

Custos

A Flexibly Secure Key-Value Storage Platform

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Masters of Science
Computer Science

Trust

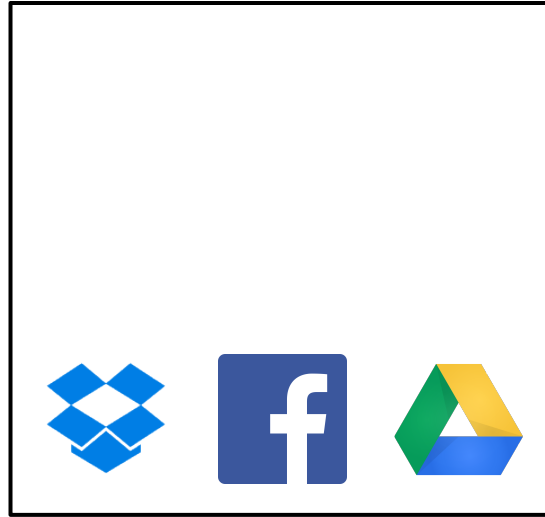
Who do we trust
with our data?

Today...





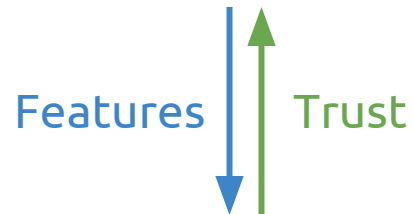
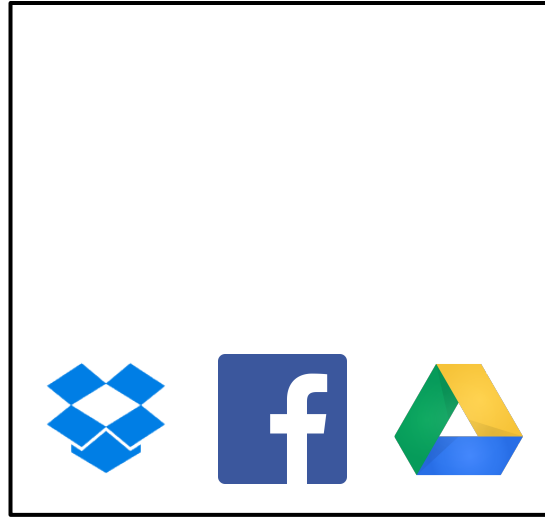
Feature Provider



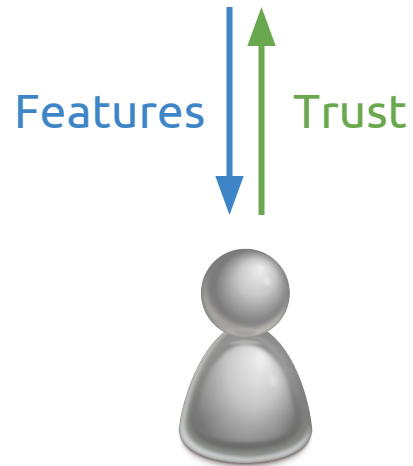
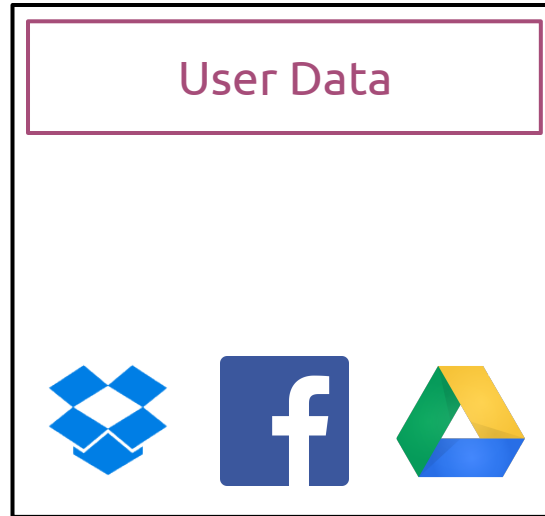
Features



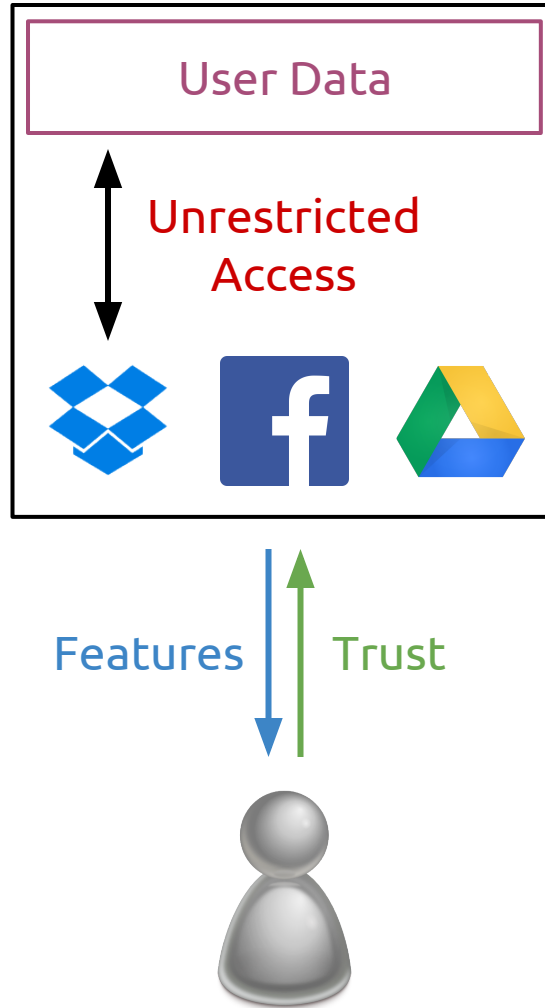
Feature Provider



Feature Provider



Feature Provider



Conflicts of Interest

Lack of Control

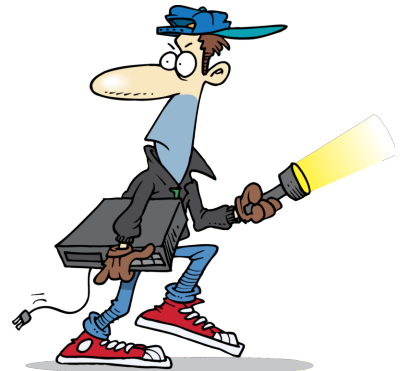
Absence of Oversight

So you don't
use cloud services...





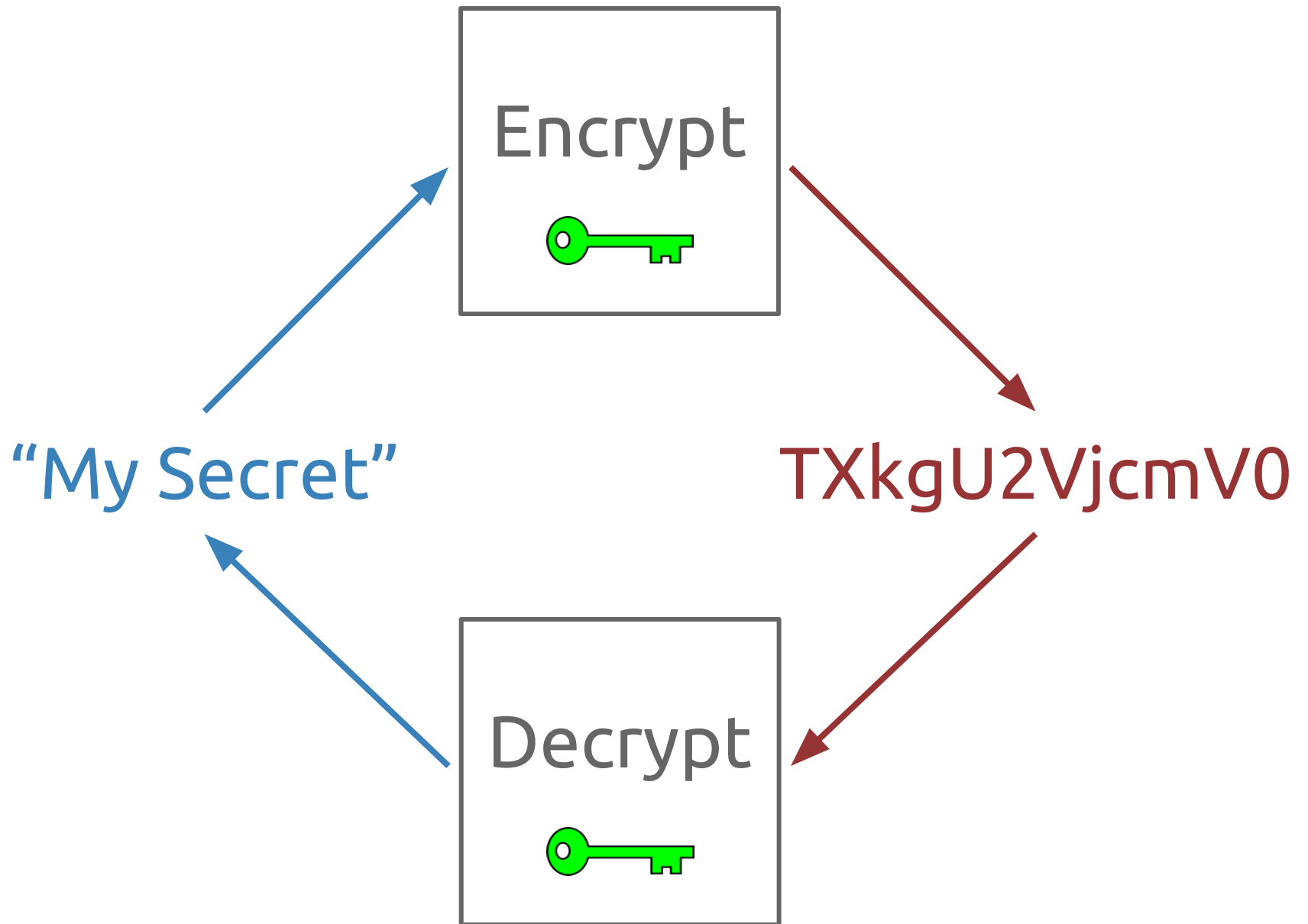






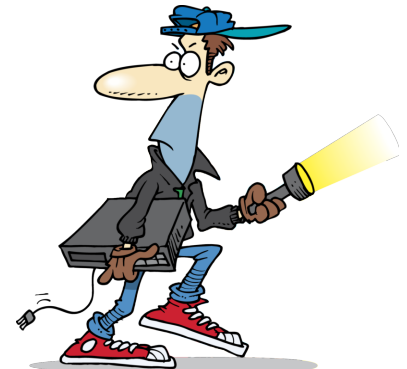
How can we control
and protect our data?

Encryption

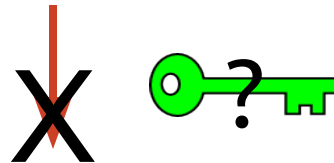


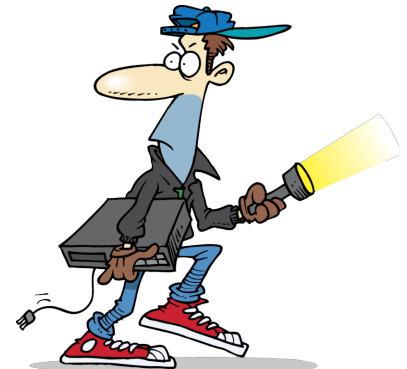
How does it help us?

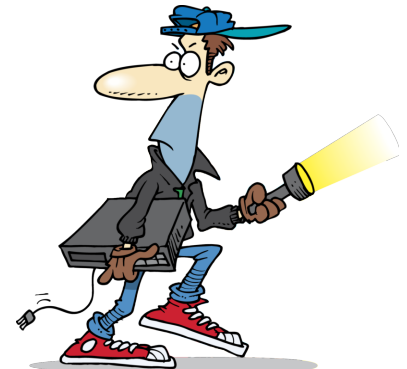




But what about the keys?

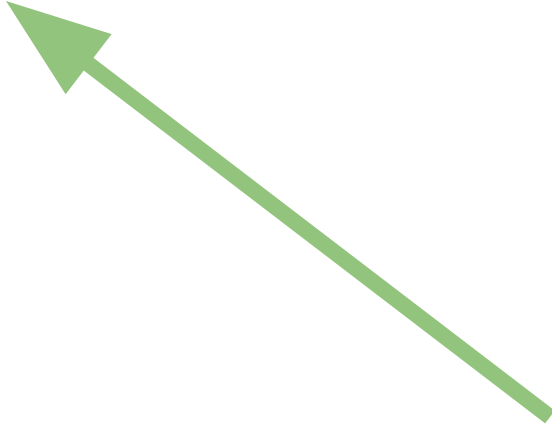


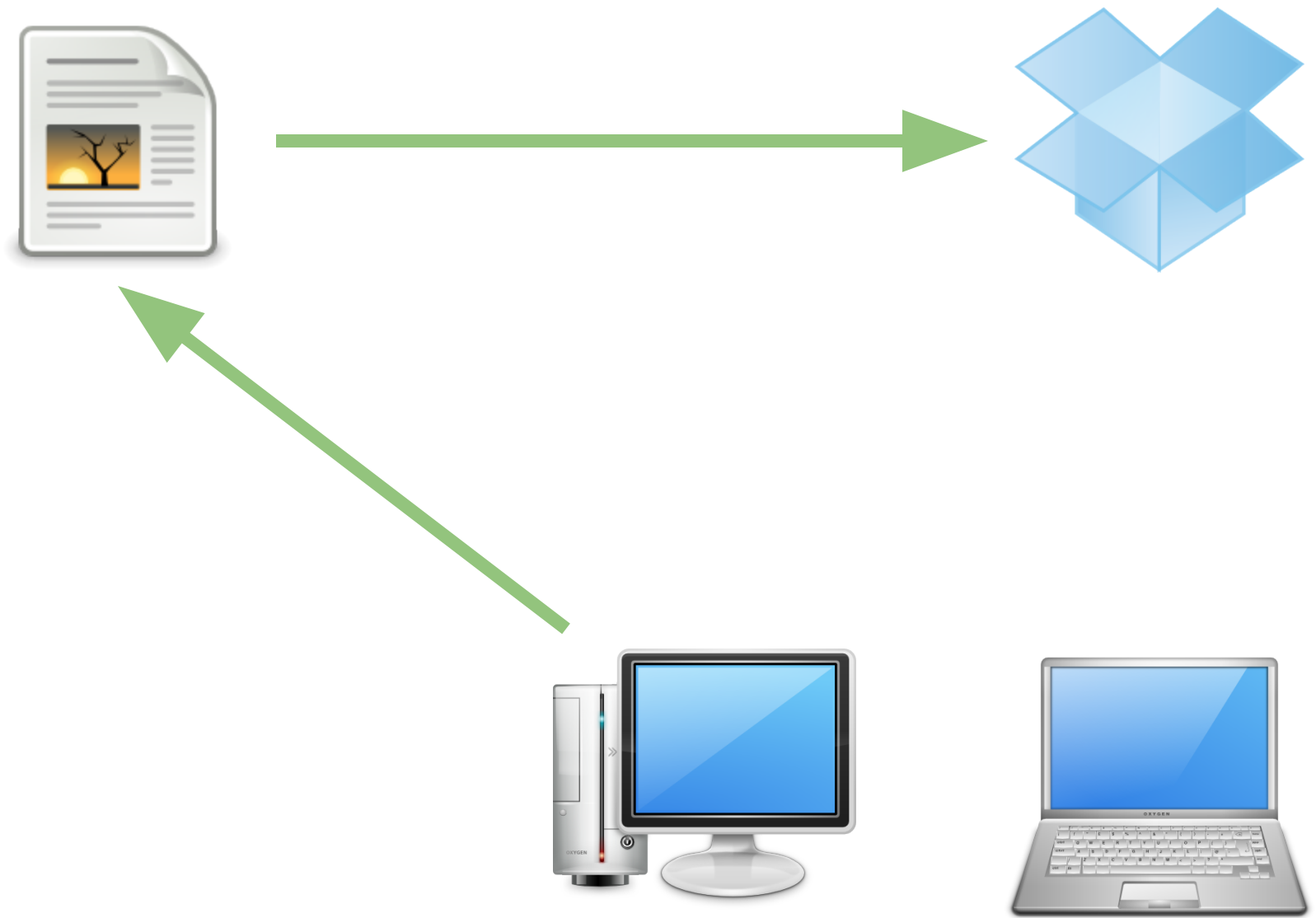


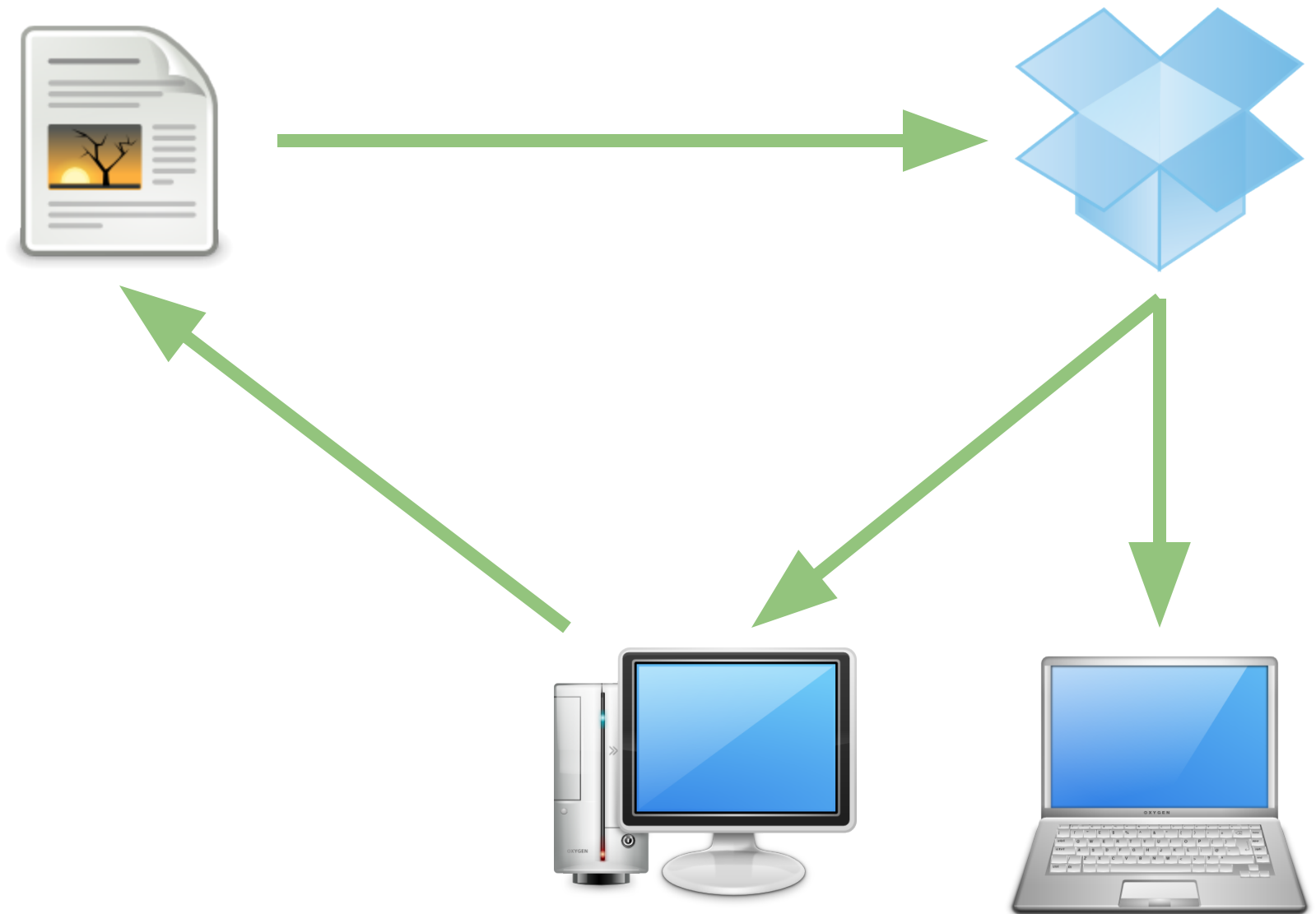


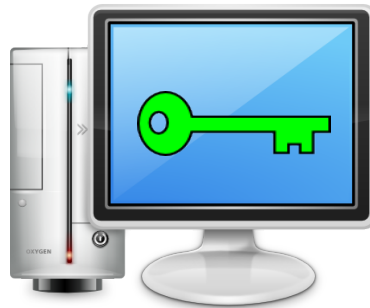
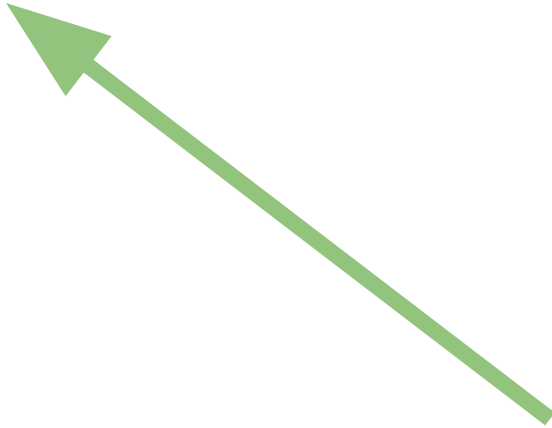
Key Management Challenges

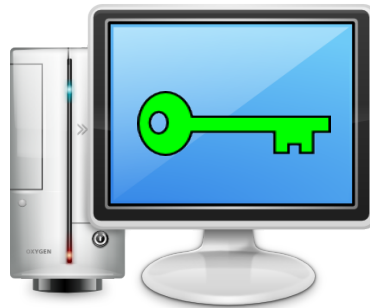
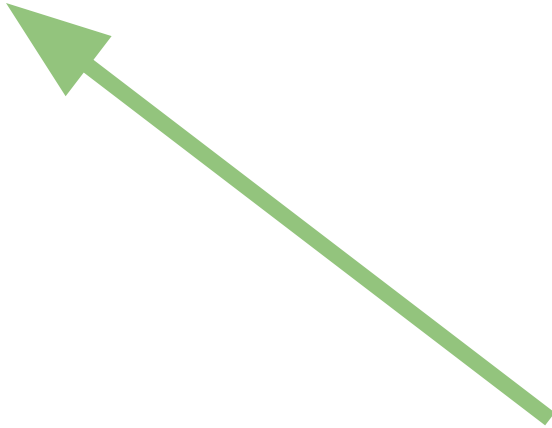
Multi-Device Sync

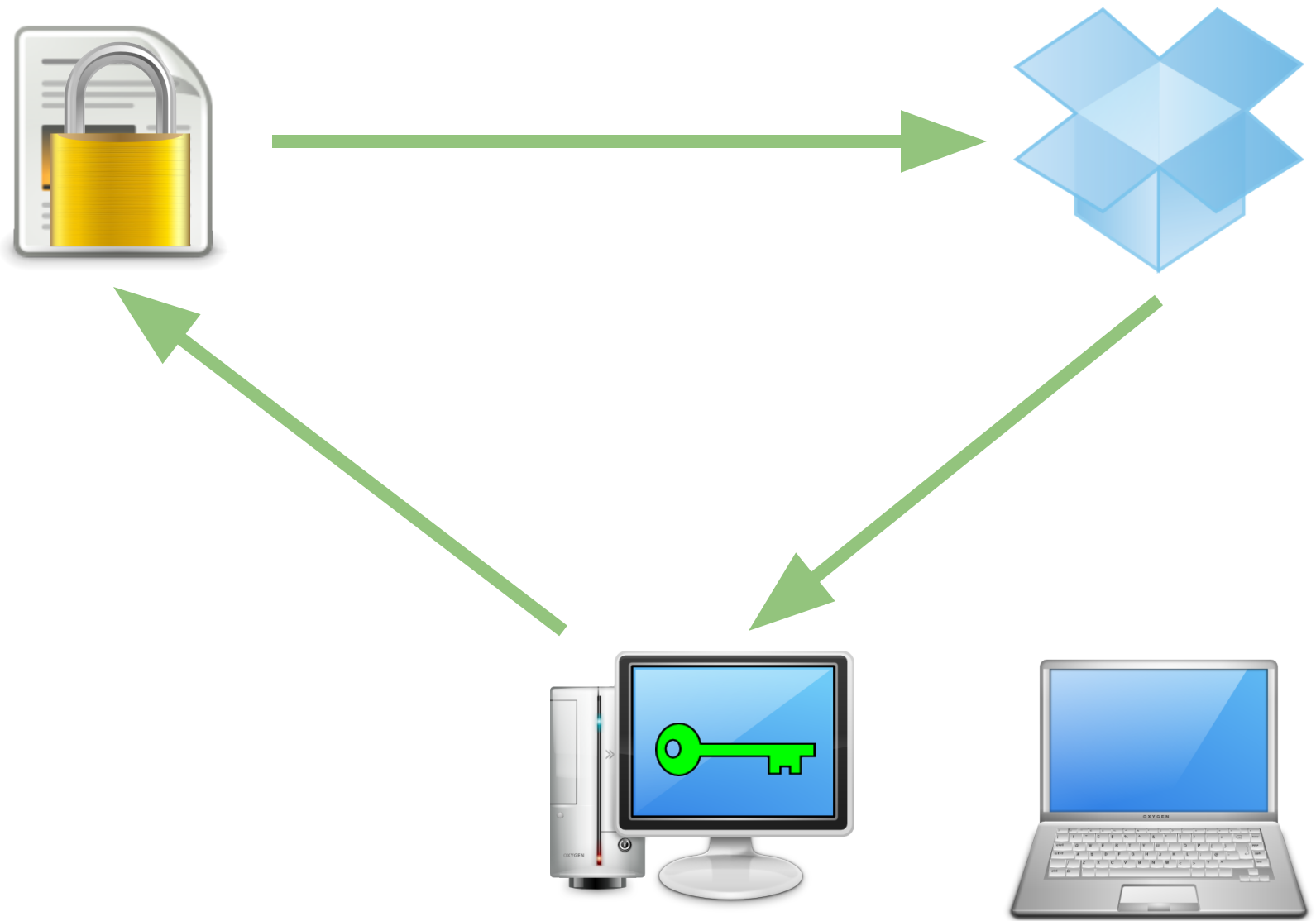


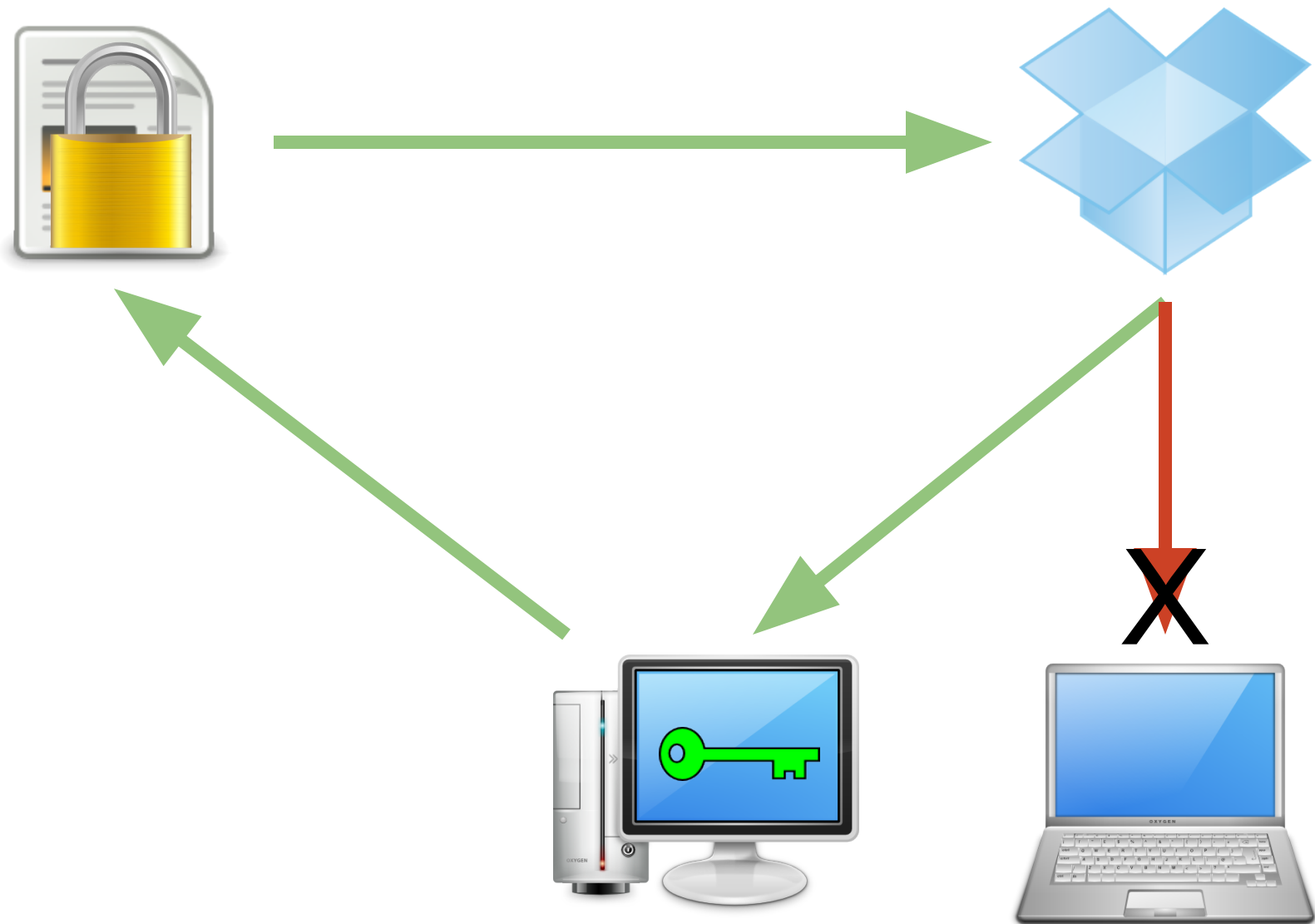




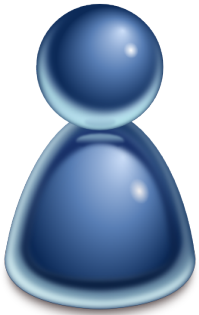


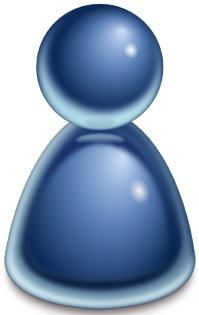
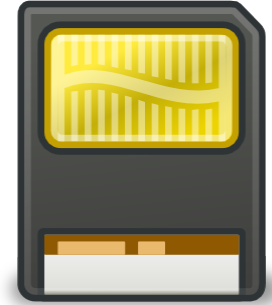


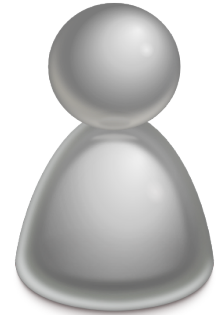
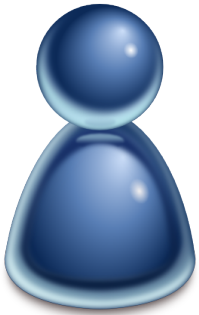
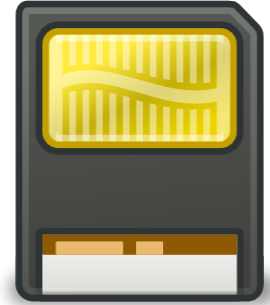


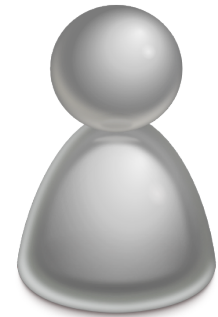
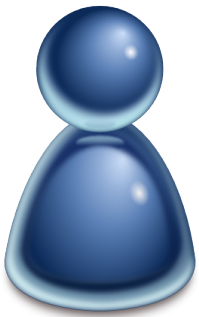
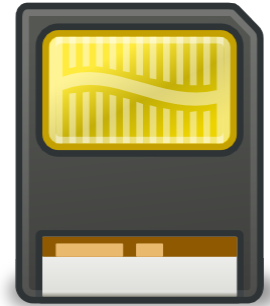


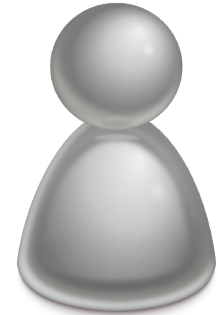
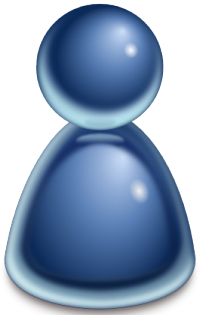
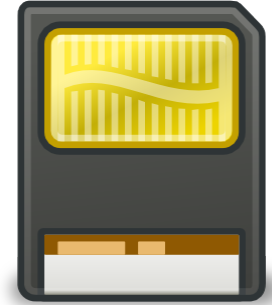
Out-of-Band Sharing

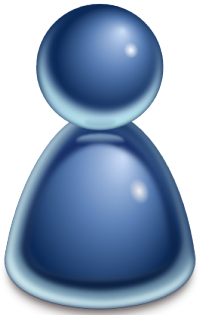
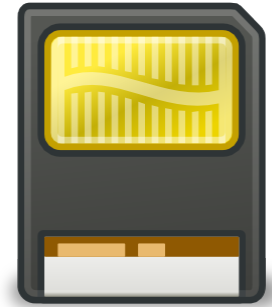




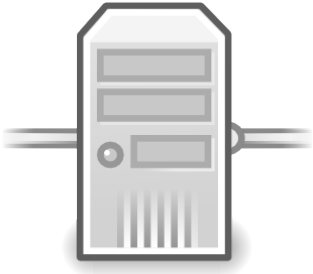


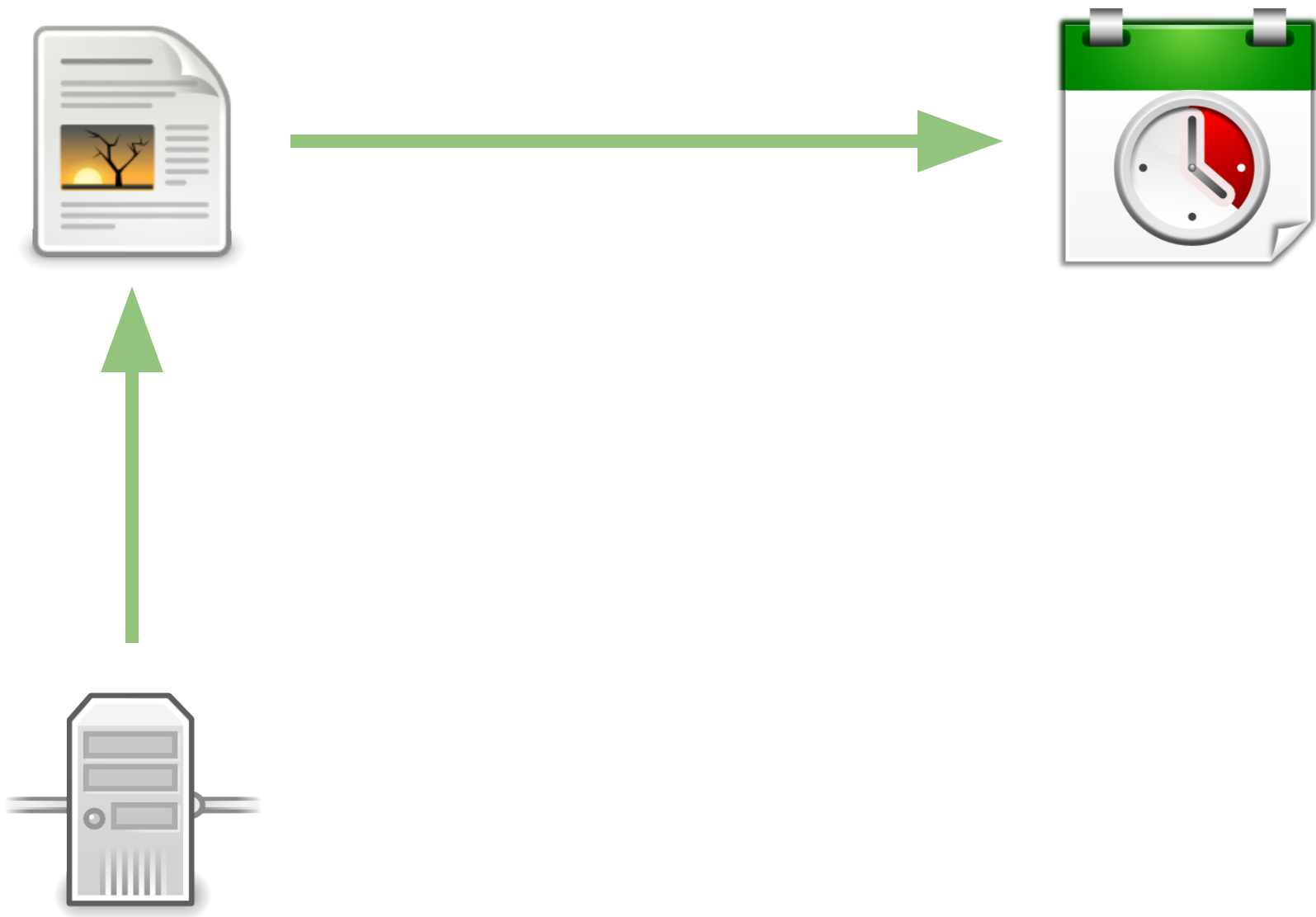


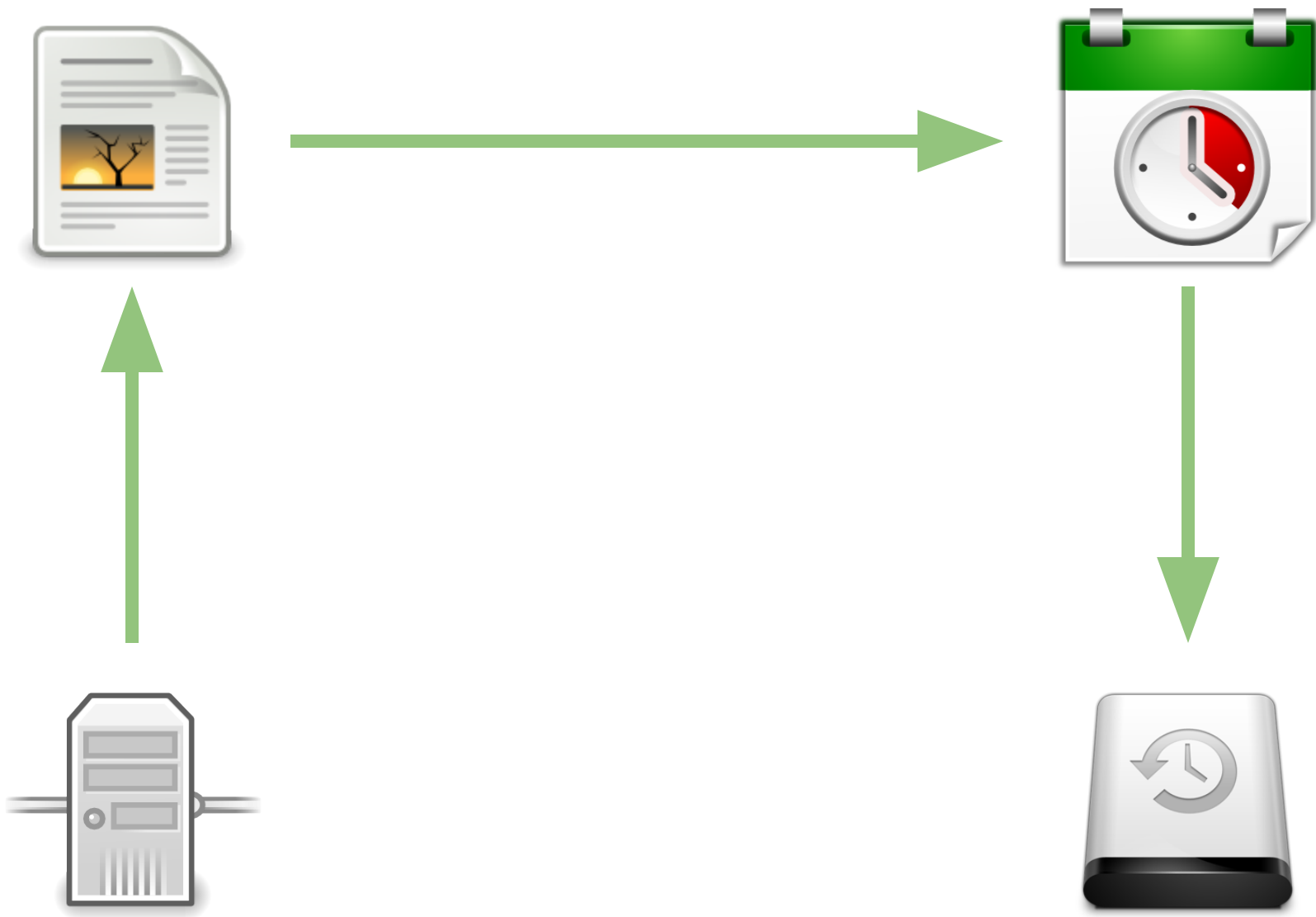


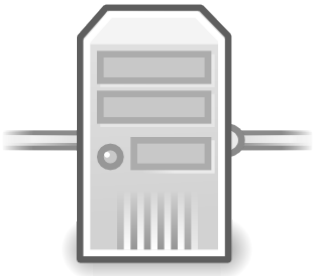


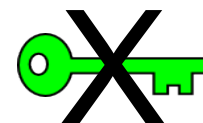
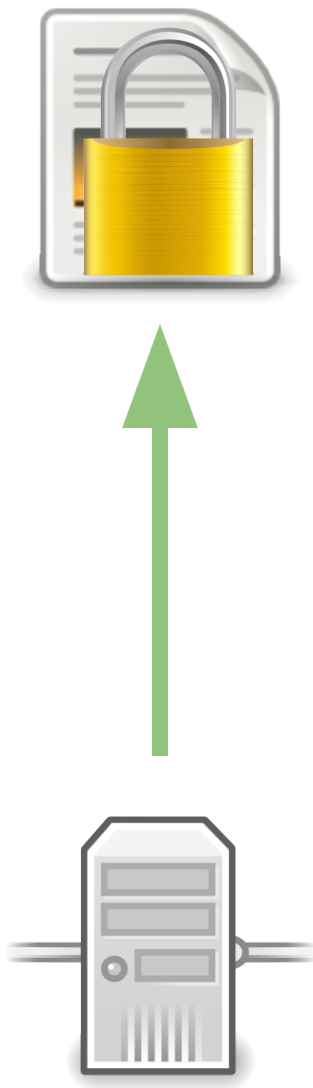
Autonomous Access





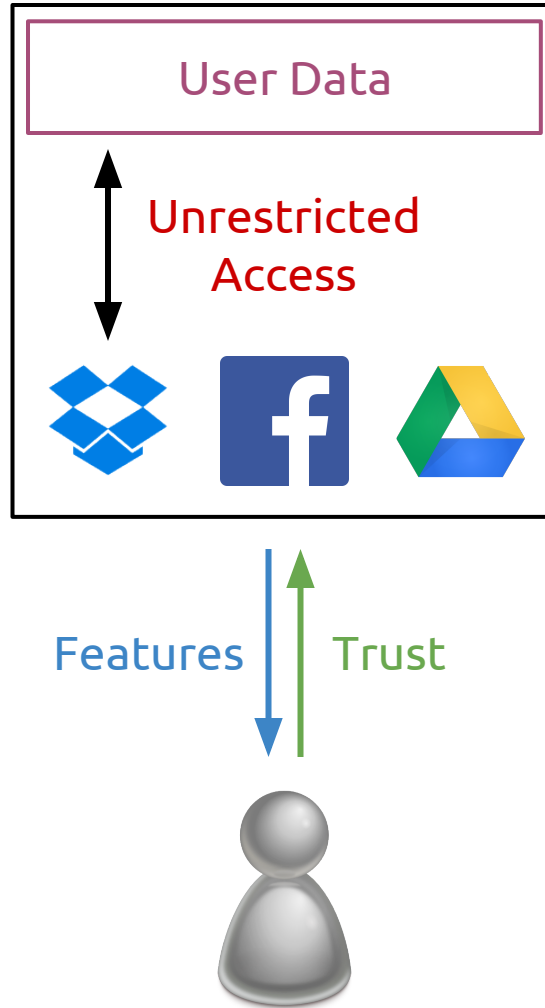




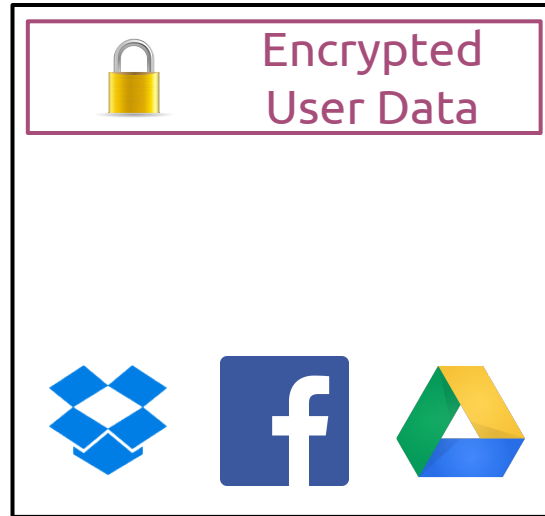


The Cloud

Feature Provider



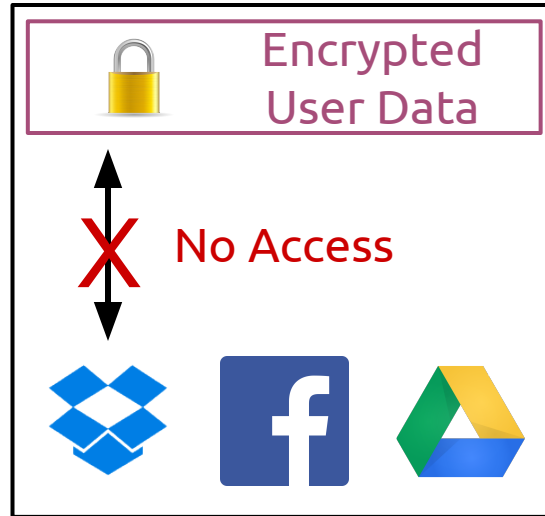
Feature Provider



Features



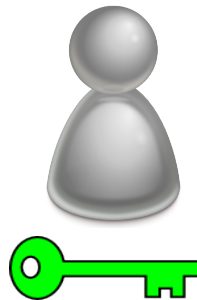
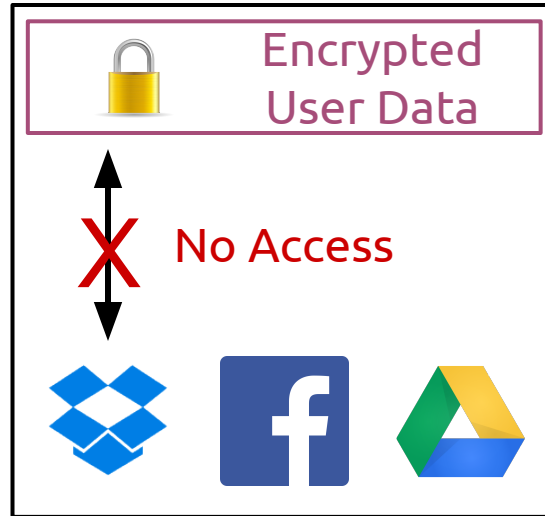
Feature Provider



Features

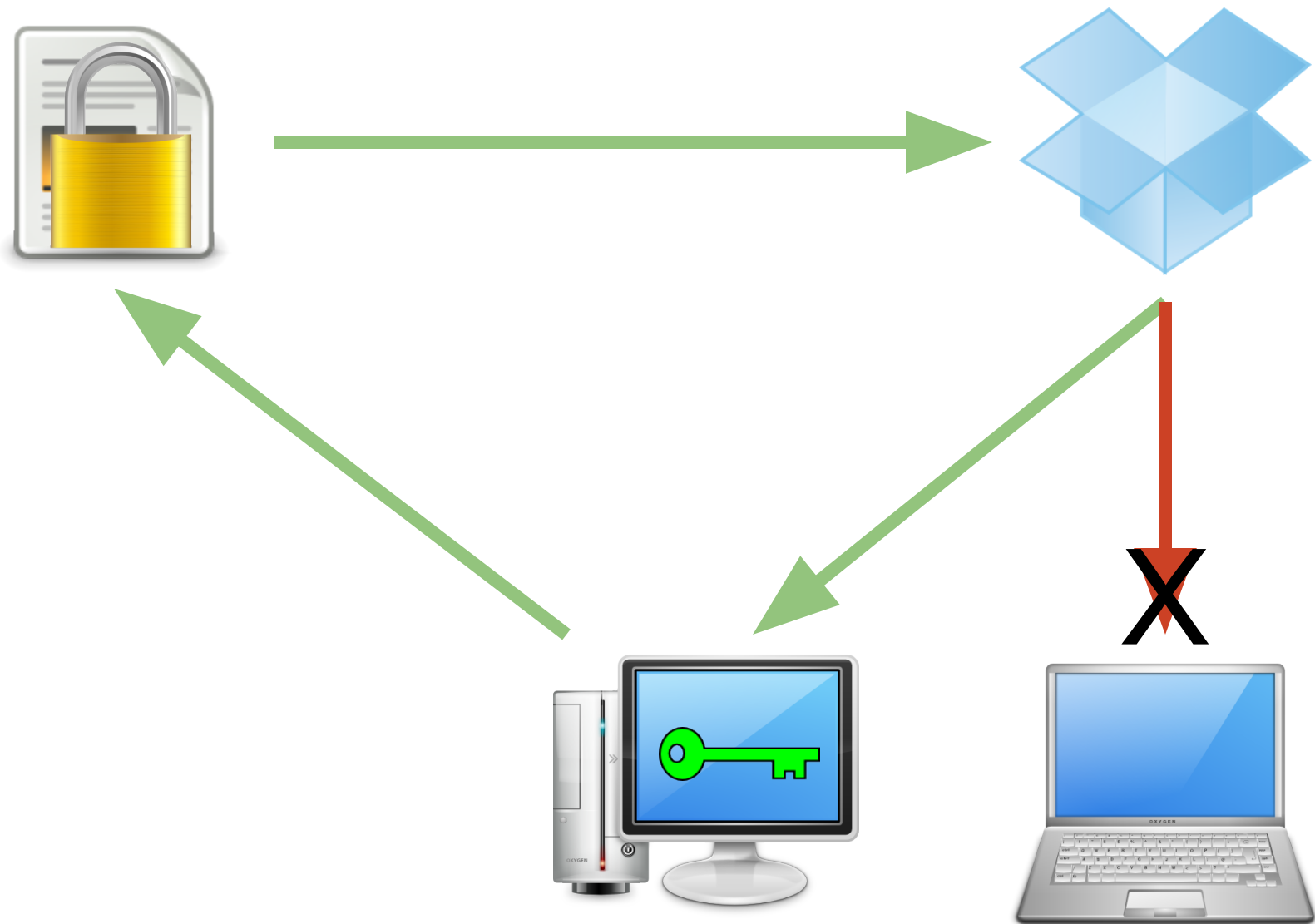


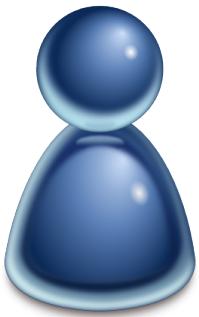
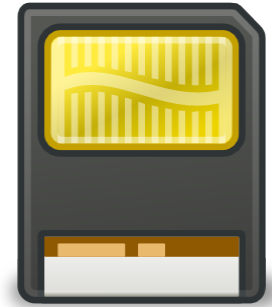
Feature Provider



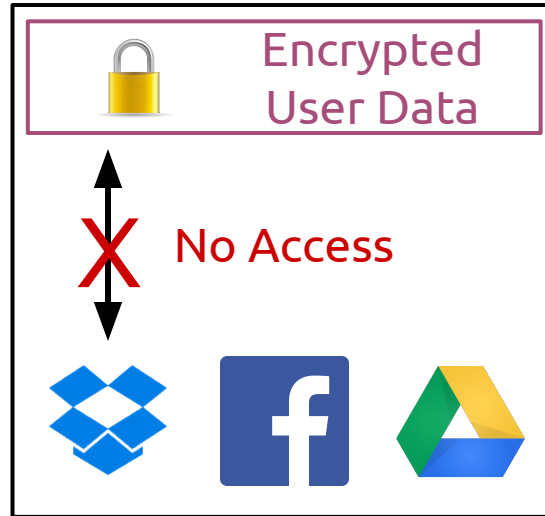
Encryption
is broken

Lack of key access





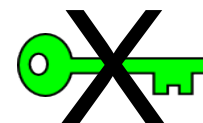
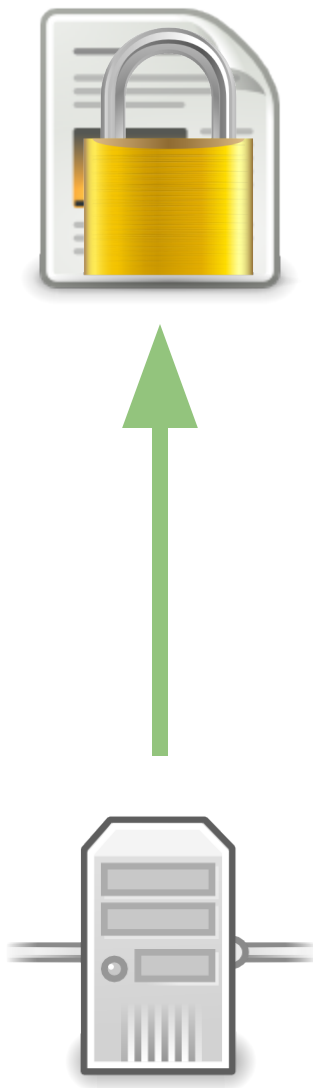
Feature Provider



Features



Lack of flexibility



Security

Accessibility

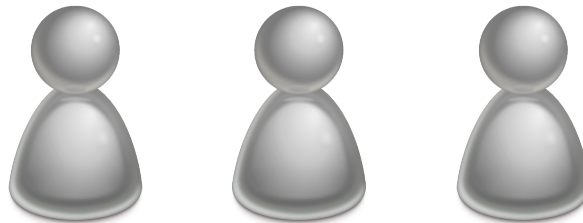


Security

Accessibility

Fixed Point

Traditional
Encryption
Systems



Ill-suited for
Modern Application

Difficult to Use

Doesn't Solve
the Real Problem

Encryption
is broken

Encryption
is fine

Encryption
is fine

Key storage
is broken

To fix key storage...

Flexibility

Centralization

Flexibility

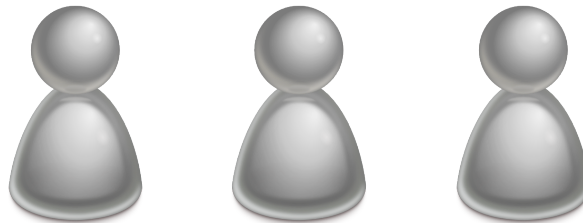
Security

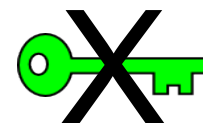
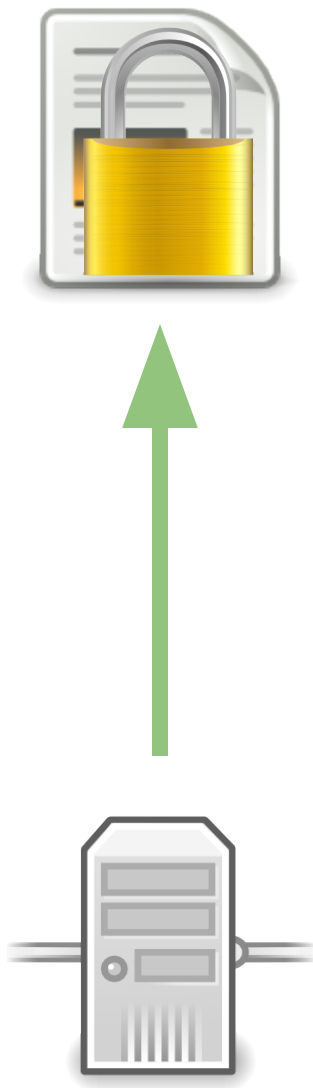
Accessibility

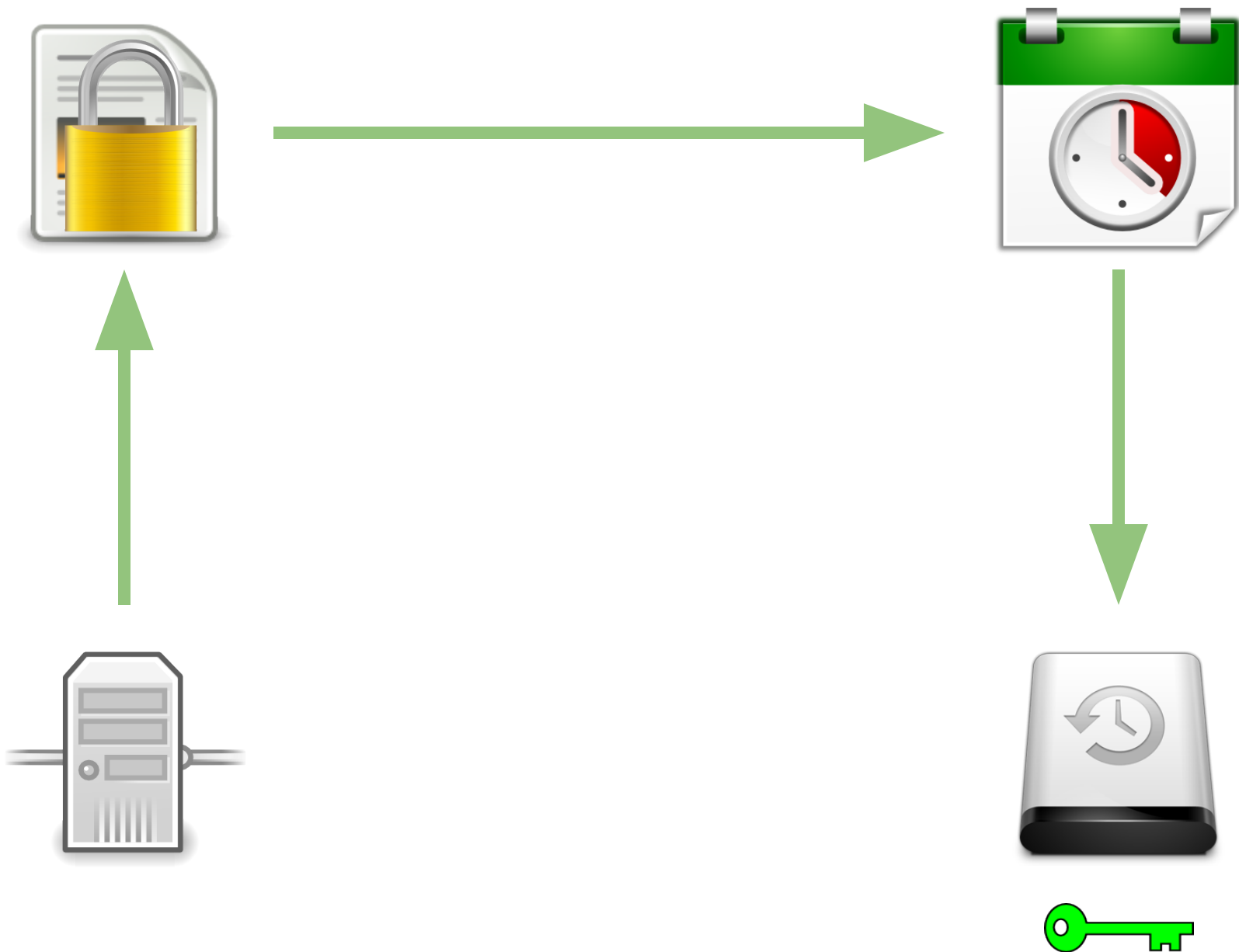
Flexible Points



Flexible
Encryption
Systems

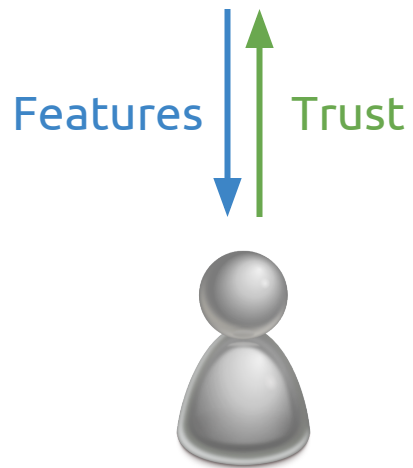
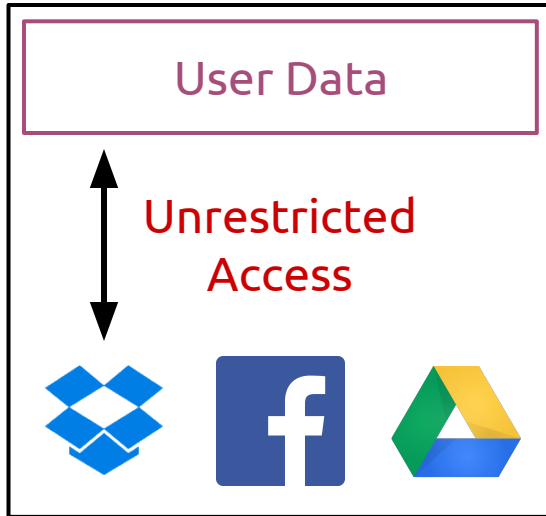




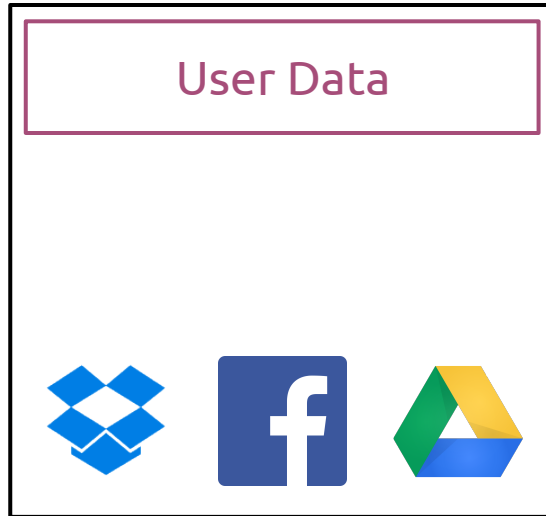


Centralization

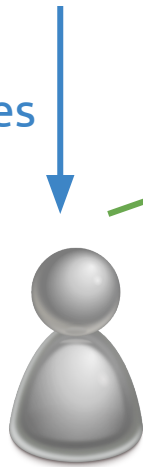
Feature Provider



Feature Provider



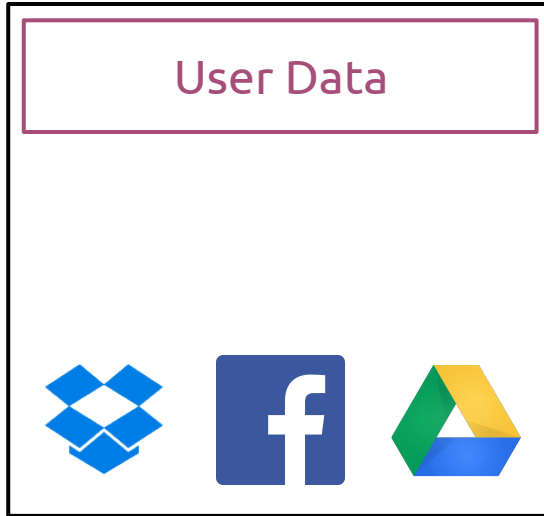
Features



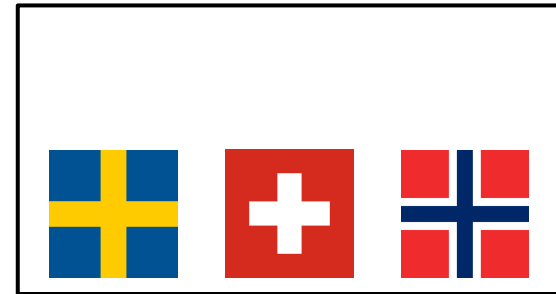
Trust



Feature Provider



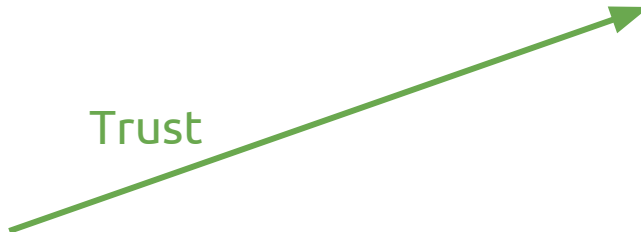
Trust Provider



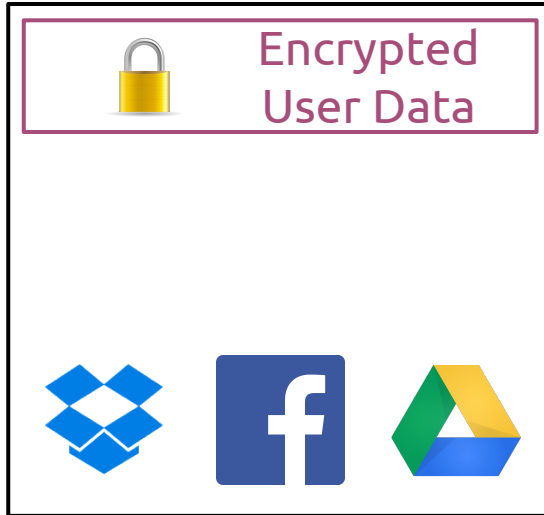
Features



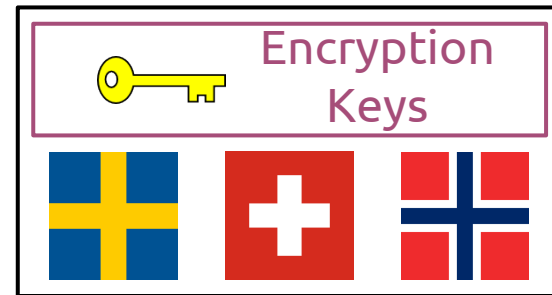
Trust



Feature Provider



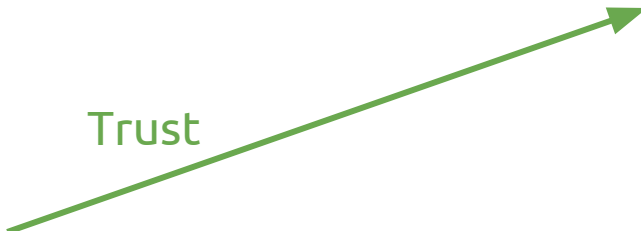
Trust Provider



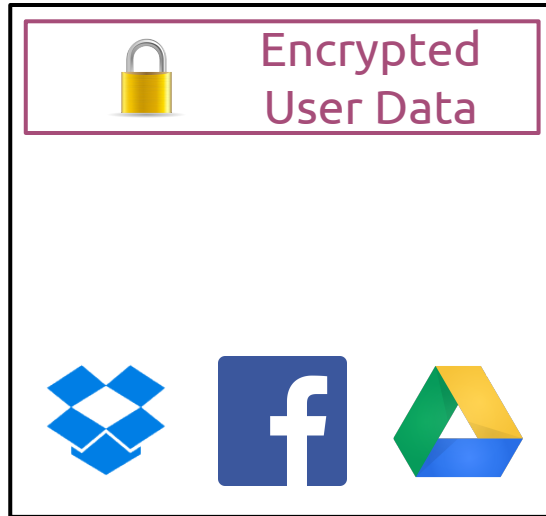
Features



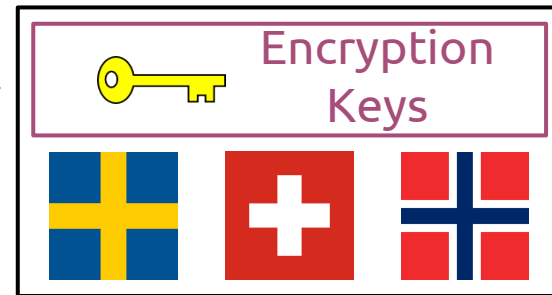
Trust



Feature Provider



Trust Provider



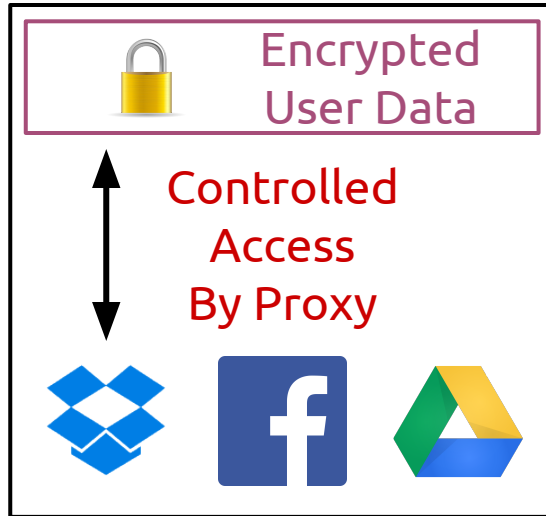
Controlled Access

Features

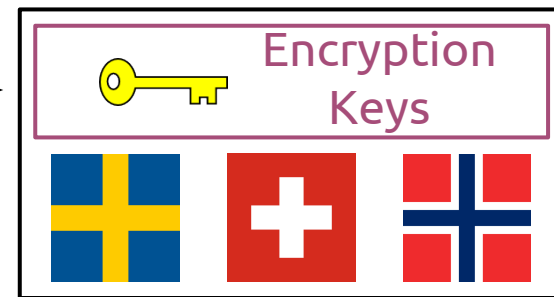
Trust



Feature Provider



Trust Provider



Controlled Access

Features

Trust



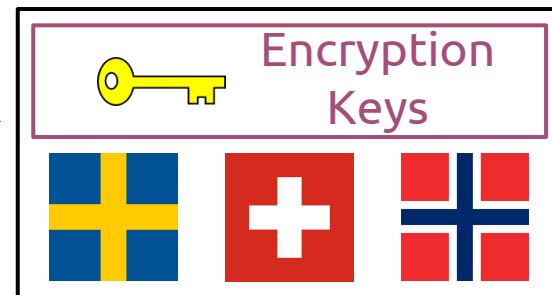
Data Host



Feature Provider



Trust Provider



Controlled Access

Features

Trust



Custos

“Secret Storage as a Service”

“Key Storage as a Service”

Central Key:Value Storage

Flexible Access Control

Access Auditing

Custos Server

Custos Server

Key:Value Store

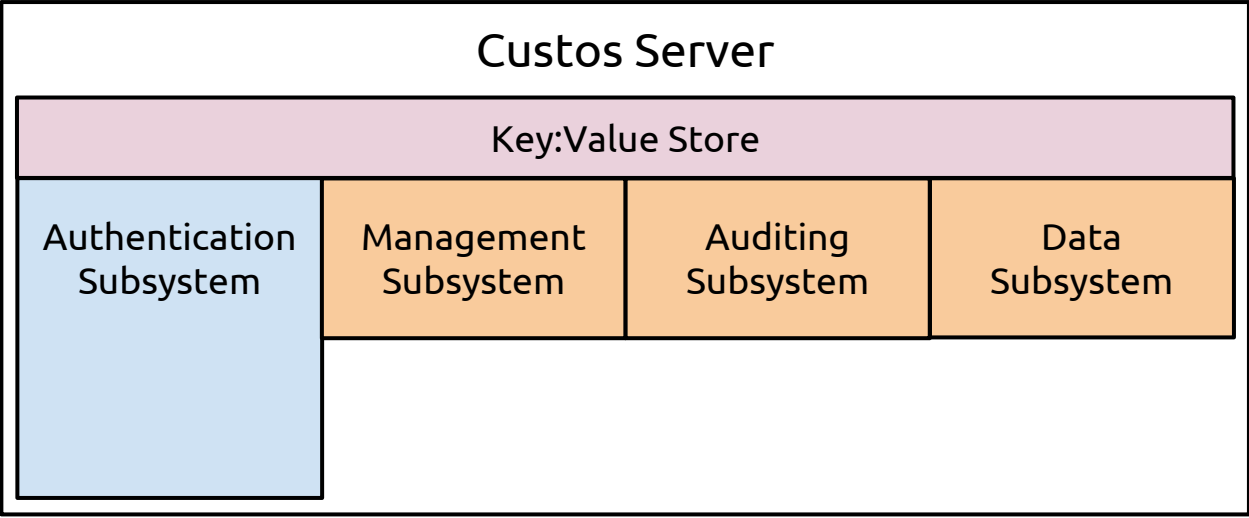
Custos Server

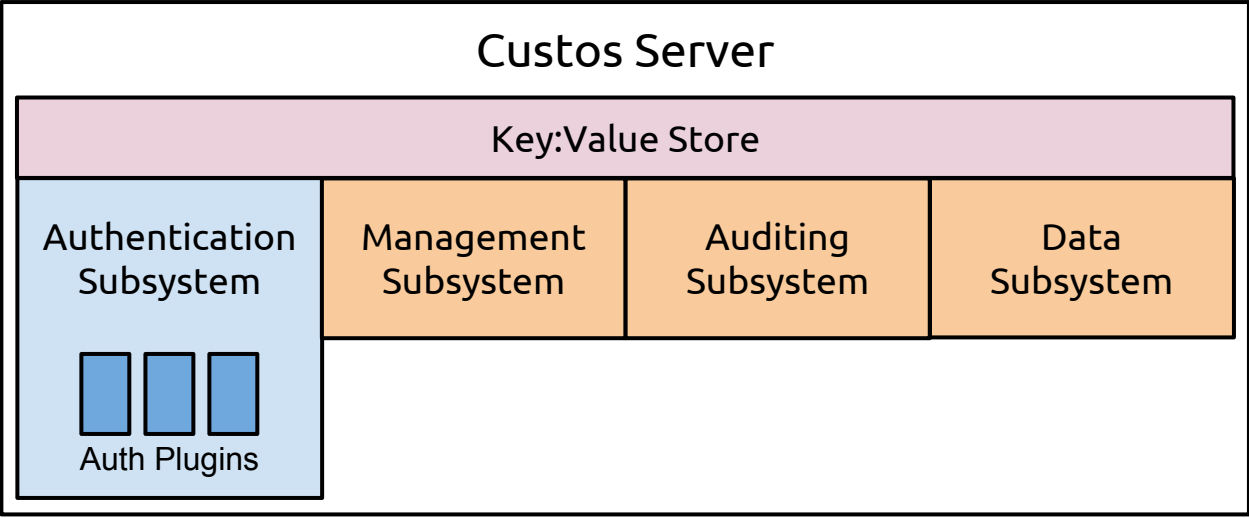
Key:Value Store

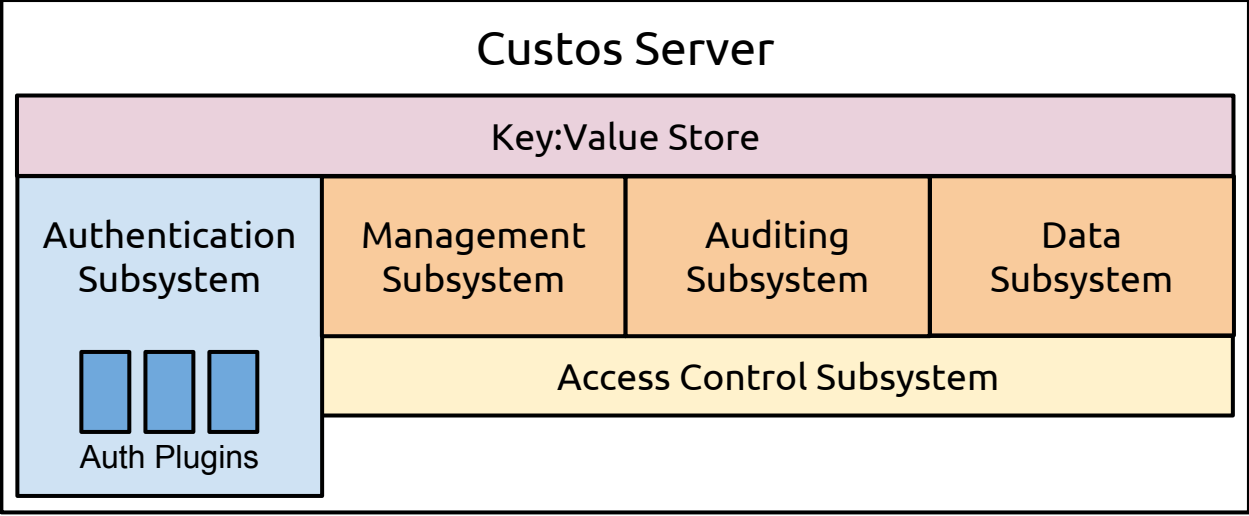
Management
Subsystem

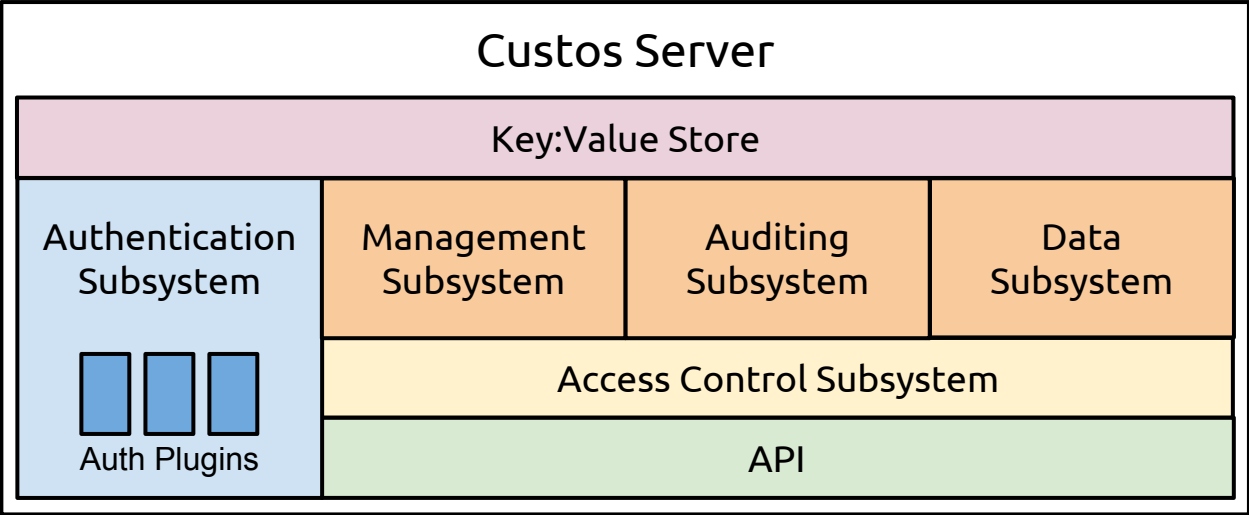
Auditing
Subsystem

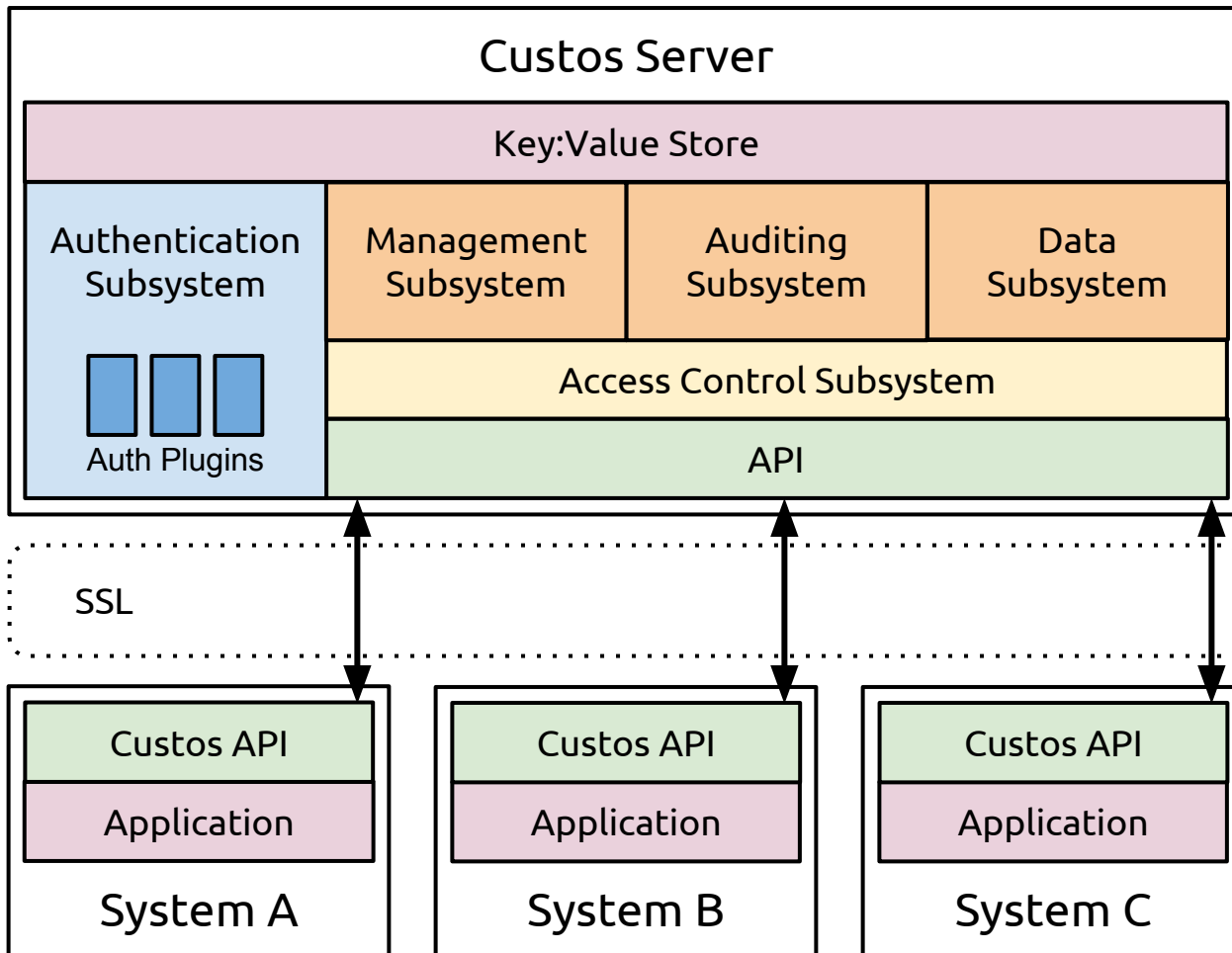
Data
Subsystem





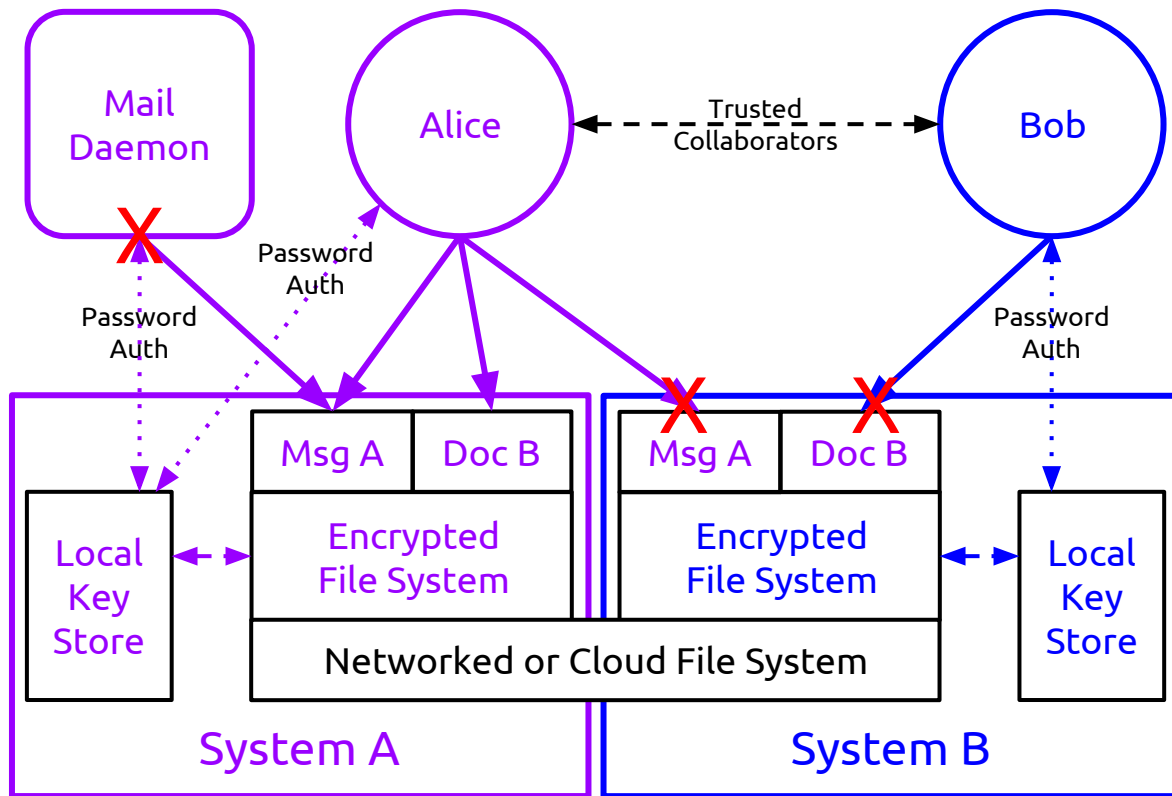


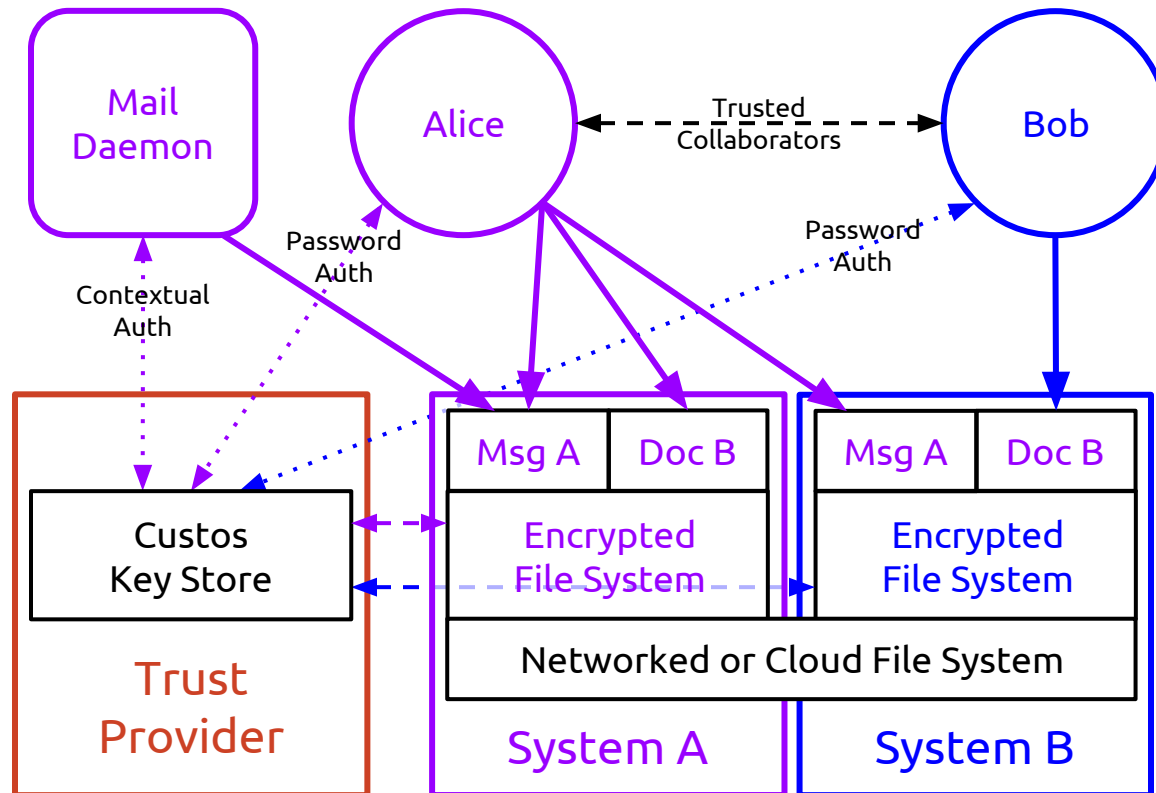




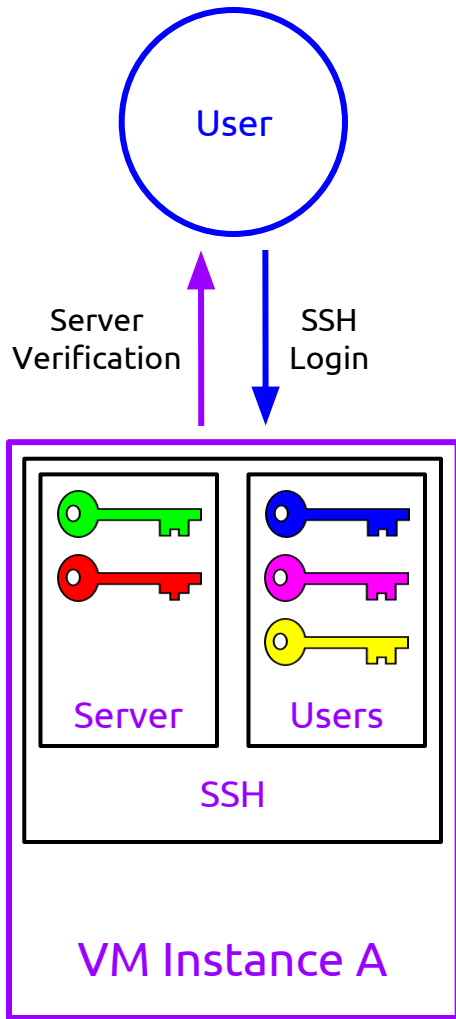
Application Domains

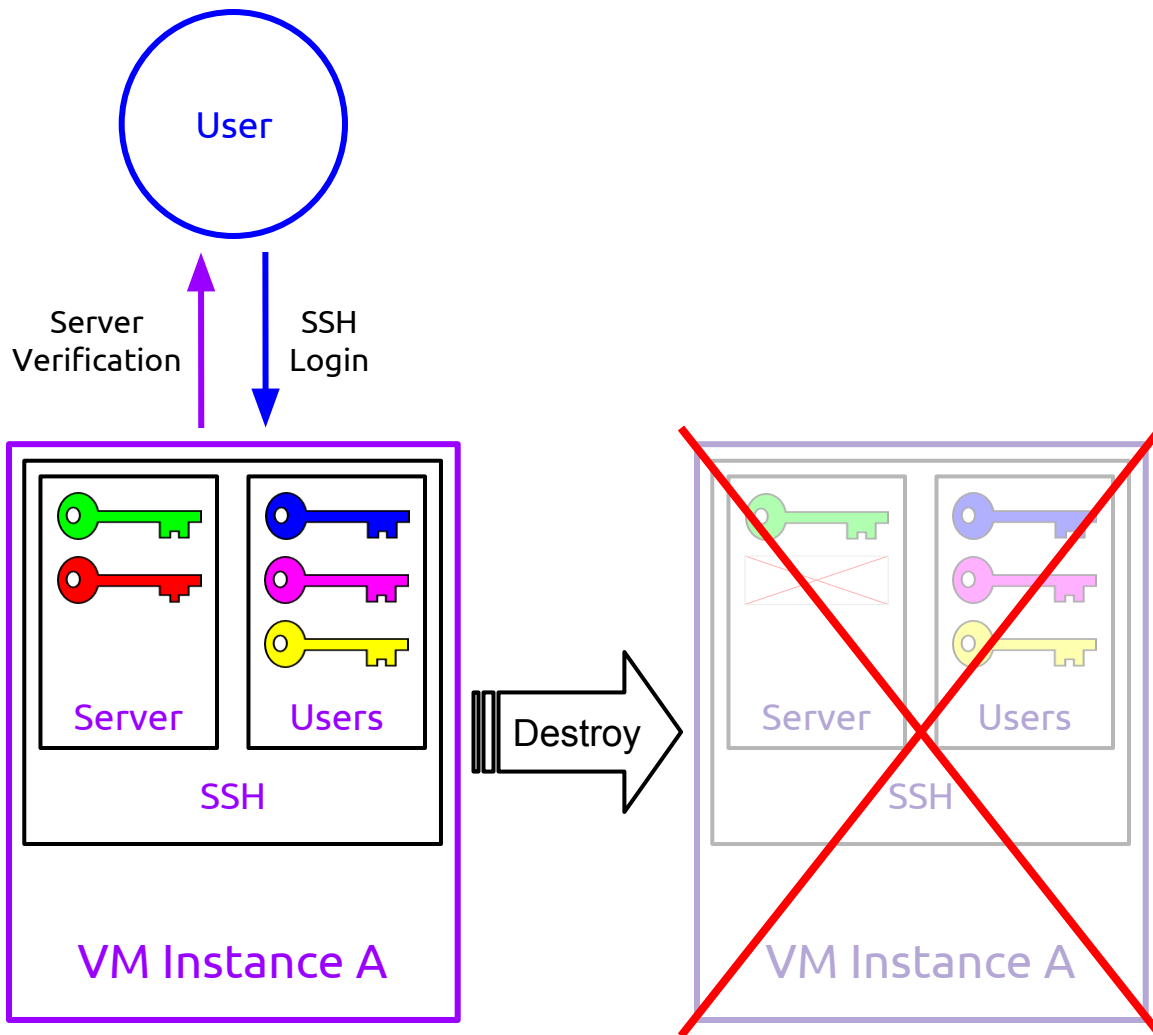
File Systems

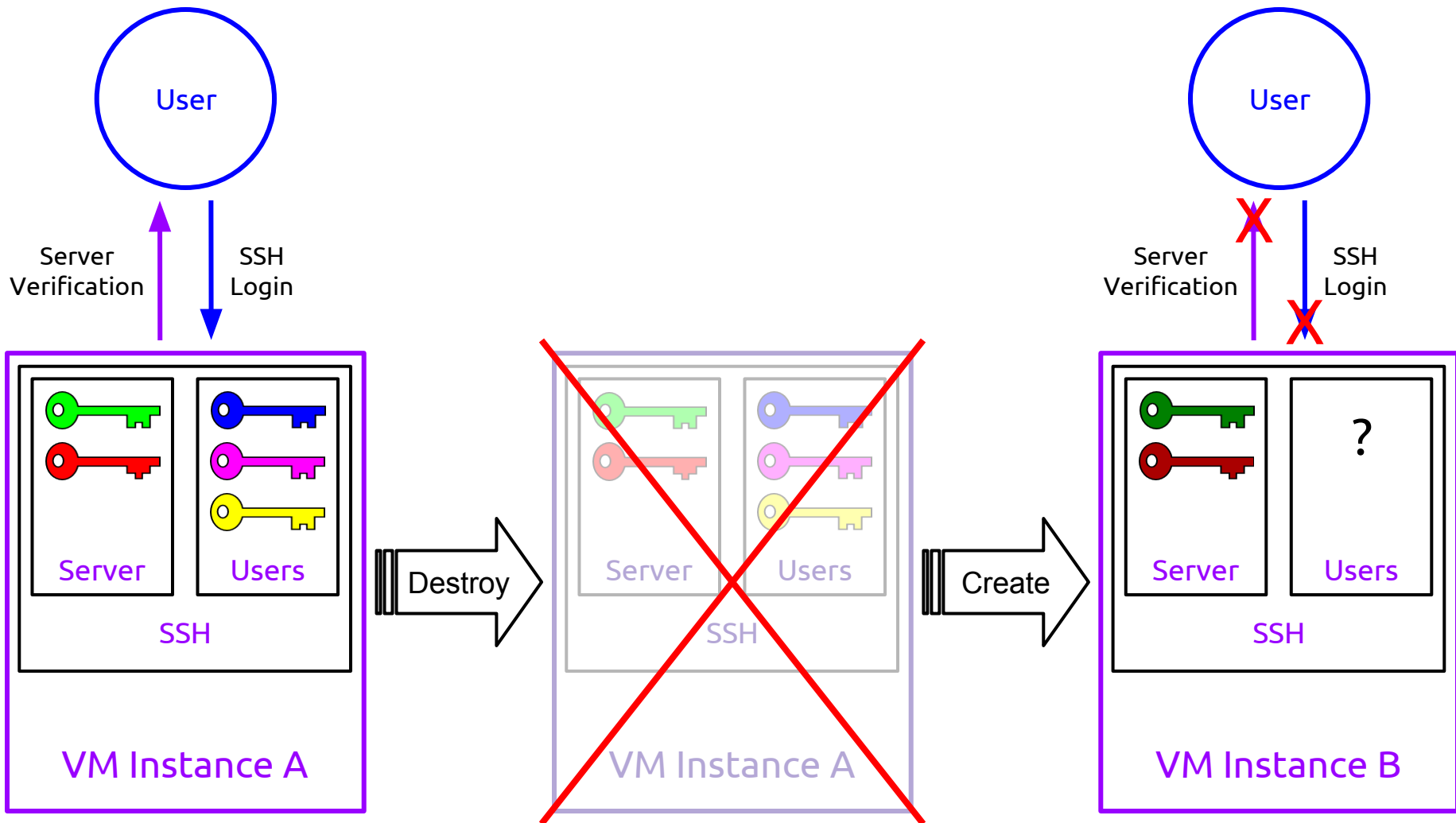


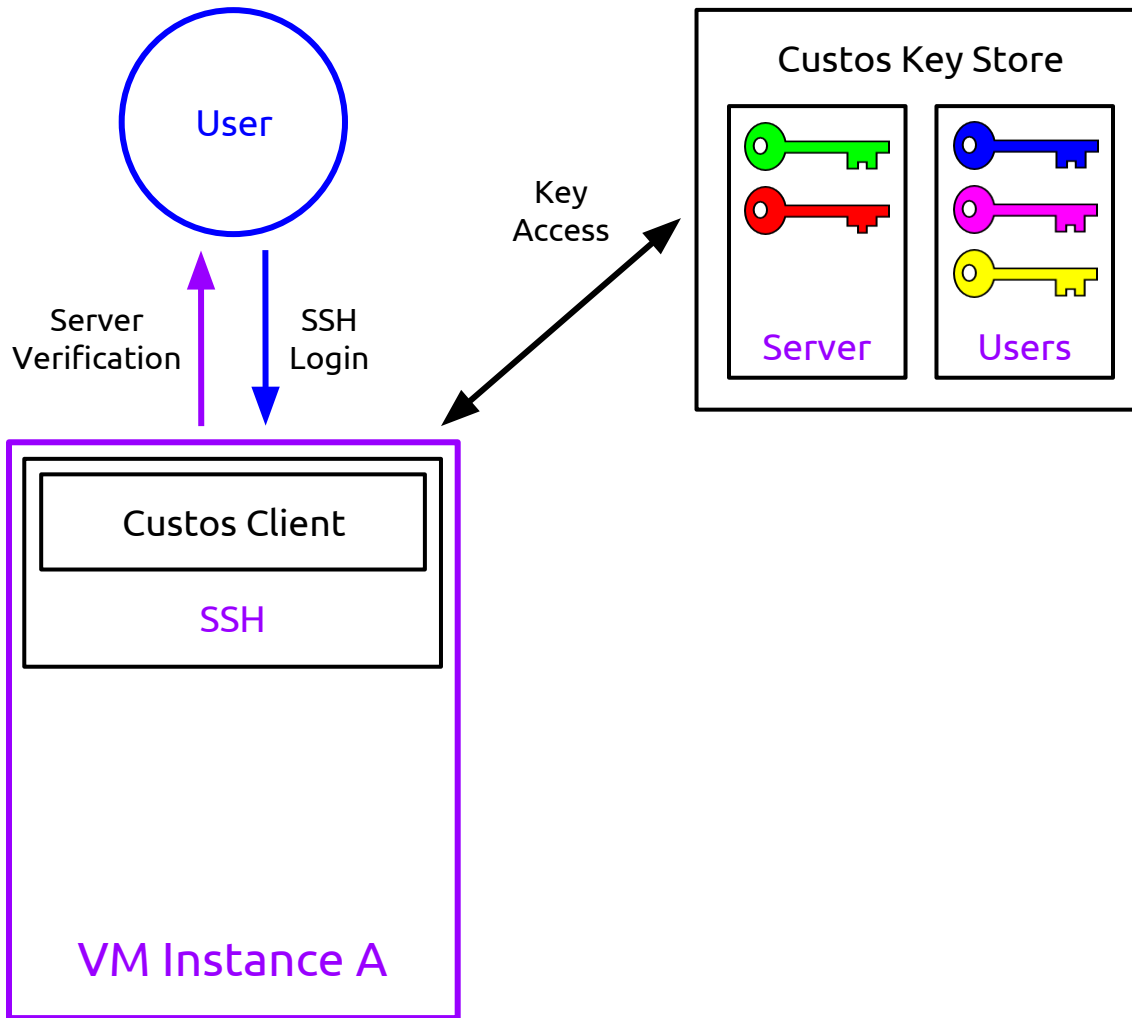


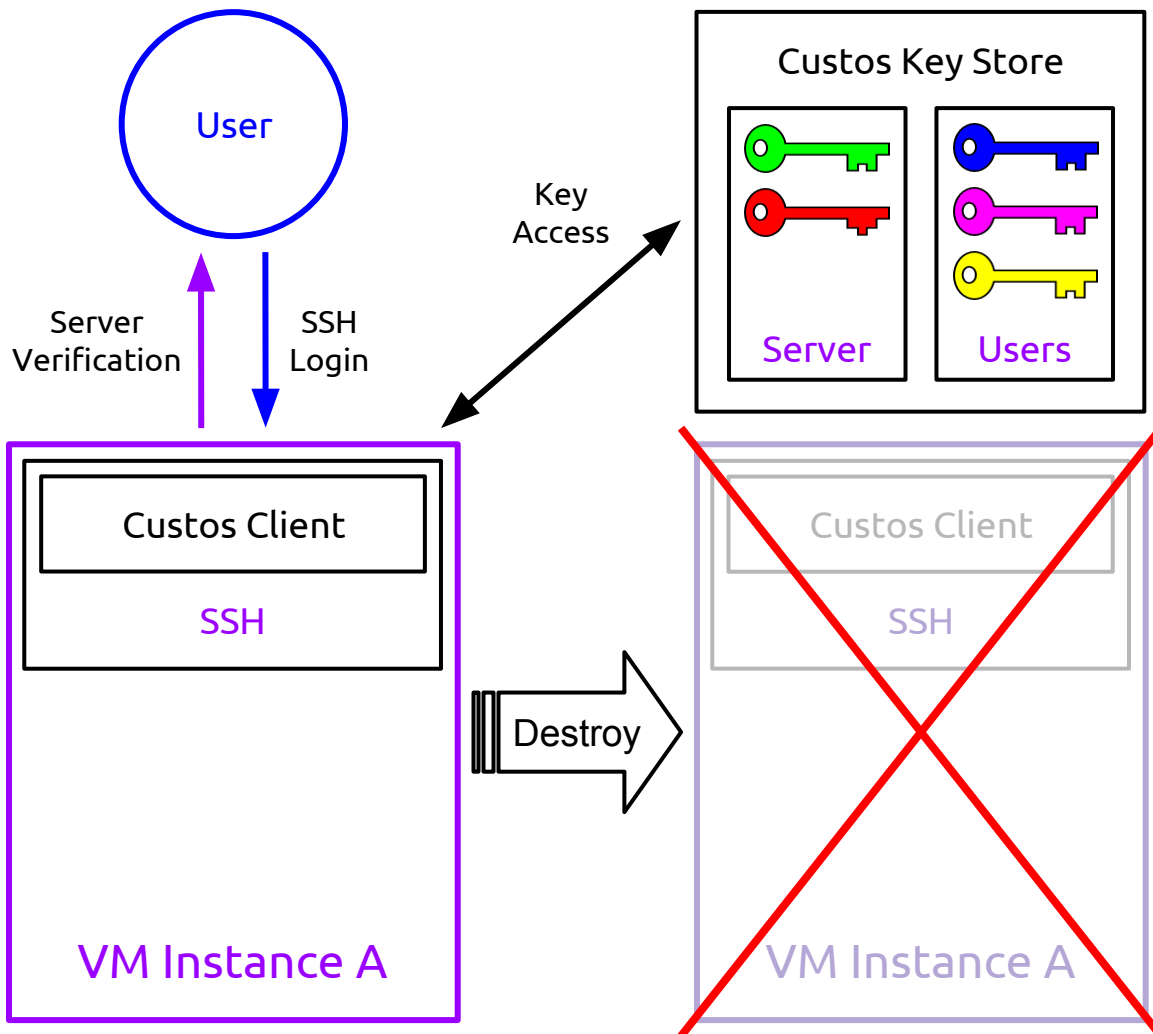
Data Centers

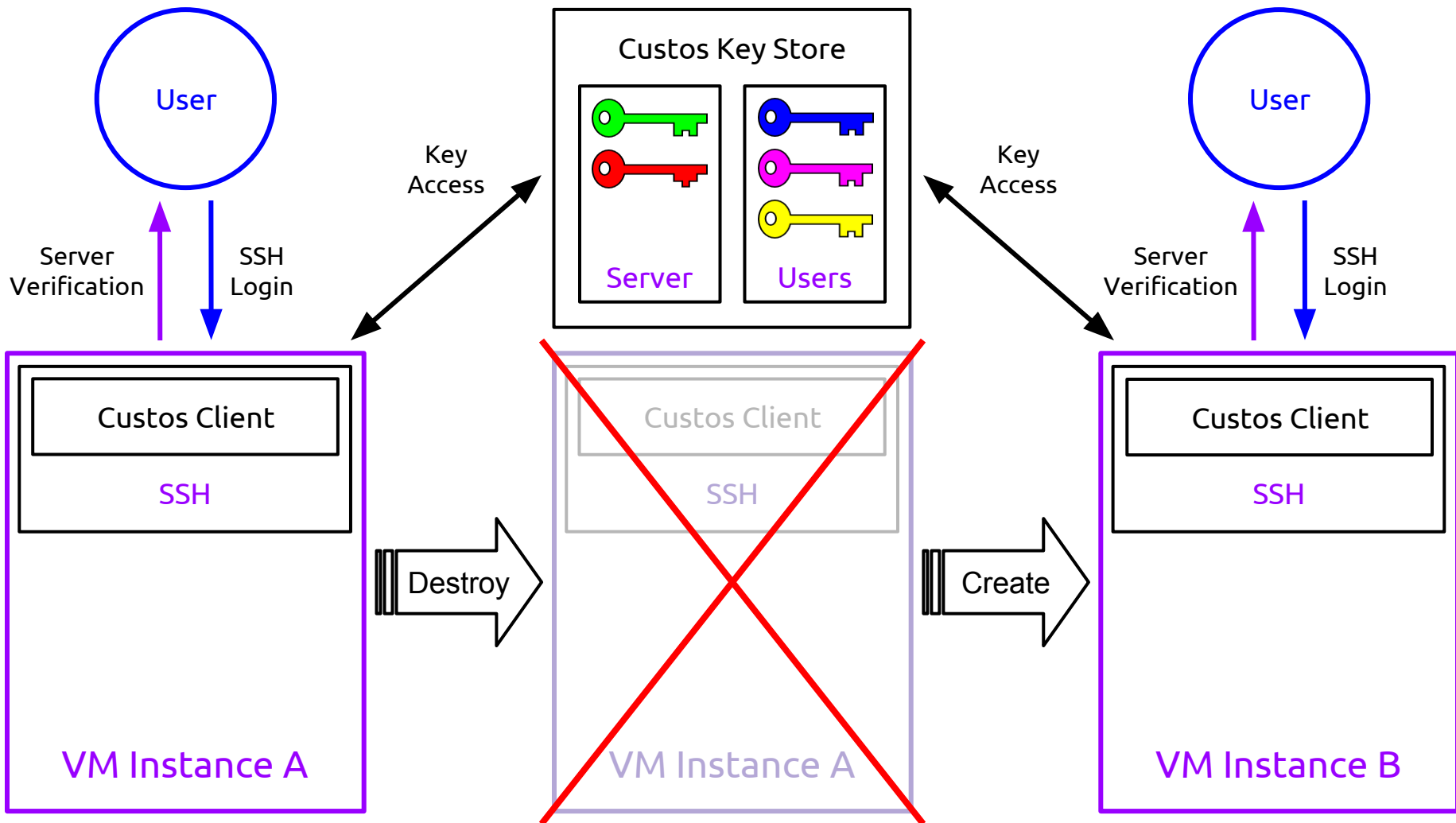












Password Management

Personal Data Storage

...

Custos Design

Organizational Units

Server

Server

Group A

Group B

...

Server

Group A

Object 1

Object 2

Object 3

⋮

Group B

Object 4

Object 5

Object 6

⋮

■ ■ ■

Server

Group A

Object 1

Key	Value
-----	-------

Object 2

Key	Value
-----	-------

Object 3

Key	Value
-----	-------

⋮

Group B

Object 4

Key	Value
-----	-------

Object 5

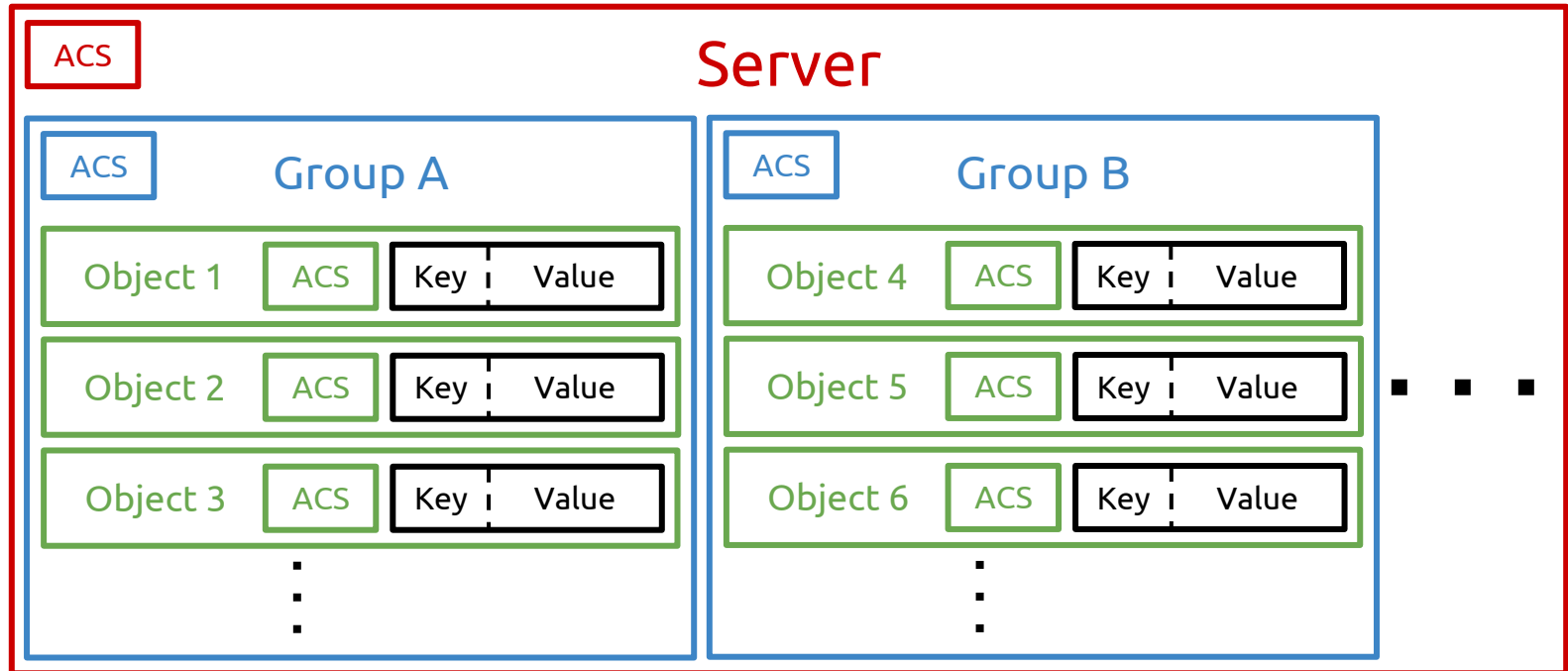
Key	Value
-----	-------

Object 6

Key	Value
-----	-------

⋮

■ ■ ■



Access Control Specification (ACS)

Organizational Unit (OU)

Organizational Unit (OU)

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Organizational Unit (OU)

Access Control Specification (ACS)

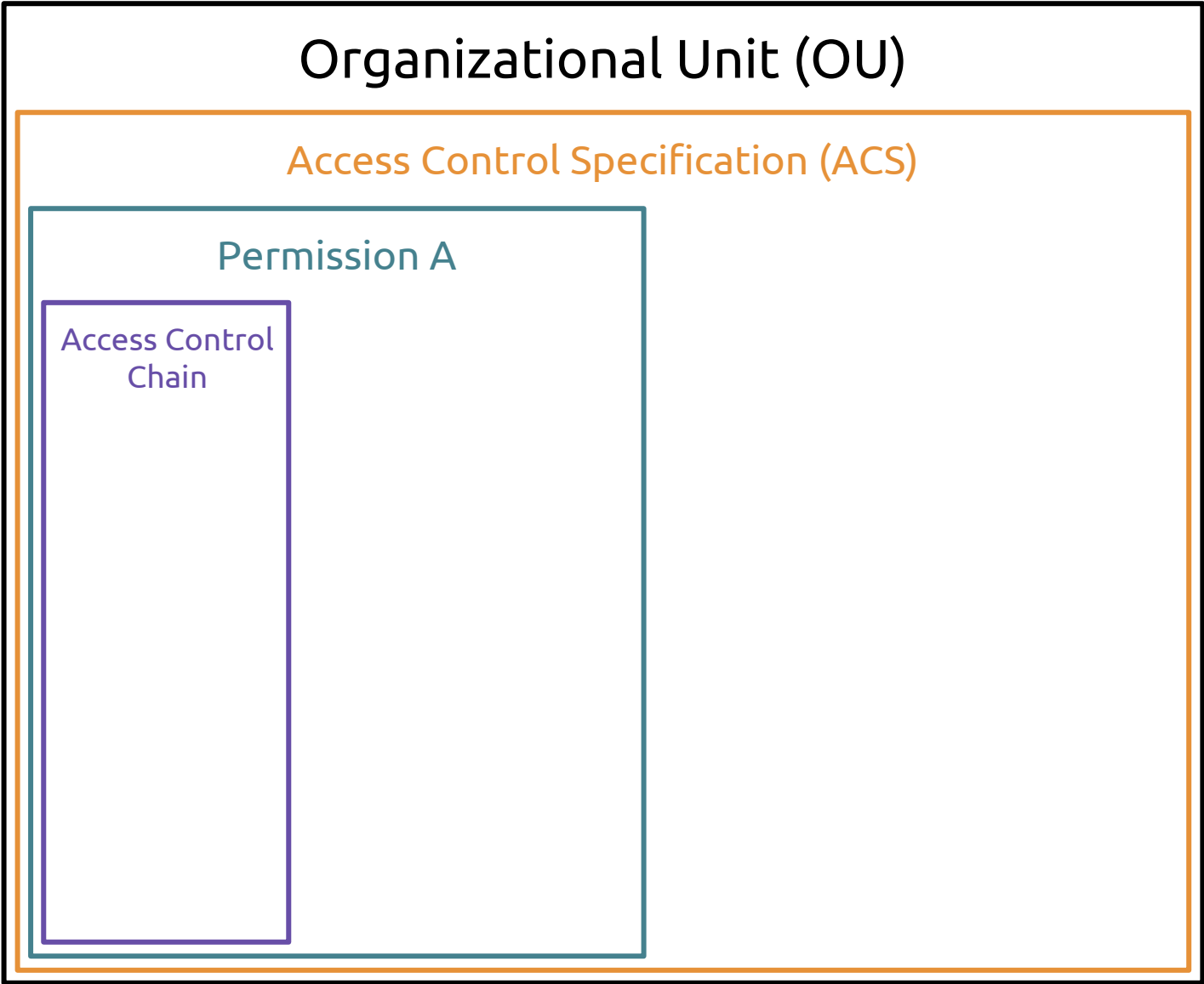
Permission A

Organizational Unit (OU)

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Permission A

Access Control
Chain



Organizational Unit (OU)

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Permission A

Access Control Chain

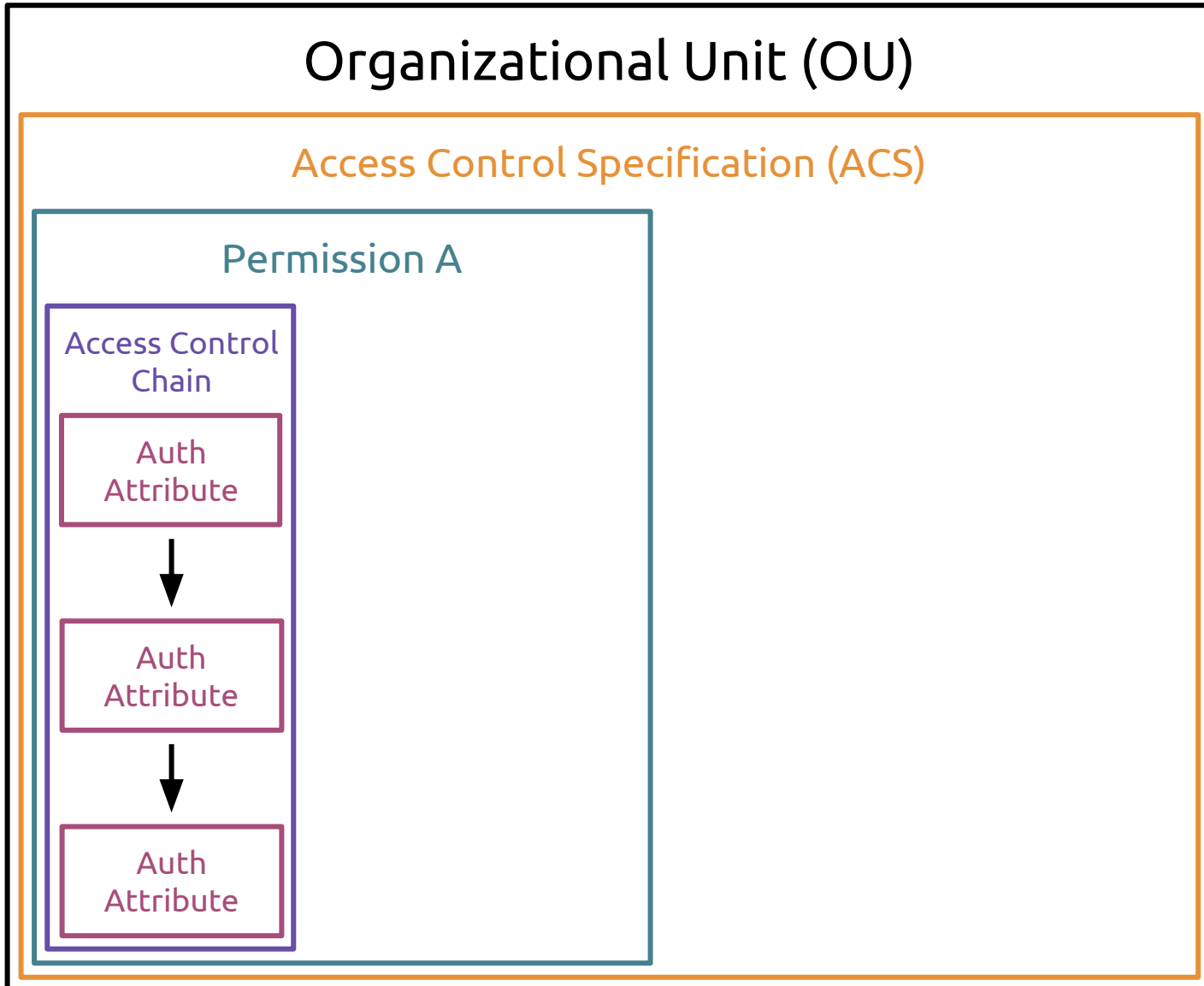
Auth
Attribute



Auth
Attribute



Auth
Attribute



Key:Value Object

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Permission A

Access Control Chain

Auth
Attribute



Auth
Attribute



Auth
Attribute

Key:Value Object

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Read Permission

Access Control
Chain

Auth
Attribute



Auth
Attribute



Auth
Attribute

Key:Value Object

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Read Permission

Access Control
Chain

Username



IP Address



Password

Key:Value Object

Access Control Specification (ACS)

Read Permission

Access Control
Chain

Username



IP Address



Password

Update Perm.

Access Control
Chain

Username



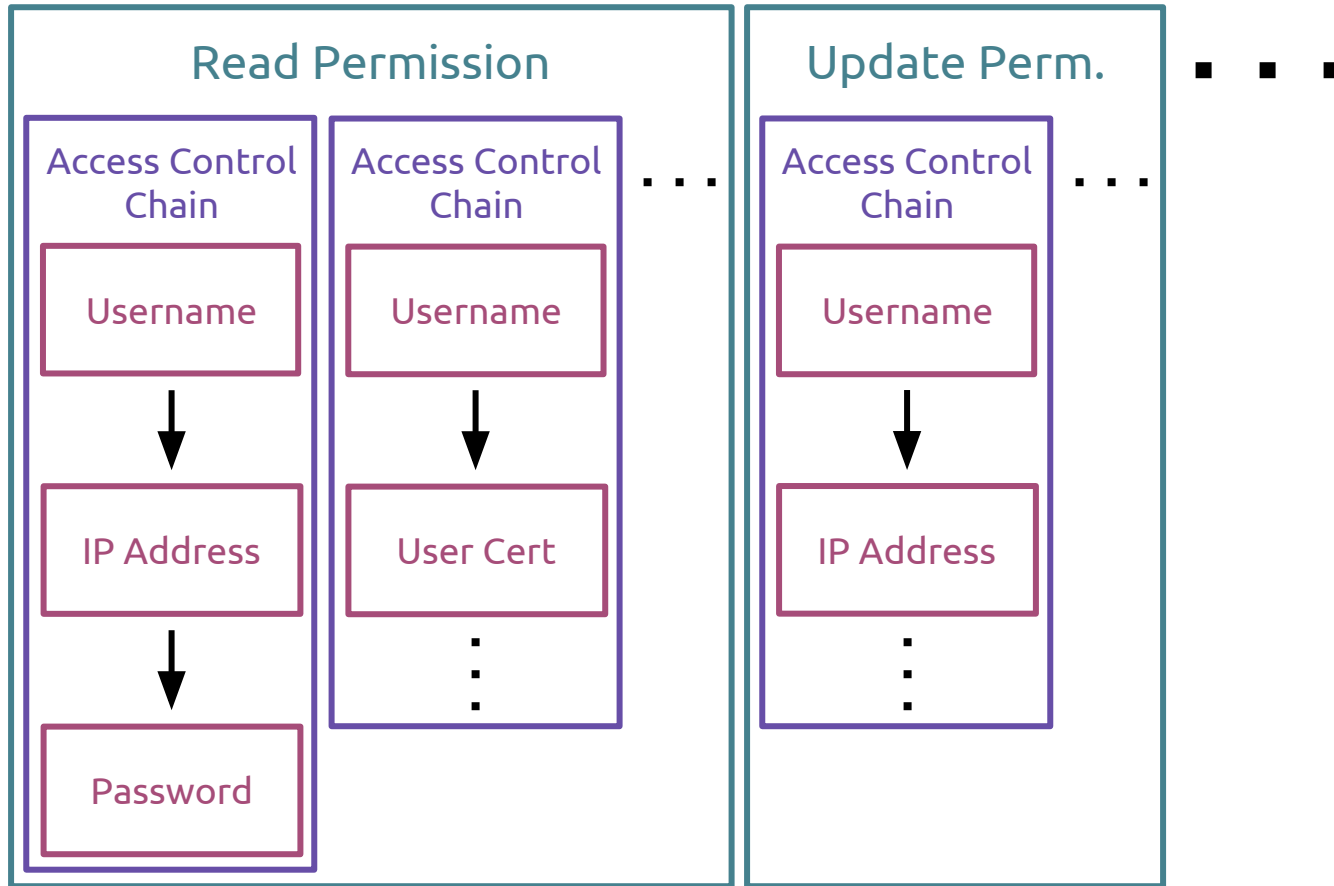
IP Address

⋮

■ ■ ■

Key:Value Object

Access Control Specification (ACS)



Permissions

Server

Permission	Rights
<code>srv_grp_create</code>	create groups on a Custos server
<code>srv_grp_list</code>	list groups on a Custos server
<code>srv_grp_override</code>	escalate to any group-level permission, overriding the per-group ACS
<code>srv_audit</code>	read all server-level audit information (i.e. group creation logging, group override logging, etc)
<code>srv_clean</code>	delete all server-level audit information (i.e. group creation logging, group override logging, etc)
<code>srv_acs_get</code>	view the server-level ACS controlling the permissions in this list
<code>srv_acs_set</code>	update the server-level ACS controlling the permissions in this list

Group

Permission	Rights
grp_obj_create	create a key:value objects within the given group
grp_obj_list	list key:value objects within the given group
grp_obj_override	escalate to any object-level permission, overriding the per-object ACS
grp_delete	delete the given group on a Custos server
grp_audit	read all group-level audit information (i.e. object creation logging, object override logging, etc)
grp_clean	delete all group-level audit information (i.e. object creation logging, object override logging, etc)
grp_acs_get	view the group-level ACS controlling the permissions in this list
grp_acs_set	update the group-level ACS controlling the permissions in this list

Object

Permission	Rights
obj_delete	delete the given key:value object within the given group
obj_read	read the given key:value object within the given group
obj_update	create a new version of the given key:value object within the given group (the equivalent of a “write” permission for the Custos write-once system)
obj_audit	read all object-level audit information (i.e. object read logging, object update logging, etc)
obj_clean	delete all object-level audit information (i.e. object read logging, object update logging, etc)
obj_acs_get	view the object-level ACS controlling the permissions in this list
obj_acs_set	update the object-level ACS controlling the permissions in this list

Access Control Chain

Ordered List of Authentication Attributes

```
[  
  [ (username = 'Andy'),  
    (password = '12345'),  
    (src_ip = 192.168.1.0/24) ]  
]
```

Multiple Lists per Permission

```
[  
  [  
    (username = 'Andy'),  
    (password = '12345'),  
    (src_ip = 192.168.1.0/24) ],  
  [  
    (username = 'Andy'),  
    (password = '12345'),  
    (src_ip = 75.148.118.216/29) ],  
  [  
    (username = 'John'),  
    (password = 'Swordfish') ]  
]
```


(username = 'Andy')

|

(password = '12345')



(src_ip = 192.168.1.0/24)

(src_ip = 75.148.118.216/29)

(username = 'John')

|

(password = 'Swordfish')

Authentication Attributes

Plugins

Explicit

ip_src
user_agent
auth_type
auth_value
time_utc
...

Implicit

user_id
psk
psk_sha256
...

Access Example

619a06f0-50af-11e3-8f96-0800200c9a66 ACS

```
{
  obj_read:
    [
      [ (ip\_src = '1.2.3.4'),
        (time\_utc = '1300 +/- 5') ],
      [ (user\_id = 'Dirk'),
        (psk = 'ImaHakzor') ]
      ...
    ]
    ...
}
```

Daemon Access

Custos Server

Encryption
Key Store

Access
Control

Authentication Attributes

Source IP
Verification

Time
Verification

User ID
Verification

PSK
Verification

API

Custos API

Encrypted
File System

Daemon
Process

Server



Request:

619a06f0-50af-11e3-8f96-0800200c9a66

Authentication Attributes:

(ip_src = '1.2.3.4')

(time_utc = '1303')

Custos Server

Encryption
Key Store

Access
Control

Authentication Attributes

Source IP
Verification

Time
Verification

User ID
Verification

PSK
Verification

API

Custos API

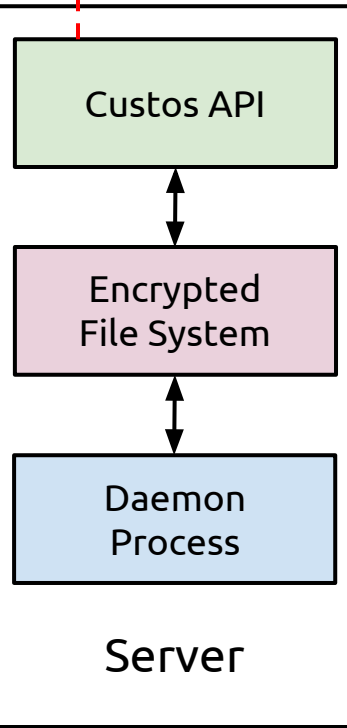
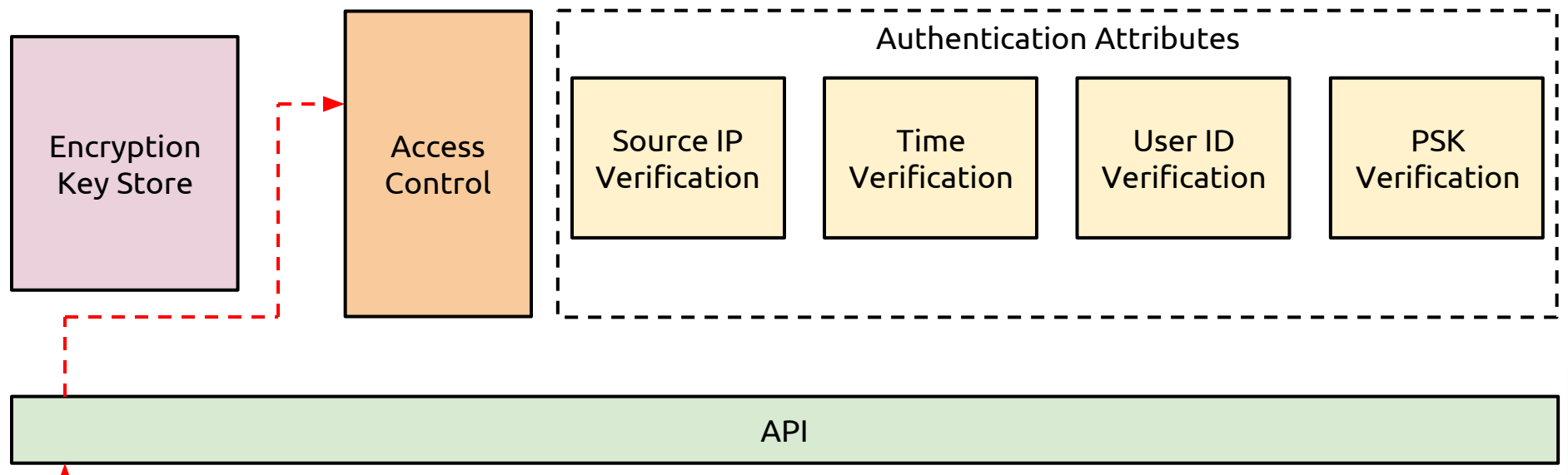
Encrypted
File System

Daemon
Process

Server

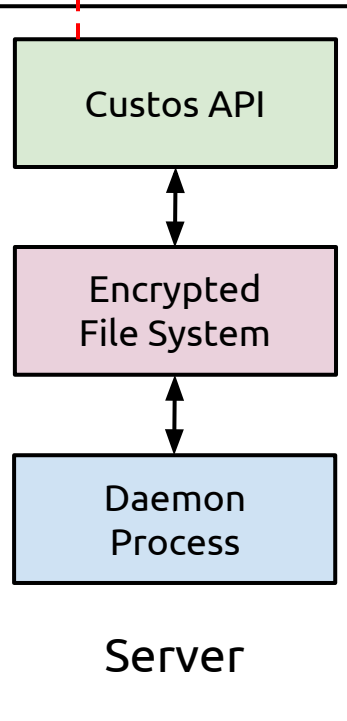
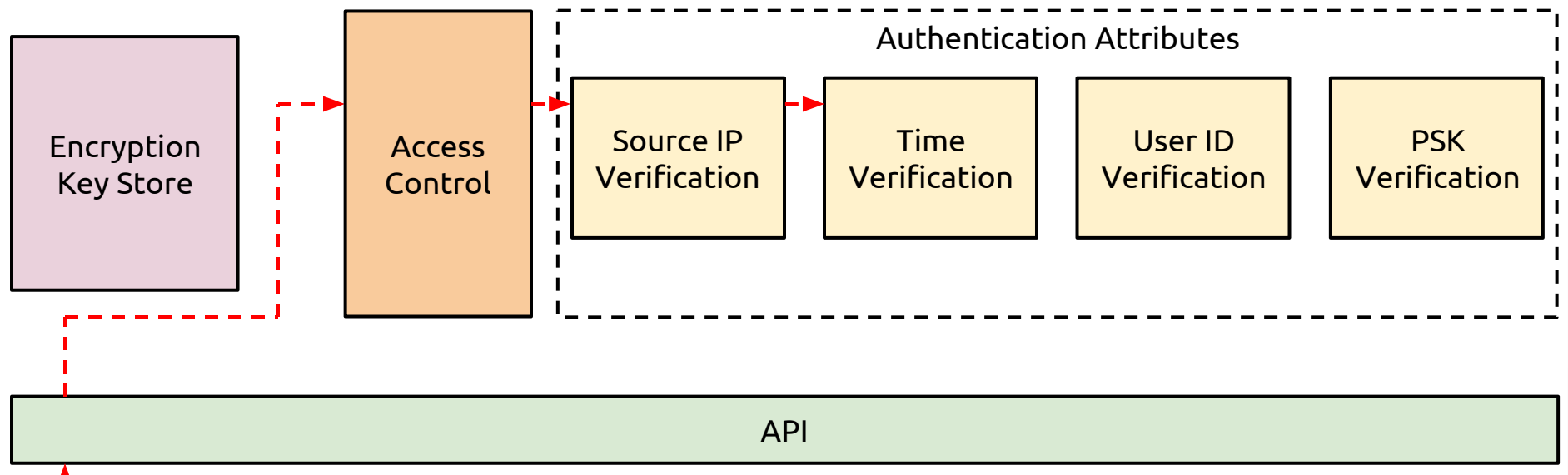


Custos Server



```
{
  obj_read:
  [
    [ (ip\_src = '1.2.3.4'),
      (time\_utc = '1300 +/- 5') ],
    [ (user\_id = 'Dirk'),
      (psk = 'ImaHakzor') ]
    ...
  ]
  ...
}
```

Custos Server



Encryption
Key Store

Access
Control

Source IP
Verification

Time
Verification

User ID
Verification

PSK
Verification

API

Custos API

Encrypted
File System

Daemon
Process

Server

Request:

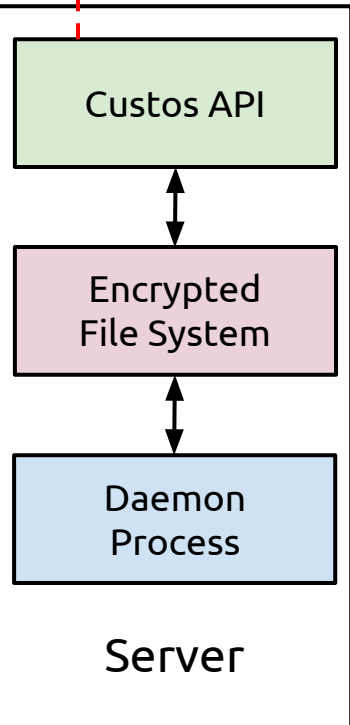
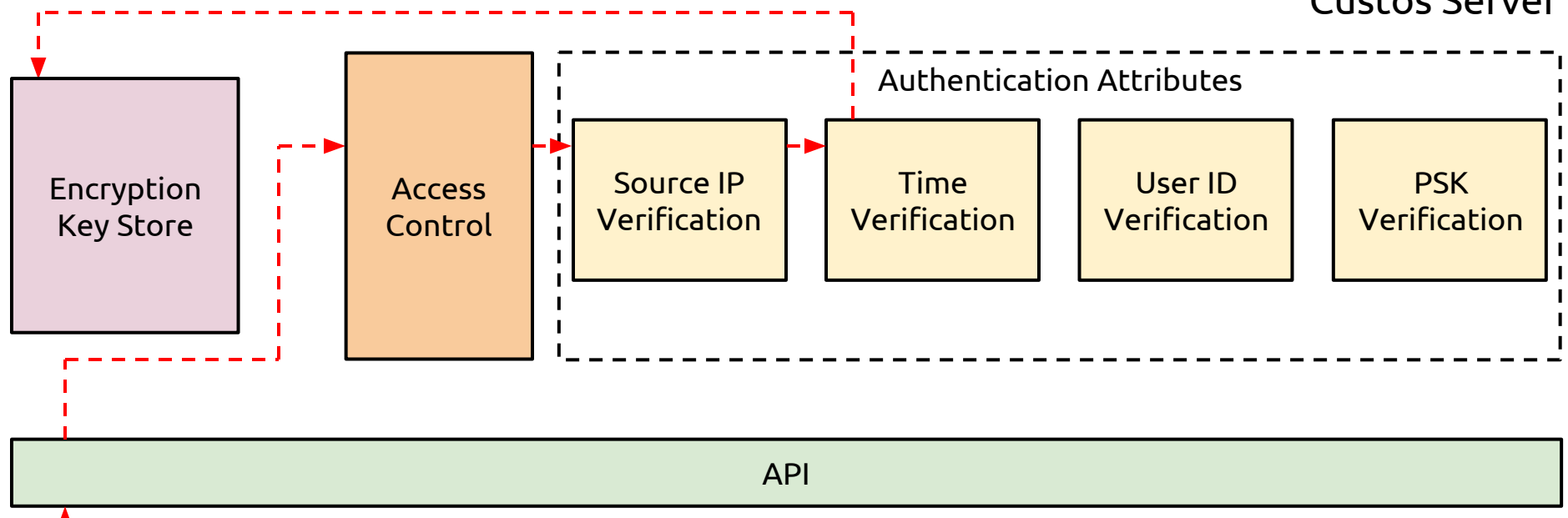
619a06f0-50af-11e3-8f96-0800200c9a66

Authentication Attributes:

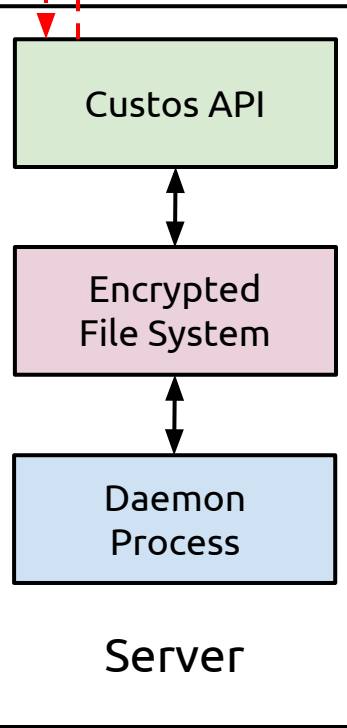
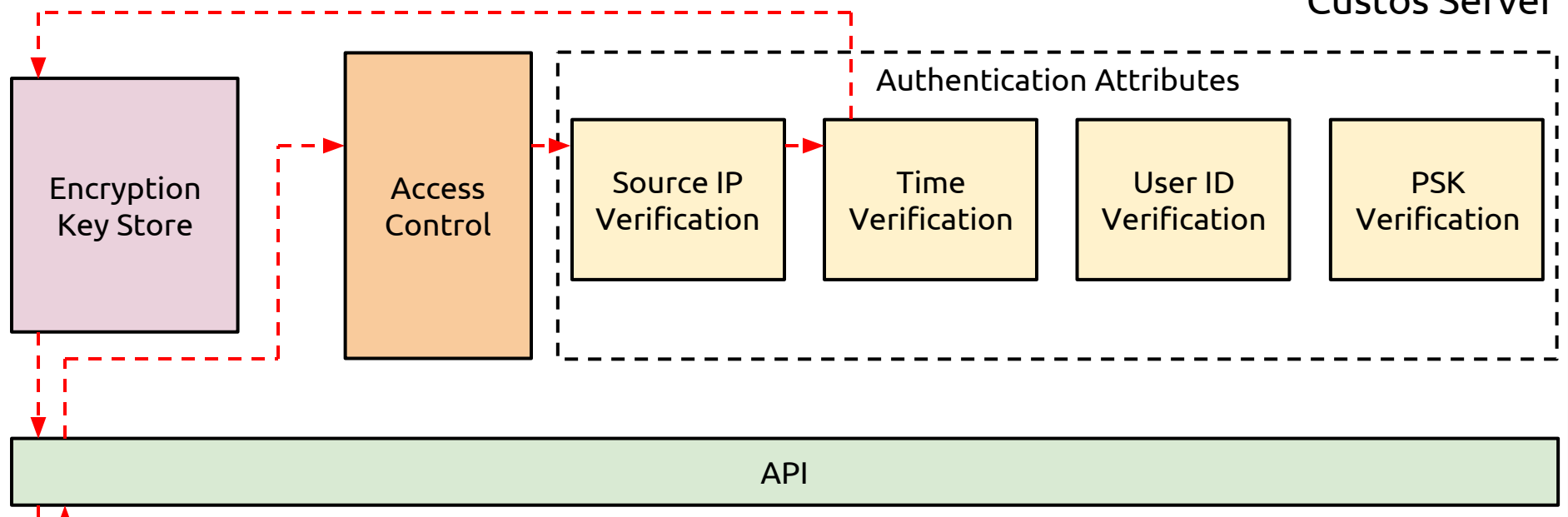
(ip_src = '1.2.3.4')

(time_utc = '1303')

Custos Server



Custos Server



User Access

Custos Server

Encryption
Key Store

Access
Control

Authentication Attributes

Source IP
Verification

Time
Verification

User ID
Verification

PSK
Verification

API

Custos API

Encrypted
File System

Dirk

Laptop



Request:

619a06f0-50af-11e3-8f96-0800200c9a66

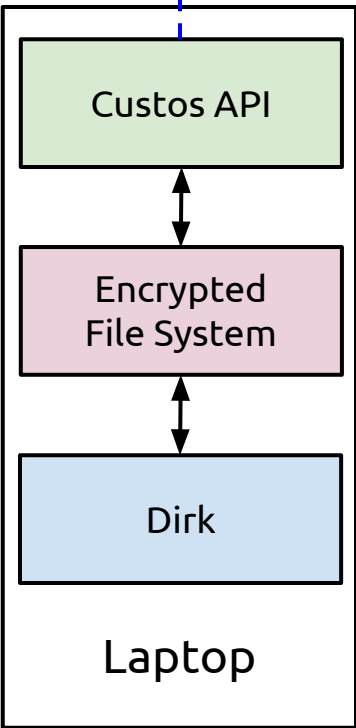
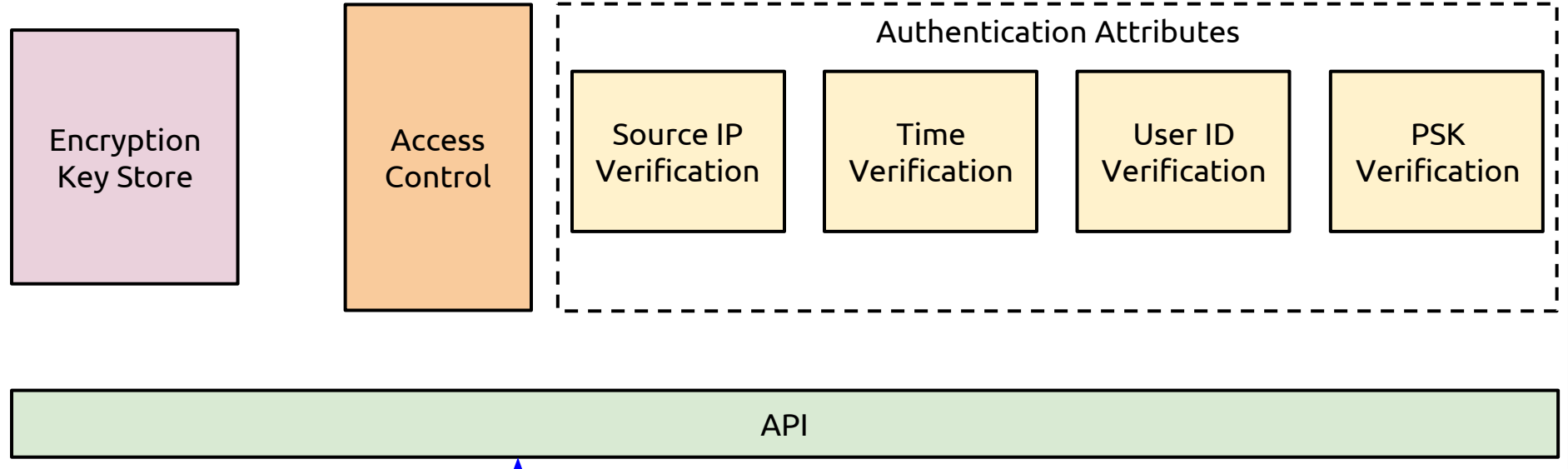
Authentication Attributes:

user_id = Dirk

(ip_src = '1.2.3.4')

(time_utc = '1133')

Custos Server



Custos Server

Encryption
Key Store

Access
Control

Authentication Attributes

Source IP
Verification

Time
Verification

User ID
Verification

PSK
Verification

API

Custos API

Encrypted
File System

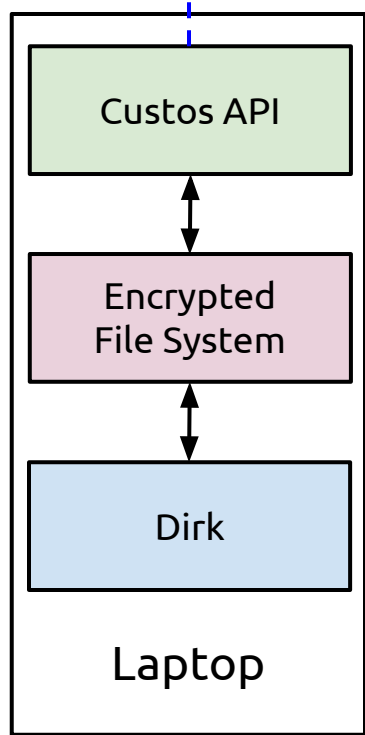
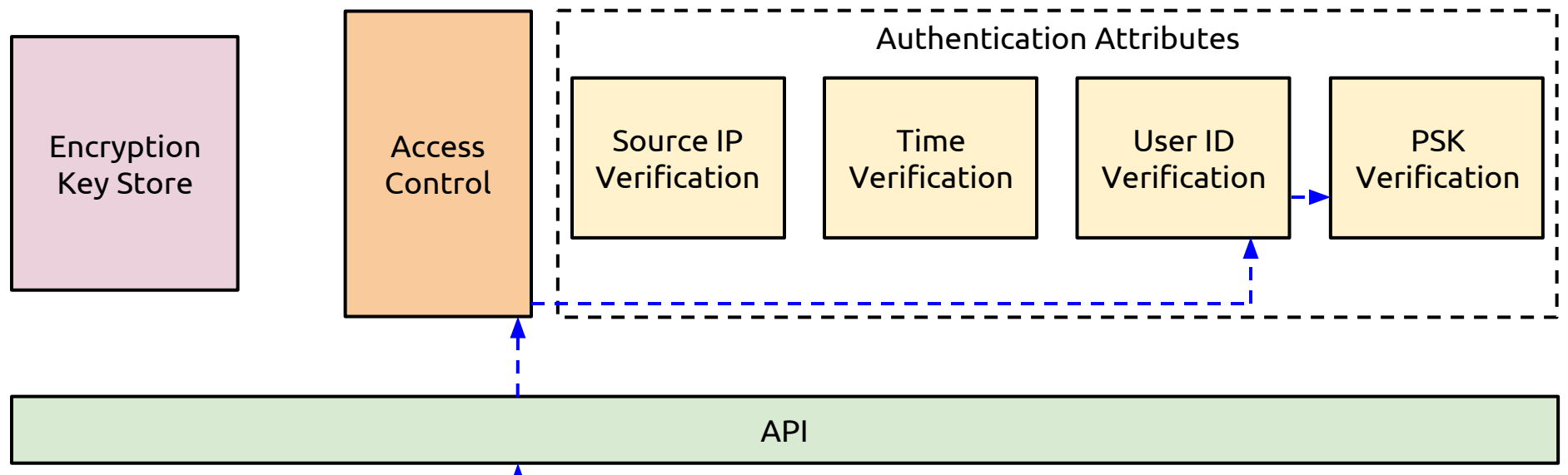
Dirk

Laptop



```
{  
  obj_read:  
    [  
      [ (ip\_src = '1.2.3.4'),  
        (time\_utc = '1300 +/- 5') ],  
      [ (user\_id = 'Dirk'),  
        (psk = 'ImaHakzor') ]  
      ...  
    ]  
    ...  
}
```

Custos Server



Request:

619a06f0-50af-11e3-8f96-0800200c9a66

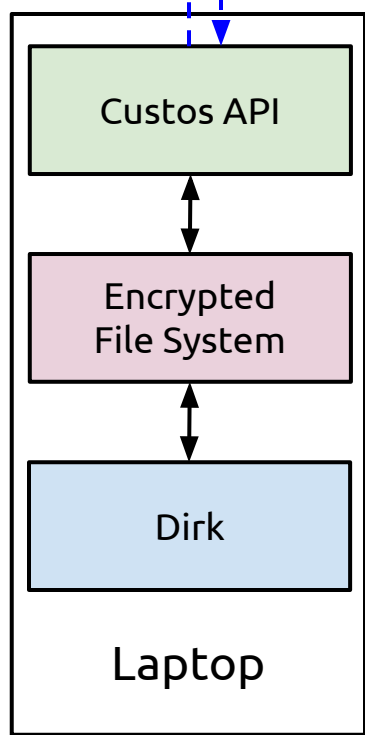
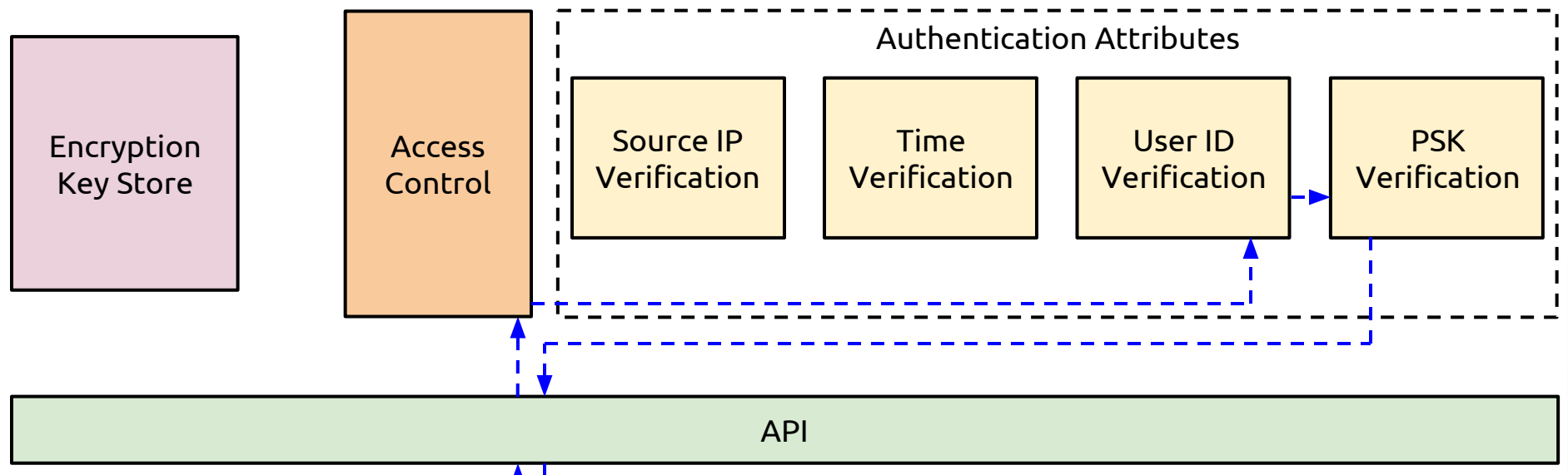
Authentication Attributes:

user_id = Dirk

(ip_src = '1.2.3.4')

(time_utc = '1133')

Custos Server



```
{
  obj_read:
  [
    [ (ip\_src = '1.2.3.4'),
      (time\_utc = '1300 +/- 5') ],
    [ (user\_id = 'Dirk'),
      (psk = 'ImaHakzor') ]
    ...
  ]
  ...
}
```

Request:

619a06f0-50af-11e3-8f96-0800200c9a66

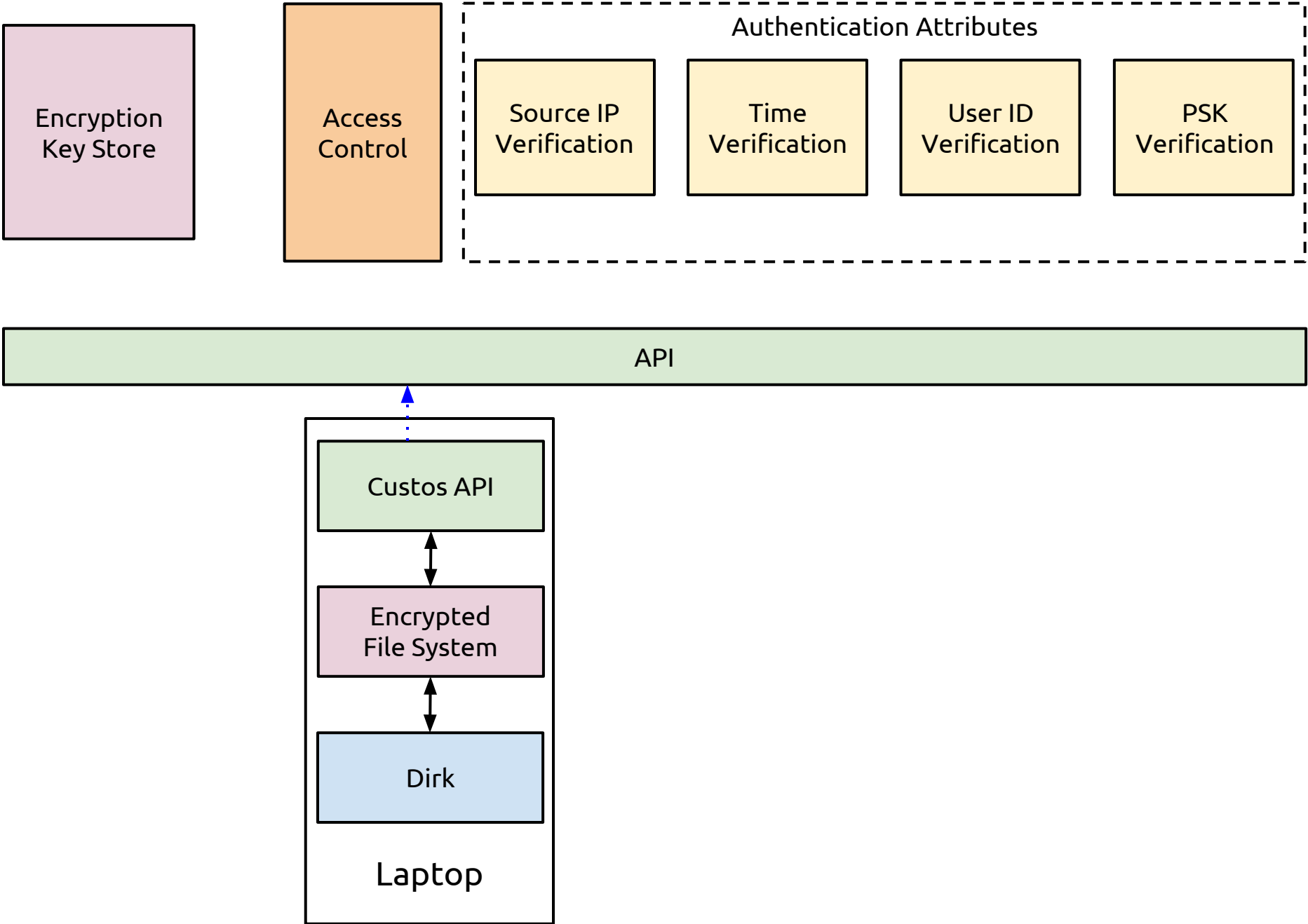
Authentication Attributes:

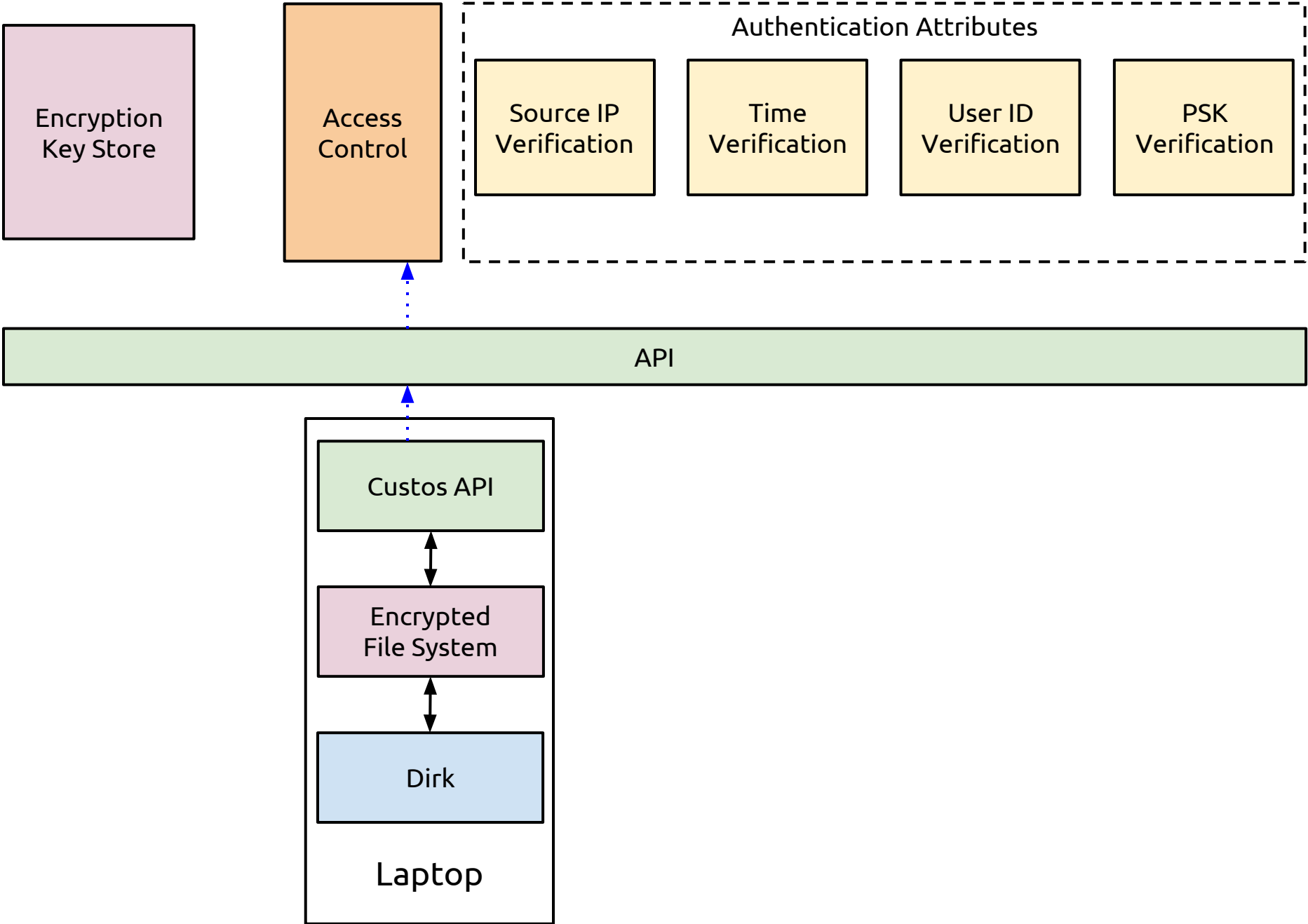
user_id = 'Dirk'

psk = 'ImaHackzor'

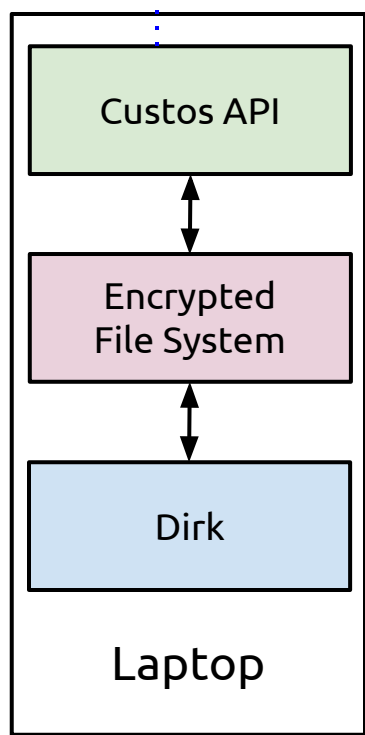
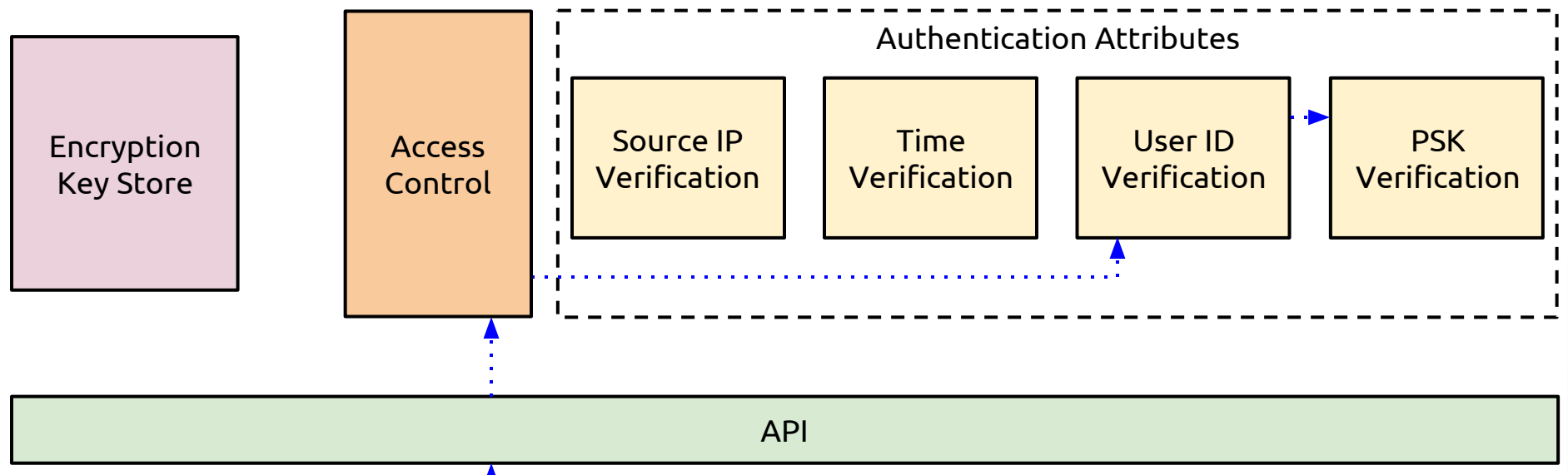
(ip_src = '1.2.3.4')

(time_utc = '1133')

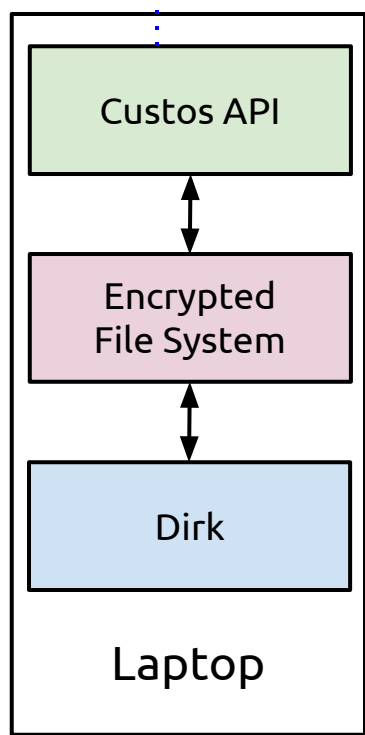
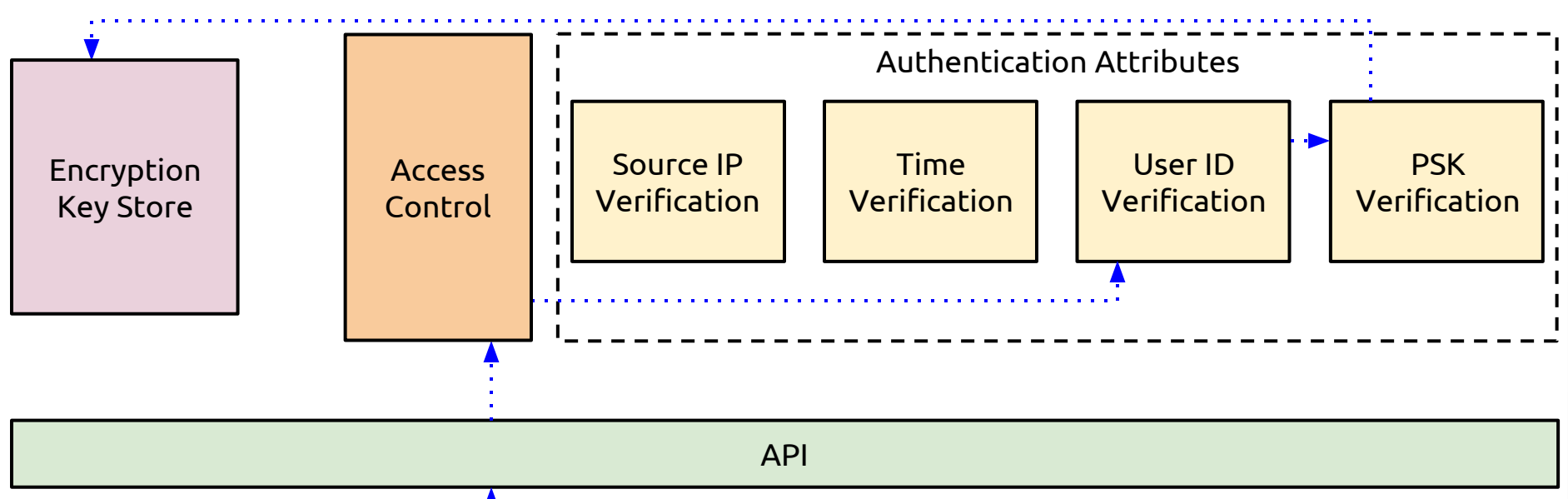




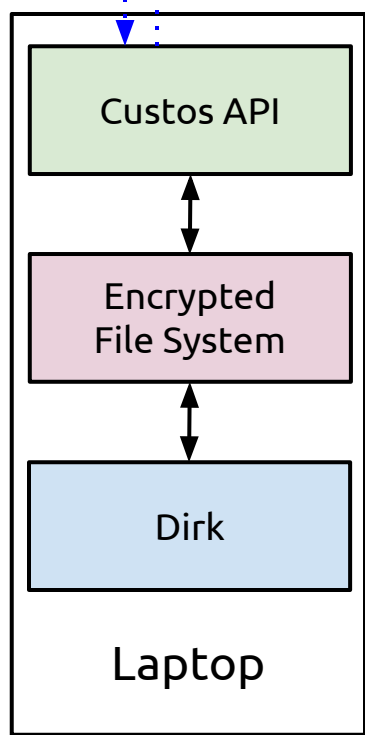
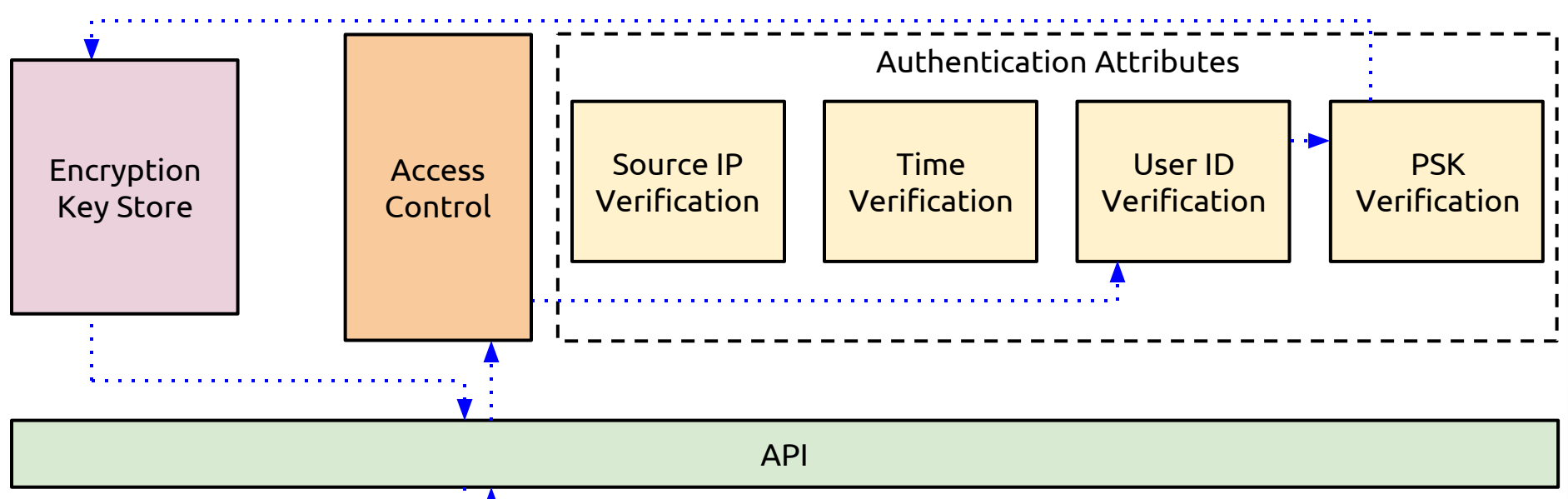
Custos Server



Custos Server



Custos Server

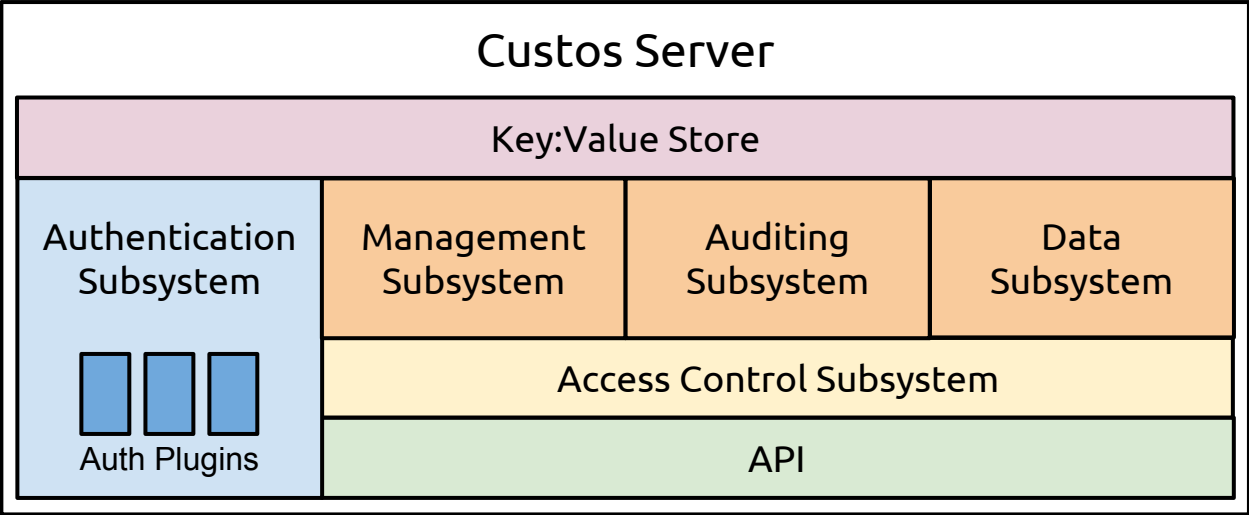


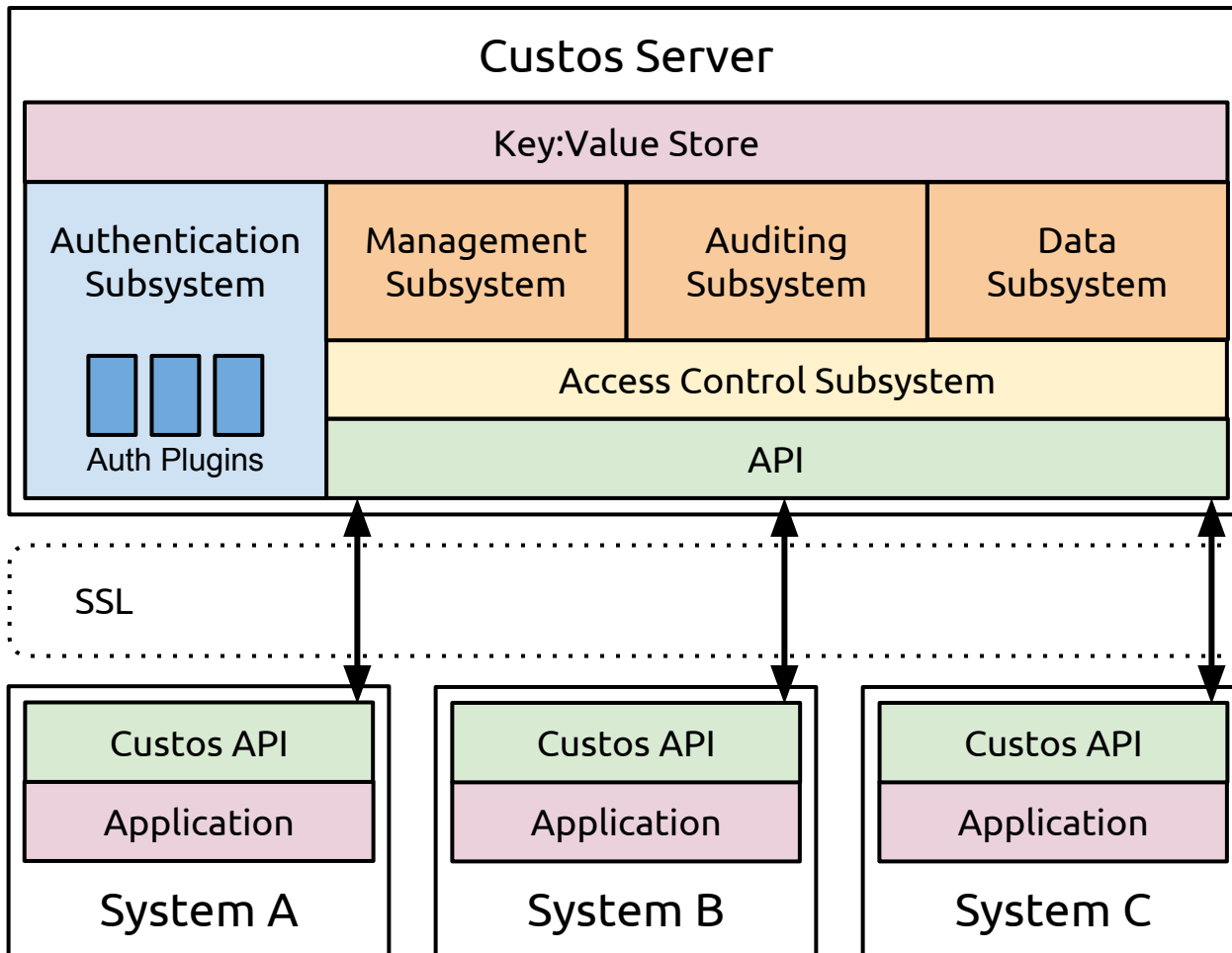
API

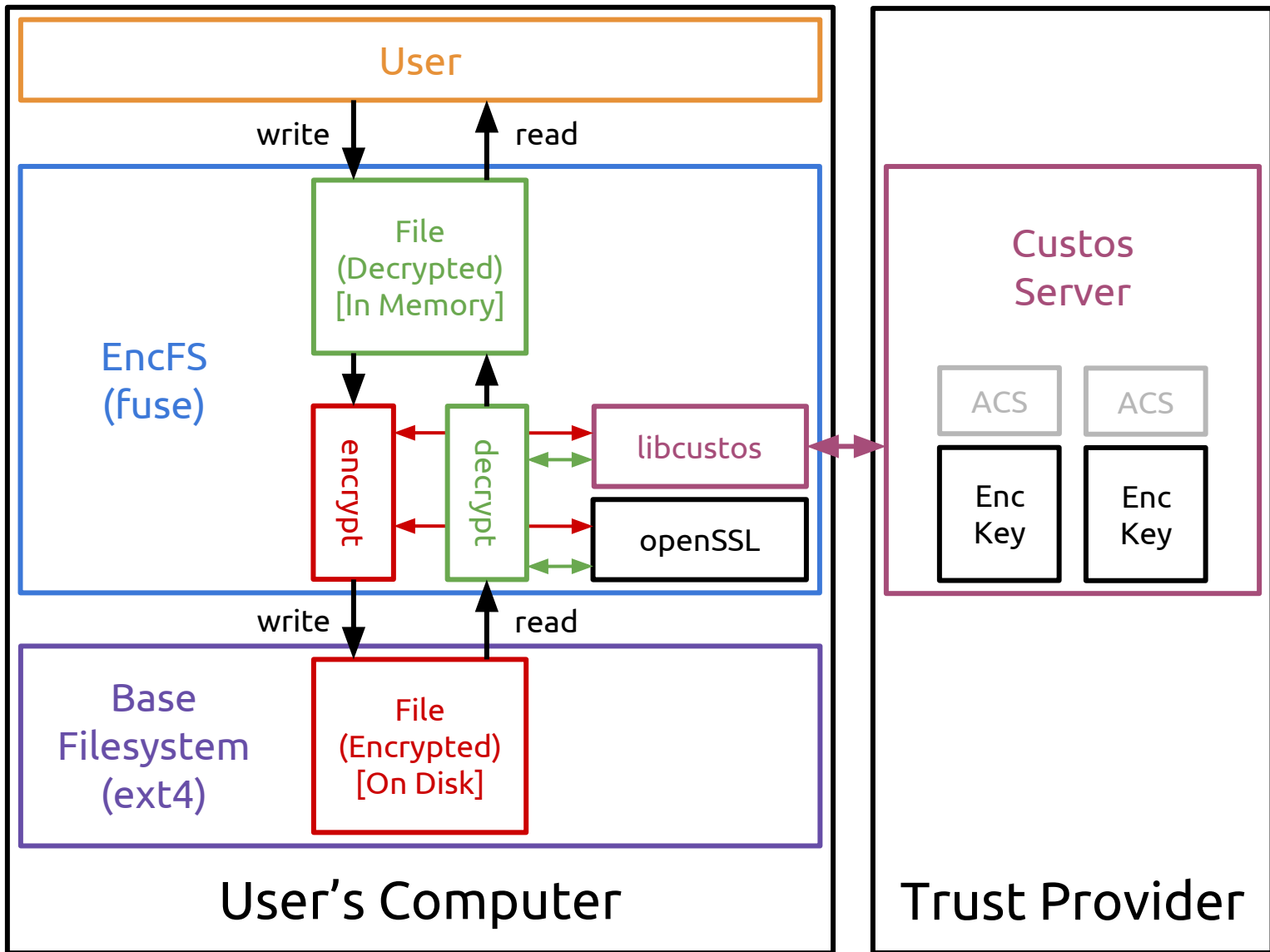
RESTful

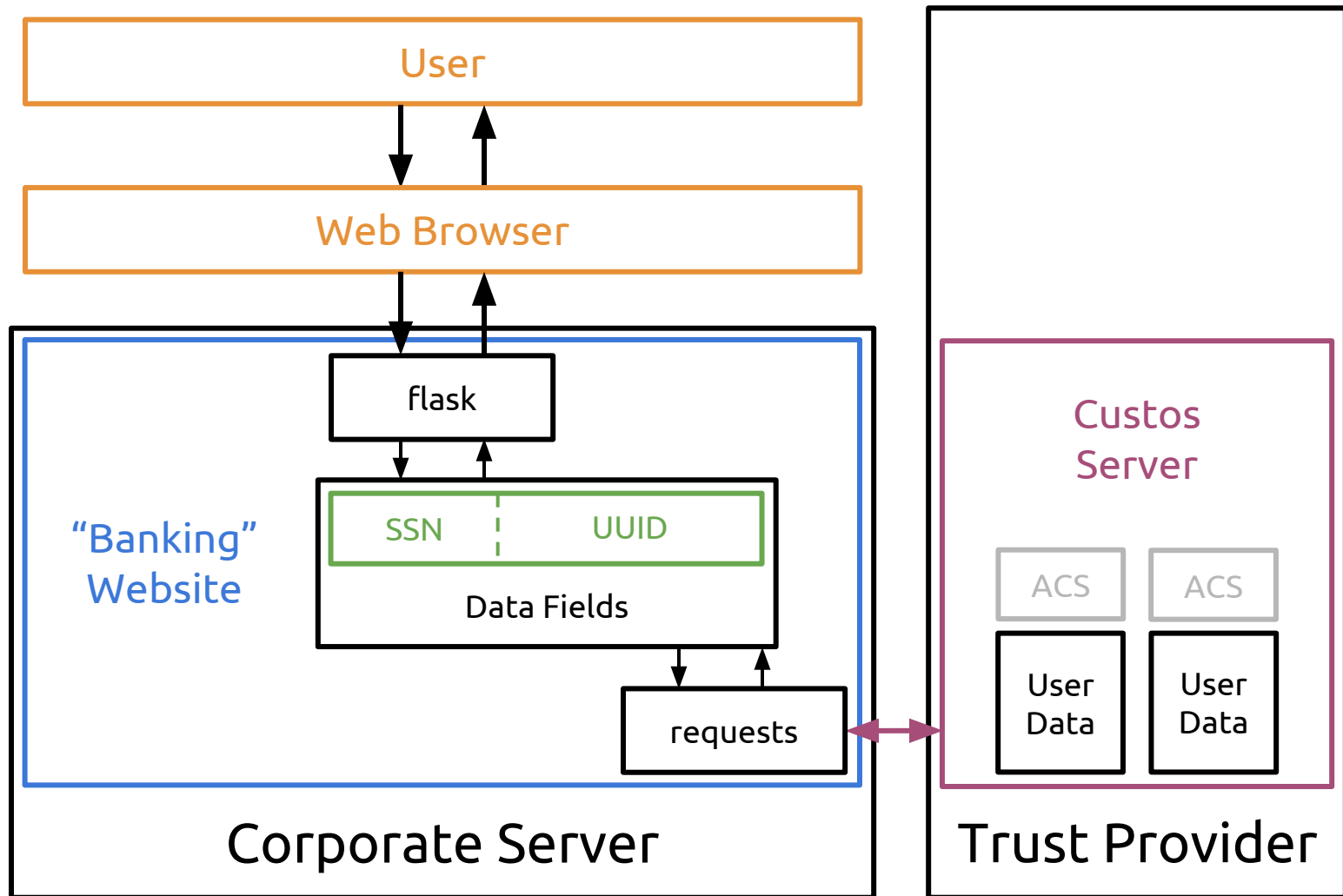
Endpoint	Verb	Required Permission	Purpose
/grp	POST	srv_grp_create	create a new group, returning the group's UUID
/grp	GET	srv_grp_list	return the list of all groups
/grp/<grp_uuid>	DELETE	grp_delete	remove a group
/grp/<grp_uuid>/obj	POST	grp_obj_create	create a new key:value object, returning the object's UUID
/grp/<grp_uuid>/obj	GET	grp_obj_list	return a list of all key:value objects
/grp/<grp_uuid>/obj/<obj_uuid>	PUT	obj_update	update an existing key:value object
/grp/<grp_uuid>/obj/<obj_uuid>	GET	obj_read	return a key:value object*
/grp/<grp_uuid>/obj/<obj_uuid>	DELETE	obj_delete	delete a key:value object

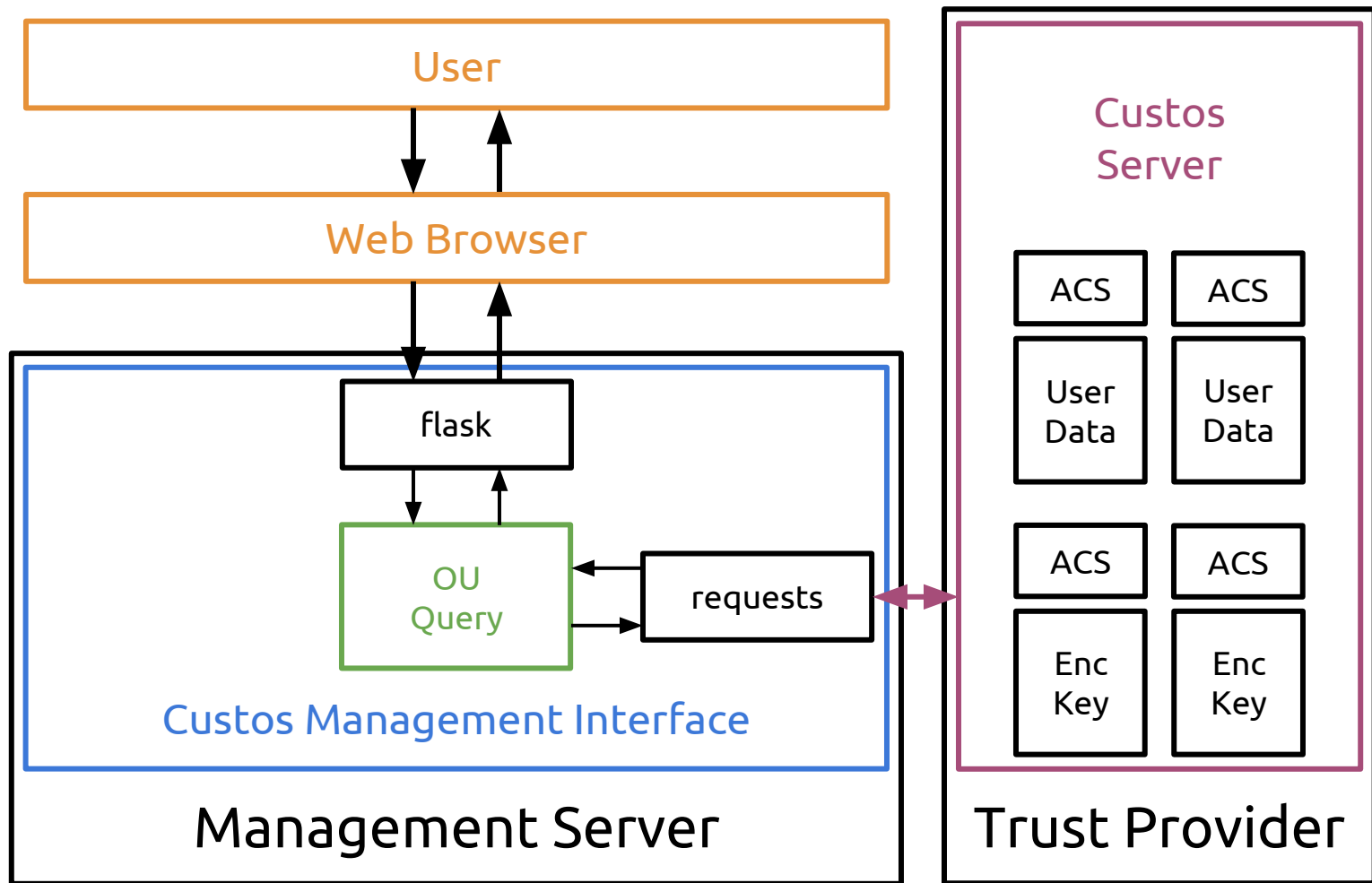
Prototype











Future Work

Expand Prototypes

Usability Studies

Distributed Usage

...

Conclusion

Attempt to solve the Key Storage Problem

Provides a
Secret Storage Service

With...

Flexible Authentication

Powerful Access Control

Standardized Interface

Making Encryption...

Tolerant of Modern Uses Cases

Easier to Use

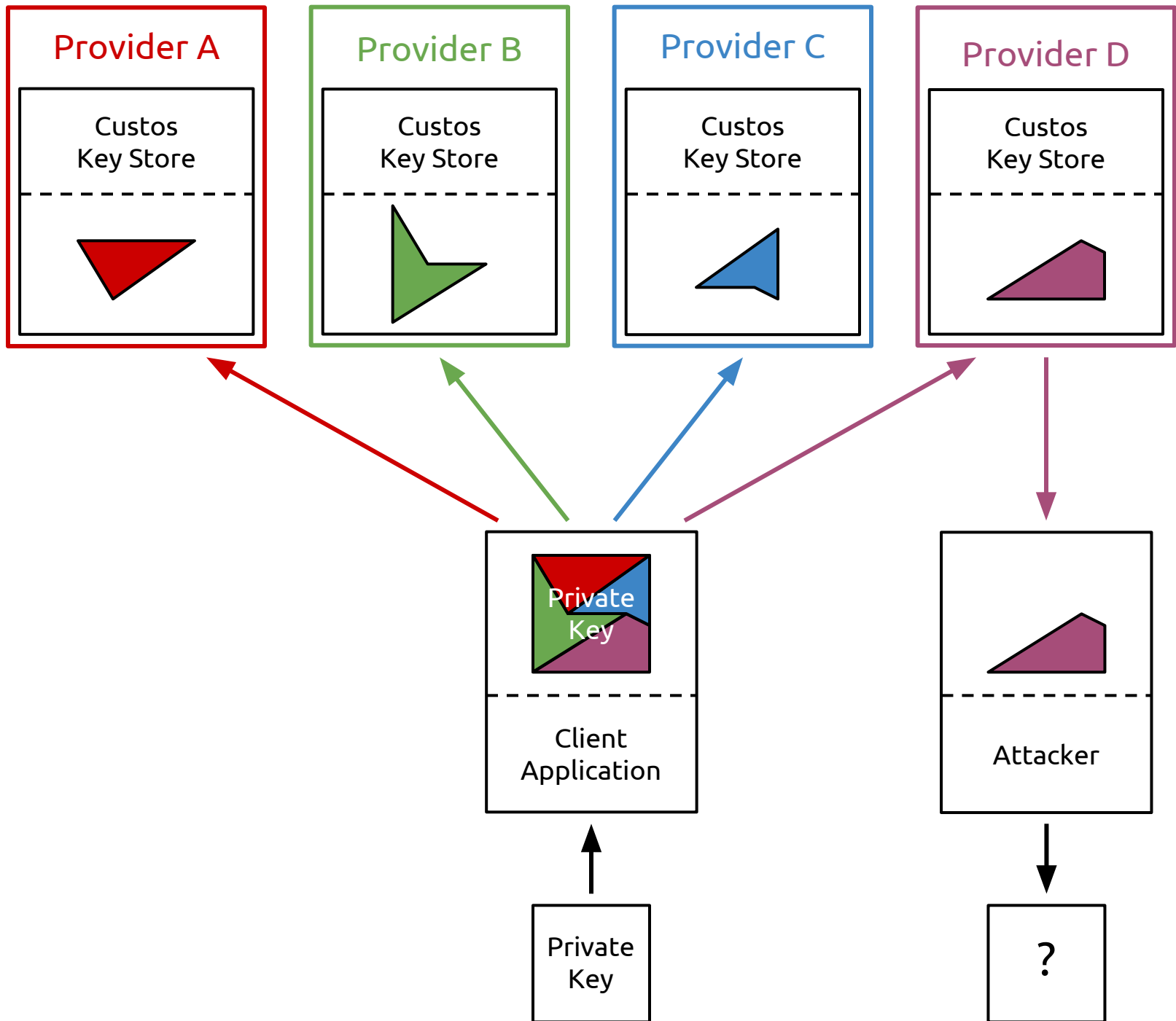
Better at Protecting Our Data

Questions

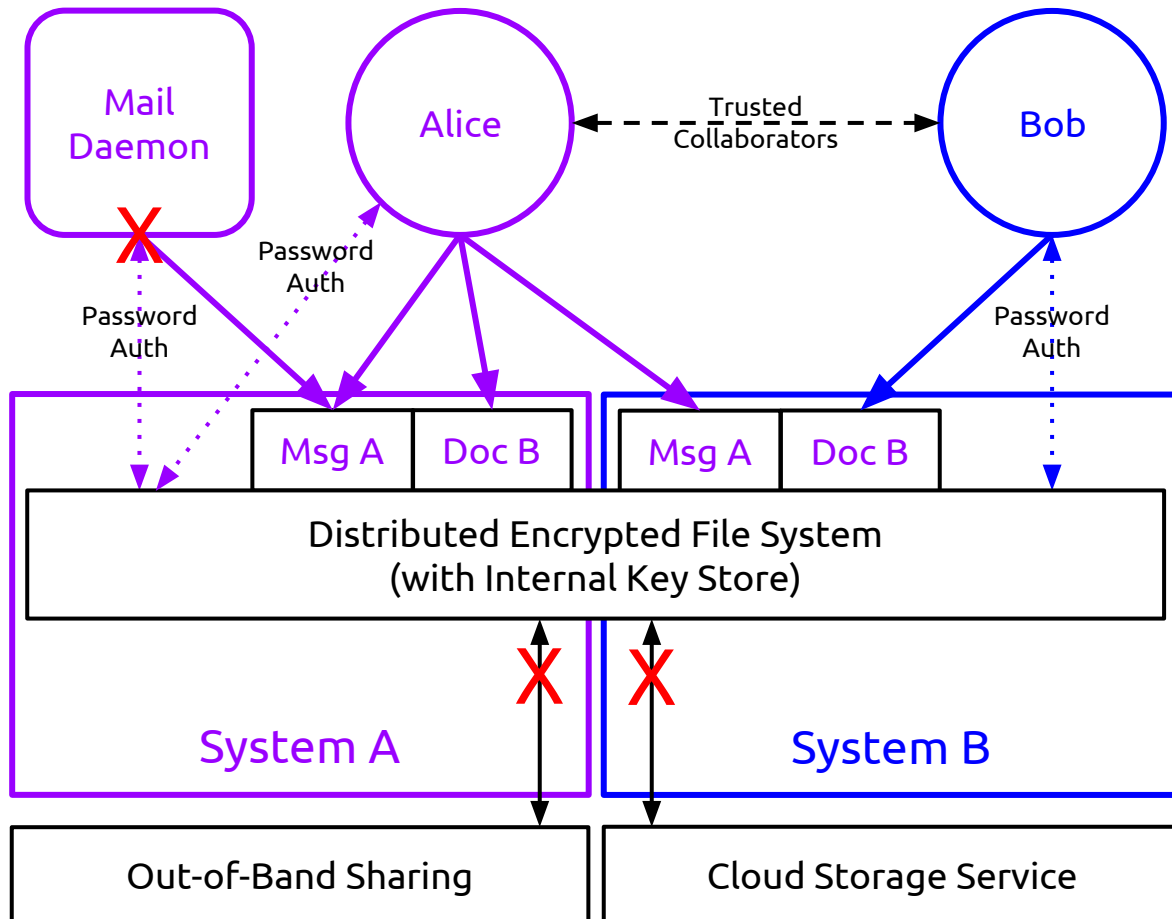
Extra Slides

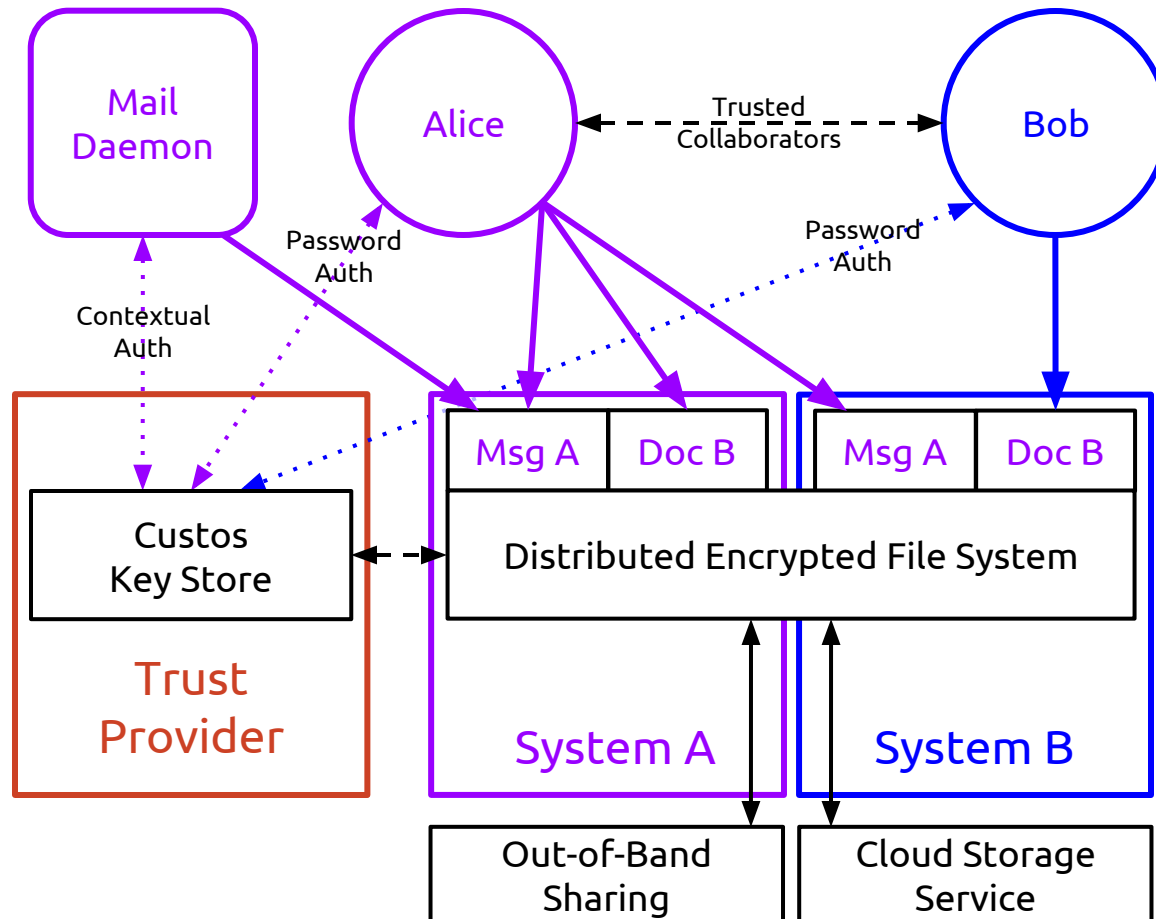
Avoiding a Trusted Third Party

Shamir's Secret Sharing



Full Stack File Systems





Example “Create” API Call

Authentication Attributes (JSON)

```
[
  {
    "Class": "explicit",
    "Type": "user_id",
    "Value": "YXNheWxlcgA=",
    "Echo": true
  },
  {
    "Class": "explicit",
    "Type": "psk",
    "Value": "TXlPYmplY3RDcmVhdGlvb1Bhc3N3b3JkA
              A==",
    "Echo": false
  }
]
```

Request URL

POST https://custos.net/grp/cc4273ae-4e1e-11e3-90d4-10bf487b3e94/obj?aa=%5B%20%7B%20%22Class%22%3A%20%22explicit%22%2C%20%22Type%22%3A%20%22user_id%22%2C%20%22Value%22%3A%20%22YXNheWx1cgA%3D%22%2C%20%22Echo%22%3A%20true%20%7D%2C%20%7B%20%22Class%22%3A%20%22explicit%22%2C%20%22Type%22%3A%20%22psk%22%2C%20%22Value%22%3A%20%22TXlPYmplY3RDcmVhdGlvb1Bhc3N3b3JkAA%3D%3D%22%2C%20%22Echo%22%3A%20false%20%7D%20%5D

Request Body (JSON)

```
{
  "Keys": [
    {
      "Value": "VHdhcyBicmlsbGlnLC
                BhbmQgdGhlIHNSaXRo
                eSB0b3Z1czsgRGlkIG
                d5cmUgYW5kIGdpbWJs
                ZSBpbjB0aGUgd2FiZQ
                A=",
      "Echo": true
    }
  ],
  ...
}
```

Request Body (JSON) - Continued

...

```
"ACSS": [  
  {  
    "Permissions":  
    {  
      "obj_delete": null,  
      "obj_read": [  
        [  
          {  
            "Class": "explicit",  
            "Type": "user_id",  
            "Value": "YXNheWxlcgA=",  
            "Echo": true  
          }  
        ]  
      ]  
    }  
  ]  
  ...  
]
```

Response (JSON)

```
{
  "Status": "okay",
  "Keys": [
    {
      "Value": "VHdhcyBicmlsbGlnLC
                BhbmQgdGhlIHNSaXRo
                eSB0b3Z1czsgRG1kIG
                d5cmUgYW5kIGdpbWJs
                ZSBpbjB0aGUgd2FiZQ
                A=",
      "Echo": true,
      "Revision": 0,
      "UUID": "7af8c95d-479a...",
      "Status": "accepted"
    }
  ],
  ...
}
```

Response (JSON) - Continued

```
...
  "ACSS": [
    {
      "Permissions": {
        "obj_delete": null,
        "obj_read": [
          ...
        ]
      }
      ...
    },
    "Echo": true,
    "Status": "accepted"
  ],
  ...
```

Response (JSON) - Continued

```
...  
"Attrs": [  
  {  
    "Class": "explicit",  
    "Type": "user_id",  
    "Value": "YXNheWxlcgA=",  
    "Echo": true,  
    "Status": "accepted",  
    "ResValue": null  
  },  
  ...  
]
```


Filesystem References

Kubiatowicz, et. al. OceanStore. ASN 2000.

Kallahalla, et. al. Platus. FST 2003.

Wilcox-O'Hearn, et. al. Tahoe. SSS 2008.

Mahajan, et. al. Depot. TCS 2011.

Geambasu, et. al. Keypad. EuroSys 2011.

Usability References

Whitten & Tygar. Why Johnny Can't Encrypt. USENIX Security. 1999

Anderson. Why information security is hard. CSAC. 2001

Furnell. Usability versus Complexity. Network Security. 2010

Crypto References

Diffie & Hellman. New directions in cryptography. IEEE Trans. on IT. 1976

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Schneider. Applied Cryptography. 1996

Denning & Branstad. A Taxonomy for Key Escrow Encryption Sys. Comm ACM. 1996