



24-28 June 2019 // Paris, France

# **Fluid Network Planes** – *An overview of Network Refactoring and Offloading Trends*

Prof. Dr. Christian Esteve Rothenberg (University of Campinas), Brazil

[chesteve@dca.fee.unicamp.br](mailto:chesteve@dca.fee.unicamp.br)



INFORMATION & NETWORKING  
TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION GROUP

<https://intrig.dca.fee.unicamp.br/christian>



UNICAMP

# Agenda

- A view on 10 years of SDN
- Fluid Network Planes
  - The 'Concept'
  - Instances

# The 'origins' of the SDN term



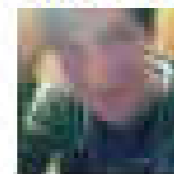
## IO BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES

2009

### TR10: Software-Defined Networking

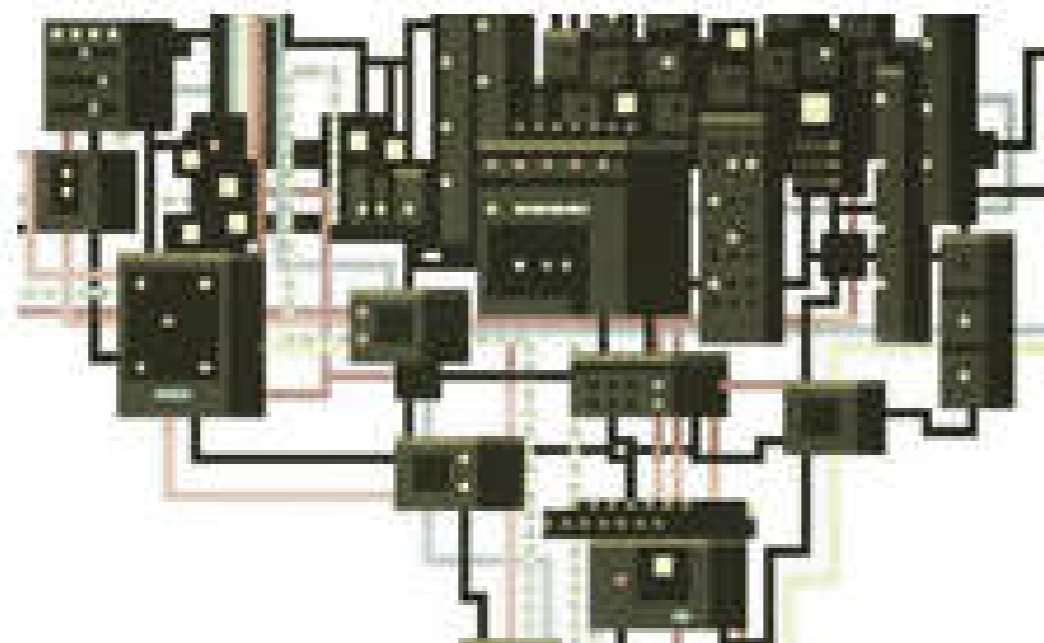
*Nick McKeown believes that remotely controlling network hardware with software can bring the Internet up to speed.*

4 comments



KATE GREENE

March/April 2009



For years, computer scientists have dreamed up ways to improve networks' speed, reliability, energy efficiency, and security. But their schemes have generally remained lab projects, because it's been impossible to test them on a large enough scale to see if they'd work: the routers and switches at the core of the Internet are locked down, their software the intellectual property of companies such as Cisco and Hewlett-Packard

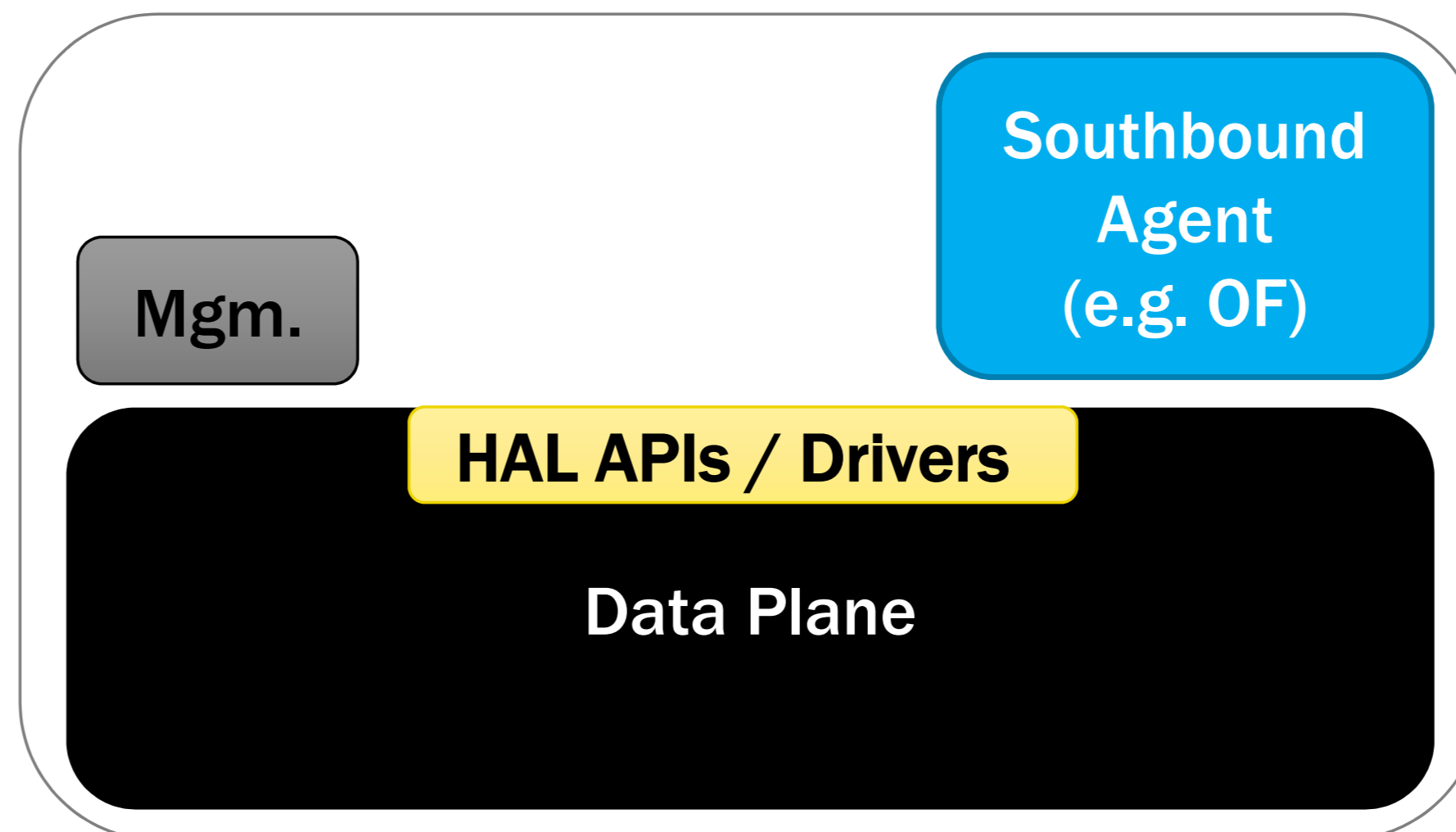
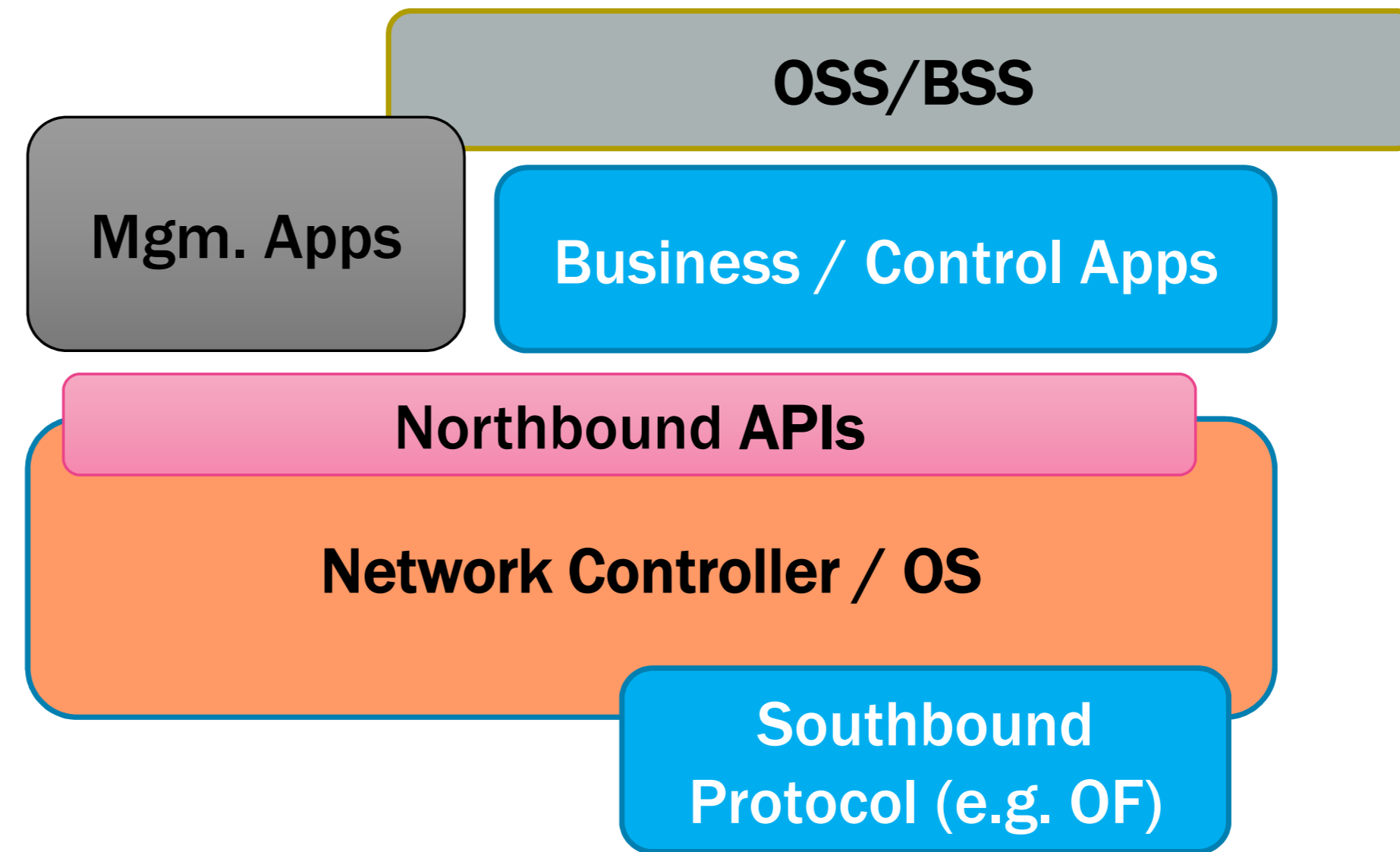
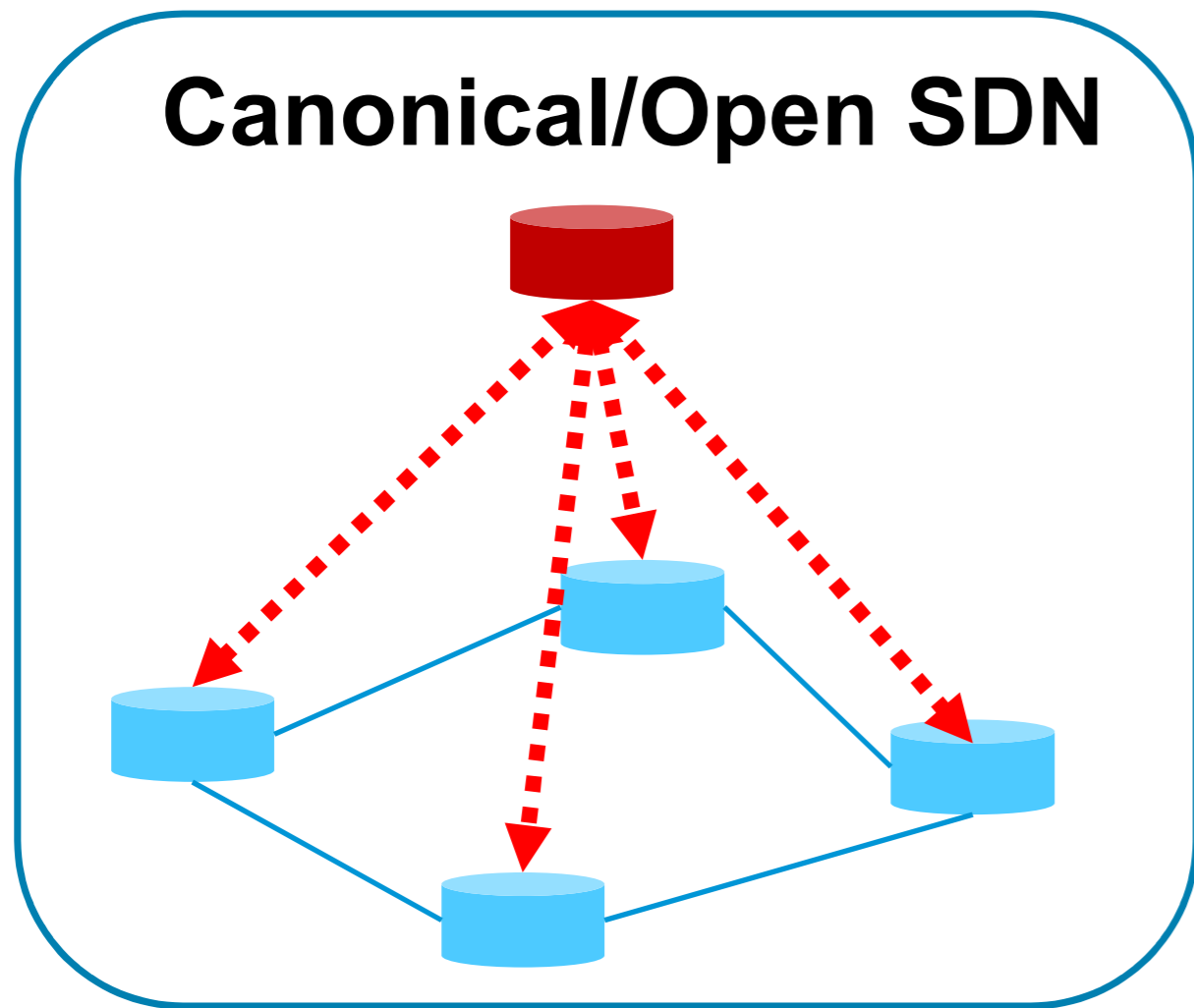
# SDN in 2009 - 2010







Control-plane component(s) Data-plane component(s)



# SDN in 2011 – 2012




# SDN to the rescue!



10



Software Defined Networking



Warning: Contains optimism  
(Plug to <http://PacketPushers.net> for Unicorn Humor!)

The complex block contains the title "Software Defined Networking" at the top. Below it is a yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black border. The sign features a black silhouette of a unicorn in the center, surrounded by several small black stars. The word "UNICORN" is written in black capital letters above the unicorn, and the word "CROSSING" is written in black capital letters below it. At the bottom of the block, there is a warning message: "Warning: Contains optimism" followed by "(Plug to <http://PacketPushers.net> for Unicorn Humor!)" in a smaller font.

# So, what is SDN?

*“OpenFlow is SDN, but SDN is not OpenFlow”*

**(does not say much about SDN)** – Networking community

*“Don’t let humans do machines’ work”*

**(probably right...)** – Networking Professional

*“Let’s call SDN whatever we can ship today”*

**(aka ‘SDN washing’)** – Vendor X

*“SDN is the magic buzzword that will bring us VC funding”*

**(hmmm... N/A, N/C)** – Startup Y

*“SDN is the magic that will get my paper/grant accepted”*

**(maybe, but not at IEEE Netsoft!)** – Researcher Z



# Headlines

**“Google revamps networks with OpenFlow”**

—ZDnet

**“Prediction: OpenFlow Is Dead by 2014; SDN Reborn in Network Management”**

—Mike Fratto, Network Computing

**“Will OpenFlow commoditize networks? Impact Cisco margins?”**

—Several media publications, Bloggers

**“We share a more pragmatic view, noting Cisco (for example) is likely to view SDN as a TAM expansion opportunity...”** —*Deutsche Bank Research note, Wired, April 2012*

**“SDN - Still Does Nothing”**

**“Hype around SDN/OpenFlow getting way out of Control. Where have I seen this before...”** —*Ethereal mind, Blogger*

**“SDN - Smells Dollars Now”**

**“SDN needs a bigger definition”**

—Lippis report, 2012

**“SDN - Software Defined Not-working”**

# SDN in 2013 - 2015

**Academia**

**Start-up 1**

**Vendor A**

**Start-up 2**

**Vendor B**

...

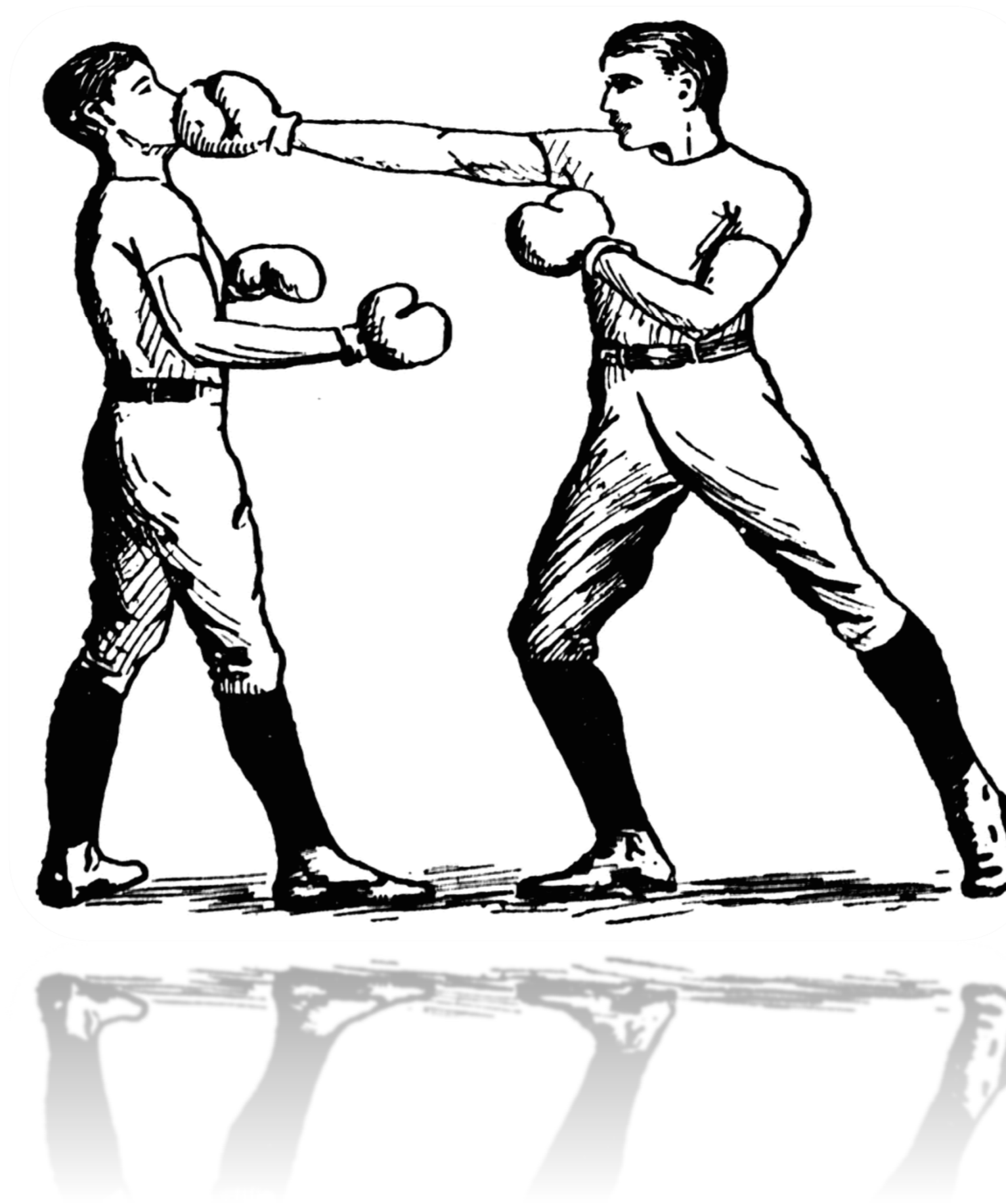
**Vendor C**

**Start-up n**





# SDN in 2015 - 2019 → Network Softwarization\* (i.e. NFV + SDN + IBN + xyz)



## Old / Existing

- CLIs & Manual labour
- Closed Source
- Vendor Lead
- Classic Network Appliances (HW)

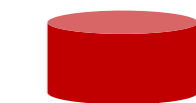

## New / Softwarized

- APIs & Automation
  - Open Source
- Customer Lead
- Virtual Network Functions (NFV/SW)

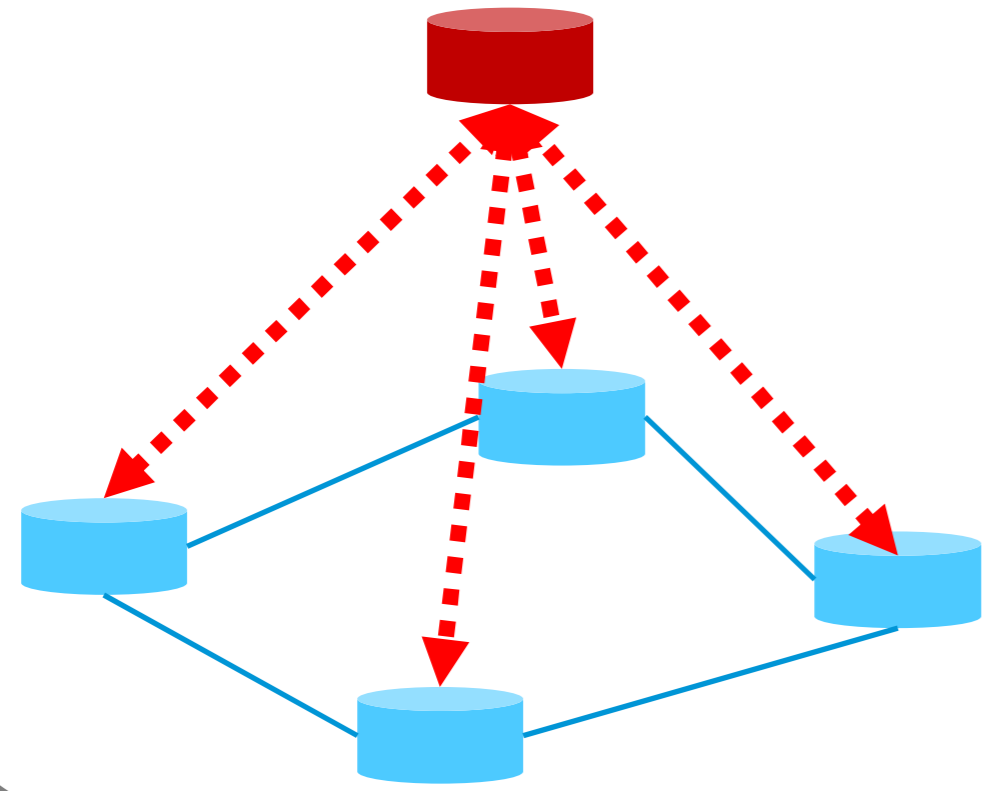
\*1st IEEE Network Softwarization 2015 (NetSoft 2015)



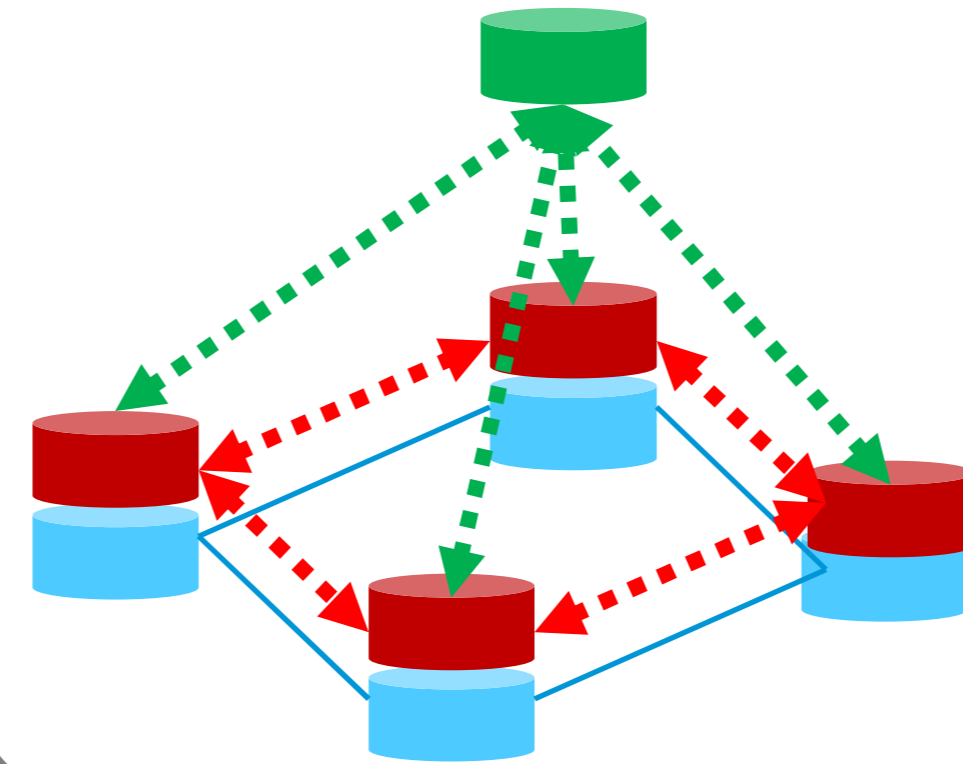
# Different Network Softwarization Models

 Control plane component(s)  
 Data plane component(s)

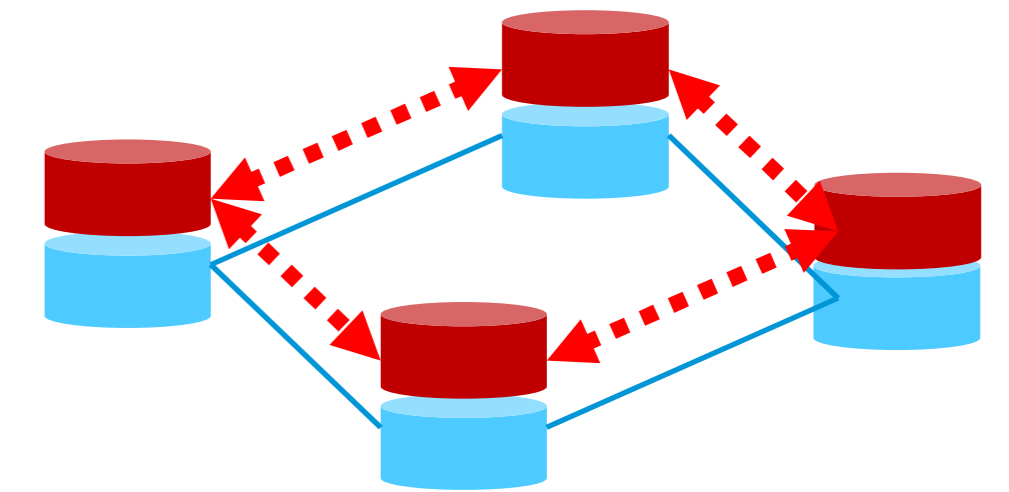
### Canonical/Open



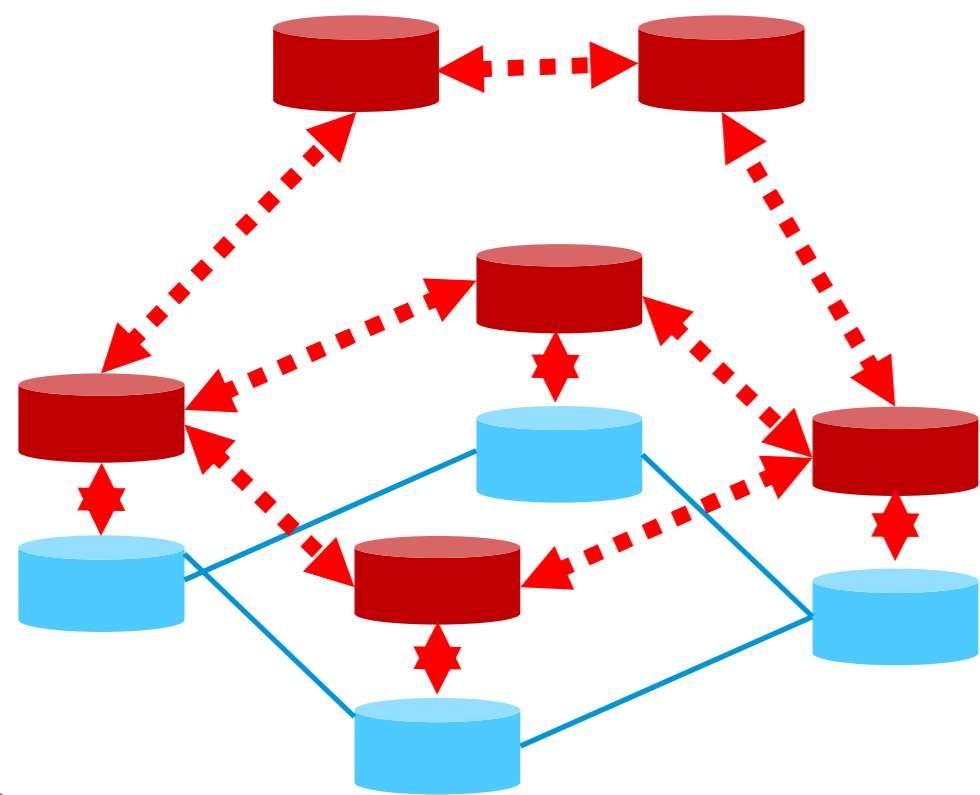
### Compiler



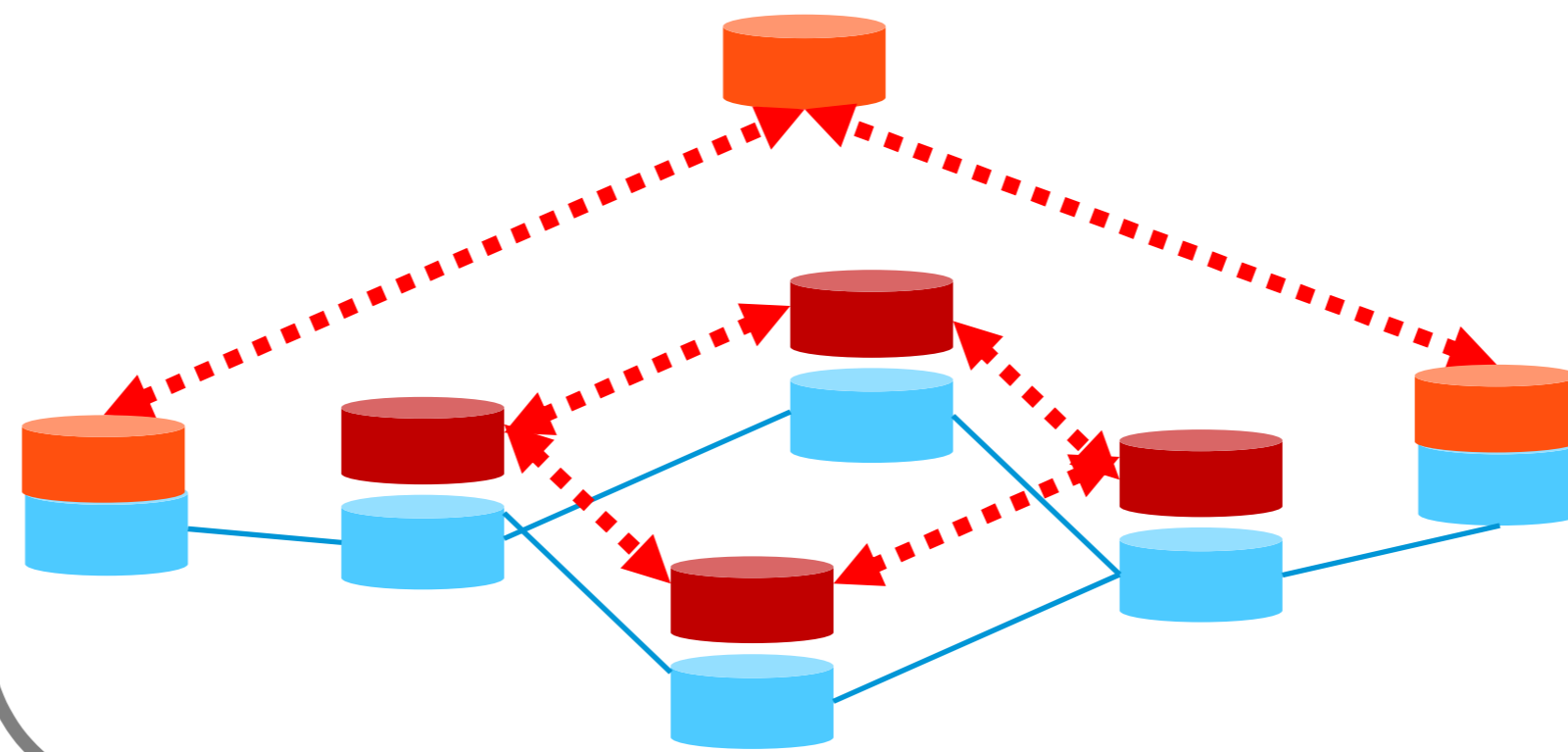
### Traditional



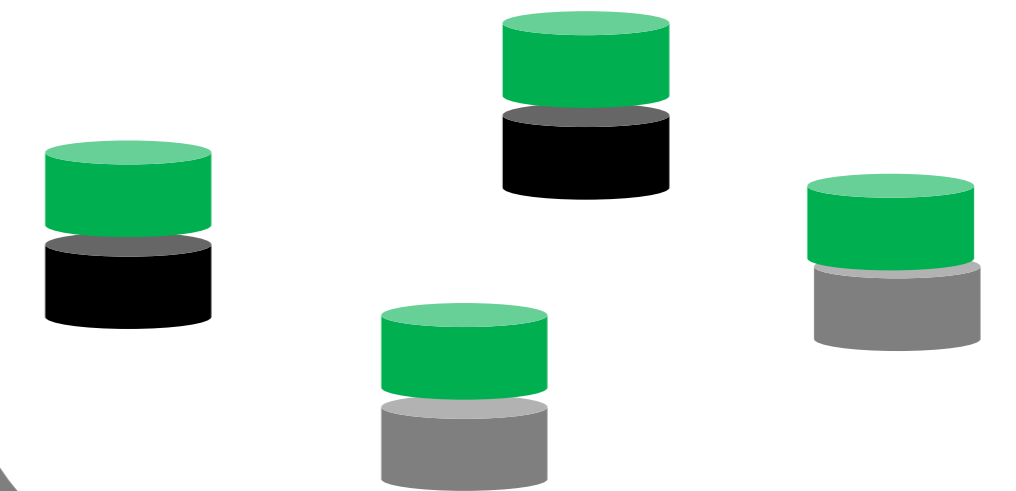
### Hybrid/Broker



### Overlay



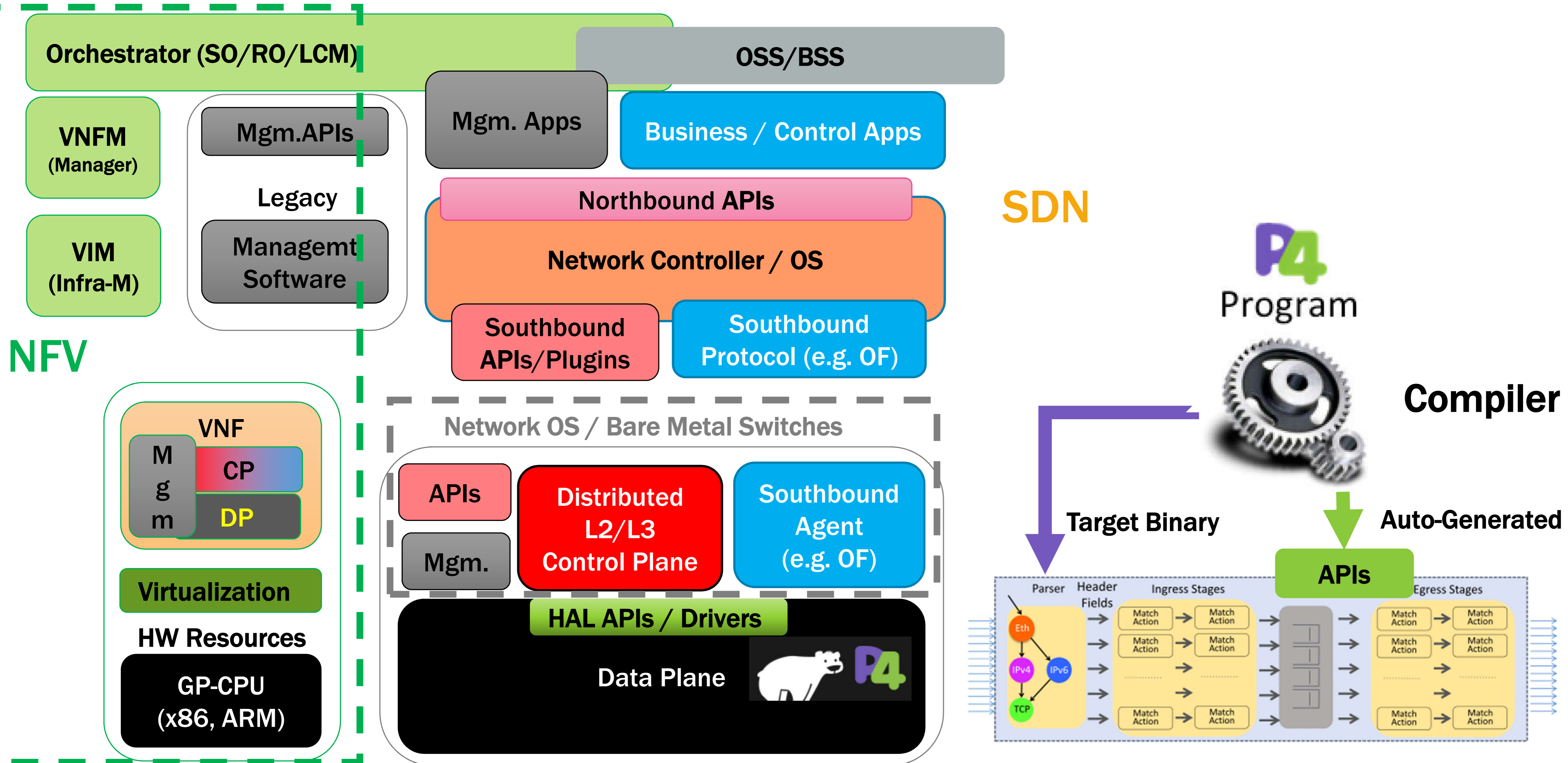
### Whitebox / Baremetal + PISA / P4







# Models & Approaches to Program / Refactor the Netsoft Stack



# Network programmability? By who?

Technical Expertise + Single Throat to Choke

**Players** with sufficient  
SW Eng. + Network Eng.  
& in-house Devops (NoOps?)

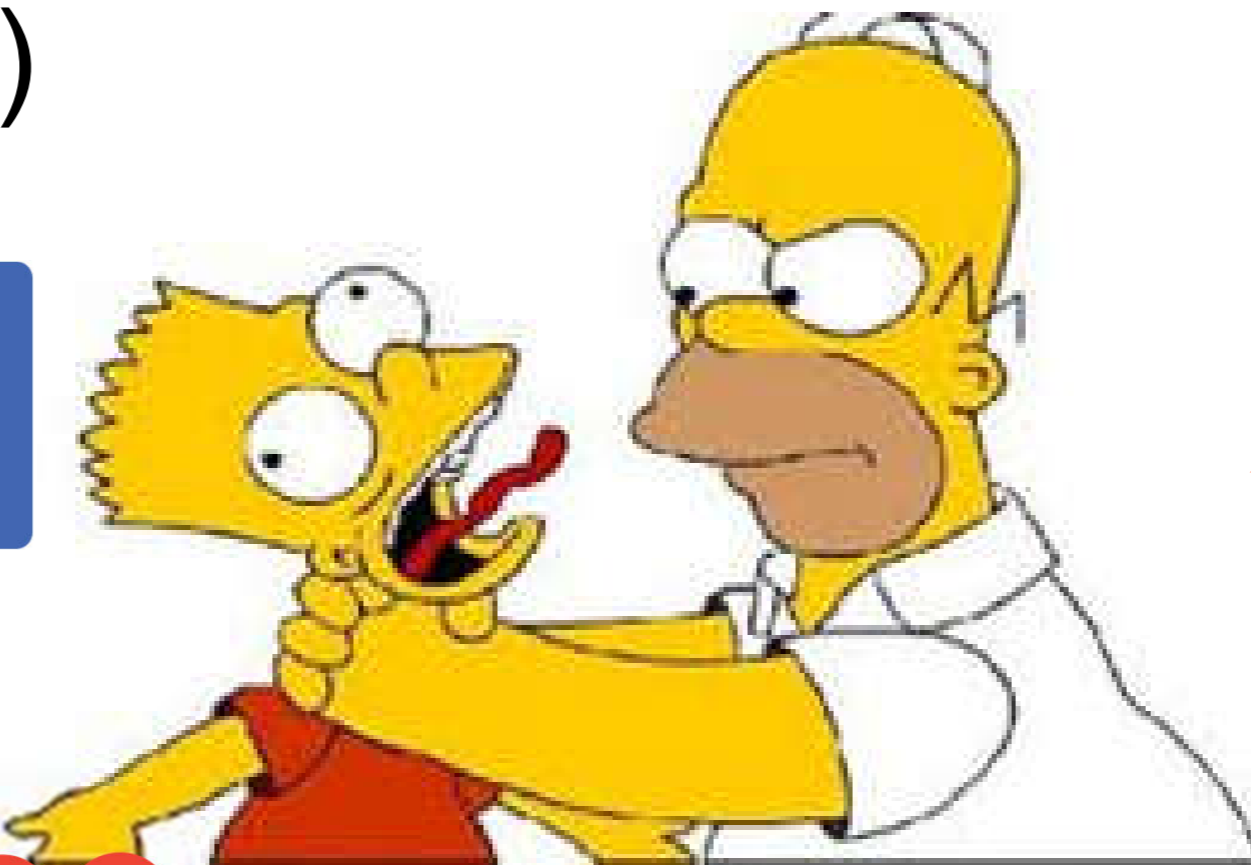


Microsoft



NTT

Goglee



- Intent-based (languages + APIs)
- Design + Run-time (NS)DKs
- ML/AI assistance
- Automation of Test + Benchmarking (pre-deployment + day0 & day-2 ops)

The **long tail** of players

(e.g. smaller SPs, ISPs, enterprises, campus, governments, etc.)

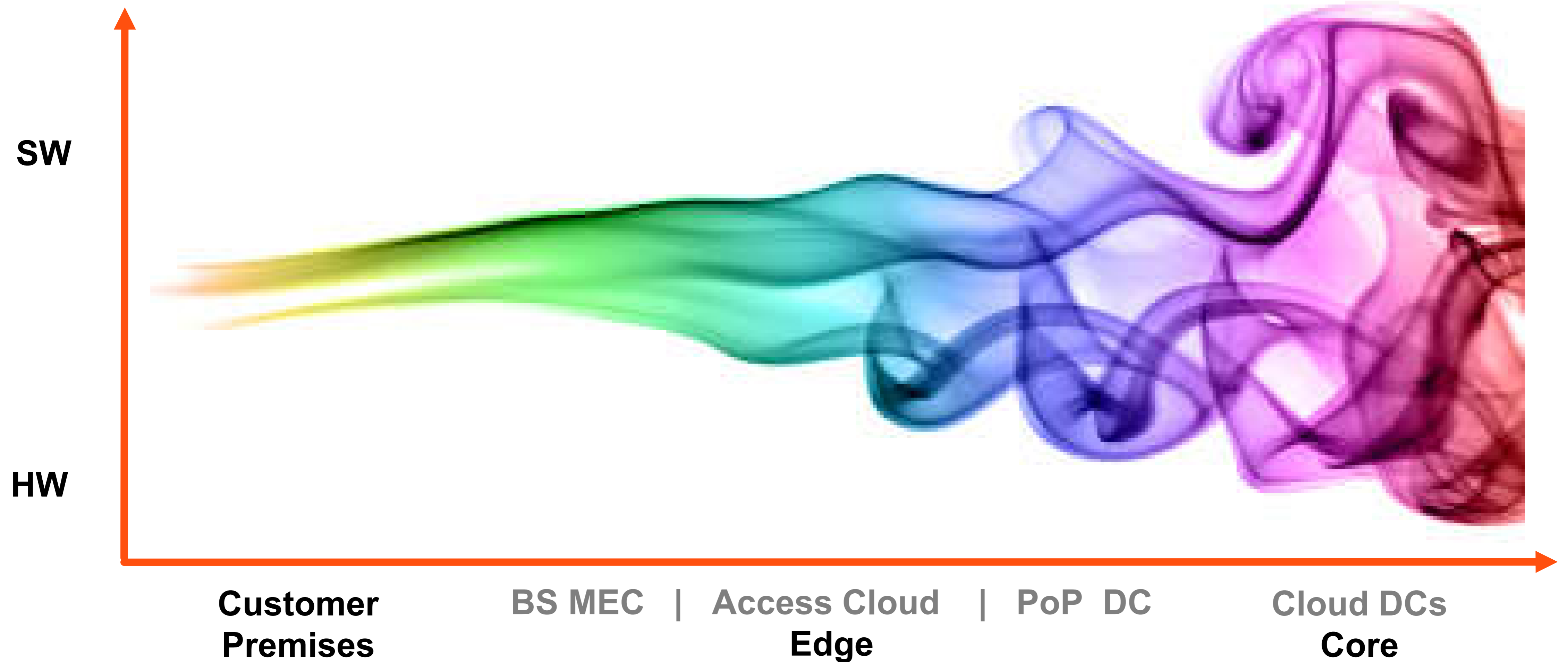




# The **Fluid Networking** landscape

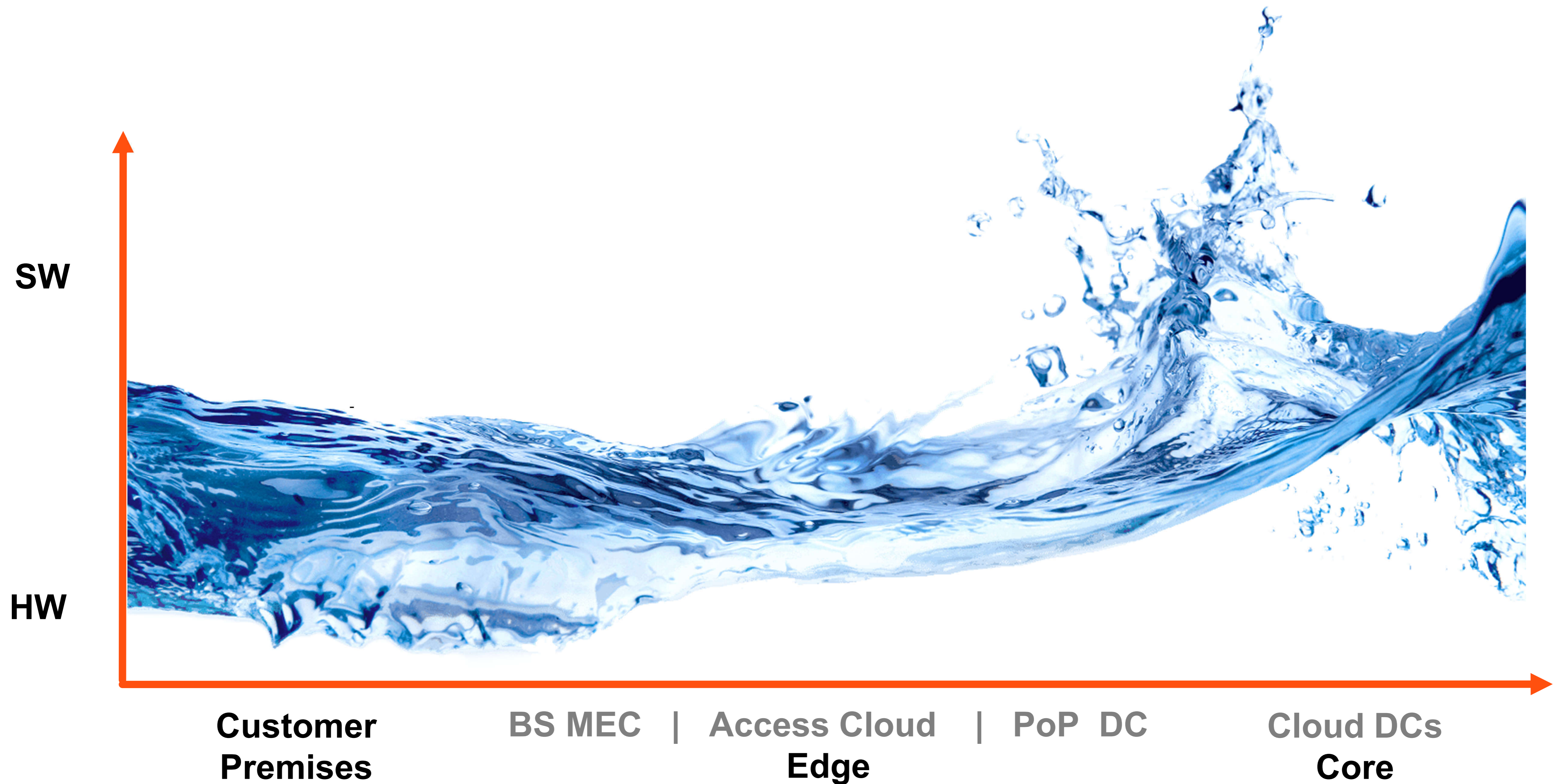


# The **Fluid Networking** landscape





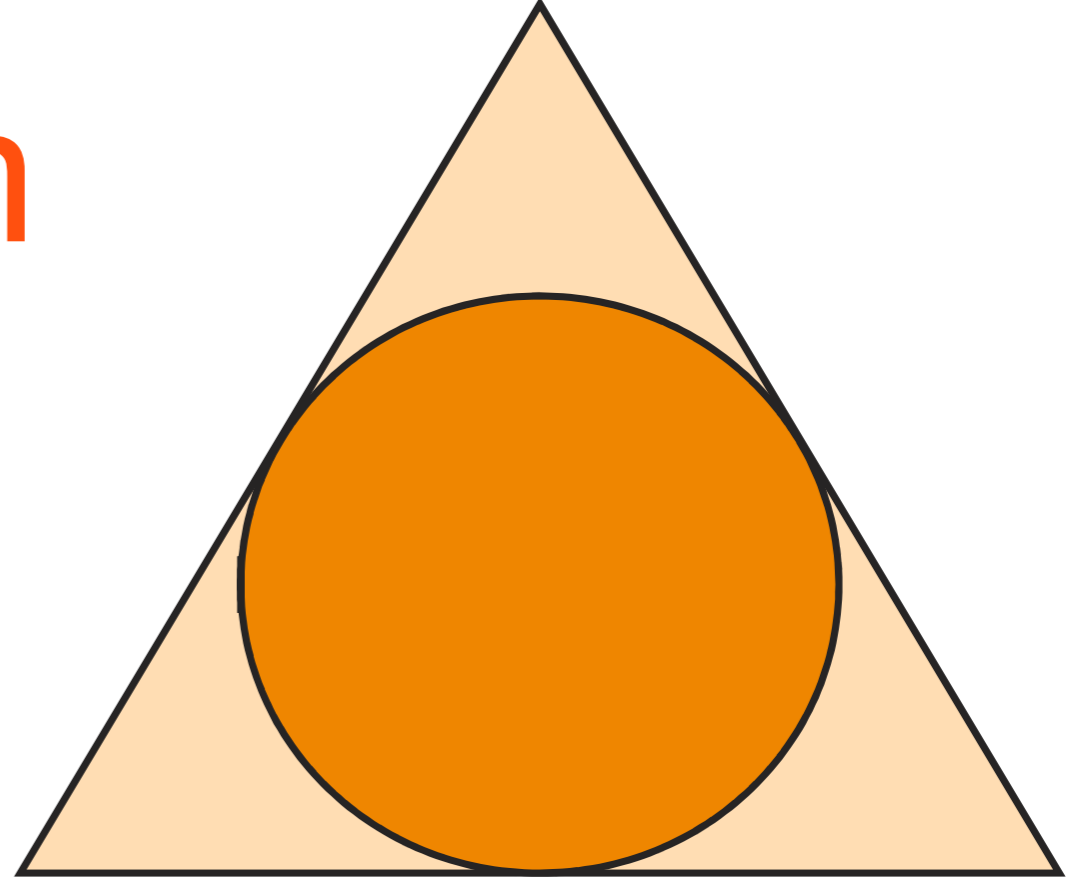
# The **Fluid Networking** landscape





# Fluid Networking: HW-SW Continuum

Performance



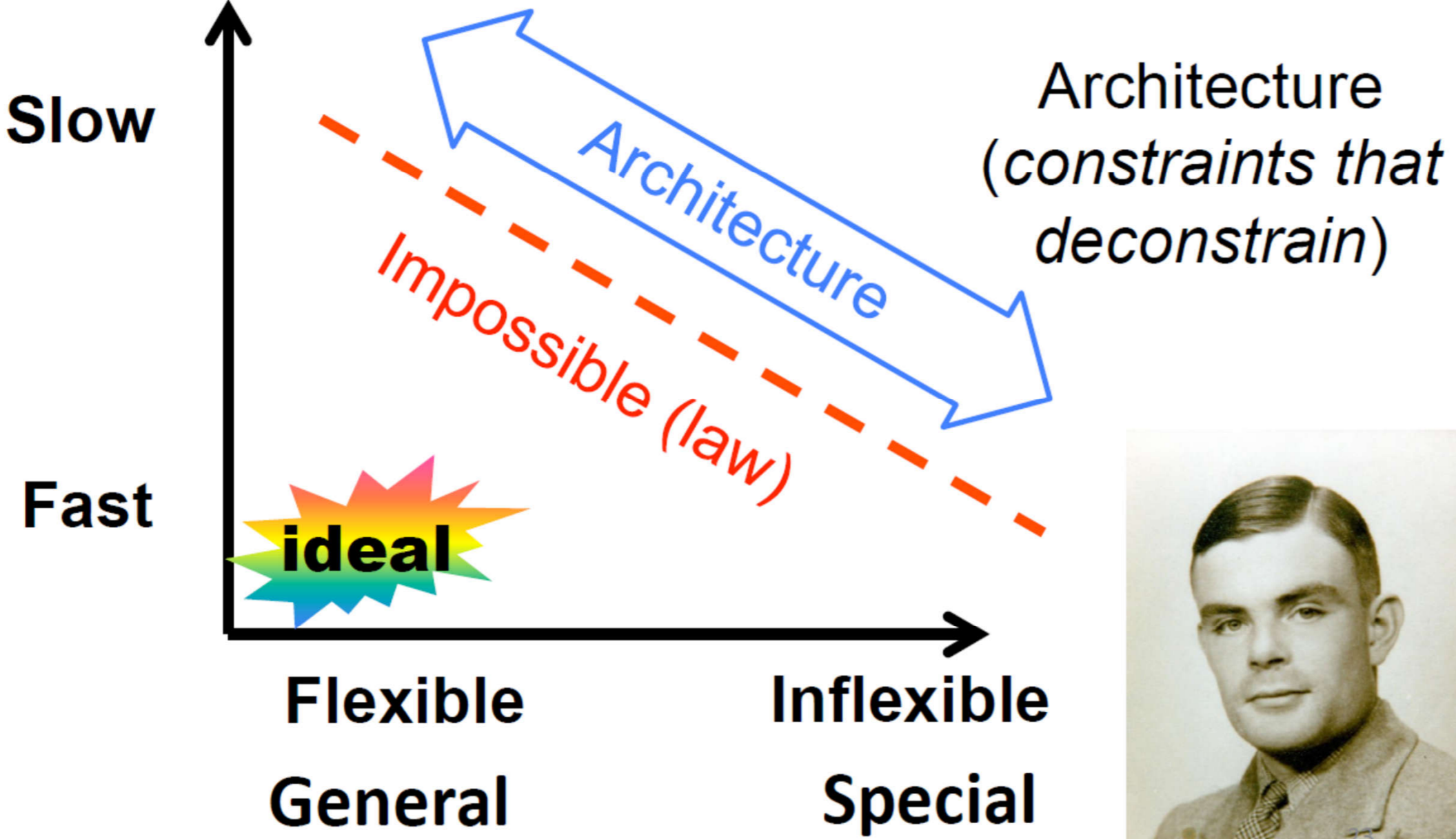
Portability

Programmability

Source: C. Rothenberg. P3 Trade-offs. 2017

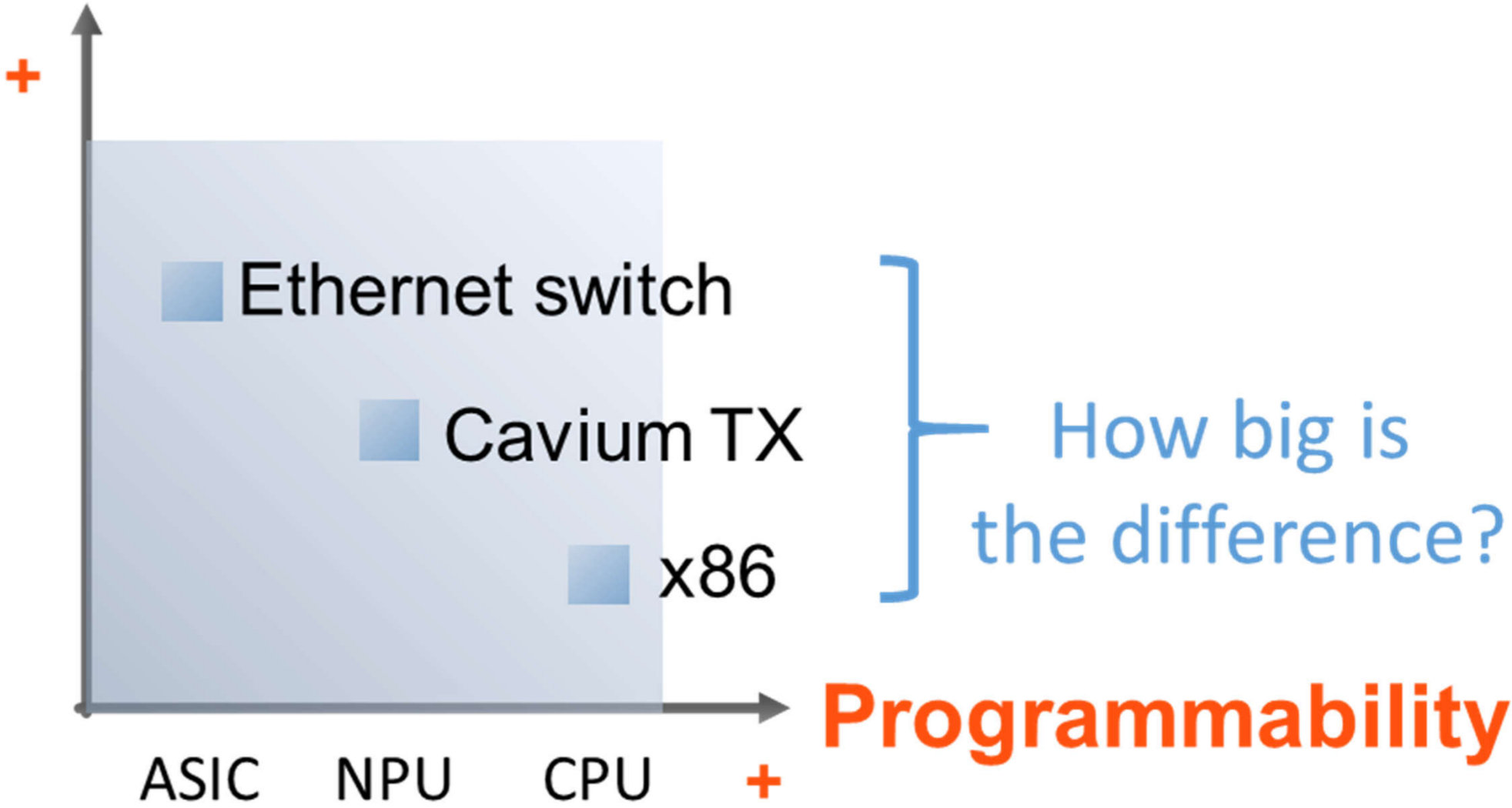
SW

HW



Source: D. Meyer (Courtesy by J. Doyle)

Performance



Source: G. Pongracz. "Cheap silicon". HotSDN13

# Fluid Networking: HW-SW Continuum



- Containers
- User space
- Kernel space
- Drivers, I/O SDKs
- General-purpose CPU
- HW-accelerated features\*\*
- FPGA
- GPU, TPU,
- Programmable NIC, ASIC
- **Domain Specific Architectures (DSAS)**  
e.g., P4 + PISA

**Flexibility\***  
(programmability + portability)



**Performance\*\*\***

TABLE II  
TECHNICAL CONCEPTS AND THEIR SUPPORT OF FLEXIBILITY IN NETWORKS. (✓: MAIN TARGET)

Category	Aspect (see Sec. III-B)	SDN	NFV	NV
Adapt configuration	Flow Configuration: flow steering	✓	-	-
	Function Configuration: function programming	-	✓	-
Locate functions	Parameter Configuration: change function parameters	-	✓	✓
	Function Placement: distribution, placement, chaining	-	✓	✓
Scale	Resource and Function Scaling: processing and storage capacity, number of functions	✓	✓	✓
	Topology Adaptation: (virtual) network adaptation	-	-	✓

\* M. He et al. **Flexibility in Softwarized Networks: Classifications and Research Challenges**. IEEE Survey & Tutorials, 2019

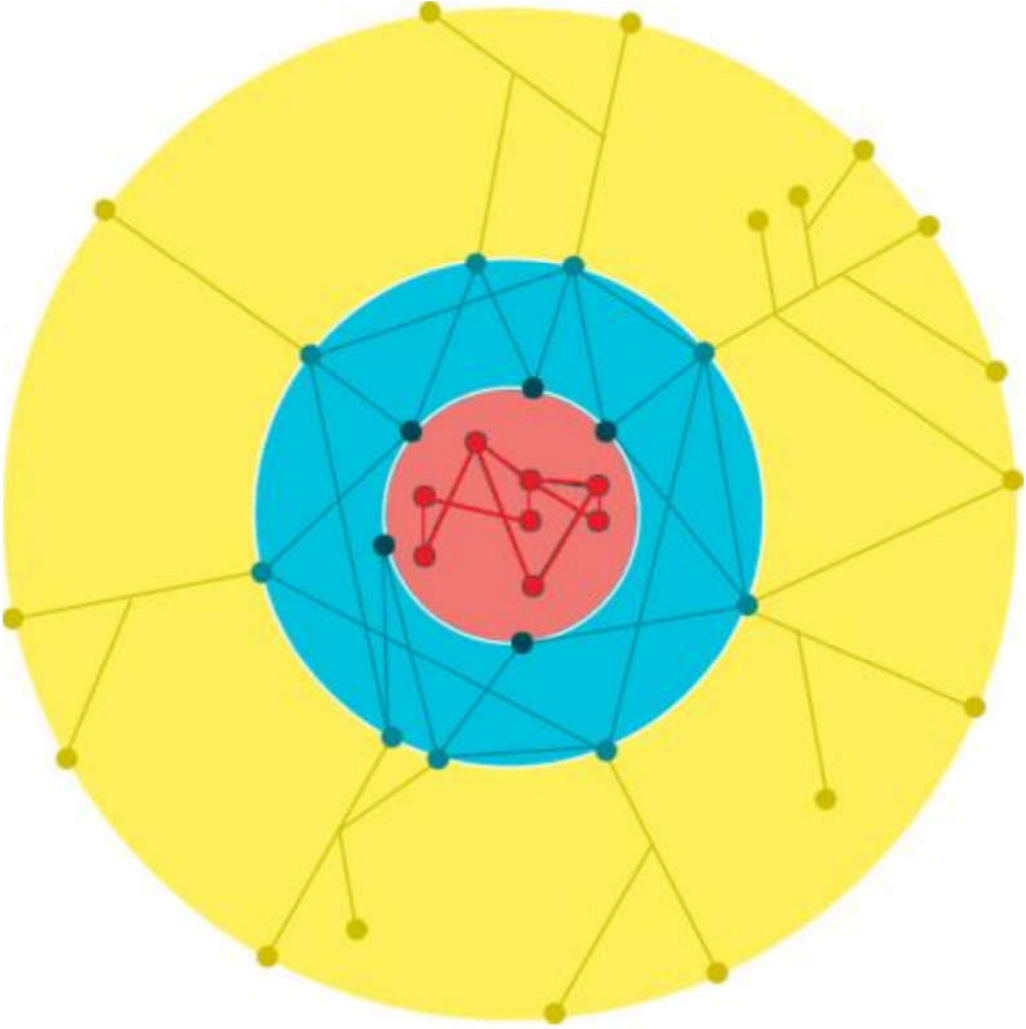
\*\* Linguaglossa et al. **Survey of Performance Acceleration Techniques for Network Function Virtualization**. Proc. of IEEE, 2019

\*\*\* G. Bianchi. **Back to the Future: Hardware-specialized Cloud Networking**. 2019



# Fluid Networking: Quest for Latency

- 15 Data centers
- 100 Points of Presence (PoPs)
- 1000+ Edge nodes

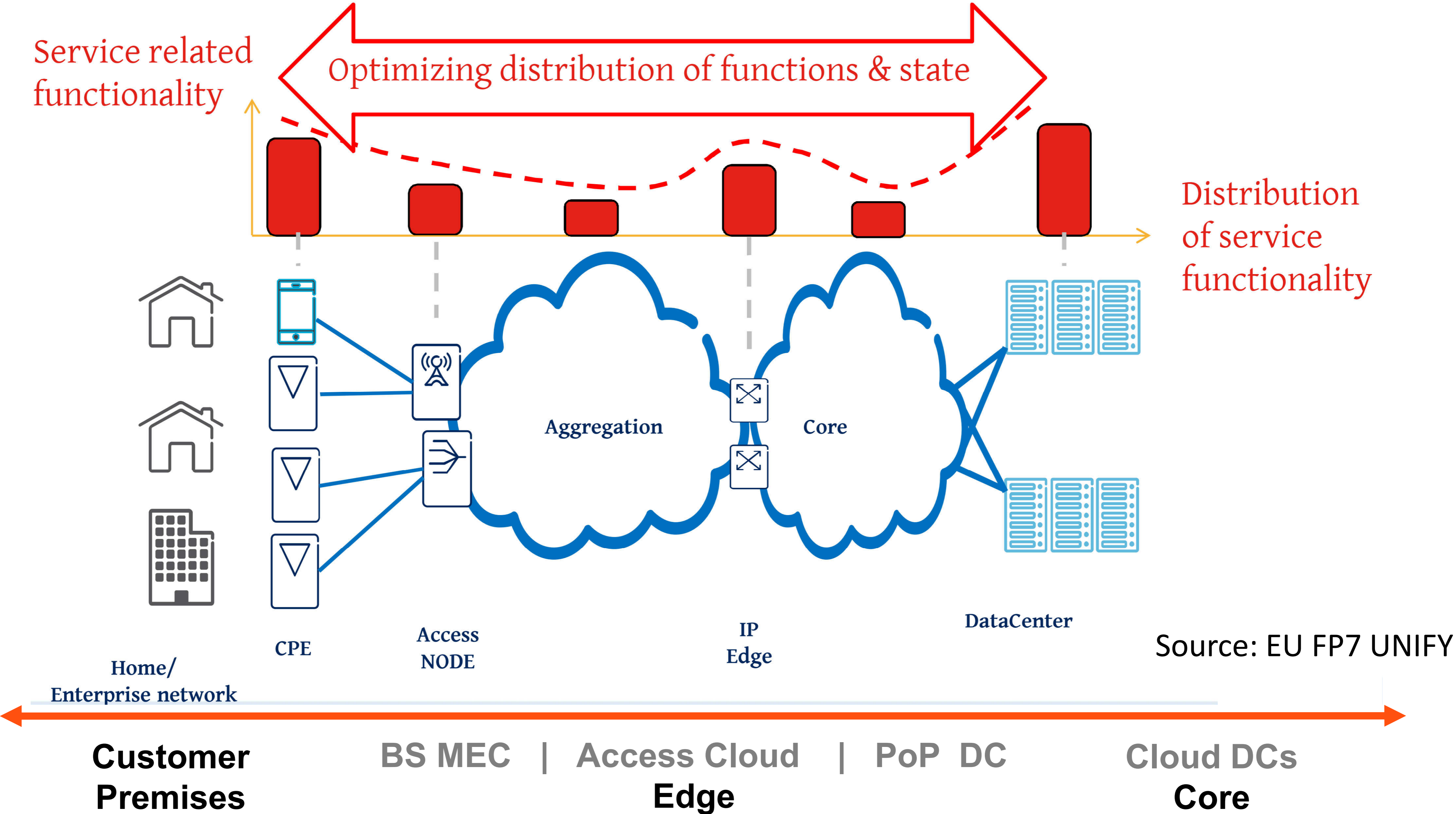


Source: Google Cloud Infrastructure

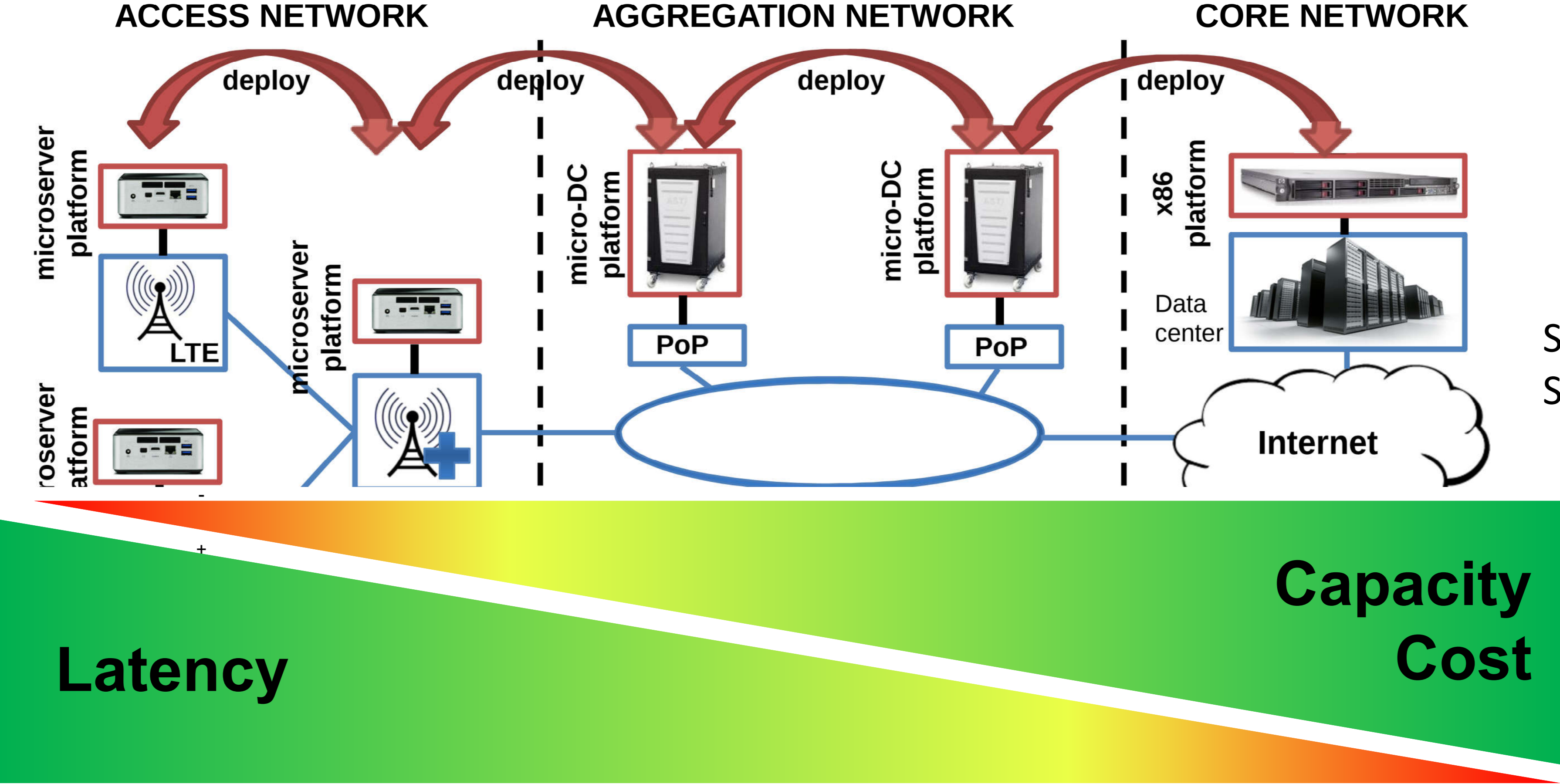




# Fluid Networking: Compute Continuum





# Fluid Networking: Decoupling functionality / location

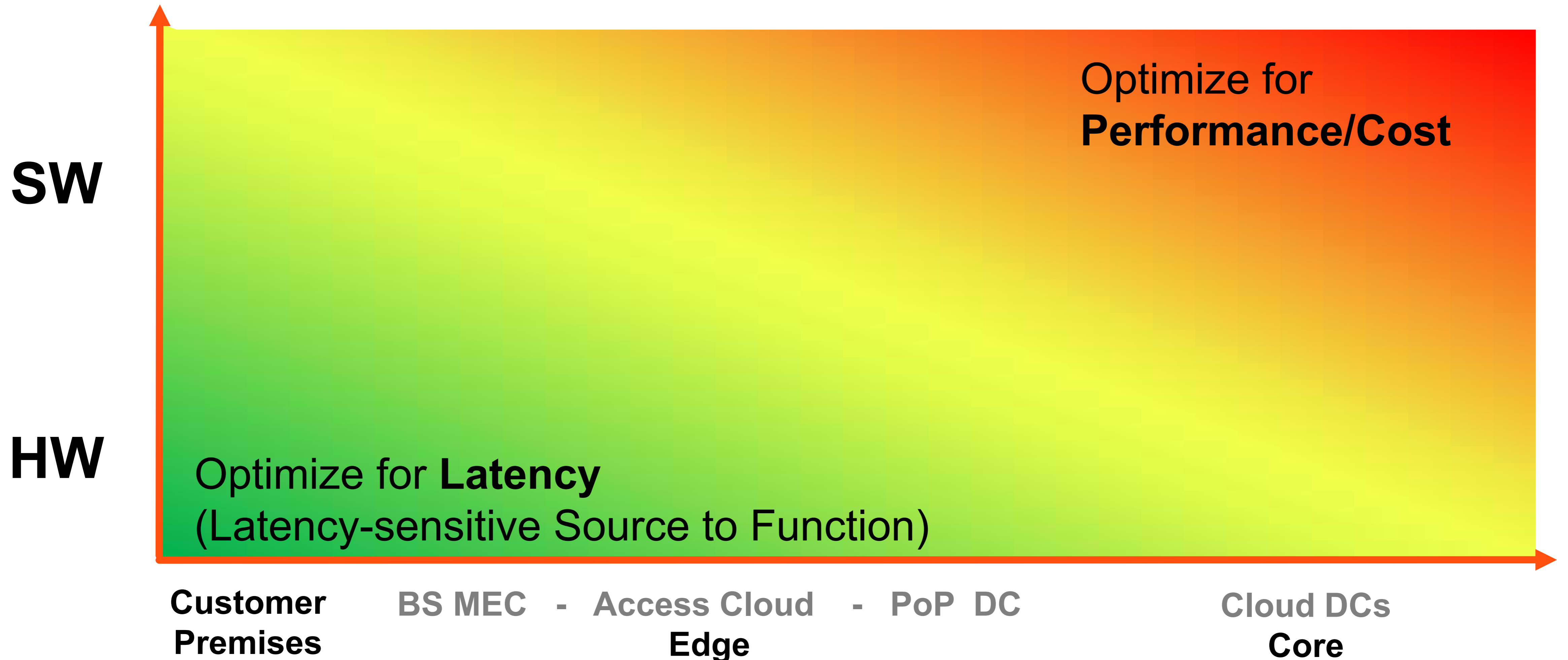


Source: EU Superfluidity



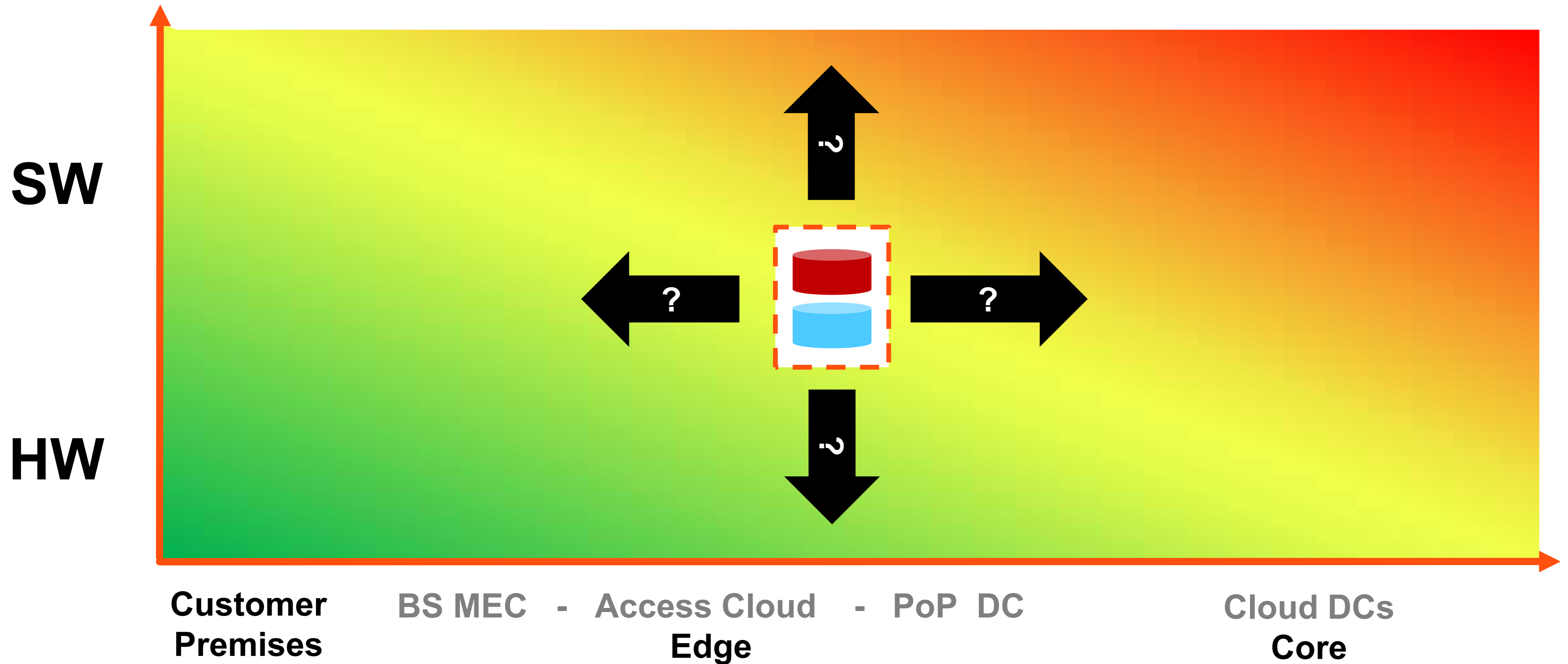
# The **Fluid Networking** landscape

-  Control plane component(s)
-  Data plane component(s)

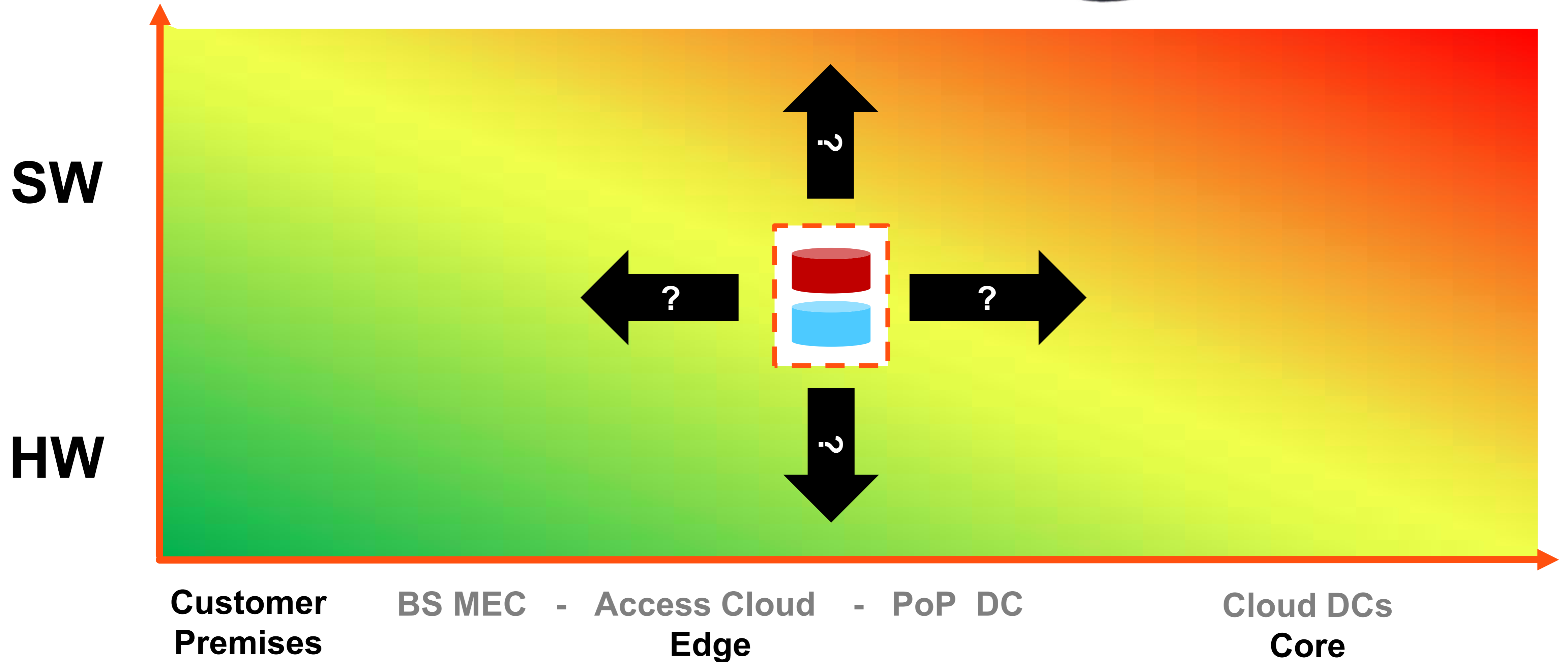




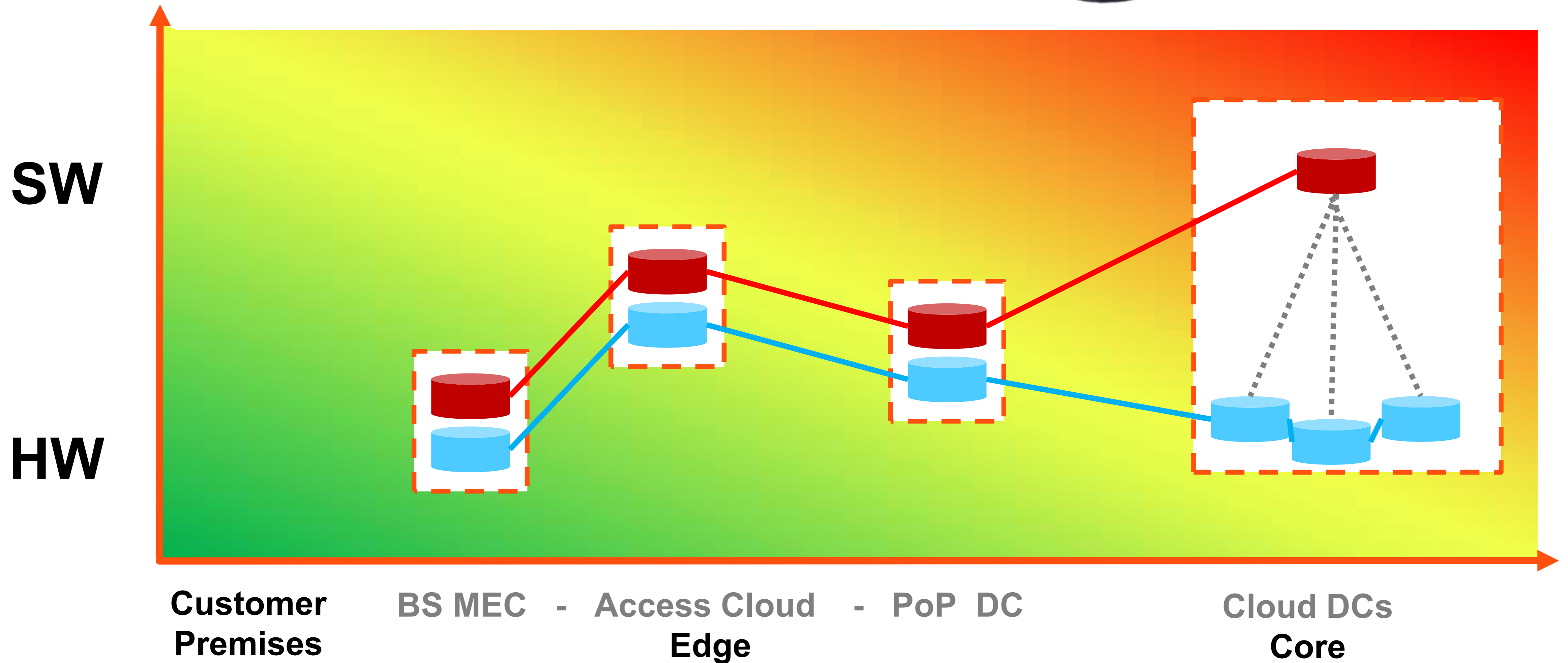
# The **Fluid Networking** landscape



# The Fluid Networking landscape



# The Fluid Networking landscape



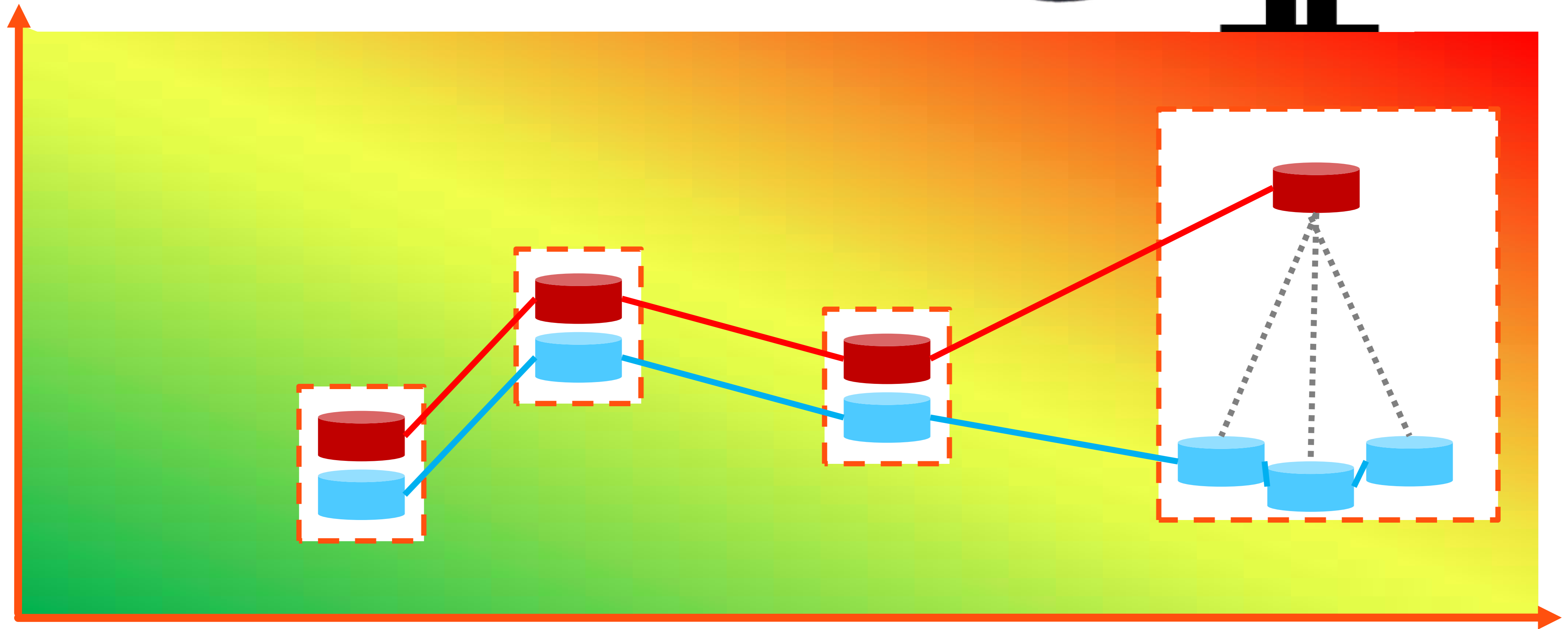


# The Fluid Networking landscape



SW

HW



Customer  
Premises

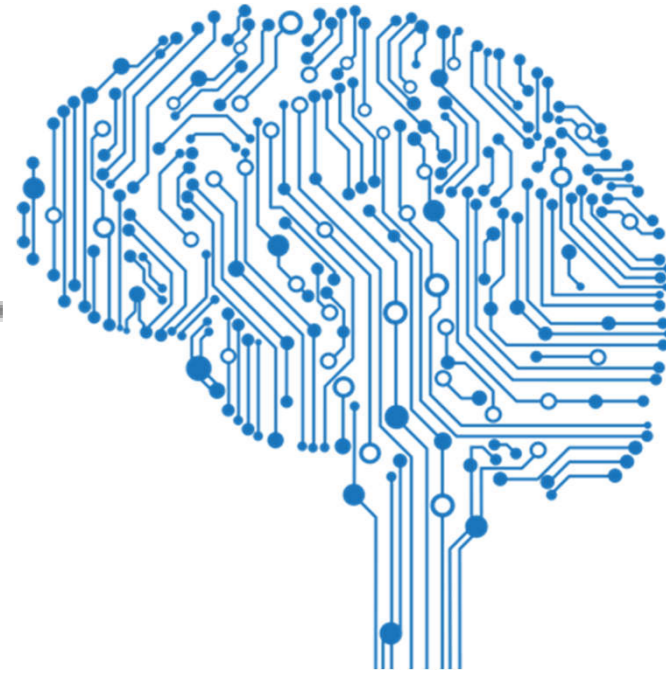
BS MEC

Access Cloud  
Edge

PoP DC

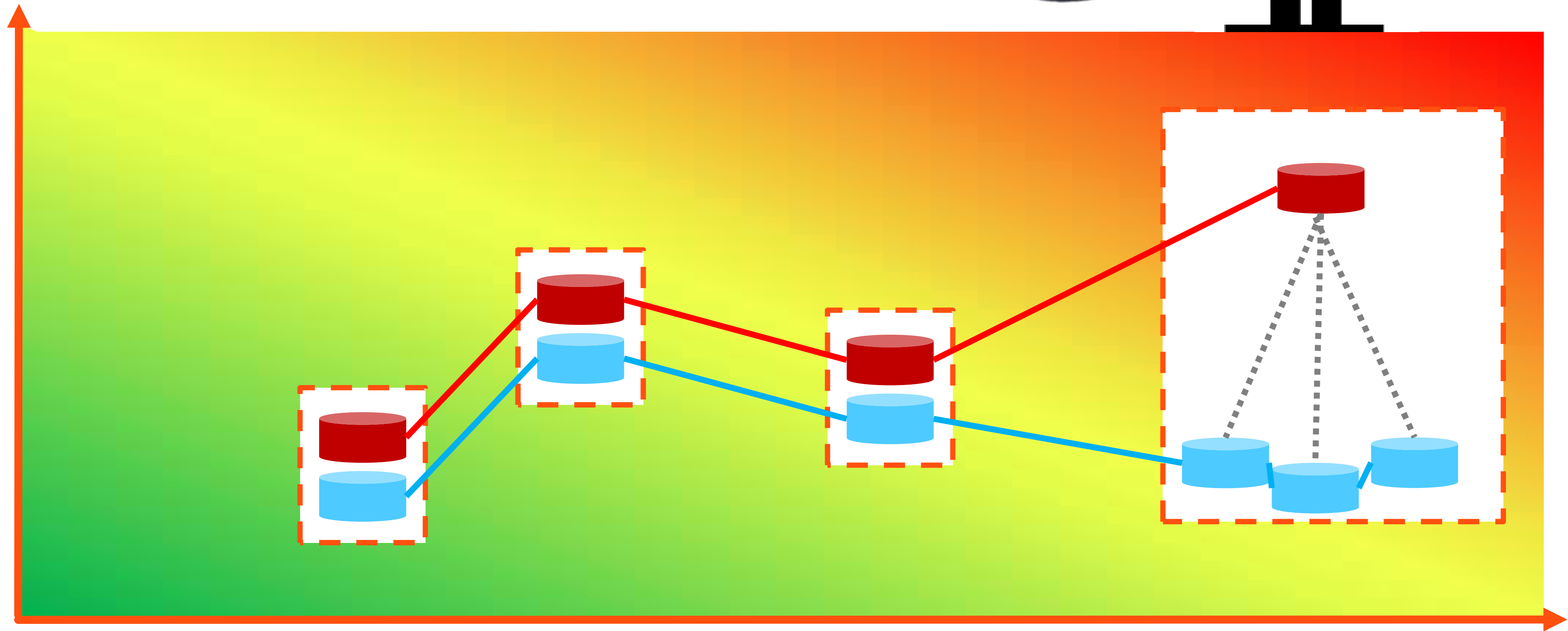
Cloud DCs  
Core

# The **Fluid Networking** landscape



**SW**

**HW**



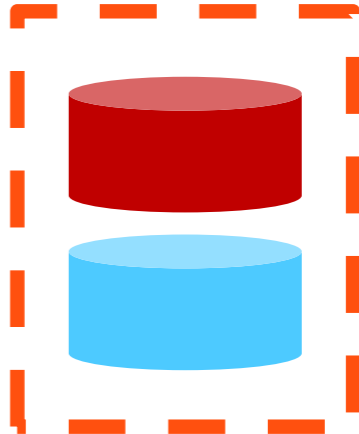
**Customer  
Premises**

**BS MEC - Access Cloud  
Edge - PoP DC**

**Cloud DCs  
Core**

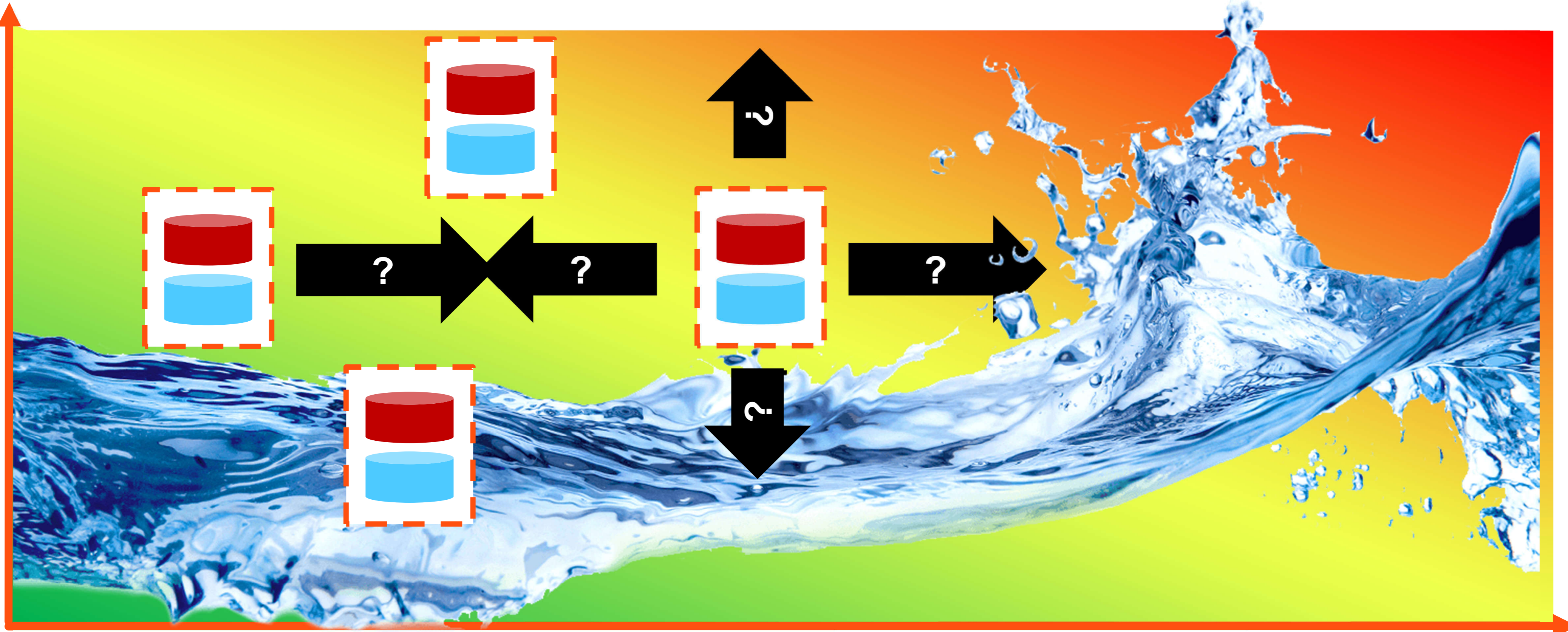


# Fluid Networking @ run-time



SW

HW



Customer  
Premises

BS MEC - Access Cloud - PoP DC  
Edge

Cloud DCs  
Core



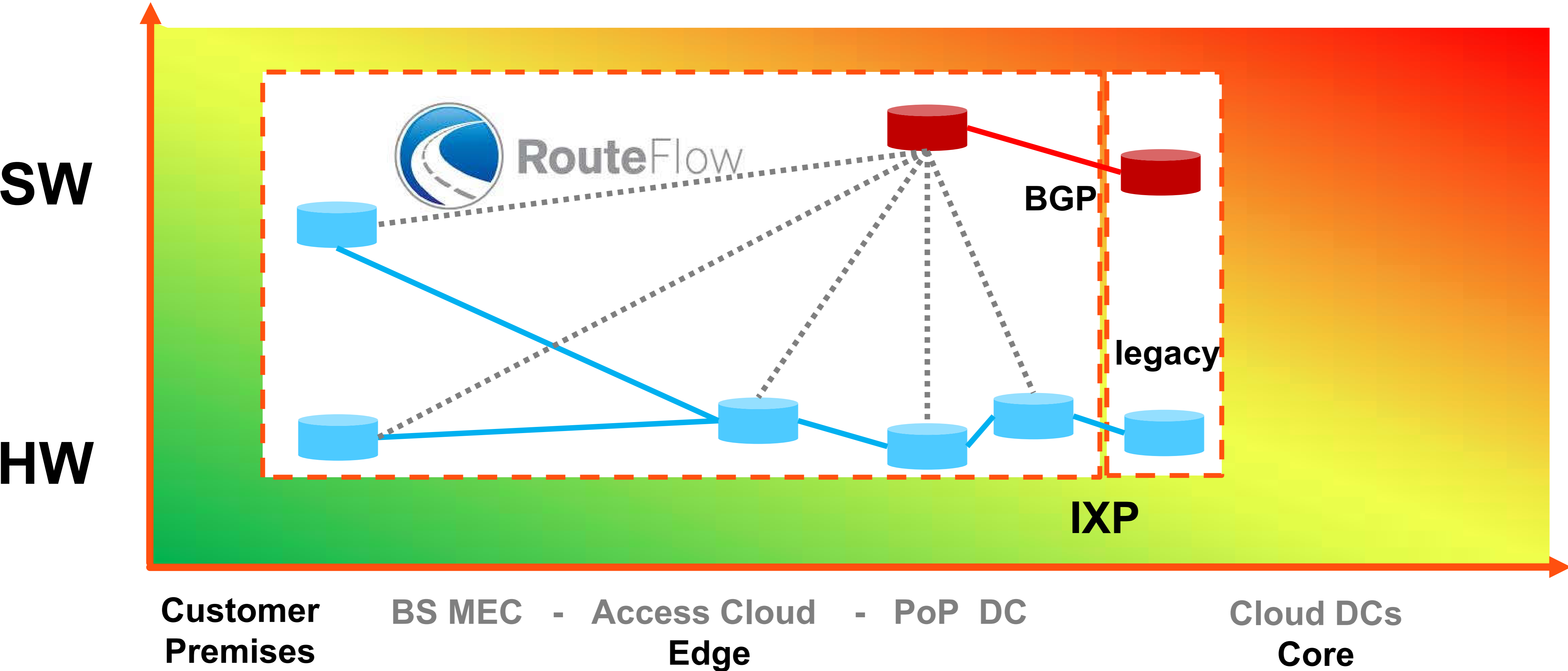


# Instances of **Fluid Network Planes**



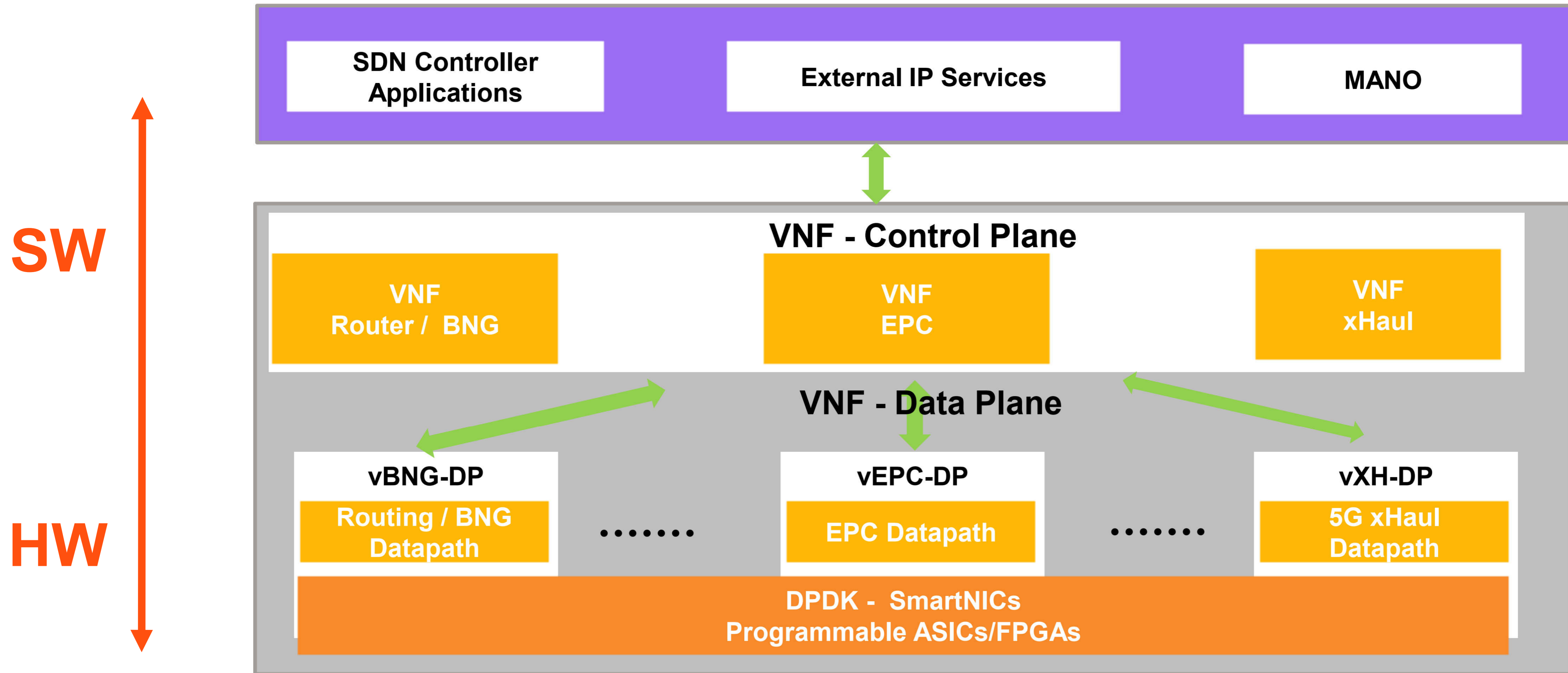


# RouteFlow (2010 - )

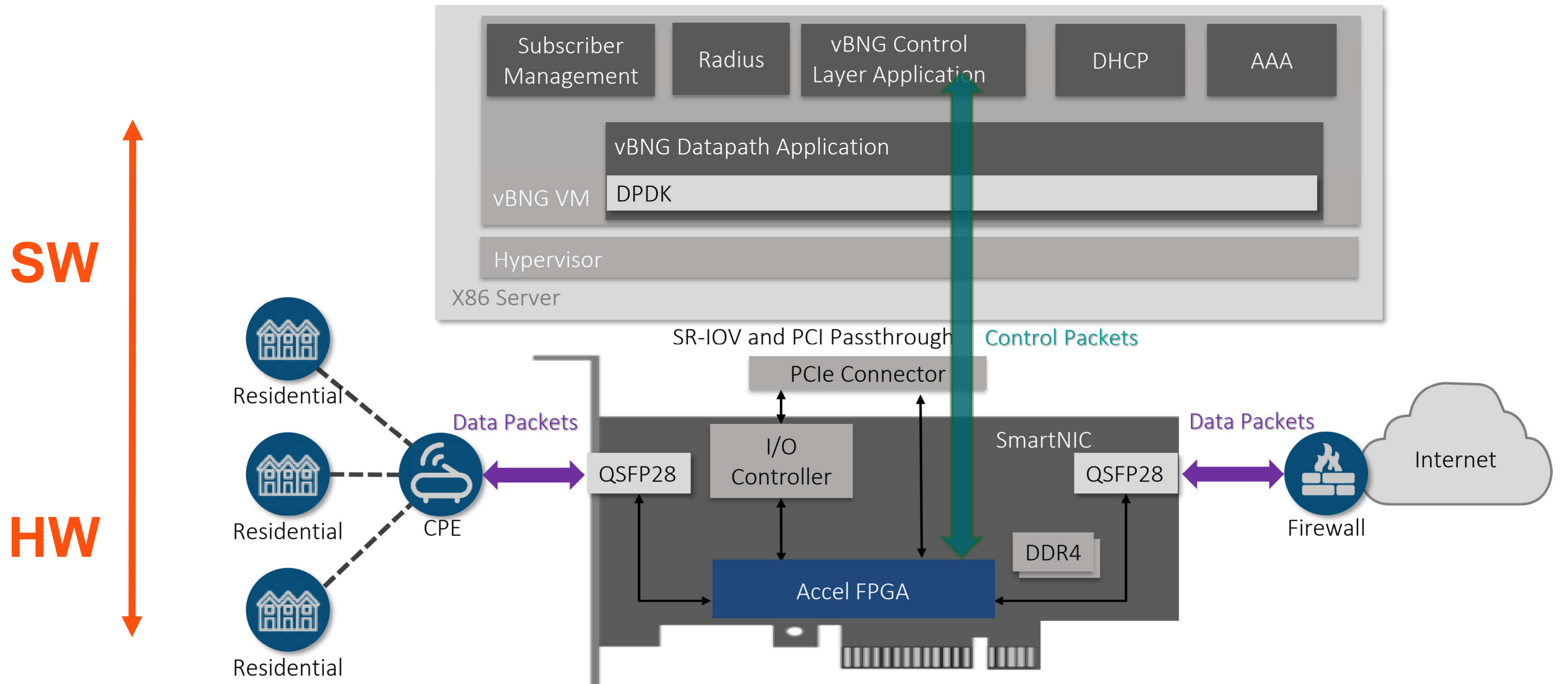




# NFV layers of SW, Virtualization and HW platforms

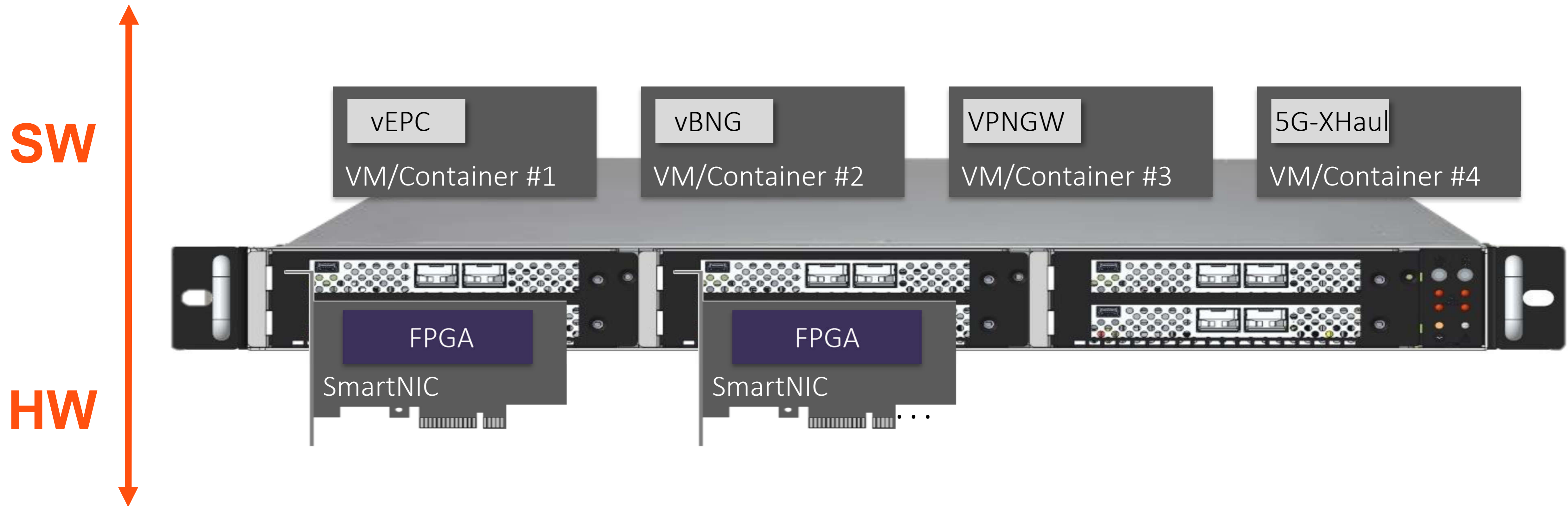


# VNF offloading to Hardware

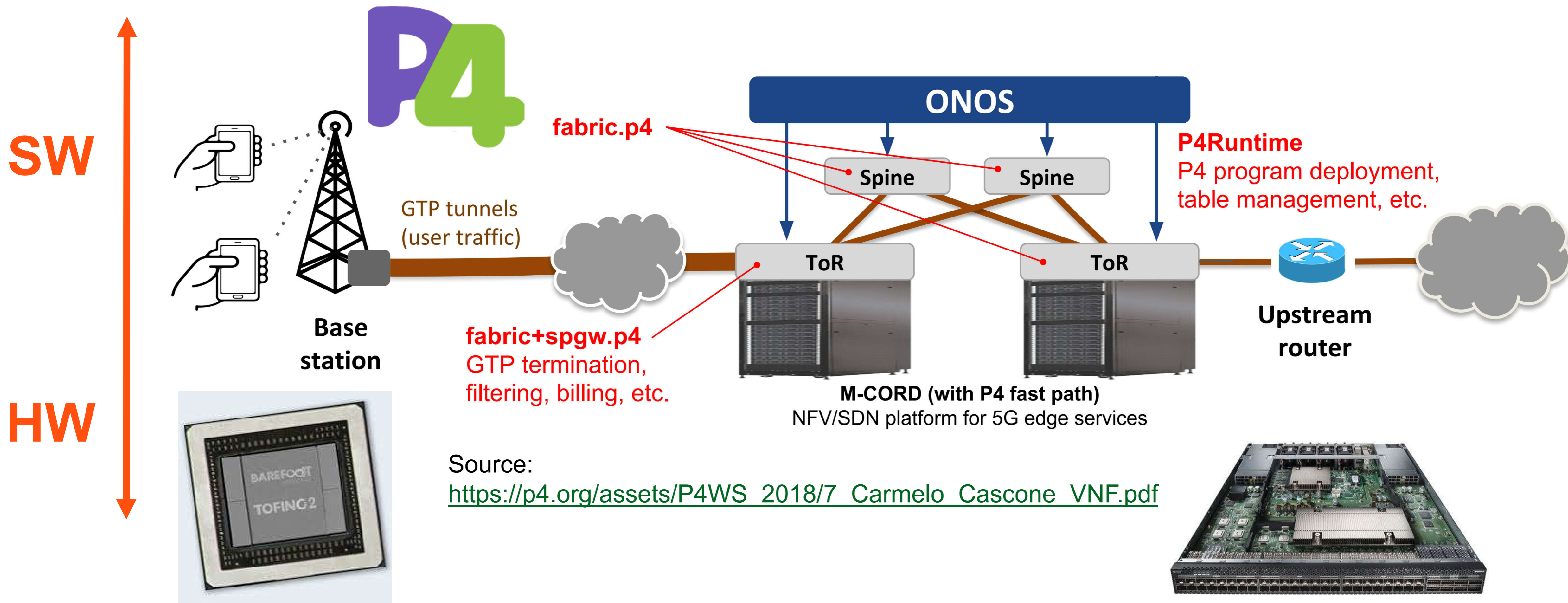




# VNF offloading to Hardware

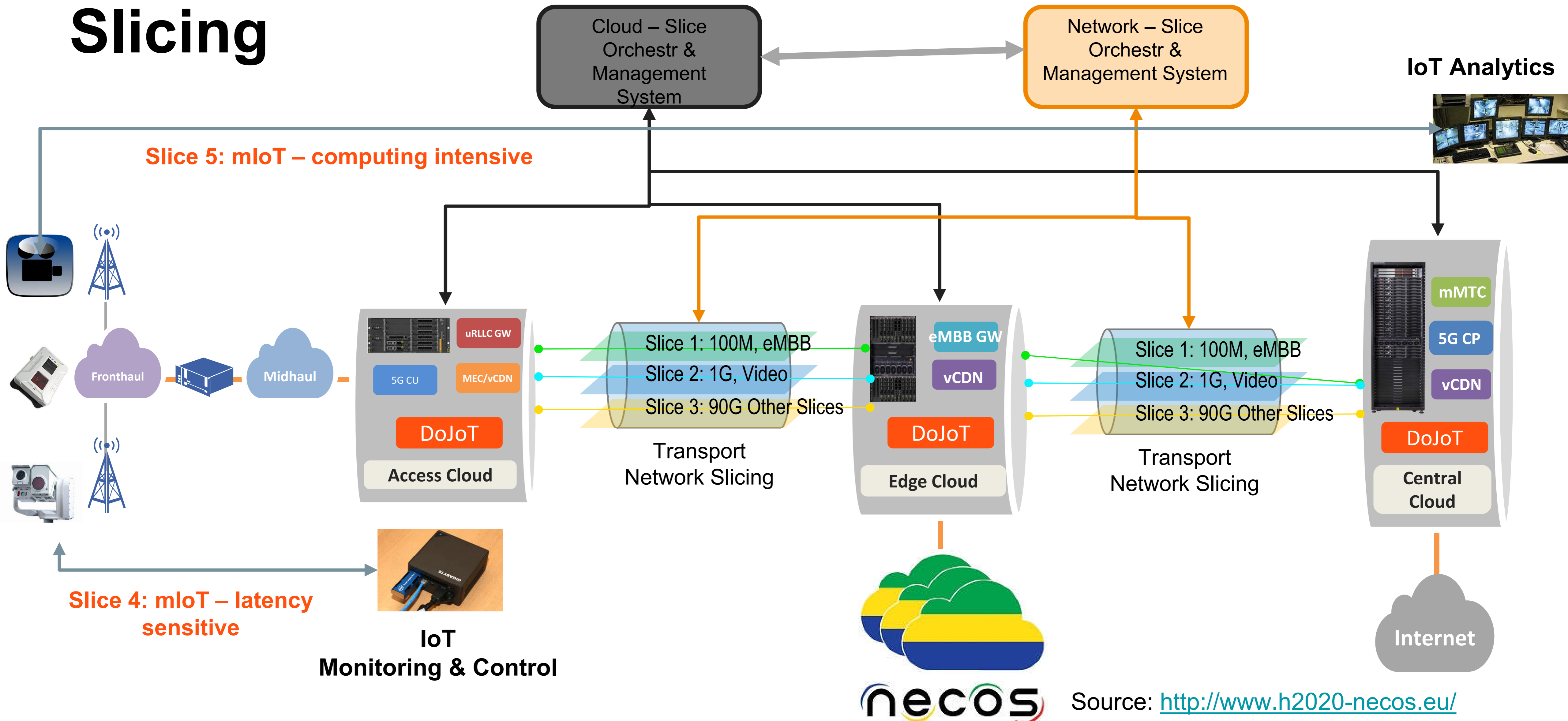


# VNF offloading on multi-vendor P4 fabric controlled by ONOS via P4Runtime



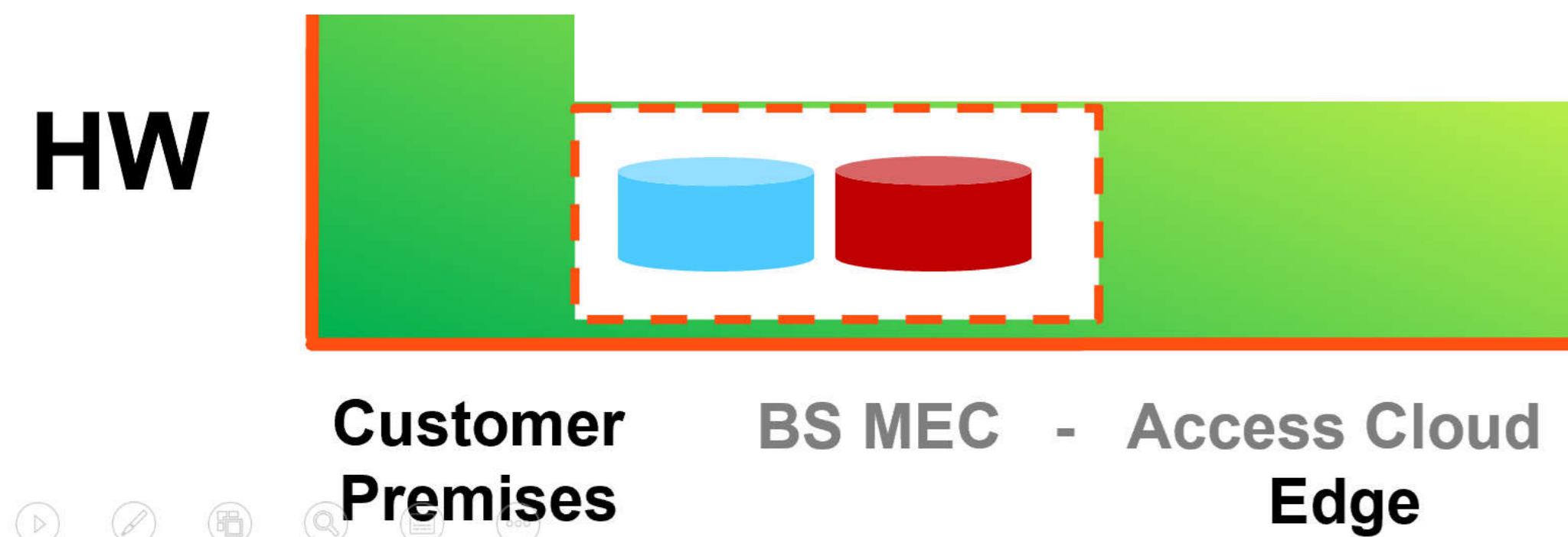


# Slicing



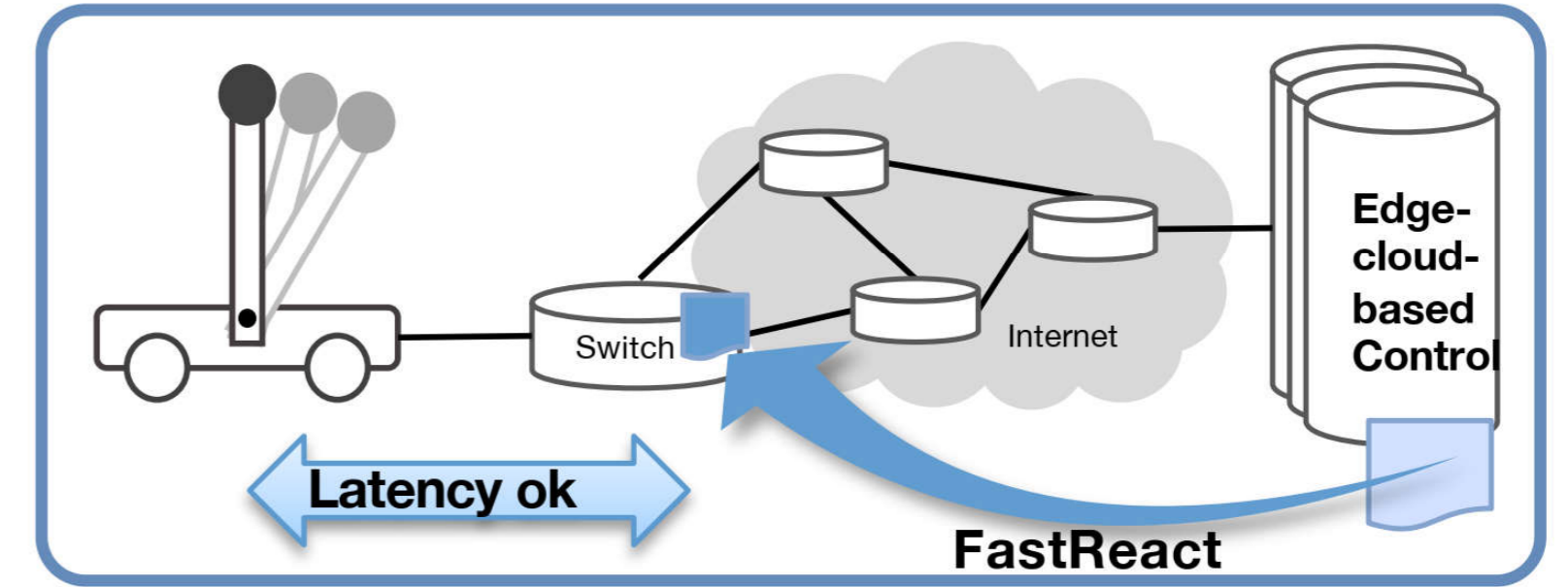
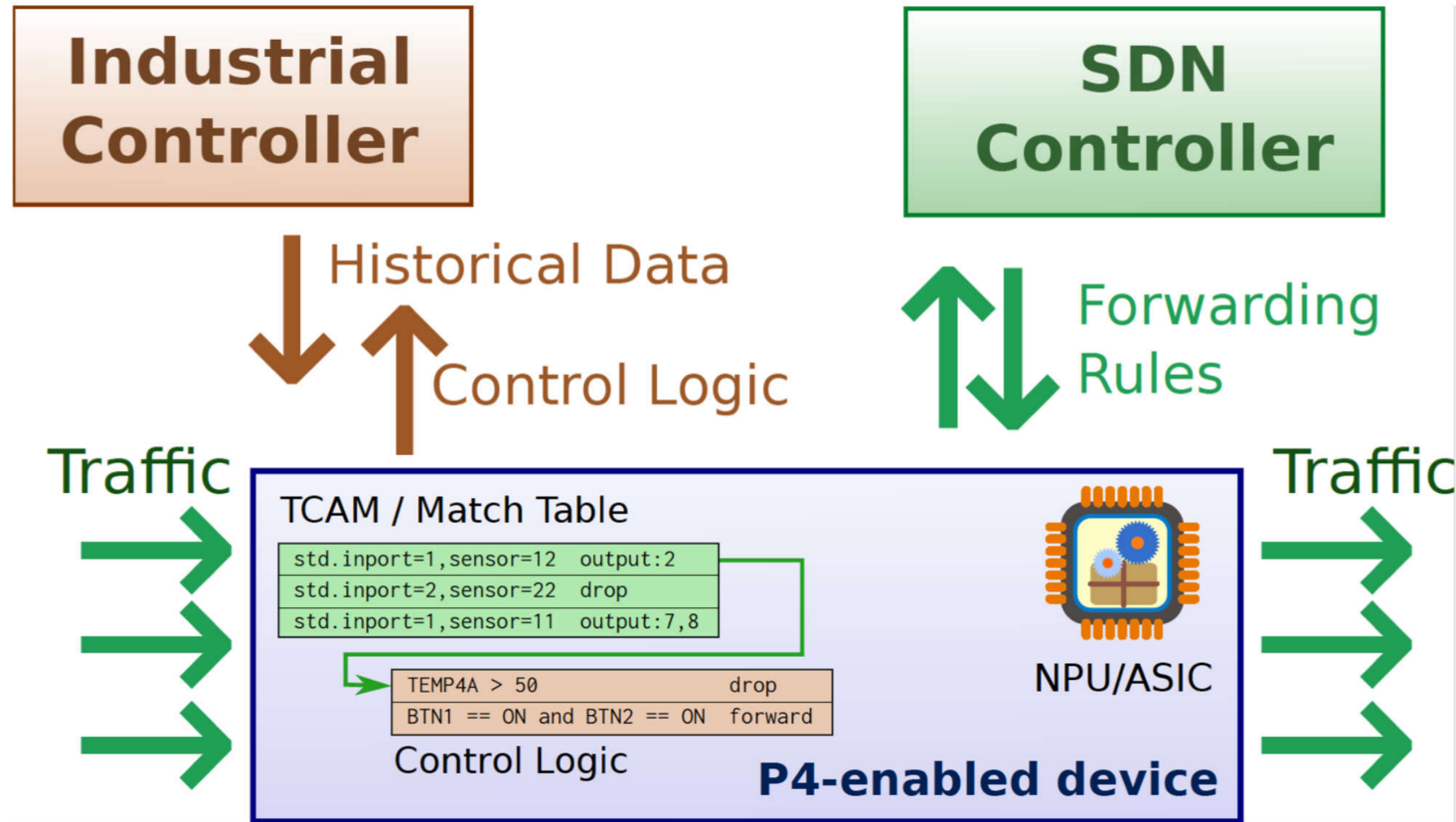
\* D. Ports and J. Nelson. **When Should The Network Be The Computer?**. HotOS'19

**IRTF Computation in the Network (COIN)**



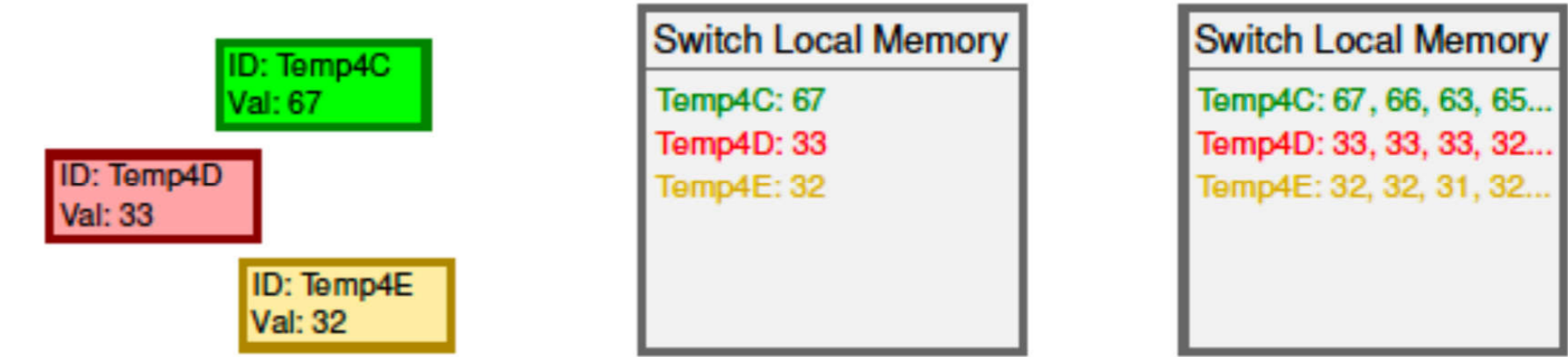


J. Vestin et al. In-Network Control and Caching for Industrial Control Networks using Programmable Data Planes. 2018



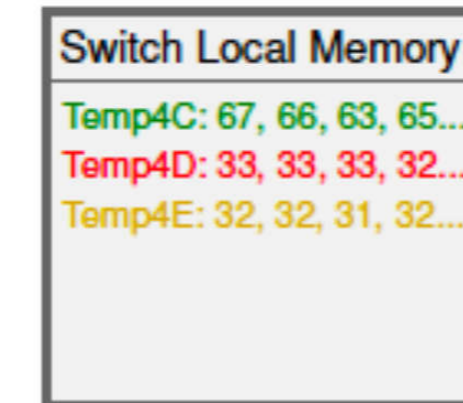
Collect from multiple sensors

Also keep historical values

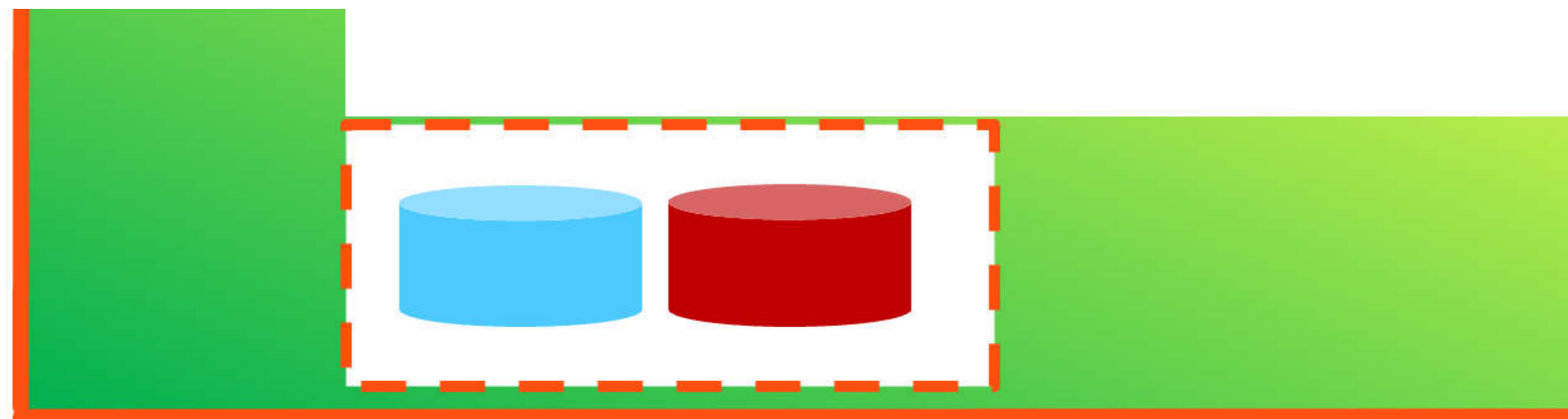


Finally, can use these values to react by sending notifications to actuators without going to industrial controller

if Temp4C > 70: notify actuator



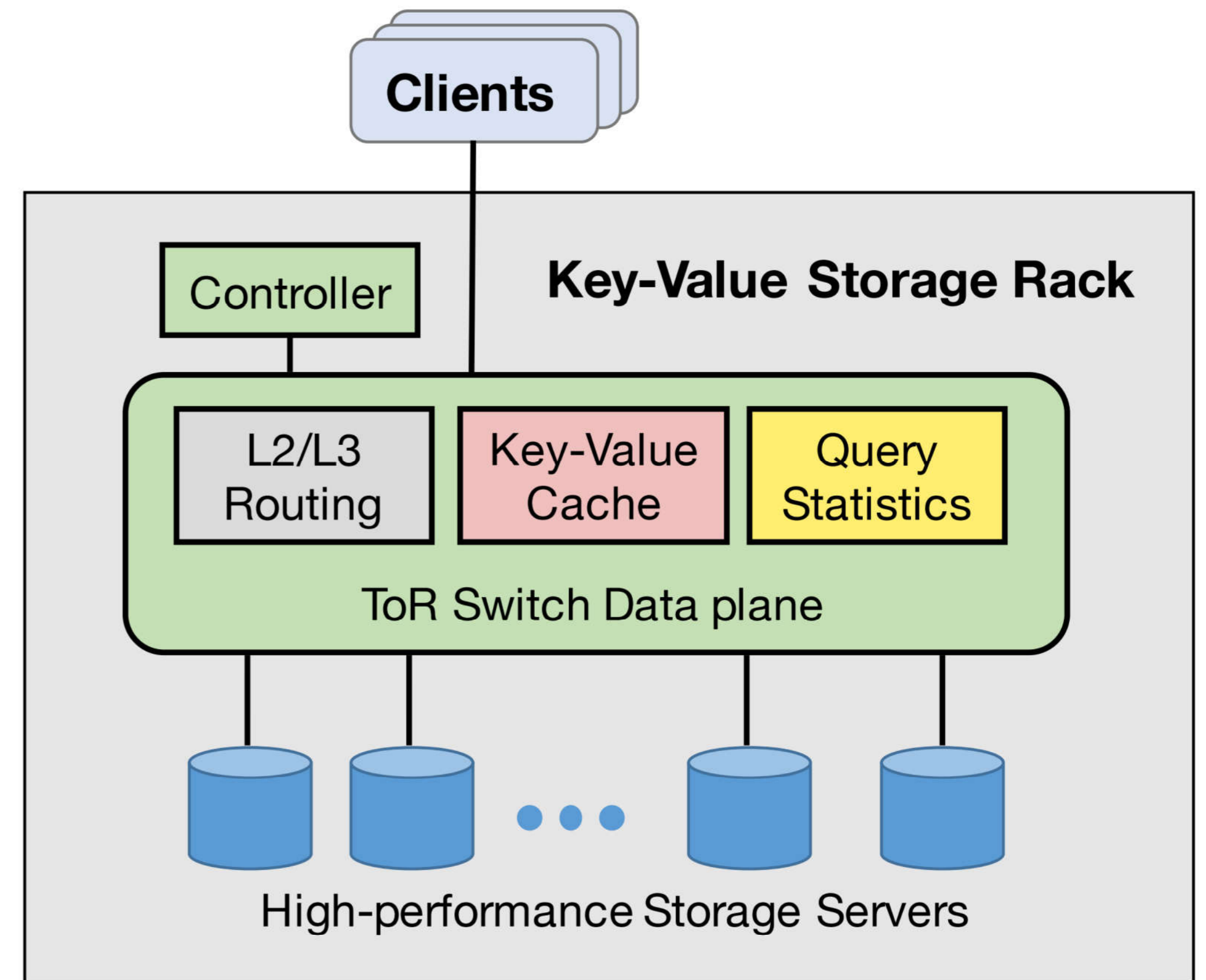
HW



Customer Premises

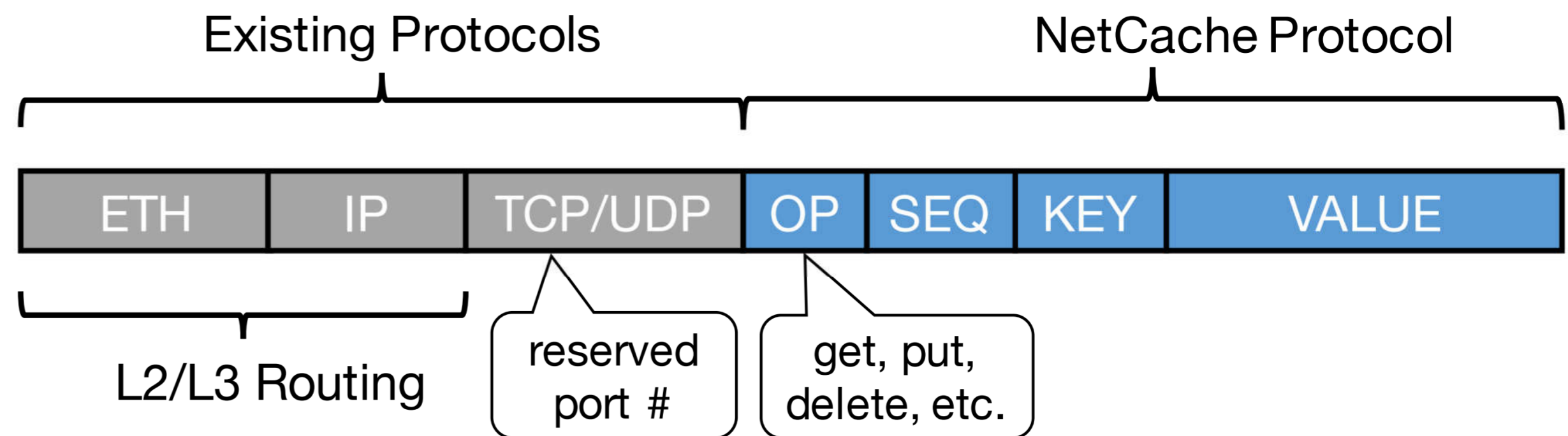
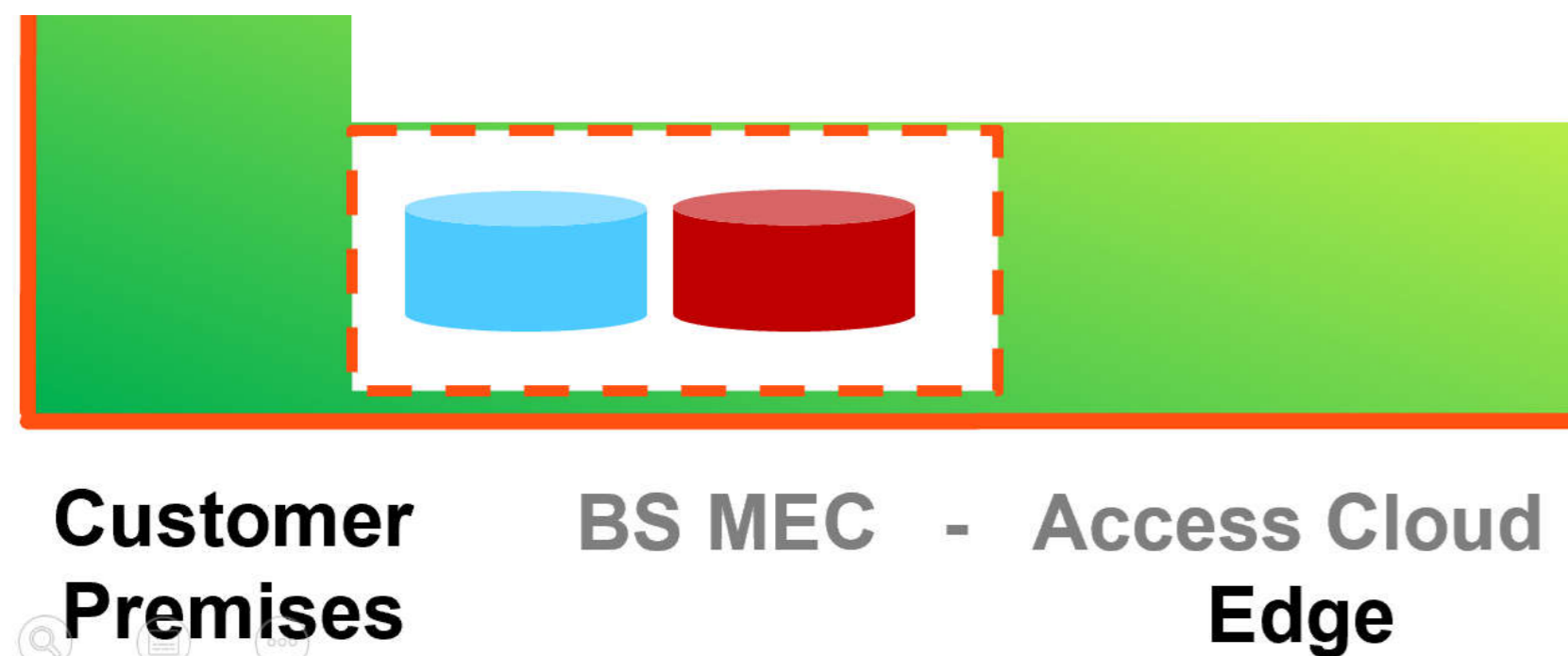
BS MEC - Access Cloud Edge

X. Jin et al. **Netcache: Balancing key-value stores with fast in-network caching.** SOSPP'17

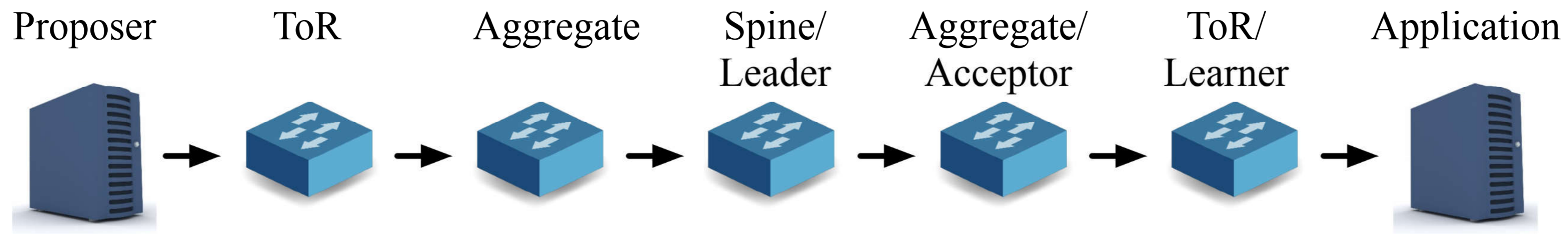


(a) NetCache architecture.

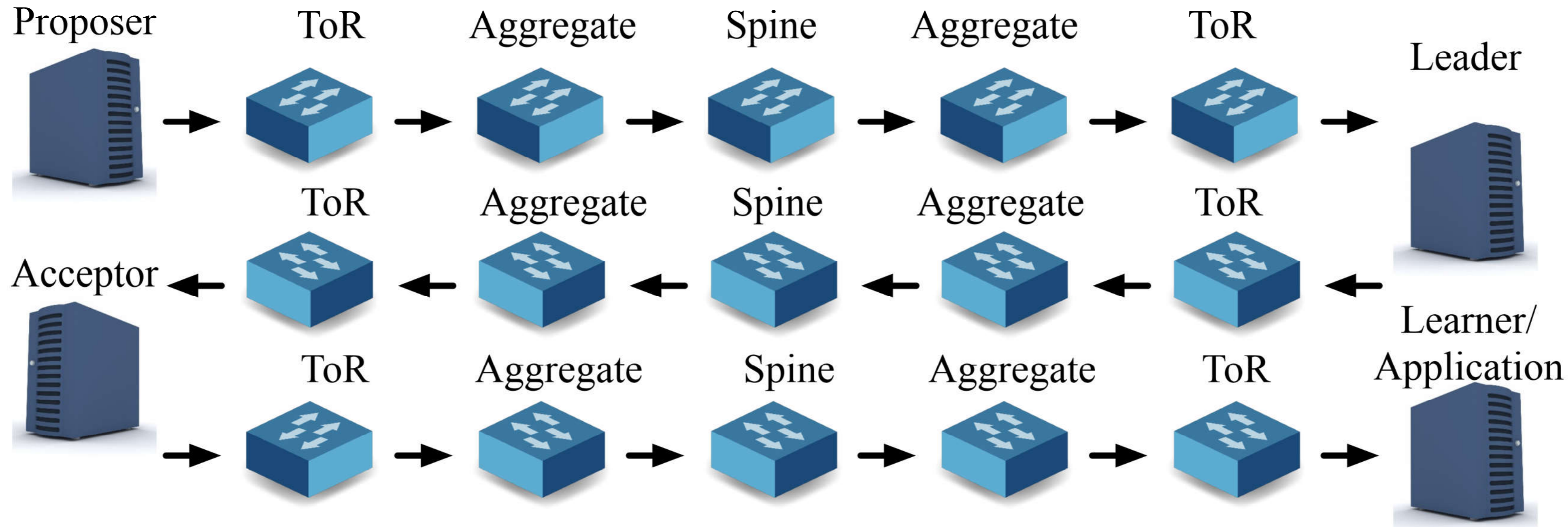
**HW**





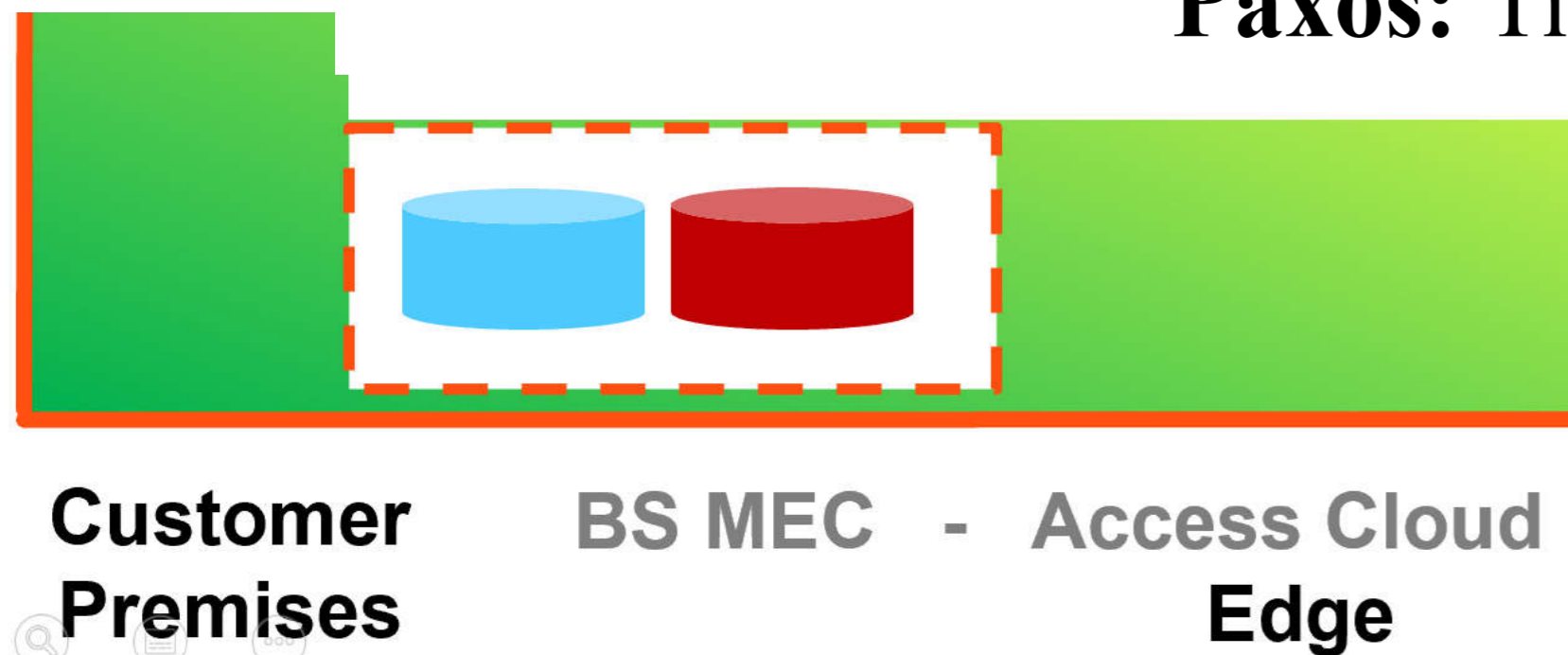


**P4xos:** Time to reach consensus:  $RTT/2$



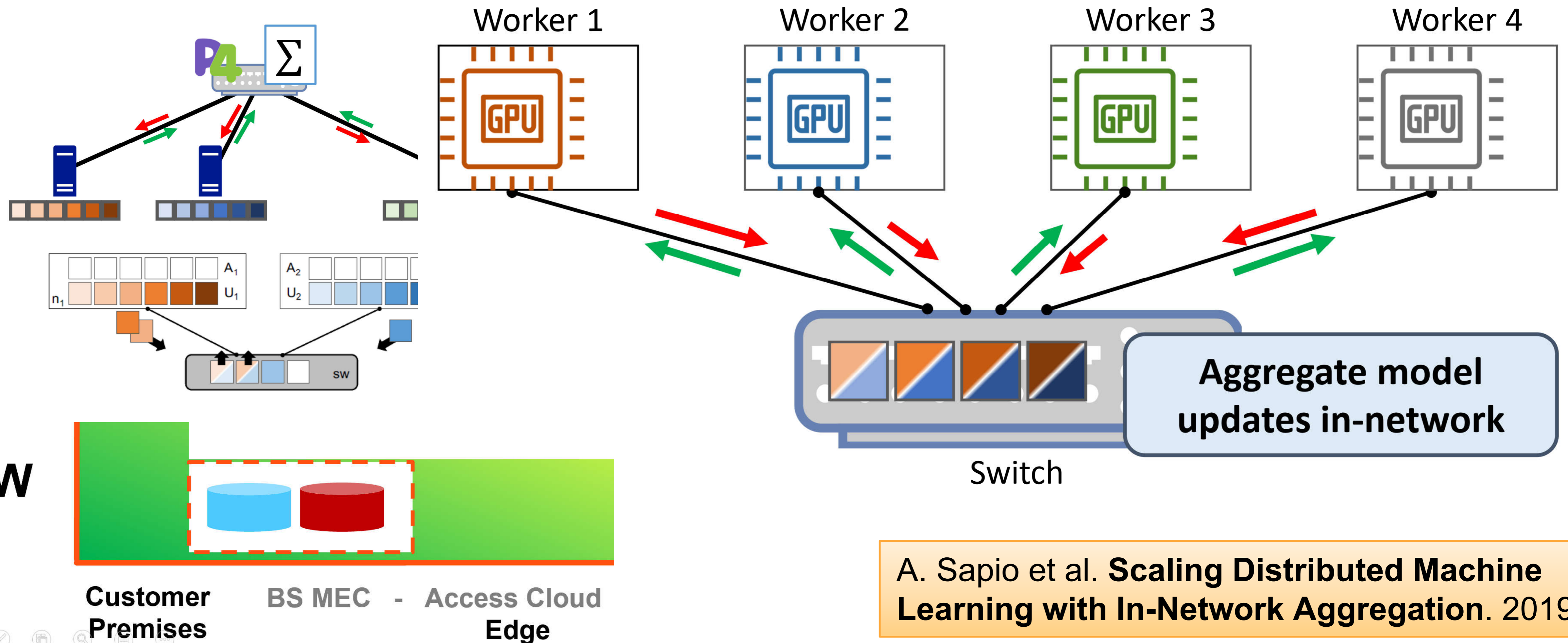
**Paxos:** Time to reach consensus:  $RTT \times 3/2$

HW



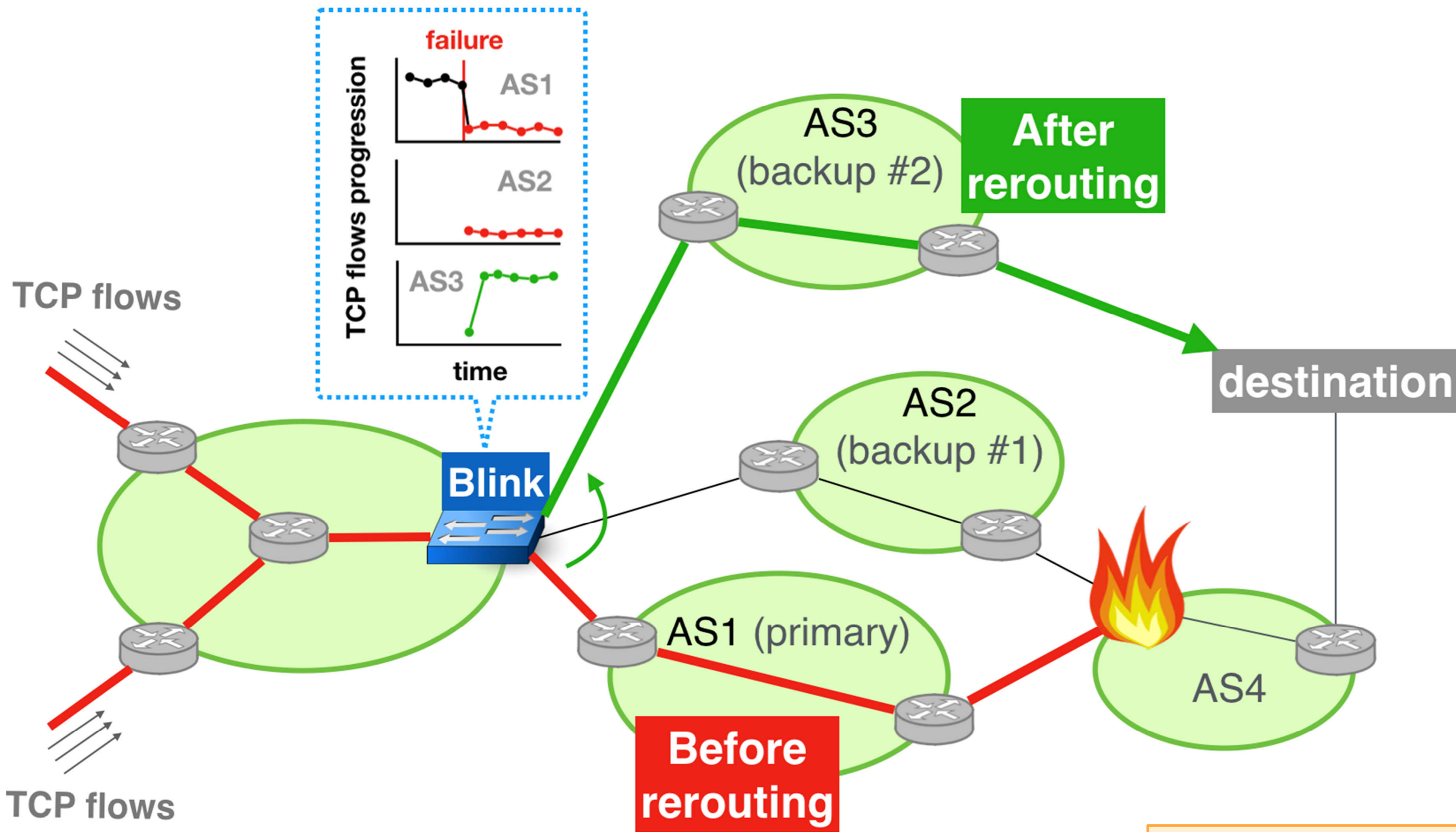
H. Tu Dang et al. **P4xos: Consensus as a Network Service**. 2018

# SwitchML: the network is the ML accelerator

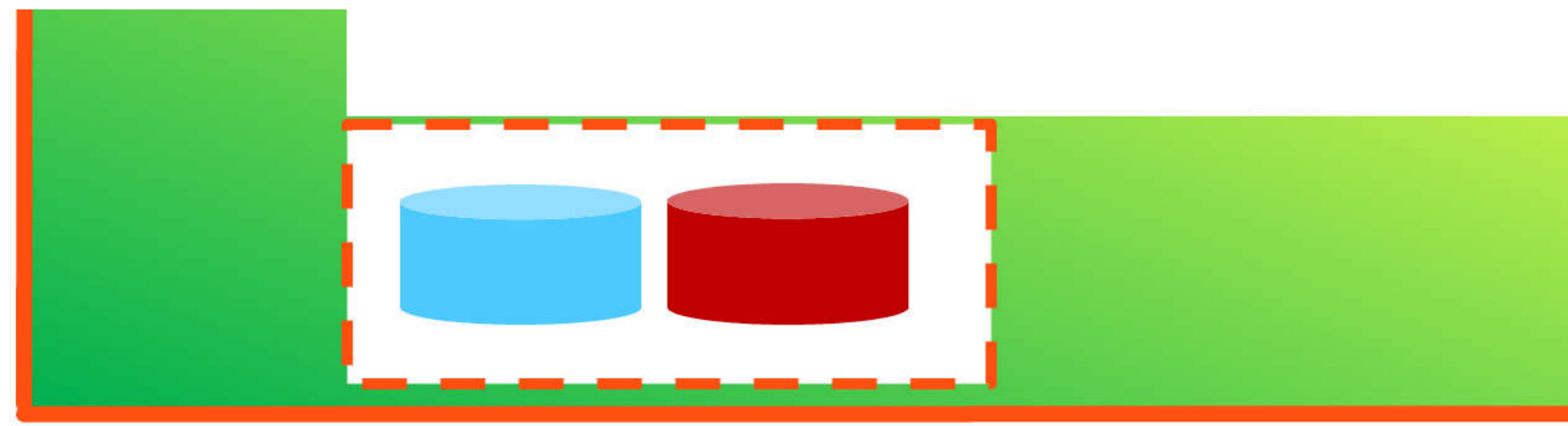


A. Sapiro et al. **Scaling Distributed Machine Learning with In-Network Aggregation**. 2019





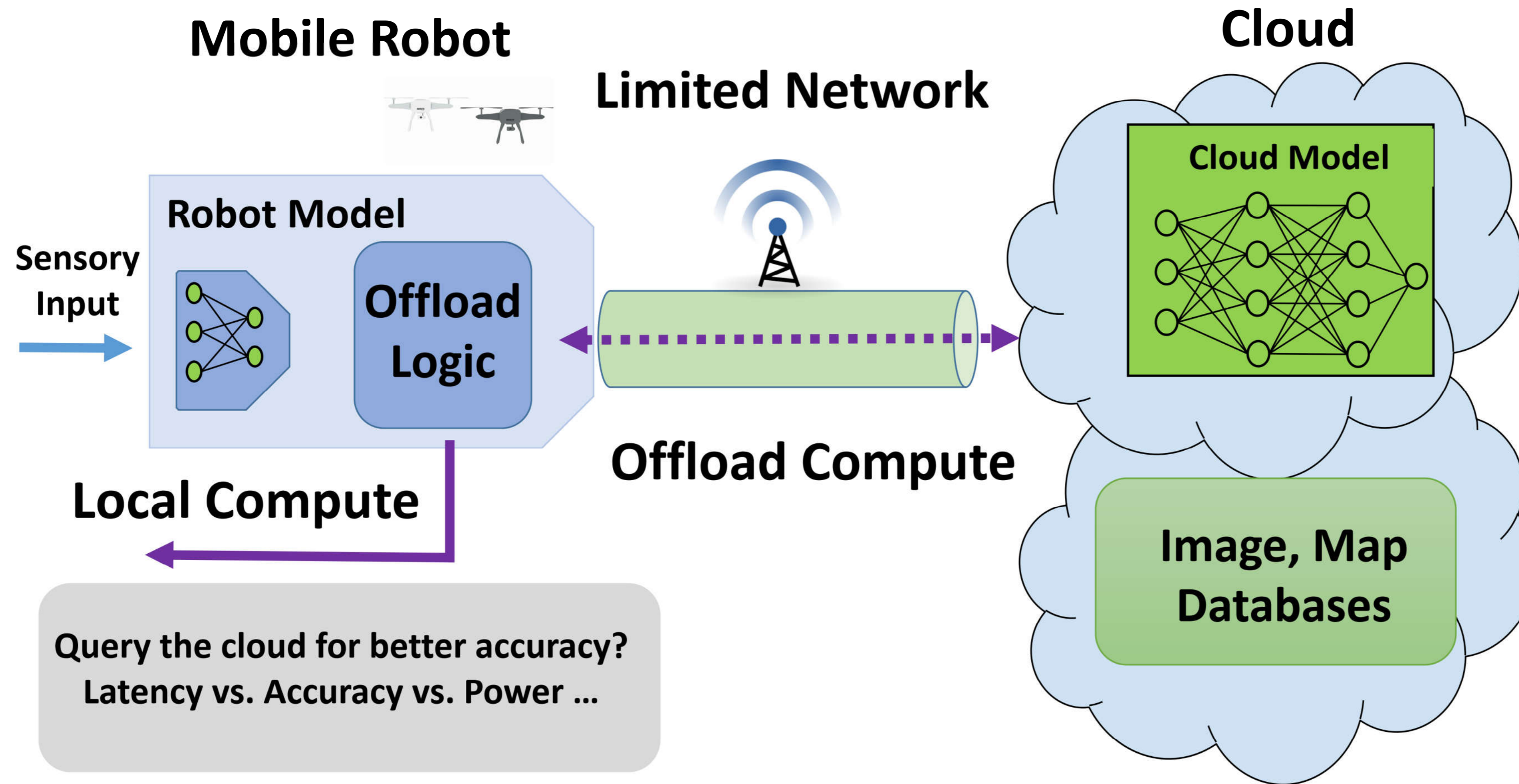
**HW**



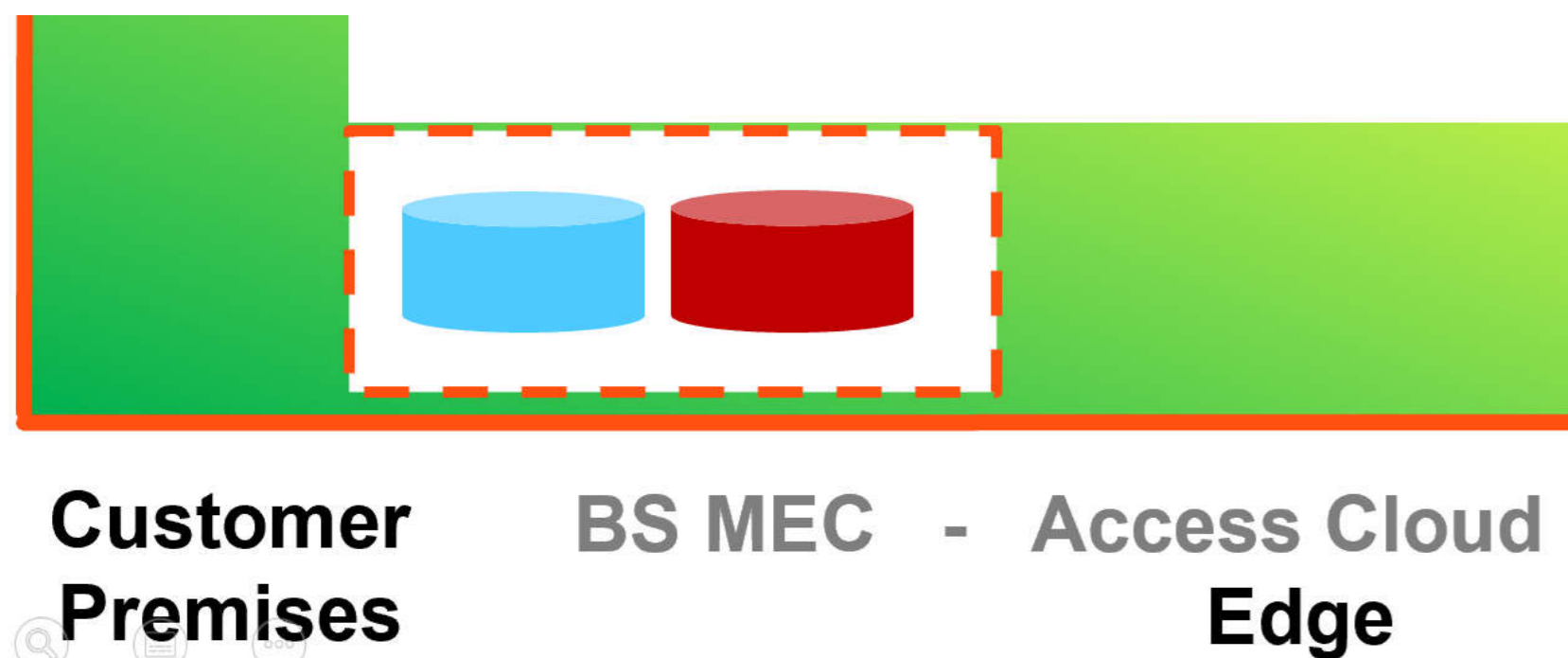
Customer Premises      BS MEC - Access Cloud Edge

\* T. Holterbach et al. **Blink: Fast Connectivity Recovery Entirely in the Data Plane.** NSDI'19

E. Costa Molero et al. **Hardware-Accelerated Network Control Planes.** HotNets'18

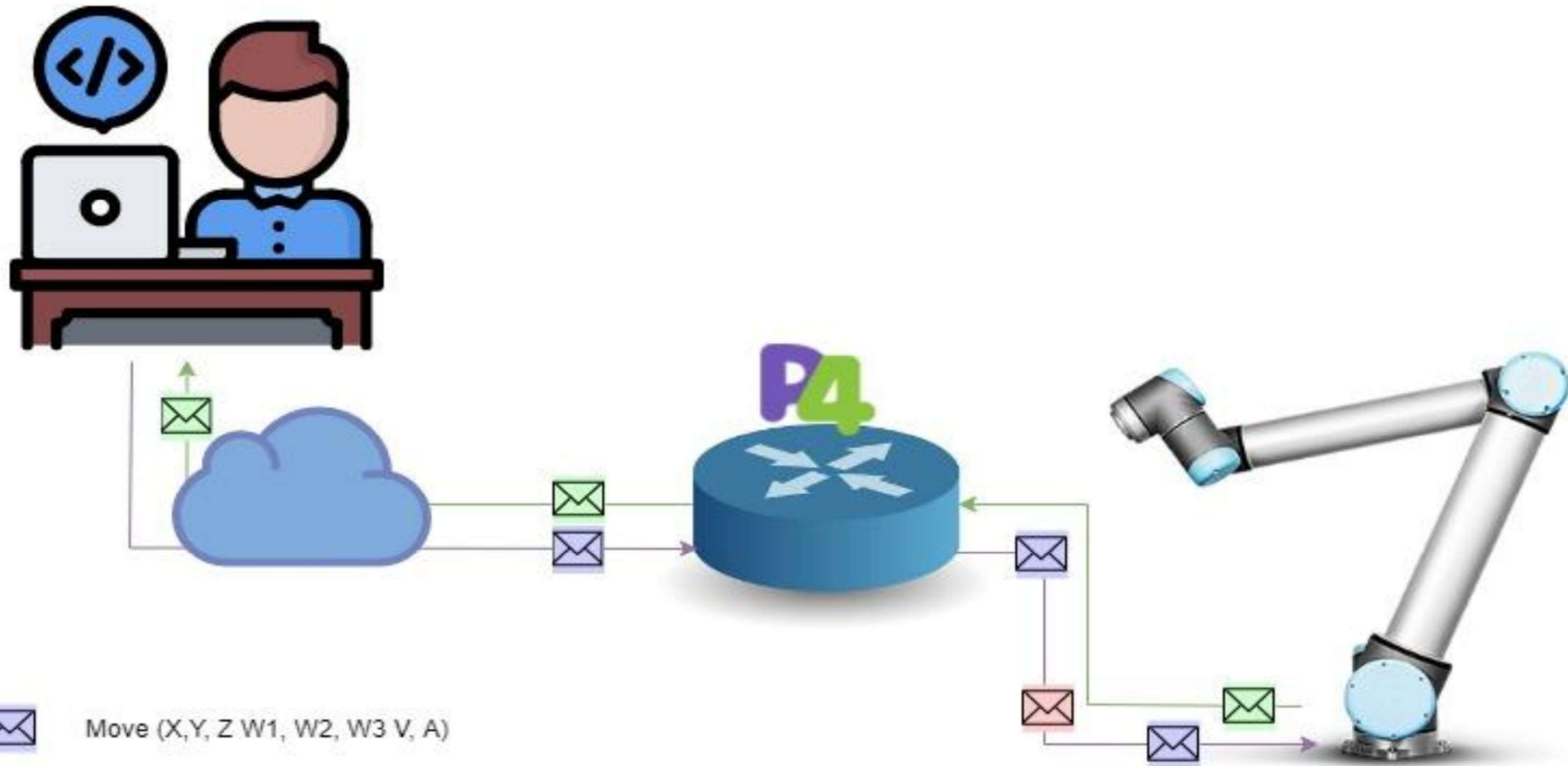




**HW**



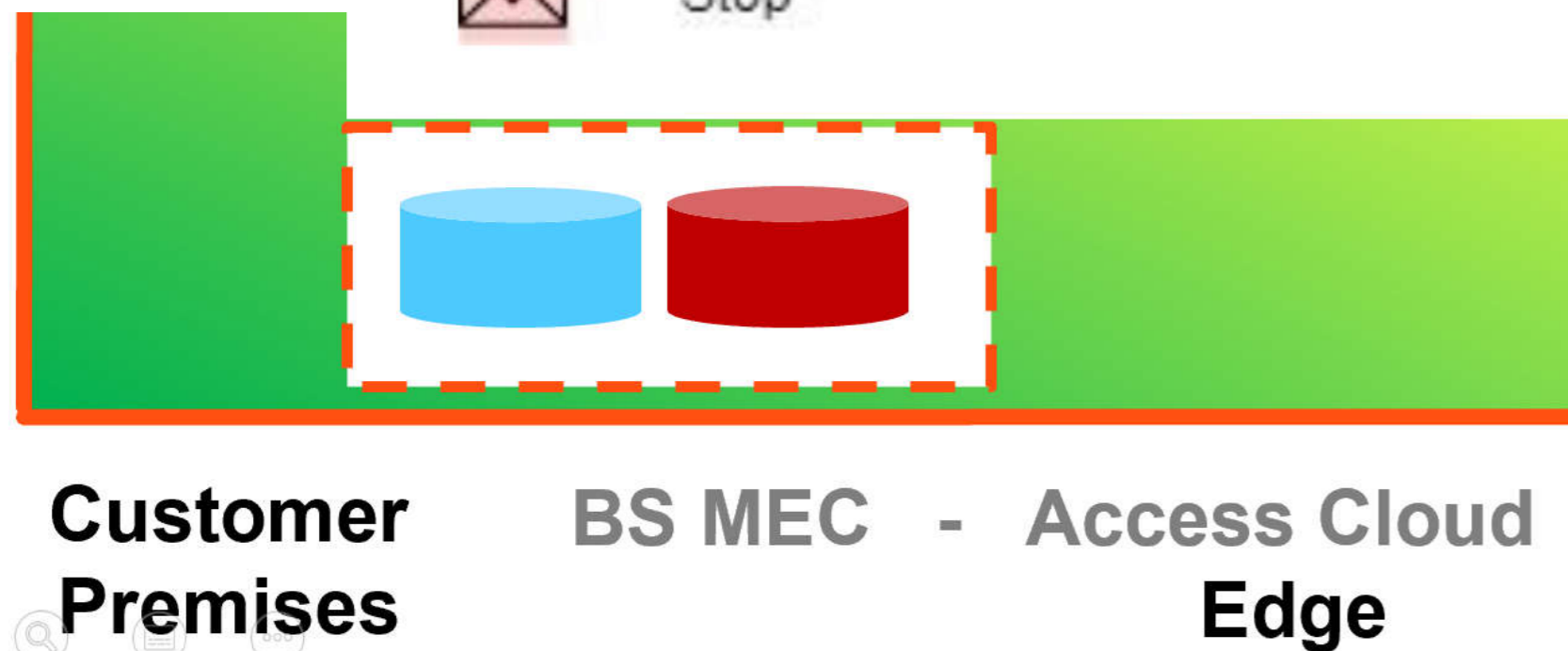
S Chinchali. **Network Offloading Policies for Cloud Robotics: a Learning-based Approach.** <https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.05703>





-  Move (X,Y, Z W1, W2, W3 V, A)
-  Poss (X,Y, Z W1, W2, W3 V, A)
-  Stop

HW



**INTRIG**

INFORMATION & NETWORKING  
TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION GROUP

**ERICSSON**

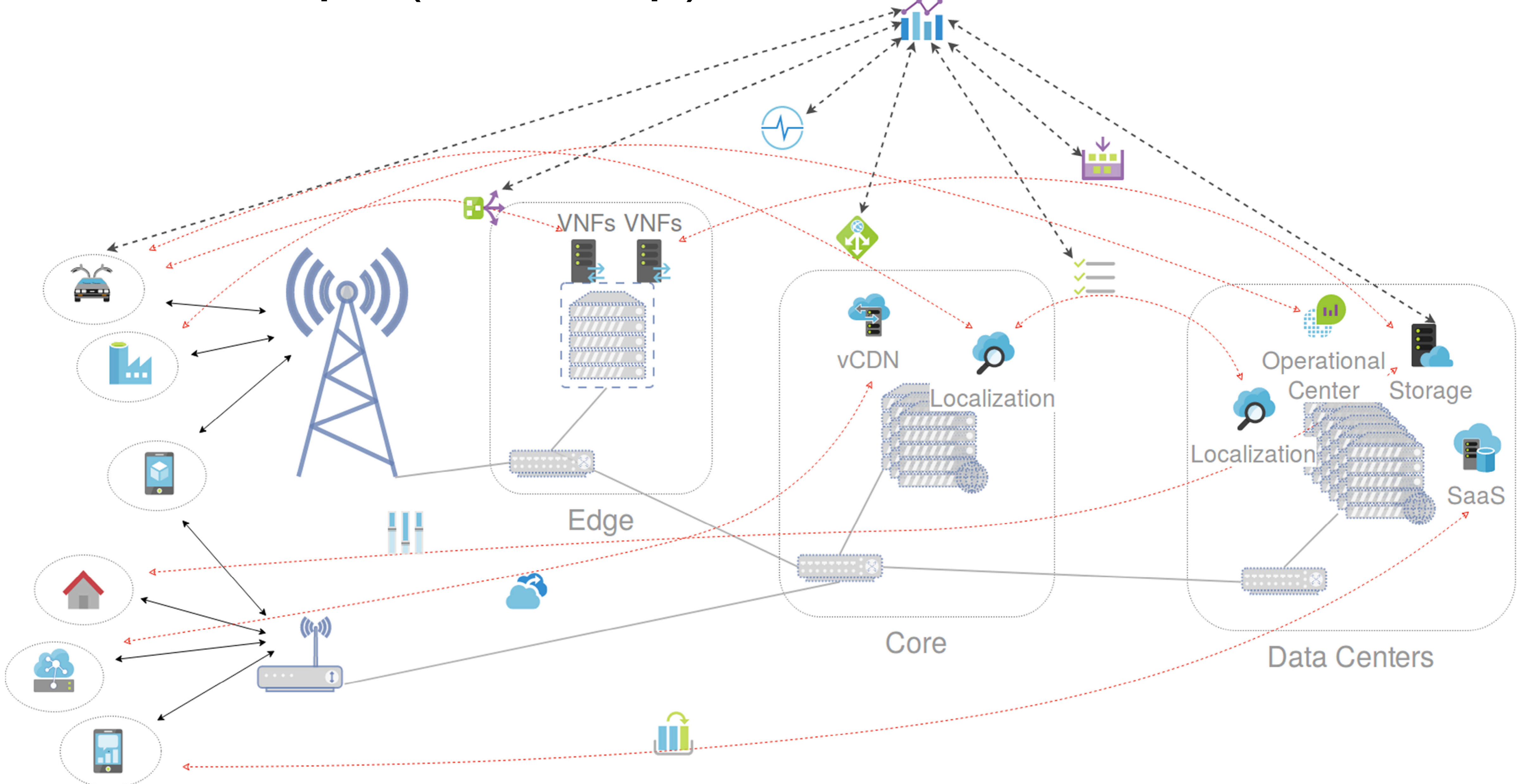


**UNICAMP**



# Control Loops (in a Loop)

Control Loop  
Aggregation for  
Hyperparameters resolution





# References

- Kaljic, Enio, et al. "A Survey on Data Plane Flexibility and Programmability in Software-Defined Networking." arXiv preprint arXiv:1903.04678 (2019).
- L. Linguaglossa et al., "Survey of Performance Acceleration Techniques for Network Function Virtualization," in Proceedings of the IEEE, vol. 107, no. 4, pp. 746-764, April 2019.
- Edgar Costa Molero, Stefano Vissicchio, and Laurent Vanbever. 2018. Hardware-Accelerated Network Control Planes. In Proceedings of the 17th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (HotNets '18). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 120-126.
- Huynh Tu Dang, Marco Canini, Fernando Pedone, and Robert Soulé. "Paxos Made Switch-y." In ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review (CCR). April 2016.
- JIN, Xin et al. Netcache: Balancing key-value stores with fast in-network caching. In: Proceedings of the 26th Symposium on Operating Systems Principles. ACM, 2017
- Yuta Tokusashi, Huynh Tu Dang, Fernando Pedone, Robert Soulé, and Noa Zilberman. "The Case For In-Network Computing On Demand." In European Conference on Computer Systems (EuroSYS). March 2019.

# References

- D. Ports and J. Nelson. When Should The Network Be The Computer?. In Proceedings of the Workshop on Hot Topics in Operating Systems (HotOS '19)
- Atul Adya, Robert Grandl, Daniel Myers, and Henry Qin. 2019. Fast key-value stores: An idea whose time has come and gone. In Proceedings of the Workshop on Hot Topics in Operating Systems (HotOS '19)
- Theophilus A. Benson. 2019. In-Network Compute: Considered Armed and Dangerous. In Proceedings of the Workshop on Hot Topics in Operating Systems (HotOS '19)
- Theo Jepsen, Daniel Alvarez, Nate Foster, Changhoon Kim, Jeongkeun Lee, Masoud Moshref, and Robert Soulé. 2019. Fast String Searching on PISA. In Proceedings of the 2019 ACM Symposium on SDN Research (SOSR '19)
- Thomas Holterbach, Edgar Costa Molero, Maria Apostolaki, Alberto Dainotti, Stefano Vissicchio, Laurent Vanbever. Blink: Fast Connectivity Recovery Entirely in the Data Plane. NSDI 2019.
- A. Sapio, M. Canini, C.-Y. Ho, J. Nelson, P. Kalnis, C. Kim, A. Krishnamurthy, M. Moshref, D. R. K. Ports, P. Richtarik. Scaling Distributed Machine Learning with In-Network Aggregation. KAUST technical report, Feb 2019



# References

- A. Sapiro et al. Scaling Distributed Machine Learning with In-Network Aggregation. 2019.
- Huynh Tu Dang, Pietro Bressana, Han Wang, Ki Suh Lee, Hakim Weatherspoon, Marco Canini, Fernando Pedone, Noa Zilberman, Robert Soulé, "P4xos: Consensus as a Network Service", Tech Report, University of Lugano 2018/01, May 2018
- H. Tu Dang et al. P4xos: Consensus as a Network Service. 2018
- Raphael Rosa and Christian Esteve Rothenberg. "The Pandora of Network Slicing: A Multi-Criteria Analysis". ETT. 2019
- J. Vestin, A. Kassler, J. Åkerberg, FastReact: In-Network Control and Caching for Industrial Control Networks using Programmable Data Planes. In 2018 IEEE 23rd International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation September 4th - 7th, 2018, Torino, Italy.

# Credits

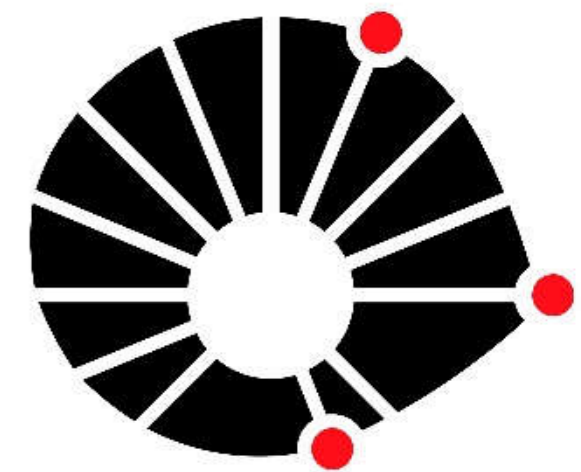
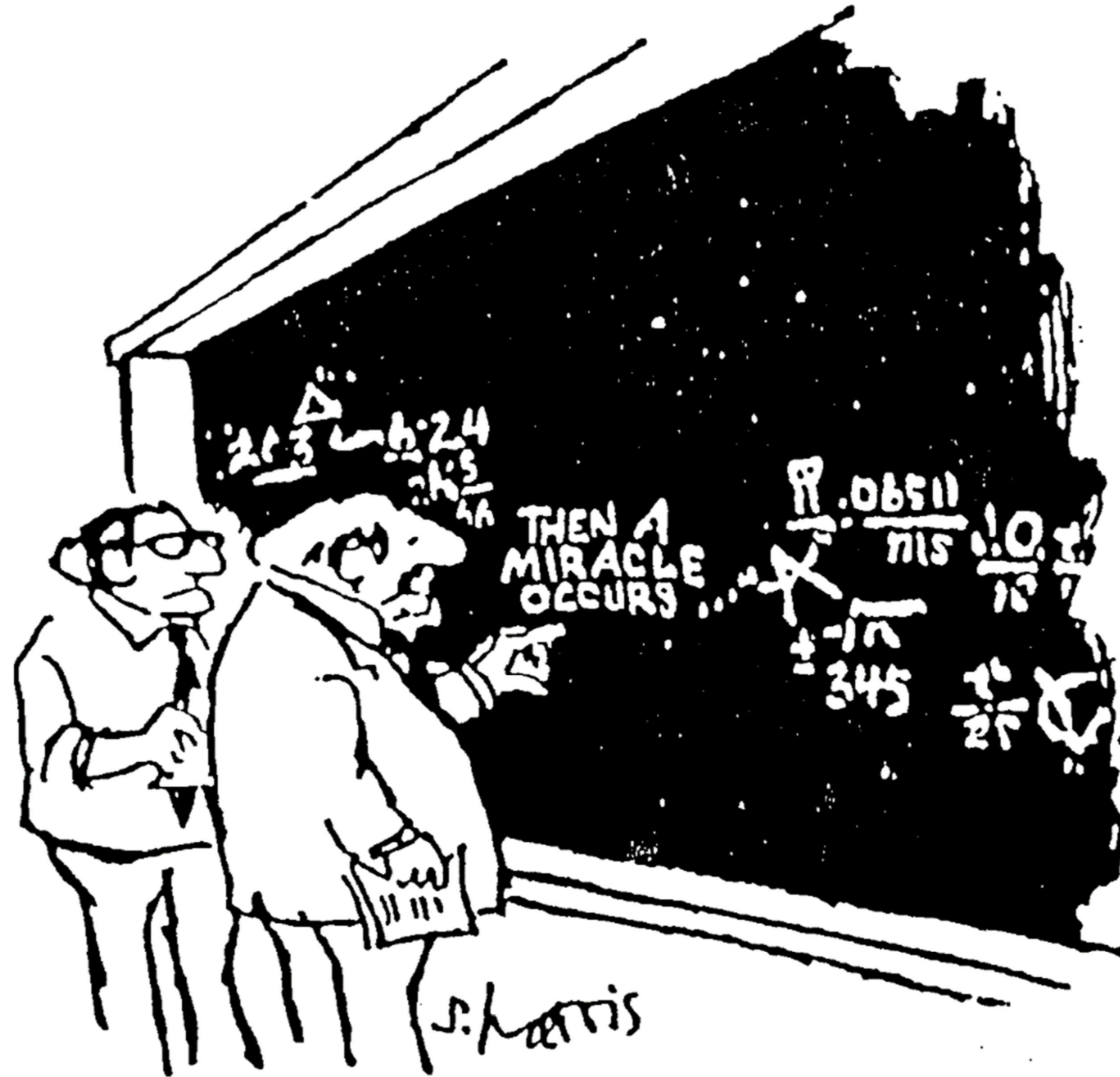
- <http://www2.technologyreview.com/article/412194/tr10-software-defined-networking/>
- Fluid 1 image source: <https://www.trzcacak.rs/detail/199233/>
- Fluid 2 image source: <http://www.pngall.com/water-png/download/1933>
- Intelligent Brain image source: <https://ui-ex.com/explore/transparent-brain-artificial-intelligence/>
- Orchestrator image source: <https://apievangelist.com/2015/02/06/when-you-are-ready-for-nuanced-discussion-about-who-has-access-to-your-api-i-am-here/>
- Poison image source: <https://www.stickpng.com/cat/miscellaneous/poison?page=1>





Merci!

Questions?



UNICAMP



INFORMATION & NETWORKING  
TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION GROUP



**BACKUP**



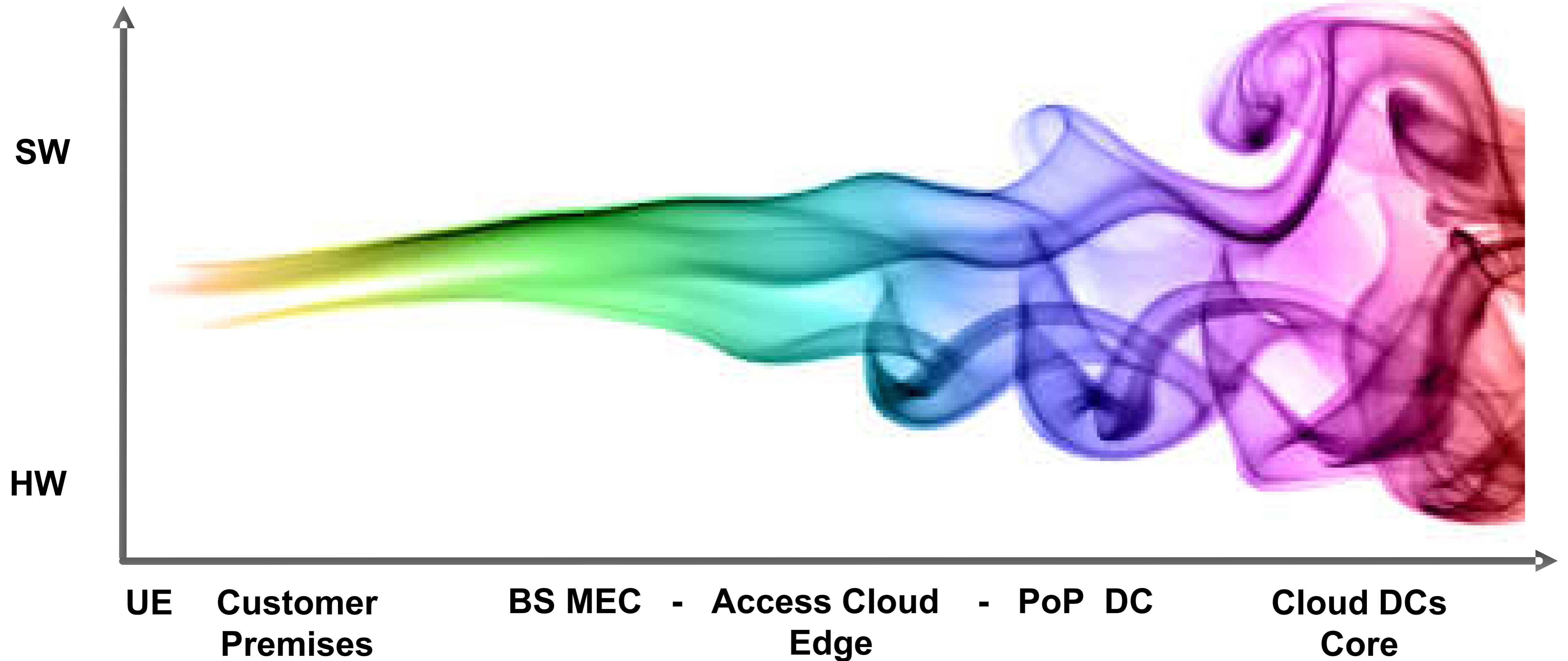
# Flexibility

- M. He et al. “Flexibility in Softwarized Networks: Classifications and Research Challenges”

TABLE II  
TECHNICAL CONCEPTS AND THEIR SUPPORT OF FLEXIBILITY IN NETWORKS. (✓: MAIN TARGET)

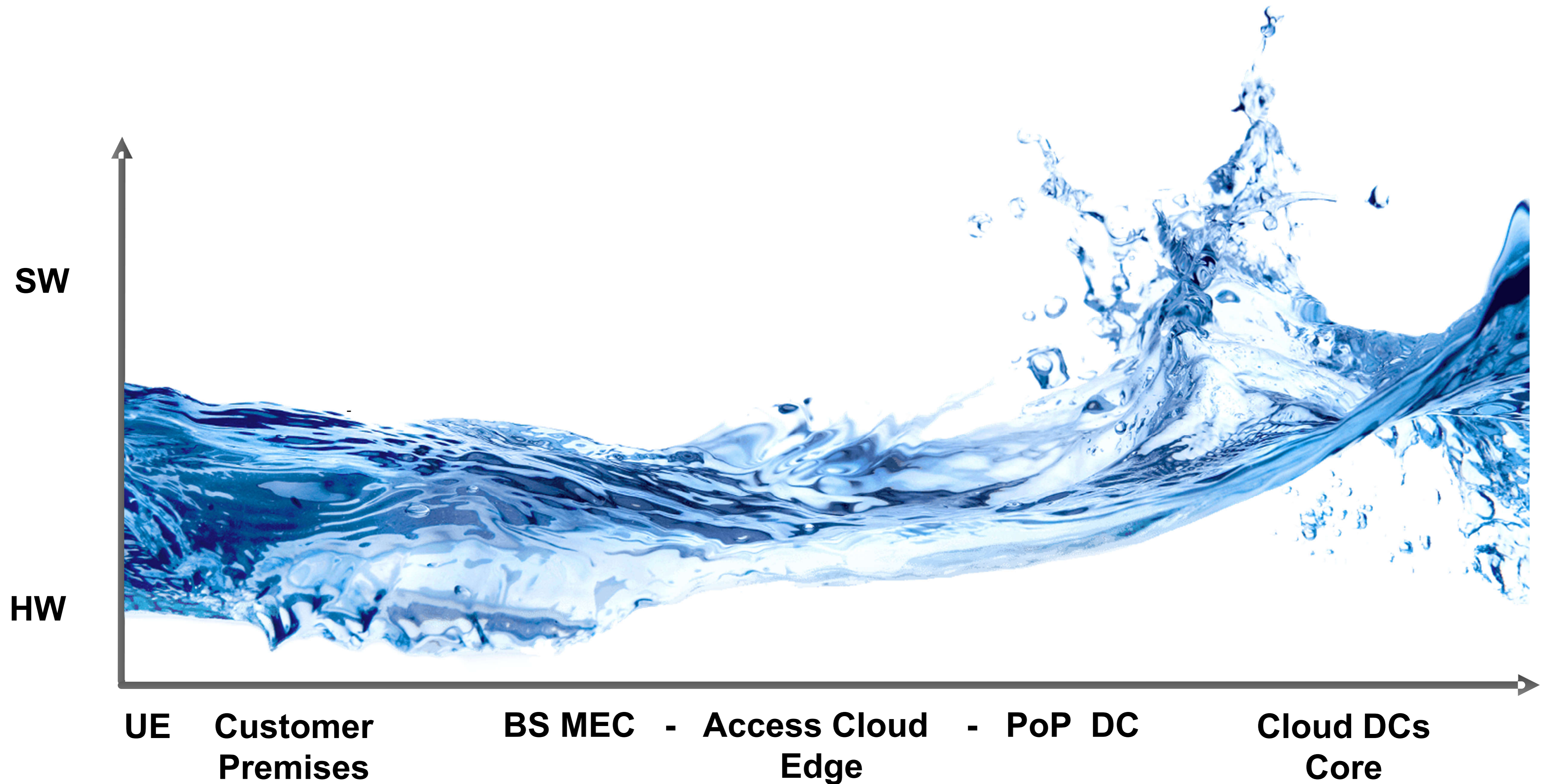
Category	Aspect (see Sec. III-B)	SDN	NFV	NV
Adapt configuration	Flow Configuration: flow steering	✓	-	-
	Function Configuration: function programming	-	✓	-
	Parameter Configuration: change function parameters	-	✓	✓
Locate functions	Function Placement: distribution, placement, chaining	-	✓	✓
Scale	Resource and Function Scaling: processing and storage capacity, number of functions	✓	✓	✓
	Topology Adaptation: (virtual) network adaptation	-	-	✓

# The Fluid Networking landscape



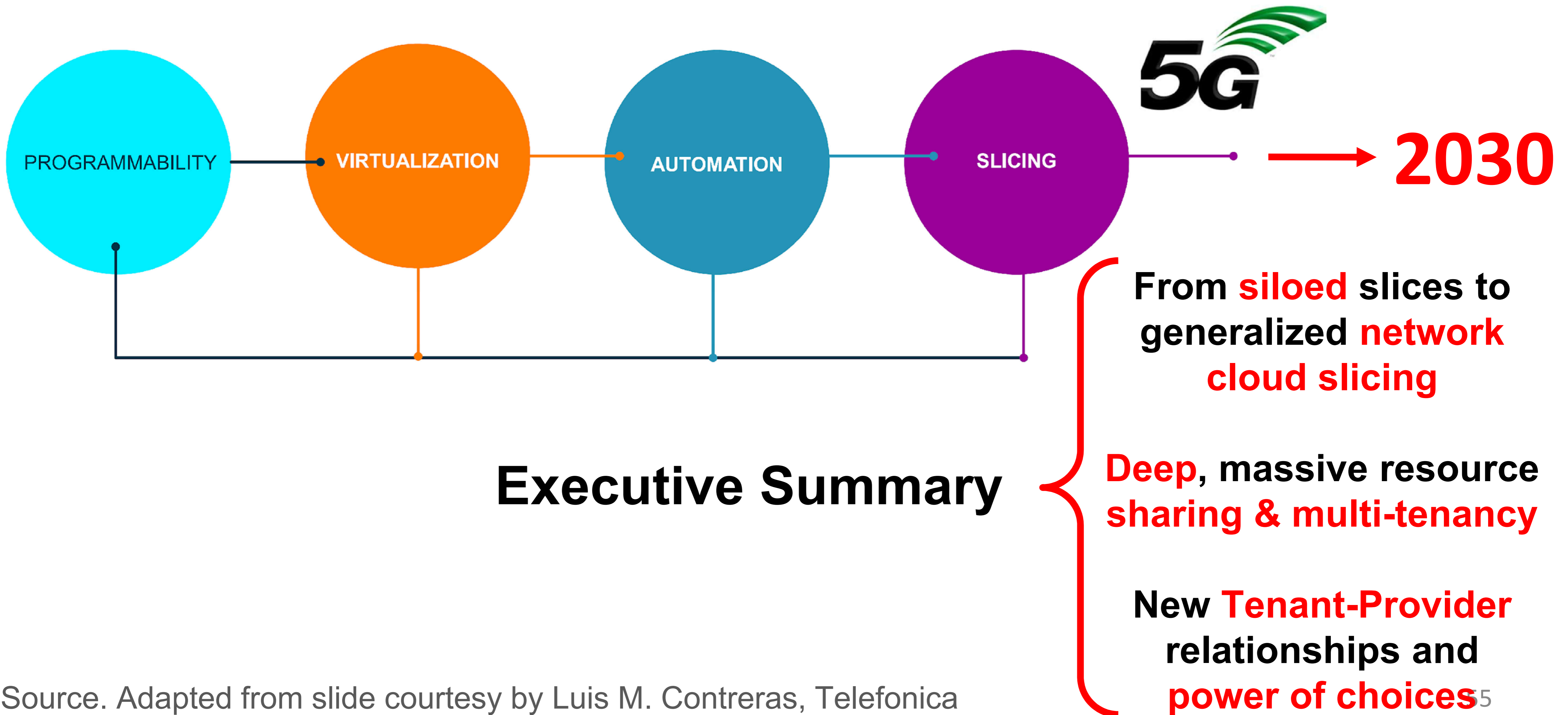


# The Fluid Networking landscape





# Slicing Journey: from 5G towards 2030





# Deep Slicing: Challenges up front

**Standardization gap** goes hand by hand with a series of **key challenges from provider's perspective** on (i) **scalability**, (ii) **arbitration**, (iii) **slice planning and dimensioning**, and (iv) **multi-domain** (cf. [FG-NET-Contribution]). Both business and technical implications can be deemed necessary for such multi-operator slice provisioning context.

From the **business** side, some key implications include: (i) **coordination models**, (ii) **inter-provider SLAs**, (iii) **pricing schemes**, (iv) **service specification**, and (v) **customer facing advertisement**.

From a **technical** perspective we highlight (i) **slice decomposition**, (ii) **discovery of domains**, (iii) **common abstraction models**, (iv) **standard interfaces/protocols, APIs**.

Source & further reading: **Doc.6 ITU-T FG 2030 contribution: Network 2030 Challenges and Opportunities in Network Slicing**  
<https://extranet.itu.int/sites/itu-t/focusgroups/net-2030/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7bC4E9266E-1058-4035-AA25-451ABCB5C07B%7d&file=NET2030-I-006.docx&action=default>

Opportunity for instantiating NFs in proximity  
**Better service fit**

- Resources (incl. NFs) need to be allocated for the new situation

- Proper Control and Mngmt Interfaces offered by the remote domains

User demand changes  
 (maybe unexpectedly or bursty)

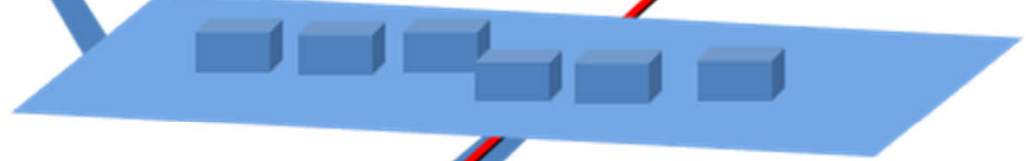
Network Function



NFV Infrastructure PoP Provider 0



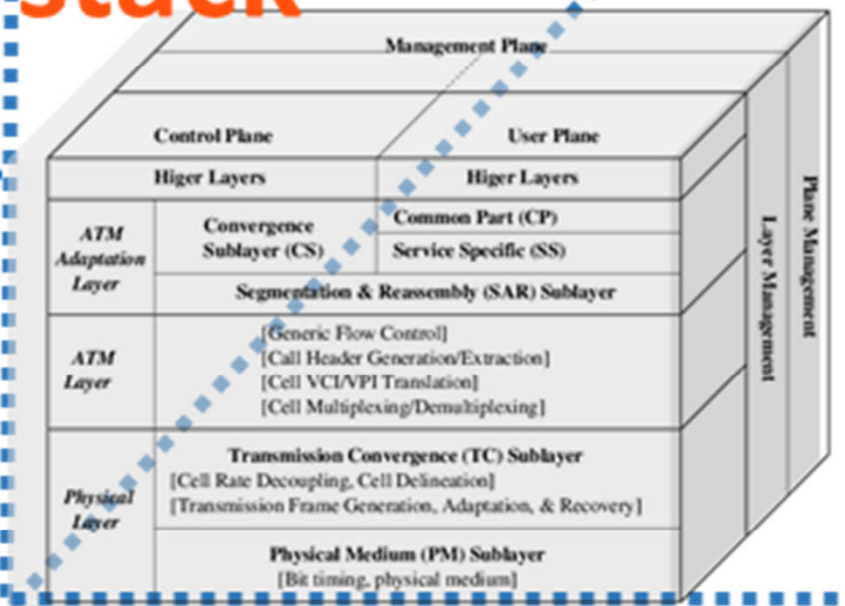
Network Provider 1



Network Provider 2

Need for scaling NFs in the origin domain could not be sufficient

Protocol stack  
 Choice & Control

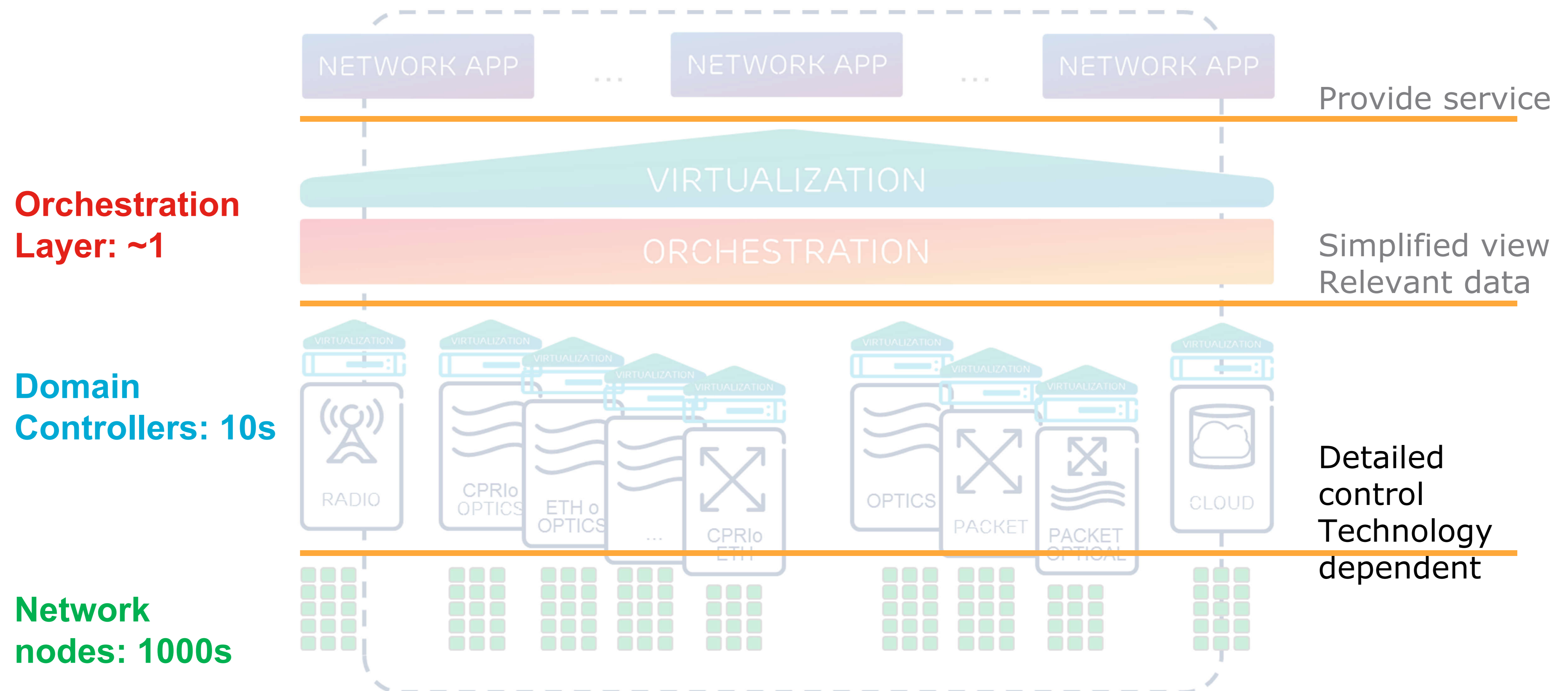


Multi-Domain Administrative & Technological

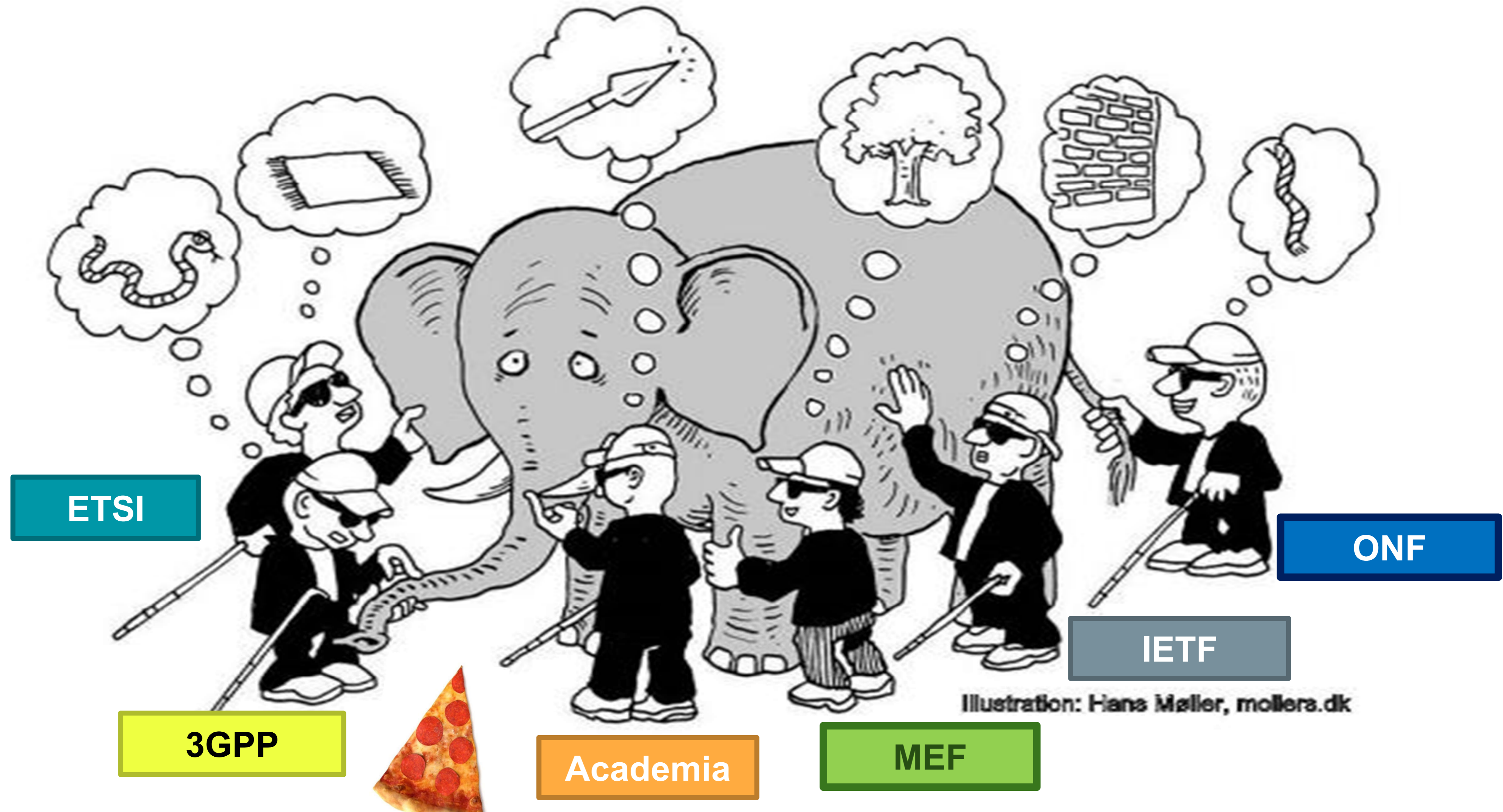
Isolation under massive multi-tenancy



Expose just enough information to make optimal resource orchestration.

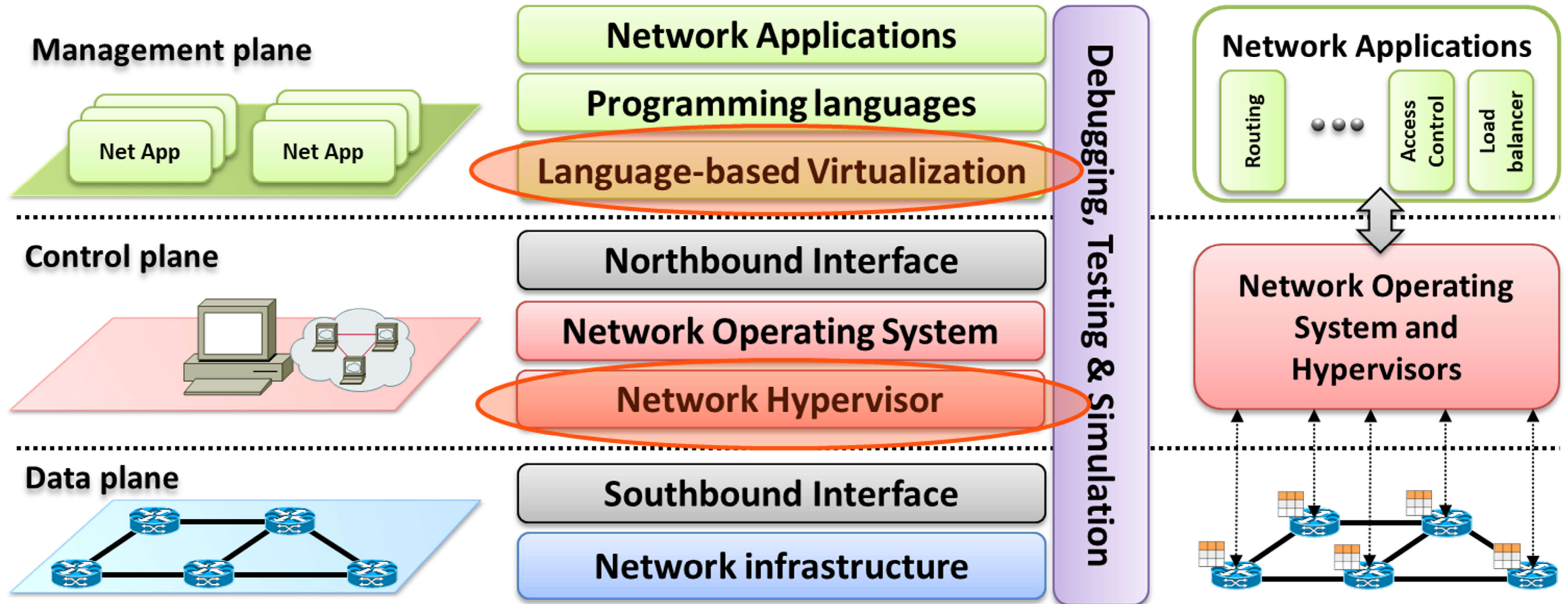


# What is a **Slice**?





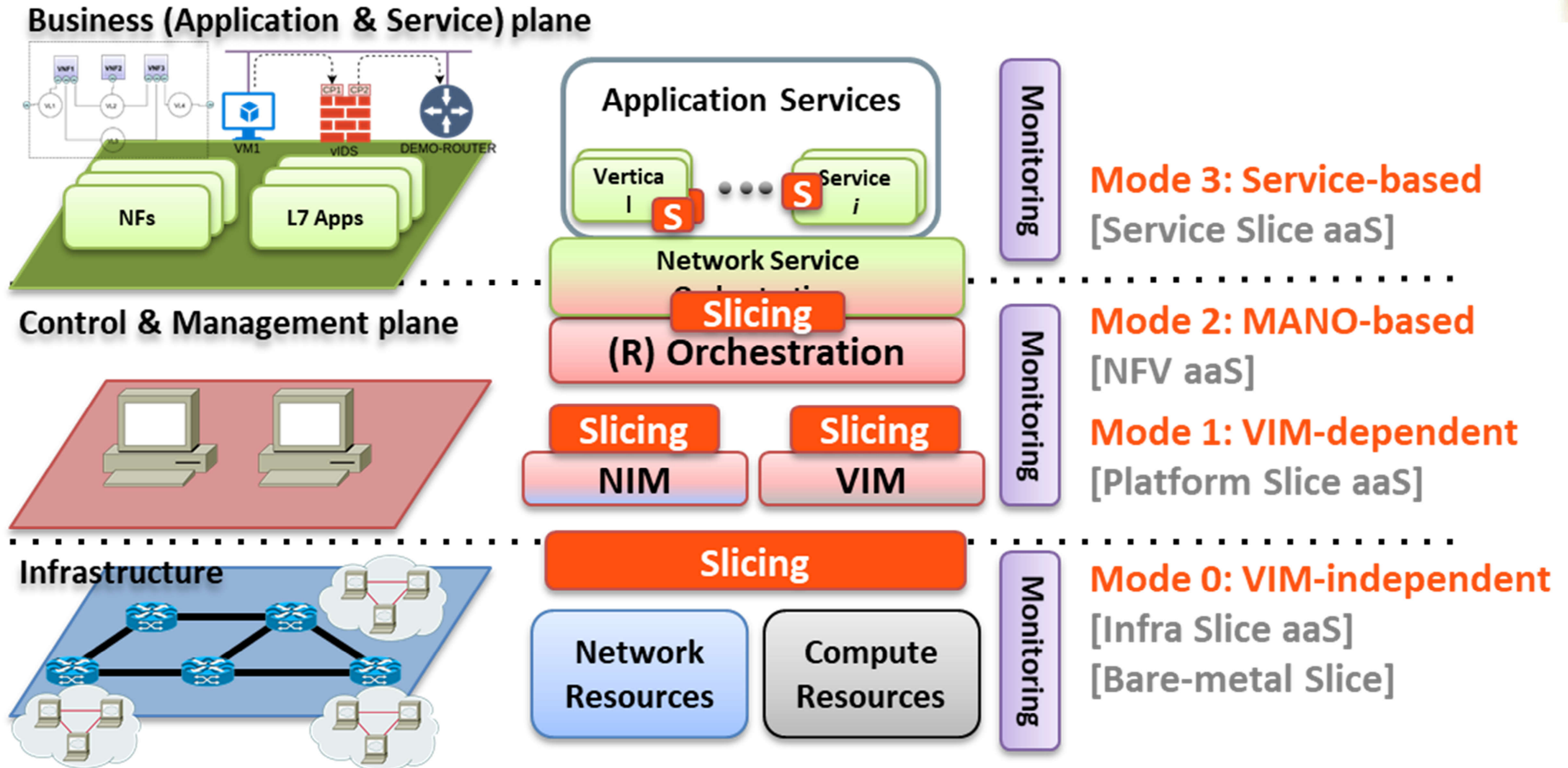
# SDN & Virtualization vs Slicing





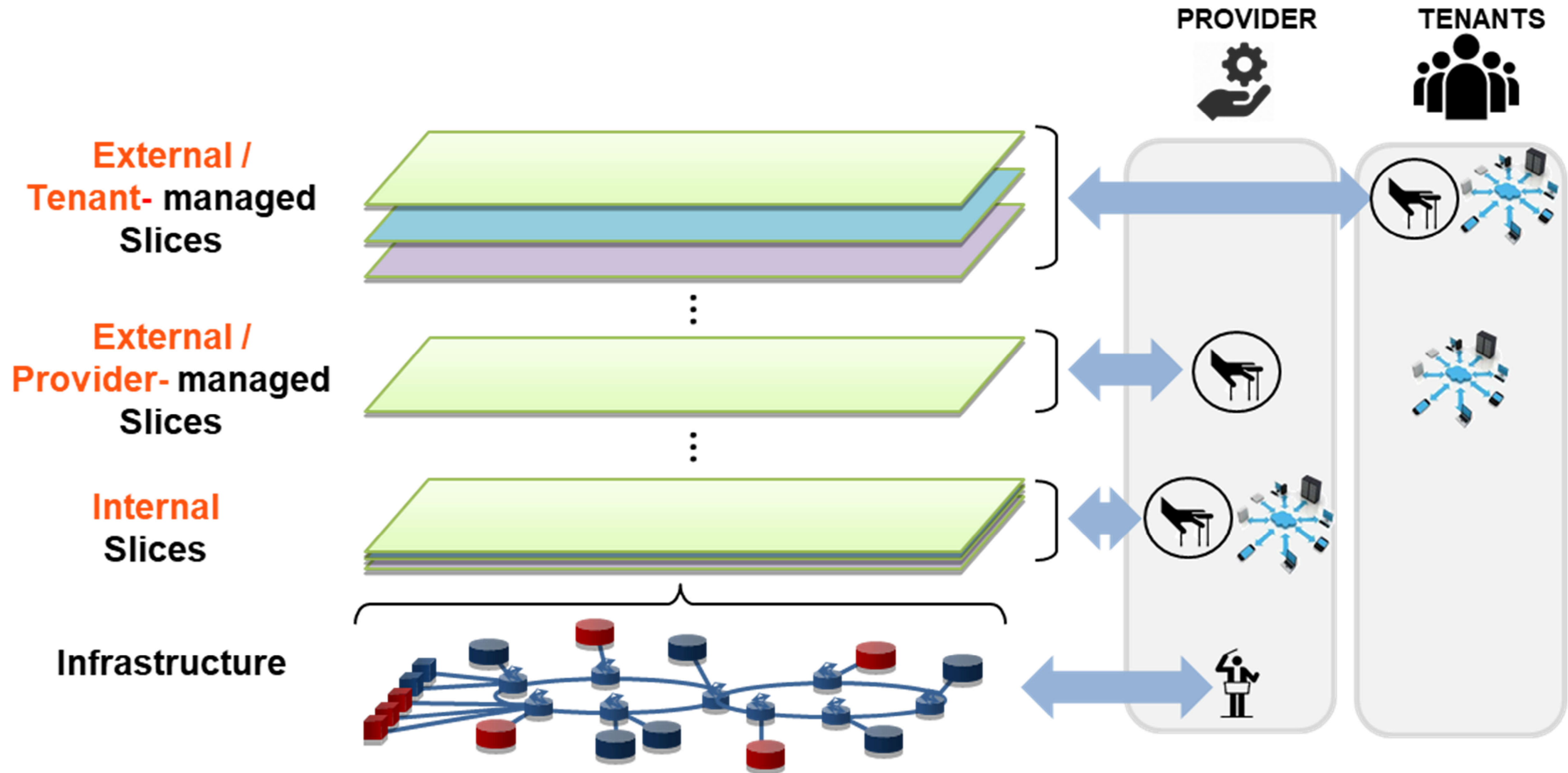


# Different Slicing Models & Approaches



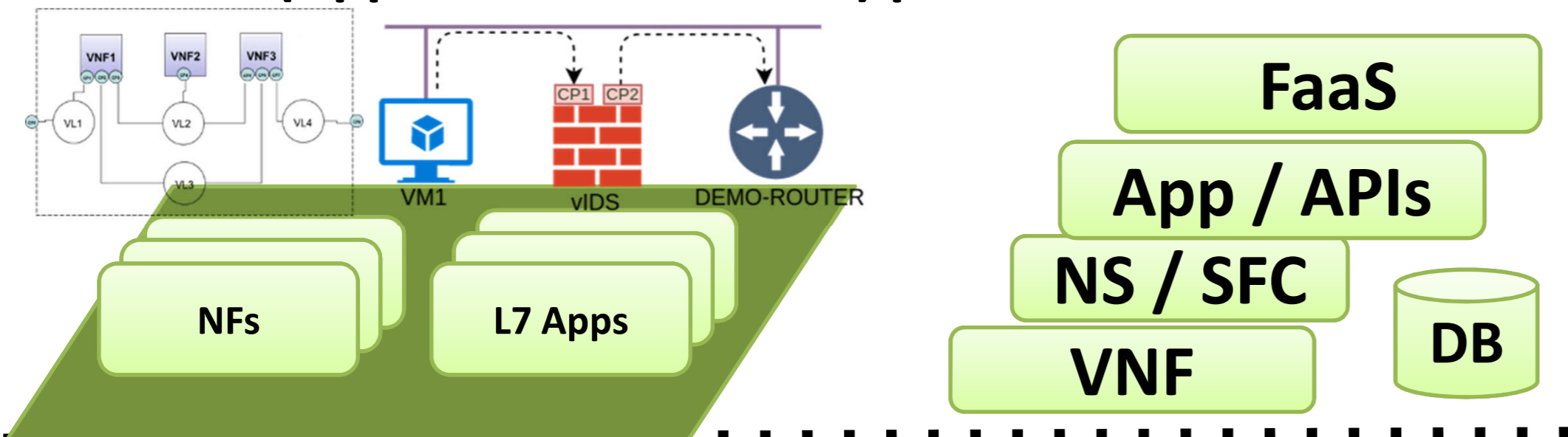


# Types of Slices and Control Responsibilities

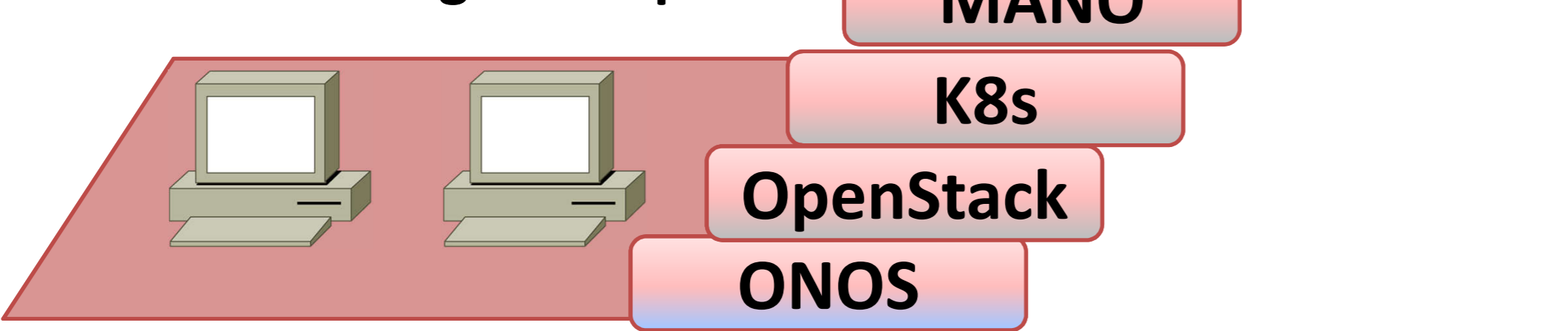


# Slicing under massive any resource multi-tenancy (gone wild) ... or when sharing economy meets cloud network slicing

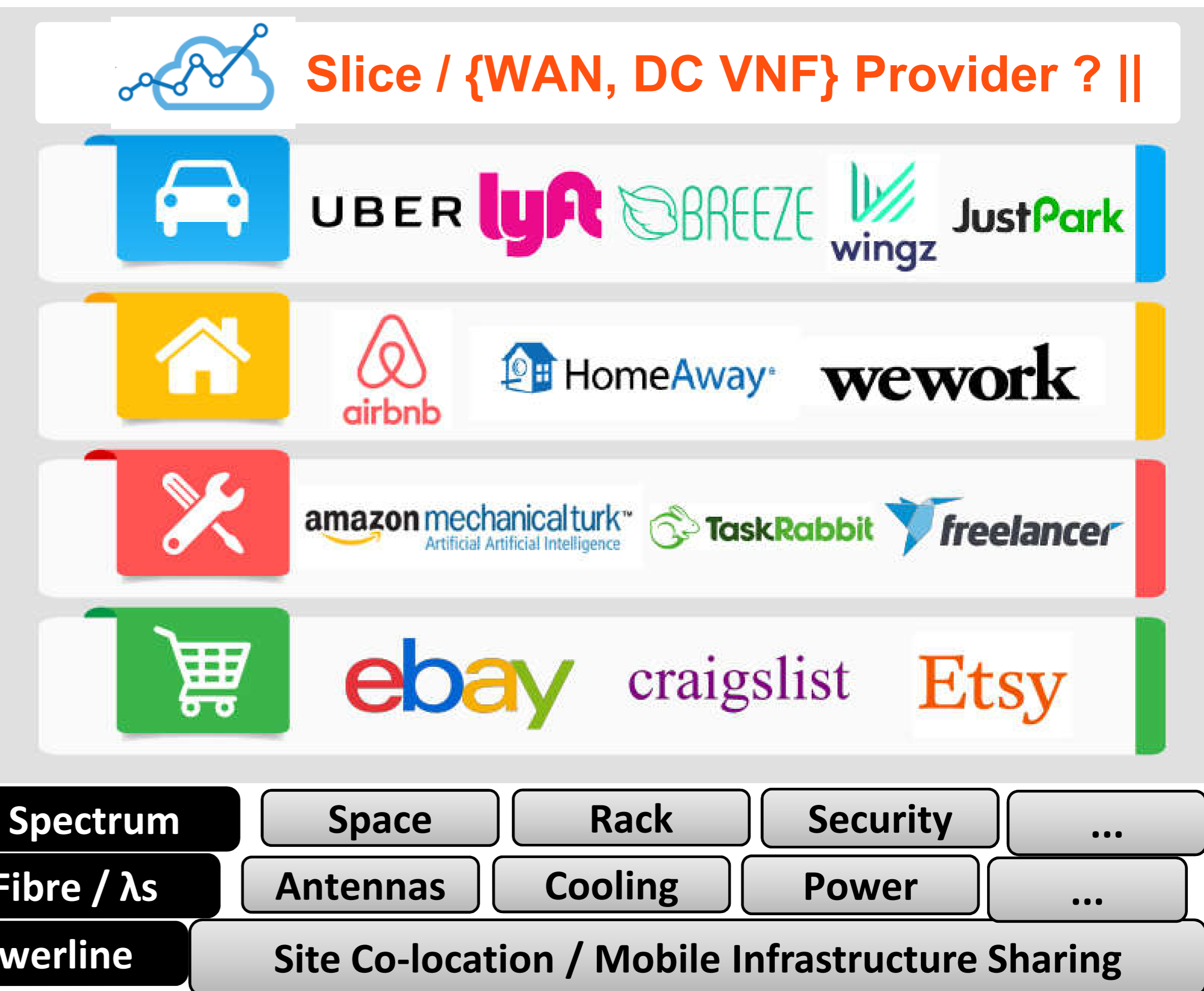
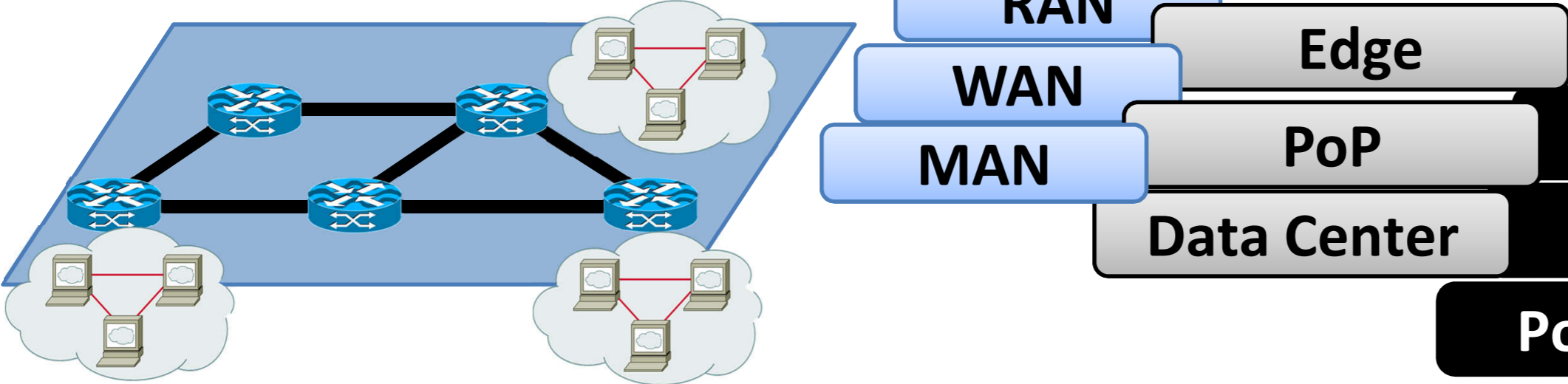
## Business (Application & Service) plane



## Control & Management plane



## Infrastructure

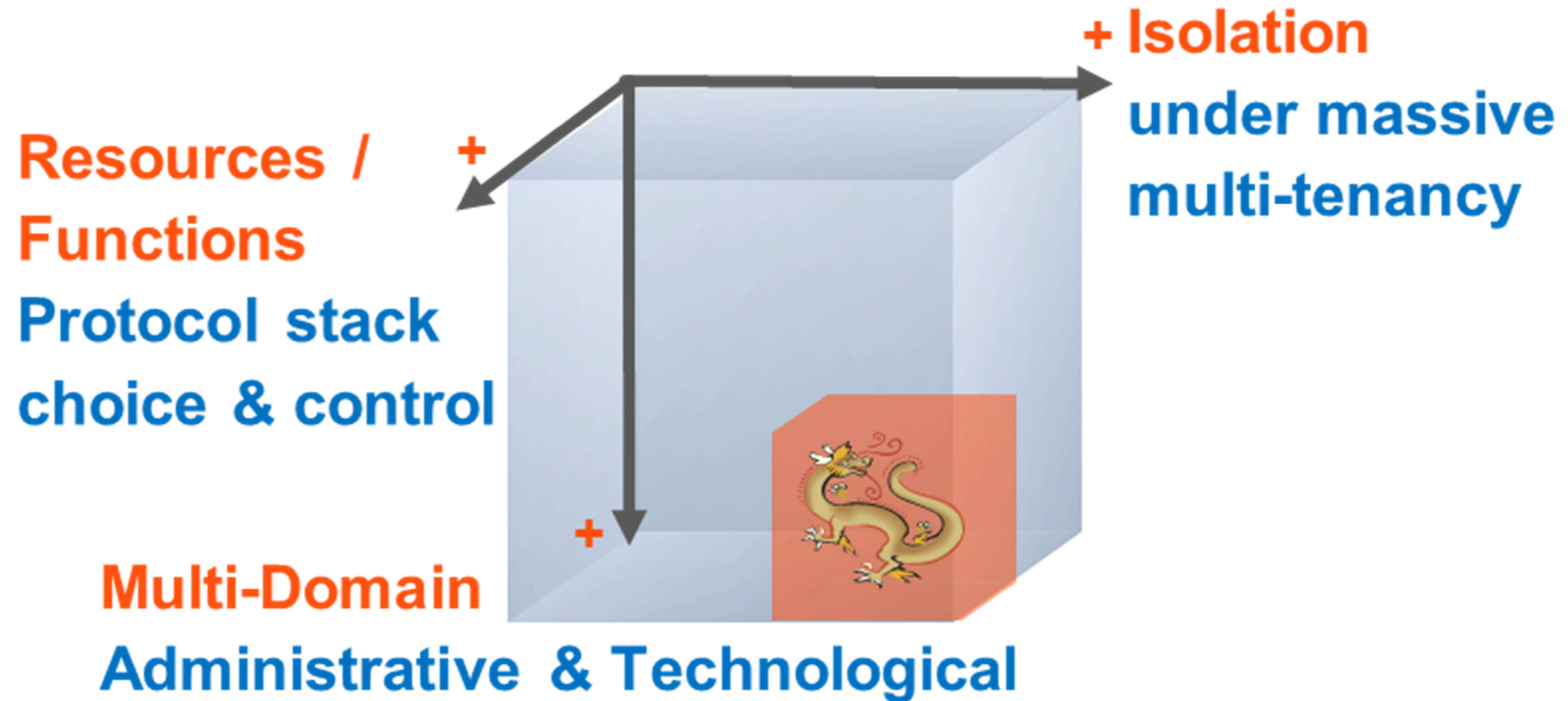


Source: <http://www.h2020-necos.eu/>

Source (image "sharing economy"): <https://www.kreezalid.com/blog/78403-what-is-sharing-economy>



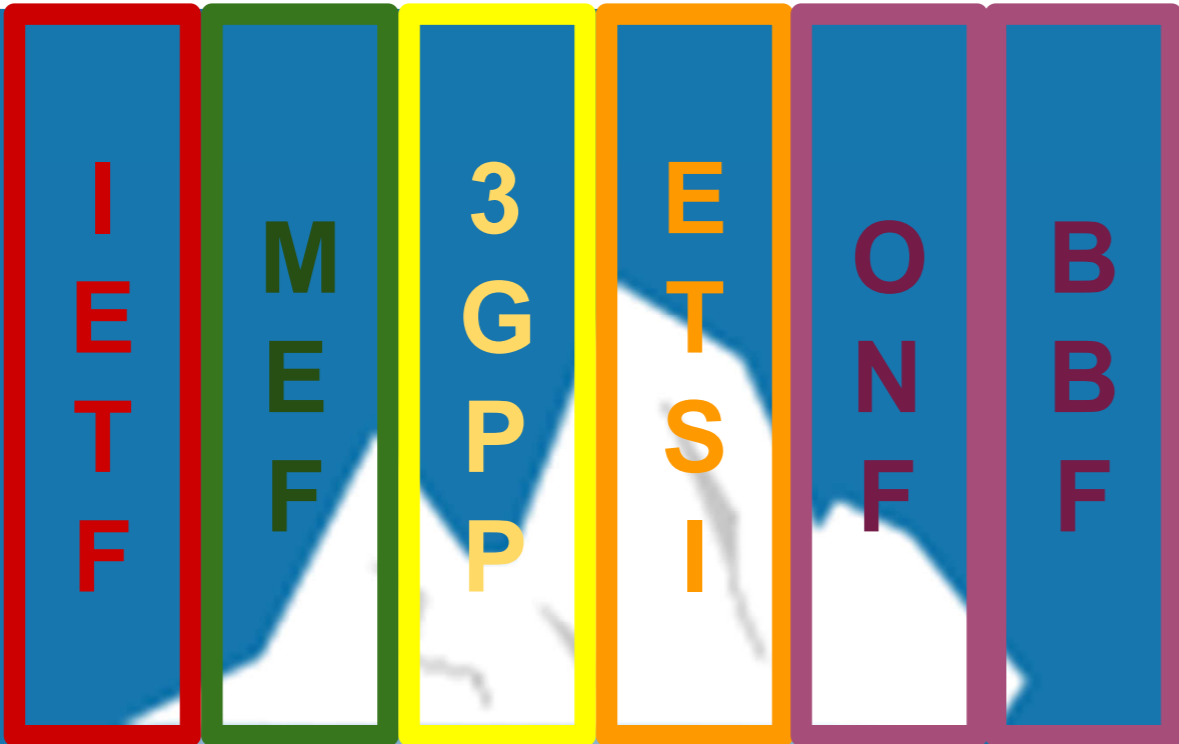
# Deep Slicing: Concept and Challenging Trade-offs



Source: Inspired by the author (C. Rothenberg) **P<sup>3</sup>** trade-offs: **P**rogrammability, **P**erformance, **P**ortability.

<https://www.slideshare.net/chesteve/ieee-hpsr-2017-keynote-sofwarized-dataplanes-and-the-p3-tradeoffs-programmability-performance-portability>

# Towards Deep Slices



**Fragmented Standardization**

**Business & Technological challenges**  
From infrastructure sharing to any-layer any-resource sharing (from PHY to APP)

**Deep Slicing**



**Deep**  
End-to-End, Multi-Domain (tech + admin)  
Tenant Choice & Control  
Isolation  
Scalable

*any resource, any function anywhere*



# Network programmability? By who?

Technical Expertise + Single Throat to Choke

**Players** with sufficient  
SW Eng. + Network Eng.  
& in-house Devops (NoOps?)

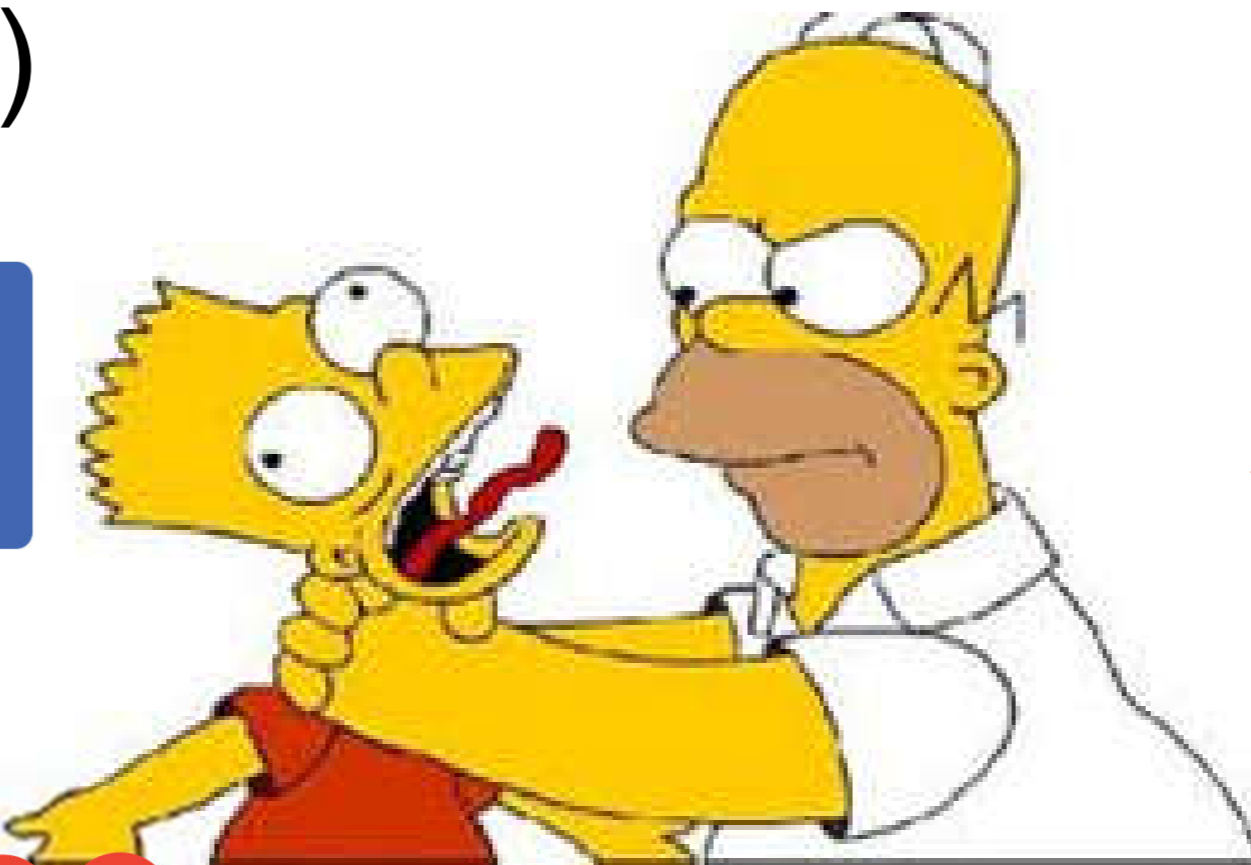


Microsoft



NTT

Goglee



- Intent-based (languages + APIs)
- Design + Run-time (NS)DKs
- ML/AI assistance
- Automation of Test + Benchmarking (pre-deployment + + day0 & day-2 ops)

The **long tail** of players

(e.g. smaller SPs, ISPs, enterprises, campus, governments, etc.)