

Everything you Wanted to Know about Serverless but Were Afraid to Ask

Containers, Functions-as-a-Service,
and Event Architectures

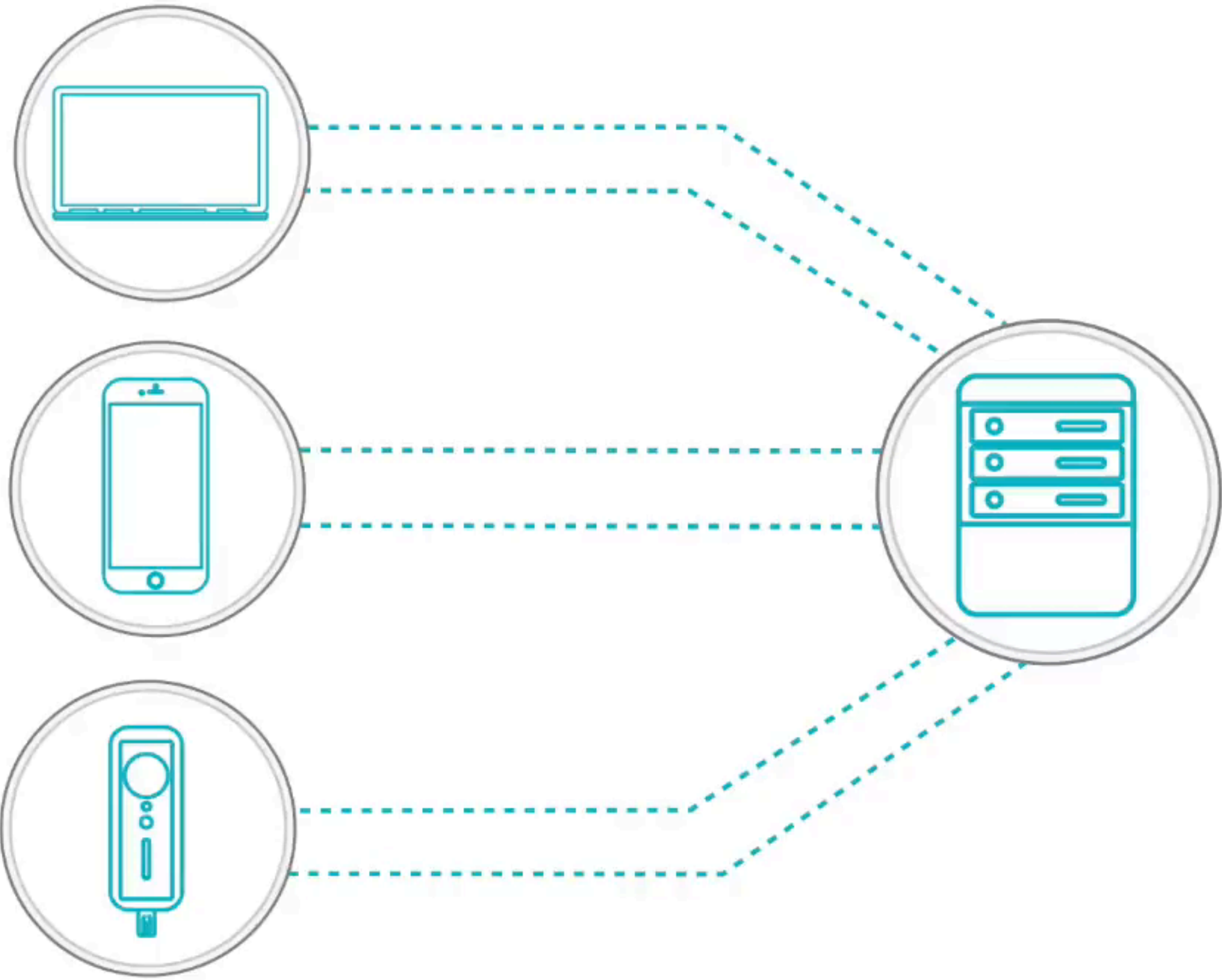
Emergence of the Streaming Web



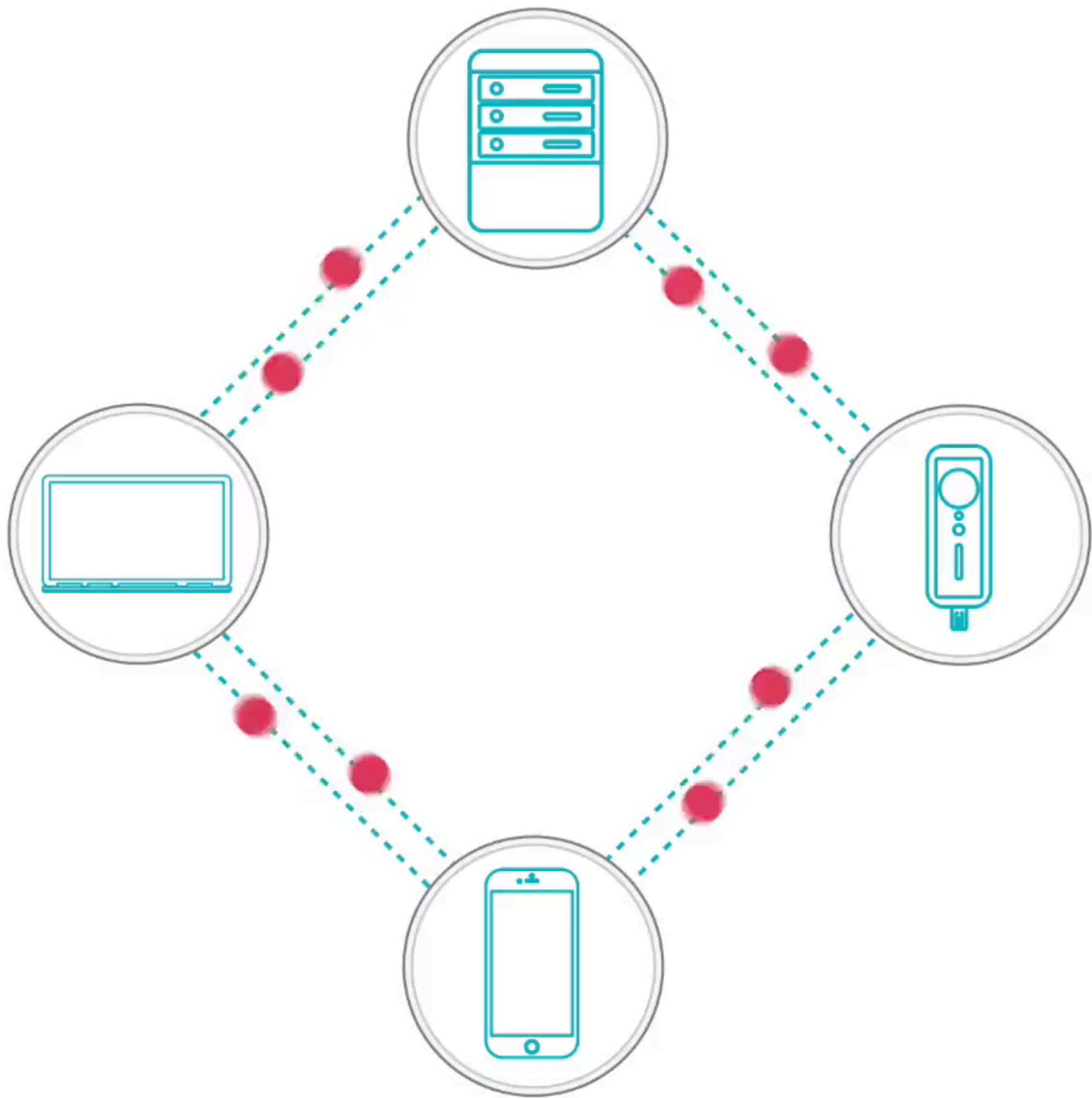
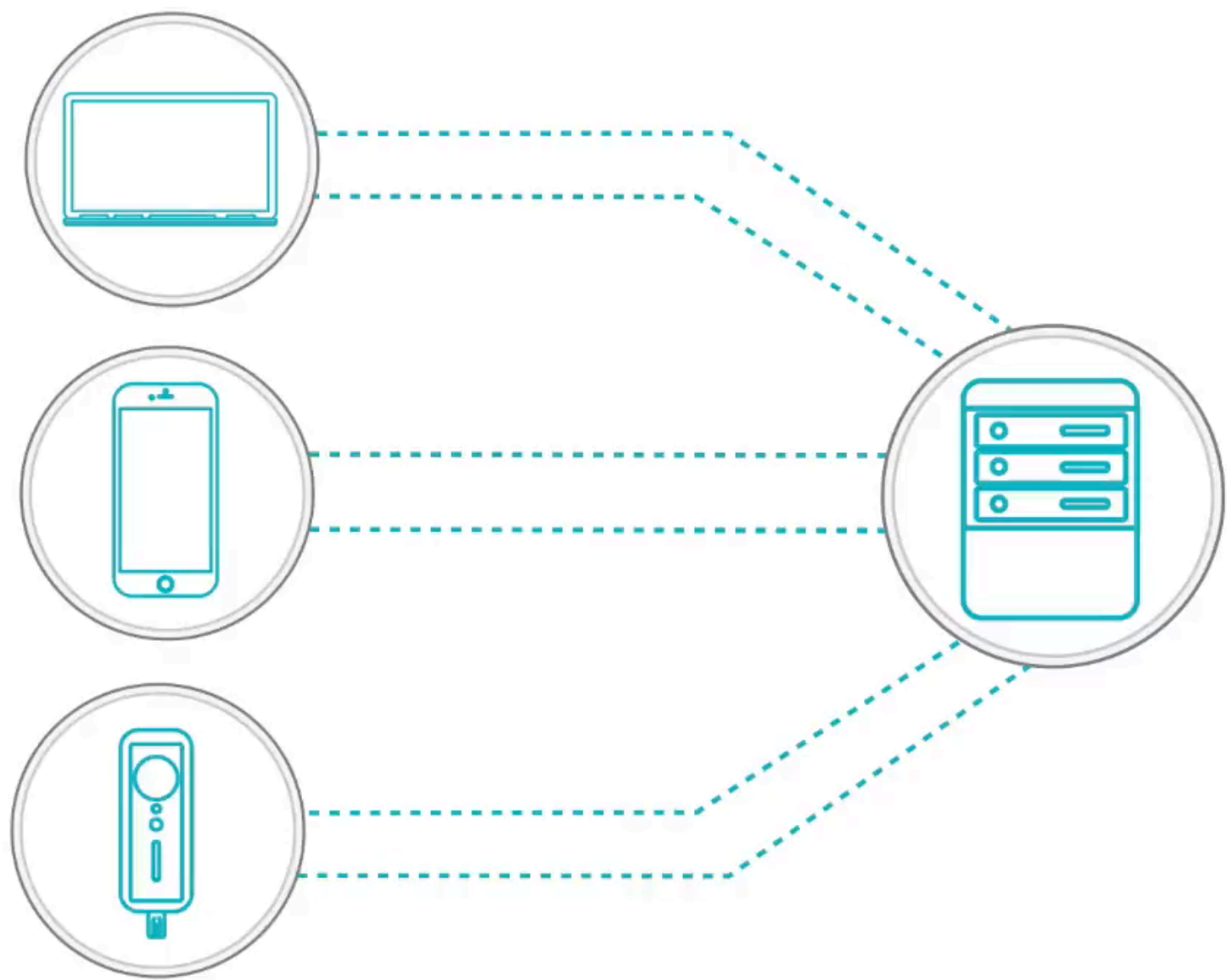
Every **hot trend** in the last five years has been enabled by **realtime** technology.

Sharing Economy **Connected Cars** eHealthcare
SmartHome Machine Learning **Dating Apps**
Social Applications Audience Engagement **Chatbots**
Business Collaboration **Delivery & Dispatch**

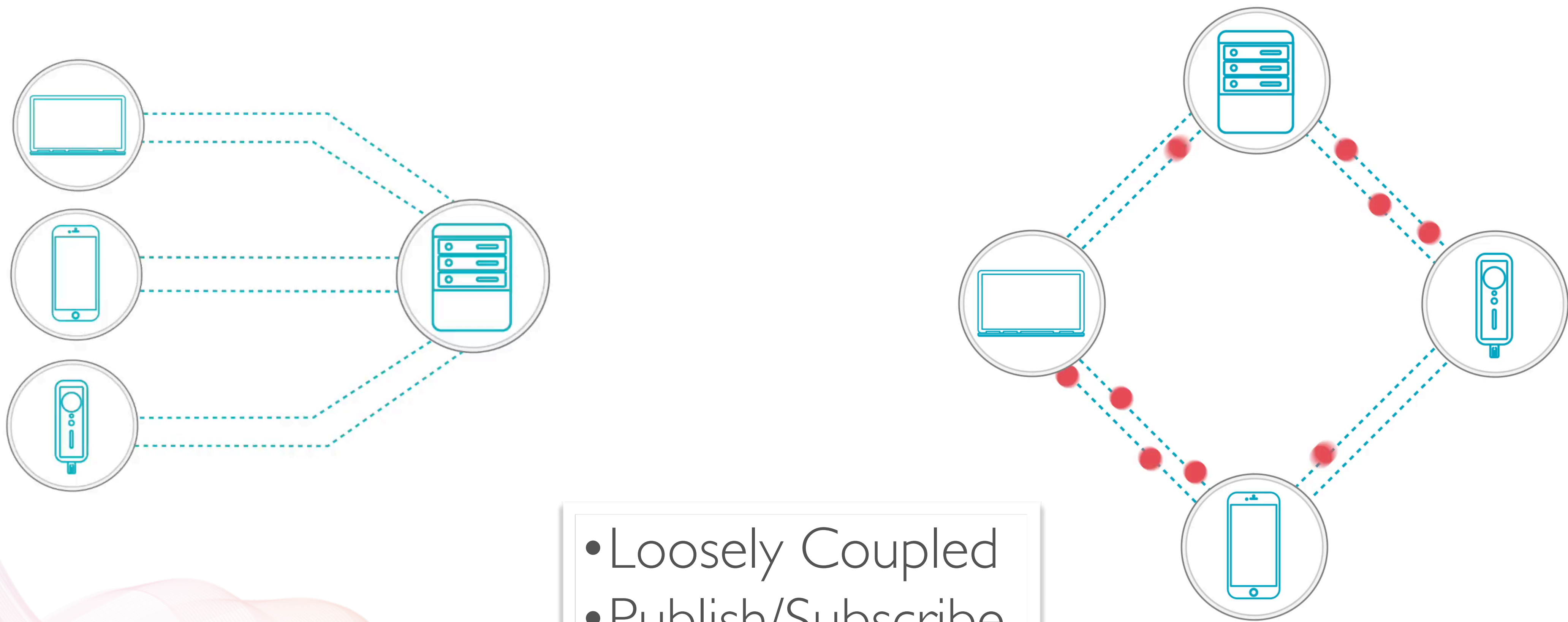
REST-based Architecture Moves to Streaming



REST-based Architecture Moves to Streaming



REST-based Architecture Moves to Streaming



- Loosely Coupled
- Publish/Subscribe
- Sockets & Polling

Powering **Thousands** of Customers Globally

SOCIAL/ENTERTAINMENT



IOT & SMART HOME



TRANSPORTATION & DELIVERY



HEALTHCARE & FINANCIAL SERVICES



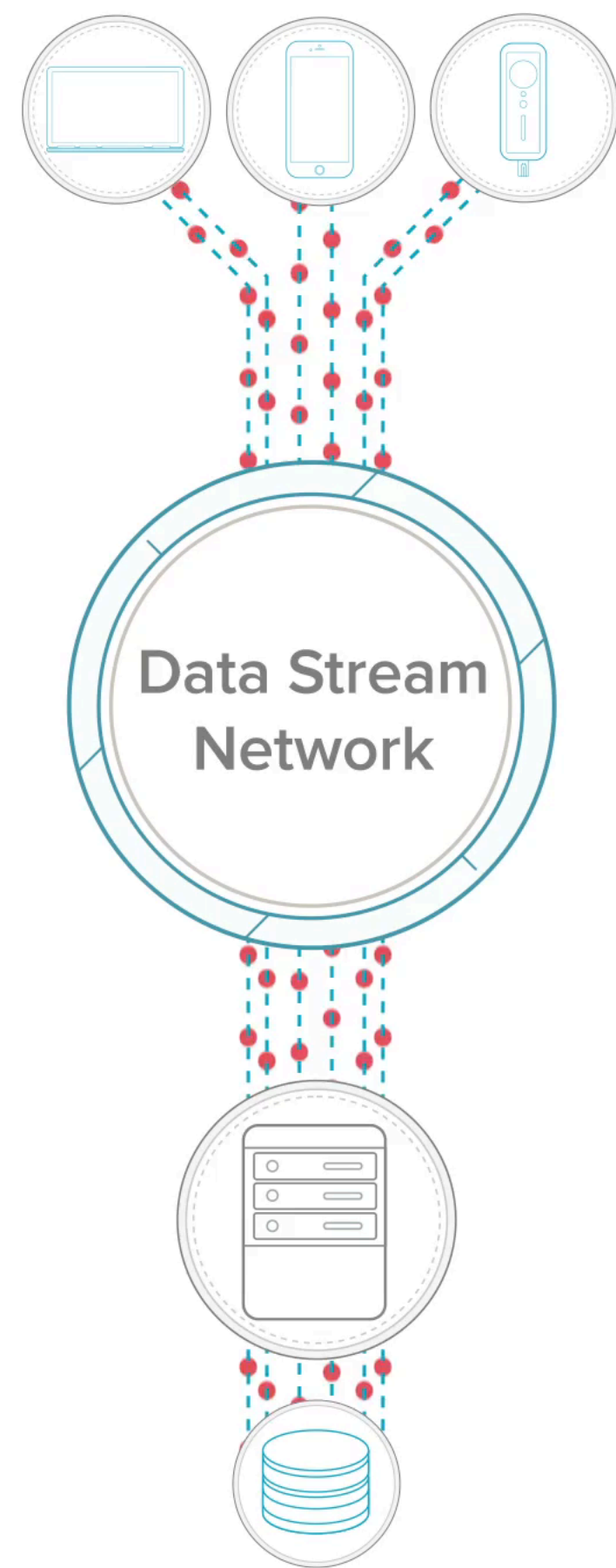
ONLINE COLLABORATION



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION



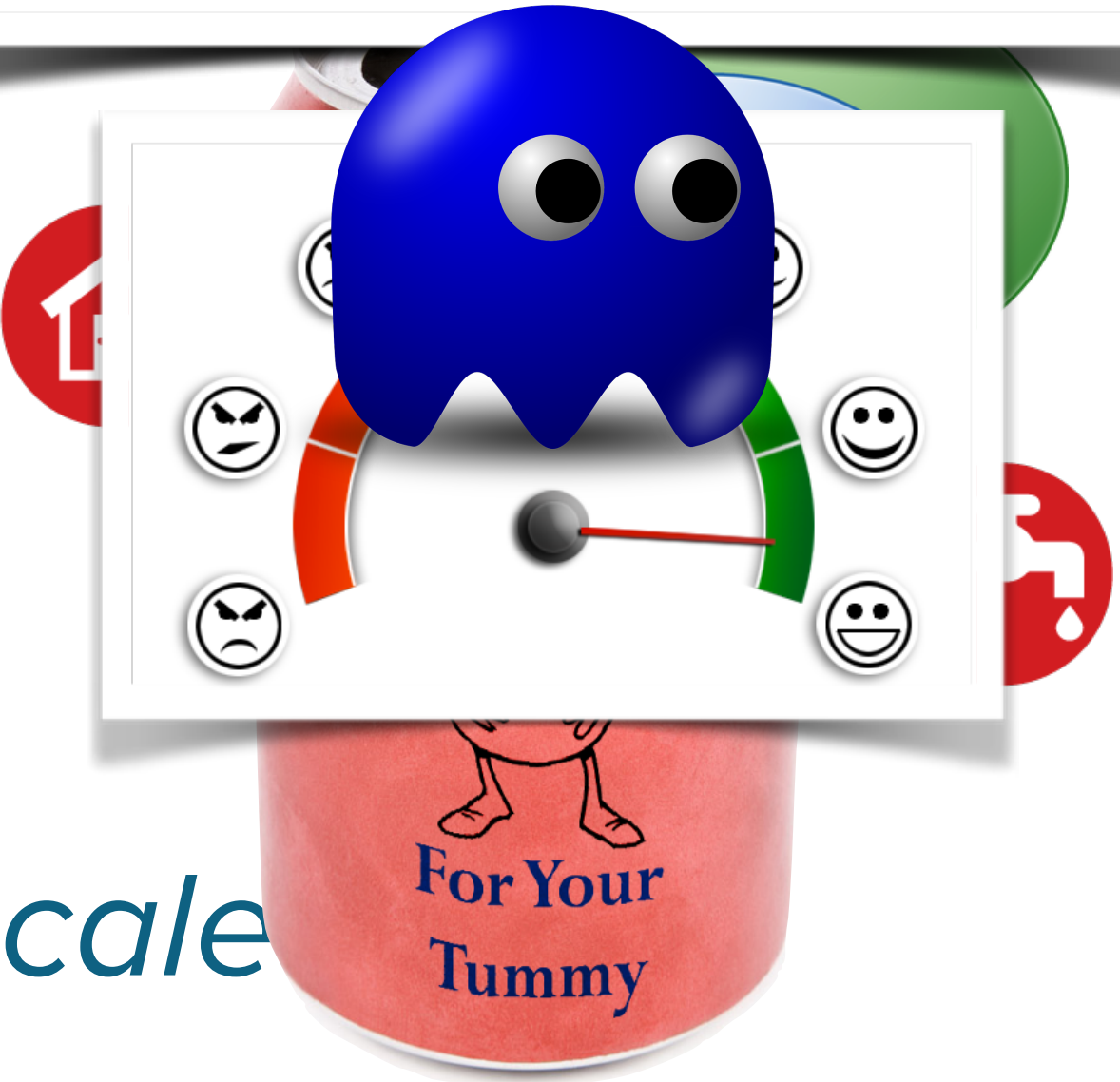
The Challenge of Business Logic for Realtime Apps



Game Logic

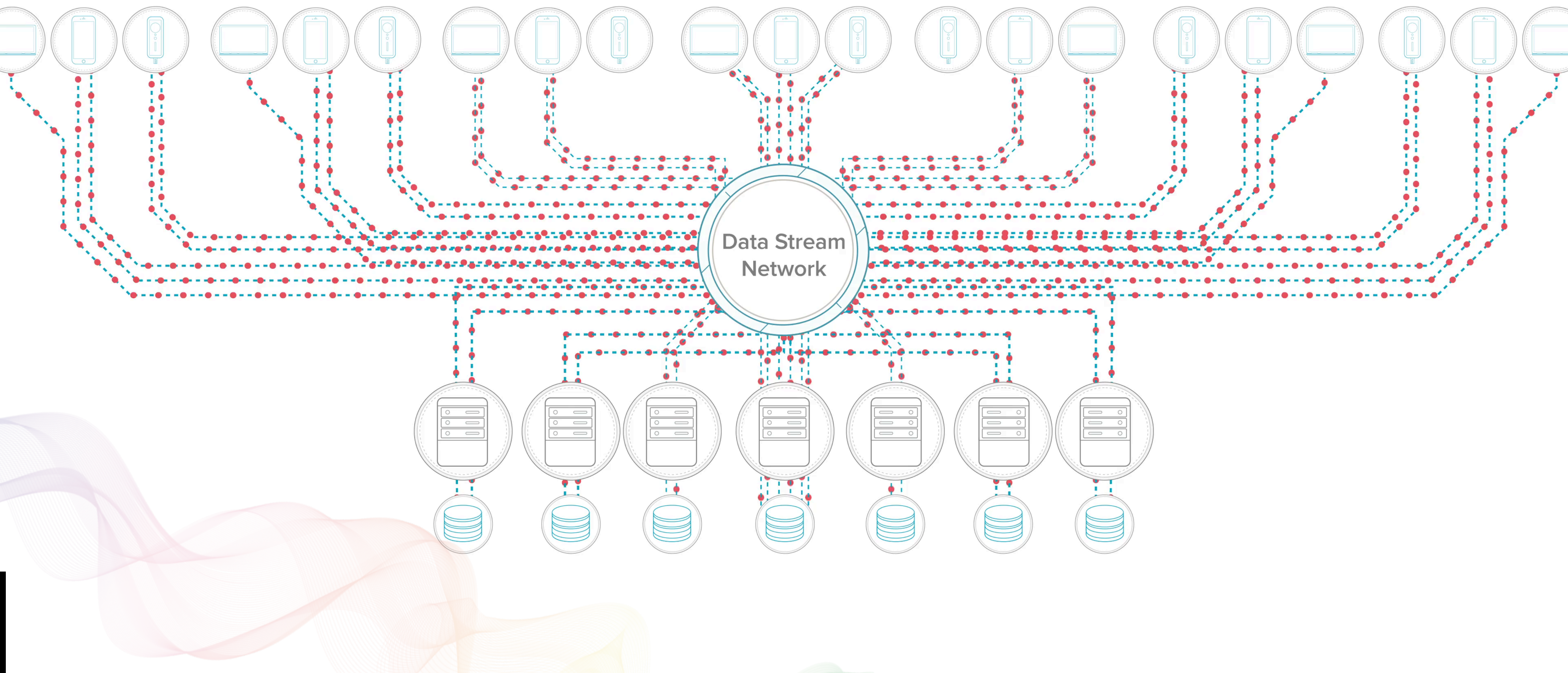
Prevent spoofing, and deliver fair play to all gamers.

to audience.



Traditional 3-Tier Architecture Doesn't Scale

The Network is the Computer...





PubNub
FUNCTIONS



PubNub Functions

Programmable Network

Deploy JavaScript directly into the Network

< 10ms triggered execution time

Auto-scale and Auto-deploy

No downtime upgrades

Replicated logic and storage globally

99.999% uptime

AES Message Encryption

NORTH
AMERICA
WEST

ASIA
EAST

NORTH
AMERICA
EAST

EUROPE
WEST

Solving the Yummy Soda Conundrum

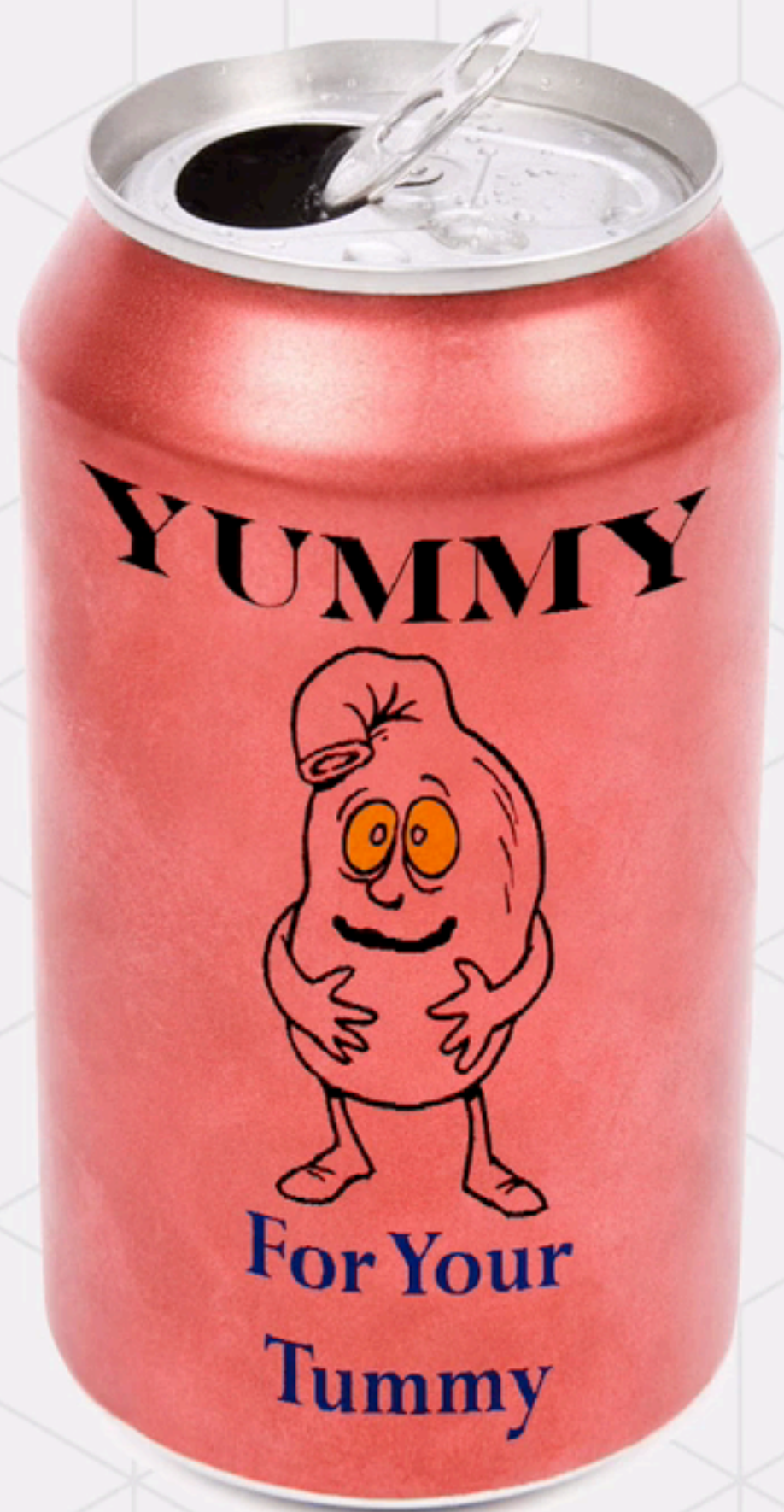


```
1. request.message.chat =  
2.  
3. request.message.chat.replace  
   (/gunk/gi, "Yummy");
```

DEPLOY!



Solving the Yummy Soda Conundrum



```
1. request.message.chat =  
2. request.message.chat.replace  
3. (/gunk/gi, "Yummy");
```

DEPLOY!



Global Function Deploy



DEPLOY!

No Downtime Updates



No Downtime Updates



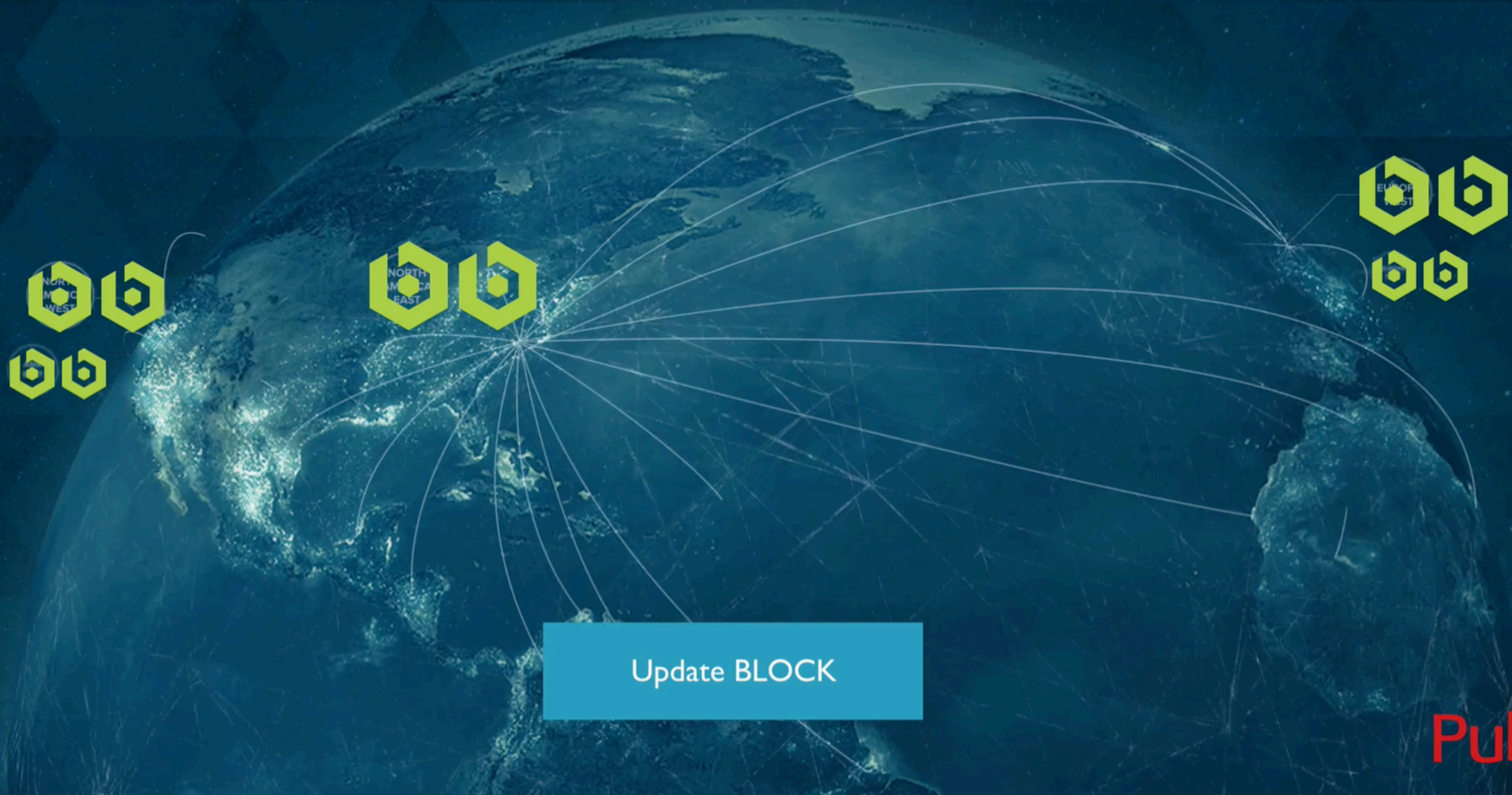
Update BLOCK

No Downtime Updates



Update BLOCK

No Downtime Updates



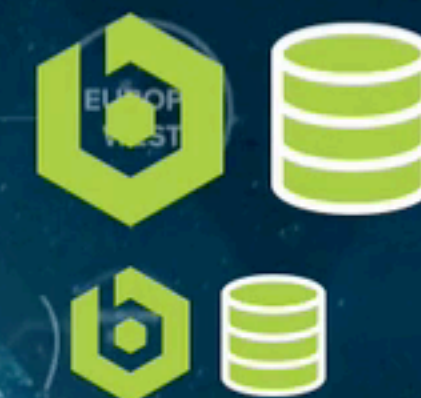
No Downtime Updates



Replicated Global Key/Value Store



Replicated Global Key/Value Store



1

2

3

```
db.incrCounter("Vote", 1);
```


Replicated Global Key/Value Store



1

2

3

```
db.incrCounter("Vote", 1);
```


Demo of PubNub Functions

It's Been a Year...What did we Learn?

Things happen fast

2,000 TPS only 2 weeks after launch.

Change is hard

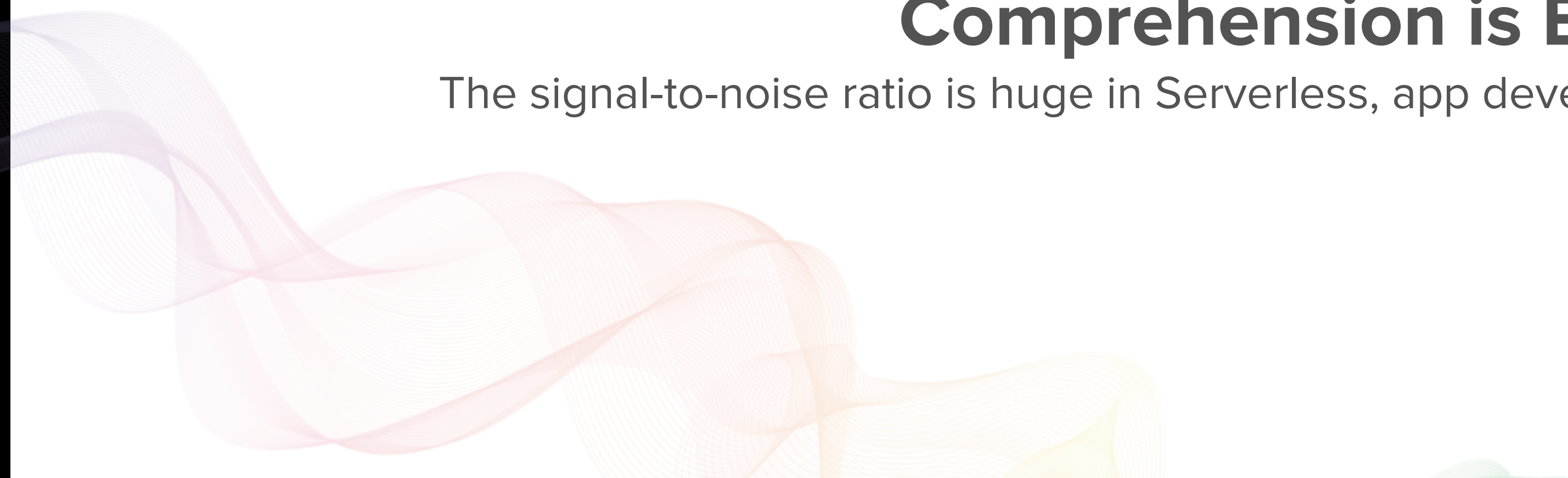
Design patterns for getting the most from Functions still not generally understood.

It isn't a Choice

Web-scale, real-time apps must move in this direction to serve business needs.

Comprehension is Everything

The signal-to-noise ratio is huge in Serverless, app developers don't have a clear path forward.



Example Use Cases with PubNub Functions...

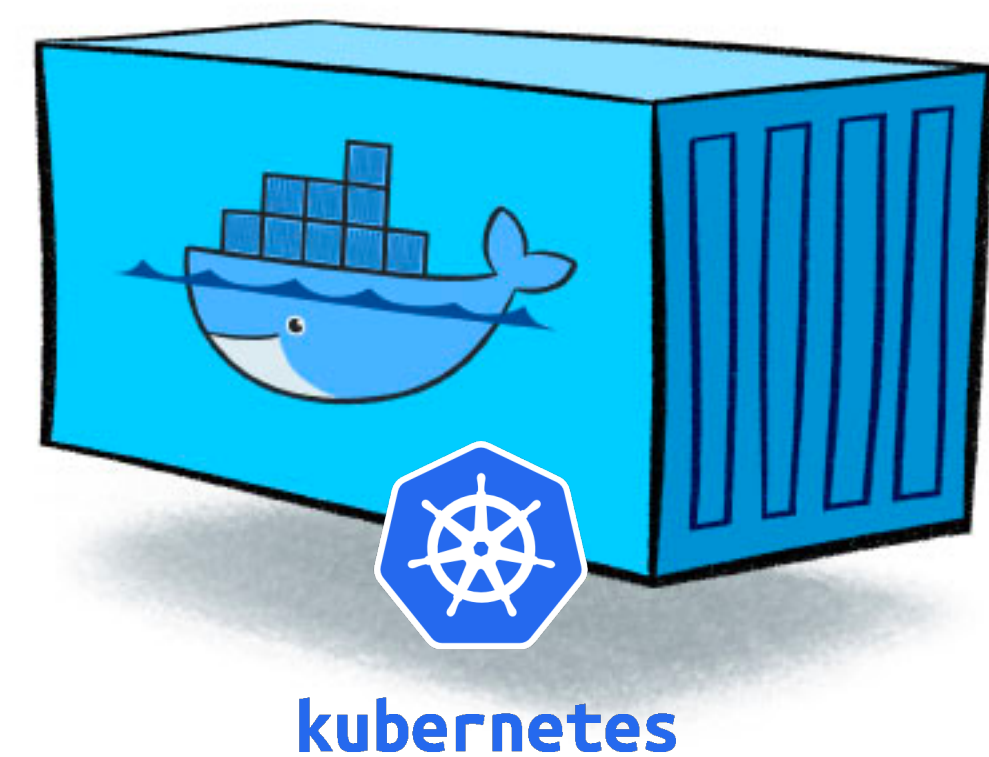
New customers are leveraging the PubNub BLOCKS Catalog to get started



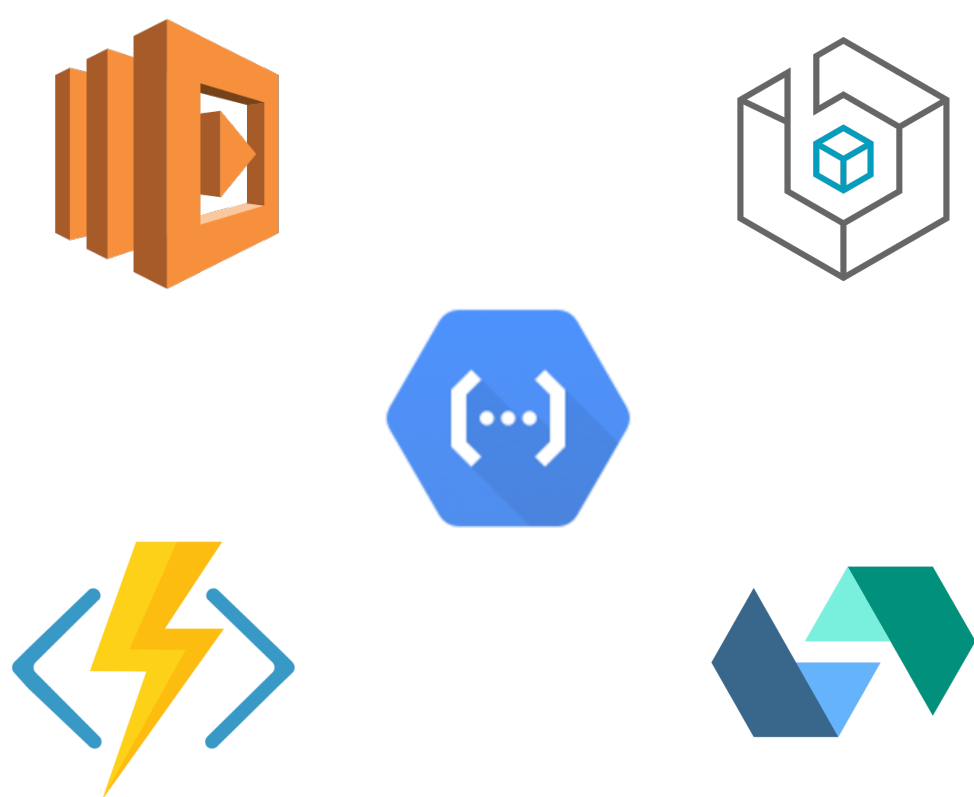
Customers with live apps are often enriching functionality over time:

- Building @mention for chat
- Filtering repeating IoT msgs
- Counting votes/sentiment
- Dropping out-of-range lat/long
- Handling callbacks from SaaS vendors
- Exposing to their customers for customization of their own products
- Consuming large amounts of raw data and only publishing relevant data points
- Publish throttling for spammy users/devices
- Device provisioning and permission granting
- Transforming messages to support older product versions
- Detect obvious anomalies and highlight, while also sending data to AI/ML systems

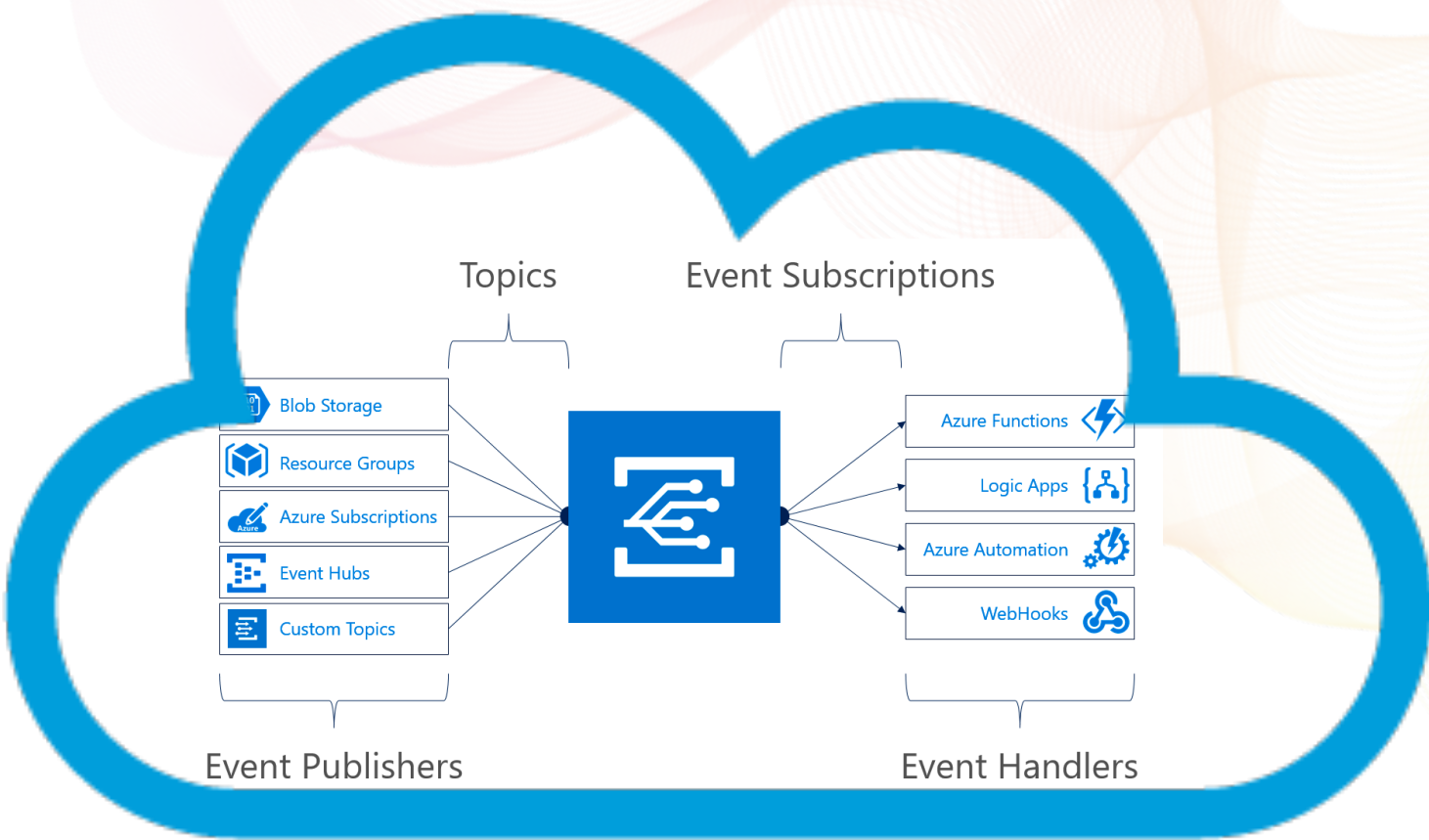
Microservices, Containers, FaaS, and Programmable Infrastructure



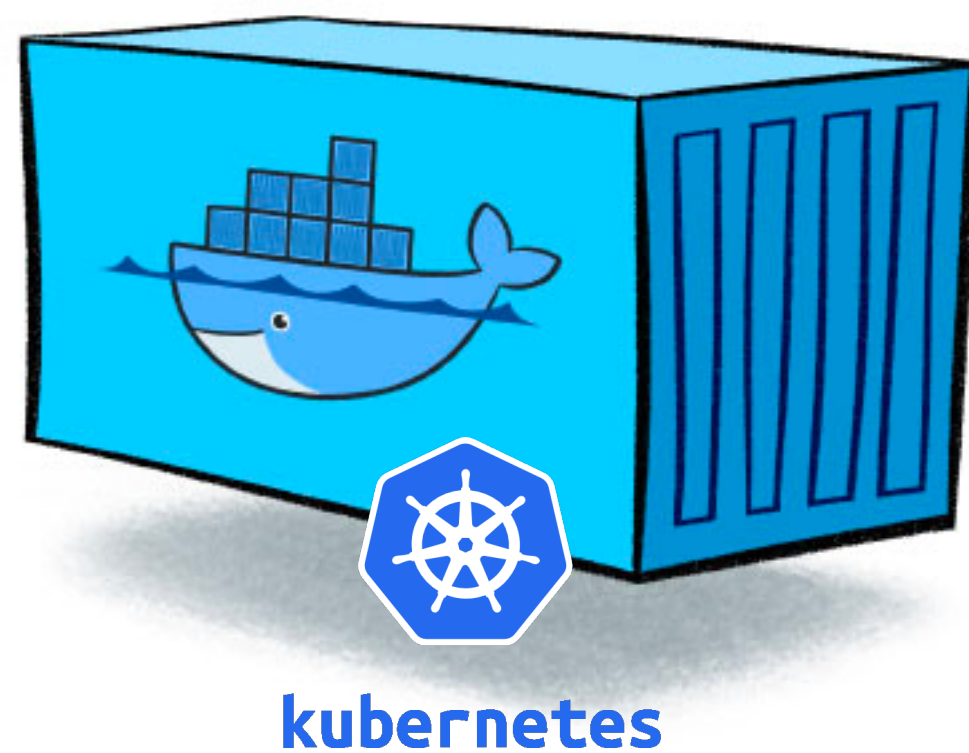
Microservices
Containers
Orchestration



Functions-as-a-Service



Event-Driven, Programmable
Infrastructure



Microservices
Containers
Orchestration

- Containers becoming a standard handoff point to Ops
- Strong adoption large enterprises, SaaS and Infrastructure
- Today's focus is on Orchestration (Kubernetes, etc), Container Registries
- Still mostly "coarse grain" usage patterns (monolithic moving into containers), vs loosely-coupled designs

Functions-as-a-Service

FaaS



and others...

- FaaS offerings are *not all the same*, but they do all deliver a similar baseline of value:
 - ✓ Autoscale as needed
 - ✓ Support for common programming language(s)
 - ✓ More efficient cost model
 - ✓ No need to operationalize code or manage services
 - ✓ Extending existing application functionality easily
- Getting lots of attention, with frameworks and companies like Serverless Inc adding abstraction layer above Functions offerings.

Generalized, Specialized, Hybrid FaaS



AWS
Lambda

Generalized FaaS

Built to handle +/- any size of function
Optimized for cost (\$/GB Second) vs speed/latency
Support for many programming languages
Stateless



PubNub
Functions

Specialized FaaS

Built for small, lightweight functions
Optimized for speed to minimize latency in realtime apps
Replicated to all edge points to remove fan-in issues
Tightly coupled to local K/V store to keep state

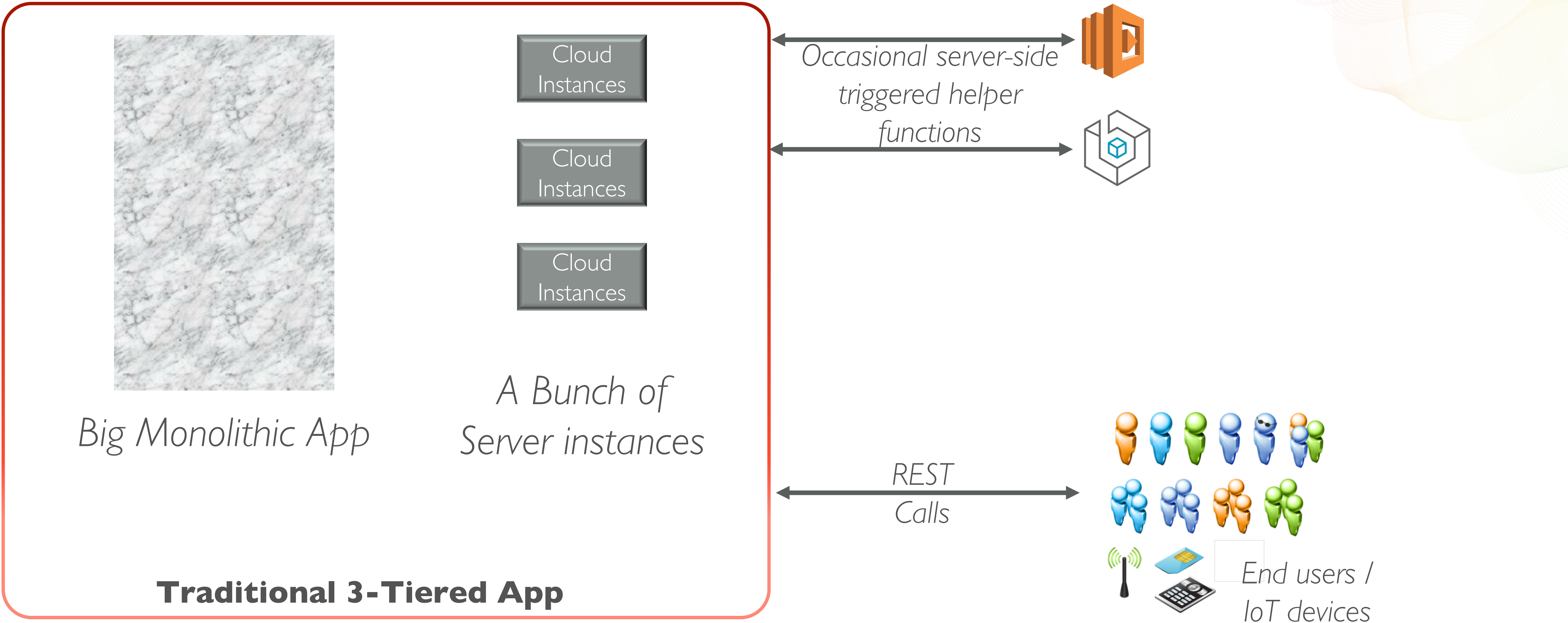


IBM
OpenWhisk

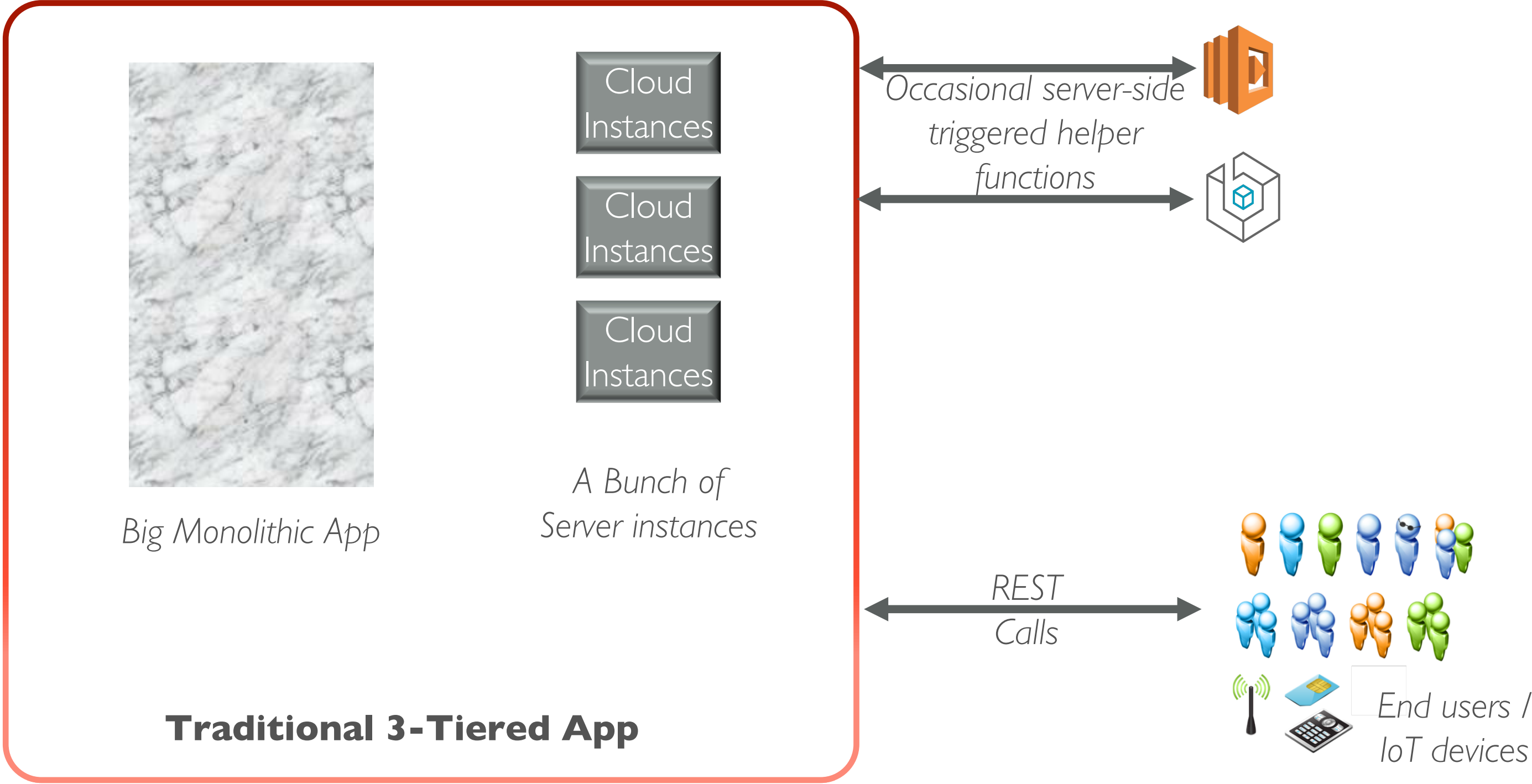
Hybrid FaaS

Built on Docker for easy hosting locally (on-premise)
Focused on the G2000 demand for hybrid cloud
Closest to std container/orchestration (Docker/Kubernetes)

How is mostly FaaS Used Today?



Most of FaaS Value not yet being used



Most apps are still monolithic

FaaS helping in small, tactical areas

Still managing server instances

End device data flow hasn't changed

The Missing Link: Event-Driven Architecture

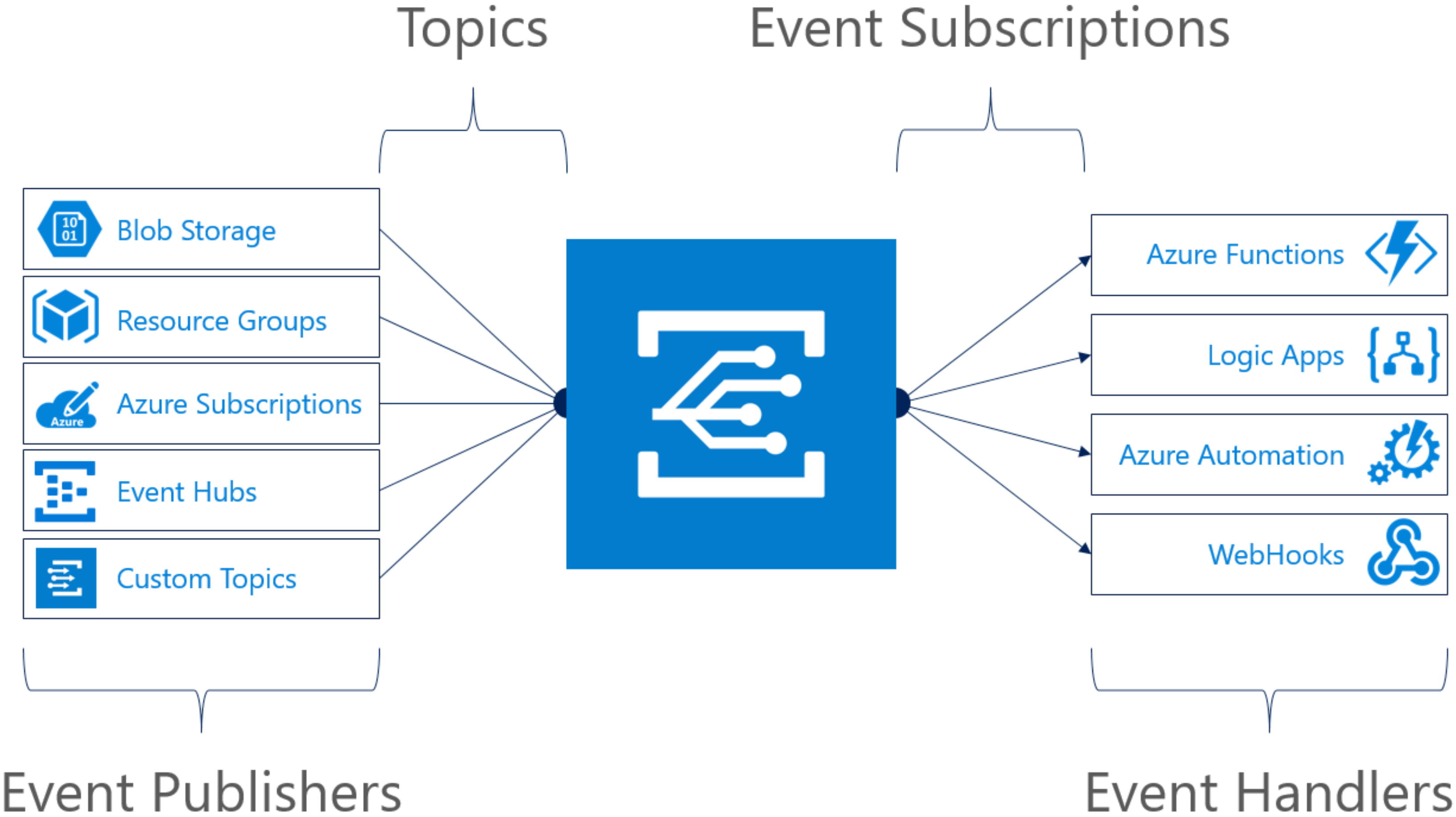
Event Architectures aren't new

- UI Frameworks are generally event-driven
- SOA is event-driven
- Recommended microservices design patterns are event driven

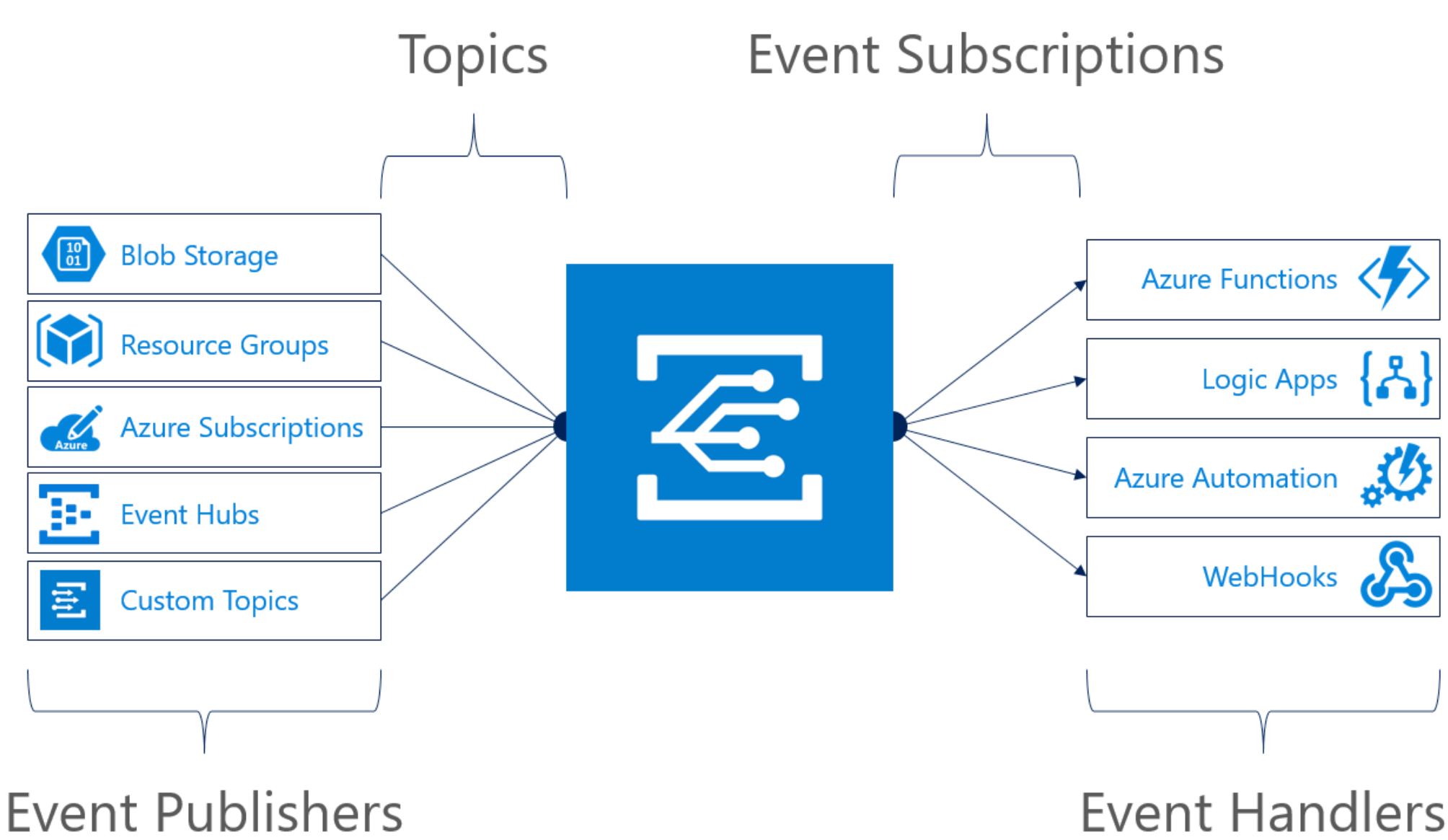
However, Cloud-developed Apps are still monolithic

- Reliance on IaaS services which are black boxes
- Generation of app developers that have only learned 3-tiered designs – LAMP, MEAN, Rails, .NET, etc

Wiring Events into IaaS



Wiring Events into IaaS: Terminology



Events: what happened

Event Publishers: where it took place

Topics: where publishers send events

Event Subscriptions: how you receive events

Event Handlers: the app or service reacting to the event

Wiring Events into IaaS

When IaaS services become Event-driven,
cloud-based application architectures will completely change

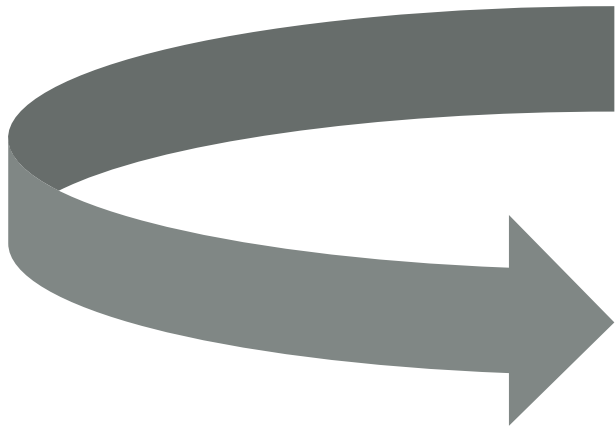
Use Case – Mobile Live Image Stream

Monolithic Approach



- Authentication
- Visual processing/Content Filtering
- Watermarking
- Write metadata to DB
- Authentication
- Poll DB to check for new images
- Determine which users subscribed to which image tags
- Queue the new images for each user (per user queue?)
- Determine resize and/or other user preference needs for image
- Load balancing
- Server instance capacity
- Monitoring & Recovery
- DB maintenance

Ops Headaches



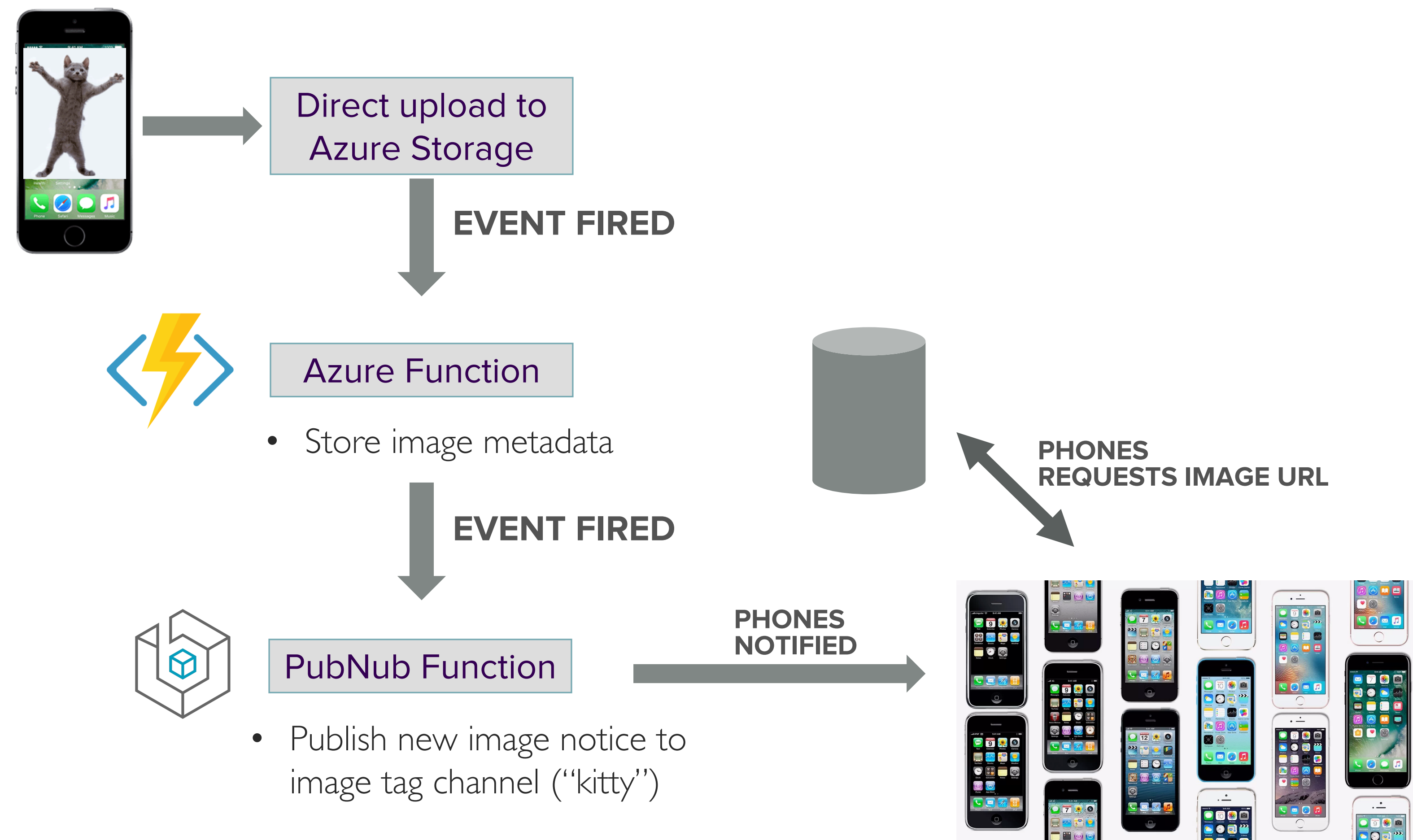
Poll to Check for new Images



- User Experience**
- Non realtime
 - Unpredictable latency

Use Case – Mobile Live Image Stream

Event-Driven Approach



Ops Benefits

- No server instances to manage
- Only pay as users scale
- Loosely coupled functionality makes new features easy to build
- Multiple dev teams can work together by subscribing to same events
- Multiple cloud services can be used together

User Experience

- Instant notification & download of image
- New features added quickly as new image filters, etc are added to function

Demo of Azure Event Grid + PubNub

Discussion

Work to be Done in the Industry

- Tooling, esp. cross-cloud
- Debugging, instrumentation, common security models

Predictions

- Containers going away?
- Events across clouds comes sooner than expected...

Current Friction Points

- Price predictability (what's a GB Second?)
- Monitoring and error management

Q/A