

Oblivious HTTP Deployment Experiences

Tommy Pauly
OHAI
July 2024, Vancouver

Agenda

Use cases

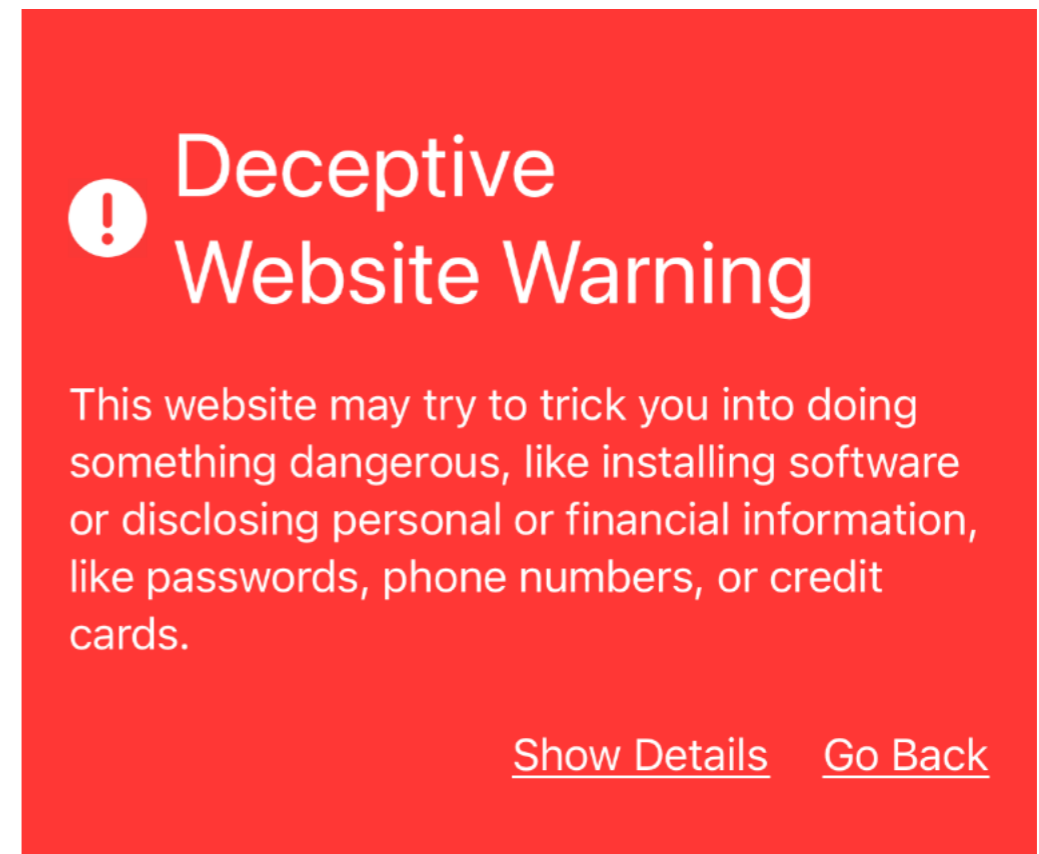
Configuration model

Use Case 1: Safe Browsing

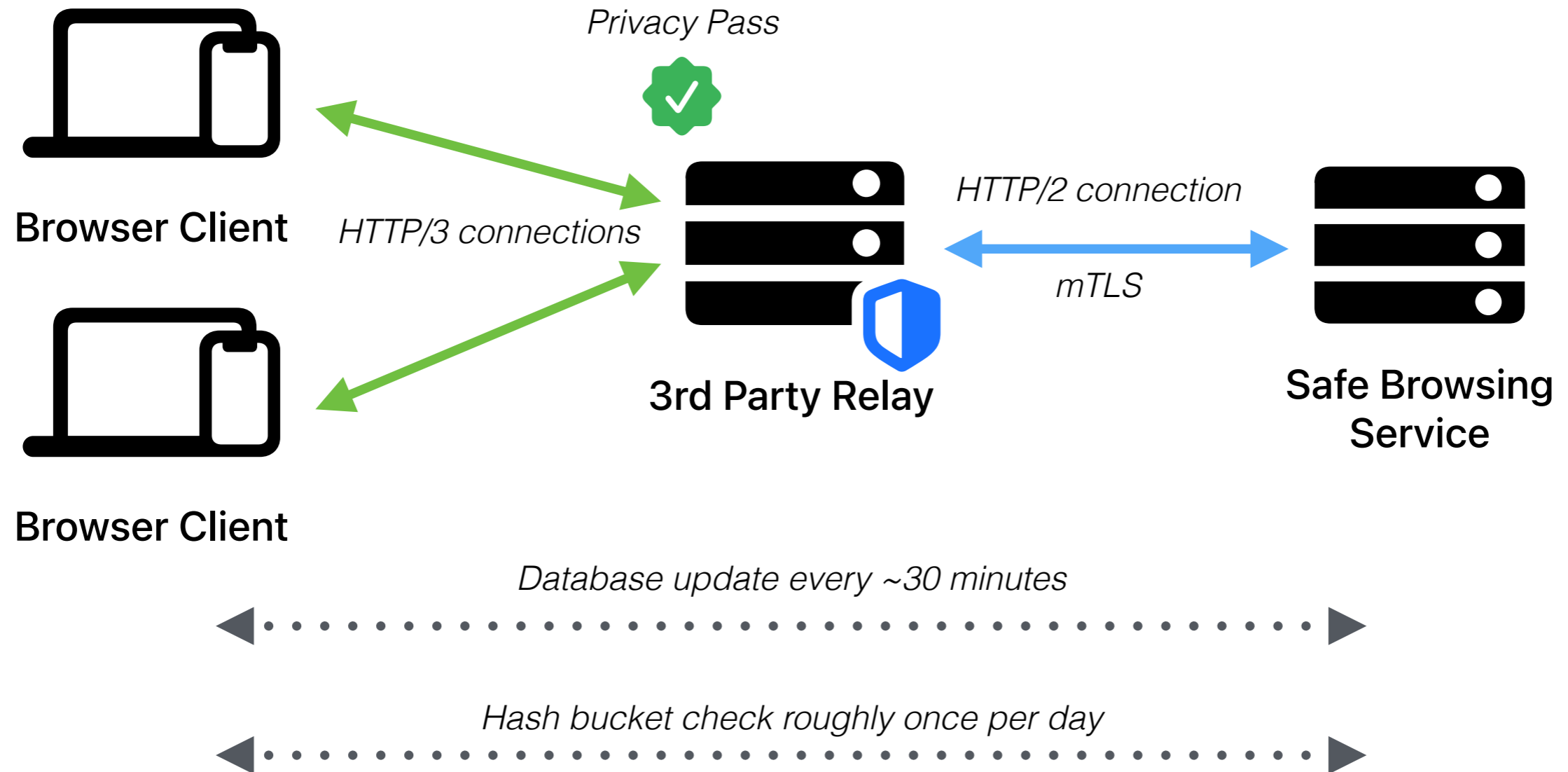
Periodic background fetches of a list of truncated URL hashes to detect phishing sites, etc.

Requests for complete hashes when a potential match is found

Needs privacy to avoid servers tracking all user IP addresses and potentially correlating activity



Safe Browsing



Safe Browsing

Normally a "cold start" connection

Predominantly background, latency is not blocking users

P50 times globally are around 350ms for database download

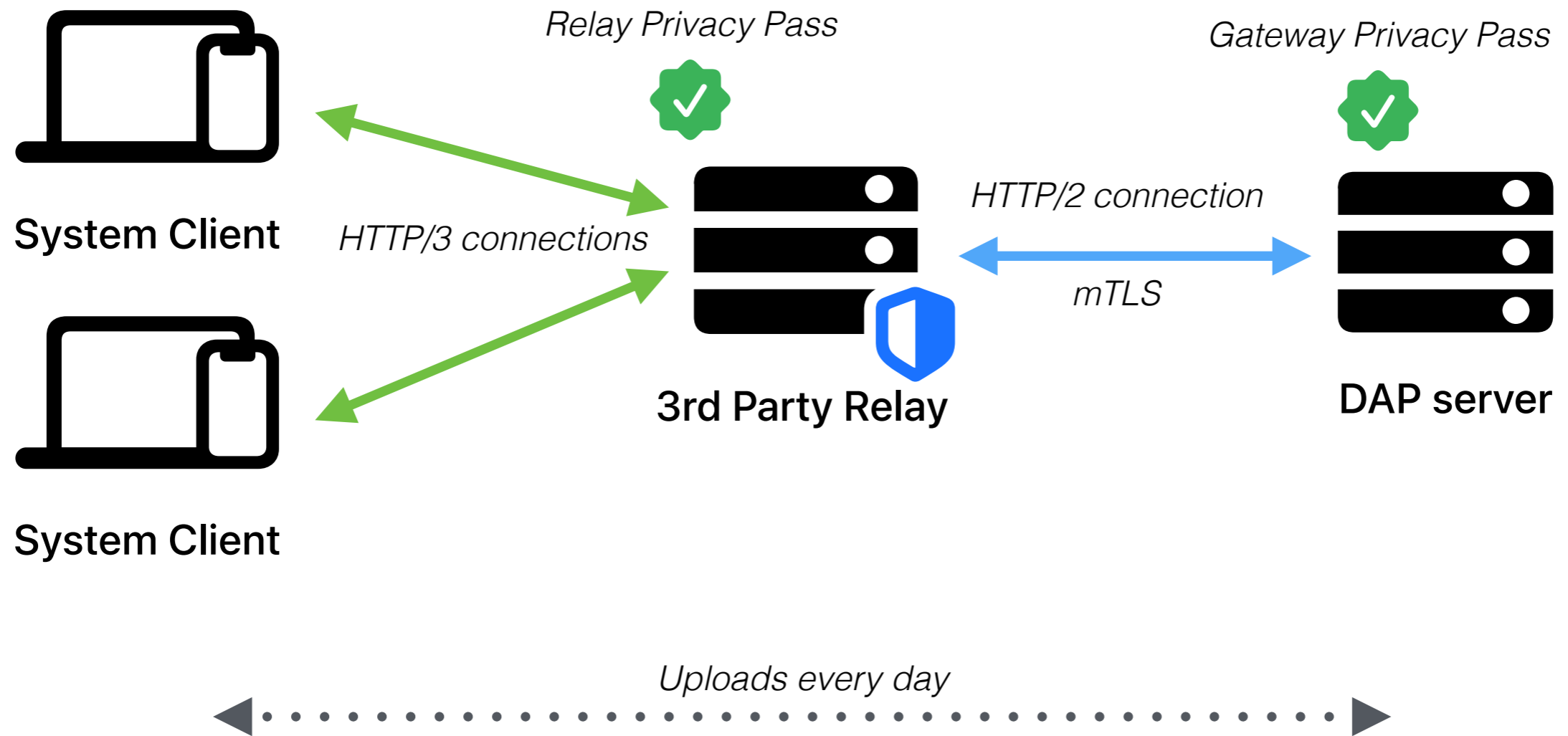
Use Case 2: Metrics Upload

DAP metrics upload over OHTTP

Responses are not used by client

This is a case that could be optimized by having the relay ACK the message and forward it along ("unreliable")

Metrics Upload



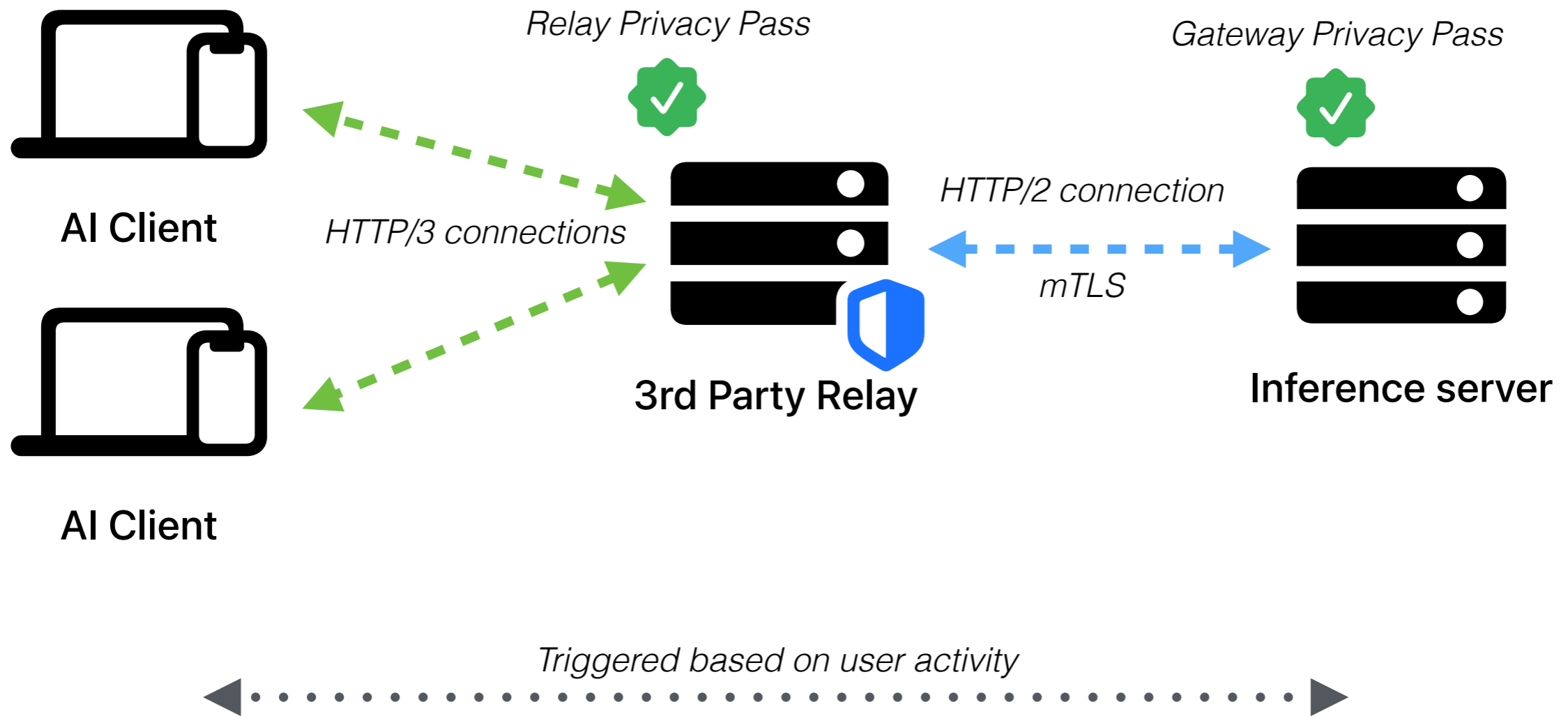
Use Case 3: Model Inference

Chunked OHTTP is being used for Private Cloud Compute and related AI features

<https://security.apple.com/blog/private-cloud-compute/>

Responses can be parsed in segments, and take a varying amount of time to generate

Model Inference



Model Inference

New aspects used with Chunked OHTTP

Indeterminate length BHTTP messages

BHTTP trailers used to indicate errors

These weren't exercised before and needed cleanup in client implementation

Chunked OHTTP also exposed common CDN buffering behavior with POST

Deployment Model

Clients fetch a configuration bag every 12-24 hours

OHTTP rules include:

- Gateway key configuration

- Relay resource URLs

- Supported target resources

- Mode (non-chunked/chunked)

Some of these are included in a transparency log to reduce targeting ability

Questions?