

Privacy-First Machine Learning

Bringing the Web on Par with Mobile

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Why is Privacy Important?

Inclusivity

- Web as an Egalitarian Ecosystem
- Content-first delivery
- Features included when available
- Devices, platforms, and browsers as distractions from inclusivity
- Progressive enhancement as a proven delivery model



Inclusivity

- Metrics can be harmful
- Humans become demographics
- Delivery becomes biased
- Web tilts towards the wealthier



“Addressing accessibility, usability, and inclusion together can more effectively lead to a more accessible, usable, and inclusive web for everyone.”

Accessibility, Usability, and Inclusion | Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) | W3C

State of Mobile

- Great accessibility features
- Backwards compatibility is limited
- Older APIs are costly to support
- Codebases can often diverge
- Dropping handsets is justifiable
- Solution: go web-first



Privacy and Inclusivity

Privacy as a Right

- Privacy as a feature is harmful
- Tracking by default is problematic
- Exploiting poorer users to upsell privacy or collect data is anti-inclusive
- Not providing a fair & inclusive choice creates a broken web

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with buildings silhouetted against a warm orange sky. In the foreground, a sign with the text "Data has a better idea" is visible, featuring a green and yellow color scheme and a small graphic of a person holding a sign.

Data has a better idea

Privacy and UX

Privacy and UX

- Opt-ins for tracking are bad UX
- Opt-ins are created by defaulting to cookie & tracking on first-load
- To fix the UX, cookies and trackers can be moved in the UX flow
- Essentially reducing data collection to near-zero creates better experiences



Privacy and Machine Learning

Privacy and Machine Learning

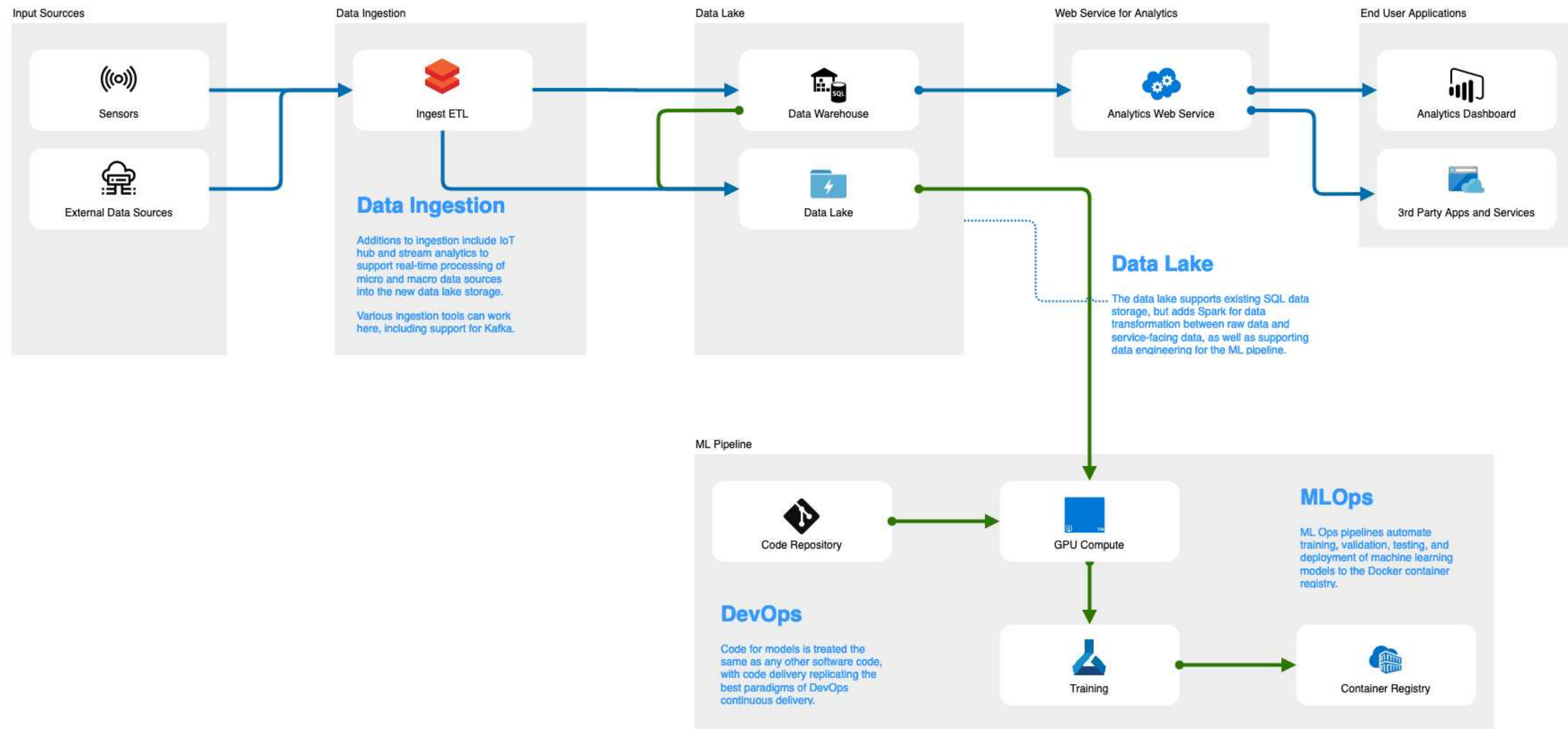
- Differential Privacy
- Federation
- Reduction of data collection
- All on Edge & IoT already
- Centralized learning is not necessary or privacy-enabled



Data has a better idea

Legacy ML Architecture

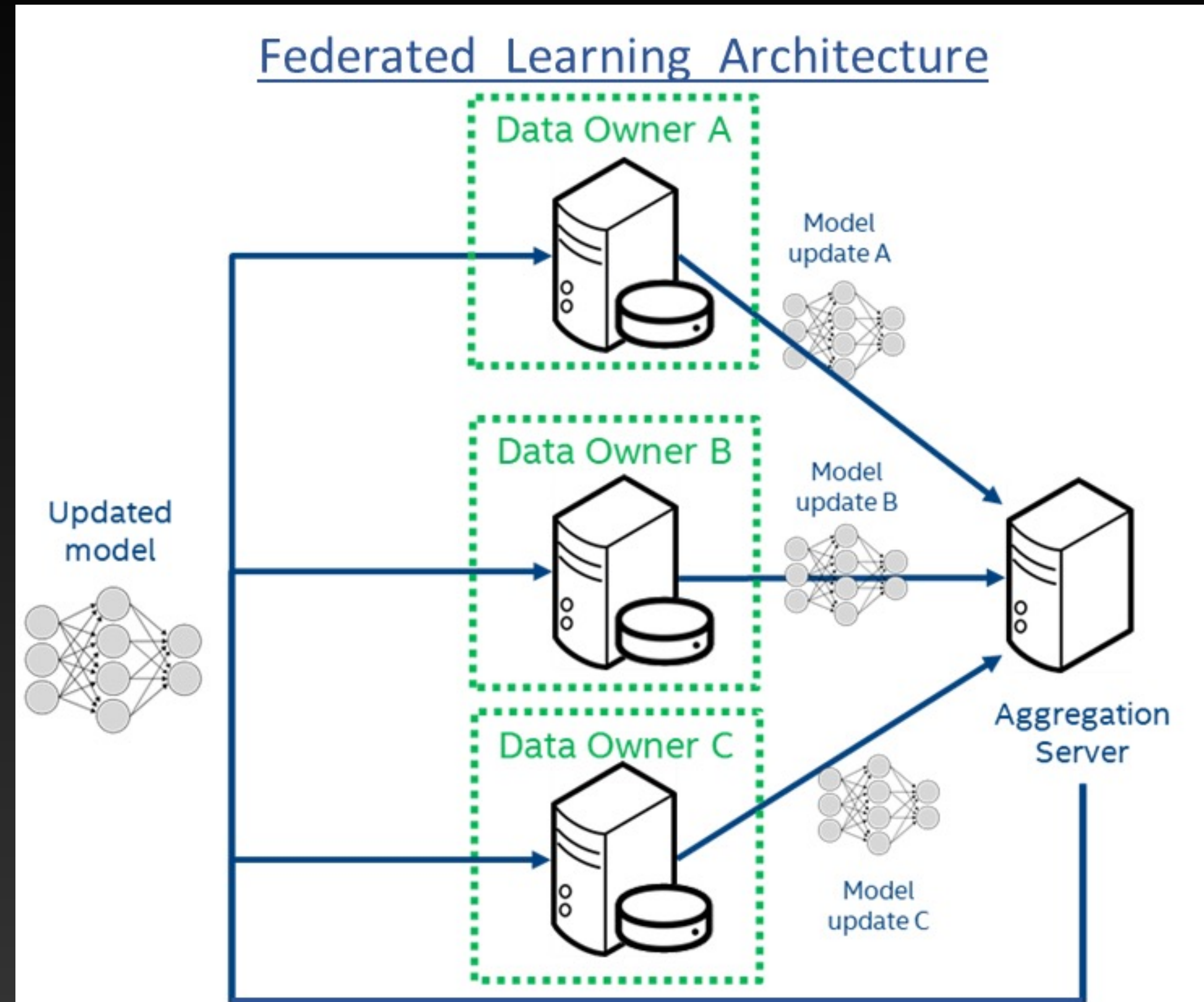
Simplified ML Service



Modern ML Architecture

ML Architecture

- Decentralize services
- Distribute training and inference
- Federate privacy-oriented models
- Inference on the edge (*when possible*)
- Add ML progressively (*ES Modules rule!*)



Web vs Native Privacy

Web vs Native Privacy

- Browsers *will* pick the best hardware available
- Wasm is a great companion
- Wasm is portable (re-use) & fast
- Browser models can be privacy-enabling and inclusive
- Stop defaulting to data collection



Thank you.