

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, likely in Seattle, showing a mix of multi-story apartment buildings and houses. In the foreground, a marina is visible with several floating houses (turbos) and boats docked along the water. The background shows more dense residential development on a hillside.

Uber x Security

Tyler Julian, Security Engineer @Uber

Daniel Feldman, Software Engineer @Scytale

May 23, 2019

Uber

Agenda

01 Overview

02 Identity at Uber

03 SPIFFE

04 Case Study

05 Q&A

Identity at Uber

Tyler Julian

About Me

- Authentication
- Distributed Systems
- @Uber
 - Identity & Access Management
 - Trust & Safety
- @21 (acq. by Coinbase)
 - Cryptocurrency Protocol Implementation

Scale

3K+

Unique services.

400K

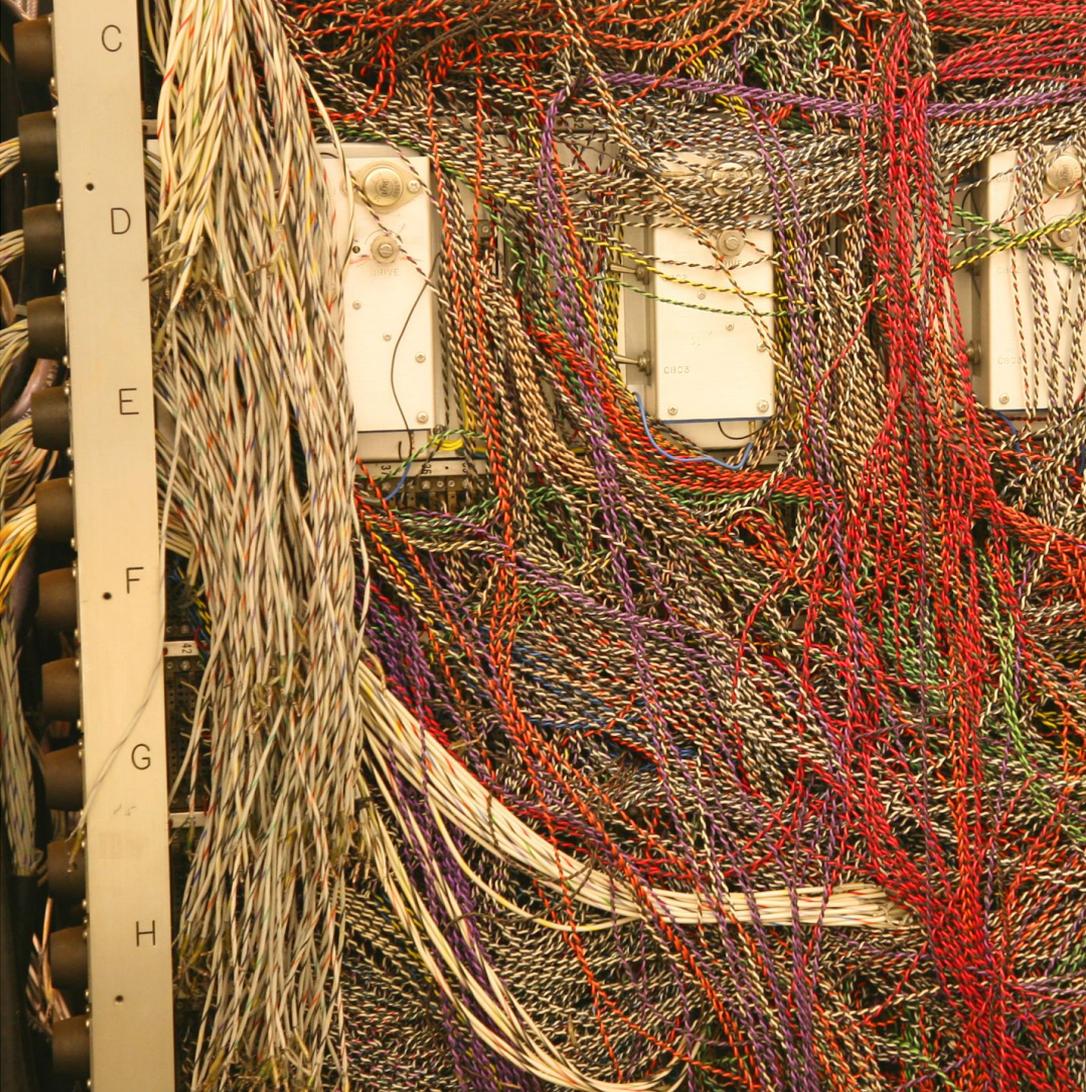
Running containers to support stateless services.

M

a

Infra

- Deployments in both cloud and on-prem data centers
- RPC with gRPC/HTTP and in-house protocols
- Routing/discovery built in-house
- Orchestration using Mesos, Hadoop, and in-house tools
- Services written in Go, Java, Python, Node.js, and more



Identity Requirements

- Compliance
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX)
- Trust and Security
 - Reduce assumptions on system behavior (zero trust)
 - Reduce risk of data breach
 - Reduce risk of bad configuration
- Developer Experience
 - Easy to implement and use
 - Integrated with infrastructure

Identity Scope



Users

Riders, drivers, couriers, customer support representatives, managers, engineers, etc.



Machines

Addressable hosts that reside within “Uber” infrastructure.

```
function check(n)
{ // check if the number n is a prime
  var factor; // if the checked number is not a prime, this
  var c;
  factor = 0;
  // try to divide the checked number by all numbers till it
  for (c=2 ; (c <= Math.sqrt(n)) ; c++)
  {
    if (n%c == 0) // is n divisible by c ?
      { factor = c; break }
  }
  return (factor);
} // end of check function

function communicate()
{ // communicate with the user
  var i; // i is the checked number
  var factor; // if the checked number is not a prime, this
  i = document.primetest.number.value; // get the checked
  // is it a valid input?
  if ((isNaN(i)) || (i <= 0) || (Math.floor(i) != i))
  { alert ("The checked object should be a whole positive number") ;
  }
  else
  {
    factor = check (i);
    if (factor == 0)
      { alert (i + " is a prime") ;
    }
    else
      { alert (i + " is not a prime, " + i + "=" + factor + " ") ;
    }
  }
} // end of communicate function
```

Workloads

A process that runs application logic for some business purpose.

Workload Identity

- Goal:
 - Uniquely identify a particular program or application
- Control access to:
 - Database credentials
 - Third party API keys
 - Other internal services
- Protect data:
 - Encryption-in-transit
 - Prevent bad actors

SPIFFE

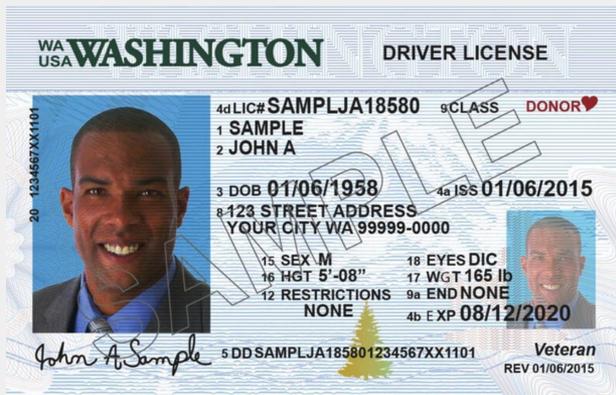
Daniel Feldman

placeholder

Need slides for:

- Intro to SPIFFE (framework for identifying workloads)
- What is an SVID?
- Workload API
- How to actually use Workload API (Proxy?)-- brief
- Selectors (Daniel make this slide)

What is an SVID?



Identity documents are:

Unique

Stable

Verifiable

Attested by a trusted authority



and





github.com/spiffe/spiffe

A set of specifications that cover how a workload should retrieve and use its identity.

- SPIFFE ID
- SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Documents (SVIDs)
- The SPIFFE Workload API

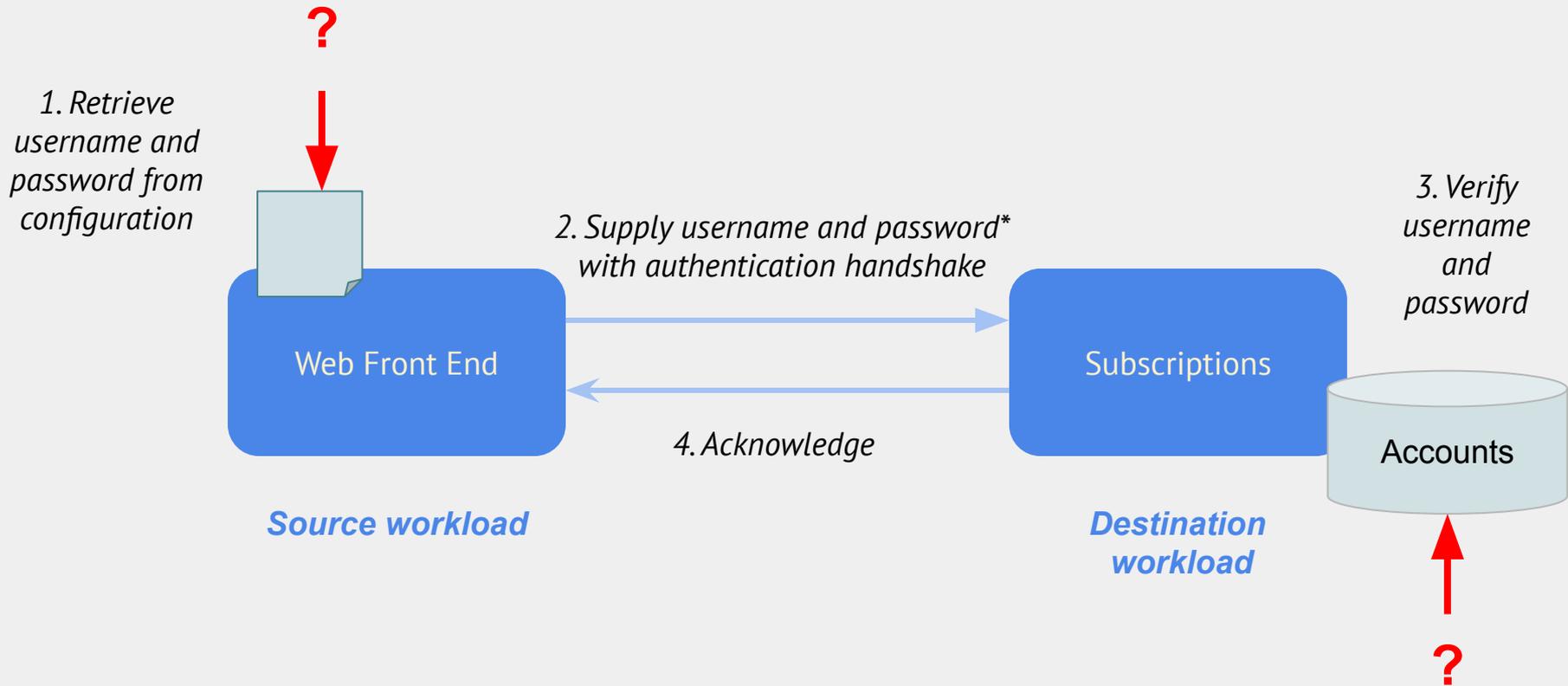


github.com/spiffe/spire

The SPIFFE Runtime Environment. Open-source software that implements the SPIFFE Workload API for a variety of platforms.

Apache 2.0 license. Independent governance. Highly extensible through plug-ins.

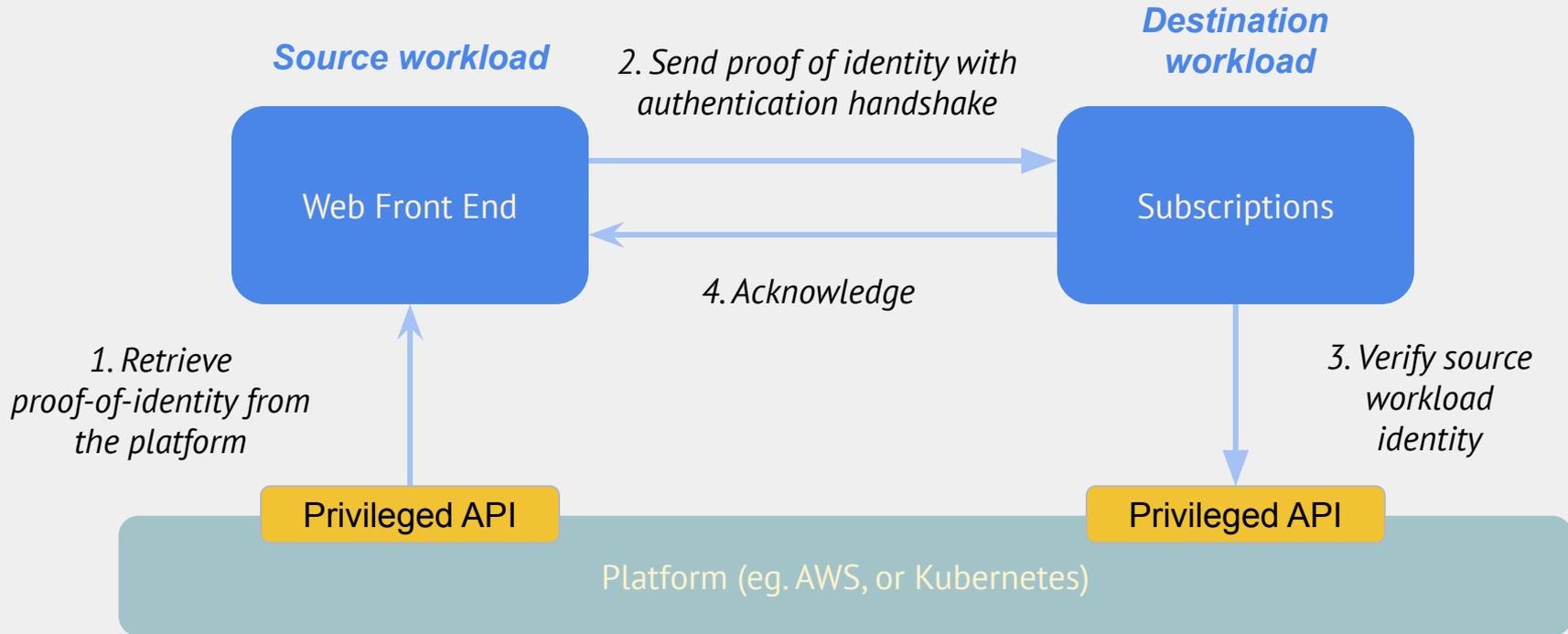
Workload authentication



* Or key/secret, signed nonce etc.

Platform mediated identity

Eg. AWS IAM, Kubernetes Service Accounts



What is an SVID?

spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments

A SPIFFE ID



X.509-SVID describes exactly how to encode a SPIFFE ID in an X.509 certificate



JWT-SVID describes exactly how to encode a SPIFFE ID in an JWT bearer token

Node

Workload

Workload



Workload API

SPIRE Agent

SPIRE Server



```
spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments
```

```
selector: aws:sg:sg-edcd9784
```

```
selector: k8s:ns:payments
```

```
selector: k8s:sa:pay-svc
```

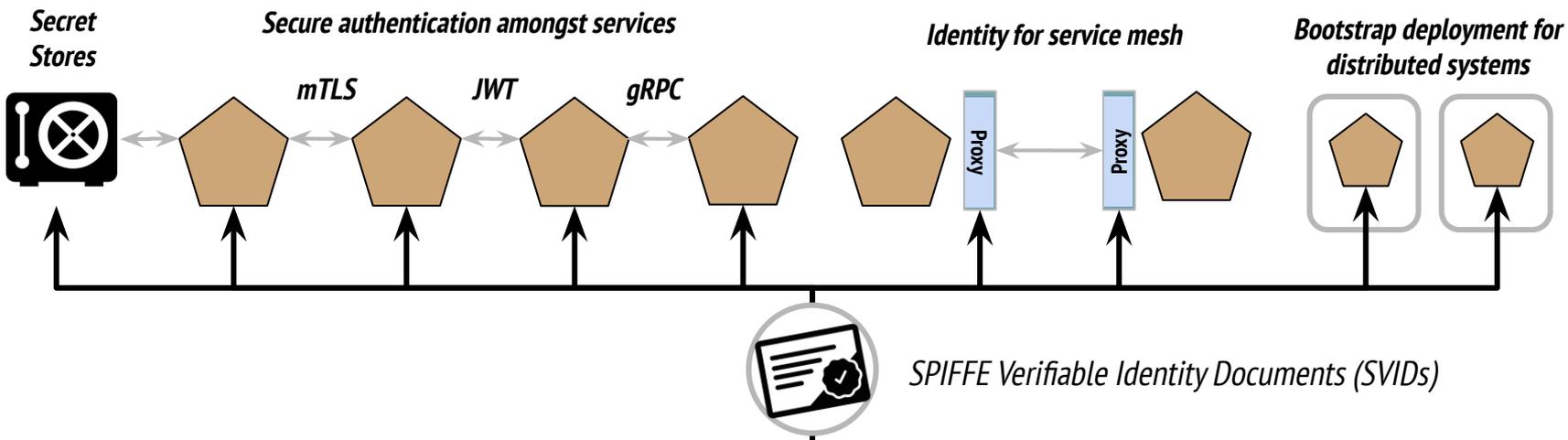
```
selector: docker:image-id:442ca9
```

Design Goals

- **Application identity driven.** By building a security model rooted in a strong assertion of application identity, policies and practices become application- and business unit- oriented rather than infrastructure-oriented.
- **Easily adoptable.** Users should be able to leverage Emissary with little or no code change. The system should work well in dynamically orchestrated containerized environments.
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- **Reliable.** The single points of failures in the system should be minimized and the system should degrade gracefully when any single point of failure is down.
- **Cloud and Container Ready.** It should be possible to safely extend trust to entities running on to third party cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure, and container orchestrators such as Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes.

Security Goals

- **Fully automated and policy driven.** Existing identity (particularly PKI) infrastructure is both complex and often requires “human trust”, which weakens delivery. Emissary is fully automated and should minimize manual key distribution.
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SPIFFE Workload API



Cloud platform attestation plug-ins

OS attestation plug-ins

Scheduler and PaaS attestation plug-ins

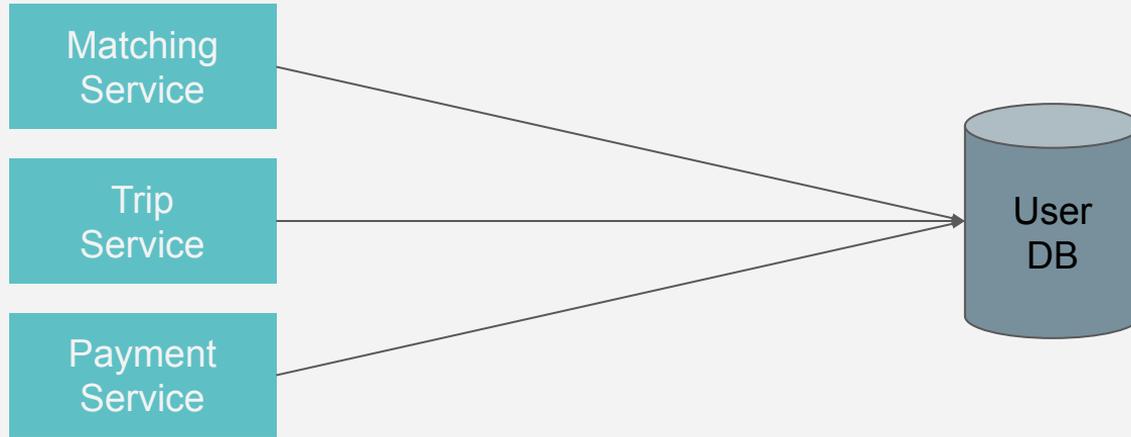
HSM, TPM, Kerberos attestation plug-ins

CA and secret store plug-ins

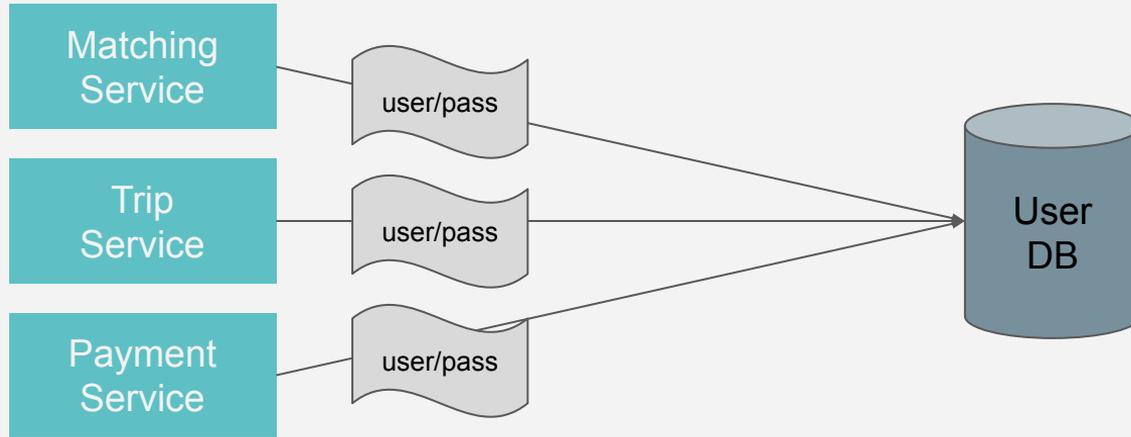
Case Study

Authentication in a Microservice Architecture

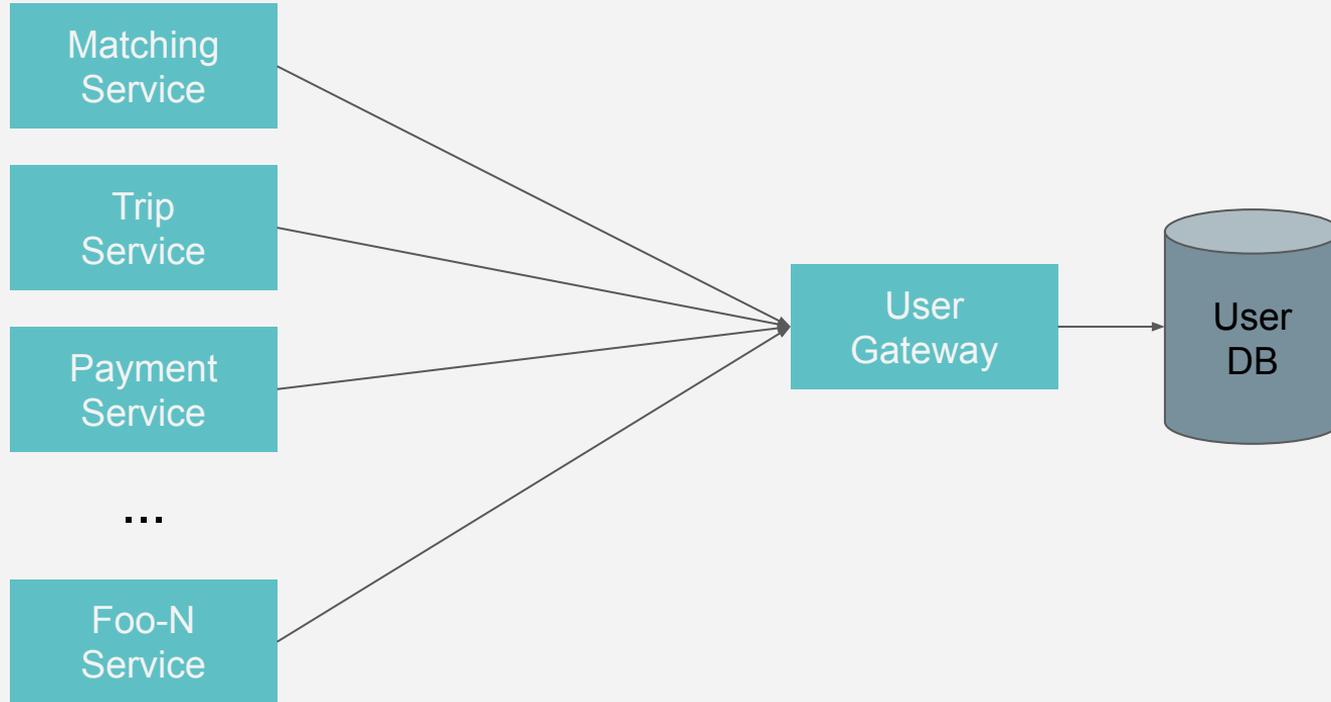
Early: Service to DB (Direct Data Access)



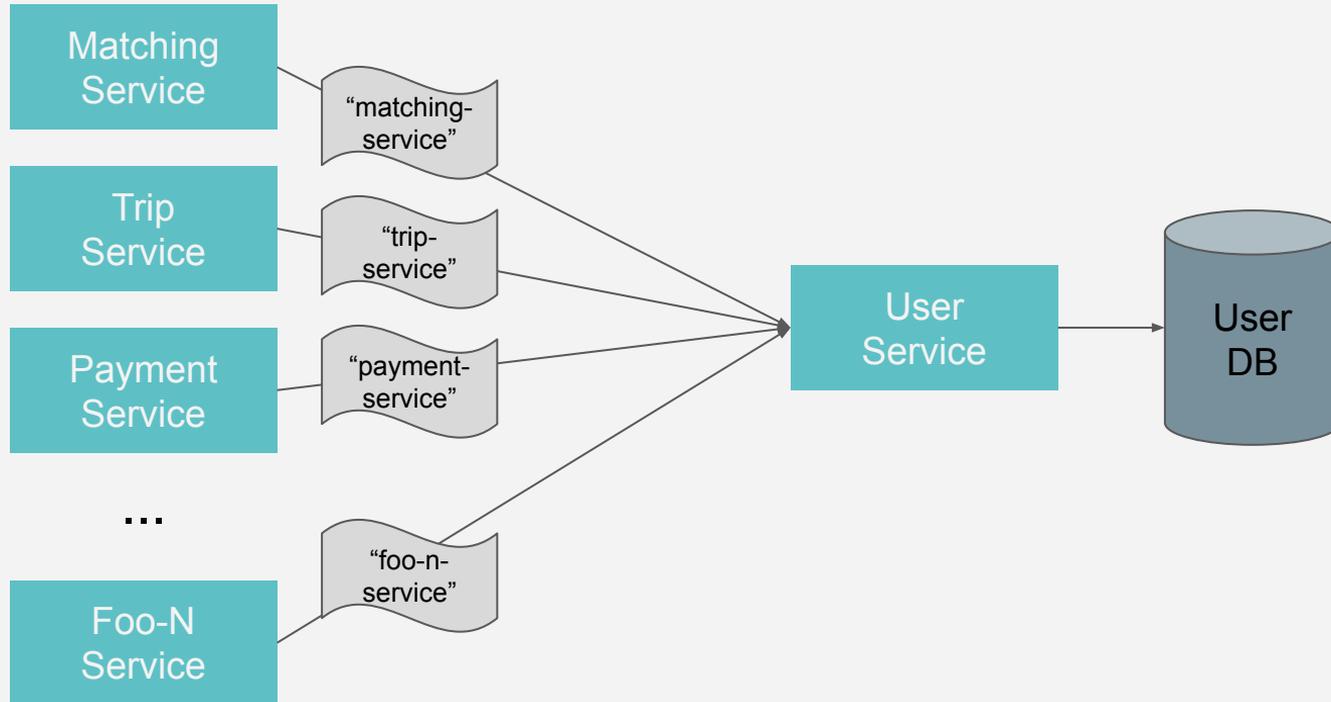
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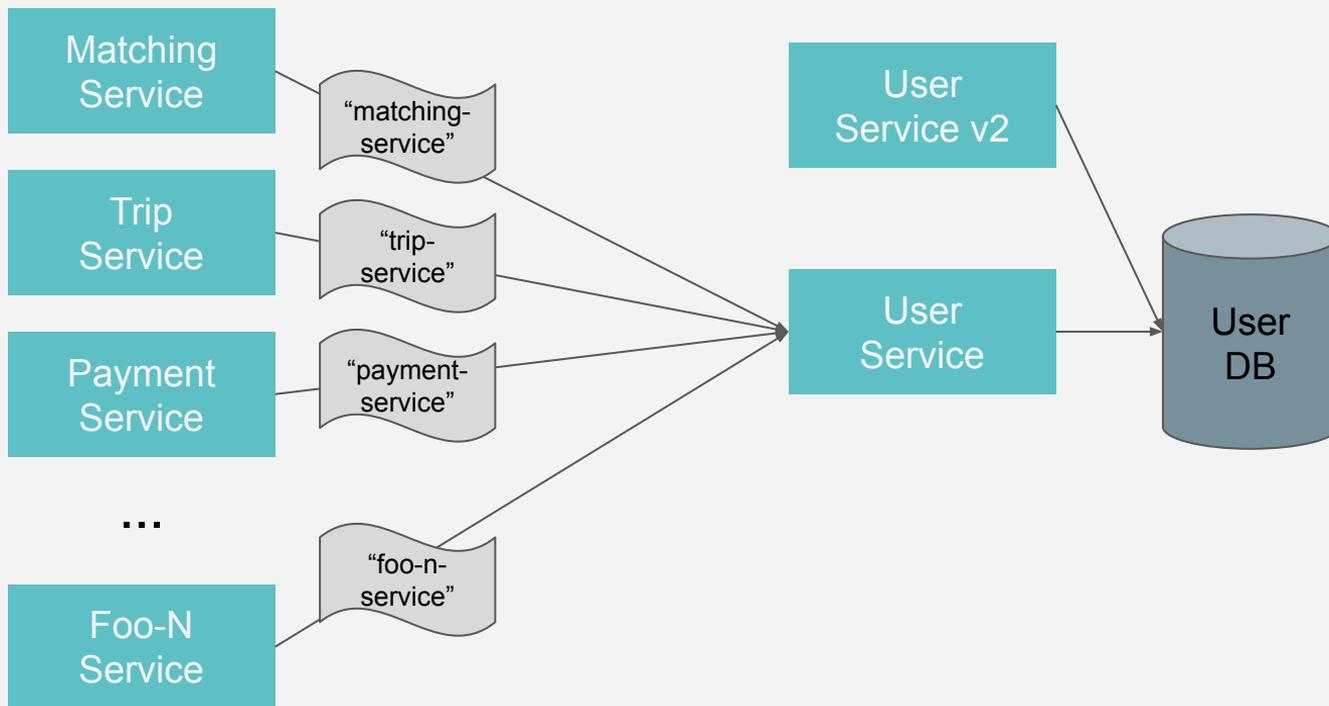
Growth: Service to Gateway (Proxied Data Access)



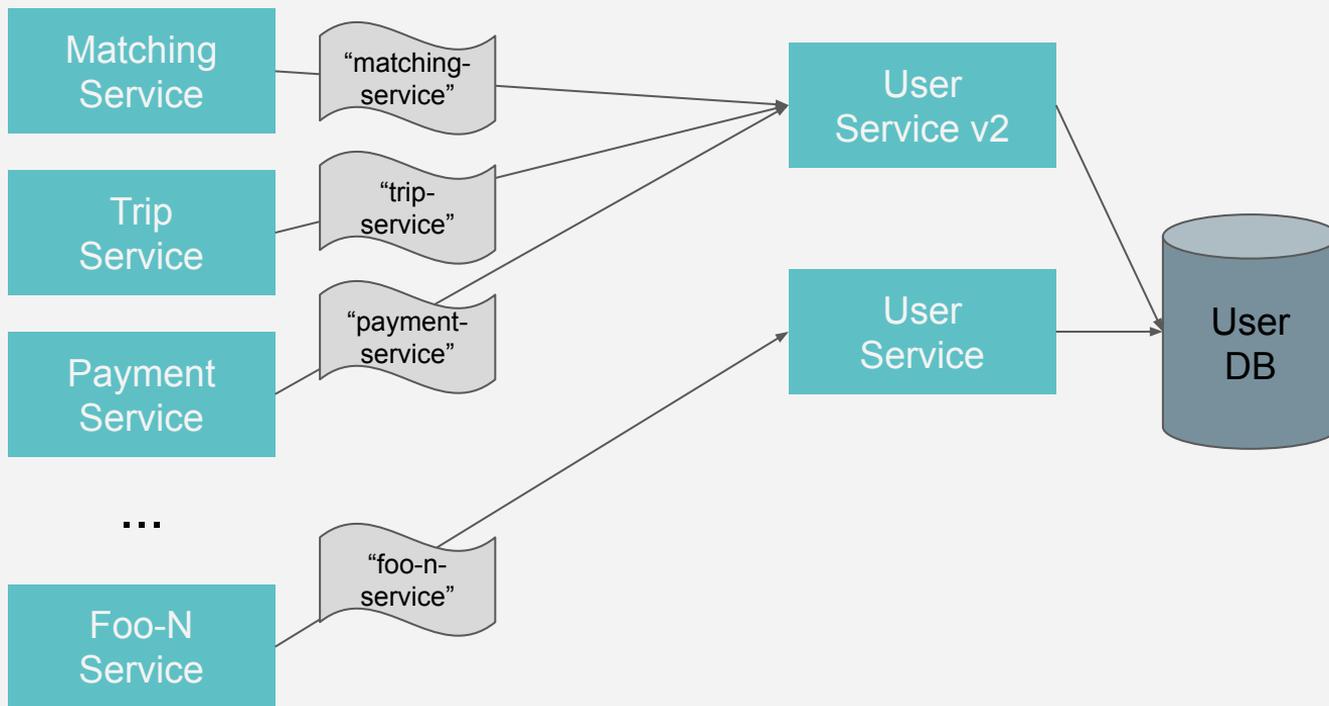
Growth: Service to Gateway (Proxied Data Access)



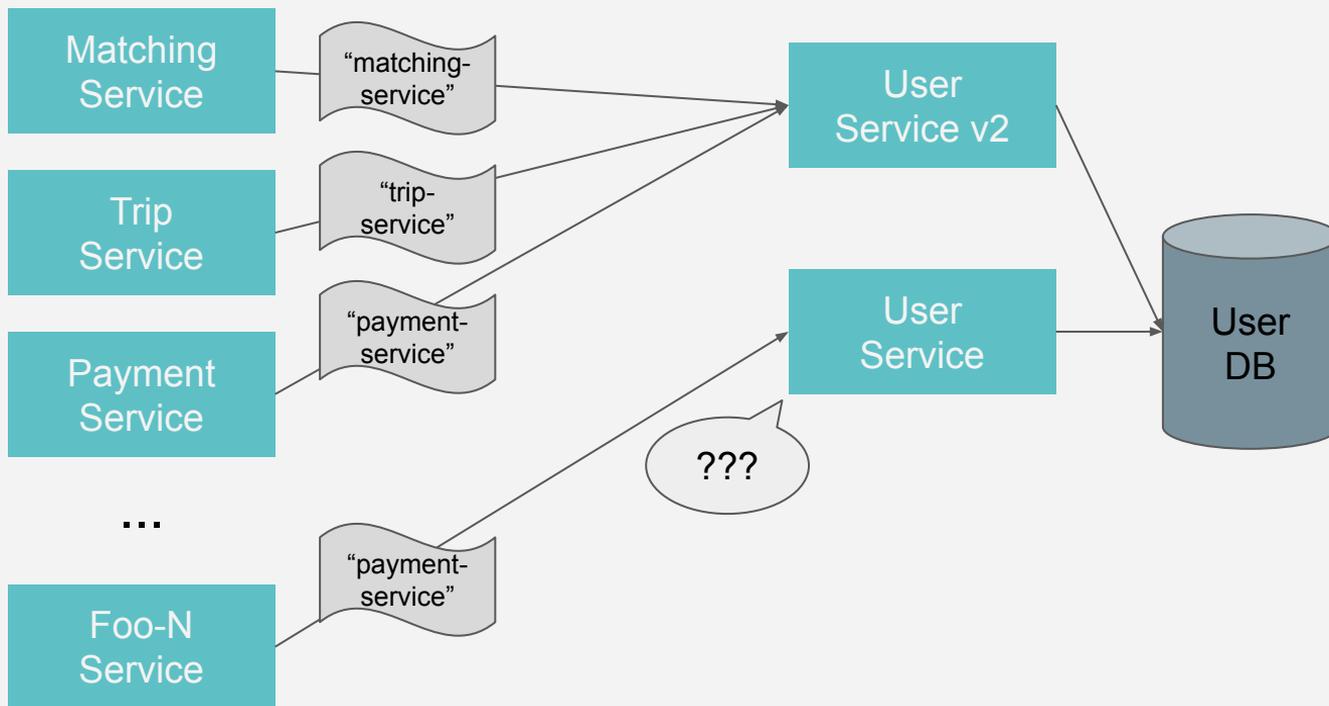
Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



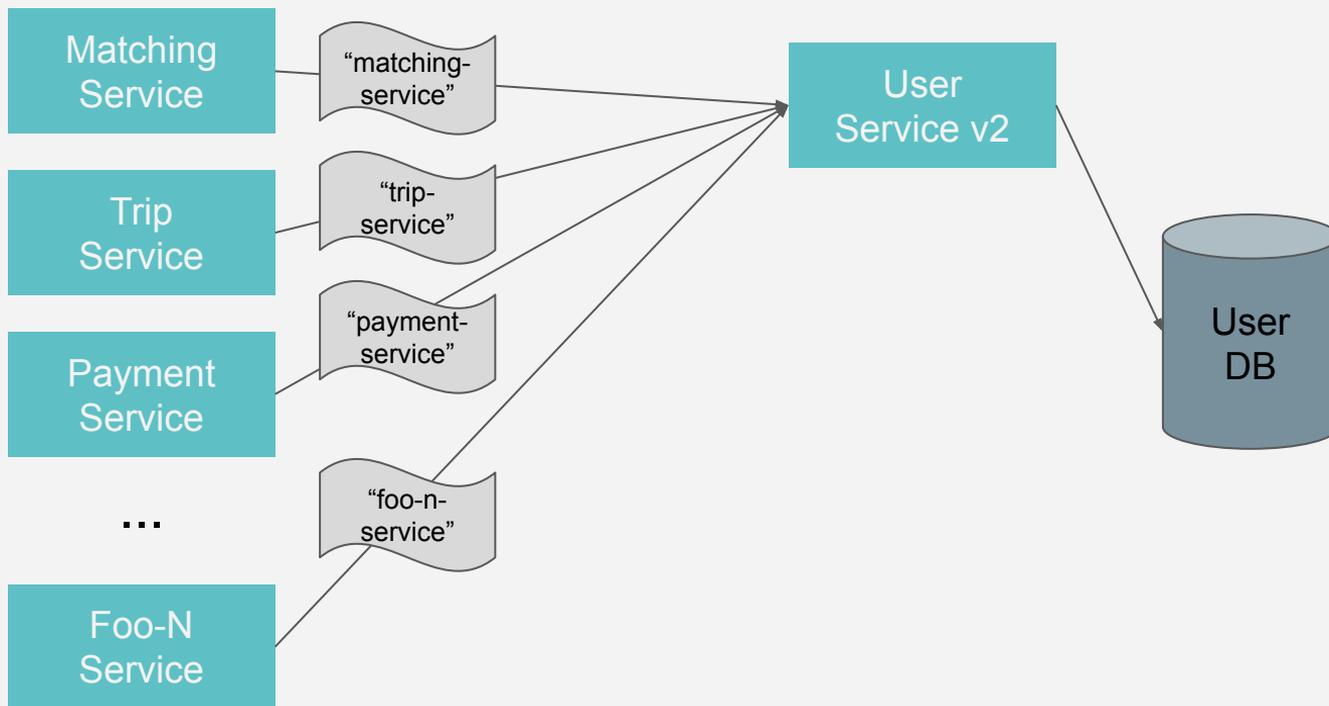
Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



Late: Service to Gateway (Migration)



Implementation

- Talk about libraries/sidecars, benefits of encapsulating from application logic, mTLS and JWTs

Q&A



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

————— **North America 2018** —————





KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

— North America 2018 —



KubeCon

CloudNativeCon

————— **North America 2018** —————





KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

— North America 2018 —



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

— North America 2018 —

BACKUP SLIDES



KubeCon

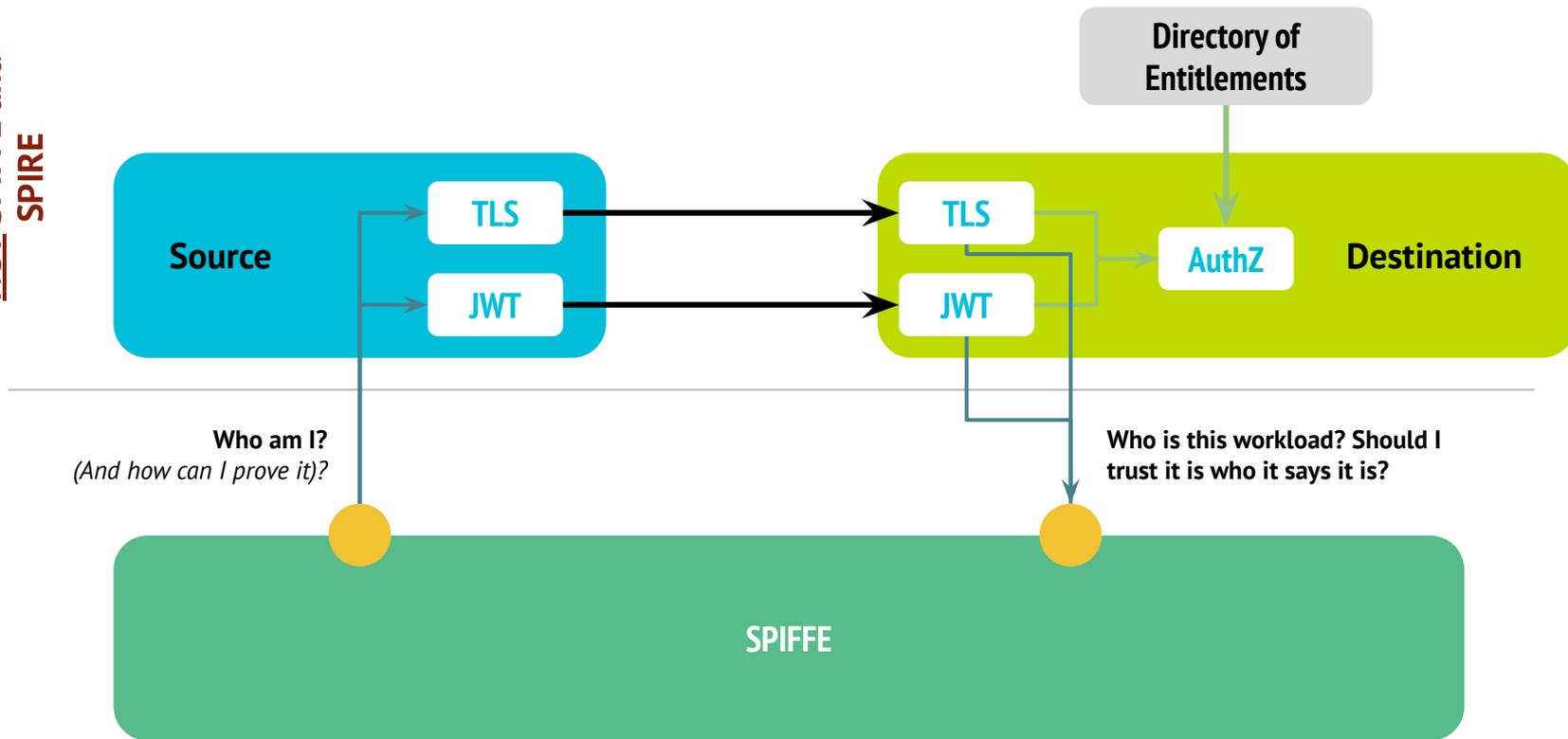


CloudNativeCon

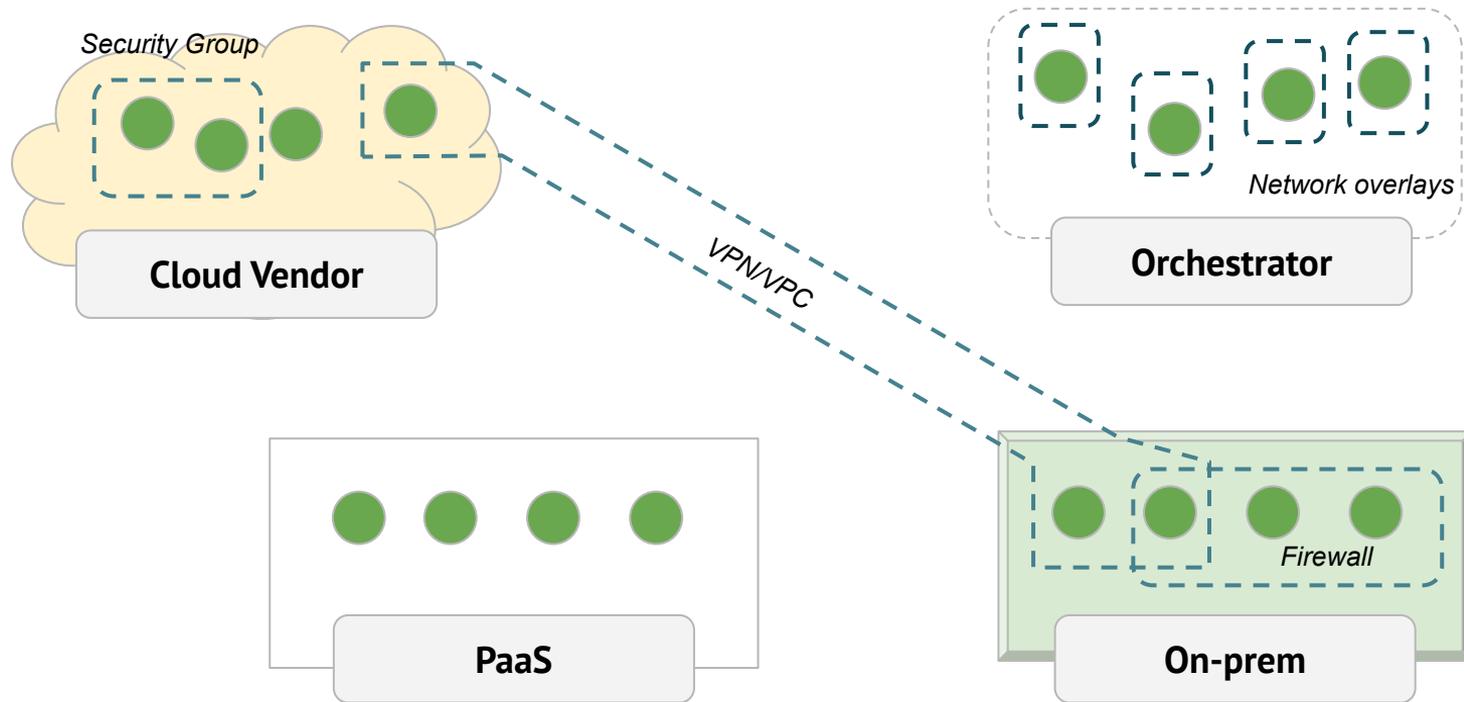
North America 2018

Identity is the *basis* for AuthN and AuthZ

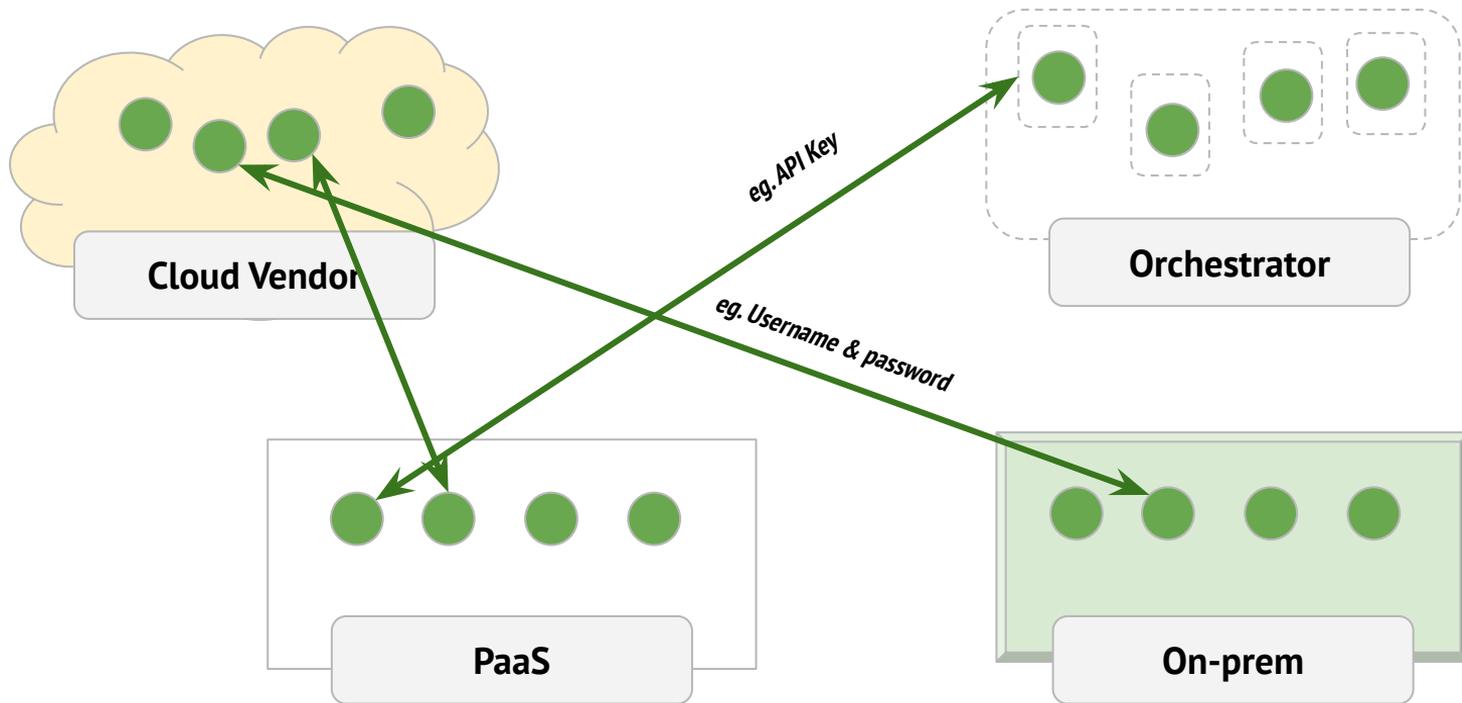
NOT SPIFFE and SPIRE



Workload identity? Use the network?

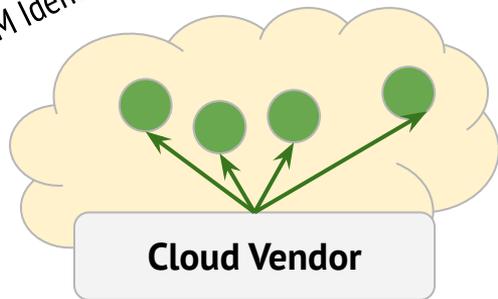


Workload identity? Shared secrets?

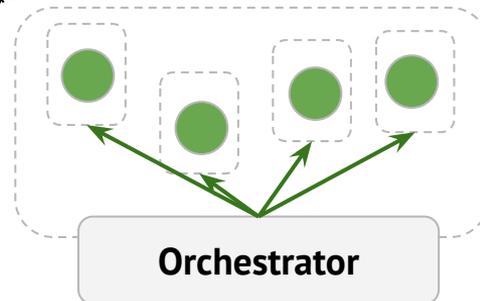


Workload identity? Ask my platform?

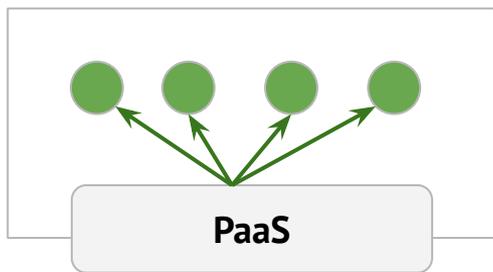
eg. IAM Identities



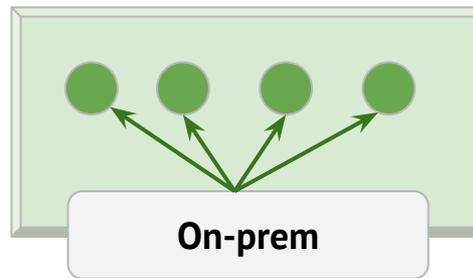
eg. Service accounts



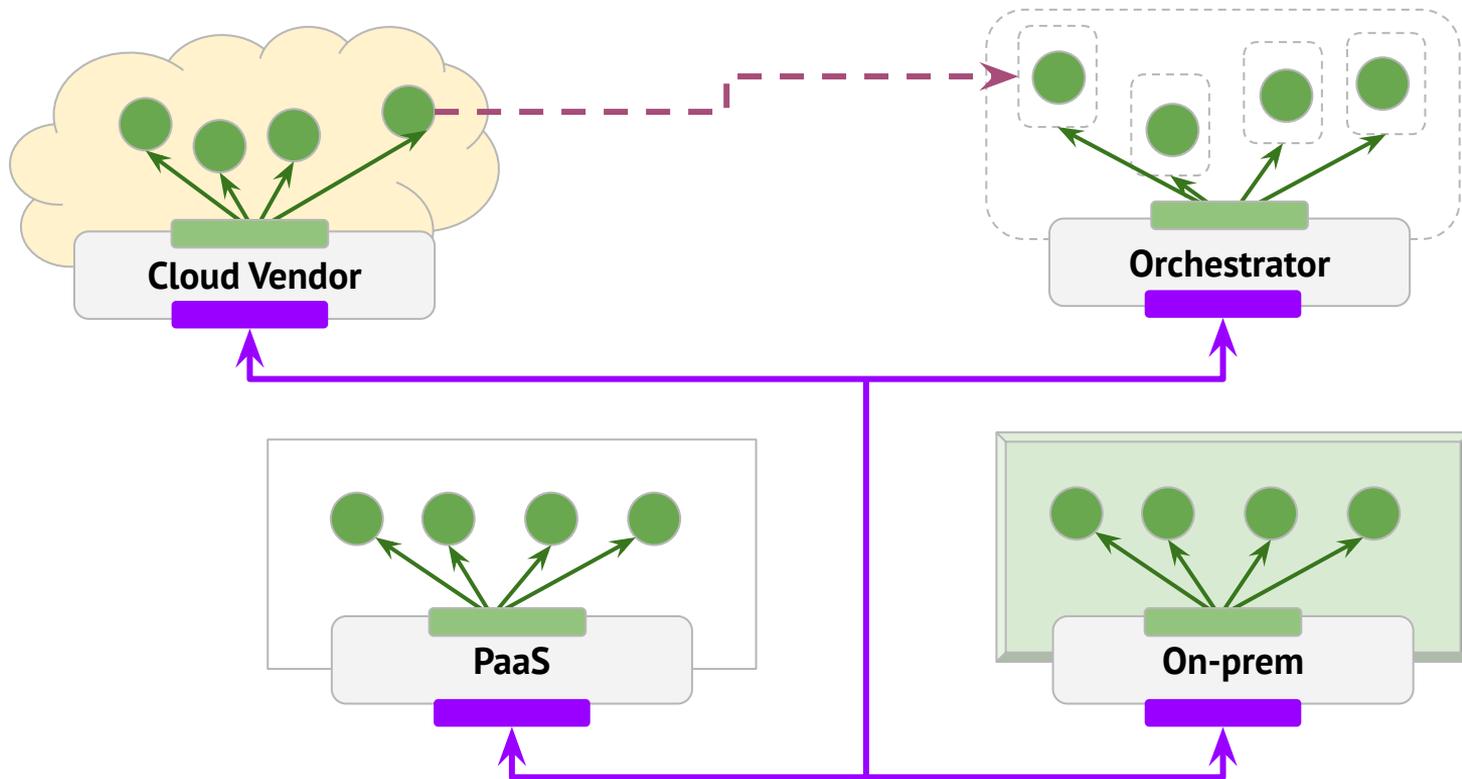
eg. Application IDs



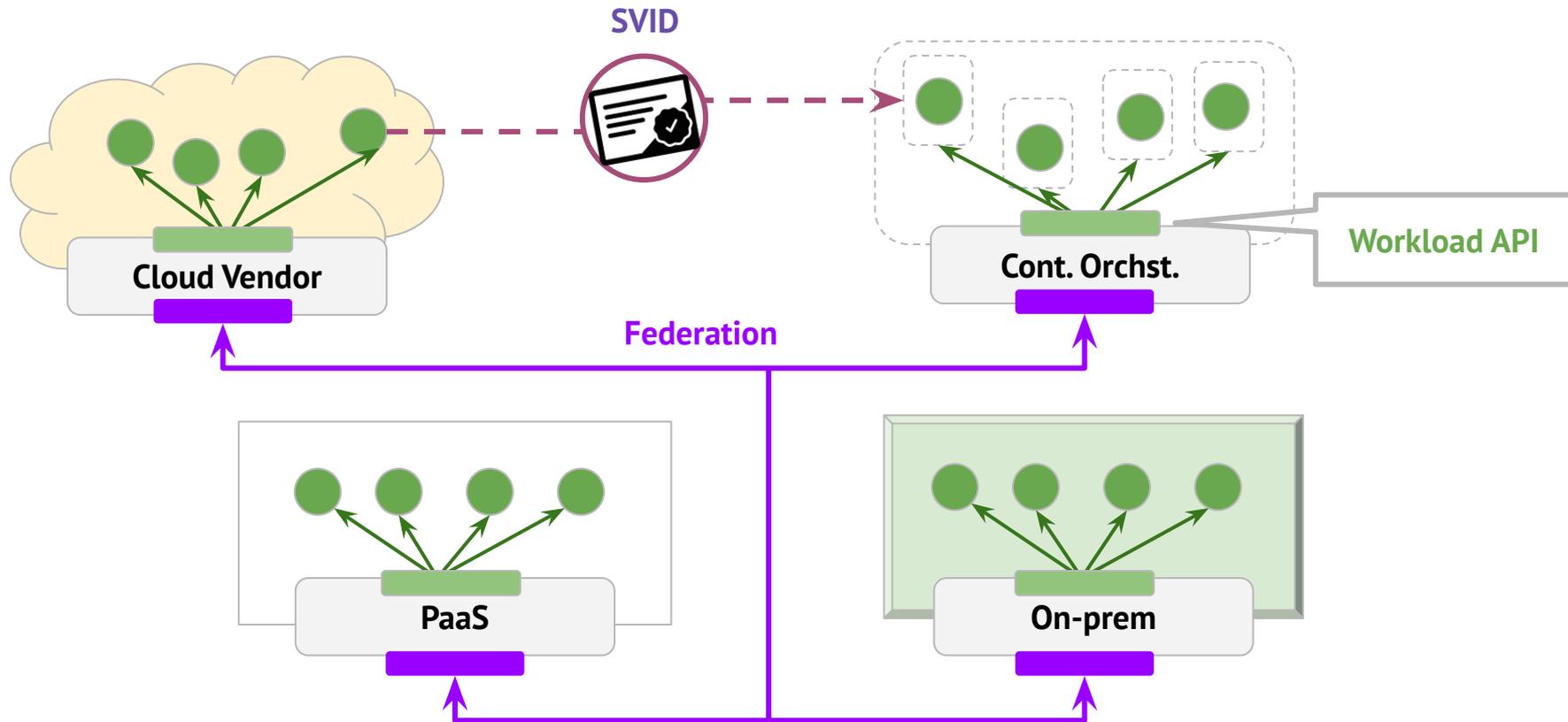
eg. Kerberos Keytabs



SPIFFE: Federated, platform-mediated, vendor neutral identity



SPIFFE: Federated, platform-mediated, vendor neutral identity



SPIFFE Issuers



SPIRE
(Full implementation)



HashiCorp Consul Connect
(Partial implementation)



Istio Citadel
(Partial implementation)

SPIFFE Consumers



HashiCorp Vault
Secret store



Knox
Secret store



Ghostunnel
Proxy



nginx
Web server and proxy



Envoy
Proxy



Your code
Using libraries

Today

A short history of SPIFFE

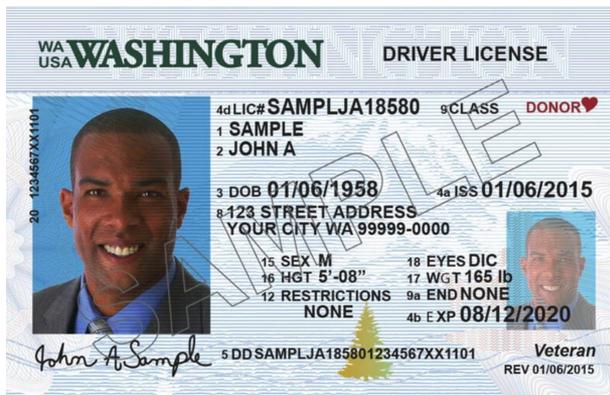
What SPIFFE solves for

SVIDs, Workload API and Federation

How to use SPIFFE

What's Next?

What is an SVID?



Identity documents are:

Unique

Static

Verifiable

Attested by a trusted authority

What is an SVID?

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A SPIFFE
ID



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JWT-SVID describes exactly how to encode a SPIFFE ID in an JWT bearer token

SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document

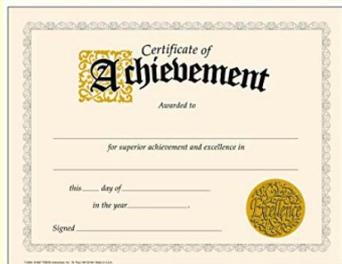


**SPIFFE
Verifiable Identity Document
(SVID)**



Trust Bundle

SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document



**SPIFFE
Verifiable Identity Document
(SVID)**



Trust Bundle

<spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments>

SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document



SVID comes from the SPIFFE implementation, not from the workload itself

(SVID)

SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document

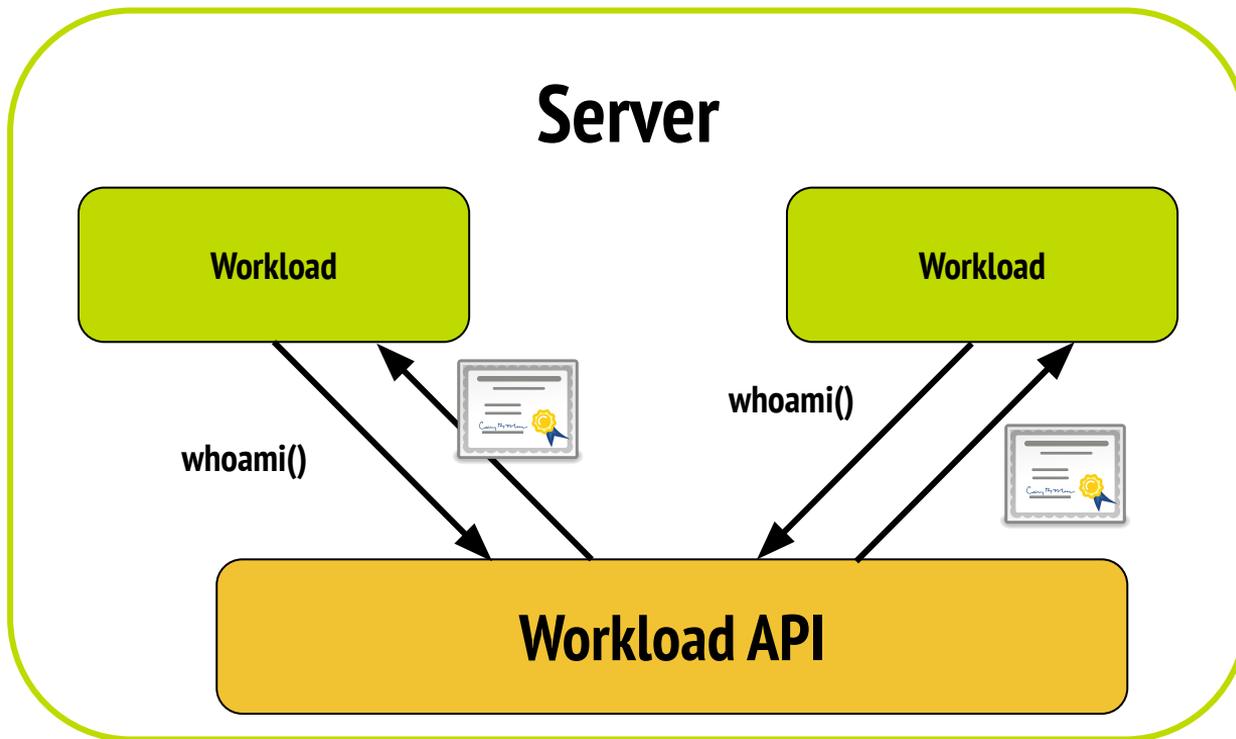


SPIFFE
Verifiable Identity Document
(SVID)

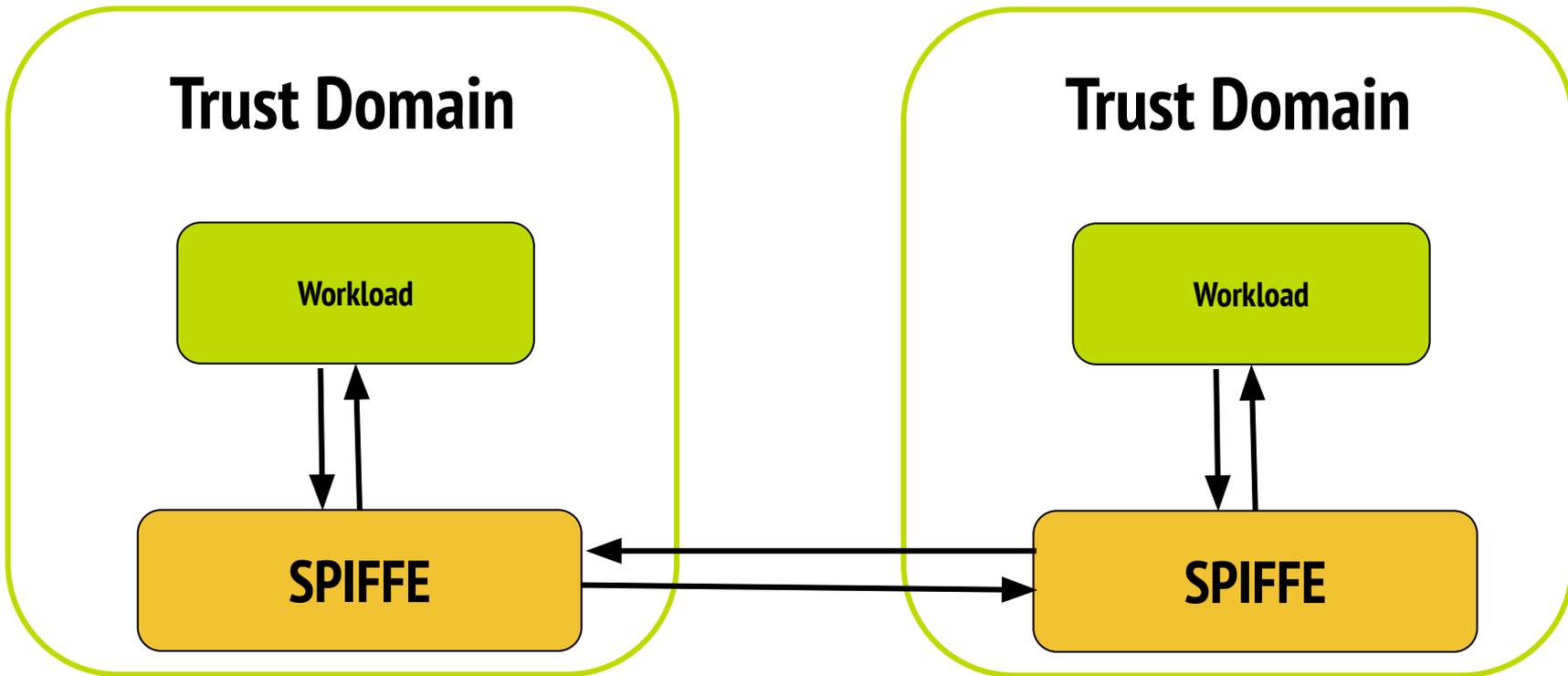


Trust Bundle

SPIFFE Workload API



SPIFFE Federation API



Today

A short history of SPIFFE

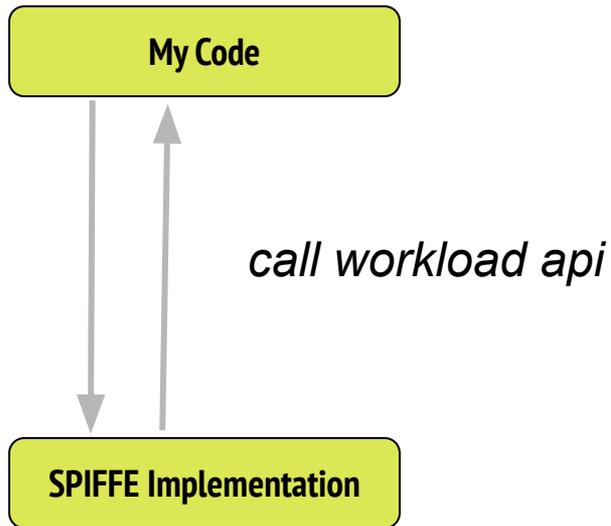
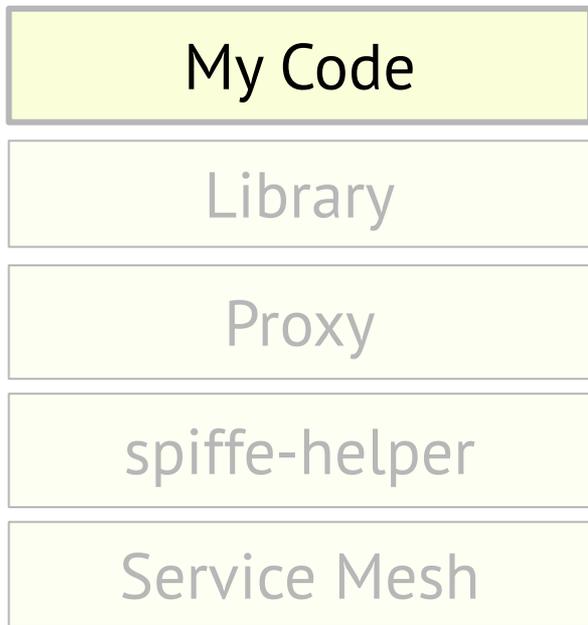
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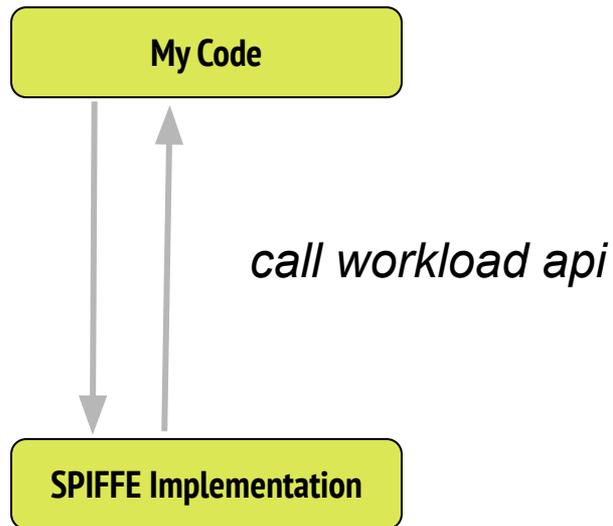
How to use SPIFFE

What's Next?

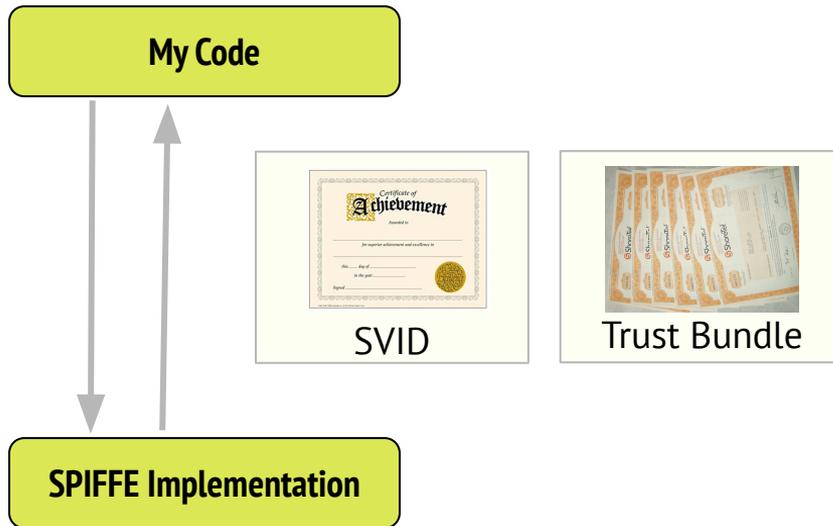
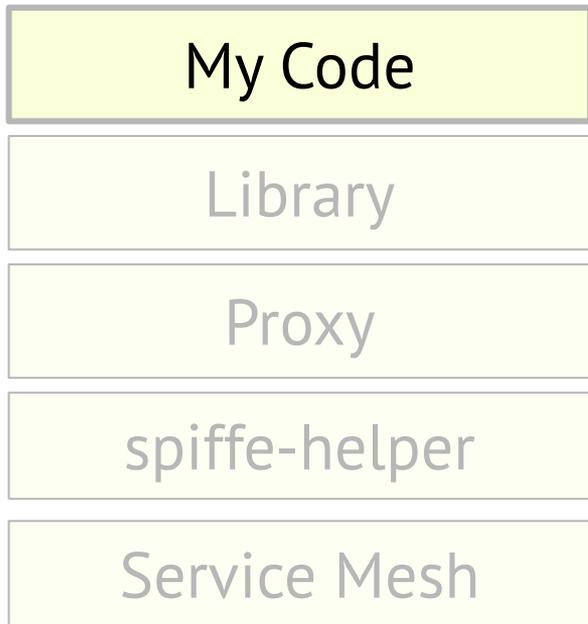
How do I get an SVID?



How do I get an SVID?



How do I get an SVID?



How do I get an SVID?

My Code

Library

Proxy

spiffe-helper

Service Mesh

c-spiffe

● C++ 🍴 2 Updated on Apr 10



go-spiffe

Golang library to parse and verify SVIDs

● Go ★ 19 🍴 5 Updated on Sep 7, 2017



java-spiffe

● Java ★ 7 🍴 2 📄 Apache-2.0 Updated 9 days ago



How do I get an SVID?

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Library

Proxy

c-spiffe

● C++ 🍴 2 Updated on Apr 10

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Golang library to parse and verify SVIDs

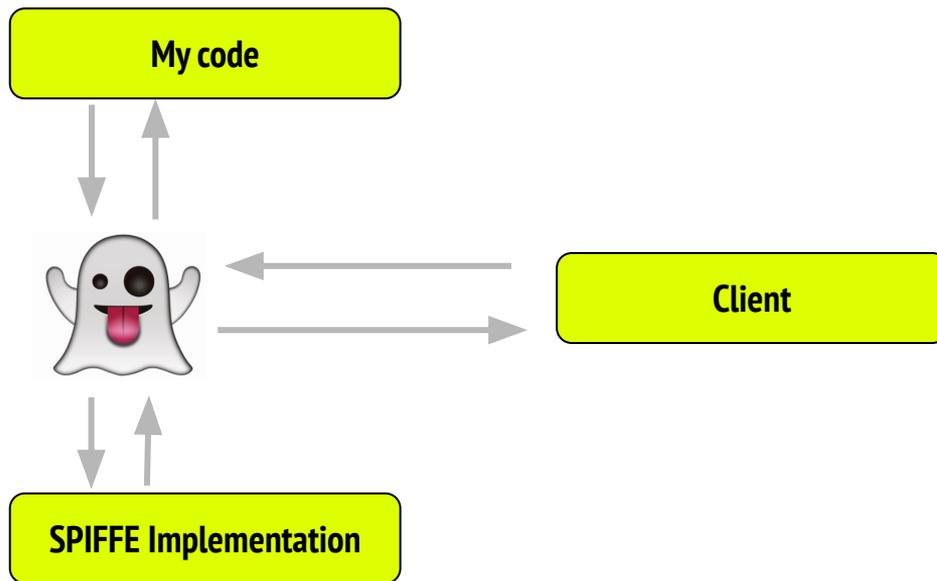
● Go ★ 19 🍴 5 Updated on Sep 7, 2017

java-spiffe

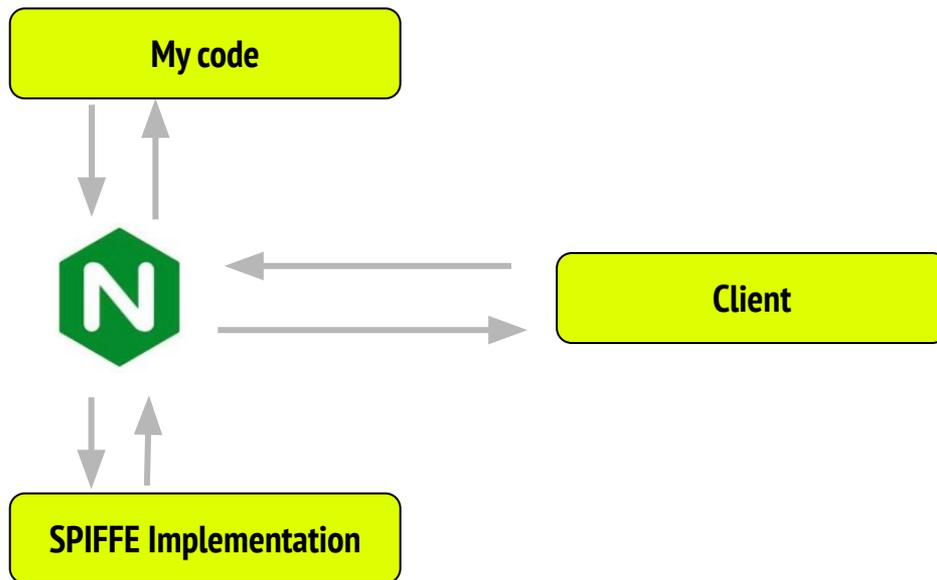
```
<connection-property name="url">  
  jdbc:postgresql://backend:8443/tasks_service?socketFactory=spiffe.provider.SpiffeSocketFactory  
</connection-property>
```

SERVICE MESH

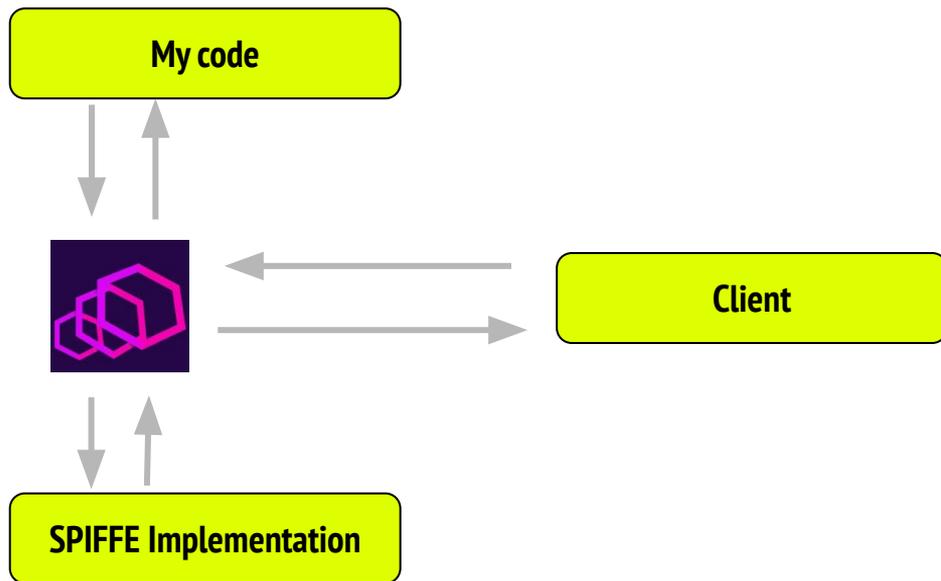
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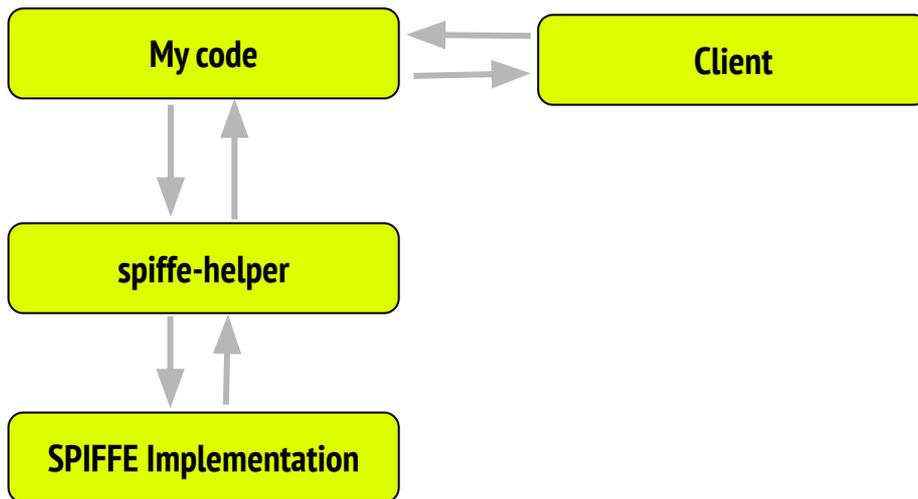
How do I get an SVID?



How do I get an SVID?



How do I get an SVID?



The Big Idea:

- TLS works really well for encryption
- The problem is creating, managing, and rotating certificates at scale
- We can come up with a standard way to do it automatically

How to do it:

- Restricted form of X.509 certificates:
 - Only certain fields allowed
 - SPIFFE ID in the “SAN” field
 - DN field is not used
- Workload API for services to retrieve their own certificate

Implementations:



Istio

Connect, secure, control, and observe services.



HashiCorp
Vault



LIGHTWAVE™

SPIFFE IDs

spiffe://acme.com/workload/workload1

**Trust
Domain**

Workload ID

SPIFFE IDs

spiffe://acme.com/workload/workload1

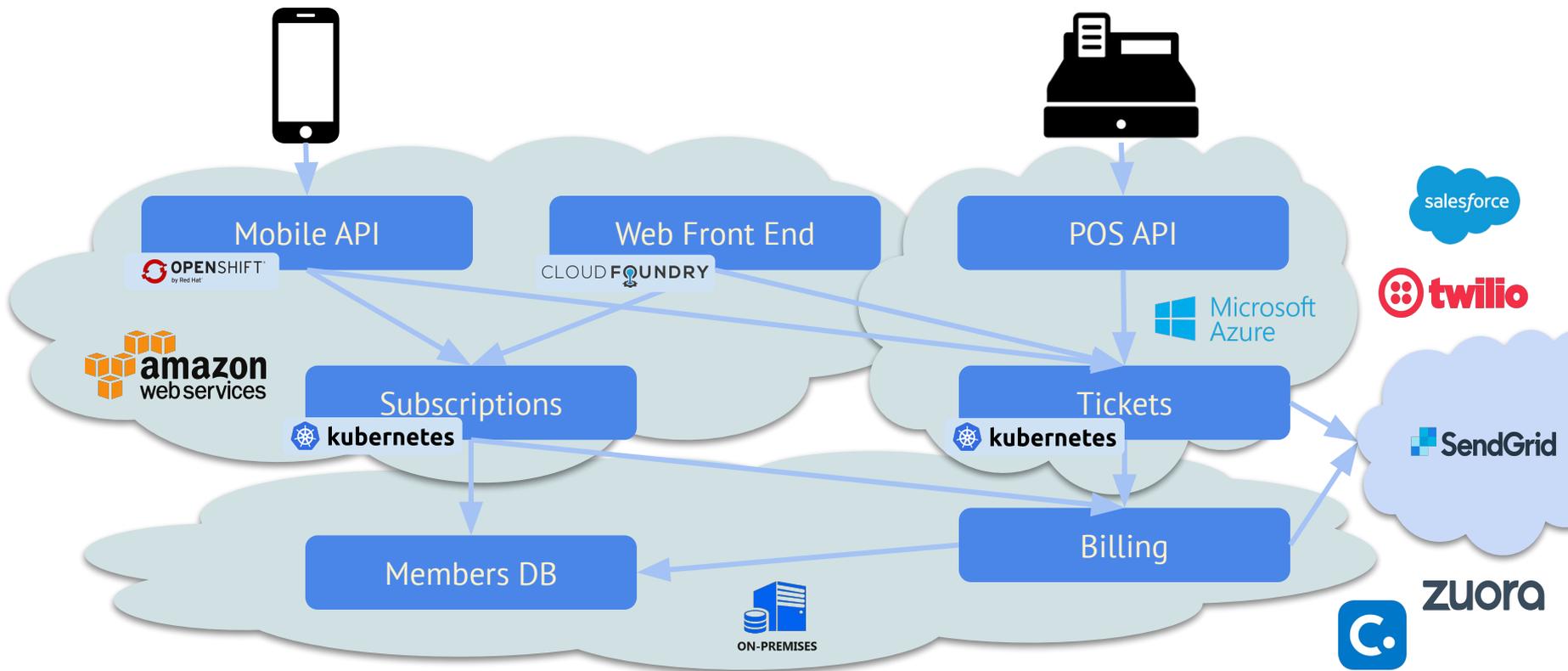
Trust
Domain

Workload ID

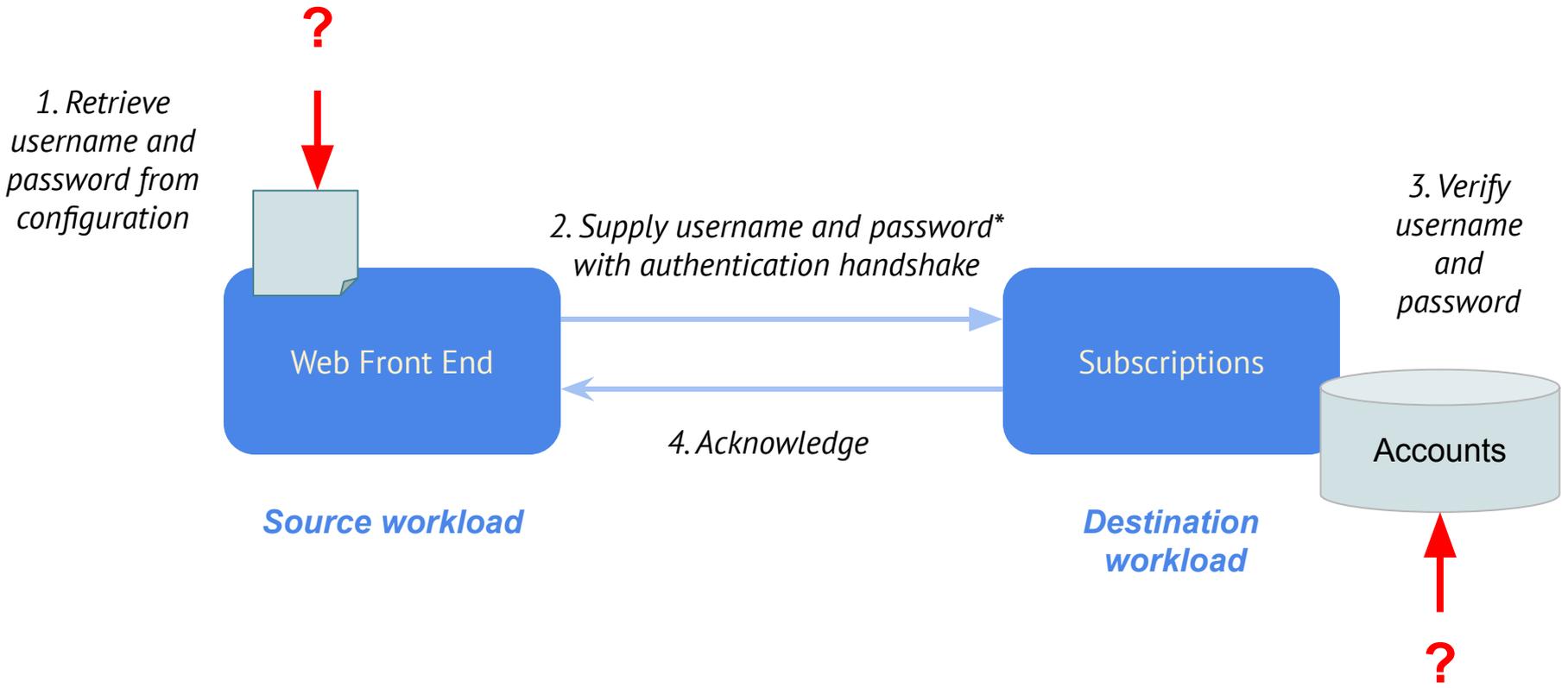
Stored inside the X.509 certificate

Selectors

- What workload am I?
 - Comes from the platform, not the workload itself
 - “Attestation”
- The mappings from platform properties to SPIFFE IDs are selectors



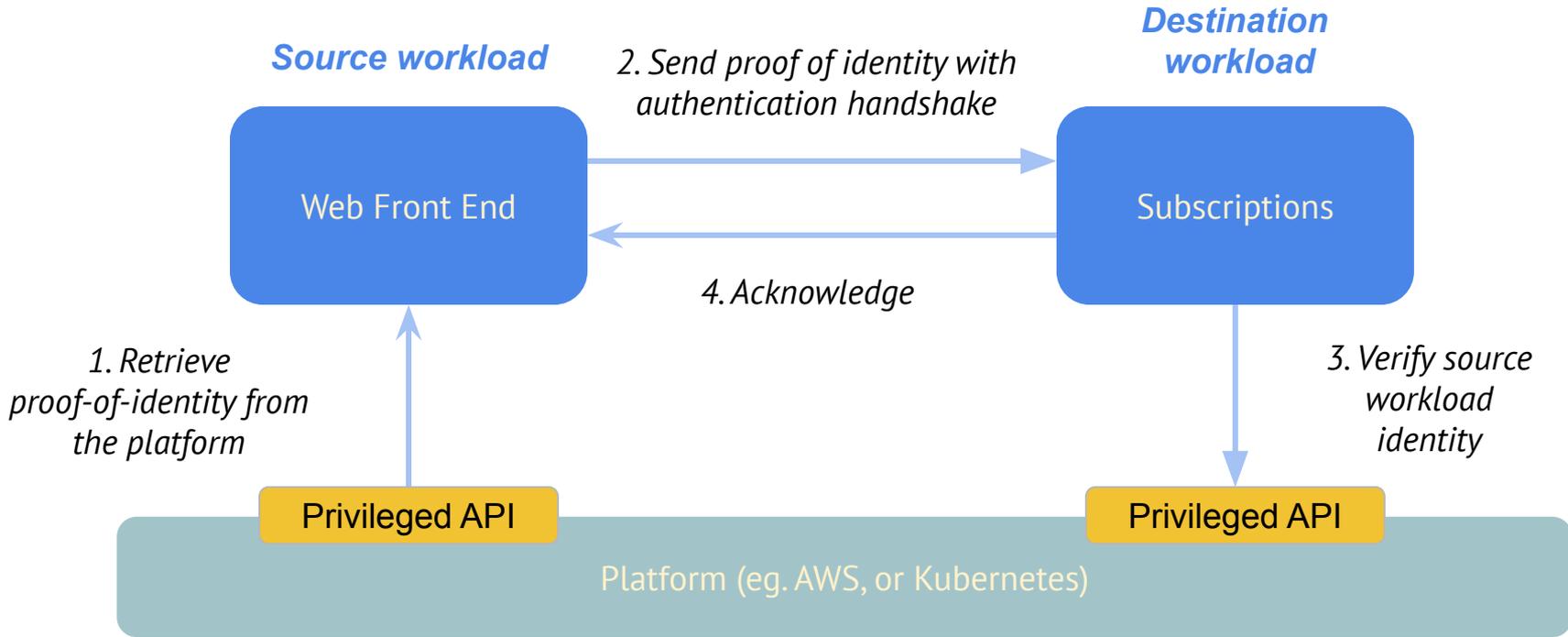
Model 1: Destination workload authentication



* Or key/secret, signed nonce etc.

Model 2: Platform mediated identity

Eg. AWS IAM, Kubernetes Service Accounts



	Destination workload authentication	Platform mediated identity
API-driven credential rotation and distribution	No	Yes
One identity per workload	No	Yes
No credentials need to be deployed with the workload	No	Yes
Supports trust across different platforms	Yes	No

The Inspiration for SPIFFE and SPIRE



Google Application Layer Transport Security

“The ALTS trust model has been tailored for cloud-like containerized applications. Identities are bound to [entities](#) instead of to a specific server name or host. This trust model facilitates seamless microservice replication, load balancing, and rescheduling across hosts.”

“Secure authentication and authorization within Facebook’s infrastructure play important roles in protecting people using Facebook’s services. Enforcing security while maintaining a flexible and performant infrastructure can be challenging at Facebook’s scale, especially in the presence of varying layers of trust among our servers.”

“During the startup, access to the long-lived credentials and short-lived credentials are provisioned to each instance.

This credential bootstrap is done by Metatron, which is a tool at Netflix, which does credential management.”



spiffe

and



SPIRE



github.com/spiffe/spiffe

A set of specifications that cover how a workload should retrieve and use its identity.

- SPIFFE ID
- SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Documents (SVIDs)
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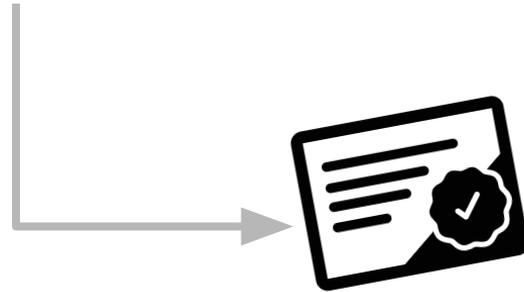
Trust Domain

Workload Identifier

SPIFFE Verifiable Identity Document

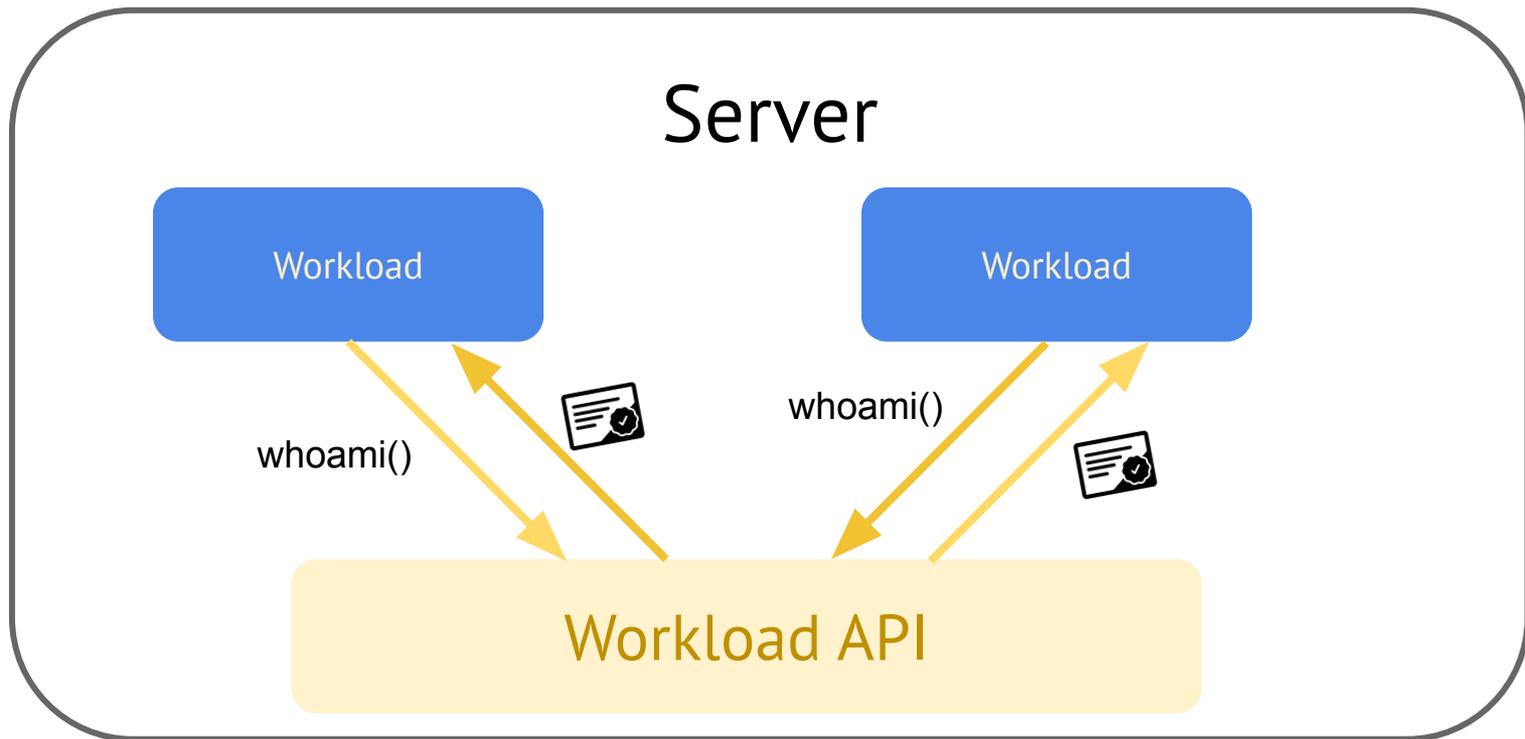
`spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments`

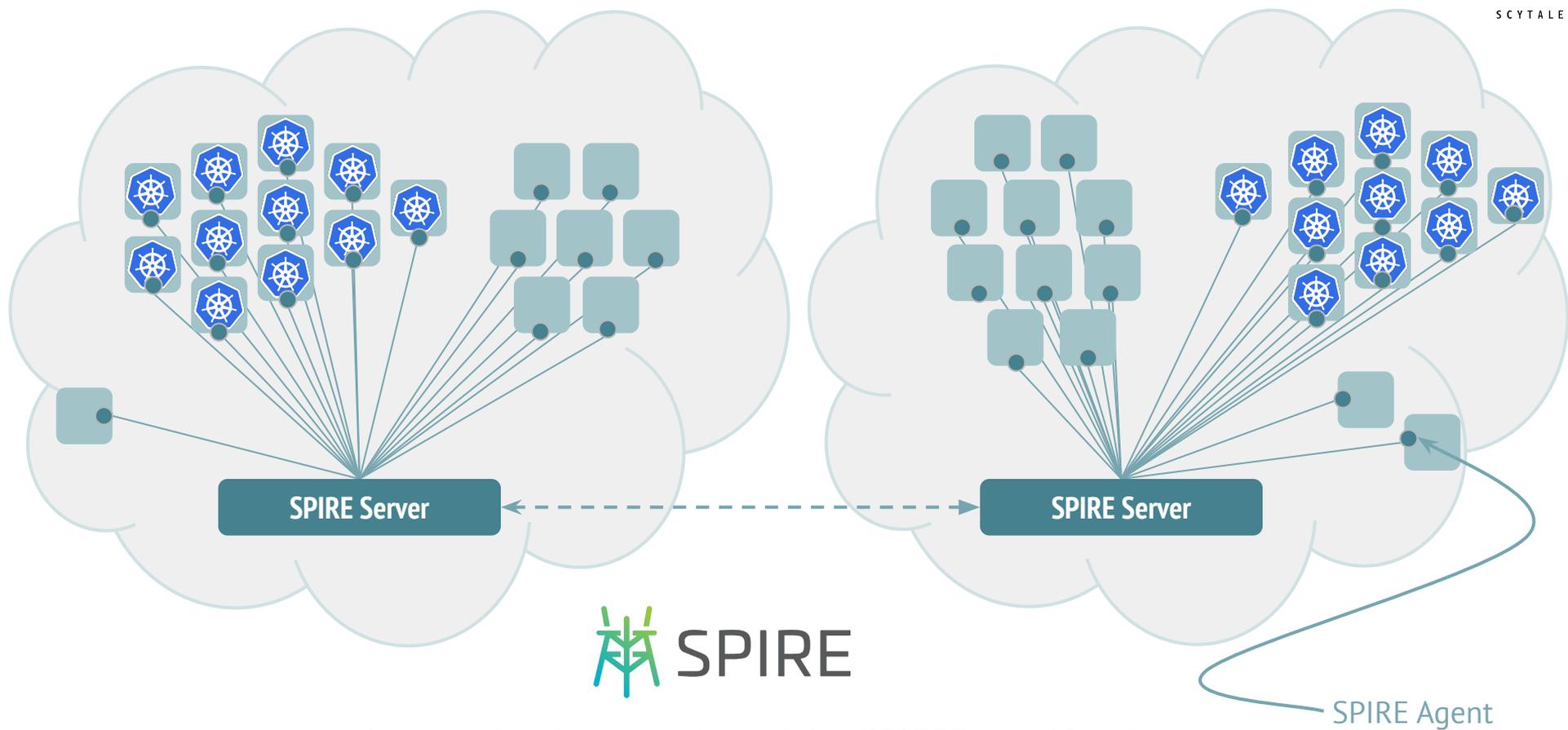
Typically short-lived



Today only one form of SVID (X509-SVID).
Other document types under consideration
(including JWT-SVID)

SPIFFE Workload API





SPIRE

A cross-platform implementation of the SPIFFE specifications

Node

Workload

Workload



Workload API

SPIRE Agent

SPIRE Server



```
spiffe://acme.com/billing/payments
```

```
selector: aws:sg:sg-edcd9784
```

```
selector: k8s:ns:payments
```

```
selector: k8s:sa:pay-svc
```

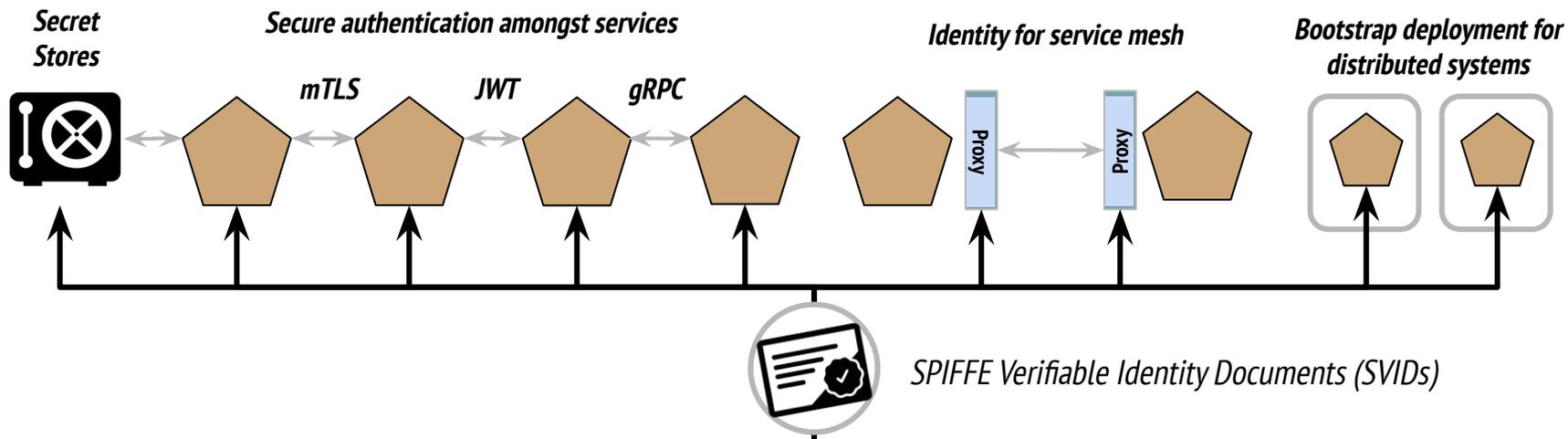
```
selector: docker:image-id:442ca9
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SPIFFE Workload API



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OS attestation plug-ins

Scheduler and PaaS attestation plug-ins

HSM, TPM, Kerberos attestation plug-ins

CA and secret store plug-ins

Use cases

How the identity plane becomes
the unifying layer for
infrastructure

Improving security posture

Minimize key leaks with secure introduction

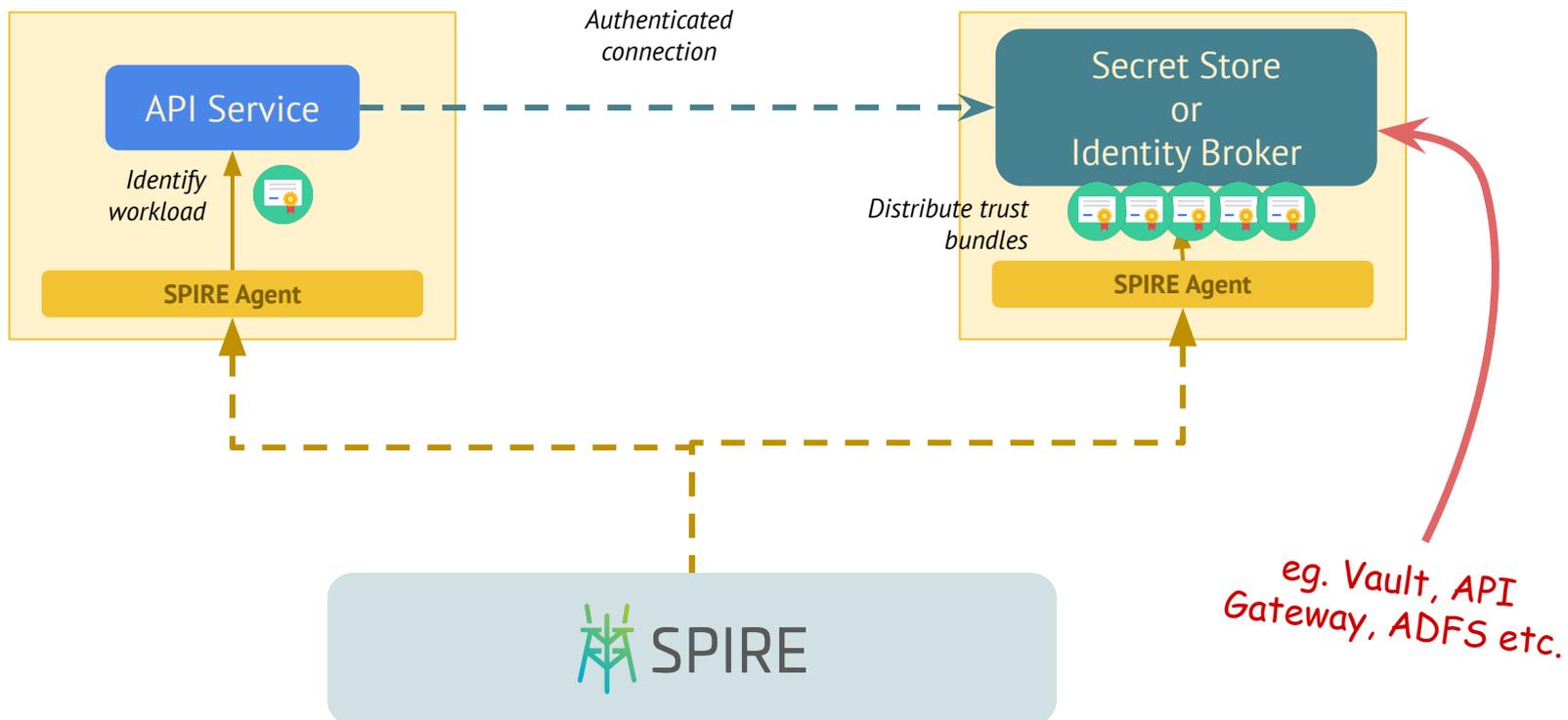


HashiCorp
Vault

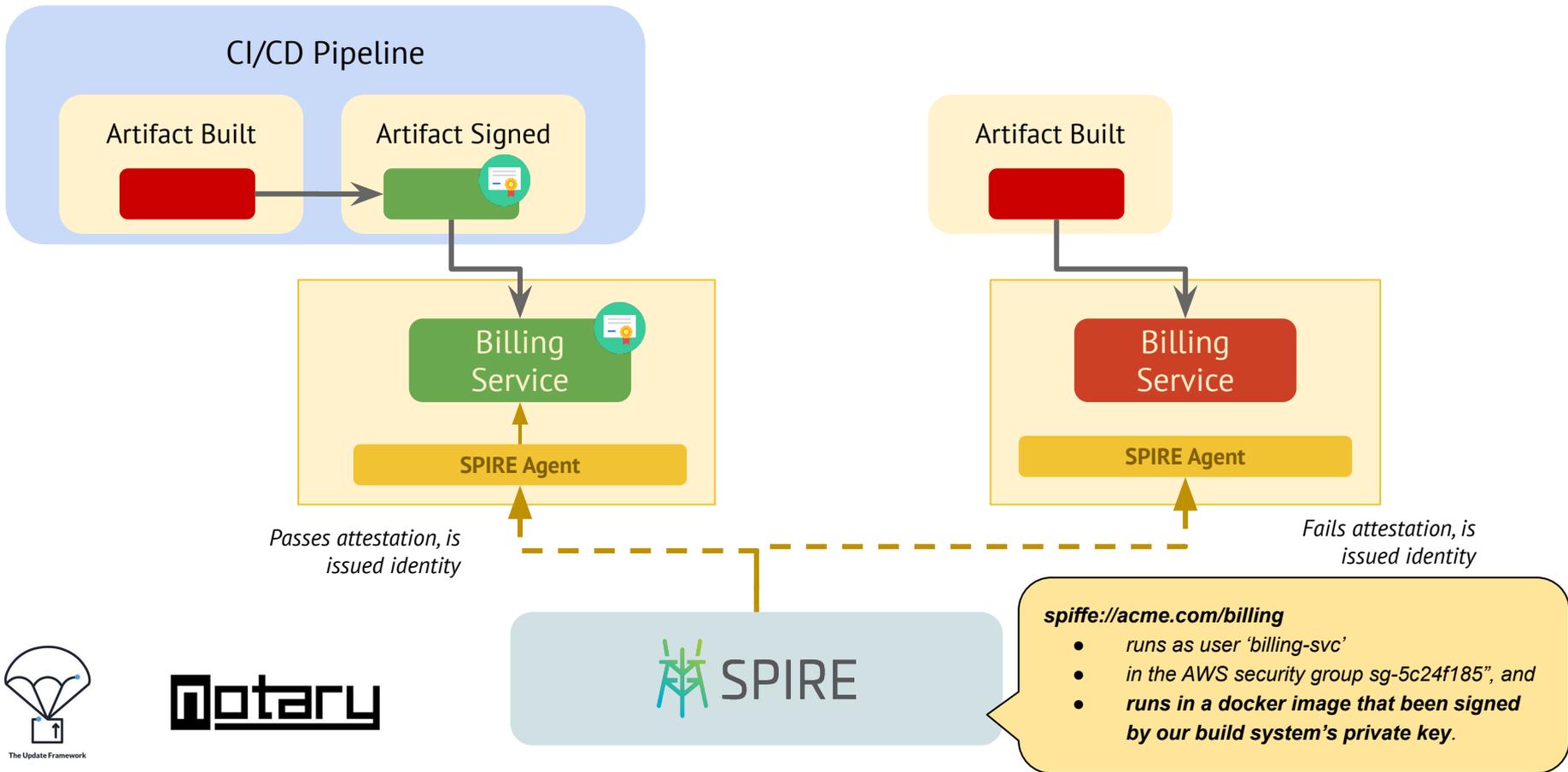


Microsoft
Active Directory

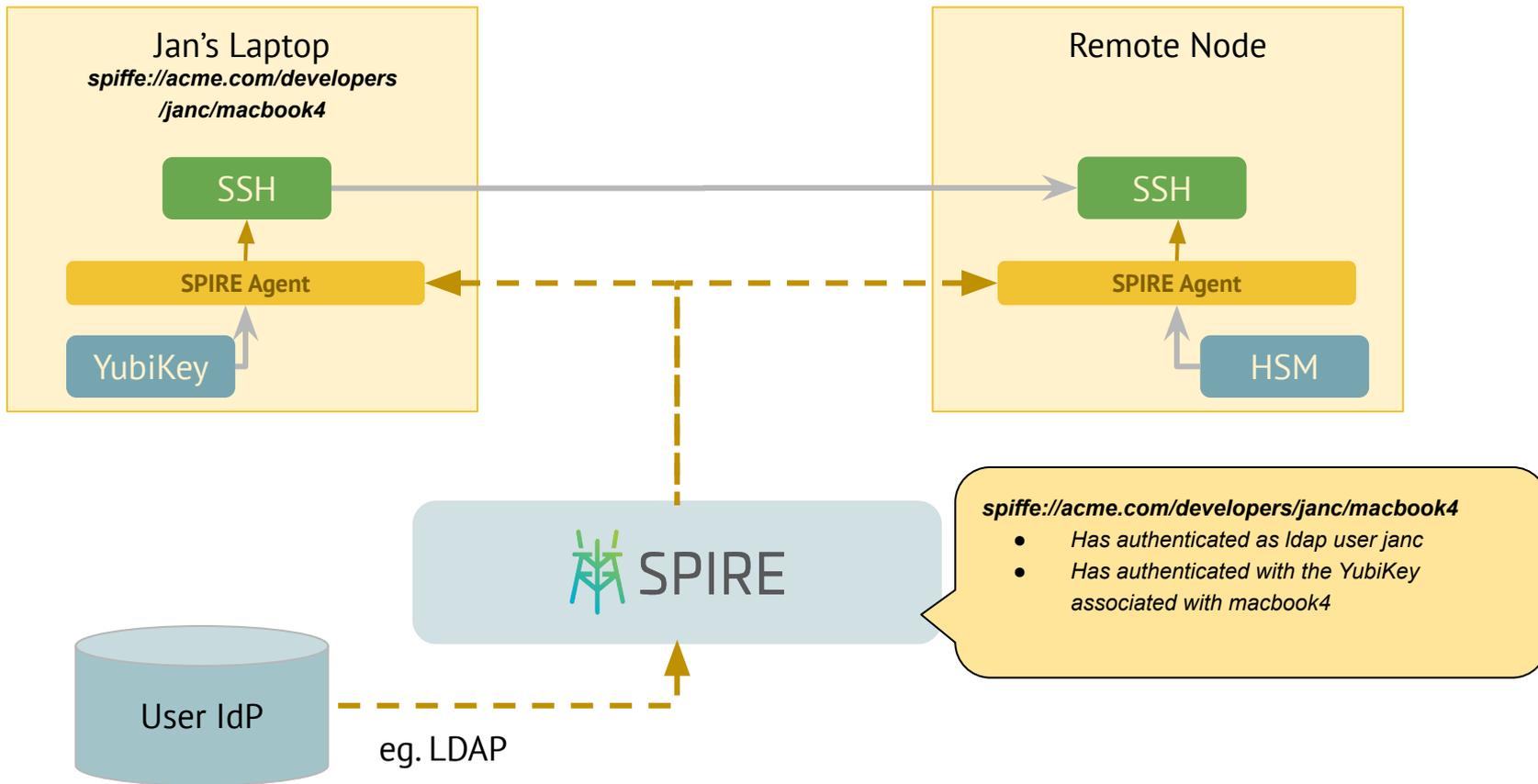
apigee



Enforce and verify release pipelines



Authenticate developer access (BeyondCorp)

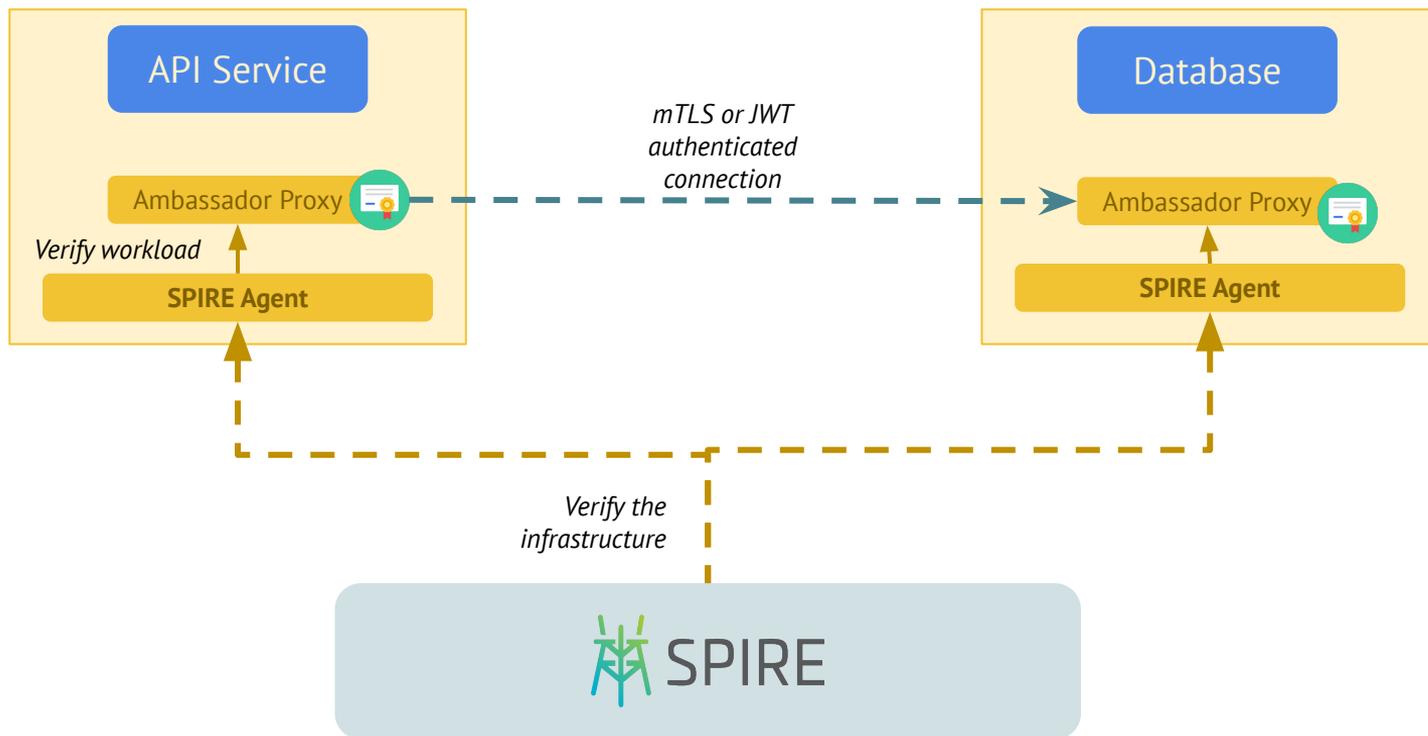


Improving developer efficiency

Simplify workload AuthN and AuthZ with Service Mesh

NGINX

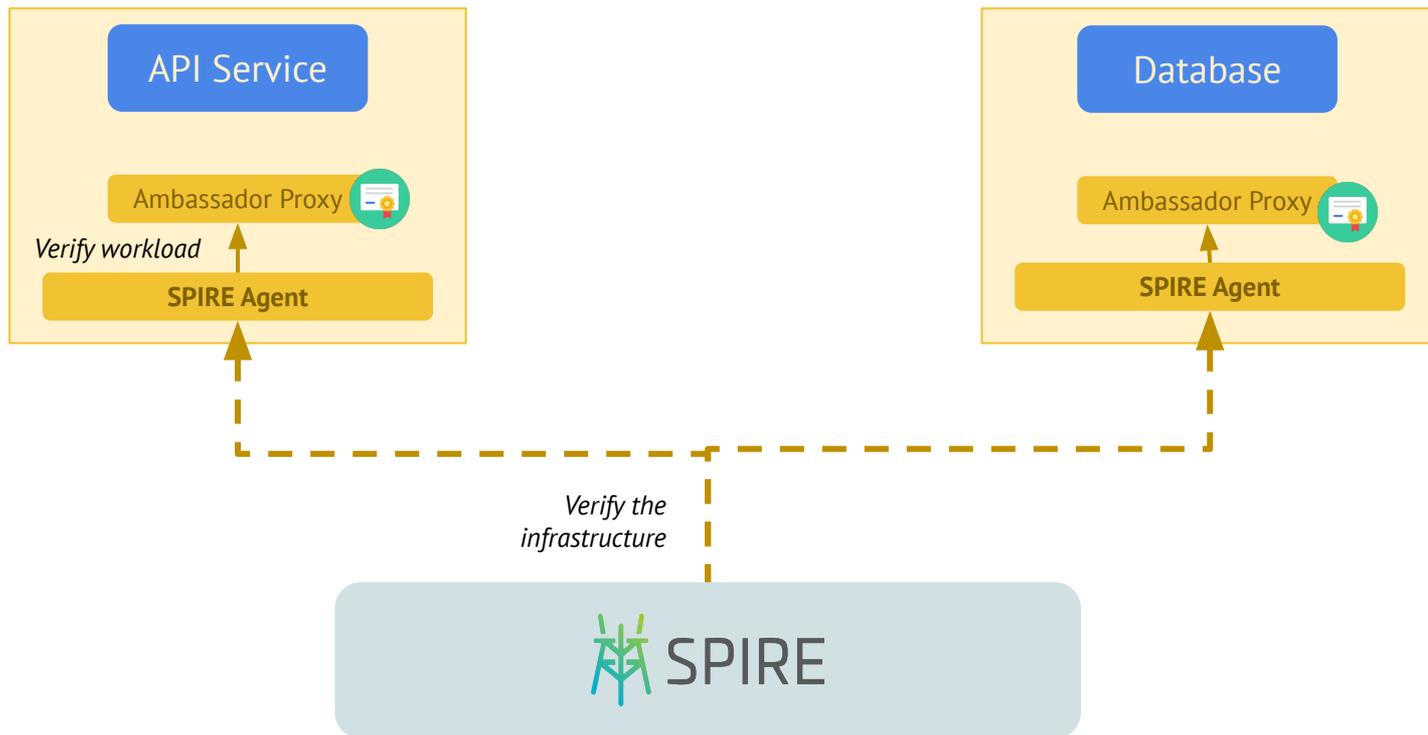
envoy



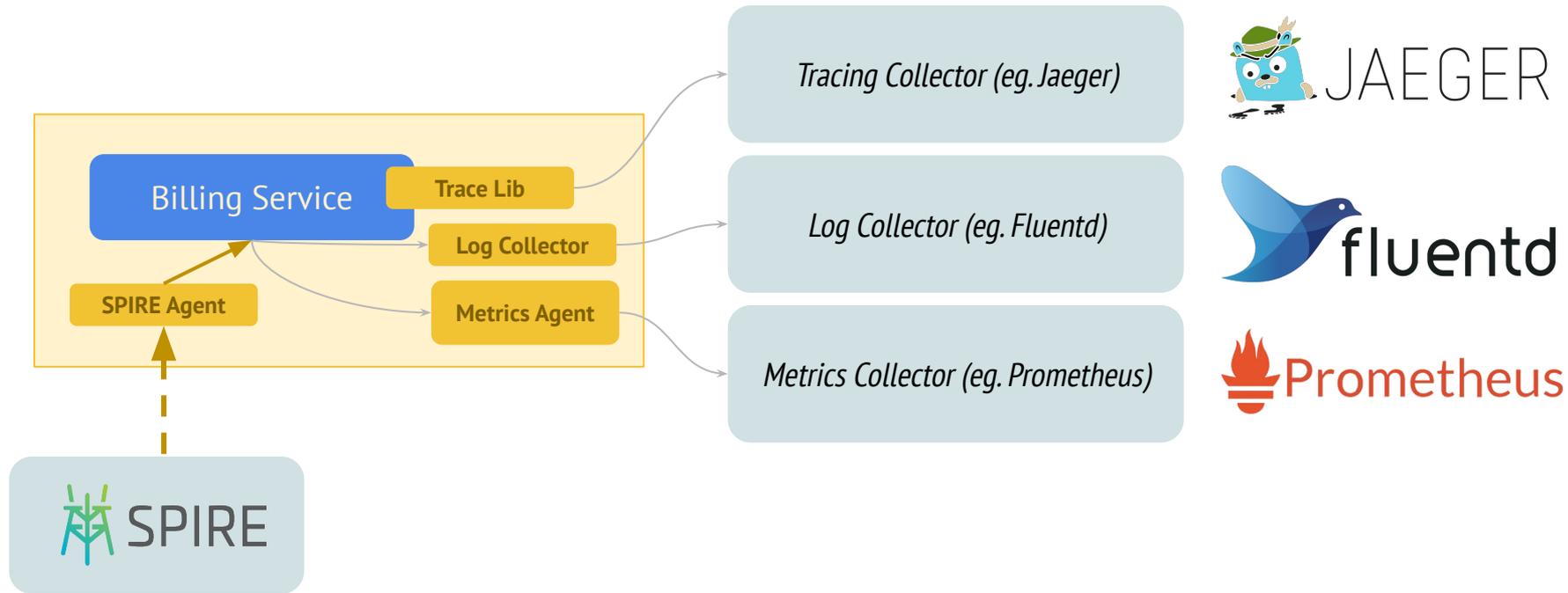
Simplify workload AuthN and AuthZ with Service Mesh

NGINX

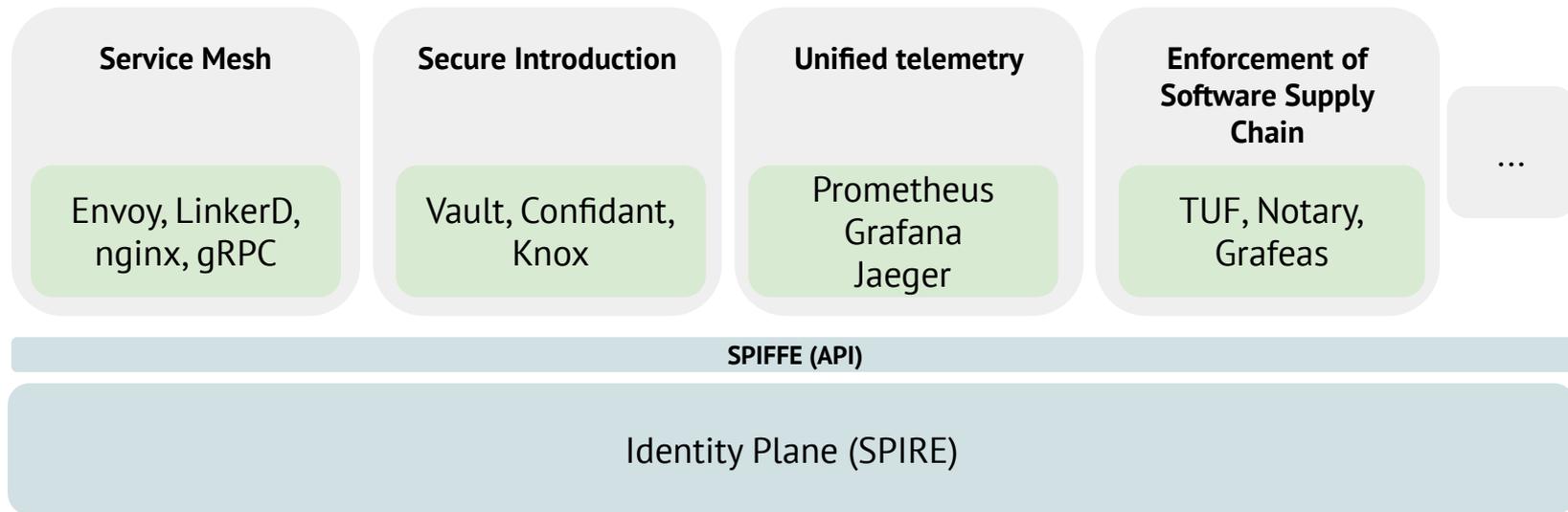
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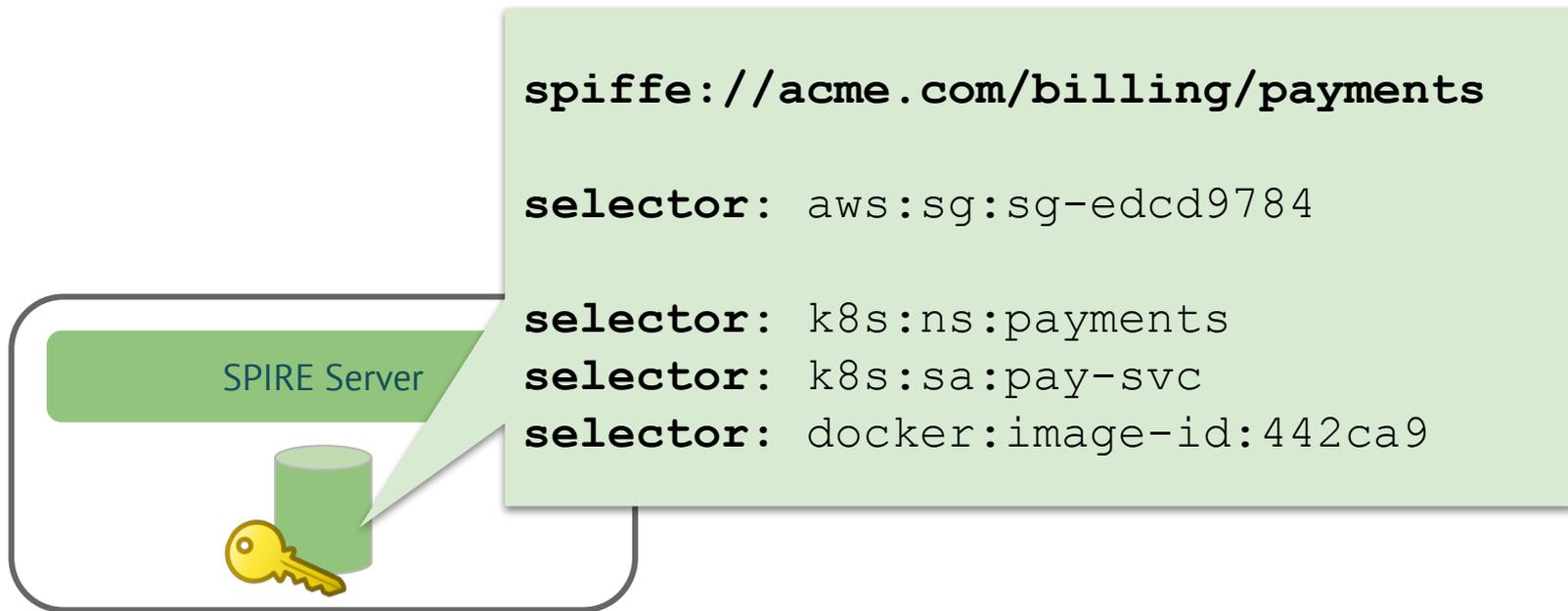
Improving post-incident forensics with unified telemetry



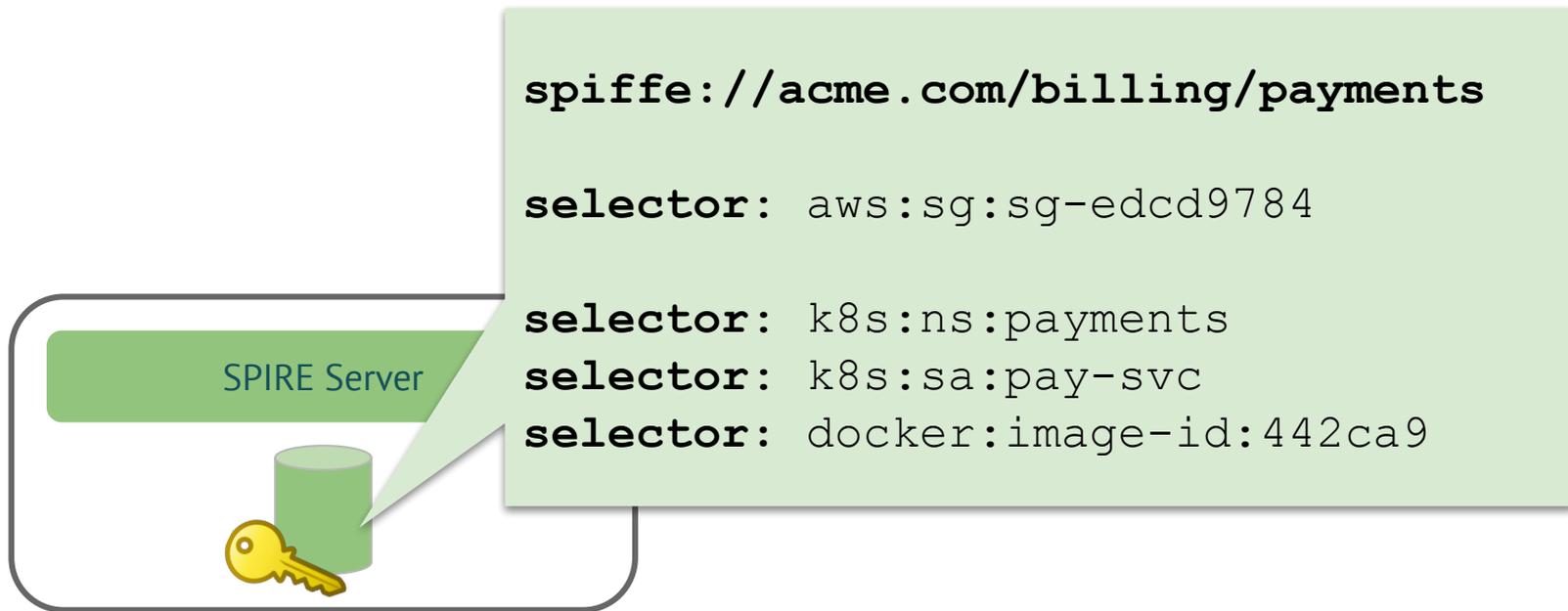
The Identity Plane becomes the unifying layer for infrastructure



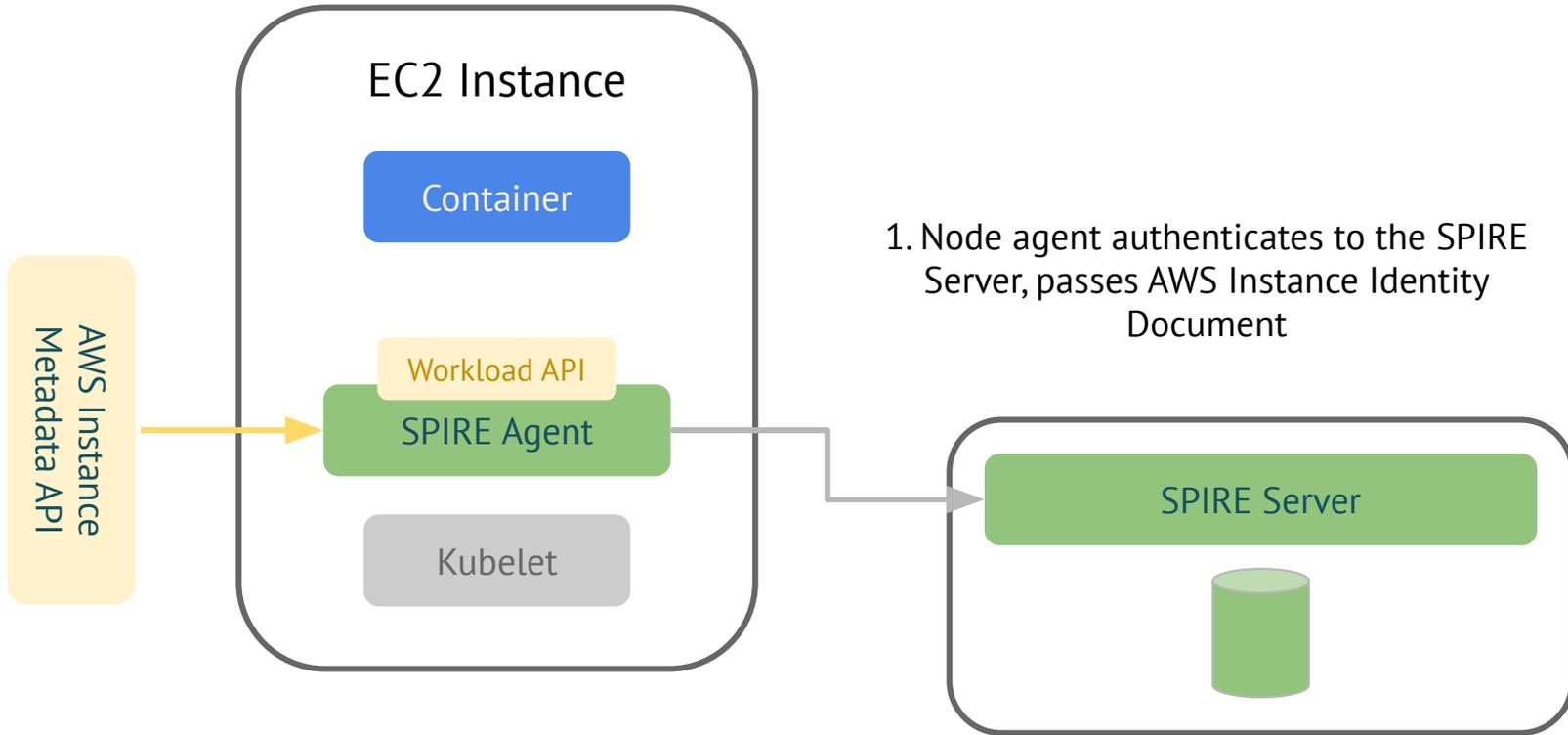
SPIFFE Runtime Environment



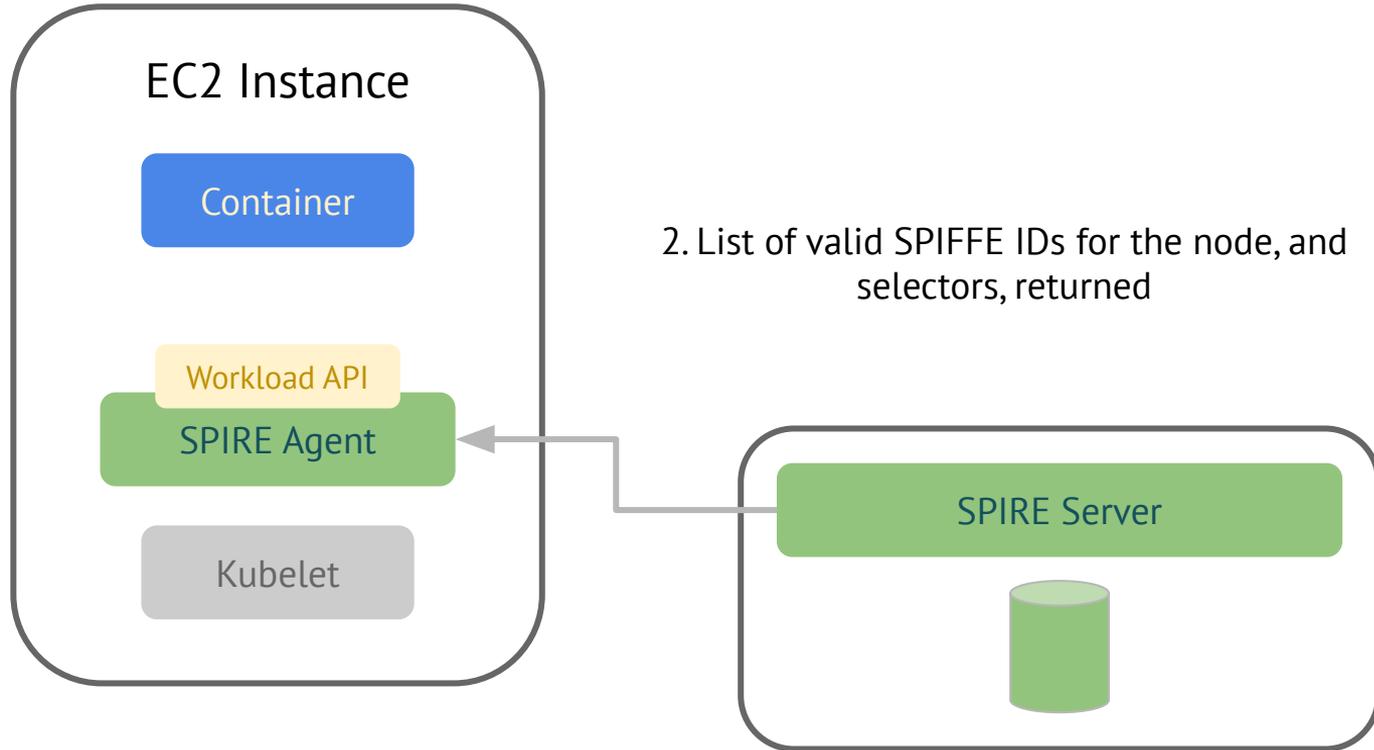
SPIFFE Runtime Environment



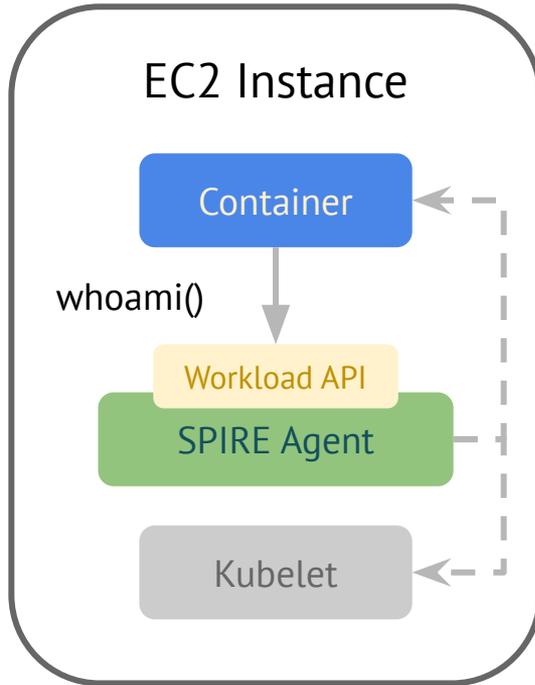
Node attestation



Node attestation

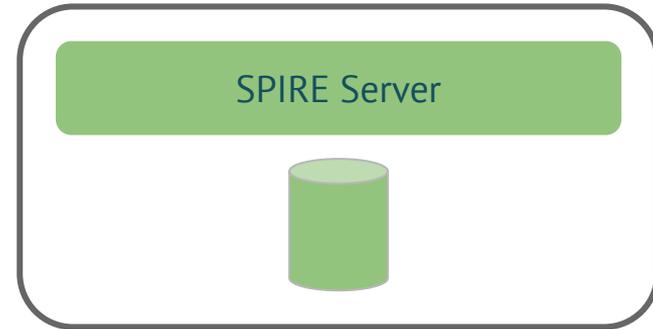


Workload attestation

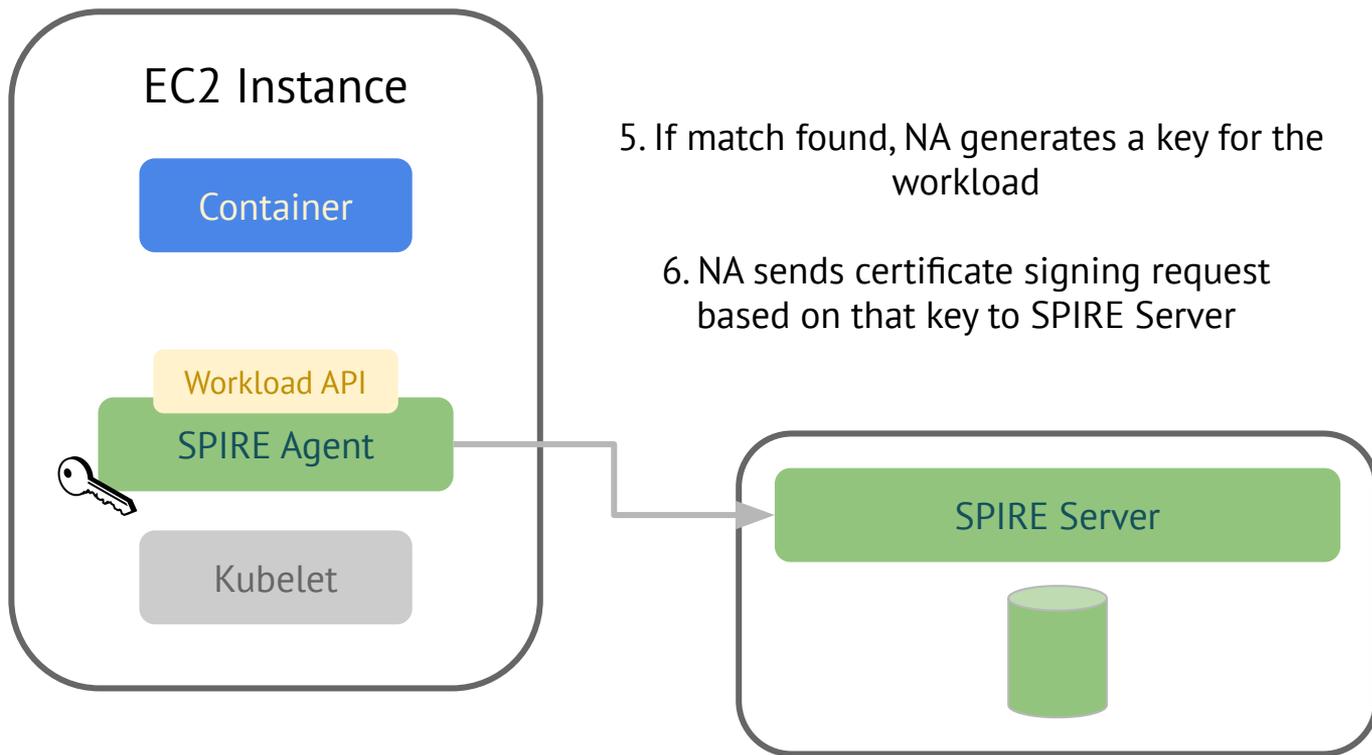


3. Workload requests identity

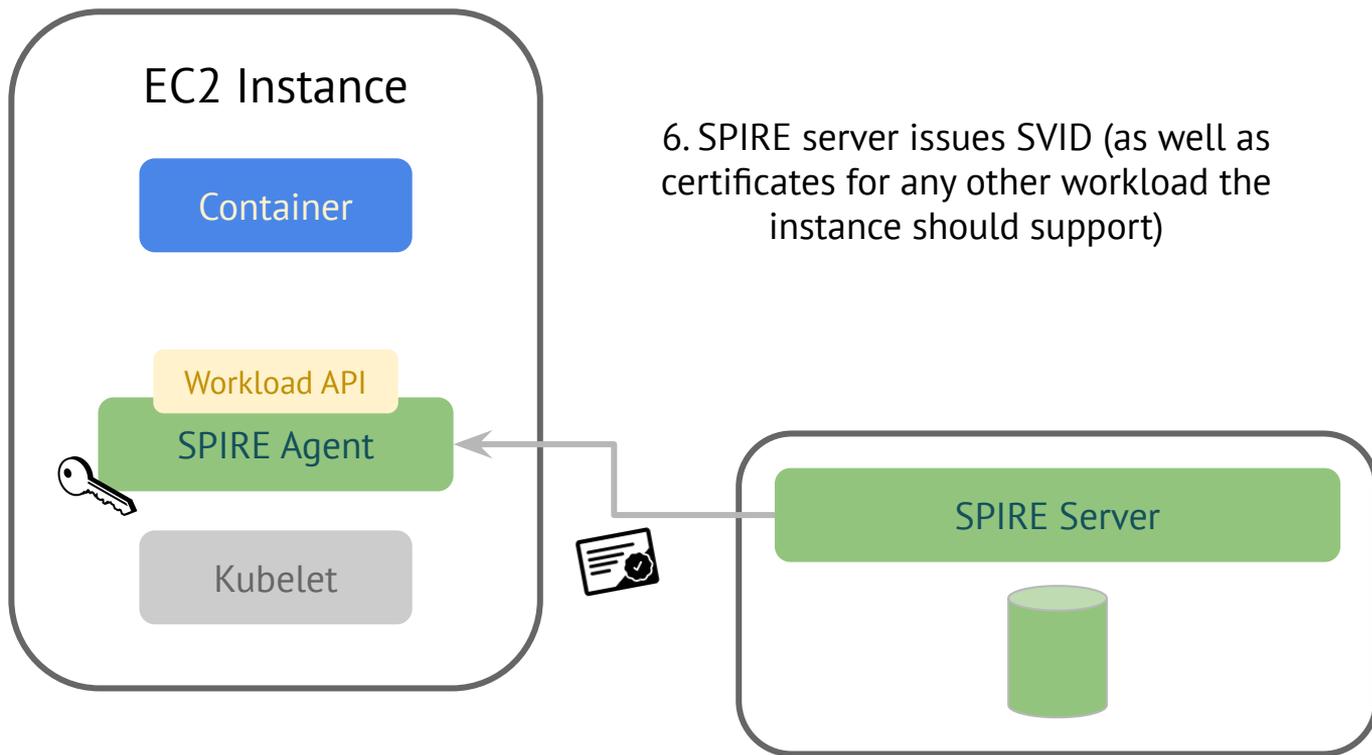
4. Node agent performs an out-of-band check of the workload process metadata, compares to known selectors



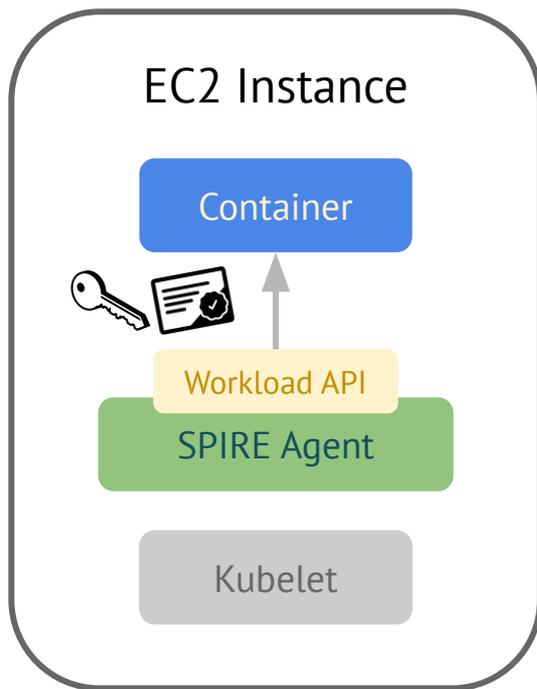
SVID Bundle Issuance



SVID Bundle Issuance



SVID Bundle Issuance



7. Certificate bundle returned to the workload

