



Blockchain and Drug Supply Assurance in the Coronavirus Era

Ben Taylor, CEO

LedgerDomain

- ❖ Built KitChain for the Clinical Supply Blockchain Working Group
- ❖ Member of the Linux Foundation, Hyperledger Project, and GS1 US Healthcare



FDA Naloxone Challenge

www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm533711.htm



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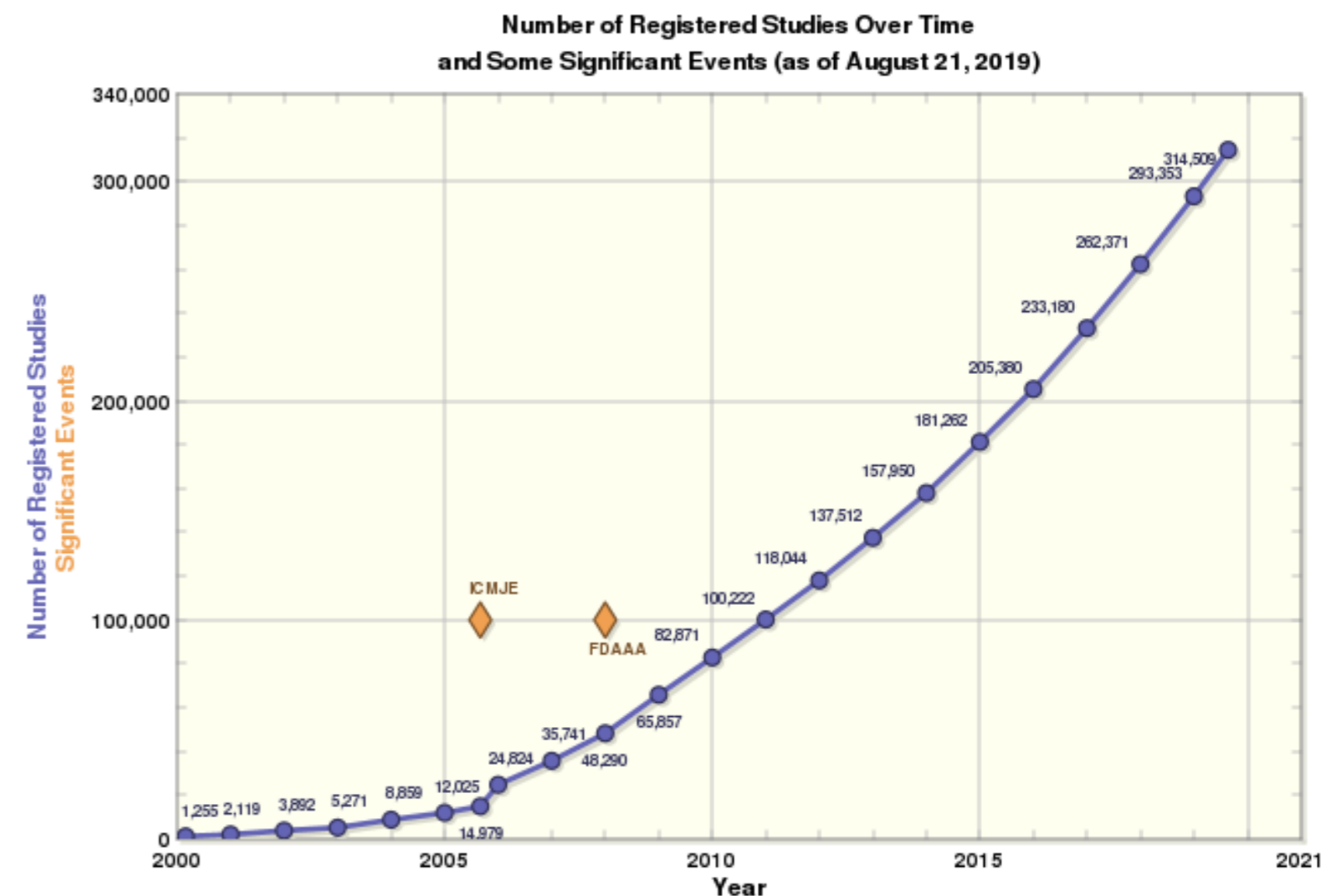
THE TEAM

Sponsor: Ben Taylor (LedgerDomain LLC)
Submission by TeamMIT



Clinical Supply: KitChain Pilot

- ❖ Active clinical studies have doubled over last 10 years, and clinical pharmacies are bursting at the seams
- ❖ In 2018, as part of a landmark pilot program, our working group with broad industry participation scoped, developed, and tested a GS1-compliant collaborative blockchain solution aimed at delivering a win for patients awaiting new medicines



Source: <https://ClinicalTrials.gov>



LedgerDomain

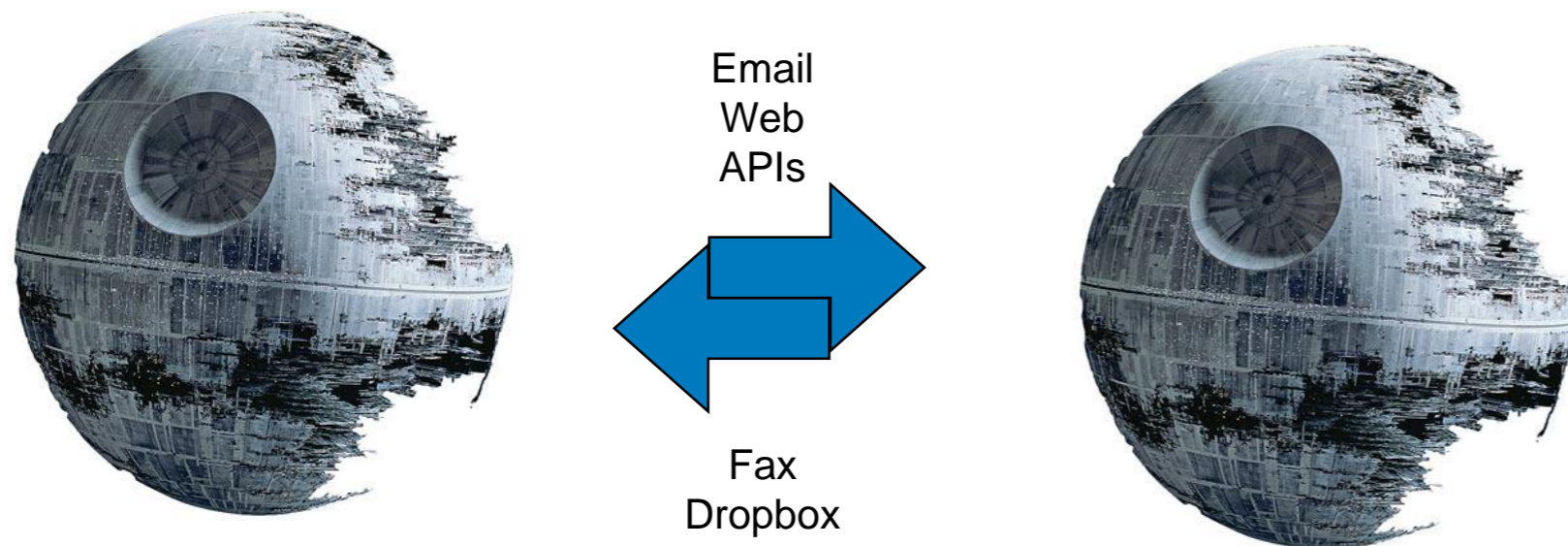
BRUINchain

- ❖ With personalized medicine and the increase in cold chain specifications, digital solutions are now more important than ever.
- ❖ The need for supply chain assurance has always been present, but accelerated with the rise of COVID-19.
- ❖ **LedgerDomain and UCLA Health partnered on a joint case study** in response to a call for pilots from the US FDA, launched to help develop the interoperable system that will track the vast majority drugs through the United States by 2023
- ❖ Features an iOS client running on DocuSeal framework & Selvedge app server, all on top of Hyperledger Fabric, interoperating with Oraculous Notification Service

Challenge for the 2020s

Today's pharmaceutical supply chain is a patchwork of traditional databases and patients deserve better!

- ❖ With no shared global database, human error is harder to catch
- ❖ Criminals are able to use spoofing and **man-in-the-middle attacks** to introduce counterfeits
- ❖ More critical with rise of gene therapies and personalized medicine



DSCSA

DSCSA Timeline

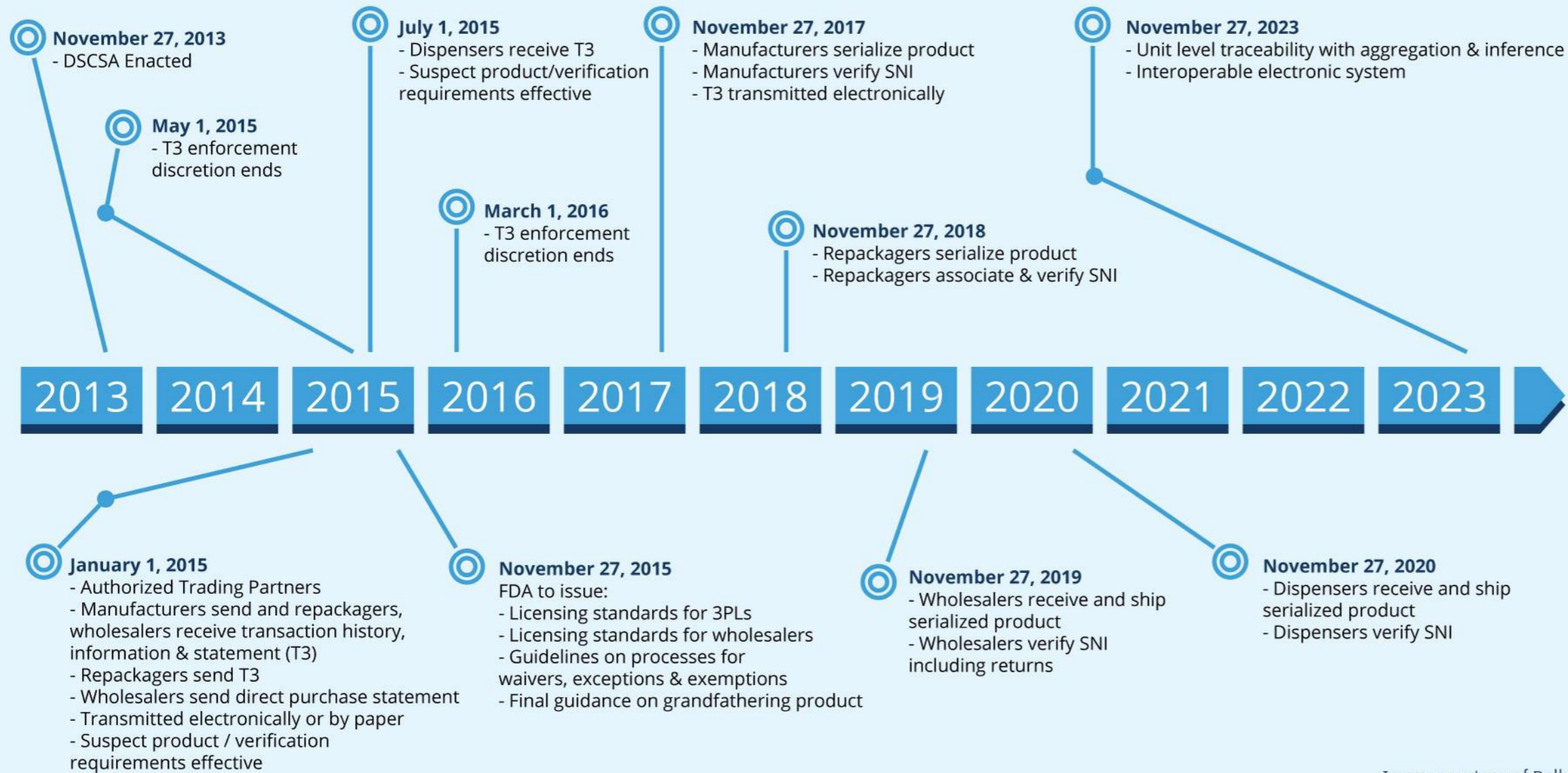
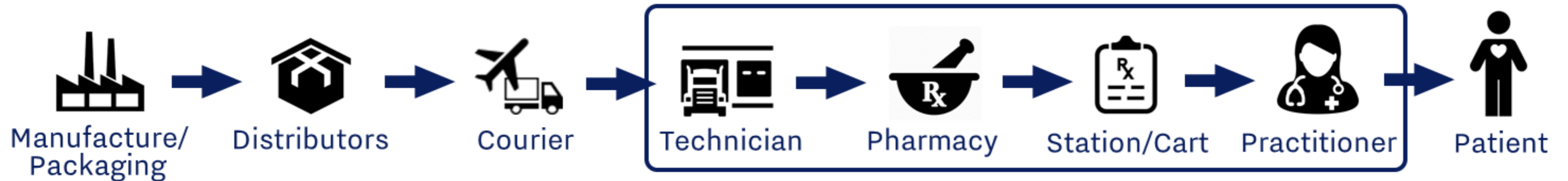


Image courtesy of Bellwyck

Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA): US federal law requiring an interoperable system that will track prescription drugs through the United States by 2023

Last-Mile DSCSA Objectives



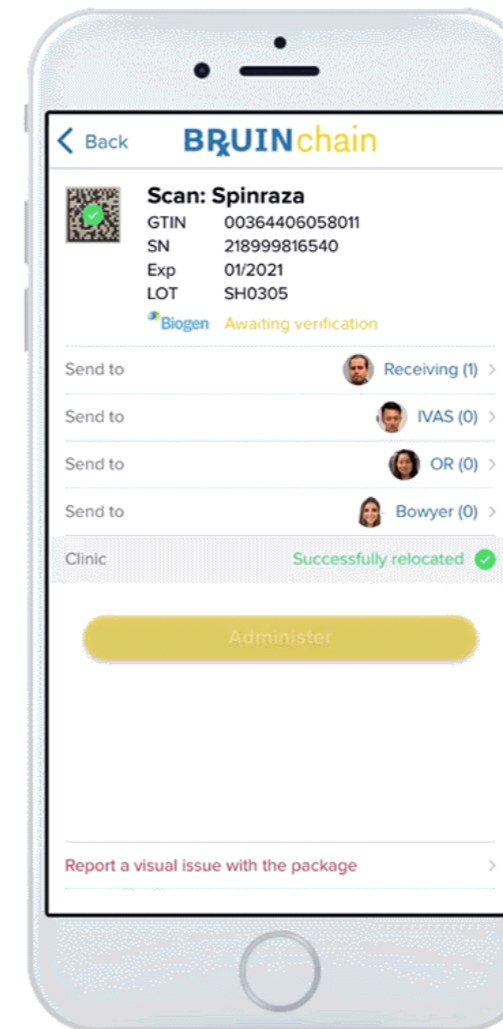
- ❖ FDA's DSCSA Pilot Project Program: opportunity to test technologies and methods for enhanced DSCSA requirements
- ❖ UCLA and LedgerDomain focused on the last mile, pharmacist to patient:
 - ❖ Assist colleagues to perform **robust DSCSA checks & verification**
 - ❖ Flag **double-counts and surface suspect transactions**
 - ❖ Enforce ground truth with **exception handling**; gradually escalate to 3911
 - ❖ Provide **real-time inventory & quarantine** at the refrigerator level
 - ❖ **Notify colleagues** about availability and verification in real-time

Common Data Model

We found that FDA's DSCSA-required 2D barcode could serve as the foundational information building block for a common data model



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SN: 1000000000000001
EXP: JAN 31 2021
Lot: 123456



Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eonwH5dHb60>



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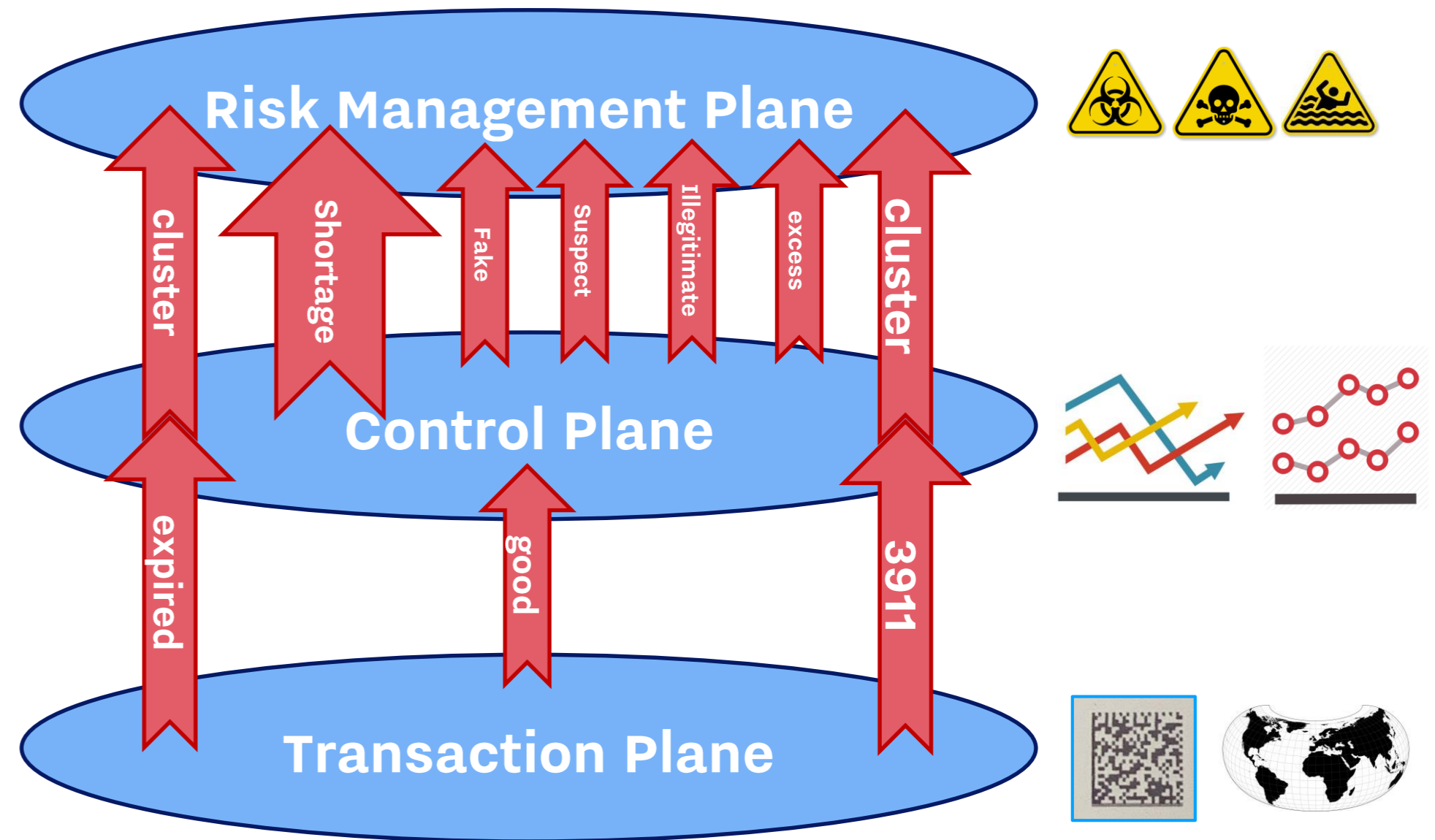
BRUINchain
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SUBMITTED TO FDA, JANUARY 2020

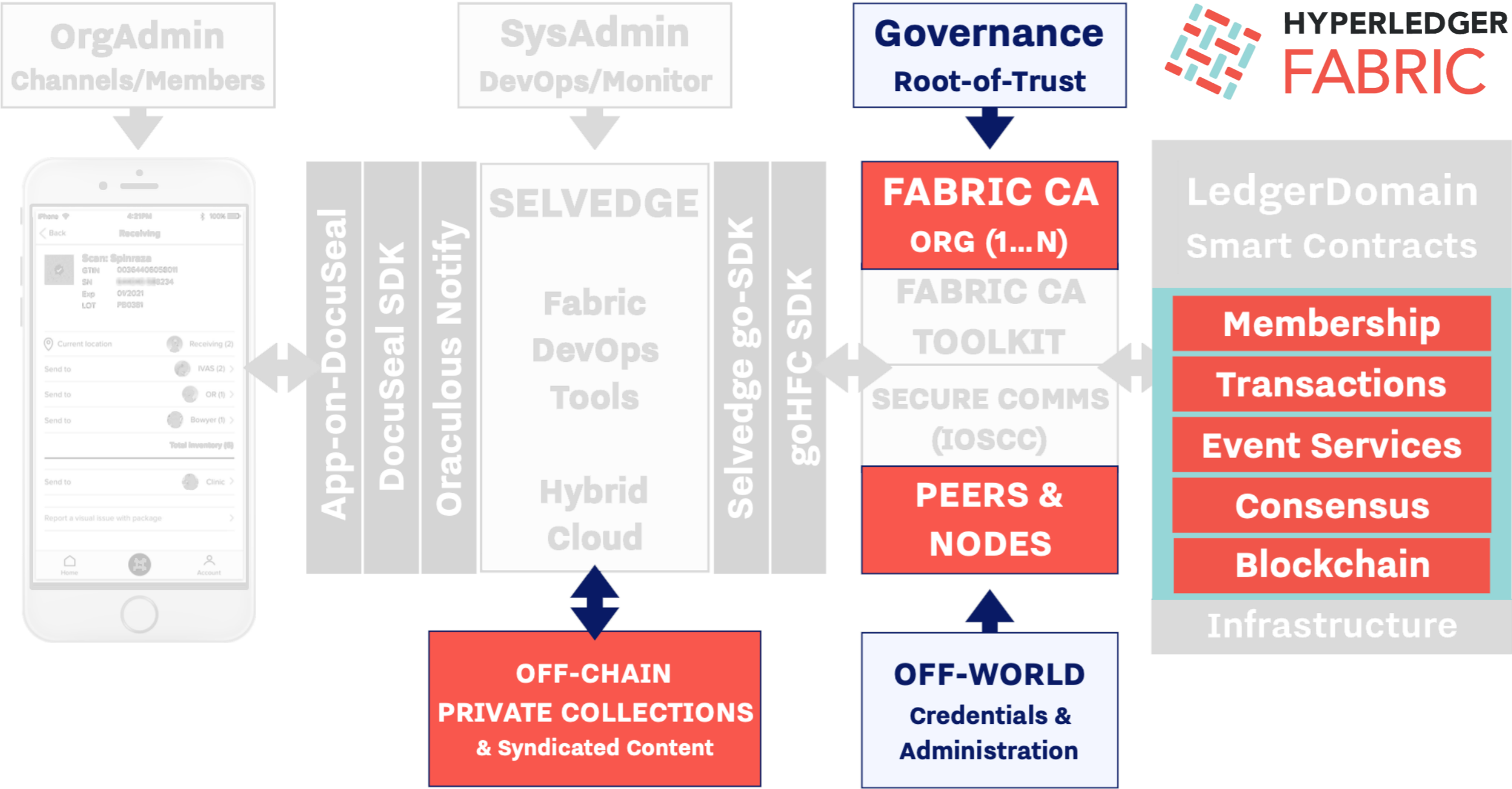
Enhance Blockchain with Deep Learning & Notifications

🗣️ Marco 🗣️ Polo

- ❖ Tracks barcodes
- ❖ Connectivity to legacy systems
- ❖ Countable (integrable) data
- ❖ Block & remedy bad transactions
- ❖ Flag out-of-spec aggregates
- ❖ Machine learning robots
- ❖ Multi-faceted client perspectives
- ❖ Private/escalating notifications



Hyperledger Fabric Architecture



We use Hyperledger Fabric 1.4 out of the box, and focus our efforts to leverage Golang to meet enterprise expectations

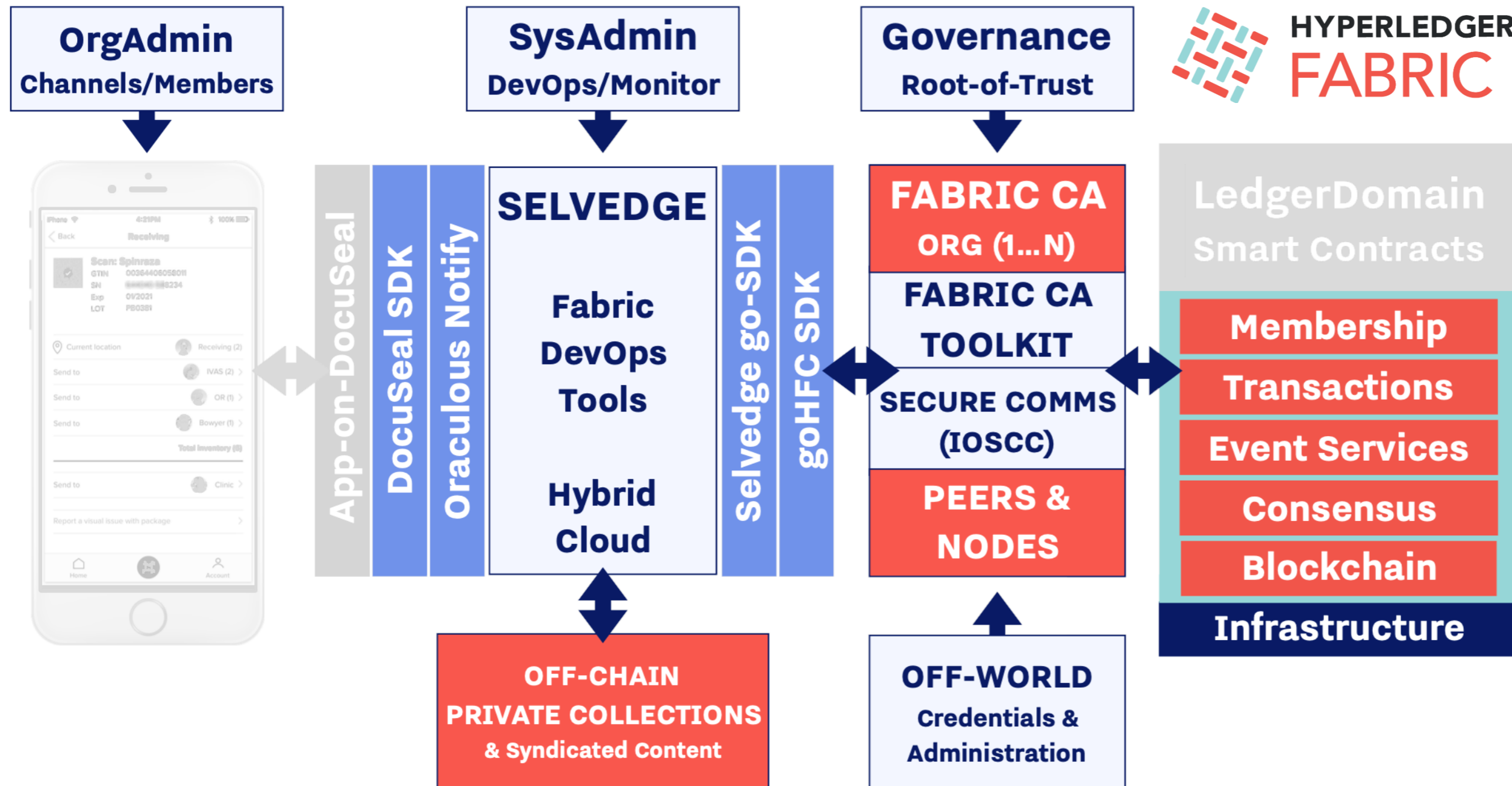
State of Hyperledger

- ❖ Hyperledger has a flexible modular design, backing of major industry players, healthy developer community, great documentation, and a plethora of tutorials and 'hello world' code samples
- ❖ Challenging to develop an end-to-end understanding of the platform, create custom deployments, and develop real-world user-facing applications backed by smart contracts
- ❖ Governance and orchestration questions still unsettled

Our Work

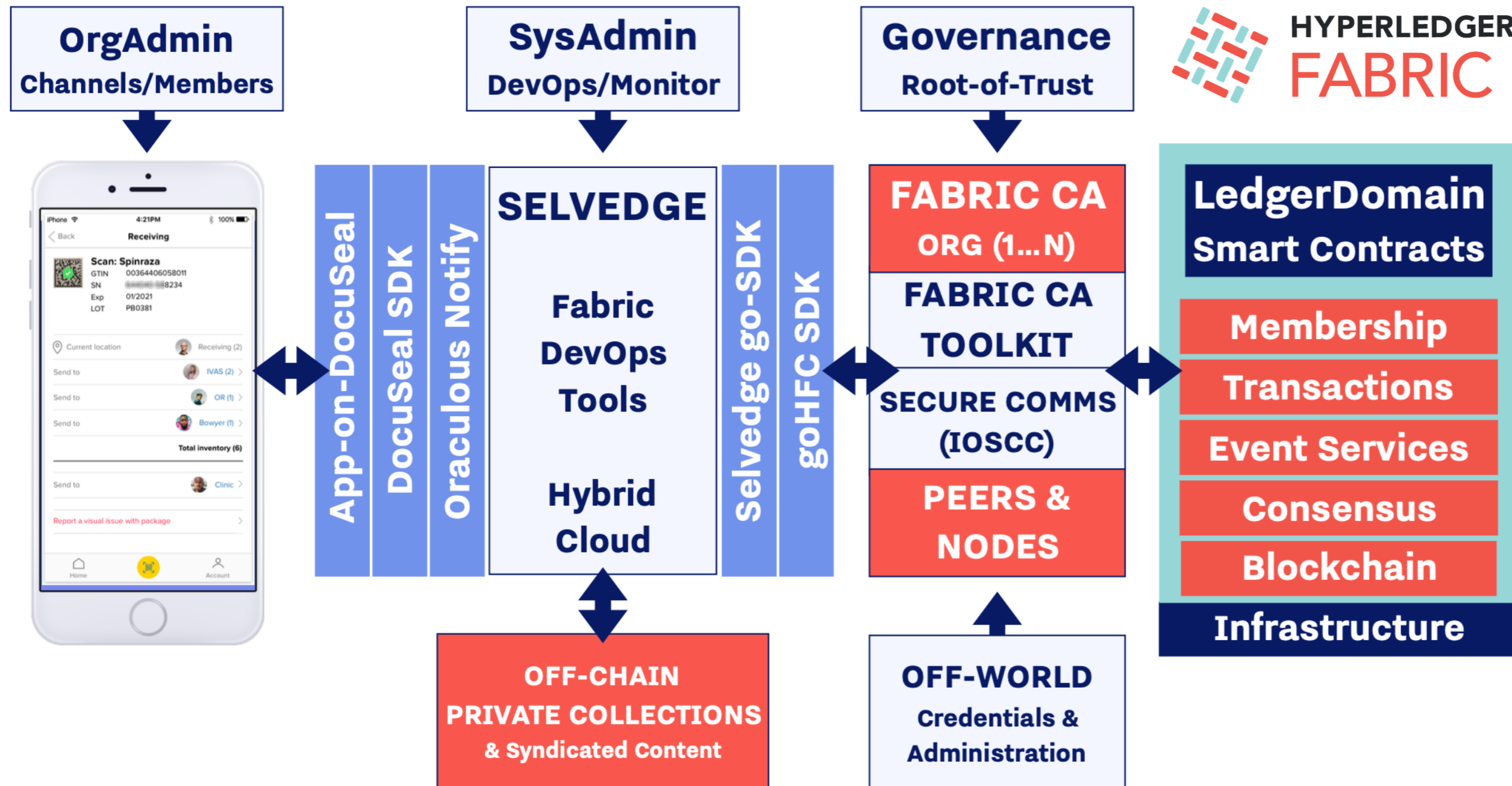
- ❖ Hyperledger is a great starting point for enterprise communities. LedgerDomain added four additional components:
 - ❖ FDOT (Fabric DevOps Toolkit) for orchestration of Fabric networks
 - ❖ Selvedge SDK for the generic legwork of the blockchain app backend
 - ❖ DocuSeal as a reusable framework for secure off-chain file storage and authentication
 - ❖ Oraculous for interoperability between Fabric blockchain apps and the outside world (M2H or M2M)
- ❖ These create a framework for high-performance high-security supply chains, 100% in Golang and with extensive use of private collections.

LedgerDomain Architecture



Selvedge and DocuSeal together make it possible for members to share and authenticate supply chain messages

Application-Specific Architecture



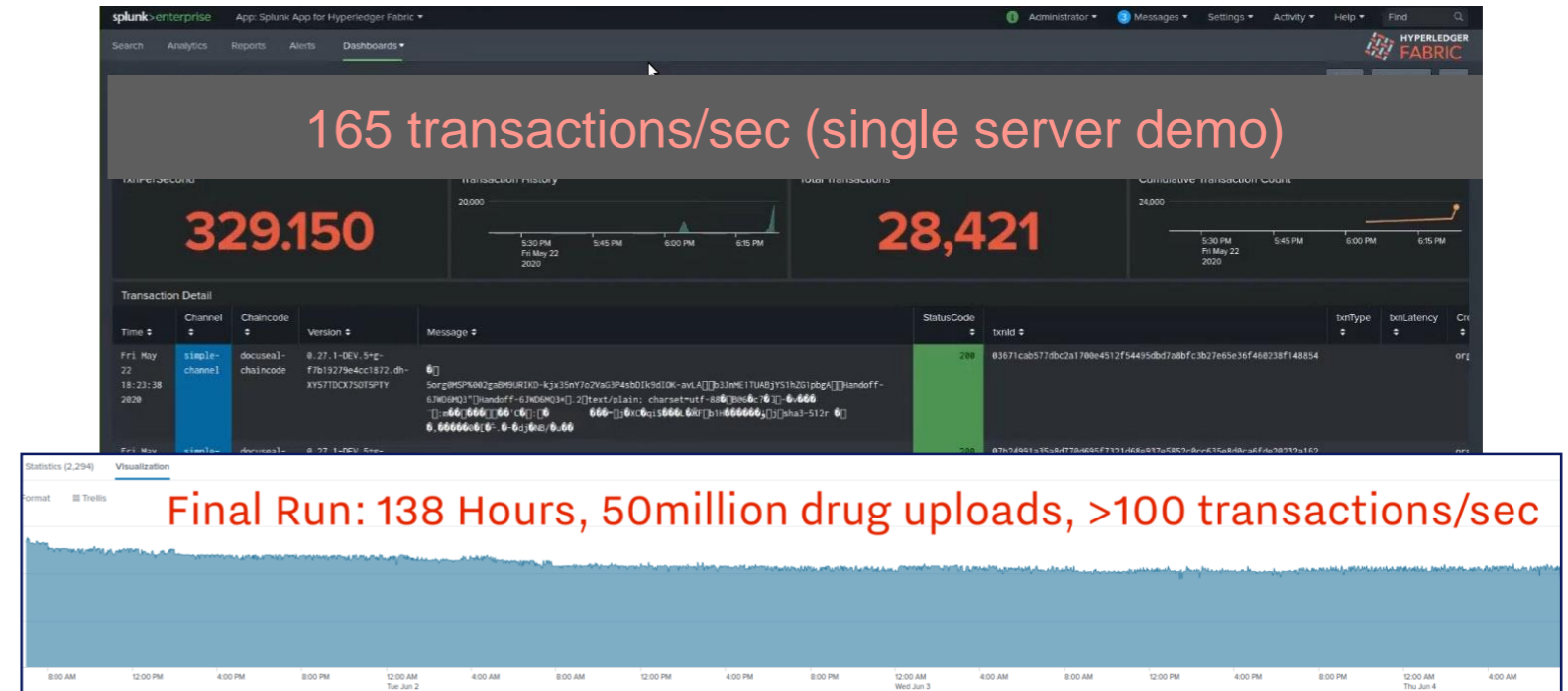
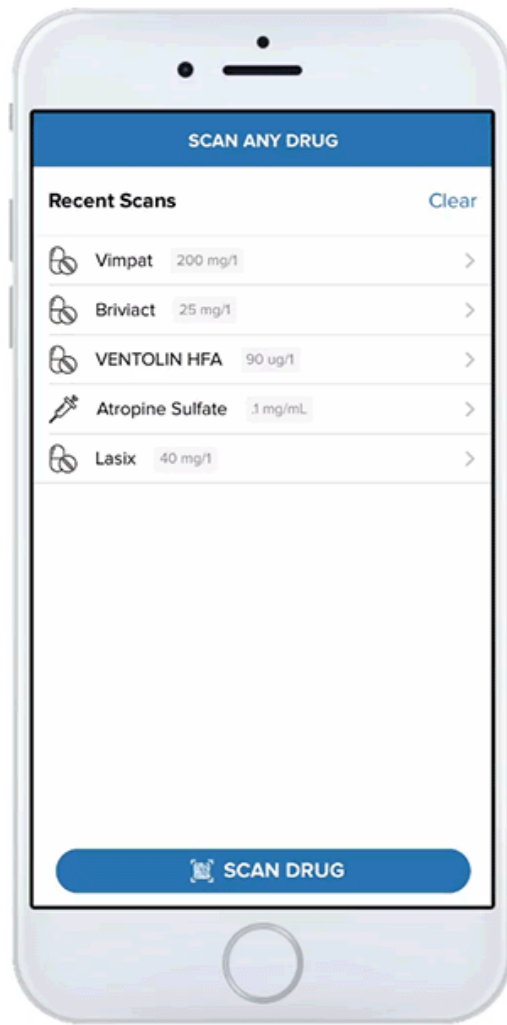
Real-world custody locations, advanced workflows, multiple roles, & exception handling, all on 50msec latency...

BRUINchain Learnings and Outcomes



- ❖ Barcode scanning nearly 100% effective with **commercial off-the-shelf iPhone**
- ❖ Drugs can be tracked to the “refrigerator” level within a dispensing pharmacy (**not just ownership, but physical custody**)
- ❖ Tracked expiration dates, verified barcodes, inspected for problems
- ❖ Tracing and verifying by **interoperating with upstream relational database**
- ❖ Automatic removal of double-counts and flagging suspect transactions
- ❖ Notify colleagues about availability and verification in real-time
- ❖ Full study published in [*Blockchain in Healthcare Today*](#)

Next Steps



DRUG FEATURES & SCALABILITY

- ✧ >100,000 drugs; >200,000 packages
- ✧ Expiration extensions & recalls
- ✧ Updated package inserts
- ✧ Building block for flagging & 3911s

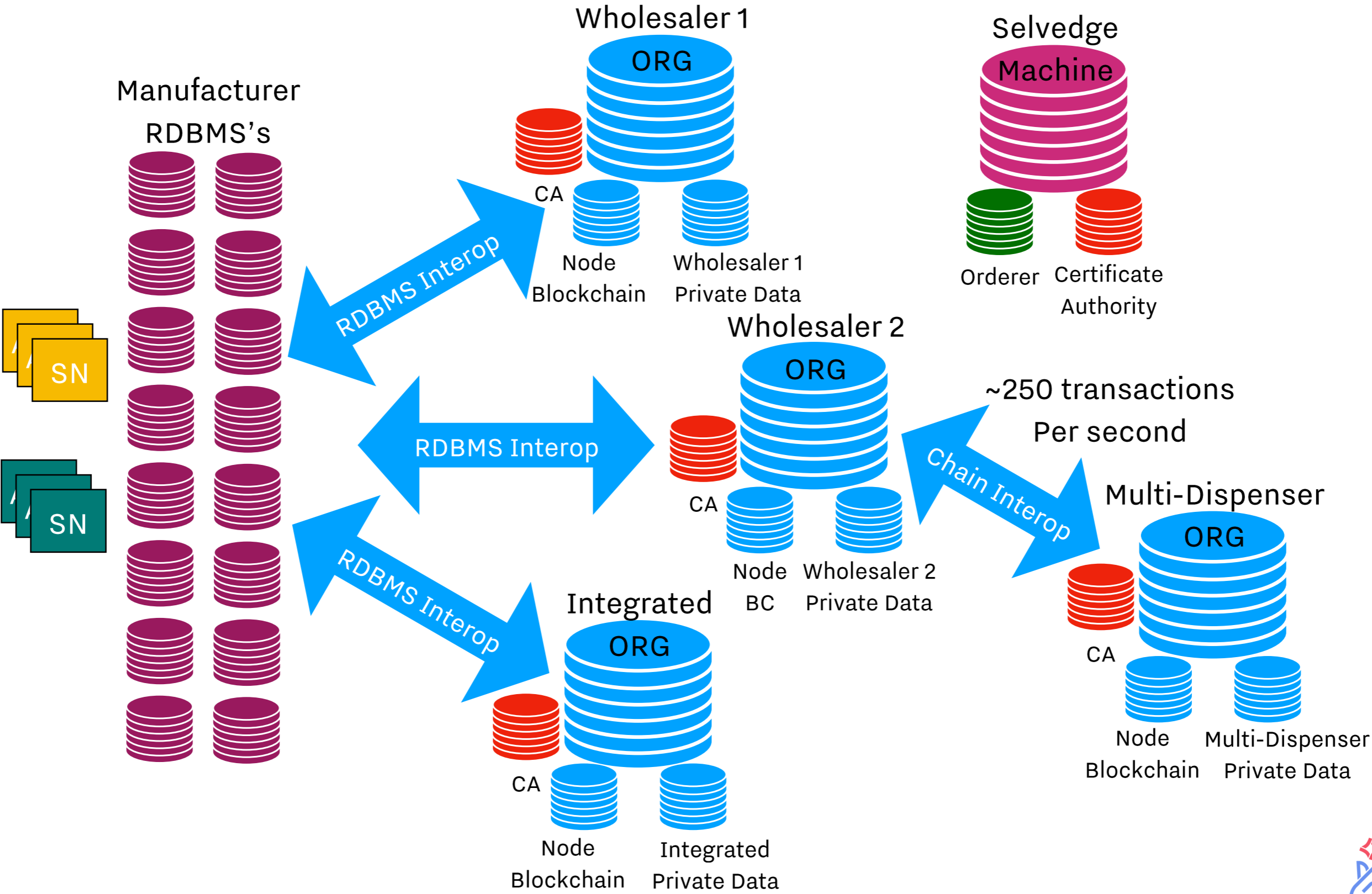
MASTER DATA MANAGEMENT

TRANSACTION SCALABILITY

- ❖ ~5Bn Rx/year = ~1.5Bn salable units/yr
- ❖ 1.5Bn/yr is ~5million per working day
- ❖ ~5,200 per minute or **87 per second**
- ❖ Fewer hops: RDBMS source & bulk
- ❖ **2024 US Target ~250 per second**



Next Steps



The COVID-19 Era

- ❖ COVID-19 will strain supply chain and health systems for the next 18 months, as stakeholders prepare for the next pandemic
- ❖ Blockchain providers must focus on COTS solutions and clear value add to stakeholders; in the case of our pilot with UCLA:
 - ❖ Dispenser: single-scan technique saves time and money (\$183M/year in the US)
 - ❖ Manufacturer: nuanced real-time business intelligence
- ❖ Legacy relational systems capable of slow trace (↑) but only blockchain allows for fast trace + secure tracking down the supply chain (↑ ↓)
- ❖ Blockchain-based solution capable of tracking therapeutics, test kits, vaccines, and ventilators are necessary to accelerate the efforts of healthcare leaders and front-line workers to protect the public

Ultimately...

- ❖ Chaincode portability, blockchain federation and integrability
- ❖ More robust models and standards for organizations and permissions
- ❖ Analytics on chain data
- ❖ Next-generation crypto and data models
- ❖ Integration with enterprise systems such as ERP & MES
- ❖ Ongoing enhancement for emerging regulations (e.g. HIPAA, GDPR)

Blockchain, artificial intelligence & IoT combine to make every transaction
...instantaneous, confidential, unforgeable & trackable