

# MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS

MASSIVIZING SERVERLESS COMPUTING:  
THE SCIENCE, DESIGN, AND ENGINEERING OF SERVERLESS ECOSYSTEMS

@Large Research  
Massivizing Computer Systems



<http://atlarge.science>

[bit.ly/MassivizingServerless22](http://bit.ly/MassivizingServerless22)

Serverless computing =  
Extreme automation + fine-  
grained, utilization-based billing

Sponsored by:



@Alosup



Prof.dr.ir. **Alexandru**

**IOSUP**

# US IN 1 MINUTE



WE'RE  
MASSIVIZING  
COMPUTER  
SYSTEMS!

# VU AMSTERDAM < SCHIPHOL < THE NETHERLANDS < EUROPE



Amsterdam  
founded 10<sup>th</sup> century  
pop: 850,000



VU  
founded 1880  
pop: 23,500



# WHO AM I?

## PROF. DR. IR. ALEXANDRU IOSUP

- Education, my courses:
  - > Honours Programme, Computer Org. (BSc)
  - > Distributed Systems, Cloud Computing (MSc)
- Research, 15 years in DistribSys:
  - > Massivizing Computer Systems
- About me:
  - > Worked in 7 countries, NL since 2004
  - > I like to help... I train people in need
  - > VU University Research Chair + Group Chair
  - > NL ICT Researcher of the Year
  - > NL Higher-Education Teacher of the Year
  - > NL Young Royal Academy of Arts & Sciences
  - > Knighted in 2020











# <http://atlarge.science>

## CURRENT TEAM

This is us, now.

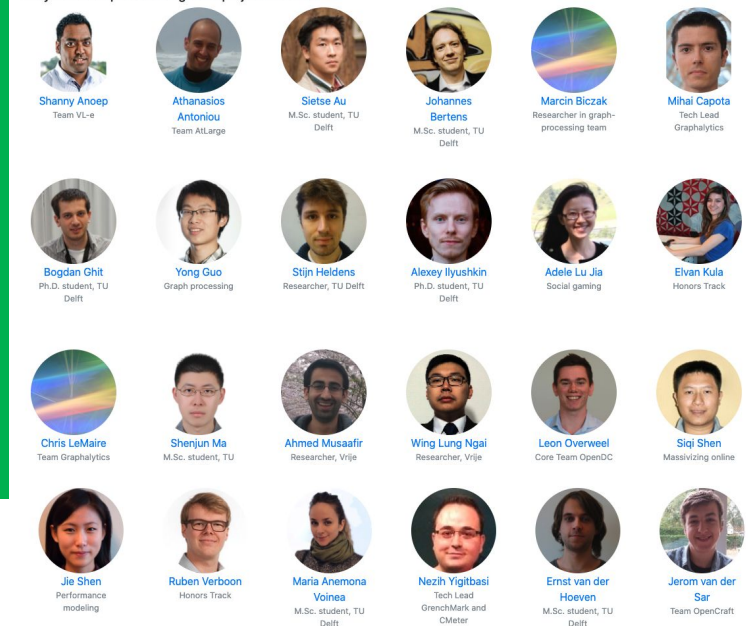


-  Professor
-  Assistant Prof.
-  Teacher
-  Visitor/P.-doc
-  Ph.D. student
-  Early Scientist

## WE ARE HIRING A NEW ASST. PROF.!

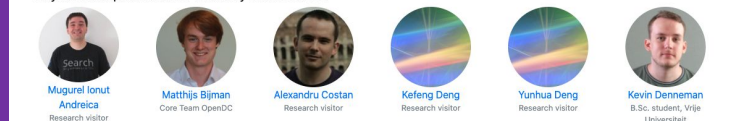
## Alumni

They have completed a long-term project in our team.



## Research Visitors and Interns

They have completed a short-term stay with our team.



## WE ARE A FRIENDLY, DIVERSE GROUP, OF DIFFERENT RACES AND ETHNICITIES, GENDERS AND SEXUAL PREFERENCES, AND VIEWS OF CULTURE, POLITICS, AND RELIGION. YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!

# MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS: OUR MISSION

<http://atlarge.science/about.html>



1. Improve the lives of millions through impactful research.



2. Educate the new generation of top-quality, socially responsible professionals.



3. Make innovation available to society and industry.





# THIS IS THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS

1

# THIS IS THE GOLDEN AGE OF MASSIVE COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS



Education for  
Everyone (Online)



Business  
Services



Big Data

Edge  
Computing



Cloud  
Computing



Big Science

Internet

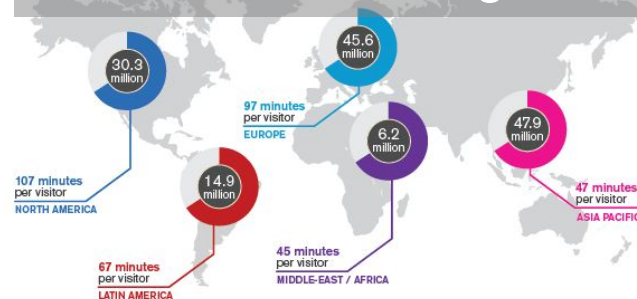
5G/6G/\*

THz

VLC

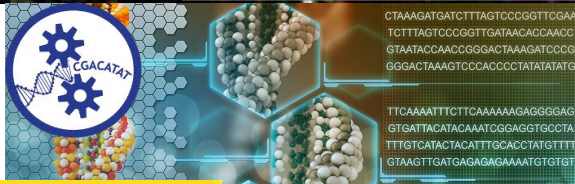
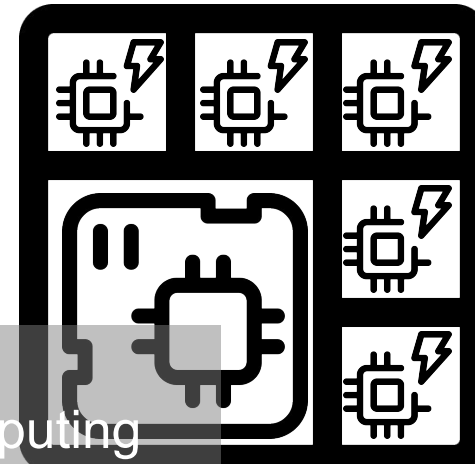


Online Gaming



Datacenter

Grid  
Computing



Daily Life

Iosup et al., Massivizing Computer Systems, ICDCS 2018. [Online] Hesselman, Grosso, Kuipers, et al.

(2020) A Responsible Internet to increase Trust in the Digital World. INSM [Online]



# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MASSIVE COMPUTER ECOSYSTEMS

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY  
ARE BUILT ON DIGITAL

€460 MLD  
DIGITAL VALUE

3,3 MLN  
JOBS CREATED  
**56%**  
JOB GROWTH  
2019-2024



DIVERSE SERVICES FOR ALL

EVERY €1 → €15 ADDED VALUE

Impacting >60% of  
the NL GDP (1 trillion EUR/y)

Attracting >20% of all foreign  
direct investments in NL

Sources: Iosup et al., Massivizing Computer Systems, ICDCS 2018 [Online] / Dutch Data Center Association, 2020 [Online] / Growth: NL Gov't, Flexera, Binx 2020. Gartner 2019. IA 2017.



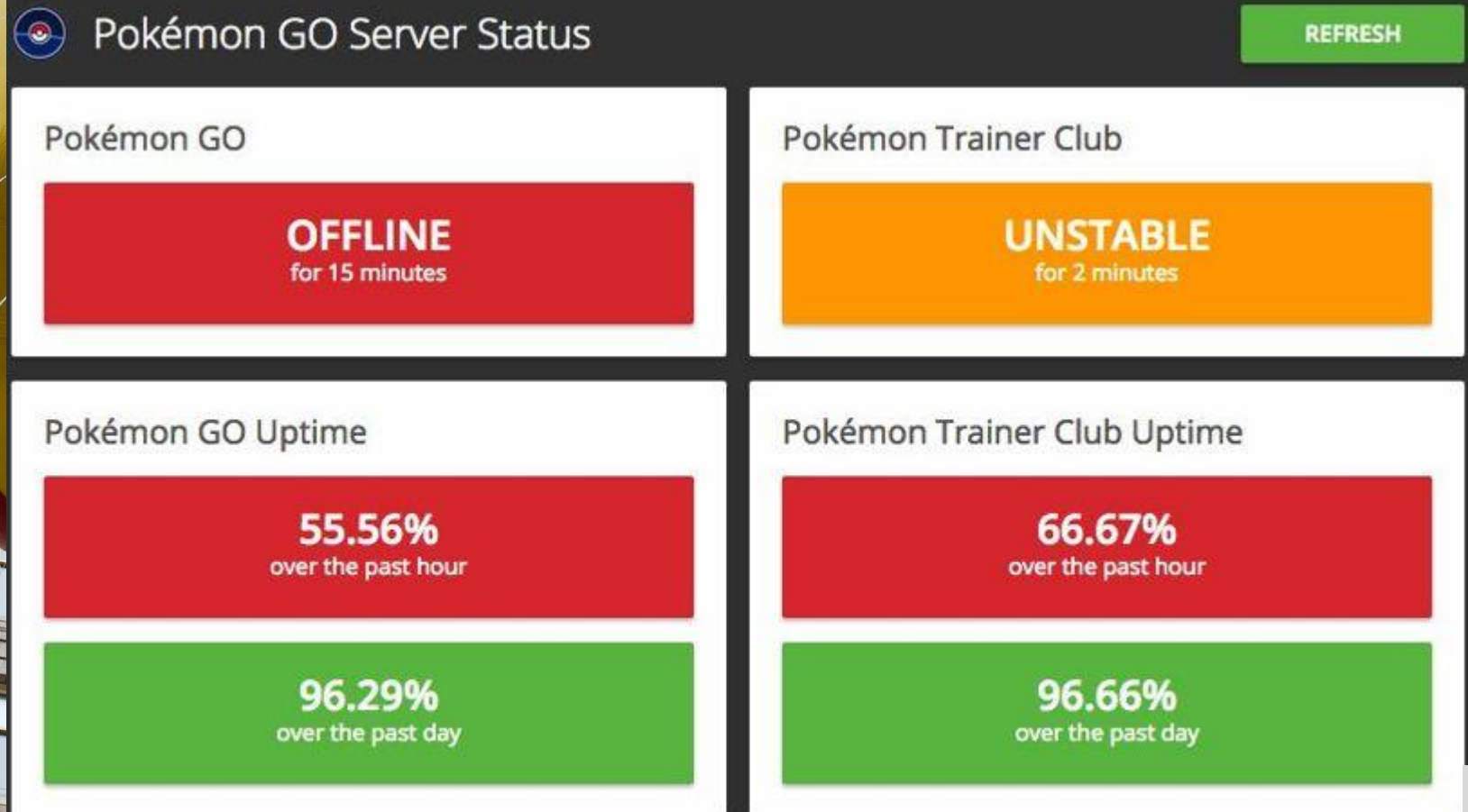
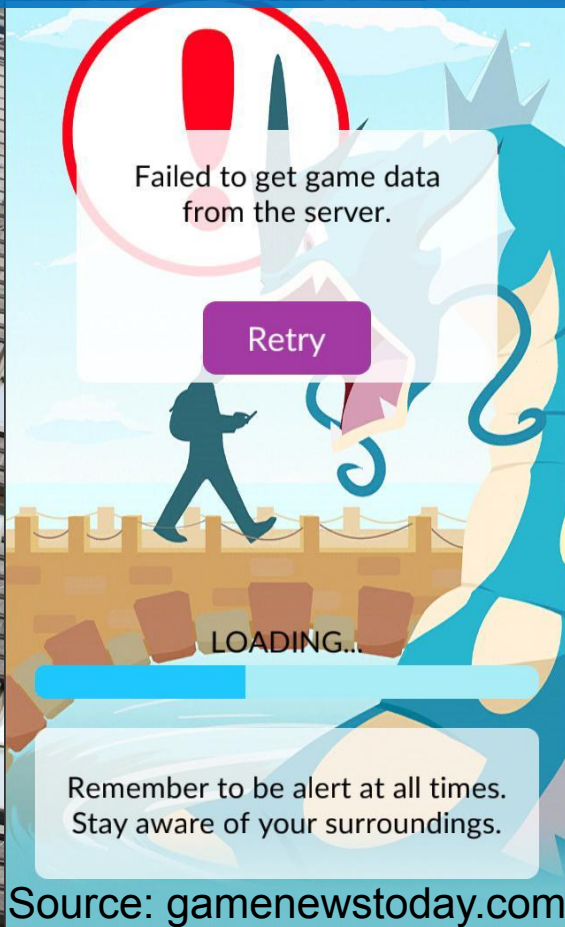
# BUT WE CANNOT TAKE THIS TECHNOLOGY FOR GRANTED

2

(So, this is why I am giving this talk)

# PHENOMENON: FAILURES IN CLOUD SERVICES

## UNCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF FAILURES





# PHENOMENON: PERFORMANCE IN CLOUD SERVICES

UNCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF PERFORMANCE ISSUES, EVEN LEADING TO CRASHES



Source: <http://bit.ly/EveOnline21Crash>

NEWS

## Players in Eve Online broke a world record — and then the game itself

*Developers said they're not 'able to predict the server performance in these kinds of situations'*

By **Charlie Hall** | [@Charlie\\_L\\_Hall](#) | Jan 5, 2021, 2:54pm EST



Source: Razorien/CCP Games



# PHENOMENON: CLOUD DATACENTER SUSTAINABILITY

UNCOVERING THE USE OF ENERGY AND WATER, THE IMPACT ON CLIMATE

Power consumption of  
datacenters:  
**≥1% of global electricity**

Source: Nature, 2018 [\[Online\]](#)

Water consumption of  
datacenters  
in the US:  
**>625Bn. l/y (0,1%)**

Source: Energy Technologies Area, 2016 [\[Online\]](#)

Power consumption of datacenters  
in the Netherlands:  
**1→3% of national electricity**

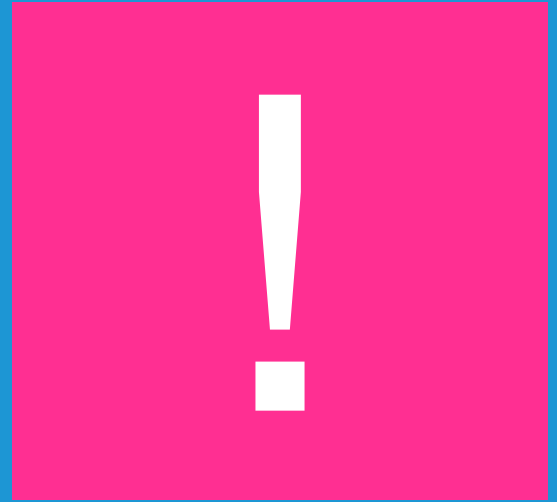
Source: NRC, 2019 [\[Online\]](#)

Other greenhouse emissions:  
**Largely unknown**

Source: Nature Climate Change, 2020 [\[Online\]](#)



# THIS TALK, IN A NUTSHELL



Serverless =

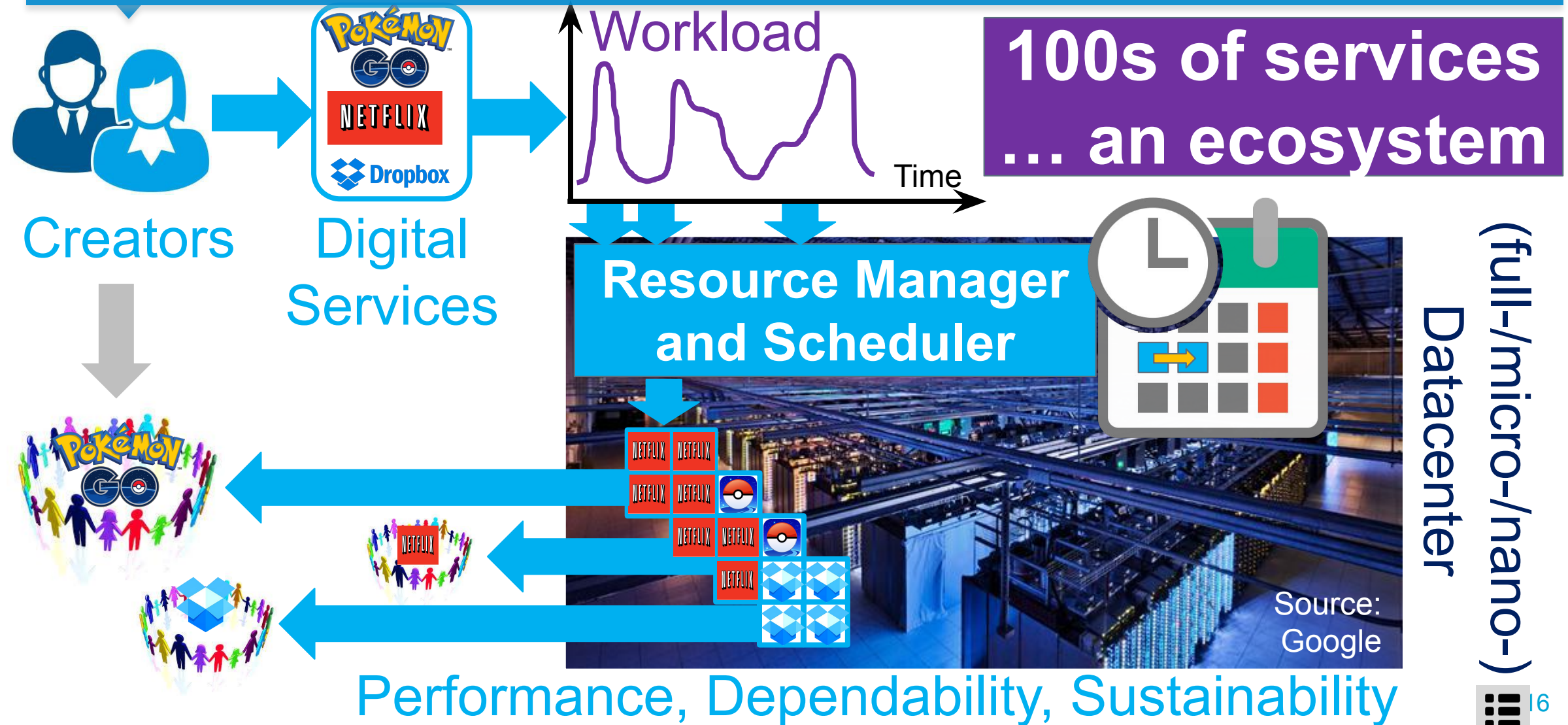
1. Extreme automation
2. Fine-grained reporting /  
utilization-based billing



Serverless can only be  
achieved through  
complex, smart  
computer ecosystems  
(operational simplicity is  
for the user)

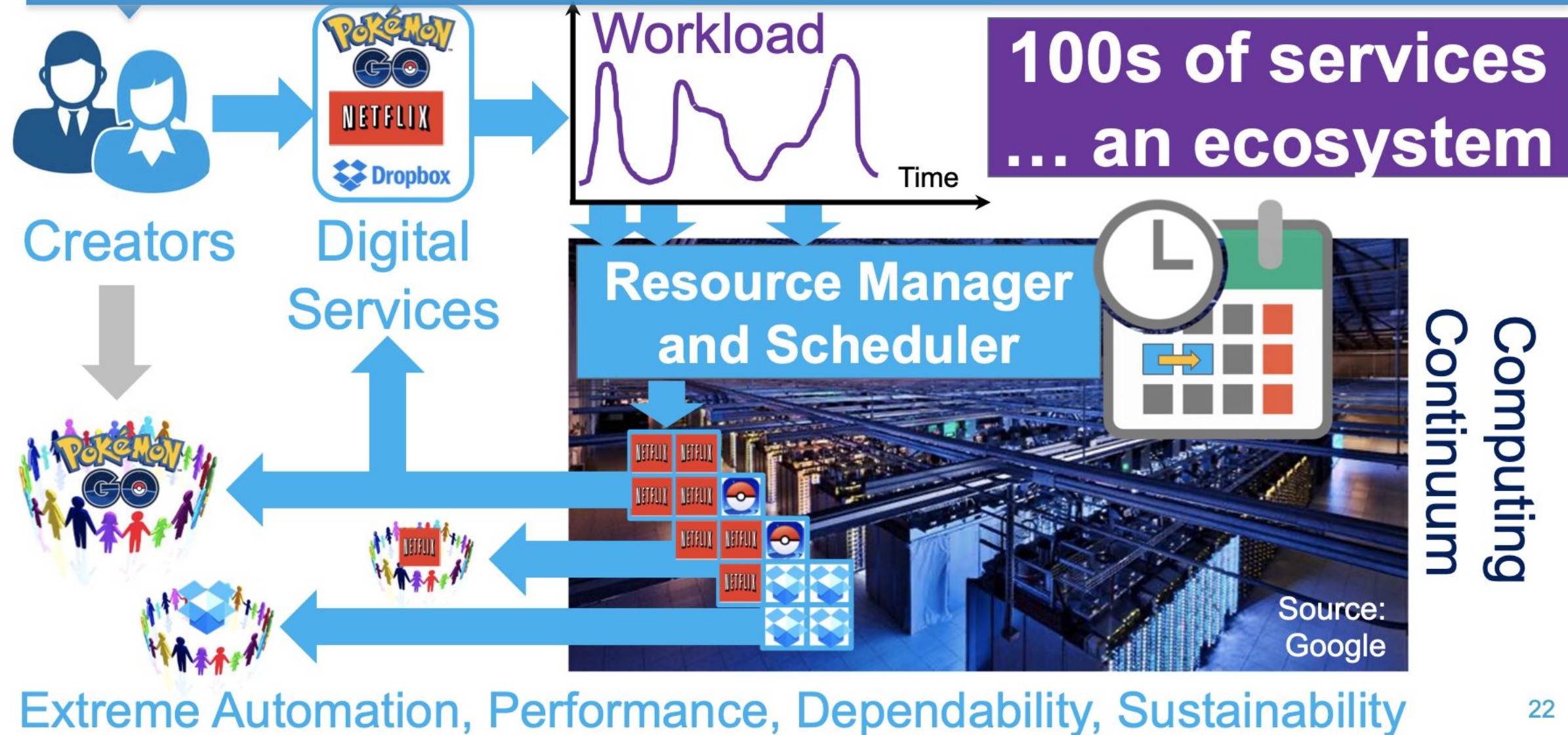
3

# A TYPICAL ECOSYSTEM: SERVICE, DATACENTER, SCHEDULER





ECOSYSTEM = SERVICES + COMPUTING + SMARTS + GOALS



# 50+ PLATFORMS ... EMERGENT FEATURES



3A

## THE COMPLEXITY CHALLENGE

## REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE OF FAAS PLATFORMS

### Workflow Composition Layer



### Function Management Layer

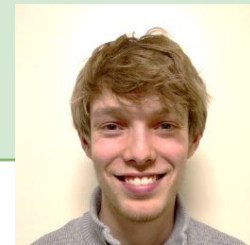


### Resource Orchestration Layer



Business Concerns

Operational Concerns



Erwin  
van Eyk

[van Eyk et al. (2019) Serverless is More: From PaaS to Present Cloud Computing, IEEE Internet Computing] [[Online](#)]

# SERVERLESS AI/ML/DL OPERATIONS

3B

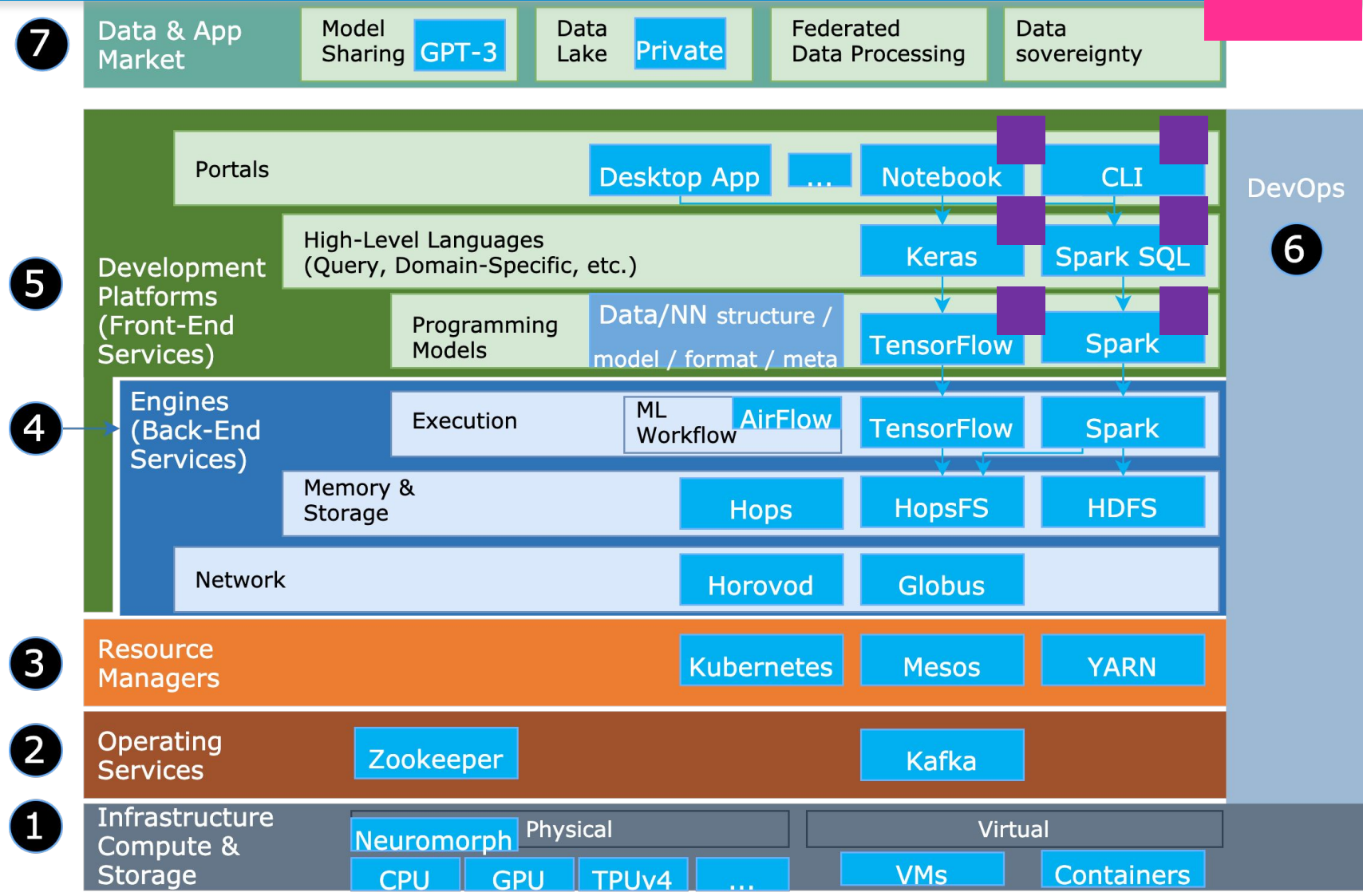
ISSUES: COMPLEXITY,  
NON-TECHNICAL

IOSUP ET AL. 2021

Actual ML app is a  
very small part!

Adapted from:

Sakr, Bonifati, Voigt, Iosup, et al. (2021) The Future Is Big Graphs! CACM





# SERVERLESS ... WHAT COULD BE THE BENEFITS?

3c

TOO COSTLY TO CONDUCT REAL-WORLD EXPERIMENTS, SO WE BUILT A SIMULATOR



OpenDC  
simulator



Learn more:  
[opendc.org](https://opendc.org)

- Short-term resource management
- Long-term capacity planning
- Sophisticated model
- Support for many kinds of workloads and resources
- Validated for various scenarios
- Work with major NL hoster
- Used in training

Fabian Mastenbroek



and more...





4

Serverless should be concerned with modern non-functional properties, observed continuously, addressed short- and long-term

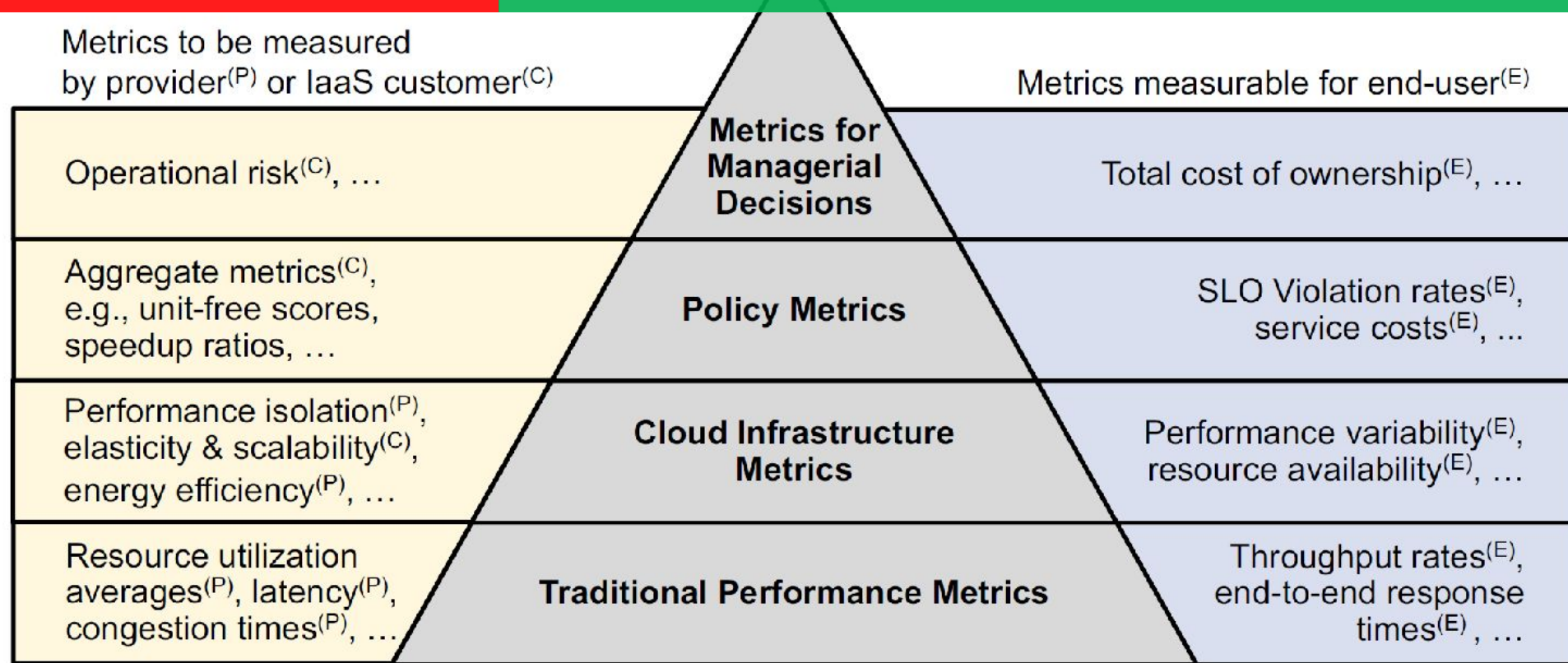
# HOW TO ACHIEVE FINE-GRAINED BILLING AND UTILIZATION-BASED BILLING?



4A

## THE COMPLEXITY CHALLENGE

## REFERENCE VIEW ON OPERATIONAL METRICS



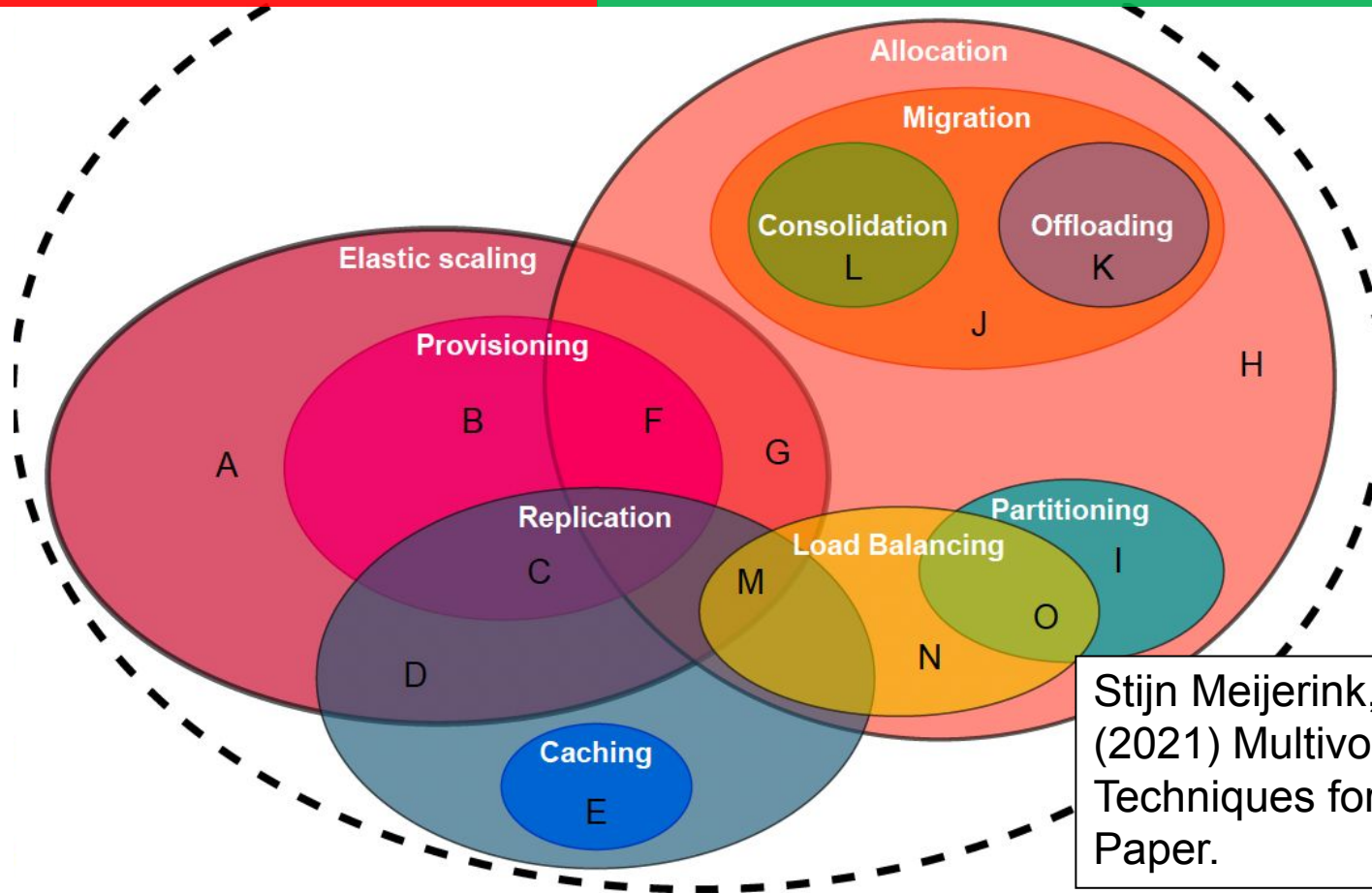
N. Herbst, E. Van Eyk, C. L. Abad, A. Iosup, et al. (2018) Quantifying Cloud Performance and Dependability: Taxonomy, Metric Design, and Emerging Challenges. TOMPECS 3(4): 19:1-19:36

# HOW TO AUTOMATE X ACROSS THE ECOSYSTEM?

4B

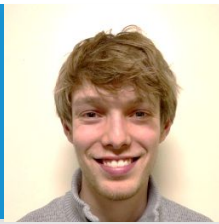
IT'S OPERATIONS!

REFERENCE VIEW ON OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES



Stijn Meijerink, Erwin van Eyk, Alexandru Iosup  
(2021) Multivocal Survey of Operational  
Techniques for Serverless Computing. White  
Paper.

# SERVERLESS STREAMING WORKFLOWS

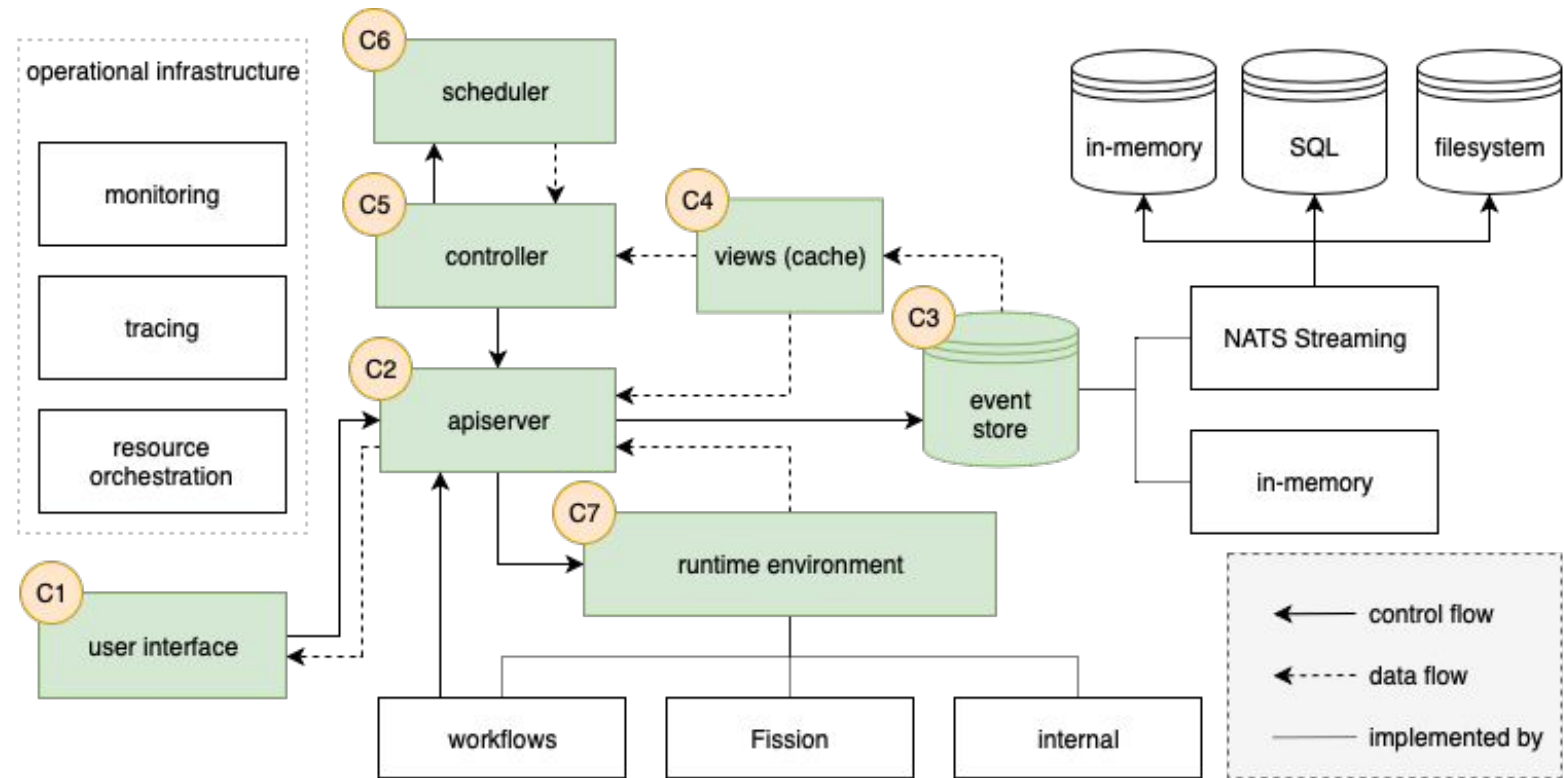


4b

Erwin van Eyk

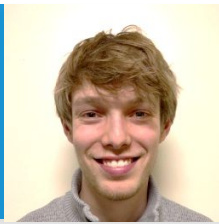
## DESIGN AND ENGINEERING: SERVERLESS ARCHITECTURE, API, SCHEDULER

One of the first serverless workflow management engine, part of Fission.io





# SERVERLESS STREAMING WORKFLOWS

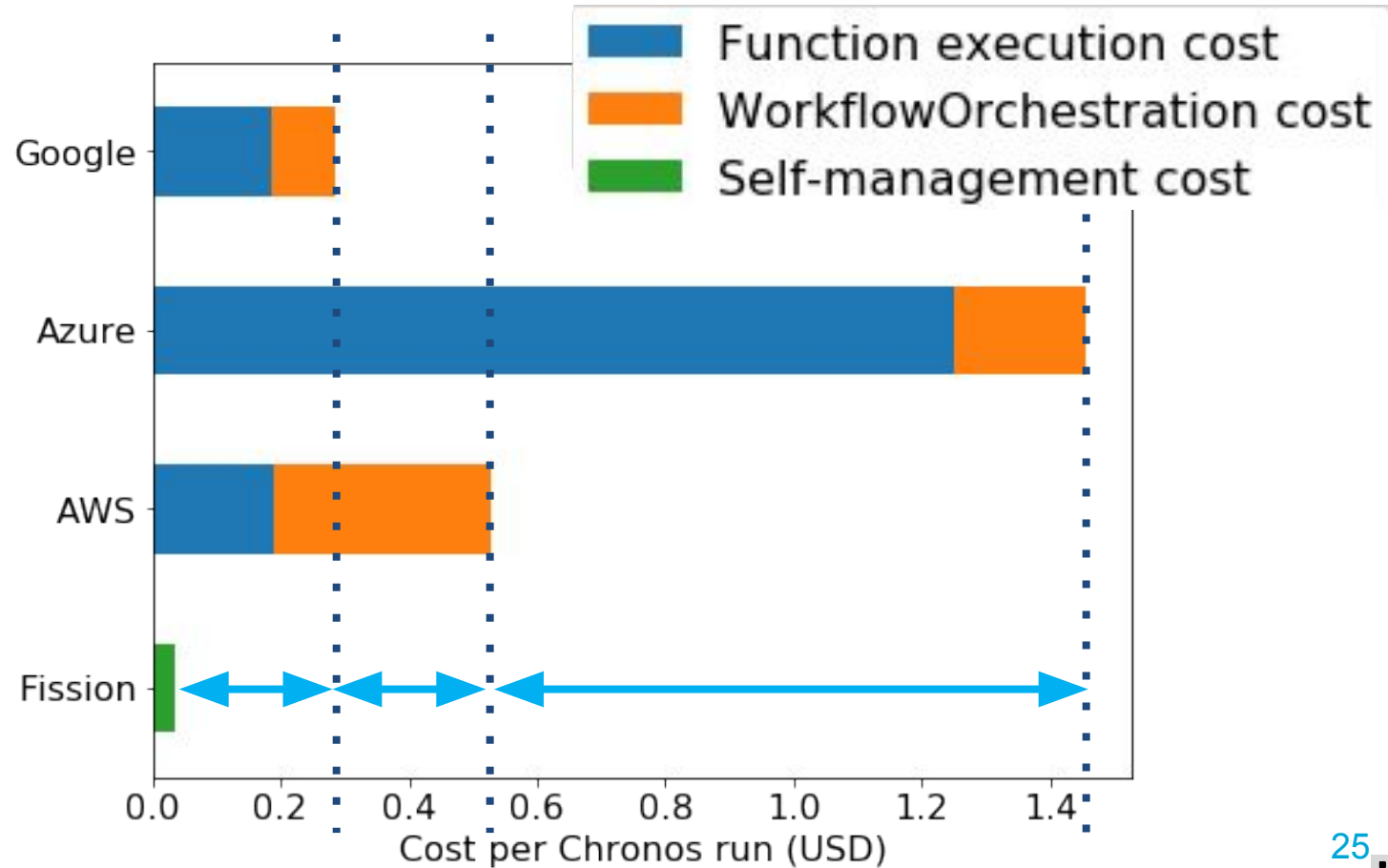
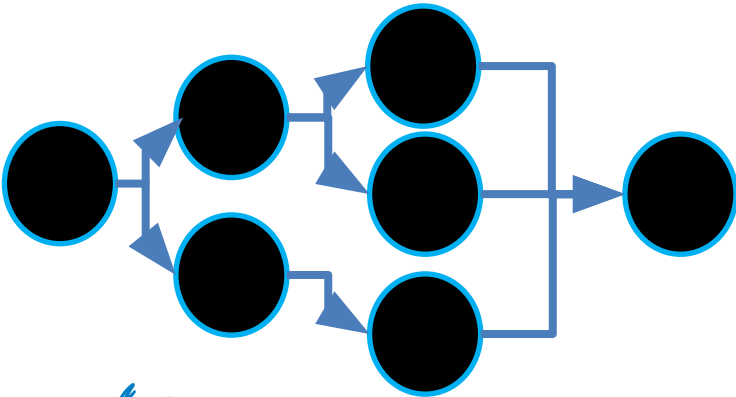


4b

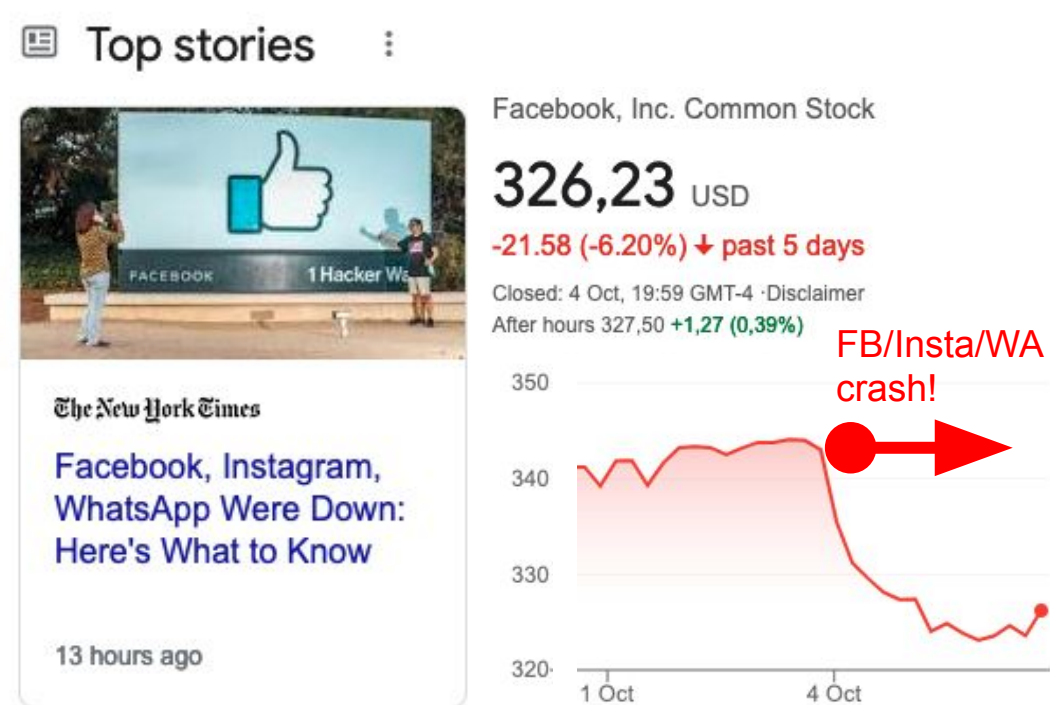
Erwin van Eyk

## DESIGN AND ENGINEERING: SERVERLESS ARCHITECTURE, API, SCHEDULER

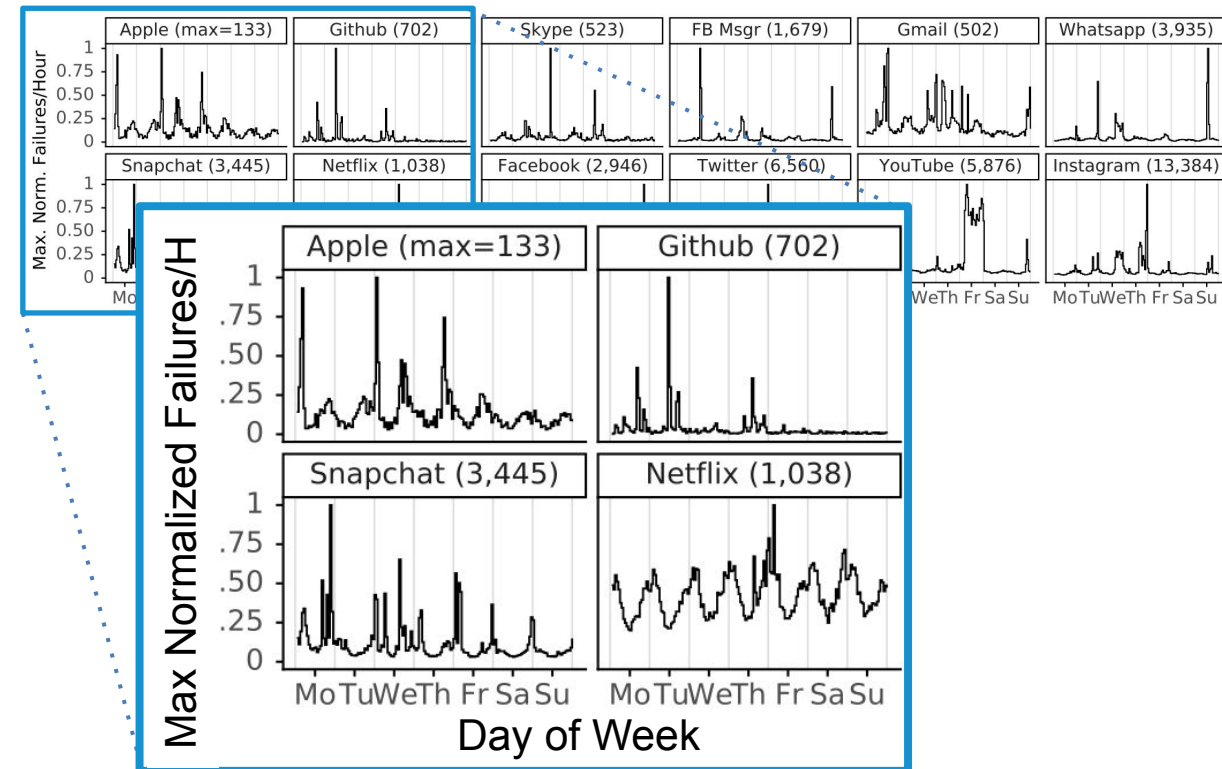
Fission Workflows  
delivers good  
performance, which  
also lowers cost



# Do Operators Tell the Truth and Nothing But the Truth? Characterization of User Reports



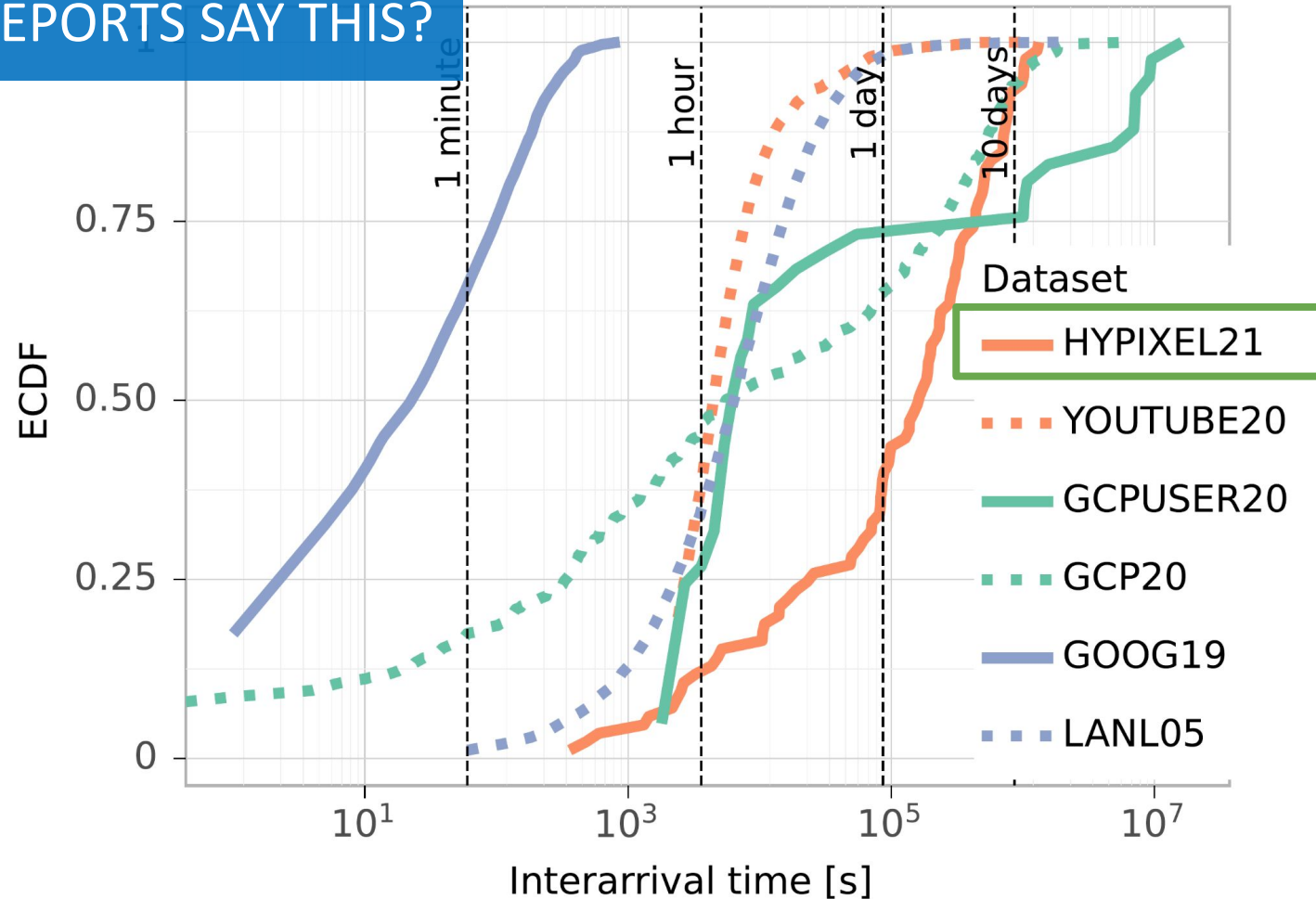
Source: NYTimes, Google market tracker, Oct 5, 2021



# SAMPLE VIEW OF THE DATA

4c

DO OPERATOR REPORTS SAY THIS?

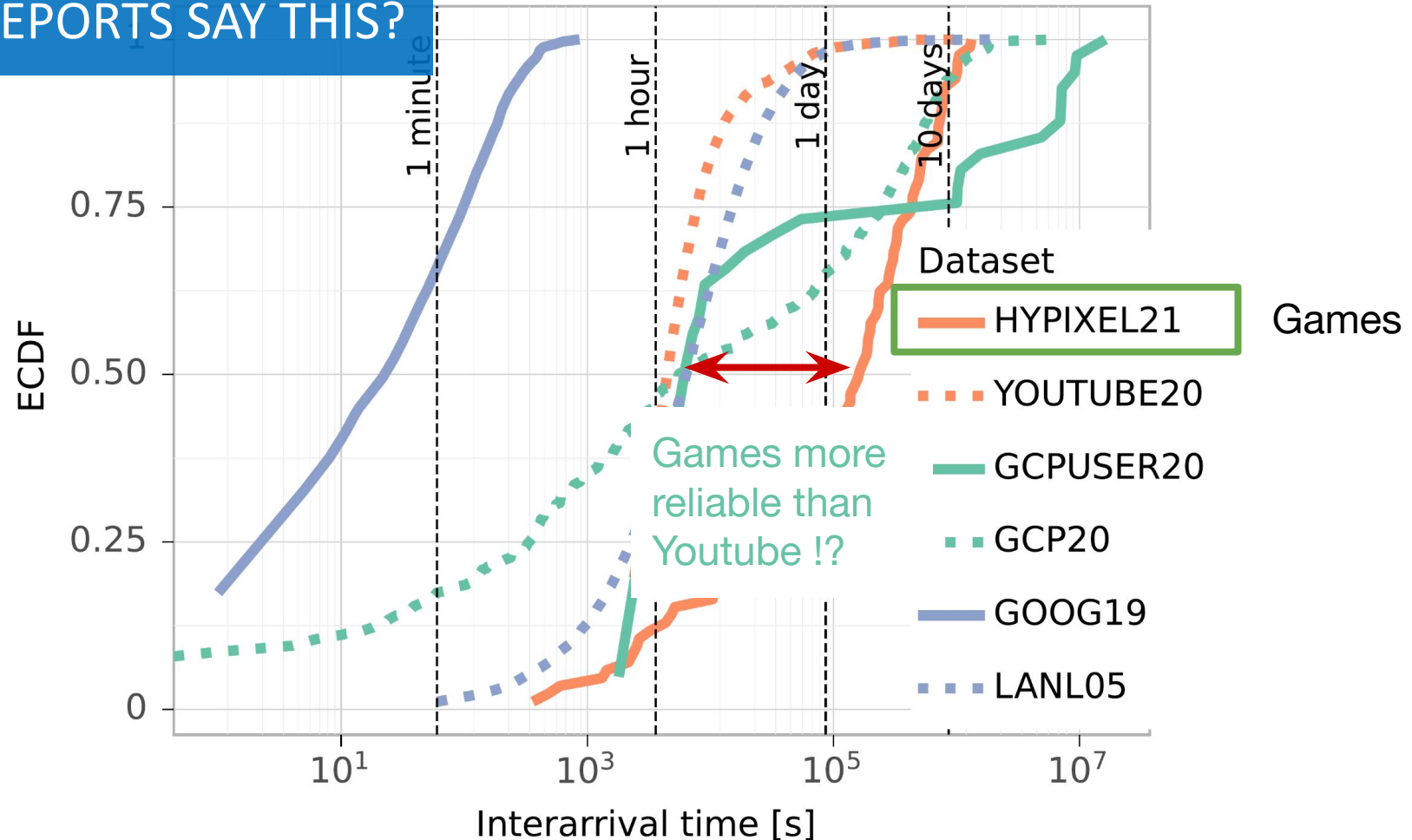


Games, Minecraft

# SAMPLE VIEW OF THE DATA

4c

DO OPERATOR REPORTS SAY THIS?

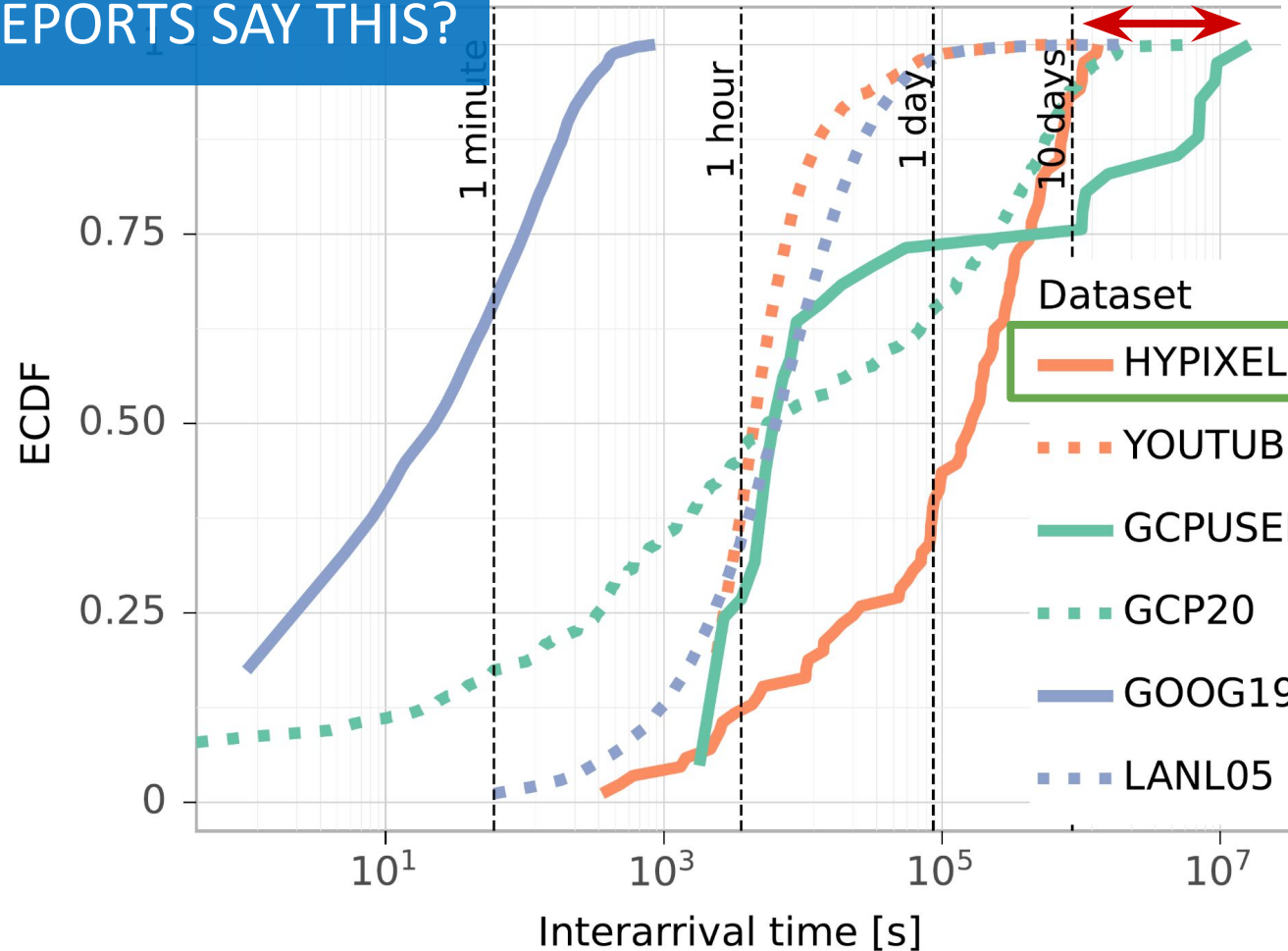




# SAMPLE VIEW OF THE DATA

4c

DO OPERATOR REPORTS SAY THIS?



Google cloud more reliable than games. Phew, this was close!

Games



Serverless should be  
aligned with funding and  
community concerns

5

ALIGNED WITH COMMUNITY CONCERNS...

# The Manifesto on Computer Systems and Networking Research

Clear vision for the field in the NL, 2021-2035

Signed

50+ PIs / Leads

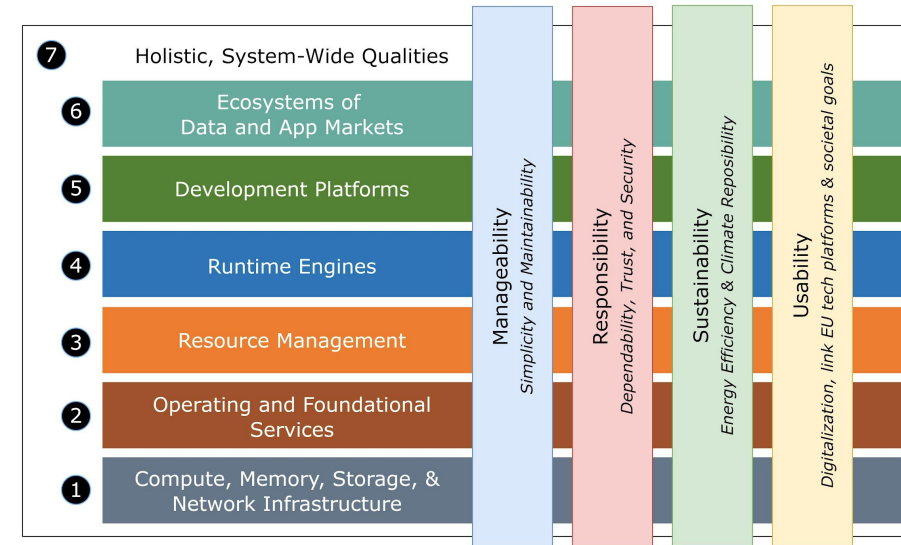
7 universities

5 relevant societal stakeholders

Available

Full version (40+ pages) <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.03259>

Who's Who in CompSysNL? <https://bit.ly/CompSysNLWhosWho>



ALIGNED WITH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES...

# Big Graph Processing: Used in AI/ML, Sci/Pharma, Learning/Edu, Energy Mgmt., etc.

Vision: Massivizing computer systems approaches are key to enable big graph ecosystems

contributed articles



CACM Cover/Featured article, Sep 2021





# TAKE-HOME MESSAGE



Serverless = Extreme automation + fine-grained reporting + utilization-based billing

The serverless ecosystem: many apps, many platforms, many goals, many approaches

Many modern, open challenges: scheduling, telemetry, recovery, privacy/GDPR, etc.

# MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS



## FURTHER READING

<https://atlarge-research.com/publications.html>

1. Iosup et al. Massivizing Computer Systems. ICDCS 2018 ← start here
2. Andreadis et al. A Reference Architecture for Datacenter Scheduling, SC18
3. Van Eyk et al. Serverless is More: From PaaS to Present Cloud Computing, IEEE IC Sep/Oct 2018
4. Uta et al. Exploring HPC and Big Data Convergence: A Graph Processing Study on Intel Knights Landing, IEEE Cluster 2018
5. Talluri et al. Big Data Storage Workload in the Cloud. ACM/SPEC ICPE 2019.
6. Toader et al. Graphless. IEEE ISPDC'19.
7. Jiang et al. Mirror. CCPE 2018.
8. Ilyushkin et al. Autoscalers. TOMPECS 2018.
9. Versluis et al. Autoscaling Workflows. CCGRID'18.
10. Uta et al. Elasticity in Graph Analytics? IEEE Cluster 2018.
11. Herbst et al. Ready for rain? TOMPECS 2018.
12. Guo et al. Streaming Graph-partitioning. JPDC'18.
13. Iosup et al. The OpenDC Vision. ISPDC'17.
14. Iosup et al. Self-Aware Computing Systems book.
15. Iosup et al. LDBC Graphalytics. PVLDB 2016.
- Etc.

# MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS



## FURTHER READING

<https://atlarge-research.com/publications.html>

1. Iosup et al. The AtLarge Vision on the Design of Distributed Systems and Ecosystems. ICDCS 2019 ← Start here
  2. Uta et al. Is big data performance reproducible in modern cloud networks? NSDI 2020
  3. Van Eyk et al. The SPEC-RG Reference Architecture for FaaS: From Microservices and Containers to Serverless Platforms, IEEE IC 2019
  4. Papadopoulos et al. Methodological Principles for Reproducible Performance Evaluation in Cloud Computing. TSE 2019 and (journal-first) ICSE 2020
  5. van Beek et al. Portfolio Scheduling for Managing Operational and Disaster-Recovery Risks in Virtualized Datacenters Hosting Business-Critical Workloads. ISPDC 2019
  6. van Beek et al. A CPU Contention Predictor for Business-Critical Workloads in Cloud Datacenters. HotCloudPerf19
- + Iyushkin et al. Performance-Feedback Autoscaling with Budget Constraints for Cloud-based Workloads of Workflows. Under submission
- Etc.



# MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS



## FURTHER READING

<https://atlarge-research.com/publications.html>

1. Sakr, Bonifati, Voigt, Iosup, et al. (2021) The Future Is Big Graphs! CACM
2. Andreadis et al. (2021) Capelin: Data-Driven Capacity Procurement for Cloud Datacenters using Portfolios of Scenarios. TPDS, under review.
3. Versluis et al. The Workflow Trace Archive: Open-Access Data From Public and Private Computing Infrastructures. TPDS 2020.
4. Eismann et al. Serverless Applications: Why, When, and How? IEEE Softw. 38(1): 32-39 (2021)
5. Uta et al. (2020) Beneath the SURFace: An MRI-like View into the Life of a 21st-Century Datacenter. login USENIX
6. Iosup, Hegeman, et al. (2020) The LDBC Graphalytics Benchmark. CoRR. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.15028>
7. Hegeman et al. (2021) GradeML. HotCloudPerf.
8. Abad, Iosup, et al. An Analysis of Distributed Systems Syllabi With a Focus on Performance-Related Topics. WEPPE 2021. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.01858>  
Etc.



# EXTRAS



THIS IS THE GOLDEN AGE OF MASSIVE COMPUTING ECOSYSTEMS

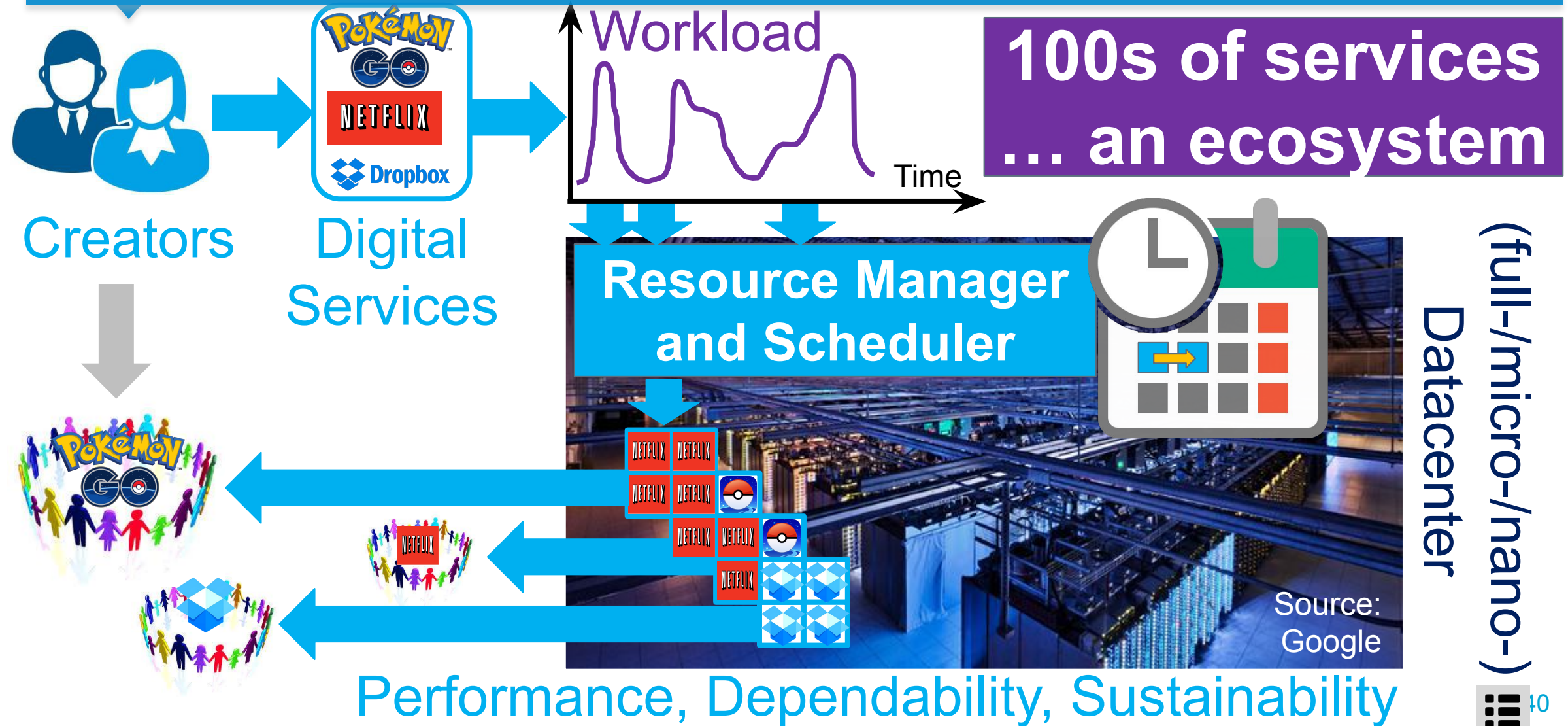
Do you recognize this App?



Here is how it operates...



# A TYPICAL ECOSYSTEM: SERVICE, DATACENTER, SCHEDULER



# DISTRIBUTED ECOSYSTEMS, OUR DEFINITION

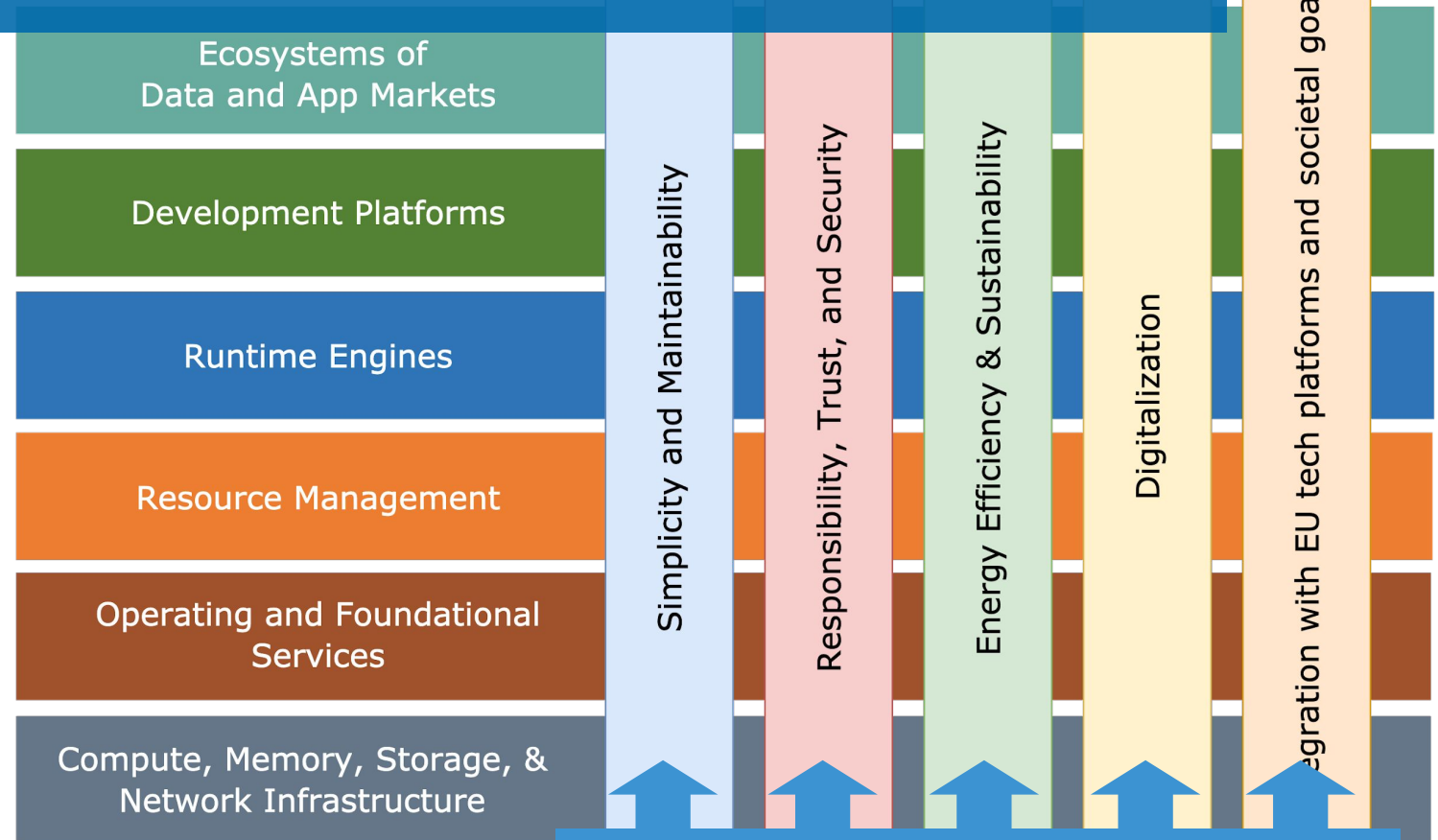
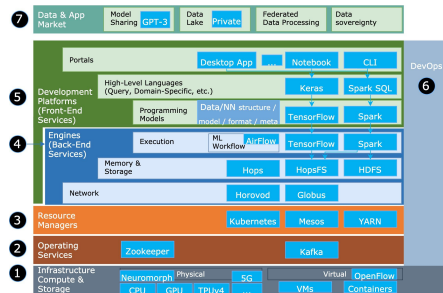
1. Set of 2+ **constituents**, often **heterogeneous**
2. Each constituent is a system or an ecosystem (**recursively**)
3. Constituents are **autonomous**, cooperative or in competition
4. Ecosystem **structure** and **organization** ensure responsibility
  1. Completing functions and providing services
  2. Providing desirable non-functional properties
  3. Fulfill agreements with both operators and clients, clients in the loop
5. Long and short-term **dynamics** occur in the ecosystem

**Iosup et al., Lecture Notes in Distributed**

**Computations, Securing Computer Systems, ICDCS**

# MASSIVIZING COMPUTER SYSTEMS

## A LARGER VISION OF HOW COMPUTING WILL HELP OUR SOCIETY



A.losup@vu.nl  
<http://atlarge.science>

© 2022 Alexandru Iosup.

Societal challenges in the NL