

Serverless architecture: Functions as a Service

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- 3+ years in community building

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ThoughtWorks®

TECHNOLOGY RADAR *APRIL '16*

Our thoughts on the
technology and trends that
are shaping the future

Serverless is coming!



Serverless “hype”

1. News

2. Blog posts

3. Meetups

4. Conferences

.....

CAUTION

**USE AT YOUR
OWN RISK**

“Нужно бежать со всех ног, чтобы только оставаться на месте, а чтобы куда-то попасть, надо бежать как минимум вдвое быстрее!”

(Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking Glass, Chapter 2)

**“If you wait by the river long
enough, the bodies of frameworks
will float by”** *Sun Tzu*



Knockout.



Chapter I:

The hardest problem

The hardest problem in computer science

- ...is, of course, **naming**.

Serverless architecture!

Just right for front-end devs?

02 WINS

60

Angular.js developer

CAGE

Front-end WINS
FATALITY

???

DevOps ?
Java dev?



Fashionable Naming

Cloud Computing

Infrastructure as a service

Platform as a service

Function as a service

Serverless architecture

AWS Lambda, Phoenix Environments, API Gateway,

.....



Chapter II:

From the Iron Age to the Cloud Age

Self-hosting
(aka On-premise)



You buy and install hardware

A photograph of network installation tools and materials. A black and silver crimping tool with two handles is positioned diagonally across the upper right. To its left is a bundle of white Ethernet cables, some with blue and green markings. Below the cables, a single RJ45 connector is visible. The entire scene is set on a dark brown wooden surface.

You manage networks

A man in a light blue button-down shirt and khaki pants is sitting on a wooden floor, looking off to the side with a surprised expression. To his left is a large, messy stack of computer hardware, including multiple motherboards, RAM modules, and other components, some of which are labeled 'MXC'. The background shows a home interior with wooden cabinets, a stone fireplace, and a bar area.

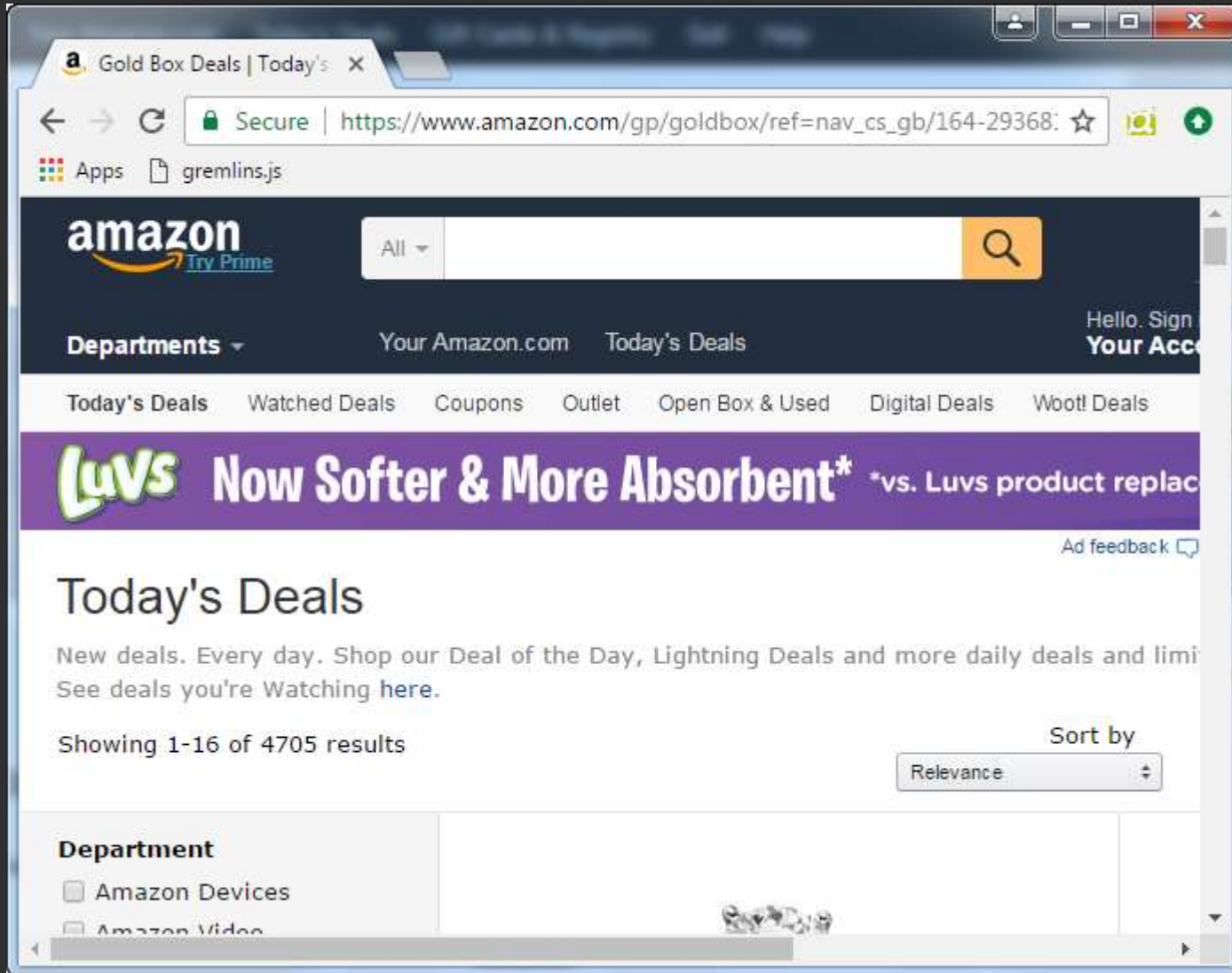
You scale

[Silicon Valley](<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2575988/>)

A man with dark hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt, stands in a workshop. He is looking towards the right with a concerned expression. In the background, a large fire is burning from a pile of electronic components. A black flag with a white skull and crossed swords hangs on the wall. A poster on the wall reads "TechCrunch DISRUPT" and "Pay to: Piper". A desk with a monitor and keyboard is visible behind him. A red fire extinguisher is on the floor in the foreground.

You maintain

In Amazon we trust



Survey

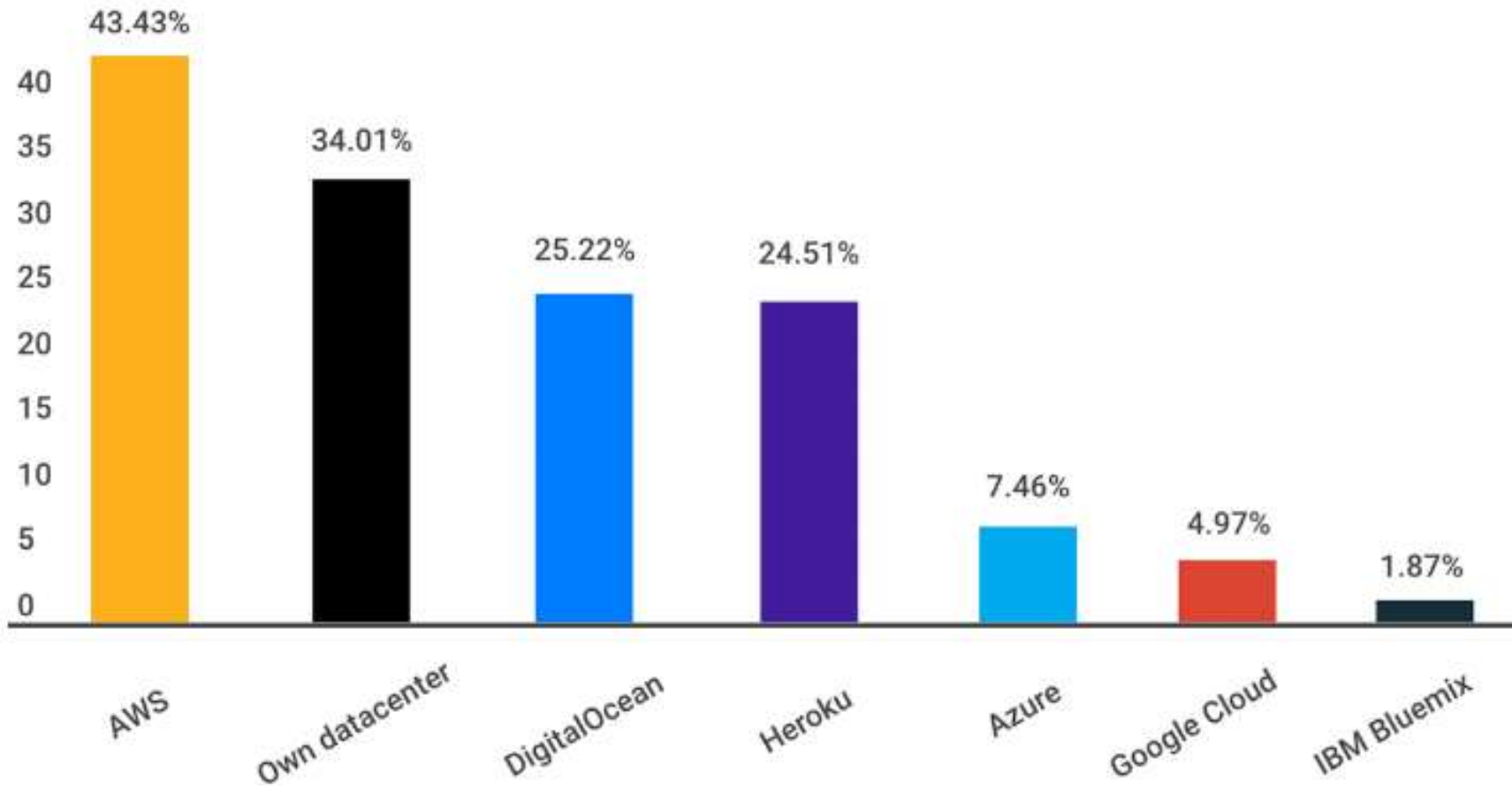
“How Developers use **Node.js”**

1126 Respondents

<https://blog.risingstack.com/node-js-developer-survey-results-2016/>

Where do you run your Node.js apps?

1126 respondents - multiple choice answers





Three DevOps Survey

Results: 80-90% AWS/Hybrid/ Private cloud

Azure

Google

IBM

AWS



Private cloud

PayPal OpenStack Private Cloud

Physical servers: 8000+

Total cores: 400 000+

Number of VMs: 82000+

Storage: 2 petabytes

Processed \$228 billion in payments last year



Chapter III:

Cloud computing services

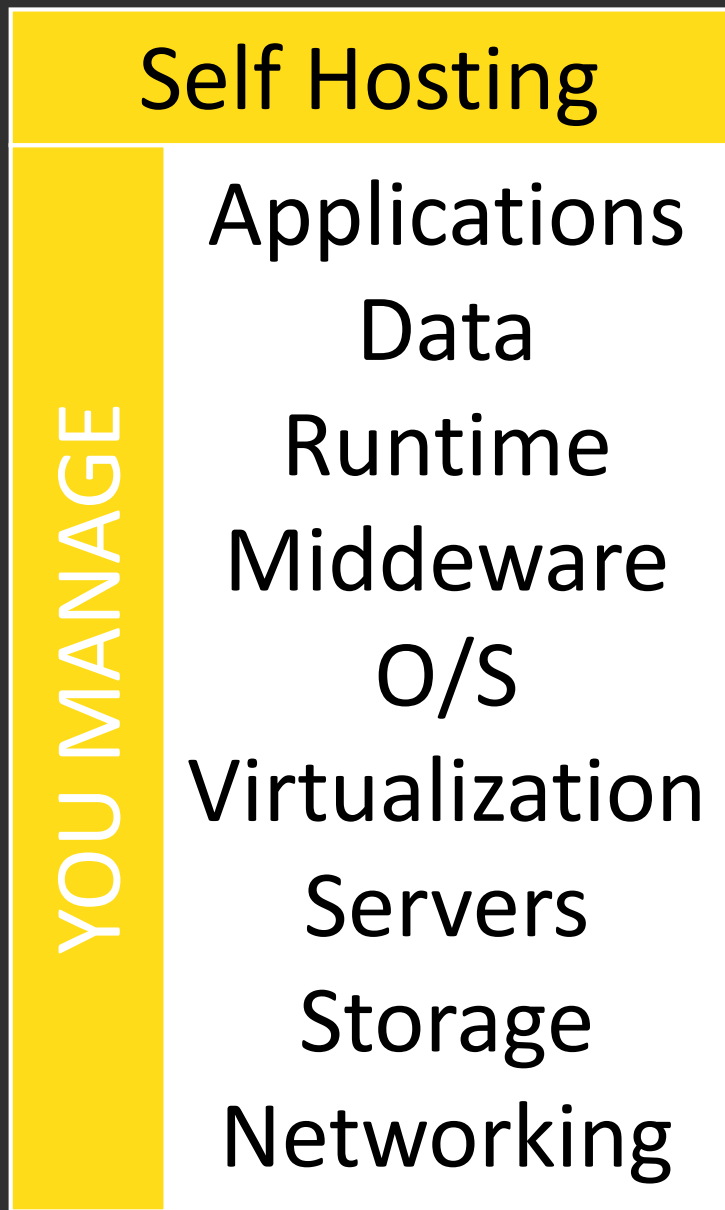
Infrastructure as a service (IaaS)

is a form of cloud computing that provides virtualized computing resources over the Internet.

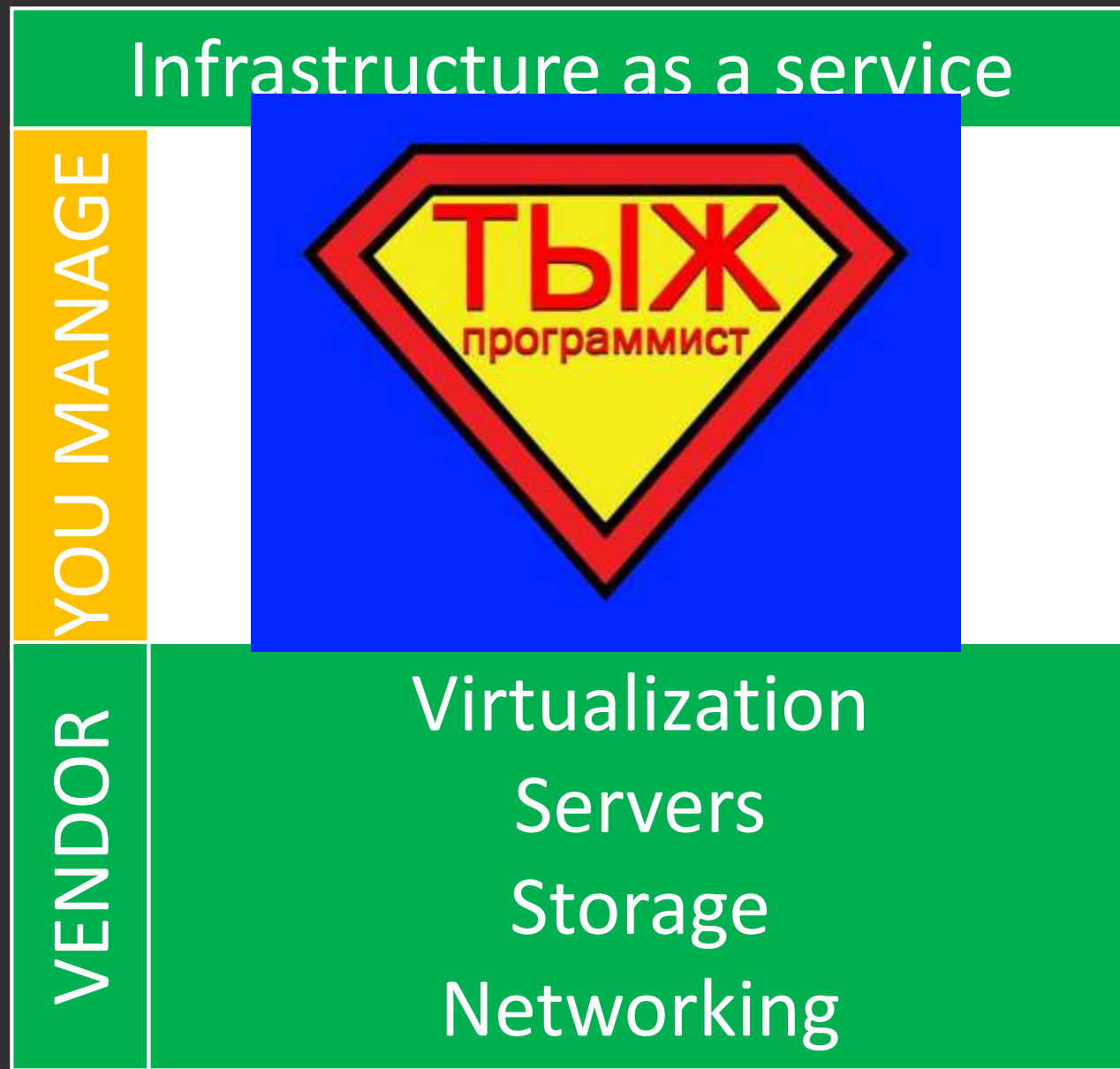
Self Hosting	
YOU MANAGE	Applications Data Runtime Middleware O/S Virtualization Servers Storage Networking

VS

Infrastructure as a service	
YOU MANAGE	Applications Data Runtime Middleware O/S
VENDOR	Virtualization Servers Storage Networking



VS



40 servers to 5000 in 3 days

ANIMOTO



EC2 scaled to peak of 5000 instances

"Techcrunched"

Launch of Facebook modification

Steady state of ~40 instances

Number of instances

4/12/2008

4/13/2008

4/14/2008

4/15/2008

4/16/2008

4/17/2008

4/18/2008

4/19/2008

4/20/2008

Case Study

IAAS benefits

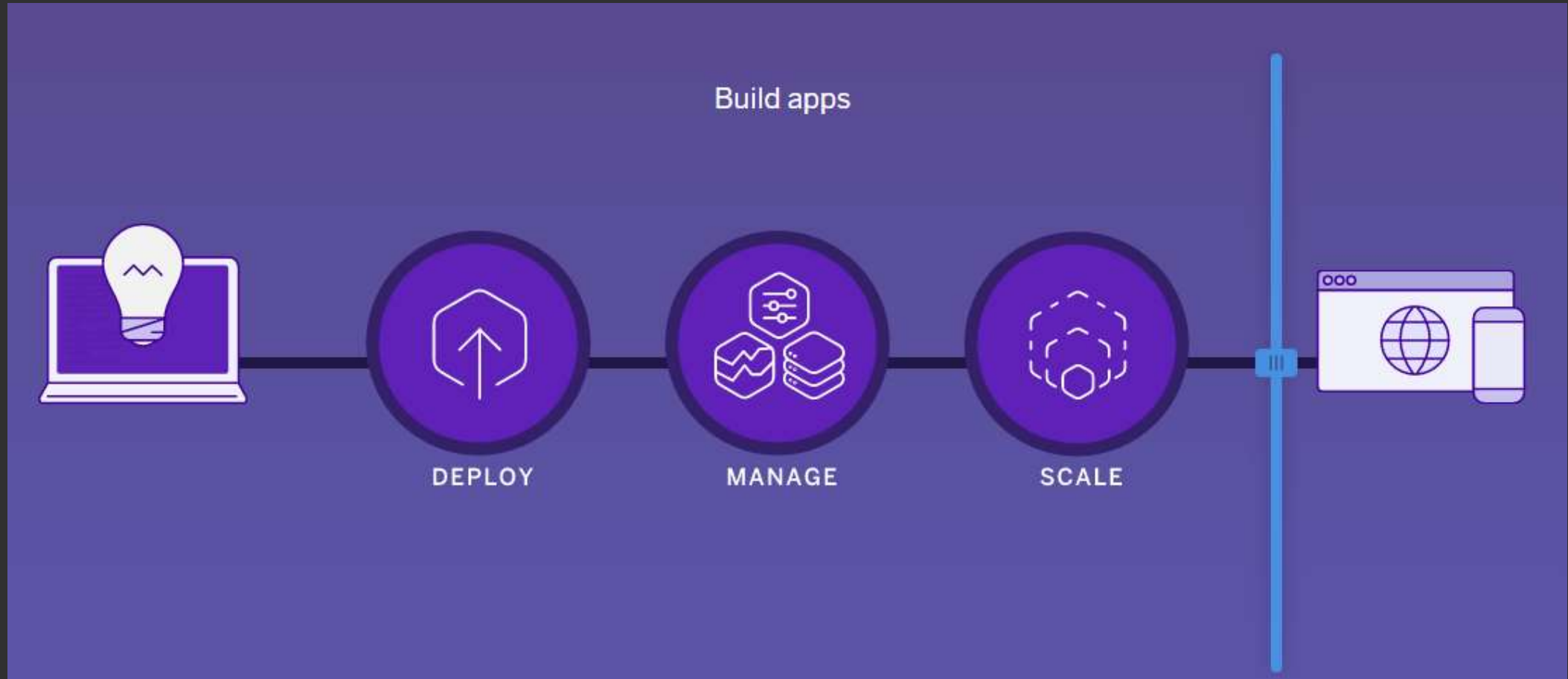
- Infrastructure in minutes
- Reduced operational cost
- Pay as you go
- Worldwide
- Scalability and flexibility
- Anytime, Anywhere, Access

“add dev/prod env, env in japan, add 1000 servers or remove 1000 servers - by clicking a button”

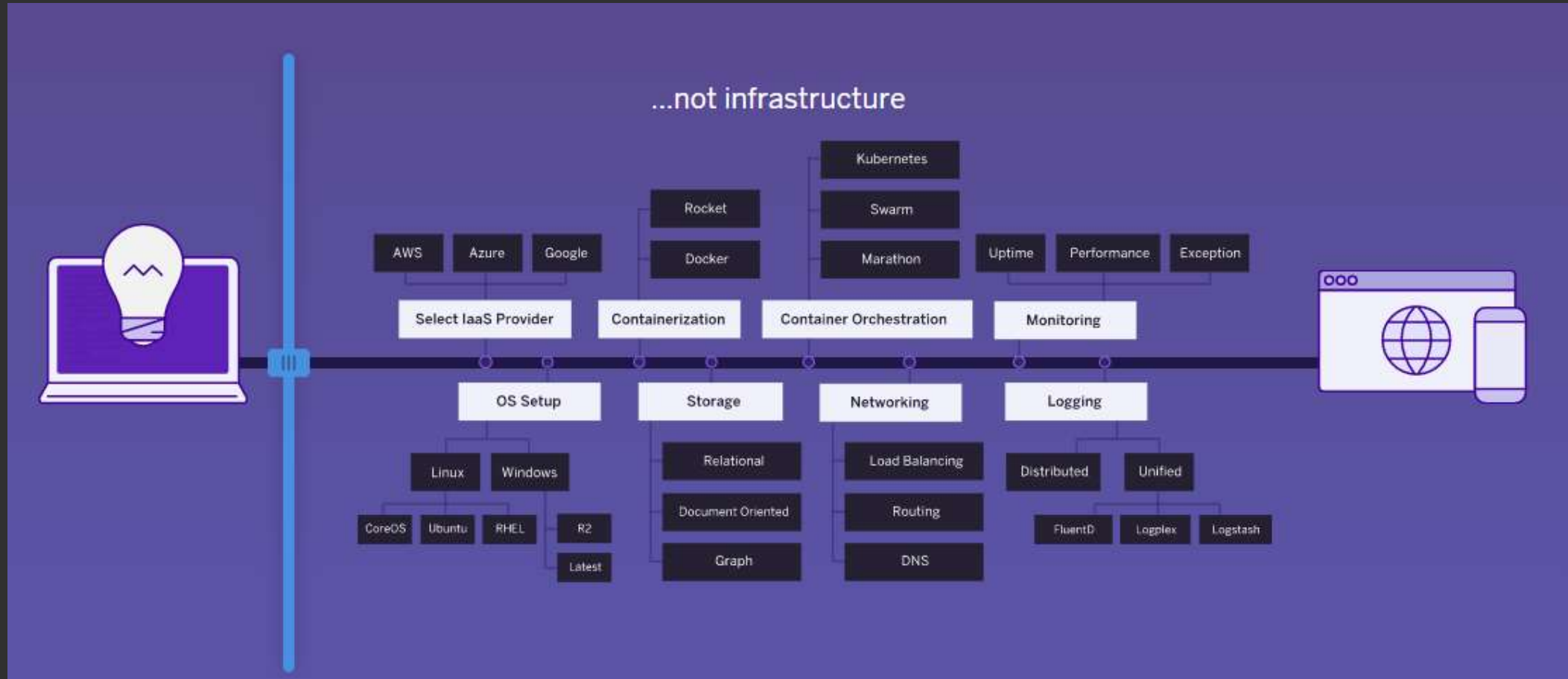
Platform as a service

Platform as a service	
YOU	Applications Data
VENDOR MANAGE	Runtime Middleware O/S Virtualization Servers Storage Networking

Heroku: “Build apps...



Heroku: “... not infrastructure”



Platform as a service

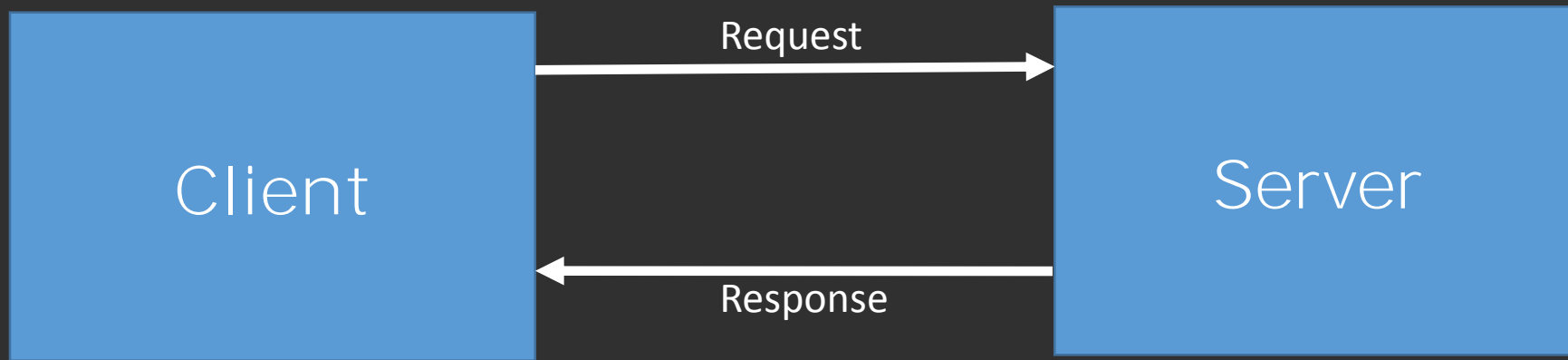
“Many large organizations see the Cloud and **Platform as a Service** (PaaS) as an obvious way to standardize infrastructure, ease deployment and operations, and make developers more productive. **But it's still early days...**”

(C)ThoughtWorks Radar

Chapter III:

Scalability and cost basics

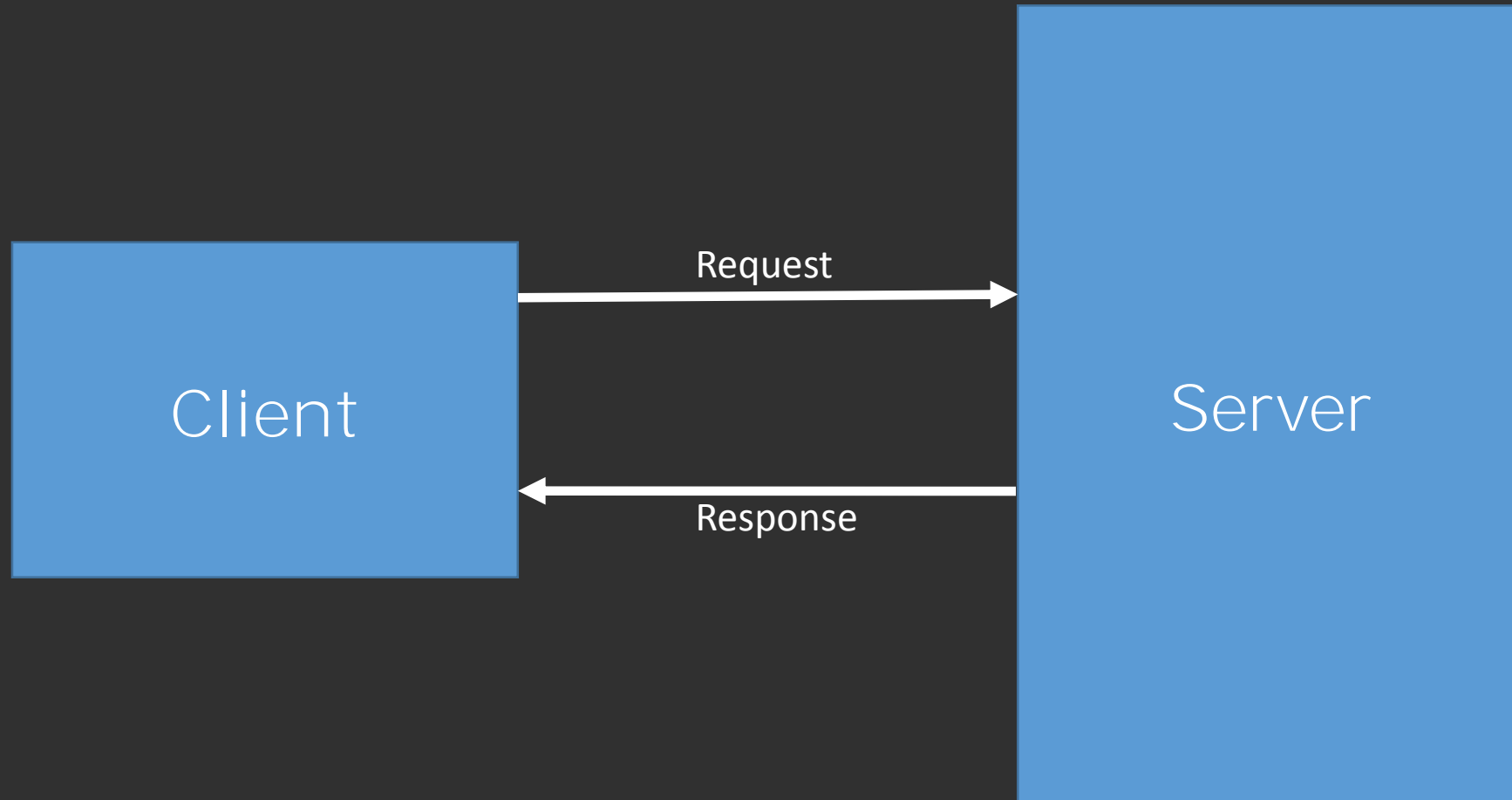
Classic Client-Server Architecture



What about scaling?

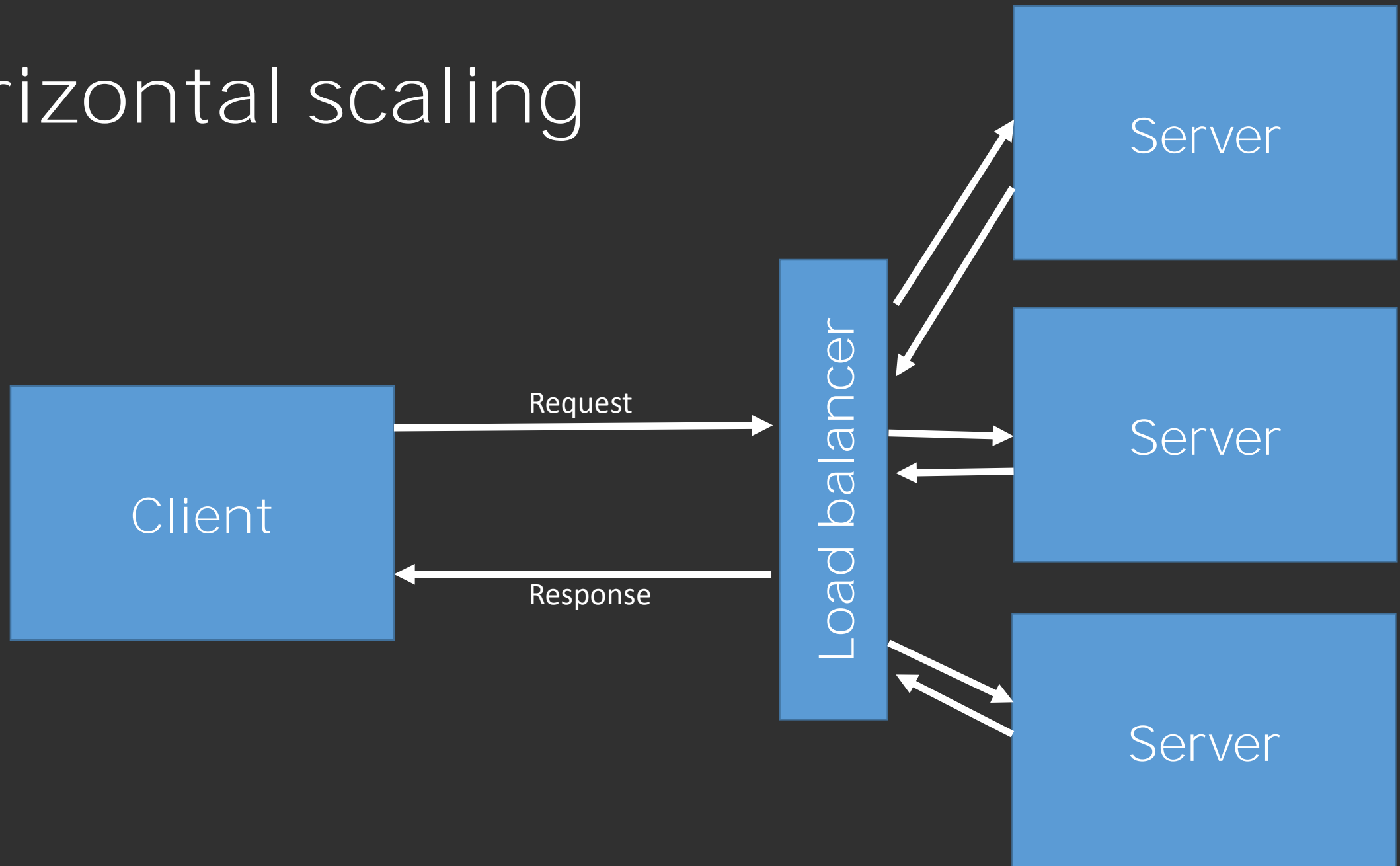
10 users -> 10000+ users

Vertical scaling



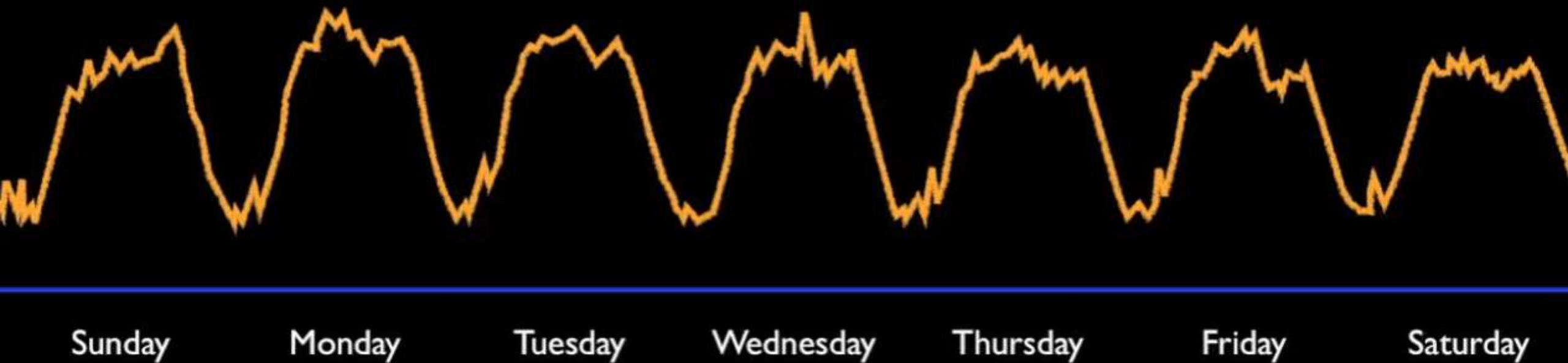
That's enough for 90 percent of
projects

Horizontal scaling

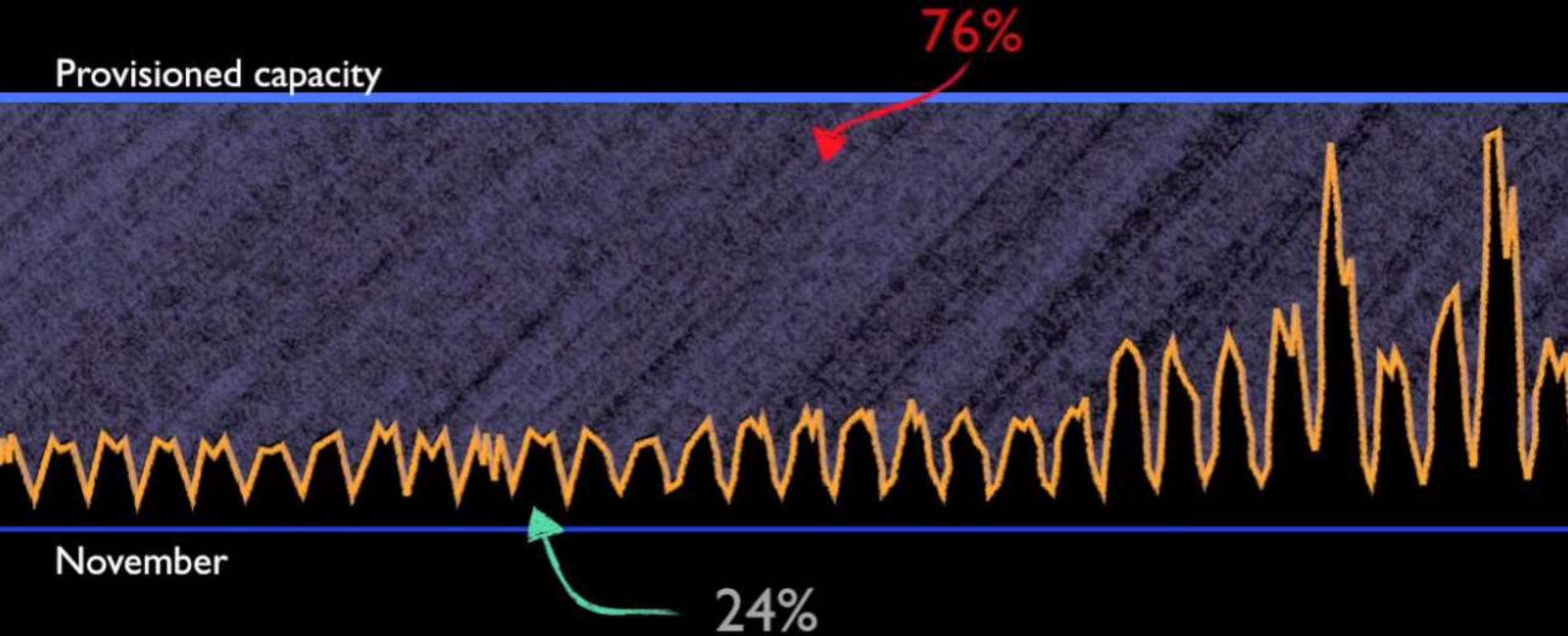


Traffic story

Typical weekly traffic to Amazon.com



November traffic to Amazon.com



Chapter IV:



Function as a service

Serverless architecture

1. Infinite scaling
2. Only pay for the compute that you need
3. No servers to manage

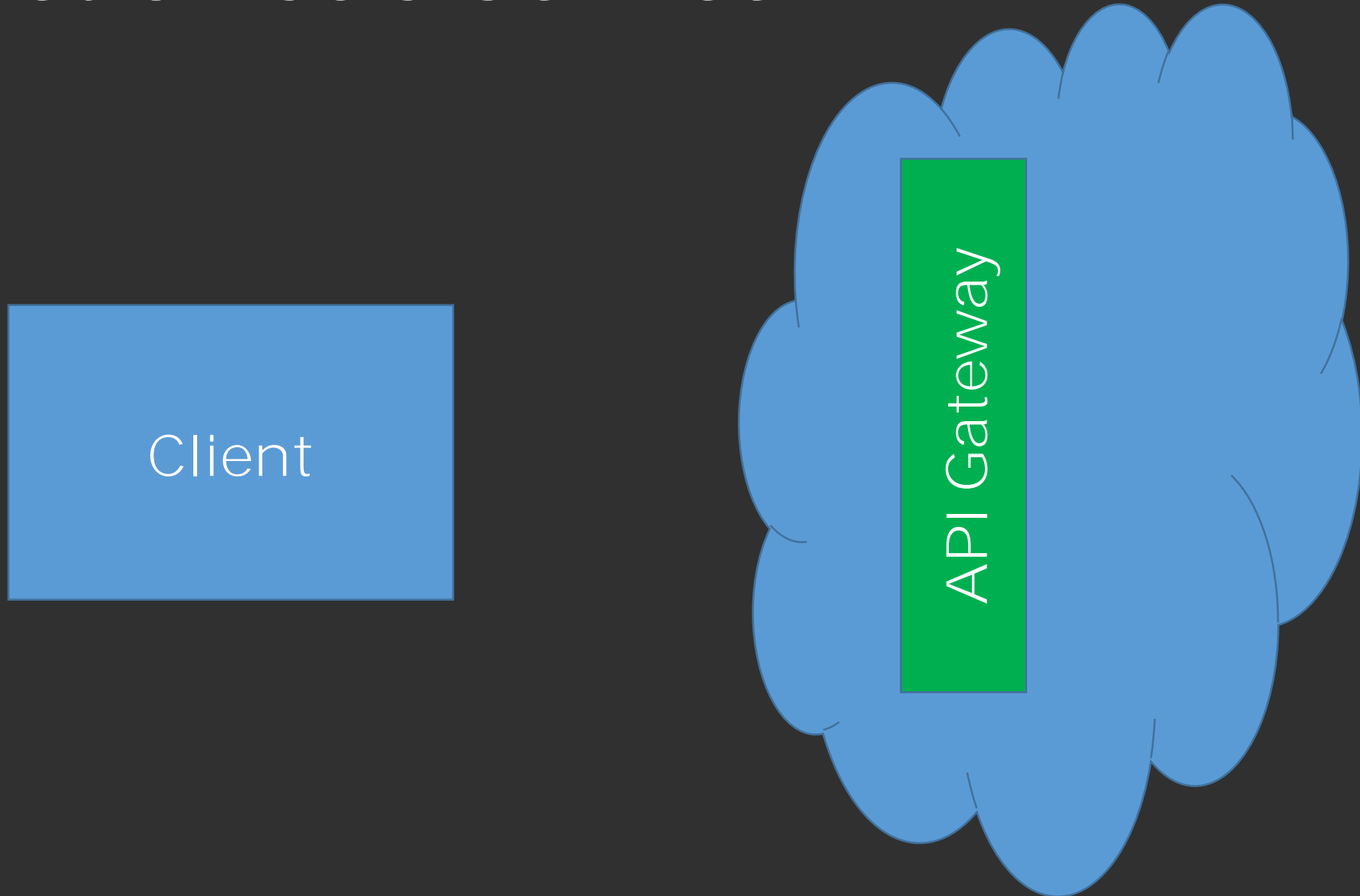
Function as a service	
YOU	Applications Data
VENDOR MANAGE	Runtime Middleware O/S Virtualization Servers Storage Networking

Function as a Service

“ Magic  er power that comes into existence on request and dissapears immediatly after use”

(c) ThoughtWorks Radar

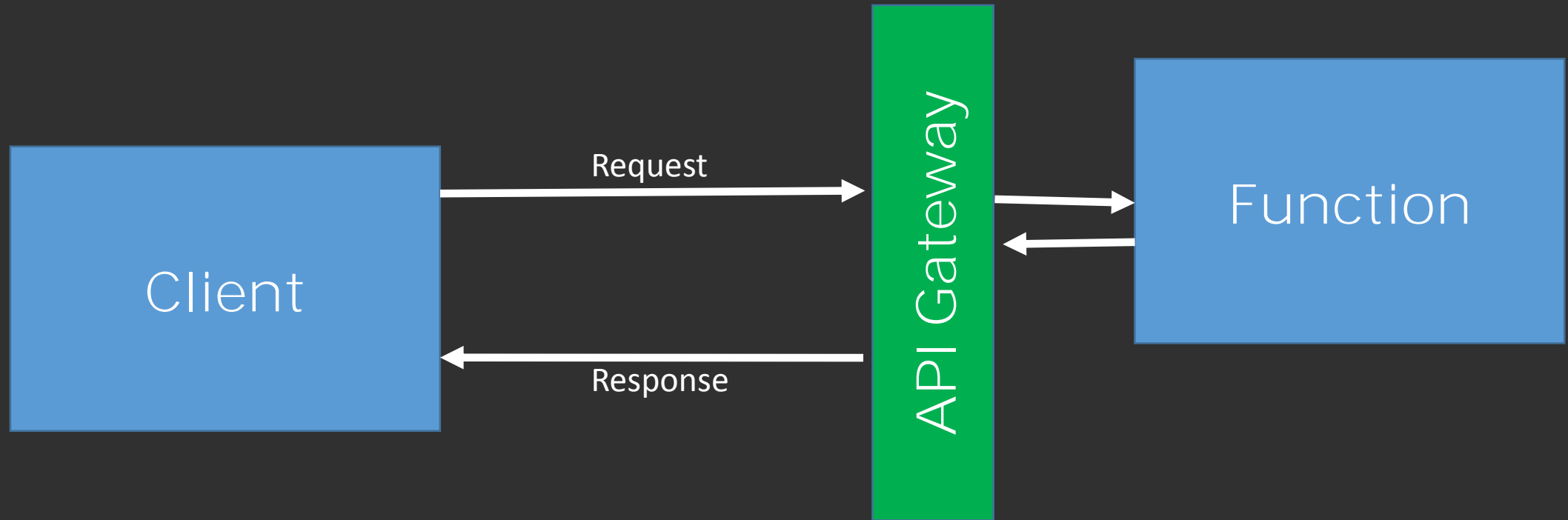
Function as a Service



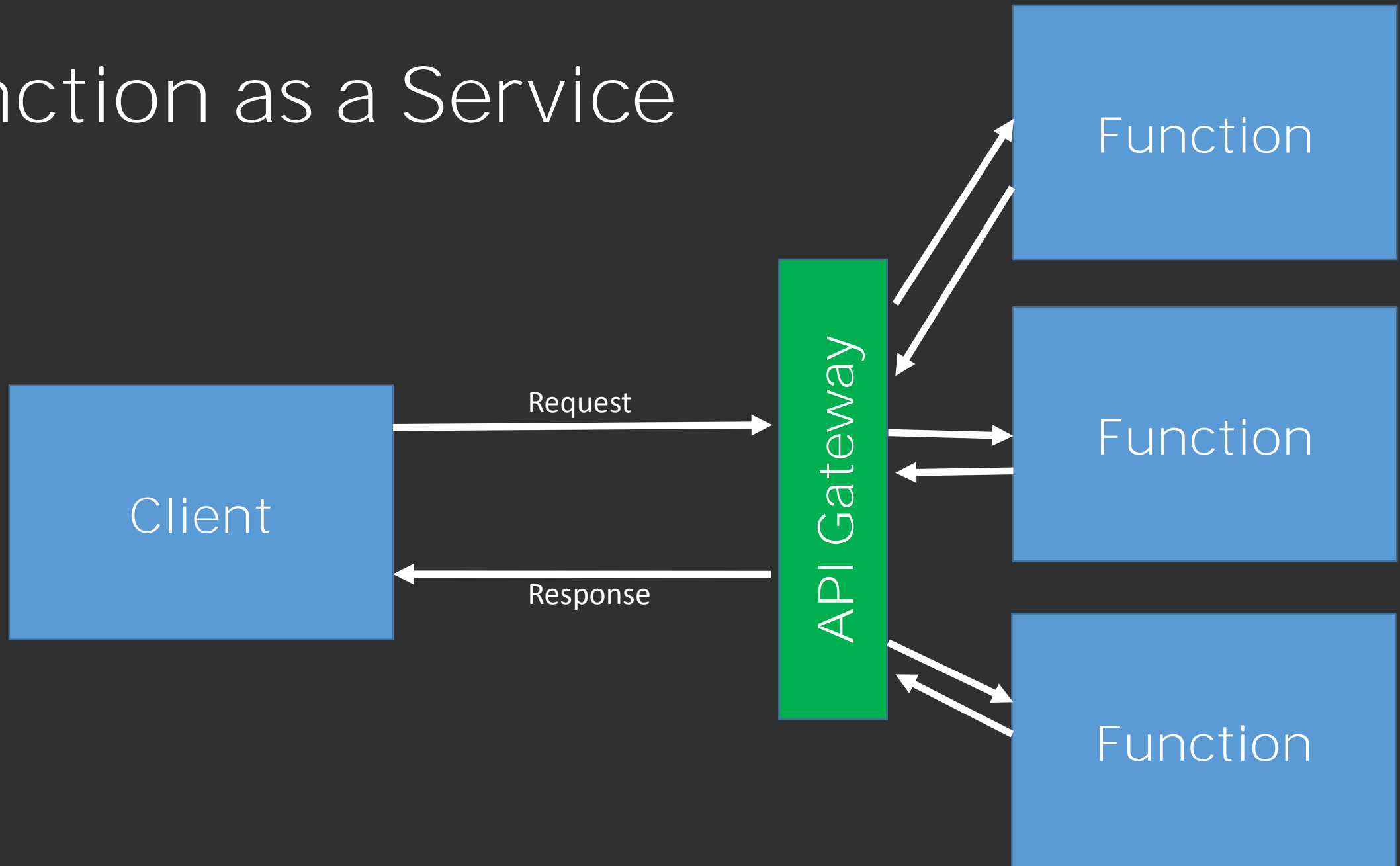
Amazon API Gateway

- 📦 Fully managed and scalable **RESTful** API gateway service
- 📦 Powered by our **content delivery network** via 59 global edge locations

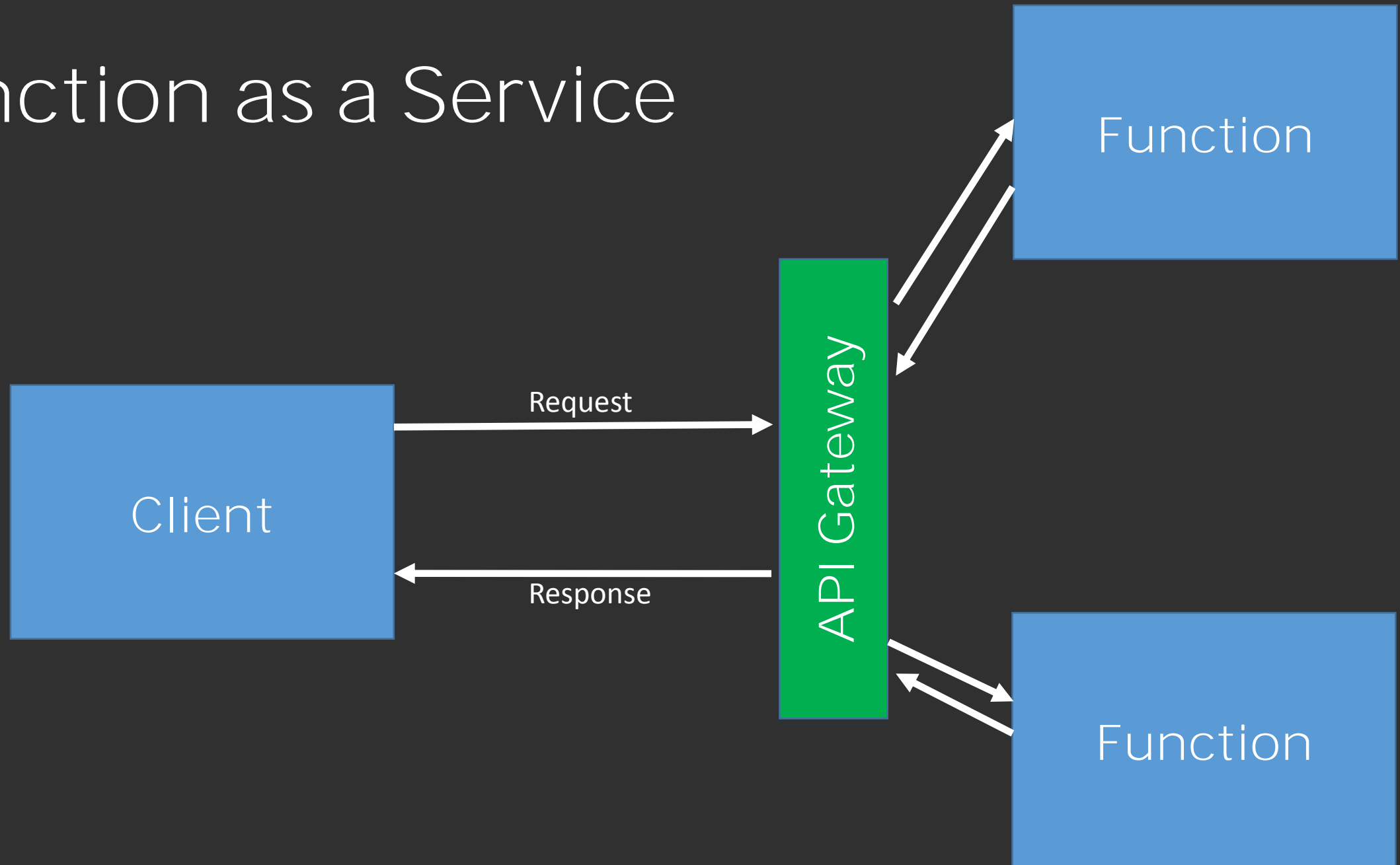
Function as a Service



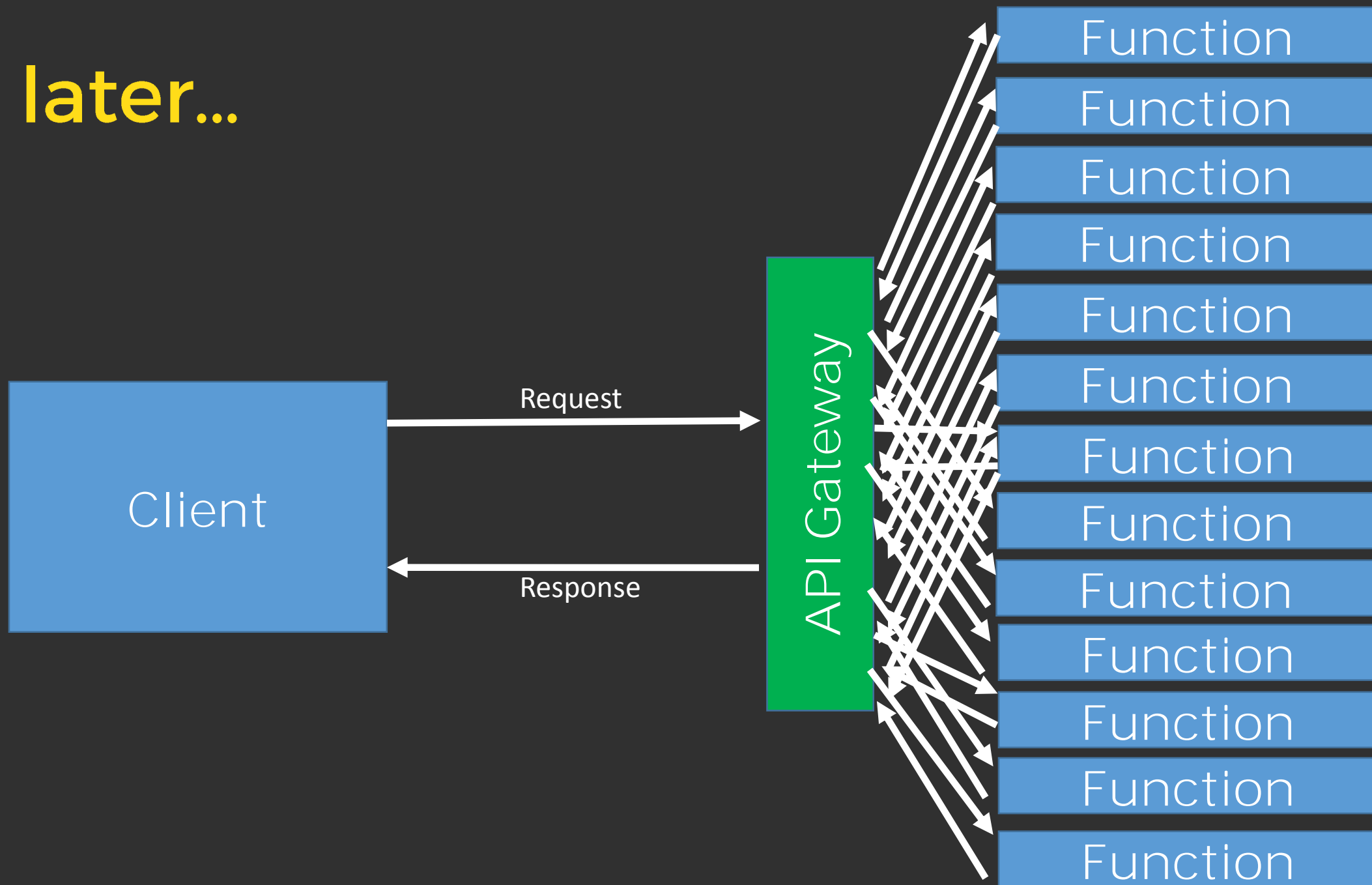
Function as a Service



Function as a Service



30s later...



60s later...

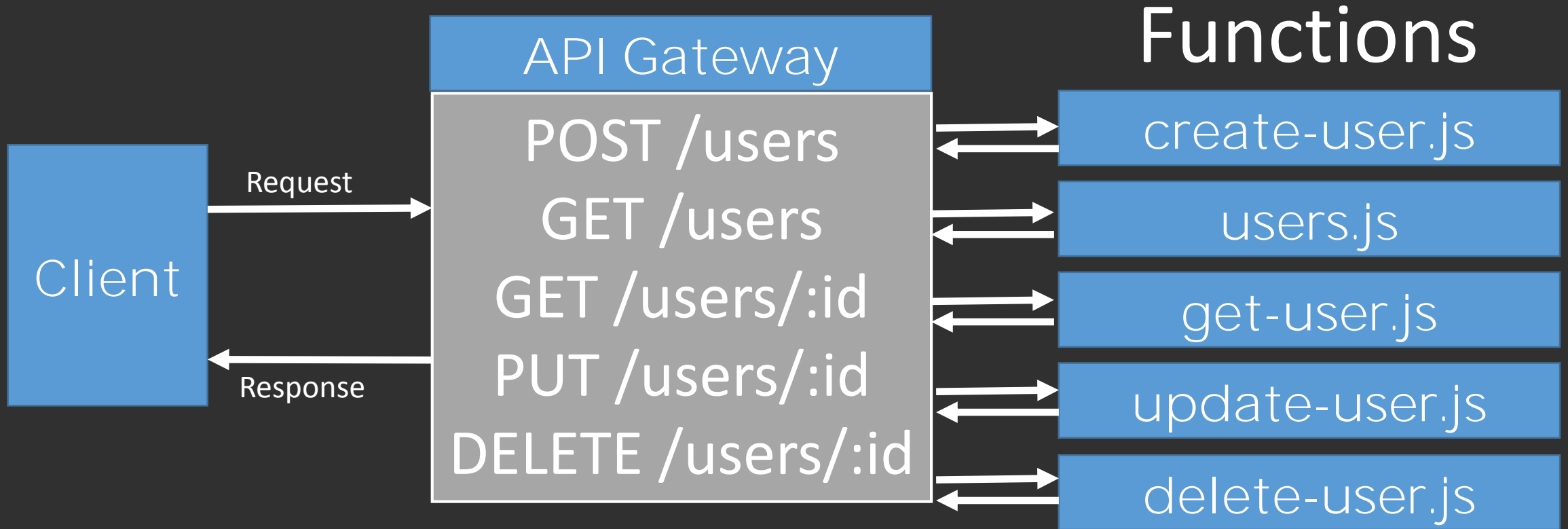


Client

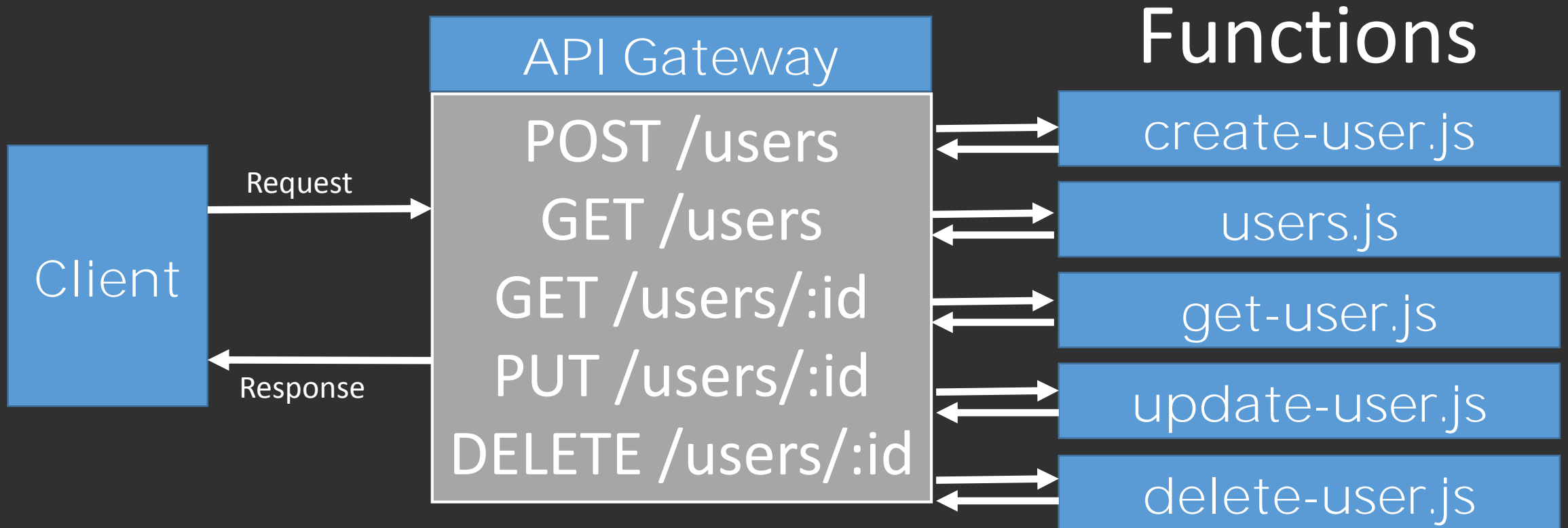
The diagram consists of two main components. On the left is a light blue square labeled 'Client'. On the right is a vertical green rectangle labeled 'API Gateway'. The text is white and centered within each shape.

API Gateway

Nanoservices



Granular Deploy, Update, Scale, Reliability, etc.




Use case #1

Rolling Scopes School · X

GitHub, Inc. [US] | <https://github.com/rolling-scopes-school/>

Apps gremlins.js

Personal Open source Business Explore Pricing

 **Rolling Scopes School**
Rolling Scopes School organisation
Minsk <http://rollingscopes.com/> rolling.scopes@gmail.com

Repositories People 5

Filters Find a repository...

priority-queue JavaScript ★ 0 10

Priority queue task

Score - Google Sheets

Secure | <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W2NI28cE8a4bXv31DM>

Apps gremlins.js

Score ☆

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Comments Share

rolling.scopes@gmail.com

Работа на

	A	B	C	F	G	
1	h			Работа на	HTML & CSS Basics	ex
2	Status	Name	Github	занятиях	04.03.2016	
3	magic factor			1	0.1	
4	Slytherin - Stanislau Zubovich					
5	зачислен(а)	Maksim Shastsel	Shastel	25	100	
6	зачислен(а)	Kantin Dmitry	KantinDmitry	20	100	
7	зачислен(а)	VARVARA TURAVETS	turovets		100	
8	зачислен(а)	Uladzislau Averyn	Averin-Vladislav	30	100	
9	зачислен(а)	Natallia Sasinovich	nsasinovich		100	

+ ☰ 24 Score +

GitHub WebHooks

Request

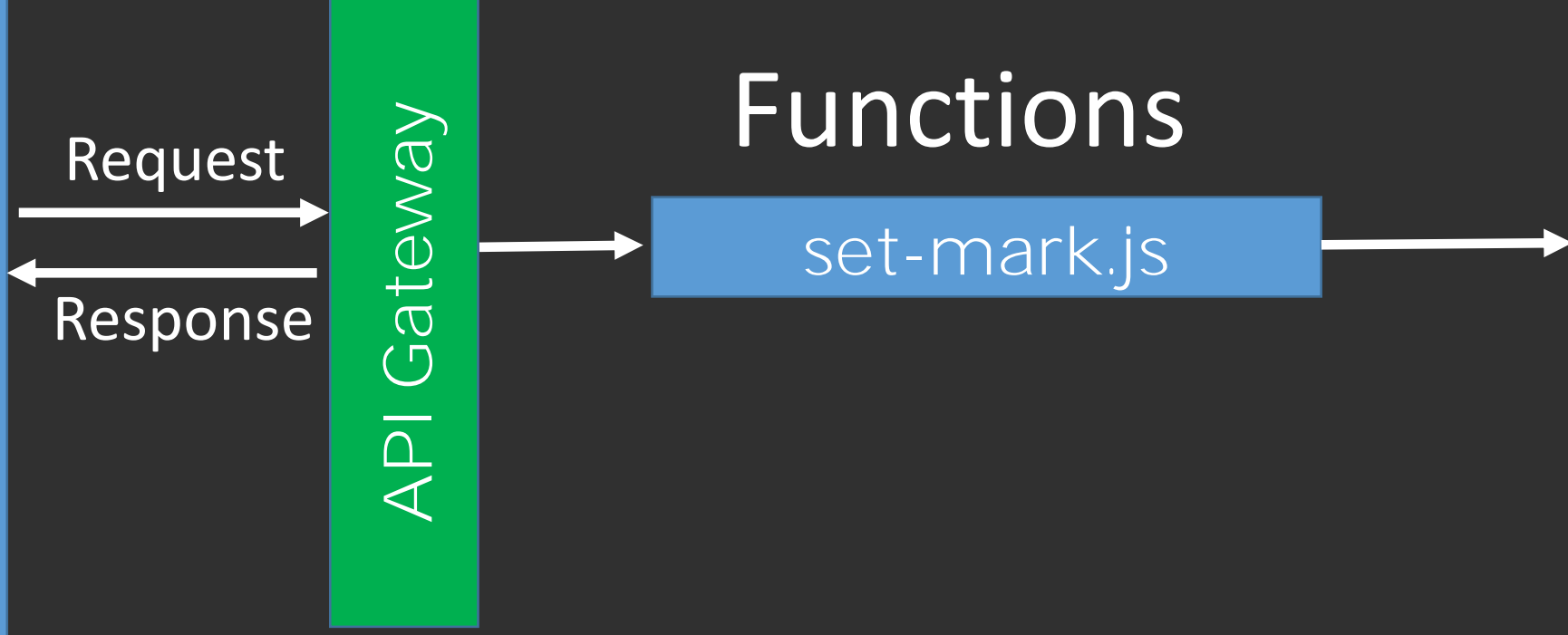
Response

API Gateway

Functions

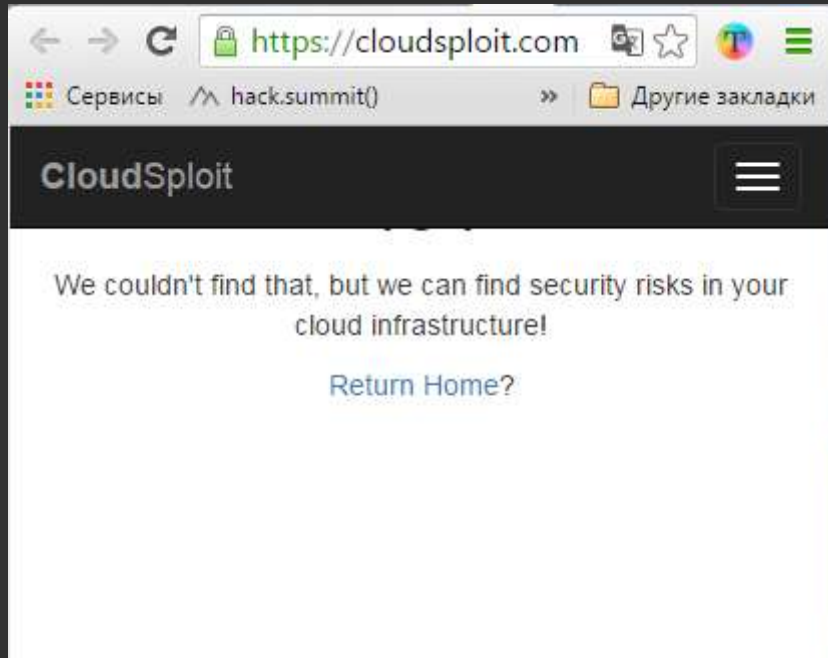
set-mark.js

Google Spreadsheets Data API



Use case #2

Story: We Made the Whole Company “Serverless”



<https://blog.cloudsploit.com/we-made-the-whole-company-serverless-5a91c27cd8c4#.asm49udxm>

Client



React/Angular



AWS S3



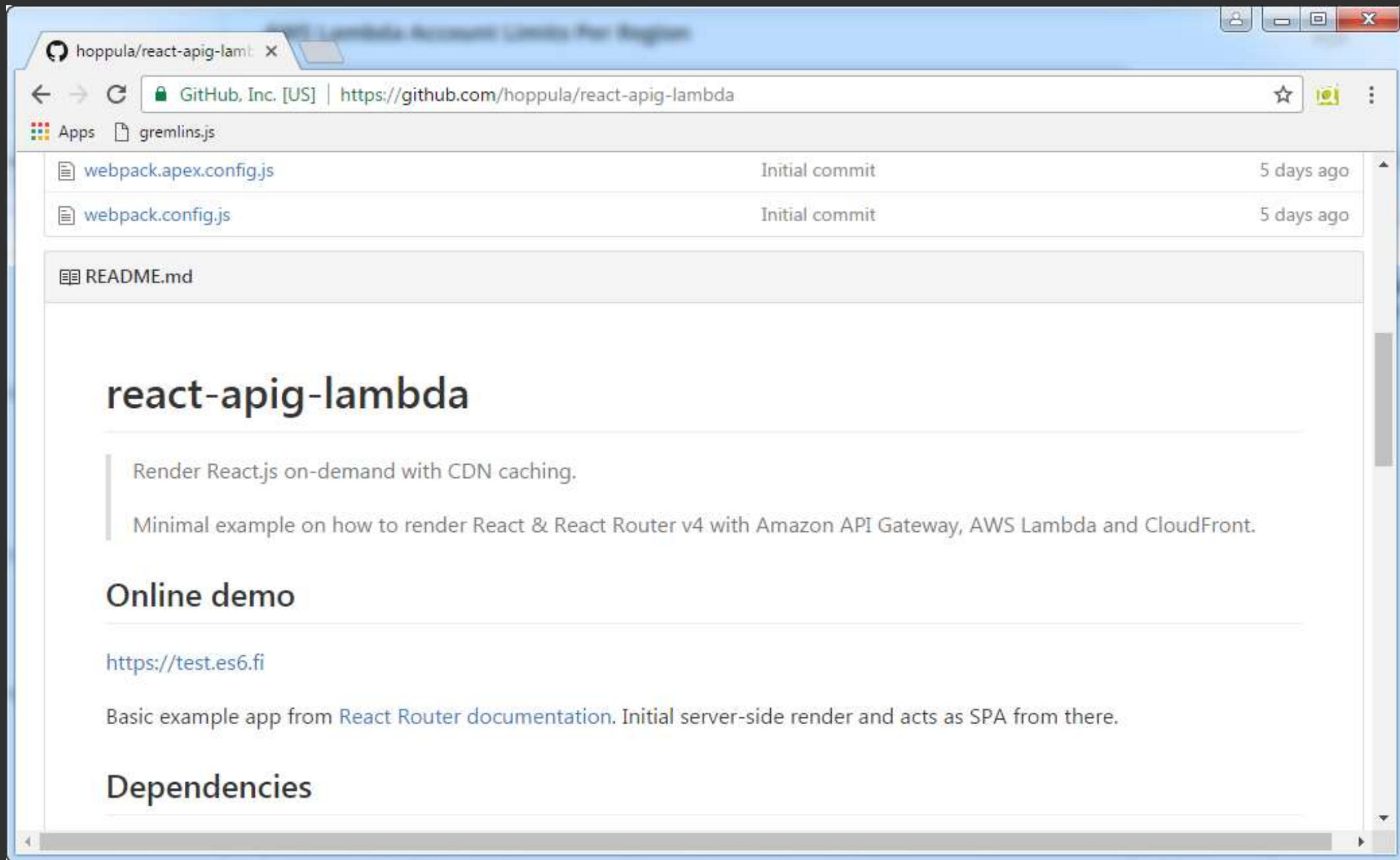
API Gateway

Cloud

users.js

search.js

etc.js



hoppula/react-apig-lambda

GitHub, Inc. [US] | https://github.com/hoppula/react-apig-lambda

Apps gremlins.js

webpack.apex.config.js Initial commit 5 days ago

webpack.config.js Initial commit 5 days ago

README.md

react-apig-lambda

Render React.js on-demand with CDN caching.

Minimal example on how to render React & React Router v4 with Amazon API Gateway, AWS Lambda and CloudFront.

Online demo

<https://test.es6.fi>

Basic example app from [React Router documentation](#). Initial server-side render and acts as SPA from there.

Dependencies

Function as a Service

Functions are the unit of deployment and scaling

No machines, VMs or containers visible in the programming model

Scales per request, Users cannot over- or under-provision capacity

Service Providers

Amazon Lambda

IBM OpenWhisk

Google Cloud Functions

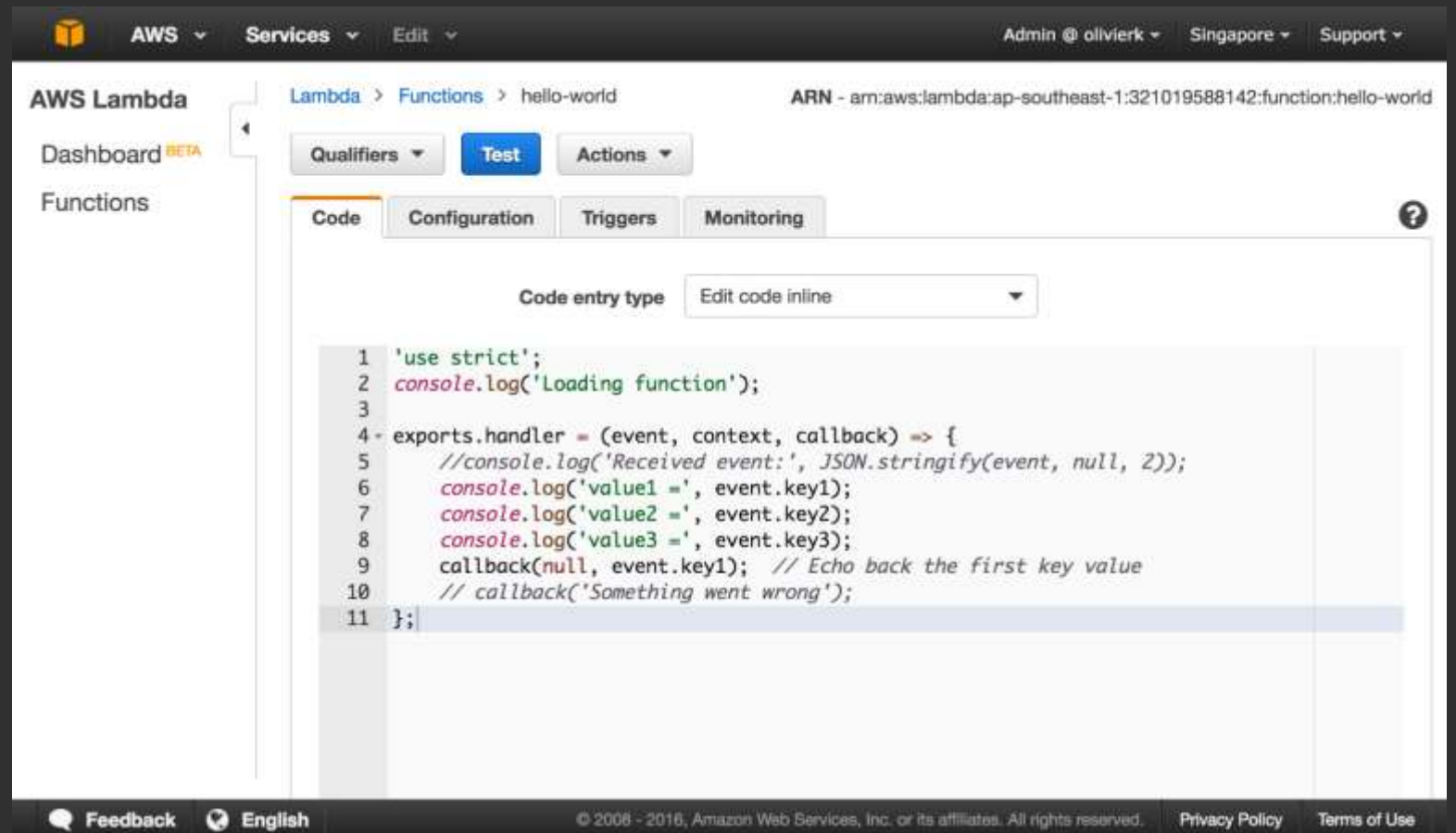
Microsoft Azure Functions

....

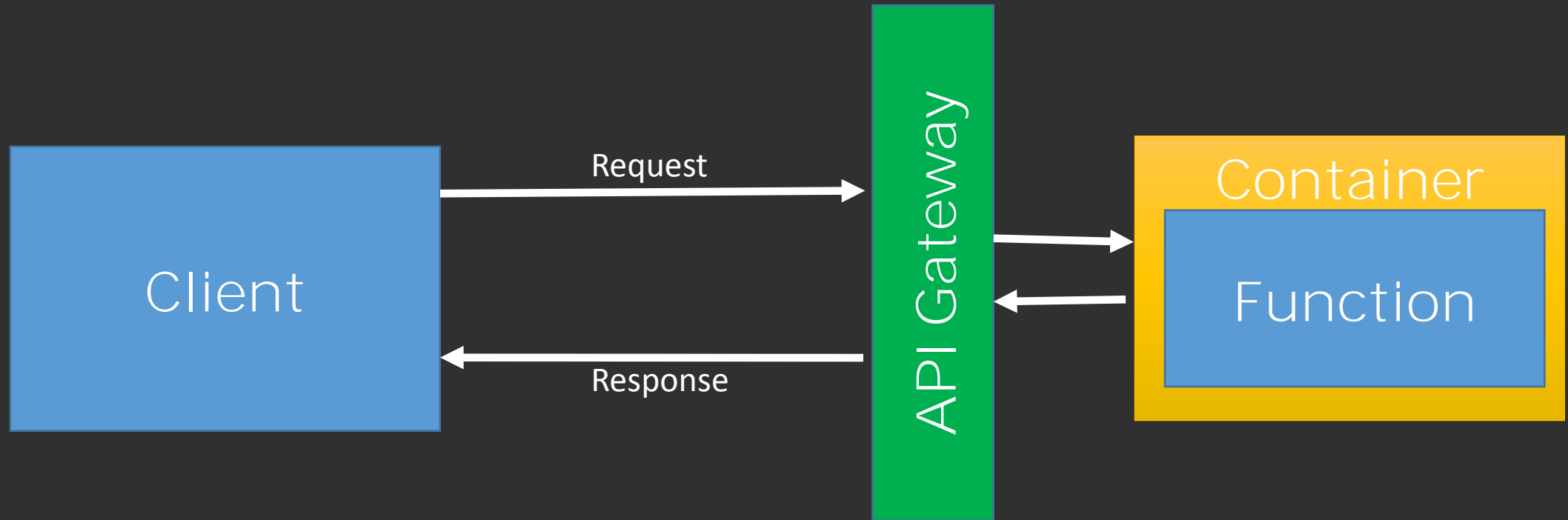


AWS Lambda

Supports
JavaScript,
Java
Python



Lambda container



Start-up latency

Node 10-100 ms

Java ??? ms

Cold start / Hot start / Container reuse

If start time is crucial, create a scheduled function to keep the Lambda function “warm” **(c) AWS**

What is Lambda container?

Resource	Default Limit
Ephemeral disk capacity	512 MB
Invoke request body payload size (RequestResponse)	6 MB
Invoke response body payload size (RequestResponse)	6 MB

<http://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/limits.html>

Maximum
execution
duration
per
request:
5 min



AWS Lambda Deployment Limits

MAX 50Mb (zip) per Function

Default concurrent executions limits

Per Region Per Account

100

NoOps?

Serverless != DevOpsLess

AWS CloudFormation



Phoenix Environments

Using automation, we can create whole environments - including network configuration, load balancing and firewall ports - for example by using [CloudFormation](#) in AWS. We can then prove that the process works by tearing the environments down and recreating them from scratch on a regular basis.

(c) ThoughtWorks Radar

Fine-Grained Pricing



Free Tier

1M requests and 400,000 GBs
of compute.

Every month, every customer.

- 📦 Compute time in 100ms increments
- 📦 Low request charge
- 📦 No hourly, daily or monthly minimums
- 📦 No per-device fees

📦 **Never pay for idle!**

Gigabytes per second (GBps)

Price =

function's RAM size **X** execution time (sec)

Example: 1GB RAM X 5 min = 0.005001\$

ROLLINGSCOPES.COM 😊

Billing: \$11.43/month

Instance utilization: 4%/month 😞

Fond of performance optimization?

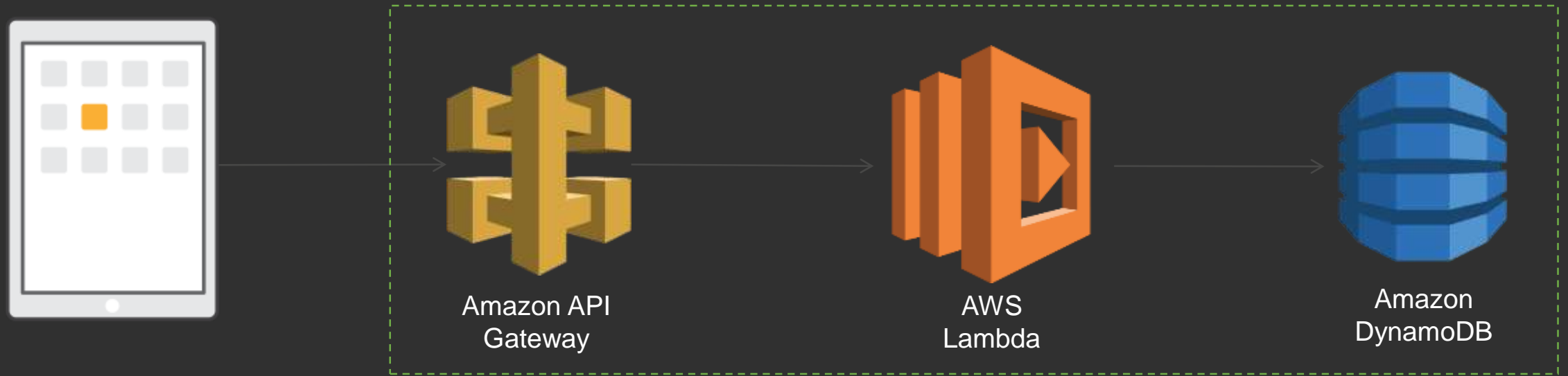
Direct relationship between cost and performance 😊

Serverless architecture

Serverless was first used to describe applications that significantly or fully depend on 3rd party applications / services ('in the cloud') to manage server-side logic and state.

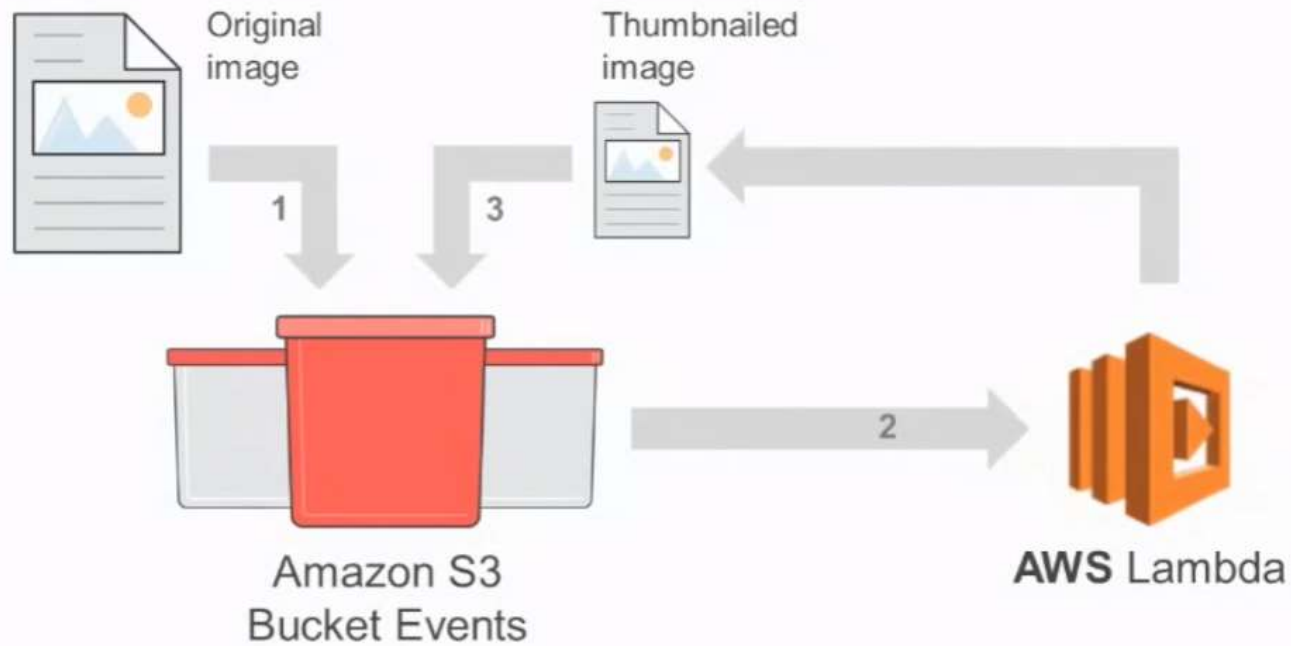
<http://martinfowler.com/articles/serverless.html>

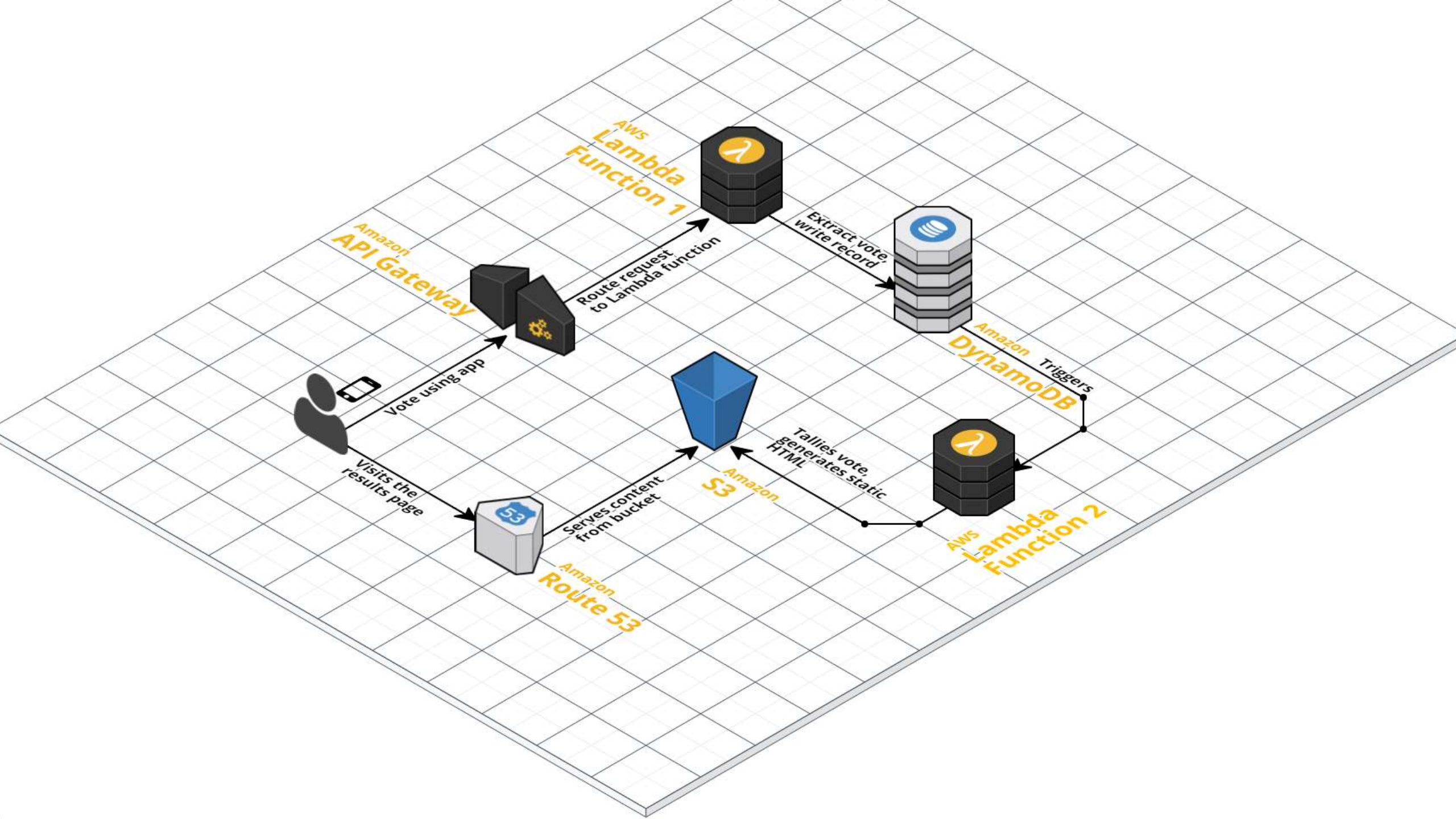
Usual scenario (for web)



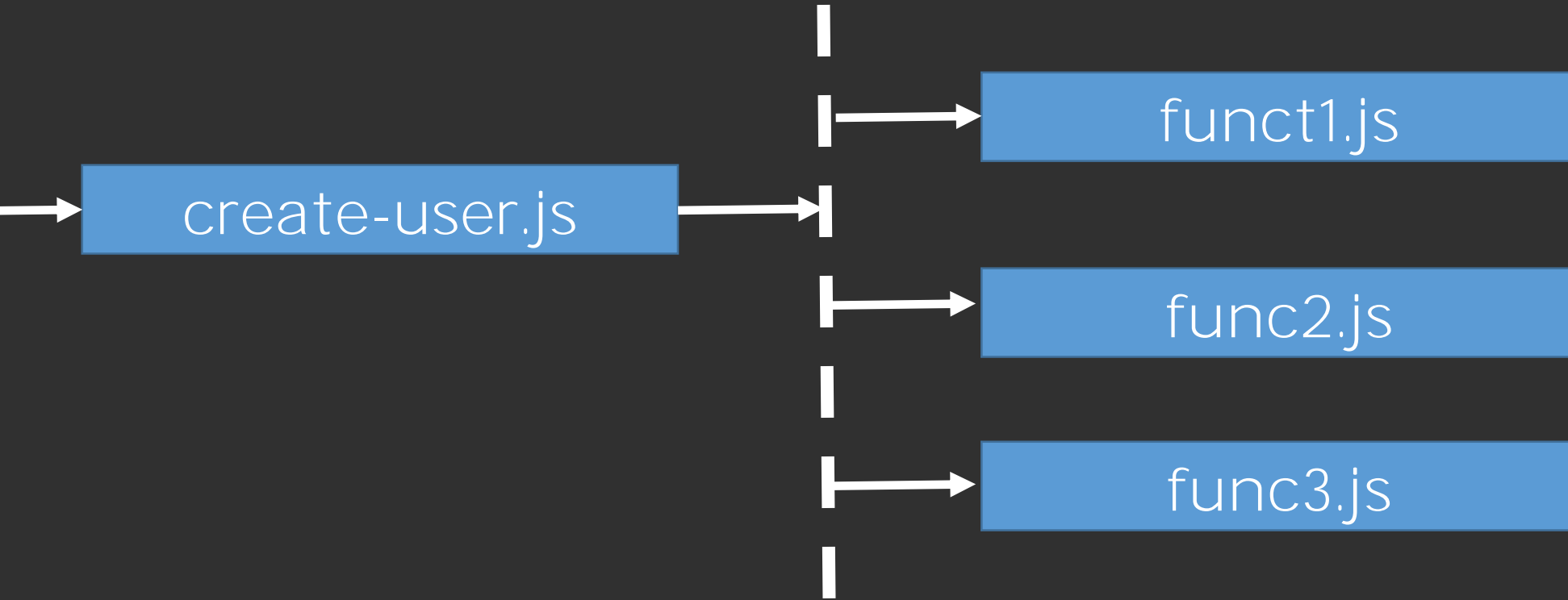
Event-driven Compute in the Cloud

Data Triggers: Amazon S3





SNS Events



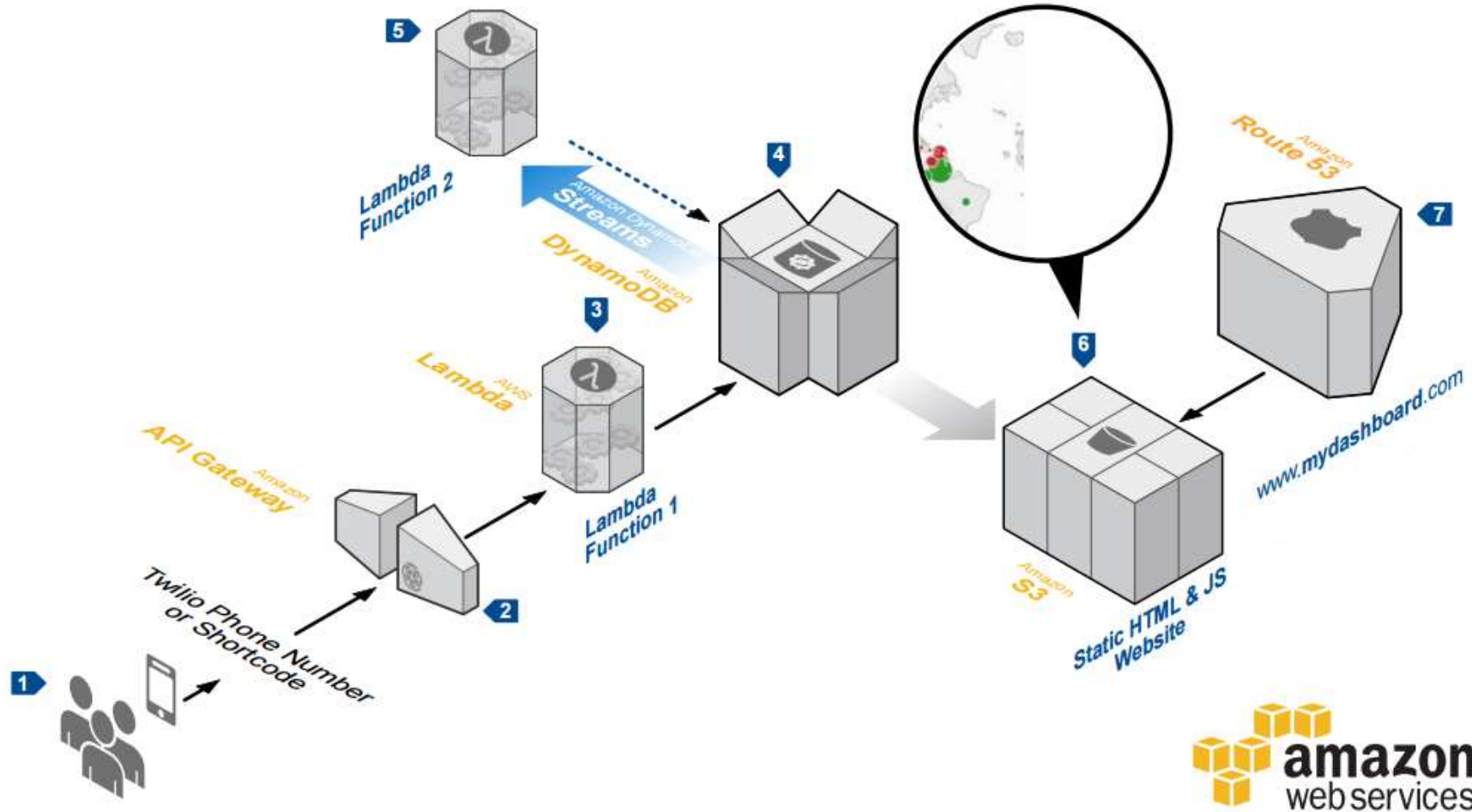
Serverless Reference Architectures with AWS Lambda

- [Web Applications Serverless Reference Architecture](#)
- [Mobile Backend Serverless Reference Architecture](#)
- [Real-time File Processing Serverless Reference Architecture](#)
- [IoT Backend Serverless Reference Architecture](#)
- [Real-time Stream Processing Serverless Reference Architecture](#)

AWS LAMBDA: REAL-TIME VOTING APPLICATION

Consider a dynamic web application that receives votes in real-time. Traditionally, architecting such applications meant building out your infrastructure to support both "spiky" and sustained usage over a finite amount of time. In most cases, this required your operations team to overprovision resources, leading to waste outside of high-volume voting periods.

By combining AWS Lambda with other serverless AWS services such as Amazon API Gateway, you can build a powerful, highly available web application that automatically scales up and down to handle large amounts of concurrent votes - all with zero administrative effort required. You can also store and analyze your data in fault-tolerant services like Amazon DynamoDB and Amazon Simple Storage Service.



System

1 Users text a vote to a phone number or shortcode provided by a third party like Twilio.

4 metadata into a table in Amazon DynamoDB. This table has DynamoDB Streams enabled, which allows you to track changes to your tables on a rolling basis.

6 A dashboard to display a summary of votes is created using HTML and JavaScript, and hosted as a static website on Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3). The website uses the AWS Javascript SDK to query the DynamoDB table and display the voting results in real-time.

Finally, Amazon Route 53 is used as a DNS provider to create a hosted zone pointing a custom domain name to the Amazon S3 bucket.

<https://github.com/aws-labs/lambda-refarch-webapp>

Drawbacks



Massive Vendor Lock-In

How to debug?

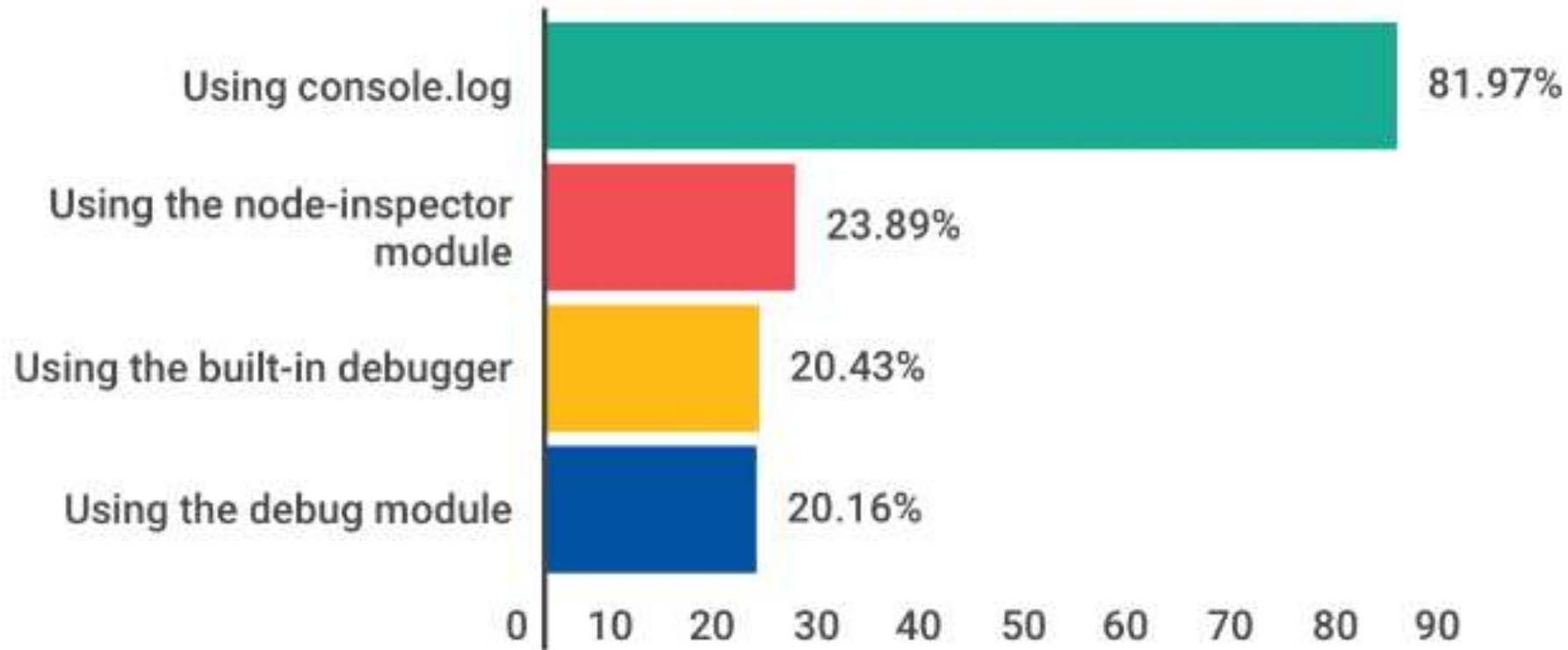
“It is also INCREDIBLY irritating and challenging to debug in a practically infinite number of insanity-inducing ways”

“You cannot ssh into your Lambda.”

“You cannot inspect your program as it’s running. Forget debugging techniques that we’ve accumulated over the years, they don’t apply in this post-Kansas serverless world. Forget dtrace, forget perf, forget [flamegraphs](#). Your debugging arsenal is limited to good old printf debugging. No, scratch that, I should’ve said “good old CloudWatch” debugging, which is a few notches below printf-debugging, because it lags. Hooray!”

How do you debug your applications?

1126 respondents - multiple choice answers



Serverless === Stateless

No in-proc caching or state

Limited Environments

- No local env
- One account for QA, UAT, PROD
- Integration testing difficulties
- Self DDOS 😊

Thank you!

Useful links

AWS Free Tier

<https://aws.amazon.com/ru/free/>

AWS Lambda Developer Guide

<http://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/lambda-dg.pdf>

Serverless Architectures

<http://martinfowler.com/articles/serverless.html>

Useful links

What is AWS?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DERzYnthq1s>

Your First Week on Amazon Web Services

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CiHBcqw6zc>

<https://github.com/JustServerless/awesome-serverless>

<https://github.com/donnemartin/awesome-aws>

<https://acloud.guru/course/serverlessconf-nyc-2016/dashboard>

Useful links

AWS May 2016 Webinar Series - Deep Dive on Serverless Web Applications

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXZzVzptkeo>

AWS April Webinar Series - AWS Lambda: Event-driven Code for Devices and the Cloud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEWtQsqlYsk>