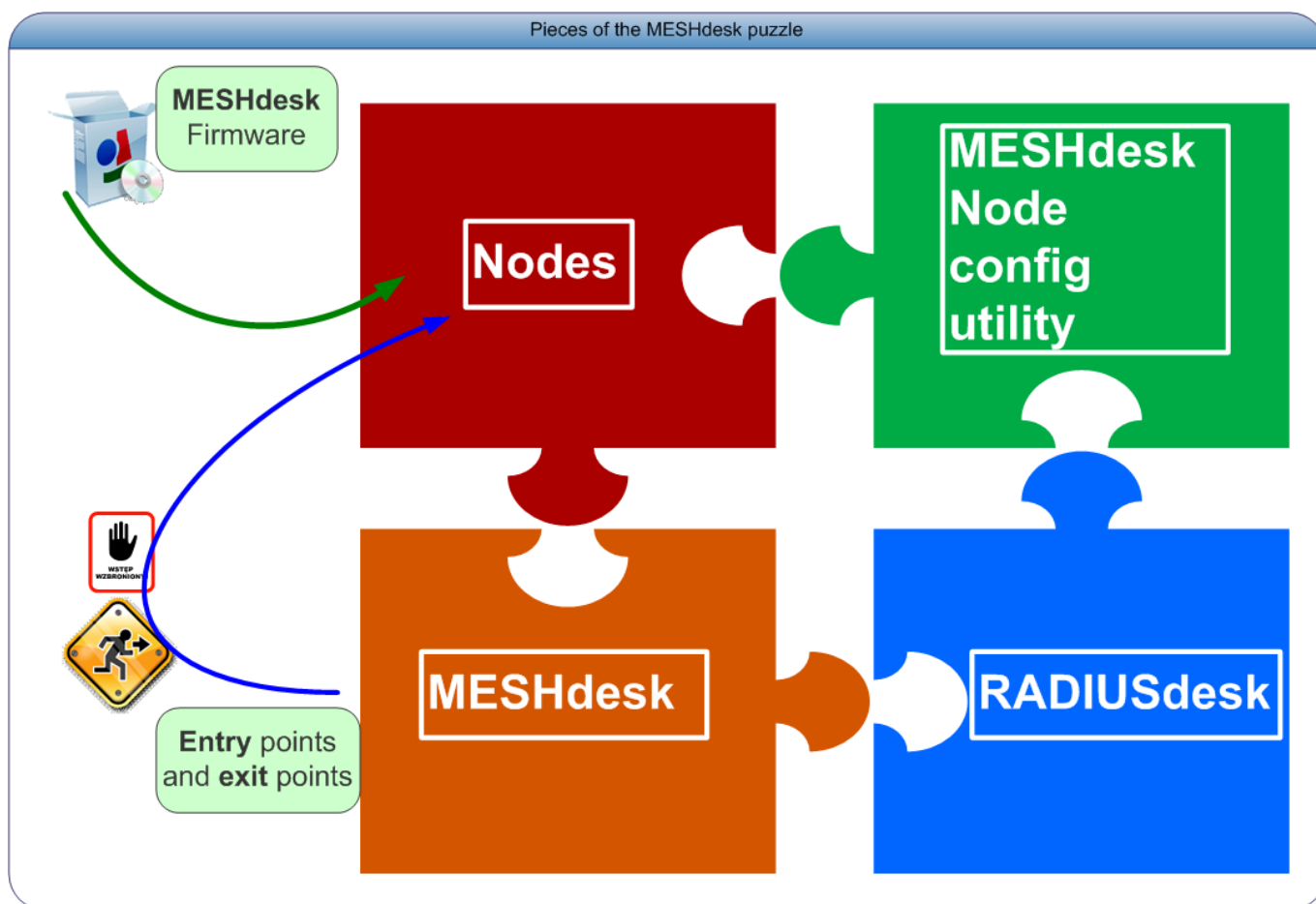# Pieces of the puzzle

Nodes

- Each mesh network consists of **two or more** nodes.
- A node is a normal access point running the MESHdesk firmware.
- MESHdesk supports a growing list of hardware.
- Simply flash the MESHdesk firmware onto any of the supported hardware.
- The nodes are pre-configured with the **MESHdesk Node config utility** (usually once-off).
- Nodes are centrally **managed** and **monitored** through MESHdesk.

MESHdesk Node Config Utility

- MESHdesk is different from other cloud based controllers which are **owned by someone else**.
- **You have your own** MESHdesk install.
- You use the MESHdesk Node Config Utility to **initially point** the MESHdesk firmware to **your** MESdesk server.

- The MESHdesk Node Config Utility is a Windows based executable for your convenience. (It will also be able to run on Apple and Linux)
- Download the Mesh Node Config Utility from here:

https://sourceforge.net/projects/radiusdesk/files/MESHdesk/

MESHdesk

- MESHdesk comes as part of RADIUSdesk and is used to centrally **manage and monitor** Batman-adv based mesh networks.
- You use it to define **entry points** (SSIDs) and **exit points** to a mesh network.
- You also use it to assign **nodes** to a mesh network.

RADIUSdesk

- RADIUSdesk is a modern web based front-end to the **FreeRADIUS** RADIUS server.
- RADIUS is used by the mesh network on the **entry points** (SSID) if one choose to include **WPA2 Enterprise** security.
- RADIUS is also used by the mesh network on the **exit points** if one choose to include a Coova Chilli **captive portal**.

From:
https://radiusdesk.com/docuwiki/ - **RADIUSdesk**

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Last update: **2017/02/06 10:49**