

Address-Translation-Based Network Virtualization

Yasusi Kanada & Toshiaki Tarui
Hitachi, Ltd., Central Research Laboratory

Introduction

■ Network virtualization

- ◆ isolates multiple services or communities while using the same hardware.
- ◆ enables users to create their own wide-area networks.
- ◆ can simplify network architecture and protocols because it can be independent from conventional network.

■ Conventional network address translation (NAT)

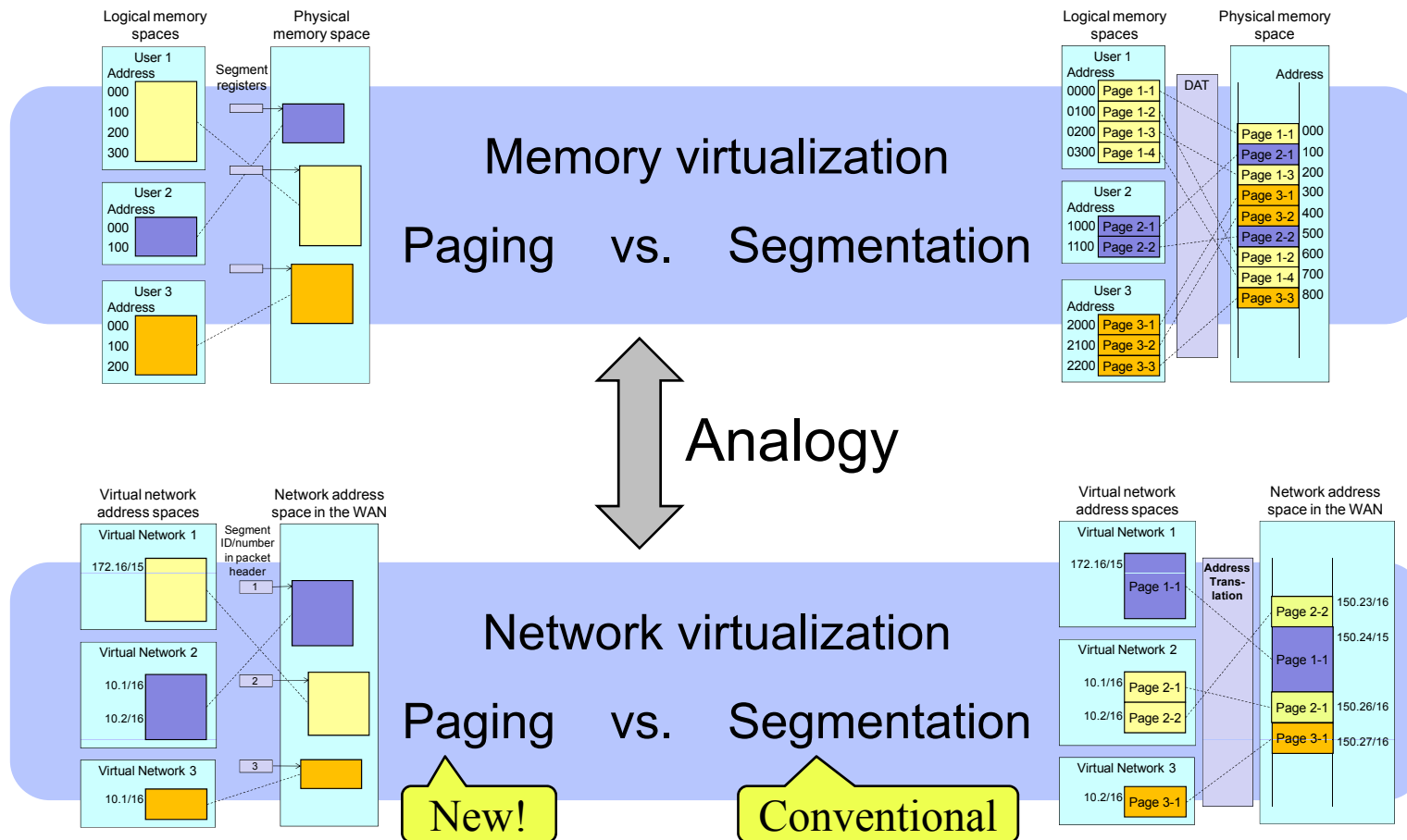
- ◆ causes complexity and “headaches”.
- ◆ plays an important role in real-world networks.
 - when the number of available IP addresses is less than required.
 - when there are IP addresses that should be hidden from the global network.

■ We will show *Address-Translation-based network Virtualization (ATV)*

- ◆ which is a relatively new method of network virtualization.

Two Virtualization Architectures

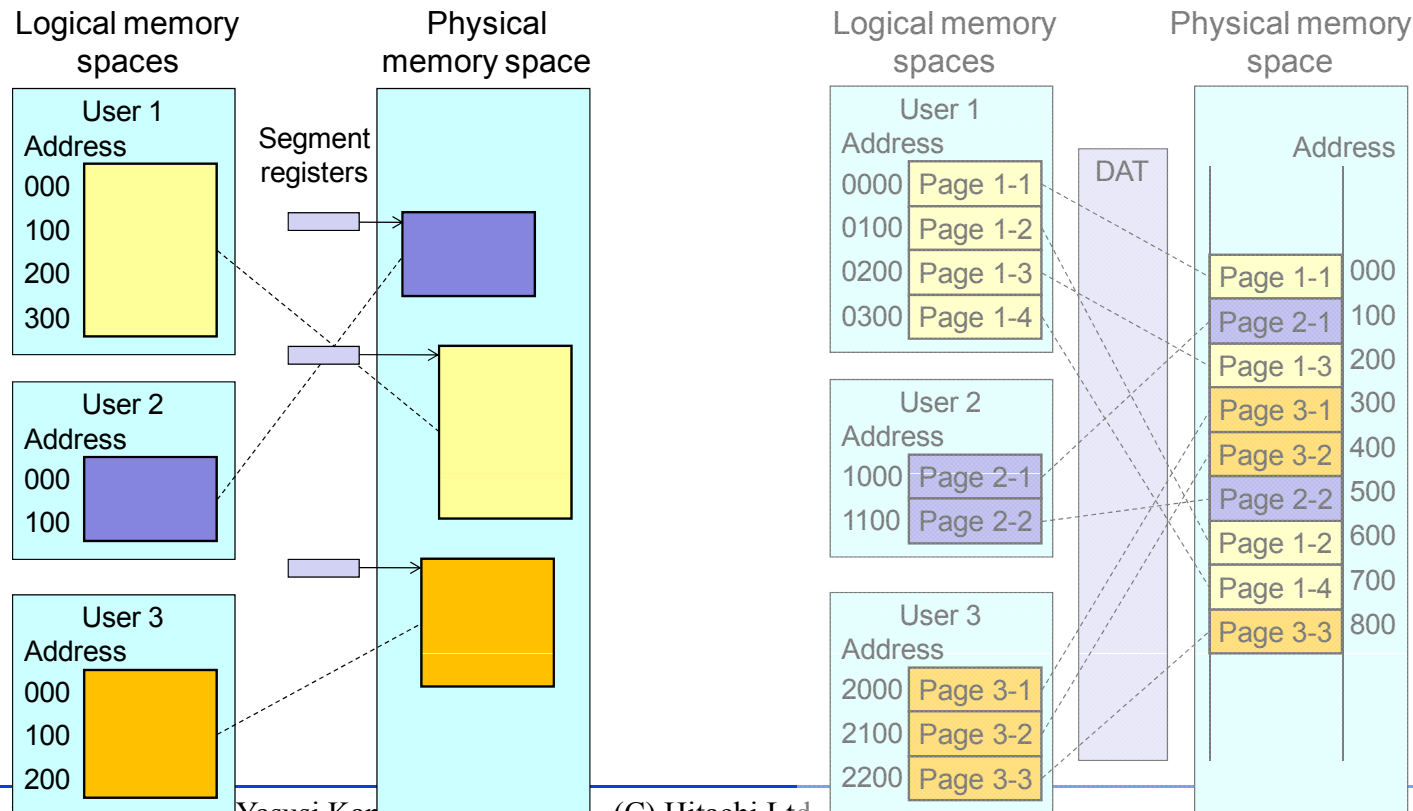
- Virtualization technology was first developed for virtualizing computer memory.
- Analogy between memory and network virtualization:



Paging and Segmentation in Main Memory

■ Segmentation

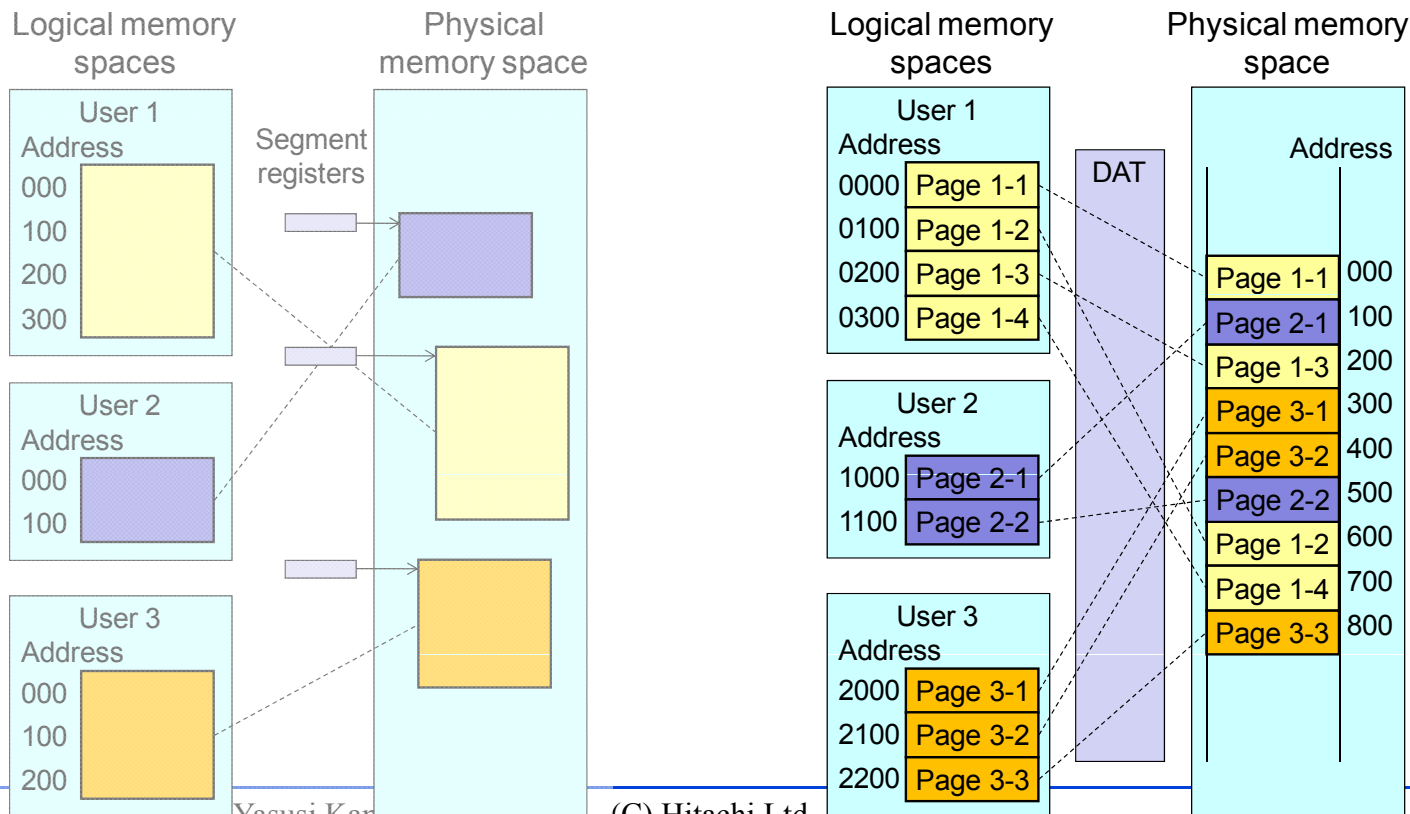
- ◆ The memory space is divided into logically separated and variable-sized segments and each user uses a segment.
- ◆ Logical and physical memories are mapped to each other by using segment(register)s.
- ◆ Address = **<Segment_number, Displacement>**.



Paging and Segmentation in Main Memory (cont'd)

■ Paging

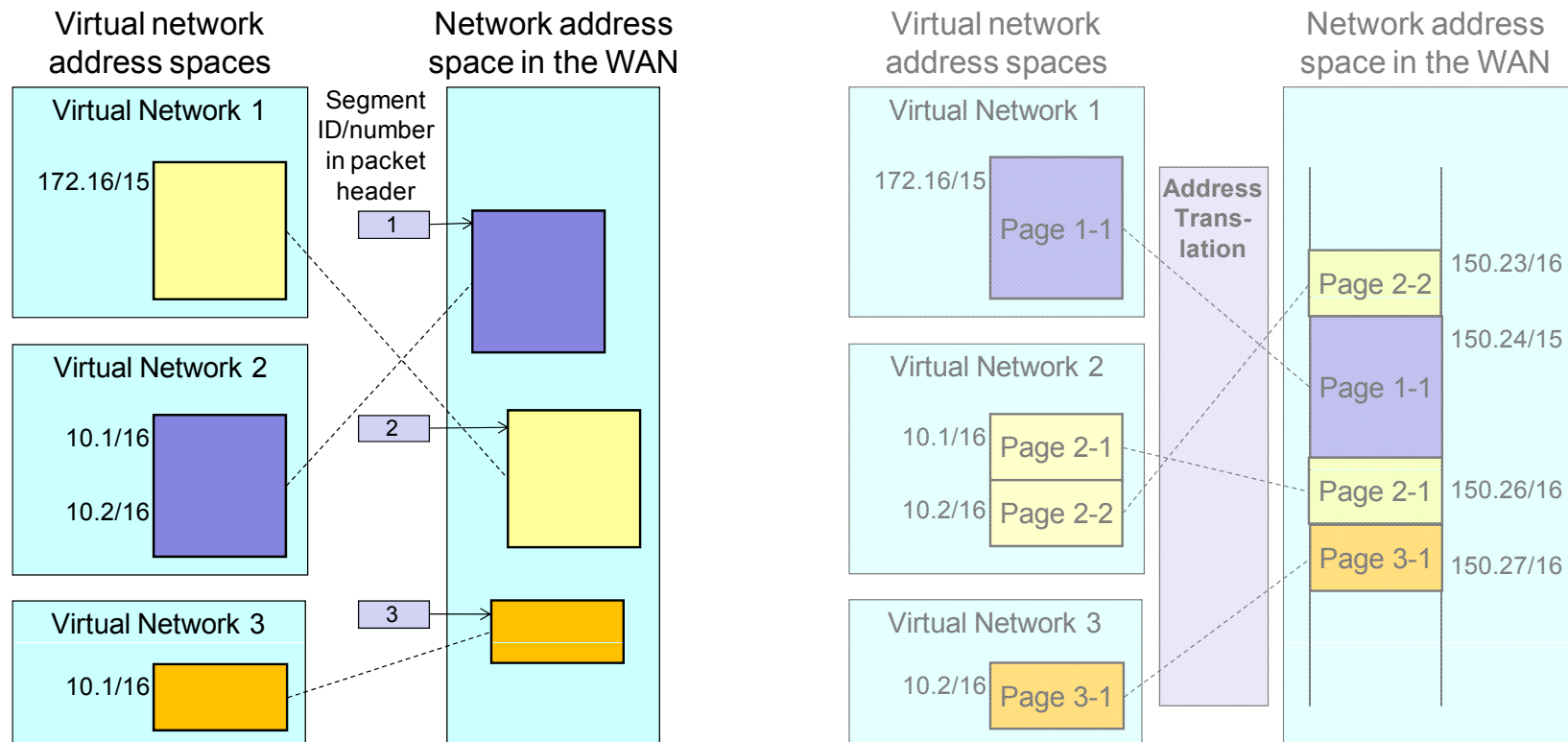
- ◆ The memory space is divided into fixed-size pages.
- ◆ The pages of all the users of a computer are mapped into a single large physical address-space.
- ◆ Logical memory is mapped to physical memory by DAT (dynamic address translation).



Paging and Segmentation in Network

■ Network segmentation

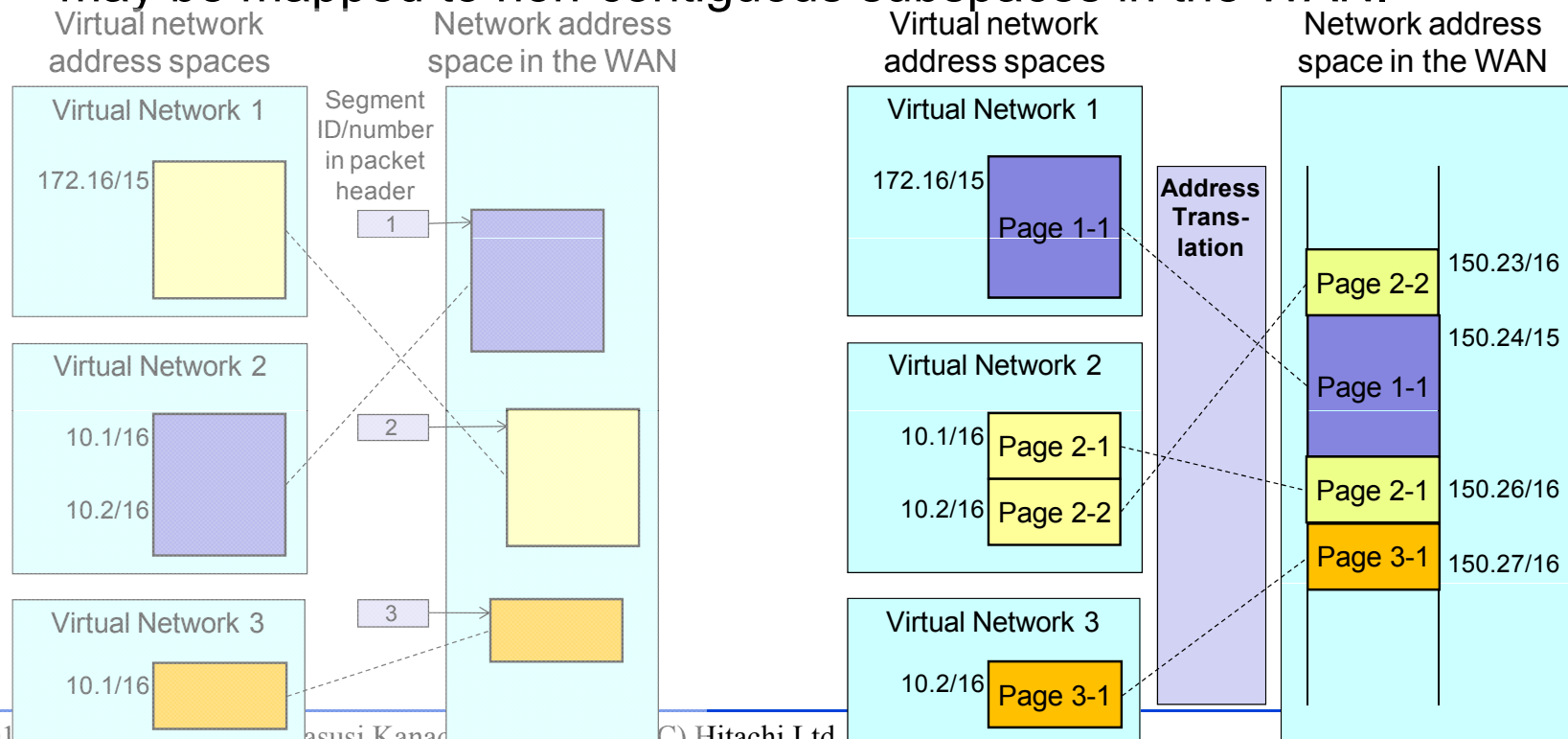
- ◆ distinguishes every network object by **<Segment_identifier, OID>**
 - Segment identifiers are VPN numbers or names, or VLAN identifiers.
 - OIDs (object identifiers) are usually addresses of objects in the network.
- ◆ is widely used in VPNs and experimental virtual networks.



Paging and Segmentation in Network (cont'd)

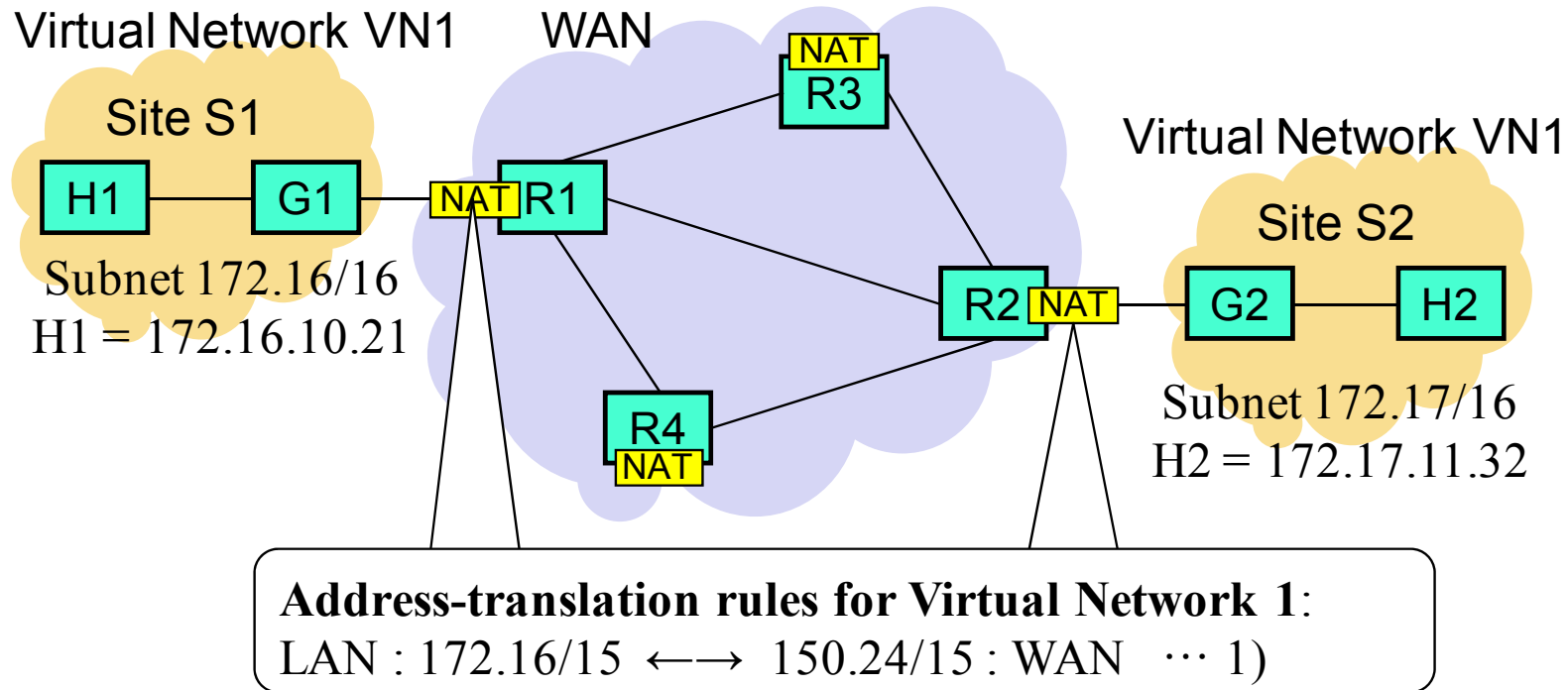
■ Network paging (or ATV (address-translation-based virtualization))

- ◆ A VN architecture that distinguishes every network object in all VNs by a single unique address in “physical network” (or WAN).
- ◆ Local addresses of objects are mapped to the unique addresses by using an address translation (a type of NAT).
- ◆ A virtual-address space may be divided into multiple pages and may be mapped to non-contiguous subspaces in the WAN.



Example: Intranet-type Communication

- Only one page (a single rule) is used.

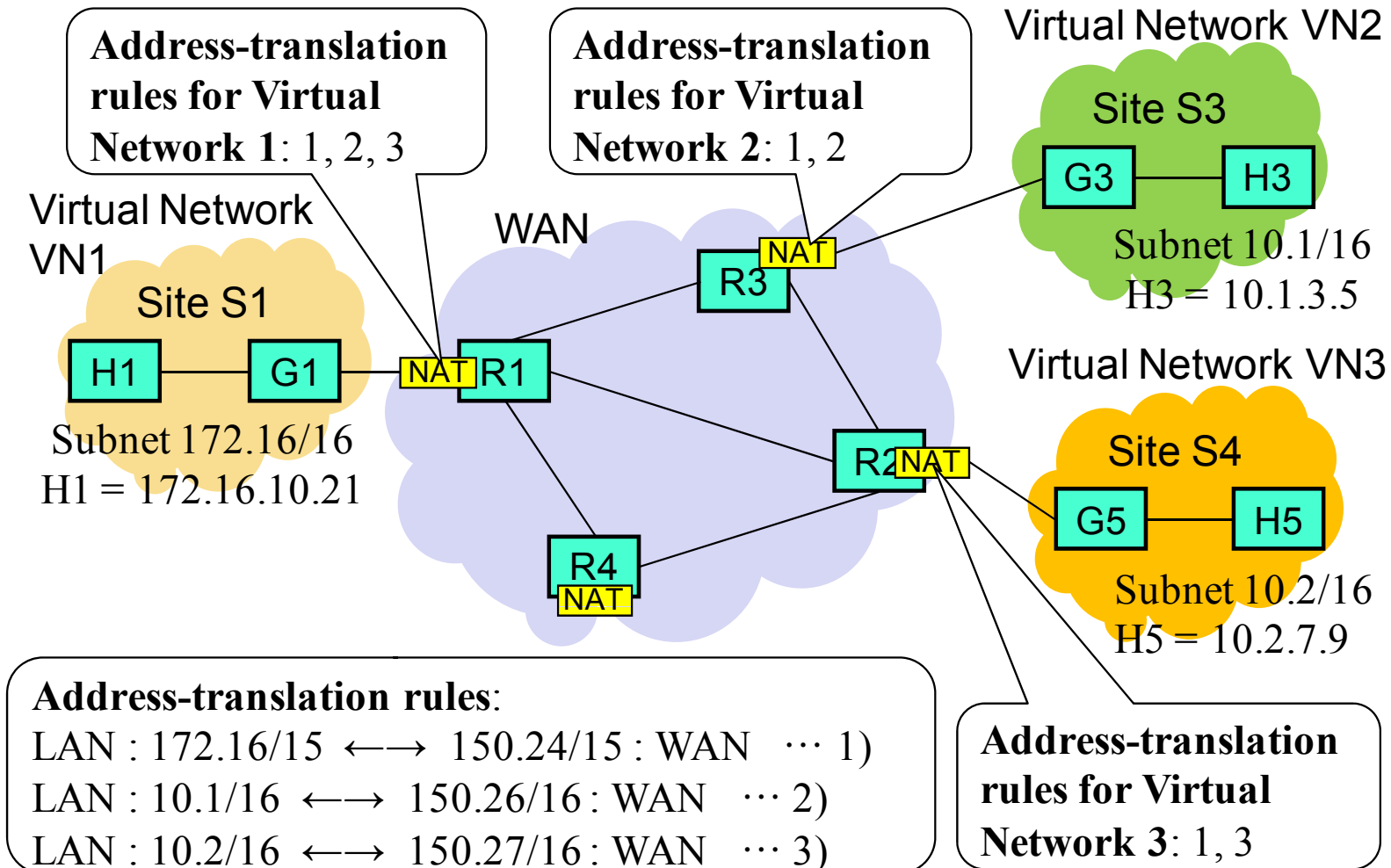


- Required conditions

- ◆ Identity of addresses: OIDs for the same object must be identical in all the sites.
- ◆ Isolation of VNs: No other VN may use the same page (same address range) in the WAN.

Example: Extranet-type Communication

- Hosts in S1 can communicate with hosts at S1 and S2.
- Hosts in S3 can communicate only with hosts at S1. ...



Advantages of ATV

■ No overhead and less redundancy in packets

- ◆ No extra field, such as segment identifier, is required.

■ Availability of WAN functions

- ◆ Virtualized packets may utilize WAN functions because the packets are not encapsulated.
- ◆ E.g. If the WAN is an IP network, the functions of ICMP or routing may be useful.

■ Availability of NAT implementations

- ◆ Conventional NAT implementations may be used.
 - E.g. A high-performance carrier-grade (large-scale) NAT may be used.
- ◆ Implementations may be modified because conventional NAT and address translation required for virtualization are different.

Disadvantages of ATV

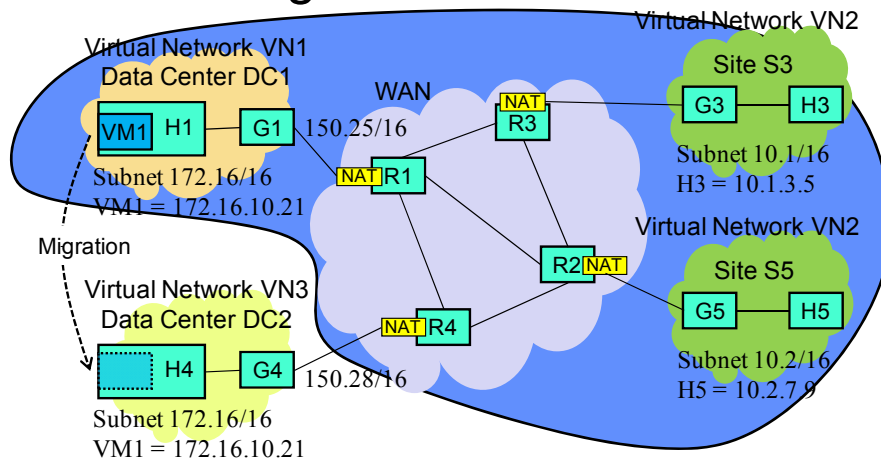
- **Potentially large-memory-size and slow rate of processing**
 - ◆ It requires a translation-rule table or translation logic.
- **Restriction on OID formats**
 - ◆ Address mapping may cause restrictions on the syntax or semantics of the OIDs (addresses).
- **Possible conflict with WAN function**
 - ◆ VN functions may cause conflict with WAN functions because the packets are not capsuled.
 - ◆ E.g. If the WAN is an IP network, address translation may make routing work in an unexpected way on the VN.

Application To VM Migration (an experiment)

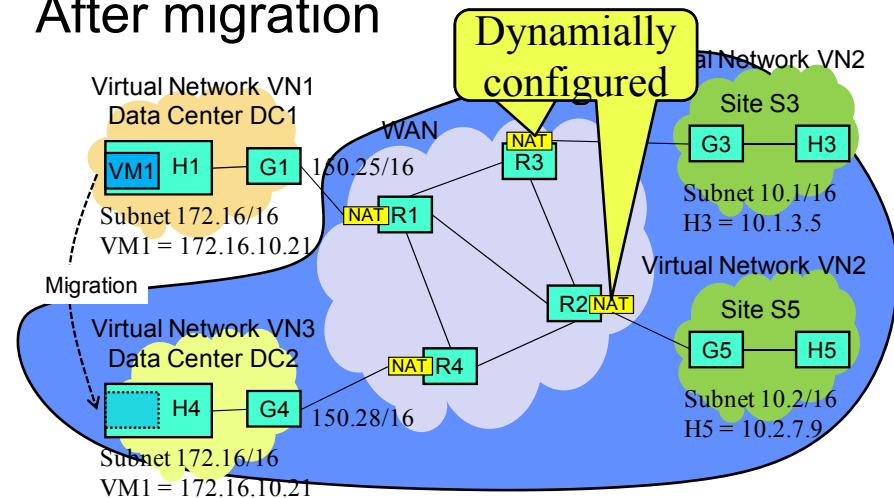
- The feasibility of ATV was tested using wide-area live-migration example.
- Wide-area live migration of VMs between data centers
 - ◆ can solve problems such as load balancing, disaster avoidance and recovery, and power saving.
 - ◆ causes “address warping” problem, which can be solved using ATV.

Method

Before migration

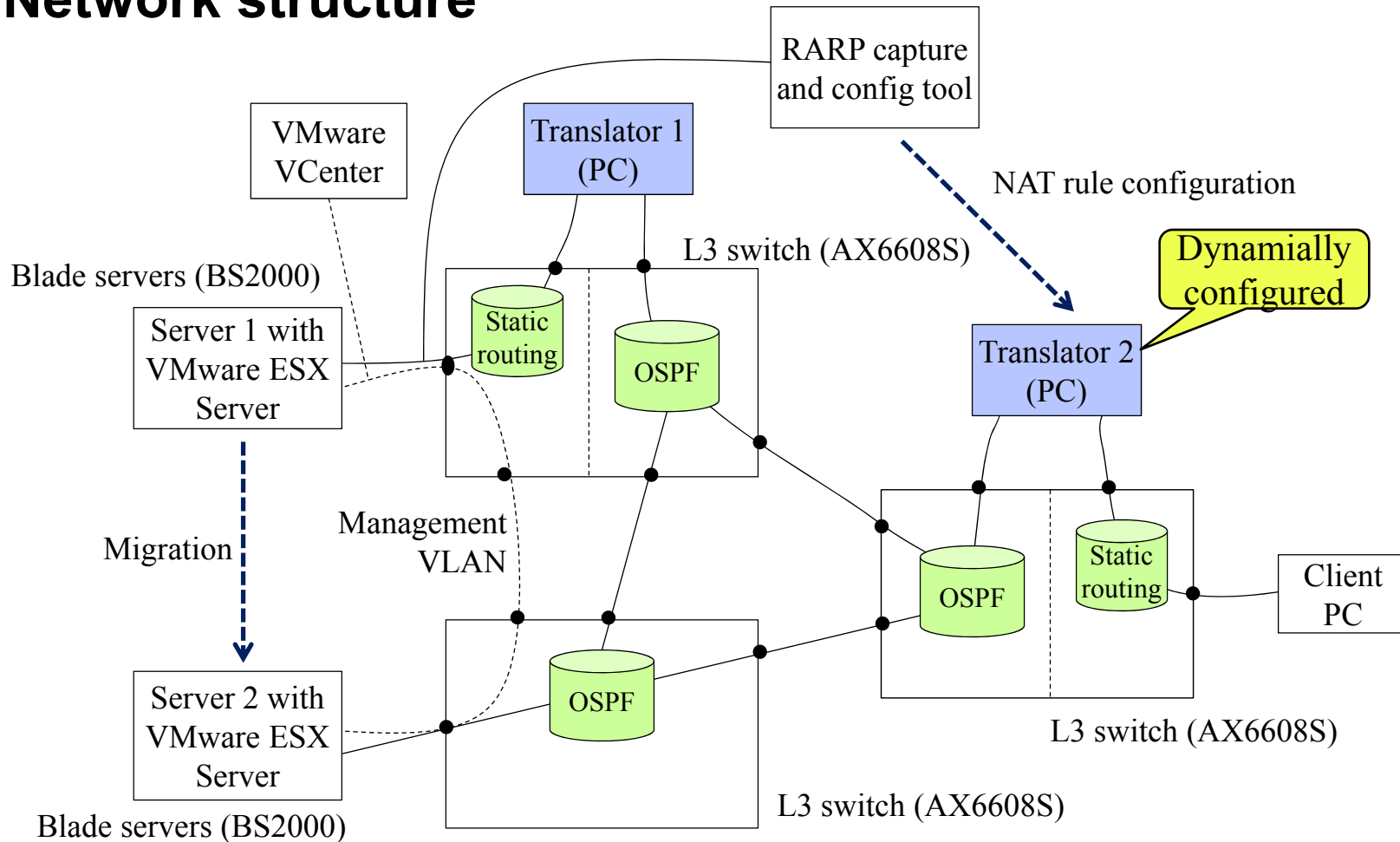


After migration



Application To VM Migration (cont'd)

■ Network structure



■ The VNs worked in an expected way.

Conclusion and Future Work

■ Summary and conclusion

- ◆ Two network virtualization (NV) architectures were described and compared: Network paging and network segmentation.
- ◆ Network-paging-based (ATV) method was investigated.
 - Intranet- and extranet-type communication methods based on this architecture were proposed.
- ◆ ATV has several advantages compared to segmentation:
 - less packet overhead
 - flexible page size
 - page-by-page processing
- ◆ Network paging is a promising NV architecture.

■ Future work

- ◆ To develop and evaluate ATV-based methods and networks.