

...enabling technologies



> Advances in data agency and ownership "



Cryptography is a tool for turning lots of different problems into key management problems

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github.com/expede Vancouver

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- * Researcher-in-Residence @ Ink & Switch 💹
 - Lead the Keyhive (authz) project
- Spec editor at UCAN Working Group
- Prev. Ethereum core dev, mostly EVM but also access control
- PLs and DSys are my jam



github.com/expede Vancouver

Topics



Topics

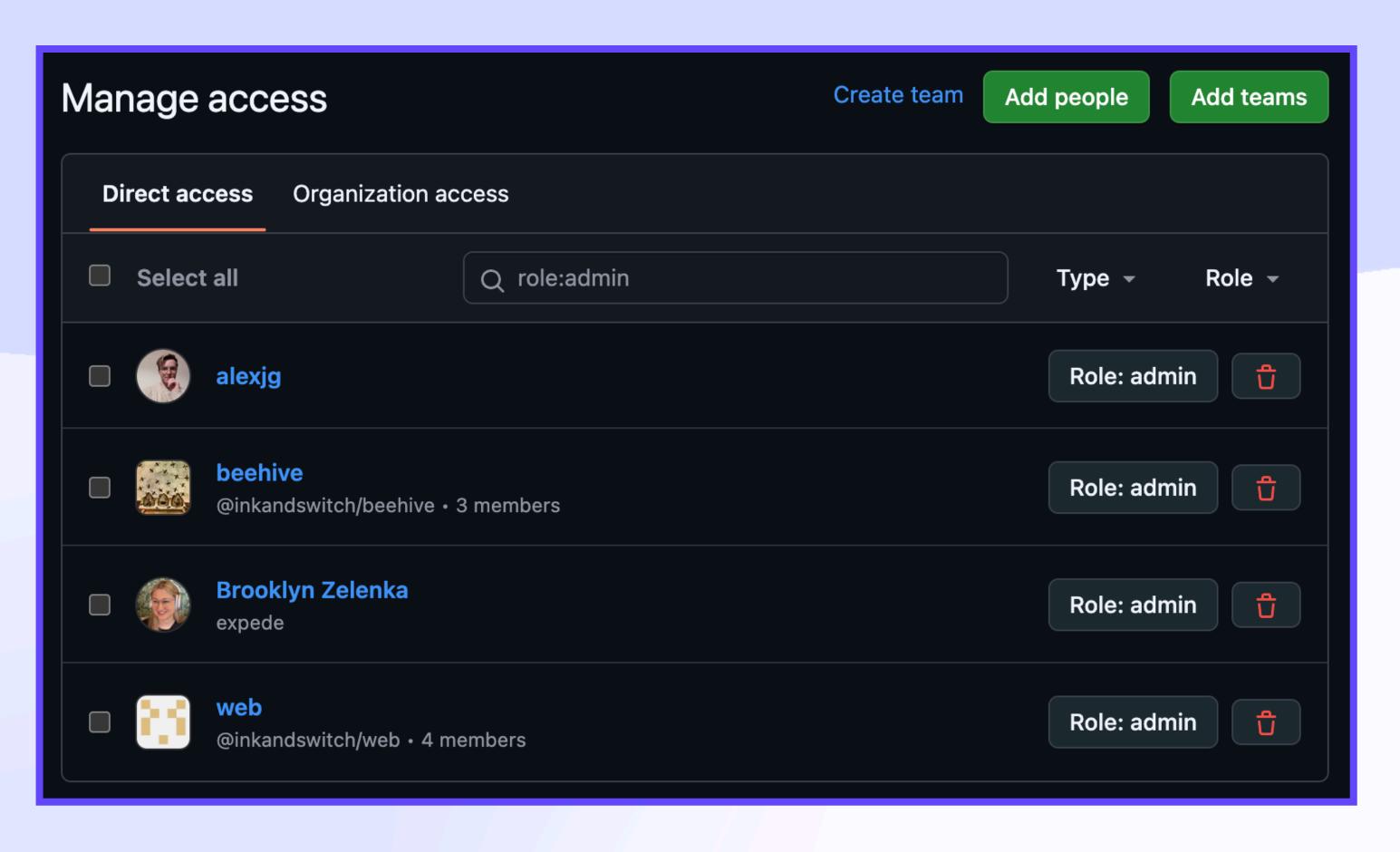
- "How do we maintain privacy and security without handing over all of our trust to a single org?"
- Core definitions / concepts
- Delegated auth
- Encryption
- Defence in depth
- Keeping the technical depth to high level diagrams
 - (...but we can go as deep as y'all want \(\oplus \))

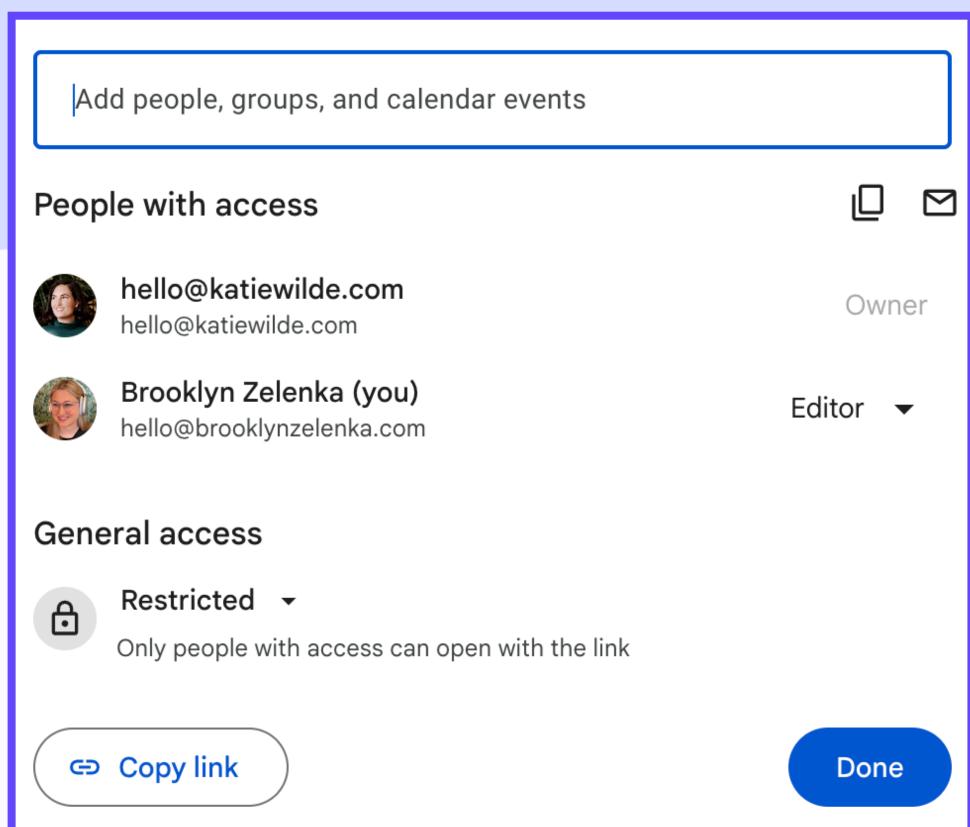


Who Authorises the Authorisers "Comparable Experience"

If we do our job "perfectly", you don't have to know something is different

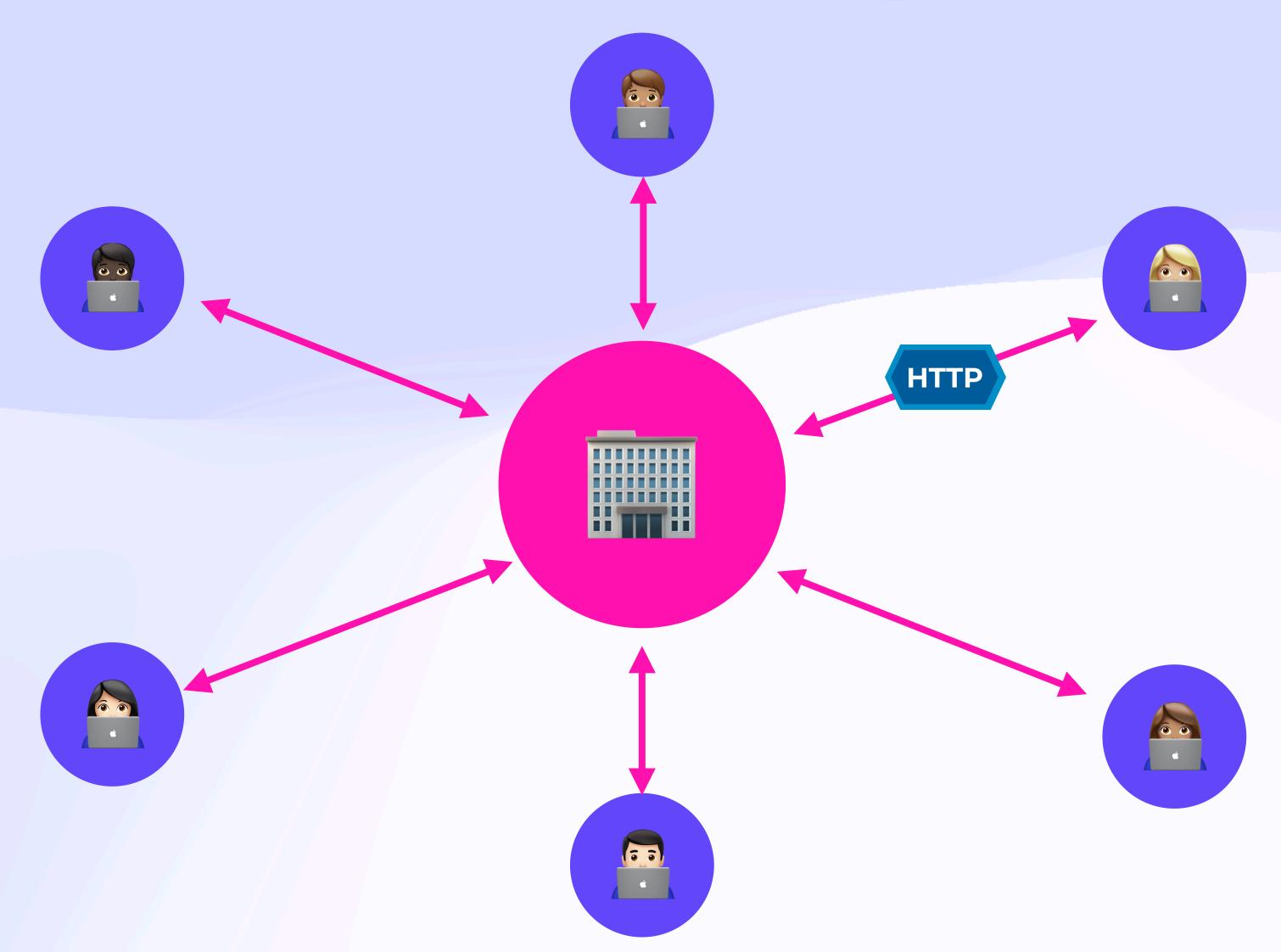
"Comparable Experience"



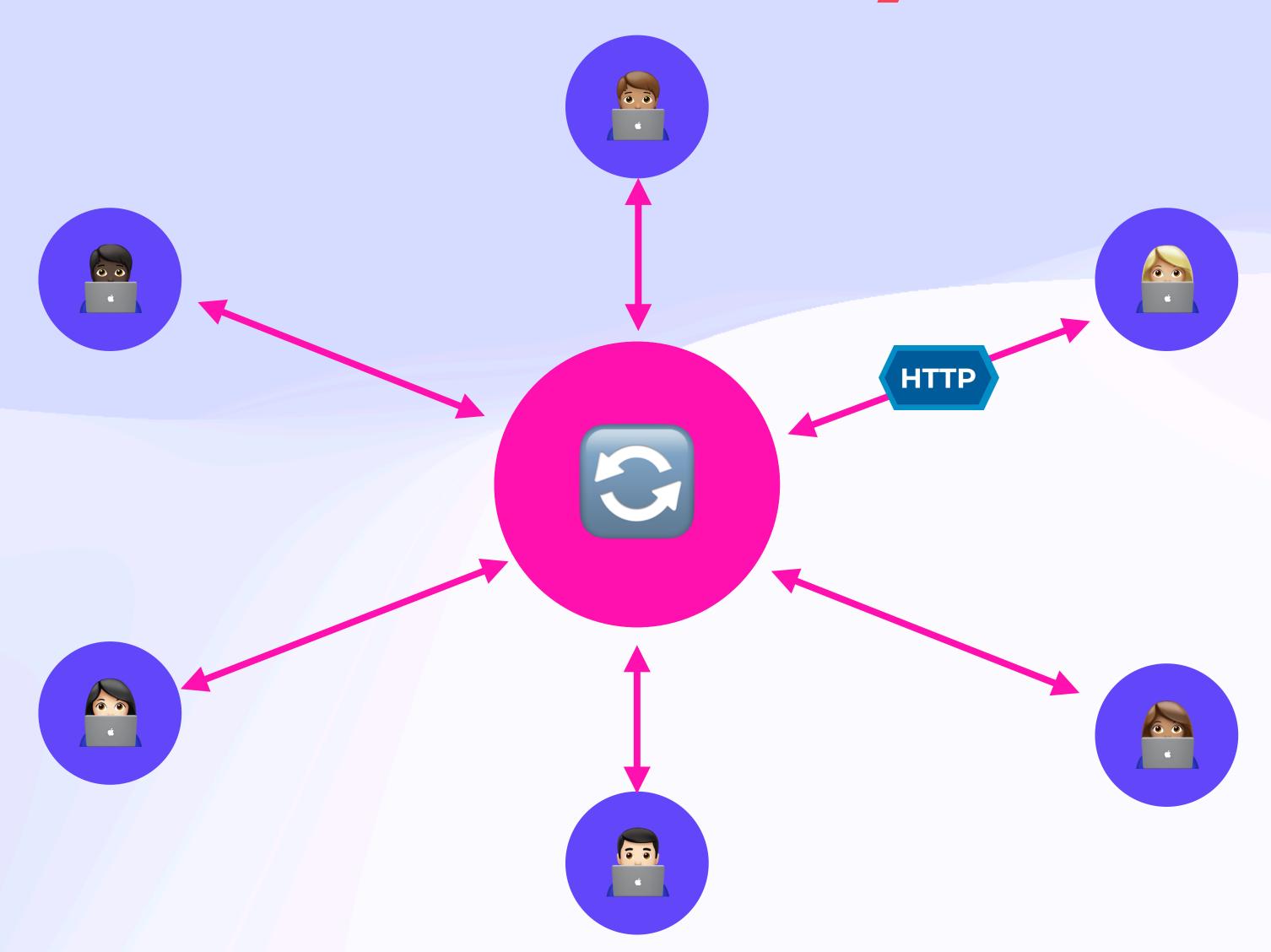


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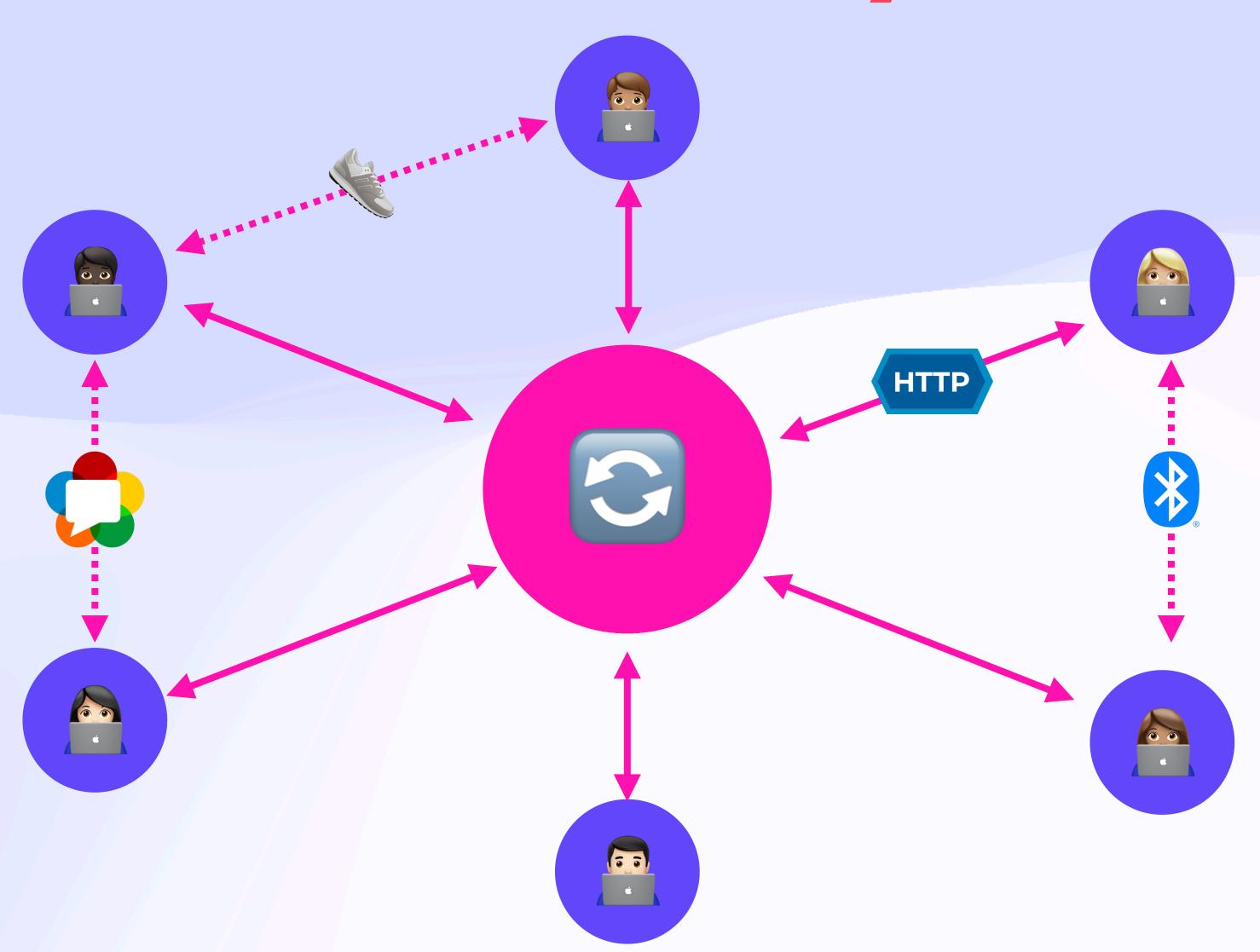
LoFi & Distributed Web Dynamics



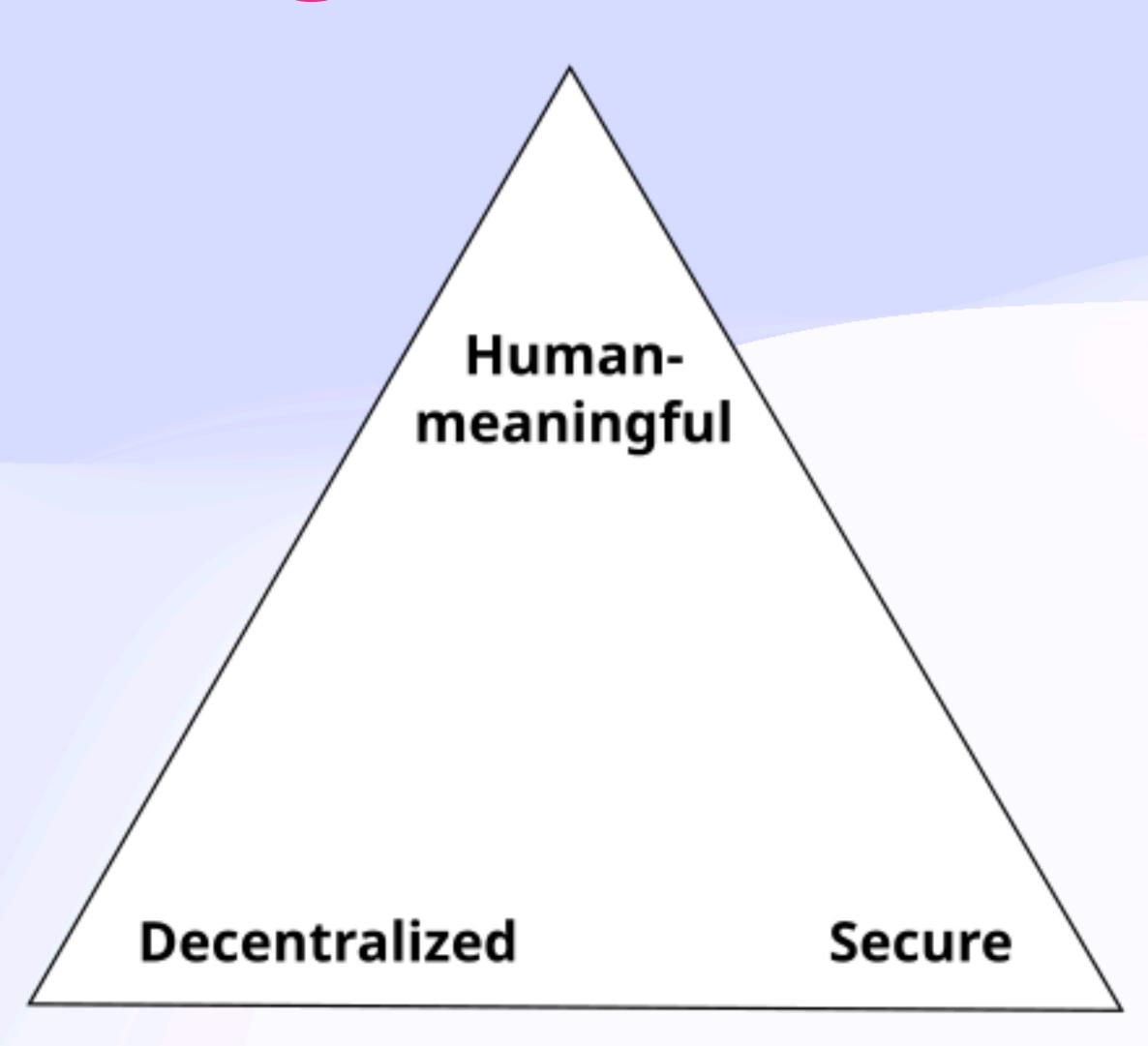
LoFi & Distributed Web Dynamics



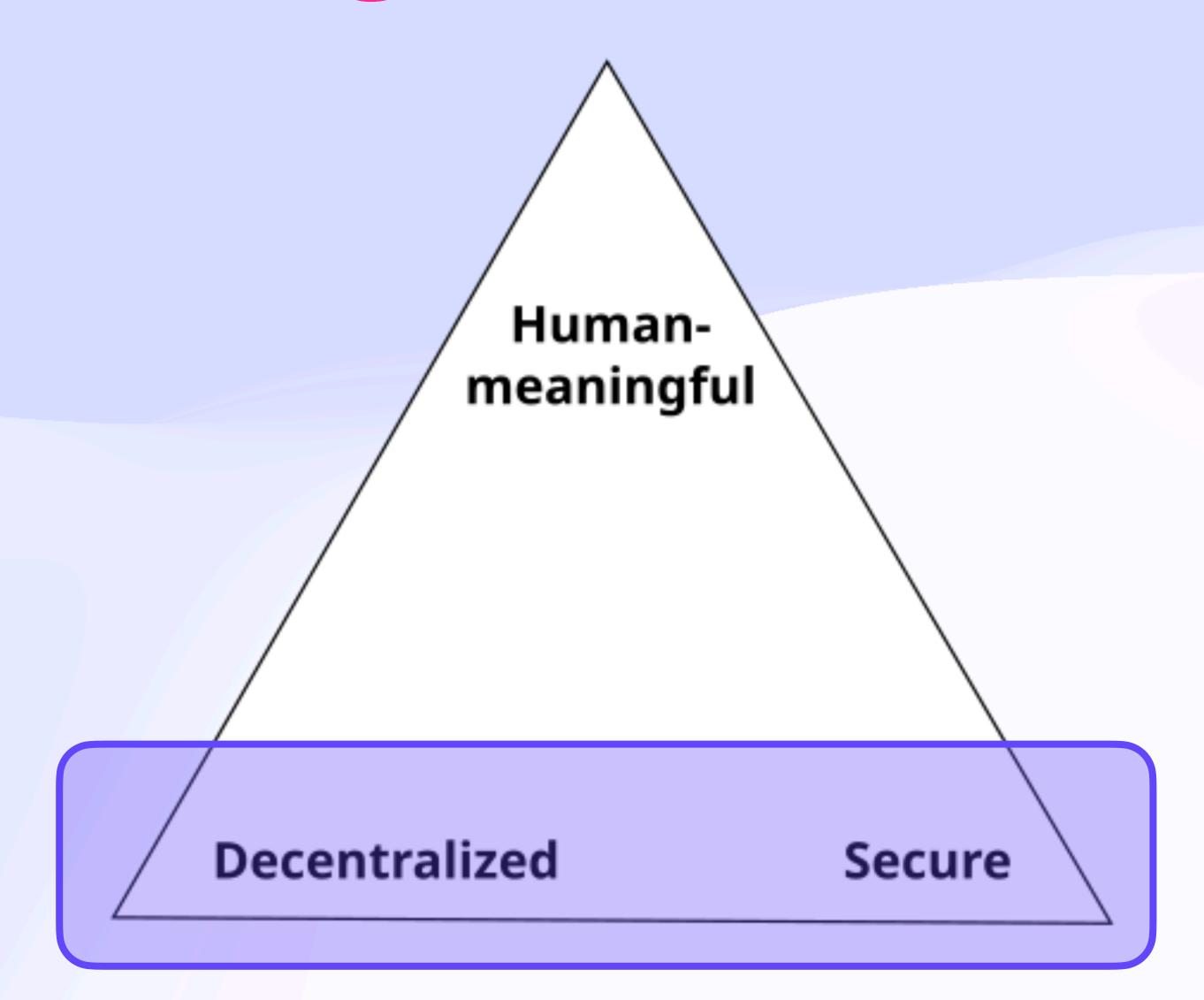
LoFi&Distributed Web Dynamics



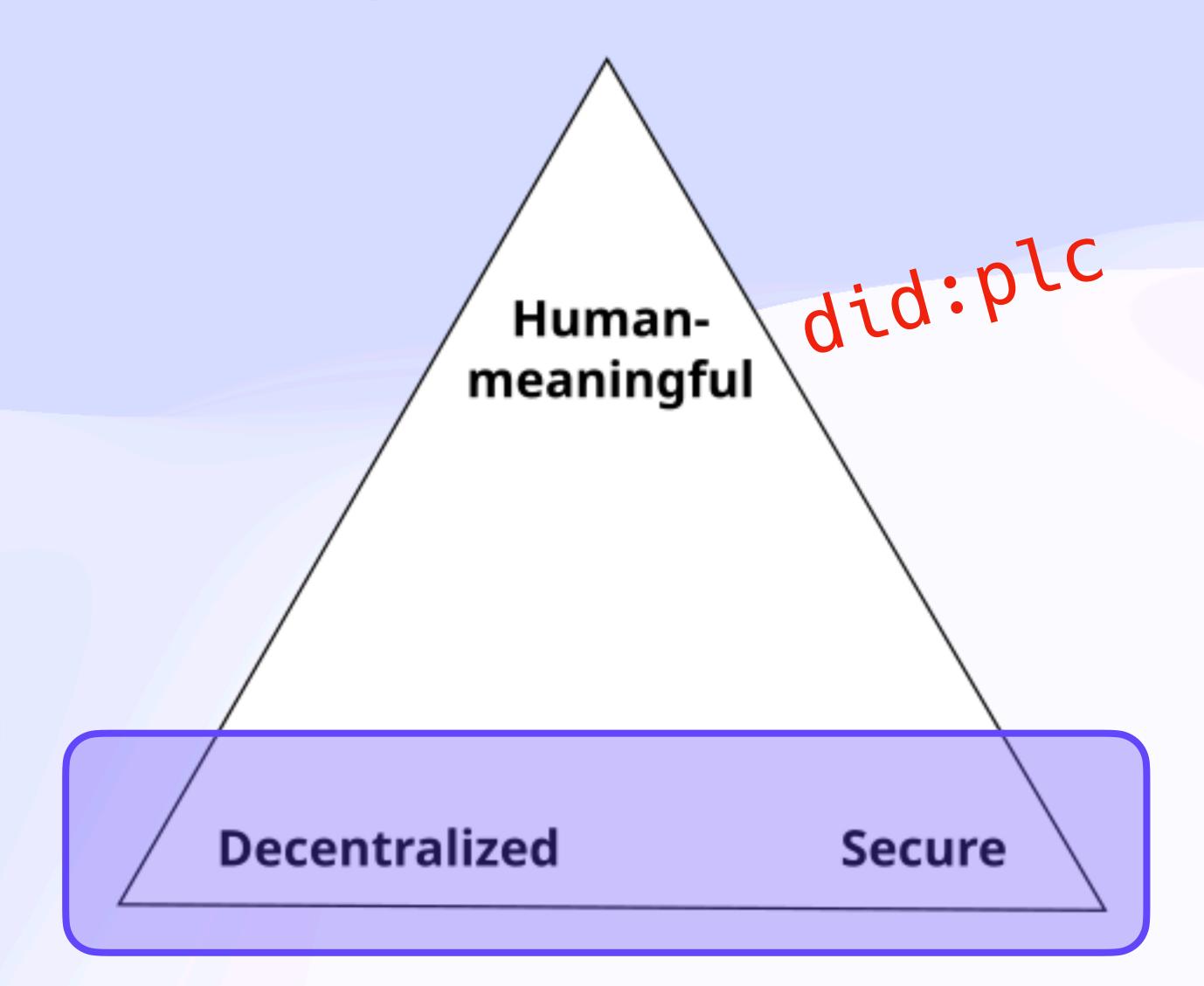
Zooko's Triangle (User Identifiers)



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Zooko's Triangle (User Identifiers)



AuthN vs AuthZ vs Identity

AuthN vs AuthZ vs Identity

AutheNtication



AuthN vs AuthZ vs Identity





AutheNtication



AuthN vs AuthZ vs Identity





<u>AutheNtication</u>



AuthN vs AuthZ vs Identity





AutheNtication



Keyhive at the Highest of Levels

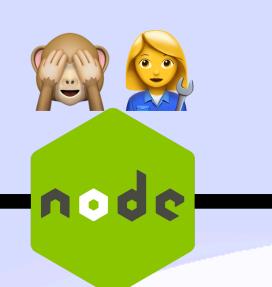
Keyhive at the Highest of Levels

- Comparable experience to cloud auth, minus the servers
- Control who can read and write to documents
- Compatible with swappable/interoperable sync servers
 - Not store data in plaintext on those servers (encryption at rest)
 - · ...but still be efficient: support Automerge compaction
- "Wikipedia-scale" (100k+ docs, 10k+ E2EE readers, 1k+ writers, 100s admins)
- Secure "at least at the level of the FBI, but not necessarily NSA, MSS, or Mossad"



Cloud Auth Flow



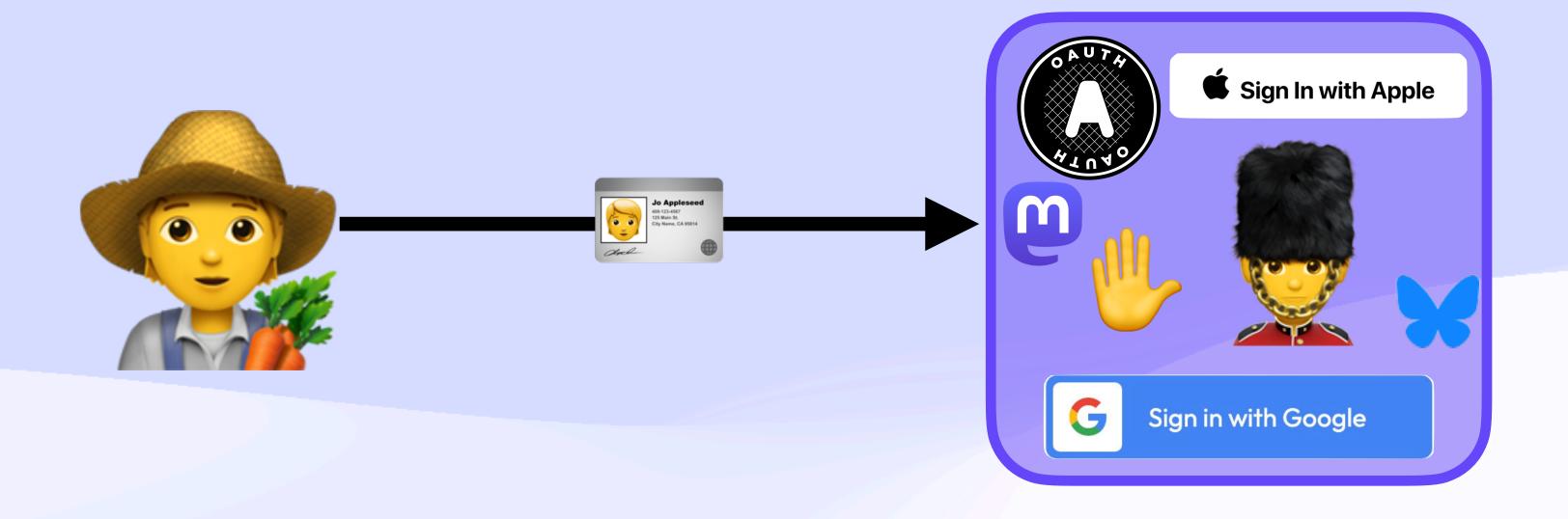




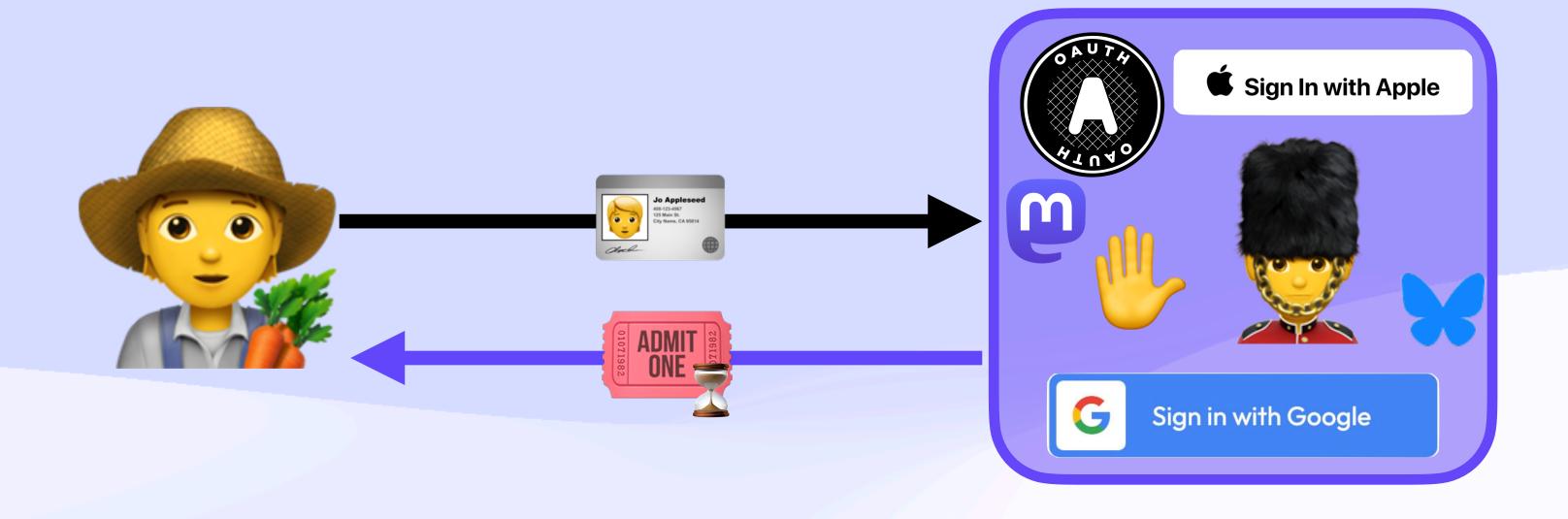
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The mufile. The rabels.
The troublemakers. The round gags in the holes.
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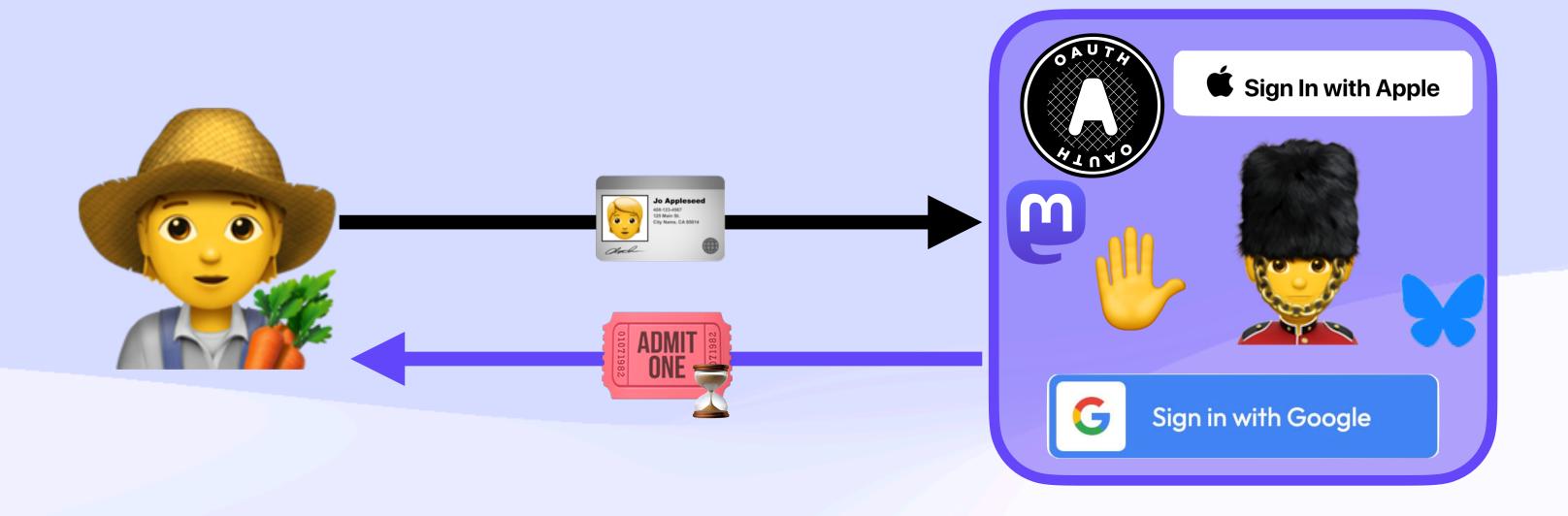






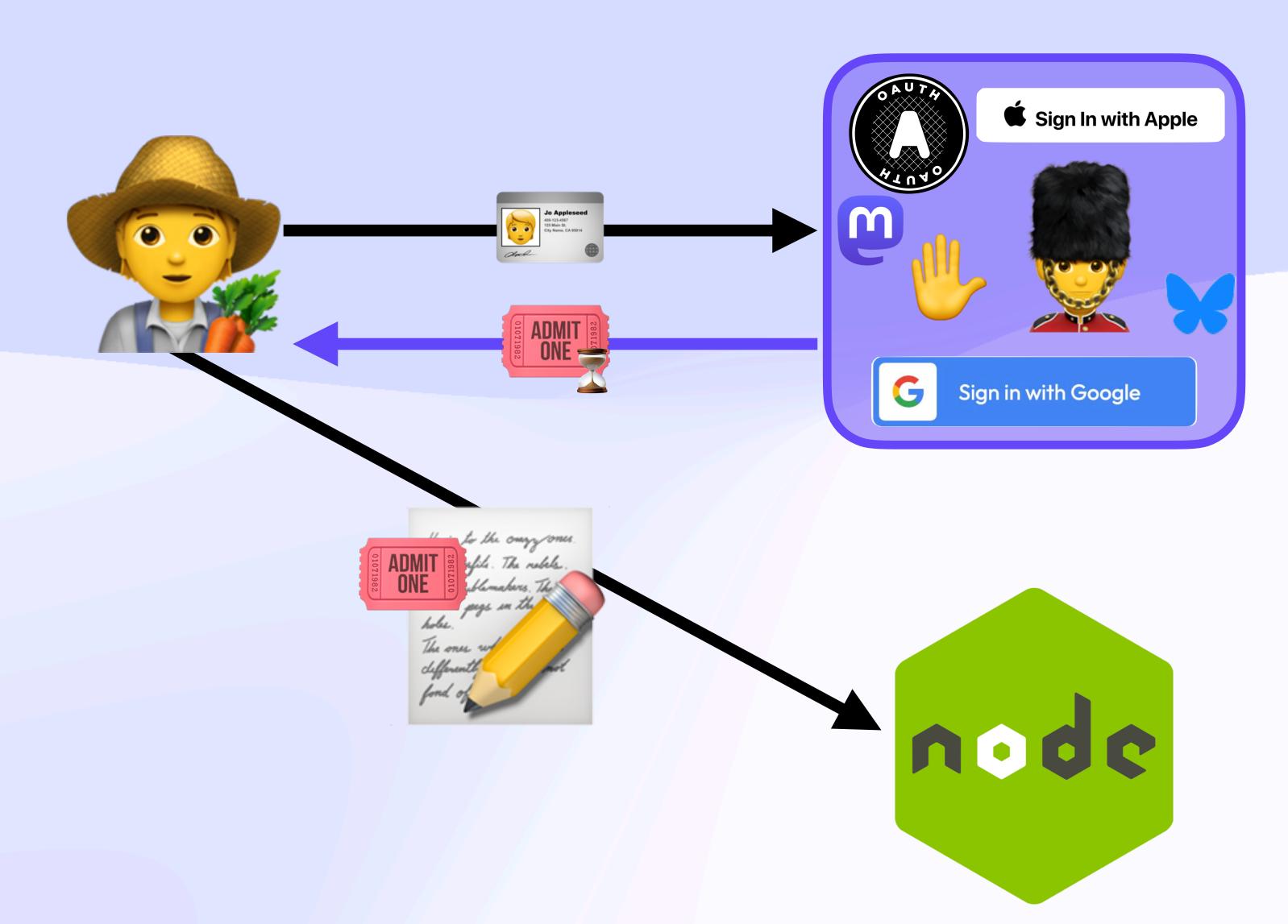




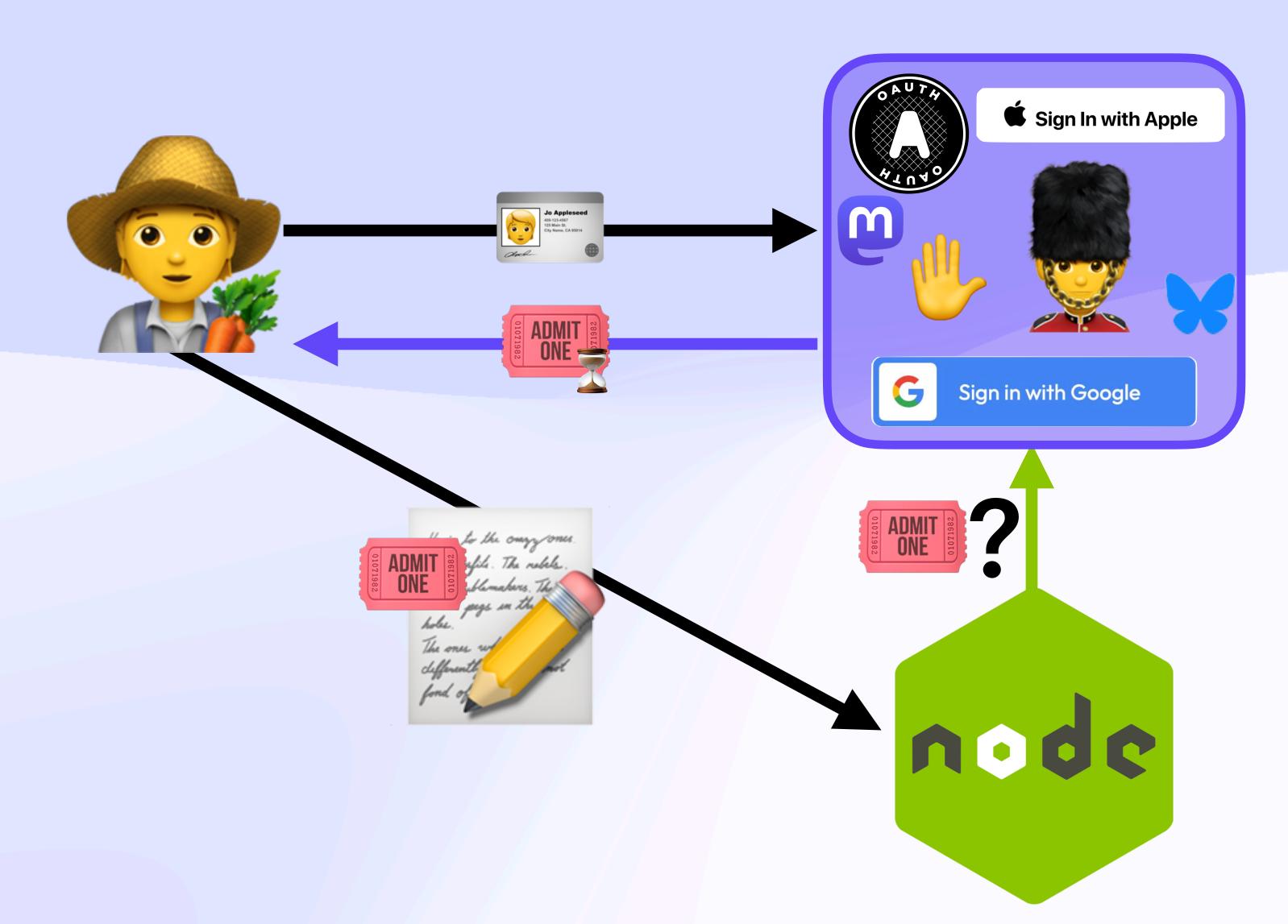




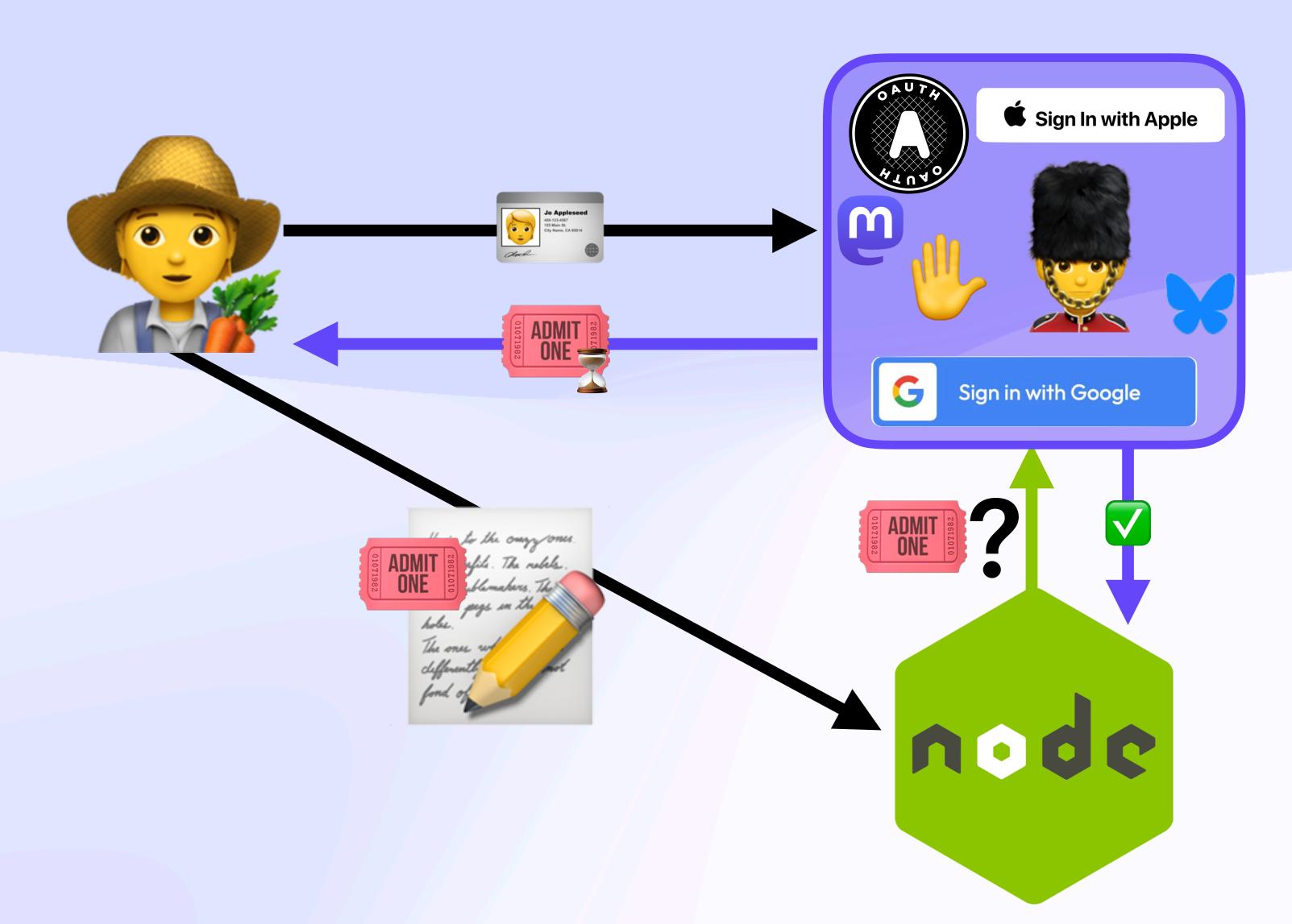




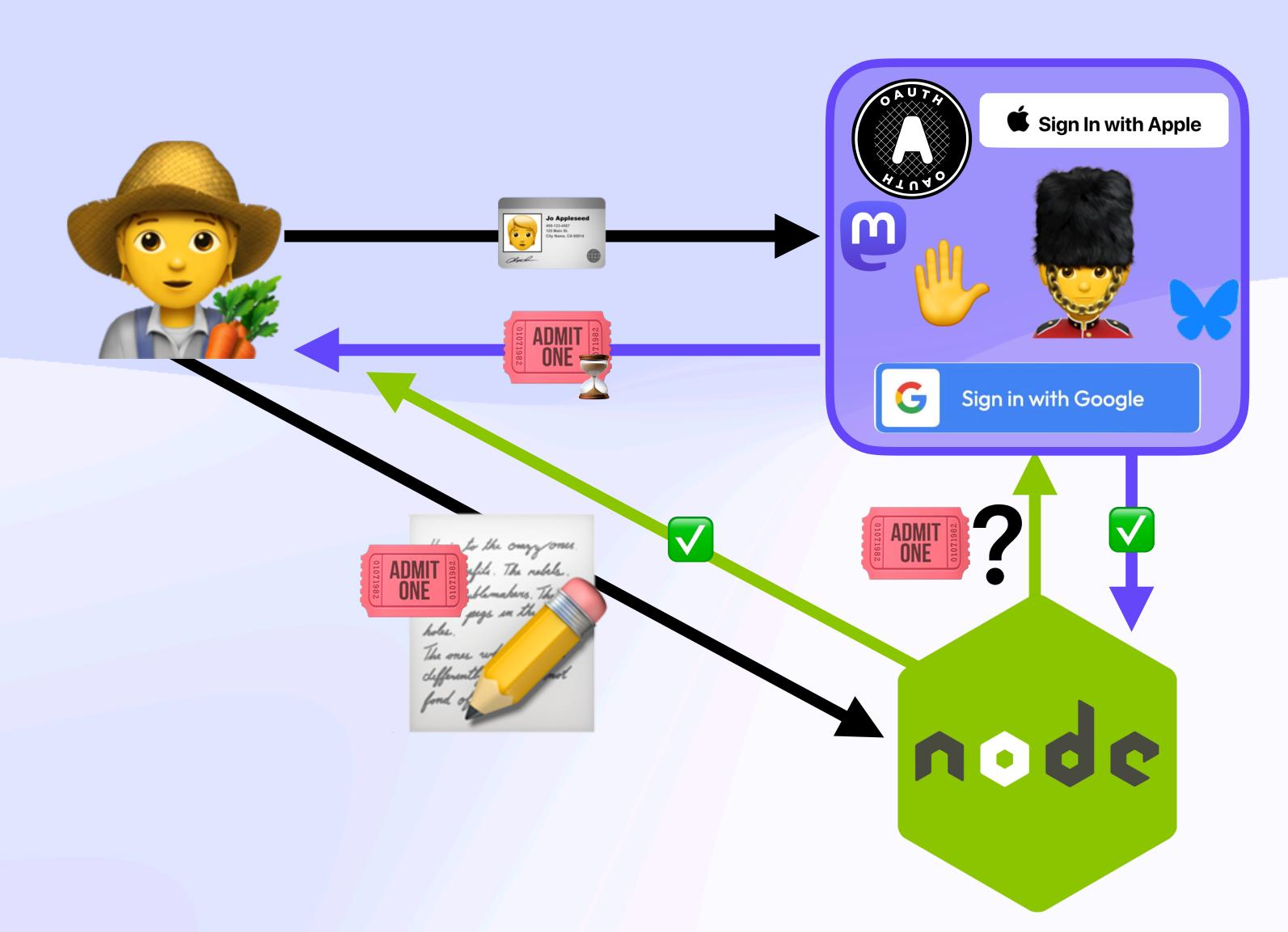




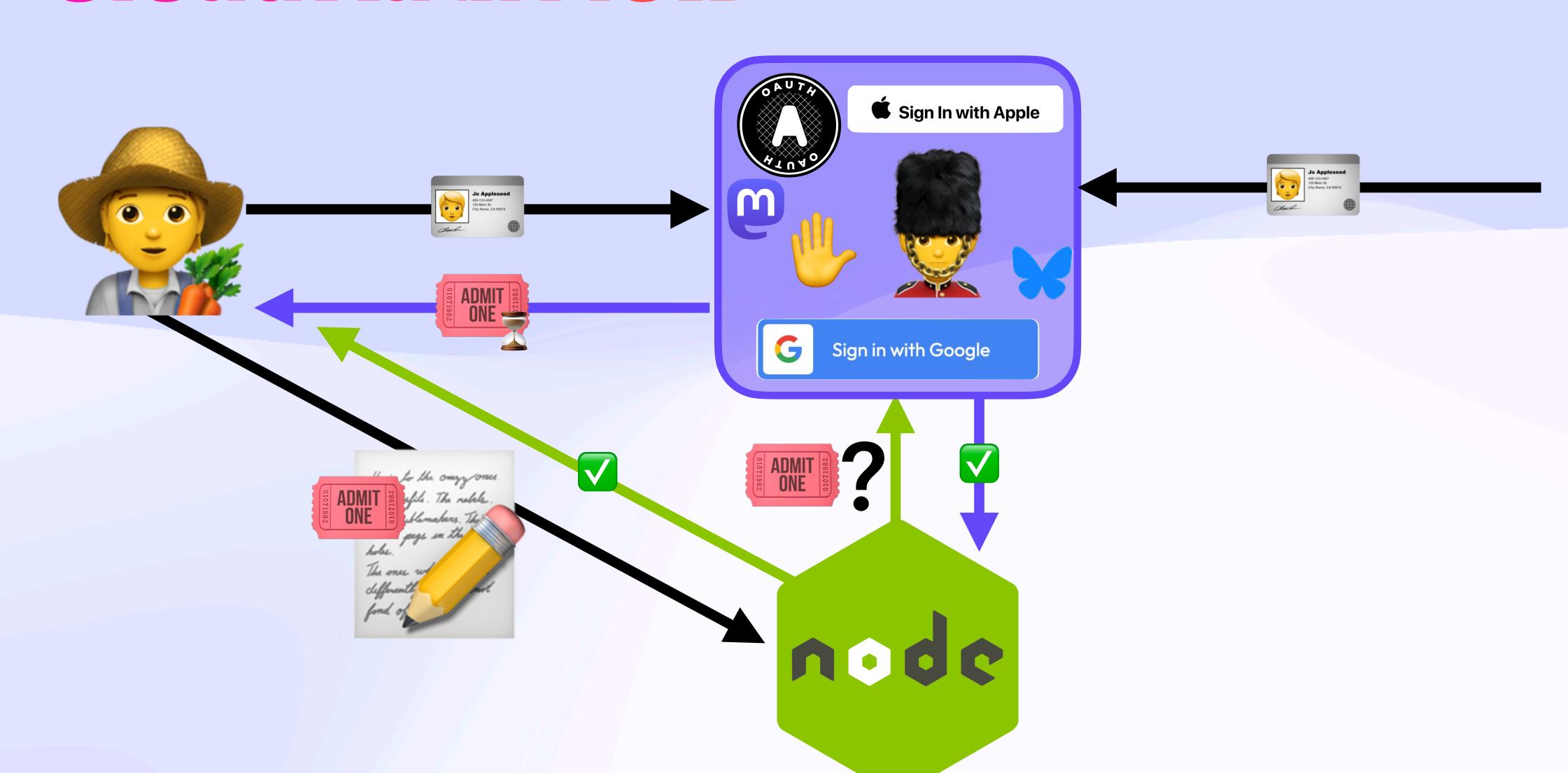


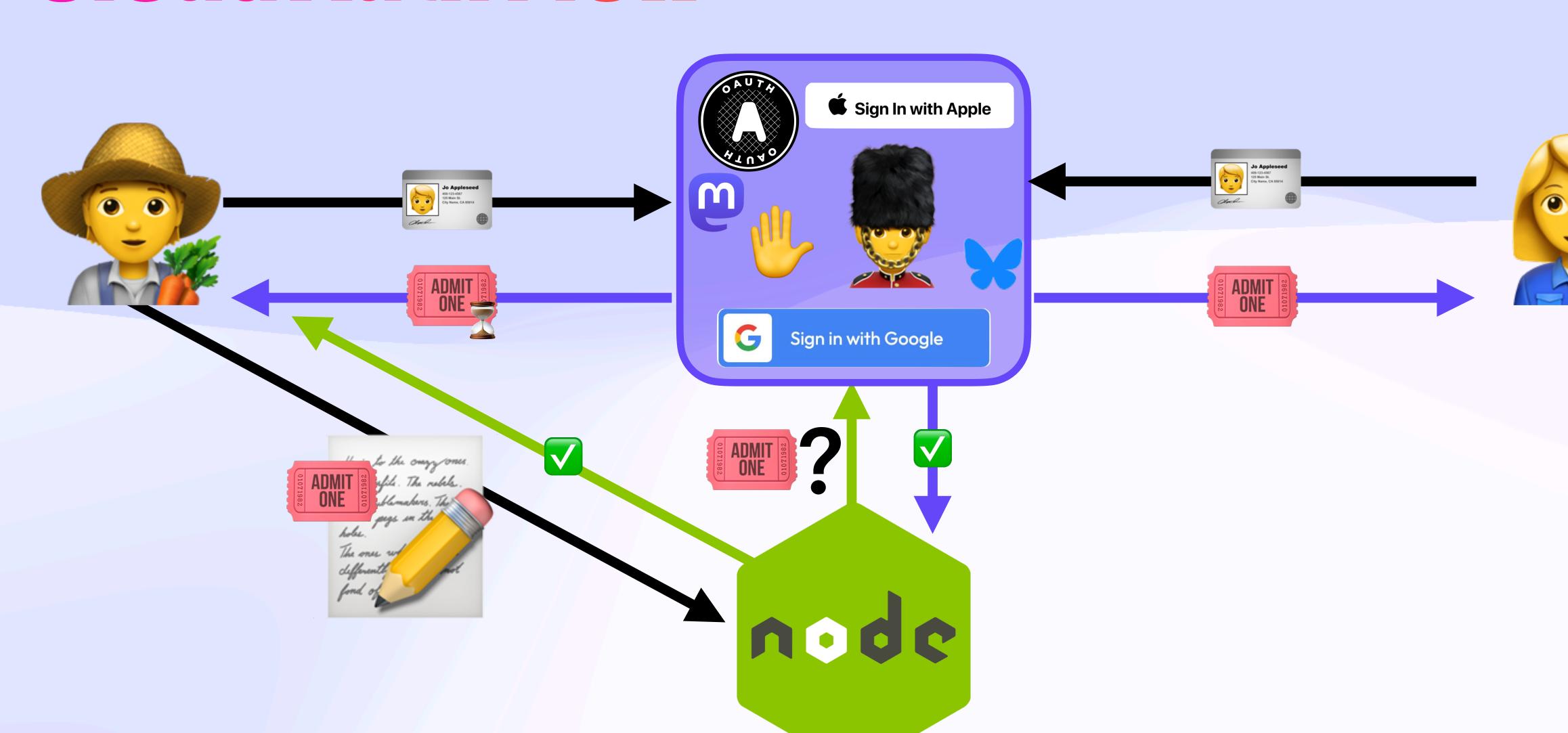


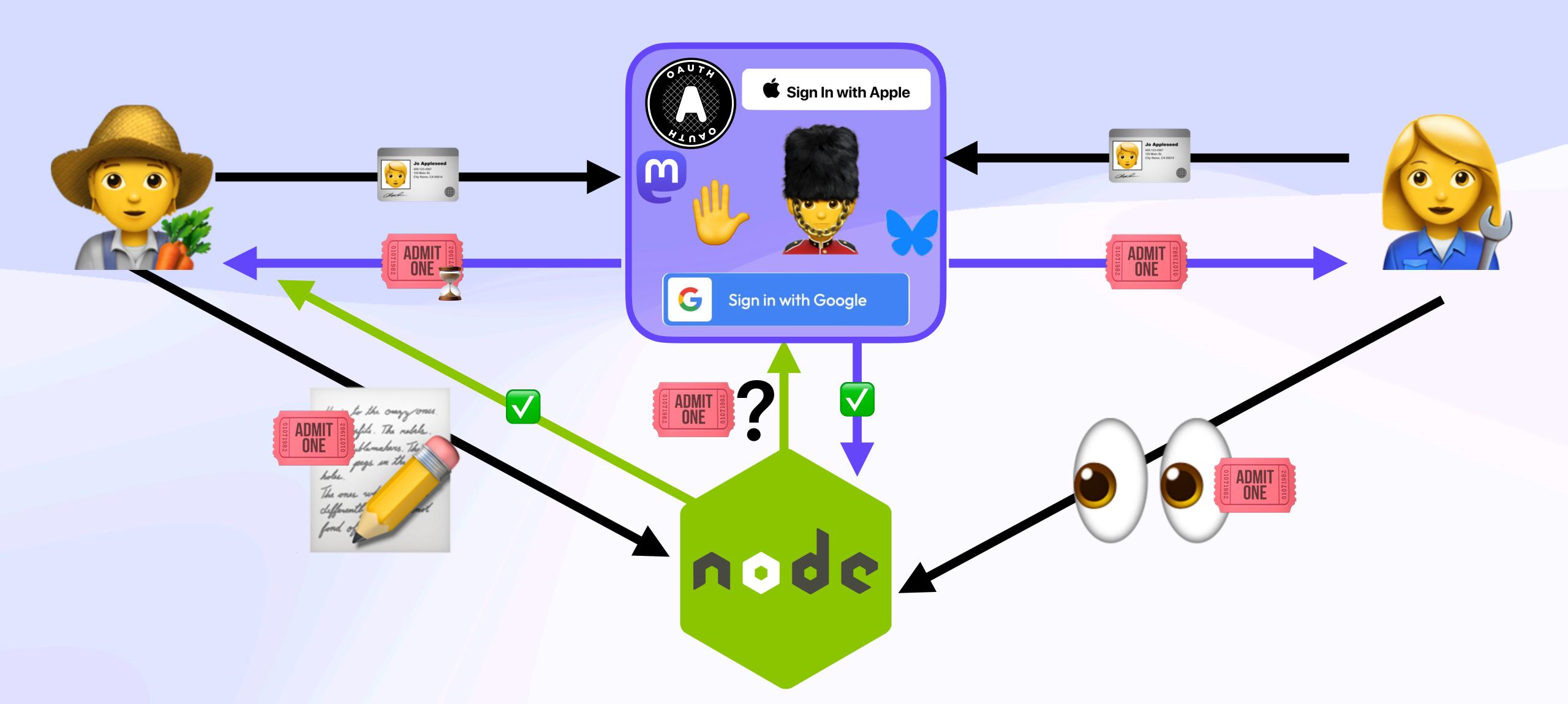


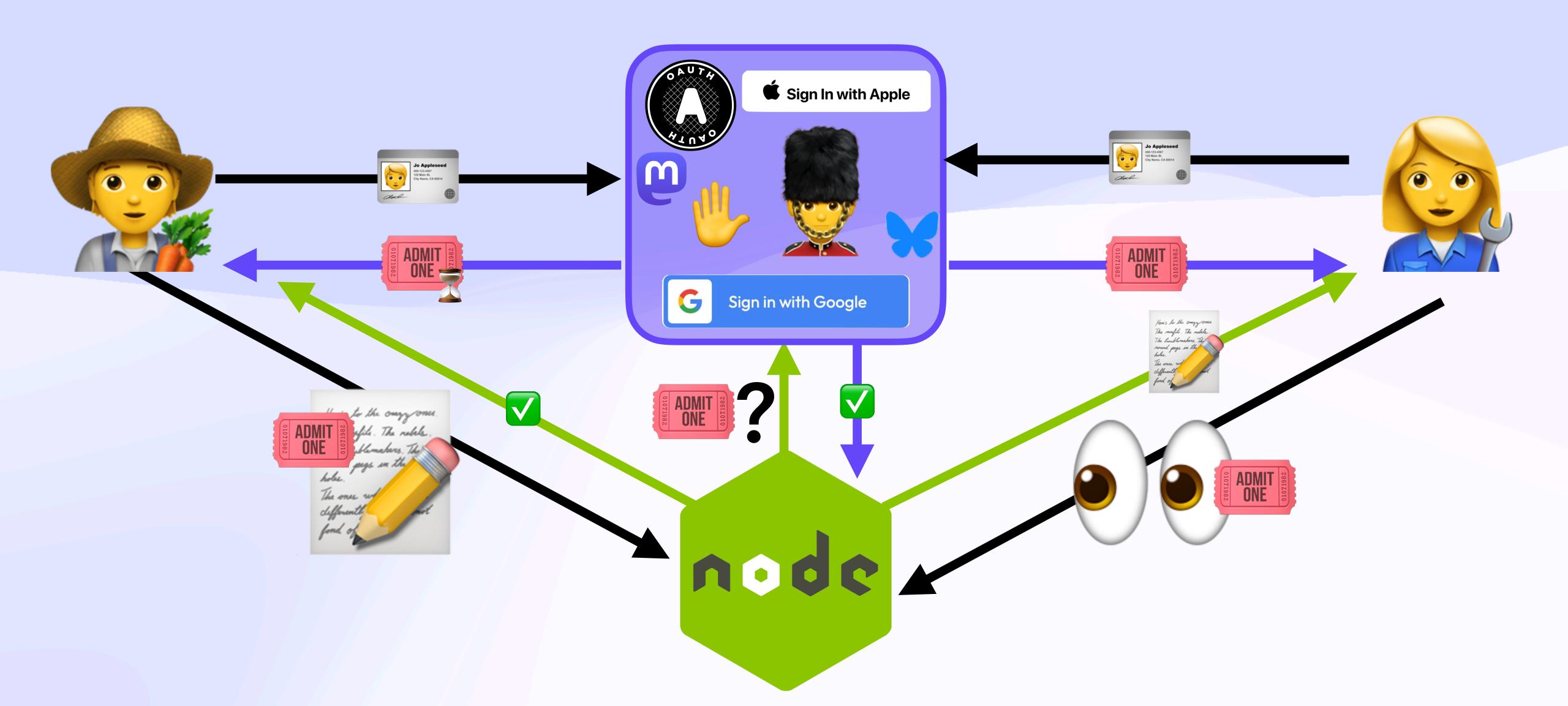


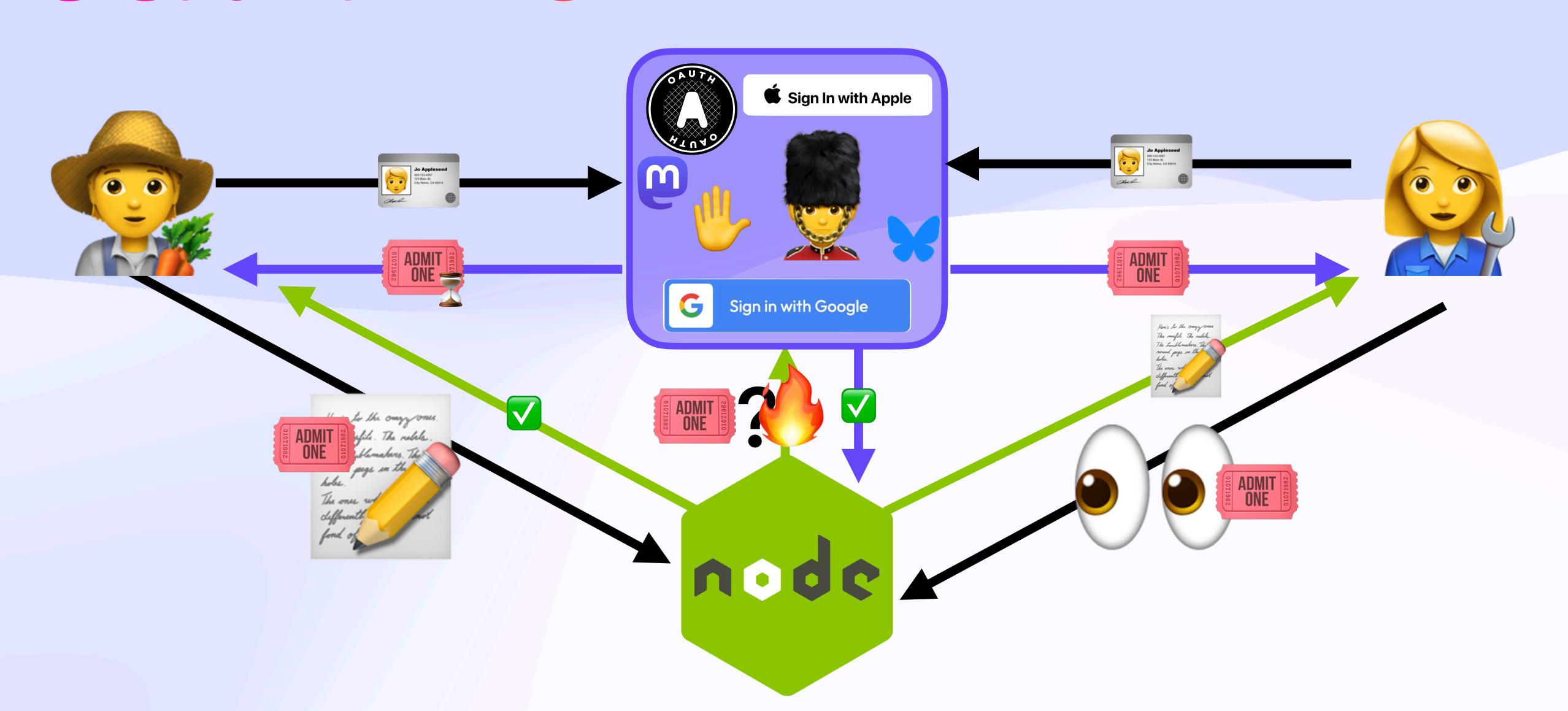


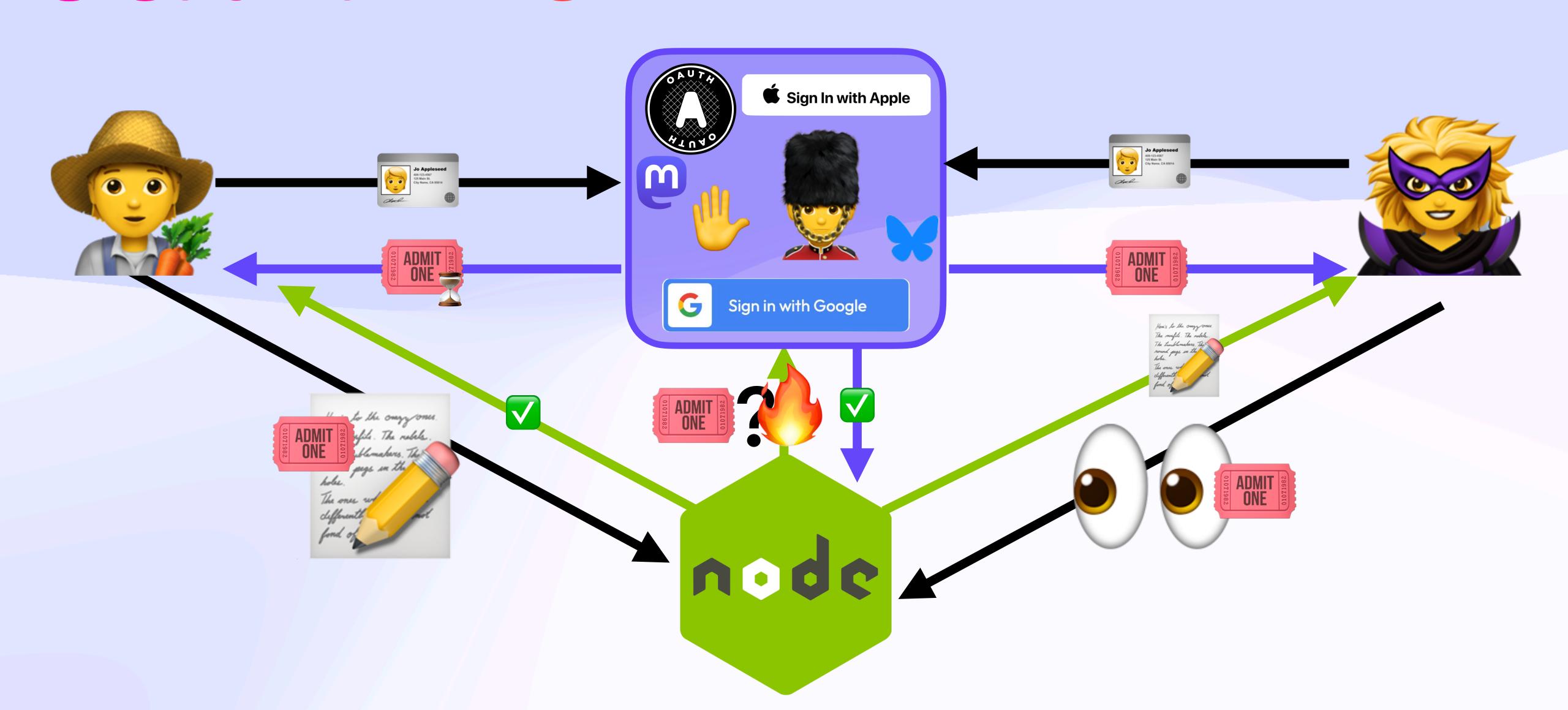


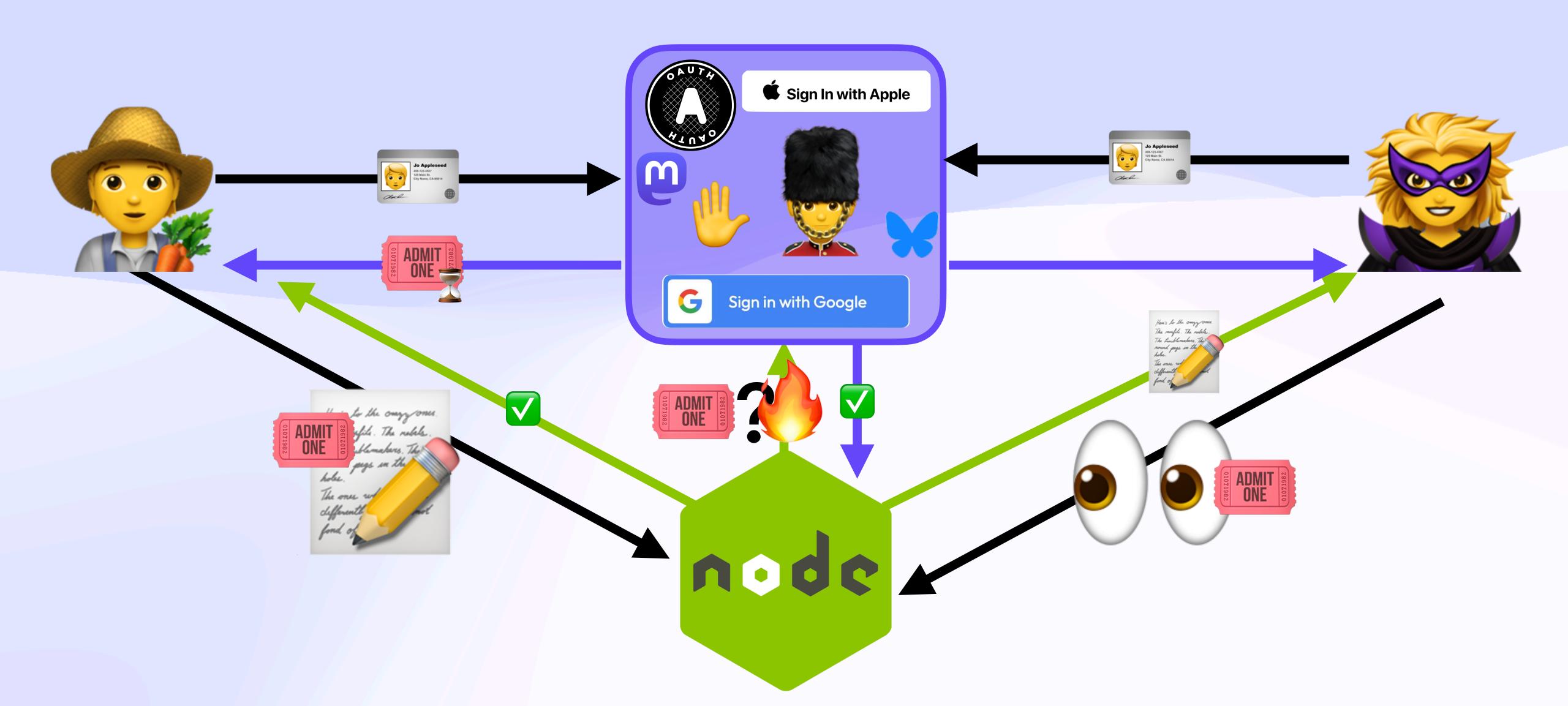


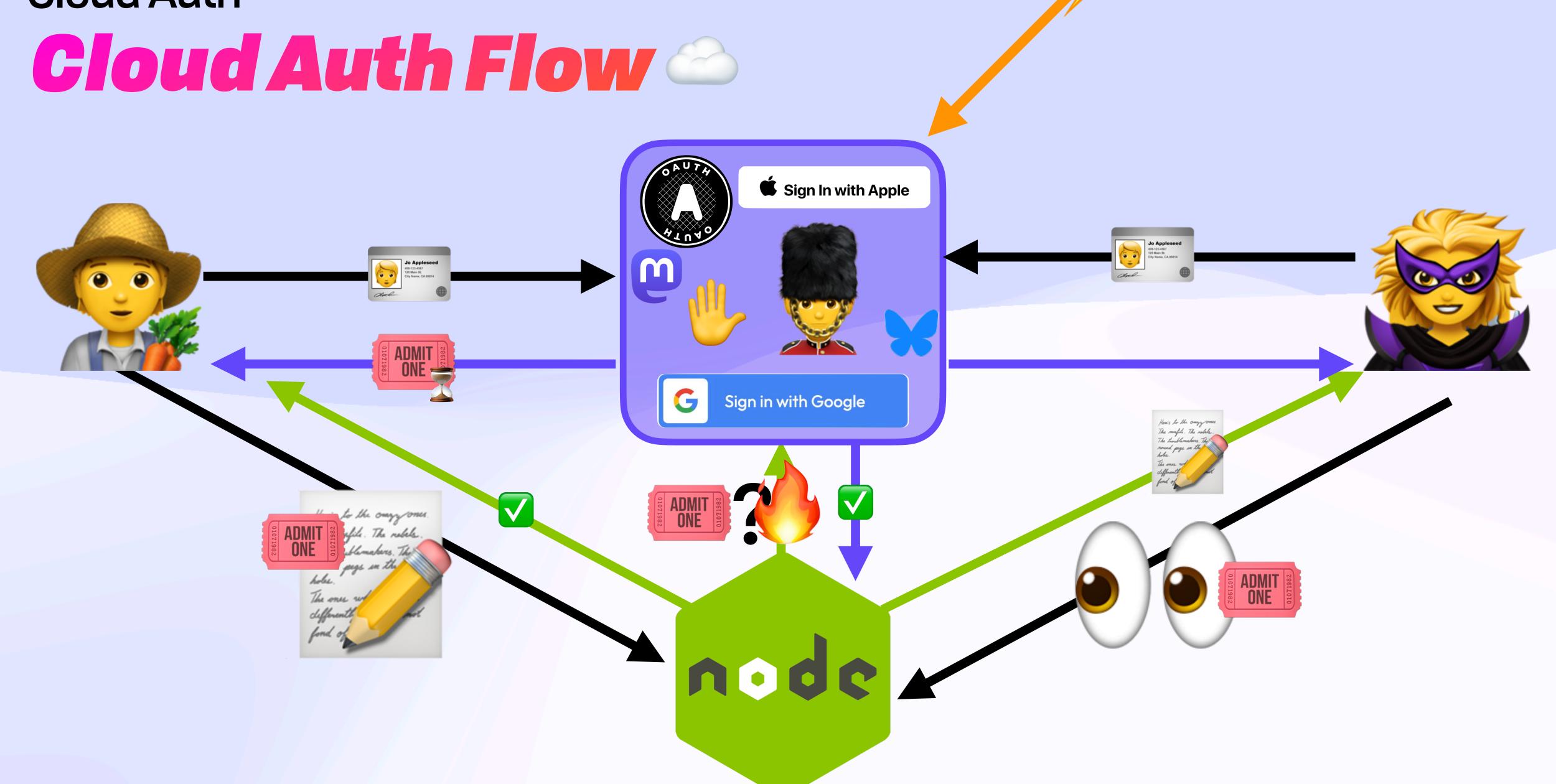


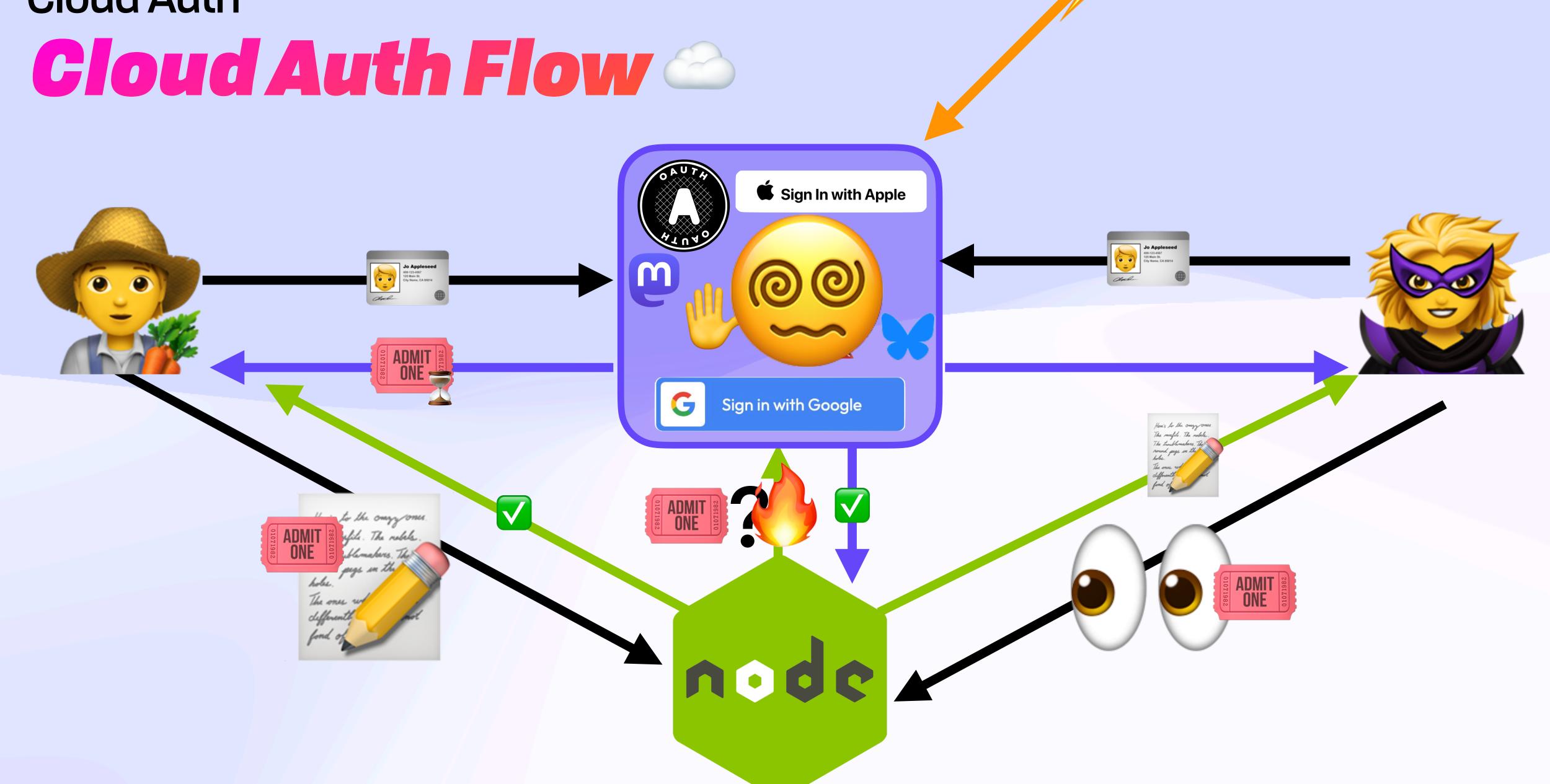








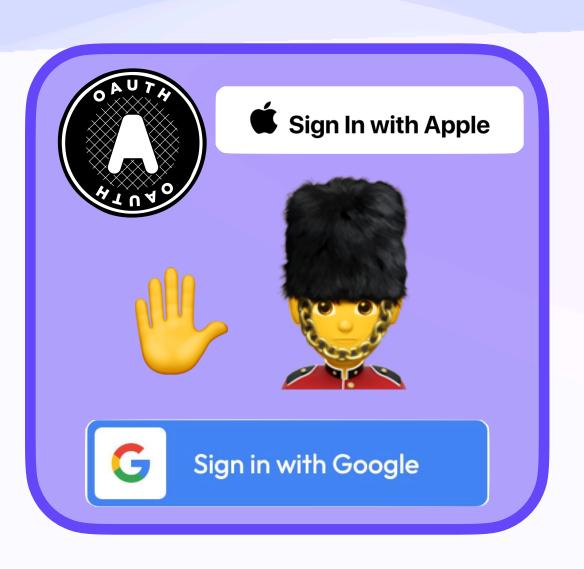




Cloud Auth Cloud: Auth-as-Place

Cloud: Auth-as-Place





Cloud: Auth-as-Place

"Over Here"



"Over There"

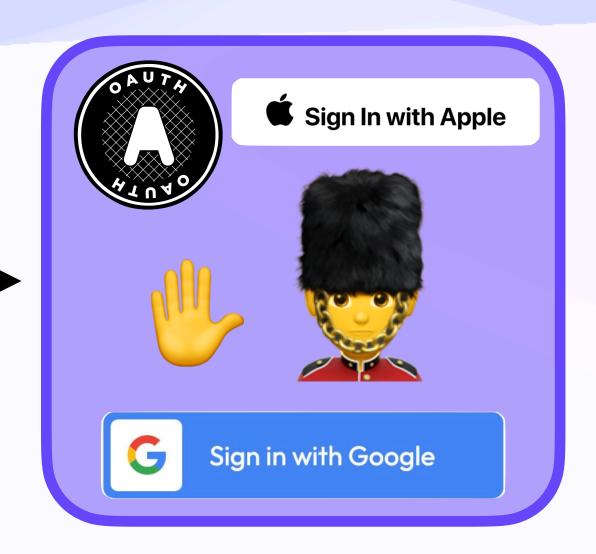


Cloud: Auth-as-Place





"Over There"







Playing By New Rules

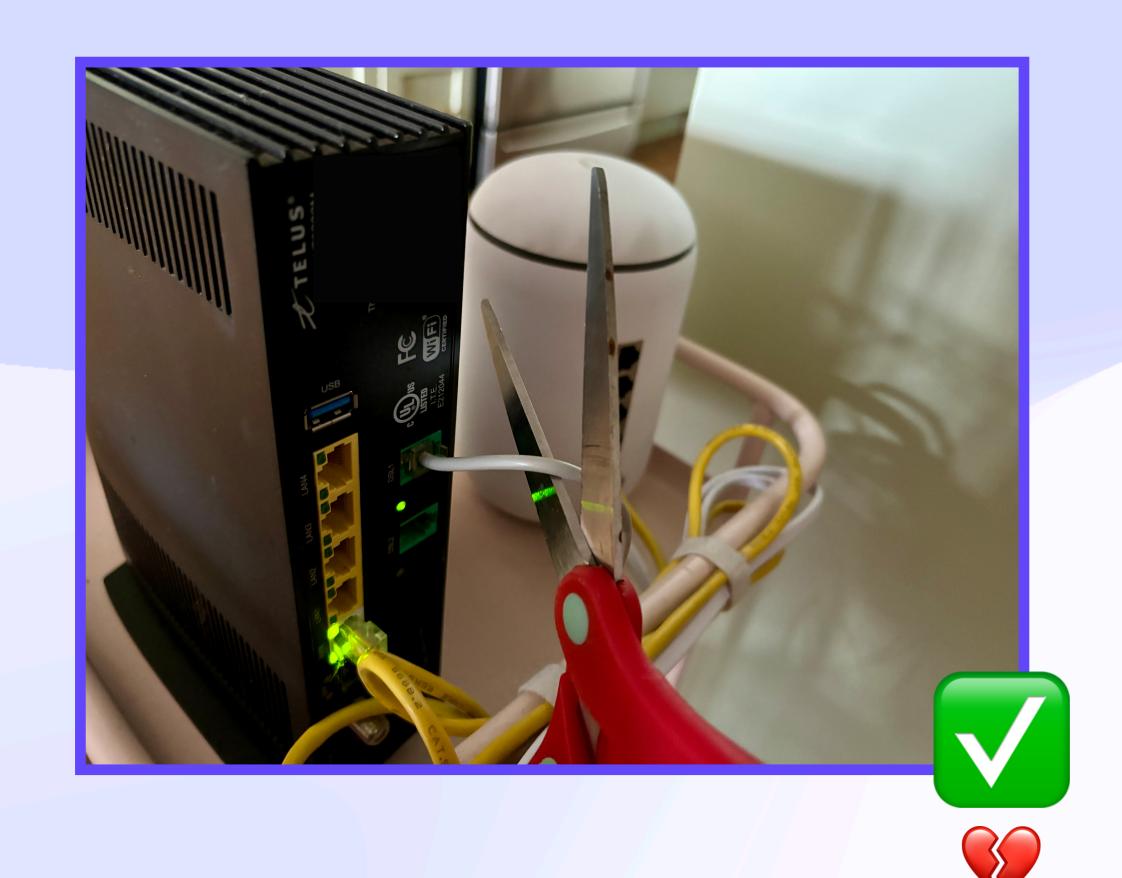
A Different Context

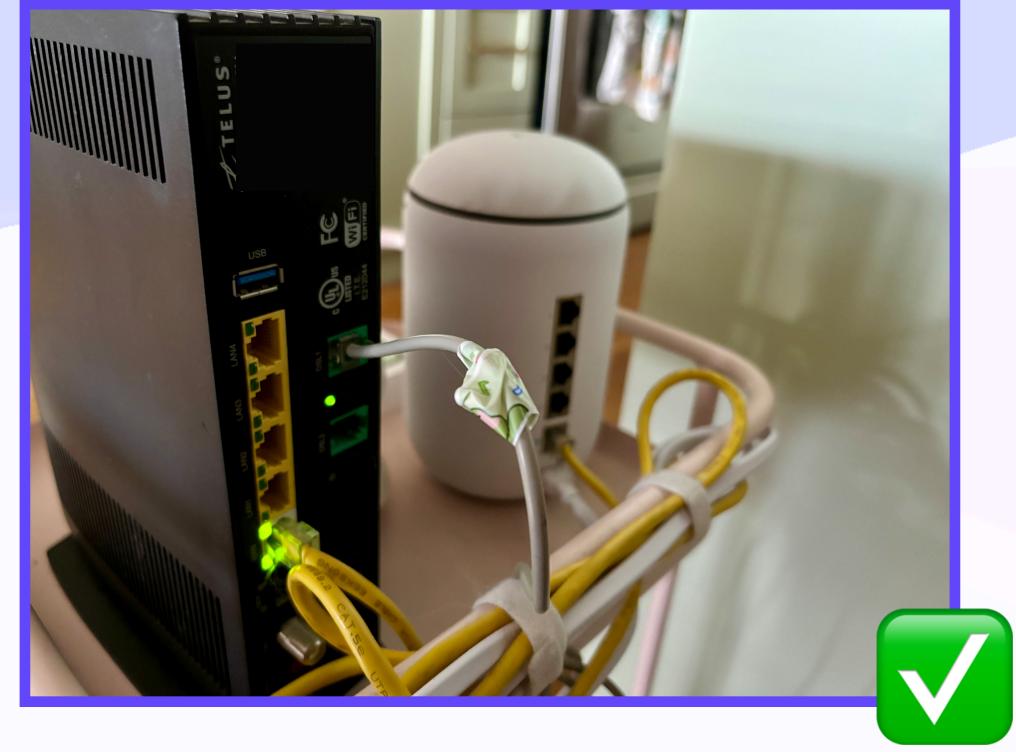
Local-First in Pictures

Local-First in Pictures



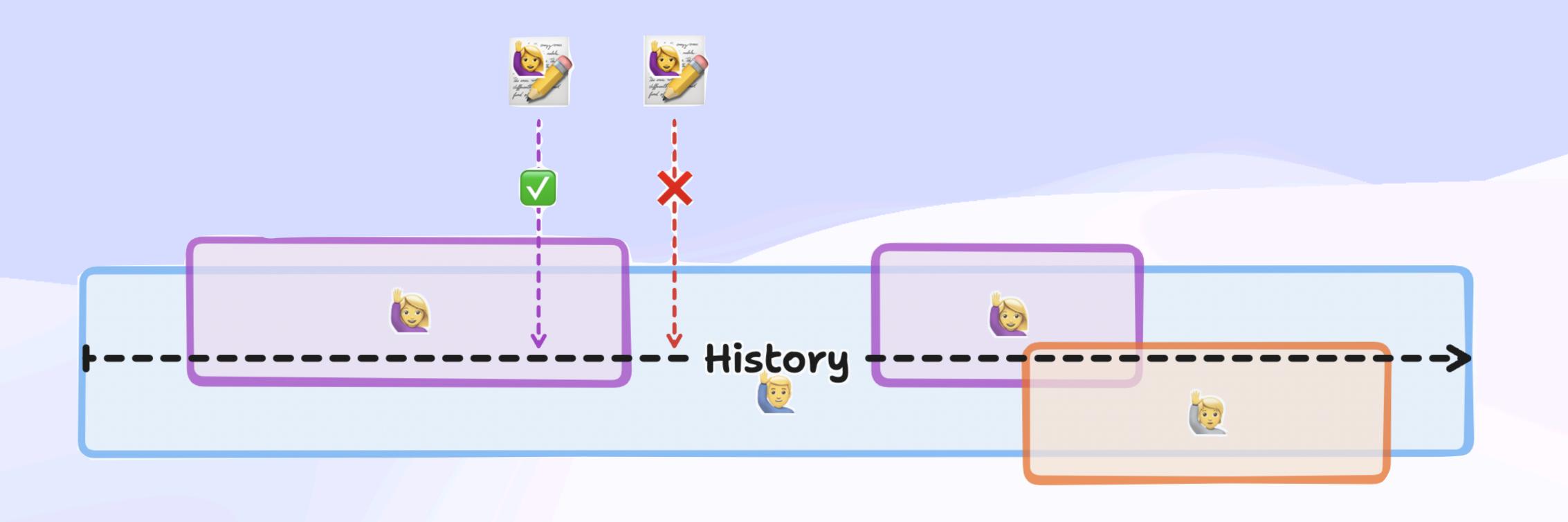
Local-First in Pictures

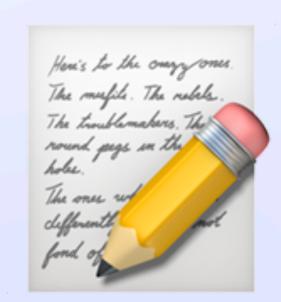






Adds & Removals Over Time

























Auth as Data: "Auth Must Travel with Data"

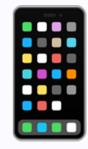
"Auth Here"
"Data Here"





"Auth There"
"Data There"













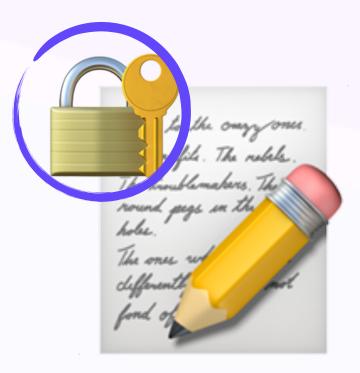
















Cloud

Cloud

Auth §



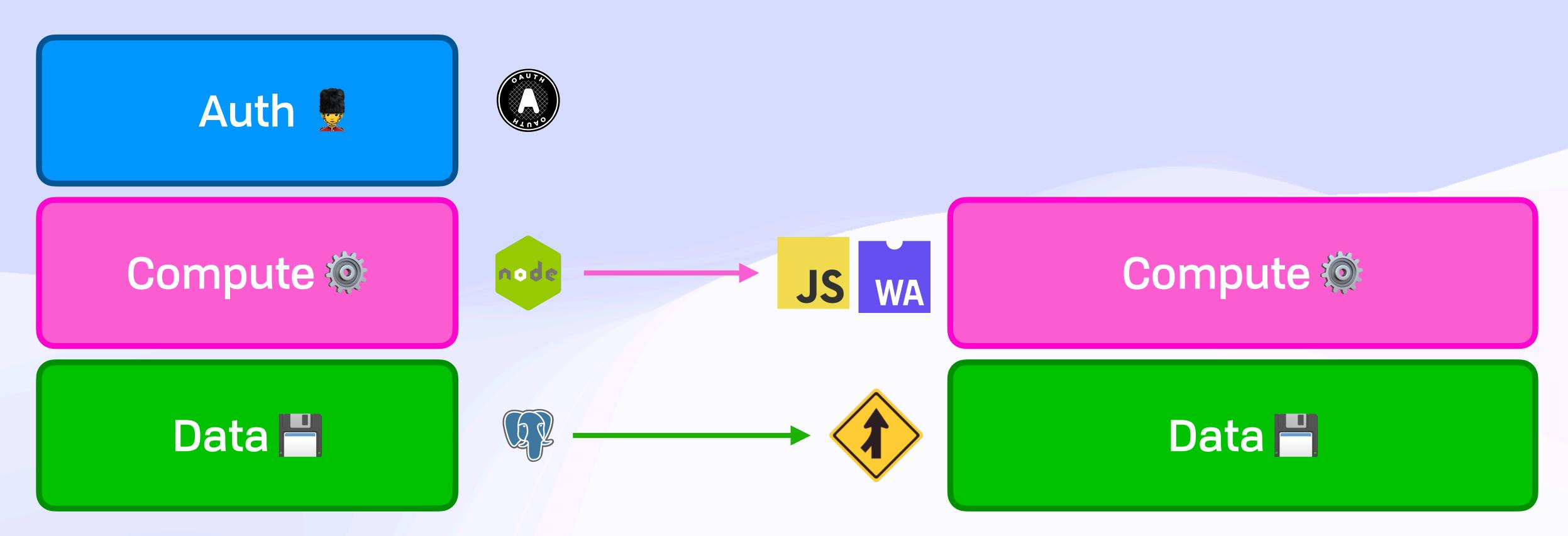
Compute 🐲



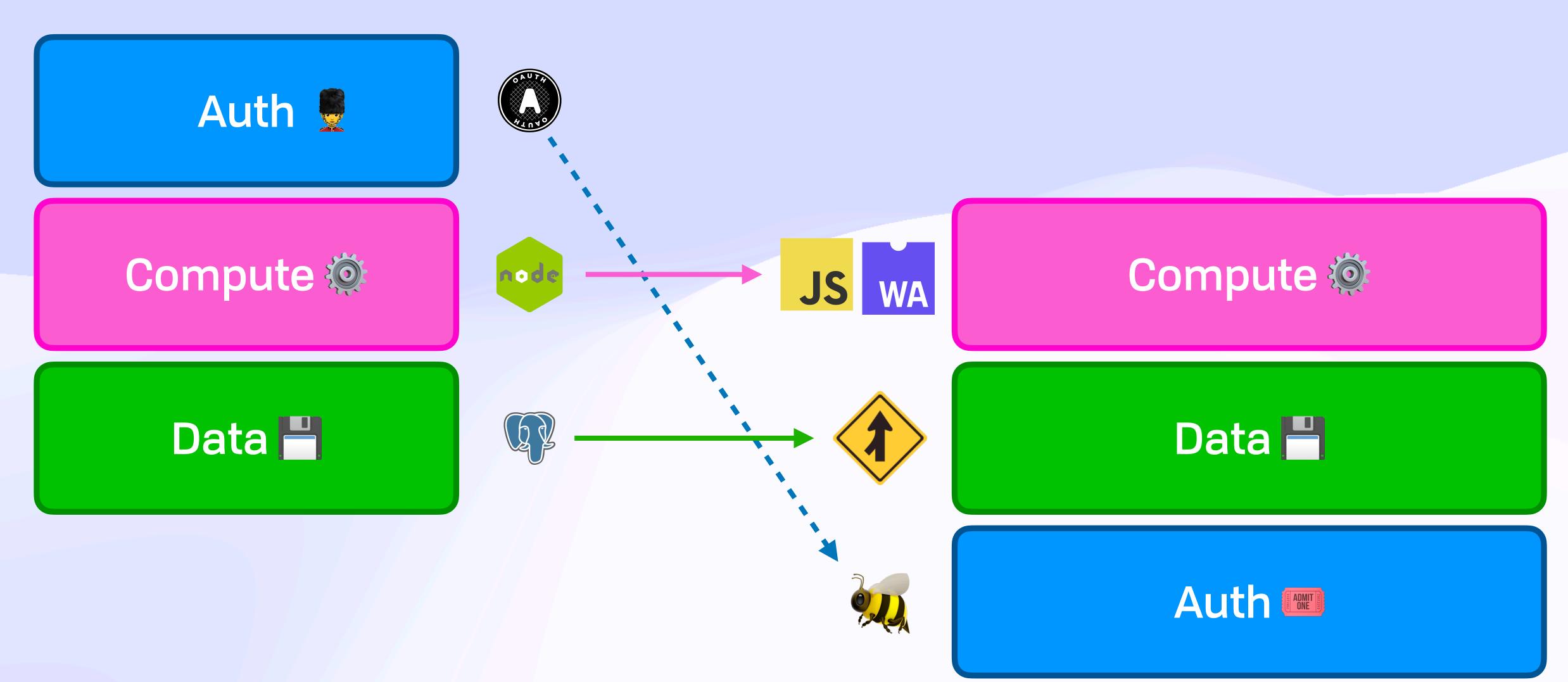
Data 💾



Gloud

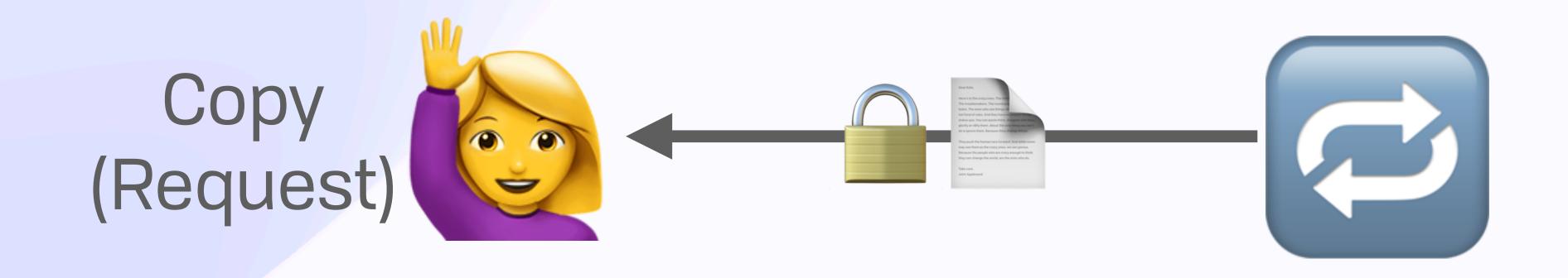


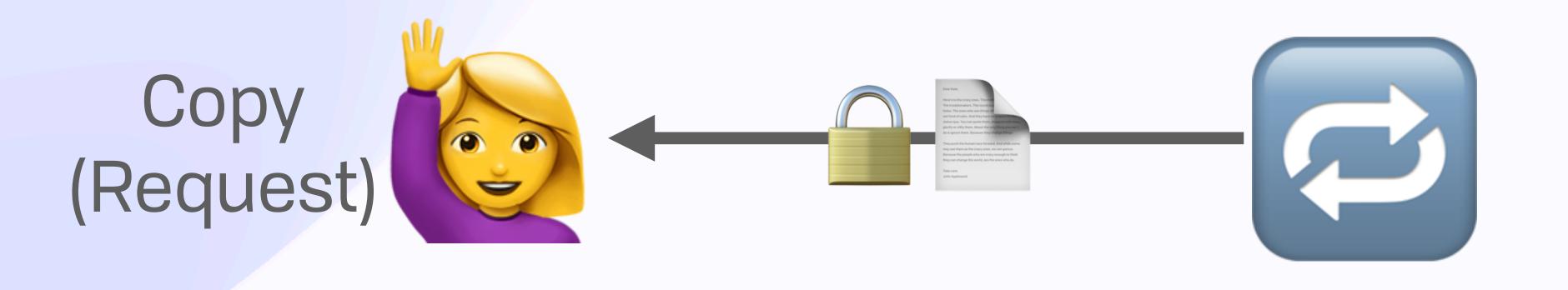
Gloud



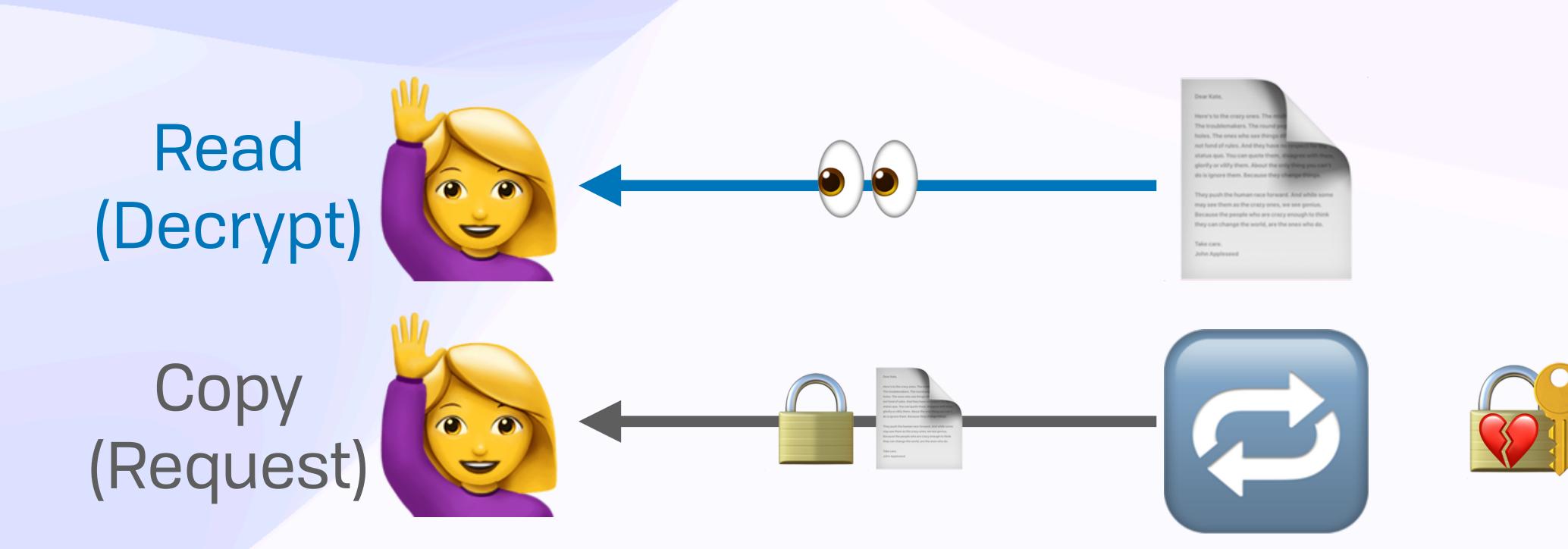
Expanding the Beehive, and UCAN Too

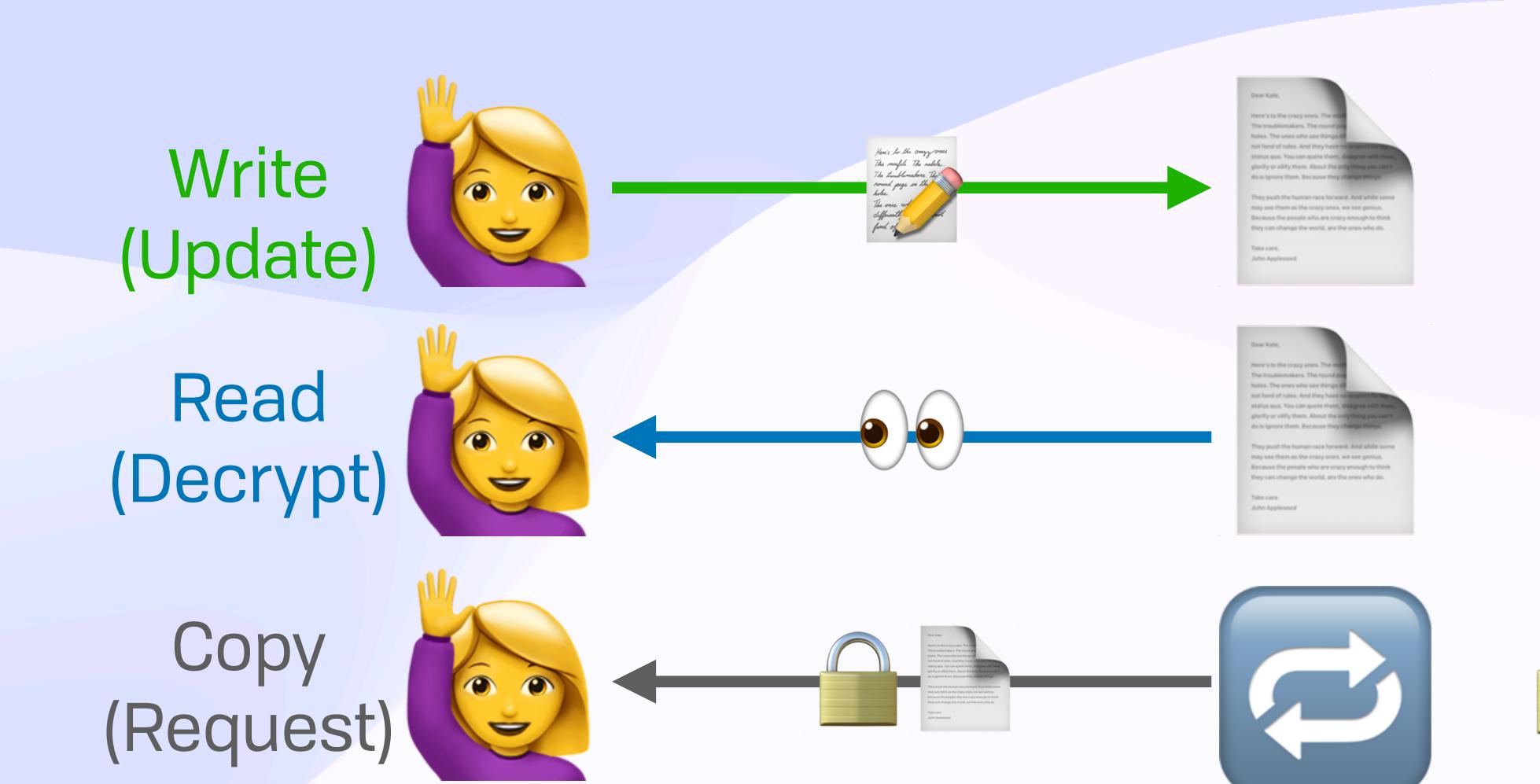


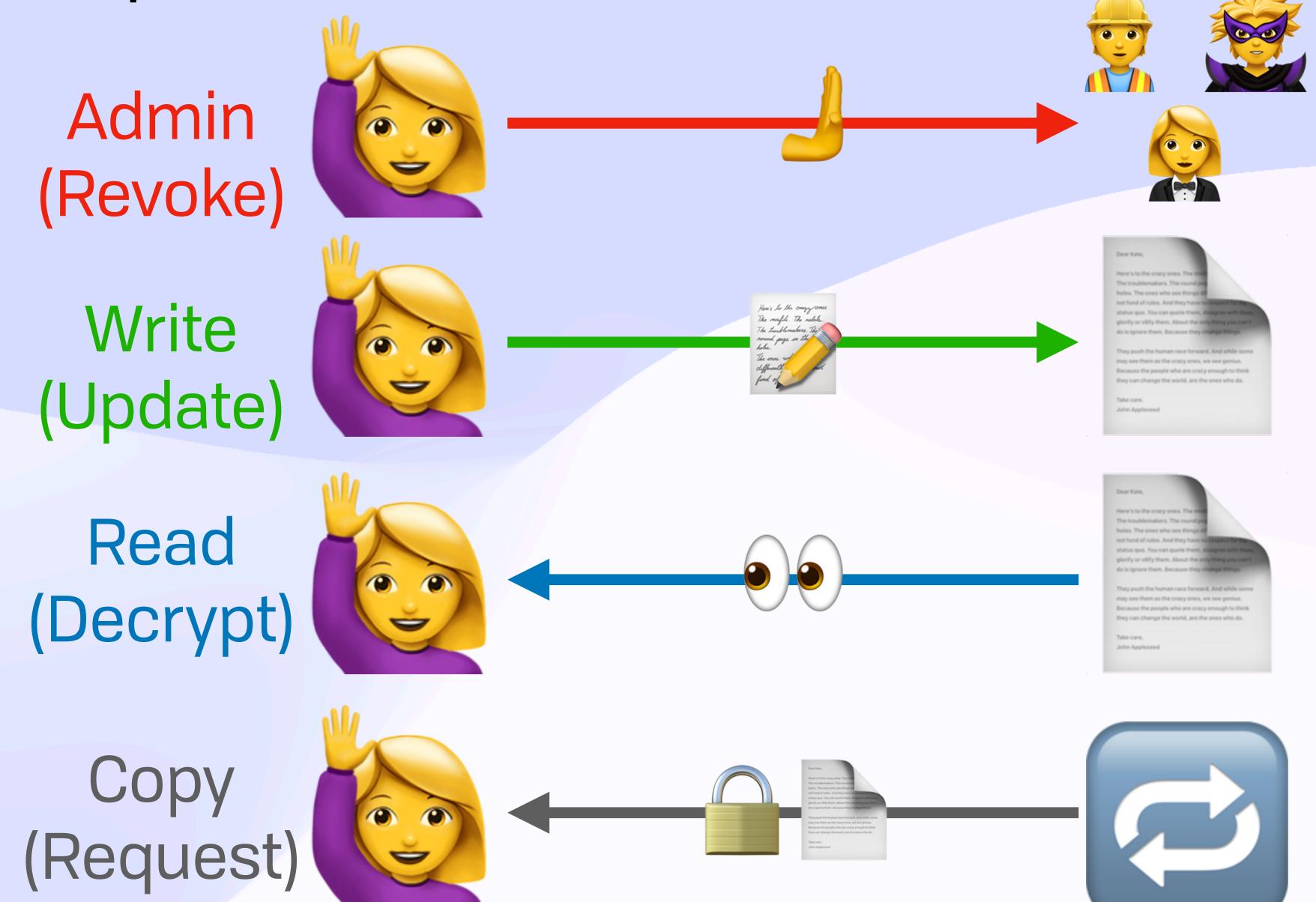


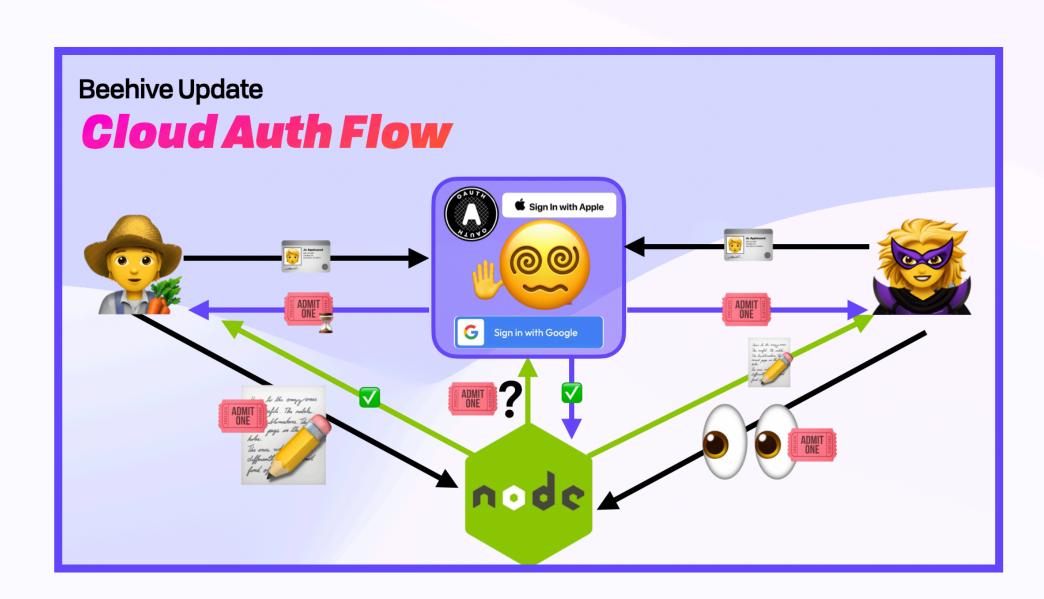




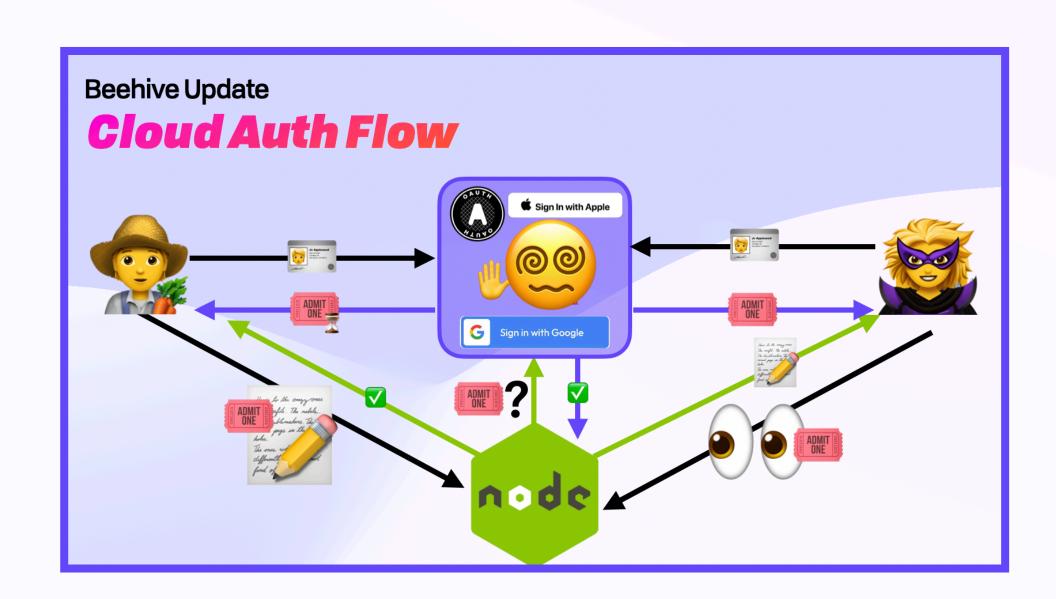






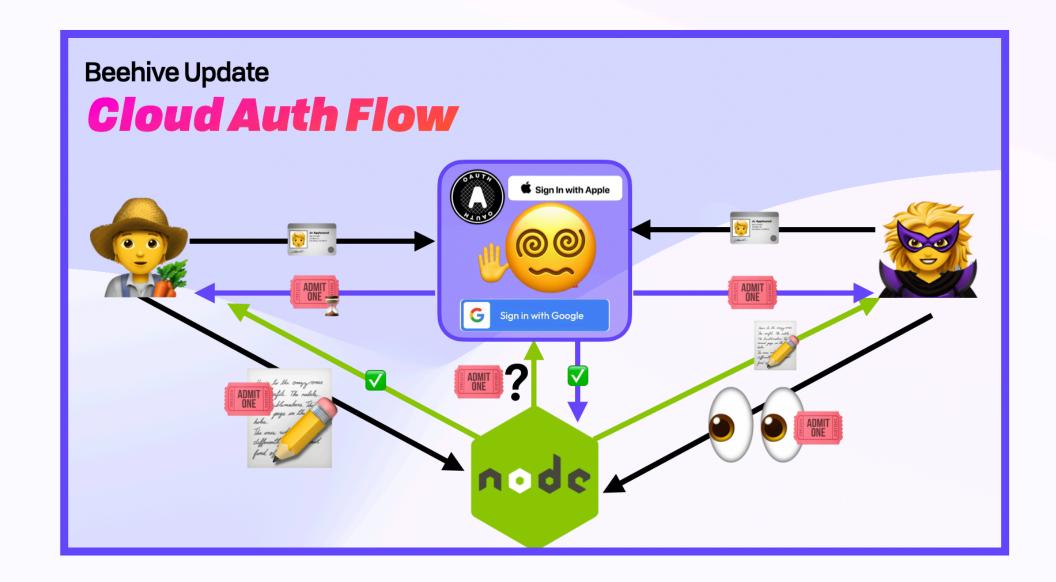


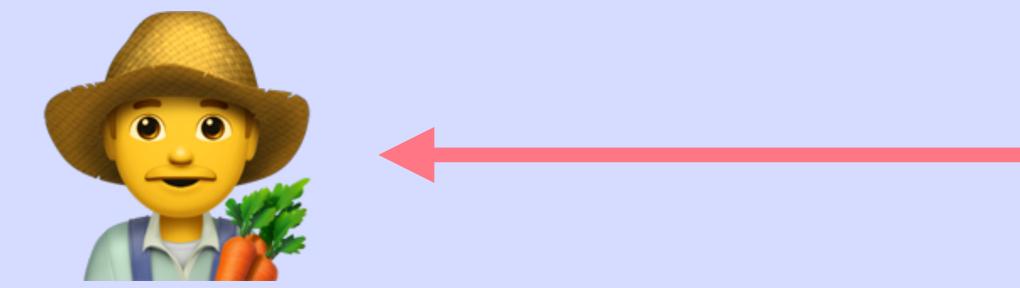




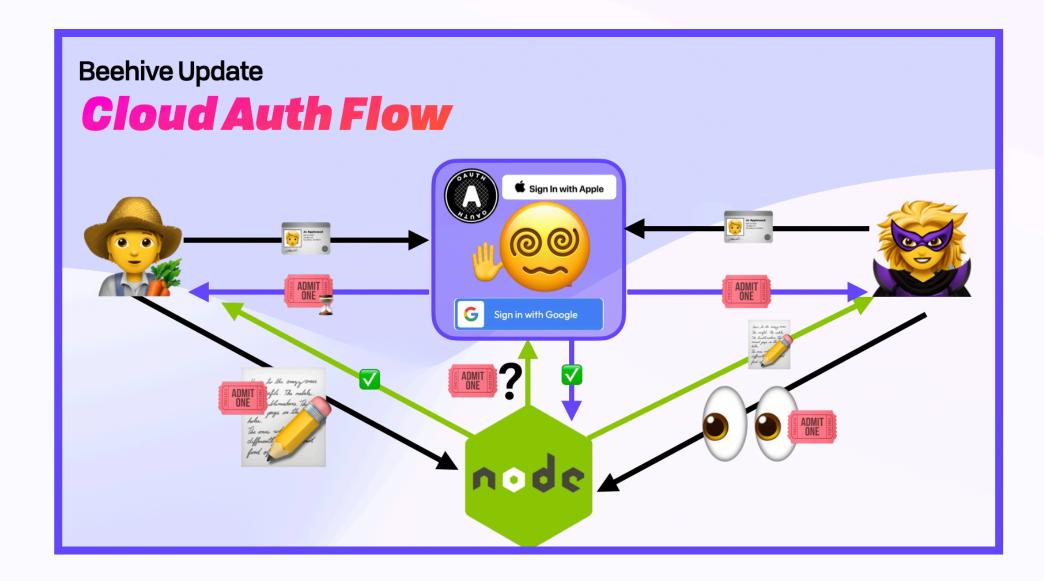










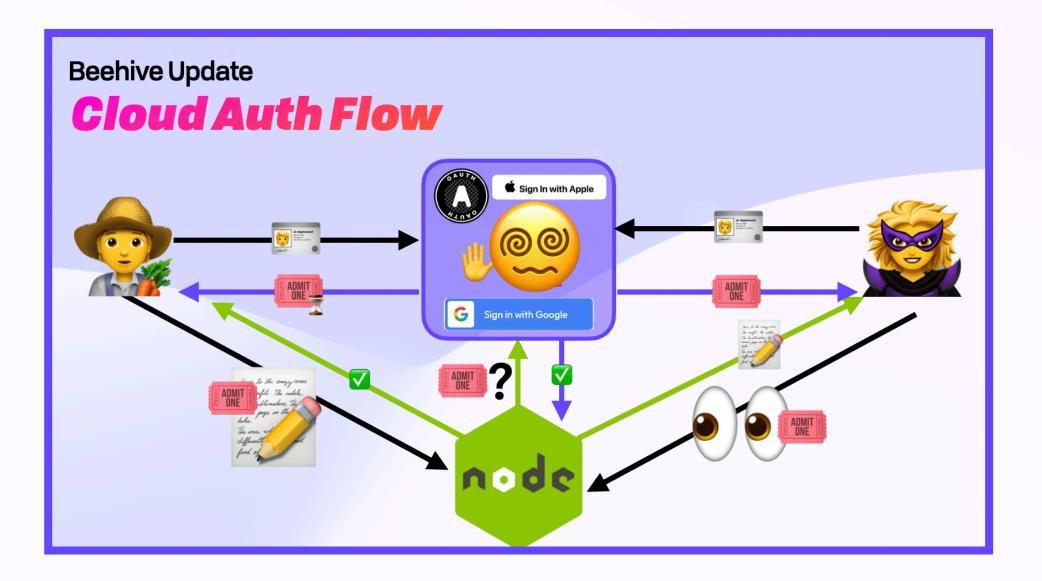


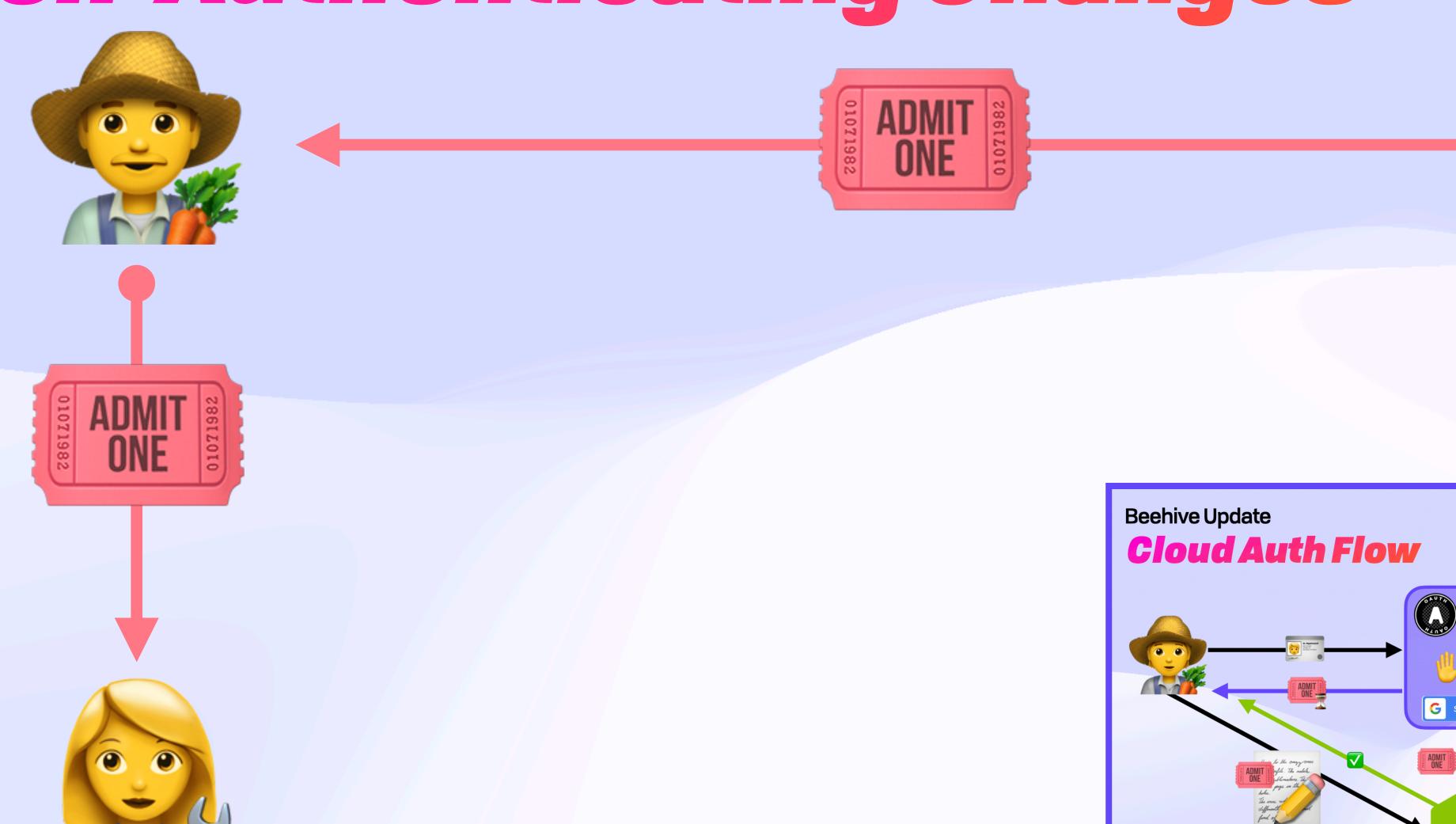


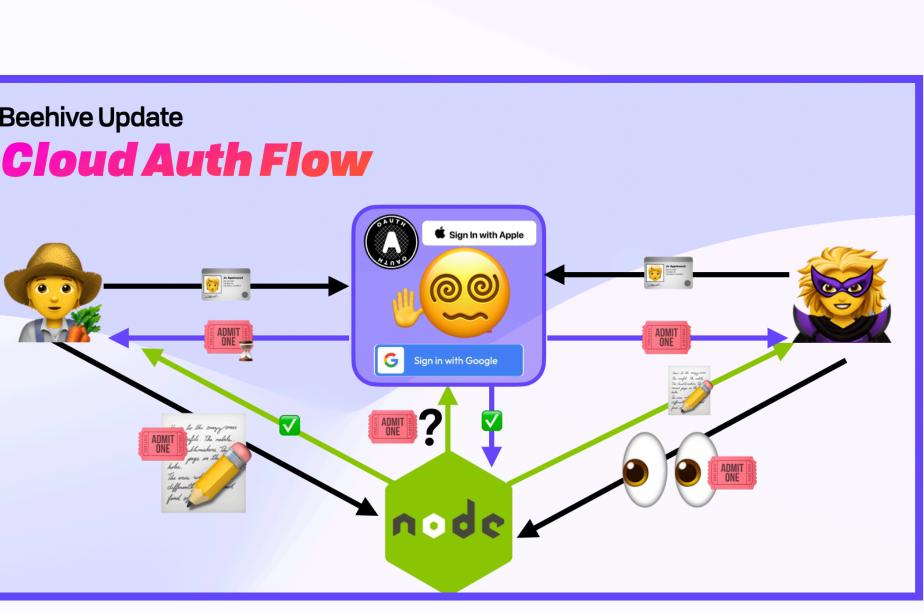






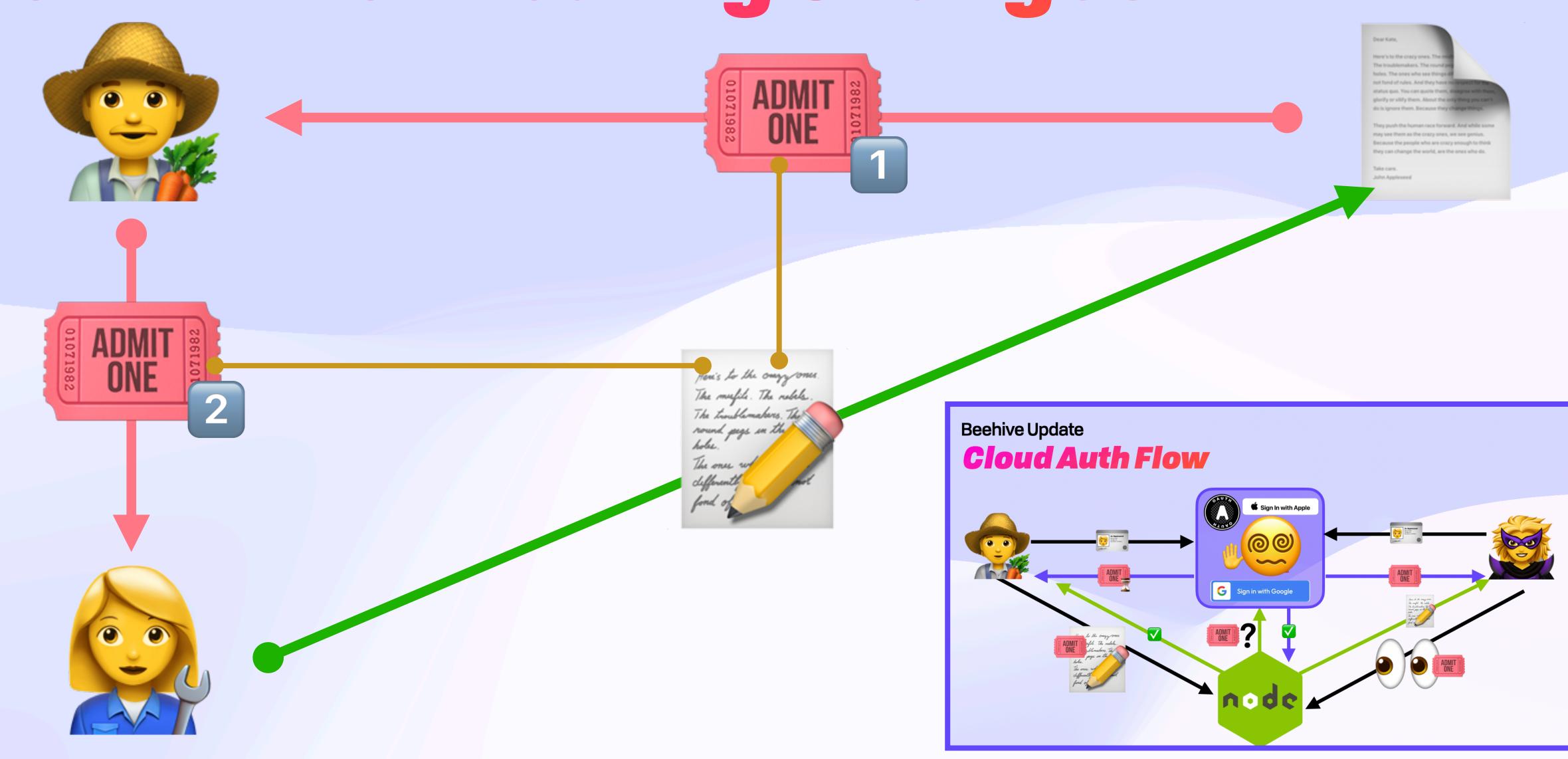


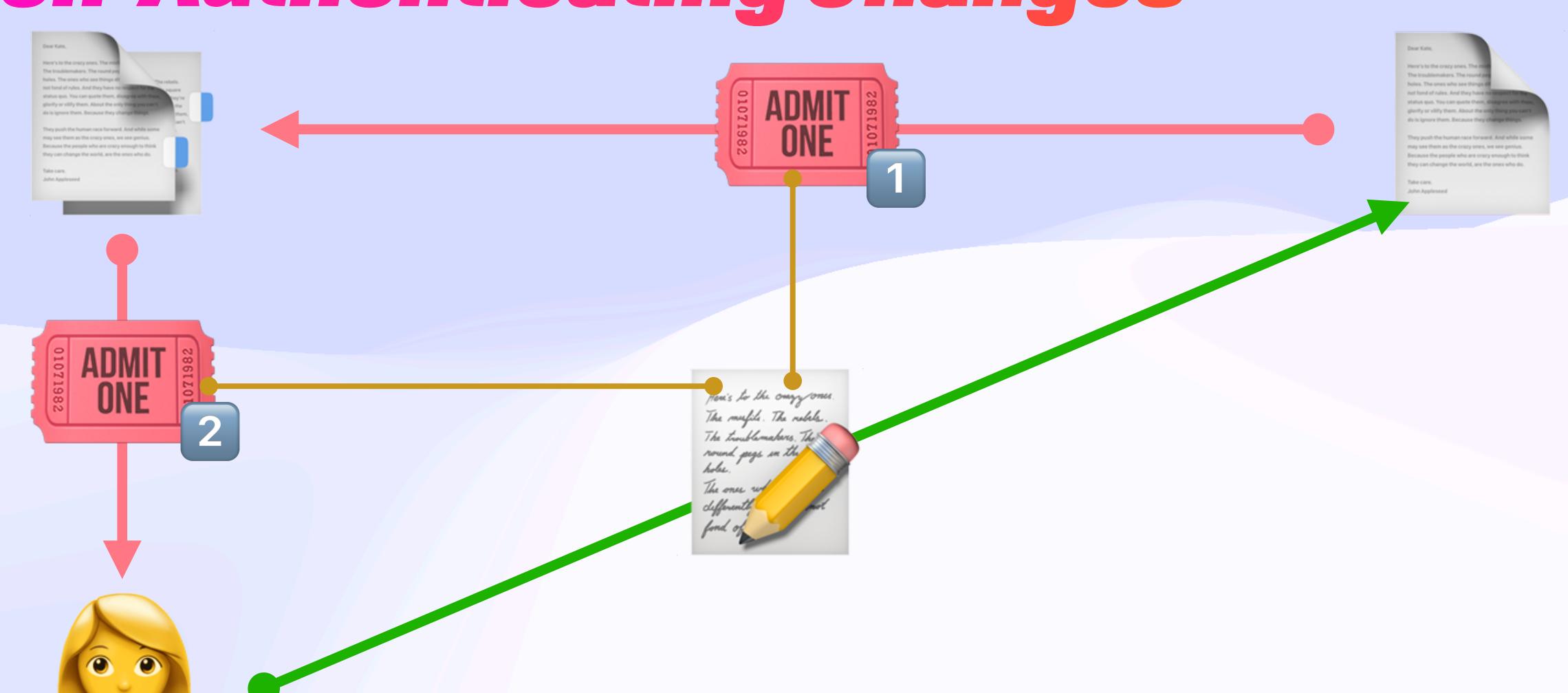


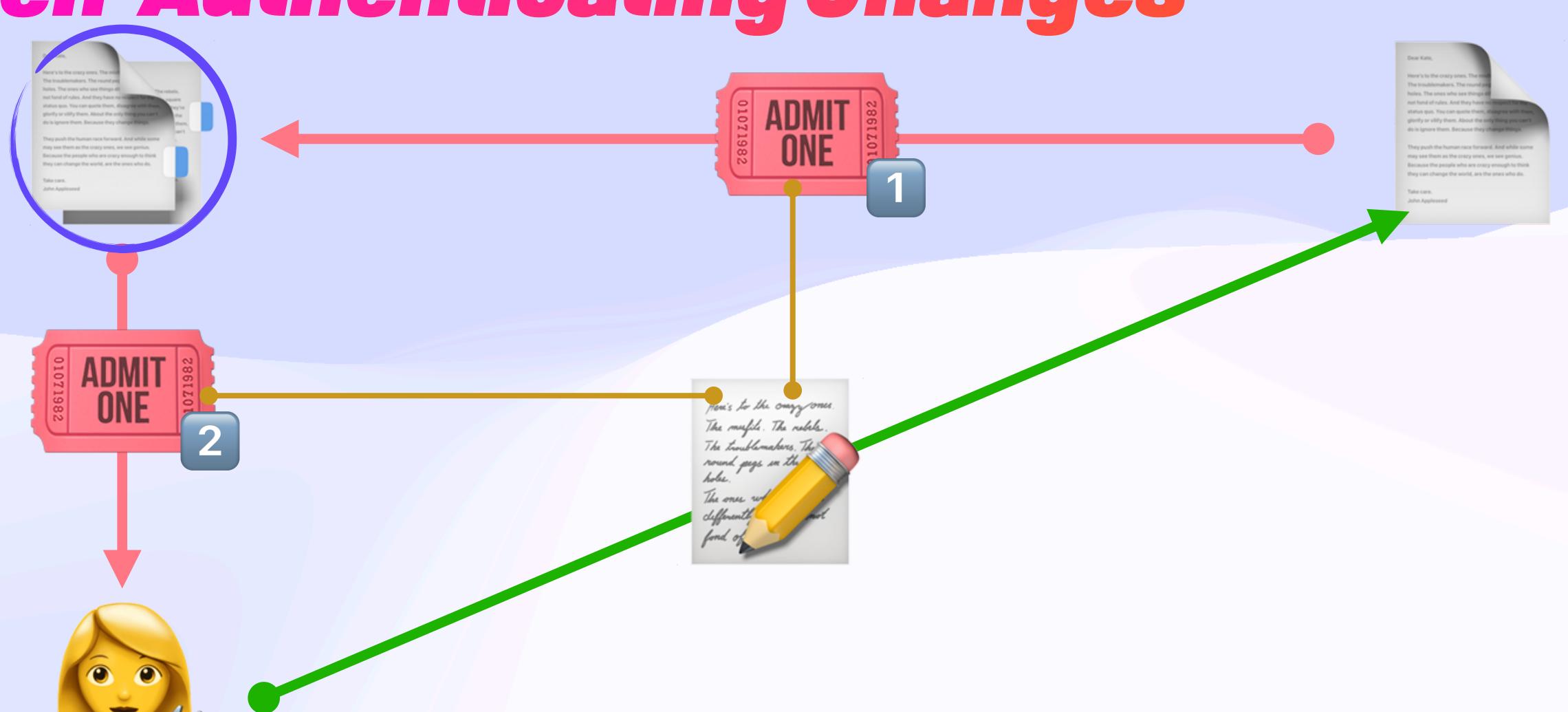






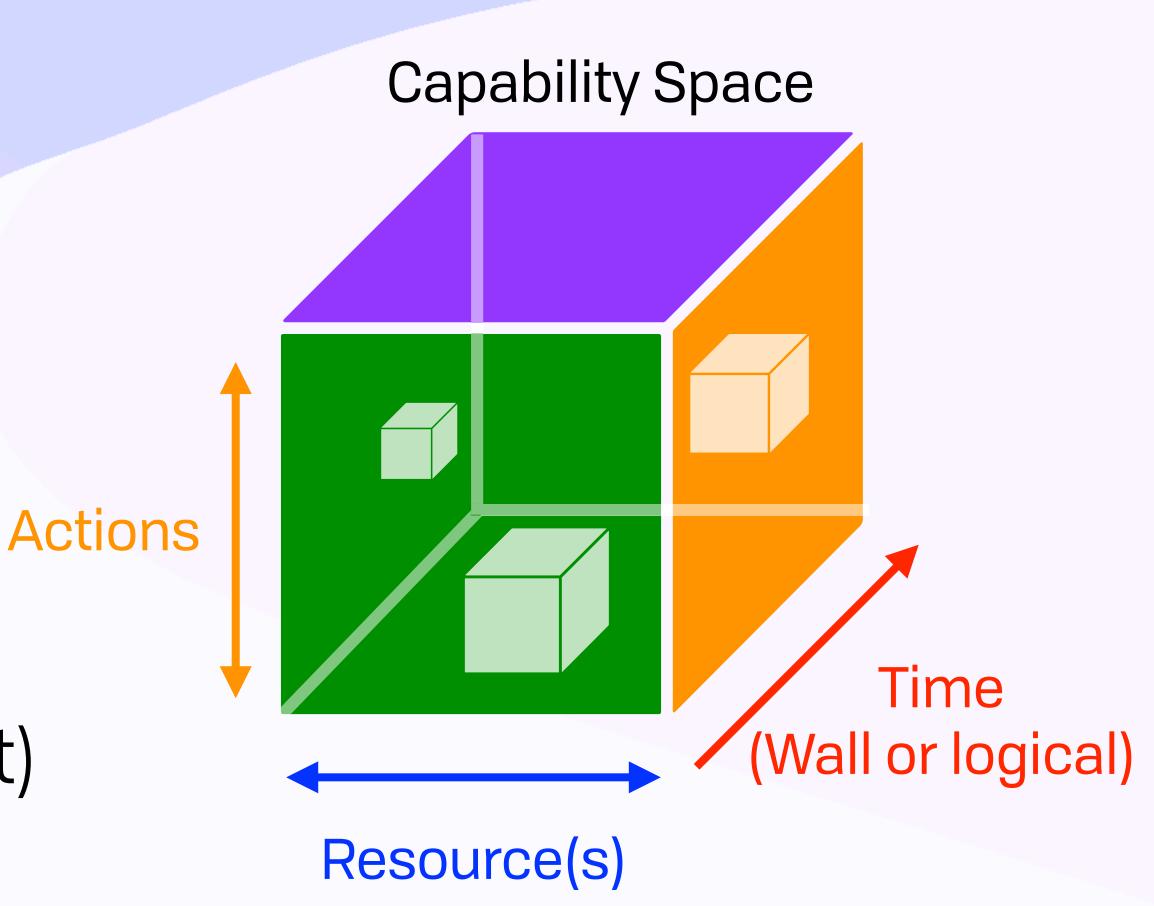






Capability Space 3

- Make the box as small as possible!
- Fewest resources
- Fewest actions
- Least amount of time
- (Revocation considered a last resort)



Honest Model, Simple to Use

- · "If you have it, you can use it & share it"
- Closely models auth ground truth
- · Natural programming model "like passing handles"

ExampleAPI

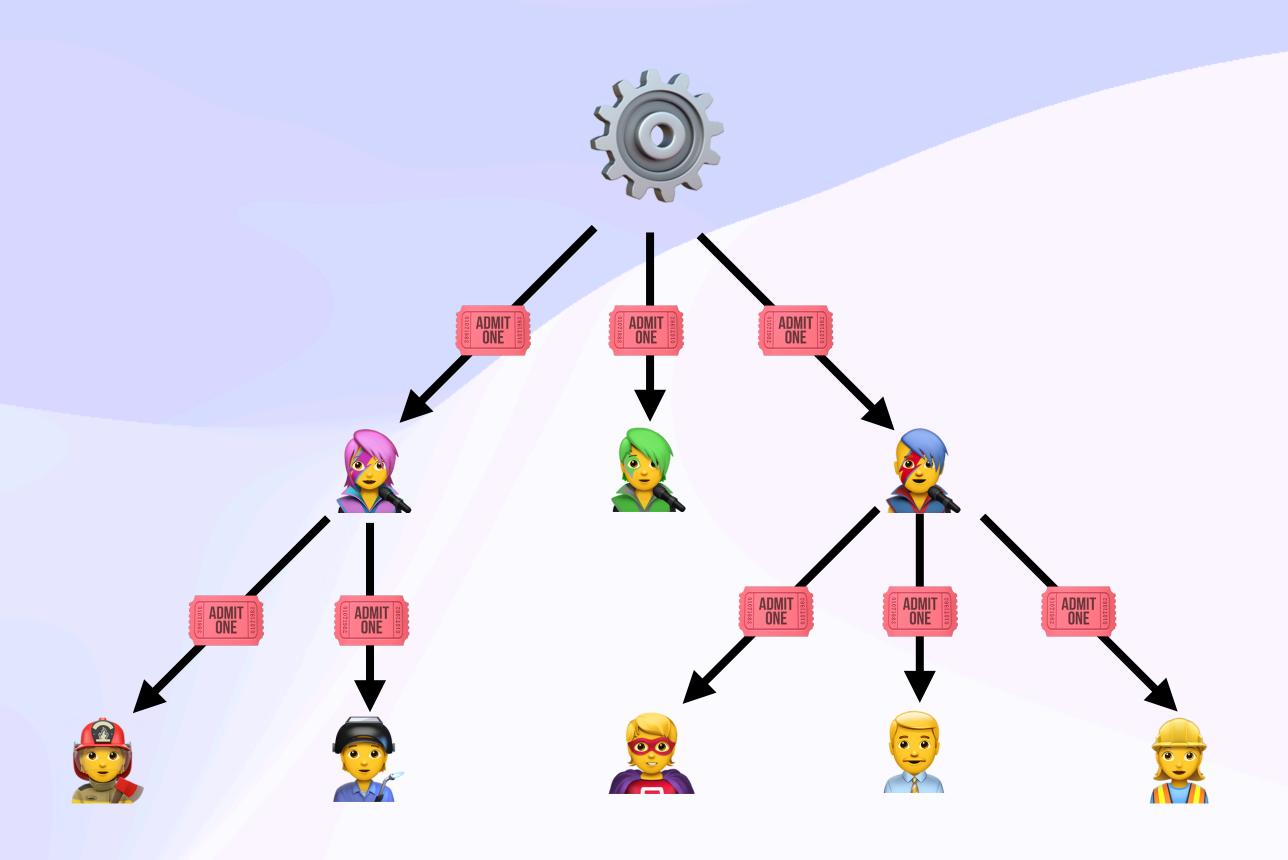
ExampleAPI

• myDocument.addMember(alice, role)

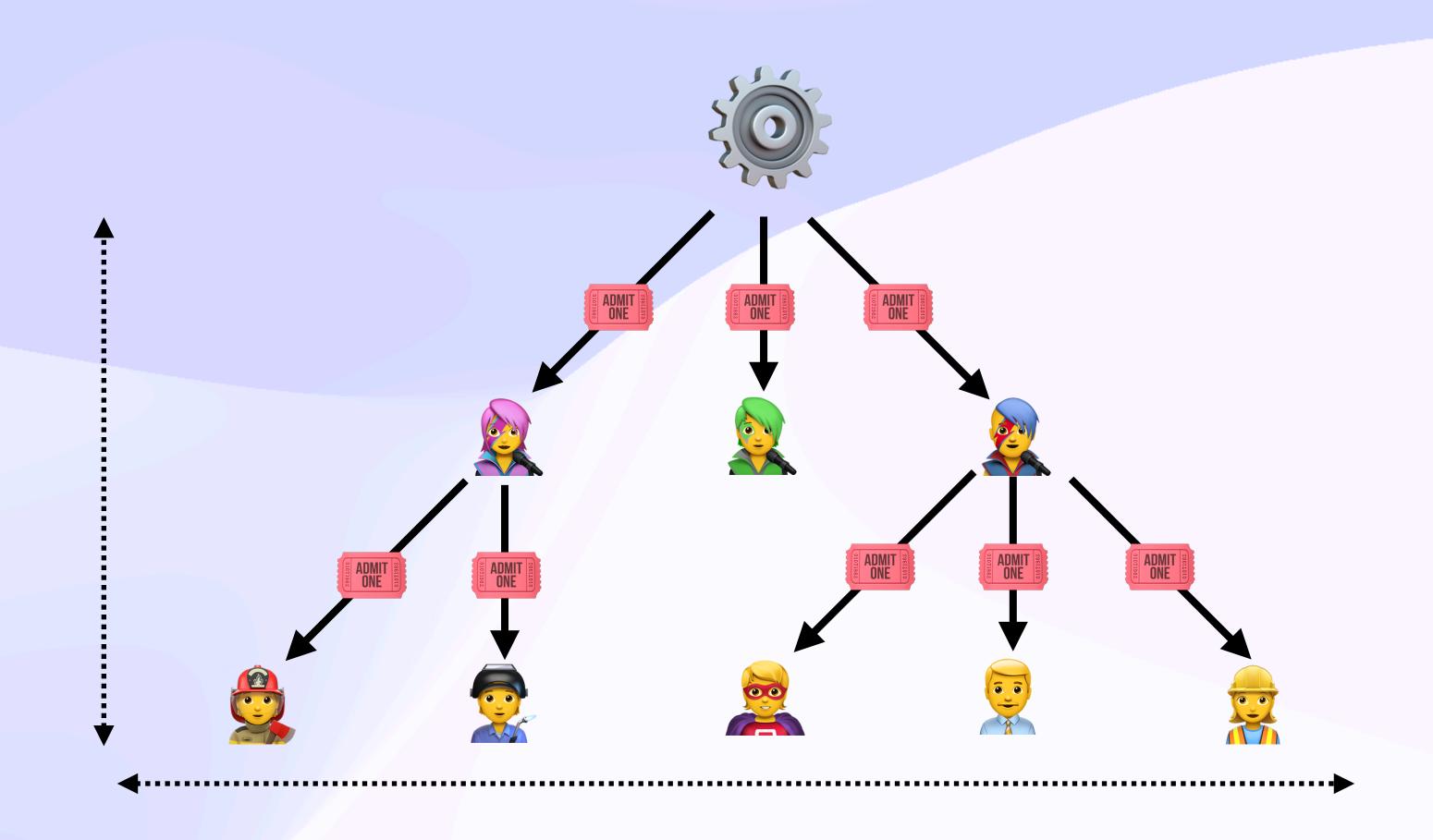
Example API

- myDocument.addMember(alice, role)
- myDocument.addText("hello world")

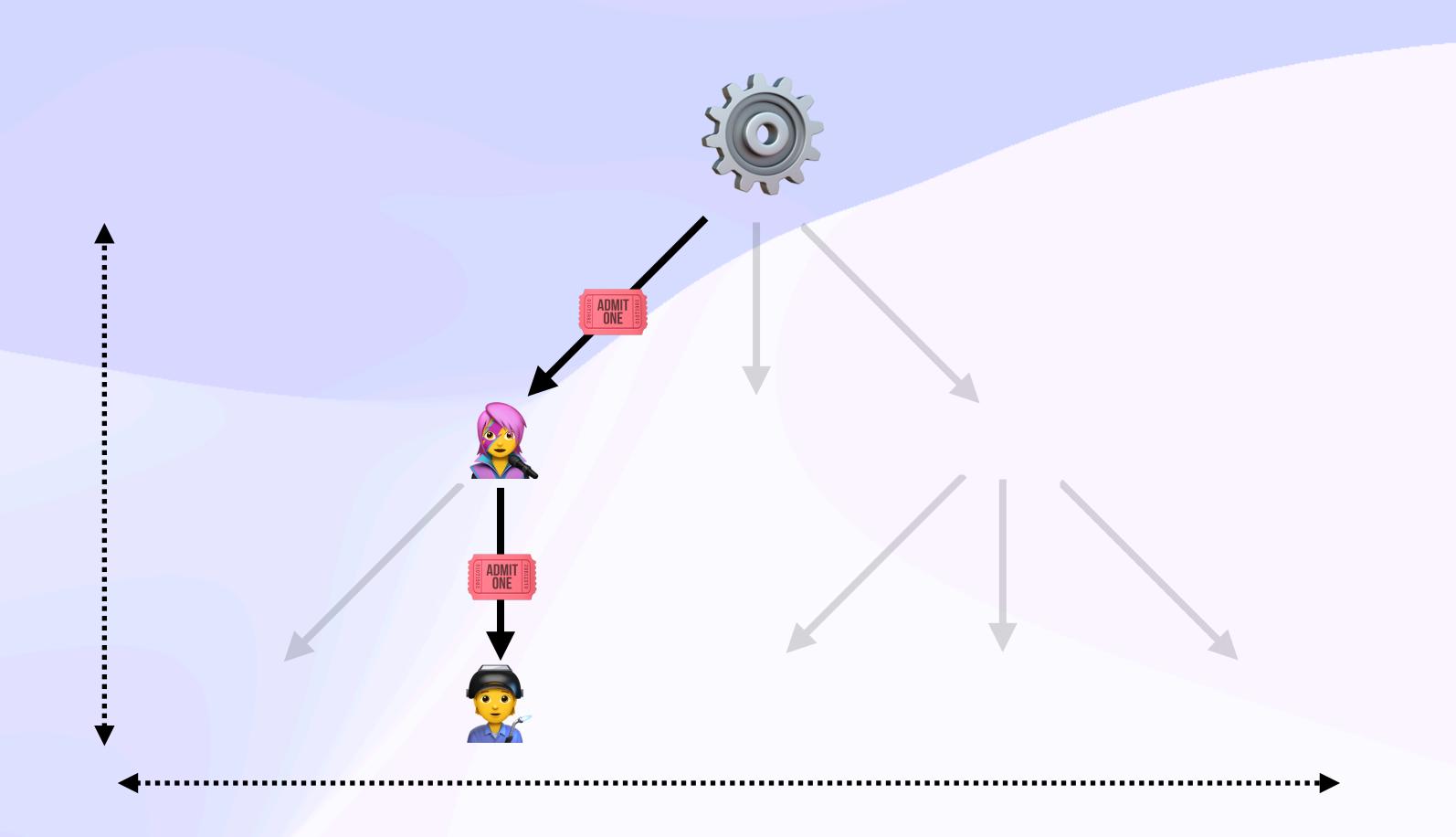
On a Need to Know Basis

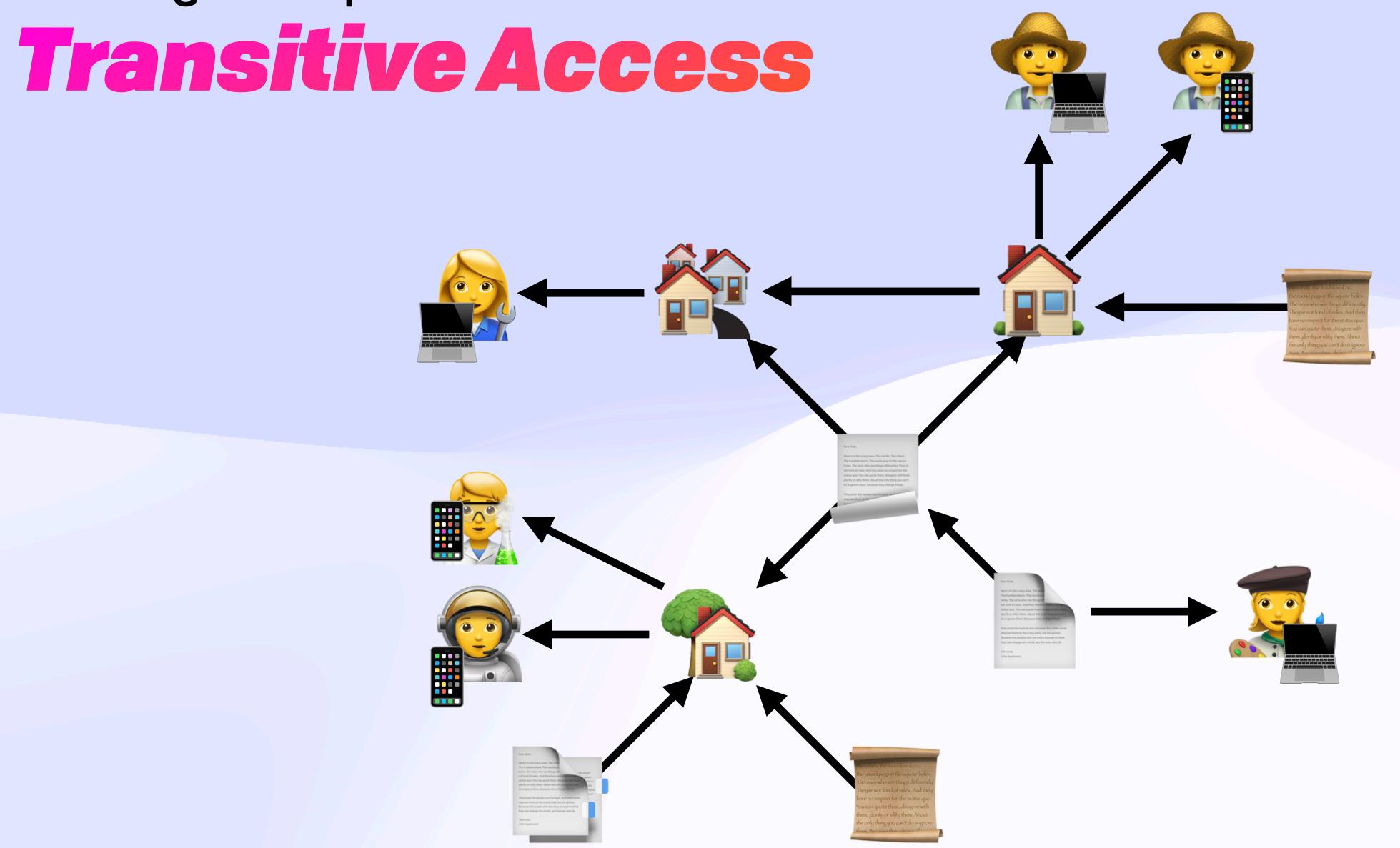


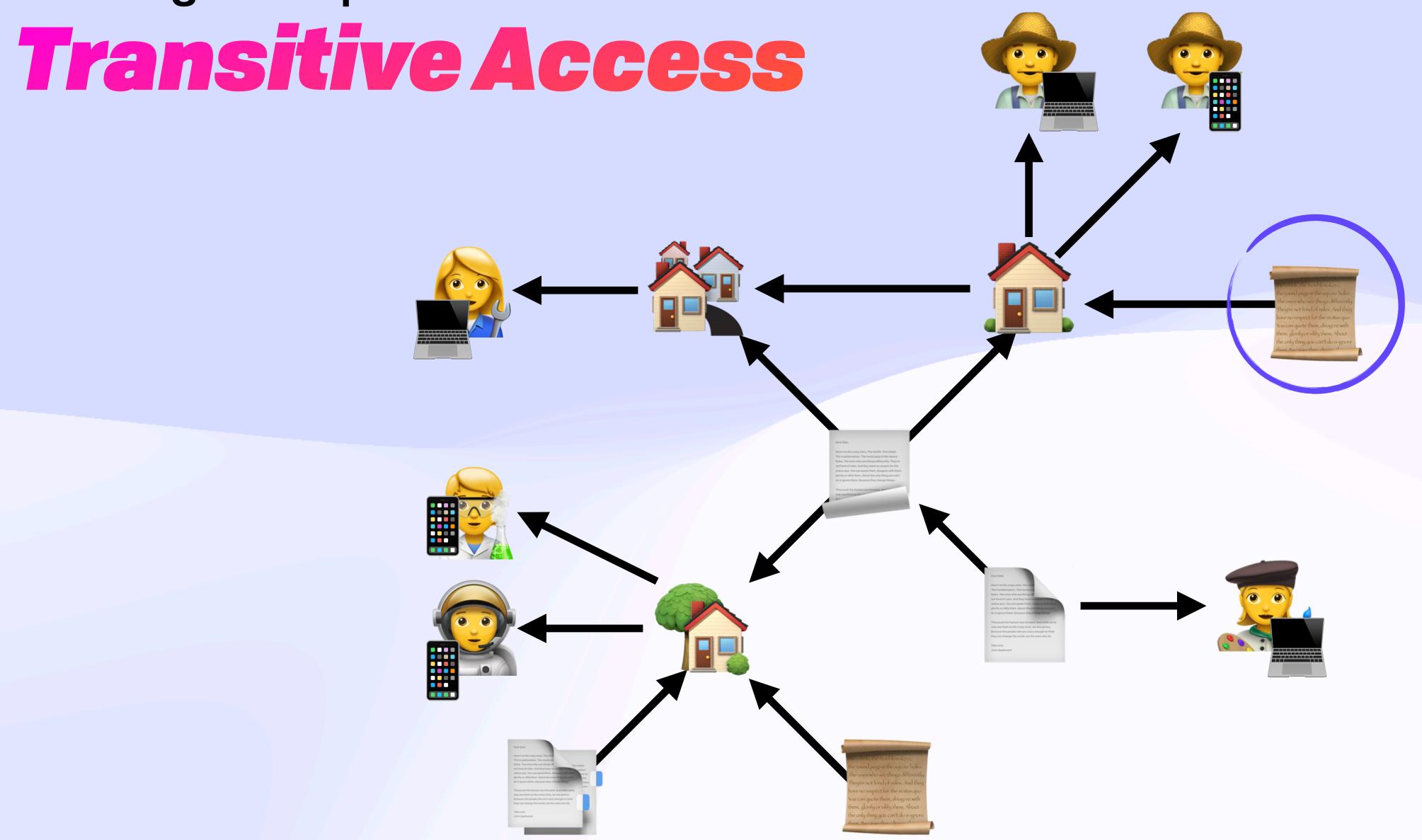
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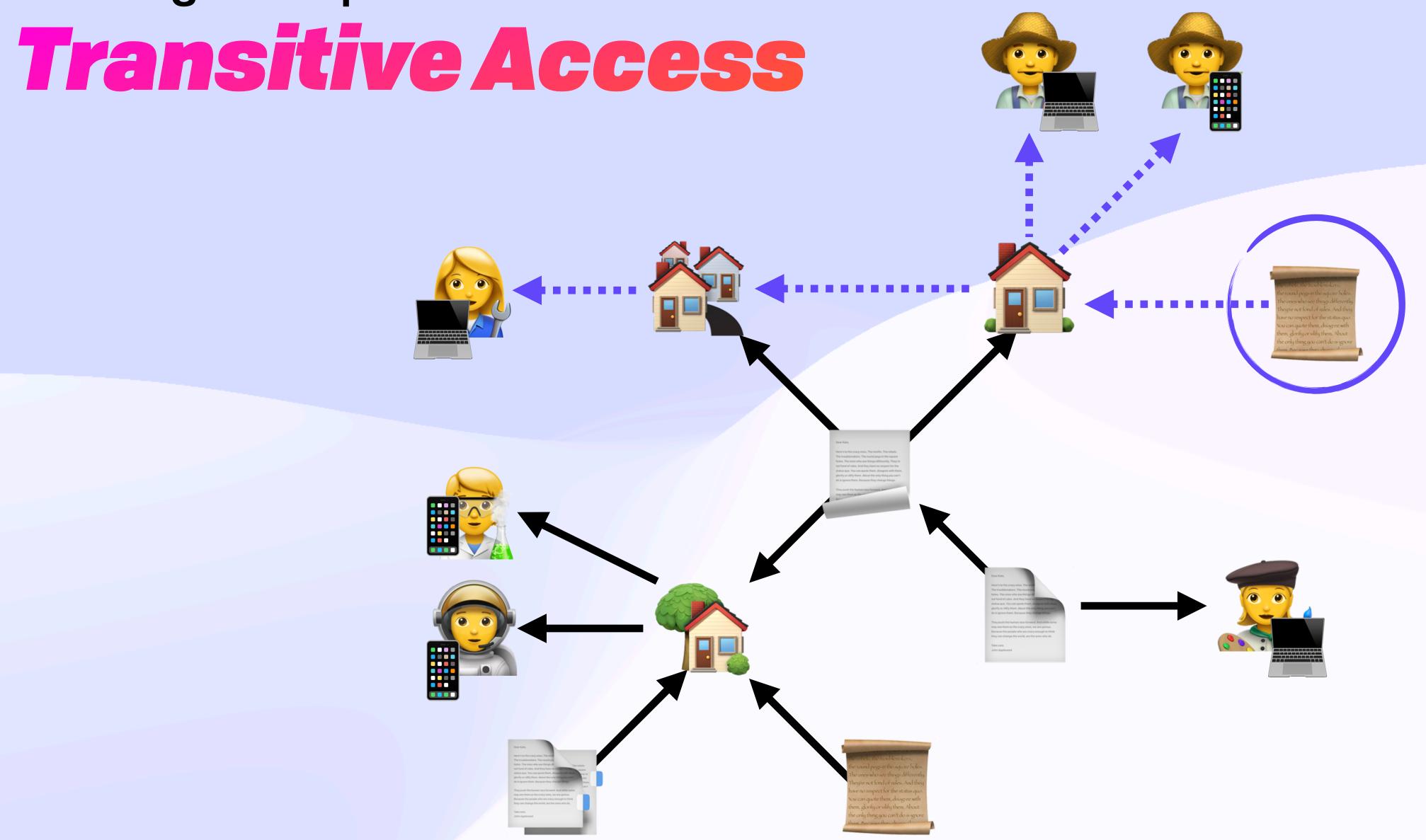


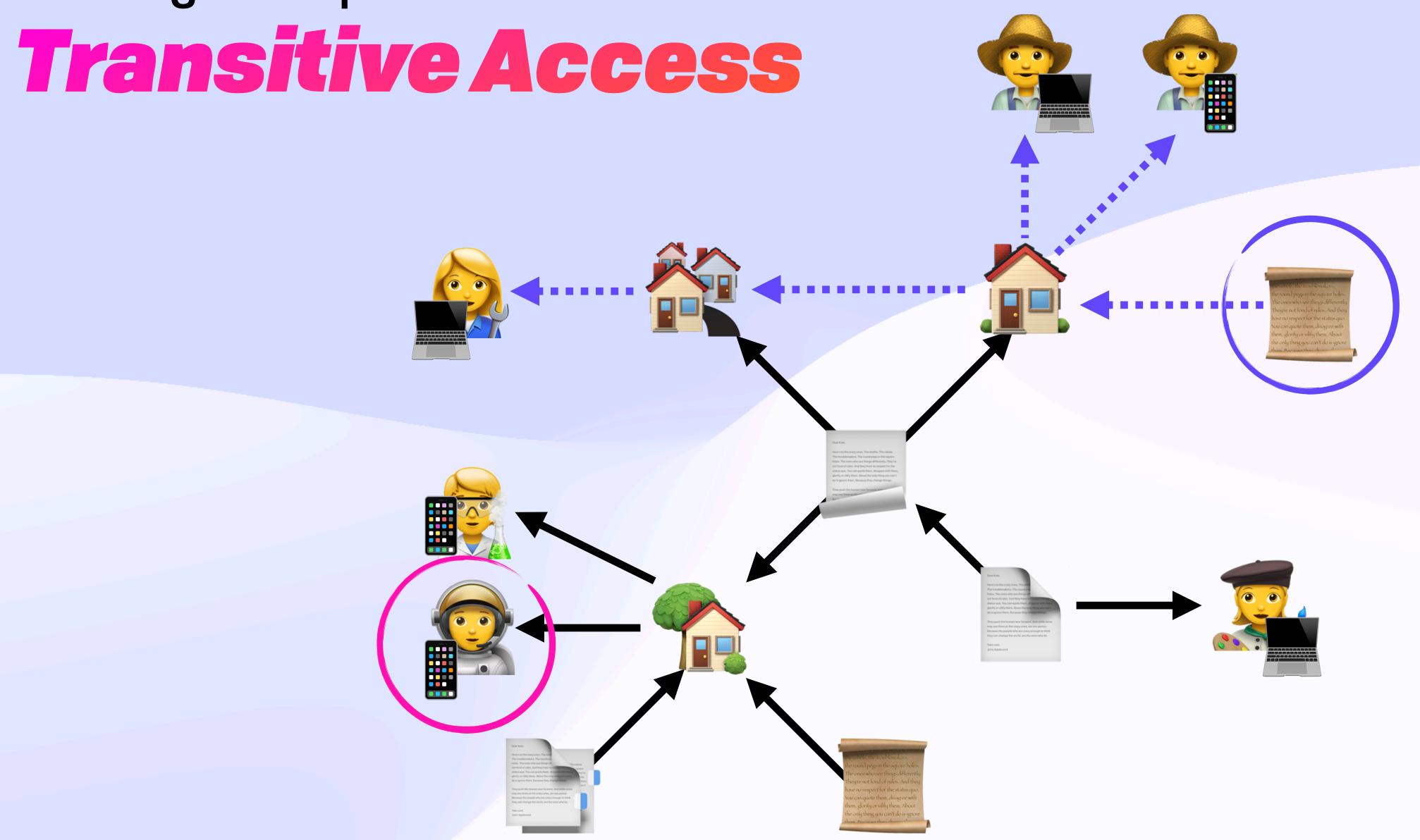
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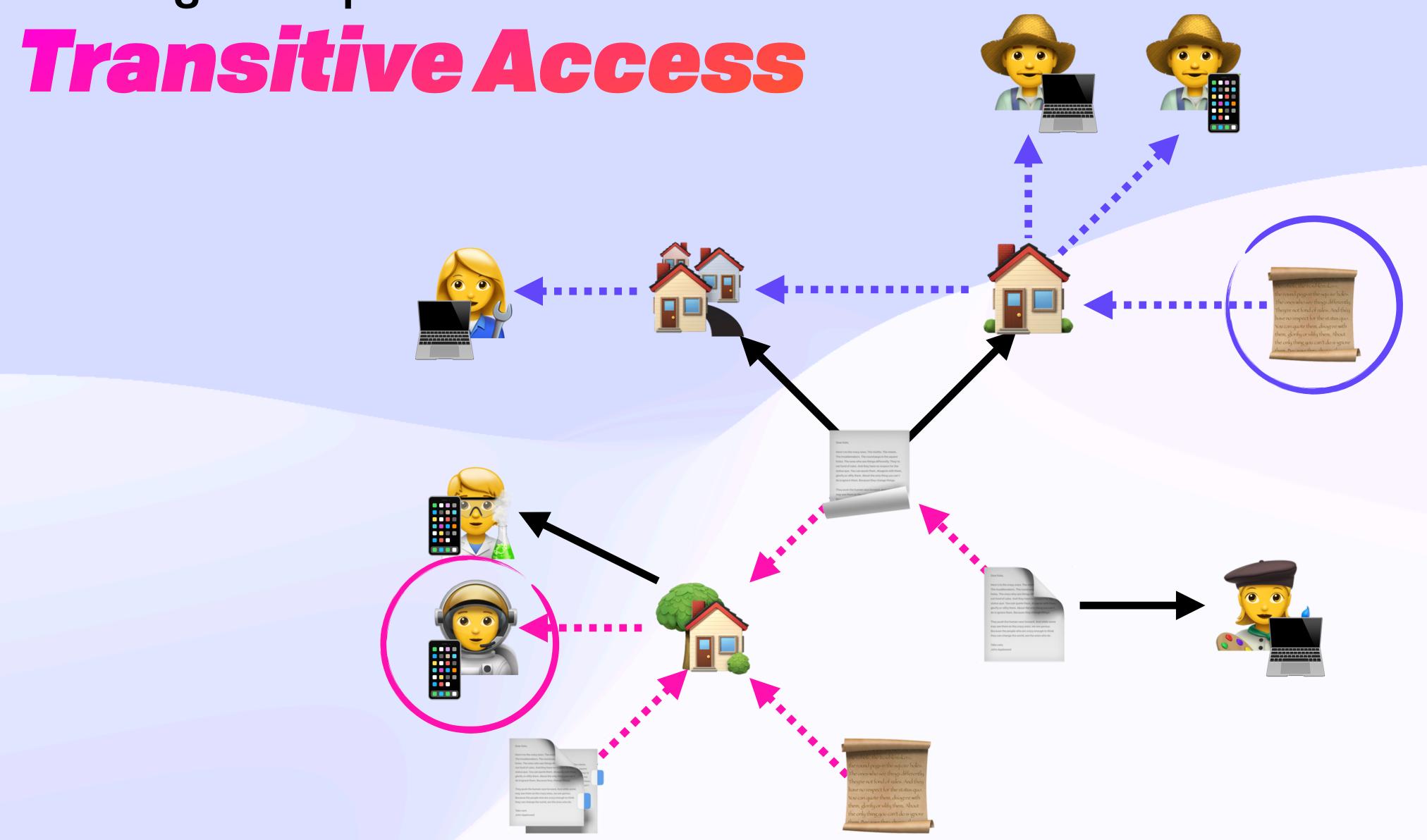












Auth Accidents Will Happen

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Bad Actor (Byzantine)

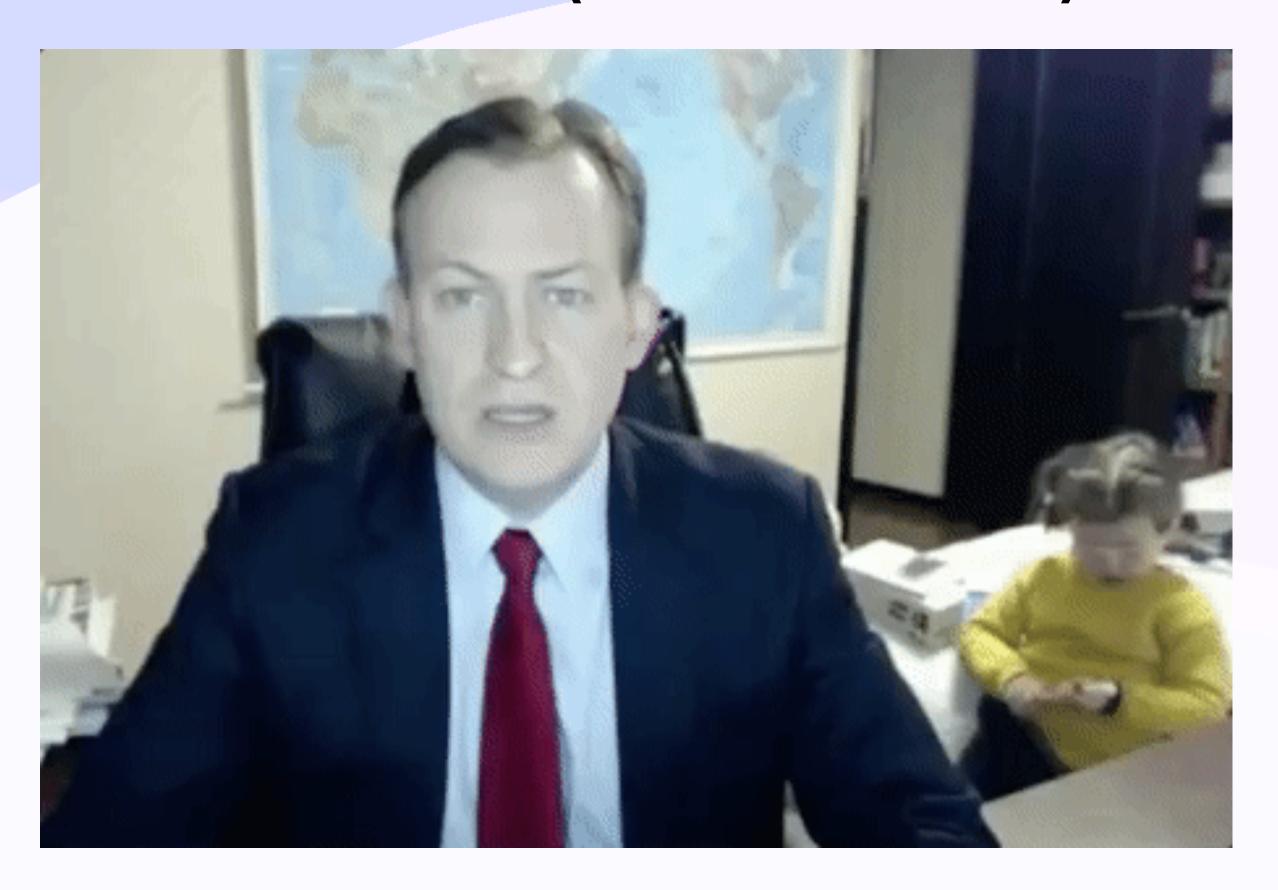


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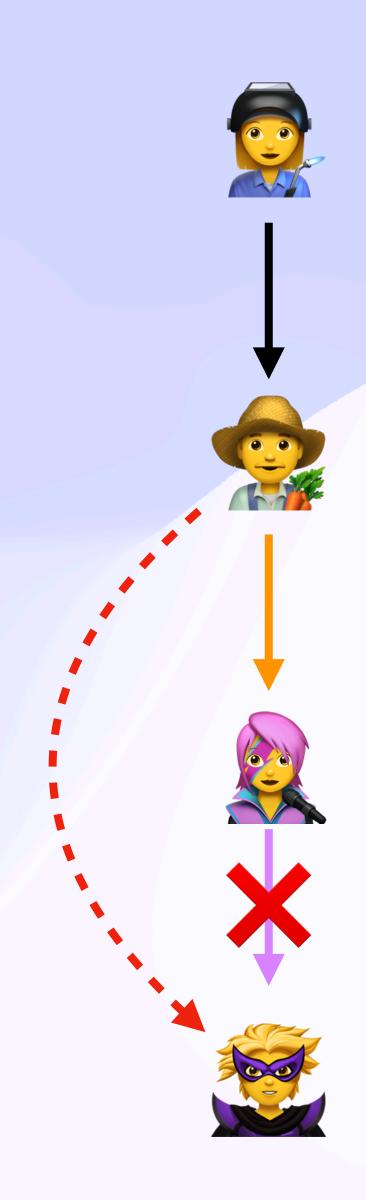
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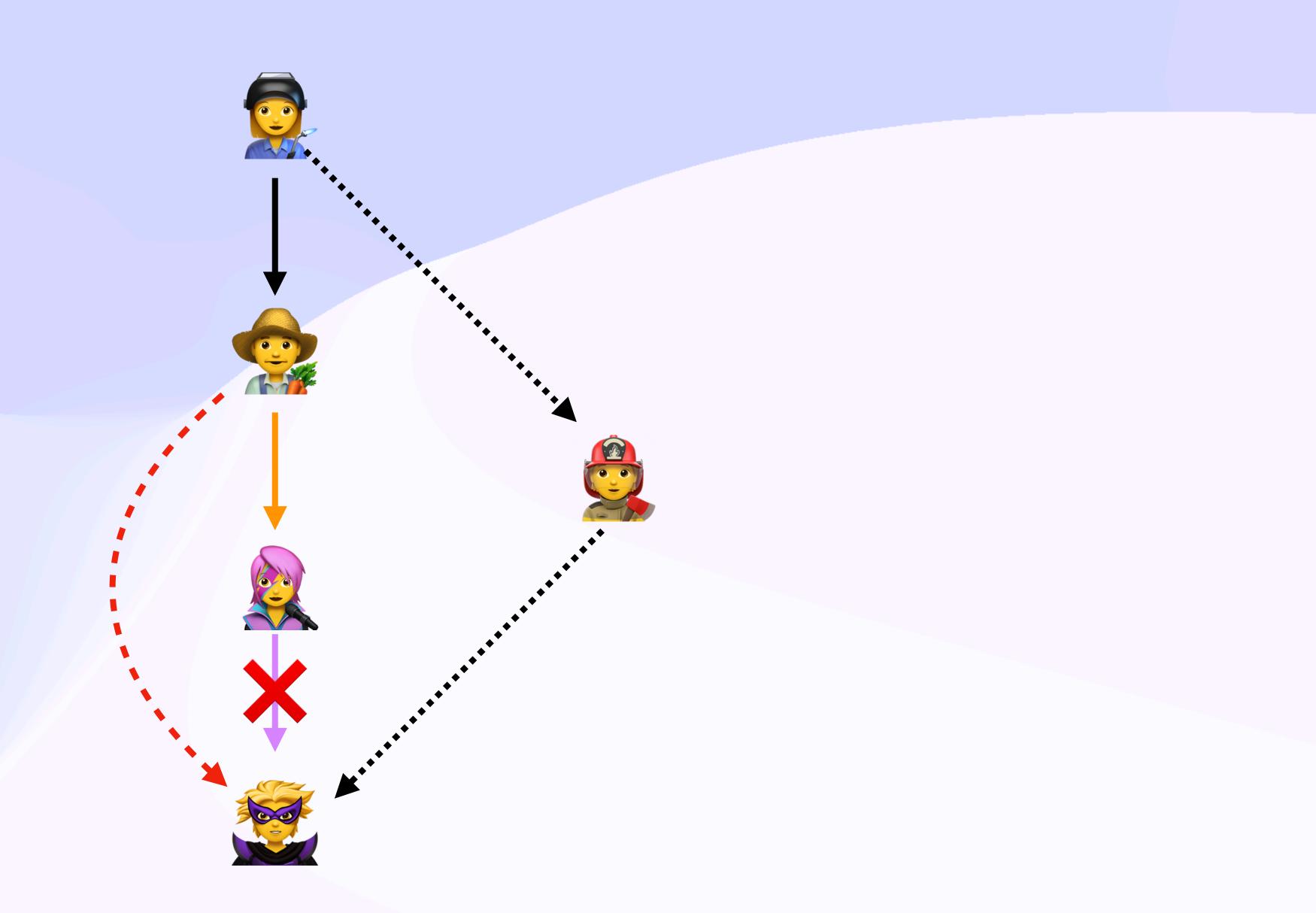


Revocation (non-monotone)

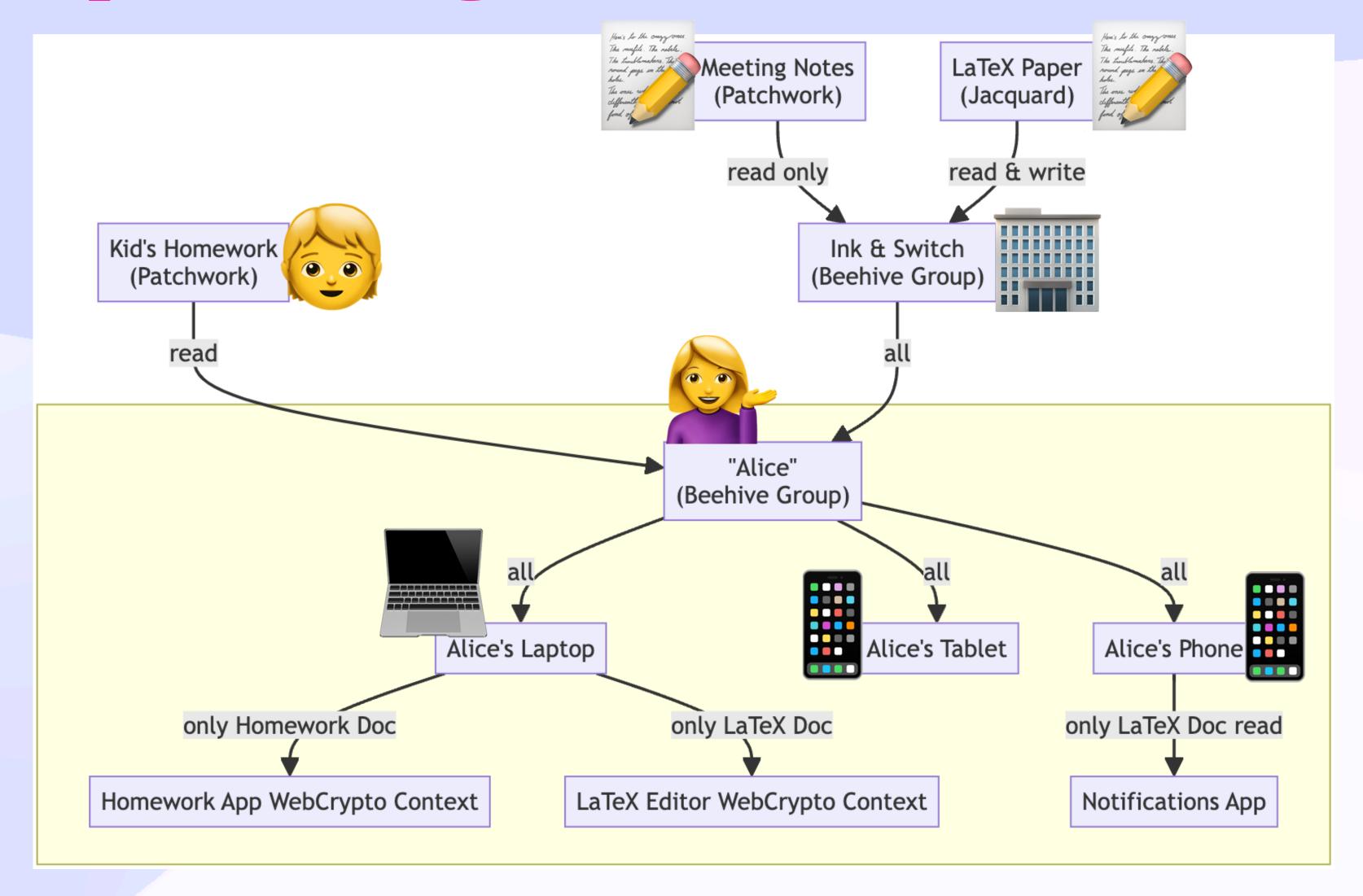








User Key Management, Rotation, Etc









- Servers are still very convenient in 2025
- What do we trust servers to do?
 - Hold our bytes and not delete them
 - Only send those bytes to someone with the right permissions
 - Trust them with the knowledge of our auth graph
 - Server knows who (IP address & public key) requests which doc IDs
- · Defence-in-depth strategy against buggy or poorly run sync servers (or break-ins)

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Securing Data Wherever It Happens To Be

End-to-End Encryption



Self-Healing Concurrent Group Encryption Security Over Time

Self-Healing Concurrent Group Encryption Security Over Time

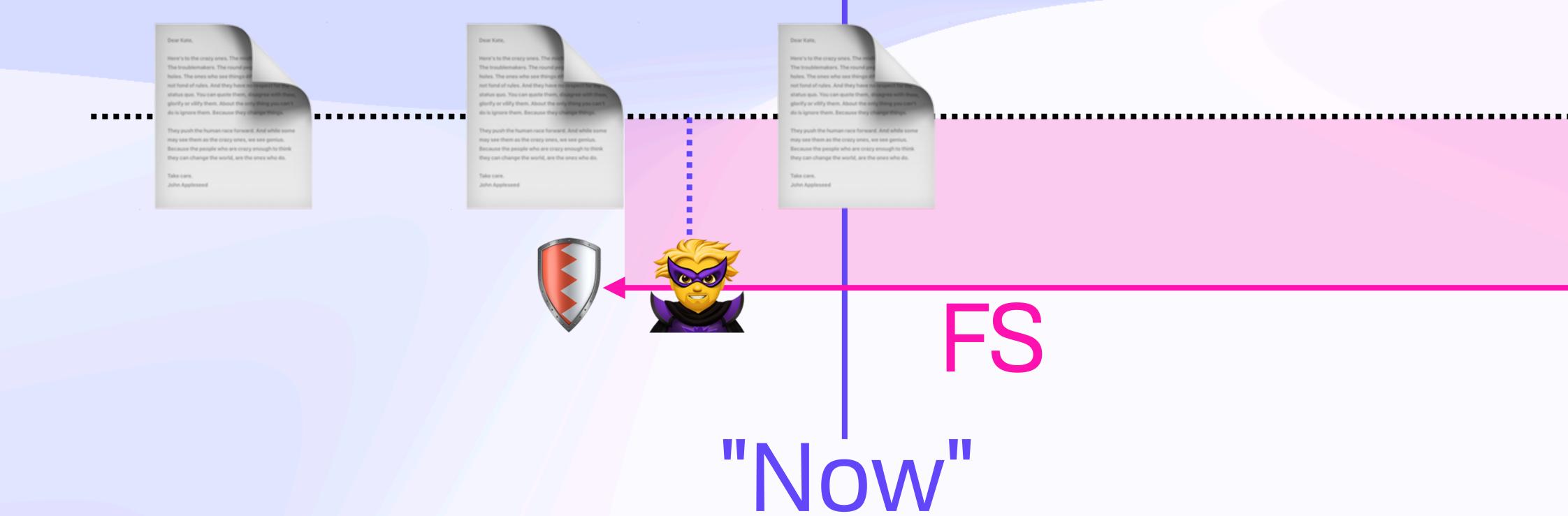


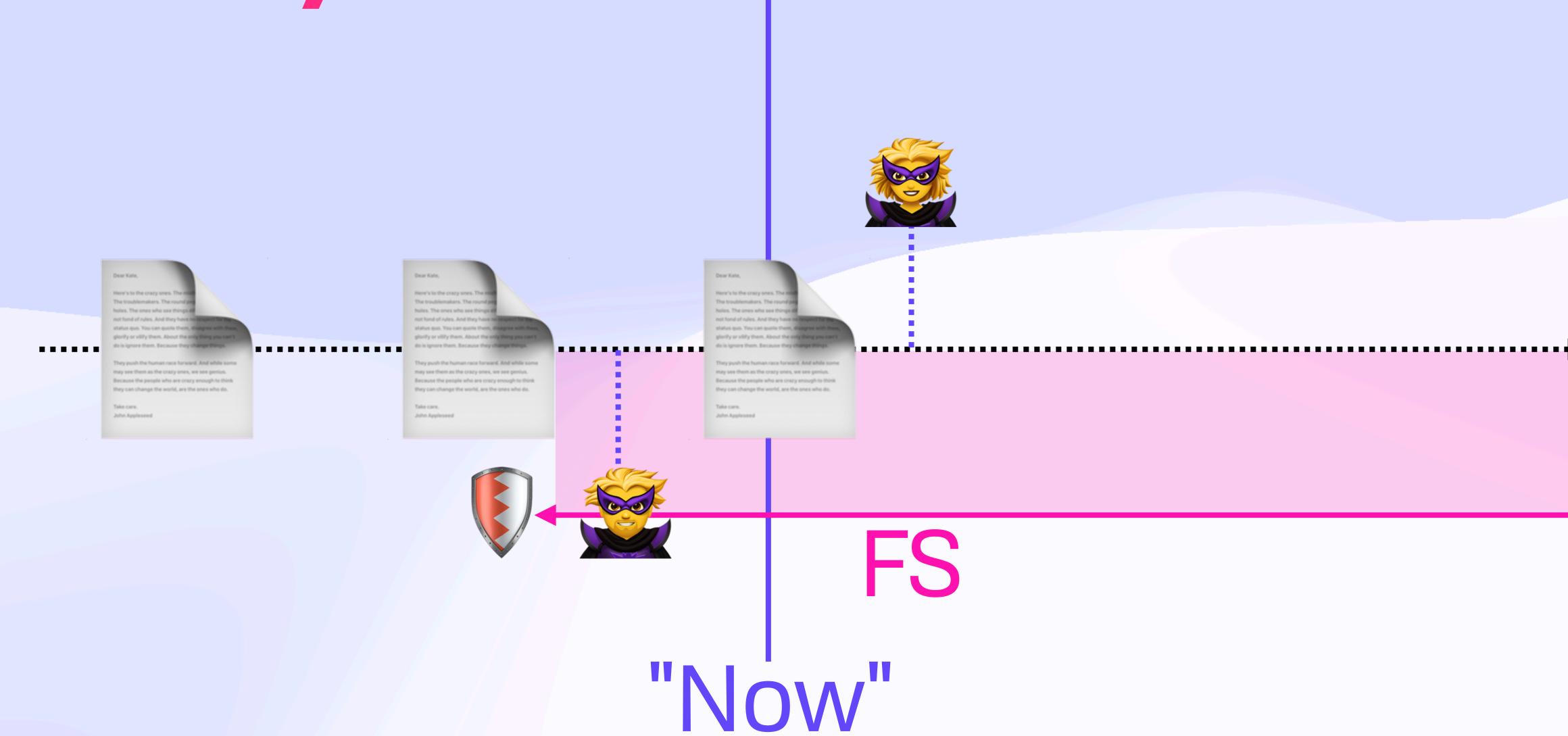
Security Over Time

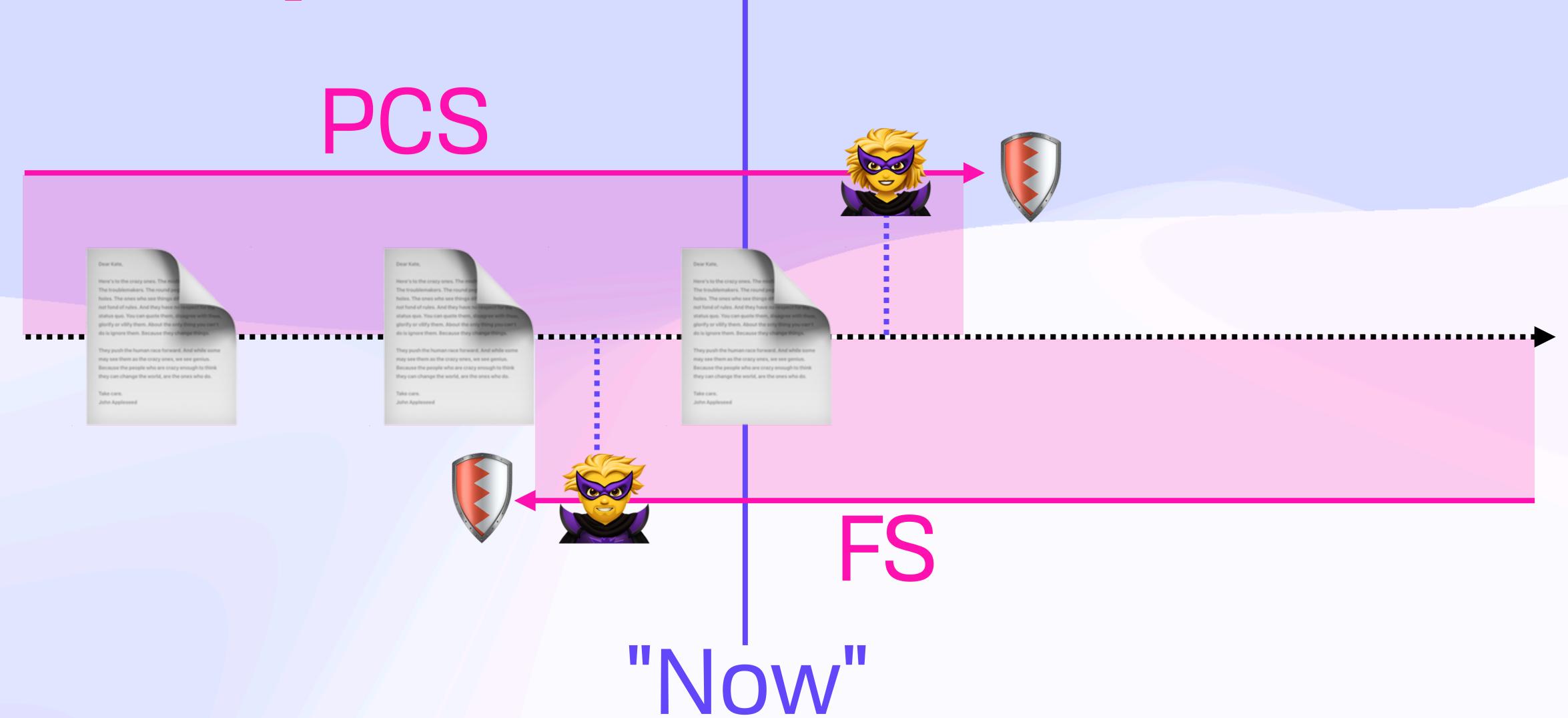


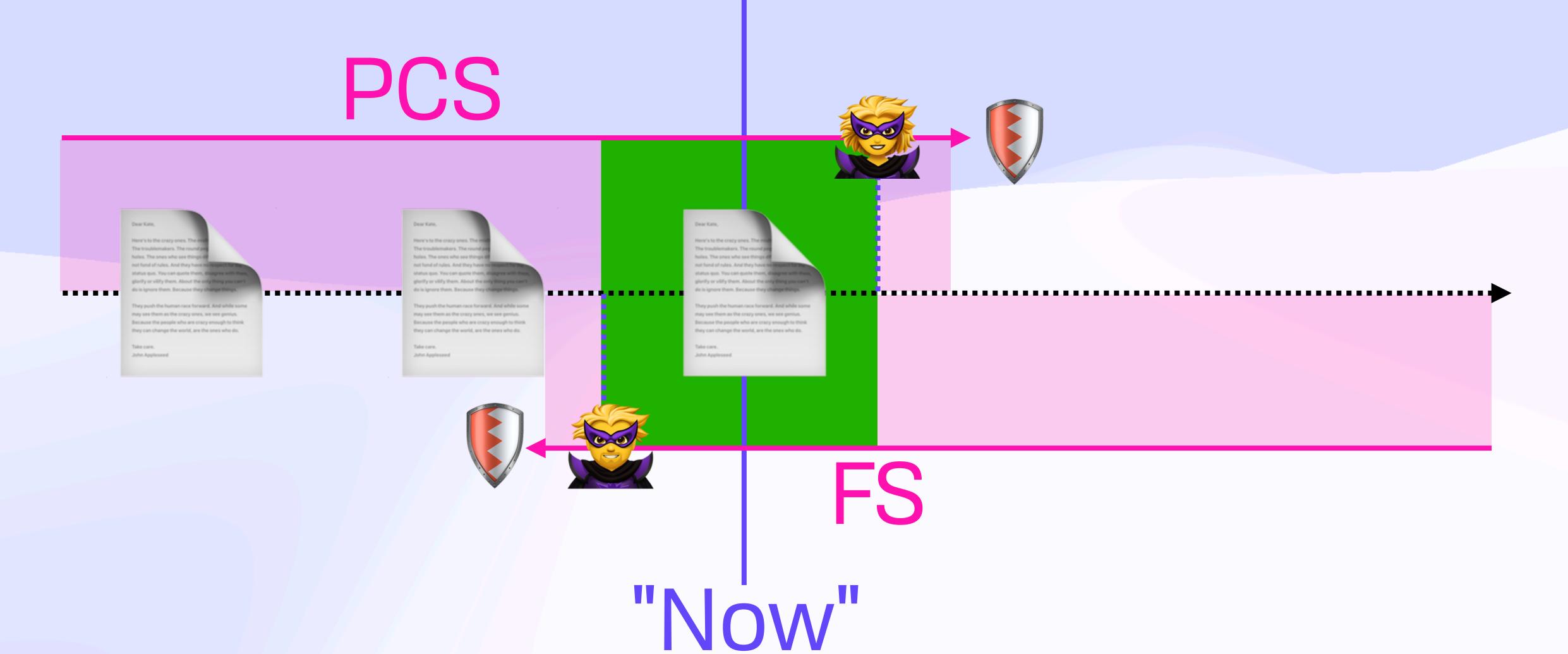
"Now"

















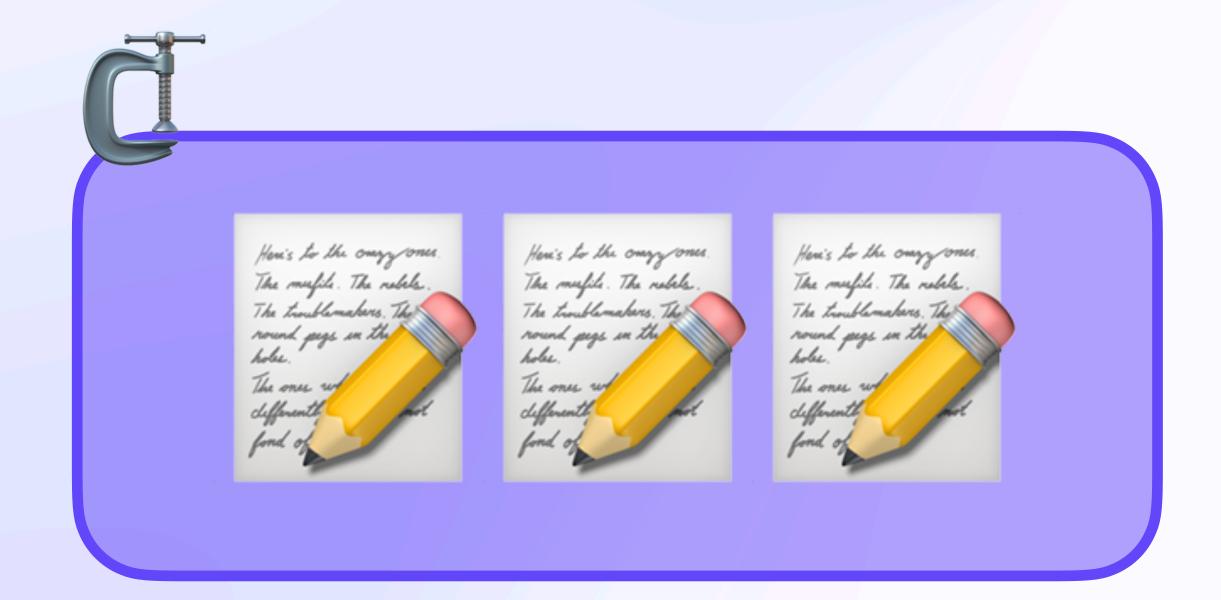


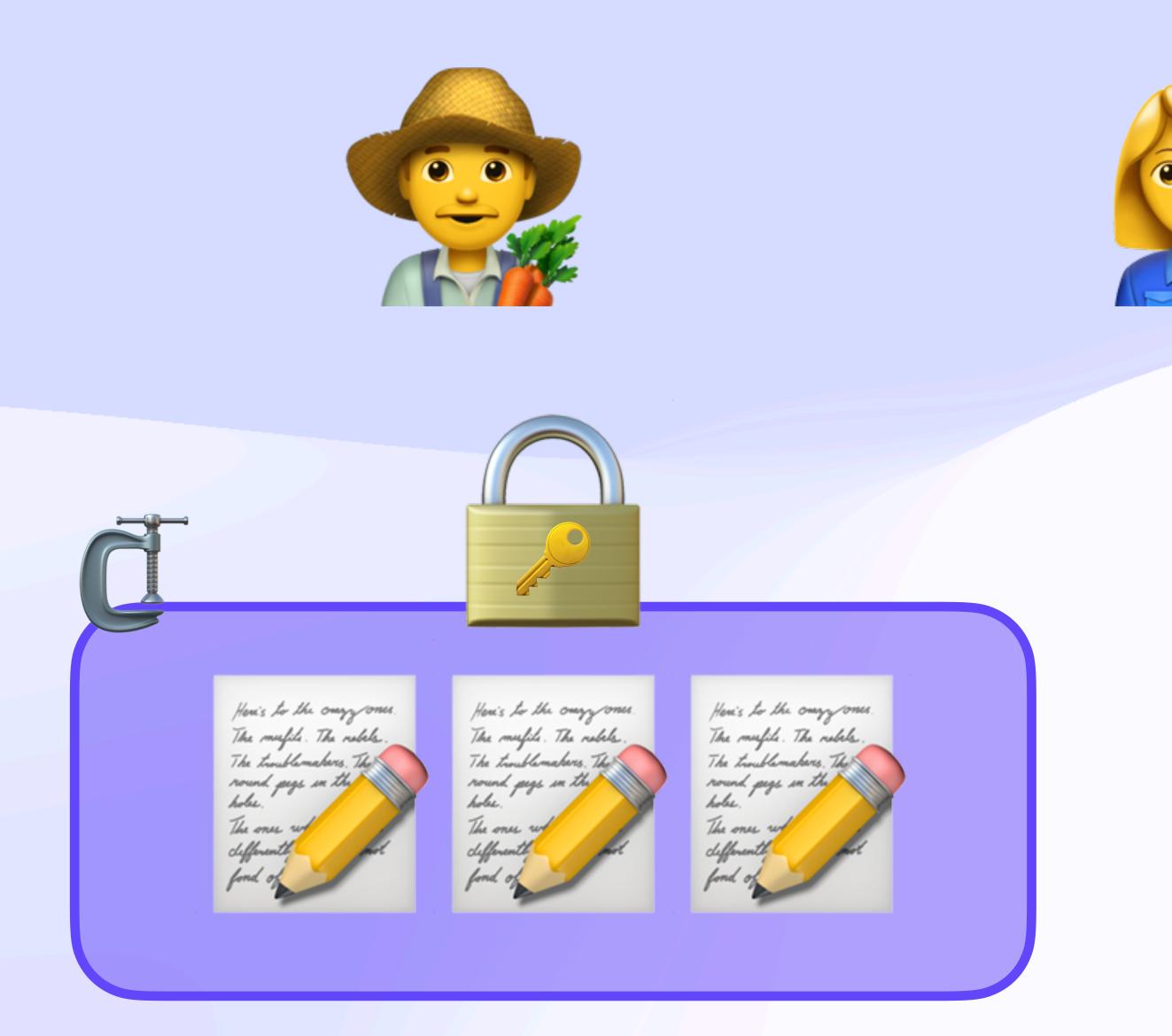


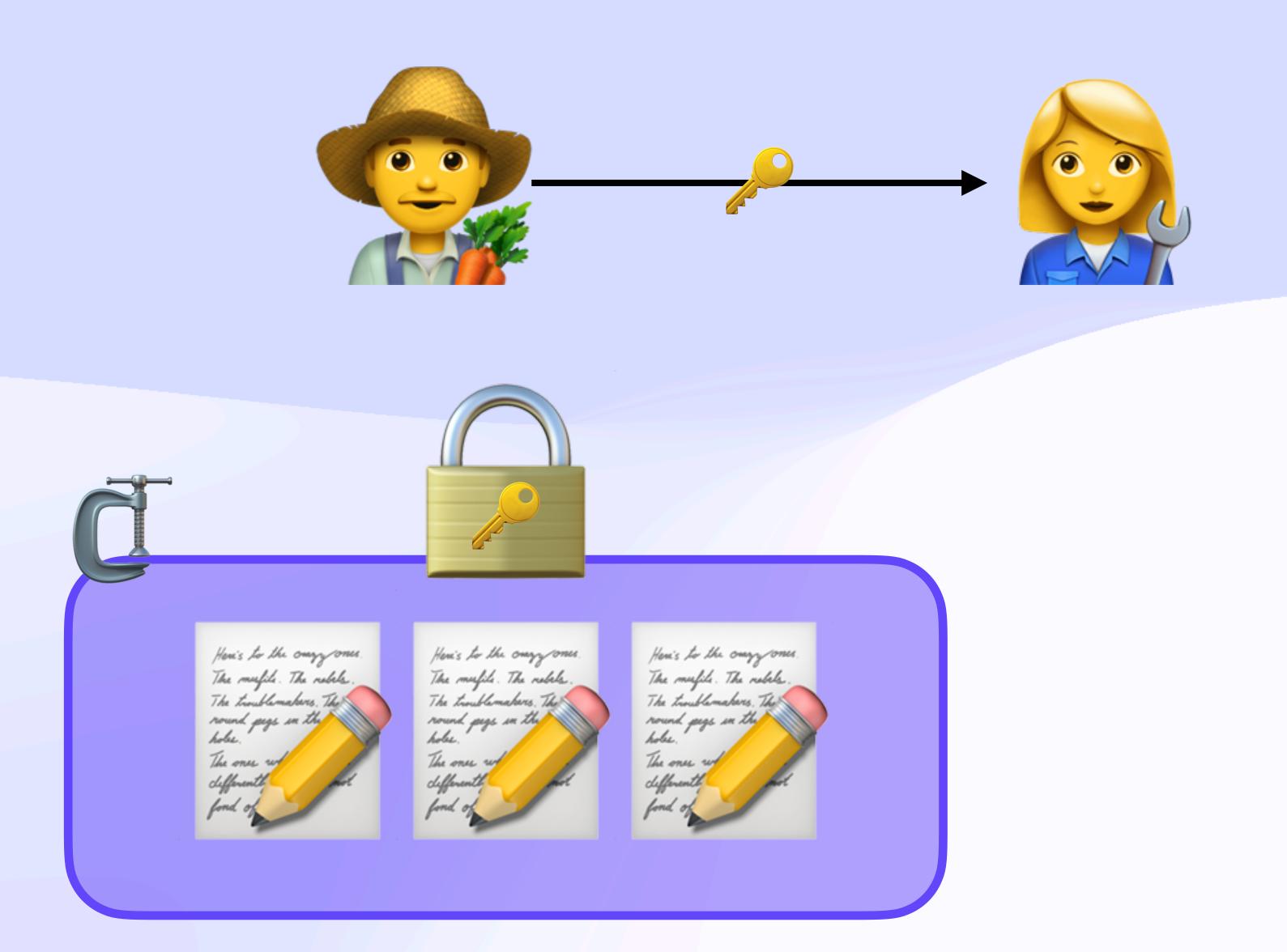


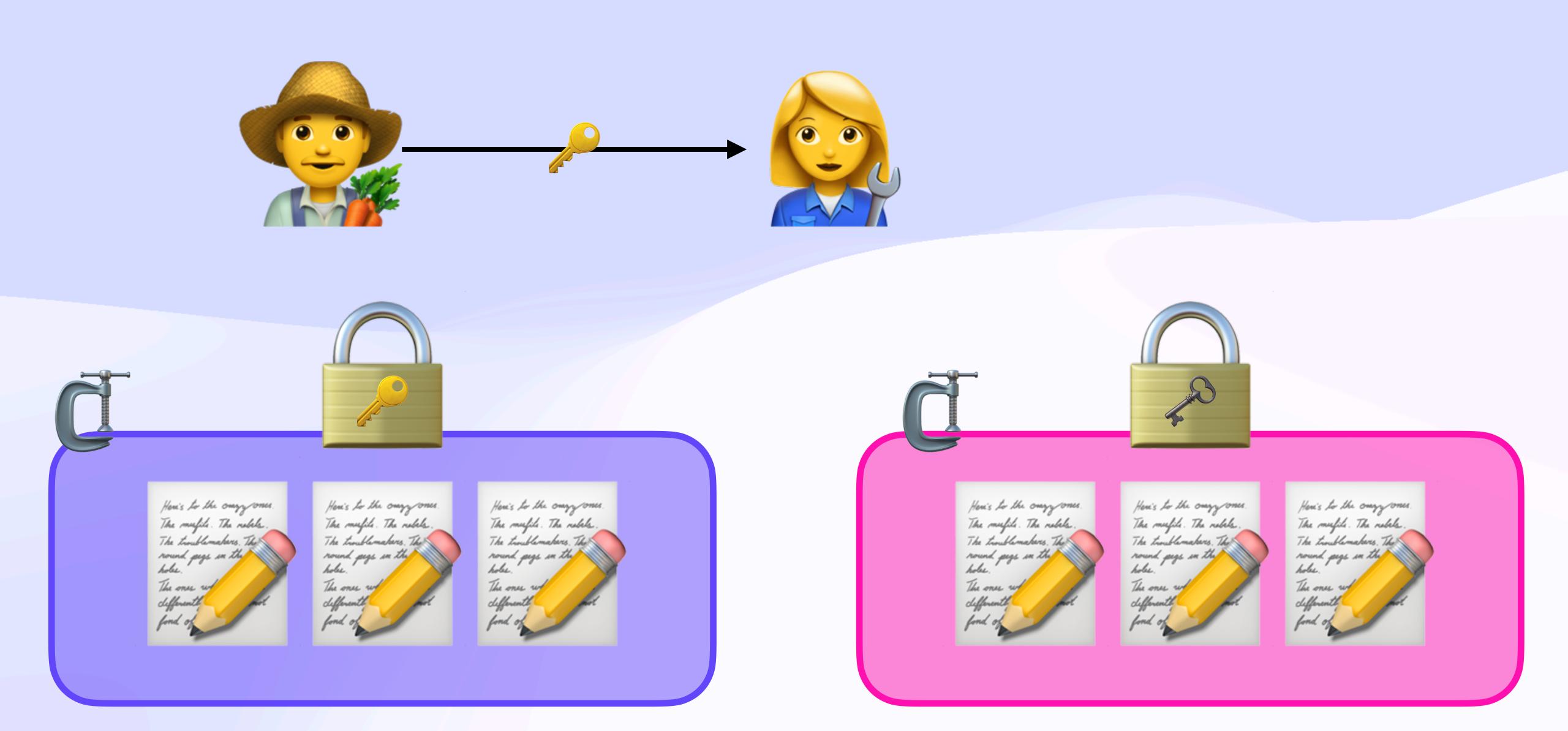


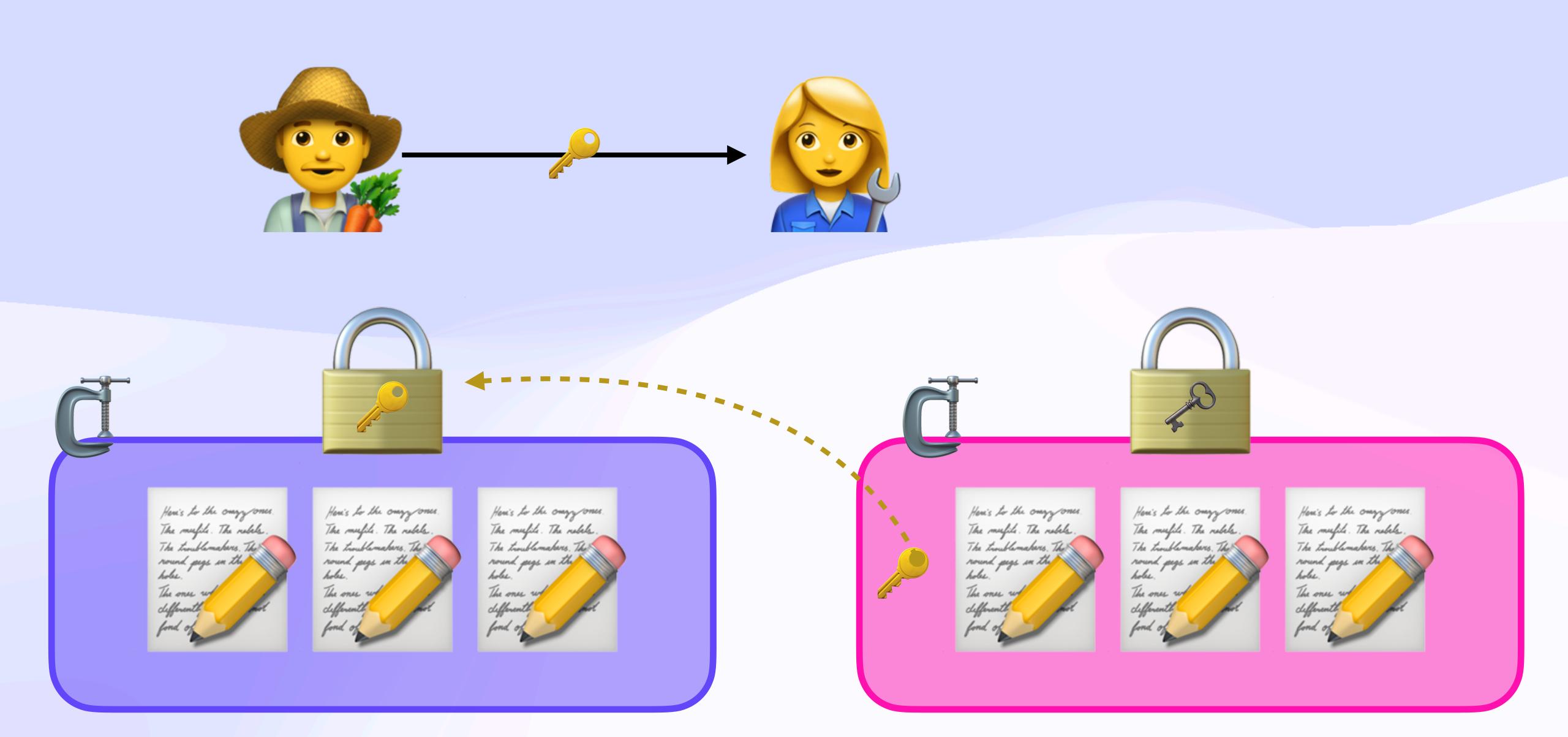


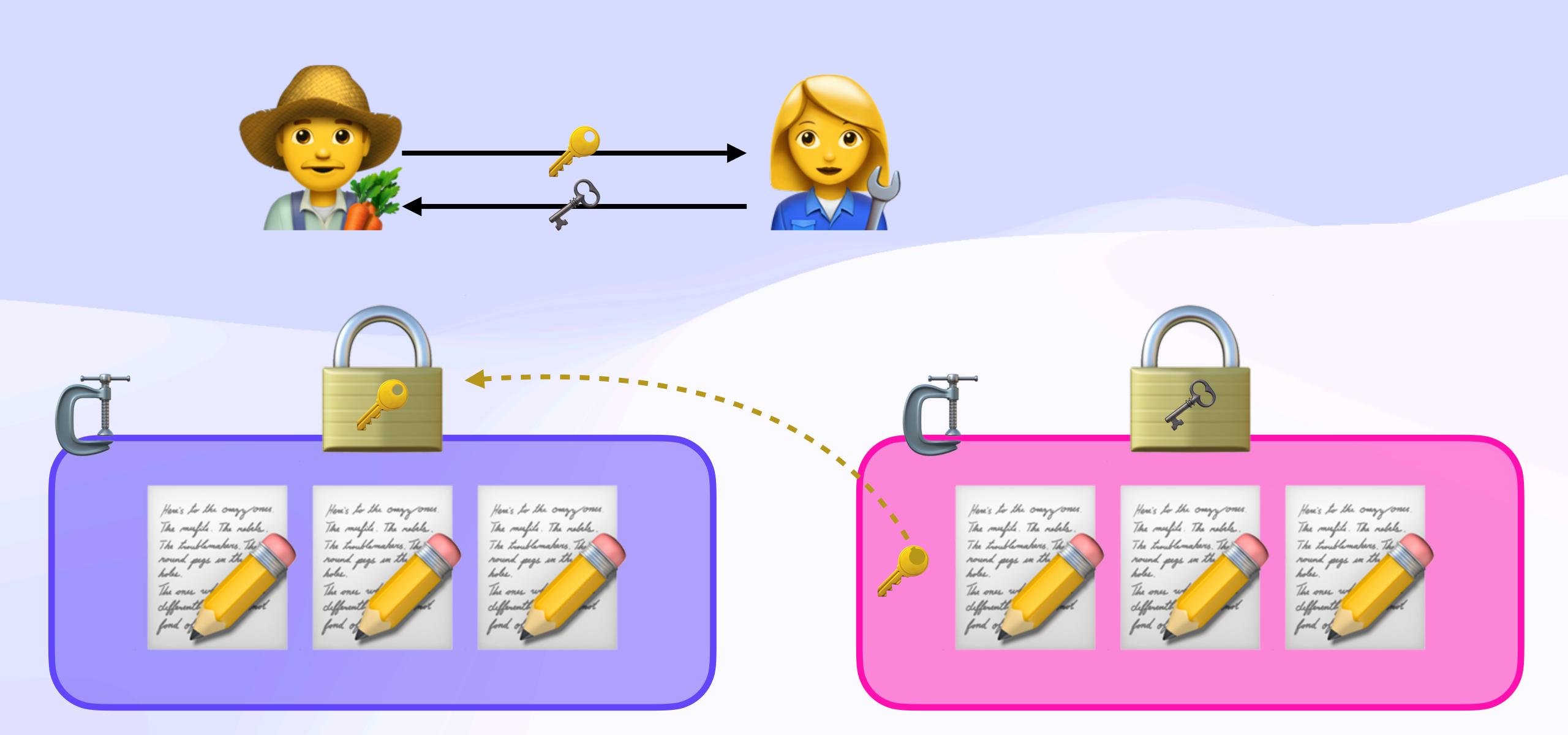


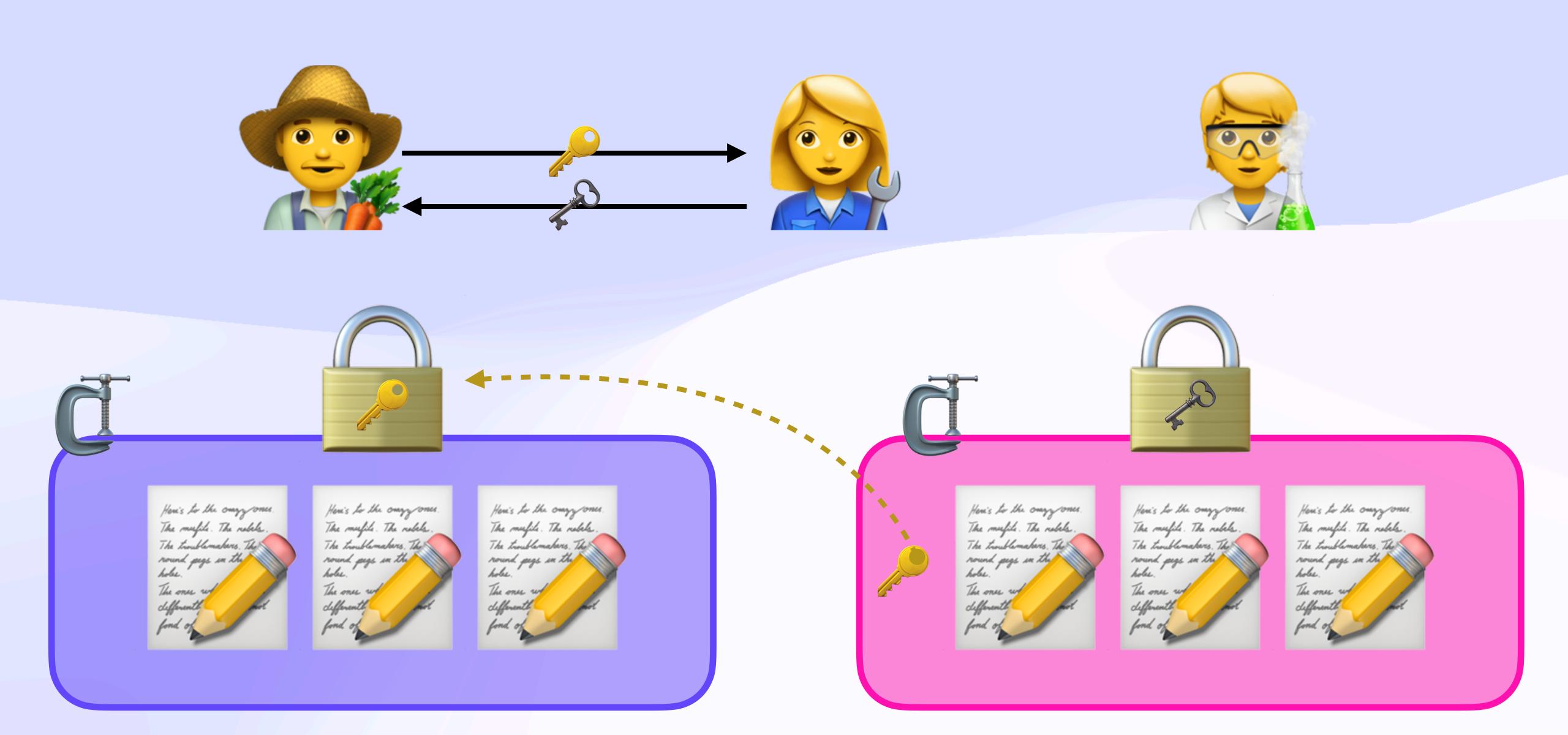


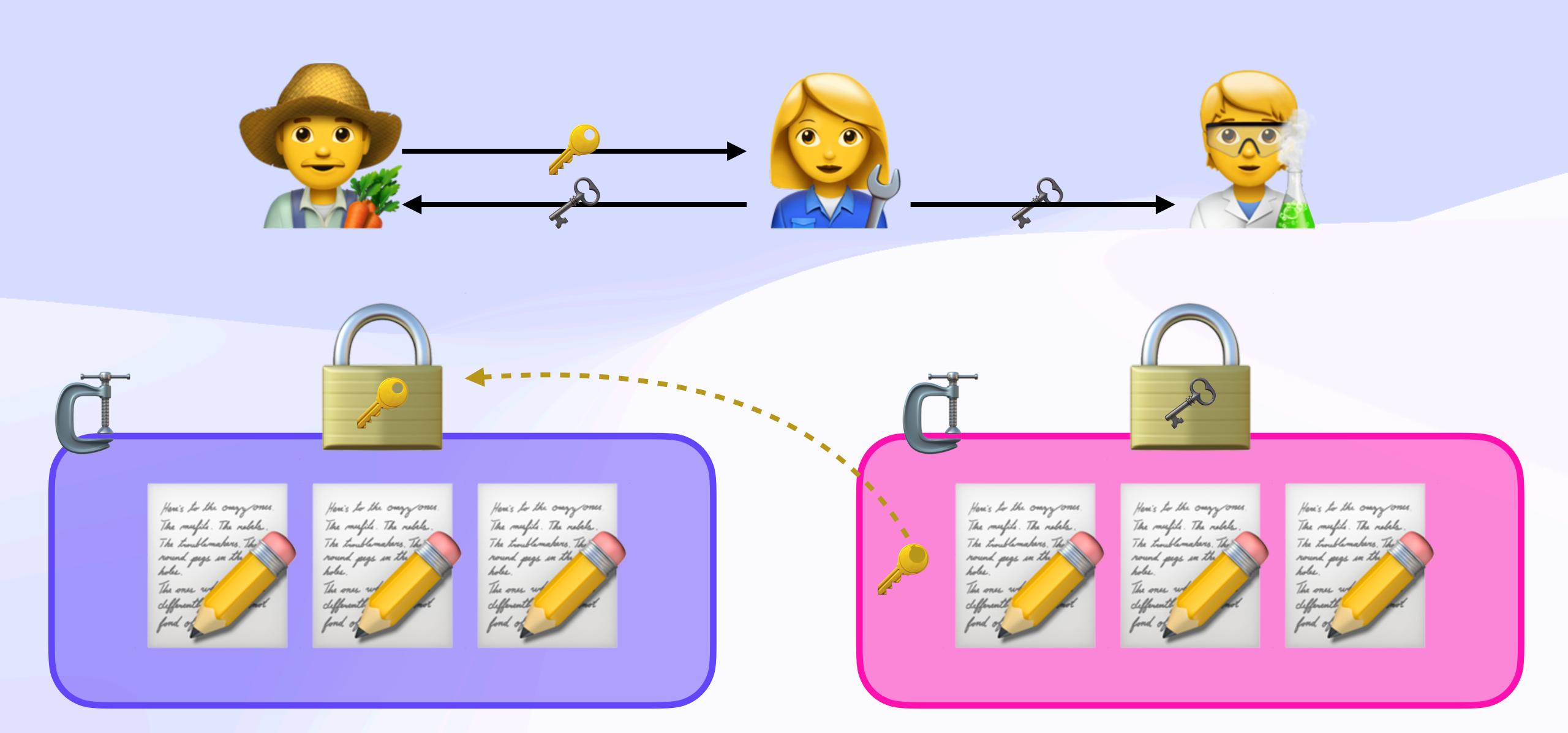




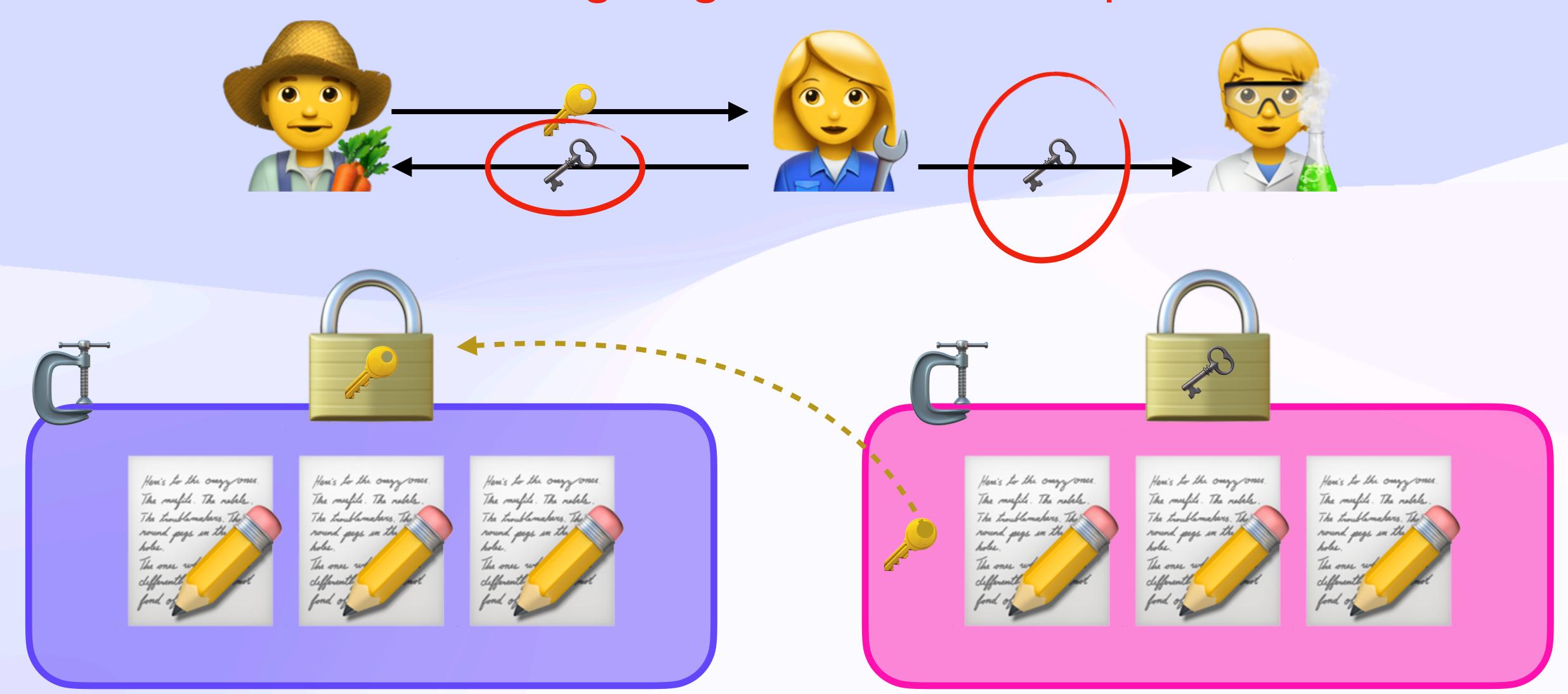






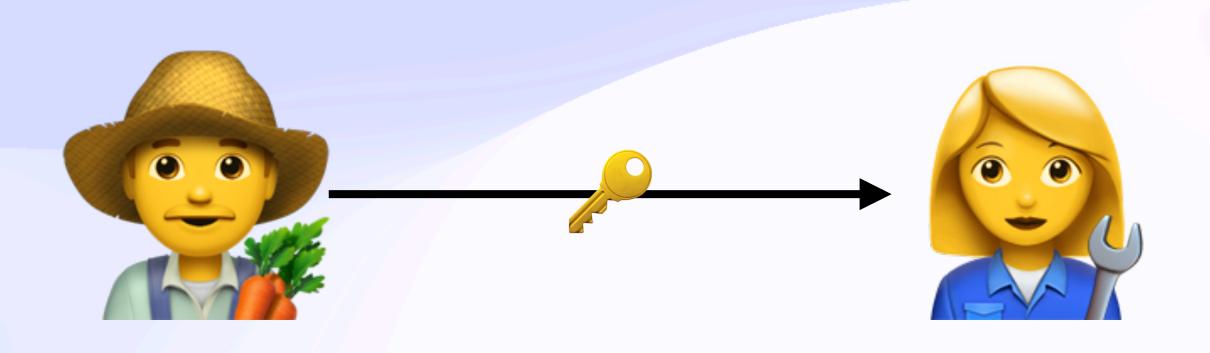


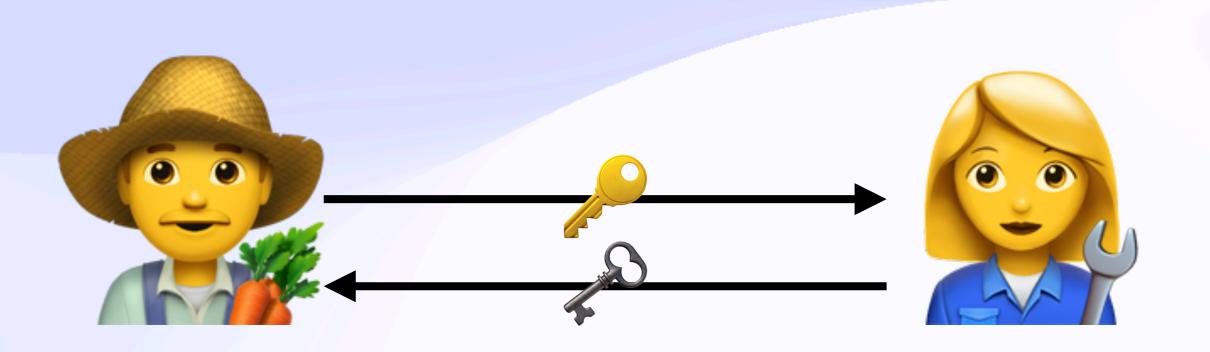
Well that's not going to scale to Wikipedia size





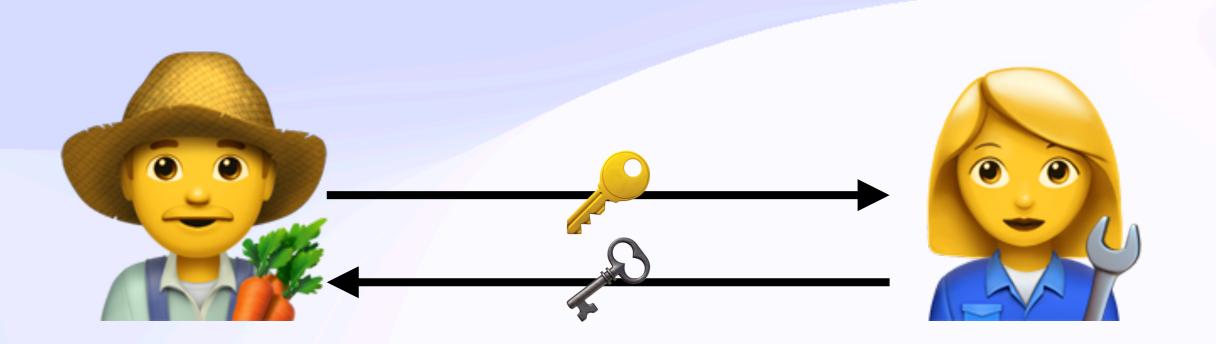




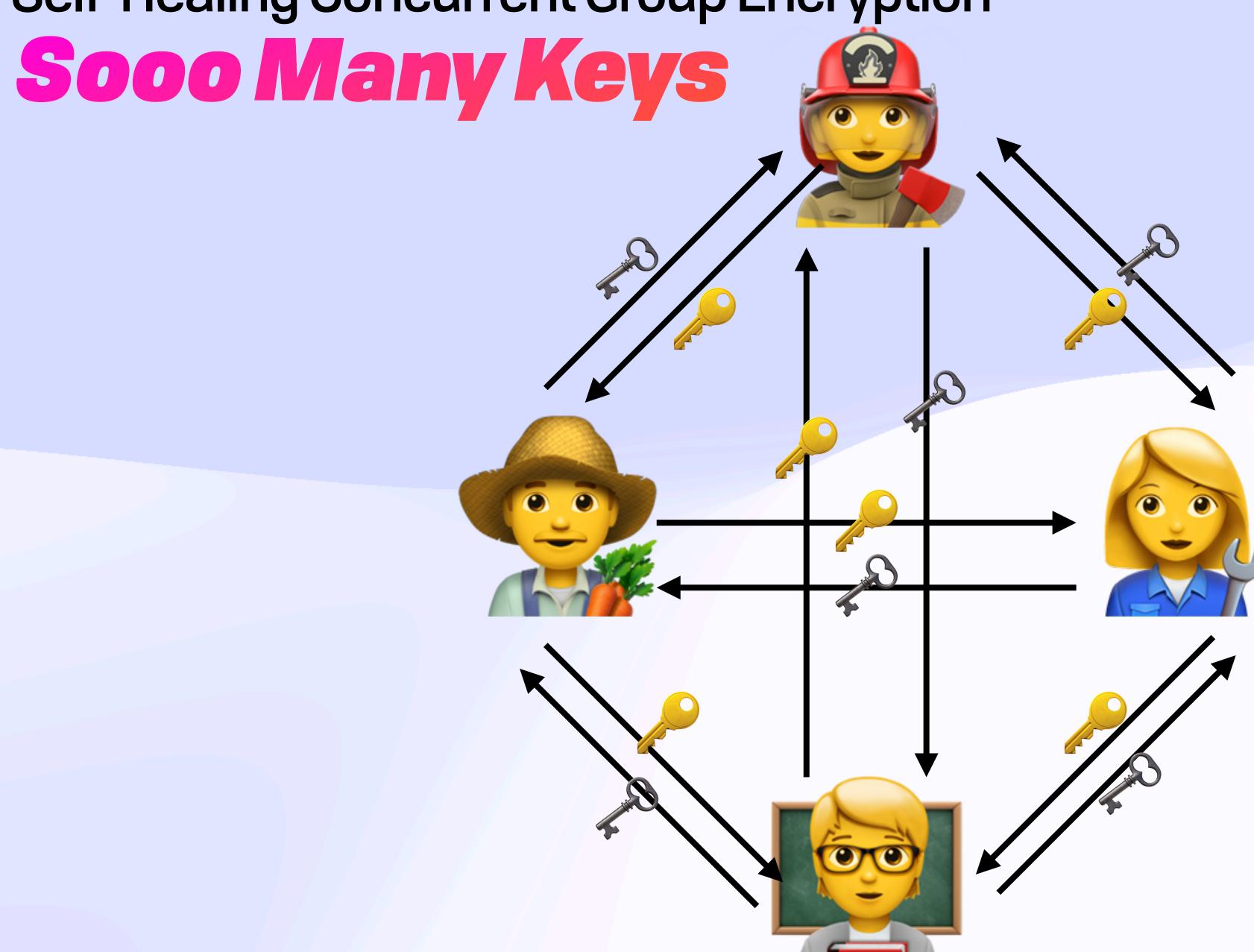


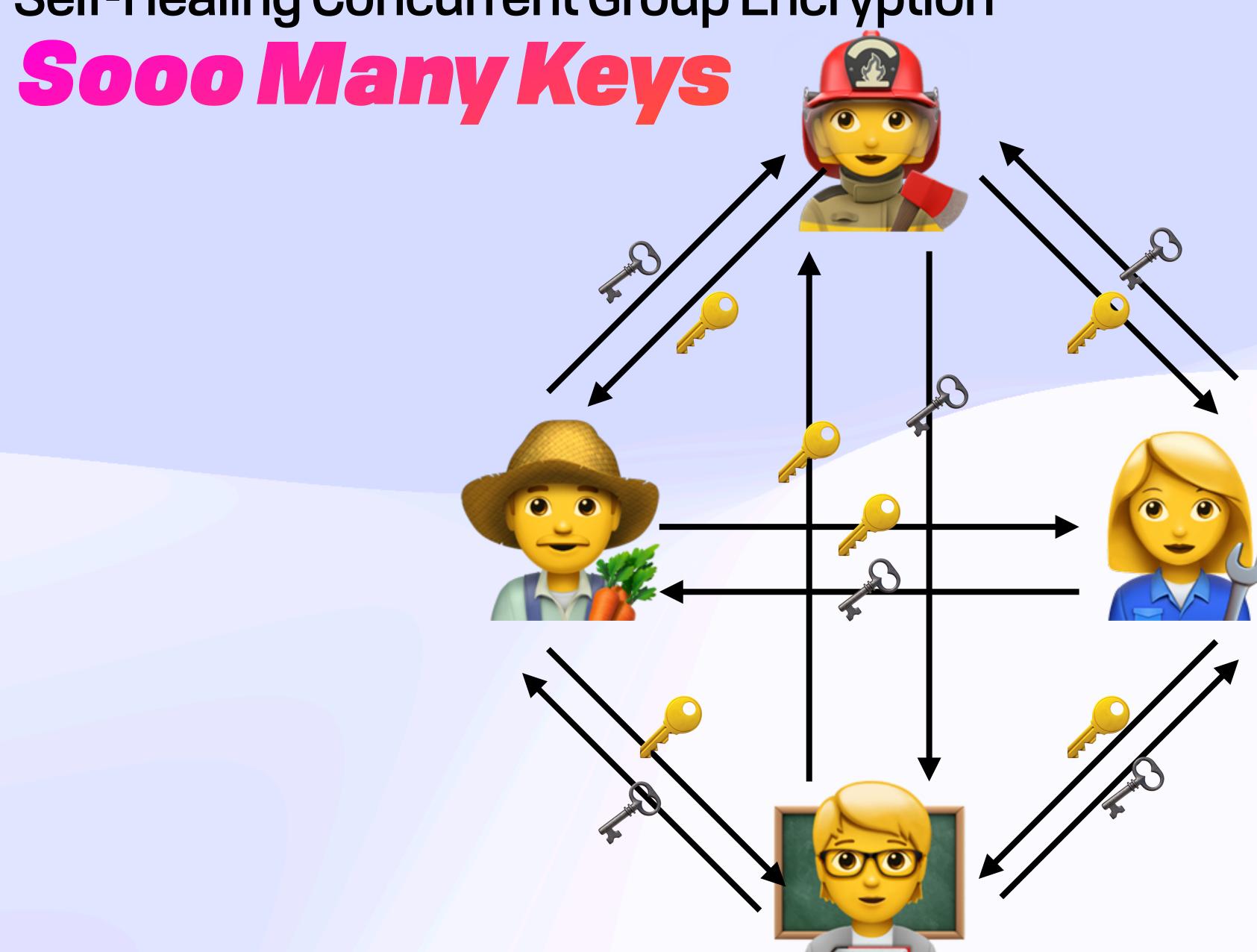
Sooo Many Keys

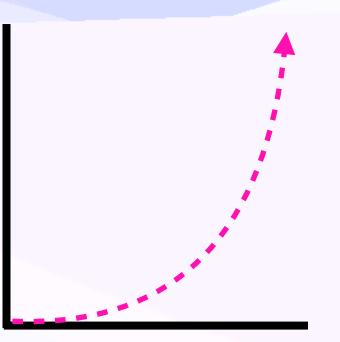


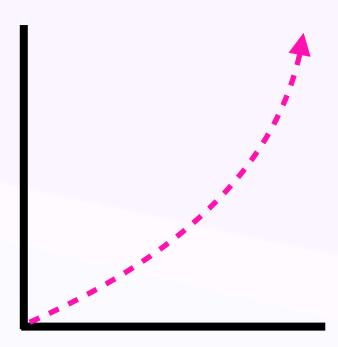


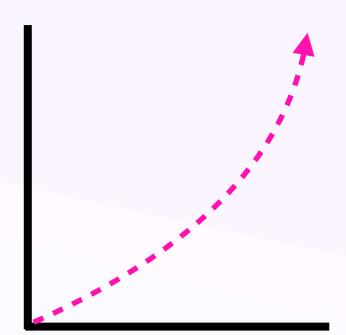


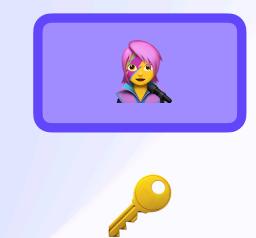


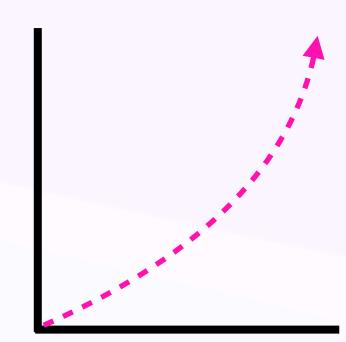


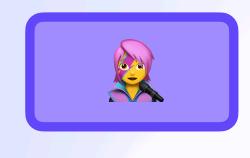








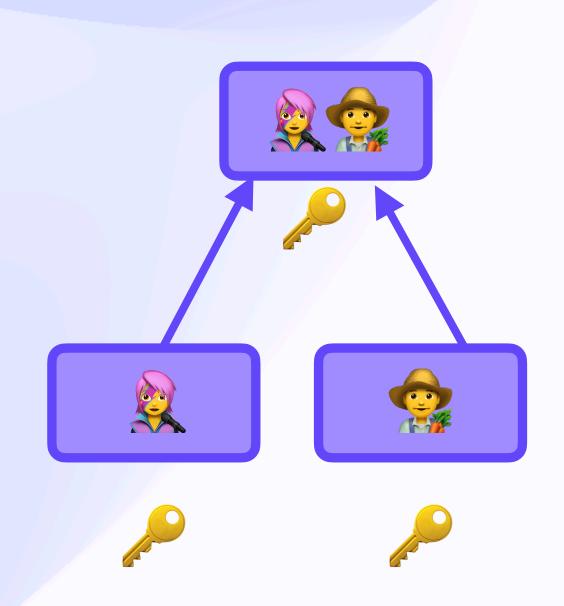


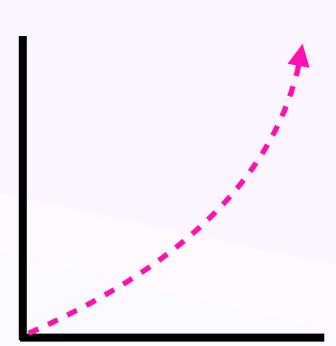


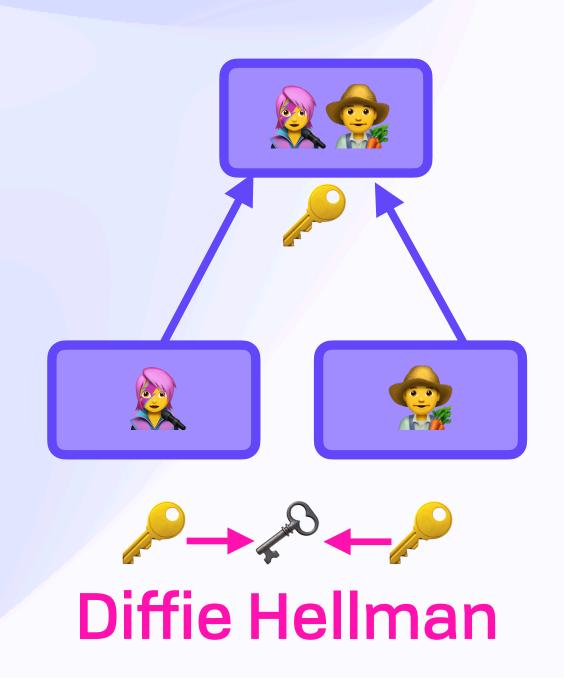


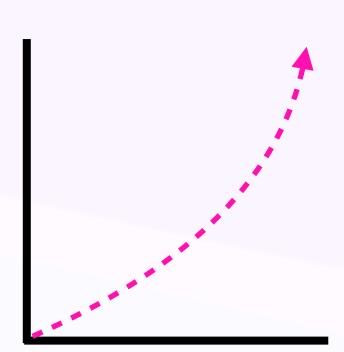


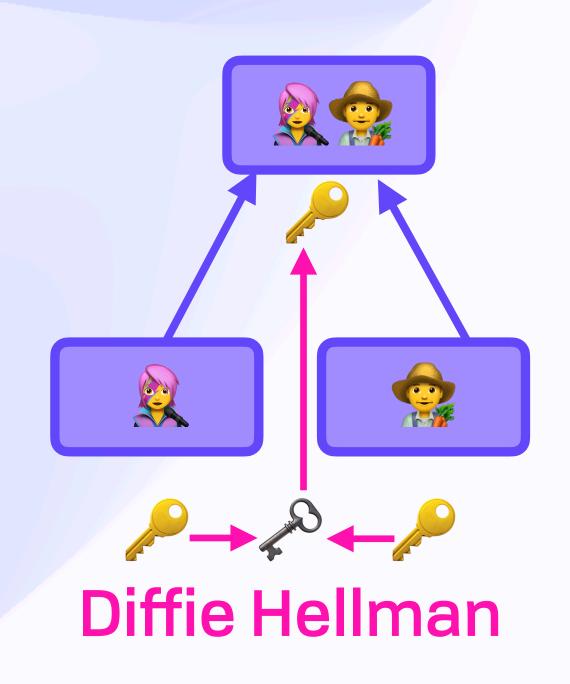


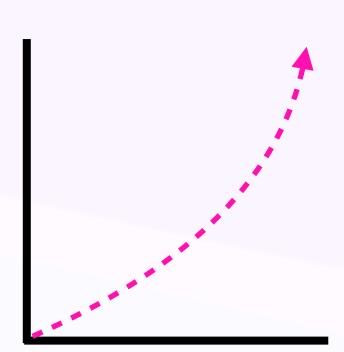


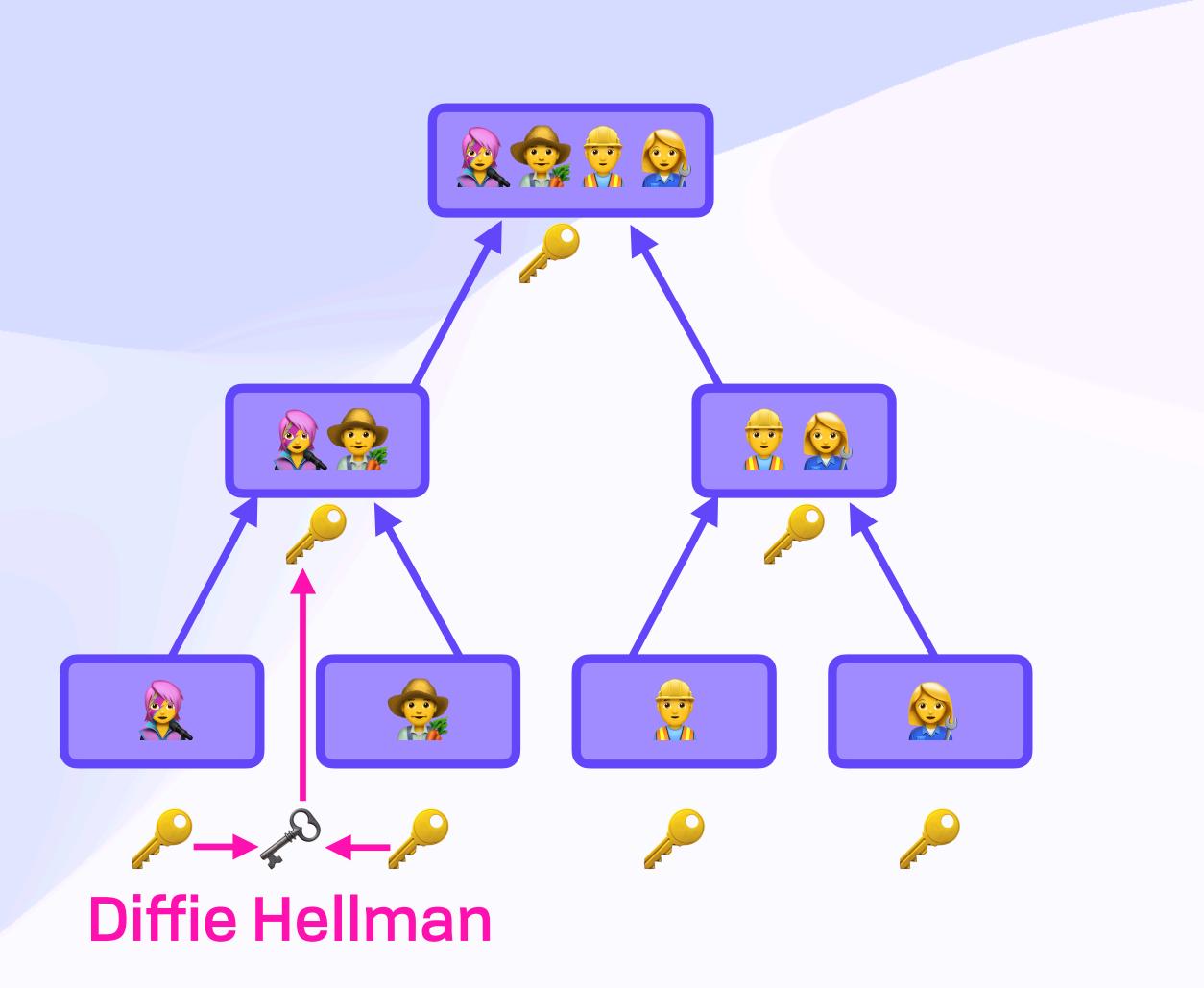


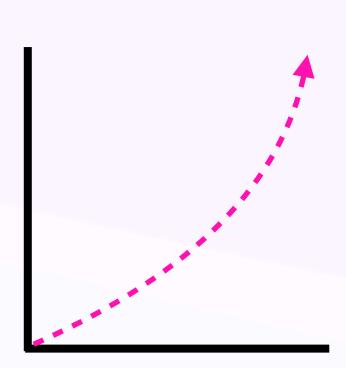


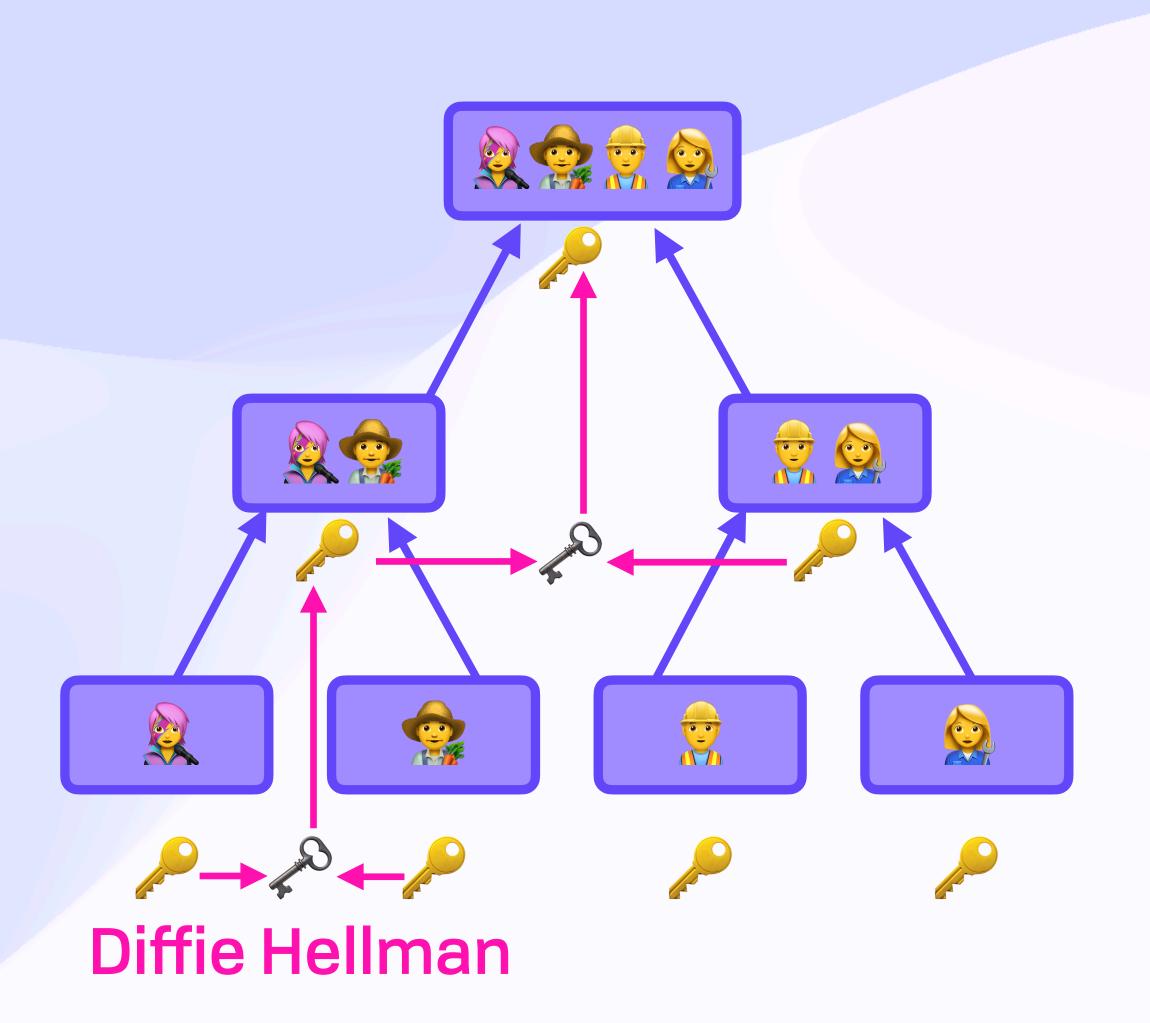


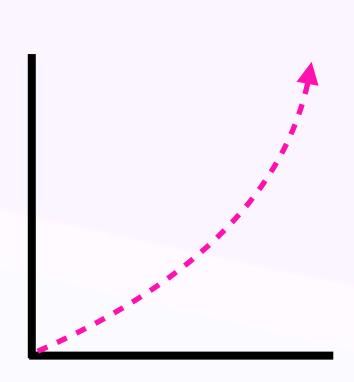


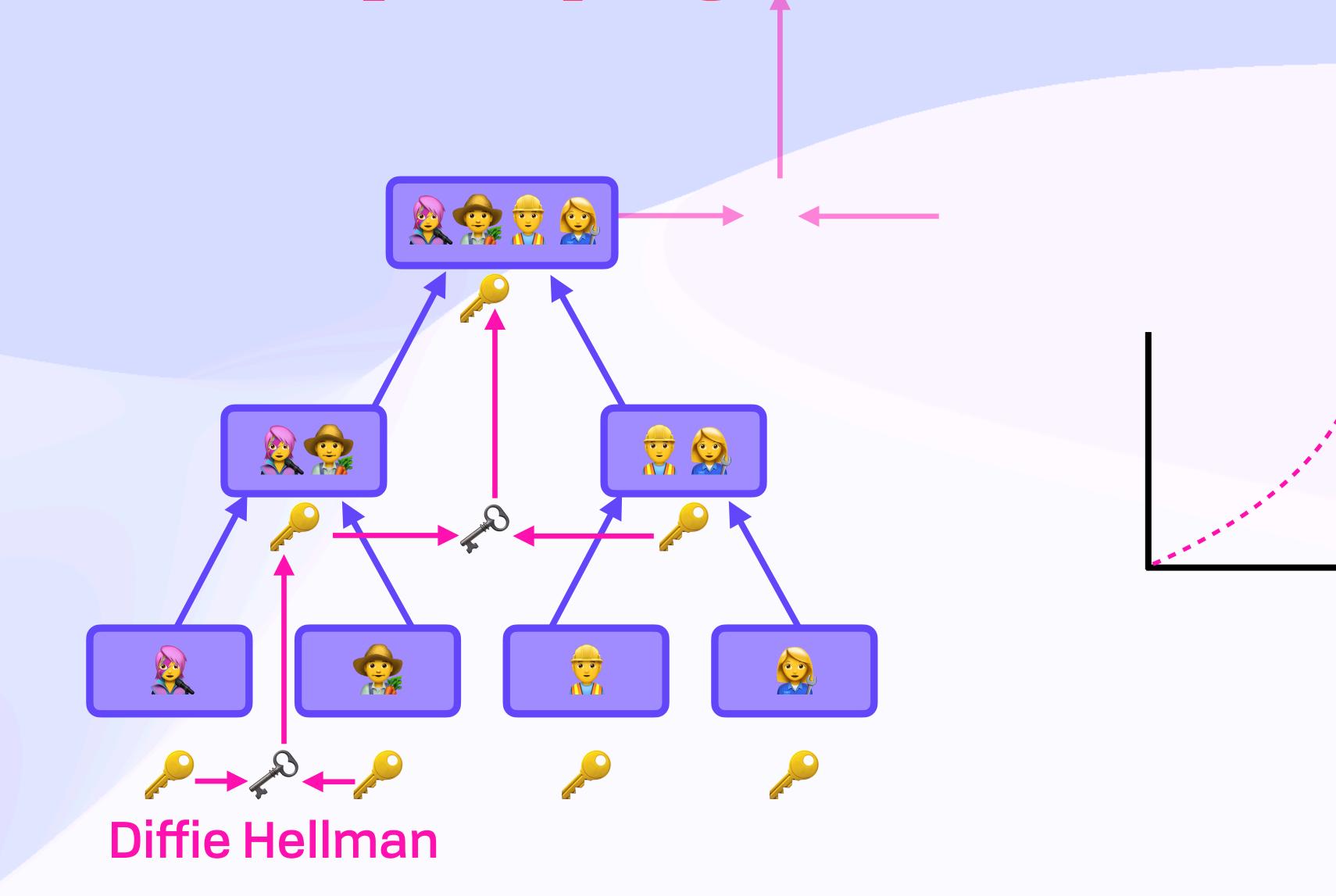


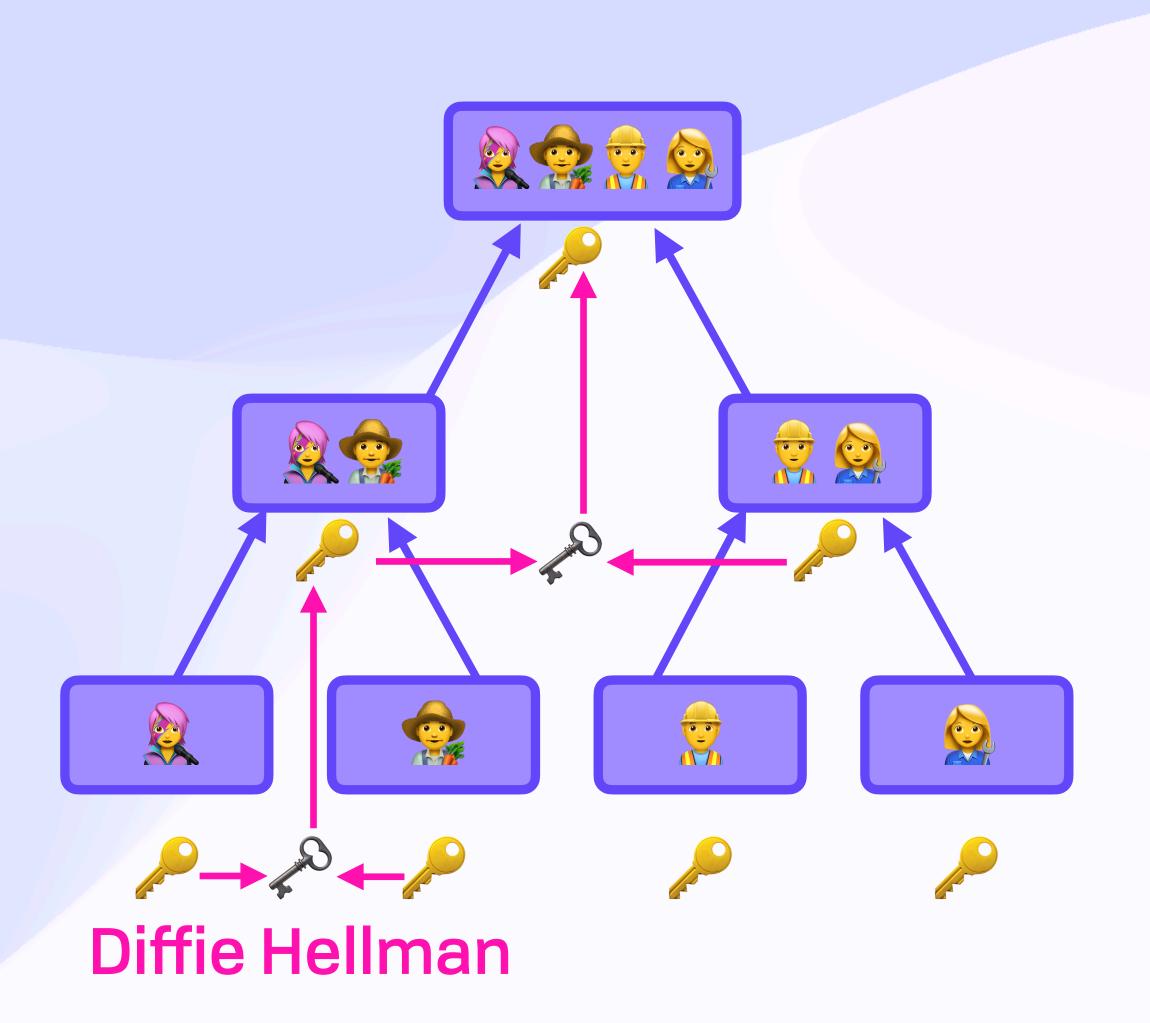


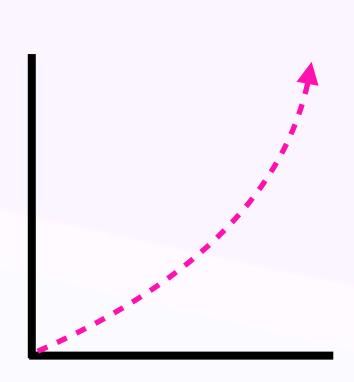




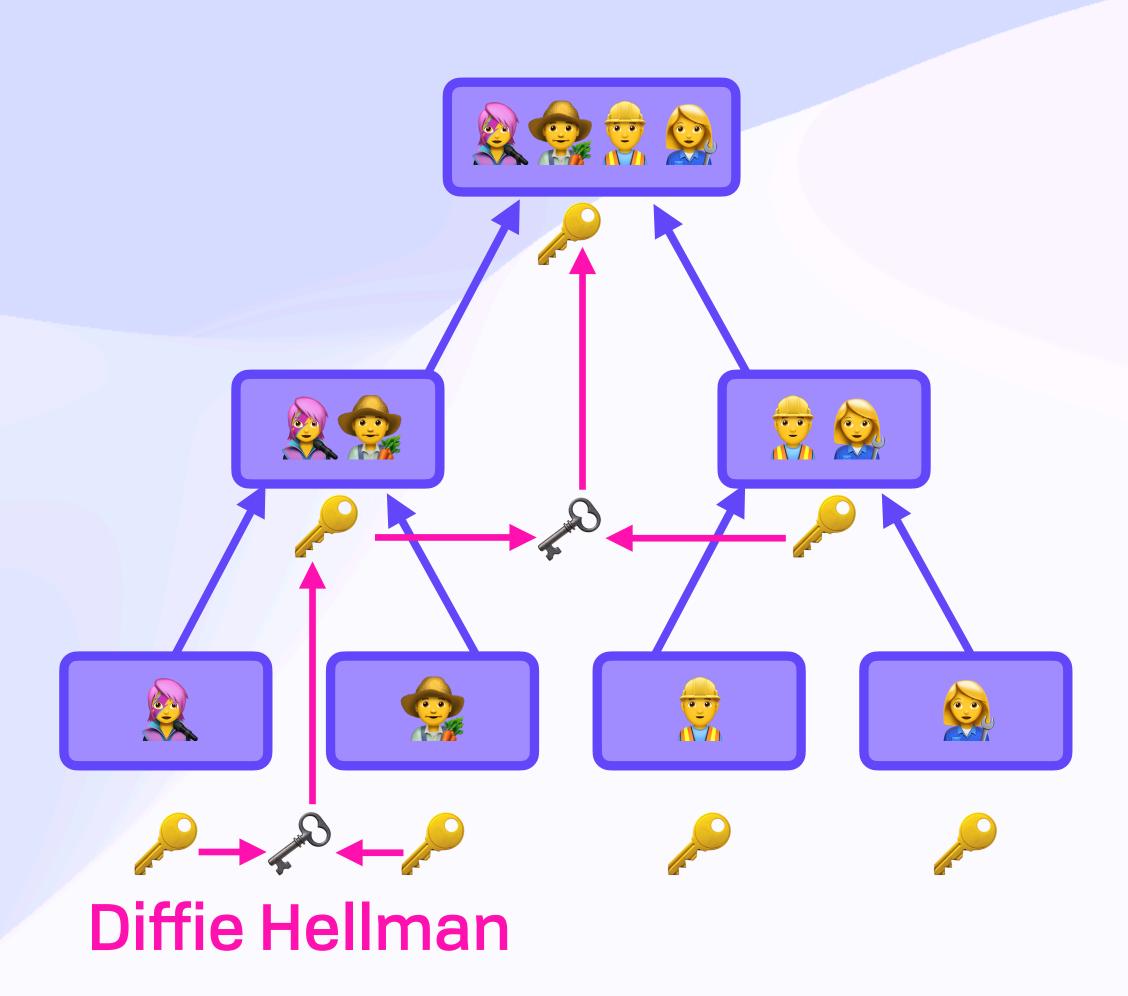


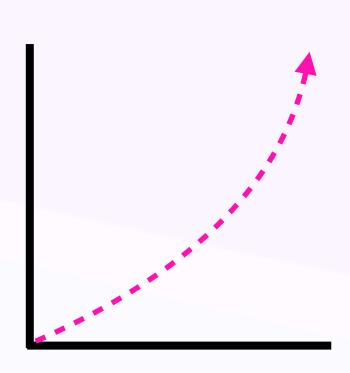


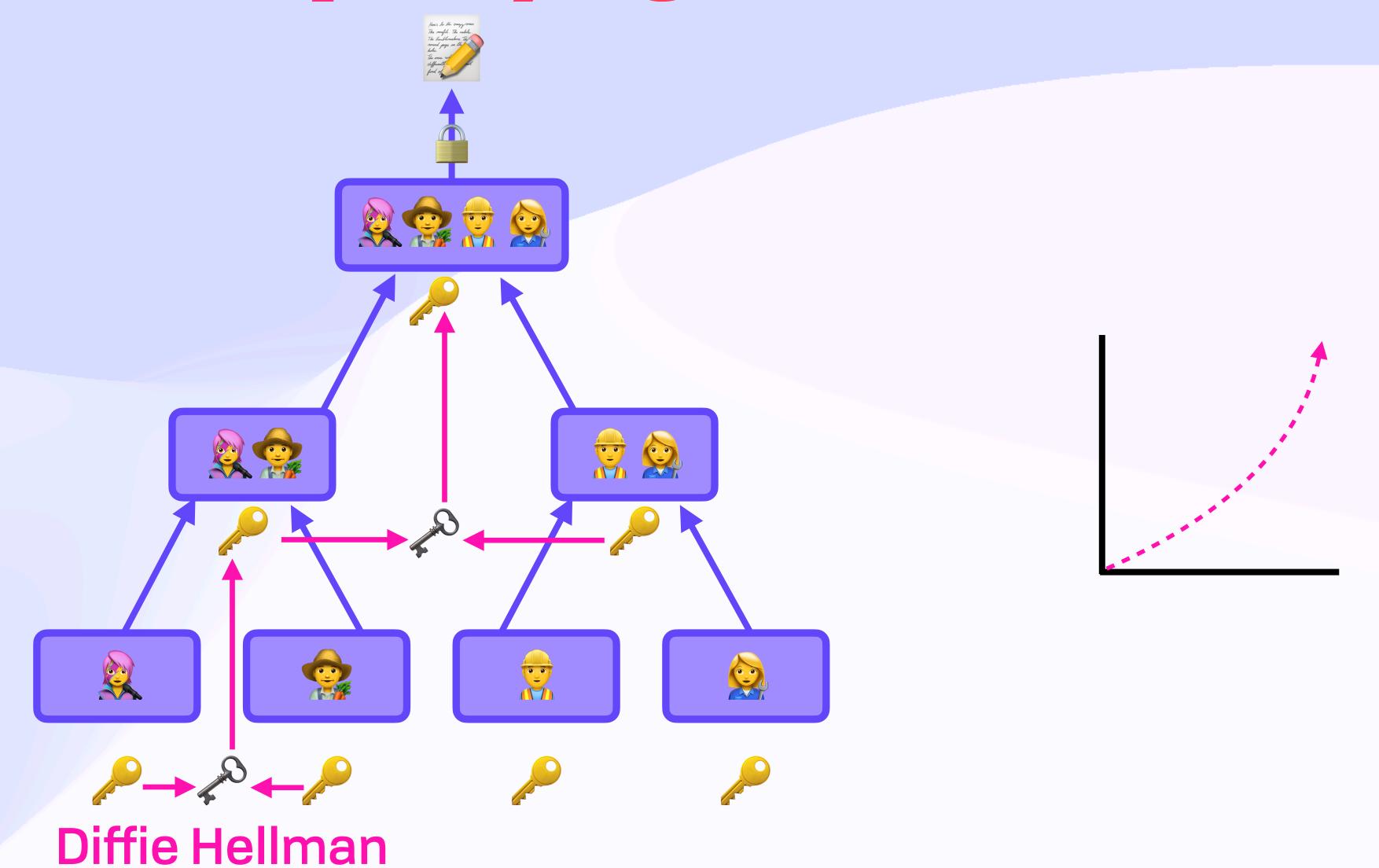


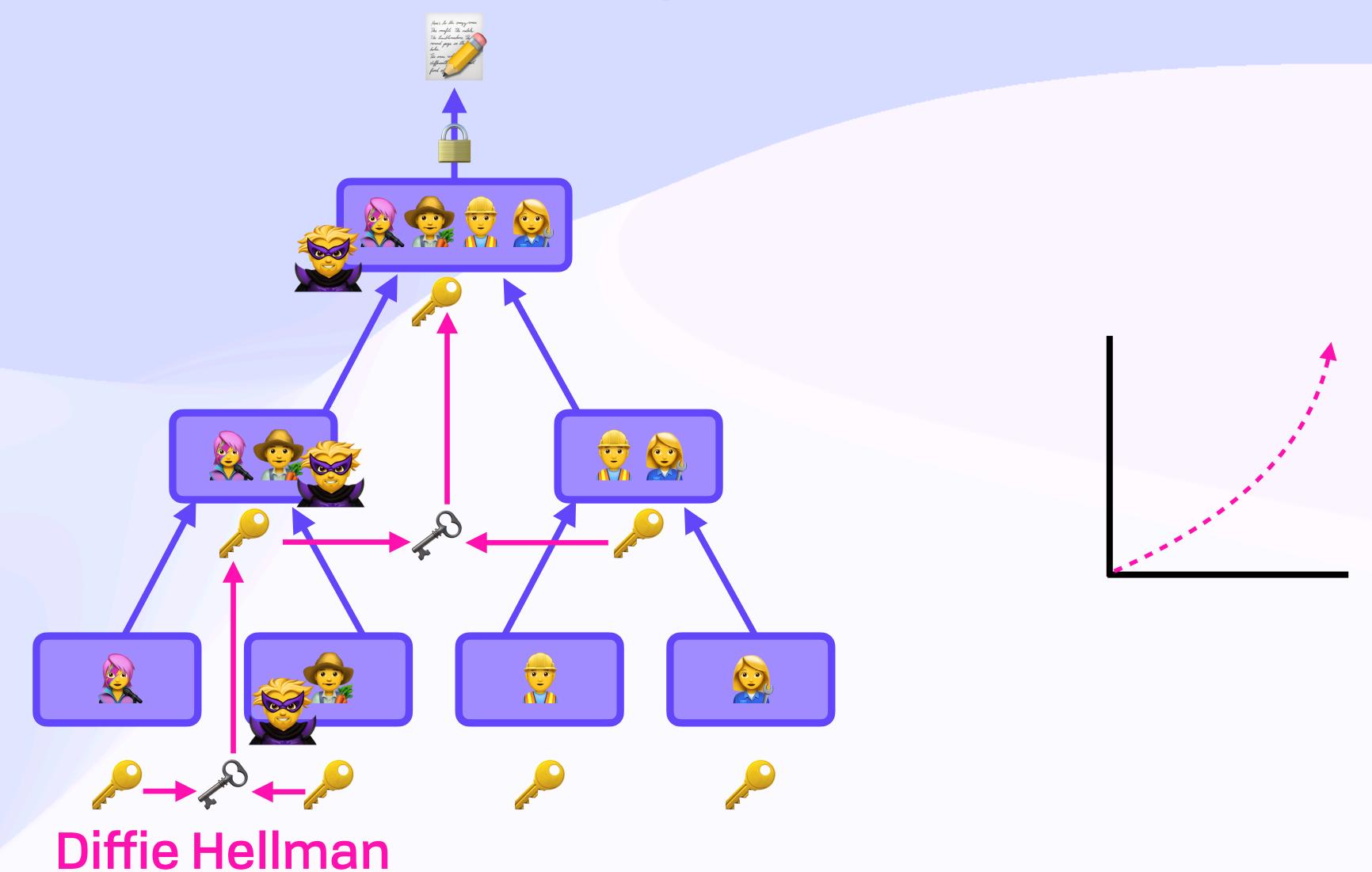


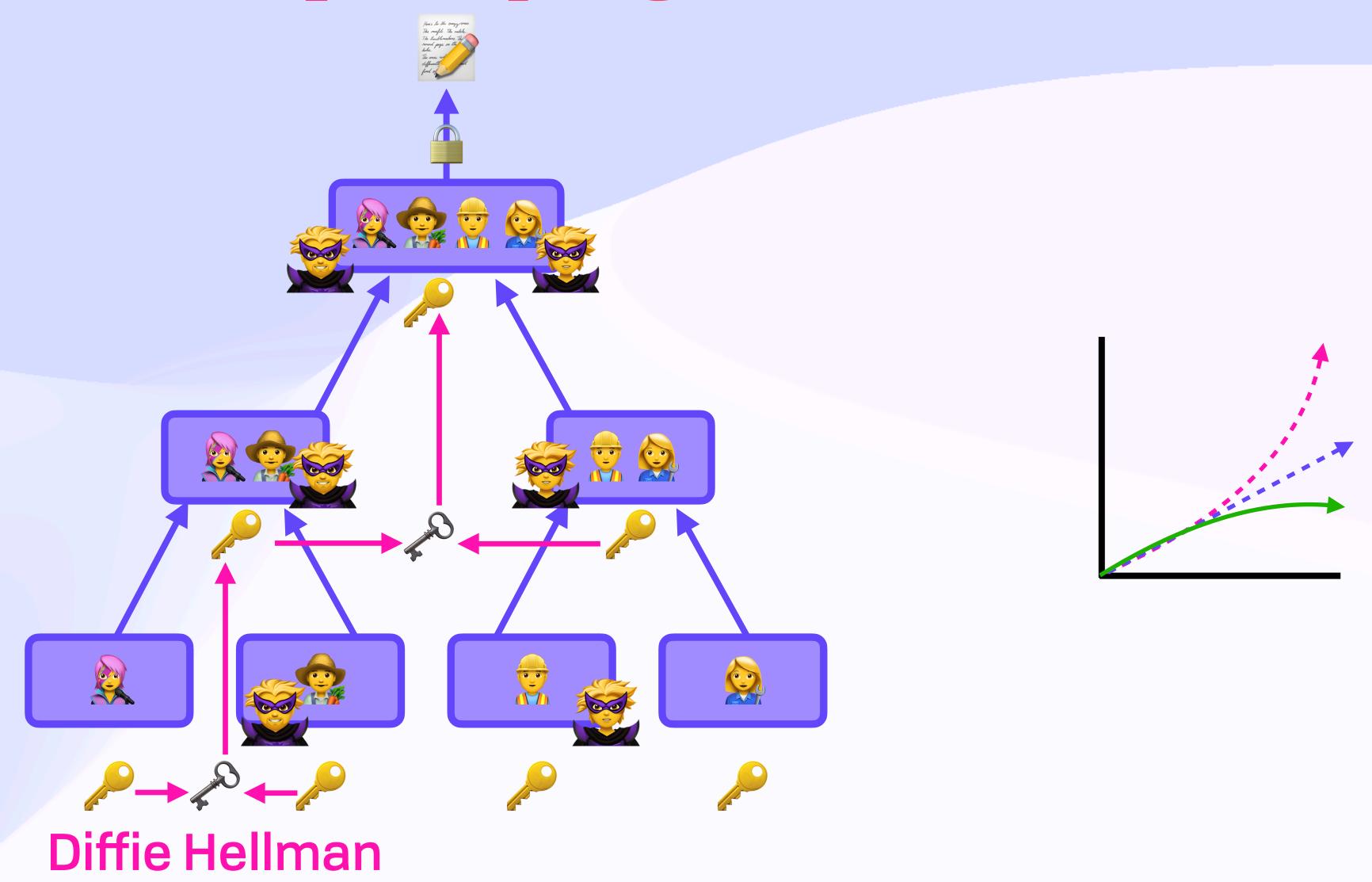












MLS: <u>Forced</u> To Use A Centralised Server









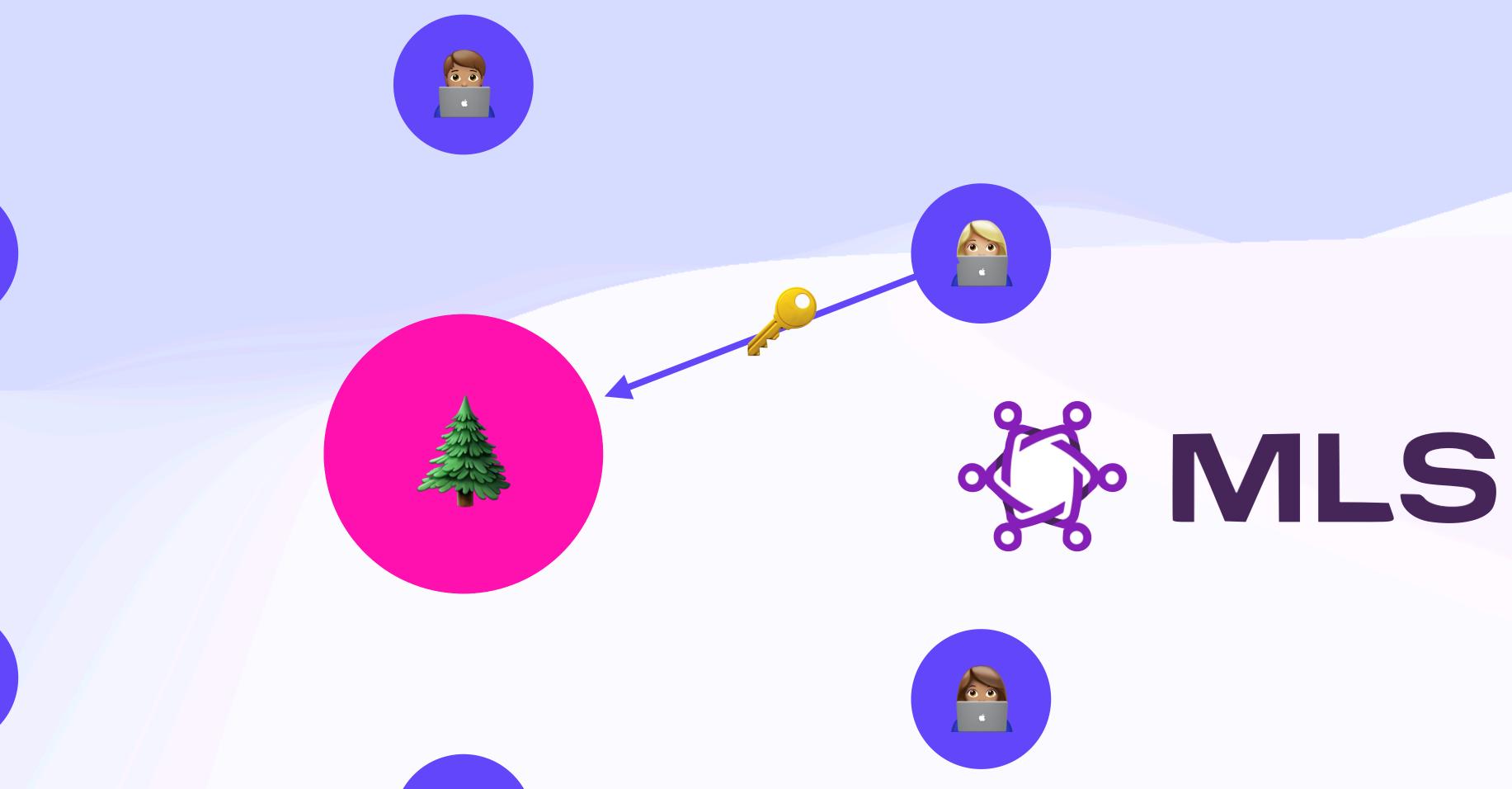








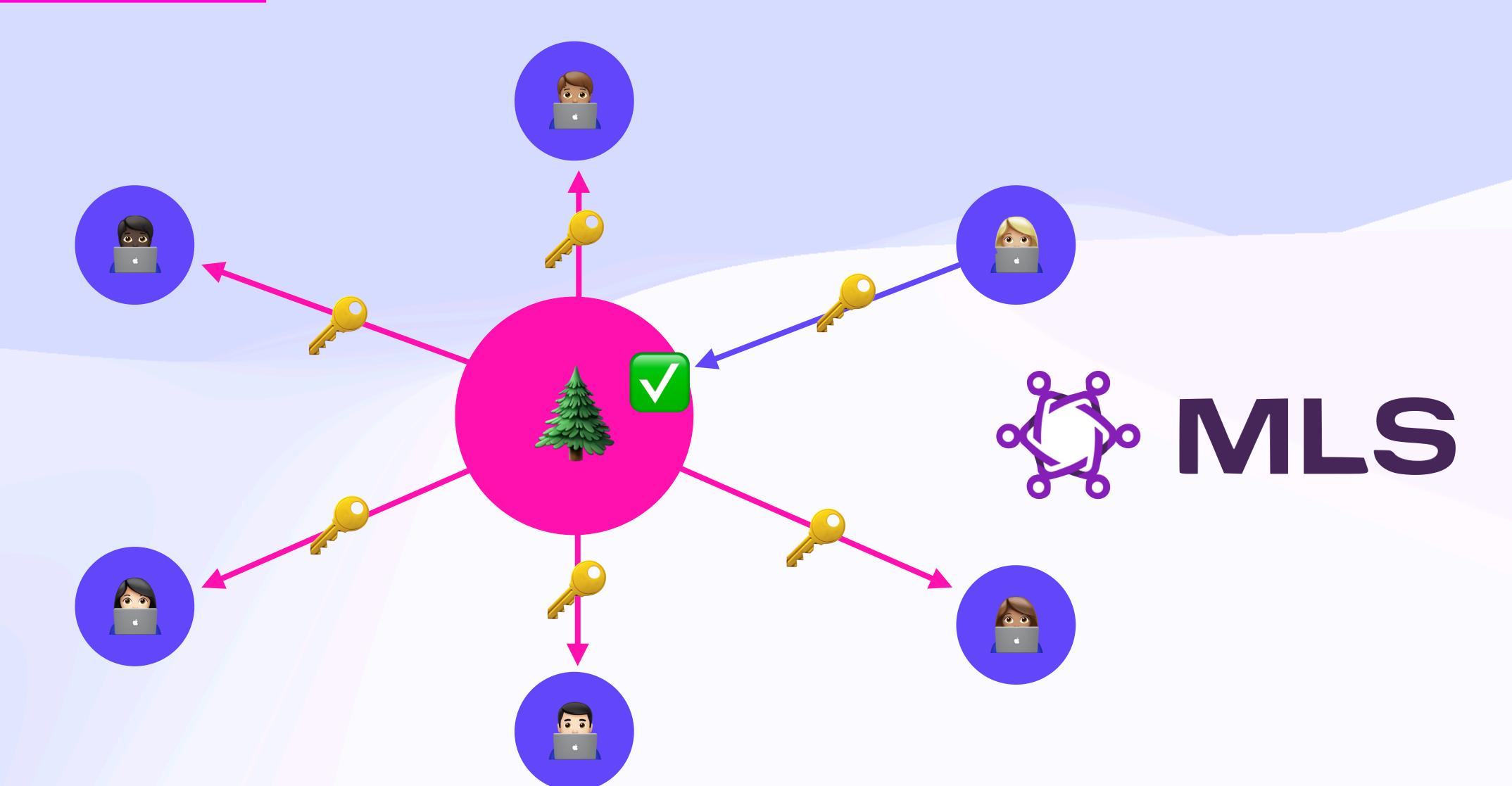
MLS: <u>Forced</u> To Use A Centralised Server



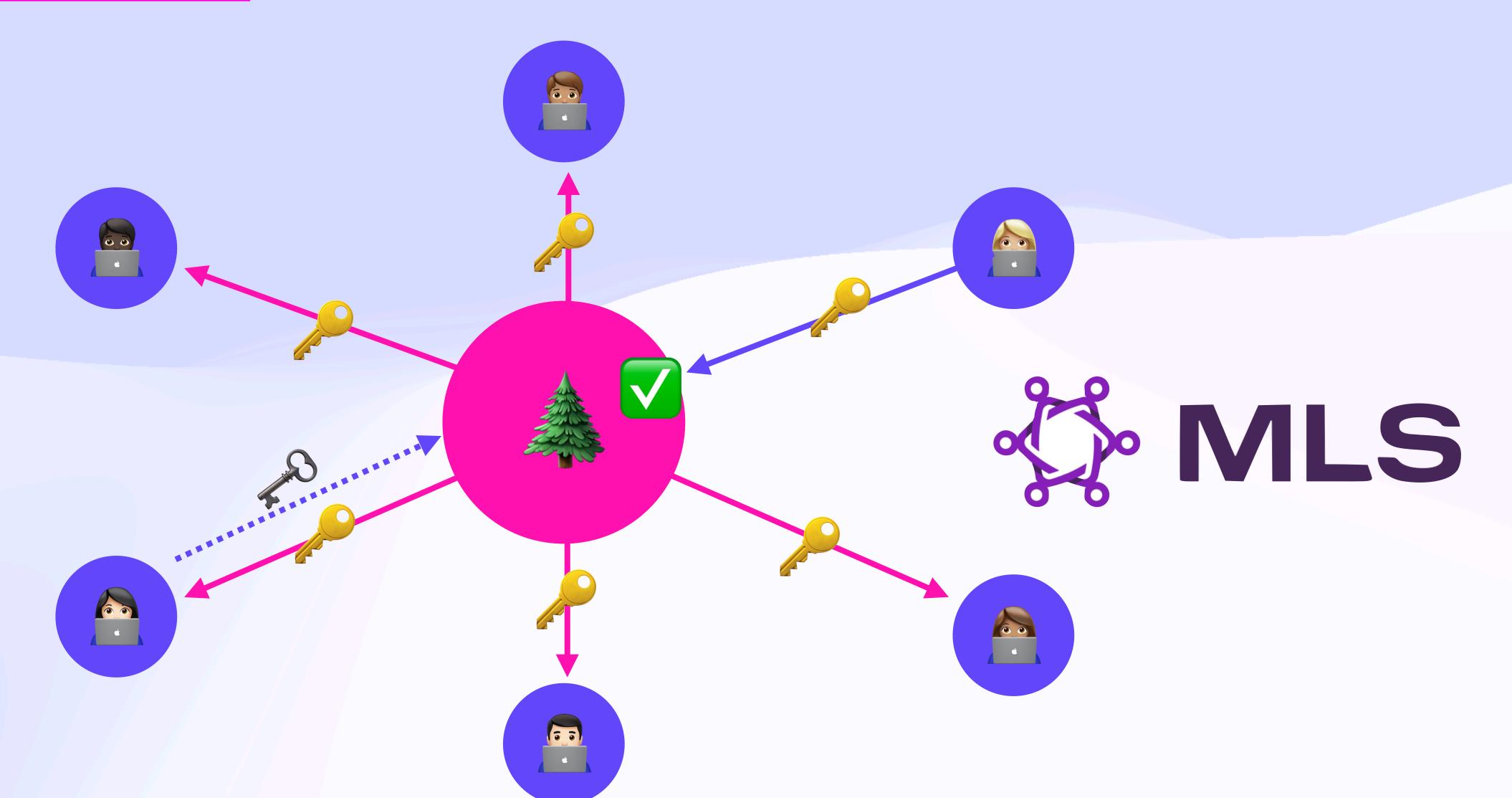




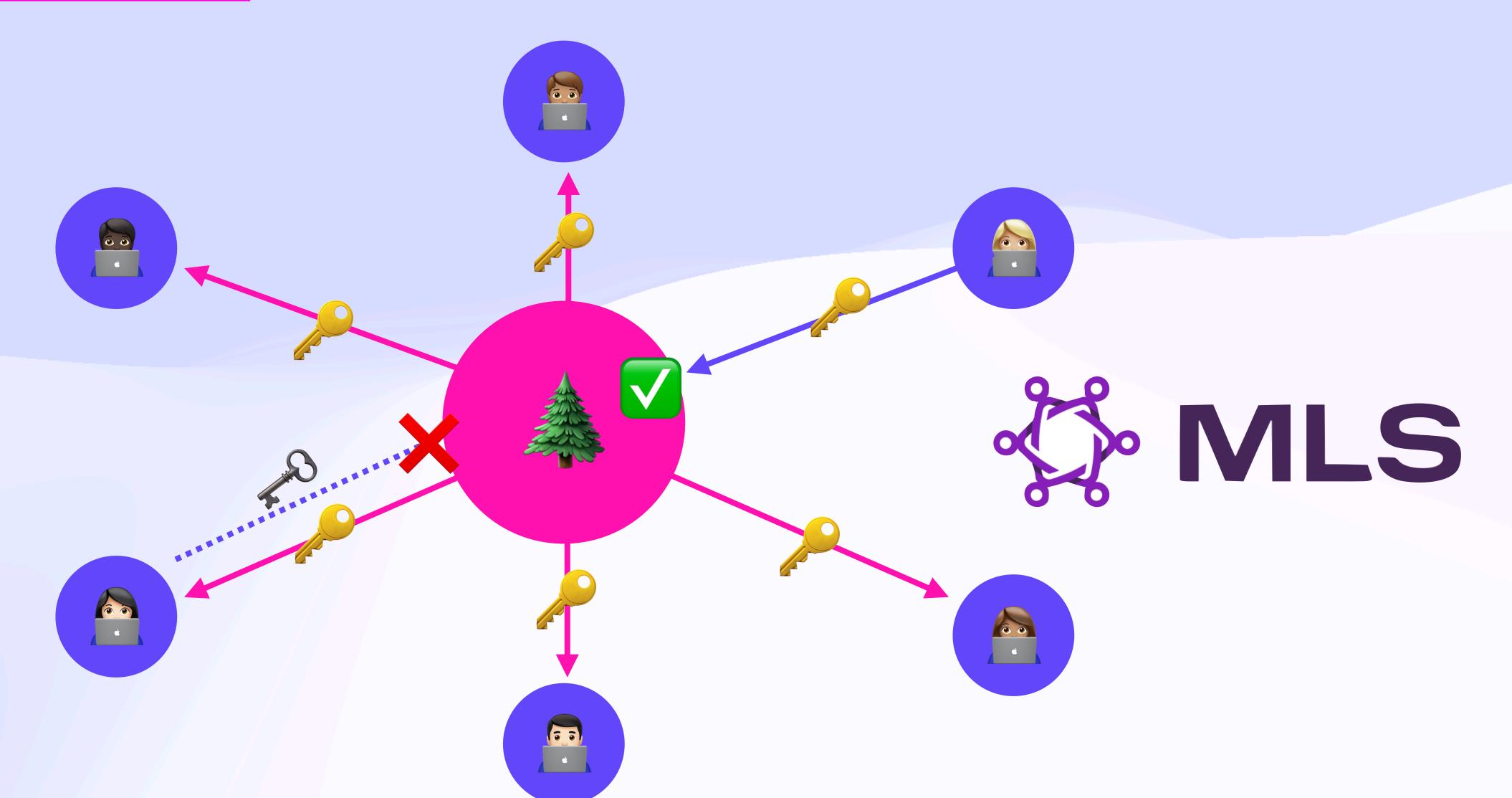
MLS: Forced To Use A Centralised Server



MLS: Forced To Use A Centralised Server

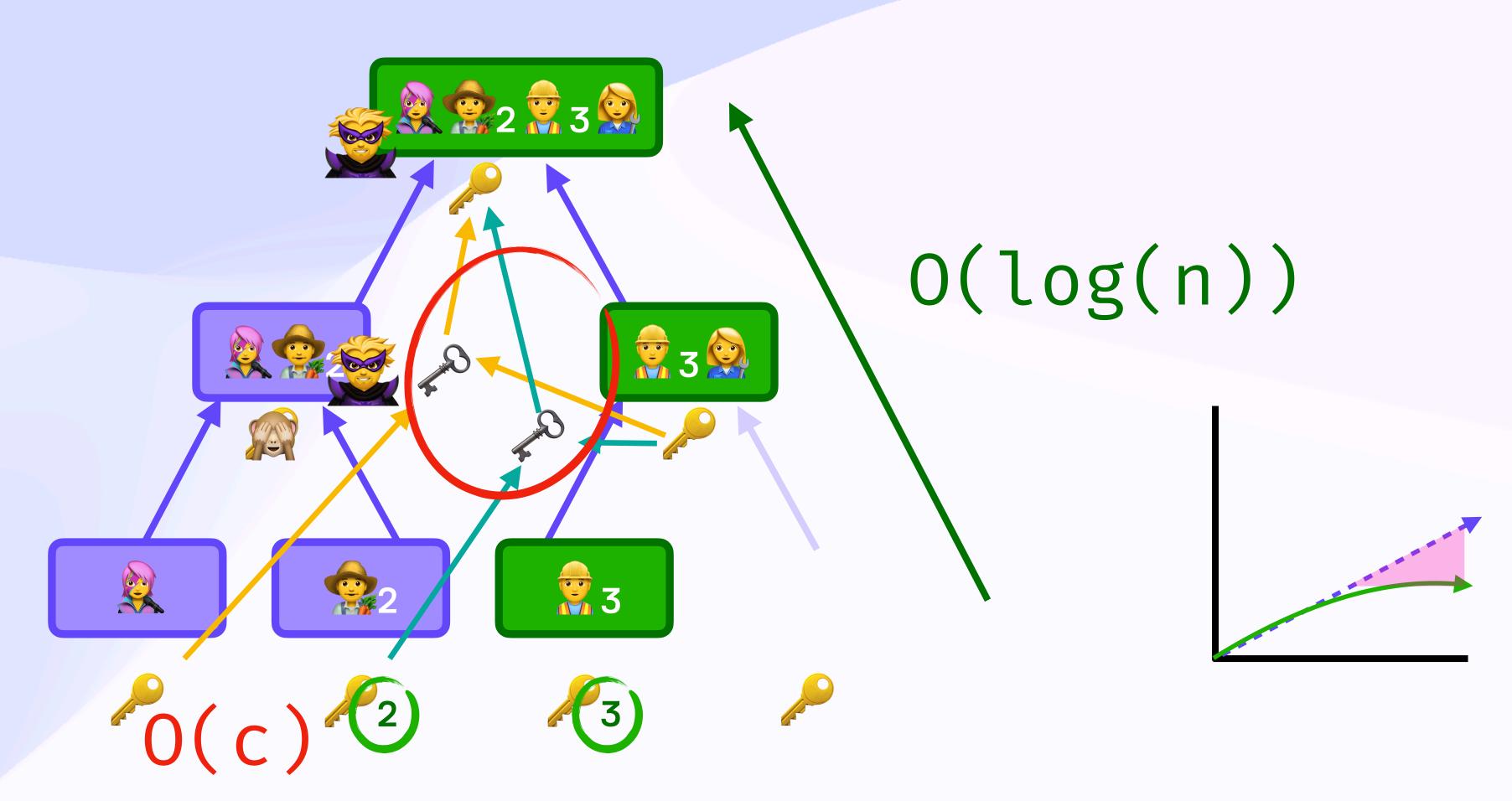


MLS: Forced To Use A Centralised Server





Scales in approximately 0(c+log(n))

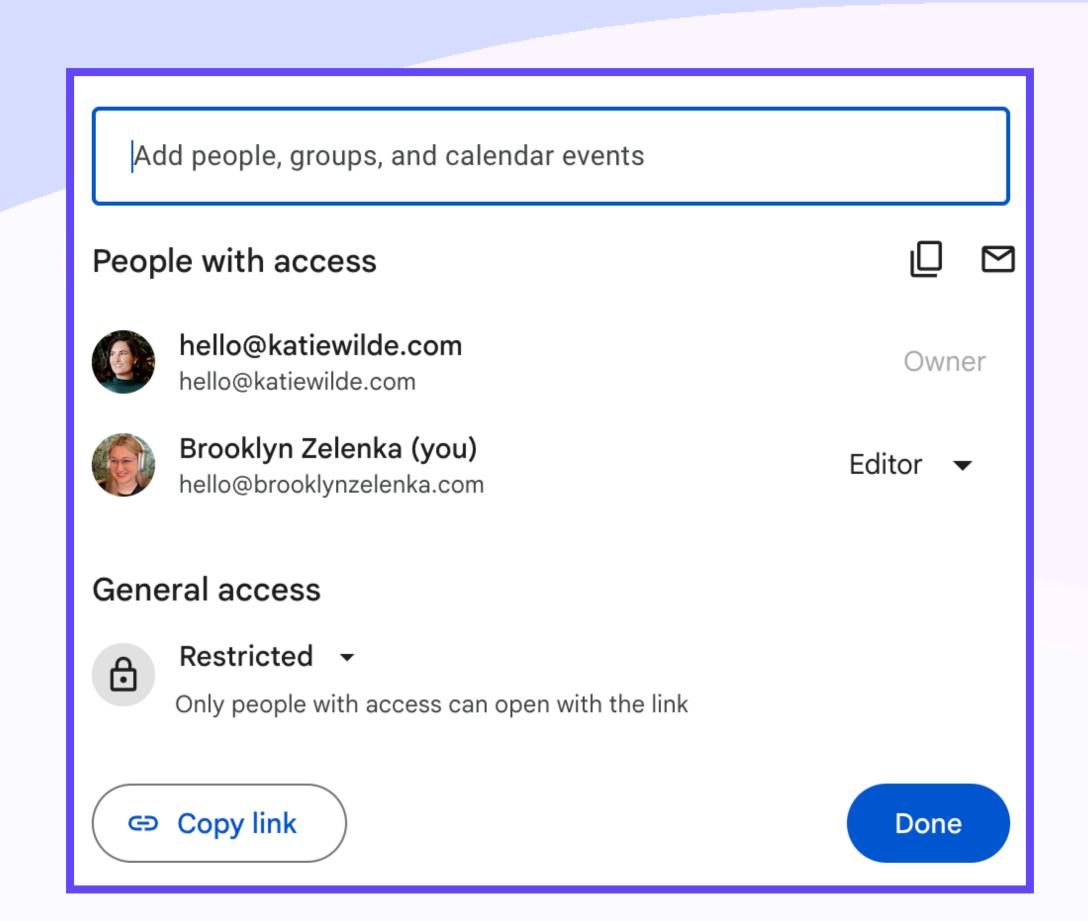


Ideap Up

Wrap Up Wrap Up

Wrap Up Wrap Up

- Mutation Control
 - Convergent capabilities
 - Concurrent revocation
- Read Control
 - Causal encryption
 - Continuous group key agreement (CGKA)





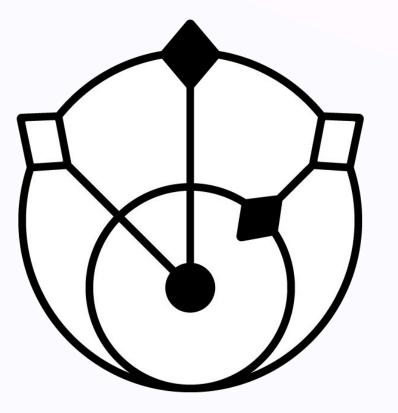


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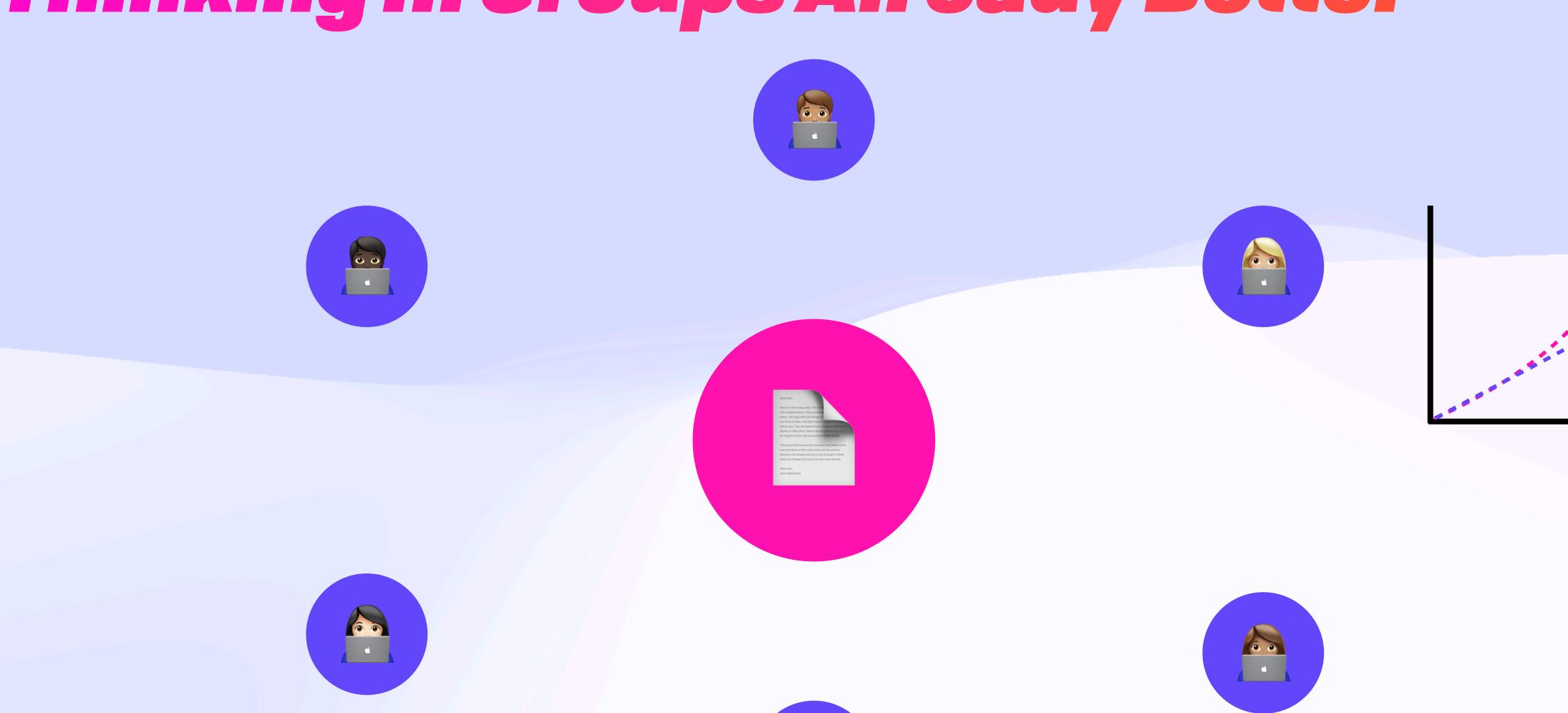




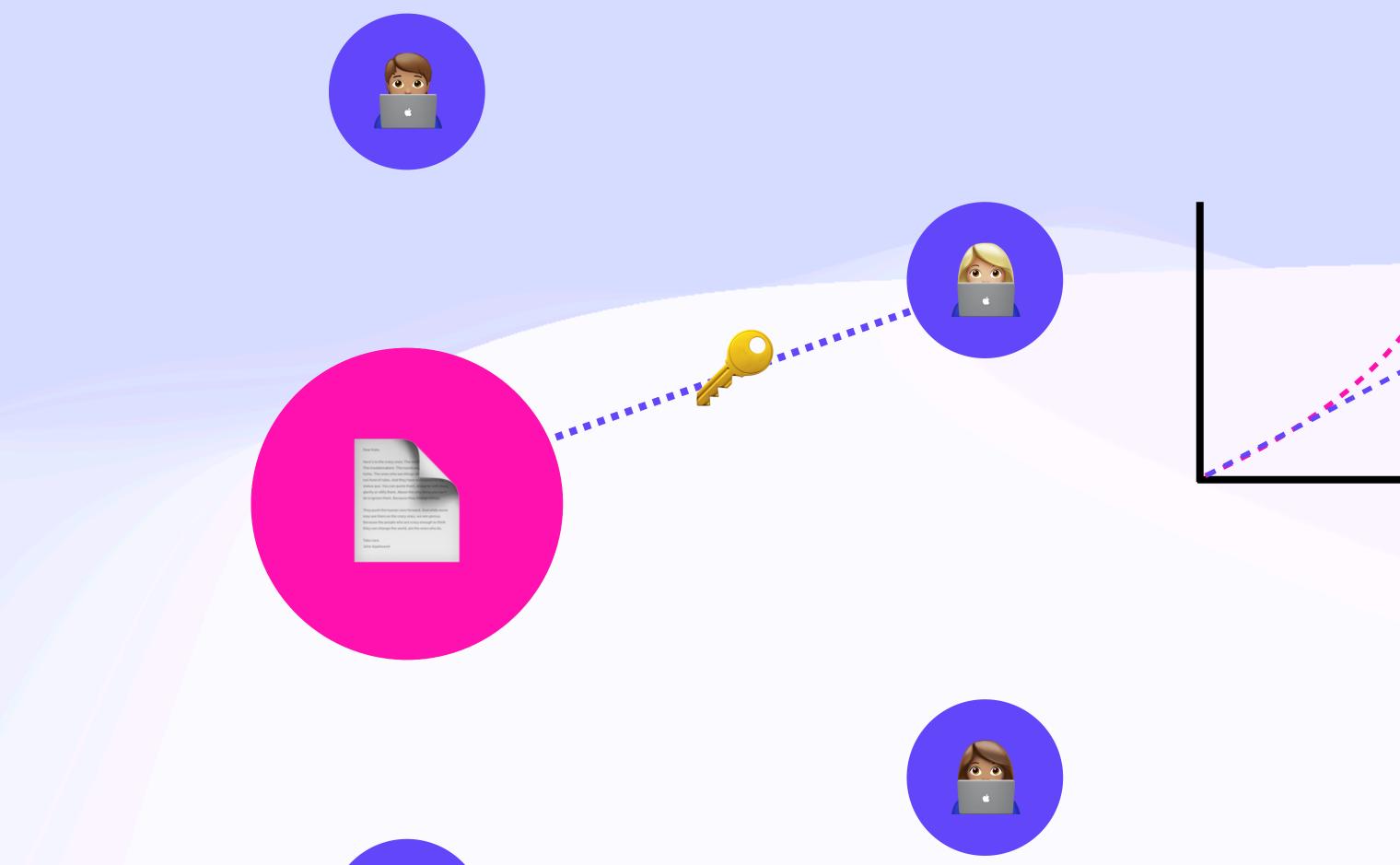
Self-Healing Concurrent Encryption for **Groups**





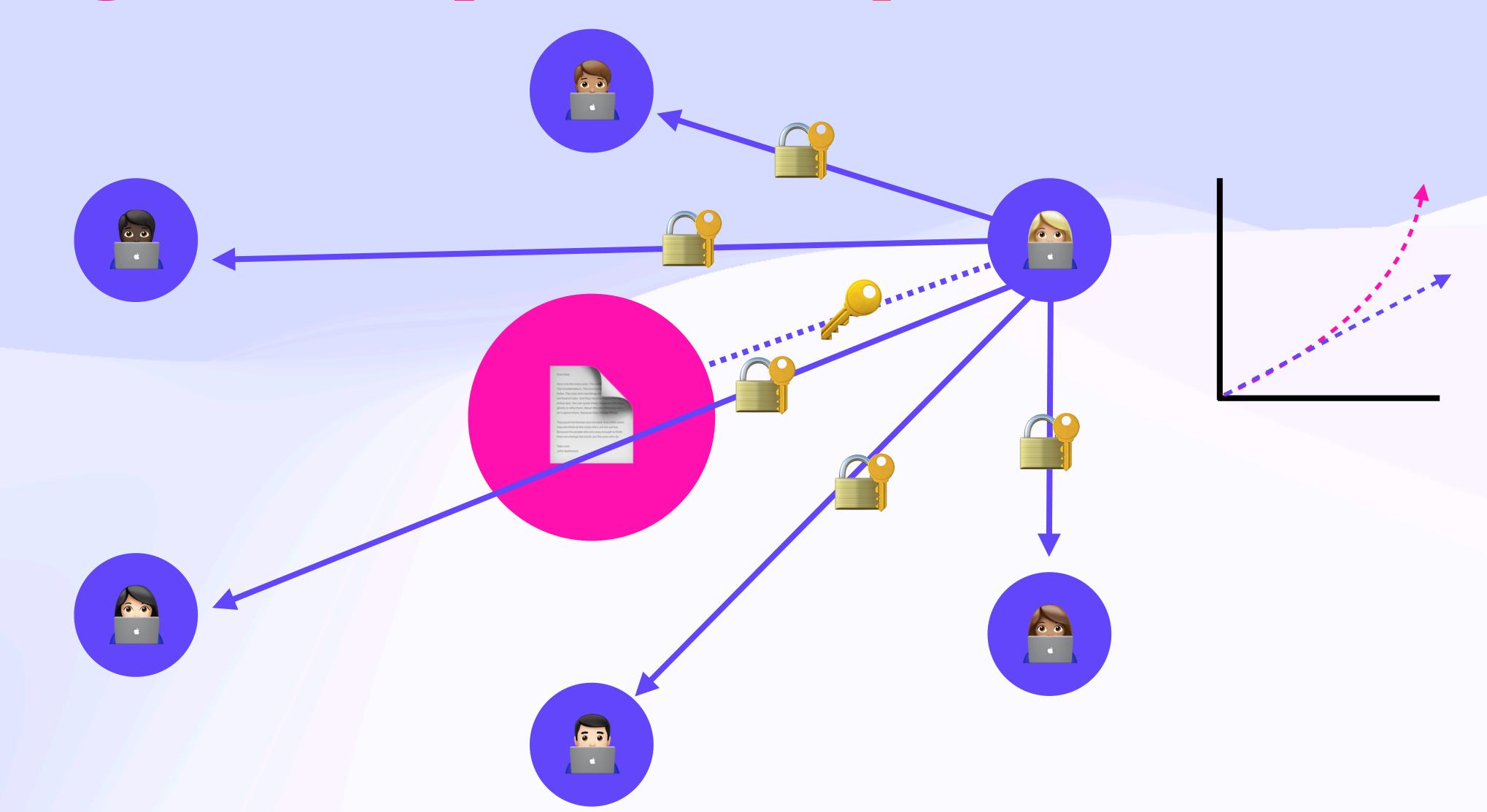


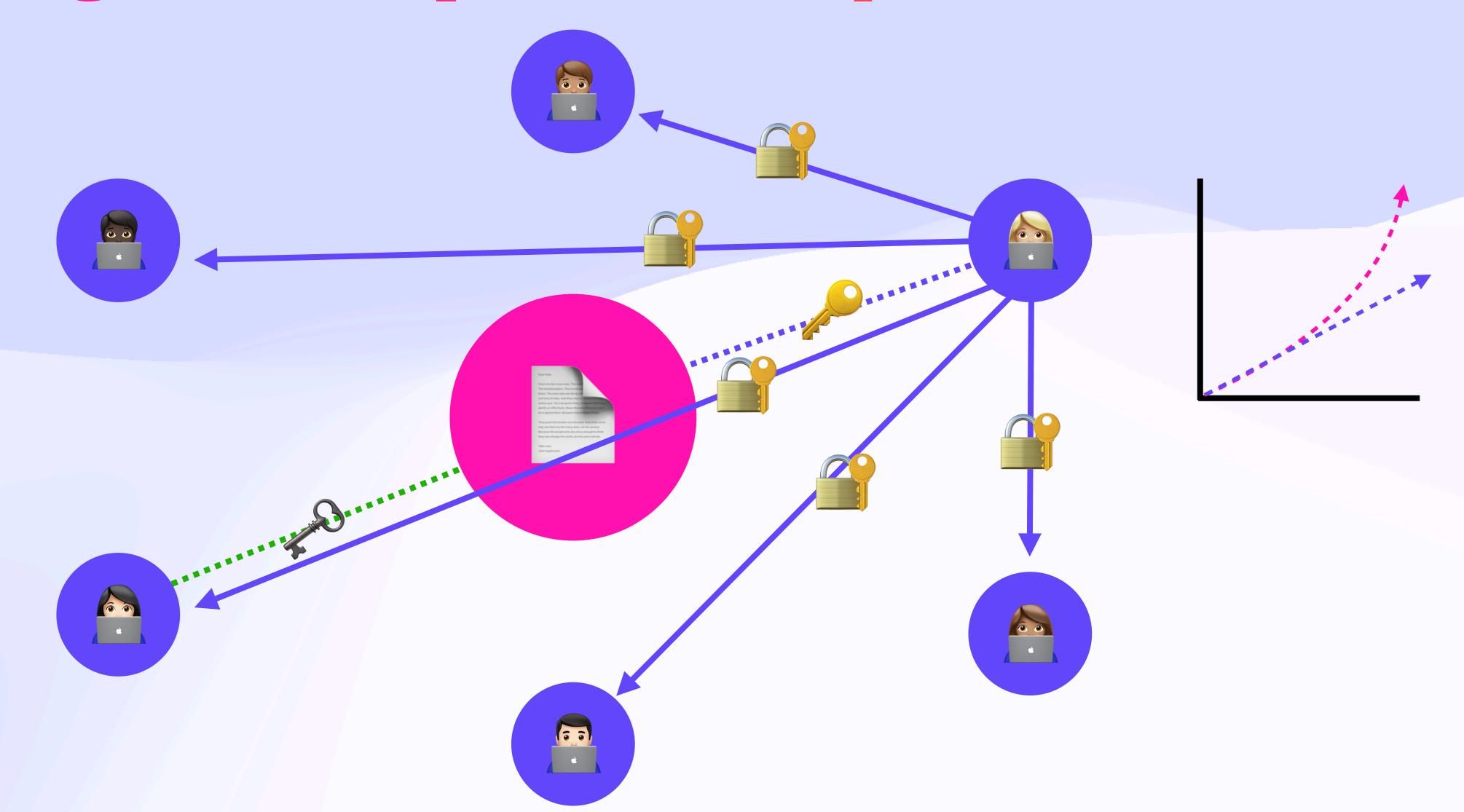


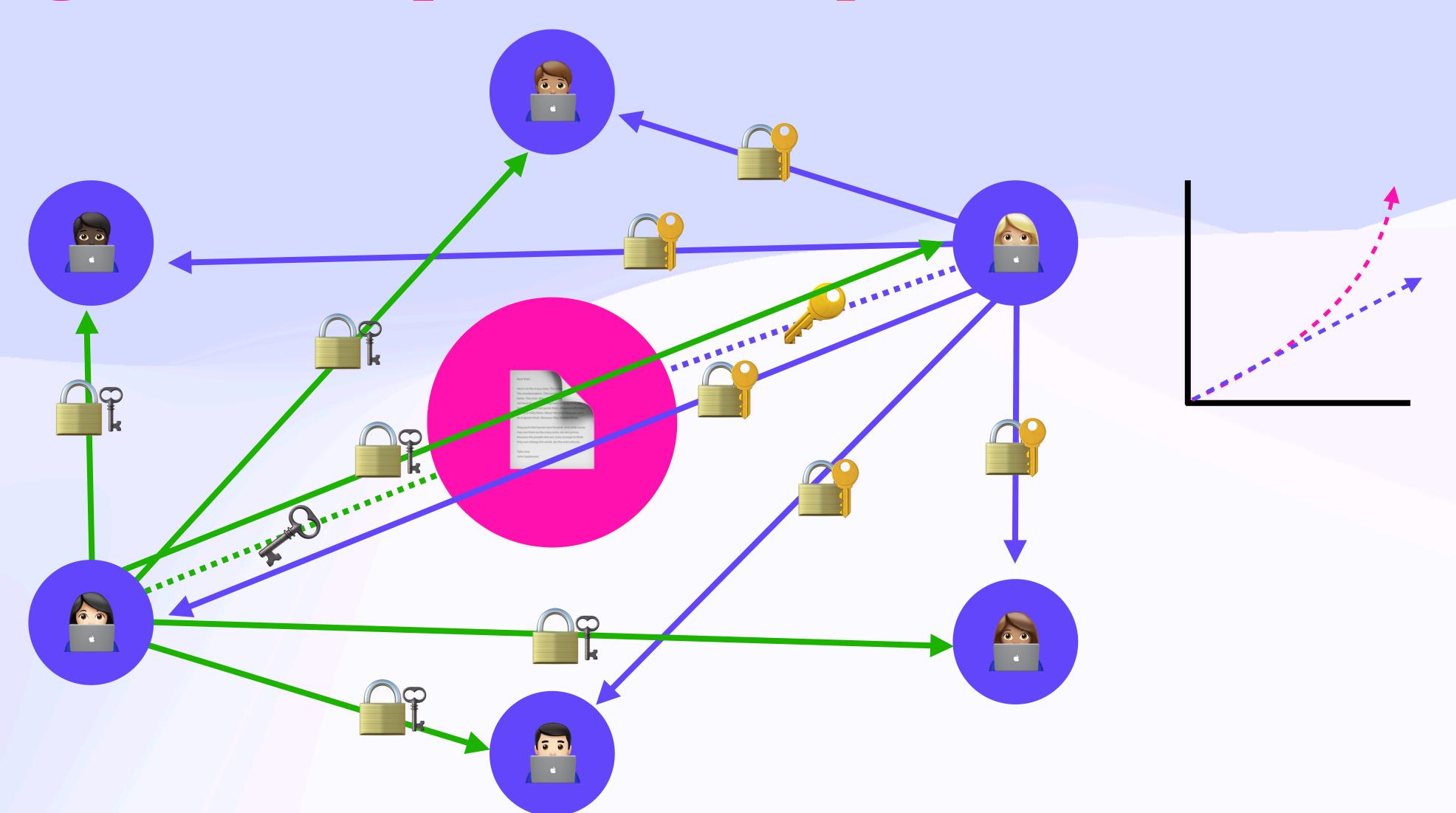




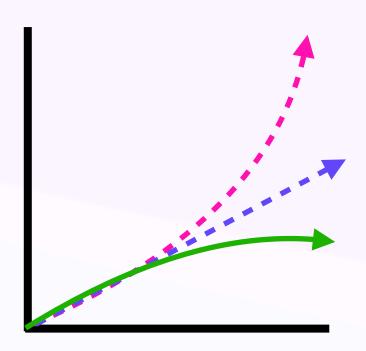






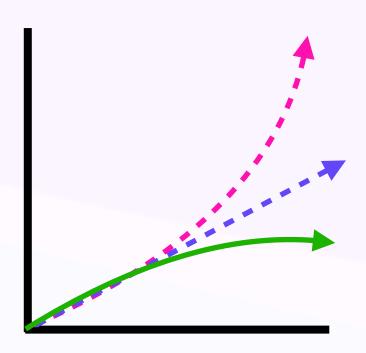


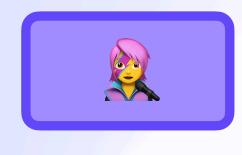




TreeKEM



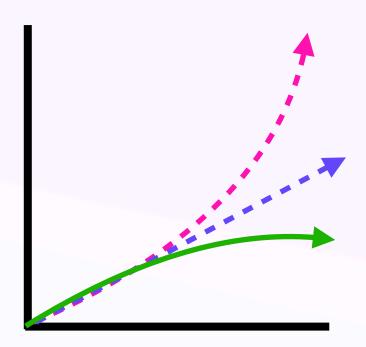


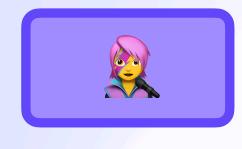




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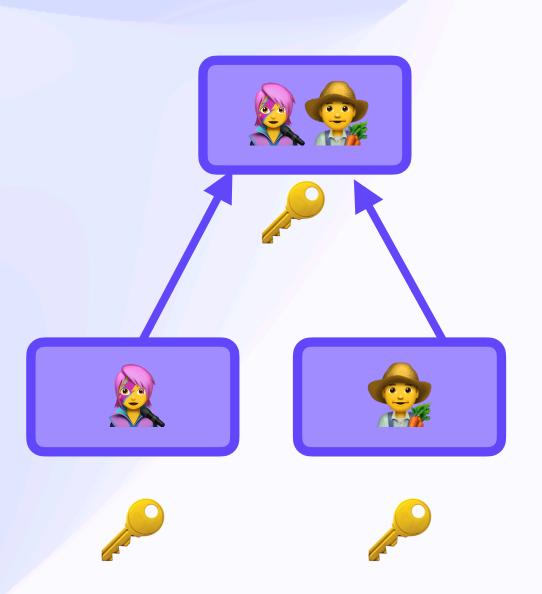


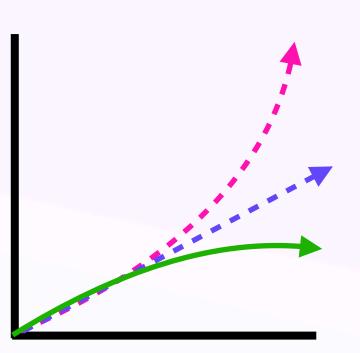




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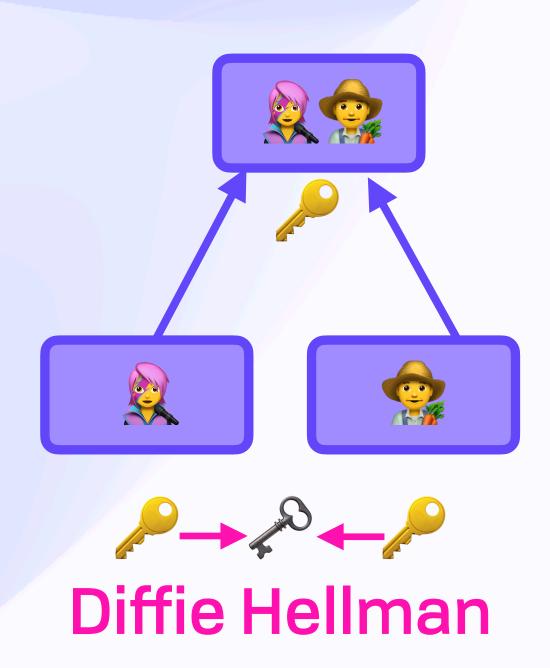


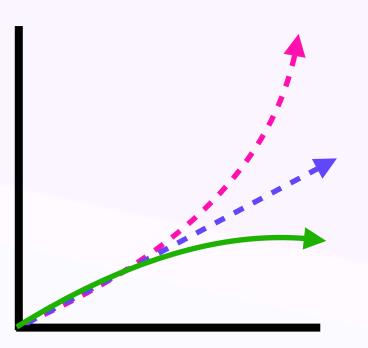




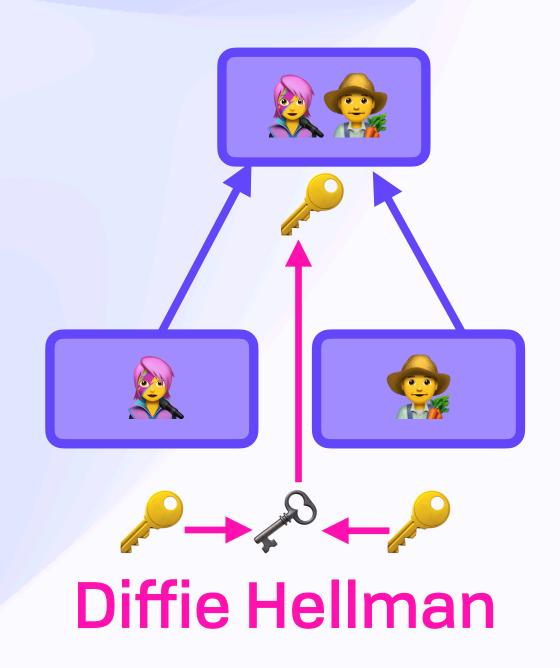
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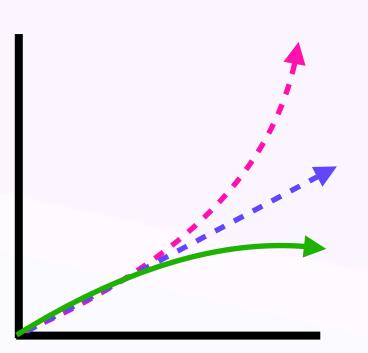




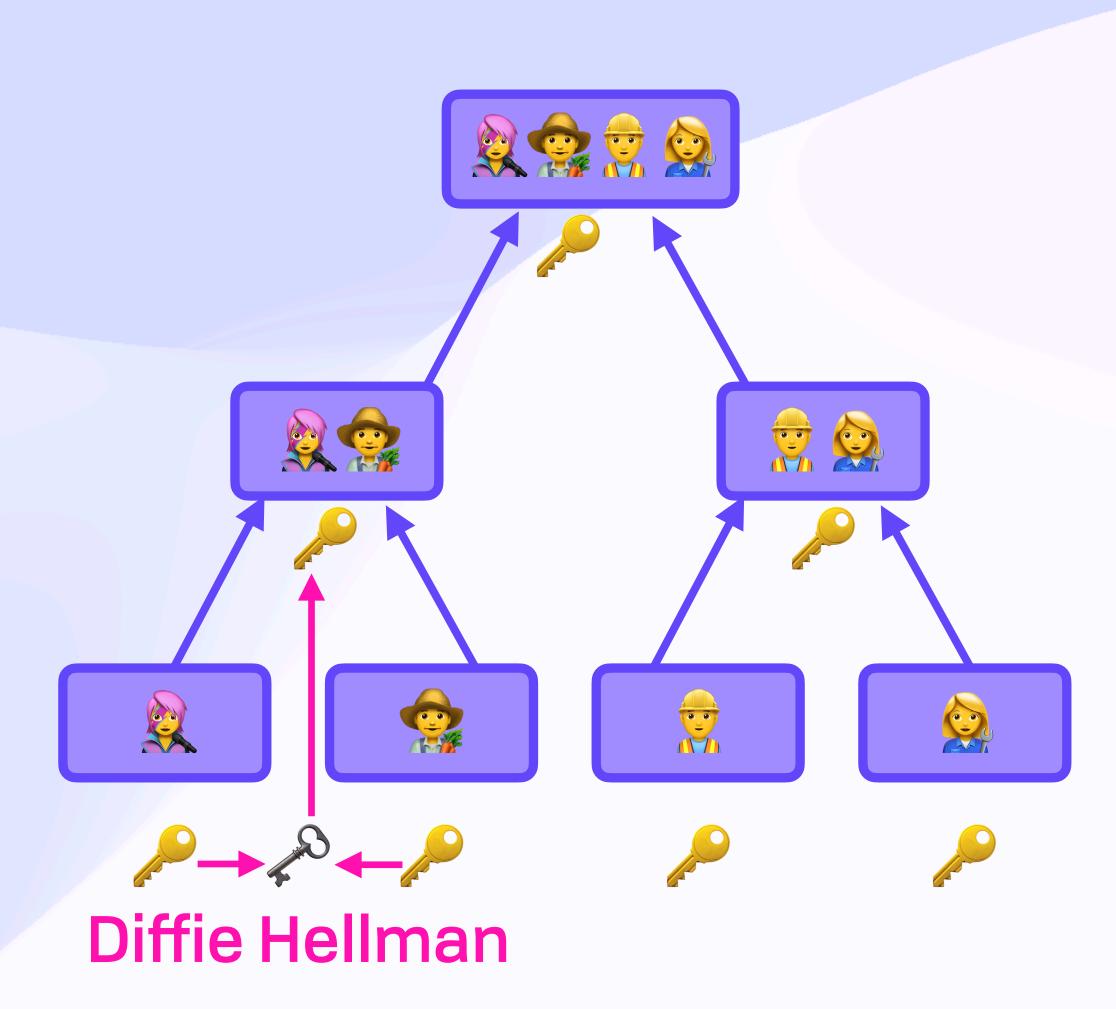


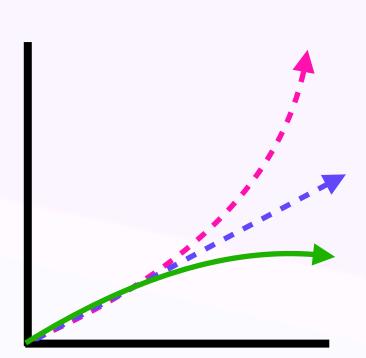




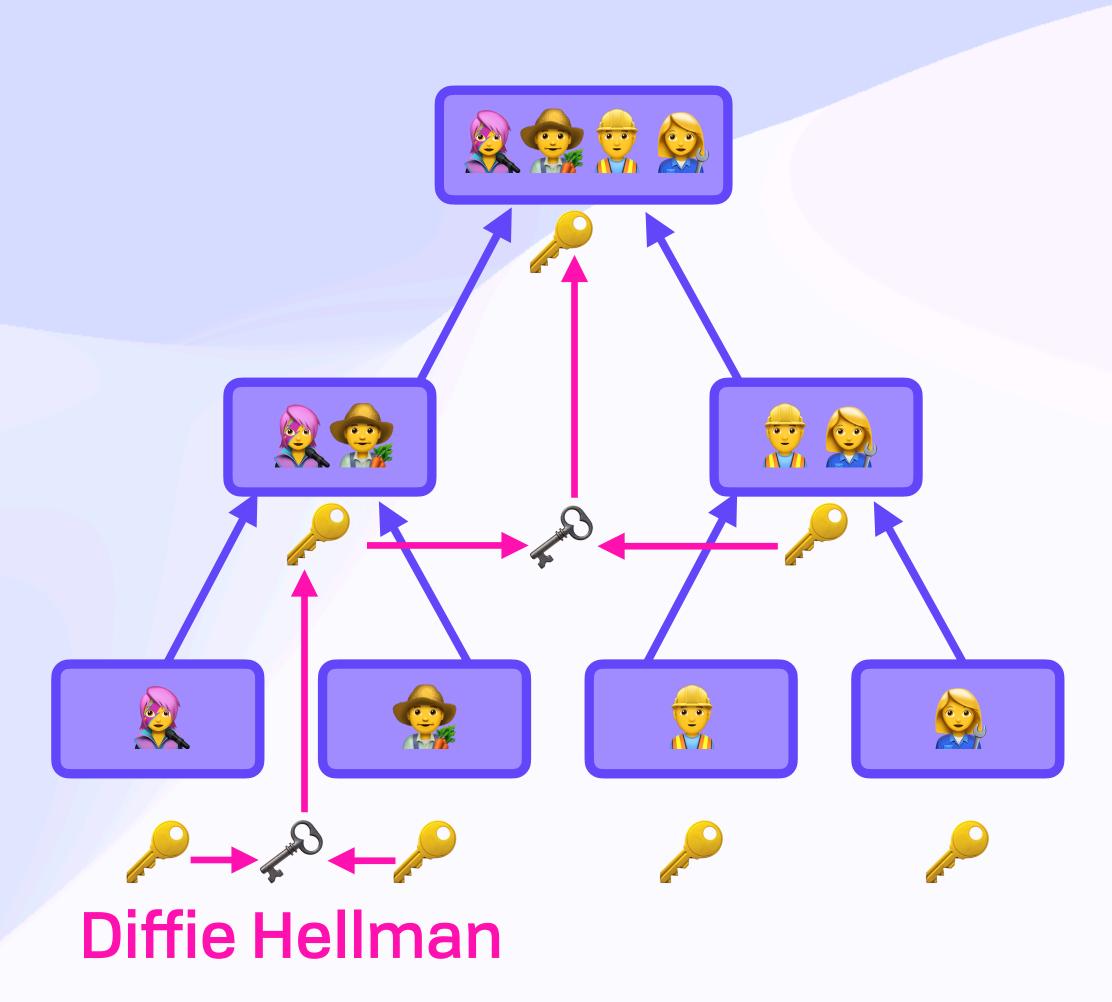


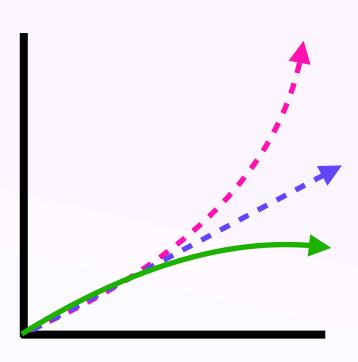




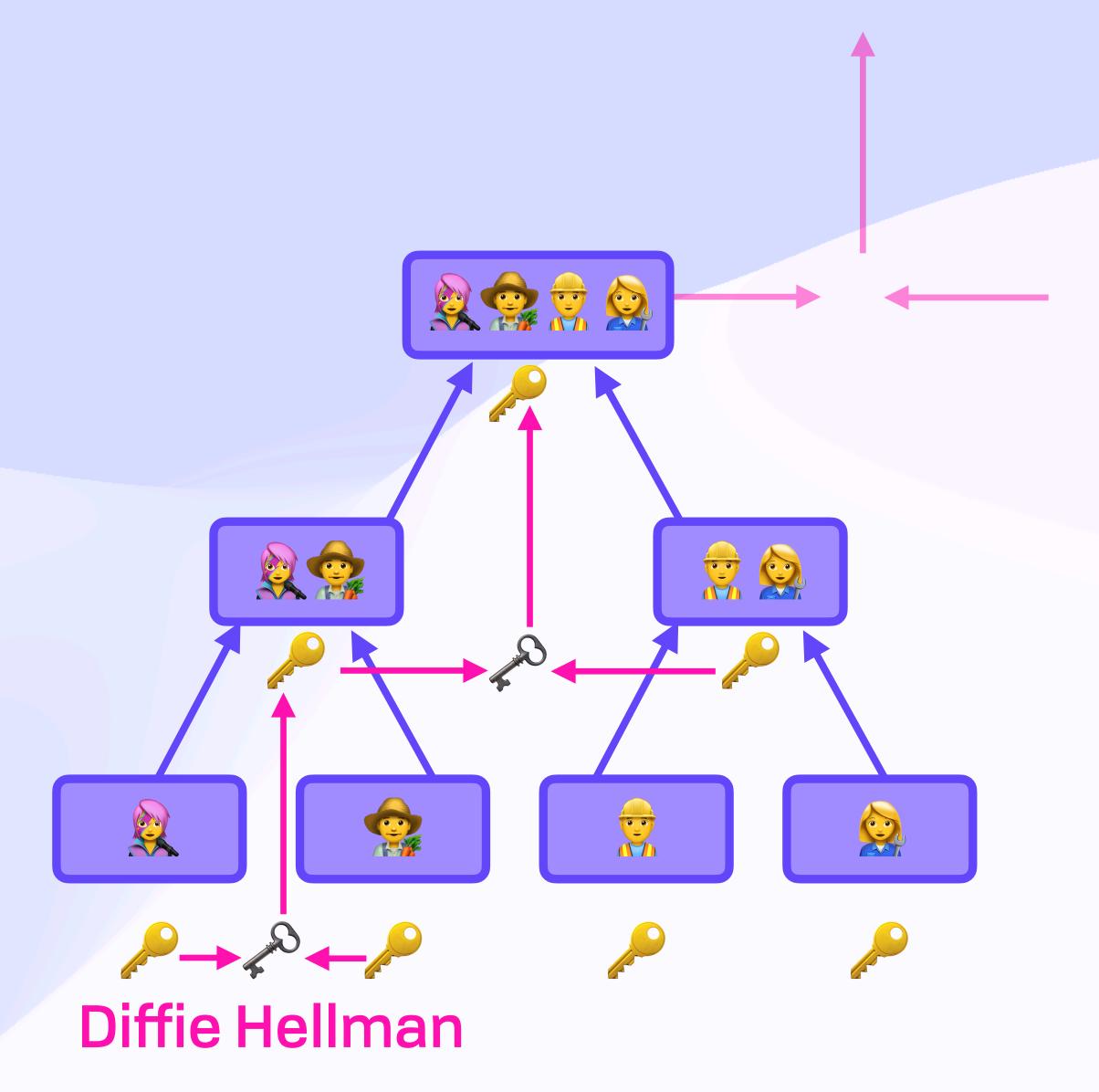


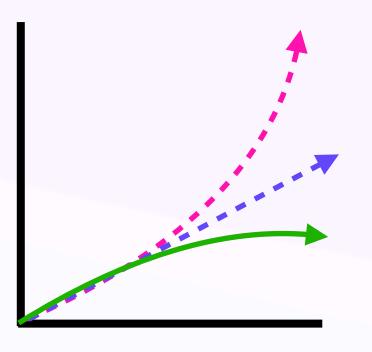




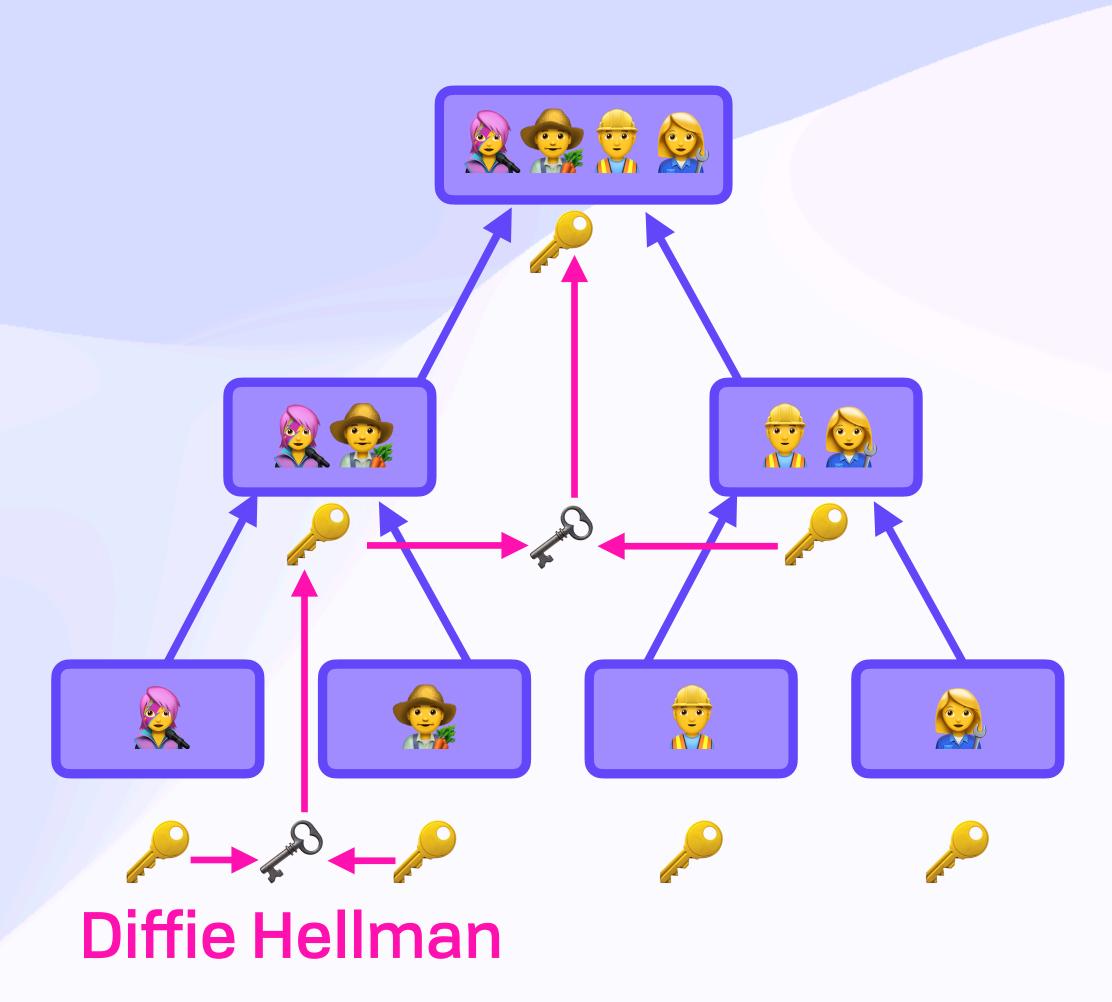


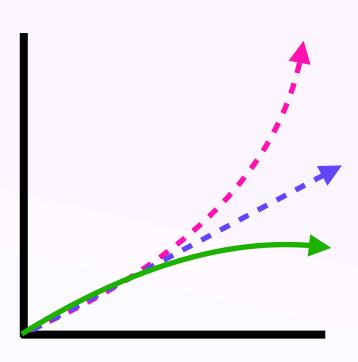






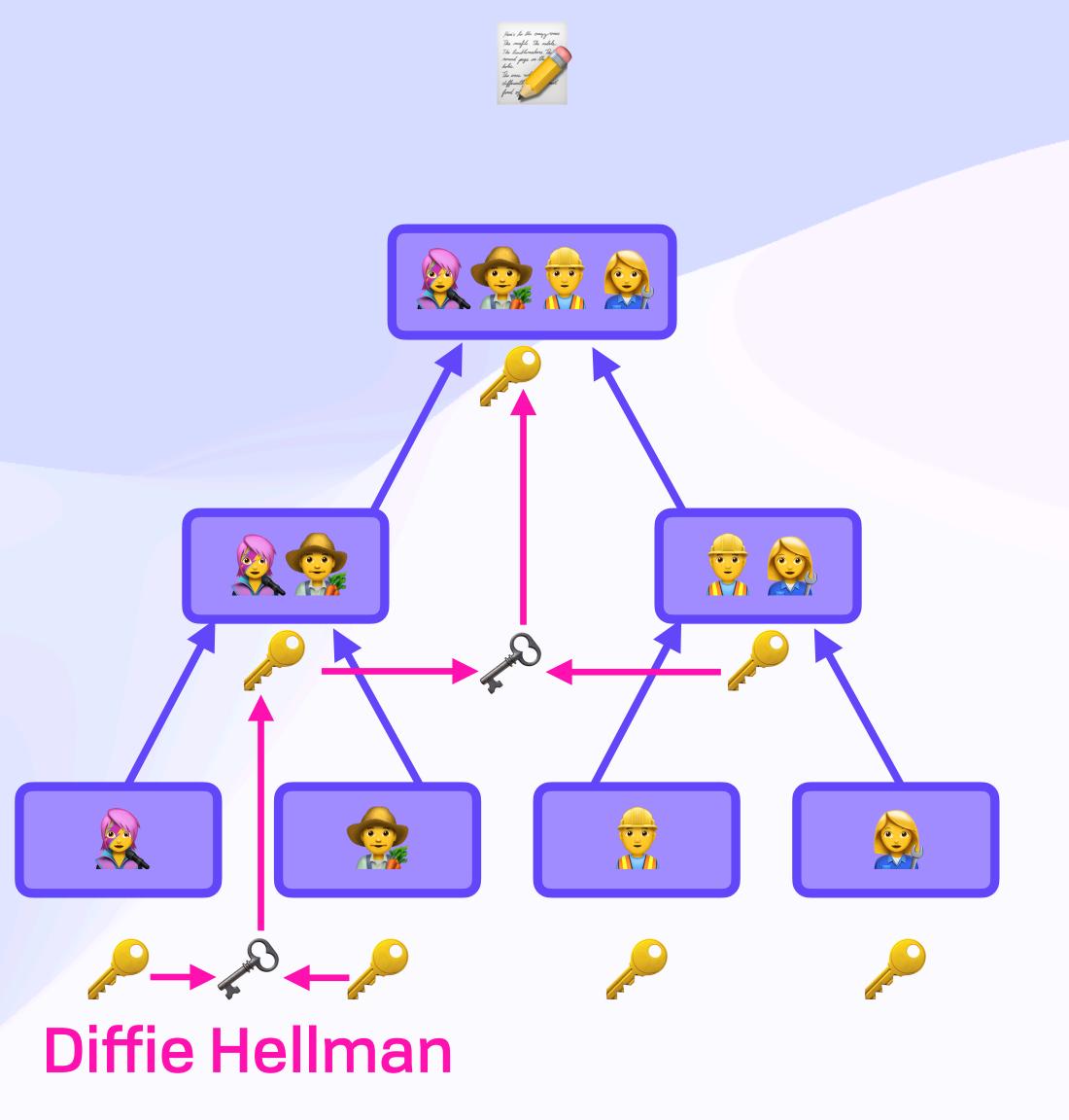


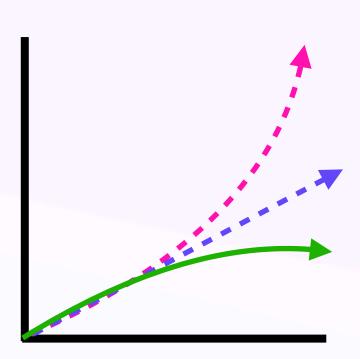




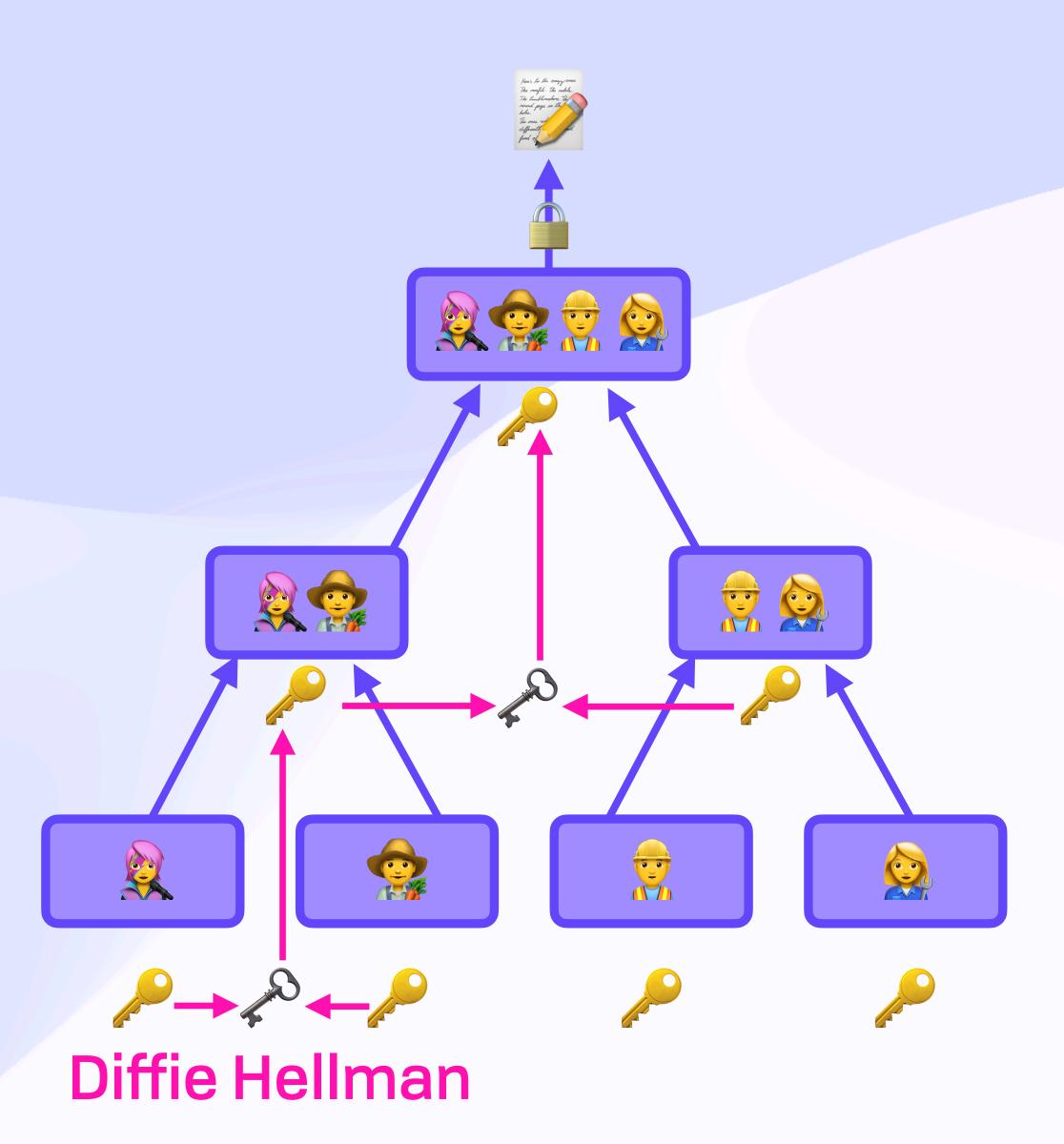
TreeKEM

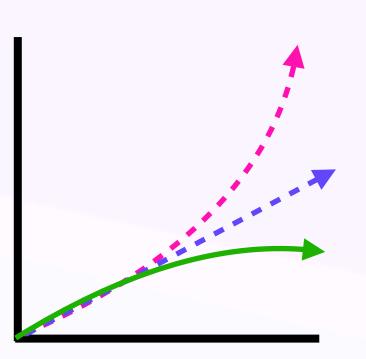
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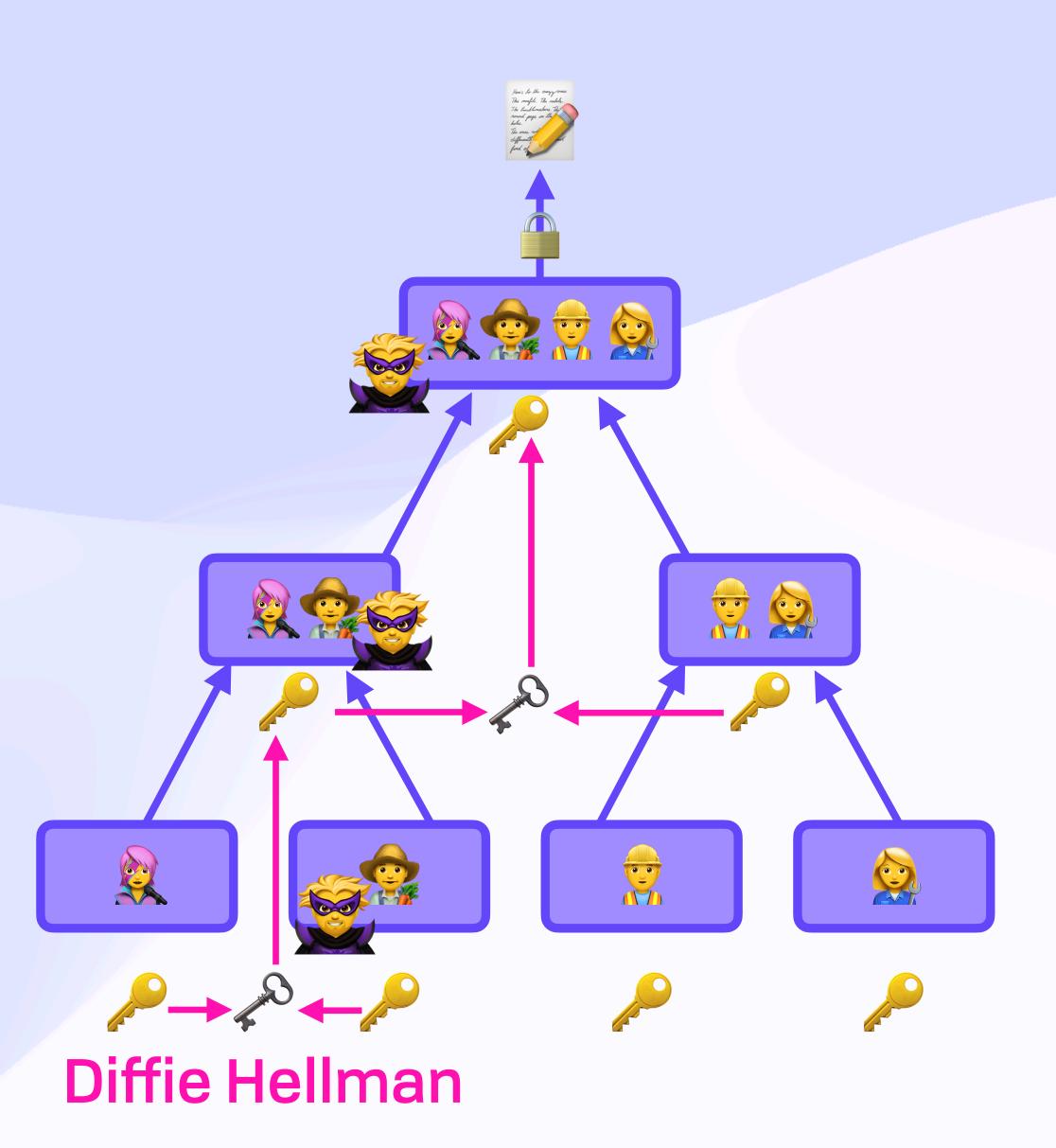


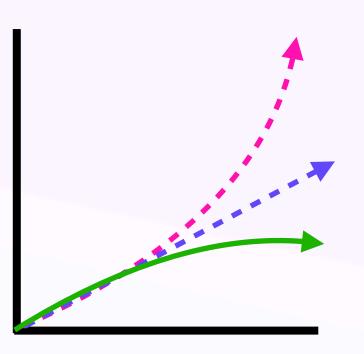




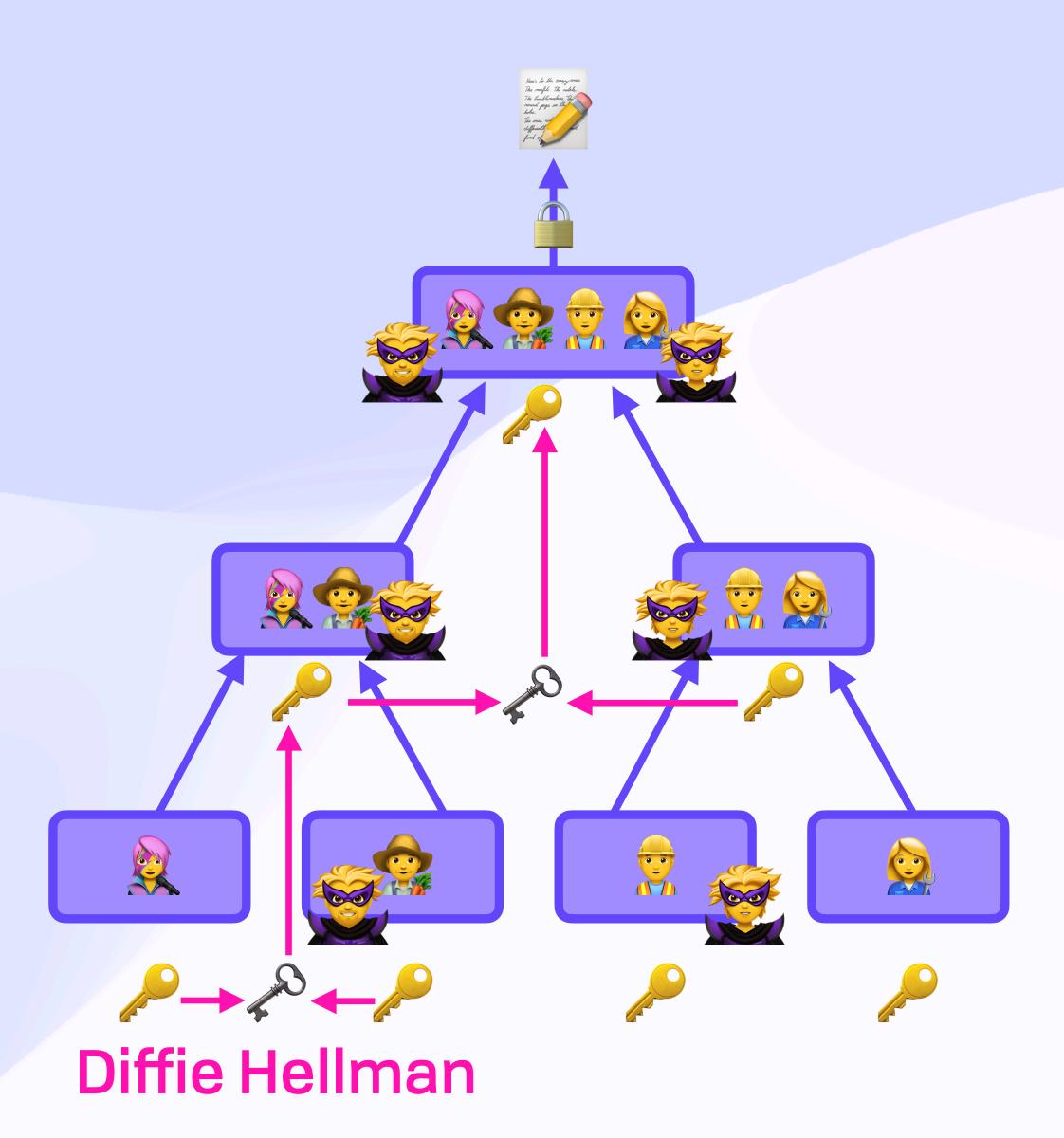


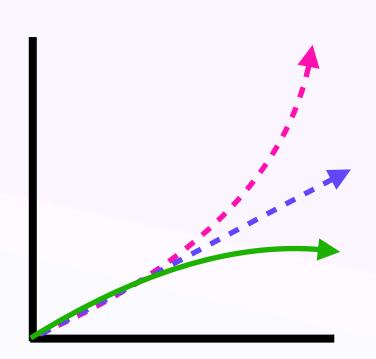






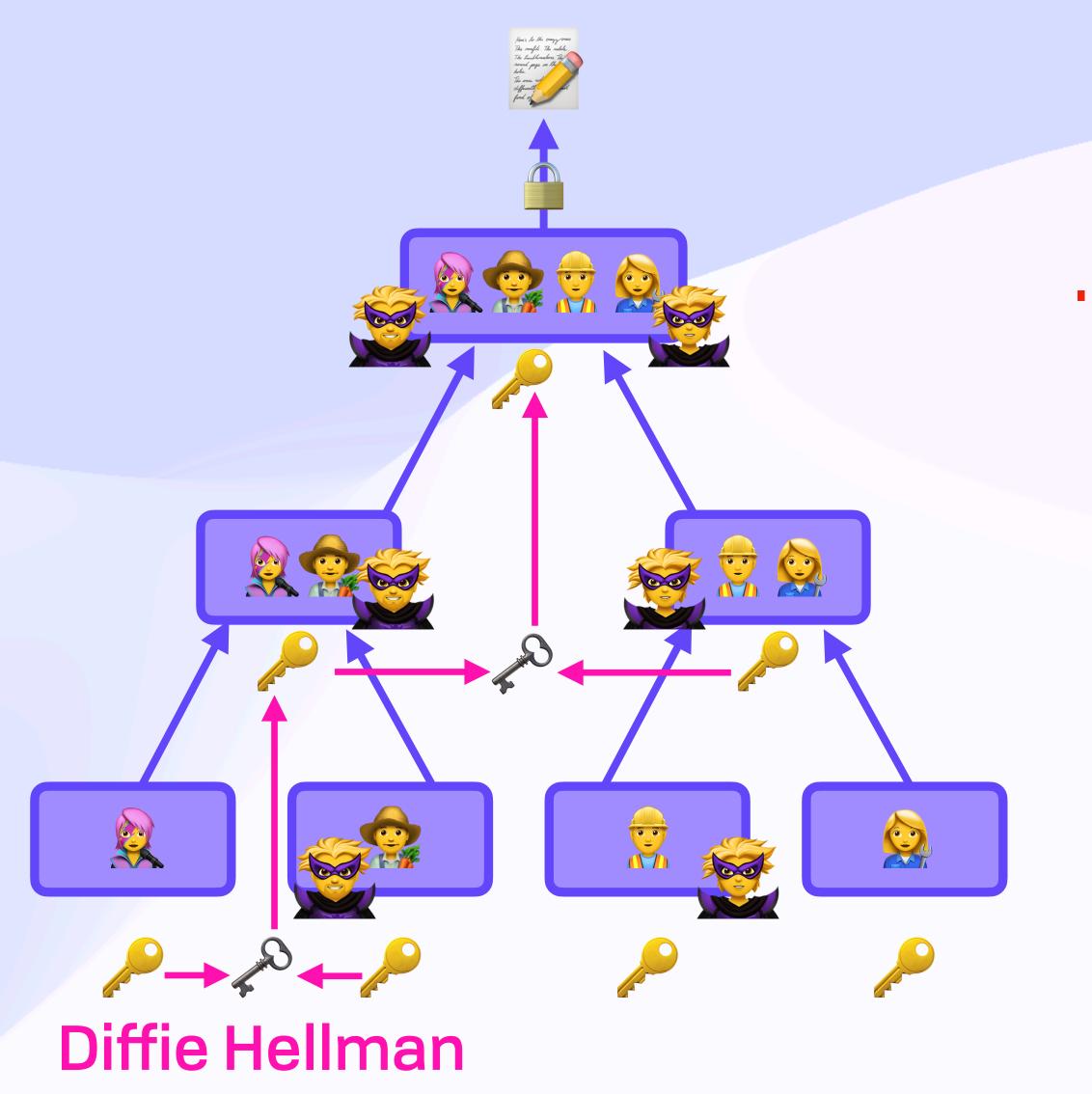






TreeKEM

% MLS



...but...

