



aws SUMMIT

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KUB302

# Increase resiliency using cell-based Amazon EKS architecture

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# Agenda

Amazon EKS

How things work in Amazon EKS

Life360 Amazon EKS journey

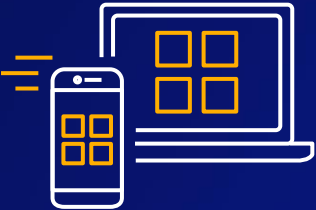
Cell-based Amazon EKS architecture



# What is Amazon EKS?



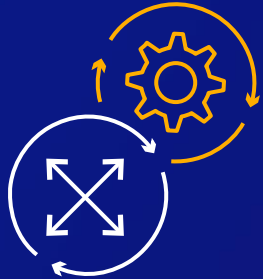
# What do our customers want?



Get to market faster



Lower total cost of ownership



High performance and scalability



Security and isolation by design

# What is Amazon EKS?



Security first



Built for  
production



Seamless cloud  
integrations



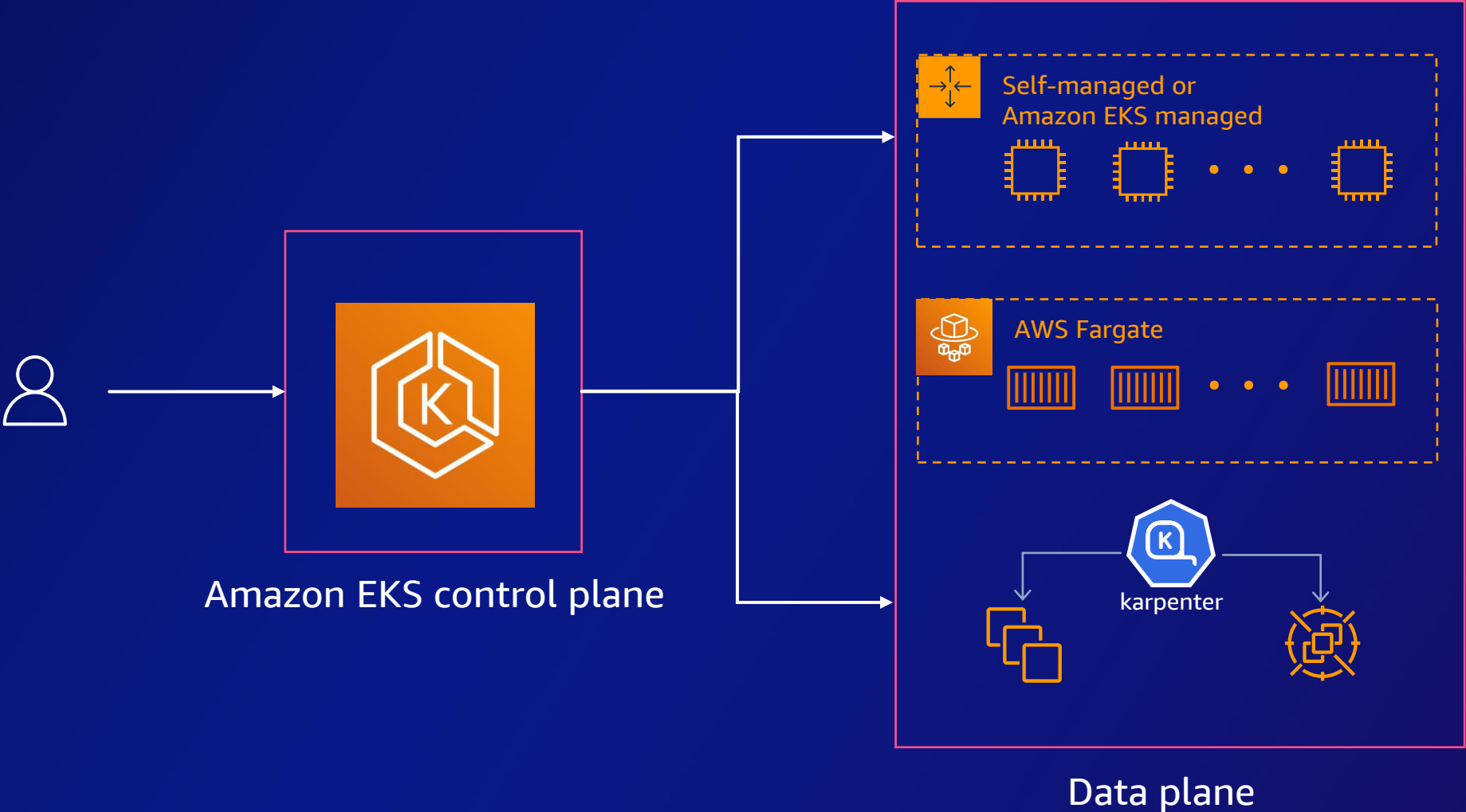
Native and  
upstream



Committed to open  
source

AWS **makes it easy to run Kubernetes**; with Amazon EKS, you can build **reliable, stable, and secure** applications in any environment.

# Amazon EKS architecture



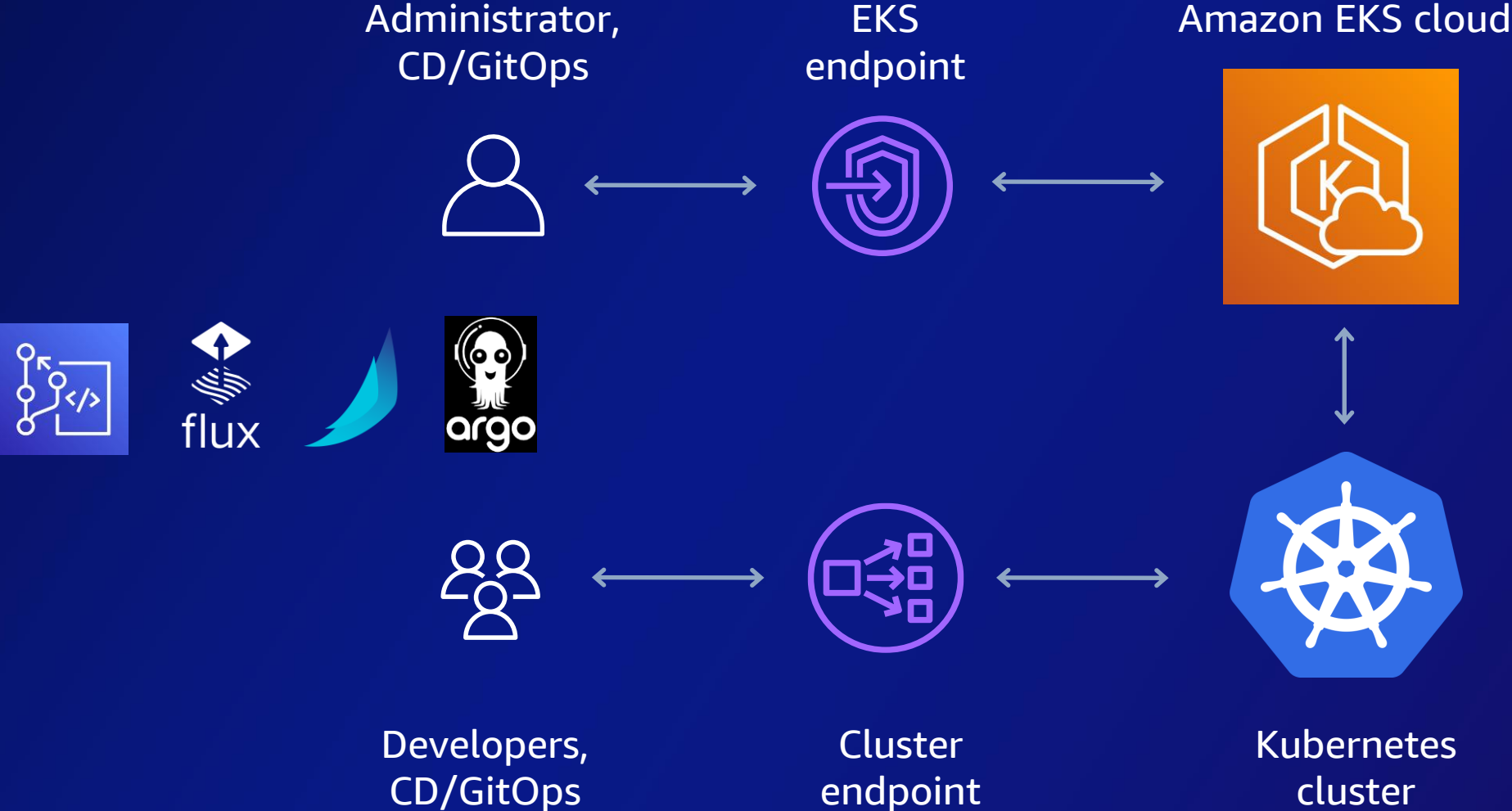
# How things work in Amazon EKS



# Amazon EKS and Kubernetes overview



# Amazon EKS and Kubernetes overview



# Amazon EKS and Kubernetes overview



**EKS regional endpoint**  
eks.us-west-2.amazonaws.com

- `$ aws eks list-clusters`
- `$ aws eks create-cluster --name prod <...>`
- `$ aws eks describe-cluster --name prod`
- `$ aws eks get-token --cluster-name prod`
- `$ aws eks create-nodegroup --cluster-name prod --nodegroup-name frontend <...>`



**Single-cluster API server NLB endpoint**  
<https://112233445566778800AABB.gr7.us-west-2.eks.amazonaws.com>

```
$ kubectl apply -f my_application.yml  
  
$ kubectl describe nodes my-node  
  
$ kubectl get pods --all-namespaces  
  
$ kubectl exec --stdin --tty my-pod -- /bin/sh  
  
$ kubectl create deployment nginx --image=nginx  
  
$ kubectl rollout restart deployment/frontend
```

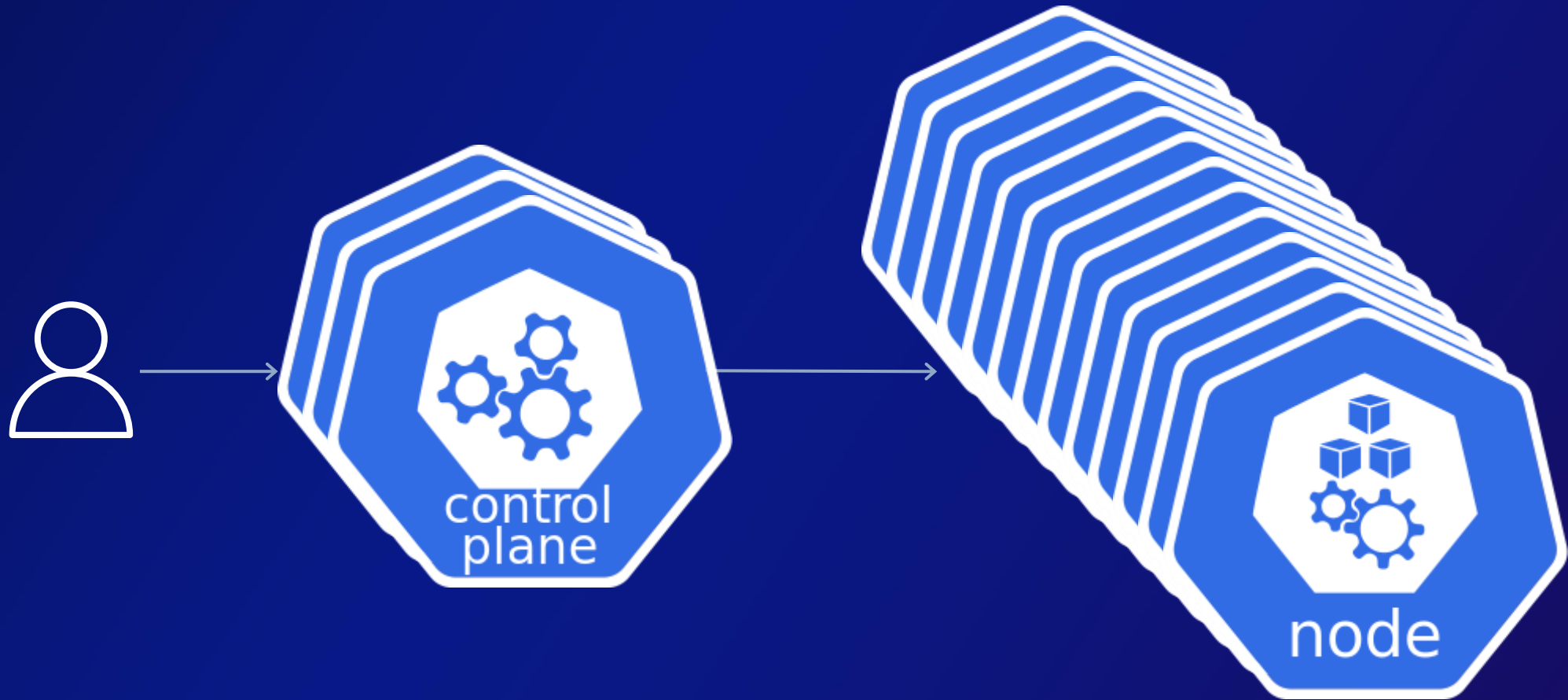
# Amazon EKS cluster control plane



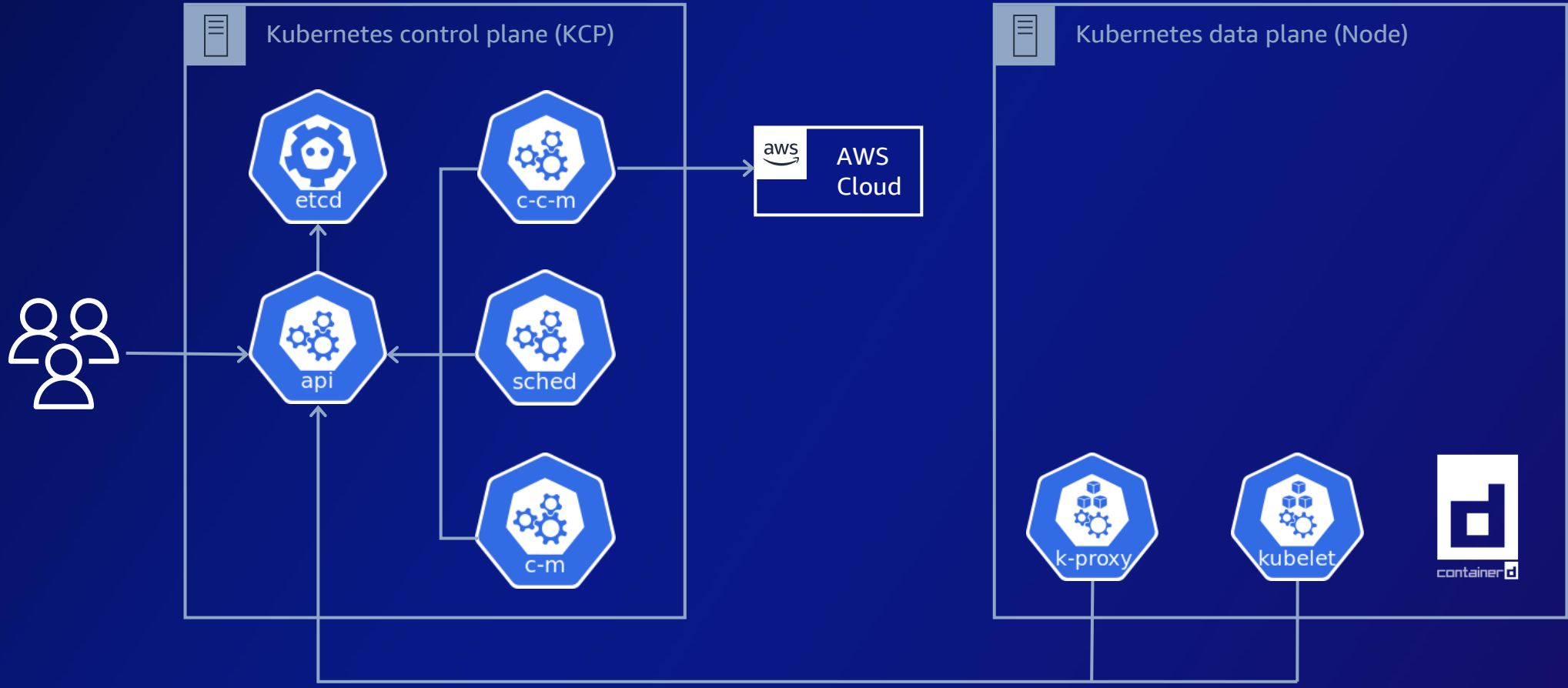
# Kubernetes high-level overview



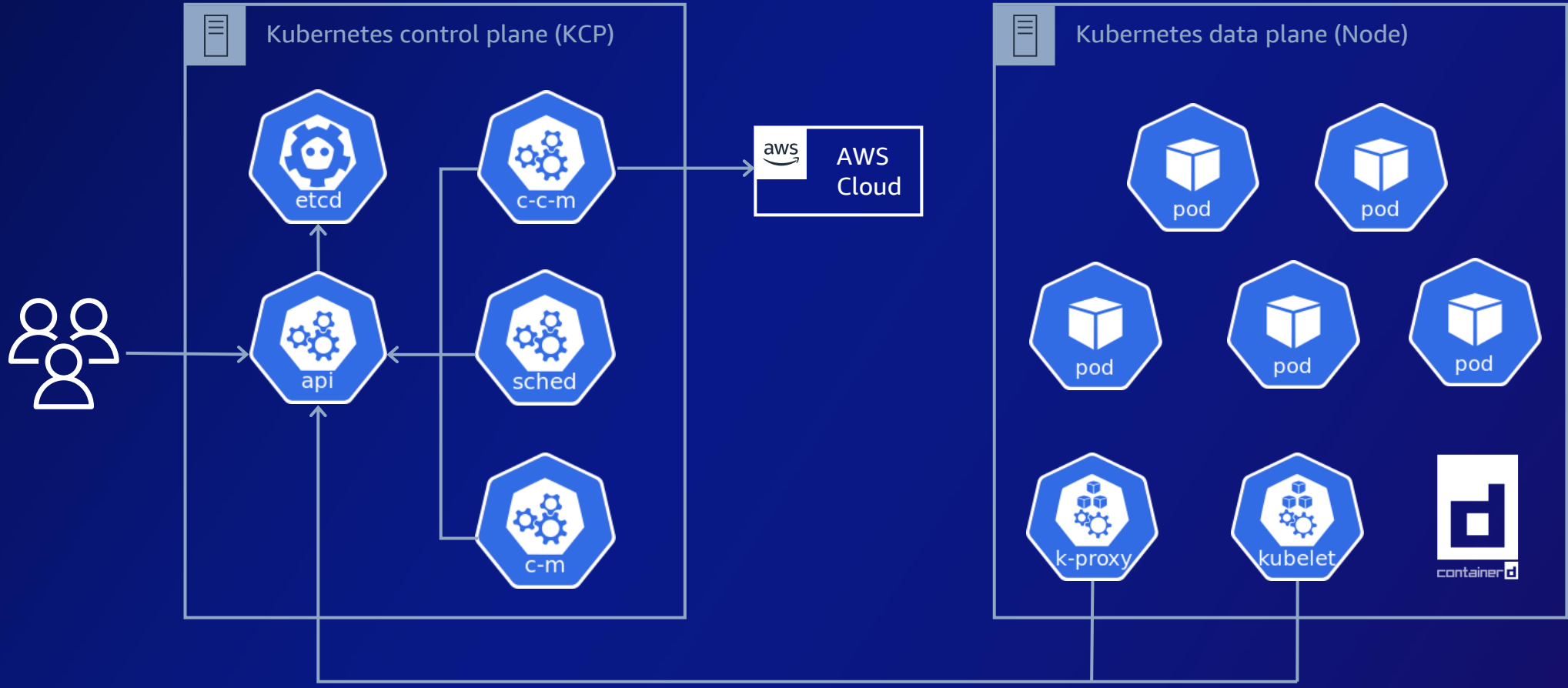
# Kubernetes high-level overview



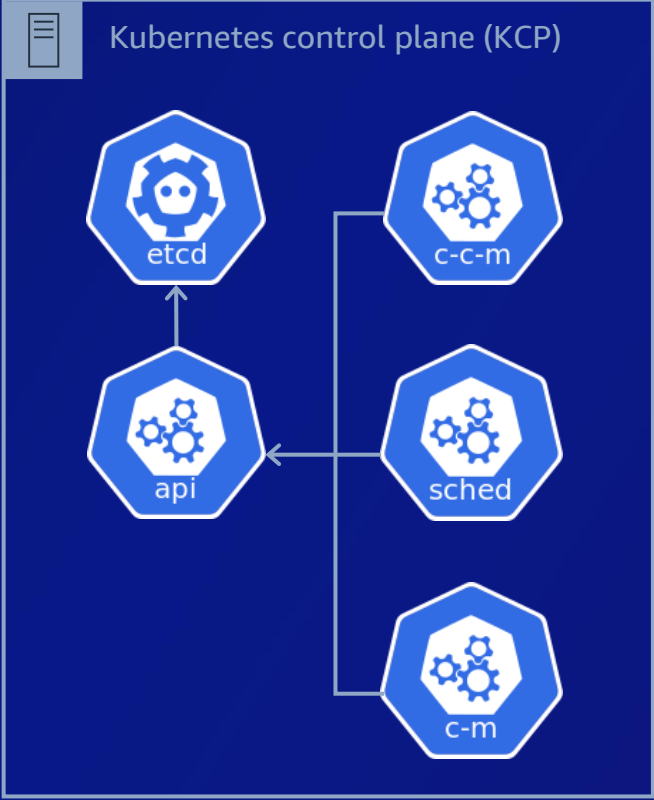
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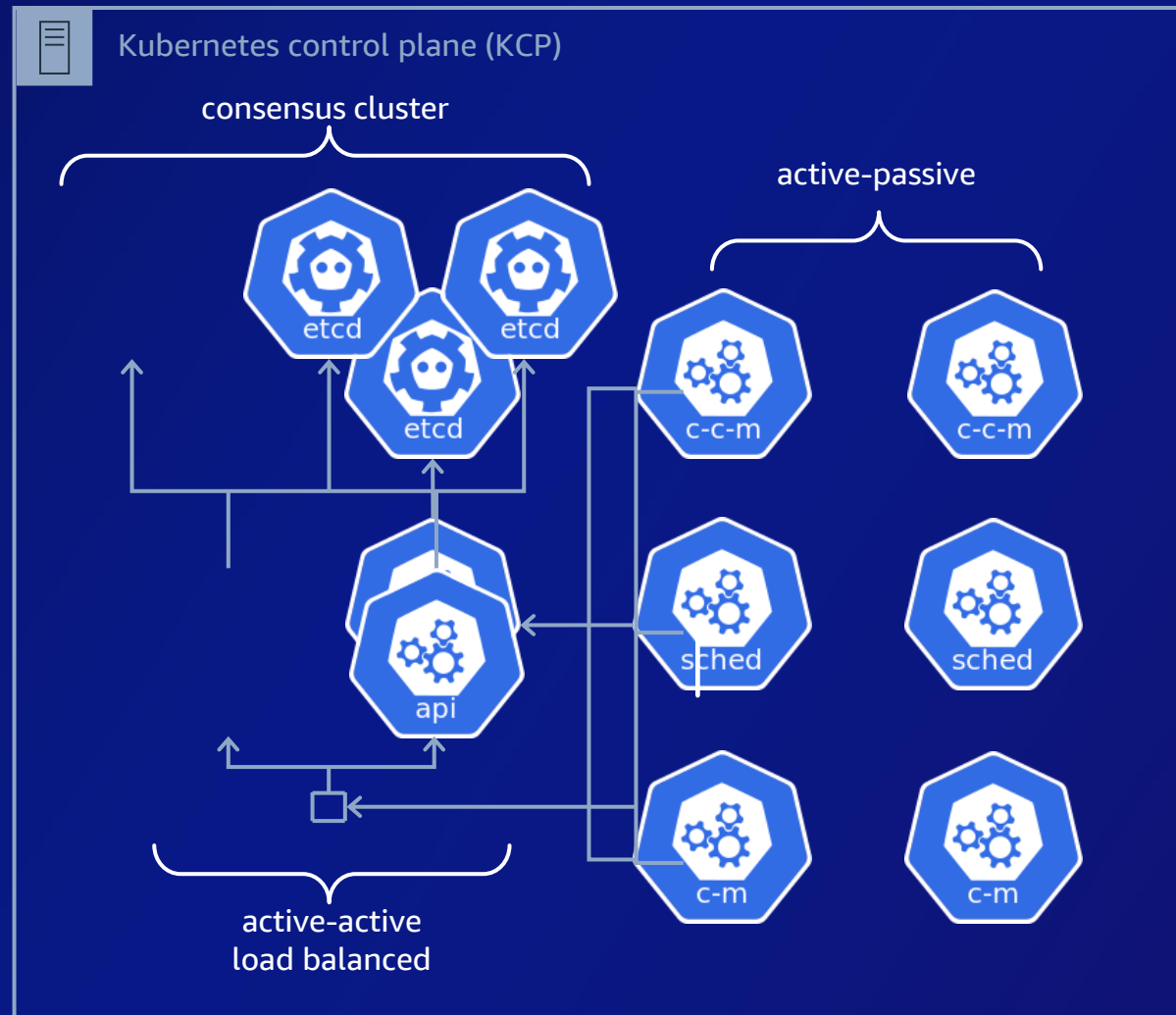
# Kubernetes high-level overview



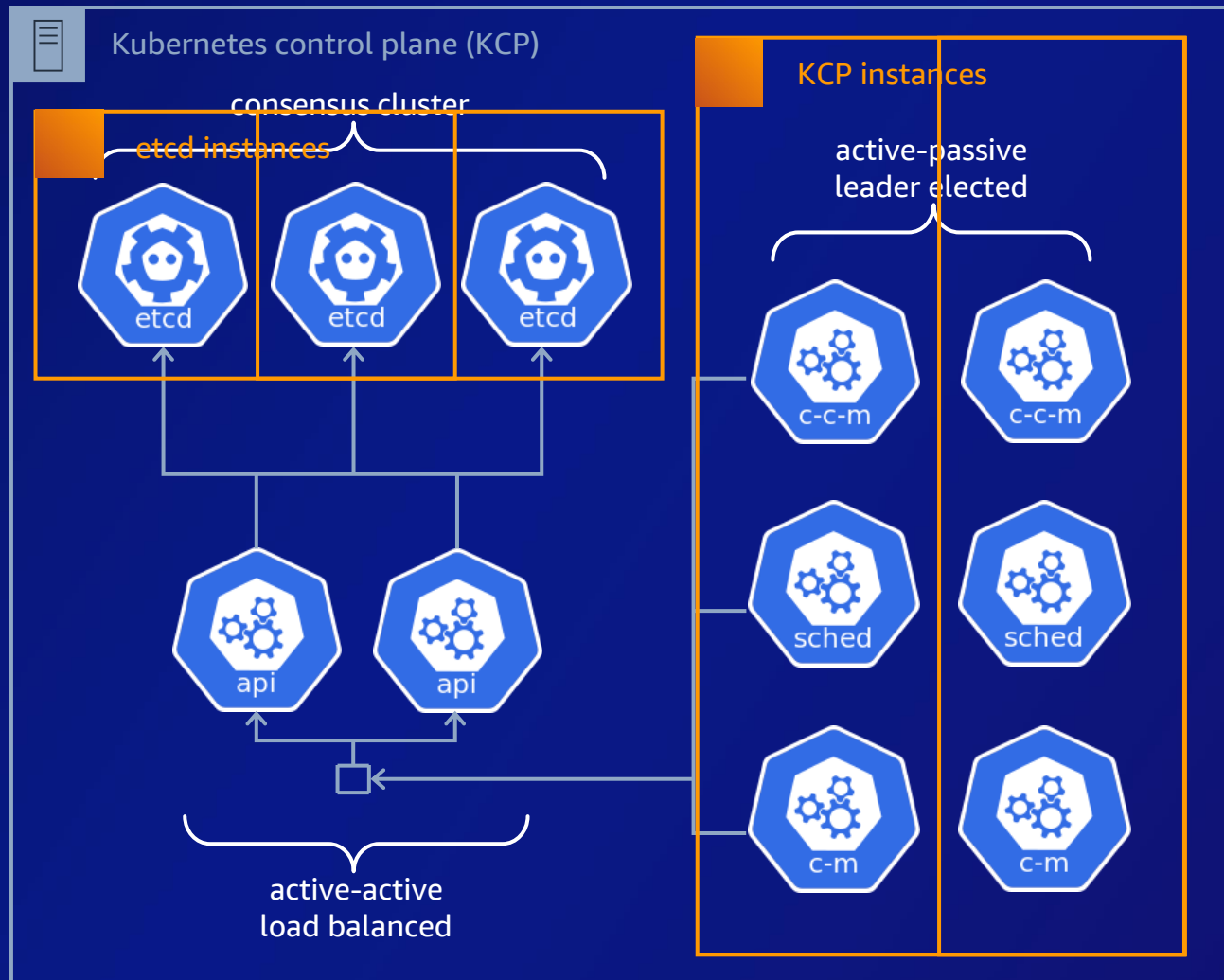
# Kubernetes high-level overview



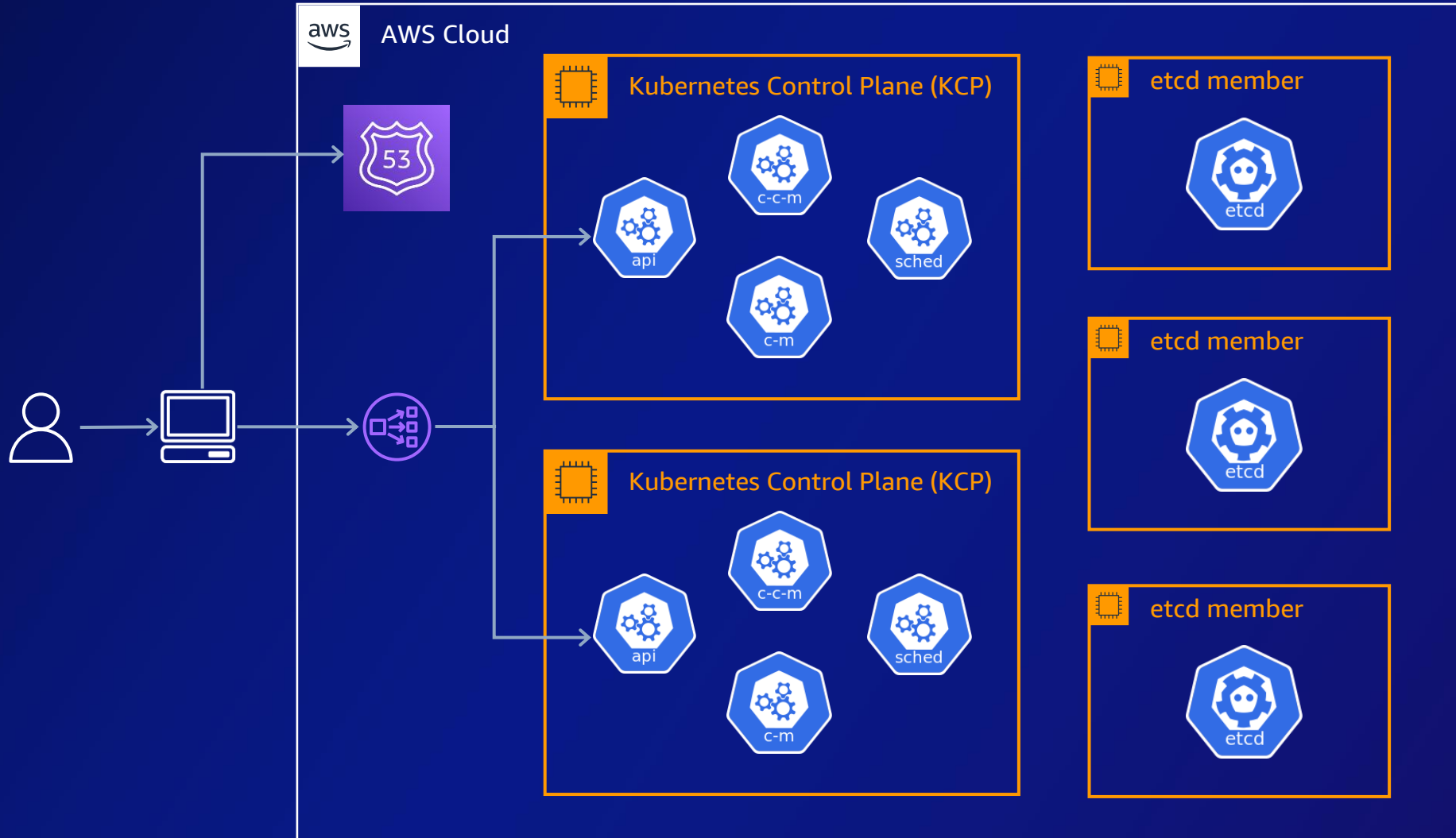
# Kubernetes high-level overview



# Kubernetes high-level architecture in EKS



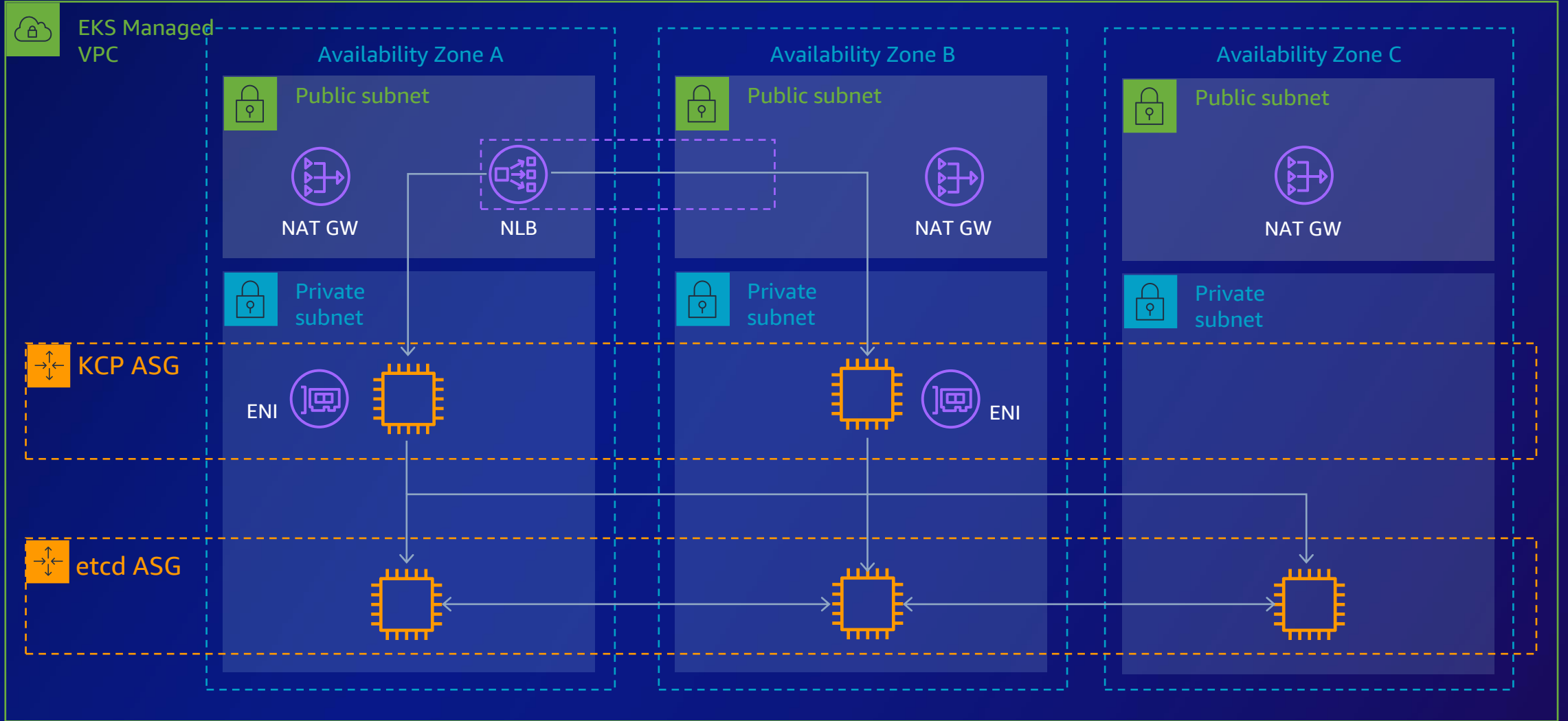
# EKS high-level architecture – Control Plane



# EKS architecture – Control plane



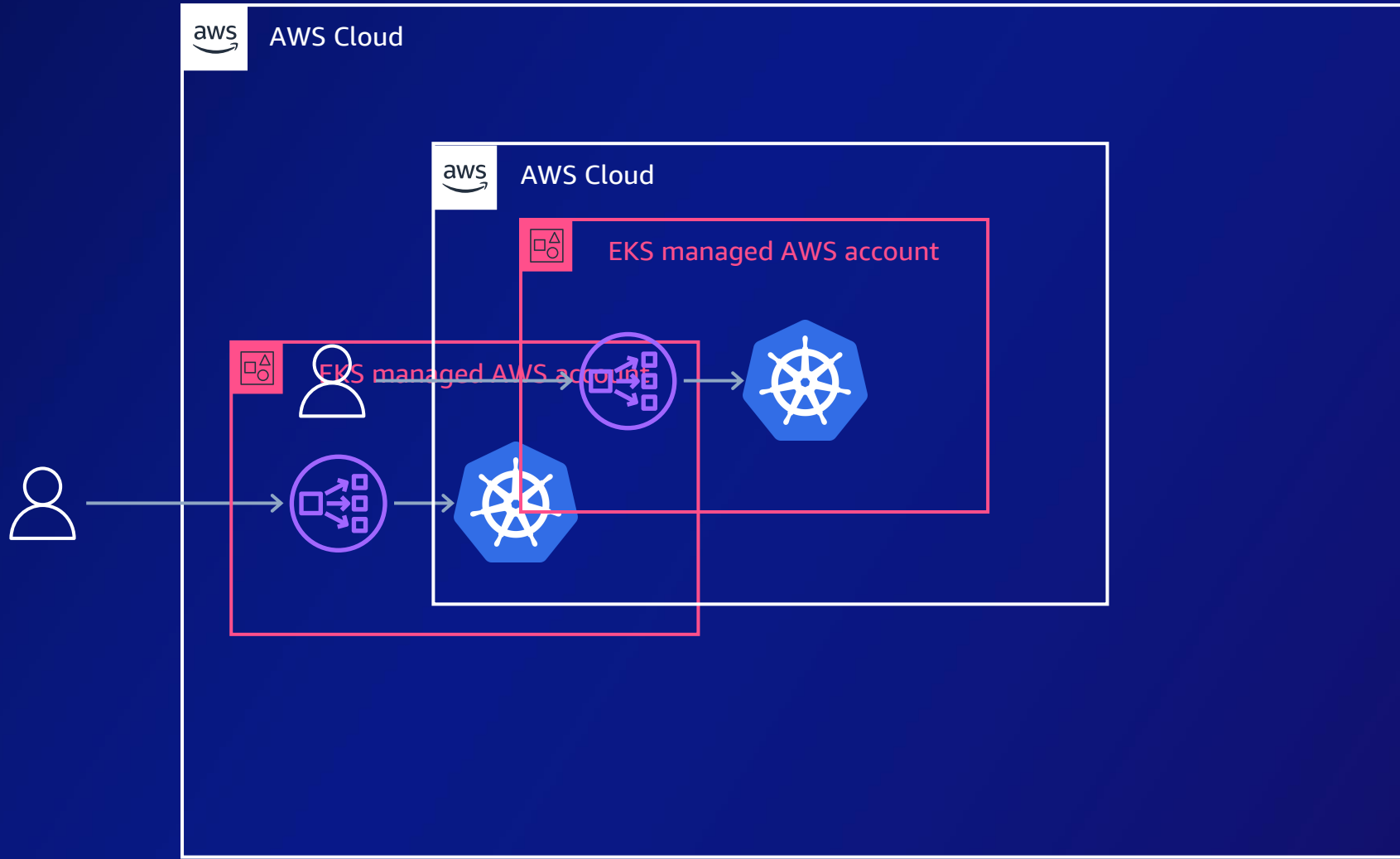
AWS Cloud



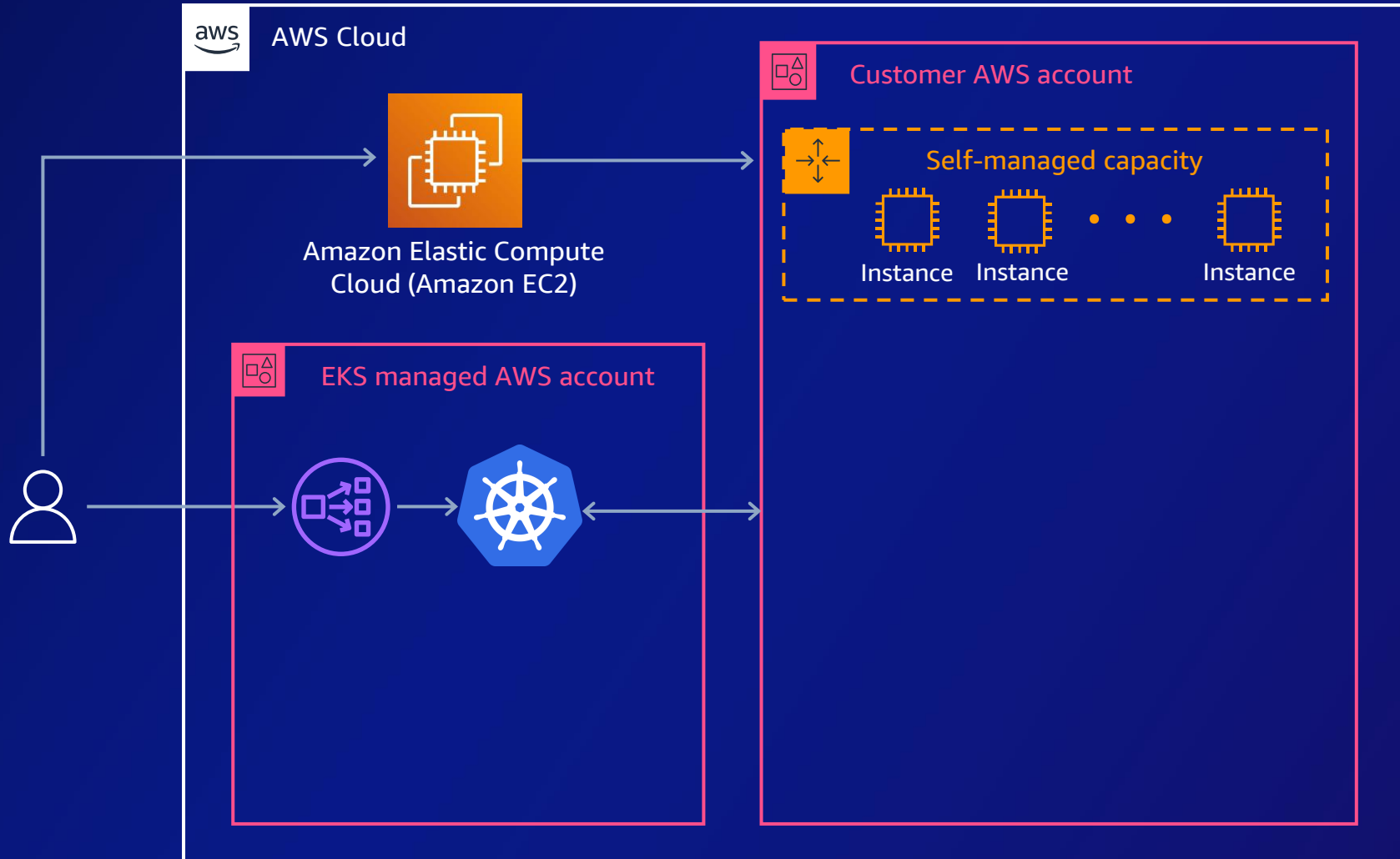
# Amazon EKS data plane



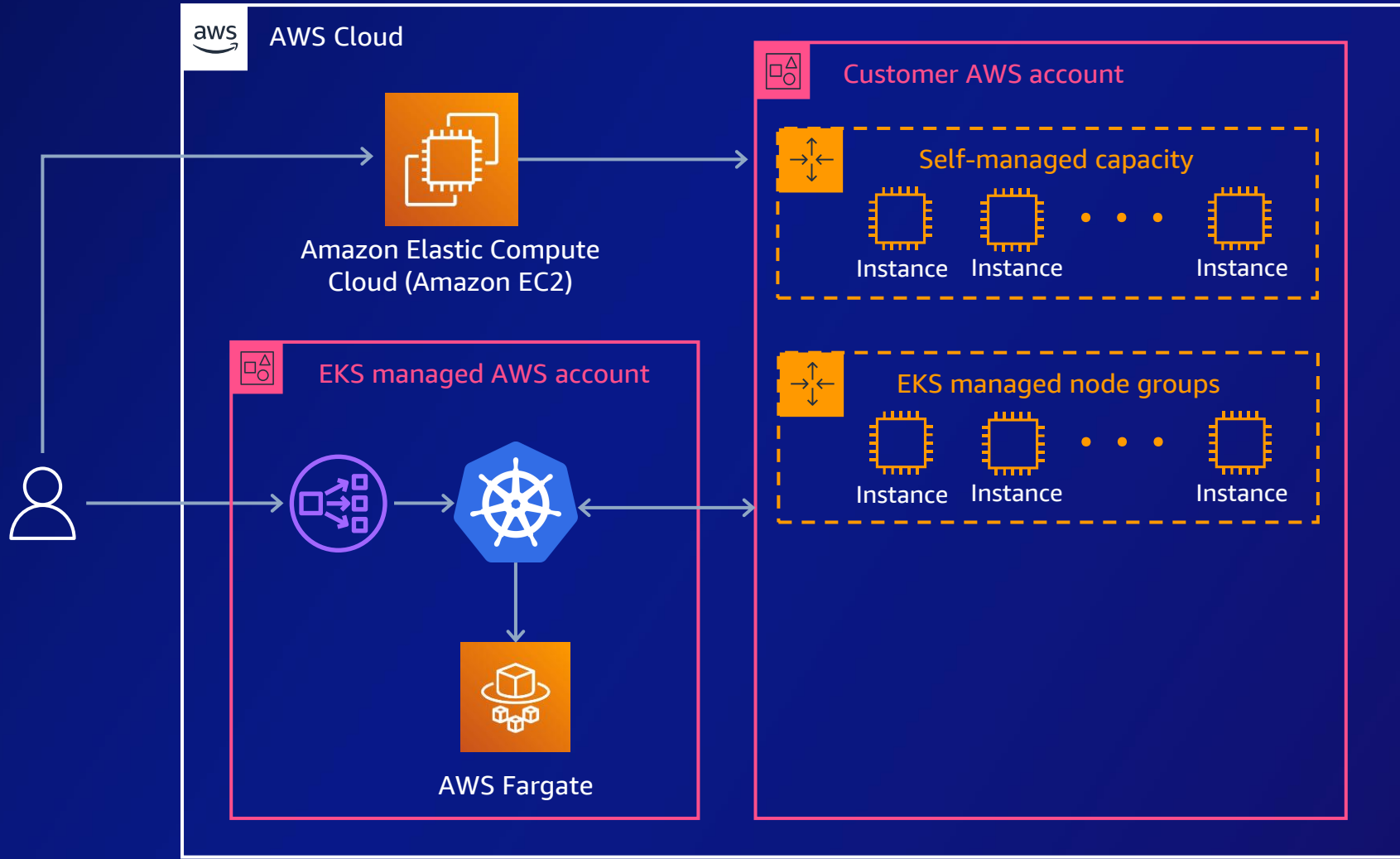
# EKS high-level architecture – Control plane



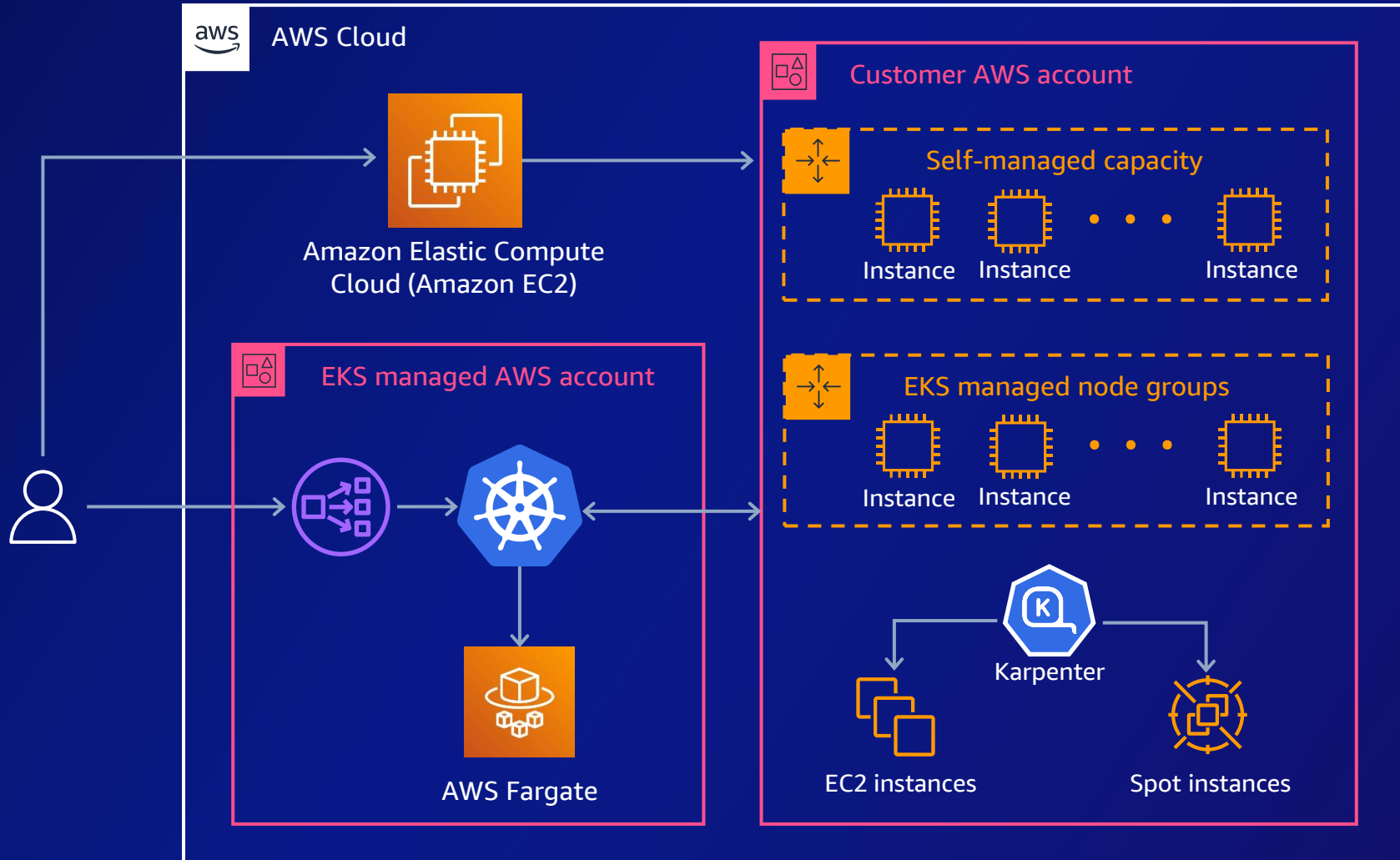
# EKS high-level architecture – Data plane



# EKS high-level architecture – Data plane



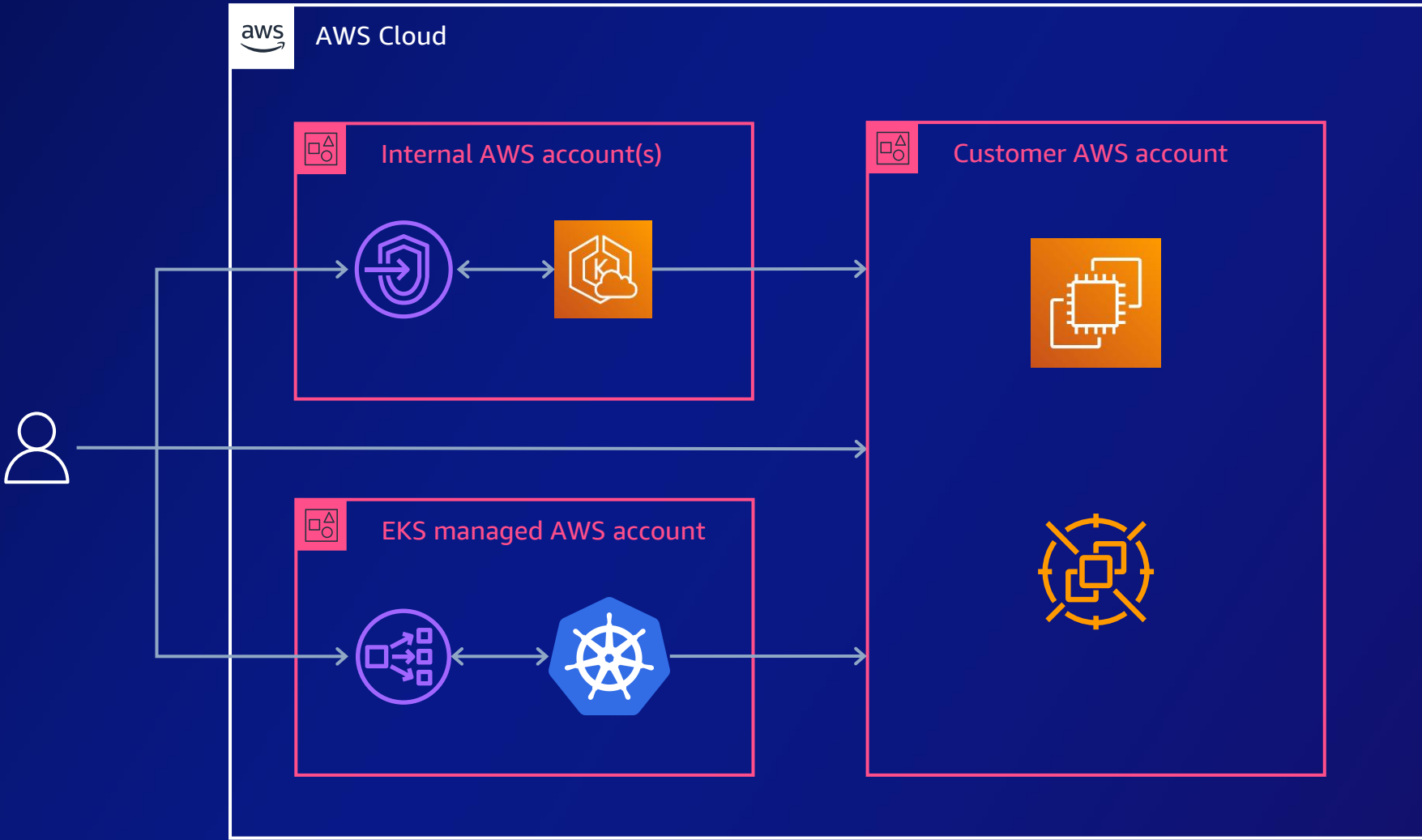
# EKS high-level architecture – Data plane



# Amazon EKS failure domains with statically stable pattern



# Independent failure domains



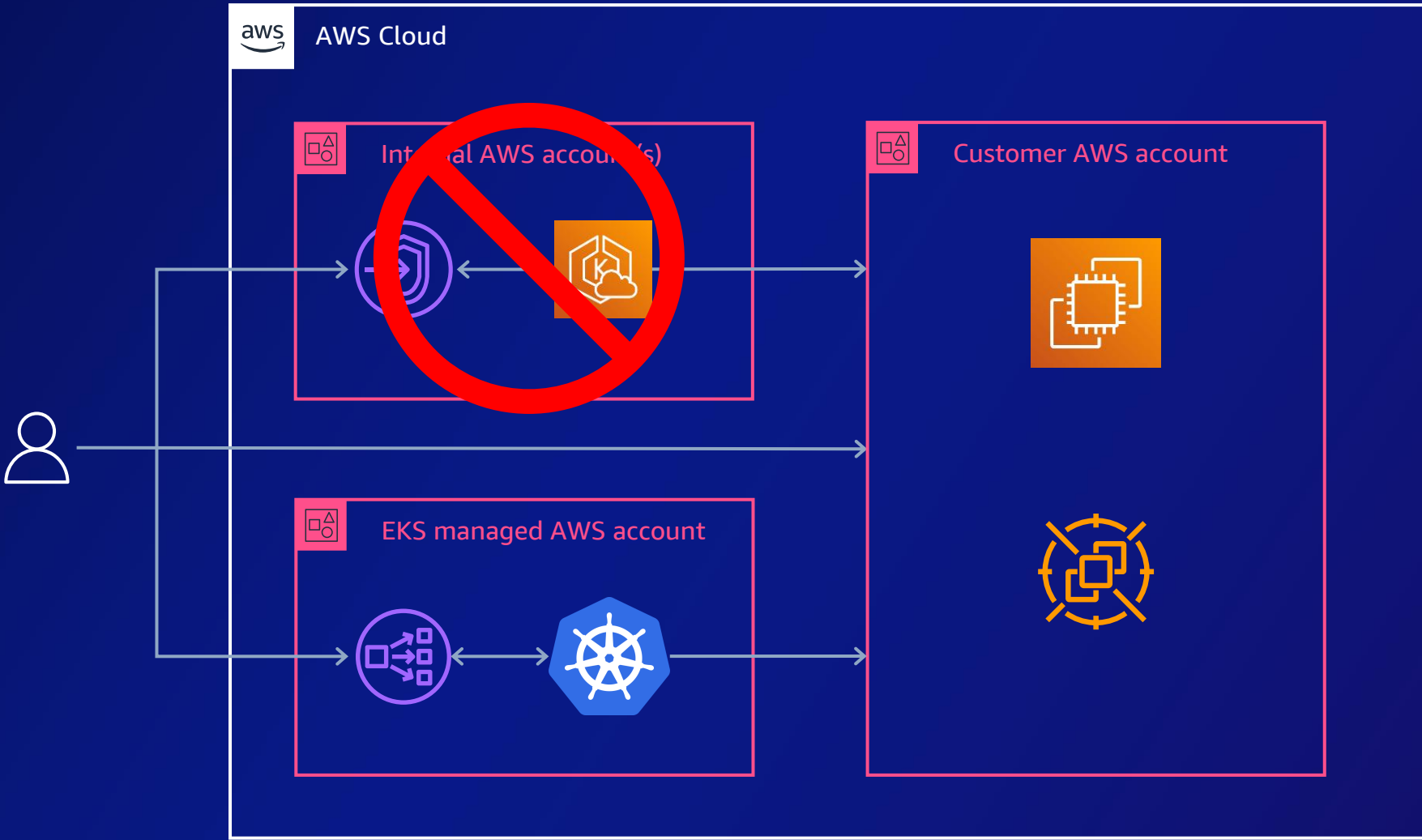
# Statically stable design pattern

“In a statically stable design, the overall system keeps working when a dependency becomes impaired.”

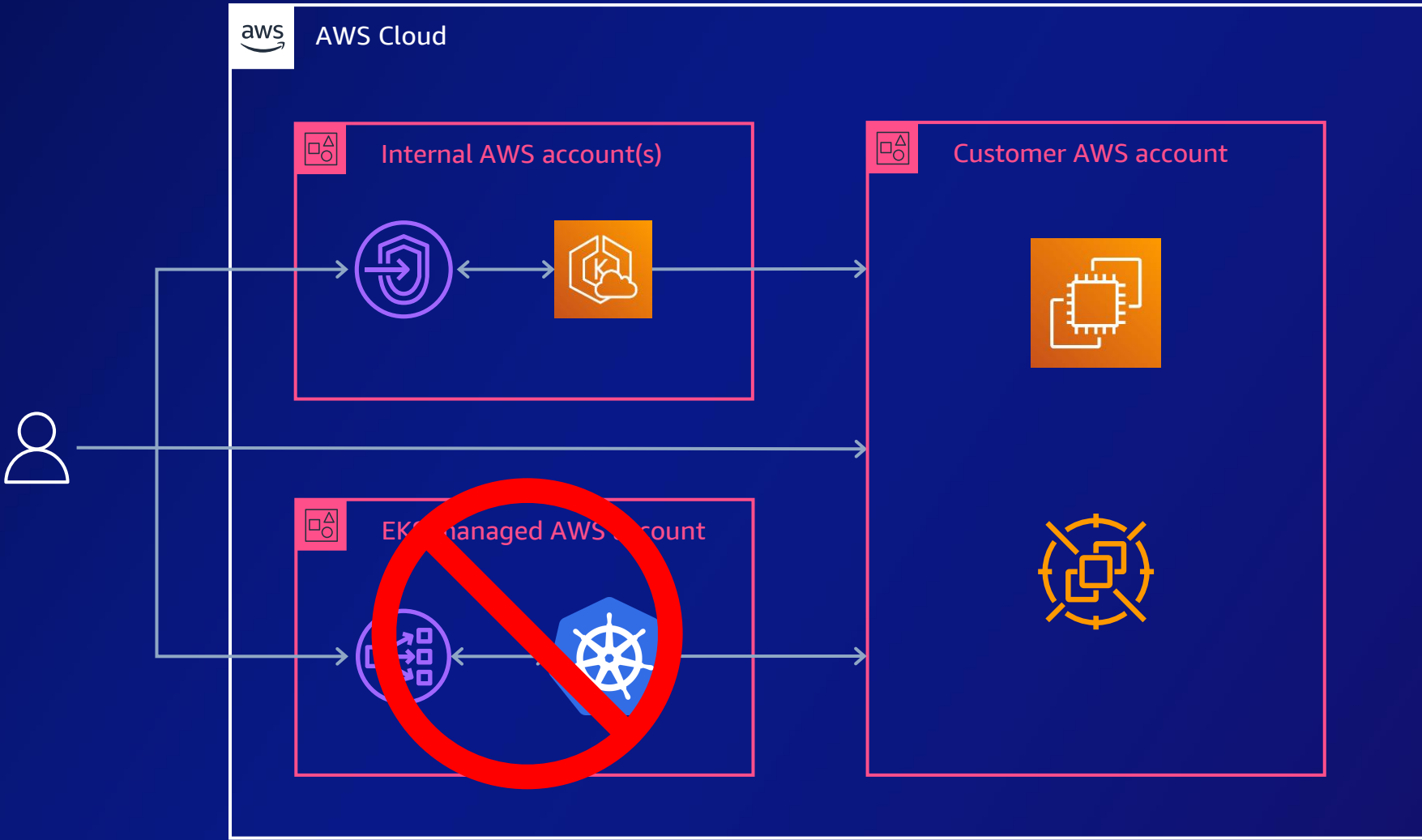
Mike Furr and Becky Weiss  
AWS Sr. Principal Engineers



# Independent failure domains



# Independent failure domains



# Life360 Amazon EKS journey



# Life360

Life360 is on a mission to simplify safety so families can live fully

Our features and services protect and connect

- Loved ones
- Pets
- Important belongings
- Life360 family of apps
  - Life360 mobile app
  - Jiobit GPS trackers
  - Tile Bluetooth trackers

# Life360

Largest family social network

- 1 in 9 US families use Life360
- 50.8+ million MAU global
- Families in 195+ countries use Life360
- Top charts of Apple App Store and Google Play store – Top 50

# Reach and impact to our members



Life360 tracked **469 billion** miles driven worldwide in 2022 – almost half of those miles were protected with Crash Detection!



**90 billion** locations collected each week – Life360 sent over **50 billion** place alerts  
**26 billion** safe arrival notifications



13.6 million tiles sent **700 billion** location updates



**17 million** tile “items left behind” smart alerts

# Reach and impact to our members

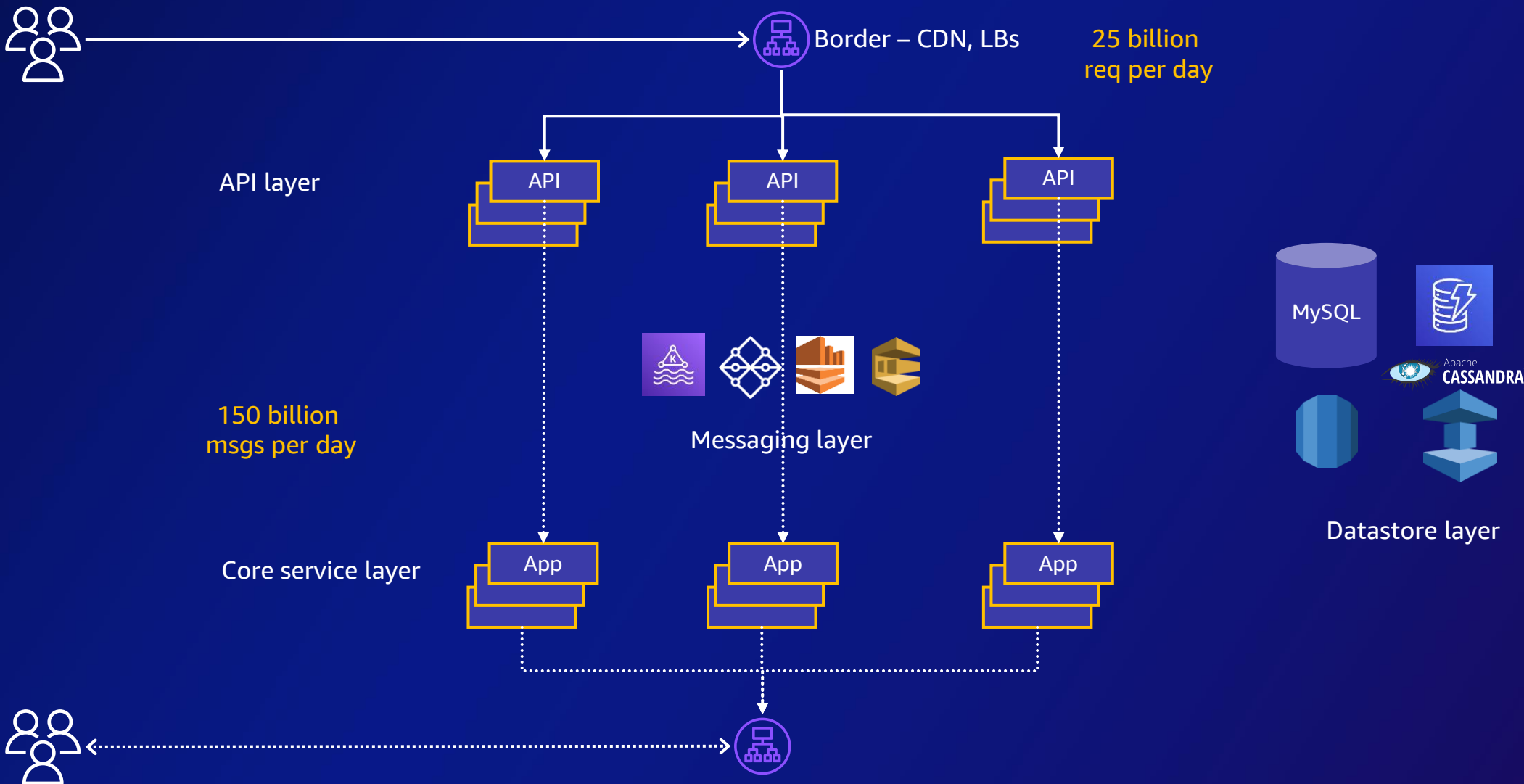


**100 roadside assists per day**  
totaling close to 40,000/year

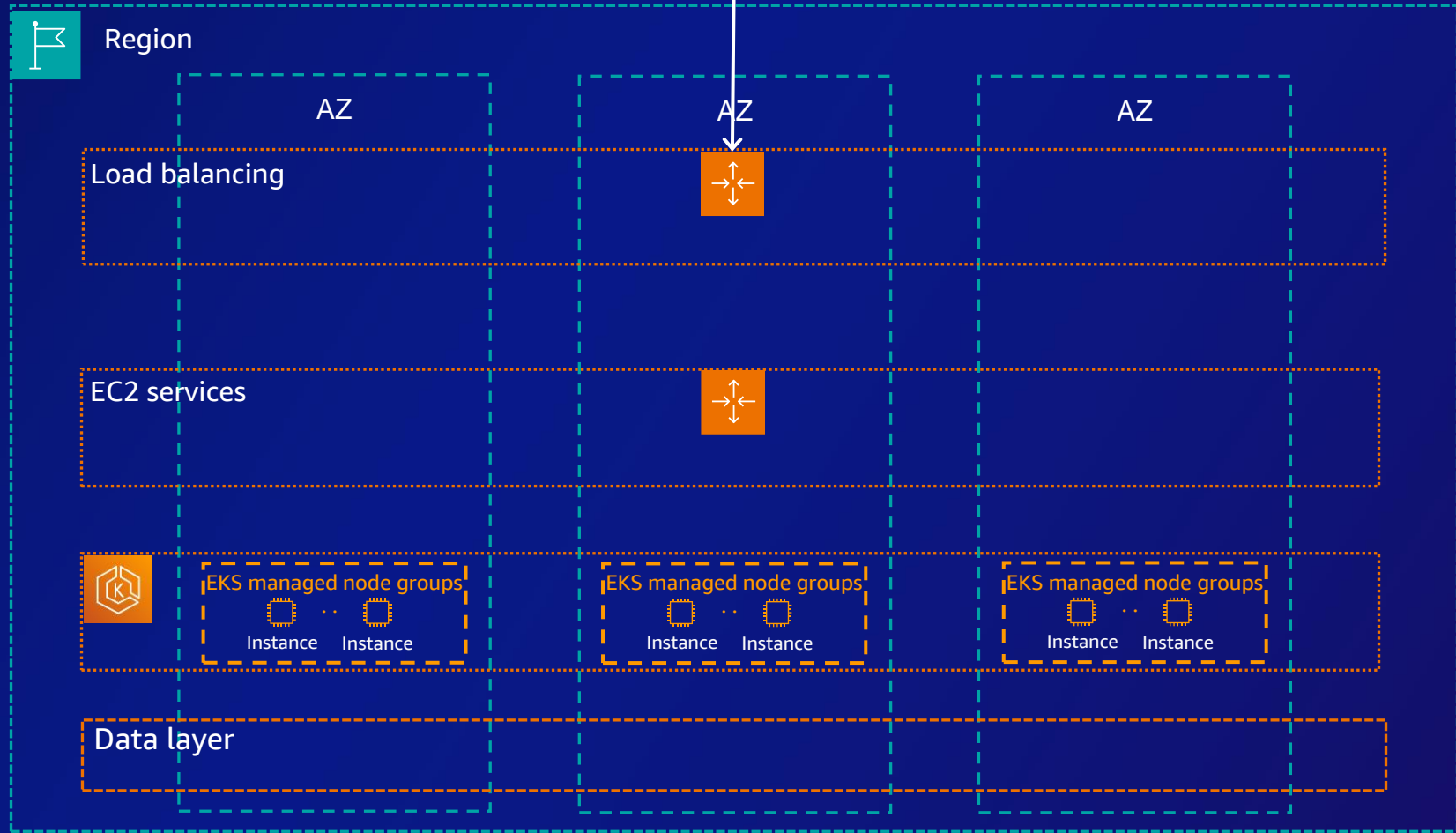


**34,461** ambulances dispatched in 2022  
**2.2 million** help alerts sent

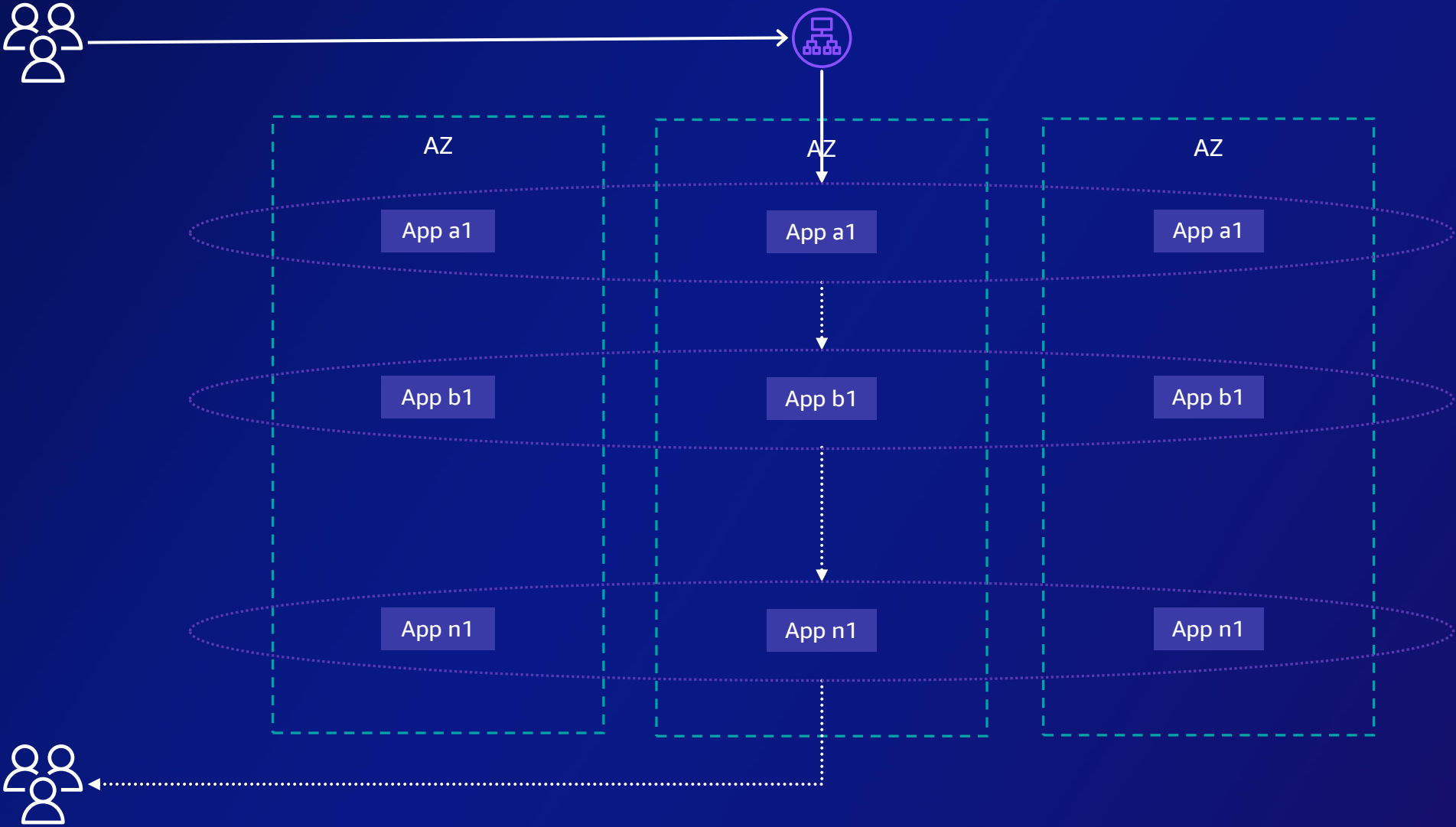
# Cloud architecture



# Infra layers (previously)



# Application point of view



# A brief history of AZ degradation at Life360

## 2019 AZ failure

Our environment handled well  
~35 microservices

Didn't survive nearly as well  
Failures at multiple layers

- Compute – microservices and message processing
- Edge

## 2021 AZ failure

# A brief history of AZ degradation at Life360

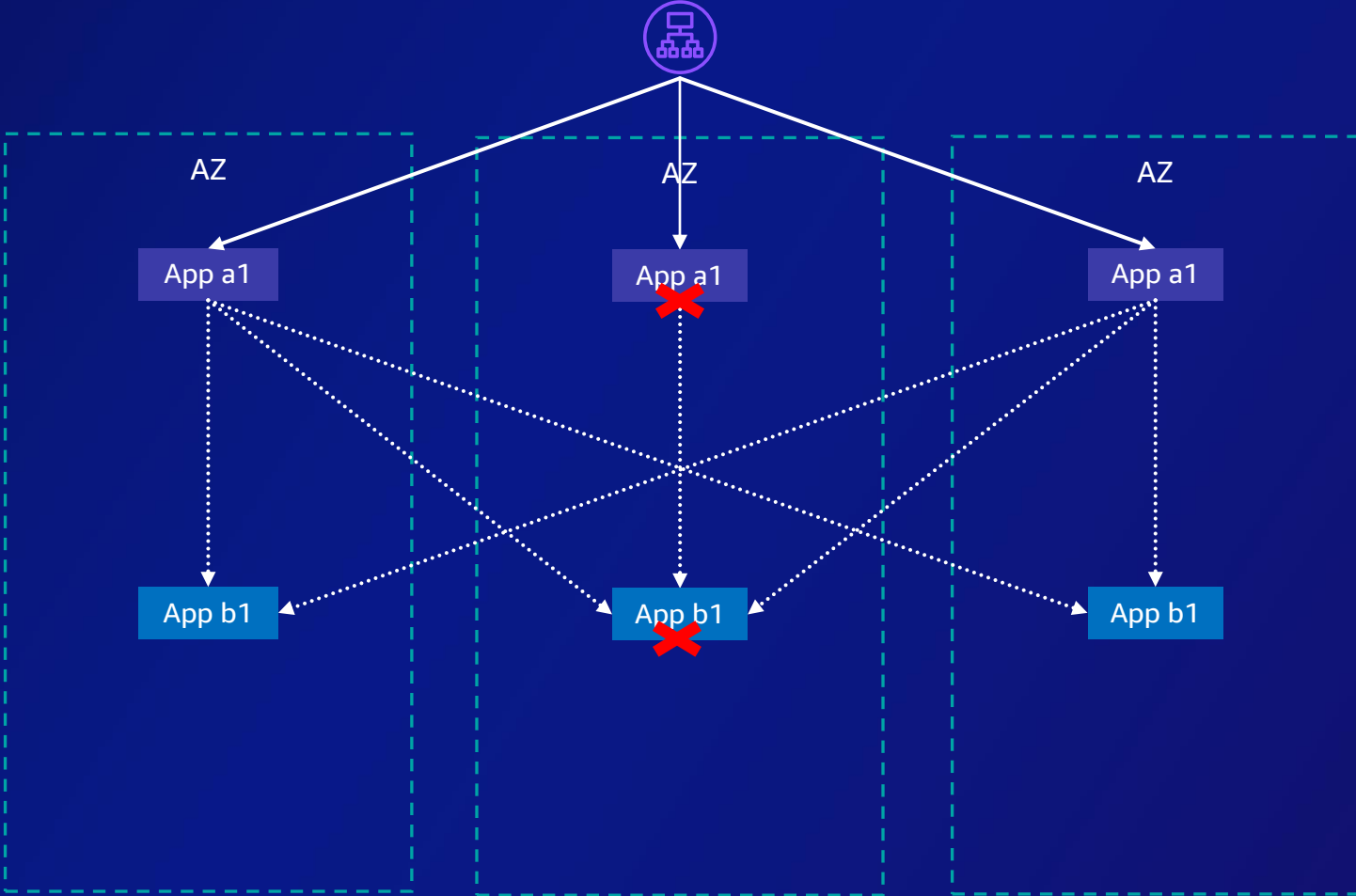
## Core learning

- Can no longer guarantee dispatching ambulances in timely manner
- Real lives at stake

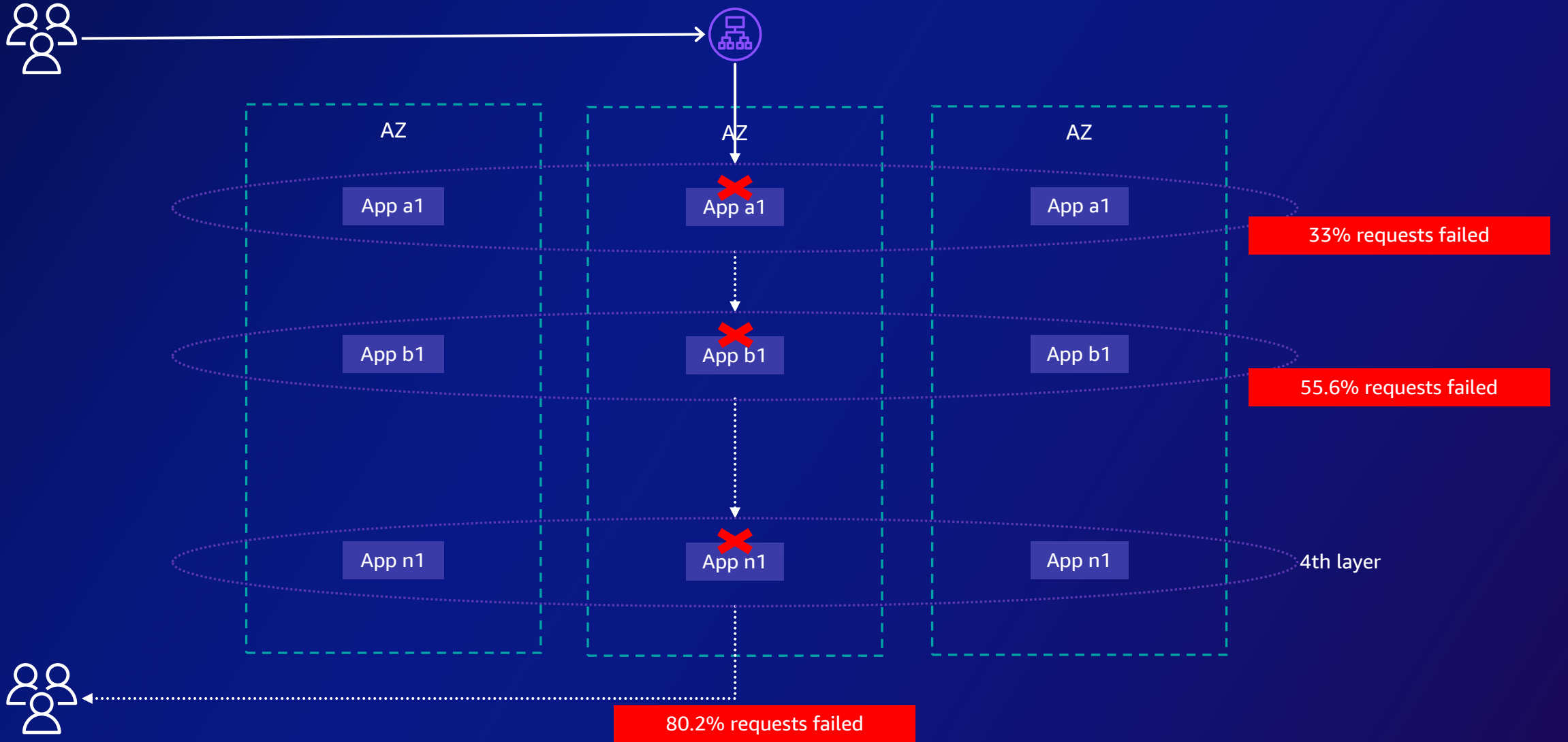
## Other observations

- Architecture can quickly get behind if no adjustments
- User growth
- Tech stack evolution
- Organization reliability need shifts (more 9s)
- Addition of more life-critical features
- More complex service mesh

# Service interaction



# Impact to our customers



# Hold my coffee



# Wrong way, go back

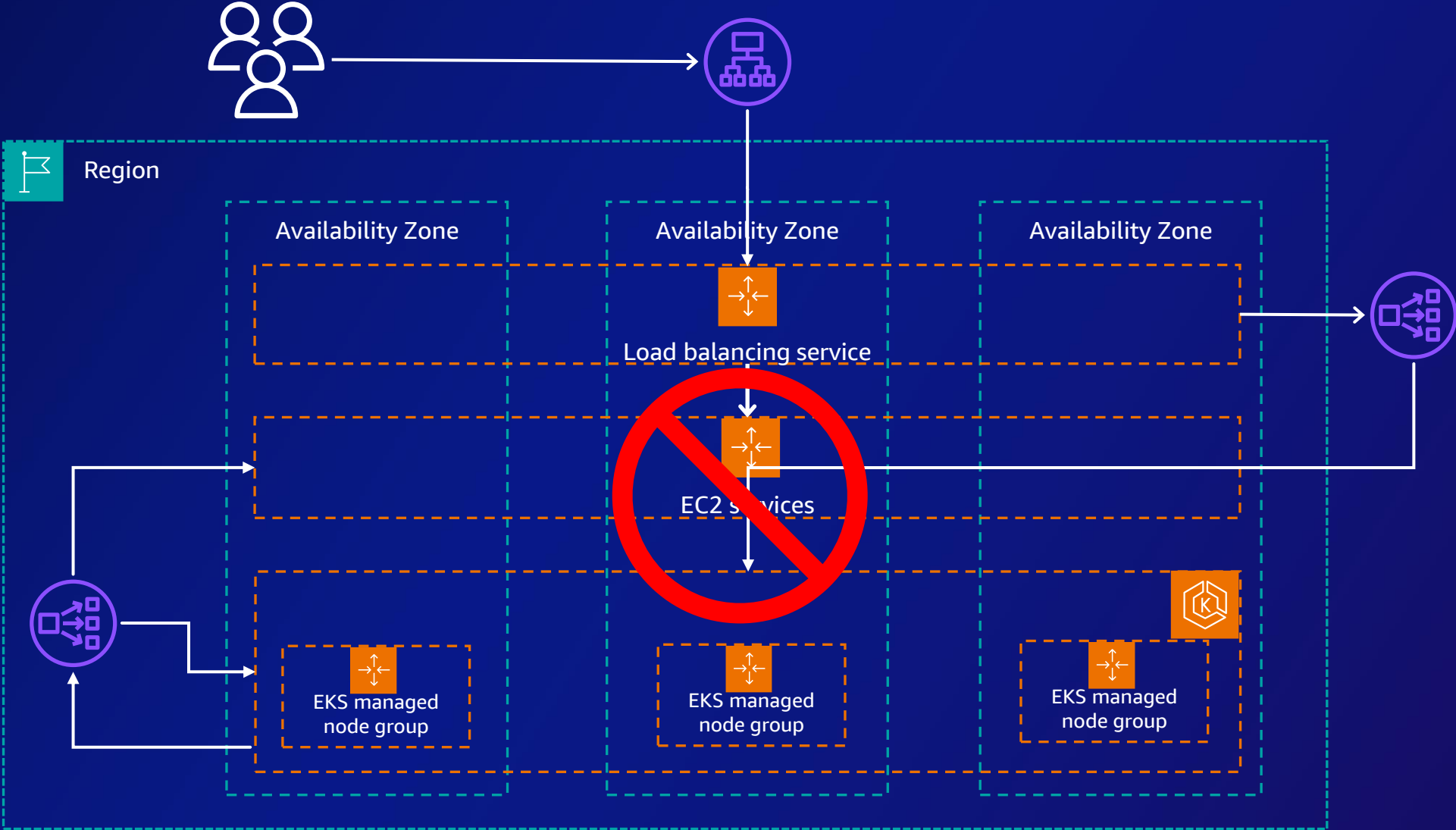


# Efficient solution, wrong problem

Push button to reset



# What we need to solve



# **An introduction to cells: Life360 Amazon EKS architecture 3.0**



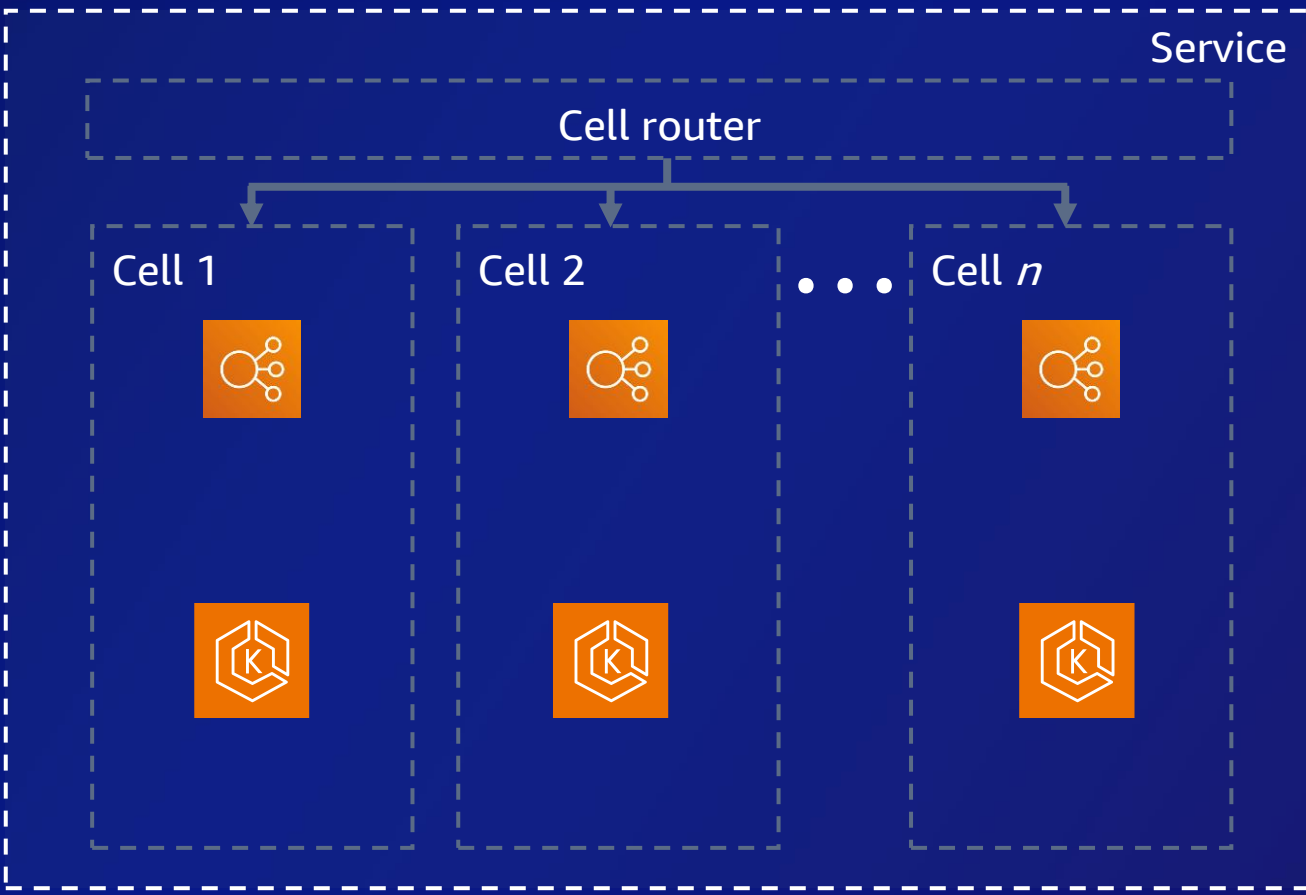
# Core tenets of cell-based Amazon EKS

Stop failure propagation

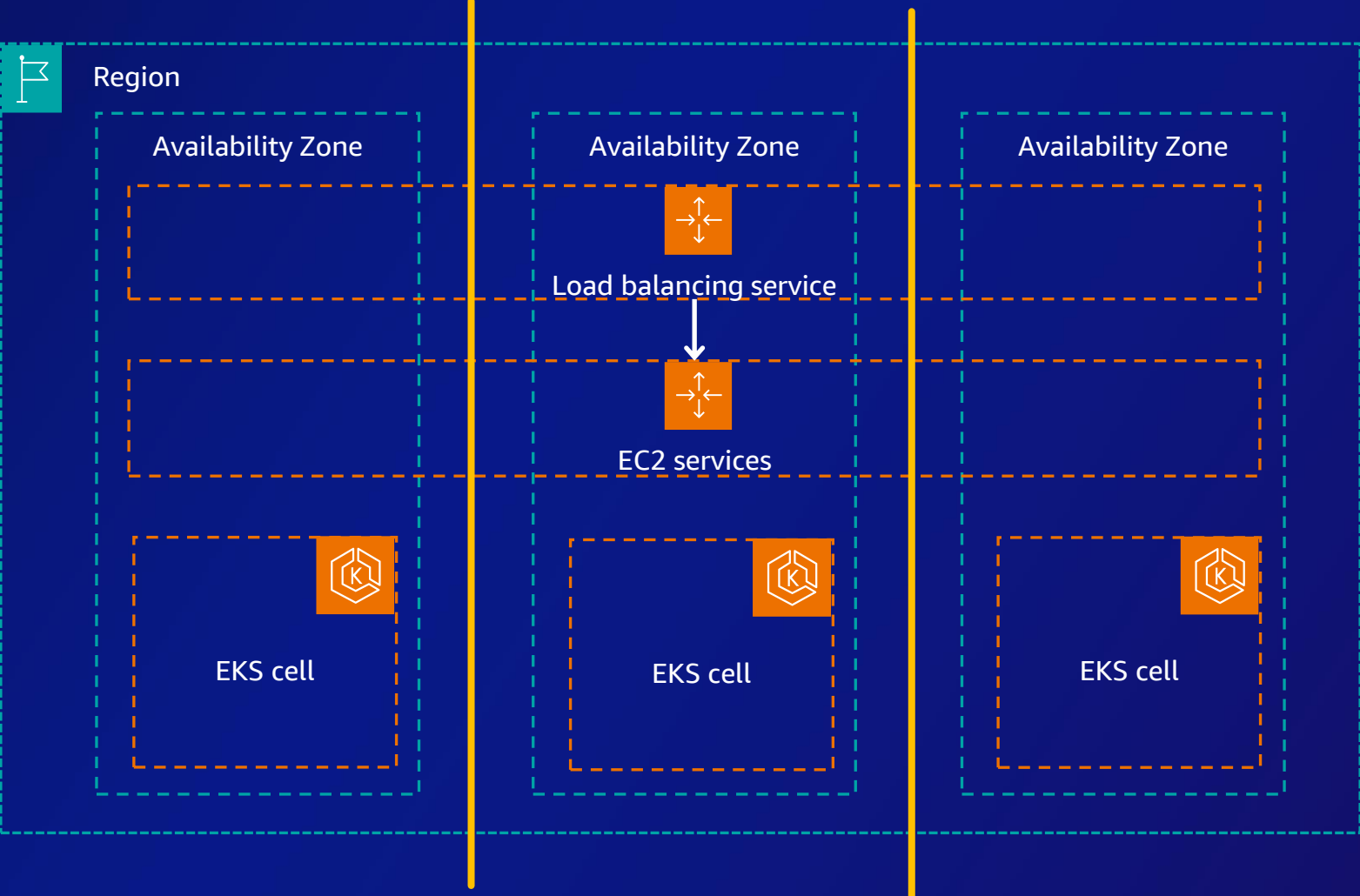
Traffic control



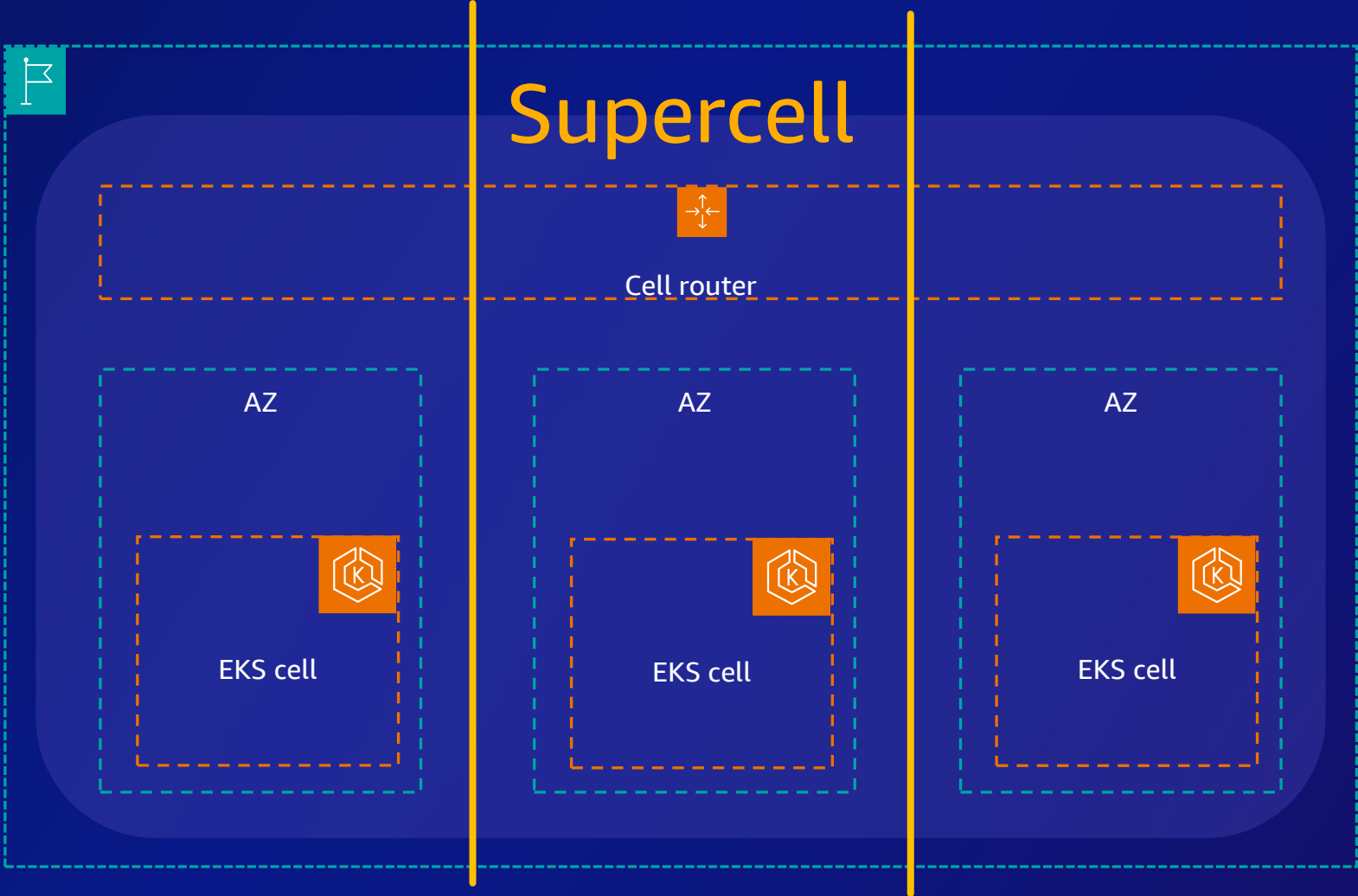
# Cell-based architecture pattern



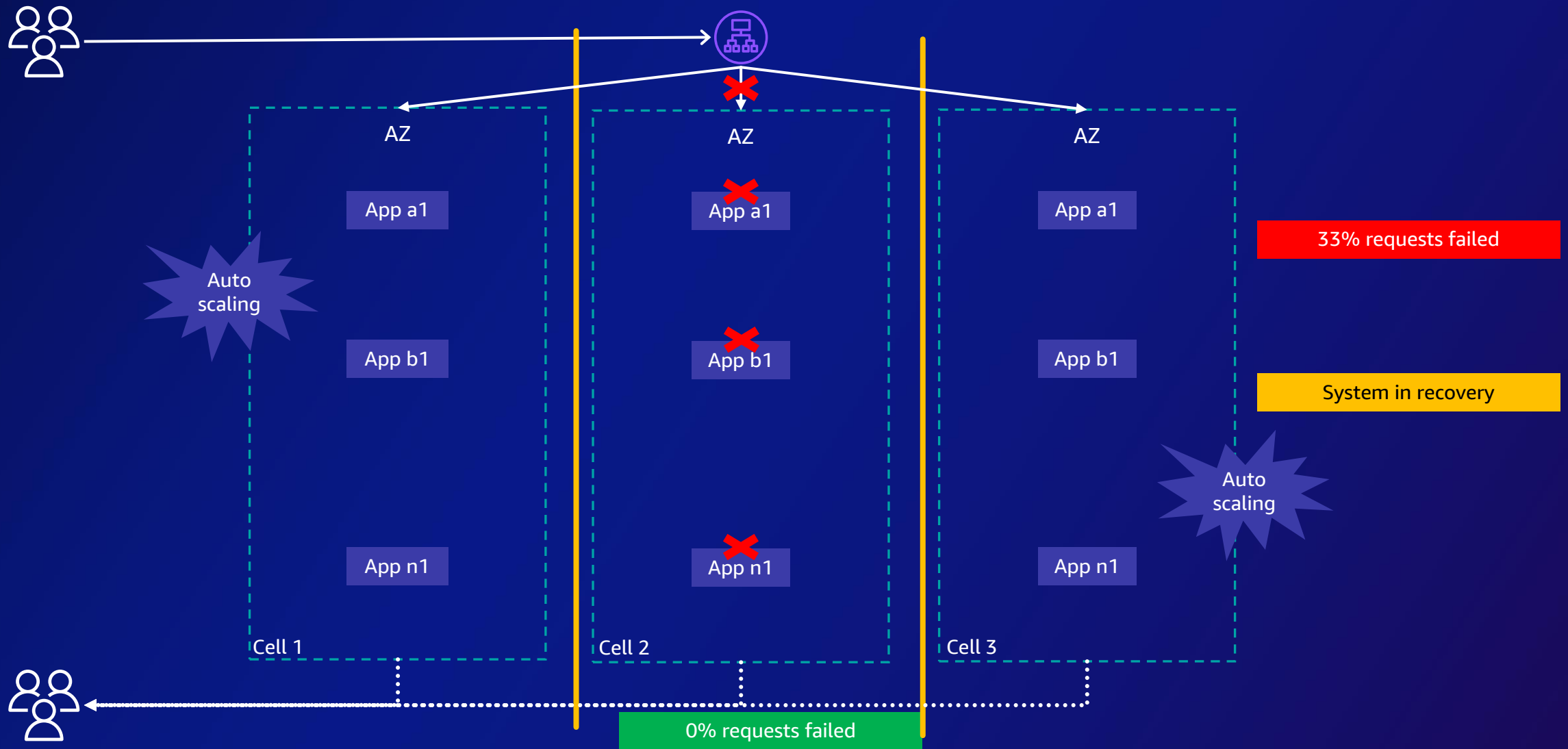
# Like a bulkhead on a ship . . .



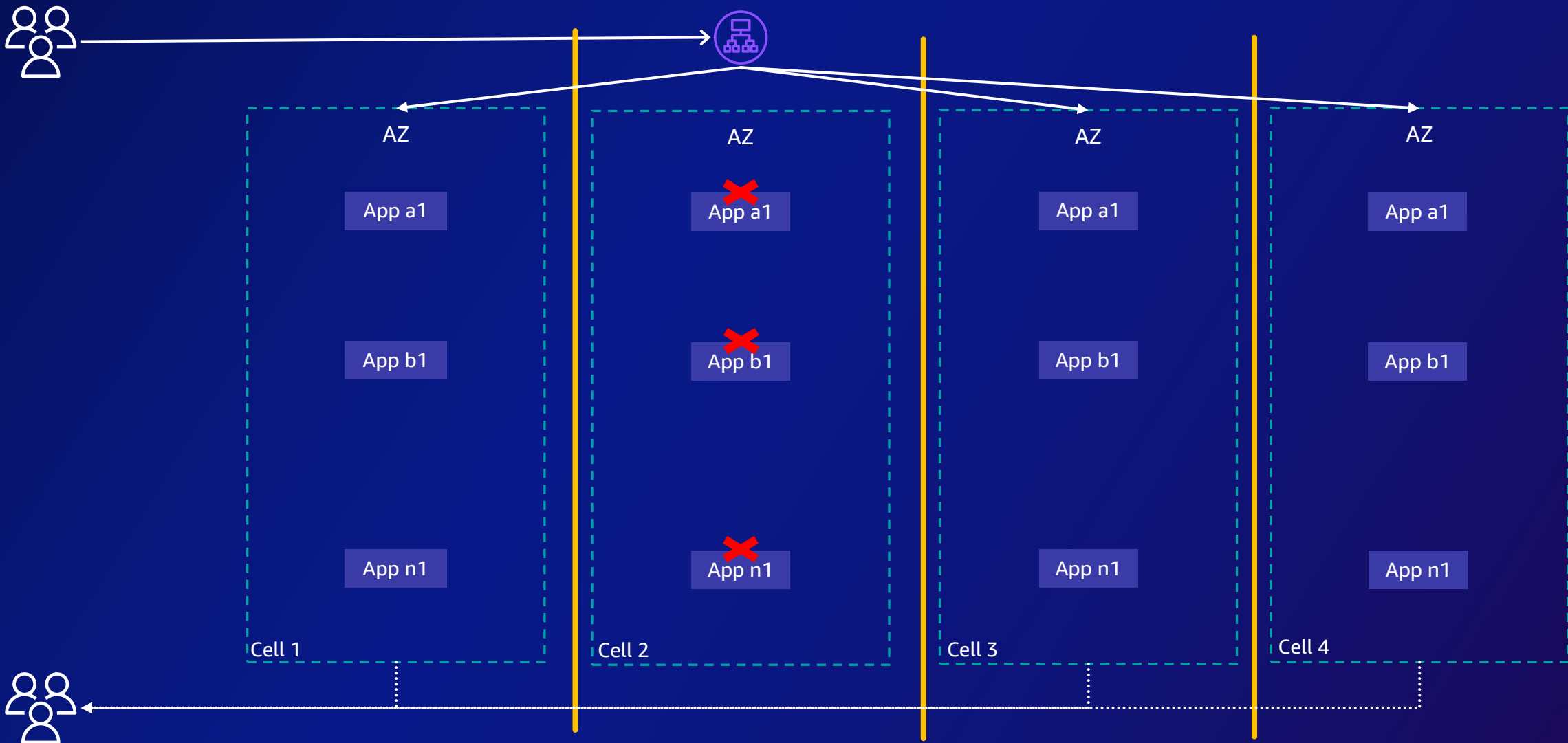
# Supercell



# Better resiliency



# Better resiliency



**With plan in hand,  
time to implement**



**I get a cluster, you get a cluster,  
we all get a cluster**



# How will we manage our cluster workloads now?

Kubernetes native

Efficient

Git-based

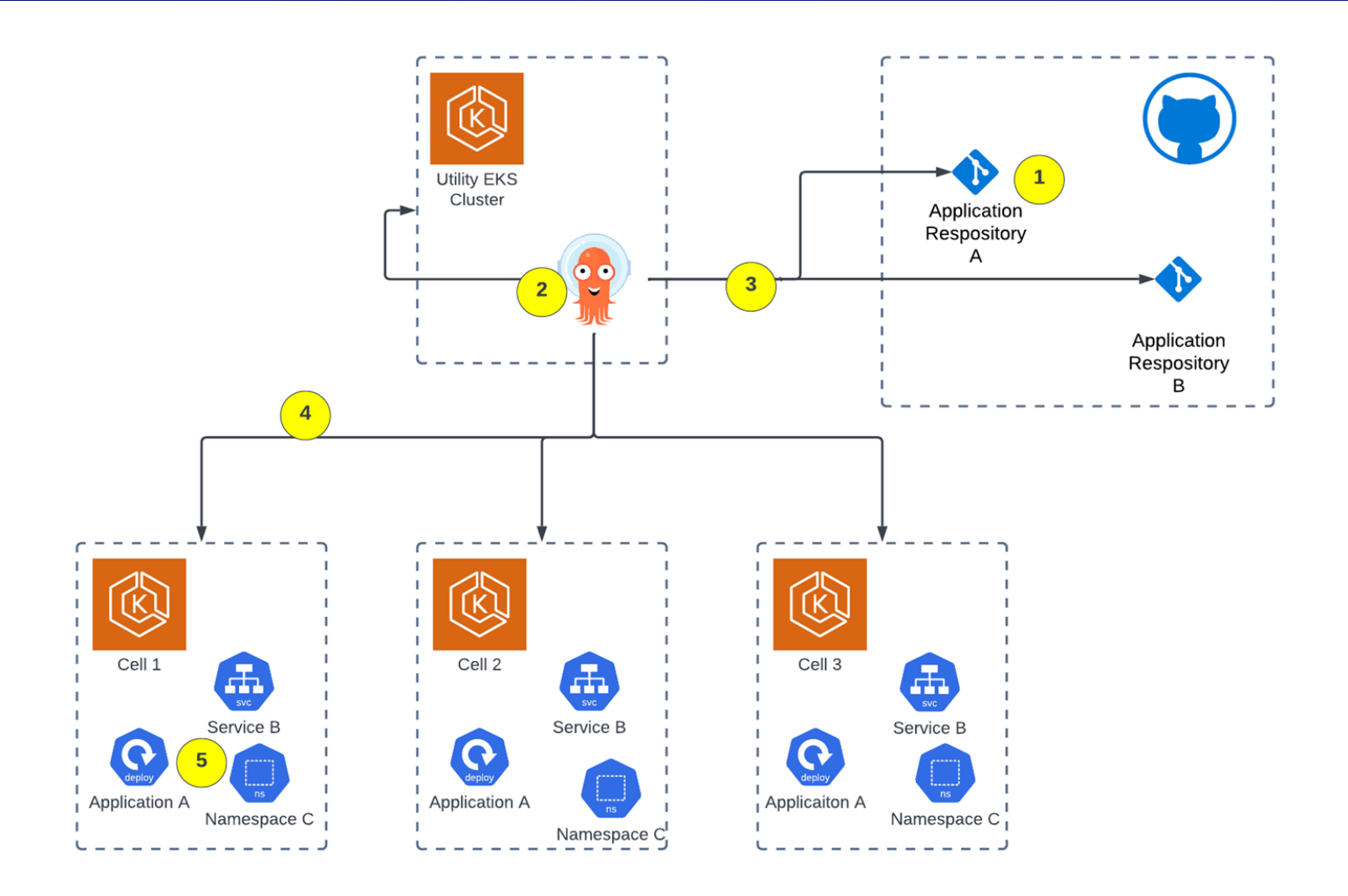
Support for multiple Kubernetes deployment types



# Argo CD: Declarative, GitOps continuous delivery tool for Kubernetes



# Argo CD workflow



# Argo CD applications in a nutshell

Applications / **argocd-dev**

APPLICATION DETAILS TREE

APP HEALTH **Missing**

CURRENT SYNC STATUS **OutOfSync From 3.33.2 (3.33.2)**

LAST SYNC RESULT **Sync OK** To 3.33.2  
Succeeded a minute ago (Thu Feb 03 2022 11:47:24 GMT-0500)

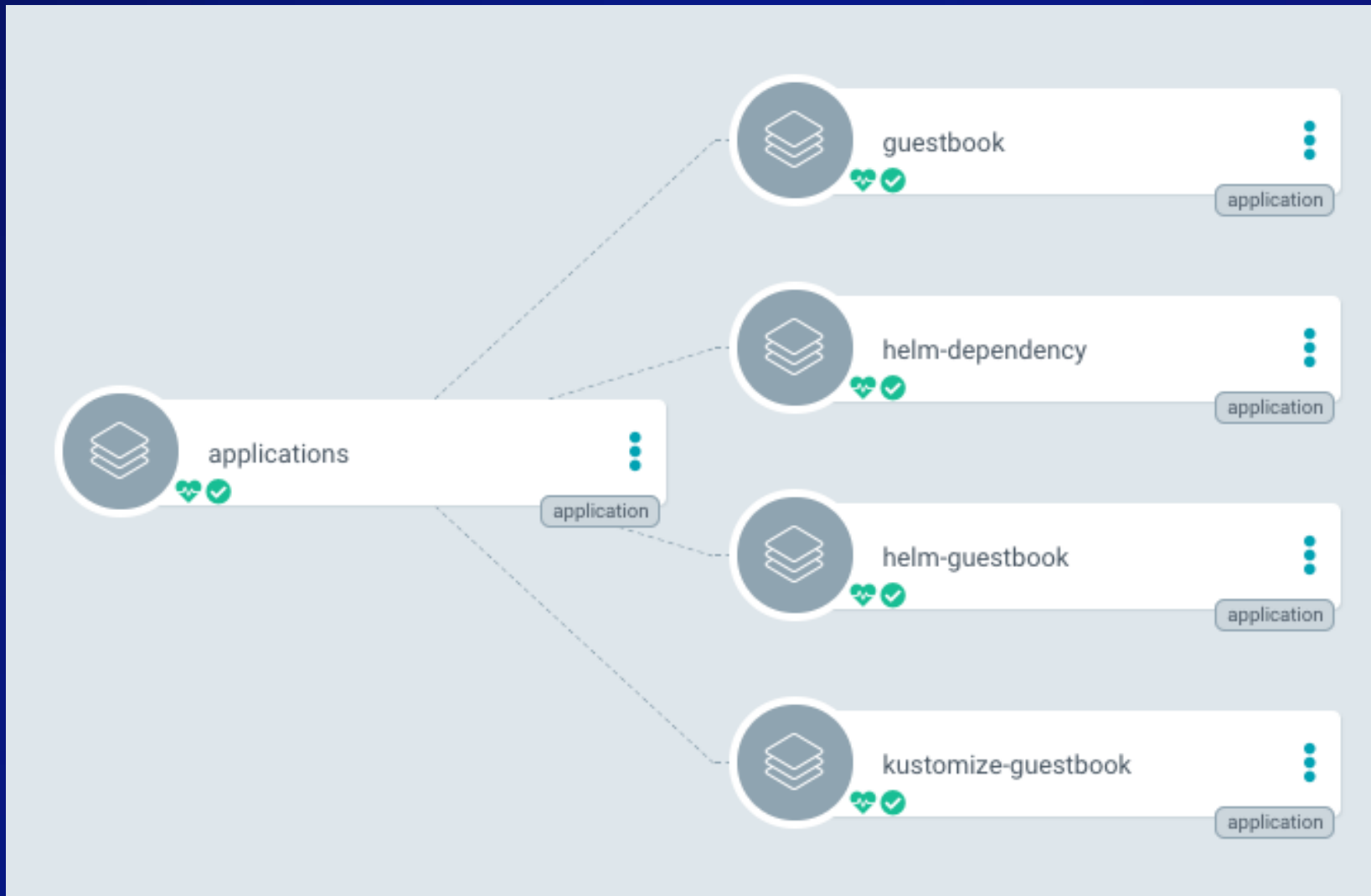
argocd-dev (90%)

- argocd-dex-server (secret) - 8 minutes
- argocd-dex-server-token-58bnk (secret) - 8 minutes
- argocd-server (secret) - 8 minutes
- argocd-server-token-r7mf8 (secret) - 8 minutes
- argocd-dev-application-controller (deployment) - 4 minutes (rev 1)
- argocd-dev-application-controller (pod) - 4 minutes (running)
- argocd-dev-repo-server (deployment) - 4 minutes (rev 1)
- argocd-dev-repo-server-6985c... (pod) - 4 minutes (running)
- argocd-dev-server (deployment) - 4 minutes (rev 1)
- argocd-dev-server-67b9d9649f (pod) - 4 minutes (running)

click to show details of 5 collapsed ConfigMap

click to show details of 3 collapsed CustomResourceDefinition

# The application of applications pattern



# YAML, YAML, everywhere

```
apiVersion: argoproj.io/v1alpha1
kind: ApplicationSet
metadata:
  name: guestbook
spec:
  generators:
  - list:
    elements:
    - cluster: engineering-dev
      url: https://1.2.3.4
    - cluster: engineering-prod
      url: https://2.4.6.8
    - cluster: finance-preprod
      url: https://9.8.7.6
  template:
    metadata:
      name: '{{cluster}}-guestbook'
    spec:
      project: default
      source:
        repoURL: https://github.com/argoproj/argocd.git
        targetRevision: HEAD
        path: applicationset/examples/list-generator/guestbook/{{cluster}}
      destination:
        server: '{{url}}'
        namespace: guestbook
```

# Could we do more?

```
defaults:  
  accountNumber: &accountNumber "1234567890"  
  superCellName: env-use1  
  valuesFile: values-env-use1.yaml  
  argoRepoURL: https://git/path/to/argocd/repo.git  
  environment: env
```

```
clusterCell:  
  - cluster: env-use1-az2  
    url: https://eks-cluster1-url-az2  
    accountNumber: *accountNumber  
  - cluster: env-use1-az4  
    url: https://eks-cluster1-url-az2  
    accountNumber: *accountNumber  
  - cluster: env-use1-az6  
    url : https://eks-cluster1-url-az2  
    accountNumber: *accountNumber
```

## deployed\_applications:

```
- name: app  
  repoURL: https://git/path/to/custom/app.git  
  path: deploy/chart/  
  extraHelmParameters:  
    - name: app.serviceAccount.annotations.eks\.amazonaws\.com/role-arn  
      value: arn:aws:iam::{{ accountNumber }}:role/{{ cluster }}-app-sa-irsa  
  clusterOverrides:  
    env-use1-az4:  
      targetRevision: "feature/the-latest-hotness"
```

# Key takeaways from Argo CD

```
argocd
├── apps
│   ├── life360-app1
│   └── life360-app2
├── clusters
│   ├── cell1
│   ├── cell2
│   ├── cell3
│   └── utility
├── docs
├── infrastructure
│   ├── aws-ebs-csi-driver
│   ├── coredns
│   └── kube-state-metrics
└── scripts
```

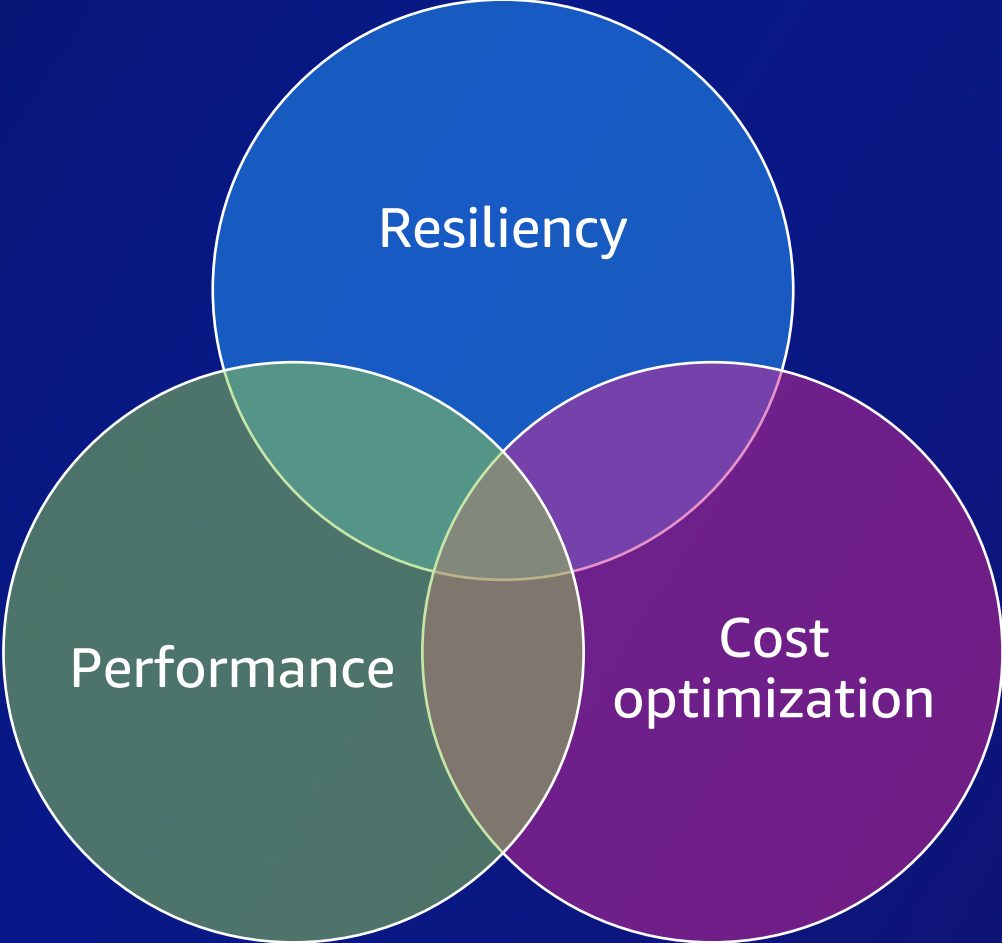


The  
package manager  
for Kubernetes

# But wait, there's more! Secondary benefits



# One more thing



# Additional benefits of cell-based pattern

## Environments

- Canary an environment
- Can create ephemeral environments effortlessly, not just nodes

## Once in AZ, stay in AZ

- Cost
- Latency

## Cluster upgrades

- We never have to upgrade a live cluster again

## Additional capacity



# Additional resources



[Static stability at AWS](#)

Static stability using Availability Zones



[Amazon EKS](#)

Getting started with Amazon EKS



[EKS workshop](#)

Practical exercises to learn about Amazon EKS



[Amazon EKS best practices](#)

Best practices for day 2 operations for Amazon EKS

# Thank you!

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Please complete the session  
survey in the mobile app

Jesse Gonzalez  
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