



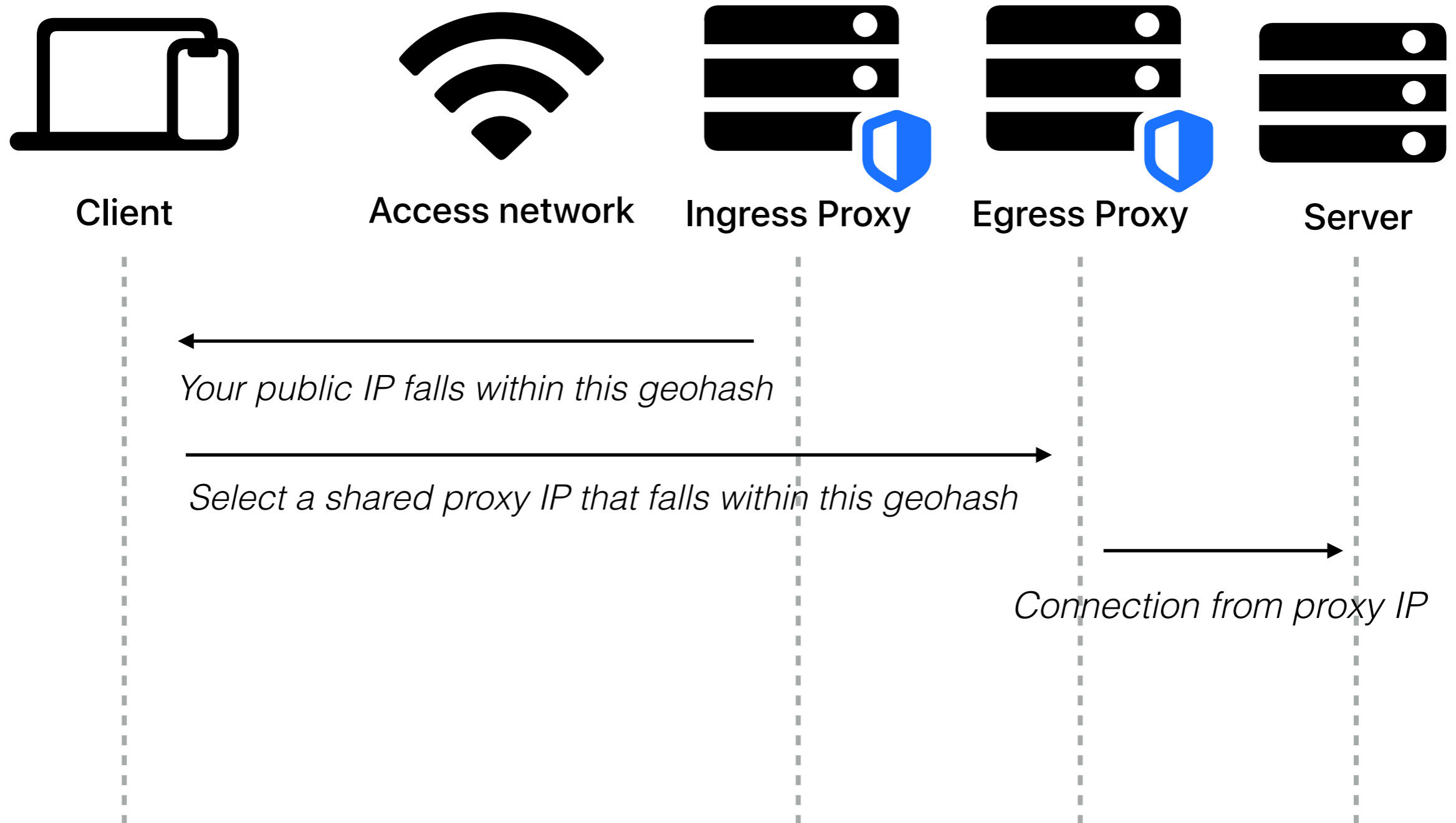
# The Geohash HTTP Client Hint

*draft-pauly-httpbis-geohash-hint*

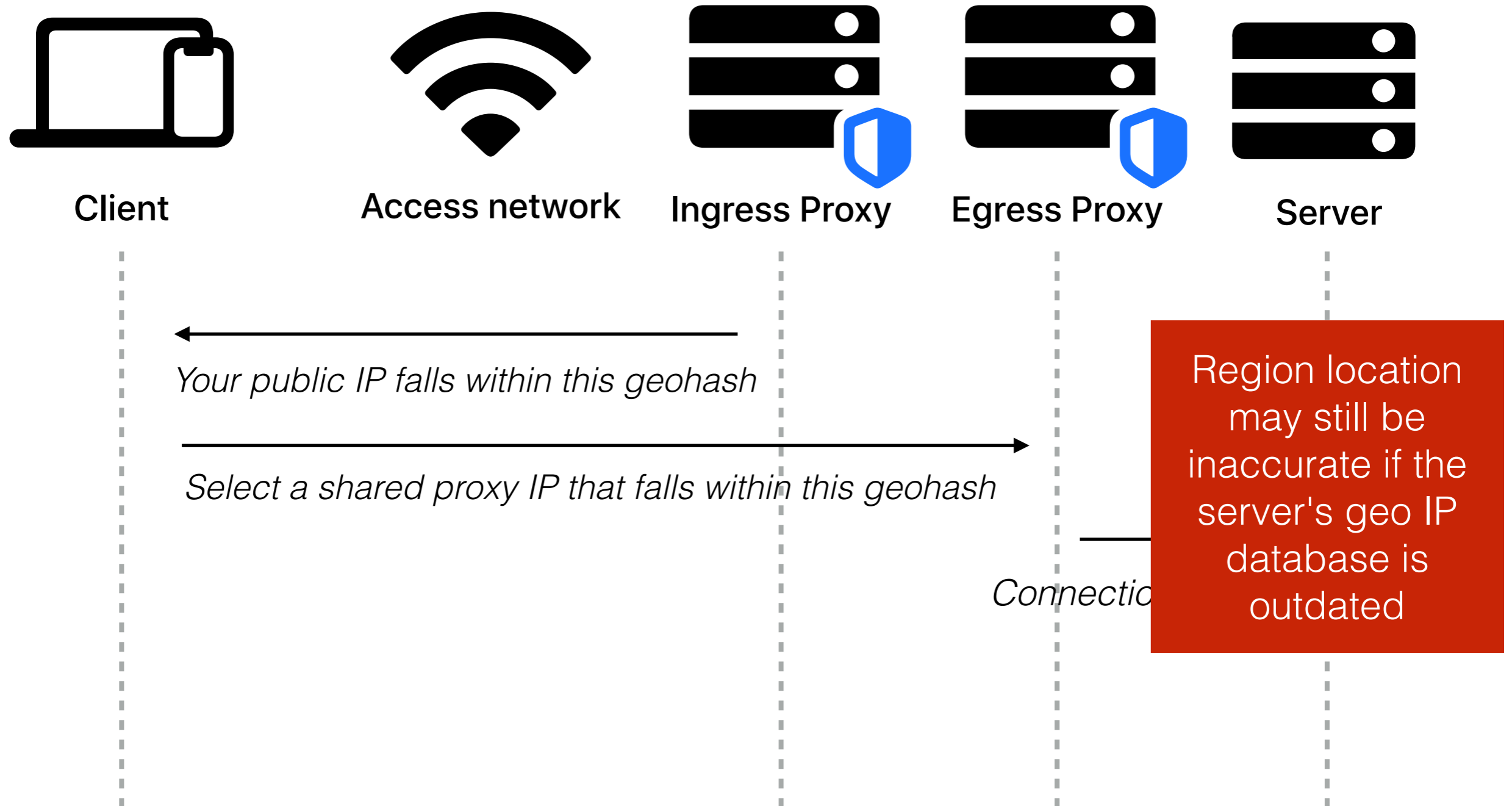
Tommy Pauly & David Schinazi  
HTTPbis Interim

# Privacy Proxy Use Case

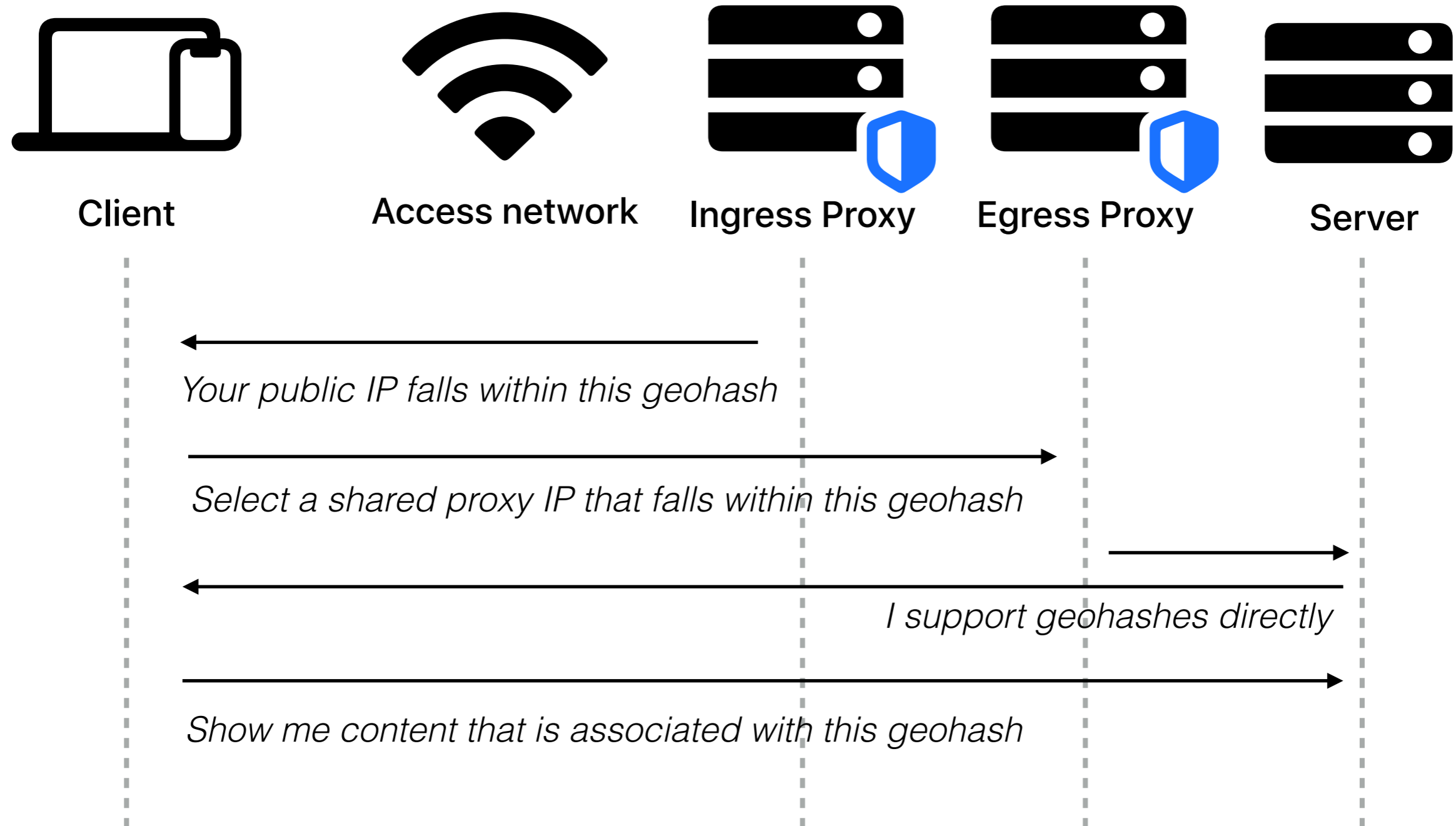
\* [https://www.apple.com/privacy/docs/iCloud\\_Private\\_Relay\\_Overview\\_Dec2021.PDF](https://www.apple.com/privacy/docs/iCloud_Private_Relay_Overview_Dec2021.PDF)



# Privacy Proxy Use Case



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# What is this for?

Providing a hint to help localize content or behavior for “stuff near me”

- ...without sharing precise location

- ...without relying on IP geo databases (for privacy/accuracy)

Clients choose what to send in the hint

- Length of a geohash determines specificity

# What is this not for?

Unforgeable proof of location

Legal enforcement of content access

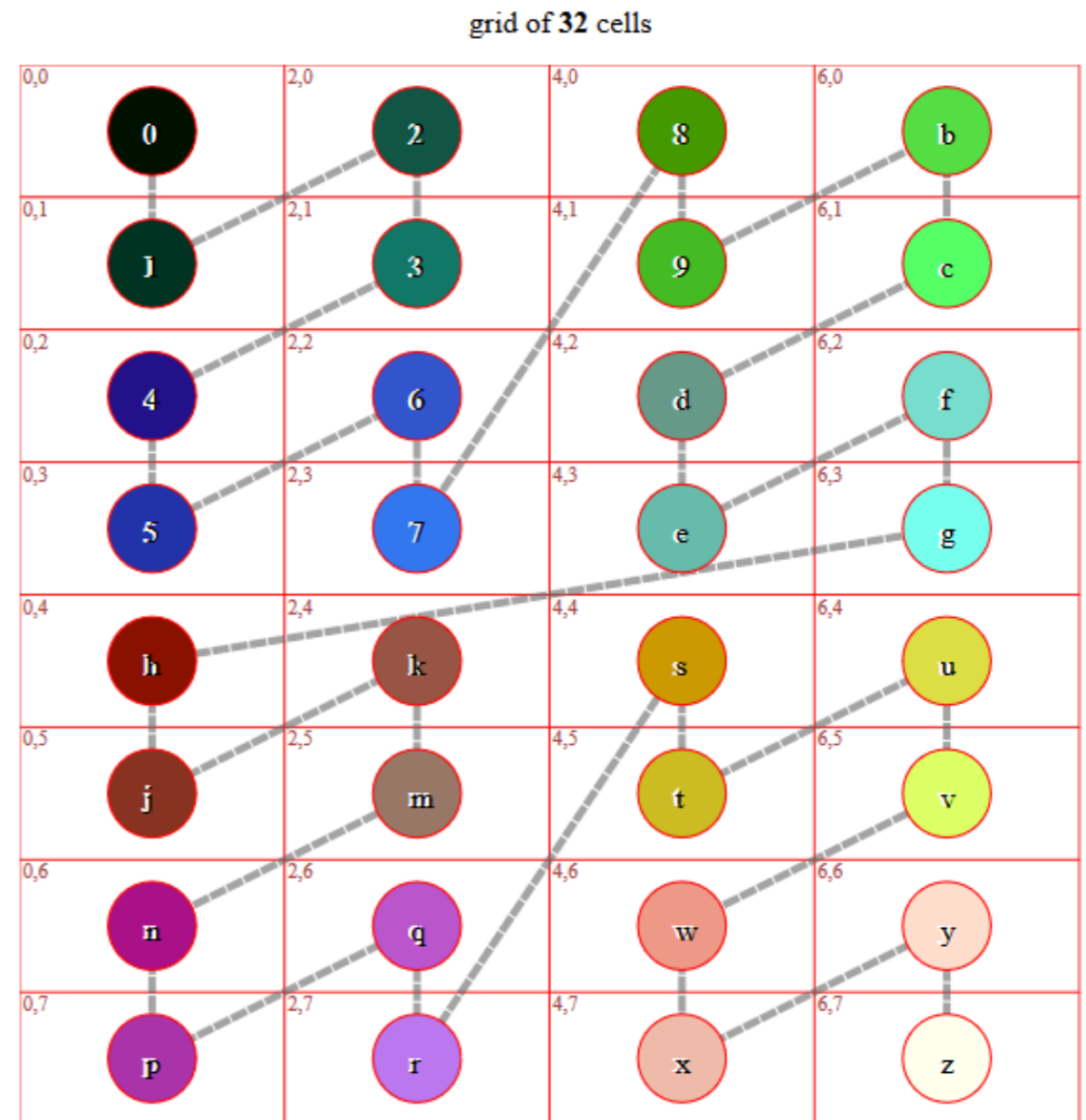
Sharing precise location

# What is a Geohash?

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geohash>

Base32 alphanumeric hash that encodes a box to bound lat/long coordinates

Commonly used, but (unfortunately) no formal specification to cite as a stable reference



# What is in the document?

Defines a new Client Hint field, as an sf-string

```
Sec-CH-Geohash = "ezs42"
```

Explains server behavior (Accept-CH) and proxy behavior (proxy-status for invalid geohashes)



# Issues

Needs to be used very carefully to avoid privacy issues

Sharing only with first-party website

Base on original public IP, not GPS

Shared with permission / intent, not continuously or as a passive client hint

Is there a way to solve this without making it something that gets abused?

If a user's other choices are to share precise GPS location, or disable IP privacy, something like a geohash is preferable

# What's next?

Is this an interesting use case for this WG?

Formalize the geohash reference

Write a detailed appendix or find a stable reference, or replace with another equivalent geolocation value