

# REPUTATION AND TWO-SIDED NETWORKS



Samuel M. Smith Ph.D.  
2018.02.08  
[sam.smith@consensys.net](mailto:sam.smith@consensys.net)

# Inversion

The action of inverting something or the state of being inverted:

a reversal of order

An inversion of economic order provides an opportunity to release latent value

# Disintermediation Theory

**Selectorate:** Those in **power** to make decisions for others as intermediaries, e.g. their agents.

Selectorate may be merely nominal, or influential, or essential.

How distributed/centralized is the agency of the selectorate? (democratic——despotic)

Distribution of agency increases the ratio of selectorate to total population

Typically **better** outcomes arise **overall** when agency is more **distributed**

Increased agency results in increased **autonomy** (**happiness**) and **meritocracy** (**performance**)

The **mechanism** for distributing agency (increasing the selectorate) is **disintermediation**.

To **change** outcomes, don't **ask** those in **power** to be **nicer**, **fairer**, or more **responsive**, just **disintermediate** them.

Seek **disintermediation**, not **justice**.

# Disintermediation Opportunities

Whenever **producers/consumers** of value interact through **intermediaries** (gatekeepers).

Example:

Social media on Facebook is **intermediated** by Facebook.

Facebook is the **sole intermediary**.

Facebook **owns** all content and **controls** all interactions in order to **extract** value.

**What if** users could interact **without** the value **tax** and interaction **control** of Facebook?



# PLATFORM BUSINESS MODELS

A *platform* is a business based on enabling value-creating *interactions* between *external producers* and *consumers*.

A platform provides an open, participative *infrastructure* and sets *governance* conditions for these interactions.

A platform consummates *matches* among users that facilitate the exchange of goods, services, or social currency, thereby enabling value creation or co-creation for all participants.

A *platform* is the antithesis of a *pipeline*.

( See Platform Revolution 2016, Platform Scale 2015)

# PLATFORMS VS PIPELINES

A *pipeline* is a business that directly creates and moves value from ...

producers at one *end* to consumers at the other *end*.

*Platforms* eat *pipelines* because platforms *unlock* new sources of *value creation* and supply

*not-even-mine* replaces *just-in-time*

Primary activity shifts from ...

*internal* mechanisms of control of the value chain

to ...

*external* orchestration/coordination of interactions between third parties

# Platform Manifesto

External eco-system is the new warehouse and supply chain

Network effect is the new driver for scale

Data is the new dollar

Community management is the new human resource management

Liquidity management is the new inventory control

Curation and reputation are the new quality control

User journeys are the new sales funnels

Distribution is the new destination

Behavior design is the new loyalty program

Data science is the new business process optimization

Social feedback is the new sales commission

Algorithms are the new decision-makers

Real-time customization is the new market research

Plug-n-play (APIs) is the new business development

Invisible hand is the new iron fist

# Radical Disruptive Disintermediation

Make the **governance** of the interaction more distributed.

Allow users (producers and consumers) to interact **without** despotic control.

Allow **user ownership** of their **content** and **control** of their **interactions**.

Enable users to **extract** more value from their content and interactions.

**Closed** pipelines/platforms are **opportune** for **disruptive disintermediation** via **blockchain technology**.



# ENABLEMENT

Platforms *disintermediate* pipelines

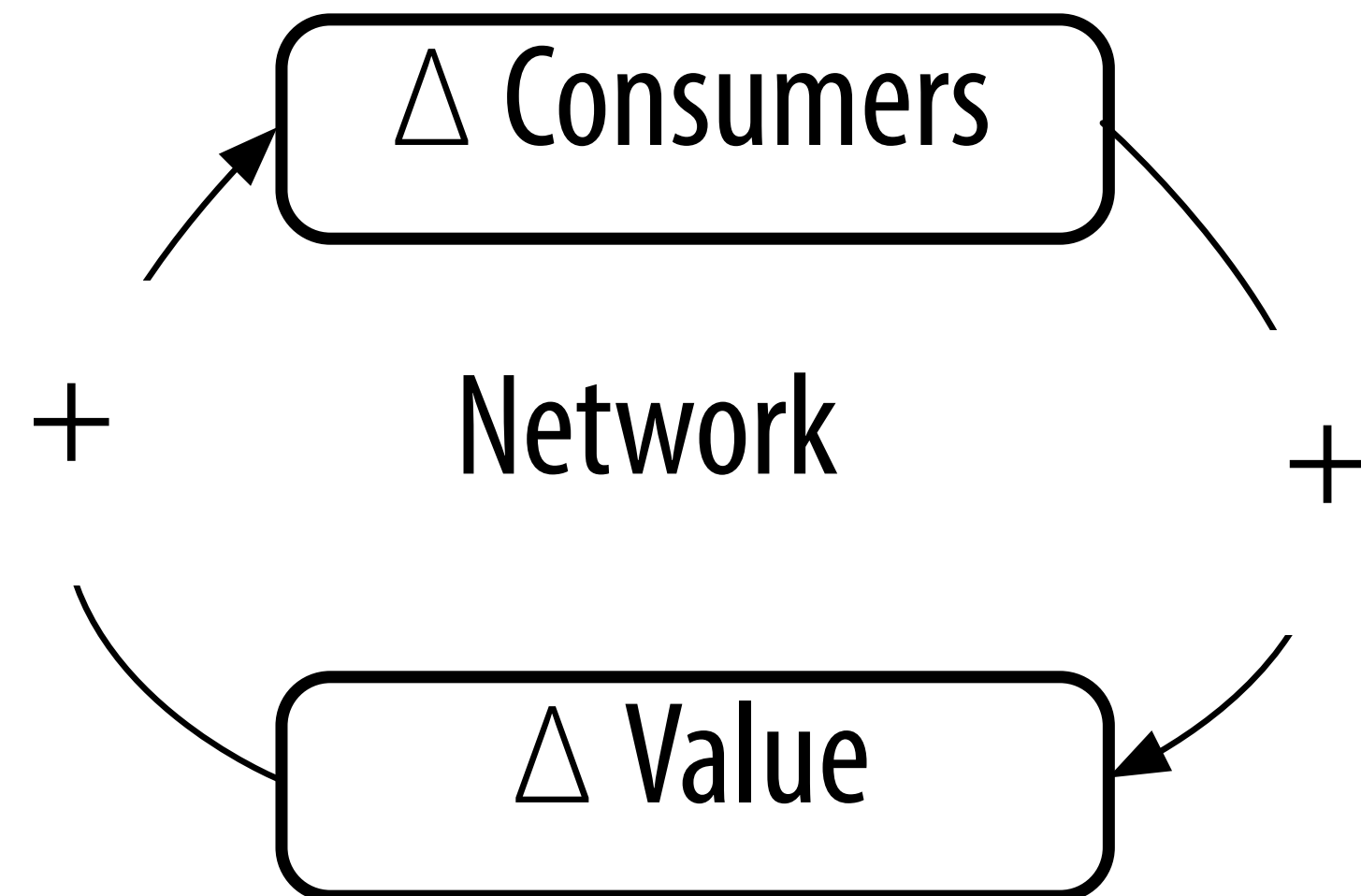
Distributed network computation *enables* platforms

Distributed *consensus* *enables* *trustworthy* platforms

*Governance* matters

*Distributed AI* provides *scalable* *super-efficient* *user controlled* *re-intermediation*

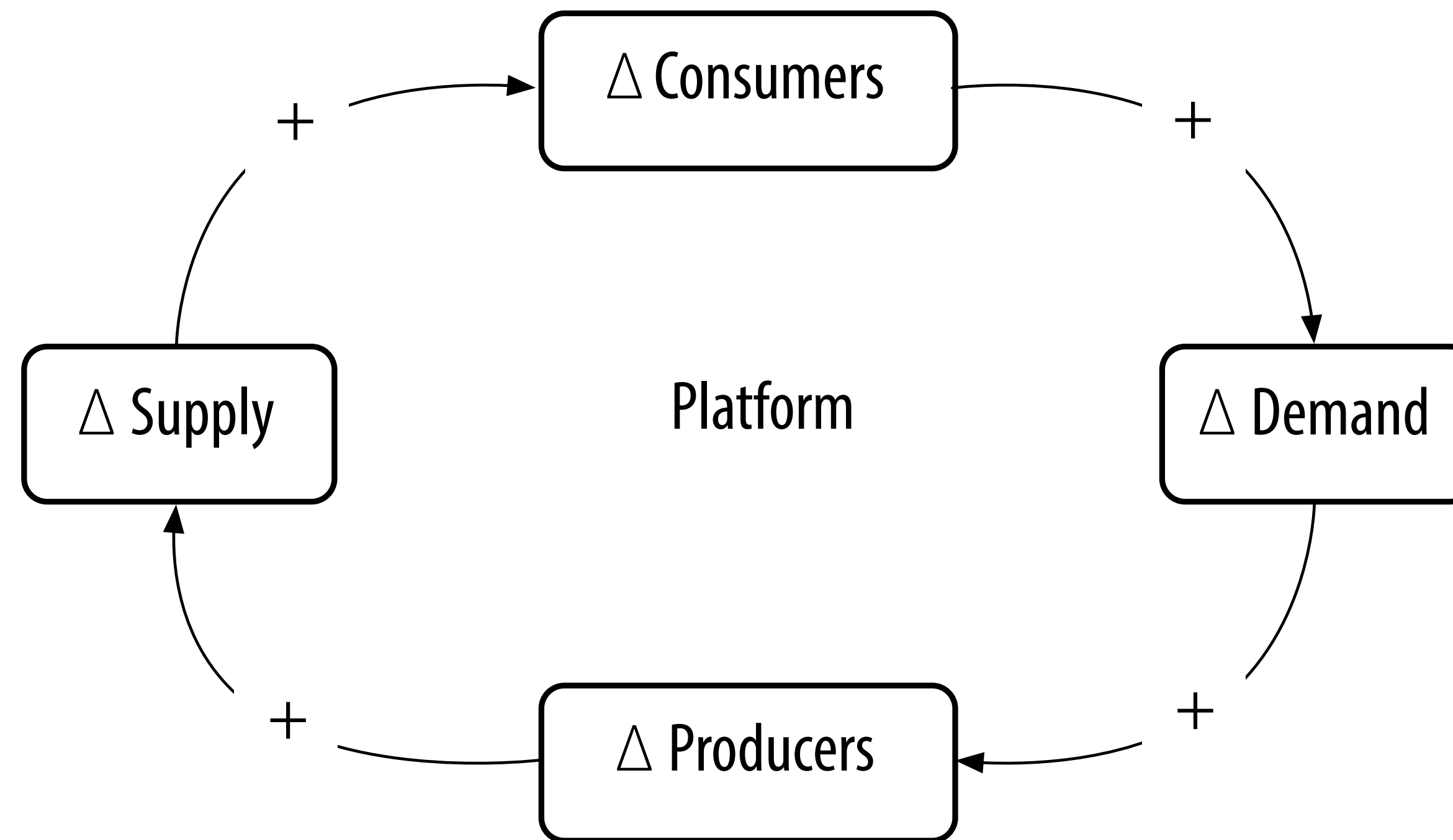
# SINGLE-SIDED NETWORK EFFECT



More consumers *increases* value which *attracts* more consumers

*Demand* side driven

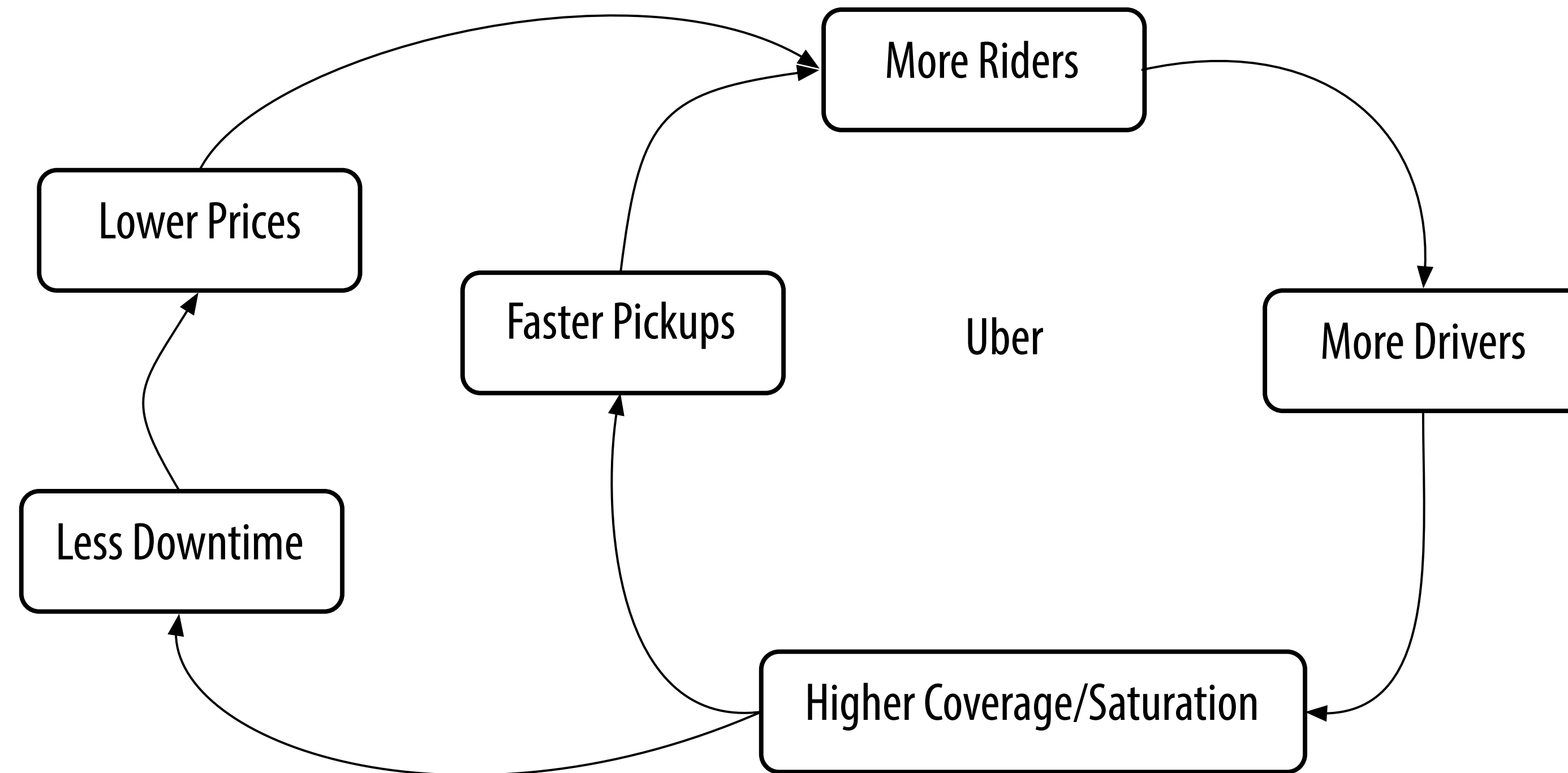
# TWO-SIDED NETWORK



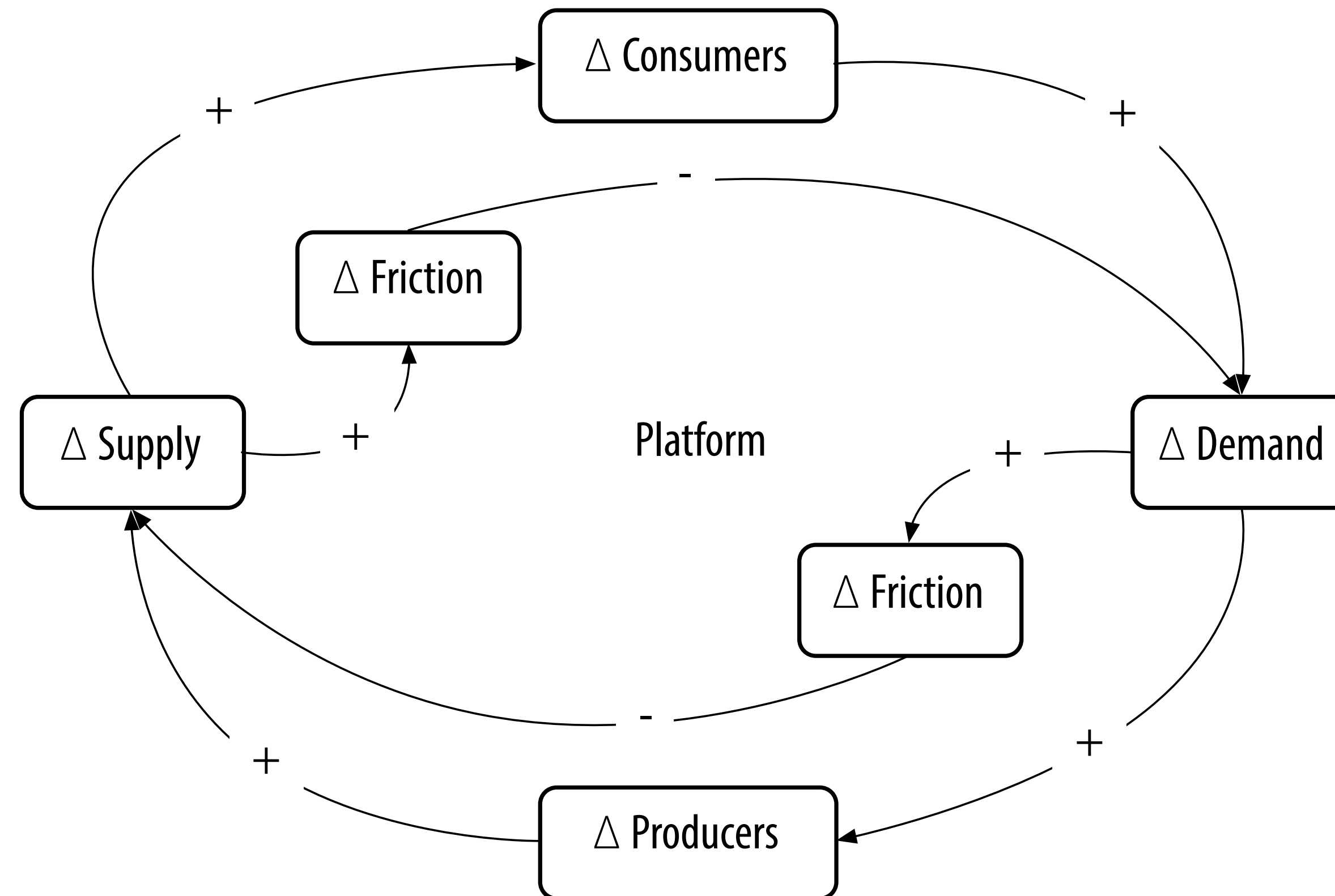
more consumers *drive demand* which *attracts* more producers

more producers *drive supply* which *attracts* more consumers

# EXAMPLE



# NEGATIVE CROSS-SIDE NETWORK EFFECTS



More *supply choice* increases friction e.g. *customer confusion* in producer selection thereby *decreasing* demand

More *demand choice* increases friction e.g. *producer failure* in customer satisfaction thereby *decreasing* supply

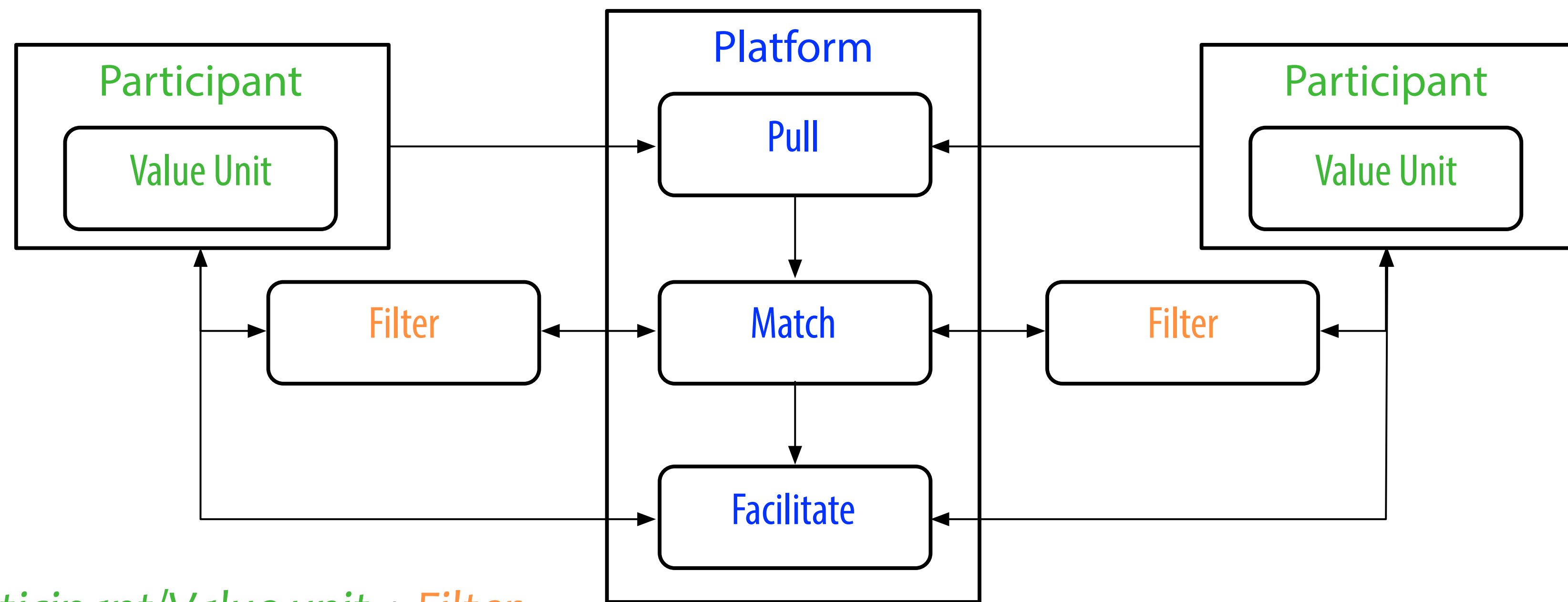


# PLATFORM BUSINESS MODEL

*Supply* economies of scale (production efficiency)  
replaced with

*Demand* economies of scale (network effect multipliers of value)

*Two-sided* network effects



*Core Interaction* = *Participant/Value unit* + *Filter*

*Platform* = *Pull* + *Match* + *Facilitate*

# CURATION

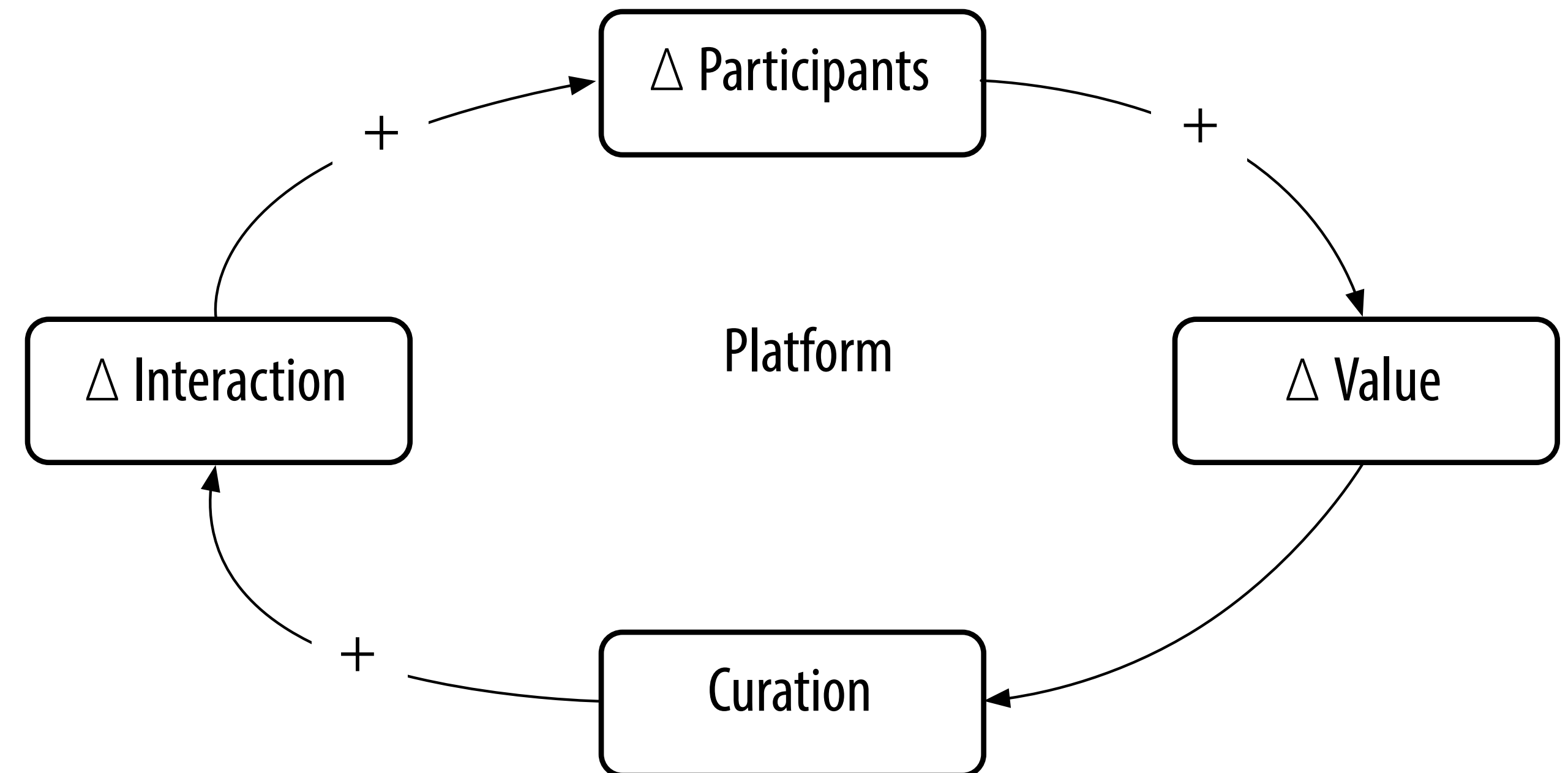
*Match + Filter = Curation*

*Reduces negative cross-side network effects*

*Enhances positive cross-side network effects*

*Essential enabling capability for any platform*

*Curation is applied reputation*



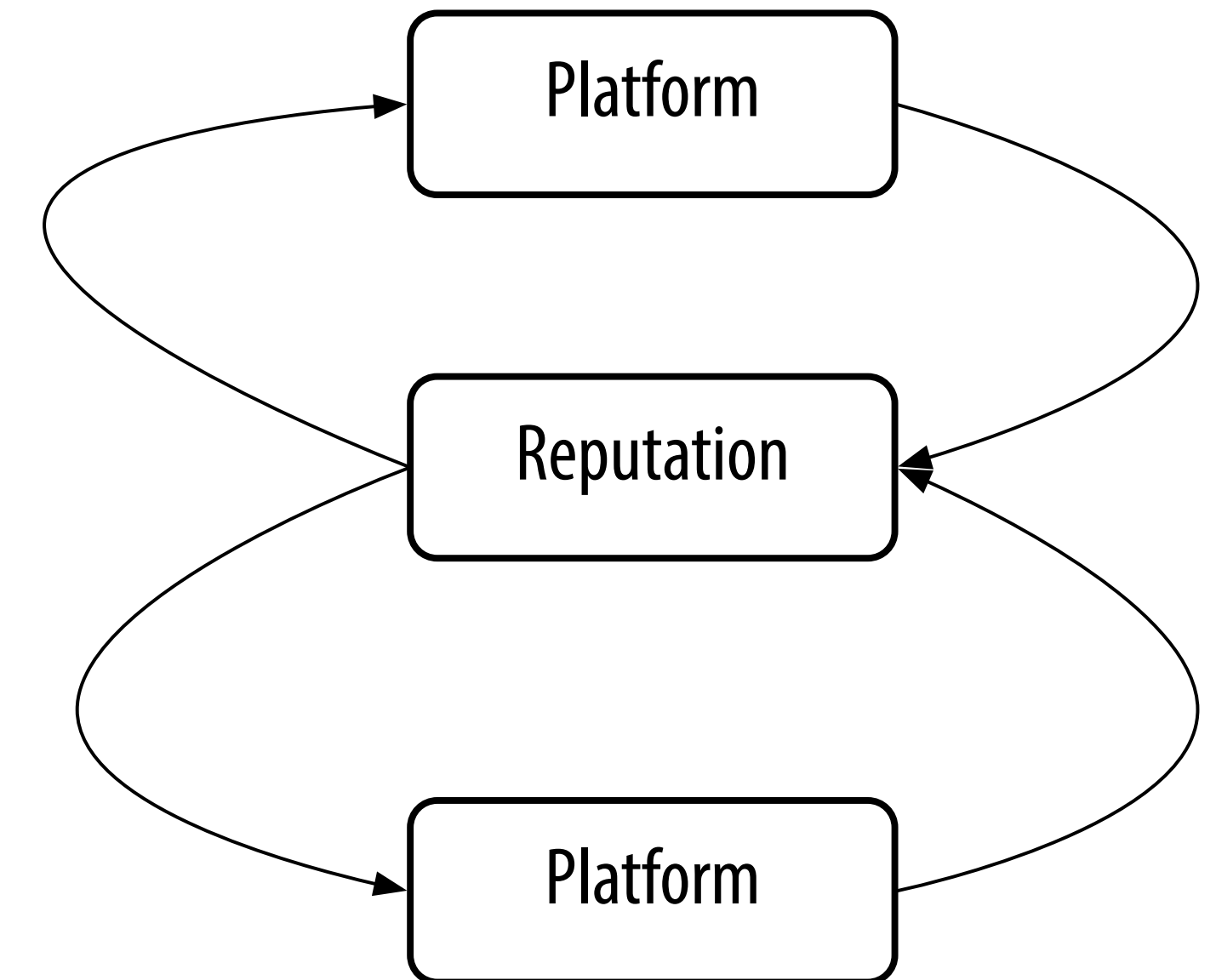
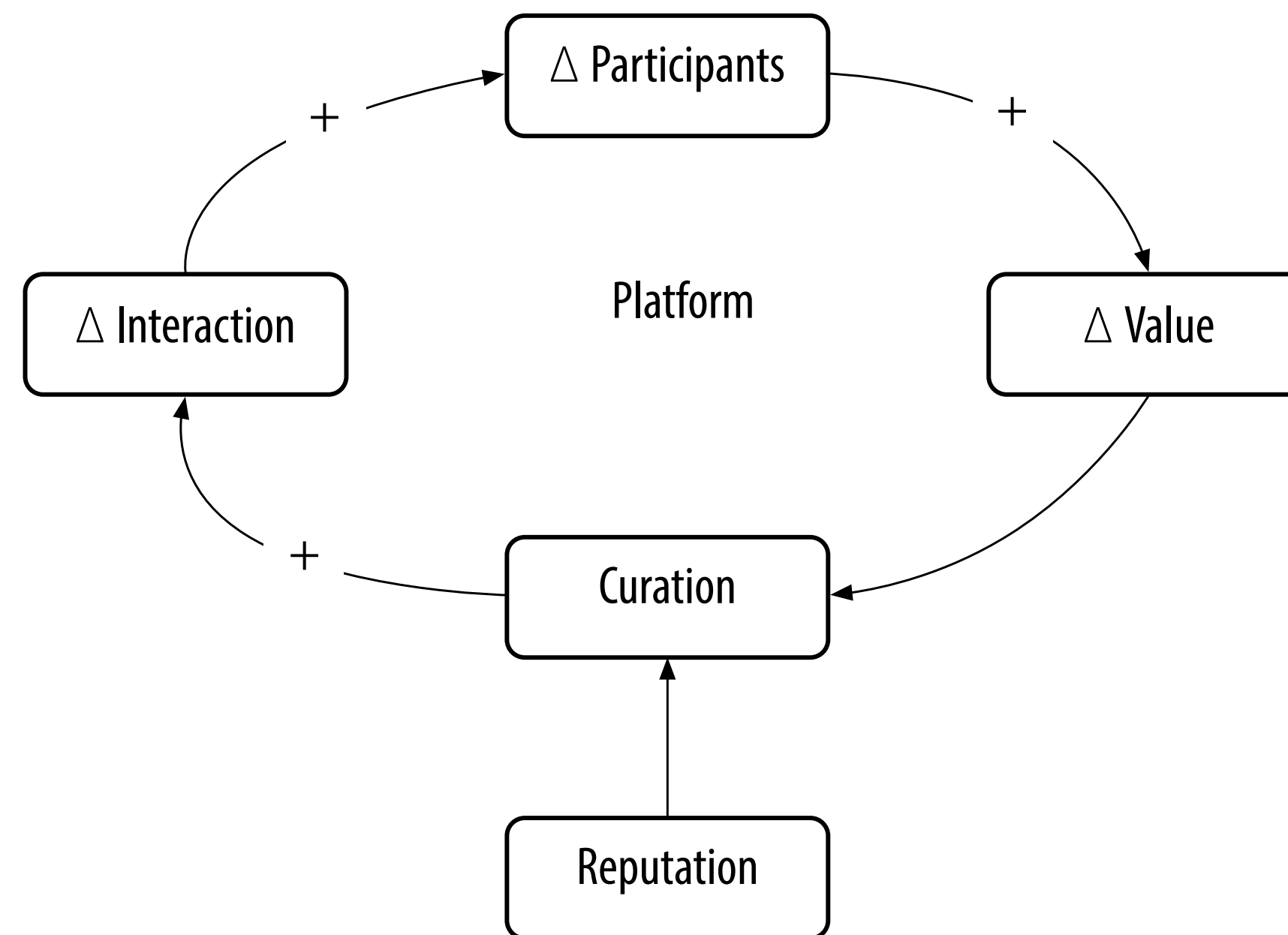
# META-PLATFORM

*Platform that facilitates two-sided network effects across and amongst other platforms*

*Portable **Reputation** is a potential meta-platform*

*Contextual*

*Transitive*



*Meta-platform may be a system of network intelligence*

*Network effects on network effects*

# NETWORK EFFECTS

## 1-Sided *Direct*:

- Physical: Phone Company
- Protocol: Ethernet, HTTP
- Personal: Influencers
- Market: (N-Sided)

## 2-Sided *Indirect*: (Demand and Supply Sides)

- Marketplace: Craigslist, AirBnB
- Platform: (unique supply) iOS App Store
- Asymptotic Marketplace: 2-Sided: Uber, Lyft

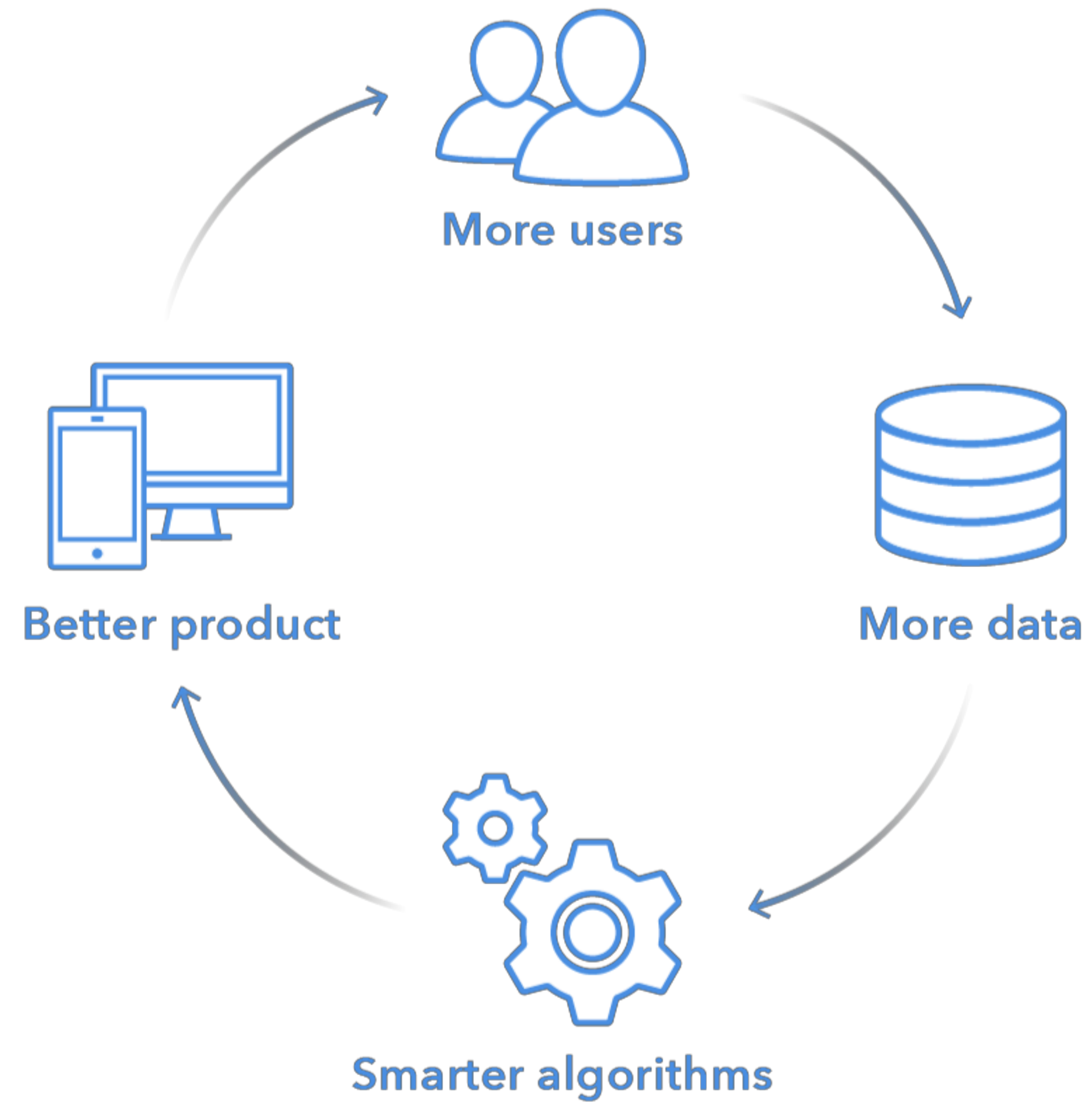
Data: (Product value increases with more data driving more users)

Technology Performance: (More users increases product value)

Social: (Interaction between users produces value)

- Belief
- Language
- Bandwagon

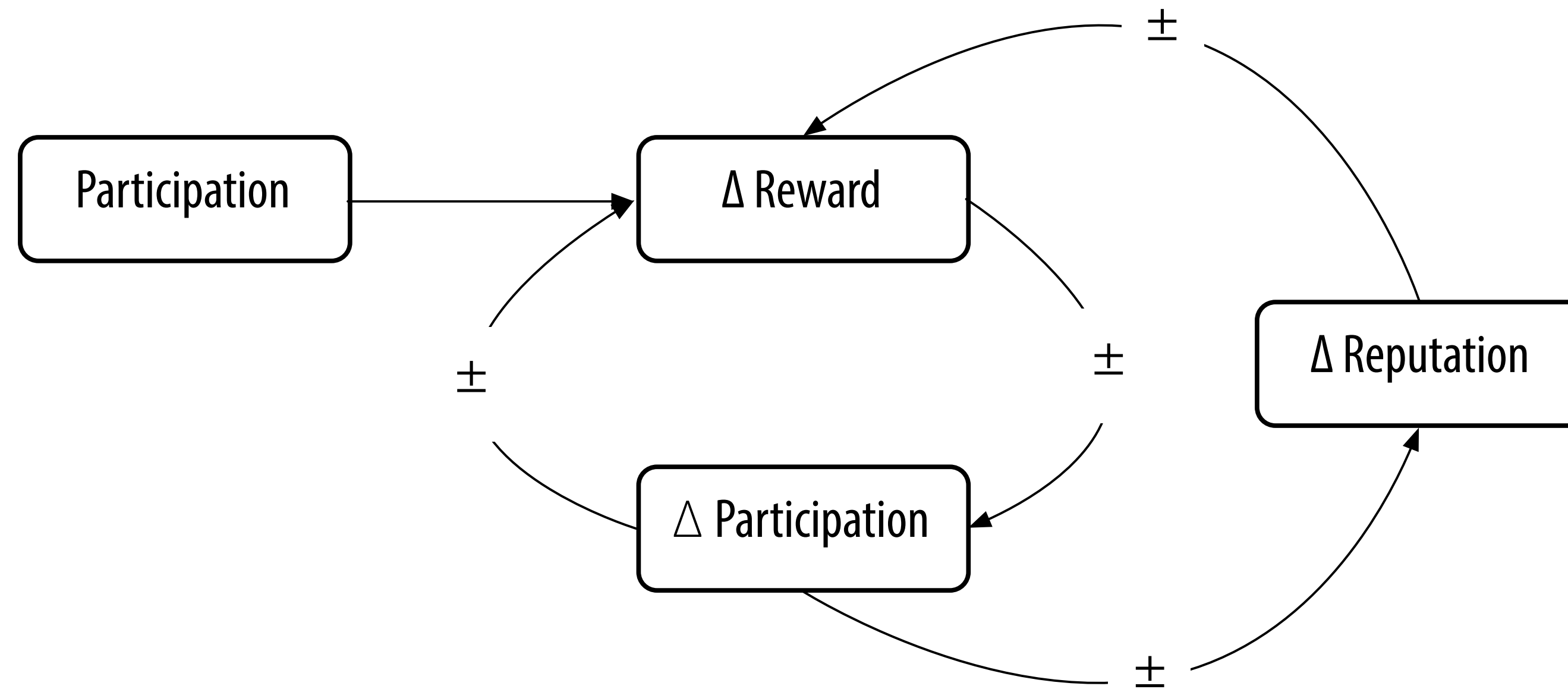
# DATA NETWORK EFFECTS





# REPUTATION DRIVEN INTERACTION

## *Graduated Participation Interfaces*



# REPUTATION

*noun:*

*The estimation in which a person or thing is held, especially by the community or the public generally.*

*root:*

*Latin word reputāre, which is equivalent to re + putāre, that is, to re-think or re-consider.*

*usage:*

A considered evaluation (measure) of past behavior used to predict future behavior.

*qualification:*

Confidence improves with contextual similarity.

# WHAT IS REPUTATION?

## WHAT IS REPUTATION AI?

Contextual predictor of future behavior to enable a transaction

Closed-loop automated reasoning, not just open-loop pattern recognition

Means to filter and modulate transactions

Curator, recommender, decision aid, IA

Contextual predictors are more powerful

Behavior based predictors are more credible

Transitive predictors are more portable

# COMPUTATIONAL REPUTATION

*Computational generation of a reputation is to aggregate relevant instances of behavior.*

*Instances of behavior = **reputational events** or **reputes** for short*

*Reputation measures are inferred indirectly from **reputes** associated with an entity*

Contrasting Example:

- \* Entities provide direct ratings of promptness of another entity
- \* Collect instances of behavior of entity in context from which promptness can be inferred.

*Reputation from reputed behavior allows for re-scoping, re-weighting, re-combination, and re-evaluation of collected reputes*

*Enables arbitrary levels of nesting, precision, and granularity in the data aggregation process*

# PORTABLE IDENTITY

Security, Privacy, Agency

*(Trustworthy, Private Preserving, Self-Sovereign)*

Portable Identifiers & Attributes

Decentralized (not in a silo)



# PORTABLE REPUTATION

Security, Privacy, Agency

Portable Data & Algorithms

Reputation system that spans verticals and applications

Benefits from data network effects

# OPEN & PORTABLE & PROPRIETARY

Open Data Formats

Open Frameworks

Open Algorithms

Open Governance

Proprietary Contextualization, Parametrization, Tuning & Data

# META-PLATFORM

Two Sided Network Effects

Curation, Filtering, Modulation

Optimal Control

# Graph Based Self Identity/Reputation

**Identity** = **Identifiers** + **Attributes**

**Identifiers** = globally unique decentralized **cryptonyms** + **aliases**

**Attributes** = user data, proofs

Facilitate attribute exchange between entities sufficient to enable transaction to proceed

Identity System Features:

**Agency** (own your own identity)

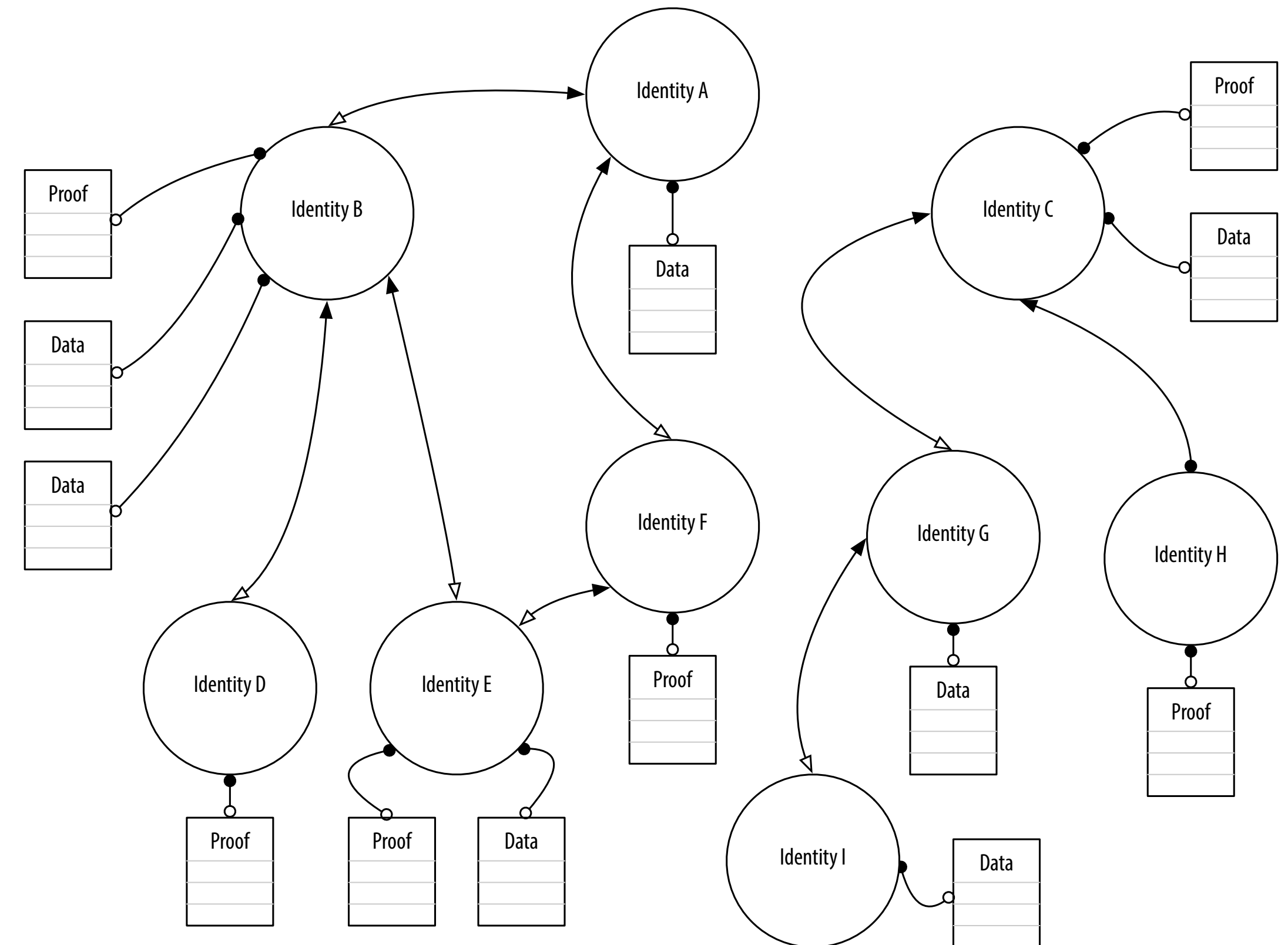
**Security** (impervious to fraud)

**Privacy** (least disclosure)

**Agency** = **portable** identifiers + **user** controlled

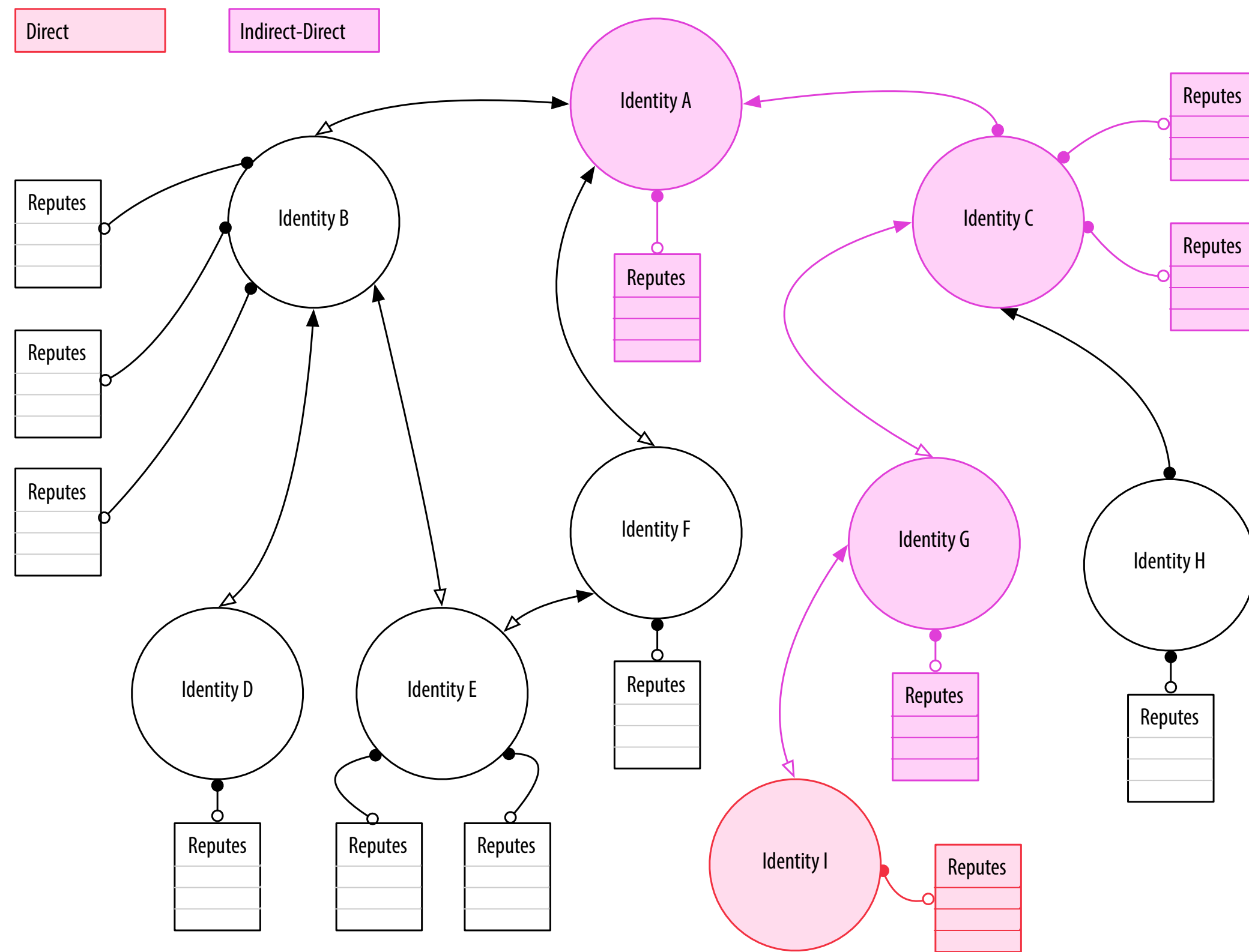
**Security** = distributed **consensus** + modern **crypto**

**Privacy** = granular **graph** based identities + **layered** disclosures + **zero knowledge** disclosures + **group** identities

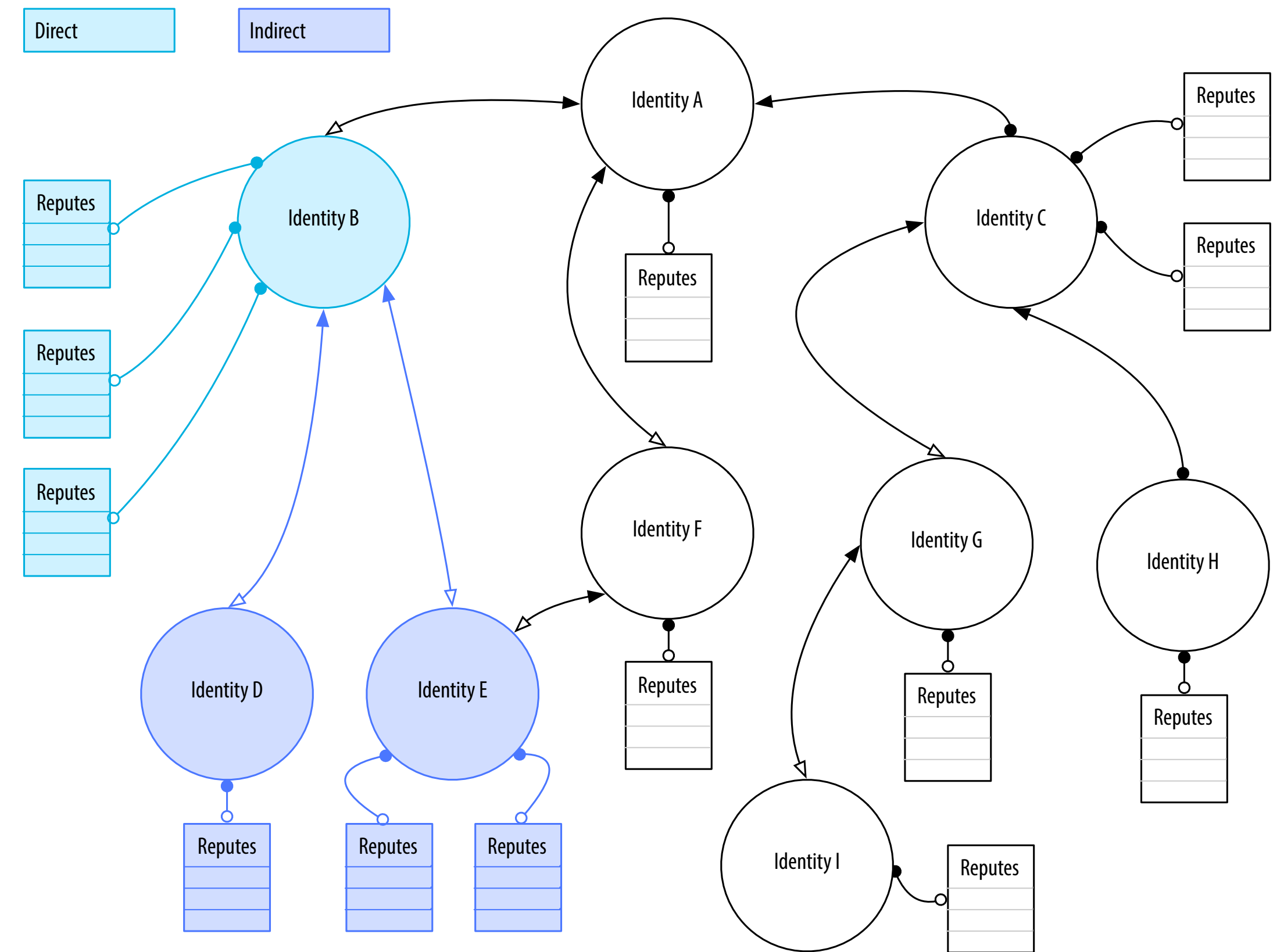


# Graph Based Other Identity/Reputation

## Repute Down



## Repute Up





# IDENTIFIERS

*UUID: Universally Unique Identifier RFC 4122: UUID type 1 -5*

*16 byte collision resistant decentralized identifier generated with random number generator and optional name spacing data*

*Enables distributed applications to create unique identifiers without central authority*

*Prefixed namespacing allows for sorting and searching properties such as time order, lexical order, nesting etc,*

*URI: Uniform Resource Identifier, URL: Uniform Resource Locator, URN: Uniform Resource Name RFC 3986*

*scheme:[ / [ user[ :password ] @ ] host[ :port ] ] [ /path ] [ ?query ] [ #fragment ]*

*Self-Certifying Identifier: Contains fingerprint of public member of cryptographic public/private key pair*

*Decentralized Self-Certifying Identifier: public/private key pair is generated by user not central registry*

*Hierarchical Self-Certifying Identifier: selfcertroot:/path/to/related/data*

*Tree Hierarchical Deterministic Self-Certifying Identifier: parent/child/child/child*

*Tupleizable (routable) Identifiers: /channel/host/process/data = (channel, host, process, data)*

# DID: DECENTRALIZED IDENTIFIER

<https://github.com/w3c-ccg/did-spec>

<https://w3c-ccg.github.io/did-spec/>

```
did:method:idstring
```

```
did:rep:Qt27fThWoNZsa88VrTkep6H-4HA8tr54sHON1vWl6FE=
```

```
{  
  "id": "did:example:21tDAKCERh95uGgKbJNHYP"  
}
```

```
{  
  "id": "did:rep:Qt27fThWoNZsa88VrTkep6H-4HA8tr54sHON1vWl6FE=",  
  "friend": "did:igo:Xq5YqaL6L48pf0fu7IUhL0JRaU2_RxFP0AL43wYn148=/next/door",  
  "name": "John Doe",  
  "zip": "94088"  
}
```

# DID PATH

## DID Path

`did:method:idstring/path/to/associated/resource`

`did:method:idstring/path/to/associated/resource#05`

```
{  
  "id": "did:rep:Qt27fThWoNZsa88VrTkep6H-4HA8tr54sHON1vWl6FE=",  
  "friend": "did:igo:Xq5YqaL6L48pf0fu7IUhL0JRaU2_RxFP0AL43wYn148=/next/door",  
  "name": "John Doe",  
  "zip": "94088"  
}
```

# Zero Trust Computing

Diffuse trust perimeter-less security model

Security, Privacy, Agency

# Diffuse trust perimeter-less security principles

The **network** is always **hostile**, internally & externally; **Locality** is not **trustworthy**.

Every **network interaction** or **data flow** must be **authenticated** and **authorized** using best practice **cryptography**.

Inter-host **communication** must be **end-to-end signed/encrypted** and **data** must be **stored signed/encrypted**; Data is **signed/encrypted** in **motion** and at **rest**.

Policies for **authentication** and **authorization** must be **dynamically** modified based on **behavior**.

Policies must be **governed** by **distributed consensus**.

# Decentralized Identity Inverts Service Architectures

## Conventional (centralized):

- Server creates identifiers (GUID, Database primary keys)

- Server timestamps

- event ordering relative to server

- Server manages keys,

- AuthN/AuthZ is indirect via client to server proxy

- Perimeter Security

- Server is source of truth

- Server controls changes/updates to resources

- Signed at rest problematic

- Encrypted at rest problematic

- Server's role is 2nd party in two party transactions between client to server to client.

## Unconventional (decentralized):

- Client creates identifiers (DIDs)

- Client timestamps

- event ordering relative to client

- Client manages keys

- AuthN/AuthZ is direct peer-to-peer

- Perimeterless Security

- Client is source of truth

- Client controls changes/updates to resources

- Server cannot make changes

- Client signs at rest

- Client encrypts at rest

- Server's role is either:

- Trusted 3rd party in 3 (multi) party transactions between 2 (or more) clients and server

- Agent or proxy for a client in two party transaction with another client.



Decentralized Identifiers

Decentralized Identifiers

Portability

Verifiable Claims

Certification

Consent Decrees

Ledger

Revocation

Arbitration

Provenance

Key Management

Hierarchical Keys

Key Recovery

Key Hiding

Multisignature

Group Keys

Identity Graph

Attribute Based Identity

Contextual Identity

Transitivity

Group Identity

Least Disclosure

Heavyweight

Reputation

Lightweight

Portable

Eventually Portable

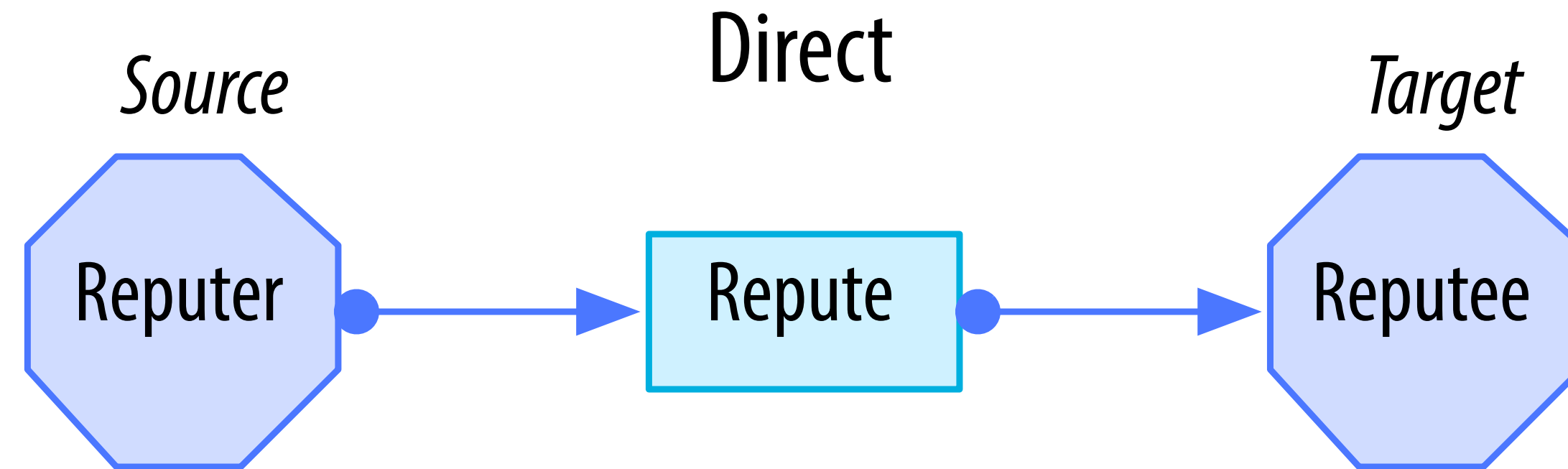
Transitive

Domain Specific

Cross-Domain



# REPUTING LEXICON



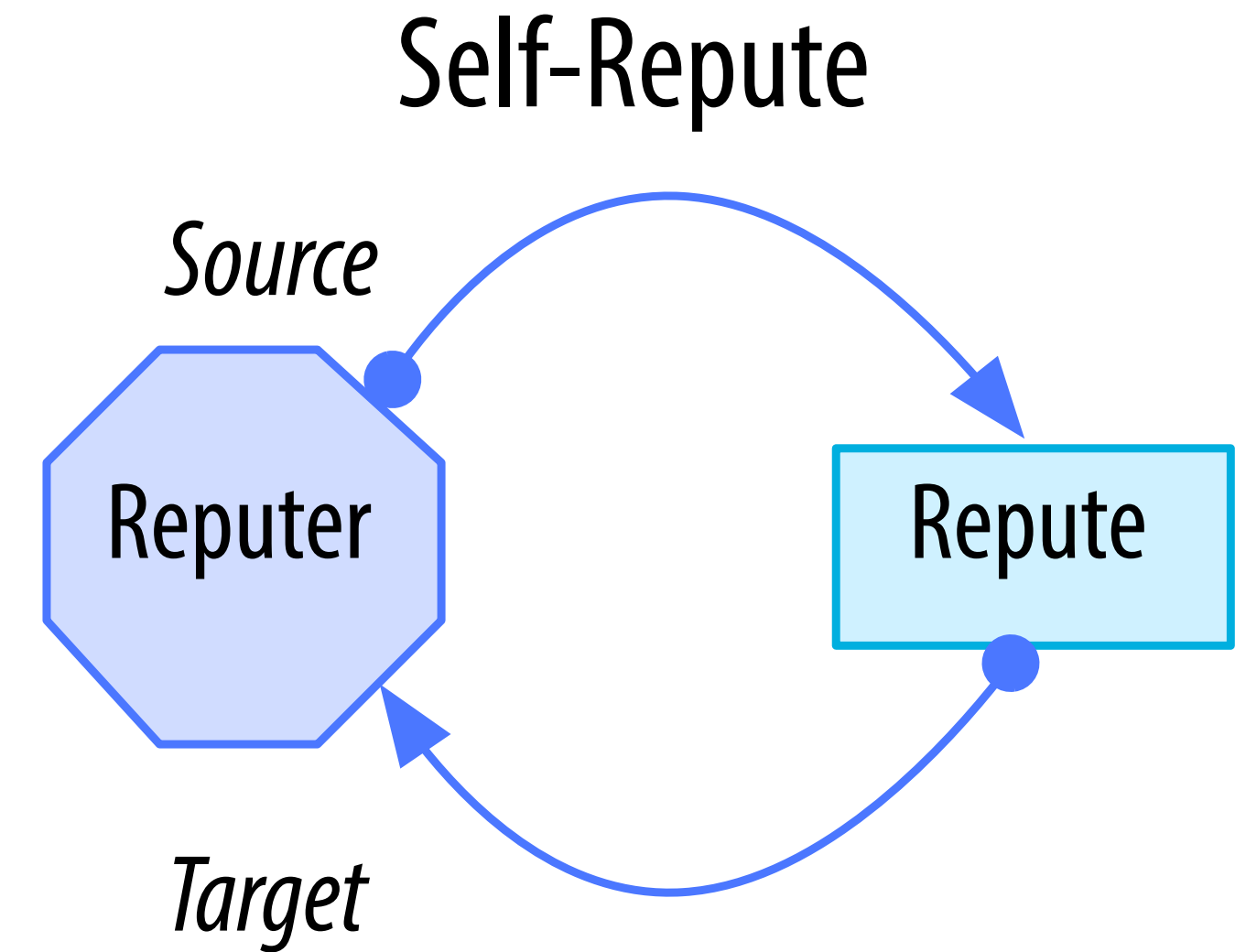
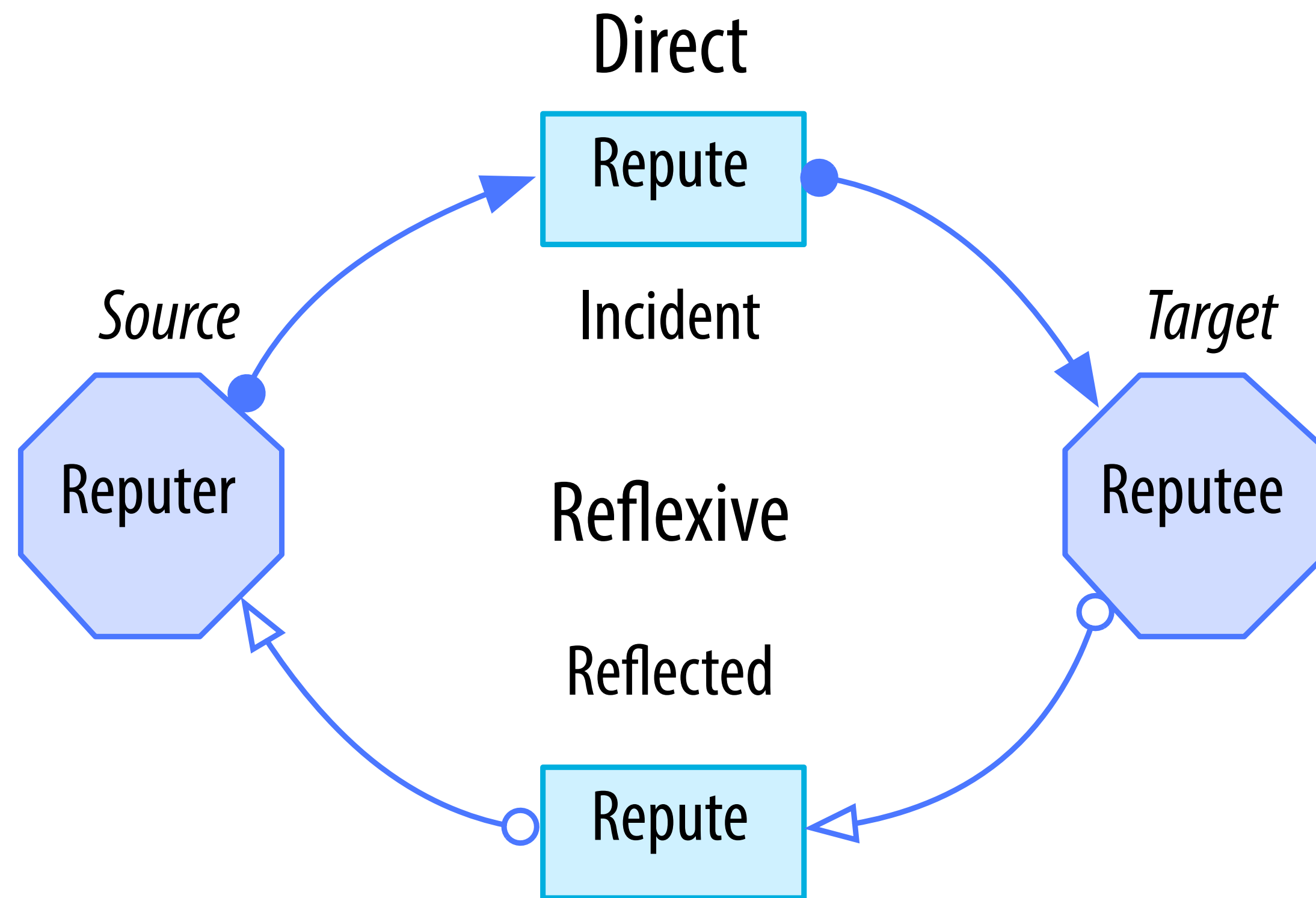
*Repute* = Reputational Event (Data)

*Reputee* = Reputational Entity, (Identity)

Target of Repute

*Reputer* = Source of Repute

# REFLEXIVITY

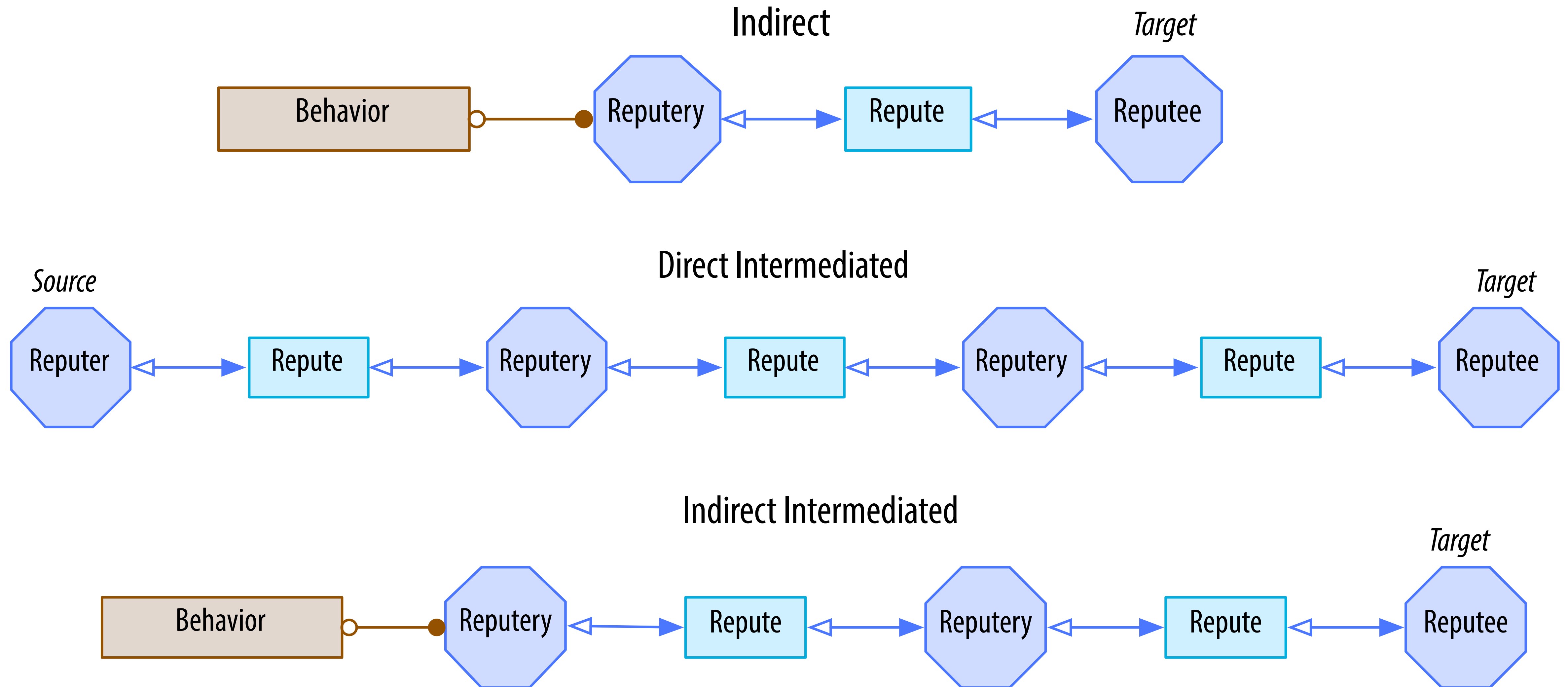


*Reputation is Reflexive:*

*Reputer is simultaneously both a Source and a Target = Reputee*

# INDIRECT AND INTERMEDIATED REPUTING

*Reputery* = Indirect Source (Implied Reputer) or Intermediate Source



# REPUTAGE

*Reputage: reputational event ancilliary data. Optional or infrequently used information associated with a repute separated from core repute for performance reasons.*

# REPUTET

*Reputet*: reputational event transaction. A cryptographically signed and validated transaction of reputes between reputees or reputeries.

*Initiator* = first party.

*Copartent* = counter party.

*Arbiter* = trusted third party (notary).

# REPUTE

```
{
  "ruid": "bcd456",
  "stamp": "2015-03-19T10:30:45Z",
  "reputee": "z4def6",
  "reputer": "5efa75",
  "curator": "2bcd4",
  "signer": "2bcd4#0",
  "detail": {
    "rating": {
      {
        "useful": 90,
        "fair": 80,
      },
      "url": "http://myblog.com/article19/"
    }
  },
  "tags": {},
  "reputage": null,
}
/r/n/r/n
"abcdef987654321"
```

```
{
  "puid": "abcefg",
  "ruid": "bcd456",
  "stamp": "2015-03-19T10:30:45Z",
  "comment": {
    "cuid": "1234abc",
    "url": "http://myblog.com/article19/comment19",
    "contents": "You are so awesome."
  }
}
/r/n/r/n
"abcdef9871234567"
```

# REPUTATION BUSINESS MODELS

*Reputation as a Service (RAAS)*

*Distributed Autonomic Service (DAS)*

*Service using autonomic computing algorithms on scalable decentralized computing infrastructure managed by distributed consensus.*

*distributed AI*

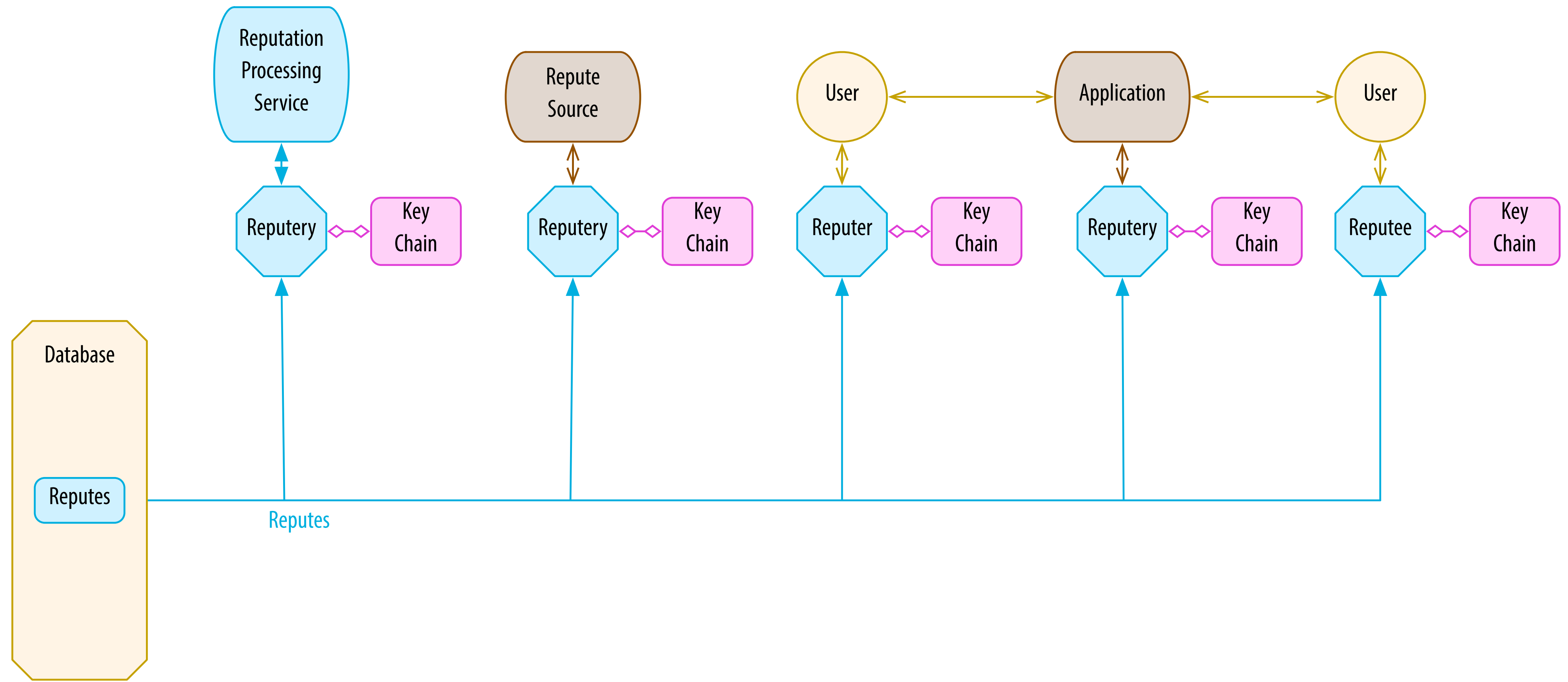
**RAAS on a DAS**

*autonomic = self-managing, self-configuring, self-healing, self-optimizing, self-securing*

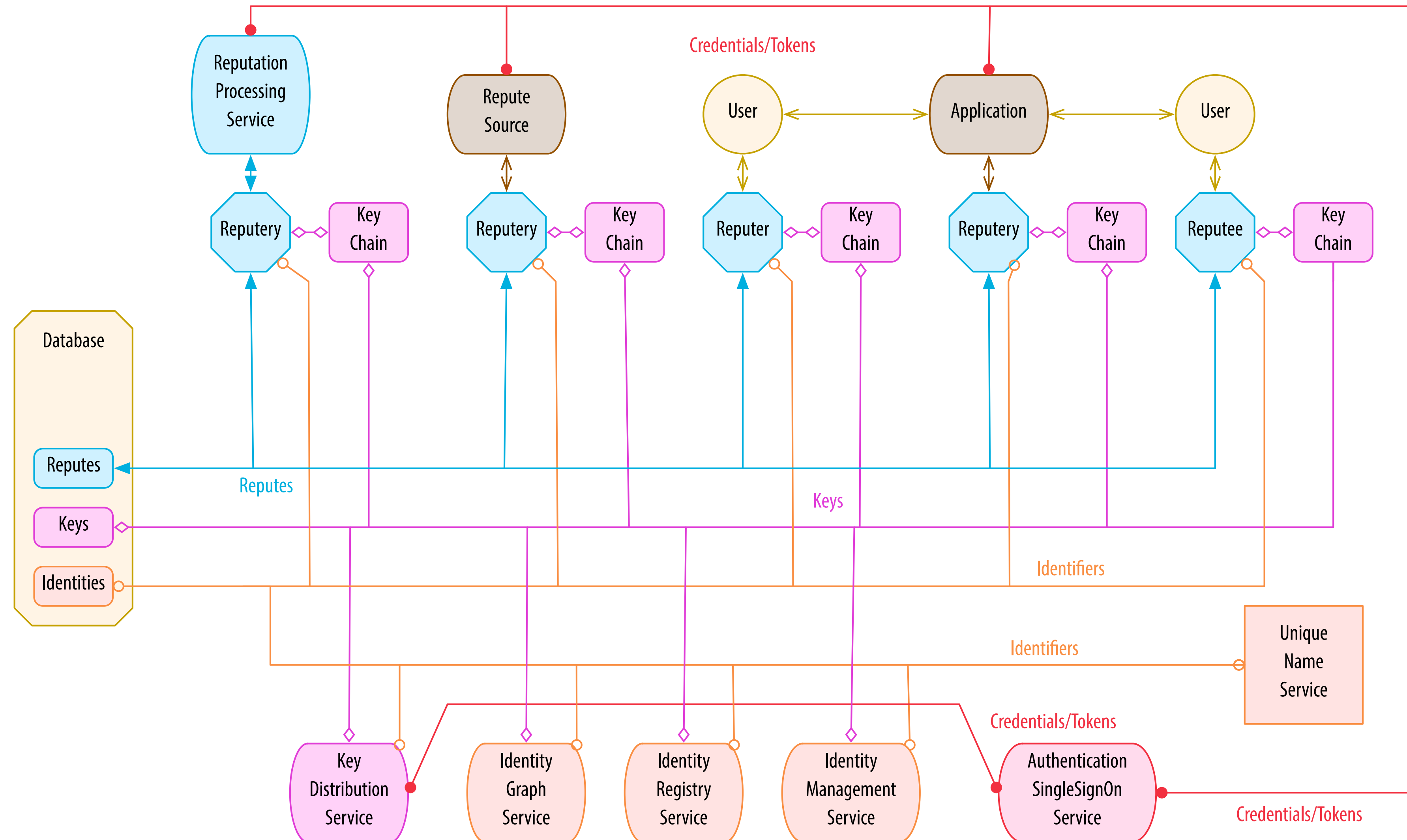




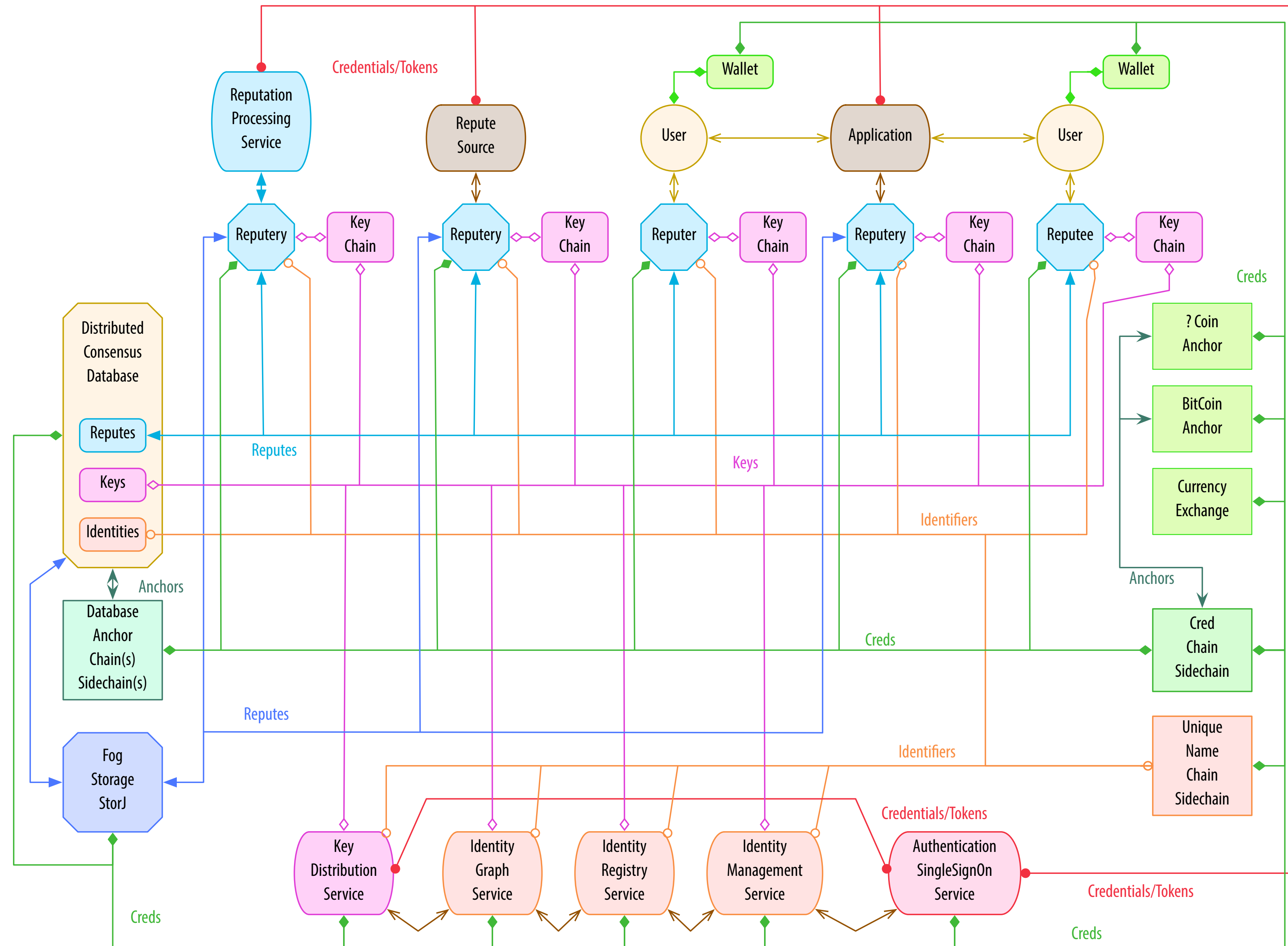
# BASIC REPUTATION



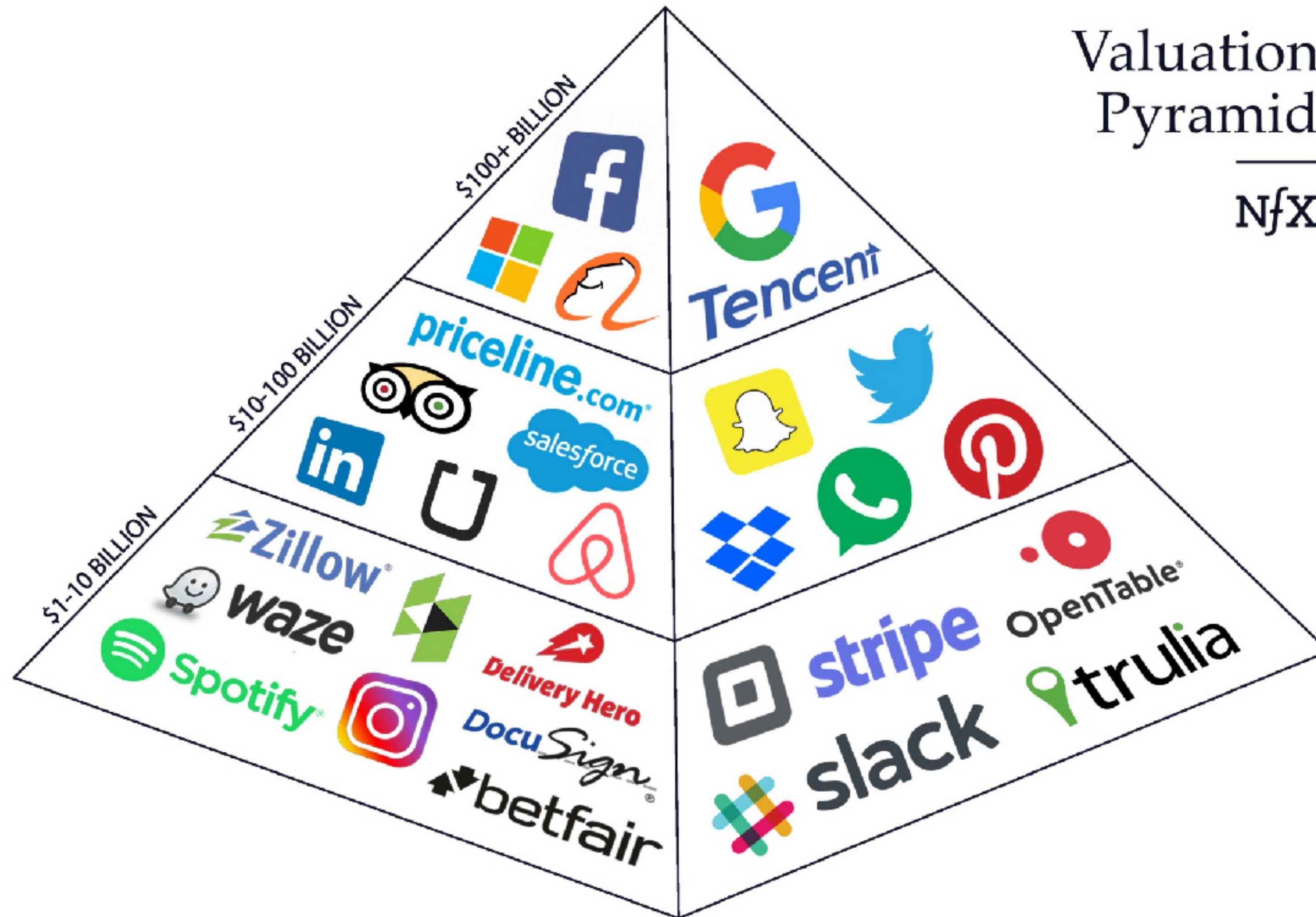
# Reputation & Identity



# Decentralized Reputation System



# NETWORK EFFECTS





# NETWORK EFFECTS MAP

NETWORK  
EFFECTS  
MAP

DIRECT

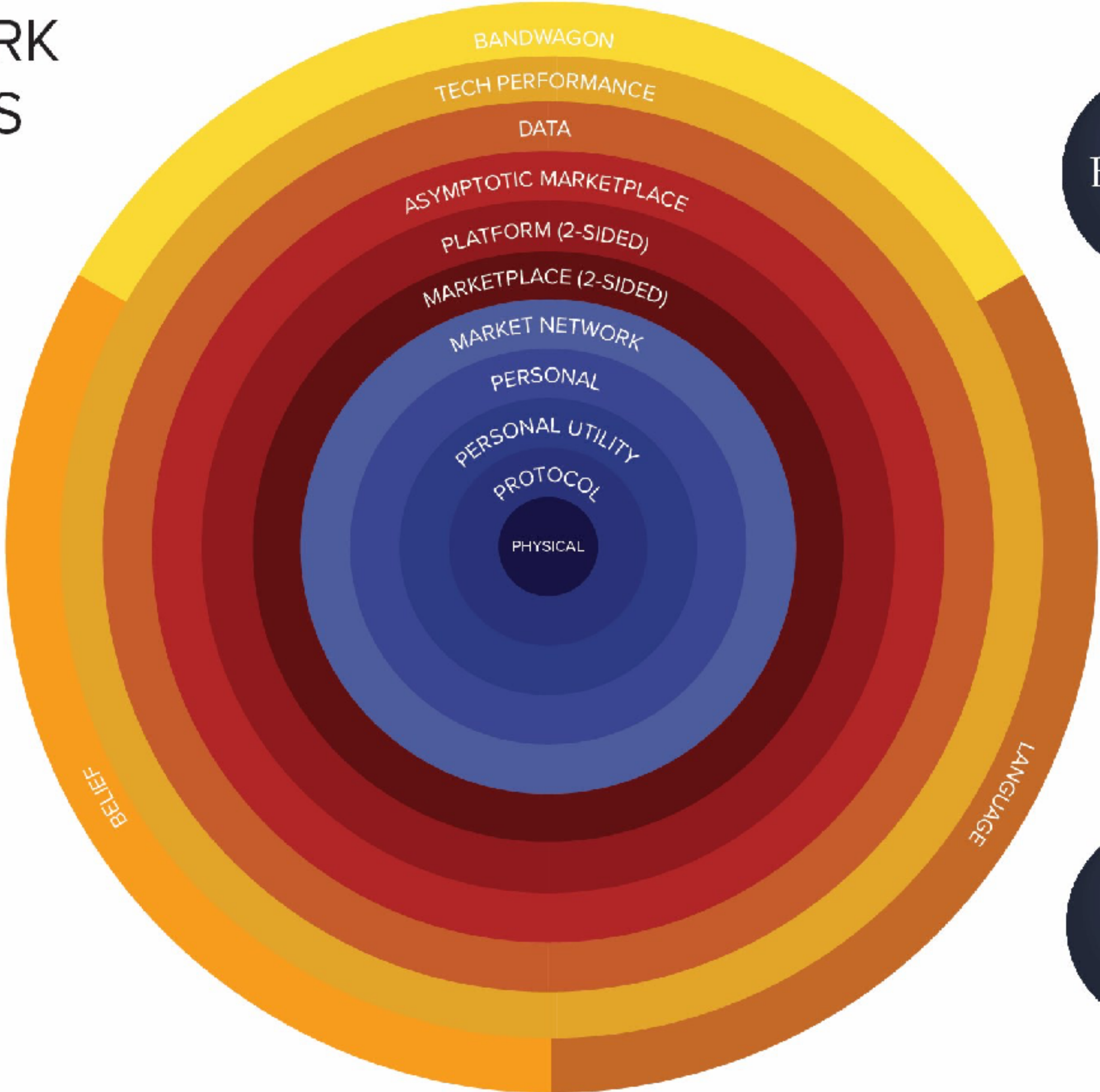
2-SIDED

DATA

TECH

SOCIAL

NfX



BRAND

EMBED

SCALE