



# Serverless Workflow Specification

SIG App Delivery  
Sandbox Proposal

# Agenda



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Use Cases

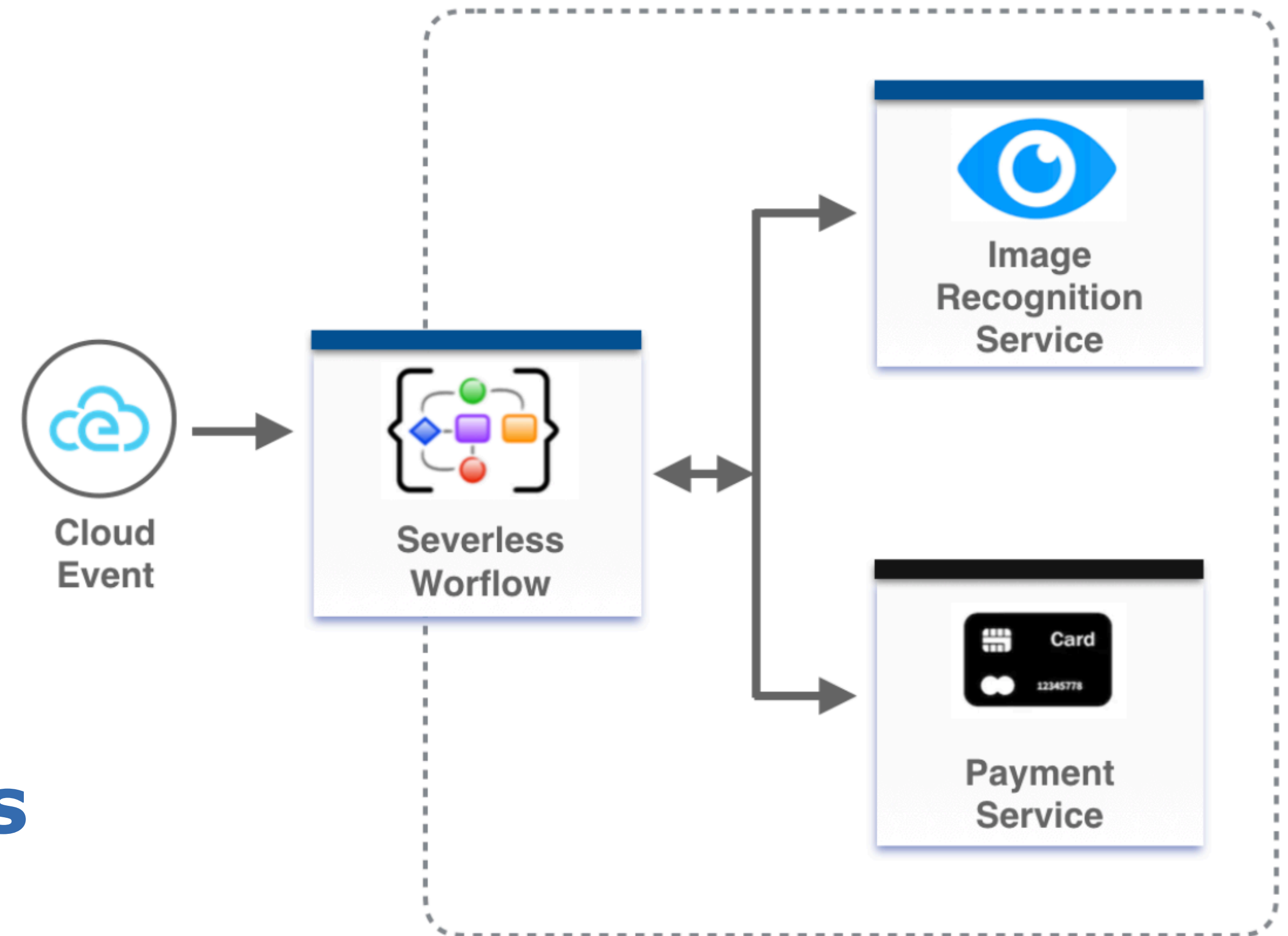
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Project Info

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Demo

# Vendor-neutral Specification for defining the **model** of workflows responsible for **orchestrating** event-driven, serverless applications



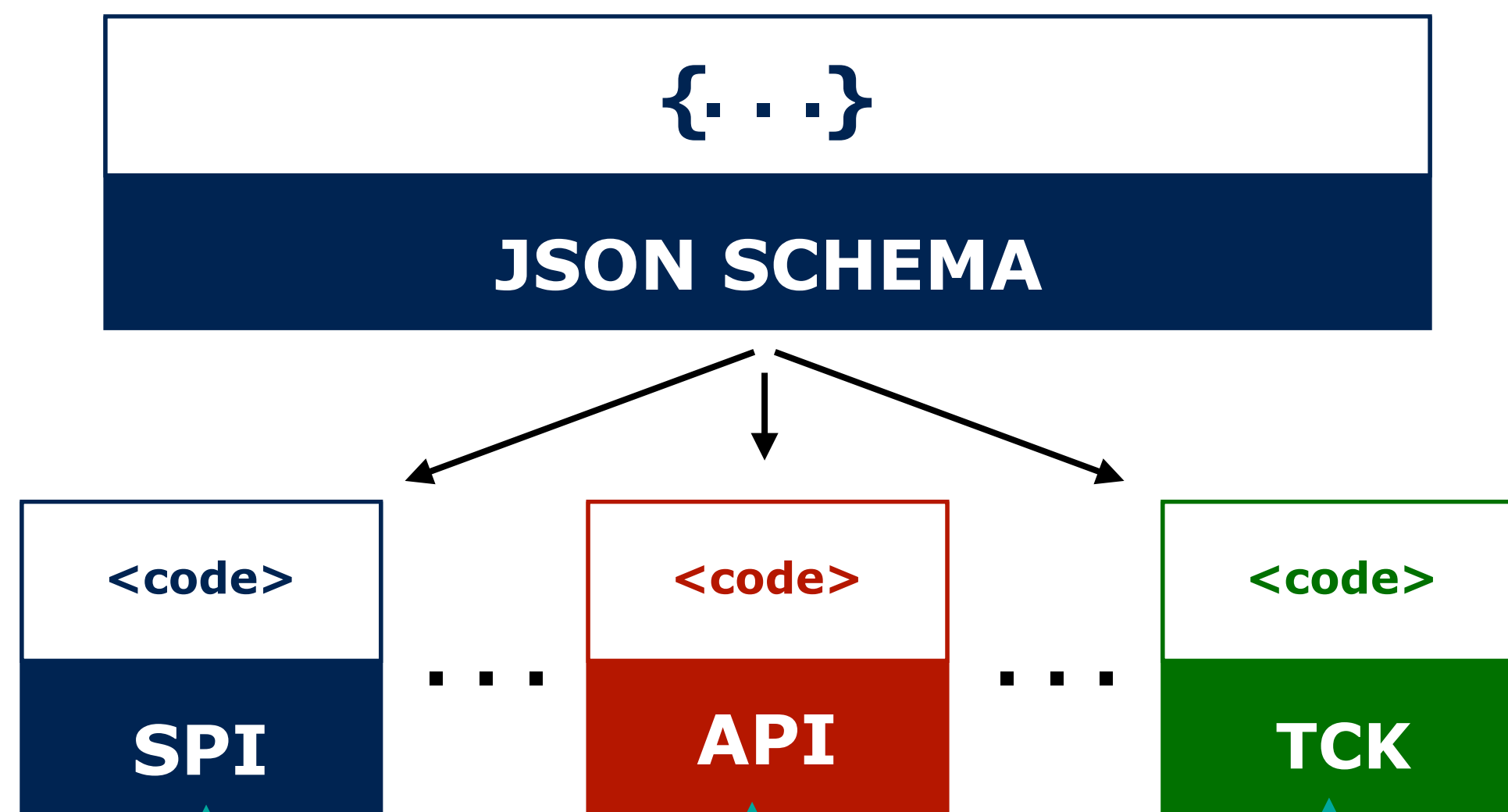
“Coordinate and manage  
Services and Events”



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## Introduction

We provide...

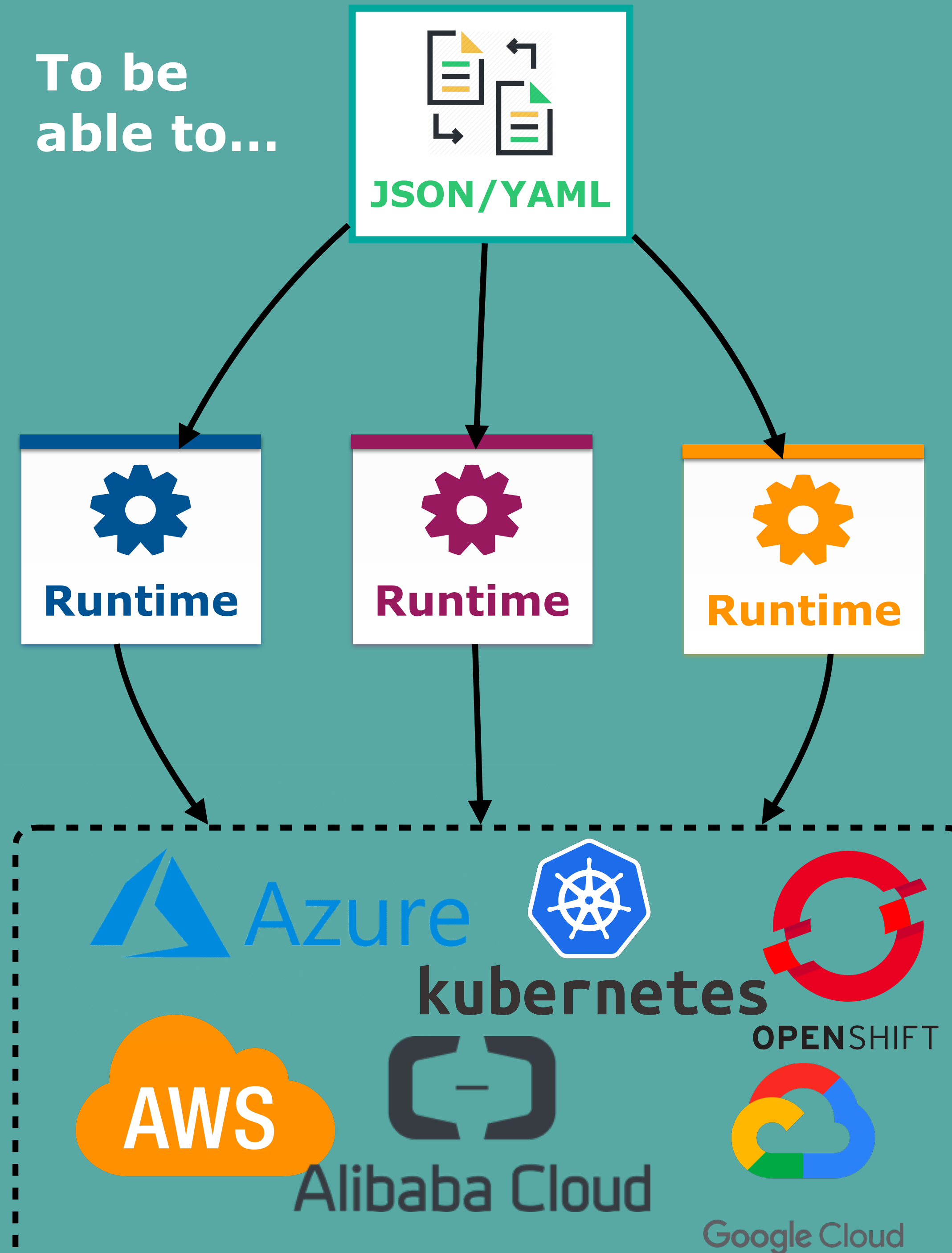


uses... conforms to...

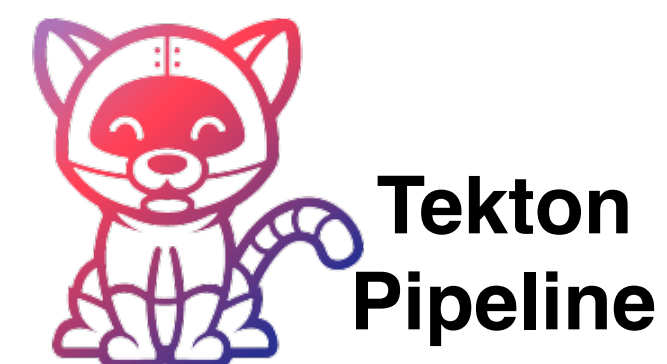
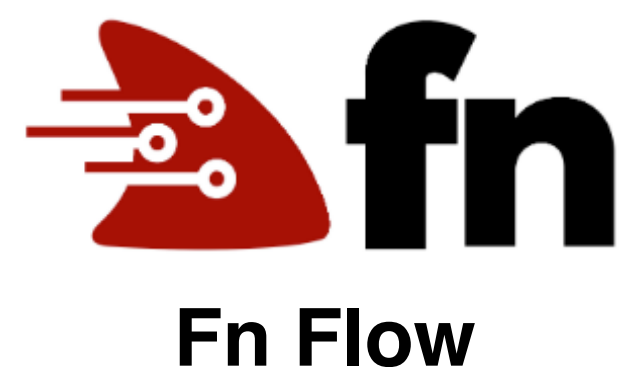


Implementors provide...

To be able to...

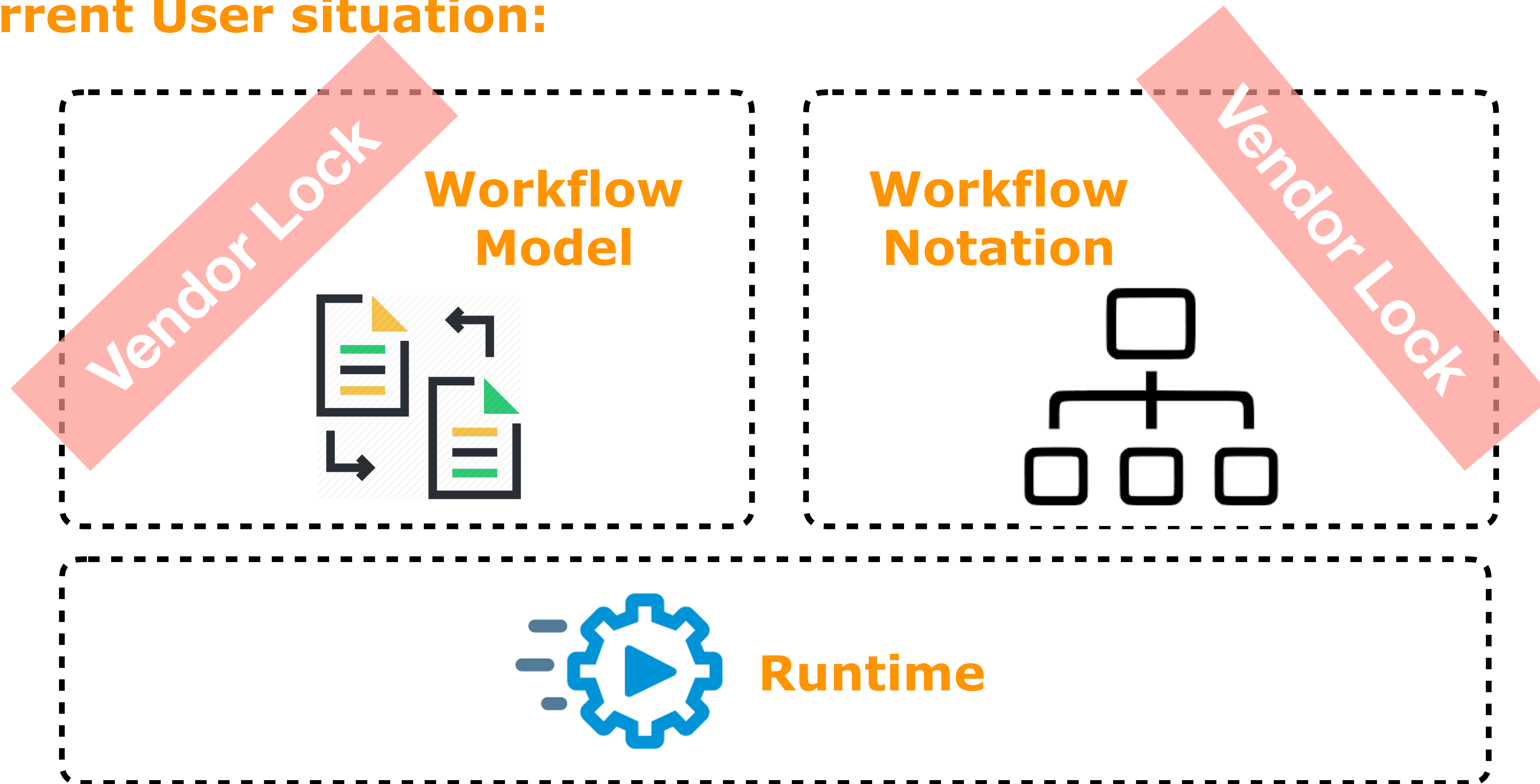


## Current Workflows implementations:



■ ■ ■

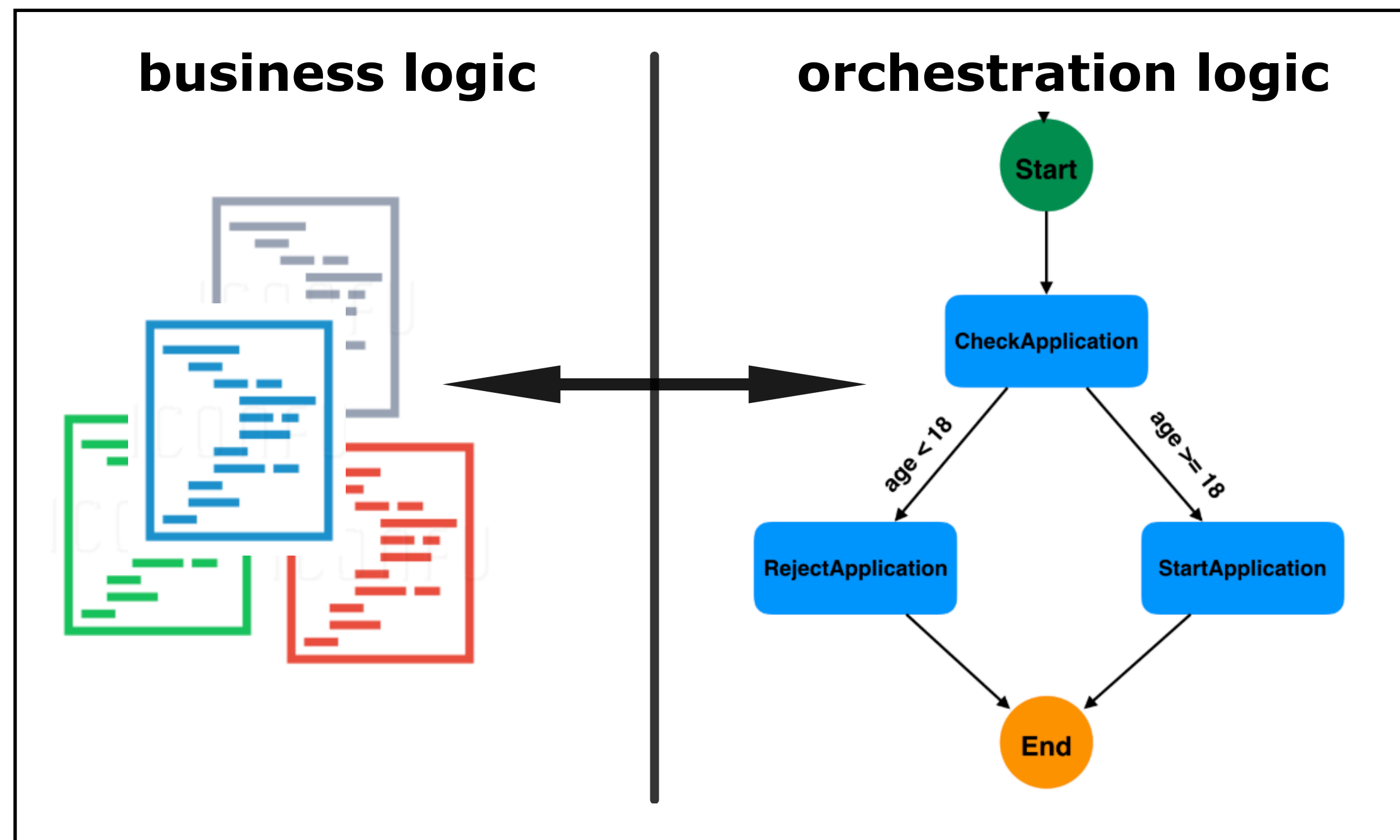
## Current User situation:



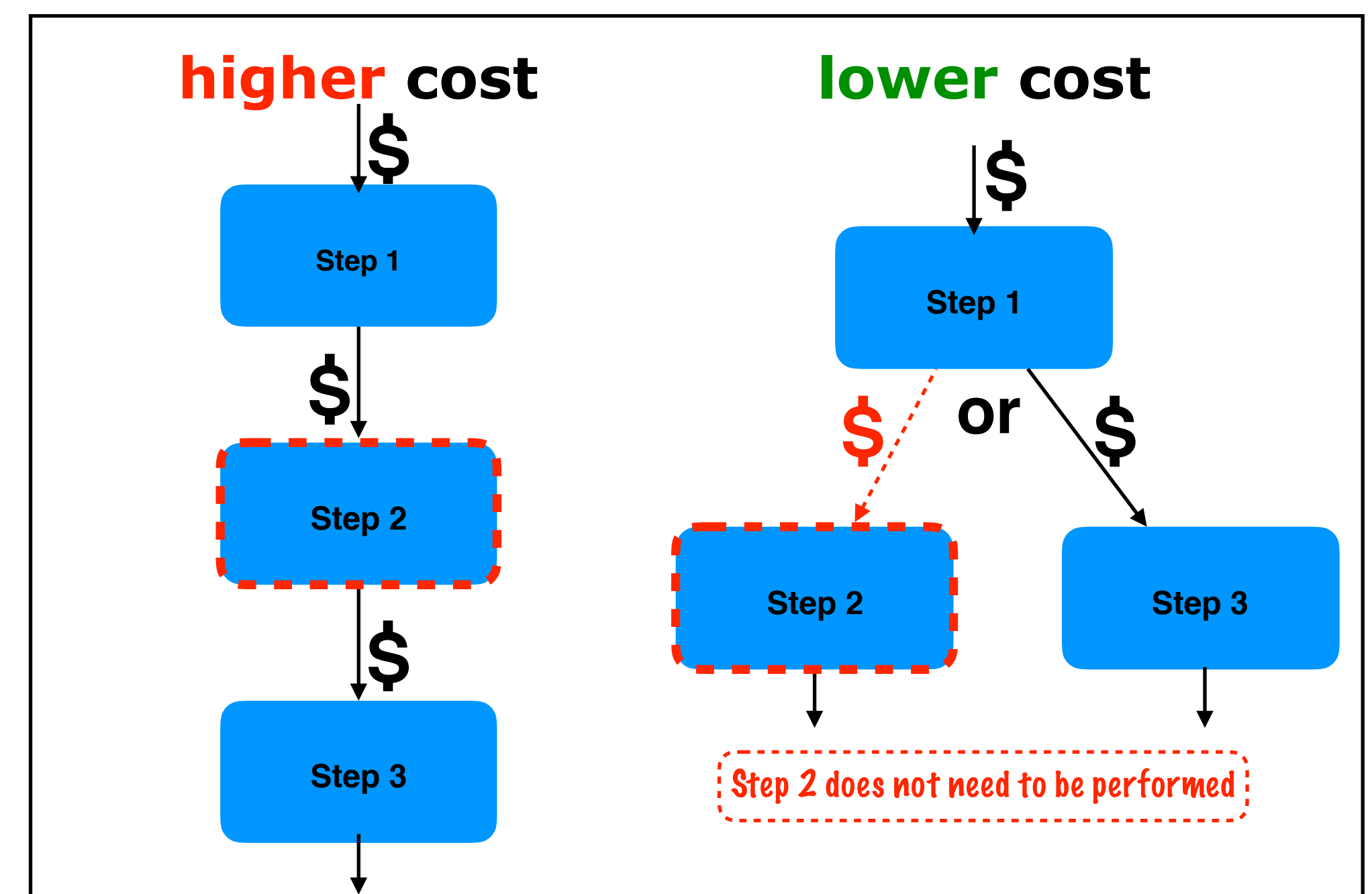
We need a **portable** and **vendor-neutral** specification!

## Core Features categories:

### Clear Separation of Concerns



### Execution Cost



## Model Definition

*Reusable function definitions*

*Reusable event definitions*

*Workflow control flow logic blocks/states*

```
{  
  "id": "uniqueWorkflowId",  
  "name": "Workflow Name",  
  "version": "1.0",  
  "description": "Workflow Description",  
  "functions": [  
    ],  
  "events": [  
    ],  
  "states": [  
    ]  
}
```



## Function Definitions

```
"functions": [  
  {  
    "name": "HelloWorldFunction",  
    "resource": "arn:aws:lambda:us-east-1:123456789012:function:lambda-hello-world"  
  },  
  {  
    "name": "HelloWorldFunction2",  
    "resource": "myhellofunctionapp.azurewebsite.net/api/hellofunction",  
    "type": "GET"  
  },  
  {  
    "name": "HelloWorldFunction3",  
    "resource": "https://openshift.redhat.com:8443/oapi/v1/sayhello",  
    "type": "REST",  
    "metadata": {  
      "Authorization: Bearer": "$.token"  
    }  
  }  
]
```

## Event Definitions

```
"events": [  
  {  
    "name": "ApplicationSubmitted",  
    "type": "org.application.submitted",  
    "source": "applicationsource",  
    "correlationToken": "applicantId"  
  },  
  {  
    "name": "SATScoresReceived",  
    "type": "org.application.satscores",  
    "source": "applicationsource",  
    "correlationToken": "applicantId"  
  },  
  {  
    "name": "RecommendationLetterReceived",  
    "type": "org.application.recommendationLetter",  
    "source": "applicationsource",  
    "correlationToken": "applicantId"  
  }  
]
```



## CloudEvent

```
{  
  "specversion" : "1.0",  
  "type" : "org.application.satscores",  
  "source" : "applicationsource",  
  "subject" : "Received SAT Score",  
  "id" : "A234-1234-1234",  
  "time" : "2020-01-05T17:31:00Z",  
  "applicantId" : "STUDENT-12345",  
  "data" : {  
    "score": "1600"  
  }  
}
```



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Key Features

## State Definitions

```
{  
  "name": "MyState",  
  "type": "STATE_TYPE",  
  "start": {  
    "kind": "DEFAULT"  
  },  
  // type specific params ..  
  
  "end": {  
    "kind": "EVENT",  
    "produceEvent": {  
      "nameRef": "myEventName",  
      "data": "$.person.name"  
    }  
  },  
  // or,  
  "transition": {  
    "nextState": "MyNextState"  
  }  
}
```

Unique Name

Defined Type

Can be start state

Can be end state

|  
or  
|

Can Transition

3

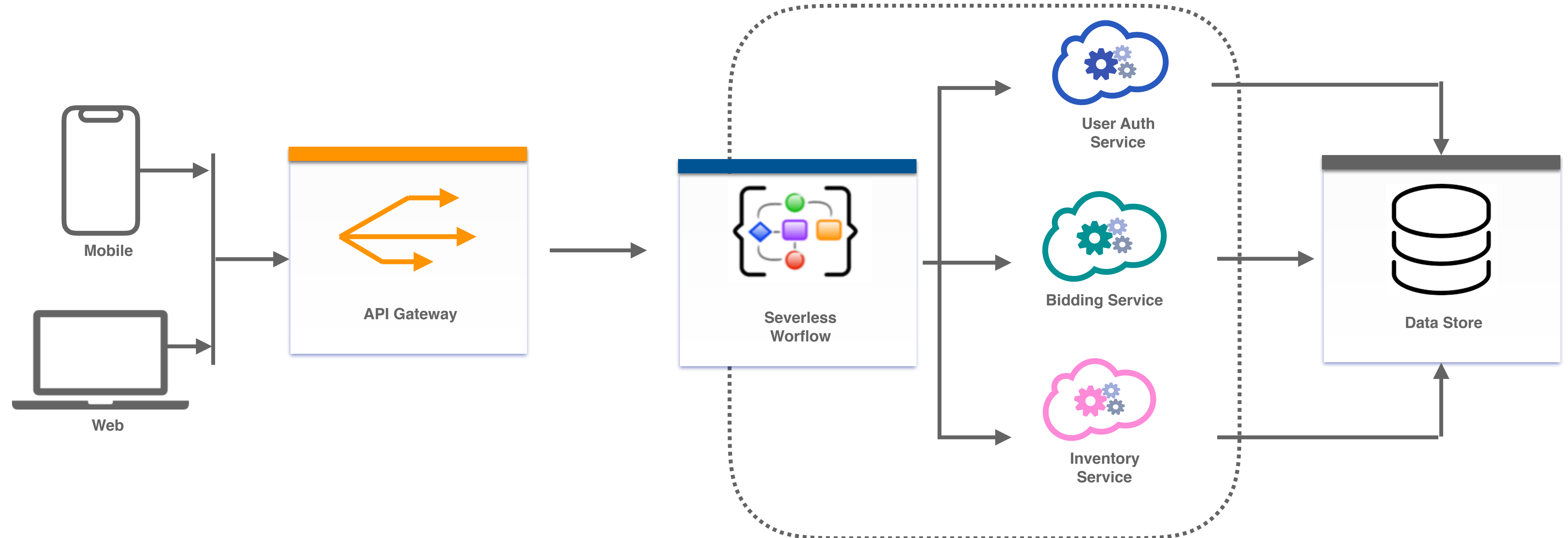
Key Features

# State Types

| Name                      | Description   | Consumes events? | Produces events? | Executes actions?       | Handles errors?        | Allows parallel execution? | Makes data-based transitions? |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Event</a>     | Define events that trigger action execution   | yes              | yes              | yes                     | yes (includes retries) | yes                        | no                            |
| <a href="#">Operation</a> | Execute one or more actions   | no               | yes              | yes                     | yes (includes retries) | yes                        | no                            |
| <a href="#">Switch</a>    | Define data-based workflow transitions  | no               | yes              | no                      | yes                    | no                         | yes                           |
| <a href="#">Delay</a>     | Delay workflow execution  | no               | yes              | no                      | yes                    | no                         | no                            |
| <a href="#">Parallel</a>  | Causes parallel execution of branches (set of states)   | no               | yes              | no                      | yes (includes retries) | yes                        | no                            |
| <a href="#">SubFlow</a>   | Represents the invocation of another workflow from within a workflow  | no               | yes              | no                      | yes                    | no                         | no                            |
| <a href="#">Relay</a>     | Relay state data input to output  | no               | yes              | no                      | yes                    | no                         | no                            |
| <a href="#">ForEach</a>   | Parallel execution of states for each element of a data array   | no               | yes              | no                      | yes (includes retries) | yes                        | no                            |
| <a href="#">Callback</a>  | Manual decision step. Executes a function and waits for callback event that indicates completion of the manual decision | yes              | yes              | yes (including retries) | yes                    | no                         | no                            |



## Example: Online Vehicle Auction



You can use Serverless Workflows to coordinate all steps of an Online Vehicle Auction. These can include:

- **Authentication** of users making bids.
- **Communication** with Bidding and Inventory services
- **Make decisions** to start/end the auction under certain conditions

... many more, see

<https://github.com/cncf/wg-serverless/blob/master/workflow/spec/usecases.md>

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Group Info    | CNCF Serverless WG - Workflow Sub-Group  |
| Communication | Monthly zoom calls - first Monday every month @10-11 PT<br><a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xwcsWQmMiRN24a7o7oy9MstzMroAup31oOkM5Dru1jQ/edit#heading=h.g2rizfze8av2">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xwcsWQmMiRN24a7o7oy9MstzMroAup31oOkM5Dru1jQ/edit#heading=h.g2rizfze8av2</a>                                     |
| GitHub Info   | <a href="https://github.com/cncf/wg-serverless/tree/master/workflow">https://github.com/cncf/wg-serverless/tree/master/workflow</a><br><br>Version 0.1 release: <a href="https://github.com/cncf/wg-serverless/tree/v0.1/workflow/spec">https://github.com/cncf/wg-serverless/tree/v0.1/workflow/spec</a>                            |
| Governance    | Consensus and Community-driven<br>Current Owners: Red Hat, Nokia, Camunda, Huawei  |
| License       | Apache v2.0  |
| Community     | Mailing list: <a href="https://lists.cncf.io/g/cncf-wg-serverless">https://lists.cncf.io/g/cncf-wg-serverless</a><br>Slack: #serverless-workflow Slack channel: <a href="https://slack.cncf.io/">https://slack.cncf.io/</a><br>Blog: <a href="https://serverlessworkflow.blogspot.com/">https://serverlessworkflow.blogspot.com/</a> |
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# Questions?