

# AWS re:Inforce

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# Building resilient event-driven architectures, feat. United Airlines

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United Airlines

# Where are we going today?

- 1 Why event-driven architectures?
- 2 Best practices for governance & resiliency
- 3 Data protection mechanisms
- 4 Customer story – United Airlines mainframe modernization

# Application modernization

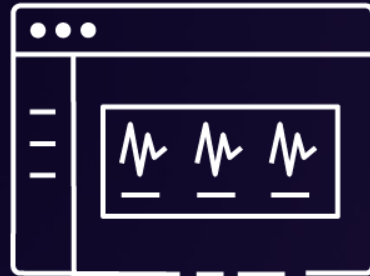


# Business requirements

**Go faster**



**Be more stable**



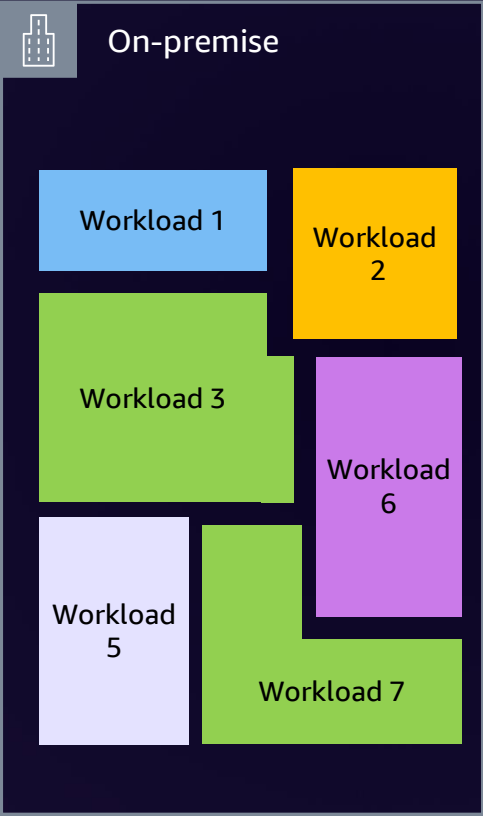
**Increase quality**



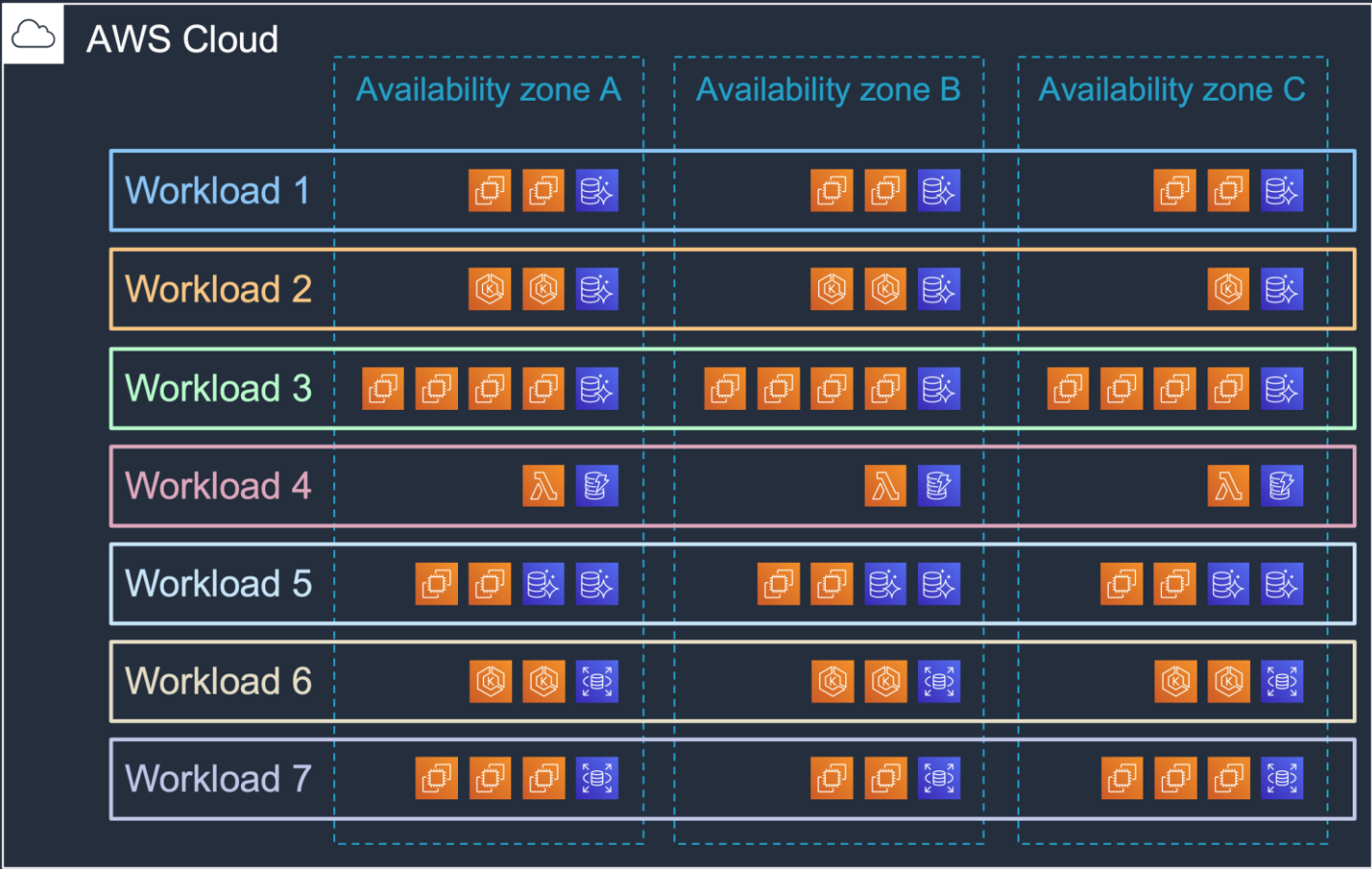
**Be cheaper**



# Strangling workload by workload



Modernization



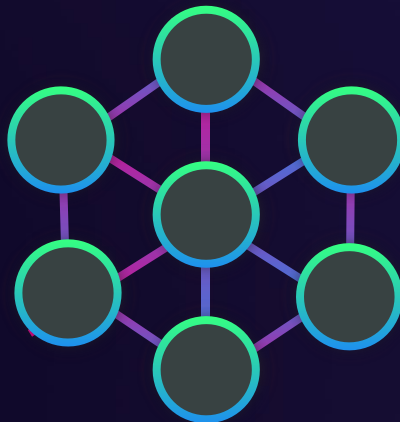
Guidance:  
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/prescriptive-guidance/latest/modernization-decomposing-monoliths/welcome.html>



# Architecture review



**Monolith**  
Does everything



**Microservices**  
Does one thing



Scales to  
millions of users



Has global  
availability



Responds in  
milliseconds



Handles petabytes  
of data

Microservices approach advocates creating a system from a collection of **small**, isolated services, each of which owns their data and is **independently** isolated, scalable, and **resilient** to failure

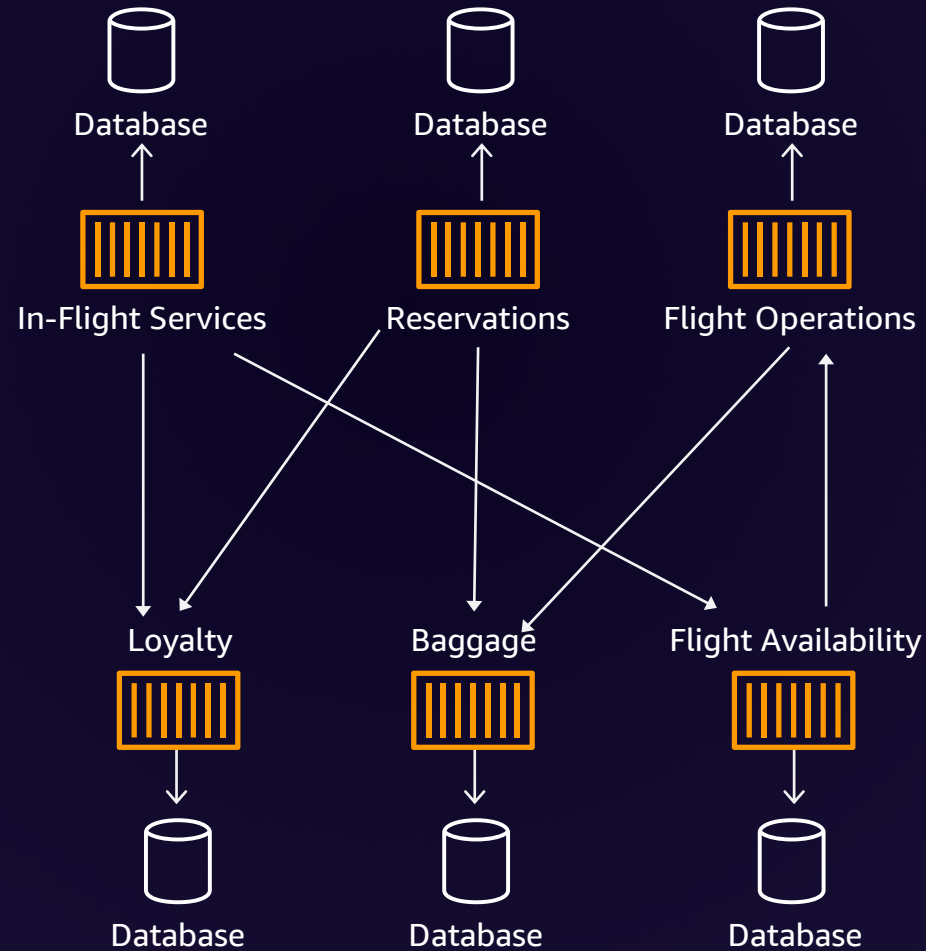
# Why event-driven architecture





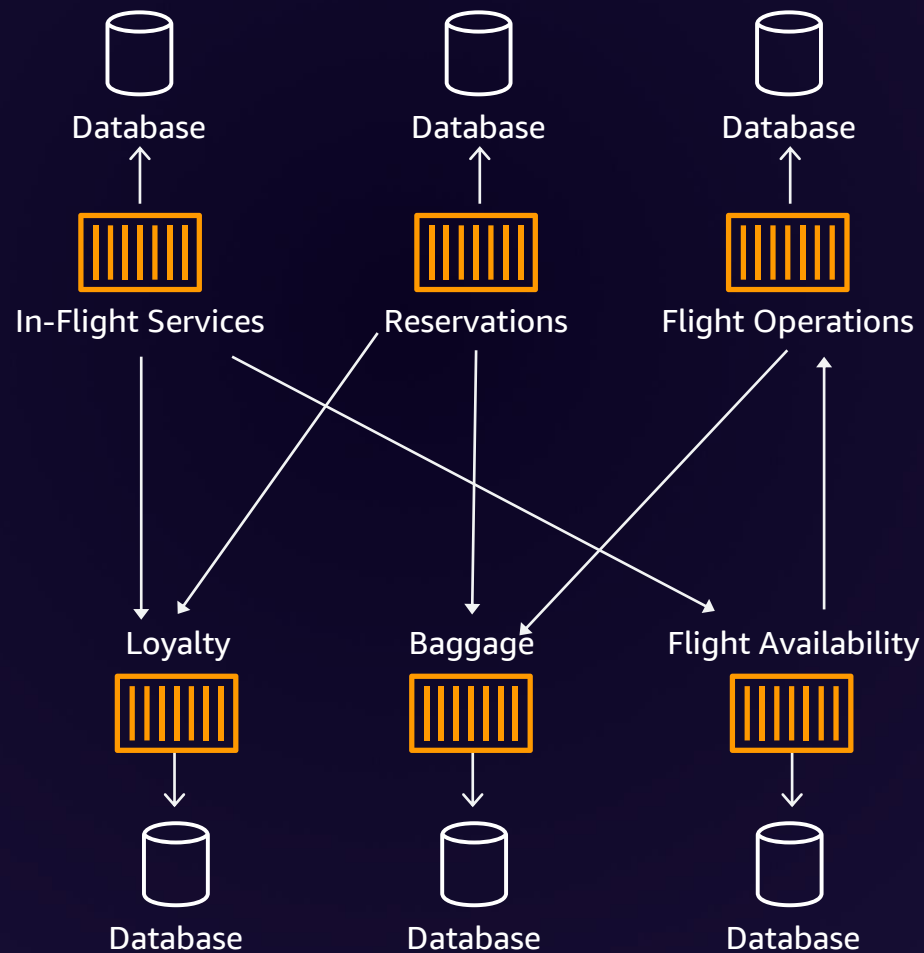
# Loosely couple microservices

REQUEST/RESPONSE

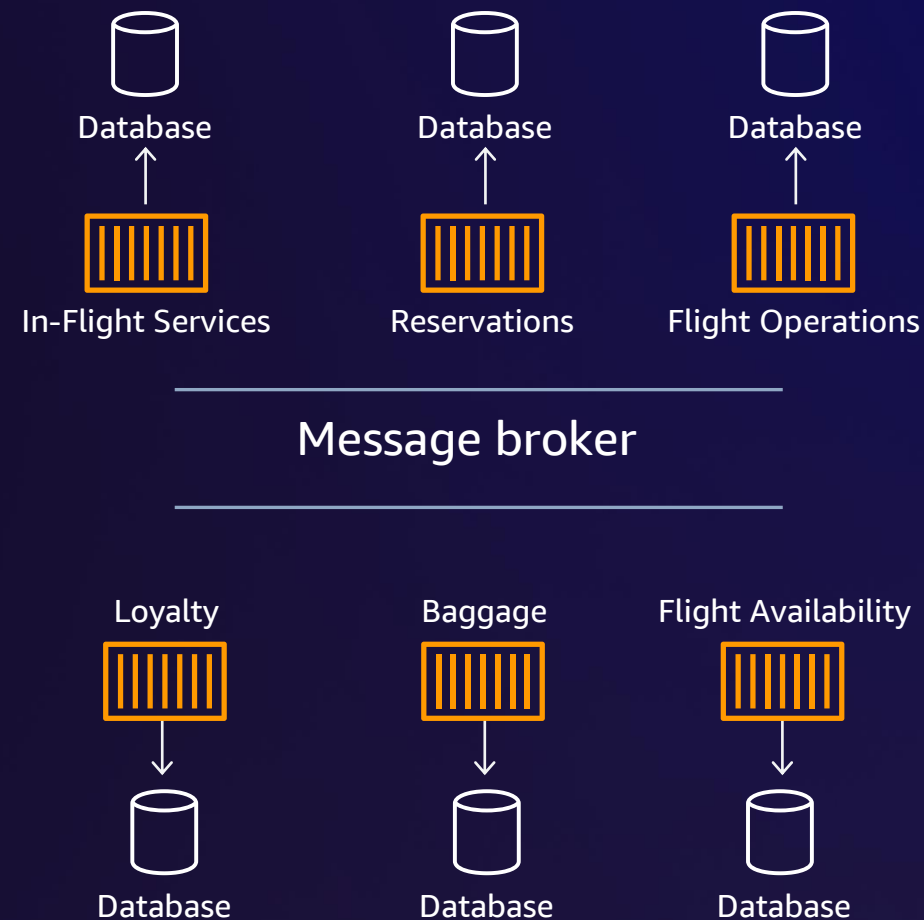


# Loosely couple microservices

## REQUEST/RESPONSE



## EVENT-DRIVEN



# Event-driven architectures

An **architectural style** of building **loosely-coupled** software systems that work together by **emitting and responding to events**

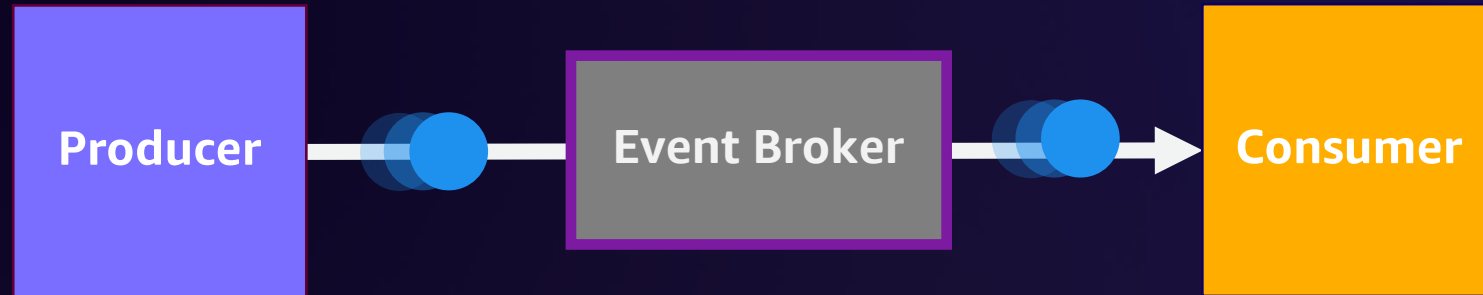
“If your application is cloud-native, or large-scale, or distributed, and doesn’t include a messaging component, that’s probably a bug.”

Source:

<https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/compute/understanding-asynchronous-messaging-for-microservices/>



# At the core of event-driven architecture



# AWS messaging & event services

## Born in the Cloud | Micro Services



Amazon SQS



Amazon SNS



Amazon EventBridge

## Event Bus & SaaS

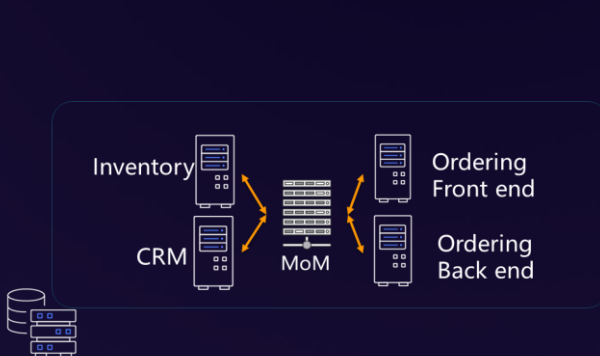


Amazon EventBridge

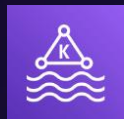


Amazon Pinpoint

## Cloud Migration & Modernization

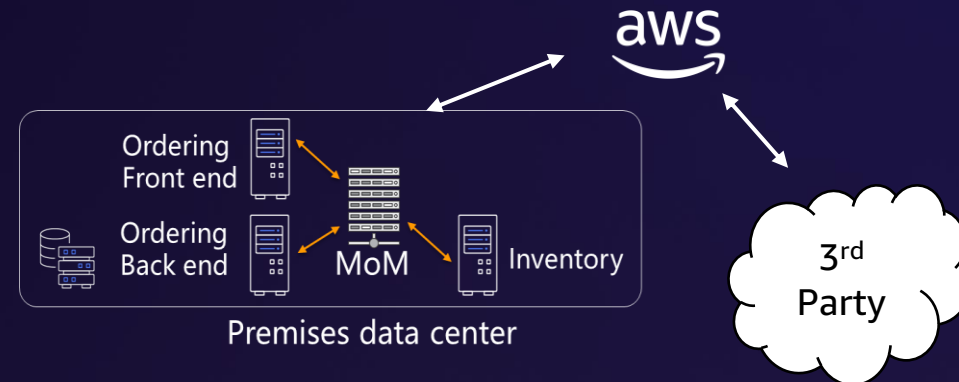


Amazon MQ

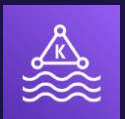


Amazon MSK

## Hybrid & Multicloud



Amazon MQ

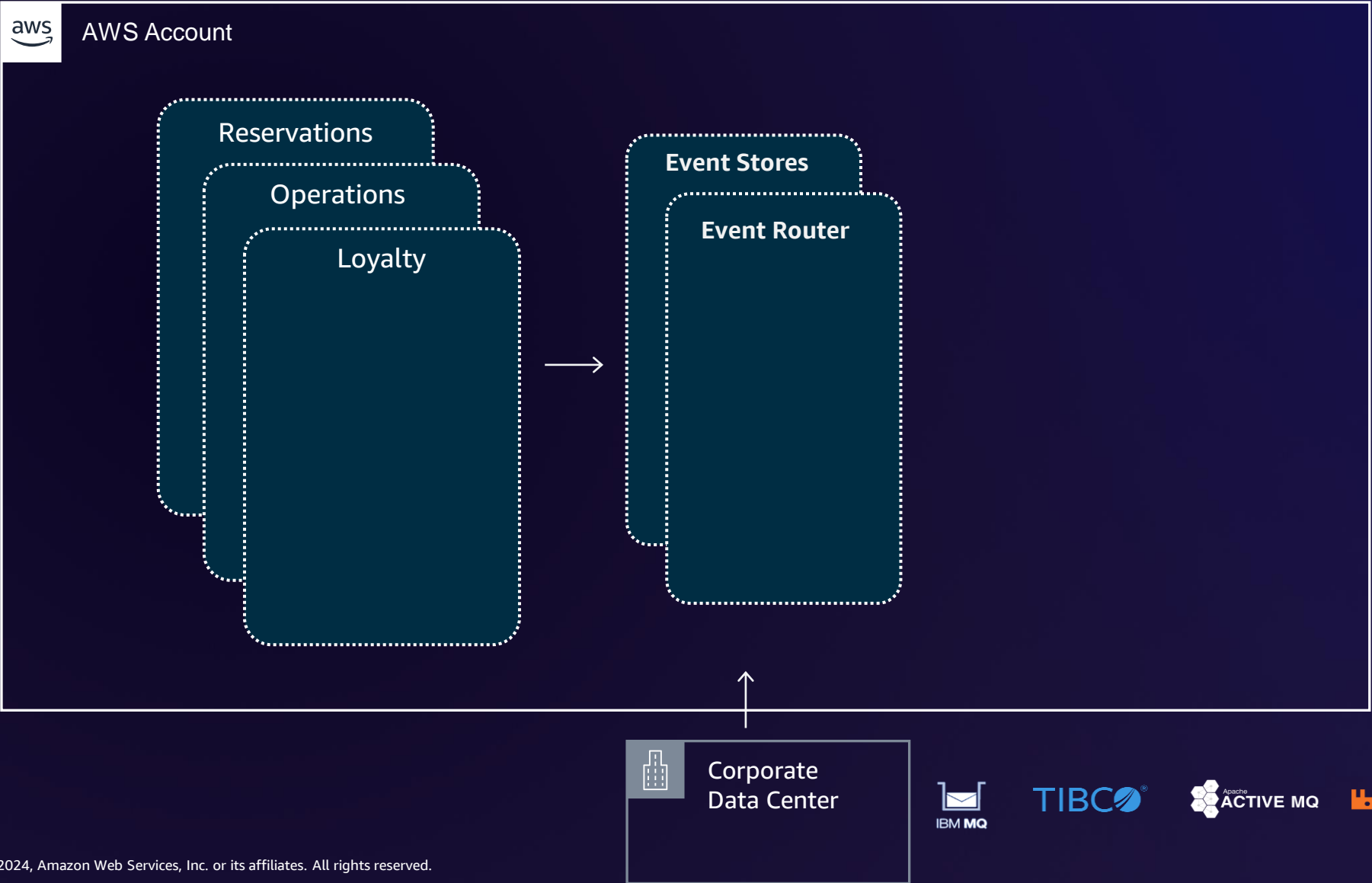


Amazon MSK

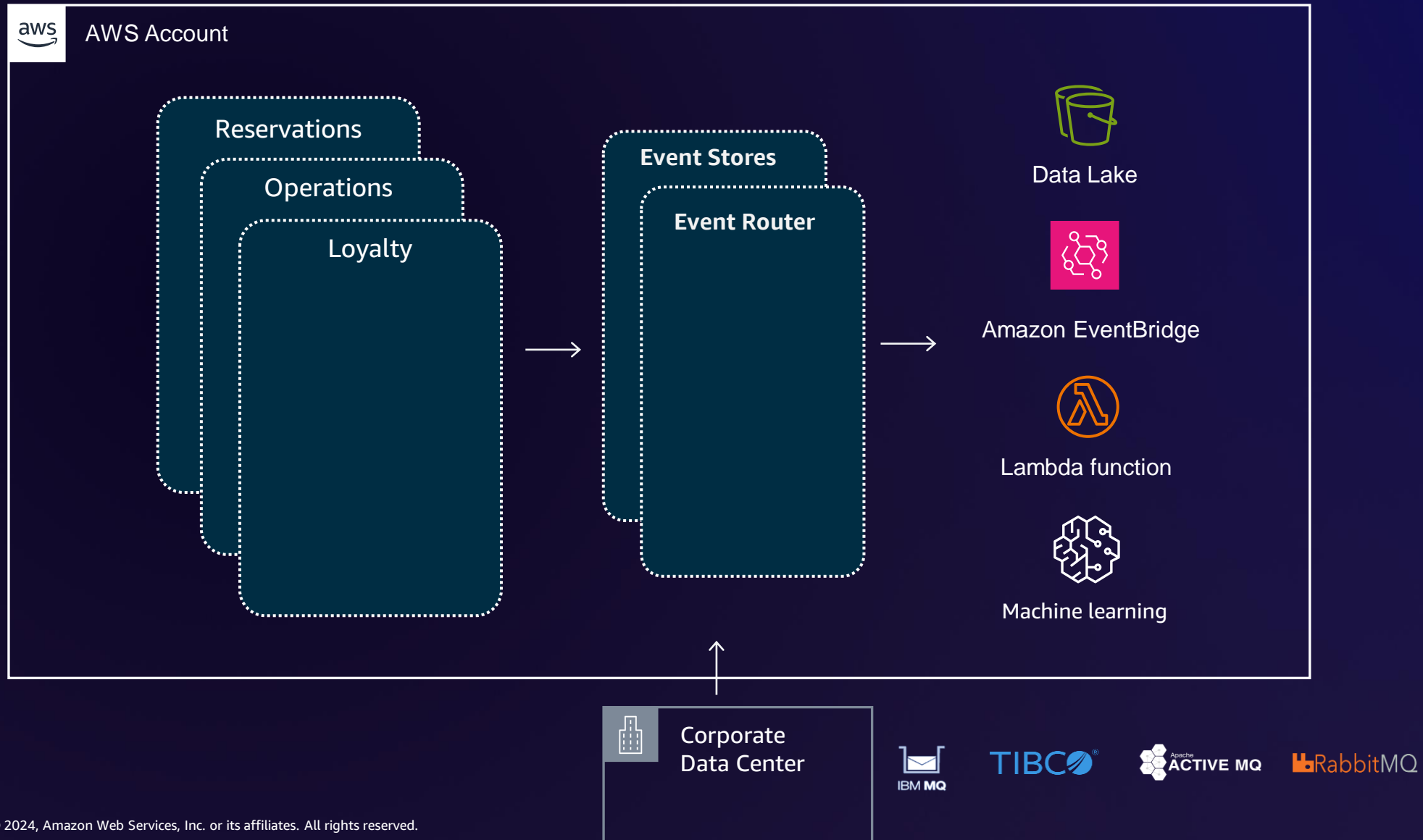
# Governance architecture



# Event-driven architecture implementation

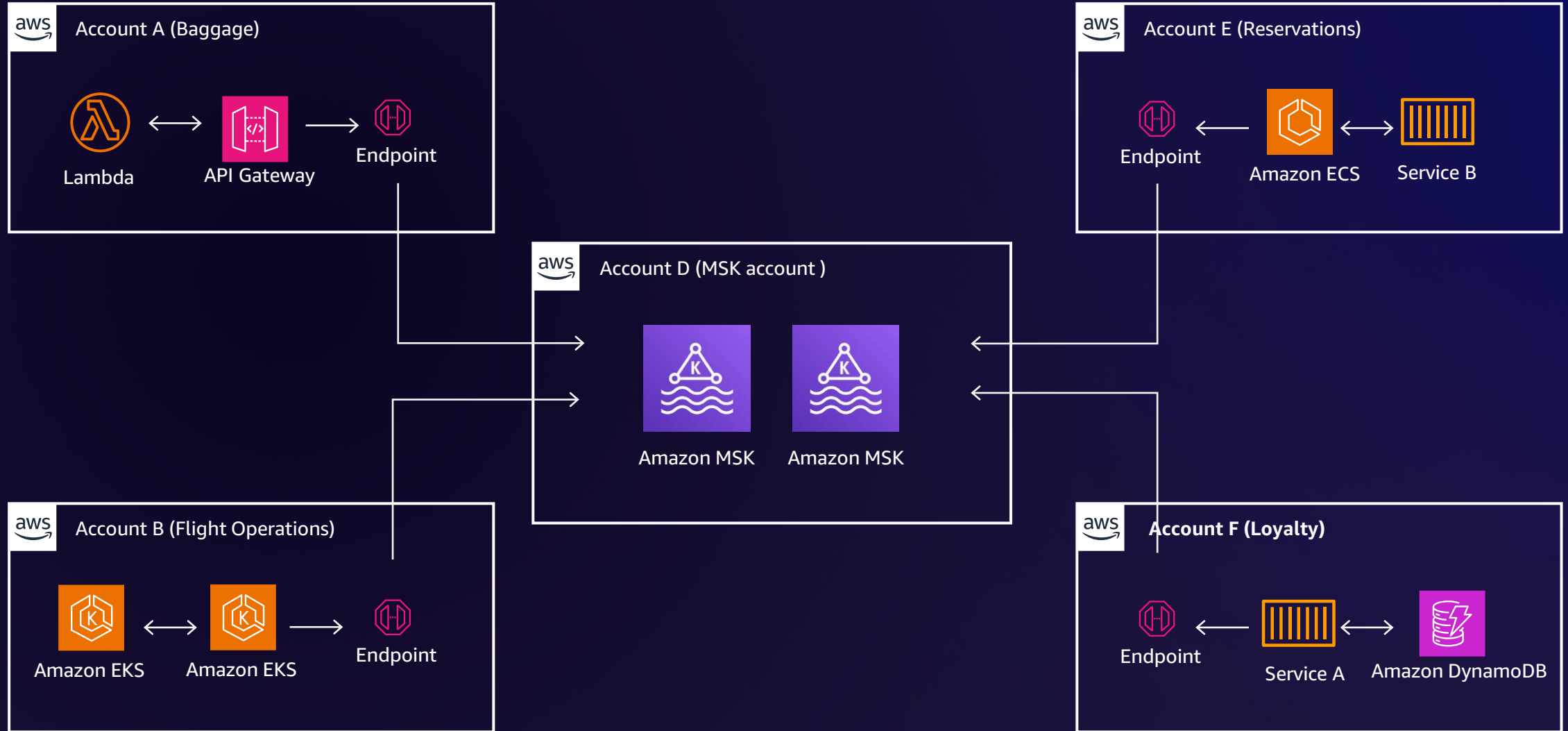


# Event-driven architecture implementation

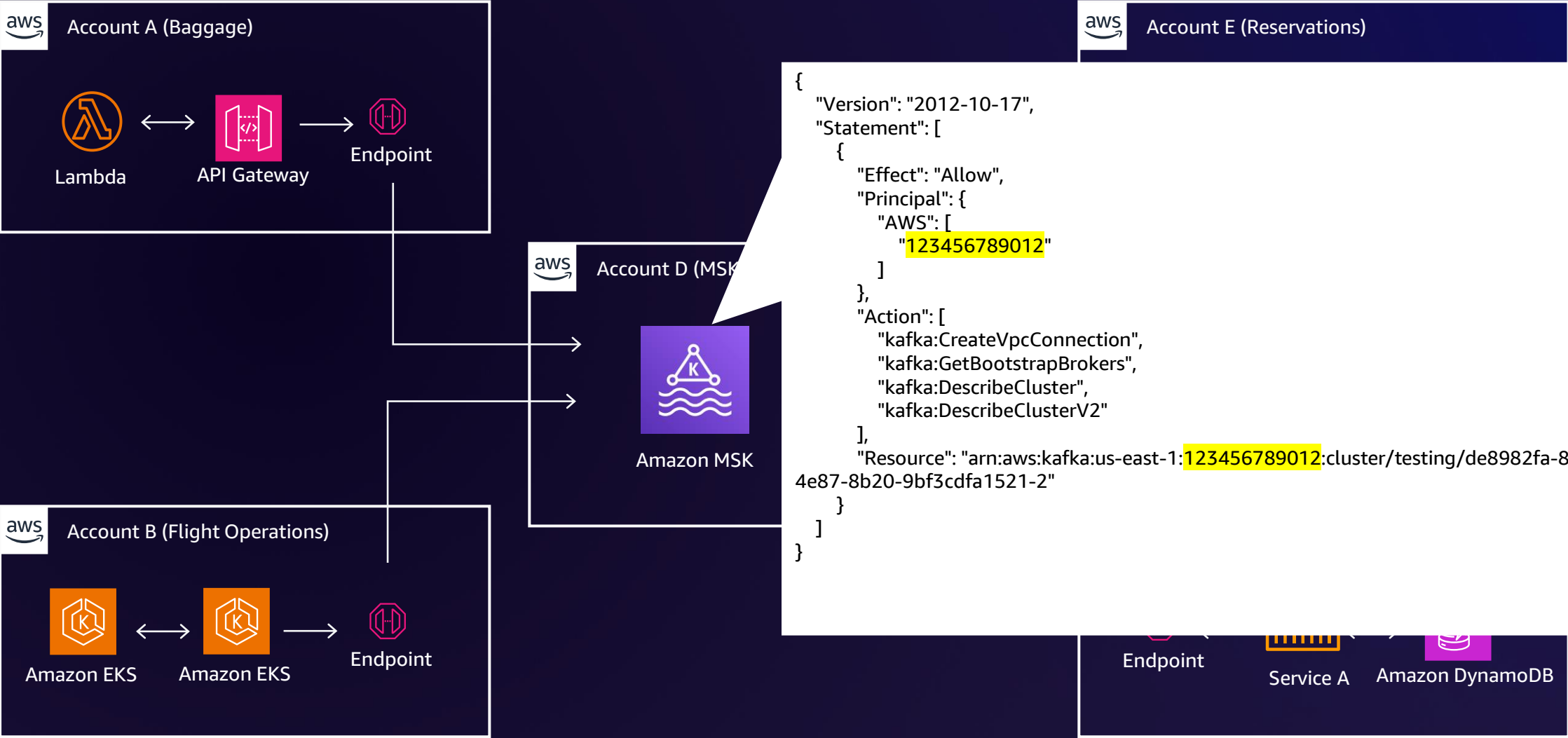




# Micro account architectures



# Micro account architectures



# Micro account architectures

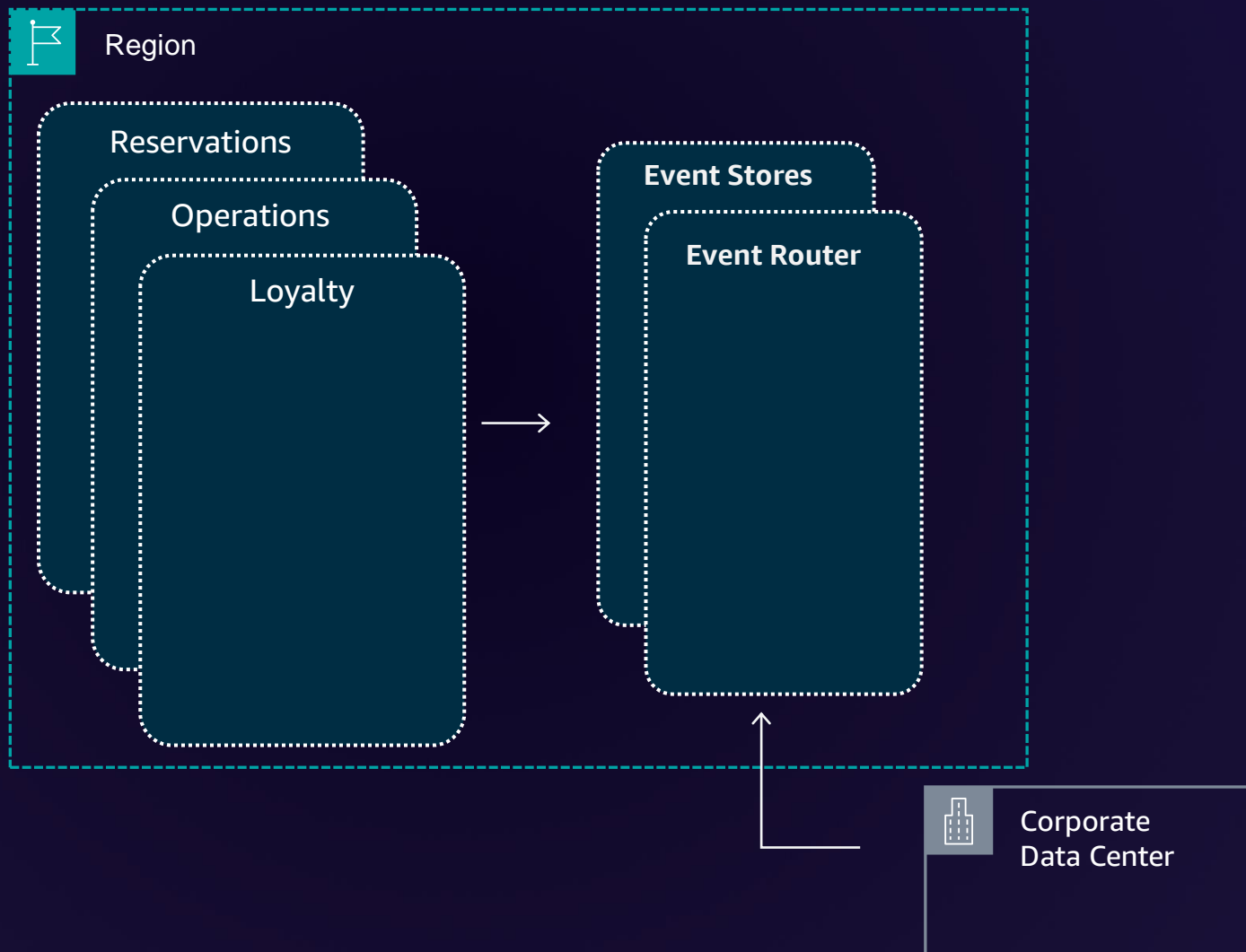


# Cross-Region architecture





Amazon Route 53

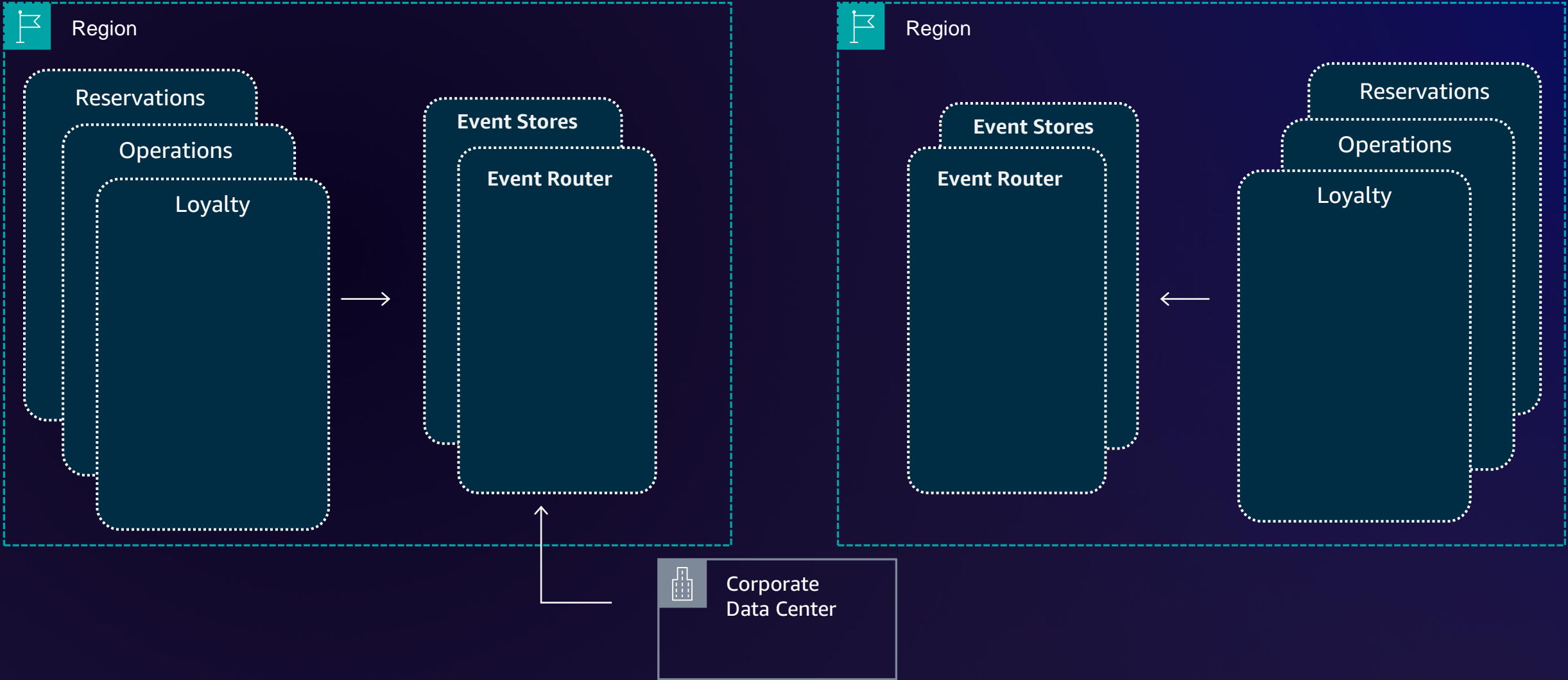


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Amazon Route 53

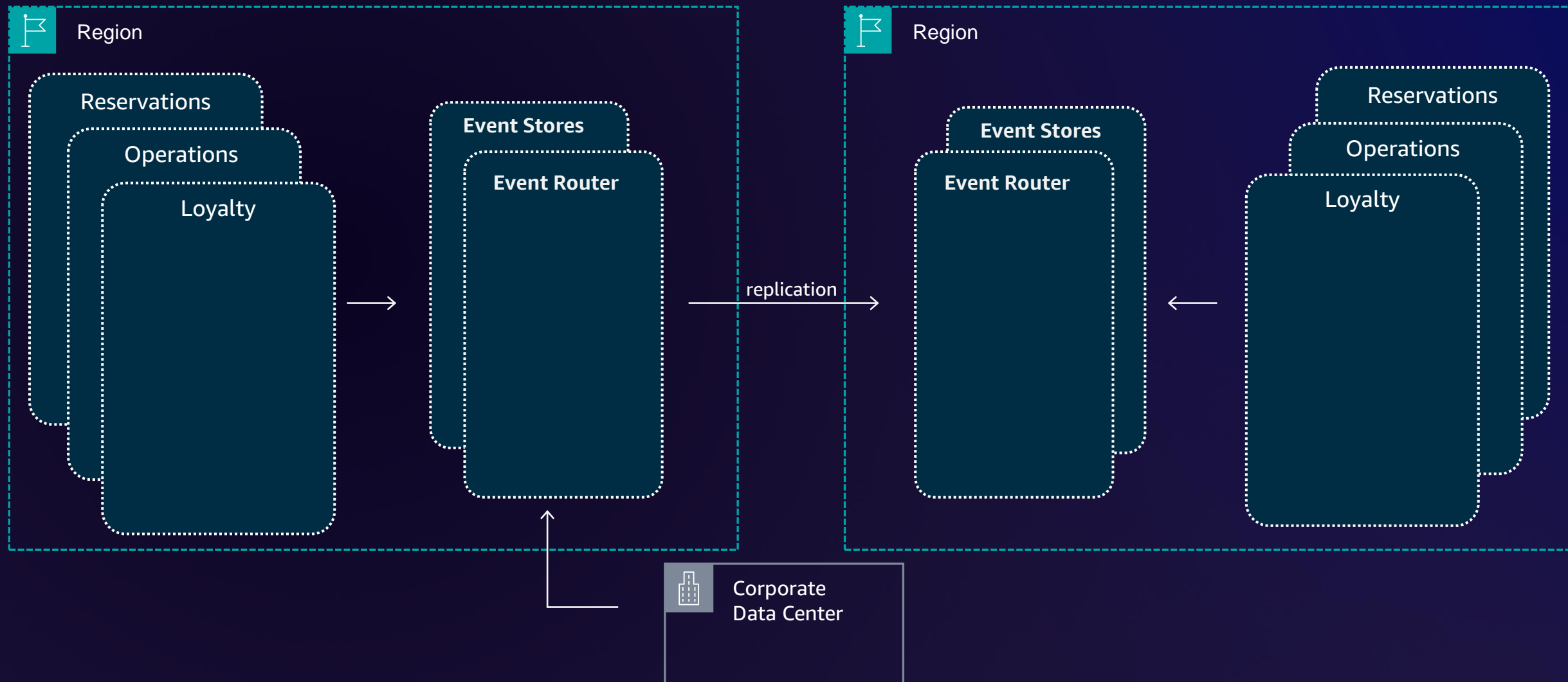


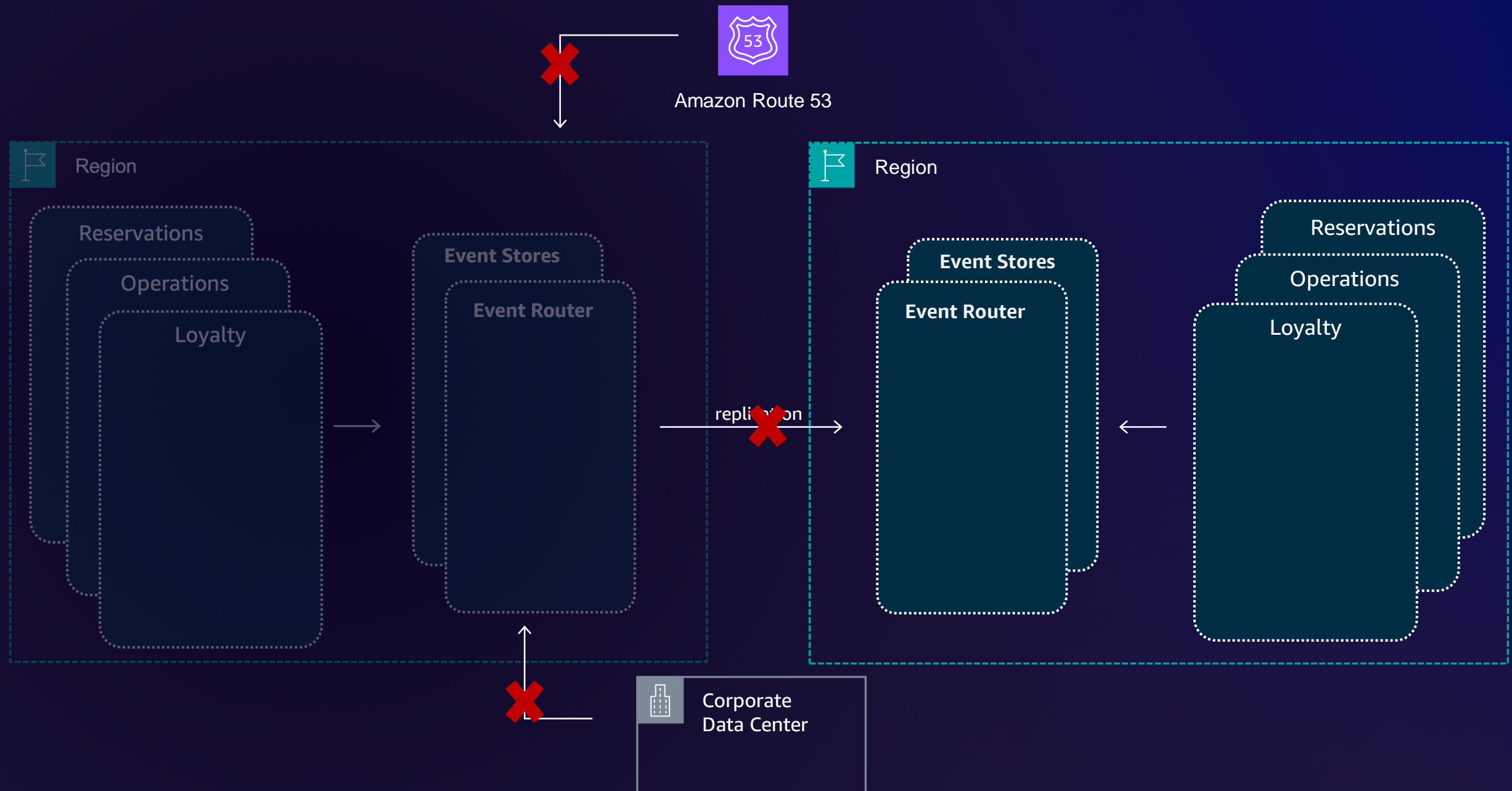
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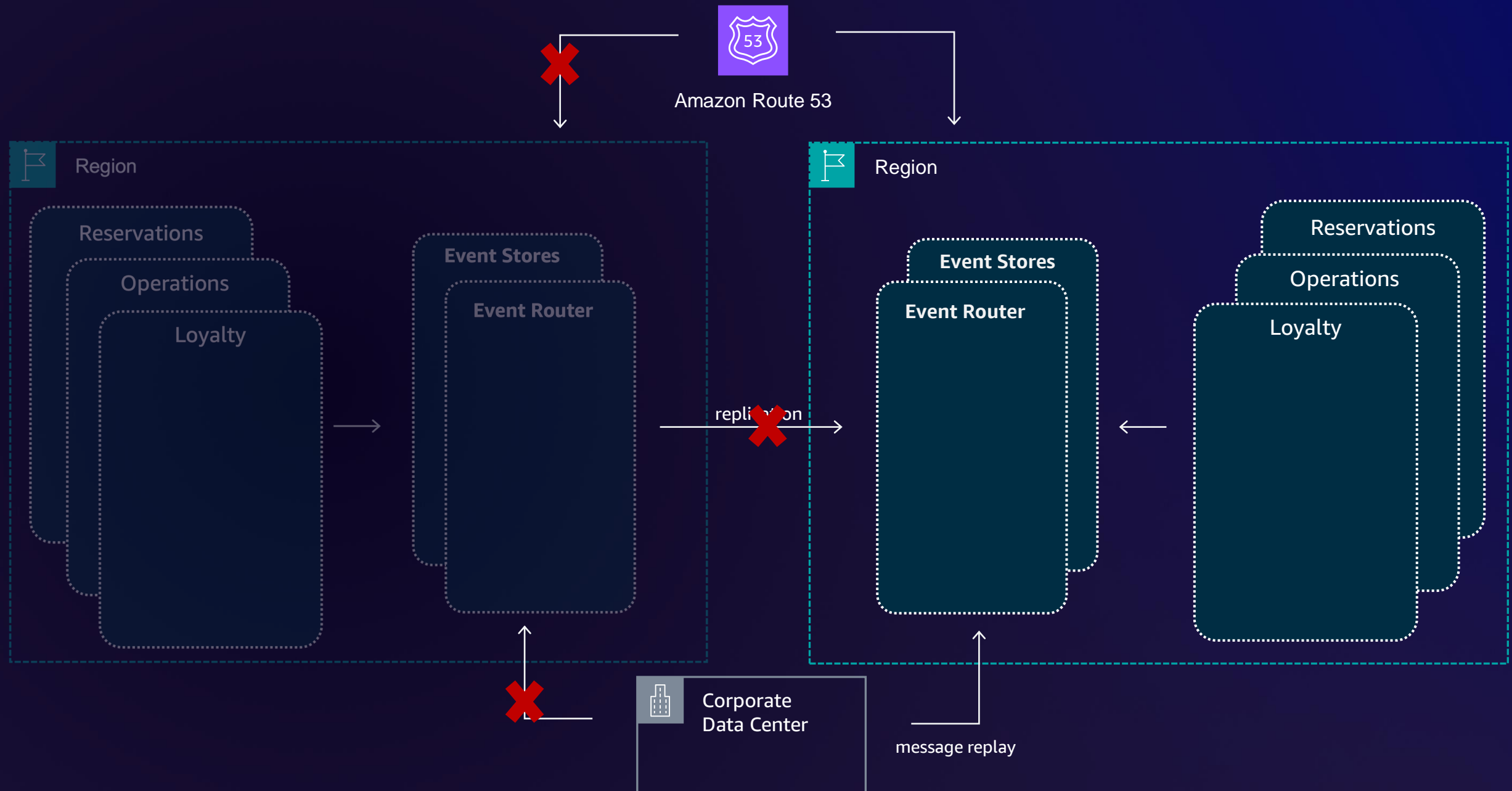


Amazon Route 53

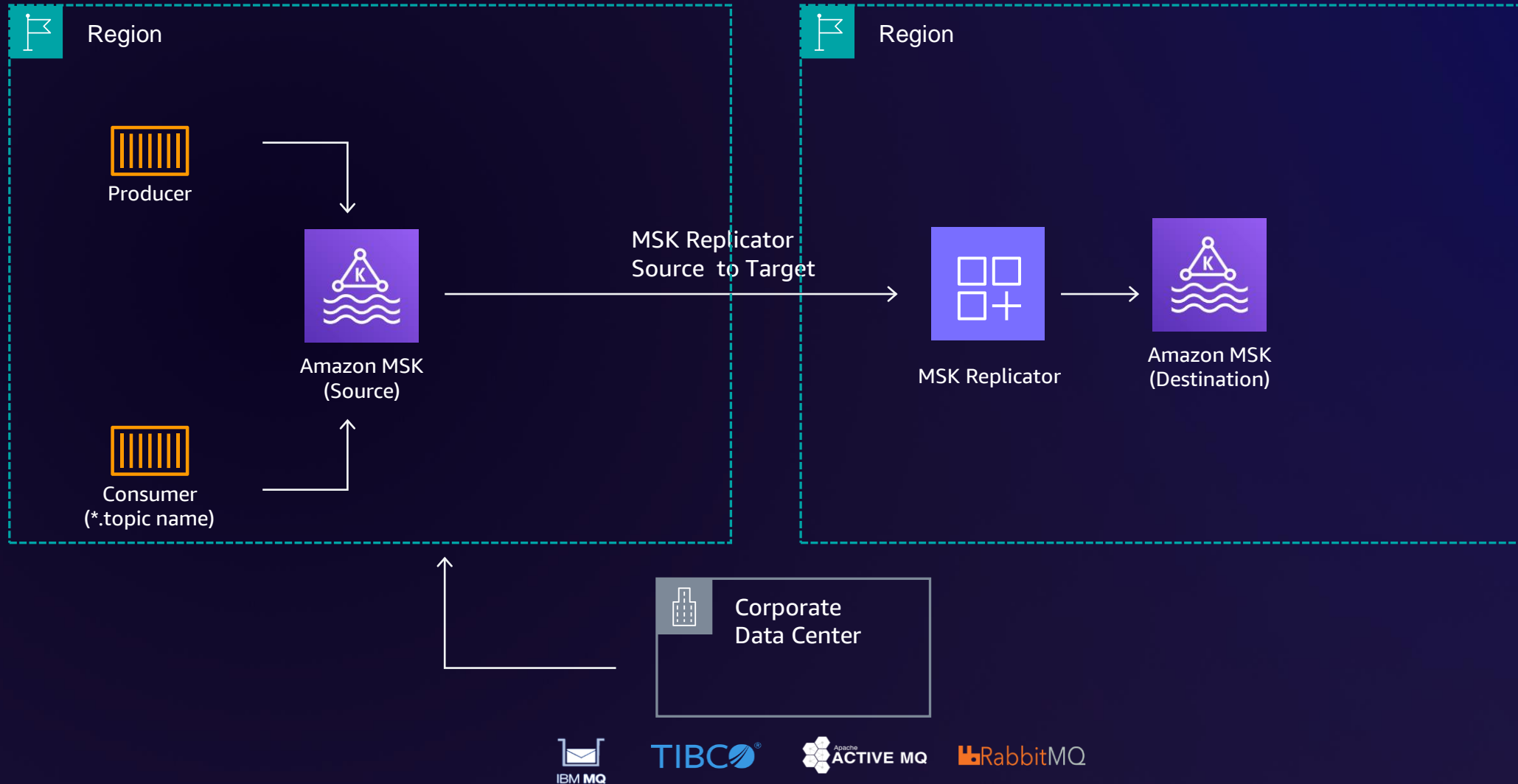




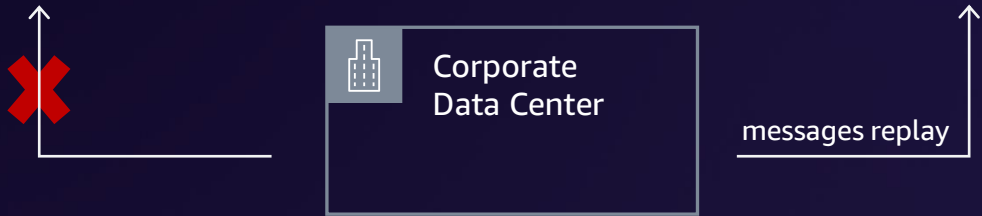
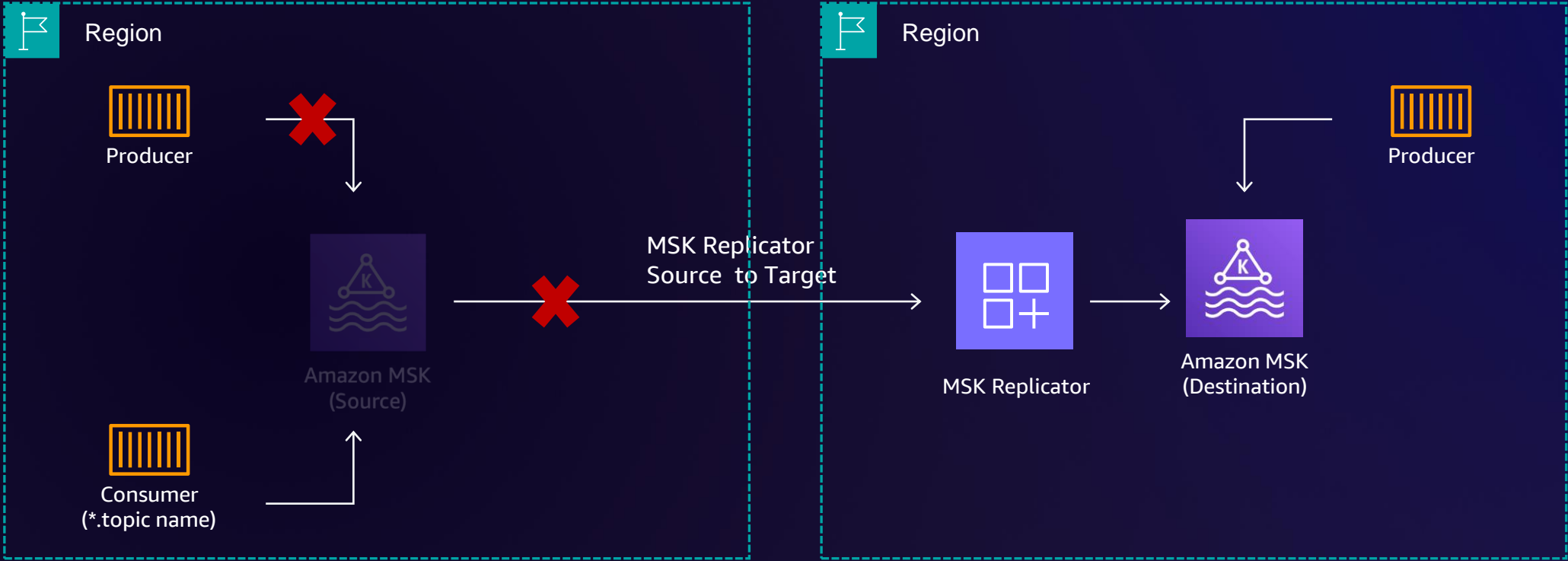




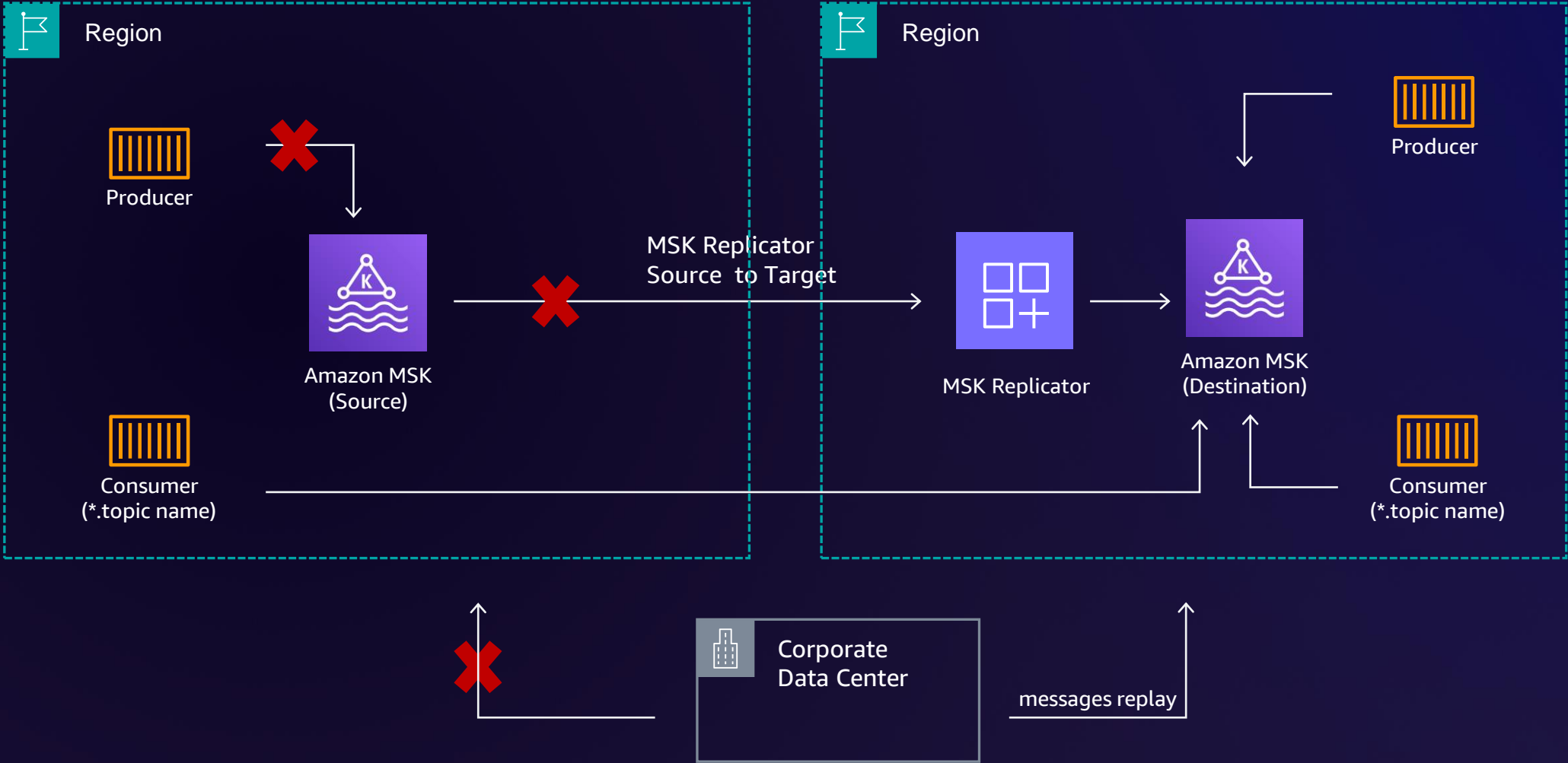
# Amazon MSK Replicator



# Amazon MSK Replicator



# Amazon MSK Replicator



# Other considerations

1. Failover process automation
2. Asynchronous replication
3. Strong observability practice & health checks
4. Latency across Regions
5. Fine-grained access to secrets

# Data protection for event-driven architecture

# Characteristics of EDA

In event-driven architecture (EDA) focuses on the production, detection, and reaction to events

Events can **propagate across a network**, updating data stores as they go, and can be initiated anywhere

It consists of **event emitters** (or agents), **event consumers** (or sinks), and **event channels**, with a focus on **decoupling producers and consumers** of events to allow for independent operation and scalability



# Characteristics of EDA

Data in movement

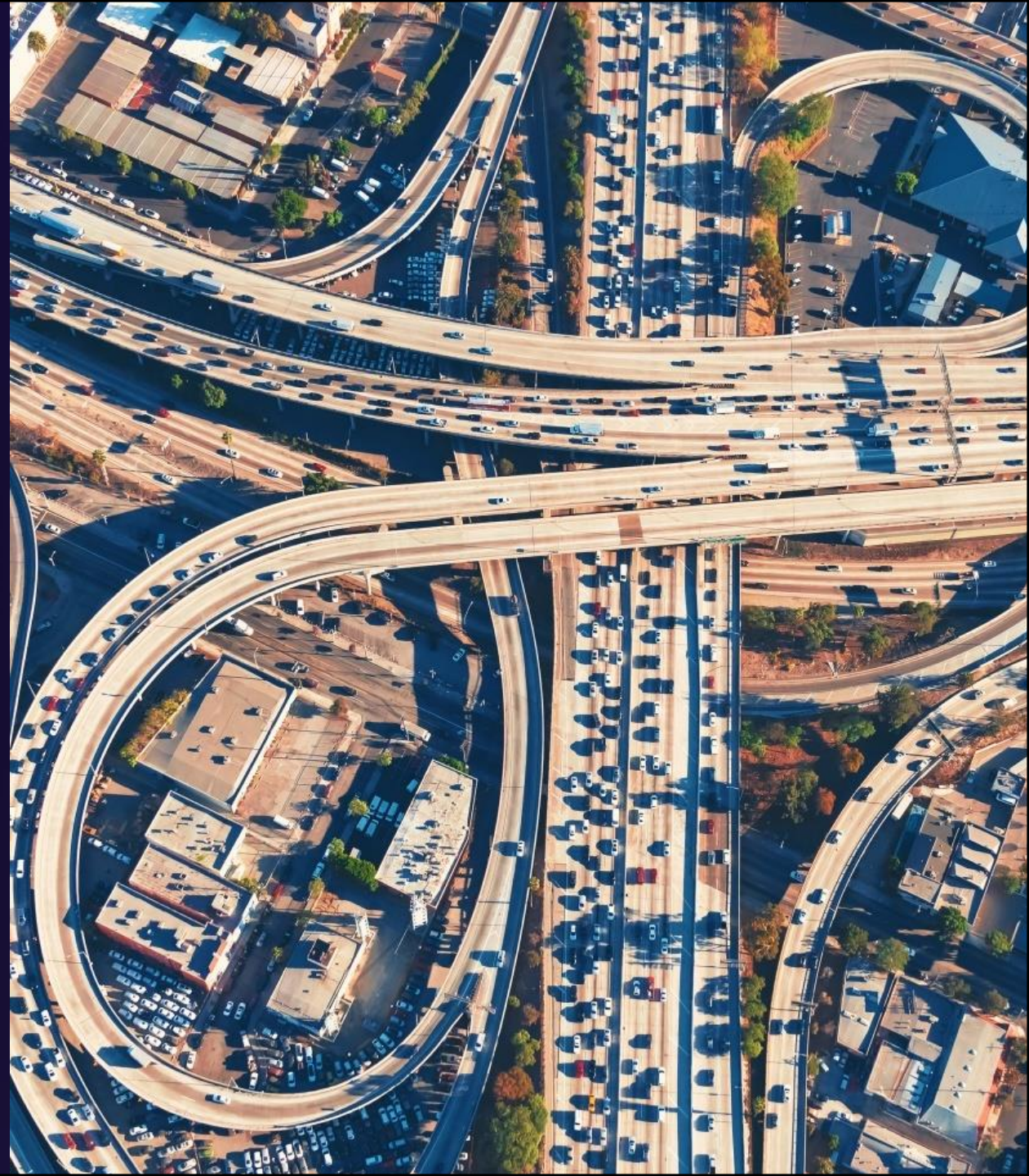
Across locations

on-premises <-> AWS <-> Regions & AZs

Across system components

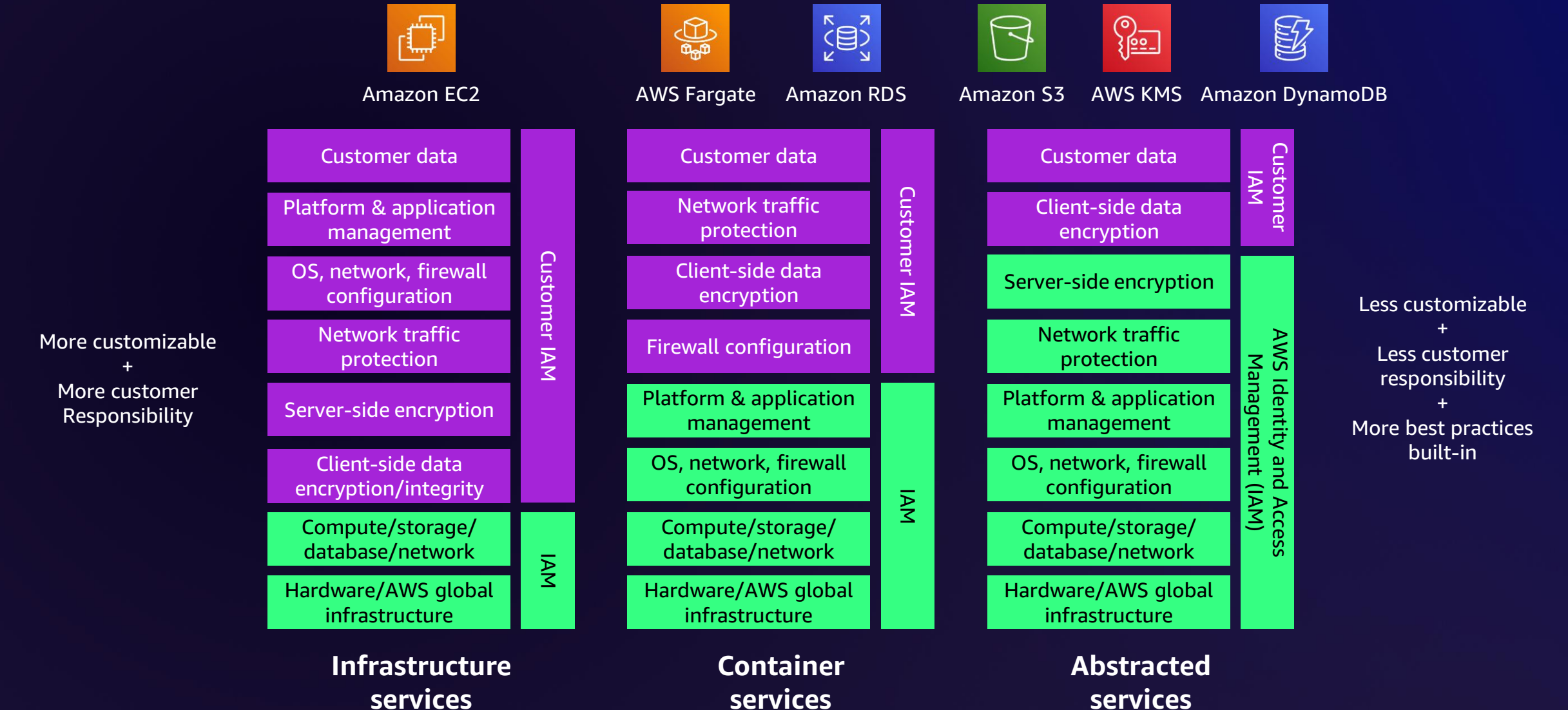
producers, channels, consumers & storages

On top of a network layer





# Shared responsibility



# EDA **data protection** best practices

- Move only needed data, attributes, or metadata (avoid verbose events/messages)
- Filter and remove unneeded sensitive data (at source or at the edge)
- Always use encryption

# Encryption



## In Transit

Protects data being transferred (network) using a secure protocols



## At Rest

Protects data stored (includes short-term storage like cached data)



## Client-Side

Protects data at the client or event producer, before it is transmitted

# AWS KMS 101

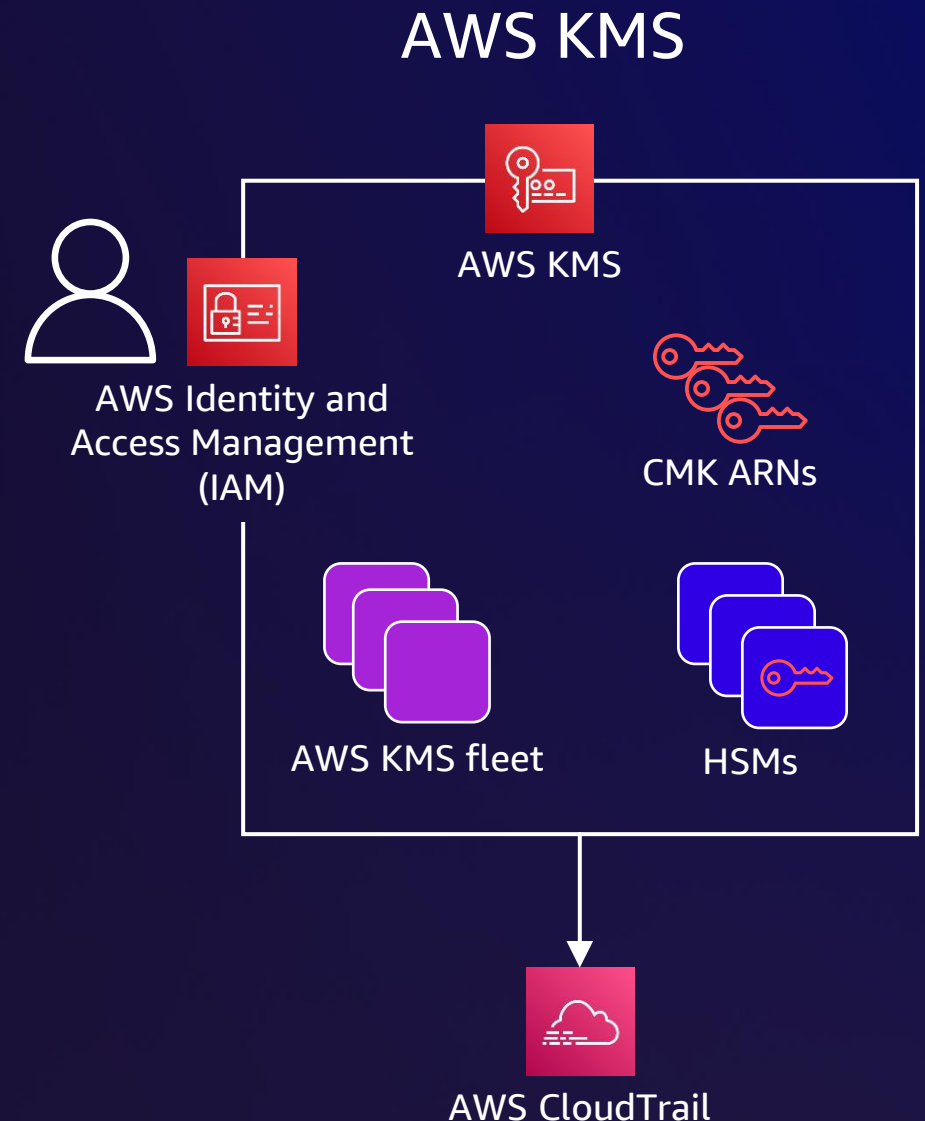
AWS managed **web service** with console, REST API, and CLI access

Database of encrypted keys leveraging role- and attribute-based access controls

Backed by a fleet of **hardware security modules (HSMs)**

All requests authorized with **IAM**







All activity tracked with **AWS CloudTrail**



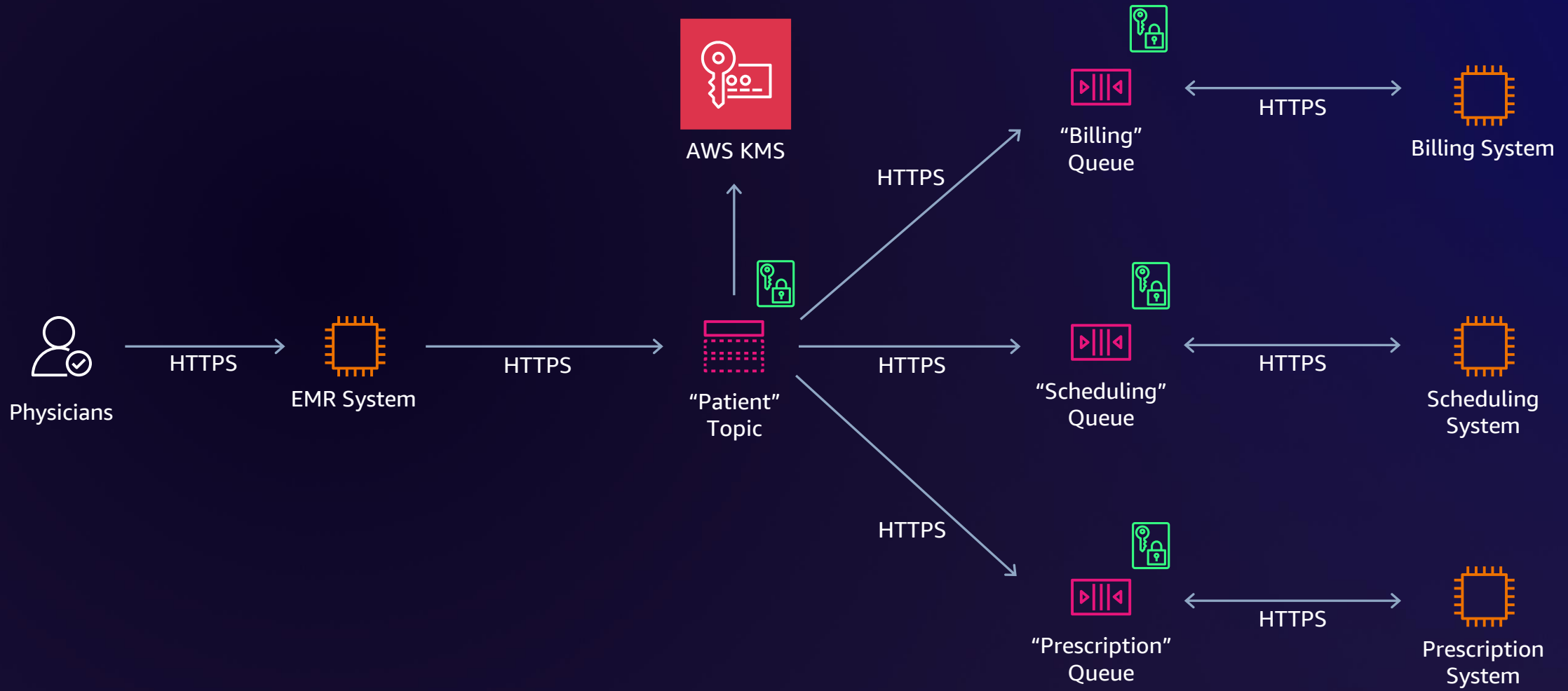
# EDA services encryption

In Transit

At Rest  
SSE server-side encryption

AWS Native				Managed Open Source	
Queue	Stream	Topic	Bus	Stream	Broker
<div></div> <div>Amazon SQS</div> <div>TLS 1.2+</div> <div>Supported SSE-SQS or KMS</div>	<div></div> <div>Amazon Kinesis Data Streams</div> <div>TLS 1.2+</div> <div>Supported KMS</div>	<div></div> <div>Amazon SNS</div> <div>TLS 1.2+ (optional but recommended for subscription)</div> <div>Supported KMS</div>	<div></div> <div>Amazon EventBridge</div> <div>TLS 1.2+</div> <div>Default   AWS owned key KMS</div>	<div></div> <div>Amazon MSK</div> <div>TLS 1.2 (default between brokers of a cluster)</div> <div>Always encrypted KMS</div>	<div></div> <div>Amazon MQ <i>(ActiveMQ/RabbitMQ)</i></div> <div>TLS 1.2+ *see RabbitMQ inter-node encryption</div> <div>Always encrypted KMS</div>

# Electronic medical record (EMR) example



# Client-side encryption

Plaintext:

```
{  
  "title" : { S : "Encryption Is Fun" },  
  "year" : { N : "2023" },  
  "keywords" : { SS : [ "B", "A", "C" ] }  
}
```

Encrypted form:

```
{  
  "title" : { B : "FkdT1jwRCRb0MvONY=" },  
  "year" : { B : "Jc9o1w==" },  
  "keywords" : { B : "FYAHd8jenWb8Zf1a" }  
}
```

# Client-side encryption and event-based systems

- Consider payload-level VS field-level encryption (overhead VS accessible fields)
- Your bus/broker/topic may need plaintext access to specific fields (filter rules, routing)
- Avoid adding sensitive information in metadata, context, or bus/topic names



# Selective field-level client-side encryption

Plaintext:

```
{  
  "name" : { S : "My Name" },  
  "SSN" : { N : "111-11-1111" },  
  "keywords" : { SS : [ "B", "A", "C" ] }  
}
```

Encrypted selective form:

```
{  
  "name" : { B : "FkdT1jwRcRb0MvONY=" },  
  "SSN" : { B : "Jc9o1w==" },  
  "keywords" : { SS : [ "B", "A", "C" ] }  
}
```

# Client-side encryption – The easy way

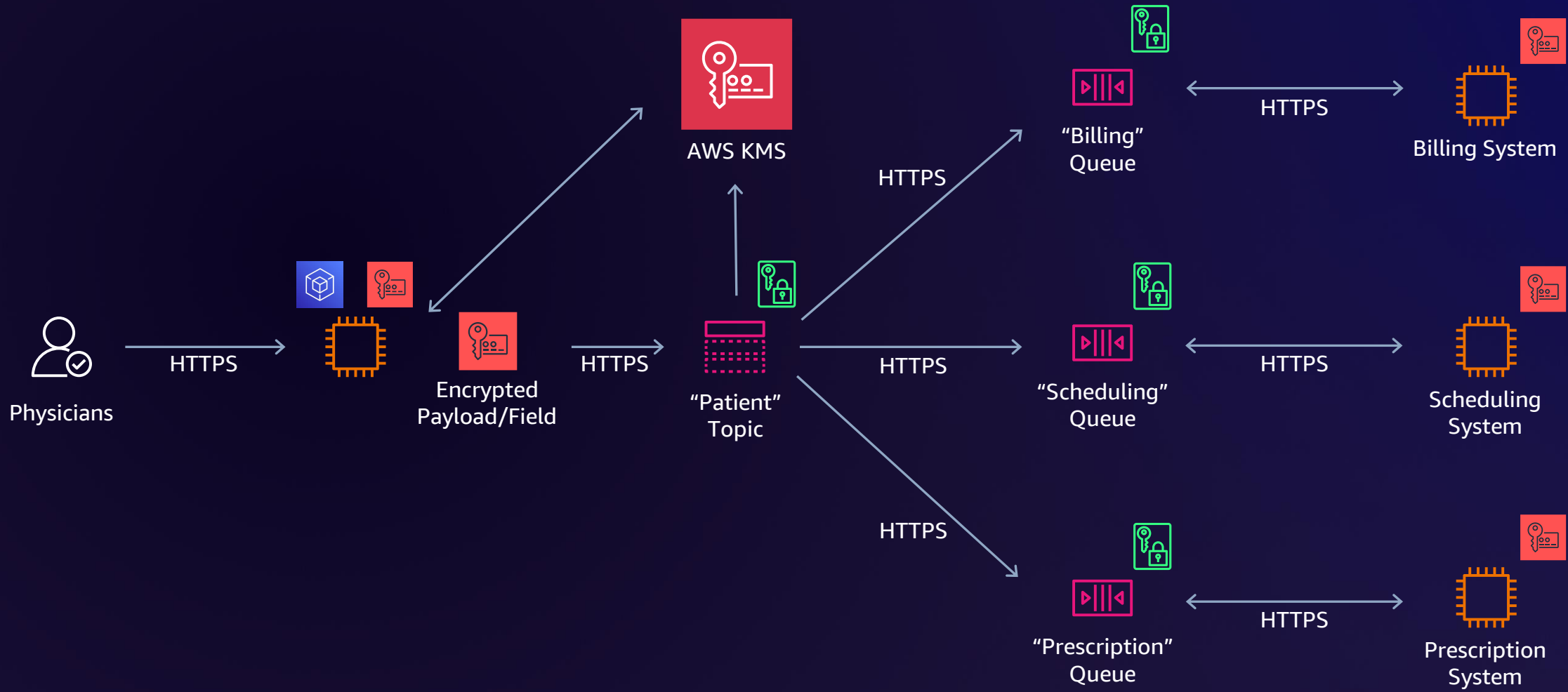


## AWS Encryption SDK

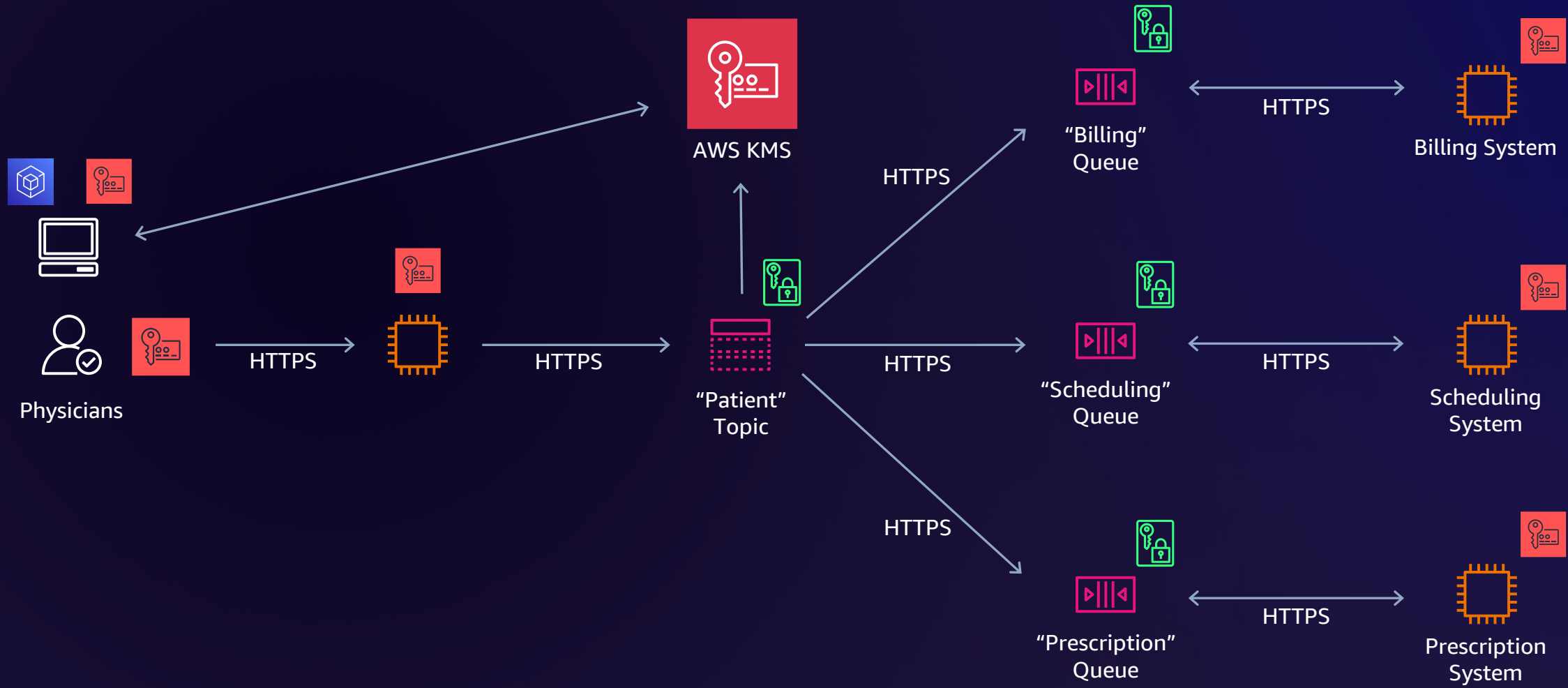
Making client-side encryption safer and easier to use

- Open source
- C/.NET/Java/JavaScript/Python/CLI
- Supports Keyrings and multi-Region KMS keys
- Simplifies the development process
- Envelope encryption
- **Data protection** (encryption) and **data integrity** (signature) in a single tool

# Electronic medical record (EMR) example 2

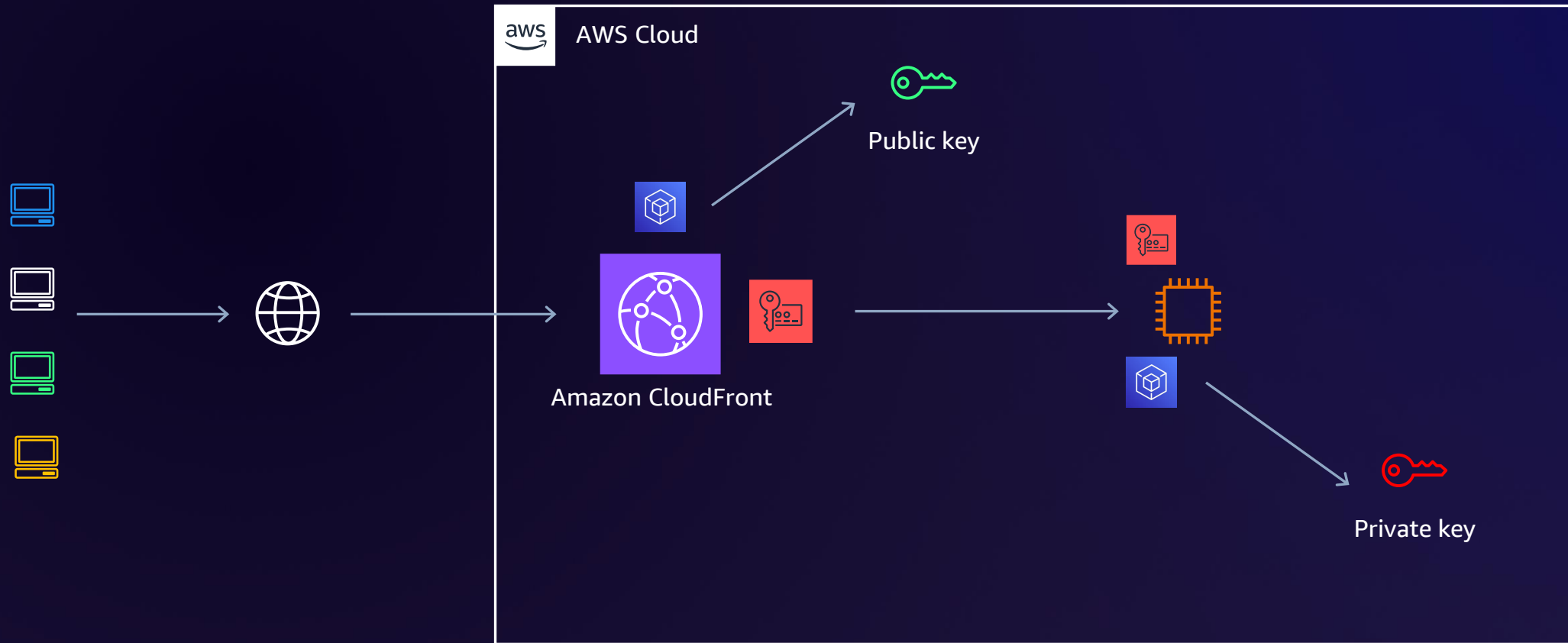


# Electronic medical record (EMR) example 3



# What if I don't control external clients?

Field-level encryption at the edge with Amazon CloudFront





**UNITED**

# United Airlines



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# Agenda

**Passenger Service System**  
Transformation experience using event-driven architecture  
Setting up for success





700+

*New Aircrafts*

50,000

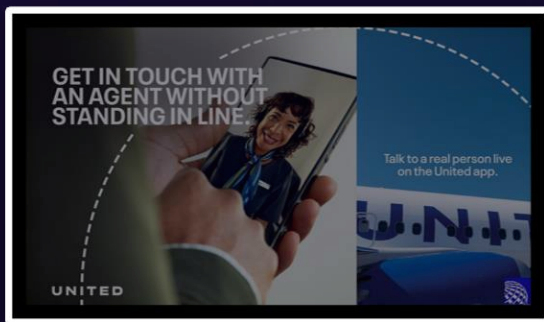
*Jobs*

LARGEST WIDEBODY  
ORDER BY A U.S. CARRIER  
IN COMMERCIAL  
AVIATION HISTORY.

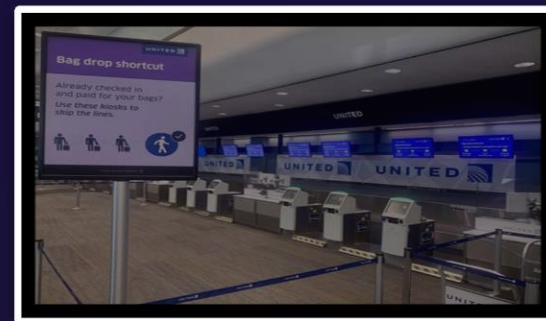
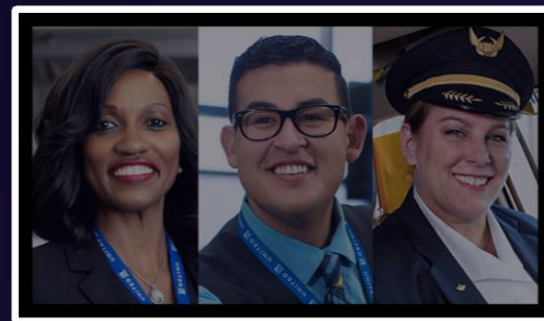
Up to 200 new 787 Dreamliners.





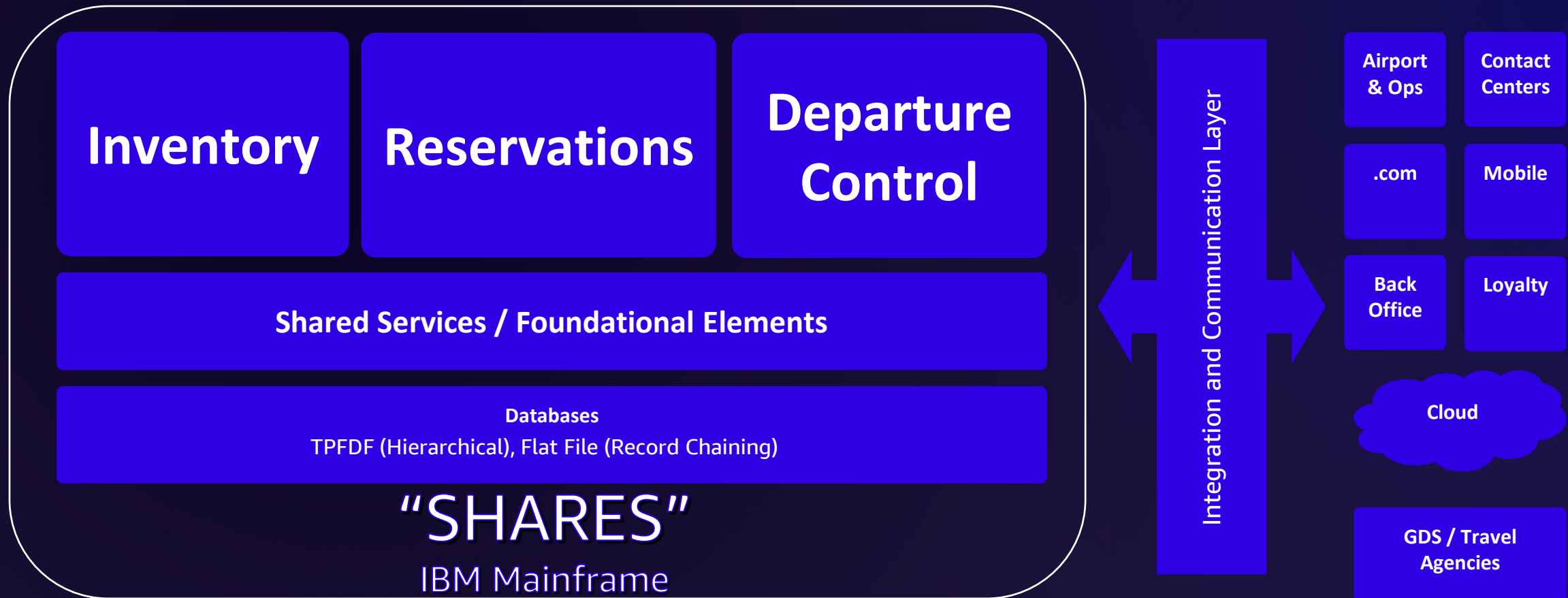


## Success so far built upon decades old technology



# What is a Passenger Service System (PSS)?

A **passenger service system** (PSS) is a series of critical systems used by airlines. The PSS usually comprises an airline reservations system, an airline inventory system and a departure control system (DCS).



# Transformation requires careful examination of dependencies and customer priorities

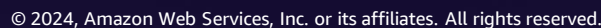
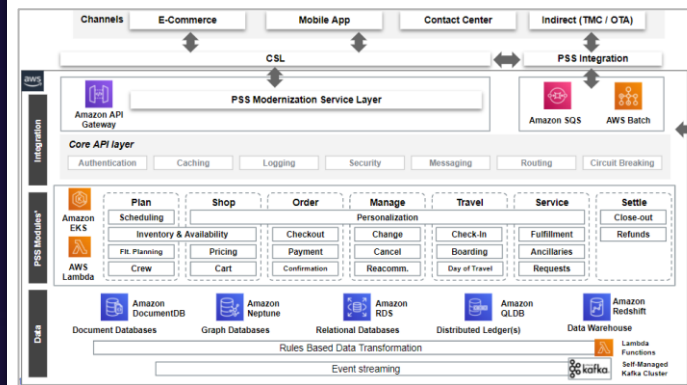
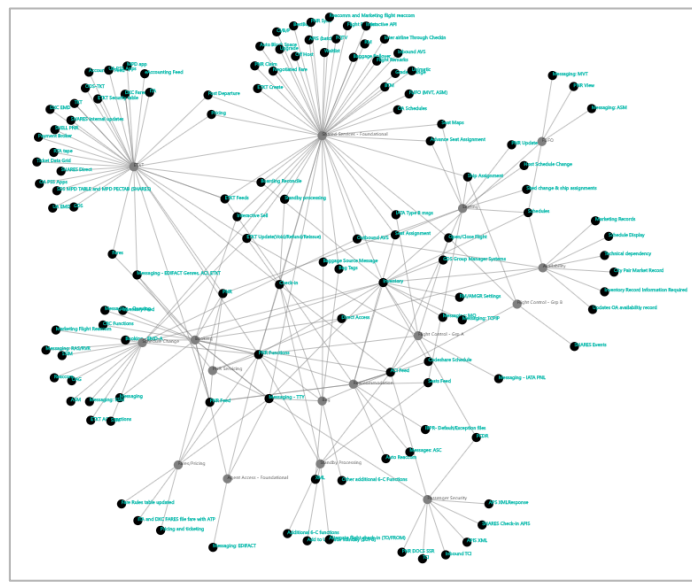
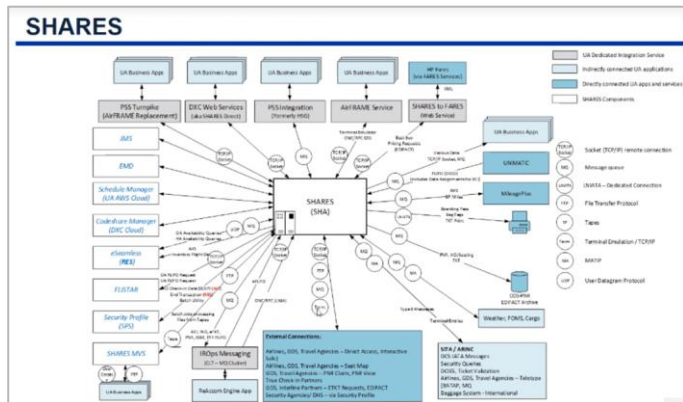
## Document Current-State PSS Components and Dependencies



## Examine Component Dependencies



## Implement Future-State PSS with Mitigation of Dependencies



# Pivot PSS Design to Order Management System

- Customer centricity
- Alignment to domain-driven architecture\*
- Lead industry transformation
- Technology transformation

\*Redefine and remain compliant



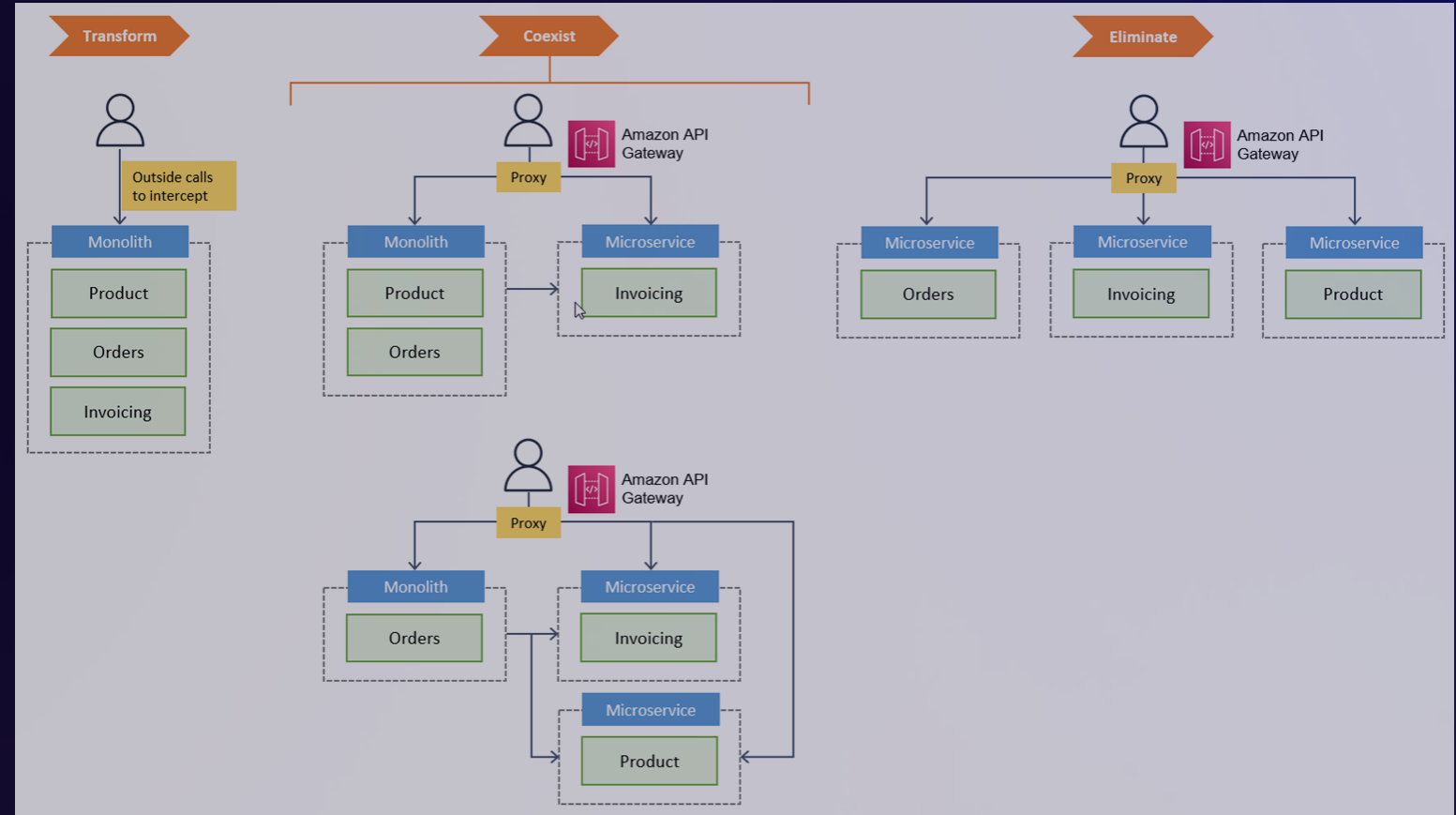
# Transformation stages of strangler fig pattern

Complexity of **mainframe**

Coexist: Dependencies on other airlines and external systems

Eliminate: Green screen commands

Natural progression to event-driven architecture



[Source: Strangler fig pattern - AWS Prescriptive Guidance \(amazon.com\)](https://aws.amazon.com/prescriptive-guidance/strangler-fig-pattern/)



# Key business requirements

15M+ daily transactions

1.7M+ flights

## Resilience & High Availability

Ensuring recovery from failures or disruptions and minimize downtime; ability to handle increased demand

## Monitoring & Observability

End-to-end transaction tracing and proactive issue detection

## Data Management

Maintain data integrity between legacy and modern system as well data storage, retrieval, processing, and analysis

8.5M+ daily seat map view

500k+ daily passengers

## Cost-Effectiveness

Variablize cost-structure, serverless where applicable

## Interoperability

Interoperability between on premises and cloud; ability to support current business needs while modernizing for future

## Agility & DevOps

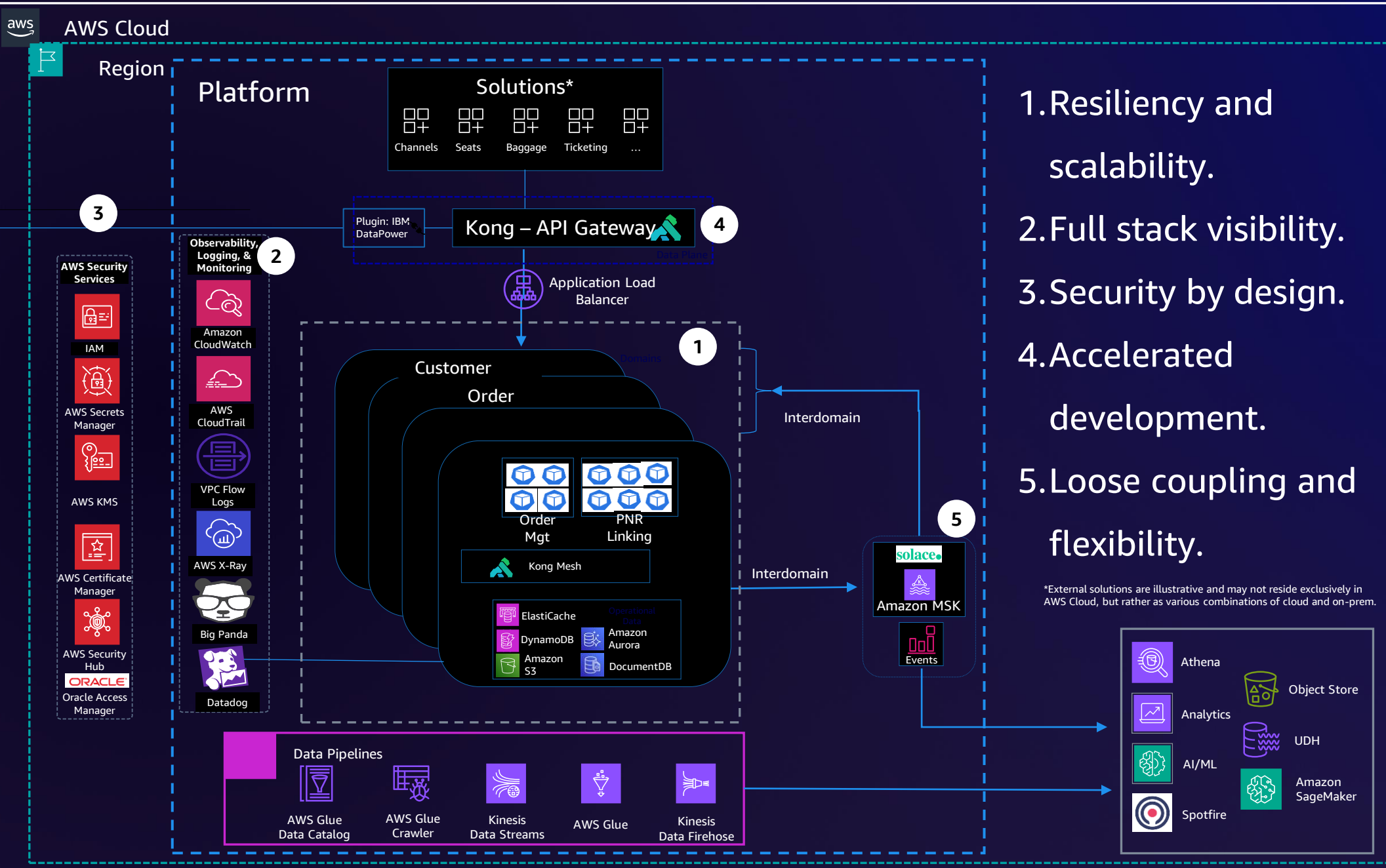
Iterative approach to deliver business benefits; enable faster time to market, frequent updates, and improved quality

## Security

Incorporate robust security measures, such as encryption, authentication, authorization, and audit logging

# Reference architecture

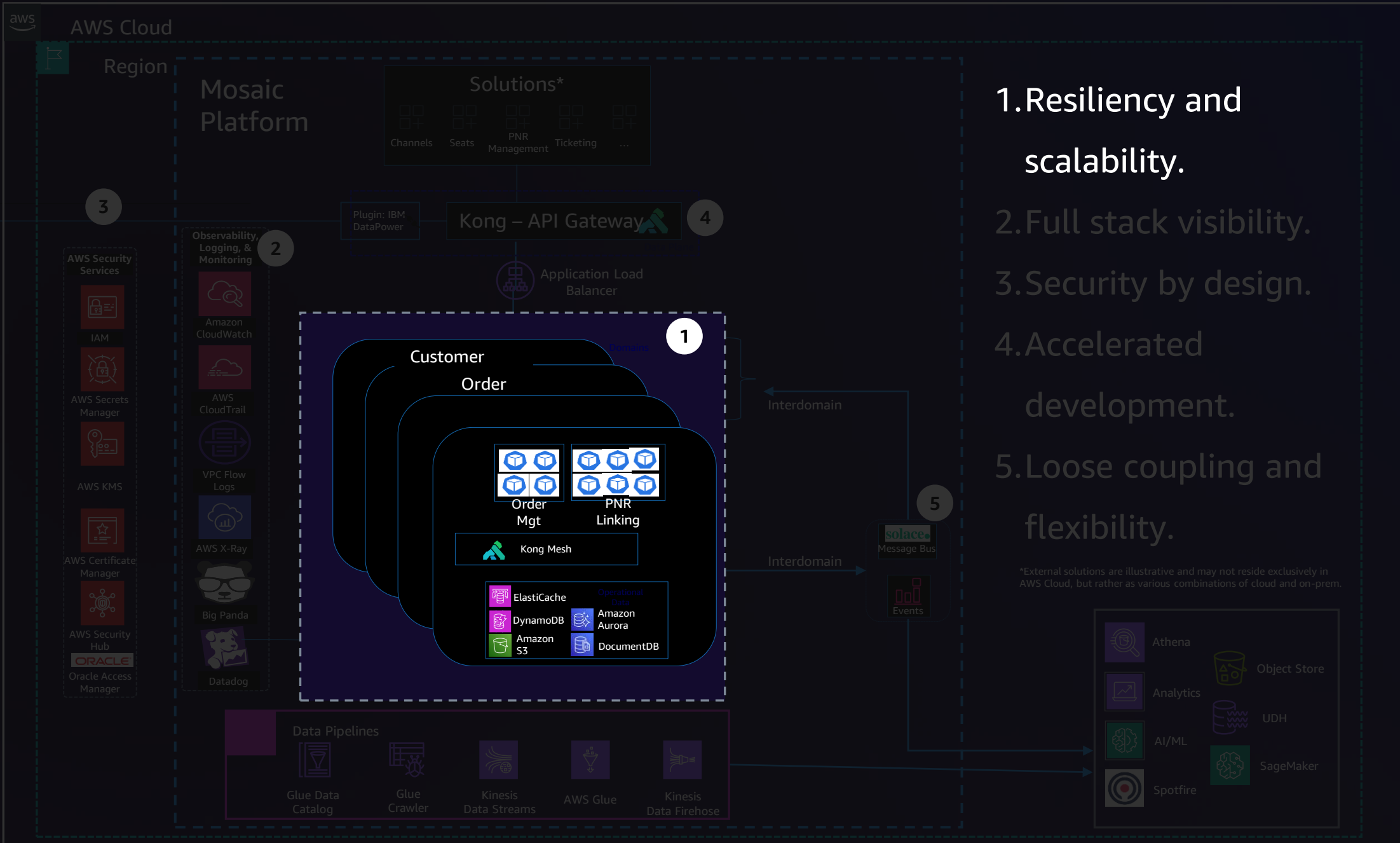




1. Resiliency and scalability.
2. Full stack visibility.
3. Security by design.
4. Accelerated development.
5. Loose coupling and flexibility.

\*External solutions are illustrative and may not reside exclusively in AWS Cloud, but rather as various combinations of cloud and on-prem.

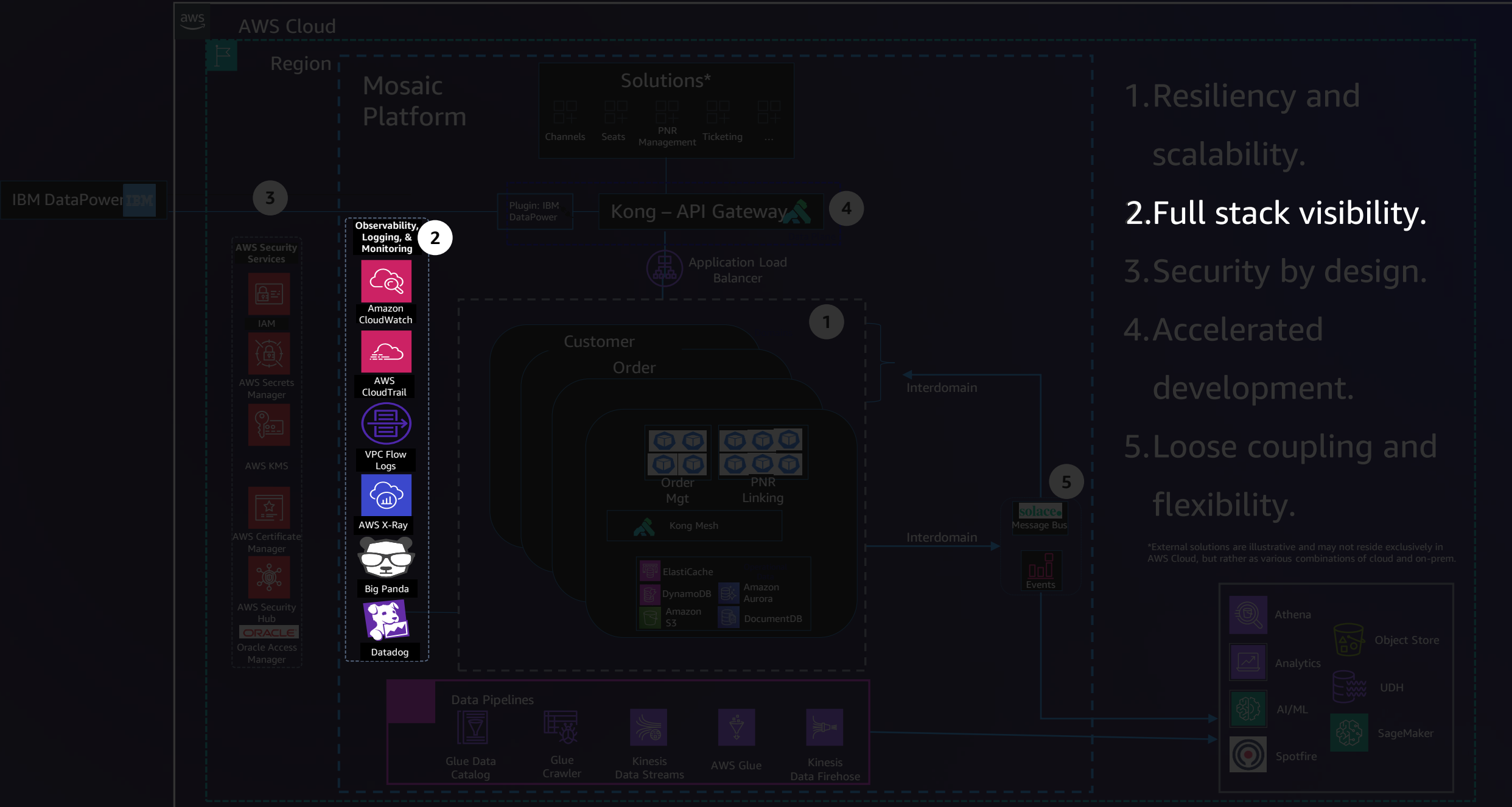




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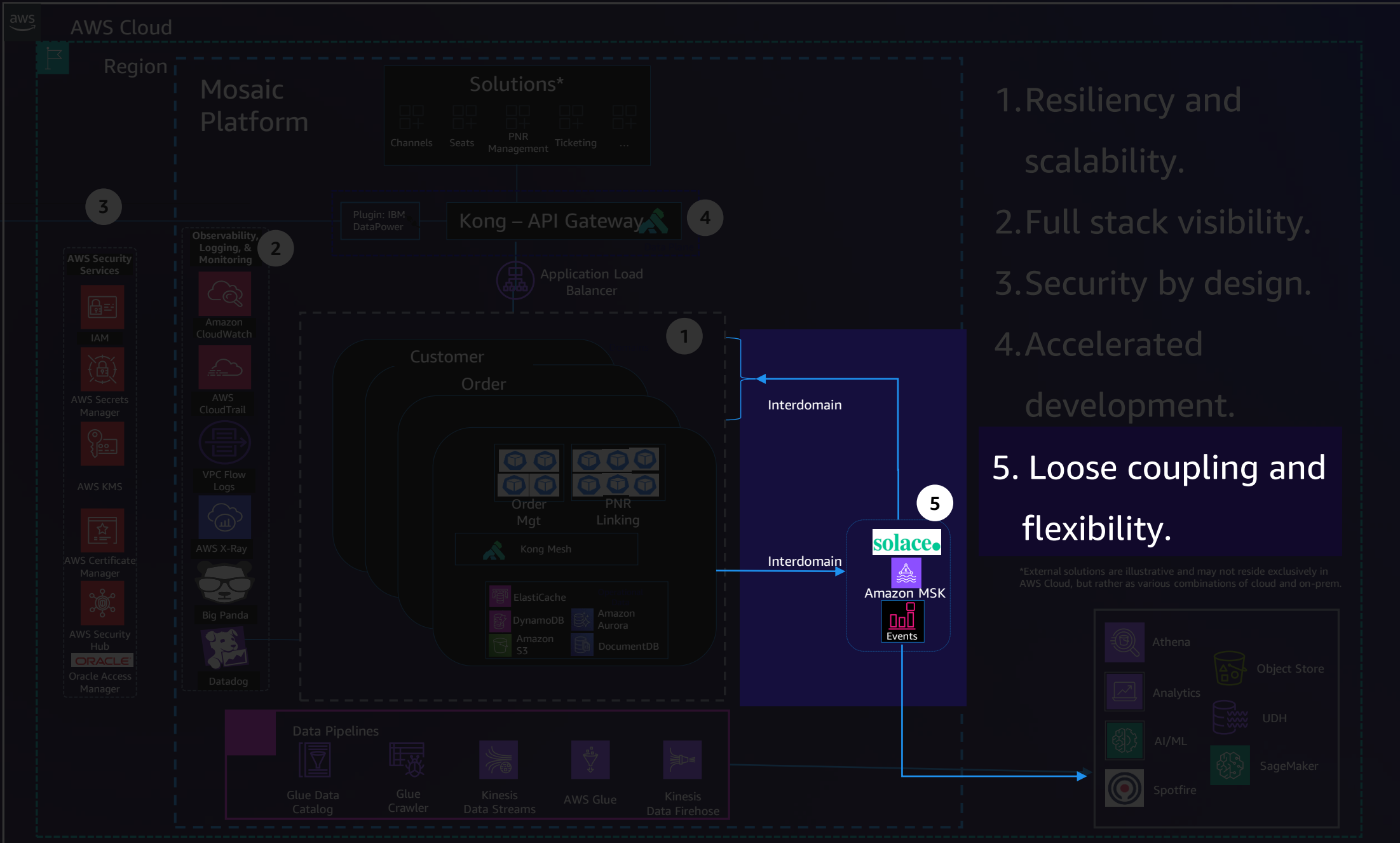




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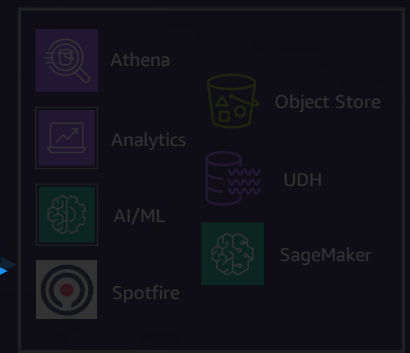
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# EDA patterns



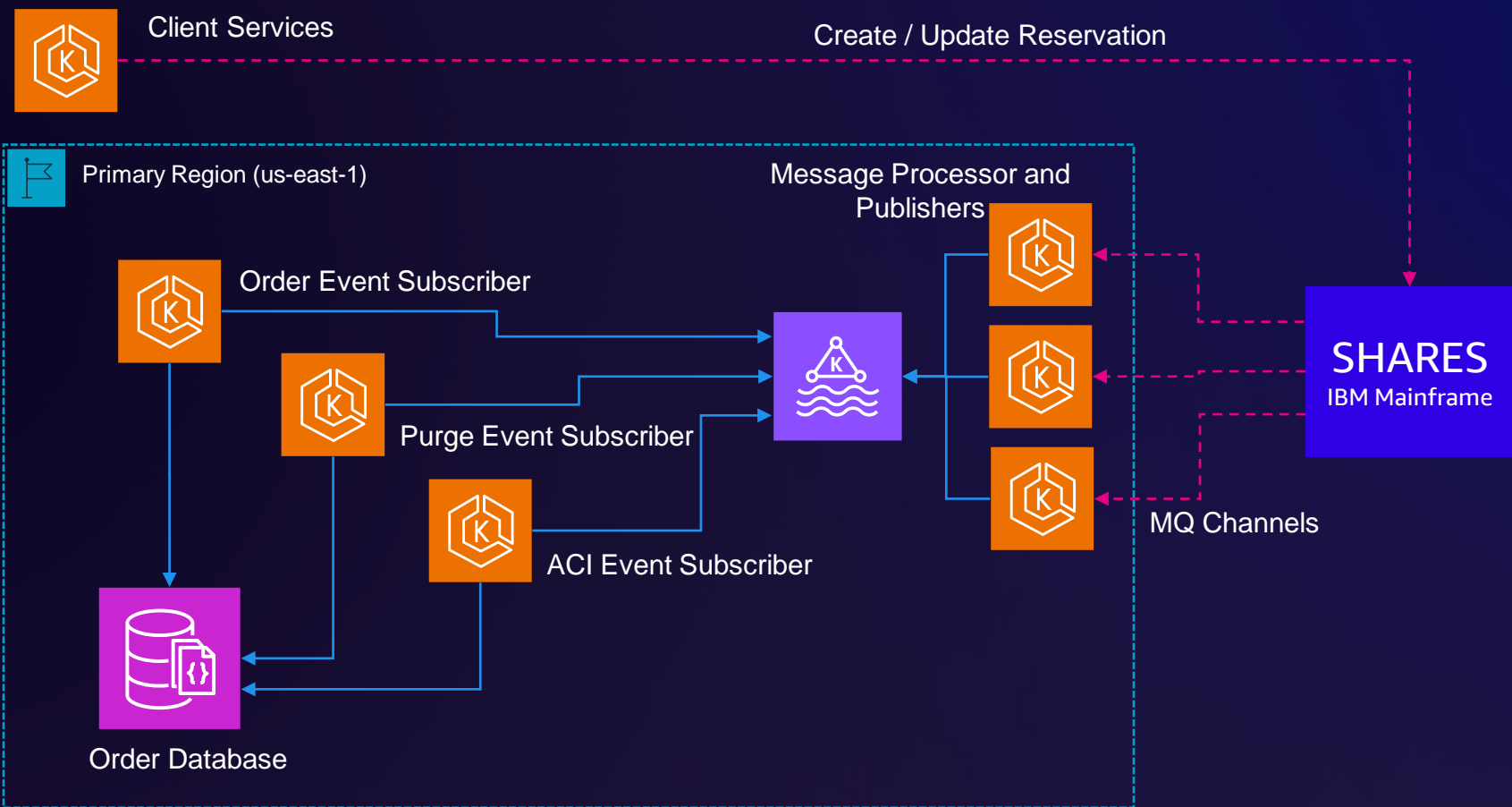
# Pattern 1 – Coexist with mainframe

Transformed application  
in passive state

Order Event

Purge Lifecycle Event

Automated Check In Event



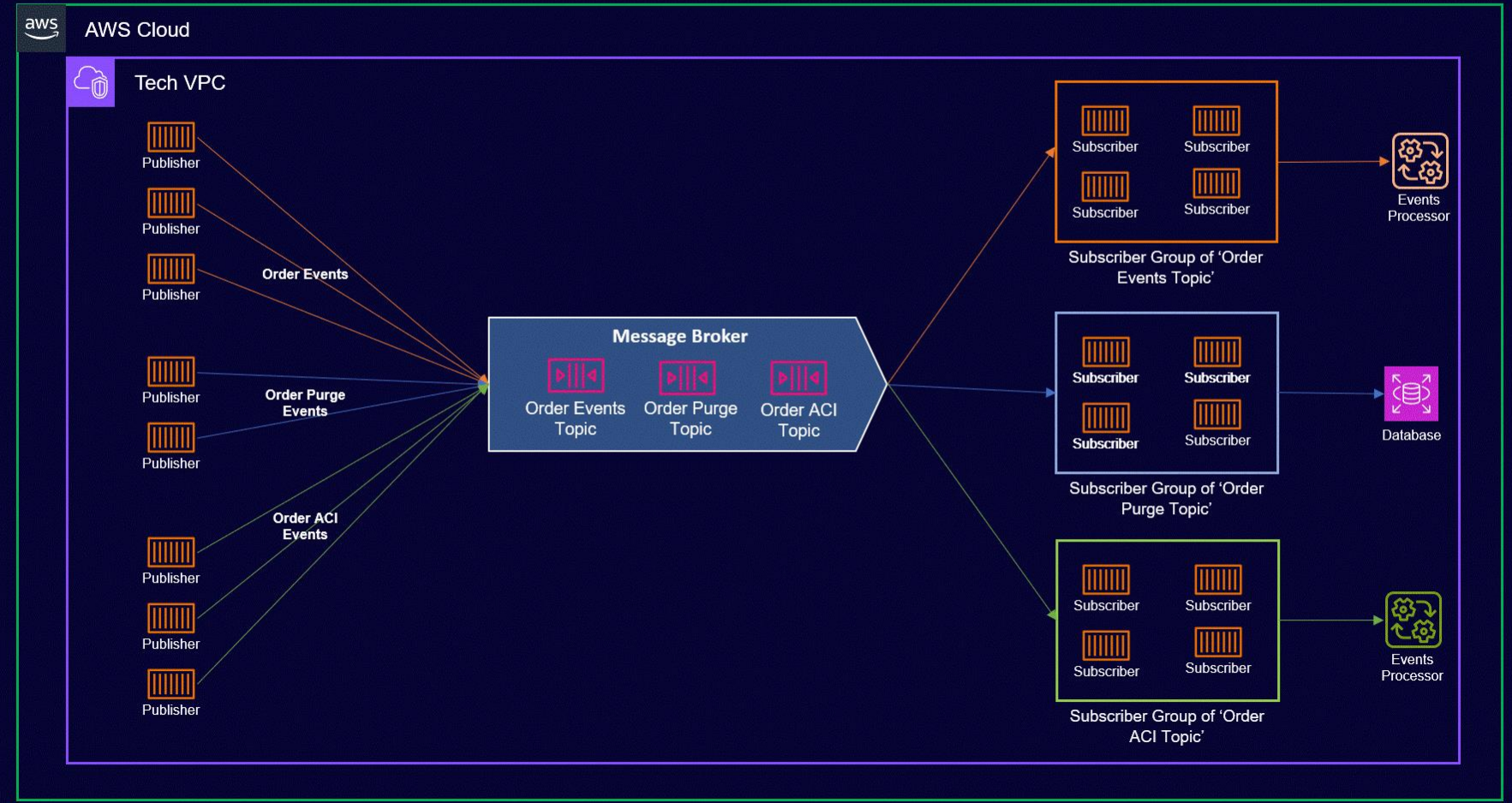


# Pattern 2 - Event streaming

Order events for  
Baggage

Order events to serve  
customers

Guaranteed  
sequence for events  
during IRROPS





# Pattern 3 - Data integrity check

Multiple System  
Of Record

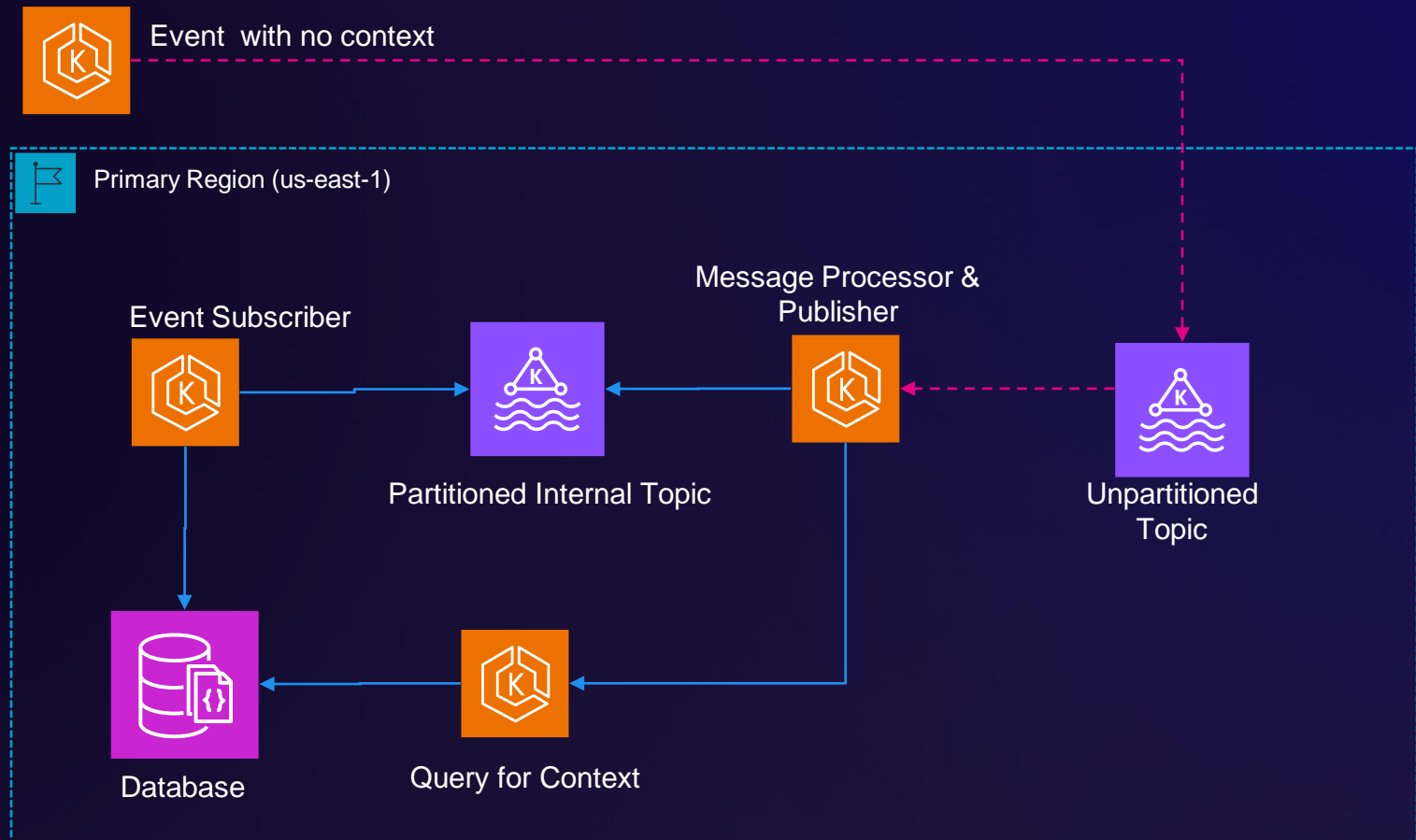
Maintain Seat  
Assignment  
Sequence

# Pattern 4 - Context injection

**Augment context to process event sequentially**

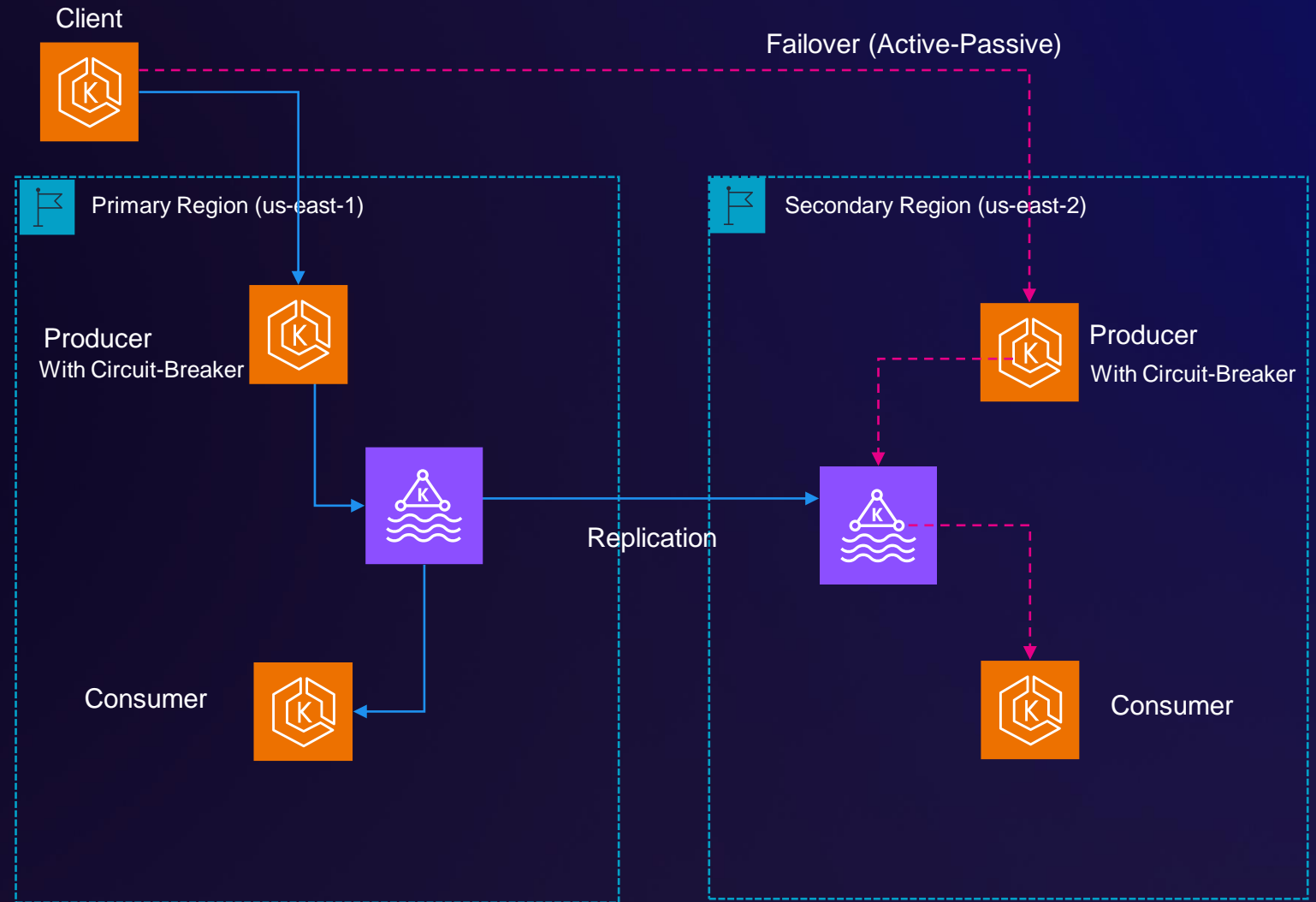
Provides scalability during IRROPS events

Enable low latency updates for downstream systems



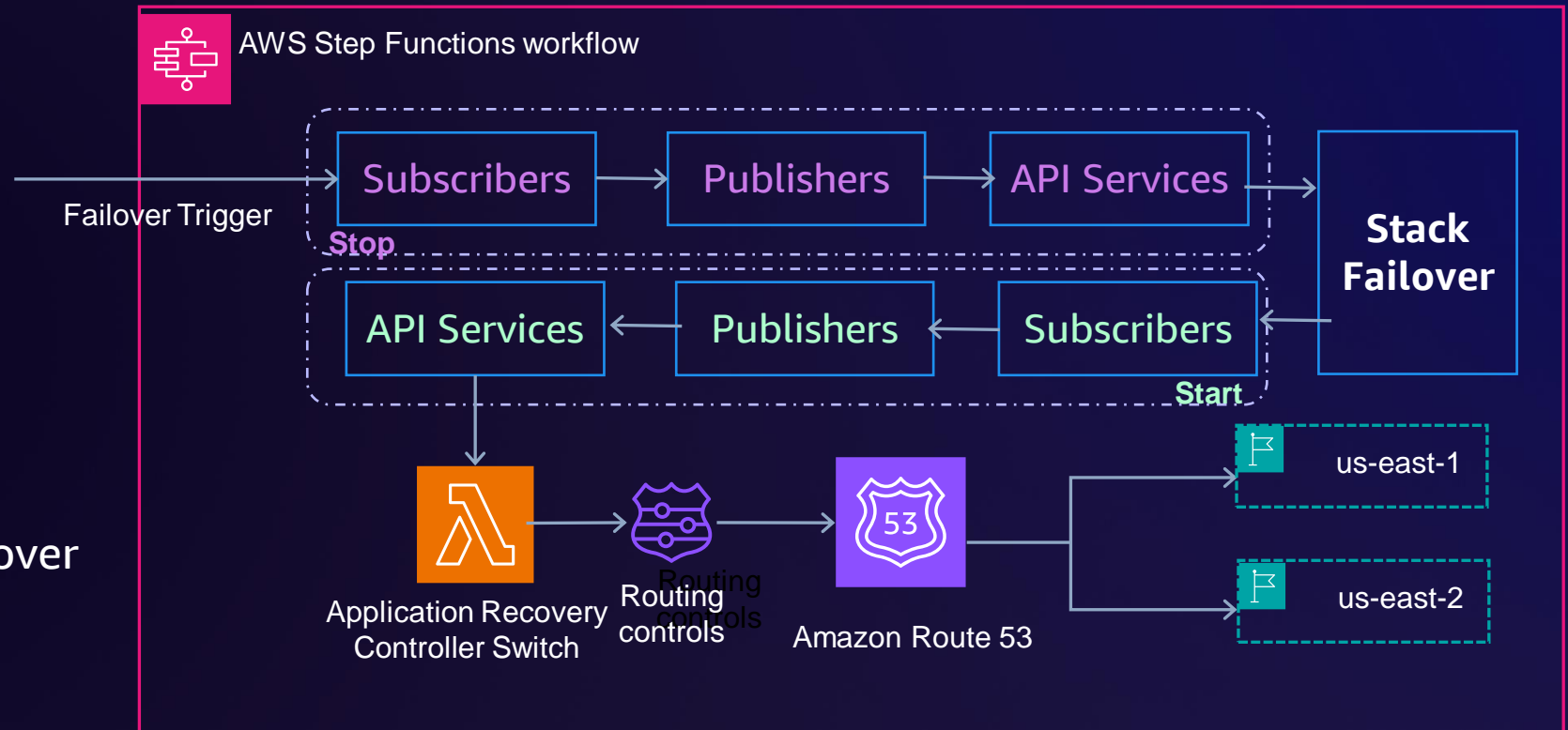
# Pattern 5 – Circuit breaker

- **Scenario with Active-Passive setup**  
Messaging or Database failure
- **MSK Broker Failure**  
Circuit Breaker setup to initiate cross region failover



# Failover automation process

- **AWS Step function**  
Minimize data loss by restart services in sequence
- **Application Recovery Controller**  
Re-route API traffic post failover



# Guiding principles for resilient architecture



Microservices design



Event-driven architecture



Leverage platform capabilities



Data-driven integrations



Design flexible interfaces



Use cloud-native technologies



Loose coupling of components



Transition away from batch processing



Establish systems of record with SOC



Build for today, design for the future



Comply with UAL security standards



Iterate and continuously improve

# Summary

Event-driven architecture is key enabler for resilient PSS system

Data generated from PSS system is fueling Innovative capabilities enhancing your travel experience