

Storage in combined service/product data infrastructures

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➤ Storage in combined service/product data infrastructures

- ◆ It is increasingly common to combine as-a-service and as-a-product consumption models for elements of an organization's data infrastructure, including applications; development platforms; databases; and networking, processing, and storage resources. Some refer to this as "hybrid" architecture.
- ◆ Using technical (not marketing) language, and without naming specific vendors or products, this presentation covers some improved storage capabilities becoming available in service and product offerings, and some scenarios for integrating these kinds of offerings with other data infrastructure services and products.

This presentation

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➤ IT

- ◆ Support the organization's missions by applying available info technologies effectively & efficiently

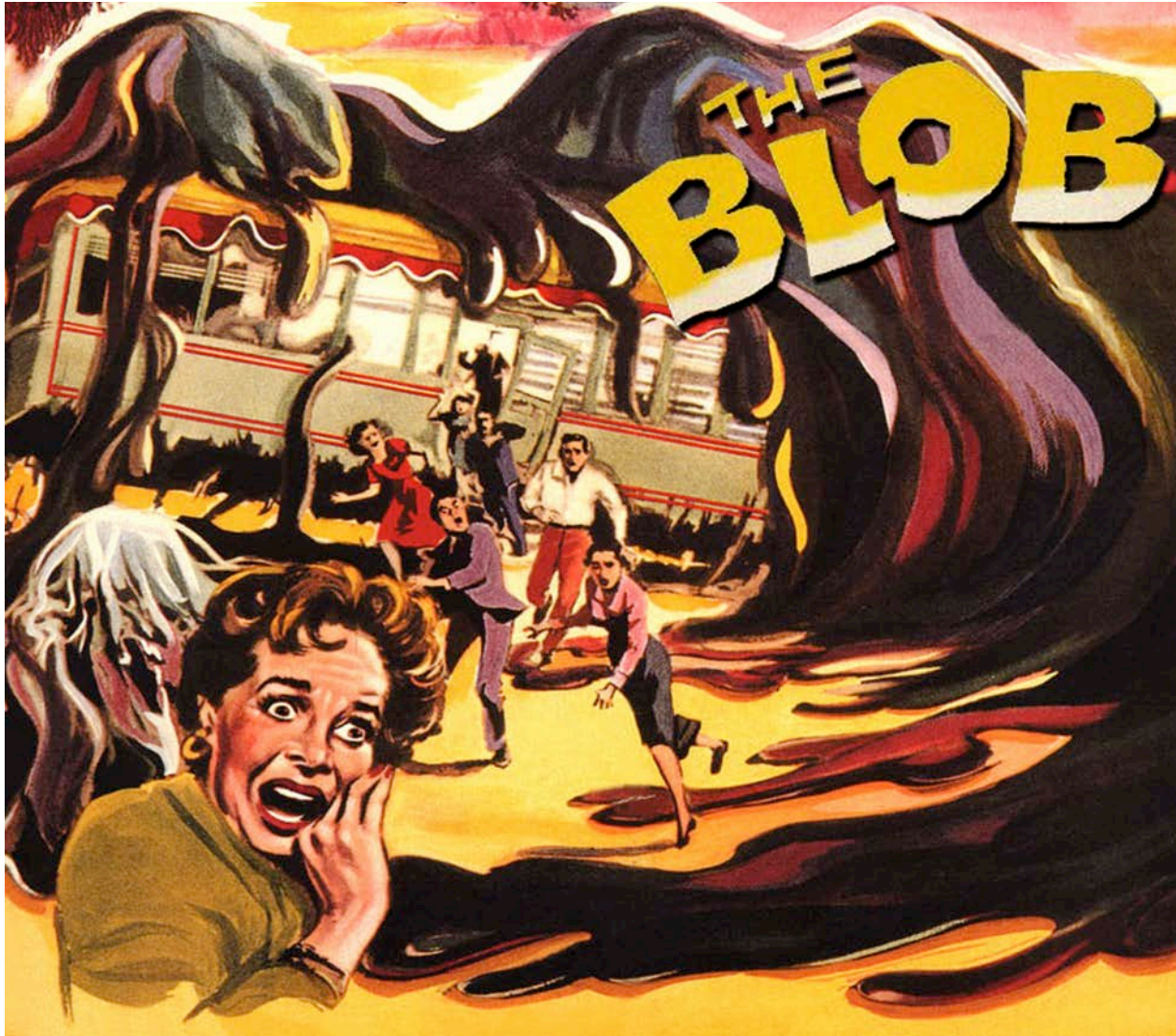
➤ Data Management

- ◆ Key element of IT

➤ Storage

- ◆ Key element of Data Management

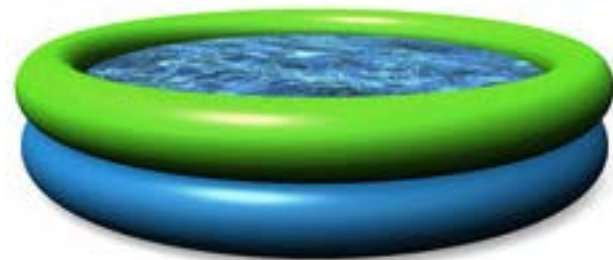
Data Management



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“What”: datapools

- ◆ Org might have from one to thousands++ of datapools
 - ◆ Each has unique set of attributes, some time-varying
- ◆ Small sampling of attributes:
 - ◆ Content characteristics
 - › Structured/unstructured
 - › Specific data types
 - › Sensitivity of data
 - › Value of data to org across time
 - › Consequences of data loss
 - › Possibility to re-create data
 - ◆ Analytics
 - › Data volume & growth patterns
 - › Transaction statistics
 - › Data-efficiency performance
 - Dedupe
 - Compression
- ◆ Policies/requirements/governance
 - › SLAs
 - › Access/security
 - › Data sovereignty
 - › Transaction performance requirements
 - › Recovery targets: RPO, RTO
 - › Snapshot or Continuous Data Protection parameters
 - › Transaction logging
 - › Backup
 - › Archiving
 - › Retention
 - › Audit
 - › E-discovery



“Where”: endpoints & storage resources

◆ Endpoints

- ◆ Machines that initiate transactions against datapools
- ◆ Datapools might need to support from one to billions++ endpoints
- ◆ Location
 - › May be anywhere on Earth
 - › May be time-varying, e.g. mobile devices
 - › May be fixed, e.g. office/plant site
 - › IT may have choice, e.g. data services that could run anywhere



◆ Storage resources

- ◆ Building blocks of storage capability
- ◆ Location
 - › Constrained by locations of datacenters, net connectivity
 - › Physical & network proximity to endpoints may be beneficial
- ◆ May be possible to move some endpoints & storage resources closer to each other



- ▶ **Inputs: time-varying, including:**
 - ◆ Set of datapools
 - ◆ Set of endpoints
 - ◆ Set of available storage building blocks
 - ◆ Numerous other factors
- ▶ **Outputs: time-varying, including:**
 - ◆ Specific storage resources
 - ◆ Specific deployment locations
 - ◆ Specific interconnections
- ▶ **Very little software tooling/automation currently available to assist**

- ▶ **Future software can help with continuous optimization of storage infrastructure**
 - ◆ More intelligence built into storage platforms & standalone tools
 - ◆ Better analytics
 - ◆ Machine learning & related techniques



“How”: storage building blocks

- ◆ Each building block provides external data interfaces, typically one or more of:
 - ◆ APIs / wire-protocols
 - › Block, e.g. iSCSI, FCP
 - › File, e.g. NFS, SMB
 - › Object, e.g. Swift, S3
 - › Distributed-File, e.g. HDFS
 - › Platform management, e.g. Swordfish, Redfish, IPMI
 - ◆ CLIs, HTML GUIs
 - › Built atop APIs
- ◆ Each building block supports capacity pools built from modules with one or more of:
 - ◆ Other storage building blocks
 - › Self-op
 - › Hosted service
 - ◆ Linear magnetic tape
 - ◆ Optical disk
 - ◆ Magnetic disk
 - ◆ NAND flash
 - ◆ Byte-addressable storage-class persistent memory
 - ◆ UPS-protected DRAM



Example storage building block types

➤ Many variations on the following themes:

- ◆ Unbundled / “SDS”
 - › Self-op and/or hosted at building block level
 - › Packaged as software to run on servers
 - › Open or closed source
 - › Choose any of multiple supported server platforms
 - Specific physical & virtual makes/models
 - Self-op and/or hosted at server level
 - › Scaling architecture: often one or both of:
 - Scale-up: single node; multiple controllers share capacity pool
 - Scale-out: multiple nodes, each with controller(s) + capacity
 - › May include “hyper-converged” ability to run encapsulated app workloads, e.g. containers or virtual machines

- ◆ Physical Appliance / “Array”
 - › Similar to Unbundled, but packaged as integrated unit, physical-server + software
 - › Software increasingly also available as Unbundled

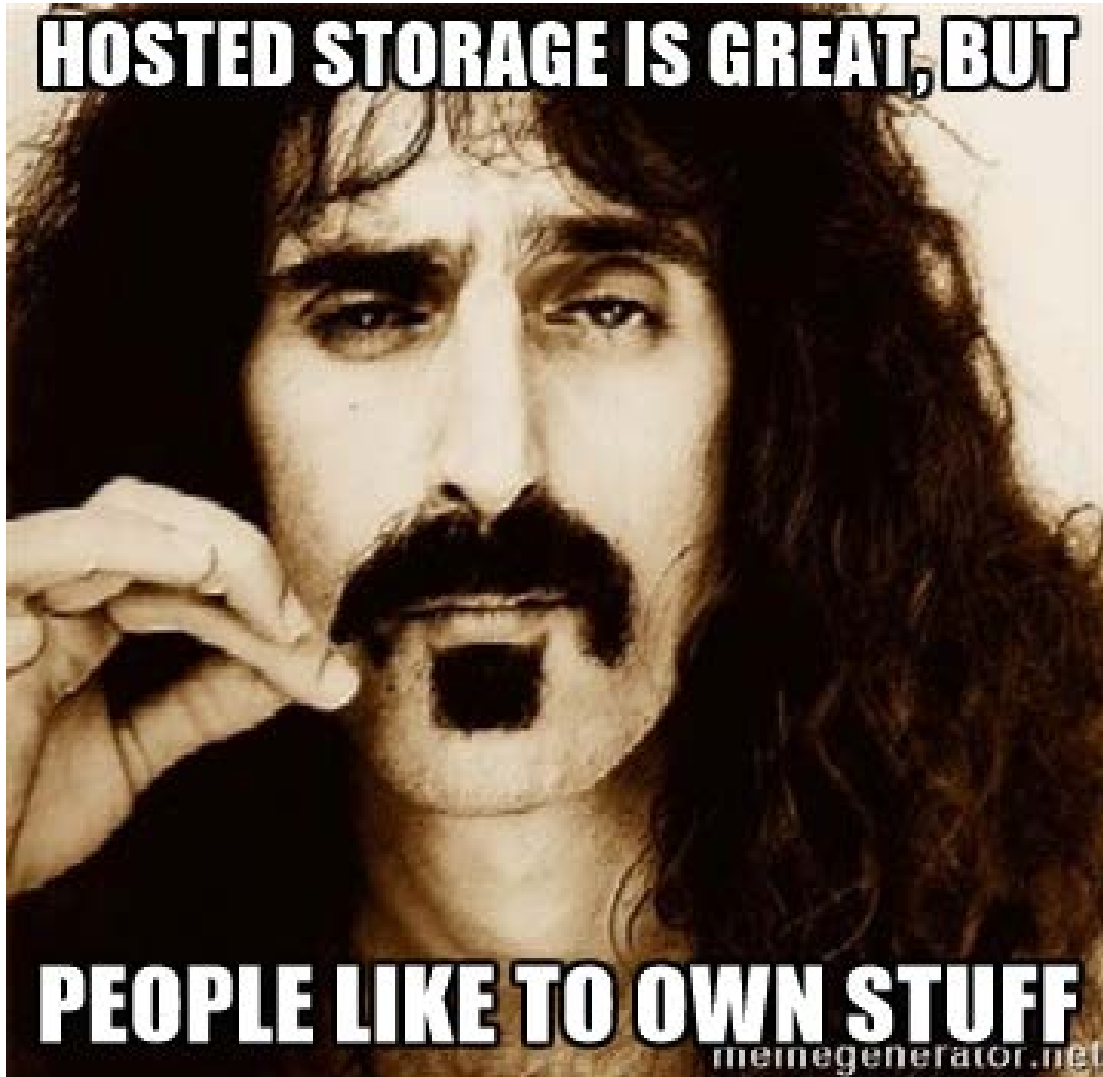


Example storage building block types, cont.

- ◆ Service: storage-focused
 - › Hosted only
 - › Hardware+software implementation details invisible behind external interfaces
 - As of 2016, largest hosters have highly proprietary implementations
 - › May support low-overhead on-demand provisioning of resources via data interfaces, e.g. APIs, CLIs, GUIs
 - › Implementations may concurrently serve large numbers of unrelated clients/tenants, and maintain resource pools with significant headroom, thereby enabling extensive elasticity of resource provisioning for individual clients
 - › Data may be replicated automatically across multiple physical datacenters for durability & availability
- ◆ Service: storage-plus / “SaaS”
 - › Similar to storage-focused service, except:
 - Encapsulates persistent storage together with layered functionality, e.g. DBMS, ERP, or CRM
 - External data interfaces expose layered functionality, not encapsulated storage



“Why”: combining self-op & hosted storage



Combining self-op & hosted storage

◆ Self-op strengths vs. Hosted

- ◆ More options and control for geo-location of storage resources
 - › May be able to move resources closer to endpoints
 - Better network connections: cost, latency, jitter, throughput
 - May be able to reduce vulnerability to network outages
 - › Data-sovereignty compliance
- ◆ Lifecycle cost significantly lower for some use cases
 - › Hosters are fundamentally middlemen
 - Competing against automation they created
 - › Scale economics
 - › Long-term retention
 - Can avoid re-renting same TB every month

OpEx

- › Ask the CFO
- ◆ Potential advantages vs. largest hosters
 - › Smaller target for hackers
 - › Potential for faster recovery from outages
 - May be able to focus more resources directly on prioritizing recovery of organization's specific storage footprint
 - Scale of largest hosters increases potential for massive outages
 - Largest hosters have lean staffs; during recovery from outages, human resources stretched thin across many client storage footprints
- ◆ Certain risks may be reduced
 - › Supplier business failure
 - › What happens to hosted data if OpEx not paid?

- ◆ Can use CapEx to help reduce

Combining self-op & hosted storage, cont.

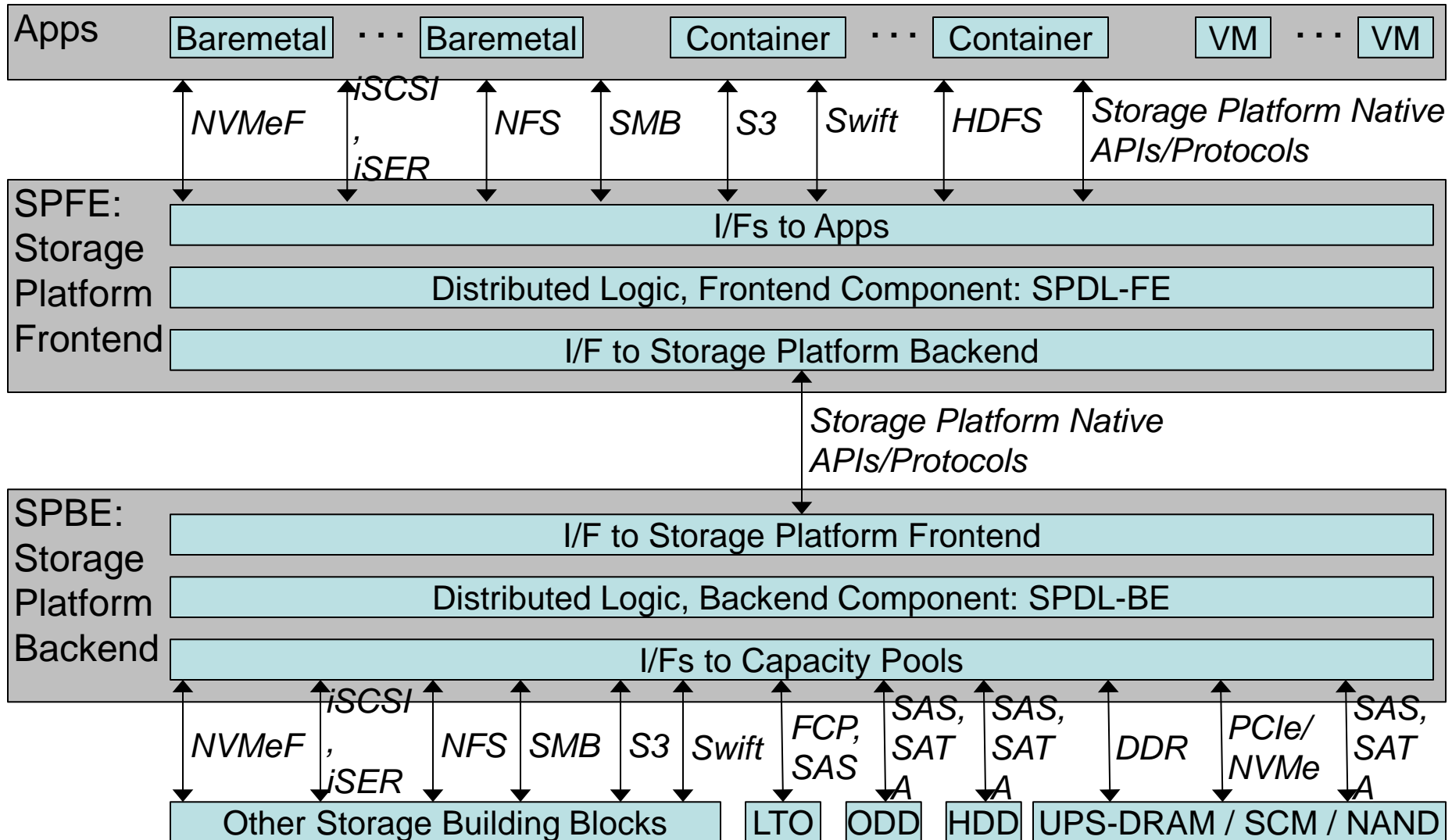
◆ Hosted strengths vs. Self-op

- ◆ Lifecycle cost significantly lower for some use cases
- ◆ Can use OpEx to help reduce CapEx
- ◆ Convenience
- ◆ Low-overhead provisioning
- ◆ Elastic capacity
- ◆ Built-in multi-datacenter
- ◆ Operational excellence
 - › Security
 - › Availability
 - › Data durability

◆ Strengths of combining Self-Op & Hosted

- ◆ Many strengths of Self-Op & Hosted are fundamentally complementary
- ◆ More options to optimize data placement across infrastructure elements
- ◆ Risk reduction via platform diversity
 - › Avoid technological monoculture

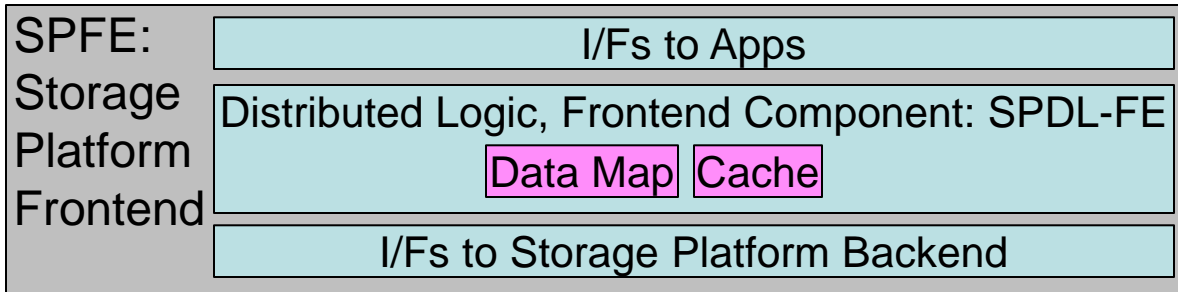
Unbundled scale-out storage software example



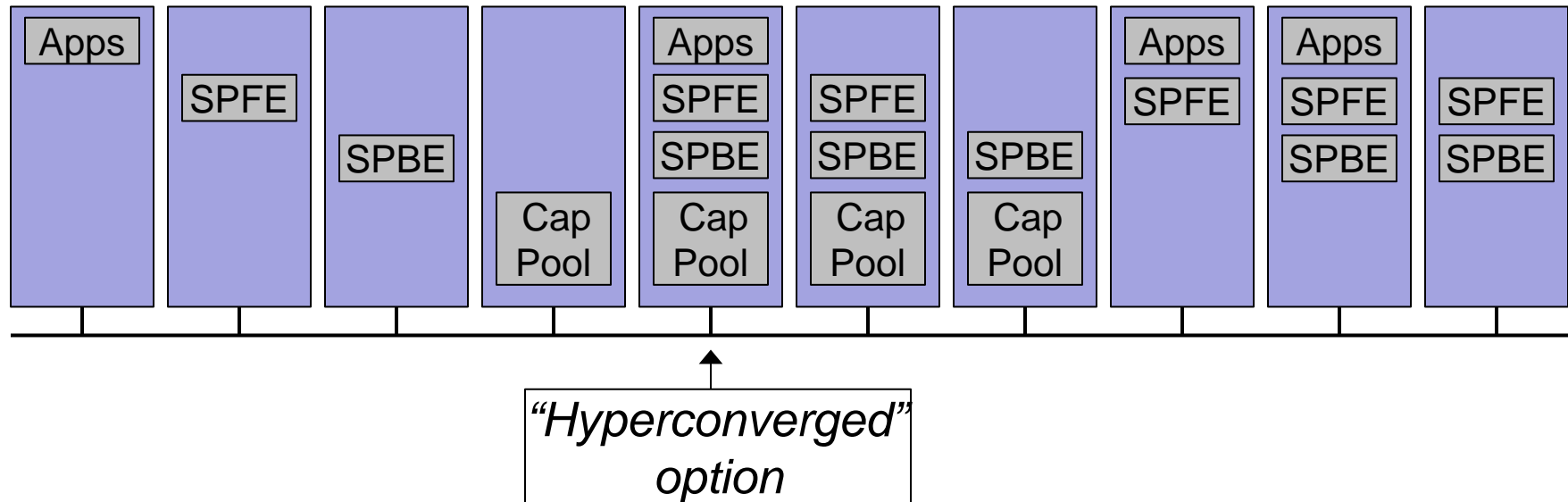
Unbundled scale-out software example

- ◆ Storage Platform Distributed Logic
 - › Separate Frontend and Backend components: SPDL-FE, SPDL-BE
 - › Platform resource management
 - Interfaces
 - API
 - CLI & GUI, built atop API
 - Platform control
 - Platform self-monitoring/alerting
 - Provisioning
 - QoS
 - Multi-tenancy
 - Multi-datacenter federation
 - › Data security
 - Access management
 - Encryption
 - › Data placement/movement
 - Data map
 - Automatic staging/tiering
 - Rack & datacenter awareness
 - › Data durability
 - Replication
 - Erasure coding
 - › Data integrity
 - End-to-end checking
 - Auto-scrubbing
 - › Data efficiency
 - Thin provisioning, zero/pattern removal, unmap
 - Deduplication
 - Compression
 - › Data management
 - Continuous Data Protection
 - Snapshots, clones
 - › Data access performance
 - Caching
 - Concurrent/parallel multi-node requests
 - › Analytics
 - Platform
 - Data

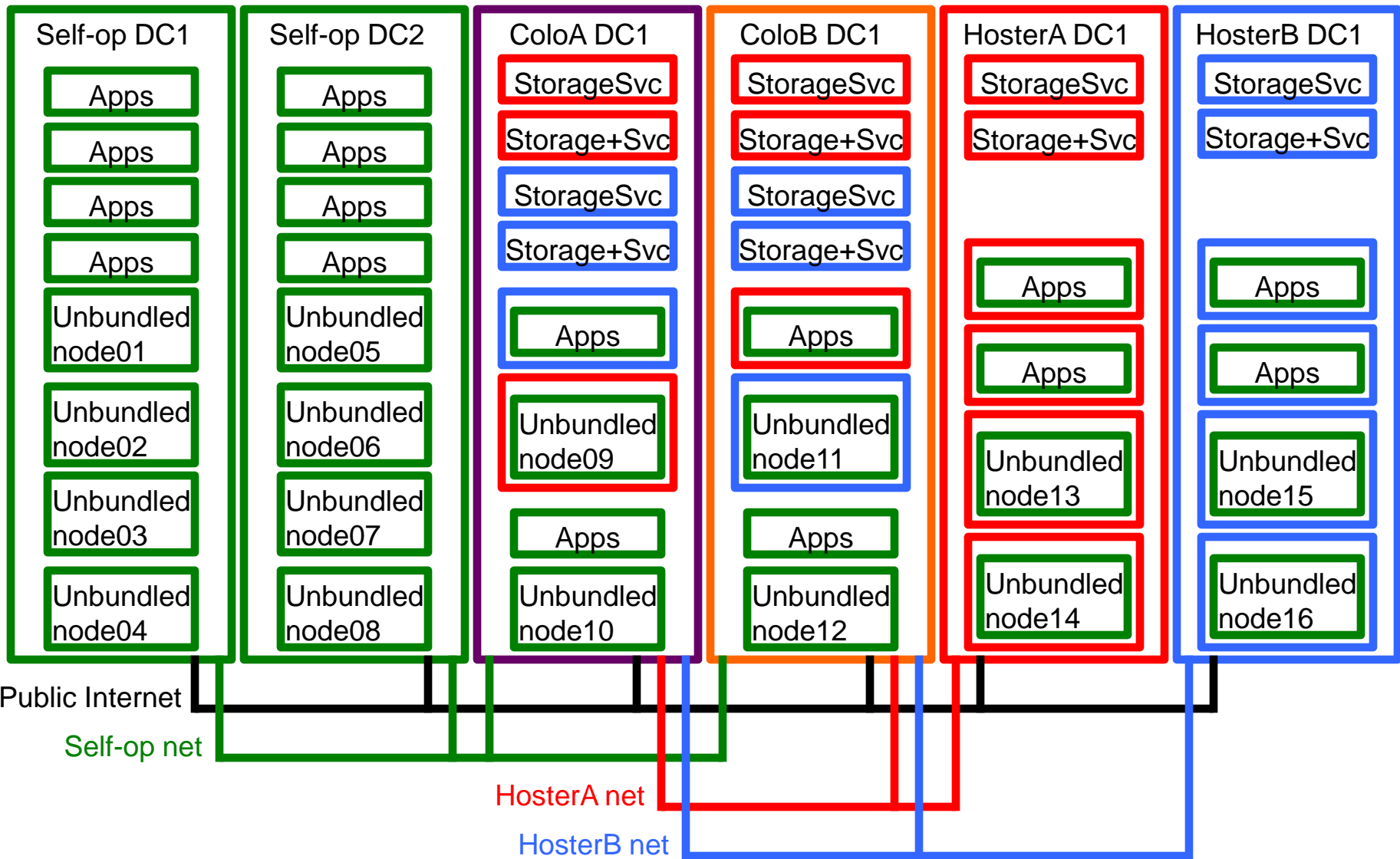
Unbundled scale-out software example



Example software configs
for server nodes, self-op or hosted



Self-op & hosted storage at datacenter scale



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Summary

- ▶ Continuous optimization of storage infrastructure
 - ◆ Will benefit from future intelligent tooling/automation
- ▶ Unbundled storage platforms increasingly competitive
 - ◆ Single deployment can simultaneously support:
 - › Multiple server infrastructures, self-op and/or hosted
 - › Scale-out
 - › Multiple interfaces: Block, File, Object, Distributed-FS
 - › Multiple data management services, across all interfaces
 - › Multiple capacity pools, automatic staging/tiering

- ▶ Hosted storage, storage-plus services also increasingly competitive
 - ◆ Radically more convenient than alternatives
 - ◆ Low-overhead provisioning
 - ◆ Elastic capacity
 - ◆ Built-in multi-datacenter
- ▶ Genius of the AND
 - ◆ Unbundled storage platforms plus hosted storage services
 - › Can be highly complementary
 - › Combinations can be superior for many use cases
 - › Improving interconnection options making combinations more attractive

The SNIA Education Committee thanks the following Individuals for their contributions to this Tutorial.

Authorship History

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Additional Contributors

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