



# **3 Strategies for Achieving Interoperability**

**June 27, 2017  
2 pm – 3 pm ET**

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Claudia Ellison, Program Director, eHealth Initiative
- Discussion & Comments
  - ANDREA DARBY, R.Ph, M.H.A, System Vice President, OhioHealth Information Services
  - WES RISHEL, Board member, North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (NCHIIN); Former VP and Distinguished Analyst, Gartner Group
  - MARK LaROW, Chief Executive Officer, Verato
- Questions & Answers from Audience



# Housekeeping Issues

- All participants are muted
  - To ask a question or make a comment, please submit via the chat feature and we will address as many as possible after the presentations.
- Technical difficulties:
  - Use the chat box and we will respond as soon as possible
- Questions & Answers
  - Use the Q&A
- Today's slides will be available for download on the eHI Resource page at:  
**<https://www.ehidc.org/resources/eventsummaries>**

# Overview of eHealth Initiative

- Since 2001, eHealth Initiative (c6) and the Foundation for eHealth Initiative (c3) have conducted research, education and advocacy to demonstrate the value of technology and innovation in health.
- Serve as the industry leader convening executives from multi-stakeholder groups to identify best practices to transform care through use of health IT
- The missions of the two organizations are the same: to drive improvement in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare through information and technology.
- Our work is centered around the *2020 Roadmap*. The primary objective of the *2020 Roadmap* is to craft a multi-stakeholder solution to enable coordinated efforts by public and private sector organizations to transform care delivery through data exchange and health IT.



# Roadmap to Transforming Care



# eHealth - Convening Executives to Research & Identify Best Practices

- Data Analytics
- Data Access and Privacy
- Interoperability
- Patient and Provider Technology Adoption

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Slides are available at [www.ehidc.org/resources](http://www.ehidc.org/resources)



# Strategies for Achieving Interoperability

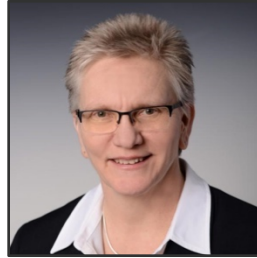
3 Unique Perspectives on the  
Challenge of Health IT  
Interoperability





# Three Perspectives – One Challenge

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Healthcare System Executive



Industry Analyst



Technology Innovator

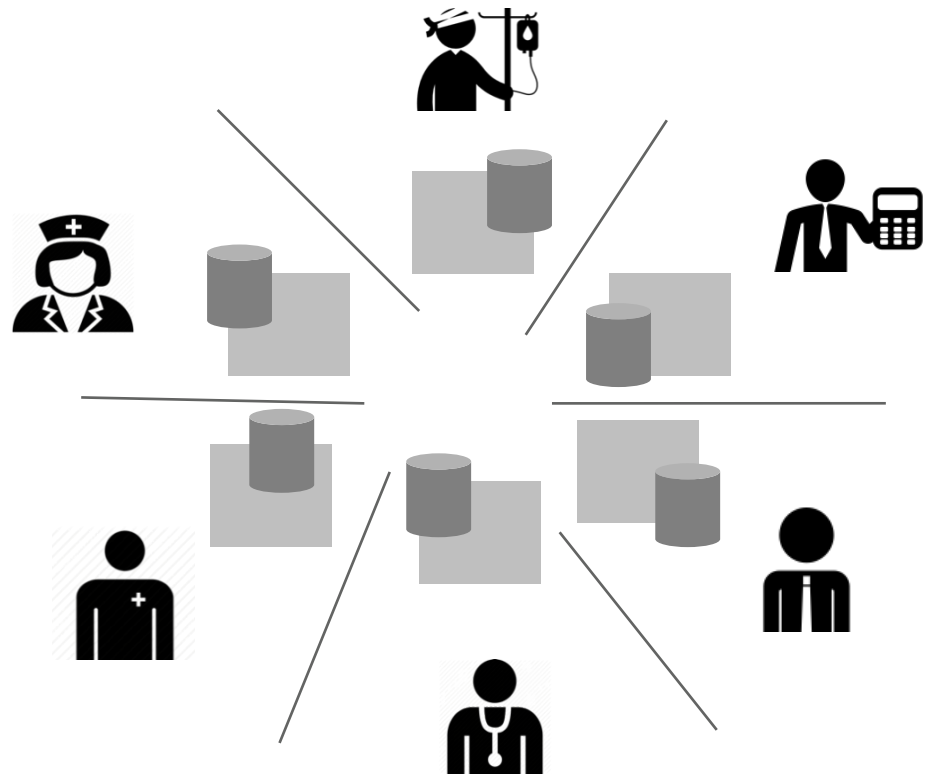
# In a World Where There is no Interoperability ...

## Each system ...

- Serves different users
- “Automates” a different part of the business

## Leading to ...

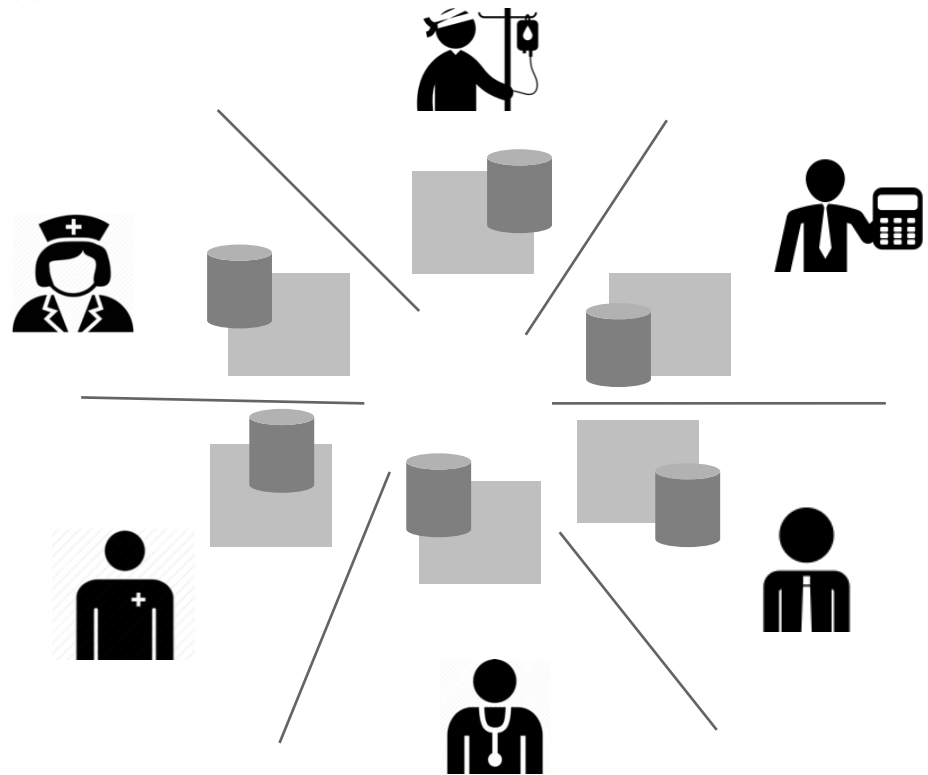
- Excessive manual effort
- Inefficiencies and errors
- Inability to measure/improve



# In Healthcare, Interoperability is Essential for Strategic Initiatives

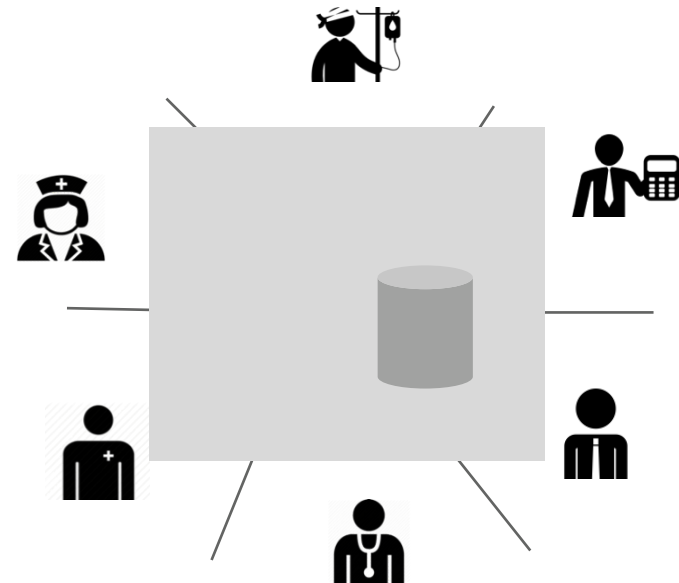
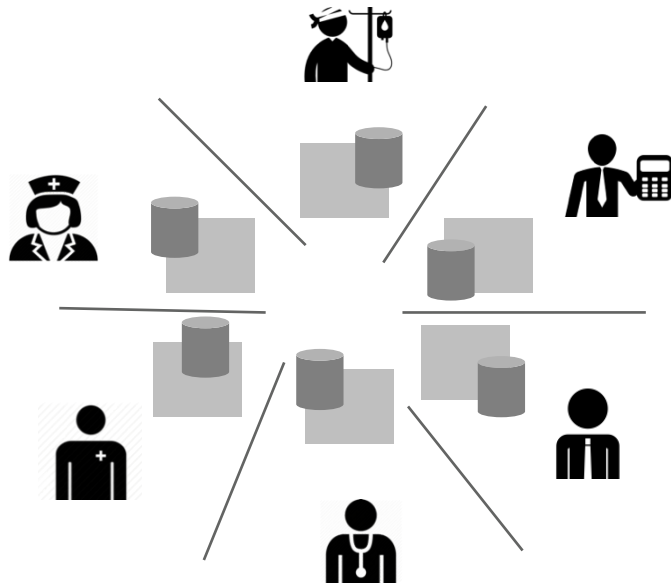
## Interoperability is necessary to:

- **Merge** hospital systems
- Measure **risk**
- Report **compliance**
- **Coordinate** care
- Manage **population** health
- **Connect** with patients
- Incorporate new **innovative** applications - physician assistance, translational medicine, expert systems

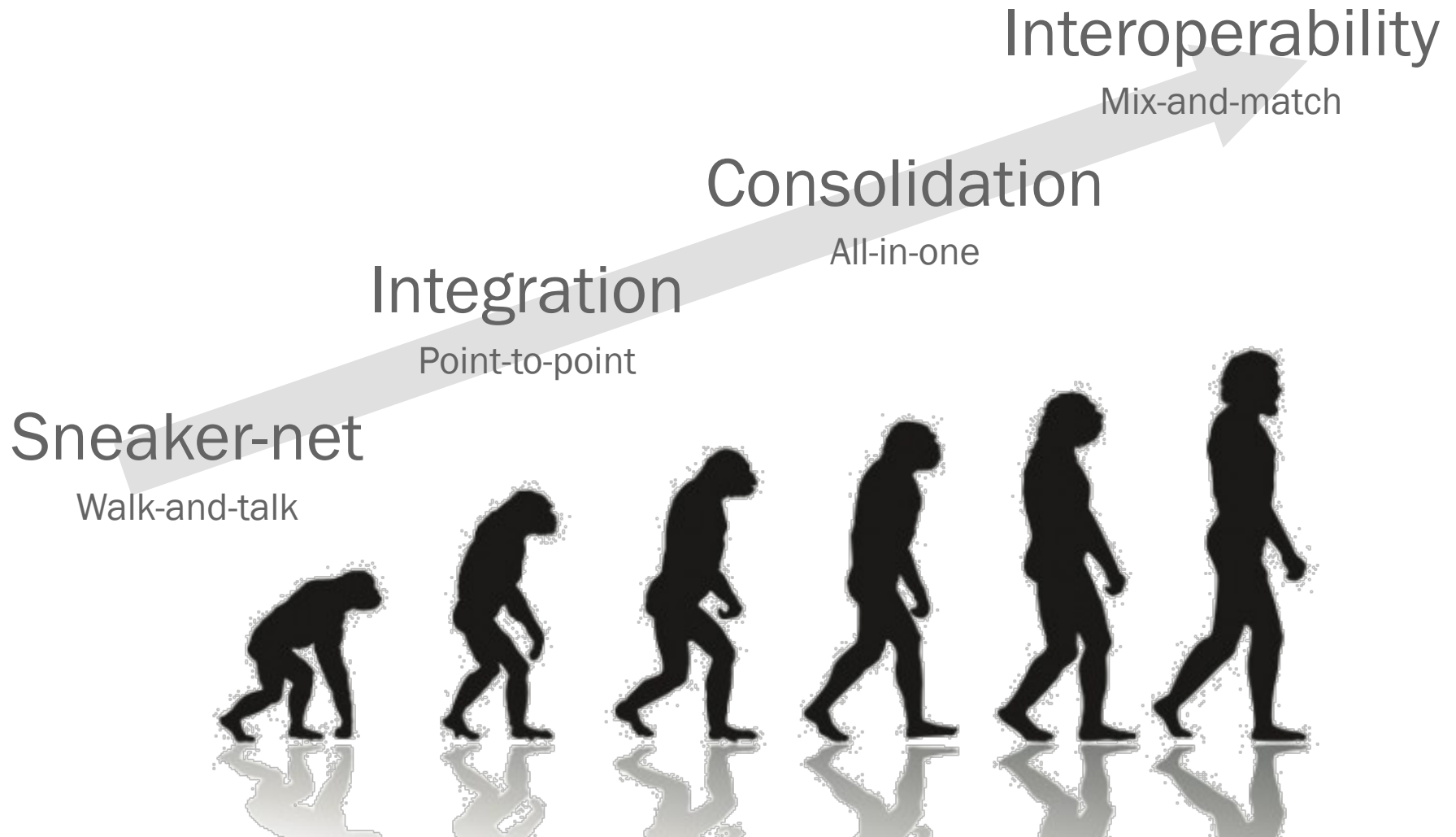


# Challenge of Interoperability in Healthcare

How do we get this . . . to behave like this?

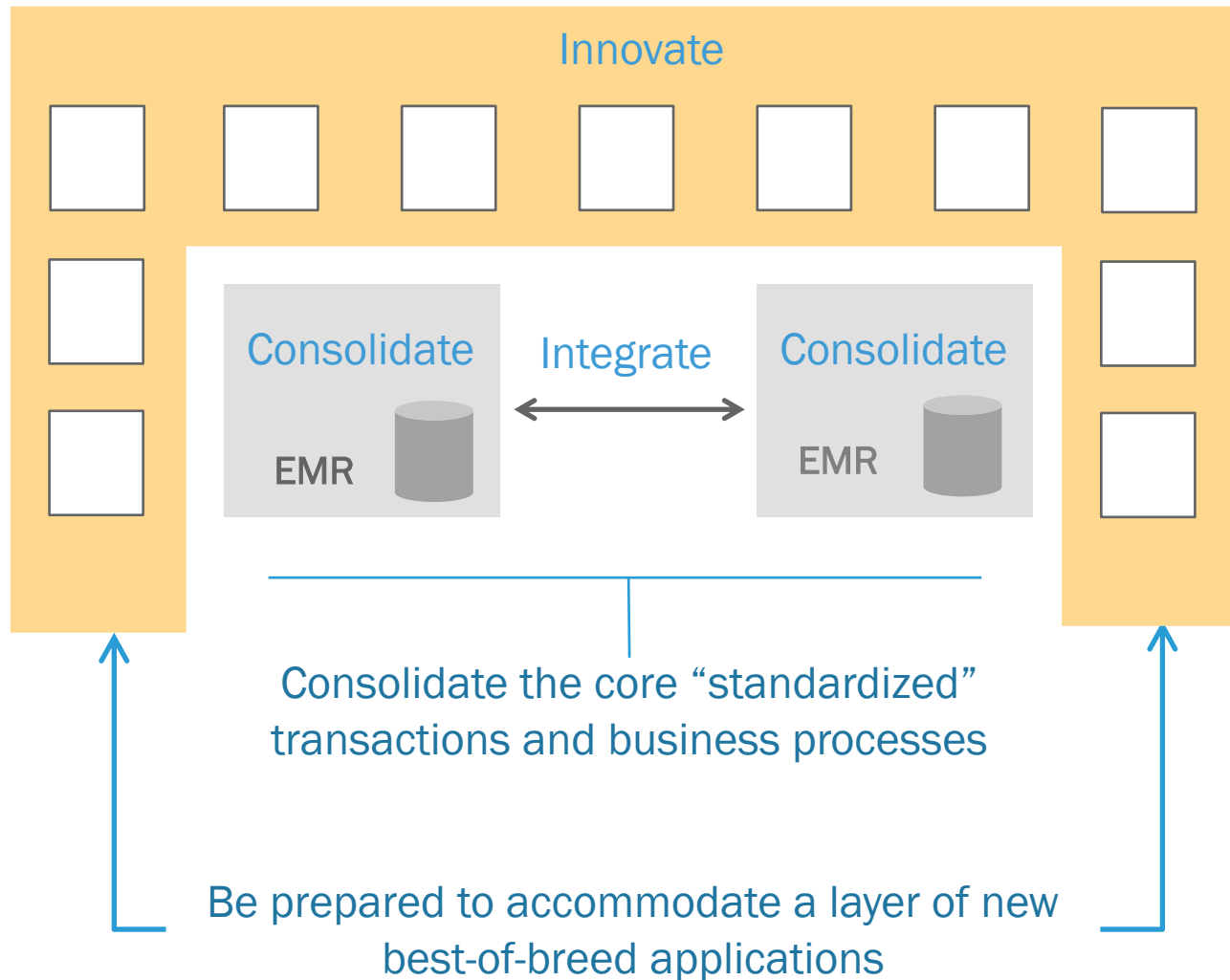


# Evolution to Interoperability

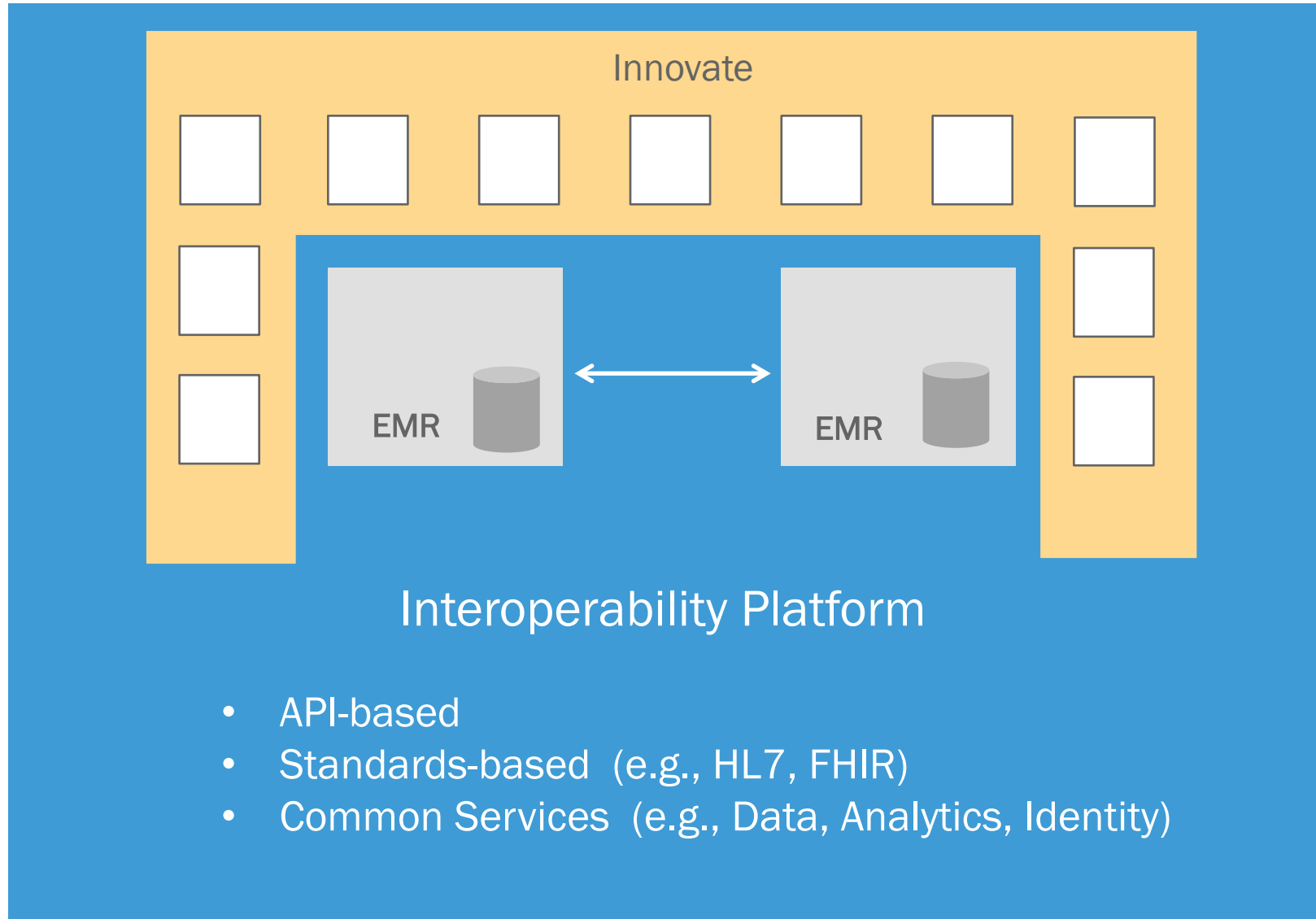


# Healthcare Interoperability Landscape:

## - Consolidate, Integrate, and Innovate



# Interoperability Platform is Needed to Make this Strategy Work



# Real-World Experience From OhioHealth





# Introduction To OhioHealth

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## Large Ohio Footprint

- 11 Hospitals
- 250 Practice Locations
- 600 Providers



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## Diverse Network

- Large affiliated network
- Managed care, population health programs
- OhioHealth Physician Group

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## Employer Solutions

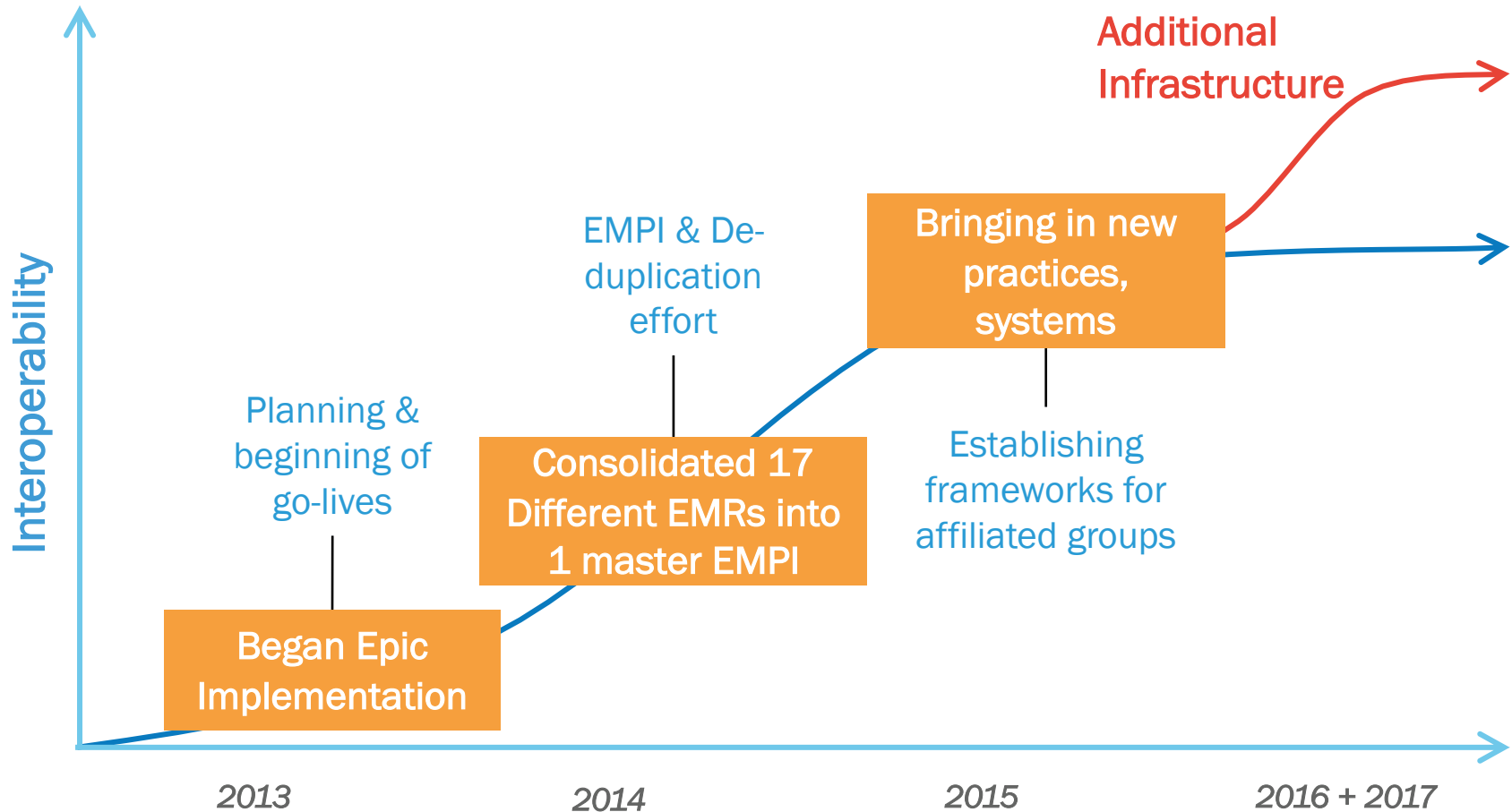
- Health & wellness services
- Onsite Clinics



COURTESY: OHIOHEALTH

# OhioHealth's Journey To Interoperability - 2012 To Today

Our Epic investment helped us achieve a great deal of interoperability, but more work is needed



# While Great Progress Has Been Made, Challenges Persist

## Within OhioHealth



- 5 – 6% duplicate rate
- 30 – 70% of physicians - depending on location - are independent with disparate EMR at their practices

## With Payers

- Increased focus on bundled payments, quality measurements
- Challenges with electronic access to the right information for the right patient



- Establishing meaningful exchange beyond claims data

## Other Providers

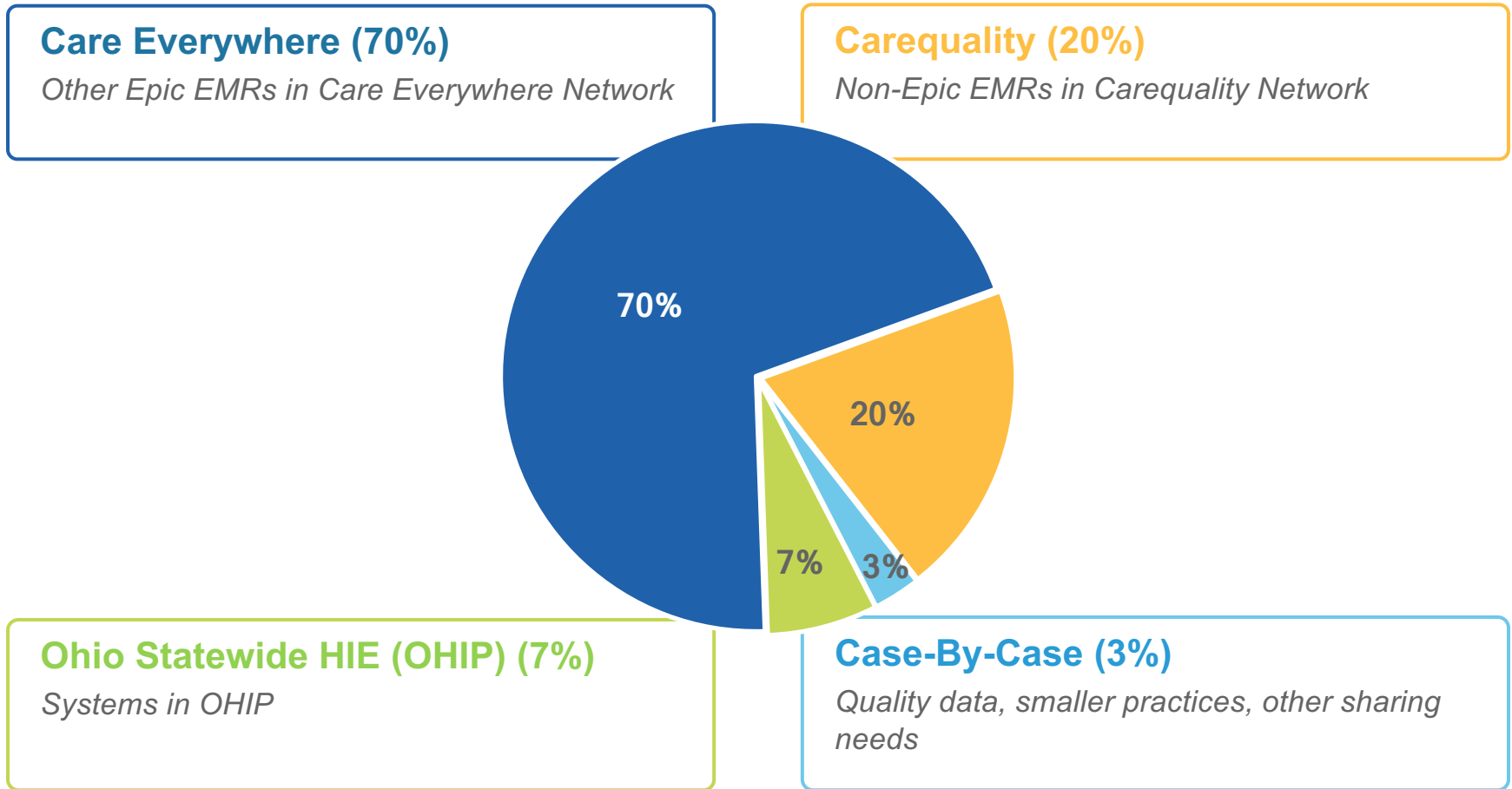
Those providers not in existing HIEs are still difficult to communicate with

- Difficulty increases when working to exchange images or more complex information



# Taking A Four-Pronged Approach To Interoperability

The industry does not allow for a “one-size-fits-all” approach to interoperability, requiring us to be flexible



# Strategy #1: Take Active Steps Toward Interoperability - Today

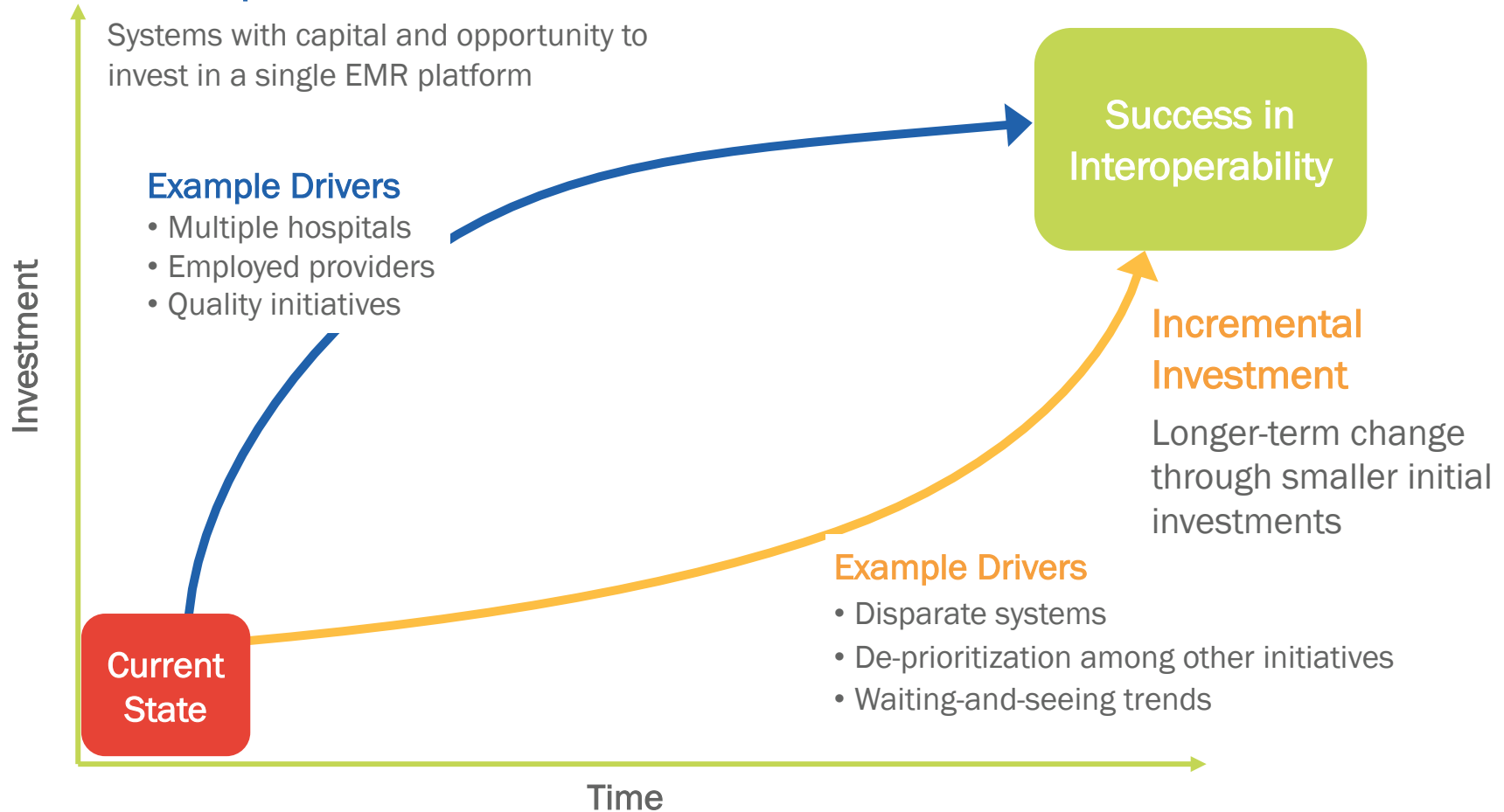
Every provider must take ownership and begin taking immediate steps toward interoperability. There are two fundamental approaches.

## Initial Upfront Investment

Systems with capital and opportunity to invest in a single EMR platform

### Example Drivers

- Multiple hospitals
- Employed providers
- Quality initiatives



# Development Areas To Watch For Full Interoperability Achievement

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Three critical areas will need innovation before we can achieve full interoperability

## 1) Better patient matching

Identify right patients for the right stakeholder, without error



## 2) Clean data exchange

Accurate, consistent data exchange with semantic comprehension



## 3) Meaningful exchange

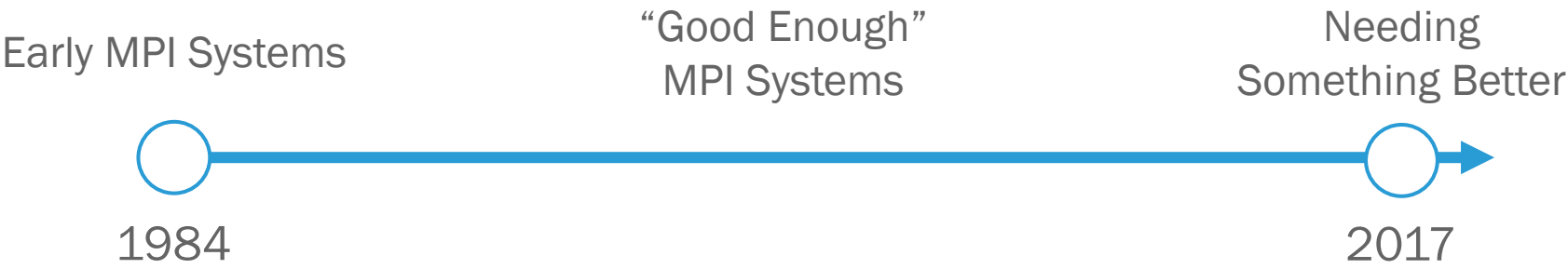
Ability to share much larger amounts of meaningful information



# A Retired Healthcare Nerd's Perspective On Interoperability



# Problems Worthy Of Attack Prove Their Worth By Fighting Back



A PROBABILISTIC APPROACH TO THE PATIENT IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM

Max G. Arellano and Donald W. Simborg, M.D.

University of California  
San Francisco, California

**ABSTRACT**

Patient identification, viz, the association of a person with a hospital medical record number is the foundation of all hospital information sys-

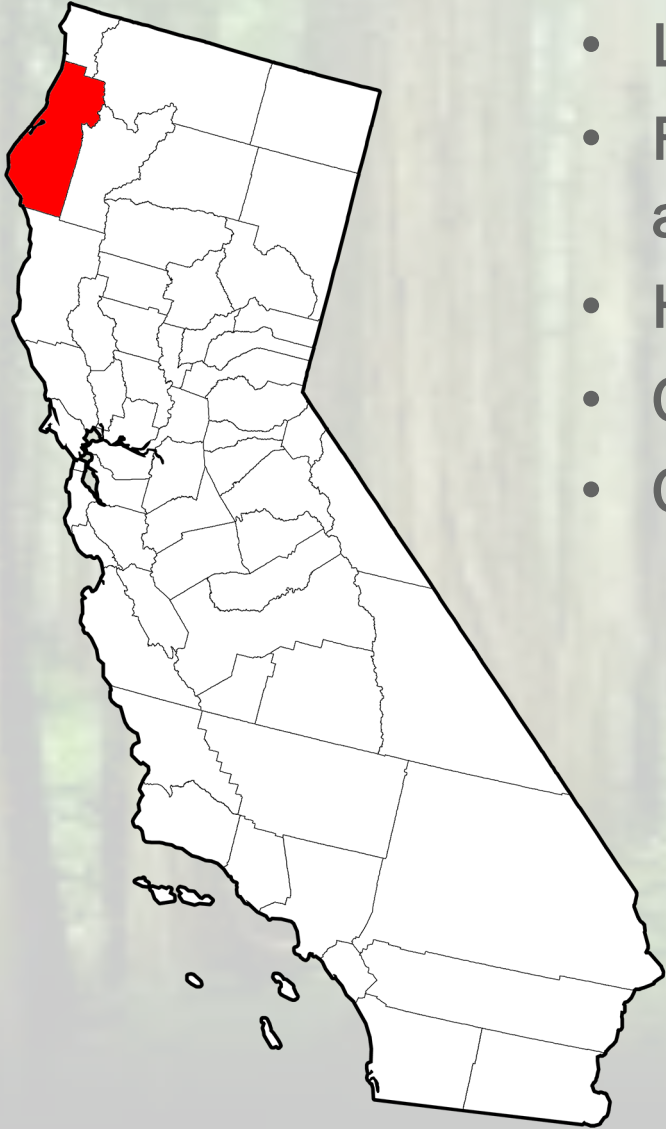
2. The association of a patient with records for another person. This can seriously compromise the medical care which that patient receives if the course of treatment is unduly influenced by the information which that

**Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care, 1981**

Health Improvement  
Information Network

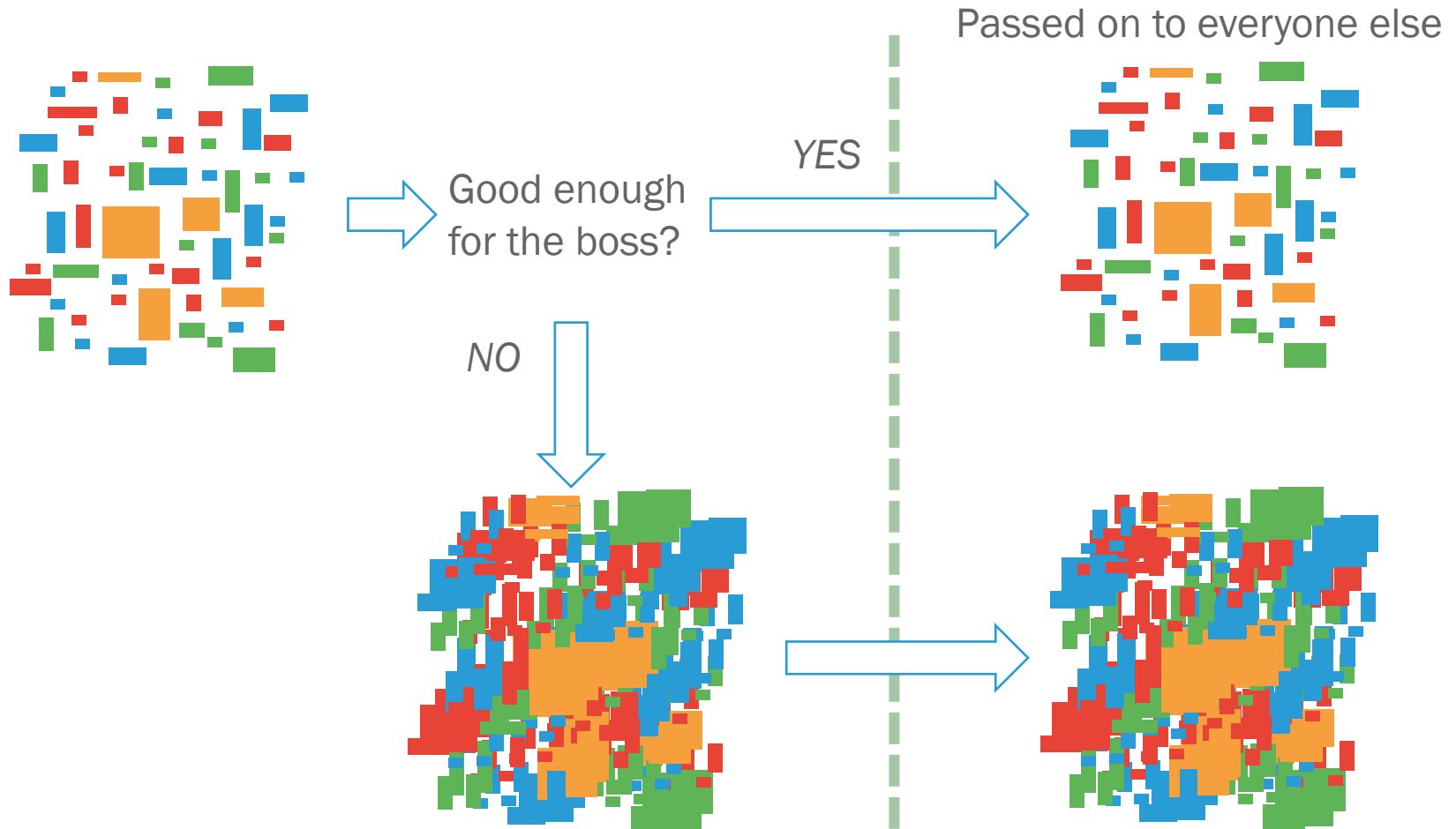


# About Humboldt County, California



- Located in rural Northern California
- Four times the area of Rhode Island, with a population of ~135,000.
- High poverty rate
- Opioid death rate twice state average
- Out of 58 California Counties, Humboldt is:
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> in Health Outcomes
  - 21<sup>st</sup> in Quality of Life
  - 39<sup>th</sup> in Health Behaviors
  - 20<sup>th</sup> in Clinical Care
  - (lower number is better)

# The Number One Real-World Interoperability Challenge: Garbage Out – Garbage In



# The Next Challenge: The Triple Aim

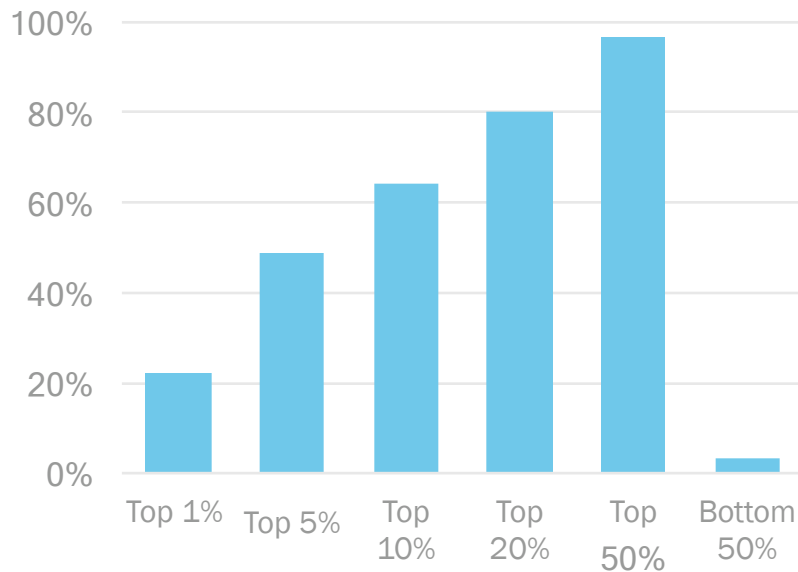


- Improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction);
- Improving the health of populations; and
- Reducing the per capita cost of health care.



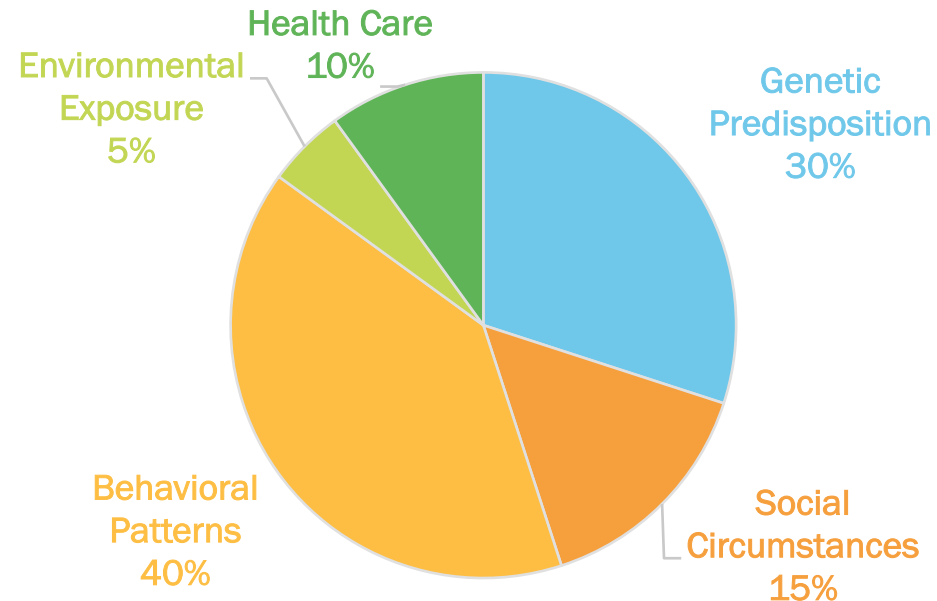
Costs Are Not Distributed Evenly

Expenditure By Population



Health extends beyond healthcare

Contribution to Premature Death

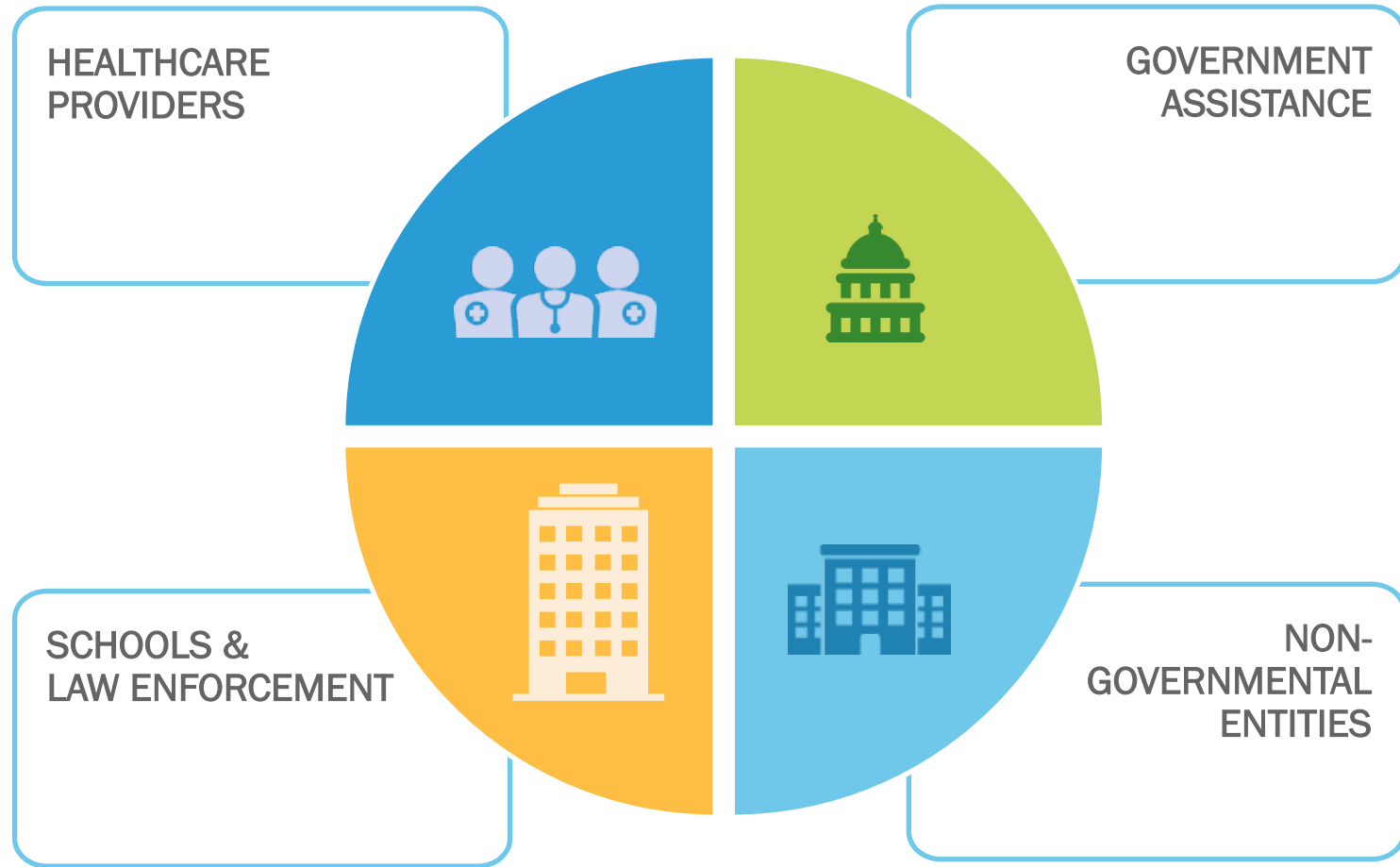


Stanton MW, Rutherford MK. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2005.

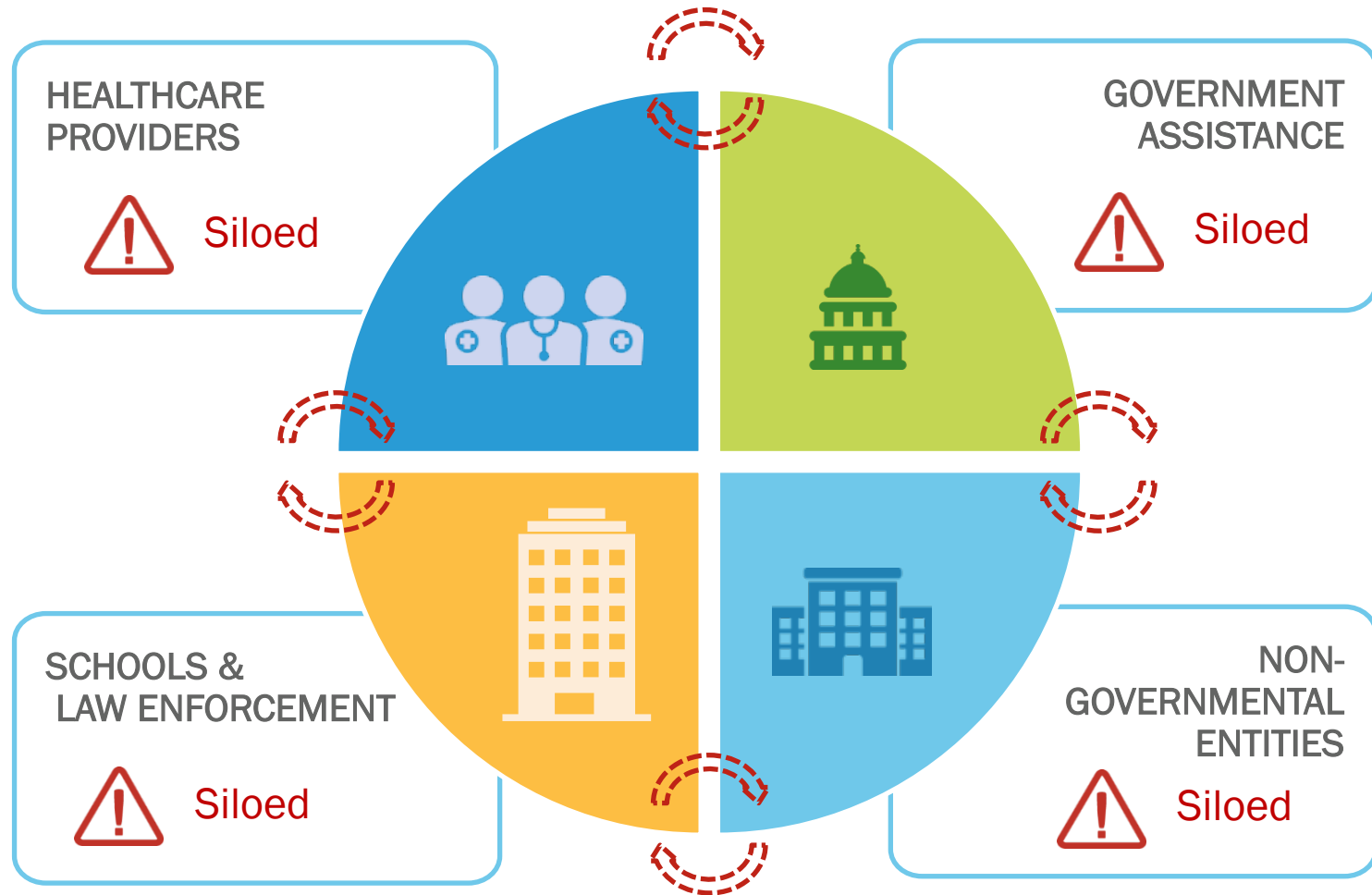
Steven A. Schroeder, M.D. N Engl J Med 2007

# A Glimmer of Hope: A Collaborative Community

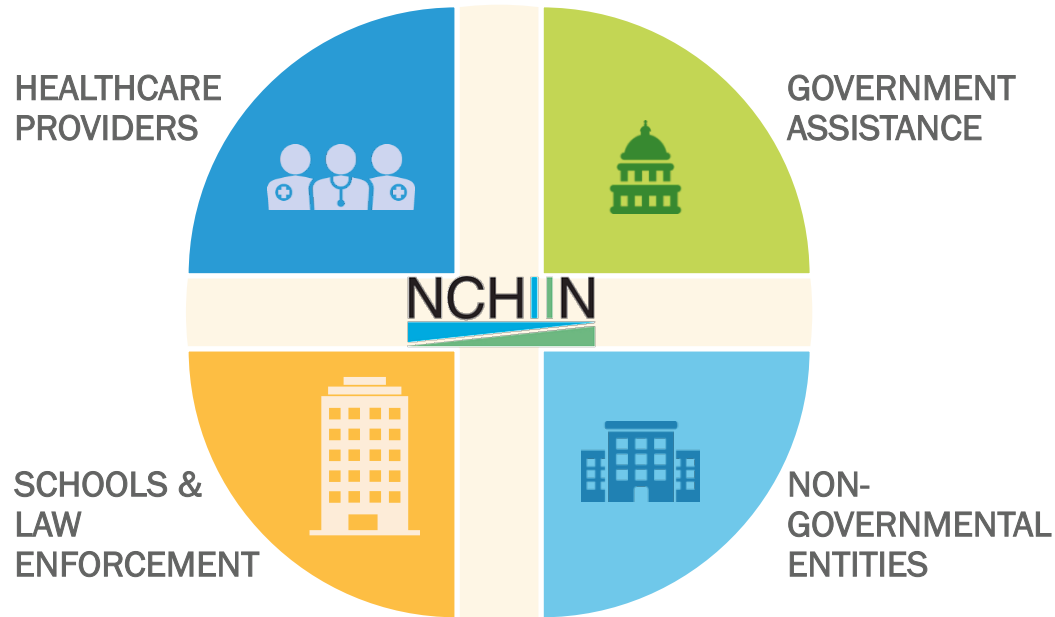
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# But This Community Is Not Interoperable



## Strategy #2: Expand From “Healthcare” to “Health”



### Executive Roles

1. Convener
2. Grant management
3. Publication

### Functional Services

1. Identity & consent management
2. Event notification
3. Case management technology
4. Curation of analytic data

# To 1984 and Beyond!

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## Options

1. Merge more "good enough" patient identity information using probabilistic matching.
2. Match the "good enough" data from a source to a curated national database of people



# A Tech Innovator's Approach To Solving Identity Interoperability







Venture backed software company

Cloud-based identity resolution

API-based MPI service

More accurate, More nimble

# Identity is the Fourth Level of Interoperability

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Identity

Are we talking about the same person?

Semantic

Can we understand one another?

Structural

Can we talk to one another?

Foundational

Can we connect to one another?

# 30% of all identity information stored in databases is incorrect or out-of-date

**Identity** = Name | Address | Birthdate | Gender | SSN | Phone | Email

## Time

Name change  
Address change  
Phone change  
Email change  
Birth | Death

**18% change per year**

## Ambiguity

Hispanic name hyphens  
Asian name order  
Nicknames  
Junior / Senior  
Twins

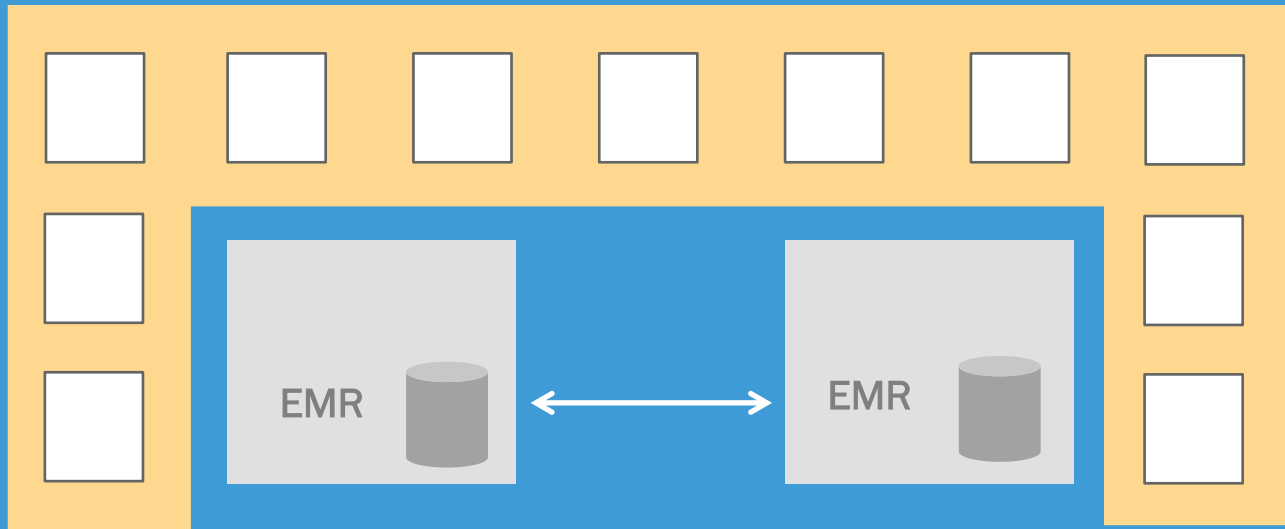
**25% of adult pop.**

## Errors

Spelling error  
Transcription error  
Homonym error  
Default entries  
Missing data

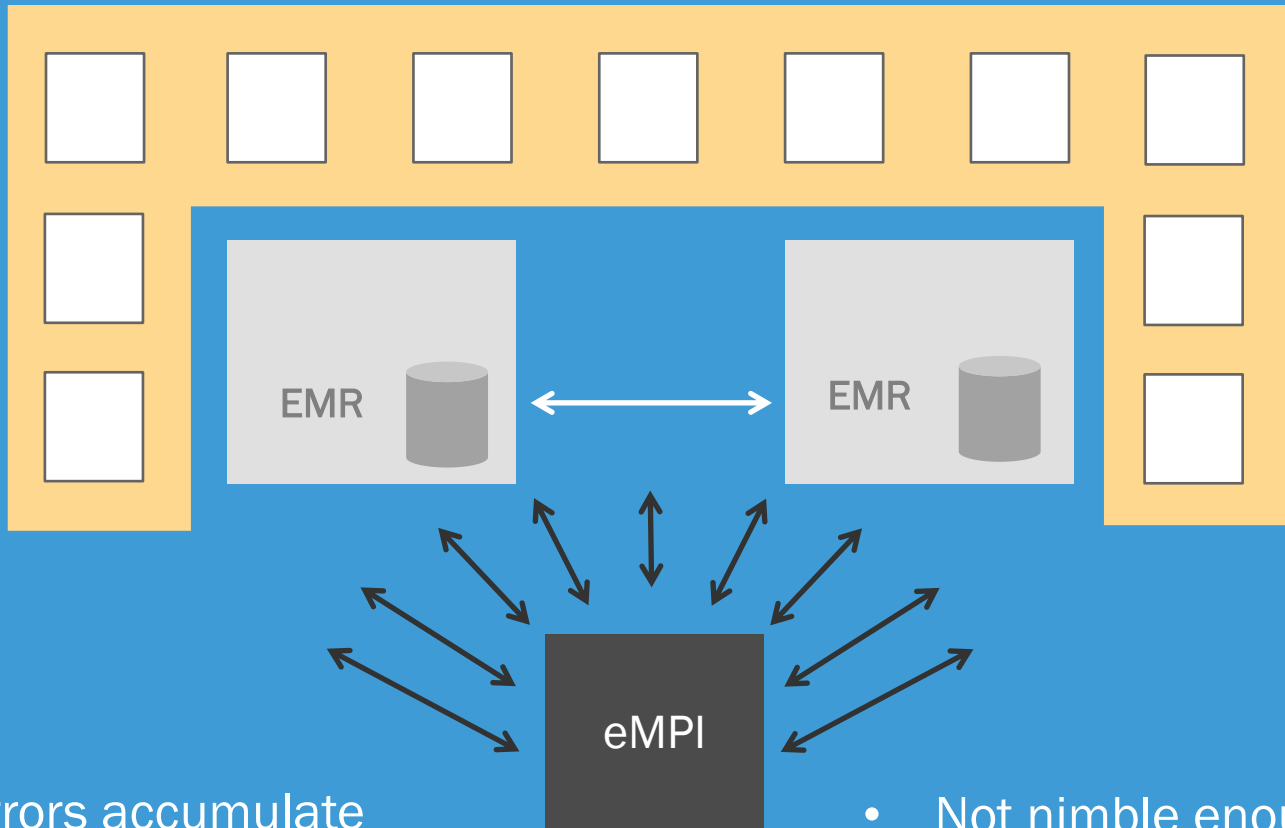
**6% of data**

# What Would an Identity Resolution Service look like?



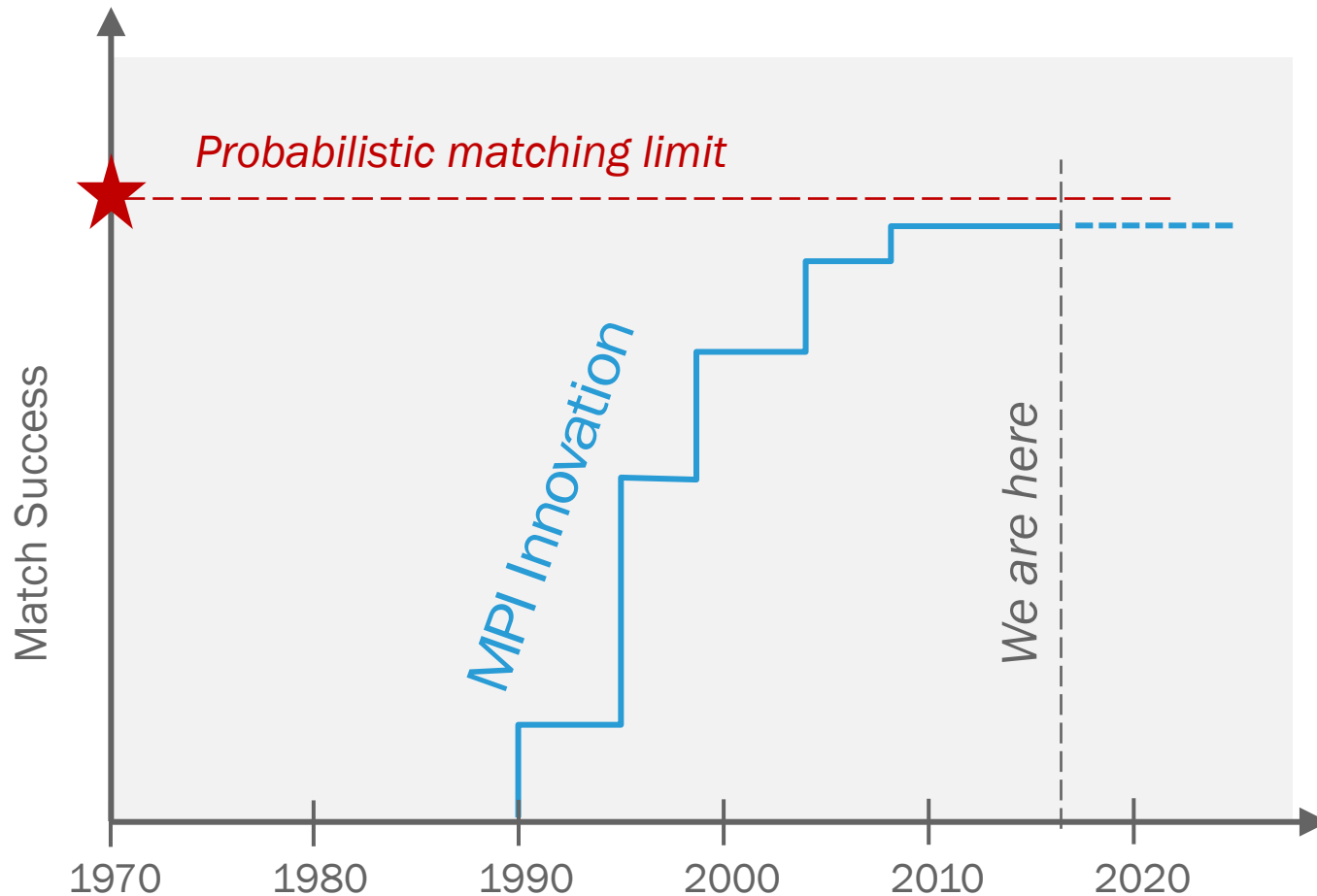
Identity Resolution Service?

# Enterprise MPI Technology Cannot Serve This Need



- Errors accumulate
- Too much tuning required
- Too much dependence on data quality
- Not nimble enough
- Not scalable enough
- Not accurate enough

# Conventional EMPIs Have Reached their Limit



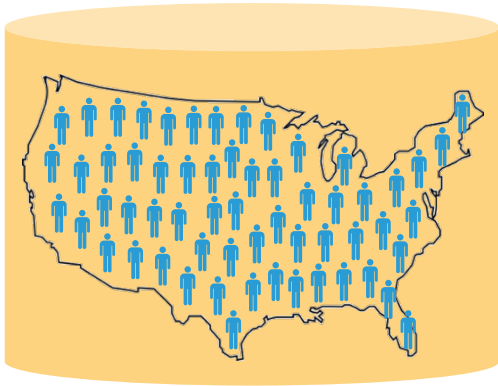
★ The Fellegi Sunter “record linking” algorithms that formed the basis for all probabilistic matching was invented in 1969

# Next-generation Technologies is Needed to Achieve Identity Interoperability – A “Universal MPI”

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## 1 Big Data

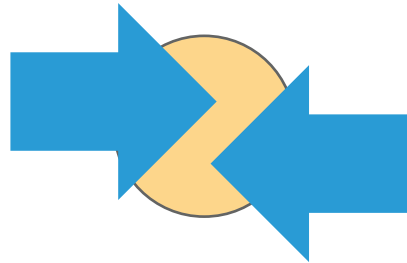
The Reference Database



Nationwide database of demographics.

## 2 Machine Learning

Referential Matching



More accurate.  
No tuning.

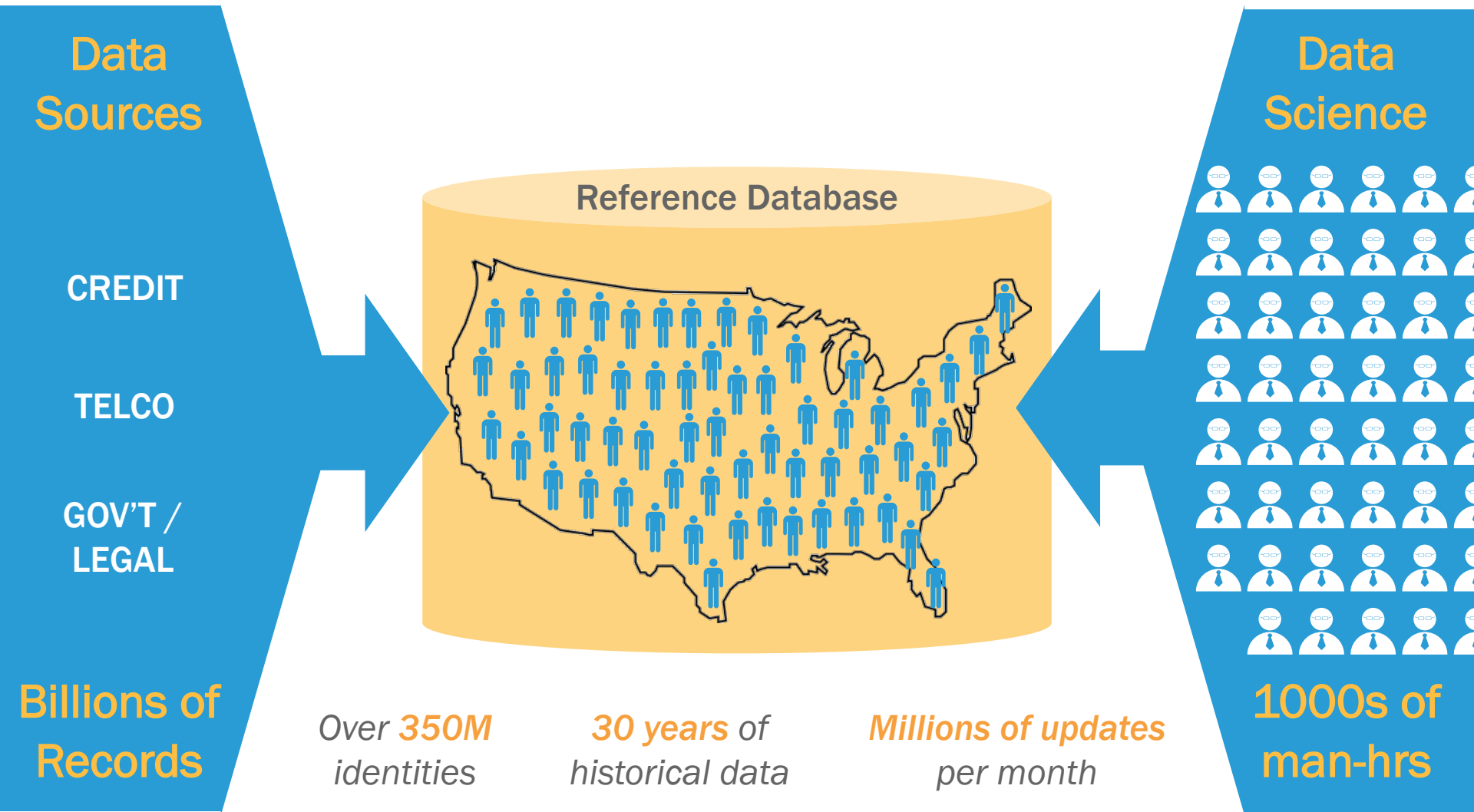
## 3 Cloud-Based

API-based Simplicity



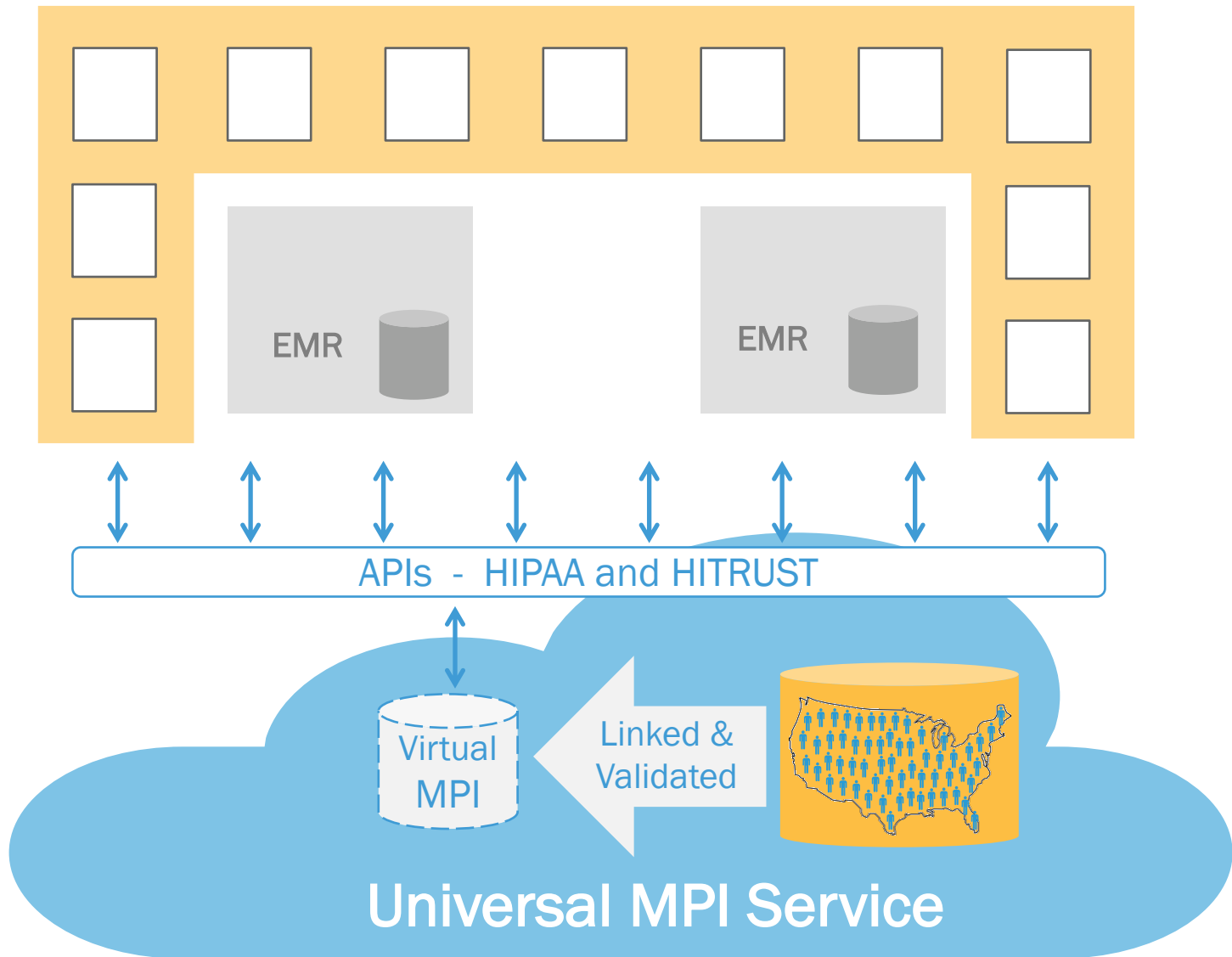
Just plug in.

# The Foundation of a Universal MPI is a Massive Reference Database of Identities

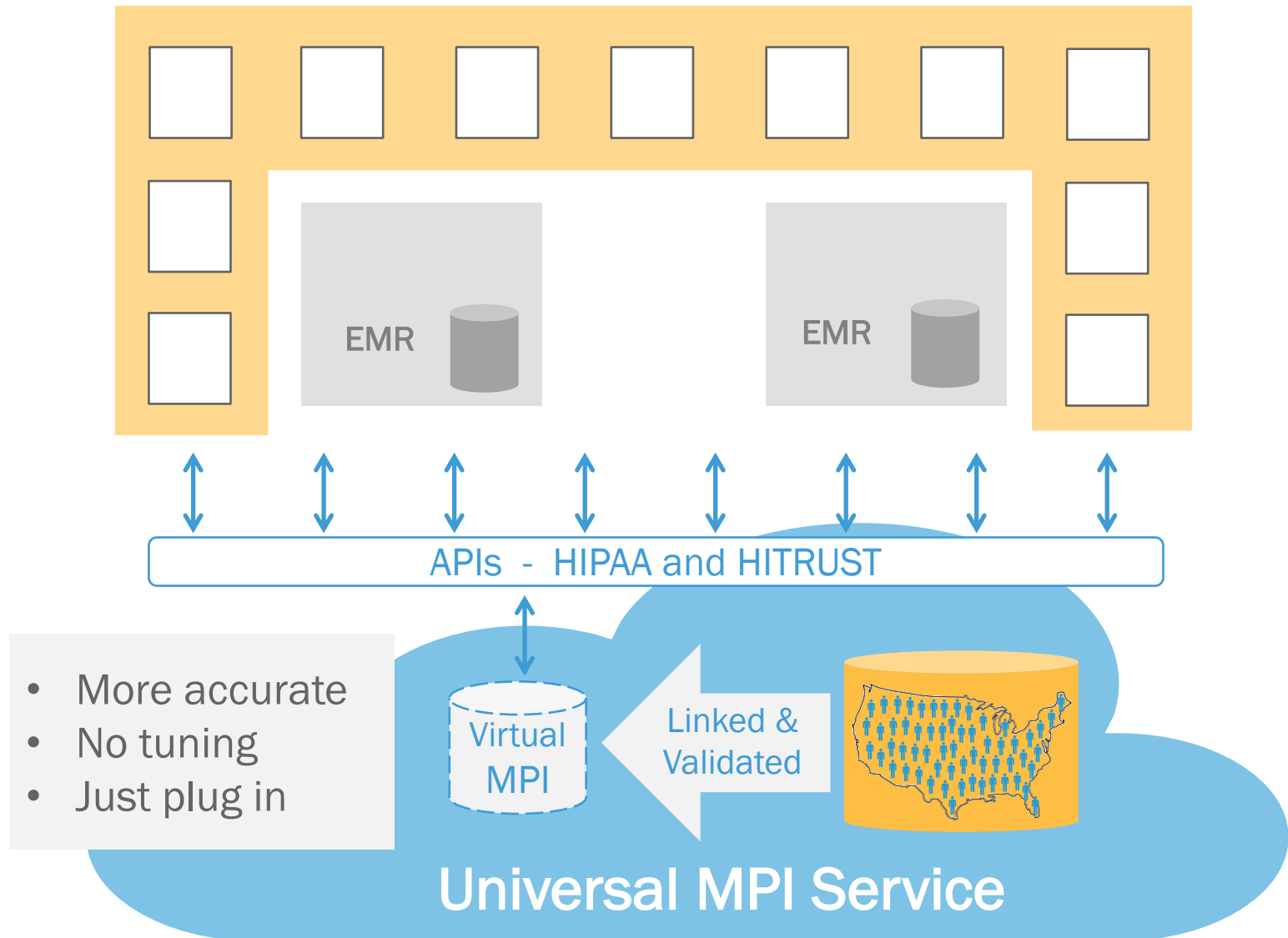




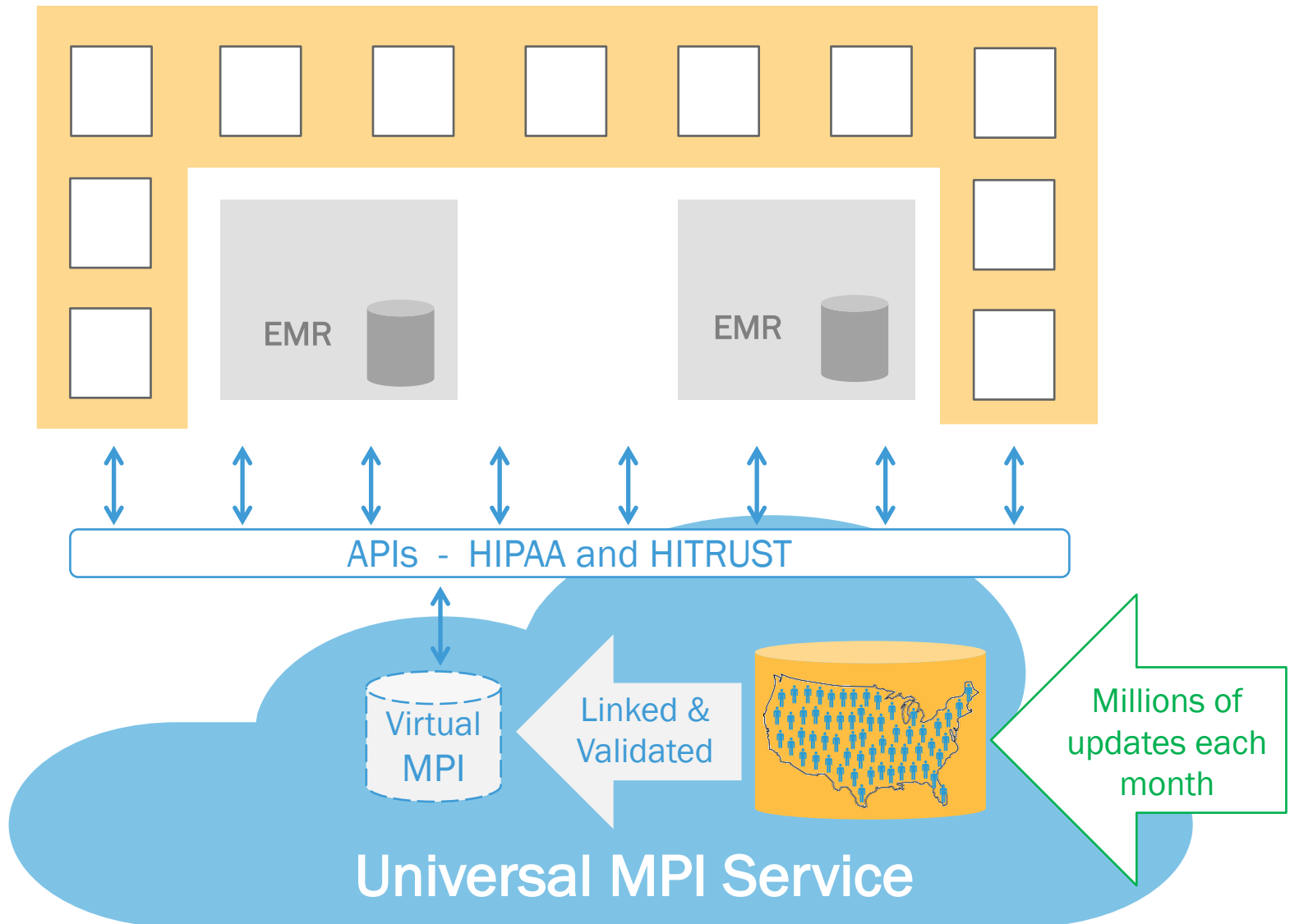
# A Universal MPI Service: Description



# A Universal MPI Service: Benefits

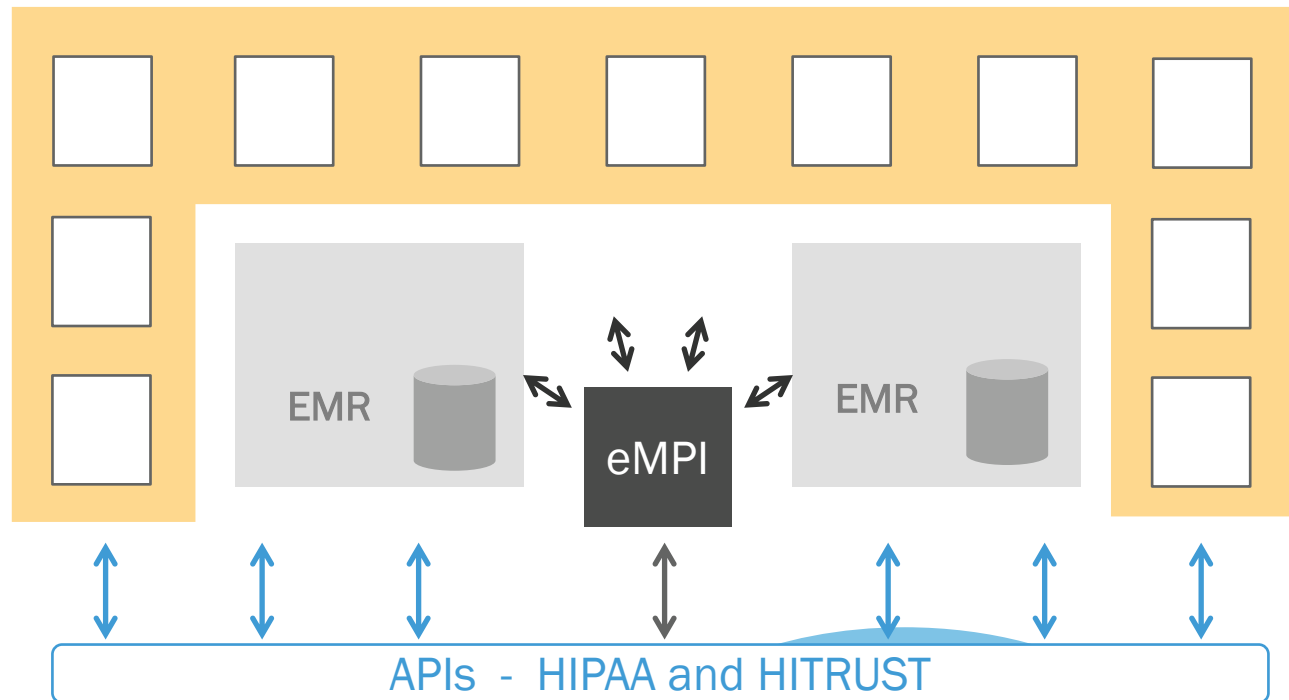


# A Universal MPI Service: Stays Up to Date



## Strategy #3: Use a Universal MPI in conjunction with existing eMPI

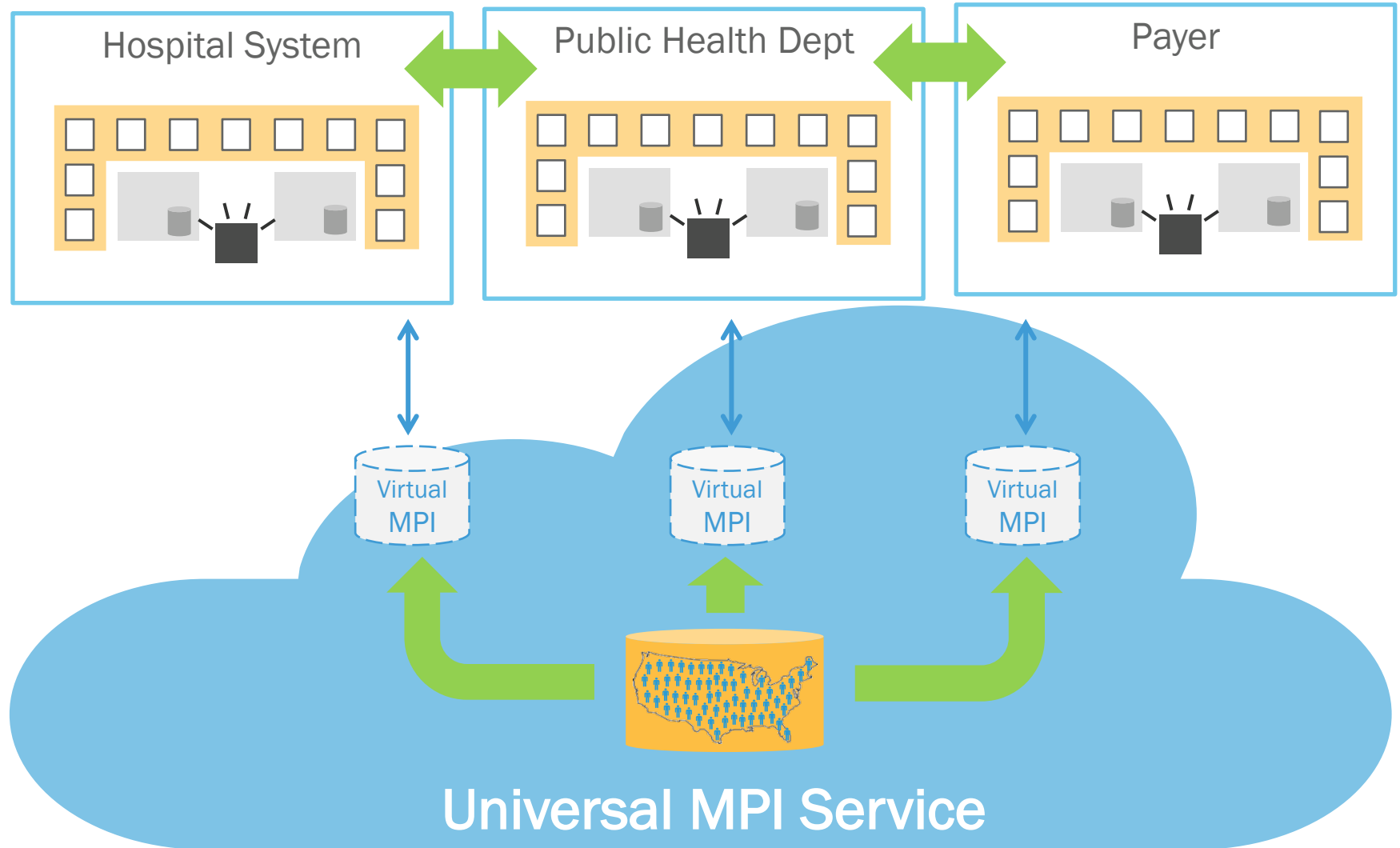
– minimal disruption with maximum nimbleness



- Stop cleaning your data
- Automate data stewardship
- Add new systems easily

Universal MPI Service

Because all identities are linked to common reference identities,  
cooperating enterprises can easily refer to common patients



# The Strategies

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ANDREA DARBY

*Regardless of the path you choose, you should take active steps toward interoperability - today*



WES RISHEL

*Real "Health" requires interoperability that goes well beyond the healthcare institution*



MARK LaROW

*Full "Identity interoperability" is essential and can be achieved by adding a Universal MPI functionality*

# Contact Verato to learn how you can...

Use the Verato  
Universal™ MPI solution  
as your primary MPI

Turbocharge your existing  
MPI solution with automated  
data stewardship and  
duplicate resolution.