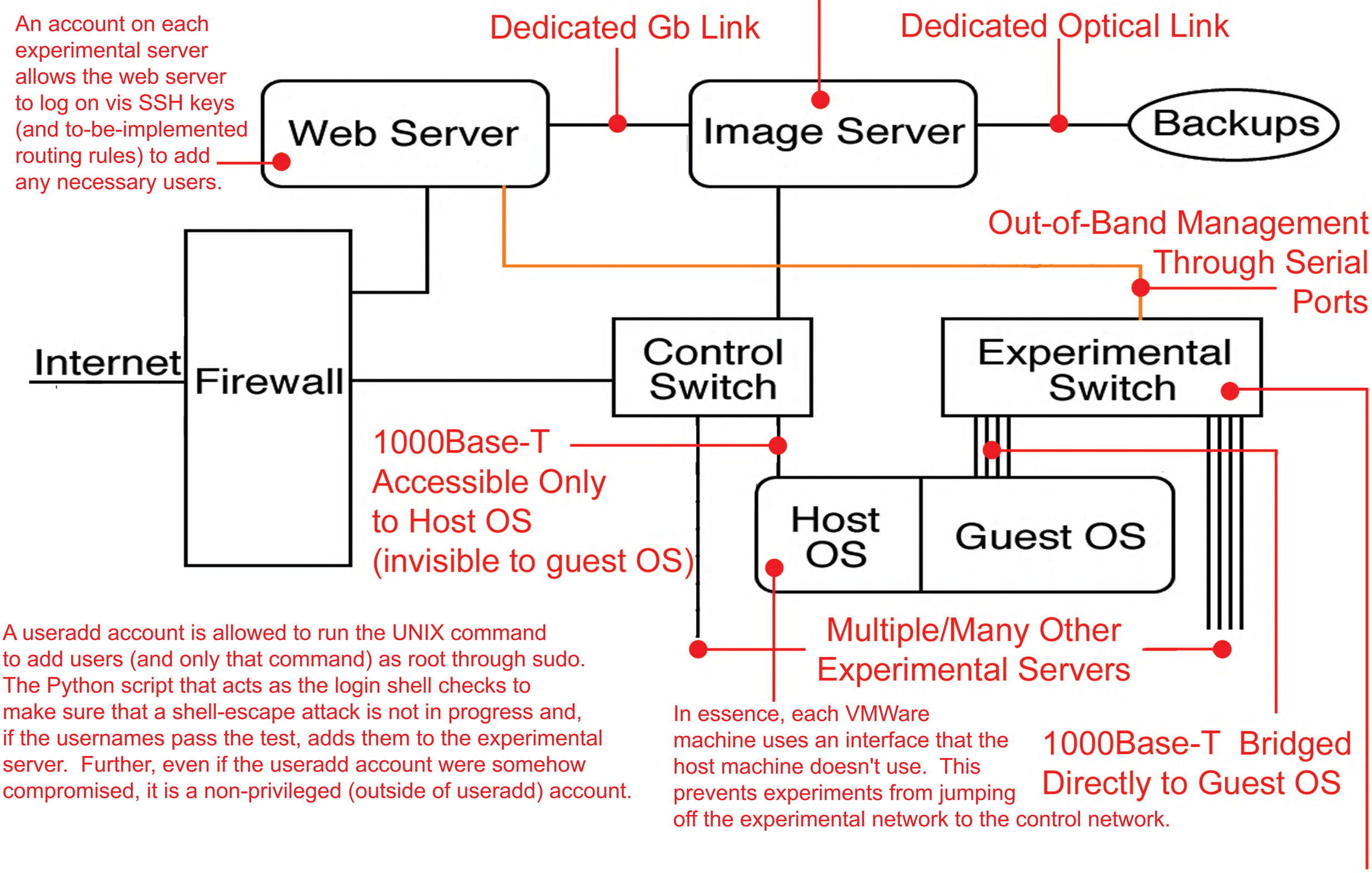
CERIAS

re|assure

A Contained Environment for Testing the Impact of Potentially Malicious Code

On the image server, there is an account that allows the web server to log into it via SSH keys. The login shell for this user is a Python script that takes, interactively, the experimental server (i.e. destination of images), the user who will own the images (i.e. what user to copy as), and the names of an arbitrary number of VMWare images.



A useradd account is allowed to run the UNIX command to add users (and only that command) as root through sudo. The Python script that acts as the login shell checks to make sure that a shell-escape attack is not in progress and, if the usernames pass the test, adds them to the experimental server. Further, even if the useradd account were somehow compromised, it is a non-privileged (outside of useradd) account.

In essence, each VMWare machine uses an interface that the host machine doesn't use. This prevents experiments from jumping off the experimental network to the control network.

ReAssure utilizes VLANs which are configured on the fly over a serial interface by a handful of custom python library commands. The VLANs offer a very secure logical network which allows experiments to be run in parallel while simultaneously preventing interference between them. The VLANs themselves are controlled by a Cisco 4948 switch that runs Cat IOS 12.2 and offers a switching fabric speed of 96-Gbps.

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