

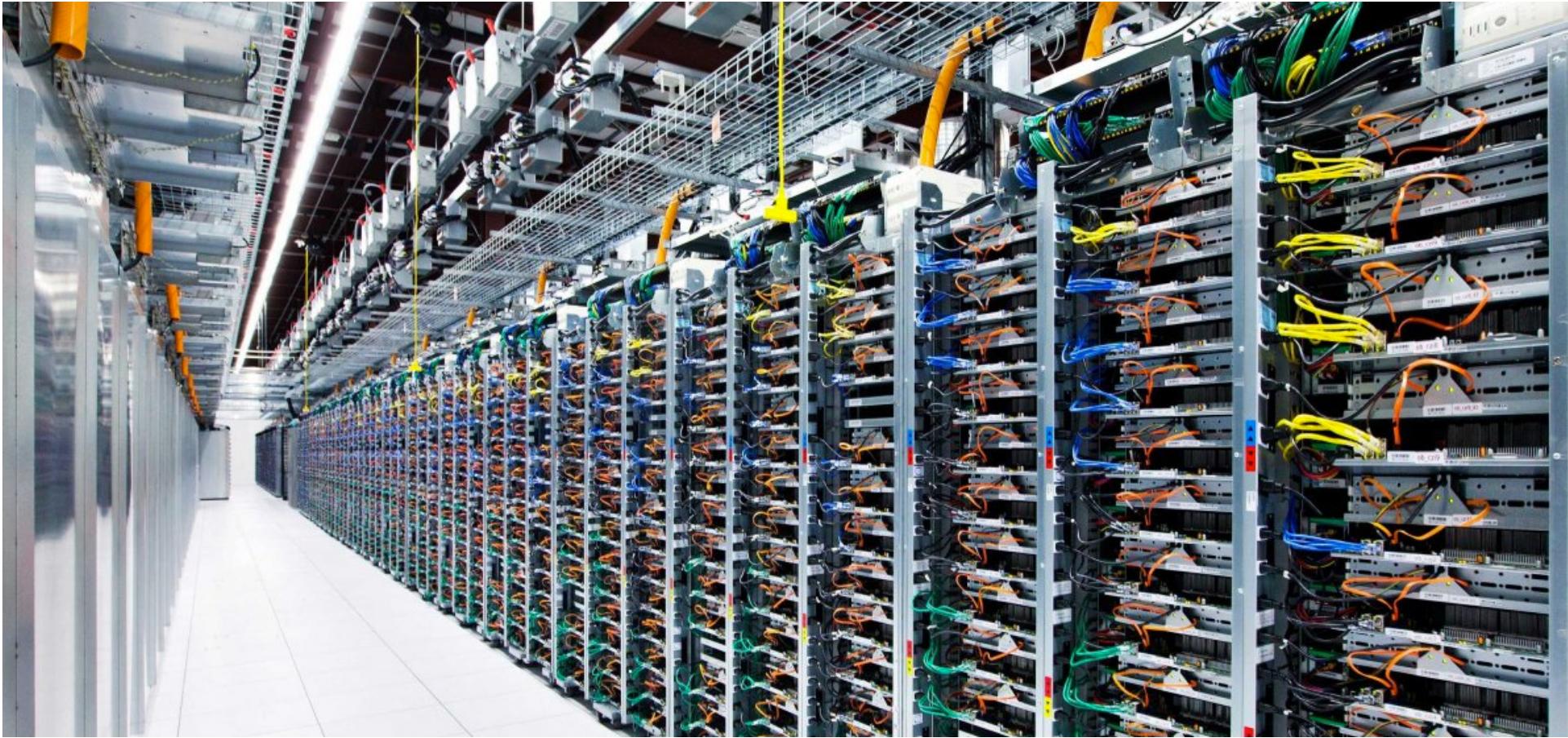
Introduction to Serverless

for geospatial applications

What is Serverless?

What is Serverless not?

Serverless ≠ no servers



Serverless ≠ Lambda



Google Cloud Platform



Auth0



Microsoft Azure

Serverless ≠ FaaS



Firebase

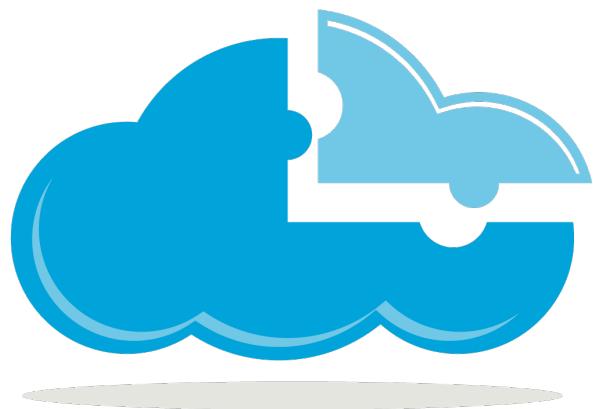
okta

 **cloudboost**

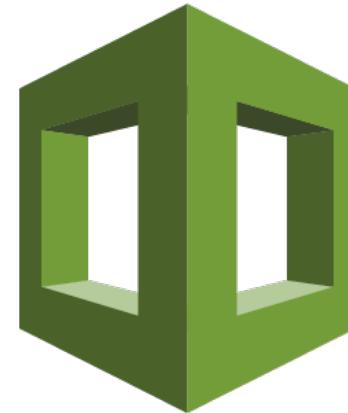
The Cloudboost logo icon features a blue cloud shape with a hexagonal grid of dots inside it, representing data storage or connectivity.

Braintree
A **PayPal** Company

Serverless ≠ The
Serverless Framework



Claudia.js



CloudFormation

Serverless ≠ Just a Fad

What **is** Serverless?

BaaS & FaaS

BaaS & FaaS

(mobile) back end as a service

“... applications that significantly or fully depend
on 3rd party applications / services ('in the cloud')
to manage server-side logic and state”

Mike Roberts, What is Serverless?

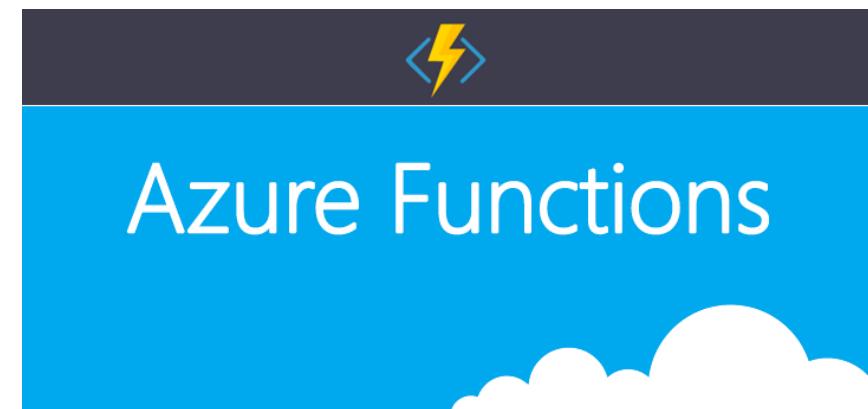
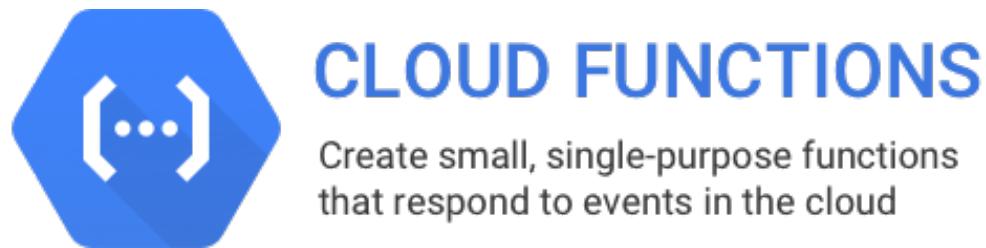


BaaS & FaaS

function as a service

“... applications where some amount of server-side logic is still written by the developer ... run in stateless compute containers that are event-triggered, ephemeral ... and fully managed by a 3rd party”

ThoughtWorks



Why go Serverless?



Save Money

with FaaS we only pay per invocation which can save \$\$\$



Scale Instantly

no servers to worry about, vendor takes the strain



Reduce Complexity

task specific functions for your app, BaaS for non-core



Reduce Time to Market

easier to get up and running quickly and experiment

Why not go Serverless?



Startup Latency

serverless functions need time to “wake up”



Harder to Test

difficult to reproduce production environment / triggers



Harder to Deploy

tooling helps but often lots of external dependencies to manage



Harder to Debug

we cannot SSH in to our functions to see what is going wrong

Recognise the limitations

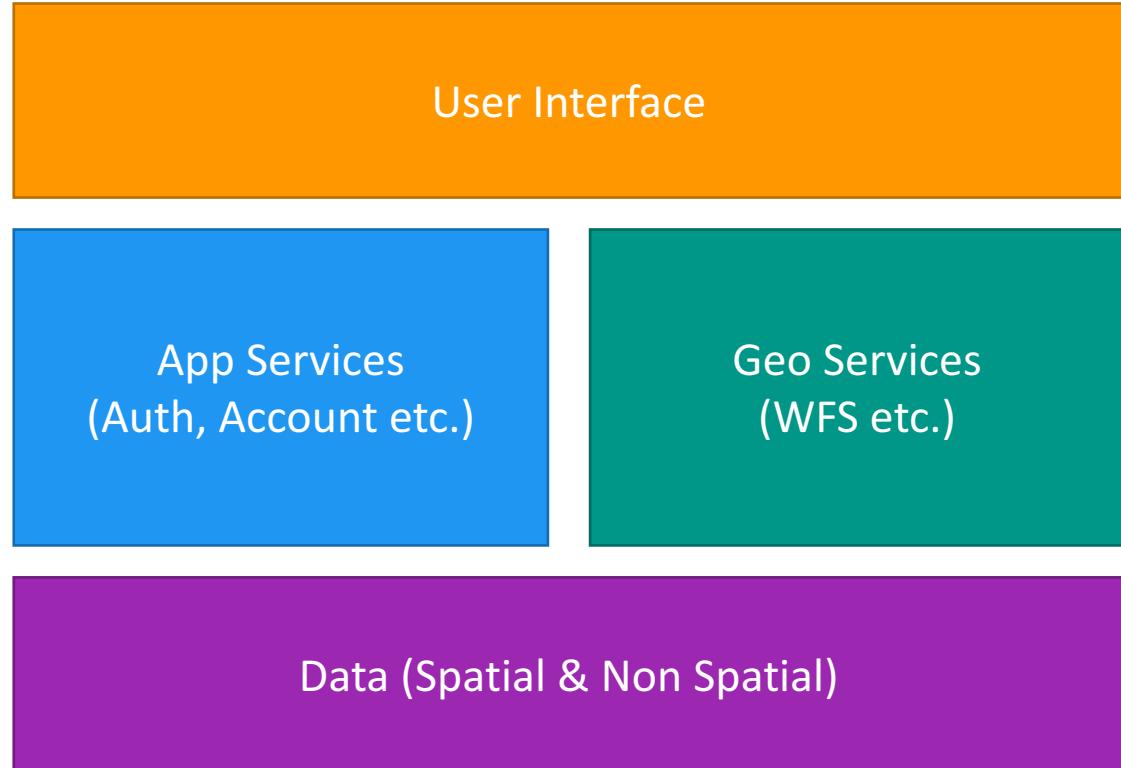
most can be mitigated however serverless is not for all use cases

What about geo?

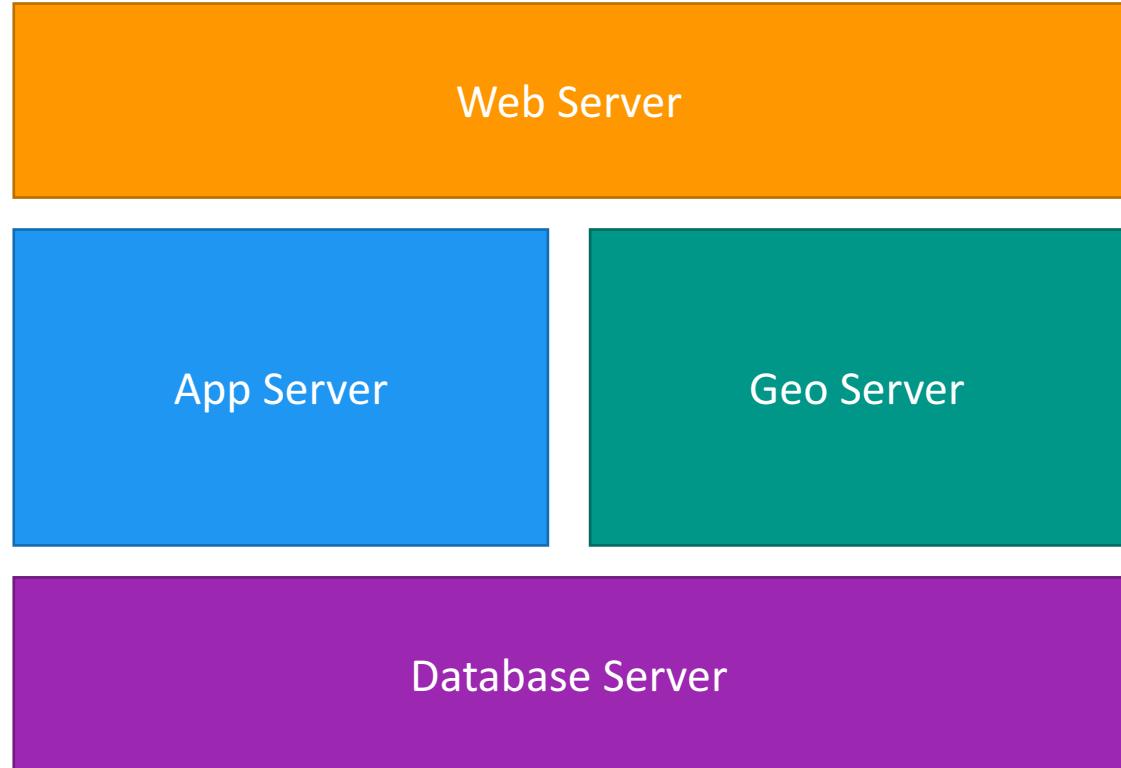
this is a geo conference after all!

“I want to build a geo app”

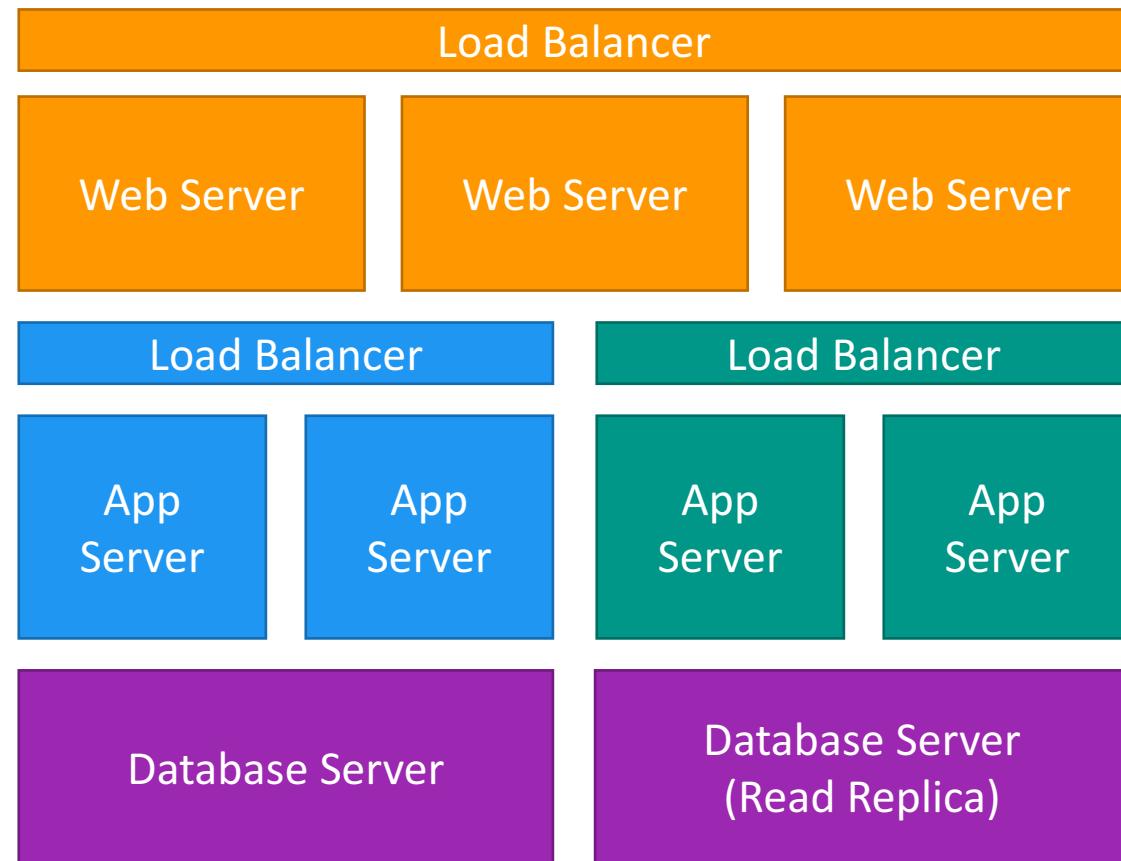
what components do I need?



“What does the
infrastructure look like?”



“Oh, and it needs to be
highly available?”



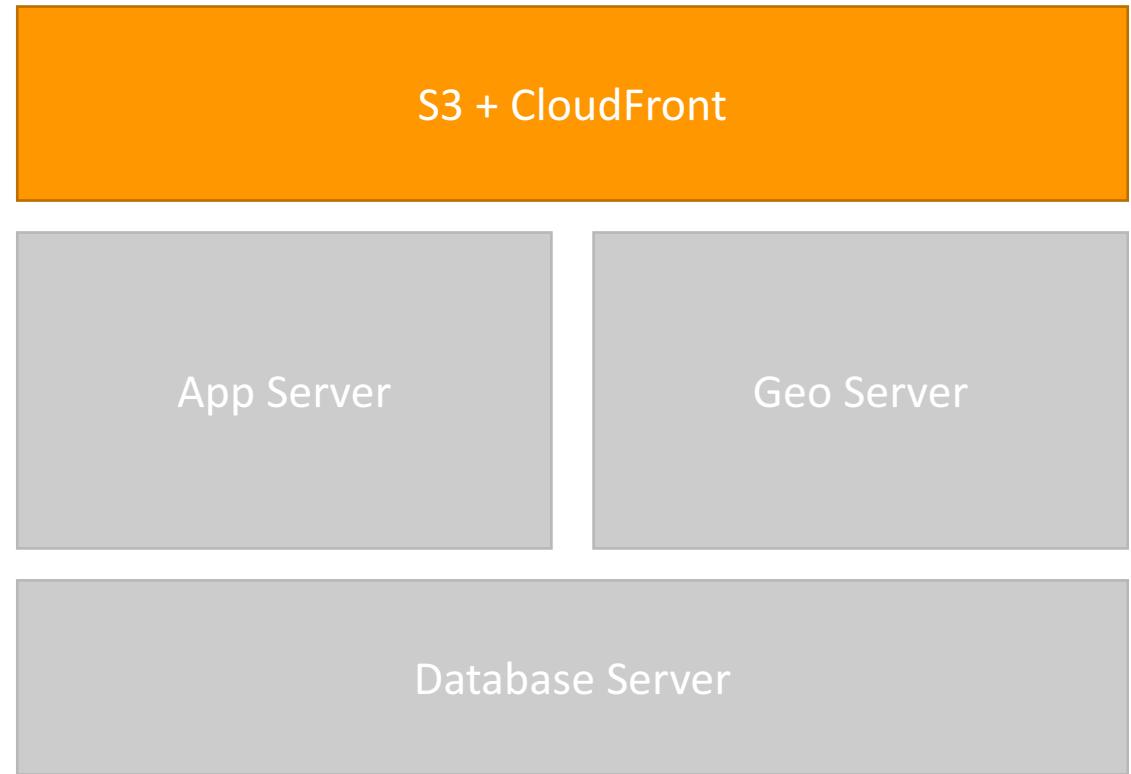
“That’s a lot of boxes to
show a map!”

(wait until you see the bill!)

“We just moved to AWS,
does that help?”

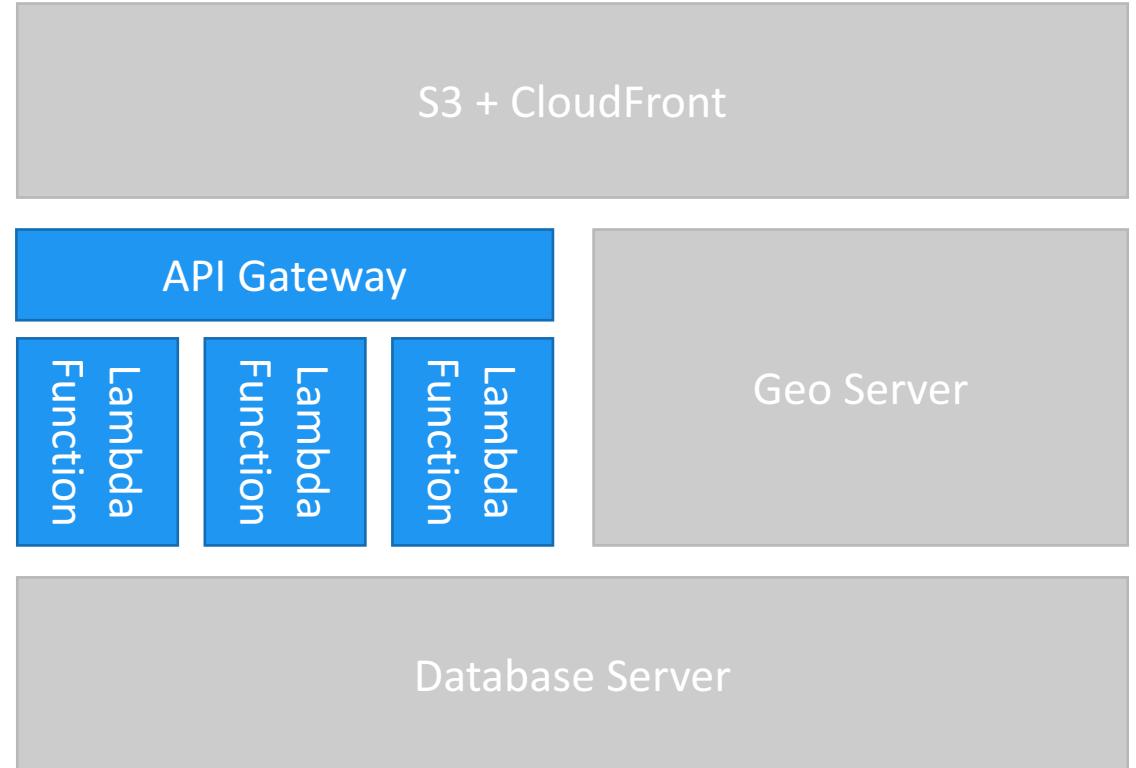
they provide lots of services other than IaaS, what we can use...

- Re-factor application as Single Page App (SPA)
- Can host as static website using an S3 bucket
- Use CloudFront to handle HTTPS, re-directs to index, error handling
- Free root SSL cert, managed!
- Distributed over CDN so no latency
- Only pay for what you use
- Scale to millions of users
- Serverless!

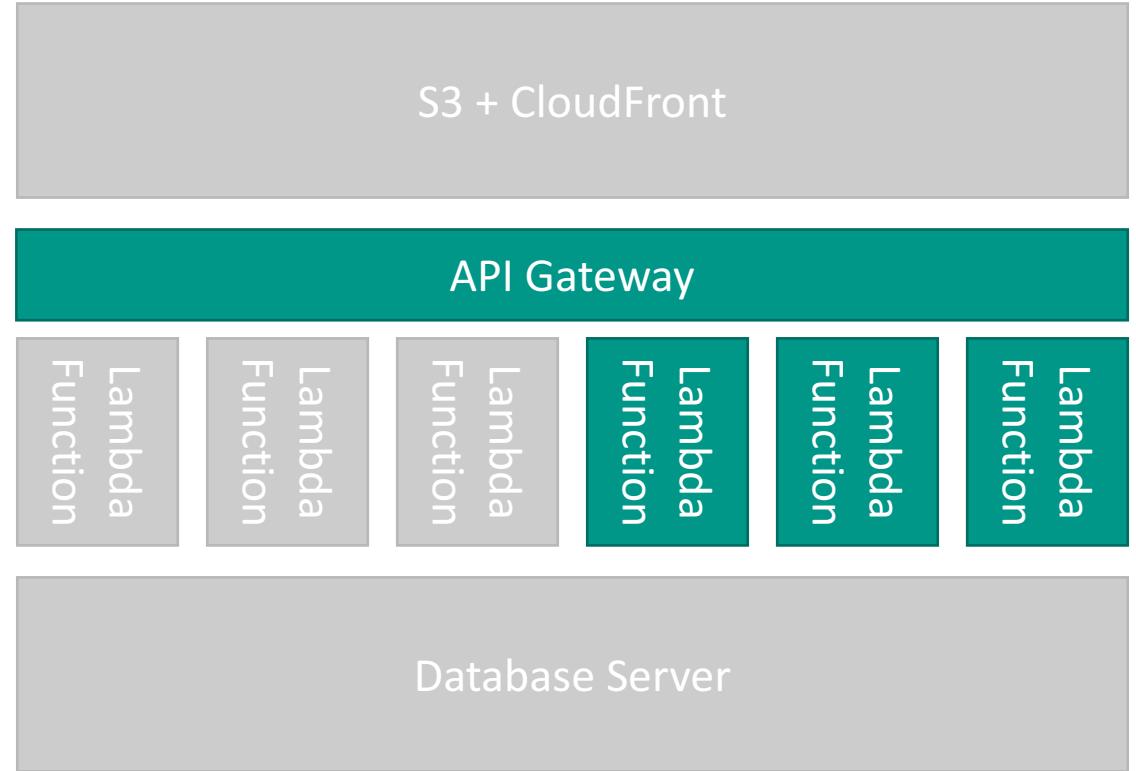




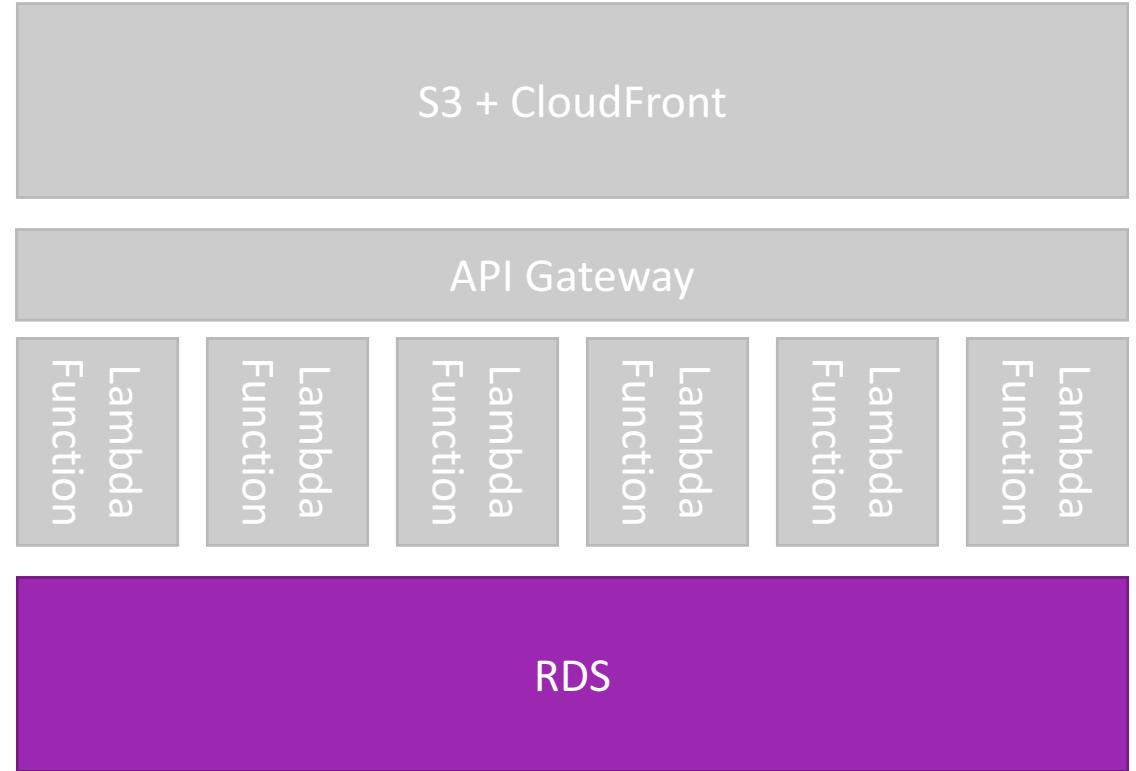
- Move authentication service to 3rd party BaaS e.g. Auth0 (could also use AWS Cognito)
- Write simple lambda functions for all application specific logic e.g. accounts
- Connect UI to lambdas using API Gateway
- API Gateway manages security, rate limiting, CORS, DDoS protection etc.
- Only pay for what you use
- Scale to millions of users
- Serverless!



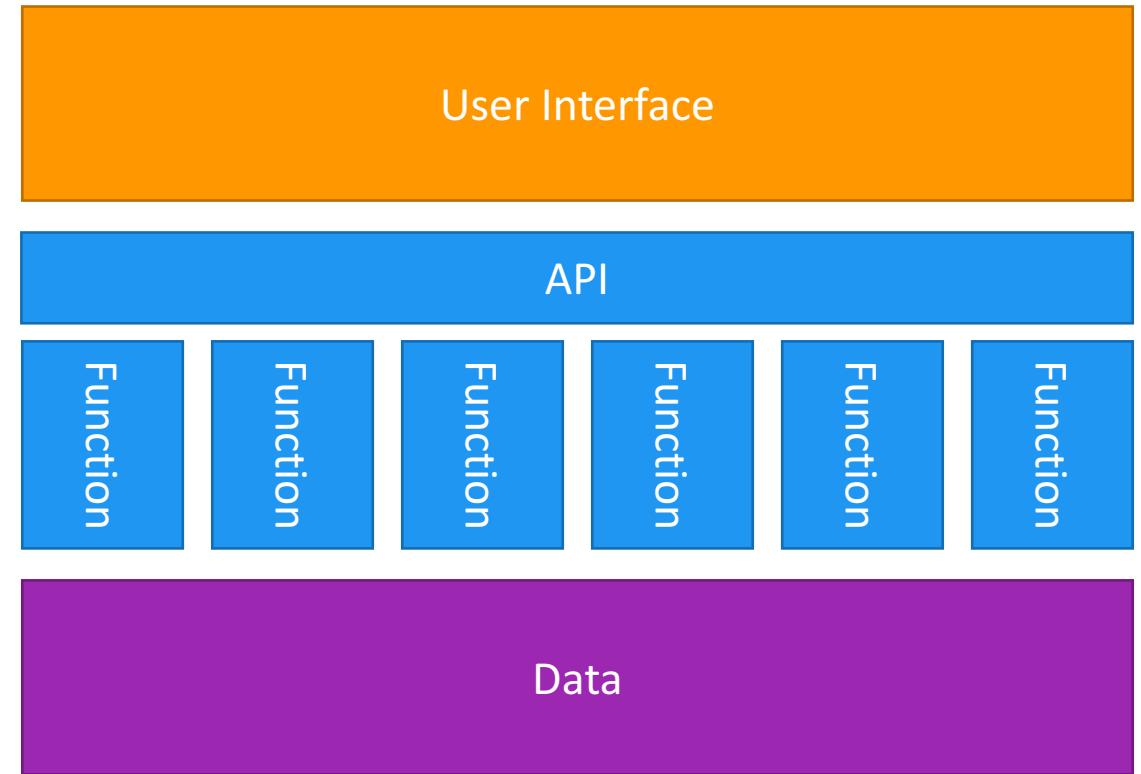
- Do we need a geo server?
- What does it actually do for us?
- We can write lambda functions which query PostGIS and convert results to GeoJSON / TopoJSON
- But what about OGC standards, WFS etc?
- GeoJSON is a standard and supported by Leaflet
- Mitigate latency by using a scheduled lambda to keep our other lambdas “warm”
- Serverless geo!



- No real BaaS option: Carto, GIS Cloud etc. still need to scale account and less functionality
- Keep PostGIS but use Amazon RDS to manage and scale the cluster
- Setup auto scaling and multi-AZ for high availability
- Automated backups and SLA
- Could use DynamoDB for non-geo functions such as Account mgmt but “Polyglot persistence” can introduce complexity
- Not “serverless” but fully managed!



- Our architecture looks a lot simpler
- We have an application which can scale to millions of users
- It should be faster, less moving parts and we are using a CDN
- We do not have any servers to manage
- We have to monitor and scale our DB but we can automate that
- We can focus on our use case and not re-inventing the wheel
- Avoid lock-in by only using AWS services for generic functionality



RESTful Feature Specification (RFS)

a common language for working with geographic data using a RESTful interface and GeoJSON (or XML for sadists!)

github.com/openrfs

OpenAPI (swagger) spec + lambda reference implementation +
docs (work in progress!)



“
YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS
YOU”

Mark Varley

mark@addresscloud.com