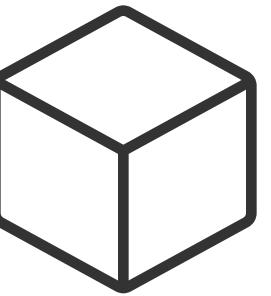


# MCP Registry: The Path To (De-)Centralizing Discovery

How we're empowering a rich ecosystem of discovery solutions



# Who are we?

2 of the 4 maintainers of the MCP Registry,  
members of the MCP Steering Committee



**Tadas Antanavicius**

 PulseMCP.com

Everything MCP. Server  
directory and weekly MCP  
newsletter.



**Toby Padilla**

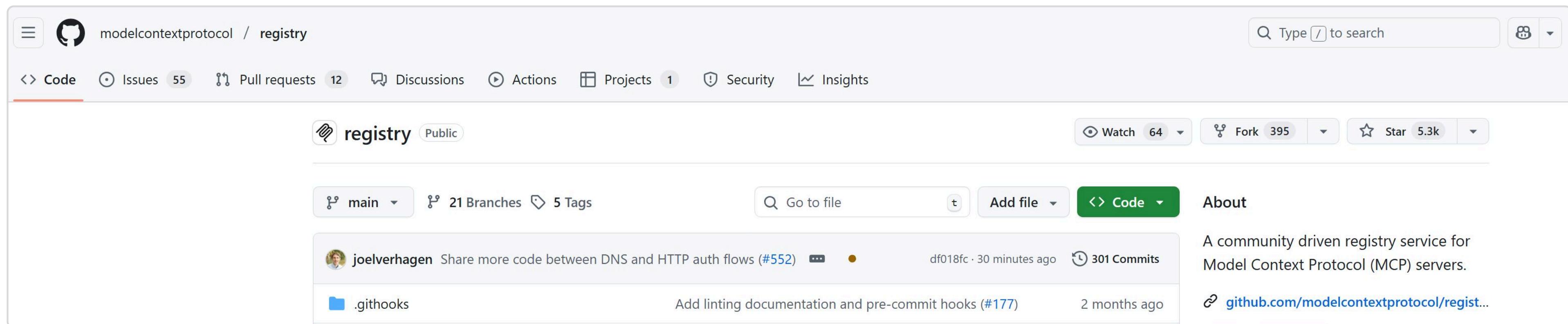
 GitHub

Head of MCP. GitHub  
server sub-registry and  
GitHub MCP server.

# What we are talking about?

REST API for MCP Servers

## registry.modelcontextprotocol.io



### ! There is no UI for the Registry

- Community members have built UIs
- It's not obvious whether a UI on raw registry data is particularly valuable

### MCP Registry Documentation

The MCP registry provides MCP clients with a list of MCP servers, like an app store for MCP servers.

#### I want to...

- 📣 Publish my MCP server → [Publishing Guide](#)
- 📣 Consume registry data → [API Usage Guide](#)
- 🌐 Understand the registry's purpose → [Ecosystem vision](#)
- 🔎 Look up specific information → [server.json spec](#) | [API spec](#) | [CLI reference](#)
- 🌟 Add reference to my community project → [Community Projects](#)



# Updates and upcoming



September 8: Live Preview Launch



October 10: Breaking Changes / Freeze

- Excellent community feedback; breaking changes
- Close to locking in an initial version of the public interfaces



Next few months: General Availability

- Final list of TODO's still TBD



# Community shout-outs

## Maintainers



**Adam Jones**  
Anthropic



**Radoslav Dimitrov**  
Stacklok

## Regular Contributors



**Preeti Dewani**  
Last9.io



**Joel Verhagen**  
NuGet



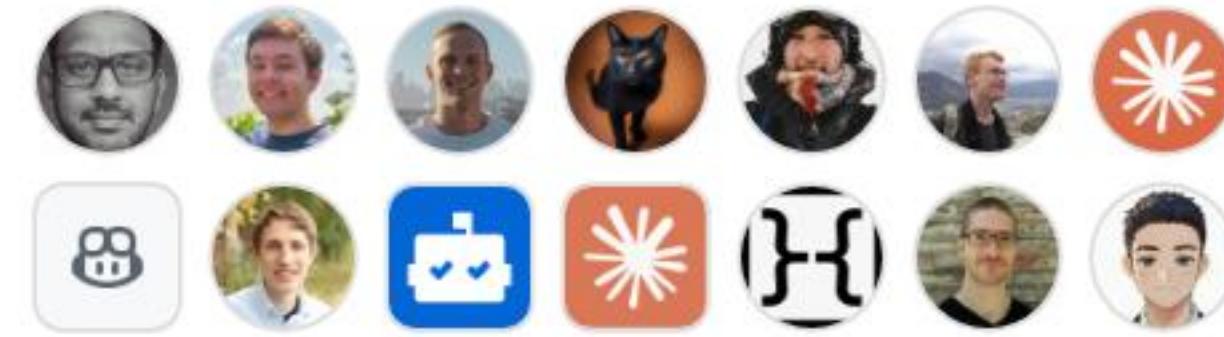
**Connor Peet**  
VS Code



**Avish Porwal**  
Microsoft

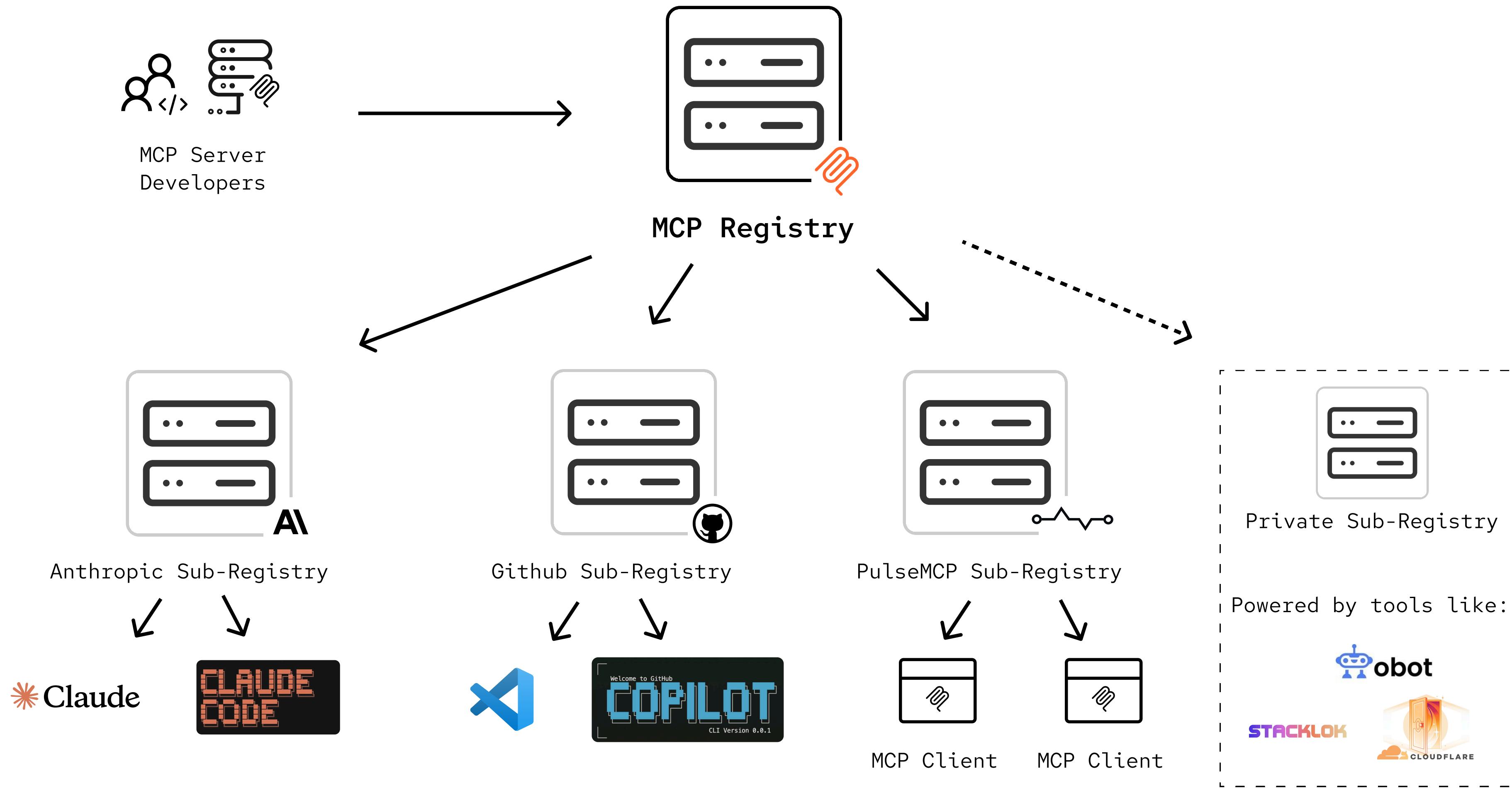
**Thank you all!**

Contributors 46

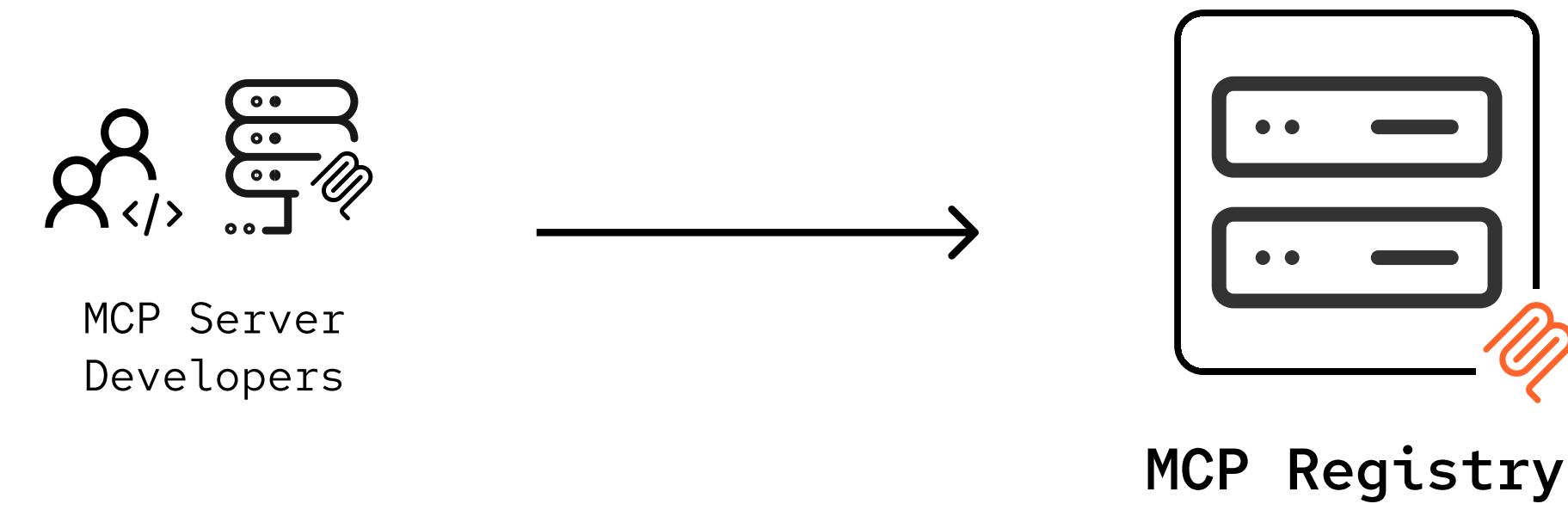


[+ 32 contributors](#)

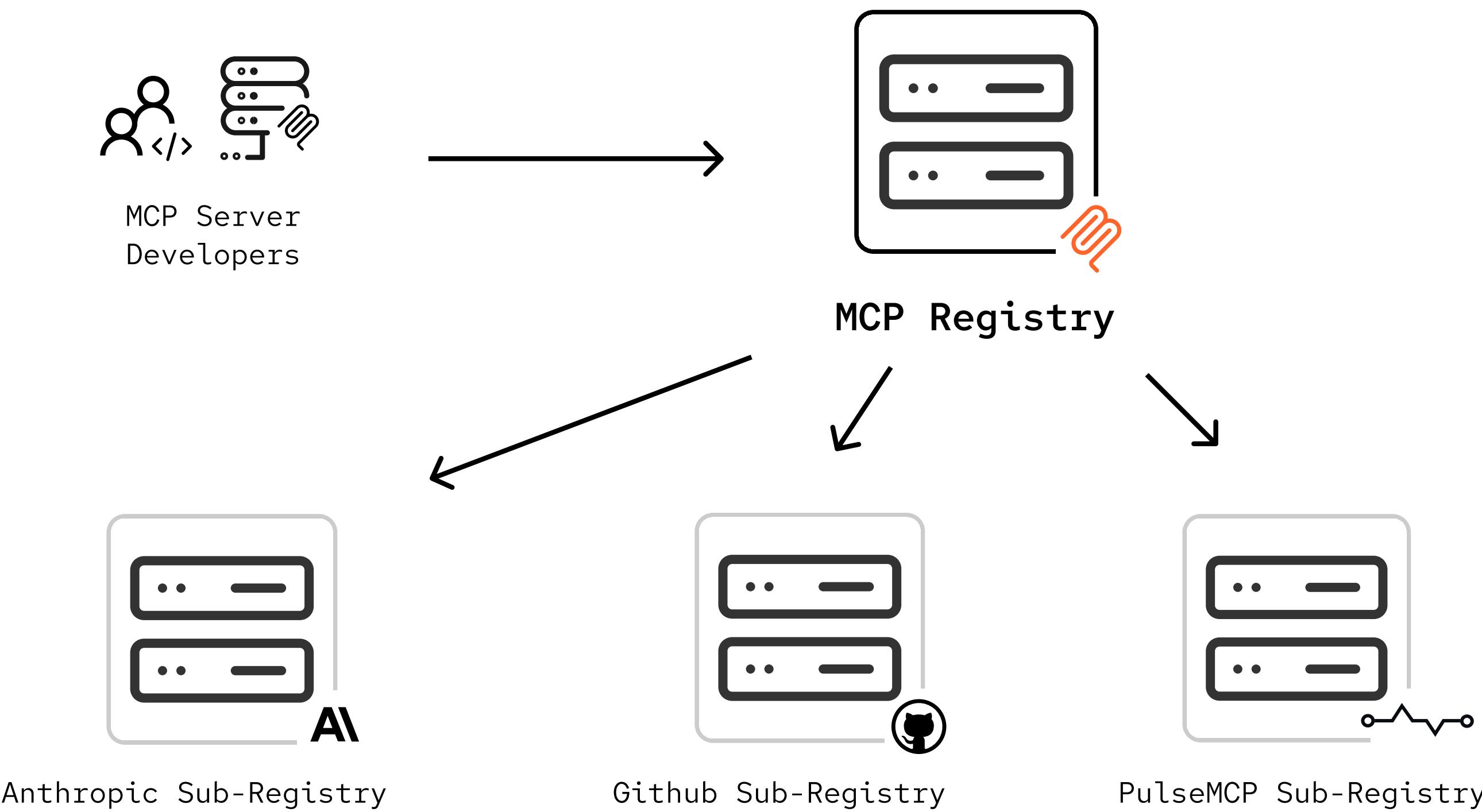
# Registry Ecosystem Architecture



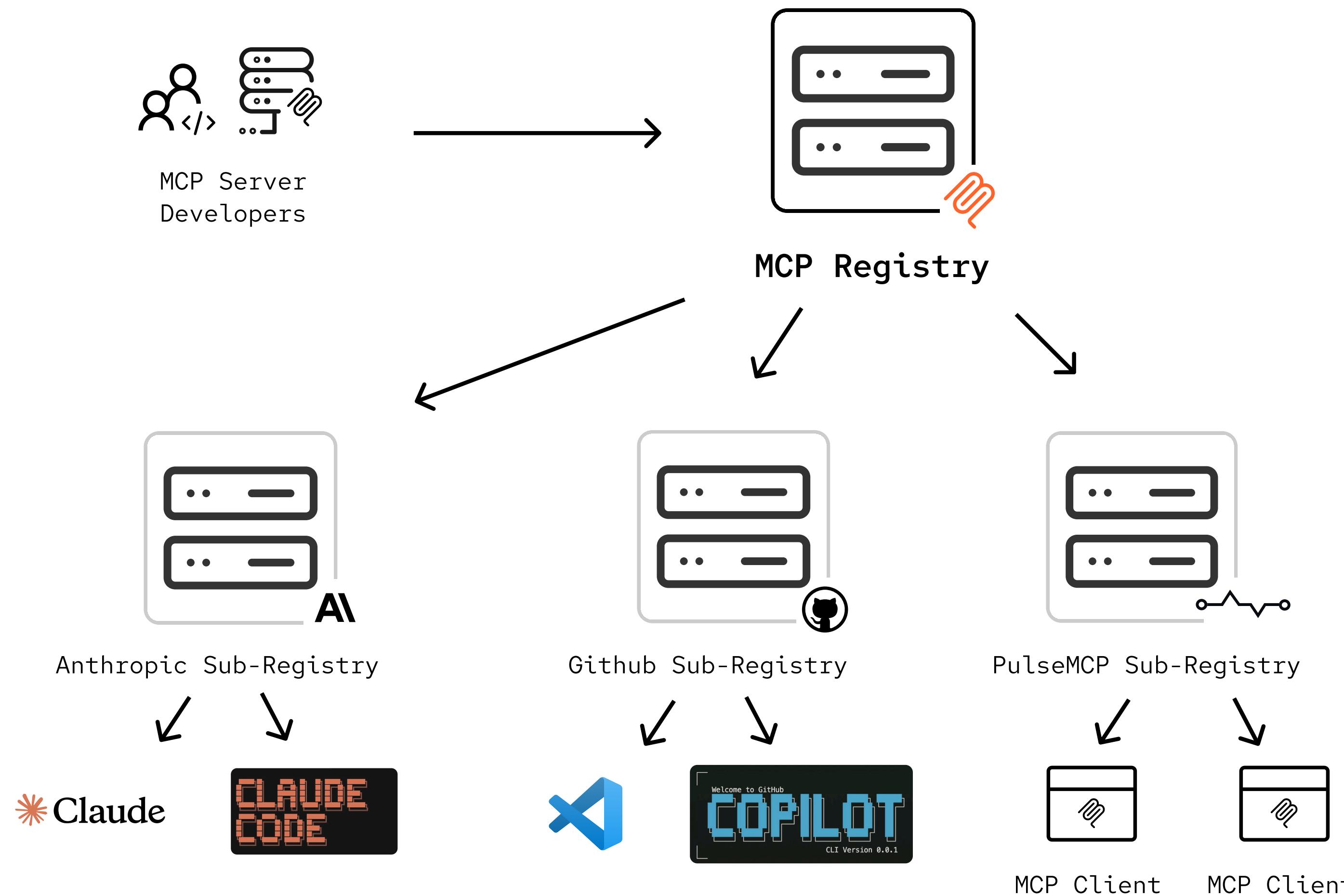
# Server devs publish to Registry



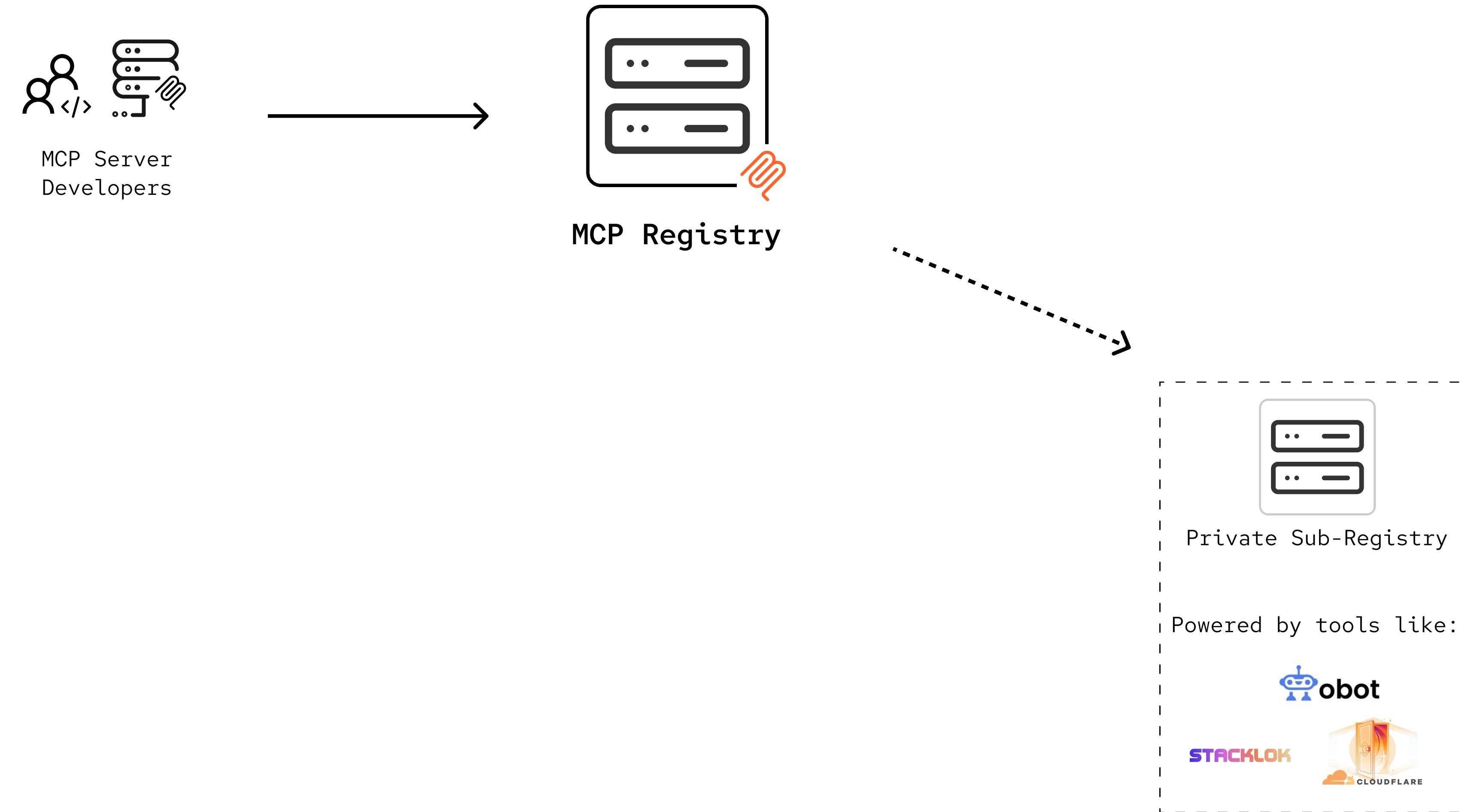
# Sub-Registries ETL MCP Registry



# MCP Clients Query Sub-Registries



# Private Enterprises Self-Host



# Introducing server.json

A static definition  
of an MCP server

- 1 Identity
- 2 Capabilities
- 3 Location
- 4 Configuration



# server.json example

```
1  {
2    ...
3    "name": "com.microsoft/playwright", -- identity
4    "version": "1.0.2",
5    "description": "Provides browser automation capabilities for interaction with web pages
6      through structured accessibility snapshots.", -- capabilities
7    "repository": {
8      "url": "https://github.com/microsoft/playwright-mcp",
9      "source": "github"
10    },
11   "packages": [
12     {
13       "registryType": "npm",
14       "registryBaseUrl": "https://registry.npmjs.org",
15       "identifier": "@playwright/mcp", -- location
16       "version": "1.0.2",
17       "transport": {
18         "type": "stdio"
19       },
20       "packageArguments": [ -- configuration
21         {
22           "type": "named",
23           "name": "--allowed-hosts",
24           "description": "Comma-separated list of hosts this server is allowed to serve from.
25             Defaults to the host the server is bound to.",
26           "valueHint": "host1.com,host2.com",
27           "isRequired": false
28         }
29       ]
30     }
31   }
```



# server.json Identity

```
1  {
2    ...
3    "name": "com.microsoft/playwright",
4    "version": "1.0.2"
5    ...
6  }
7
8    "url": "https://github.com/microsoft/playwright-mcp",
9    "source": "github"
10   },
11   "packages": [
12     {
13       "registryType": "npm",
14       "registryBaseUrl": "https://registry.npmjs.org",
15       "identifier": "@playwright/mcp", -- location
16       "version": "1.0.2",
17       "transport": {
18         "type": "stdio"
19       },
20       "packageArguments": [ -- configuration
21         {
22           "type": "named",
23           "name": "--allowed-hosts",
24           "description": "Comma-separated list of hosts this server is allowed to serve from.
25             Defaults to the host the server is bound to.",
26           "valueHint": "host1.com,host2.com",
27           "isRequired": false
28         }
29       ]
30     }
31   }
```



# server.json Capabilities

```
1  {
2    ...
3    ...
4    ...
5    "description": "Provides browser automation capabilities for interaction with web pages through structured accessibility snapshots.", -- capabilities
6    ...
7    "registryType": "npm",
8    ...
9    "transport": {
10      "type": "stdio"
11    },
12    ...
13  }
14 ]
15 }

16
17
18
19
20  [
21    {
22      "type": "named",
23      "name": "--allowed-hosts",
24      "description": "Comma-separated list of hosts this server is allowed to serve from.  
Defaults to the host the server is bound to.",
25      "valueHint": "host1.com,host2.com",
26      "isRequired": false
27    }
28  ]
29 ]
30 }
31 }
```



# server.json Location

```
1  {
2    ...
3    "name": "com.microsoft/playwright", -- identity
4    "version": "1.0.2",
5    "description": "Provides browser automation capabilities for interaction with web pages
6    ...
7    "capabilities": [
8      ...
9    ],
10   "remotes": [
11     ...
12   ],
13   ...
14 }
```

```
1  {
2    ...
3    "packages": [
4      {
5        "registryType": "npm",
6        "registryBaseUrl": "https://registry.npmjs.org",
7        "identifier": "@playwright/mcp",
8        "version": "1.0.2",
9        ...
10       }
11     ]
12   },
13   ...
14 }
```

```
19   "packageArguments": [ -- configuration
20     {
21       "type": "named",
22       "name": "--allowed-hosts",
23       "description": "Comma-separated list of hosts this server is allowed to serve from.
24       Defaults to the host the server is bound to.",
25       "valueHint": "host1.com,host2.com",
26       "isRequired": false
27     }
28   ]
29 ]
30 }
31 }
```



## server.json

# Configuration

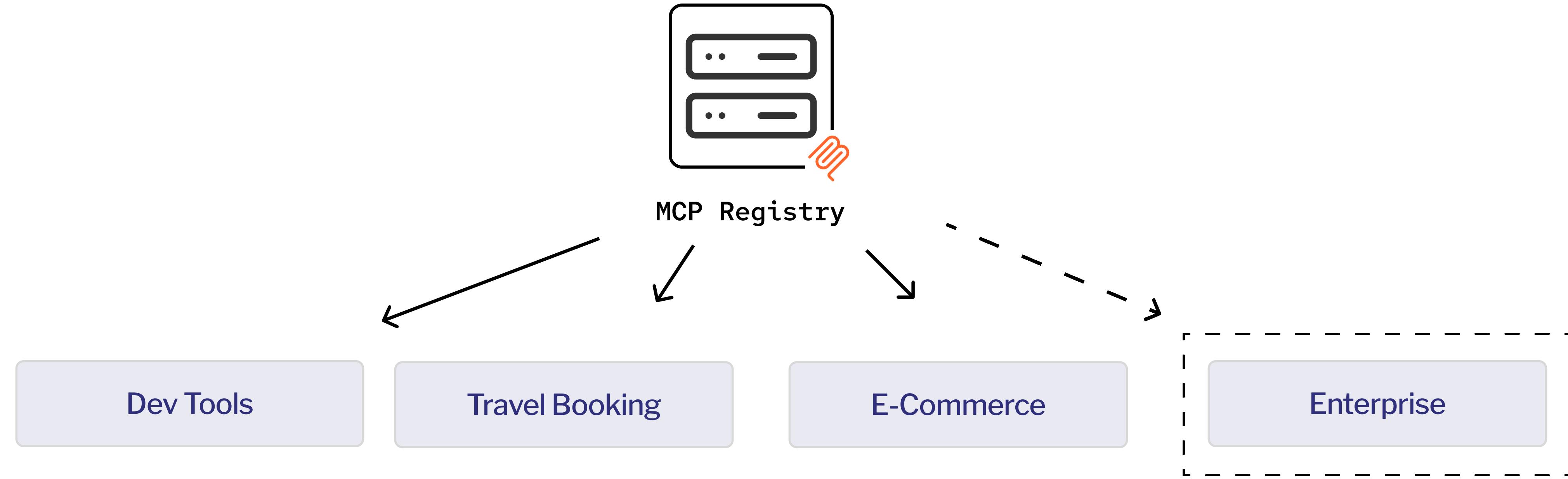
```
1  {
2    ...
3    "name": "com.microsoft/playwright", -- identity
4    "version": "1.0.2",
5    "description": "Provides browser automation capabilities for interaction with web pages
through structured accessibility snapshots.", -- capabilities
6    "repository": {
7      "url": "https://github.com/microsoft/playwright-mcp",
8      "source": "github"
9    },
10   "packages": [
11     {
12       "registryType": "npm",
13       "registryBaseUrl": "https://registry.npmjs.org",
14       "location": "https://registry.npmjs.org/_catalog"
15     }
16   ]
17 }
```

```
1 ...
2   "packages": [
3     {
4       ...
5       "packageArguments": [
6         {
7           "type": "named",
8           "name": "--allowed-hosts",
9           "description": "Comma-separated
list of hosts this server is allowed to serve
from. Defaults to the host the server is
bound to.",
10          "valueHint": "host1.com,host2.com",
11          "isRequired": false
12        }
13      ]
14    }
15  ]
16 ]
```

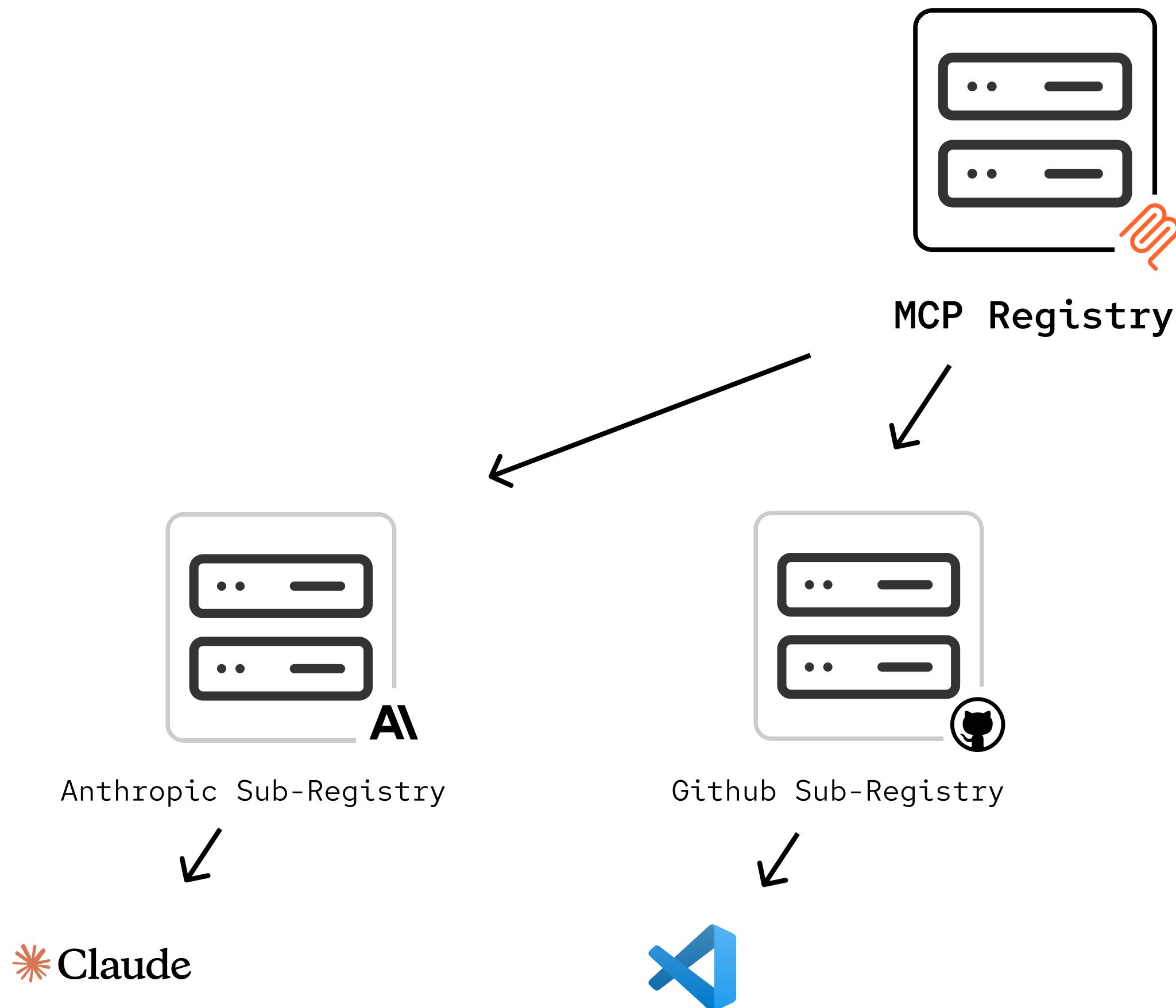
```
1 ...
2   "remotes": [
3     {
4       "type": "streamable-http",
5       "url": "https://server.smithery.ai/@smithery/
notion/mcp",
6       "headers": [
7         {
8           "description": "Bearer token for Smithery
authentication",
9           "isRequired": true,
10          "value": "Bearer {smithery_api_key}",
11          "isSecret": true,
12          "name": "Authorization"
13        }
14      ]
15    }
16  ]
17 ]
```



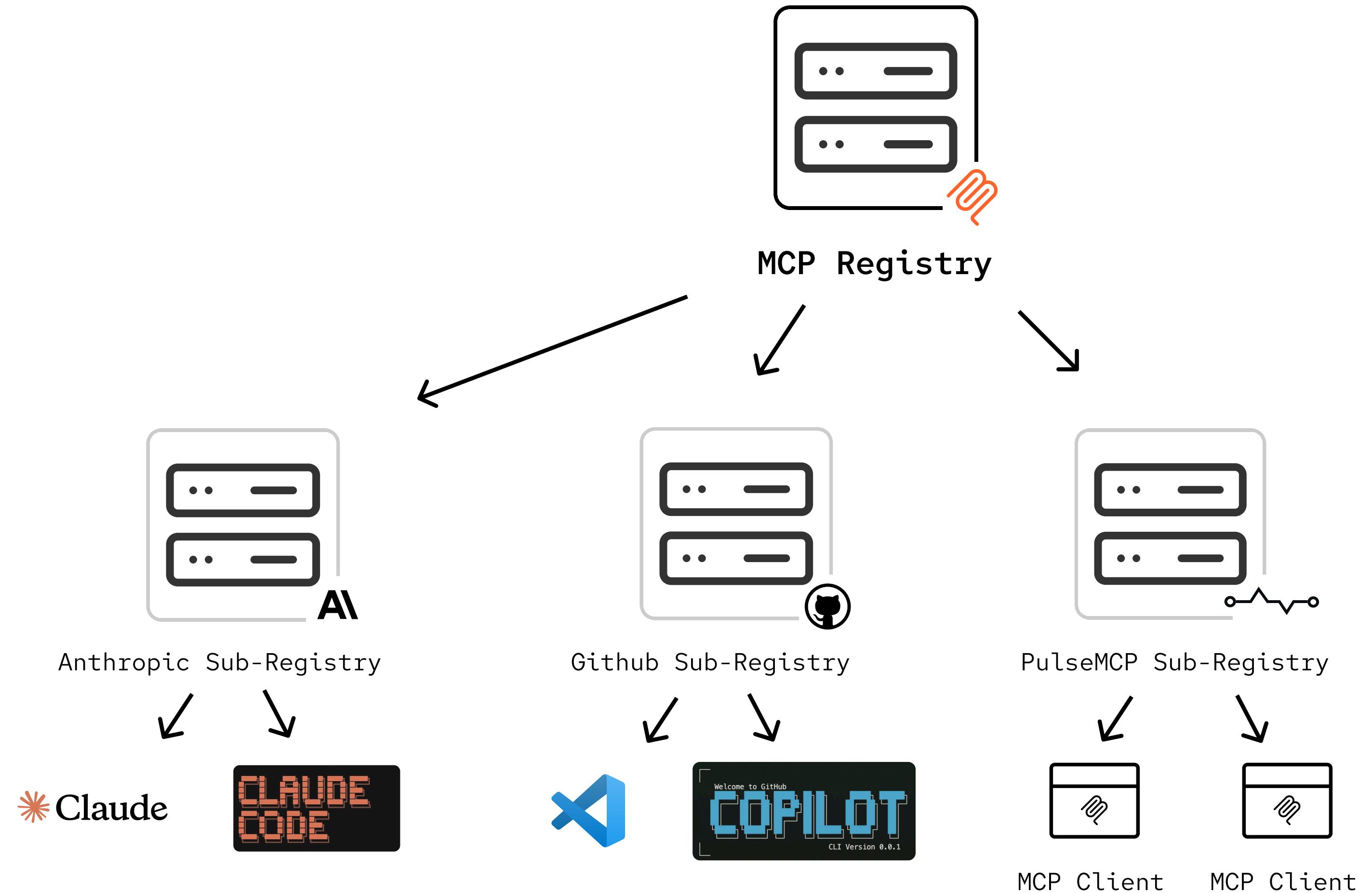
# Sub-Registries: Why We Need Them



# Every MCP Client needs a sub-registry

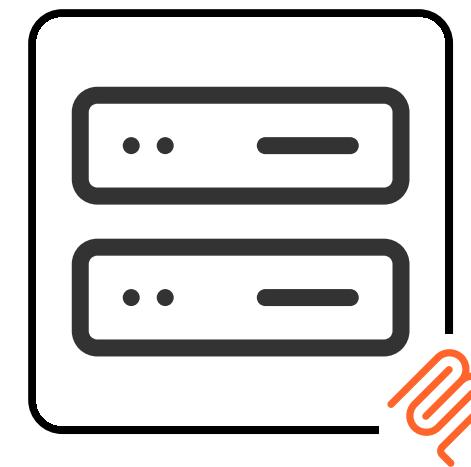


# Many will have cross-cutting concerns

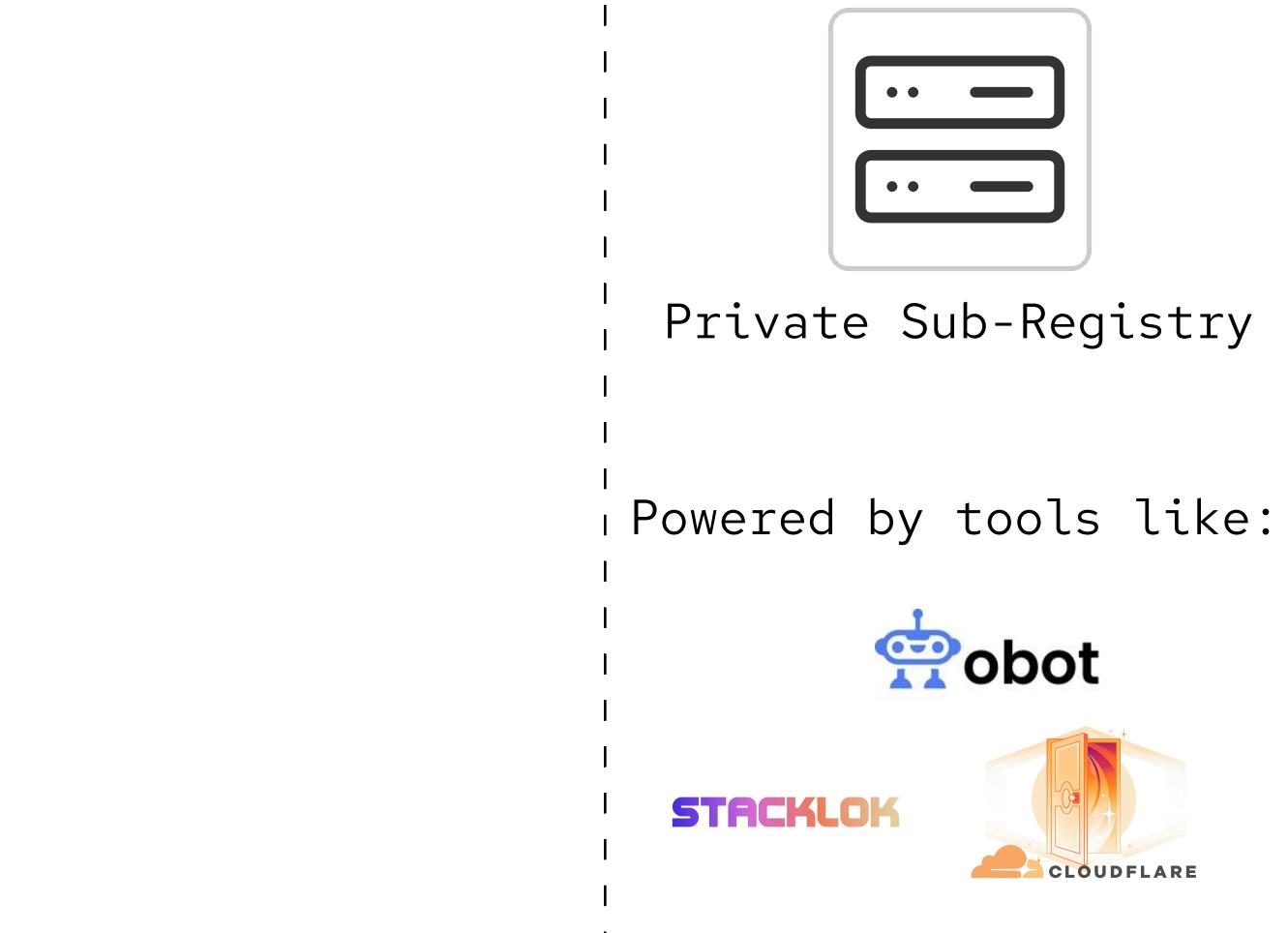


# Private sub-registries

Can use enterprise solutions



MCP Registry



# Server Devs/Maintainers

What does this mean for you?

One place to publish (via CI/CD)

No more: sub-registry formats, publication processes

No more: complex READMEs laden with JSON



# MCP Client Owners

What does this mean for you?

You get a structured source of truth

Reliably install any MCP server (or recognize you can't)

No more scraping the web to find them all



# **DEMO**



# What's next?

Push for stability: Preview → General Availability

server.json formally into MCP specification via SEP

Further de-centralization: .well-known discovery



# .well-known and server.json

Expecting: {domain}/.well-known/mcp/servers.json

```
1  [
2    { ...server.json },
3    { ...server.json },
4    { ...server.json }
5 ]
```



# .well-known and server.json

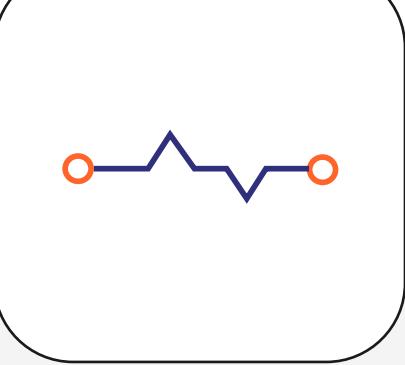


# Want to lend a hand?

Contribute to the community effort



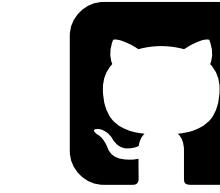
# Thank You!



**PulseMCP**

[pulsemcp.com/  
partner-with-us](http://pulsemcp.com/partner-with-us)

Sponsorships and  
marketing collabs



**GitHub**

[github.com/mcp](https://github.com/mcp)

Explore the [GitHub MCP Registry](#) (self-publishing coming soon)