Big Data, organisation and analysis

A glimpse of the infrastructures

Steffen M. Noe, Spring 2025

Big Data infrastructure

- The infrastructure consist of hardware

    - storage systems (NAS, tape robots)

    - data transmission systems (fibre optical connections)

    - computing facilities (cloud, server farm,...)

- and of software

    - Hadoop, Spark (Apache)

    - Google Cloud Big Query, Amazon EMR, Microsoft Azure HDInsigt

    - Databases (No-SQL / SQL)

    - Data Warehouse

Let's start with an example

New York Stock Exchange

- produces 4-5 TB/day

- uses data warehouse technology

- in NYSE case it is IBM Netezza, capable of 2 TB/h load access via standard interfaces SQL/ODBC/JDBC/OLE DB and 4TB/h restore and backup

- Cloud based systems

Let's have another example

Finnish Met Institute, satellite data centre

- produces up to 23 TB/day

- has its own high performance data cluster

- transfers data to customers (ESA, Weather Services, ECWMF) via high speed optical fibre

- data transferred to data storages and archives like WEKEO (Sentinel data access)
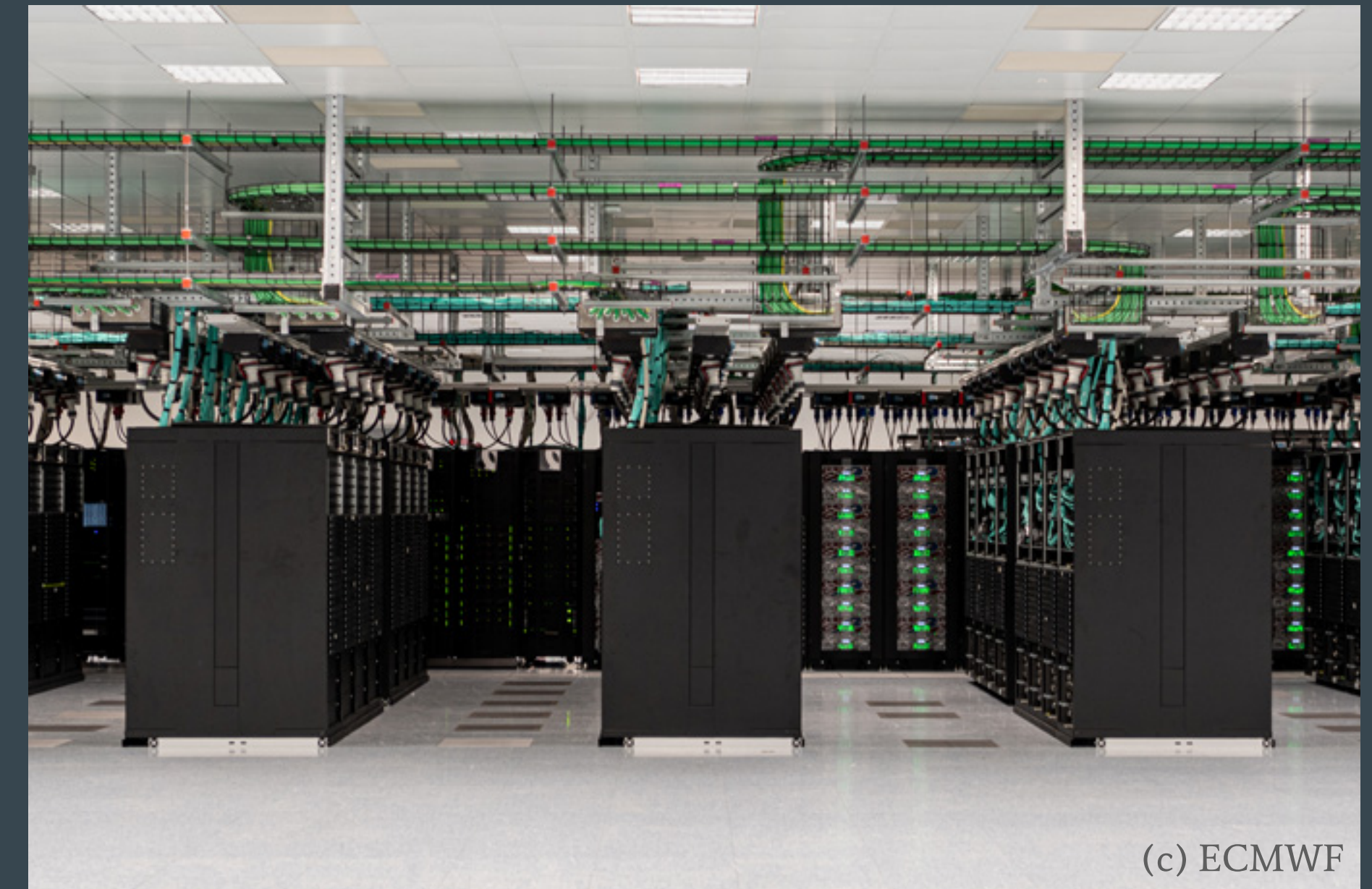
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One more, weather services

ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts)

(c) ECMWF

- Multiple data sources

  - Satellite

  - Weather stations

- Large scale data centre and supercomputing facilities

  - one million processors (CPU/GPU/tensor units) over 4 clusters

  - 30 petaflops (10^{15} or a million billion calculations per second)

Some storage types for Big Data

Tape libraries

hardware and access technology
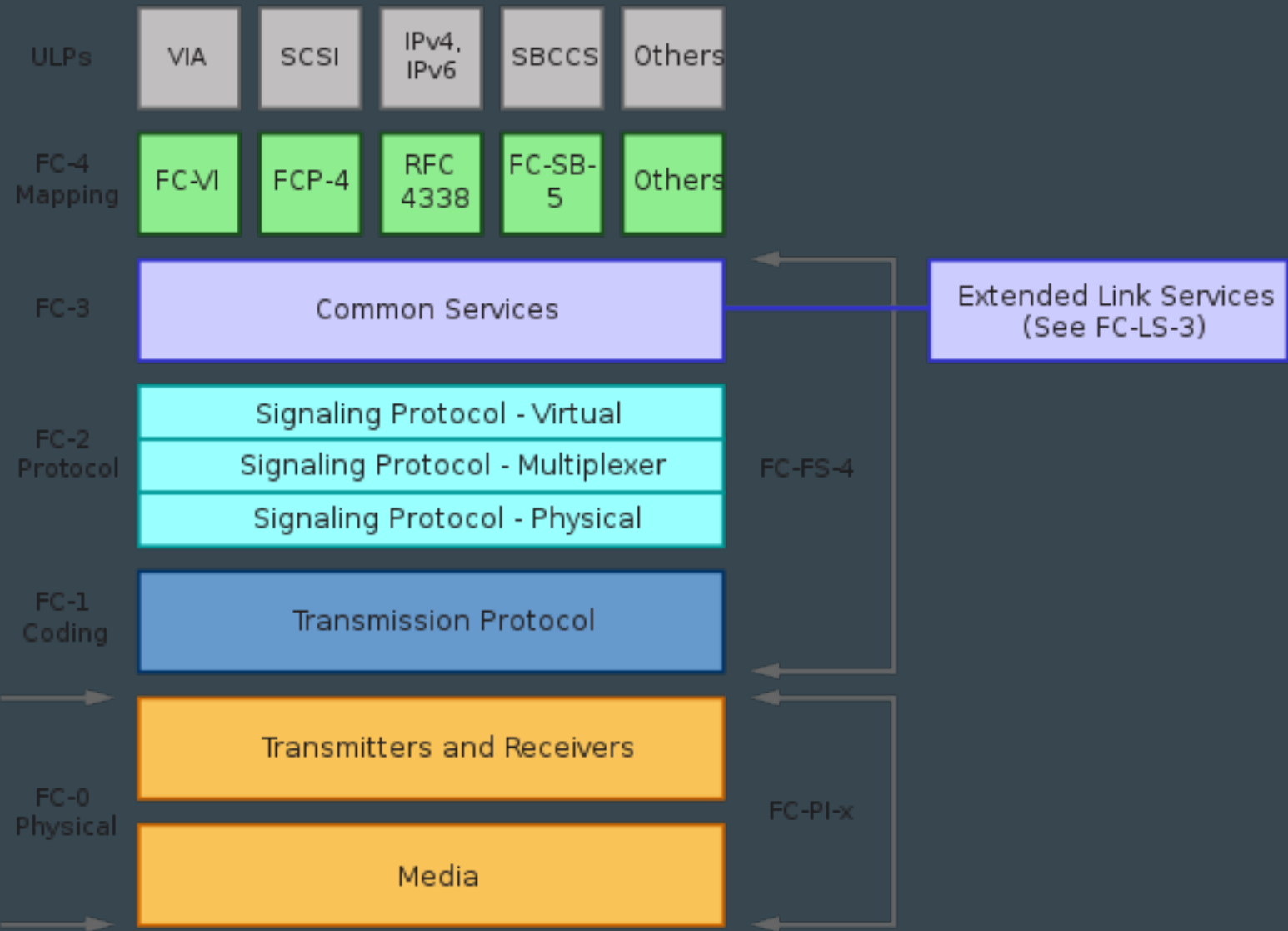long term storage
slower access

Network attached Storage (NAS)

provides hardware and software
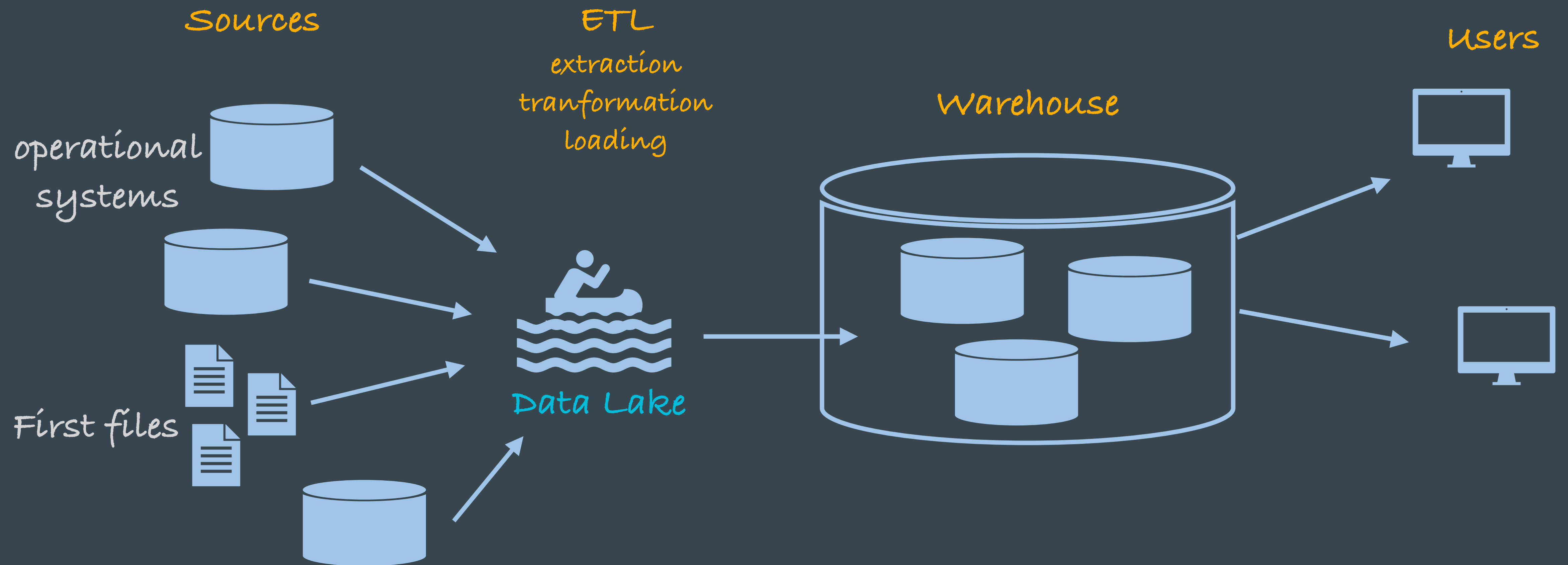optimised to store data on local media
fast access

Storage area network (SAN)

e.g., Fibre channel
its a protocol
distributes access to storage media
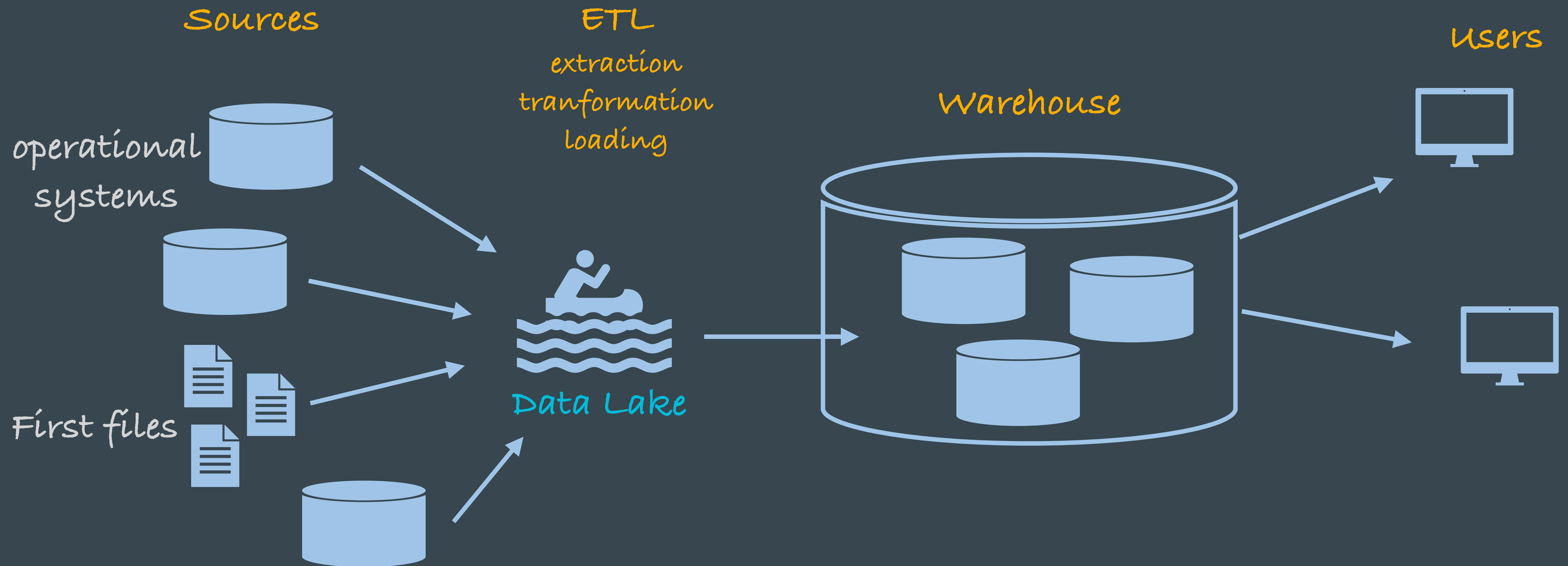where to store remains at the user

What are data warehouses?

Sources

ETL
extraction
tranformation
loading

Warehouse

Users

operational
systems

Data Lake

First files

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A data warehouse combines many data sources and pool (lake) them into accessible units

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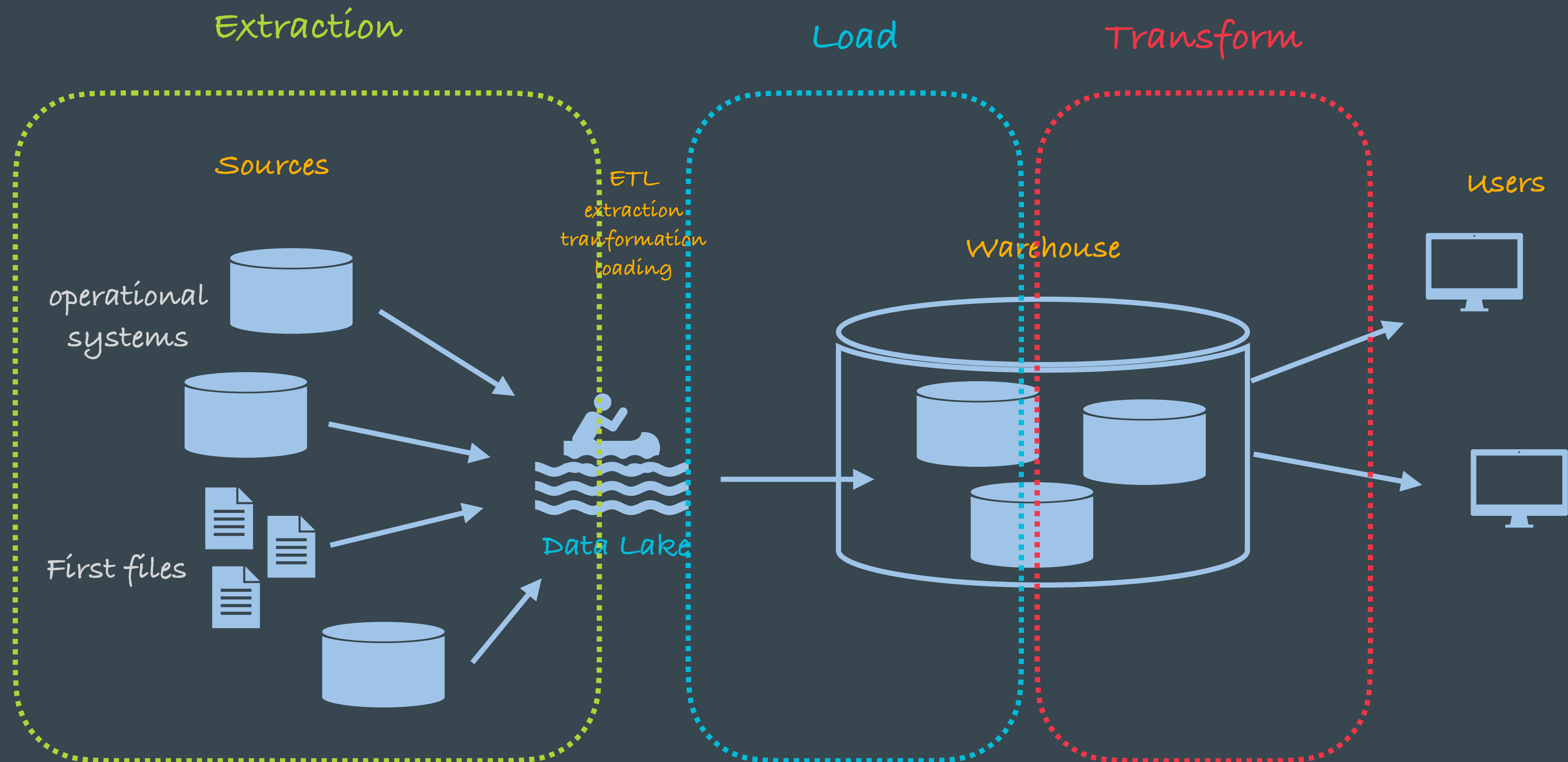
Key components of a Big Data infrastructure

Data production

Hardware:
Sensor networks, IoT, mobile devices, cameras, scientific sensors, local computers, servers, single-board computer (SBC)

Software:
often self made, provided by sensor manufacturer, OS (filesystem), database

Data extraction

Hardware:
HPC, Server, virtualisation (Docker containers, virtual machines), PC, Laptop

Software:
Python, R, scientific computation, ML, Hadoop, Spark, data joining and filtering, relies on self made scripts
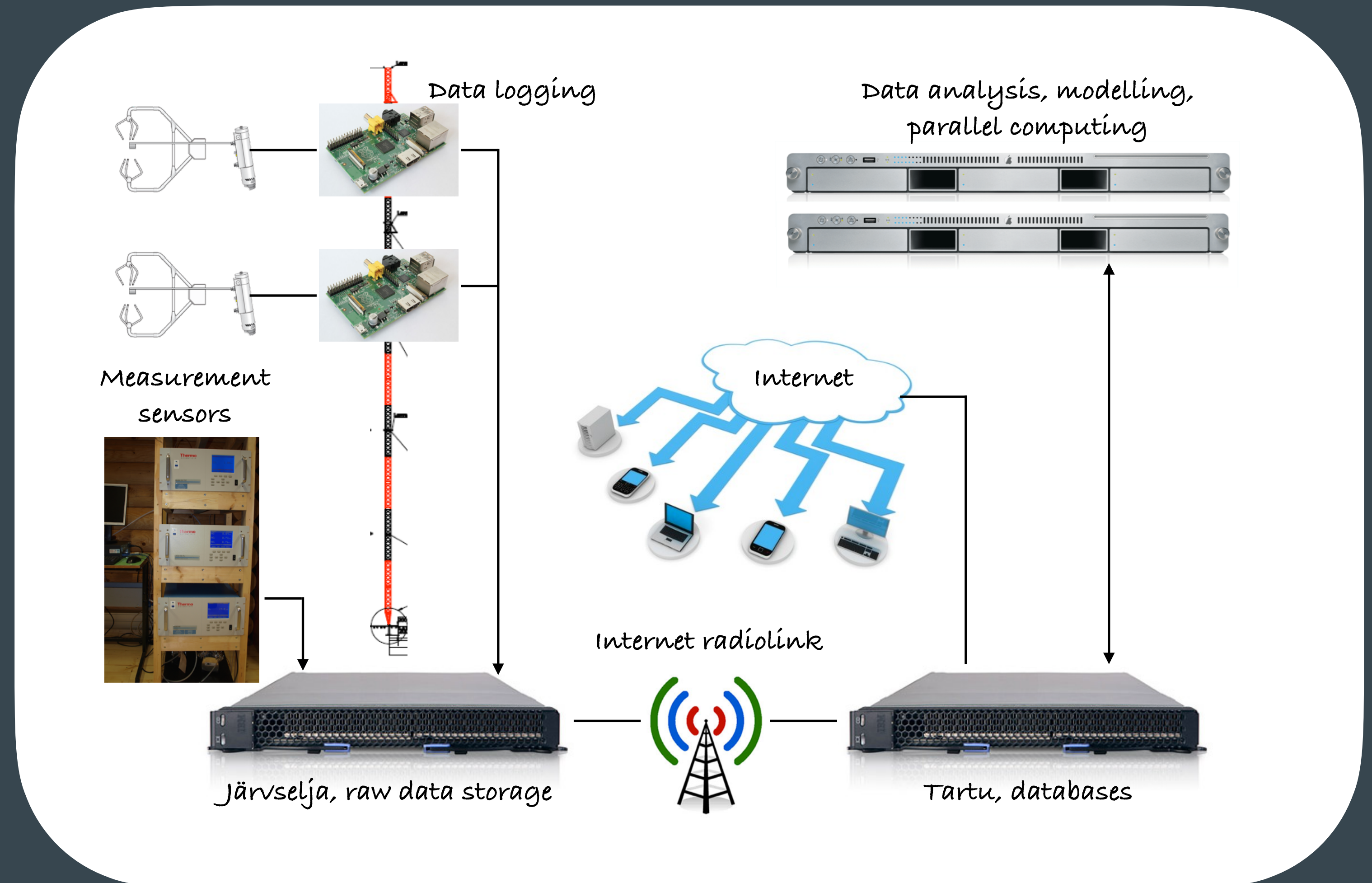
Data provision

Hardware:
Web servers, cloud services, open repositories

Software:
data warehouse, Hadoop, Spark, data pipelines, web interfaces, mostly available as services

Data extraction and processing at SMEAR Estonia

- Currently we use:

- > 15 Raspberry Pi systems as data entry points

- 2 IBM servers for automated data processing and storage of raw data

- 1 HP workstation in Järvselja (data preprocessing, modelling, virtualisation service, ML training on CPU and GPU)

- 1 Apple Pro workstation in EMU (data mining, virtualisation service, R-Studio server, Jupyter server), Scientist's own PC or Laptop

- 2 NAS servers on site, 1 NAS server in EMU (~ 48 TB)
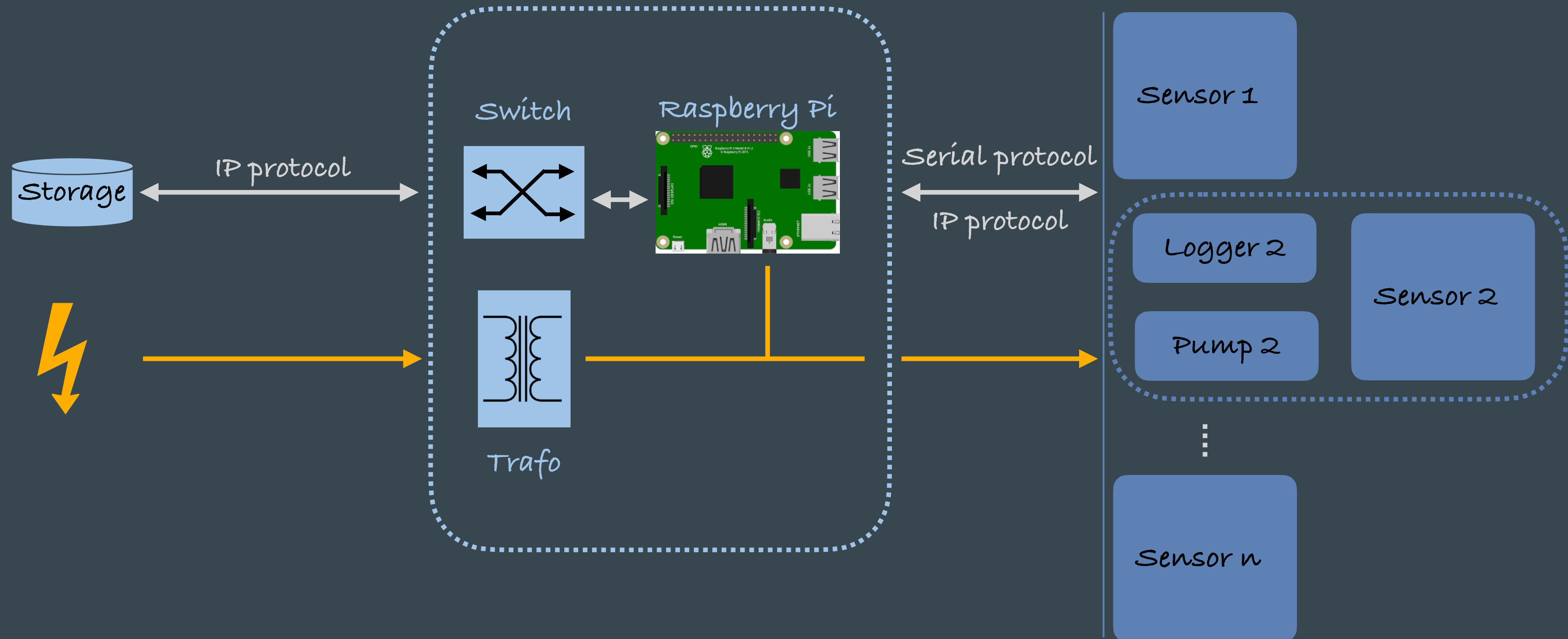
- Cloud storage in EMU and Tartu University

Data logging

Data analysis, modelling, parallel computing

Measurement sensors

Internet

Internet radiolink

Järvselja, raw data storage

Tartu, databases

Automatisation to enable Big Data

SMEAR Estonia as example

Station mains

Measurement node

Sensor nodes

Sensor 1

Storage

IP protocol

Switch

Raspberry Pi

Serial protocol

Sensor 1

IP protocol

Logger 2

Sensor 2

Sensor 2

Pump 2

Trafo

Sensor n

Challenge

- Try to find out what are typical data volumes of Earth Observations

- Find some other interesting data volumes? (cars, production, ...)