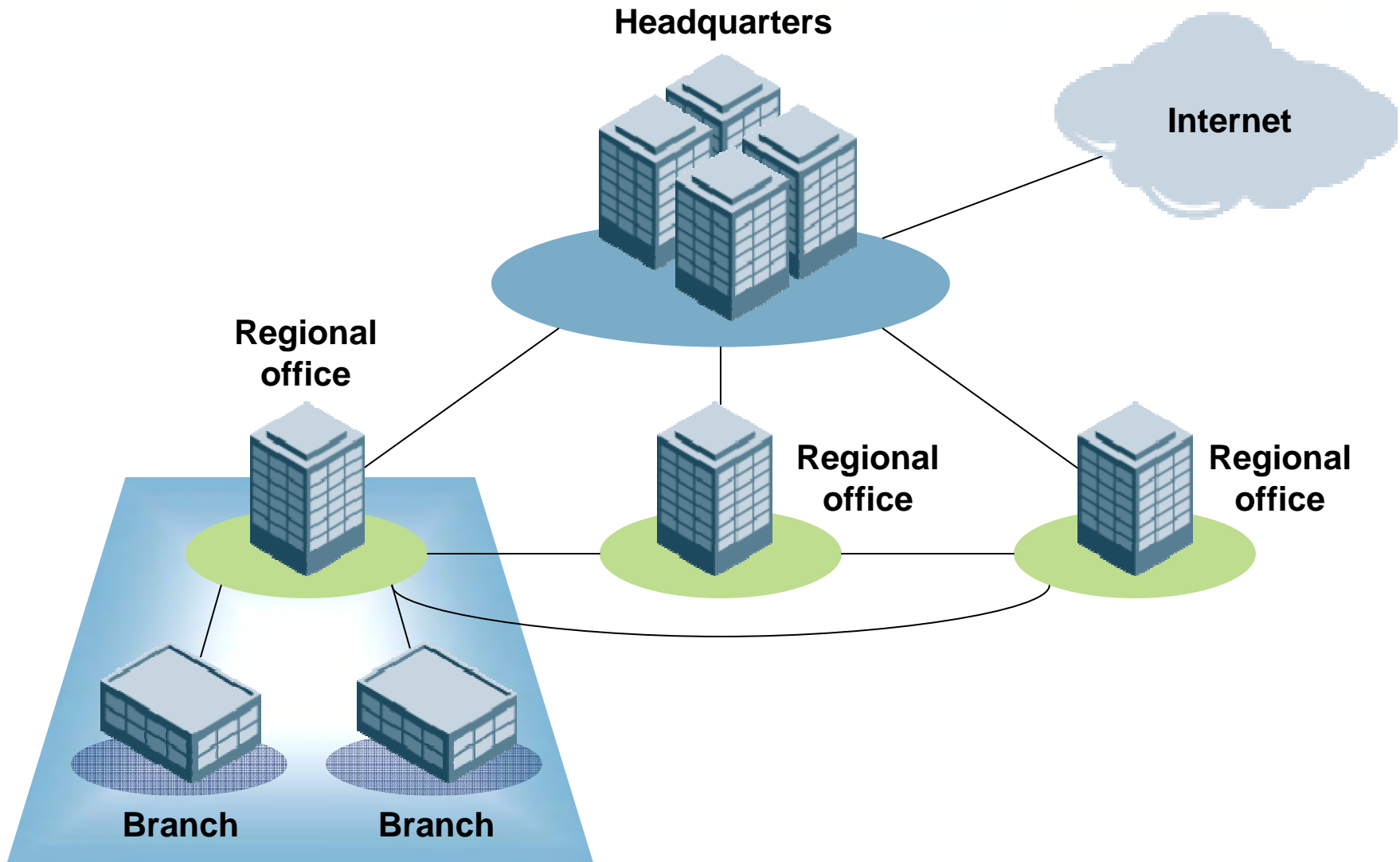




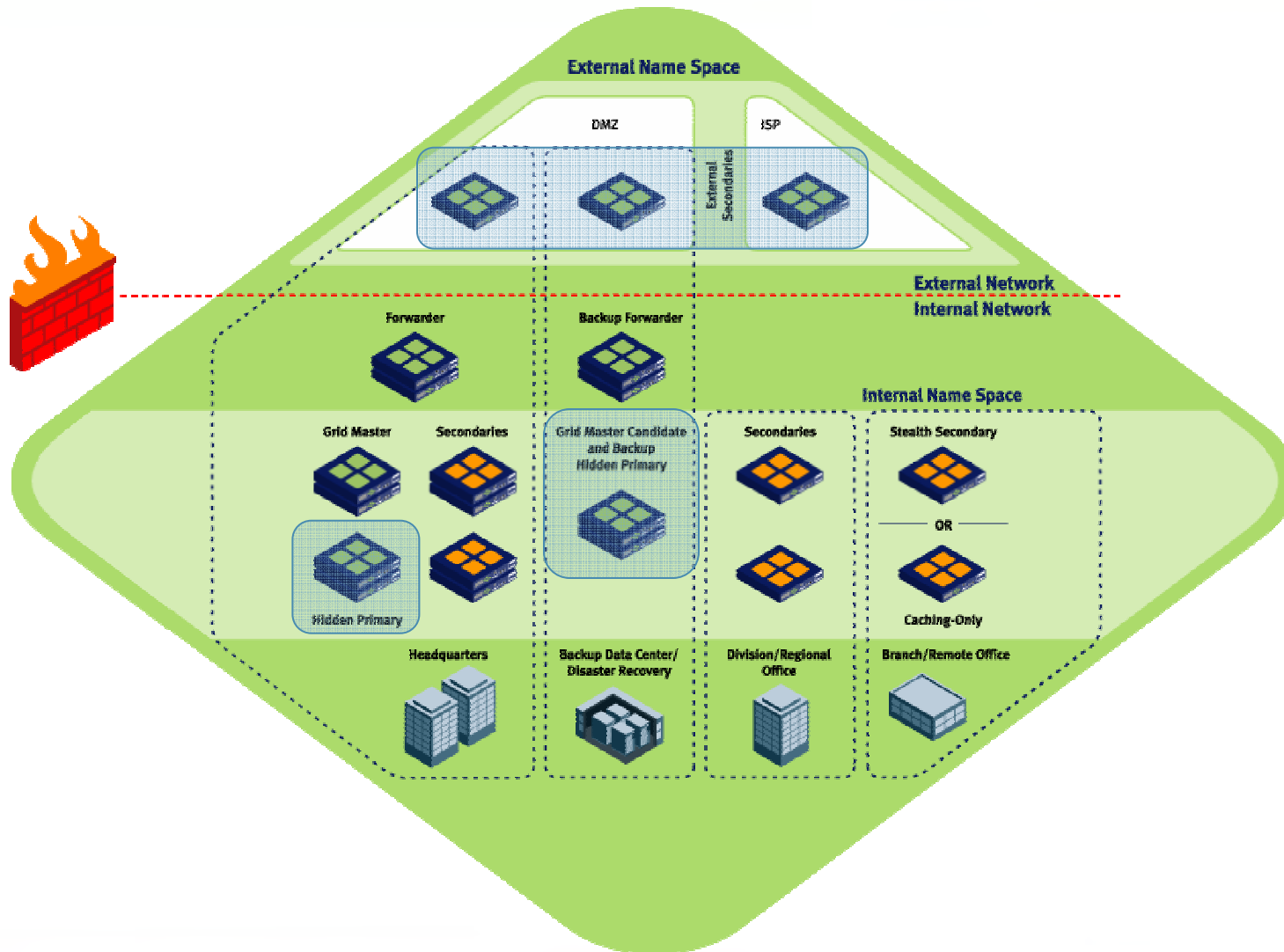
DNS Architecture Case Study

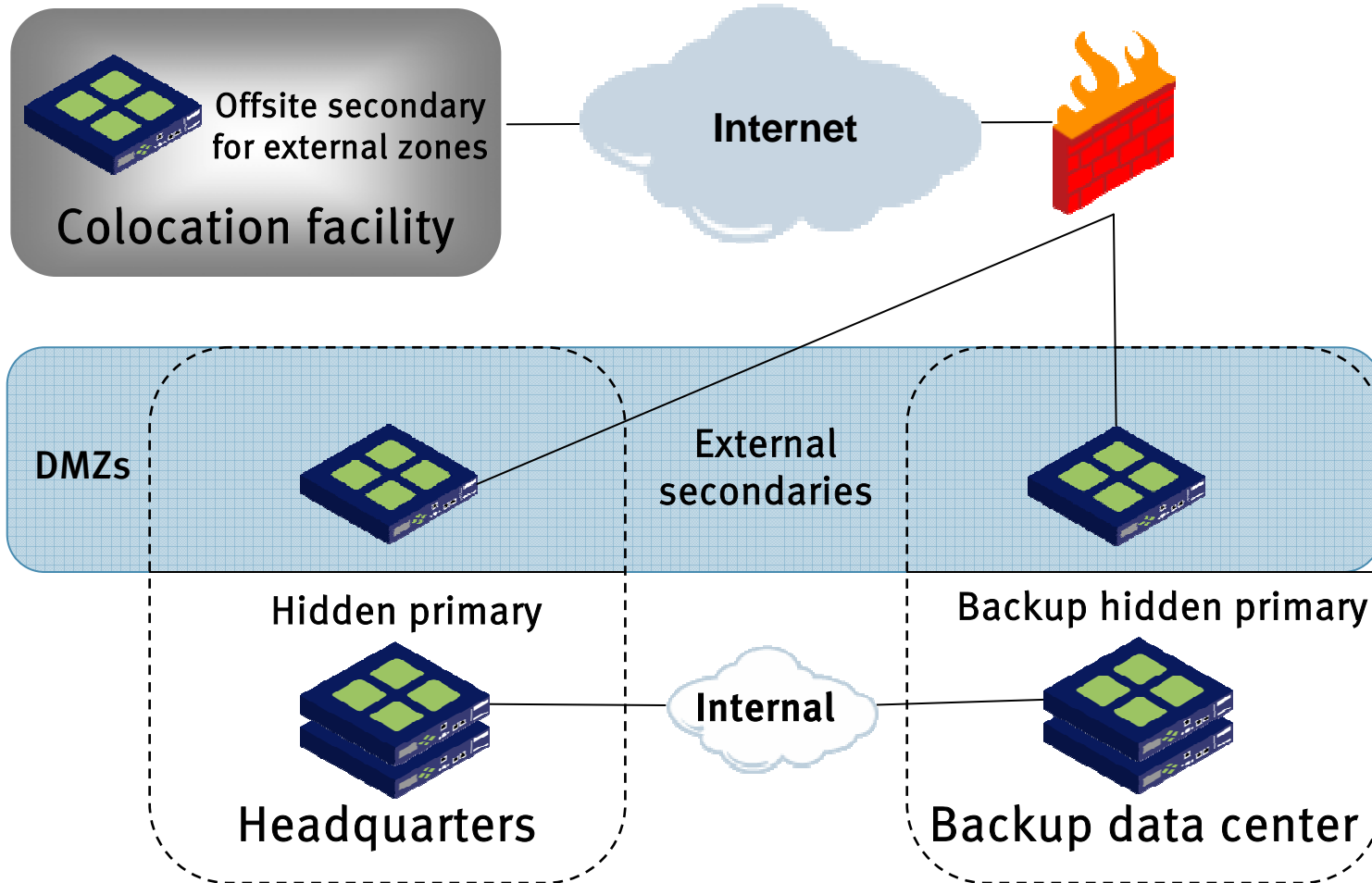
Cricket Liu
VP, Architecture
Infoblox

- **Large U.S.-based company, Company Co. (*company.com*)**
- **Three categories of sites**
 - **Headquarters**
 - Roughly 2000 employees
 - Hosts all production applications (e.g., SAP), main connection to Internet
 - Hosts executive staff
 - Headquarters resources (e.g., hosts, printers) under *company.com*
 - **Regional offices**
 - 200 employees or fewer
 - Regional resources under *region.company.com*
 - Network connections to headquarters, two other regional offices
 - **Branch offices**
 - 12 employees or fewer
 - Each branch belongs to a region, resources under *region.company.com*
 - Network connection to supporting regional office
- **Single Active Directory domain, *company.com***
 - Domain Controllers at headquarters, regional offices



DNS Architecture: External Authoritative DNS Infrastructure





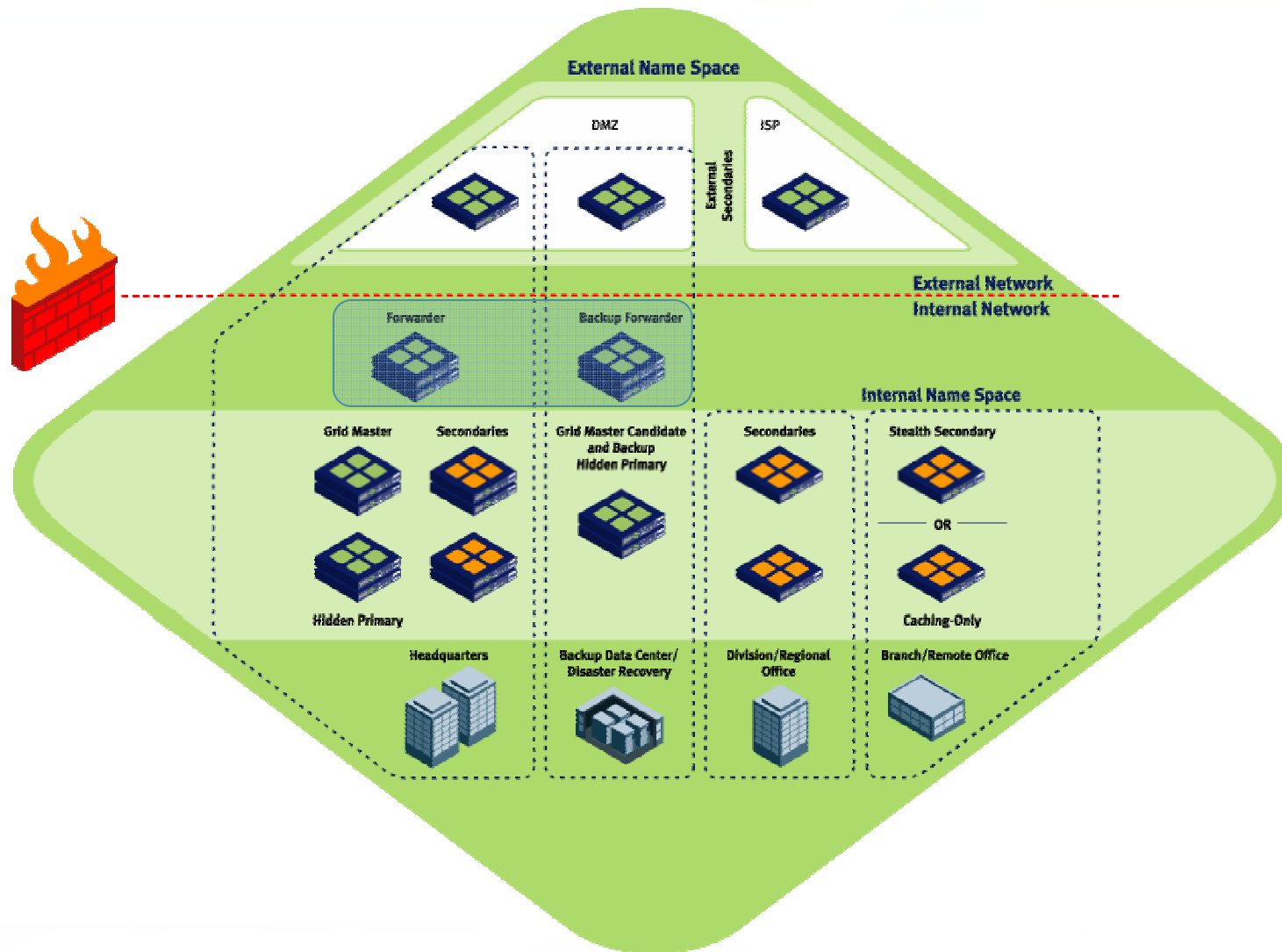
- **High availability hidden primary for external zones**
 - Inside firewall for protection
 - Secondaries are allowed to query, transfer zones
 - All other access from outside restricted, both via firewall and name server-based ACLs
 - Hidden to prevent external name servers from *trying* to query it
 - *High availability to protect “seat of administration”*
- **Two secondaries on DMZs**
 - One at headquarters
 - One at backup data center
 - Secured
 - Recursion disabled
 - Zone transfers disabled
 - *Hardened against attack*
 - *One-button upgrades to keep current*

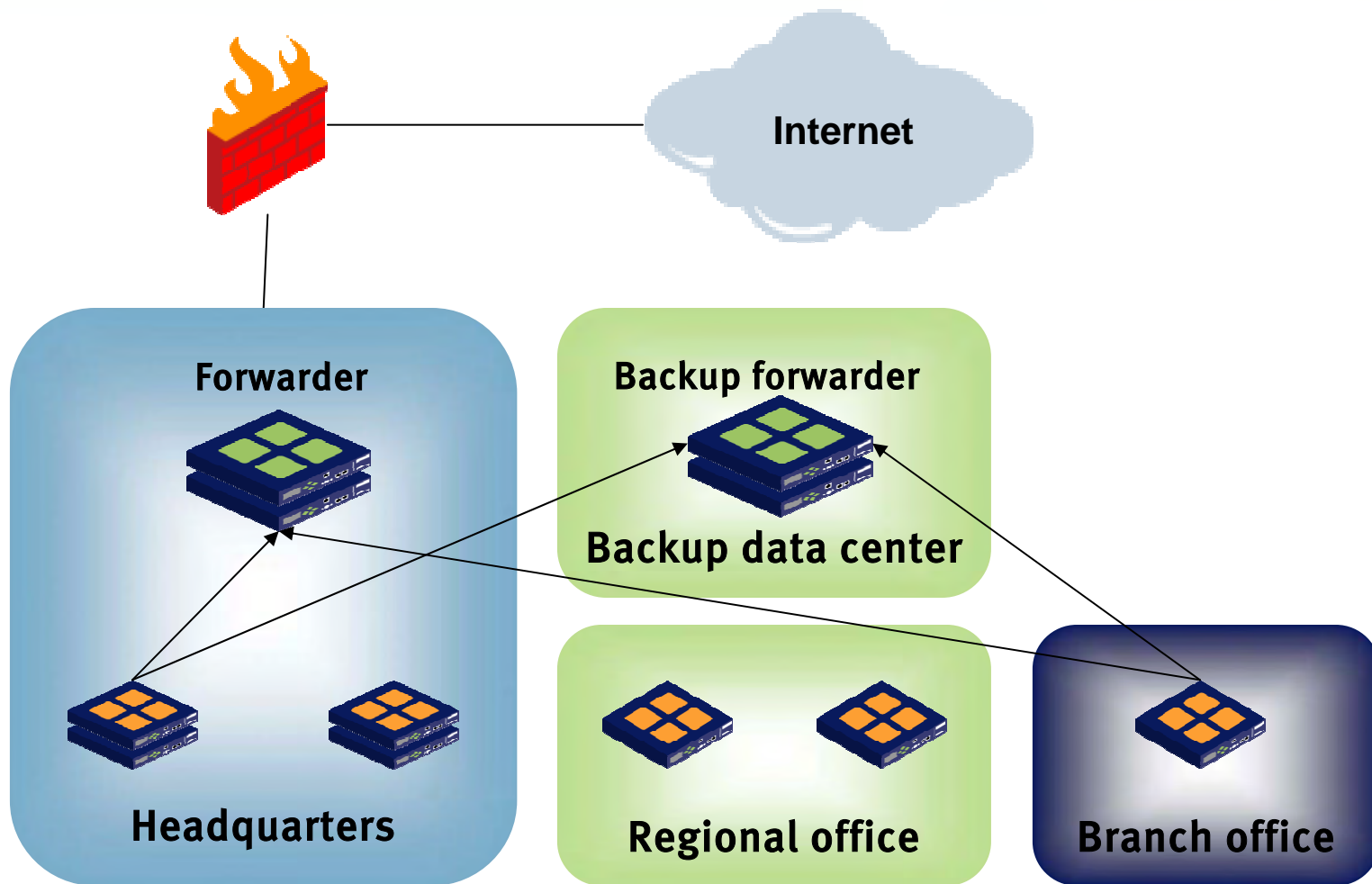
- **One secondary at colocation facility**
 - Provides offsite source of name service
 - Lower RTT than other name servers
 - Handles disproportionate share of queries
 - Keeps queries off link to Internet
 - **Secured**
 - Recursion disabled
 - Zone transfers disabled
 - *Hardened against attack*
 - *One-button upgrades to keep current*

In a grid

- ***Single-point management of all appliances***
 - *Also backup, restore, upgrade*
- ***Real-time propagation of changes***
- ***Changes to zone data with no interruption in service***
- ***Encrypted communication between grid members***

DNS Architecture: Forwarding Infrastructure



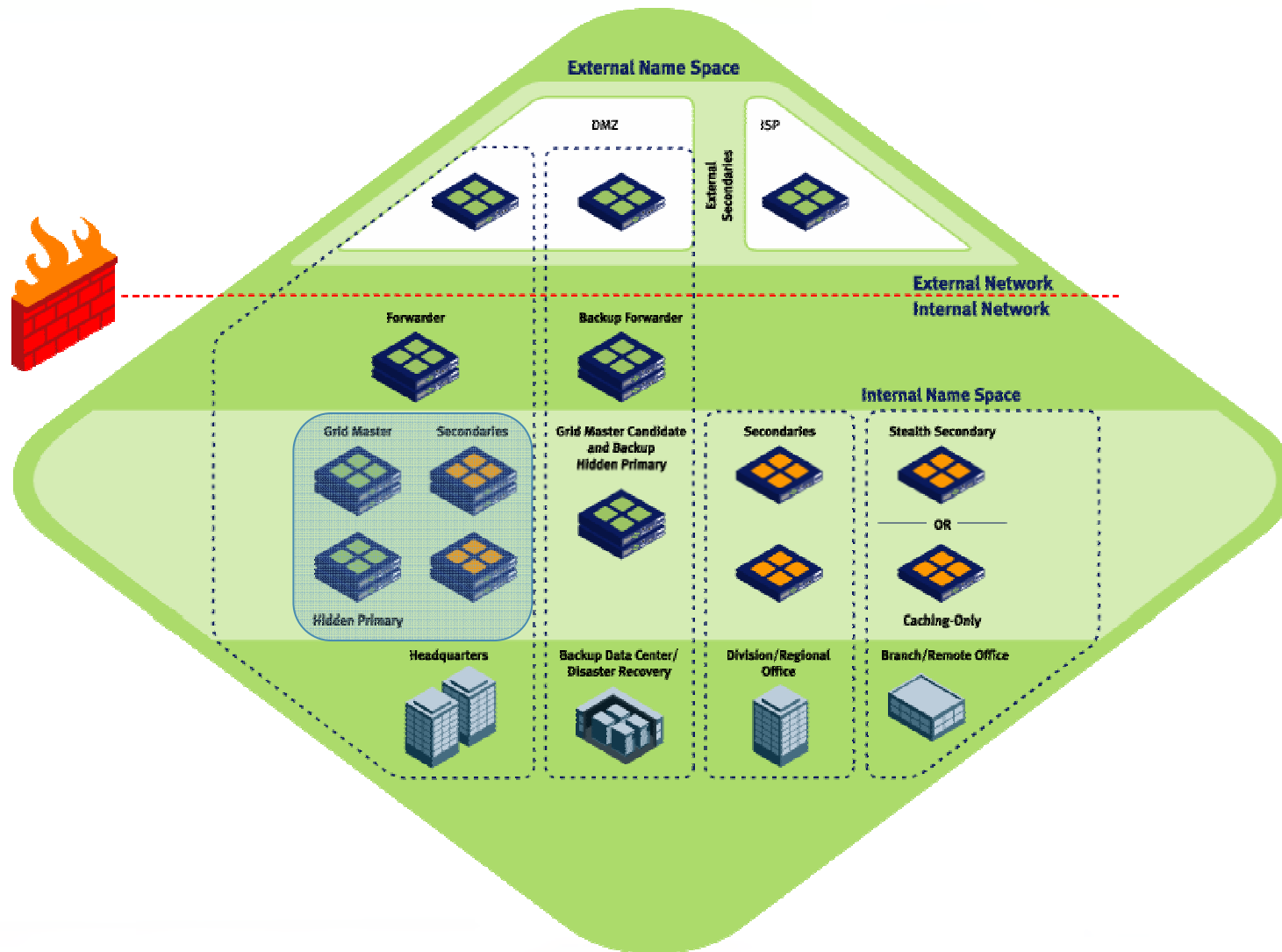


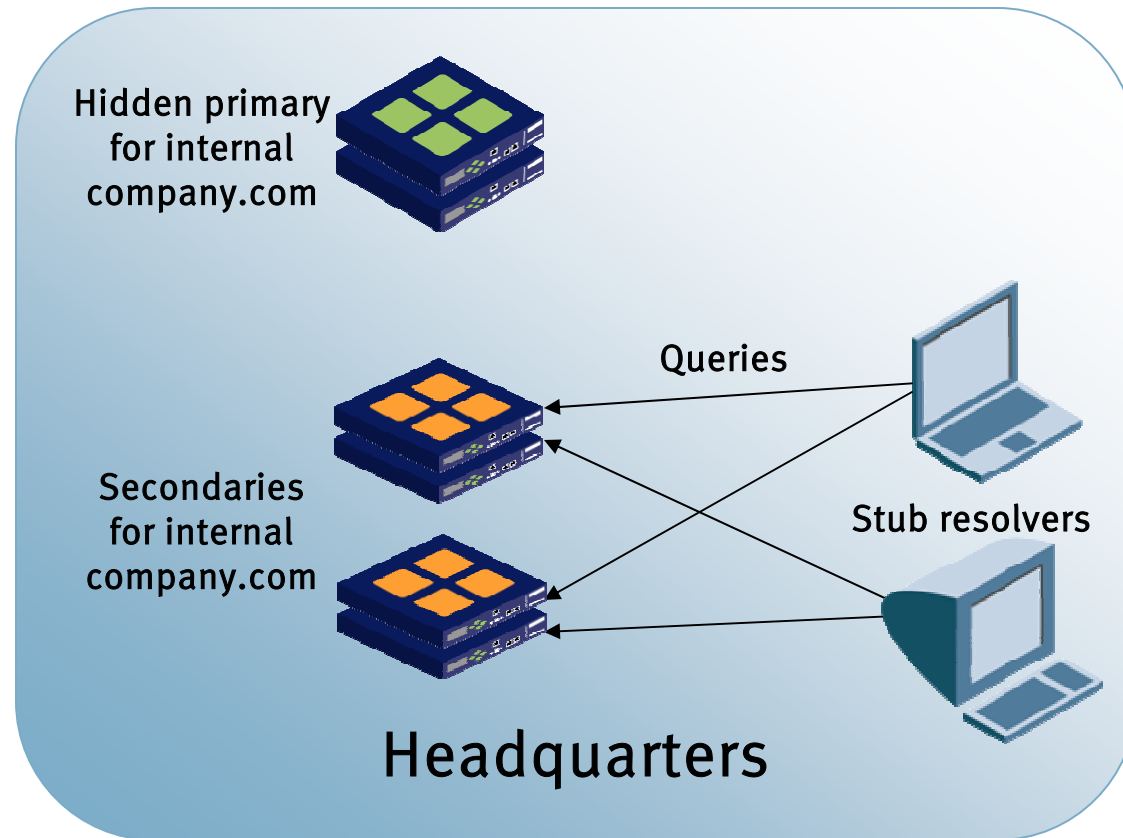
- **High availability forwarder**
 - Inside firewall for protection
 - State-based UDP filtering to allow forwarder to query Internet name servers, not vice versa
 - Redundant name server-based query ACL
 - High availability to provide nonstop name service
 - Name servers using multiple forwarders incur multi-second timeouts for each query if forwarders don't respond
- **High availability backup forwarder at backup data center**
 - To provide forwarding service in case of a catastrophic failure at headquarters
- **All internal recursive name servers forward to forwarders**
 - To avoid bottleneck in internal name resolution, forwarding is overridden for resolution of internal domain names

In a grid

- *Hierarchical configuration to reconfigure forwarding on all distribution-layer name servers at once*

DNS Architecture: Headquarters DNS Infrastructure



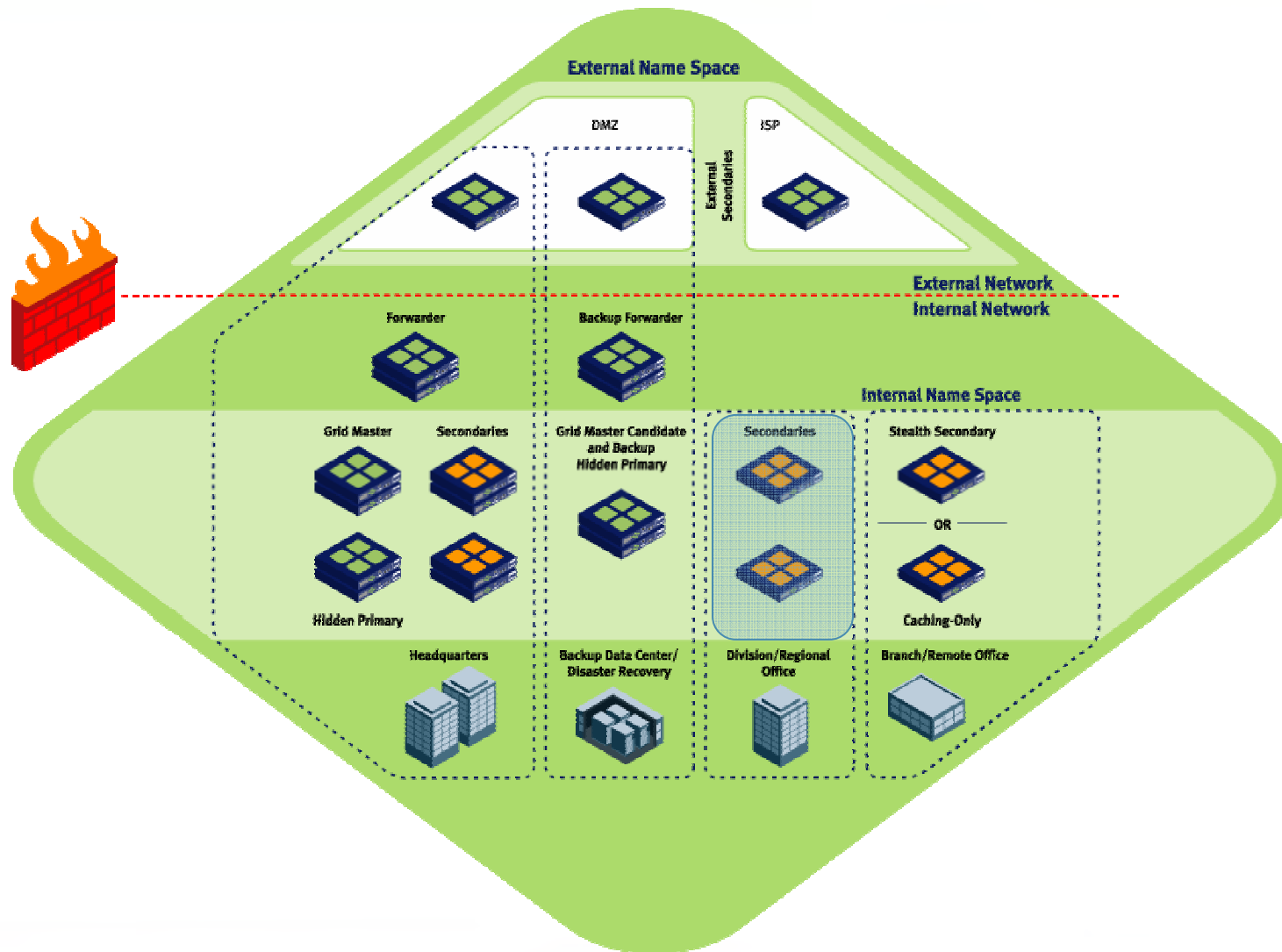


- **Hidden primary for internal *company.com***
 - Provides operational flexibility
 - *High availability to protect “seat of administration,” processing of dynamic updates*
- **High availability secondaries for *company.com***
 - *High availability to provide nonstop name service*
 - Continue serving resolvers even during upgrades
 - Resolvers configured to query closer secondary first, then other secondary
 - Minimizes latency
 - Provides redundancy and load balancing
- ***GUI to simplify administration, help prevent mistakes, allow delegation of data management to junior staff or help desk, provide auditing***

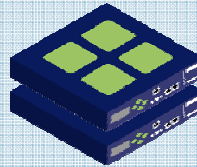
In a grid

- *Single-point management of all appliances*
- *Single-point management of complete corporate namespace, including internal and external views*
- *Hierarchical configuration with inheritance*
- *Shared grid authentication and authorization database*
- *IP Address Management (IPAM) functionality*

DNS Architecture: Regional Office DNS Infrastructure

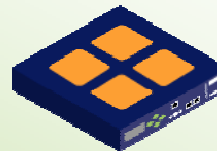


Hidden primary for
region.company.com

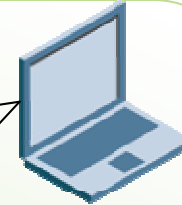


Headquarters

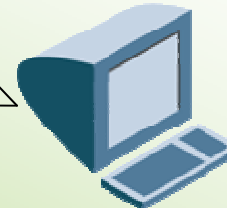
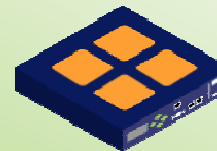
Secondaries for
region.company.com



Queries



Stub resolvers

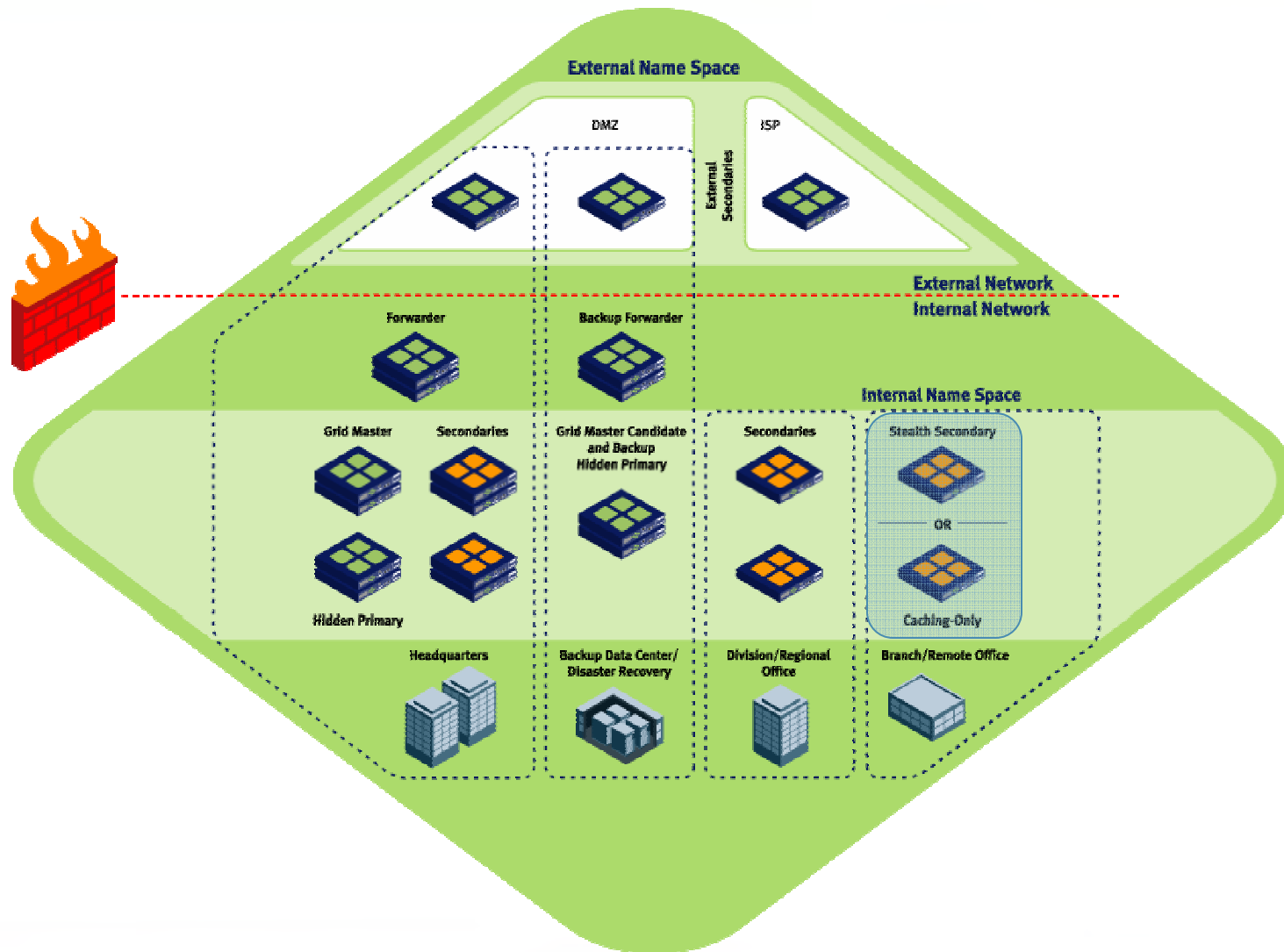


Regional office

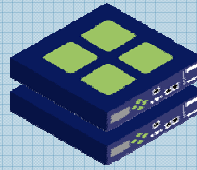
- **High availability hidden primary for *region.company.com***
 - Provides operational flexibility
 - *High availability to protect “seat of administration,” processing of dynamic updates*
- **Secondaries for *region.company.com***
 - Resolvers configured to query closer secondary first, then other secondary
 - Minimizes latency
 - Provides redundancy and load distribution
- ***GUI allows headquarters staff to control configuration and administration of name server, while delegating management of region.company.com and relevant reverse-mapping zones to regional office staff***

In a grid

- *Single view of complete corporate namespace*
- *Shared grid authentication and authorization database*
- *Hierarchical configuration with inheritance*
- *Appliance pre-provisioning and automatic recovery*

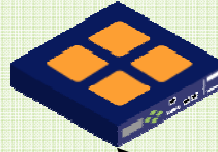


Hidden primary for
region.company.com



Headquarters

Secondary for
region.company.com



Regional office

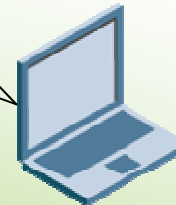
Stealth secondary for
region.company.com



Branch office

Queries

Stub resolvers

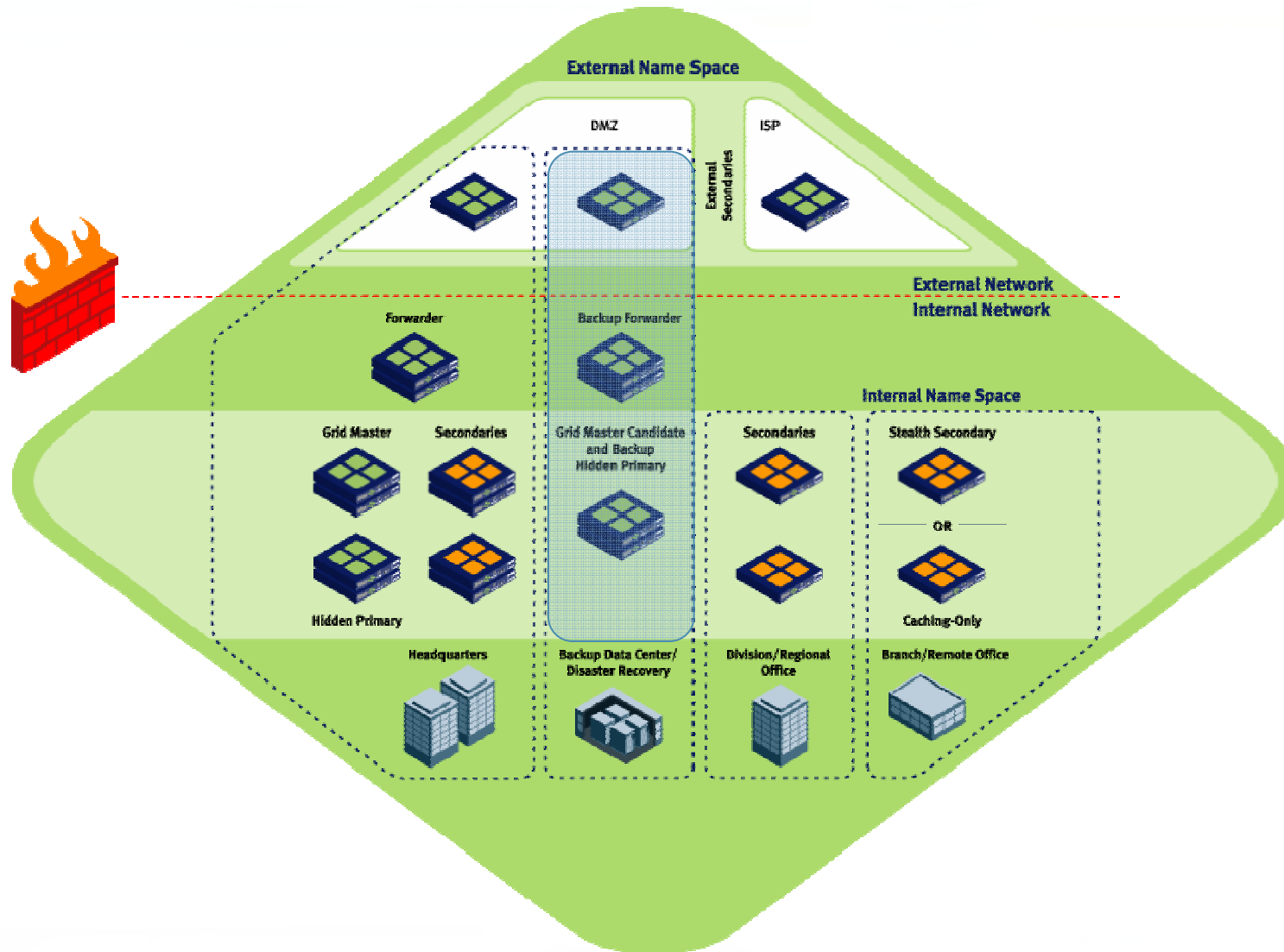


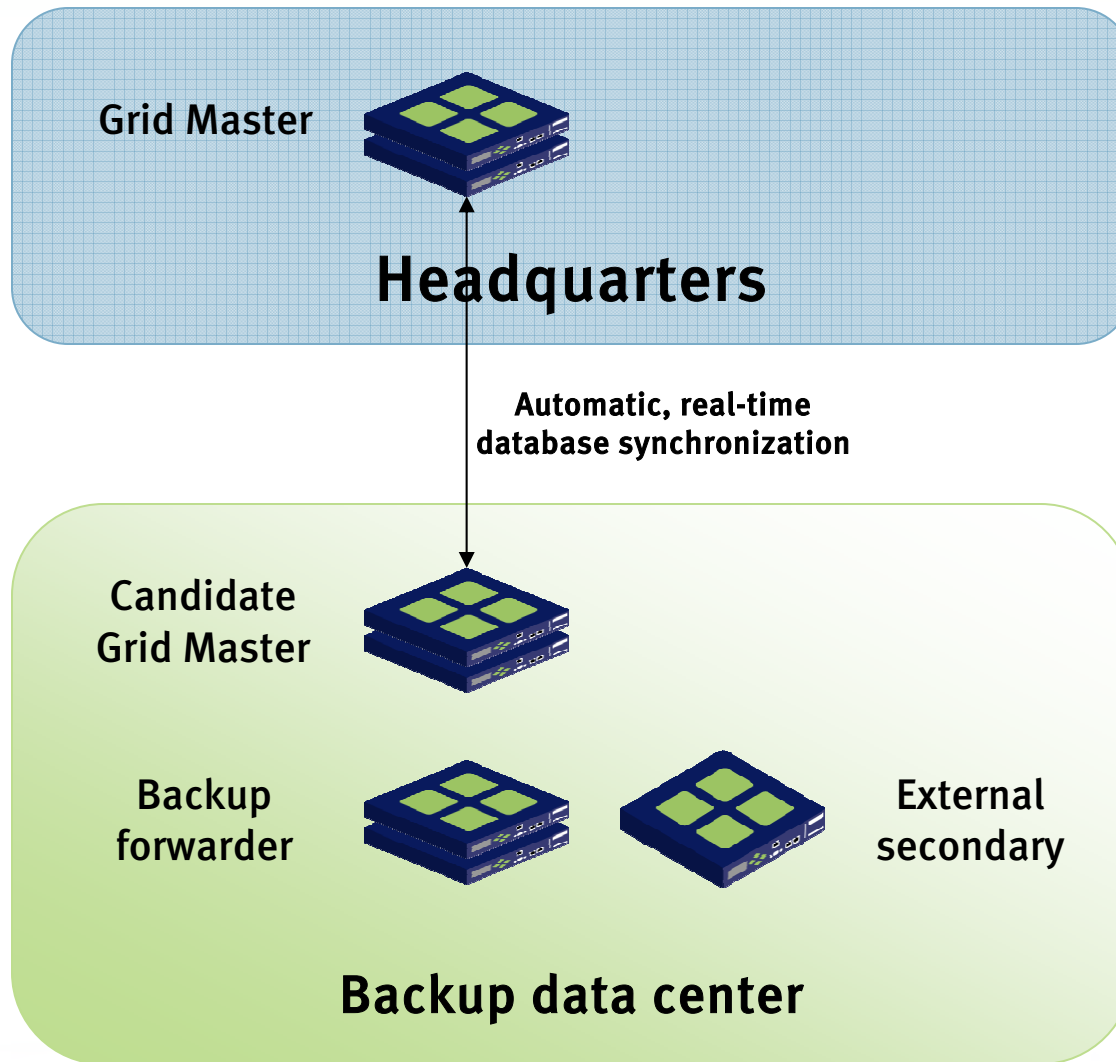
- **Stealth secondary for *region.company.com***
 - Provides a local source of all regional zone data
 - Stealth to prevent remote internal name servers from querying it and congesting link to network
- **Resolvers configured to query local secondary first, then secondary at regional office**
 - Minimizes latency
 - Provides redundancy and load distribution
- ***GUI allows headquarters staff to remotely configure and manage name server***
 - *Including all system administration, e.g., upgrades, backups*

In a grid

- *Single-point management of all appliances*
 - *Also backup, restore, upgrade*
- *Hierarchical configuration with inheritance*
- *Appliance pre-provisioning and automatic recovery*

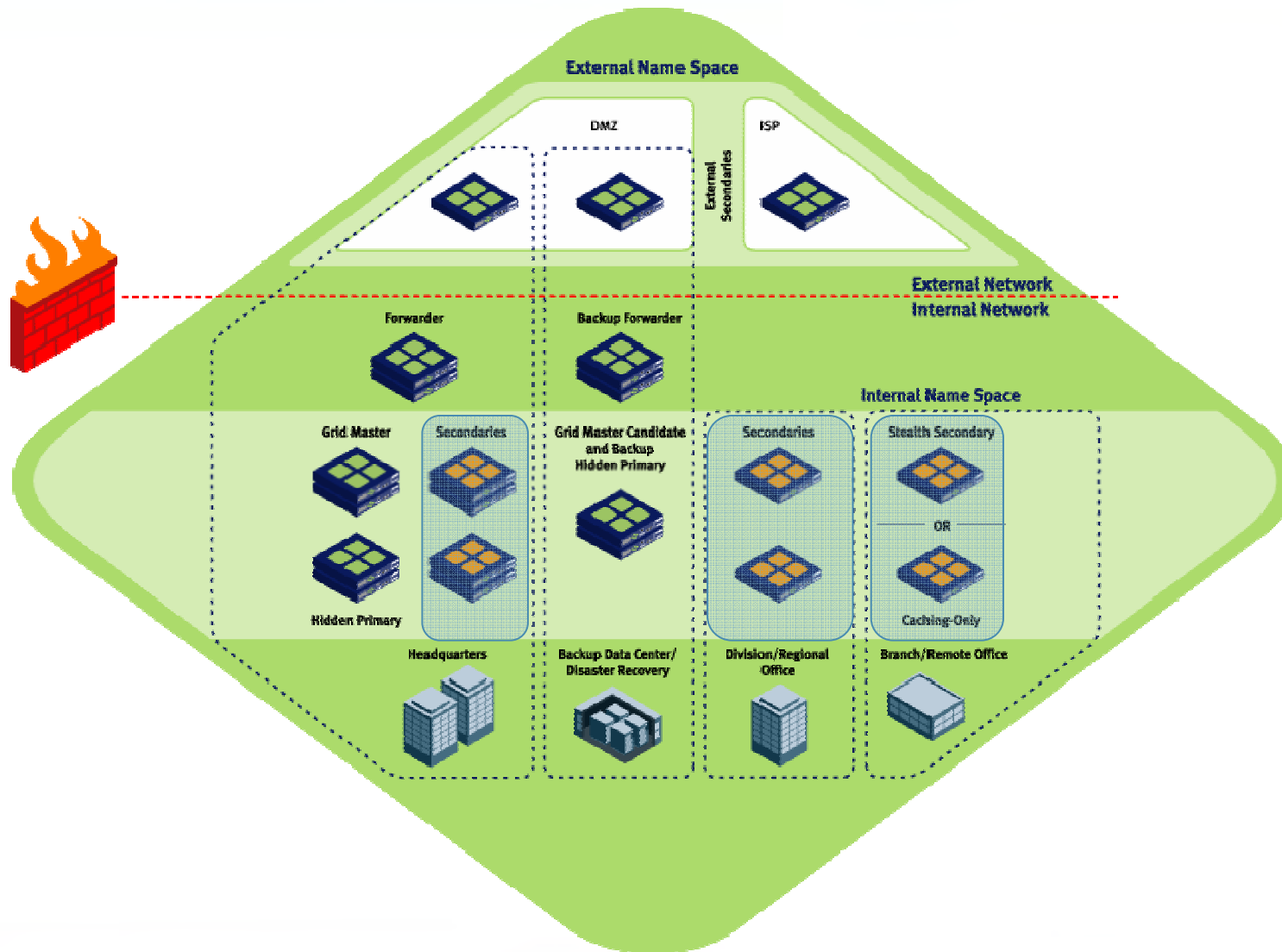
DNS Architecture: Disaster Recovery Infrastructure

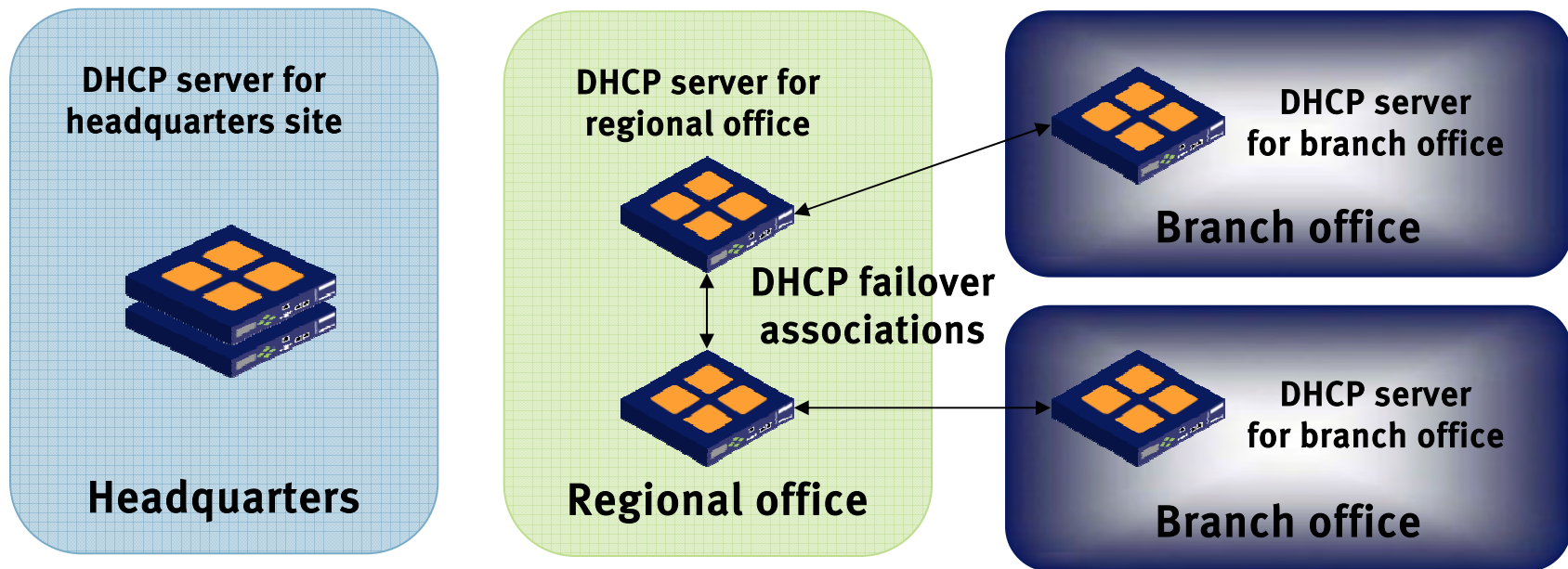




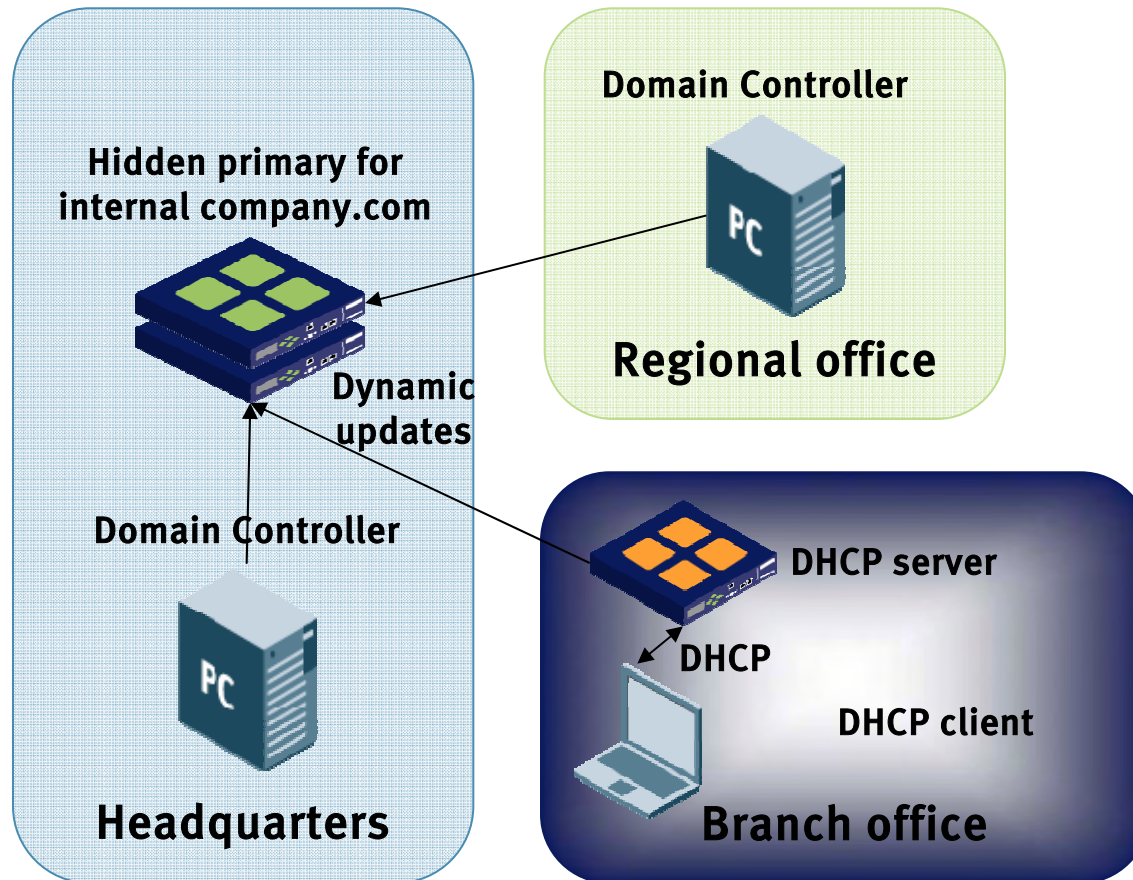
In a grid

- ***Single-point backup***
 - ***Backups include protocol and appliance configurations***
 - ***Everything required to restore entire grid***
- ***Automatic recovery***
- ***Disconnected operation***
- ***Candidate (Backup) Grid Master at backup data center***
 - ***In event of catastrophic loss of Grid Master, Candidate can be promoted without loss of data***
 - ***While Grid Master is unavailable, members continue serving DNS and DHCP, queuing updates***





- **All internal secondary name servers also run DHCP servers**
 - To provide DHCP to the local site
- **DHCP is always run in a high availability or failover configuration**
 - *At headquarters, DHCP runs on a high availability platform*
 - At regional offices, DHCP runs on failover peers
 - Both local secondaries
 - At branch offices, DHCP also runs on failover peers
 - Local stealth secondary and one regional office secondary
- **DHCP servers update appropriate primary name servers with DHCP clients' forward and reverse mappings**
 - Supports DHCP clients not able to manage forward and reverse mappings themselves
 - DHCP clients are not allowed to update zones directly, avoiding namespace pollution and security risk
- **Beginning rollout of “authenticated DHCP”**
 - Users on DHCP clients must authenticate themselves to a Domain Controller before being granted a permanent lease
 - User identity and leased IP address are captured and logged



- **The company's Active Directory domain's name is *company.com***
- **To support Active Directory, Domain Controllers are allowed to update records that advertise services offered**
 - These records are in six zones:
 - *_msdcs.company.com*
 - *_sites.company.com*
 - *_tcp.company.com*
 - *_udp.company.com*
 - *DomainDNSZones.company.com*
 - *ForestDNSZones.company.com*
- ***GUI provides simple interface for configuring this***
 - *Only need to enter addresses of Domain Controllers*
 - *Zones are created automatically*
- ***All primary name servers run in high availability configurations to ensure that Domain Controllers' updates are received***

- **The requirement for redundant DHCP service was largely due to VoIP's dependence on DHCP**
 - Without DHCP, most VoIP devices don't operate
- **Redundant DHCP can be provided by**
 - High availability
 - DHCP Failover
 - A combination of these
- **Most VoIP devices also require custom DHCP options**
 - E.g., option 172 for Avaya SIP VoIP phones or option 176 for Avaya H.323 VoIP phones
- **Most VoIP devices require TFTP or HTTP to download configuration and firmware images**
 - All DHCP servers also run TFTP and HTTP to support this

In a grid

- DHCP options can be defined for all DHCP servers in the grid
- Single-point configuration of TFTP and HTTP
 - Configuration files and firmware images are synchronized among all TFTP and HTTP servers

- **This architecture provides**
 - Resiliency in the face of hardware or network failures
 - Good security, especially for name servers directly exposed to the Internet
 - Good separation of critical functions (e.g., external authoritative name servers and forwarders)
 - Local data administration and processing of dynamic updates
 - Protection and insulation from configuration and data administration mistakes
 - Local recursive name servers for all resolvers
 - Redundant DHCP service for all clients
 - Support for Active Directory and VoIP

- **Infoblox offers a free web service, DNS Advisor**
 - Performs 50 different tests on your external authoritative name servers, checking
 - Delegation
 - Responsiveness
 - Redundancy
 - Authority
 - Configuration (e.g., SOA RDATA)
 - Security (e.g., recursion, zone transfers, name server version)
 - Protocol compliance (e.g., TCP queries, EDNS0, SPF)
 - Allows you to create a PDF report from the output



Cricket Liu's DNS Advisor

Enter Your Info

To begin the test, simply fill in the following information and click 'start'. On the following screen you will see the results of the tests.

1 Enter Info **2** Test Results **3** Summary & PDF

Zone to test (*company.com*):

Your e-mail address:

I have read and I agree to the [DNS Advisor terms and conditions](#).

I have authorization from the domain owner to examine each domain that I submit for review.

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Cricket Liu's DNS Advisor
Report for nxdomain.com

External DNS Test Results

The following are the results for the DNS Advisor configuration tests for the domain *nxdomain.com*. You can click on any test name to see more details. A link to an overall summary and detailed analysis follows the test results at the bottom of the page.

Ranking Key:

- Configured correctly (Green)
- Potential problem (Yellow)
- Serious problem (Orange)
- Severe problem (Red)

1 Enter Info 2 Test Results 3 Summary & PDF

Test	Result
Lookup NS RRs at parent	Successful Query
Check >1 NS RR	4 NS records found
Check NS RRs are valid names	bigmo.nxdomain.com. is a valid name
Check NS RRs are valid names	ns1.secondary.com. is a valid name
Check NS RRs are valid names	ns2.secondary.com. is a valid name
Check NS RRs are valid names	tornado.kahlerlarsen.org. is a valid name



Thank you

IPAM
DNS
DHCP
RADIUS
NTP

- Schedule a DNS Health Check™ to expose immediate issues
 - Close security holes
 - Eliminate bottlenecks and failure points
- Conduct a detailed system audit and design review
 - Identify key initiatives and requirements
 - Wireless, VoIP, endpoint security, NAC, etc.
 - Develop a roadmap for DNS, DHCP, IPAM, and RADIUS implementation
- Schedule a DNSone evaluation at your facility
- Take advantage of the tools and programs offered by Infoblox and our IDEal™ Program Partners
 - DNS Best Practices Design Tools
 - Microsoft AD Best Practices Design Tools
 - Design services
 - Data migration services
 - Custom applications and API integration