



RARE/freeRtr

GN5-1 – Work Package 6/Task 1

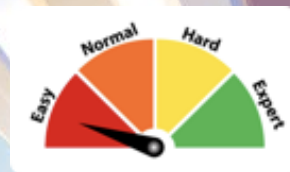
LOUI Frédéric, RENATER <frederic.loui@renater.fr>

RARE/freeRTr Technical Leader



Agenda

- RARE/freeRtr in GN5-1
 - Focus on user/developer community
 - New developments (features, hw support)
- Release management
- RARE/freeRtr **validated design**
- Global P4 lab: GP4L
- Network Management as a Service: **NMaaS**
- Community support
- Discussions



RARE/freeRtr in a nutshell

RARE is an open source routing platform, used to create a network operating system (NOS) on commodity hardware (a white box switch).



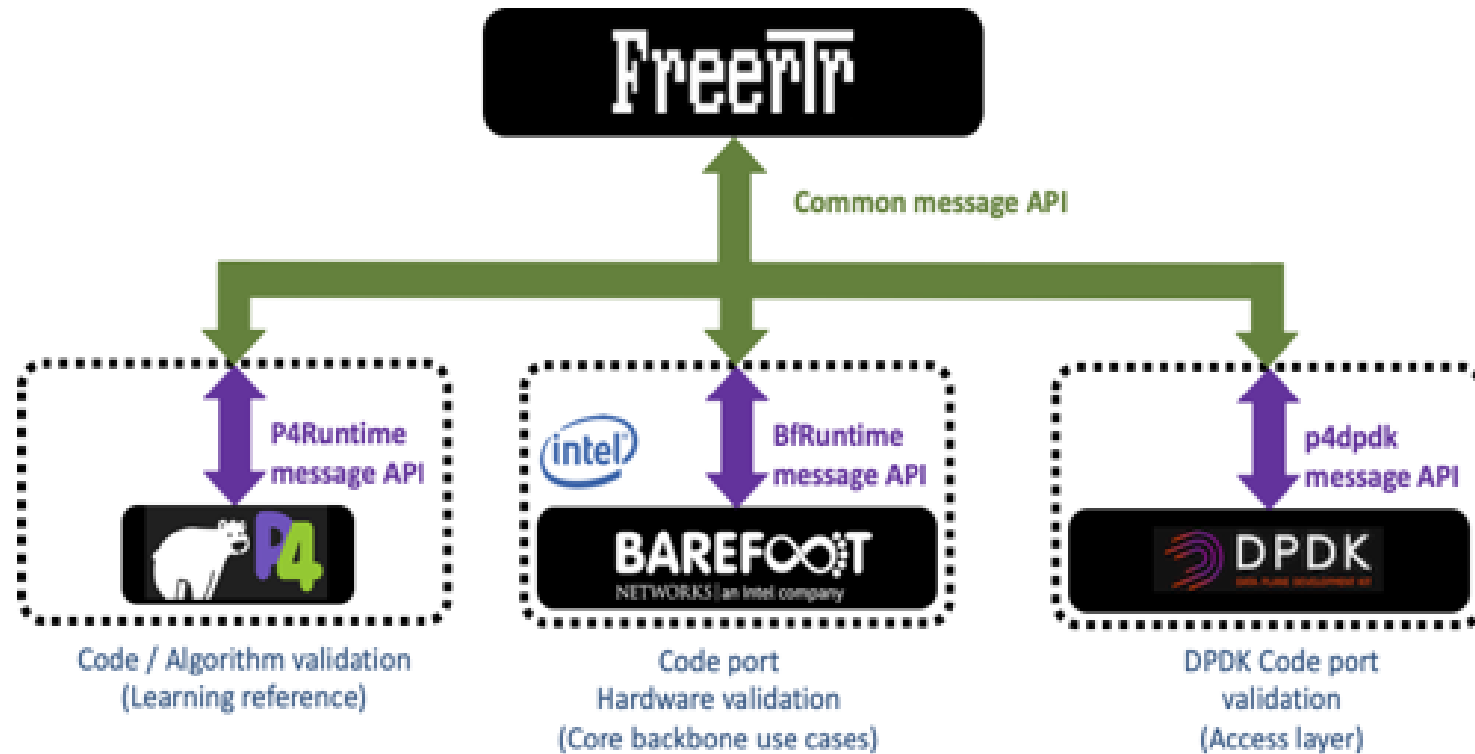
RARE uses FreeRtr as a control plane software and is thus often referred to as RARE/freeRtr



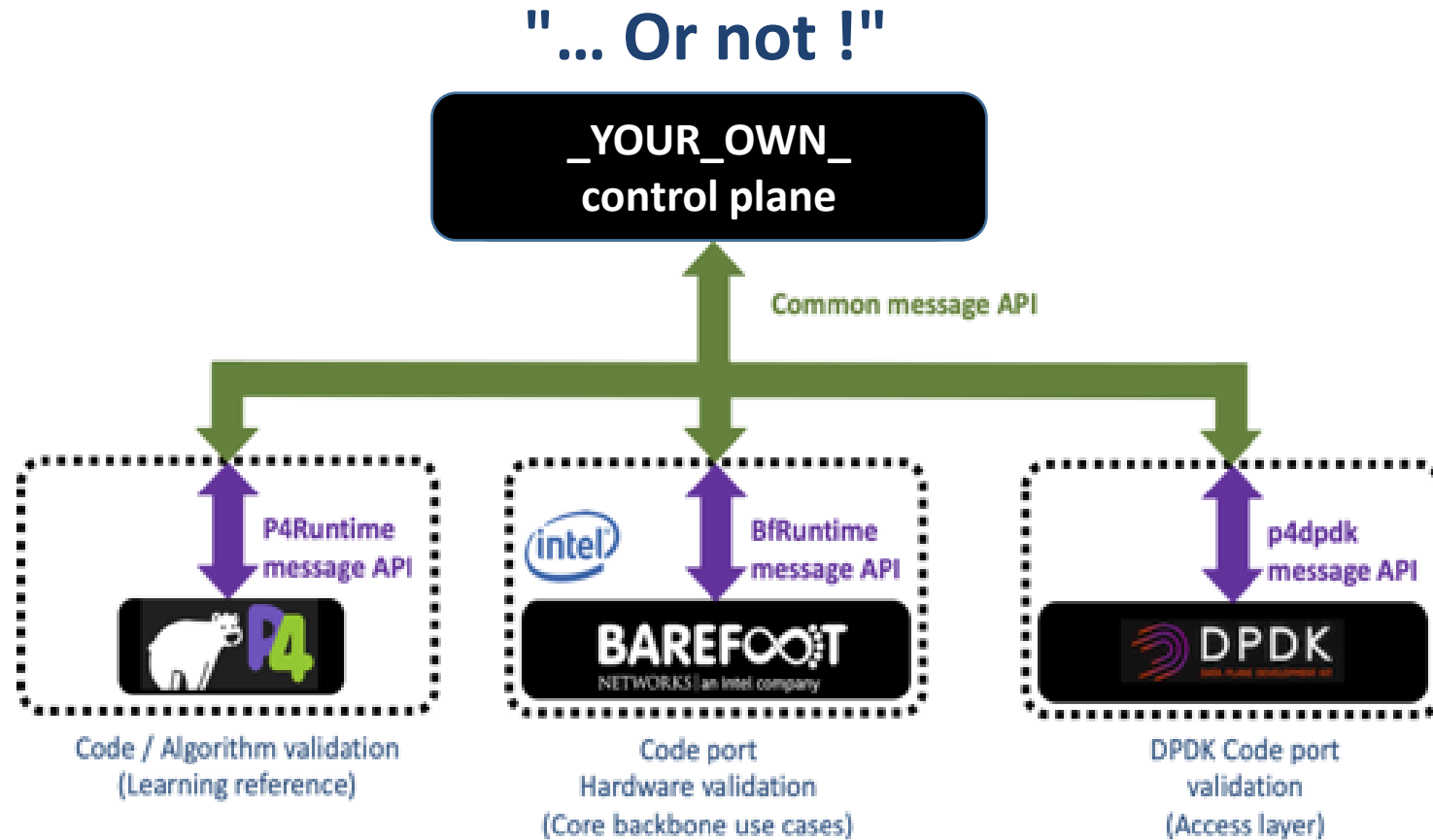
More information:
<https://wiki.geant.org/display/rare>

RARE/freeRtr in a nutshell

"One control plane to rule them all ..."



RARE/freeRtr in a nutshell



RARE/freeRtr Project in GN5-1

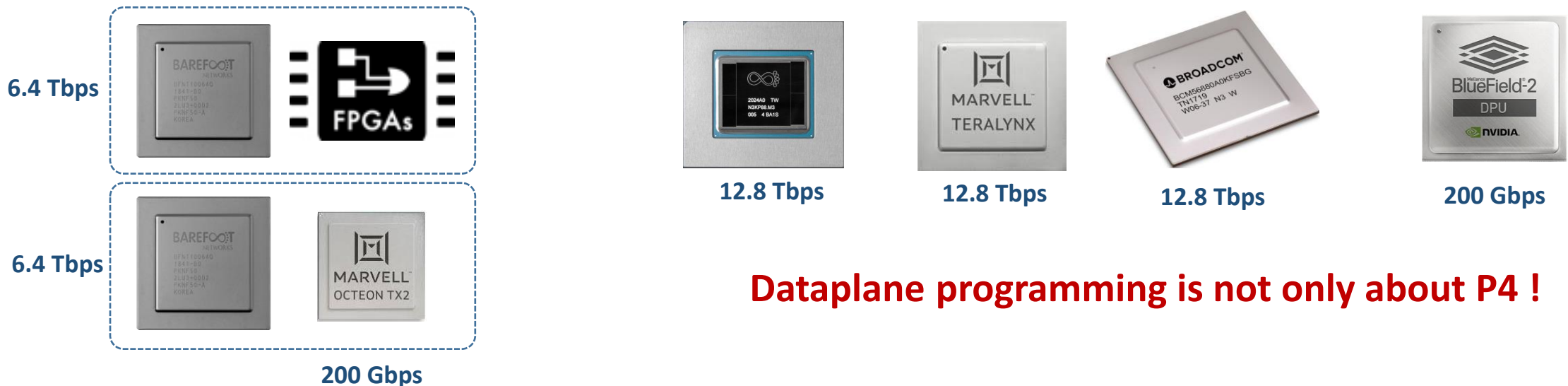
- **User community**
 - Listen user community request
 - Feature wish-list
 - Problem solving approach
 - Attribute priority to production use case
 - Implementation
 - Documentation
 - Turn-key solution
 - docs.freertr.org
 - Reference documentation automation
 - RARE/freeRTr Validated Design
- **Developer community**
 - Developer's guide at both
 - Control plane
 - Data plane level
 - Developer section in **docs.freertr.org** ?
 - Enroll new developers

Objective:

INCREASE RARE/freeRTr software platform uptake and trust ...

RARE/freeRtr feature development

- Feature development
 - RIFT (Routing In Fat Trees) → <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/rift/about/>
 - FIB compression
 - RARE/freeRTr virtualisation
 - New metric exposition (buffer counters)
 - ...
 - Please share your ideas !
- New targets (and thus new use cases)



Dataplane programming is not only about P4 !

RARE/freeRtr Validated Design

What can you do with
RARE/freeRtr ?

RARE/freeRtr Validated Design



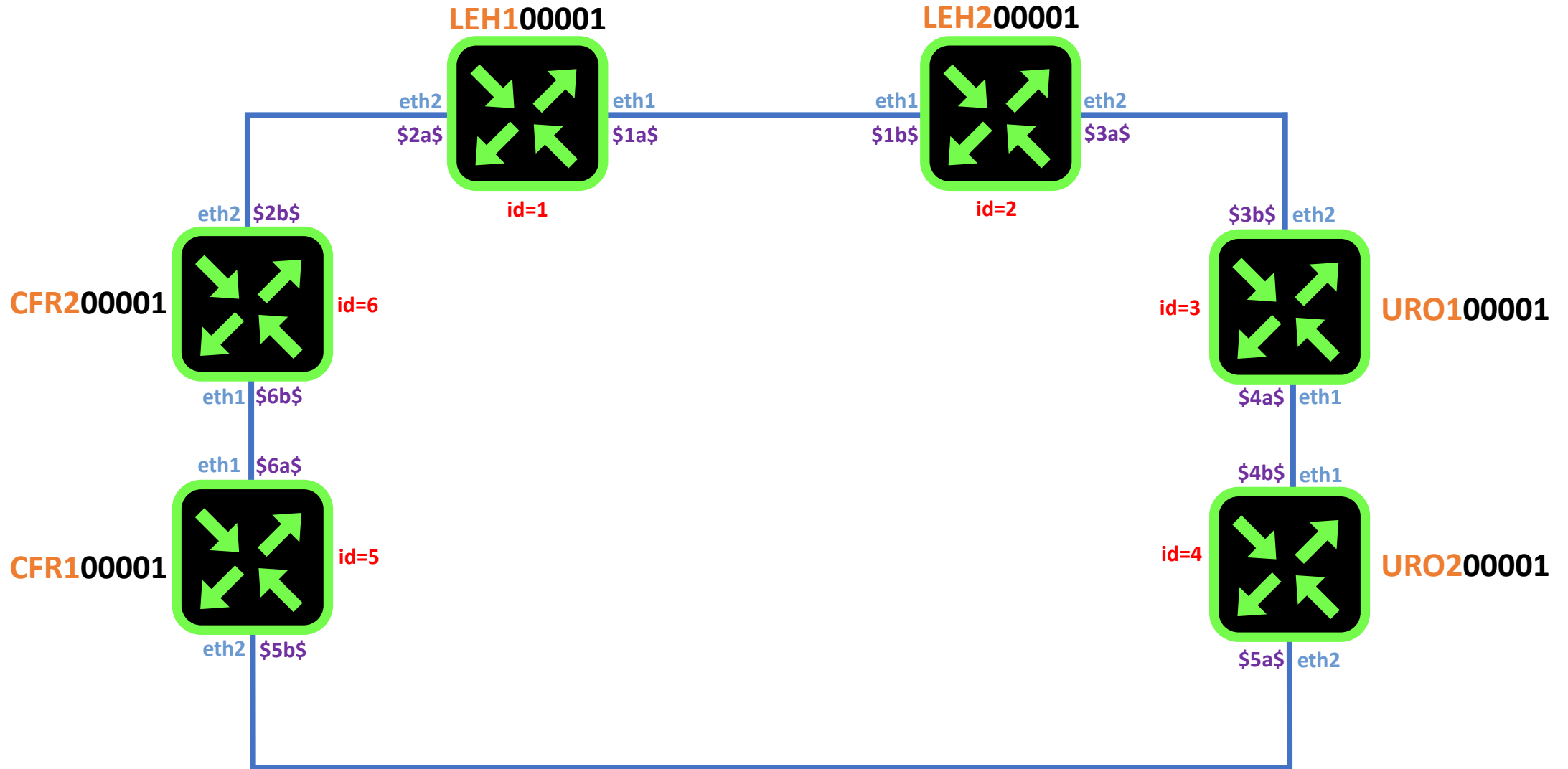
<https://github.com/rare-freertr/validated-design>

- Network Design description
 - Validated in production environment
 - Fully documented
 - Turn key solution platform
 - Virtual use case mockup
 - freeRtr socket forwarder
 - p4emu
 - p4dpdk
 - TOFINO [1/2] dataplane
 - Upgrade server with Nix
 - Network infrastructure as a Code - CI/CD
 - Testing capability [?] → cross activity with GP4L

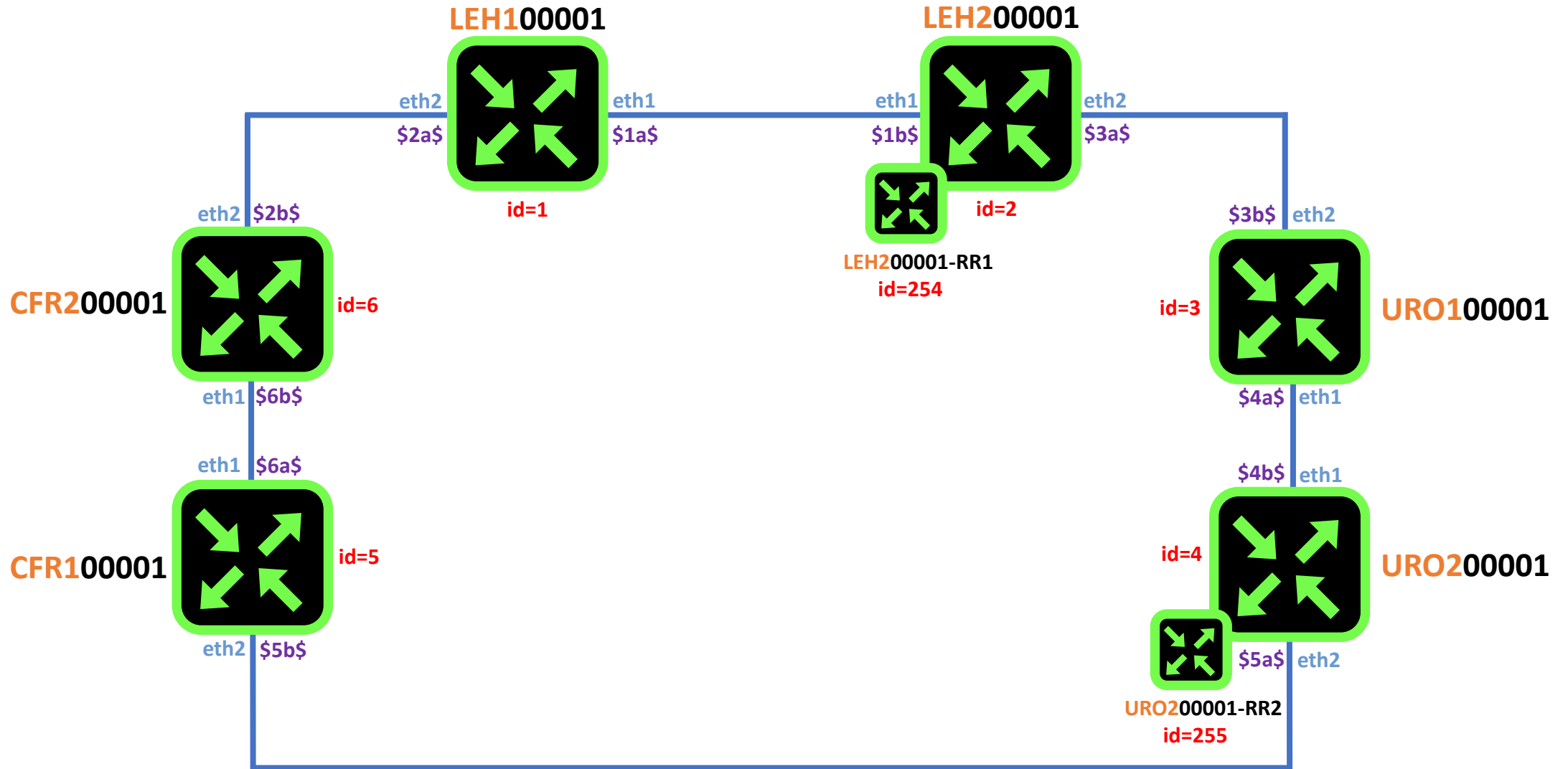
- We should not forget **Network Management** !



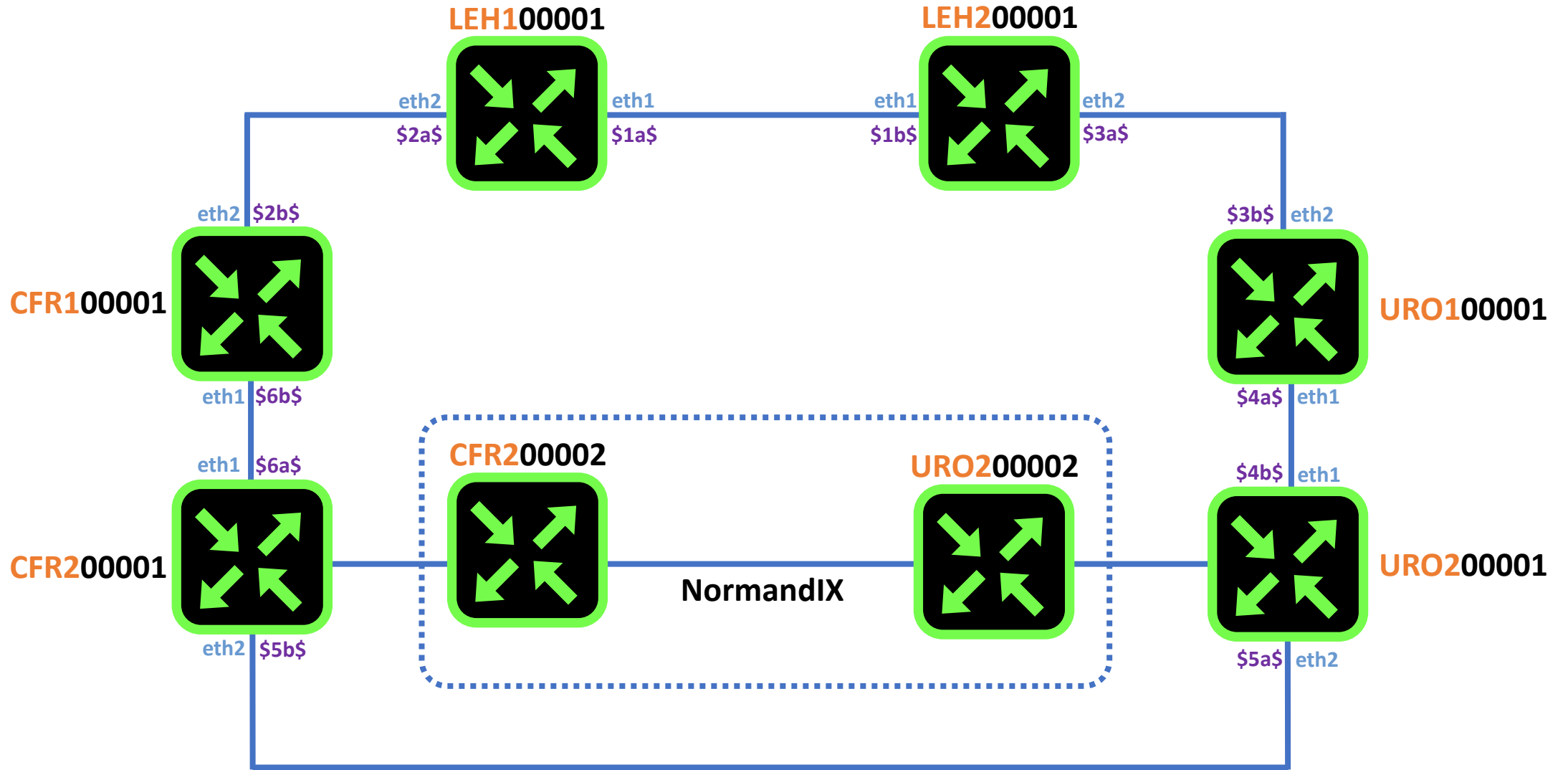
CRIANN / SYVIK-2: Regional network use case



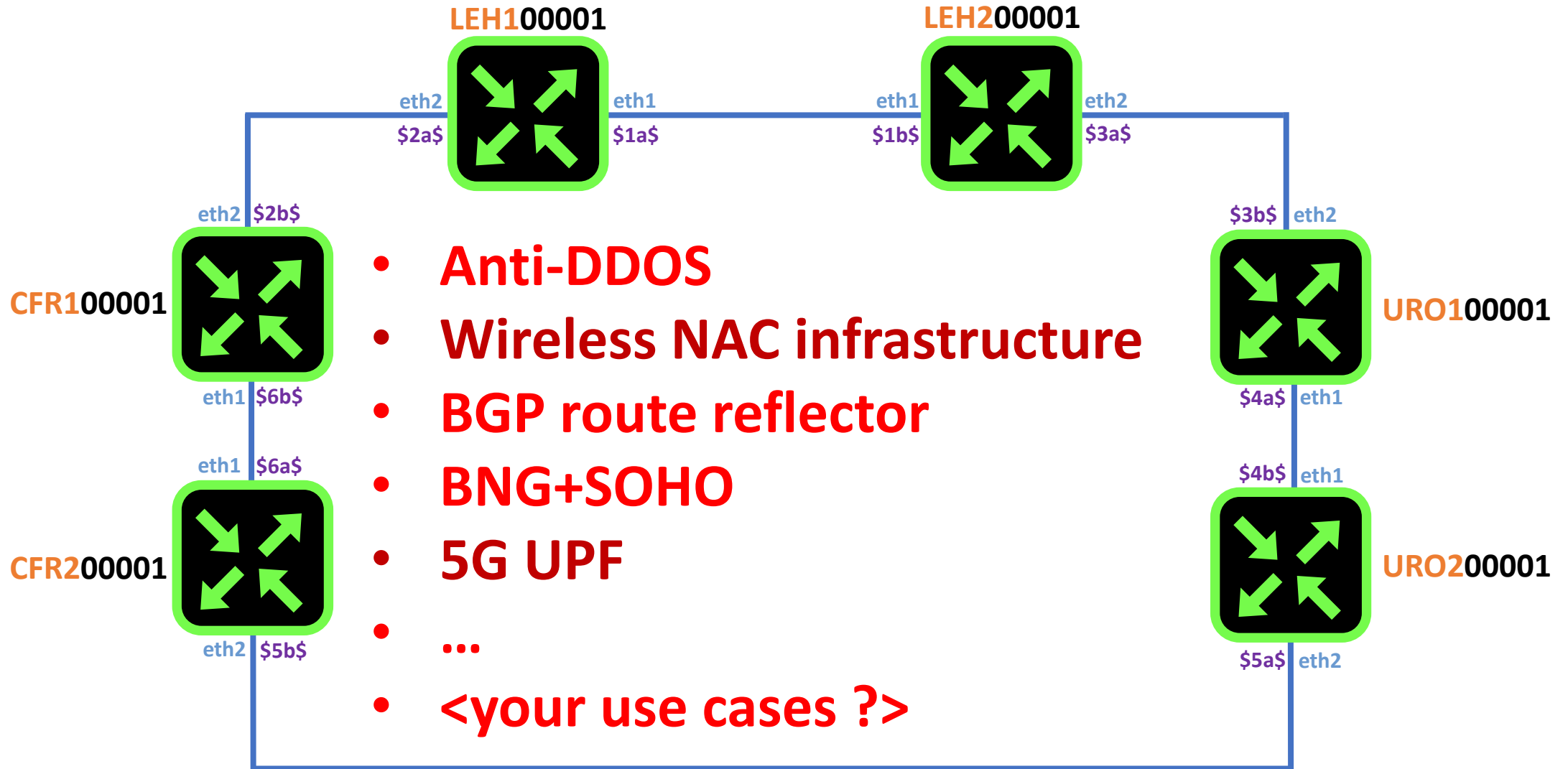
CRIANN / SYVIK-2: Regional network with iBGP route reflection



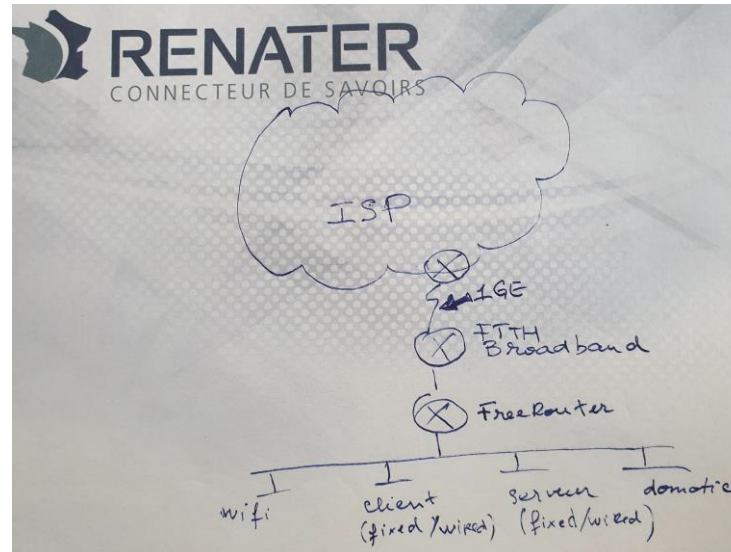
CRIANN / SYVIK-2: Regional network + NormandIX use case



CRIANN / SYVIK-2: Regional network + anti-DDOS use case



RARE/freeRtr Hardware example: **SOHO (small sites: schools, small labs)**



RARE/freeRtr Hardware example: [MAN MPLS P/PE, IXP]@ 100GE !

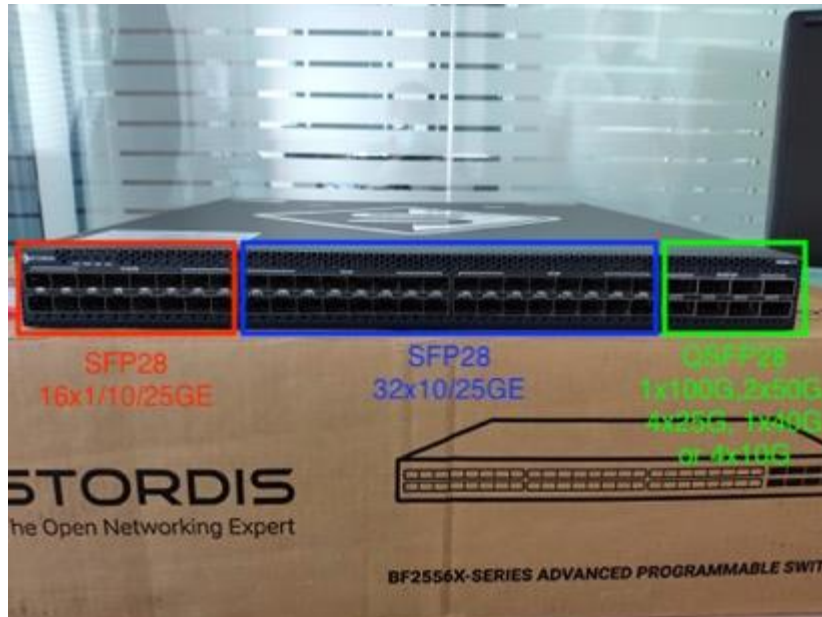
EdgeCore - Wedge100BF32X



32x100GE - QSFP28

RARE/freeRtr Hardware example: **MAN MPLS P/PE, Spine/Leave/Tor, IXP**

Stordis – BF2556X-1

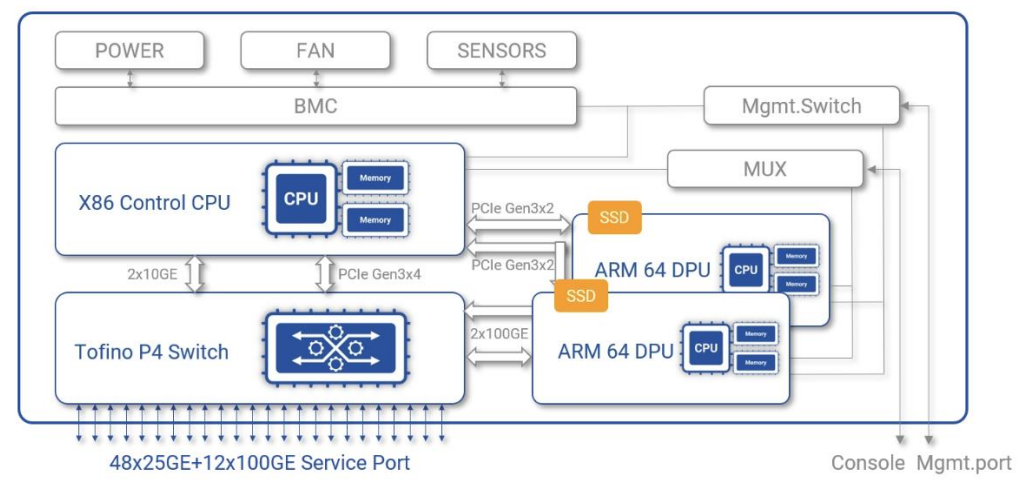
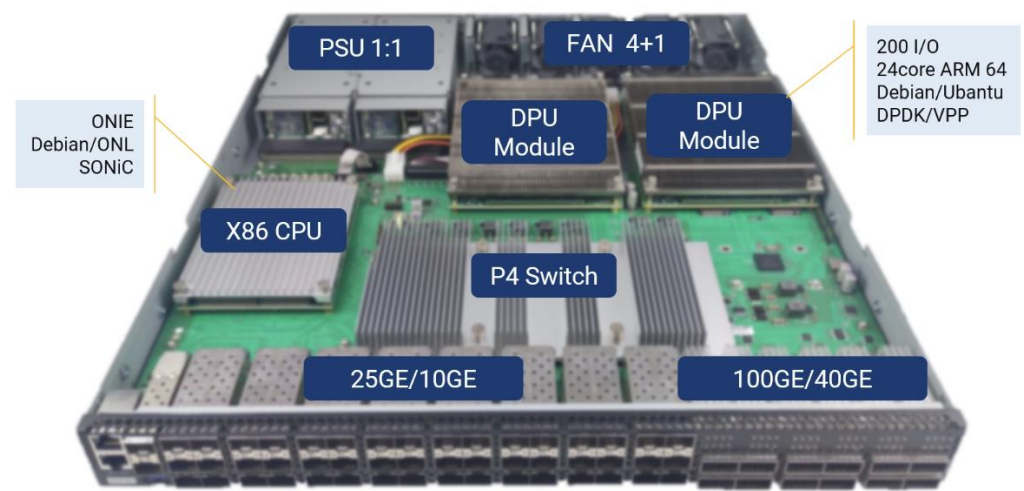


8 x 100GE - QSFP28
32 x 10GE/25GE – SFP28
16 x 1GE SFP28

RARE/freeRtr Hardware example: **need more hardware processing power ?**



Hardware Architecture of X312P-48Y-T Barefoot Tofino Switch



**What is RARE/freeRtr
software life cycle management
And how is it tested ?**

RARE/freeRtr release management

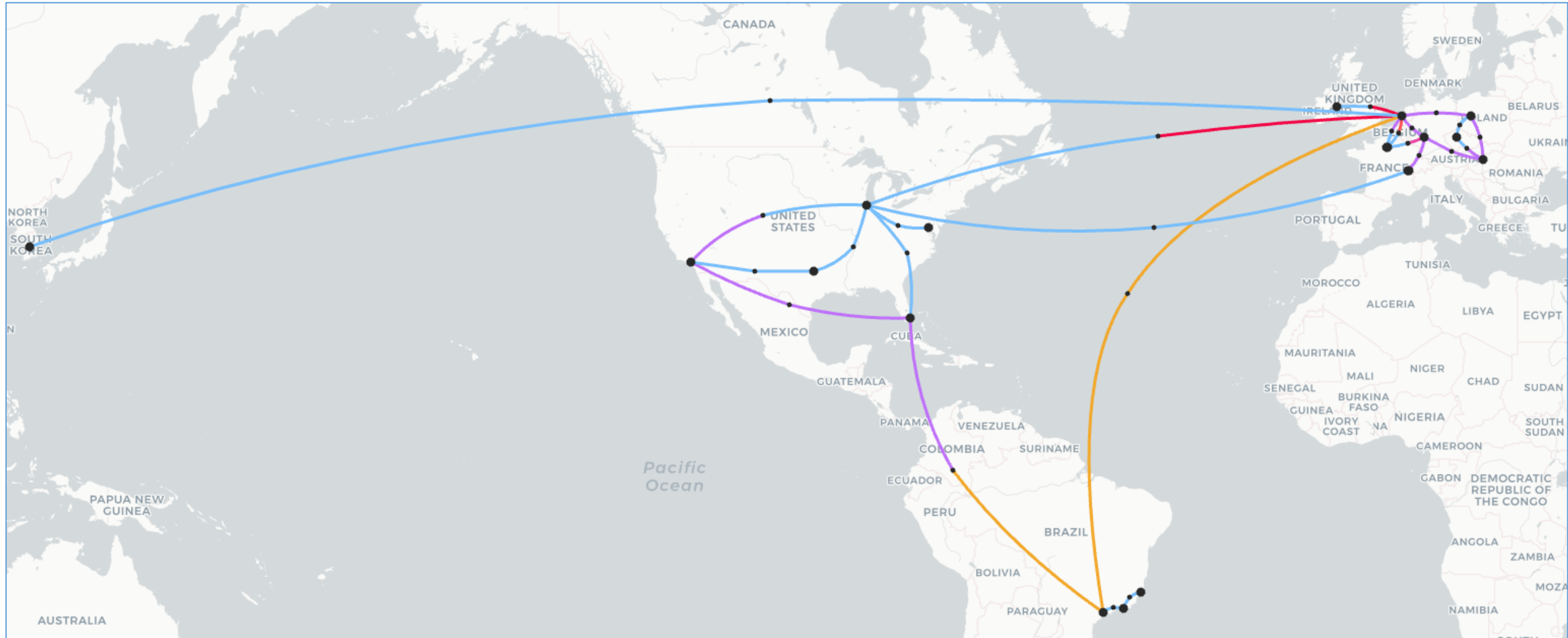
- Release management
 - Based on **Nix package manager**
 - All RARE/freeRtr flavour (control plane and dataplane)
- Software life cycle management management
 - Testing
 - Automated CI/CD (~2300 tests run after each bulk commit)
 - Performance testing (maybe in GP4L ?)
 - You can test RARE/freeRtr with you preferred emulation environment !



Liaison with GN5-1 WP6-T2 platform – Global P4 Lab



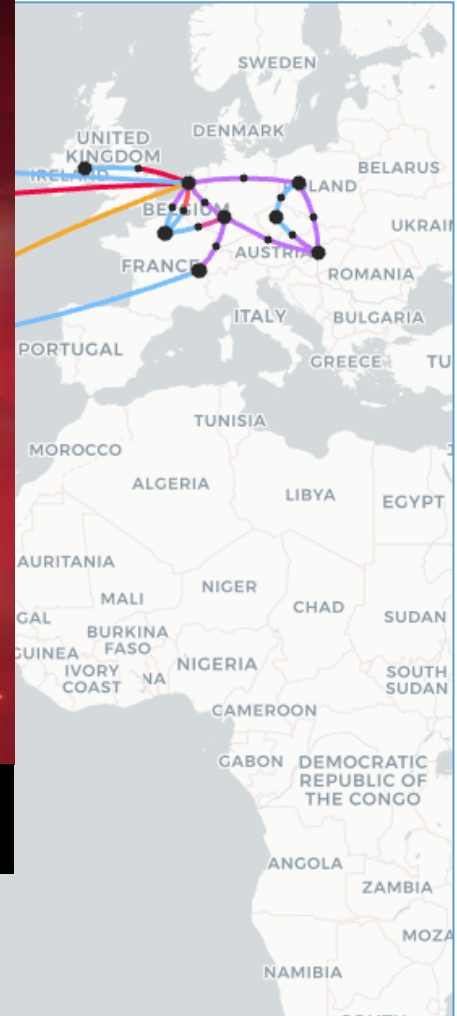
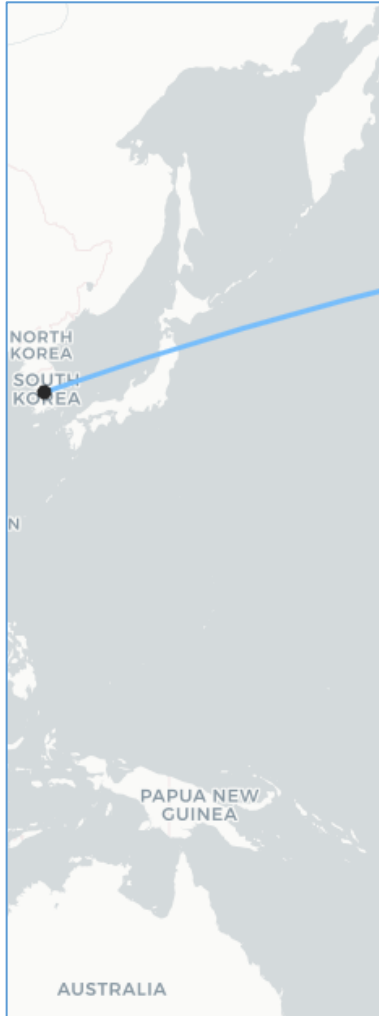
- December 2022 (presented to Supercomputing 2022 conference)



Liaison with GN5-1 WP6-T2 platform – Global P4 Lab



- December 2022 (presented to Supercomputing 2022 conference)



RARE/freeRtr Network Management as a Service

What about
RARE/**freeRtr**
monitoring?

NMaaS Network Management as a Service



Grafana

★★★★★5

Open source analytics & monitoring solution for every database



Prometheus

★★★★★5

Monitoring system & time series database



Icinga2

★★★★★0

Scalable and extensible monitoring system



SPA Inventory

★★★★★0

Resource and Service Inventory with TMF-compliant API



Routinator

★★★★★0

RPKI Validator



WebDAV Server

★★★★★5

WebDAV Server with Git versioning



Uptime Kuma

★★★★★5

Self-hosted monitoring tool like "Uptime Robot"



NetBox

★★★★★5

Infrastructure resource modeling application



WiFiMon

★★★★★0

Wireless Crowdsourced Performance Monitoring and...



Zabbix

★★★★★0

Enterprise-class monitoring solution for networks and applications



SPA

★★★★★0

SPA for the E-Line service



Healthchecks

★★★★★0

A cron monitoring tool

Kubernetes
Inside 

Key take-away



$$+ \text{NMaaS} + \text{GP4L} = \text{Key}$$

CAPEX decrease dramatically

OPEX increase but:

This is not a bad thing RARE/freeRtr **empowers** local staff

Therefore it can reduce digital divide by providing an innovative networking solution at an affordable TCO

Power user or not, If you have DIY mindset (whether you are a Tier 1 NREN or not)

RARE/freeRtr is for you !



Please join RARE/freeRtr community !

“Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter.

Try again. Fail again.

Fail again. Fail better”

Samuel Beckett

“Not knowing is a sign of knowledge ...

Asking relevant questions is a sign of power ...”



Frederic LOUI ;-)

RARE/freeRtr in GN5-1

Questions
Discussions
Ideas ?

RARE/freeRtr community support

- **Community channels**

- Mailing list
 - rare-users, rare-dev
 - gn5-1-wp6-t1-rare is internal to the GÉANT project
- RARE messaging
 - IRC #freertr@DN42
 -  RARE/freeRTr
 -  rare_freerouter

- **Dissemination**

- Liaison with international WG (GNA-G, APAN, LHC, UbuntuNet alliance etc.)
- Conferences
 - SC23/24, IETF hackathon, TNC, APAN, RIPE etc.
- Would you like to host a RARE/GP4L Workshop ?



Thank You

www.geant.org



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