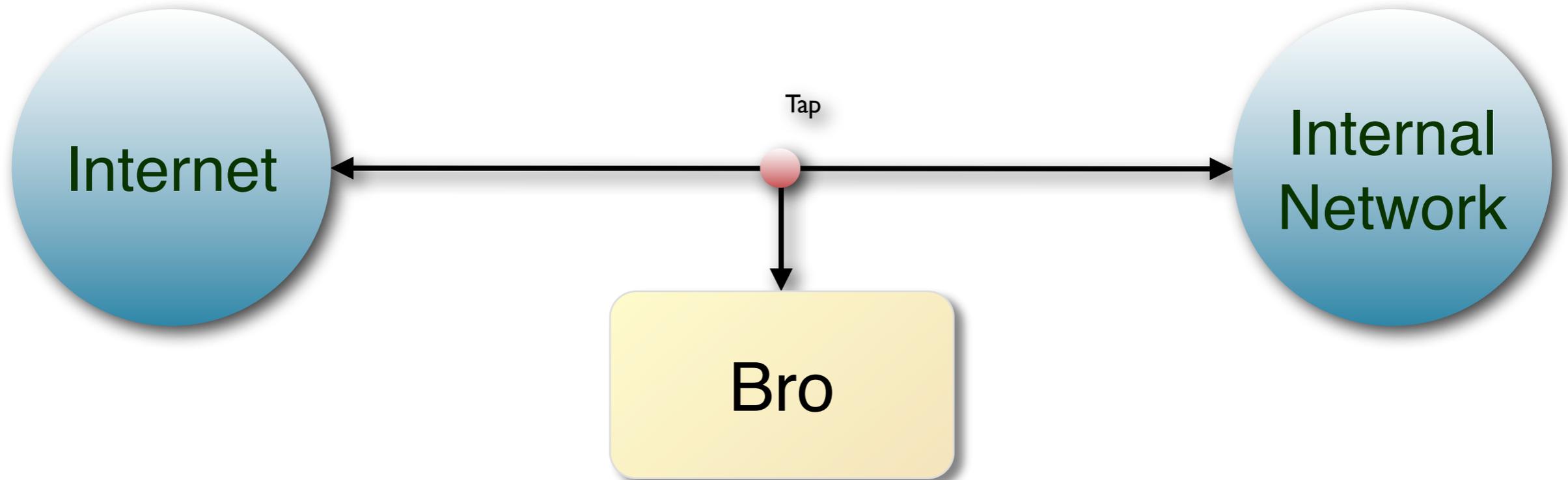
# Deployment

---



# Deployment

---



Runs on commodity platforms.

Standard PCs & NICs.

Supports FreeBSD/Linux/OS X.

# Creating Visibility with Bro

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```
> bro -i en0  
[ ... wait ... ]  
> cat conn.log
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<i>#fields</i>	<i>ts</i>	<i>id.orig_h</i>	<i>id.orig_p</i>	<i>id.resp_h</i>	<i>id.resp_p</i>	<i>proto</i>	<i>service</i>	<i>duration</i>
	1144876741.1198	192.150.186.169	53115	82.94.237.218	80	<i>tcp</i>	<i>http</i>	16.14929
	1144876612.6063	192.150.186.169	53090	198.189.255.82	80	<i>tcp</i>	<i>http</i>	4.437460
	1144876596.5597	192.150.186.169	53051	193.203.227.129	80	<i>tcp</i>	<i>http</i>	0.372440
	1144876606.7789	192.150.186.169	53082	198.189.255.73	80	<i>tcp</i>	<i>http</i>	0.597711
	<b>1144876741.4693</b>	<b>192.150.186.169</b>	<b>53116</b>	<b>82.94.237.218</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>tcp</b>	<b>http</b>	<b>16.02667</b>
	<b>1144876745.6102</b>	<b>192.150.186.169</b>	<b>53117</b>	<b>66.102.7.99</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>tcp</b>	<b>http</b>	<b>1.004346</b>
	1144876605.6847	192.150.186.169	53075	207.151.118.143	80	<i>tcp</i>	<i>http</i>	0.029663

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```
> cat http.log
```

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[ ... wait ... ]  
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> cat http.log
```

<i>#fields</i>	<i>ts</i>	<i>id.orig_h</i>	<i>id.orig_p</i>	[...] <i>host</i>	<i>uri</i>	<i>status_code</i>	<i>user_agent</i> [...]
	1144876741.6335	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/lib/lib.css	200	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876742.1687	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/icons/previous.png	304	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876741.2838	192.150.186.169	53115	docs.python.org	/lib/lib.html	200	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876742.3337	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/icons/up.png	304	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876742.3337	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/icons/next.png	304	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876742.3337	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/icons/contents.png	304	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876742.3337	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/icons/modules.png	304	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876742.3338	192.150.186.169	53116	docs.python.org	/icons/index.png	304	Mozilla/5.0
	1144876745.6144	192.150.186.169	53117	www.google.com	/	200	Mozilla/5.0

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> bro -i en0  
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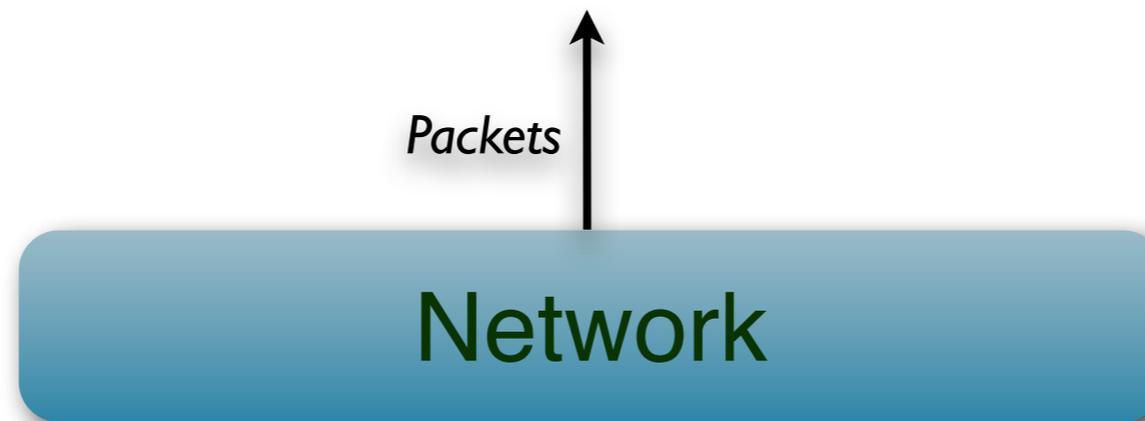
```
#fields ts          id.orig_h      id.orig_p      id.resp_h      id.resp_p proto  service  duration  
1144876741.1198  192.150.186.169 53115         82.94.237.218  80      tcp     http     16.14929  
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1144876506.5507  192.150.186.169 53051         198.189.255.82 80      tcp     http     0.070440
```

```
[...] host          uri              status_code  user_agent [...]  
docs.python.org    /lib/lib.css    200          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /icons/previous.png 304          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /lib/lib.html   200          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /icons/up.png   304          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /icons/next.png 304          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /icons/contents.png 304          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /icons/modules.png 304          Mozilla/5.0  
docs.python.org    /icons/index.png 304          Mozilla/5.0  
www.google.com     /                200          Mozilla/5.0
```

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1144876742.3338  192.150.186.169 53116         docs.python.org /icons/index.png 304          Mozilla/5.0  
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```

# Architecture

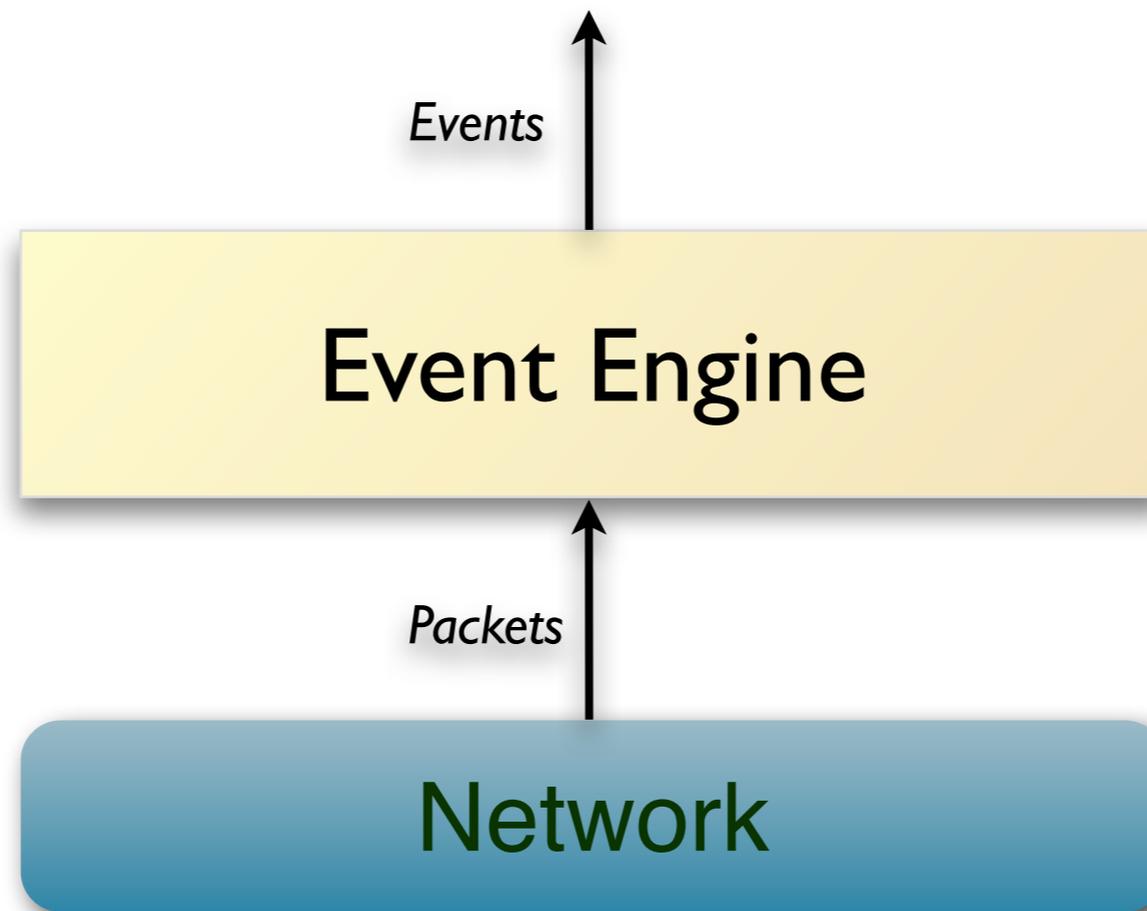
---



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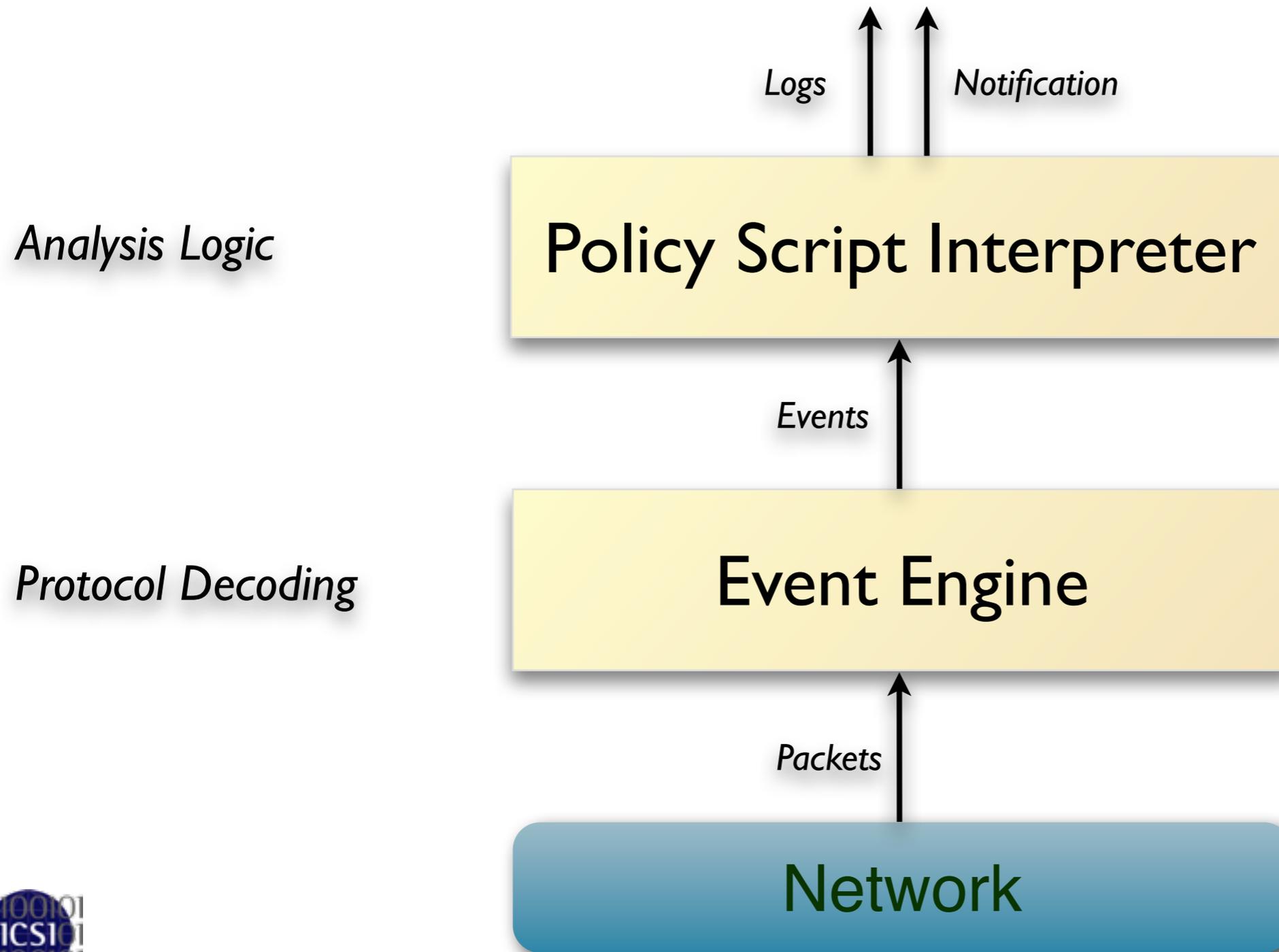
---

*Protocol Decoding*

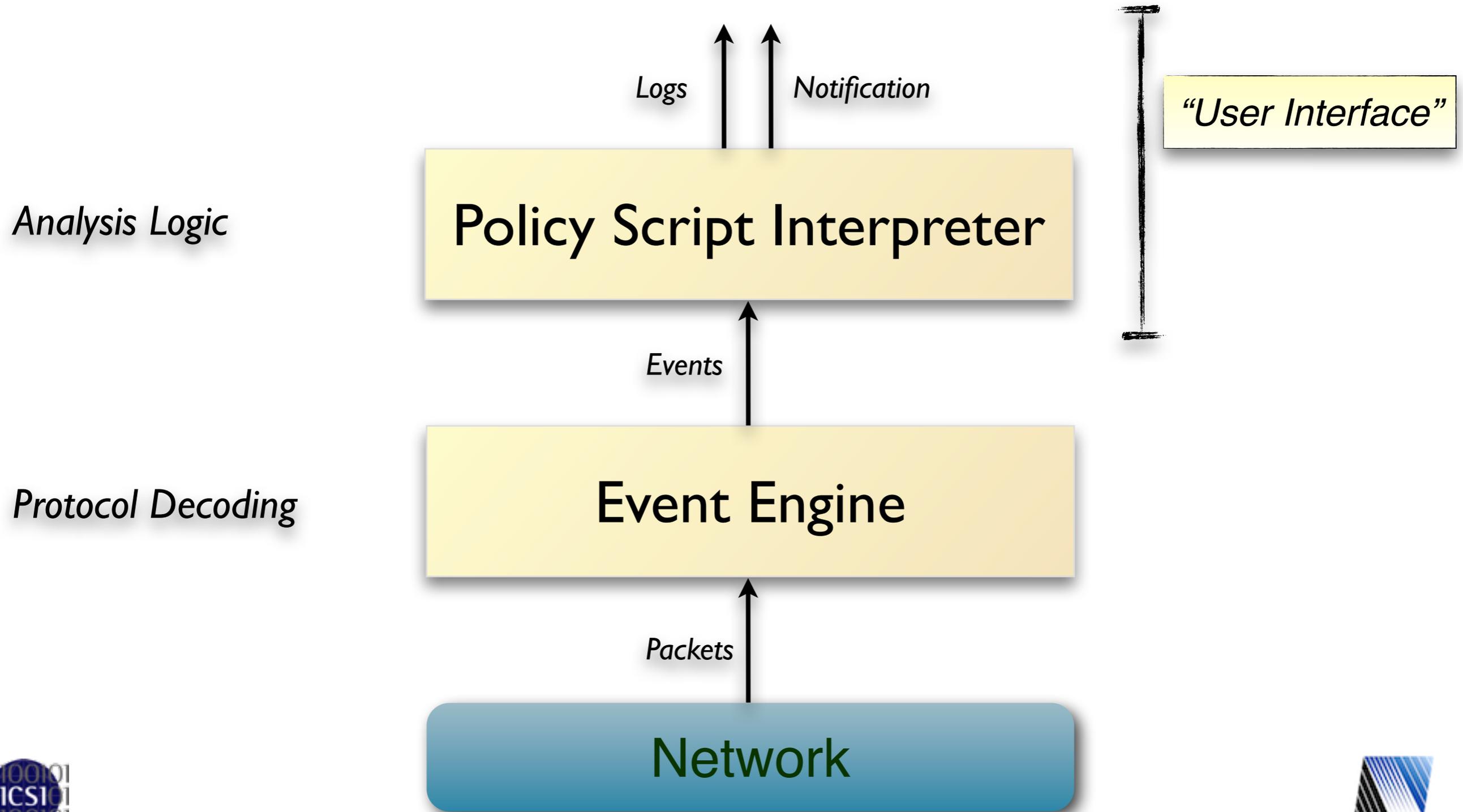


# Architecture

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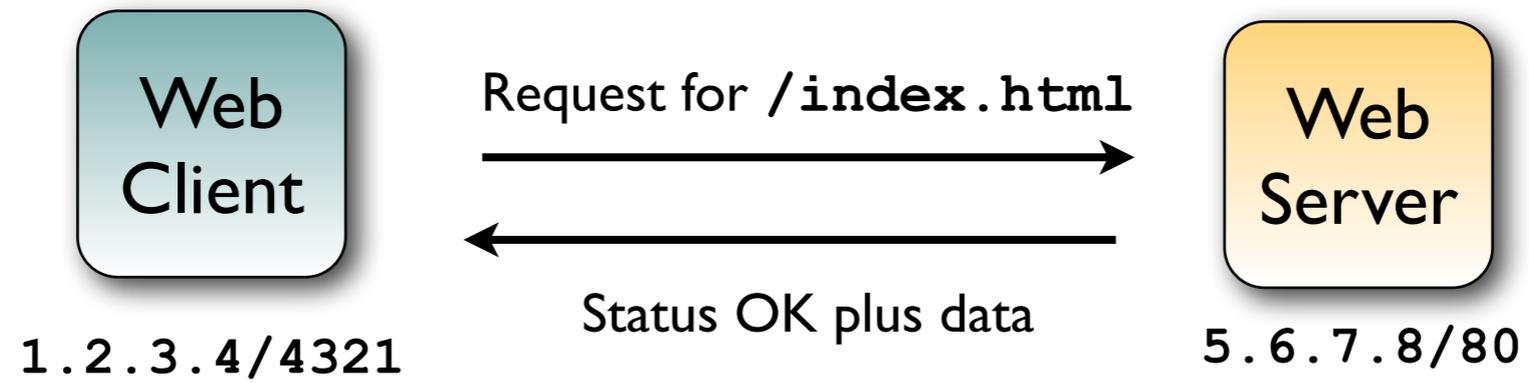


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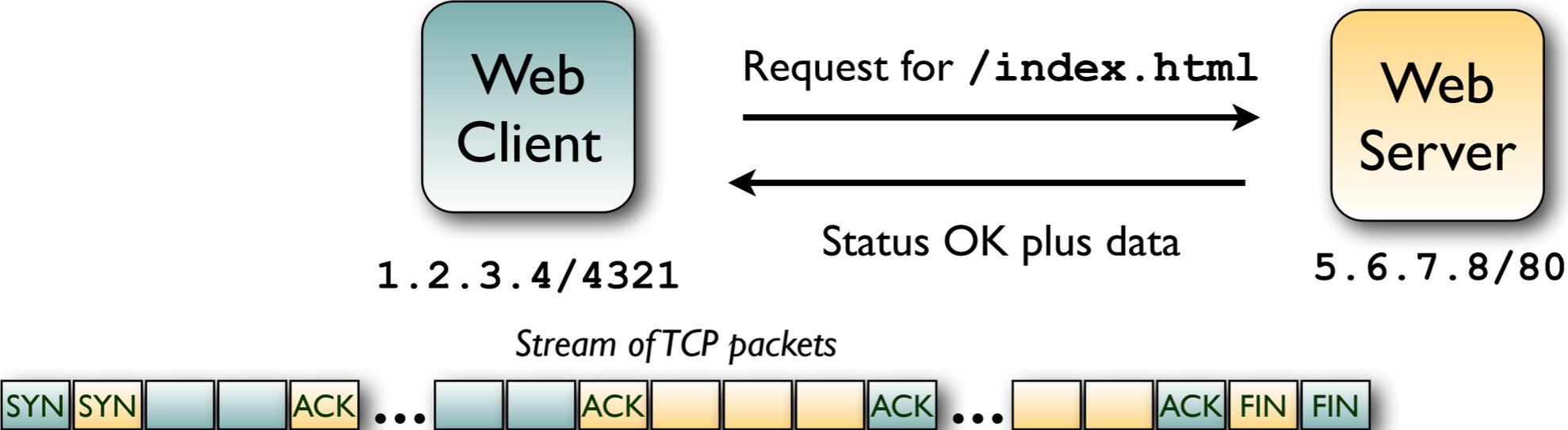


# Event Model

---



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1.2.3.4/4321

Request for /index.html



Status OK plus data



5.6.7.8/80

Stream of TCP packets



Event → `connection_established(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80)`

# Event Model



1.2.3.4/4321



Status OK plus data



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Stream of TCP packets



Event → `connection_established(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80)`



TCP stream reassembly for originator

Event → `http_request(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80, "GET", "/index.html")`

# Event Model



1.2.3.4/4321



Status OK plus data

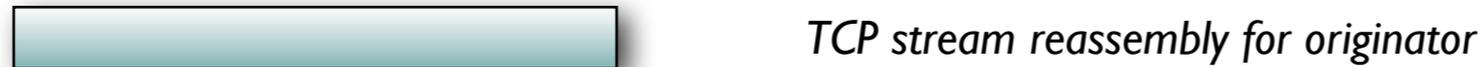


5.6.7.8/80

Stream of TCP packets



Event → `connection_established(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80)`



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Event → `http_reply(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80, 200, "OK", data)`

# Event Model



1.2.3.4/4321

Request for /index.html



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Status OK plus data



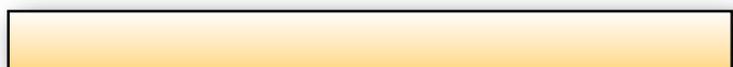
Stream of TCP packets



Event → `connection_established(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80)`

 TCP stream reassembly for originator

Event → `http_request(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80, "GET", "/index.html")`

 TCP stream reassembly for responder

Event → `http_reply(1.2.3.4/4321⇒5.6.7.8/80, 200, "OK", data)`

Event → `connection_finished(1.2.3.4/4321, 5.6.7.8/80)`

# Script Example: Matching URLs

---

*Task: Report all Web requests for files called "passwd" .*

# Script Example: Matching URLs

---

*Task: Report all Web requests for files called "passwd".*

```
event http_request(c: connection,           # Connection.
                  method: string,          # HTTP method.
                  original_URI: string,    # Requested URL.
                  unescaped_URI: string,   # Decoded URL.
                  version: string)        # HTTP version.
{
  if ( method == "GET" && unescaped_URI == /*.passwd/ )
    NOTICE(...); # Alarm.
}
```

# Script Example: Scan Detector

---

*Task: Count failed connection attempts per source address .*

# Script Example: Scan Detector

---

*Task: Count failed connection attempts per source address .*

```
global attempts: table[addr] of count &default=0;

event connection_rejected(c: connection)
{
    local source = c$id$orig_h;           # Get source address.
    local n = ++attempts[source];        # Increase counter.
    if ( n == SOME_THRESHOLD )           # Check for threshold.
        NOTICE(...);                   # Alarm.
}
```

# Distributed Scripts

---

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---

Bro comes with  $>10,000$  lines of script code.  
Prewritten functionality that's just loaded.

# Distributed Scripts

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Prewritten functionality that's just loaded.

Scripts generate alarms and logs.

Amendable to extensive customization and extension.

# Bro comes with support for ...

---

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---

Extract files from HTTP, SMTP, etc.

Extract/monitor SSL certificates.

Detect malware via Team Cymru's Malware Hash Registry.

Report vulnerable software versions on the network.

Detect popular web applications.

Detect SSH brute-forcing.

## *Notable external scripts:*

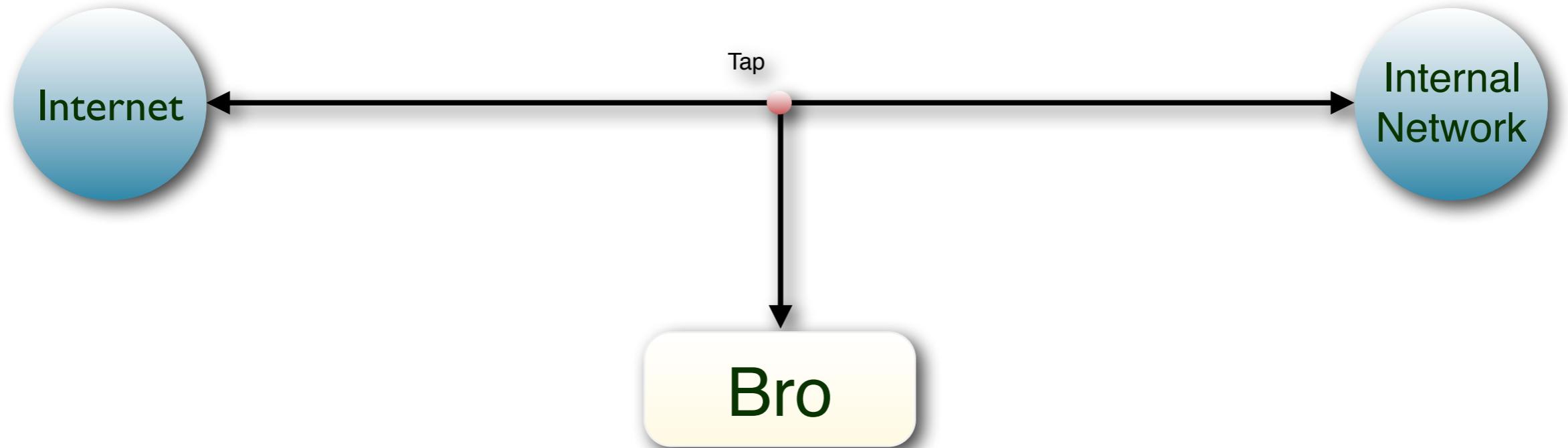
Bro module for Mandiant APT1 report

Lucky 13 detector.

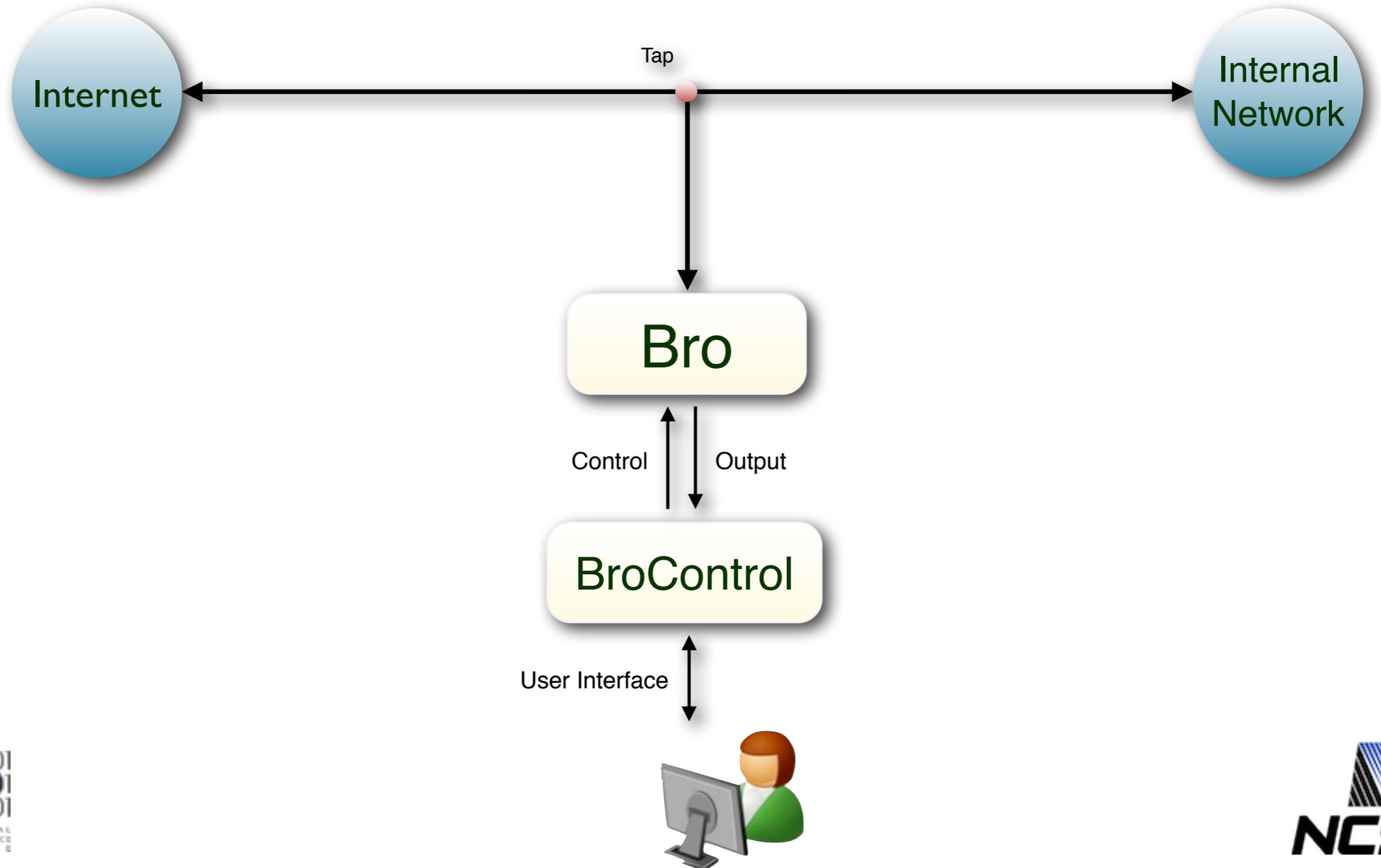
ICSI SSL notary

# Bro Ecosystem

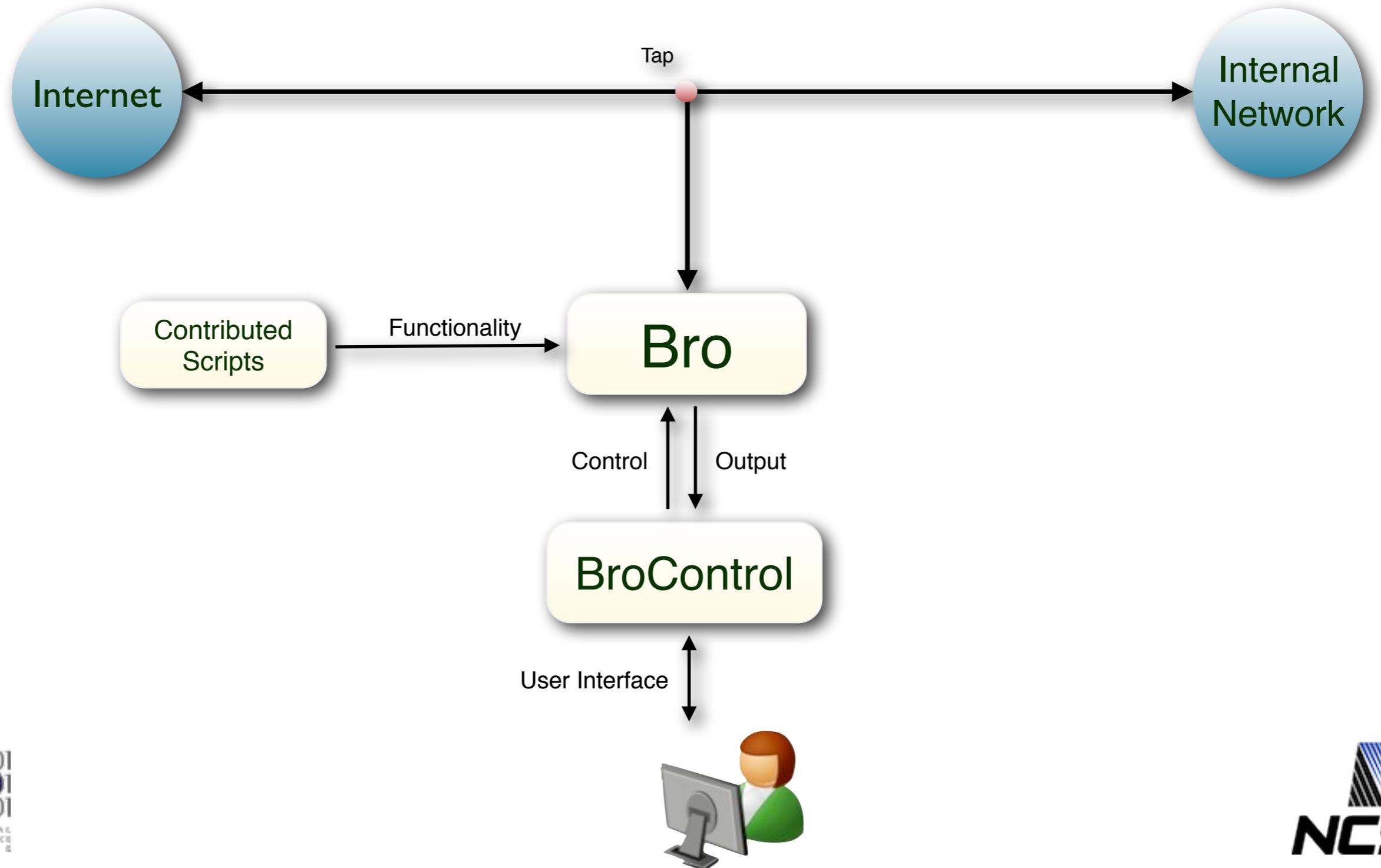
---



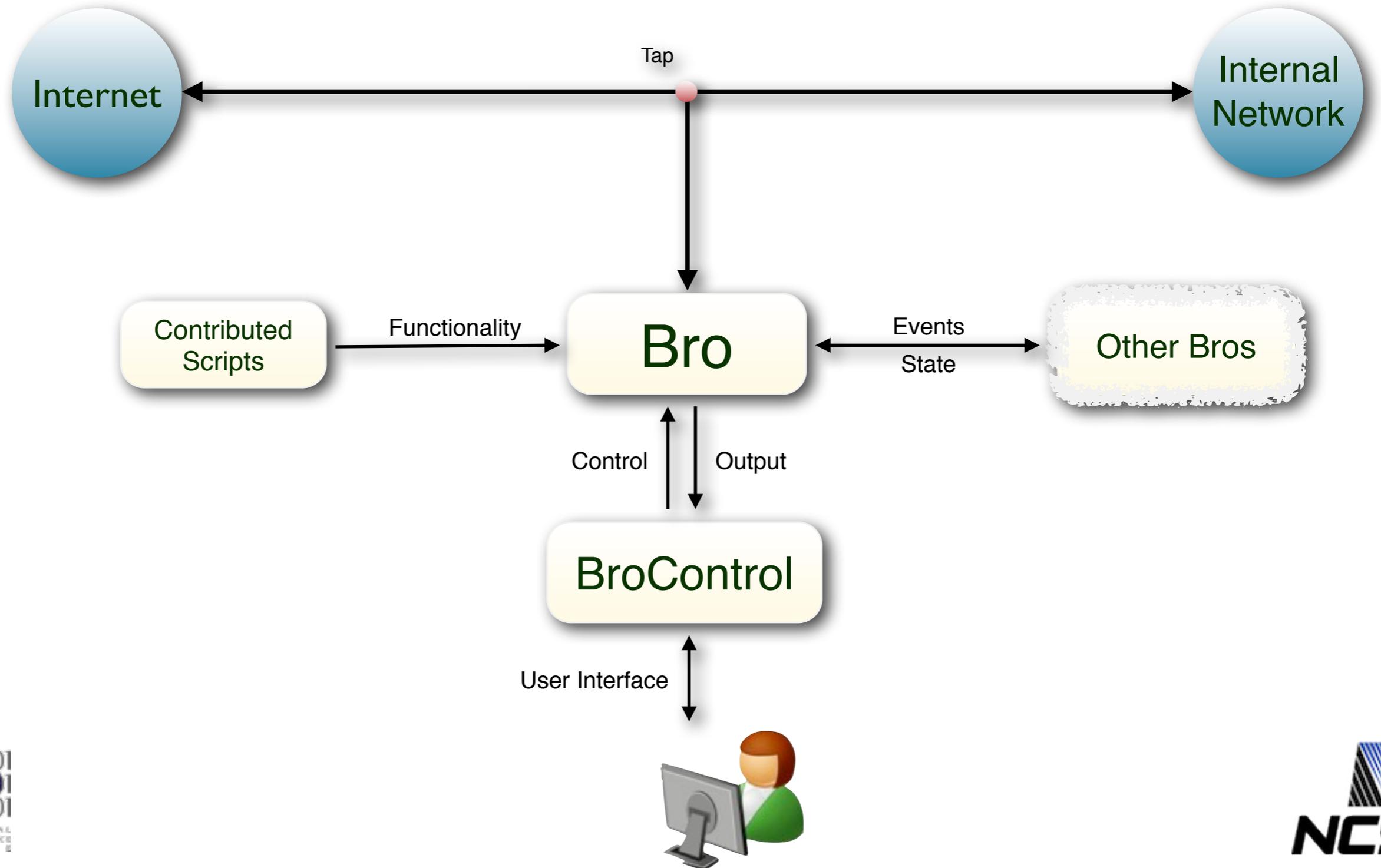
# Bro Ecosystem



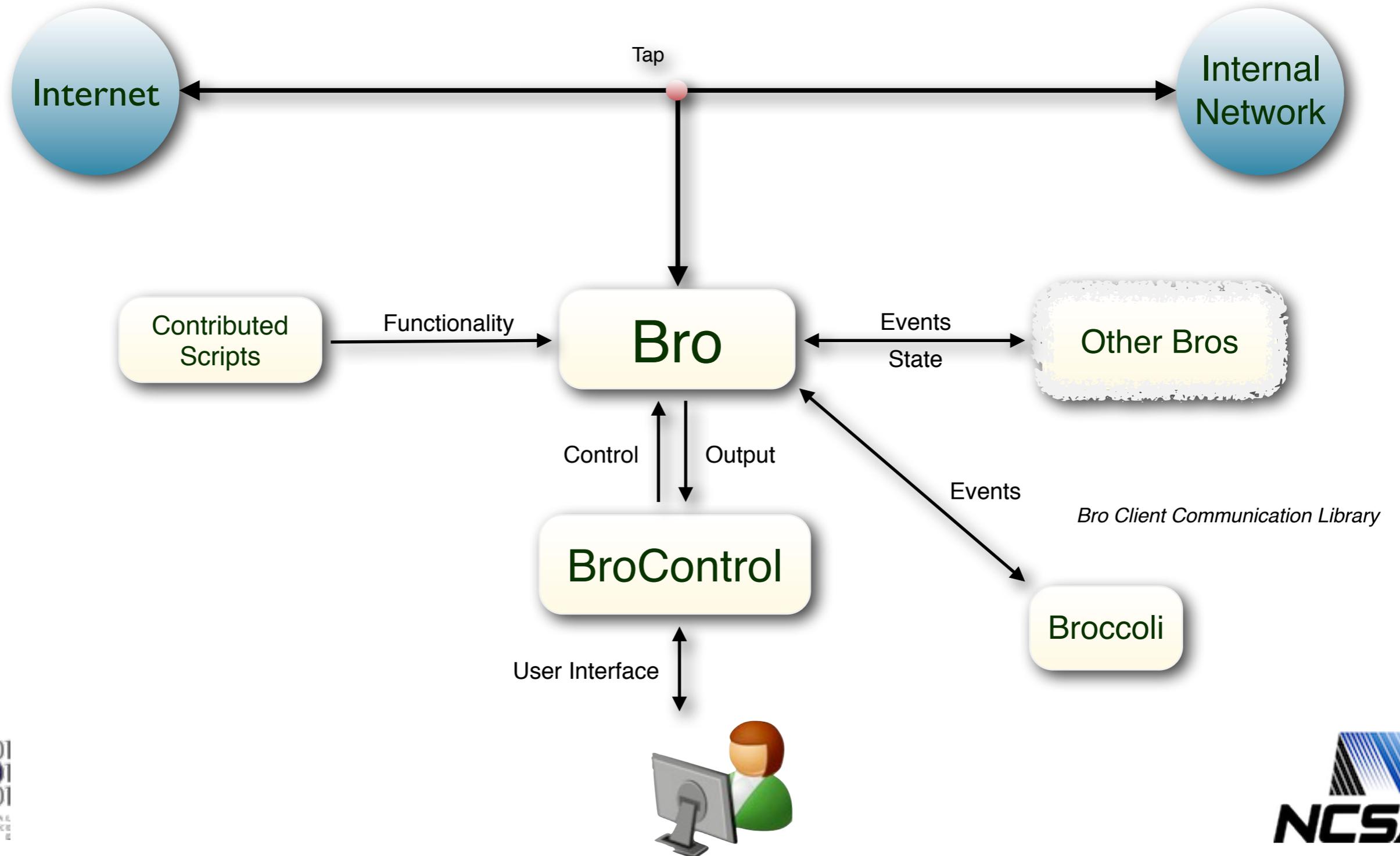
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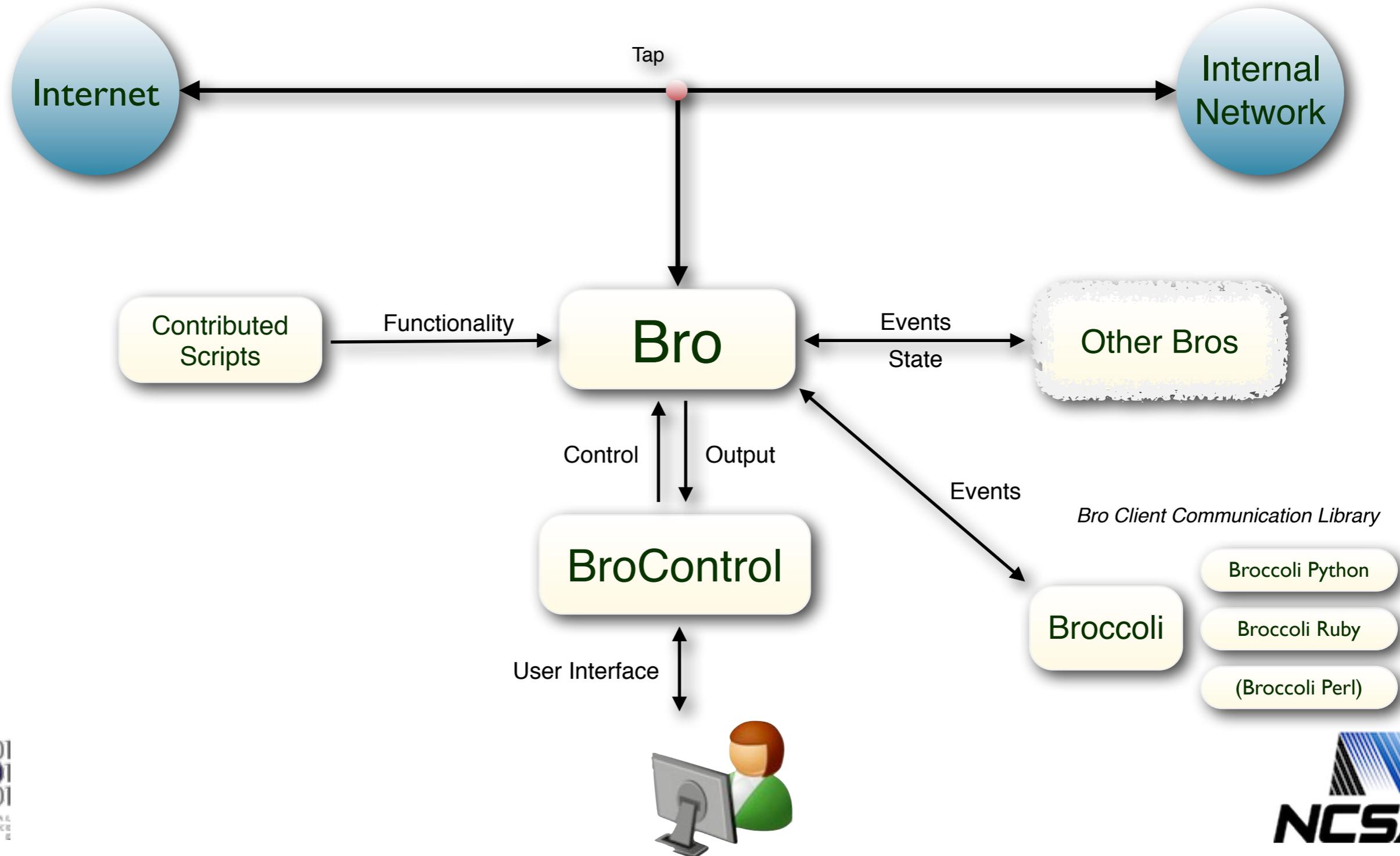
# Bro Ecosystem



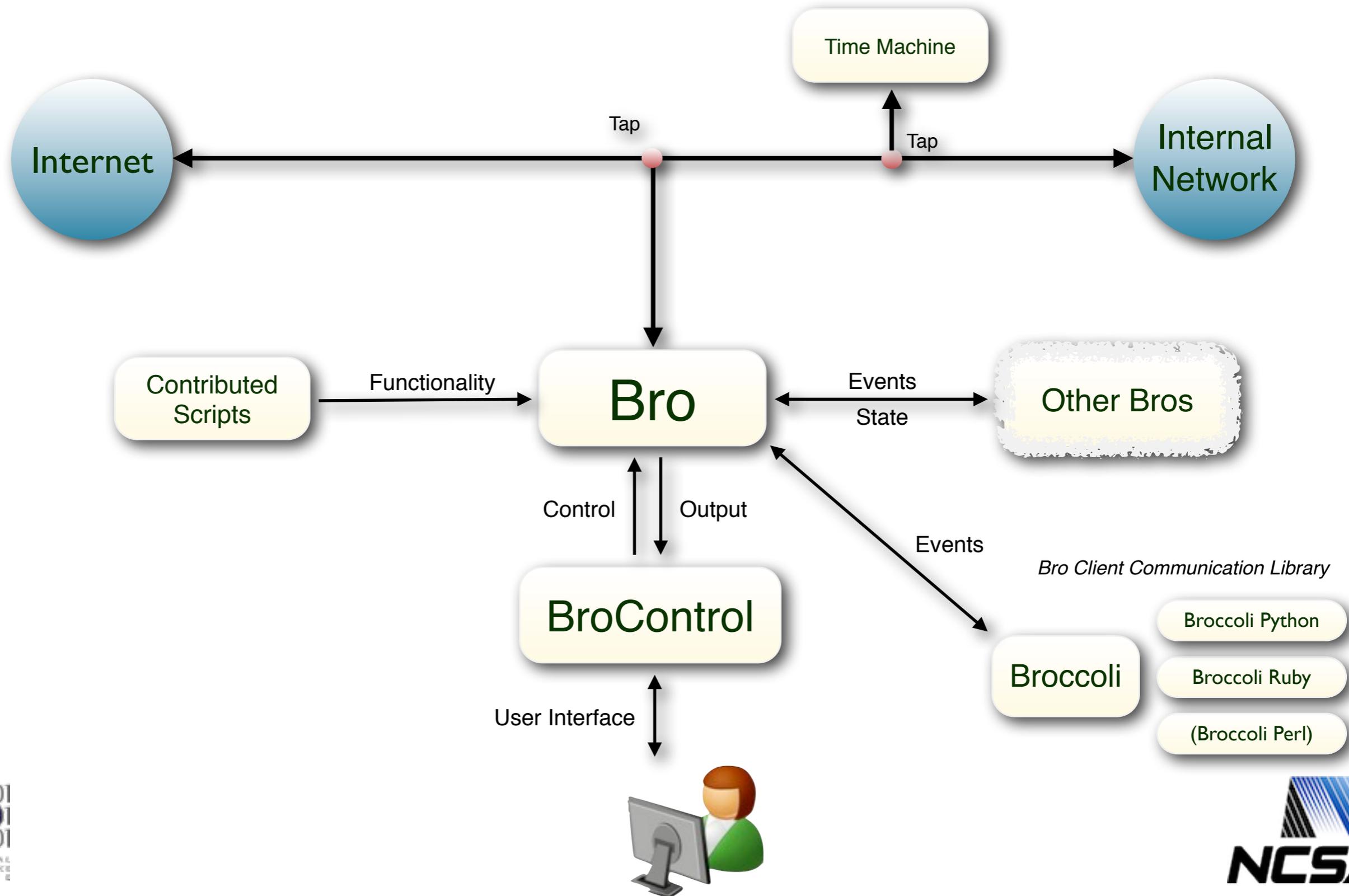
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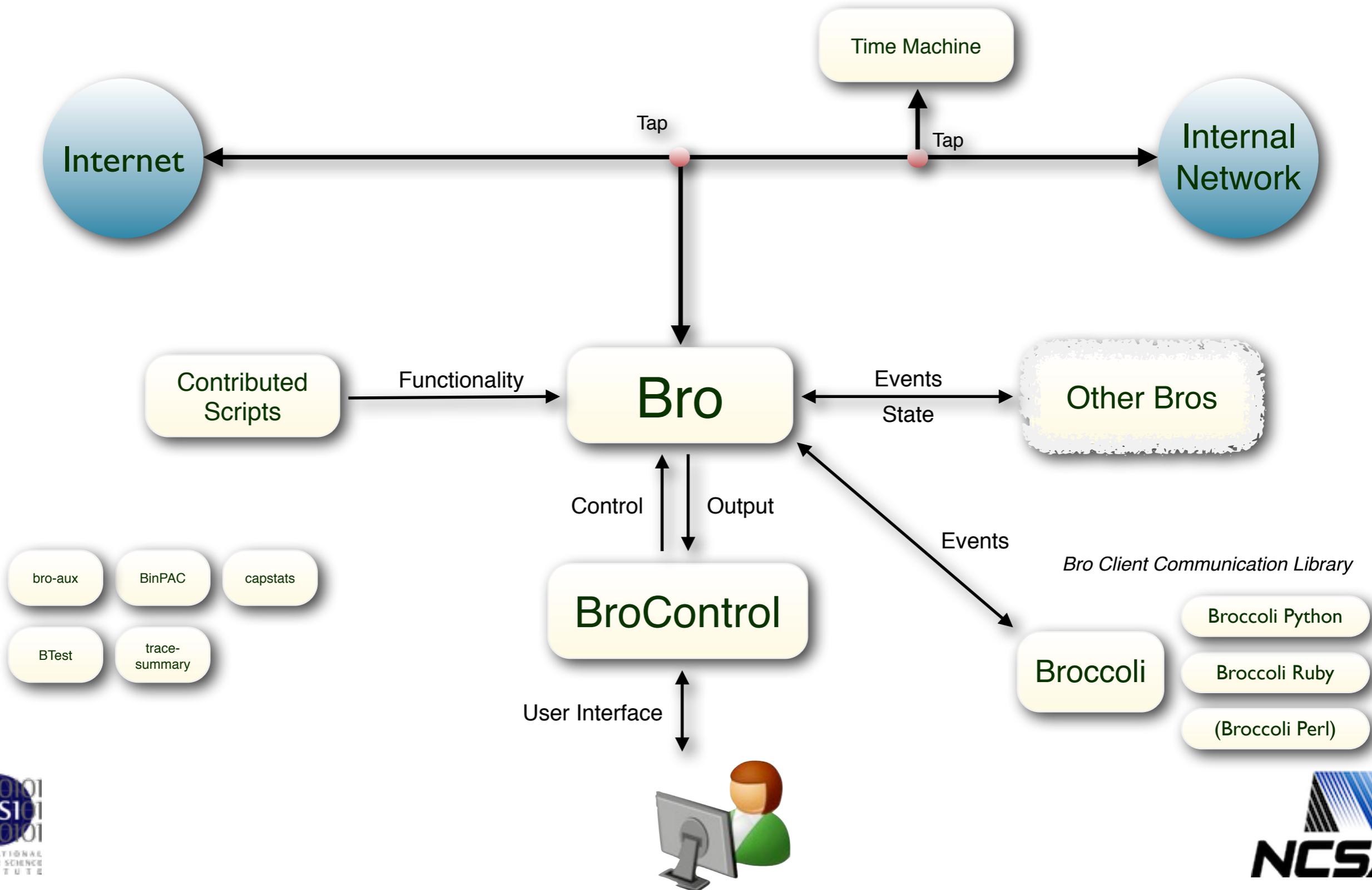
# Bro Ecosystem



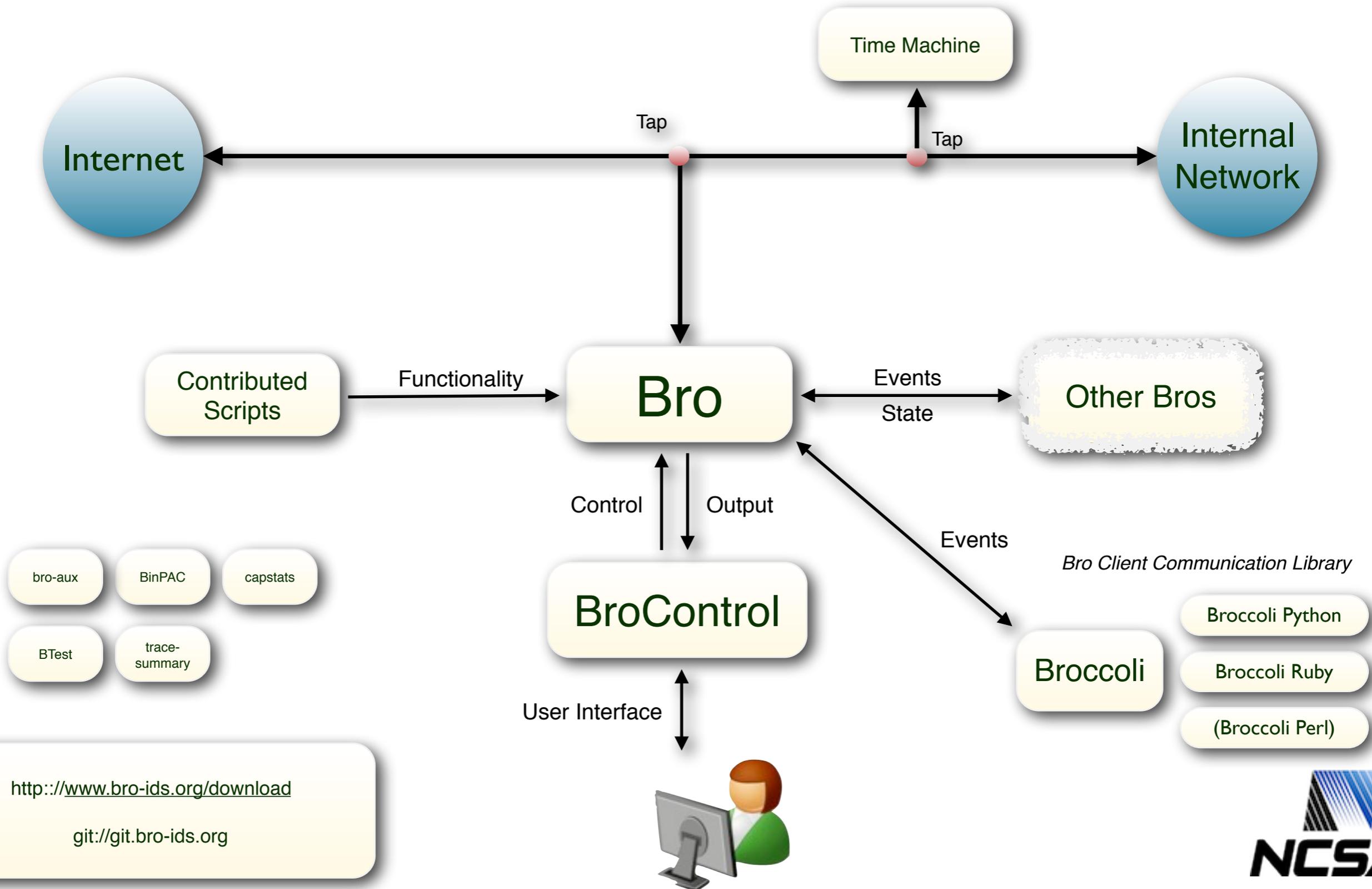
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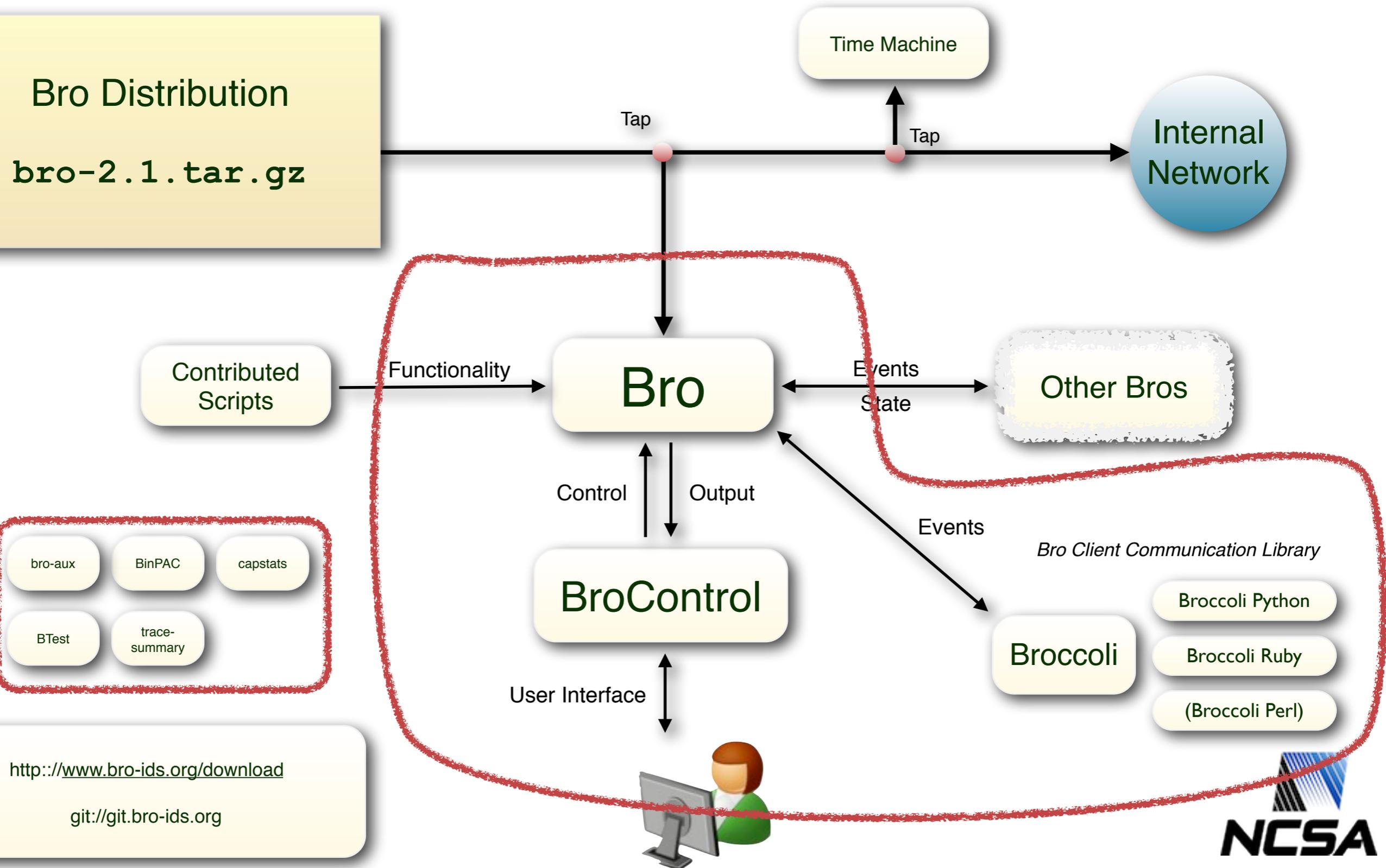
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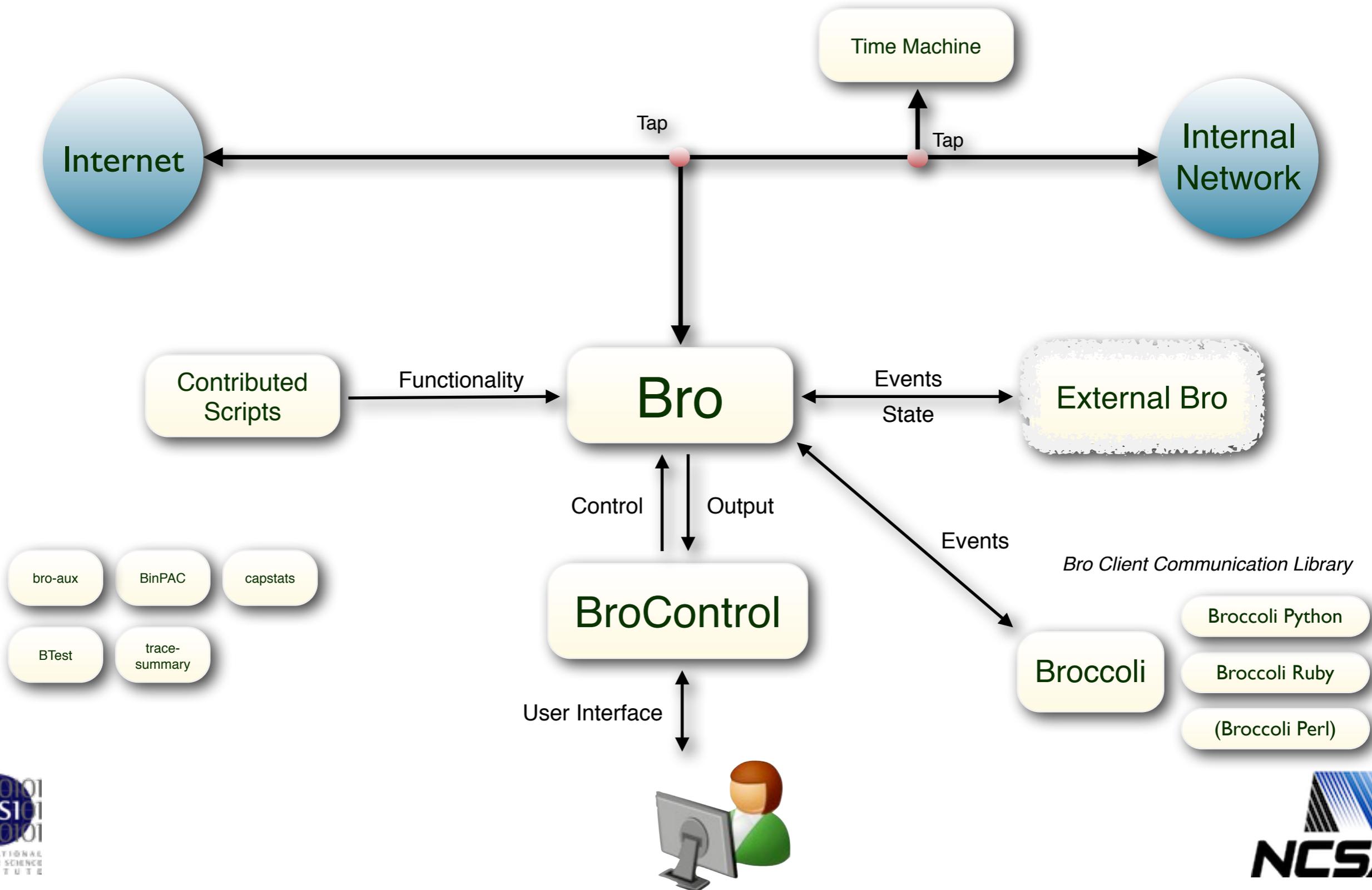
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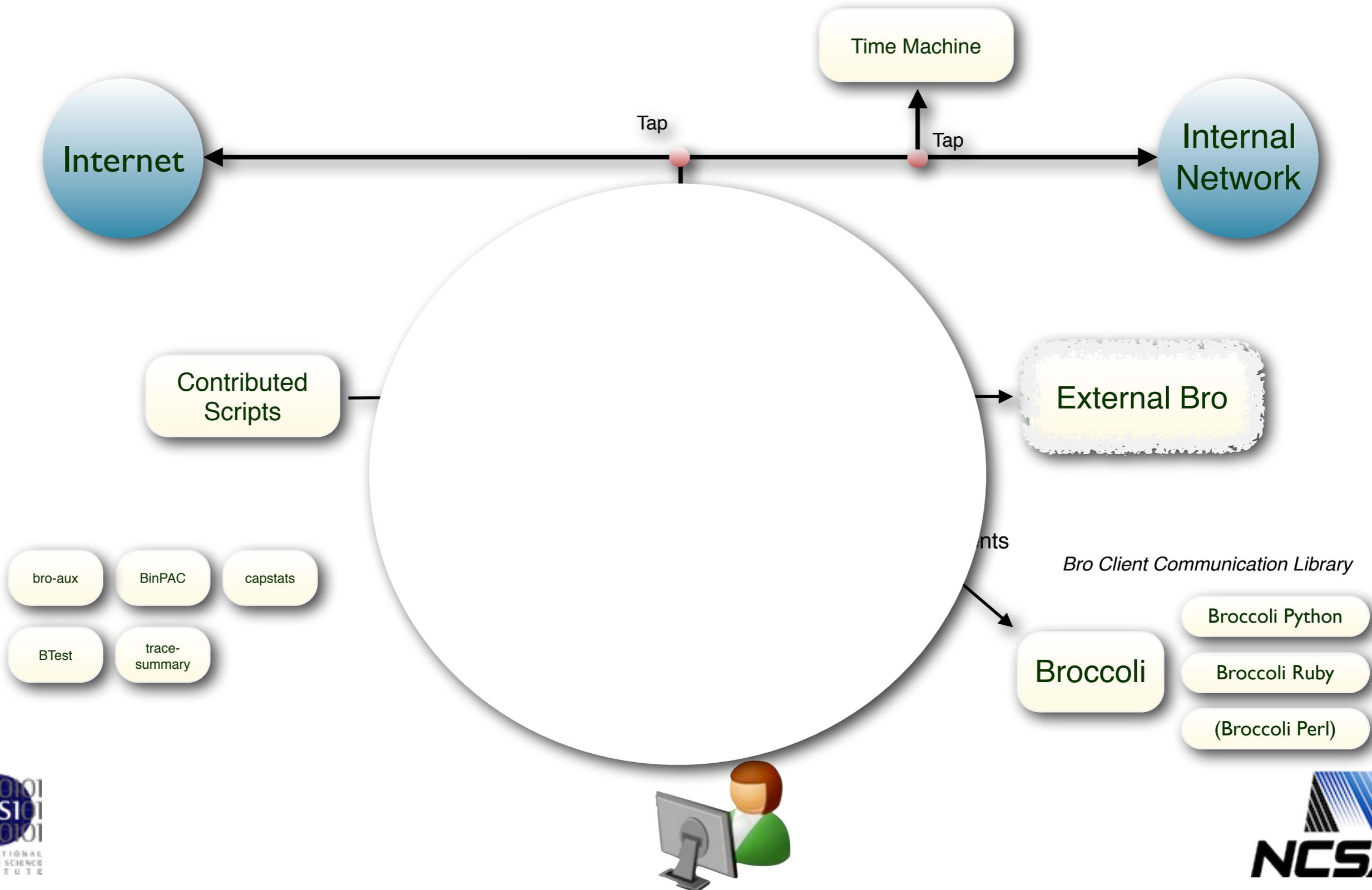
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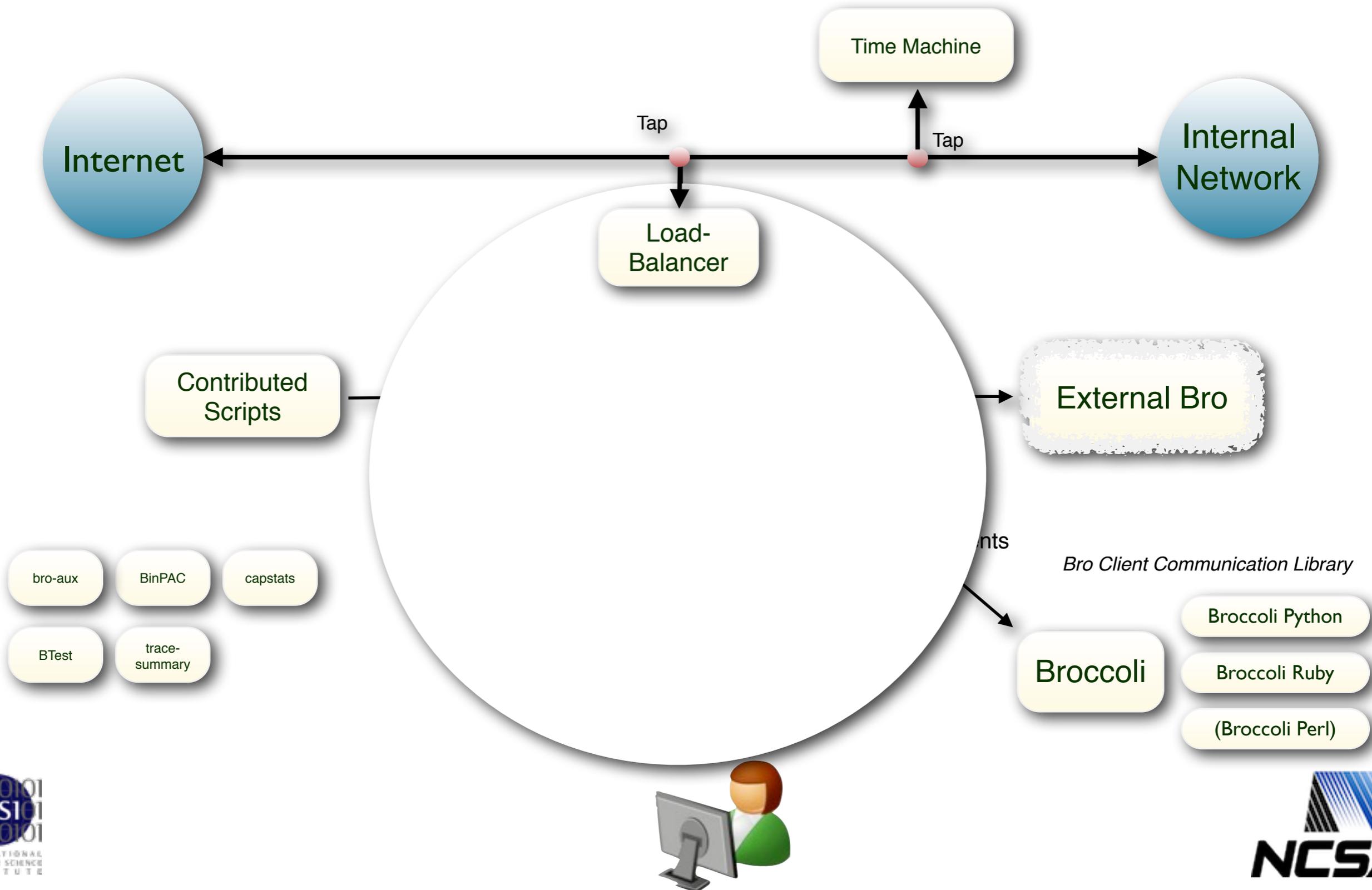
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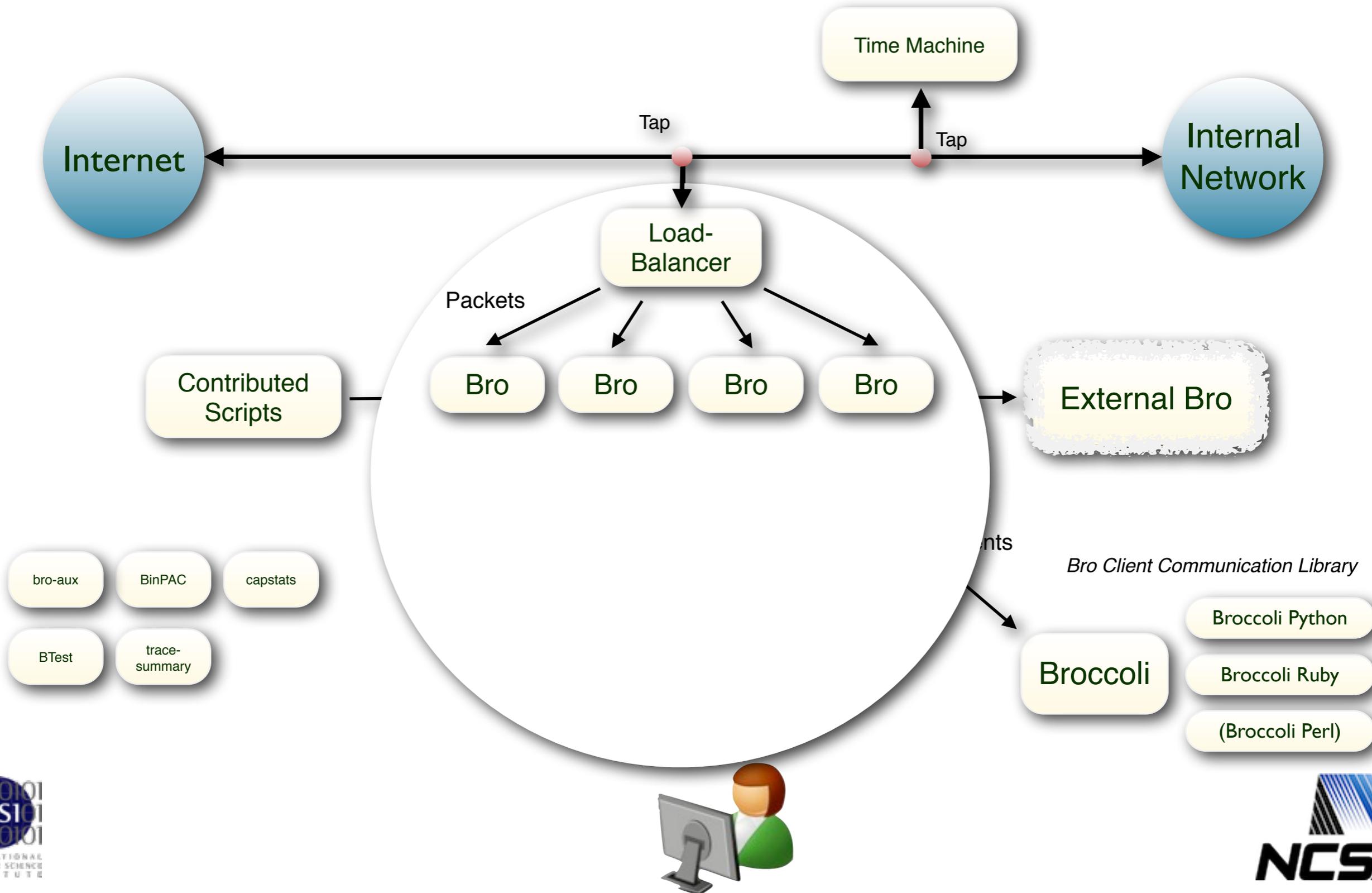
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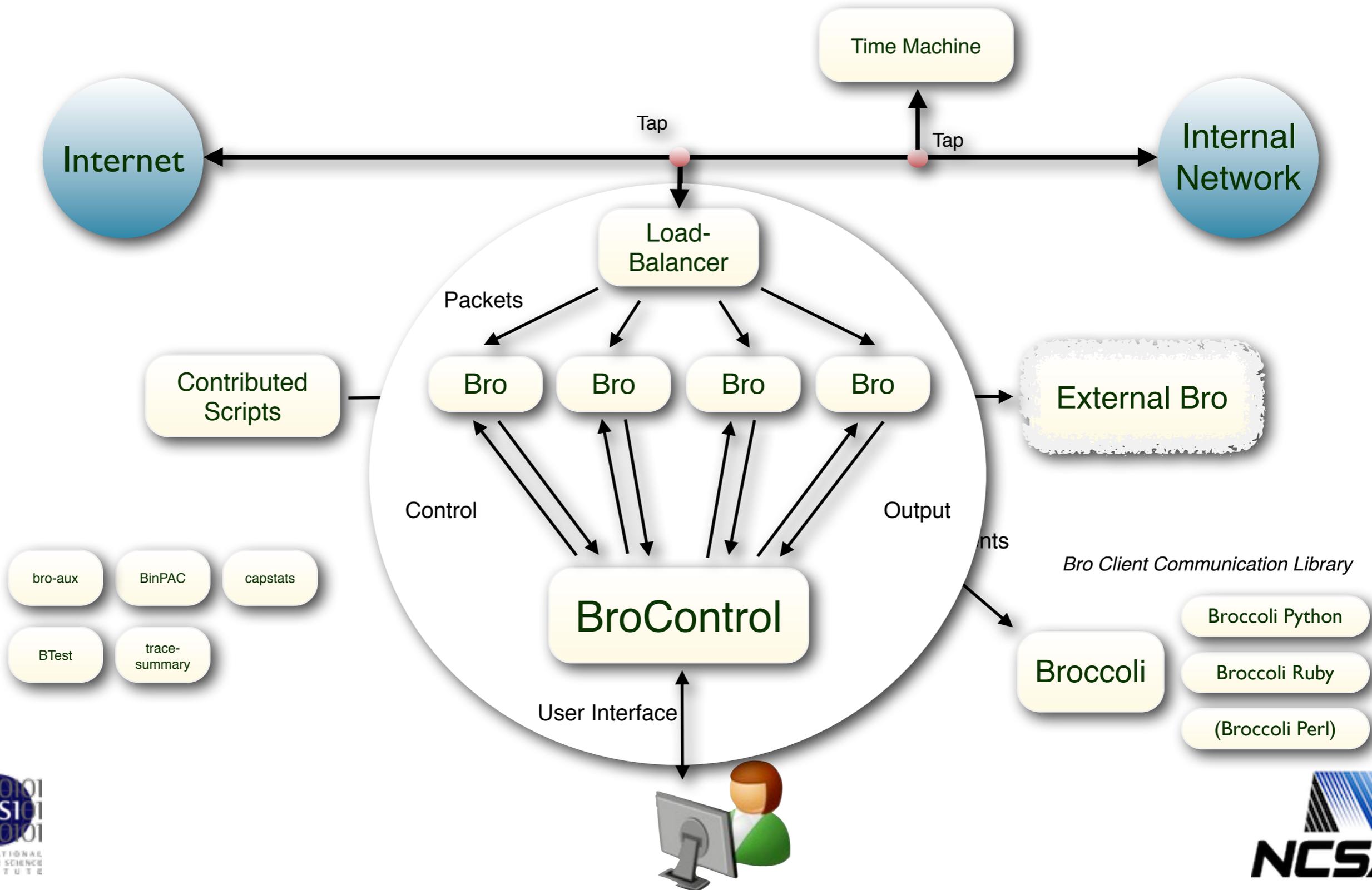
# Bro Cluster Ecosystem



# Bro Cluster Ecosystem



# Bro Cluster Ecosystem



# Bro Cluster Ecosystem

