

RIAK ON DRUGS (AND THE OTHER WAY AROUND)

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CTO, Trifork

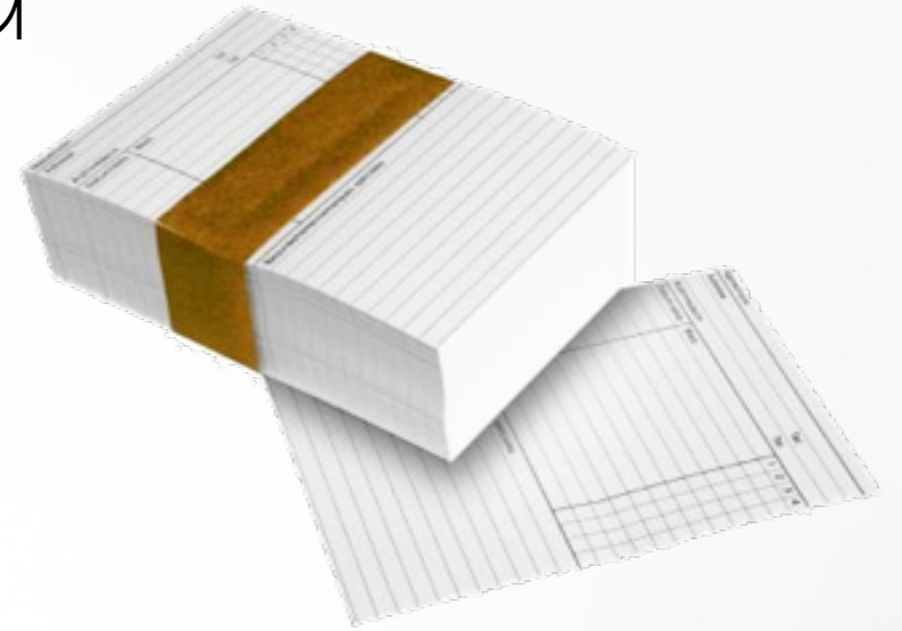
About the Speaker

- **Language Geek** Emacs/TeX Hacker, Objective C, NeXT, GNU Compiled Java, Java Generics, Ph.D.
- **Developer** J2EE AppServer, CORBA/RMI, XA-TM, Java Firefighter
- **Trifork CTO** Conference “Editor”, Technology Adoption

In this talk...

- About Common Medicine Card
- Building a Decentralized Architecture
- 4 different “shapes of data” and how to map this to a Key/Value store
- Hints, tips and tricks for Riak along the way

A Medicine Card



- For a person
- List of current drug treatments
- With prescriptions and related events

Common Medicine Card



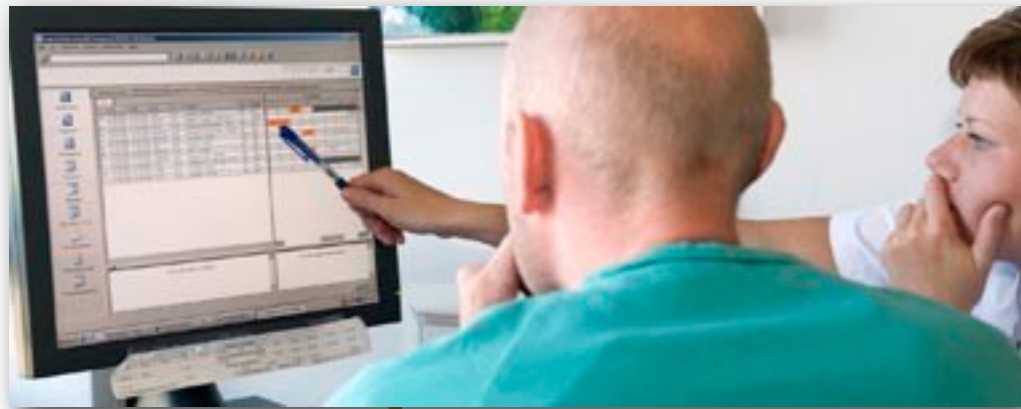
Common Medicine Card



The screenshot shows a web interface for a 'medicinkort' (medicine card). The header includes the logo and patient information: 'Hans Henrik Kristensen (020244-1041)' and 'Årskortet 1. 450 Vg'. The main content area displays a list of medications with the following table:

Startdato	Substans	Lægemiddel	Form	Styrke	Dosering	Årsag
23-09-2010	Saroten	Tabletter	10 mg	1 stk morgen	Med depression	
14-09-2010	Oltracel 'DL'	Fibromedulerne tabletter	2 mg	1 stk morgen	Med søvnløshet	
25-09-2010	Kyberol	Suppositorier	750 mg	1 suppositorium kveld	Kvinneløst	
19-08-2010	Dipolo 'DL'	Tabletter	42,5 milligram	1 stk morgen og kveld	Med unngjennlig hjertesyke	
19-08-2010	Helm 'DL'	Fibromedulerne tabletter	100 mg	1 stk kveld	Med vedvarende søvnløshet	
15-08-2010	Paracetol 'DL'	Tabletter	100 mg	1 stk morgen og kveld	Med sykdom	

15-30 existing systems + 150k users



medicinkort

Hans Henrik Kristensen (020244-1041)
Årskortet 1. 450 Vg

Kædet medicin Tilføjet medicin Min Log

Dit medicinkort er senest ændret 08-10-2010 af: Toril Dalsgaard, PRO Daktibank, A/S.
Vær opmærksom på, at din medicintagning lige nu varetages af Medicinkort Ambulatorium. Hvis din behandling er afsluttet, vil dit medicinkort igen indeholde nye oplysninger.

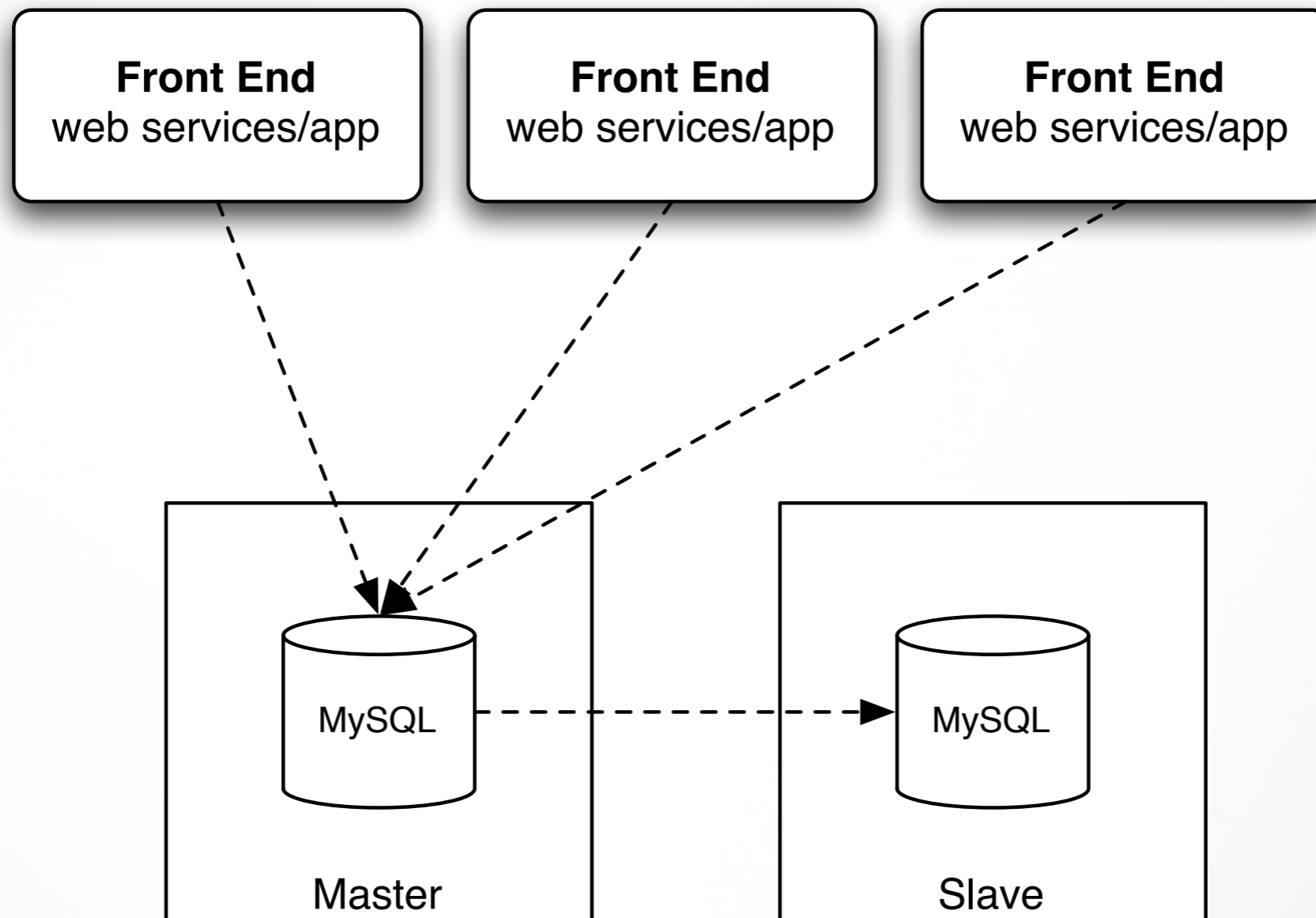
Dit medicinkort indeholder følgende:

Startdato	Substans	Lægemiddel	Form	Styrke	Dosering	Årsag
23-09-2010	Saroten	Tabletter	10 mg	1 stk morgen	Med depression	
14-09-2010	Altradol "DL"	Fluorertubine tabletter	2 mg	1 stk morgen	Med osteoporose	
25-09-2010	Kynerid	Suppositorier	750 mg	1 suppositorium døgnet	Kvælbånd	
19-08-2010	Diposin "DL"	Tabletter	62,5 mikrogram	1 stk morgen og aften	Med unregelmæssig hjerterytme	
19-08-2010	Hæm "DL"	Fluorertubine tabletter	100 mg	1 stk nat	Med sædige tæggeremmer	
15-08-2010	Fareval "DL"	Tabletter	100 mg	1 stk morgen og aften	Med øjeblik	

SOAP

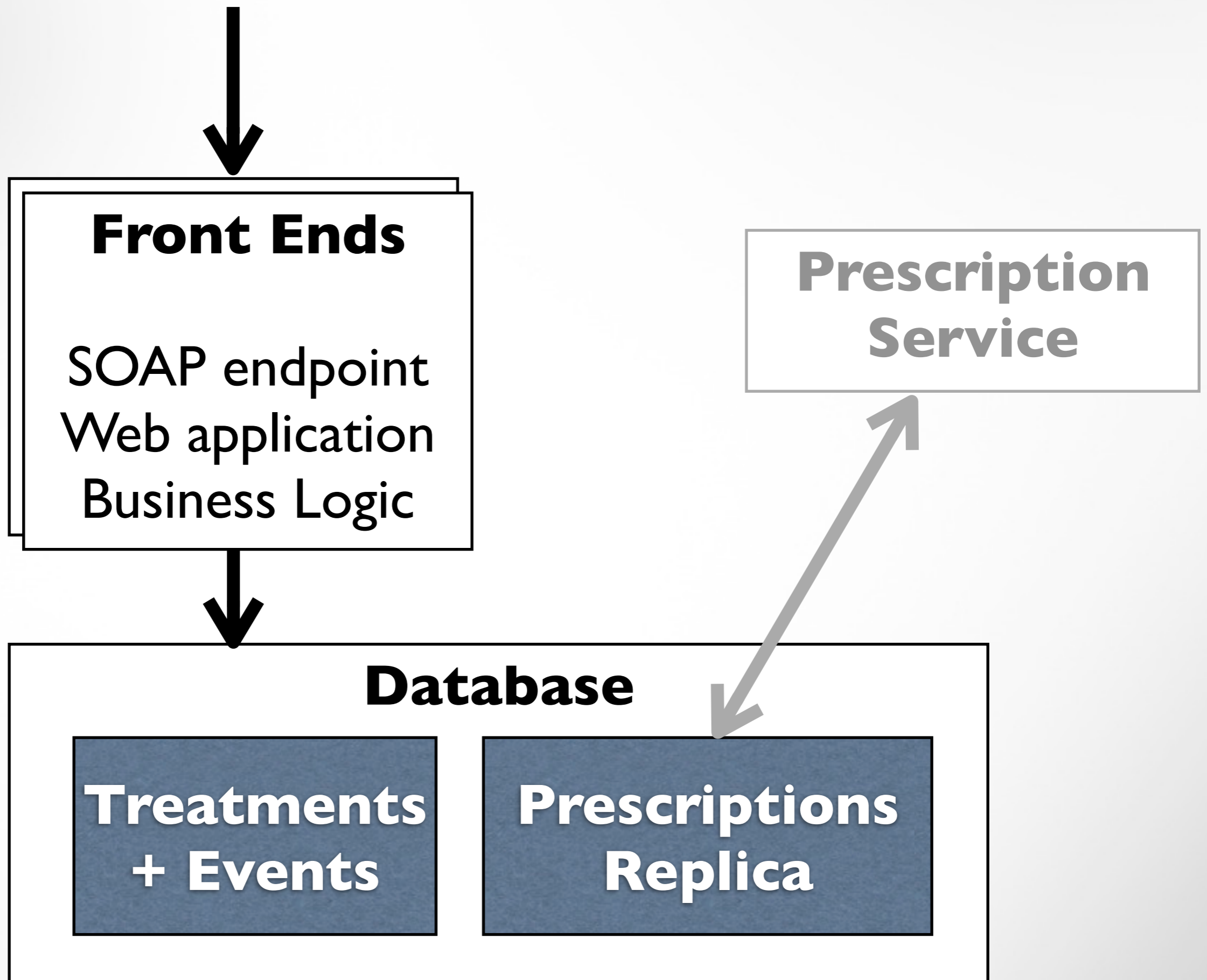


“Old” Architecture



Overload





Distributed Architecture

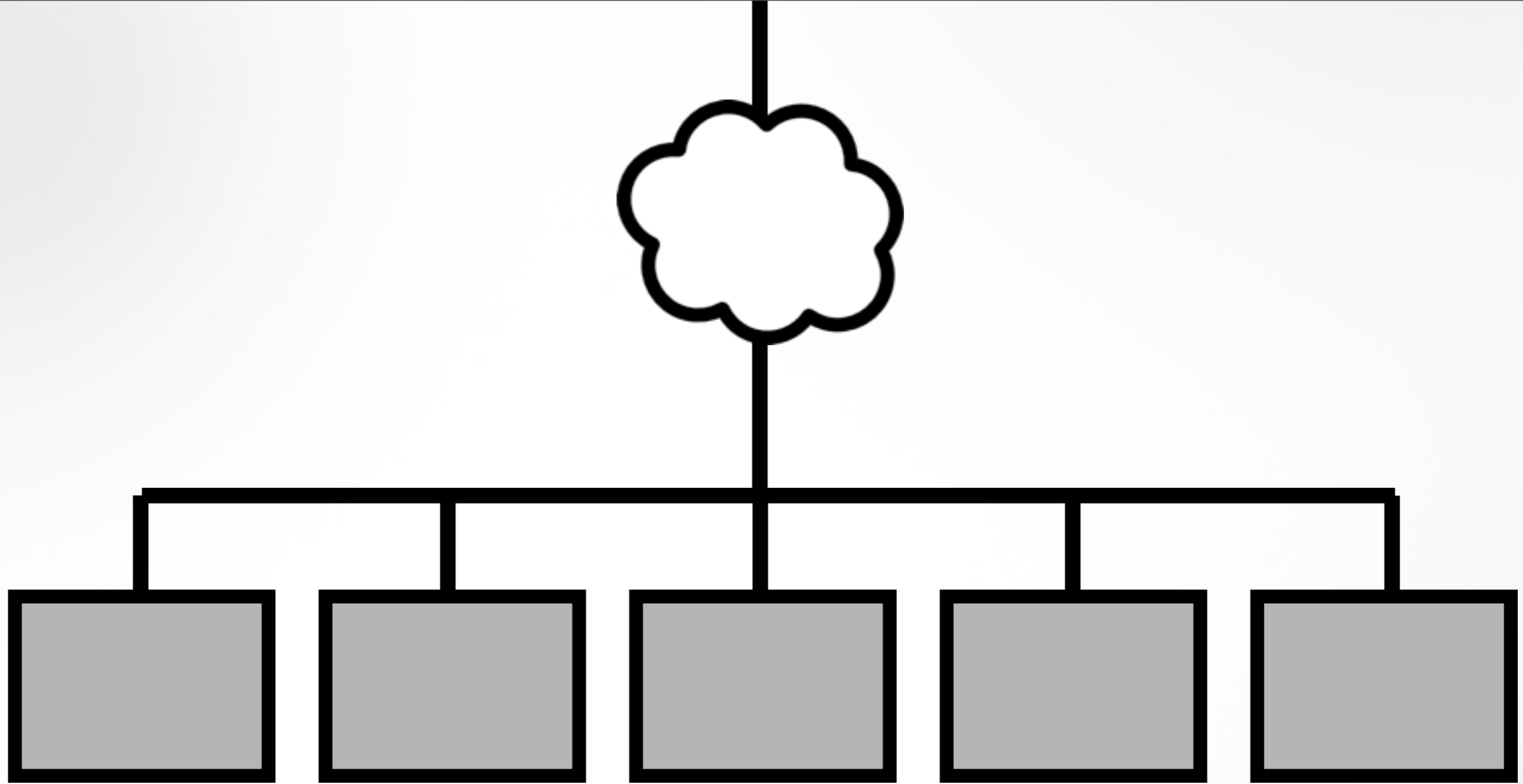


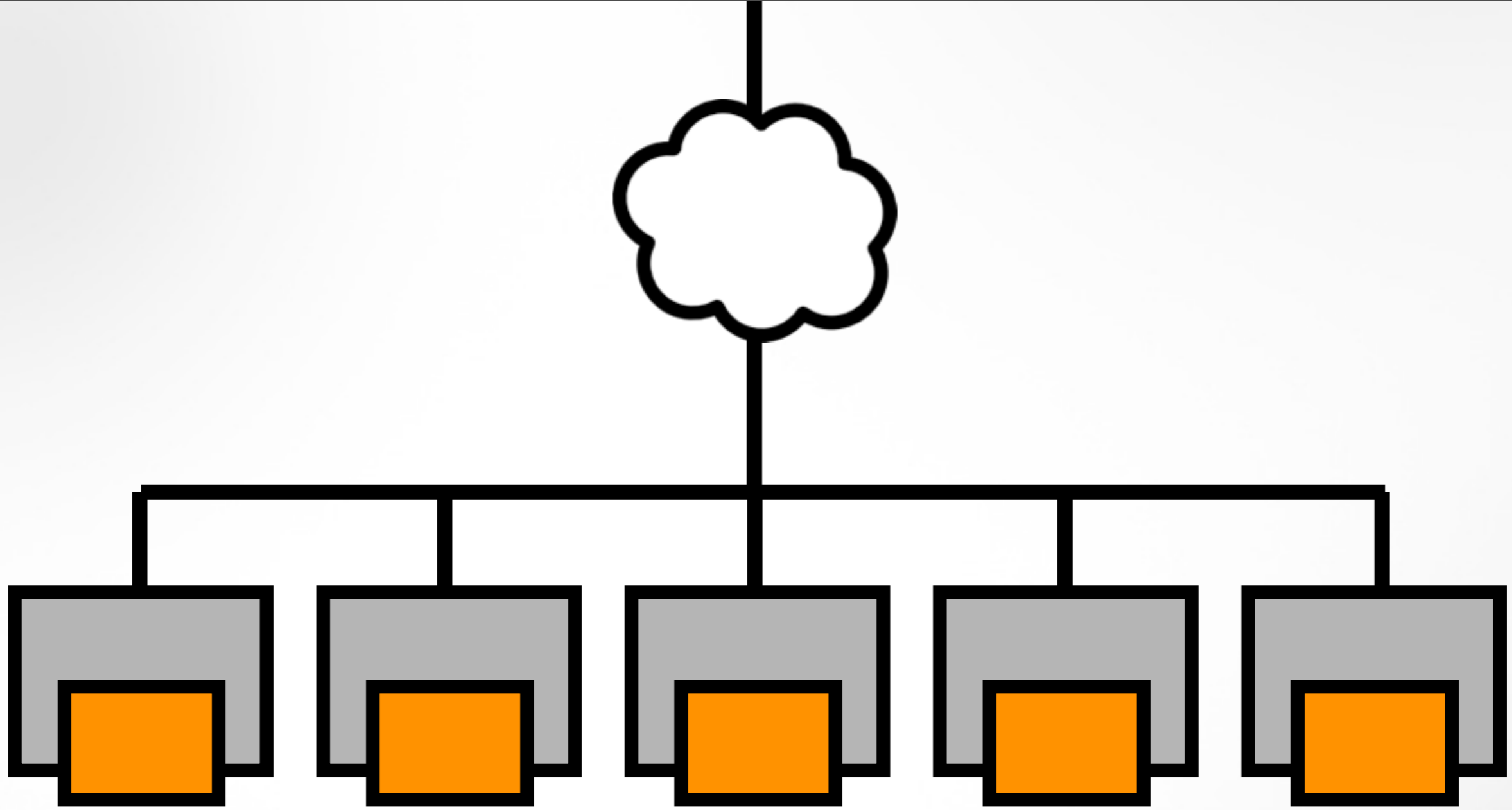
- Availability: Run in multiple data centers
- Scalability: Prepare the system for expected growth

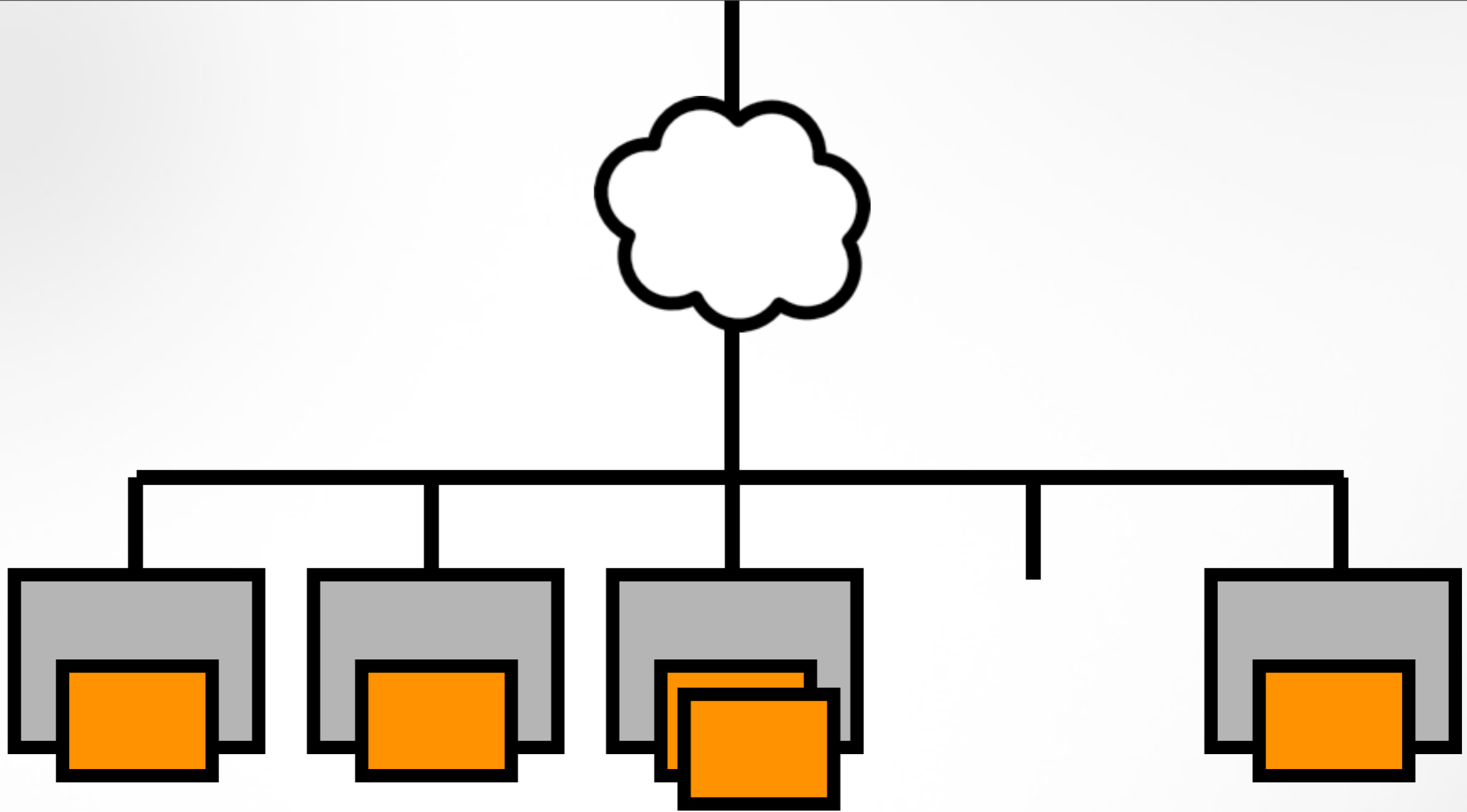
Riak Data Store

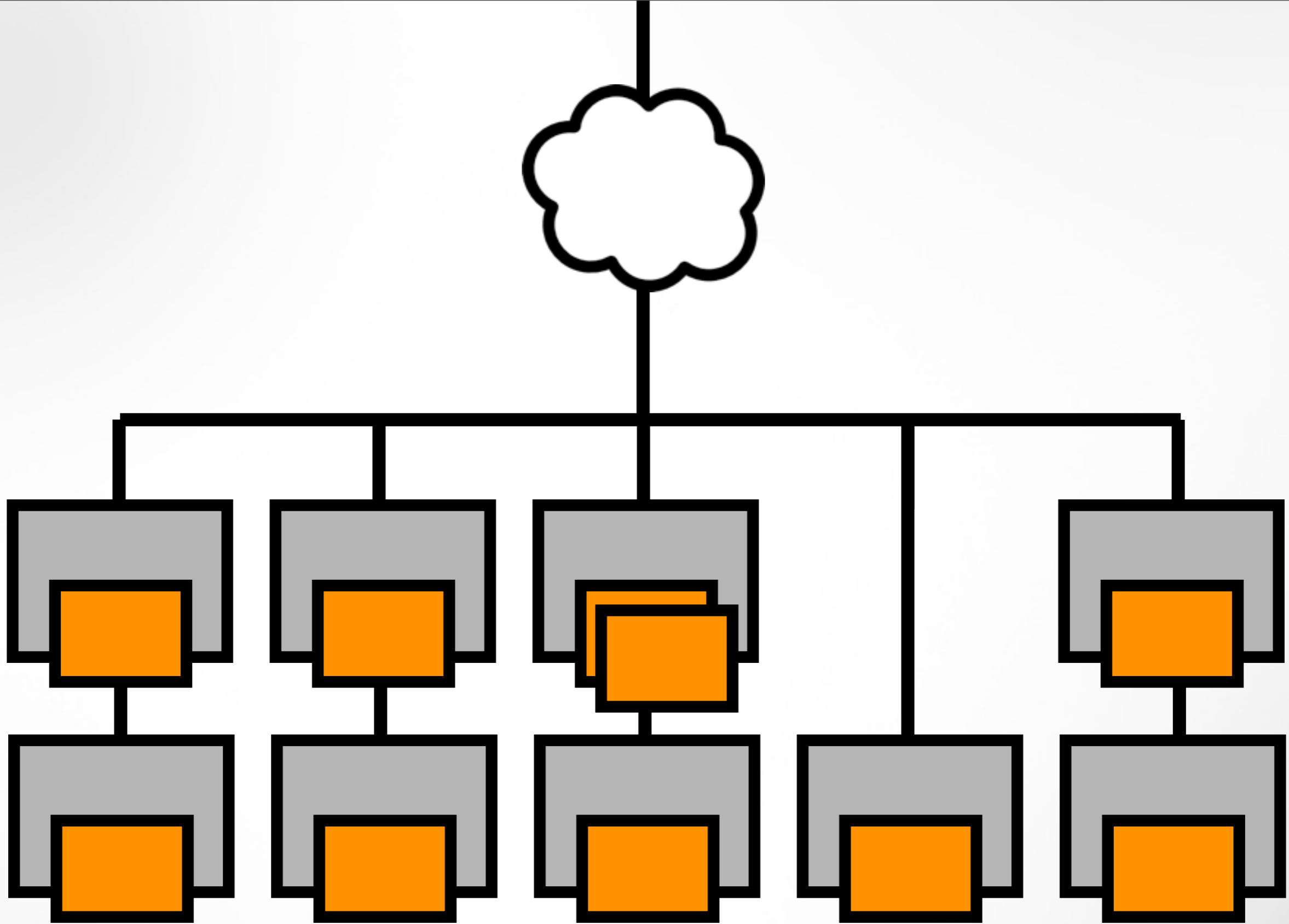


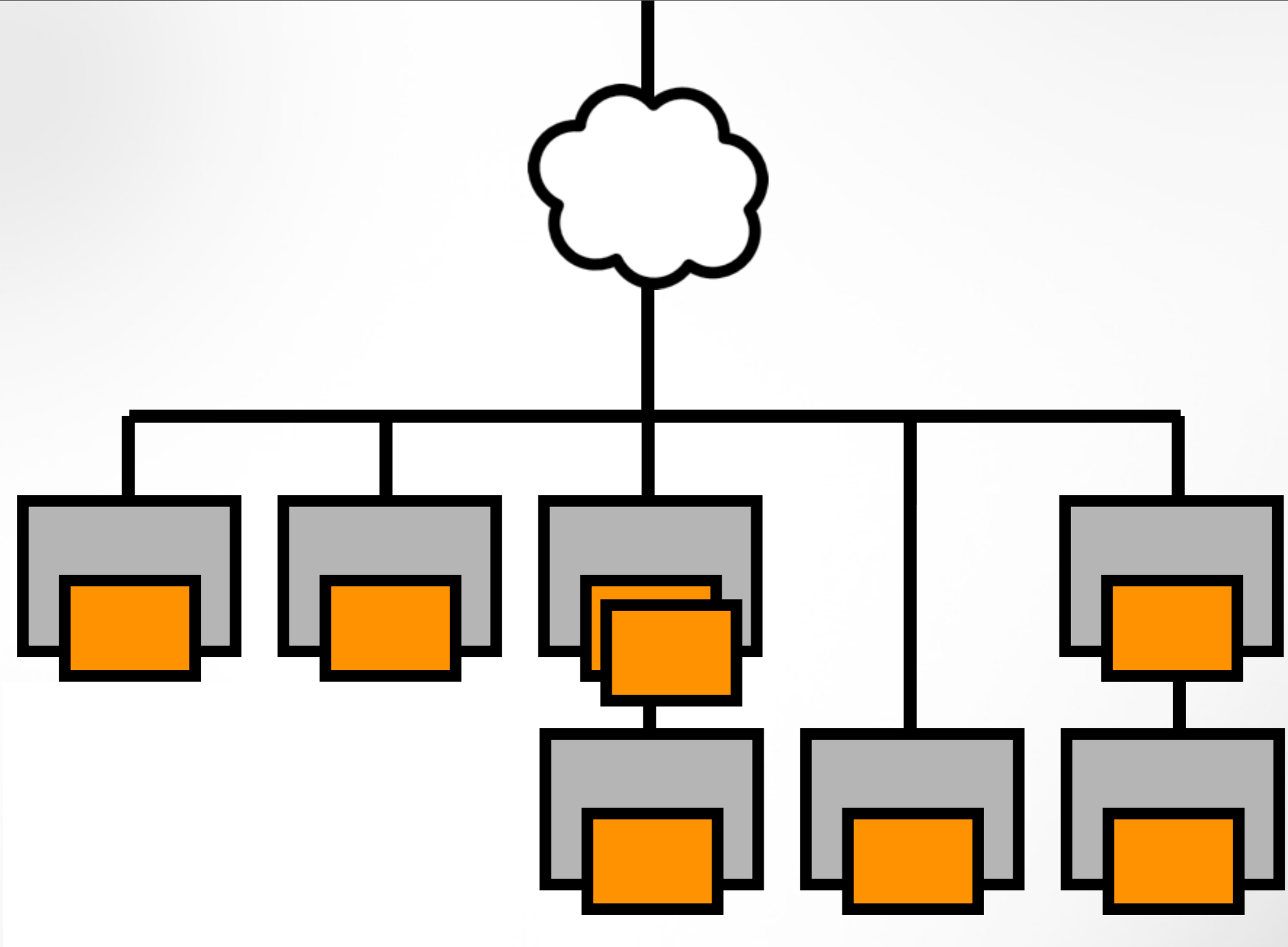
- Fit the general requirements
 - Availability + Scalability
 - Operational improvements
- Challenges
 - Key/Value Store, vs Relational Model
 - New technology, many unknowns

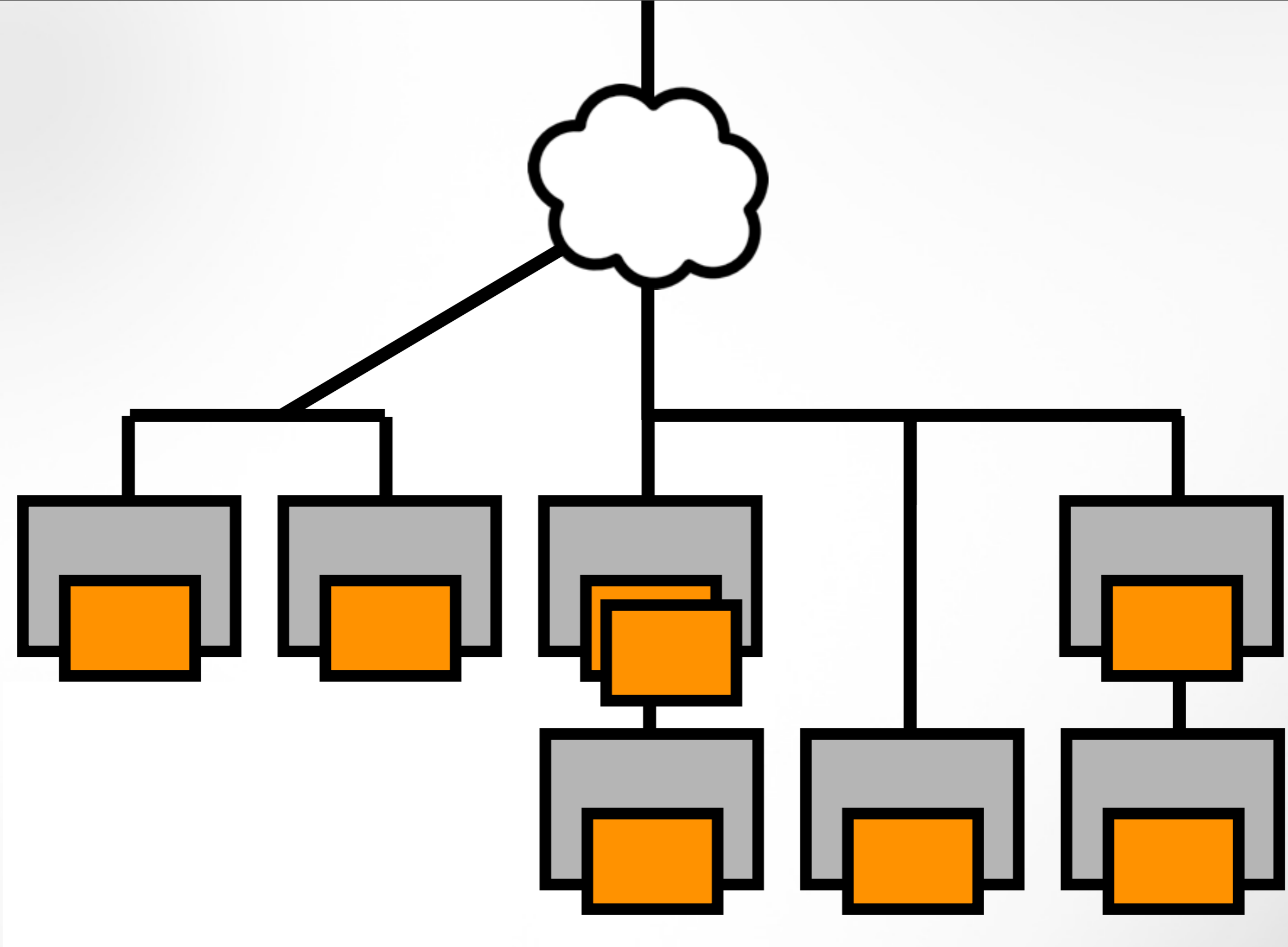


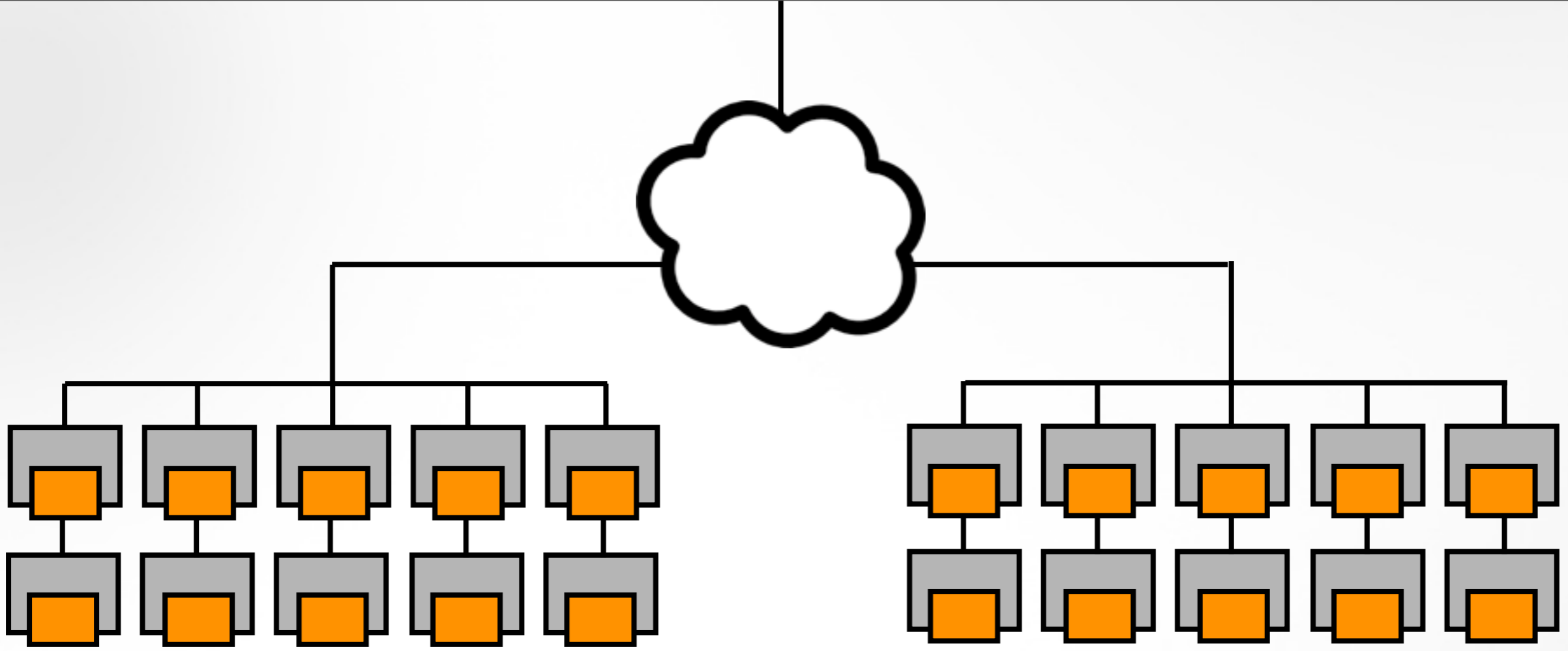


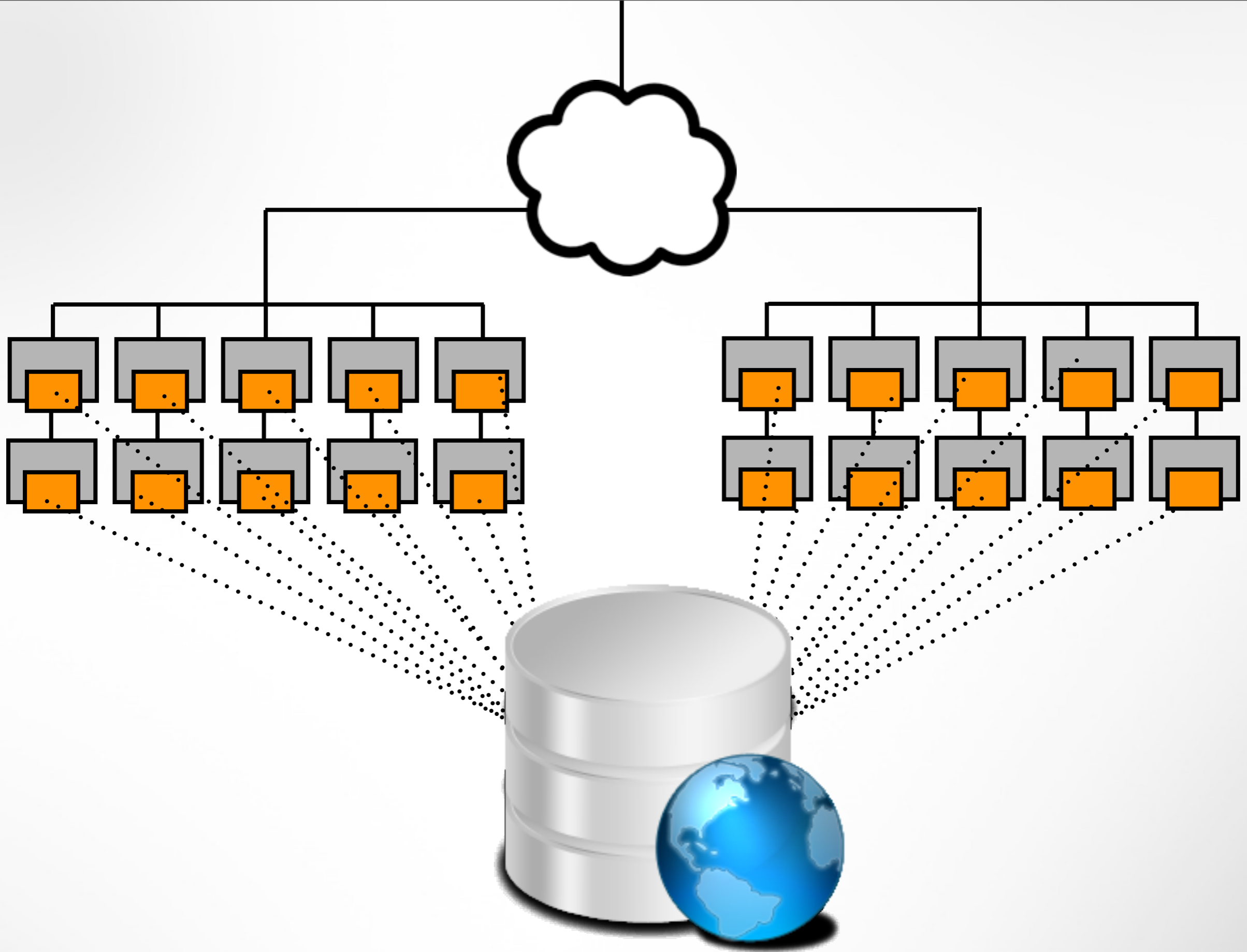


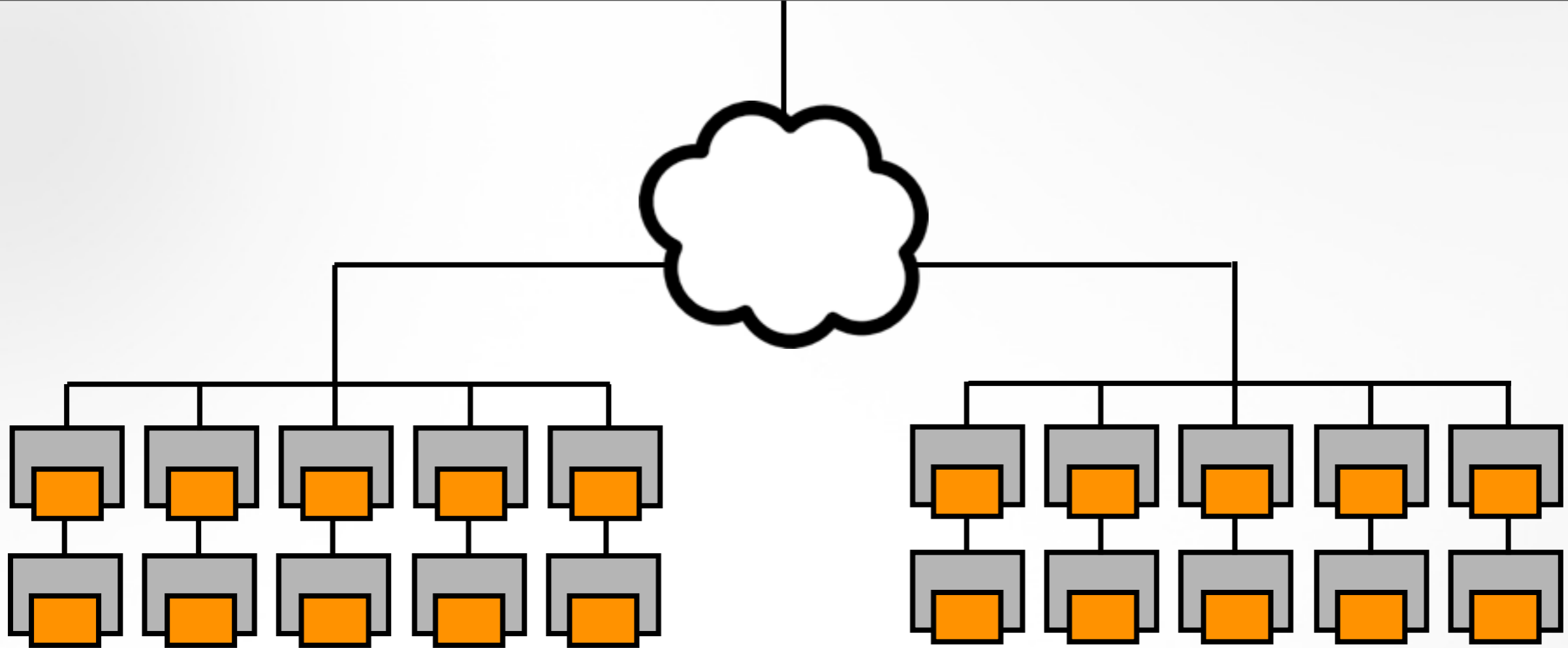


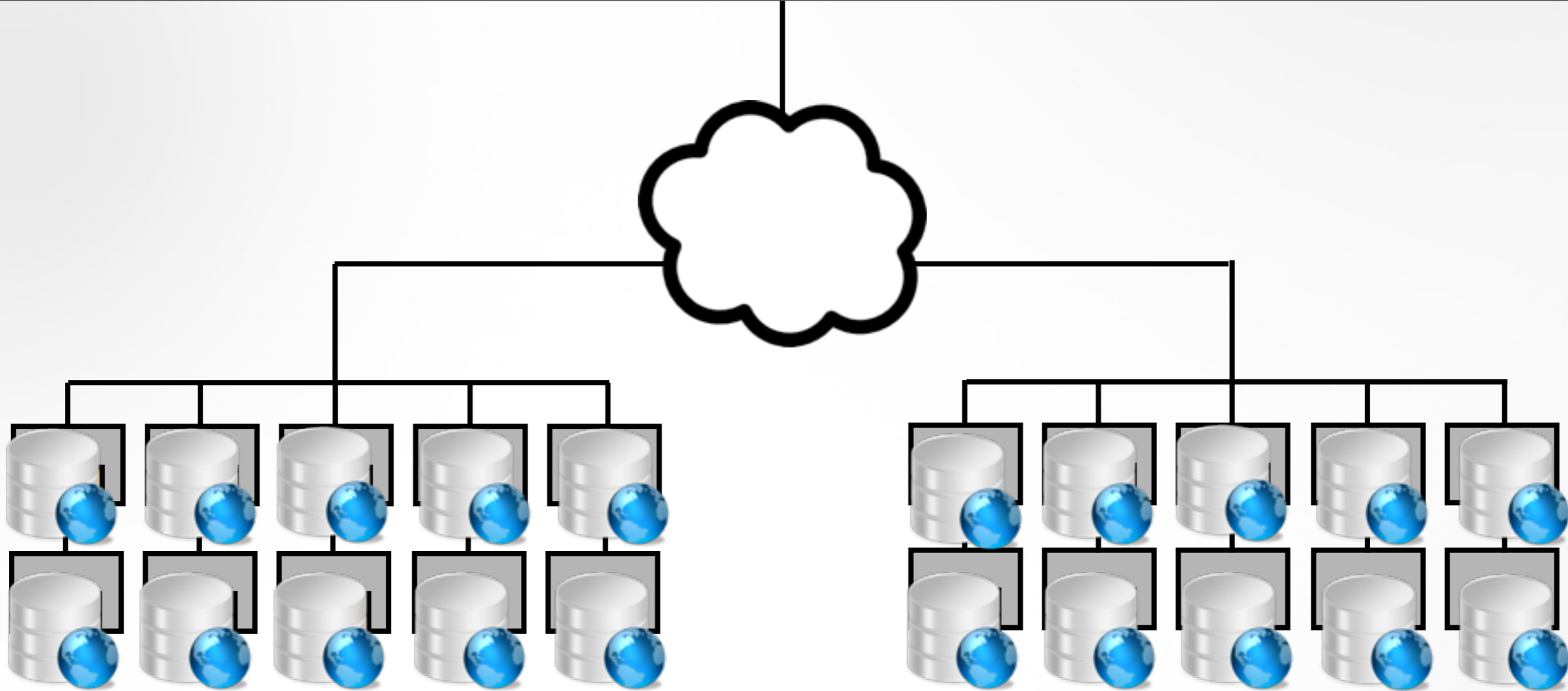


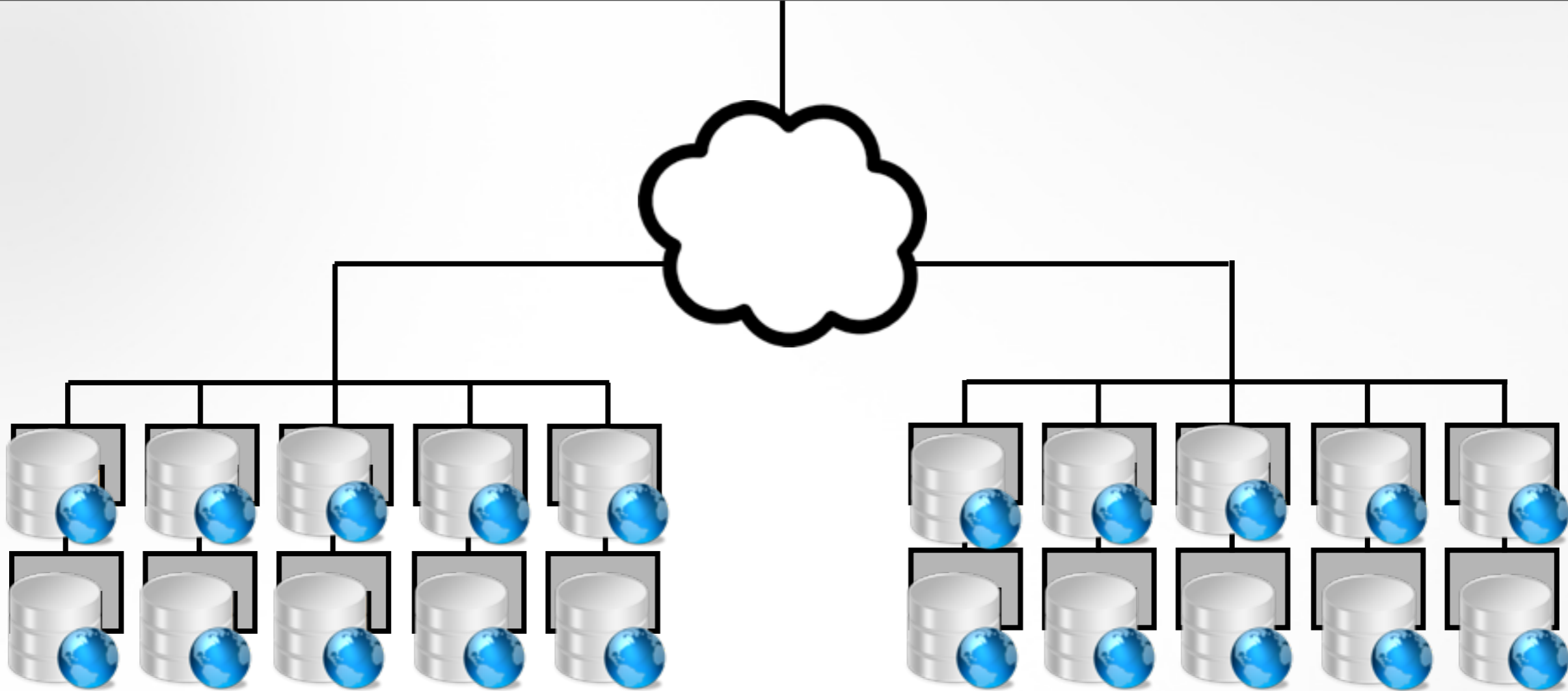




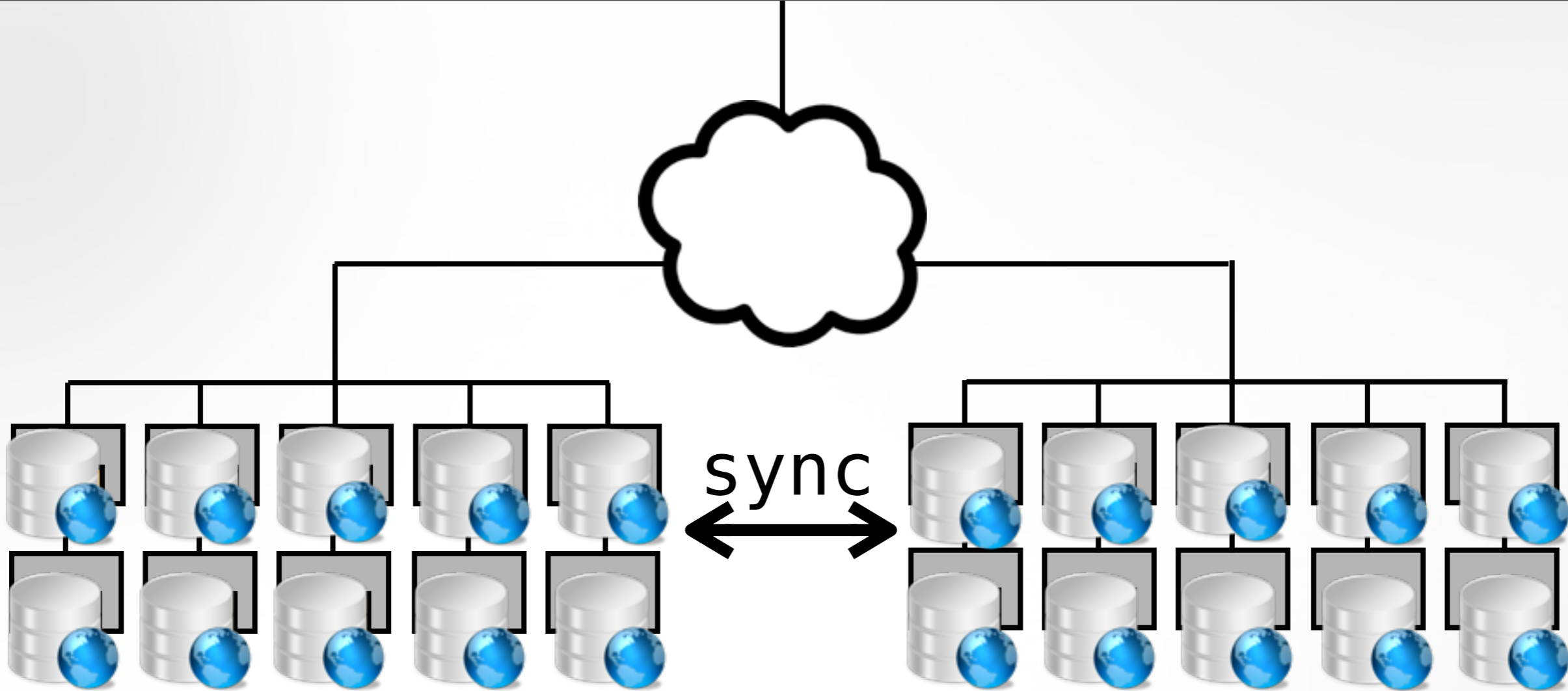


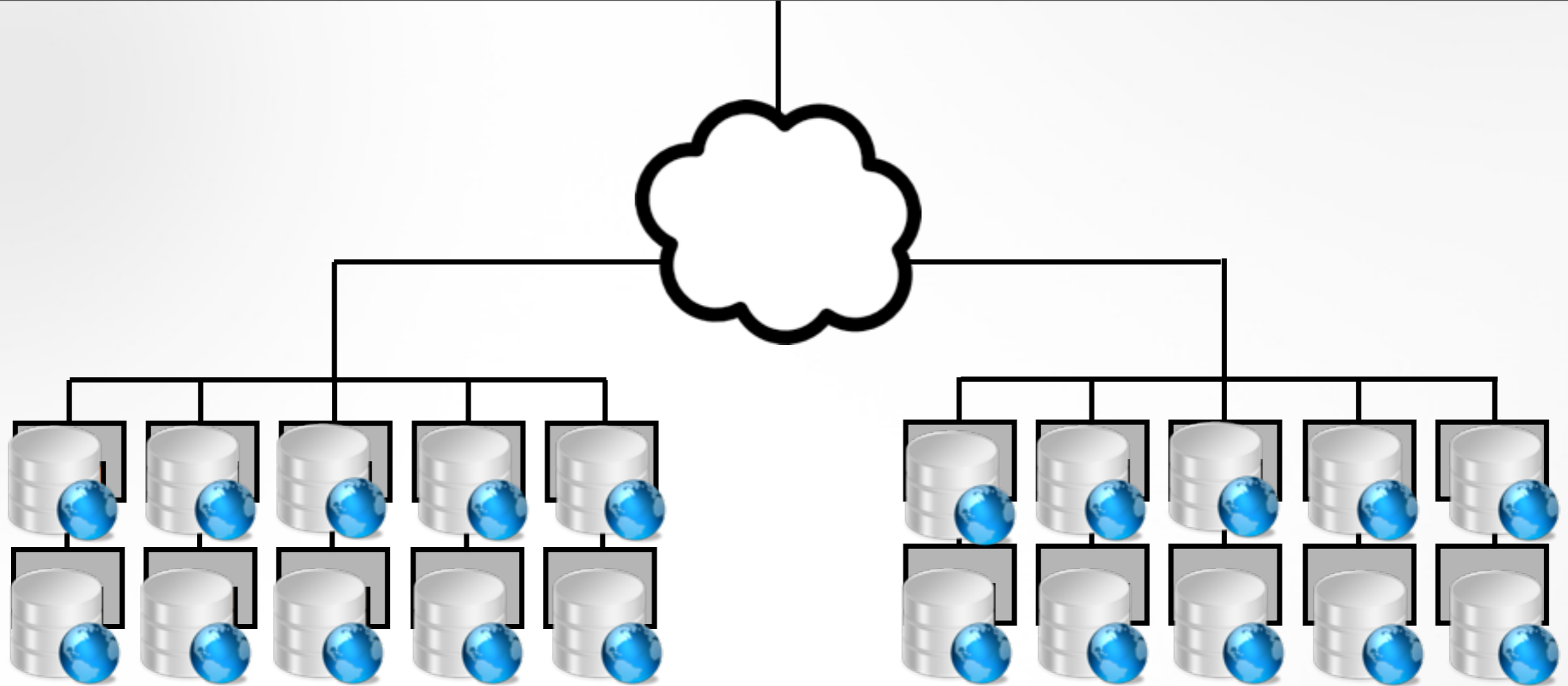




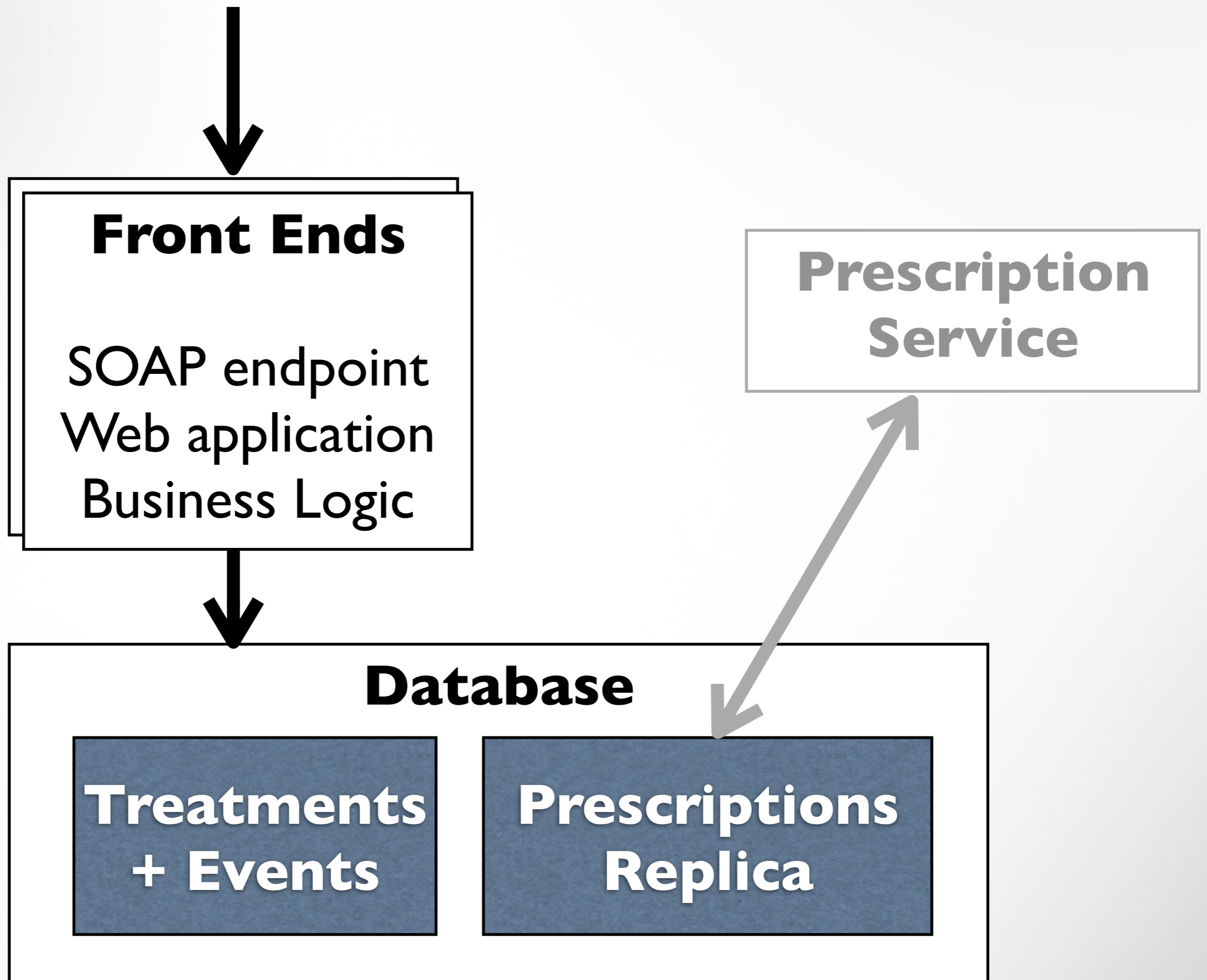


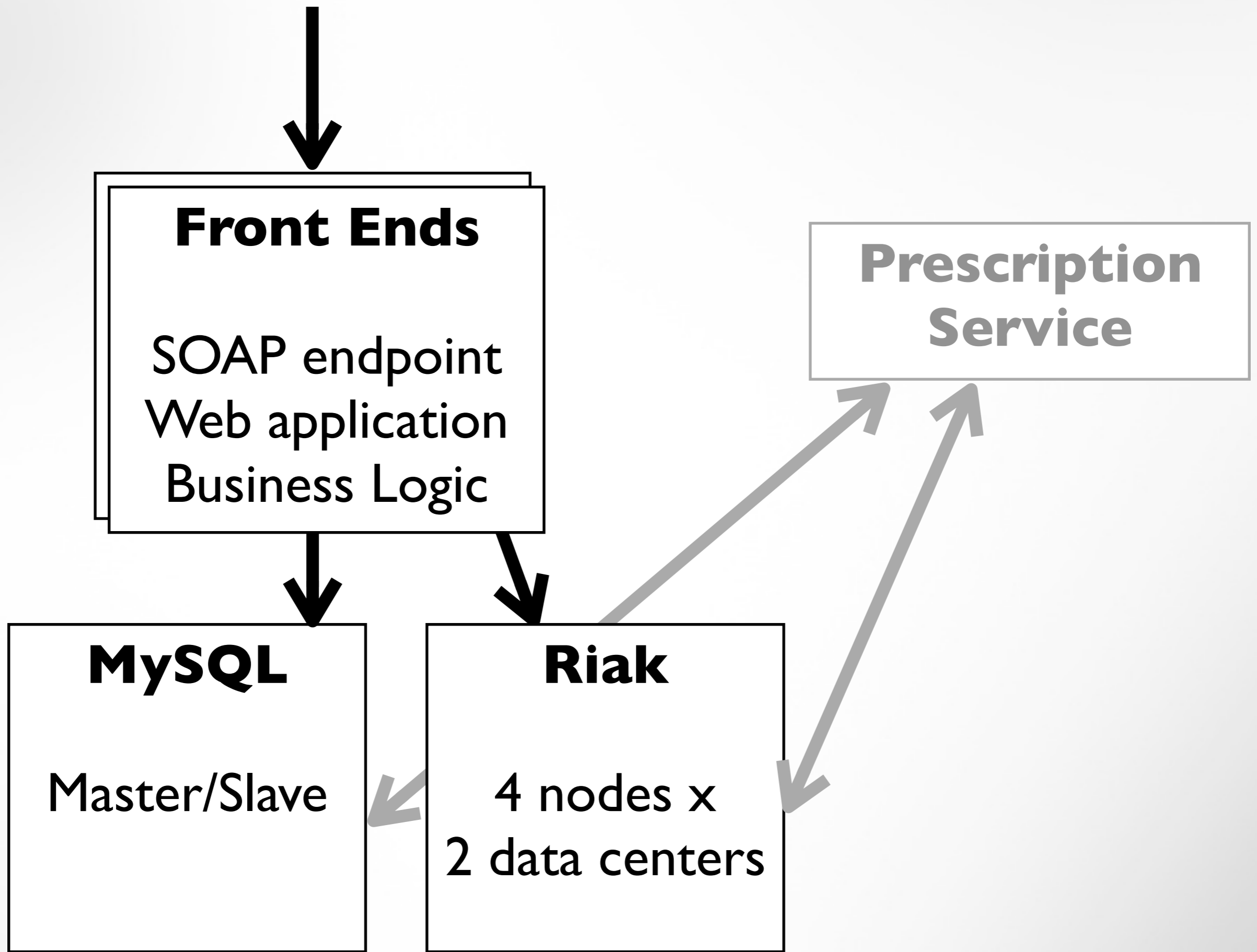
coordinate





- scalable and available
- system captures write conflicts
- resolve lazily (read repair)





Challenges

- Data model: how to go from Relational model to Key/Value model
- Experiences with Riak's backends
- How to keep version history
- A true war story

Data Model

- Integrity without ACID transactions
- Riak's default storage keeps *all* keys in memory
- Dealing with Write Conflicts

Phase I

- To validate the architecture, we built a system where these are kept in Riak:
 - Prescription Replicas
 - Audit-log
 - Request cache

First Attempt: Using Links

~5 million

Person

Key: Person-ID

Links: Prescription-ID*

~200 million

Prescription

Key: Prescription-ID

Content: Protobuf+GZip

- Allows reading of **N** record in one roundtrip
- Performance suffered: **1+N** disk access
- Too many keys in memory

First Attempt: Using Links

~5 million

Person

Key: Person-ID

Links: Prescription-ID*

~200 million

Prescription

Key: Prescription-ID

Content: Protobuf+GZip

- Ran poorly on Virtual Hardware
- Trying to figure out how to handle conflicts

Second Take

~5 million

Prescriptions

Key: Person-ID

Content: Protobuf+GZip

- Very simple: read - resolve - modify - write
- Integrity: 1 person ↔ 1 record
- Performance good: **1** disk access
- All keys fit in memory

Read Repair

- On every read, we handle write conflicts
- If so, auto-merge[*], store and re-read
- Resolve: Merging is *business logic*; some merge actions need user attention, others don't.
- Forward: This is also the hook for schema evolution

The Audit Log

- ~1 billions log entries per year
- Stores generic JSON documents
- Need some search capability
- Bitcask backend was not an option

The Audit Log

- InnoDB backend [basically MySQL]
- Increasing keys for B-tree backend
“YYYYMMDDhhmmss:<random-bits>”
- Indexing in SQL store
 - New version of Riak has a new backend with secondary indexing capability, which we'll try out

Request Cache

- Makes SOAP-endpoints idempotent
- Keep Request/Response for 14 days
- Perfect fit for default Bitcask backend

A Real War Story...

- First production launch with Riak
- Strange data corruption started to appear
- Also spontaneous I/O errors sometimes
- Does not exactly make you comfortable...

A Real War Story

- We installed commit hooks in Riak (MD5 validation)
- TCP data was being corrupted **in transit!**
- Spotted **IP-Headers** in the middle of data
- Operations folks were still suspicious...

A Real War Story

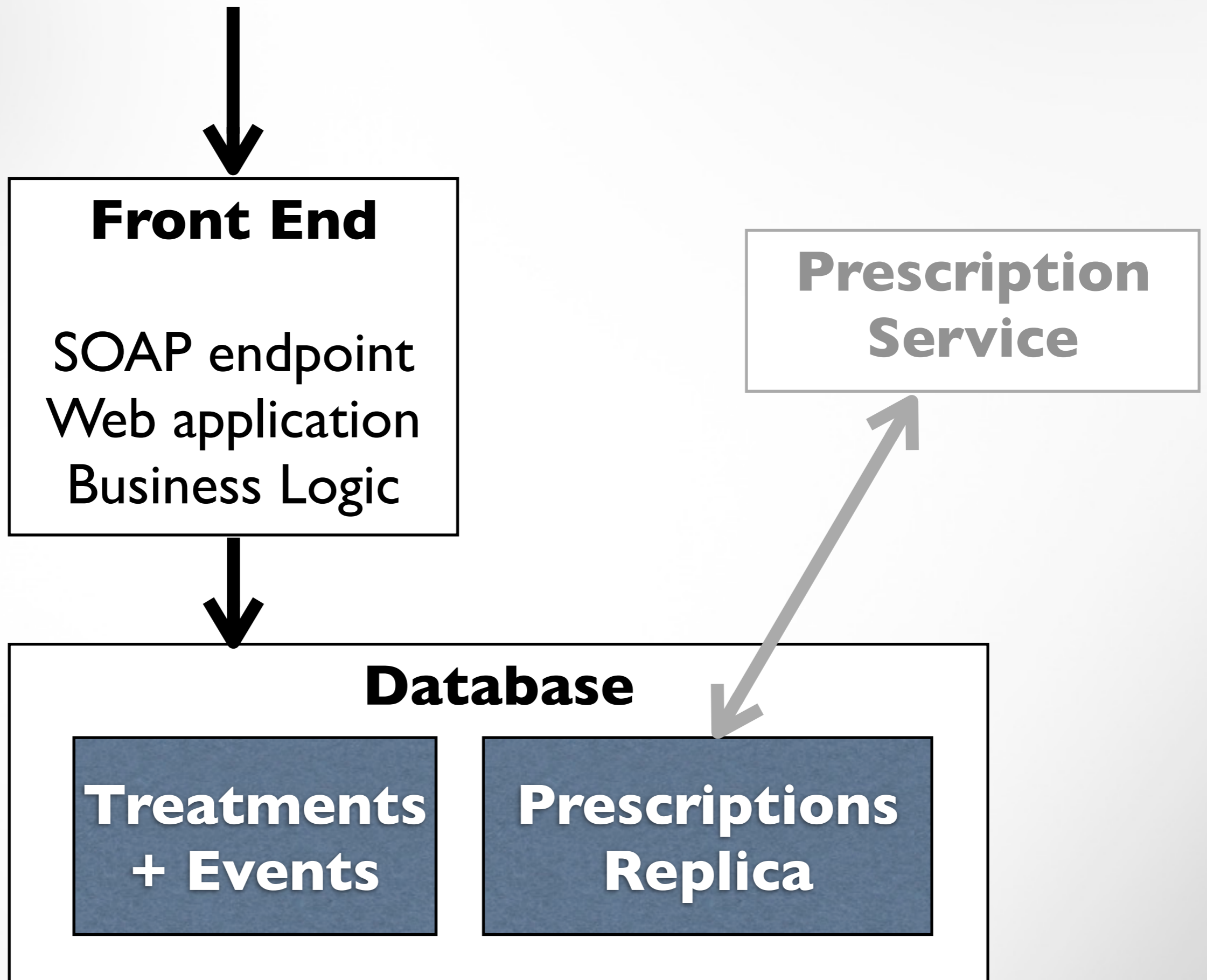
- The problem was a buggy network driver
- TCP checksumming is very simple
- $1/2^{16}$ packets was let thru - MD5 caught it
- Also the reason for I/O dropped connections

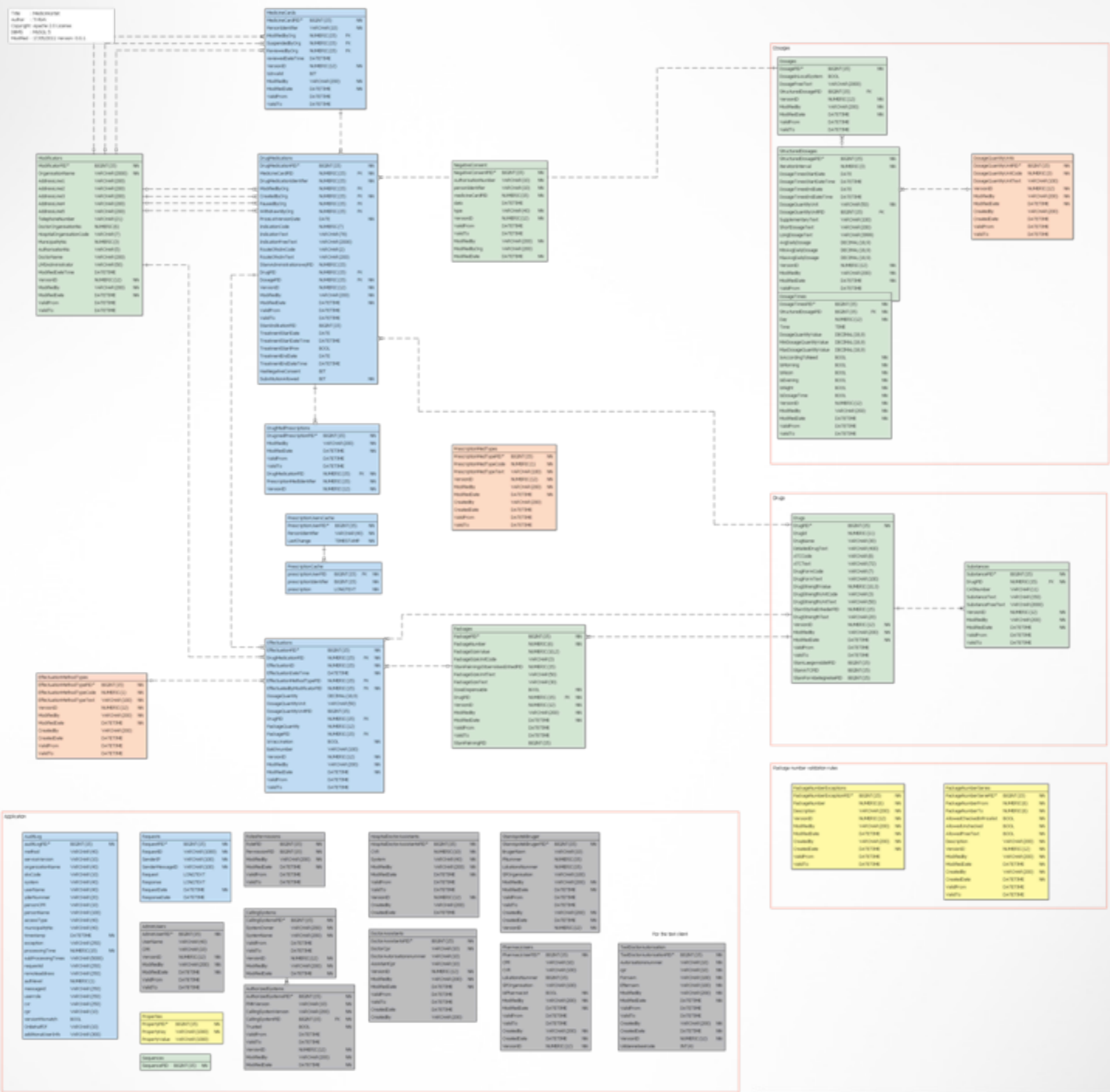
Phase I: Conclusions

- 3 data sets - 3 different solutions
- Availability & Scalability
- Response times are better and more predictable
- Before: Locked at max # ops/sec
- Now: 4 x ops/sec ... and can scale more

Phase II

- Move “the rest” of the application into Riak
- Building this on new Riak 1.0
 - Secondary indexing
 - Version/history
 - Ad-hoc querying





~5 million

MedicineCard

Key: **Person-ID**

Content: Protobuf+GZip

~5 million

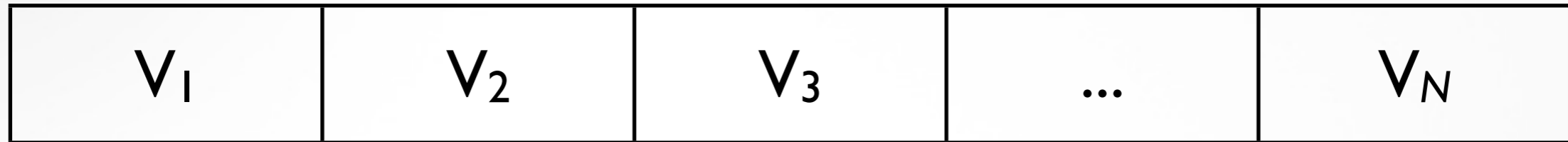
Prescriptions

Key: Person-ID

Content: Protobuf+GZip

- We'll use the same simple data model
- Storing version history using "DeltaZip"
- Provide ad-hoc querying using XPath/protobuf

DeltaZip



- Store all versions of data in one record
- Compress **data_M** using **data_{M+1}** as compression dictionary.
- Works amazingly well for our kind of data, since we just update some of an object

Querying Riak w/ XPath

- We've built an xpath evaluator for JSON and protobuf data - simple Map/Reduce
- For protobuf encoded record we store it's schema in a header.
- Avoids using javascript or erlang for map/reduce querying

Consider this...

- How much scalability/availability do you need?
- Multi-version (update data)
 - Read-repair of write conflicts
- Last write wins (caching, logging, ...)
 - No need to handle conflicts
- Store complex data by natural keys

Conclusions

- “Eventual consistent” may be better match for your business problem than ACID
- Data Modeling involving large datasets is very different [have to consider physics]
- The system runs faster [throughput + response time]
- We sleep better at night

Thank You.

@drkrab

