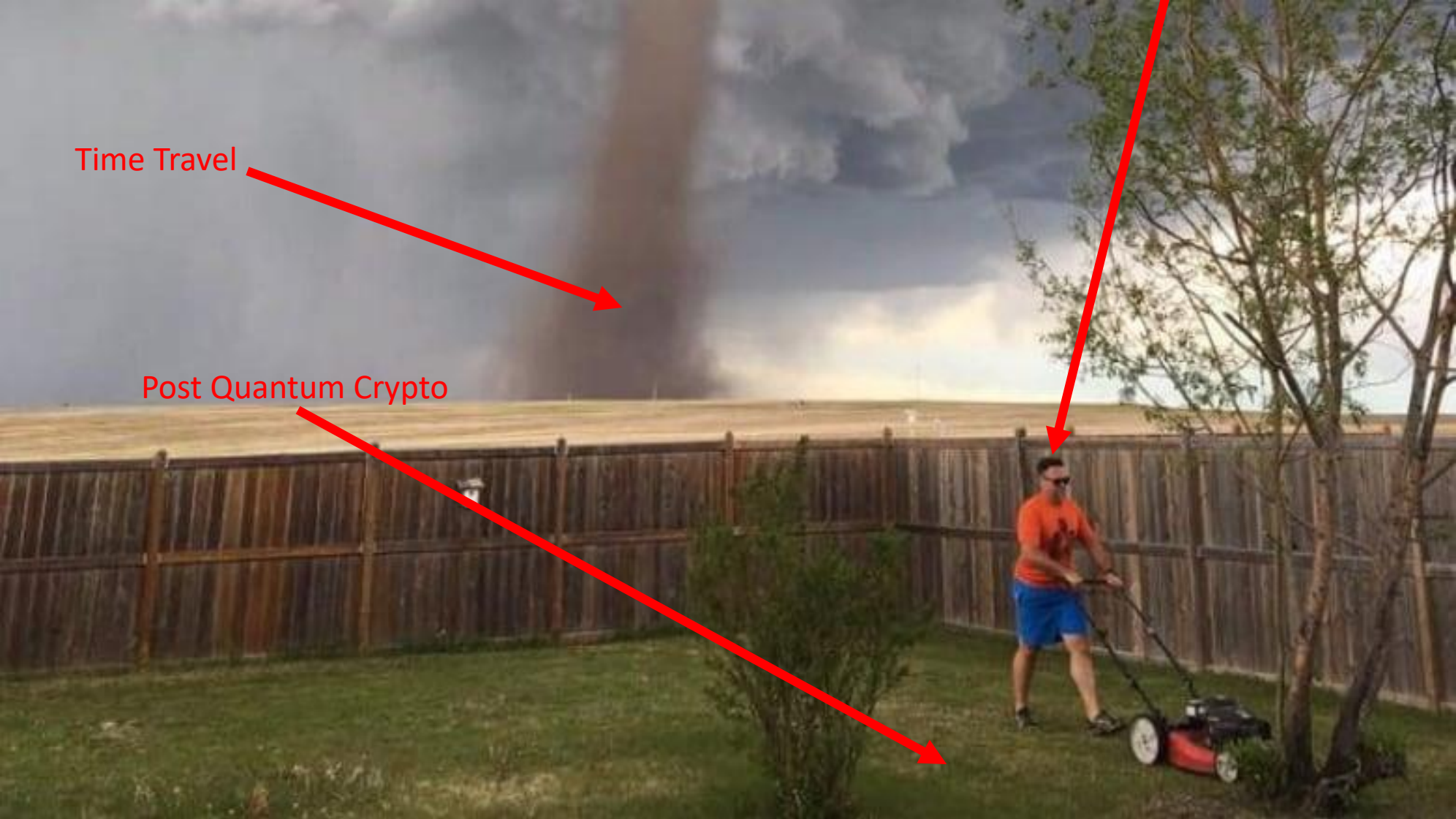


# A Call for Time Travel Resistant Crypto (TTRC)

Colin O'Flynn

# The World will Judge Us.



Time Travel

Post Quantum Crypto

CHES Attendees

# Why does PQC get all the love?

- Post Quantum Crypto – the existence of sufficiently powerful quantum computers is an open problem.
- But *if* those computers (devices) exist – very bad time in store.
- That *sounds a whole lot* like something else.

# Where are the time travelers?

- Common statement – if time travel exists, wouldn't we see them?
  - Maybe we don't know of them.
  - Maybe our time isn't too interesting to visit.
  - Maybe time travel can *only transfer small particles or just data*.



# Immediate Applications of TTRC

- Time AI (.io) – Uses Quantum Cryptography that entangles a random key stream from the *past* and *future* [1]
  - Published by Cornell University\*
  - Presented at Black Hat USA 2019+

\* Published on arXiv.org

+ Sponsor session at cost > \$50k USD

[1] <http://timeai.io>

↳ Dan Guido Retweeted



**Jake Williams** @MalwareJake · Aug 23

Remember the folks at BlackHat with the sponsored session on crypto that was devoid of... checks notes... math? They're suing BlackHat now.

Suing a hacker conference, loved by hackers, because you were called out for a bad presentation is a BAD PLAN(tm).



Crown Sterling Files Complaint Against UBM -- Owne...  
A complaint has been filed in United States District Court, Southern District of New York by Crown ...  
[businesswire.com](https://www.businesswire.com)

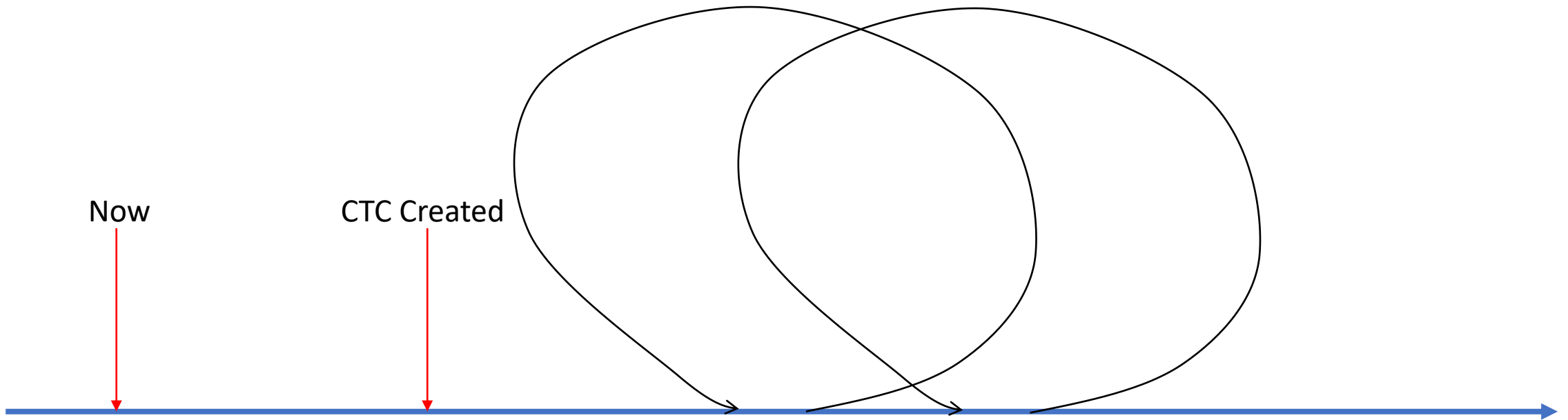
💬 42

↻ 144

❤️ 441



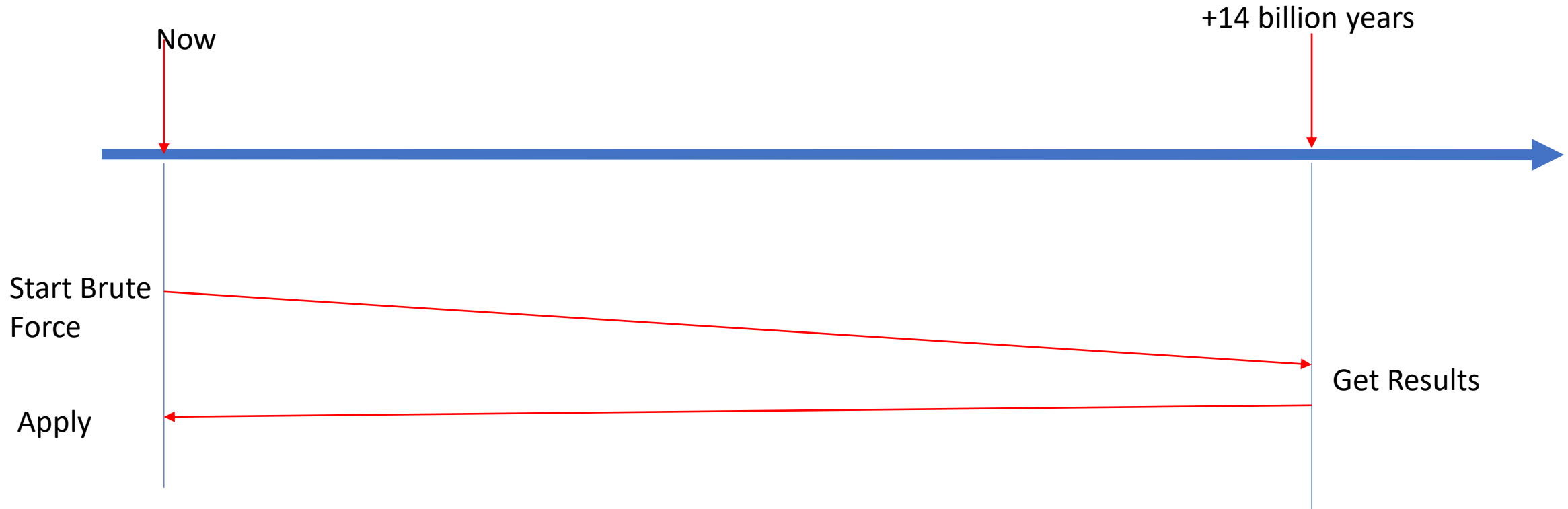
# Does time-travel (TT) require a Closed timelike curve (CTC)[2]?



Time travel only possible once CTC is created (or new timeline?)

# Attacks that TTRC must survive.

- Brute-force with TT assistance



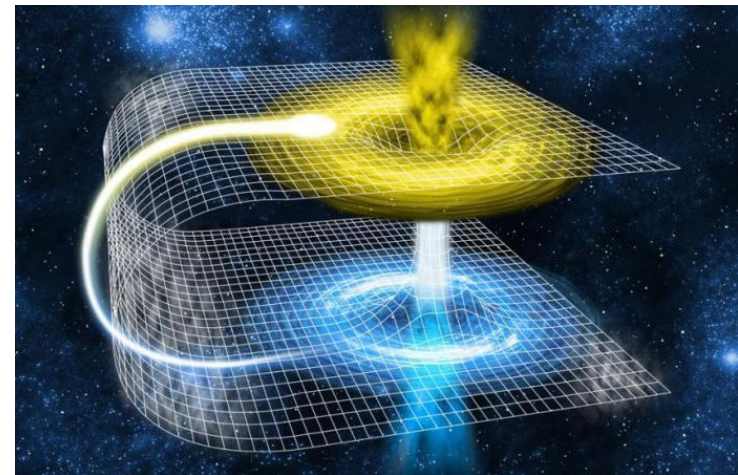


# Attacks that TTRC must survive.

- Transfer of key material to later time.



- Assume we can target the value of some physical bits...
- If we know where HSM (was) located, could we recover key material out of bus?





# Other attacks TT makes possible

- Evil Cryptographer Attack
  - Could someone *we know be* a time-traveler? What would that person look like?

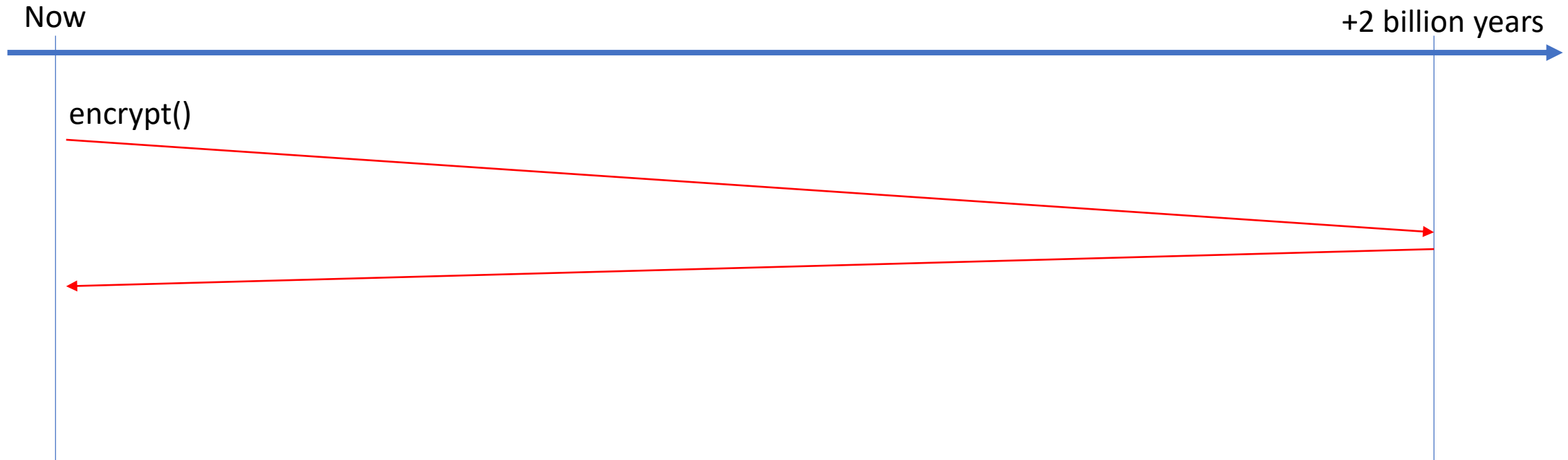
# Other attacks TT makes possible

- Evil Cryptographer Attack
  - Could someone *we know be* a time-traveler? What would that person look like?
- Contributes work in a *suspiciously open and free manner*.
- Widely used in industry, with vague understanding by said industry of the actual algorithms.



# Simple solution for TTRC

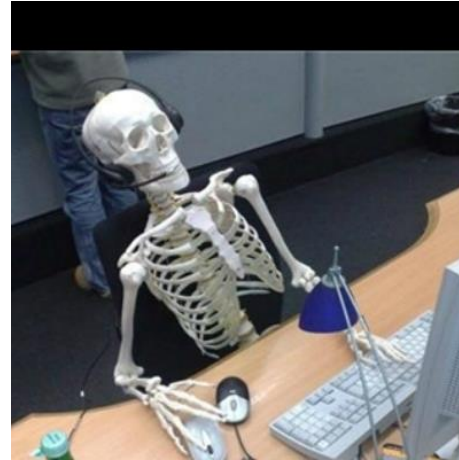
- Define \*now\* our API... assume future solves problem (need to store bits somewhere future can access them).
- Need to incentivize future selves (is any data now valuable in the future?).



Requires a hardware solution (→ CHES 2021 topic?)

# TTRC for Future Proof

- Post-quantum crypto is not TTRC.
- Fundamentally TTRC is future-proof.
- New architectures needed (non-causal cryptography?).



Find answers to your questions on TT: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time-travel/>

[2] Gödel, Kurt, 1949 [1990a], “An example of a new type of cosmological solutions of Einstein’s field equations of gravitation”, in *Kurt Gödel: Collected Works* (Volume II), Solomon Feferman, et al. (eds.), New York: Oxford University Press, 190–8; originally published in *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 21 (1949): 447–450.