

Deployment of TLD Anycast node to ISPs for stability and resiliency

APRICOT 2021

Takayasu Matsuura (JPRS)

Nagisa Yano (OPTAGE)

Agenda

- “.jprs” R&D Platform and Joint Research 2017
- Background of Joint Research 2021
- Overview of Joint Research
- Joint Research Report by ISPs
- Consideration of LN deployment in Japan

“.jprs” R&D Platform and Joint Research 2017

■ Concept of “.jprs”

In order for the Internet to keep growing, as a registry operator, we will need an environment in which to create innovations ...



.jprs TLD can provide experimental environment for domain names and DNS

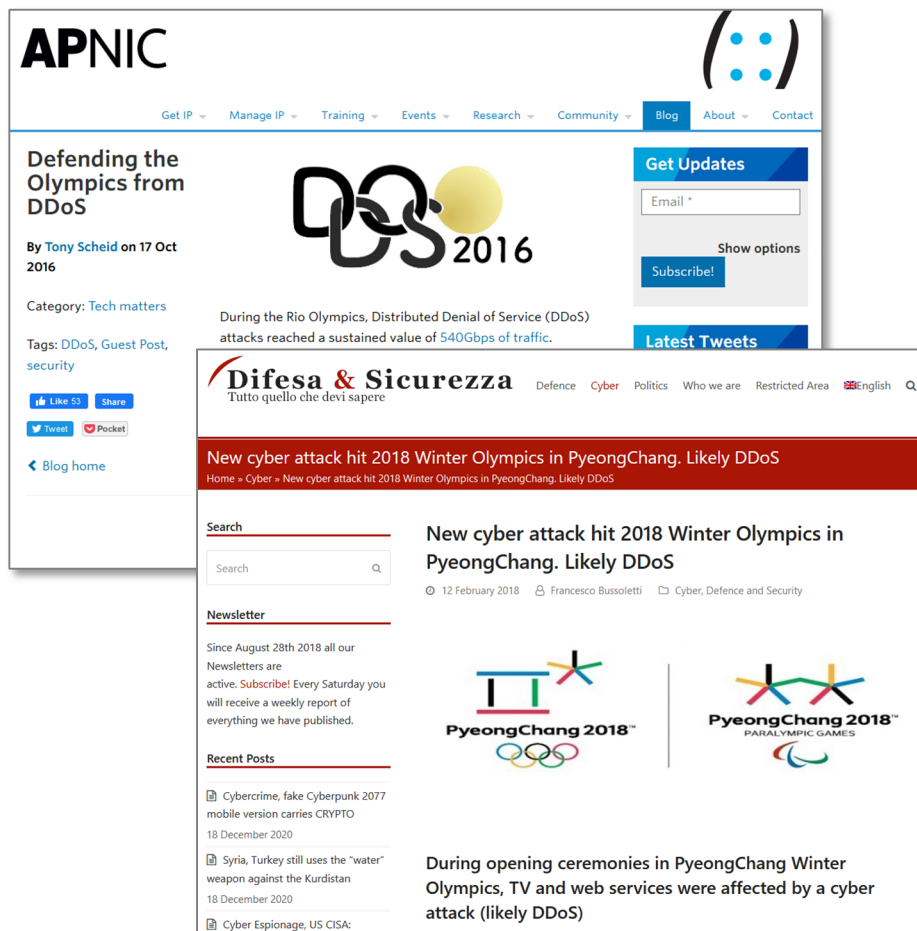
■ Joint Research 2017

Japan as a disaster-prone country, joint experiments with domestic ISPs were conducted to verify the effectiveness of deploying TLD DNS Server inside the domestic ISPs against the physical Internet divide.

“TLD Anycast DNS servers to ISPs”

<https://2017.apricot.net/program/schedule/#/day/9/network-operations-2>

Background of Joint Research 2021



The Tokyo Olympic Games are scheduled to take place in 2021. However, it is necessary to prepare for large-scale cyber-attacks that occur at every Olympic Games.



Need to prepare for massive DDoS attacks

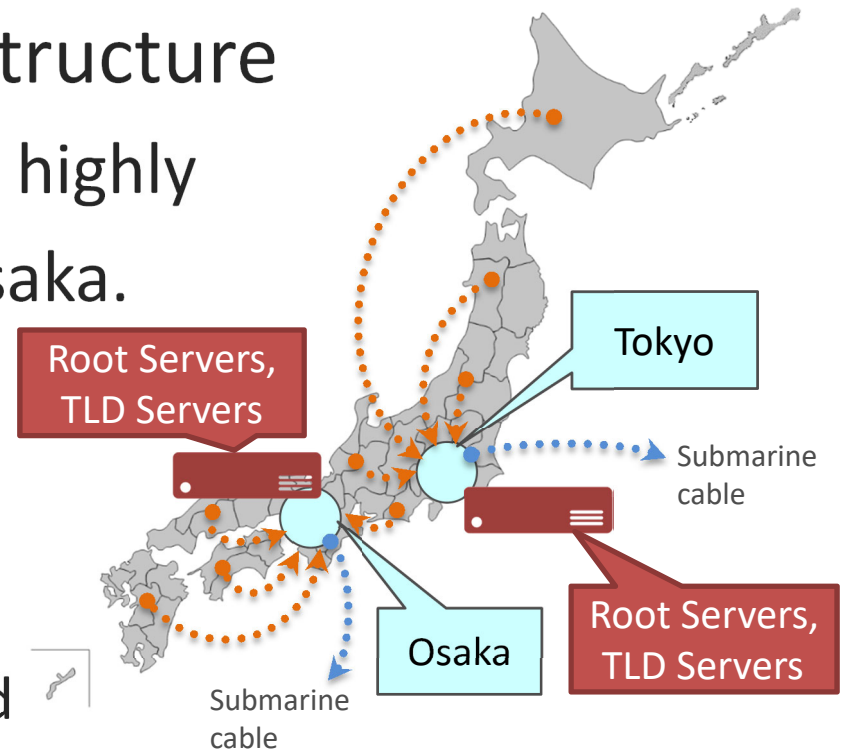
During the most recent Olympic Games, cyber-attacks such as malware and DDoS attacks of several hundred Gbps were launched against sites related to the Games.

Logical Structure of Internet in Japan

■ Characteristic of Internet structure

Critical Internet resources are highly
Concentrated in Tokyo and Osaka.

- Internet Exchanges (IXs),
Transit connections,
Data Centers, and so on
- Root Servers and TLD DNS
Servers are also concentrated



When cyber attacks are targeted at facilities located in Tokyo and Osaka, ISPs in other regions will also not be able to resolve names. They will virtually lose access to local internet resources. We call such situation “logical internet divide”.

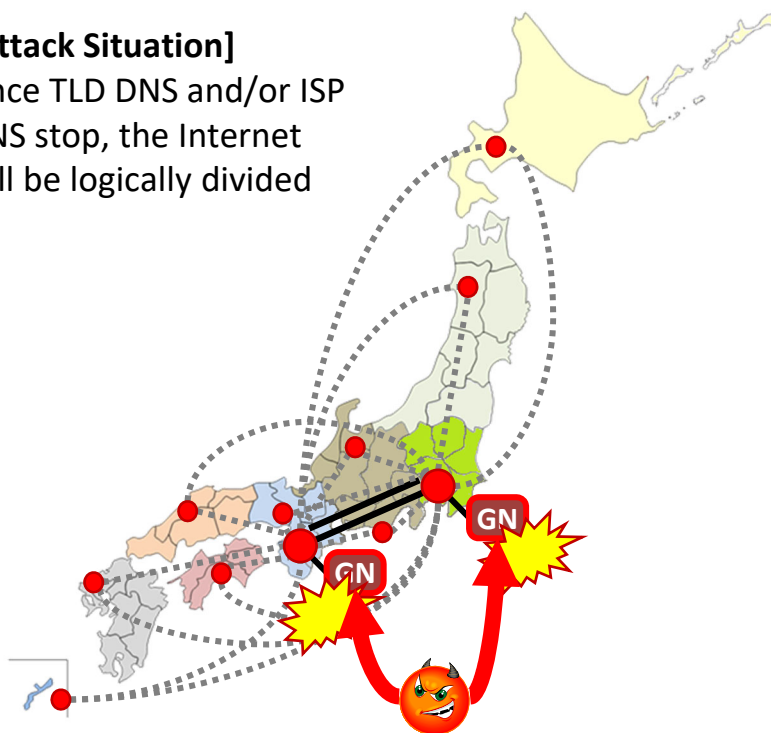
Goal of the Project:

Enhance DNS Resiliency to logical Internet divide

- Prepare for Cyber Attacks toward 2021 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - Deploy local nodes, so that DNS name resolution can continue even in the event of a DDoS attack on DNS servers in Tokyo and Osaka.

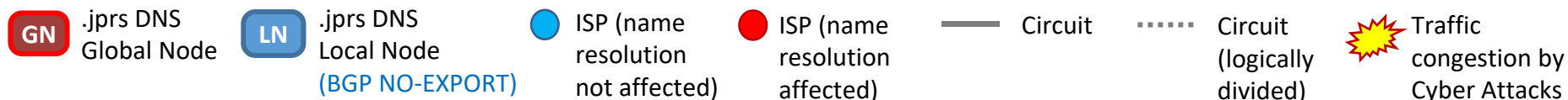
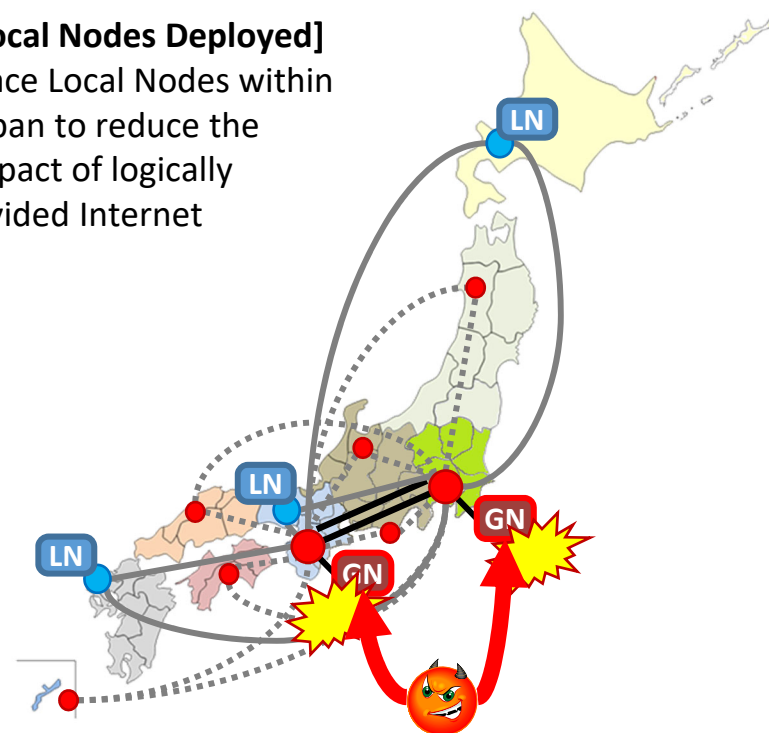
[Attack Situation]

Once TLD DNS and/or ISP DNS stop, the Internet will be logically divided



[Local Nodes Deployed]

Place Local Nodes within Japan to reduce the impact of logically divided Internet



Overview of Joint Research

■ Joint research effort with 3 domestic ISPs

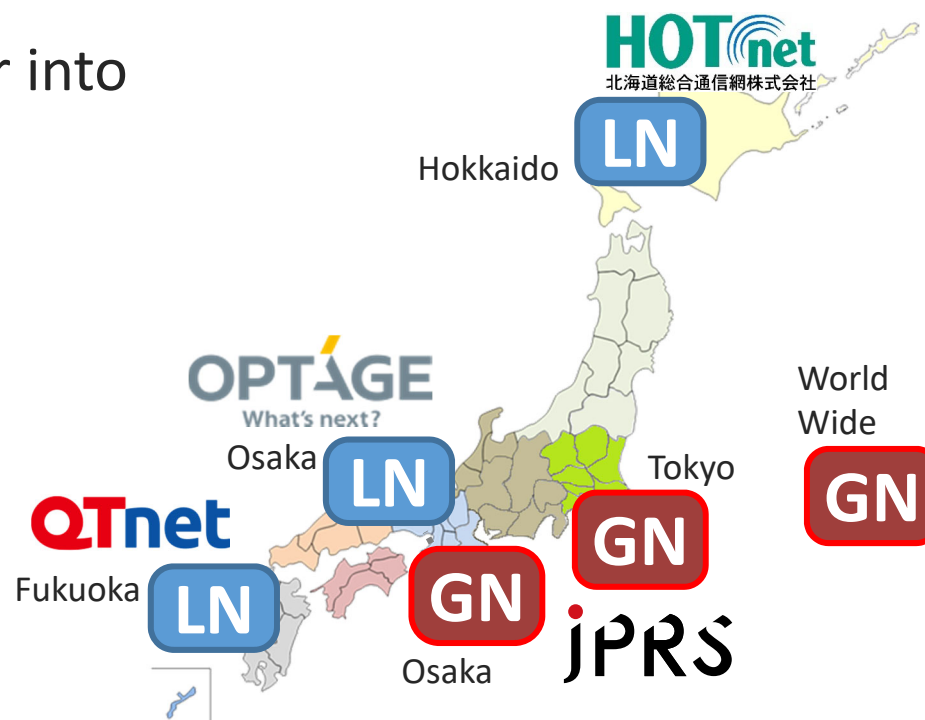
Each of their service area covers designated geographical area without overlap

■ Way to direct DNS queries to Local Nodes

Deploy ***tld4.nic.jp*** DNS server into ISP networks as **Local Node** (BGP Anycast).

GN Global Node (JPRS)
tld[1-5].nic.jp

LN Local Node (ISP)
tld4.nic.jp (bgp no-export)



Scenarios and Measurements

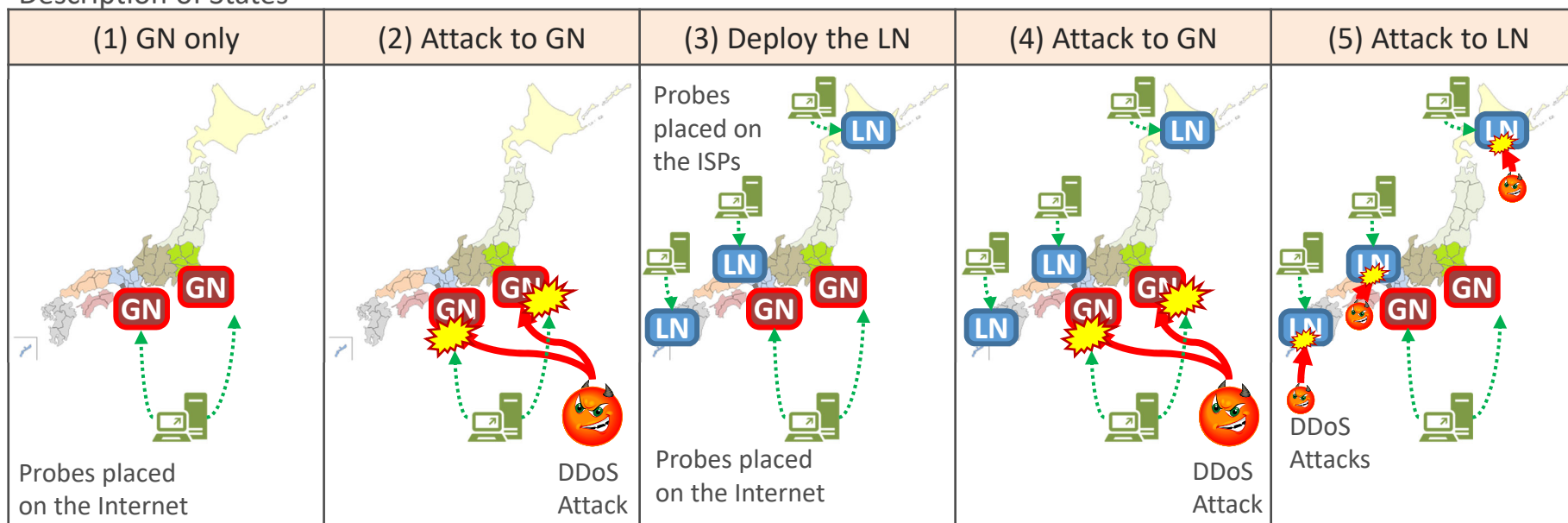
■ Performed DDoS attack scenarios

- DDoS attack to DNS server without local nodes (global nodes only)
- DDoS attack to DNS server with local nodes (and global nodes)

■ Measurements

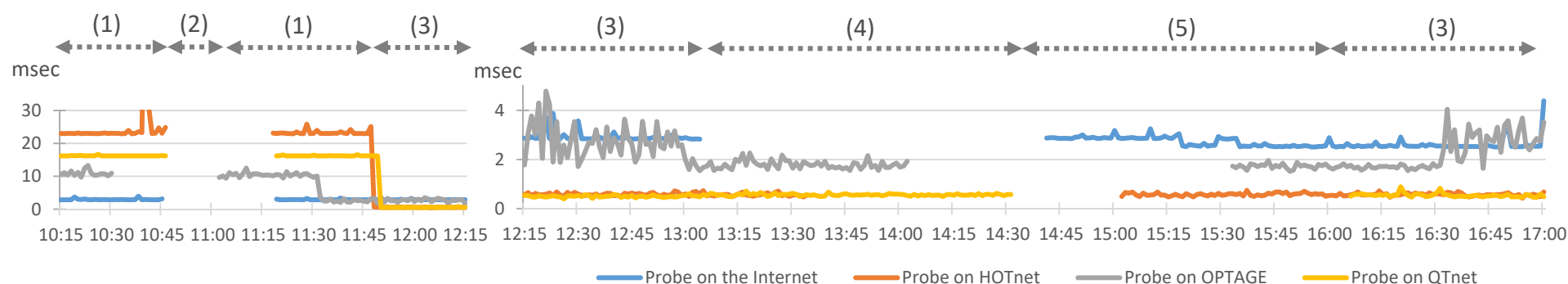
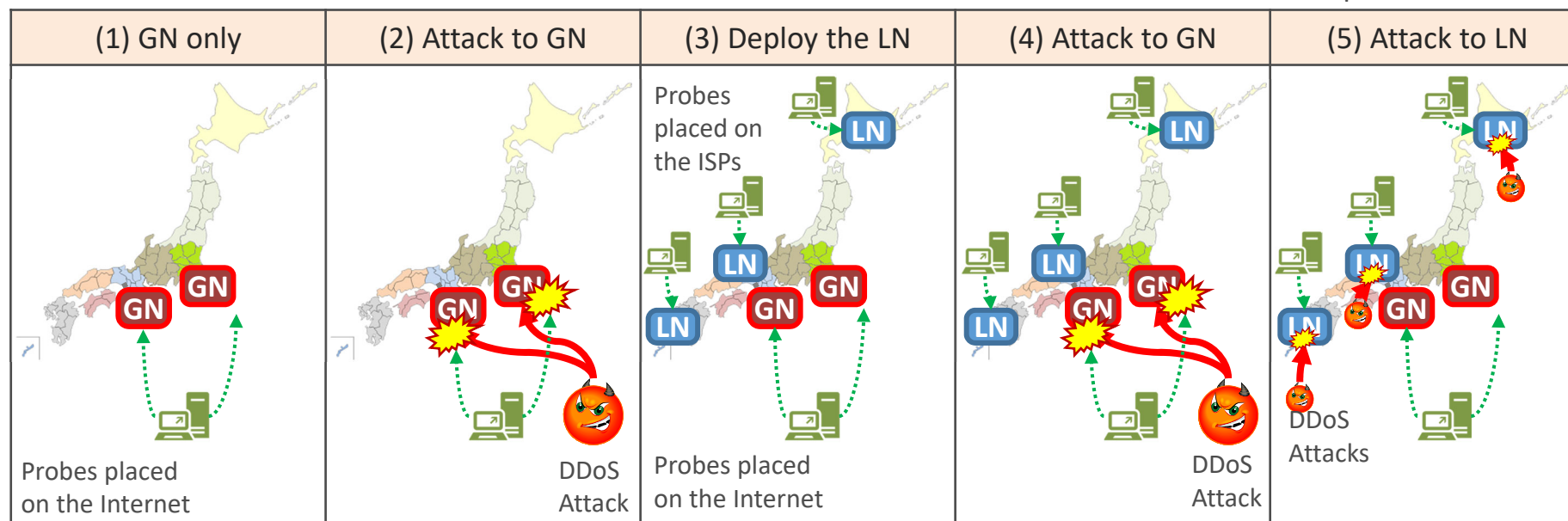
- Verify continuity of name resolution from probes placed on the Internet and probes placed inside the ISP

Description of States



Results of JPRS Experiment

Description of States



Some of the OPTAGE graphs are not stable because of the experimental network.

- JPRS monitored the status of Local Node from probes set up in each region. In Scenario No.4, we observed the LN servers name resolution unaffected locally.
- Scenario No.5 shows that the Local Node is able to absorb the attack.

Joint Research Report by OPTAGE

(AS17511)

Company Name

OPTAGE Inc. (former: K-opticom Corporation)

- Telecommunications carrier in Osaka , Japan

Services

➤ FTTH

**1.6 million
Subscribers**

✓ Internet Access

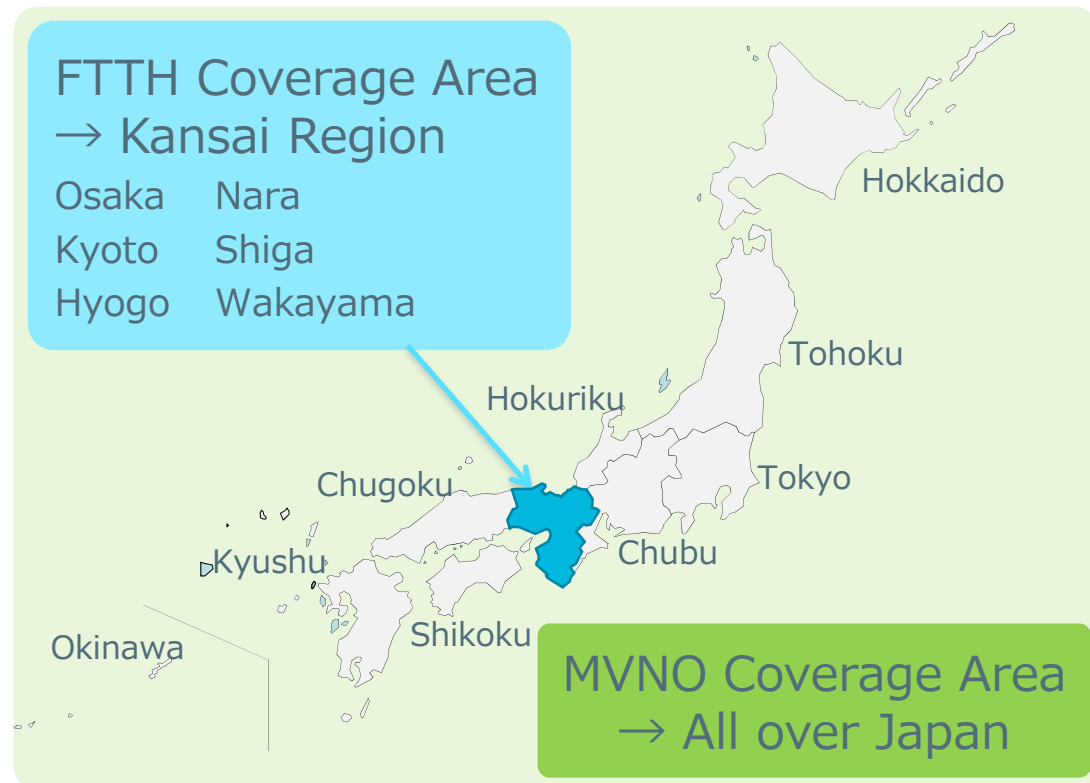
✓ VoIP

✓ TV

➤ MVNO

**1.2 million
Subscribers**

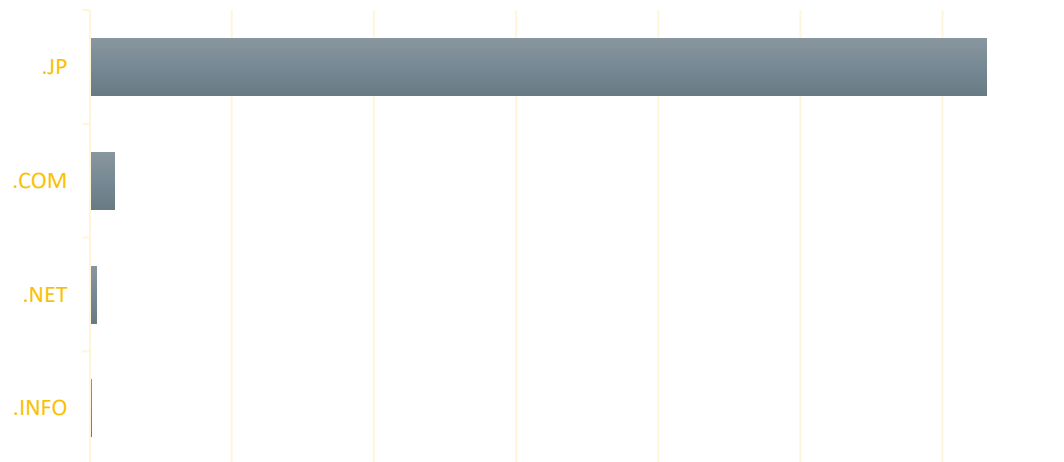
- SI/ICT Solution, etc.



The advantage of using “.jprs”

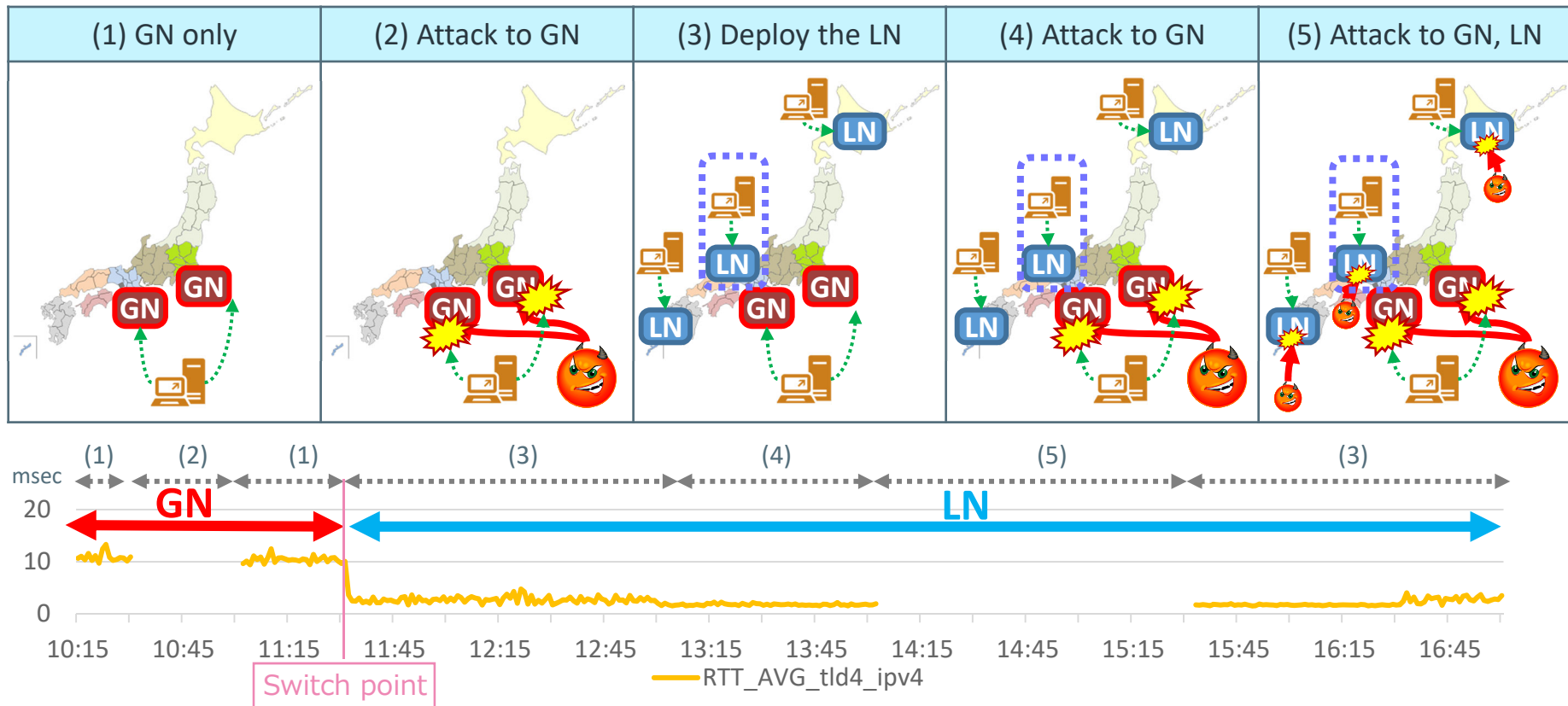
- “.jprs” registry operator is the same as “.jp,” which is ccTLD for Japan.
- The number of registered domains: “.jp” is 1st place.

Number of Registered Domains (OPTAGE)



Many important customers use “.jp.”

Results: ping RTT (1/2)

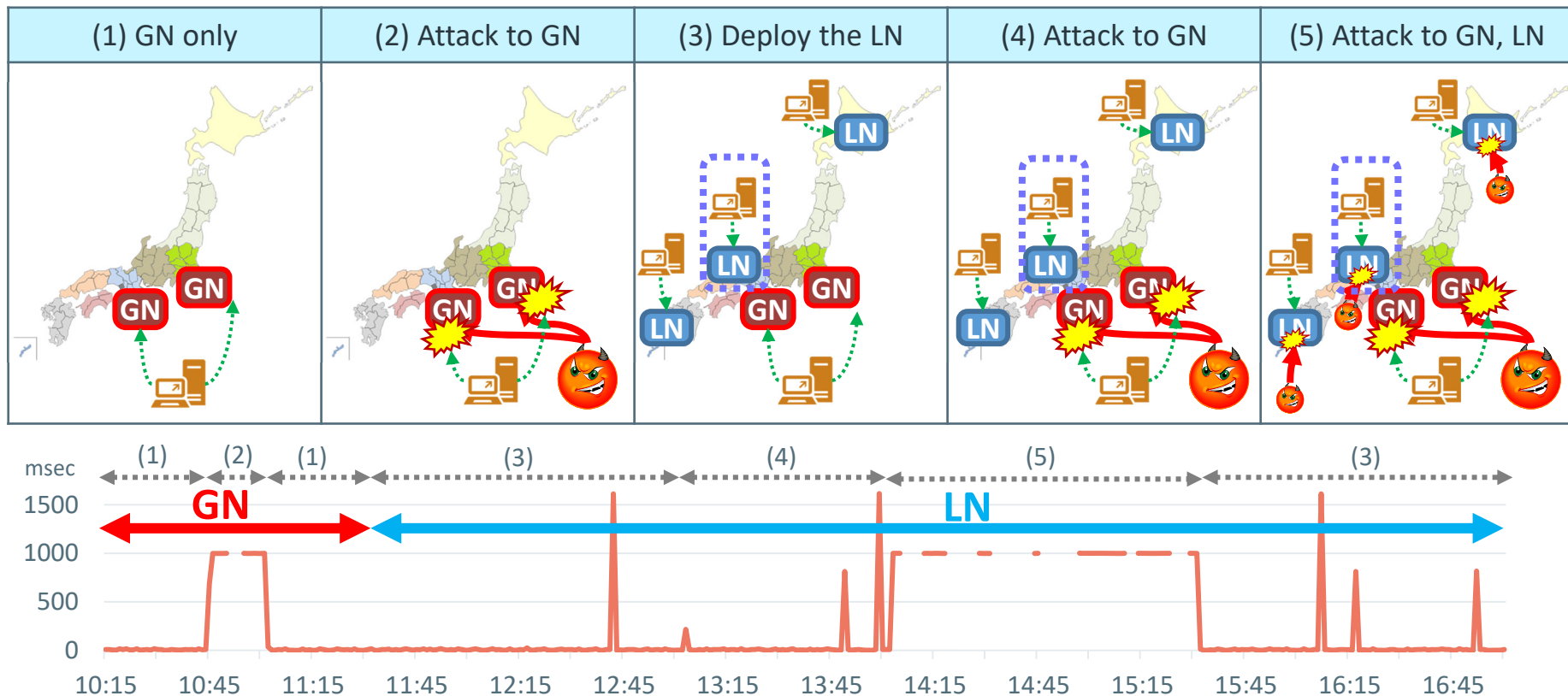


Note: The situation (1)~(2): LN is not in service.

The situation (3) or later LN works because BGP route to the same IP as GN is advertised.

- This graph indicates ping RTT from the full resolver inside of our experimental network to the authoritative name server.
- It shows the authoritative name server was switched from GN to LN at **Switch point**.
- At the situation (2) obviously it was not responding, but at the situation (4) it was.

Results: dig RTT (2/2)



Note: The situation (1)~(2): LN is not in service.

The situation (3) or later LN works because BGP route to the same IP as GN is advertised.

- This graph indicates dig RTT from LN, the probe set up inside of our experimental network, to the full resolver which is also set up inside of ours.
- Domain name can be resolved by LN at the situation (4), which is the purpose of this experiment.
- We assume that some singular points (1500ms, but status:NOERROR) are caused by temporary server delay due to heavy load.

General comments

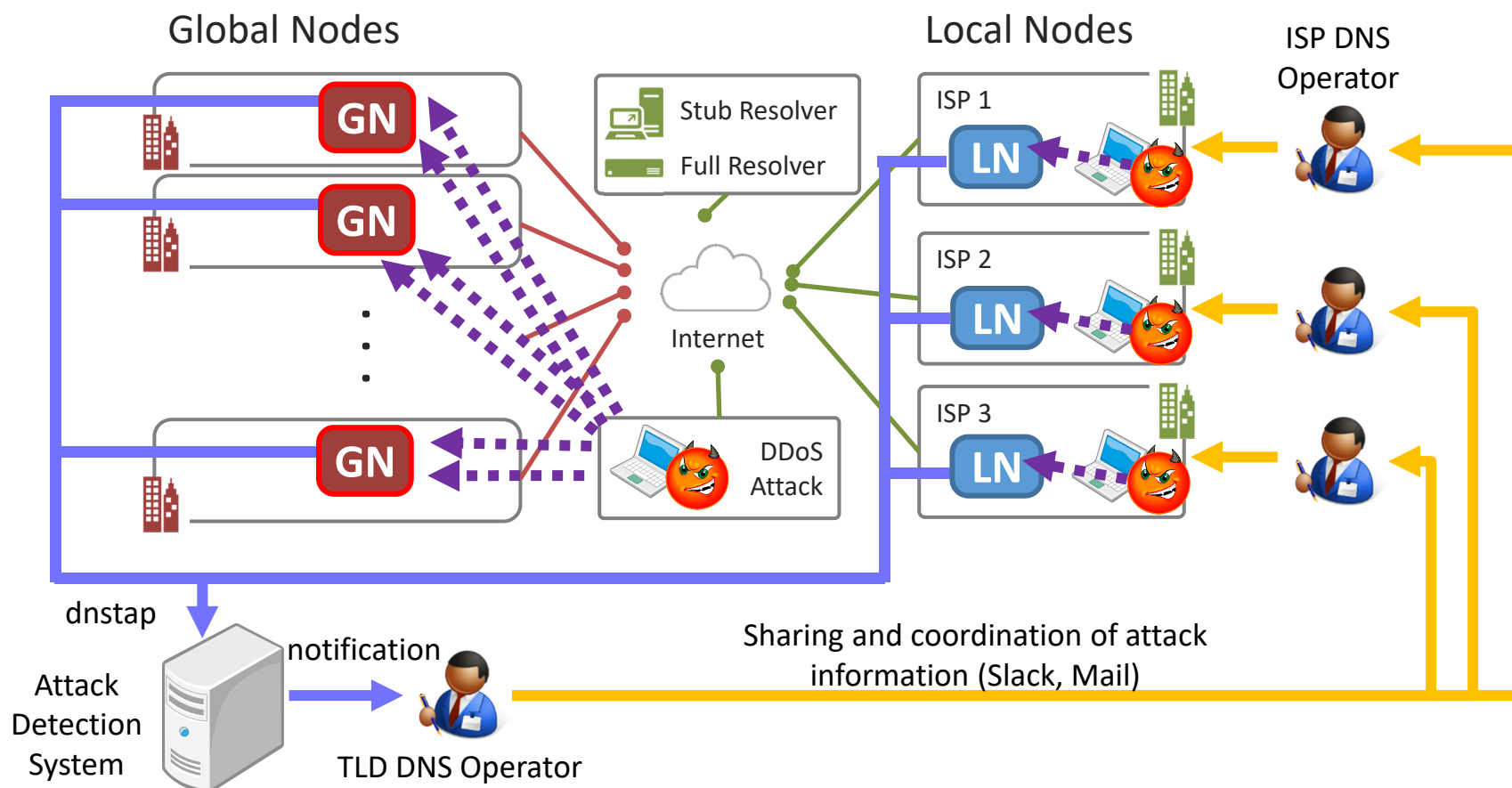
- Finally we found it effective to locate LN in ISP network.
- LN makes it possible to resolve domain name while GN is being attacked.
- Also we can deal with LN-down because it occurs only when attacker's source IP is ISP users'.

Future tasks

- The trigger and the timing to switch from GN to LN, and vice versa
- The method of zone data synchronization between GN and LN
- The redundancy of LN placement, which depends on the time it takes to recover GN

Cyber Attack Response Training

- In order to prepare for Cyber Attacks on LNs, exercises were conducted among TLD operators and ISP operators to ensure that they can detect, communicate and respond to attacks. (In general, LNs are often installed with smaller performance compared to GNs due to lower query volume in normal times.)



Lessons Learned from Training

■ Lessons Learned

- Sharing information among TLD Operator and ISP Operators is quite useful
- In practice, each ISP has its own operation body and contact point, thus different contact paths and methods are required
- However, informal community to exchange information among ISPs and TLD Operators is also quite important

Attack Detection System



Sharing and collaboration of attack information (Slack)



Consideration of LN deployment in Japan

■ From Disaster Perspective

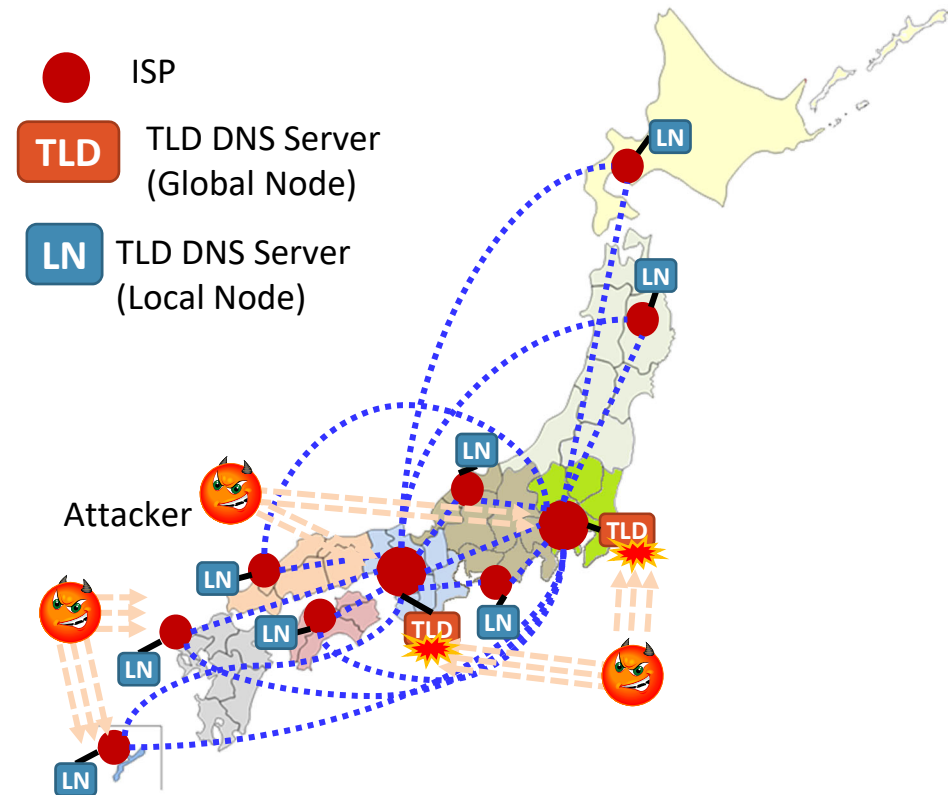
Japan as an island nation, the risk of submarine cables being cut by earthquakes and other disasters exists

- LNs are preferred to be placed on each island.

■ From Cyber Attack Perspective

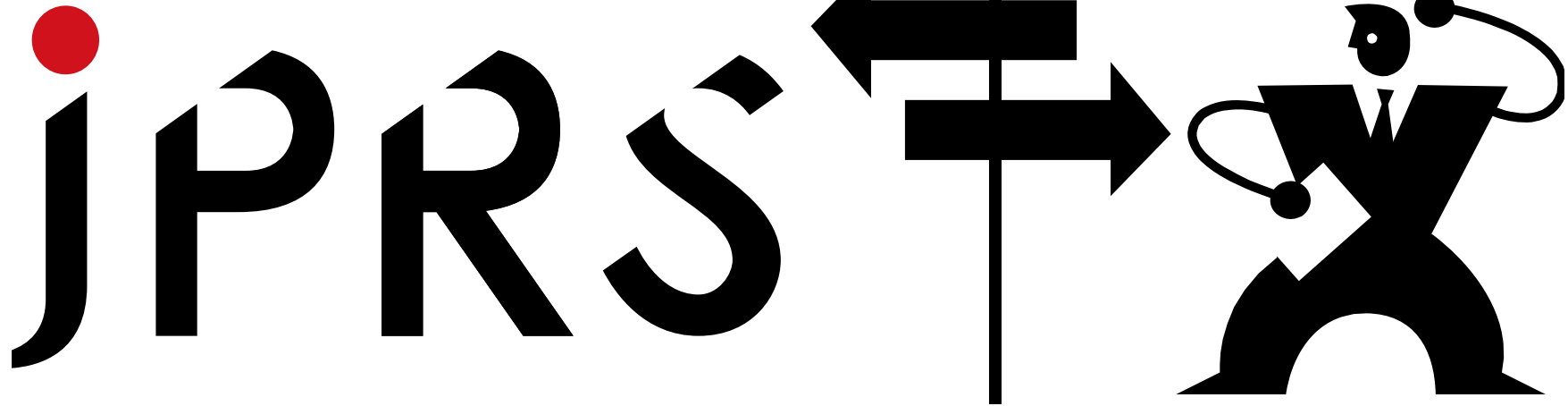
Since facilities are concentrated in Tokyo and Osaka, cyber attacks will also be concentrated there

- It is preferred to deploy LNs within ISPs which provide local services in their region



In general, since Japan is split in 8 regions, it is better to deploy LNs in each regional units first. (In terms of power supply and equipment as well. Fortunately, each region has local power provider and local ISP)

Q and A



- If anyone has experiences of doing this or that in the past Olympic Games, I would like to hear about it.

- Email:

- dotjprstestbed-sec@jprs.co.jp

- URL:

- <https://tldlabs.jprs/en/>