

# oueees-201906 talks Part 3/3: Centralized and distributed systems

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25-JUN-2019

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# Lecture notes

- <https://github.com/jj1wdx/oueees-201906-public/>
- Check out the README.md file and the issues!

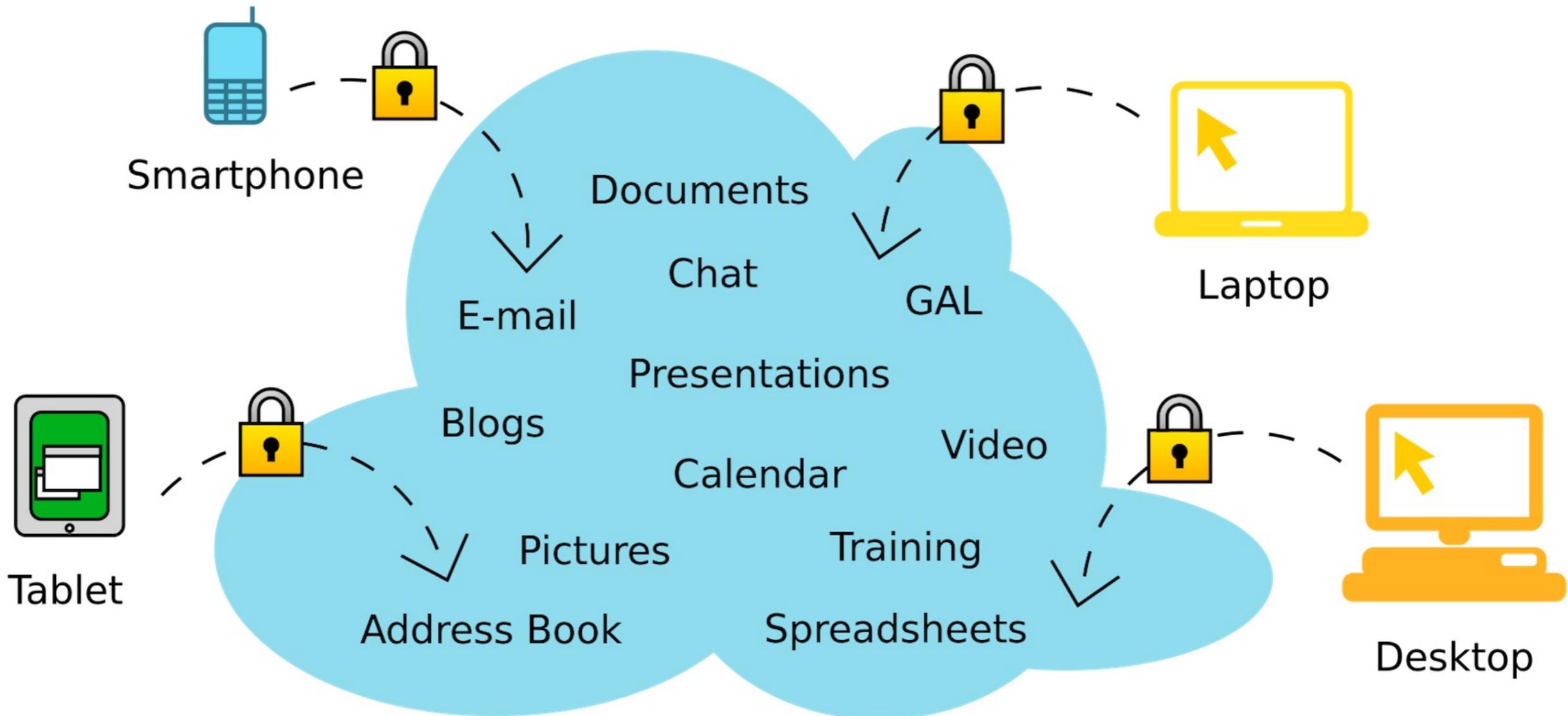
# Reporting

- Keyword at the end of the talk
- URL for submitting the report at the end of the talk

# Today's topic: centralized and distributed systems



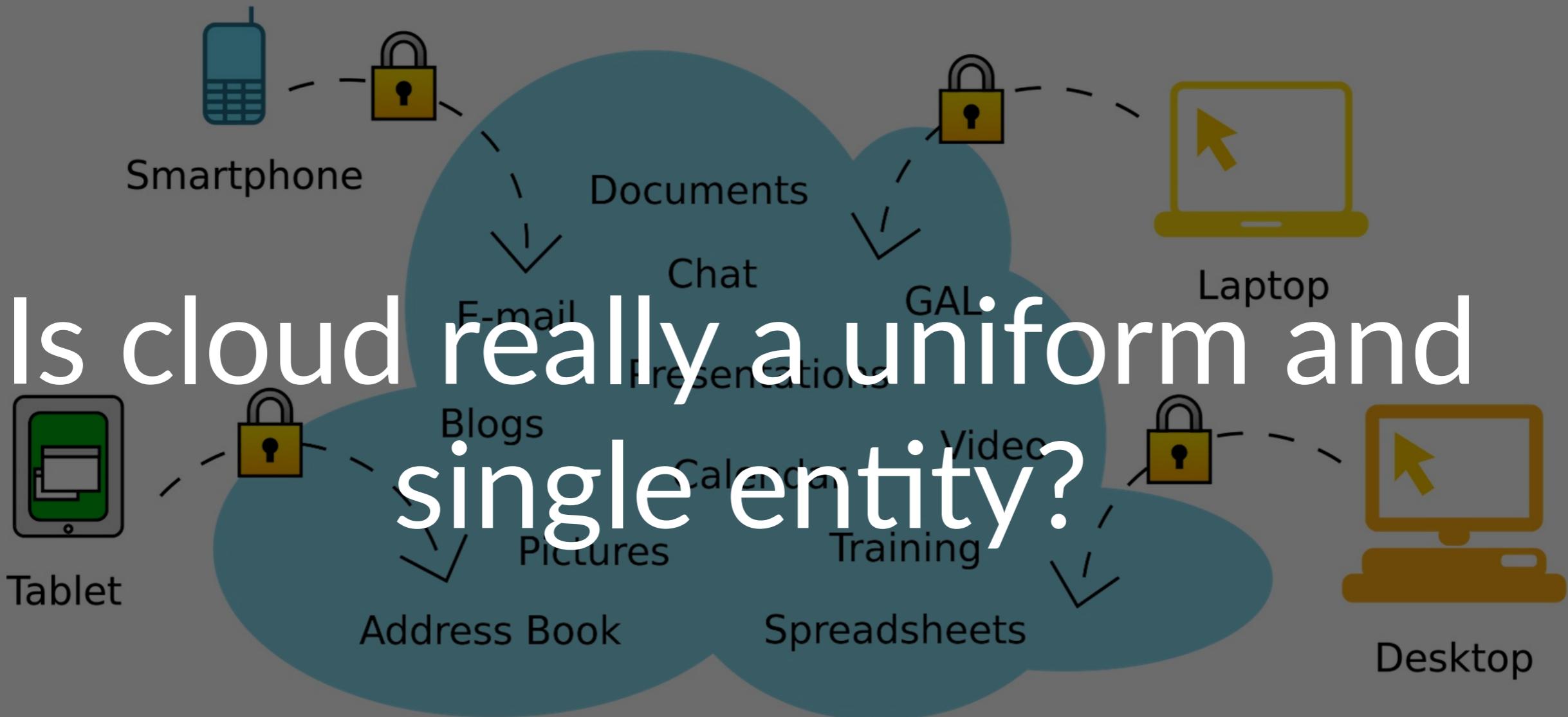
Modern computing is cloud  
computing



# Cloud Computing

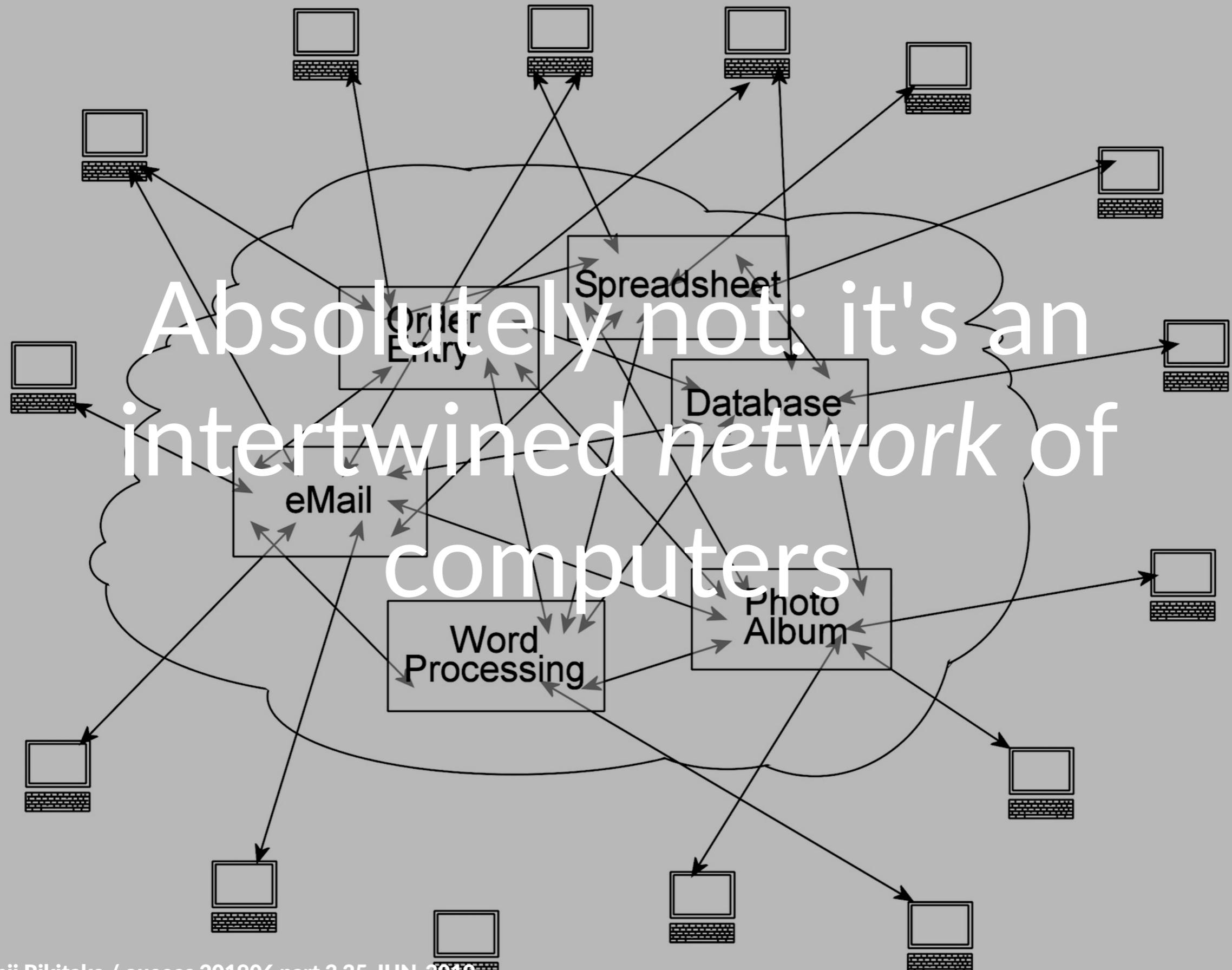
*Having secure access to all your applications and data from any network device*

# Is cloud **really** a uniform and single entity?



## Cloud Computing

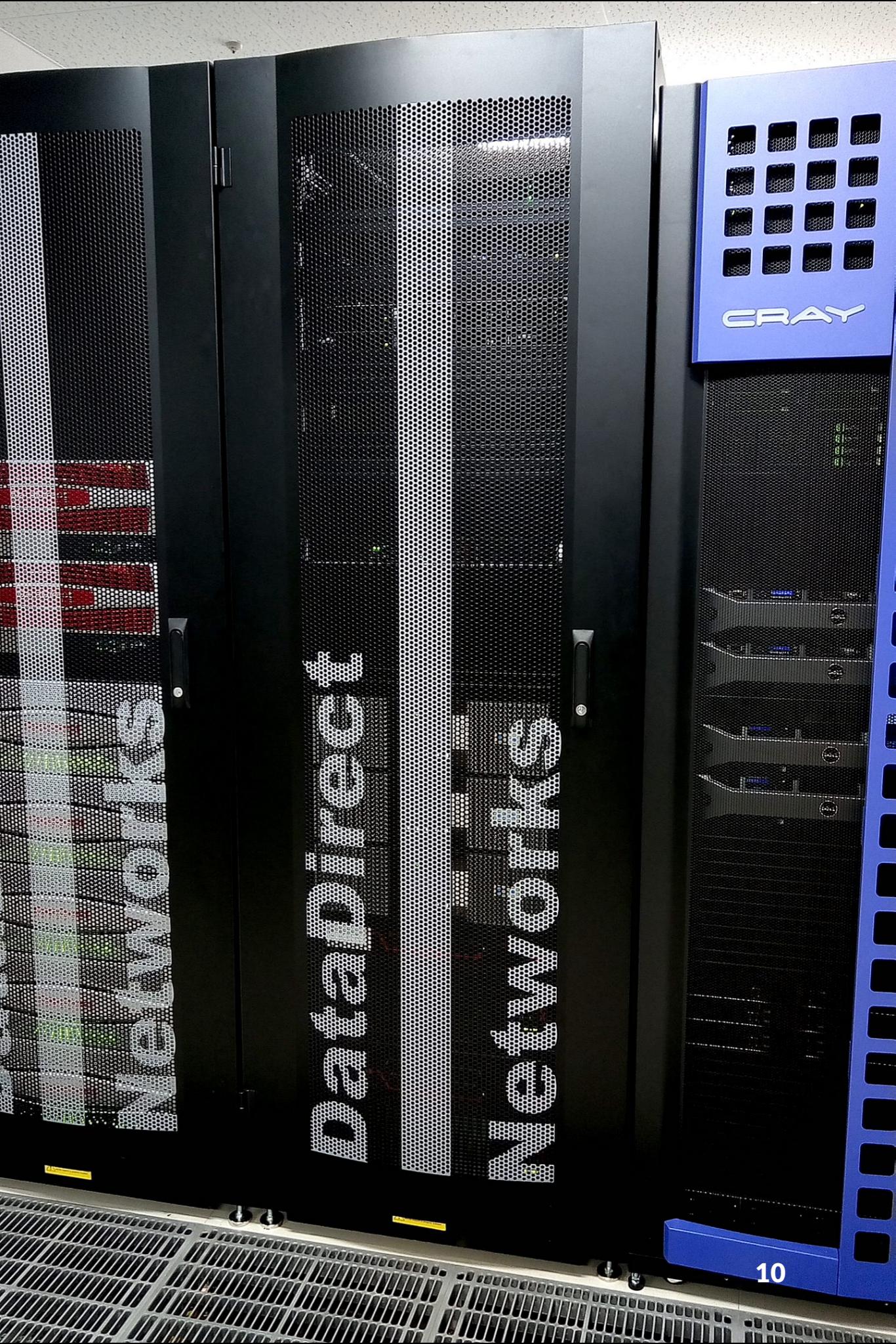
*Having secure access to all your applications and data from any network device*



# Web services are clusters of computers and networks

Thousands or millions of servers connected together

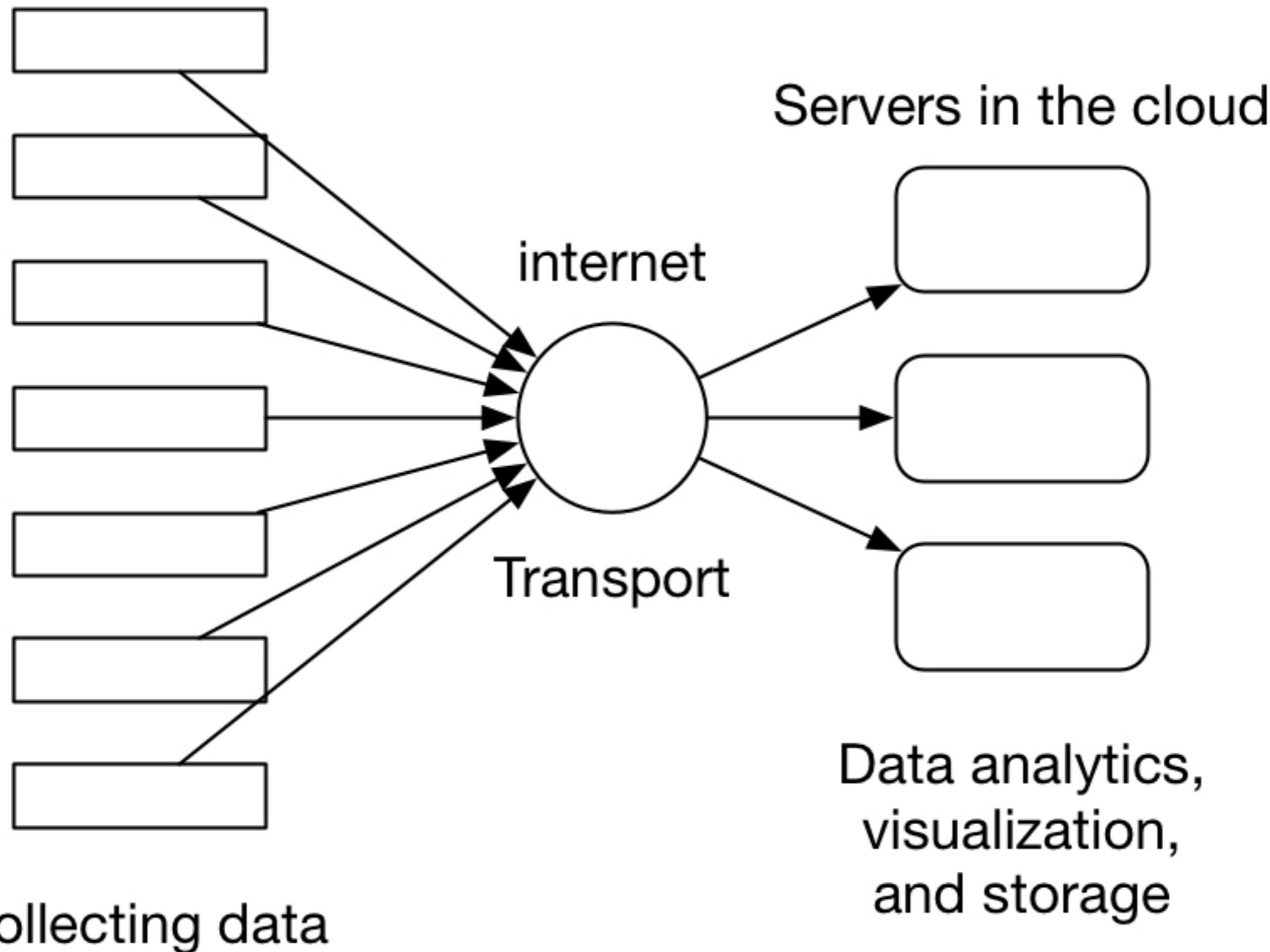
A physical server is separated into multiple virtual machines



Cloud computing is  
centralization

An example of cloud computing: Internet of Things (IoT) and telemetering

“Things” or devices



Collecting data

# Telemetering

- Mostly unidirectional (not really *the true and genuine internet*)
- Sensors/devices gathering data through internet and feed them to the servers in the cloud computing platforms
- *The servers compute*
- *Extremely centralized*

# The social implication of cloud computing

# Centralized social behavior accelerated by cloud computing

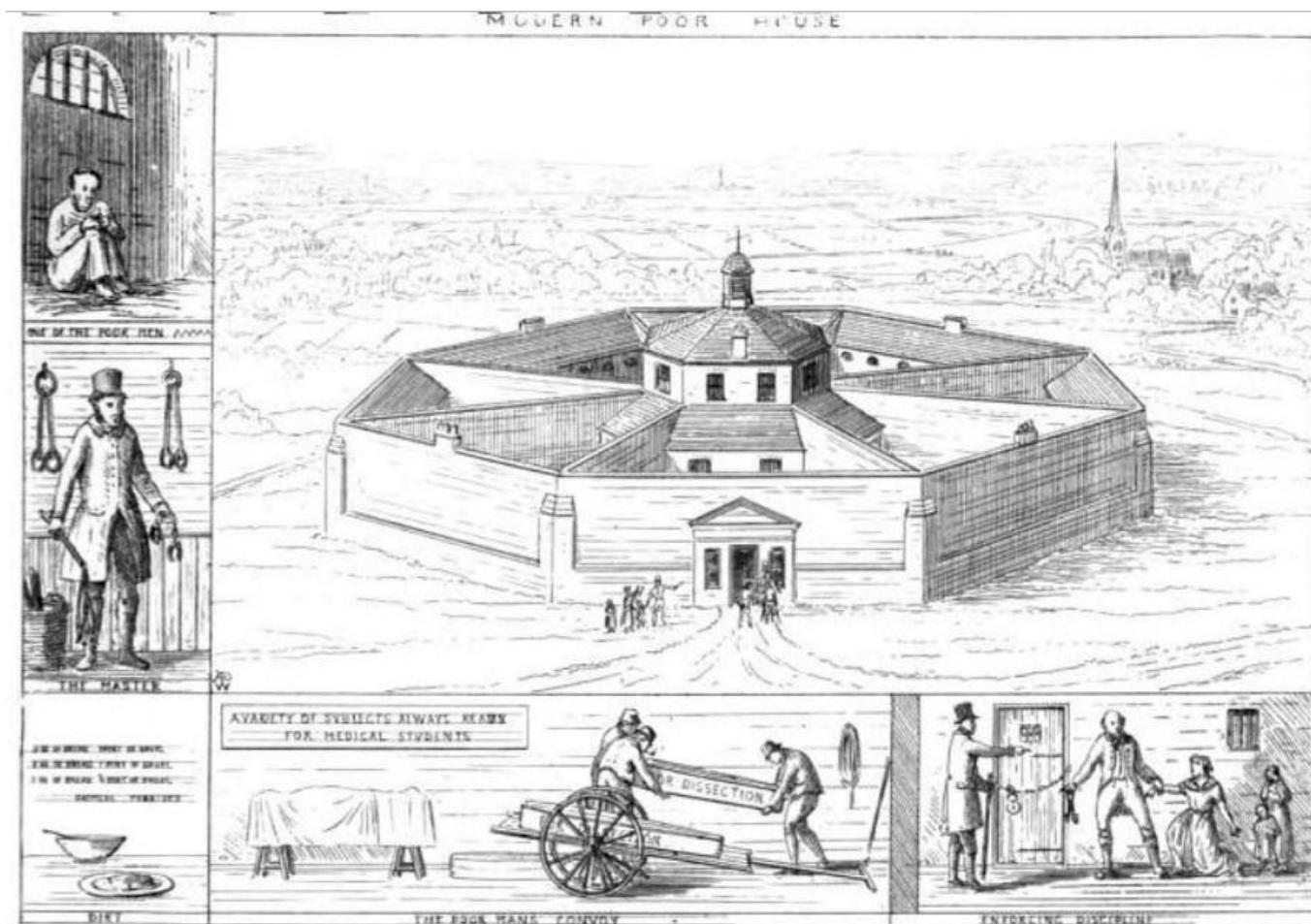
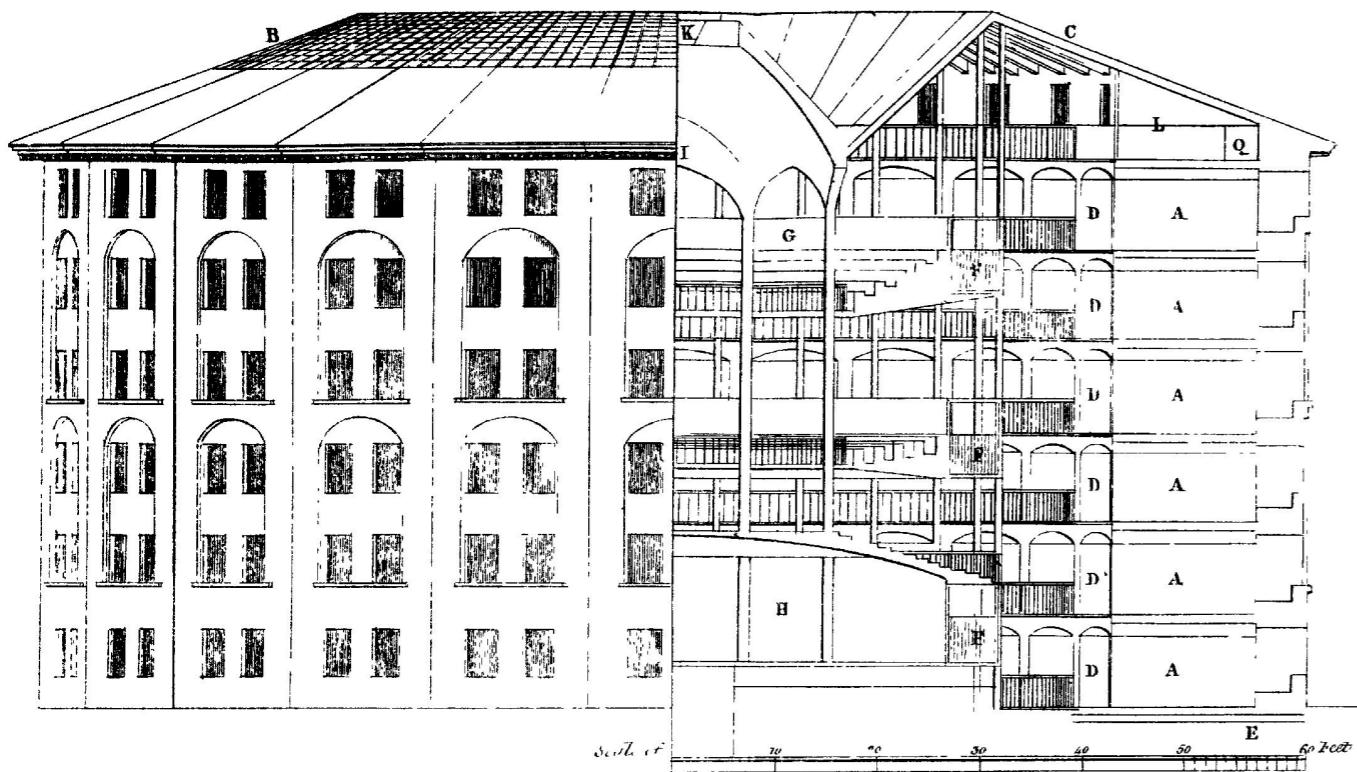
- Sharing *everything* - no privacy
- *Panopticon*<sup>1</sup> style of governance, filtering, censorship, or autocracy
- Complete *externalization* of resources, leading to no personal control

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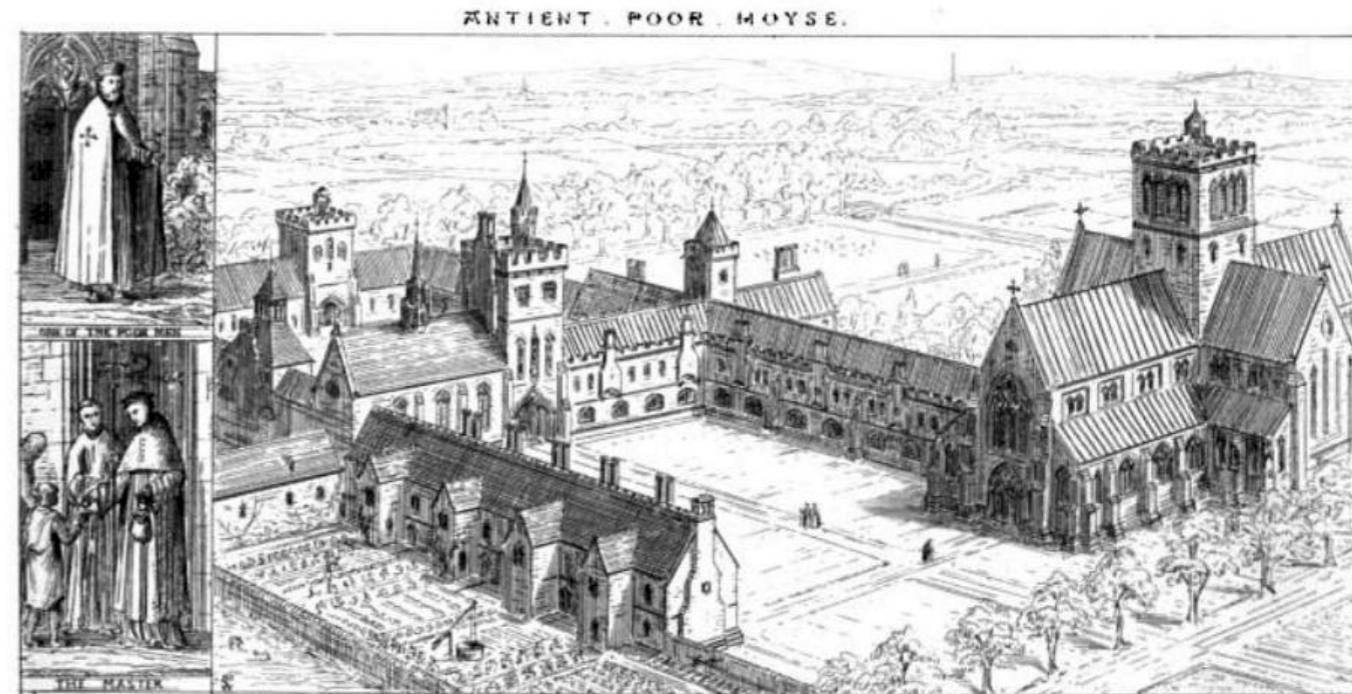
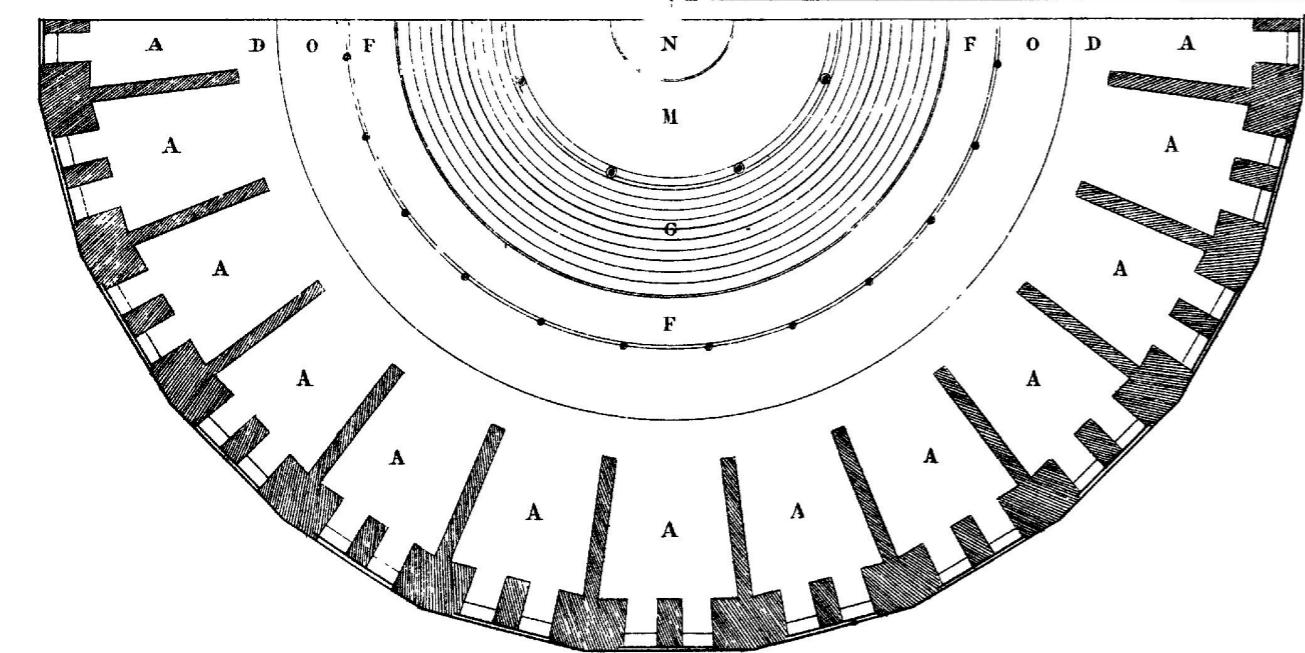
<sup>1</sup> n. a circular prison with cells arranged around a central well, from which prisoners could at all times be observed. (New Oxford American Dictionary, Apple macOS 10.13.6)

# Presidio Modelo: a panopticon prison





CONTRASTED RESIDENCES FOR THE POOR



# INGSOC: the slogans <sup>2</sup>

- War is peace
- Freedom is slavery
- Ignorance is strength
- Independent thinking = *thoughtcrime*

NOTE: this is a *fiction!*

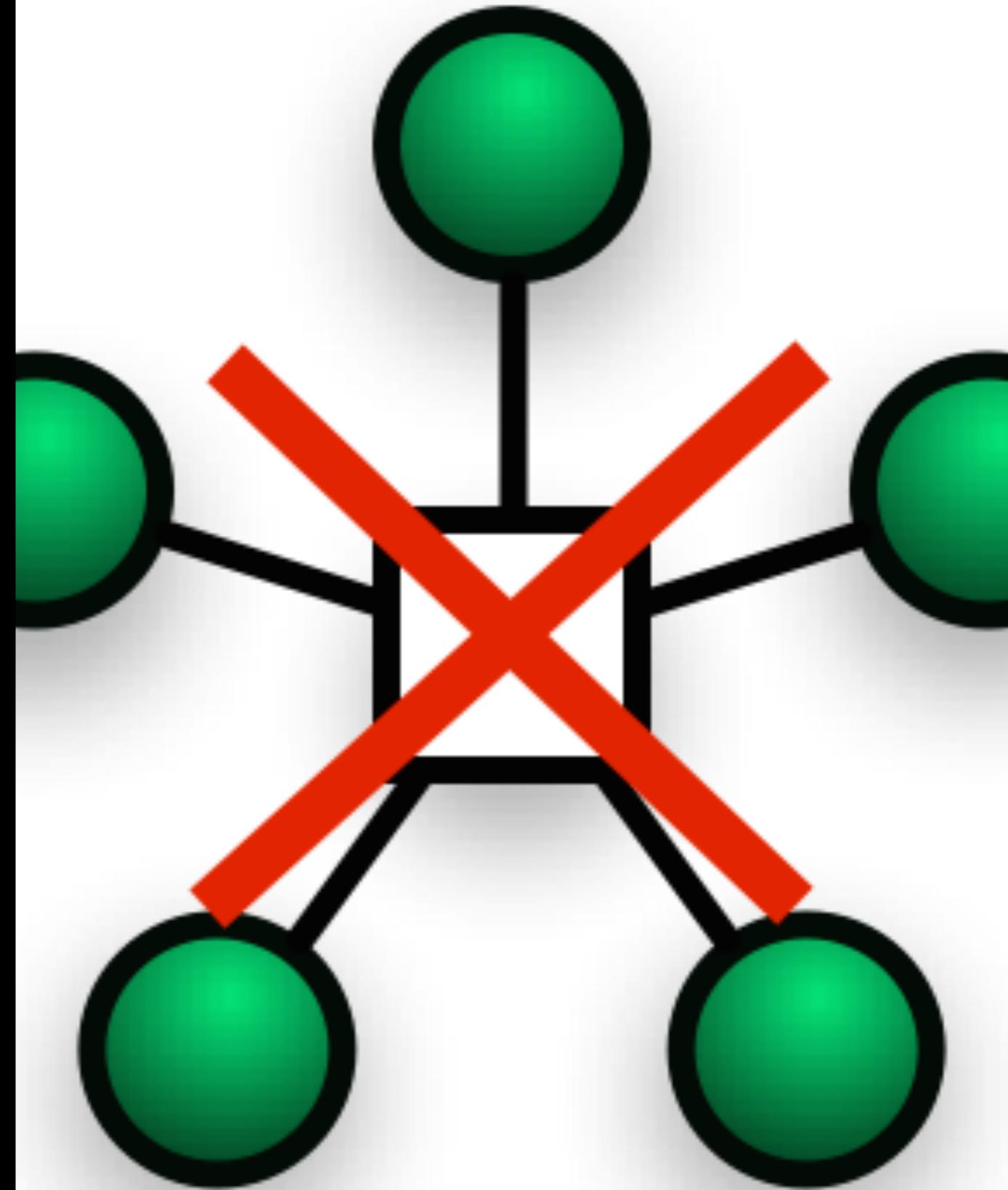
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<sup>2</sup>George Orwell, "Nineteen Eighty-Four", 1949.

# Why cloud computing has become so *dystopian*? -- because we have sold freedom for convenience

- Ubiquitous/global accessibility
- Concentrated data for easy analysis
- Easy control of the information flow
- No extra cost for sharing
- No need to think about where the information locates

The  
inconvenient  
truth of  
centralized  
systems: what  
if the core/  
cloud fails?



# Inconvenience of centralized systems

- Ubiquity or *no accessibility*
- When the core fails, no alternative
- When the core loses data, *no backup*
- The system performance is restricted by the capability of the core
- Endpoint systems will lost *all capabilities*

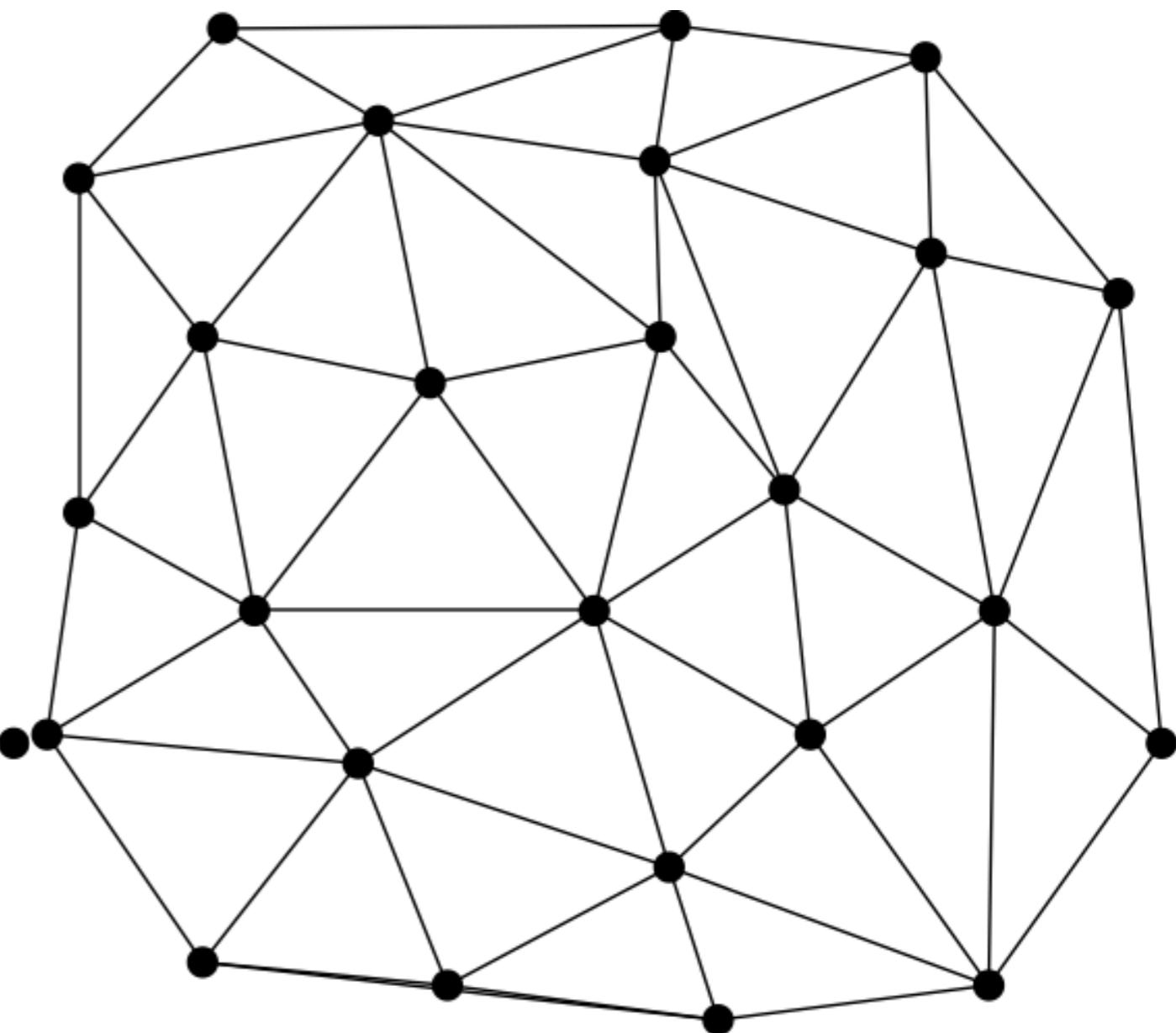
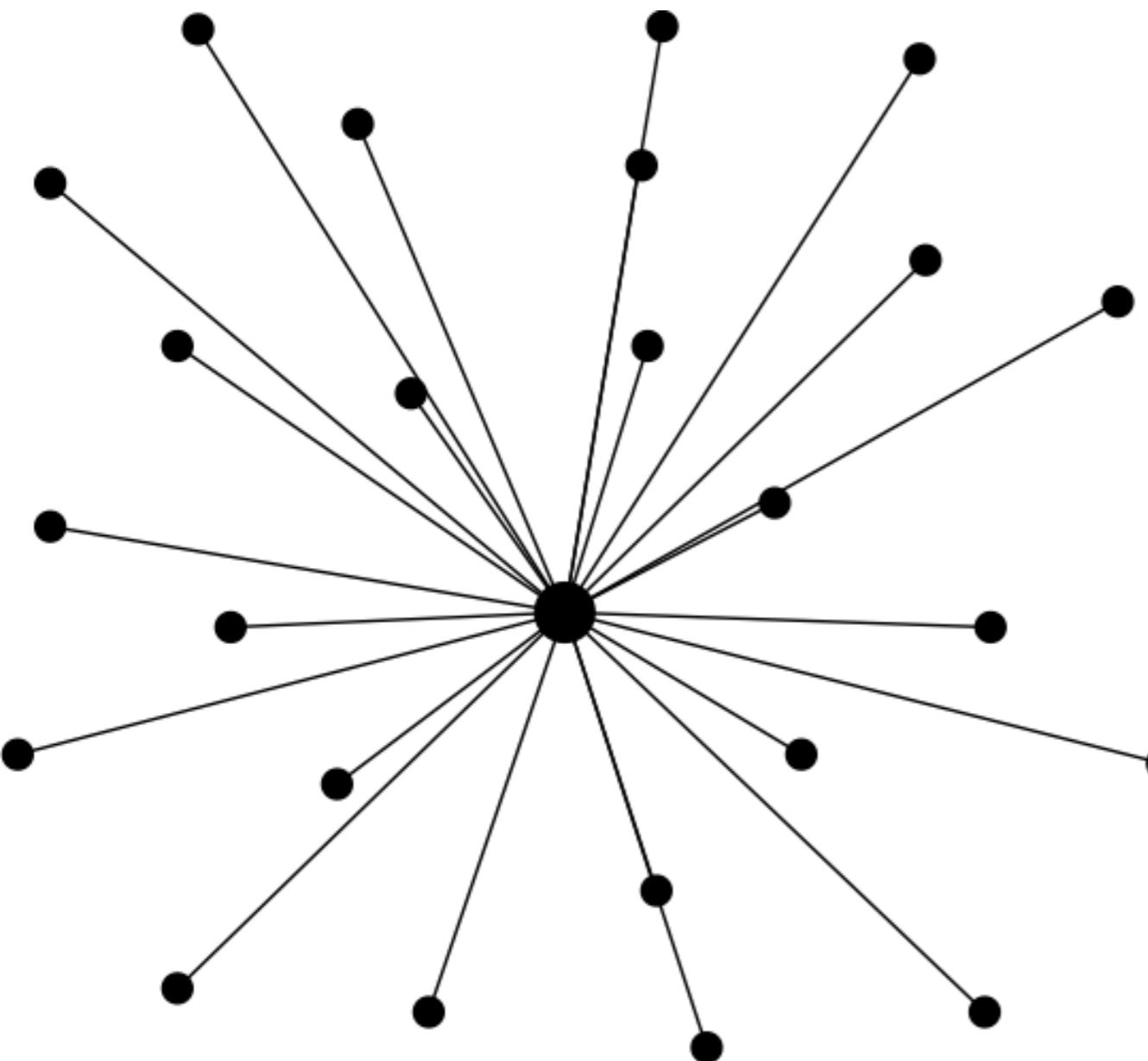
# Centralized systems are *not* sustainable

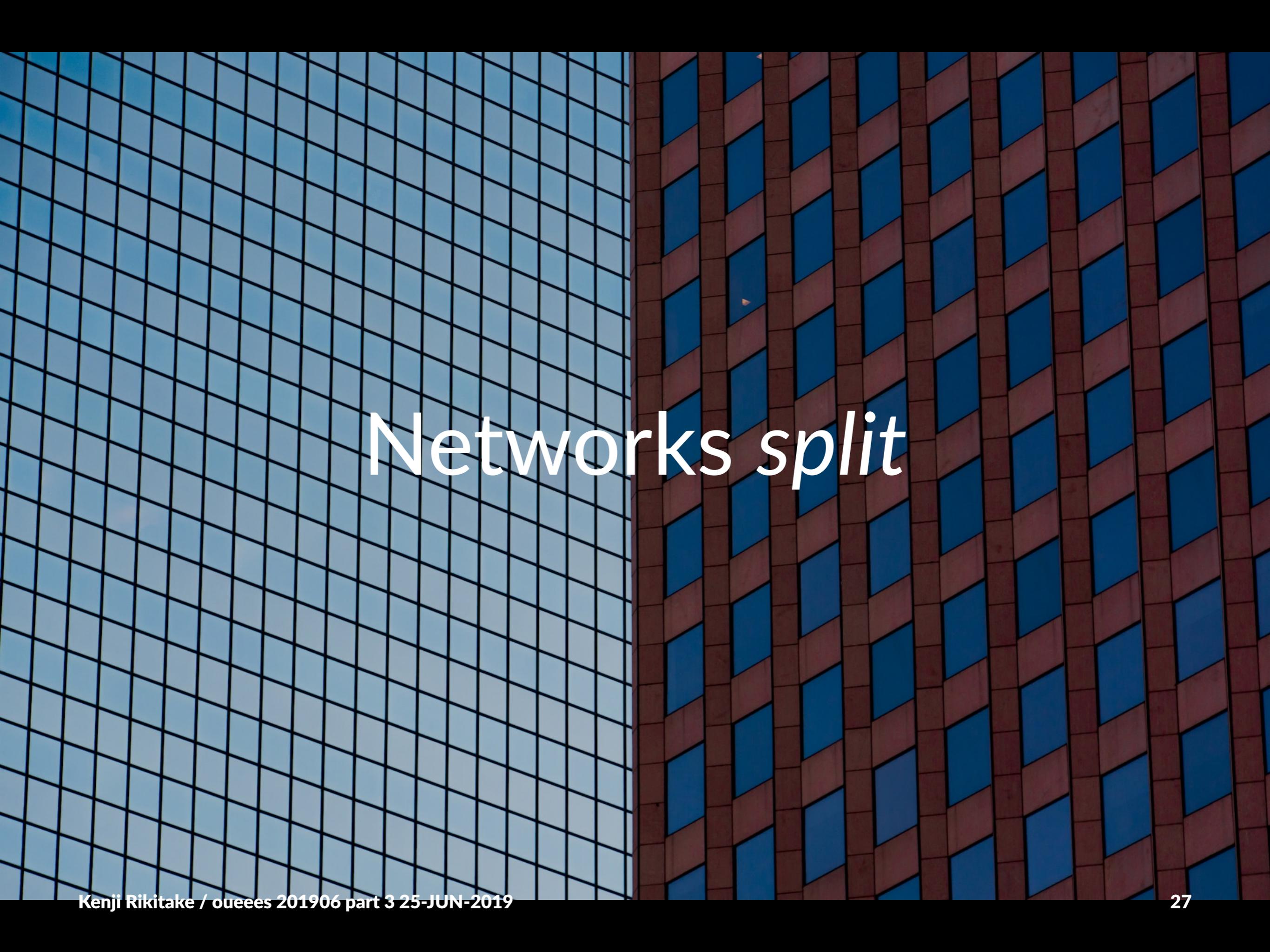
- ...then how cloud computing systems manages the sustainability?

Distributed systems provide  
sustainability and resilience  
against failures

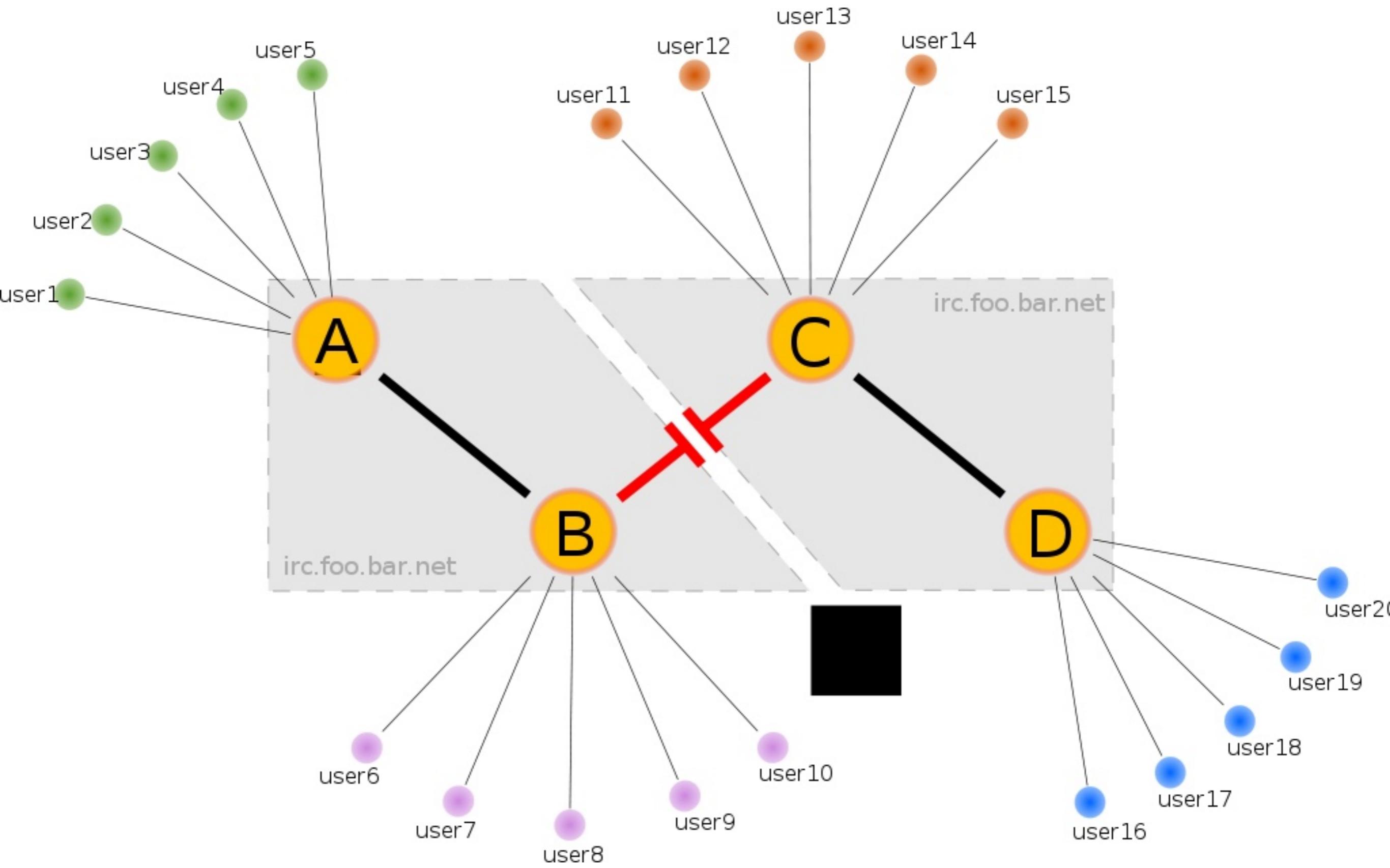
An aerial black and white photograph of a complex multi-level highway interchange. The image shows several highway lanes, ramps, and overpasses crisscrossing each other. In the background, there are residential areas with houses and trees, as well as some industrial buildings and parking lots. The perspective is from above, looking down at the intricate network of roads.

# Networks

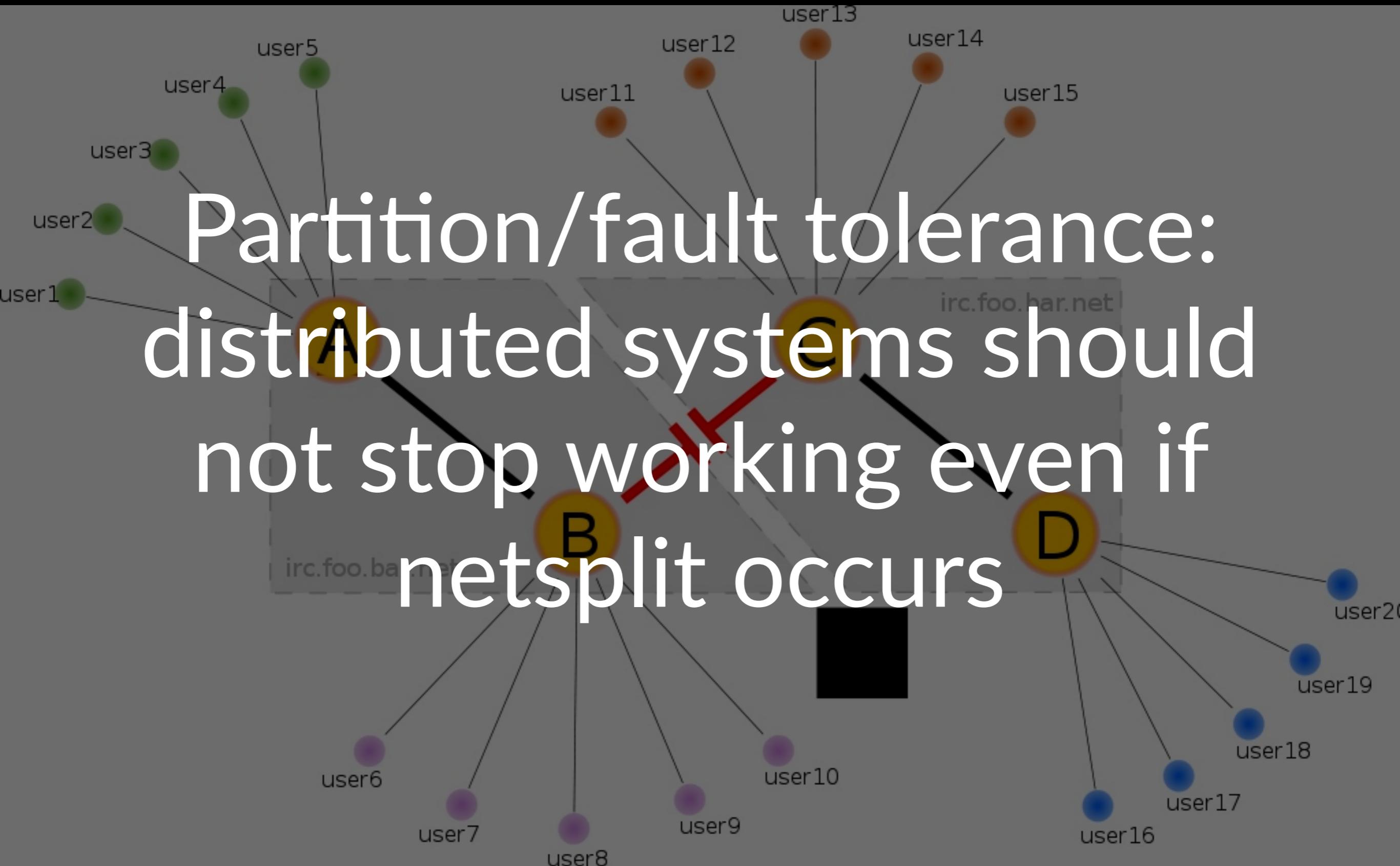




Networks split



Partition/fault tolerance:  
distributed systems should  
not stop working even if  
netsplit occurs



# Real-world challenges

- Natural disasters
- Device failures
- Human operation errors
- Political impediments
- Social resentments

# *Handling failures*

- Redundancy: keeping backup units ready
- Fault tolerance: keeping systems running even the components fail
- Resilience by failing fast: early detection of failures and invocation of the recovery procedures

# Why fault tolerance?

- Hard disk MTBF  $\sim=$  1 million hours
- 1000 hard disks running 24 hours  $\times$  365 days = 8.76 million hours
- If you're running a system with 1000 hard disks, **9 out of 1000** will fail in a year
- Recovery of a disk content takes often *a day*; you can't stop a system for *a day*, can you?

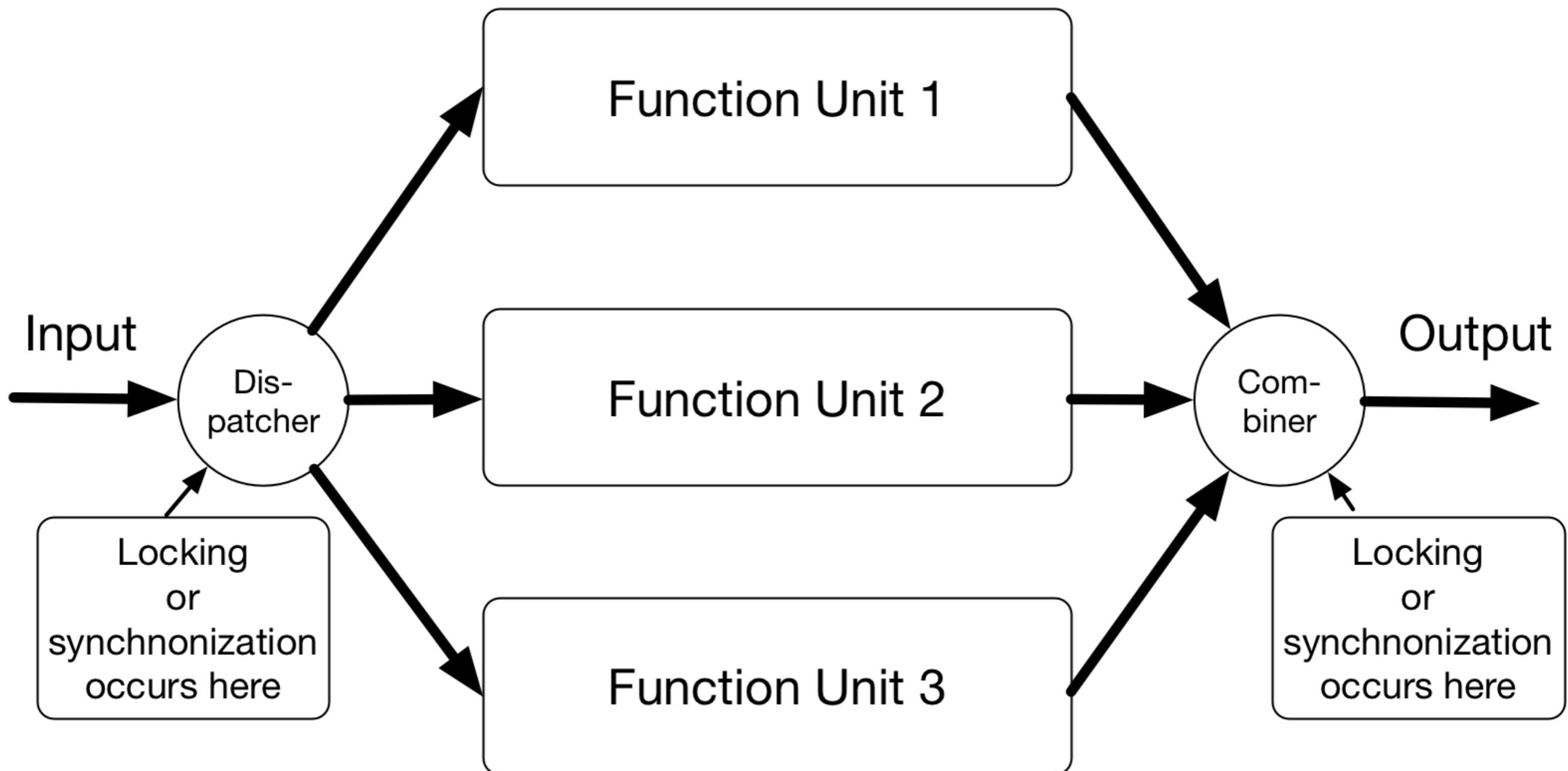
# Requirement to keep the systems fault tolerant

- Redundancy: two or more resources for each unit of processing
- Supervising the failure of the units by an independent supervisor
- Rollback capability: undo the incomplete operations and retry

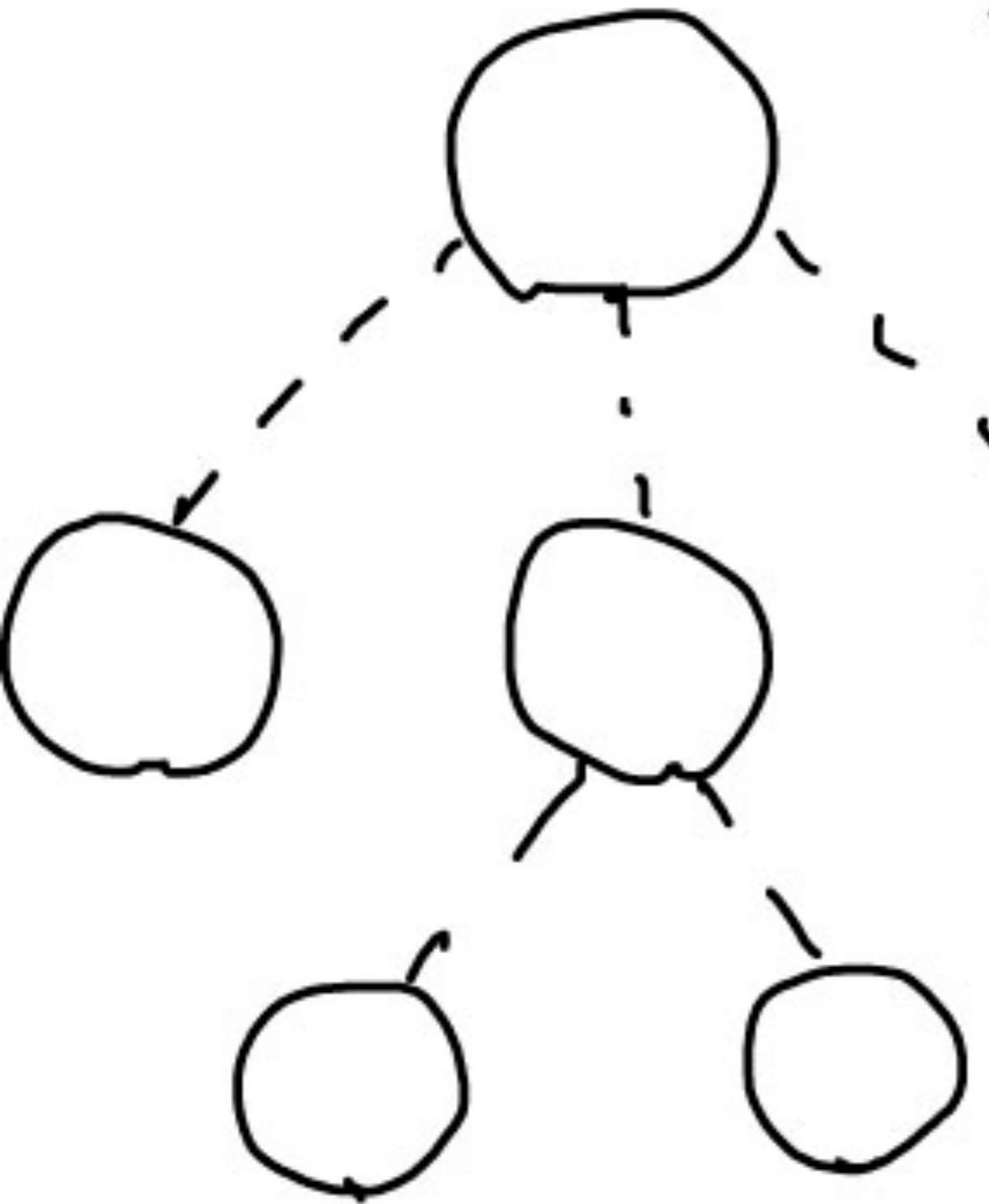
# Consistency issues of distributed systems

- Locking/synchronization: waiting all data to be ready to compute or proceed to next step
- Choosing the *right* data: which data is *correct*?
- Supervision: fault detection and restarting

Each function unit runs on  
its own speed



Supervision  
tree example



Try to  
restart

when  
crashed

# Eight Fallacies of Distributed Computing<sup>3</sup> (1/2)

- **The network is reliable**
- **Latency is zero**
- **Bandwidth is infinite**
- The network is secure

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<sup>3</sup> <https://blog.fogcreek.com/eight-fallacies-of-distributed-computing-tech-talk/>

# Eight Fallacies of Distributed Computing (2/2)

- Topology doesn't change
- There is one administrator
- Transport cost is zero
- The network is homogeneous

Summary: centralized  
computing is fragile;  
distributed computing is  
fault tolerant but hard

# Appendix 1: references for further study

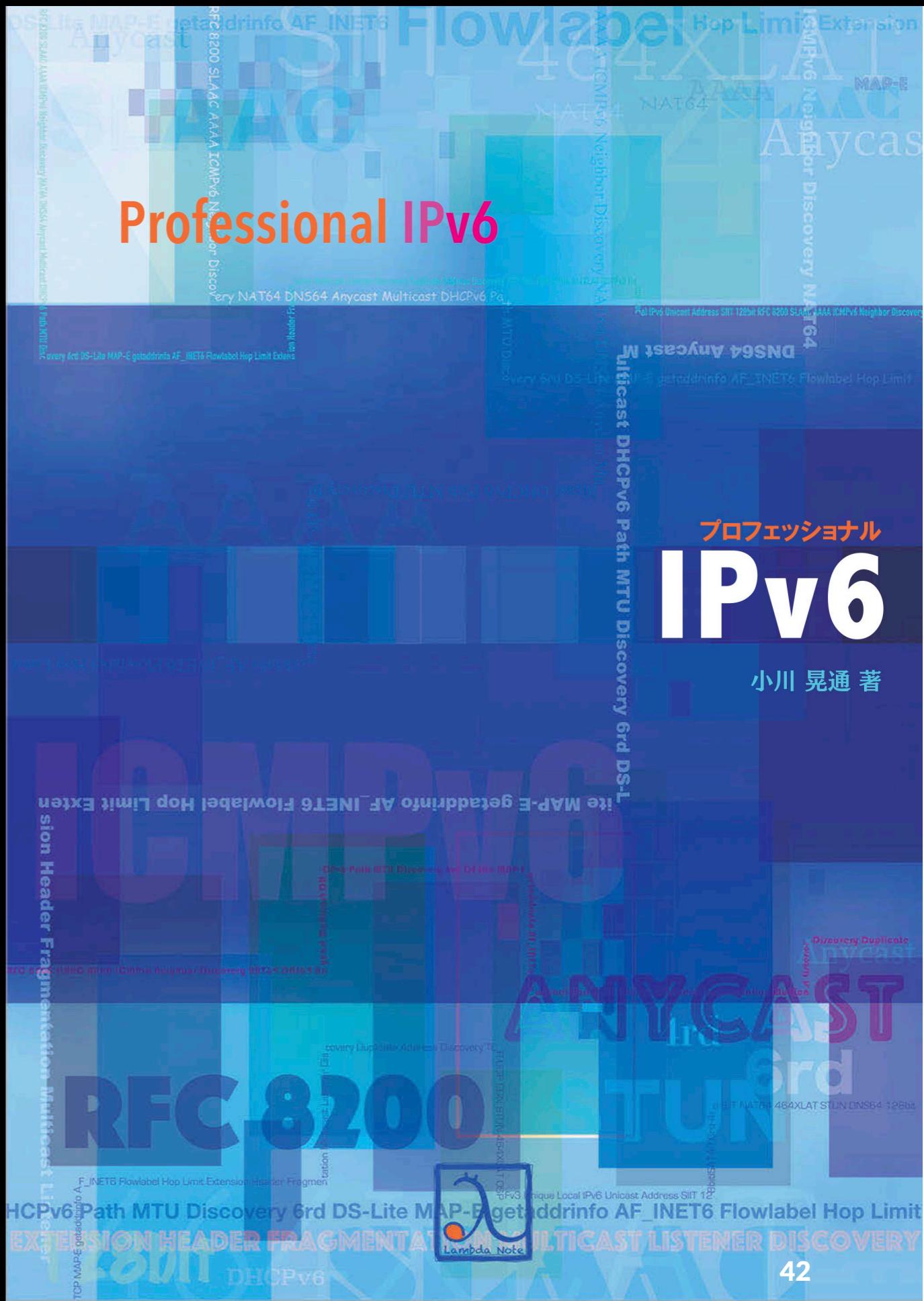
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9784274050732
- ・ 達人出版会の電子書籍



# プロフェッショナル IPv6

- ラムダノートの紙の本+電子書籍
- Boothの無料版



# Appendix 2: on choosing your career and professionality

# When I chose my career and professionalism?

- Age 9: computers and English
- Age 10 ham radio and electronics
- Age 14: writing commercial software
- *Age 23: finally decided to make my living on my computer software professionalism, with my English proficiency*

If I were at age 22, what I would do  
after getting a Bachelor's degree?

- Get out of Japan ASAP
- Explore the computer skills
- Do something unpopular

Go abroad

# What are the most important things to pursue engineering/scientist career?

- Physical strength
- Mental strength
- Curiosity

# Curiosity matters

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