Mobile Ubiquitous Computing

Unil | HEC | dop lab

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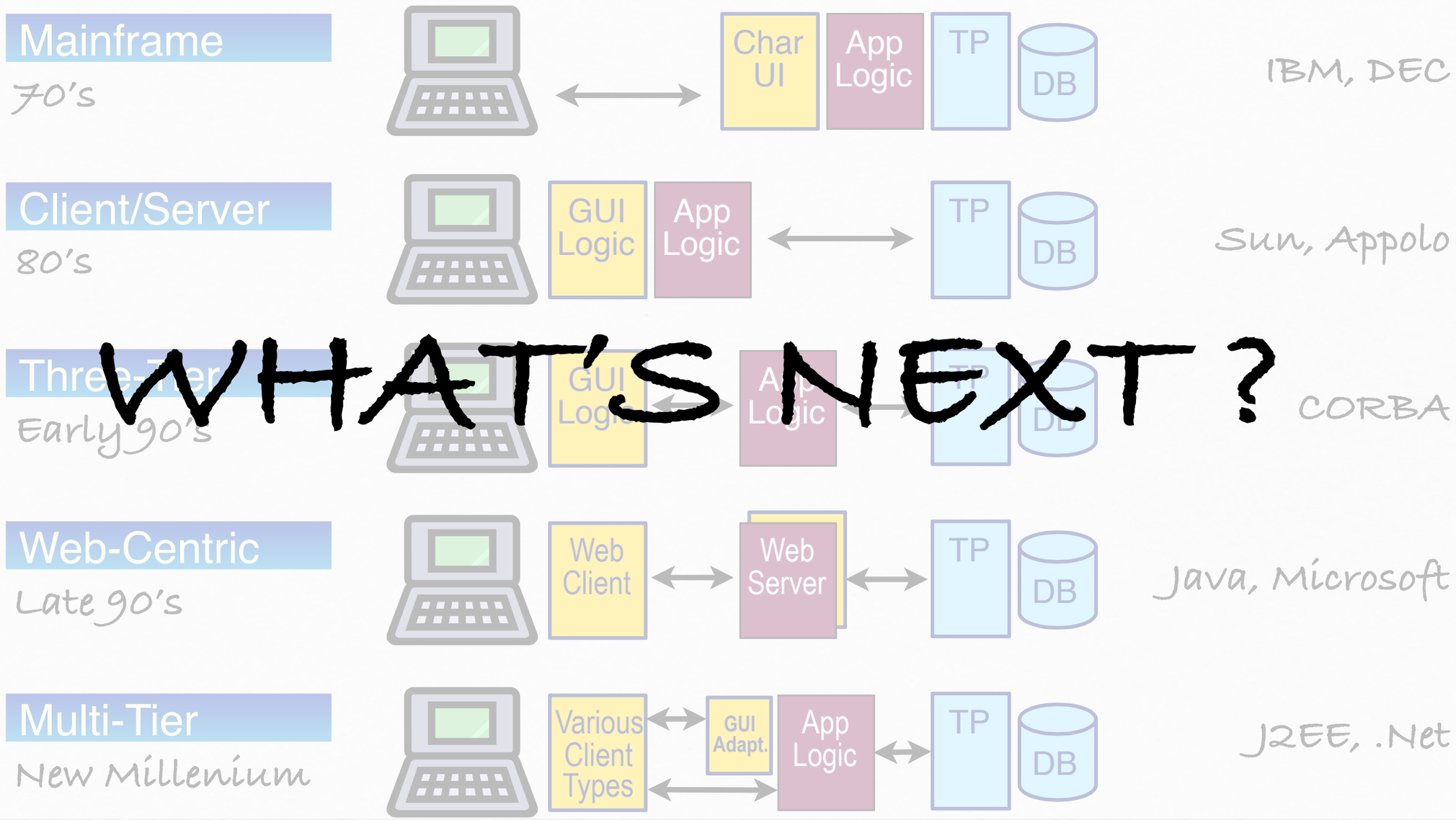
distributed object programming lab

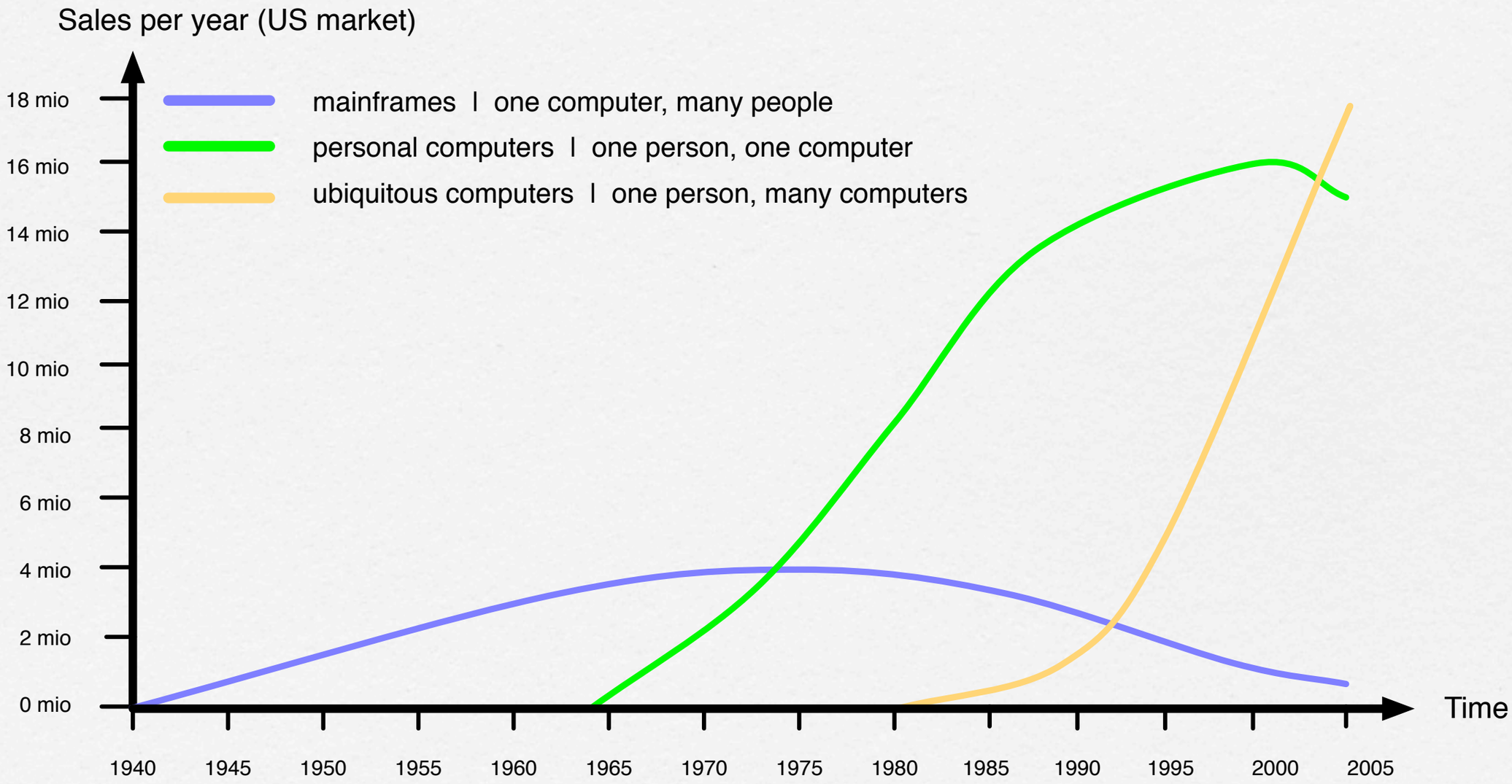
Context



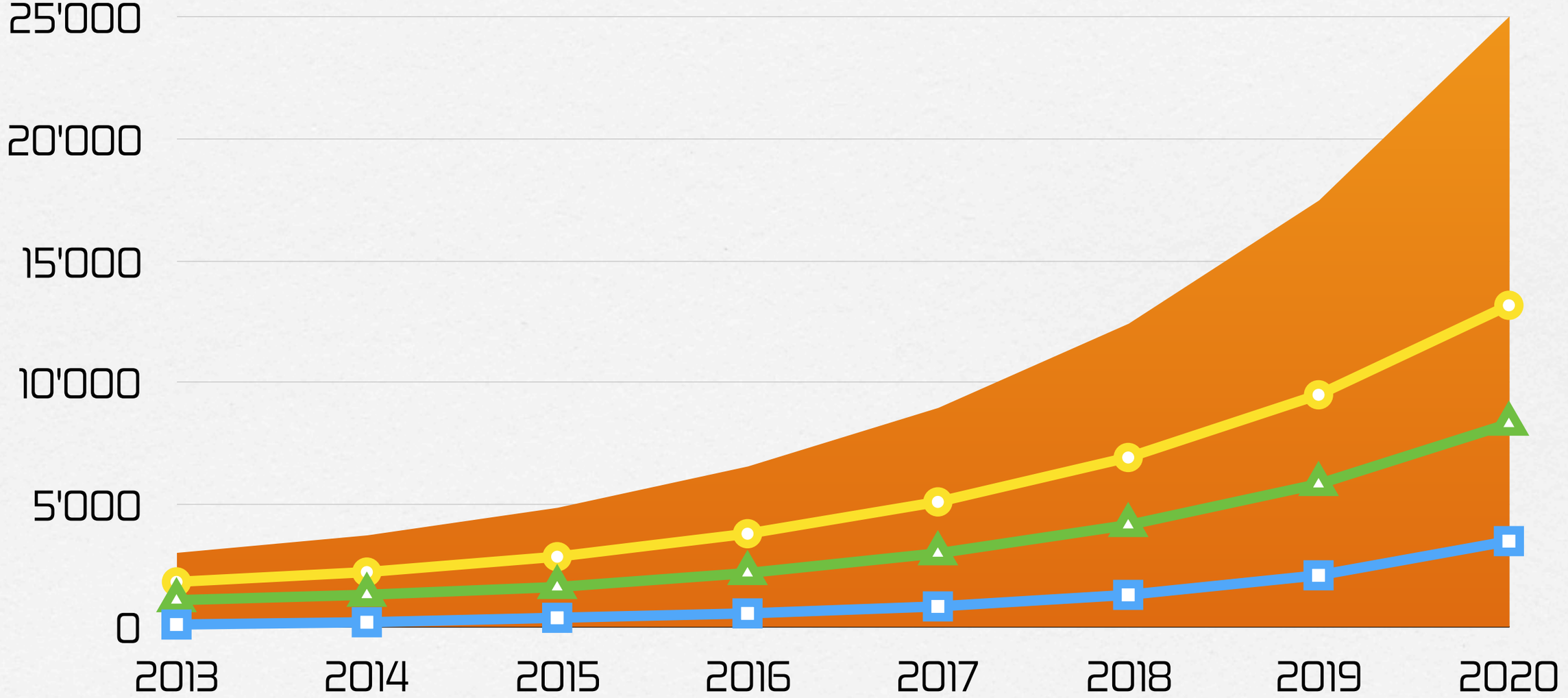
WHAT'S NEXT ?

Ubiquitous computing

Yesterday...



Ubiquitous computing?
Today... Internet of Things (IoT) !



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Connected Objects

A Vision...

In the late nineties, Brian Halla from National Semiconductor wrote:

- processors will continue to become cheaper and faster,
- general-purpose PCs will eventually disappear,
- ubiquitous processors will be given for free by service providers.

Reference: Brian Halla, How the PC Will Disappear, IEEE Computer, Vol. 31, no. 12, December 98.

What definition(s)?

mobile computing

ambient intelligence

sensor networks

ubiquitous computing

context-aware computing

location-aware computing

pervasive computing

nomadic computing

mobile ad hoc networks

Mobile vs. nomadic computing

- In common: anytime and anywhere
- Difference:
  nomadic: multiple fixed locations
  mobile: continuous on-the-move operation

Context/location awareness

- Context awareness: the computing system is aware of its environment and acts accordingly, e.g., time, temperature, device capability, location, user interests, activity, etc.

- Location-awareness: a special case of context awareness (see location-based pub/sub as an example)

Ubiquitous computing

Ubiquitous computing is the method of enhancing computer use by making many computers available throughout the physical environment, but making them effectively invisible to the user.

Mark Weiser, the "father" of ubiquitous computing

http://www.ubiq.com/hypertext/weiser/acmfuture2endnote.htm

Weiser's vision

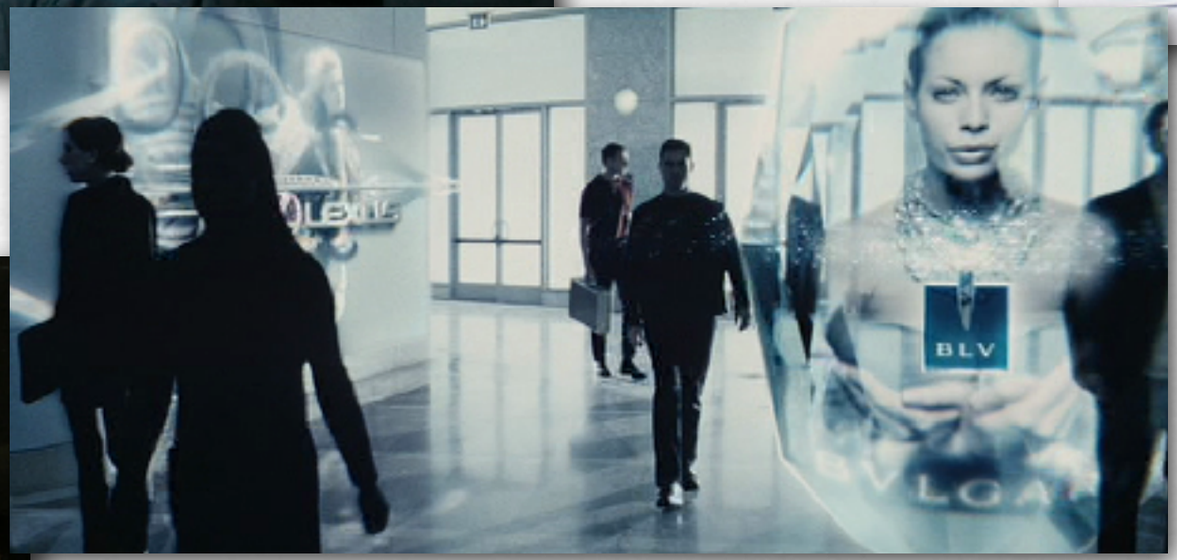
- Notion of "calm" technology, i.e., disappearing, invisible technology
- The computing devices is no longer at the center of our attraction, i.e., the best tools are those invisible to their users

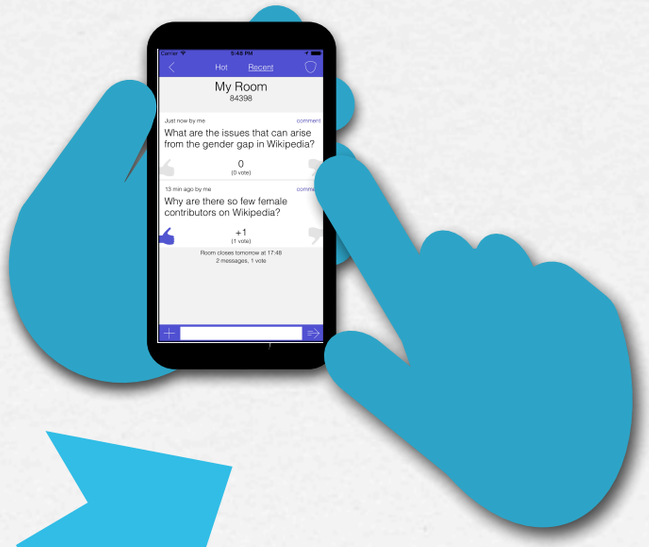
Ubiquitous computing

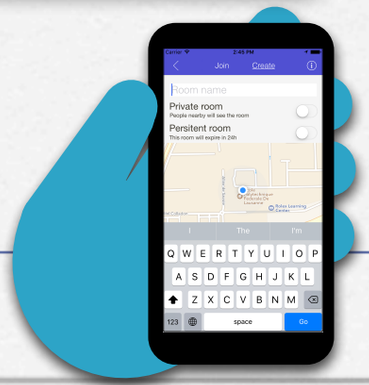
- Computing devices are immersed in an real human-based environment*
- Devices have limited resources, e.g., power supply, memory, bandwidth, cpu, etc.
- Devices are mobile and wireless, and may reside on a person (wearable computing)

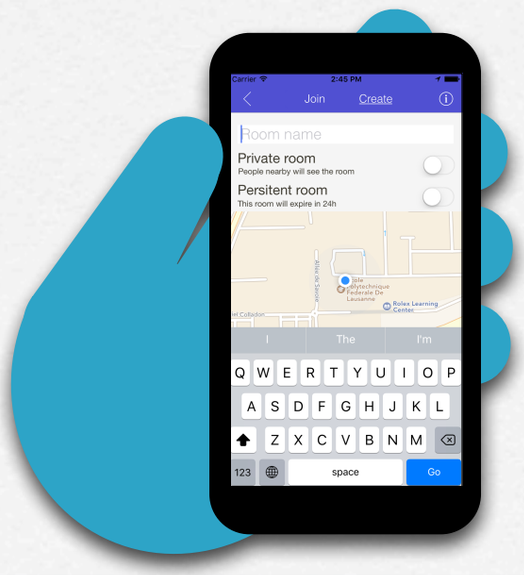
*somehow the dual of virtual reality, where humans are immersed in a virtual computer-based environment

Some scenarios...









SpeakUp

http://speakup.info

What devices?

- PDA and smart phones
- Smart devices/cards, e.g., Java card, iButtons, etc.
- Radio Frequency ID tags (RFIDs)
- Sensors networks

- Embedded systems, e.g., in the automotive industry
- …

Distributed computing issues

- Remote communication (RMI, MOM, etc.)
- Naming of distributed entities/services
- Distributed data management, e.g., distributed file systems, distributed transactions, etc.
- Reliability, availability, security
- Caching (for performance)

Mobile computing issues

- Networking: mobile IP address, TCP de-/re-connection, performance, etc.
- Information access (bandwidth)
- Power consumption (variable cpu/disk speed, network de-/re-connection,etc.)
- Location awareness and resource discovery
- Mobile ad hoc networks & topology control

Ubiquitous computing issues

- Constraints on sensor design (size, cost, power consumption, etc.)
- Mobile ad hoc networks & topology control
- localized scalability (greater distance ⇒ less communication)
- Invisibility (millions of sensors should not distract the user)

What middleware support?

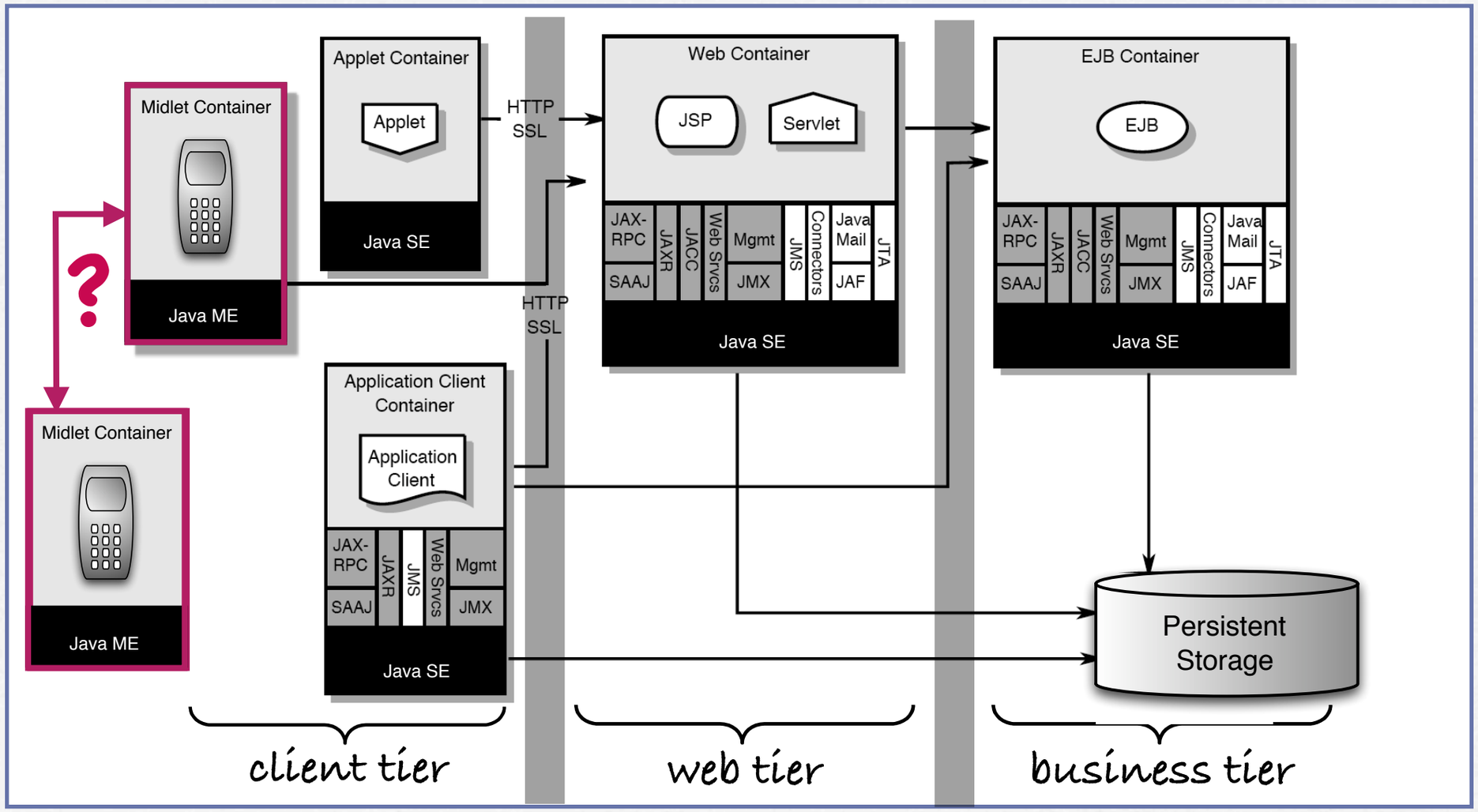
- The main challenge for a middleware supporting mobile & ubiquitous computing lies in the heterogeneity of devices
- There exist(ed) several industrial middleware:
  - Microsoft .NET Compact Framework (NETCH)
  - Qualcomm's Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless (BREW)
  - Sun Java Micro Edition (Java ME)
  - Android platform
  - Apple platform

BREW & NETCF

- About Qualcomm's BREW:
  - it is both an application execution environment based on C++ and a business model for operator revenue,
  - it also support Java, via a JVM built on top of it.

- About Microsoft's NETCF:
  - it is the the latest initiative from Microsoft to compete with Java ME and BREW,
  - lacks market penetration, due to a small number of devices using Windows as operating system.

The Java ME platform



Java Micro Edition (JavaME)

Pagers | Mobile Phones | PDAs | Car Navigation Systems | Internet Appliances | Set-top Boxes

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP)</td><td rowspan="2">Personal Digital Assistant Profile (PDAP)</td><td>Personal Profile</td></tr>
<tr><td>Personal Basis Profile</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Foundation Profile</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Connected, Limited Device Configuration (CLDC)</td><td colspan="2">Connected Device Configuration (CDC)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Java Micro Edition (Java ME)</td></tr>
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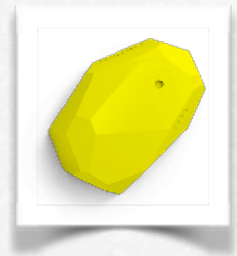
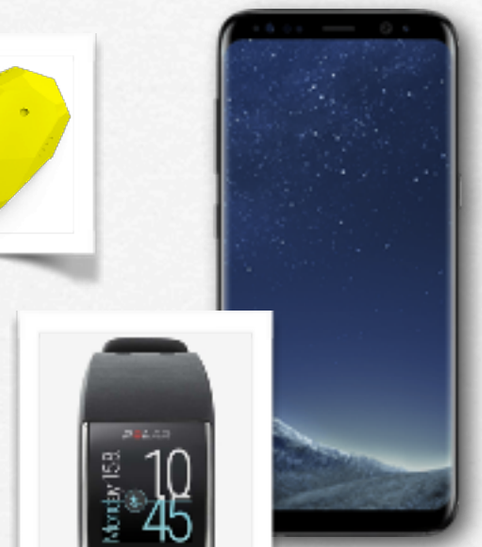
Based on two key concepts:

- Java ME configurations
- Java ME profiles

Android platform





- Based on the acquisition of a small startup by Google in 2005
- In 2007, the Open Handset Alliance was funded to drive the development of open standards for mobile devices
- In 2008, Android became an open source project
- The development framework is based on the Java programming languages but not on standard Java APIs (neither Java SE nor Java ME)
- This is not (yet?) a curated platform

Apple Platform

- Based on Mac OS
- Based on Objective-C frameworks, now Swift
- Integrated in XCode, together with an emulator and a set of deployment options
- Comes with a business & application provisioning model, "à la" iTunes Store
- This is a curated platform, with an innovative revenue sharing models for developers

Open challenges
facing an api jungle when developing

Open challenges
facing an api jungle when developing

especially

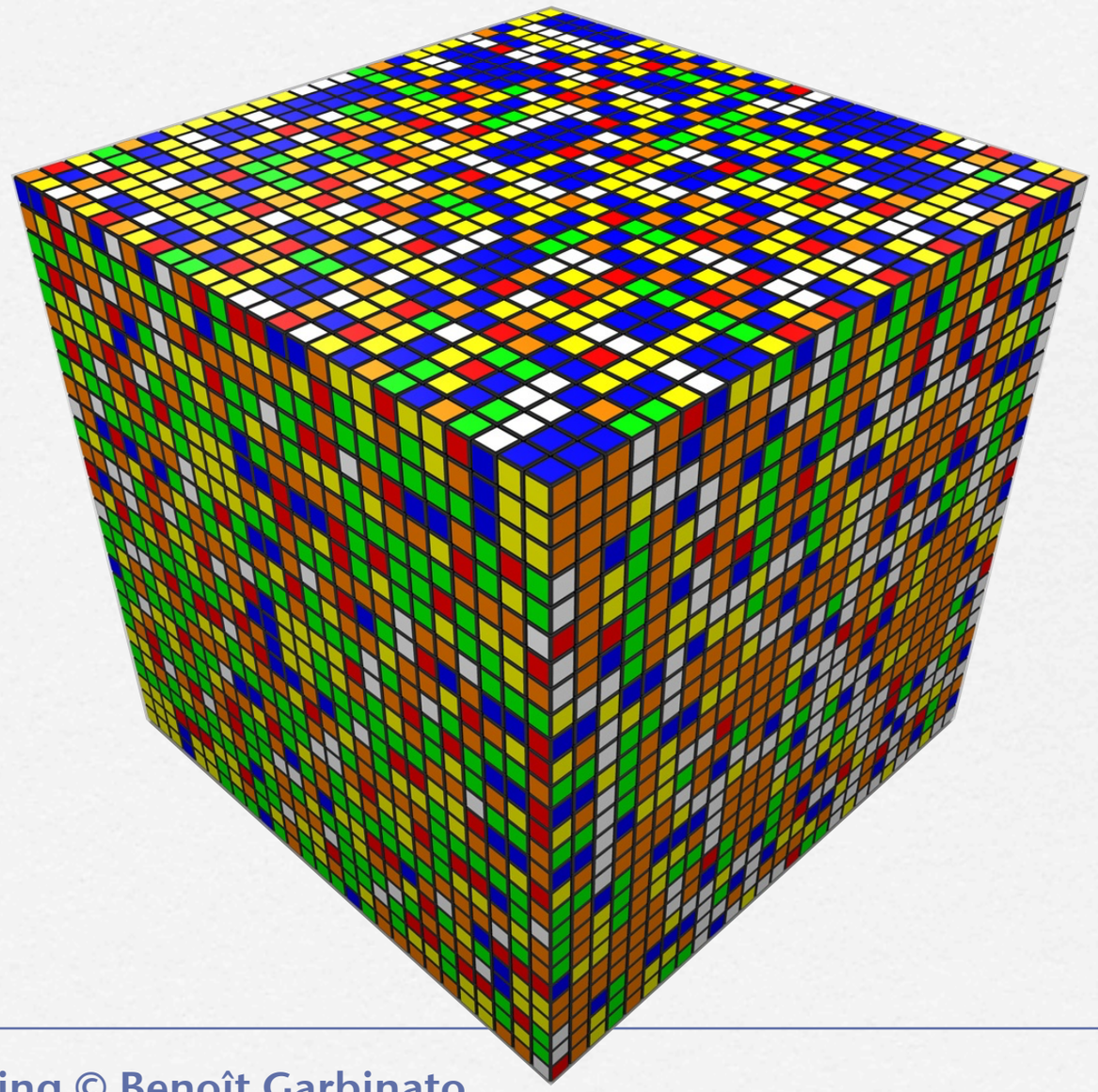
no programming
support combining

communication

+

sensory input

Open challenges
facing a scalability wall when deploying



Open Challenges

each connected object can be seen as a moving producer and consumer of contextual information that needs to be tracked

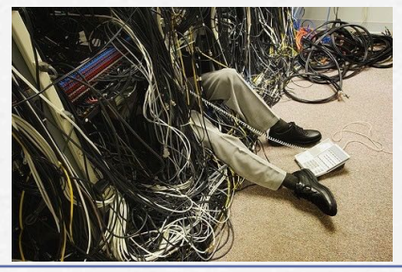
mobile app developers face complex development and deployment issues even for simple context-aware services

development

multiple hardware, operating systems, protocols, etc.

⬇

the api jungle challenge

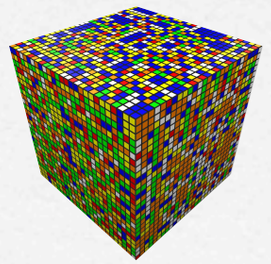


deployment

massive tracking, messaging, testing, monitoring, etc.

⬇

the scalability challenge



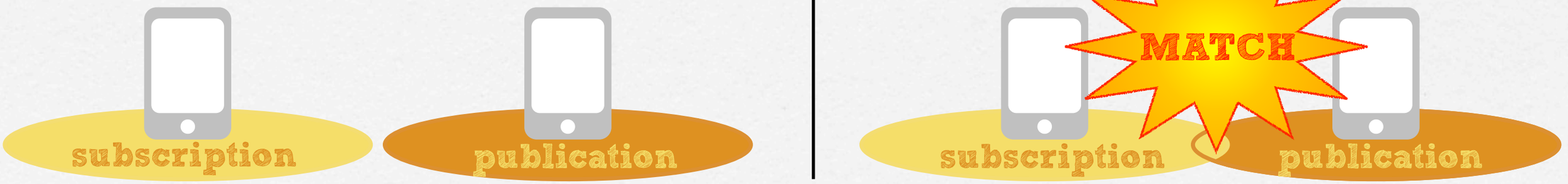
Publish/Subscribe

anonymous

+

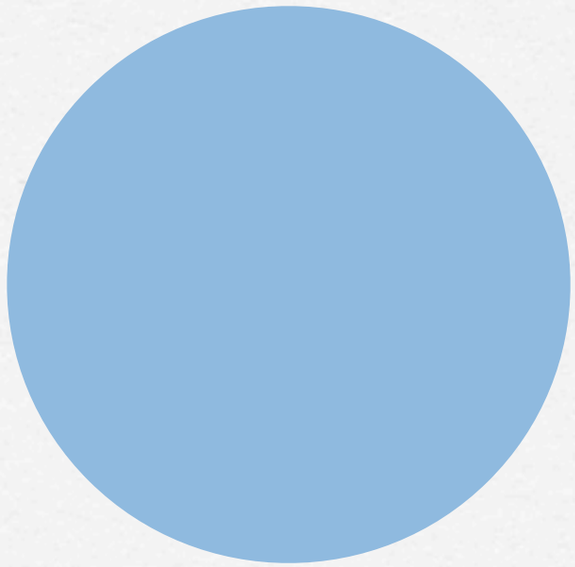
asynchronous

Context Awareness



Publish/Subscribe
as starting point

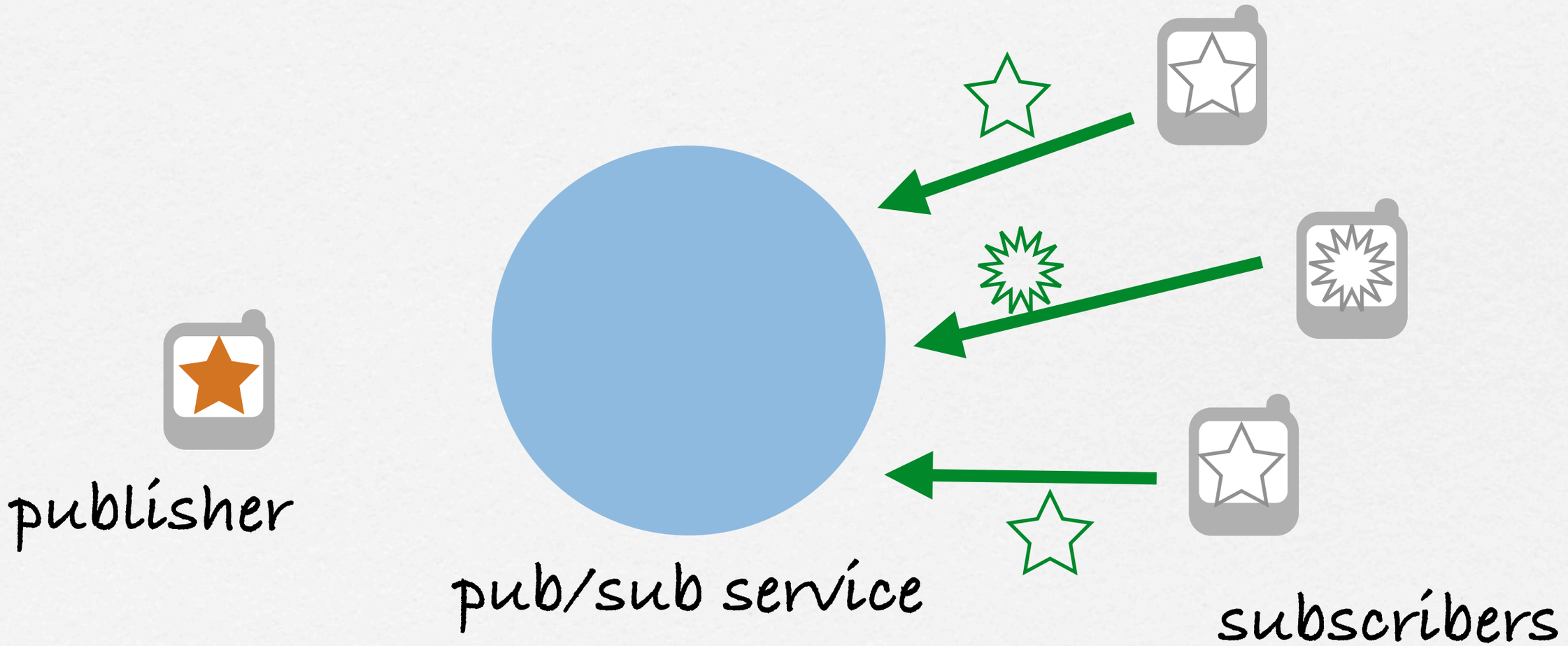
publisher



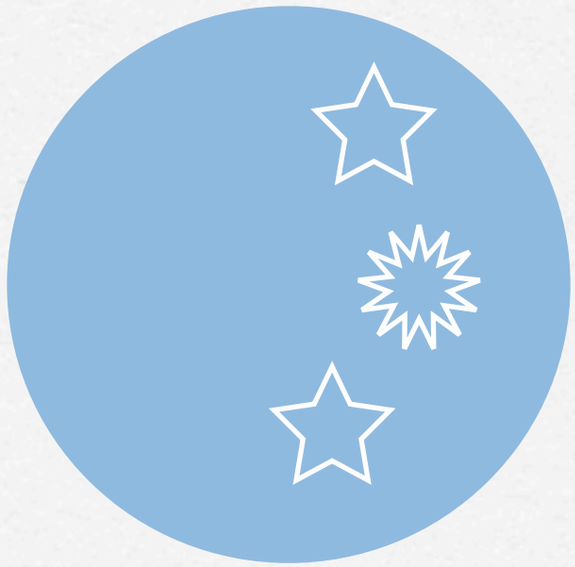
pub/sub service

subscribers

Publish/Subscribe
subscriptions are created



Publish/Subscribe
subscriptions are created



publisher

pub/sub service

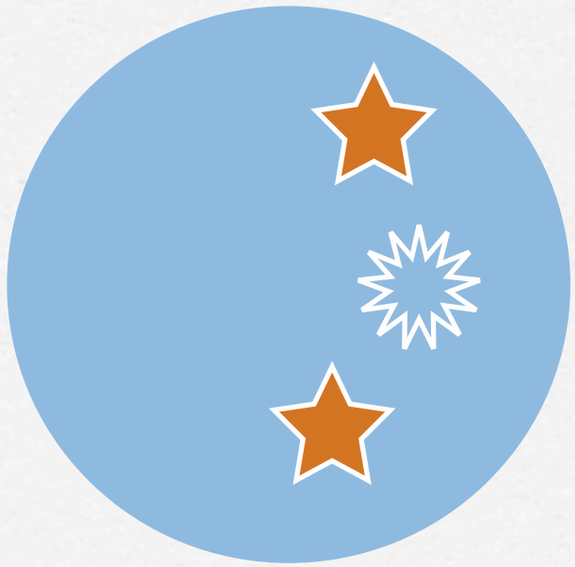
subscribers

Publish/Subscribe

message is published

Publish/Subscribe
content match occurs

publisher

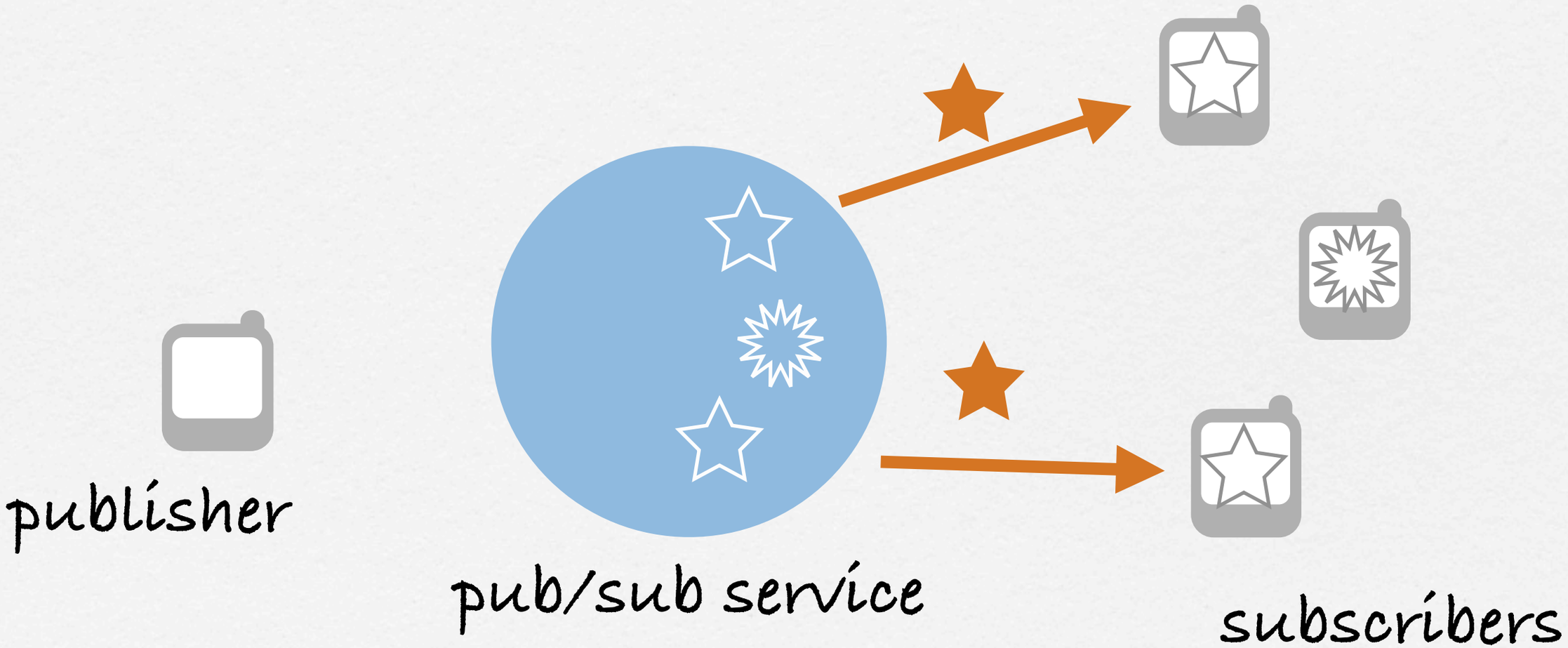


pub/sub service

subscribers

Publish/Subscribe

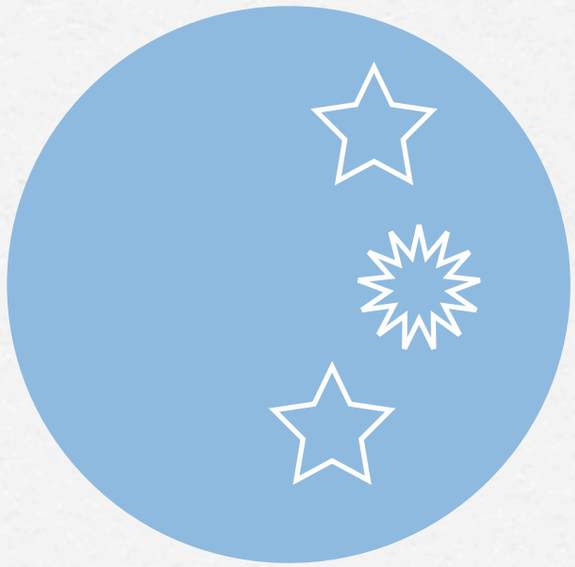
message is delivered



Publish/Subscribe

message is delivered

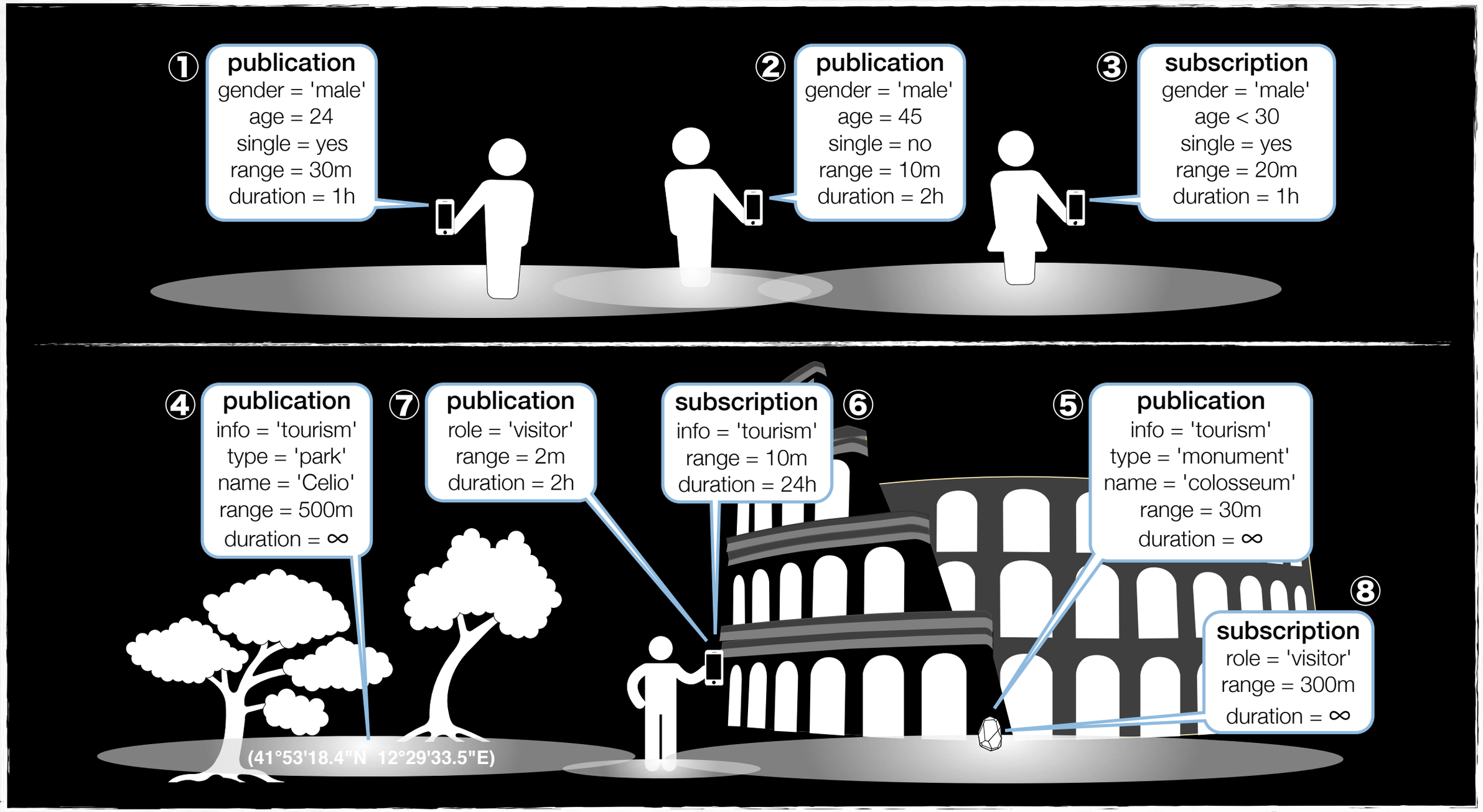
publisher



pub/sub service

subscribers

Location-based Publish/Subscribe



Location-based Publish/Subscribe

the idea is to make it possible to build

UBER™

tinder™

Pokémon GO™

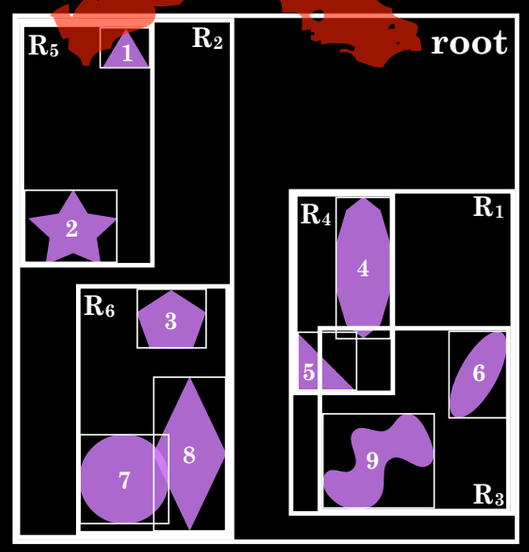
in 30 minutes

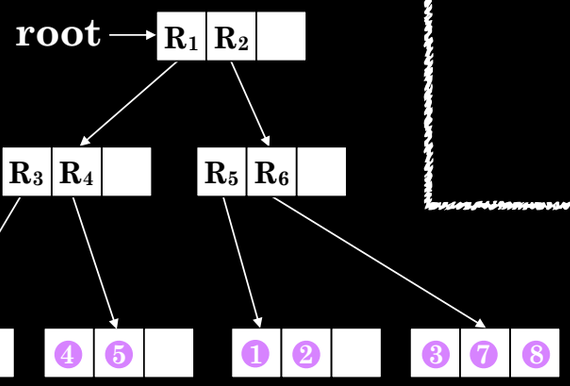
Location-based Publish/Subscribe

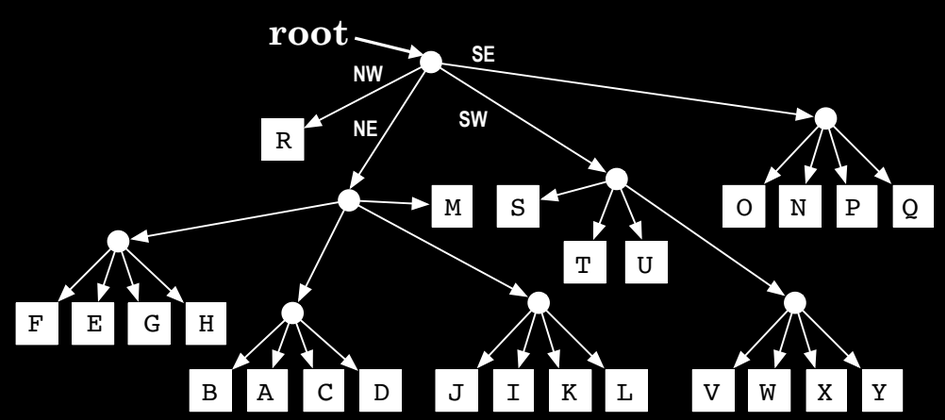
Algorithmic Challenge

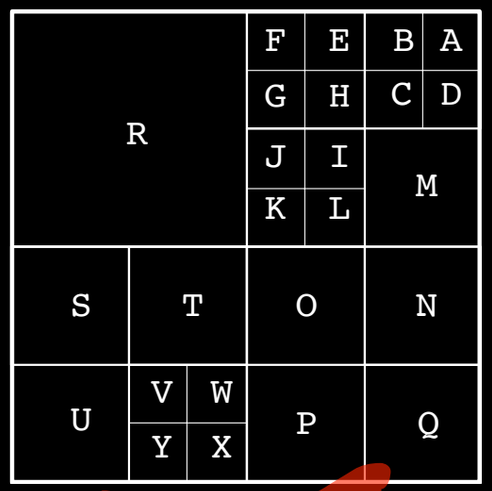
existing spatial indexing structures are totally inefficient
when both read and write operations are intensive

~~r-trees~~









~~quad-trees~~

~~kd-trees~~