



# OPA: Language Support for a Sane, Safe and Secure Web

**OWASP**

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# What Automated Solutions Miss

## ■ Theoretical

- ▶ Logic flaws (business and application)
- ▶ Design flaws
- ▶ The Stupid

## ■ Practical

- ▶ Difficulty interacting with Rich Internet Applications (RIA)
- ▶ Complex variants of common attacks (SQL Injection, XSS, etc)
- ▶ Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
- ▶ Uncommon or custom infrastructure
- ▶ Authorization enforcement
- ▶ Abstract information leakage

# What it's all about

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OWASP  6

**“Automated vs. Manual: You can’t filter The Stupid”**  
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**“Oh, yeah?”**  
**The MLstate team**  
**AppSec Research 2010**

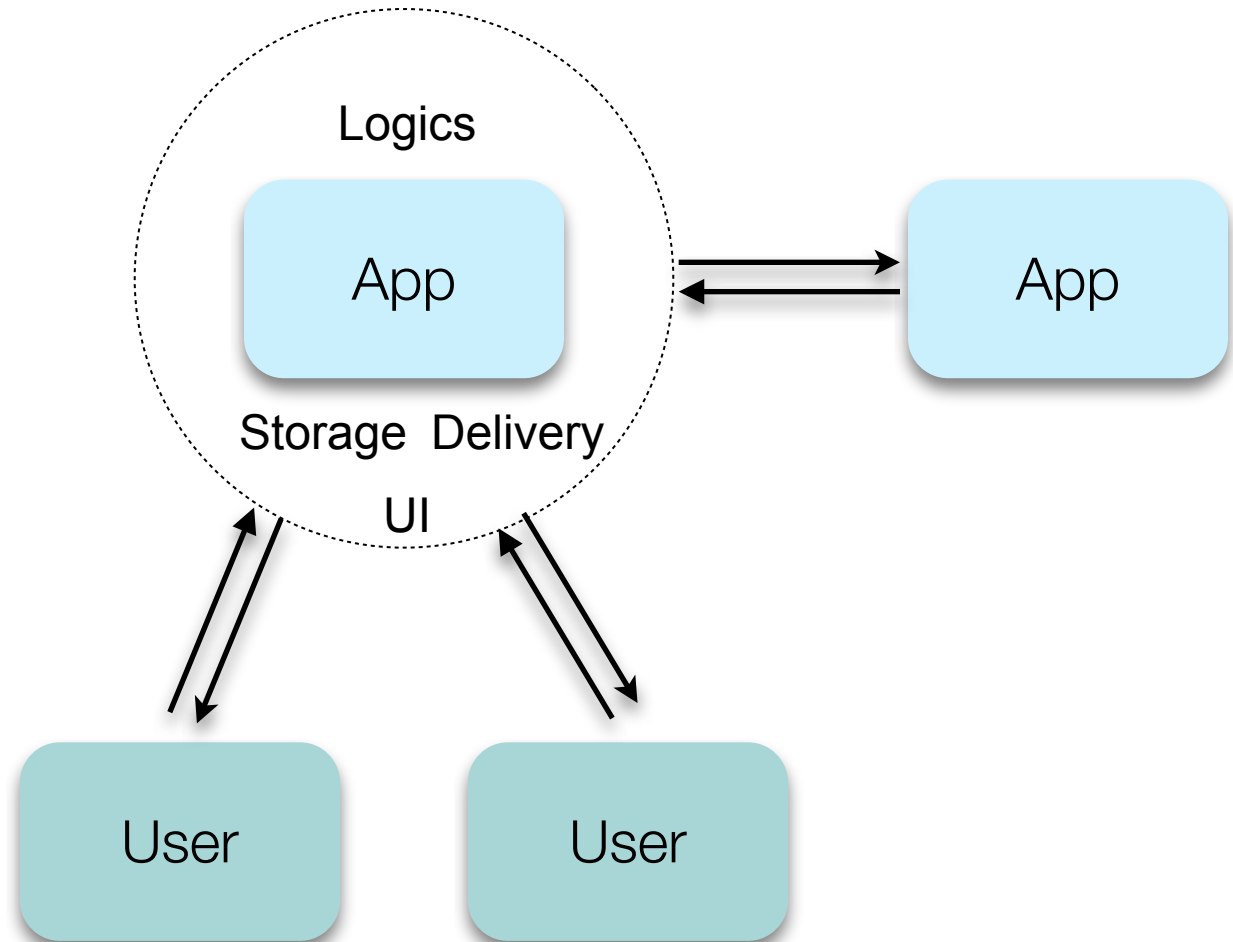
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- General approach
- Keeping in the Smart Useful
- Filtering out the Stupid Fragile
- Lessons and Future

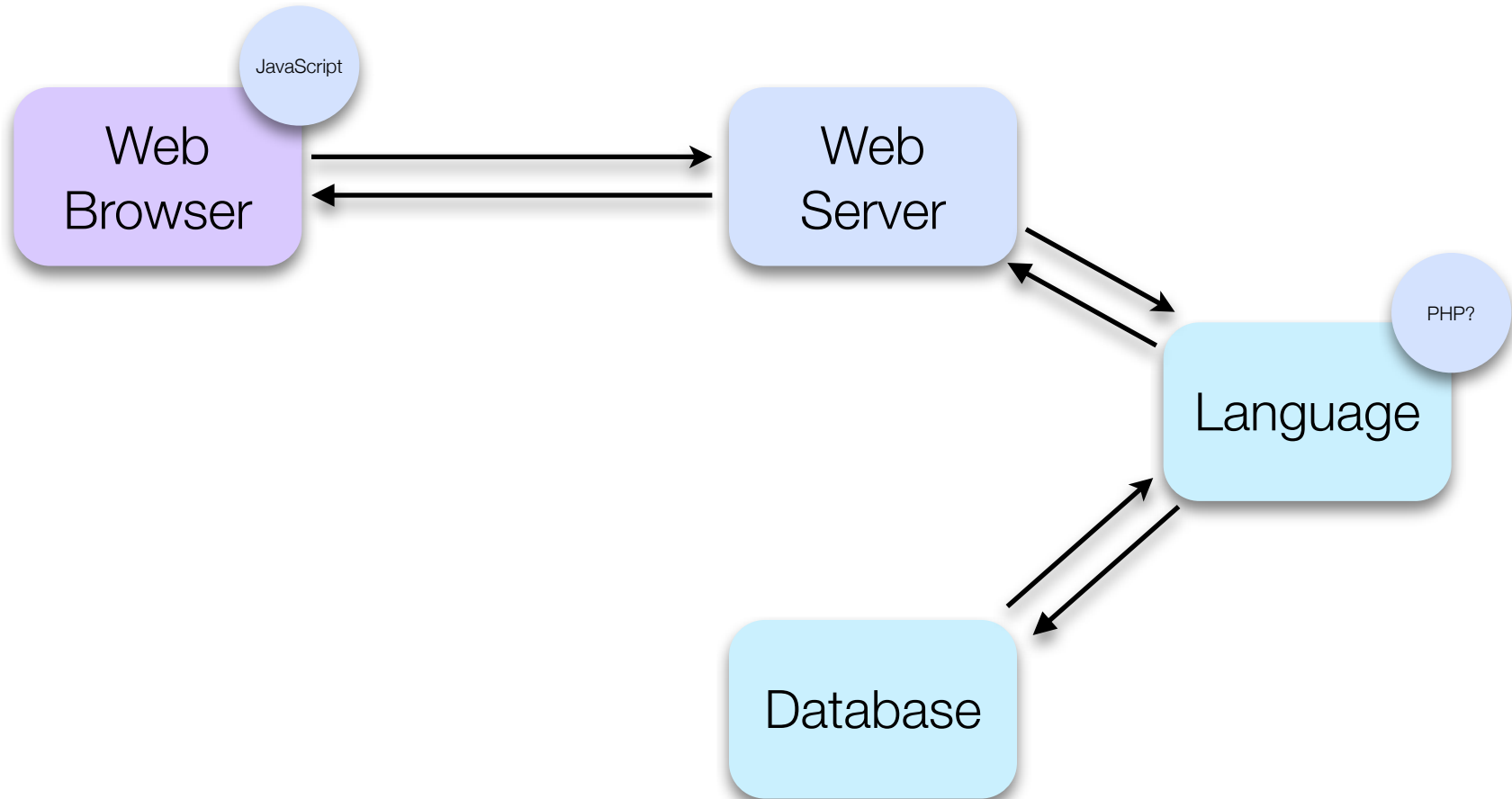
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# Web Applications (high-level design)

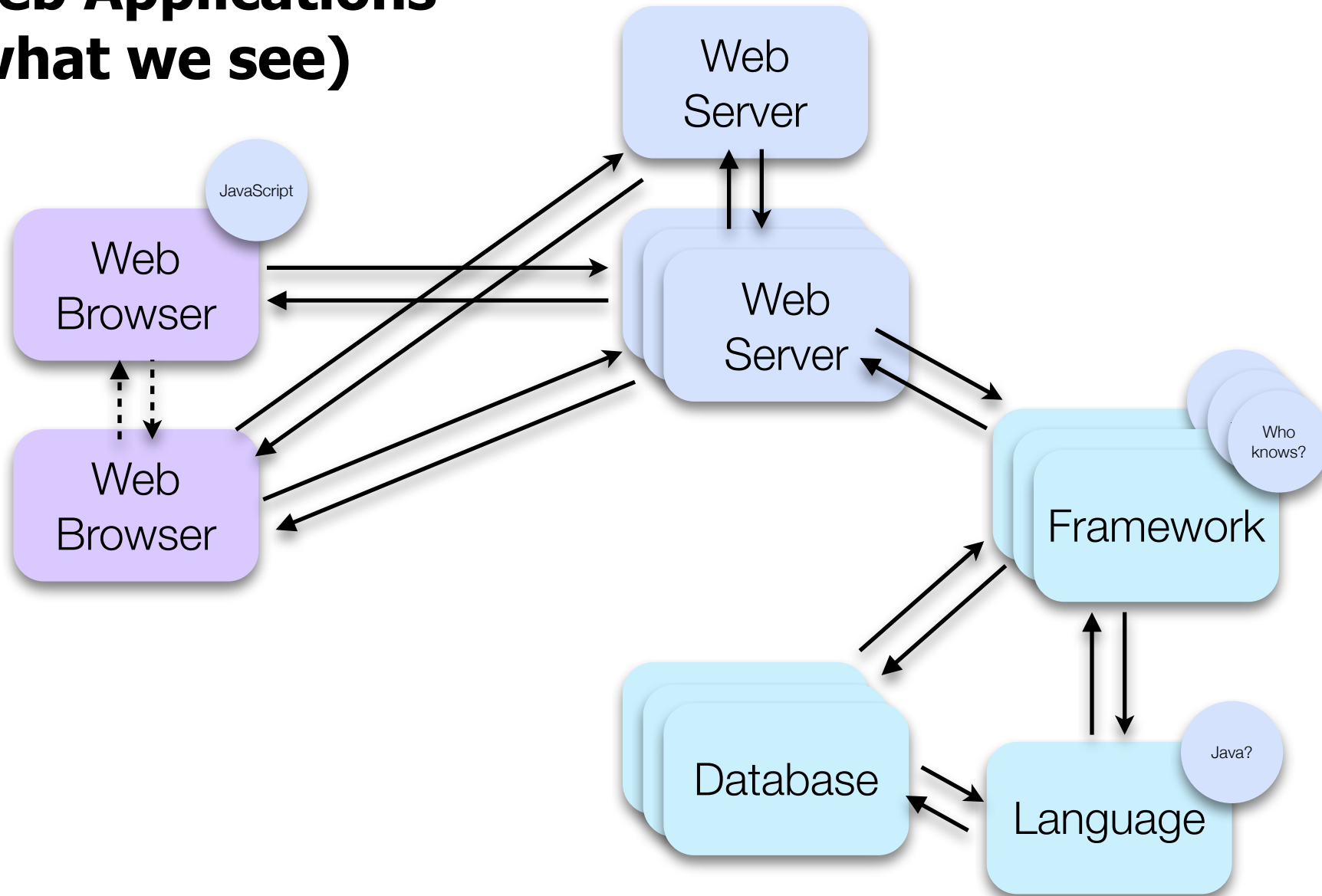


# Web Applications (what we see)

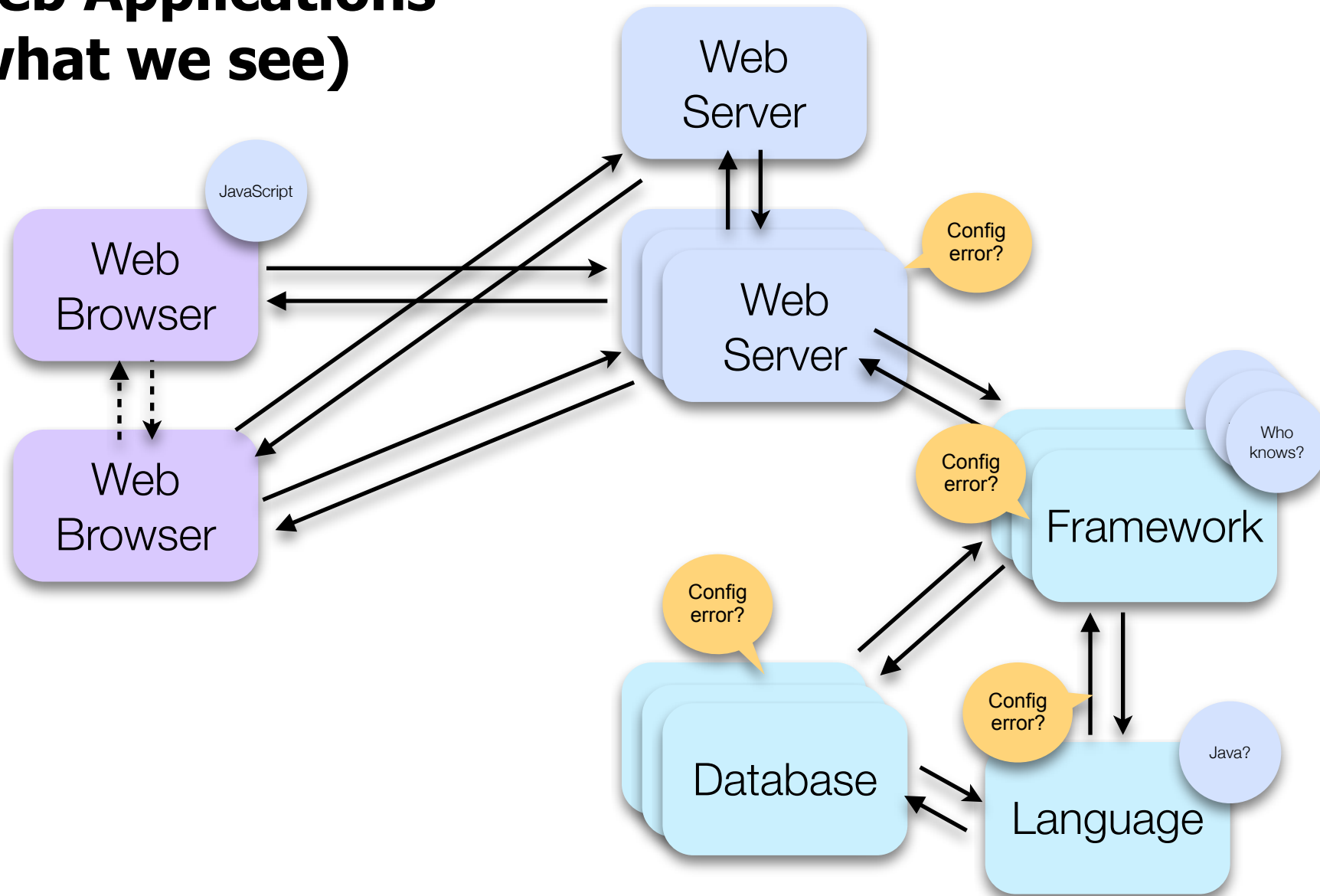




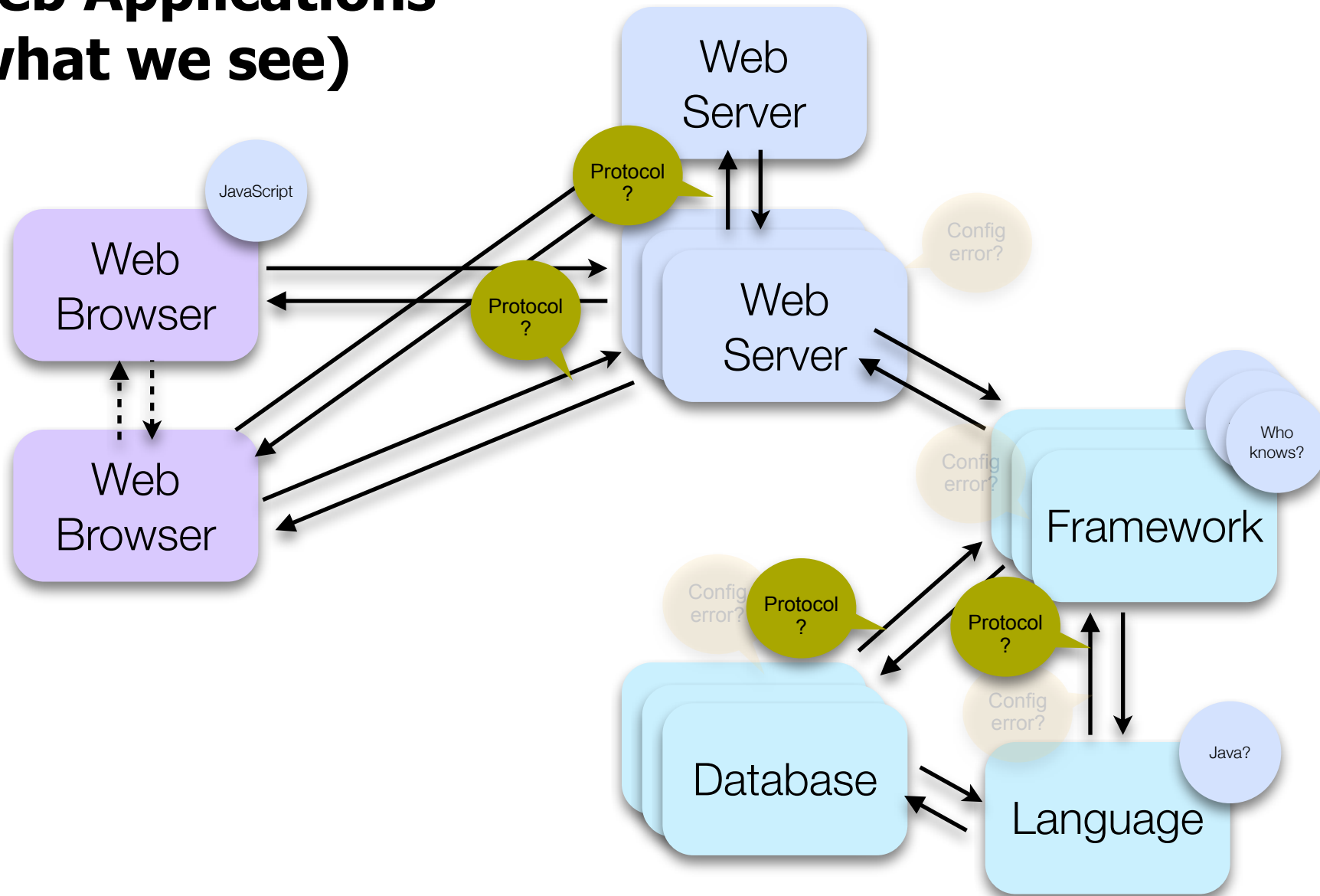
# Web Applications (what we see)



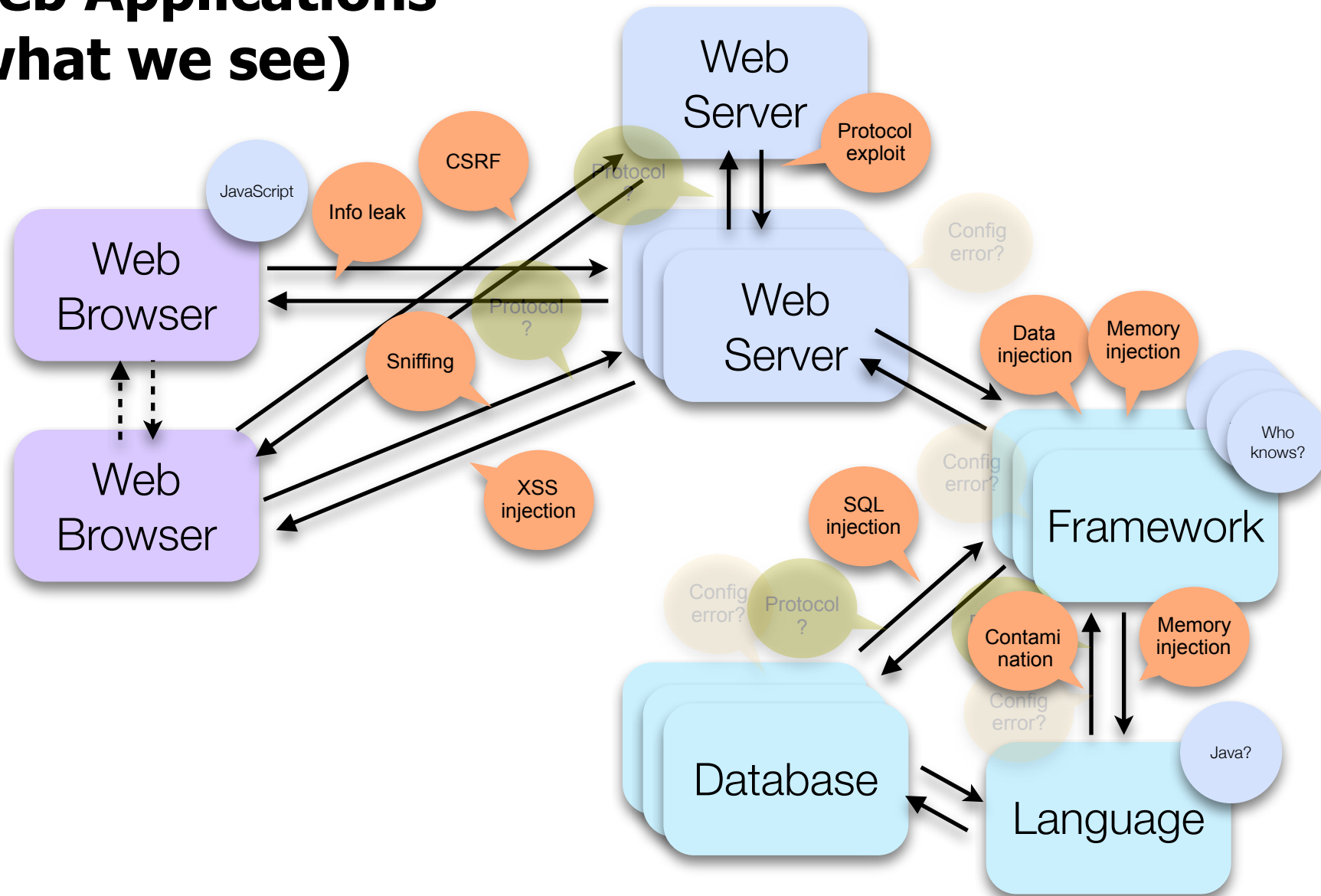
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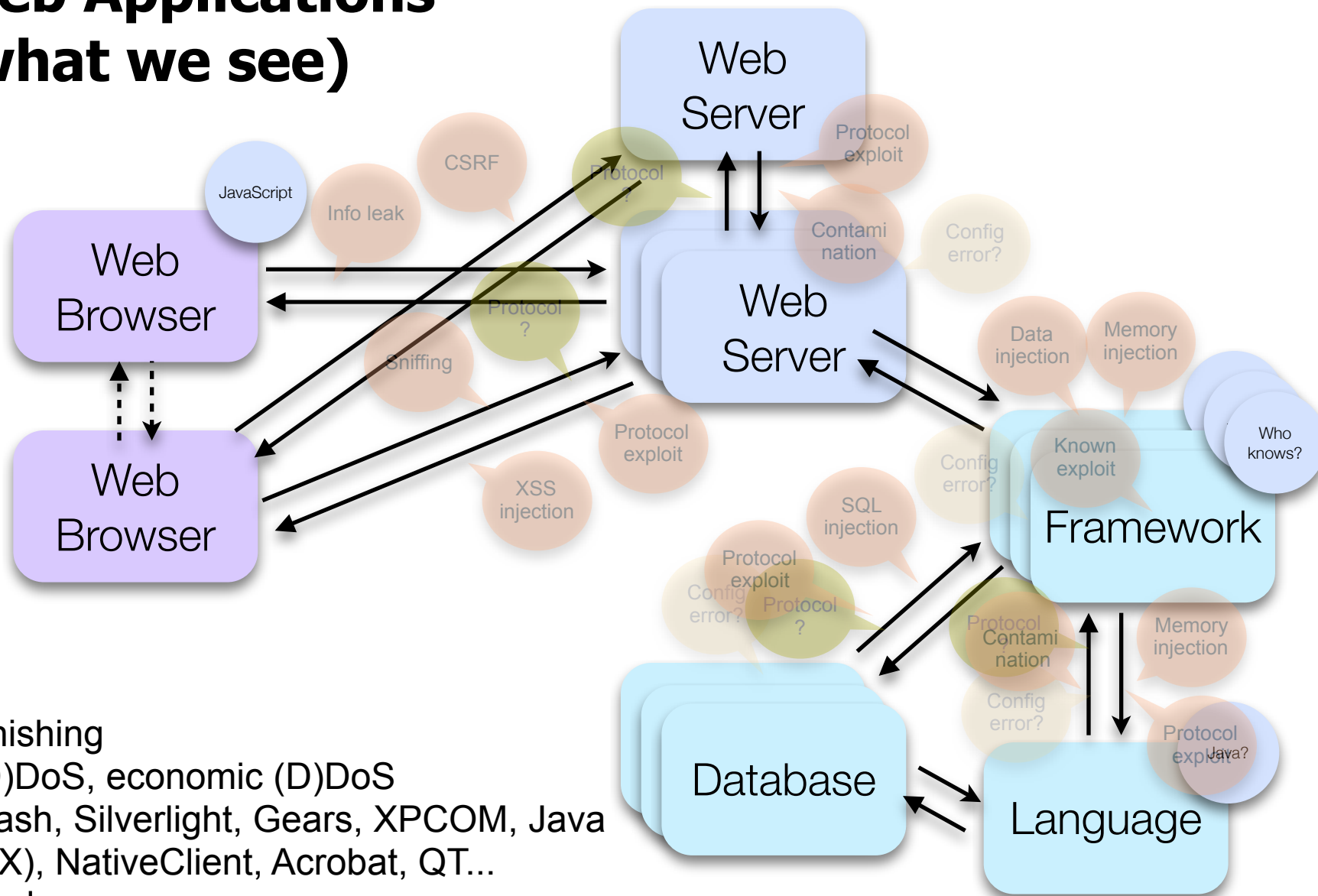
# Web Applications (what we see)



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# Web Applications (what we see)



- + Phishing
- + (D)DoS, economic (D)DoS
- + Flash, Silverlight, Gears, XPCOM, Java (FX), NativeClient, Acrobat, QT...
- + Keyloggers
- + ...

# The general idea

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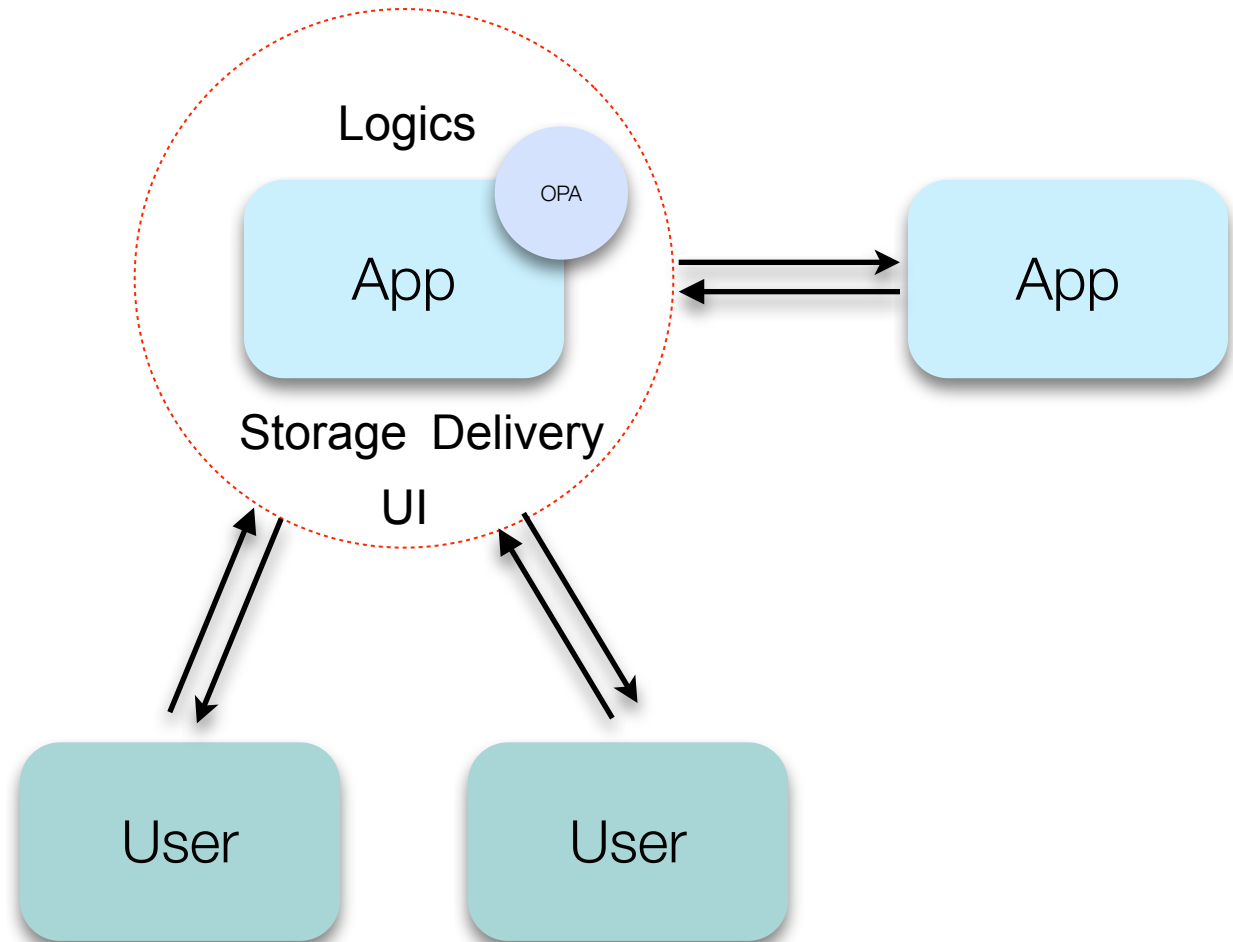
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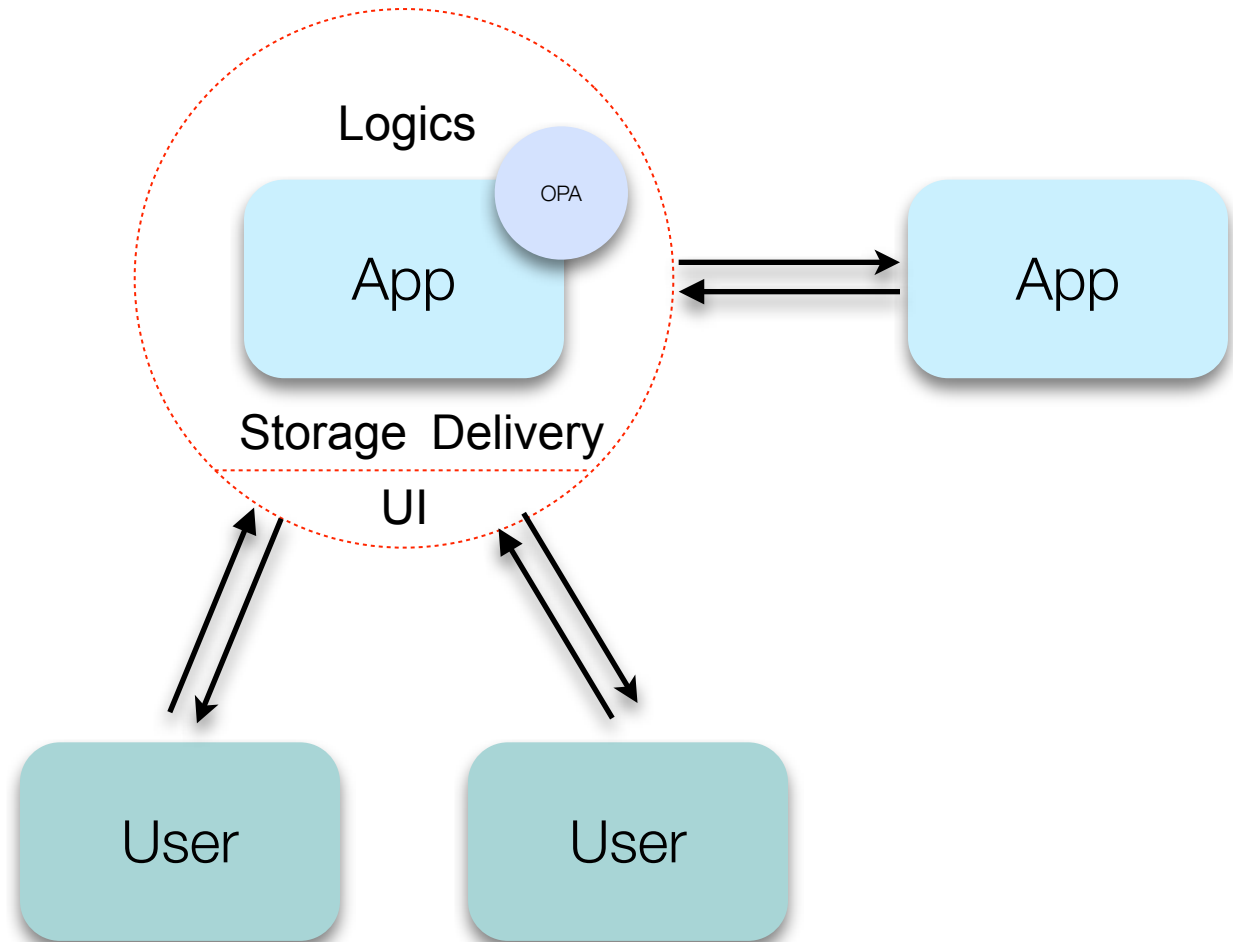
**"Haven't I answered that question already?"  
Ferengi Rule of Acquisition #408, contd.**

**"...oh, and don't forget to make sure that Joe can  
still use the tools!"  
Ferengi Rule of Acquisition #408, contd.**

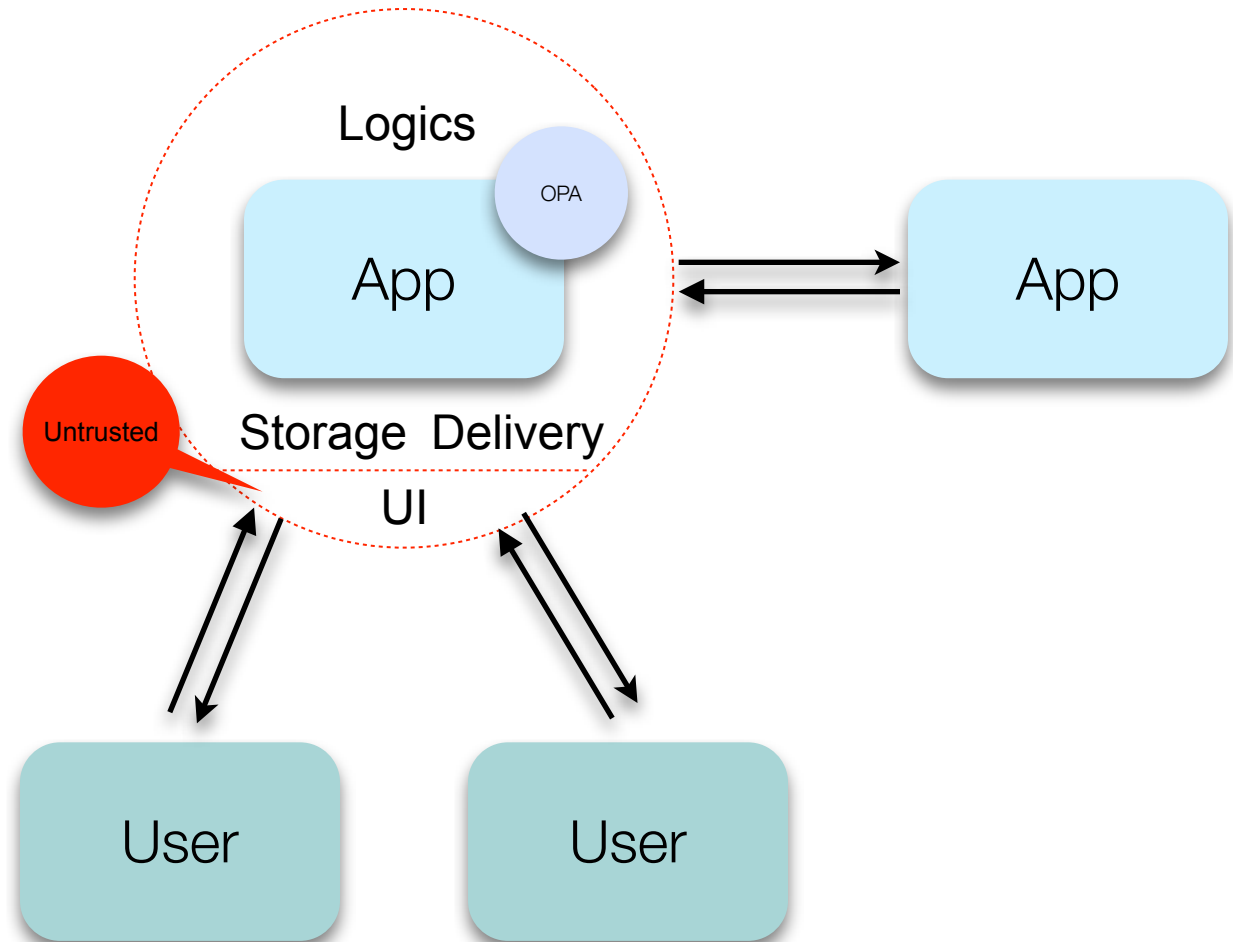
# Web applications (with OPA)



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# General OPA design

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- ▶ In which not all principals are trusted
- ▶ And communications use web standards
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Joe doesn't need to know

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Simpler than LAMP

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# Hello, web

# Hello, web

```
server = one_page_server("Hello, web", -> <>Hello, web</>)
```

1) Compile  
opa hello.opa

2) Run  
./hello.exe

3) Test  
browse <http://localhost:8080>

Complete web  
application.

# URL shortener (22 loc)

```
db /abbrevs: intmap(string)
db /abbrevs[_] = "/"

make_shorter(url:string):string =
  key = Db.fresh_key(/abbrevs)
  do /abbrevs[key] <- url
  "{key}"
_ = @server(make_shorter)

do_shorten(_) =
exec([#shortened <- make_shorter(Page.getVal(#origin))])

urls = parser
| "/" dest=Rule.integer ->
  Resource.redirection_page("Please wait a second",
    <div class="loading">(loading...)</>, {address_moved}, 0, /abbrevs[dest])
| .* ->
  Resource.html("MLstate redirector",
    <>Please enter a URL you wish to shorten<br/>
    <input id="origin"/><button onclick={do_shorten}>Shorten</button>
    <div id="shortened"></div>
    </>)

server = simple_server(urls)
```



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_ = @server(urls)
```

Database

Control

UI

# Nice web chat

```
type mess = {id: string; message: string}
room = Network.empty():Network.network(mess)
connect(callback) = Network.add(Session.make_callback(callback), room)
make_broadcaster(id) = _ -> Network.broadcast({~id message=Page.get_value(#entry)}, room)

styled_page(title, body) = (
  Resource.full_page(title, body,
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="resources/css.css" />, {success}, [])
)

user_update(x:mess) = (
  line = <div class="opa-line">
    <div class="opa-wrap"><div class="opa-user">{x.id}</div>
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  do exec([#show +<- line ])
  Page.set_scroll_top(#show, Page.get_height(#show)+Page.get_scroll_top(#show))
)

start(connexion) = (
  id = String.sub(0, 8, Server.get_user(connexion) ? "Unknown")
  broadcast = make_broadcaster(id)
  styled_page("Chat", //Display
    <script onload={_ -> connect()}>/>
    <div id="header"><div id="logo"></div></div>
    <div id="show"></div>
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urls      = parser .* -> start
resources = @static_include_directory("resources")
server    = Server.make(Resource.add_auto_server(resources, urls))
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Real-time  
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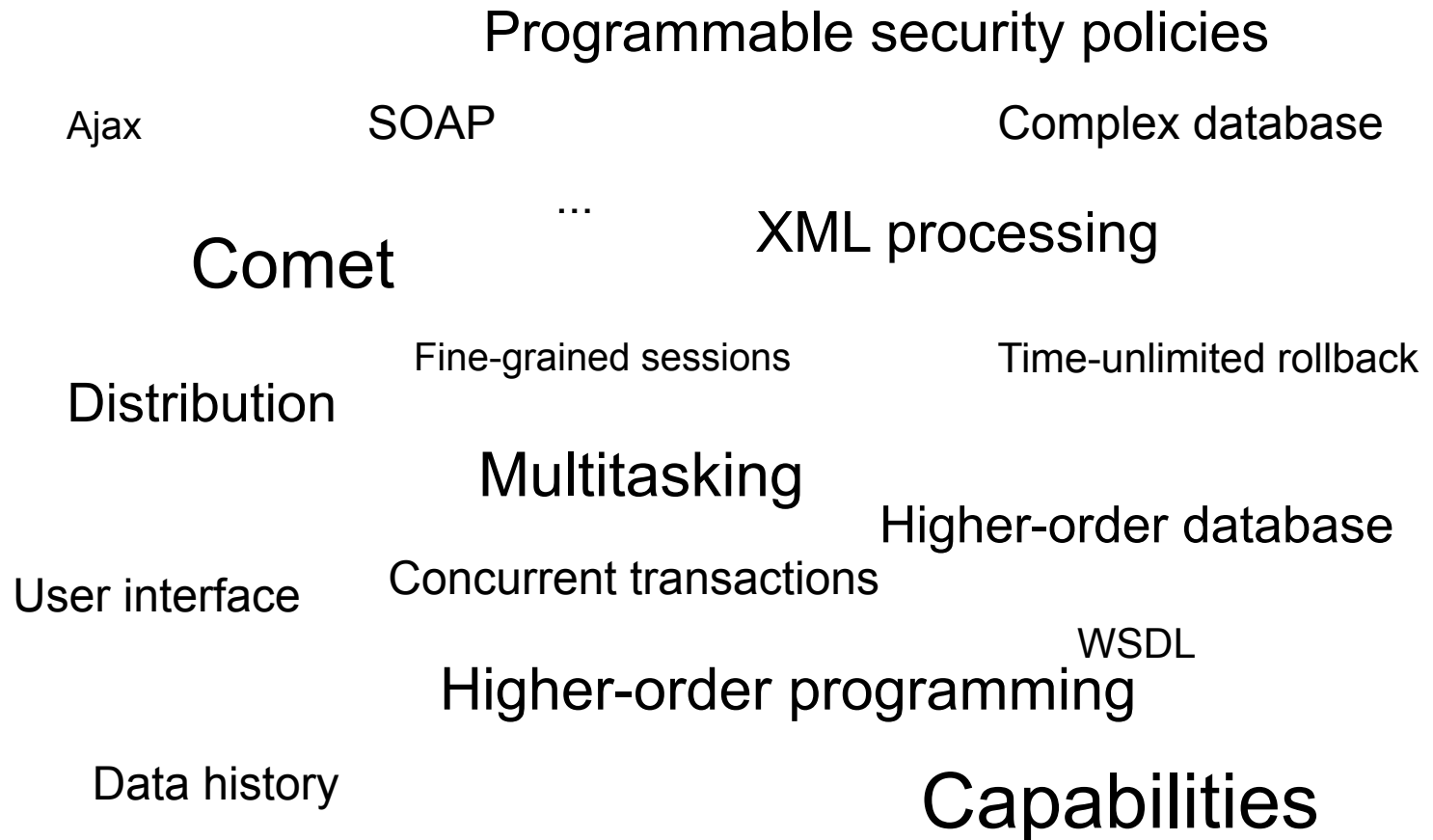


# There's more

- Games
- Productivity tools
- Development tools
- Security applications
- e-Commerce applications
- ...

# Things we can do (and check!)

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)
```

```
start(connexion) = (
  id = String.sub(0, 8, Server.get_user(connexion) ? "Unknown")
  broadcast = make_broadcaster(id)
```

```
styled_page("Chat", //Display
  <script onload=_ -> connect() />
  <div id="header"><div id="logo">
  <div id="show"></div>
  <input id="entry"/>
  <div class="opa-button" onclick={broadcast}>Send!</div>
)
```

Per-user  
capability?\*

```
server = Server.make(Resource.add_auto_server(resources, urls))
```



# Transparent protections

```
type mess = {id: string; message: string}
room = Network.empty():Network.network(mess)
connect(callback) = Network.add(Session.make_callback(callback), room)
make_broadcaster(id) = _ -> Network.broadcast({~id message=Page.get_value(#entry)}, room)

styled_page(title, body) = (
  Resource.full_page(title, body,
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="resources/css.css" />, {success}, [])
)

user_update(x:mess) = (
  line = <div class="opa-line">
    <div class="opa-wrap"><div class="opa-user">{x.id}:</div>
    <div class="opa-message">{x.message}</div></div>
  </div>
  do exec([#show +<- line ])
  Page.set_scroll_top(Page.get_height(#show)+Page.get_scroll_top(#show), #show)
)

start(connexion) = (
  id = String.sub(0, 8, Server.get_user(connexion) ? "Unknown")
  broadcast = make_broadcaster(id)
  styled_page("Chat", //Display
    <script onload={_ -> connect()}>/>
    <div id="header"><div id="logo"></div></div>
    <div id="show"></div>
    <input id="entry"/>
    <div class="opa-button" onclick={broadcast}>Send!</div>
  )
)

urls      = parser .* -> start
resources = @static_include_directory("resources")
server    = Server.make(Resource.add_auto_server(resources, urls))
```

# More

A1-Injection

A6-Security Misconfiguration

A2-Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

A7-Insecure Cryptographic Storage

A3-Broken Authentication and  
Session Management

A8-Failure to Restrict URL Access

A4-Insecure Direct Object  
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A9-Insufficient Transport Layer  
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A5-Cross Site Request Forgery  
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A10-Unvalidated Redirects and  
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# What Automated Solutions Miss

## ■ Theoretical

- ▶ Logic flaws (business and application)
- ▶ Design flaws
- ▶ The Stupid

## ■ Practical

- ▶ Difficulty interacting with Rich Internet Applications (RIA)
- ▶ Complex variants of common attacks (SQL Injection, XSS, etc)
- ▶ Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
- ▶ Uncommon or custom infrastructure
- ▶ Authorization enforcement
- ▶ Abstract information leakage

# What Automated Solutions Miss

  
other

## ■ Theoretical

- ▶ Logic flaws (business and application) (in progress)
- ▶ Design flaws
- ▶ The Stupid (what we do best)

## ■ Practical

- ▶ ~~Difficulty interacting with Rich Internet Applications (RIA)~~ (been there, done that)
- ▶ Complex variants of common attacks (~~SQL Injection, XSS,~~ etc) (been there, done that)
- ▶ Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) (in progress)
- ▶ ~~Uncommon or custom infrastructure~~ (abstract&specify them away!)
- ▶ ~~Authorization enforcement~~ (been there, done that)
- ▶ ~~Abstract information leakage~~ (been there, done that)

# OPA: Language Support for a Sane, Safe and Secure Web

- General approach
- Keeping in the Smart Useful
- Filtering out the Stupid Fragile
- Lessons and Future

# OPA: Language Support for a Sane, Safe and Secure Web

- General approach
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- Filtering out the Stupid Fragile
- Lessons and Future



# Theoretical foundations

- Building on 30+ years of research in formal methods & language theory.
- Key for precise analysis.
- Key for precise optimizations.

# False positives

- False positives are annoying but not that bad -- as long as they are predictable and there's a workaround.
- Experienced developers make safety/security mistakes quite often.
- False positives often later reveal themselves as **true** positives.

# Future

- Eliminate CSRF.
- Extend per-application security policy.
- Extend per-library/per-data safety policy.
- Plenty of additional features!
- Hiring you?

# That's all, folks!

<http://www.mlstate.com>

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Thanks and apologies to David Byrne & Charles Anderson  
for hijacking their slides

<http://www.mlstate.com>