



cloudstate

Towards
Stateful
Serverless

Jonas Bonér

@jboner

“We predict that Serverless Computing will grow to dominate the future of Cloud Computing.”

- BERKELEY CS DEPARTMENT

FaaS

FaaS = Function-as-a-Service

FaaS

IS VISIONARY

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IS VISIONARY

PAVED THE WAY

FaaS = Function-as-a-Service

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IS VISIONARY

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JUST THE FIRST STEP

FaaS = Function-as-a-Service

SERVERLESS \neq FAAS

**GOOD USE-CASES
FOR FAAS?**

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Use-cases where **throughput is key** rather than low latency
and requests can be **completed in a short time window**

GOOD USE-CASES FOR FAAS?

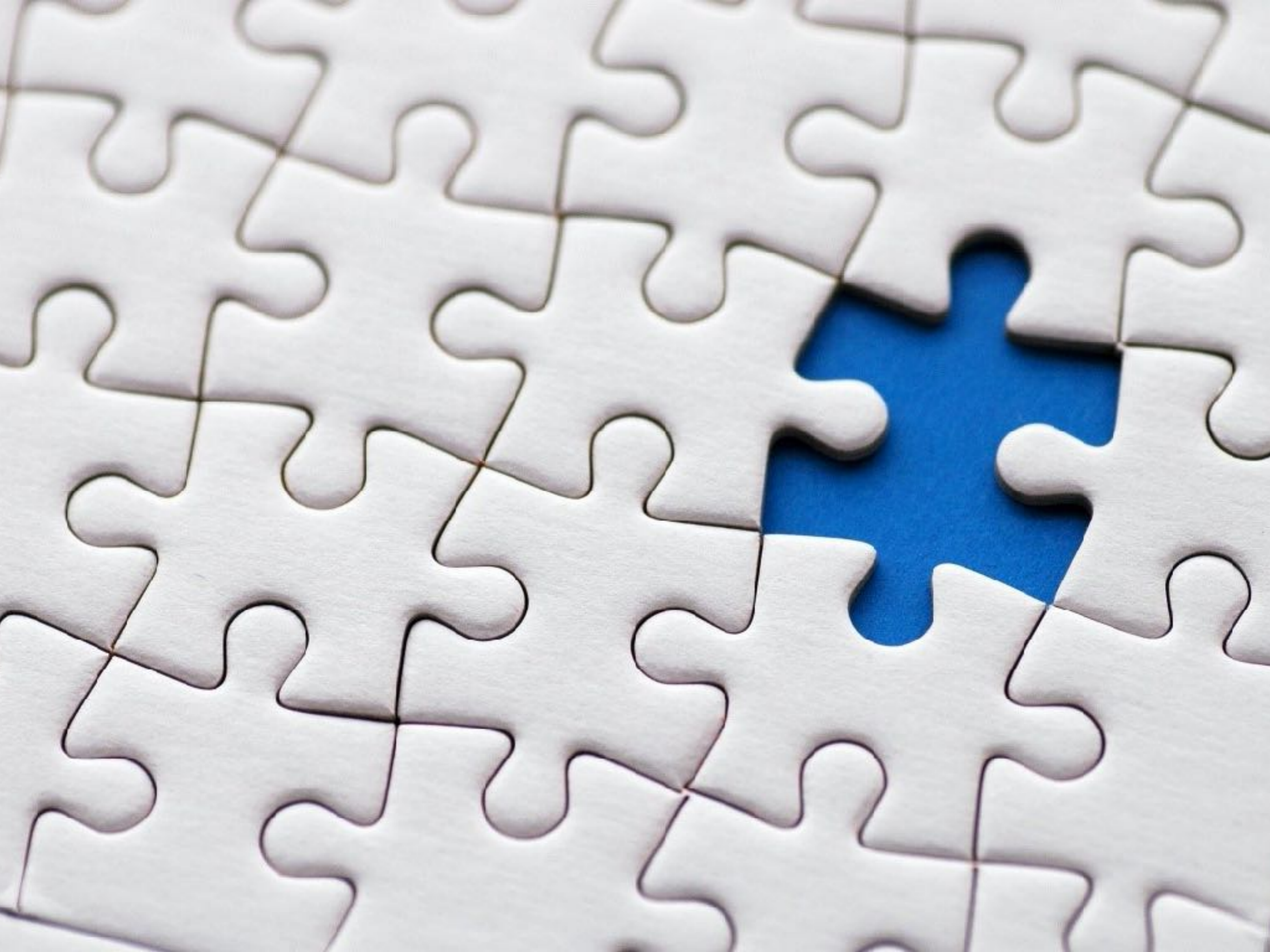
Use-cases where throughput is key rather than low latency and requests can be completed in a short time window

- 1. Embarrassingly parallel processing tasks**—invoked on demand & intermittently, examples include: image processing, object recognition, log analysis
- 2. Low traffic applications**—enterprise IT services, and spiky workloads
- 3. Stateless web applications**—serving static content from S3 (or similar)
- 4. Orchestration functions**—integration/coordination of calls to third-party services
- 5. Composing chains of functions**—stateless workflow management, connected via data dependencies
- 6. Job scheduling**—CRON jobs, triggers, etc.

FAAS: HARD TO BUILD
GENERAL-PURPOSE APPLICATIONS

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- 1. Functions are stateless, ephemeral, short-lived:
expensive to lose computational context & rehydrate**
- 2. Durable state is always “somewhere else”**
- 3. No co-location of state and processing**
- 4. No direct addressability—all communication over external storage**
- 5. Limited options for managing & coordinating distributed state**
- 6. Limited options for modelling data consistency guarantees**





STATE

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- **Leader election, counting, voting**
...and other distributed systems patterns/protocols for coordination

Technical Requirements

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1. Stateful long-lived addressable virtual components

Actors

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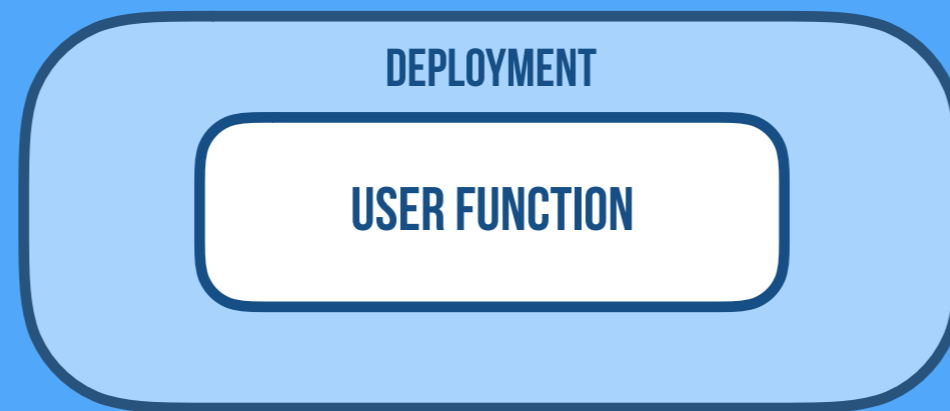
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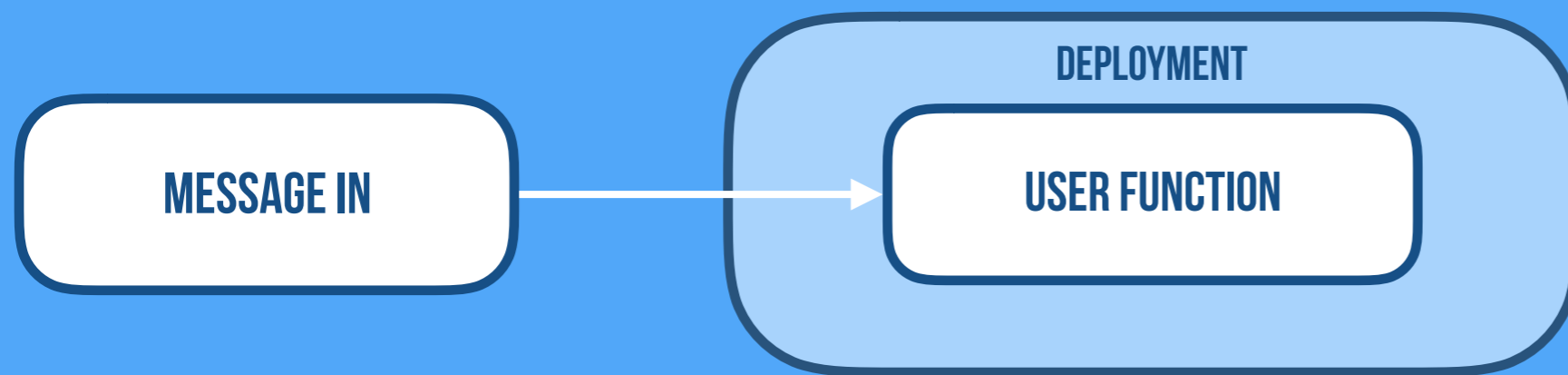
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6. Ways of managing end-to-end guarantees and correctness

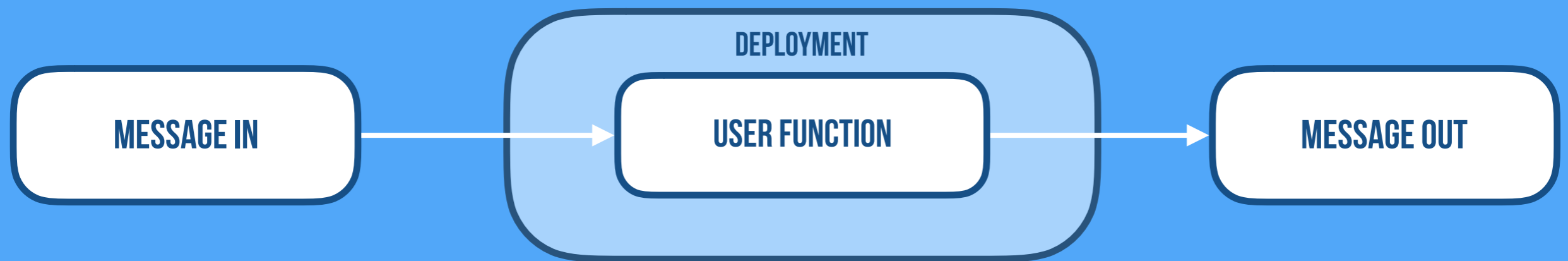
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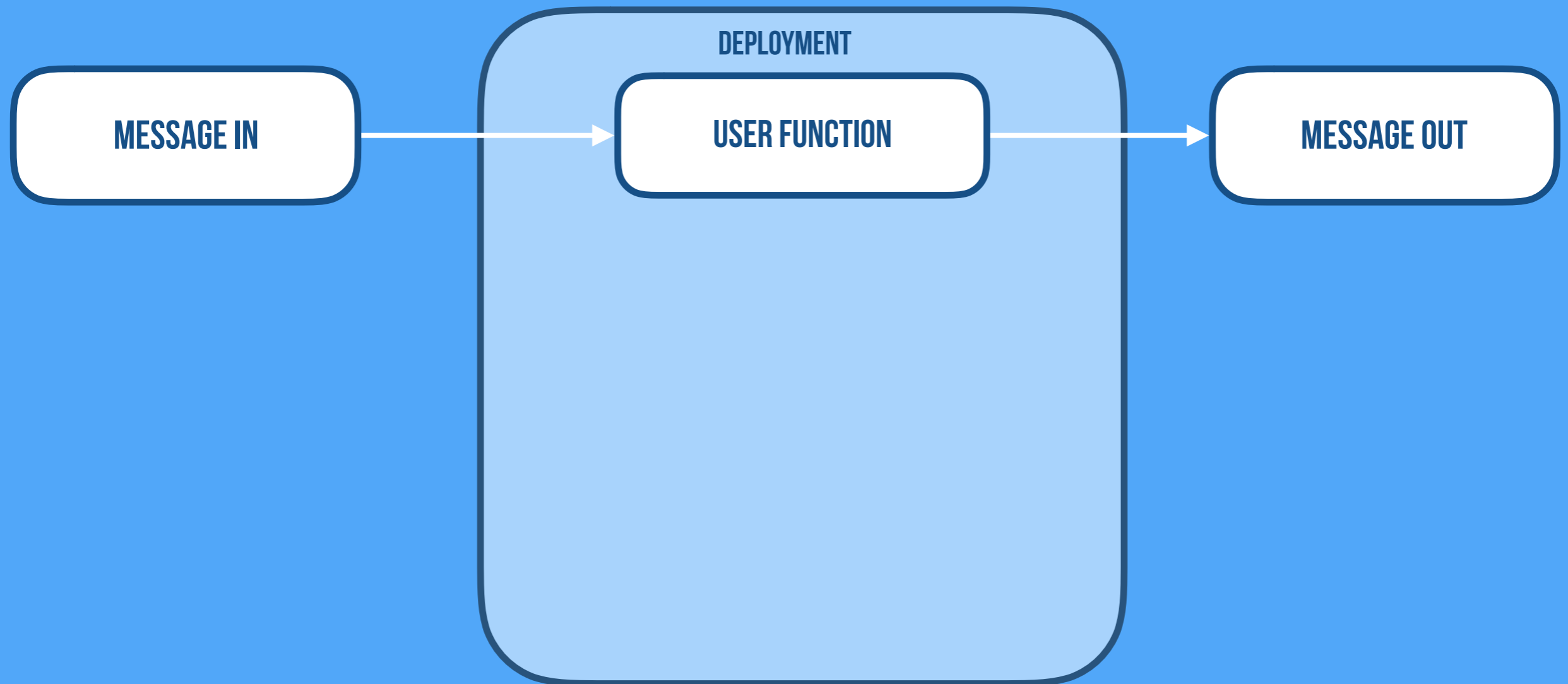
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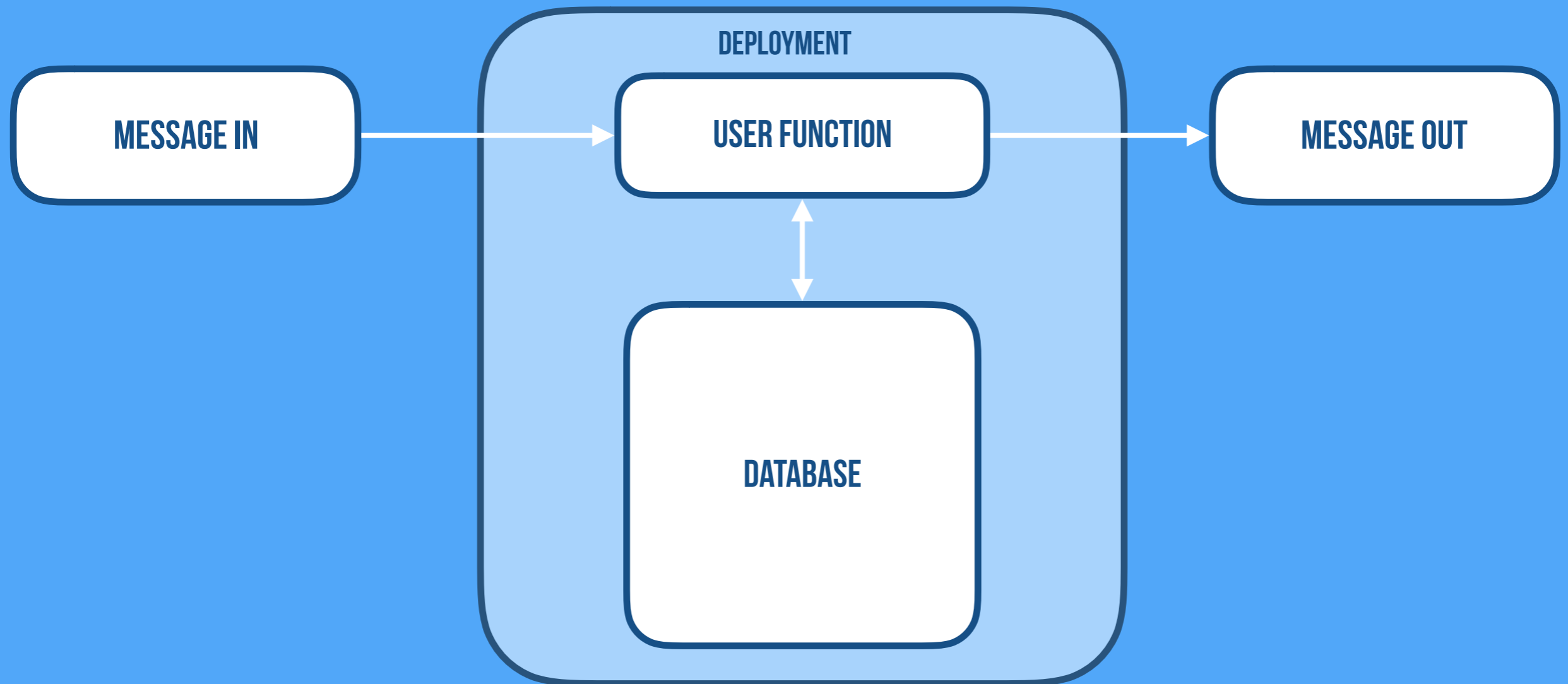
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FaaS With CRUD

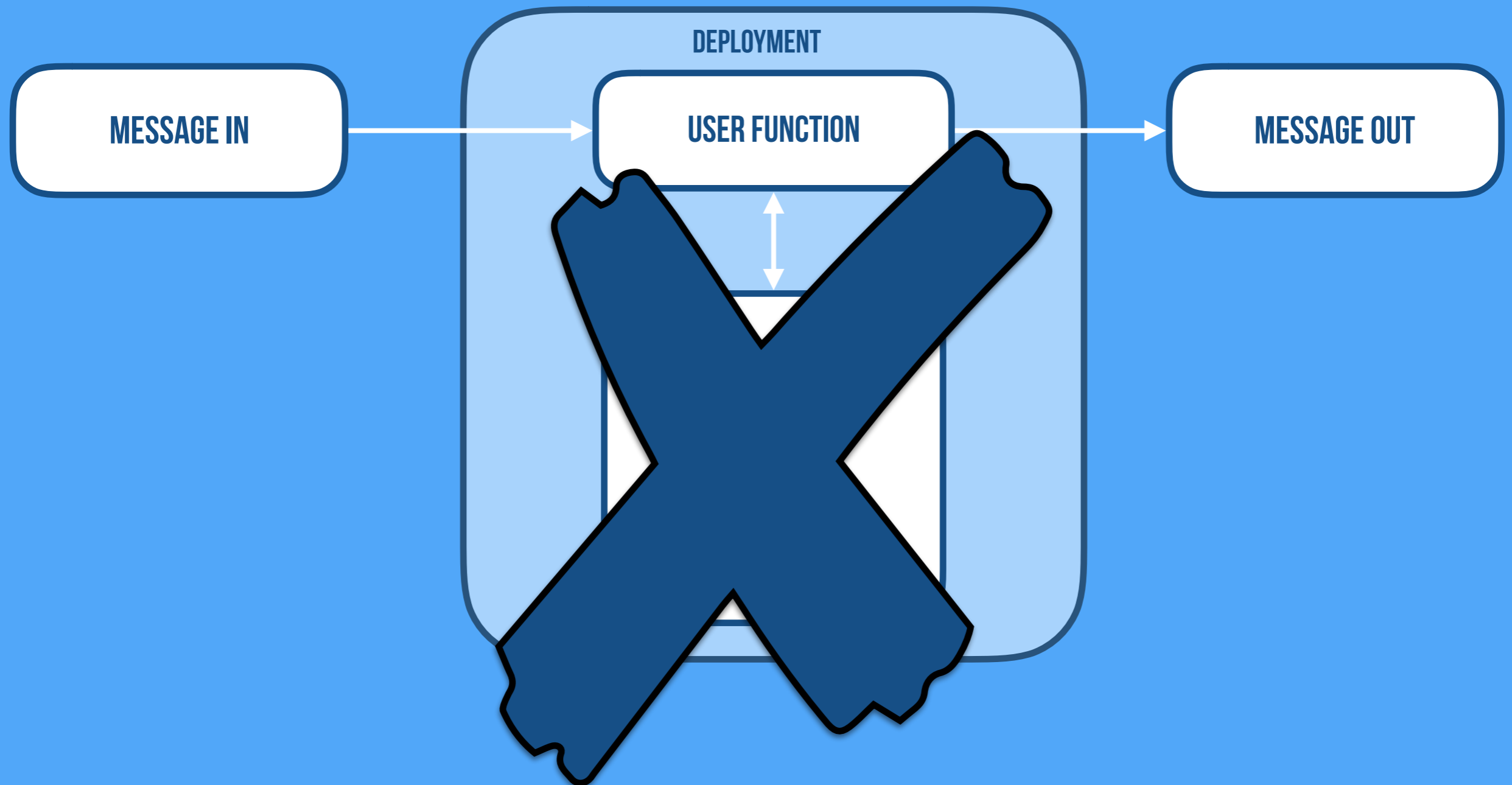


FaaS With CRUD



Not Serverless

Leaky Abstraction



The Problem



The Problem

THE FUNCTION IS A

BLACK BOX

The Problem



The Problem

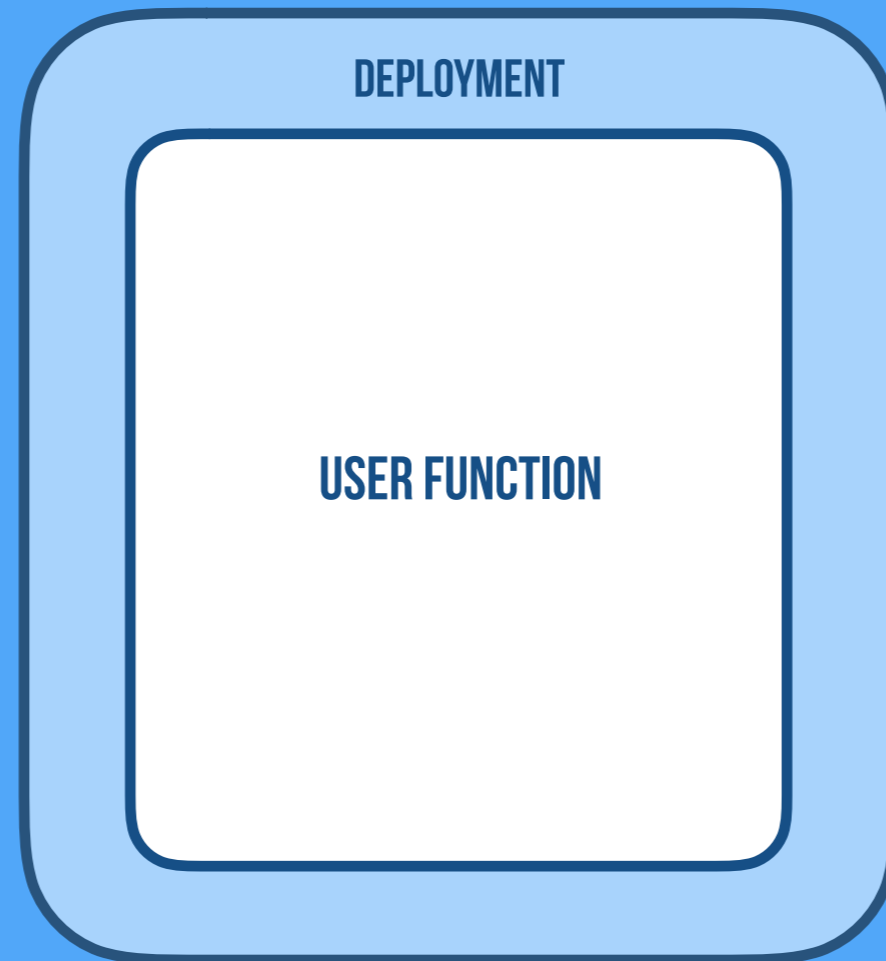
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“Freedom is not so much the absence of restrictions as finding the right ones, the liberating restrictions.”

- TIMOTHY KELLER

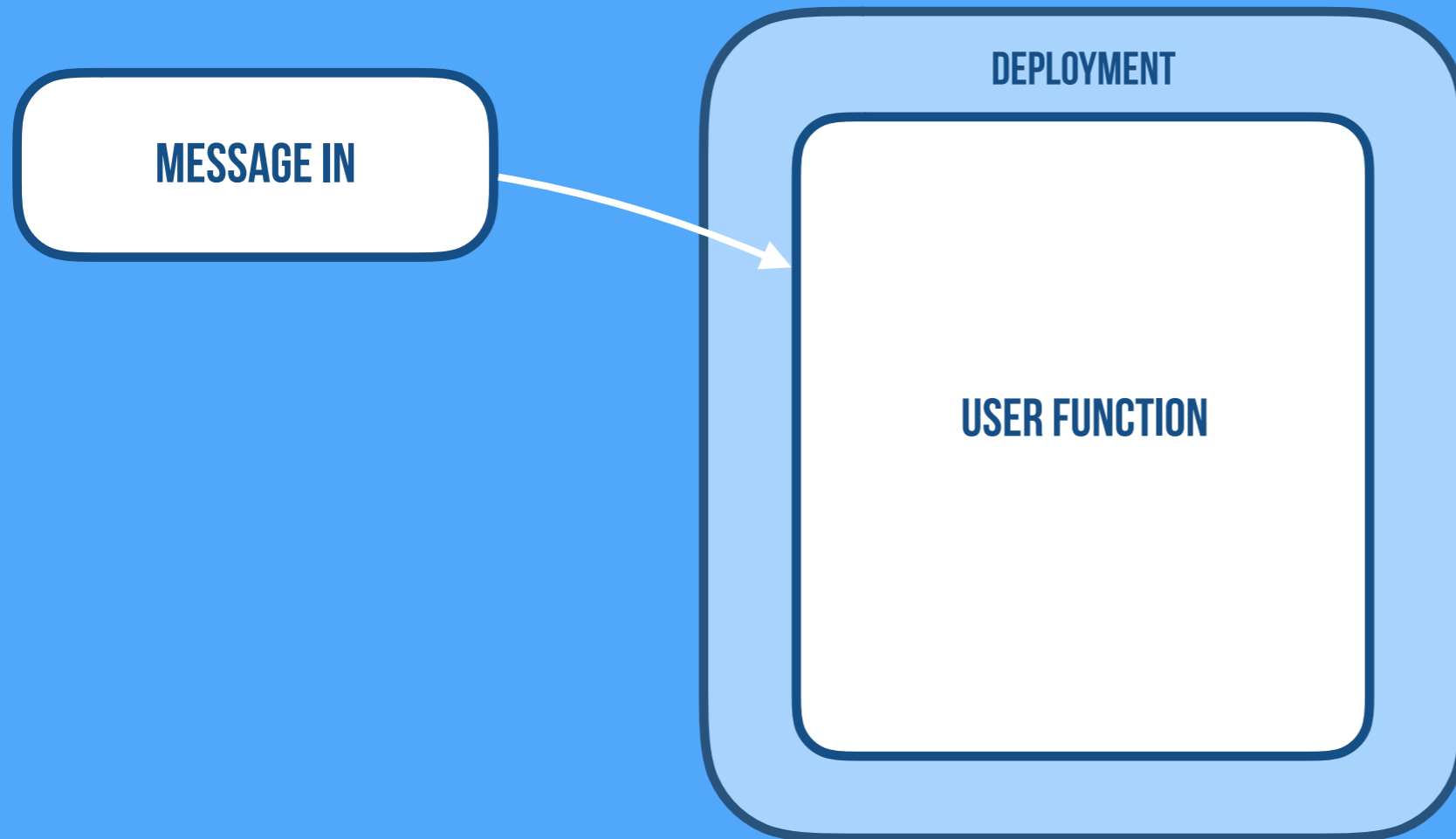
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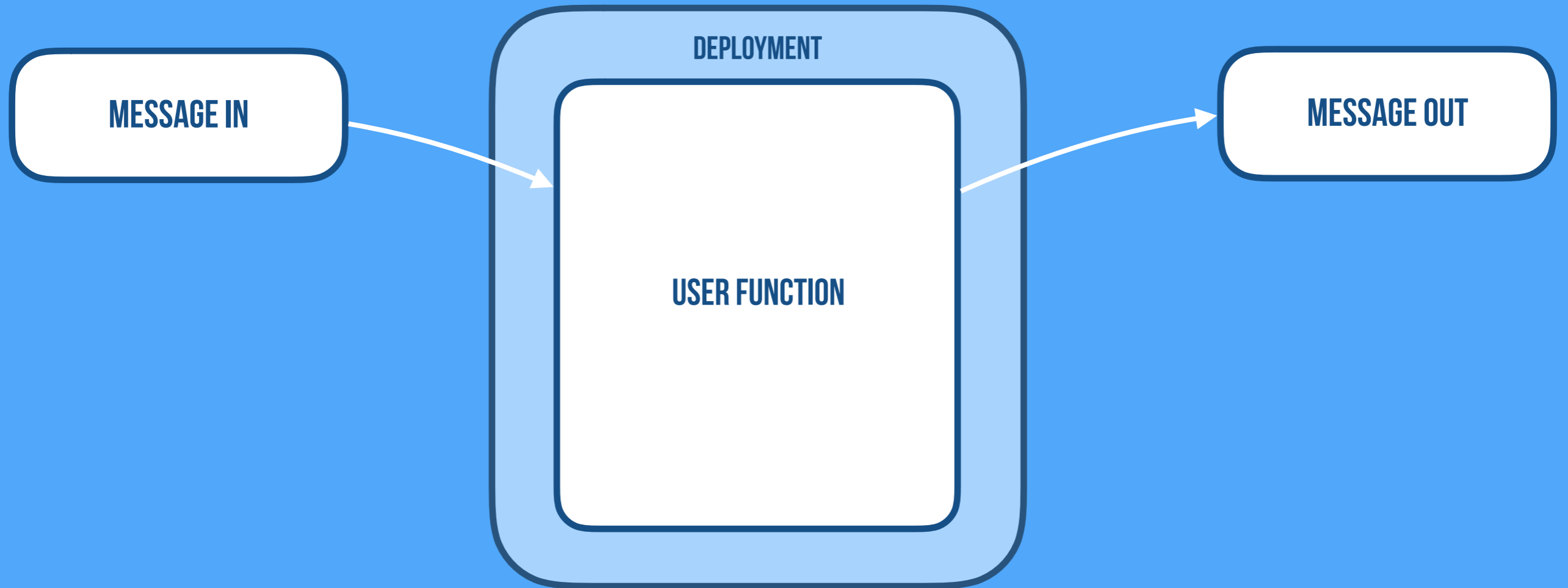
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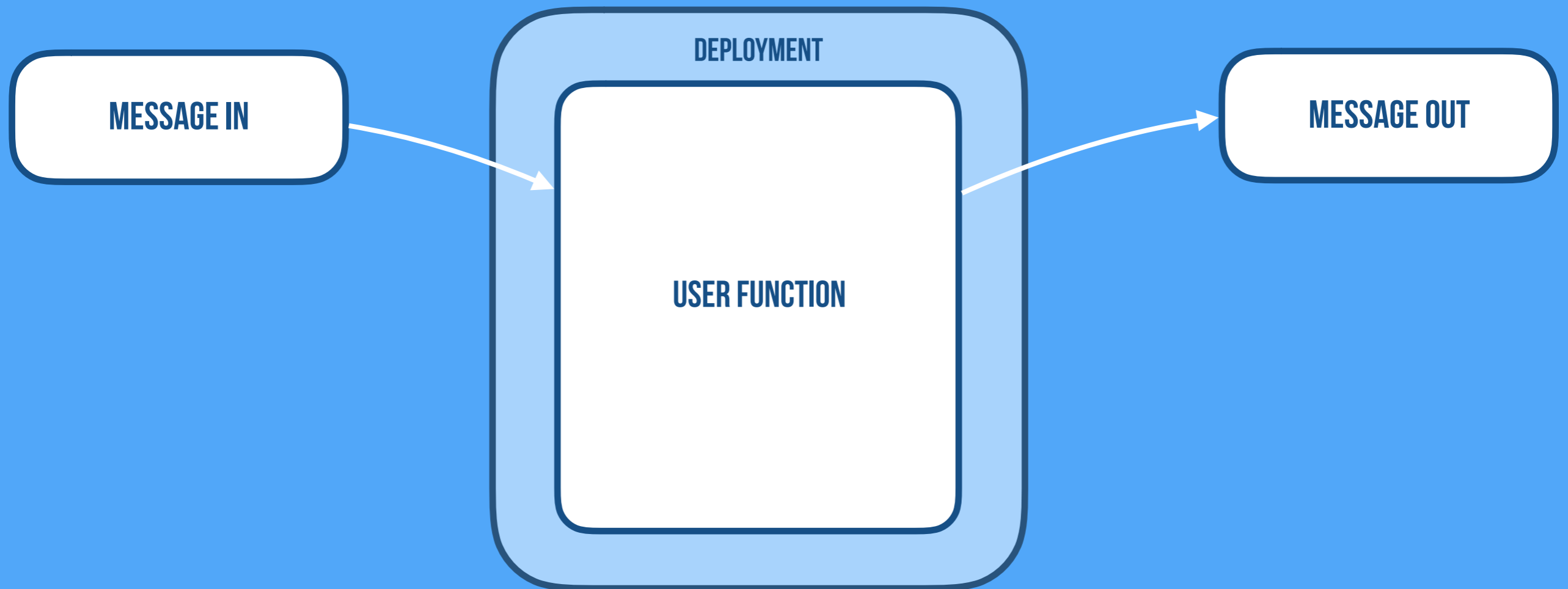
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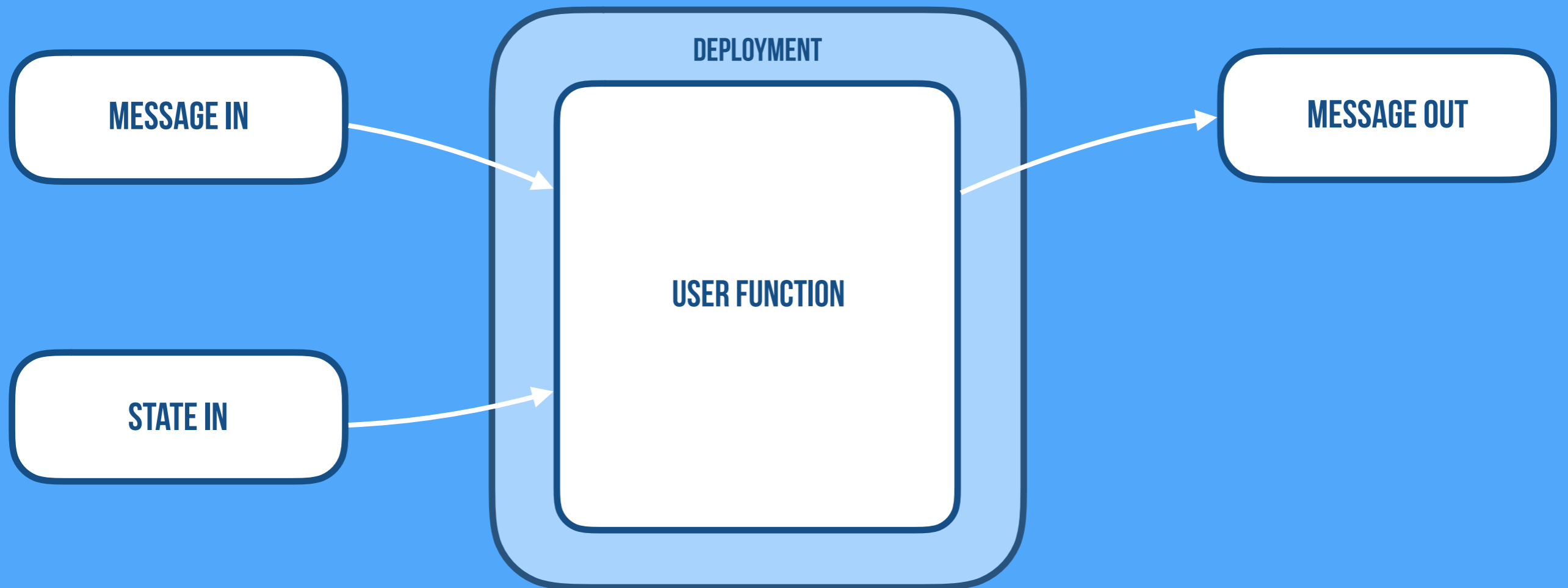
Stateful Serverless

Abstracting Over State



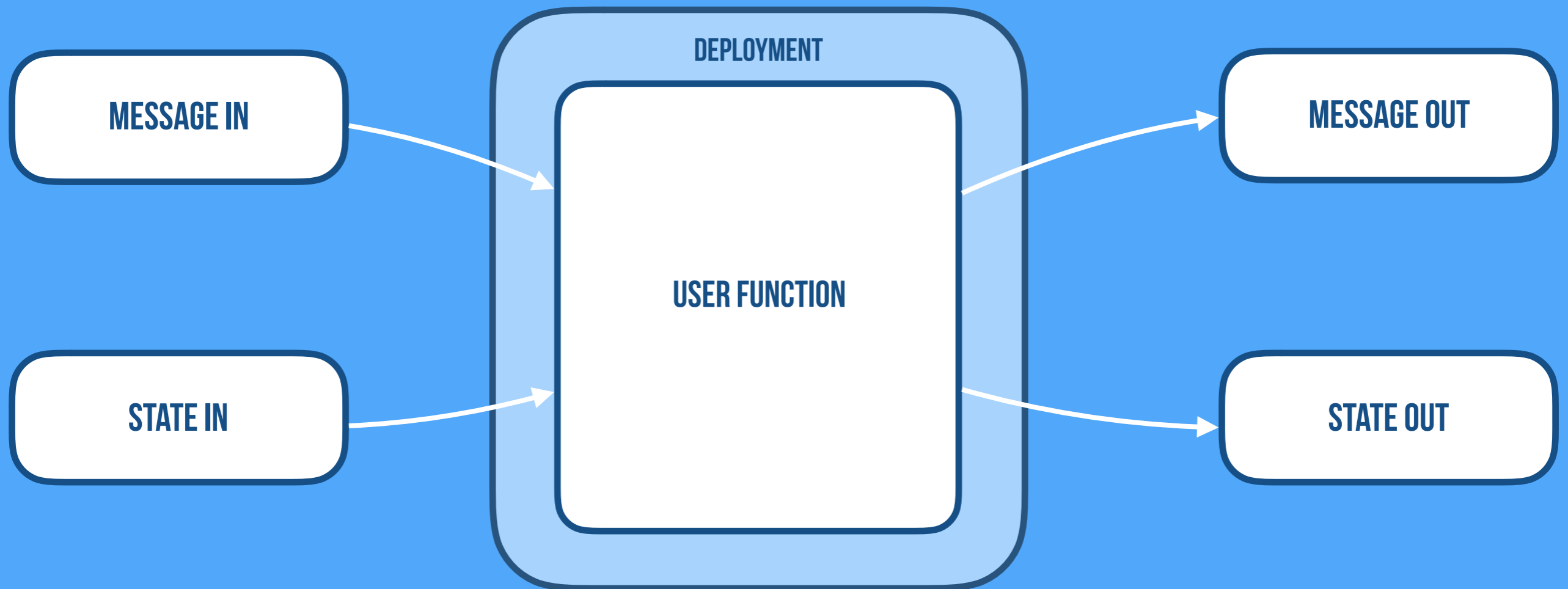
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Enter



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WHAT IS CLOUDSTATE?

<https://cloudstate.io>

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Overview:

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4. **Let's you focus on business logic, data model, and workflow**

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Don't worry about:

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5. **Running & Operating your application**

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Technical Highlights:

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4. **Leveraging Akka, gRPC, Knative, GraalVM, running on Kubernetes**

CLOUDSTATE ARCHITECTURE

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KUBERNETES POD

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CLOUDSTATE ARCHITECTURE



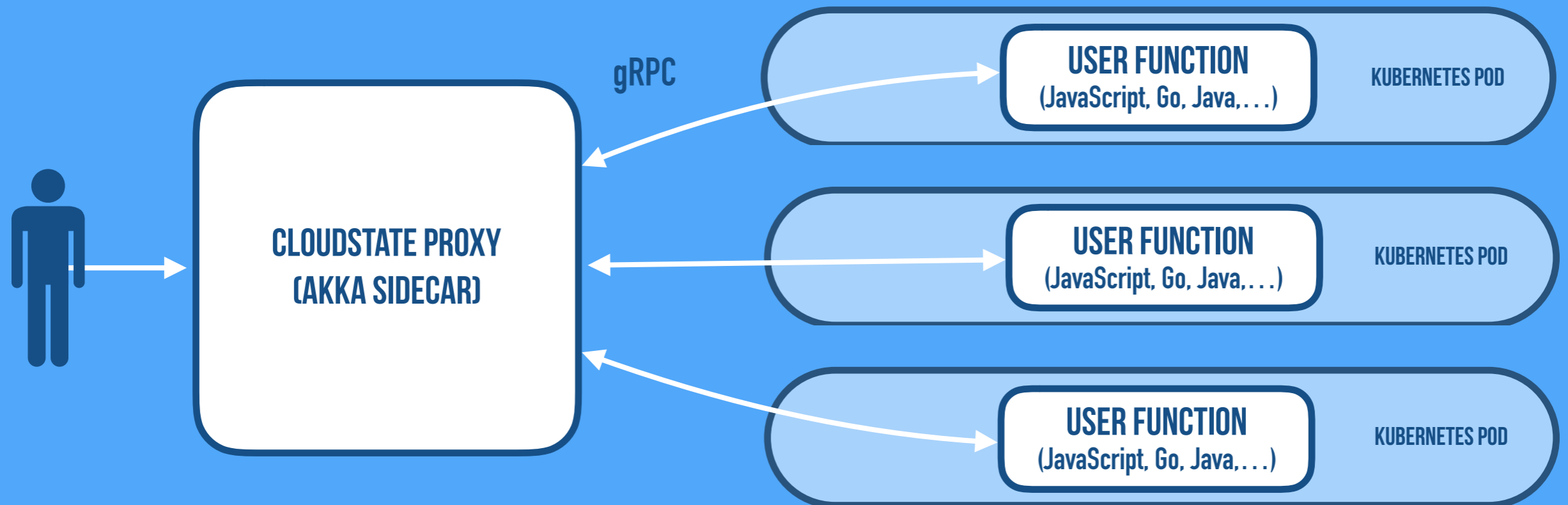
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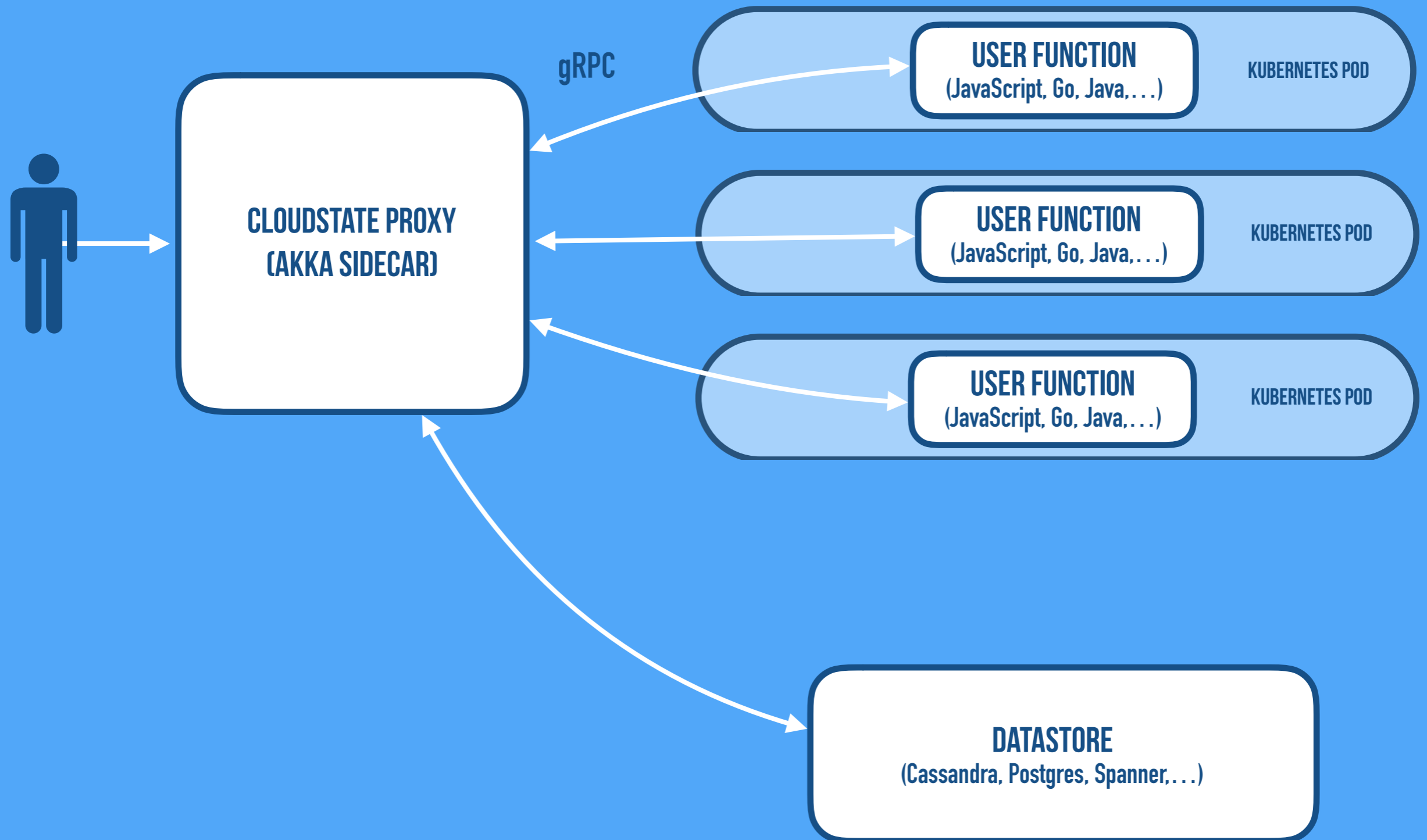
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AKKA CLUSTER

AKKA SIDECAR

USER FUNCTION
(JavaScript, Go, Java,...)

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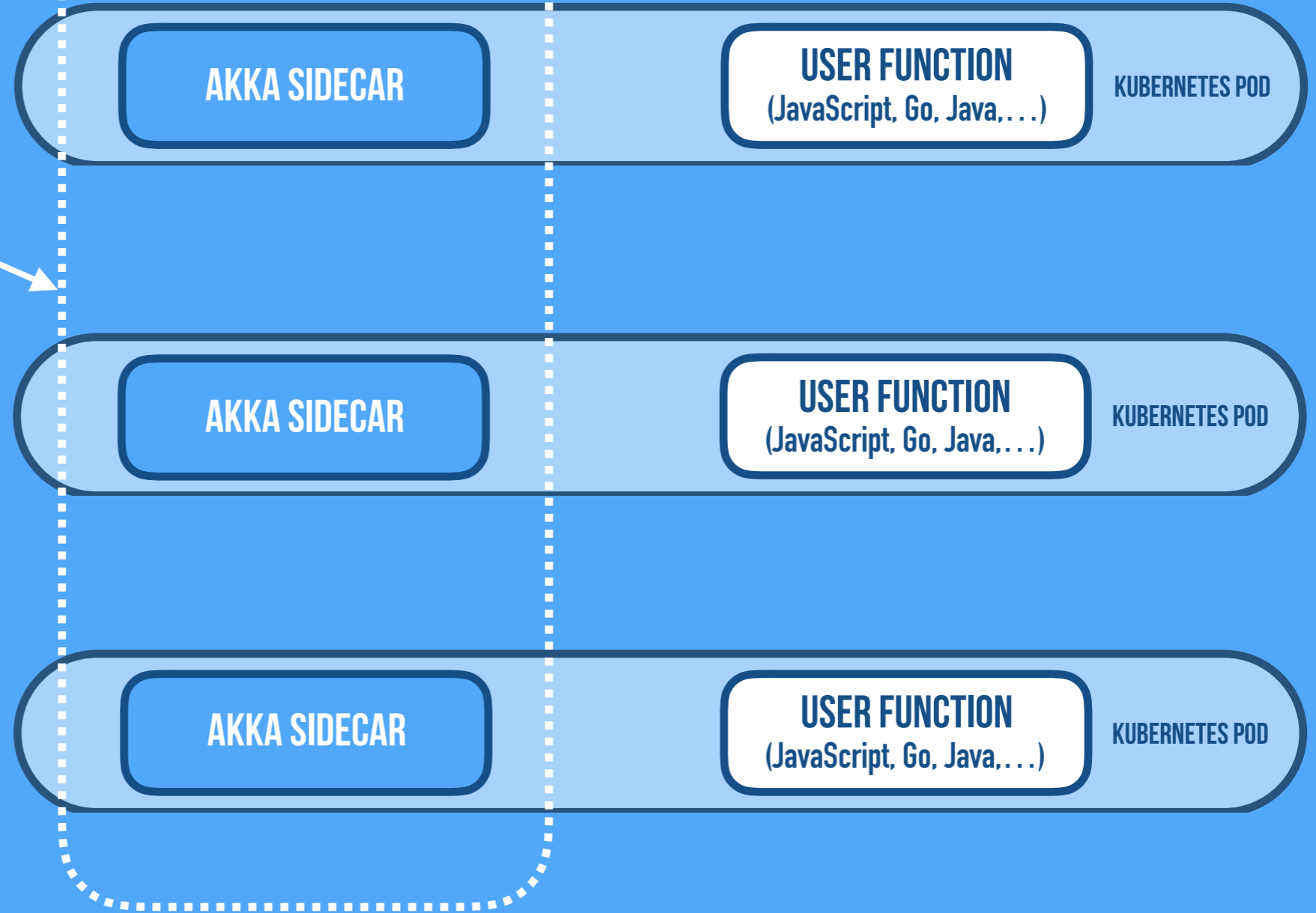


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AKKA CLUSTER



HTTP



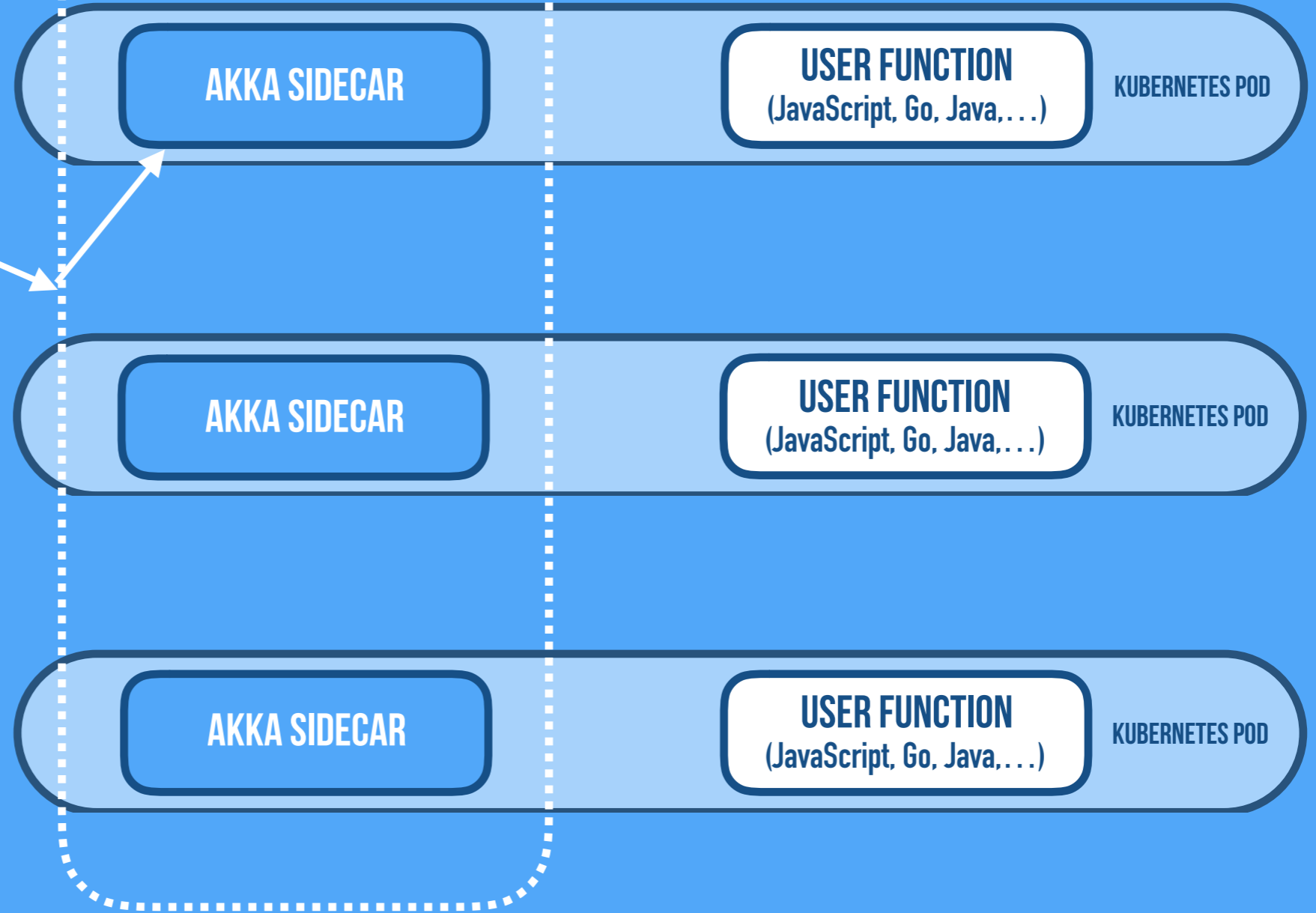


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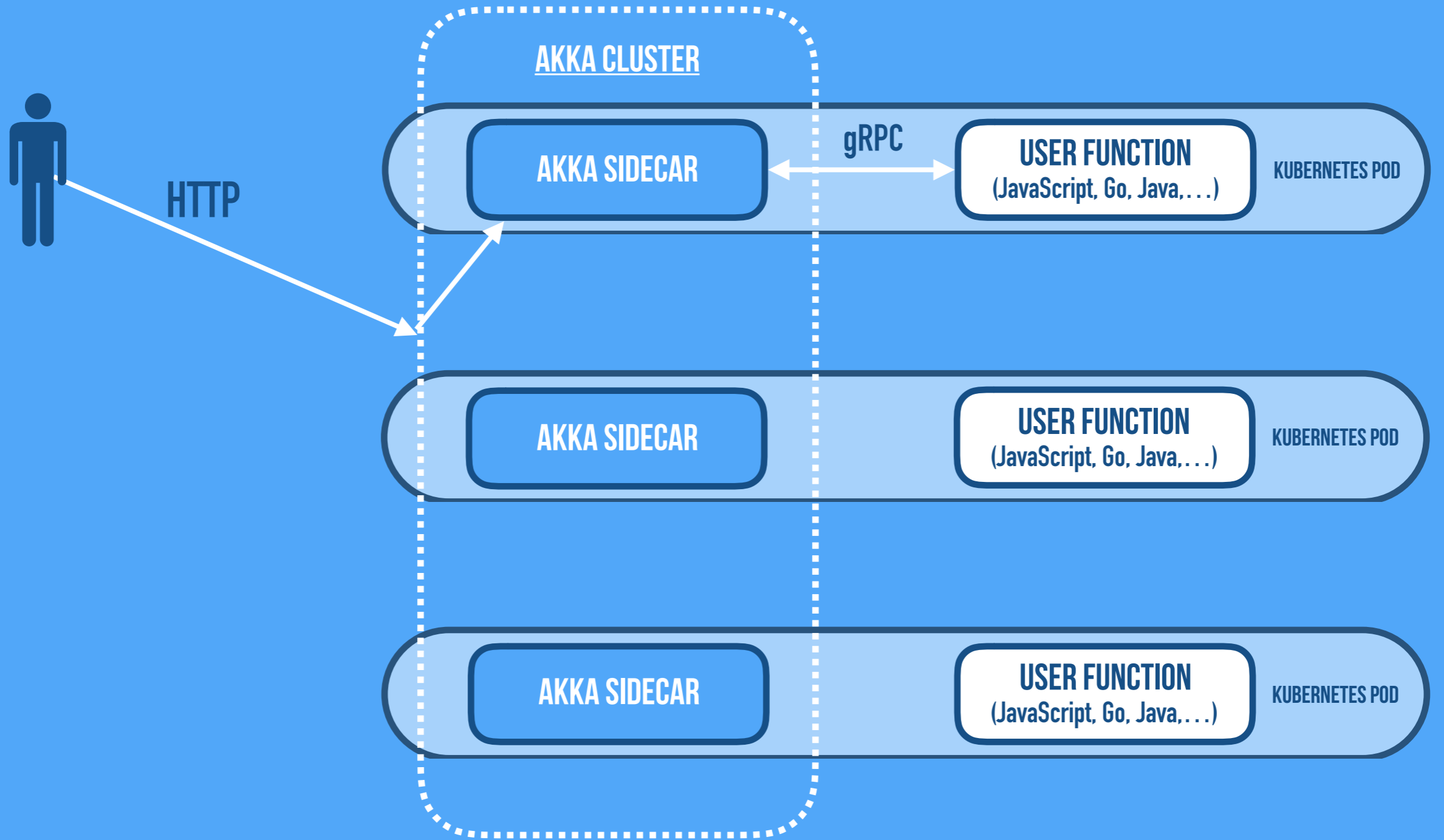


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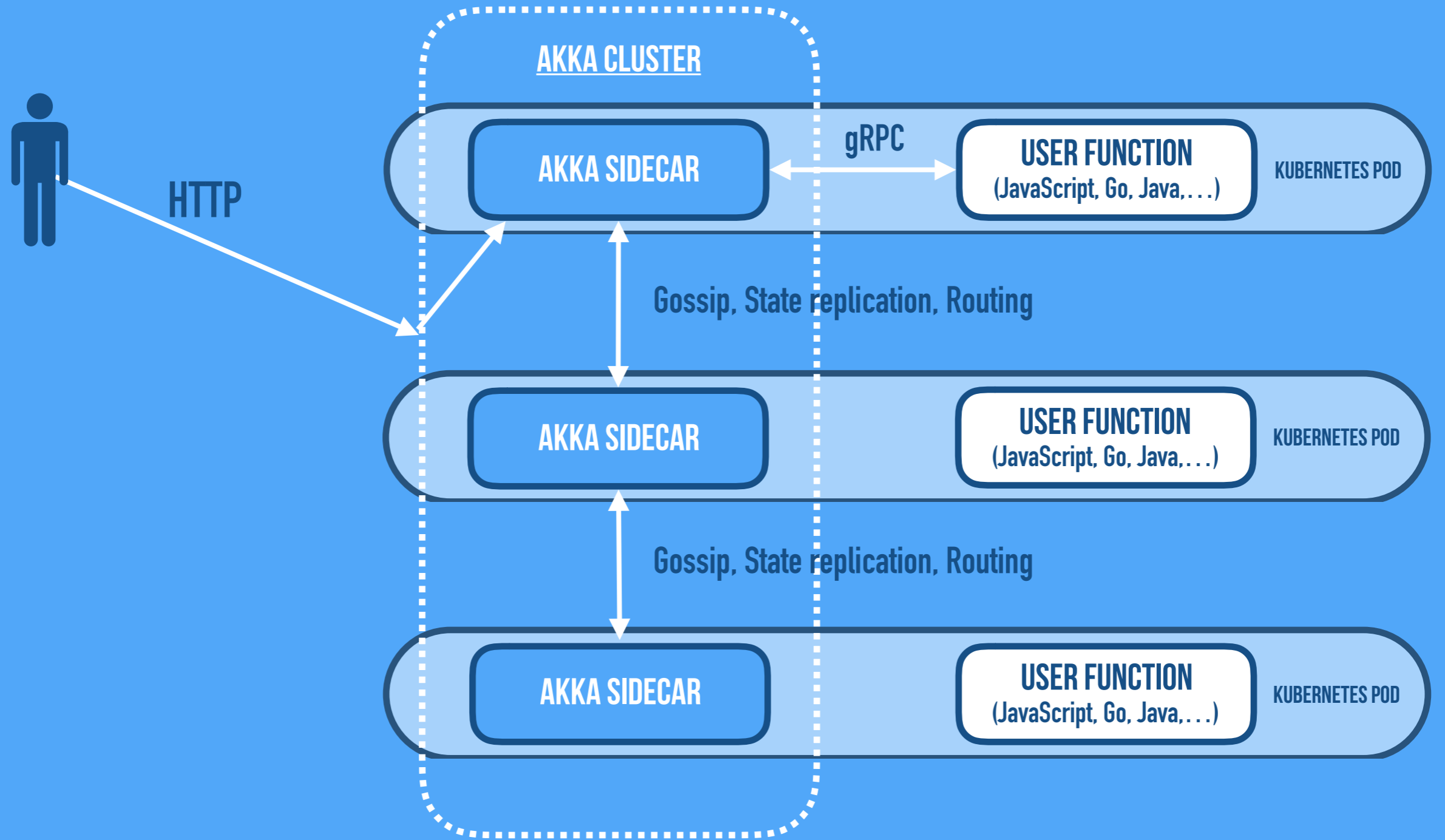


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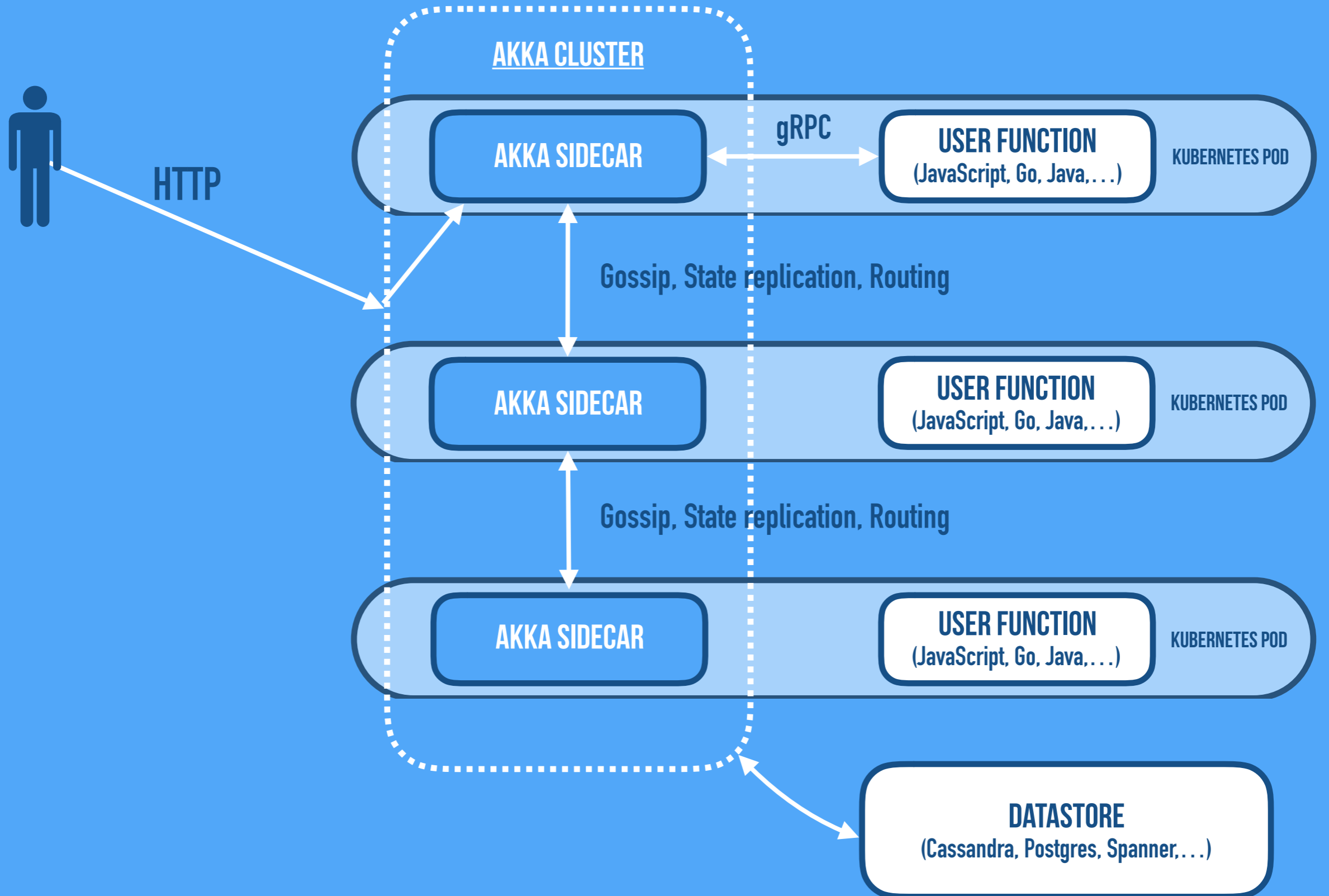


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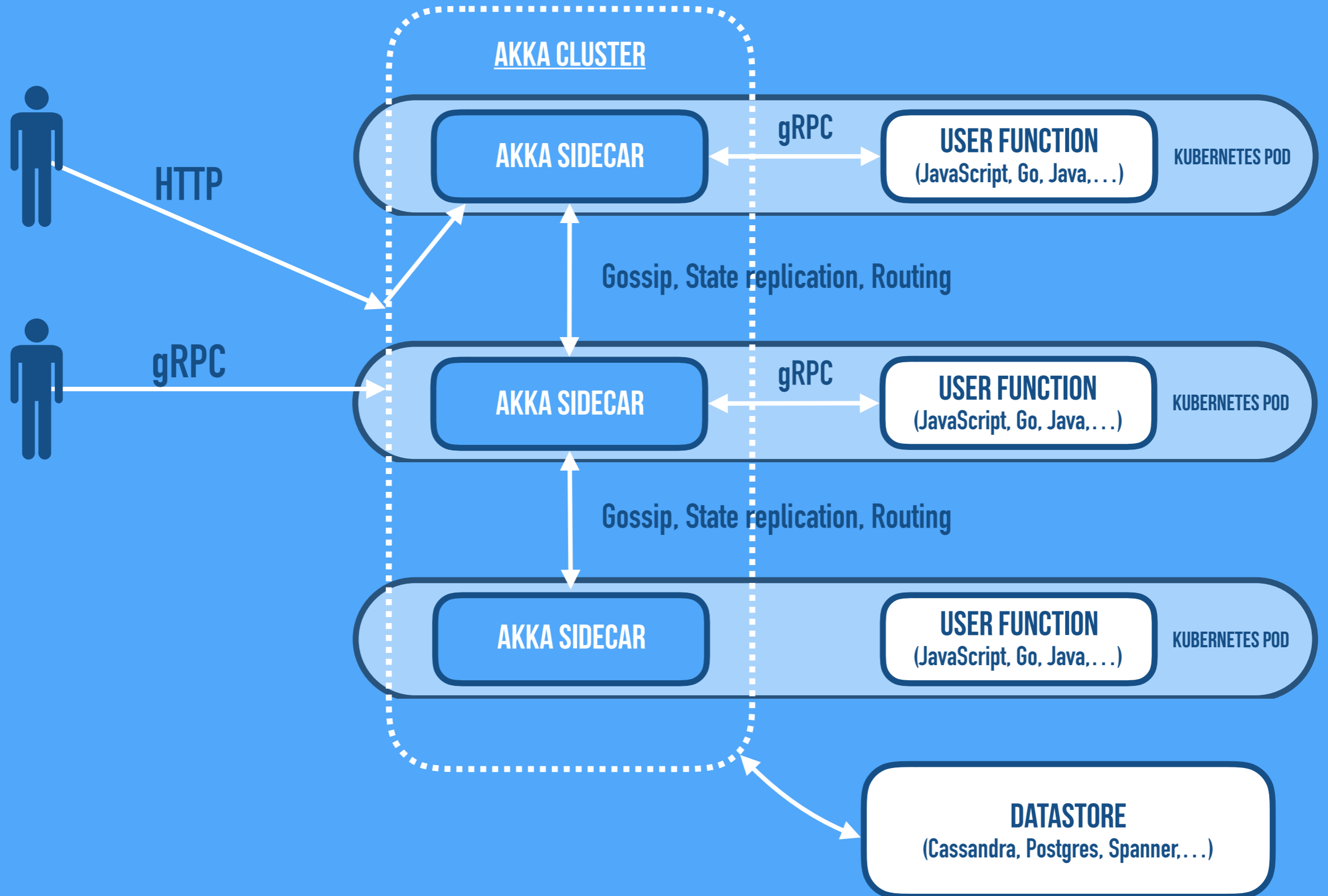


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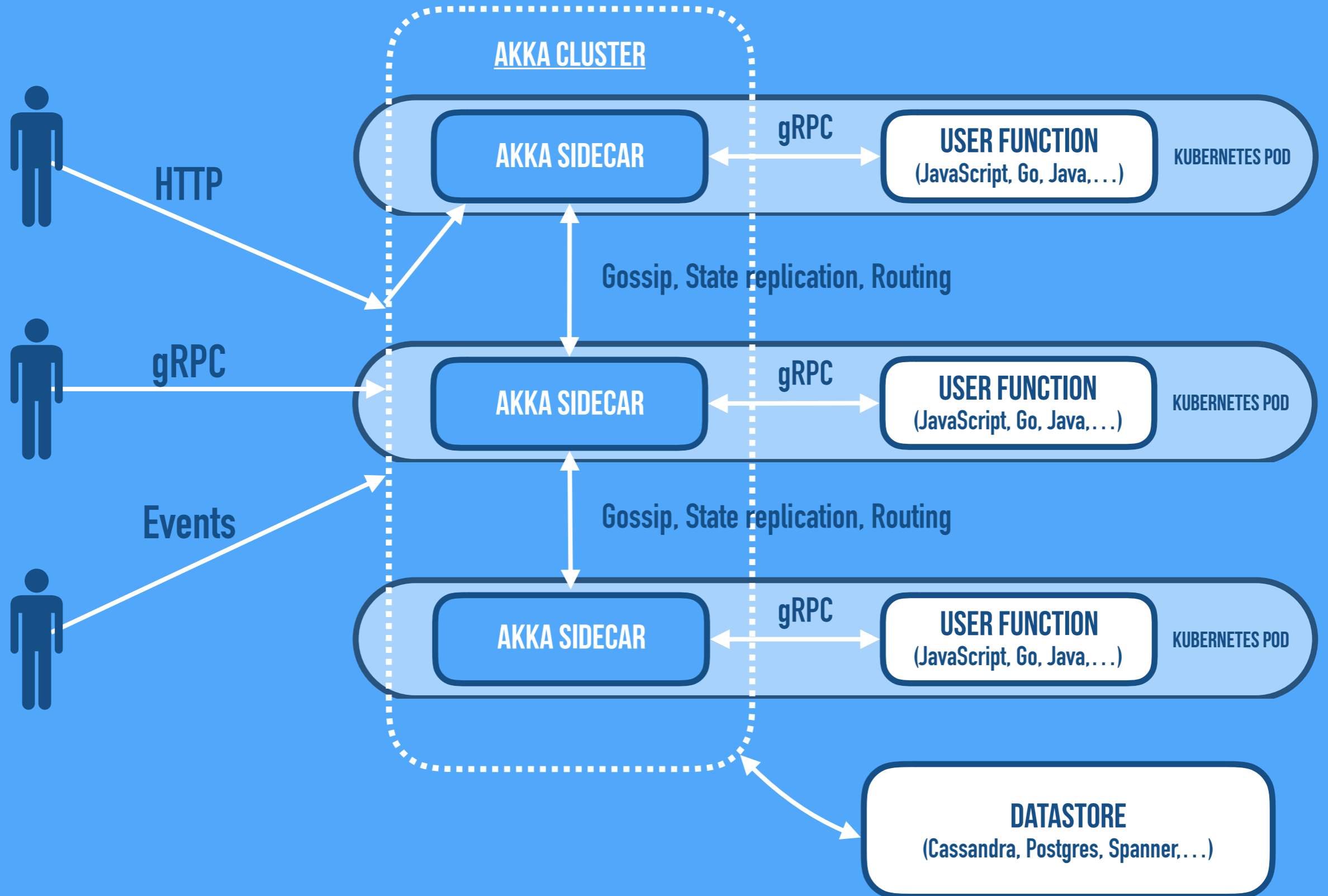


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 - **Autoscaling—up and down**
- **ZeroOps:**
 - **Automation of Message Routing and Delivery**
 - **Automation of State Management**
 - **Service of Record—In-Memory Cluster Sharding, Co-location of Data & Processing**
 - **Coordination State—Replication, Consistency**
 - **Automation of Deployment, Provisioning, Upgrades**

AKKA CLUSTER STATE MANAGEMENT

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AKKA SIDECAR

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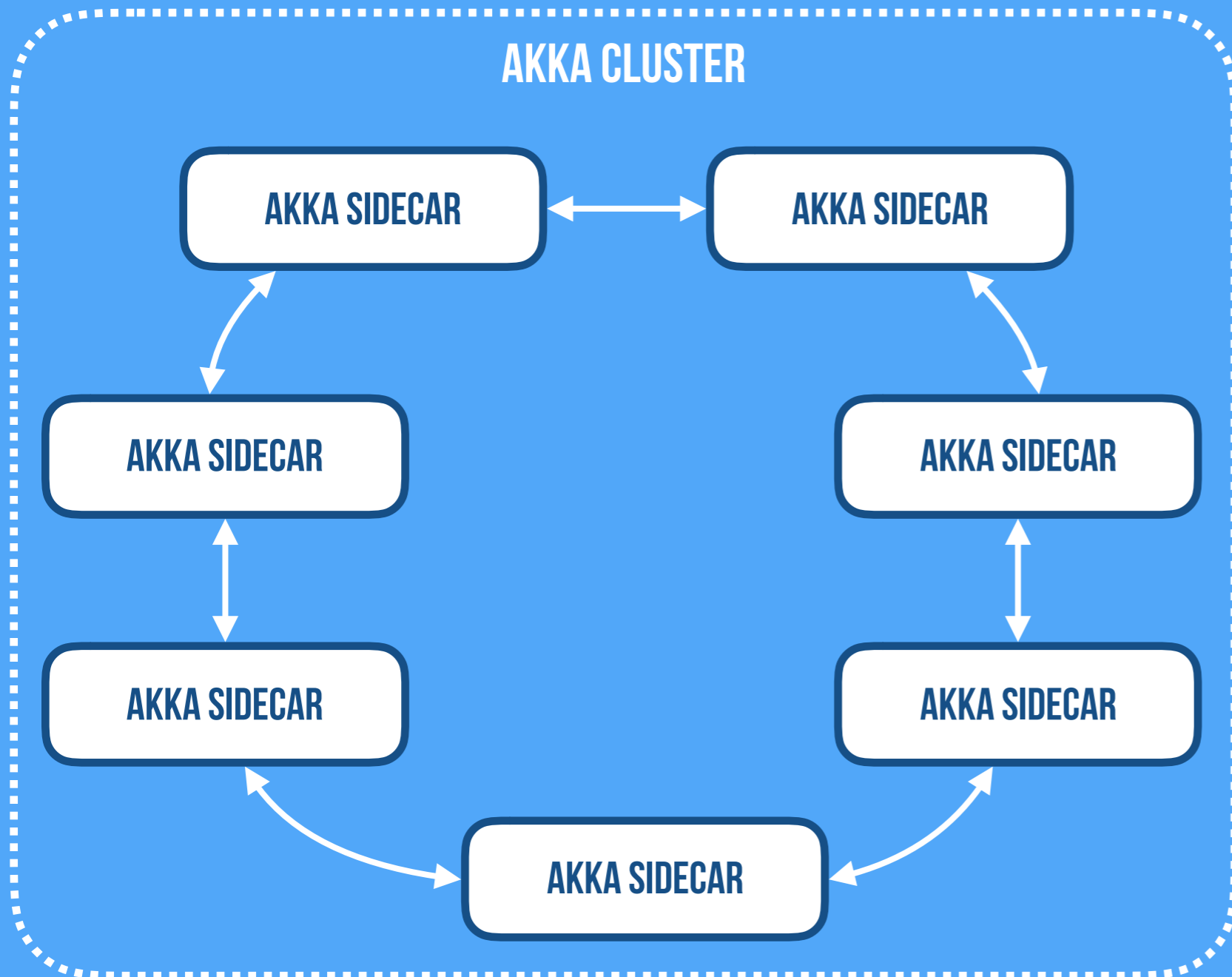
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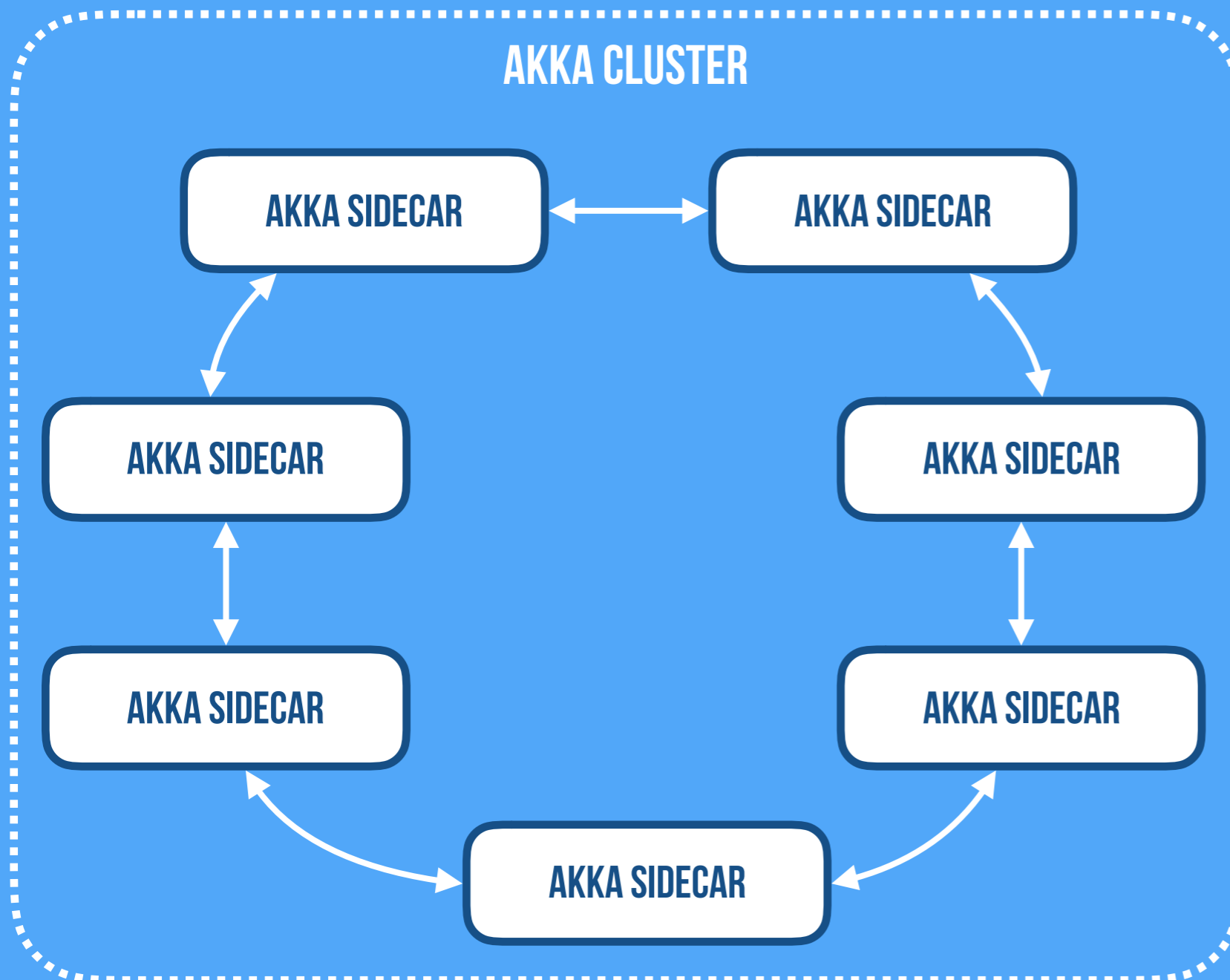
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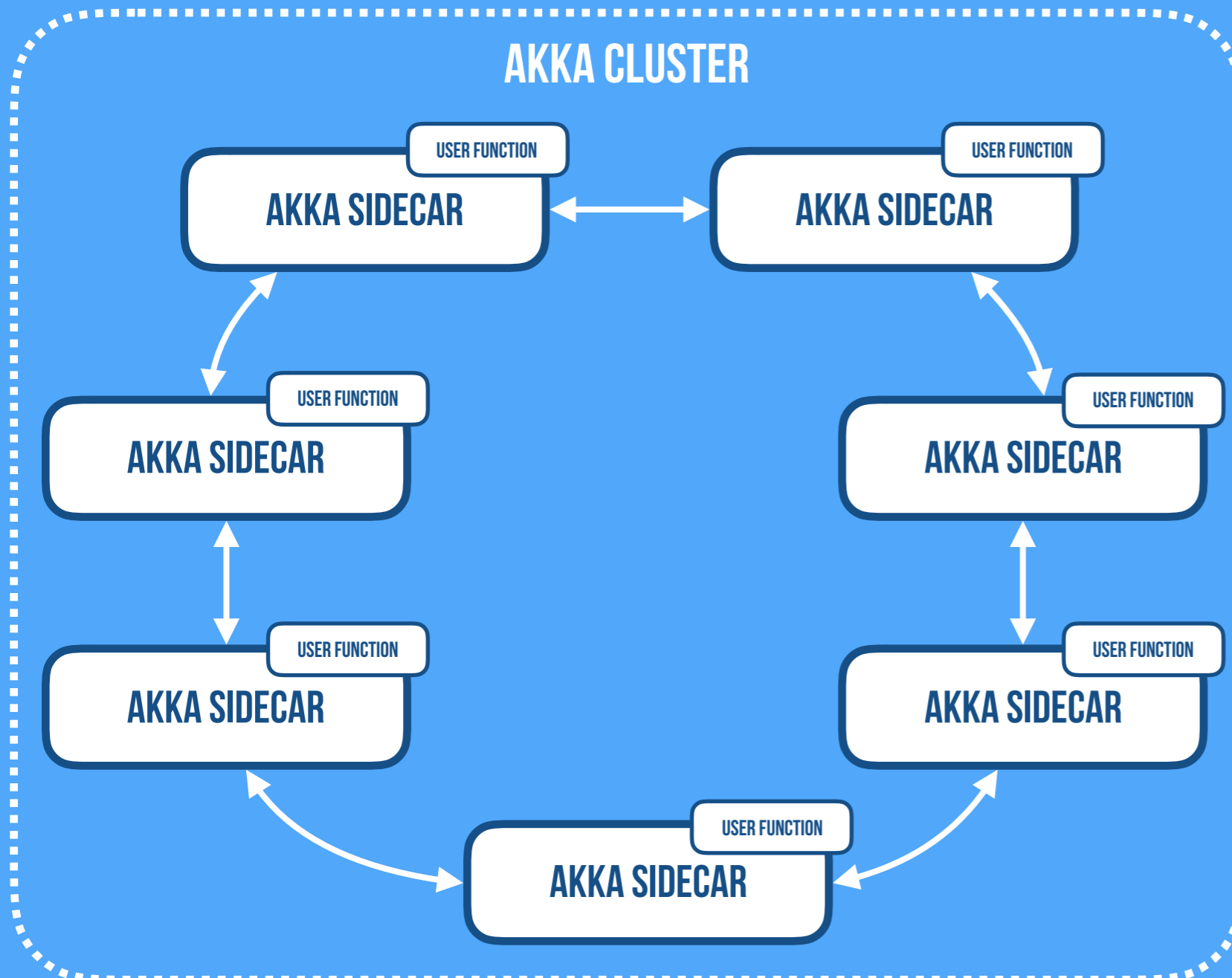


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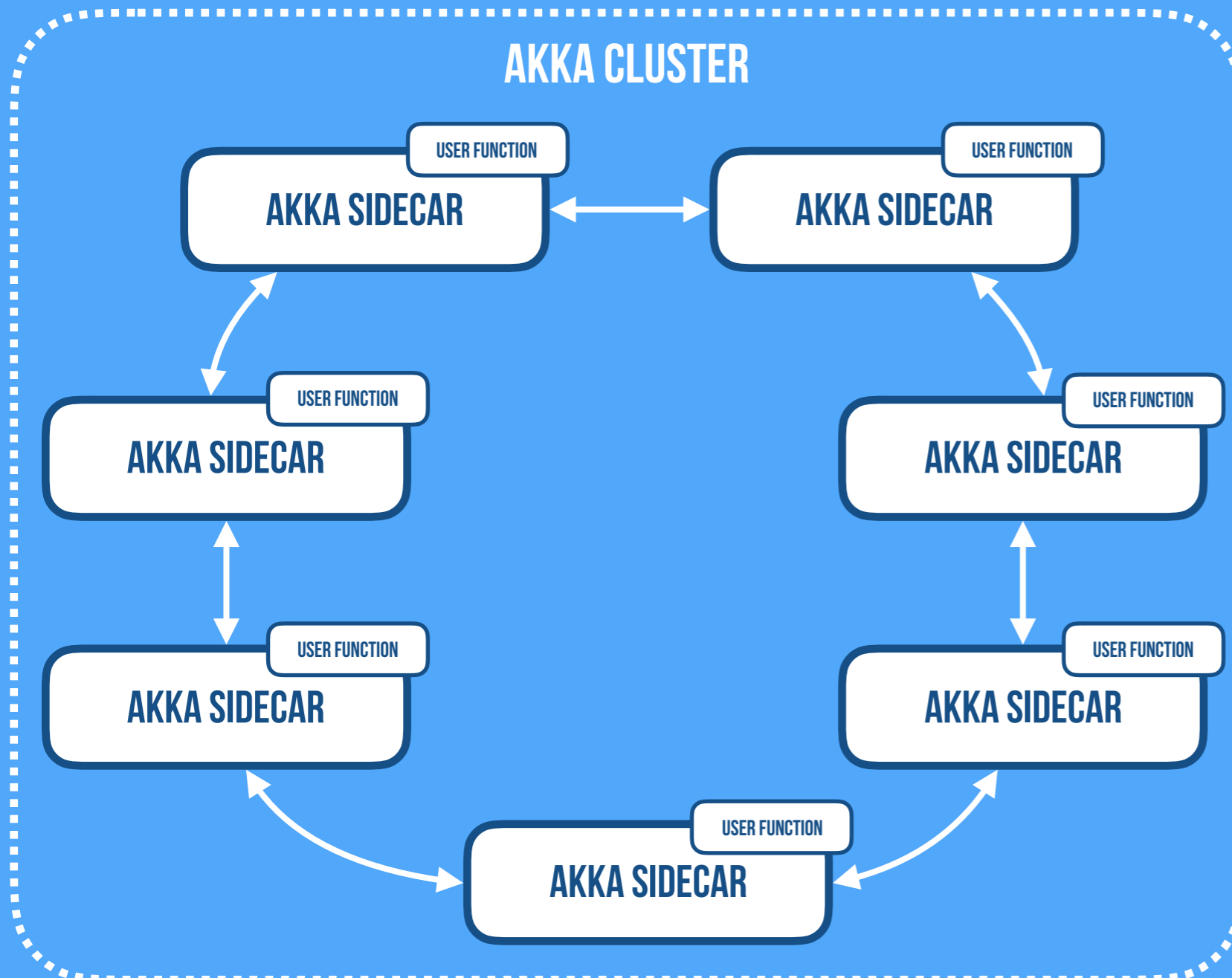
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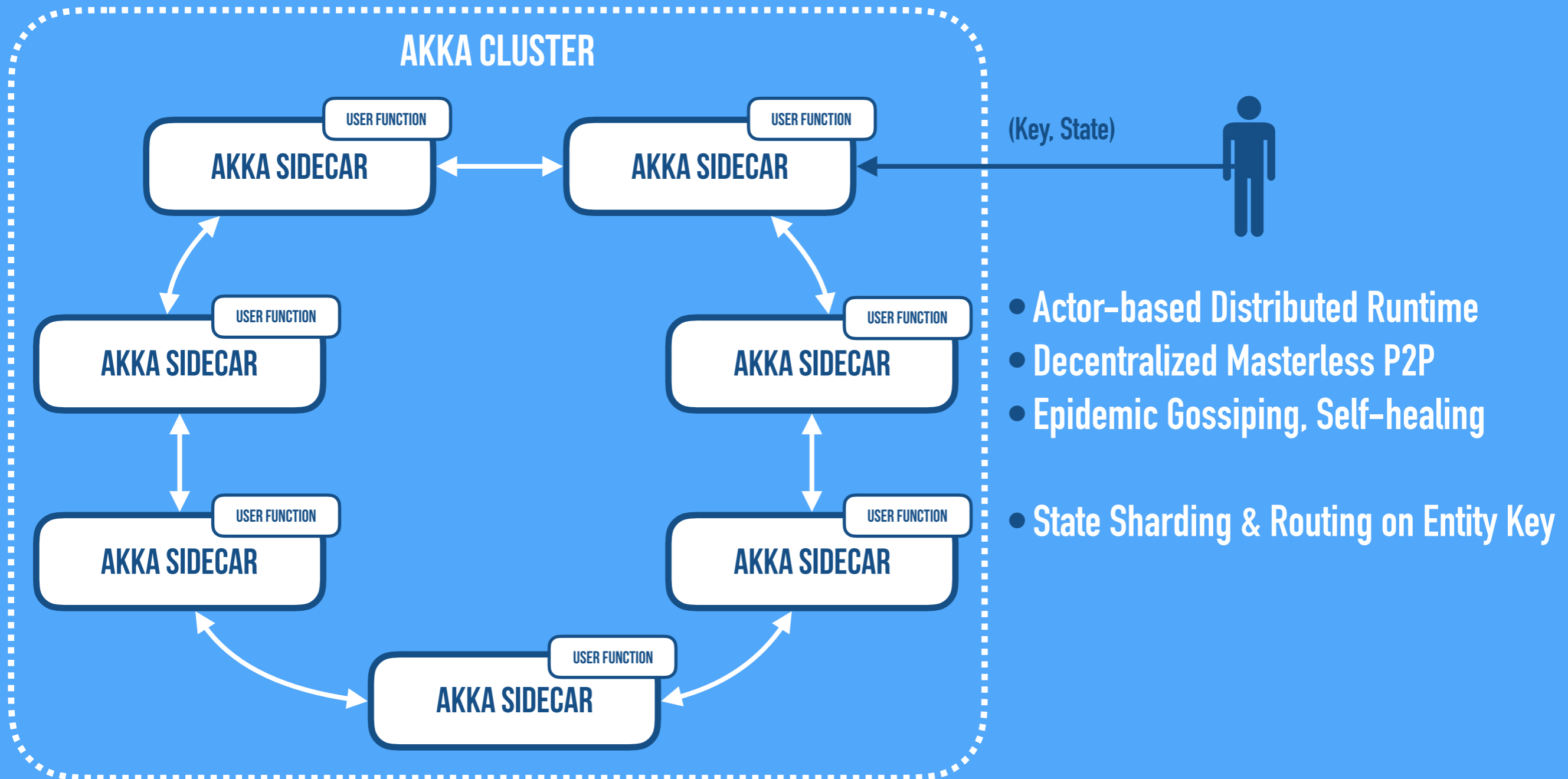
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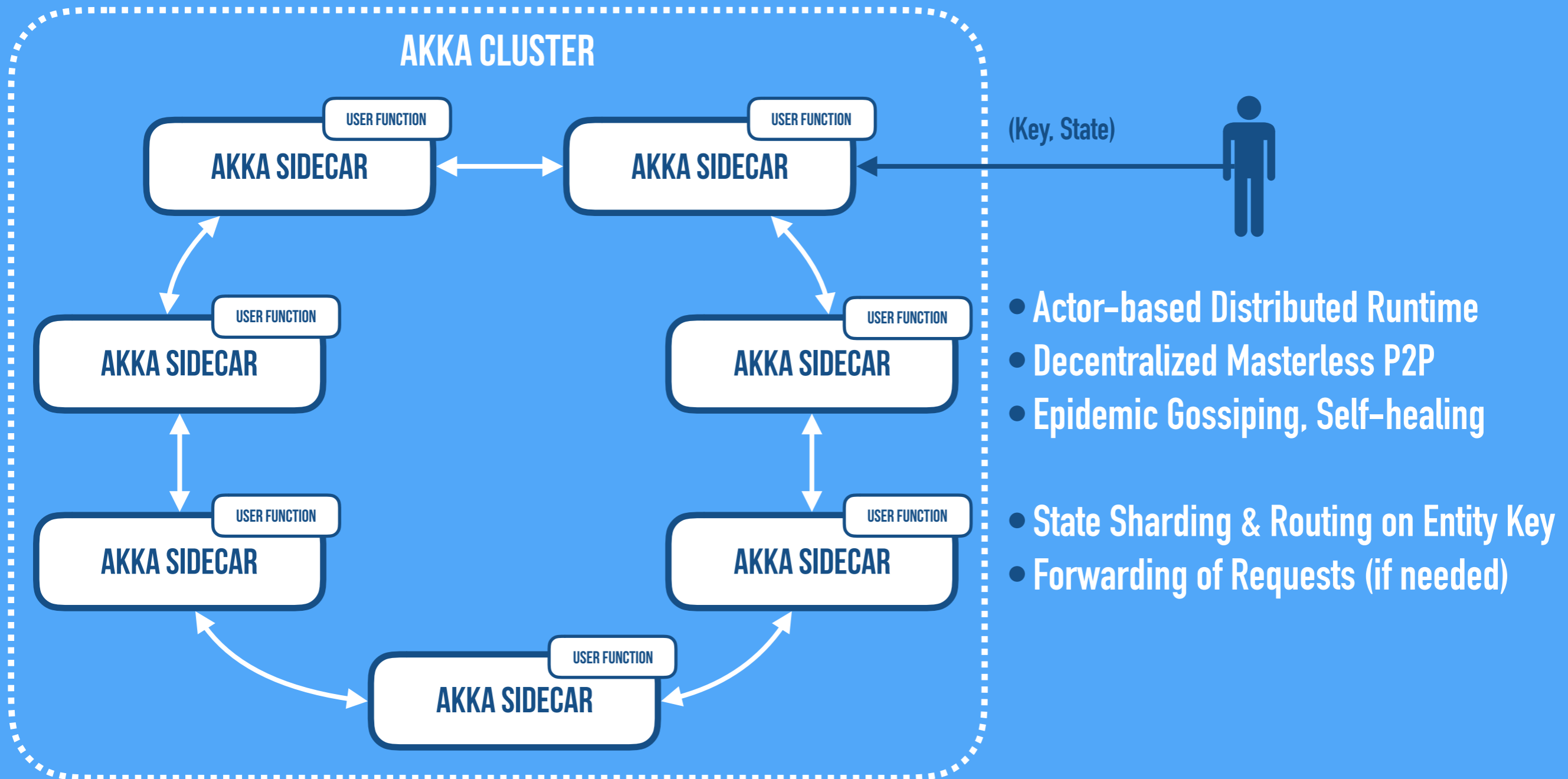


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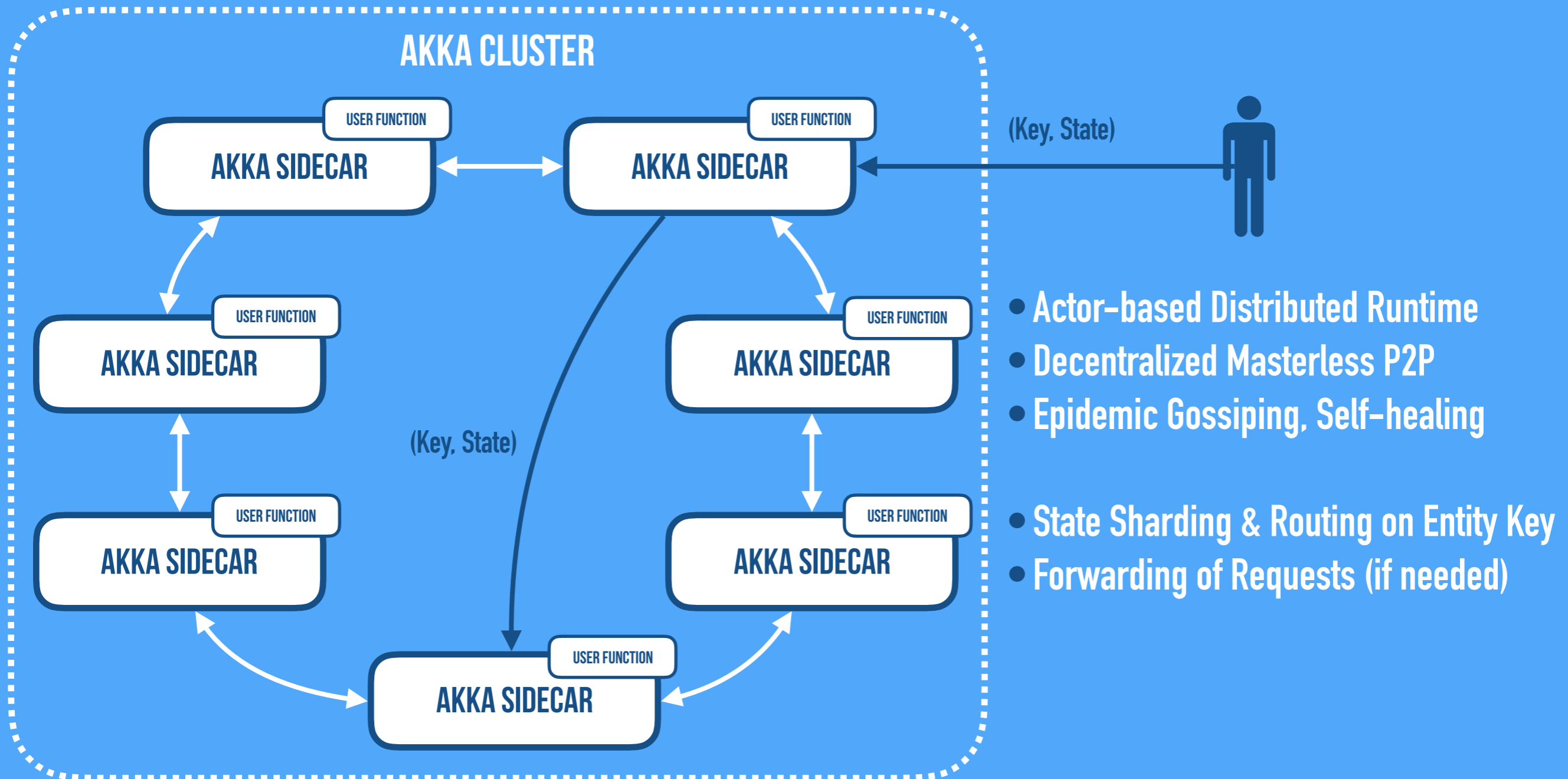
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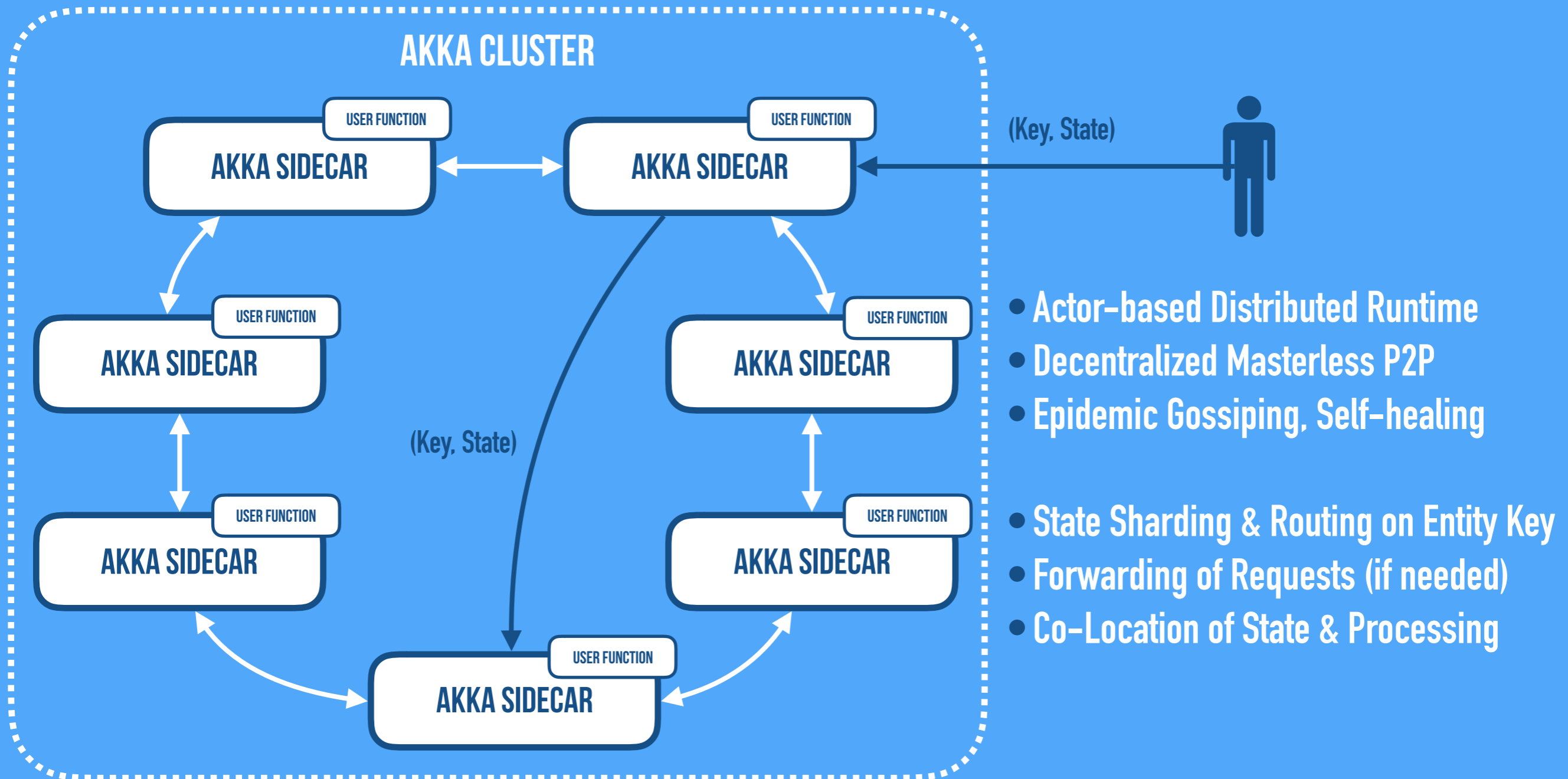
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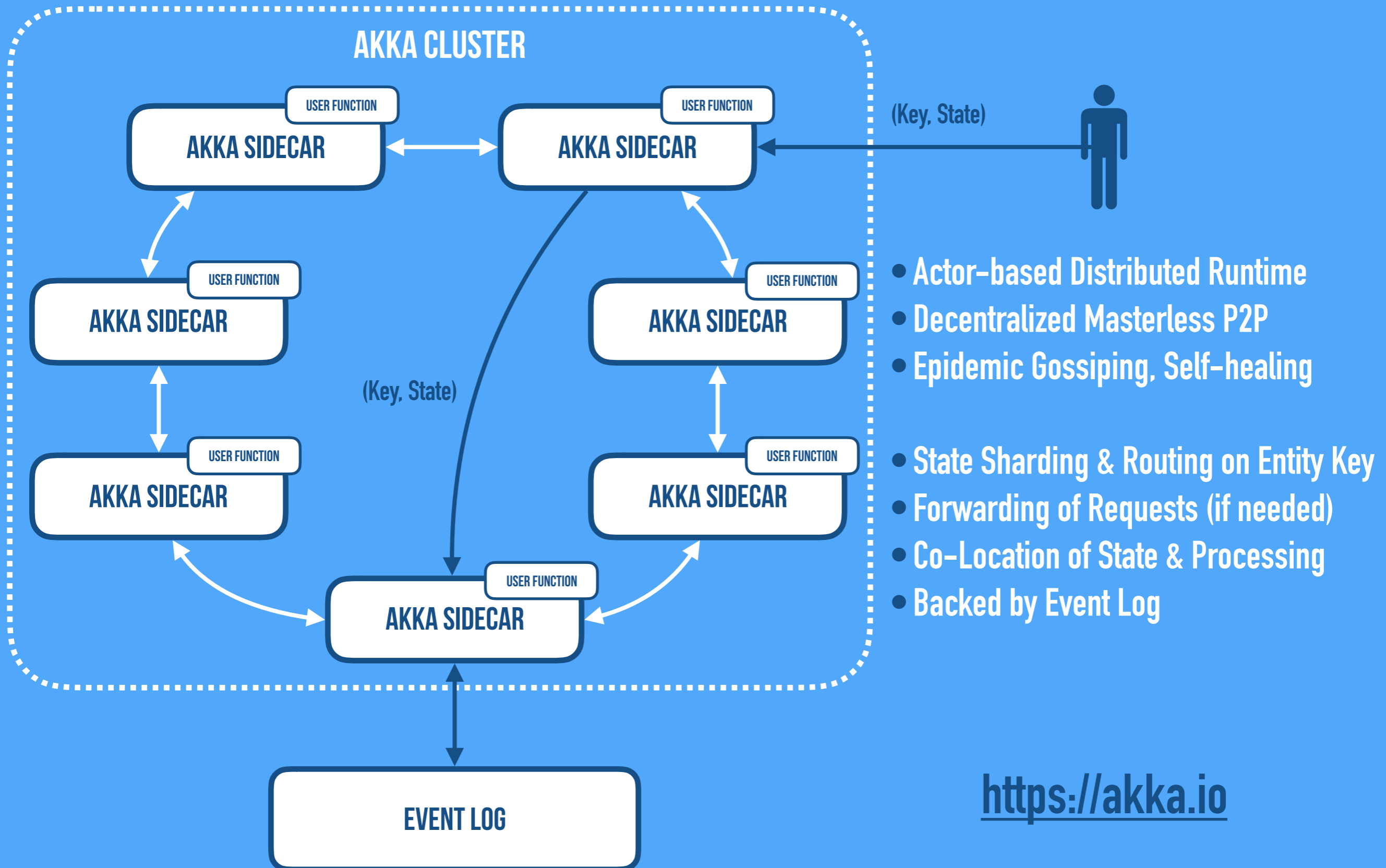
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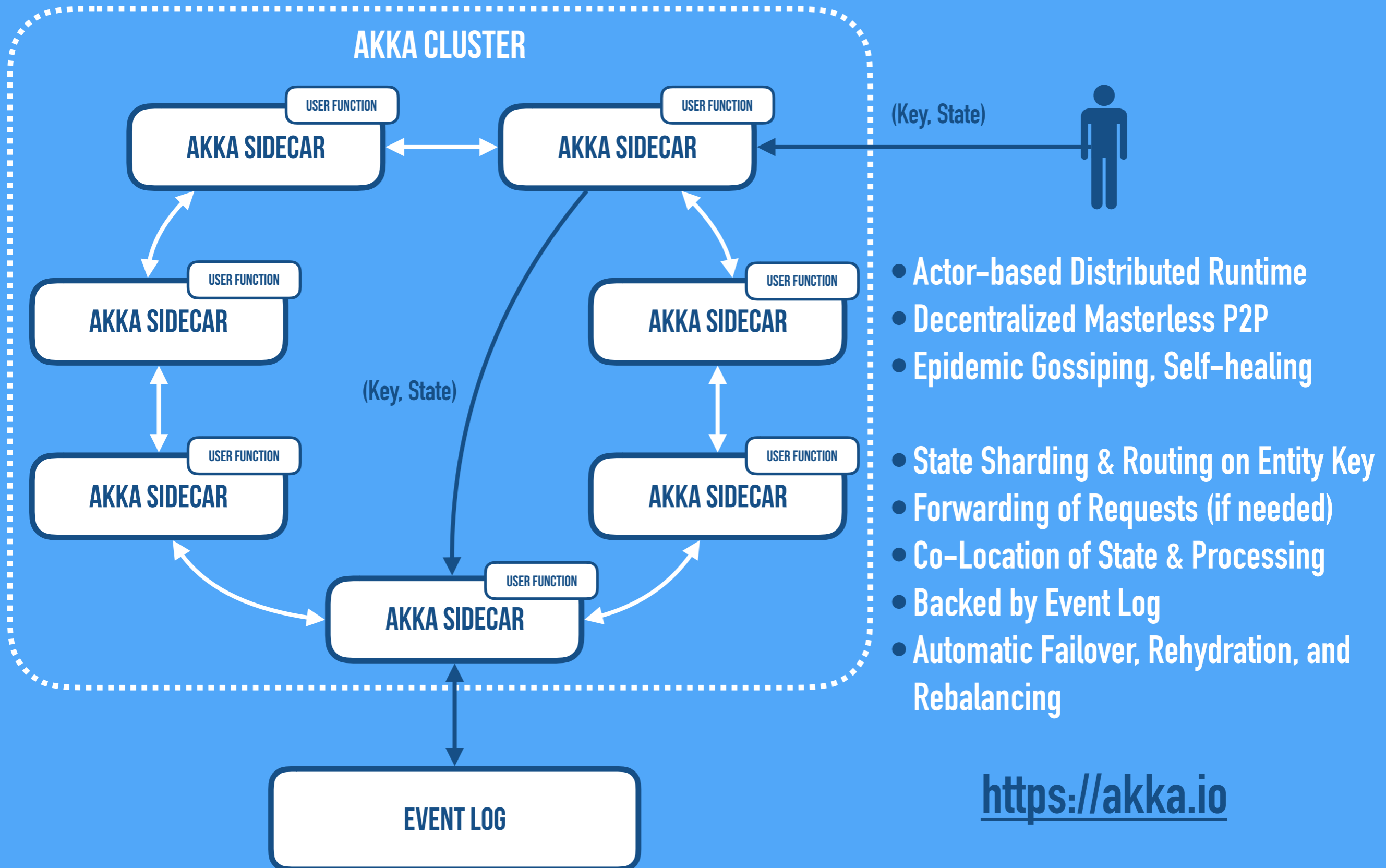


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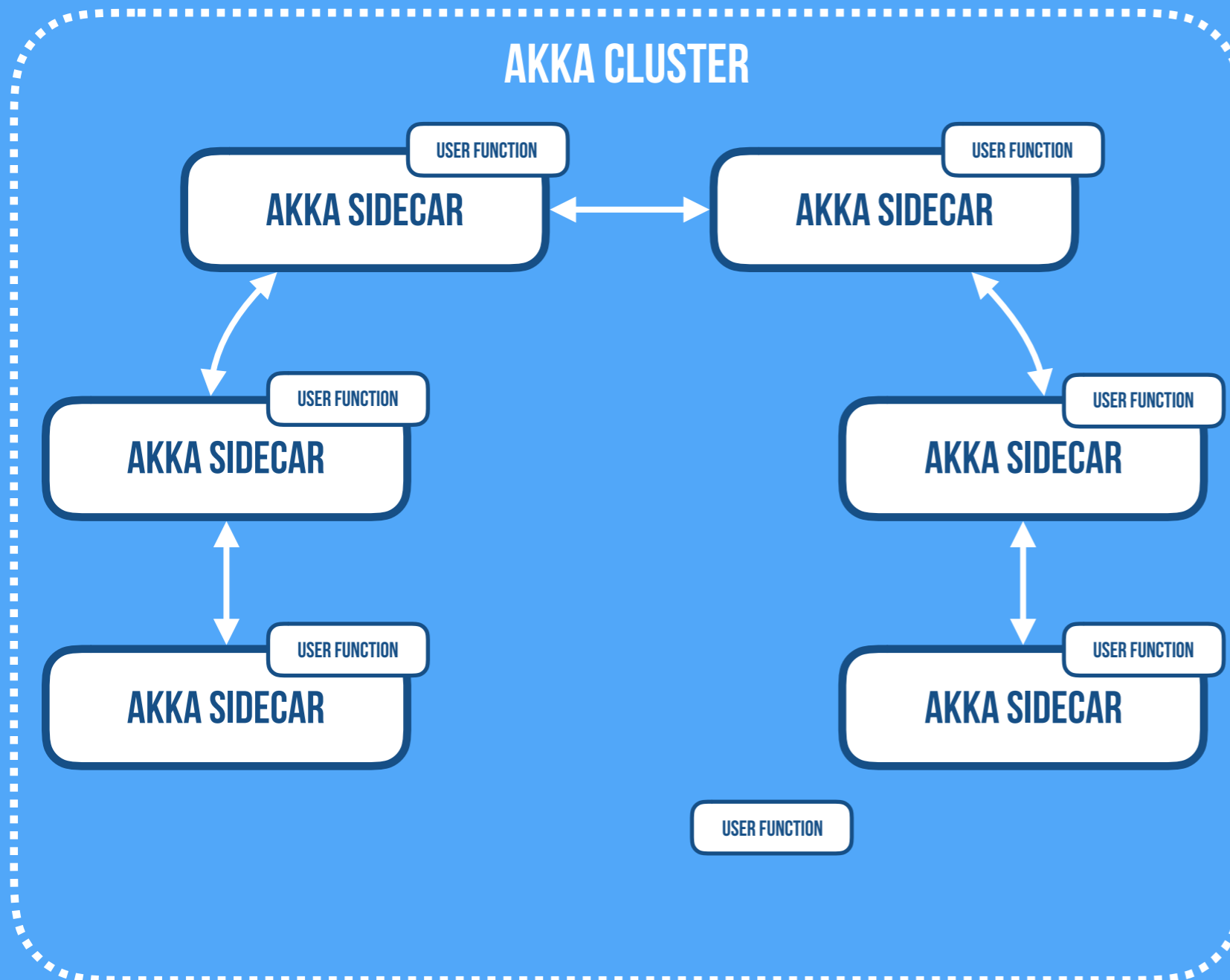


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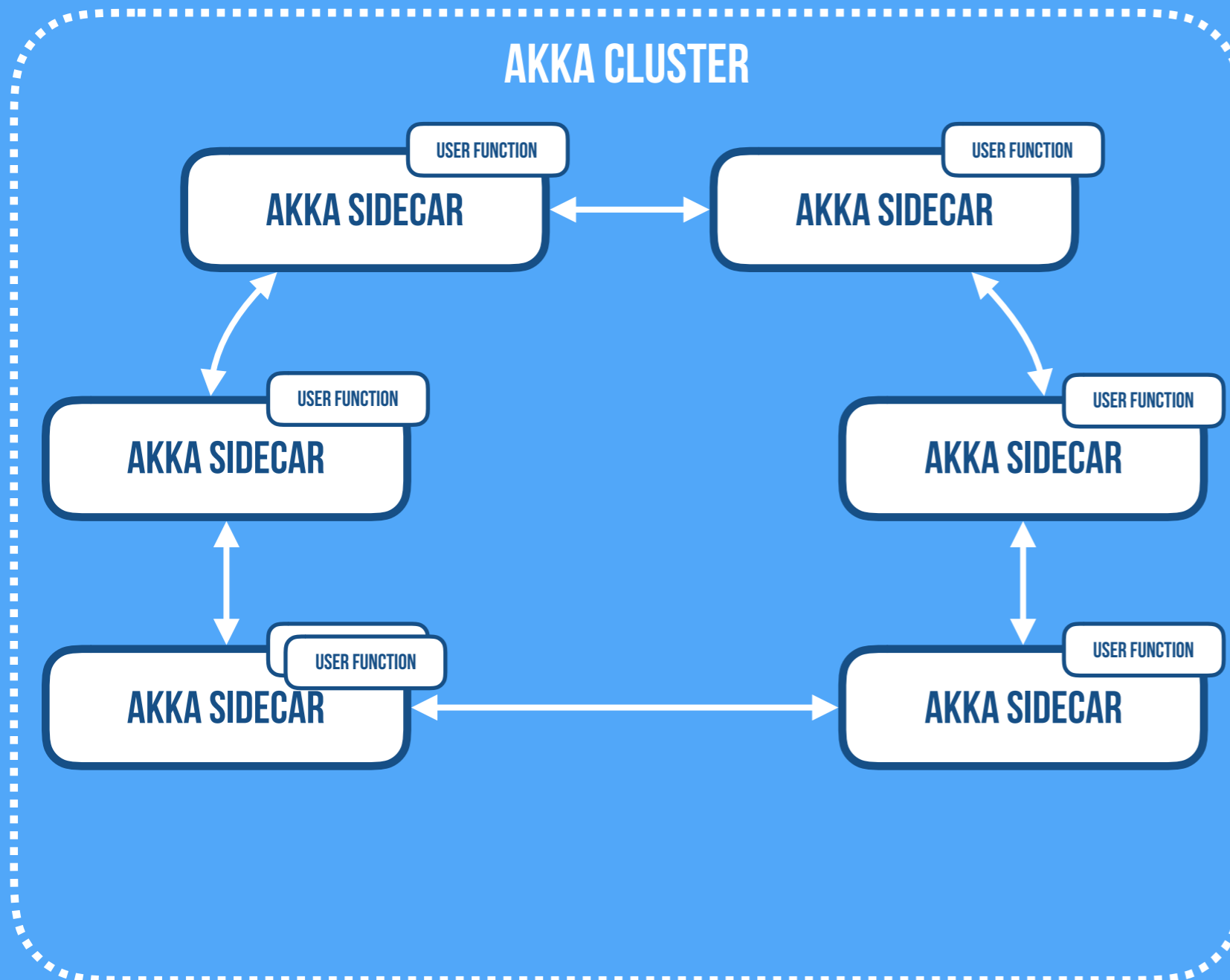


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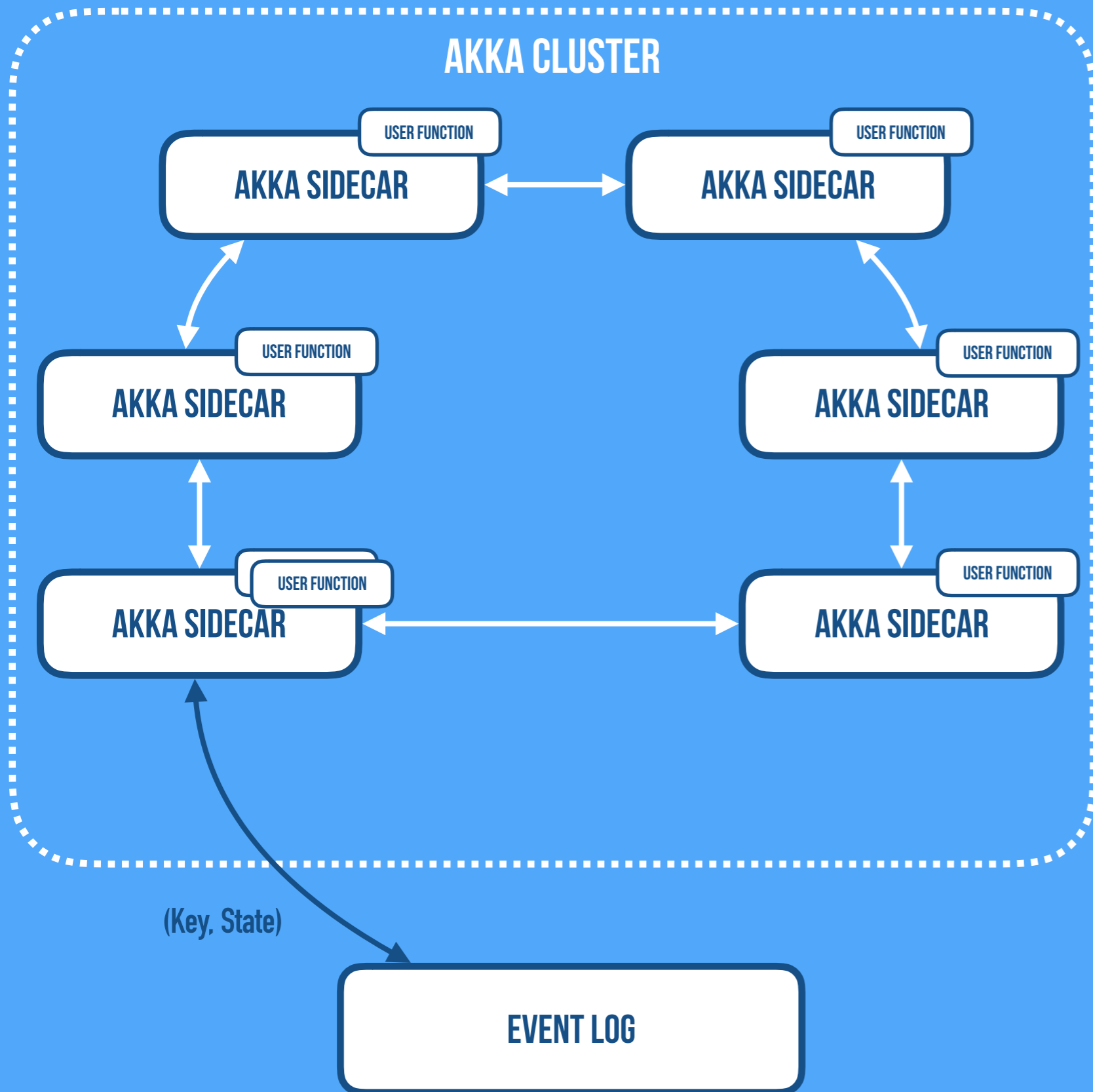
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EVENT LOG

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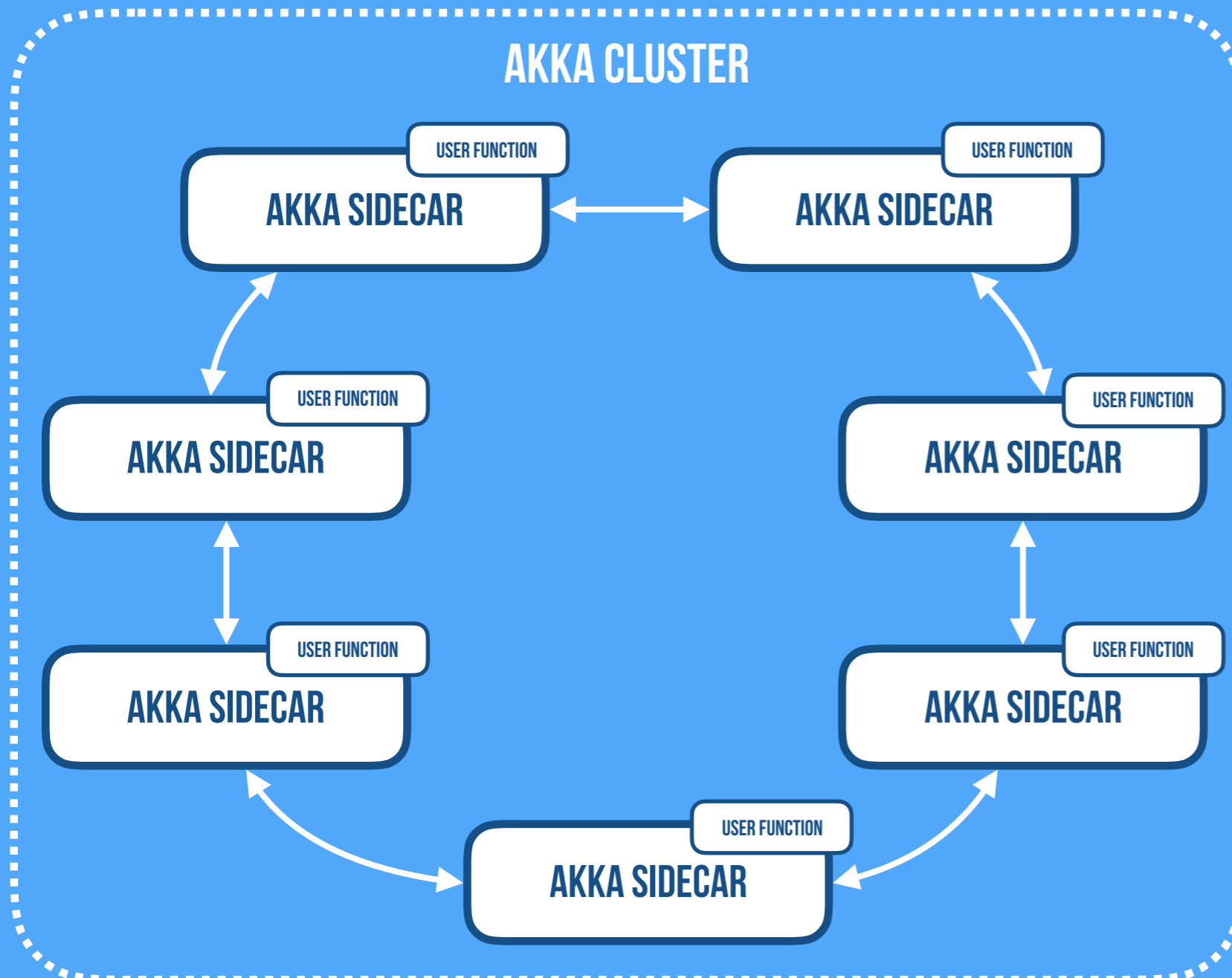
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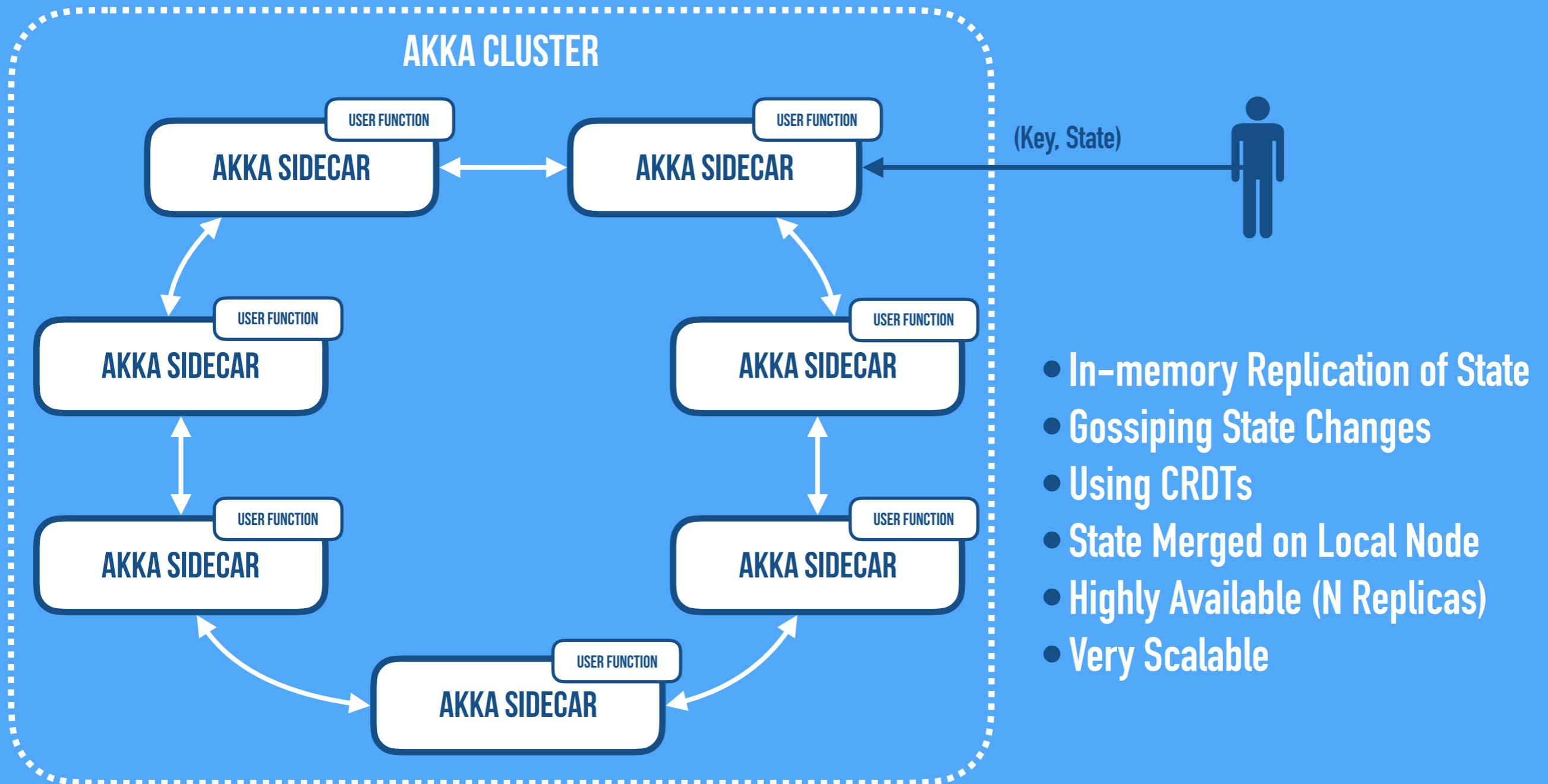
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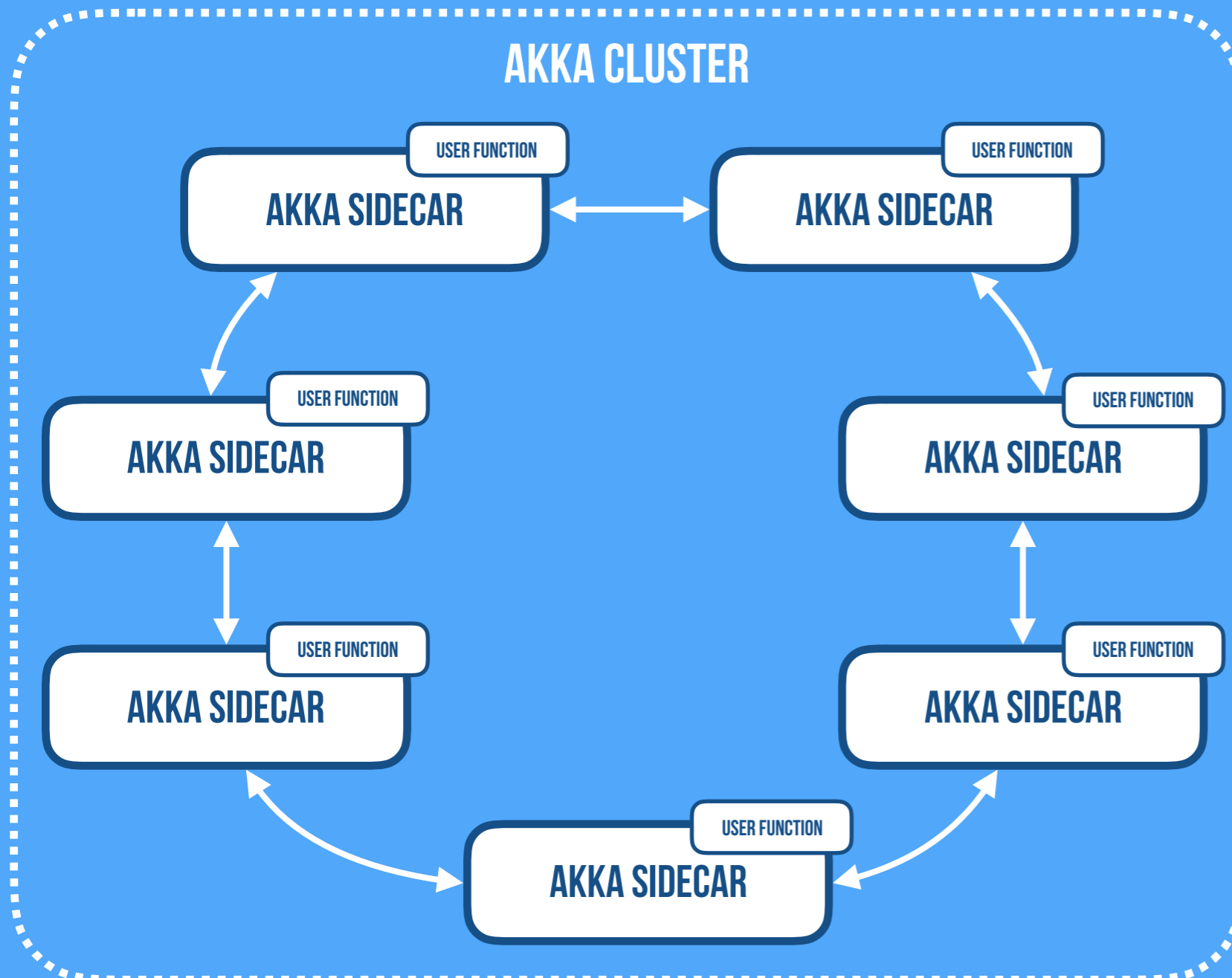
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- Using CRDTs
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BATTLE-TESTED, YET CONSTRAINED, MODELS LIKE:

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**Event
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BATTLE-TESTED, YET CONSTRAINED, MODELS LIKE:

Event Sourcing **CRDTs** Key Value

Event
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Entities



HAPPY PATH

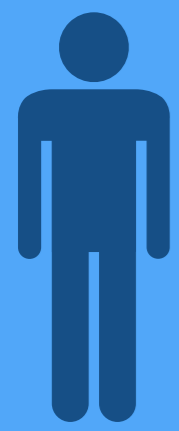


Event Sourced Entities



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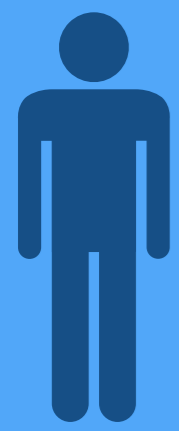


COMMAND



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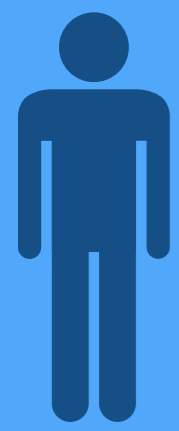


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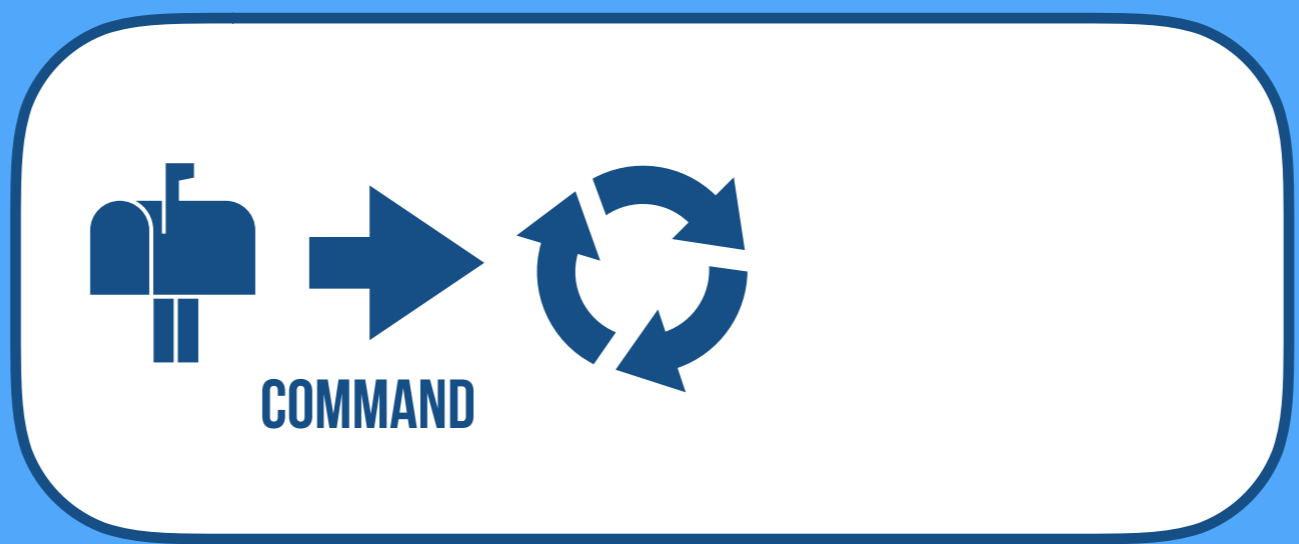


HAPPY PATH

Event Sourced Entities

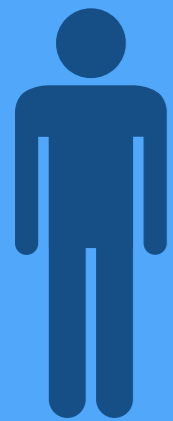


COMMAND

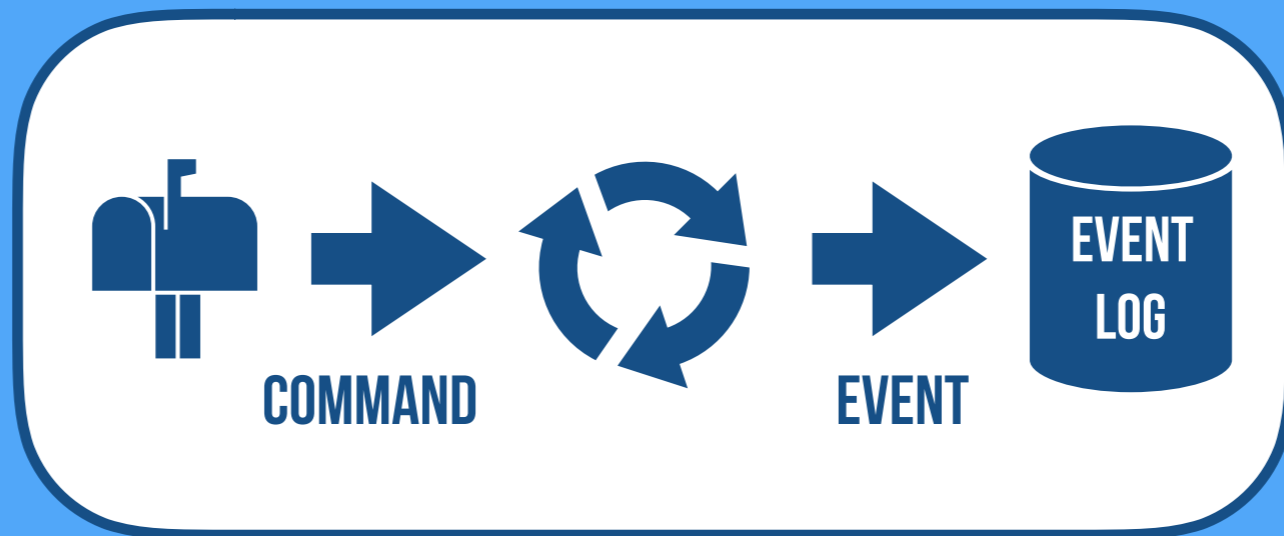


HAPPY PATH

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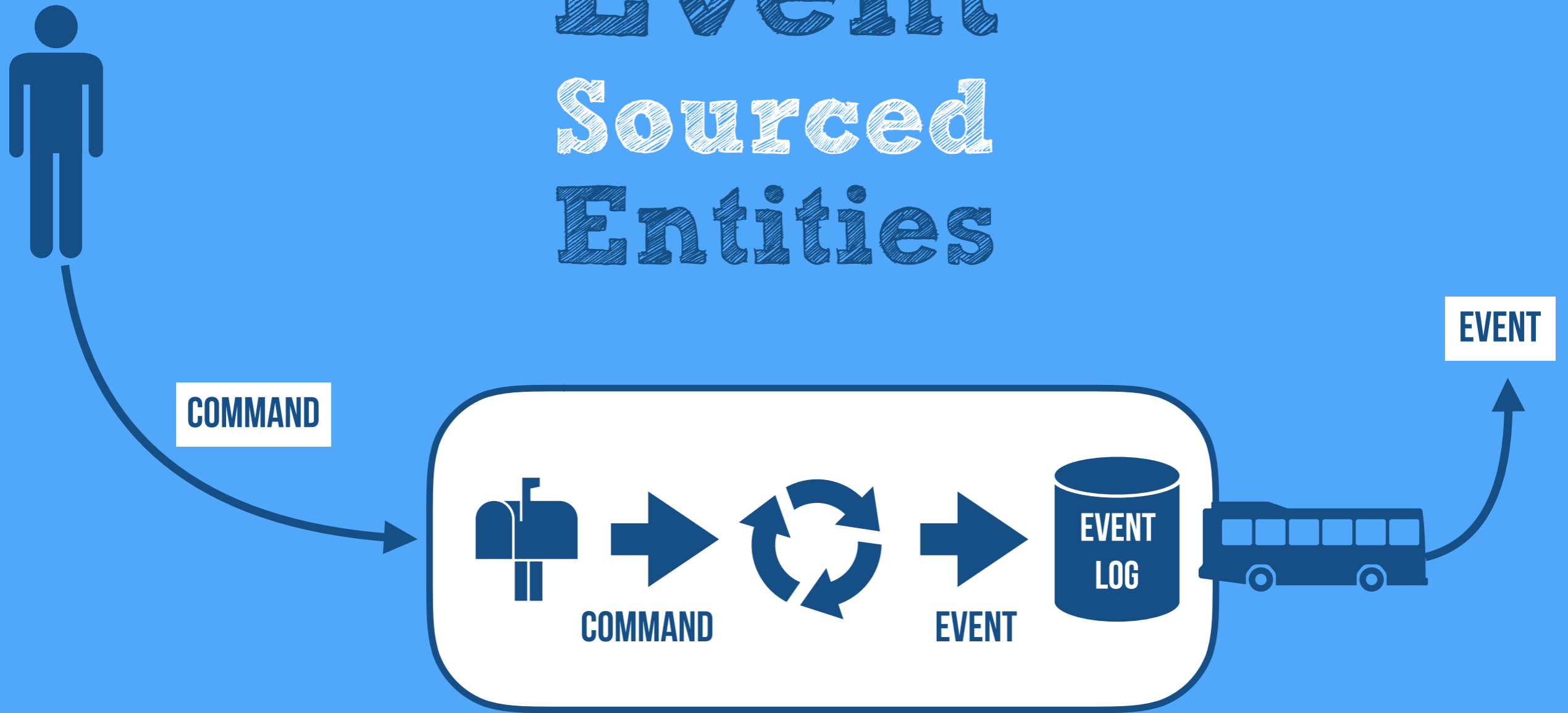


COMMAND



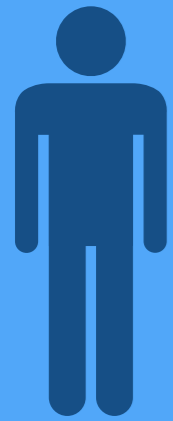
HAPPY PATH

Event Sourced Entities



HAPPY PATH

Event Sourced Entities



COMMAND

Memory Image

COMMAND

EVENT

EVENT LOG



EVENT



HAPPY PATH

Event
Sourced
Entities



HAPPY PATH

Event Sourced Entities



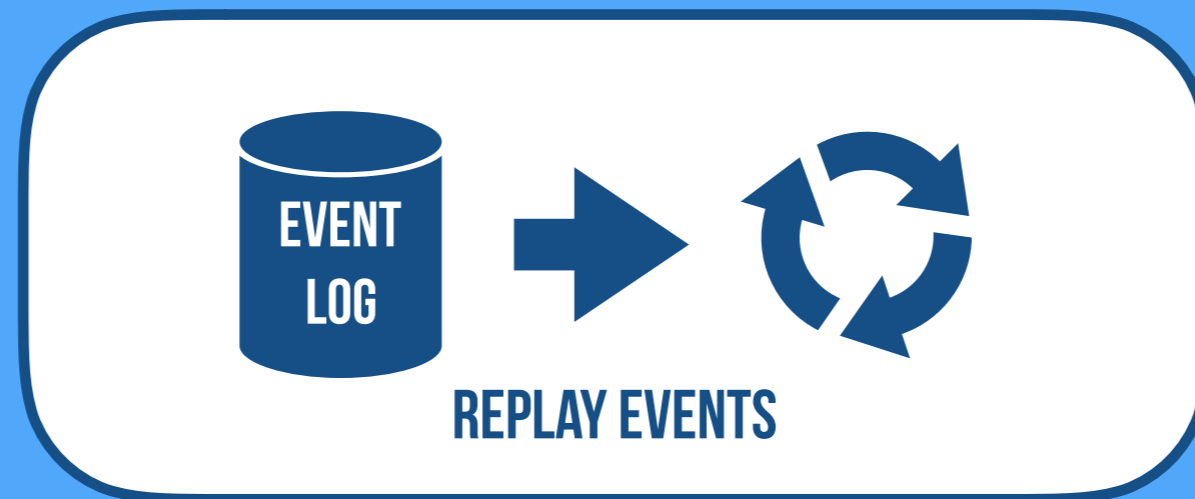
SAD PATH, RECOVER FROM FAILURE

Event Sourced Entities



SAD PATH, RECOVER FROM FAILURE

Event Sourced Entities

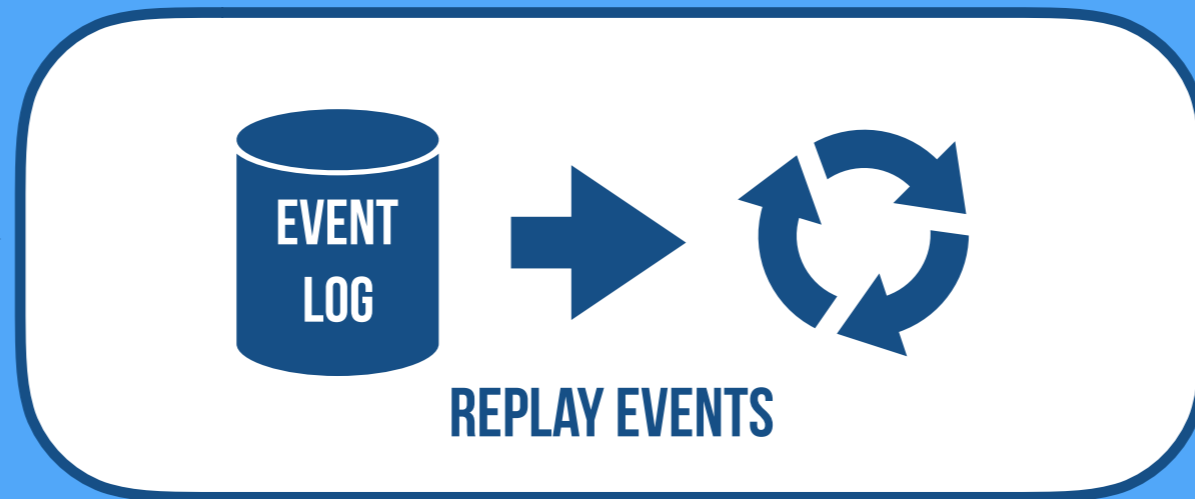


SAD PATH, RECOVER FROM FAILURE

Event Sourced Entities



COMMAND



SAD PATH, RECOVER FROM FAILURE

Benefits of Event Sourcing

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✦ **One single SOURCE OF TRUTH with ALL HISTORY**

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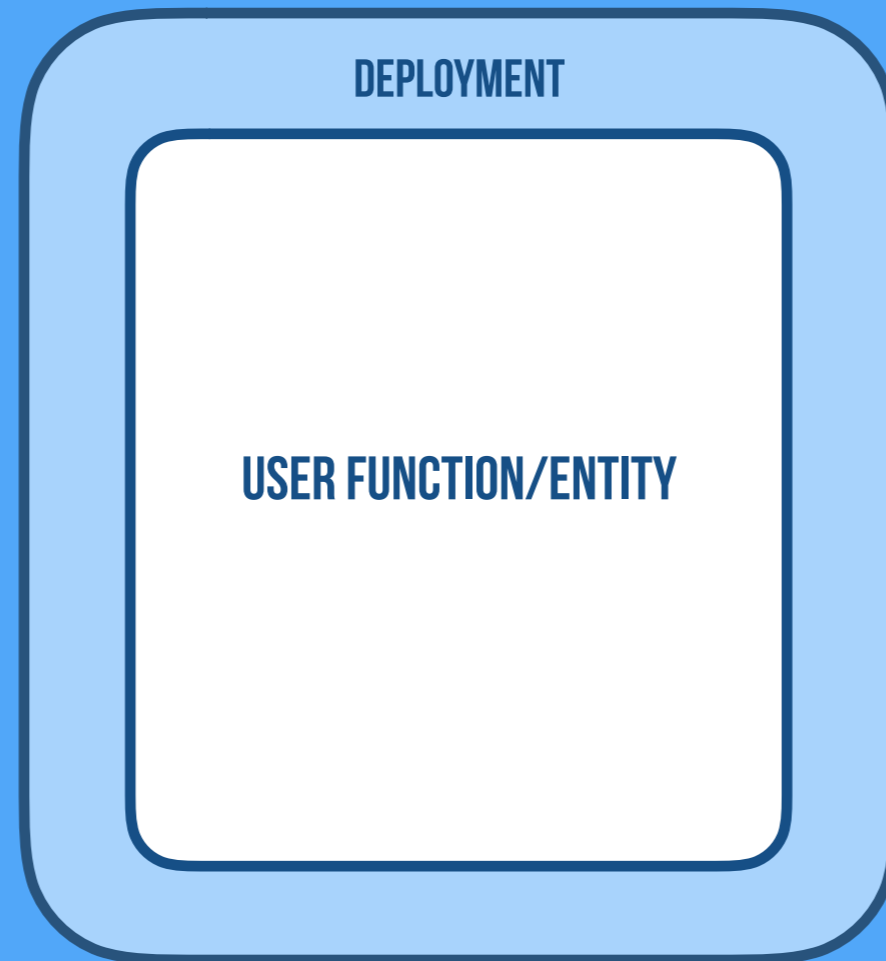
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- * Has good **MECHANICAL SYMPATHY** (Single Writer Principle)

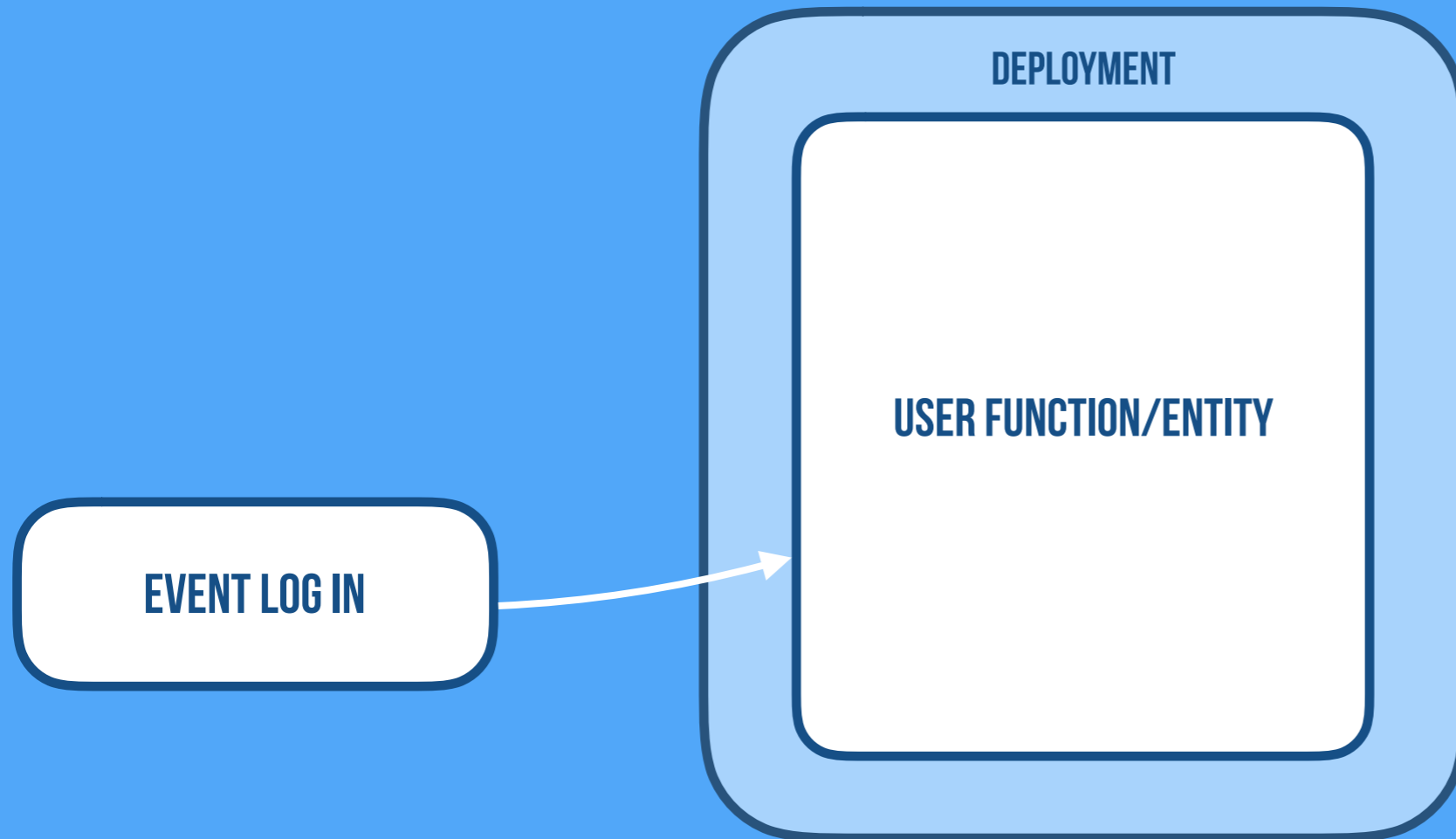
Serverless Event Sourcing

DEPLOYMENT

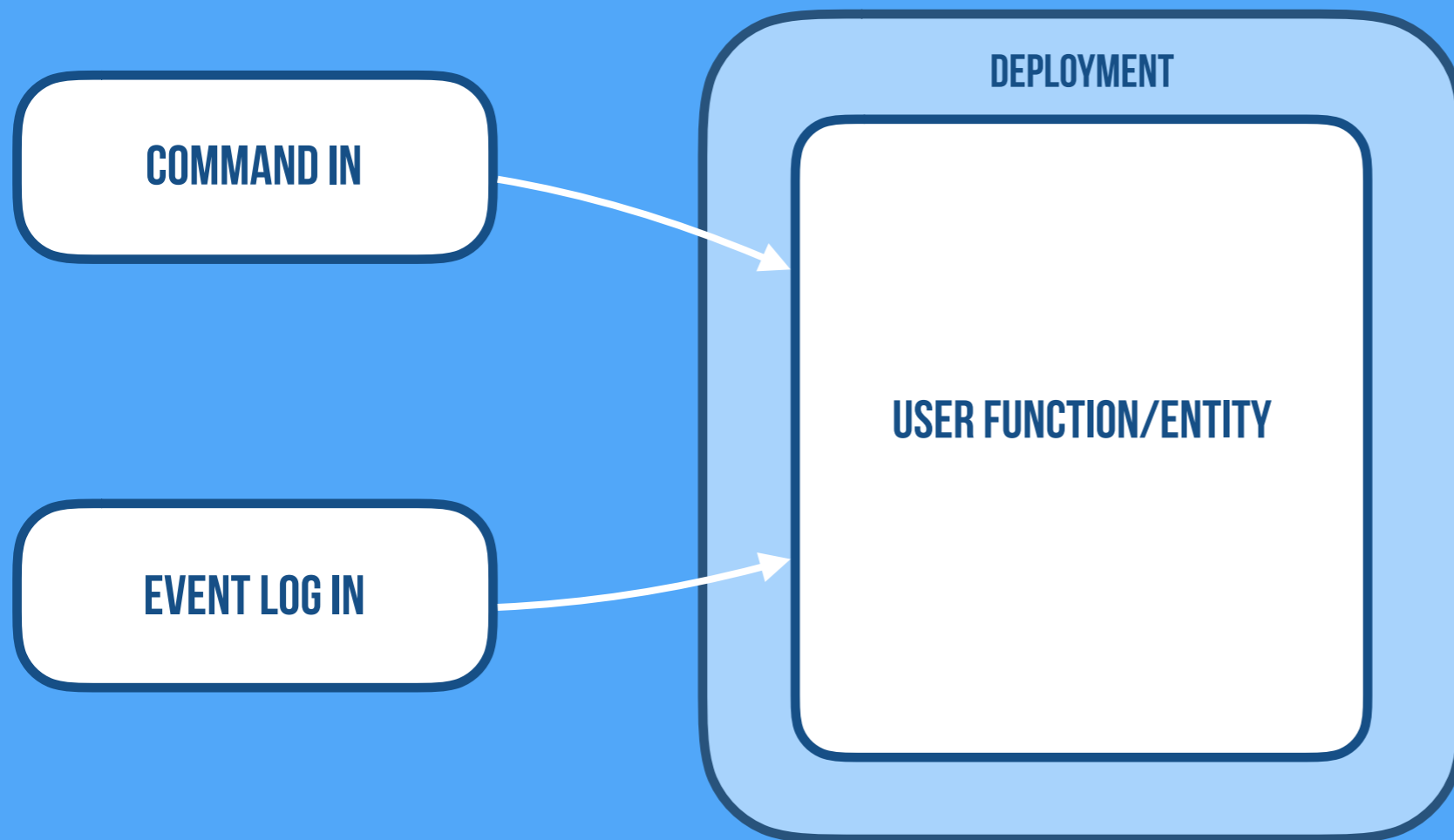
Serverless Event Sourcing



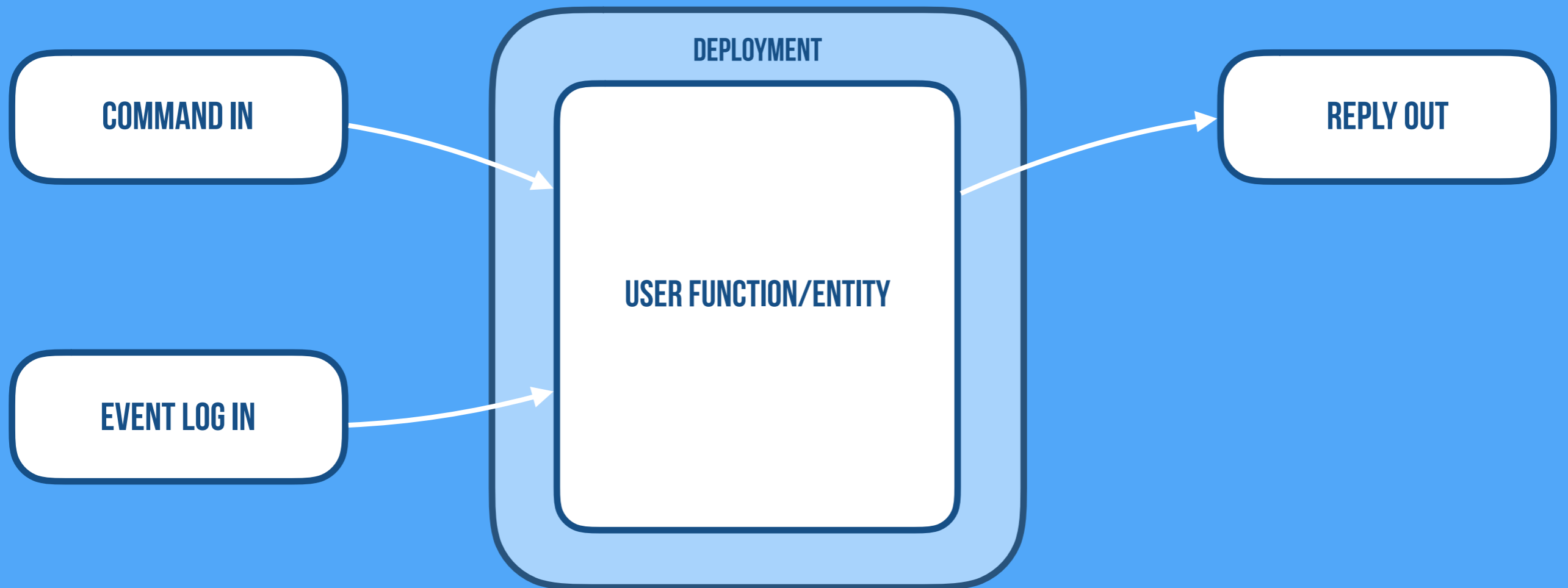
Serverless Event Sourcing



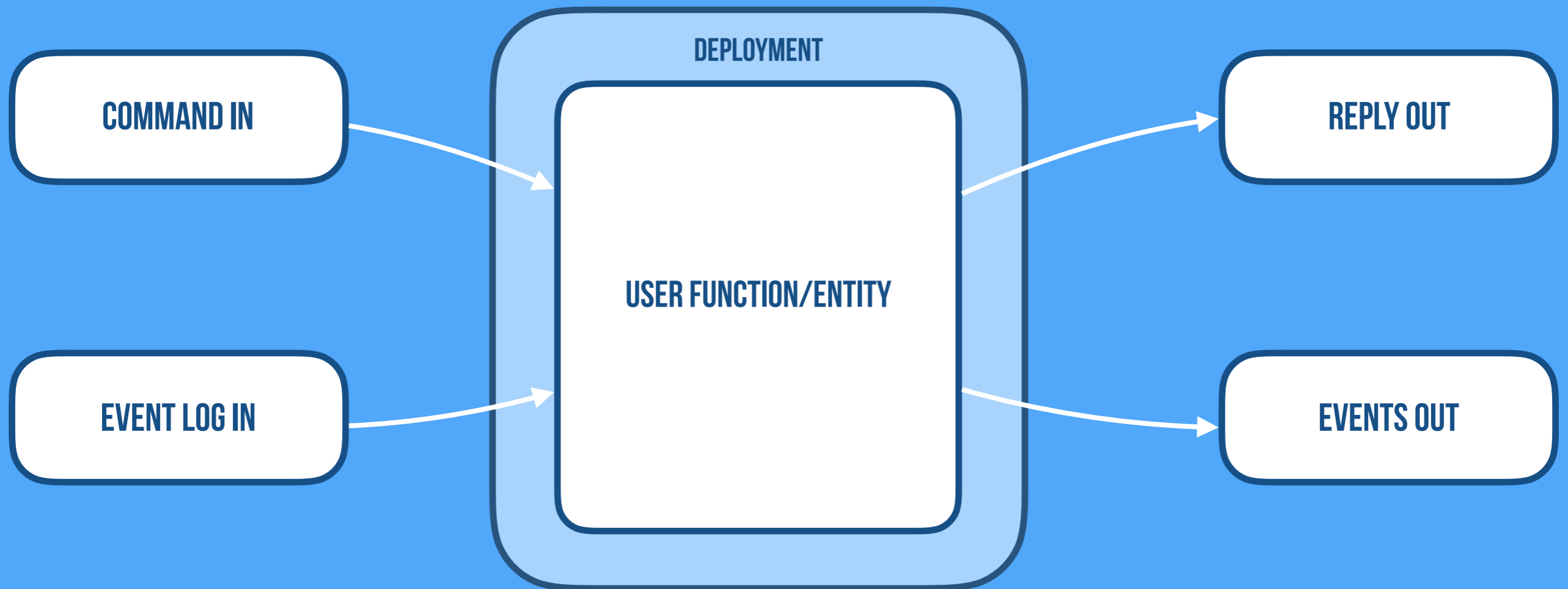
Serverless Event Sourcing



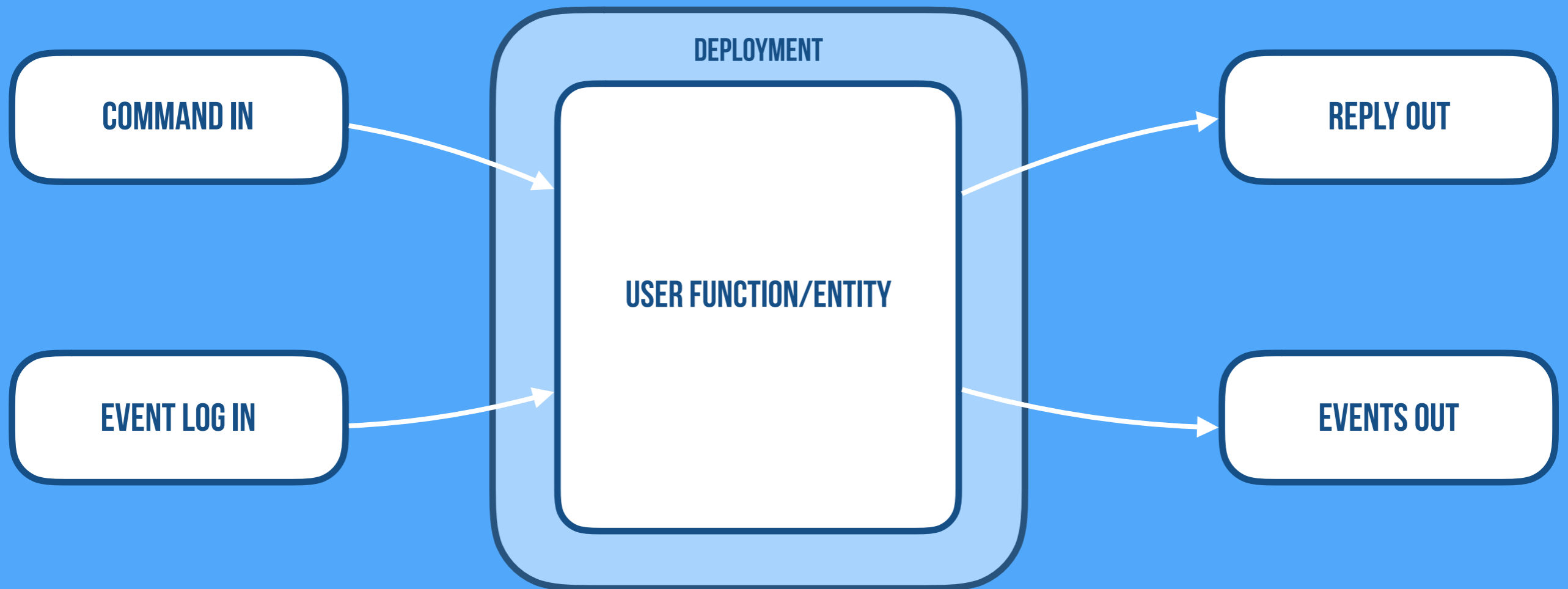
Serverless Event Sourcing



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Serverless Event Sourcing



CONFLICT-FREE REPLICATED DATA TYPES

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CRDT

CONFLICT-FREE REPLICATED DATA TYPES

CRDT

Strong Eventual Consistency
Replicated & Decentralized
Highly Available & Very Scalable
Data Types Contain Resolution Logic
Always Converge Correctly

CONFLICT-FREE REPLICATED DATA TYPES

CRDT DATA TYPES

Strong Eventual Consistency
Replicated & Decentralized
Highly Available & Very Scalable
Data Types Contain Resolution Logic
Always Converge Correctly

Counters

Registers

Sets

Maps

Graphs

(that all compose)

CRDTs are . . .

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ASSOCIATIVE

Batch-insensitive

(grouping doesn't matter)

$$a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$$

CRDTs are . . .

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Batch-insensitive

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$$a+(b+c)=(a+b)+c$$

COMMUTATIVE

Order-insensitive

(order doesn't matter)

$$a+b=b+a$$

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IDEMPOTENT

Retransmission-insensitive

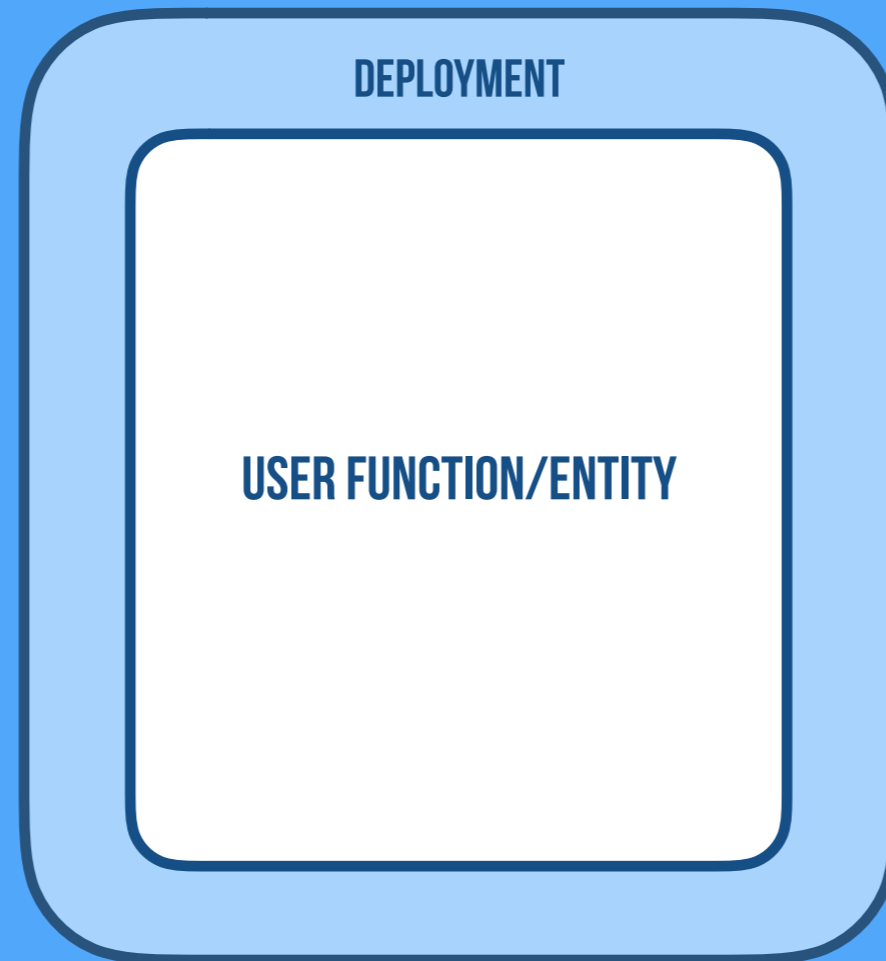
(duplication does not matter)

$$a+a=a$$

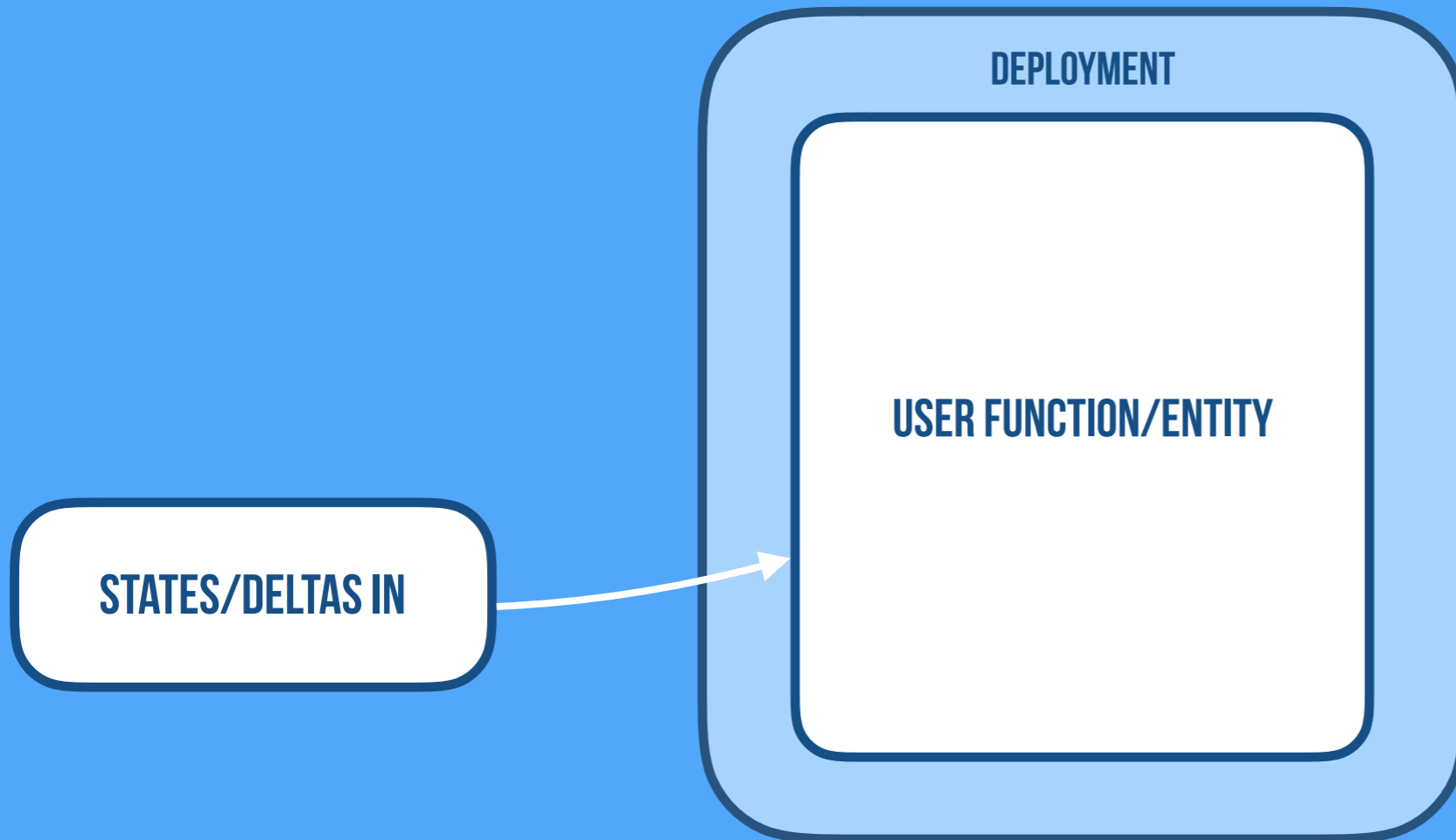
Serverless CRDTs

DEPLOYMENT

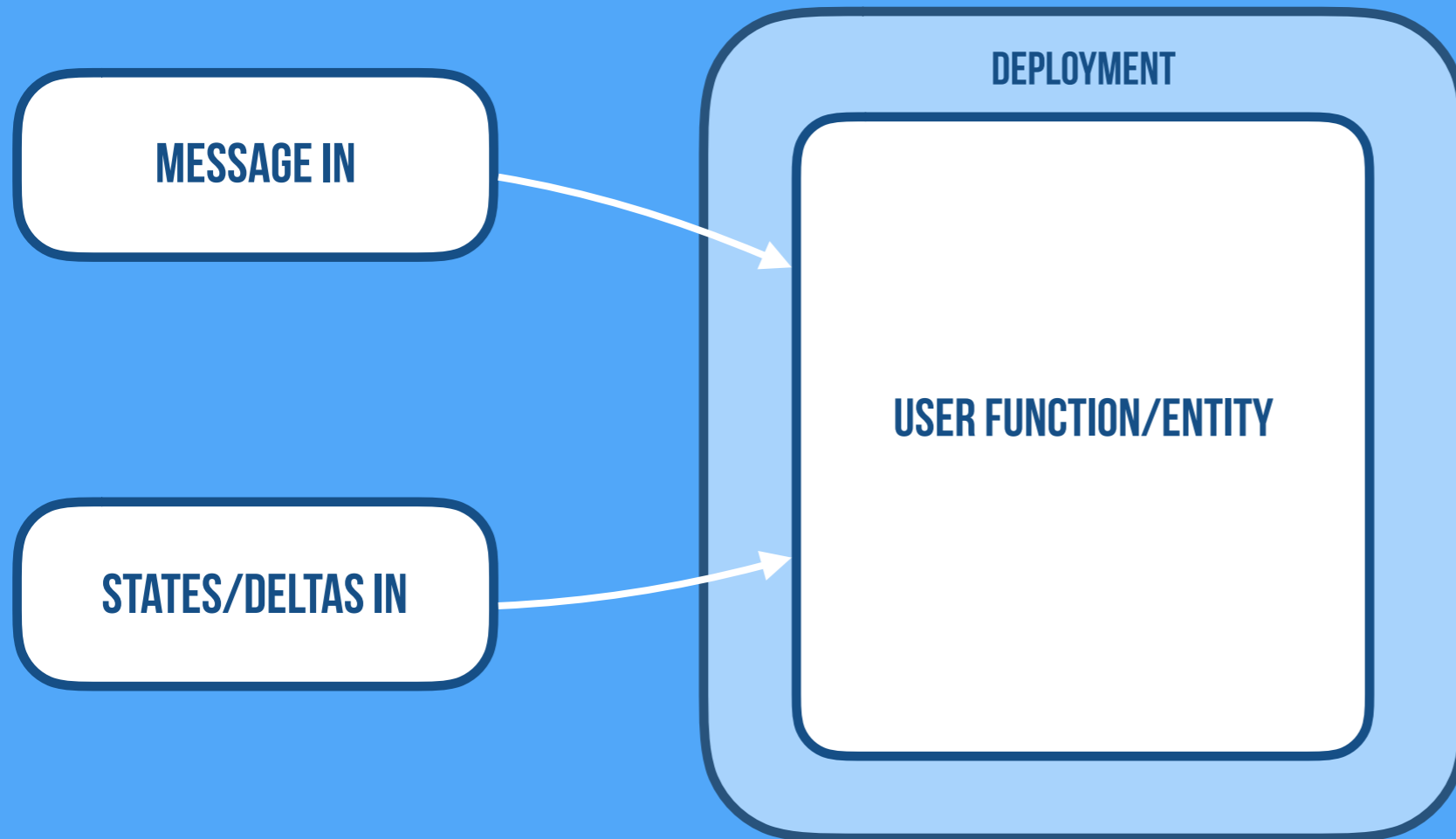
Serverless CRDTs



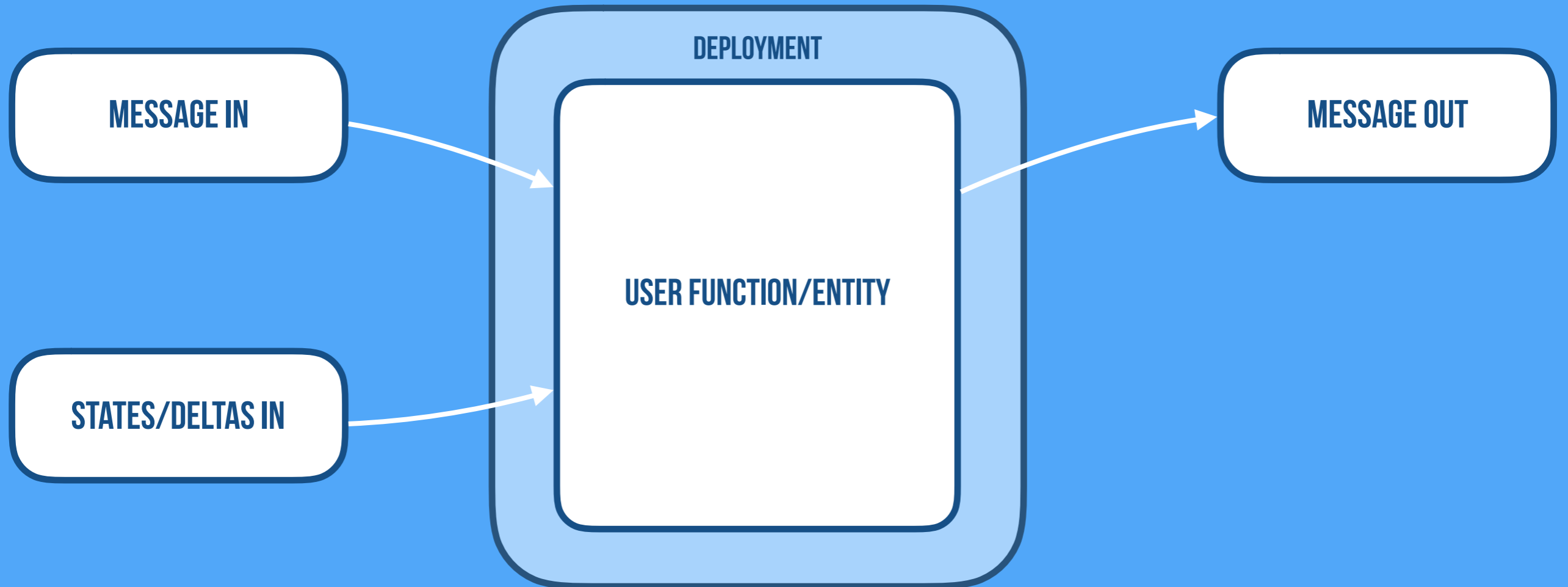
Serverless CRDTs



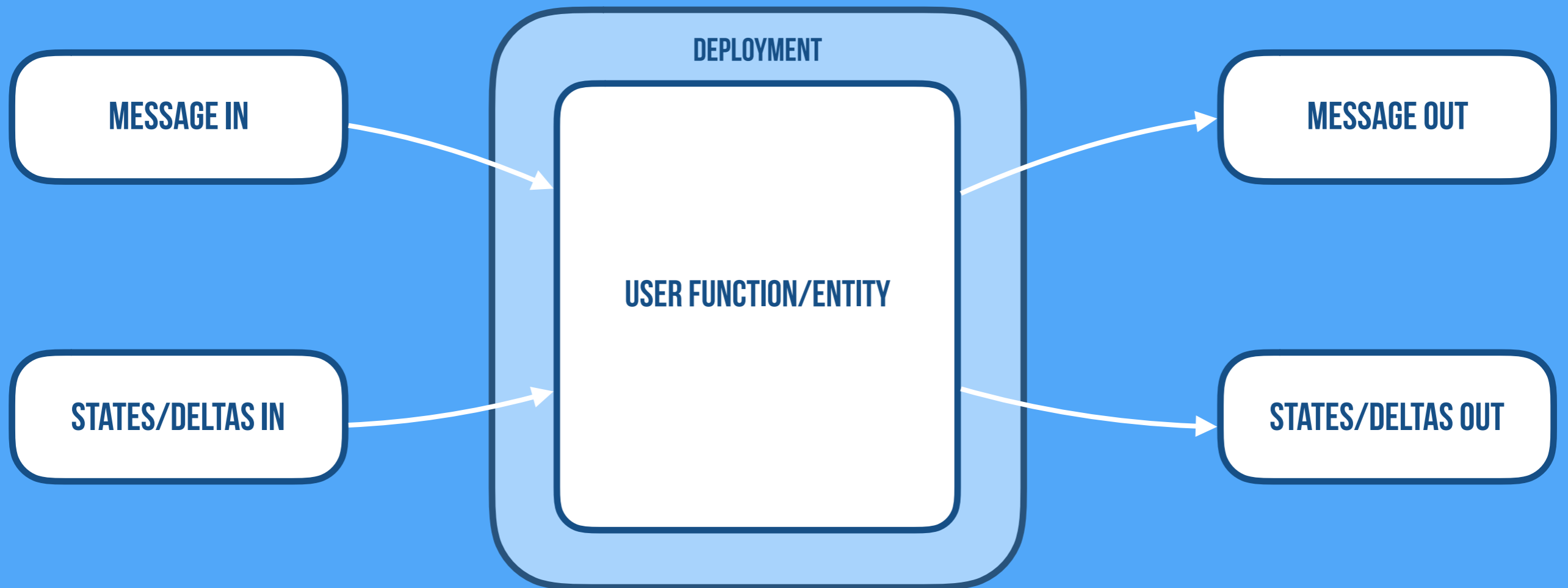
Serverless CRDTs



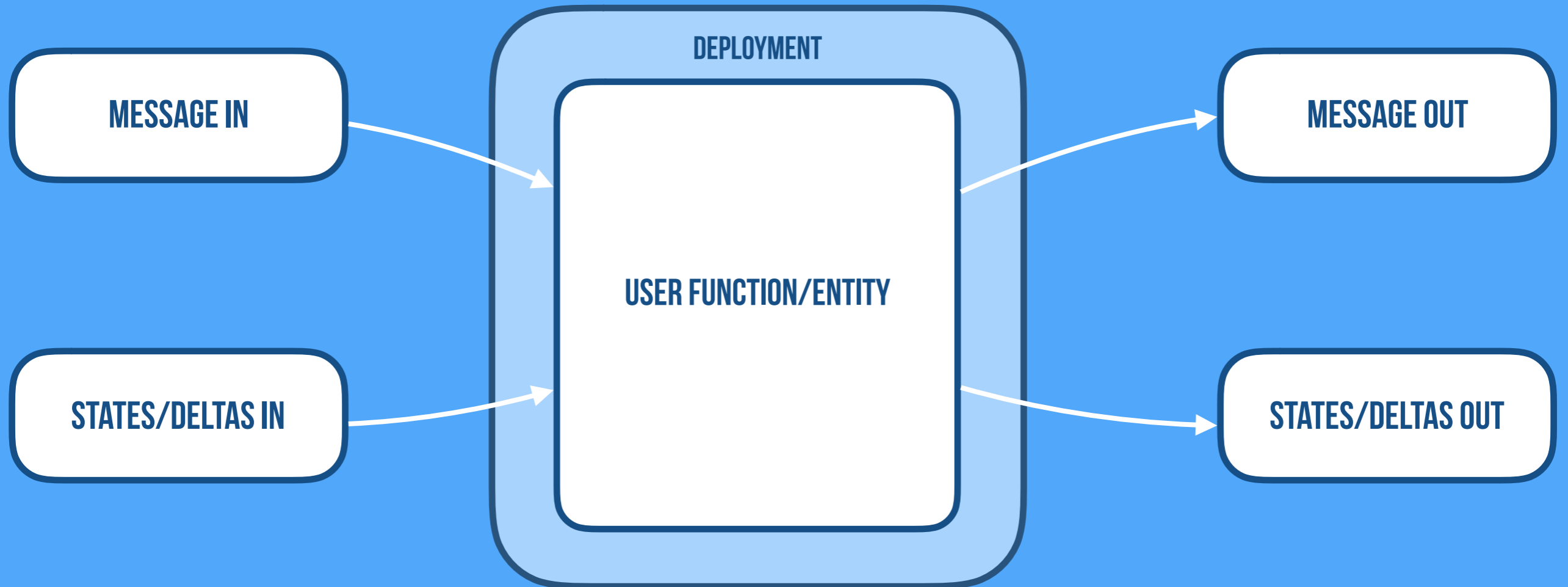
Serverless CRDTs



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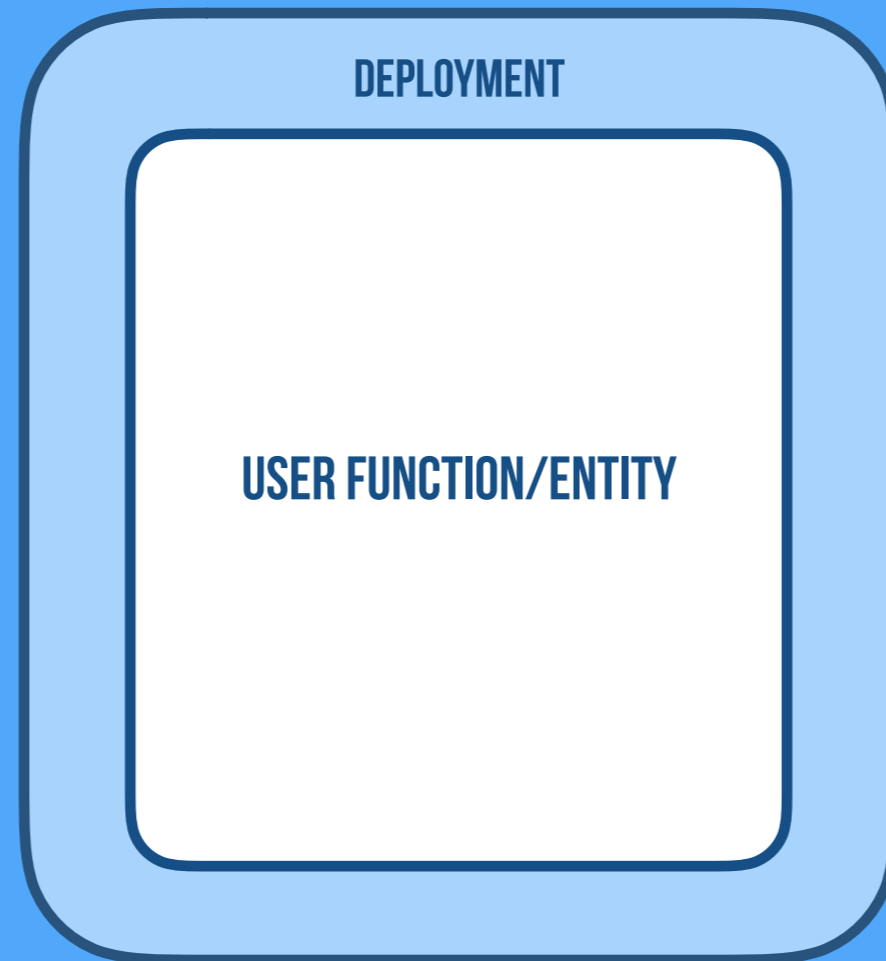
Serverless CRUD

Using KeyValue

DEPLOYMENT

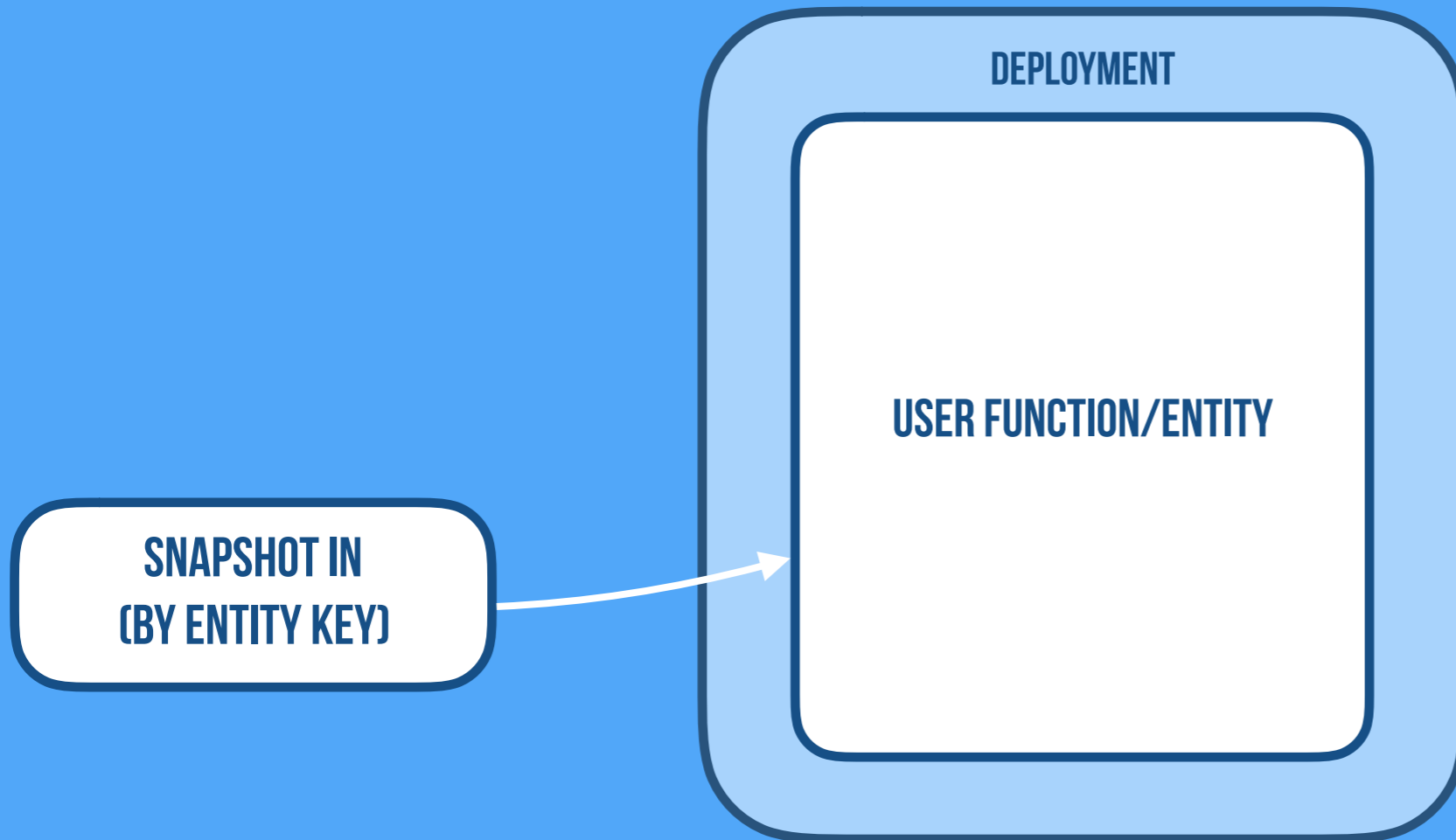
Serverless CRUD

Using KeyValue



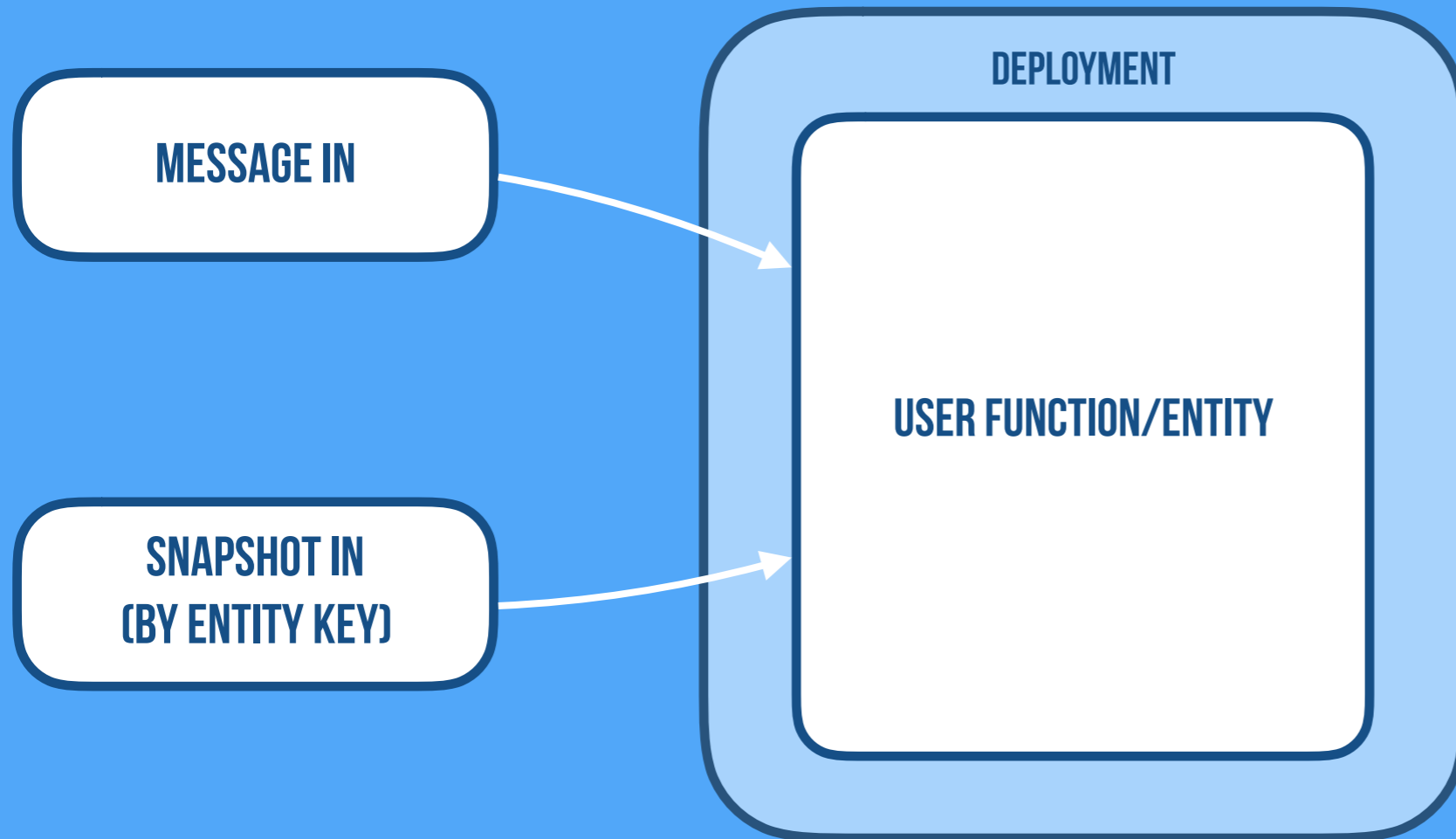
Serverless CRUD

Using KeyValue



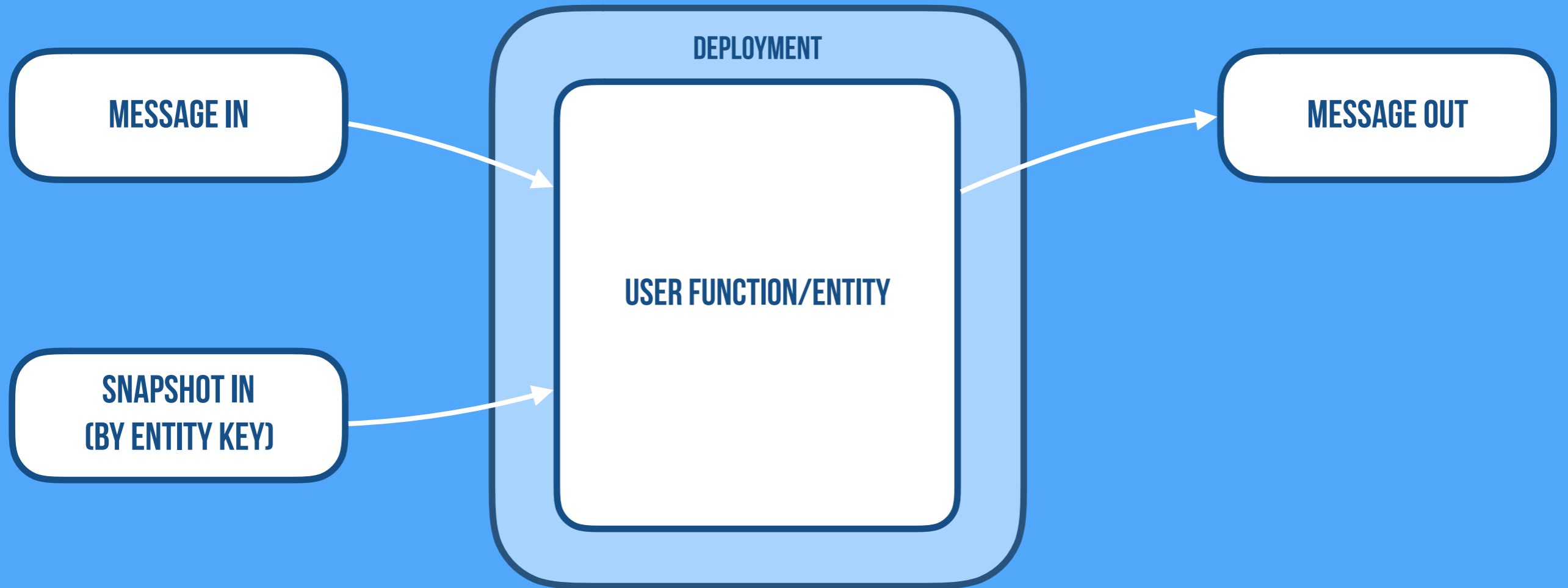
Serverless CRUD

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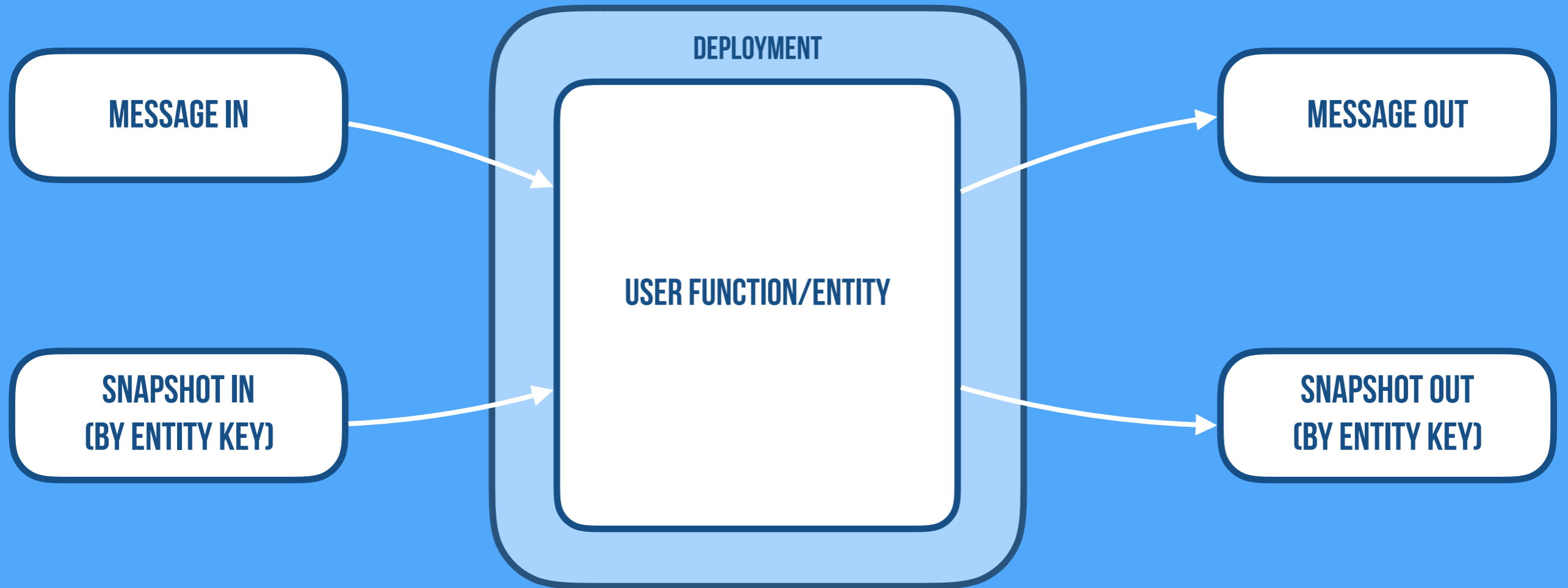
Serverless CRUD

Using KeyValue



Serverless CRUD

Using KeyValue



Example CRDT Entity

PRESENCE FUNCTION IN A CHAT APP

github.com/cloudstateio/samples-java-chat

Protobuf Descriptor

Protobuf Descriptor

```
syntax = "proto3";  
import "cloudstate/entity_key.proto";  
  
package cloudstate.samples.chat.presence;  
  
option java_package = "io.cloudstate.samples.chat.presence";  
option java_outer_classname = "PresenceProtos";
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package cloudstate.samples.chat.presence;  
  
option java_package = "io.cloudstate.samples.chat.presence";  
option java_outer_classname = "PresenceProtos";  
  
message User {  
    // Entity key is the unique entity/function identifier  
    string name = 1 [(.cloudstate.entity_key) = true];  
}  
  
message OnlineStatus {  
    bool online = 1;  
}  
  
message Empty {  
}
```


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    // Entity key is the unique entity/function identifier
    string name = 1 [(.cloudstate.entity_key) = true];
}

message OnlineStatus {
    bool online = 1;
}

message Empty {
}

service Presence {
    // Connect the given user
    rpc Connect(User) returns (stream Empty);

    // Monitor the online status of the given user
    rpc Monitor(User) returns (stream OnlineStatus);
}
```


CRDT Entity

```
@CrdtEntity
public class PresenceEntity {
    private final Vote vote;           // Vote CRDT for this user. It's auto replicated
                                           // and keeps track how each node has voted
    private final String username; // Entity Key (for sharding and routing)

    public PresenceEntity(
        Optional<Vote> vote, CrdtCreationContext ctx, @EntityId String username) { ... }
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    public static void main(String... args) {
        new CloudState()
            .registerCrdtEntity(...)
            .start();
    }
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    }

    // Here we implement the Protobuf Service API, our business logic
    @CommandHandler
    public void connect(StreamedCommandContext<Empty> ctx) {
        vote.vote(true);
        ...
    }
}
```

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    // Here we implement the Protobuf Service API, our business logic
    @CommandHandler
    public void connect(StreamedCommandContext<Empty> ctx) {
        vote.vote(true);
        ...
    }

    @CommandHandler
    public OnlineStatus monitor(StreamedCommandContext<OnlineStatus> ctx) {
        ctx.onChange(change → {
            ...
        });
        ...
    }
}
```

Run in Kubernetes

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kubectl create namespace cloudstate
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```
# Install our Presence app and Gateway
```

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kubectl apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/  
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kubectl apply -f https://raw.githubusercontent.com/cloudstateio/samples-java-chat/master/deploy/gateway.yaml
```

```
# Scale up the app to 3 nodes
```

```
kubectl scale deploy/presence-deployment --replicas 3
```

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The Next Generation
Stateful Serverless

cloudstate.io



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