

PRIVACY AND THE CAR OF THE FUTURE

Consideration for the coming connected vehicle

whoami

- BSEE, digital communications
- Many years as a network engineer
- Santa Clara University Law student
- Research assistant providing technical expertise on privacy audits and reviews
- Contracted by auto consortium to review privacy of proposed vehicle to vehicle safety network

STANDARD DISCLAIMER

IANAL (Yet)

But if you know anyone looking for summer interns....

NON-STANDARD DISCLAIMER

A current NDA covers some of my work here (but not very much)
The focus will be on published information and standards.

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

- DSRC: Digital Short Range Communications
 - (Where “short” == 380m)
- Vehicle to Vehicle
- Vehicle to infrastructure in Europe
 - Not having to wait for a light on an empty street again.

WHY IS IT BEING DEVELOPED?



Safety

Photo Credit: Jason Edward Scott Bain

NON-TRIVIAL IMPACT ON AUTO DEATHS

- World Health Organization estimates 25% of vehicle deaths each year can be prevented.
- Fatigue and distracted driving accidents reduced.
- Blind Corners, fog and limited visibility accidents reduced.

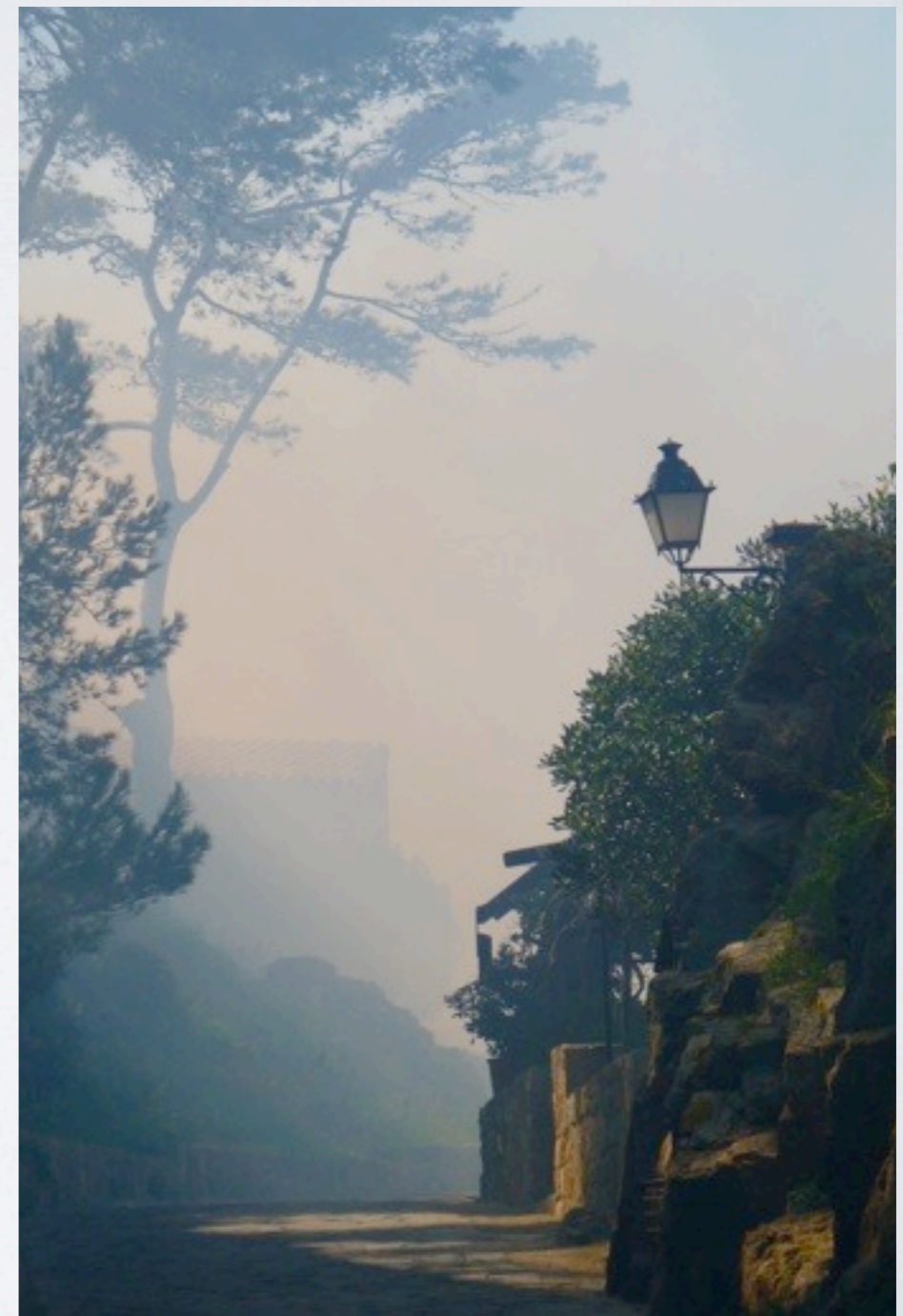


Photo: Public Domain

WILL THIS REALLY HAPPEN?

IT ALREADY IS

HOW SOON?

- Hardware is already being shipped.
- Some software issues still in the air
- The US Dept. of Transportation is considering mandating this for all new cars. (Decision to come later this year.)
- German government is considering infrastructure.

WHAT IS DSRC

- Basic safety messages sent out every 10 seconds.
- All messages carry a standard glob: values for pre-defined vehicle trajectory and operational data.
- Cars process data and warn driver.



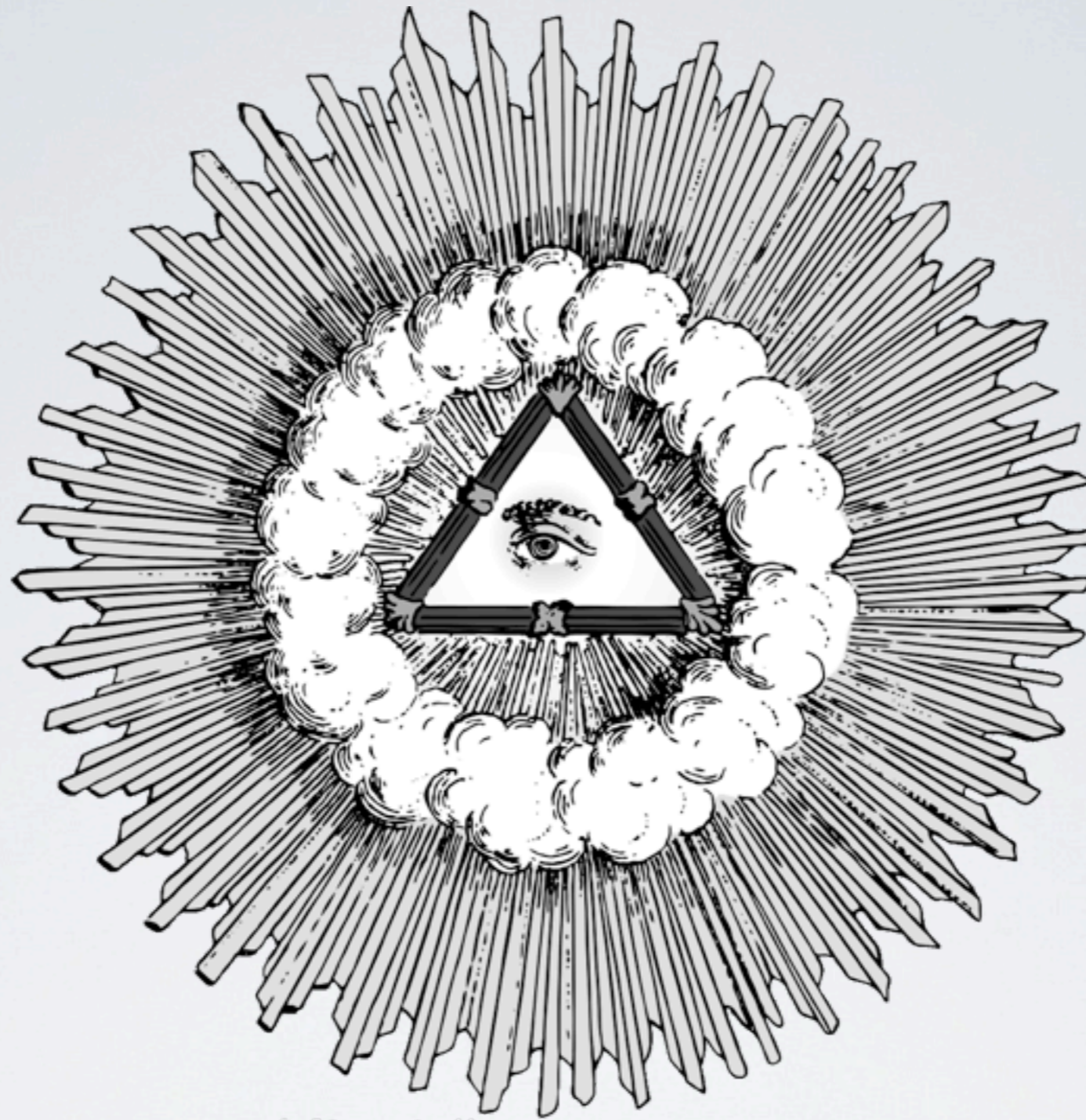
Photo Credit: US Dept. of Transportation

WHAT DSRC IS NOT



Photo Credit: US Dept. of Transportation

- CANbus
- OnStar (or any other remote service)
- (Direct) support for autonomous driving mechanisms.



TECHNICAL DETAILS

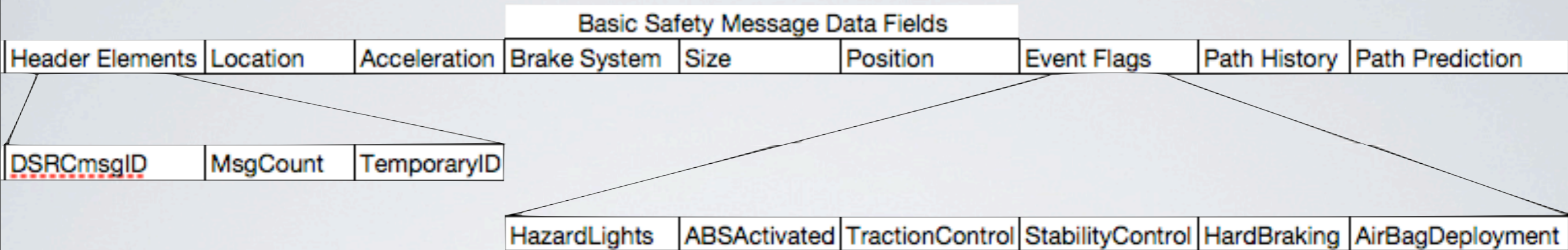
RADIO PROTOCOL

- 5.9GHz reserved in US and Europe
- Signaling standard: IEEE 802.11p
- Similar to “slotted aloha”
- All zero source address for vehicles



Photo Credit: NASA

BASIC SAFETY MESSAGE



- Standard: SAE J2735
- ~50 fixed data elements
- “only” interface to radio

PARAMETERS FOR EFFECTIVENESS

- Density
 - Benefit derived from other vehicles' use
 - Greater usage means greater effectiveness
- Confidence
 - Most messages must be trustworthy
 - People must trust information broadcast

VALIDITY?

- All messages are cryptographically signed
- Signing certificates issued by central authority
- Issued based on system fingerprint
- Revocation for “malfunctioning” equipment
- System should invalidate itself if internal checks fail

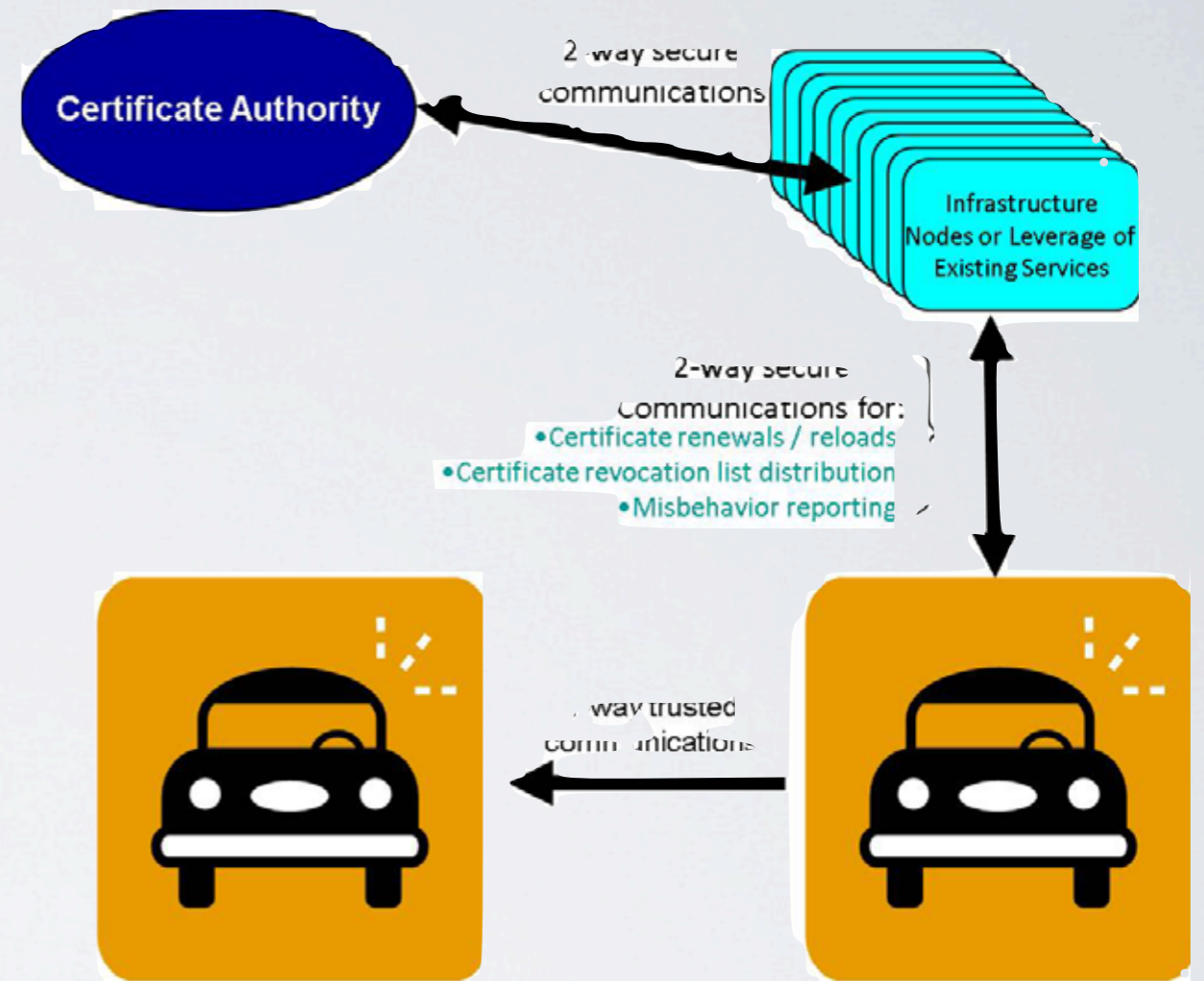
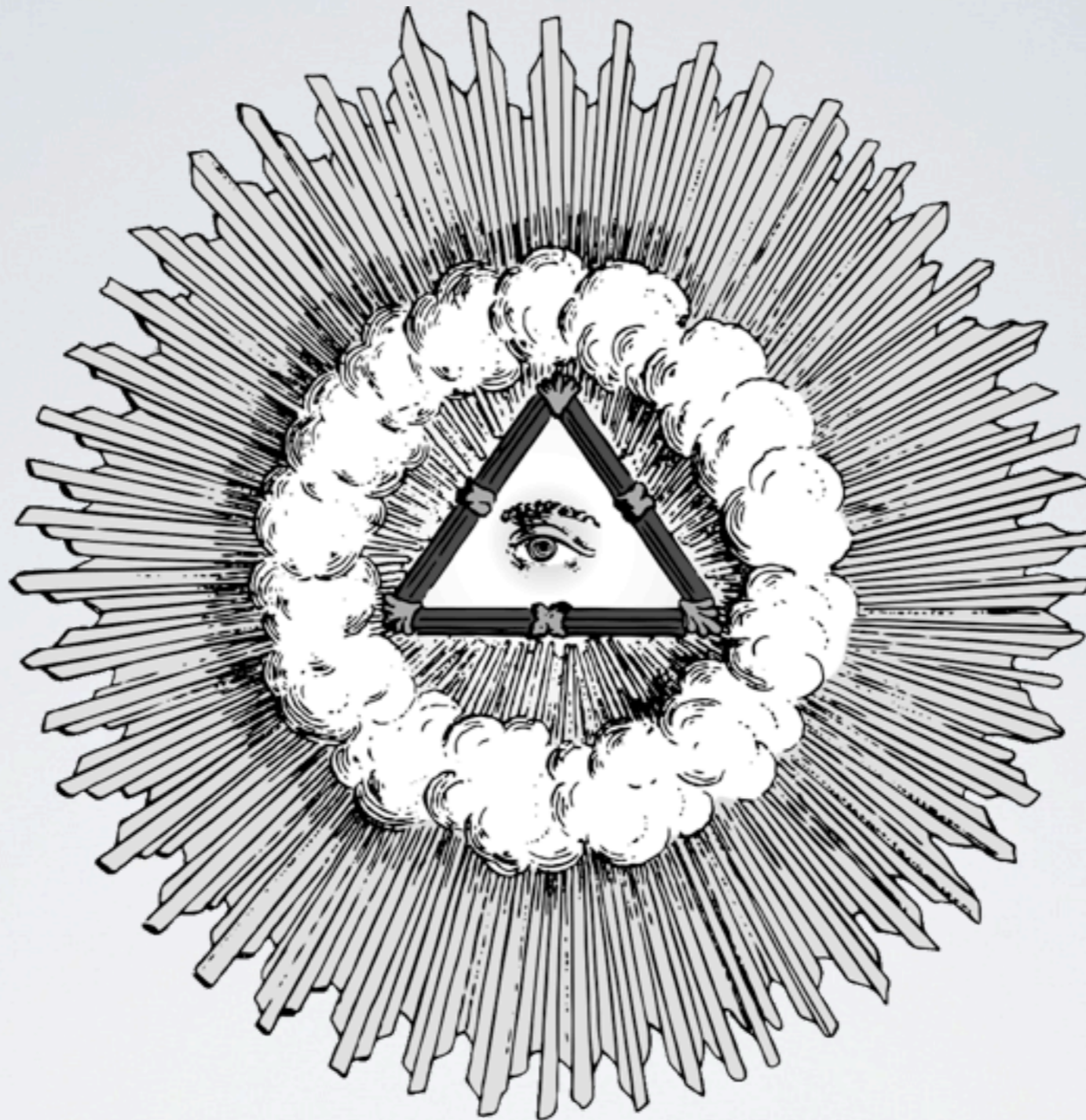


Image source: US Dept. of Transportation

CERTIFICATES

- Limited time use to prevent tracking
 - Reused?
- Periodically refreshed (and malefactors reported)
 - How often?
- Permanent blacklist



PRIVACY?

EXAMPLE: LAW ENFORCEMENT

- What can they do with this?
- Correlate location, speed to independent identification? (cameras?)



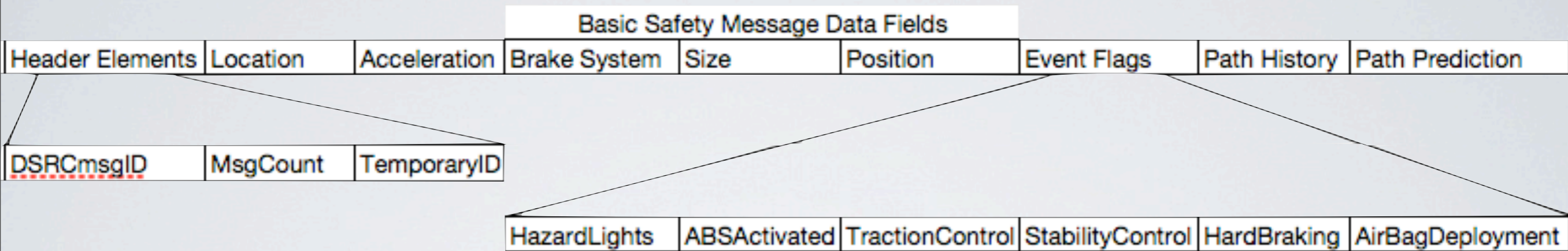
Photo Credit: Alex E. Proimos

MAC LAYER



- All zero source (for vehicles) / no destination
- Unrouteable!
- No significant privacy concern *as is*.
- Any algorithm to make network routeable will make vehicles trackable.

BSM



- “Temporary” ID could become persistent with bad app
- Open source apps suggested for processing and acting on message data
- Is this the only thing the unit will transmit?

CERTIFICATES

- Identity/Validity conflict
 - Solution: constantly changing certificates
 - Revocation by fingerprint
- Issuing authority?



FINGERPRINTS

- “No” correspondence between fingerprint and car
- “hard coded” into device
- If revoked, entire unit must be replaced to function



Photo Credit: NIST

CERTIFICATE DELIVERY



- Haven't figured out how certificates are delivered to vehicle
- Proposals include cellular, wifi, infrastructure links
- So many opportunities for failure

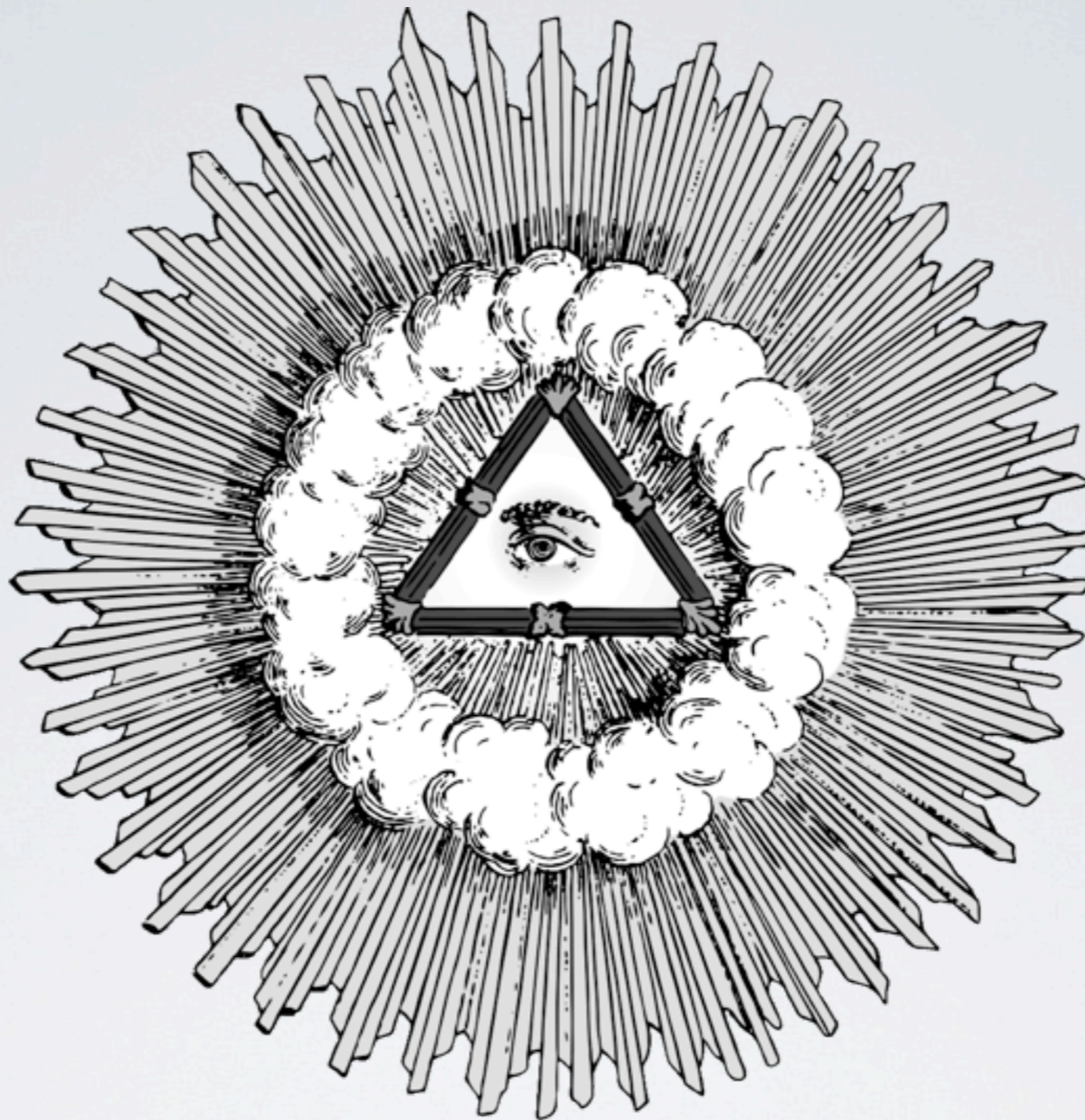
WORRISOME NOISE



- Manufacturers using this system for commercial applications
- Advertising and other “fund raising” schemes
- Fixed infrastructure potentially operated by data brokers

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Hack the radios
 - Commercially available now
- Hack the protocols
- Become politically engaged
 - Most decisions are not being made by elected officials
 - Help them find a way to fund it without selling out!



THANK YOU

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Professor Dorothy Glancy, who requested my help on this project
- DC 650 (especially Charles Blas) who gave me a reality check with current security and privacy capabilities

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Photo Credit: NIST

AFTERMARKET INSTALLATION

A little cumbersome