

# Uber x Security

Tyler Julian, Security Engineer @Uber

Daniel Feldman, Software Engineer @Scytale

May 23, 2019

Uber

## Agenda

**01** Overview

**02** Identity at Uber

**03** SPIFFE

**04** Case Study

**05** Q&A

# Identity at Uber

Tyler Julian

# About Me

- Authentication
- Distributed Systems
- @Uber
  - Identity & Access Management
  - Trust & Safety
- @21 (acq. by Coinbase)
  - Cryptocurrency Protocol Implementation

# Scale

3K+

Unique services.

400K

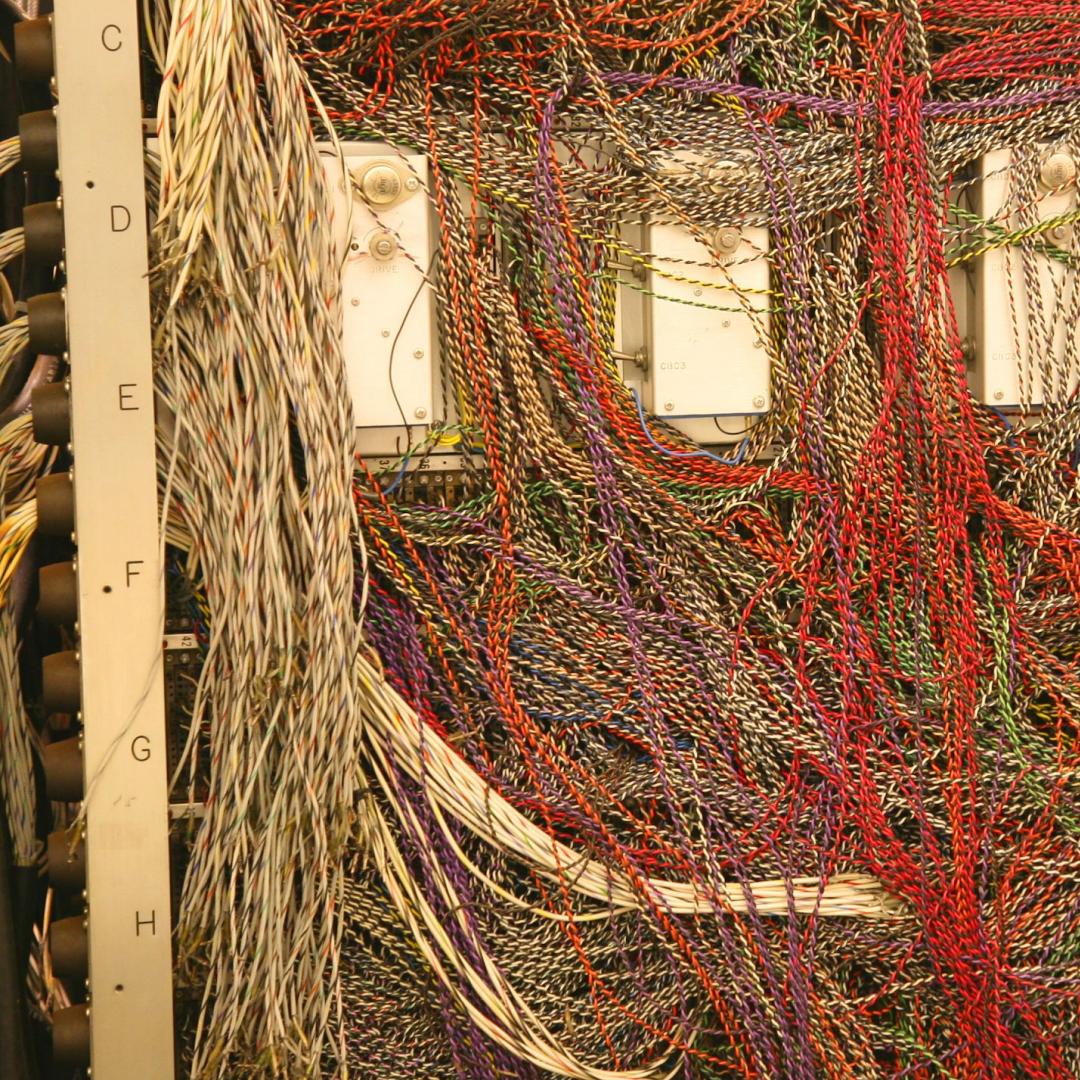
Running containers to support  
stateless services.

M

a

# Infra

- Deployments in both cloud and on-prem data centers
- RPC with gRPC/HTTP and in-house protocols
- Routing/discovery built in-house
- Orchestration using Mesos, Hadoop, and in-house tools
- Services written in Go, Java, Python, Node.js, and more



# Identity Requirements

- Compliance
  - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
  - Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX)
- Trust and Security
  - Reduce assumptions on system behavior (zero trust)
  - Reduce risk of data breach
  - Reduce risk of bad configuration
- Developer Experience
  - Easy to implement and use
  - Integrated with infrastructure

# Identity Scope



## Users

Riders, drivers, couriers, customer support representatives, managers, engineers, etc.



## Machines

Addressable hosts that reside within “Uber” infrastructure.

```
function check(n)
{
    // check if the number n is a prime
    var factor; // if the checked number is not a prime, this variable will hold the factor
    var c;
    factor = 0;
    // try to divide the checked number by all numbers till its square root
    for (c=2 ; (c <= Math.sqrt(n)) ; c++)
    {
        if (n%c == 0) // is n divisible by c ?
            { factor = c; break}
    }
    return (factor);
} // end of check function

function communicate()
{
    // communicate with the user
    var i; // i is the checked number
    var factor; // if the checked number is not a prime, this variable will hold the factor
    i = document.primetest.number.value; // get the checked number from the user input
    // is it a valid input?
    if ((isNaN(i)) || (i <= 0) || (Math.floor(i) != i))
        { alert ("The checked object should be a whole positive number"); }
    else
        { factor = check (i);
            if (factor == 0)
                { alert (i + " is a prime");}
            else
                { alert (i + " is not a prime, " + i + "=" + factor + factor); }
        }
} // end of communicate function
```

## Workloads

A process that runs application logic for some business purpose.

# Workload Identity

- Goal:
  - Uniquely identify a particular program or application
- Control access to:
  - Database credentials
  - Third party API keys
  - Other internal services
- Protect data:
  - Encryption-in-transit
  - Prevent bad actors

# SPIFFE

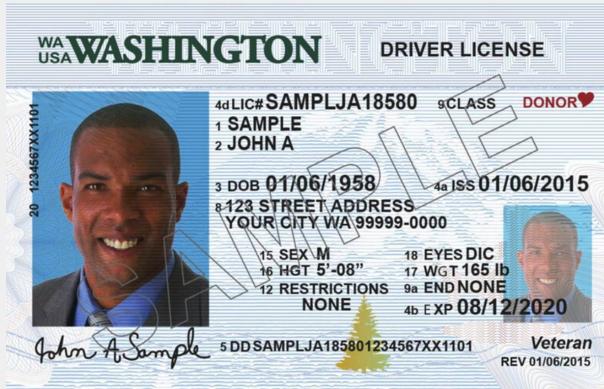
Daniel Feldman

# placeholder

Need slides for:

- Intro to SPIFFE (framework for identifying workloads)
- What is an SVID?
- Workload API
- How to actually use Workload API (Proxy?)-- brief
- Selectors (Daniel make this slide )

# What is an SVID?



Identity documents are:

Unique

Stable

Verifiable

Attested by a trusted authority



and





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

A set of specifications that cover how a workload should retrieve and use its identity.

- SPIFFE ID
- SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Documents (SVIDs)
- The SPIFFE Workload API

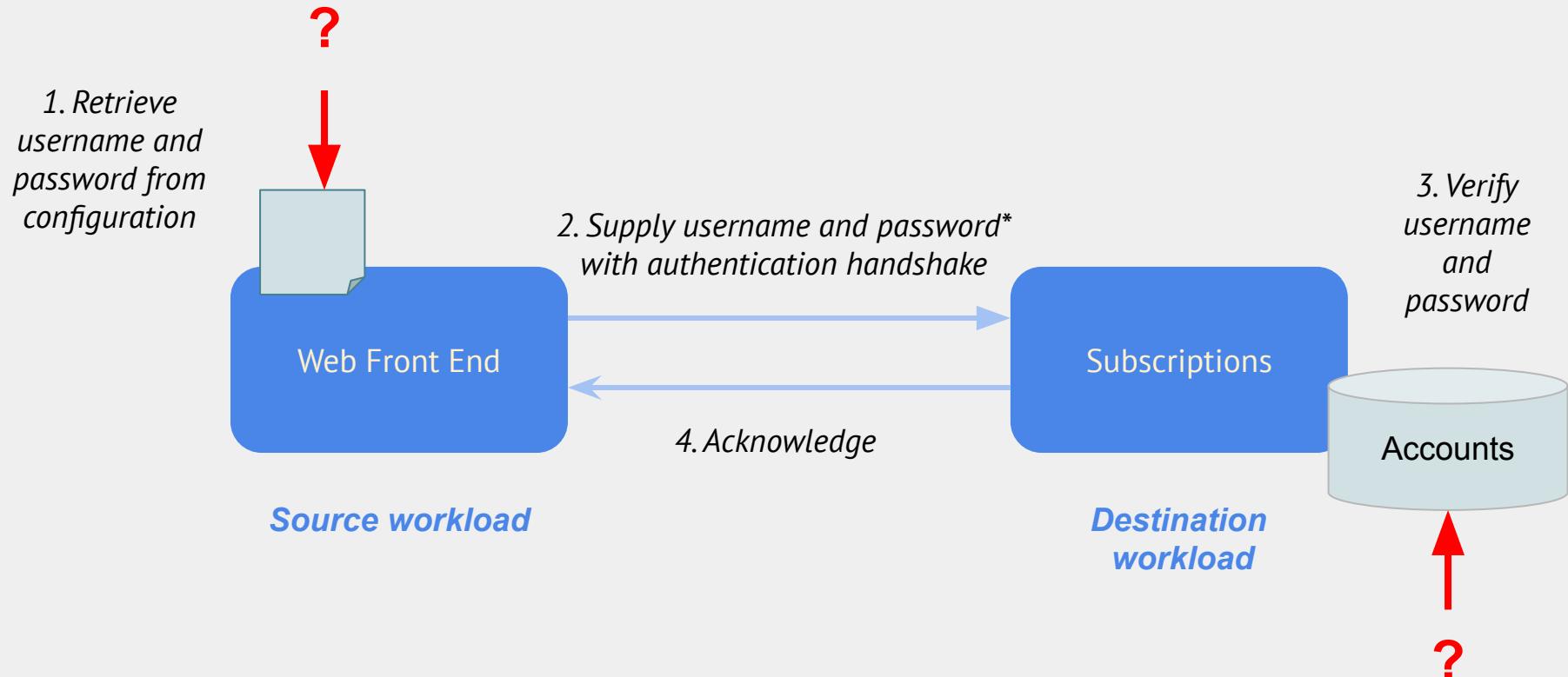


[github.com/spiffe/spire](https://github.com/spiffe/spire)

The SPIFFE Runtime Environment. Open-source software that implements the SPIFFE Workload API for a variety of platforms.

Apache 2.0 license. Independent governance. Highly extensible through plug-ins.

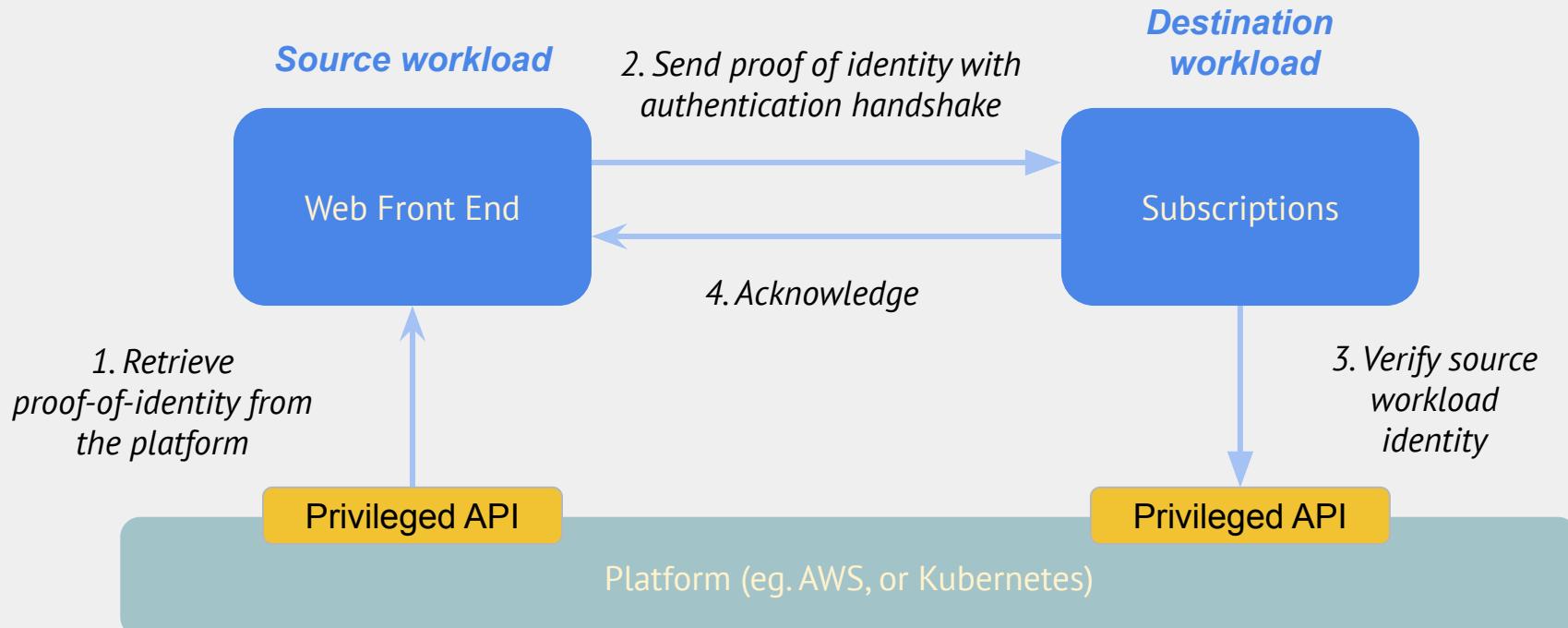
# Workload authentication



\* Or key/secret, signed nonce etc.

# Platform mediated identity

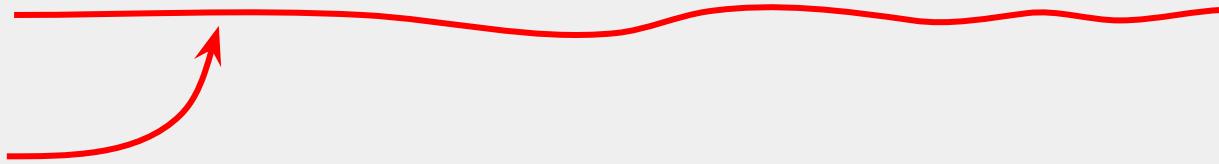
Eg. AWS IAM, Kubernetes Service Accounts



# What is an SVID?

**spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments**

A SPIFFE ID

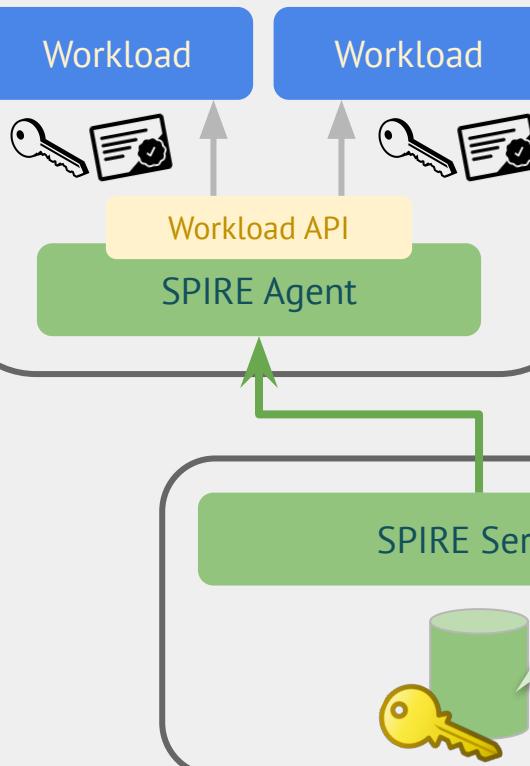


**X.509-SVID** describes  
exactly how to encode  
a SPIFFE ID in an  
X.509 certificate



**JWT-SVID** describes  
exactly how to encode  
a SPIFFE ID in an JWT  
bearer token

# Node



**spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments**

**selector:** aws:sg:sg-edcd9784

**selector:** k8s:ns:payments

**selector:** k8s:sa:pay-svc

**selector:** docker:image-id:442ca9

# Design Goals

- **Application identity driven.** By building a security model rooted in a strong assertion of application identity, policies and practices become application- and business unit- oriented rather than infrastructure-oriented.
- **Easily adoptable.** Users should be able to leverage Emissary with little or no code change. The system should work well in dynamically orchestrated containerized environments.
- **Federatable.** It should be possible to use these identity mechanisms across business units and even organizations.
- **Reliable.** The single points of failures in the system should be minimized and the system should degrade gracefully when any single point of failure is down.
- **Cloud and Container Ready.** It should be possible to safely extend trust to entities running on to third party cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure, and container orchestrators such as Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes.

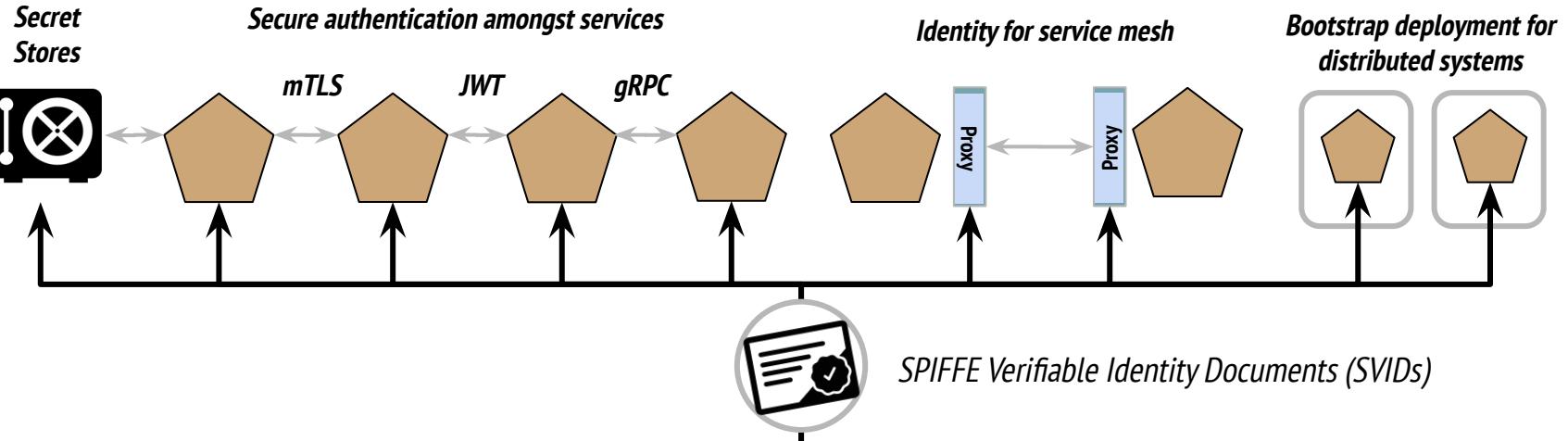
# Security Goals

- **Fully automated and policy driven.** Existing identity (particularly PKI) infrastructure is both complex and often requires “human trust”, which weakens delivery. Emissary is fully automated and should minimize manual key distribution.
- **Minimal Knowledge.** A compromised machine should only expose any secrets for workloads that happen to be running on that machine.
- **Reliable.** The single points of failures in the system should be minimized and the system should degrade gracefully when any SPOF is down. All “steady state” operations shouldn’t have requirements off of a specific node.
- **Scoped trust roots.** There should be no hardcoded, global trust roots as we see in the web browser world.



HashiCorp  
**Vault**

**NGINX**



SPIFFE Workload API



Cloud platform  
attestation plug-ins

OS attestation  
plug-ins

Scheduler and PaaS  
attestation plug-ins

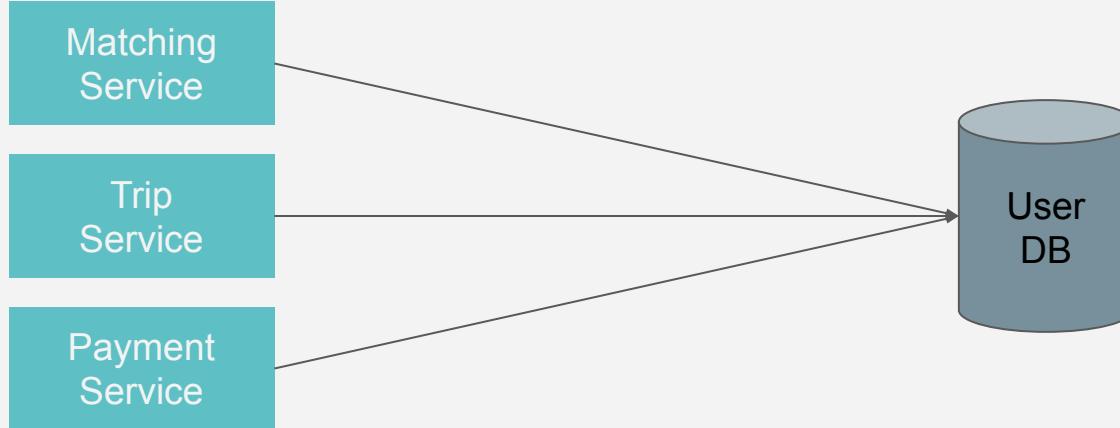
HSM, TPM, Kerberos  
attestation plug-ins

CA and secret  
store plug-ins

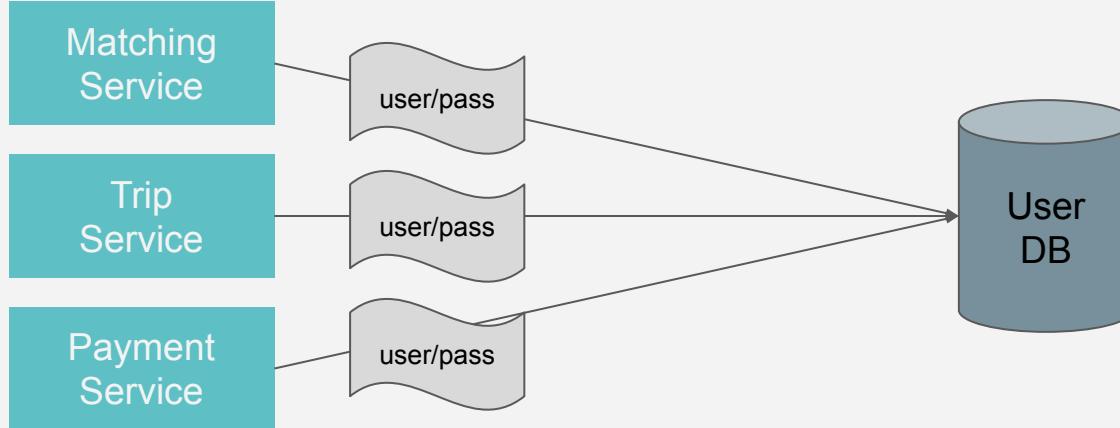
# Case Study

Authentication in a Microservice Architecture

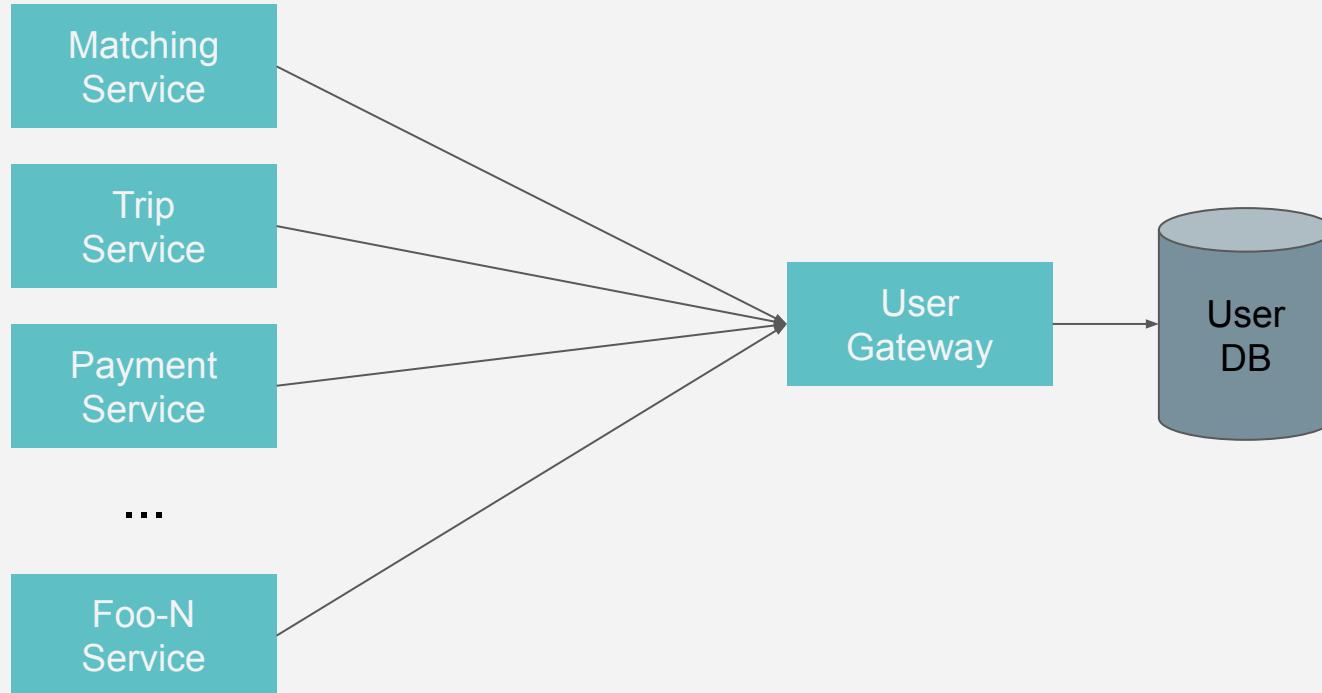
# Early: Service to DB (Direct Data Access)



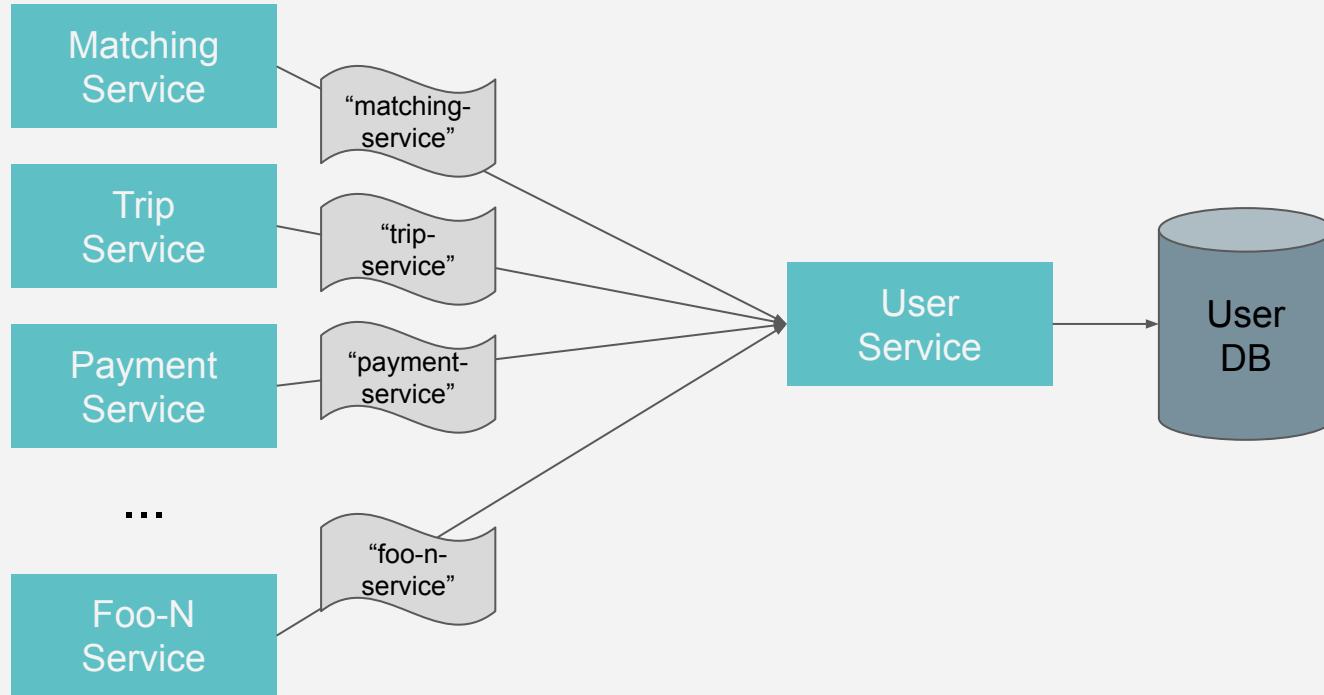
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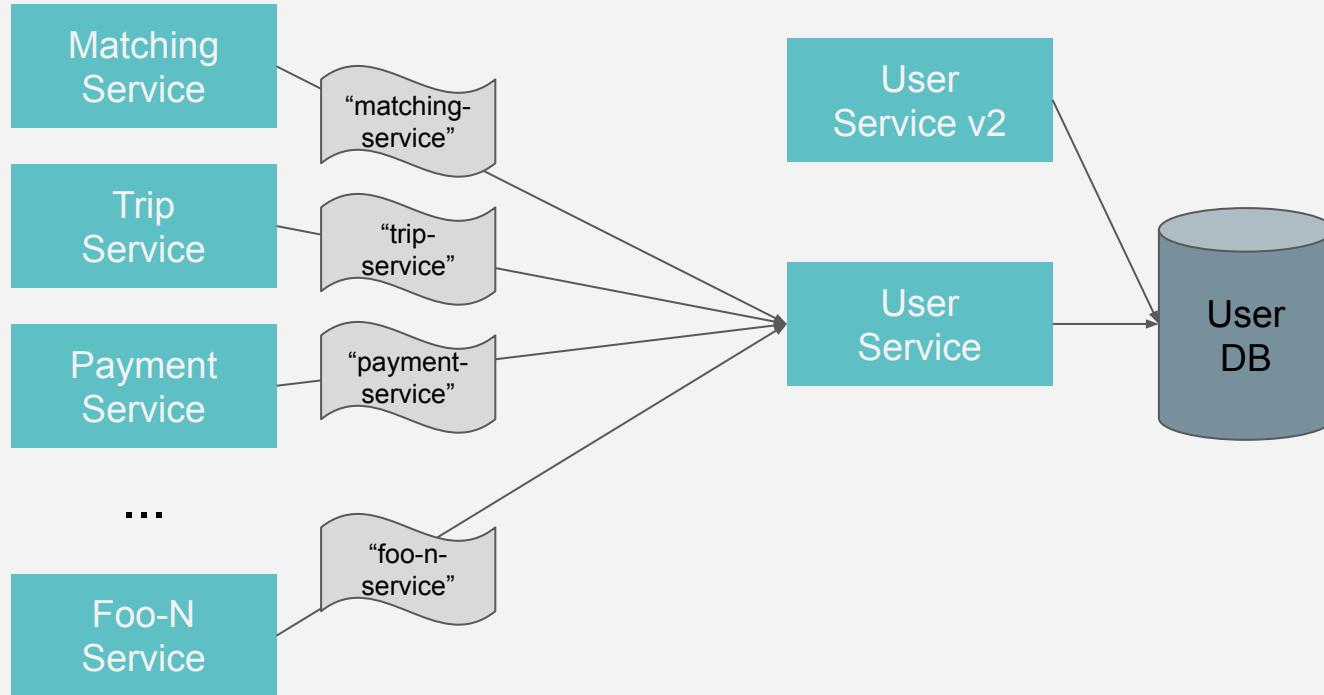
# Growth: Service to Gateway (Proxied Data Access)



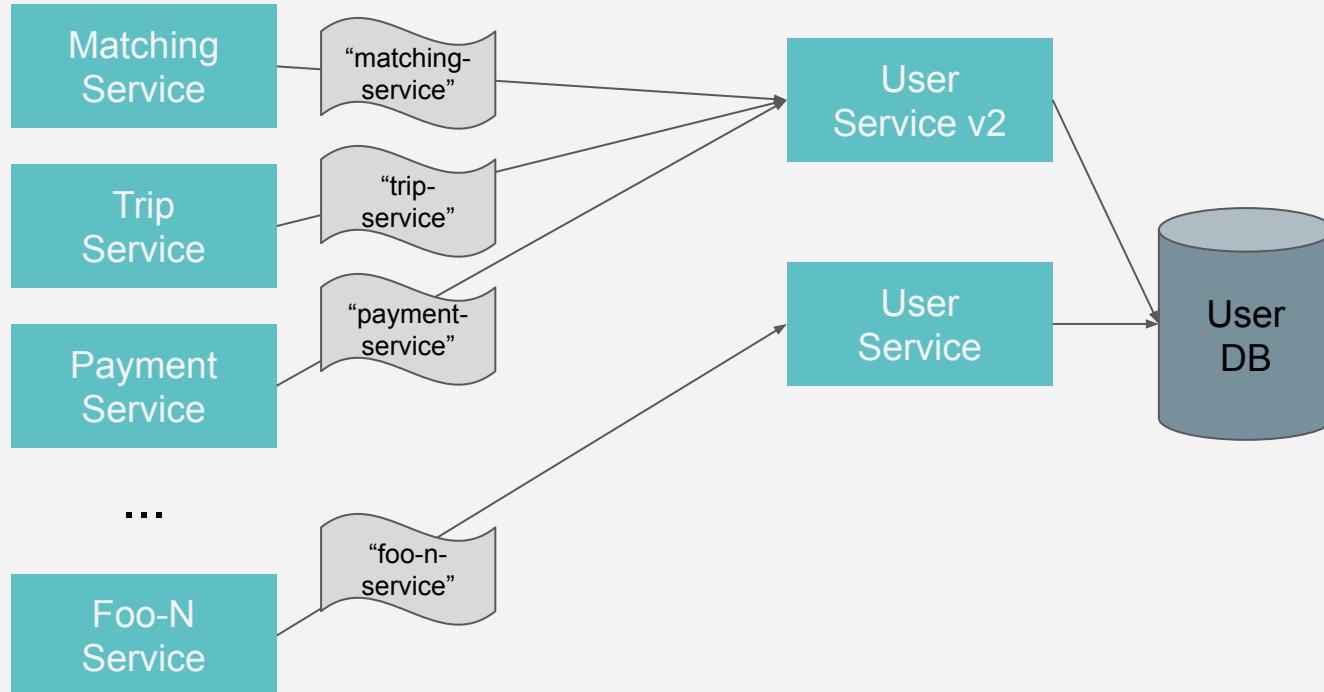
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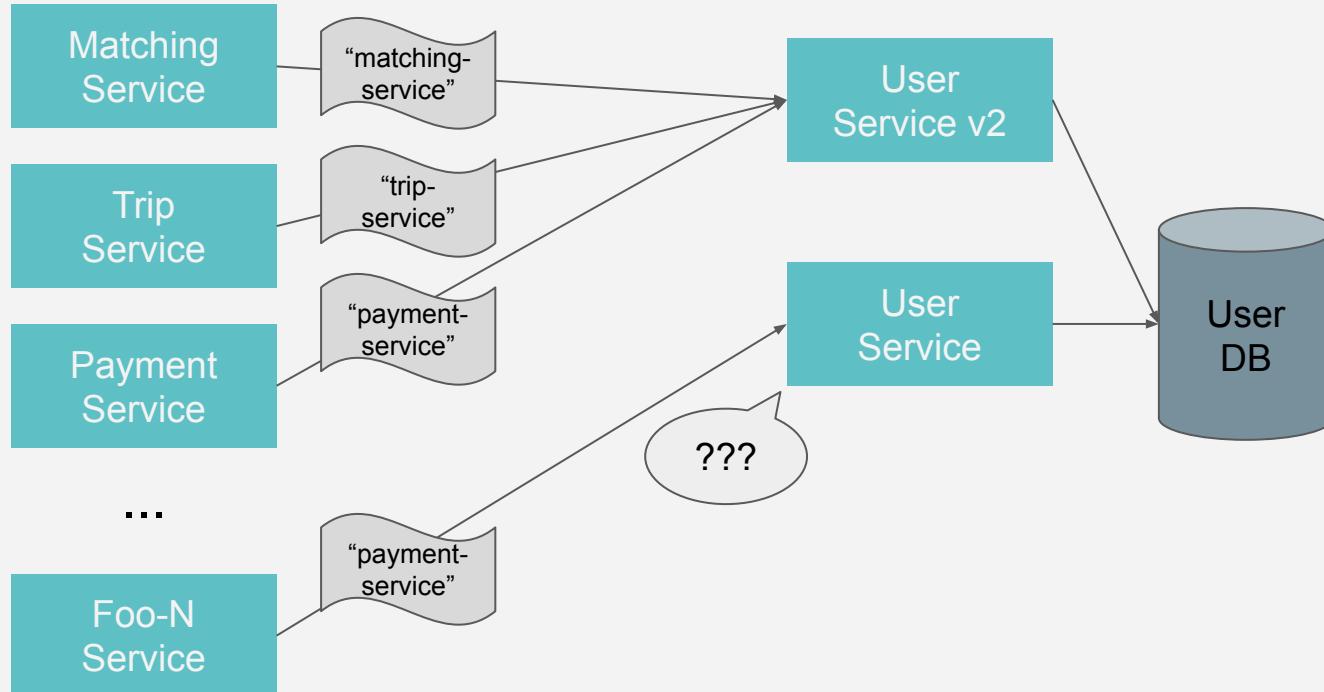
# Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



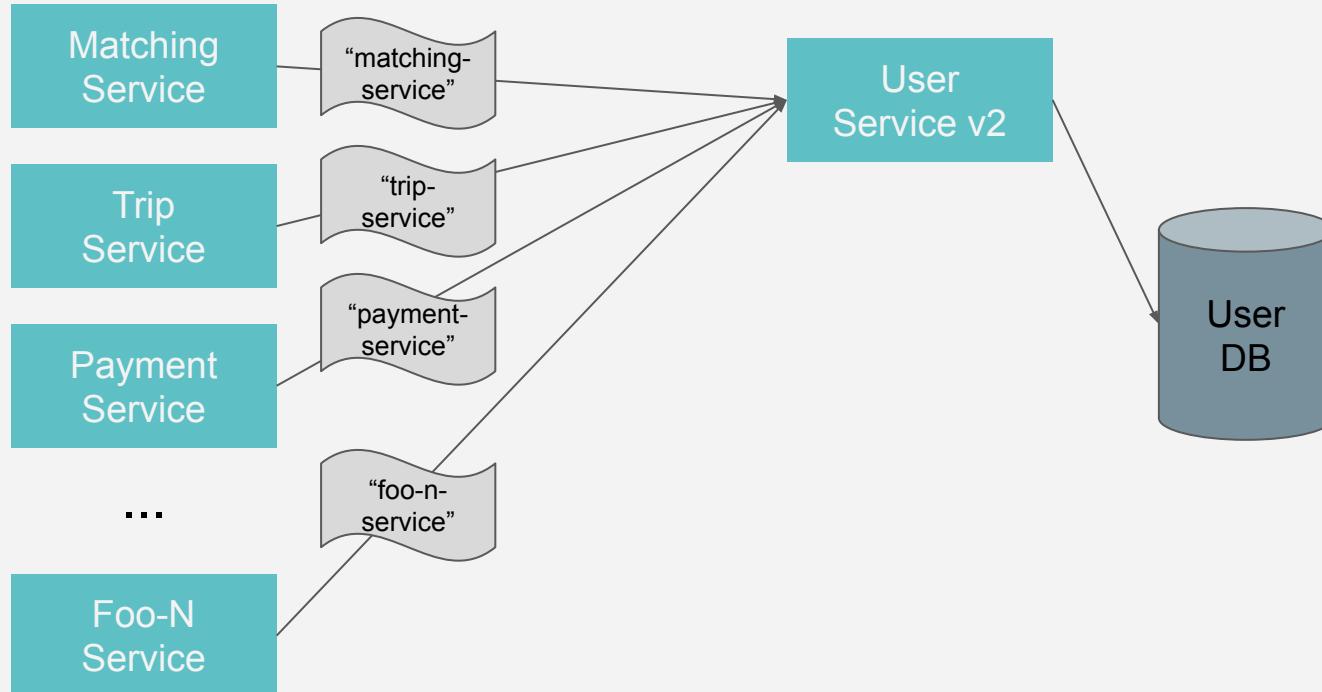
# Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



# Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



# Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



# Implementation

- Talk about libraries/sidecars, benefits of encapsulating from application logic, mTLS and JWTs

# Q&A



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

— North America 2018 —





KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

North America 2018



**KubeCon**

**CloudNativeCon**

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North America 2018

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KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

North America 2018



KubeCon



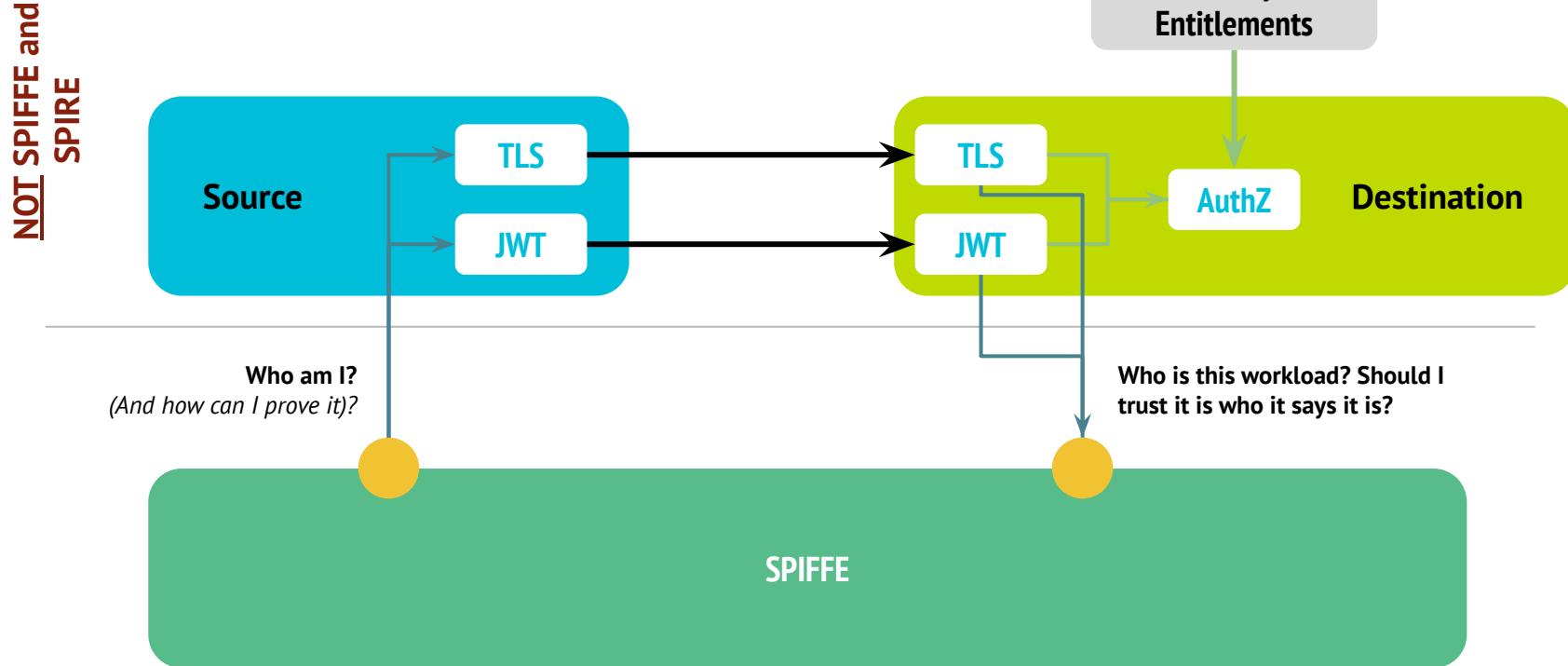
CloudNativeCon

North America 2018

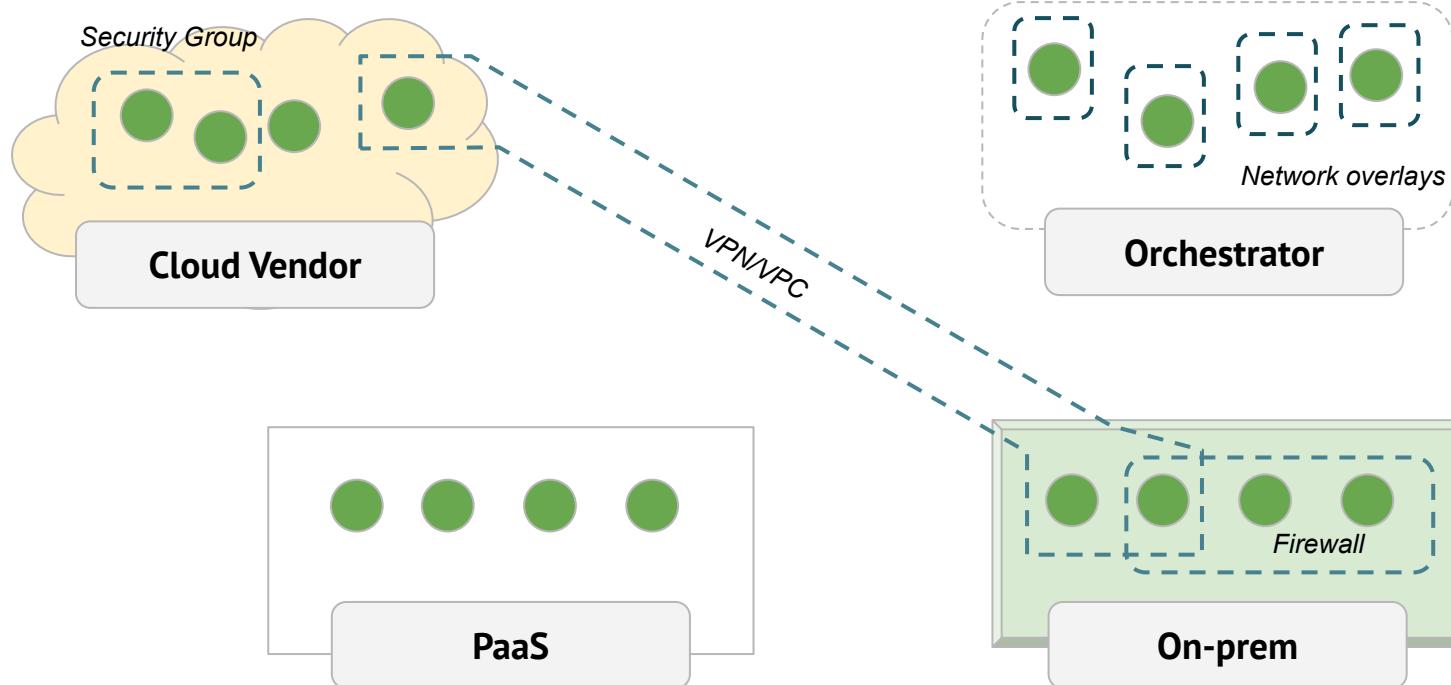
# BACKUP SLIDES



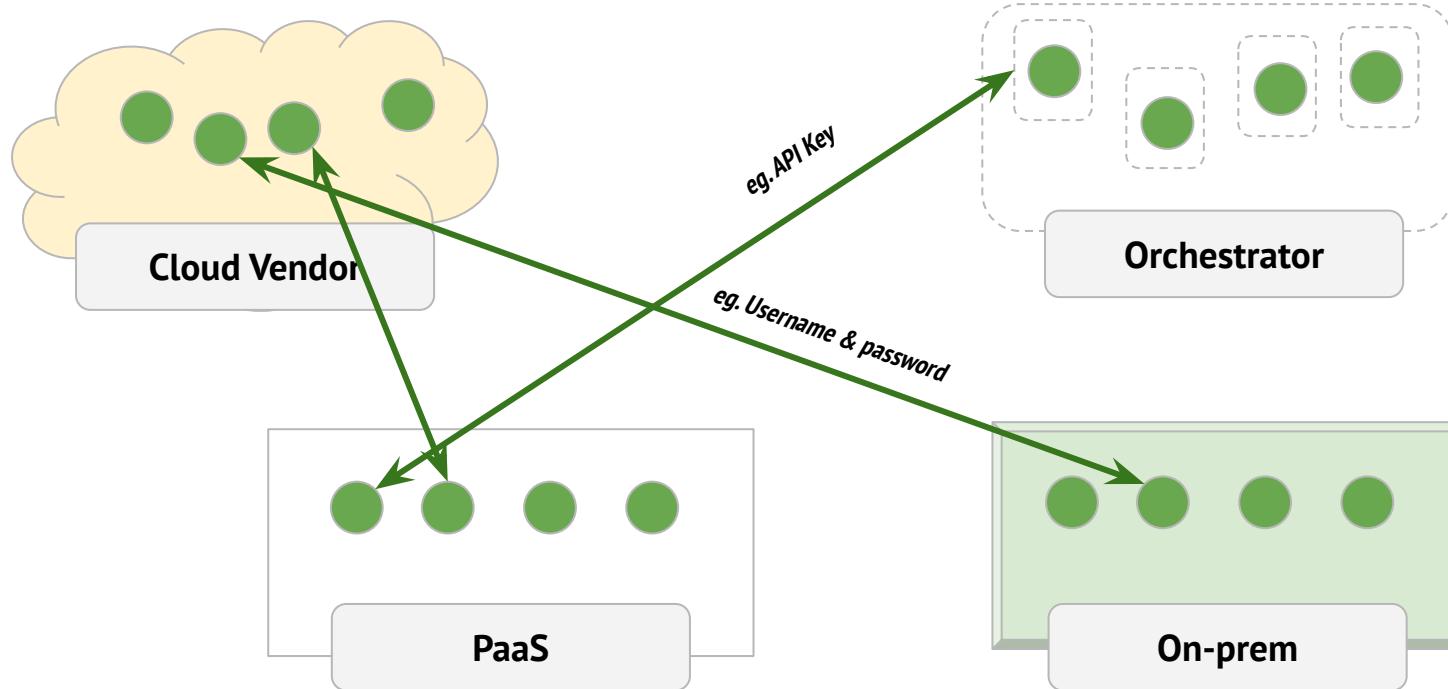
# Identity is the *basis* for AuthN and AuthZ



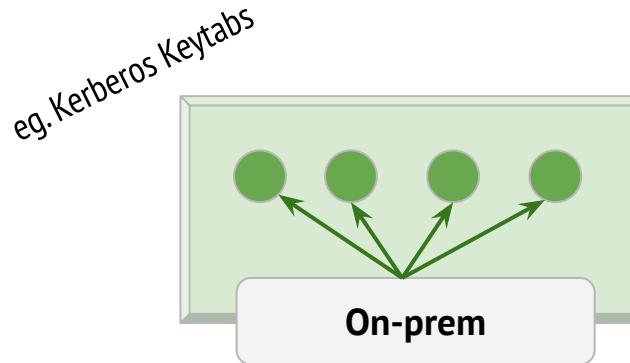
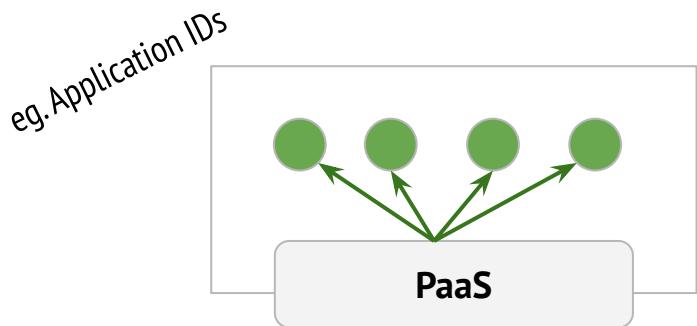
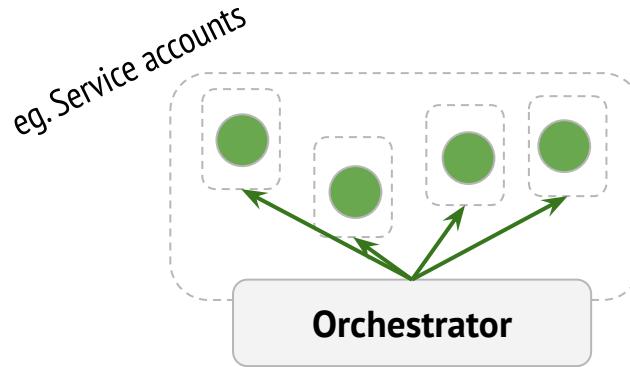
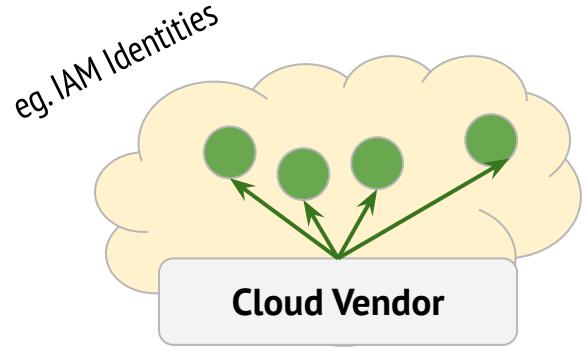
# Workload identity? Use the network?



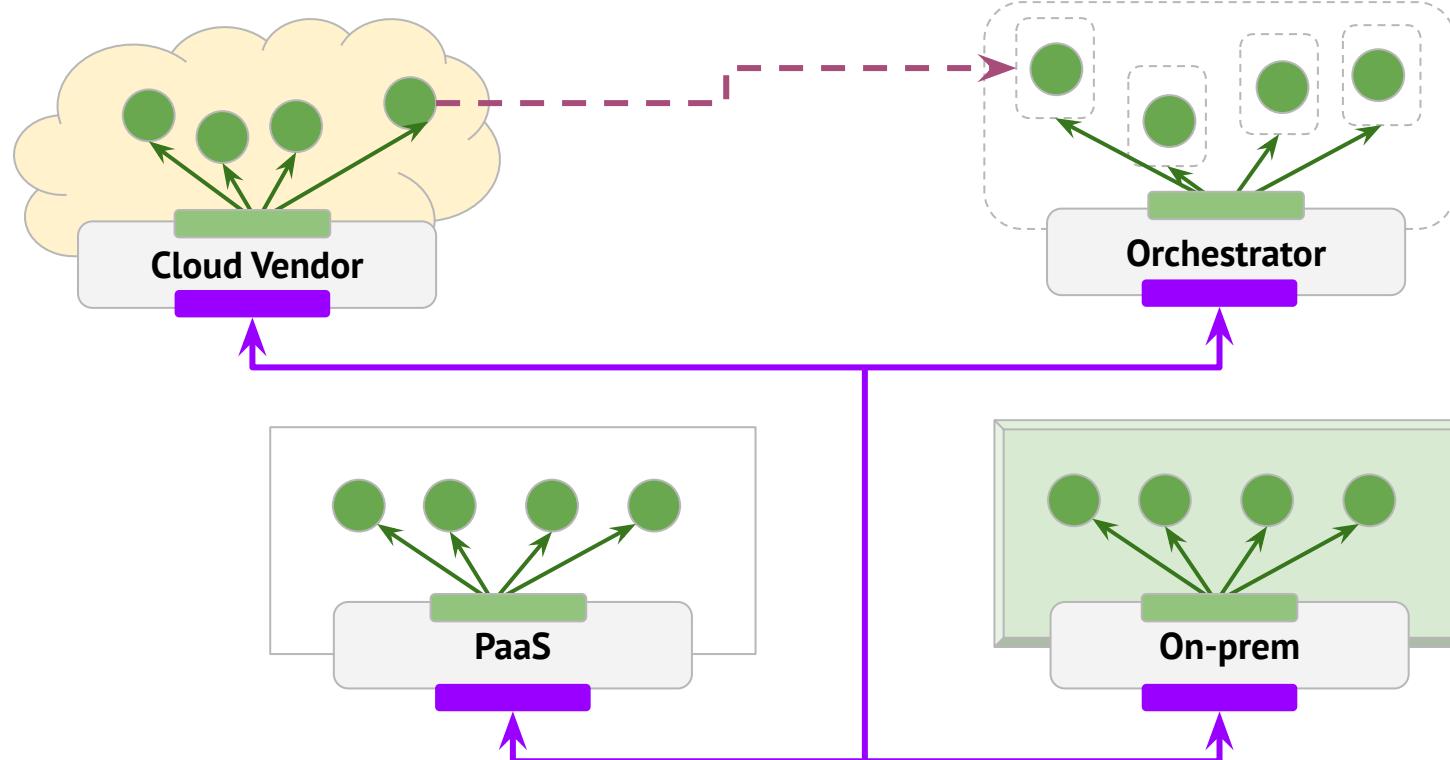
# Workload identity? Shared secrets?



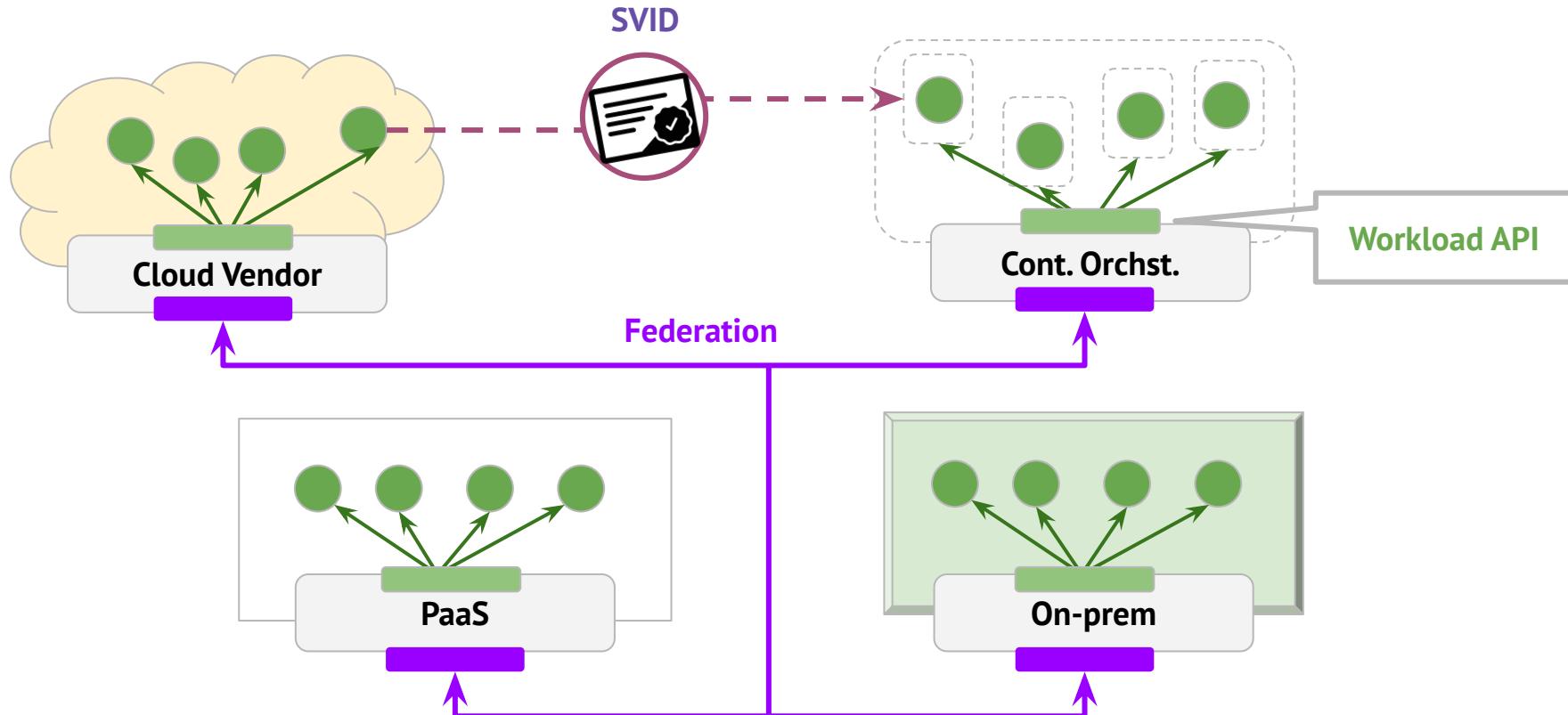
# Workload identity? Ask my platform?



# SPIFFE: Federated, platform-mediated, vendor neutral identity



# SPIFFE: Federated, platform-mediated, vendor neutral identity



# SPIFFE Issuers



SPIRE  
(Full implementation)



HashiCorp Consul Connect  
(Partial implementation)



Istio Citadel  
(Partial implementation)

# SPIFFE Consumers



HashiCorp Vault  
Secret store



Knox  
Secret store



Ghostunnel  
Proxy



nginx  
Web server and proxy



Envoy  
Proxy



Your code  
Using libraries

Today

A short history of SPIFFE

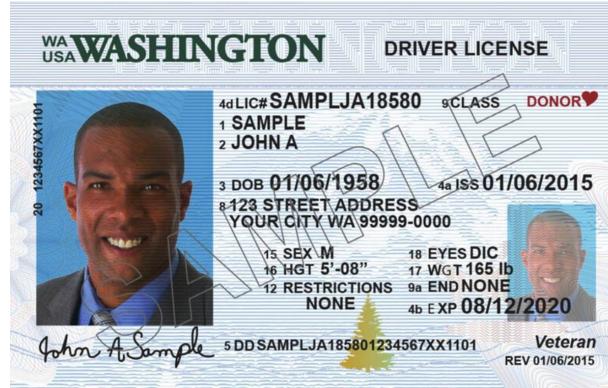
What SPIFFE solves for

**SVIDs, Workload API and Federation**

How to use SPIFFE

What's Next?

# What is an SVID?



Identity documents are:

Unique

Static

Verifiable

Attested by a trusted authority

# What is an SVID?

**spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments**

A SPIFFE  
ID



**X.509-SVID** describes  
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# SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document

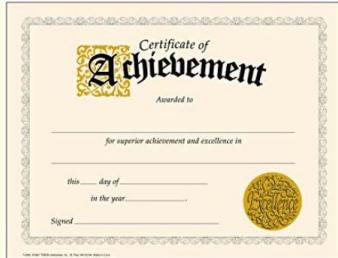


**SPIFFE**  
**Verifiable Identity Document**  
**(SVID)**



**Trust Bundle**

# SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document



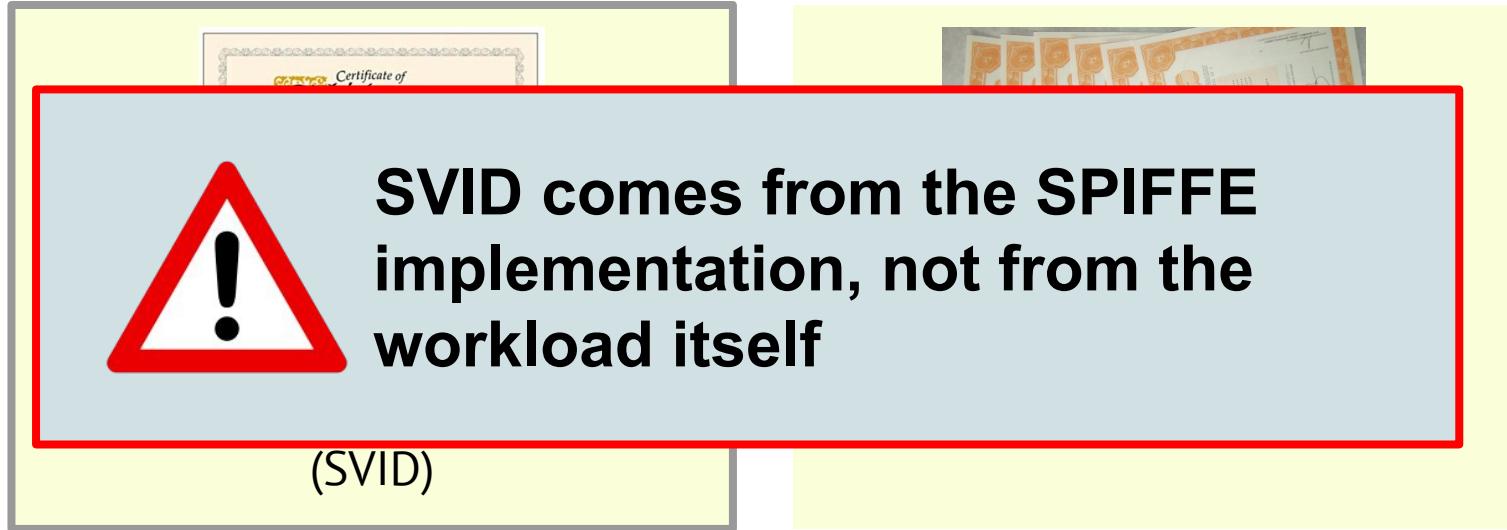
**SPIFFE  
Verifiable Identity Document  
(SVID)**



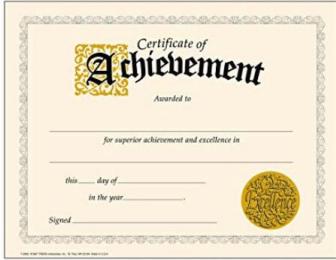
**Trust Bundle**

**<spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments>**

# SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document



# SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document

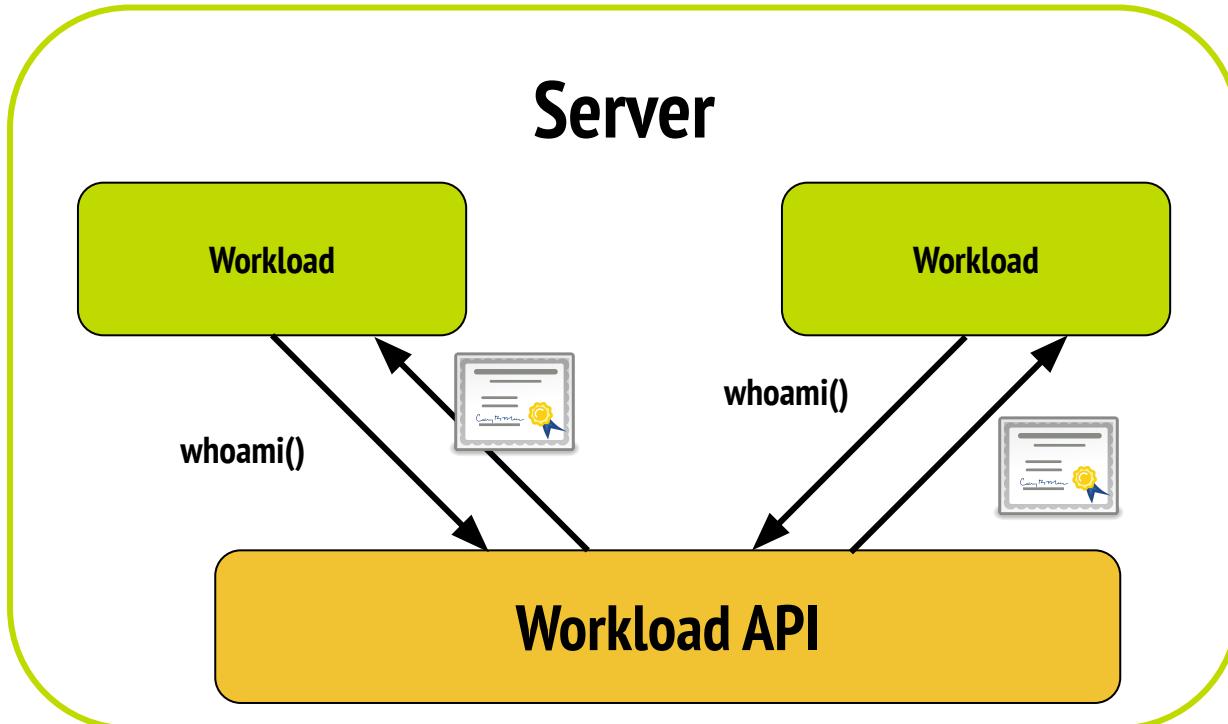


SPIFFE  
Verifiable Identity Document  
(SVID)

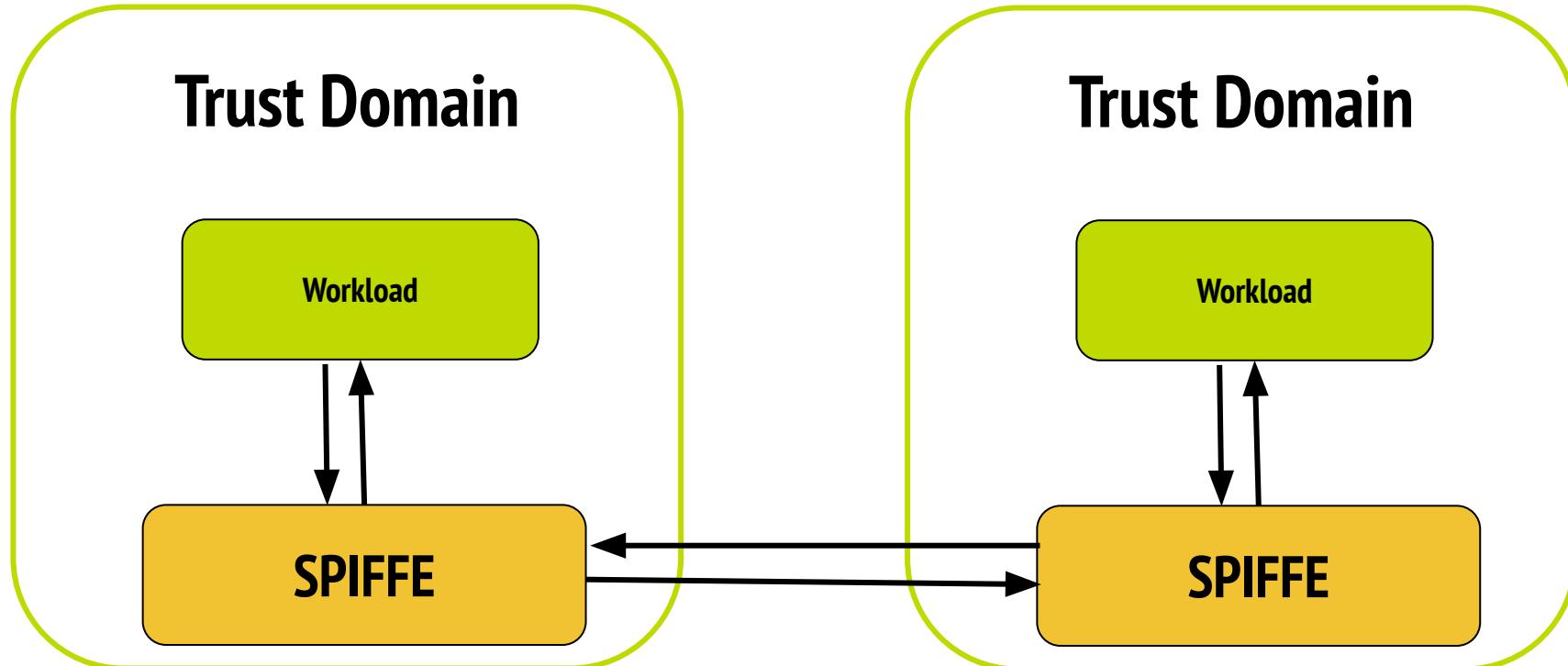


Trust Bundle

# SPIFFE Workload API



# SPIFFE Federation API



# Today

A short history of SPIFFE

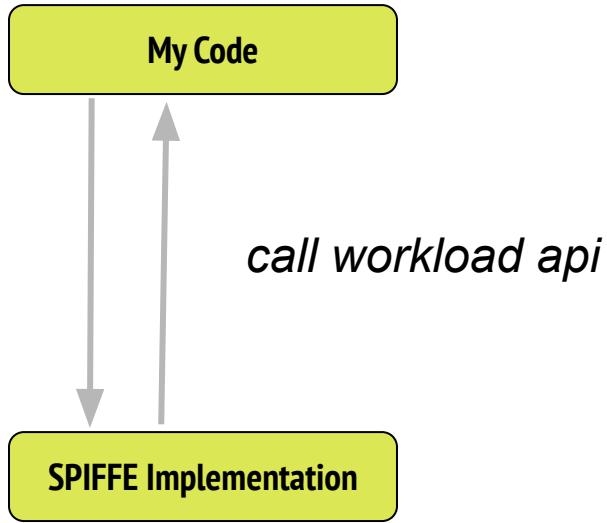
What SPIFFE solves for

SVIDs, Workload API and Federation

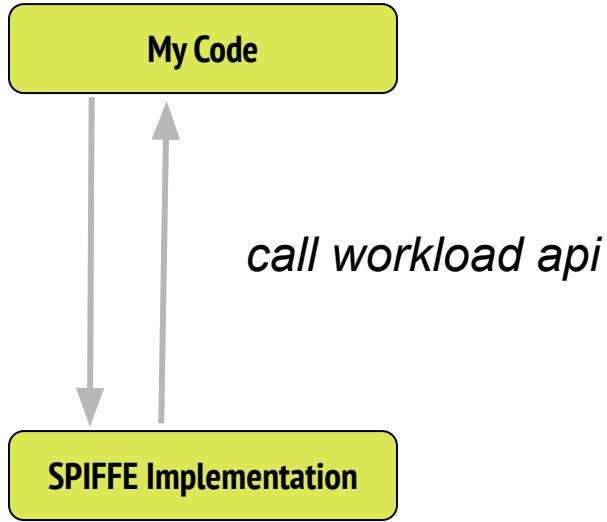
**How to use SPIFFE**

What's Next?

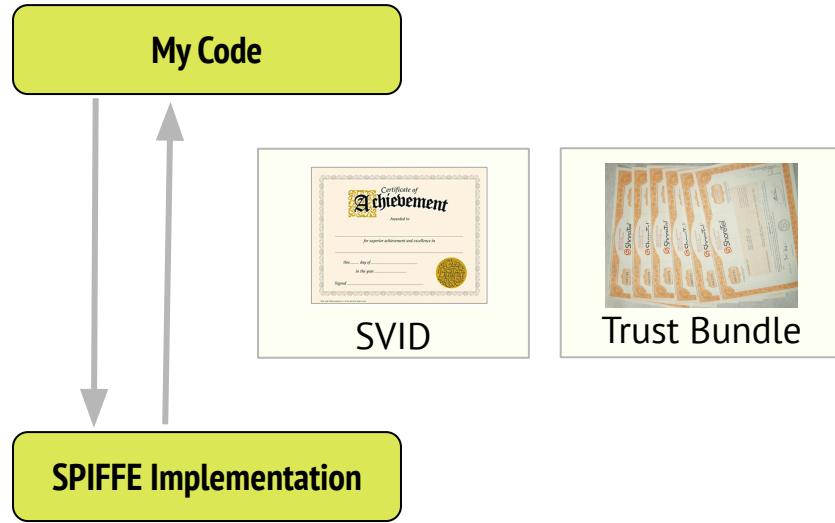
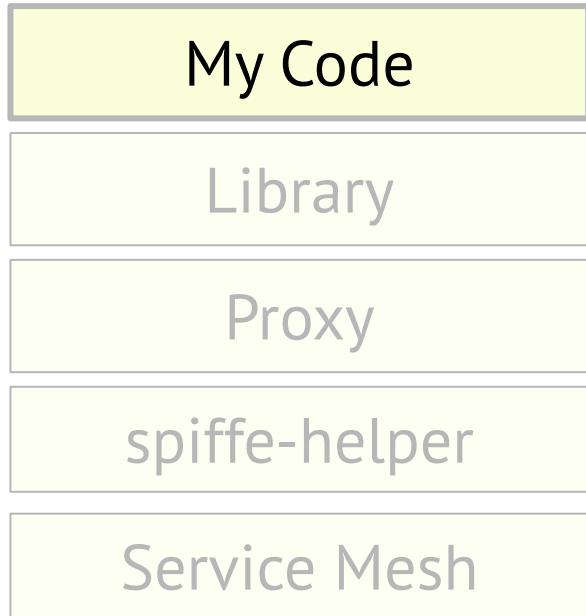
# How do I get an SVID?



# How do I get an SVID?



# How do I get an SVID?



# How do I get an SVID?

My Code

Library

Proxy

spiffe-helper

Service Mesh

## c-spiffe

C++ ⚡ 2 Updated on Apr 10



## go-spiffe

Golang library to parse and verify SVIDs

Go ★ 19 ⚡ 5 Updated on Sep 7, 2017



## java-spiffe

Java ★ 7 ⚡ 2 Apache-2.0 Updated 9 days ago



# How do I get an SVID?

My Code

Library

Proxy

```
<connection-property name="url">  
    jdbc:postgresql://backend:8443/tasks_service?socketFactory=spiffe.provider.SpiffeSocketFactory  
</connection-property>
```

SERVICE MESH

c-spiffe

C++ ⚡ 2 Updated on Apr 10

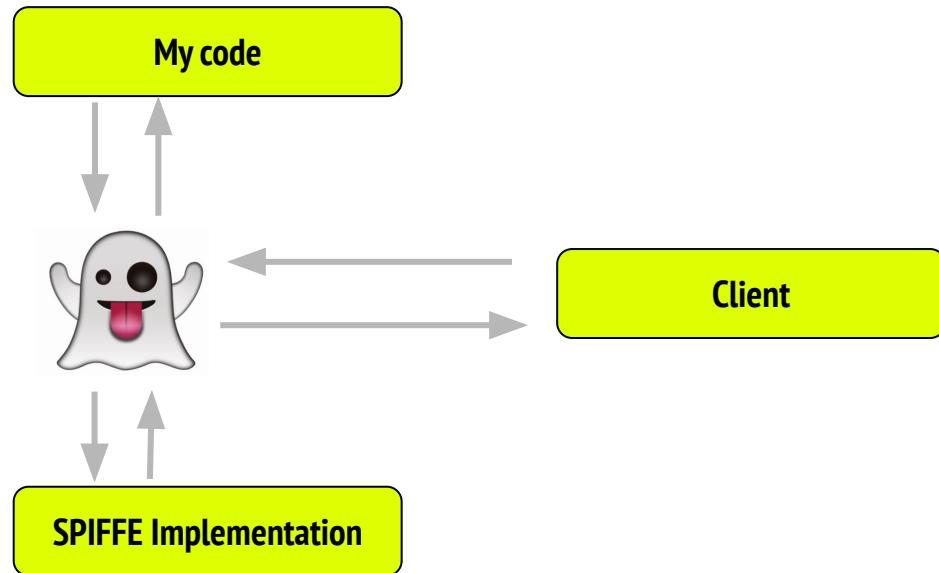
go-spiffe

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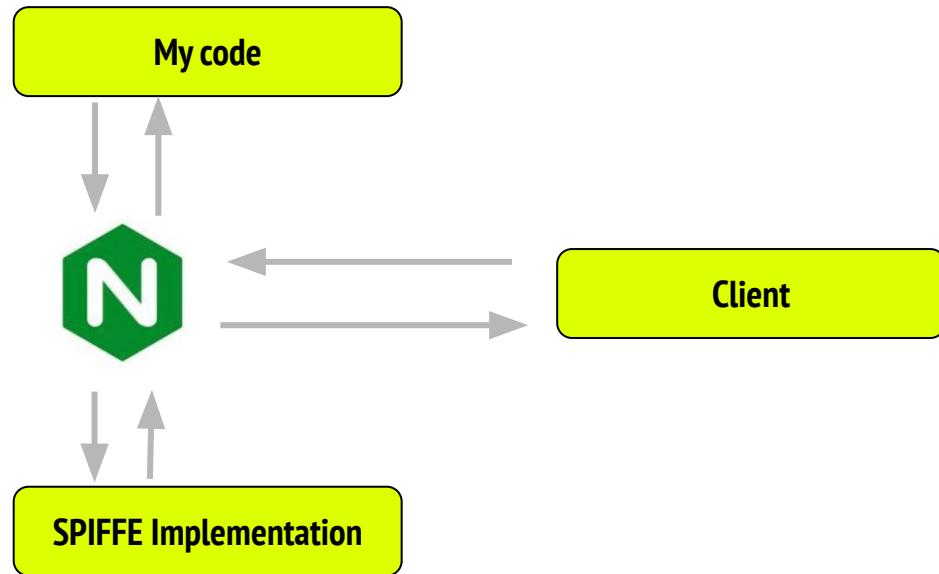
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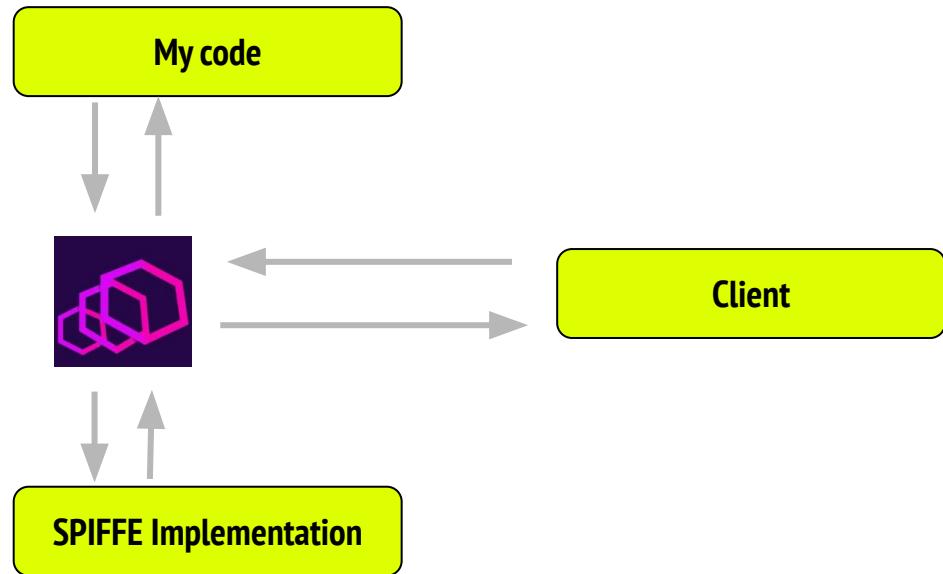
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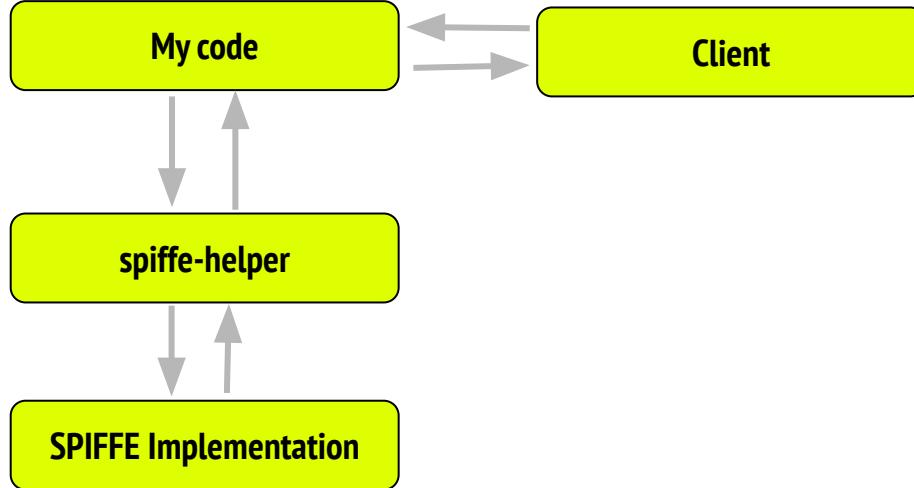
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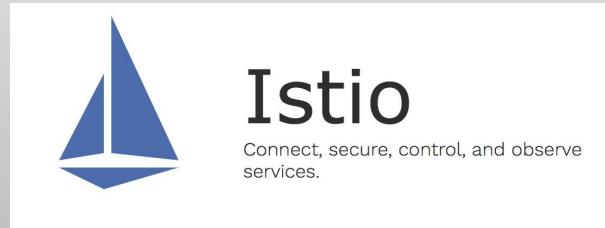
# The Big Idea:

- TLS works really well for encryption
- The problem is creating, managing, and rotating certificates at scale
- We can come up with a standard way to do it automatically

## How to do it:

- Restricted form of X.509 certificates:
  - Only certain fields allowed
  - SPIFFE ID in the “SAN” field
  - DN field is not used
- Workload API for services to retrieve their own certificate

# Implementations:



# SPIFFE IDs

spiffe://acme.com/workload/workload1

Trust  
Domain

Workload ID

# SPIFFE IDs

`spiffe://acme.com/workload/workload1`

---

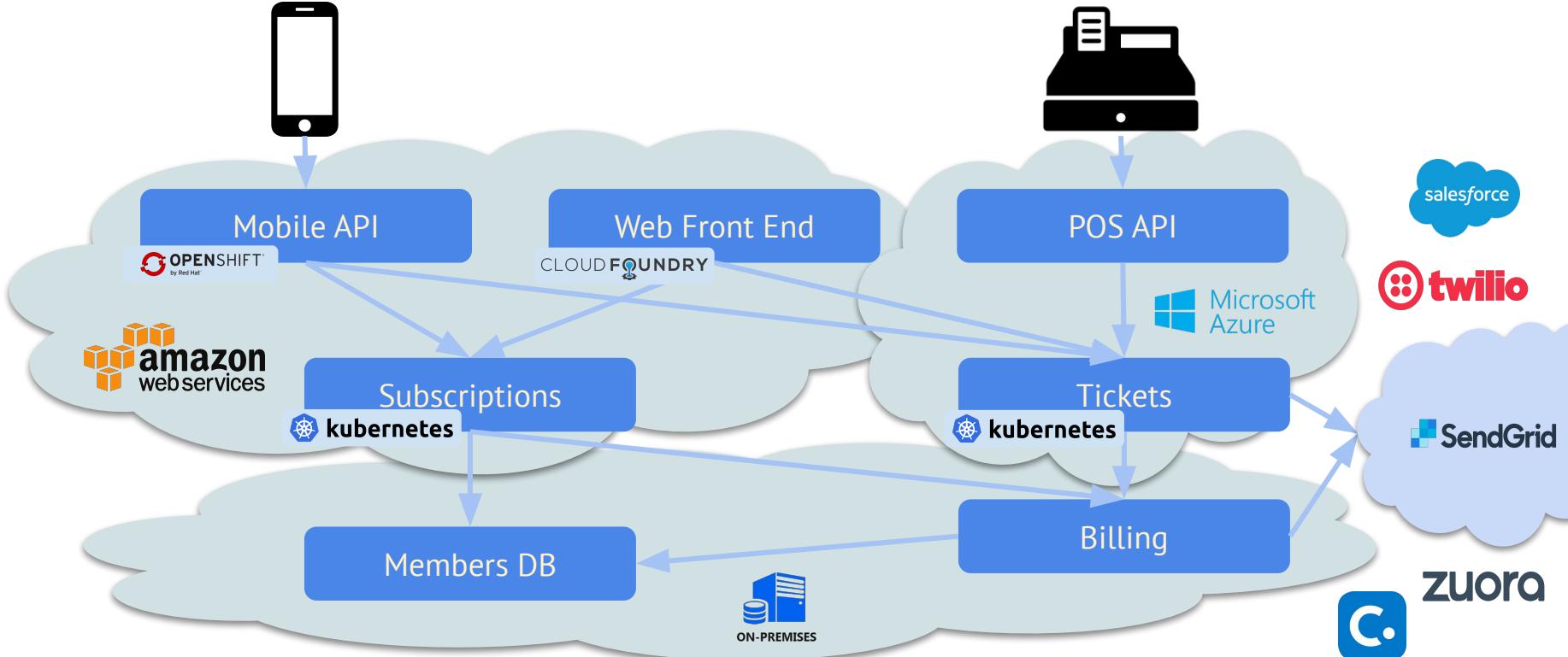
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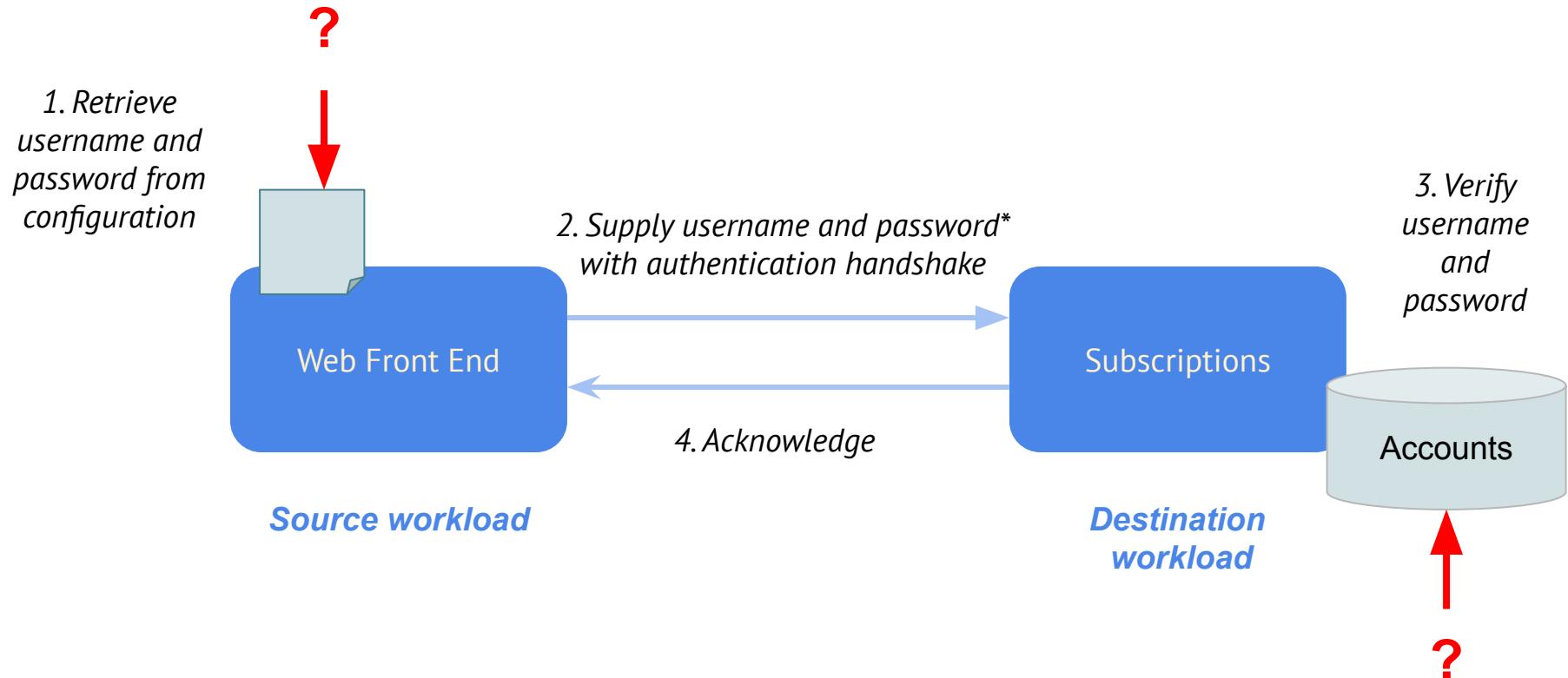
Stored inside the X.509 certificate

# Selectors

- What workload am I?
  - Comes from the platform, not the workload itself
  - “Attestation”
- The mappings from platform properties to SPIFFE IDs are selectors



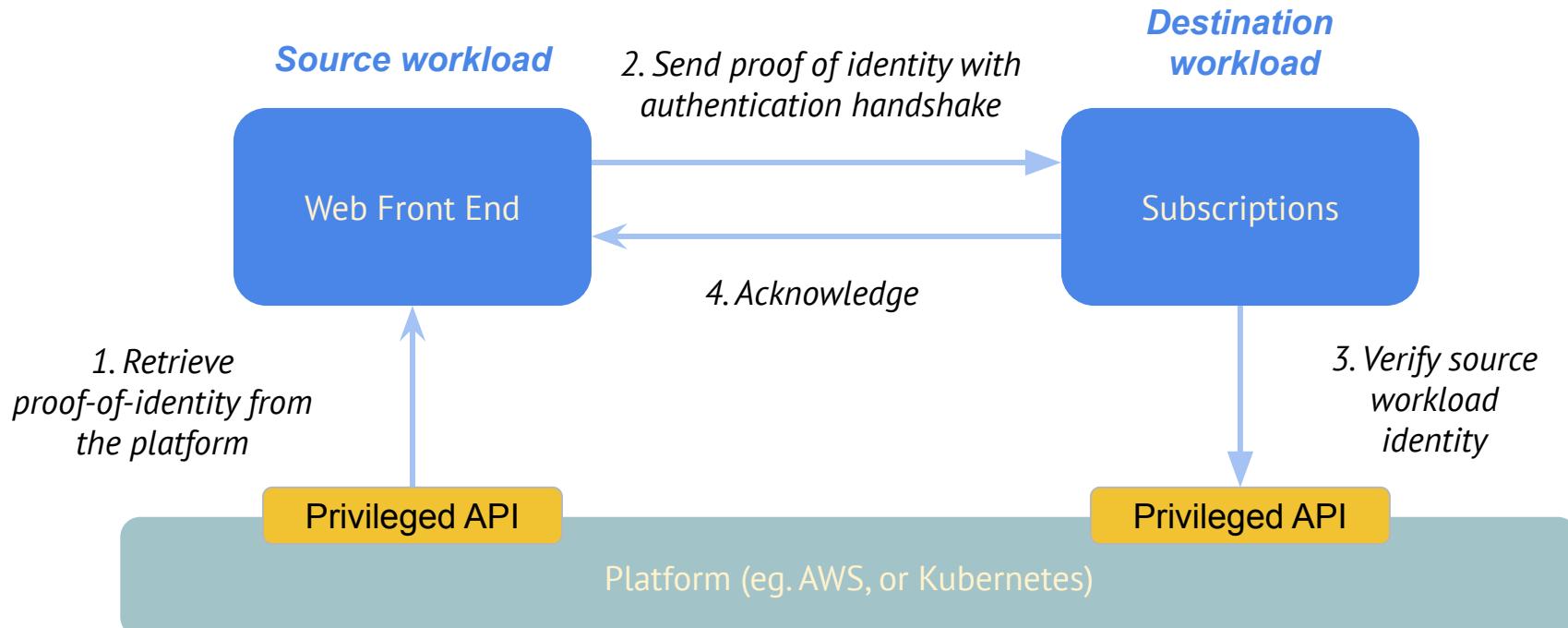
# Model 1: Destination workload authentication



\* Or key/secret, signed nonce etc.

# Model 2: Platform mediated identity

Eg. AWS IAM, Kubernetes Service Accounts



	Destination workload authentication	Platform mediated identity
API-driven credential rotation and distribution	No	Yes
One identity per workload	No	Yes
No credentials need to be deployed with the workload	No	Yes
Supports trust across different platforms	Yes	No

# The Inspiration for SPIFFE and SPIRE

# Google

## *Google Application Layer Transport Security*

*“The ALTS trust model has been tailored for cloud-like containerized applications. Identities are bound to [entities](#) instead of to a specific server name or host. This trust model facilitates seamless microservice replication, load balancing, and rescheduling across hosts.”*

# facebook®

*“Secure authentication and authorization within Facebook’s infrastructure play important roles in protecting people using Facebook’s services. Enforcing security while maintaining a flexible and performant infrastructure can be challenging at Facebook’s scale, especially in the presence of varying layers of trust among our servers.”*

# NETFLIX

*“During the startup, access to the long-lived credentials and short-lived credentials are provisioned to each instance.*

*This credential bootstrap is done by Metatron, which is a tool at Netflix, which does credential management.”*



and





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

A set of specifications that cover how a workload should retrieve and use its identity.

- SPIFFE ID
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Apache 2.0 license. Independent governance. Highly extensible through plug-ins.

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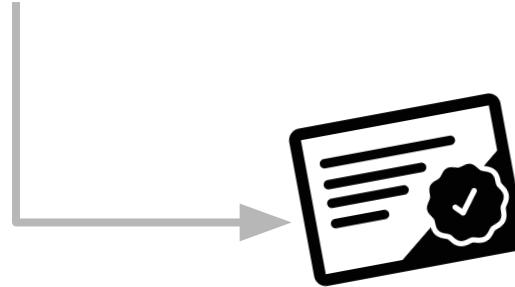
*Trust Domain*

*Workload Identifier*

# SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document

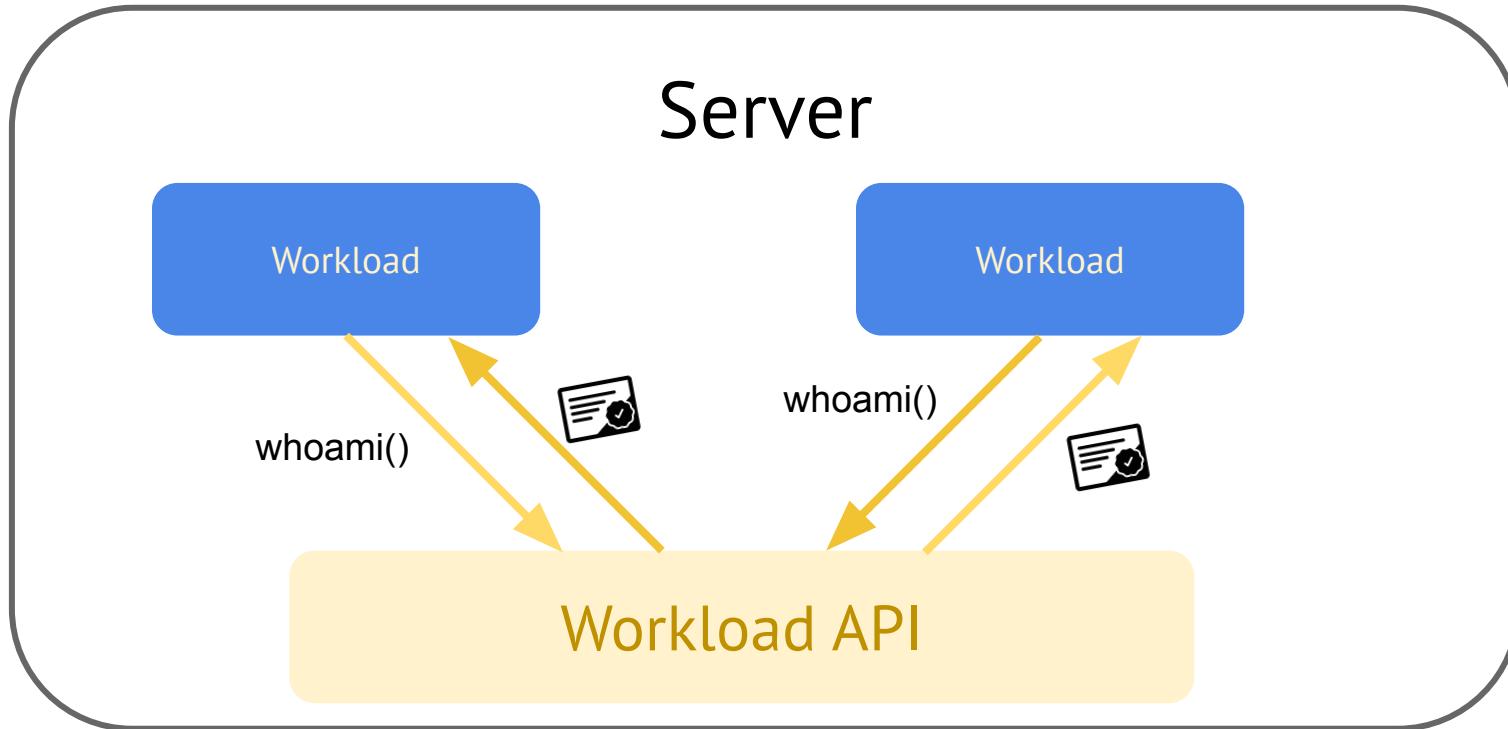
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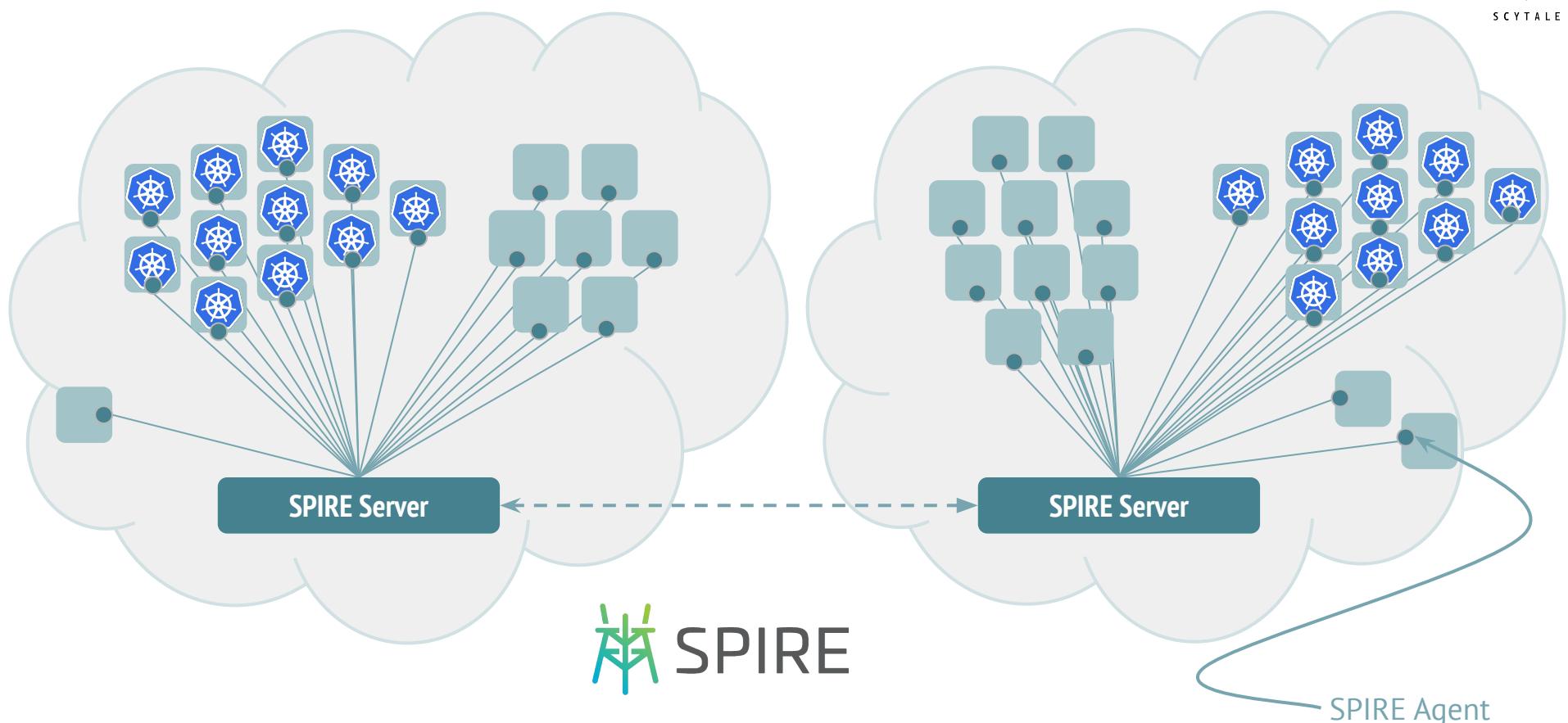
Typically short-lived



Today only one form of SVID (X509-SVID).  
Other document types under consideration  
(including JWT-SVID)

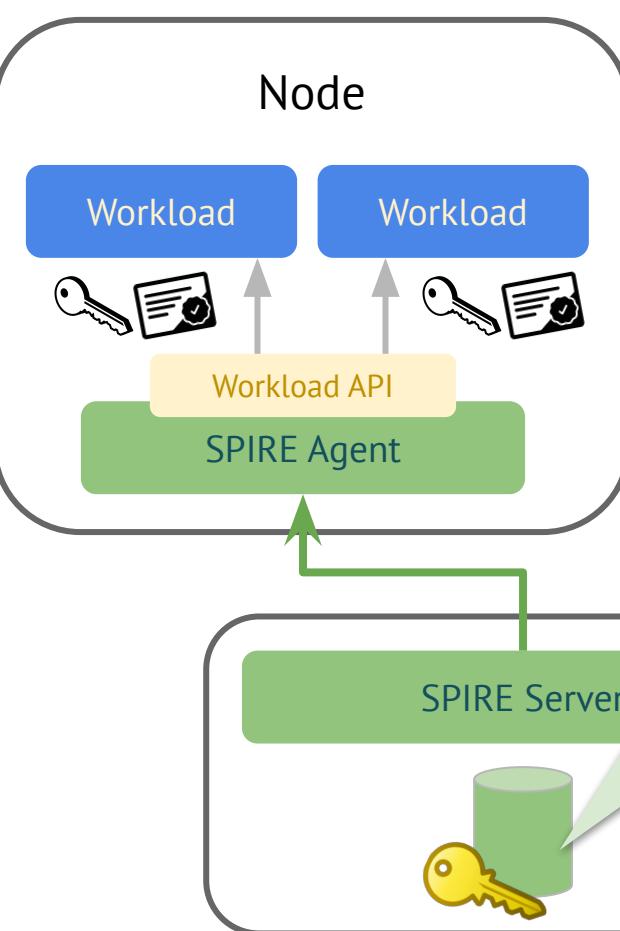
# SPIFFE Workload API





*A cross-platform implementation of the SPIFFE specifications*

## Node



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**selector:** aws:sg:sg-edcd9784

**selector:** k8s:ns:payments

**selector:** k8s:sa:pay-svc

**selector:** docker:image-id:442ca9

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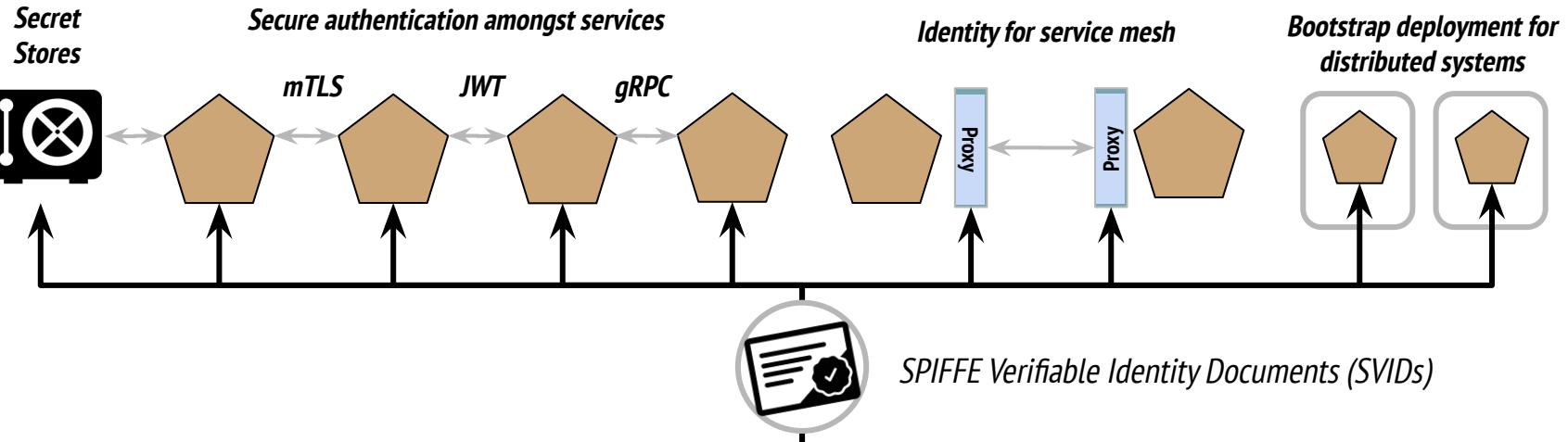
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- **Fully automated and policy driven.** Existing identity (particularly PKI) infrastructure is both complex and often requires “human trust”, which weakens delivery. Emissary is fully automated and should minimize manual key distribution.
- **Minimal Knowledge.** A compromised machine should only expose any secrets for workloads that happen to be running on that machine.
- **Reliable.** The single points of failures in the system should be minimized and the system should degrade gracefully when any SPOF is down. All “steady state” operations shouldn’t have requirements off of a specific node.
- **Scoped trust roots.** There should be no hardcoded, global trust roots as we see in the web browser world.



HashiCorp  
**Vault**

**NGINX**



SPIFFE Workload API



Cloud platform  
attestation plug-ins

OS attestation  
plug-ins

Scheduler and PaaS  
attestation plug-ins

HSM, TPM, Kerberos  
attestation plug-ins

CA and secret  
store plug-ins

# Use cases

How the identity plane becomes  
the unifying layer for  
infrastructure

# Improving security posture

# Minimize key leaks with secure introduction

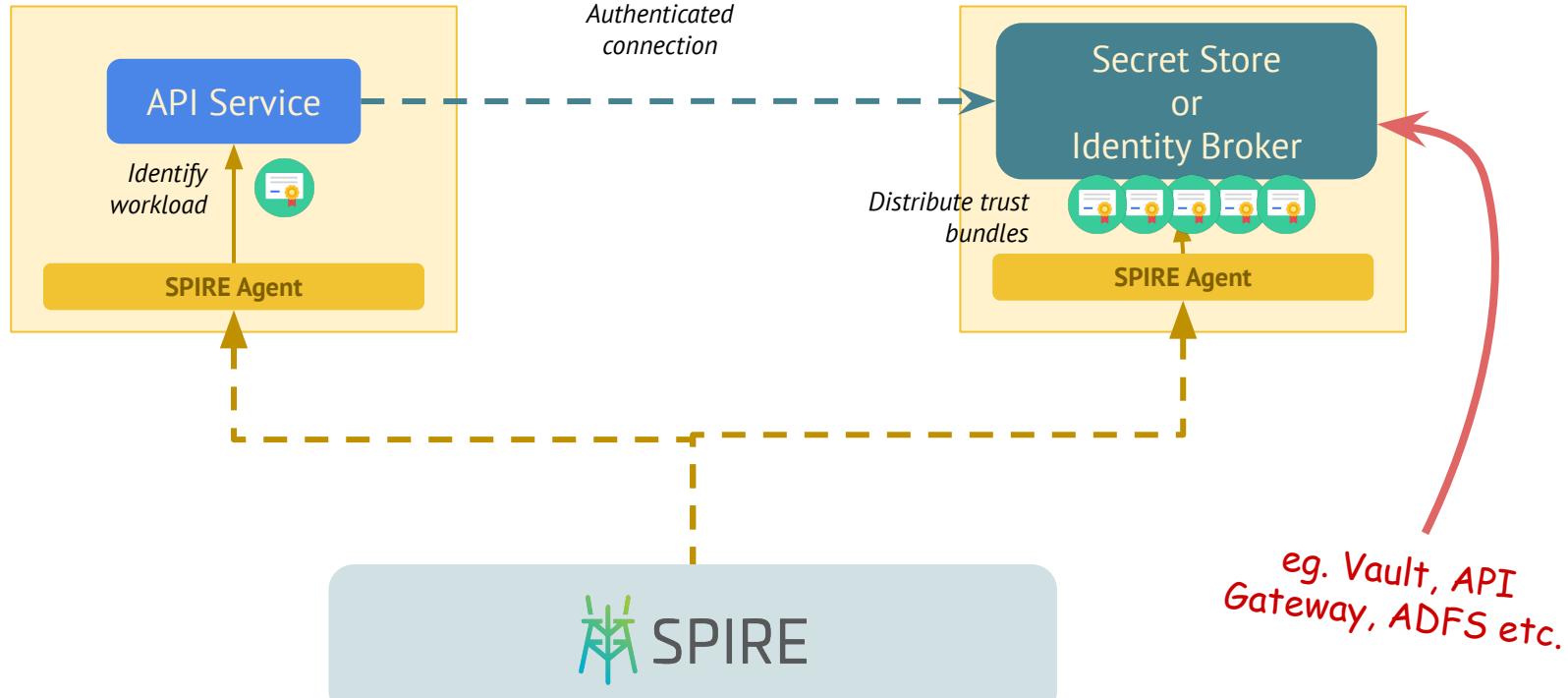


HashiCorp  
**Vault**

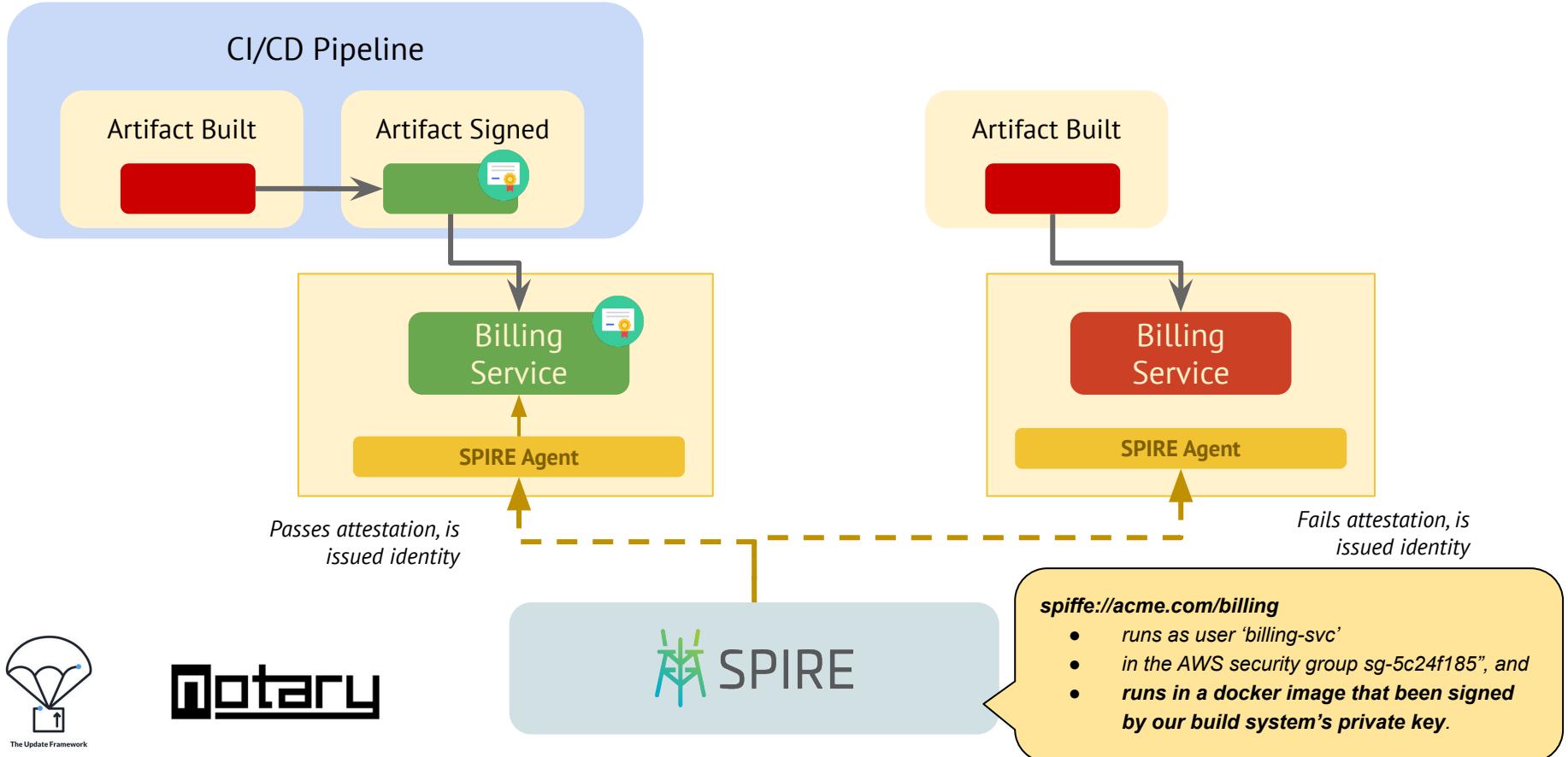


Microsoft  
Active Directory

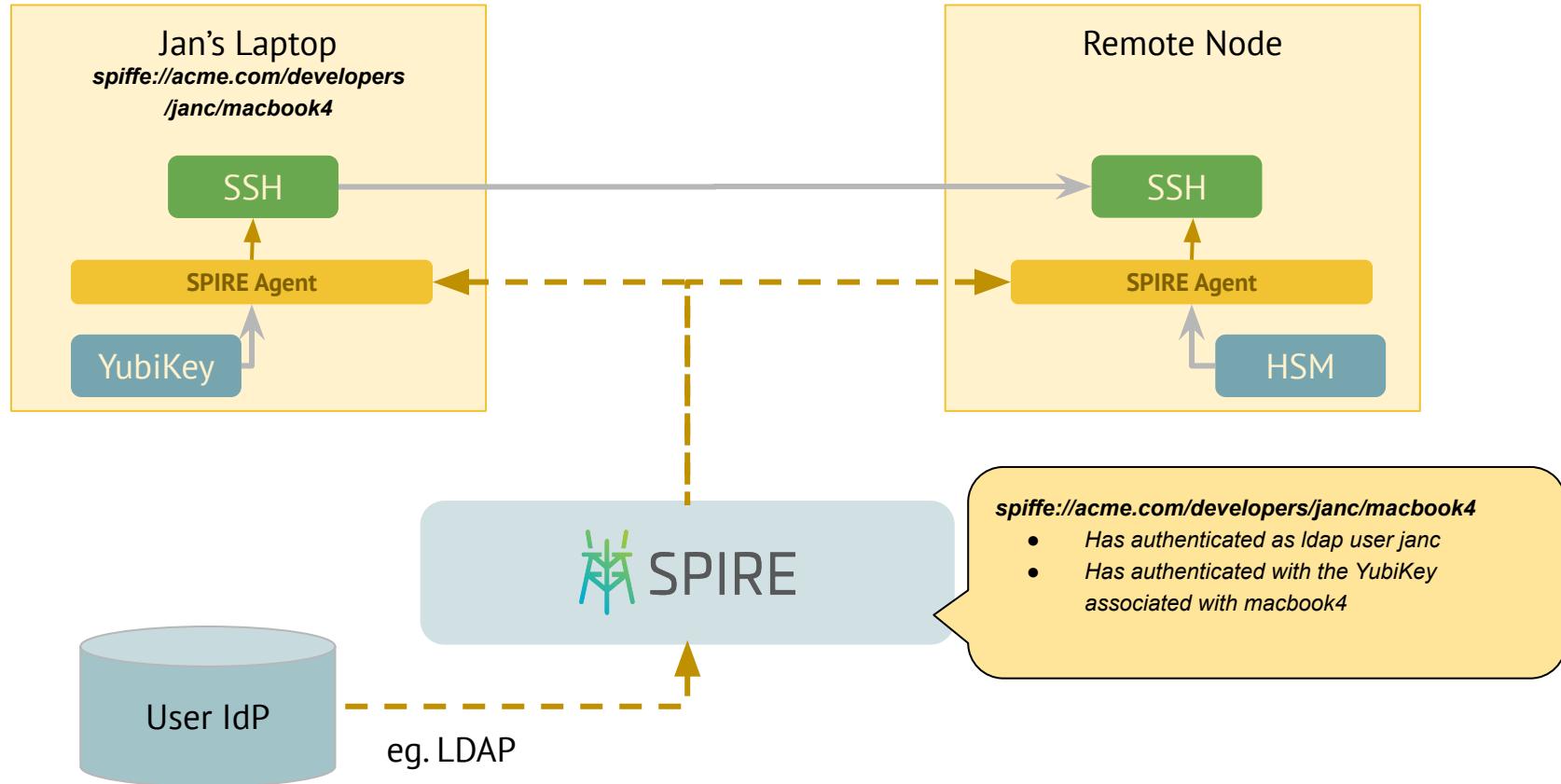
**apigee**



# Enforce and verify release pipelines



# Authenticate developer access (BeyondCorp)

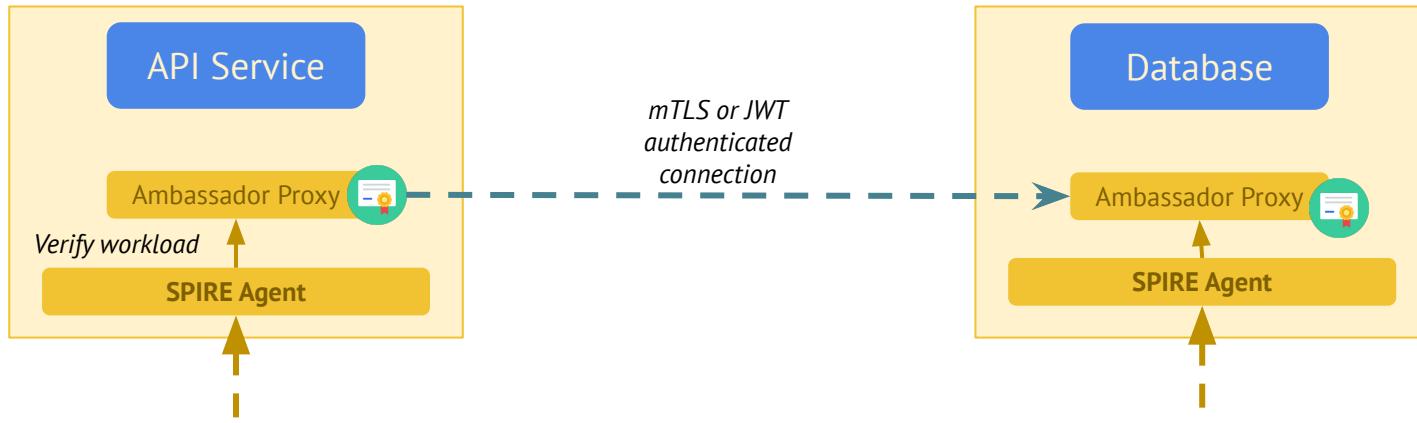


# Improving developer efficiency

# Simplify workload AuthN and AuthZ with Service Mesh

NGINX

envoy



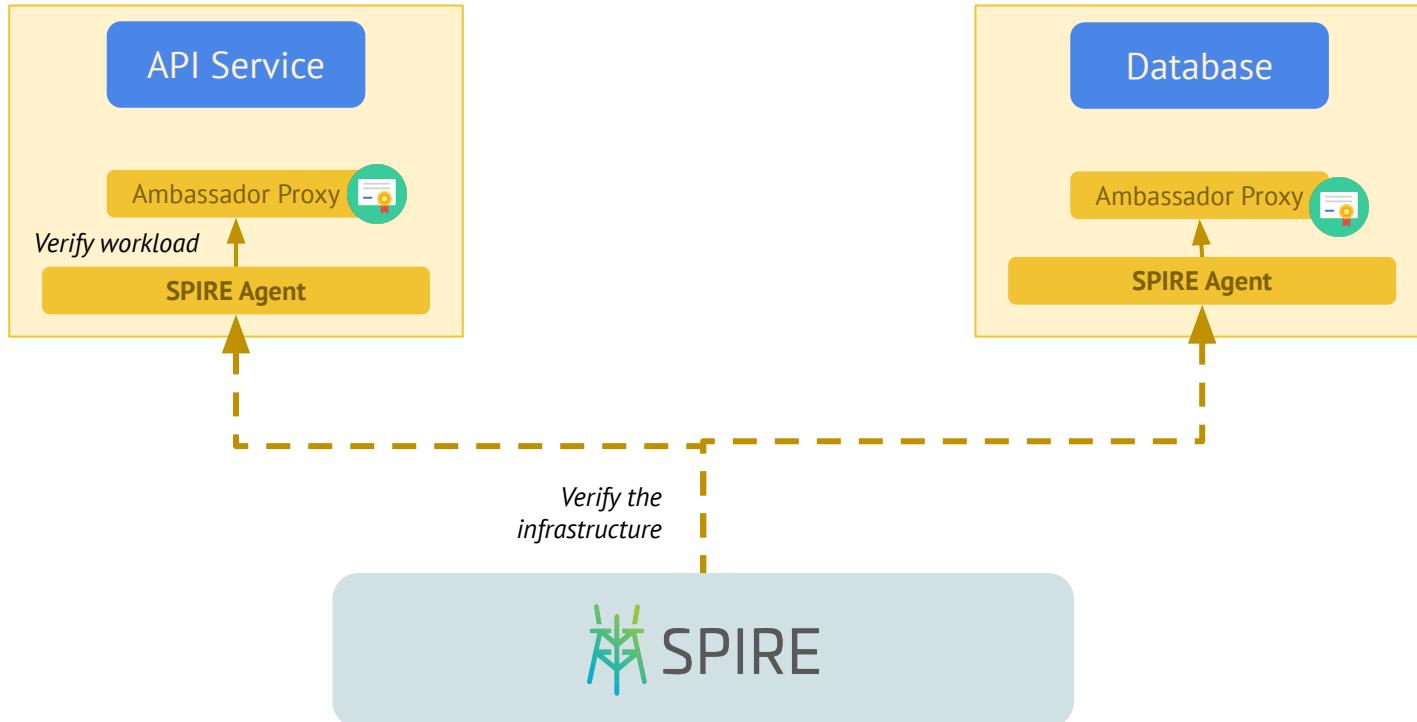
Verify the  
infrastructure

 SPIRE

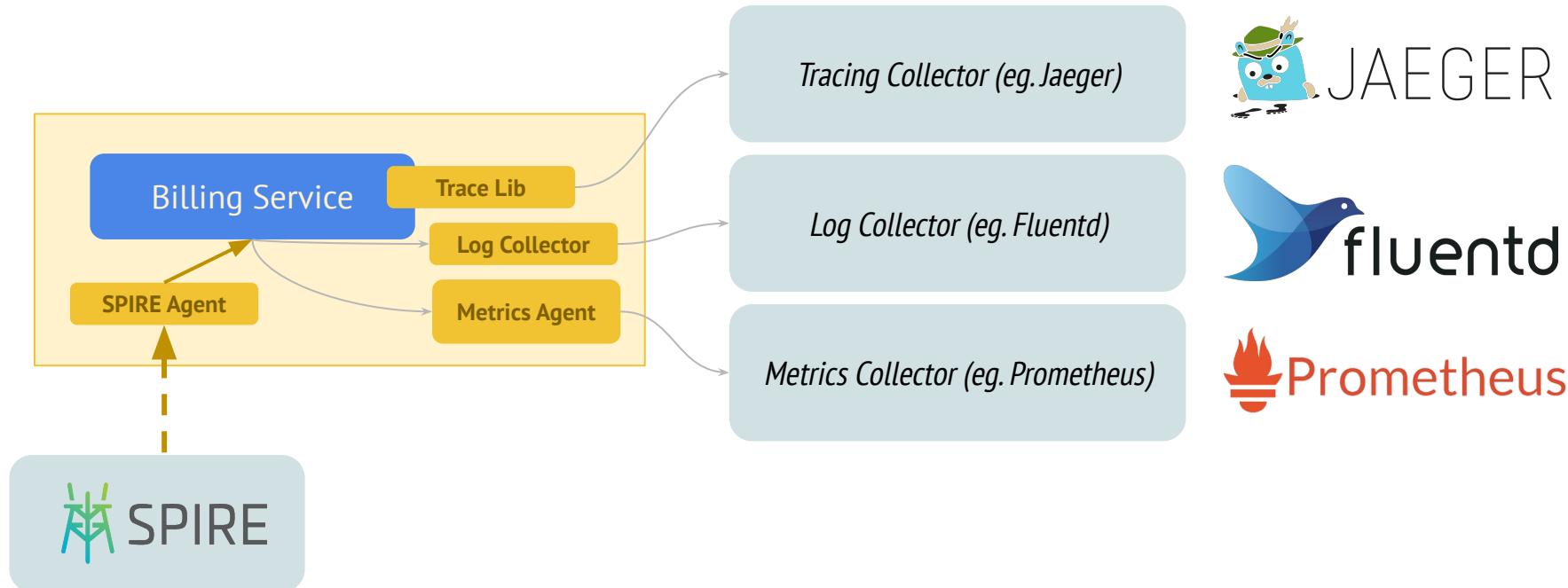
# Simplify workload AuthN and AuthZ with Service Mesh

NGINX

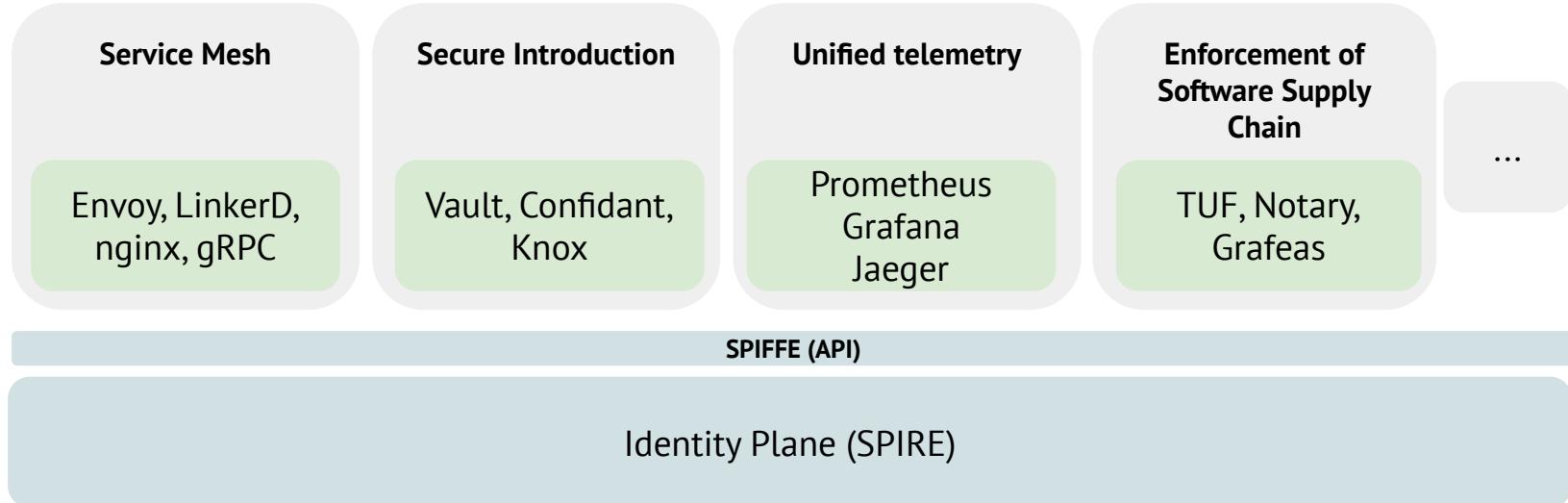
envoy



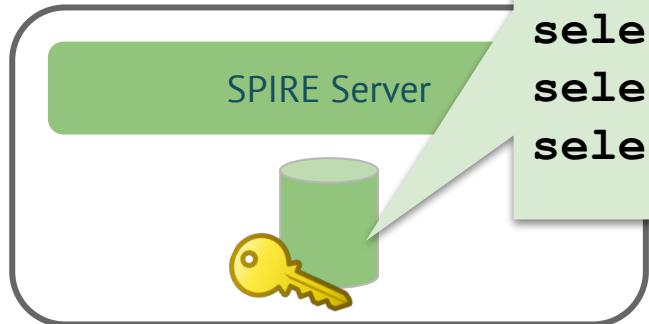
# Improving post-incident forensics with unified telemetry



# The Identity Plane becomes the unifying layer for infrastructure



# SPIFFE Runtime Environment



```
spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments
```

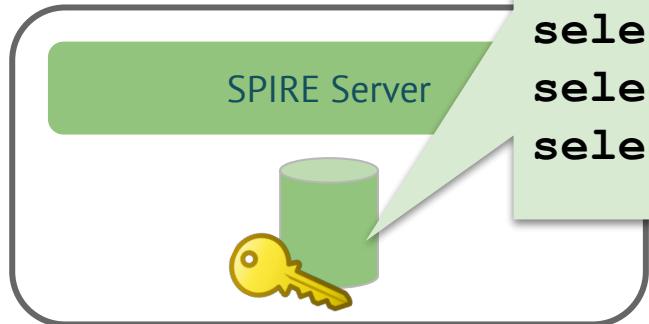
```
selector: aws:sg:sg-edcd9784
```

```
selector: k8s:ns:payments
```

```
selector: k8s:sa:pay-svc
```

```
selector: docker:image-id:442ca9
```

# SPIFFE Runtime Environment



```
spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments
```

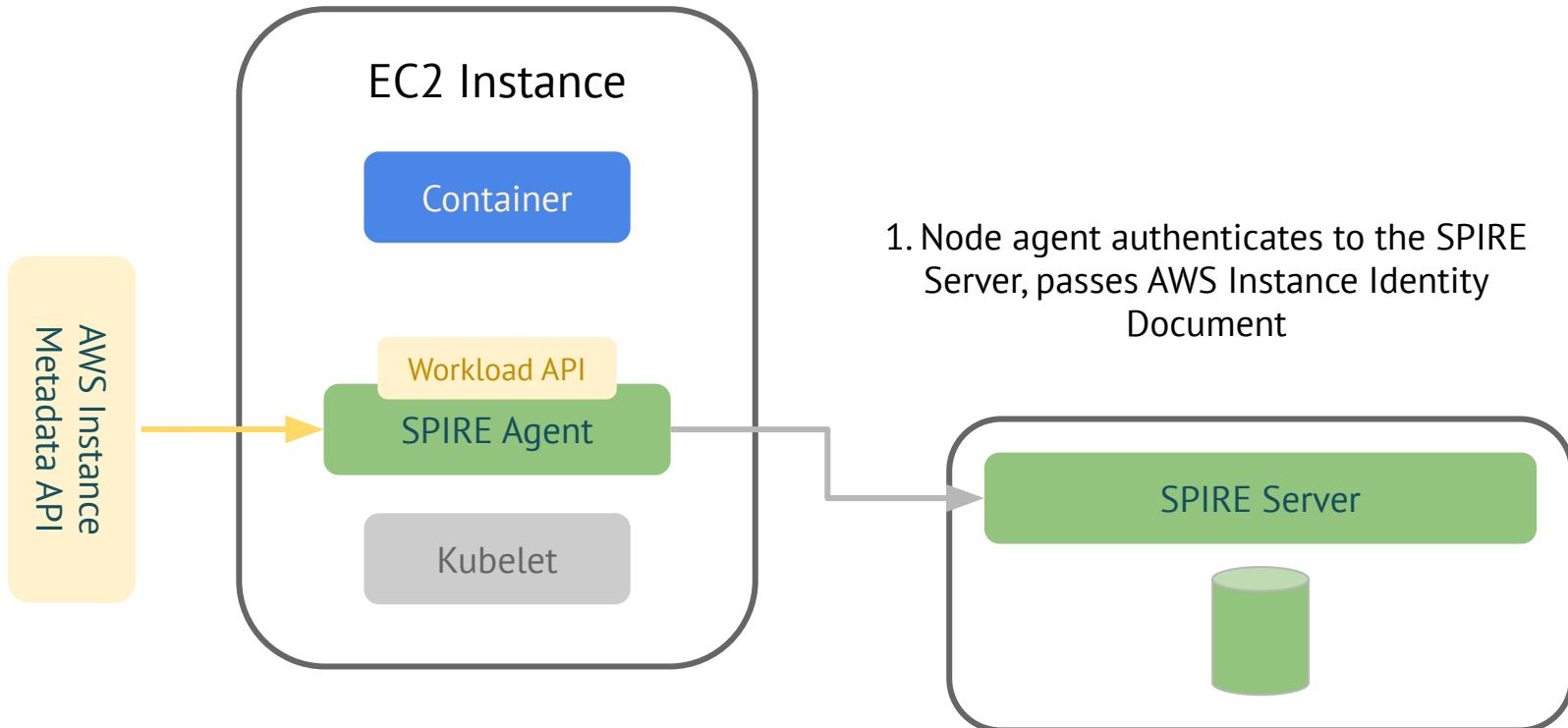
```
selector: aws:sg:sg-edcd9784
```

```
selector: k8s:ns:payments
```

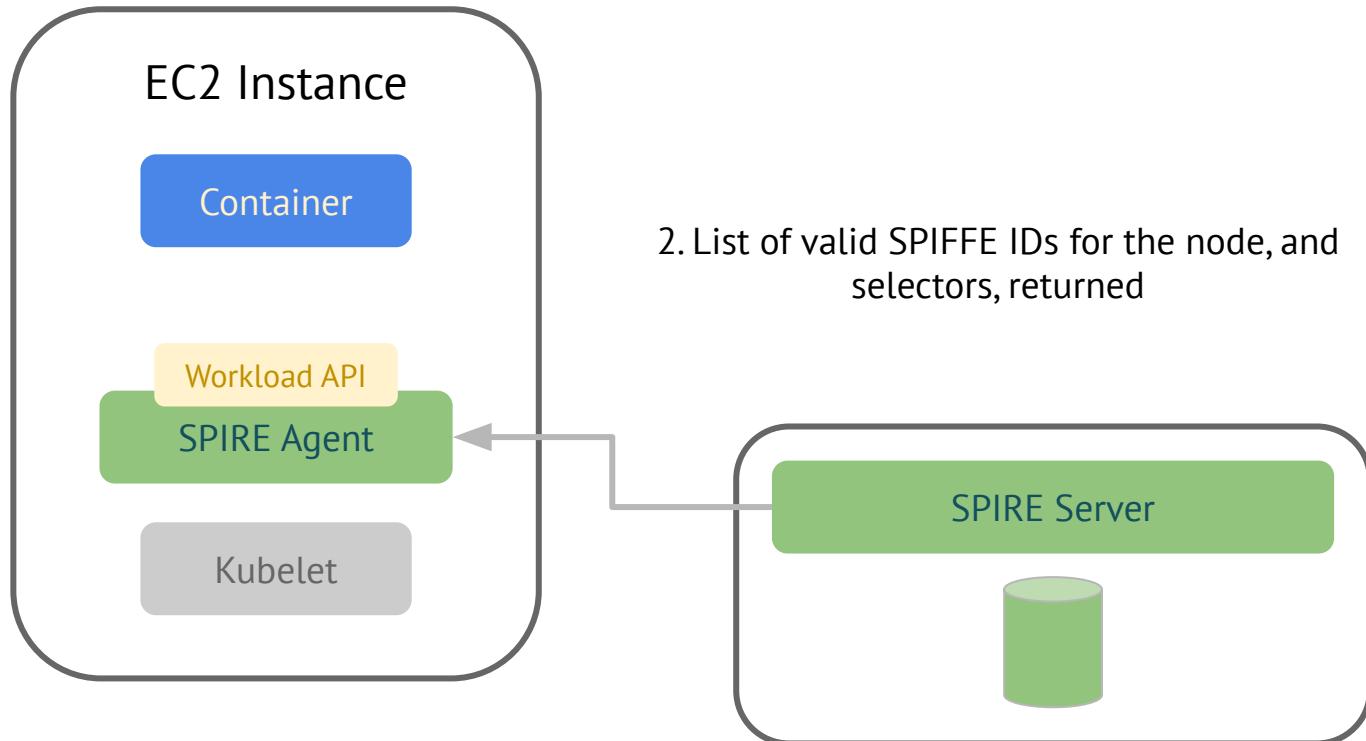
```
selector: k8s:sa:pay-svc
```

```
selector: docker:image-id:442ca9
```

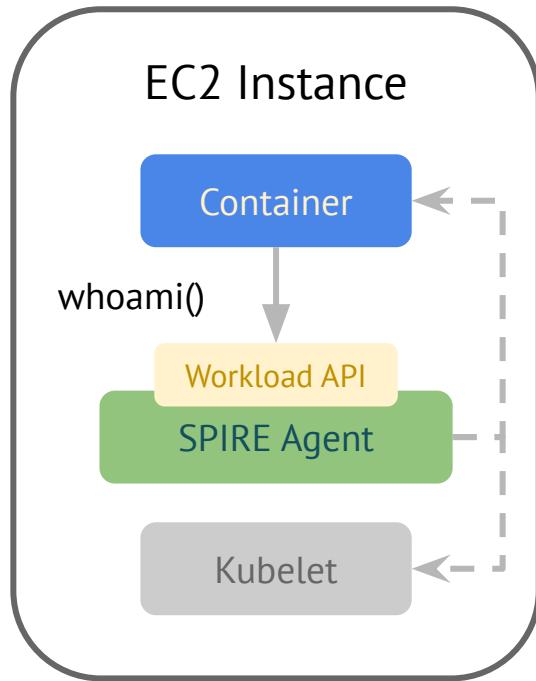
# Node attestation



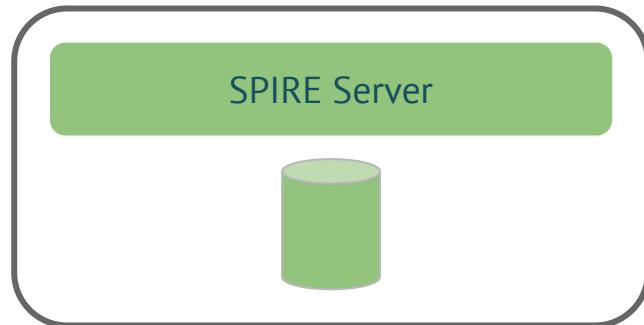
# Node attestation



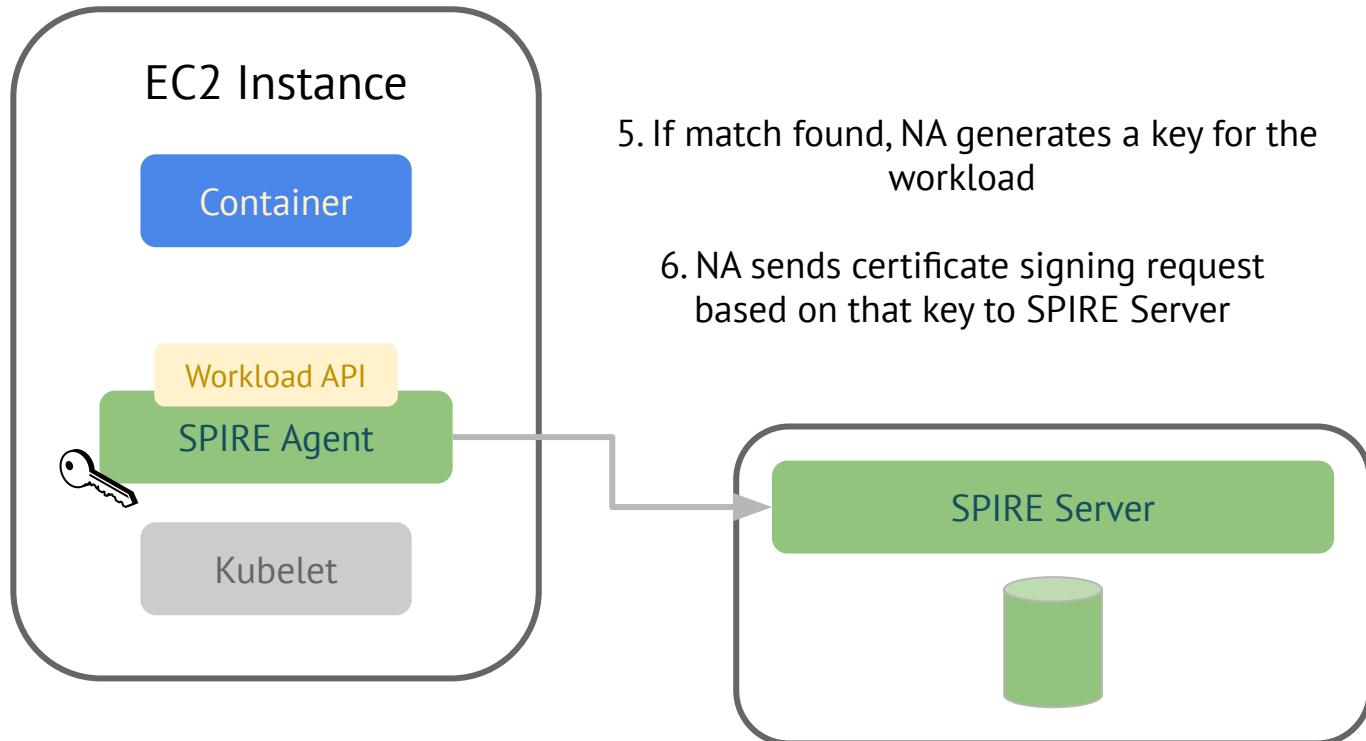
# Workload attestation



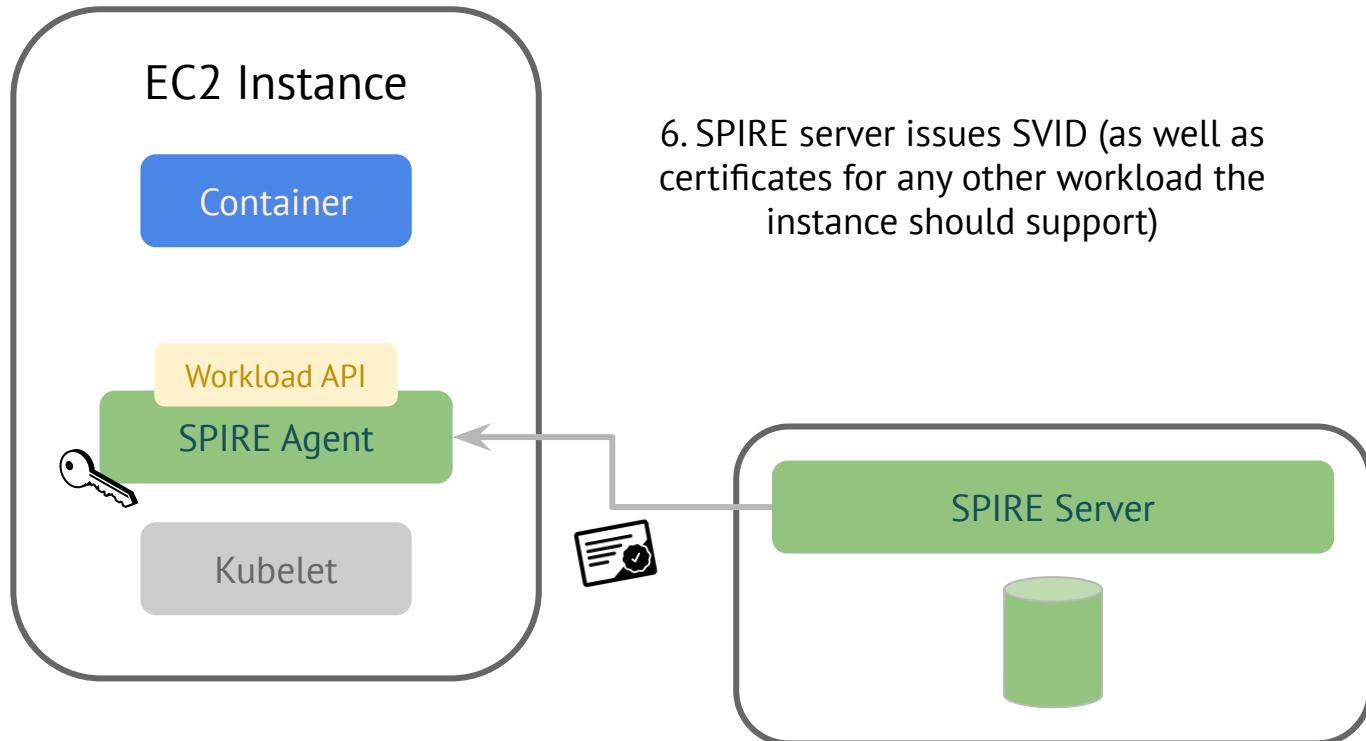
3. Workload requests identity
4. Node agent performs an out-of-band check of the workload process metadata, compares to known selectors



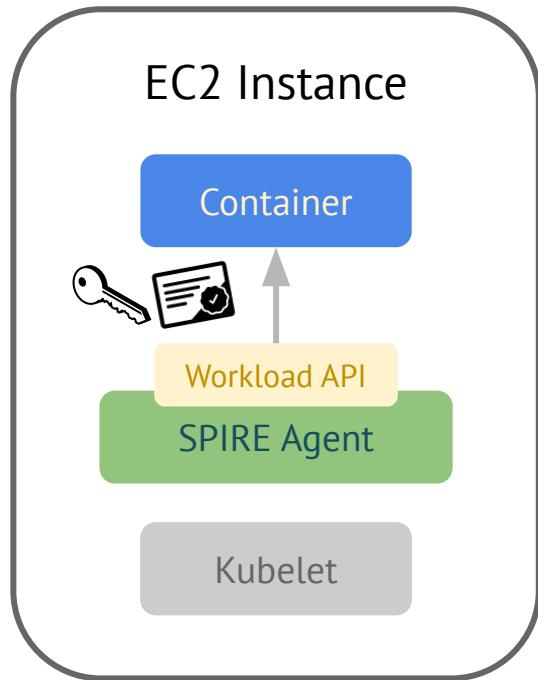
# SVID Bundle Issuance



# SVID Bundle Issuance



# SVID Bundle Issuance



7. Certificate bundle returned to the workload

