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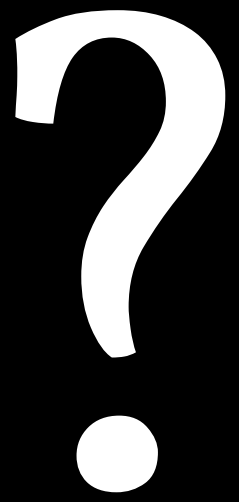
Lessons Learned From Putting Linux on System z in Production

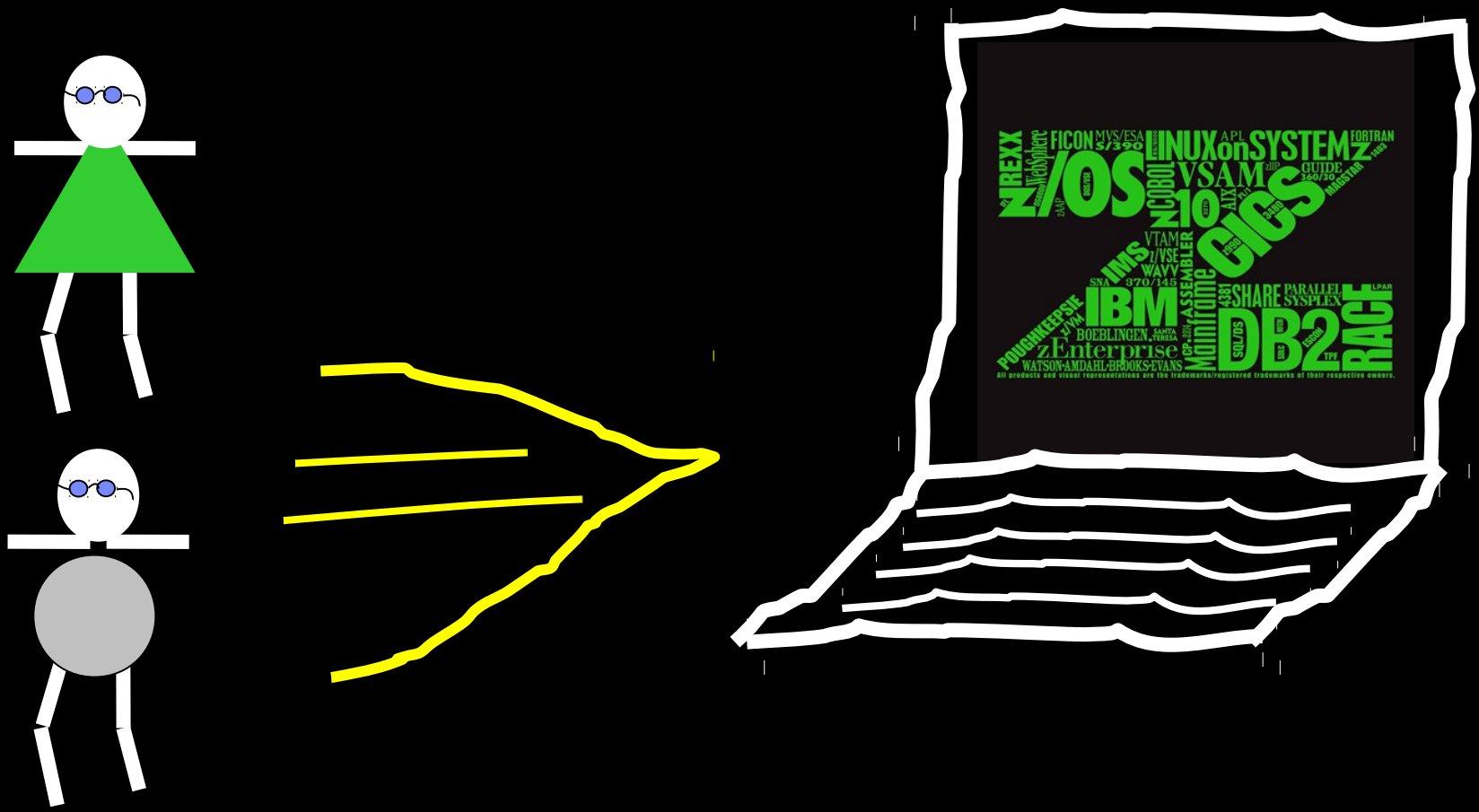
Session 8648
11:00 AM on Thursday, March 3, 2011
Room 203A, Anaheim Convention Center

Disclaimer: More Questions than Answers

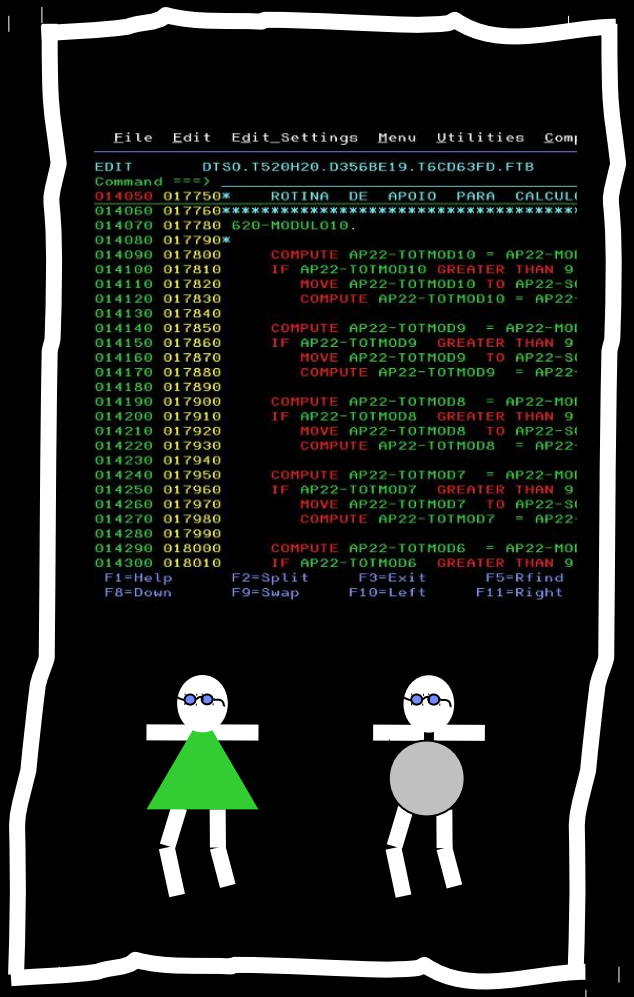
- Every site is different.
- I'm not omniscient
- I'm going to give you questions to ask back at your company
- I'll also take questions as we go along unless time gets short
- Most of the content is based on what I have seen at customers in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific and to a small degree in North America
- Other IBMers / clients might experience different challenges



Survey: Who has not worked with Linux on System z before?



Traditional Mainframe

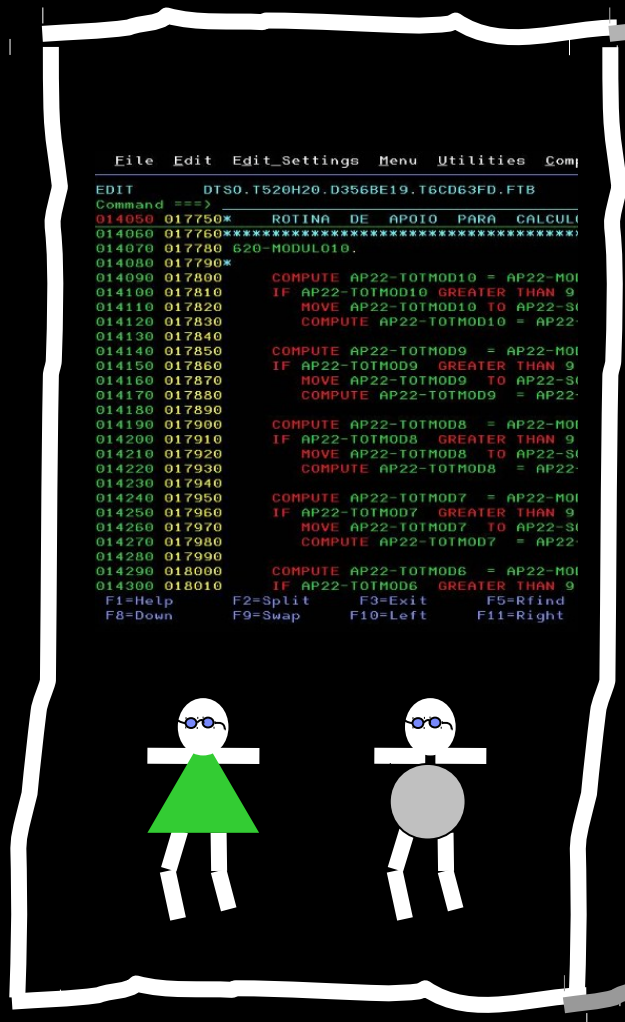


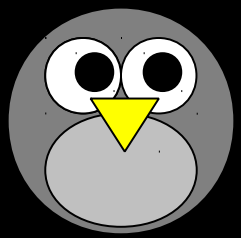
Data Center

Traditional Mainframe

New Workload

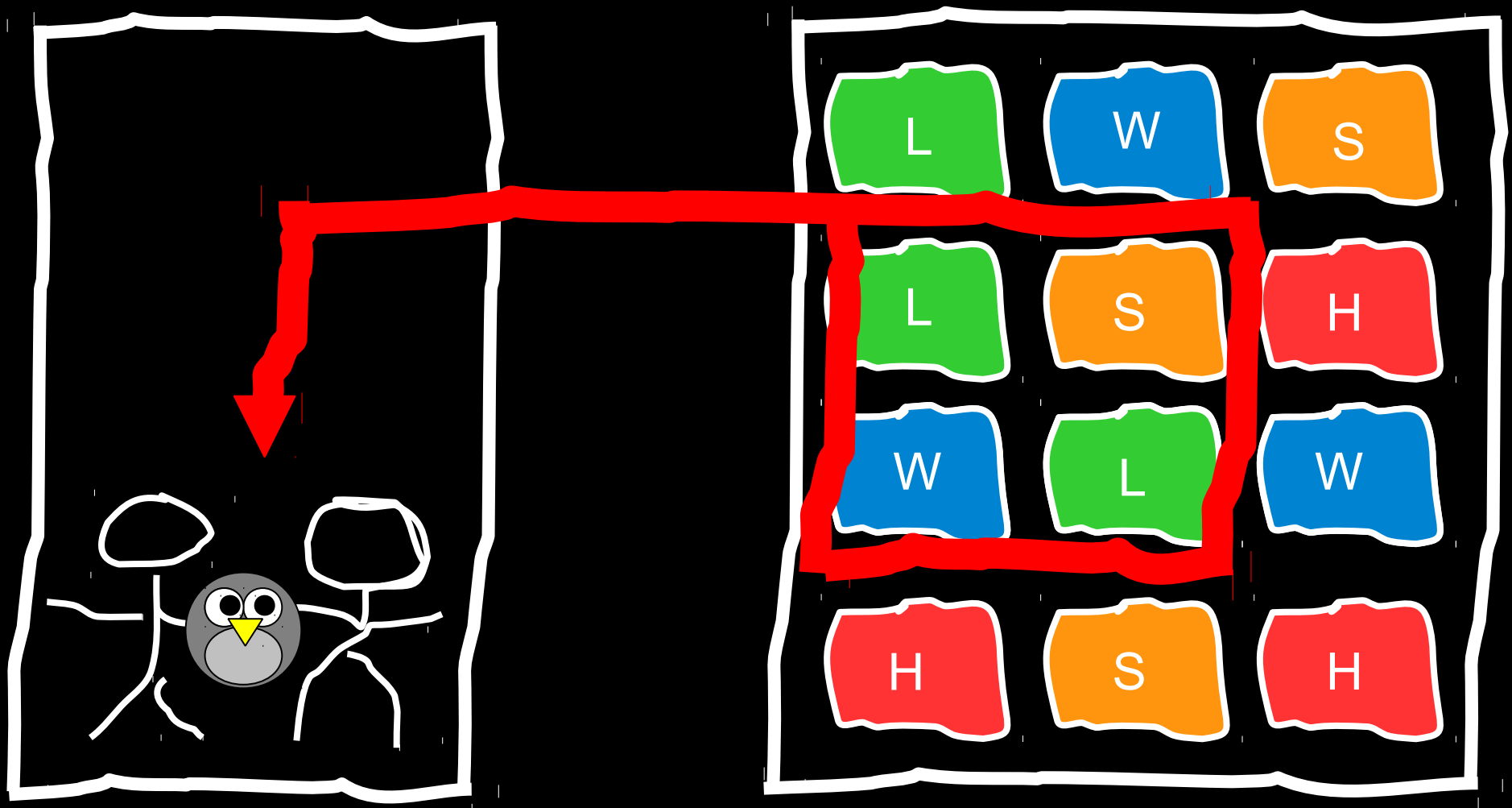
Data Center





Linux only
Mainframe

Data Center



What you see depends on the perception...or your background

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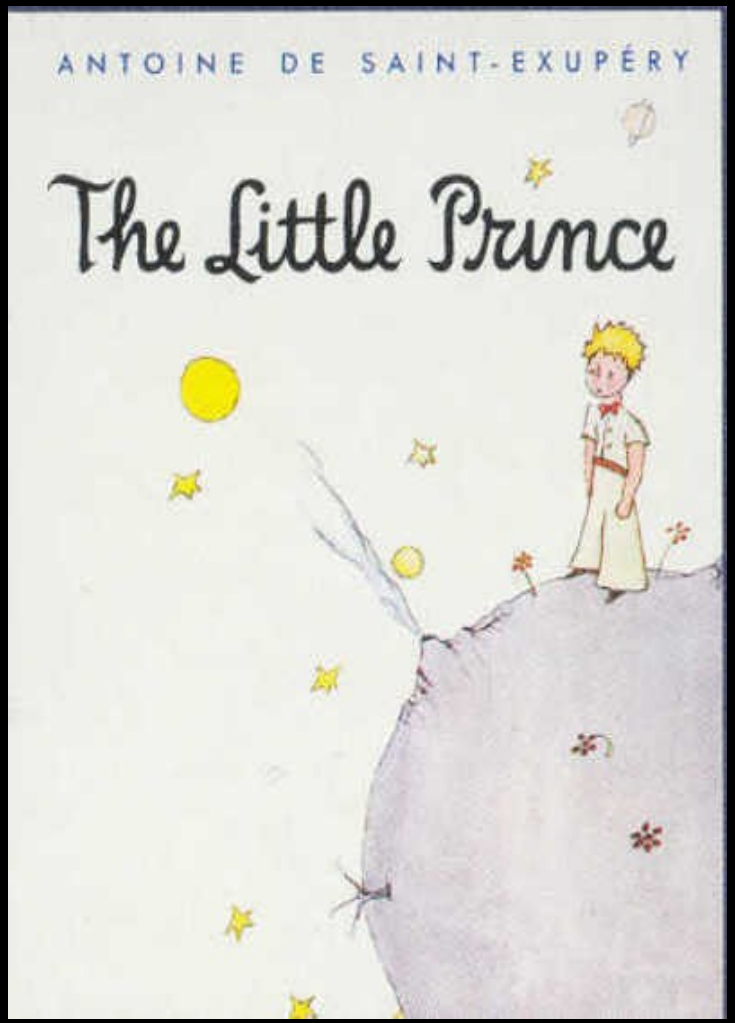

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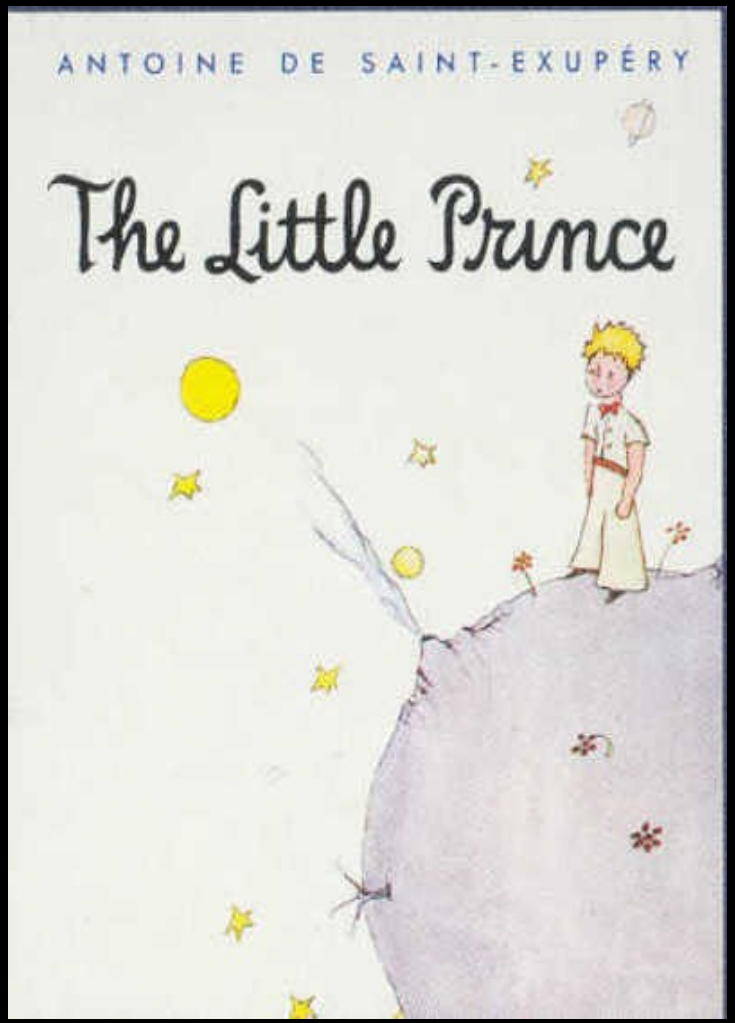

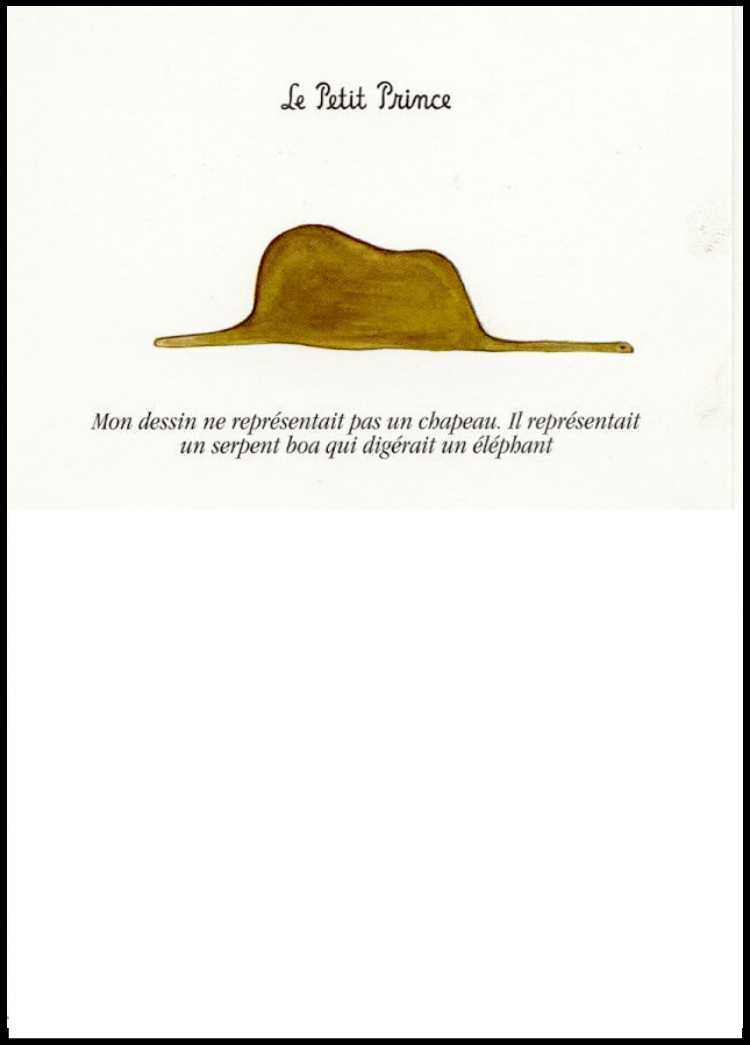

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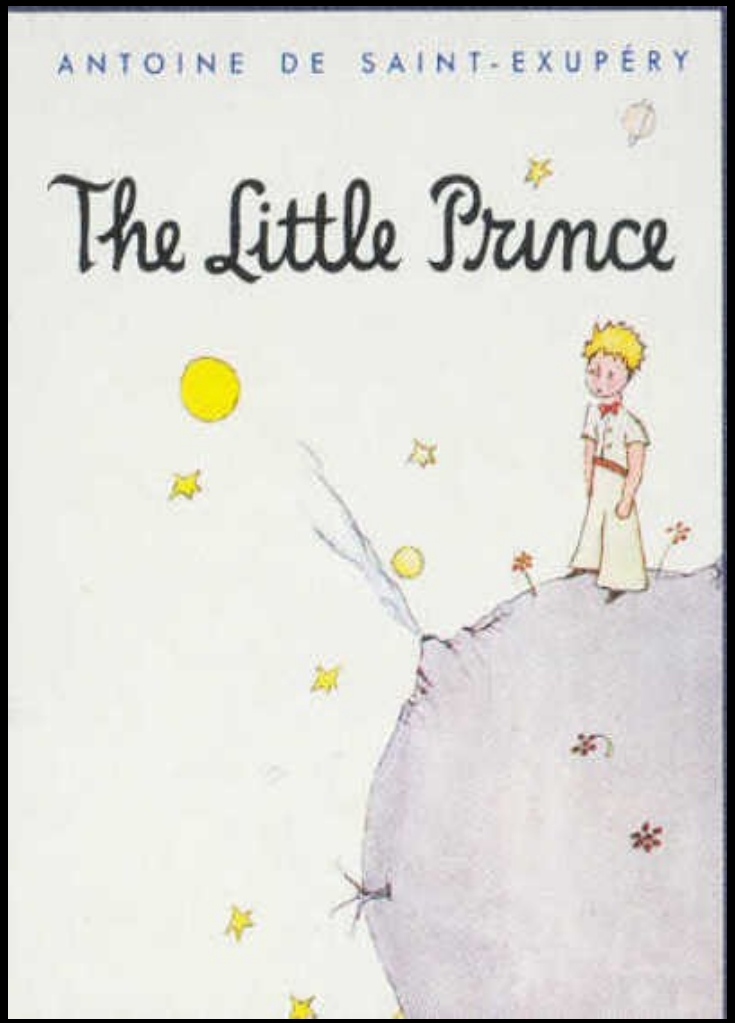

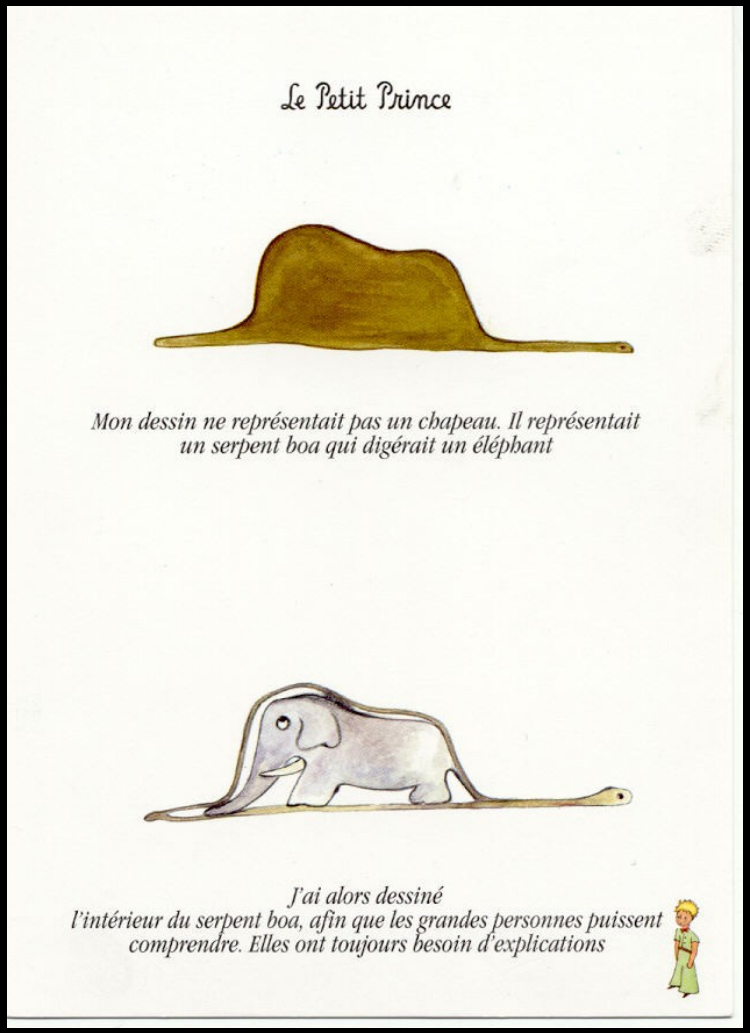

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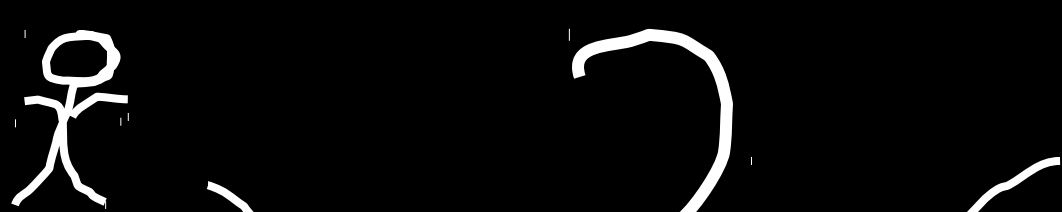
What you see depends on the perception...or your background

Do we all speak the same language?



Bill Smith
25+ years of
Mainframe experience

Alice Jones
Grew up with a
mobile phone

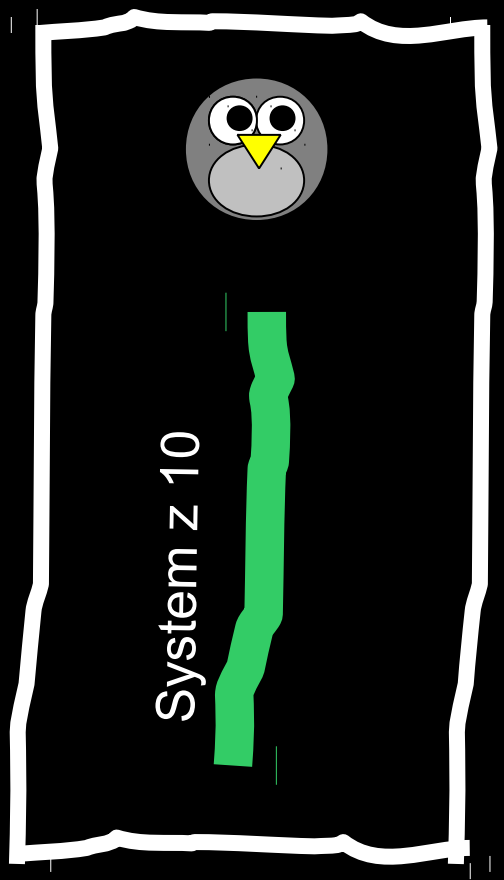
IPL
4-way
Main Storage
DASD
OSA

Multi Core
Gigabit Ethernet
Memory
SAN
....

IBM Enterprise Linux Server Offering

Linux + z/VM + z10 BC = ELS

- Standard **z10 BC Mainframe**
- Two 3.5GHz processors enabled for Linux
- 64 GB of memory
- Fibre and ethernet communications
- IBM Virtualisation z/VM including 3 years S&S
- HW maintenance for 3 years



Starting at a price of 294 k€ (312 k$)!

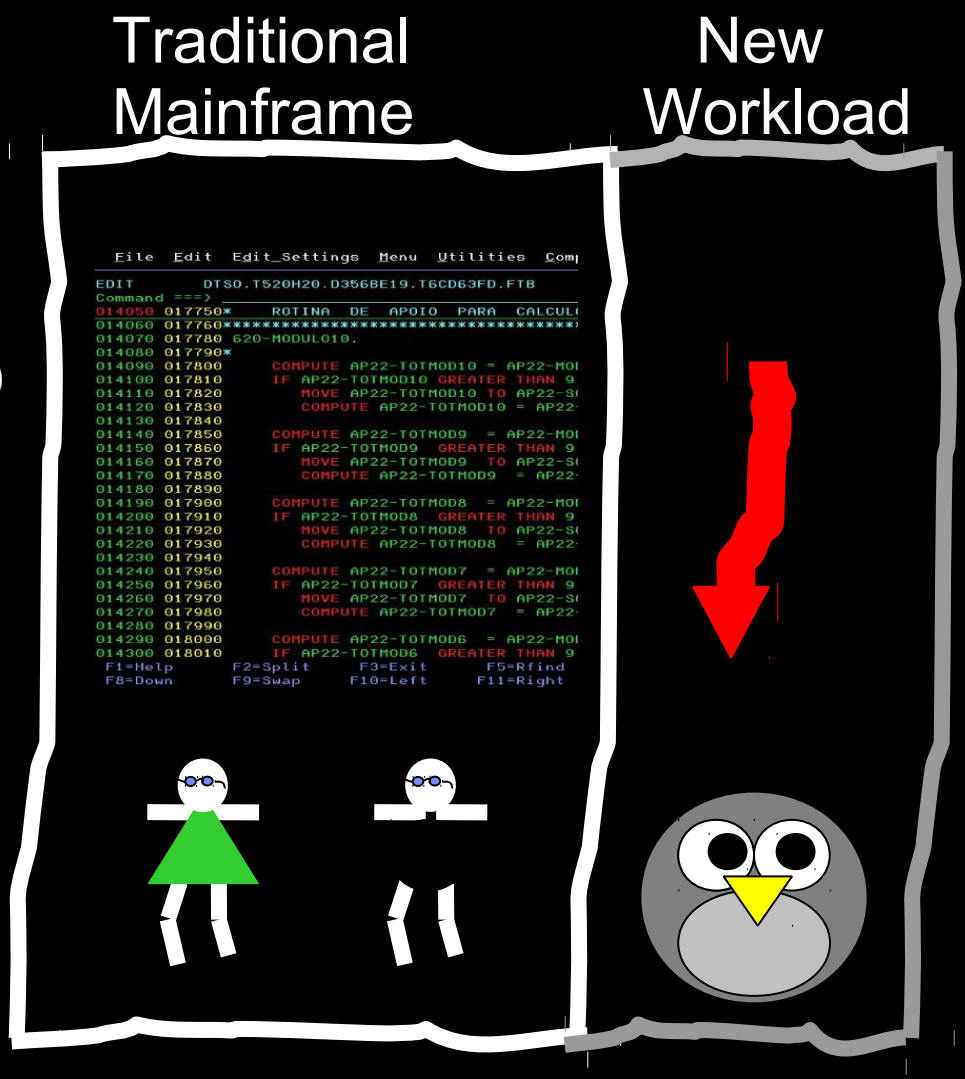
Incremental IFL starting at 96k€ (99 k$)!

Solution Edition for Enterprise Linux Server

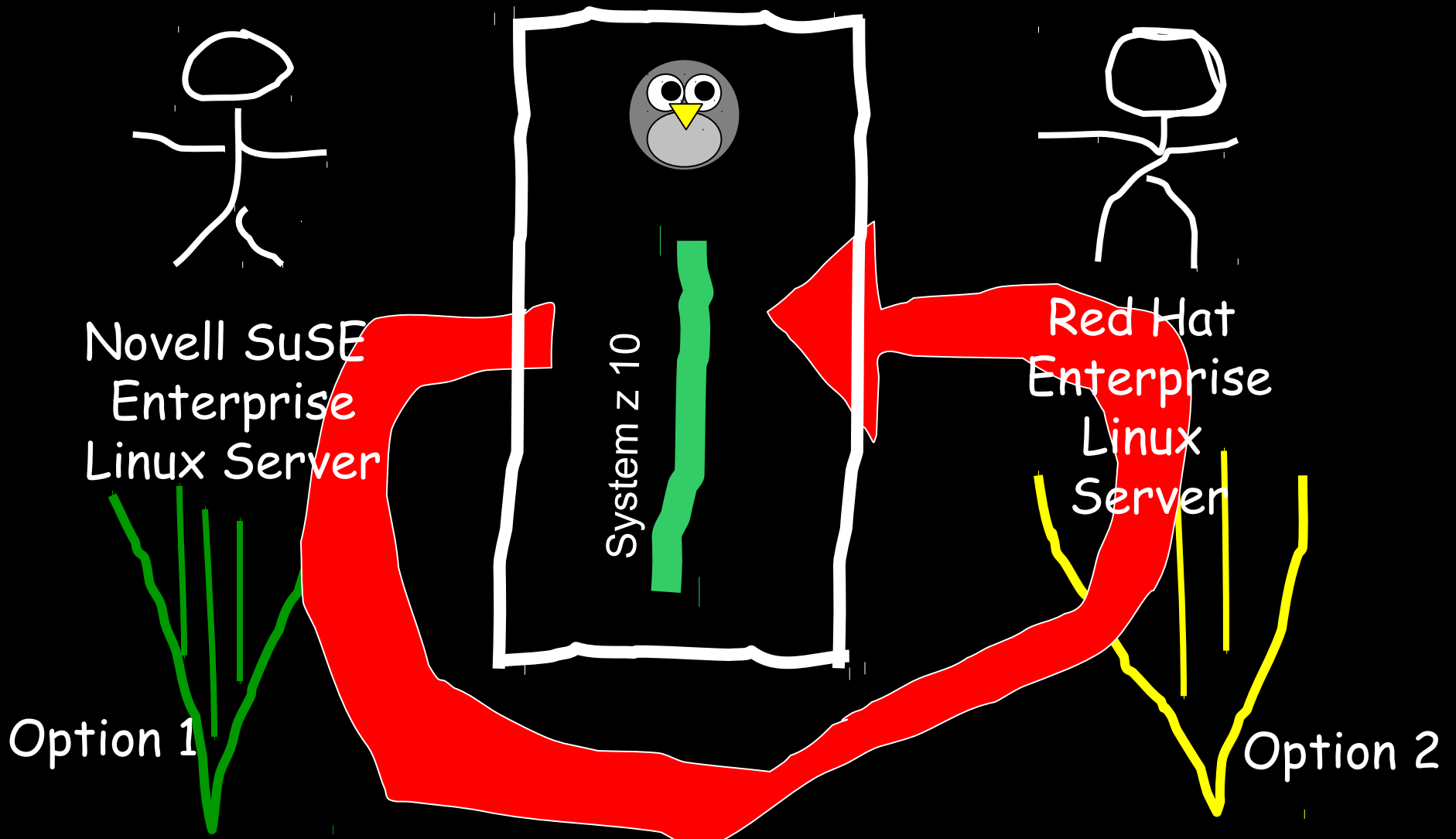
The System z Solution Edition for Enterprise Linux is a set of

- Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL)
- processors,
- memory,
- I/O connectivity
- and z/VM virtualization software
- In flexible configurations to an existing mainframe system

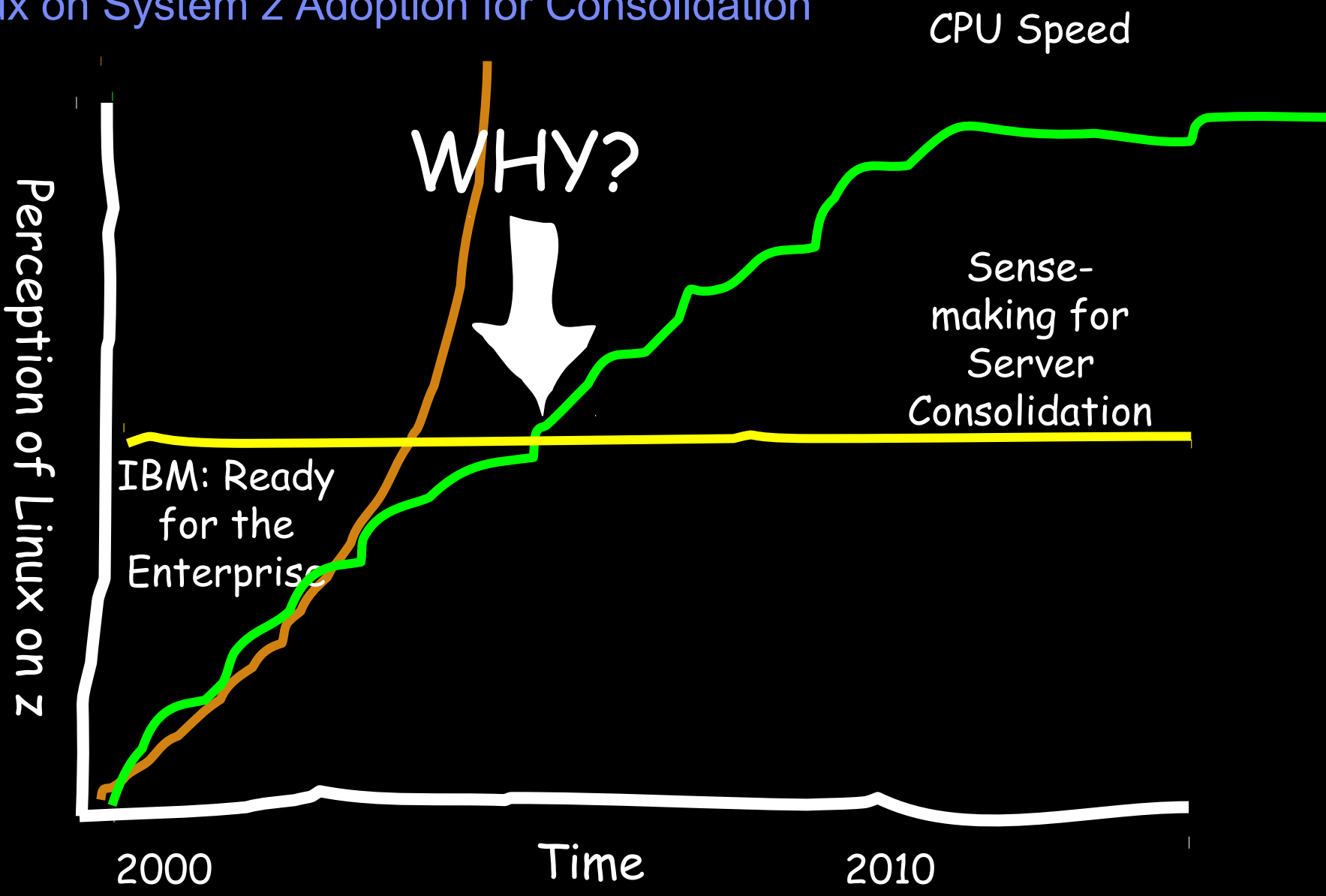
- For Incremental new workload
- Cannot be applied to existing workload



The Linux Support is not included in these bundles



Linux on System z Adoption for Consolidation



How Do Companies Typically Select a Platform for Their Applications?

- Their first question is:

  “Will it run there?”

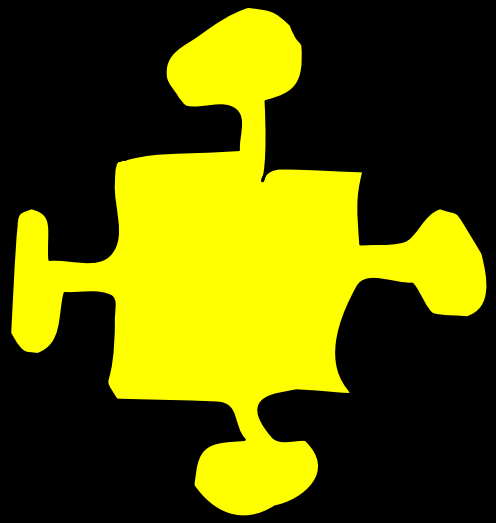
- Their second question is:

  “How much does the hardware cost?”

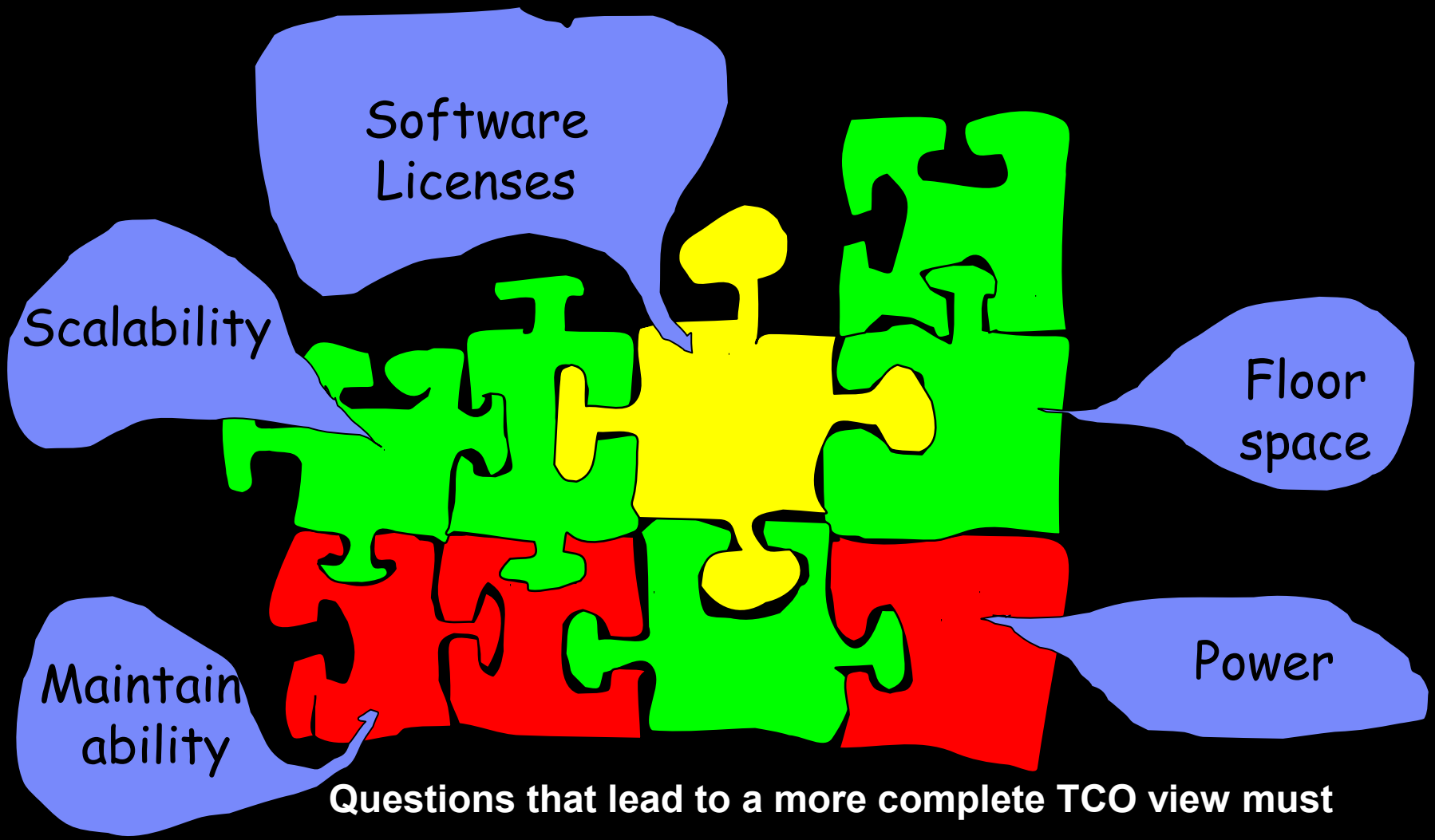
They’re done!

But this is just a TCA view…
Is that all they should be thinking about?

What Did We Miss?

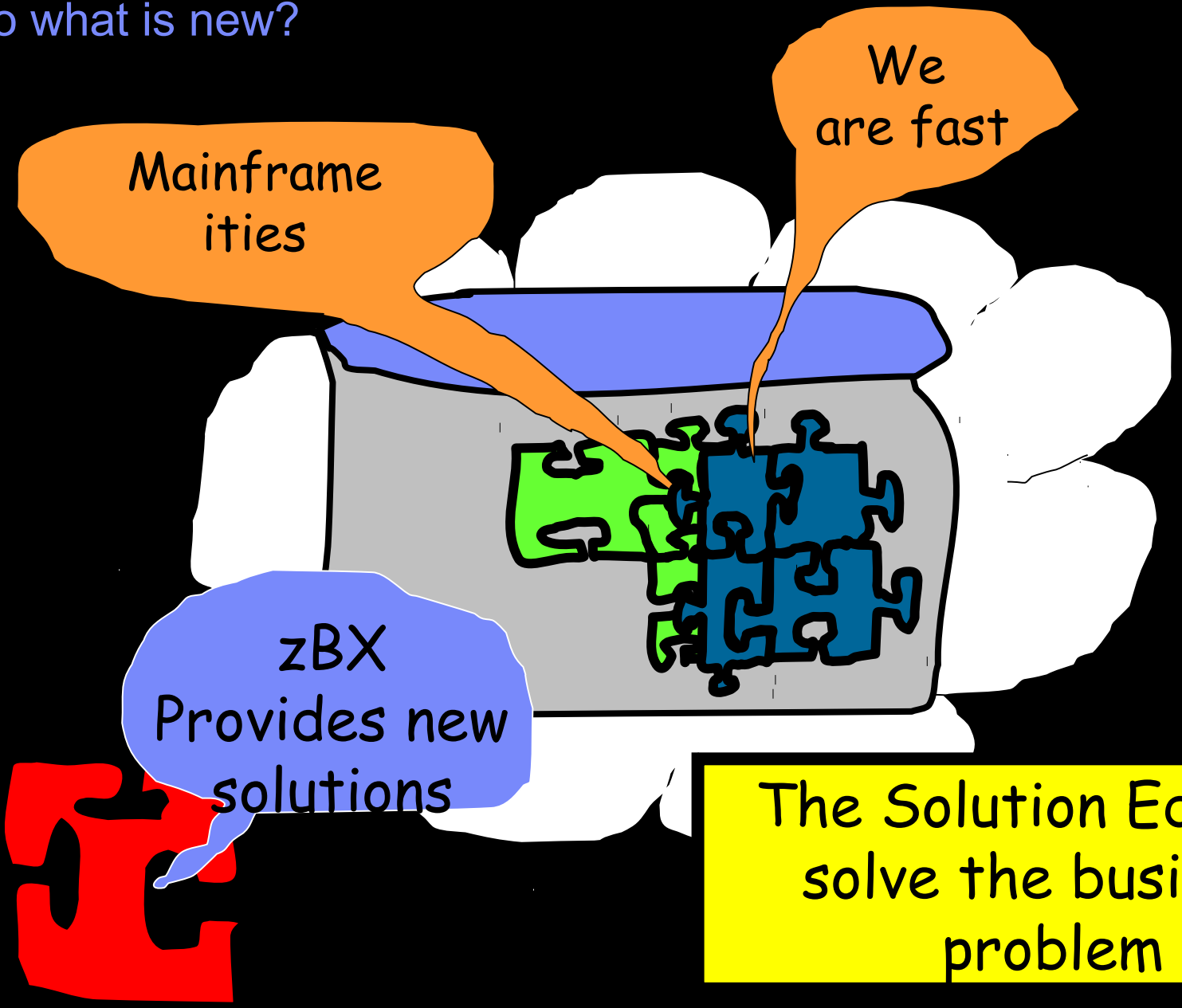


What Did We Miss?
Nonfunctional Requirements



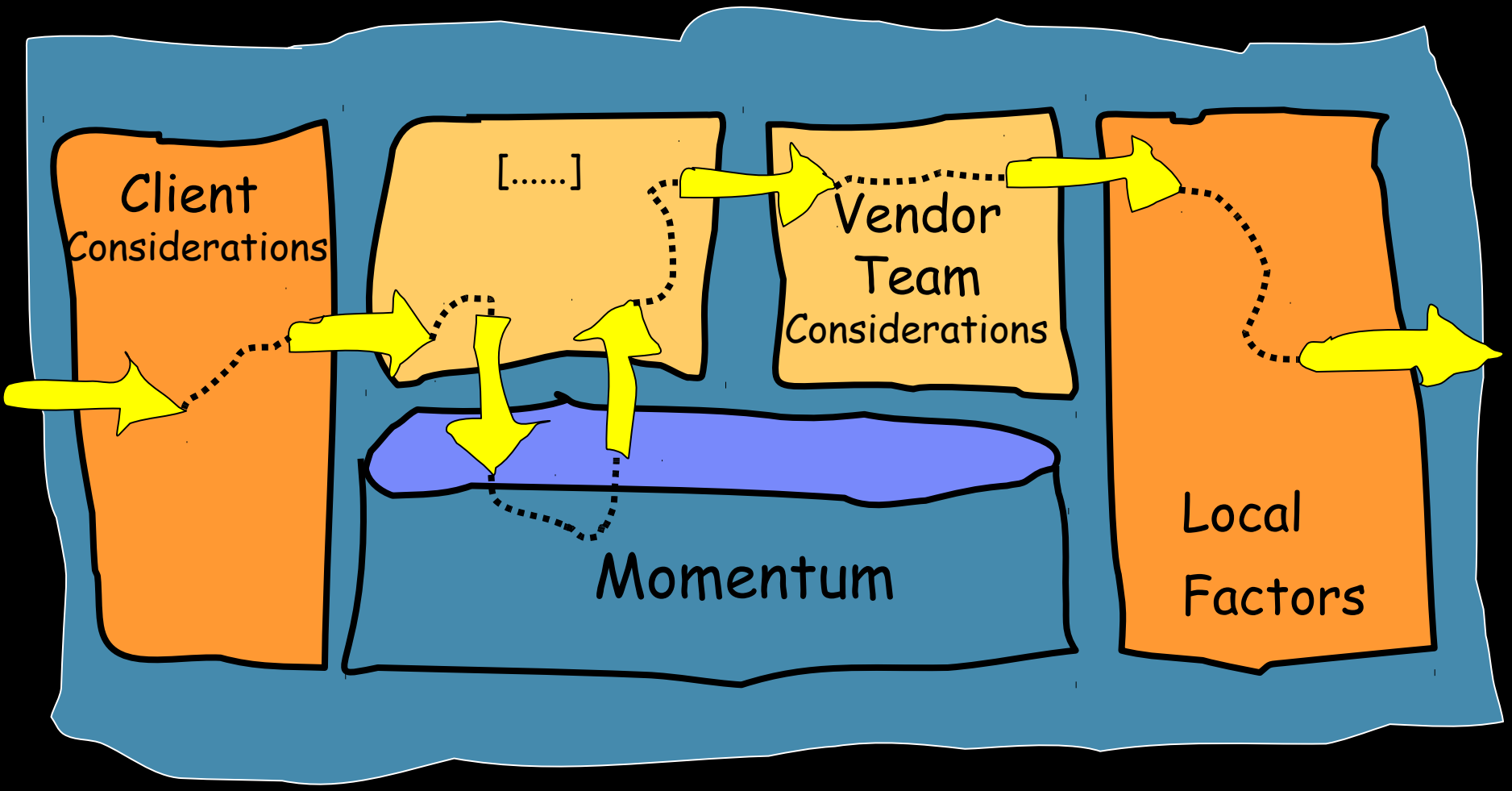
Questions that lead to a more complete TCO view must be considered…

So what is new?

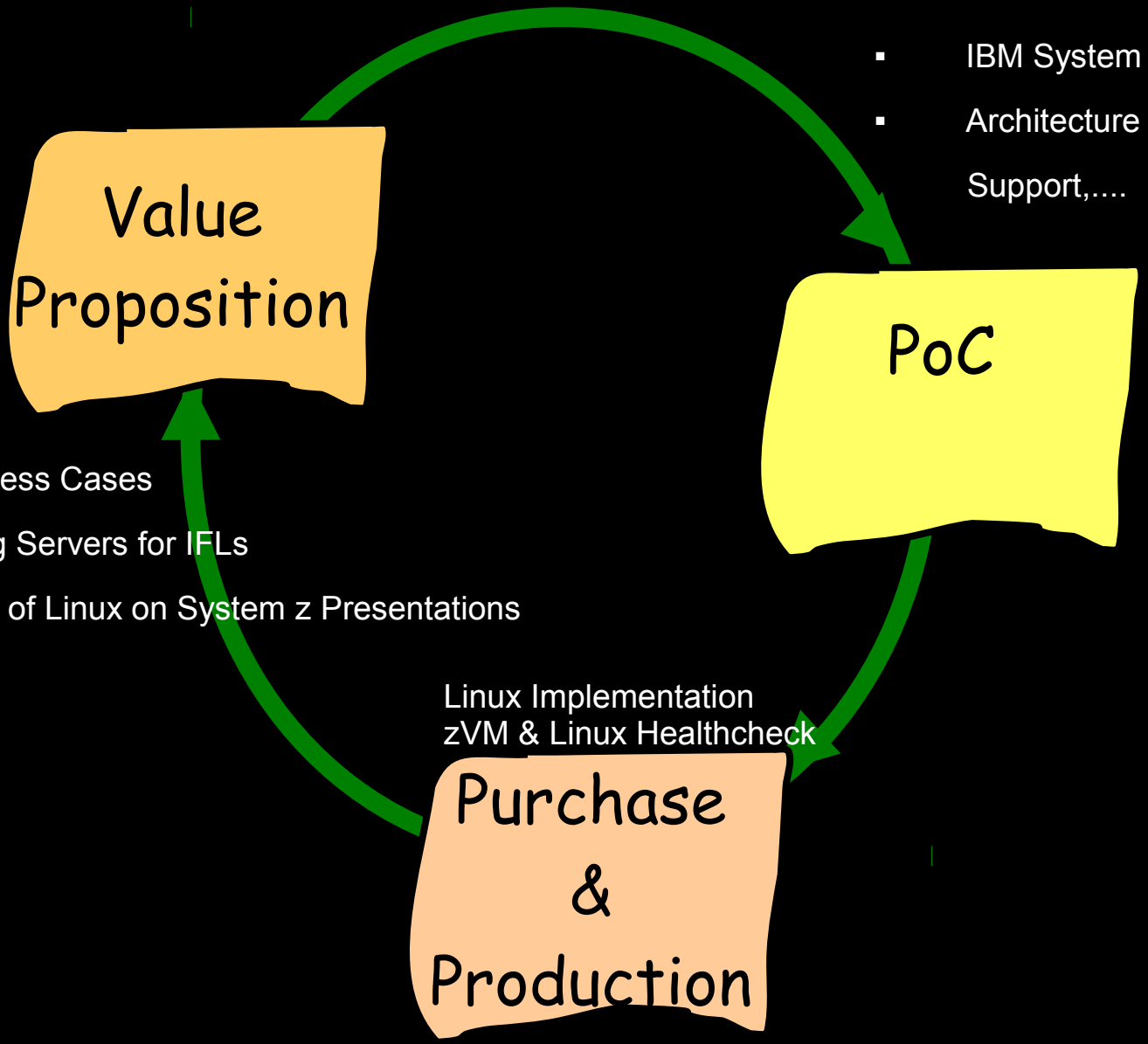


The Solution Editions solve the business problem

A myriad of factors influence platform selection



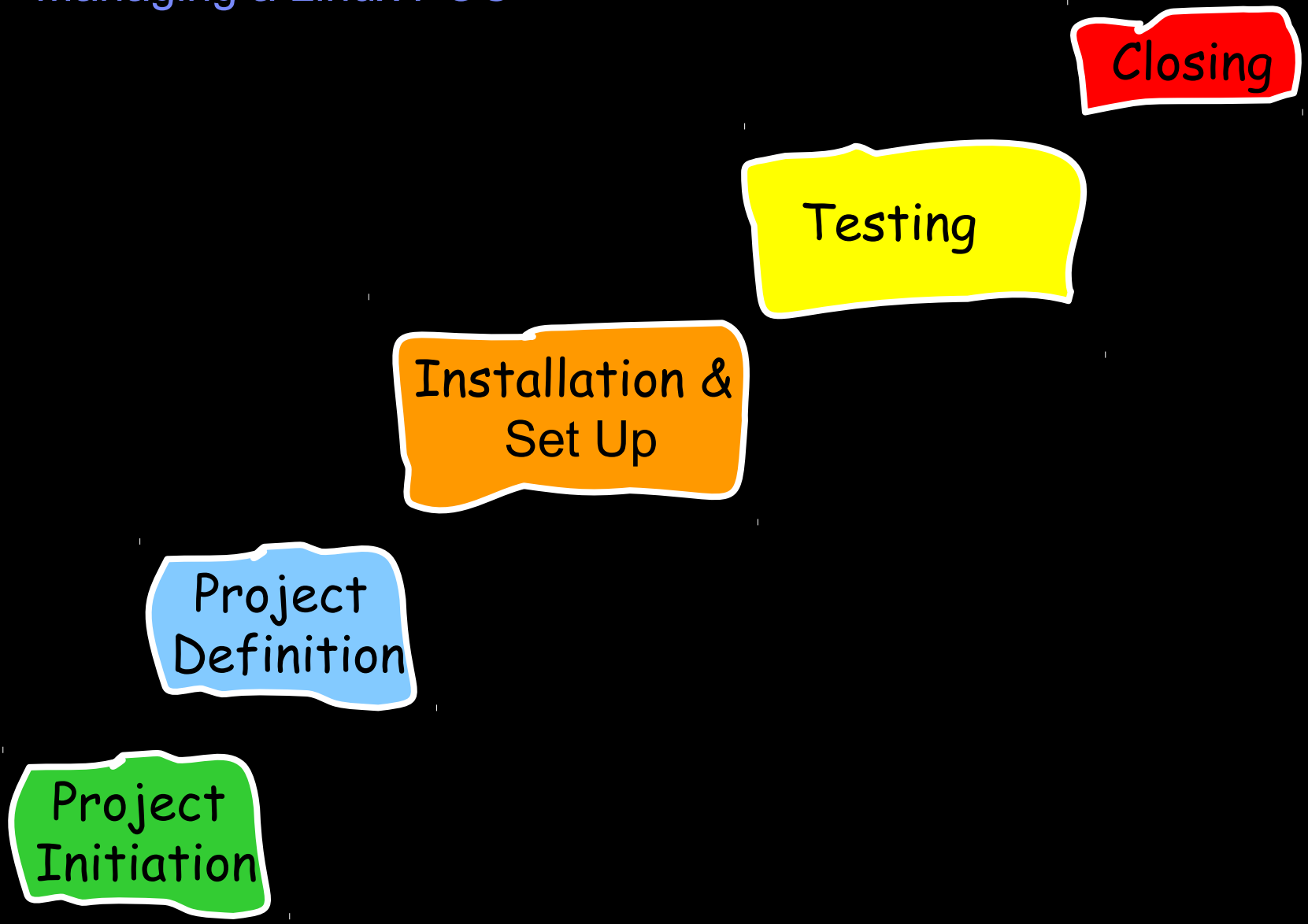
If we simplify it a little bit....



- IBM System z HW Loaner Progr
- Architecture & Installation
- Support,....

- Business Cases
- Sizing Servers for IFLs
- Value of Linux on System z Presentations
- ...

Managing a Linux POC



Managing a Linux POC

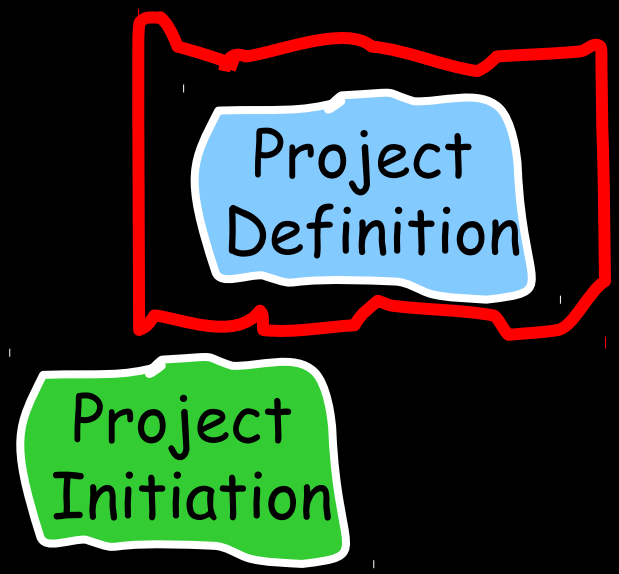
Value Proposition

- Learning the value of System z Linux
- Server Consolidation
- Sizings
- Business Case Development

POC Initiative

- Scoping POC
- POC IFL Sizings
- Real memory sizing
- Scope Document
- Statement of Work

Managing a Linux POC



Infrastructure Planning

- Hardware
- Software
- Network
- Security
- Disk
- Backup & Recovery

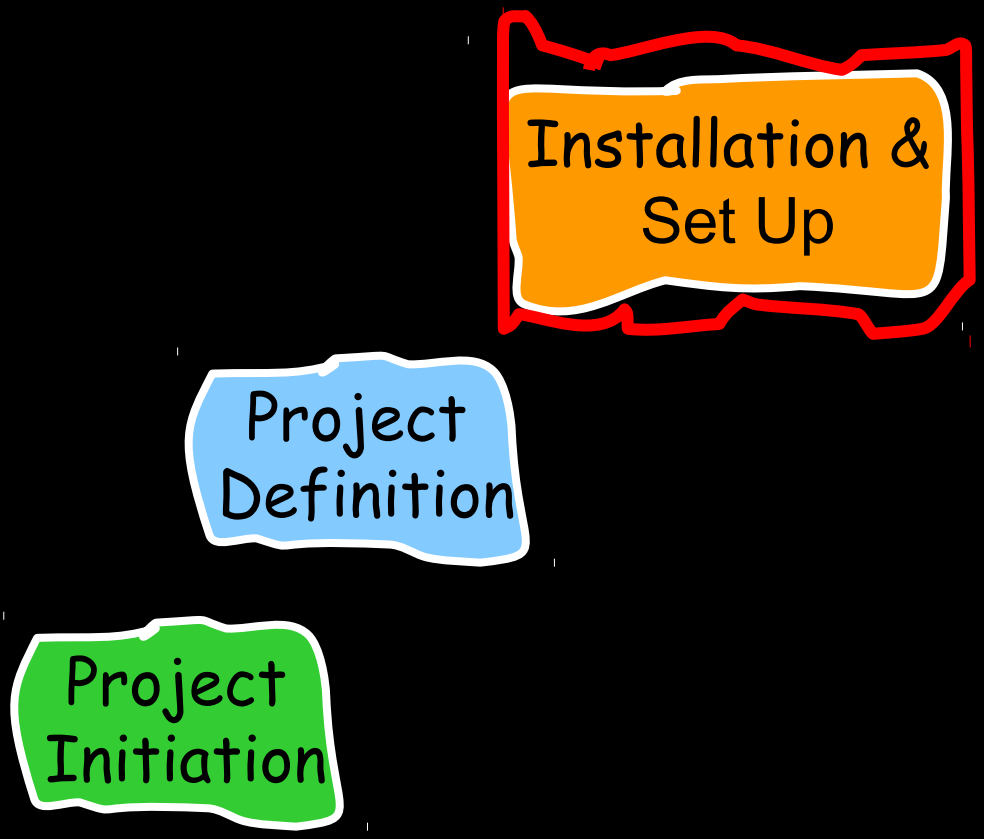
Project Planning

- Scope Document
- Project Plan
- Systems Assurance
- Statement of Work
- Status Report
- Phone / Email Support

IBM Loaner Program

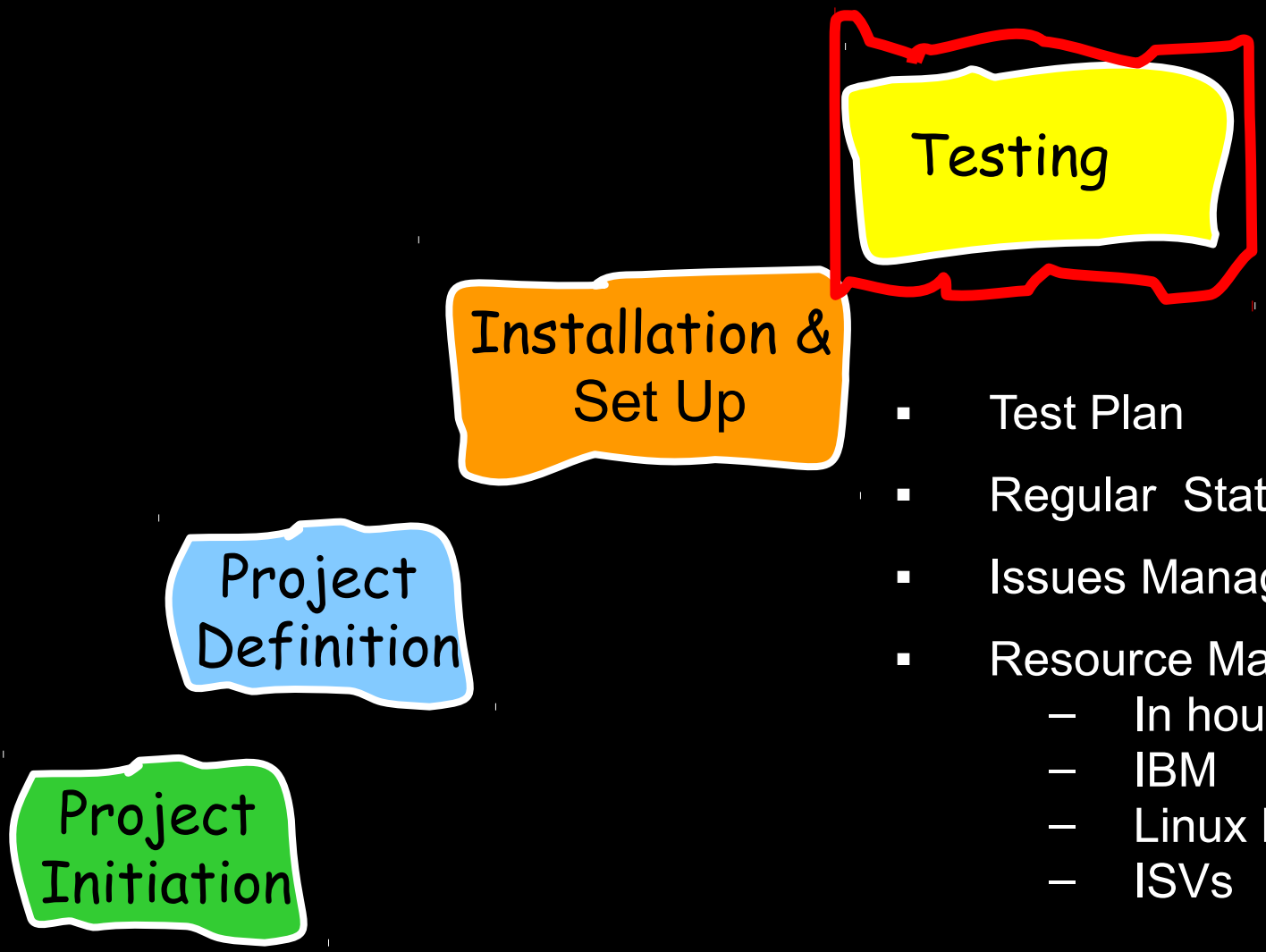
- POR date
- Success Criteria
- Configs
- Sizings
- IBM Contracts
- Linux Eval
- Software Evals

Managing a Linux POC



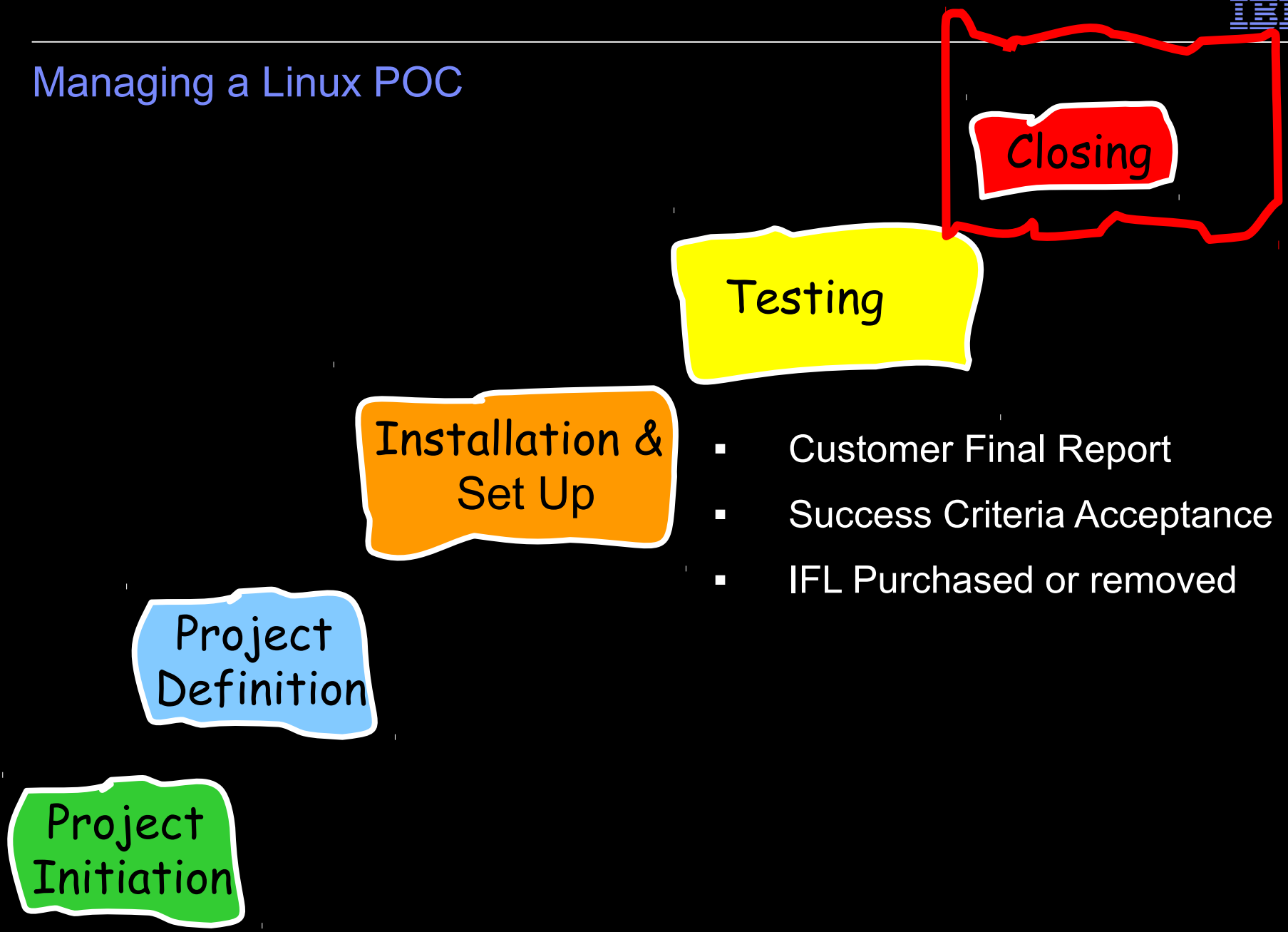
- IBM loaner Eq.
- zVM & Linux install
- Other SW install
- Network
- Security
- Disk
- DB loads
- Application set up
- Other Distributed Servers
- Regular Status Meeting & Report

Managing a Linux POC



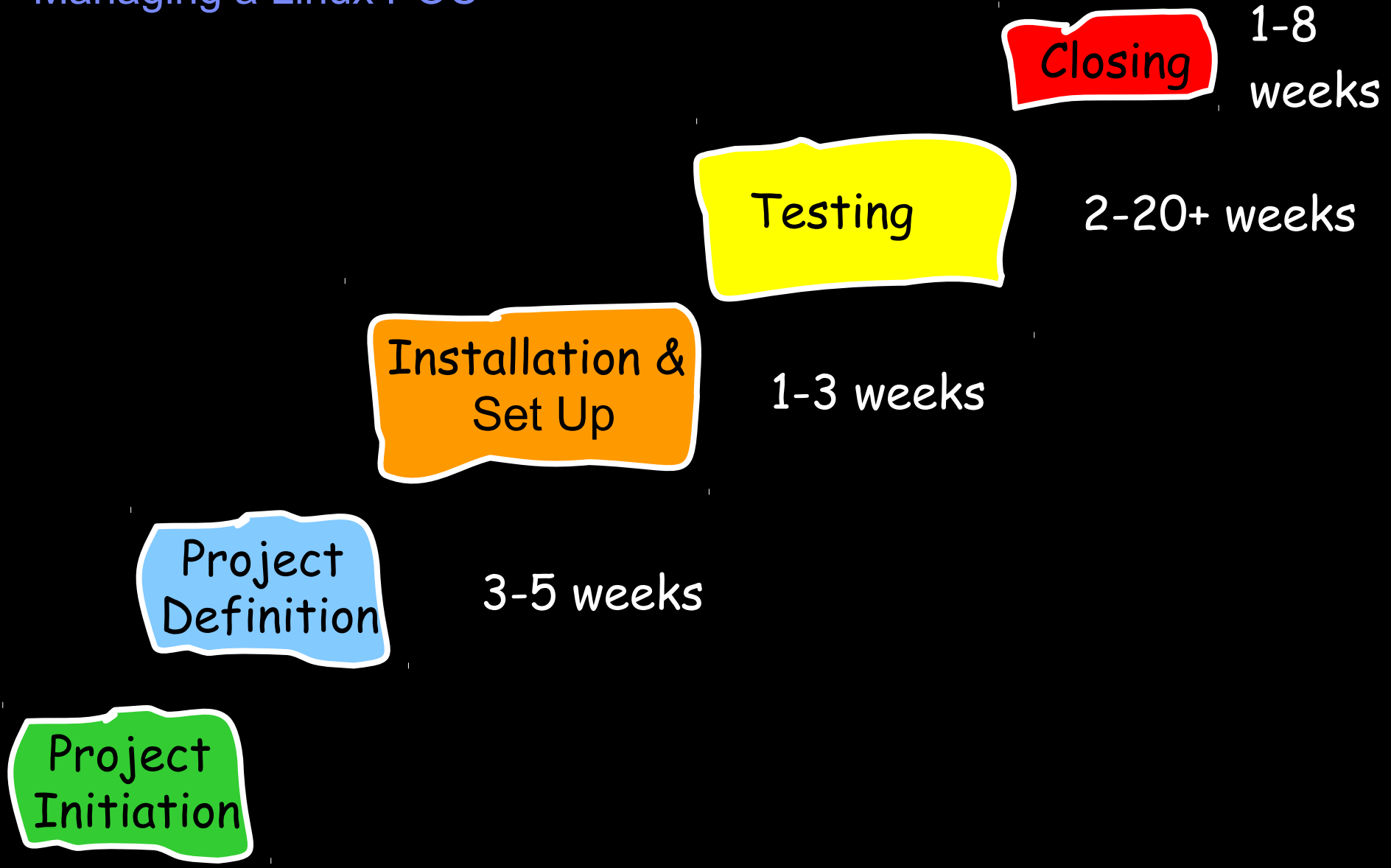
- Test Plan
- Regular Status Mtg & Report
- Issues Management
- Resource Management
  - In house
  - IBM
  - Linux Distro
  - ISVs

Managing a Linux POC

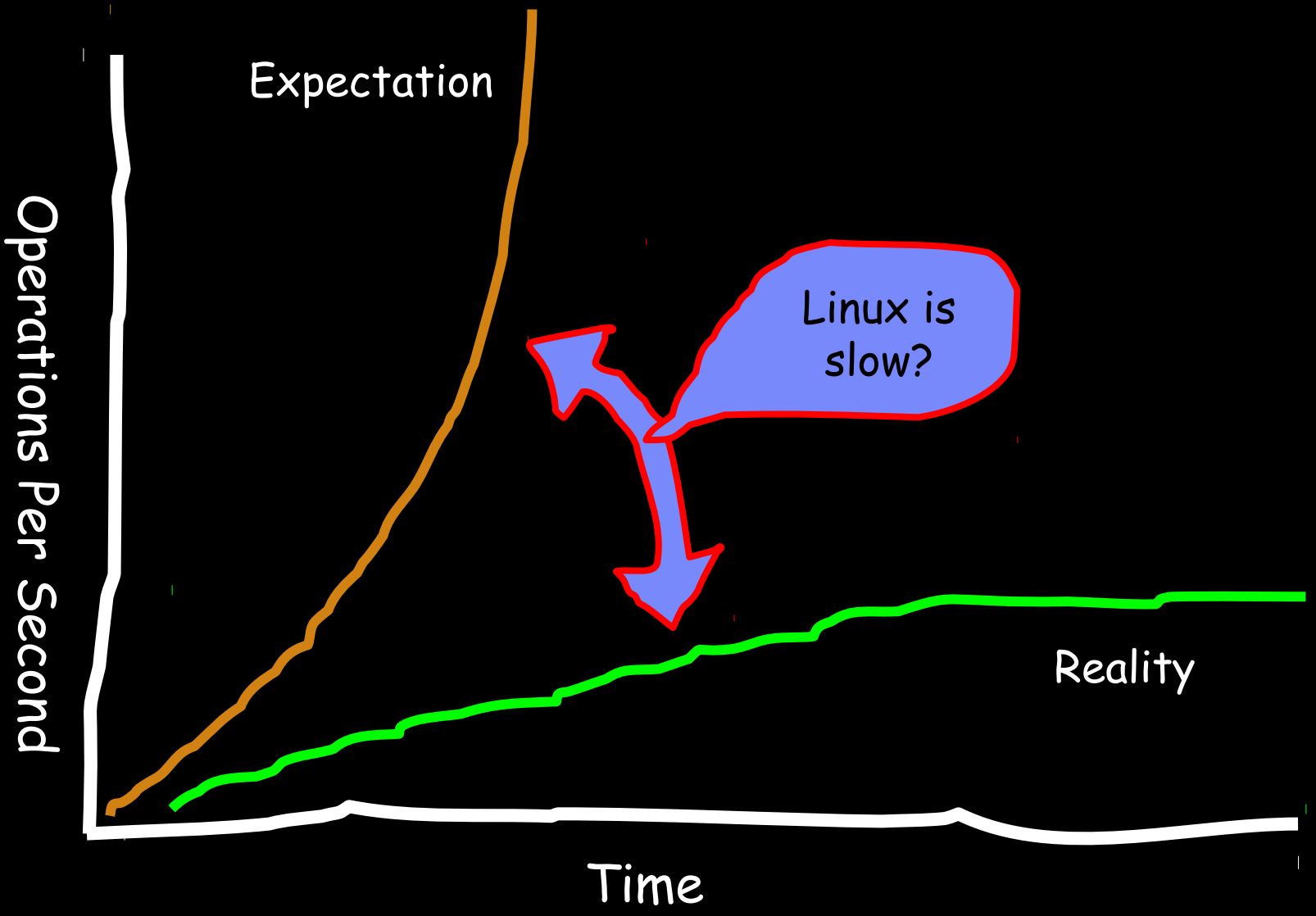


- Customer Final Report
- Success Criteria Acceptance
- IFL Purchased or removed

Managing a Linux POC



Example: Runtime Performance



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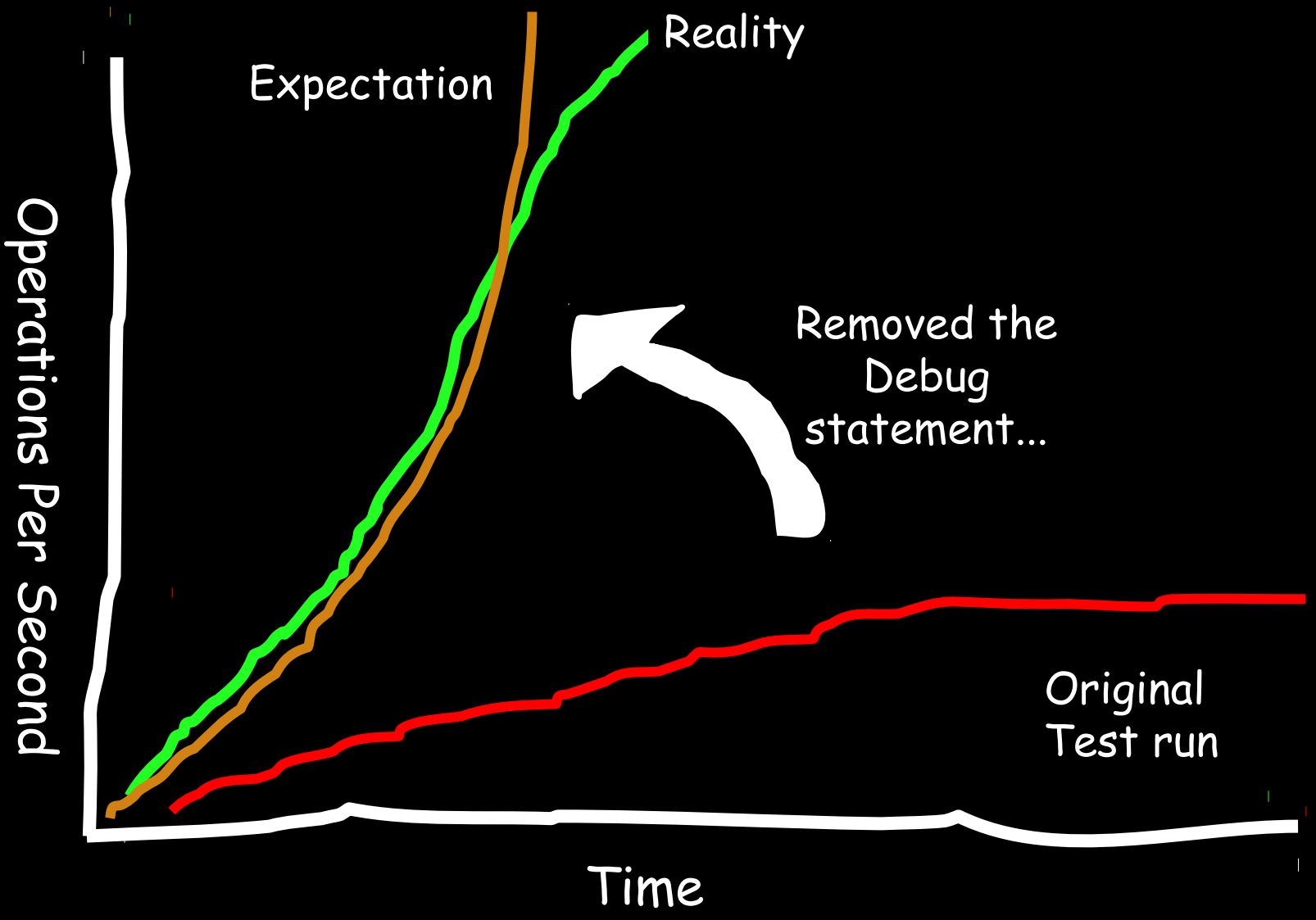
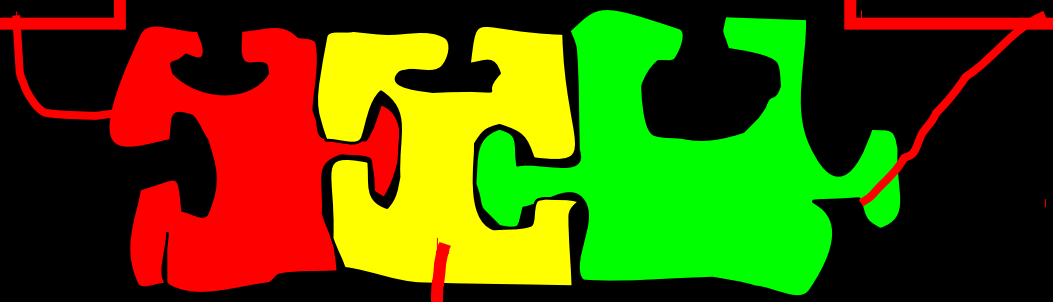


Choosing the Scope is **Critical**

Planing

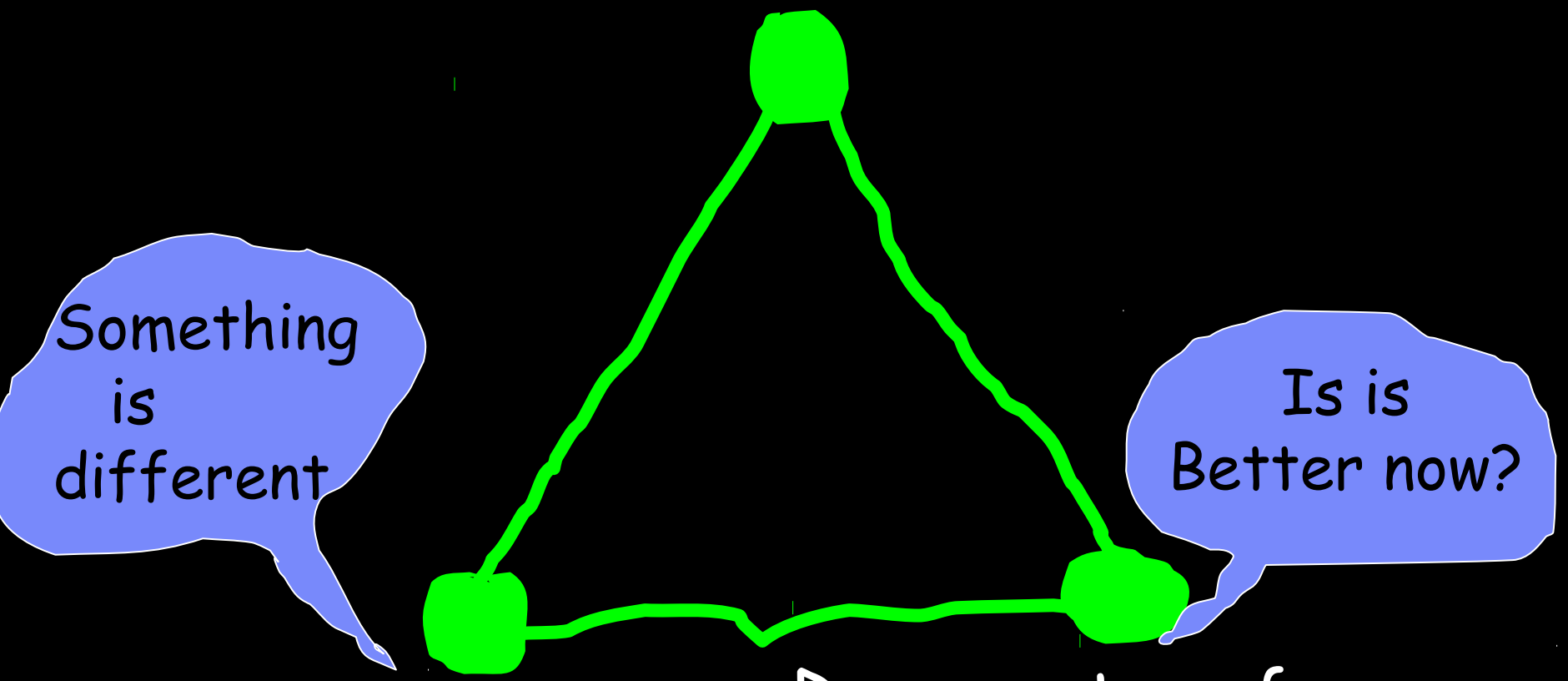
Resource Commitment

Success Criteria



Senior Management Commitment

Test Plan
& Outline tests

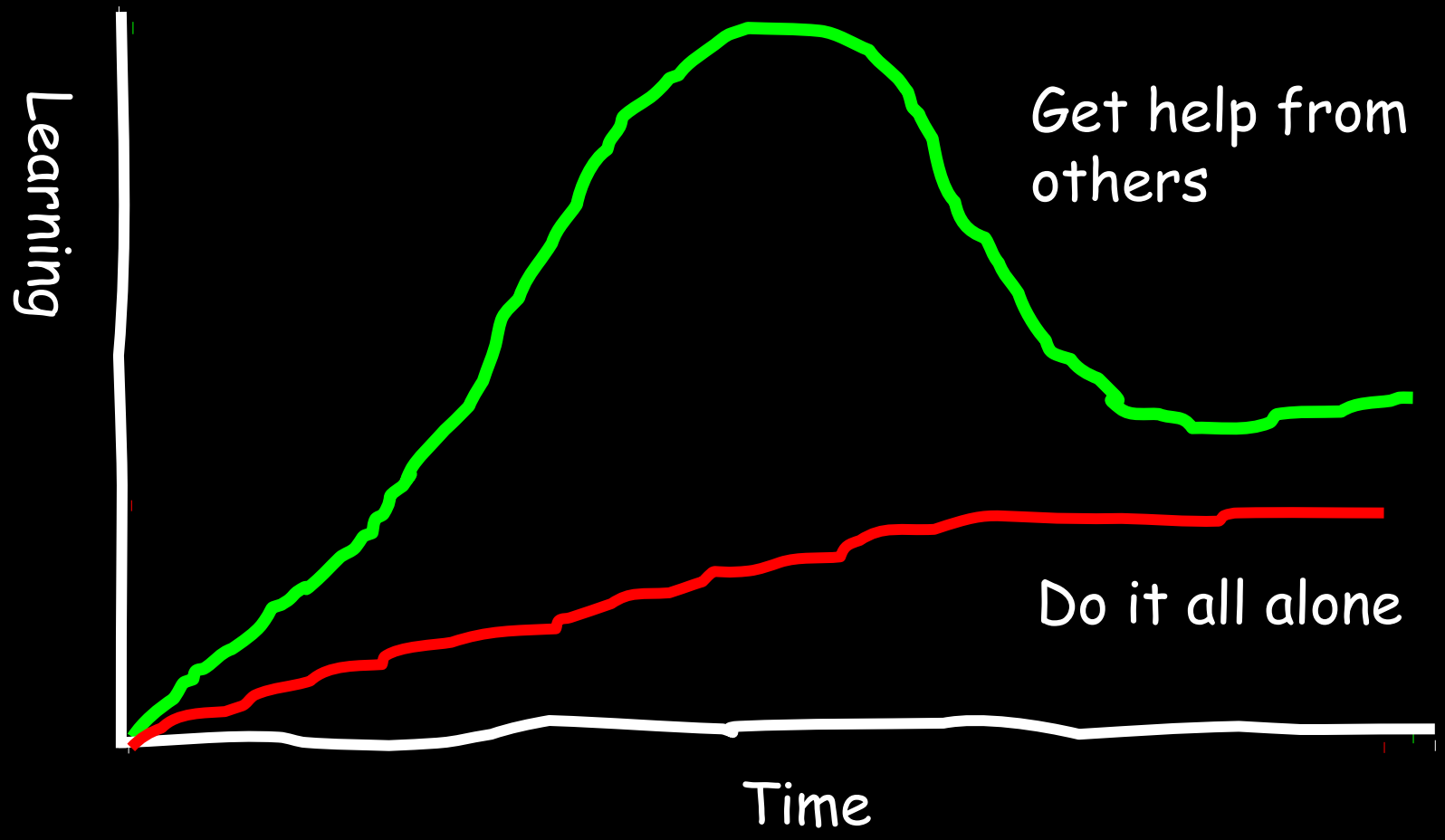


Keep track of Each run's changes & results

Document performance targets when compared to current

Learning Curve: Ask for help early

- Leverage IBM and BP resources
- Open problems with software vendors too, i.e. Oracle, RedHat or Novell



Beware of a single Benchmark POC

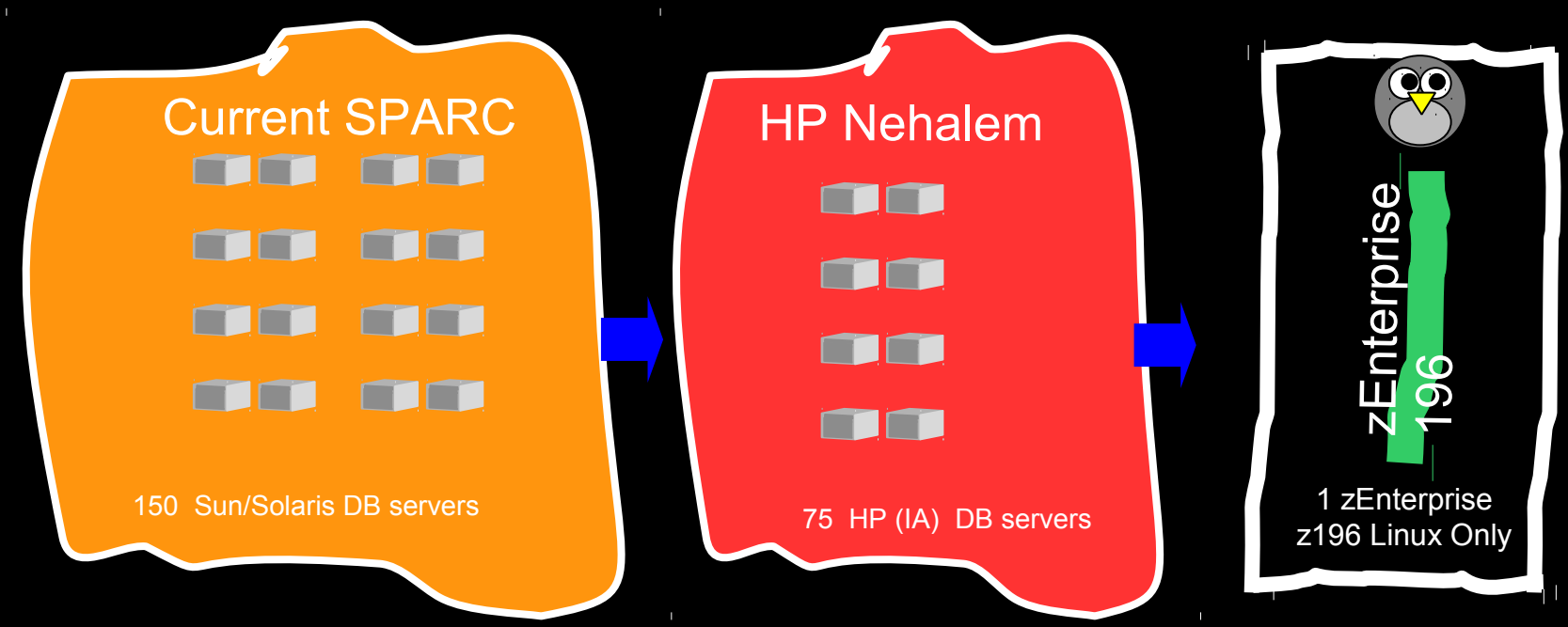
Stay away from performance benchmark tests that drive the IFL to 100% to determine maximum transactions compared to Intel/Power platforms.

Linux on System z “sweet spot” is as a multi-tasker.

A simple core to core comparison might not be the right approach

I know in the past we had to say this because our CPU was slow – now this is no longer the case

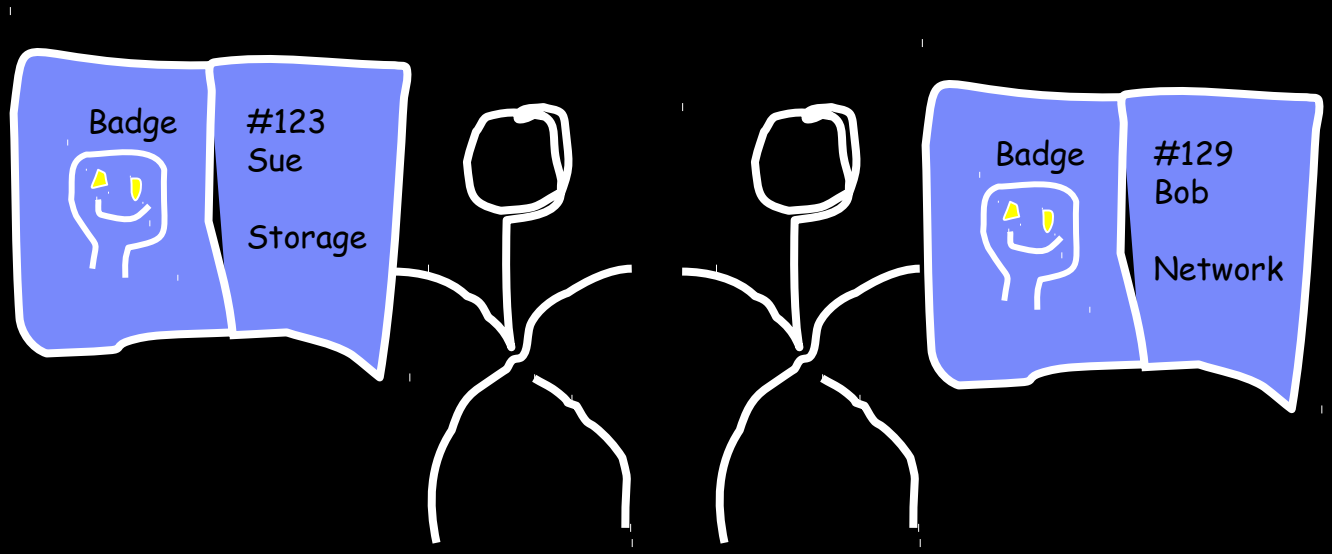
One Box is Enough



The reasons are compelling especially when Software which is licensed by the core is used!

Installation Planning: First Things First

Get the right groups involved upfront



Network
Hardware
Architects
Administrators
Storage
Security

(including network security)

Installation Planning: First Things First

Doing anything else might get you in trouble

Installation Planning: First Things First

- Installing Linux is not like installing z/OS or z/VM (hopefully you're not surprised)
- For mainframe installs, you will need an installation server
- It's "best" if this is a Linux or UNIX system
- There must be a usable TCP/IP network connection between the installation server and your target system
- This means end-to-end, through whatever firewalls, routers, bridges, WAN links, whatever

Disk Storage Selection

- What kind of disk/DASD devices are you going to be using?
  - Directly attached (FICON or ESCON)
  - SCSI over FCP
  - iSCSI
  - SAN
  - NAS

- SCSI over FCP gives better performance, and the SAN adapters are cheaper, but you might need additional adapters on the mainframe side. (Can be used for FICON or FCP, but not both at the same time.)
- Make sure that your storage hardware is certified/compatible with z/VM & Linux on System z?
- Who do you need to work with to make that work correctly?

Don't turn a PoC into a Production Environment!

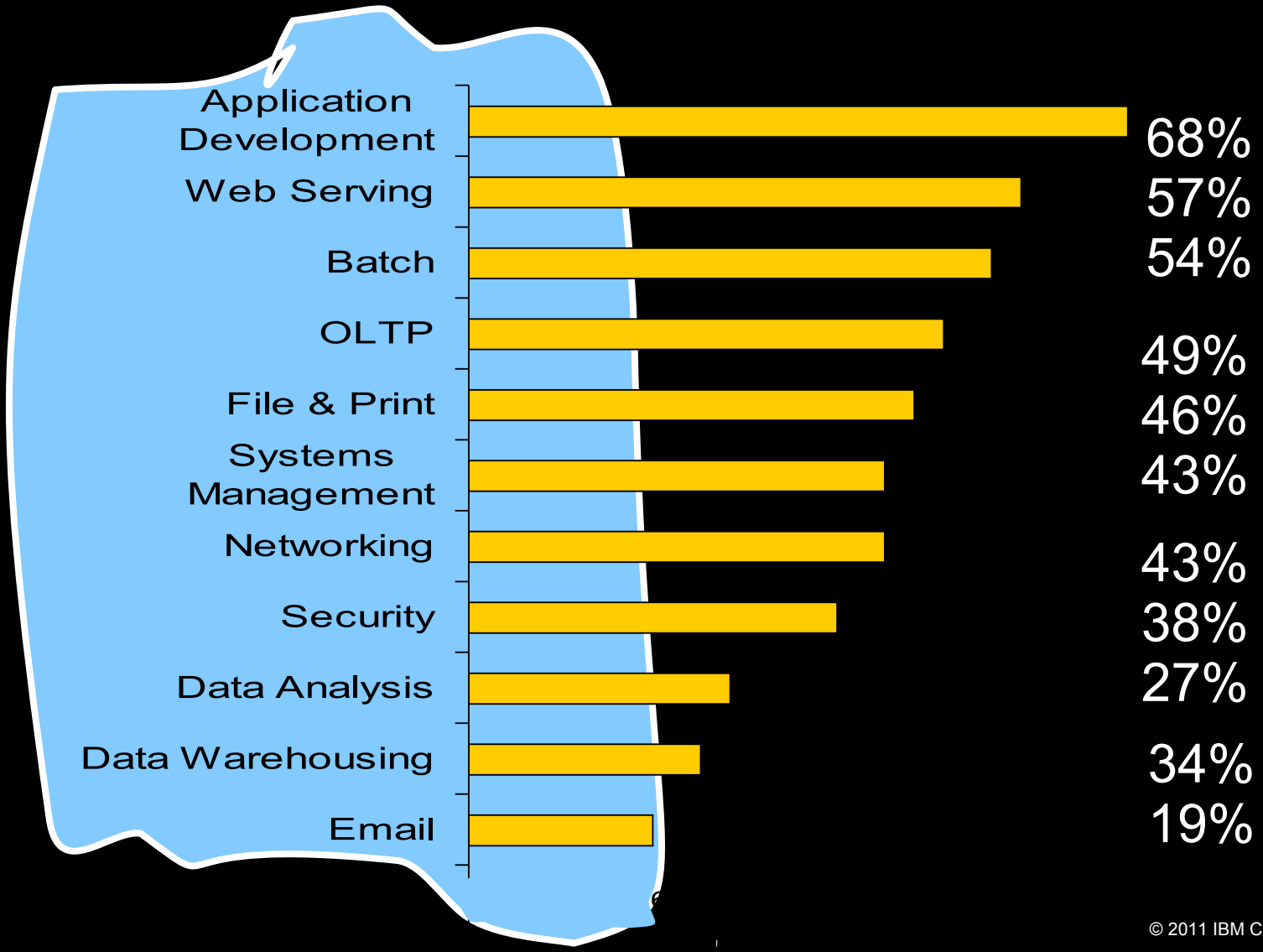
A Proof of Concept is designed to demonstrate the feasibility of a solution.

You should not confuse this with a system state which is either “close to production” or can be transferred into a production environment easily.

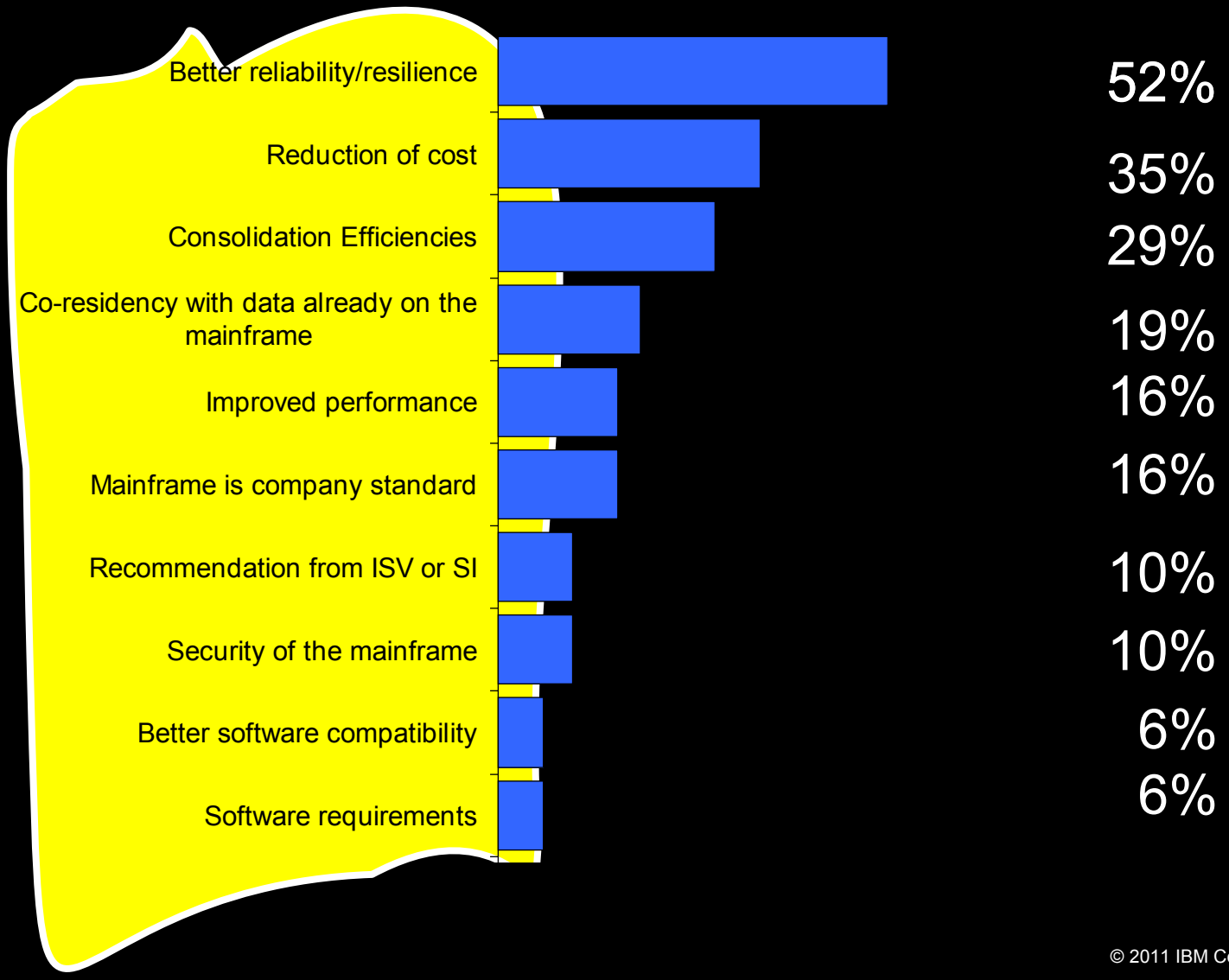
Workload share on utilized IFLs
Primary applications in the past

60%	Application serving for z/OS e.g. WebSphere, SAP, CICS TG, DB2 Connect
30%	Data serving e.g. Oracle DB, DB2 UDB
5%	Workplace serving e.g. Domino, Scalix, other e-mail
5%	Infrastructure serving e.g. Apache, Samba, NFS, etc.
<1%	Linux application development/deployment

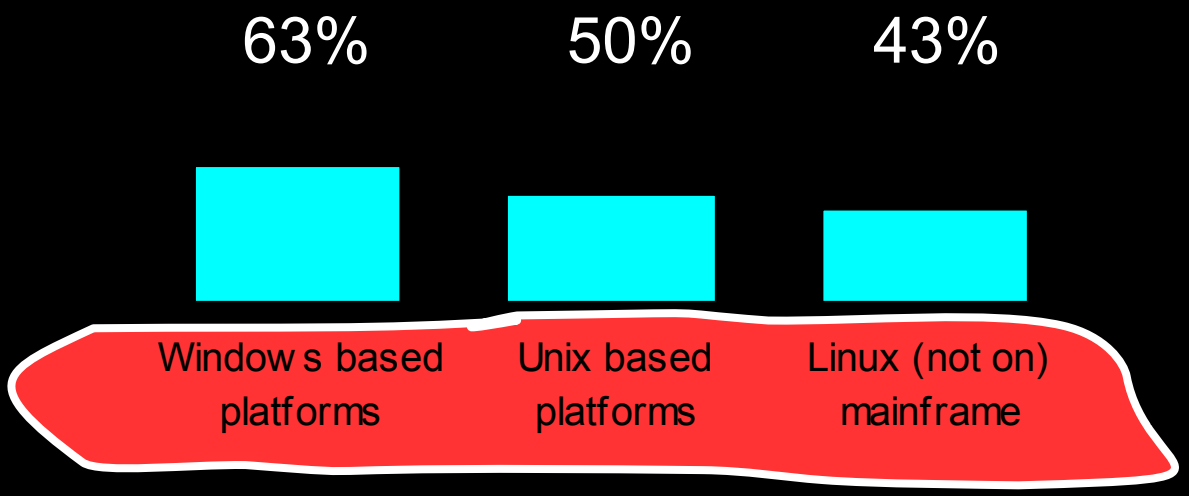
Latest Customer Survey: Workloads run on Linux System z (Existing Customers)



Latest Customer Survey: Migrations Reasons

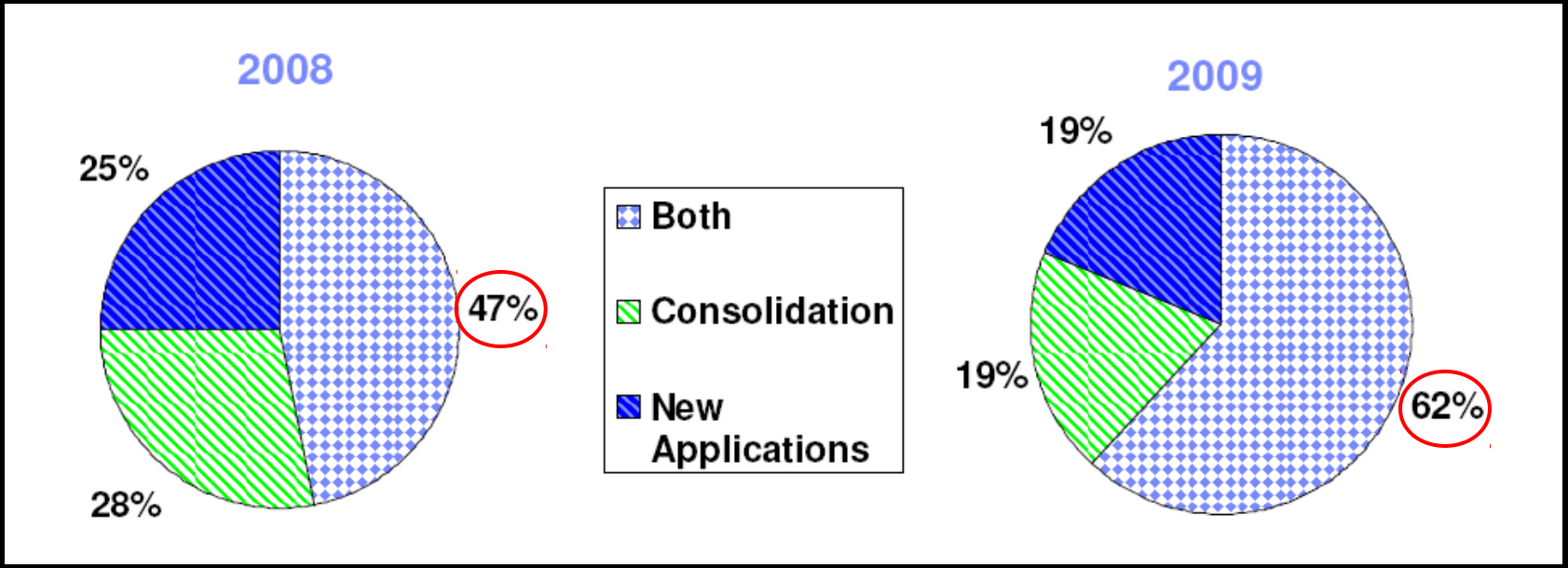


Latest Customer Survey: Previous Platform for Consolidated Workloads



Linux on System z: Consolidation vs. New Applications

Q: Are you using Linux on System z to consolidate workloads, host new applications or both?



Many users start with a Linux consolidation project or deploy new applications, and then expand their use of Linux on System z to do both.

Source: 2009 IBM Market Intelligence

Oracle

Long-Term Partnership: Oracle & IBM have partnered for over 21 years (JD Edwards over 30 Years)

- More than 19,000 joint customers worldwide
- IBM has on-site resources at Oracle locations dedicated to testing all major Oracle applications

The core factor for z196 does not change

… We are happy
To assist in Oracle DB
Migrations
to Linux on System z …

Collaborate

We expect 11GR2 in Q1 –
the current (limited) beta
Test is running successful

What about DB2?

Compete

We also have some good hardware in the portfolio to consolidate your SUN servers….

Oracle

"A growing number of customers are deploying System z virtual Linux servers on the Oracle Grid. Now with IBM's new aggressive pricing for Linux processors IBM has improved the economics of running Oracle solutions with IBM System z servers."

Matt Puccini, Oracle

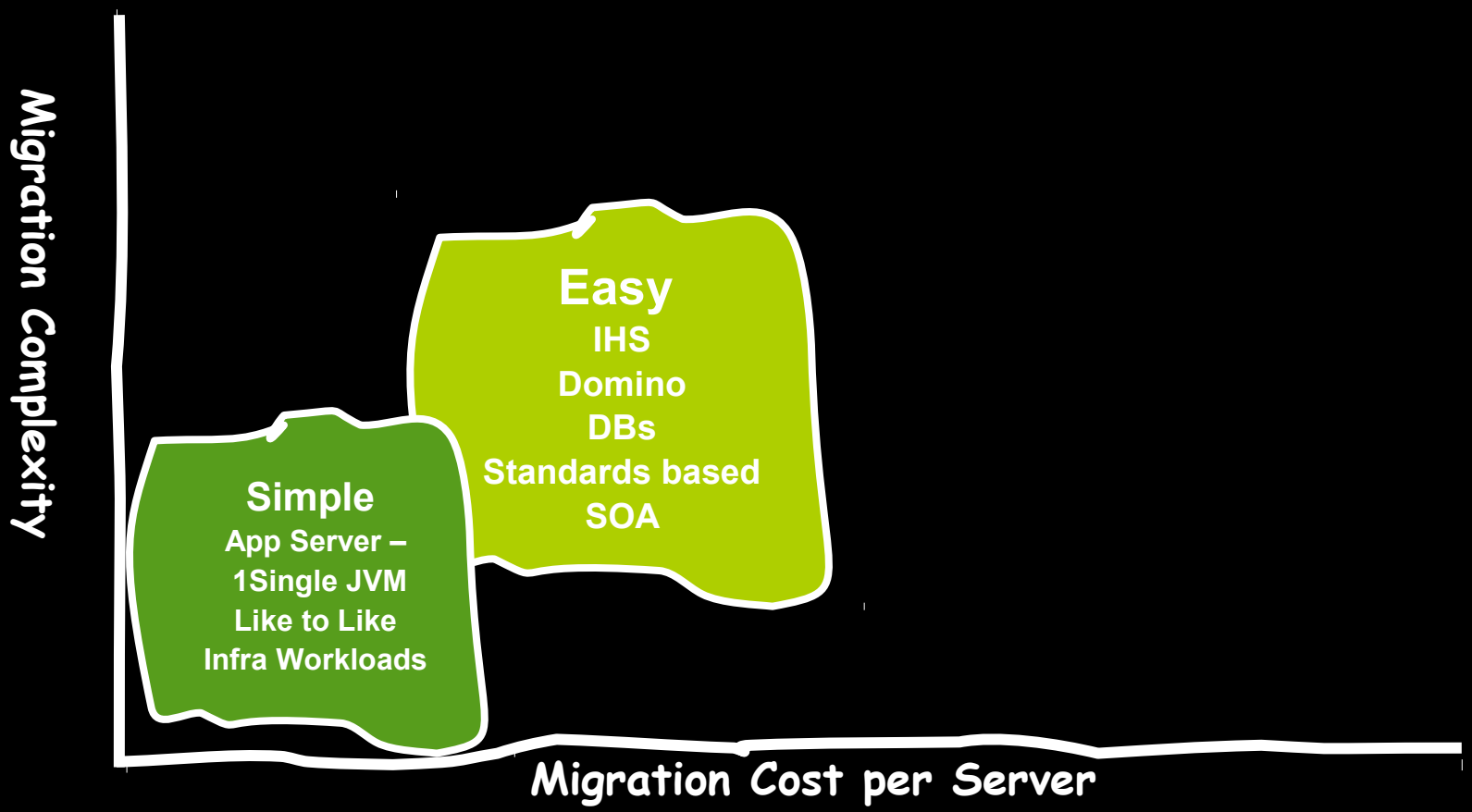
Managing Director Oracle/IBM Integrated Solutions

Workload Migration Complexity

Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload

Objective: Minimize risk by segmenting applications into price / variability segments

Workload Migration Complexity



Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload

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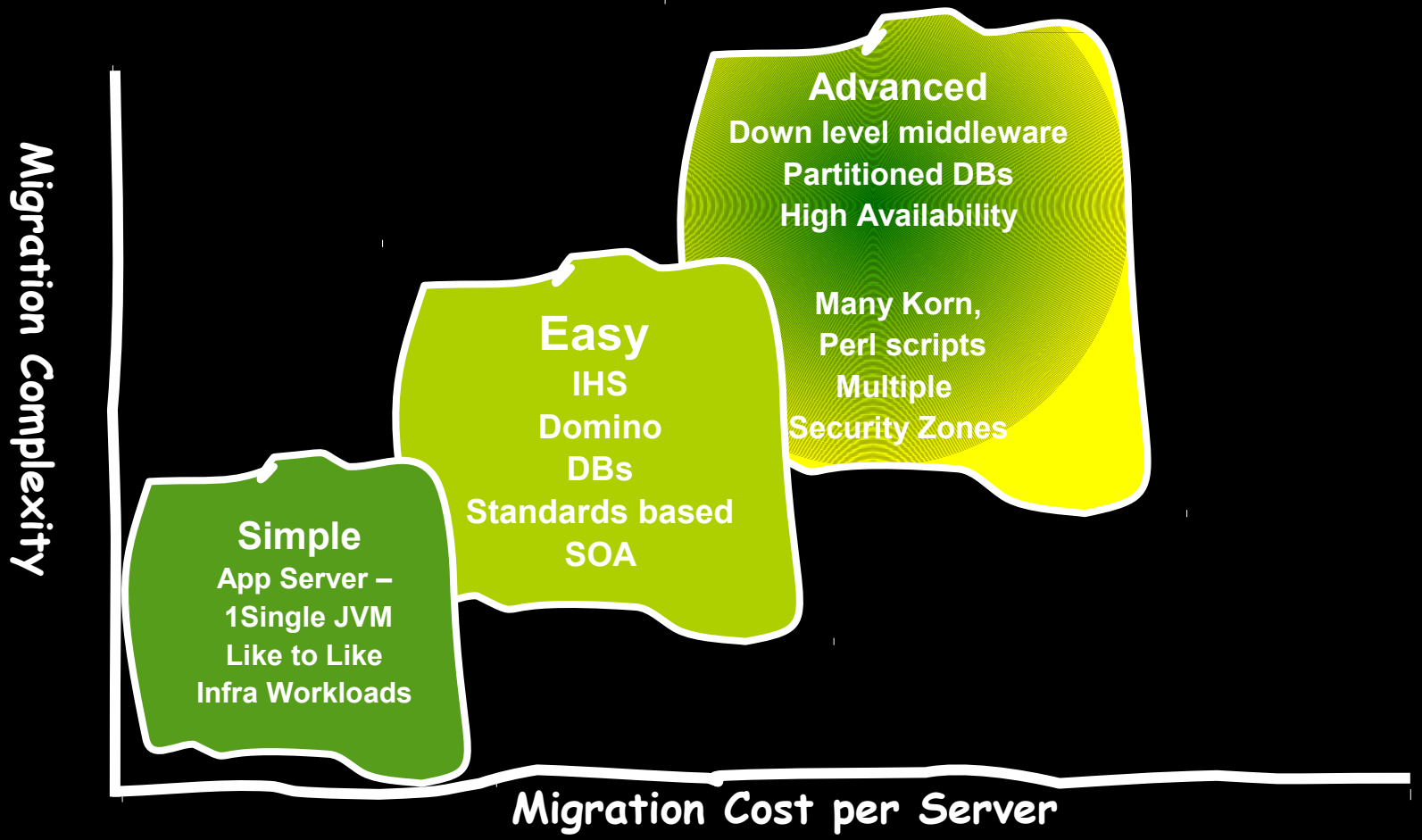
Workload Migration Complexity



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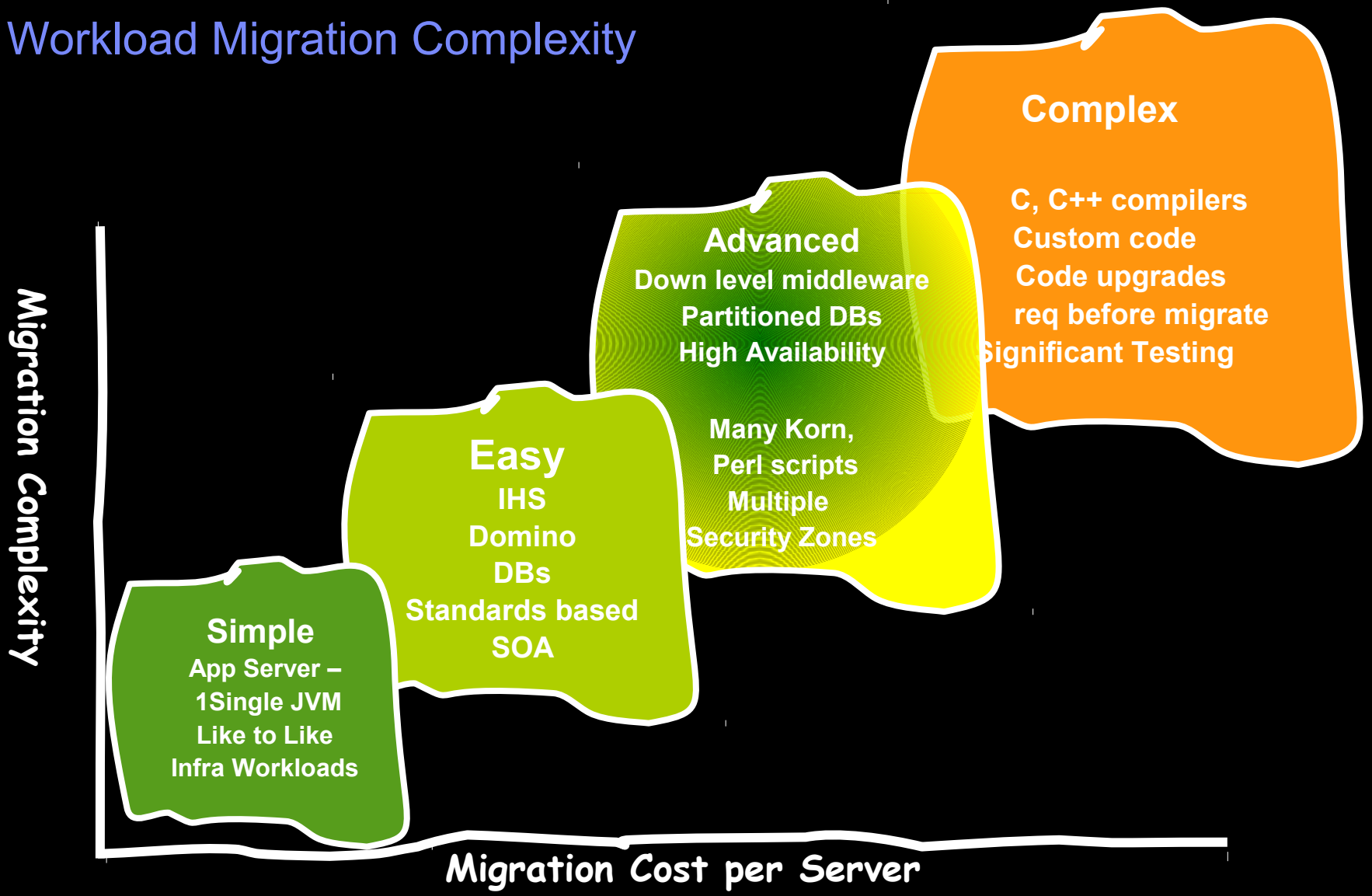
Workload Migration Complexity



Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload

Objective: Minimize risk by segmenting applications into price / variability segments

Good fit application workloads

- WebSphere MQ
- DB2 Connect
- CICS Transaction Gateway
- IMS Connect for Java
- SAP
- WebSphere and JAVA applications development
- WebSphere Application Server (WAS), Portal
- Domino
- Network Infrastructure, FTP, NFS, DNS, …
- Oracle Database
- ...

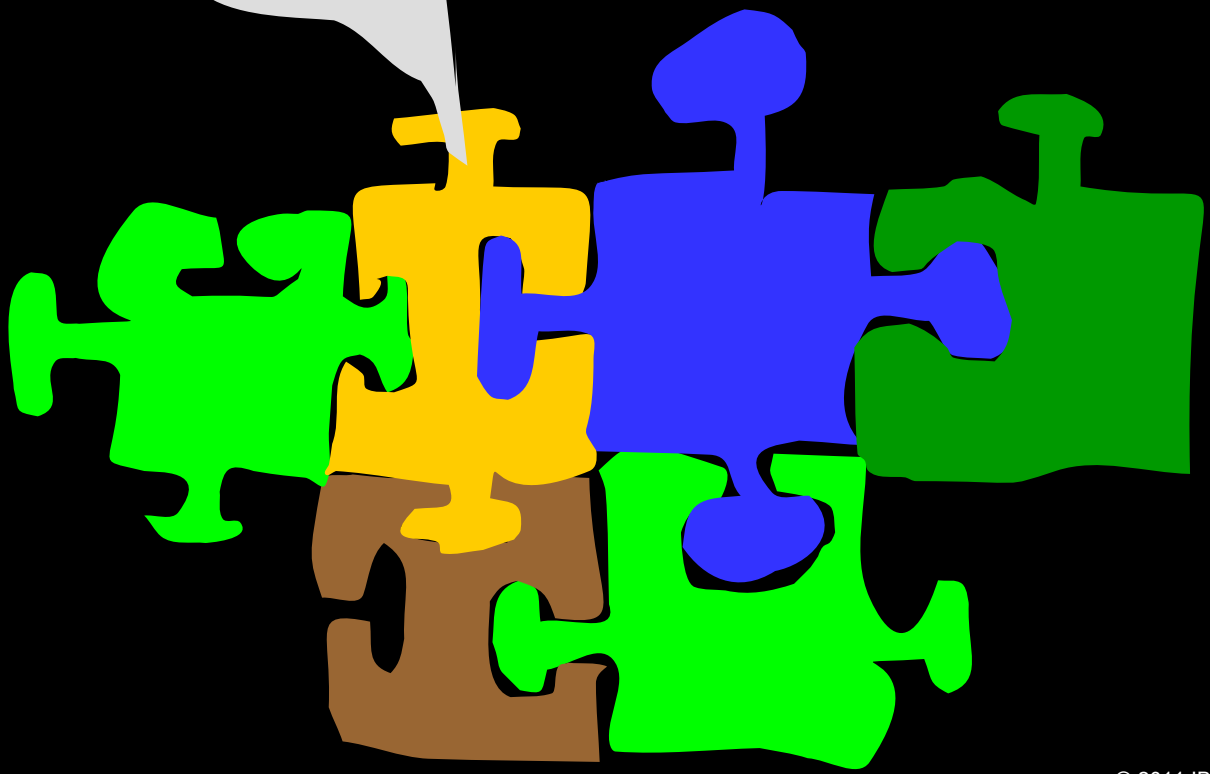
- Applications requiring top end disaster recovery model
- Communications Server and Communications Controller for Linux
- Virtualization and Security Services
- InfoSphere
- Cognos
- Communigate Pro (VoIP)
- ...

Application Selection

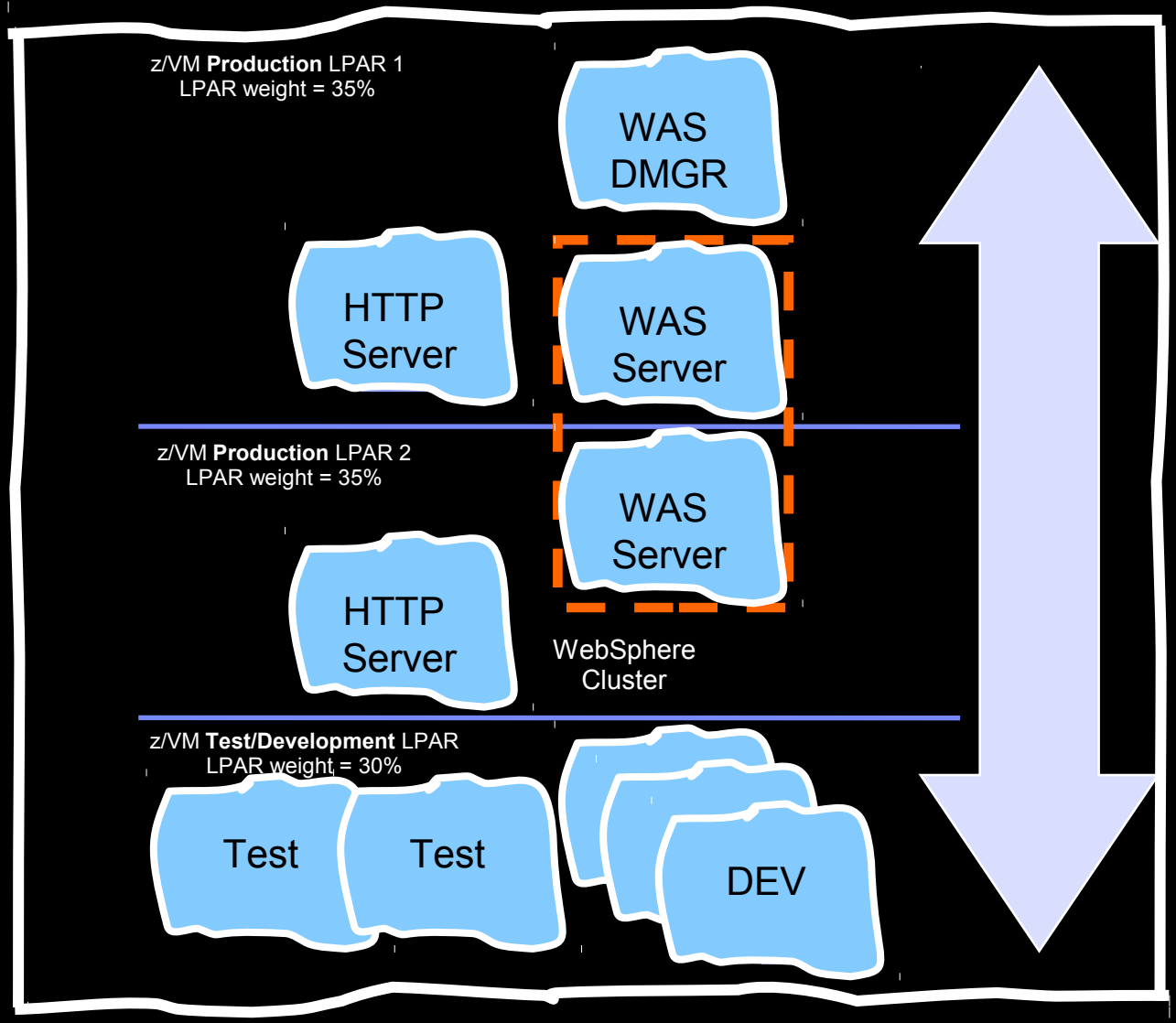
- What applications are you going to run?
- Not everything that runs on Linux is available for Linux on System z. (Open Source included!)
- Ask your ISVs to be specific; they may need to “get back to you.”
- All Open Source, all commercial, or a mixture?
- What are the virtual/real storage requirements for the applications to be run?
- Oracle can be a tremendous storage hog: But the per-processor licensing can give big savings on the software license
- How much disk space is going to be needed?
- This can drive the decision on SCSI versus ECKD
- Aggregating 3390-#'s into multiple Terabyte file systems is a pain

Have a look at the IBM Linux on System z ISV Application Directory:
http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/z/solutions/isv/linuxproduct.html

What is missing?



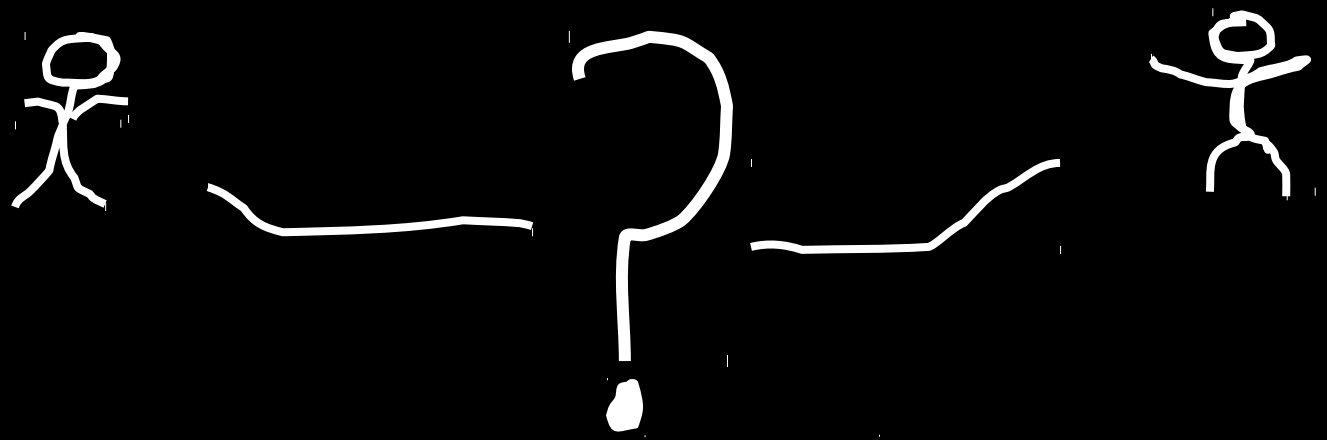
Typical Recommended Solution on Linux on System z



Each blue box is a virtual Linux server.

- All Linux virtual servers draw from a common pool of memory and IFLs.
- Resources from a failed server flow to surviving servers
- Small application clusters (Just enough nodes for failover)
- Smaller cluster reduces failure points
- Two LPARs run production workload.
- Applications run in clusters split between the prod LPARs.

Deciding on a Distribution



Novell / SuSE

Red Hat

Deciding on a Distribution

- IBM is neutral: We usually don't recommend one distribution or the other.
- Compared to the Linux on x86 market you are in the fortunate position that you only have to choose between two distributors ☺
- Novell and RedHat are strategic partners of IBM.
- You can also run GNU/Debian Linux but then you can only get support from a limited number of 3rd parties (e.g. System z BP's) -also no ISV application is certified for Debian on z.
- Don't ask us about the market share. Each distributor provides different numbers which add up to more than 100% and we don't track this data on our side

Deciding on a Distribution: **Some Advice**

- If you are already familiar with one distribution on x86 you might want to run the same flavor on the mainframe
- If you plan to host an ISV application make sure that it is certified for the distribution of your choice (not all products are certified for each distro.
- Also check the release level (e.g. 5.5, 10.2)
- If you are still unsure, invite a representative of each distribution to your side

Enterprise Linux Distributions – Tested & Supported

http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/z/os/linux/resources/testedplatforms.html

Methodology for Installing and Maintaining Linux

- Cloning
- Manual installation – nobody wants to install 20 servers manually, no matter if they run on x86 or the mainframe!
- Autoyast (SuSE)
- Kickstart (Red Hat)

The Why, What of Cloning

Why Cloning?

- Standardized configurations
- Facilitates maintenance testing & rollout
- Time savings
- Cost savings

What can be cloned?

z/OS: It takes ~ 2.0-2.5 Hours. Cloned by running ~50 batch jobs)

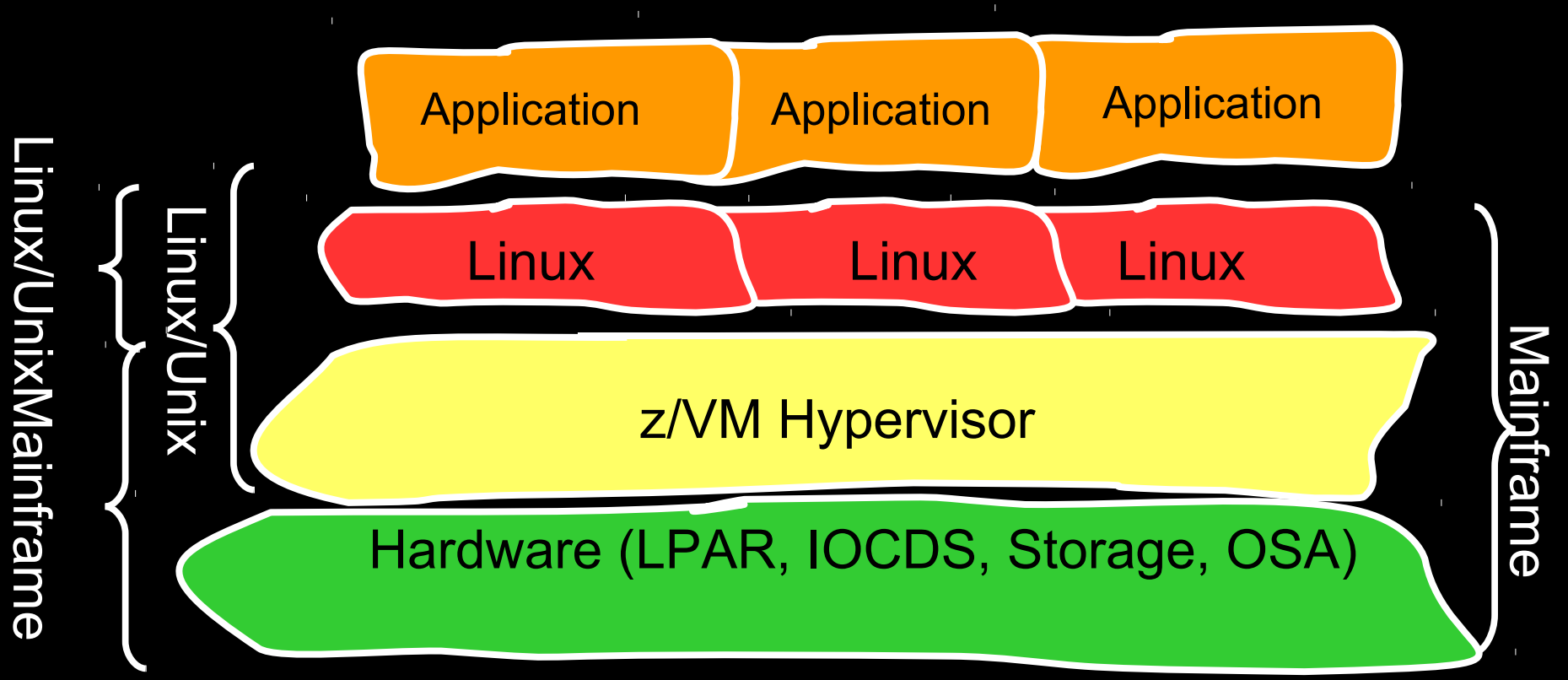
z/VM: Takes about 2-3 minutes to clone z/VM But takes 20-30 min if Flash Copy is not available)

z/Linux: Virtual Servers are cloned in < 5 minutes. ~15 minutes if Flash Copy DASD feature not available

Who will be responsible for the virtual Linux environments

Organizational challenges and the question about responsibilities an

where to draw the line between various departments



Who will be responsible for the virtual Linux environments

"Did I forget to tell you that we are already in production with Linux on System z"

Which skills are needed?

Mainframe Hardware / Storage / Network
(no difference with a z/OS shop)

Which skills are needed?

z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management
-critical for the Linux deployment,cloning,....

Mainframe Hardware / Storage / Network
(no difference with a z/OS shop)

Which skills are needed?

Linux: The difference between Linux on x86 and System z is usually smaller than expected

z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment,cloning,....

Mainframe Hardware / Storage / Network (no difference with a z/OS shop)

Which skills are needed?

Middleware: Websphere is Websphere in most Cases no matter on which OS/plattform we run it

Linux: The difference between Linux on x86 and System z is usually smaller than expected

z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment,cloning,....

Mainframe Hardware / Storage / Network (no difference with a z/OS shop)

Which skills are needed?

Application: If possible – adjust your application to the characteristics of a virtualized environment

Middleware: Websphere is Websphere in most Cases no matter on which OS/plattform we run it

Linux: The difference between Linux on x86 and System z is usually smaller than expected

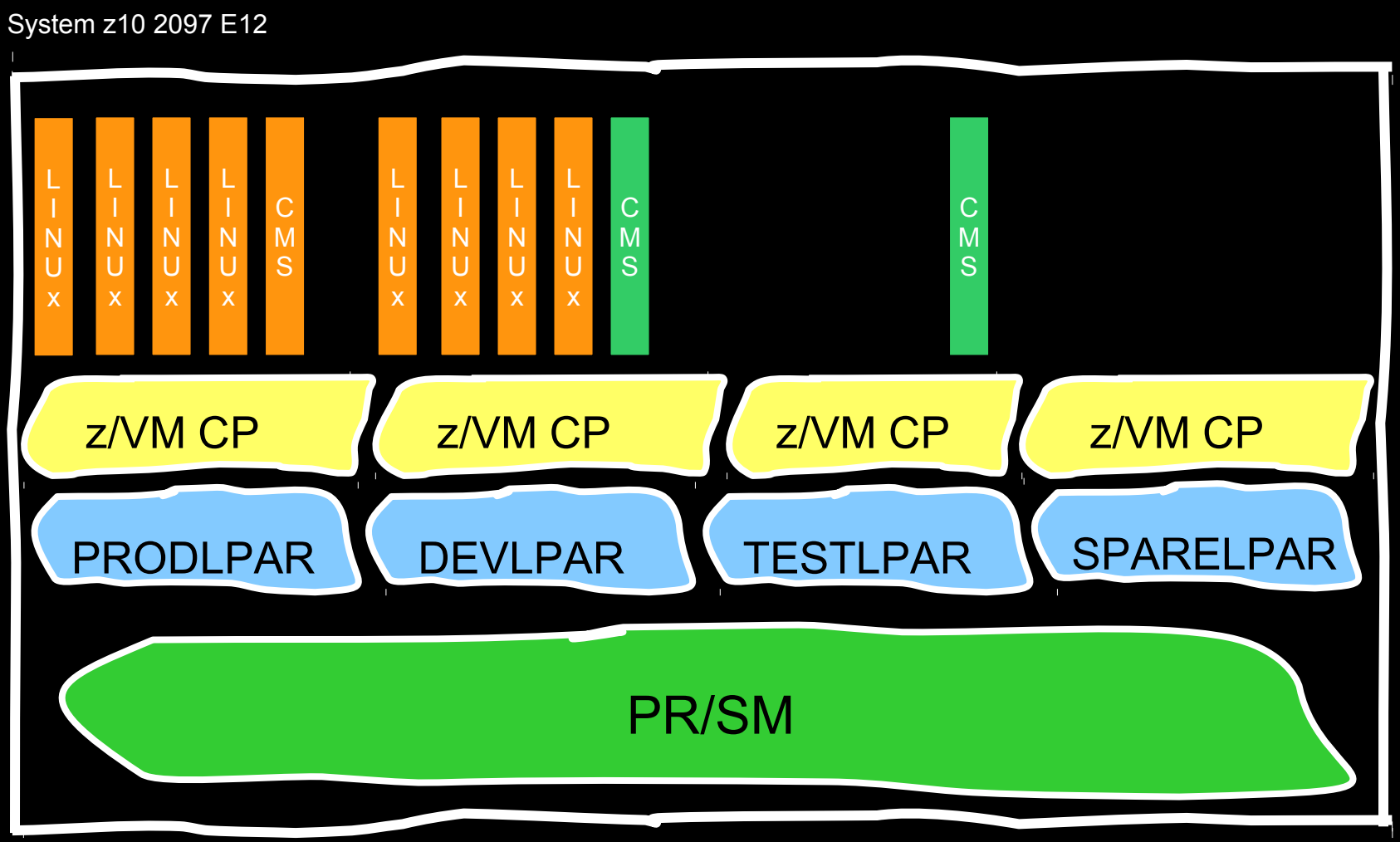
z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment,cloning,....

Mainframe Hardware / Storage / Network (no difference with a z/OS shop)

A typical customer: ACME Inc.

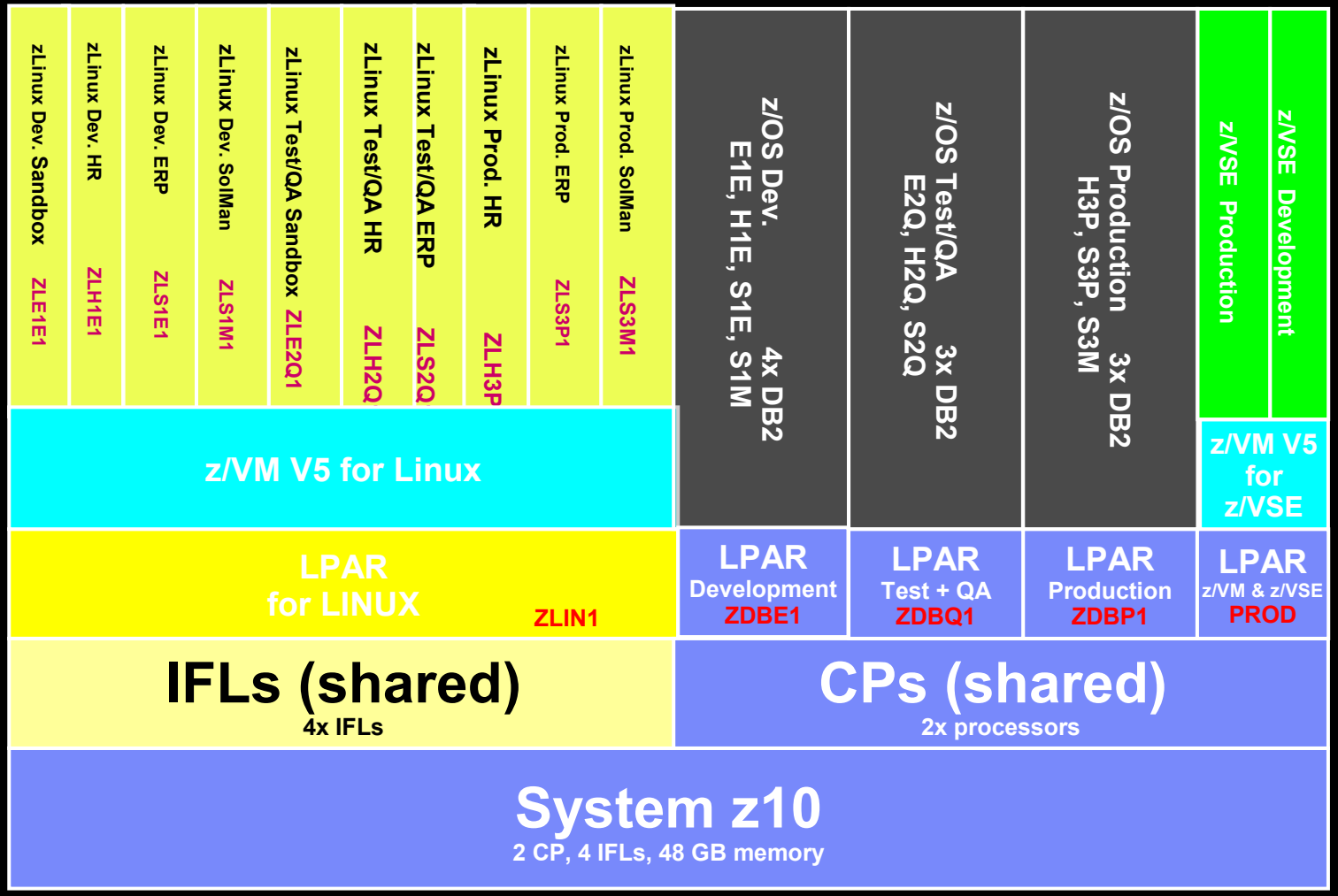
- During the second half of 2010 ACME Inc. purchased an IBM System z mainframe to act as a server consolidation platform.
- Hardware (excerpt)
  - IBM System z10 Enterprise Class
    - Model: 2097-E12
    - 96GB memory
    - 3 Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL) CPU's
  - IBM System Storage DS6800 Disk
    - Model: 1750 522
    - Parallel Access Volume (PAV) license.
- In z10 has been configured with 4 LPARs: Production, Development, Software and one reserved for future use.
- The system is going to be used as a server consolidation platform.
  - Multiple WebSphere servers running on Intel machines will be consolidated to Linux servers running as virtualized guests hosted by the z/VM operating system.
  - Each LPAR will run a z/VM 6.1 operating system.

Architectural Setup: ACME Inc.



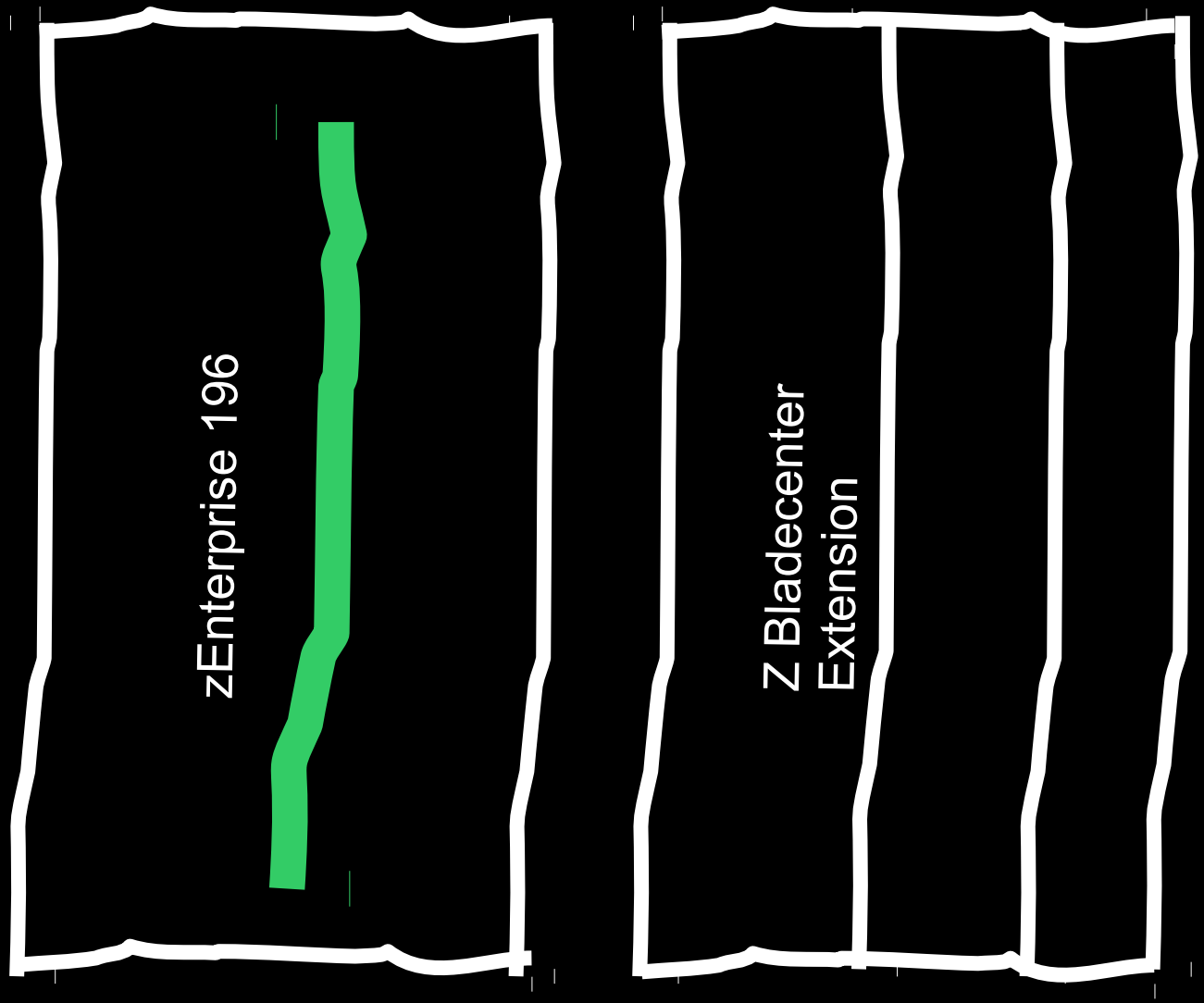
For the initial implementation each LPAR has been given access to 3 shared IFL's i.e. no dedicated IPL's have been configured
IFL Weight: 70% Production, 10 % Development, 10 % Test, 10 % Spare LPAR

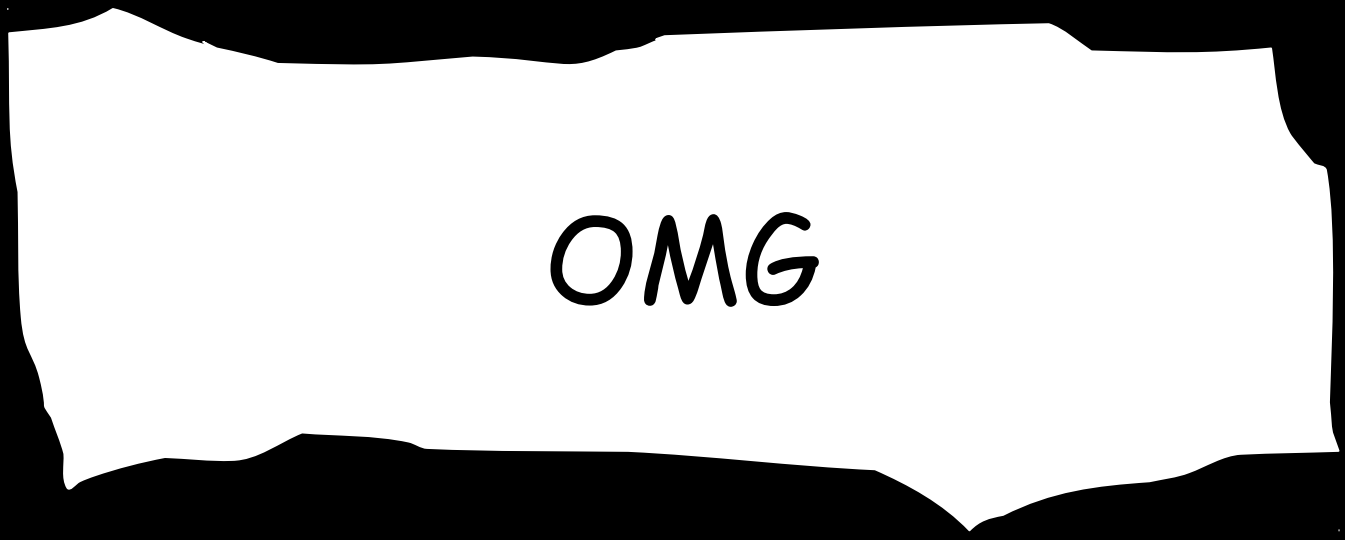
Customer Example I



SAP Requirement: Dev, Test & Prod Systems

A look inside the IBM zEnterprise System: Enabling a new dimension in application architecture





EFiS Financial Solutions...

Resolves data center Pain Points and further optimizes the IT infrastructure using the IBM Enterprise Linux Server

Business need

The driving business challenge at EFiS was the requirement to reduce cost, risk and resources while increasing the efficiency and ecology at the same time. Security requirements, scalability and the need to process huge amounts of transactions while saving cost for software licenses furthermore lead to the decision to move from various hardware platforms (including x86, p-Series, SPARC/Solaris and HP) to System z running Linux.

Solution

Migrating various servers from different vendors to one IBM System z9 BC (Linux only machine), EFiS managed to optimize their data center back in 2008. The fact that fewer server had to be managed, lead to an easier control and operation of the existing environment. With the update of the current production z9 to a z10 based Enterprise Linux Server, EFiS continuous the optimization of their IT-infrastructure to the constantly changing business requirements.

Benefits:

- The Continuous optimization of the IT-Infrastructure lead to fewer servers to manage – and to ease the control and operation
- Reduced cost, risk and resources
- Recovered data center floor space
- Strengthened ability to scale with business growth

"We chose an IBM Enterprise Linux Server with a System z Business Class configuration, running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z from Novell for the high reliability, advanced security, extreme scalability and high compute power this solution offers," said Ernst Bauer, Chief Operating Officer at EFiS Financial Solutions AG.

"Another crucial factor for the decision to move to this combined solution was the energy and power savings this offering from IBM and Novell could provide us.

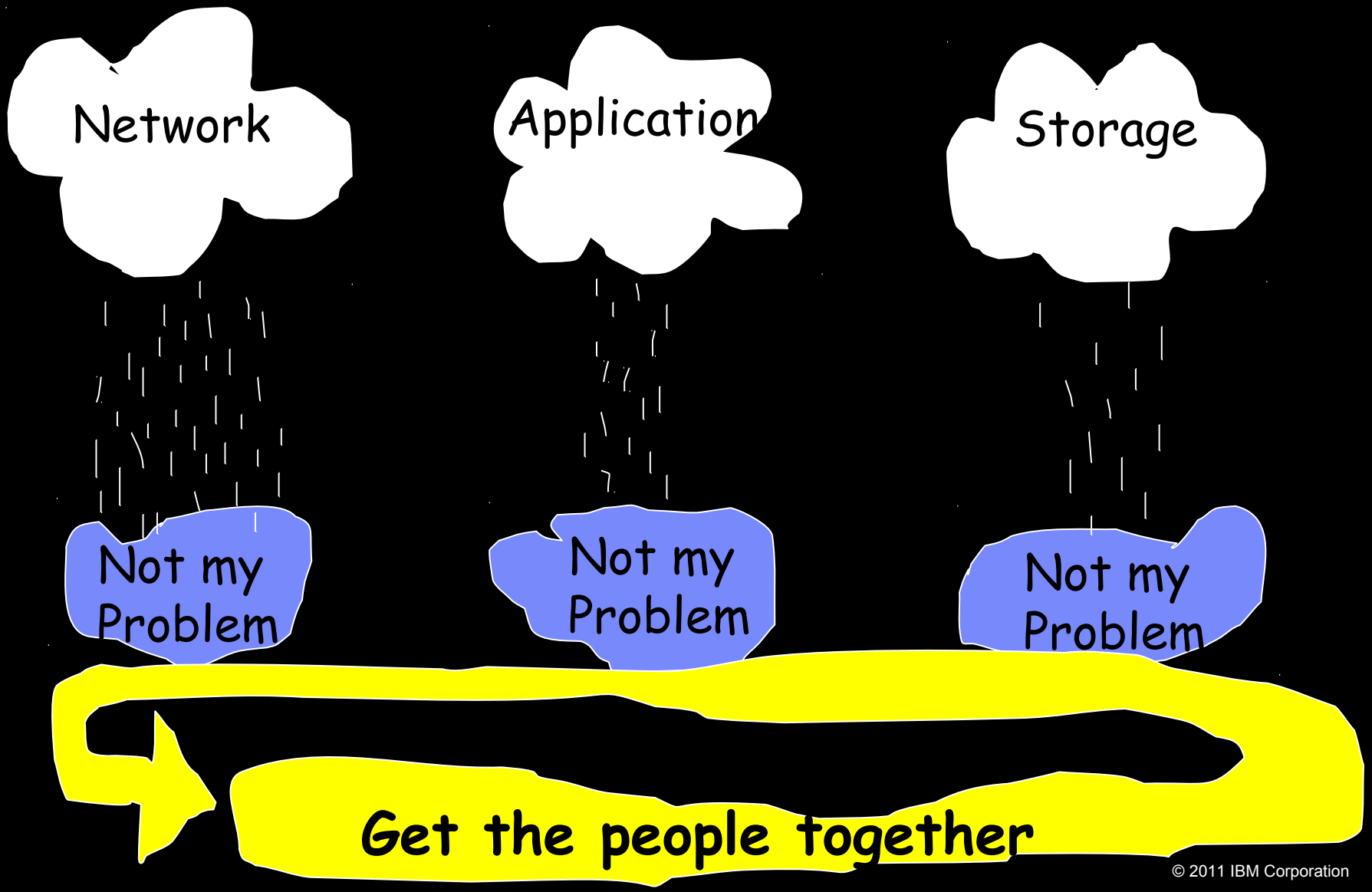
Together with our implementation partner PROFI Engineering Systems AG we were able to integrate Green IT as an important part of our strategy.

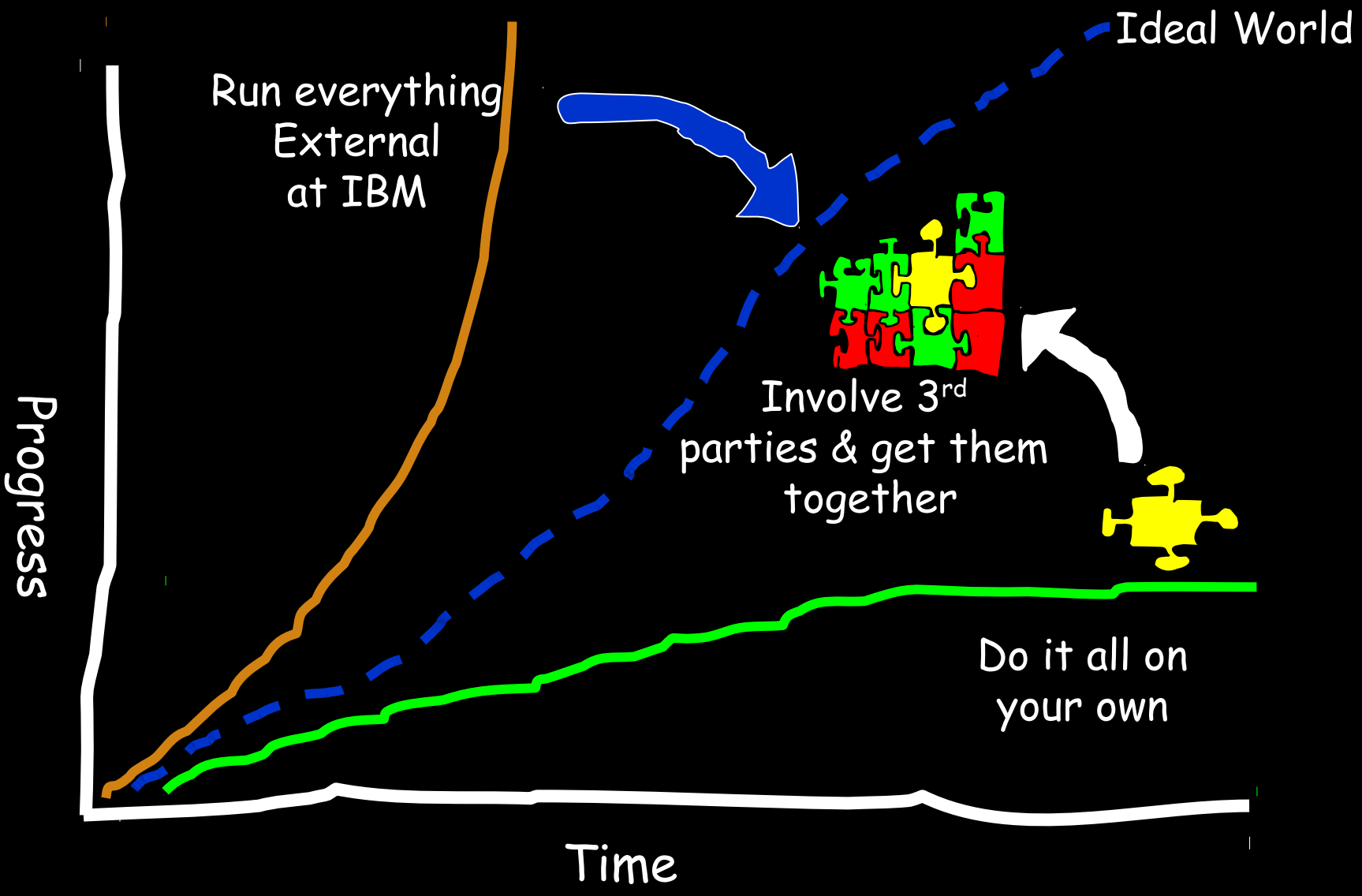
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z on an IBM Enterprise Linux Server Business Class provides us with optimal resource utilization, while addressing our critical energy and power costs."

Closing Thoughts

Key Points

- App to App Migrations are very easy
  - WAS to WAS
  - Oracle to Oracle
  - Domino to Domonio
- Start small
- Use the PoC to learn the new technology





Questions?

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How to explain the benefits of running Linux on System z in 2:39?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0i7kBnhN3Lg

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NOTES: Linux penguin image courtesy of Larry Ewing (lewing@isc.tamu.edu) and The GIMP

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