

# F# in the Real World

Yan Cui (@theburningmonk)



# agenda

Hi, my name is Yan Cui.



gamesys

**1 M**ILLION **DAILY  
ACTIVE  
USERS**

**250 REQUEST  
MILLION PER DAY**

**why F#?**

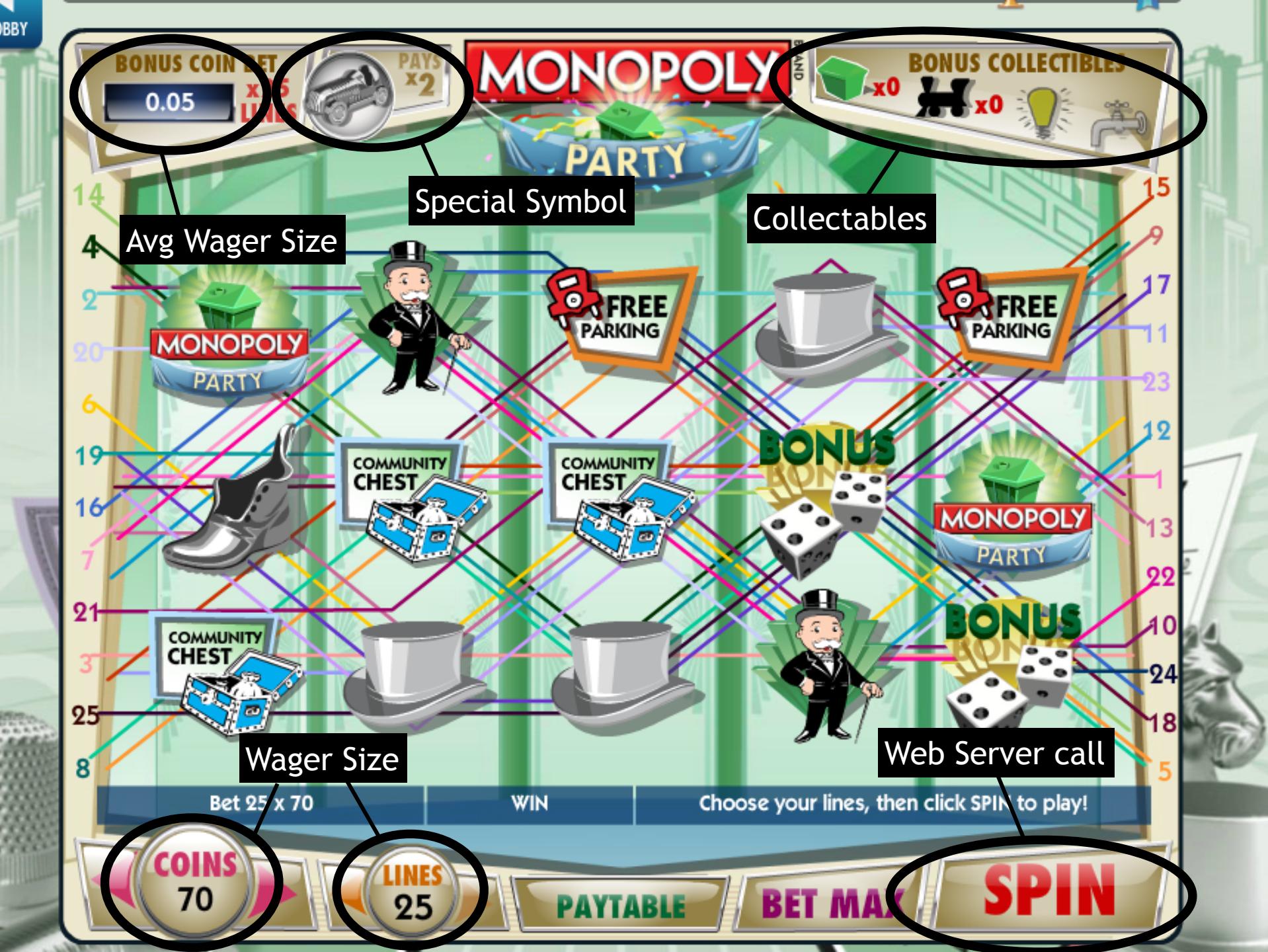
time to market

# correctness

**efficient**

tame complexity





- Line Win
  - X number of matching symbols on adjacent columns
  - Positions have to be a ‘line’
  - Wild symbols substitute for other symbols
- Scatter Win
  - X number of matching symbols anywhere
  - Triggers bonus game

BBY

BONUS COIN BET  
0.05 x25 LINES



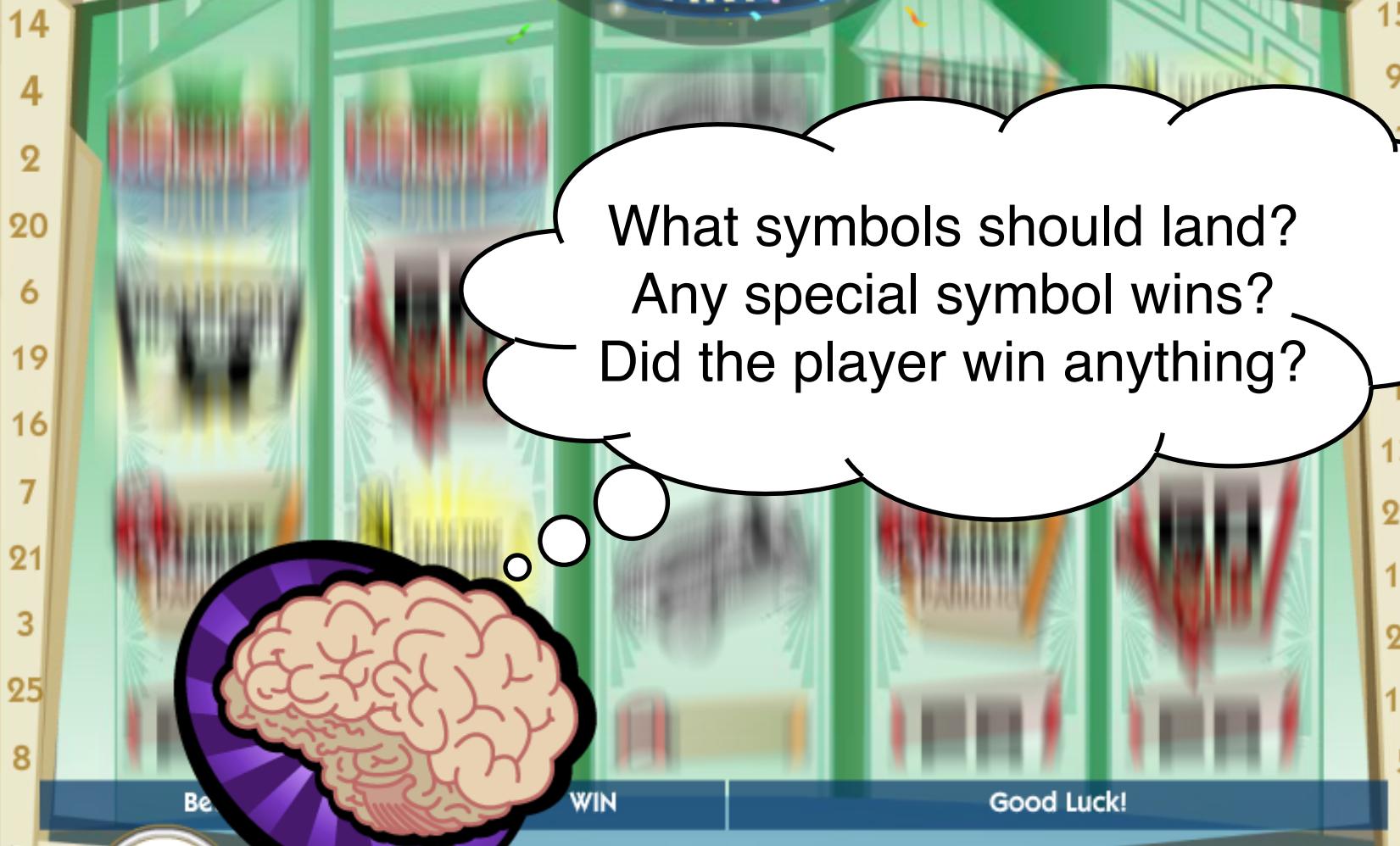
PAYS  
x2

MONOPOLY

BRAND



BONUS COLLECTIBLES  
x0 TRAIN x0 LIGHT BULB x0 FAUCET



What symbols should land?  
Any special symbol wins?  
Did the player win anything?

BBY

BONUS COIN BET  
0.05 x25 LINES

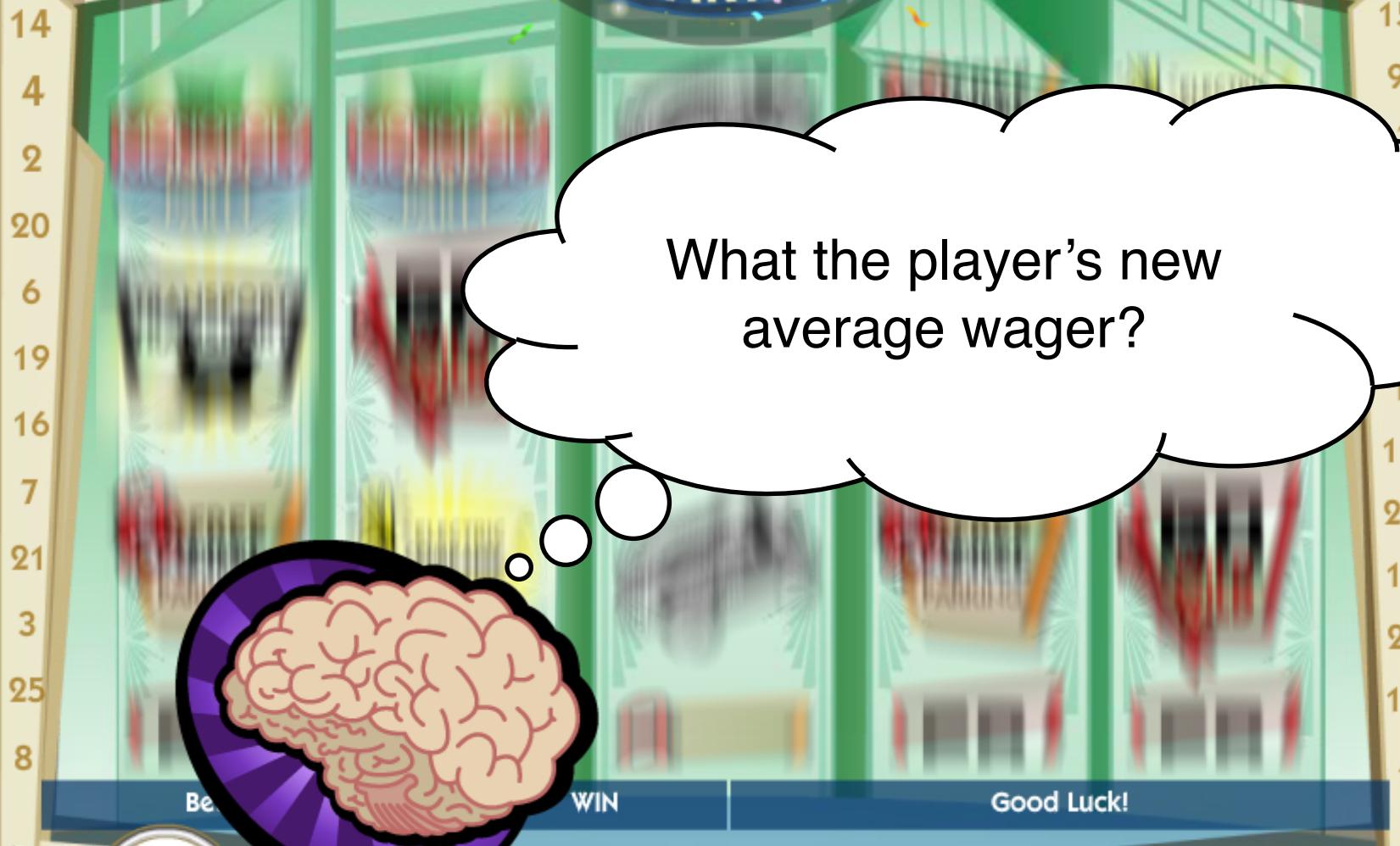


MONOPOLY

BRAND



BONUS COLLECTIBLES  
x0 TRAIN x0 LIGHT BULB x0 FAUCET



Good Luck!

COINS  
70

LINES  
25

PAYOUTABLE

BET MAX

SPIN

BBY

BONUS COIN BET  
0.05 x25 LINES



MONOPOLY

BRAND



BONUS COLLECTIBLES  
x0 TRAIN x0 LIGHT BULB x0 FAUCET



Should the player receive  
collectables?



COINS  
70

LINES  
25

PAYOUTABLE

BET MAX

SPIN

```
type Symbol = Standard of string  
| Wild
```

type Symbol = Standard of string

| Wild

e.g. Standard “hat”

Standard “shoe”

Standard “bonus”

...

type Symbol = Standard of string

| Wild

i.e. Wild

```
type Win = LineWin  of int * Symbol * int
          | ScatterWin of Symbol * int
```

```
type Win = LineWin  of int * Symbol * int
          | ScatterWin of Symbol * int

e.g. LineWin (5, Standard “shoe”, 4)
```

```
type Win = LineWin  of int * Symbol * int
          | ScatterWin of Symbol * int
```

e.g. ScatterWin (Standard “bonus”, 3)

```
type LineNum = int
```

```
type Count    = int
```

```
type Win = LineWin  of LineNum * Symbol * Count  
          | ScatterWin of Symbol * Count
```

```
type LineNum = int
```

```
type Count    = int
```

```
type Win = LineWin  of LineNum * Symbol * Count  
           | ScatterWin of Symbol * Count
```

e.g. LineWin (5, Standard “shoe”, 4)

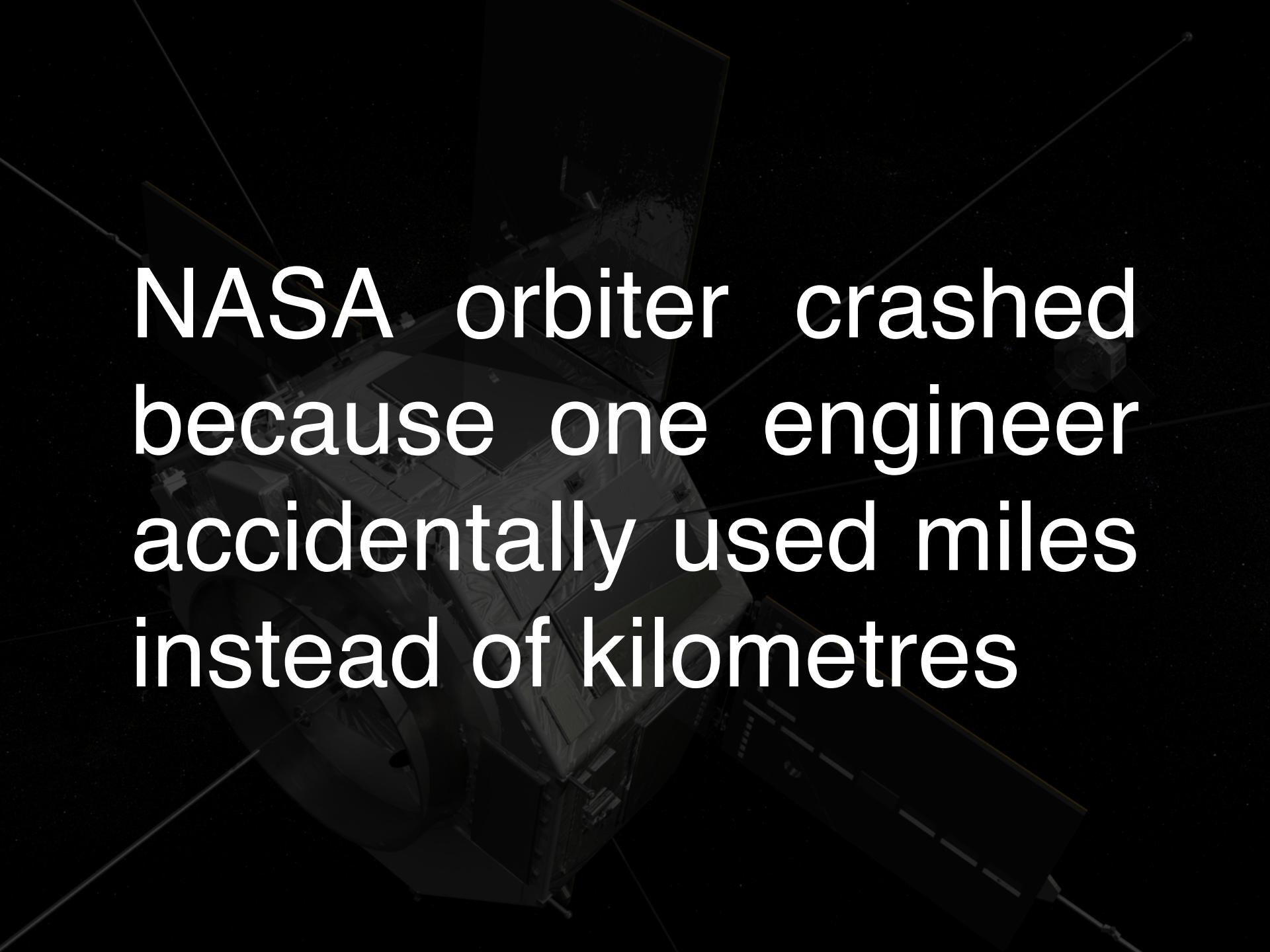
```
type LineNum = int
```

```
type Count    = int
```

```
type Win = LineWin  of LineNum * Symbol * Count  
           | ScatterWin of Symbol * Count
```

e.g. ScatterWin (Standard “bonus”, 3)

make *invalid states*  
unrepresentable



NASA orbiter crashed  
because one engineer  
accidentally used miles  
instead of kilometres



you're never too smart  
to make mistakes

[<Measure>]

type Pence

e.g. 42<Pence>

153<Pence>

...

10<Meter> / 2<Second>	= 5<Meter/Second>
10<Meter> * 2<Second>	= 20<Meter Second>
10<Meter> + 10<Meter>	= 20<Meter>
10<Meter> * 10	= 100<Meter>
10<Meter> * 10<Meter>	= 100<Meter <sup>2</sup> >
10<Meter> + 2<Second>	// error
10<Meter> + 2	// error

10<Meter> / 2<Second>	= 5<Meter/Second>
10<Meter> * 2<Second>	= 20<Meter Second>
10<Meter> + 10<Meter>	= 20<Meter>
10<Meter> * 10	= 100<Meter>
10<Meter> * 10<Meter>	= 100<Meter <sup>2</sup> >
10<Meter> + 2<Second>	// error
10<Meter> + 2	// error

```
type Wager    = int64<Pence>
```

```
type Multiplier = int
```

```
type Payout = Coins    of Wager  
            | MultipliedCoins  of Multiplier * Wager  
            | Multi      of Payout list  
            | BonusGame
```

```
type Wager    = int64<Pence>
```

```
type Multiplier = int
```

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type Payout = Coins    of Wager  
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type Wager    = int64<Pence>
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```
type Multiplier = int
```

```
type Payout = Coins    of Wager
```

```
| MultipliedCoins of Multiplier * Wager
```

```
| Multi      of Payout list
```

```
| BonusGame
```

```
type State =  
{  
    AvgWager : Wager  
    SpecialSymbol : Symbol  
    Collectables : Map<Collectable, Count>  
}
```

BBY

**BONUS COIN BET** 70 **x25 LINES**

# MONOPOLY

**PARTY**

**BONUS COLLECTIBLES**

14  
4  
2  
20  
6  
19  
16  
7  
21  
3  
25  
8

15  
9  
11  
23  
12  
1  
13  
22  
10  
24  
18  
5

**FREE PARKING**

**CHANCE?**

**FREE PARKING**

**COMMUNITY CHEST** 700

**COMMUNITY CHEST**

**COMMUNITY CHEST**

**COMMUNITY CHEST**

**BET 25 x 70**

**WIN 700.00**

**Line 17 wins 700.00**

**COINS** 70 **LINES** 25 **PAYOUTABLE** **BET MAX** **SPIN**

The slot machine interface features a central 5x5 grid of icons. The icons include a pair of shoes, stacks of money, a top hat, a Mr. Monopoly figure, a red car, a question mark, community chest boxes, and a racing car. Some icons are highlighted with orange or pink outlines. Purple arrows point from the bottom row of icons to the corresponding numbers on the left and right vertical scales. The top section displays a 'BONUS COIN BET' of 70 and 'x25 LINES'. The top center features the 'MONOPOLY' logo with a banner that says 'PARTY'. The top right shows 'BONUS COLLECTIBLES' with icons for a green cube, a black train, a lightbulb, and a faucet. The bottom section includes a 'PAYOUTABLE' button, a 'BET MAX' button, and a large 'SPIN' button.

**BONUS COIN BET**

70

**x25  
LINES**



**PAYS**  
**x2**

# MONOPOLY

## **BONUS COLLECTIBLES**

x0

x 1

## New avg wager

# Got a Collectable!

## A pay line win!

COMMUNITY CHEST

700

win! **FREE**  
**PARKING**

CHANC

**FREE  
PARKING**

A small icon of a vintage-style car, oriented diagonally upwards from the bottom-left.

COMMUNITY  
CHEST

COMMUNITY  
CHEST

COMMUNITY  
CHEST

Bet 25 x 70

WIN 700.00

**Line 17 wins 700.00**

COINS

70

LINES

25

## **PAYTABLE**

BET MAX

SPIN

BBY

BONUS COIN BET  
2.80 x25 LINES



# MONOPOLY

BRAND

PARTY

BONUS COLLECTIBLES  
x19 x3 ✓ ✓



Bet 1 x 70

WIN

Good Luck!

COINS  
70

LINES  
1

PAYOUTABLE

BET MAX

SPIN

BIGBY

BONUS COIN BET  
2.80

PAYS x2  
x25 LINES

MONOPOLY BRAND

Bonus Game!

BONUS COLLECTIBLES  
x19



x3



Bet 1 x 70

WIN

Good Luck!

COINS  
70

LINES  
1

PAYOUTABLE

BET MAX

SPIN

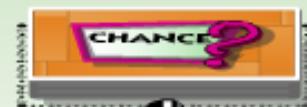
# WELCOME!

You've made it to the BONUS!

Click on the glowing squares  
to place your stations...



**MONOPOLY**  
The Fast-Dealing Property Trading Game



# WELCOME!

You've made it to the BONUS!



Click on the glowing squares  
to place your stations...



```
type MonopolyBoardSpace =  
    | RailRoad           of bool  
    | Property           of int  
    | ElectricCompany    of bool  
    | WaterCompany       of bool  
    | Chance              | CommunityChest  
    | GotoJail            | Jail  
    | FreeParking         | Go
```

```
type MonopolyBoardSpace =  
    | RailRoad           of bool  
    | Property           of int  
    | ElectricCompany    of bool  
    | WaterCompany       of bool  
    | Chance              | CommunityChest  
    | GotoJail            | Jail  
    | FreeParking         | Go
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    | WaterCompany       of bool  
    | Chance              | CommunityChest  
    | GotoJail            | Jail  
    | FreeParking         | Go
```

```
[<Measure>]
```

```
type Position
```

```
type MonopolyBoard =
```

```
{
```

```
    Spaces : MonopolyBoardSpace [ ]
```

```
}
```

```
member this.Item with
```

```
    get (pos : int<Position>) =
```

```
        this.Spaces.[int pos]
```

```
[<Measure>]
```

```
type Position
```

```
type MonopolyBoard =
```

```
{
```

```
    Spaces : MonopolyBoardSpace [ ]
```

```
}
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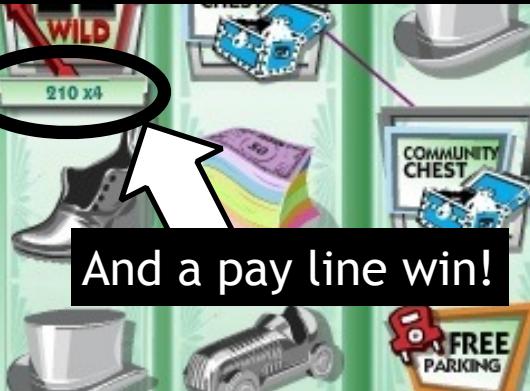
```
        this.Spaces.[int pos]
```

BBY



BBY

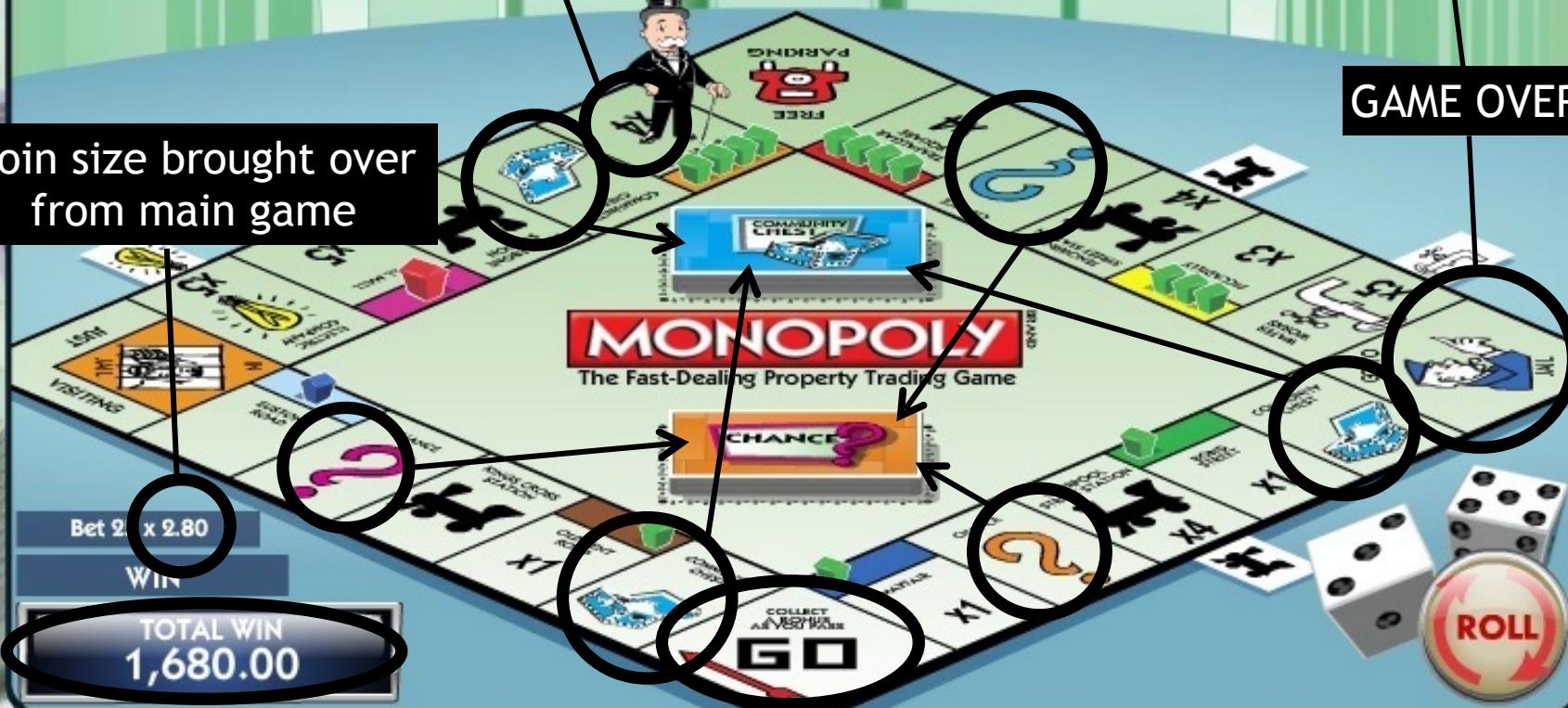
Collected in the bonus game.  
Gives player extra 'lives'.



And a pay line win!

Houses = multiplier on wins

Coin size brought over  
from main game



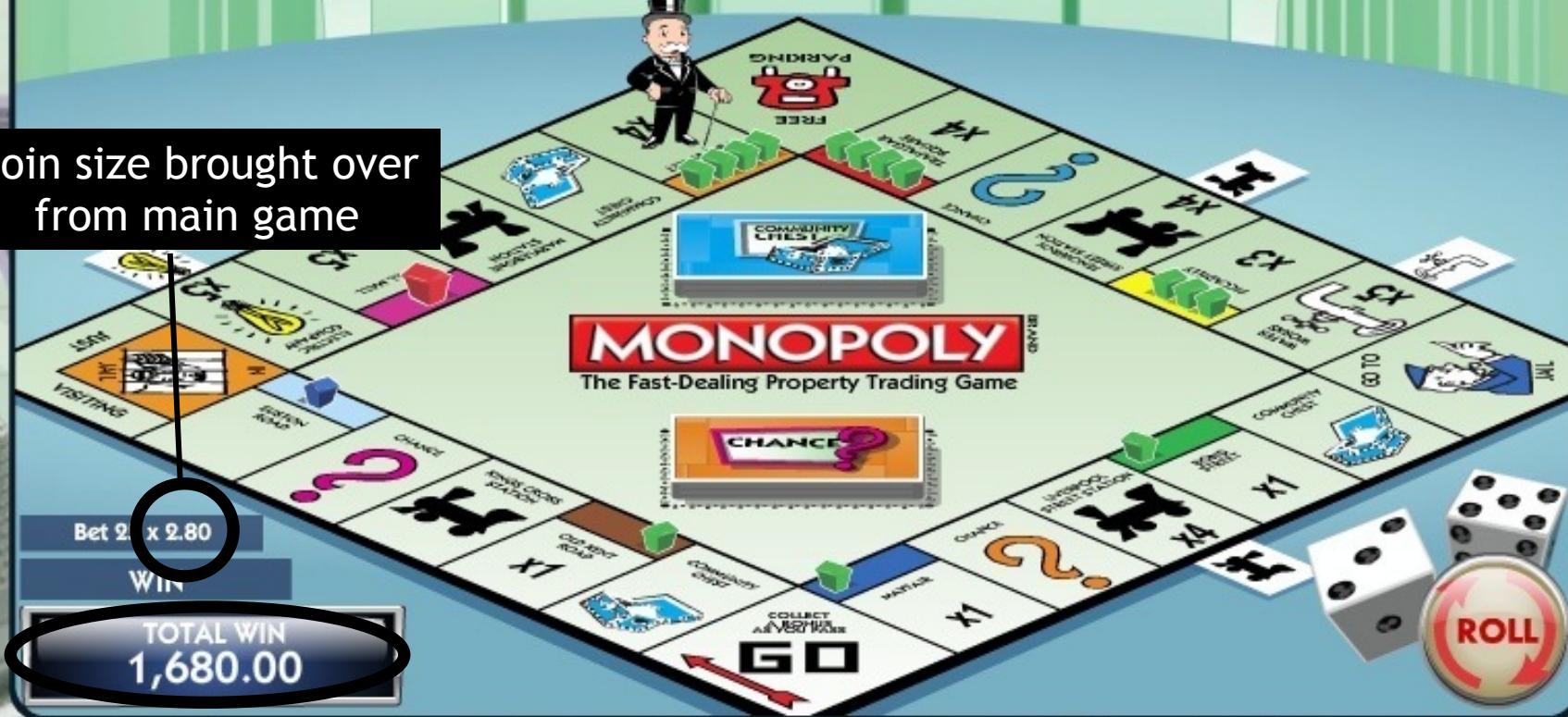
ROLL

```
type BonusGameState =  
{  
    Board      : MonopolyBoard  
    Position   : int<Position>  
    Lives      : int<Life>  
    Doubles    : int<Double>  
    CoinSize   : Wager  
    TotalWin   : Wager  
}
```

BBY



Coin size brought over  
from main game



```
type BonusGameState =  
{  
    Board      : MonopolyBoard  
    Position   : int<Position>  
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BBY



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```

BBY



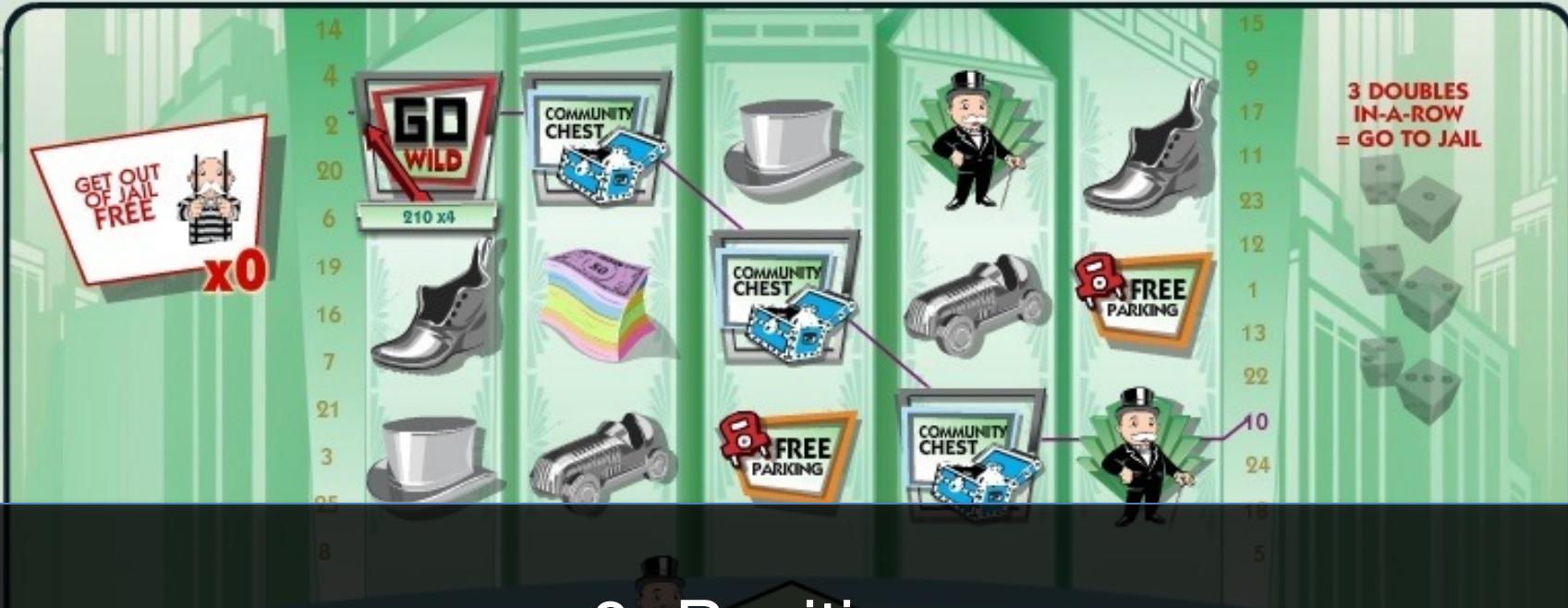


Collected in the bonus game.  
Gives player extra ‘lives’.

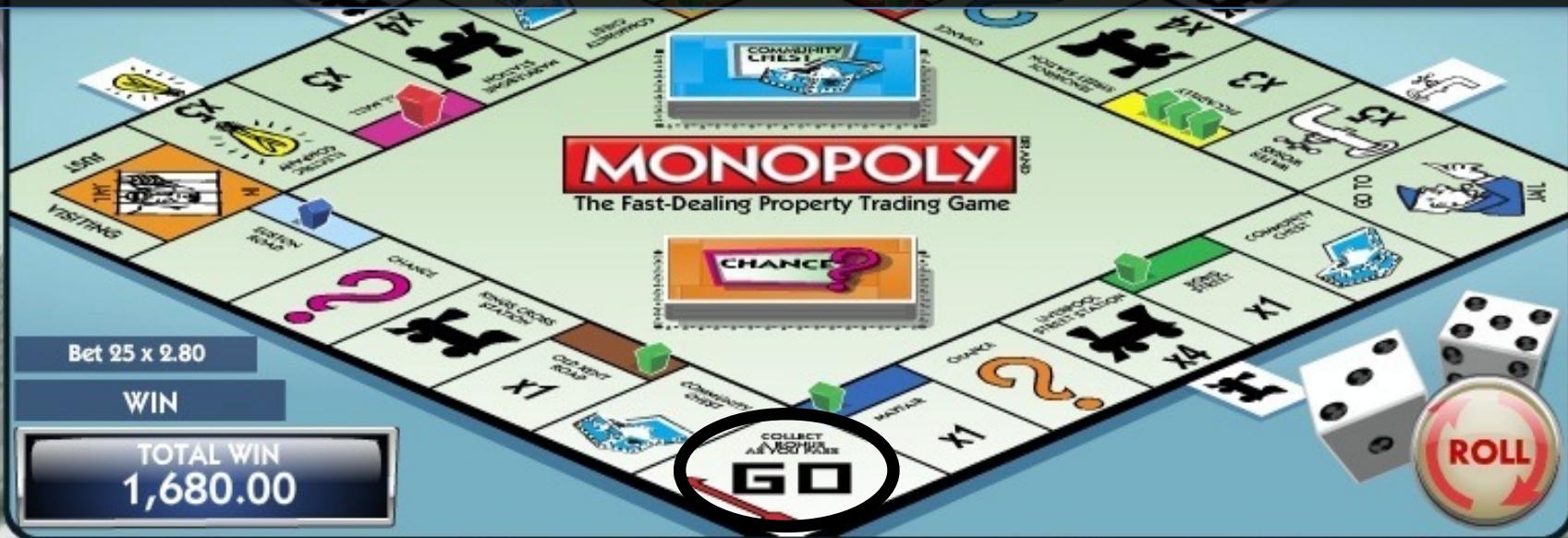


```
type BonusGameState =  
{  
    Board      : MonopolyBoard  
    Position   : int<Position>  
    Lives      : int<Life>  
    Doubles    : int<Double>  
    CoinSize   : Wager  
    TotalWin   : Wager  
}
```

BBY



0<Position>





let jail = 6<Position>



```
let rec move newPos state =  
  match state.Board.[newPos] with  
    ...  
    | GotoJail when state.Lives = 0<Life> ->  
        move jail state |> gameOver  
    | GotoJail           -> move jail state  
    ...
```

```
let rec move newPos state =  
  match state.Board.[newPos] with  
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    | GotoJail           -> move jail state  
    ...
```

```
let rec move newPos state =  
  match state.Board.[newPos] with  
    ...  
    | RailRoad true          -> awardRailRoadMultiplier state  
    | Property n when n > 0 -> awardPropertyMultiplier n state  
    | ElectricityCompany true  
    | WaterCompany true     -> awardUtilityMultiplier state  
    ...
```

```
let rec move newPos state =  
  match state.Board.[newPos] with  
    ...  
    | CommunityChest    -> playCommunityChestCard state  
    | Chance             -> playChanceCard state  
    ...
```

```
let rec move newPos state =  
    match state.Board.[newPos] with  
        | RailRoad true          -> awardRailRoadMultiplier state  
        | Property n when n > 0 -> awardPropertyMultiplier n state  
        | ElectricityCompany true  
        | WaterCompany true     -> awardUtilityMultiplier state  
        | CommunityChest         -> playCommunityChestCard state  
        | Chance                 -> playChanceCard state  
        | GotoJail when state.Lives = 0<Life> ->  
            move jail state |> gameOver  
        | GotoJail                -> move jail state  
        | _                       -> state
```

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            move jail state |> gameOver  
        | GotoJail                -> move jail state  
        | _                       -> state
```

BBY



# Recap

lightweight syntax to  
create types and  
hierarchies

great for domain  
modelling

make invalid states  
unrepresentable

clear, concise way to  
handle branching

better correctness

order of *magnitude*  
increase in productivity





Bashak, Trapper Captain

Your threats won't work on me, Dragon. Corrupted or no - you're not getting your claws on this. Quickly, Yan - come with me!

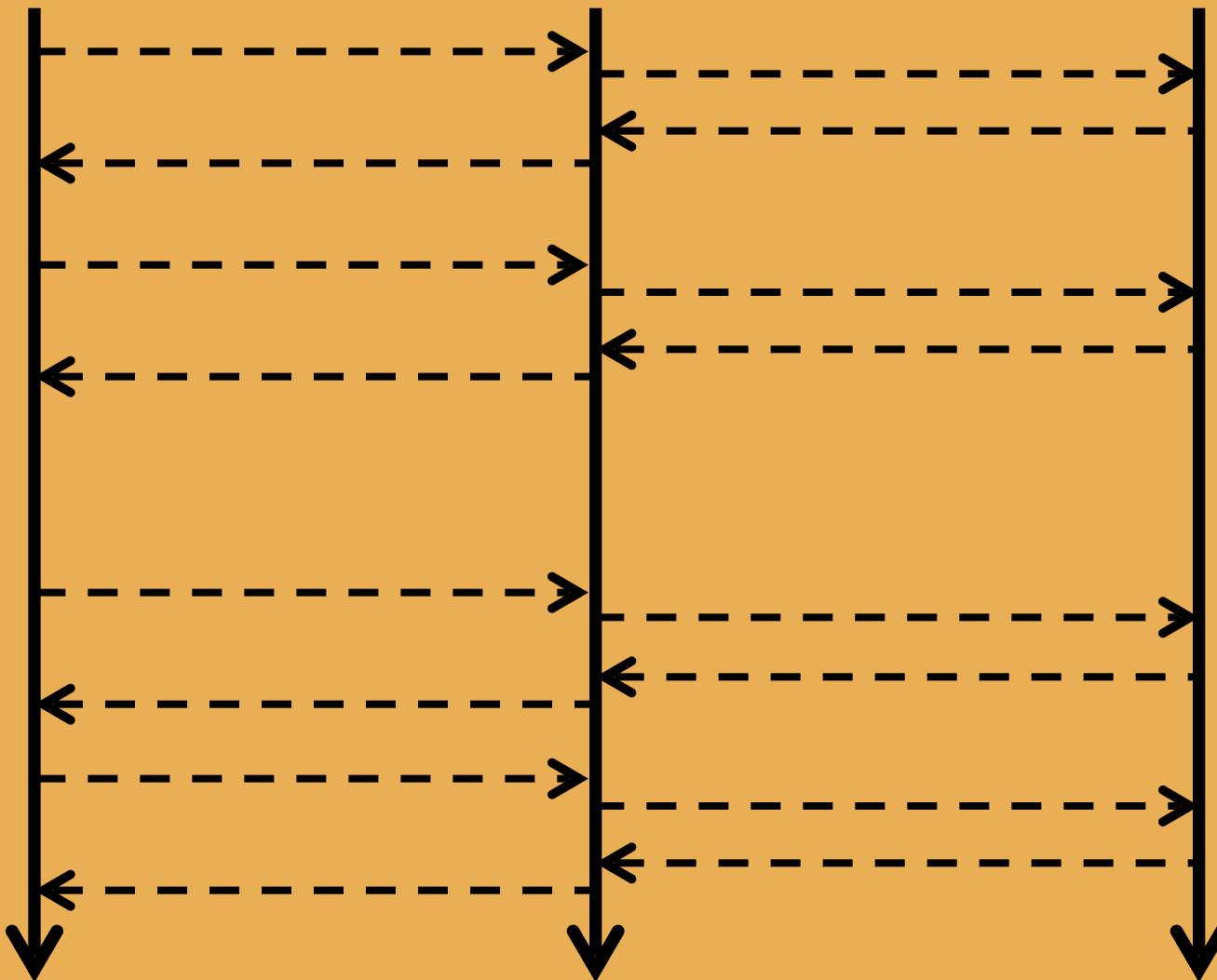
OK

player states are big

Client

Stateless Server

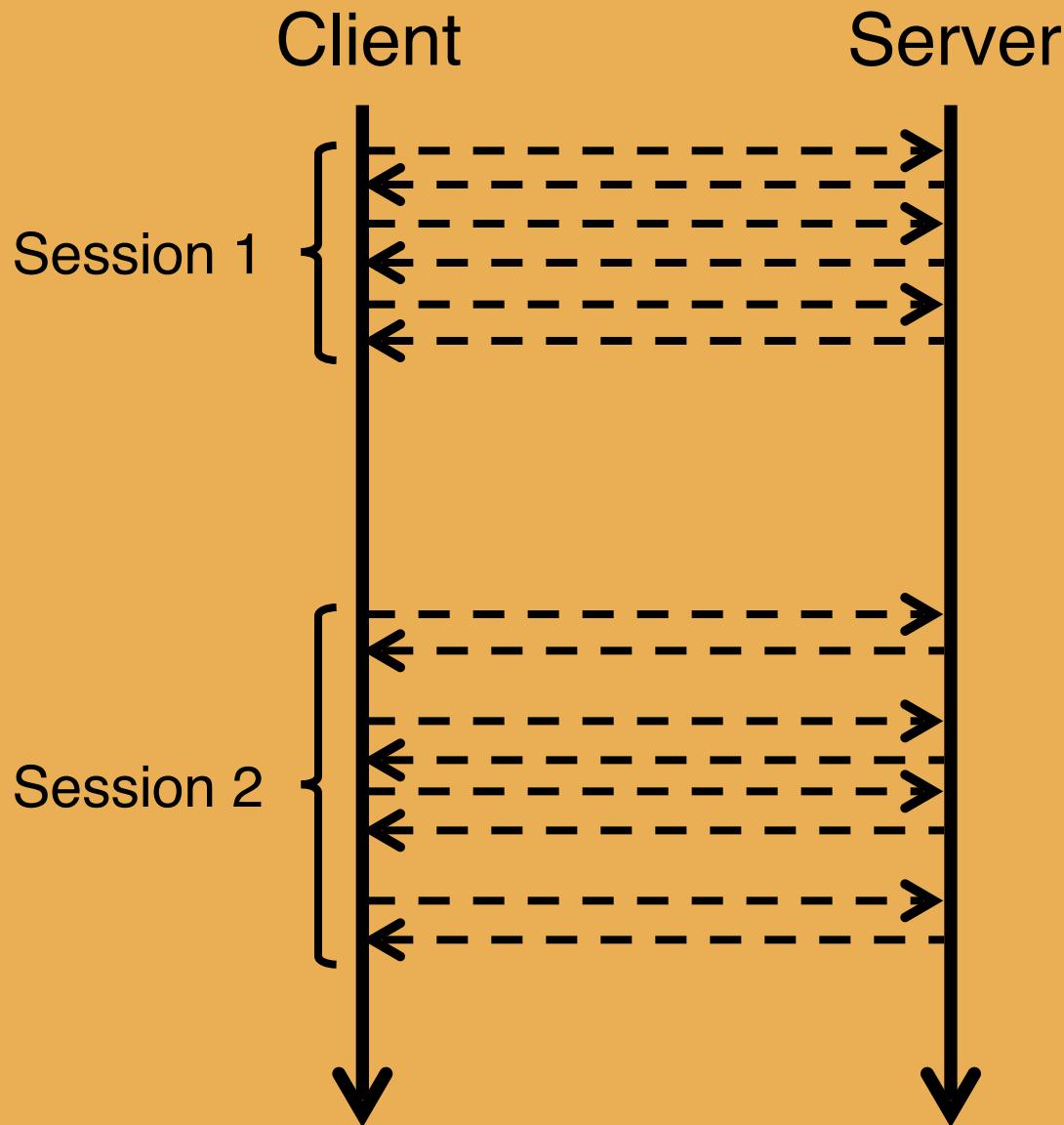
Database



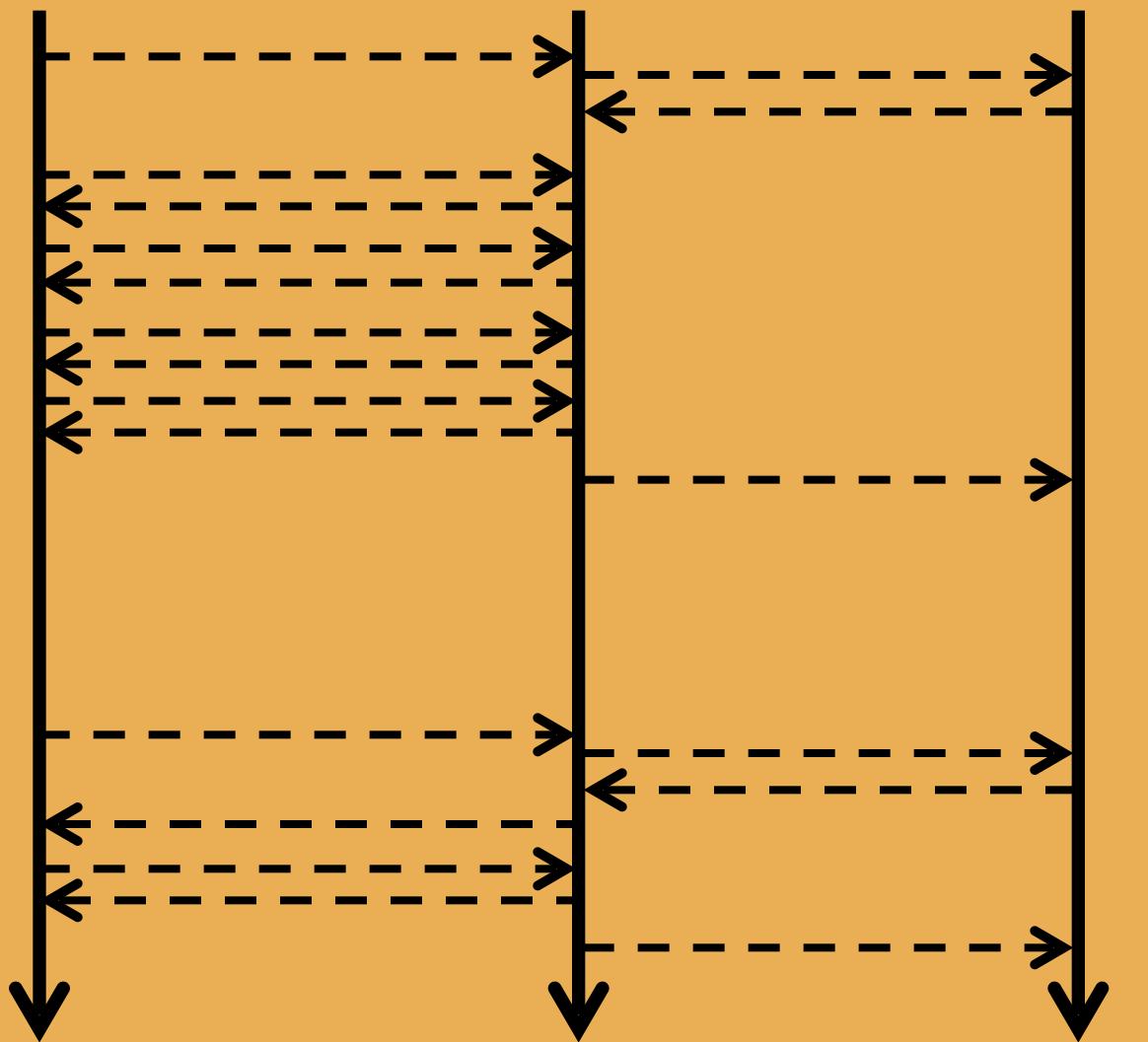
1:1 read-write ratio

stateless =

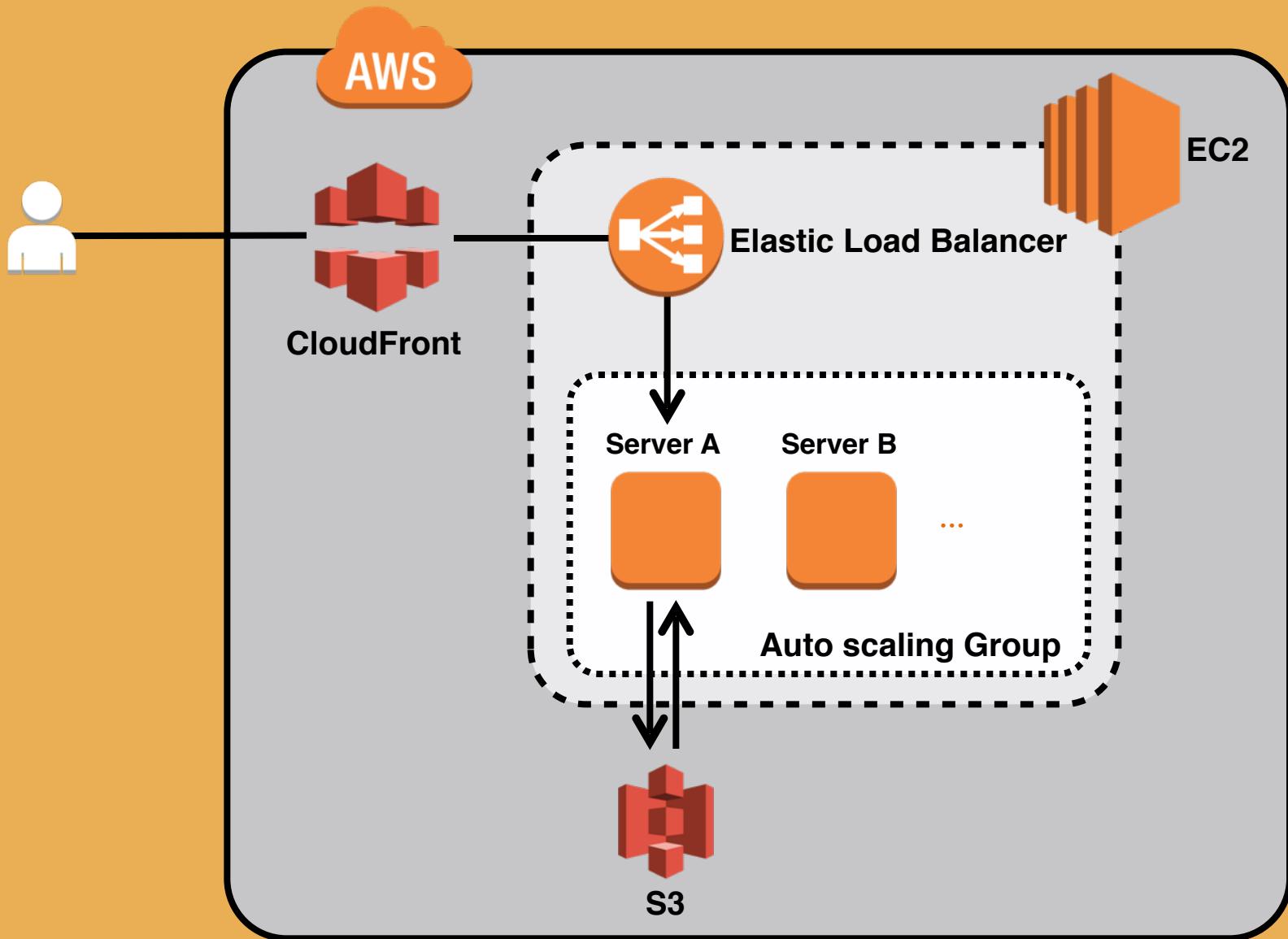
*Inefficient & Expensive*



Client      Server      Database



# Stateful Server



# The Actor Model

An actor is the fundamental unit of computation which embodies the 3 things

- Processing
- Storage
- Communication

that are essential to computation.

-Carl Hewitt\*

\* <http://bit.ly/HoNHbG>

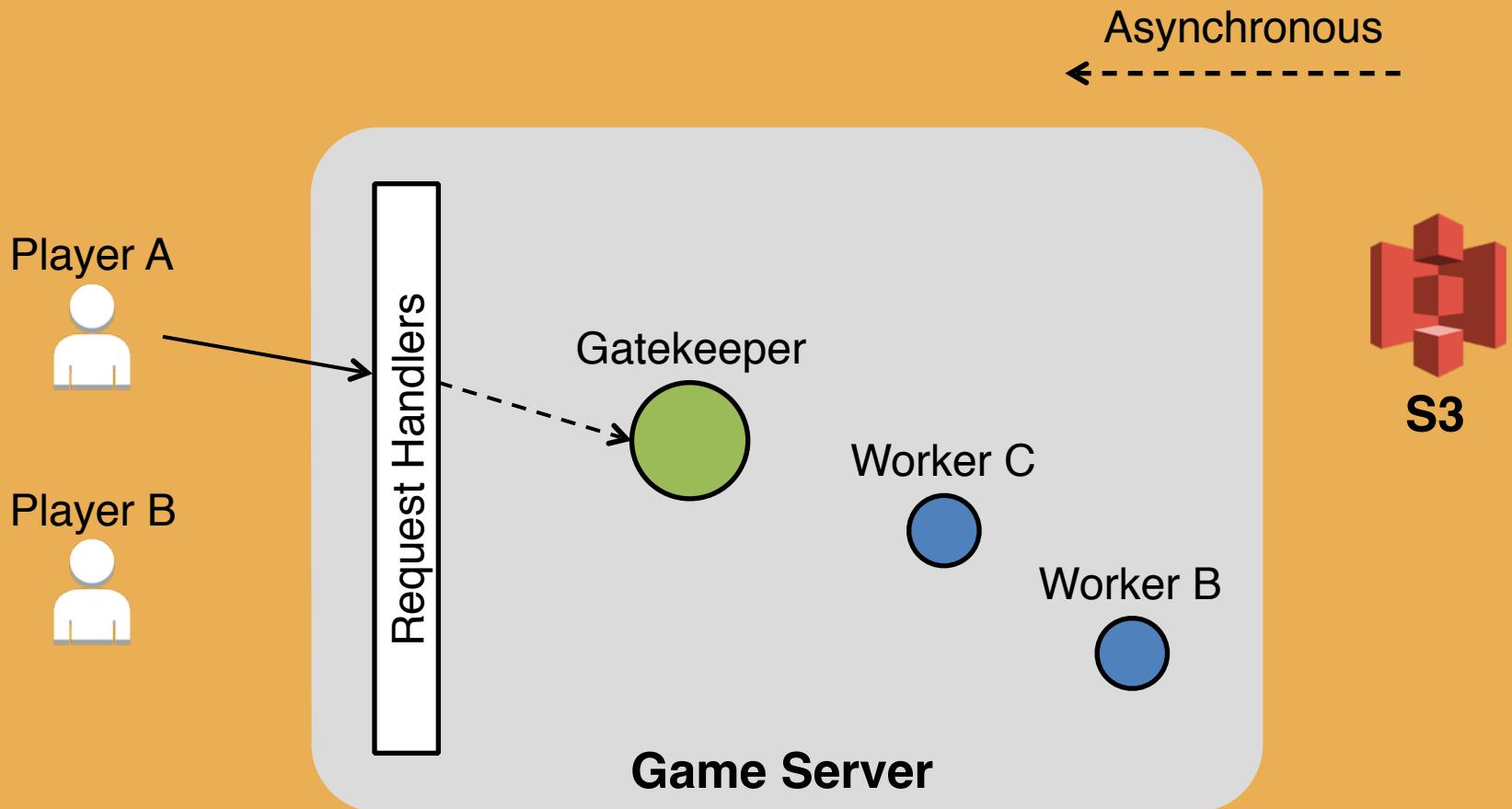
# The Actor Model

- Everything is an actor
- An actor has a mailbox
- When an actor receives a message it can:
  - Create new actors
  - Send messages to actors
  - Designate how to handle the next message

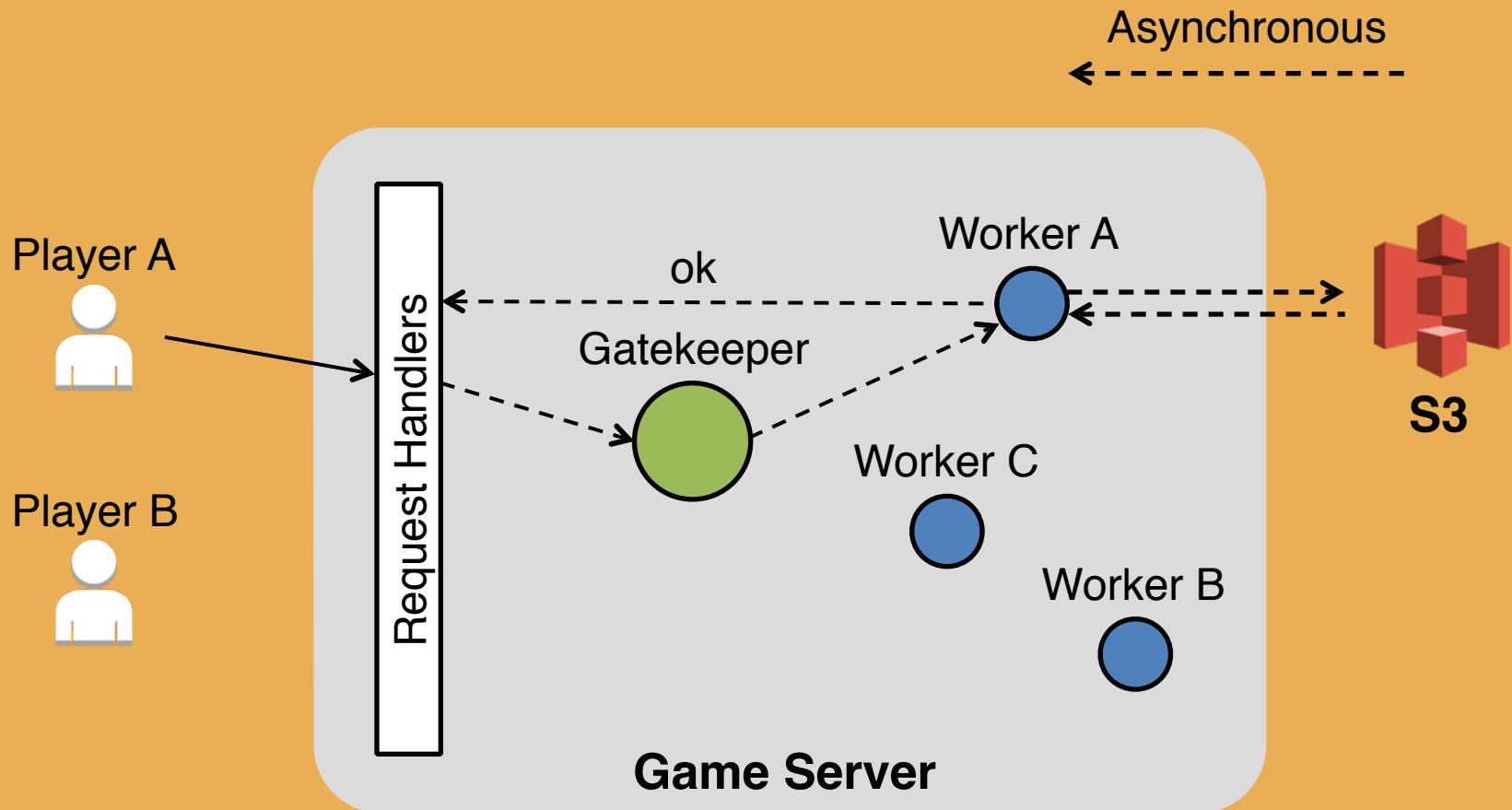
# Stateful Server

- Gatekeeper
  - Manages the local list of active workers
  - Spawns new workers
- Worker
  - Manages the states for a player
  - Optimistic locking
  - Persist state after period of inactivity

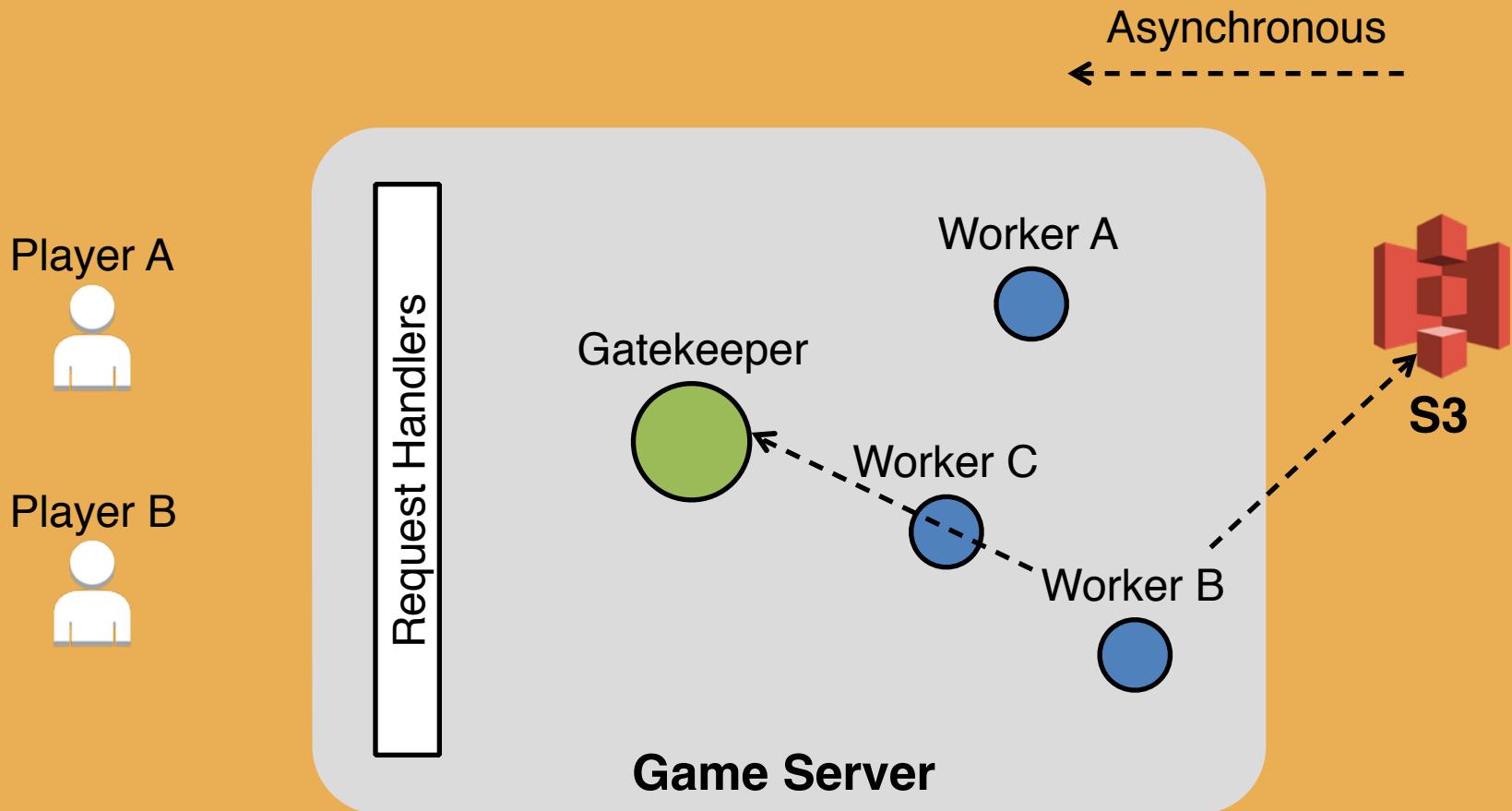
# Stateful Server



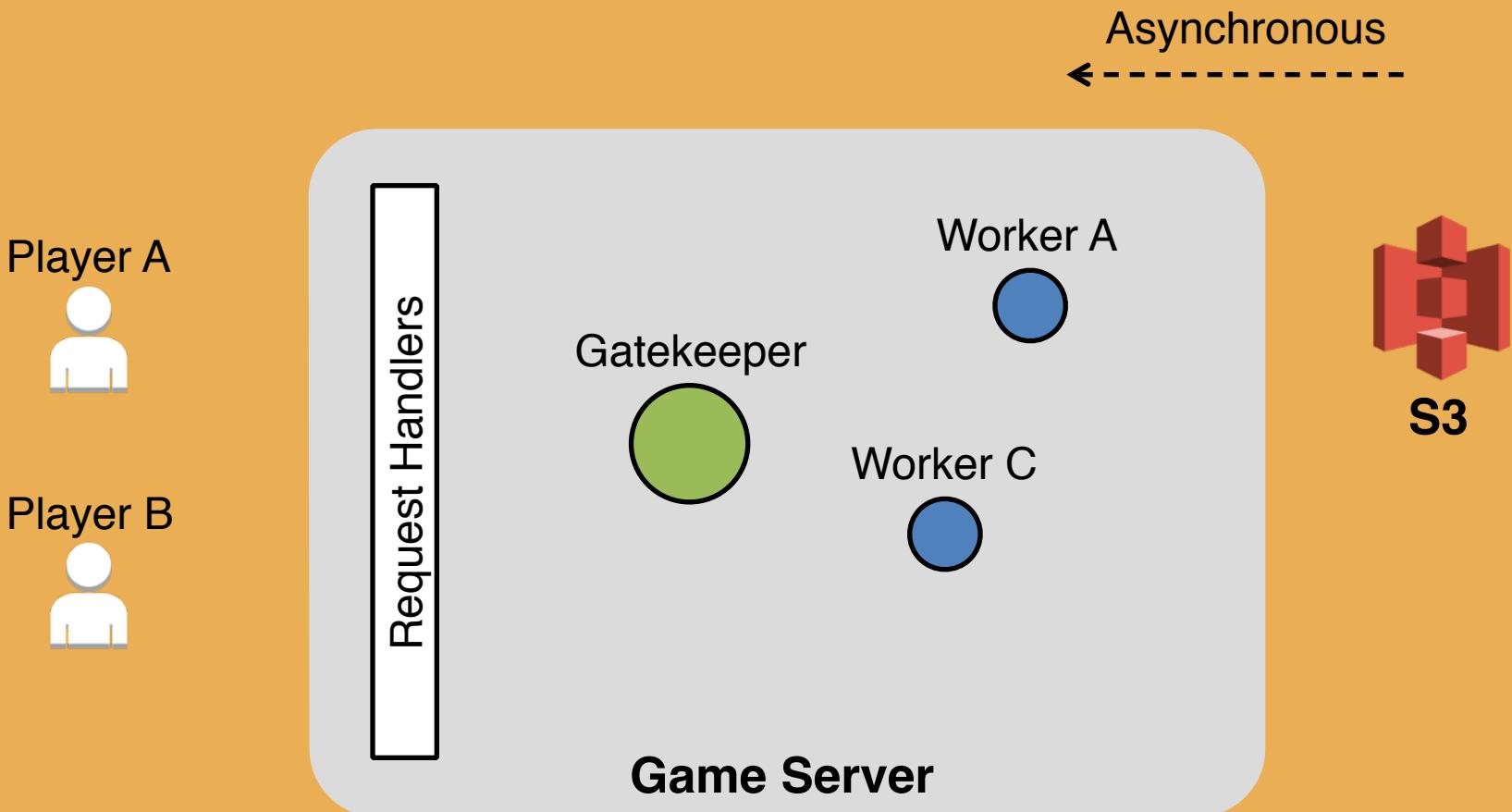
# Stateful Server



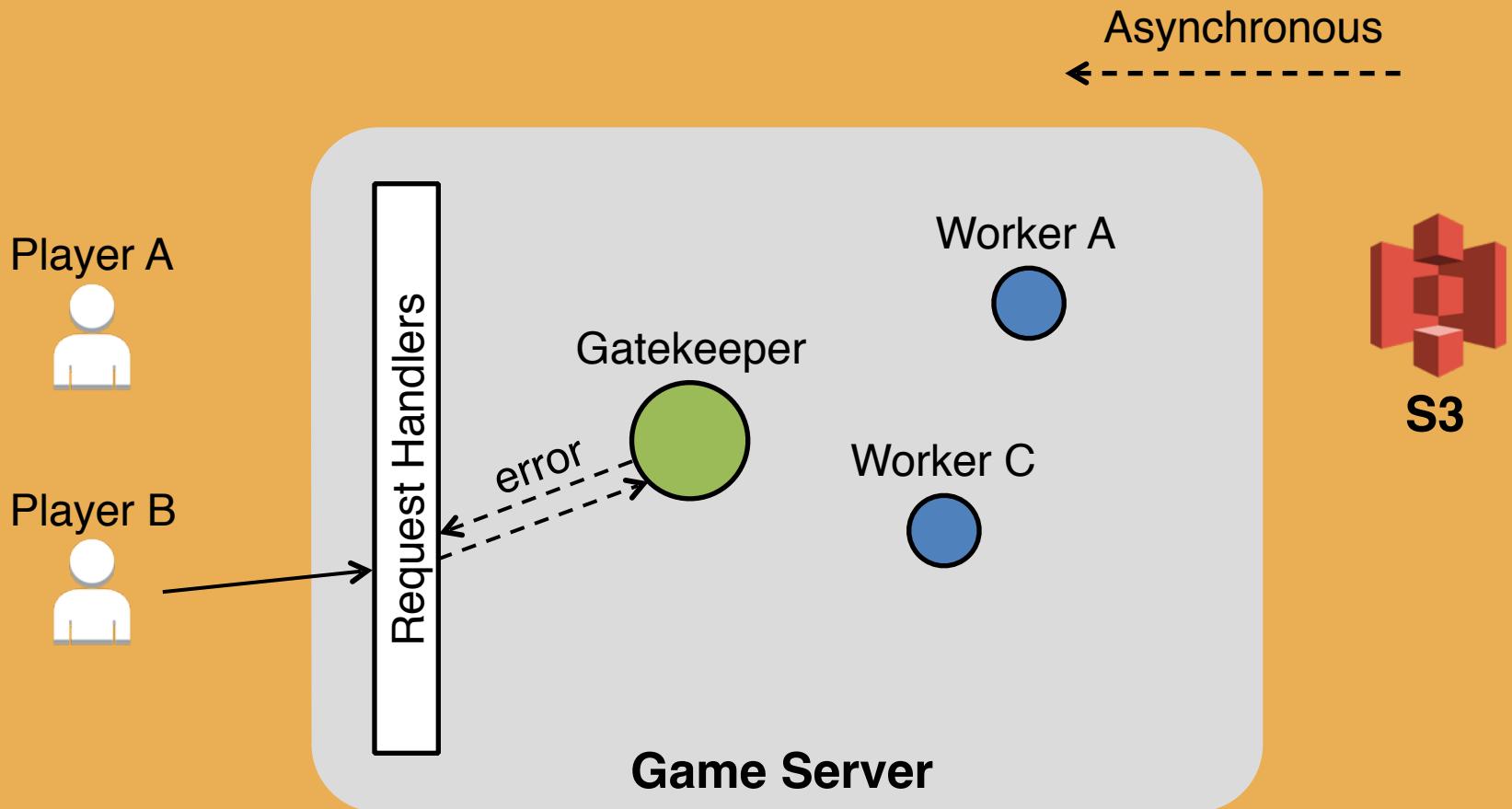
# Stateful Server



# Stateful Server



# Stateful Server



```
type Agent<'T> = MailboxProcessor<'T>
```

```
type Agent<'T> = MailboxProcessor<'T>
```

```
type Message =
```

```
I Get of AsyncReplyChannel<...>
```

```
I Put of State * Version * AsyncReplyChannel<...>
```

```
type Agent<'T> = MailboxProcessor<'T>
```

```
type Message =
```

```
I Get of AsyncReplyChannel<...>
```

```
I Put of State * Version * AsyncReplyChannel<...>
```

```
type Result<'T> =  
| Success of 'T  
| Failure of Exception
```

```
type Result<'T> =
```

```
| Success of 'T
```

```
| Failure of Exception
```

```
type GetResult = Result<State * Version>
```

```
type PutResult = Result<unit>
```

```
type Agent<'T> = MailboxProcessor<'T>
```

```
type Message =
```

```
| Get of AsyncReplyChannel<GetResult>
```

```
| Put of State * Version * AsyncReplyChannel<PutResult>
```

```
type Agent<'T> = MailboxProcessor<'T>
```

```
type Message =
```

```
| Get of AsyncReplyChannel<GetResult>
```

```
| Put of State * Version * AsyncReplyChannel<PutResult>
```

```
type Worker (playerId) =  
    let agent = Agent<Message>.Start(fun inbox ->  
        let state = getCurrentState playerId  
  
        let rec workingState (state, version) =  
            async { ... }  
        and closedState () =  
            async { ... }  
  
        workingState (state, 1))
```

```
type Worker (playerId) =  
    let agent = Agent<Message>.Start(fun inbox ->  
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        let rec workingState (state, version) =  
            async { ... }  
        and closedState () =  
            async { ... }  
  
        workingState (state, 1))
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
    async {  
        let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
        match msg with  
        | None ->  
            do! persist state  
            return! closedState()  
        ...  
    }  
}
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
  async {  
    let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
    match msg with  
    | None ->  
      do! persist state  
      return! closedState()  
    ...  
  }
```

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let rec workingState (state, version) =  
  async {  
    let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
    match msg with  
    | None ->  
      do! persist state  
      return! closedState()  
    ...  
  }
```

# non-blocking I/O

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
    async {  
        let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
        match msg with  
        | None ->  
            do! persist state  
            return! closedState()  
        ...  
    }
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
    async {  
        let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
        match msg with  
        | None ->  
            do! persist state  
            return! closedState()  
        ...  
    }
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
    async {  
        let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
        match msg with  
            ...  
            | Some(Get(reply)) ->  
                reply.Reply <| Success(state, version)  
                return! workingState(state, version)  
            ...  
    }  
}
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
  async {  
    let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
    match msg with  
      ...  
      | Some(Put(newState, v, reply)) when version = v ->  
        reply.Reply <| Success()  
        return! workingState(newState, version+1)  
      ...  
    }  
  }
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
    async {  
        let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
        match msg with  
            ...  
            | Some(Put(_, v, reply)) ->  
                reply.Reply <| Failure(VersionMismatch(version, v))  
                return! workingState(state, version)  
    }  
}
```

```
let rec workingState (state, version) =  
  async {  
    let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000)  
    match msg with  
    | None          -> ...  
    | Some(Get(reply)) -> ...  
    | Some(Put(newState, v, reply)) when version = v -> ...  
    | Some(Put(_, v, reply))           -> ...  
  }
```

and closedState () =

```
async {

    let! msg = inbox.Receive()

    match msg with
    | Get(reply) ->
        reply.Reply <| Failure(WorkerStopped)
        return! closedState()

    | Put(_, _, reply) ->
        reply.Reply <| Failure(WorkerStopped)
        return! closedState()

}
```

and closedState () =

```
async {  
    let! msg = inbox.Receive()  
    match msg with  
        | Get(reply) ->  
            reply.Reply <| Failure(WorkerStopped)  
            return! closedState()  
        | Put(_, _, reply) ->  
            reply.Reply <| Failure(WorkerStopped)  
            return! closedState()  
    }  
}
```

```

type Worker (playerId) =
    let agent = Agent<Message>.Start(fun inbox ->
        let state = getCurrentState playerId

        let rec workingState (state, version) = async {
            let! msg = inbox.TryReceive(60000) // timeout after 1 minute
            match msg with
            | None
                -> do! persistState state
                    return! closedState()
            | Some(Get(reply))
                -> Success(state, version) |> reply.Reply
                    return! workingState(state, version)
            | Some(Put(state', version', reply)) when version' = version
                -> Success() |> reply.Reply
                    return! workingState(state', version + 1UL)
            | Some(Put(_, version', reply))
                -> Failure(VersionMismatch(version', version)) |> reply.Reply
                    return! workingState(state, version)
        }
        and closedState () = async {
            let! msg = inbox.Receive()
            match msg with
            | Get(reply)      -> Failure(WorkerStopped) |> reply.Reply
                return! closedState()
            | Put(_, _, reply) -> Failure(WorkerStopped) |> reply.Reply
                return! closedState()
        }
    }

    // start the agent in the working state
    workingState (state, 1UL))

    /// unit -> Async<Result<State * Version>>
    member this.GetState () = agent.PostAndAsyncReply(fun reply -> Get(reply))

    /// State * Version -> Async<Result<unit>>
    member this.PutState (state, version) = agent.PostAndAsyncReply(fun reply -> Put(state, version, reply))

```

5x efficient  
improvement

60% latency drop

no databases

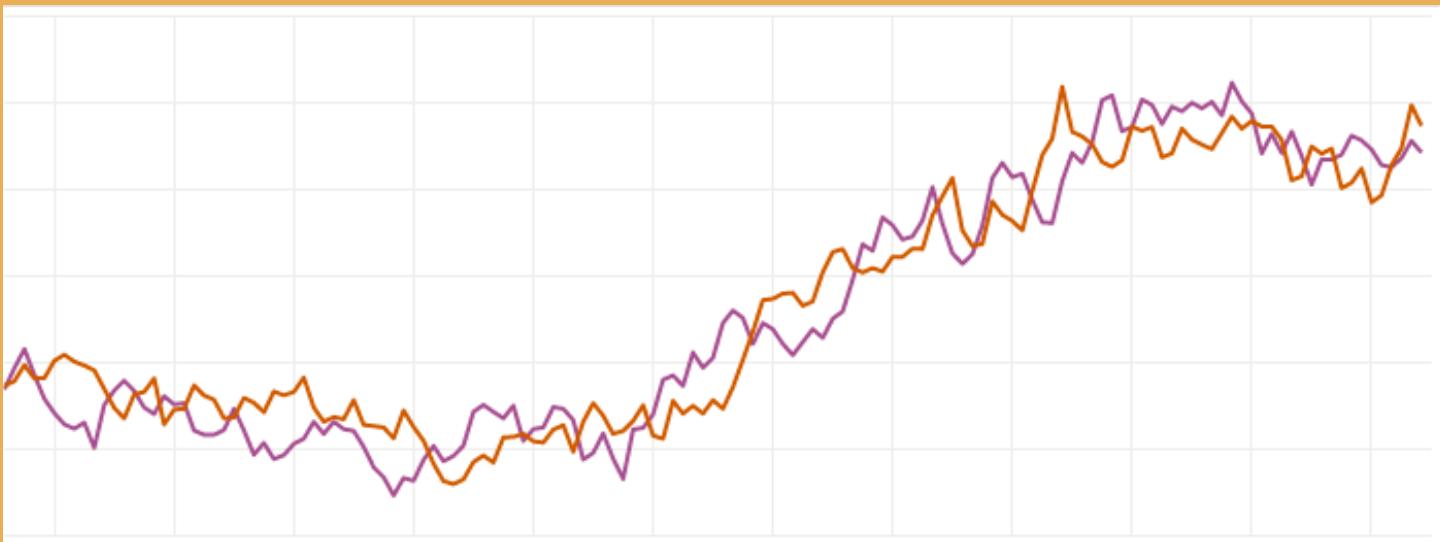
**90+%** cost saving

need to ensure  
server affinity

need to balance load

need to avoid  
hotspots

- Persist player state after short inactivity
- Move player to another server after persistence



need to gracefully  
scale down

# Recap

# Agents

- no locks
- async message passing

# Agents

- no locks
- async message passing
- self-contained
- easy to reason with

# Agents

- low level
- exceptions kills agents
- primitive error monitoring
- no supervision
- no distribution



akka.NET

MS Orleans



Cricket



elixir

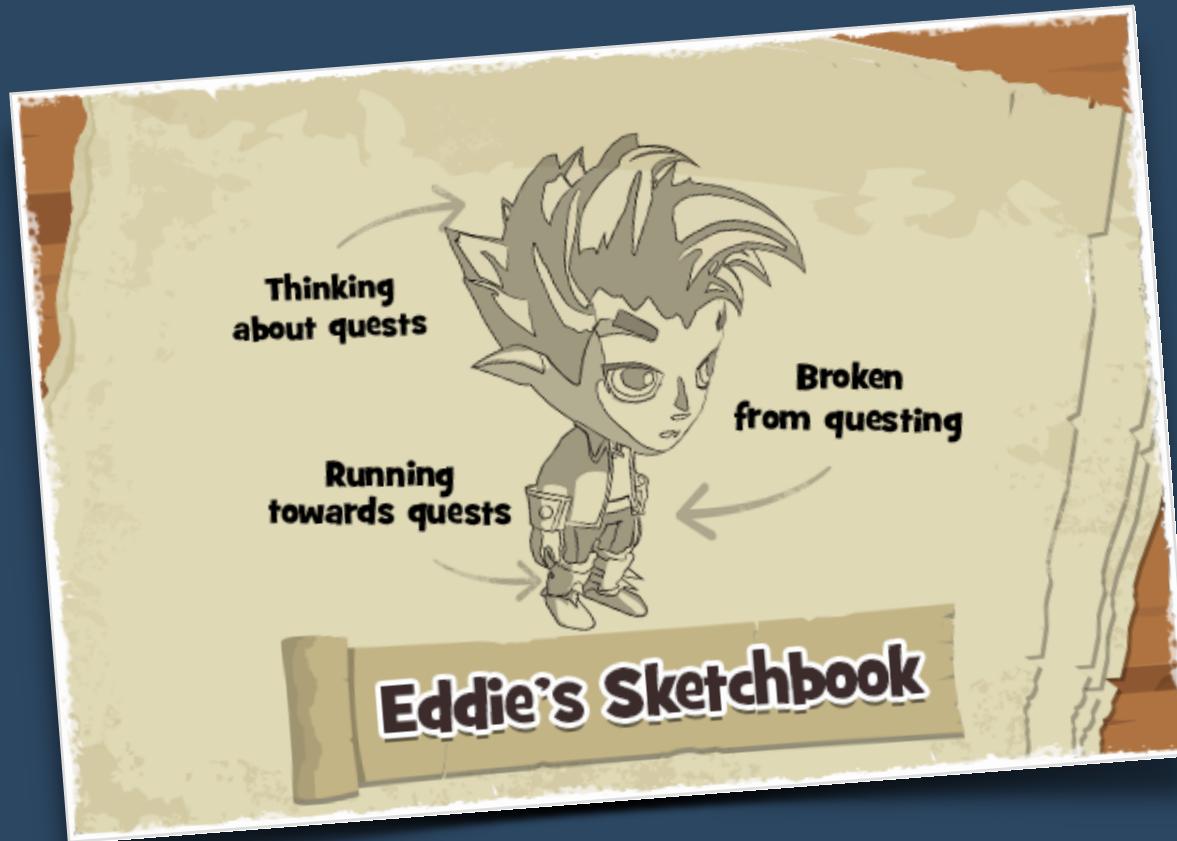


# Async Workflow

- non-blocking I/O
- no callbacks

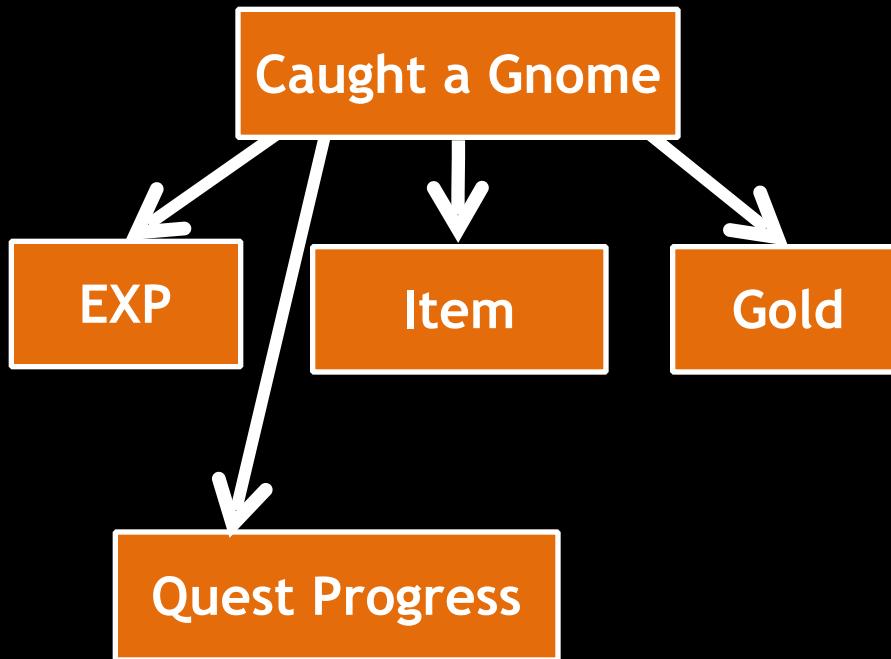
# Pattern Matching

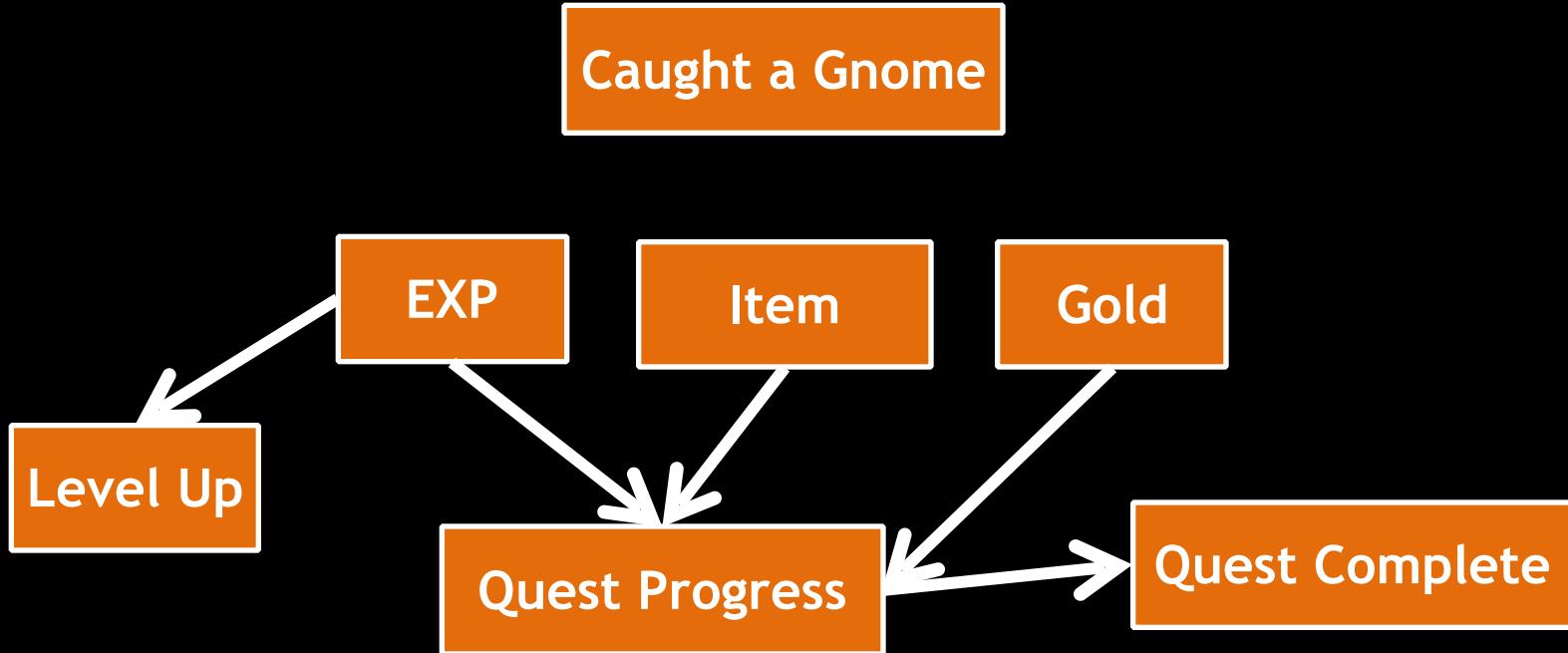
- clear & concise

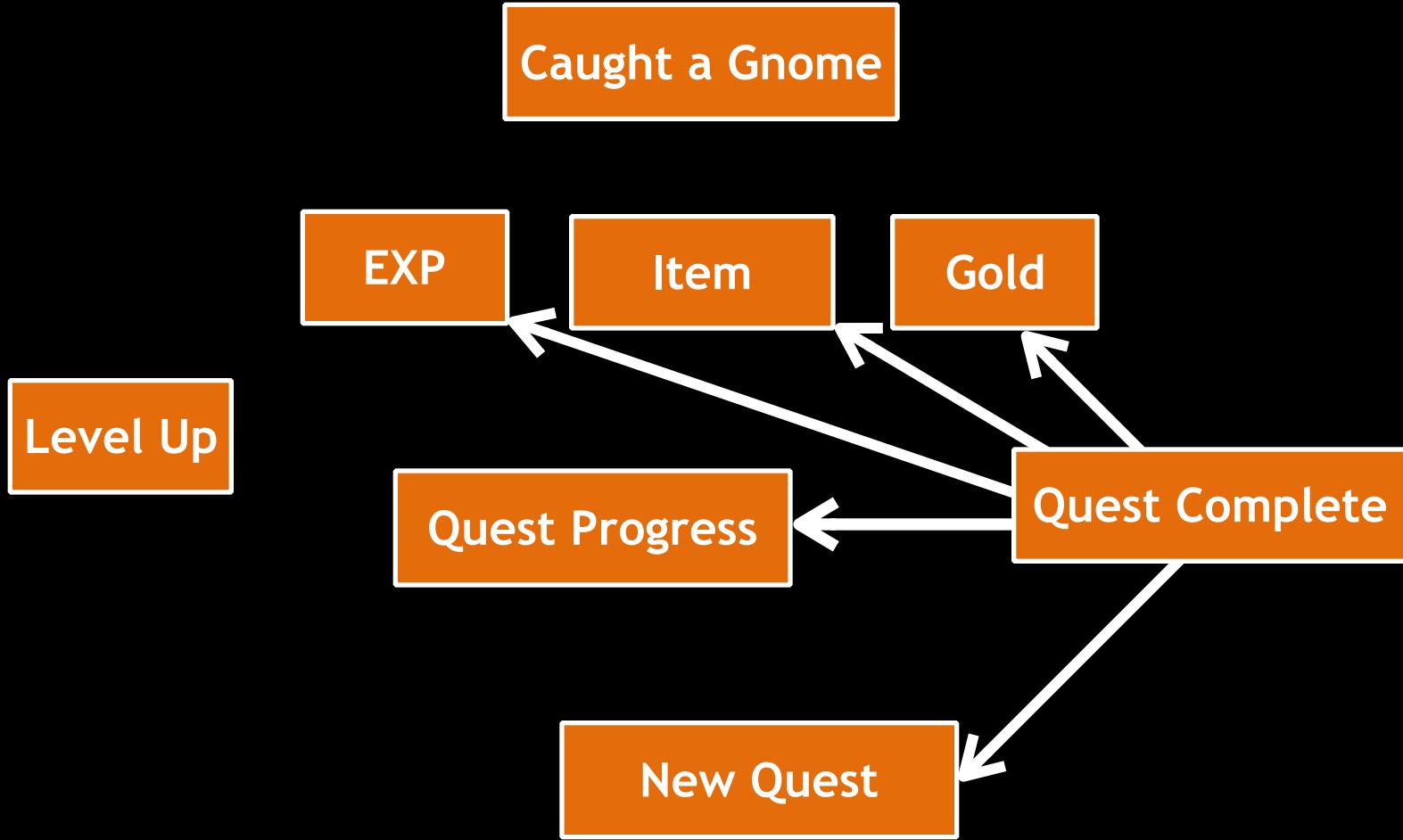


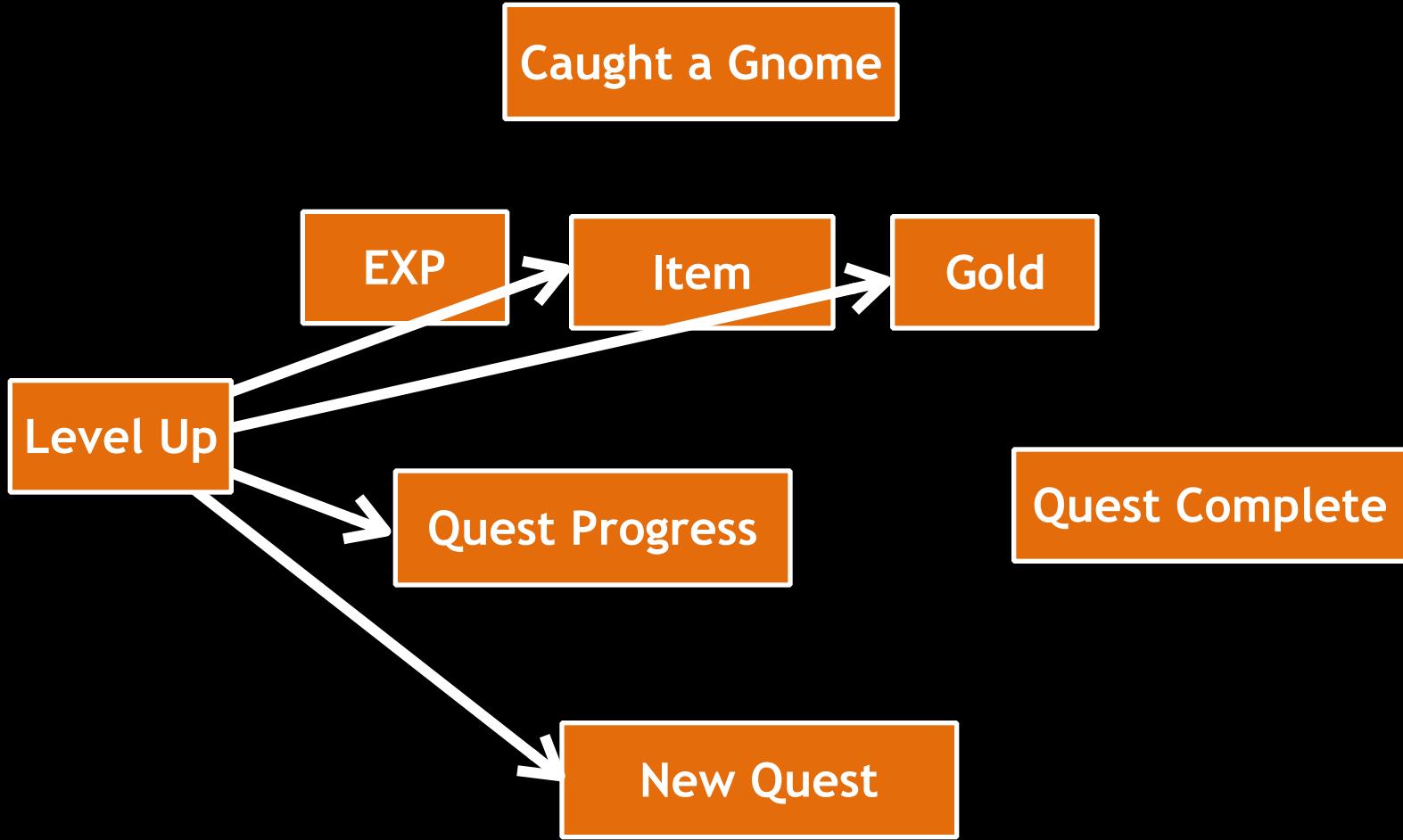


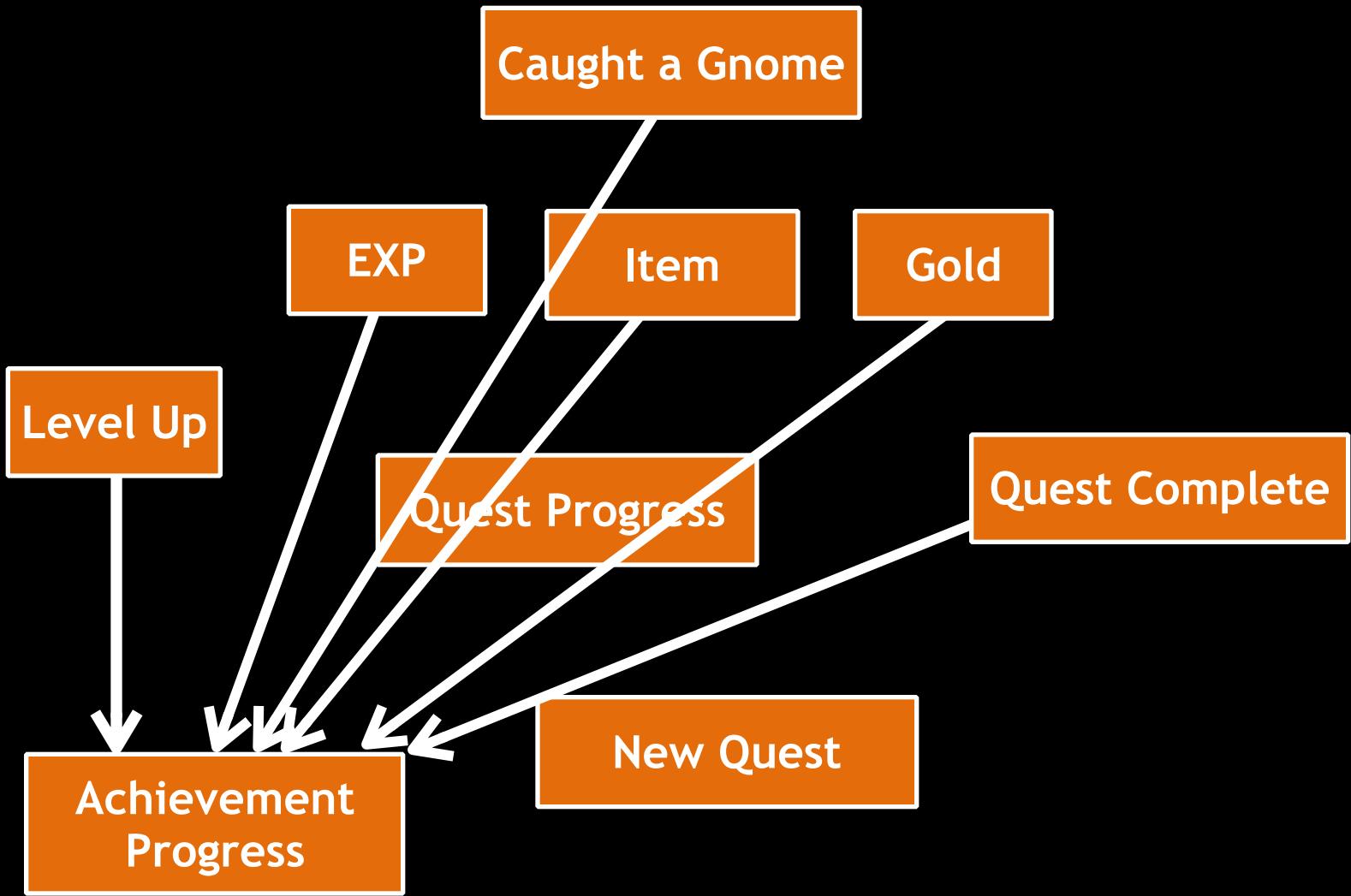
**Caught a Gnome**











Caught a Gnome

EXP

Item

Gold

Level Up

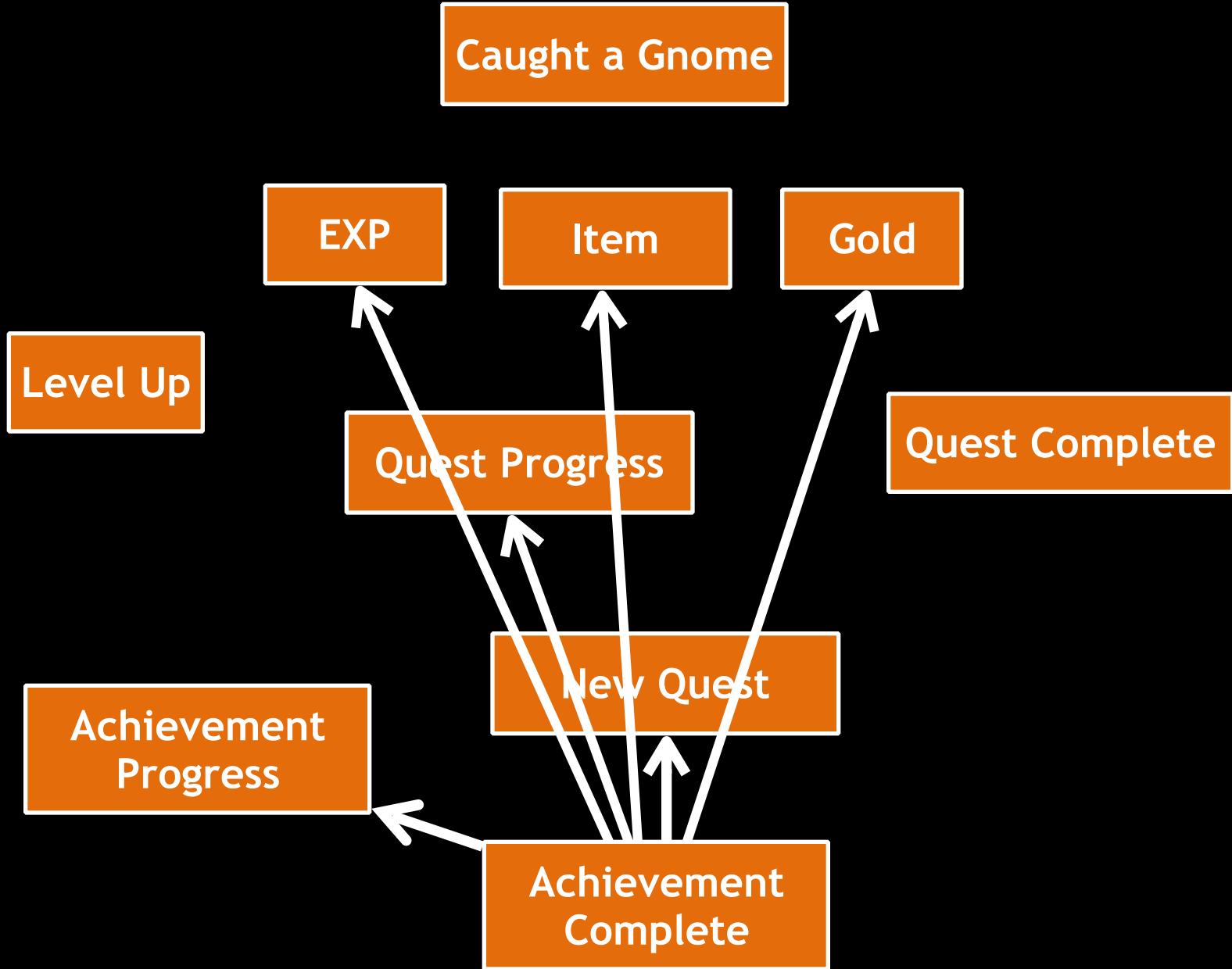
Quest Progress

Quest Complete

Achievement  
Progress

New Quest

Achievement  
Complete



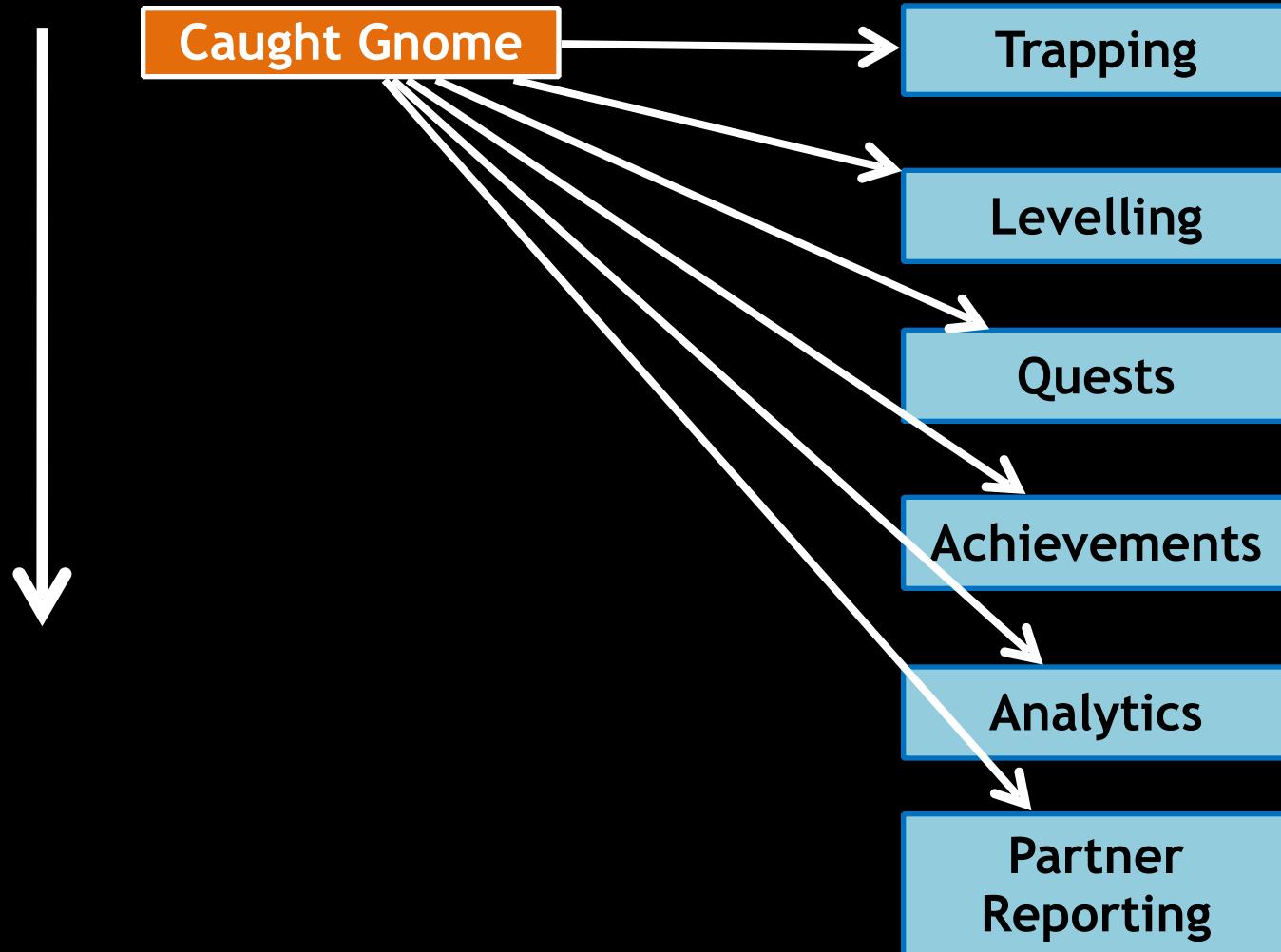
100+ actions

triggered by different  
abstraction layers

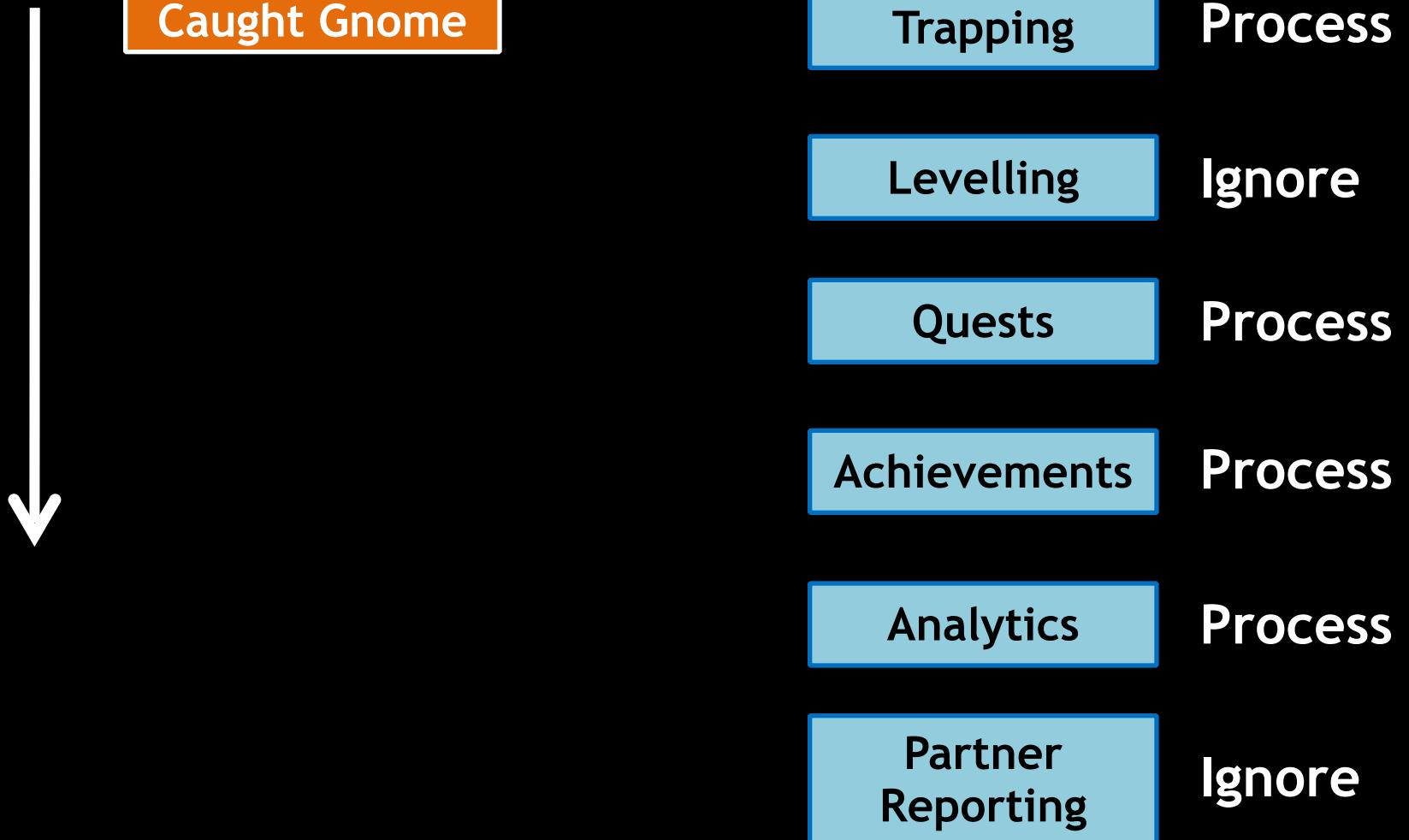
non-functional  
requirements

# message-broker pattern

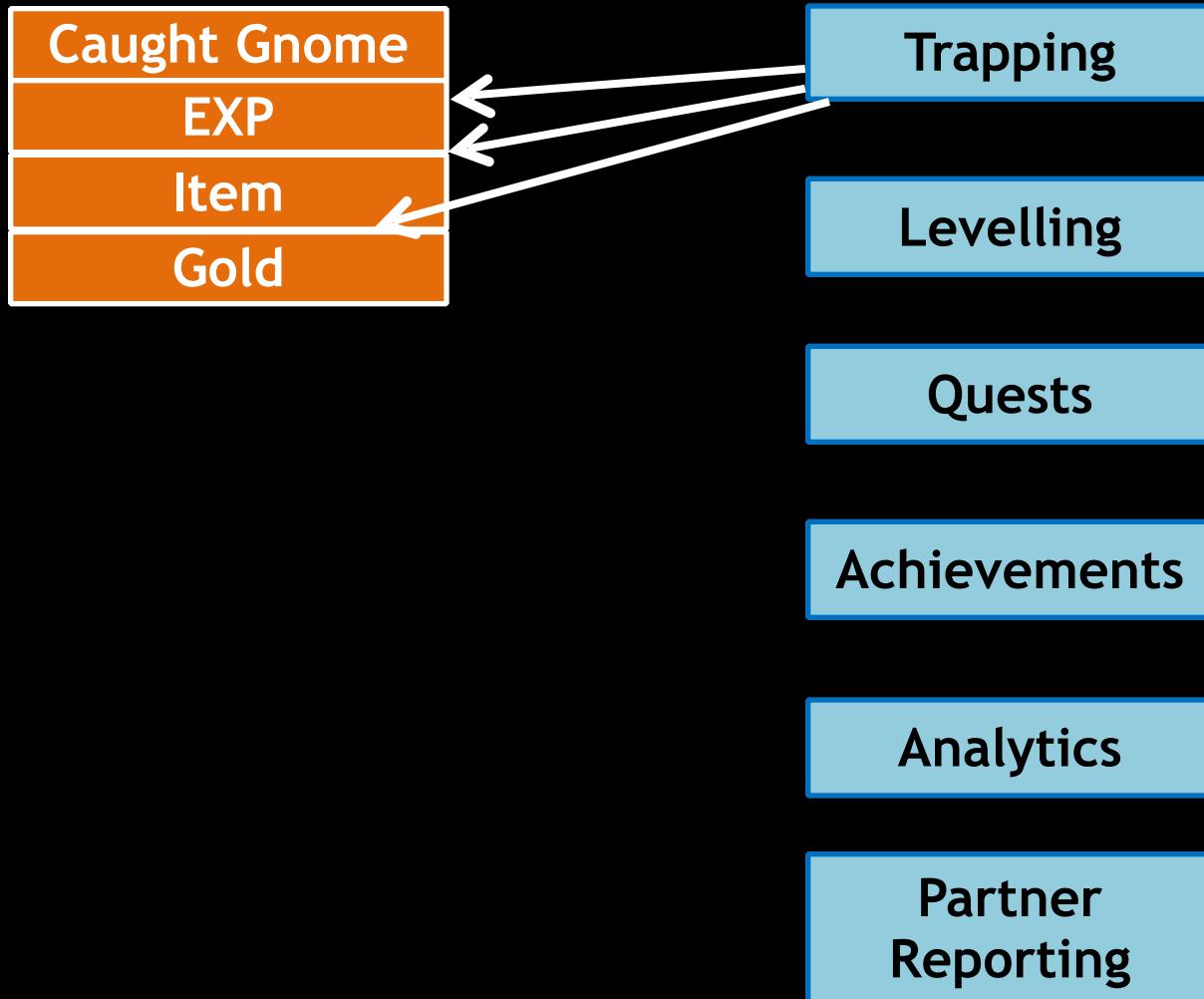
# Queue



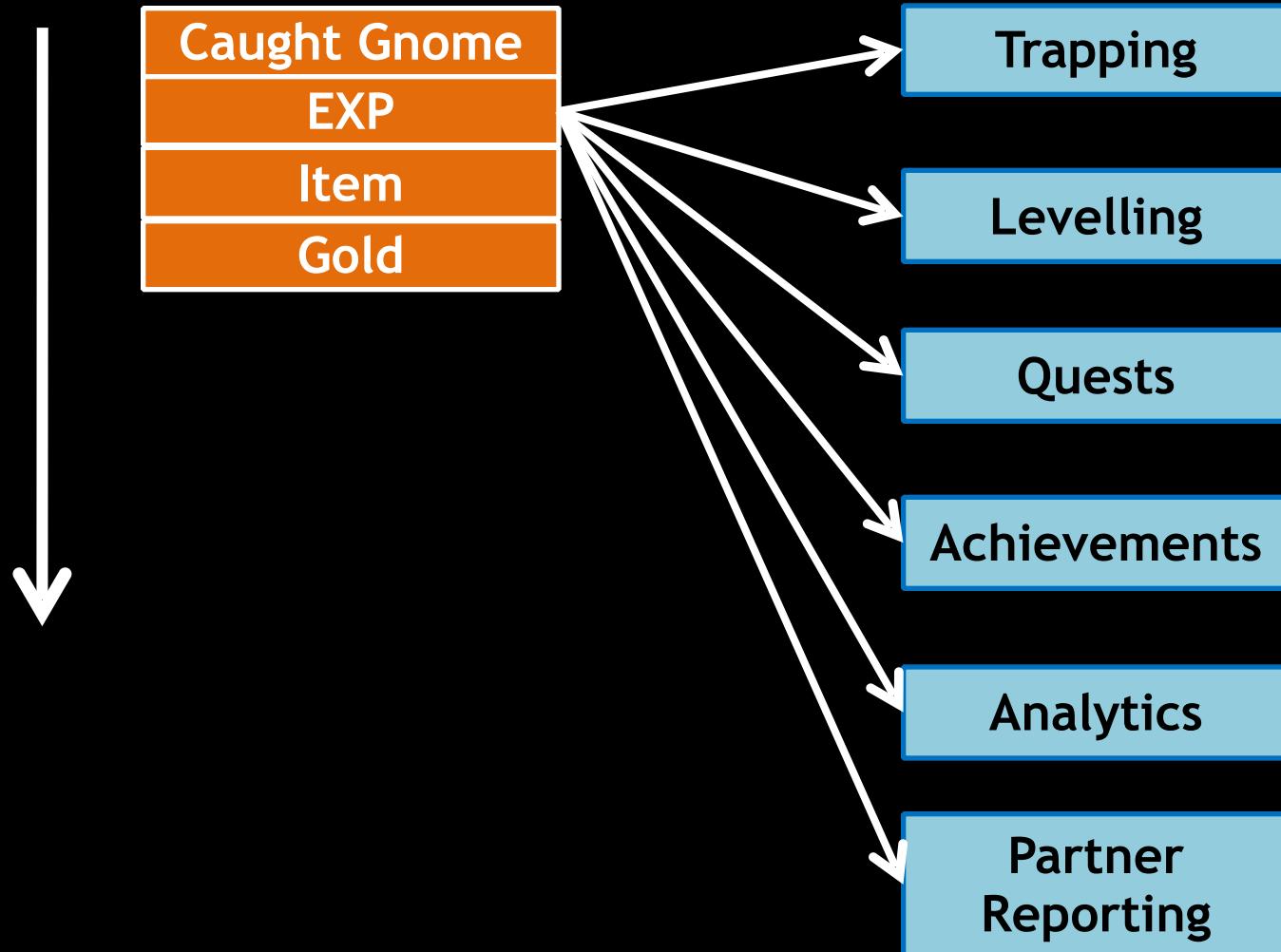
# Queue



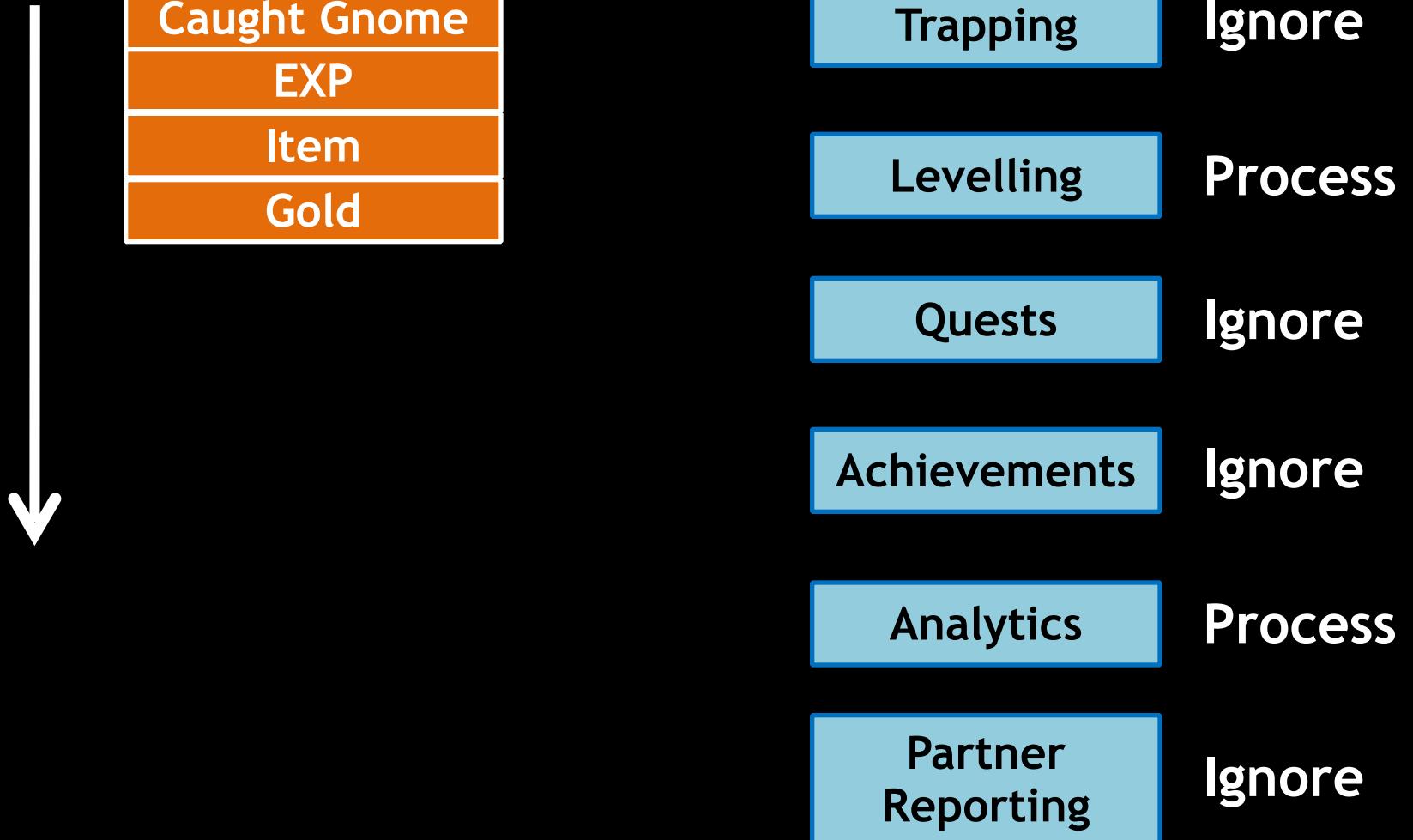
# Queue



# Queue



# Queue



# Queue

Caught Gnome
EXP
Item
Gold
Level Up

Trapping

Levelling

Quests

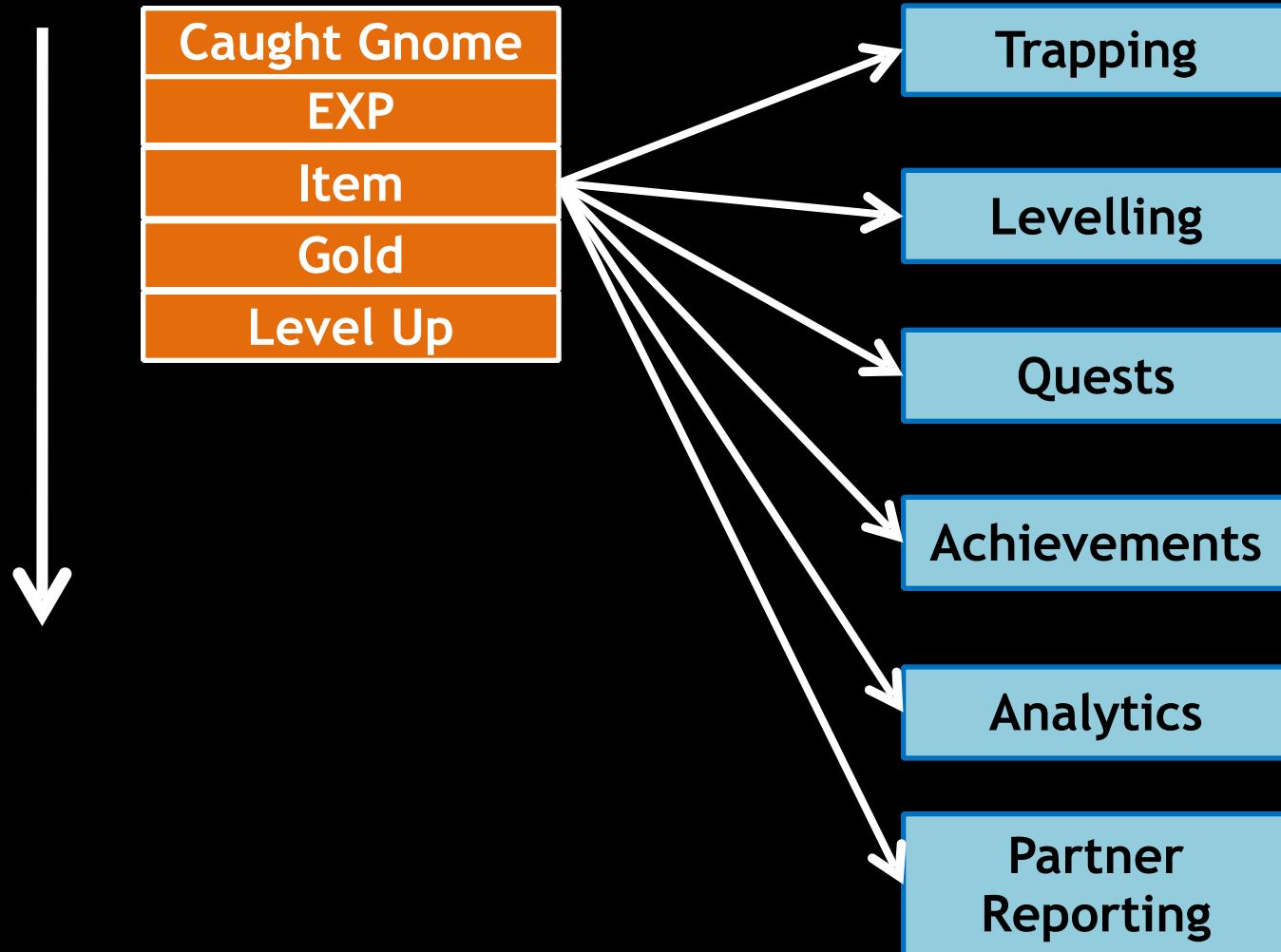
Achievements

Analytics

Partner  
Reporting



# Queue



need lots of facts

```
type Fact =  
| GotExp           of Exp  
| GotGold          of Gold  
| GotItem          of Item * Count  
| CaughtMonster    of Monster * Bait * Location  
| LevelUp          of OldLevel * NewLevel  
| ...
```

type Reward =

| GotExp                    of Exp

| GotGold                  of Gold

| GotItem                 of Item \* Count

type StateChange =

| LevelUp                of OldLevel \* NewLevel

...

type Fact =

| StateChange

of StateChange

| Reward

of Reward

| Trapping

of Trapping

| Fishing

of Fishing

...

```
let process fact =  
  match fact with  
    | StateChange(stateChange) -> ...  
    | Reward(reward)           -> ...  
    | Trapping(trapping)      -> ...  
    ...
```

# C# interop

...

```
var fact = Fact.NewStateChange(  
    StateChange.NewLevelUp(oldLvl, newLvl));
```

...

```
type IFact = interface end
```

```
type Reward =
```

```
| GotExp          of Exp
```

```
| GotGold         of Gold
```

```
| GotItem         of Item * Count
```

```
interface IFact
```

```
type IFact = interface end
```

```
type Reward =
```

```
| GotExp          of Exp
```

```
| GotGold         of Gold
```

```
| GotItem         of Item * Count
```

```
interface IFact
```

```
let process (fact : IFact) =  
    match fact with  
        | :? StateChange as stateChange -> ...  
        | :? Reward as reward -> ...  
        | :? Trapping as trapping -> ...  
        ...  
        | _ -> raise <| NotSupportedFact fact
```

```
let process (fact : IFact) =  
    match fact with  
        | :? StateChange as stateChange -> ...  
        | :? Reward as reward -> ...  
        | :? Trapping as trapping -> ...  
        ...  
        | _ -> raise <| NotSupportedFact fact
```

simple

flexible

extensible



saver



17th April  
London

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