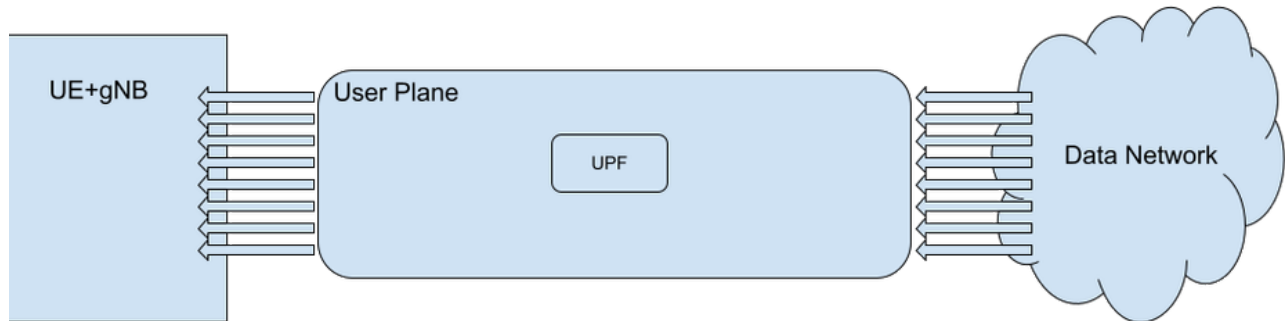# User Plane

DD Owned by David Cherney DISH ···
Last updated: Jun 16, 2023 · Add Workflow

For users to have access to applications through their mobile (or otherwise 5G core connected) UE, the data for those applications must pass through the core. With very few exceptions, that data passes through only one core network function, the UPF.

Importantly, although one virtual network function is involved, the networking described here is virtual too; the data will need to pass through many cables and routers to go through the physical path underlying this very simple virtual path.

While this virtual network structure of the user plane appears simple, you will see that there is a lot going on in the UPF.