

Base Jumping

Attacking the GSM baseband
and base station

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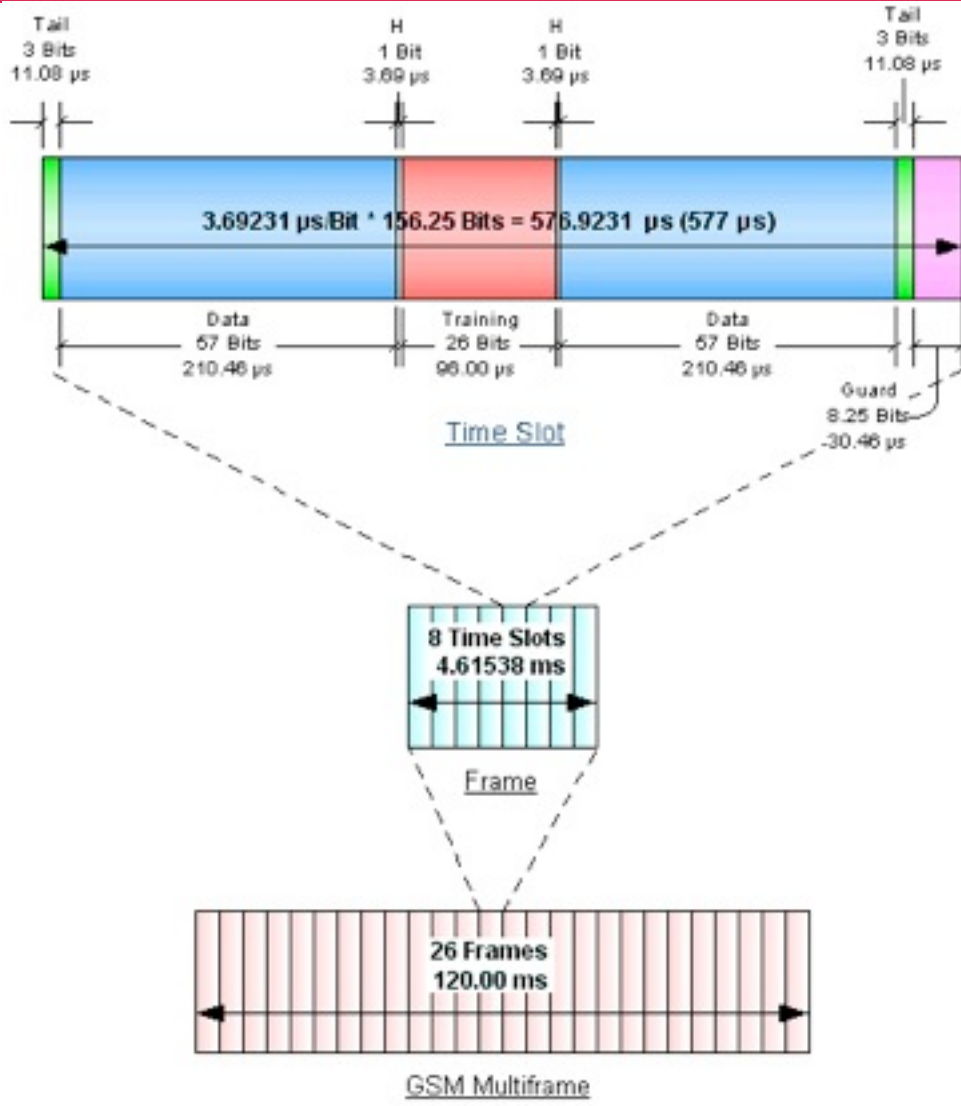
Overview

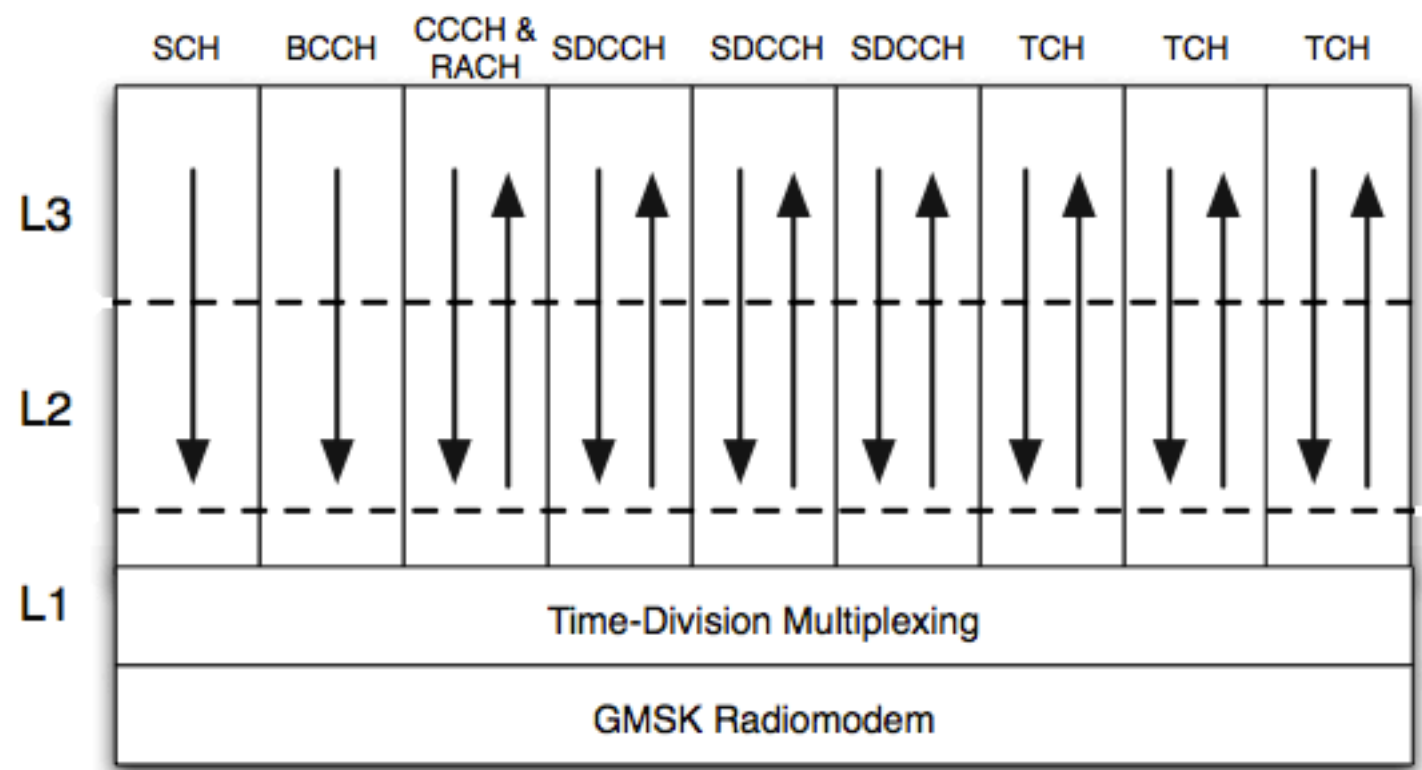
- ❖ GSM
- ❖ Base Station
- ❖ Base Band
- ❖ Conclusion

GSM: The Protocol

Documents

- ❖ Dozens of docs
- ❖ Thousands of pages
- ❖ Important one (defines L3)
 - ❖ GSM 04 08





Logical Channels

Broadcast Channels (BCH)

Broadcast Control Channel (BCCH)

Frequency Correction Channel (FCCH)

Synchronization Channel (SCH)

Cell Broadcast Channel (CBCH)

Logical Channels, cont.

❖ **Common Control Channels (CCCH)**

Paging Channel (PCH)

Random Access Channel (RACH)

Access Grant Channel (AGCH)

Logical Channels, cont.

Standalone Dedicated Control Channel (SDCCH)

Associated Control Channel (ACCH)

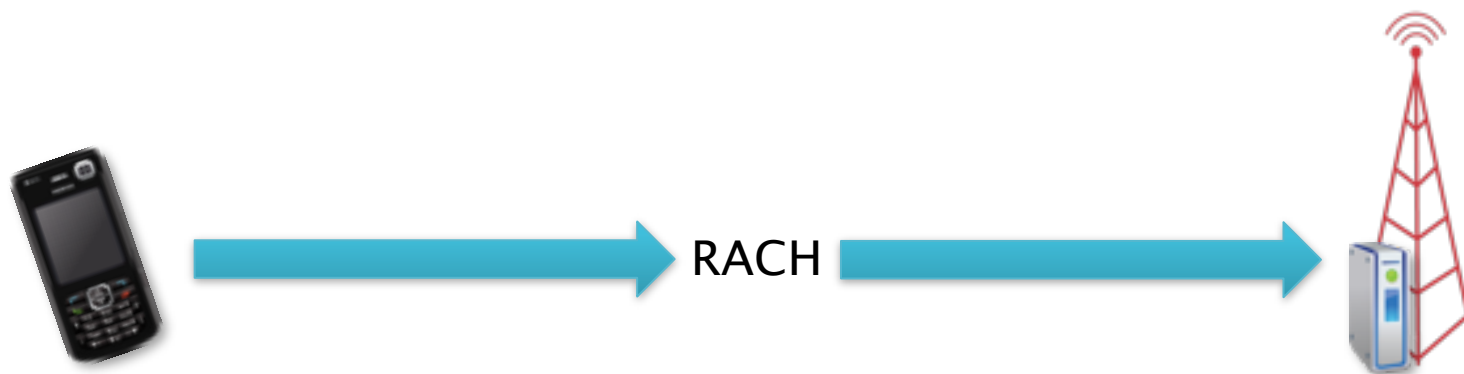
Fast Associated Control Channel (FACCH)

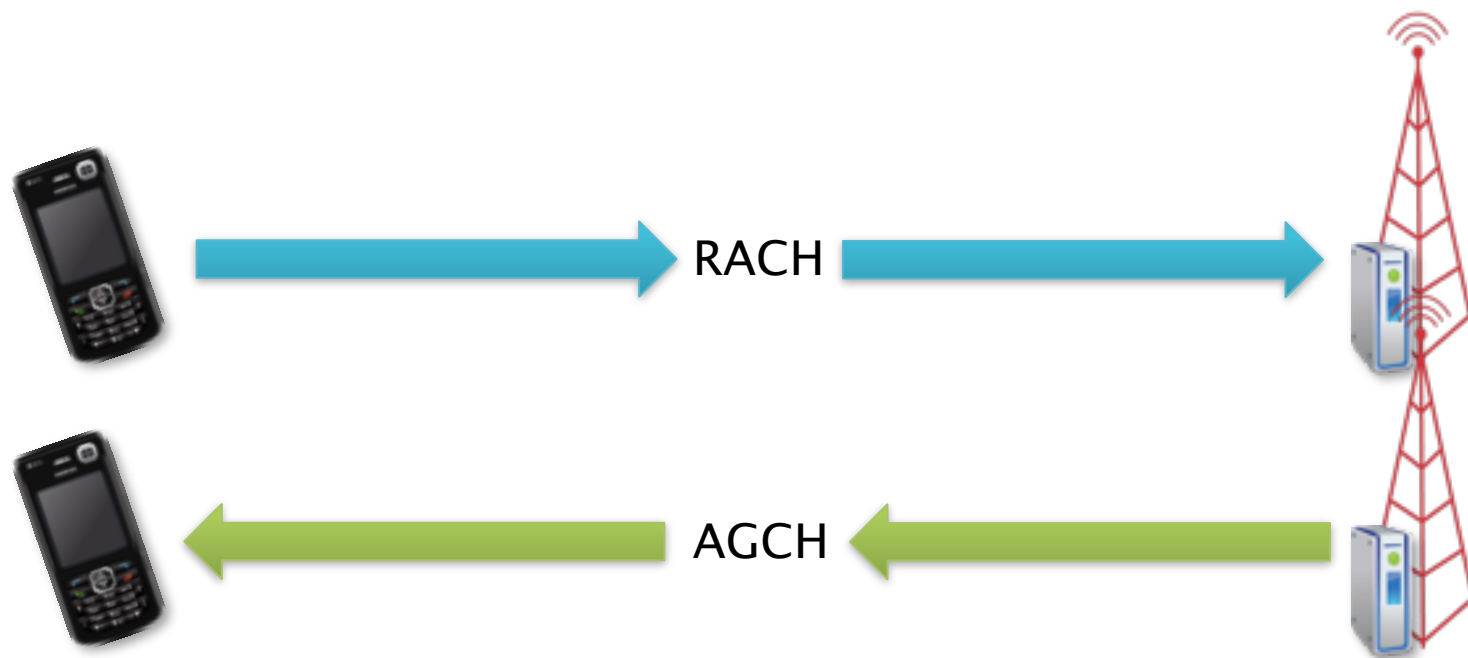
Slow Associated Control Channel (SACCH)

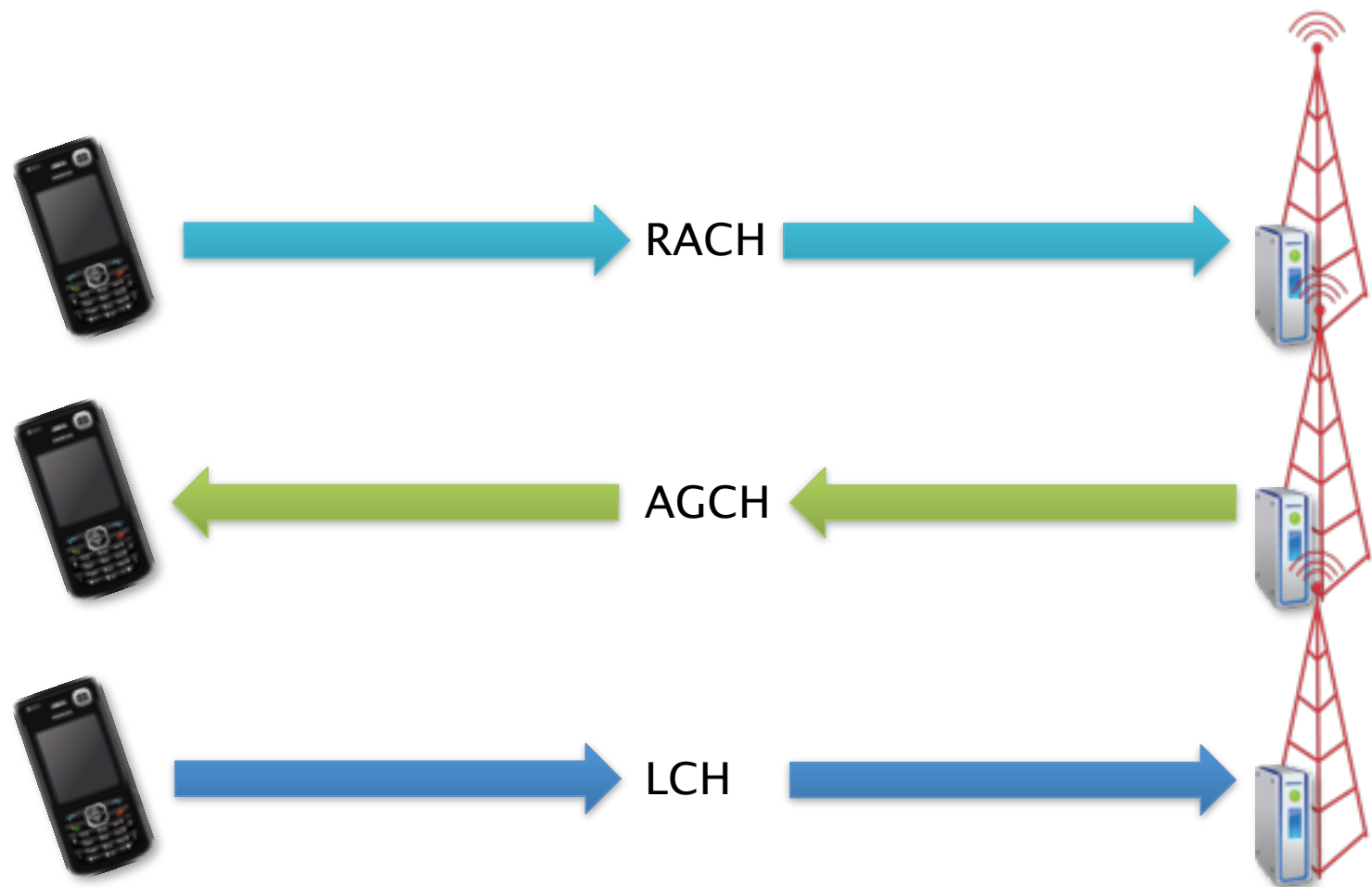
GSM Channels

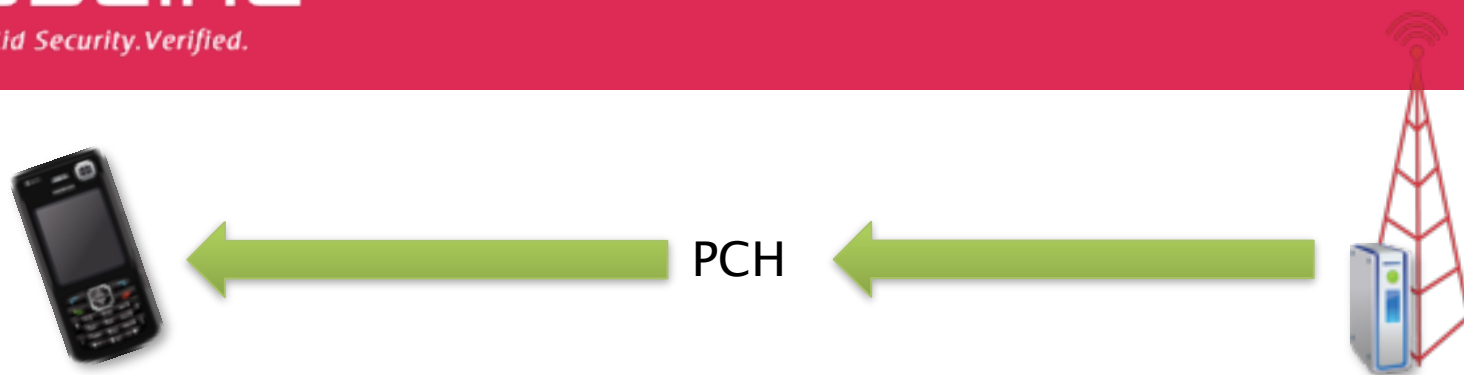
- ❖ Opening a channel is slow
 - ❖ Can take seconds
- ❖ Specific channels for specific uses

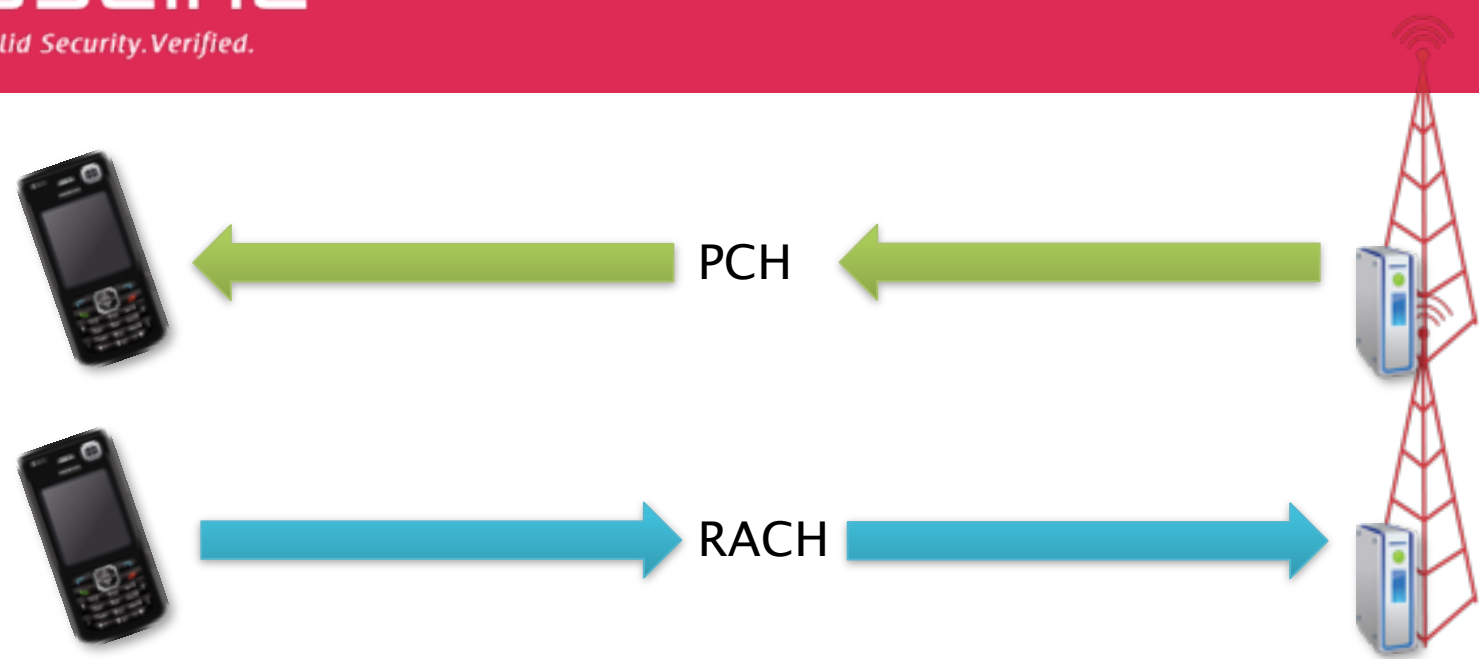
Opening a channel

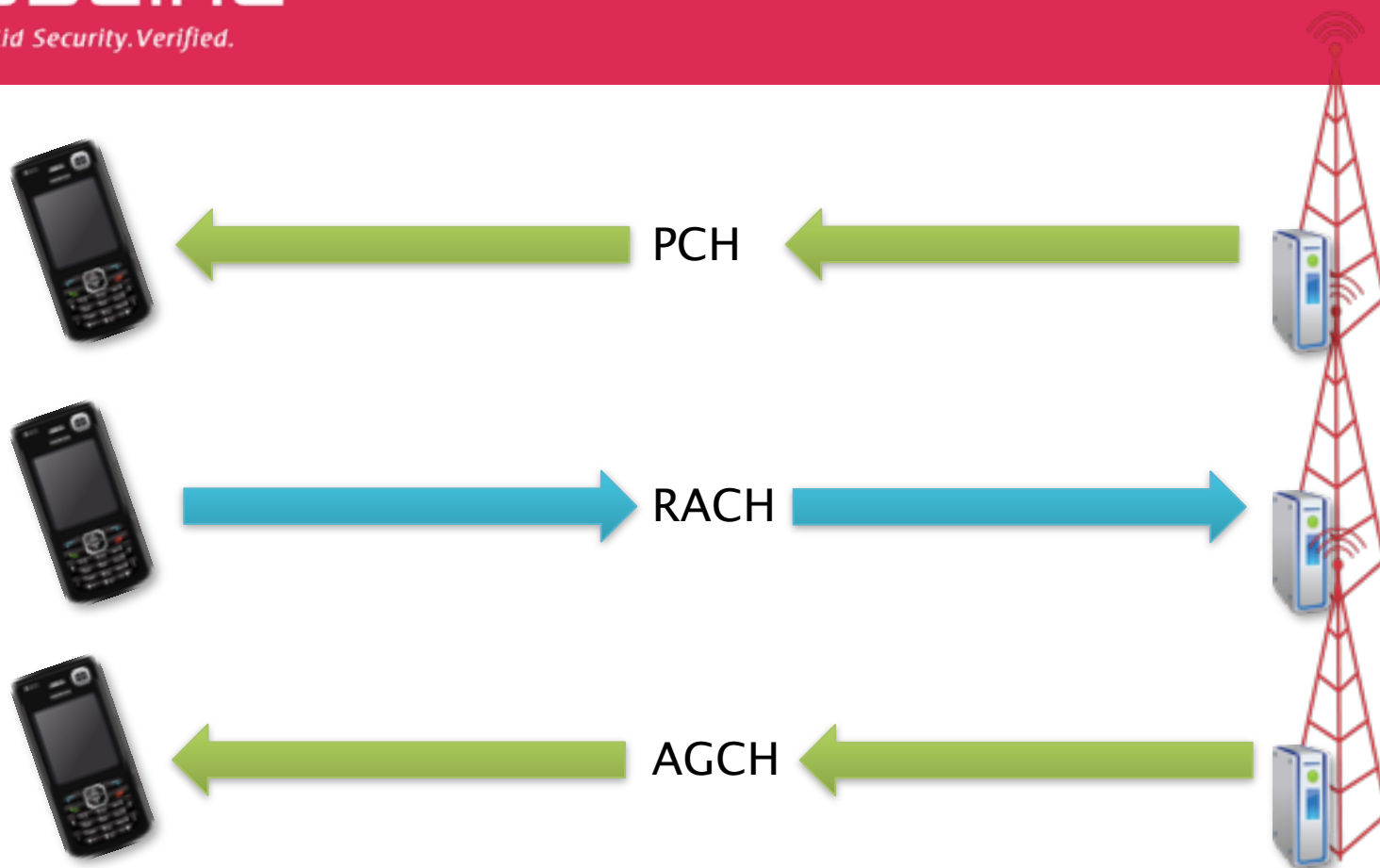


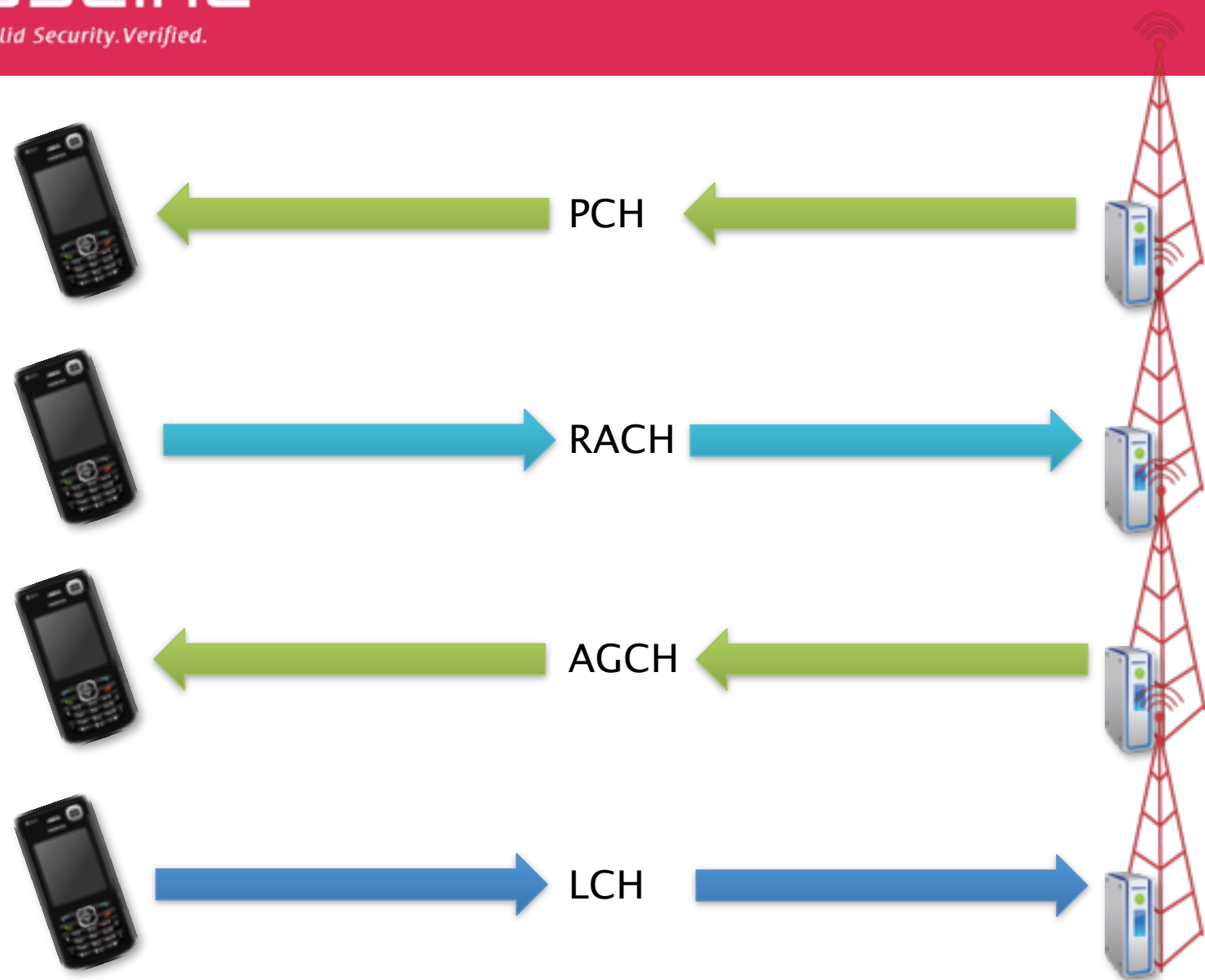


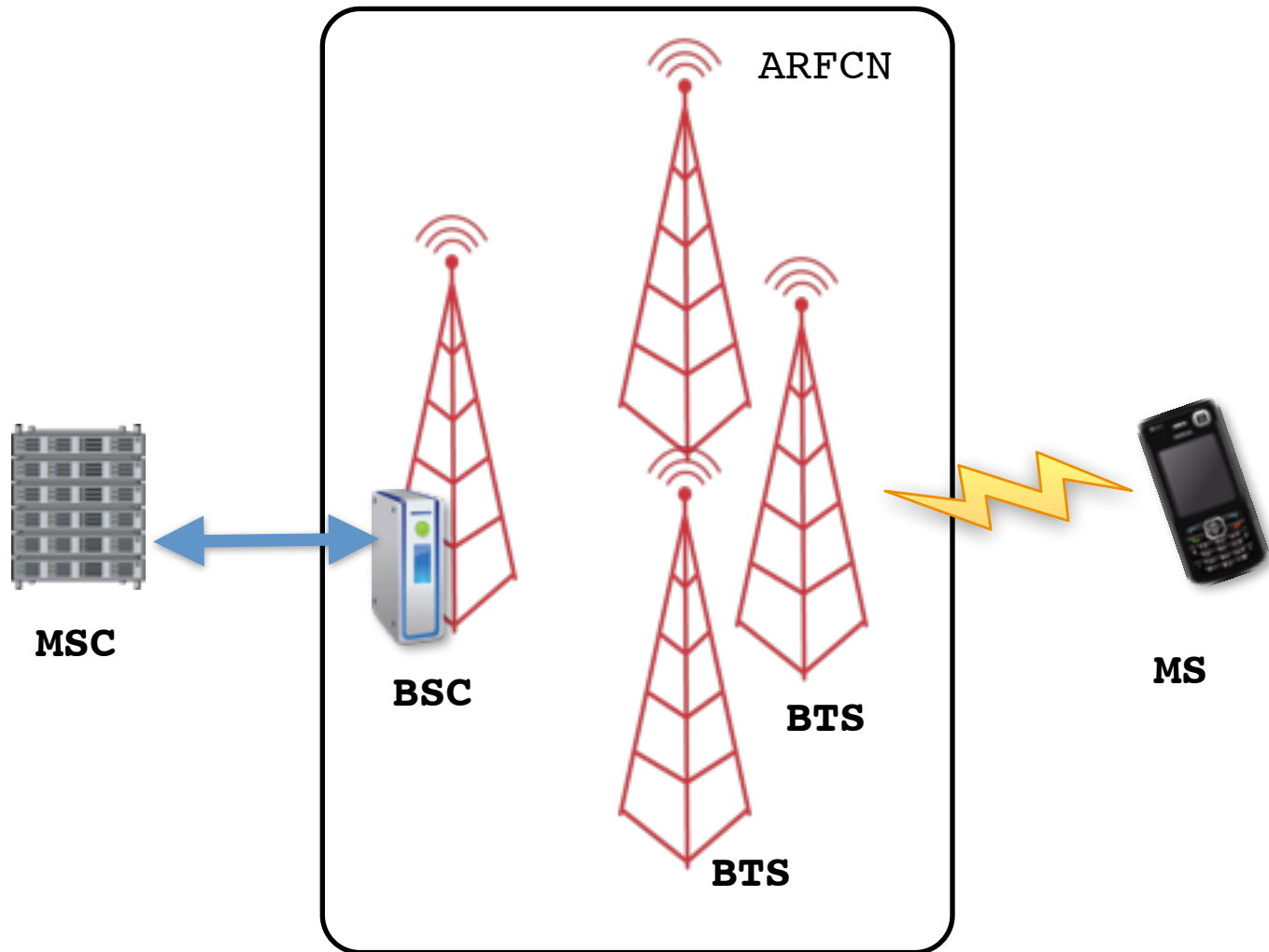


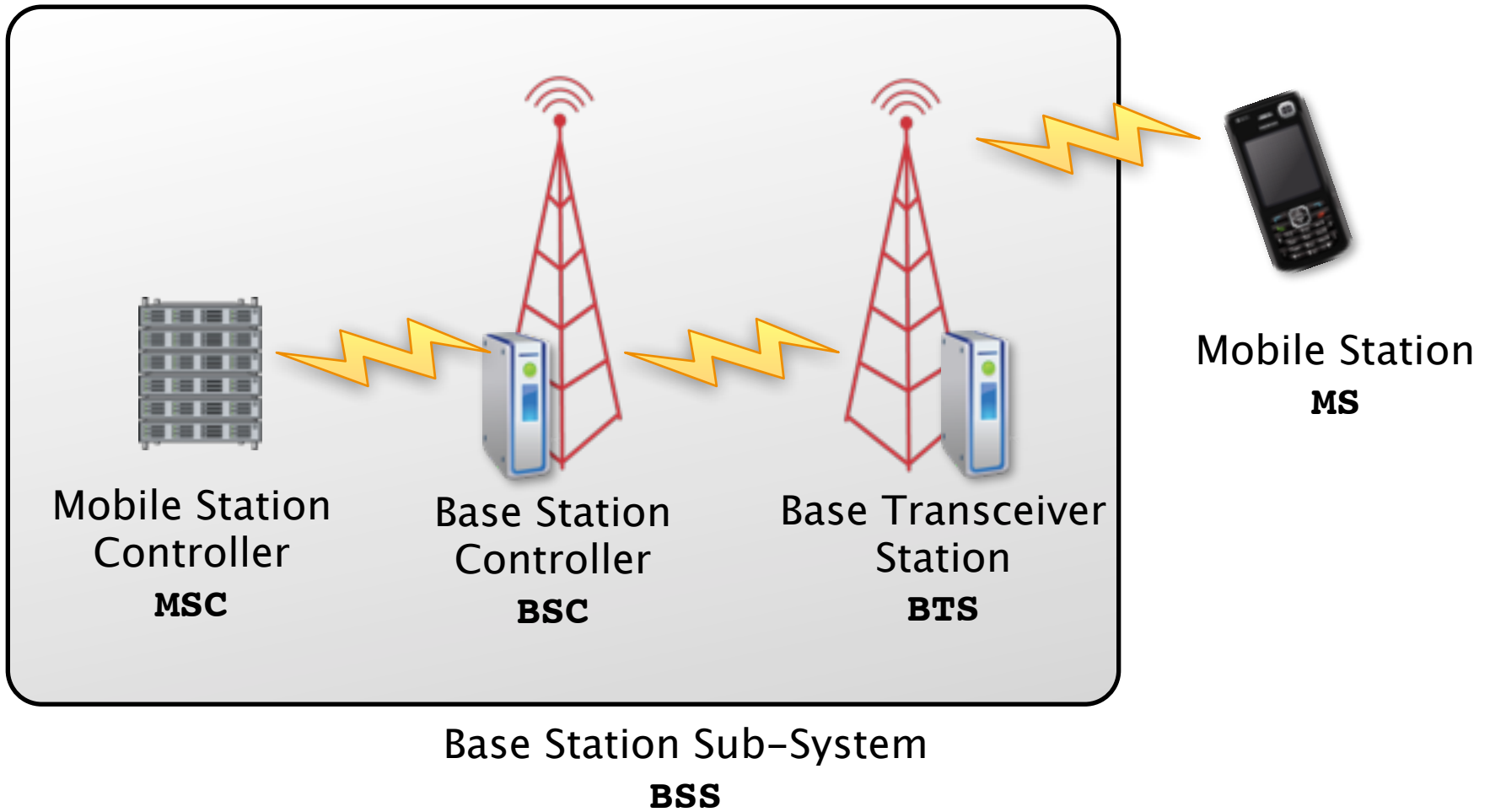


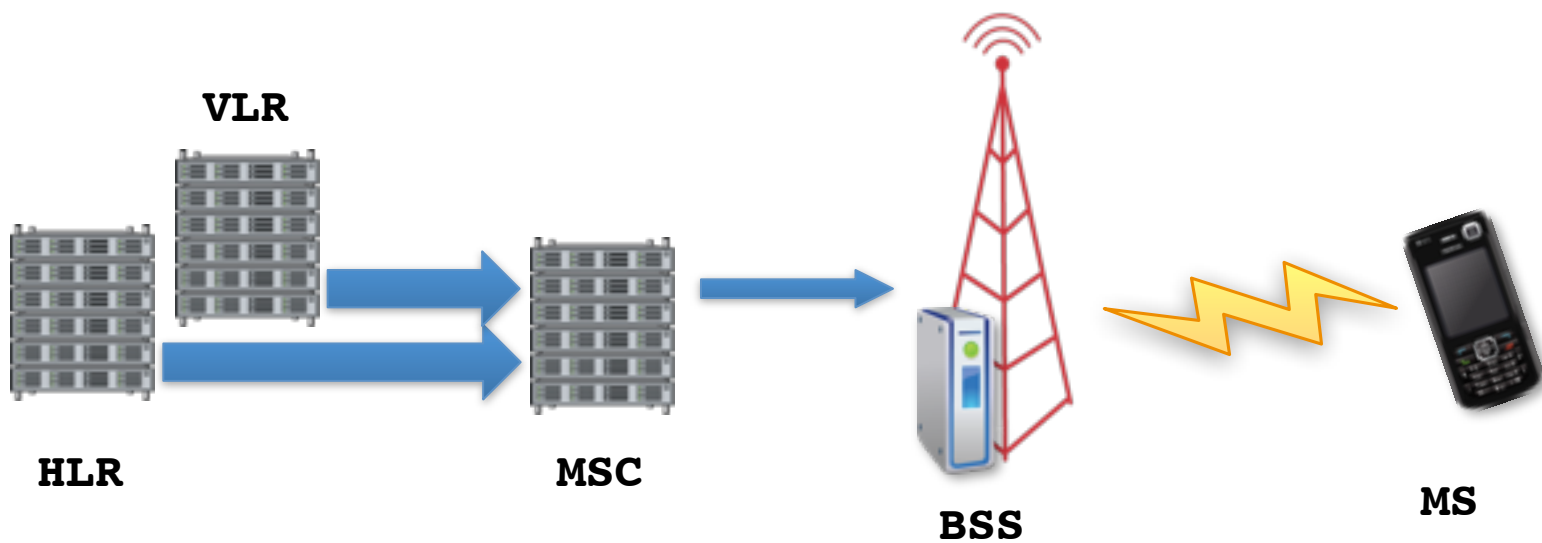








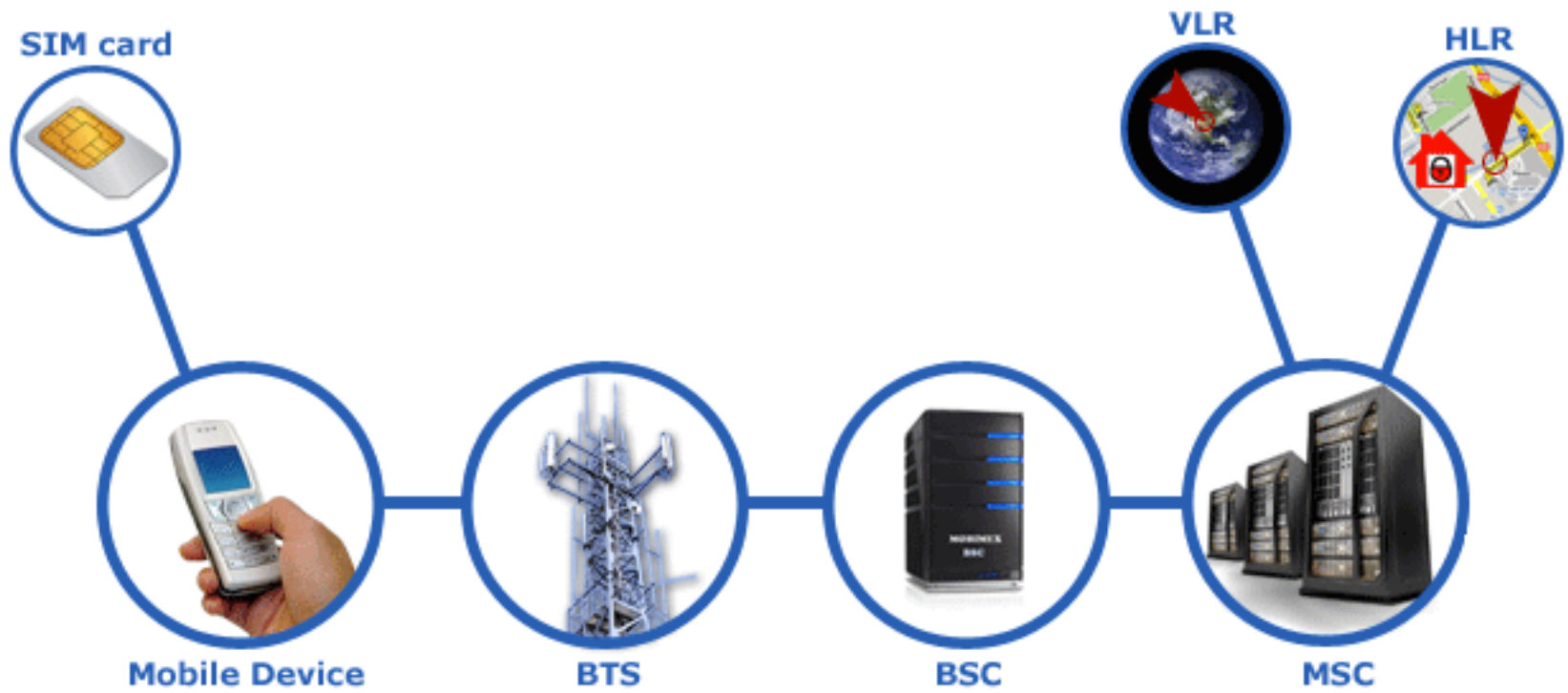


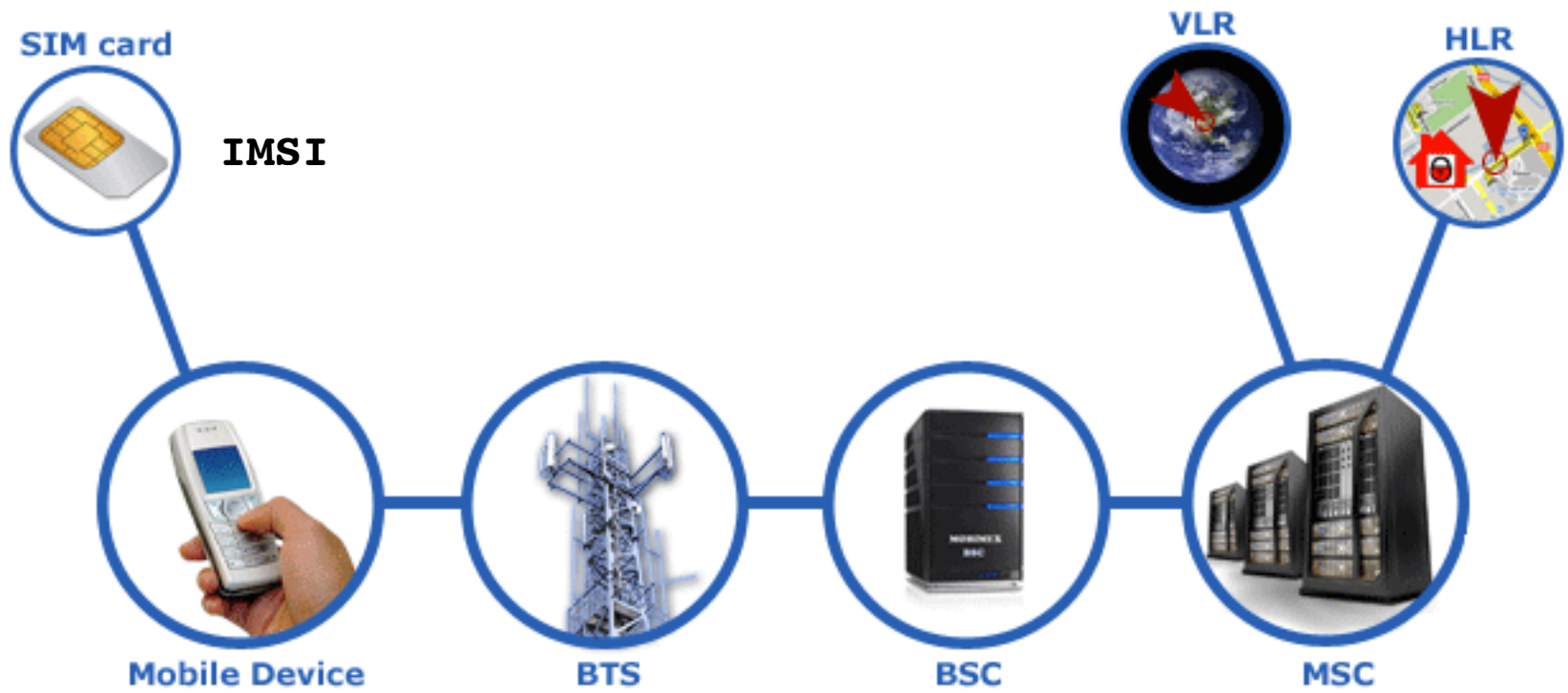


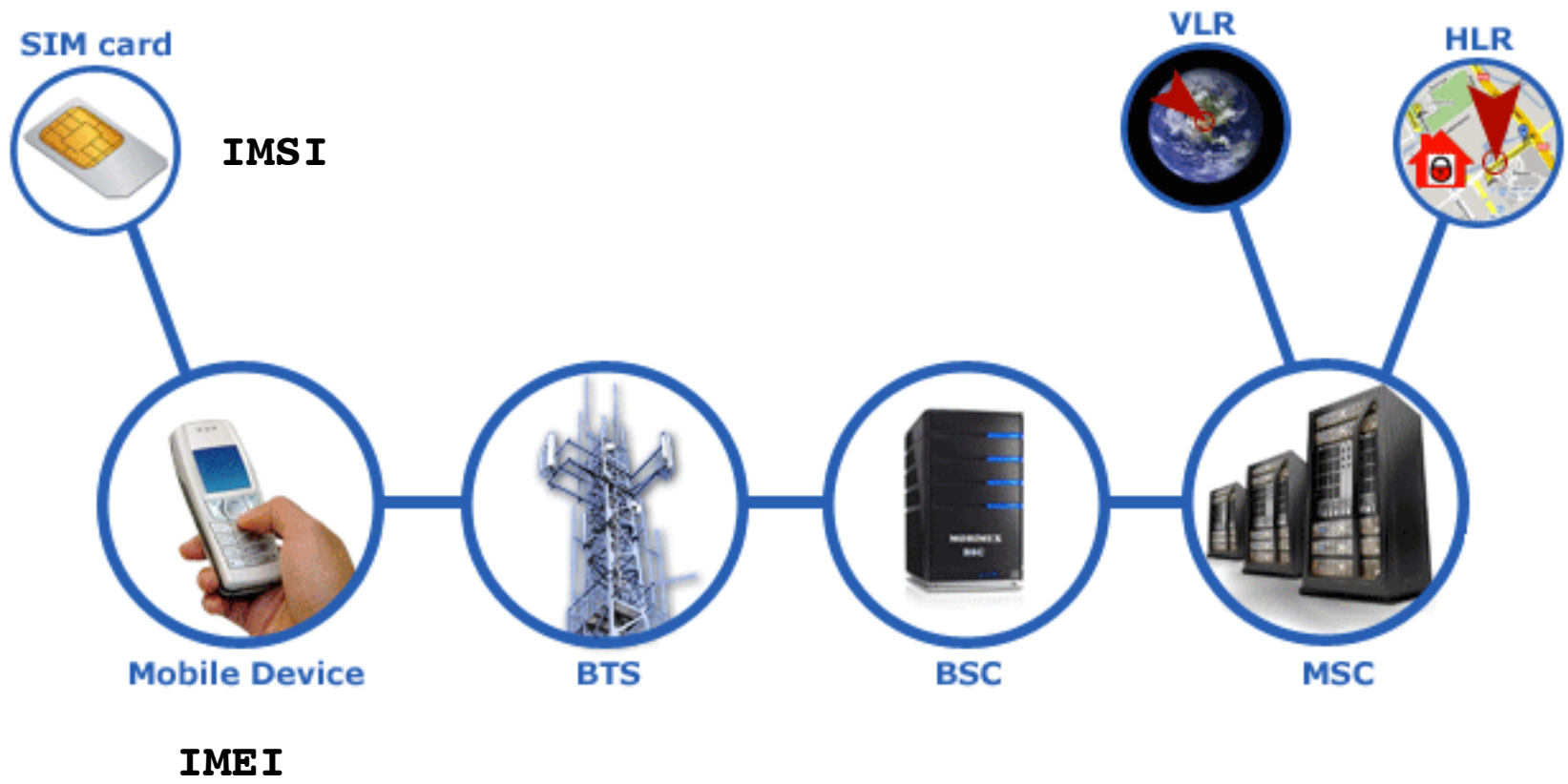
Mobile Identifiers

IMSI		
MCC	MNC	MSIN
3 digits	2 or 3 digits	Max 10 digits
<----- Not to Exceed 15 Digits ----->		

IMEI		
TAC	SNR	Spare
8 Digits	6 Digits	1 Digit







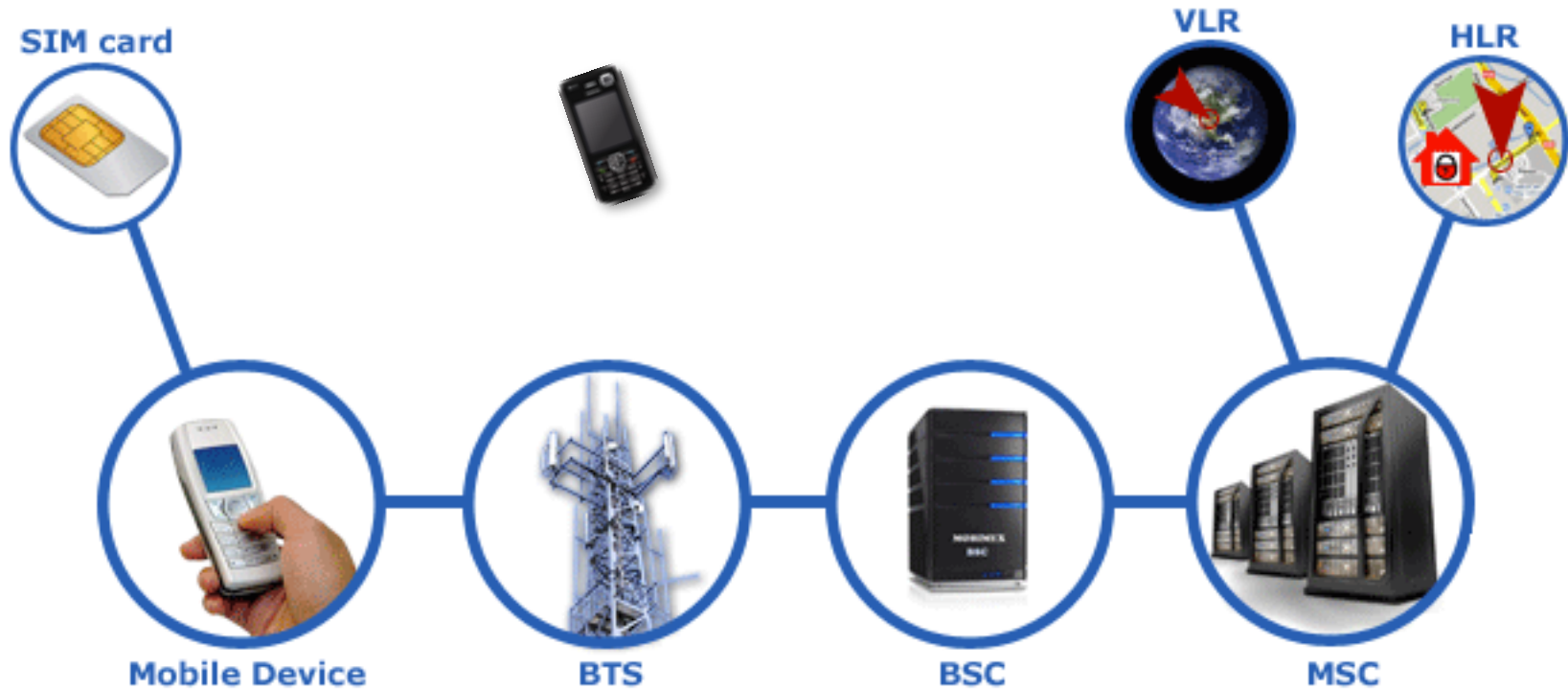
GSM Attacks



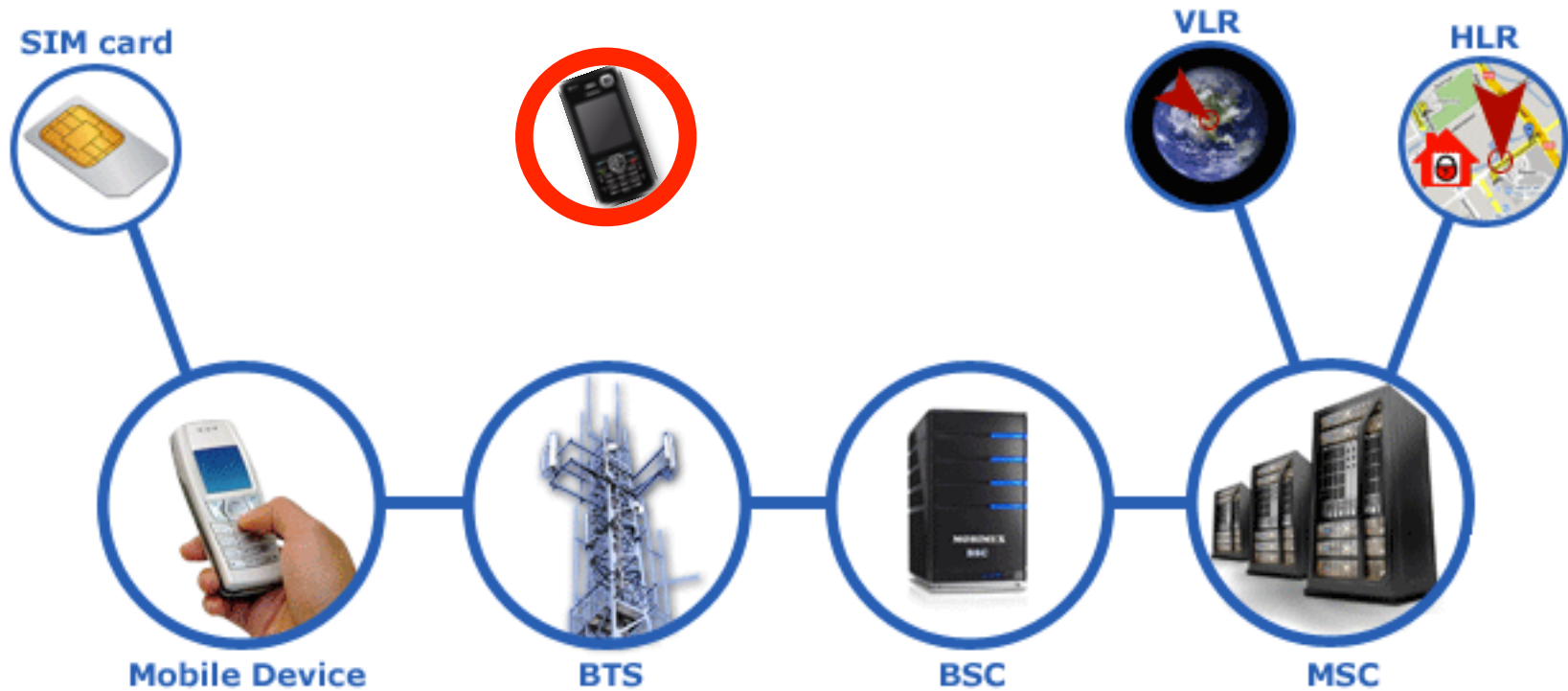
RACHell

- ❖ Request channel allocation
- ❖ Flood the BSS with requests
- ❖ First announced by Dieter Spaar at DeepSec
- ❖ Prevent everyone from using that cell

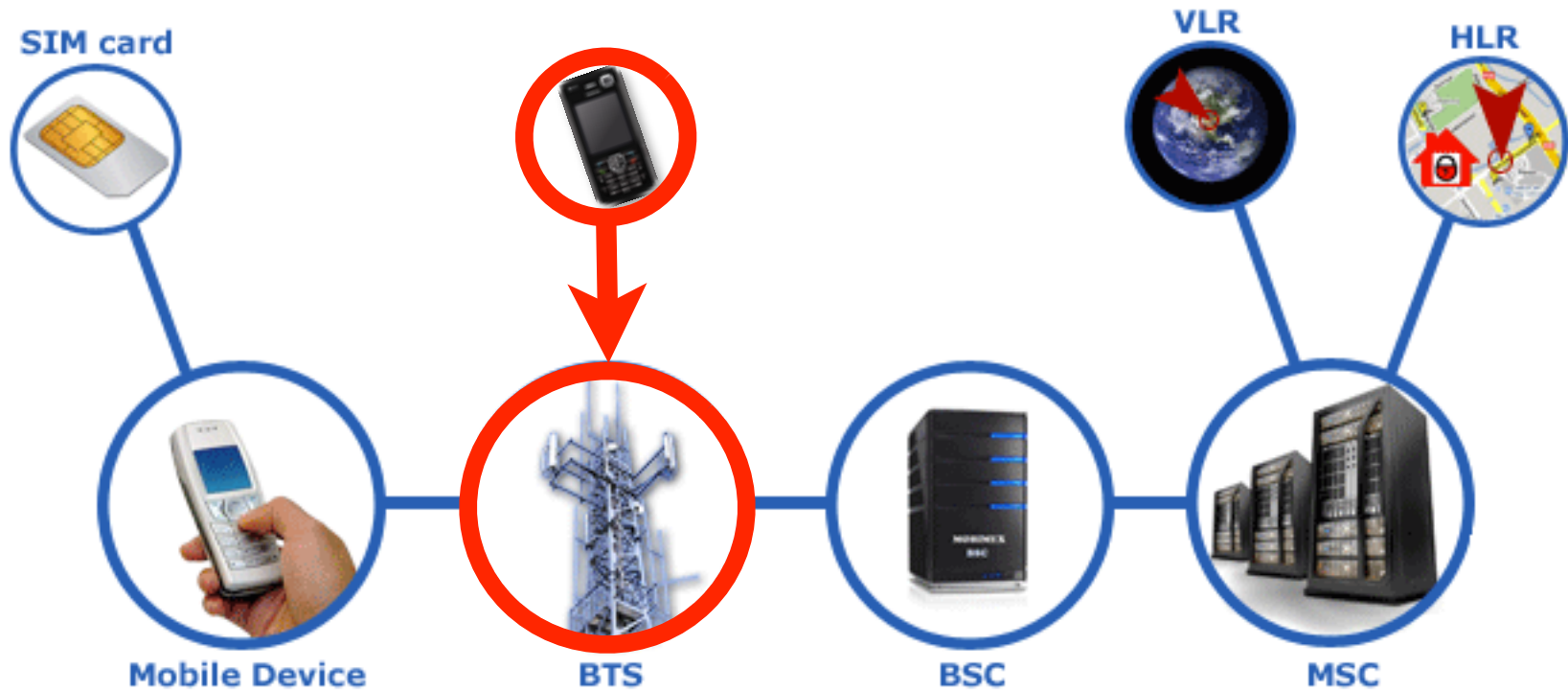
RACHell



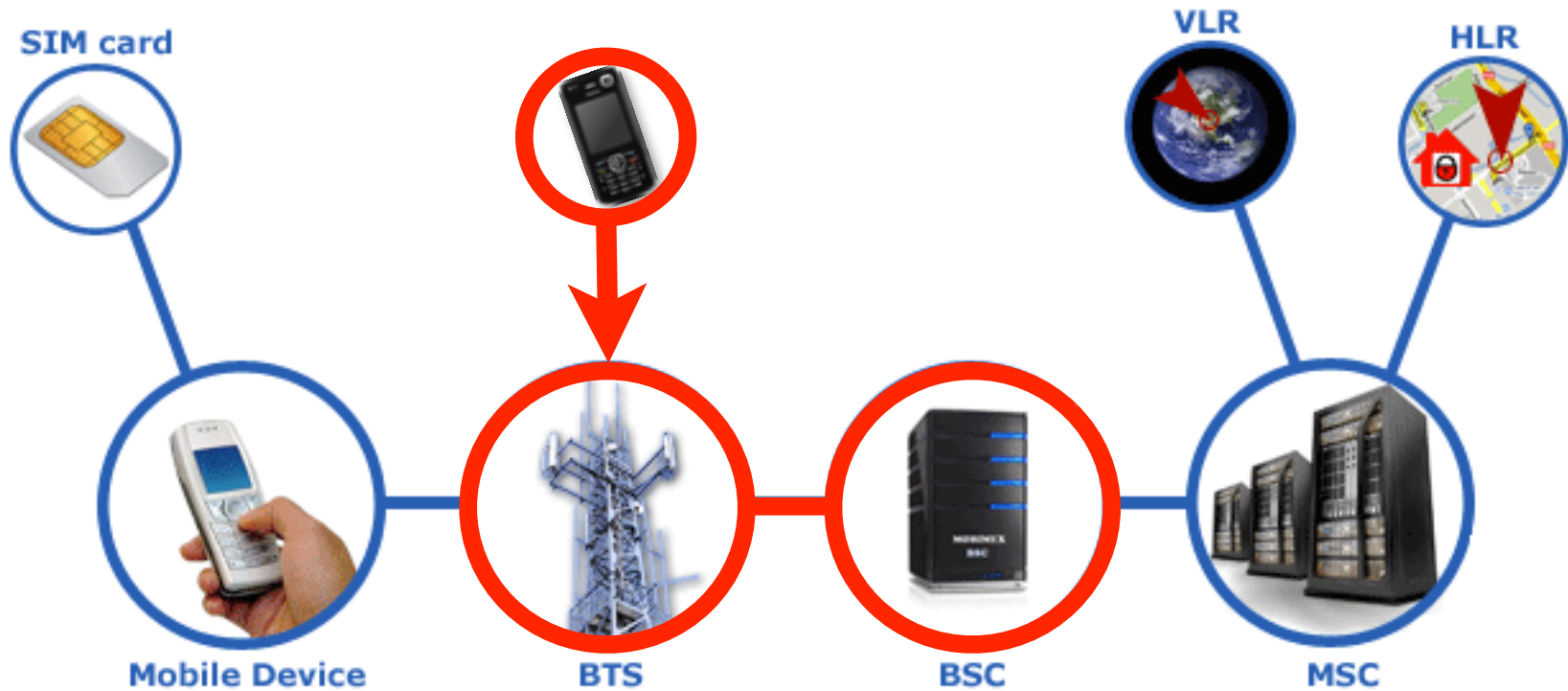
RACHell



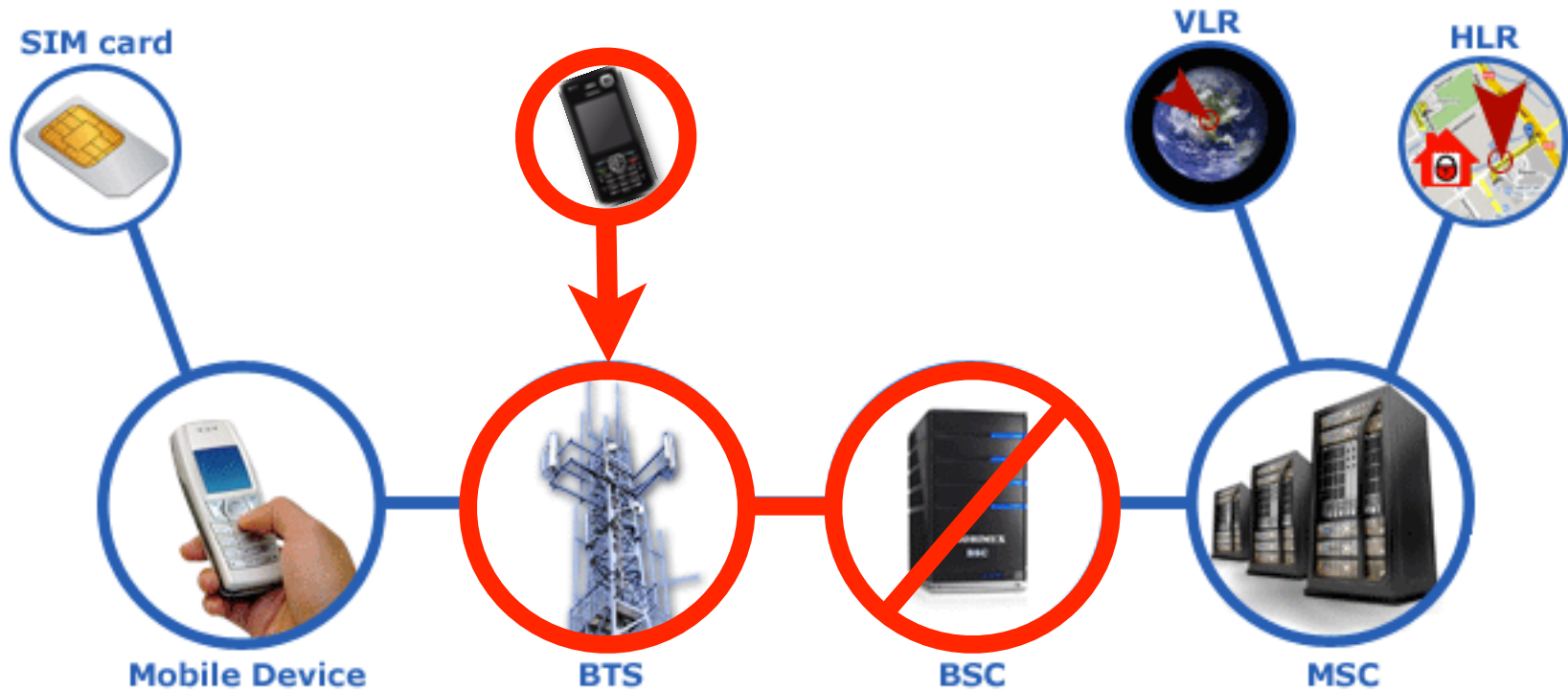
RACHell



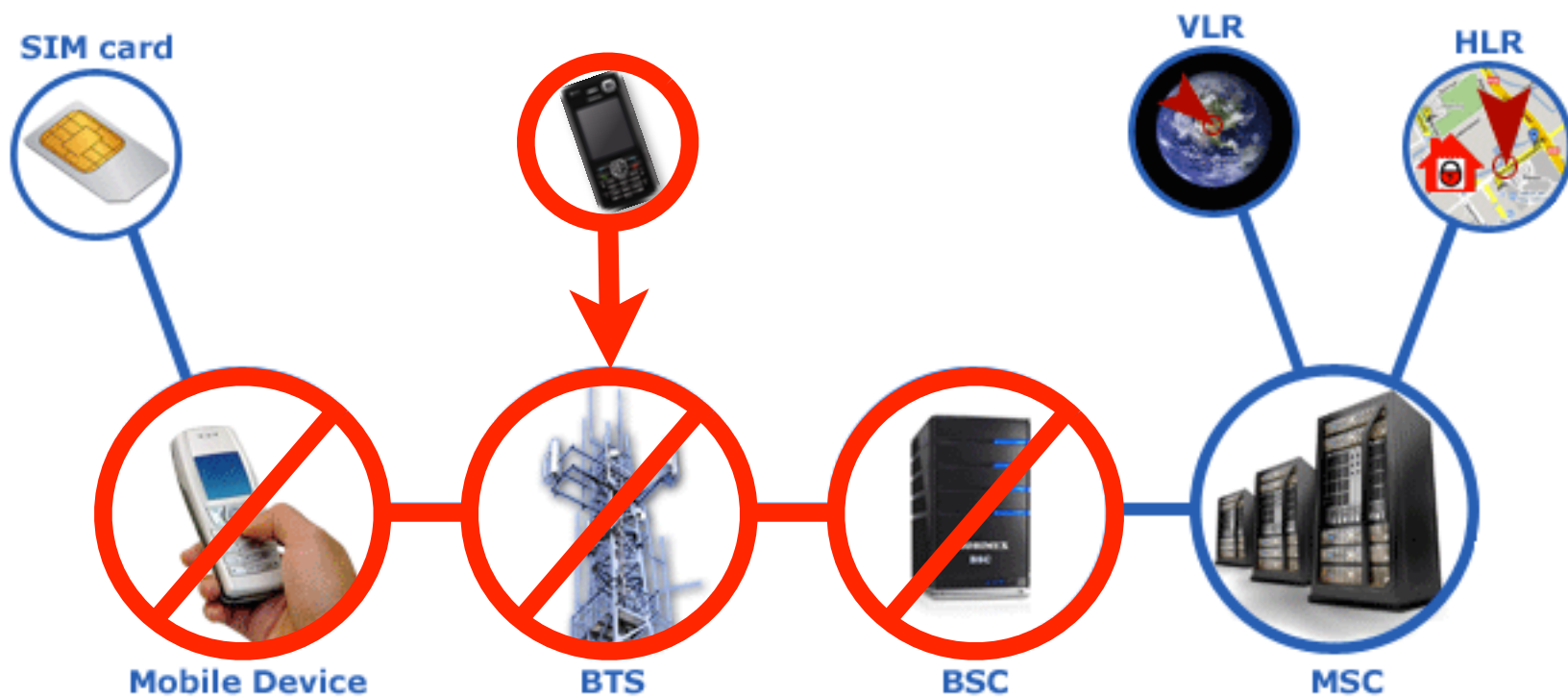
RACHell



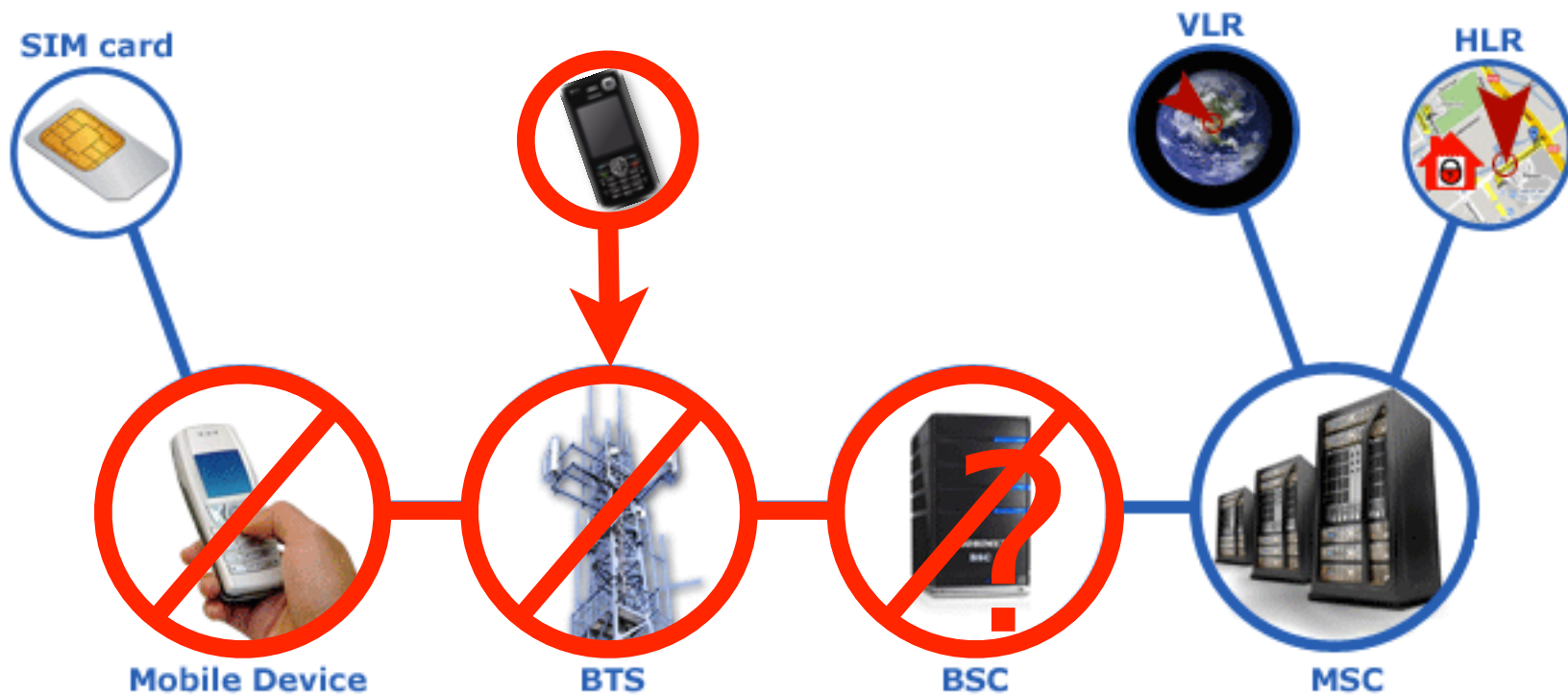
RACHell



RACHell



RACHell



Cell information
NCO: 0 NMO: 1
MSC Rev: 99+ SGSN Rev: 99+
Cell DTM support: No EDGE supp
Cell 54684 Arfcn=96 PCH Period
last EGPRS TBF:
UL: Cs=MCS2 tfi=16 Bsn= 0 Slo
Slot 1 V(s)=3 v(r)=1

Arfcns: 96
T3312: 00:14:34
T3314: --:--:--
GSM Last SDCCH:

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NCO: 0 NMO: 1
MSC Rev: 99+ SGSN Rev: 99+
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Arfcns 96
T3312: 00:14:34
T3314: --:--:--
GSM Last SDCCH:

Our Target

Demo – RACHell

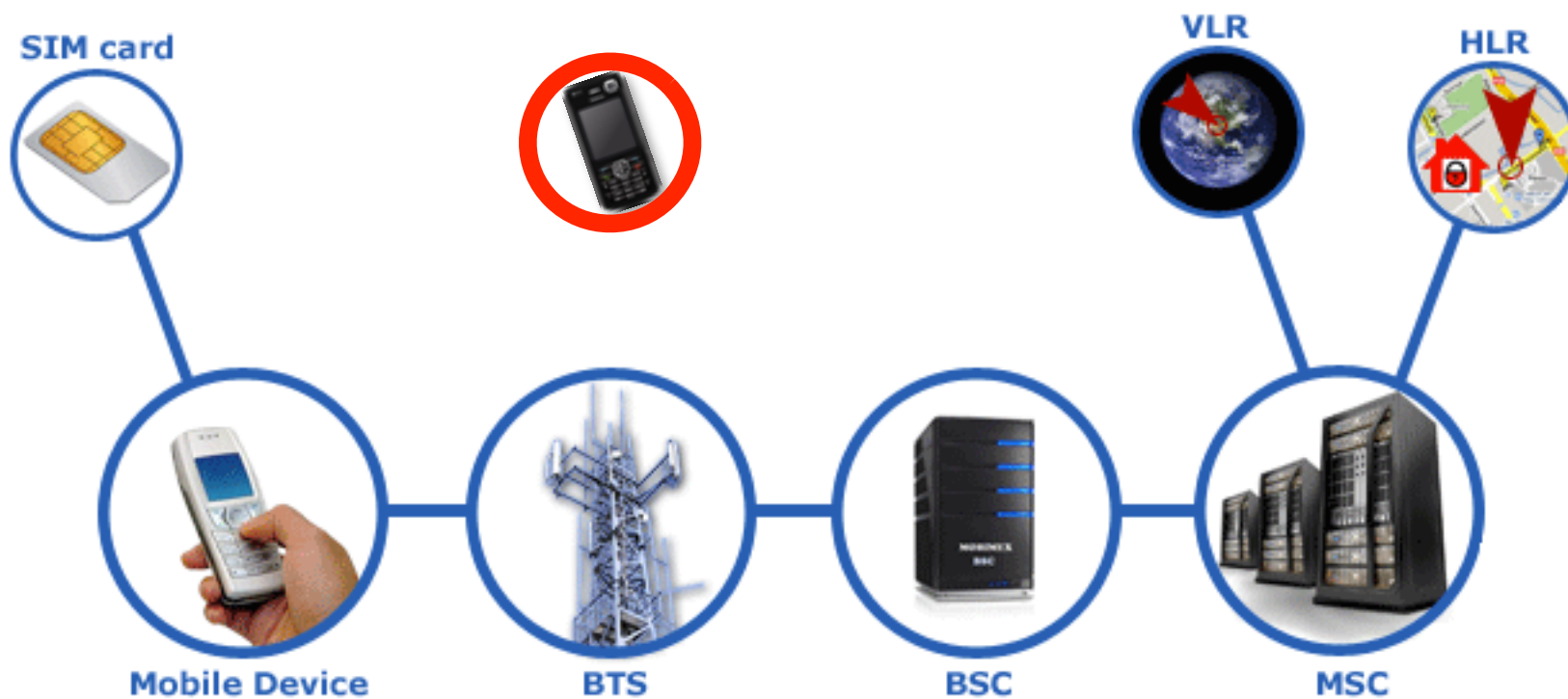
IMSI Flood

- ❖ Send IMSI ATTACH messages
- ❖ pre-authentication
- ❖ Overload the HLR/VLR infrastructure
- ❖ Prevent everyone using the network

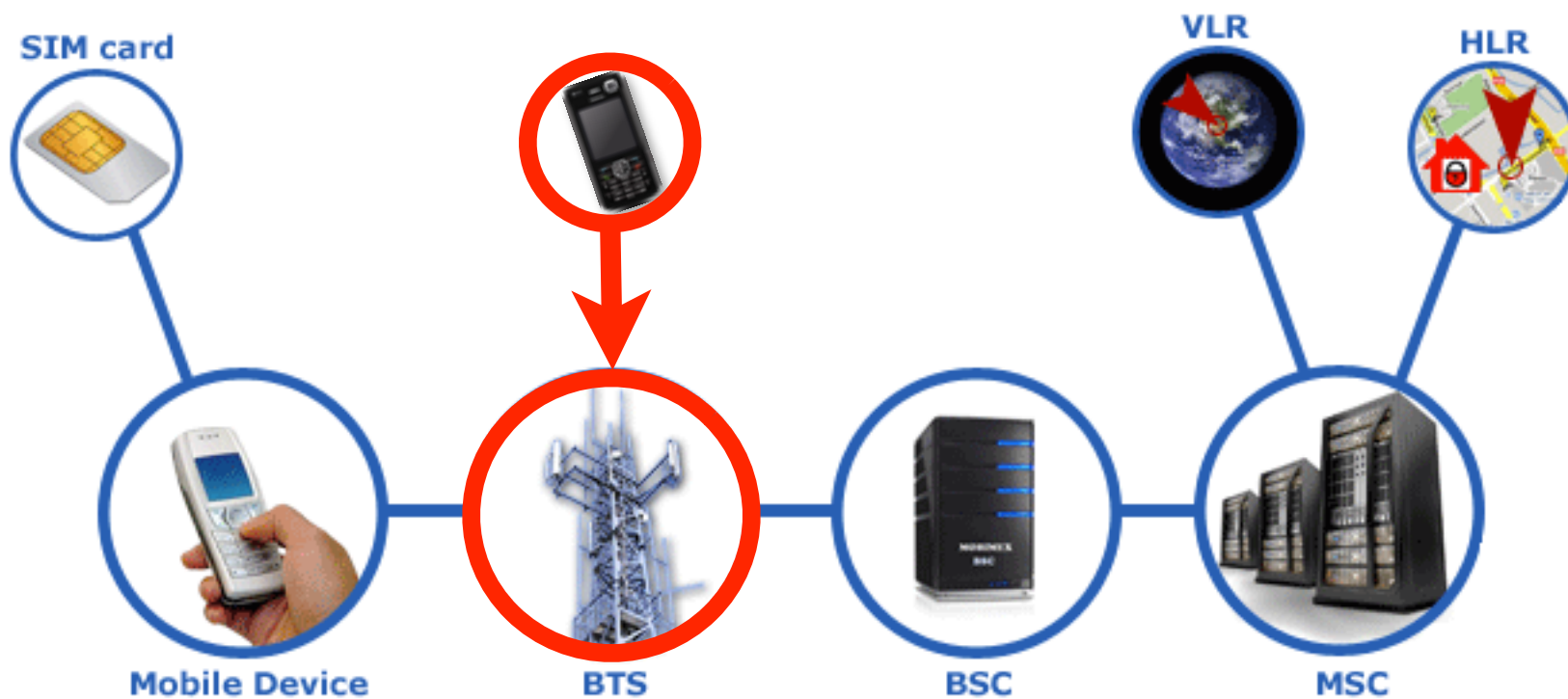
IMSI Flood



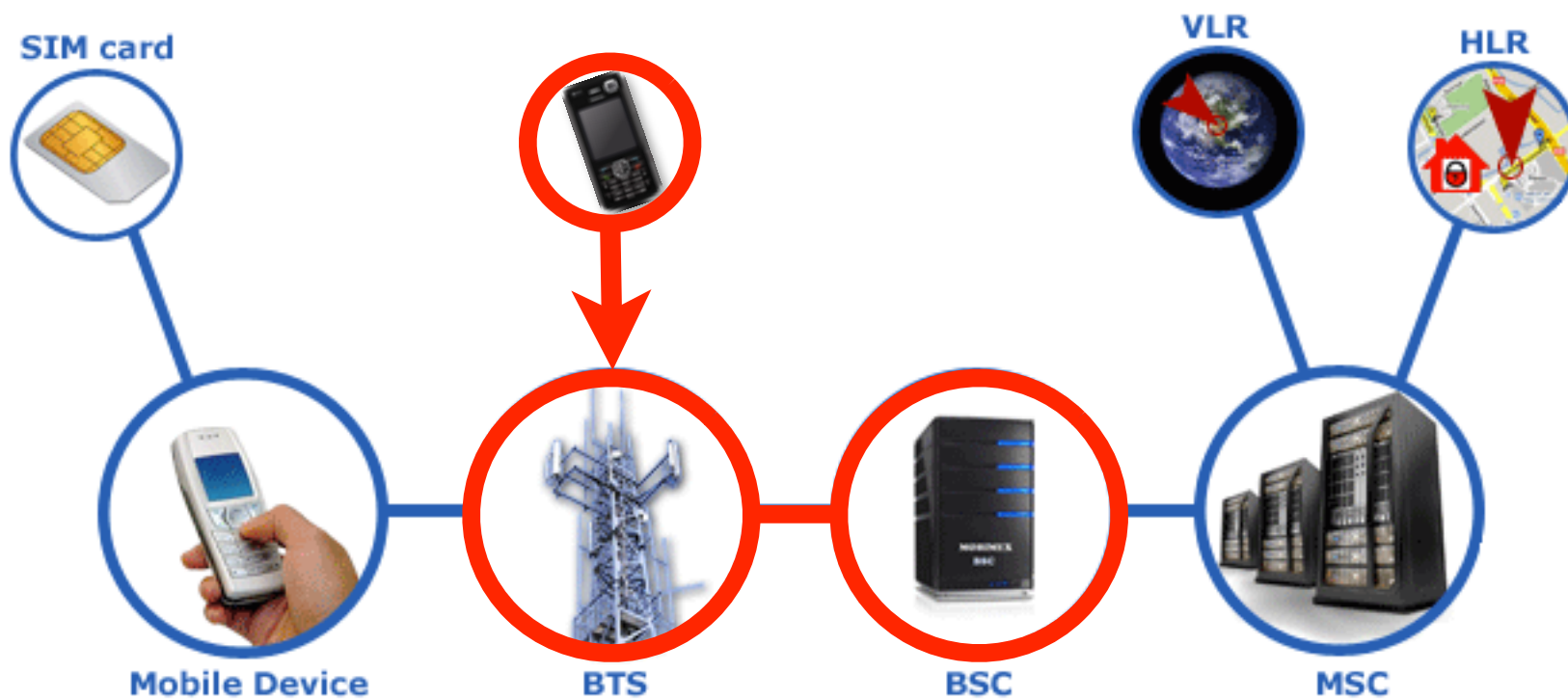
IMSI Flood



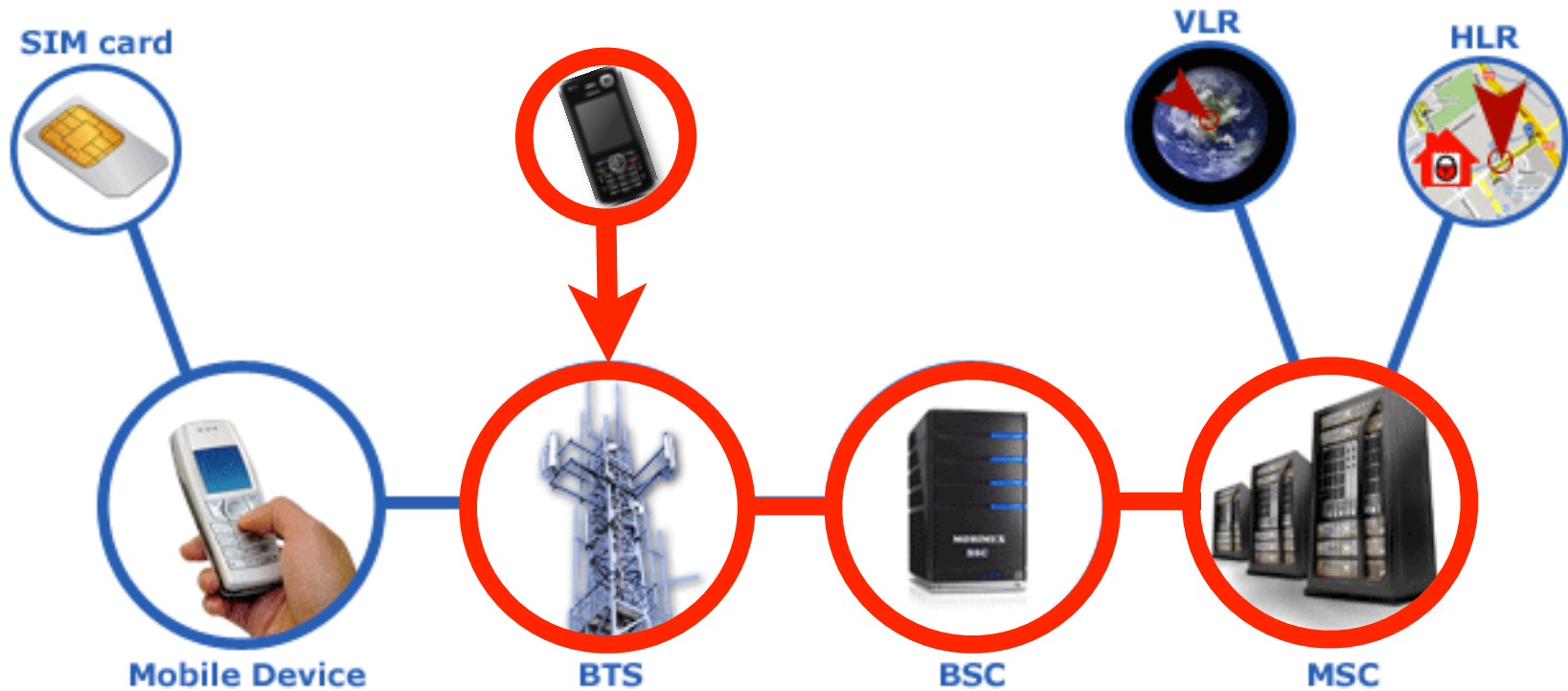
IMSI Flood



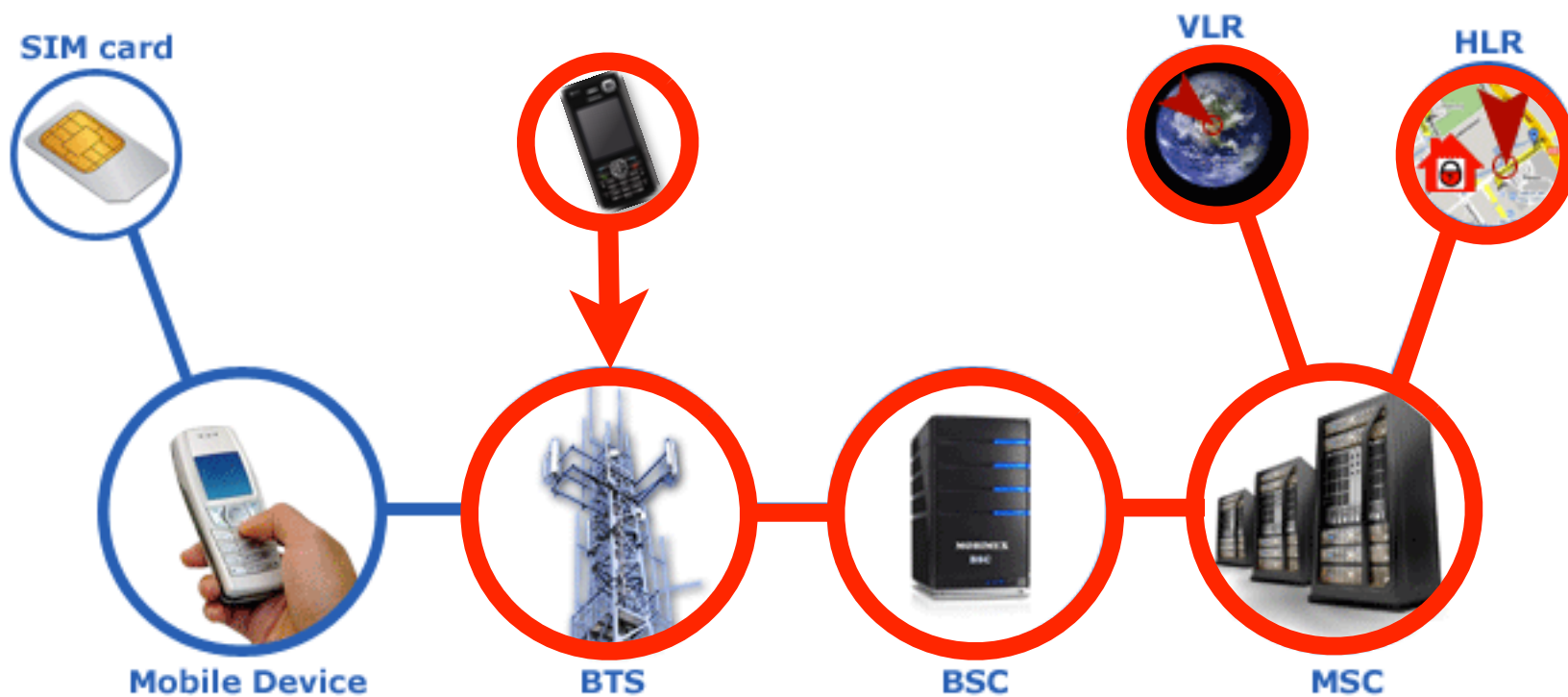
IMSI Flood



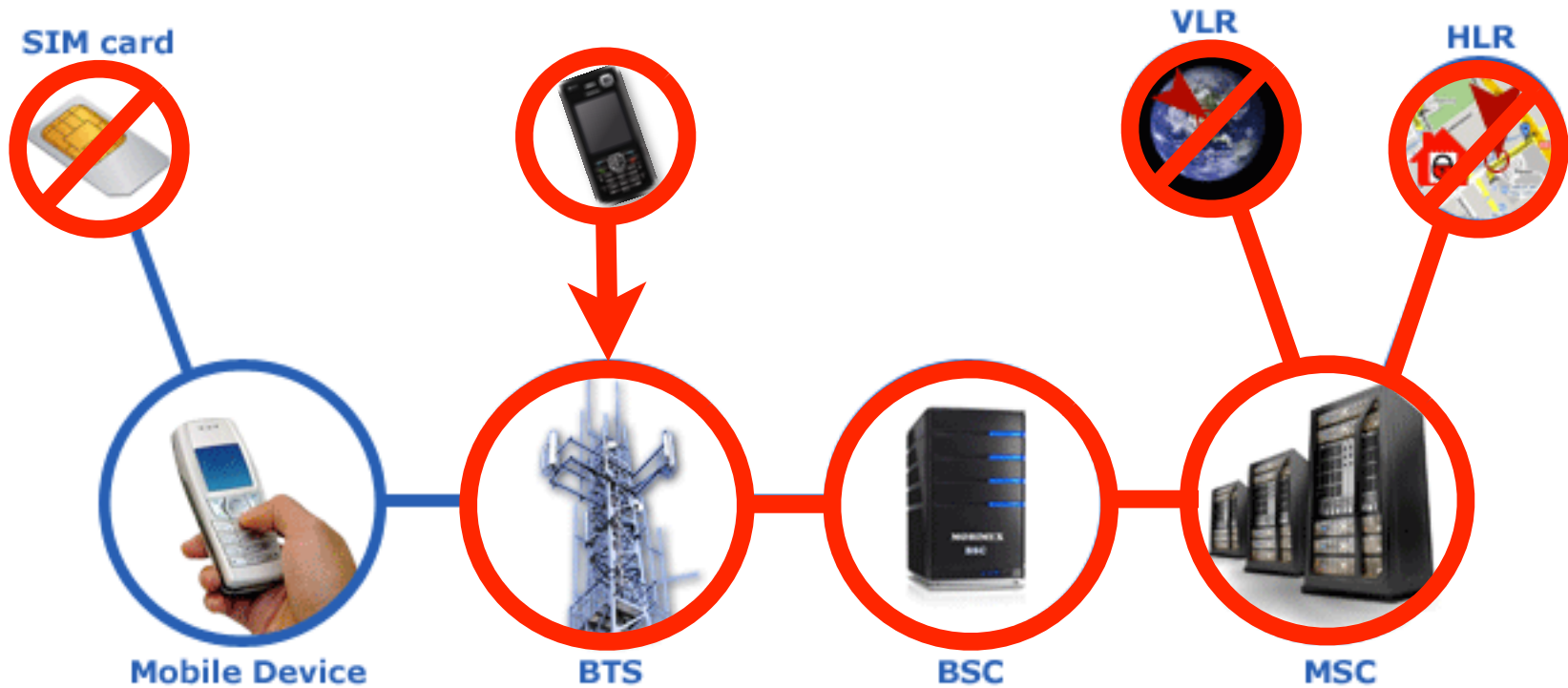
IMSI Flood



IMSI Flood



IMSI Flood



How hard to get an IMSI?

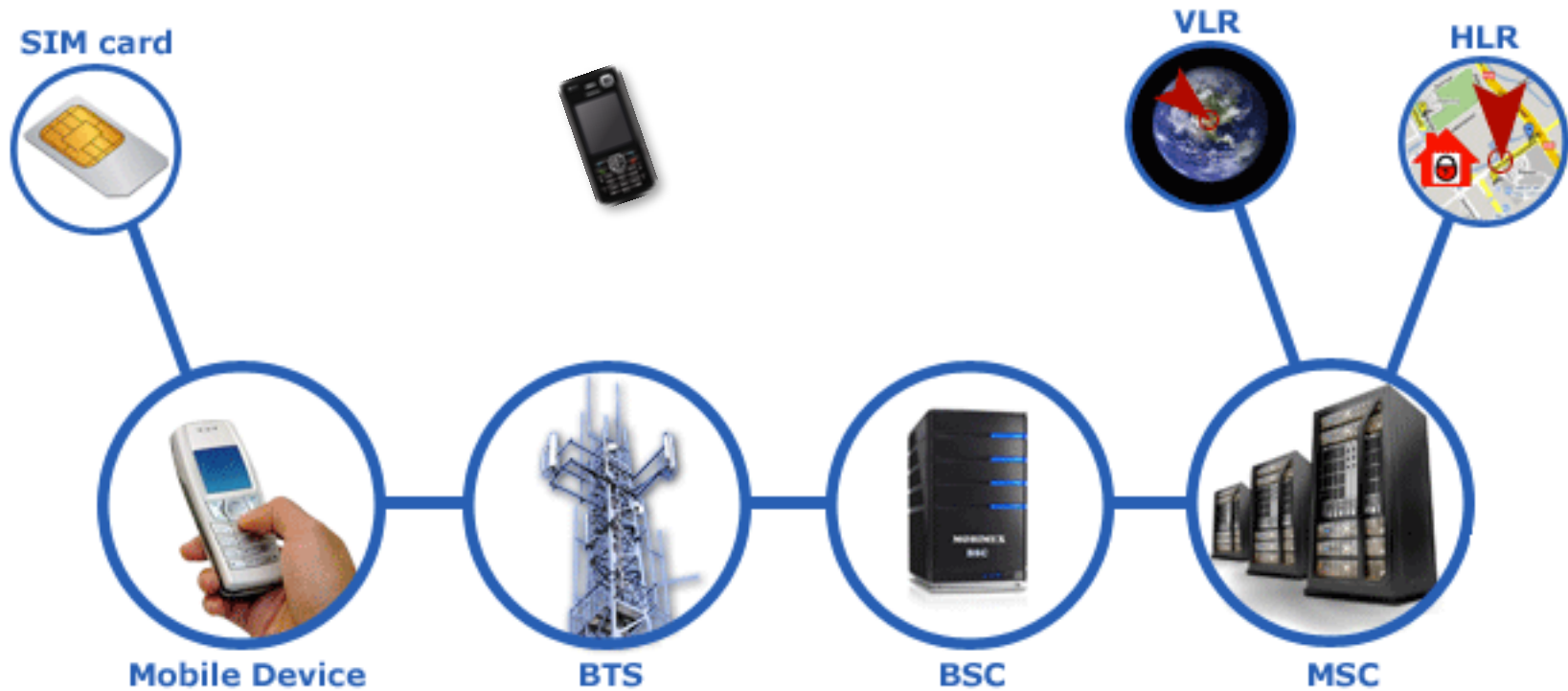
Supports MCC / MNC MSC IMSI.

RoutoMessaging HLR Lookup supports	MCC / MNC	MSC	IMSI	Invalid Number	Price €
	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.006

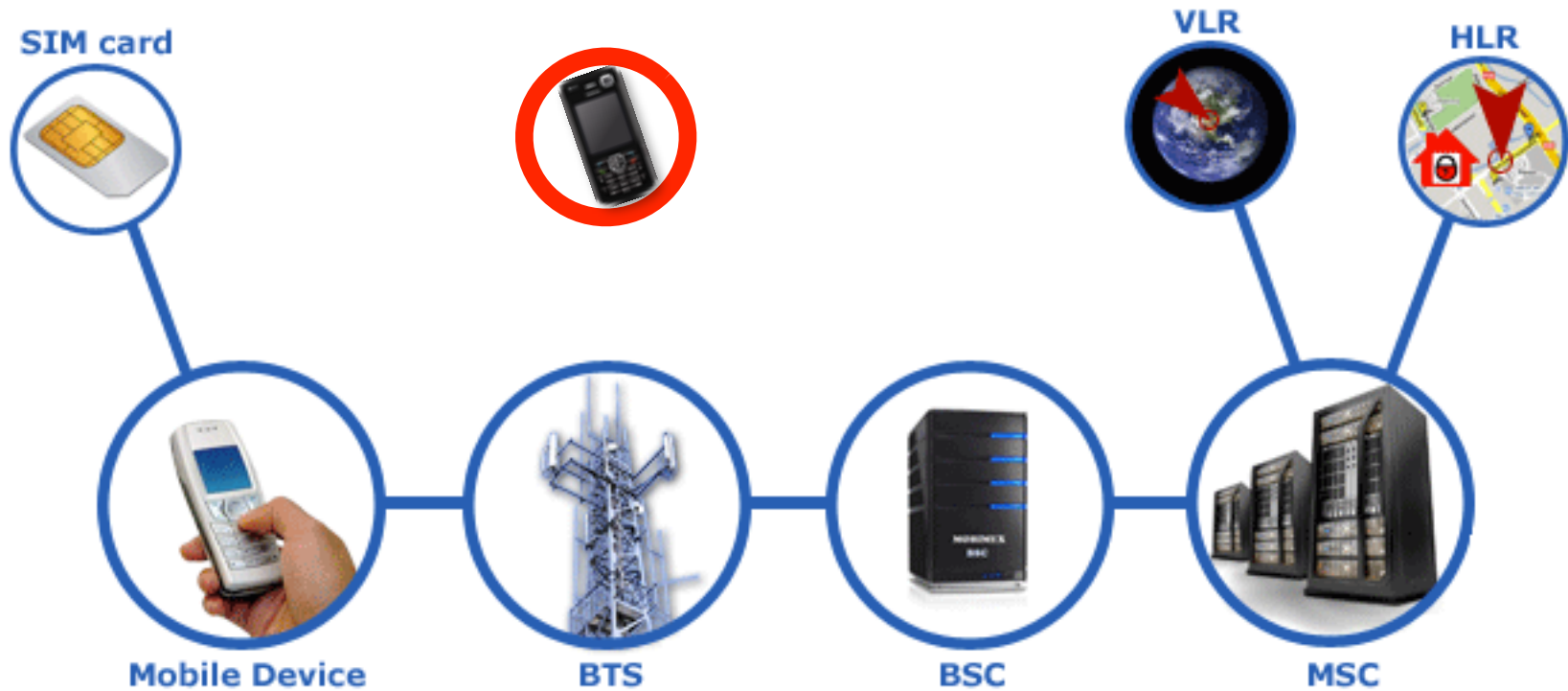
IMSI DETACH

- ❖ Send multiple Location Update Requests including a spoofed IMSI
 - ❖ Unauthenticated
- ❖ Prevent SIM from receiving calls and SMS
- ❖ Discovered by Sylvain Munaut

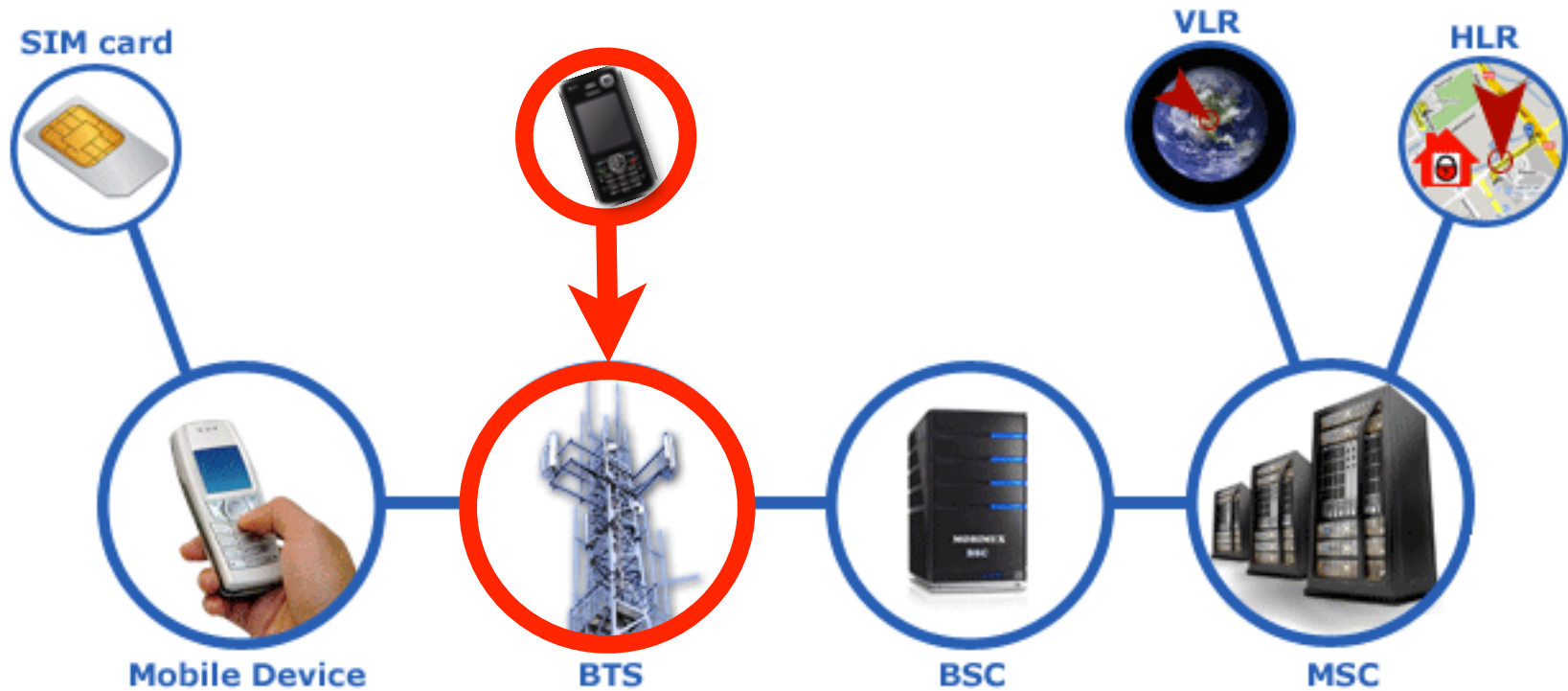
IMSI DETACH



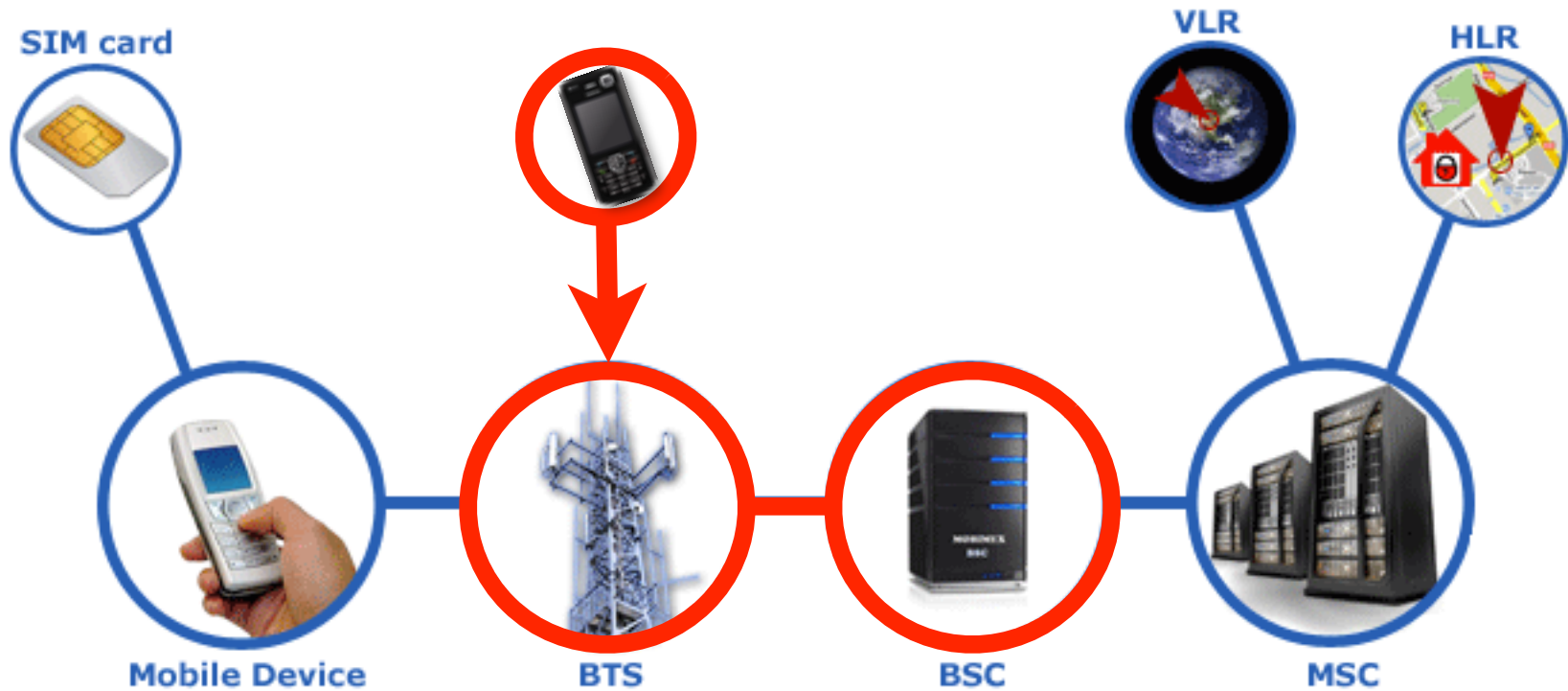
IMSI DETACH



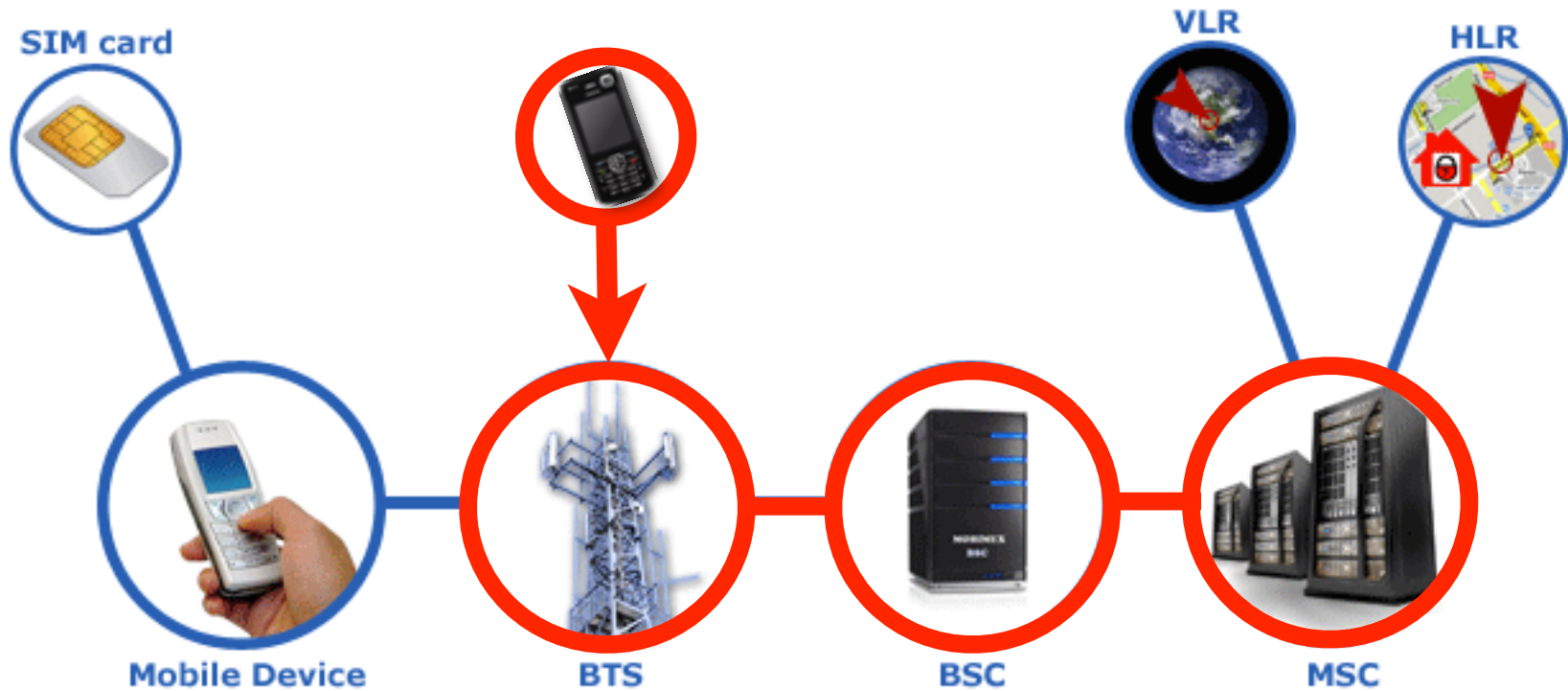
IMSI DETACH



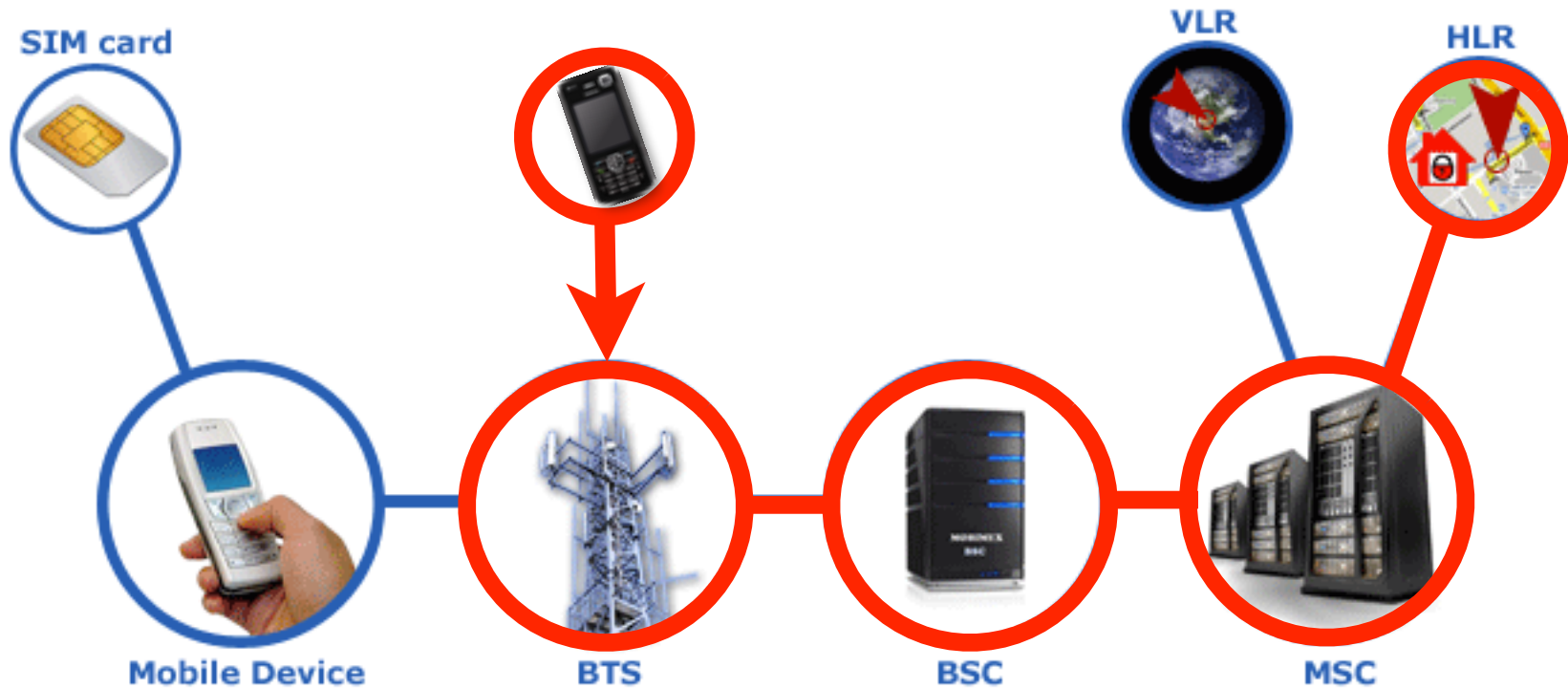
IMSI DETACH



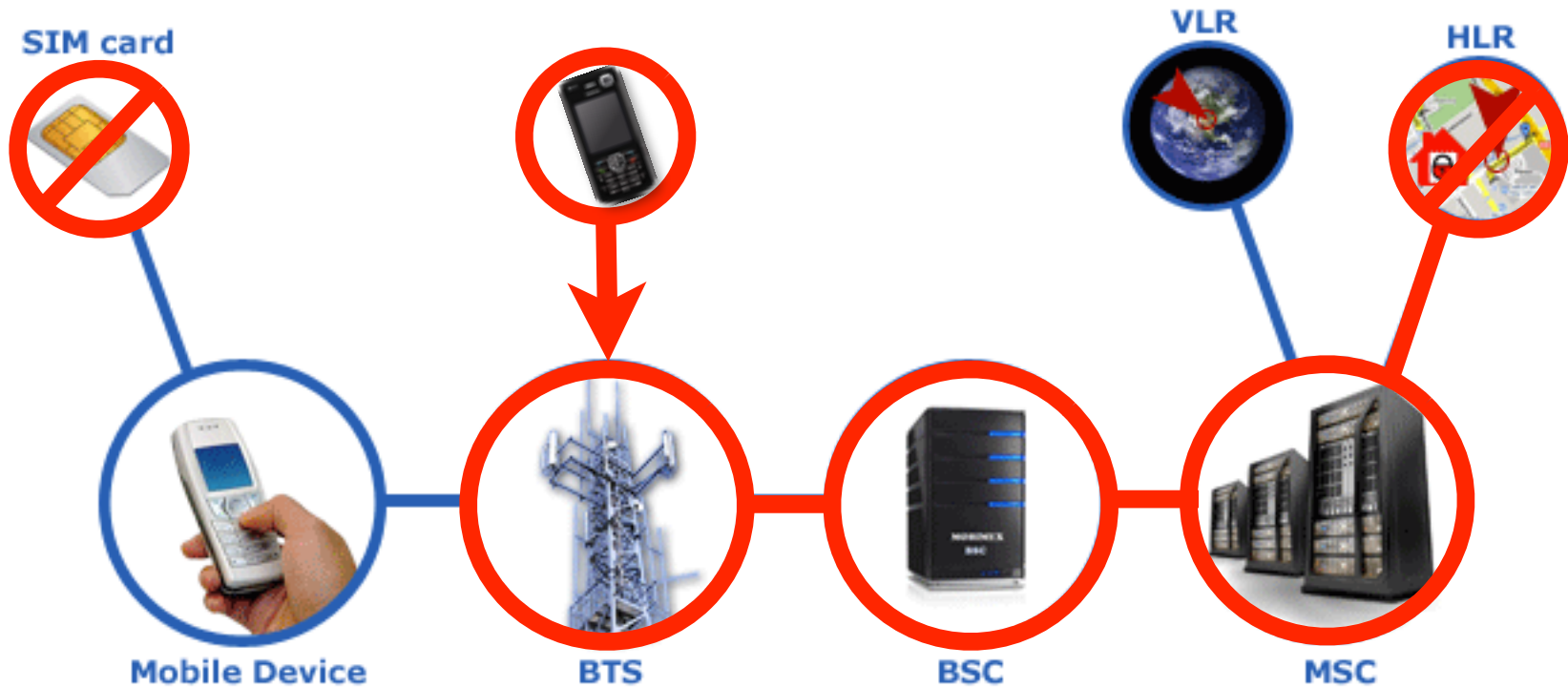
IMSI DETACH



IMSI DETACH



IMSI DETACH

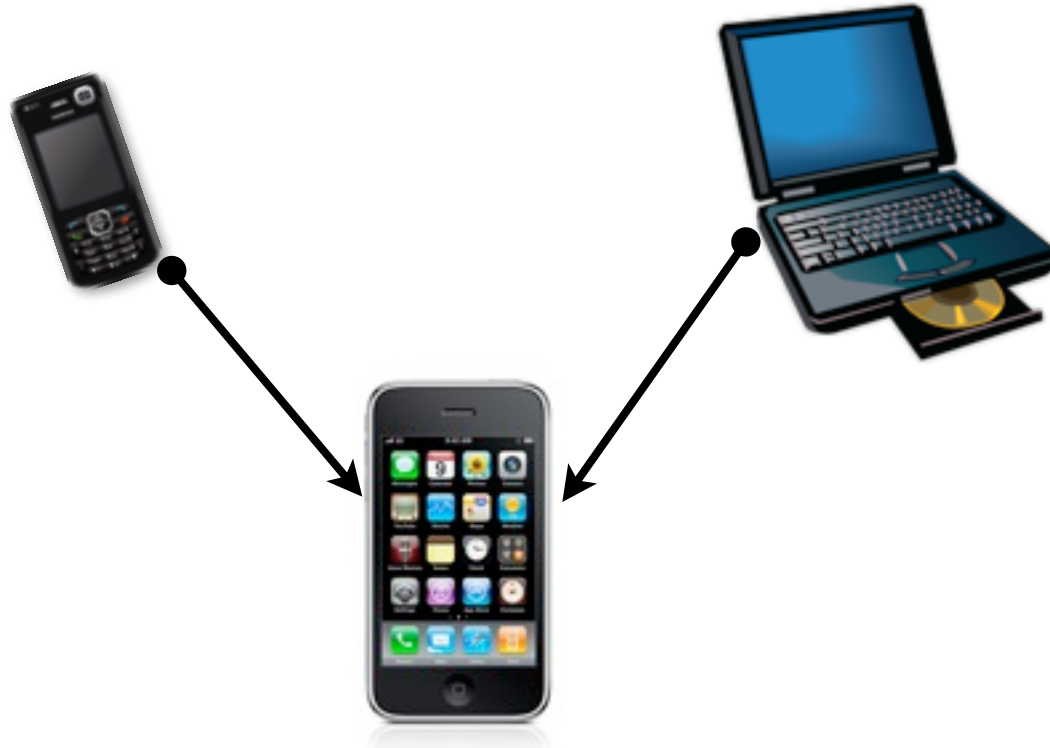


Baseband Fuzzing

How to make a smartphone



Two separate computers



Two separate computers

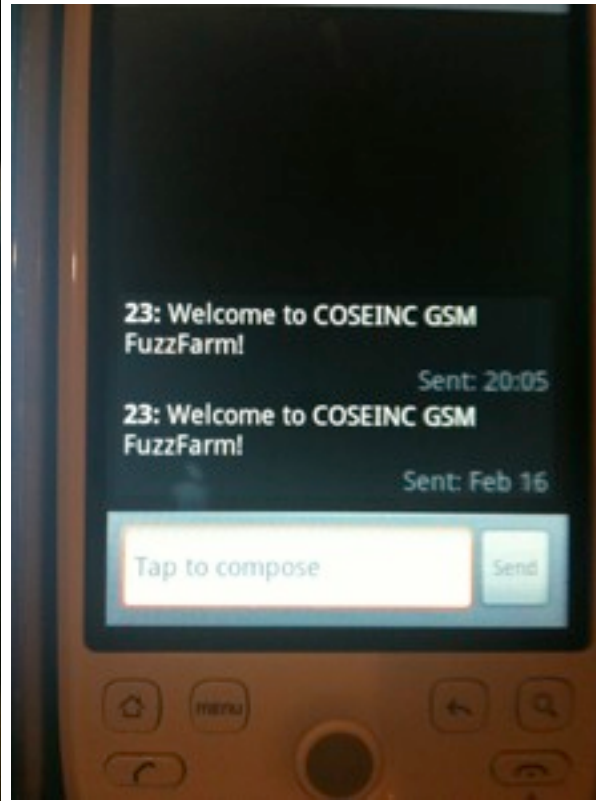


Baseband

- ❖ Controls the radio
- ❖ Separate CPU and code base
- ❖ RTOS
- ❖ Written in C
- ❖ Typically legacy code base (decades)

Coseinc GSM FuzzFarm

- ❖ OpenBTS based fuzzer delivery engine
- ❖ Targetting
 - ❖ iPhone
 - ❖ HTC (Android)
 - ❖ Palm Pre
 - ❖ Blackberry
 - ❖ Nokia



Conclusion

GSM Trouble

- ❖ GSM is no longer a walled garden
- ❖ GSM spec has security problems
- ❖ Expect many more issues as OSS reduces costs for entry

Future work

- ❖ More GSM stack fuzzing
- ❖ Next gen protocol stacks

Thanks to

Harald Walte, Osmocom-bb &
OpenBTS

Questions?