



PARSEC – Platform Abstraction for Security

Overview
April 2021

Marc Meunier marc.meunier@arm.com

SW Ecosystem Development Team

Paul Howard paul.howard@arm.com

Principle System Solution Architect

PARSEC: An opensource collaborative project



Why Parsec?

Cloud

- Rich Workloads
- Multi-Tenant
- Cloud-Native Development

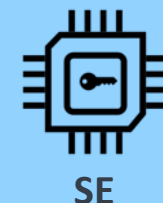
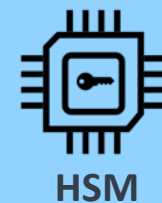
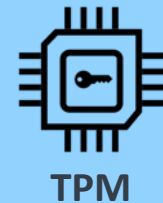


Edge



Endpoint

- Threat Landscape
- Variety of Platforms
- Device-specific RoT



Edge as a Rich Compute Platform – Fragmentation Challenges

Rich Workloads, Multiple Programming Languages, Runtimes, Containers, Multi-Tenancy

????

Fragmentation of Platform Security Hardware and APIs

Discrete TPM

Firmware TPM

Local HSM

Remote HSM

Trusted Apps

Custom

PARSEC: A Platform Abstraction For Security

Any Workload, Any Programming Language, Any Container Runtime, Any Packaging



PARSEC

Any Platform, Any Architecture, Any Hardware

Discrete TPM

Firmware TPM

Local HSM

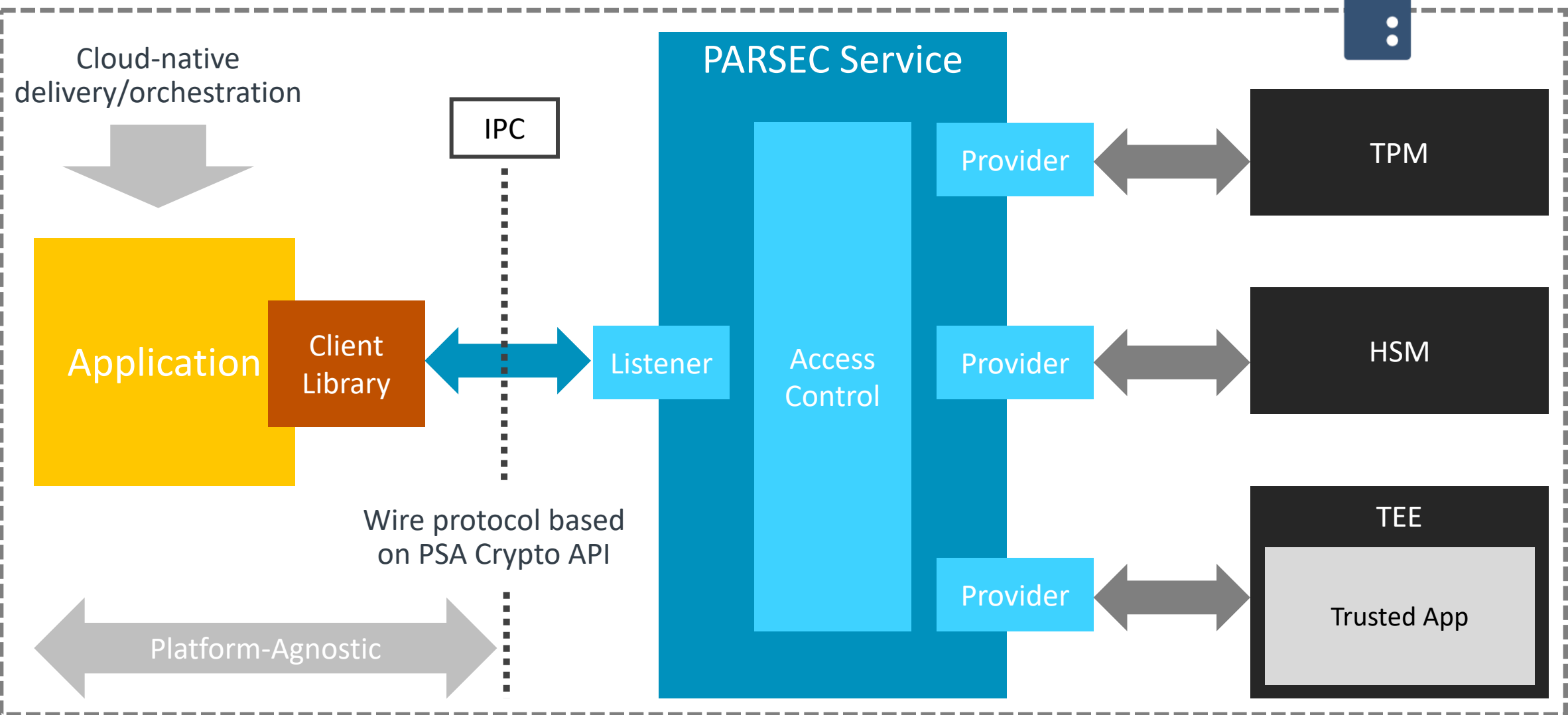
Remote HSM

Trusted Apps

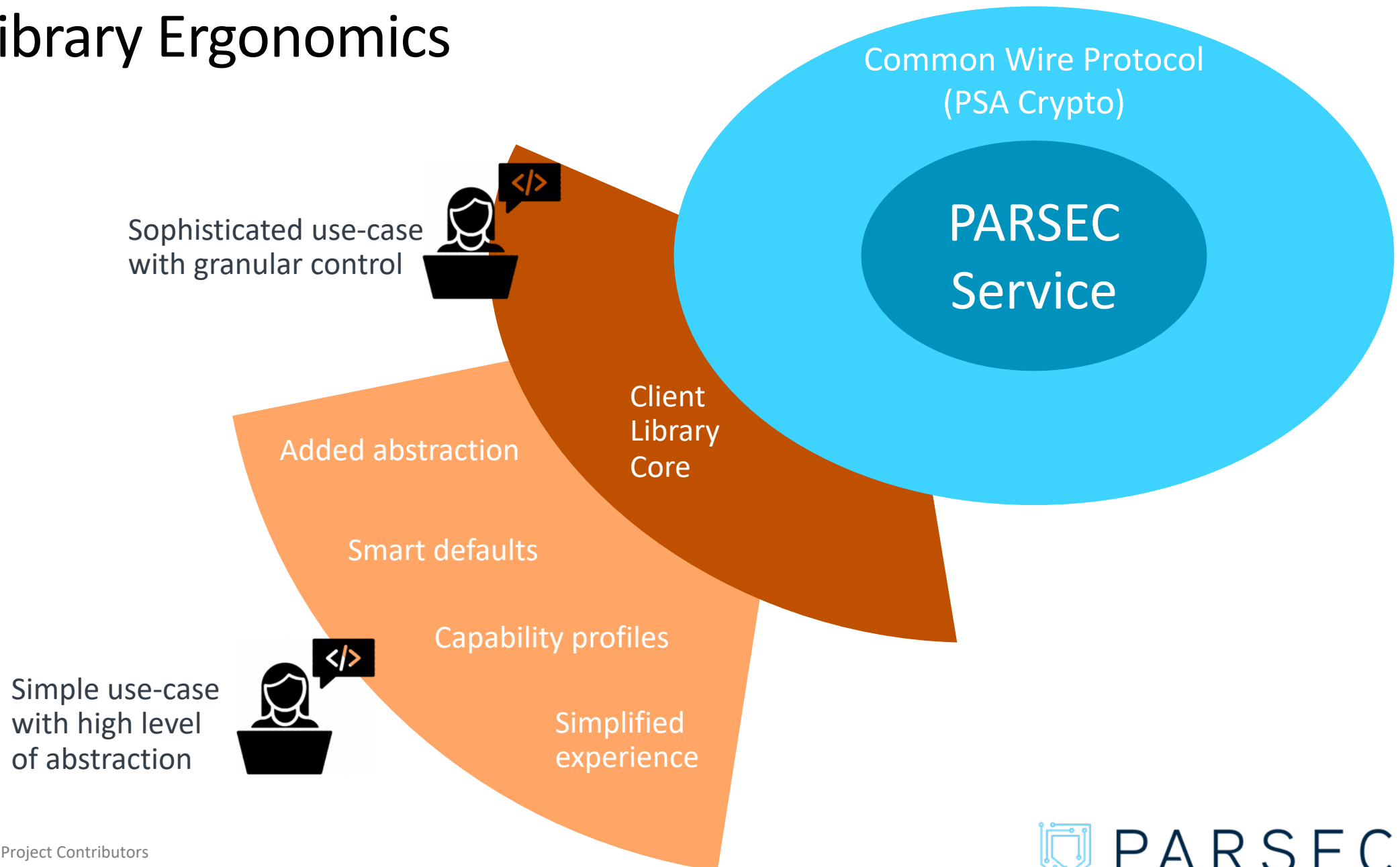
Custom



Service Architecture



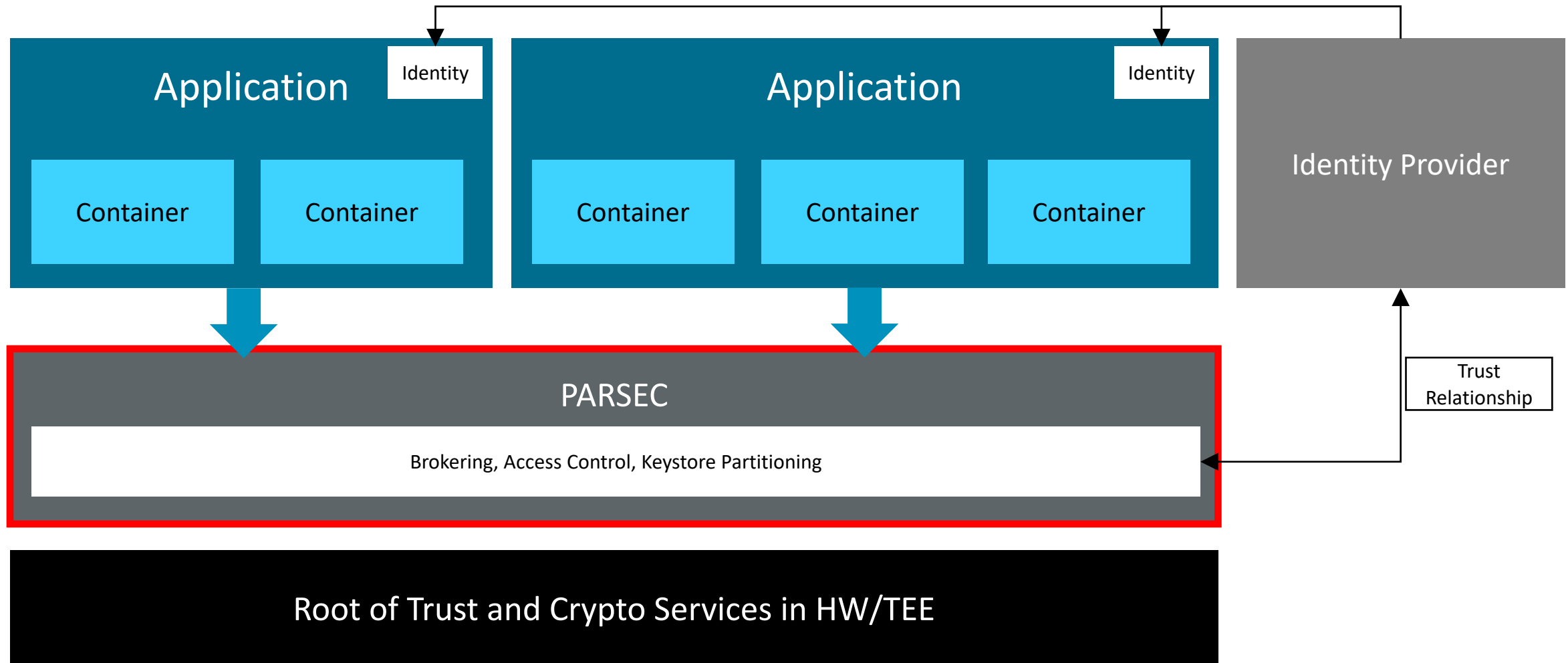
Client Library Ergonomics



Multi-tenancy

- Cloud-native workload delivery at the edge is expected to be **multi-tenant**
 - Multiple applications will **share access** to the secure hardware on the platform
 - Each application needs a **unique and persistent identity**, which is assigned by a component that PARSEC can trust
- The PARSEC service:
 - Treats each API call according to the identity of the application that made the call
 - **Partitions key stores and brokers access** to hardware based on the identity
- Identity:
 - The source of identity depends on the deployment – it might be a container runtime manager, for example
 - A deployed system requires an **identity provider** – a separate component that assigns identities to applications, which has a trust relationship with the PARSEC service

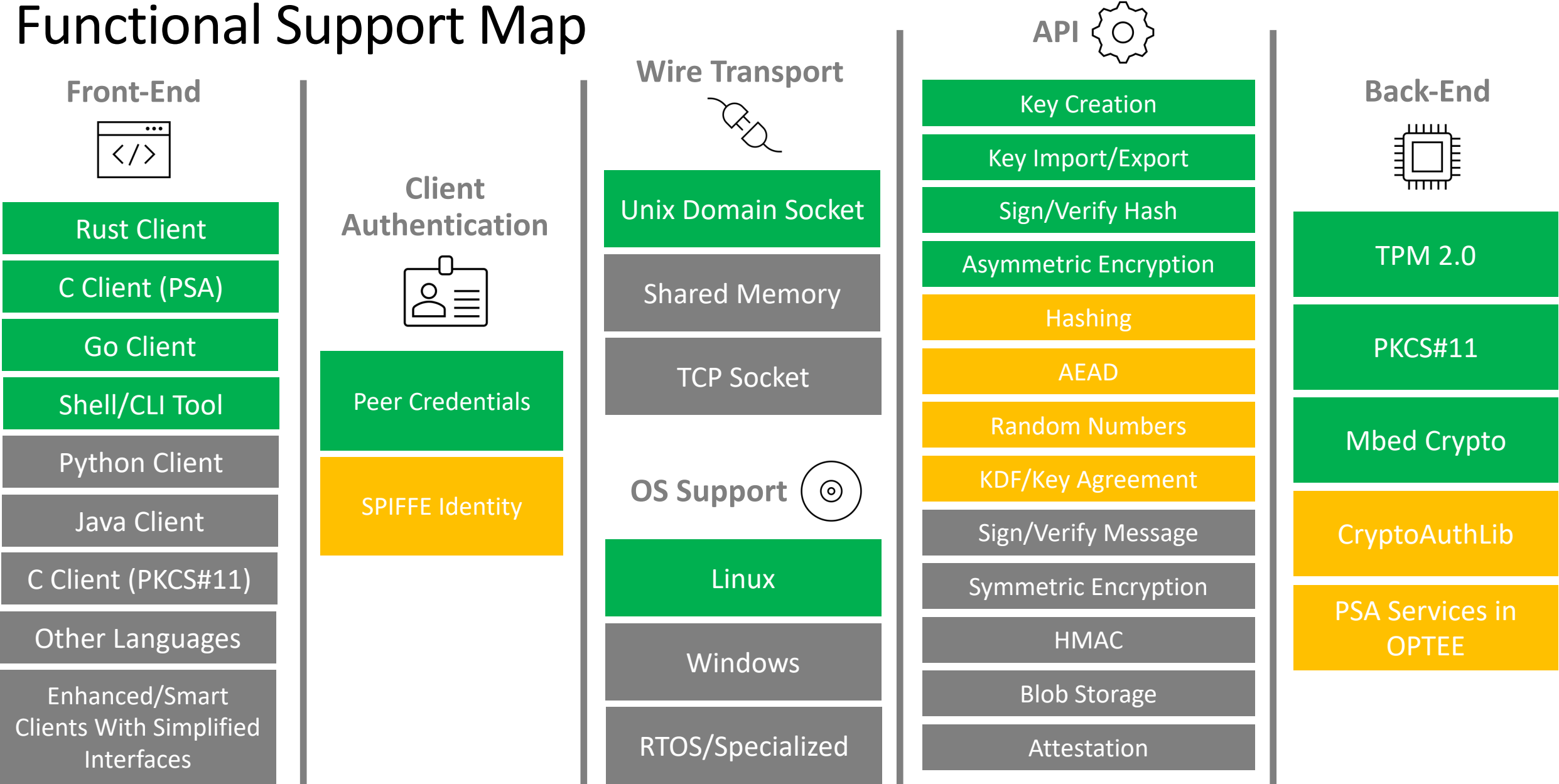
Application Identity and Multi-Tenancy



PARSEC Value Proposition

- **Abstraction** – a common API that is truly agnostic and based on modern cryptographic principles
- **Mediation** – security as a microservice, brokering access to the hardware and providing isolated key stores in a multi-tenant environment
- **Ergonomics** – a client library ecosystem that brings the API to the fingertips of developers in any programming language: “easy to consume, hard to get wrong”
- **Openness** – an open-source project inviting contributions to enhance the ecosystem both within the service and among its client libraries

Functional Support Map



Available



Incomplete or partial support



Not yet implemented



References



<https://github.com/parallaxsecond>



<https://parallaxsecond.github.io/parsec-book>



#parsec on CNCF <https://cloud-native.slack.com>



Weekly community call (see GitHub)

Note: “parsec” was already being used as an organization name in GitHub, which is why the expanded “**parallaxsecond**” term was selected instead.