Asia's Largest

Cloud & AI

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Beyond Barriers: Addressing Access Control Challenges with OPA & Keto

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Does your application have a Login Page?

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Are you using social logins in your App?

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What's the protocol used for Social Logins?

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Is OAuth an Authentication protocol?

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Is OpenID built with additional layer in OAuth 2.0 an authentication protocol?

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Authentication

Process of verifying the identity.

Access Control

Process of controlling access to resources, services, or information in a system.

Authorization

Specific aspect of Access Control focuses on granting or denying access for authenticated resources.

Common Access Control Scenarios

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- Based on user attributes
- Based on Context
- Temporal Access
- Dynamic Factors

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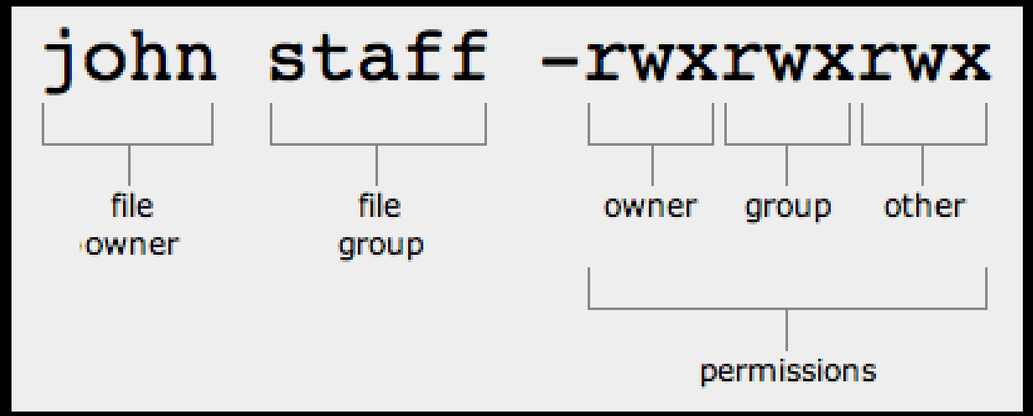
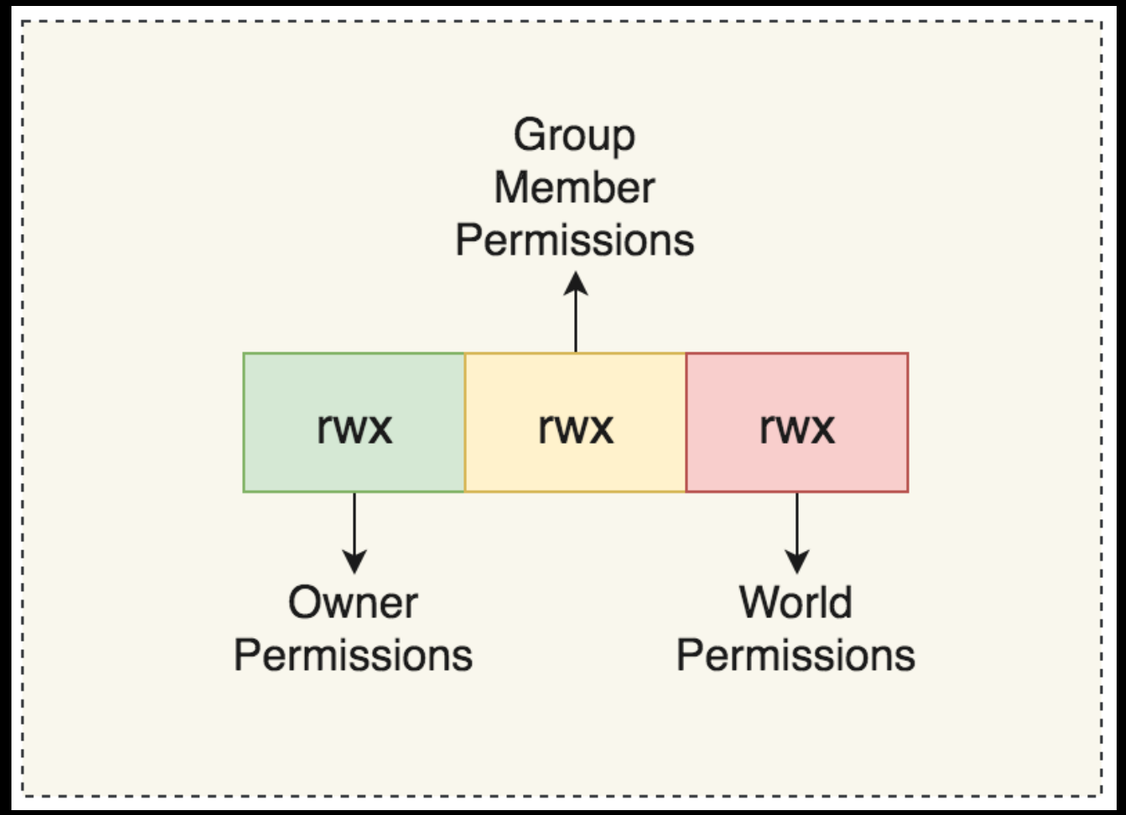
Discretionary Access Control

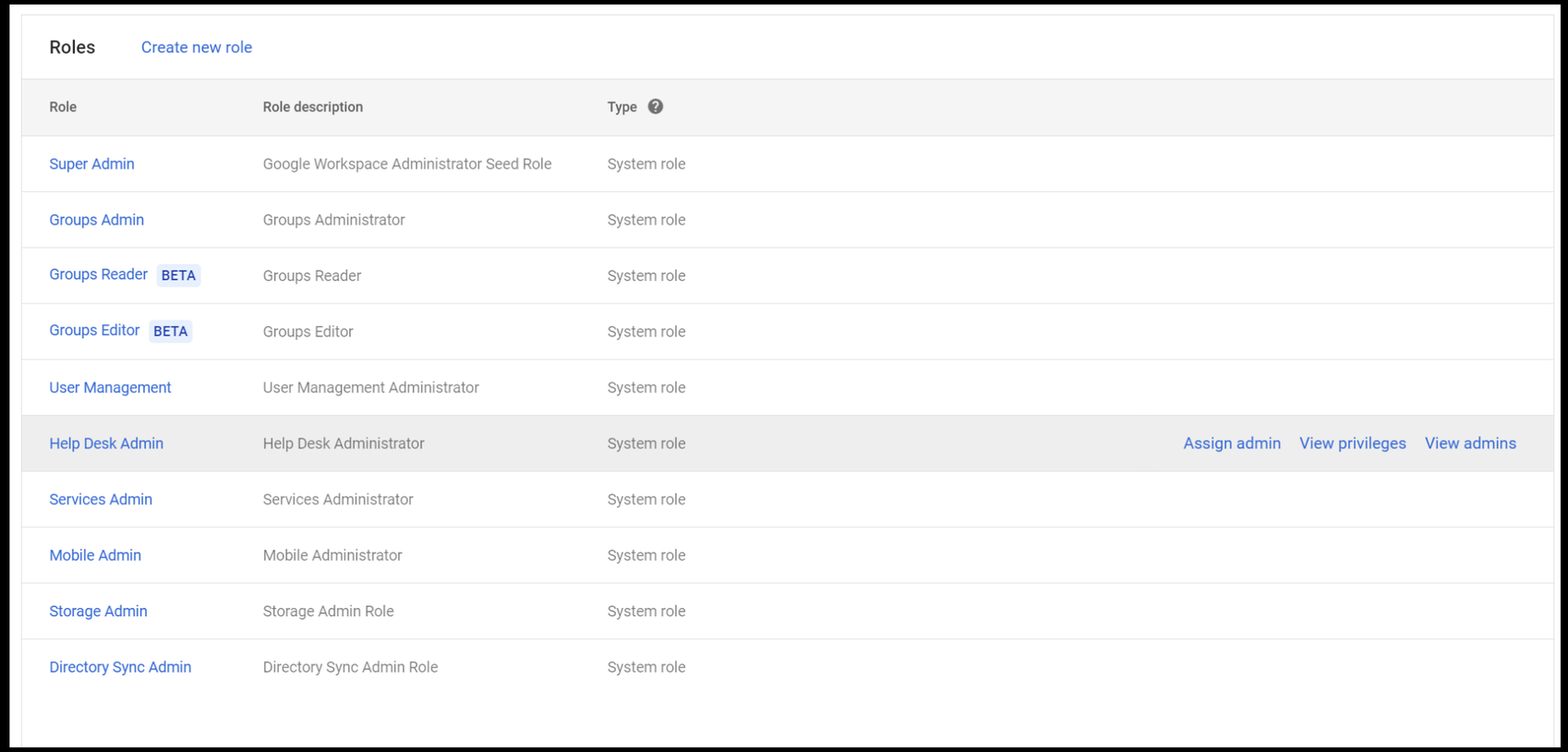
- Control lay with resource owner
- File System in Unix / Linux





Role-Based Access Control

- Based on role membership.
- Google Workspace / G Suit Roles

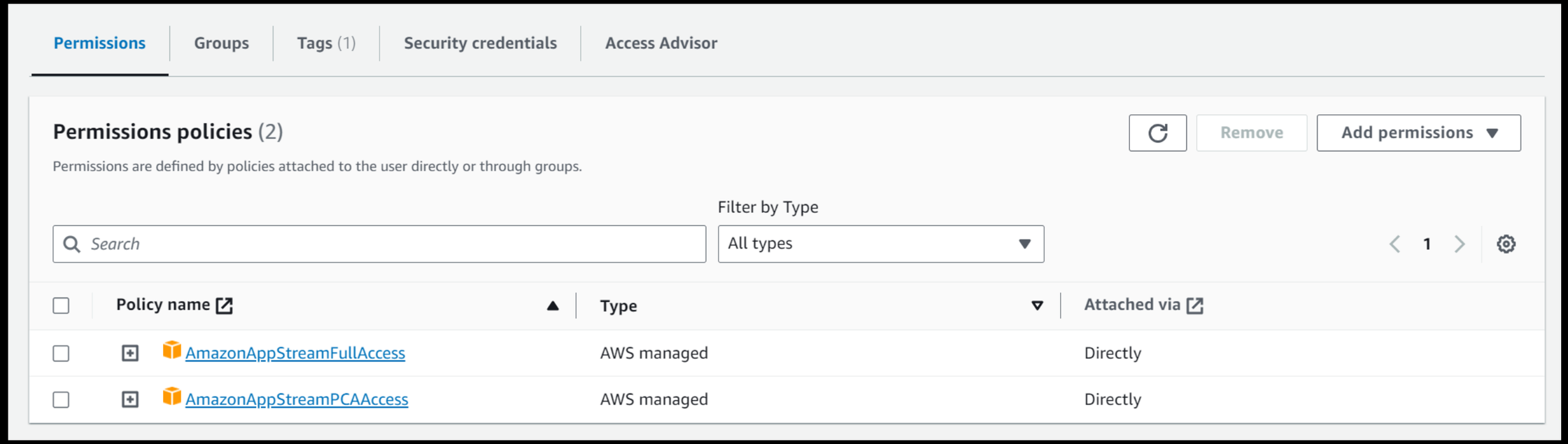


Roles Create new role

Role	Role description	Type	
Super Admin	Google Workspace Administrator Seed Role	System role	
Groups Admin	Groups Administrator	System role	
Groups Reader BETA	Groups Reader	System role	
Groups Editor BETA	Groups Editor	System role	
User Management	User Management Administrator	System role	
Help Desk Admin	Help Desk Administrator	System role	Assign admin View privileges View admins
Services Admin	Services Administrator	System role	
Mobile Admin	Mobile Administrator	System role	
Storage Admin	Storage Admin Role	System role	
Directory Sync Admin	Directory Sync Admin Role	System role	

Attribute Access Control

- Based on user attributes.
- AWS IAM.



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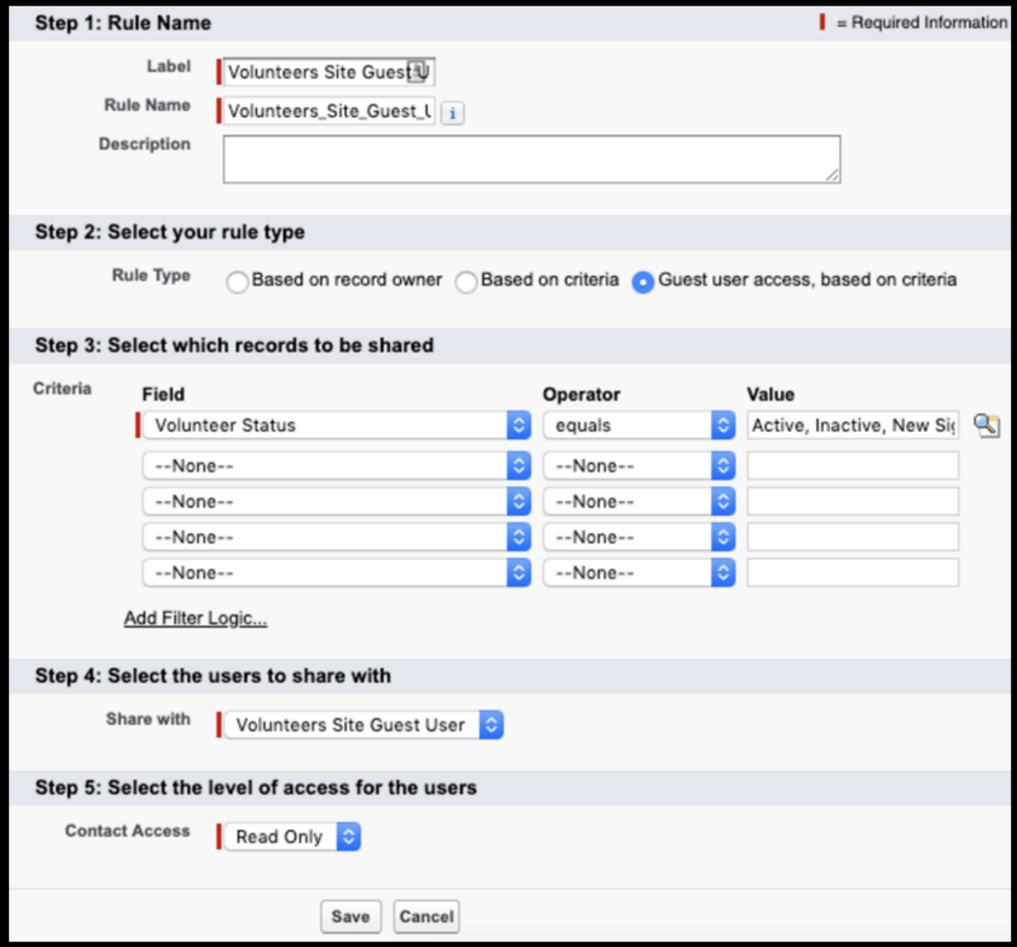
Rule-Based Access Control

- Policies are defined through rules or conditions
- Salesforce CRM



Time-Based Access Control

- Access control based on specific time window
- Balance Mouse from Samsung (Ad)

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Location-Based Access Control

- Restrictions based on location
- Mobile Device Management

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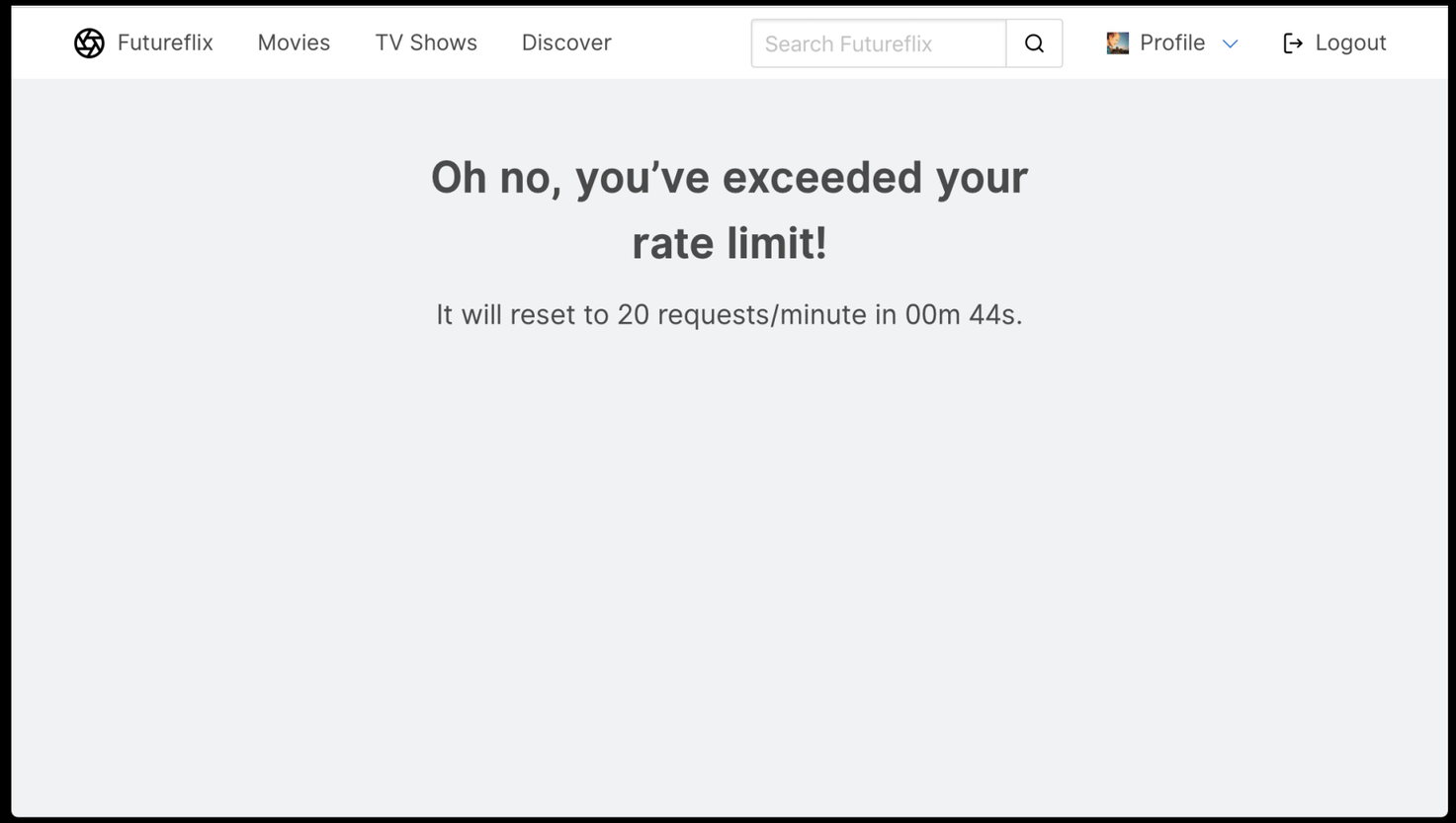
Usage-Based Access Control

- Limits on resource usage
- API/Service rate limiting



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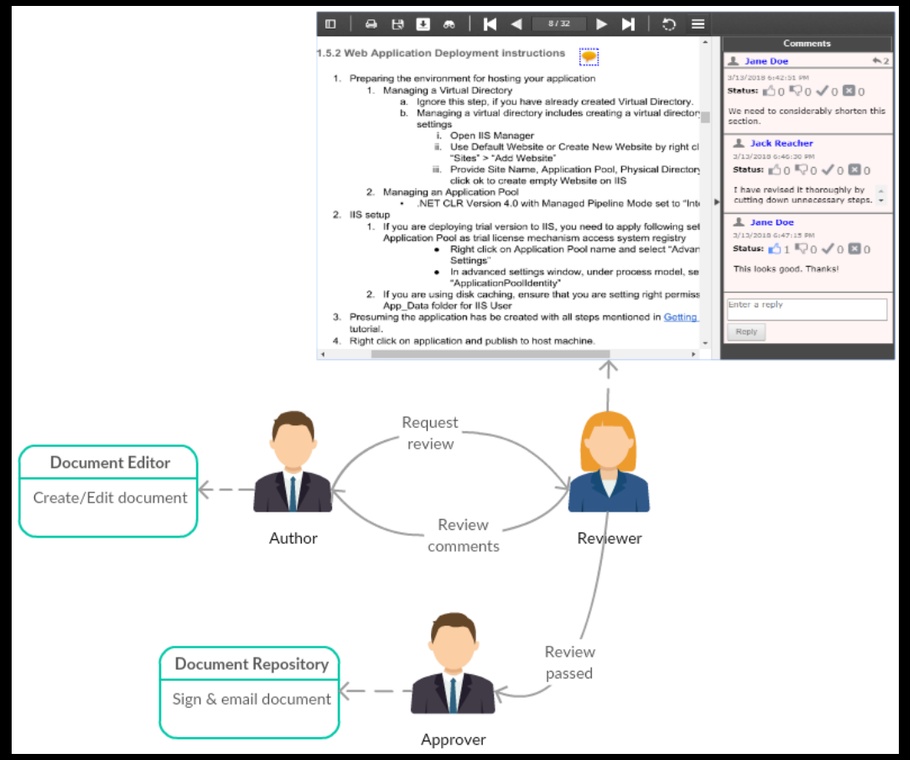
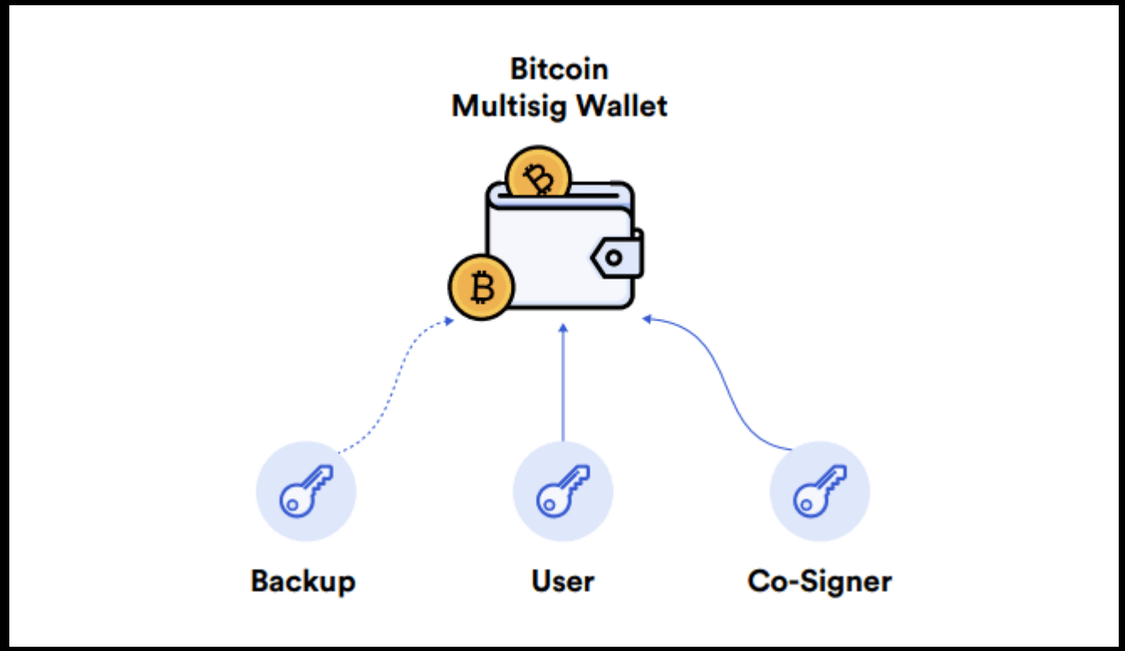
Capability-Based Access Control

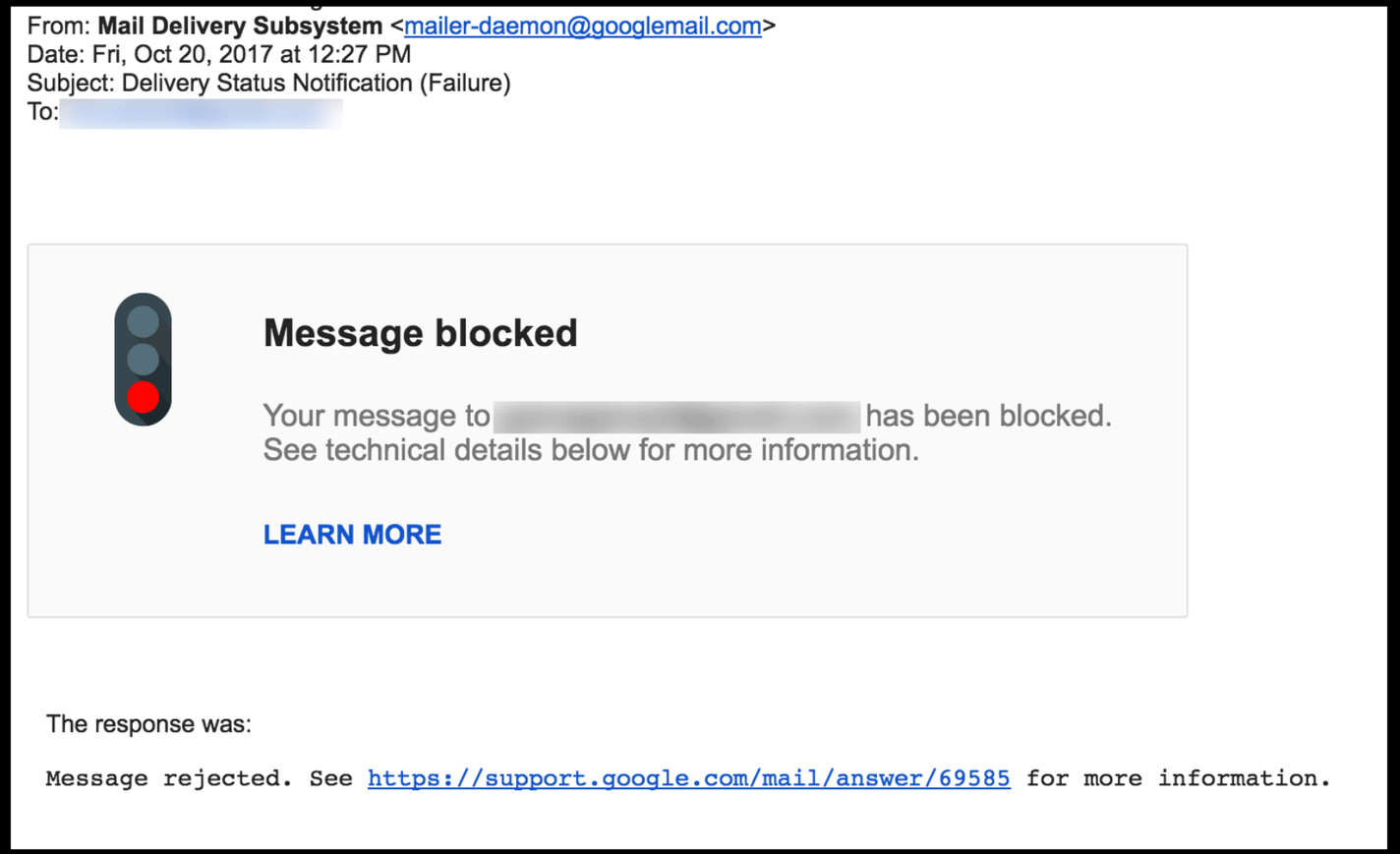
- Possession of a specific capability
- Smart contracts
- Workflow System





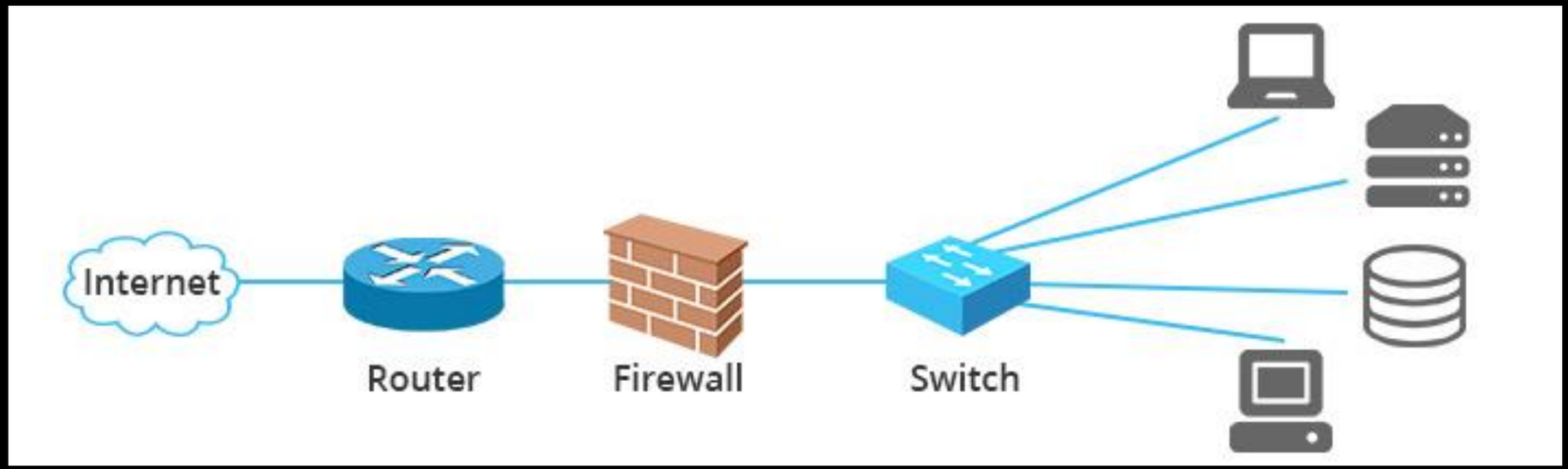
Content-Based Access Control

- Based on the content of the resource
- Email Systems with content-based filtering



Access Control List

- Data structures that has information about granted access
- Routers & Firewalls



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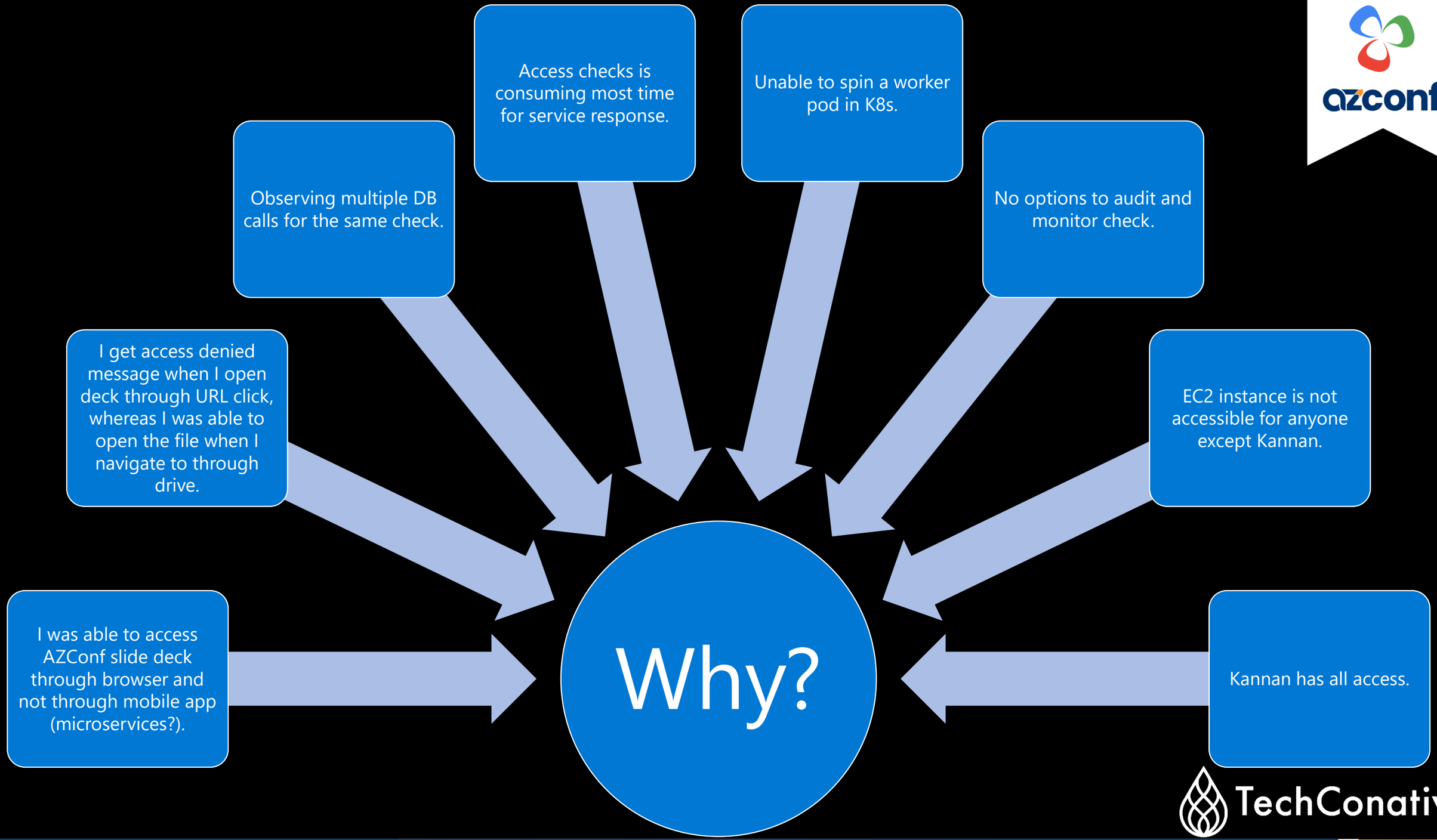
Access Control Techniques

- Discretionary Access Control → owner controls access
- Role-Based Access Control → based on role memberships
- Attribute-Based Access Control → based on user attributes
- Rule-Based Access Control → based on the policies
- Time-Based Access Control → based on specific time
- Location-Based Access Control → based on physical or network location
- Usage-Based Access Control → based on resource usage
- Capability-Based Access Control → based on possession of certain
- Content-Based Access Control → based on attributes of the resource
- Access Control List → based on list



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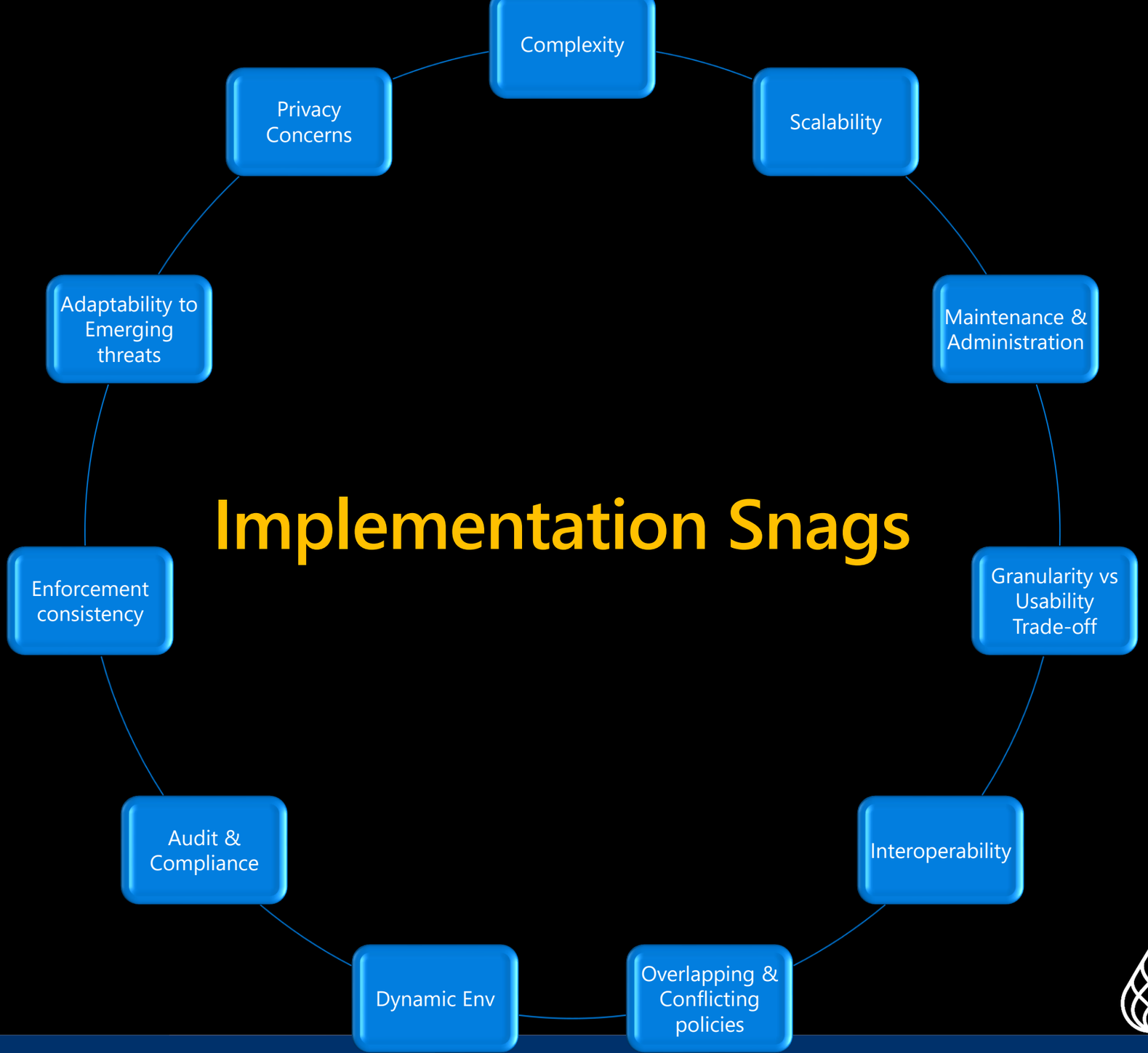
Implementation Snags



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To The Rescue

ORY – Keto | OPA

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ORY – Keto

- Based on Google's Zanzibar paper(2019).
- Subset implementation of Zanzibar.
- Array of services focused on enterprise authorization.
- Open-source - Self-hosted, Managed Services.

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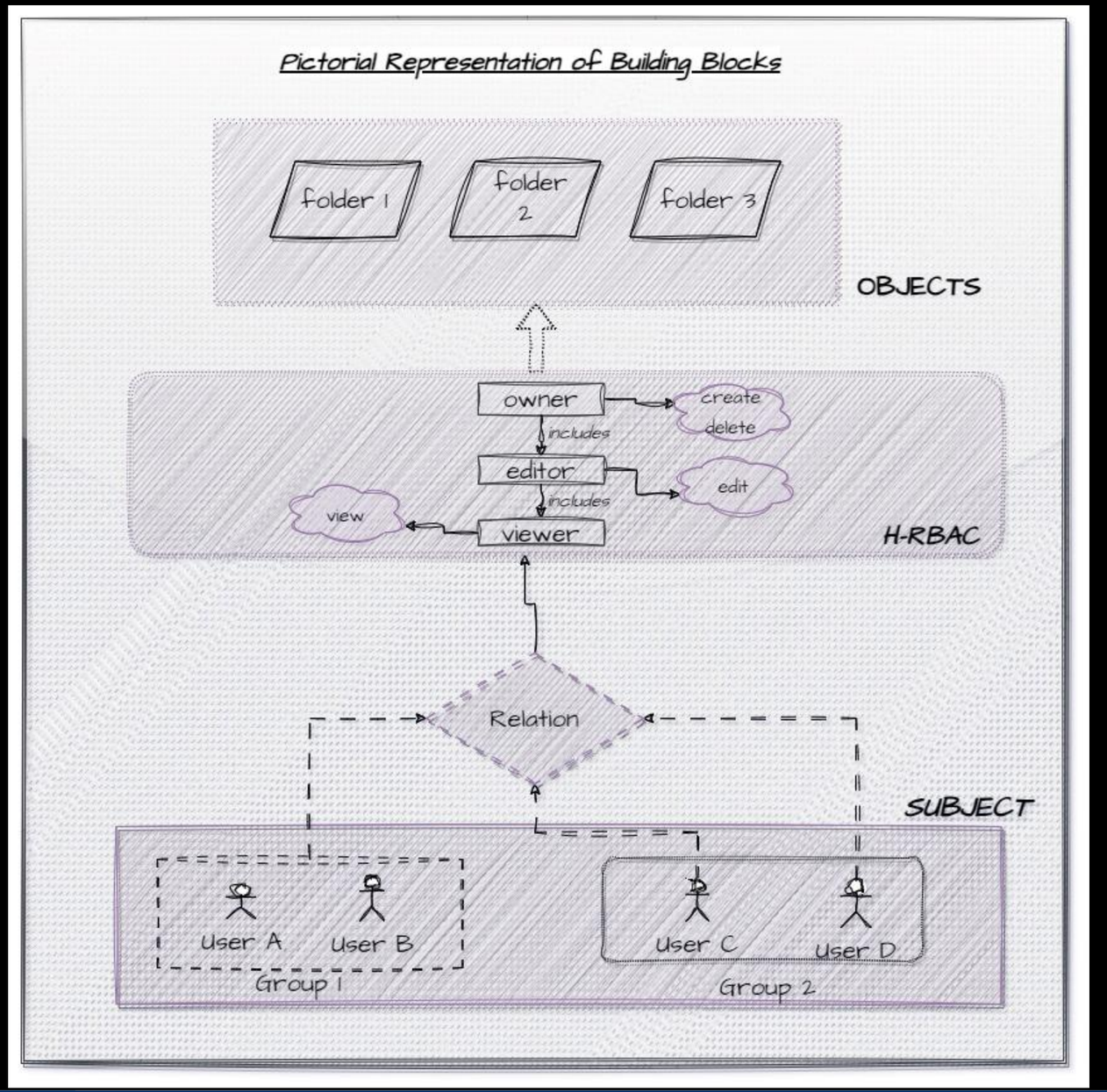
ORY – Keto - Primer



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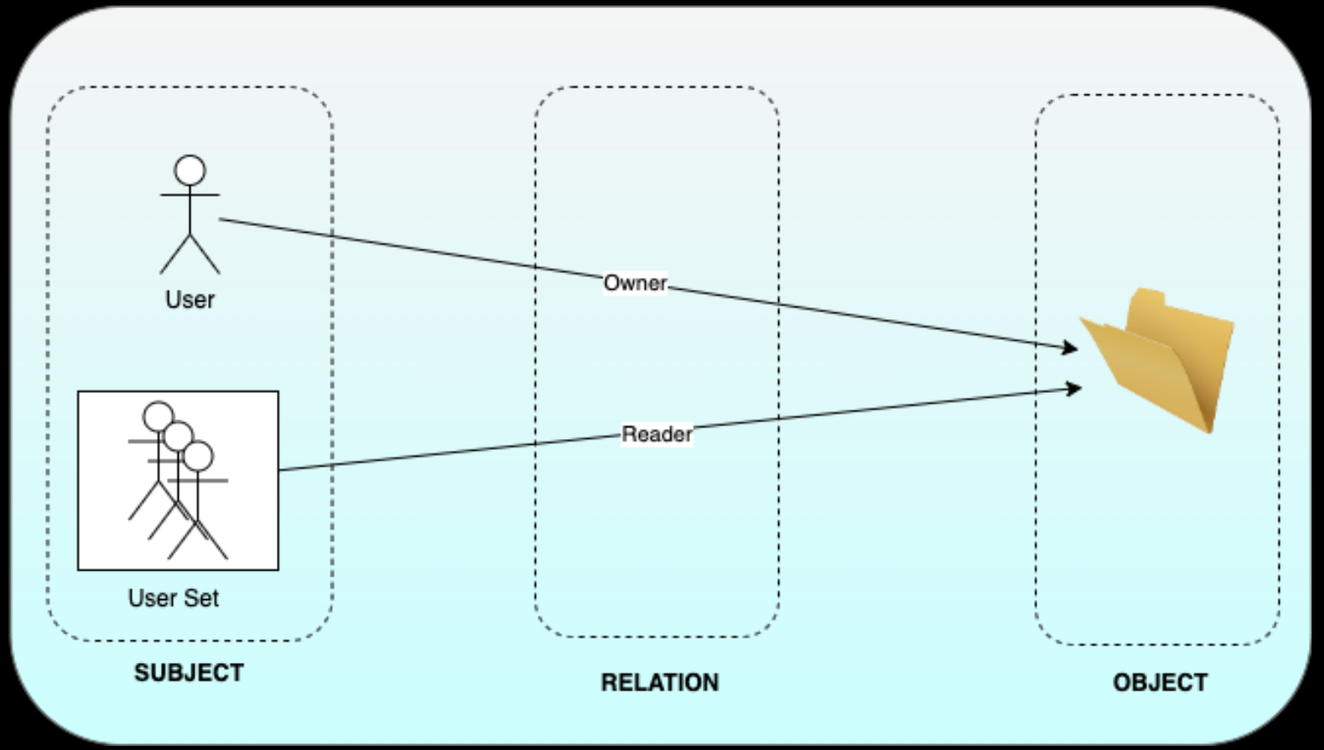
ORY – Keto - Primer



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ORY - Keto's way

Problems:

- Complex and inconsistent access definitions.
- Inconsistent & scattered implementation

ORY's solution:

- Keto's server answering the authz calls. - Avoiding scattered implementations
- ORY Permission Language - Effort to standardize permission definition.

ORY - Keto's way

Problems:

- Performance and scalability.

ORY's solution:

- Based on Zanzibar, which is built for internet scale with a 99.9th percentile of 93ms.

ORY - Keto's way

Problems:

- Cost of development

ORY's solution:

- Proven design available for use.
- Array of tools to secure enterprise systems.
- Managed service available to minimize OPS efforts.

ORY - Keto

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ORY - Keto

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ORY - Keto - Catches

- Based on Google's Zanzibar paper (2019). - But not Zanzibar yet.
- The claim of 93ms at 99.9 percentile comes from running server in the magnitude of 10,000 X.
- With a single-server setup of 100 users and 200 resources we got 95th percentile as 15.1s (not ms!)

ORY - Keto - When not to use?

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You “might” not need when “ALL” the below conditions are met

- Your authz rules can be kept in-memory.
- Getting your context data is not costly(For example, ACL type list containing list of allowed users is costly to get).
- When you need dynamic resource types and rules, ORY Keto is still evolving on this front.

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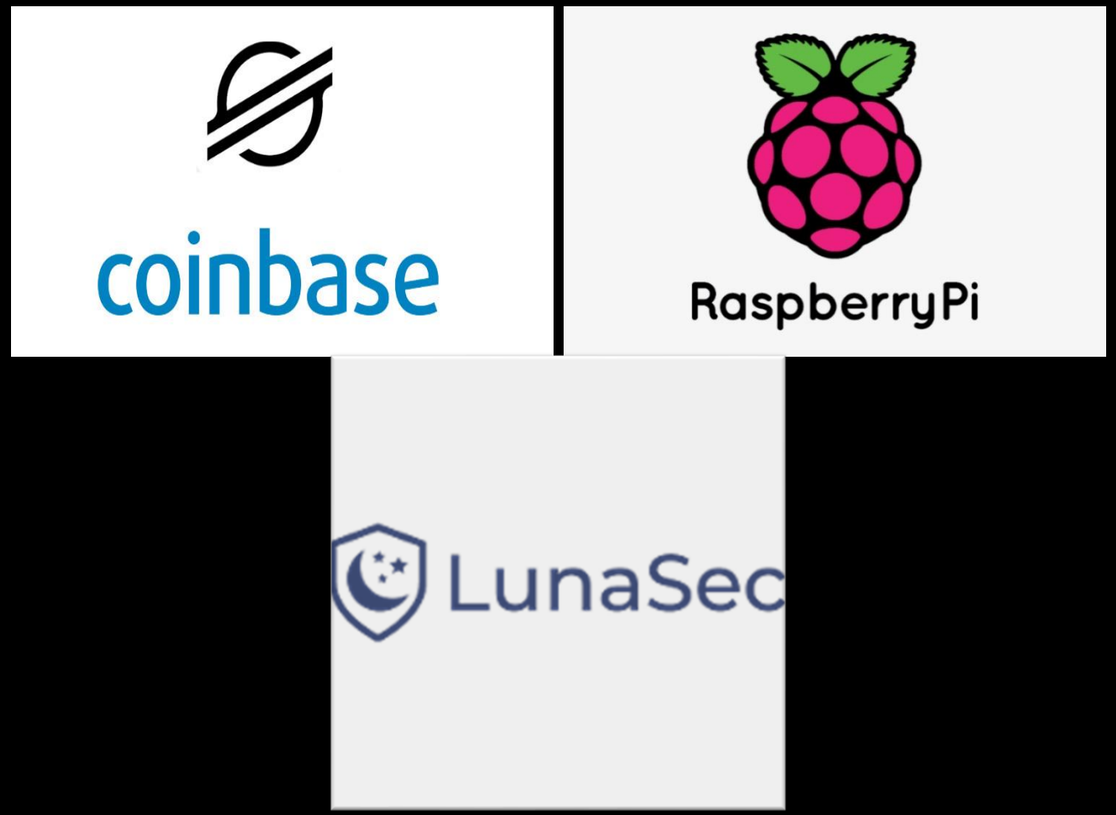
Companies using ORY Keto



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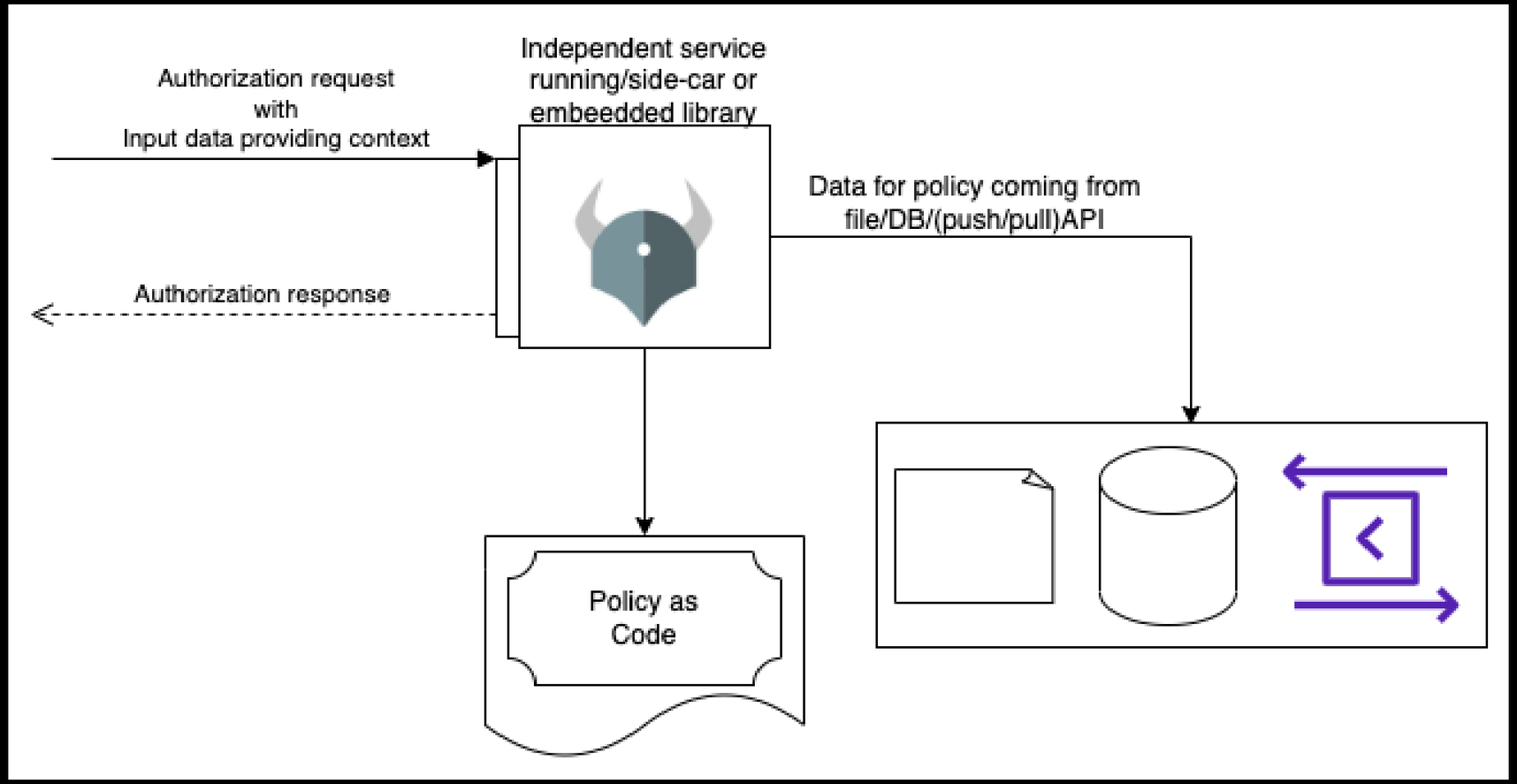
OPA(Open Policy Agent)

- CNCF support project(“Graduated” level)
- General purpose policy engine.
- Supported modes - Embedded, side-car, Individual service.

OPA - Primer


Authorization request
with
Input data providing context
Independent service
running/side-car or
embeedded library
Data for policy coming from
file/DB/(push/pull)API
Authorization response
Policy as
Code

OPA's way of solving

Problems:

- Complex and inconsistent access definitions.
- Inconsistent & scattered implementation

OPA's solution:

- OPA server answering the authz calls. - Avoiding spread-across implementations
- Rego - Permission DSL.
- Testing frameworks - Helps on catching ambiguous definitions upfront.

OPA's way of solving

Problems:

- Cost of development

OPA's solution:

- Matured policy engine, available for use right away.
- Ecosystem of tools helps in fast and stable progress of authz definitions.

OPA's way of solving

Problems:

- Performance and scalability

OPA's solution:

- In-memory policy engine.
- Sidecar/embedded packaging.

OPA - Other advantages

- Tools like Rego playground, IDE plugin.
- Compilation of policies in to WASM module.
- Enterprise microservice ecosystem integrations eg Envoy, Istio, K8S, etc

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OPA - A silver Bullet?

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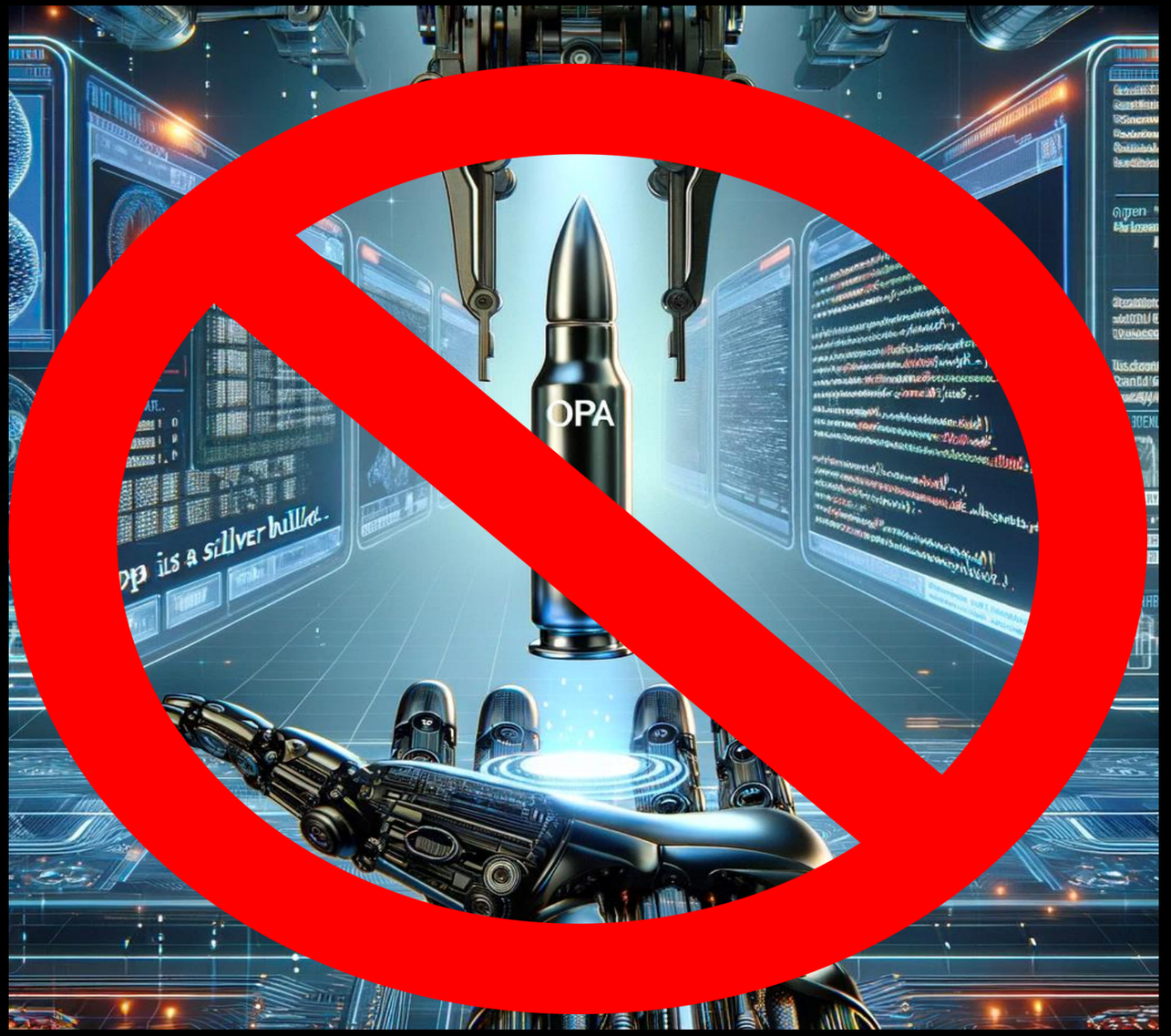
OPA - A silver Bullet?



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OPA - When not to use?

Handling Huge Context Data

- Having the policies and (context) Data in-memory poses practical challenges.
- Not ideal for designs like ACLs(Access Control List).

Companies using OPA

Honourable Mentions

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Gold Partner

PRESIDIO®

Silver Partner

ManageEngine Site24x7 Crafted at ZOHO Corp.

SAGENT

Securra Health

kijn Where we belong

Syncfusion®

PRO

Q & A

Thank You!

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