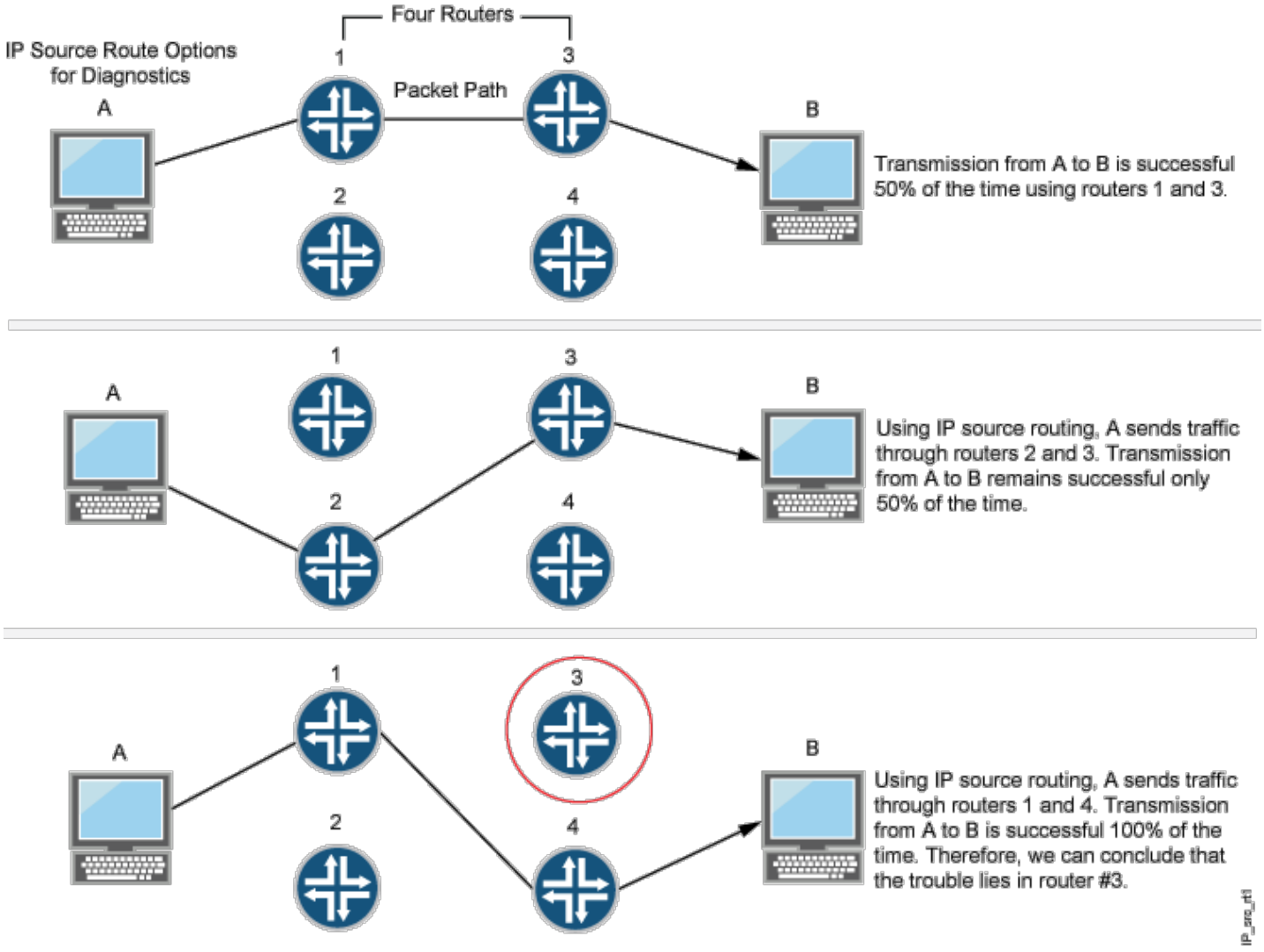
Understanding IP Source Route Options

www.juniper.net/documentation/en_US/junos12.1/topics/concept/reconnaissance-deterrence-attack-evasion-ip-source-route-understanding.html

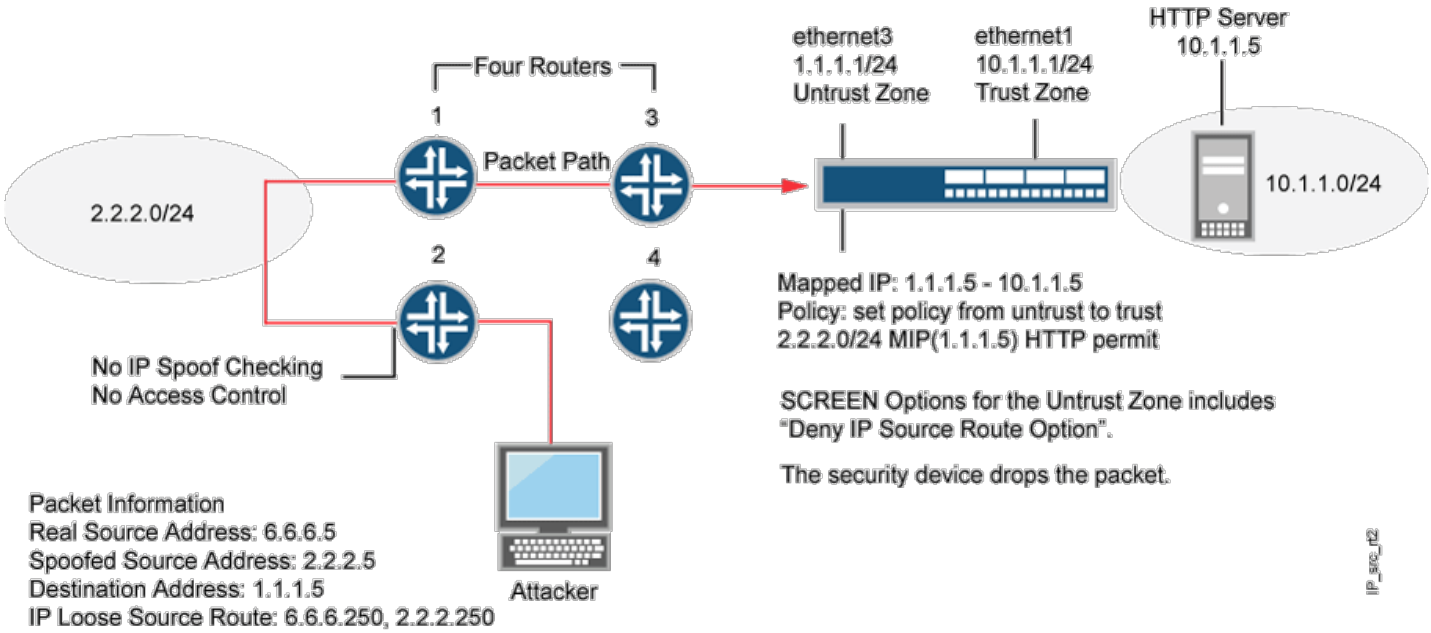
Source routing was designed to allow users at the source of an IP packet transmission to specify the IP addresses of the devices (also referred to as “hops”) along the path that they want an IP packet to take on its way to its destination. The original intent of the IP source route options was to provide routing control tools to aid diagnostic analysis. If, for example, the transmission of a packet to a particular destination meets with irregular success, you might first use either the record route or the timestamp IP option to discover the addresses of devices along the path or paths that the packet takes. You can then use either the loose or the strict source route option to direct traffic along a specific path, using the addresses you learned from the results that the record route or timestamp options produced. By changing device addresses to alter the path and sending several packets along different paths, you can note changes that either improve or lessen the success rate. Through analysis and the process of elimination, you might be able to deduce where the trouble lies. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: IP Source Routing



Although the uses of IP source route options were originally benign, attackers have learned to put them to more devious uses. They can use IP source route options to hide their true address and access restricted areas of a network by specifying a different path. For an example showing how an attacker can put both deceptions to use, consider the following scenario as illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Loose IP Source Route Option for Deception



Junos OS only allows traffic 2.2.2.0/24 if it comes through ethernet1, an interface bound to zone_external. Devices 3 and 4 enforce access controls but devices 1 and 2 do not. Furthermore, device 2 does not check for IP spoofing. The attacker spoofs the source address and, by using the loose source route option, directs the packet through device 2 to the 2.2.2.0/24 network and from there out device 1. Device 1 forwards it to device 3, which forwards it to the Juniper Networks device. Because the packet came from the 2.2.2.0/24 subnet and has a source address from that subnet, it seems to be valid. However, one remnant of the earlier chicanery remains: the loose source route option. In this example, you have enabled the deny IP source route screen option for zone_external. When the packet arrives at ethernet3, the device rejects it.

You can enable the device to either block any packets with loose or strict source route options set or detect such packets and then record the event in the counters list for the ingress interface. The screen options are as follows:

- Deny IP Source Route Option—Enable this option to block all IP traffic that employs the loose or strict source route option. Source route options can allow an attacker to enter a network with a false IP address.
- Detect IP Loose Source Route Option—The device detects packets where the IP option is 3 (Loose Source Routing) and records the event in the screen counters list for the ingress interface. This option specifies a partial route list for a packet to take on its journey from source to destination. The packet must proceed in the order of addresses specified, but it is allowed to pass through other devices in between those specified.
- Detect IP Strict Source Route Option—The device detects packets where the IP option is 9 (Strict Source Routing) and records the event in the screen counters list for the ingress interface. This option specifies the complete route list for a packet to take on its journey from source to destination. The last address in the list replaces the address in the destination field. Currently, this screen option is applicable to IPv4 only.