

# An Holistic Data Architecture: From Source to Insight



**Rick F. van der Lans**  
Industry analyst



CONSULTANCY

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# Rick F. van der Lans

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**Rick F. van der Lans** is a highly-respected independent analyst, consultant, author, and internationally acclaimed lecturer specializing in data warehousing, business intelligence, big data, and database technology. He is managing director of R20/Consultancy BV.

He has presented countless seminars, webinars, and keynotes at industry-leading conferences. Rick helps clients worldwide to design their data warehouse, big data, and business intelligence architectures and solutions and assists them with selecting the right products. He has been influential in introducing the new logical data warehouse architecture worldwide which helps organizations to develop more agile business intelligence systems.

He is the author of several books on computing, including his new *Data Virtualization: Selected Writings* and *Data Virtualization for Business Intelligence Systems*. Some of these books are available in different languages. Books such as the popular *Introduction to SQL* is available in English, Dutch, Italian, Chinese, and German and is sold world wide. He also authored numerous whitepapers for vendors.

In 2018 he was selected the sixth most influential BI analyst worldwide by [analytica.com](http://analytica.com).

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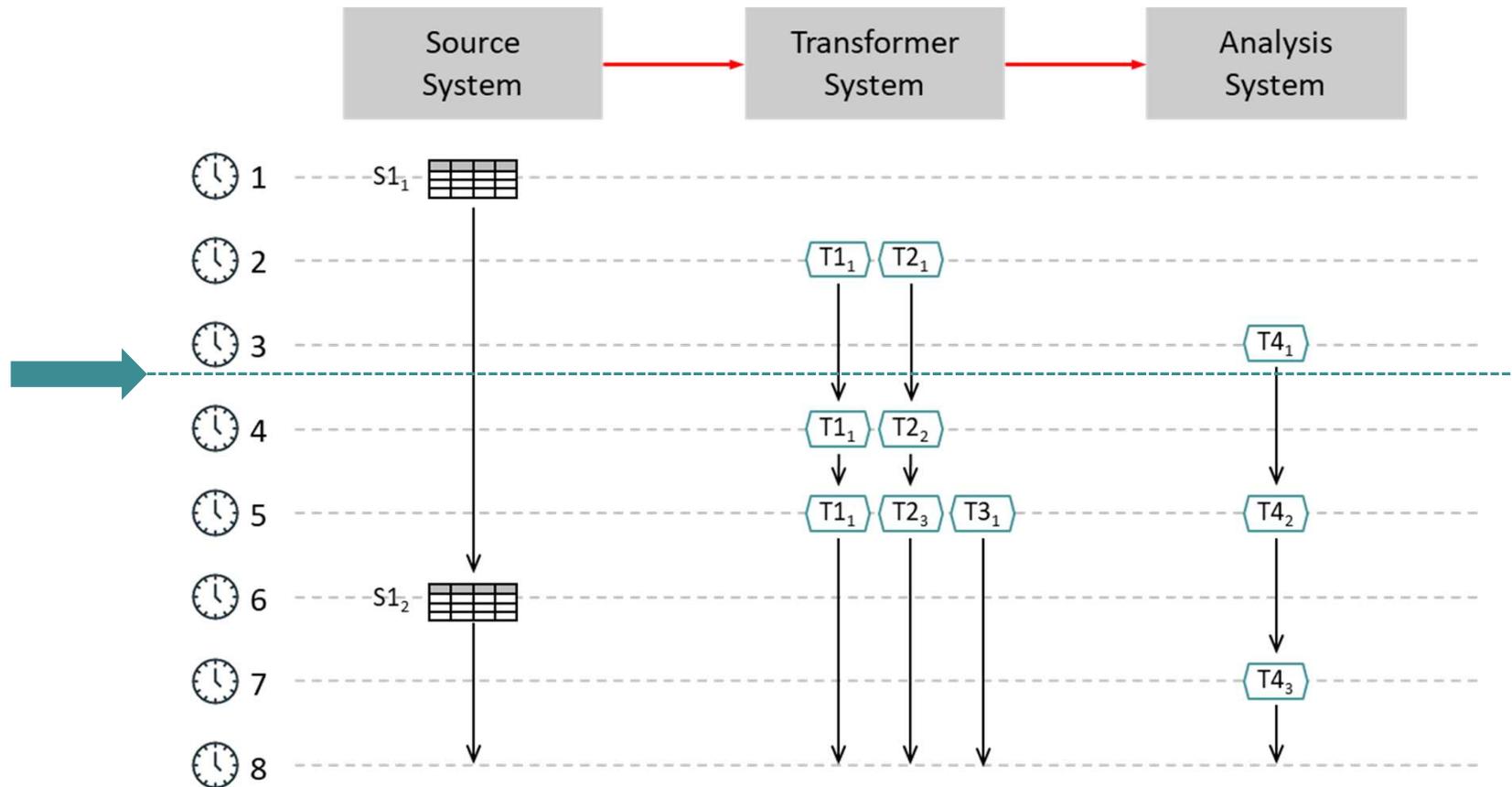
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/rick-van-der-lans>

# Challenges, Wishes and Requirements

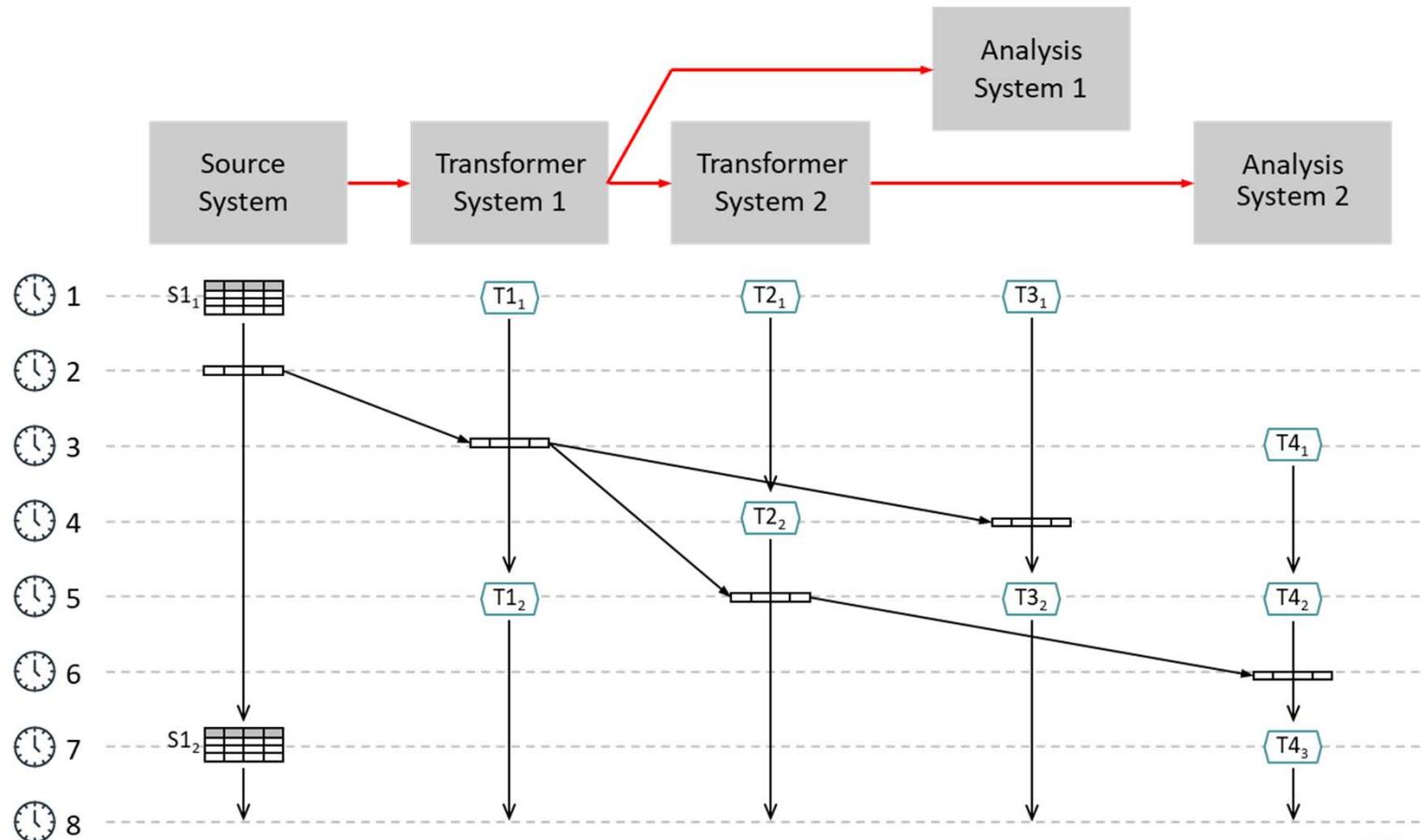
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- Speeding up development of *cross-system analysis systems*
- Speeding up development of *cross-organization analysis systems*
- Simplifying the *synchronization of source systems*
- Increasing data processing transparency for *process/decision reconstruction*
- Increasing the *discoverability* and clarity/meaning of data
- Improving *data quality*
- Strengthening *data security* and *data privacy*
- Strengthening *data history*
- Handling unstructured data: video, sound, text, and images
- Simplifying the data processing landscape
- Smarter uses of new technology

# Example of Horizontal Lineage With Versions



# Example of Operational Lineage

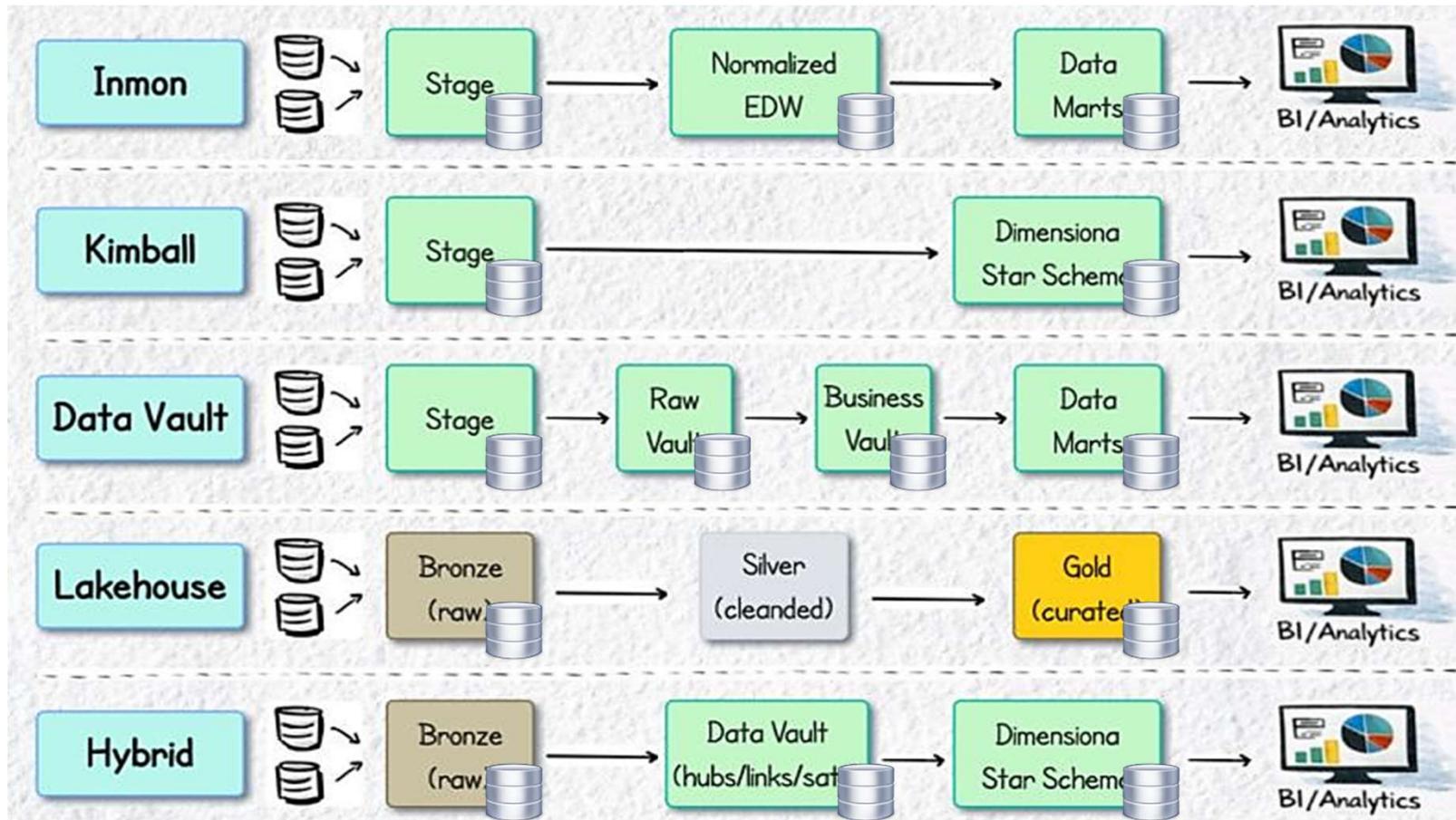


# Challenges, Wishes and Requirements

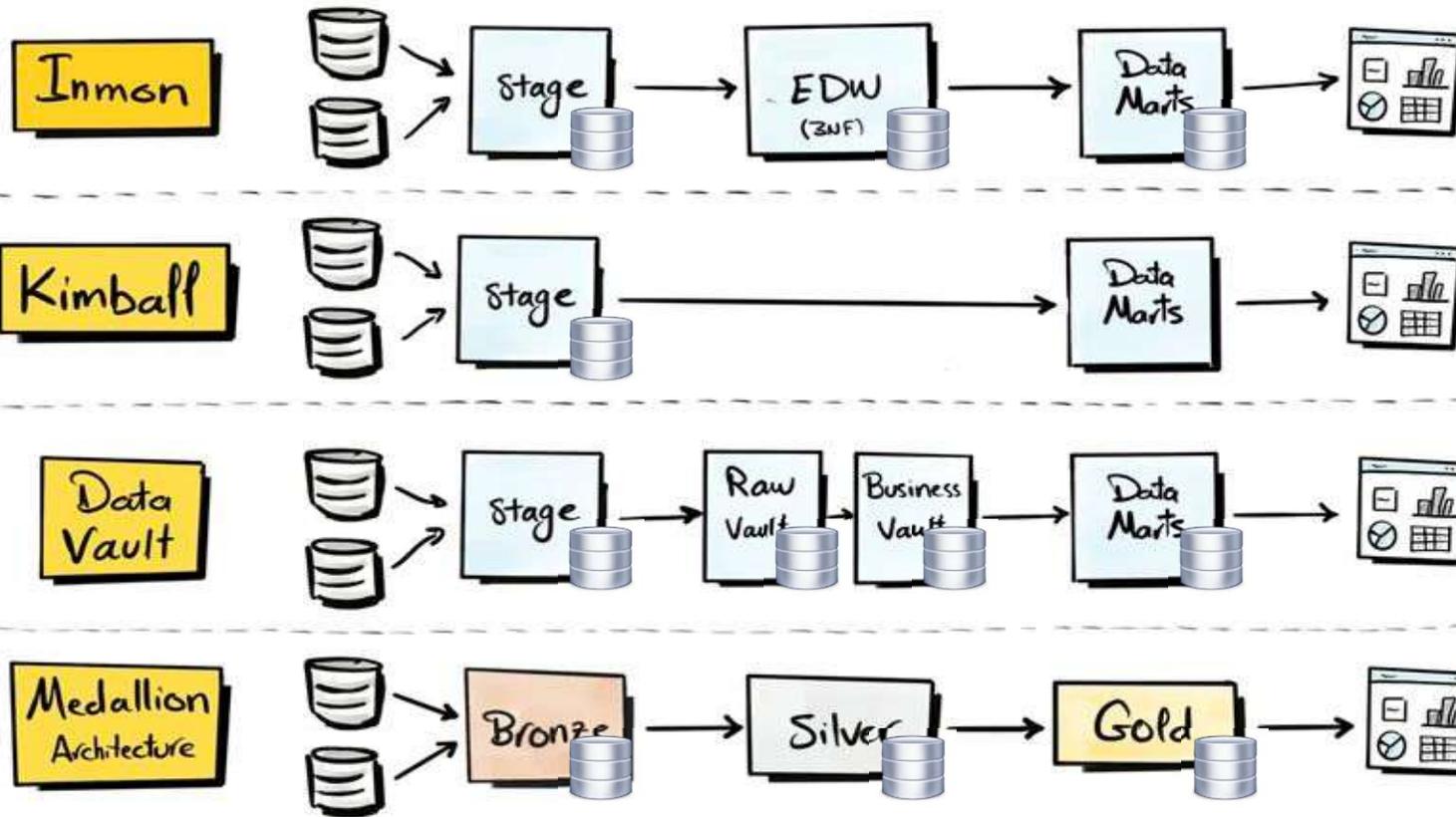
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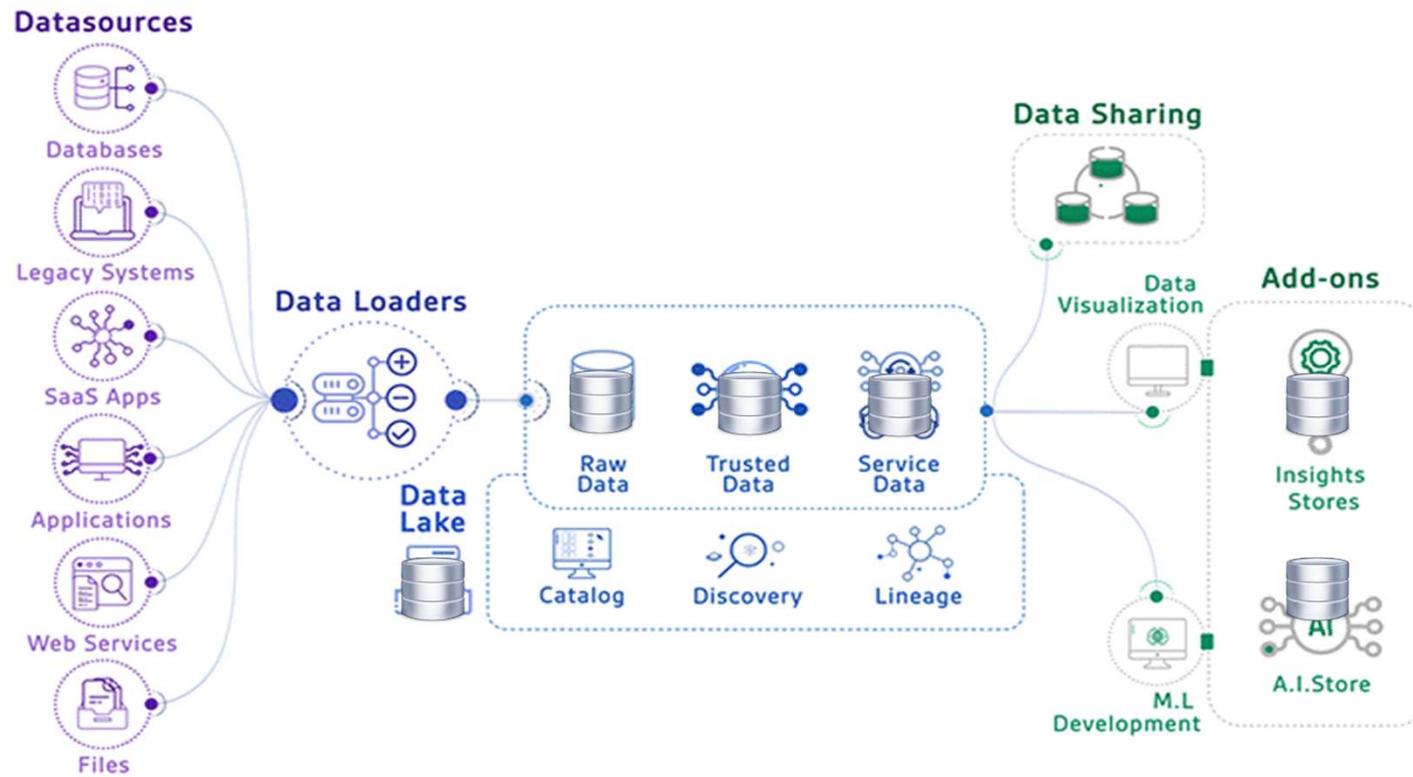
# Domain Data Architectures (1)



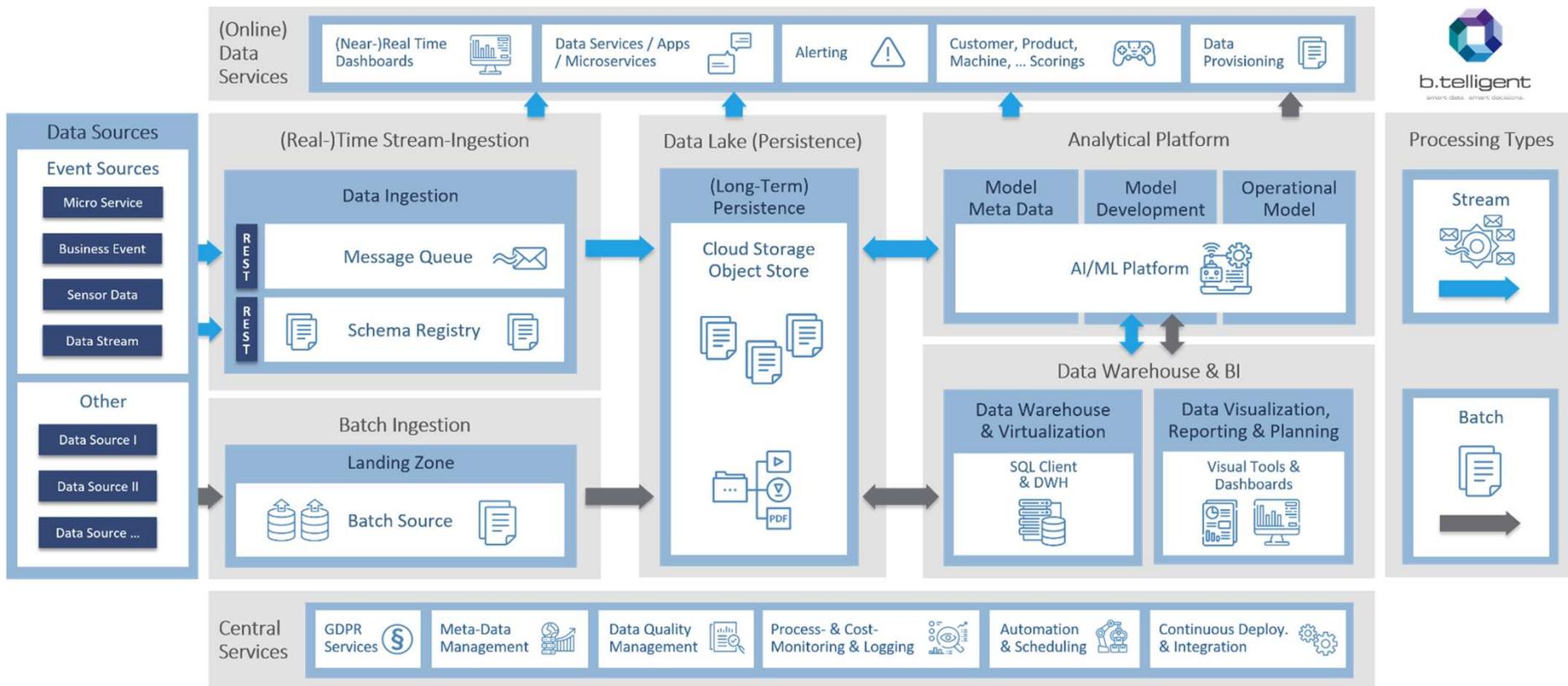
# Domain Data Architectures (2)



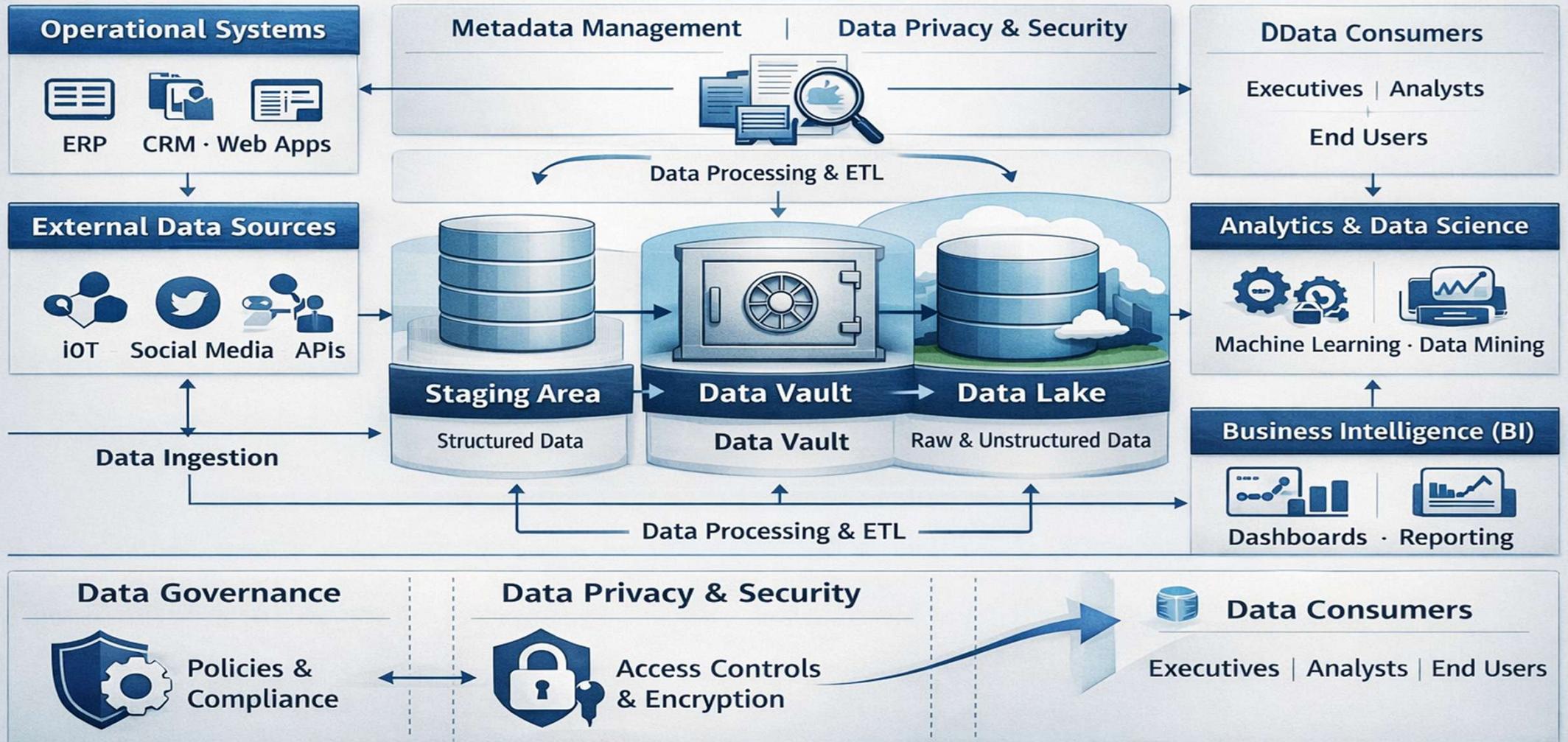
# Domain Data Architectures (3)



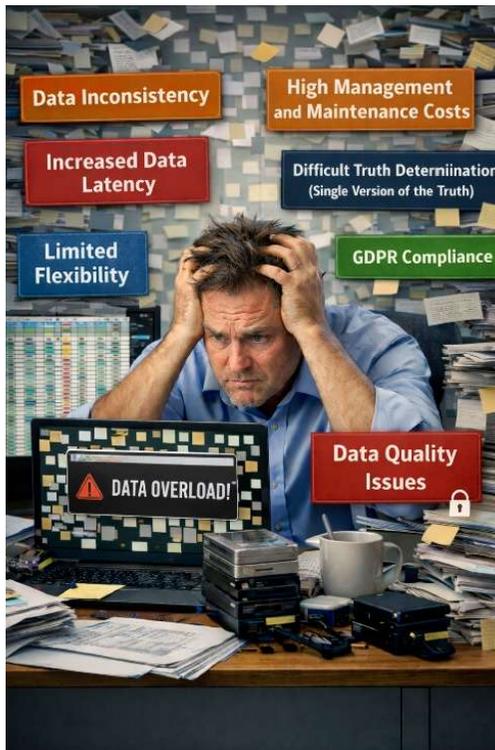
# Data-copy Rich Data Architectures



# Data Architecture

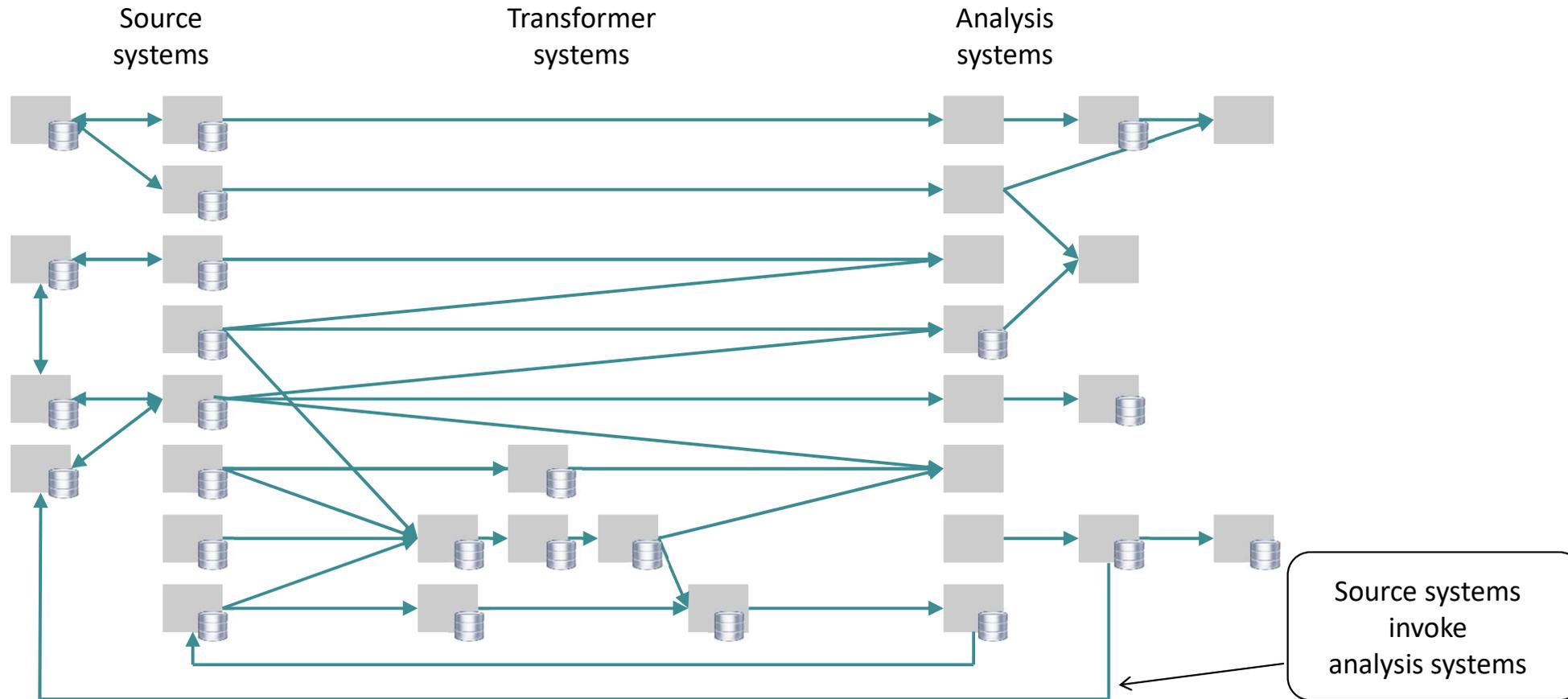


# Disadvantages of Data Copying

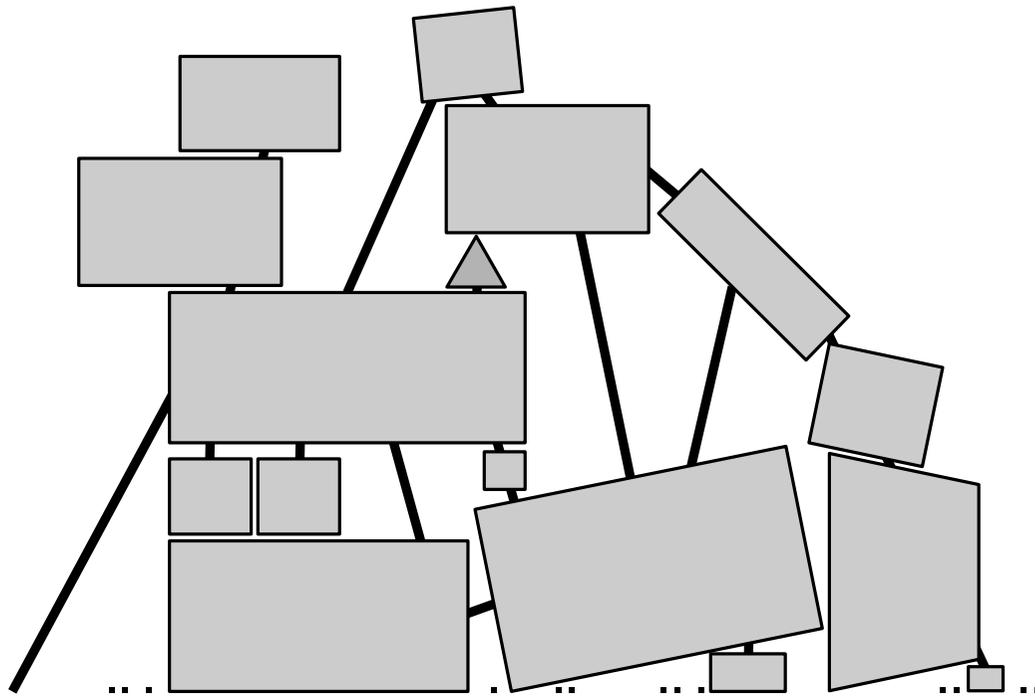


- Data inconsistency
- Difficult determination of the truth (“single version of the truth”)
- Limited flexibility and agility
- High management, development, and maintenance costs
- More complex compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Complex data synchronization issues
- Data quality challenges
- More complex data security
- Outdated data (increased data latency)
- ...

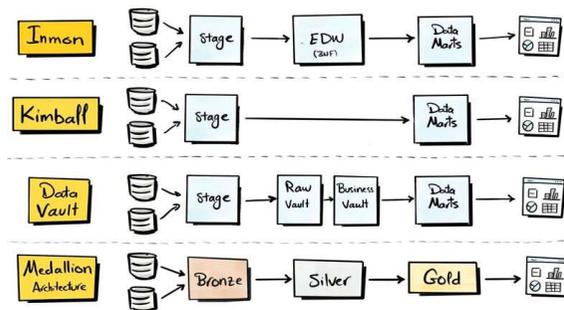
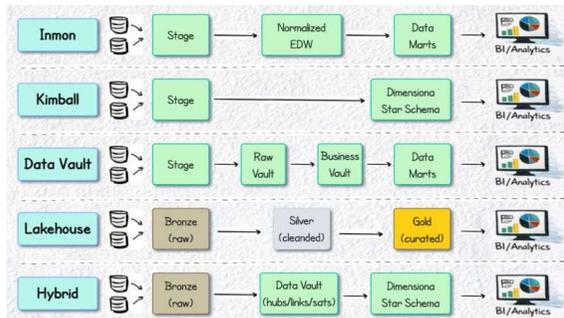
# Evolution of the Data Processing Landscape



# “Wobbly” Foundation of the Data Processing Landscape



# Limitations of Some Data Architectures



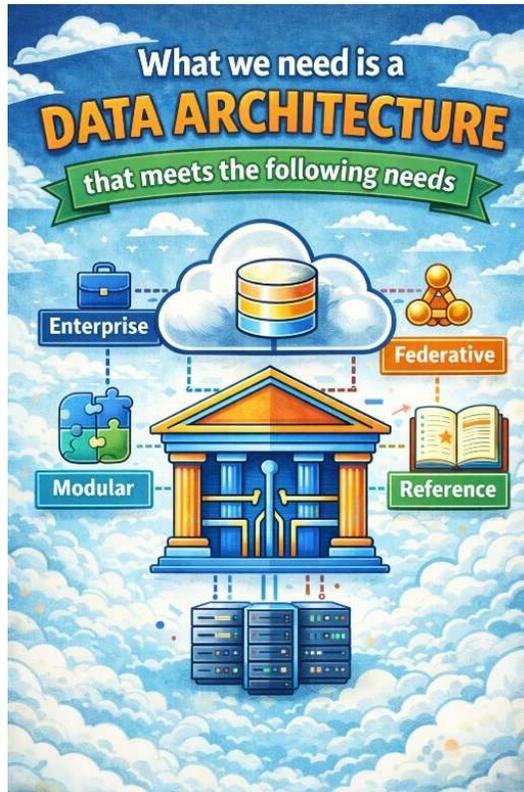
- Source systems are unjustly out of scope
  - Old and inflexible
  - Software packages
  - No IT sovereignty
  - No or limited data history
  - Poor data security
  - Complex data synchronization
- Analysis systems are unjustly out of scope
  - Many data copies
  - Not under control of IT
  - Analysis models input to source systems
- Many requirements are unjustly out of scope
  - Reconstruction
  - Metadata for everyone
  - Data-sharing versus data-exchange

# Bring Your (Data)House in Order



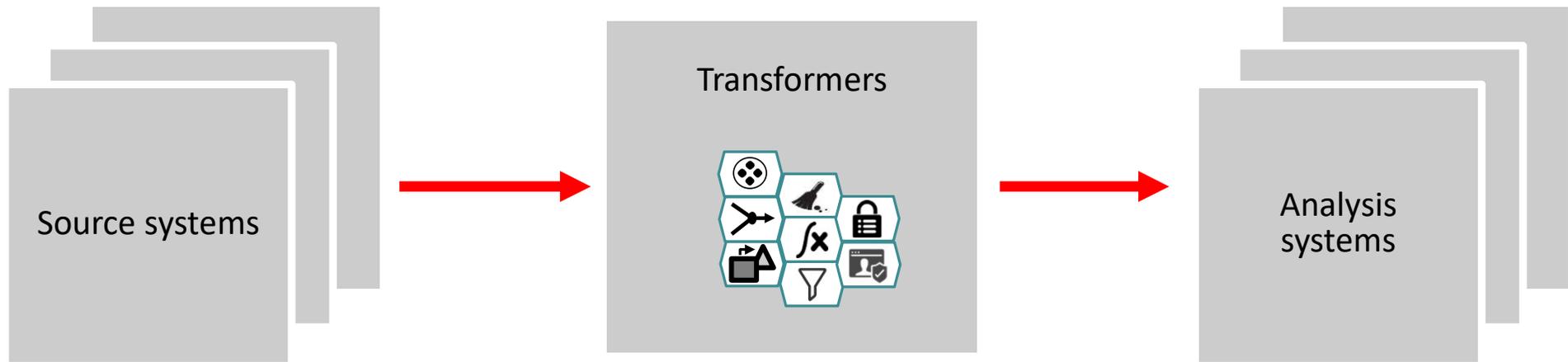
- Data in order
  - Metadata in order
  - Lineage in order (origin and impact)
  - Reconstruction in order
  - Data security in order
  - Technology in order
- 
- It all starts with *data architecture in order*

# What We Need is a ...



- *Enterprise* data architecture
  - Not a domain data architecture
  - Covers the entire data route/path
  - Not only focused on analysis and data science (and AI)
- *Modular* data architecture
  - Think big, act small
- *Federated* data architecture
  - Data storage minimization – less data copies
- *Reference* data architecture
  - Generic, reusable

# Start with Transformers, Not With Databases



Group  
Integrate  
Restructure  
Secure



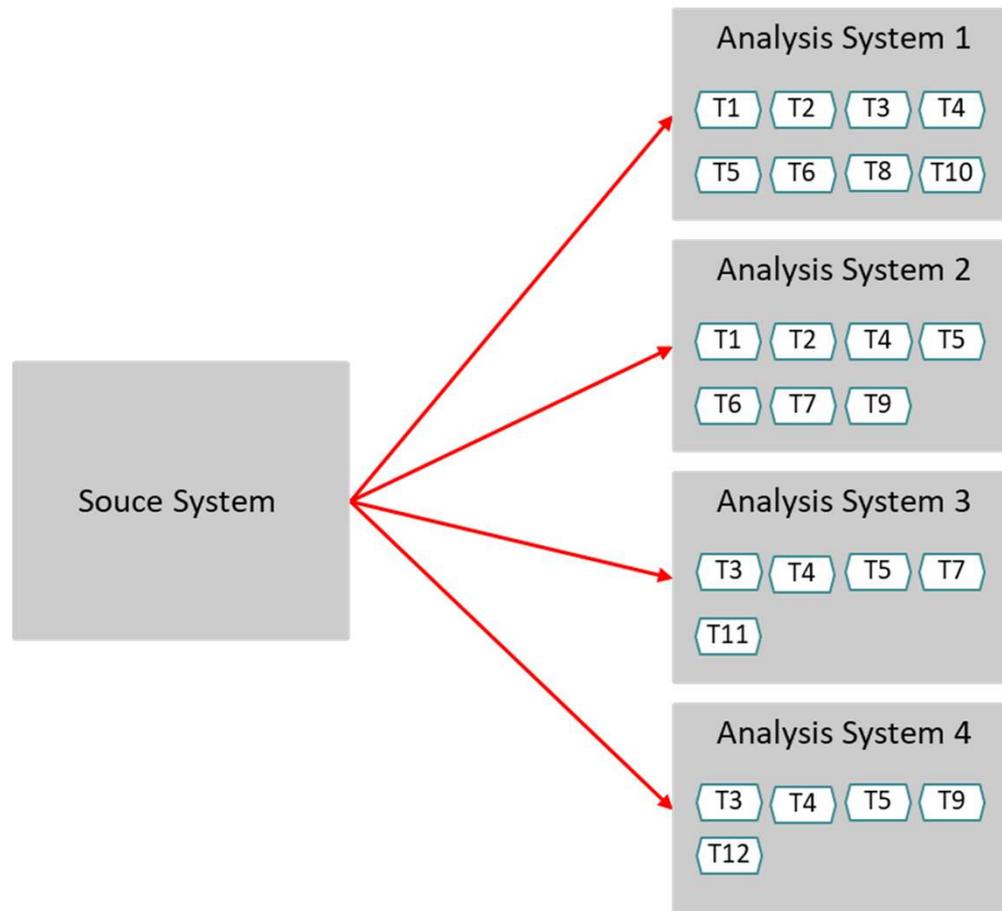
Correct  
Calculate  
Filter  
Anonymize

# Examples of Transformers

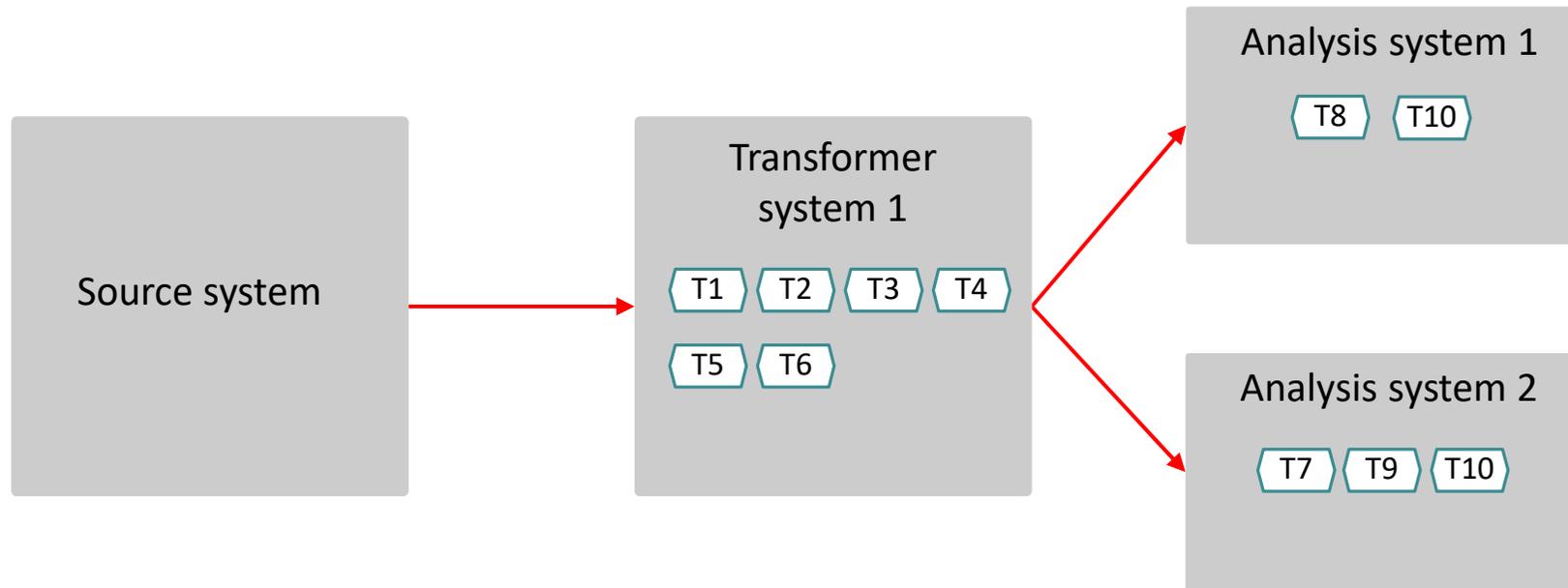
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- Data value transformations
- Data structure transformations
- Aggregations
- Filters
- Groupings
- Calculations
- Integrations
- Technical corrections
- Functional corrections
- Anonymizations
- Historizations
- ...
- Summarize
- Keywords extraction
- Translate
- Named Entity Recognition (NER)
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Text-to-speech
- Speech-to-text
- Data tagging
- Sentiment analysis
- Pattern recognition
- ...
- Clustering
- Normalization
- Interpolation
- Extrapolation
- Binning
- Sampling
- Regression
- ...
- Vector-to-Raster Conversion
- Containment
- Clipping
- Spatial intersection
- Buffering
- ...

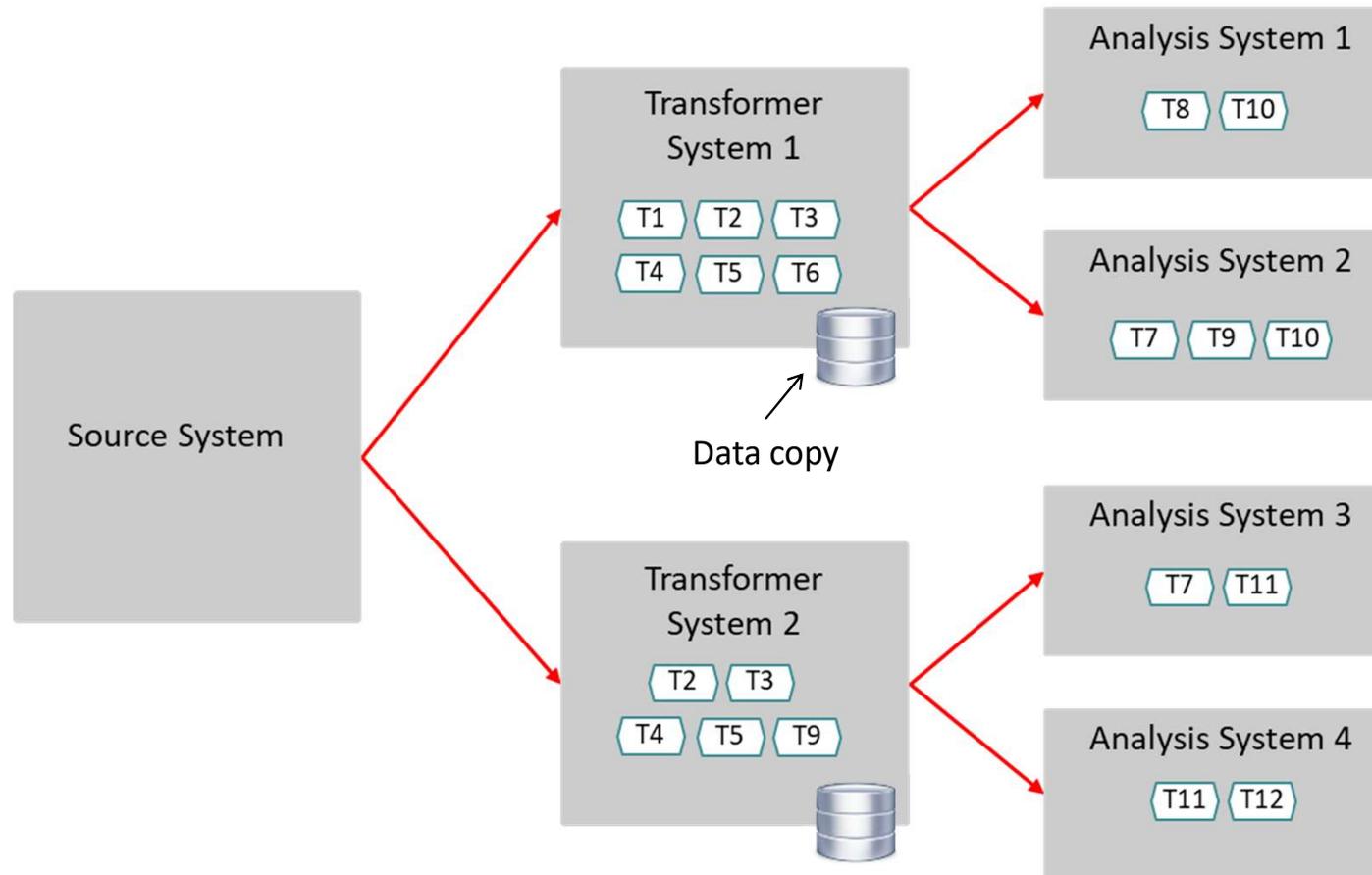
# Duplicate Transformers in Analysis Systems



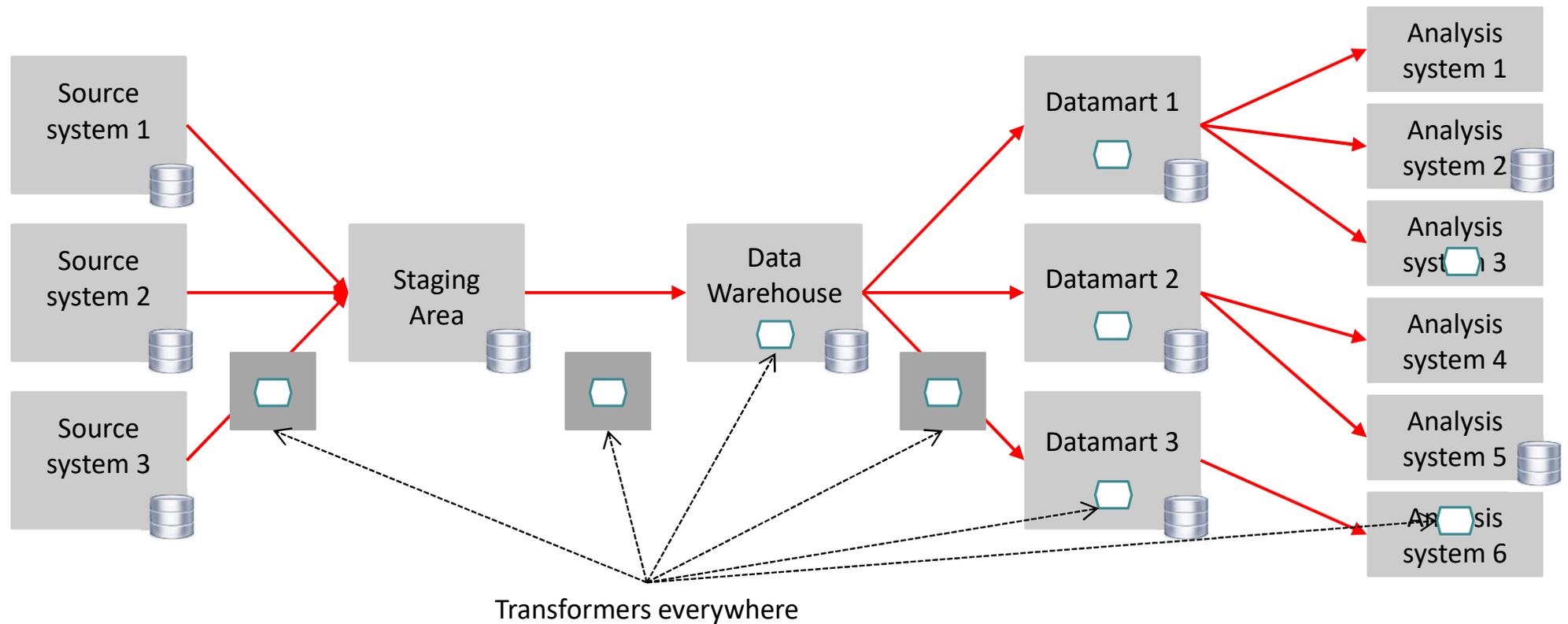
# Centralizing Transformers



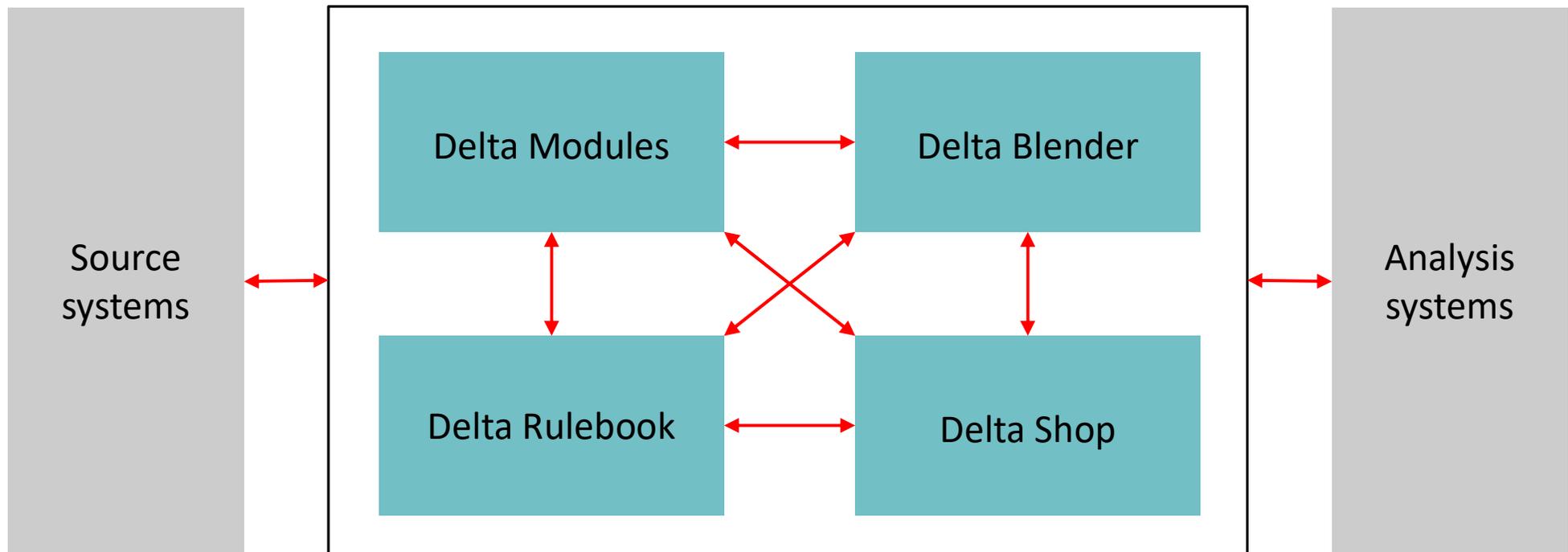
# Duplicate Transformers in Transformer Systems



# A Traditional Data Warehouse Architecture



# Delta: A Modern, Enterprise Data Architecture



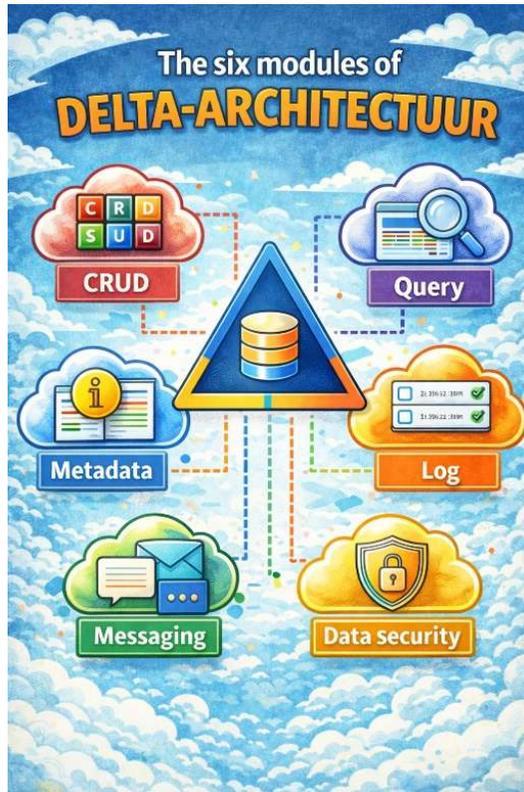
# Functions of Source Systems

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- Entering, modifying, and deleting data
  - For many business objects
- Retrieving data
- Securing data
- Data quality
- Backup and recovery tasks
- Calculating results
- Handling workflow and processes
- Triggering events
- *Connections with other systems*
- ...

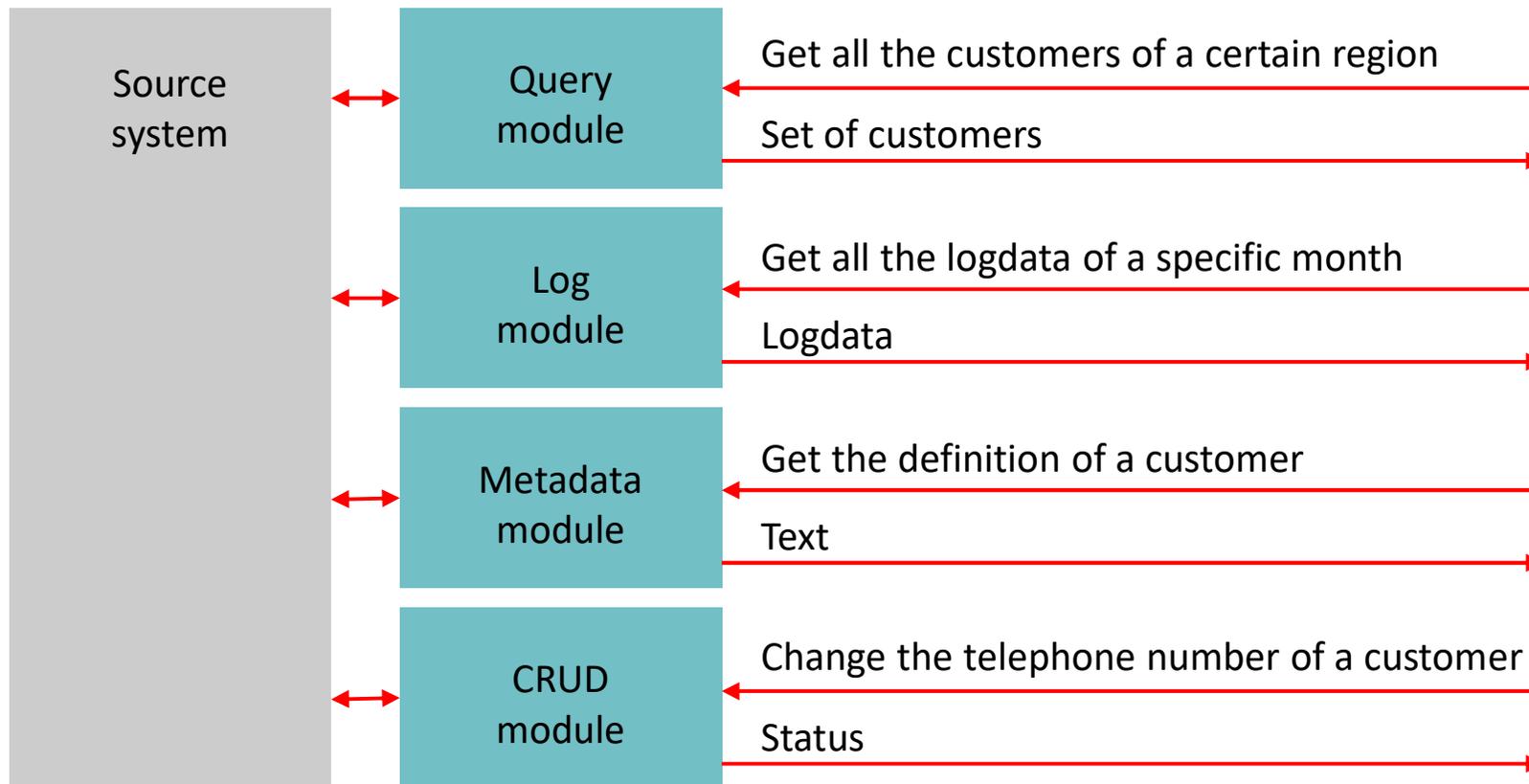


# Six Delta Modules to Wrap Source Systems



- CRUD
- Query
- Metadata
- Log
- Messaging
- Data security

# Modules and Functions

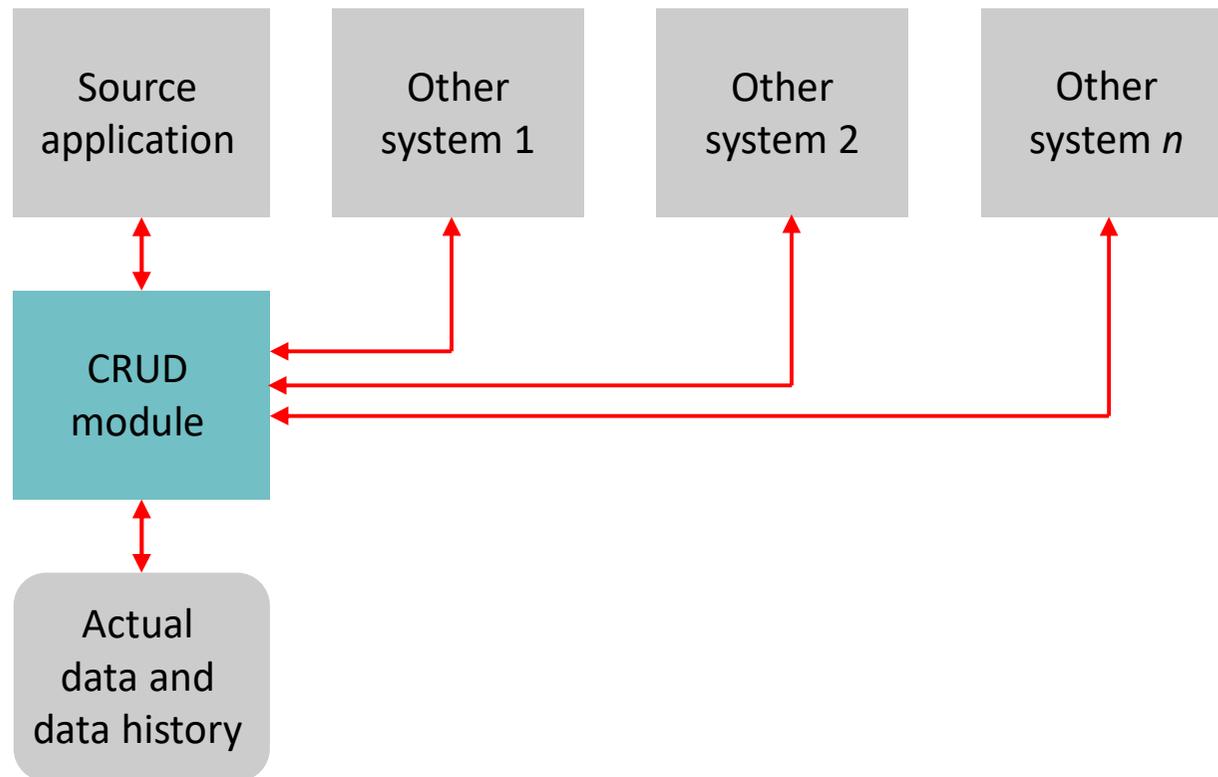


# Functions of CRUD modules

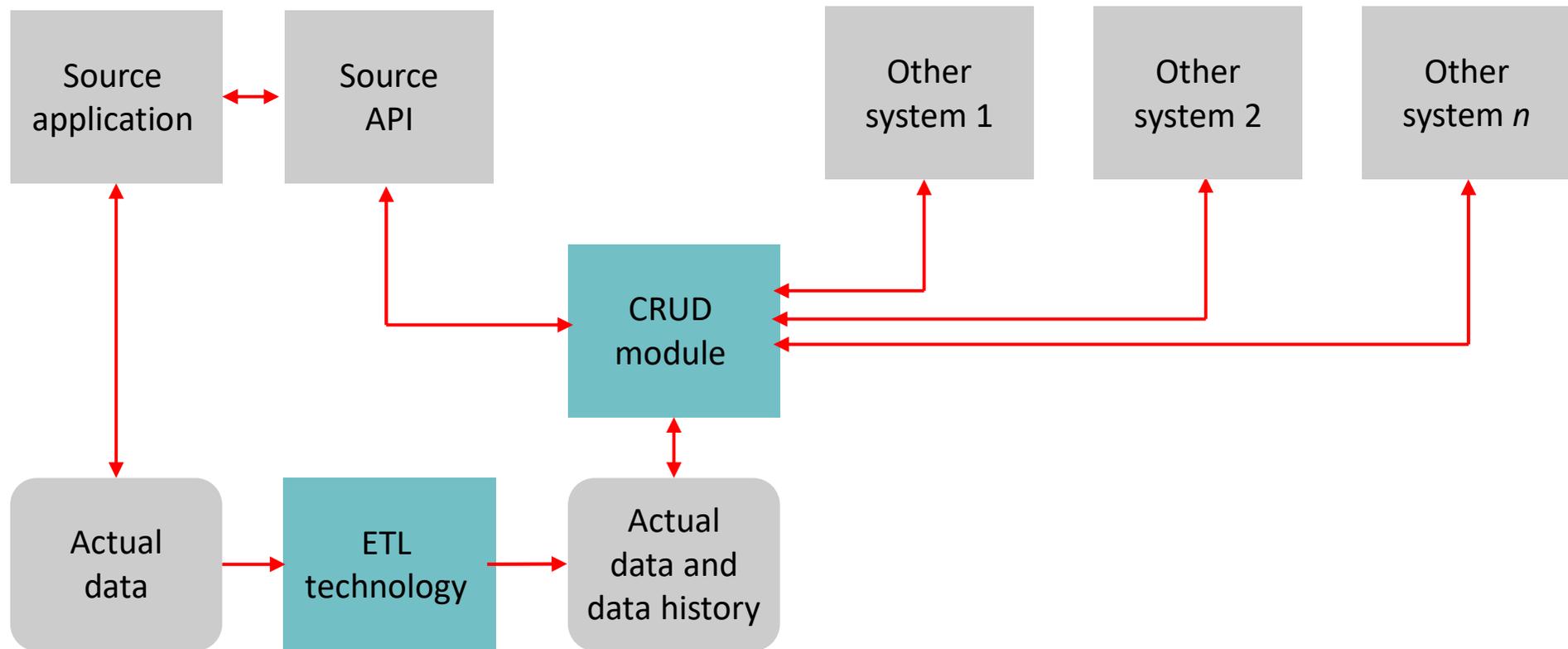
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- Offer functions to enter, view, modify, and delete data
- Hide internal and external source systems and files
- Data complies with the Enterprise Data Model
- Support time travel
  - Maintains data history if the source system does not
  - Two time dimensions: transaction time and real time
- Work with individual business objects
- Enforce data quality rules
- Involved in source system synchronization
- Replaces data exchange with data sharing
- ...

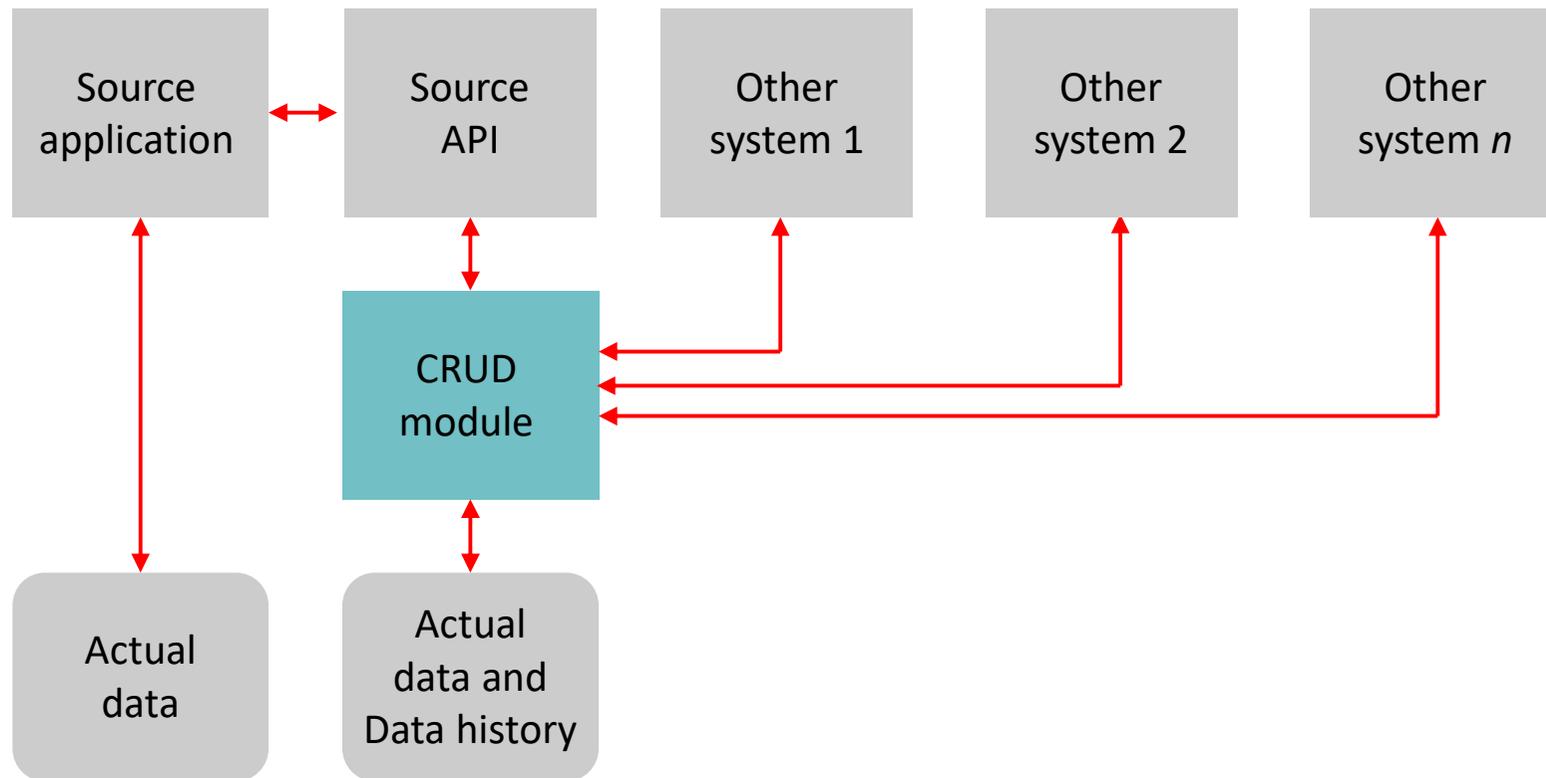
# CRUD Module (1) The Dream



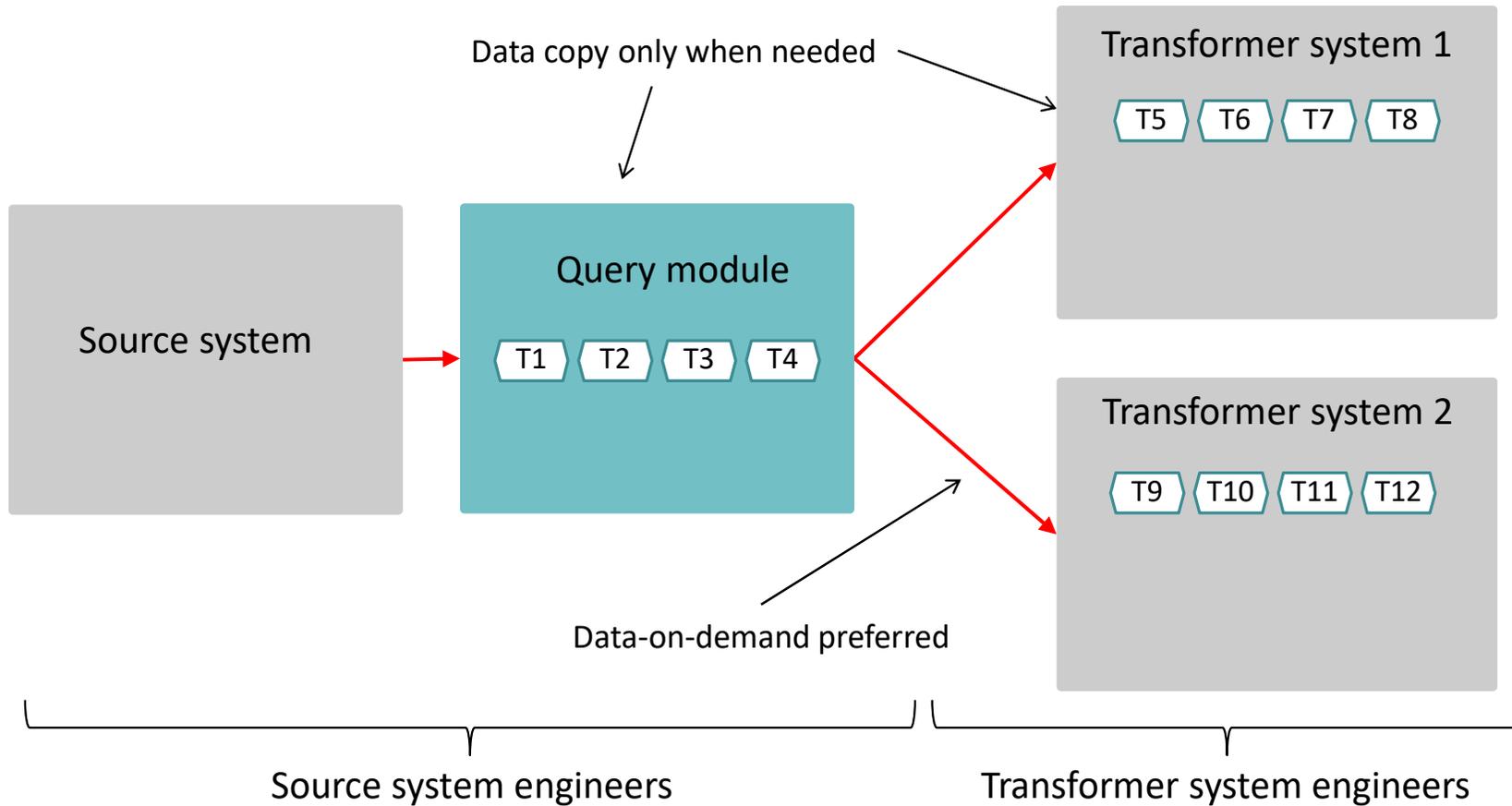
# CRUD Module (2) Via API of Source System and ETL



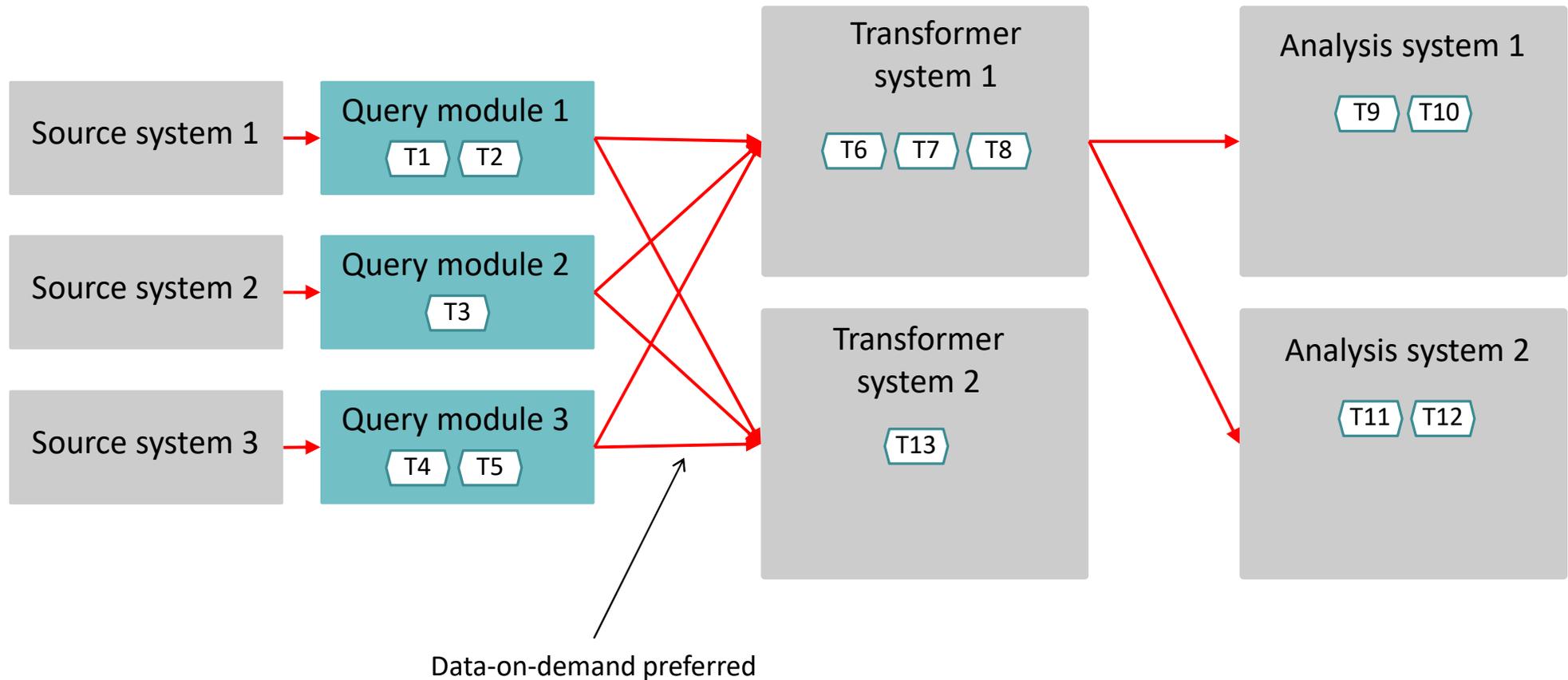
# CRUD Module (3) Via API of Source System



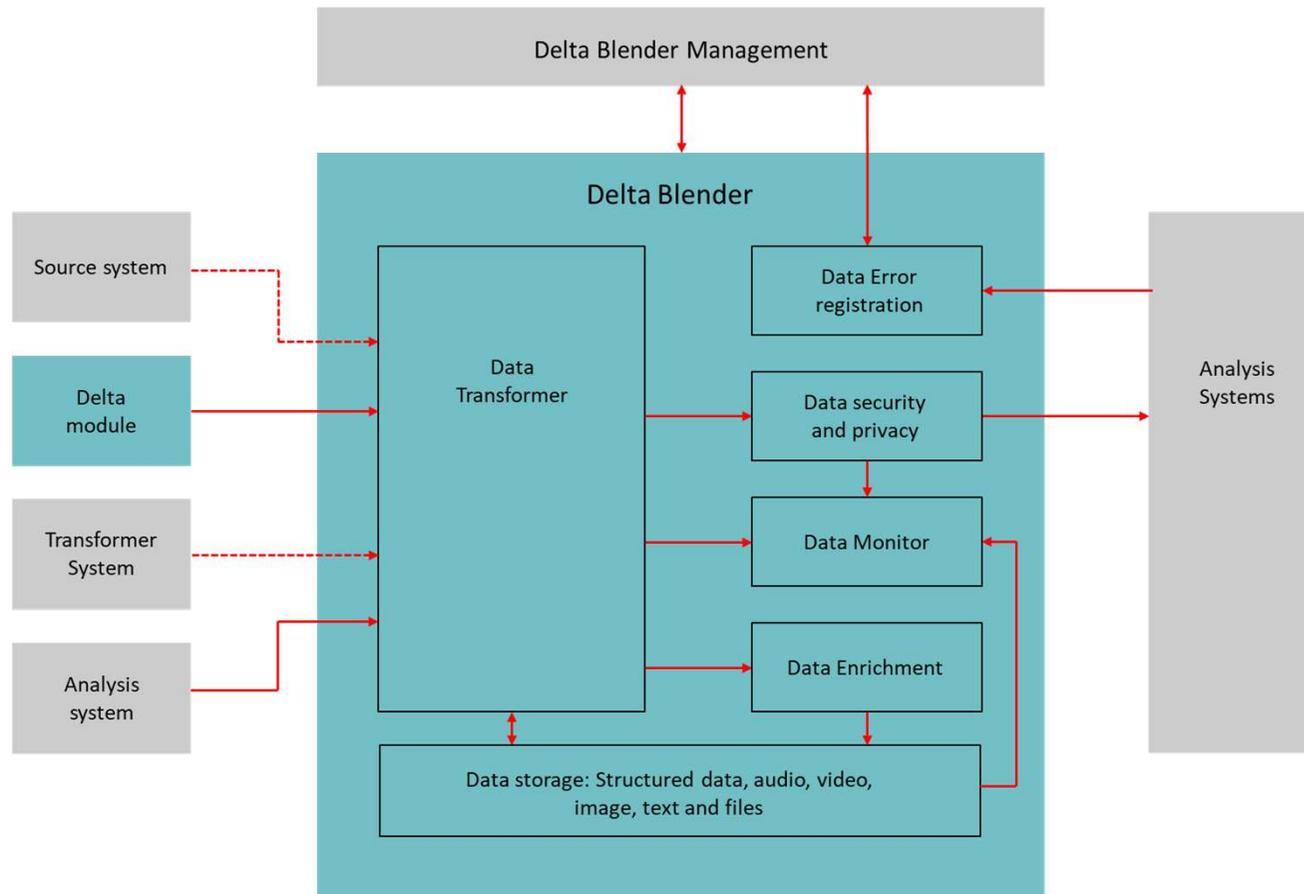
# Transformers Closer to the Source Systems



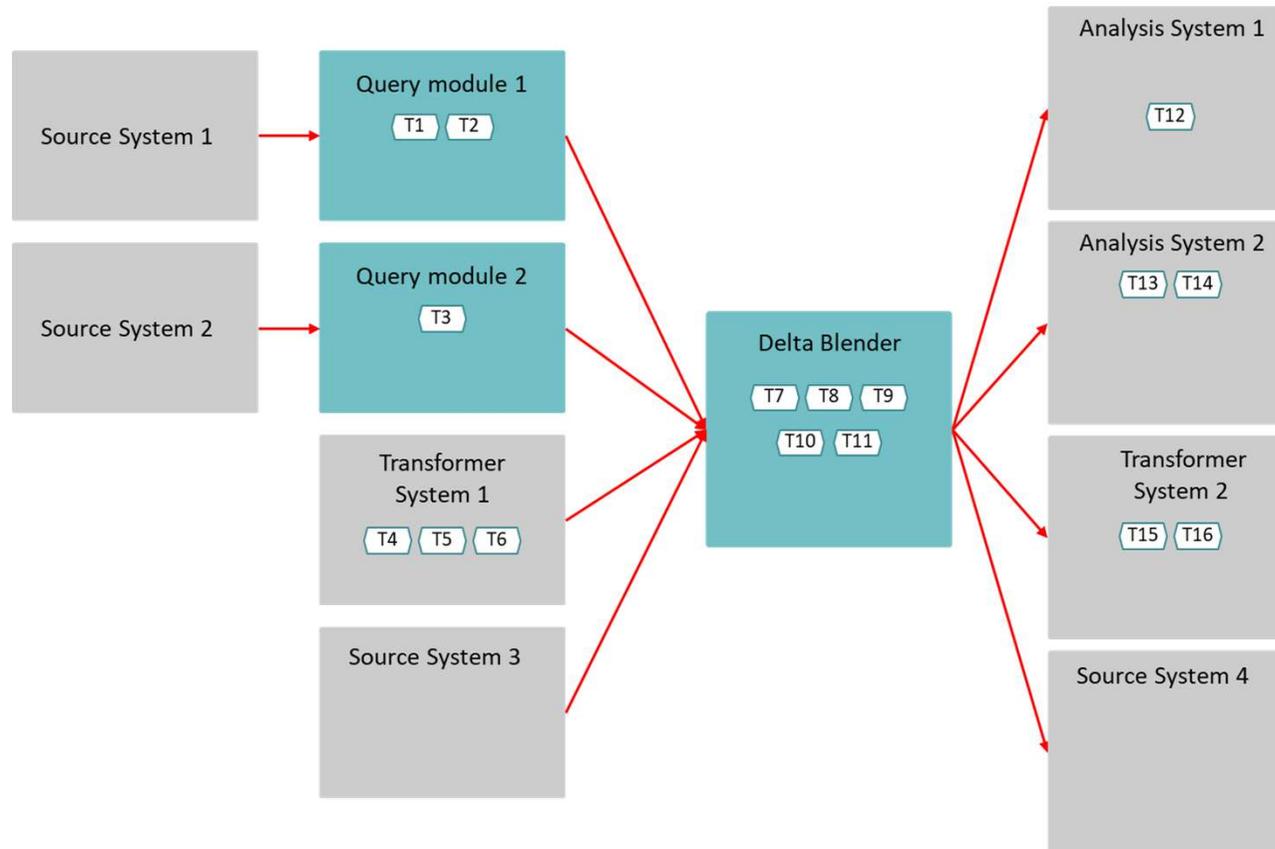
# Transforming Data in Query Modules



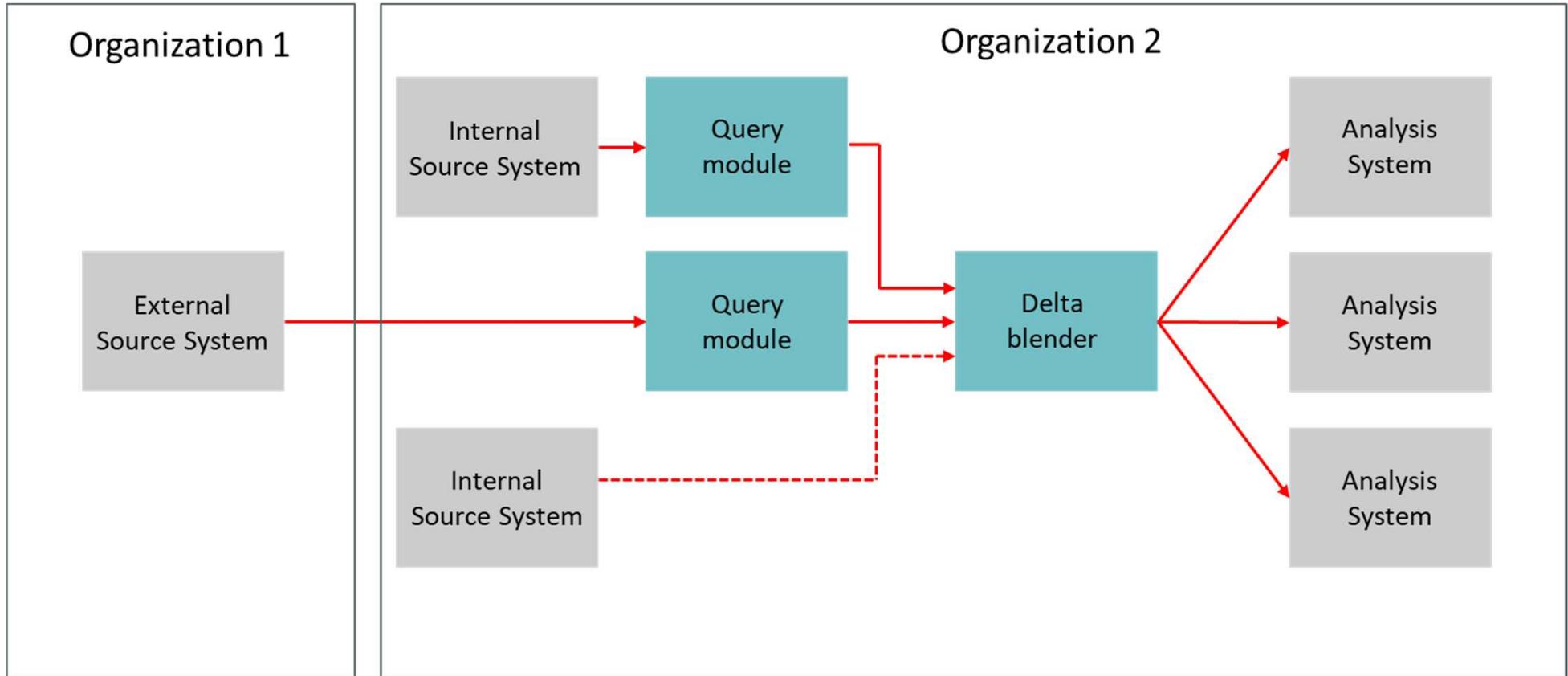
# Delta Blender: Produces Ready-to-use Data



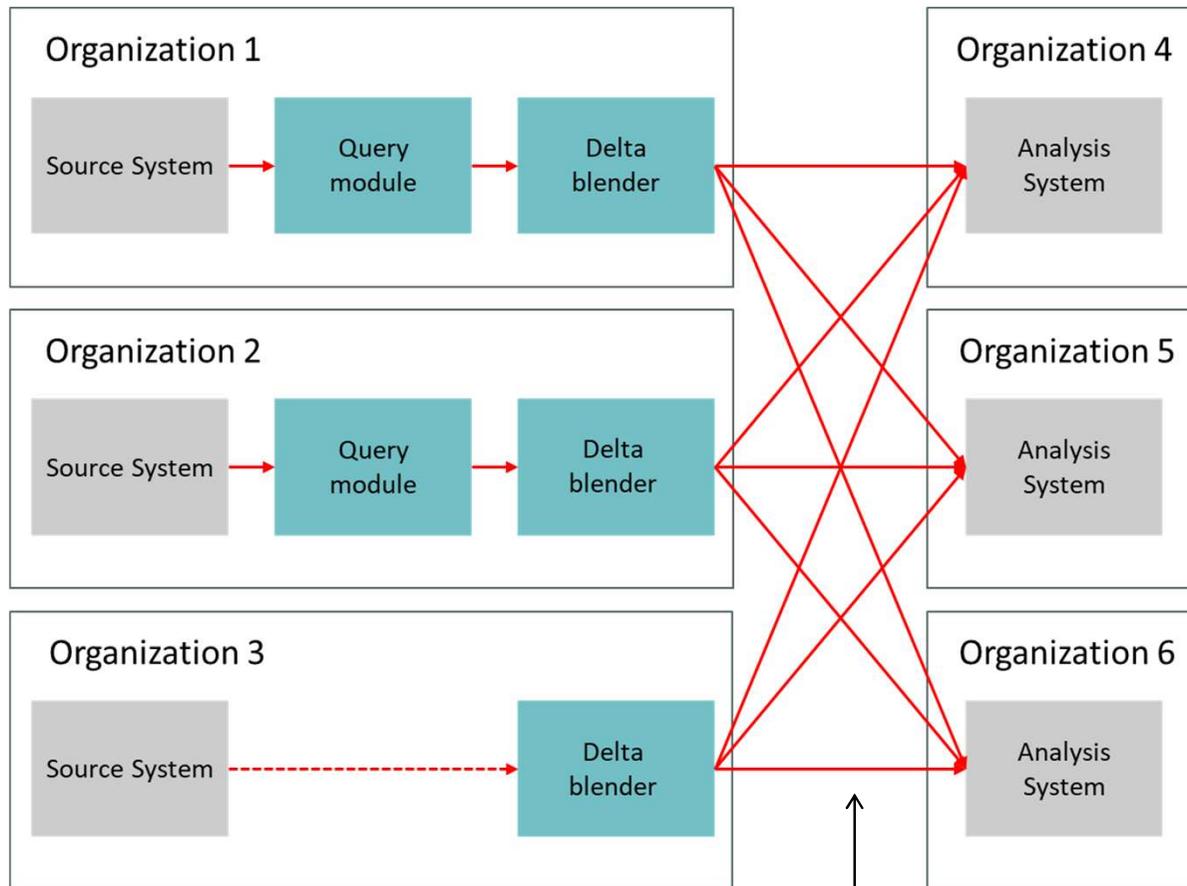
# Delta Blender: Transformers



# Local Federated Data Architecture

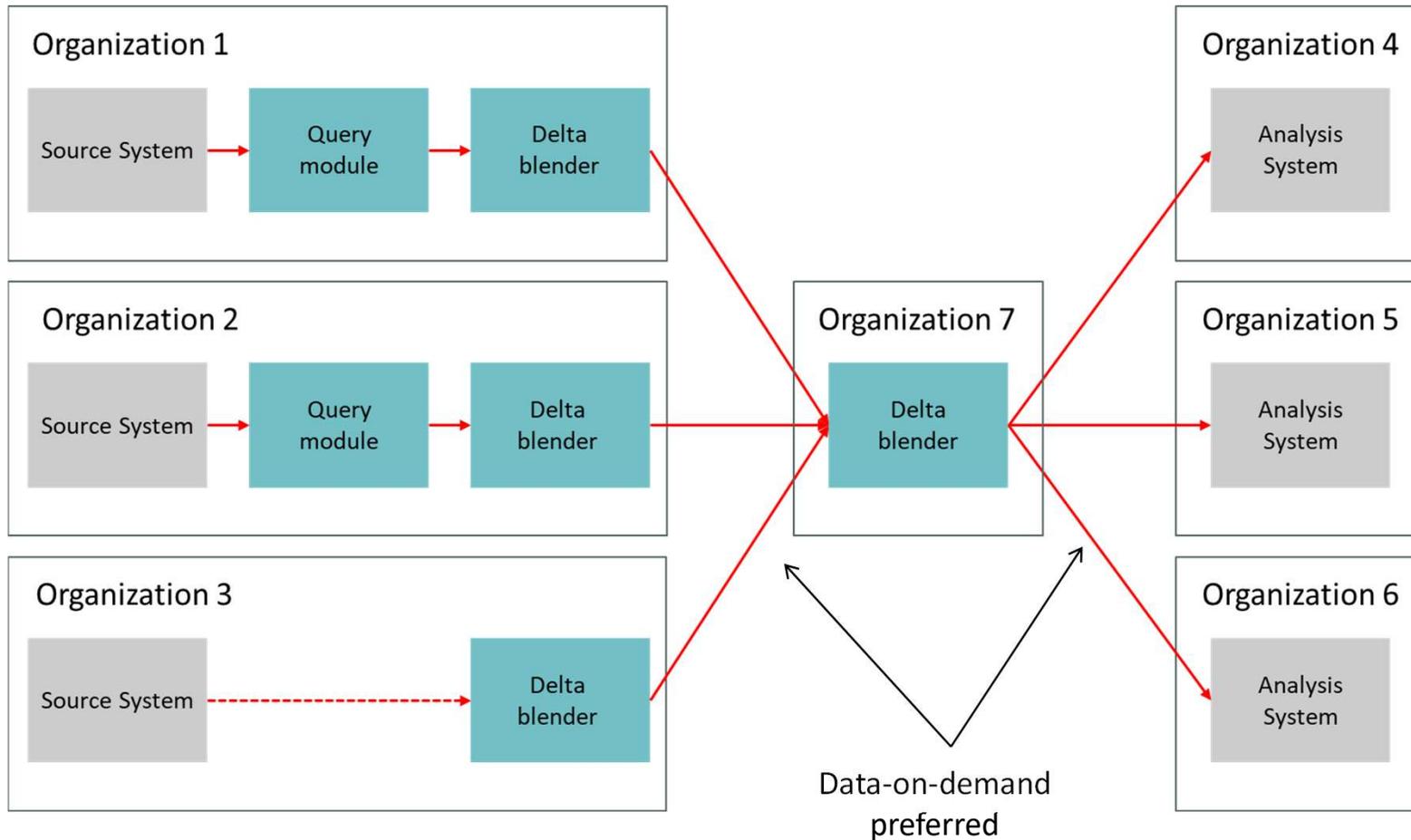


# No Federated Data Architecture

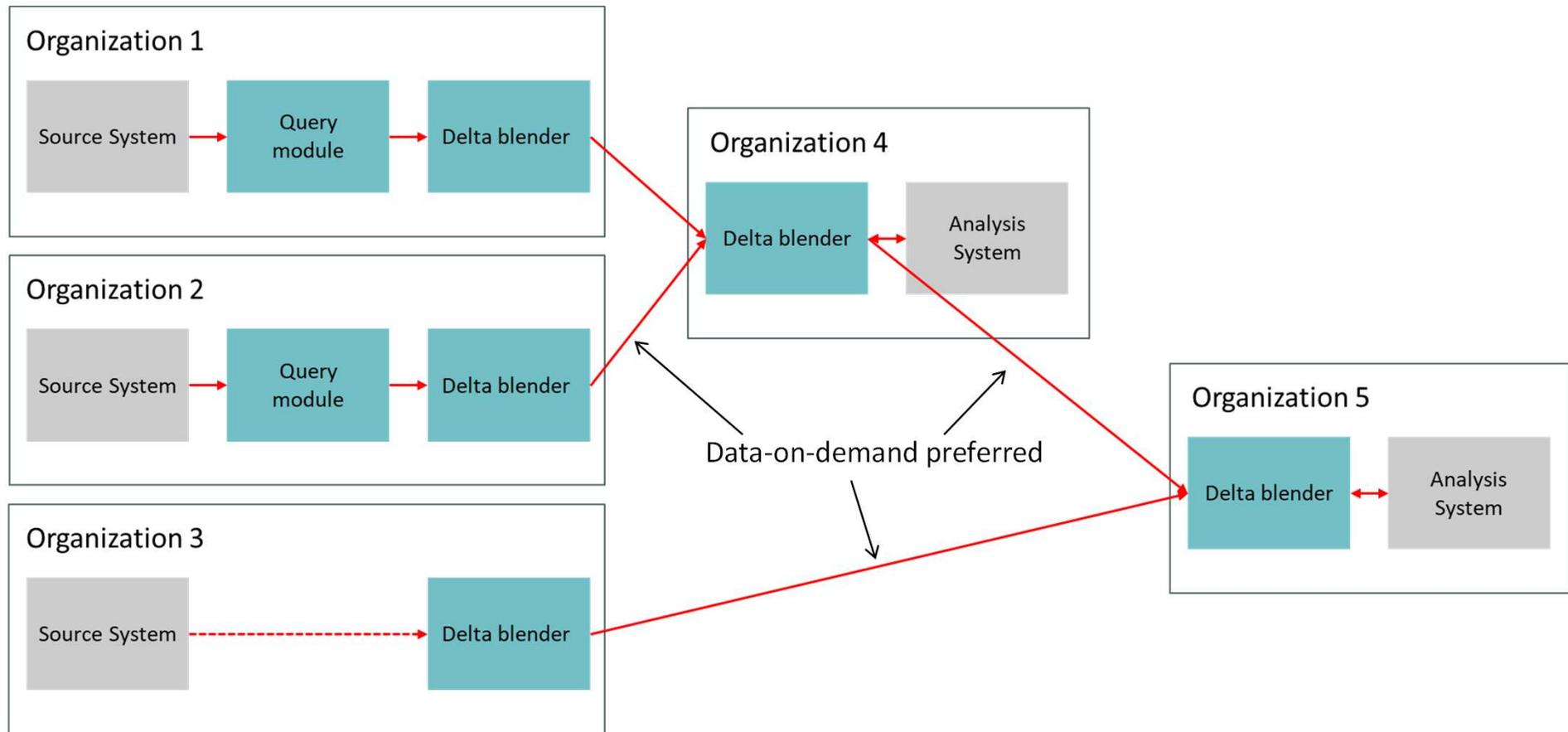


Data-on-demand preferred

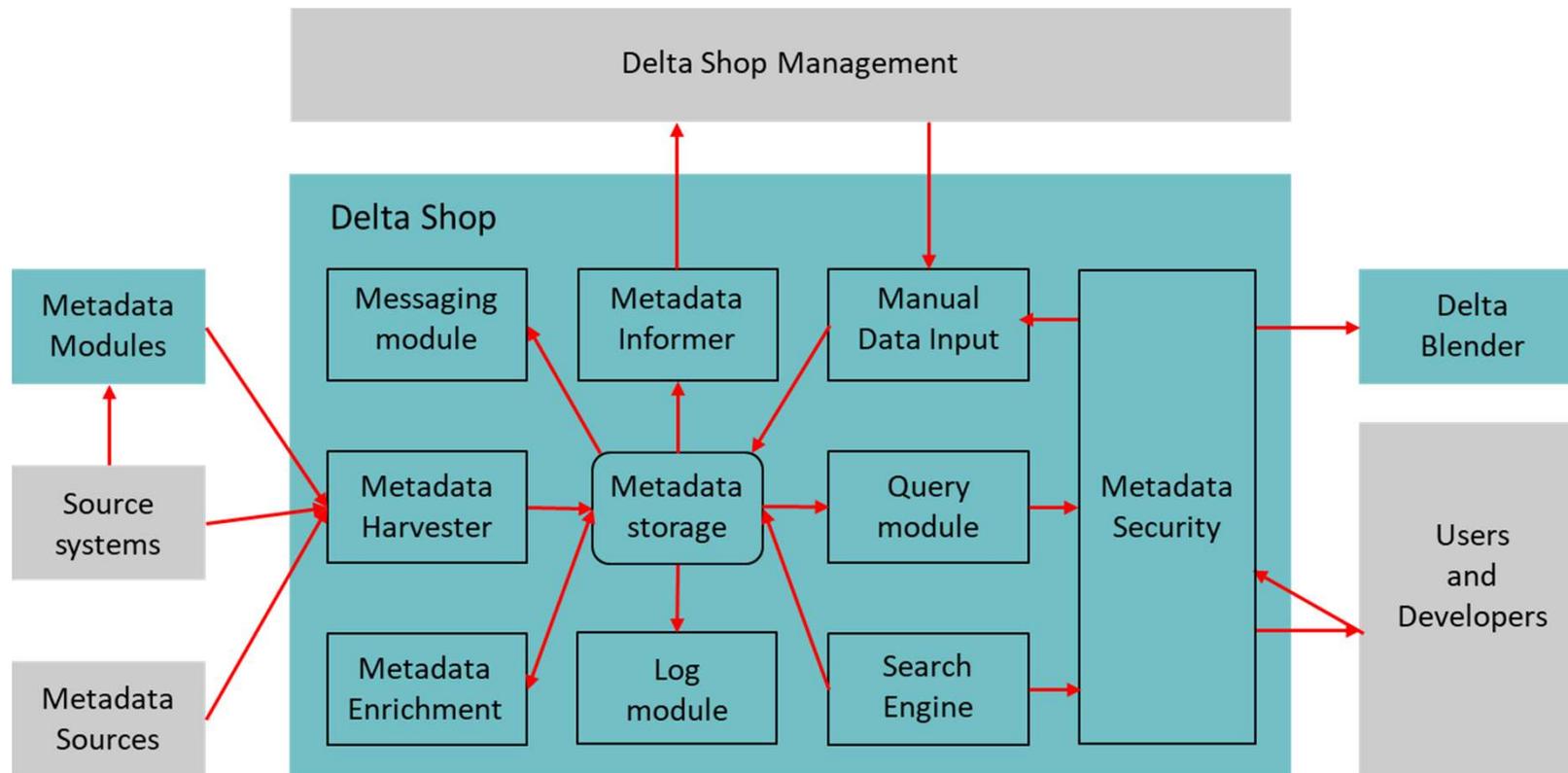
# Global Federated Data Architecture



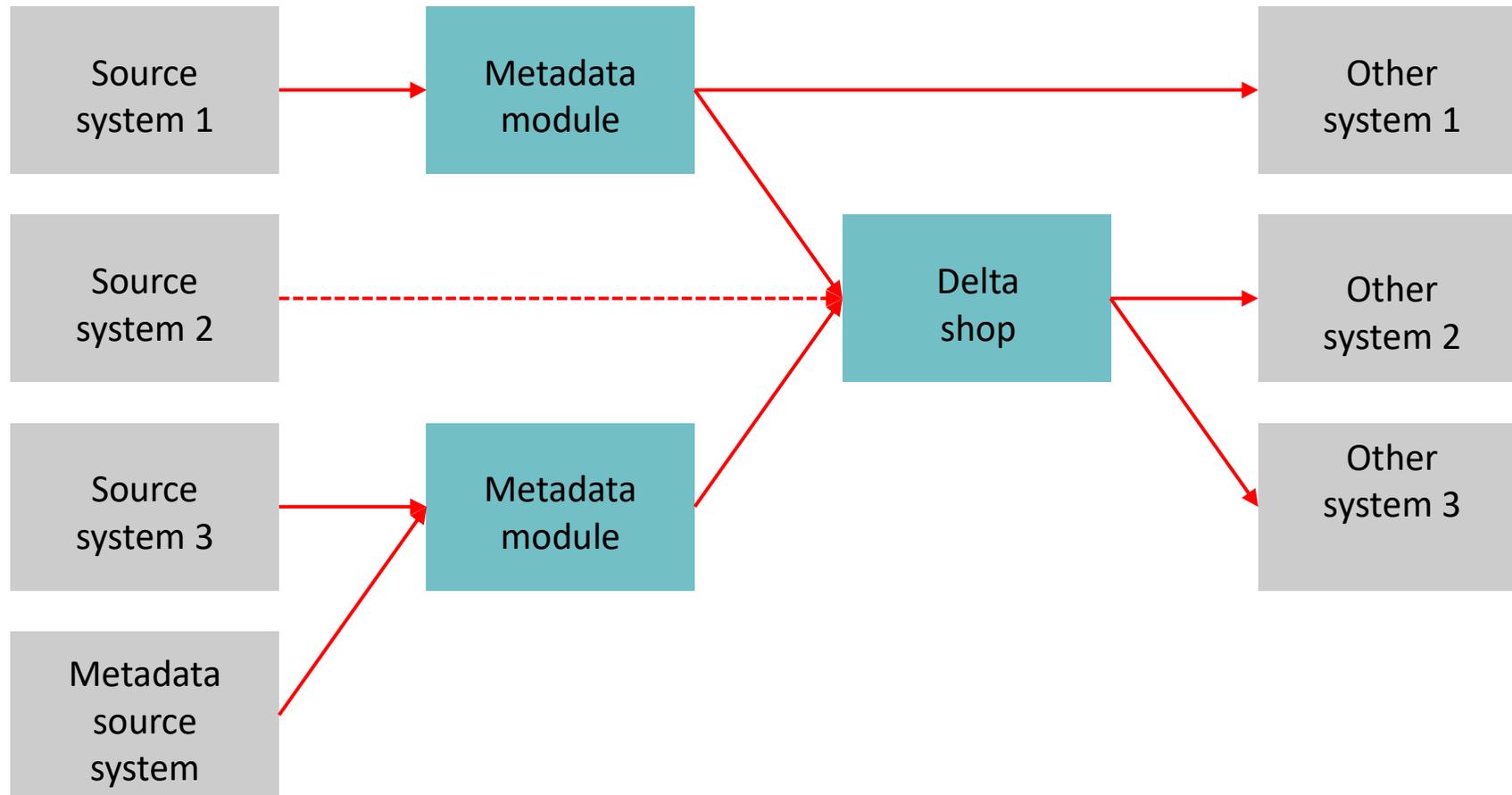
# Layered Global Federated Data Architecture



# Delta Shop Components - Metadata

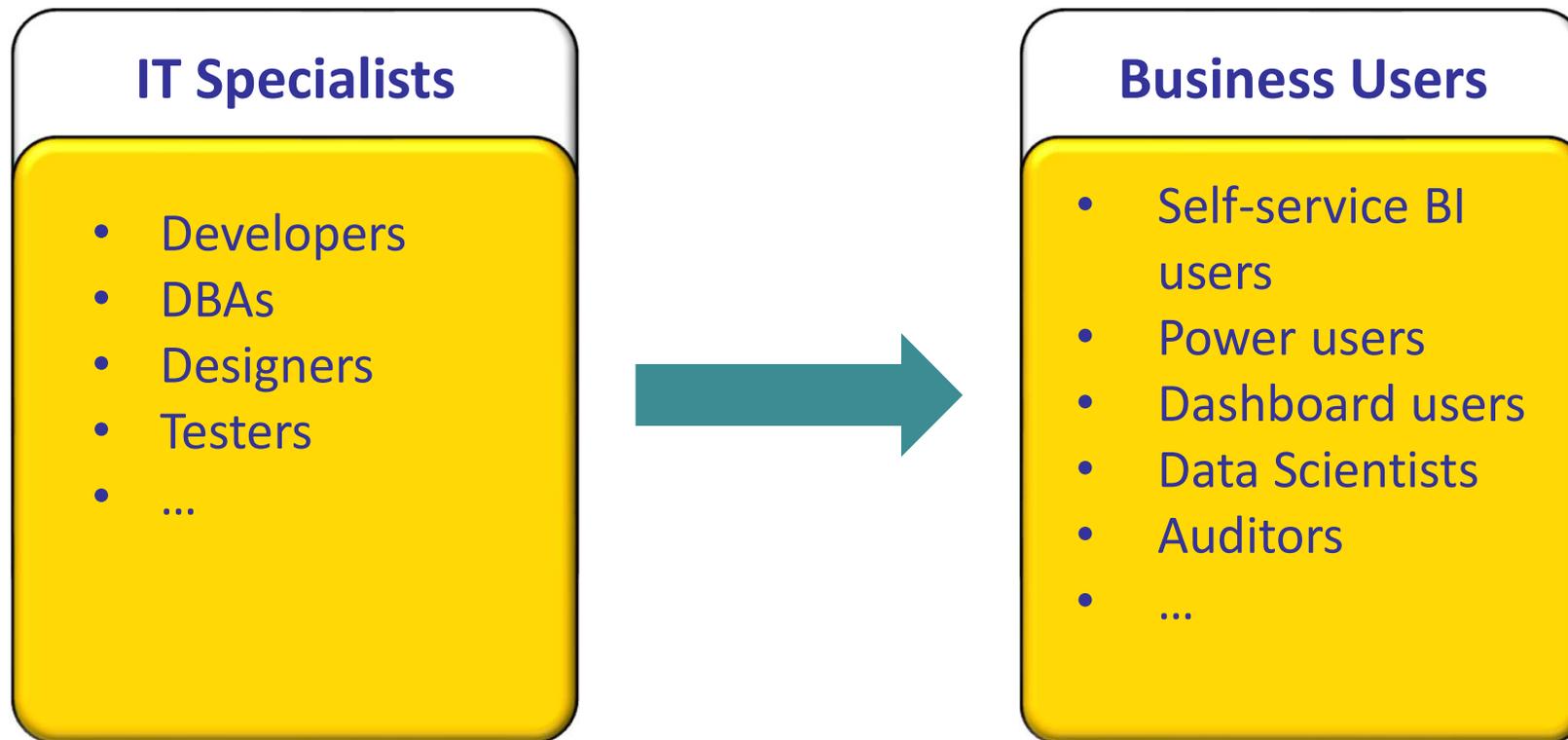


# Metadata Modules and the Delta Shop



# Target Audience of Metadata Has Changed

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# Instant Metadata

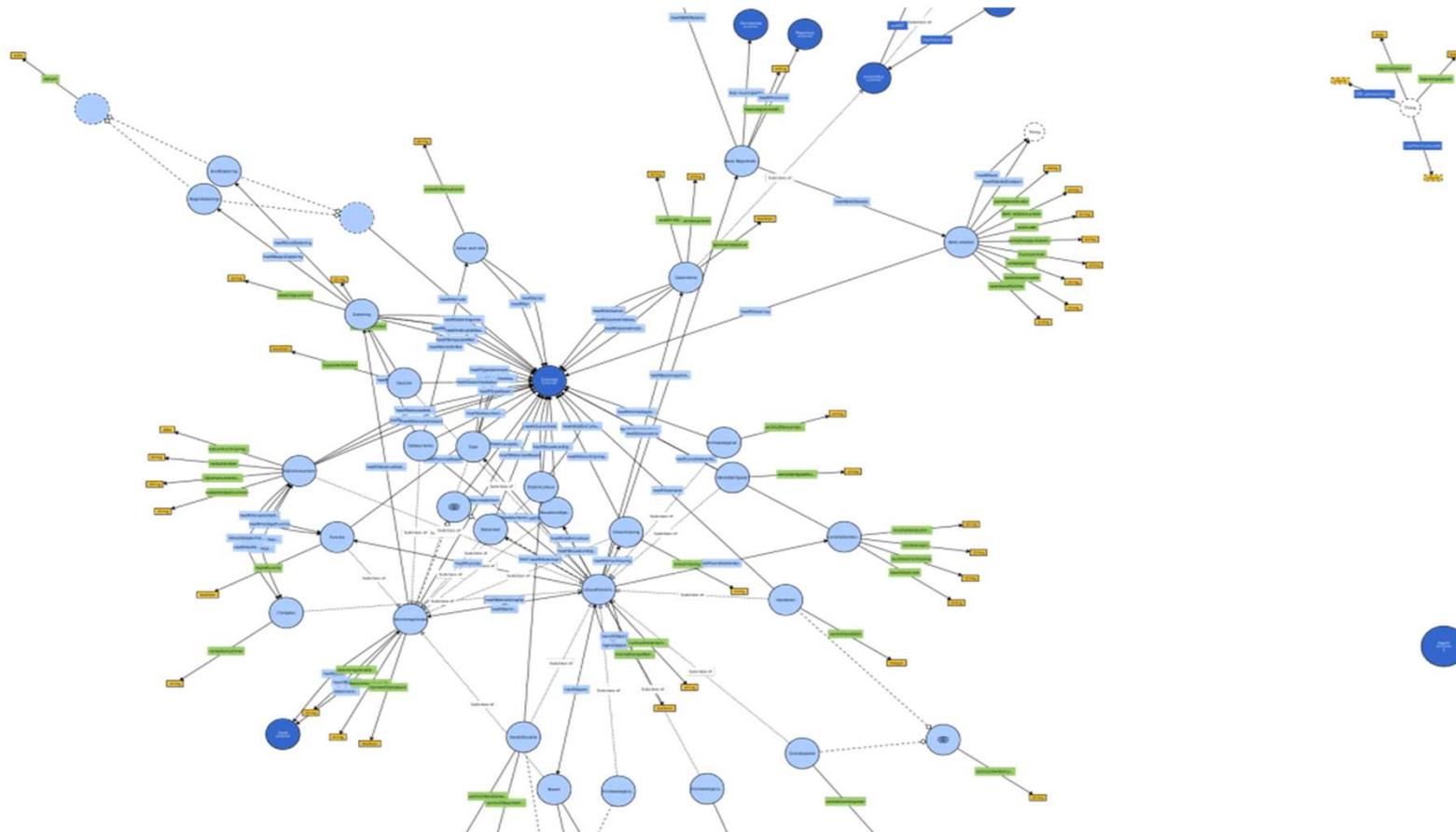
## Stock overview

Note: This is an aggregated report. Most data is first calculated at the native resolution (per group and pool), and the results are summed or averaged for an aggregated report.

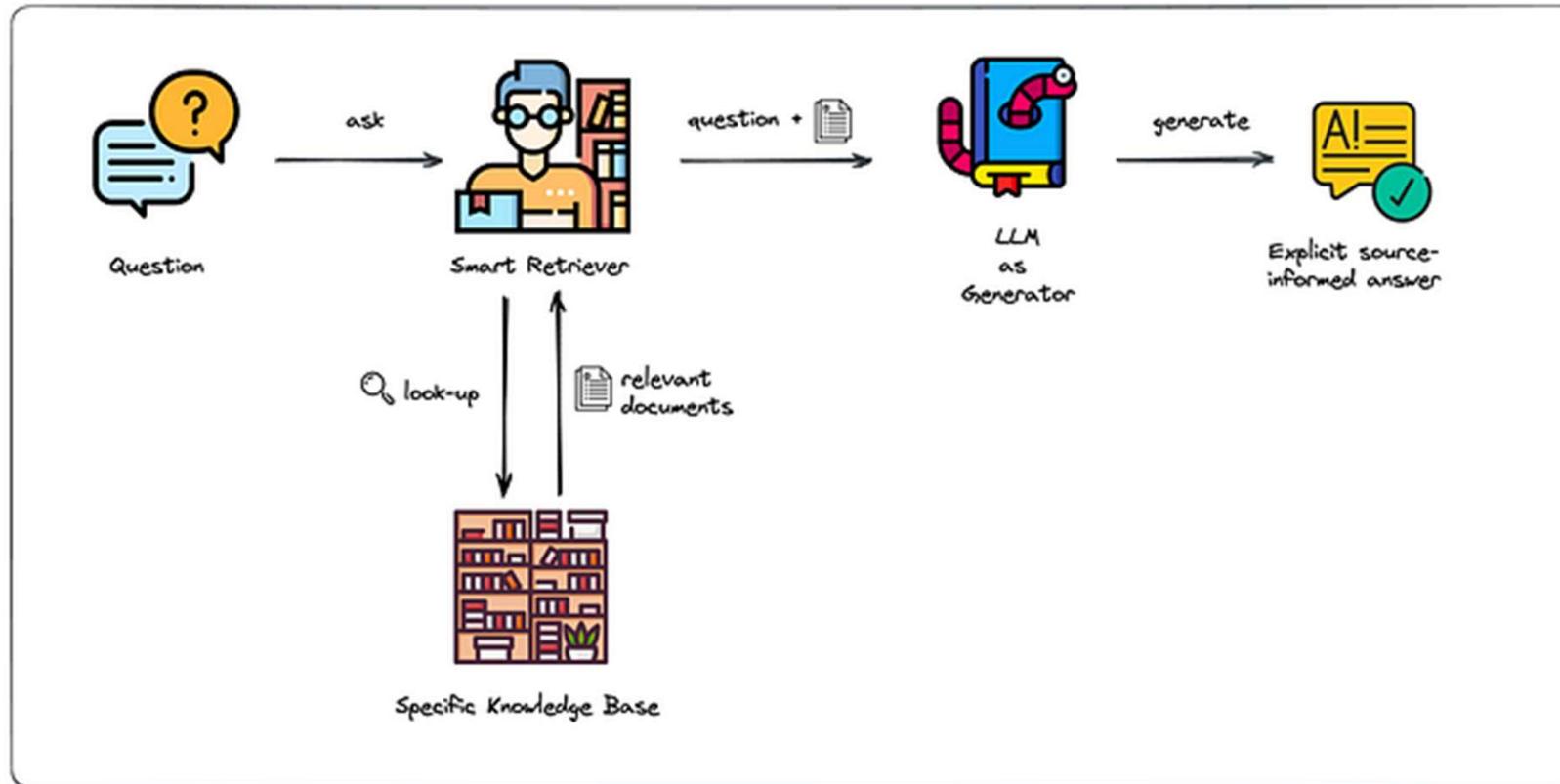
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Trend vs last year	Overall
<b>Total demand</b>	128,213	127,098	117,923	116,033	115,431	108,253	114,681	117,610	115,882	115,554	115,122	116,106	116,849		117,289
<b>Total inventory</b>	145,401	144,654	144,753	143,668	142,977	142,224	141,258	139,011	138,414	137,690	137,108	136,660	136,191		140,770
<b>Total available inventory</b>	111,562	111,719	113,504	114,175	114,342	112,682	113,106	112,081	110,908	109,726	108,631	107,575	106,545		111,274
<b>Available Bicycles</b>	100,653	101,344	102,974	103,659	103,766	101,010	101,180	100,155	98,982	97,800	96,705	95,649	94,619		99,884
<b>Rented Bicycles</b>	10,909	10,375	10,530	10,516	10,576	11,672	11,926	11,926	11,926	11,926	11,926	11,926	11,926		11,389
<b>Unservicable Bicycles</b>	6,490	6,528	7,793	6,931	7,094	7,716	7,990	7,040	7,040	7,040	7,040	7,040	7,158		7,142
<b>In repair Bicycles</b>	2,445	2,508	2,635	2,809	2,607	2,749	2,499	2,744	2,744	2,744	2,744	2,744	2,667		2,652
<b>Storage Bicycles</b>	1,223	1,652	1,526	3,836	4,205	4,568	4,934	2,515	2,515	2,515	2,515	2,515	3,072		2,981
<b>Lost / Stolen Bicycles</b>	23,681	22,247	19,295	15,917	14,729	14,509	12,729	14,631	14,631	14,631	14,631	14,631	16,749		16,721
<b>Rebrand In</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-		0
<b>Rebrand Out</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-		0
<b>Lease In</b>	0	0	9	20	0	35	116	-	-	-	-	-	-		26

**Available Bicycles**  
**Jan**  
 Forecast: 98,982  
 Actual is entered manually. Forecast is the last month repeated, but adjusted for all inventory increase and decrease of that month. Formula: Available Bicycles + Rebrand - Scrap - Loss - Sales Capex Volume. All values are taken from the previous month.

# Generating an Ontology (for AI?)



# Retrieval Augmented Generation



# Summary: A Modern Data Architecture is Holistic

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## ■ Enterprise data architecture

- From source to insight
- Data must be ready-to-use, discoverable, and insightful
- It's about the transformers, not the databases
- Metadata for everyone

## ■ Federated data architecture

- Unbridled creation of data copies must stop
- Data-on-demand, not data-by-copy
- Avoid duplicate transformers

## ■ Transparent data architecture

- Operational lineage for reconstruction, transparency, and auditability

## ■ Modular data architecture

- Co-exist with existing solutions



# De Delta data-architectuur: van bron tot inzicht

Rick F. van der Lans