

Modern software architectures

Tapti Palit

Outline

- Microservice architecture and communication
- Event-driven architecture with Kafka
- Kubernetes

Microservices outline

- Monolithic applications
- Microservices and decentralized data
- Data model and storage engine
 - Relational databases, log-structured merge trees (LSM), event logs (more in Kafka section), in-memory cache
- Communication styles
 - Text-based vs binary data exchange formats
 - Synchronous (RPC), asynchronous (MQs), publish-subscribe models

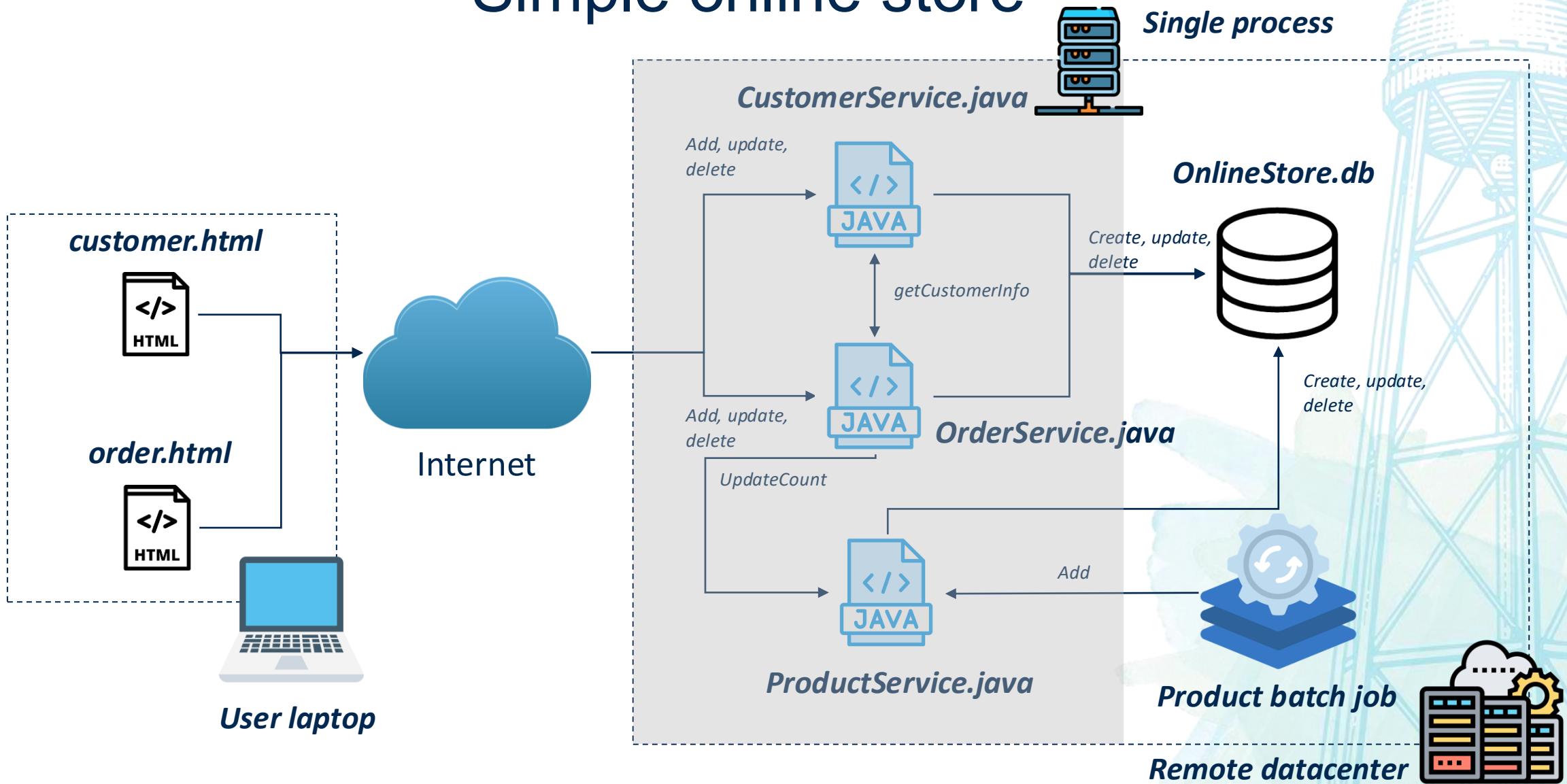
All about the data!

- Modern software architecture is data-intensive
- Most of the time we'll be concerned about
 - Who owns data?
 - How to optimally store data?
 - How is data shared?
 - How to limit overhead due to data-sharing?

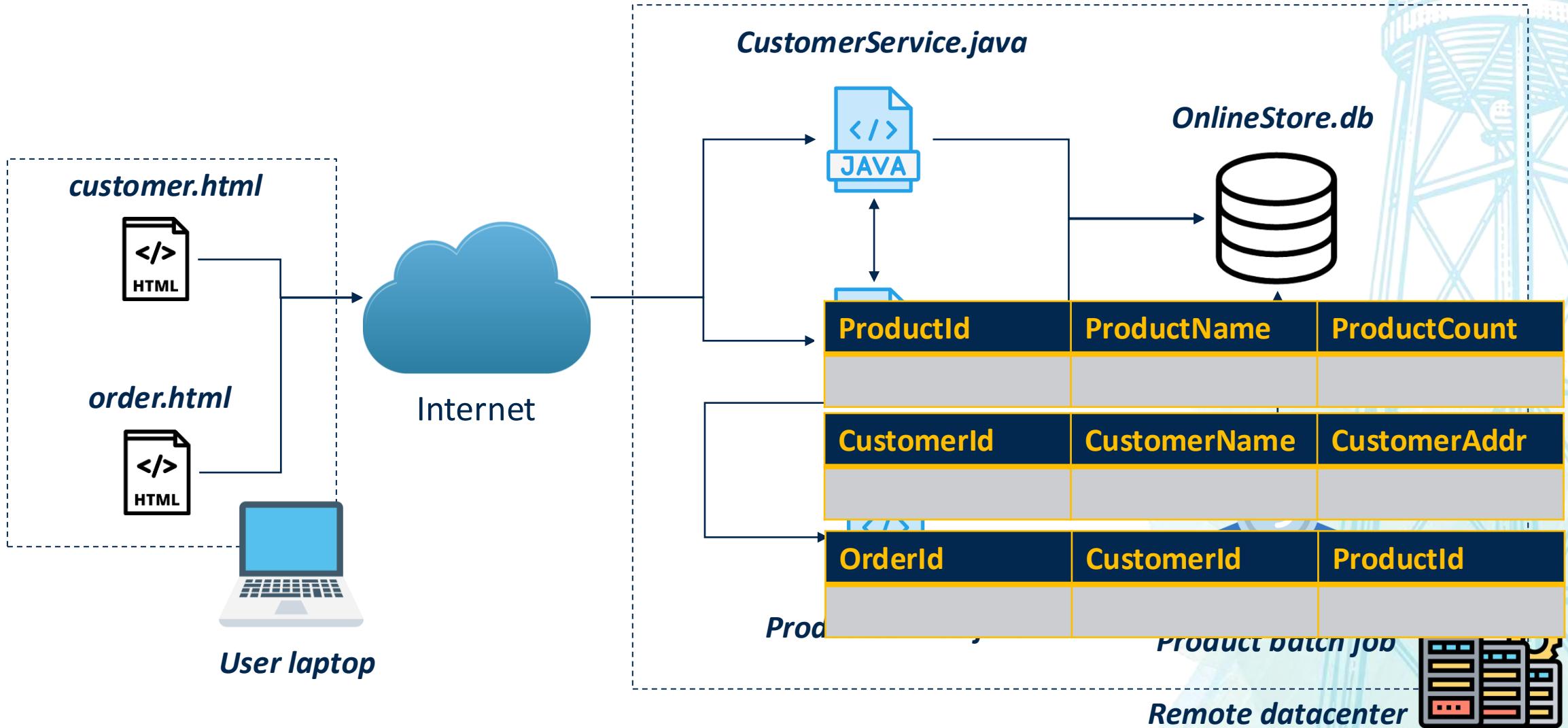
Monolithic software architecture

- Widely used in early, mid 2000s
- All software components are part of the same application
- All software components run on the same machine
- Typically developed in the same language stack

Simple online store



Simple online store



Relational databases

- Consists of tables
- Each table contains a primary key
 - Database will not allow insertion of two records with same primary key



The background features a faint watermark of a water tower and a bridge.

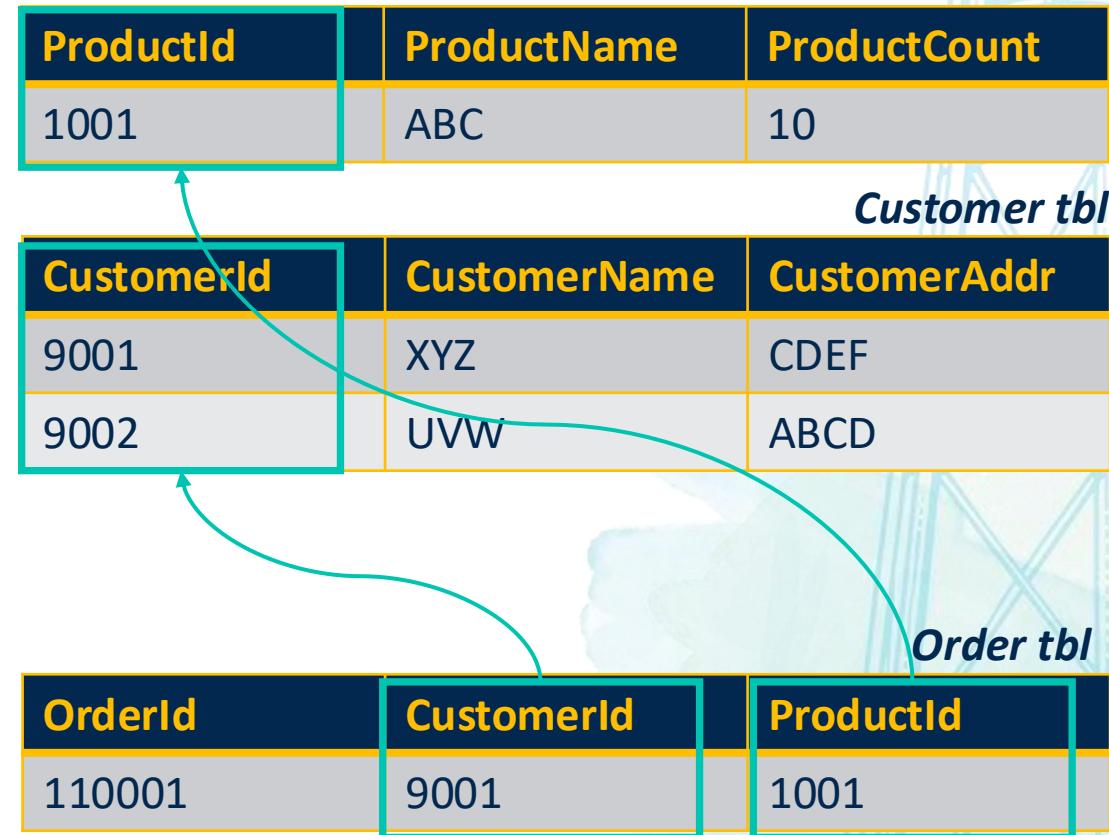
Products tbl		
ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10

Customer tbl		
CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF

Order tbl		
OrderId	CustomerId	ProductId
110001	9001	1001

Foreign keys

- Relational databases maintain relations through foreign keys
- Foreign keys **must refer** to primary keys of other tables
 - Enforce referential integrity
- A table can contain one or more foreign keys

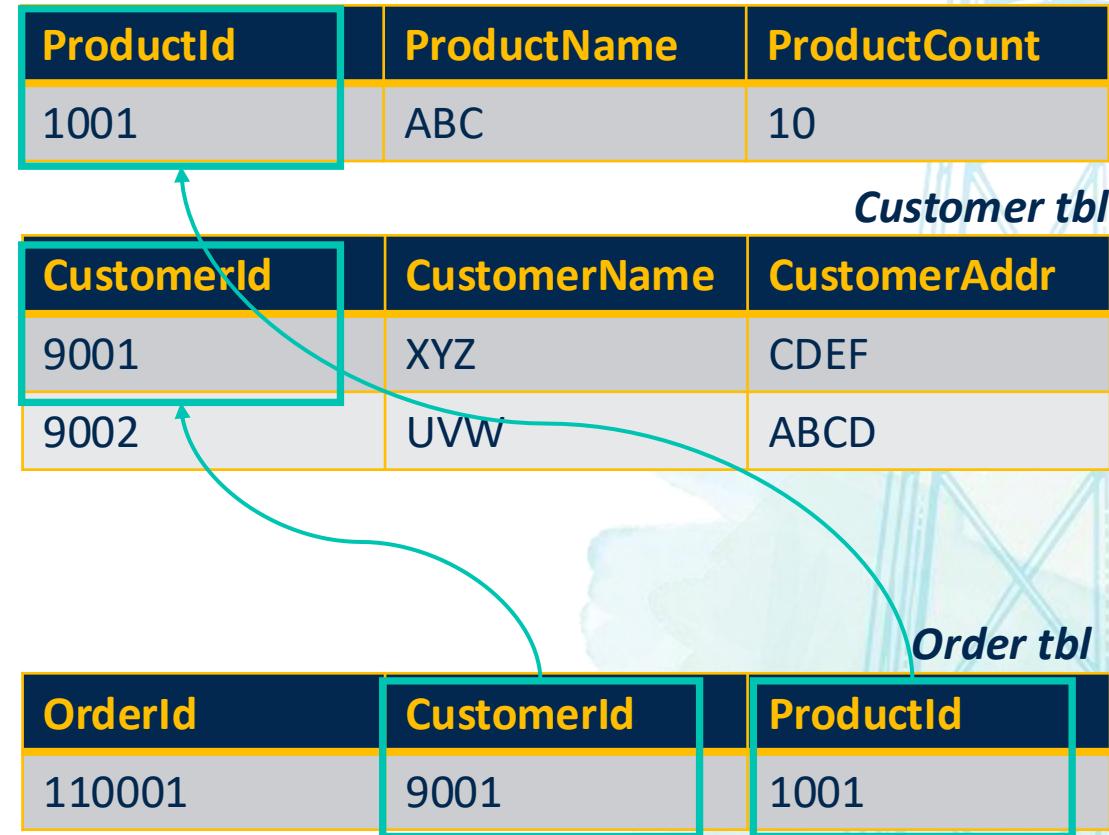


Structured query language (SQL)

- SQL used to interface between application and database
- ```
CREATE TABLE Products (
 ProductId INT PRIMARY KEY,
 ProductName VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
 ProductCount INT NOT NULL);
```
- ```
INSERT INTO Products (ProductId, ProductName,
ProductCount) VALUES (1001, 'ABC', 10);
```

SQL joins

- Allows table joins
- For e.g. find order details for shipping, including product name, customer name, and address

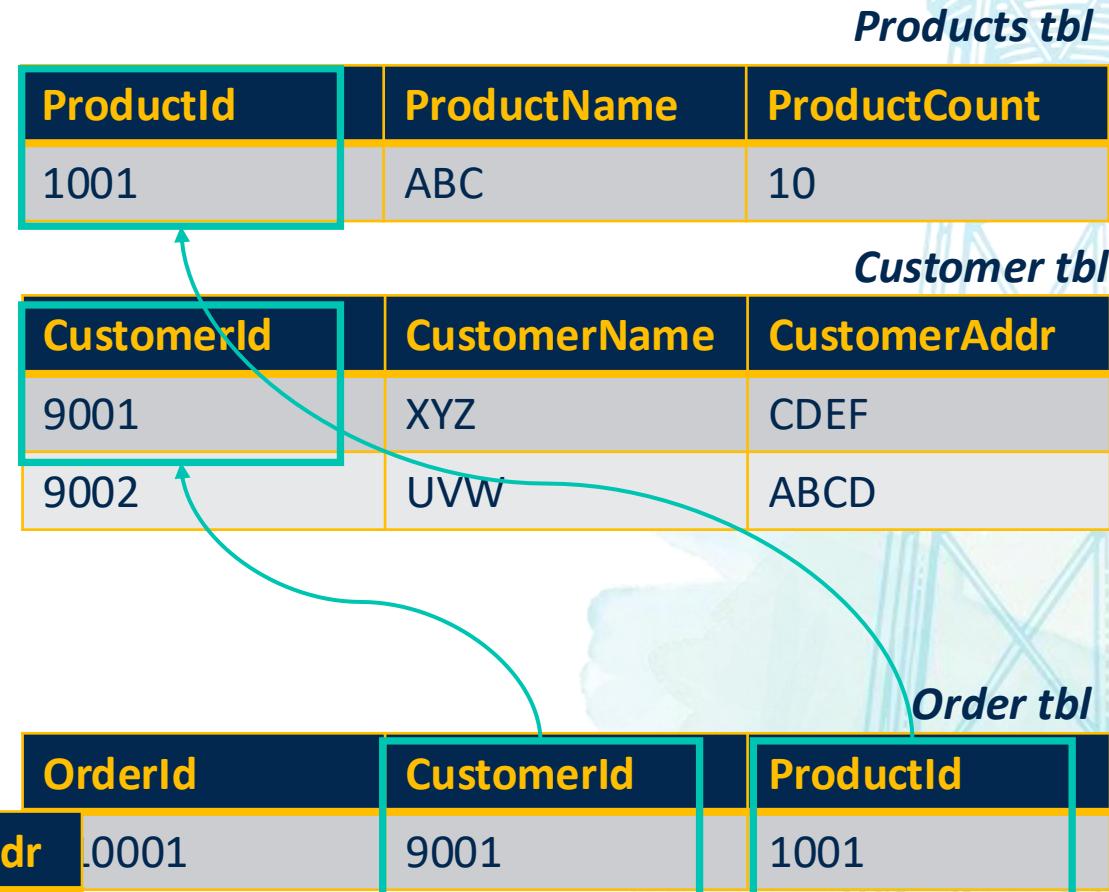


SQL joins

SELECT

```
    o.OrderId,  
    p.ProductName,  
    c.CustomerName,  
    c.CustomerAddr  
FROM Orders o  
JOIN Products p  
    ON o.ProductId = p.ProductId  
JOIN Customers c  
    ON o.CustomerId =  
        c.CustomerId;
```

o.OrderId	p.ProductName	c.CustomerName	c.CustomerAddr
110001	9001	XYZ	CDEF



Need for joins

- Imagine no support for joins
- Order information must contain product name, customer name, and customer address to ship the order

ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10

CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	ABCD

OrderId	ProductName	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
110001	ABC	XYZ	CDEF

Need for joins

- Lack of join support increases data duplication
- Data denormalization

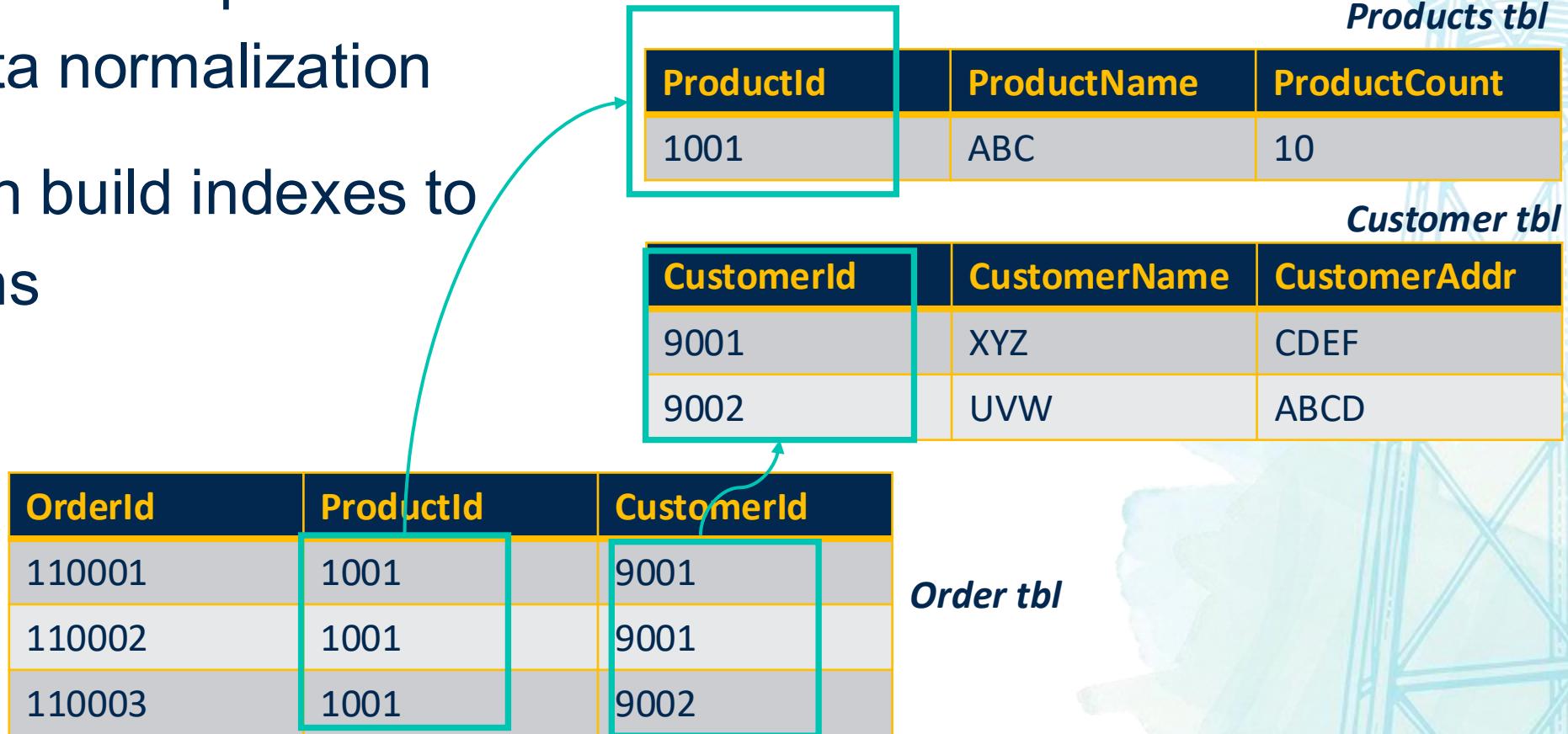
ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10

CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	ABCD

OrderId	ProductName	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
110001	ABC	XYZ	CDEF
110002	ABC	XYZ	CDEF
110003	ABC	UVW	ABCD

Normalization

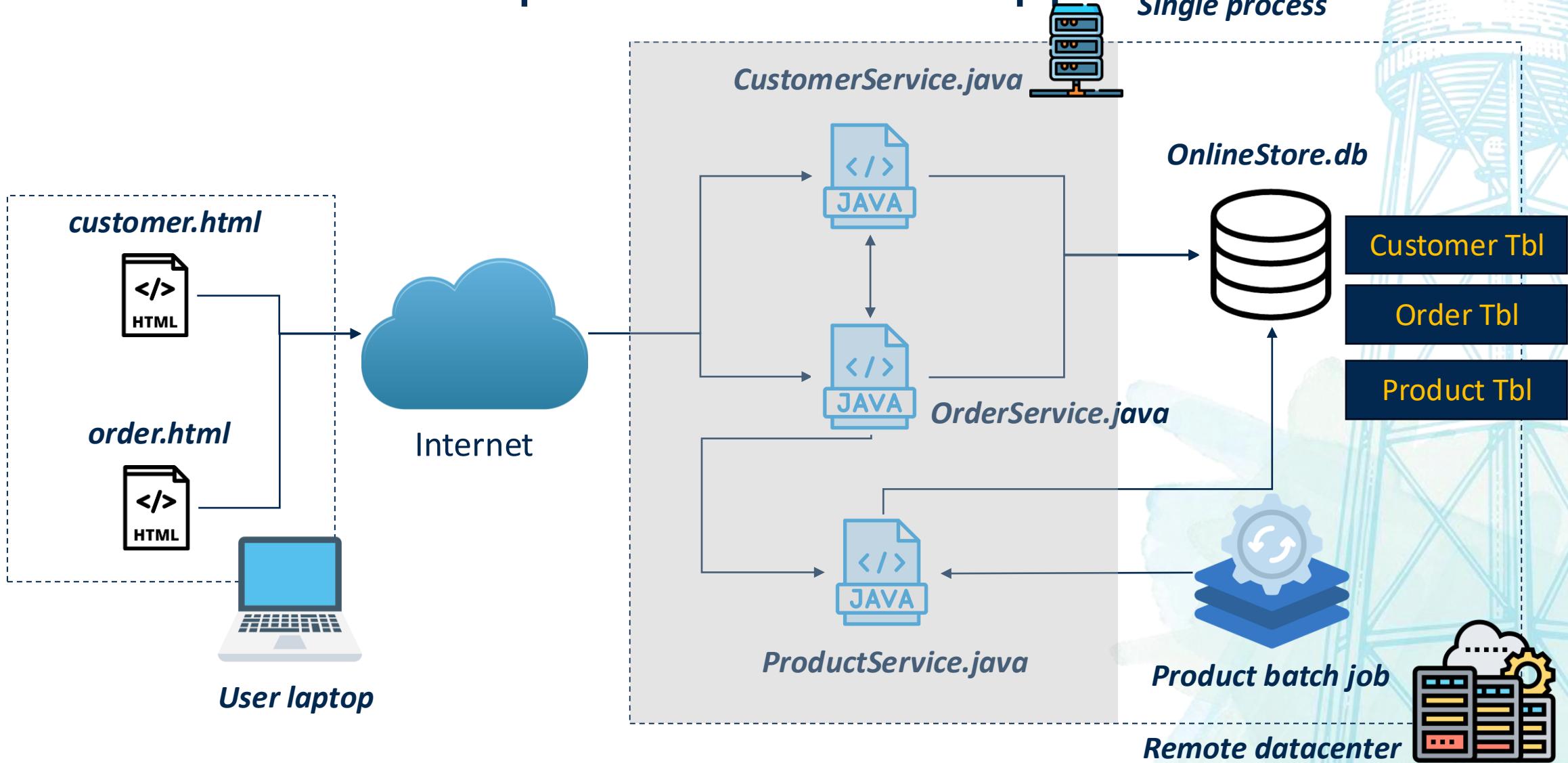
- Joins reduce data duplication and allow data normalization
- Database can build indexes to speed up joins



SQL != relational databases

- Note: not quite specific to relational databases
- Apache Cassandra, Apache HBase, Apache Kafka + ksqlDB are not relational databases, but support SQL-like query language

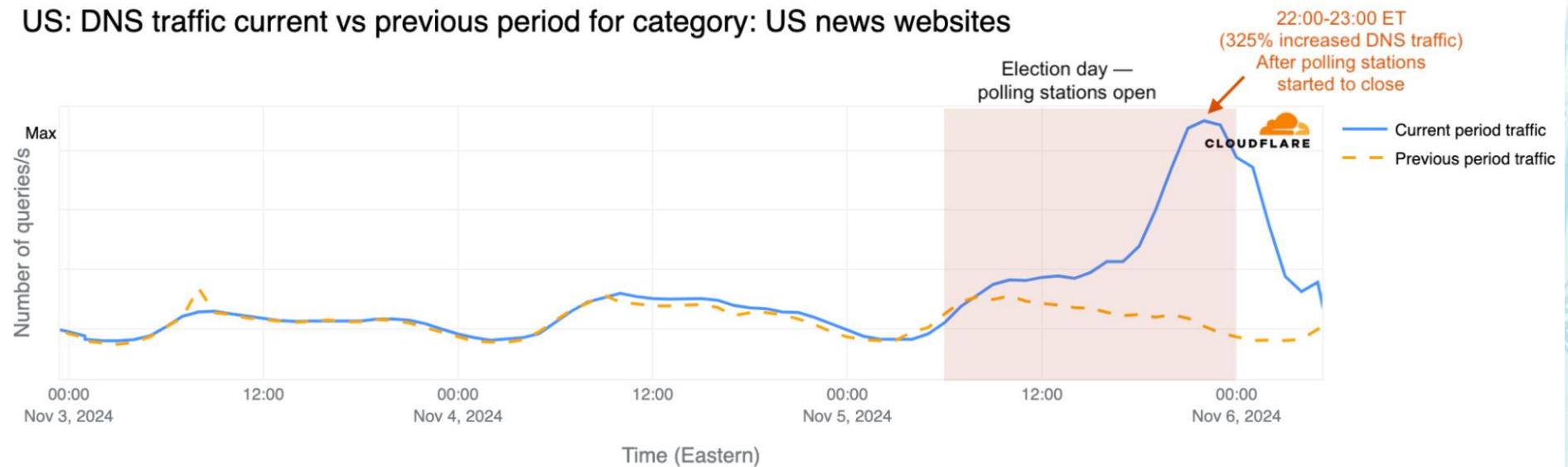
Simple online store app



Scalability

- Online traffic is not constant
- Can spike due to planned events
 - Product launches
 - Political events

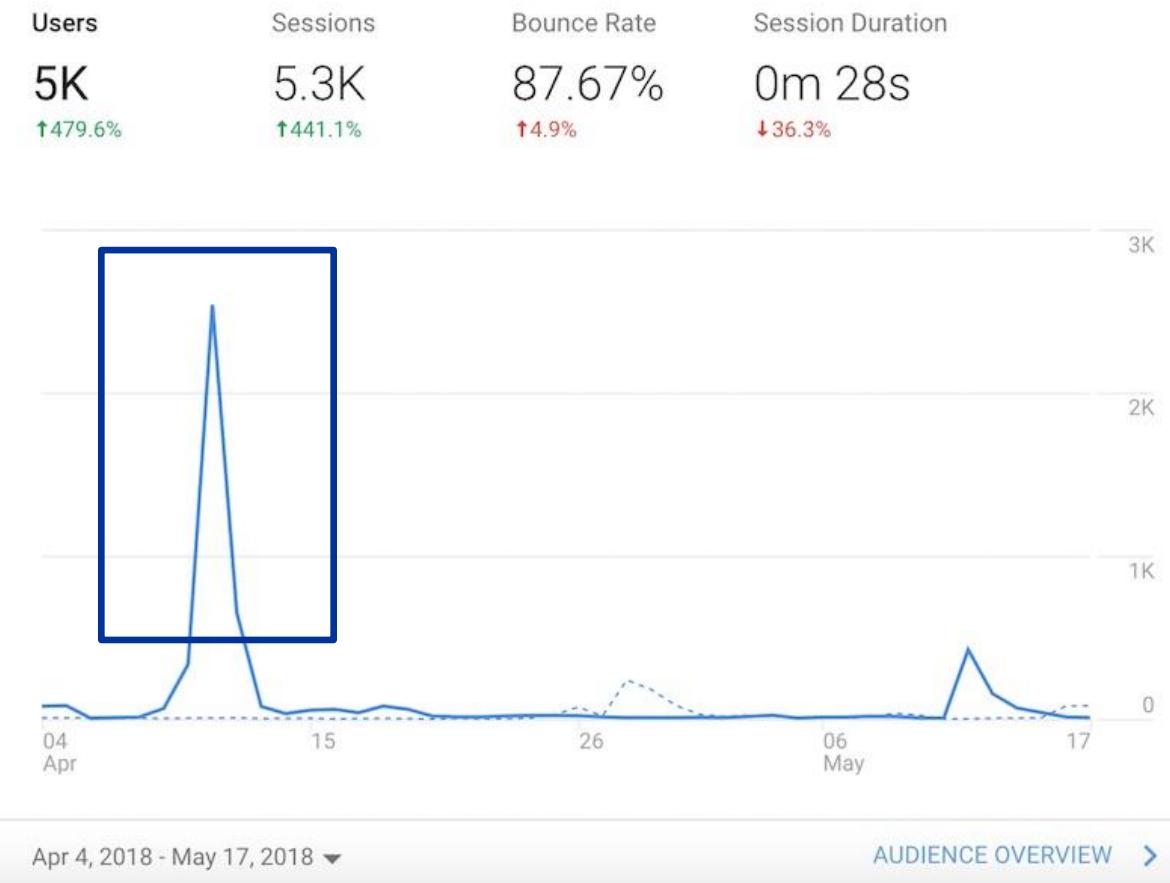
<https://blog.cloudflare.com/exploring-internet-traffic-shifts-and-cyber-attacks-during-the-2024-us-election/>



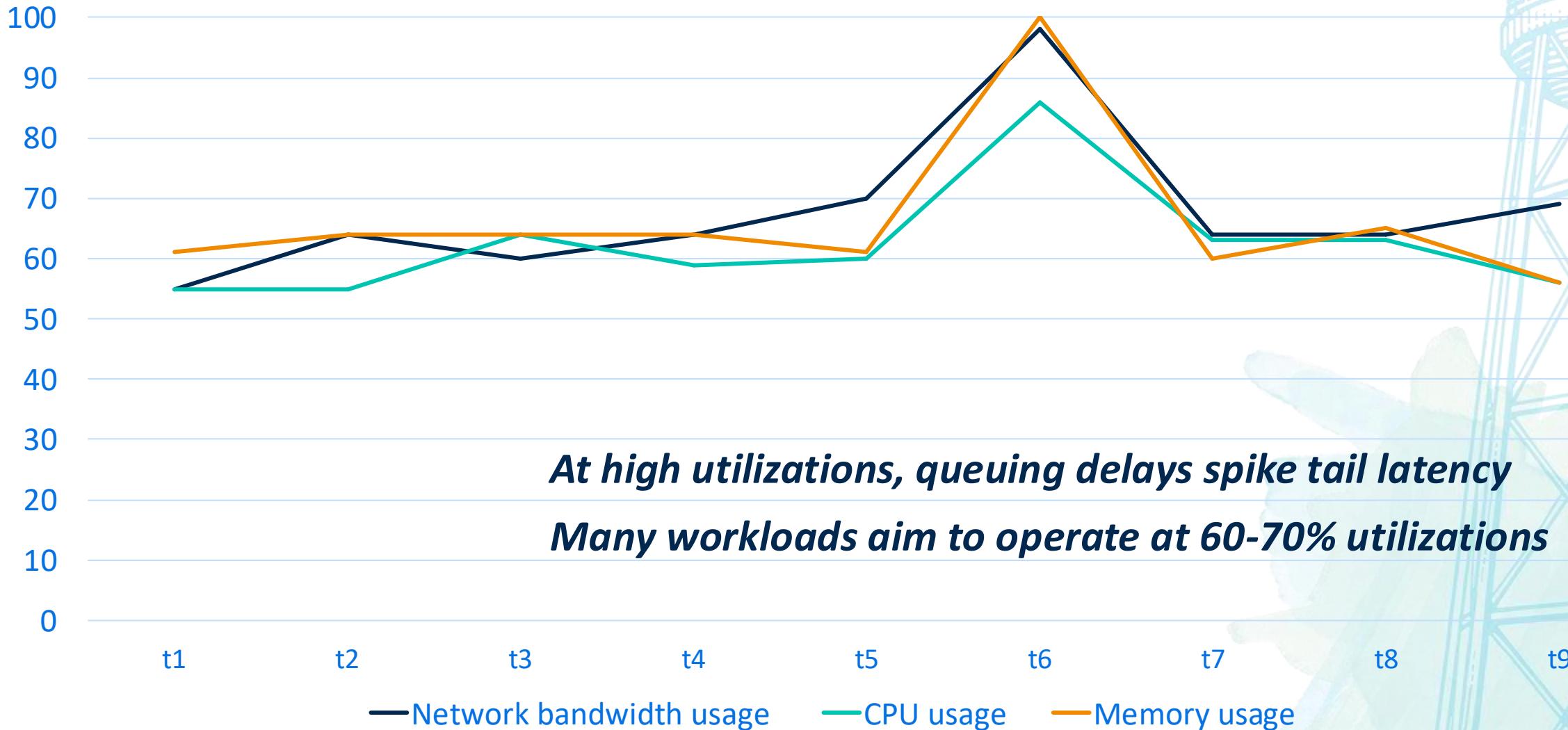
Scalability

- Unplanned events
 - Blog post goes viral
- System design should *adapt* to handle such events

<https://www.residualthoughts.com/2018/05/20/traffic-data-from-a-viral-post/>

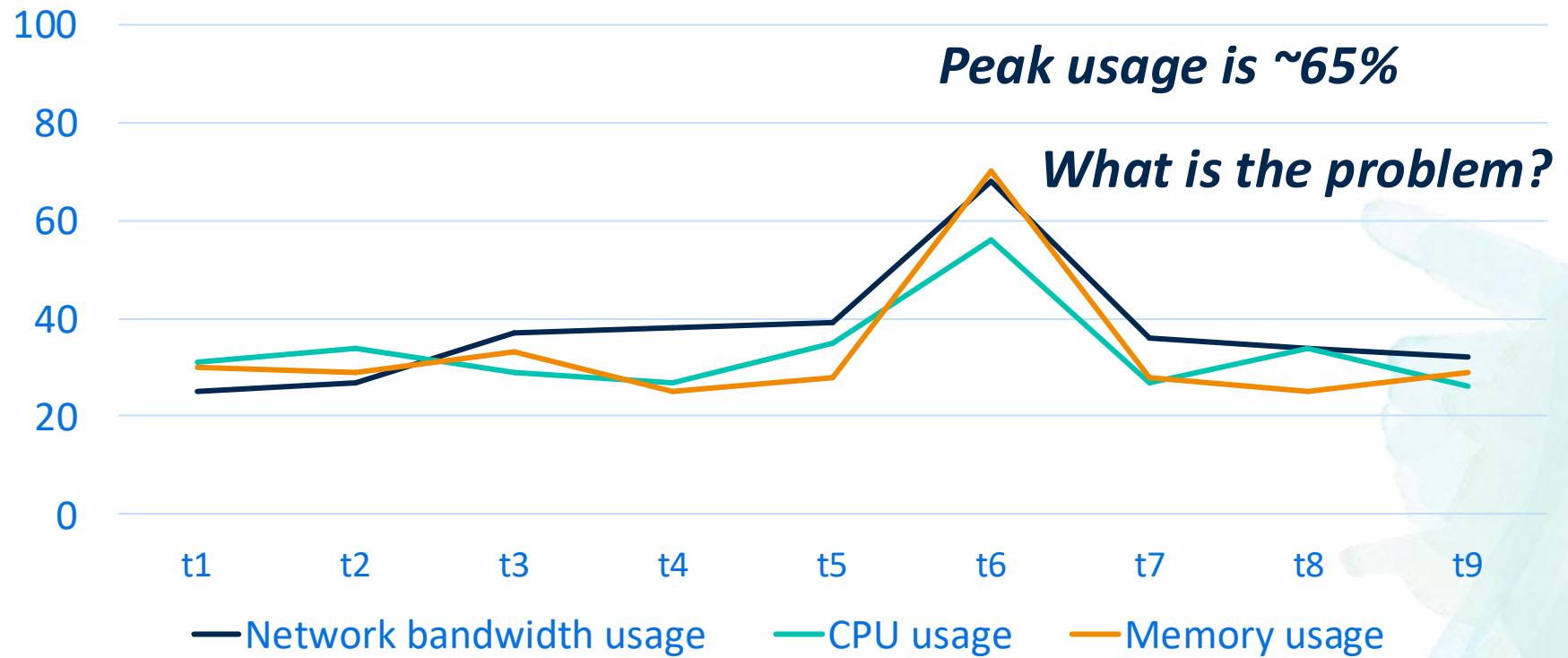


Traffic spike to online store



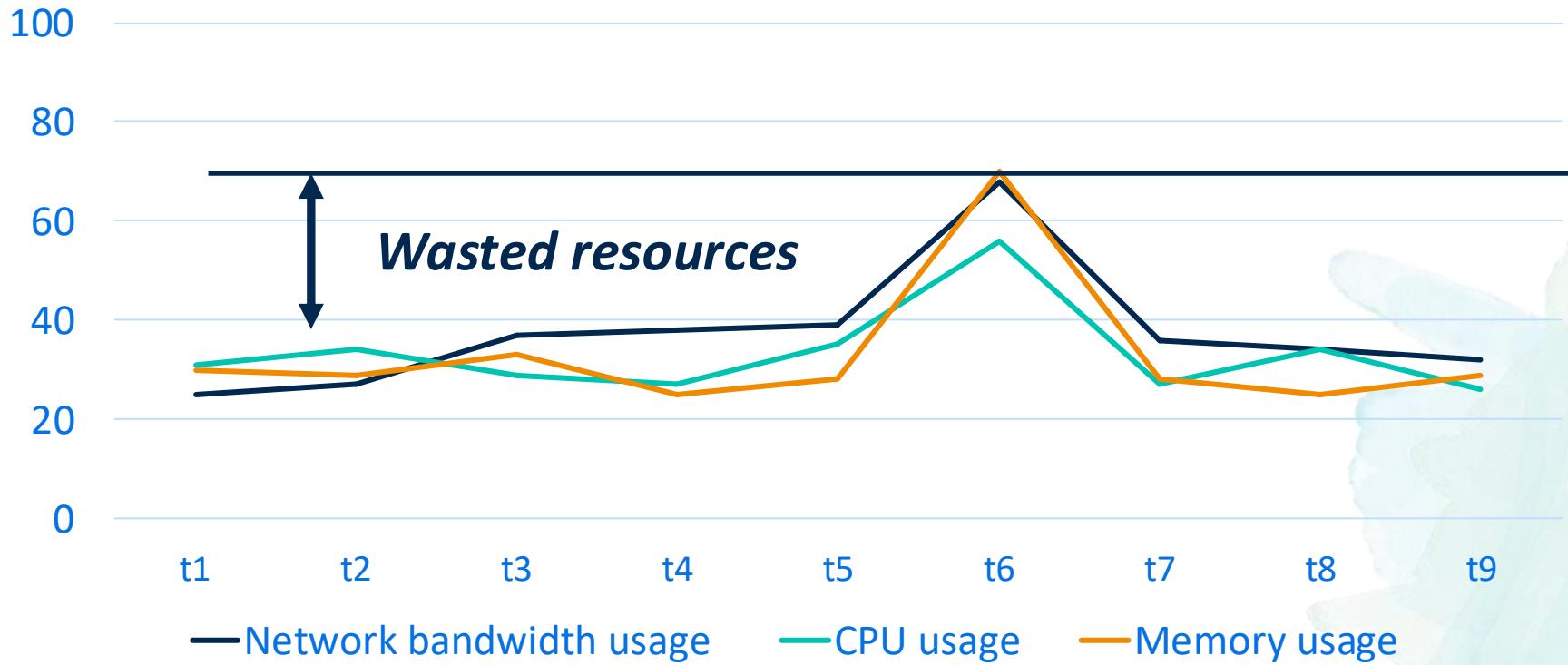
Vertical scaling

- Use more powerful machines
- Add more CPUs, DRAM, network bandwidth



Vertical scaling limitations

Resource wastage when requests are not bursty

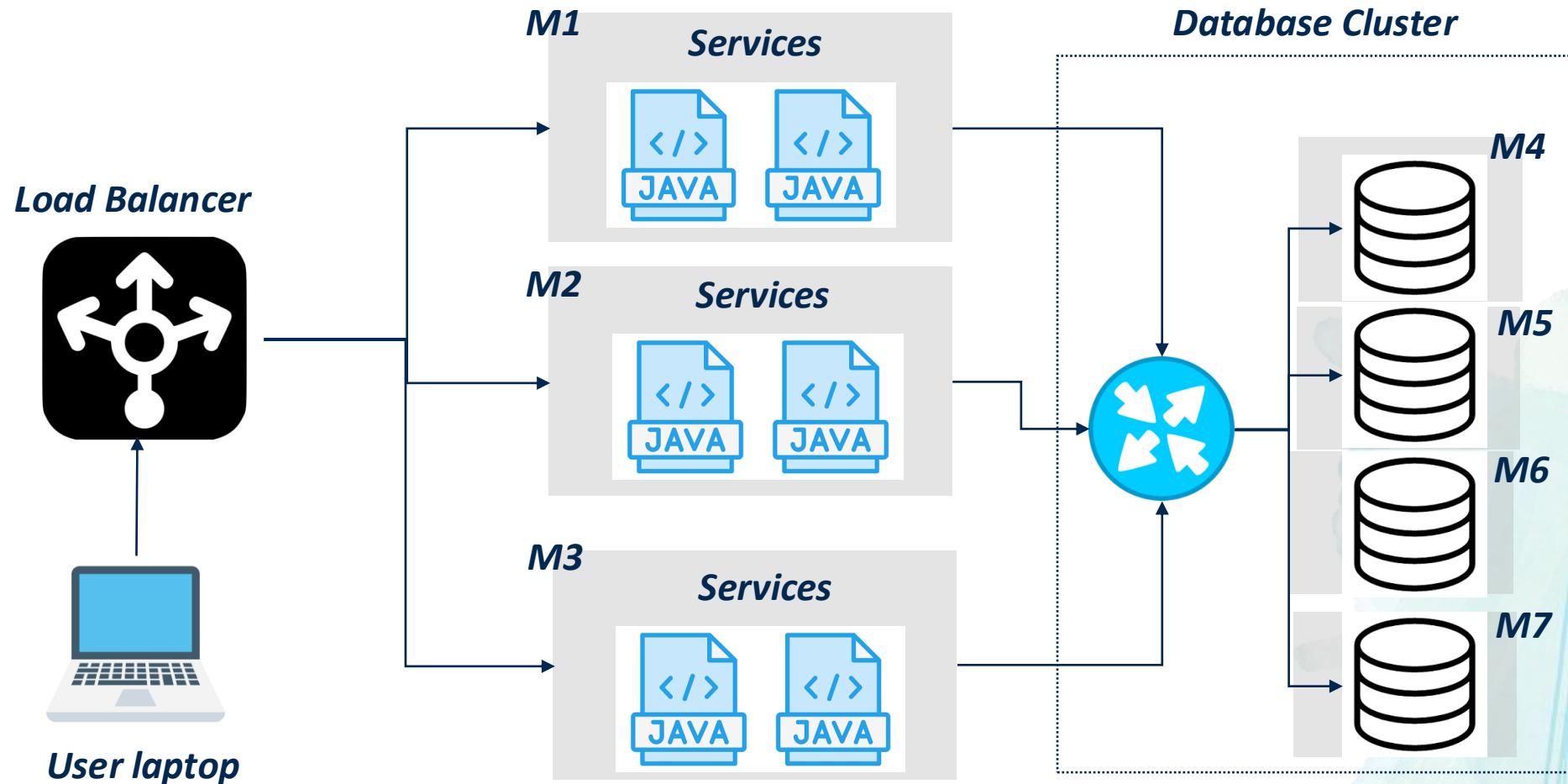


Vertical scaling limitations

- Twitter has 200M-300M active users per day
- No single machine, no matter how powerful, can support that
- Goal: autoscaling
 - **Dynamically** spawn new machines during **high loads**
 - Not possible using vertical scaling alone
 - More in Kubernetes module

Horizontal scaling for monolithic apps

Add more machines and replicate application on each machine



Load balancer

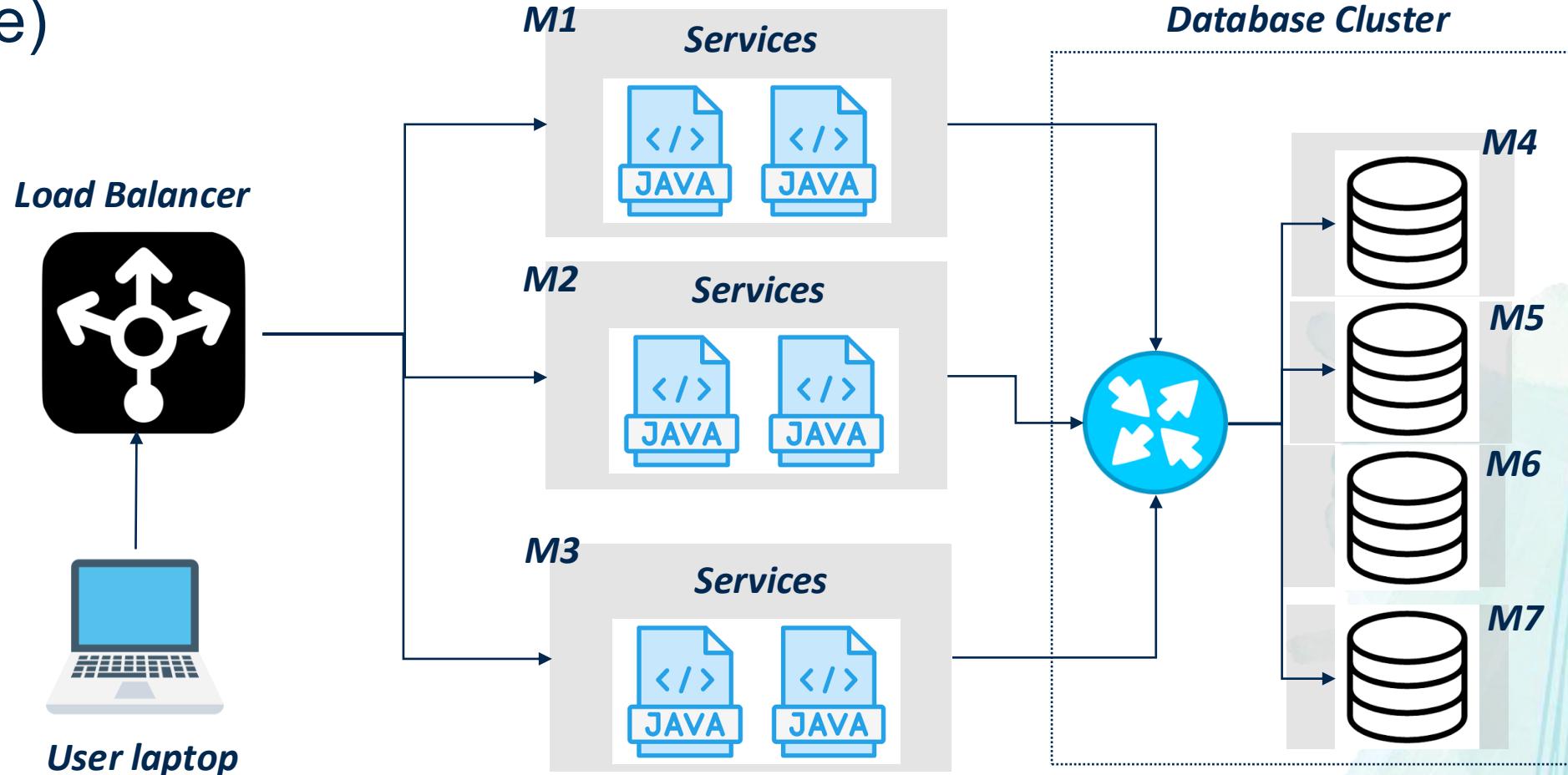
- Distributes incoming requests across multiple servers to improve scalability and availability
- Strategies
 - Round Robin – Sequentially routes requests across servers; simple but doesn't account for server load
 - Least Connections – Directs traffic to the server with the fewest active connections; adapts well to uneven load
 - Least Response Time – Chooses the server with the fastest response time and fewest connections; performance-oriented
 - Random Policy – Selects servers randomly; useful in stateless, uniform environments
 - Weighted Distribution – Allocates requests based on server capacity (e.g., CPU power, memory)
- Each strategy has tradeoffs
- More details in Kubernetes module

Horizontal scaling is unbounded

- Necessary for applications like Twitter which have 200M-300M active users per day
 - Can keep on adding machines to support more requests (theoretically unbounded performance)
- Better resource utilization

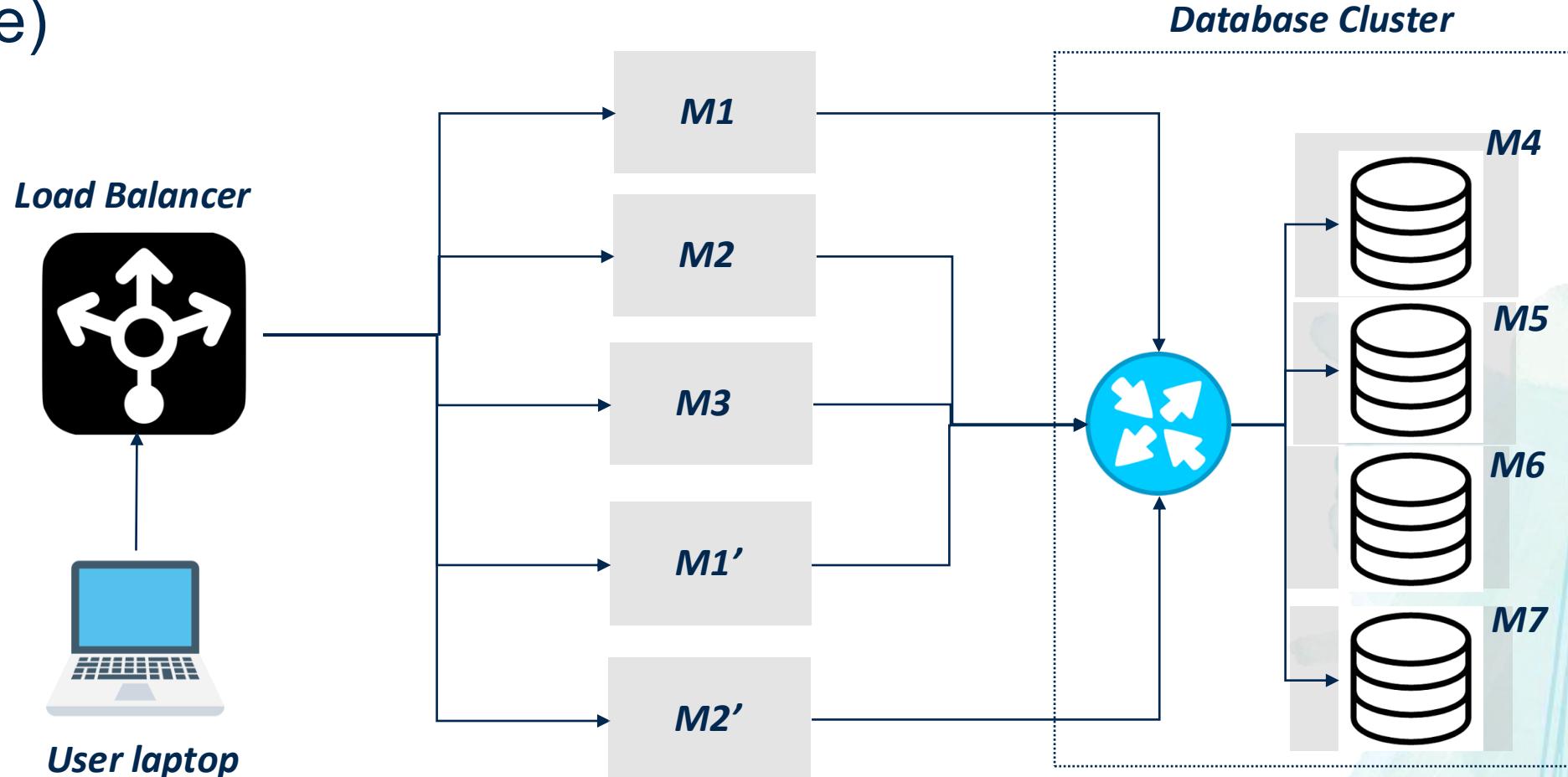
Horizontal scaling is necessary for autoscaling

Auto-scale to more machines during traffic spike (more in Kubernetes module)



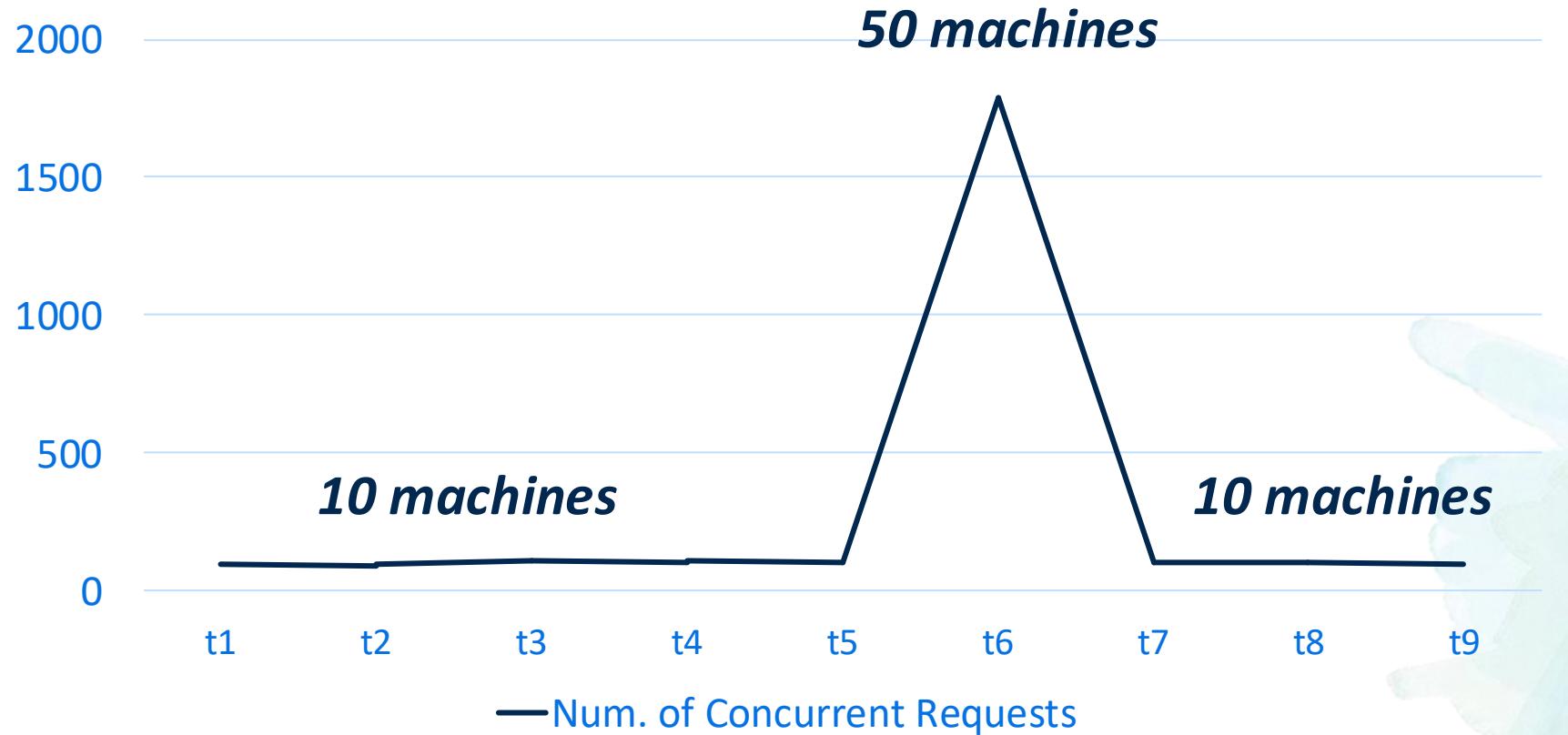
Horizontal scaling is necessary for autoscaling

Auto-scale to more machines during traffic spike (more in Kubernetes module)



Autoscaling

Minimum resource wastage



Horizontal scaling allows autoscaling, but did we solve all problems?

Heterogenous resource requirements across services

- Provisioning is driven by the most resource-hungry service
- Example RAM requirements
 - CustomerService: 32 GB
 - OrderService: 18 GB
 - ProductService: 16 GB
 - Minimum machine RAM? 32 GB

Deployability concerns

- Updating one component requires redeploying the entire application
- Reverting a change requires redeploying the entire application
- Slow, error-prone process

Need for low interdependence

- Software often consists of thousands of components
 - Each component has a dedicated team working on it
- Teams need to work independently
 - ProductService team should be able to update the Products Tbl schema without consulting
- Need low coupling between services
- Solution: microservices

Microservices

- An approach to developing a single application as a suite of small services, each running in its own process and communicating with lightweight mechanisms, often an HTTP resource API
- Independently deployable by automated processes
- Bare minimum centralized management
- Smart endpoints connected by “dumb” pipes

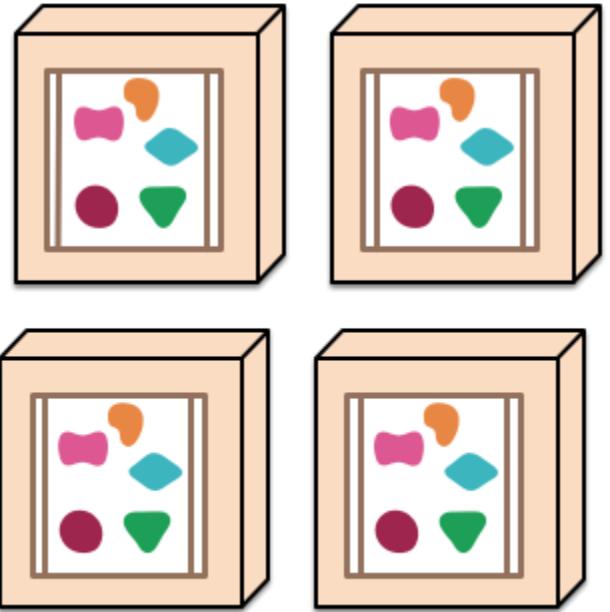
<https://martinfowler.com/articles/microservices.html>

Microservices overview

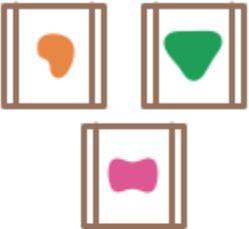
A monolithic application puts all its functionality into a single process...



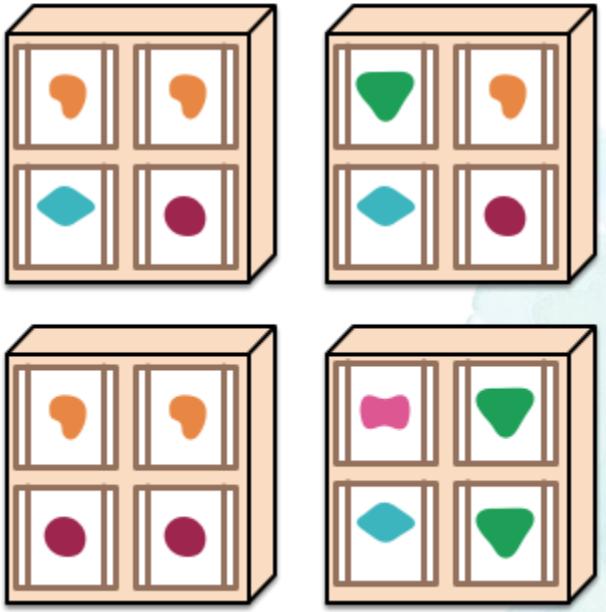
... and scales by replicating the monolith on multiple servers



A microservices architecture puts each element of functionality into a separate service...

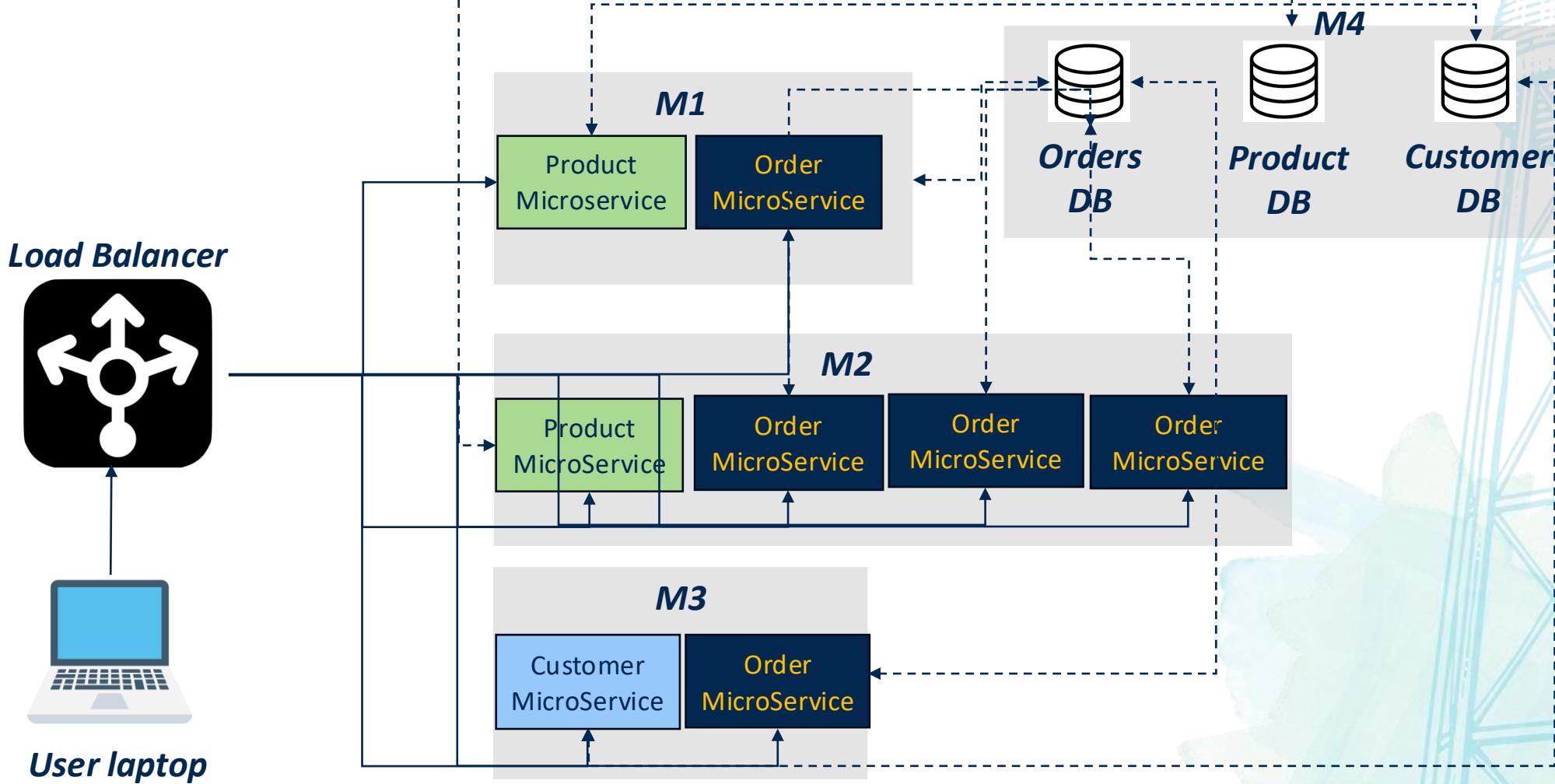


... and scales by distributing these services across servers, replicating as needed.

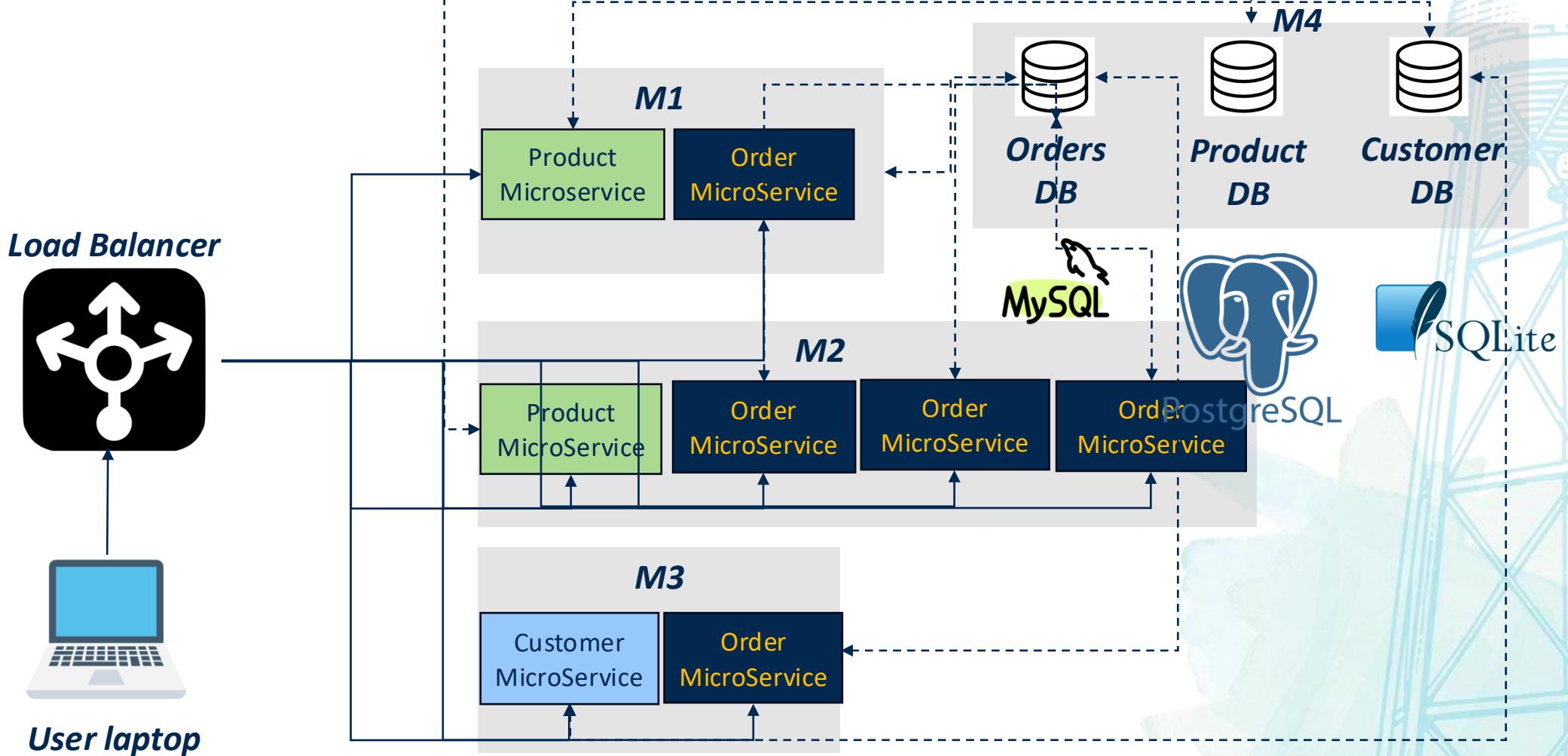


<https://martinfowler.com/articles/microservices.html>

Microservice architecture for online store



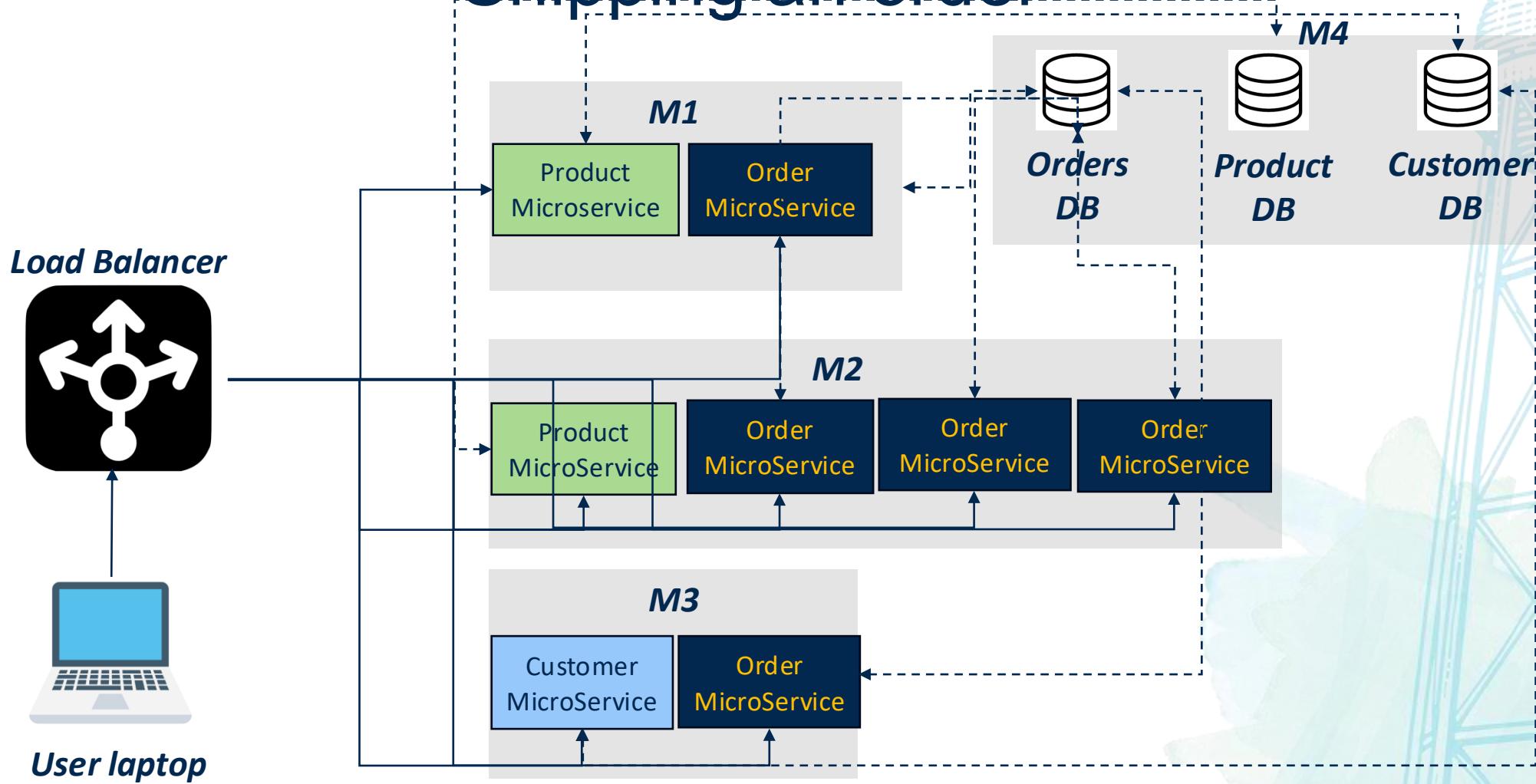
Each microservice chooses its own database



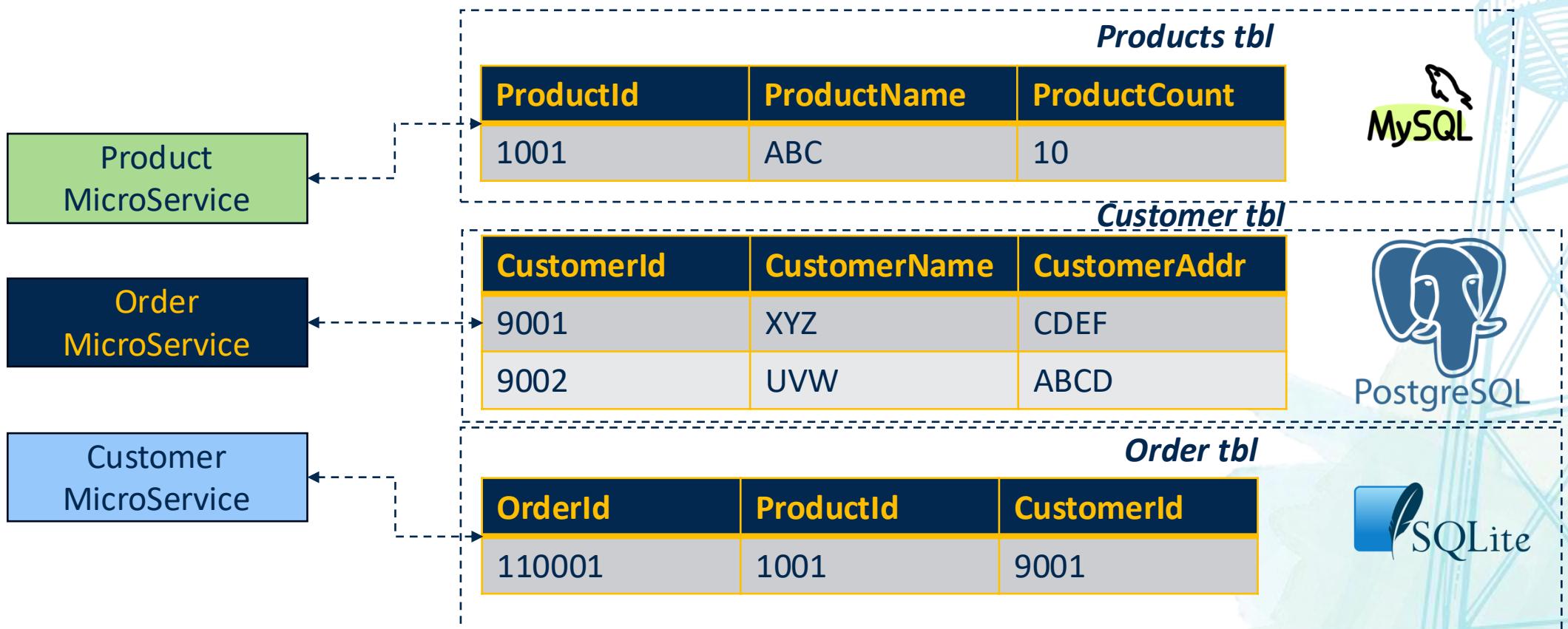
What did we achieve?

- Decompose monolithic app into microservices
- Improve decoupling
 - Each microservice can be scaled independently
 - Each microservice can be deployed independently
 - Each microservice can evolve independently – DB schema, choice of programming languages
- ***Did we solve all problems?***

Shipping an order



Monolithic order schema



Cannot perform joins!

Non-solution

- DO NOT want to query the Customer and Product microservices when shipping
- Will introduce tight coupling and interdependence
 - For example, what if the Customer microservice is down during shipment?

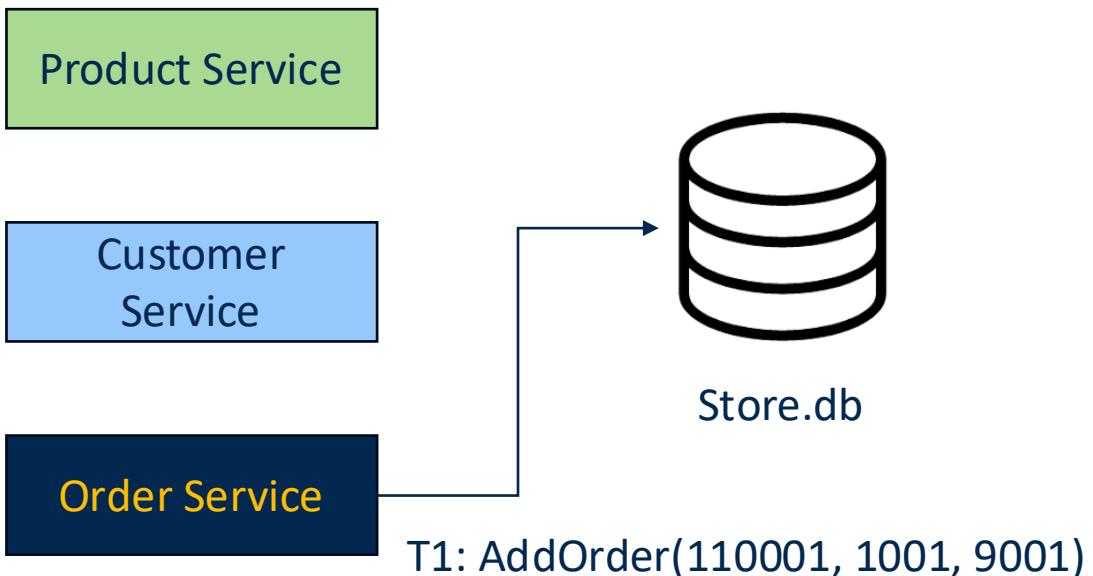
Denormalization

- Must denormalize the data
- Order microservice duplicates and store the customer details in the Order db
- How? (after a few slides)

OrderId	ProductName	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
110001	ABC	XYZ	CDEF
110002	ABC	XYZ	CDEF
110003	ABC	UVW	ABCD

Consistency guarantees

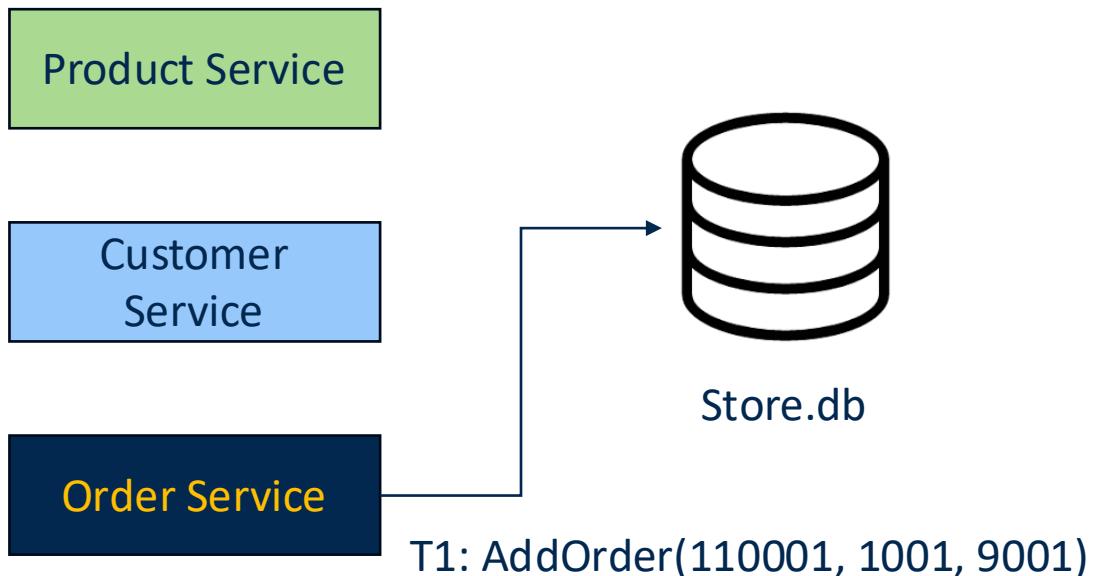
- Consistency property of a system governs how and when updates to shared data become visible to different components of the system
- Monolithic apps typically have strong consistency – updates reflect immediately to subsequent reads



ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10
CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	ABCD
OrderId	ProductId	CustomerId

Consistency guarantees

- Consistency property of a system governs how and when updates to shared data become visible to different components of the system
- Monolithic apps typically have strong consistency – updates reflect immediately to subsequent reads



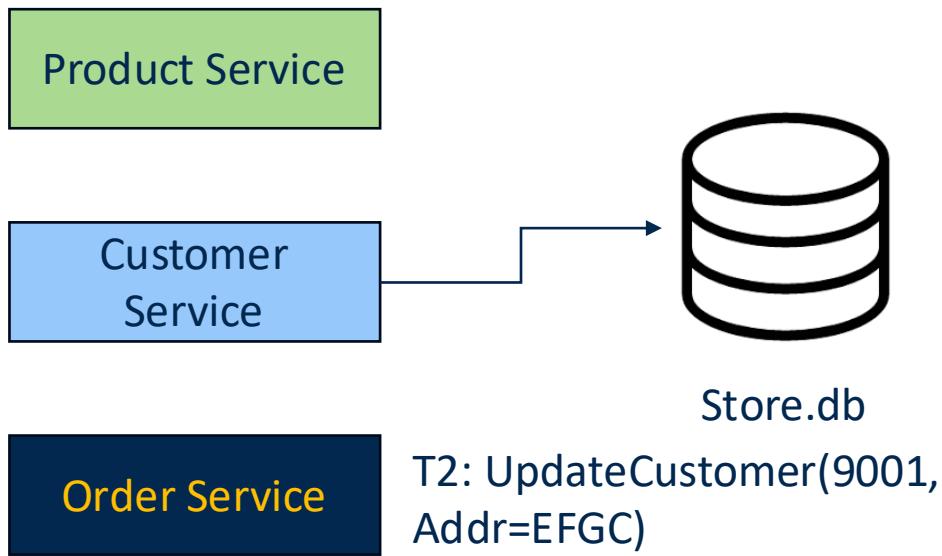
ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10

CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	ABCD

OrderId	ProductId	CustomerId
110001	1001	9001

Consistency guarantees

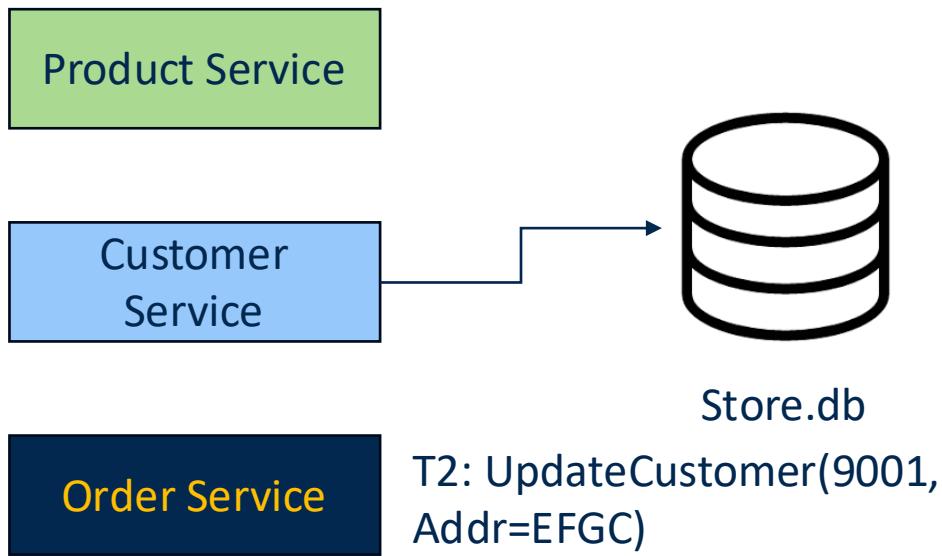
- Consistency property of a system governs how and when updates to shared data become visible to different components of the system
- Monolithic apps typically have strong consistency – updates reflect immediately to subsequent reads



ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10
CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	ABCD
OrderId	ProductId	CustomerId
110001	1001	9001

Consistency guarantees

- Consistency property of a system governs how and when updates to shared data become visible to different components of the system
- Monolithic apps typically have strong consistency – updates reflect immediately to subsequent reads



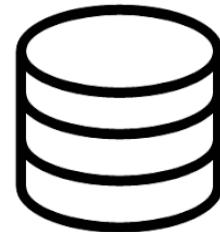
ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10

CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	EFGC

OrderId	ProductId	CustomerId
110001	1001	9001

Consistency guarantees

- Consistency property of a system governs how and when updates to shared data become visible to different components of the system
- Monolithic apps typically have strong consistency – updates reflect immediately to subsequent reads



T3: ShipOrder ->
JOIN(1001, 9001) ->
(ABC, UVW, EFGC)

ProductId	ProductName	ProductCount
1001	ABC	10

CustomerId	CustomerName	CustomerAddr
9001	XYZ	CDEF
9002	UVW	EFGC

OrderId	ProductId	CustomerId
110001	1001	9001

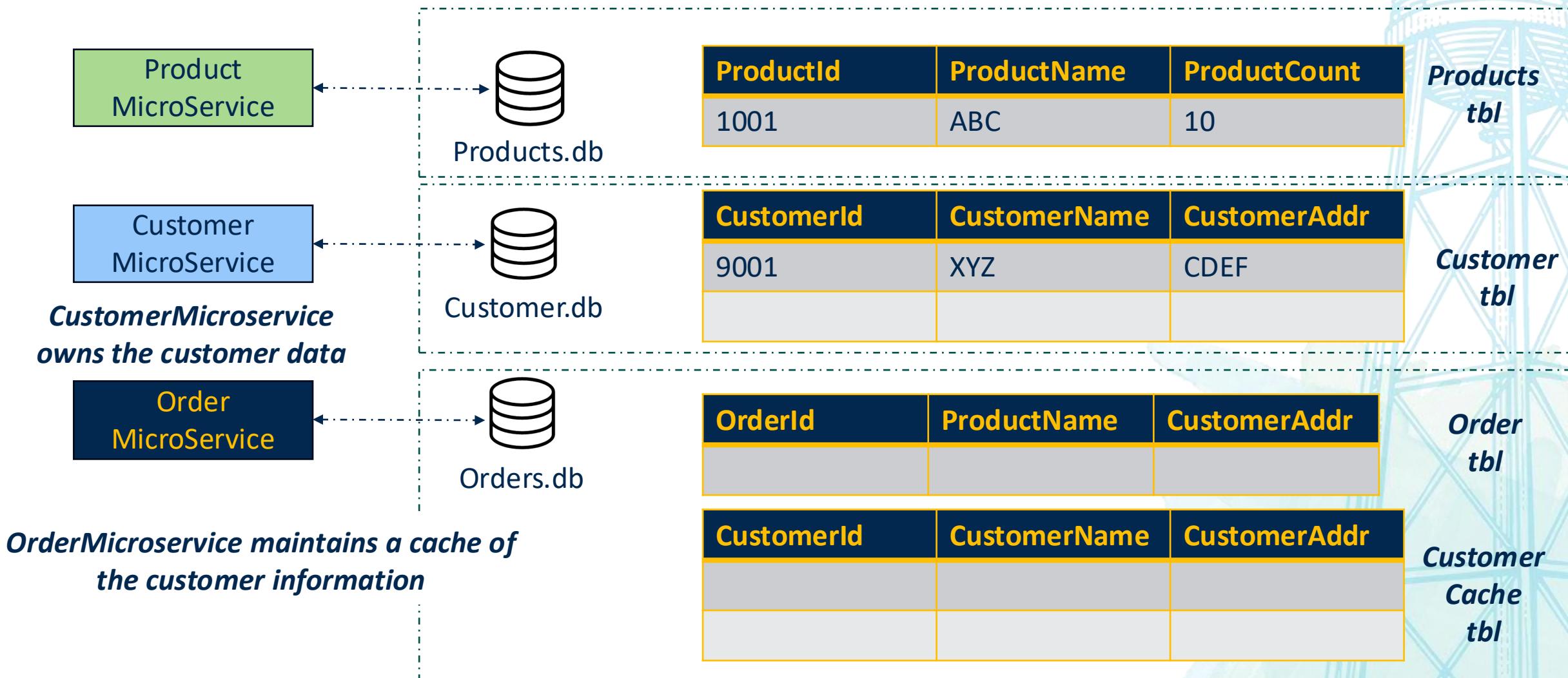
Microservice consistency guarantees

- Core idea: a microservice **owns** some data
 - **Notifies** dependent microservices of change
 - **No guarantees** on when the updates synchronize

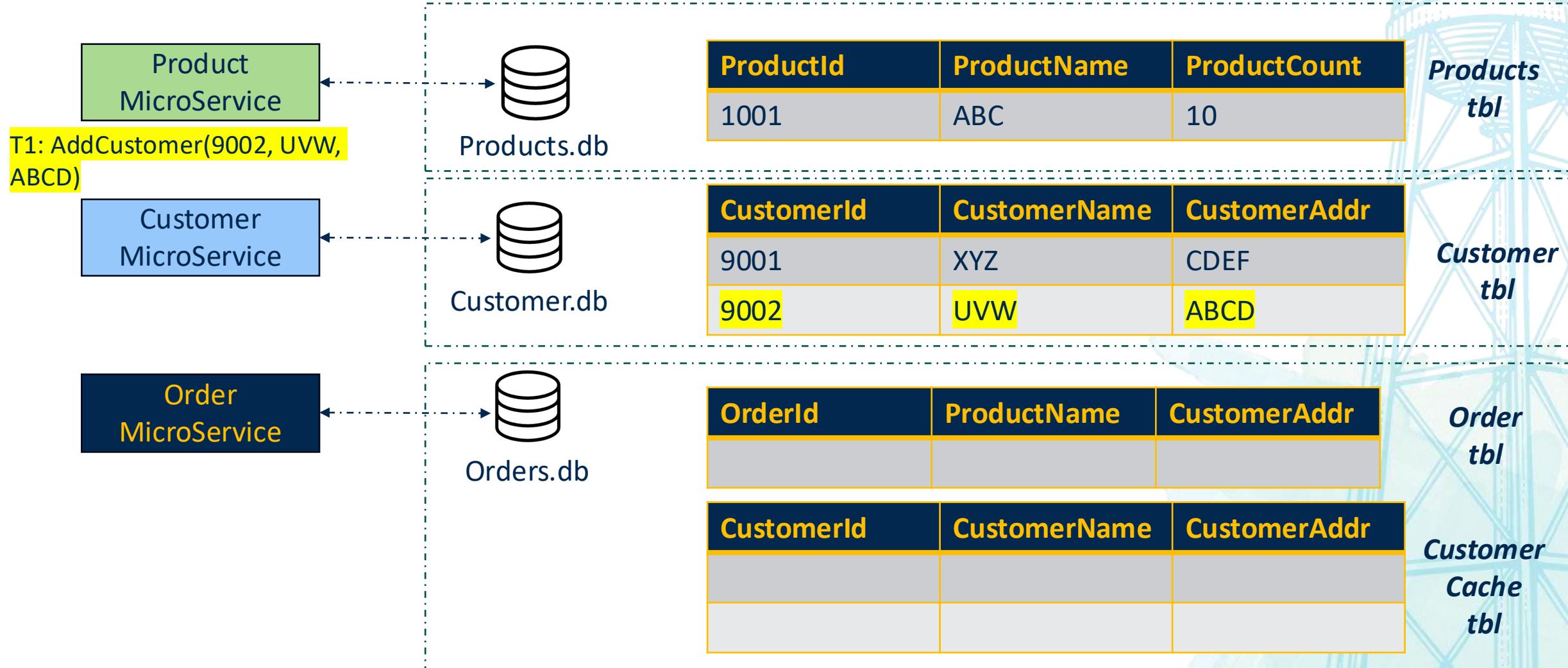
Microservice consistency guarantees

- Microservice-oriented apps are distributed
- Enforcing strong consistency guarantees in distributed systems is very hard
 - Network overhead, network partition, node failures
- Typically have **eventual consistency** guarantees – updates are **eventually** visible to all components
- System must work around these limitations

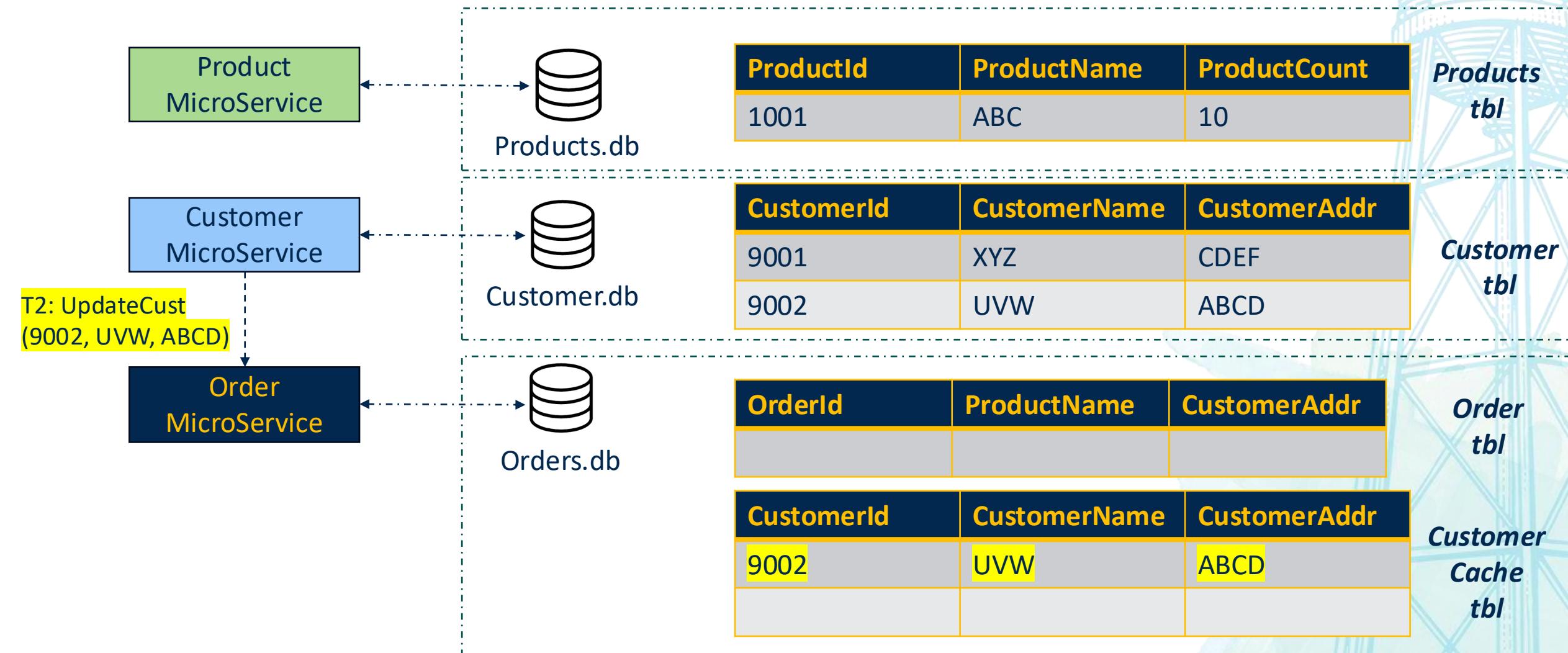
Working with eventual consistency



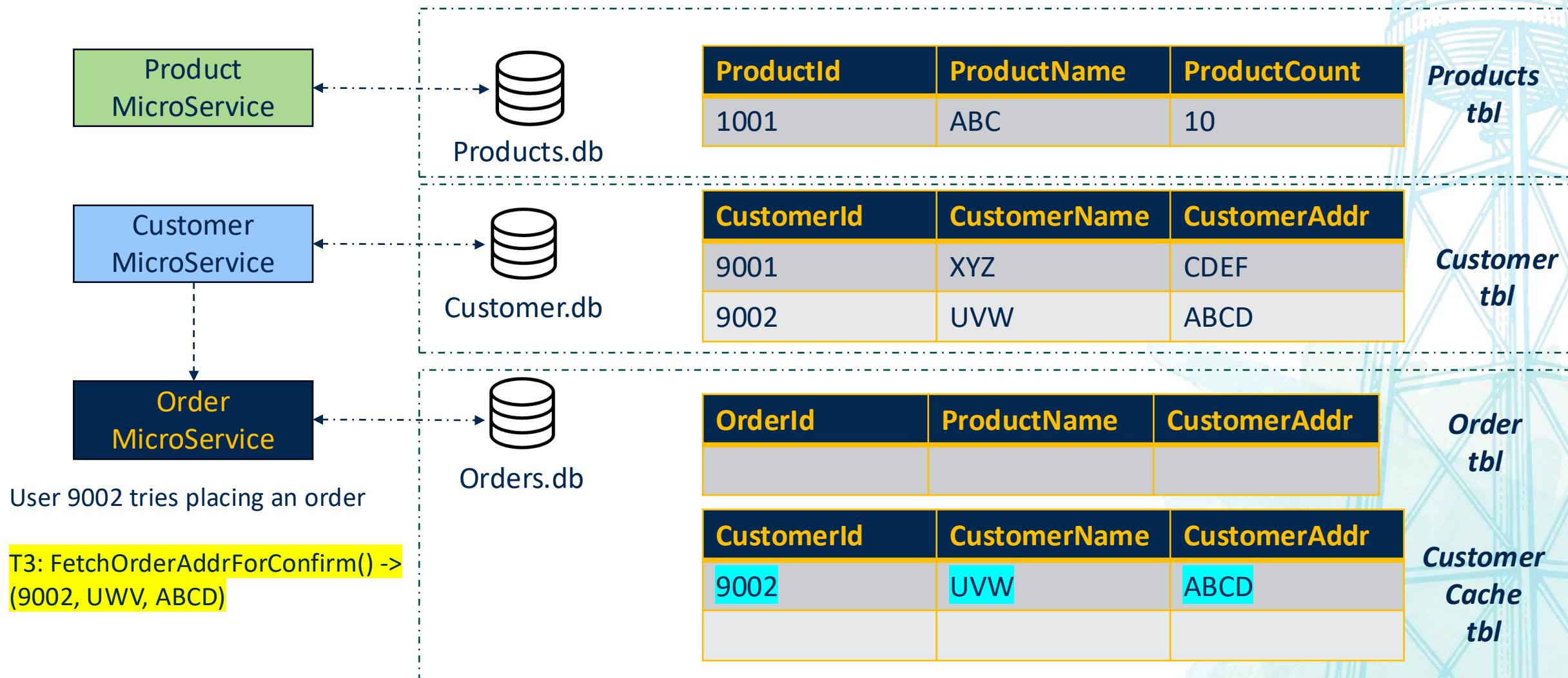
Working with eventual consistency



Working with eventual consistency



Working with eventual consistency



Working with eventual consistency

Name: UVW,
Address: ABCD

amazon prime

Secure checkout ▾

Delivering to Tapti Palit

Add delivery instructions

FREE pickup available nearby ▾

Paying with [REDACTED]

Change

Place your order

By placing your order, you agree to Amazon's [privacy notice](#) and [conditions of use](#).

Items: \$18.00
Shipping & handling: \$0.00
Estimated tax to be collected: \$0.00

Order total: \$18.00

Arriving Feb 14, 2026 - Feb 20, 2026

Saturday, Feb 14 - Friday, Feb 20

FREE

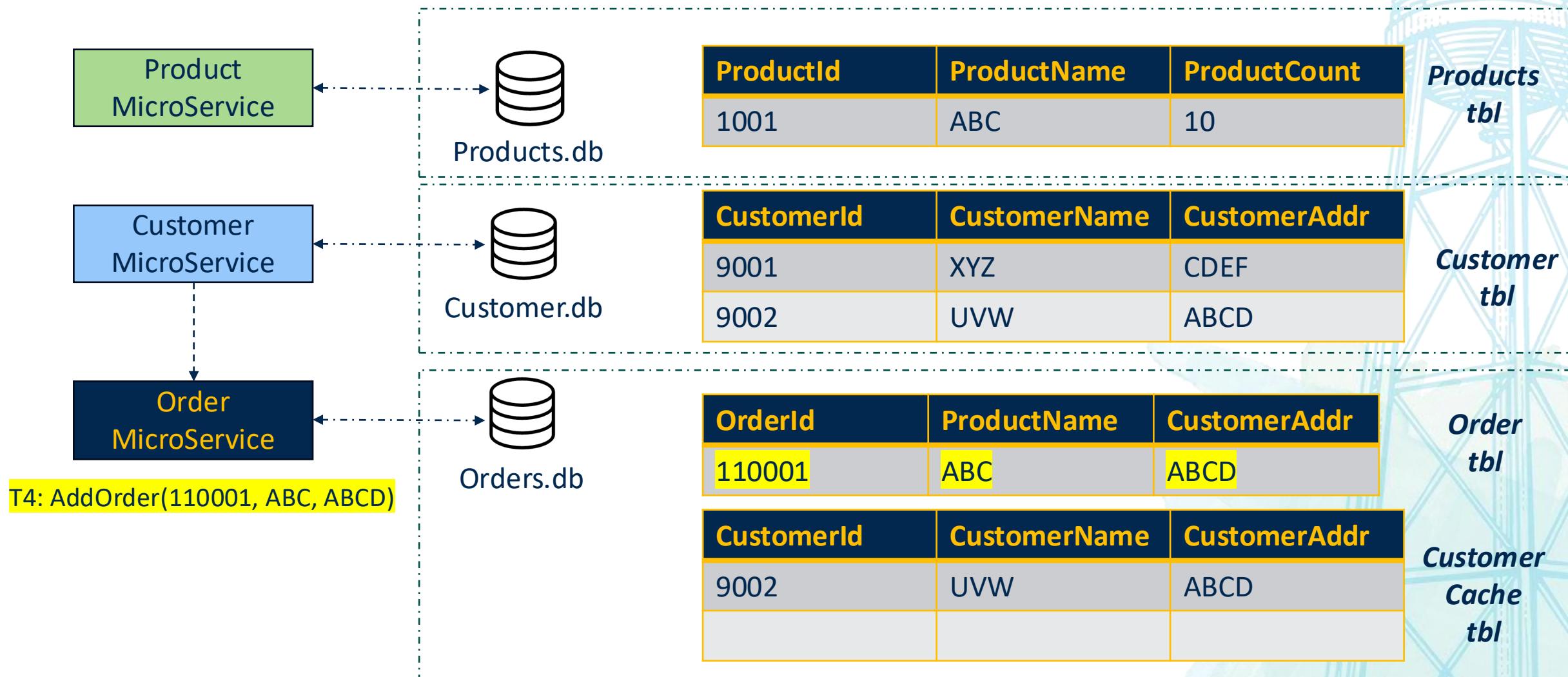
Harney & Sons Loose Leaf Black Tea, Darjeeling 8 Ounce
\$18.00 (\$2.25 / ounce)
Ships from and sold by [Amazon.com](#)

[REDACTED] 1 [REDACTED]

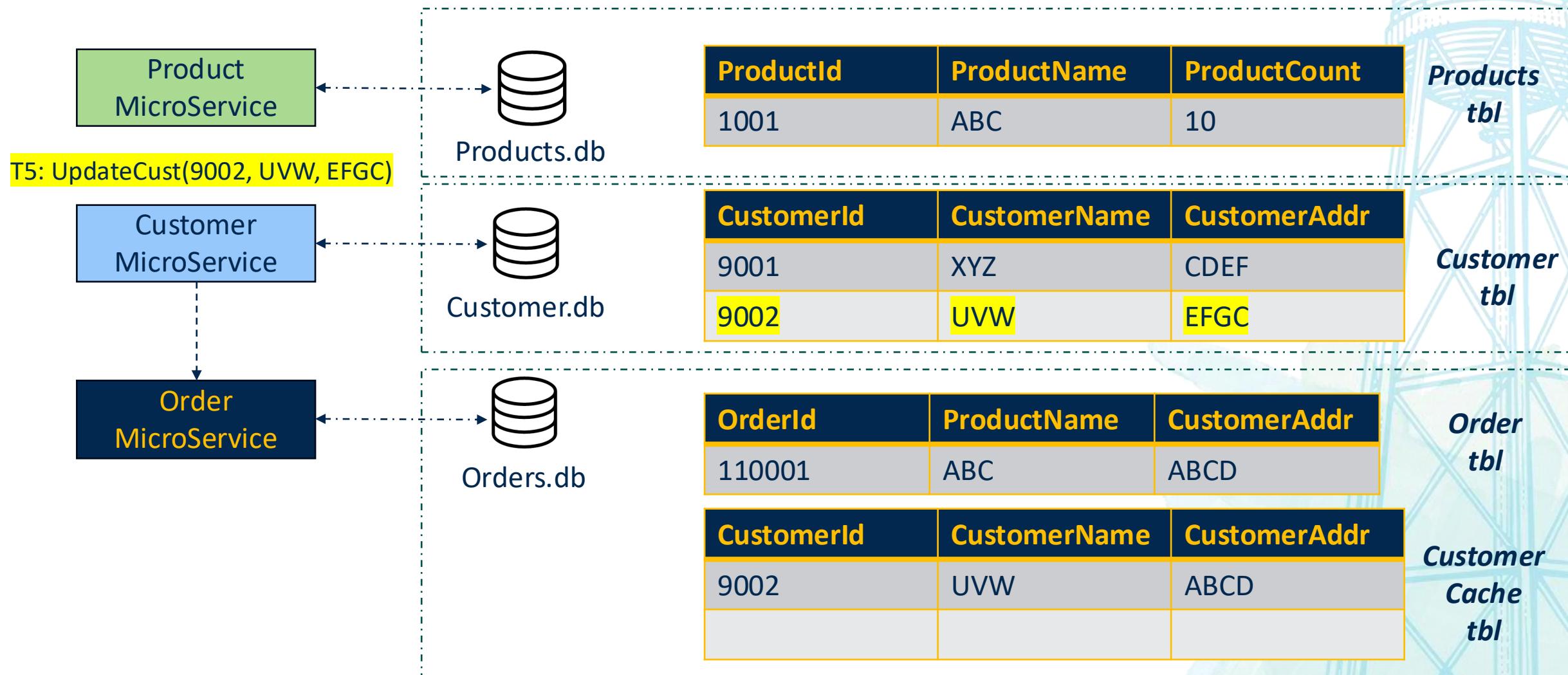
Add gift options

Subscribe & Save:
 Save 5% today; Save up to 15% on future auto-deliveries ▾
Delivery every: 3 months (most common)

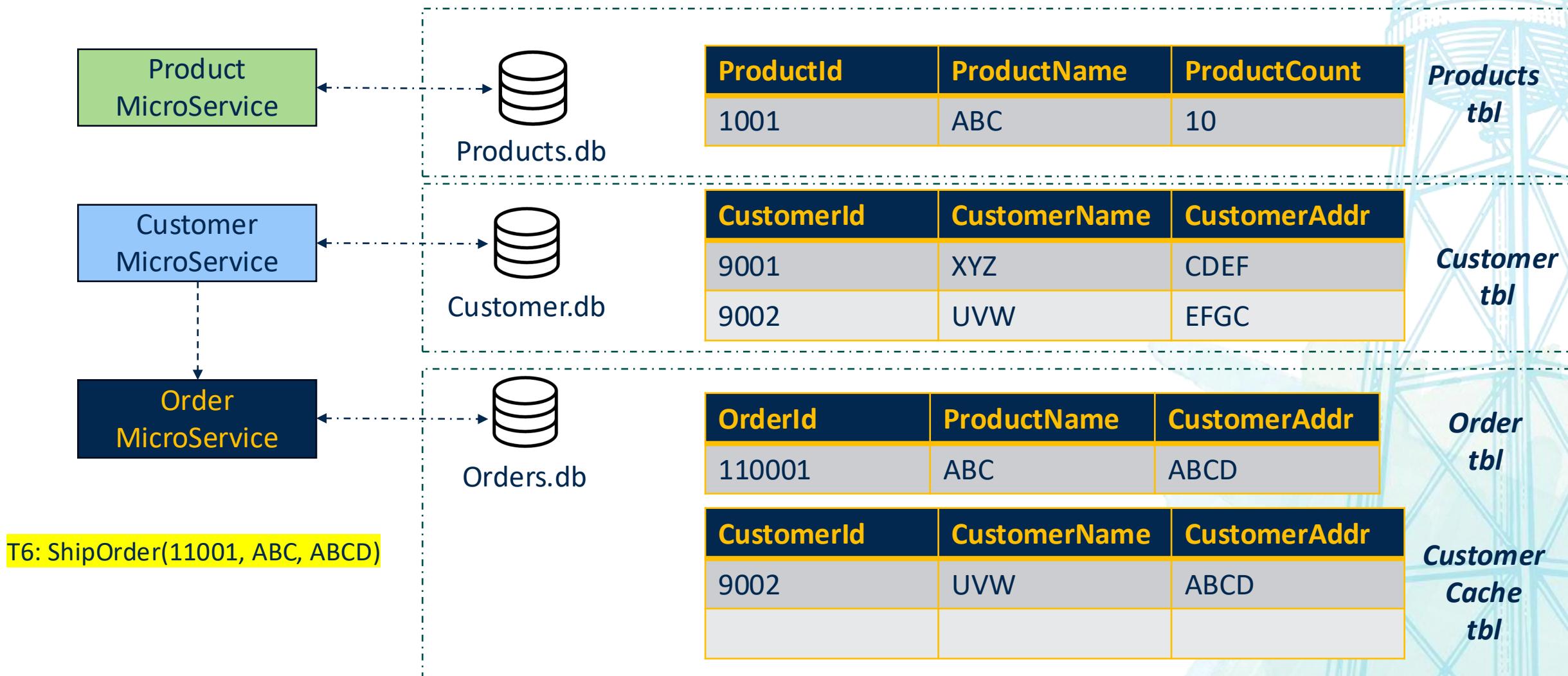
Working with eventual consistency



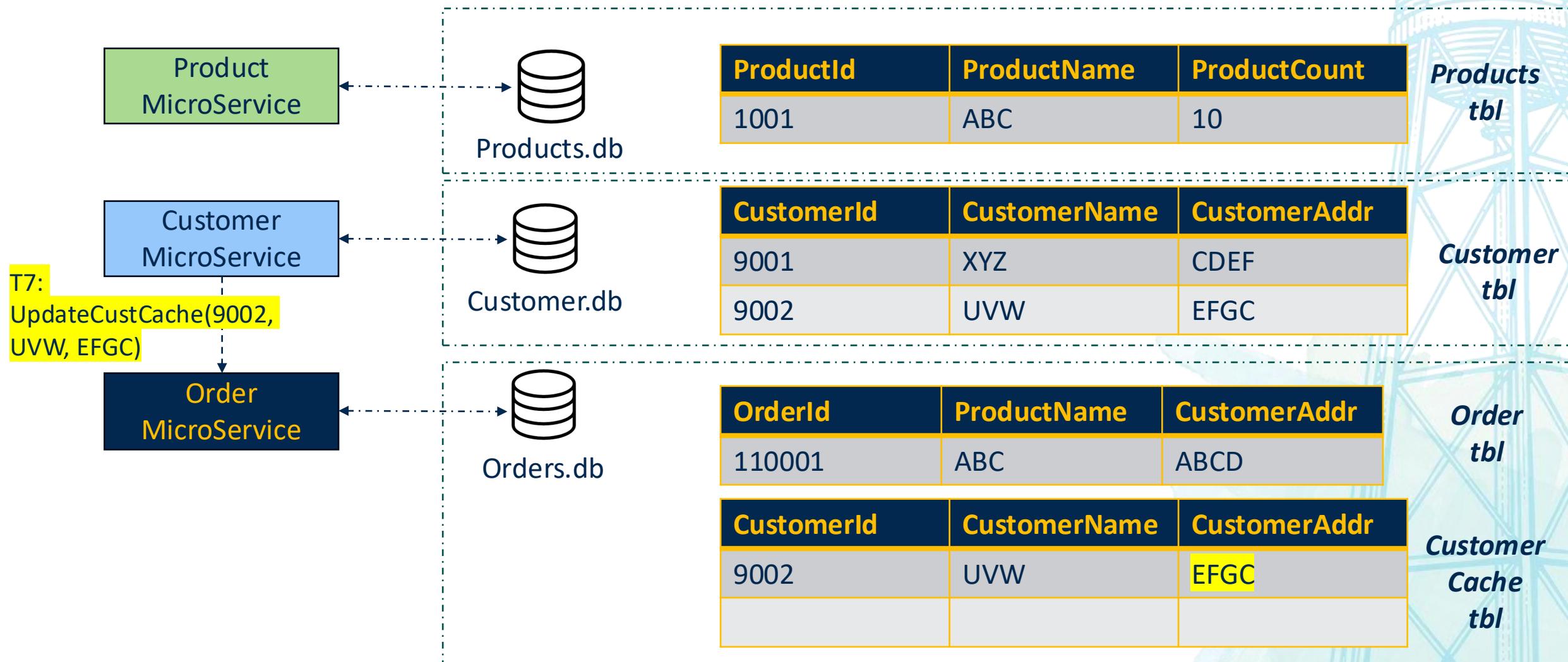
Working with eventual consistency



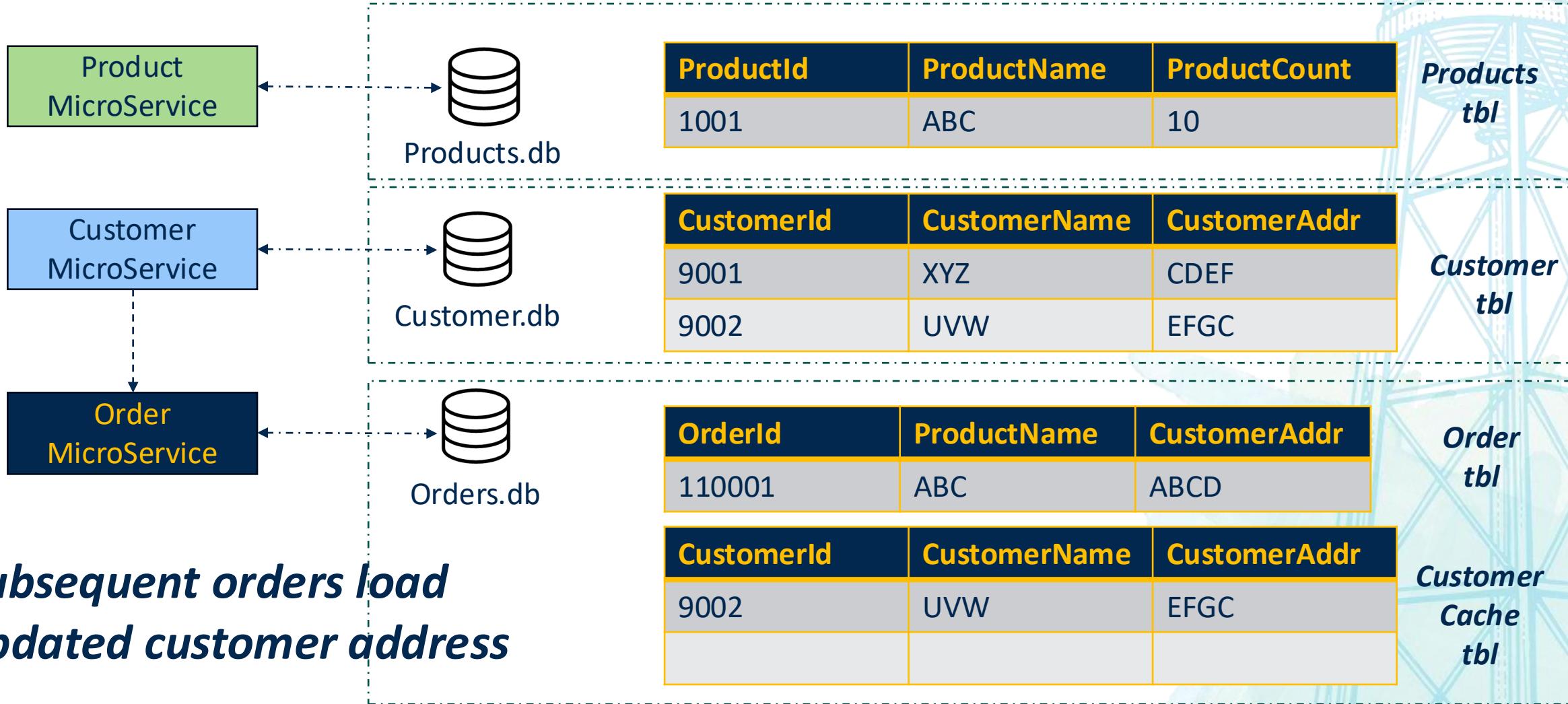
Working with eventual consistency



Working with eventual consistency



Working with eventual consistency

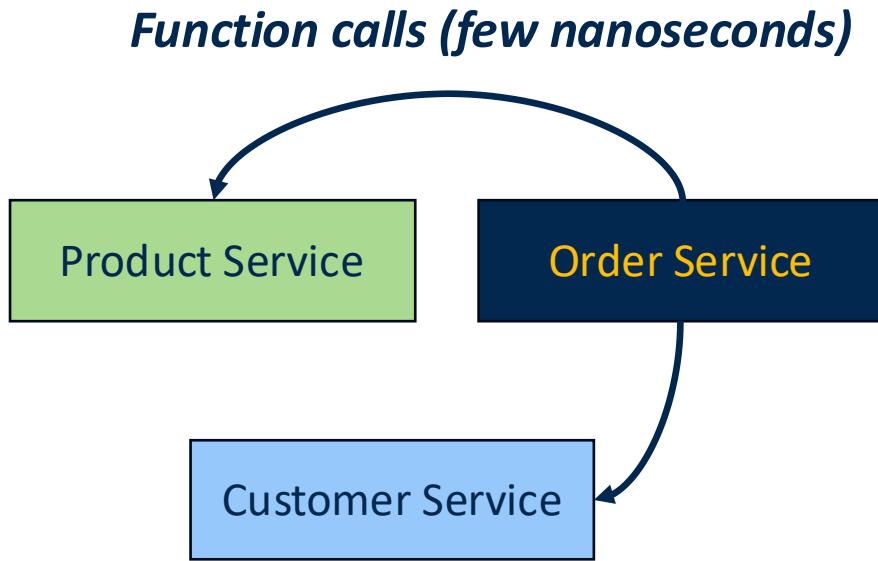


Microservice design concerns

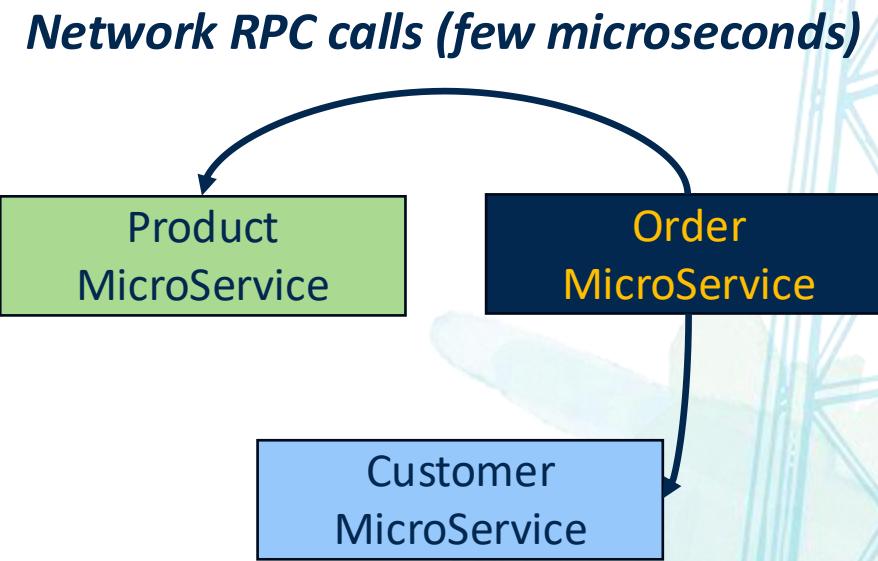
- Solution for eventual consistency is generally use-case dependent
- Some systems aim to provide strong consistency guarantees for distributed systems
 - Overhead often makes them impractical for microservices
- Reduce tight coupling
 - A microservice should not know the internal DB schema of another microservice
 - A microservice should not depend on another to be running to perform its task
- Limit network communication

Network communication cost

Monolithic applications



Microservices

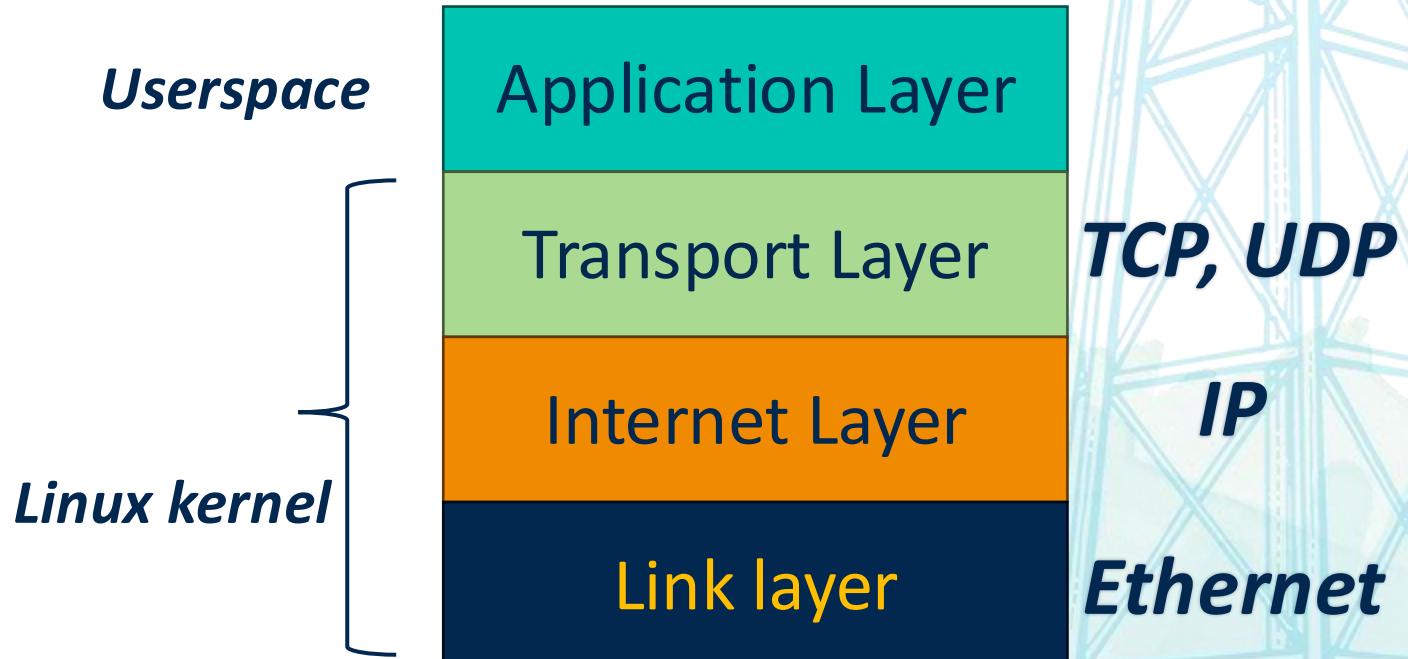


Network overhead decomposition

- Network latency
 - Datacenters use fast network connections
 - Infiniband has ~1-2 microsecond latency, 400+ Gbps bandwidth
 - Still not as fast as a local function call
 - OS kernel overhead

Kernel overhead for network comm.

- The OS kernel contains the networking code
- TCP-IP is the most common networking stack
- It is organized in layers
- Every layer has a **protocol**



Each layer has a protocol

- Every layer/protocol has a fixed message format

- Header

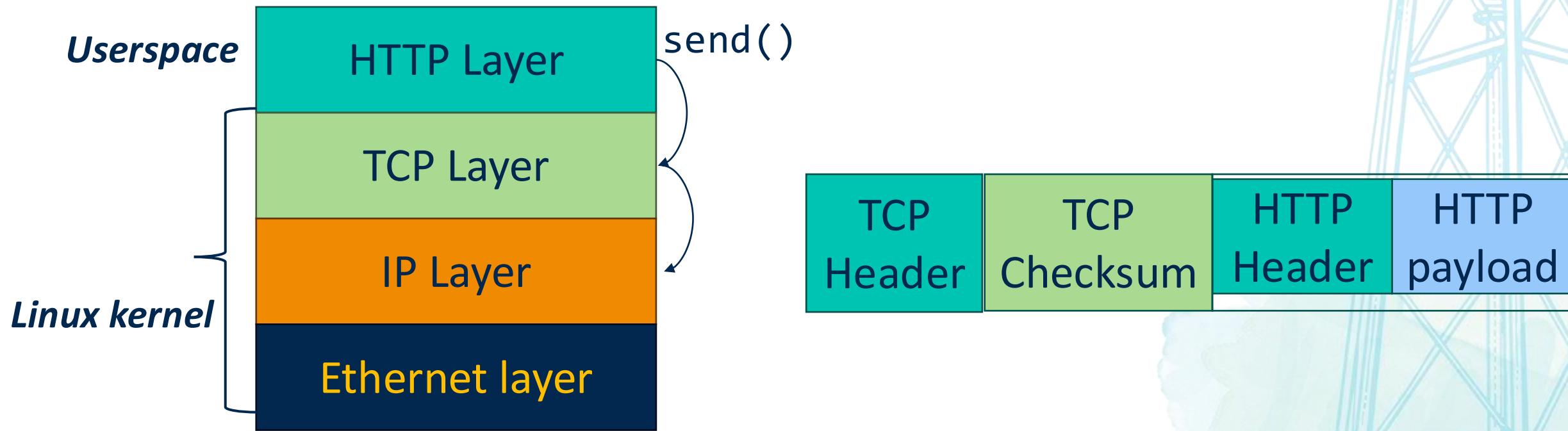
- Payload

- [optional] Checksum

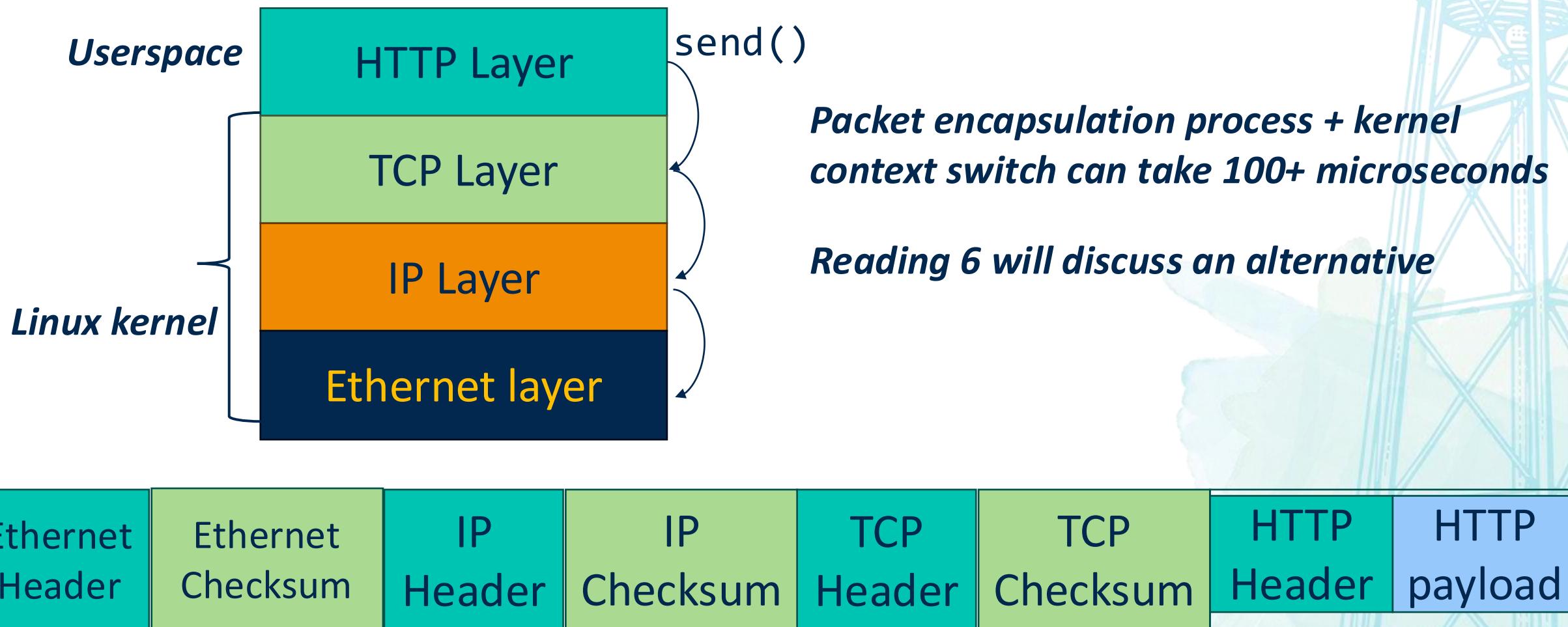


- As the packet traverses through the layers, packets are rewapped

Life of a packet



Life of a packet



Microservice pros

- Stronger decoupling and lower interdependence
- Improved scalability
- Easier deployment

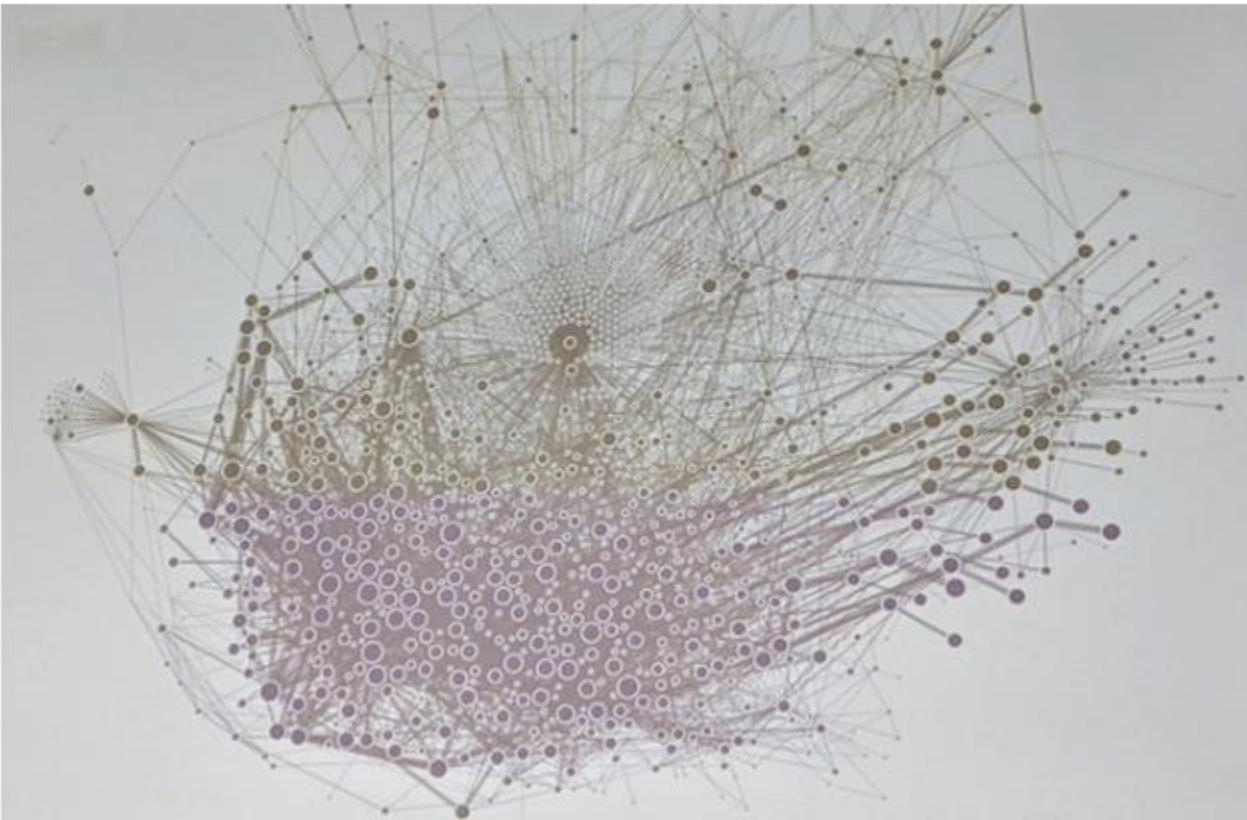
Microservice cons

- Causes data denormalization
- Network overhead
- Higher complexity
- Debugging complex interactions is harder

Latency vs throughput

- Latency – time taken for one operation
 - Measured in seconds, milliseconds, microseconds, etc
 - Service Level Objectives/Agreements (SLO/SLA)
 - Example: 95% of all requests should be served in under 2 ms
- Throughput – number of operations performed in unit time (requests/sec)
- Microservices increase latency compared to monolithic operation, but improve throughput

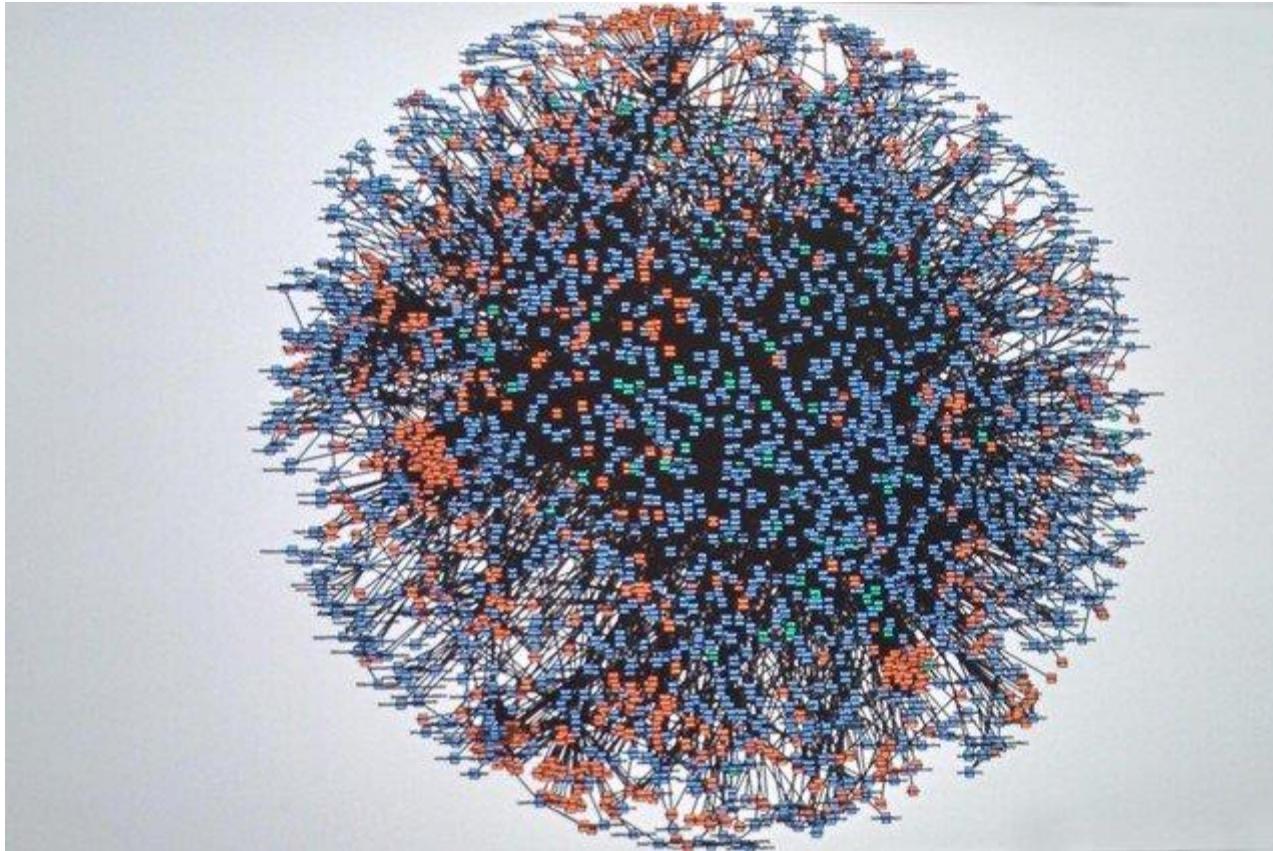
Microservices at Uber (2019)



<https://x.com/msuriar/status/1110244877424578560>

Microservices at Amazon (2008)

- Code-named “Deathstar”



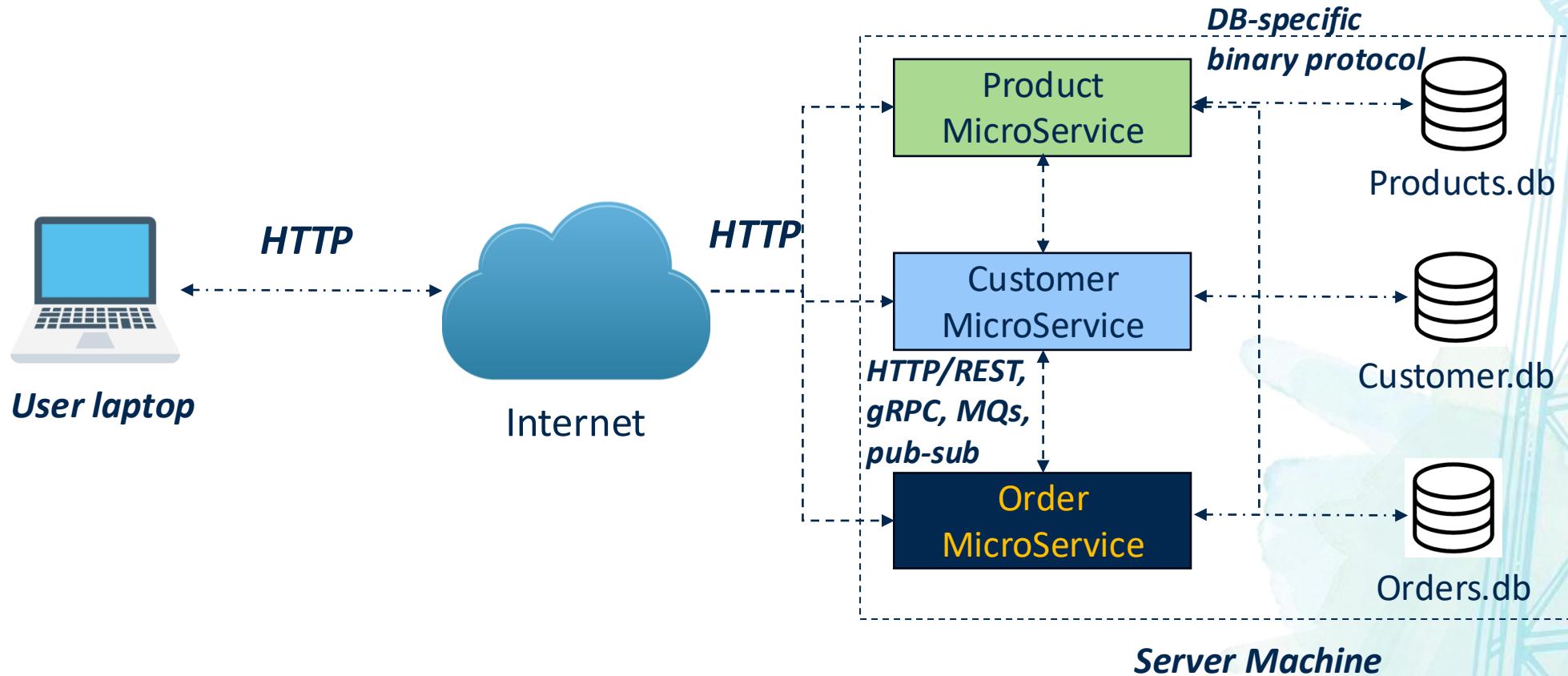
<https://x.com/Werner/status/741673514567143424>

Data management and communication

- Once data and computation are split across services, two problems remain
 - How is data stored?
 - How services communicate?
- First, Spring Boot overview

Spring Boot with REST API overview

Microservices over HTTP



HTTP GET and POST request

- GET request - Used to retrieve data from the server

- GET `/index.html` HTTP/1.1

URL

- GET `/index.html?name=ECS160&data=02132025`

Request parameters

HTTP GET and POST request

- POST request - used to send data to the server

URL

- POST `/users` HTTP/1.1

Content-Type: application/json{

```
"name": "John Doe",  
"email": john.doe@example.com  
}
```

Post “body”

Spring Boot Overview

- Framework for creating RESTful microservices
- Reduces boilerplate configuration code
- Embedded server (Tomcat/Jetty)
- Simplifies microservice creation through annotations
- Built-in support for REST APIs

RESTful microservices with Spring Boot

- Create classes that can act as REST endpoints
- Uses annotations to denote REST endpoint URLs
 - Allows complete decoupling from the boilerplate code
- Types of requests
 - @GetMapping, @PostMapping, @PutMapping, and so on... for all HTTP methods
- @PathVariable – extract variable from GET request
- @RequestBody – extract the post request body

```
class MyRequest {  
    private String postDate;  
    private String postContent;  
    // ... Getters and setters  
}  
  
@RestController  
@RequestMapping("/myservice")  
public class MyController {  
    @PostMapping("/sayhello")  
    public String sayHello(@RequestBody MyRequest  
request) {  
        return "";  
    }  
}
```

Effective URL: [http://\[serverip\]/myservice/sayhello](http://[serverip]/myservice/sayhello)

Spring Boot Framework

- Uses reflection to first look up all classes with `@RestController` annotation
- Then automatically creates Servlets out of the methods annotated with `@GetMapping`, `@PostMapping`, etc.
- Uses reflection to parse the request parameters into class objects annotated with `@RequestBody`
- Generates the WAR file and launches the Apache Tomcat server
 - Simply execute `mvn spring-boot:run`

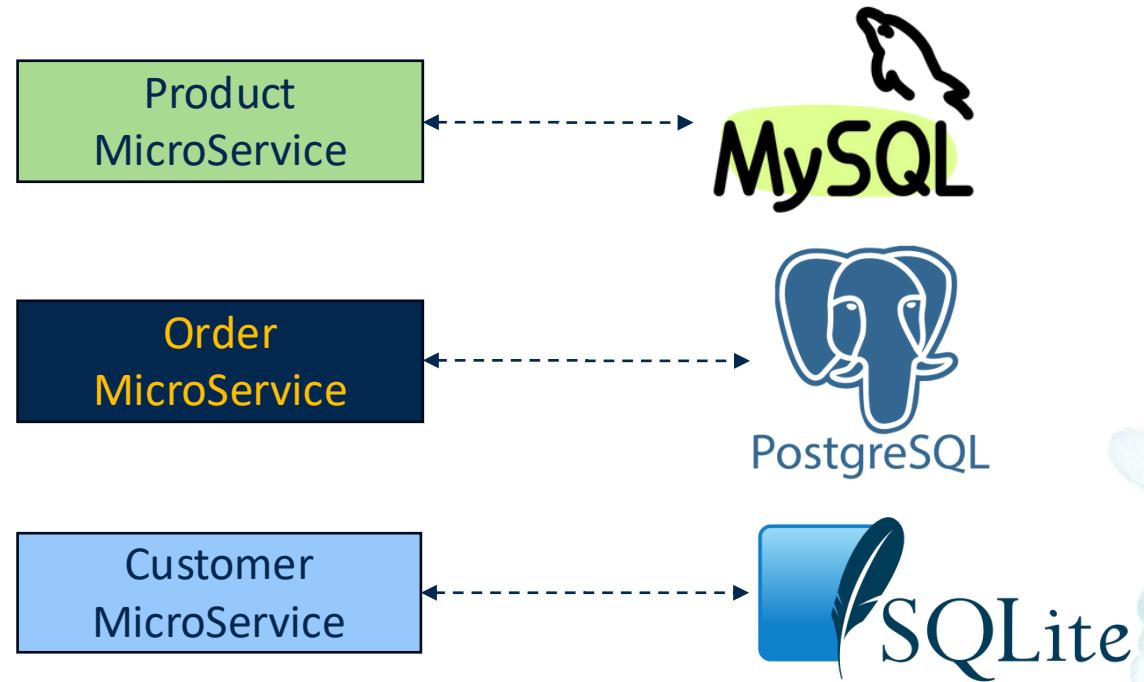
```
class MyRequest {  
    private String postDate;  
    private String postContent;  
    // ... Getters and setters  
}  
  
@RestController  
@RequestMapping("/mvservice")  
public class MyController {  
    @PostMapping("/sayhello")  
    public String sayHello(@RequestBody MyRequest  
request) {  
        return "";  
    }  
}
```

Data management and communication

- Once data and computation are split across services, two problems remain
 - How is data stored?
 - How services communicate?

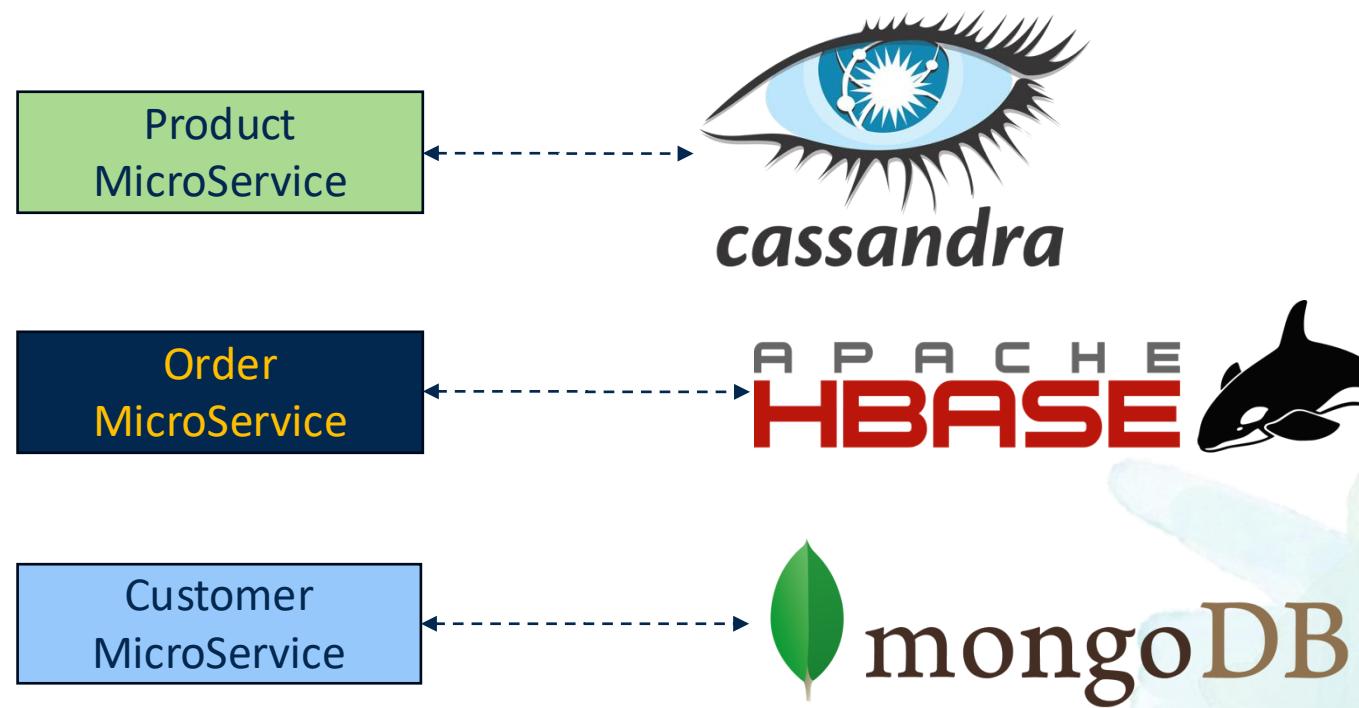
Databases

Microservices can have individual DBs



MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite are relational databases

Microservices can have individual DBs



Non-relational, NoSql databases

How to select which database to use?



Database choice factors

- Data model
 - How data is represented and which operations are natively supported
 - Examples - relational, document, graph, key-value
 - Shapes query semantics (joins, traversals, etc.)
- Storage engine
 - How data is physically stored and indexed
 - B-Trees, SSTables and LSM-Trees, Hash Indexes
 - Impacts performance tradeoffs (read vs. write performance, range scans, etc)

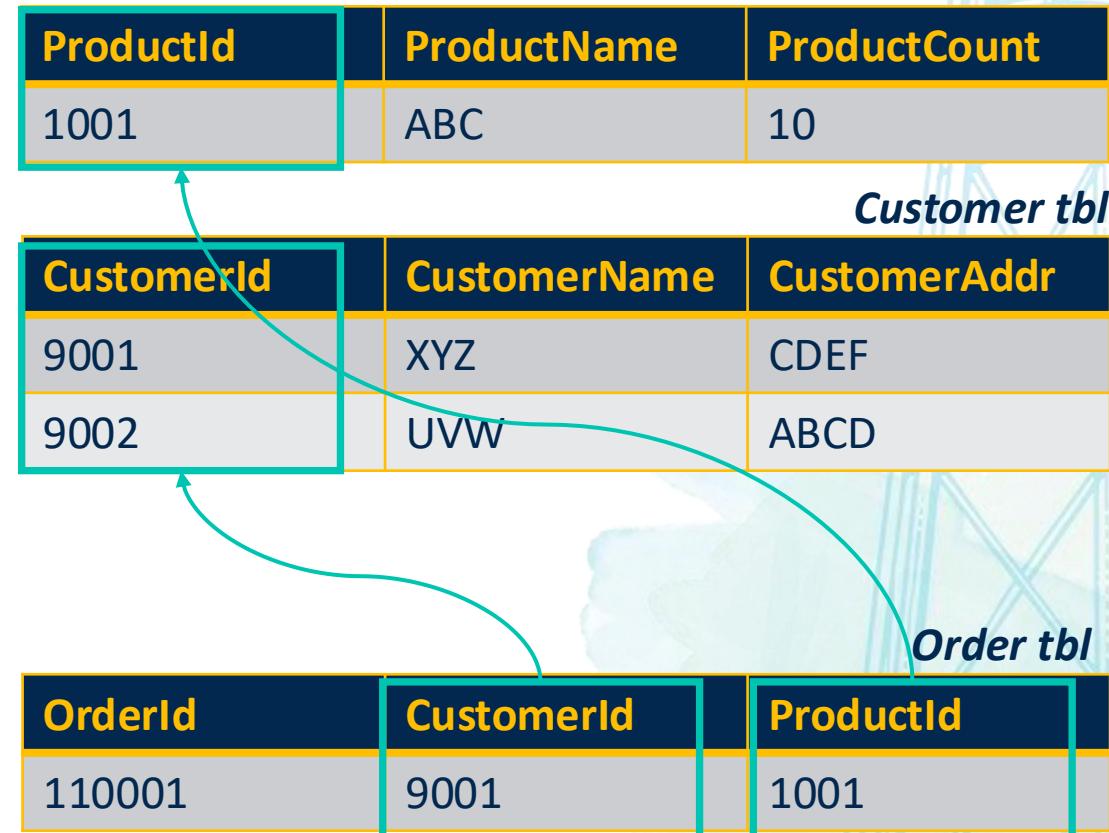
Data models

Relational databases

- Stores data as tables
- Supports relations using foreign keys and joins

- SELECT
 - o.OrderId,
p.ProductName,
c.CustomerName,
c.CustomerAddr

```
FROM Orders o
JOIN Products p
  ON o.ProductId = p.ProductId
JOIN Customers c
  ON o.CustomerId =
c.CustomerId;
```

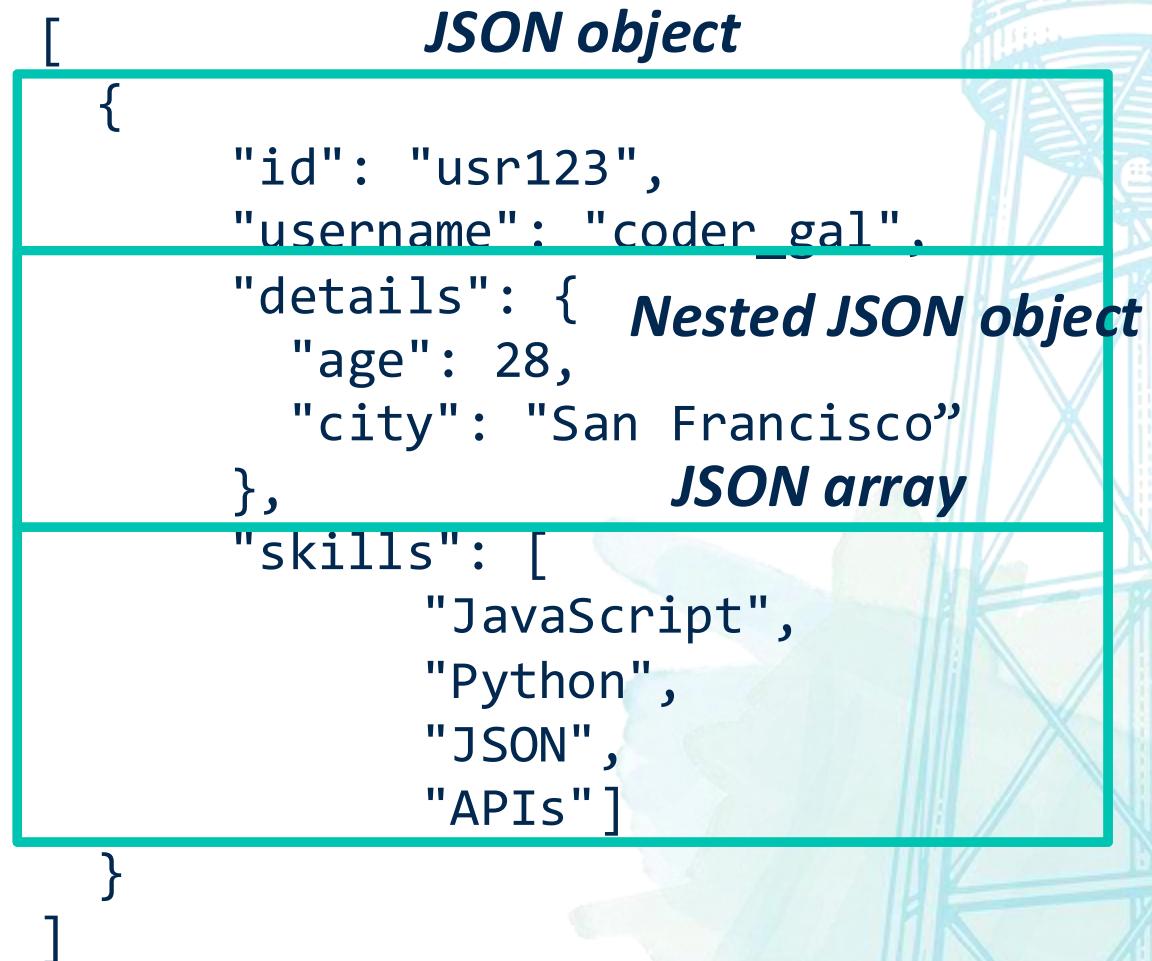


Document model

- Data is a document!
 - JSON, XML
- The database maintains this document
 - Provides a query language to inspect the contents
- Flexible schema
- Good for 1-to-1 or 1-to-many data relationships
- E.g. MongoDB

MongoDB BSON format

- String that represents an object
- Objects consists of key-value pairs
- Values can be primitives, arrays, or nested JSON objects
- Naturally supports hierarchical and semi-structured data



```
[ {   "id": "usr123",   "username": "coder_gal",   "details": {     "age": 28,     "city": "San Francisco"   },   "skills": [     "JavaScript",     "Python",     "JSON",     "APIs"   ] } ]
```

The diagram illustrates a MongoDB BSON document structure. It features a green rectangular border highlighting the entire document. Inside, the opening bracket '[' is labeled '**JSON object**'. The opening brace '{' is also labeled '**JSON object**'. The value 'usr123' is labeled '**JSON primitive**'. The value 'coder_gal' is labeled '**JSON primitive**'. The key 'details' is labeled '**Nested JSON object**'. The value '28' is labeled '**JSON primitive**'. The value 'San Francisco' is labeled '**JSON primitive**'. The key 'skills' is labeled '**JSON array**'. The values 'JavaScript', 'Python', 'JSON', and 'APIs' are all labeled '**JSON primitive**'. The closing brace '}' is labeled '**JSON object**' and the closing bracket ']' is labeled '**JSON object**'.

MongoDB BSON format

- Fields are accessed using dot notation
 - `user.id`
 - `user.details.age`
- Arrays are accessed using index notation
 - `user.skills[0]`

```
[  
  {  
    "id": "usr123",  
    "username": "coder_gal",  
    "details": {  
      "age": 28,  
      "city": "San Francisco"  
    },  
    "skills": [  
      "JavaScript",  
      "Python",  
      "JSON",  
      "APIs"  
    ]  
  }  
]
```

MongoDB BSON format

- Fields are accessed using dot notation
 - user.id
 - user.details.age
- Arrays are accessed using index notation
 - user.skills[0]

```
[  
  {  
    "id": "usr123",  
    "username": "coder_gal",  
    "details": {  
      "age": 28,  
      "city": "San Francisco"  
    },  
    "skills": [  
      "JavaScript",  
      "Python",  
      "JSON",  
      "APIs"  
    ]  
  }  
]
```

Graph-like data model

- Good for many-to-many relationships
- Neo4j

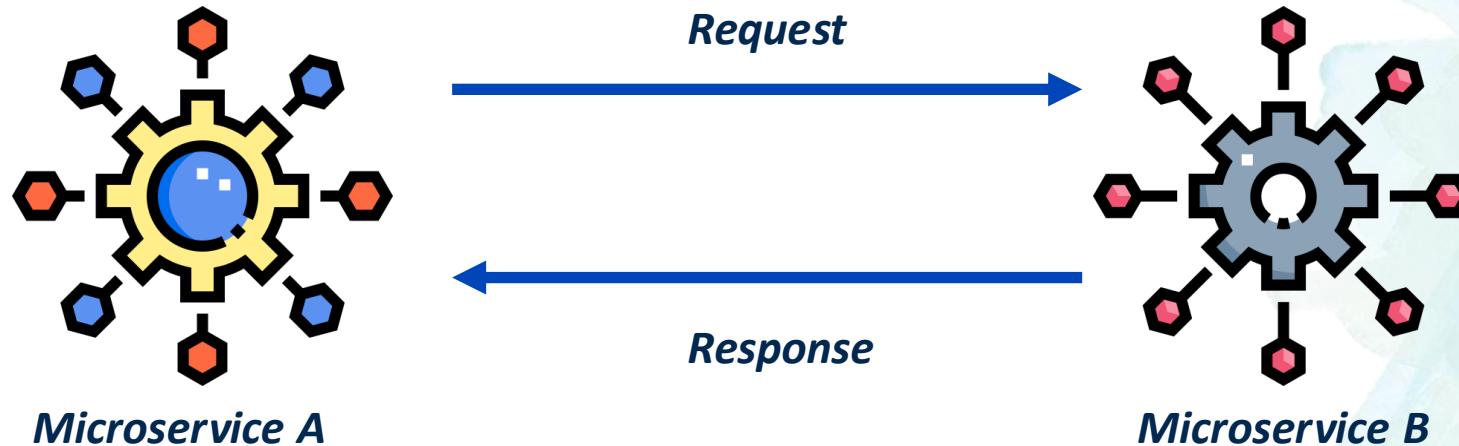
Key-value stores

- Simple key-value pairs
- Redis, Memcached
- Rarely used to store data
- Cache expensive queries
- Communication
 - PUBLISH and SUBSCRIBE primitives

Software communication styles

Remote procedure call (RPC)

- Library/framework gives the illusion that the other microservice is running locally
 - Protocol that allows a program to execute a procedure on a remote server as if it were local
- Synchronous communication – caller waits for response before proceeding



RPC key features

- Language agnostic: the RPC itself does not depend on the service language
- Abstracts network details
 - Typically, over HTTP

RPC formats

- Text-based (e.g. REST APIs)
 - Uses JSON or XML for data exchange
 - Human-readable, but larger payloads
- Binary formats (e.g. gRPC)
 - Uses binary standards (such as protobuf) for serialization
 - Compact but faster, but less human-readable
 - ... *why?*

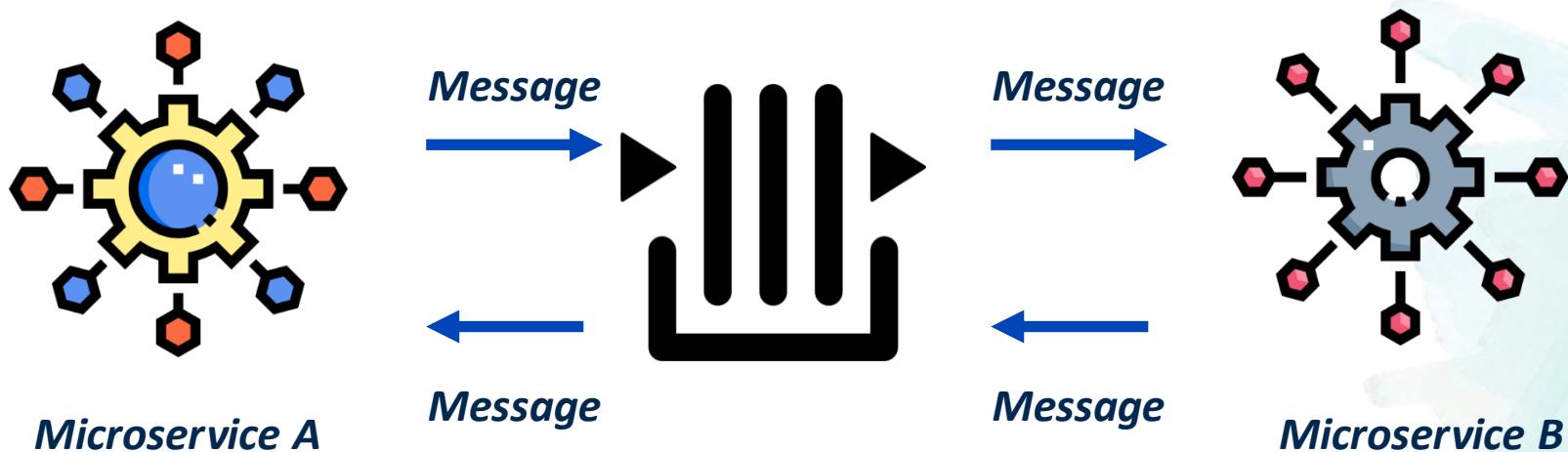
JSON and REST APIs

- Representational State Transfer (REST) is an architectural style for web services
- Application/microservice exposes an URL
- Uses HTTP methods (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE) to perform operations on resources
- Commonly paired with JSON for data exchange

```
// GET Request to Fetch a User denoted by ID  
  
> GET /users/123  
  
// Response  
  
{  
    "id": 123,  
    "name": "John Doe",  
    "email": john.doe@example.com  
}
```

Message queuing (MQ)

- Asynchronous communication model
 - Messages sent to a queue and processed by consumers independently of the producer
- Stronger decoupling



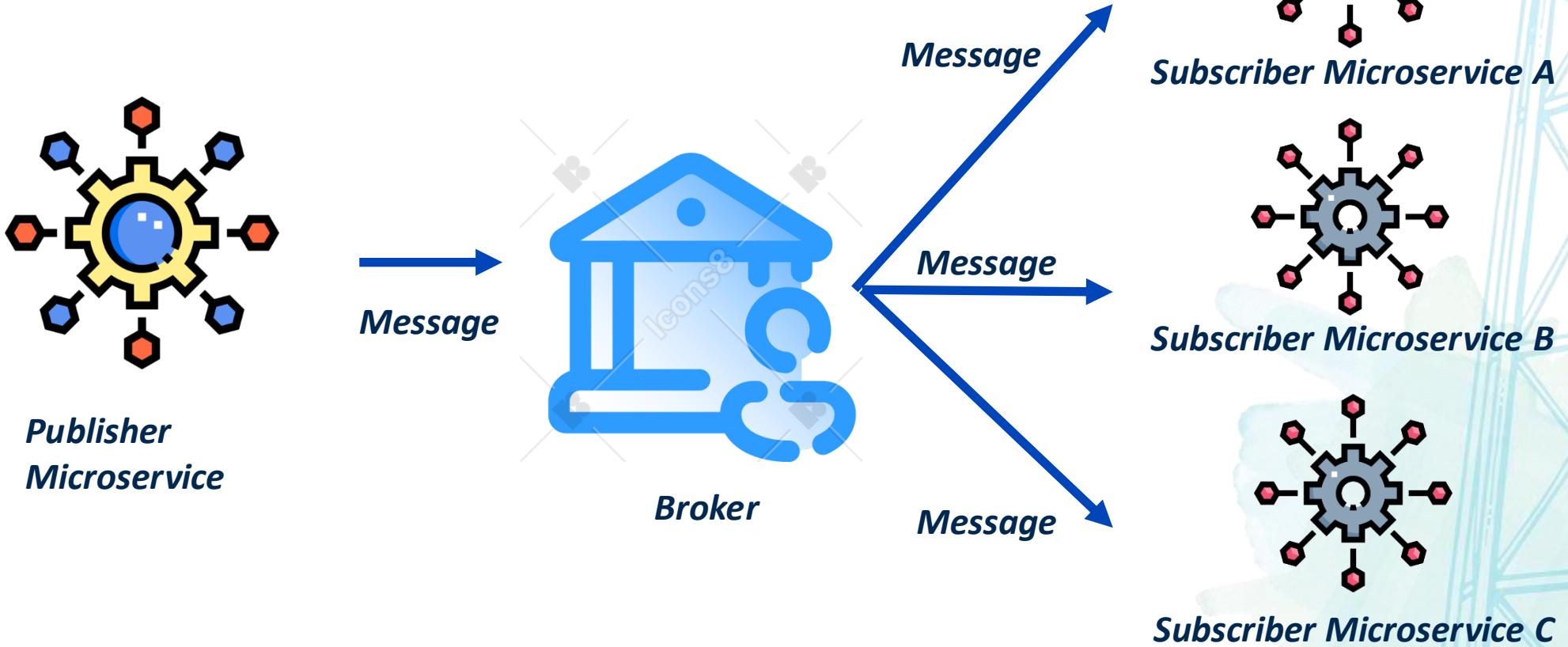
Open source and paid MQ services



Pub-sub architecture

- Asynchronous messaging pattern where **publishers** send messages to a central **message broker** or **topic**, and **subscribers** receive messages based on their subscriptions
- Broadcasting: messages can be sent to multiple subscribers
- Typically, messages are persistent at the broker and must be explicitly deleted
- Same frameworks often can act as both MQ or Pub-Sub depending on configuration

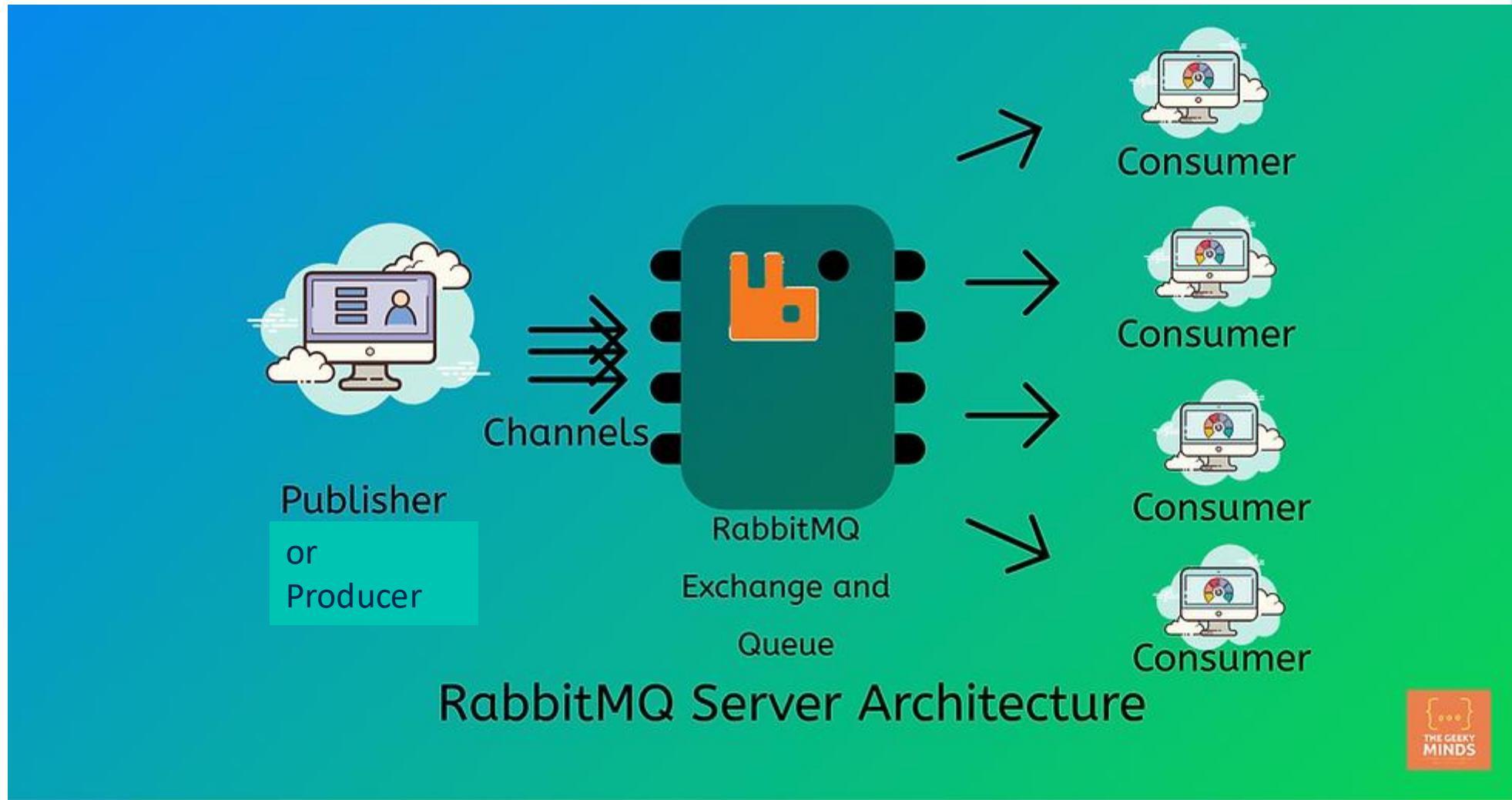
Pub-sub architecture



Pub-sub frameworks



RabbitMQ architecture



Asynchronous communication with RabbitMQ

```
public class RabbitMQProducer {  
    private static final String QUEUE_NAME = "hello_queue";  
  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        // Create a connection factory  
        ConnectionFactory factory = new ConnectionFactory();  
        factory.setHost("localhost"); // RabbitMQ server  
        address  
  
        try (Connection connection = factory.newConnection();  
             Channel channel = connection.createChannel()) {  
  
            // Declare a queue (it must exist before publishing)  
            channel.queueDeclare(QUEUE_NAME, false, false,  
            false, null);  
  
            String message = "Hello, RabbitMQ!";  
            channel.basicPublish("", QUEUE_NAME, null,  
            message.getBytes());  
  
            System.out.println(" [x] Sent: '" + message + "'");  
        } catch (Exception e) {  
            e.printStackTrace();  
        }  
    }  
}
```

```
public class RabbitMQConsumer {  
    private static final String QUEUE_NAME = "hello_queue";  
  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        ConnectionFactory factory = new ConnectionFactory();  
        factory.setHost("localhost");  
  
        try {  
            Connection connection = factory.newConnection();  
            Channel channel = connection.createChannel();  
  
            // Declare the queue in case it doesn't exist  
            channel.queueDeclare(QUEUE_NAME, false, false, false,  
            null);  
  
            System.out.println(" [*] Waiting for messages...");  
  
            // Create a consumer to receive messages  
            DeliverCallback deliverCallback = (consumerTag, delivery) -> {  
                String message = new String(delivery.getBody(), "UTF-  
                8");  
  
                System.out.println(" [v] Received: '" + message + "'");  
            };  
  
            channel.basicConsume(QUEUE_NAME, true, deliverCallback,  
            consumerTag -> { });  
  
        } catch (Exception e) {  
            e.printStackTrace();  
        }  
    }  
}
```