L2TP Packet Structure

LAC

Bits 0-15	Bits 16-31
Flags and Version Info	Length*
Tunnel ID Identifier for control connection	Session ID Identifier for session within the tunnel
Ns* - Seq num for this data/control packet	Nr* Seq num expected to be recieved
Offset Size*	Offset Pad*
PAYLOAD	

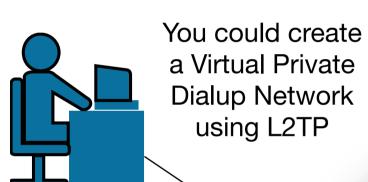
Layer 2 Tunnelling Protocol (L2TP)



L2TP/IPSec is used to provide confidentiality (because L2TP inherently provides none) whereby an encrypted ESP packet is forwarded with the L2TP tunnel.



(*optional)



The traffic for each session is isolated by the L2TP so it is possible to set up multiple virtual networks across a single tunnel

Either end may initiate

sessions

Once the tunnel is up the traffic between the pairs is bidirectional.

Packets in an L2TP tunnel are either CONTROL or DATA packets. CONTROL packet have reliability but DATA do not. This must be provided by the higher layer protocols.

Higher level protocols (like PPP) are run over the tunnel

An L2TP session (or *call*) is established within the tunnel for each higher level protocol.

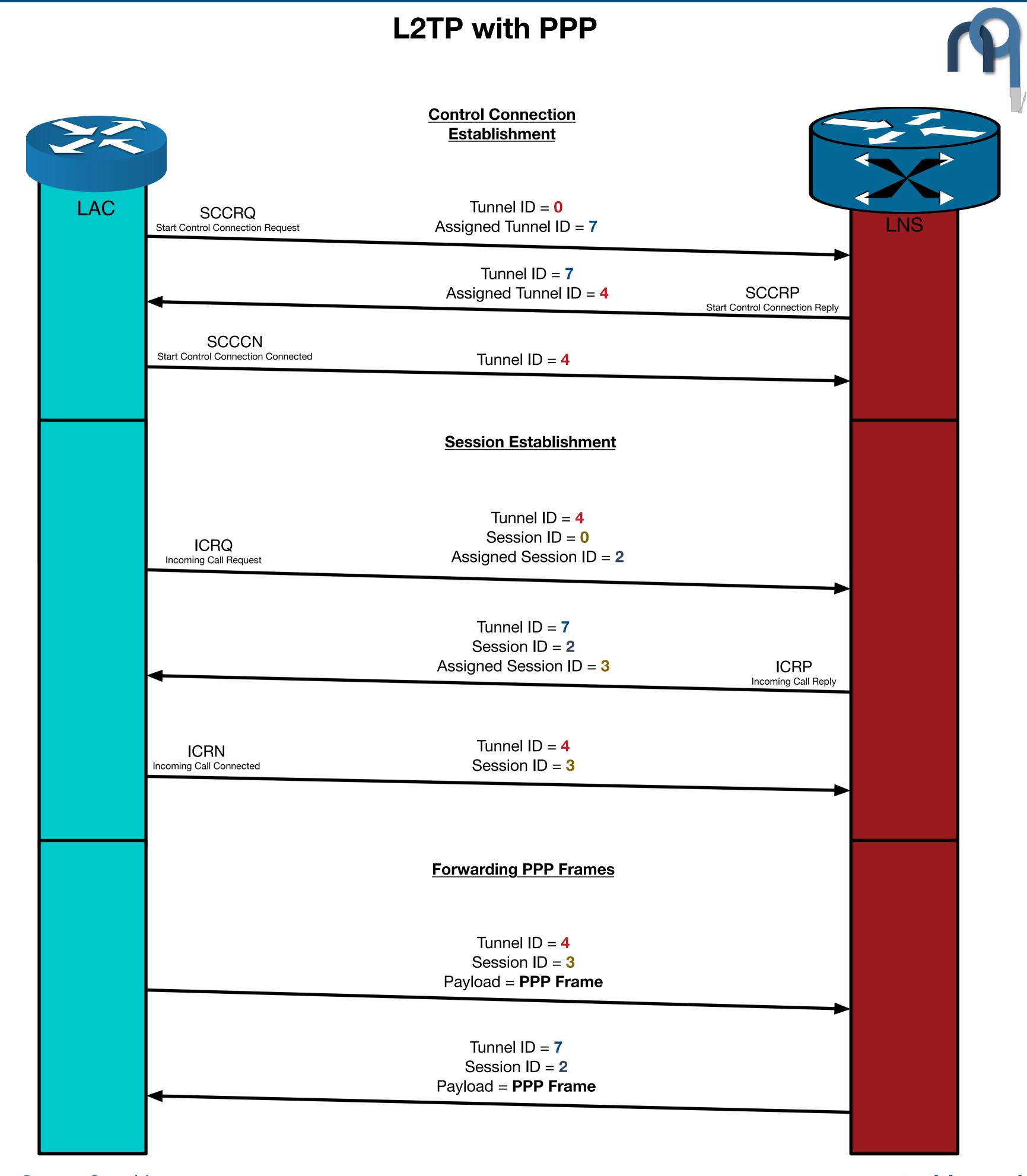
LNS

Session

Waits for new

tunnels

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