



# Automatic Application Partitioning for Intel SGX

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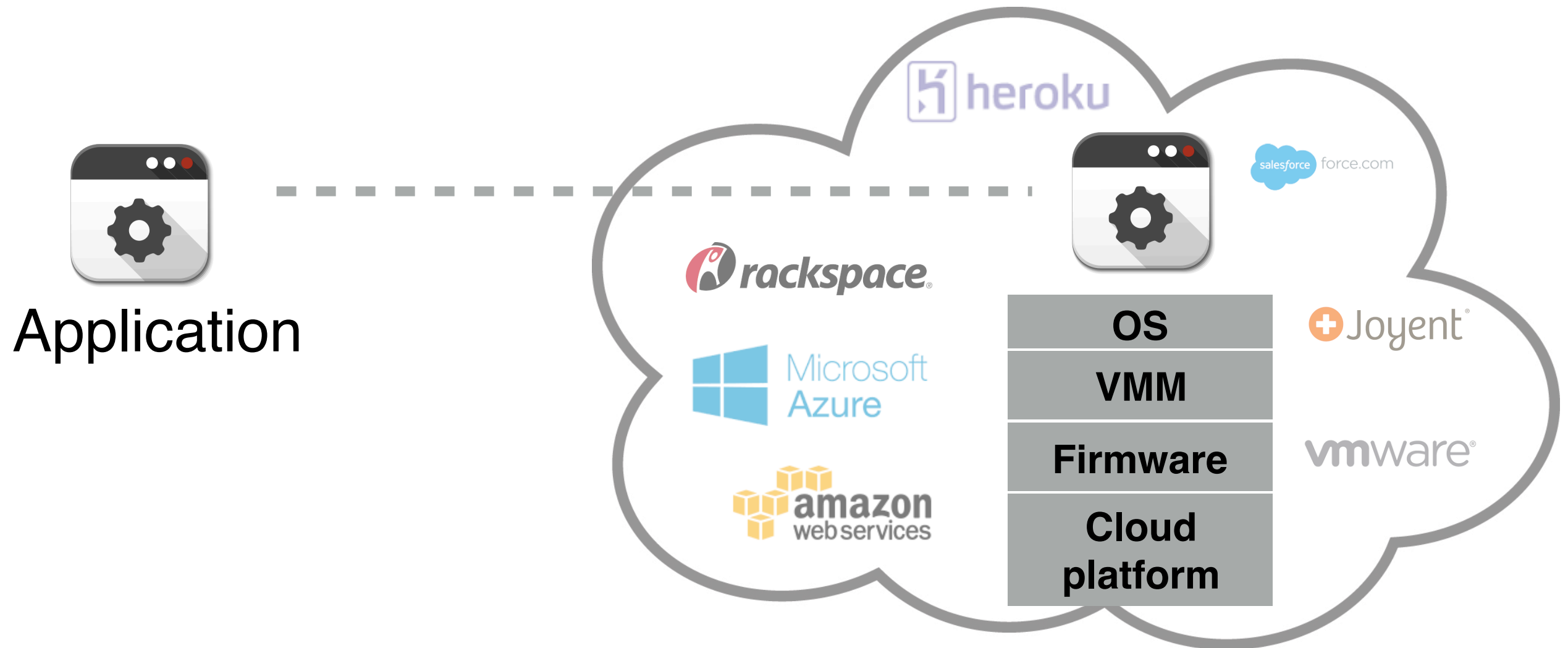
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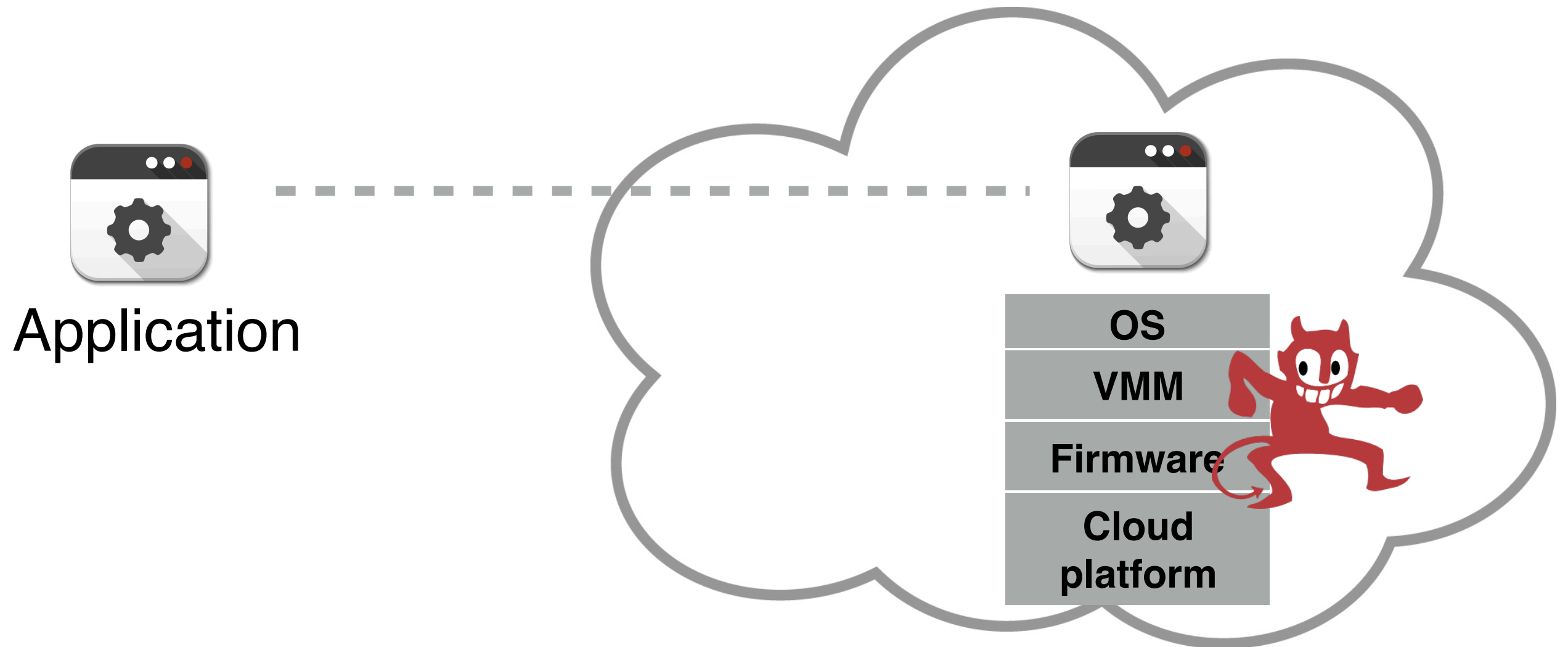
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Imperial College London

**[dmuthuku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dmuthuku@imperial.ac.uk)**

# Trust in Cloud Services



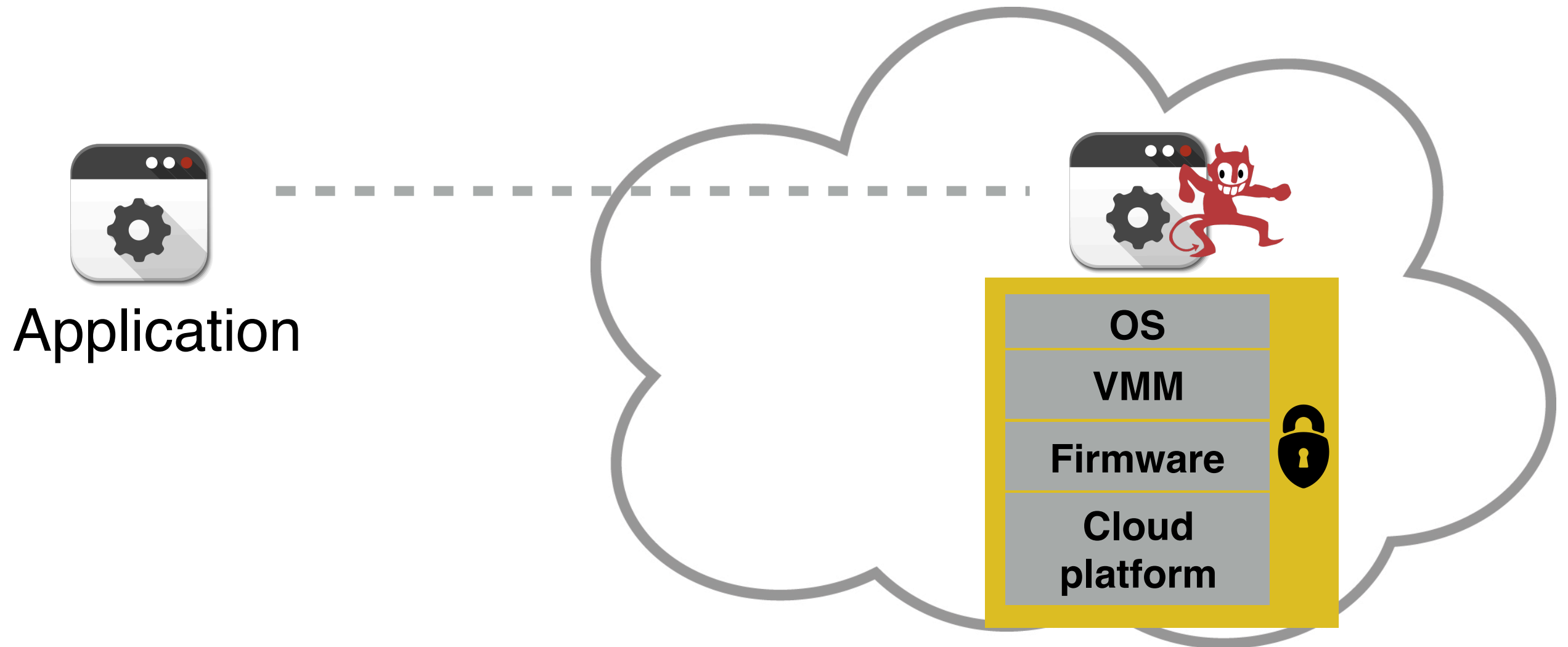
# Trust in Cloud Services



## Threats

- Insider Attacks
- Human error despite best practices
- Vulnerabilities in large code bases

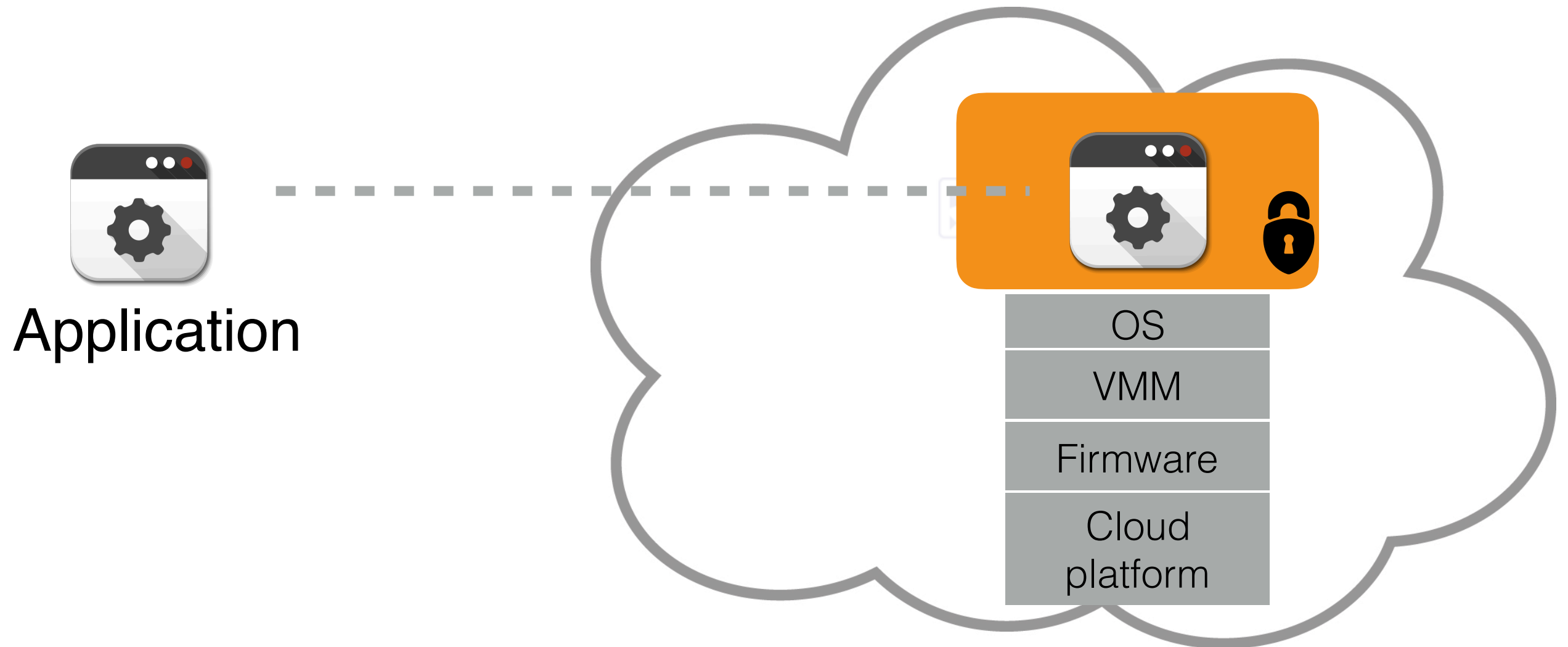
# Trust in Cloud Services



## Traditional Security Models

- Protect privileged code from untrusted user-level code

# Trusted Execution Environments



## Flips Security Model

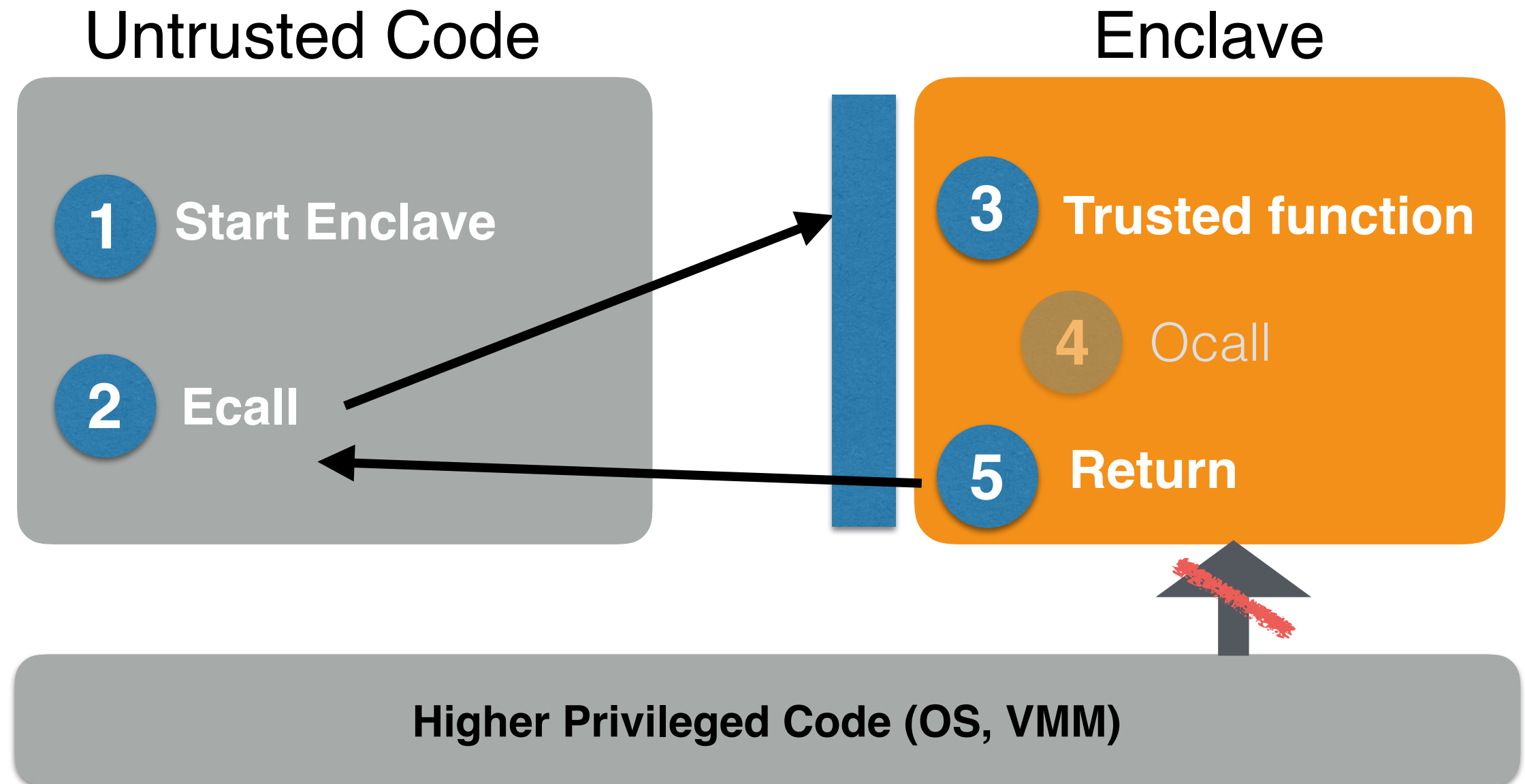
- Secure area of a processor
- Provides protection from higher privileged code
- Trusted environment on top of untrusted cloud

# Intel Software Guard Extensions (SGX)

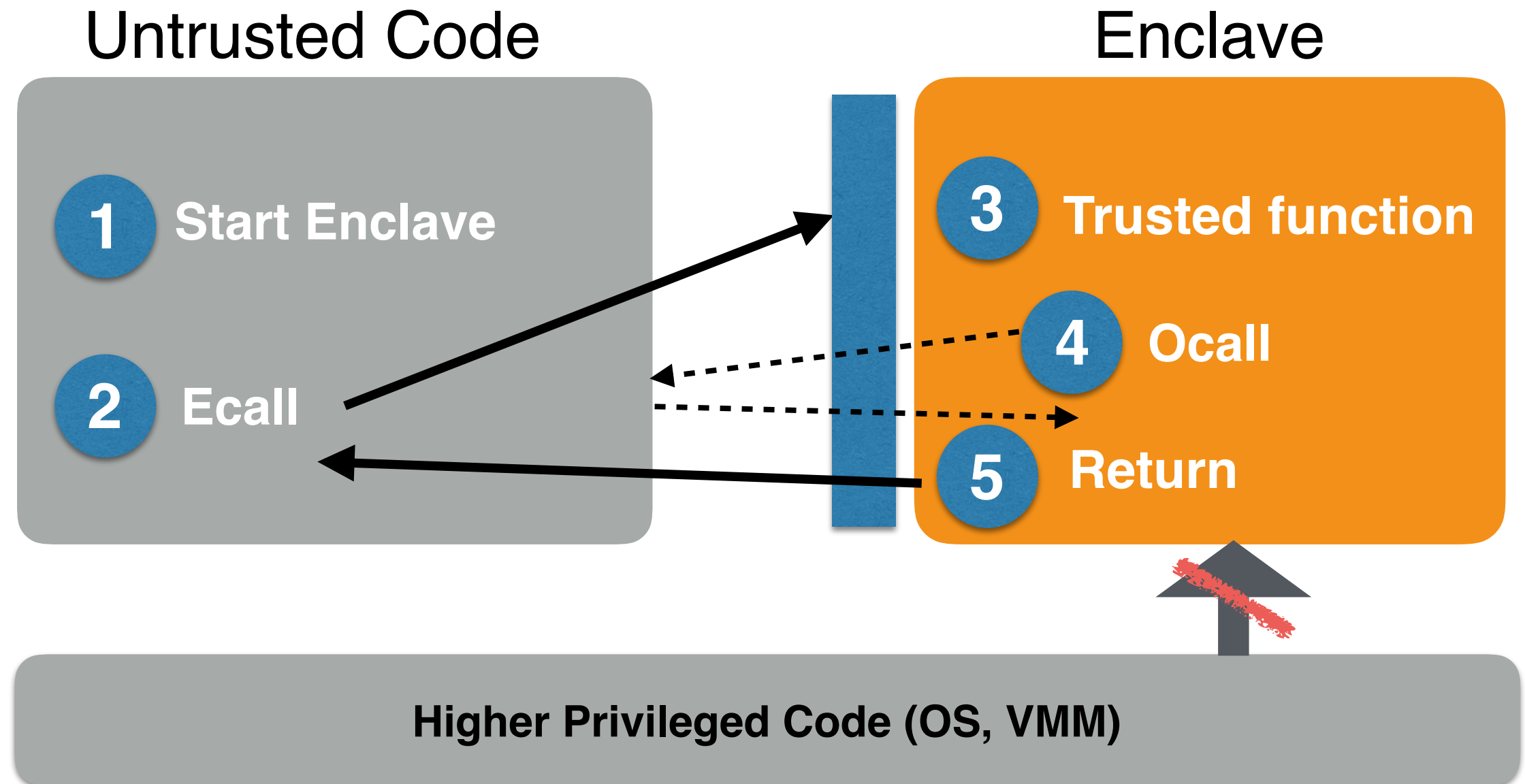
- On commodity processors starting with Skylake
- TEE's are called enclaves
- 18 CPU instructions to manage enclave lifecycle
- Code & data reside in Enclave Page Cache (EPC)
  - Cache lines encrypted when written to memory
  - Restricted to 128MB
- Intel provides an SDK for Windows and Linux



# Enclave Application Lifecycle

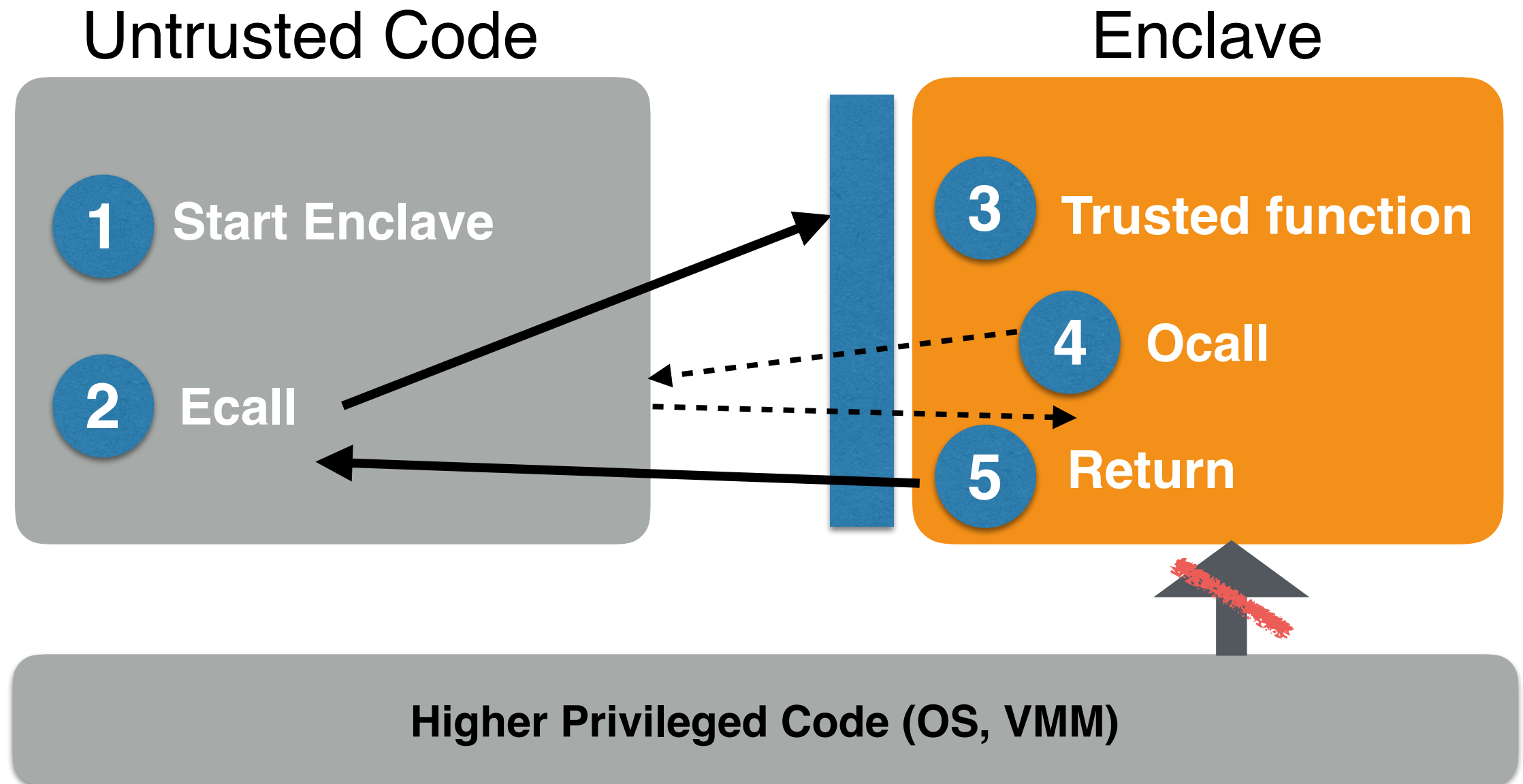


# Enclave Application Lifecycle



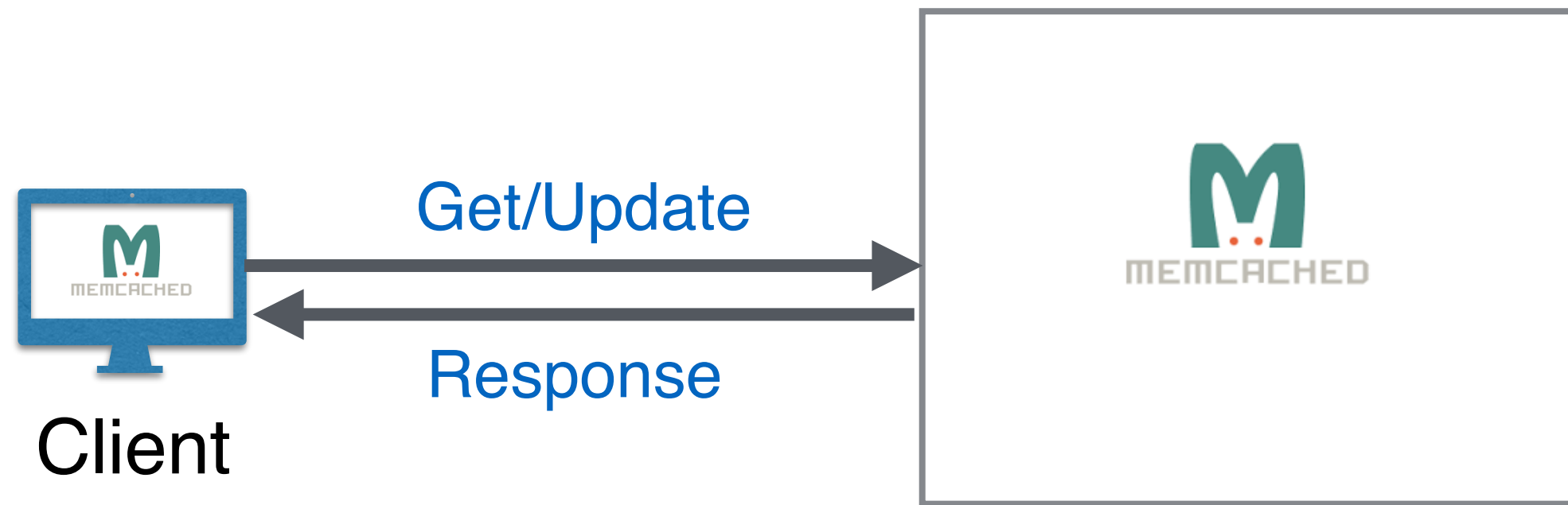


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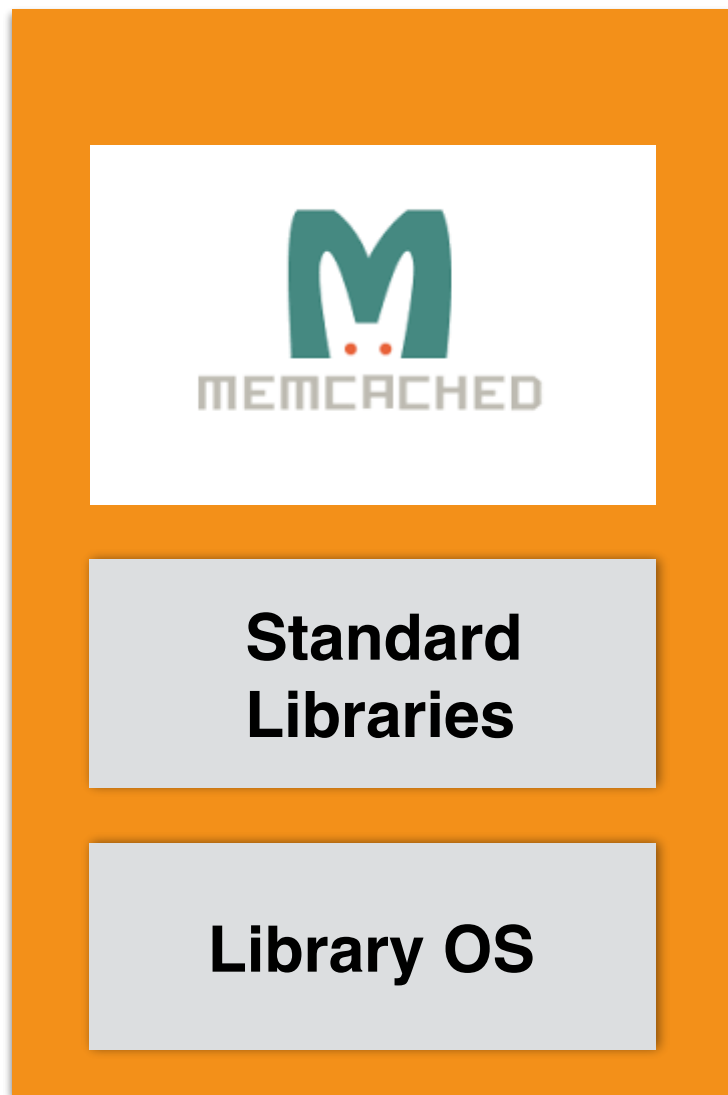
**Enclave crossings** through ecalls and ocalls incur a performance penalty

# Porting applications to Enclaves



How do you port a key-value store to run in an enclave?

# Library OS Inside Enclaves



## Pros

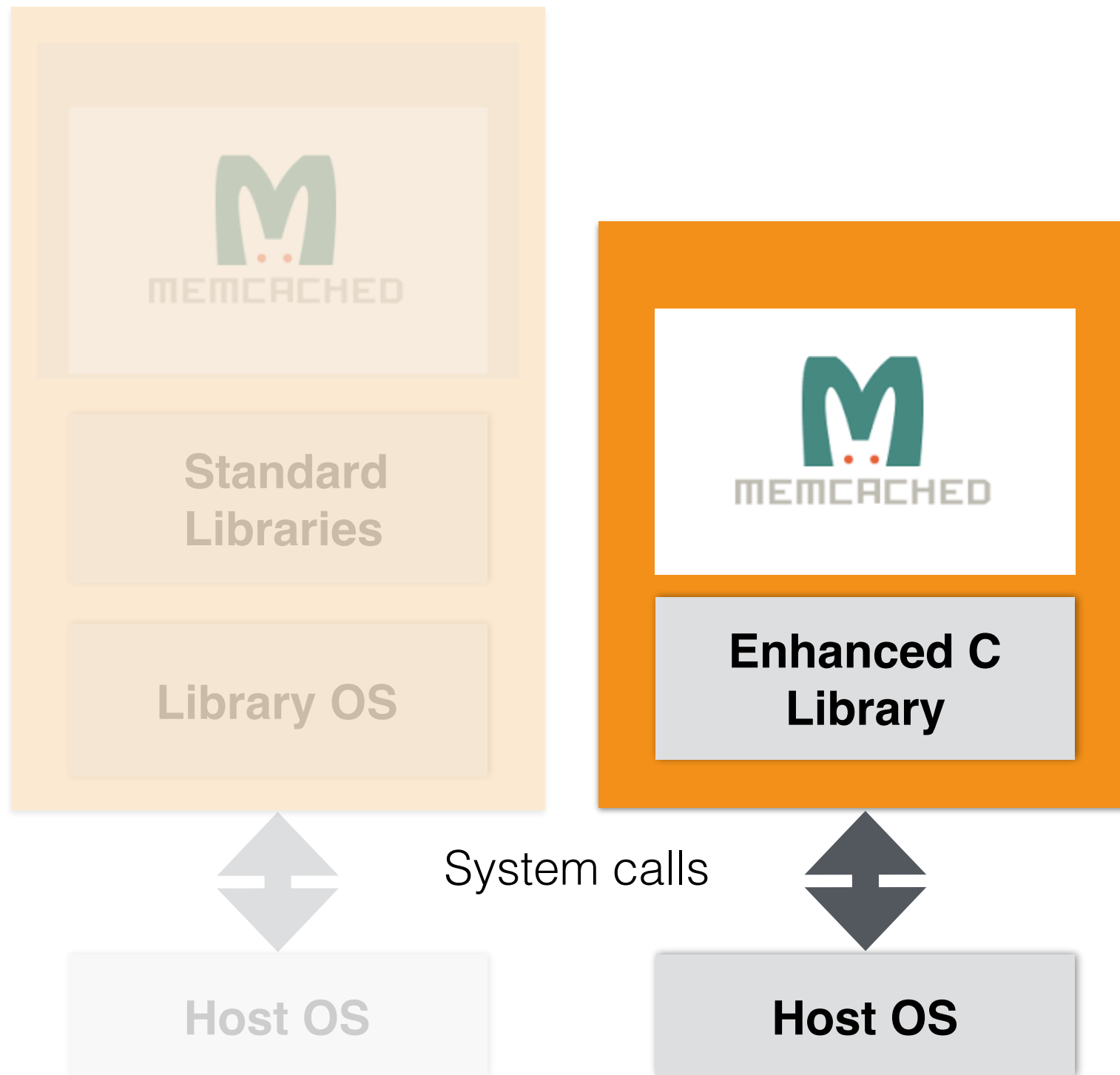
- Run unmodified applications
- Fixed shielded interface

## Cons

- TCB is millions LoC!
- Performance overhead

**Haven [OSDI'14]**

# Standard Library Inside Enclaves



## Pros

- Smaller TCB than Haven
- Fixed shielded interface

## Cons

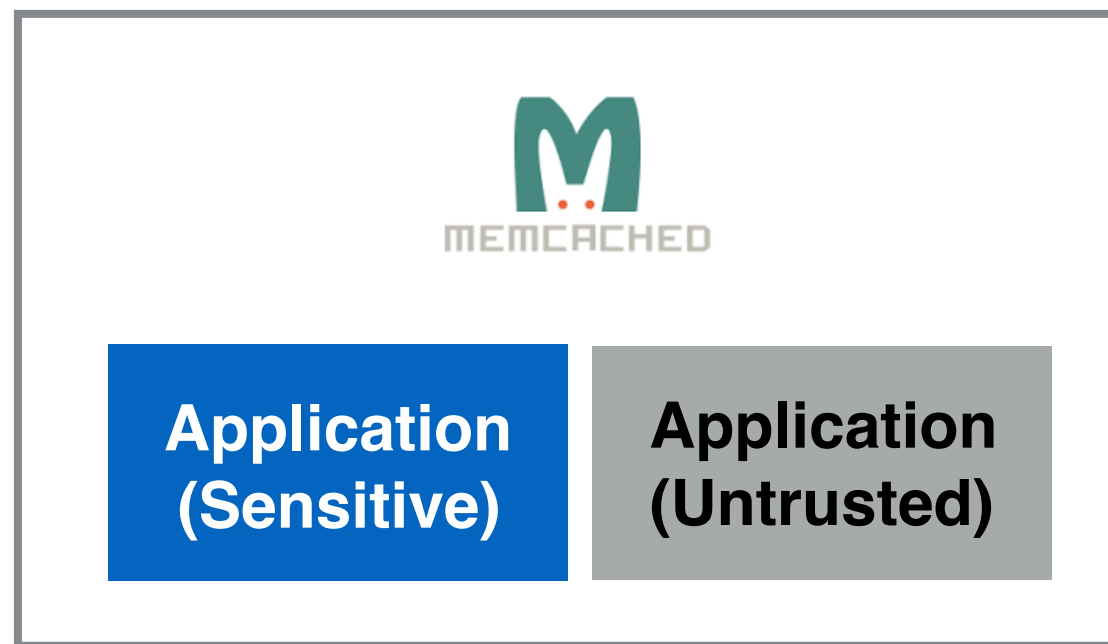
- TCB = 0.6x–2x of application size
- Recompile needed

**SCONE [OSDI'16]**

# Minimum TCB Inside Enclaves

## Principle of Least Privilege

Only move the code needed to enforce security policy

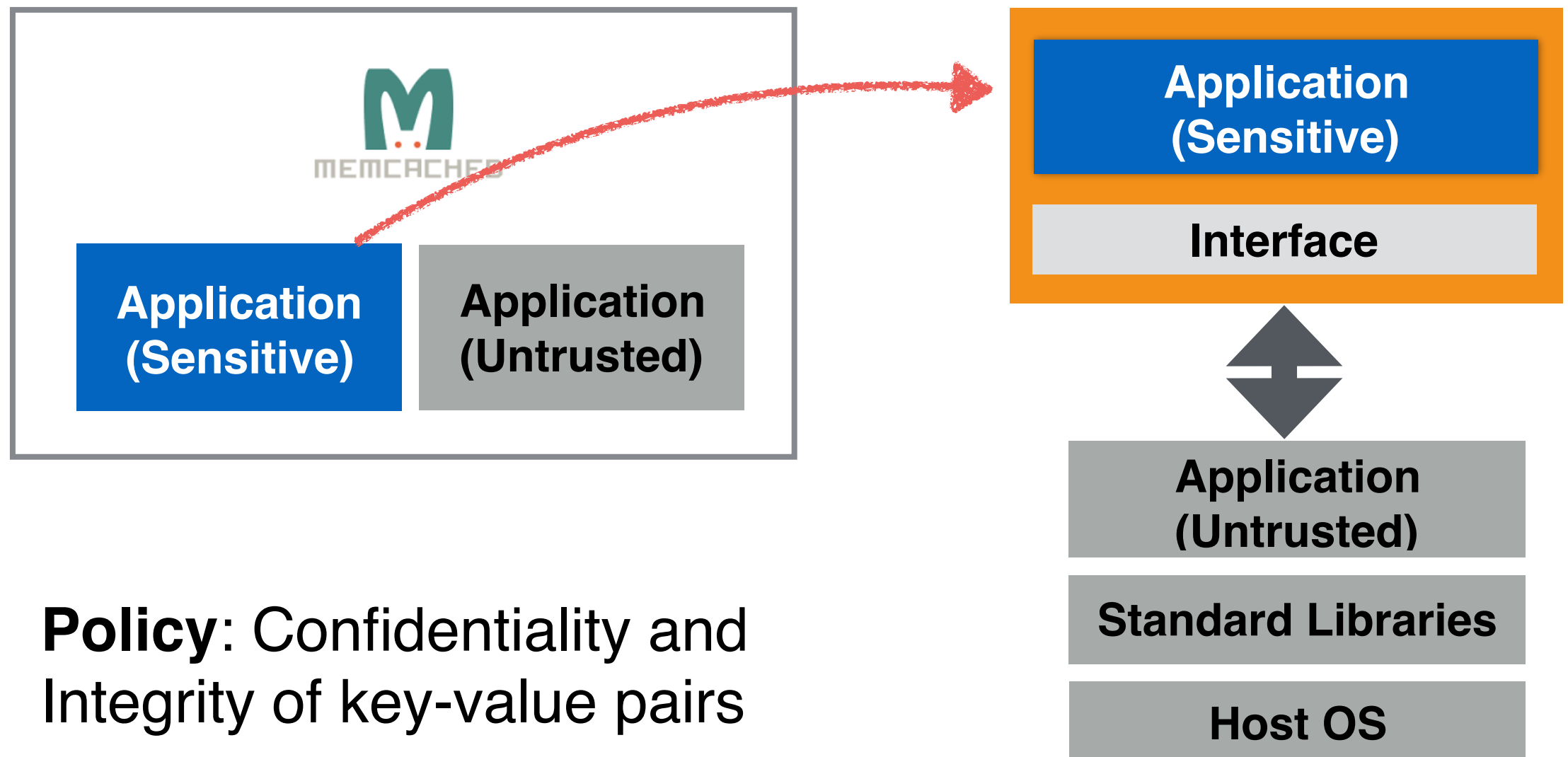


**Policy:** Confidentiality and Integrity of key-value pairs

# Minimum TCB Inside Enclaves

## Principle of Least Privilege

Only move the code needed to enforce security policy



# Application Partitioning to Minimise TCB

Prior work has **manually** partitioned applications

## SecureKeeper: Confidential ZooKeeper using Intel SGX

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2015 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy

### ABSTRACT

Cloud computing, while ubiquitous, still suffers from trust issues, especially for applications managing sensitive data. Third-party coordination services such as ZooKeeper and

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing fits to be used in cloud environments.

## VC3: Trustworthy Data Analytics in the Cloud using SGX

Felix Schuster\*, Manuel Costa, Cédric Fournet, Christos Gkantsidis  
Marcus Peinado, Gloria Mainar-Ruiz, Mark Russinovich  
Microsoft Research

*Abstract*—We present VC3, the first system that allows users to run distributed MapReduce computations in the cloud while keeping their code and data secret, and ensuring the correctness and completeness of their results. VC3 runs on unmodified Hadoop, but crucially keeps Hadoop, the operating system and the hypervisor out of the TCB; thus, confidentiality and integrity

data [22]. However, FHE is not efficient for most computations [23], [65]. The computation can also be shared between independent parties while guaranteeing confidentiality for individual inputs (using e.g., garbled circuits [29]) and providing protection against corrupted parties (see e.g.,

# Application Partitioning to Minimise TCB

Prior work has **manually** partitioned applications

**“Automatically determine the minimum functionality to be run inside an enclave in order to enforce a security policy”**

SecureKeeper: Confidential ZooKeeper using Intel SGX

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ABSTRACT

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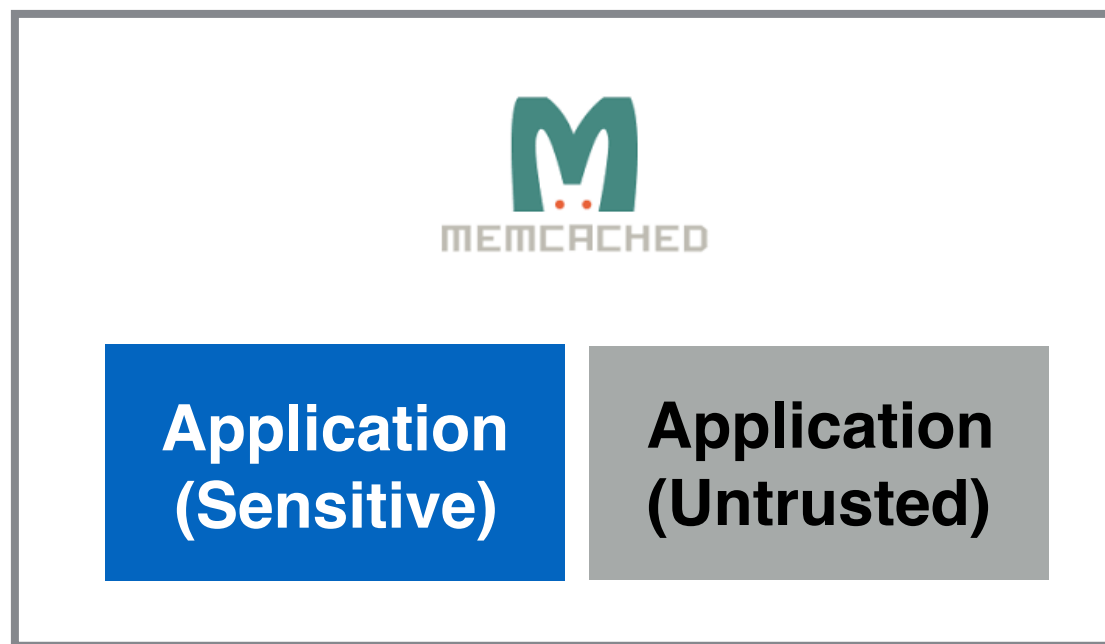
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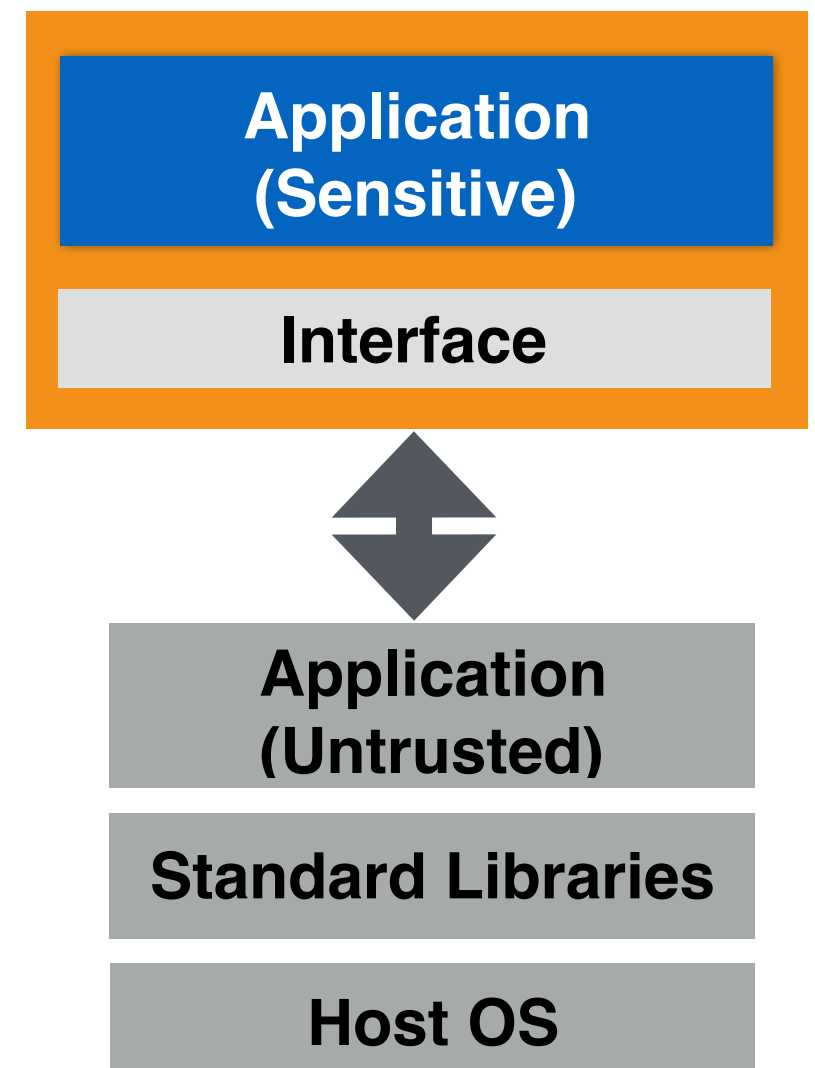


# Challenges in Automated Partitioning

- Identifying security-sensitive code relevant to a security policy
- Preventing interfaces from violating security policy
- Avoiding performance degradation

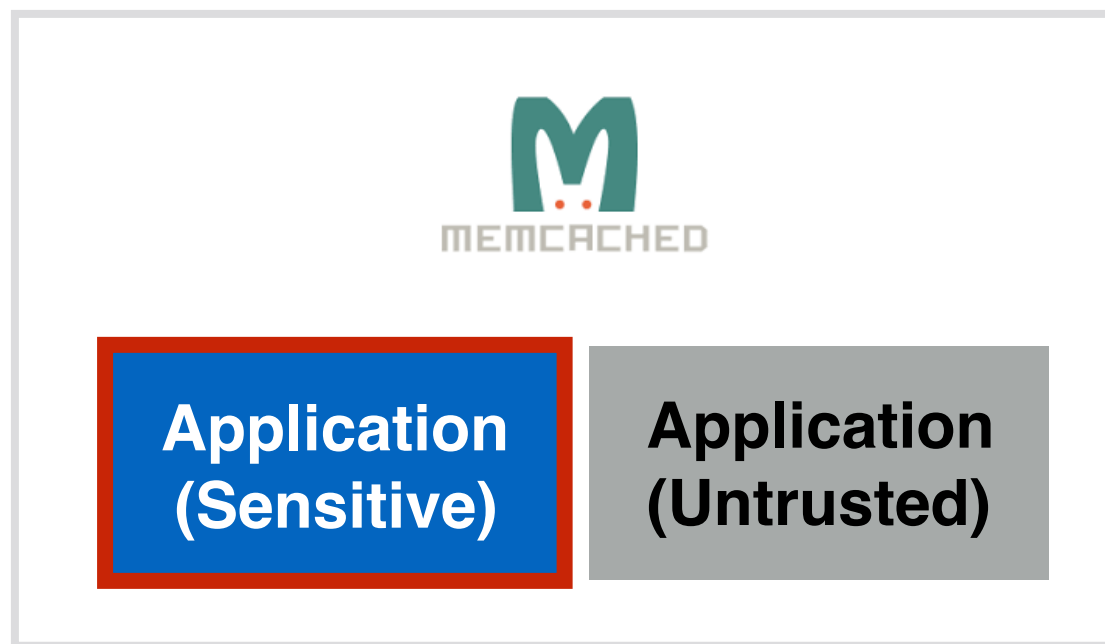


**Policy:** Confidentiality and Integrity of key-value pairs

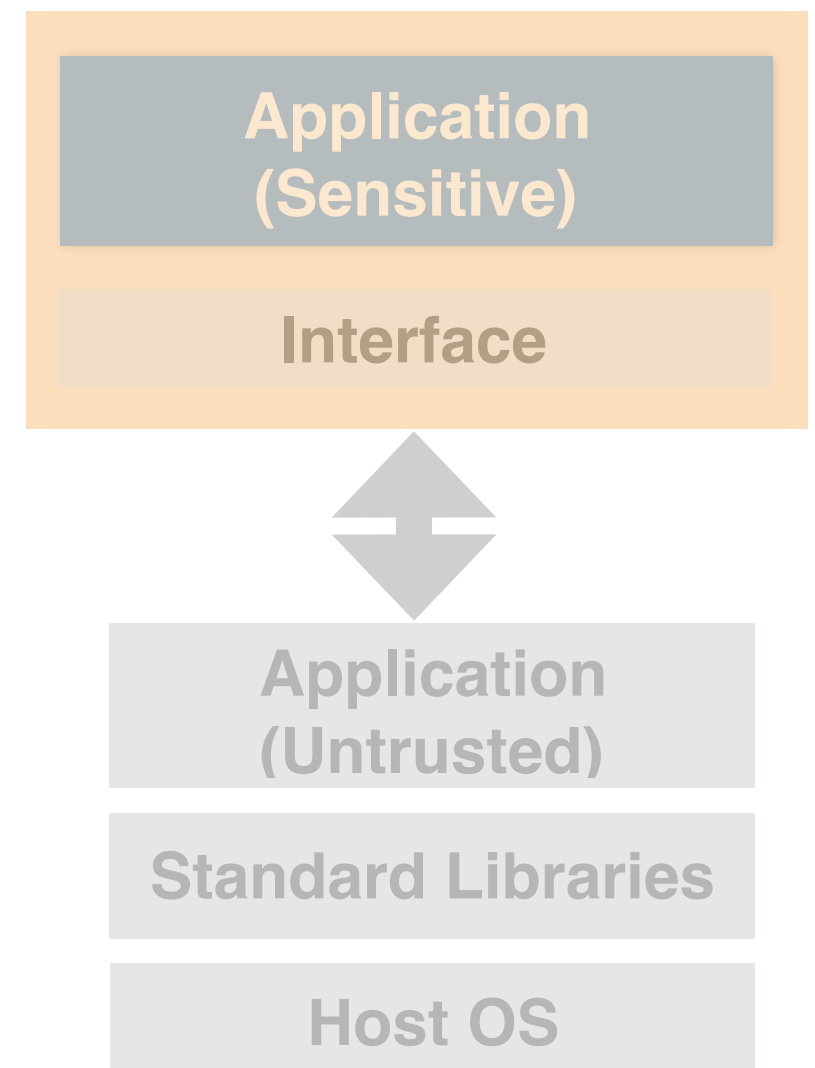


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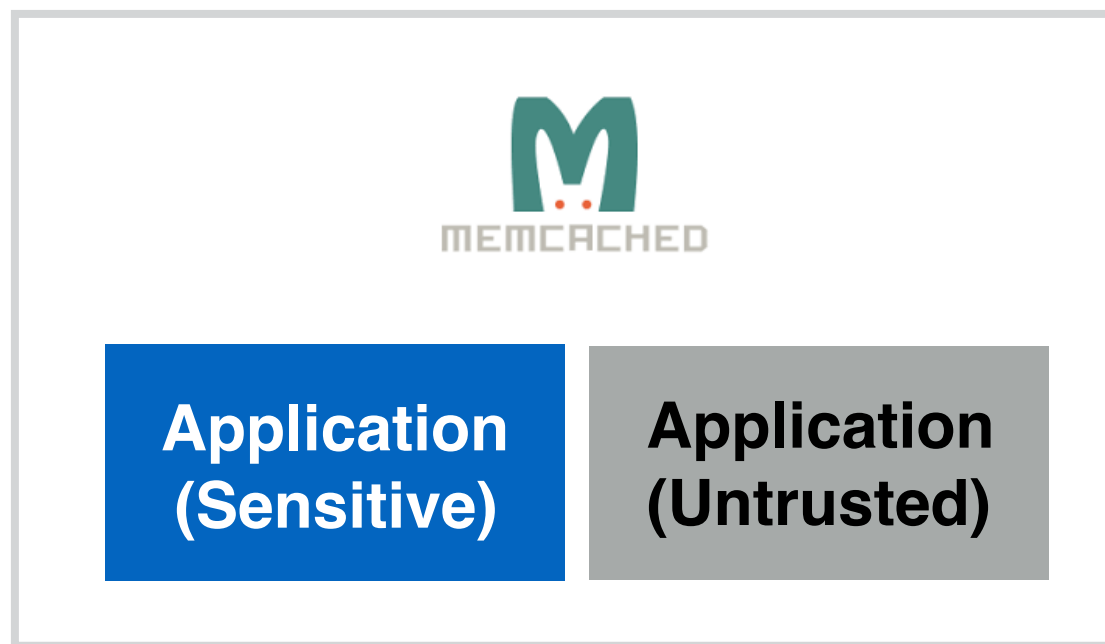


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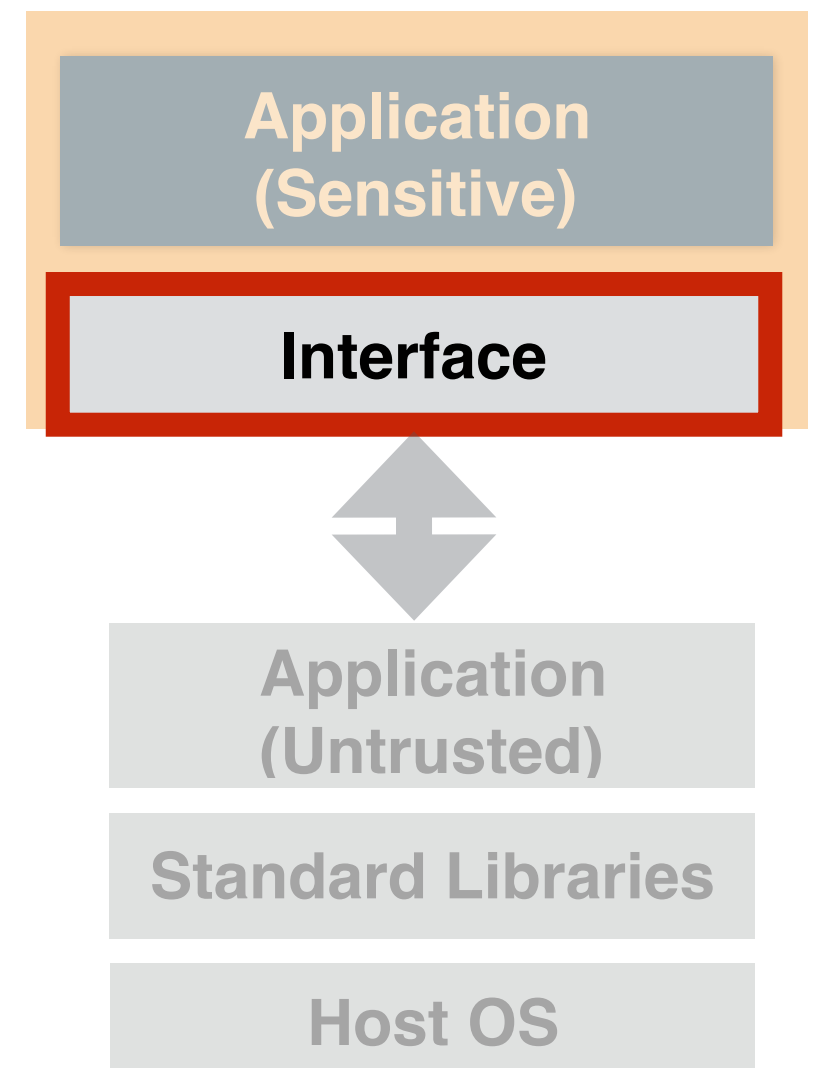


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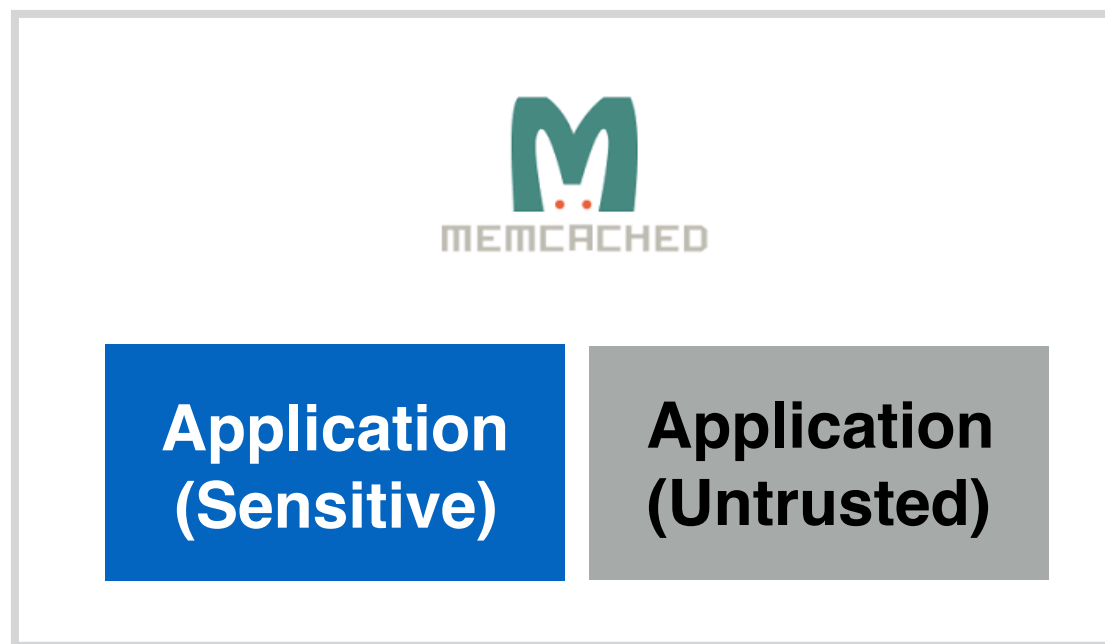


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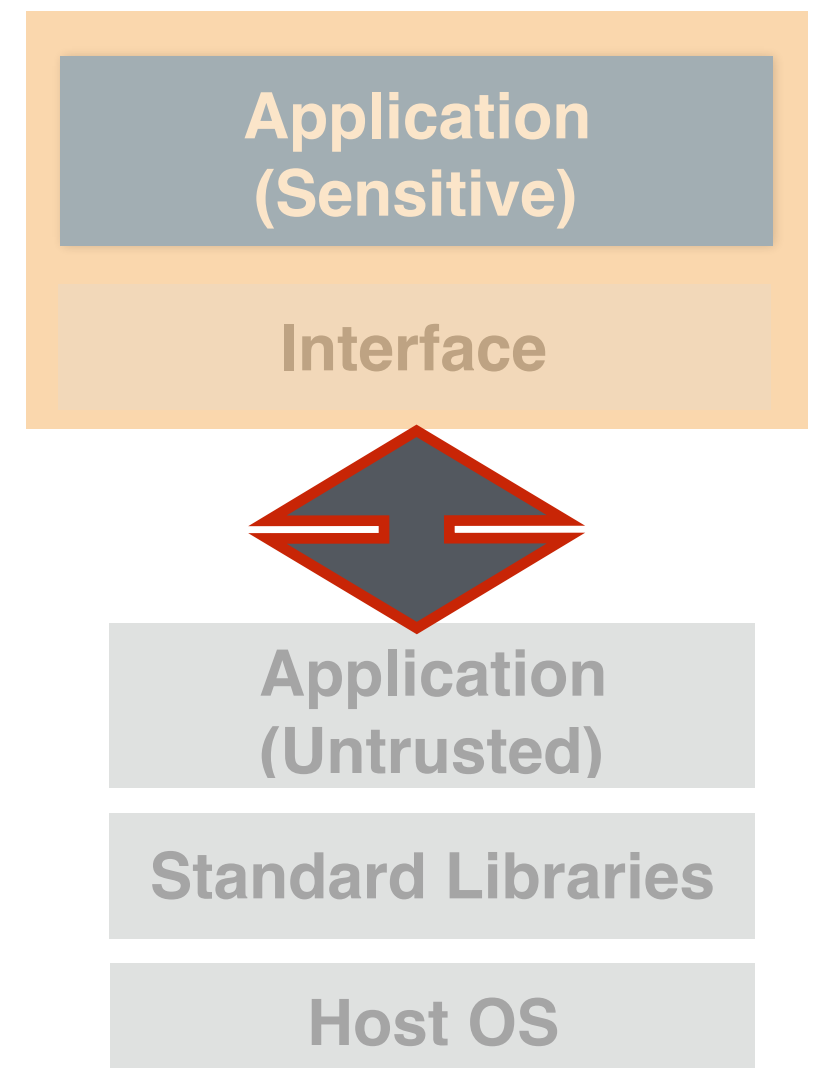


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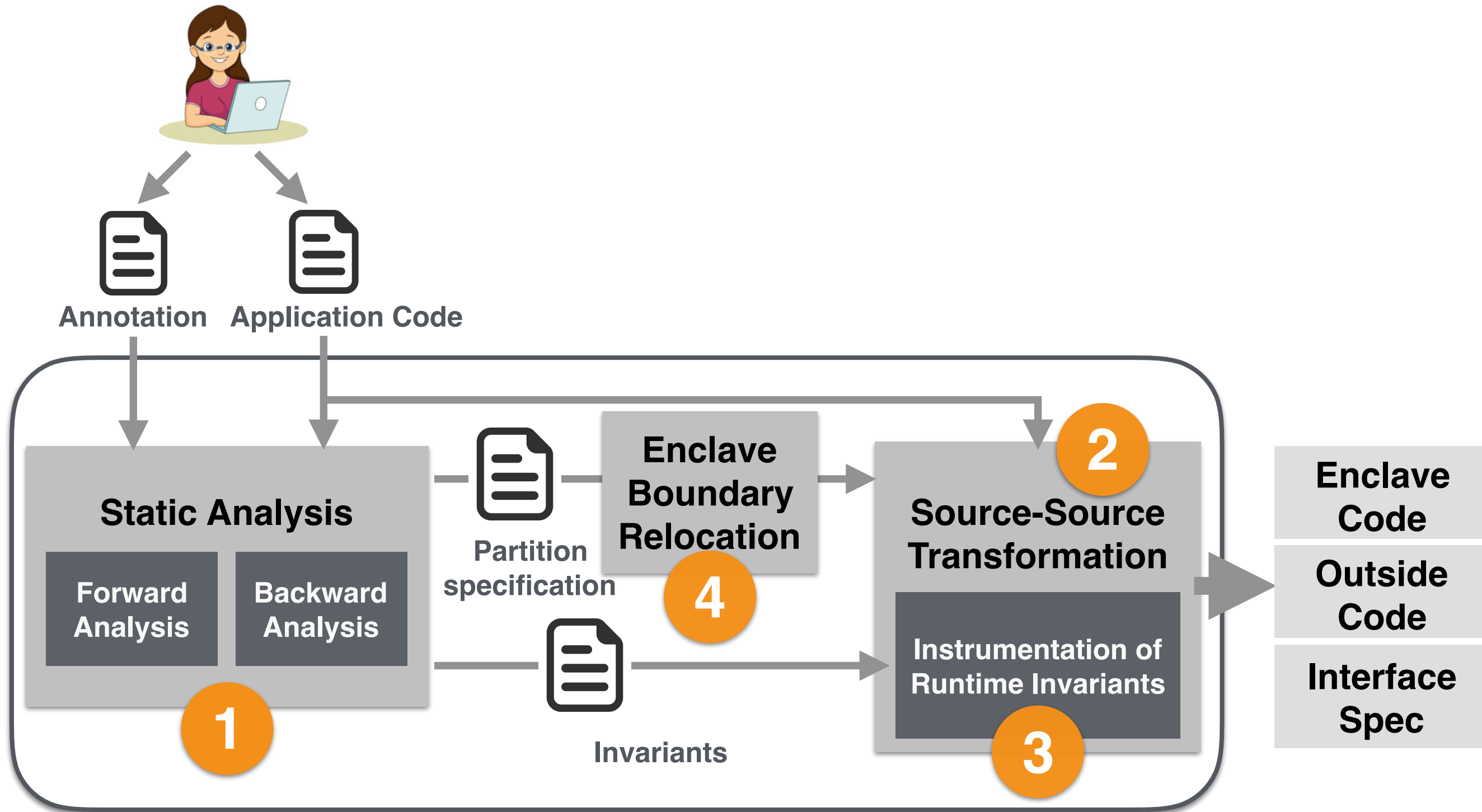
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**Policy:** Confidentiality and Integrity of key-value pairs



# Glamdring Partitioning Framework



# 1. Identify Security-Sensitive Code



Static Analysis conservatively identifies subset of code dependent on programmer annotated security-sensitive data



Annotation



Application Code

**Static Analysis**

**Forward  
Analysis**

**Backward  
Analysis**

**1**



Partition  
specification

Enclave  
Boundary  
Relocation

Source-Source  
Transformation

Instrumentation of  
Runtime Invariants

Invariants

Enclave  
Code

Outside  
Code

Interface  
Spec

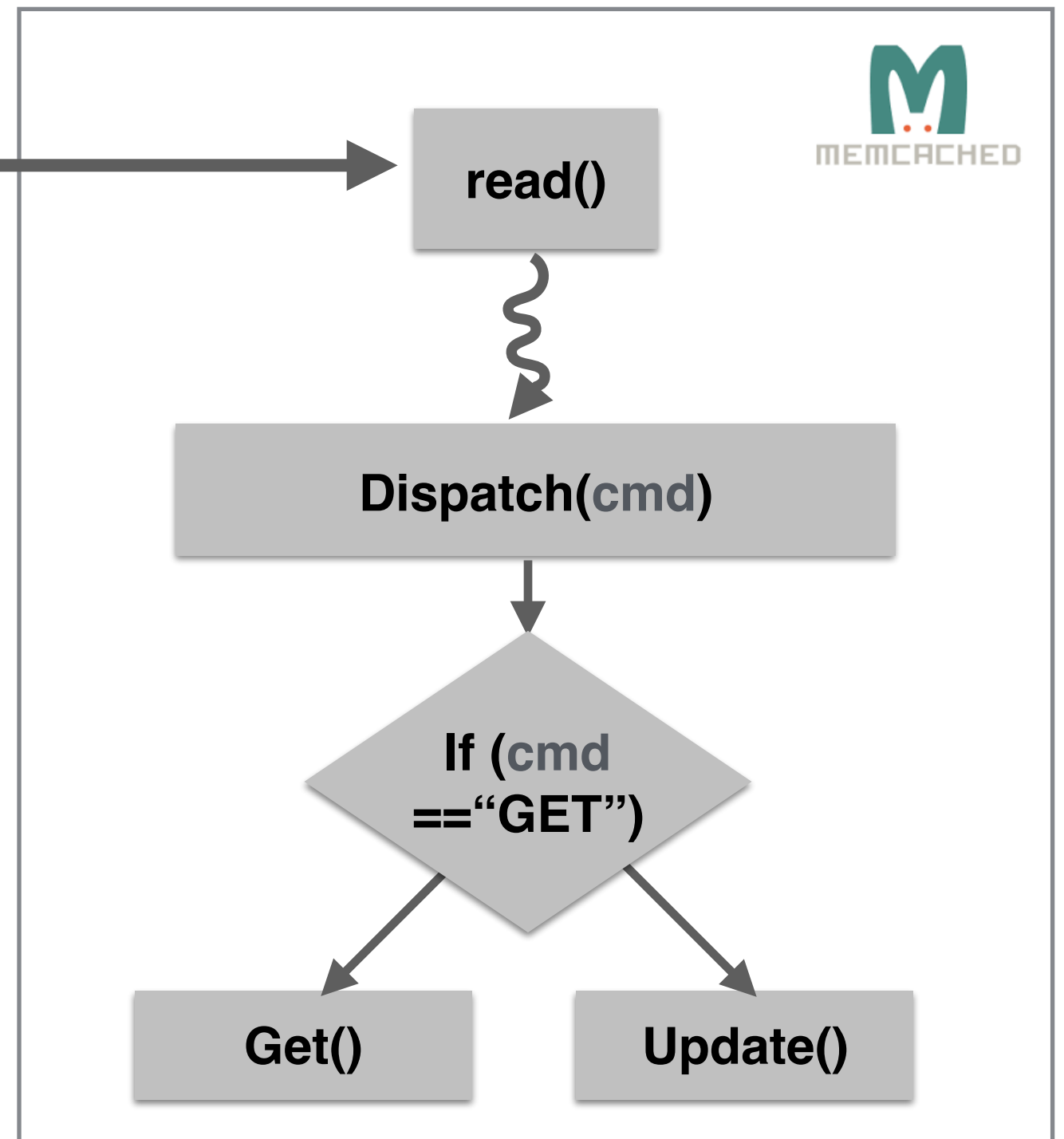
# Annotation of Security-Sensitive Data



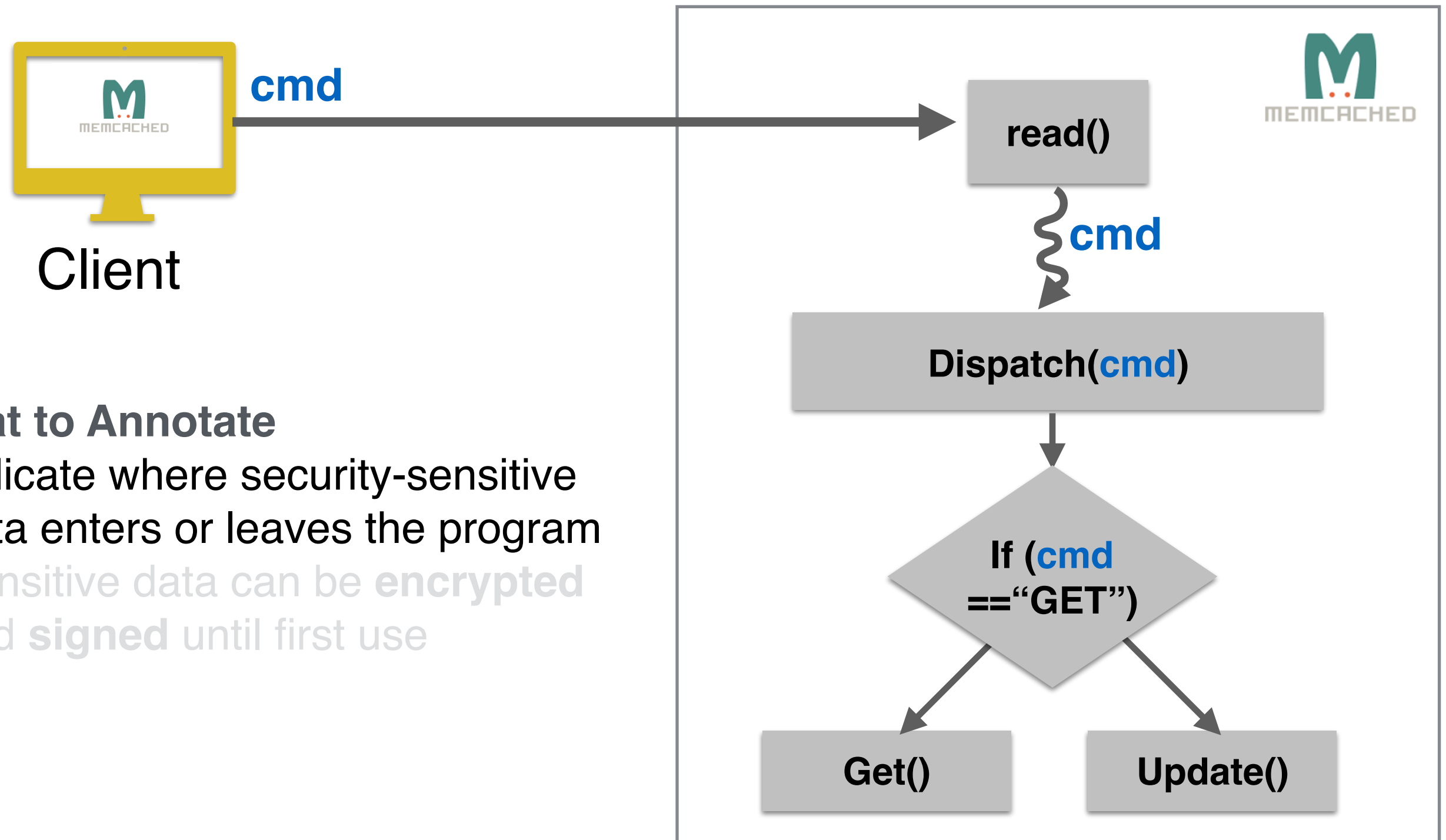
Client

## What to Annotate

- Indicate where security-sensitive data enters or leaves the program
- Security-sensitive data can be **encrypted** and **signed** until first use



# Annotation of Security-Sensitive Data

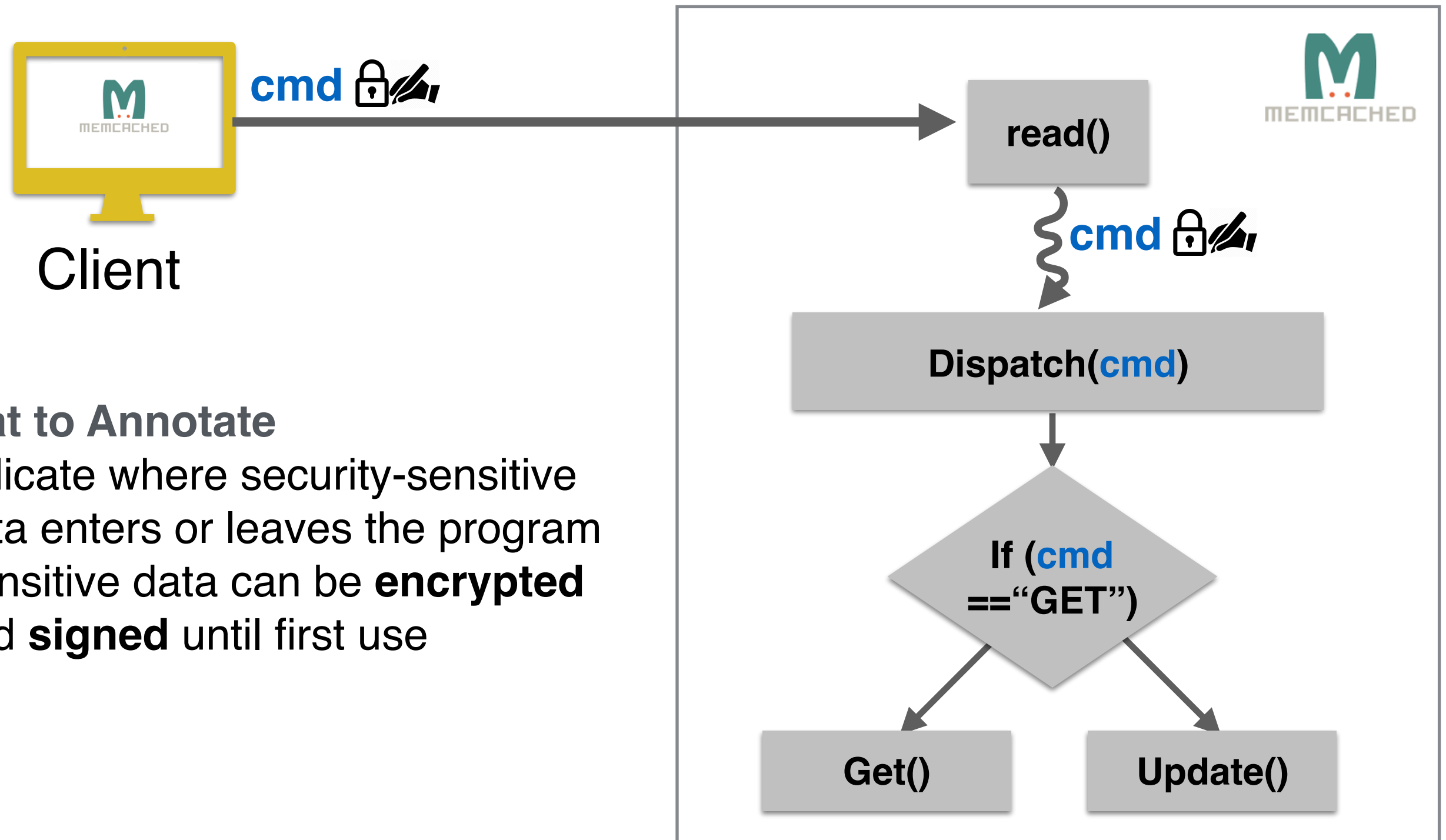


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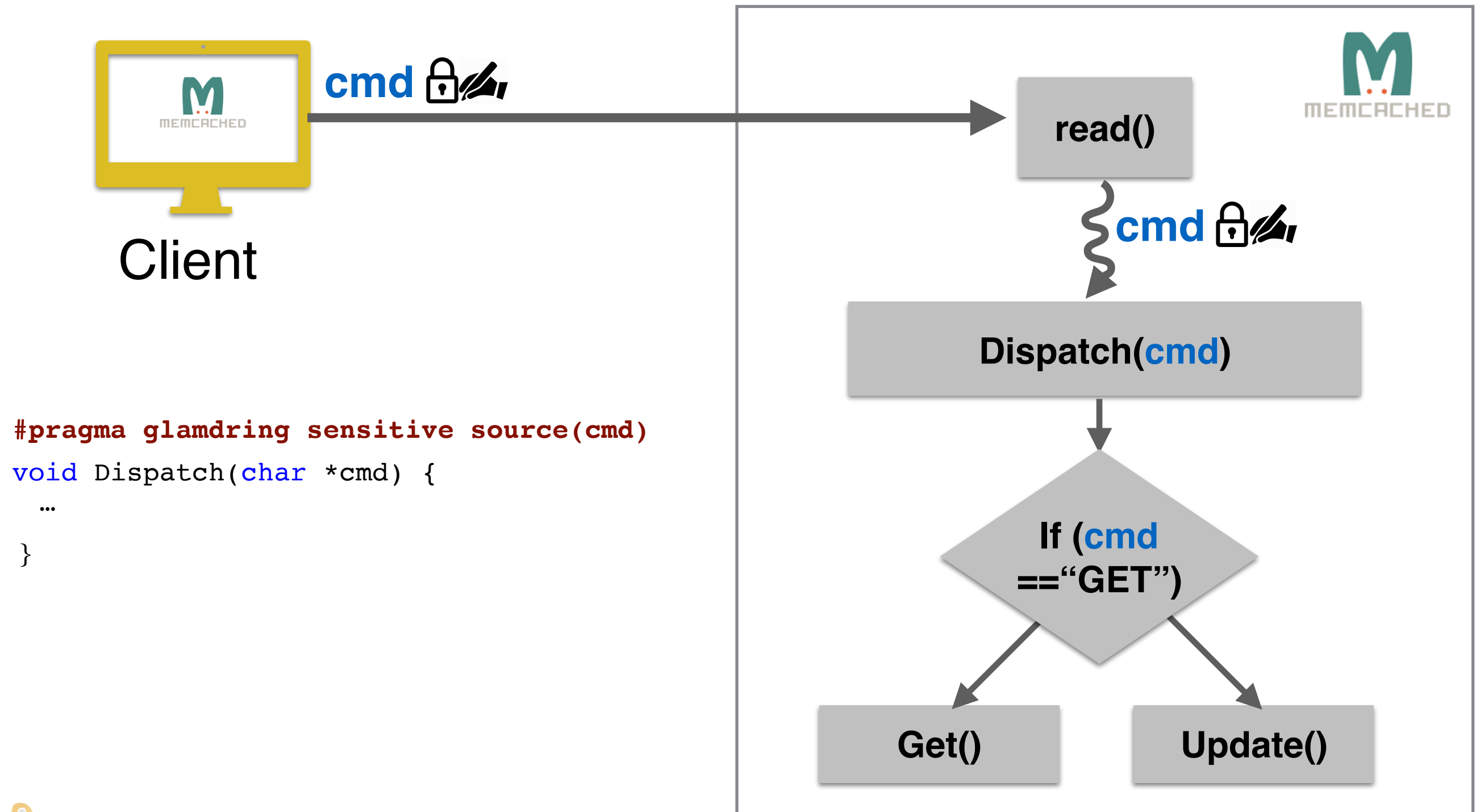
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## What to Annotate

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# Annotation of Security-Sensitive Data



# Static Analysis Goals

- Enforcing **Confidentiality**: Identify all functions that depend on sensitive data.
- Enforcing **Integrity**: Identify all functions on which the value of sensitive data depends
- Why Static Analysis?
  - Static Analysis is **conservative**, independent of the input to the program

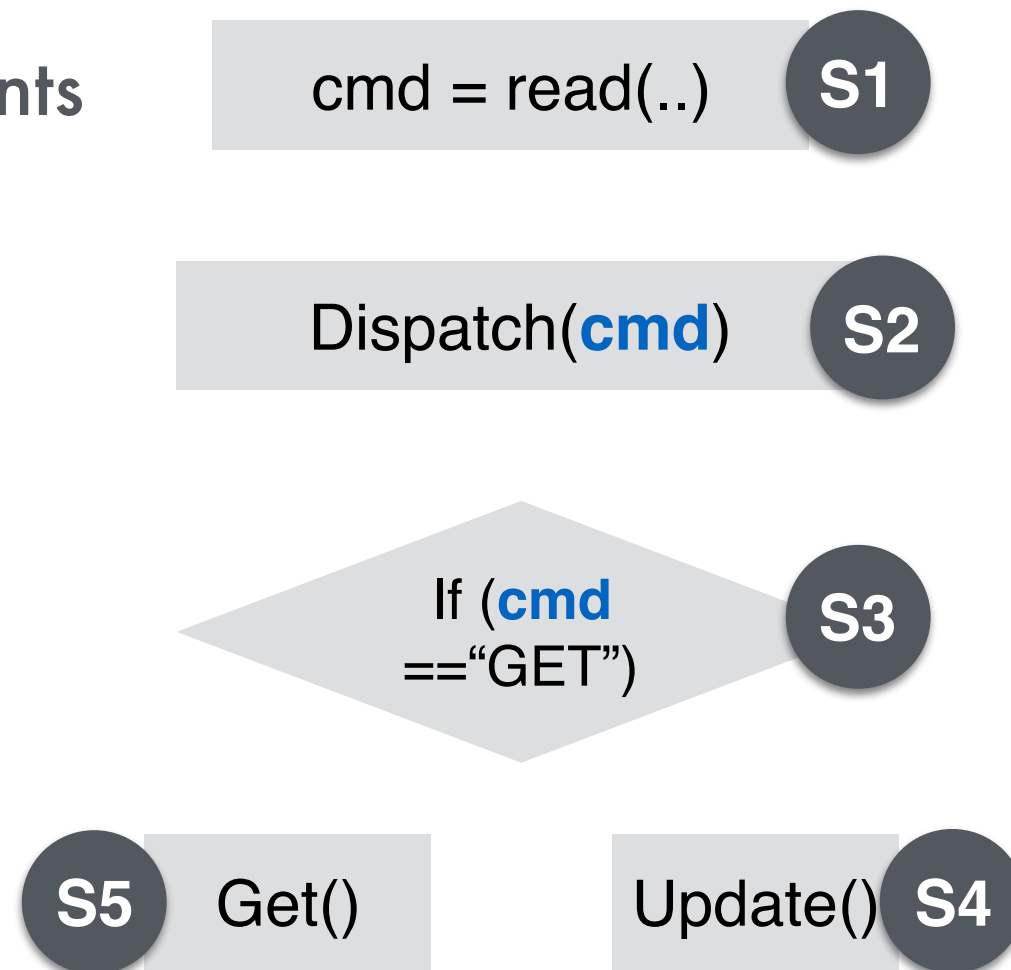
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Captures the **control** and **data** dependencies in the program

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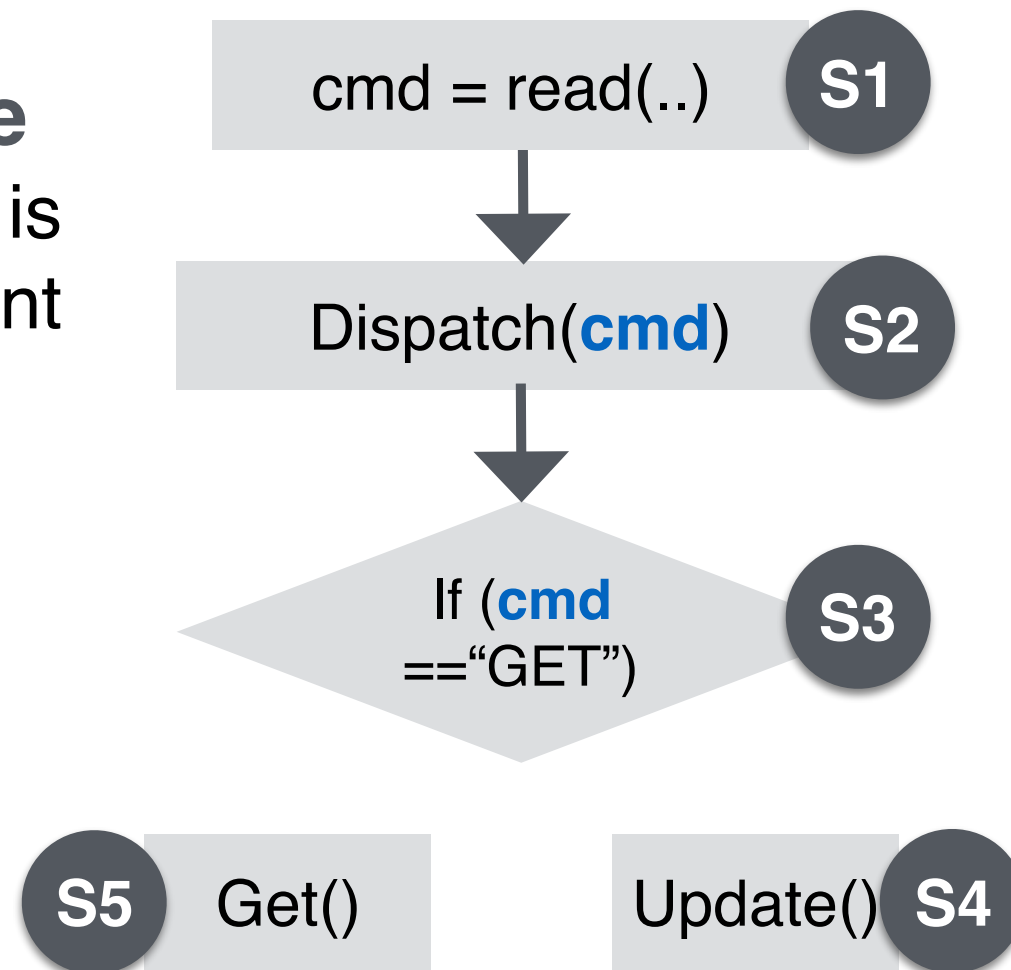
Nodes = Statements



# Program Dependence Graph

Captures the **control** and **data** dependencies in the program

**Data Dependence Edge**  
Data defined in a statement is  
used in the another statement

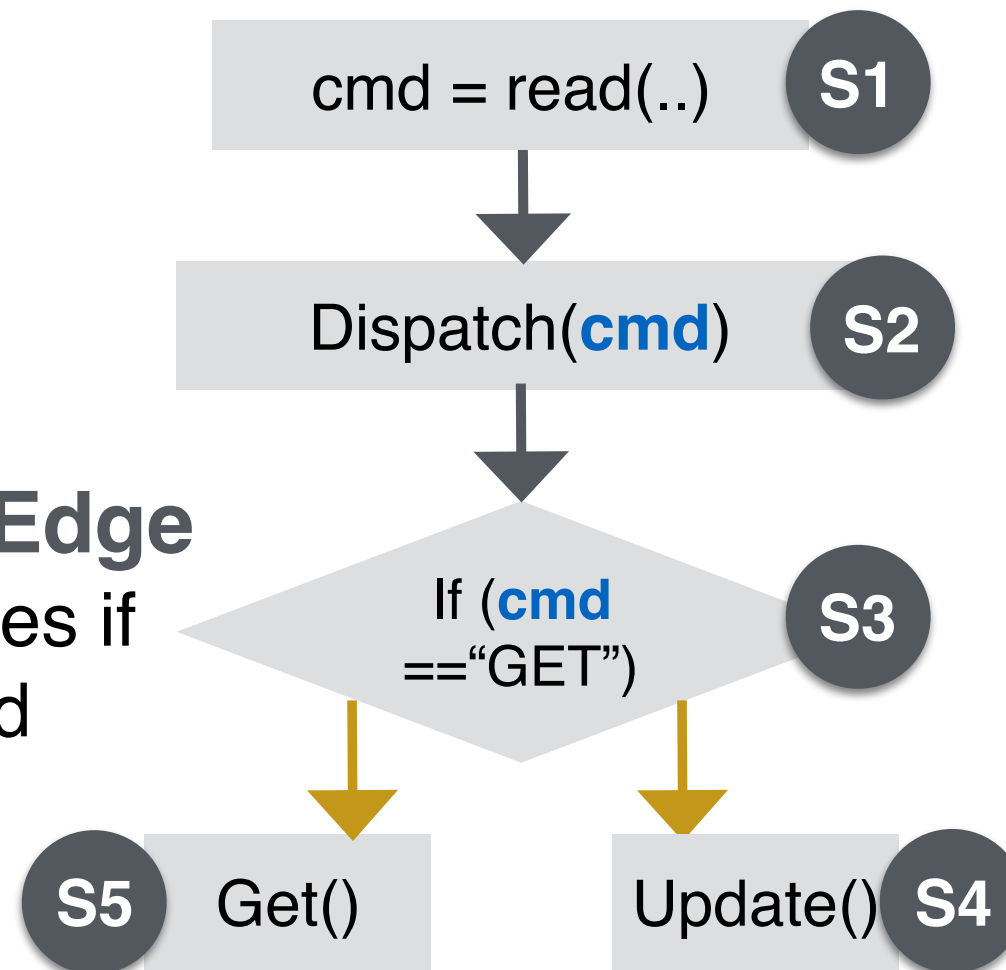


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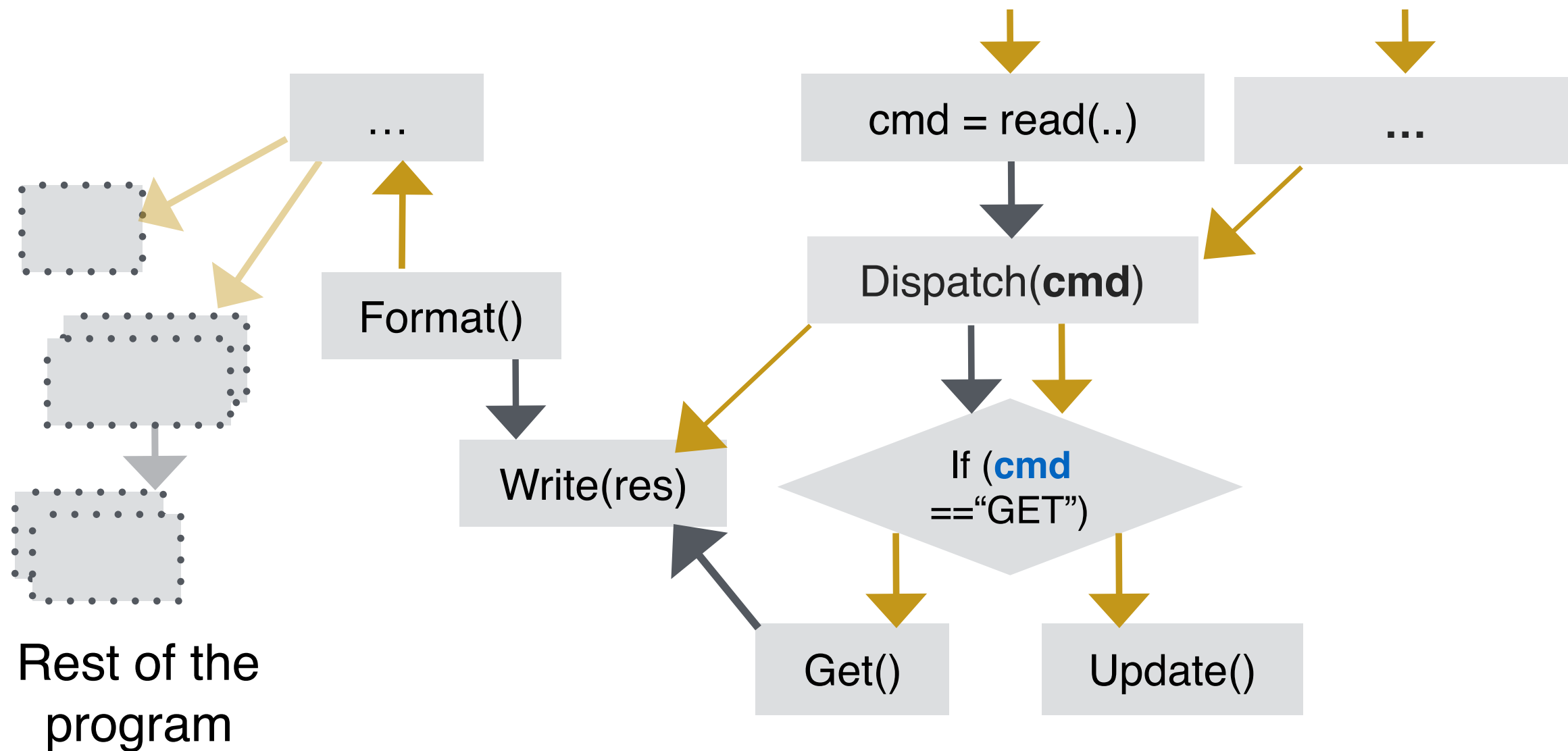
Captures the **control** and **data** dependencies in the program

## Control Dependence Edge

One Statement determines if another gets executed



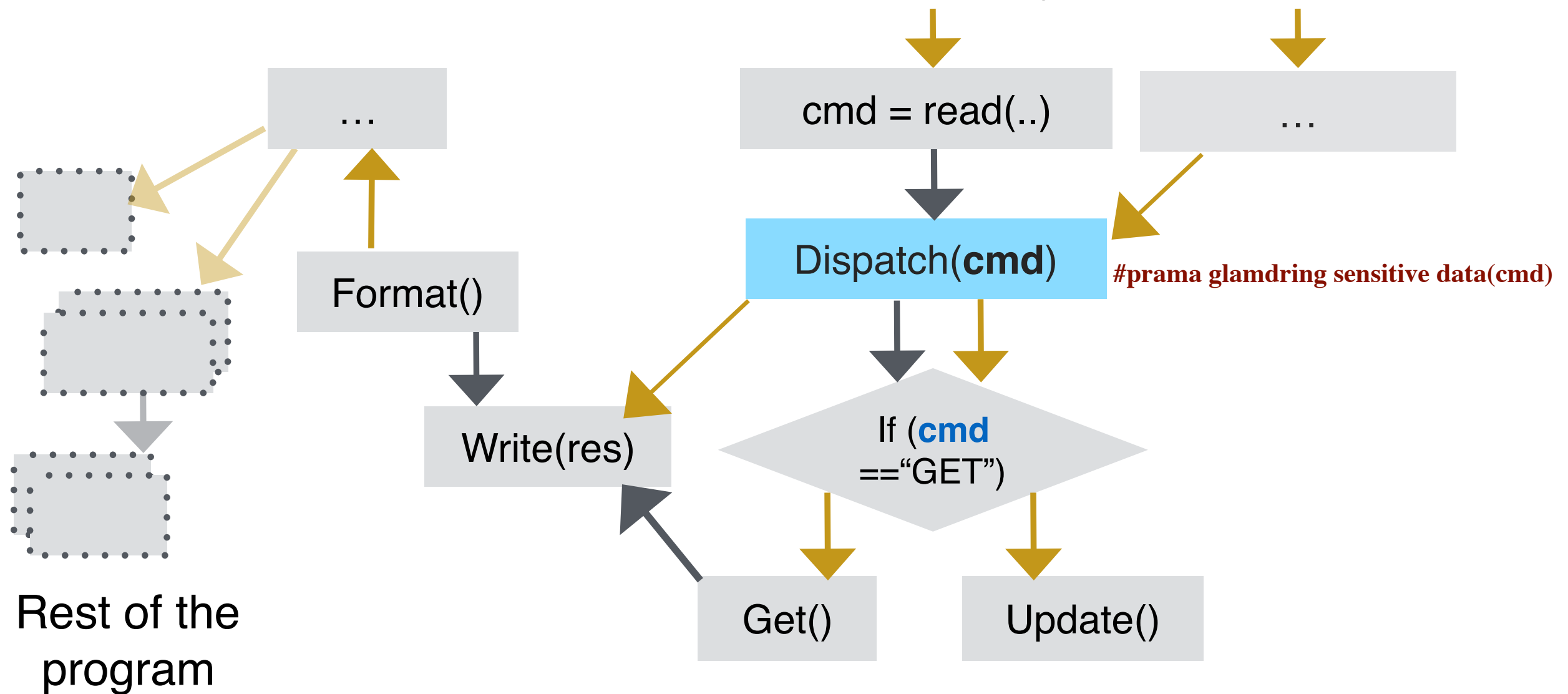
# Program Dependence Graph





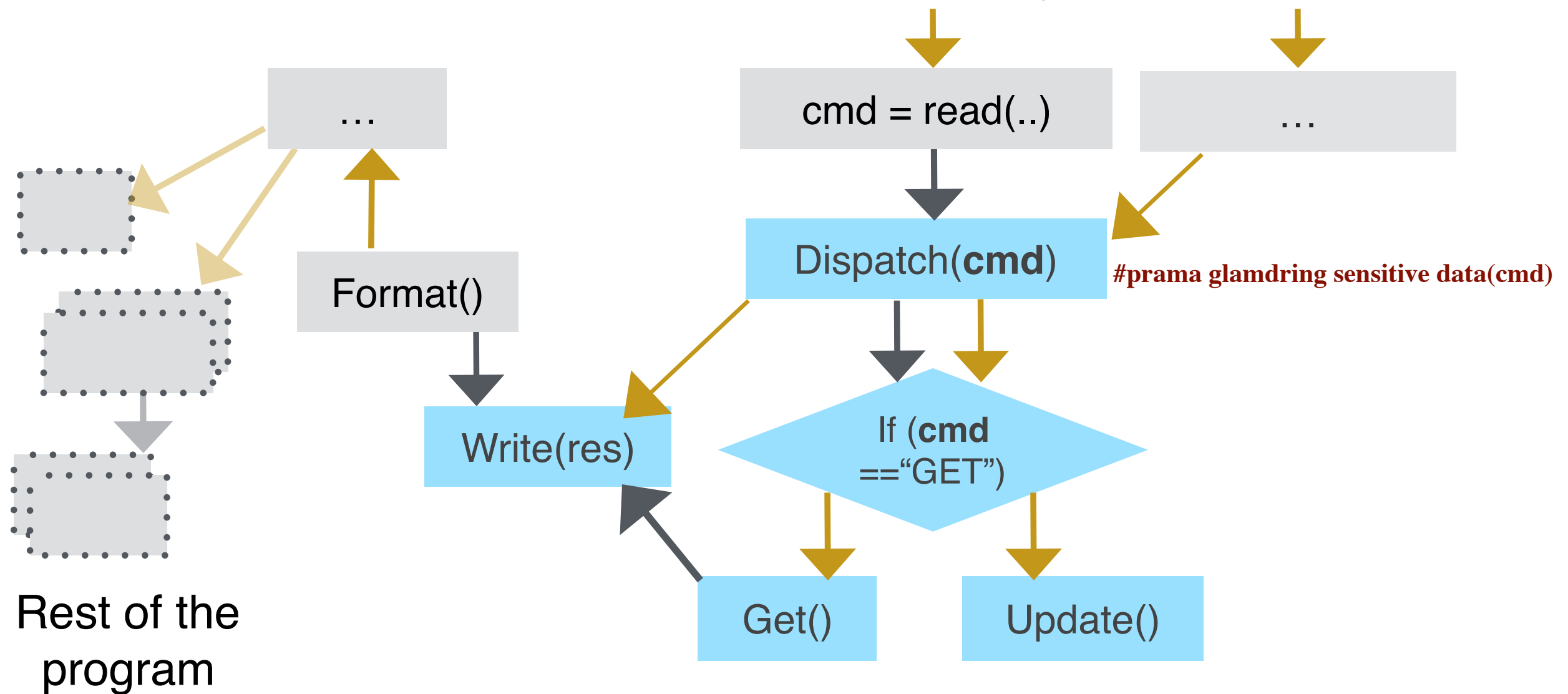
# Forwards Dataflow Analysis

**Confidentiality** Using Graph Reachability identify all nodes with transitive control/data dependency on annotated node



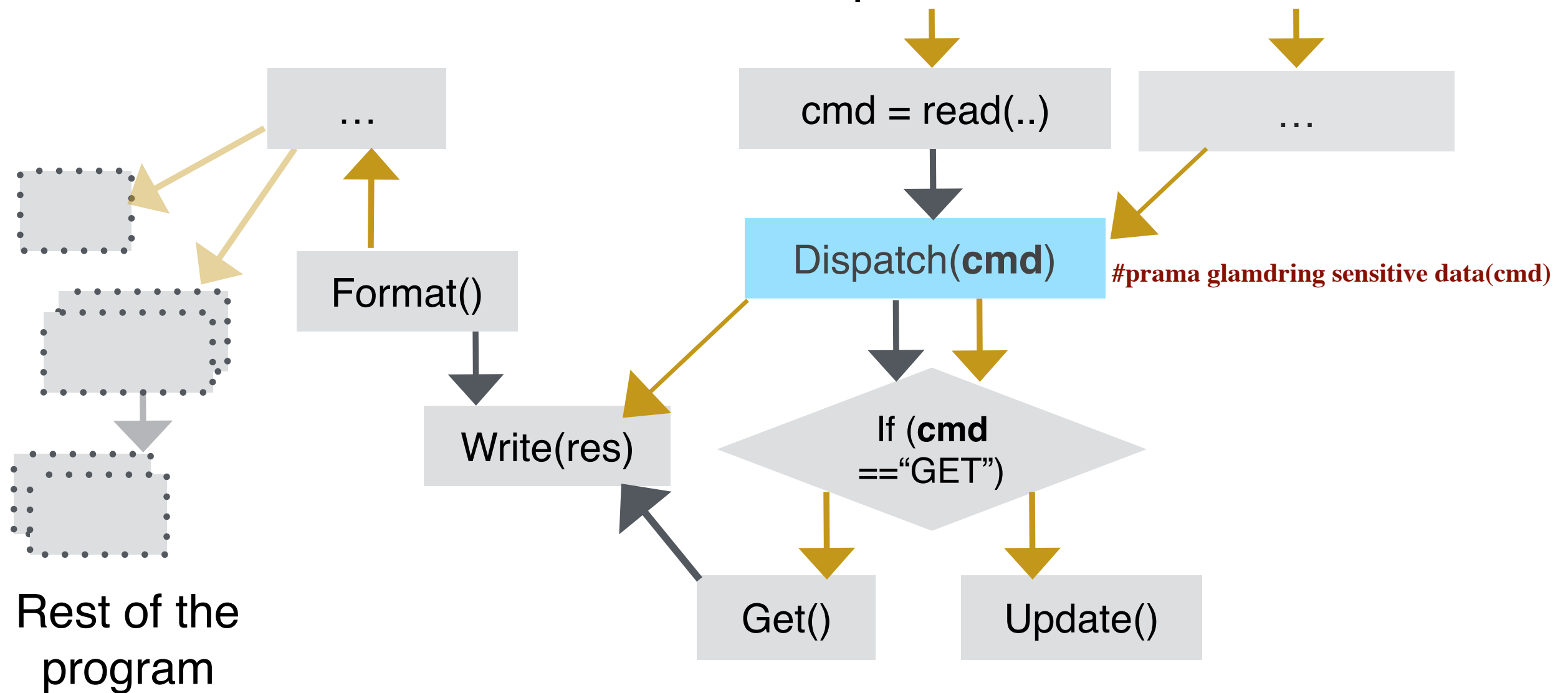
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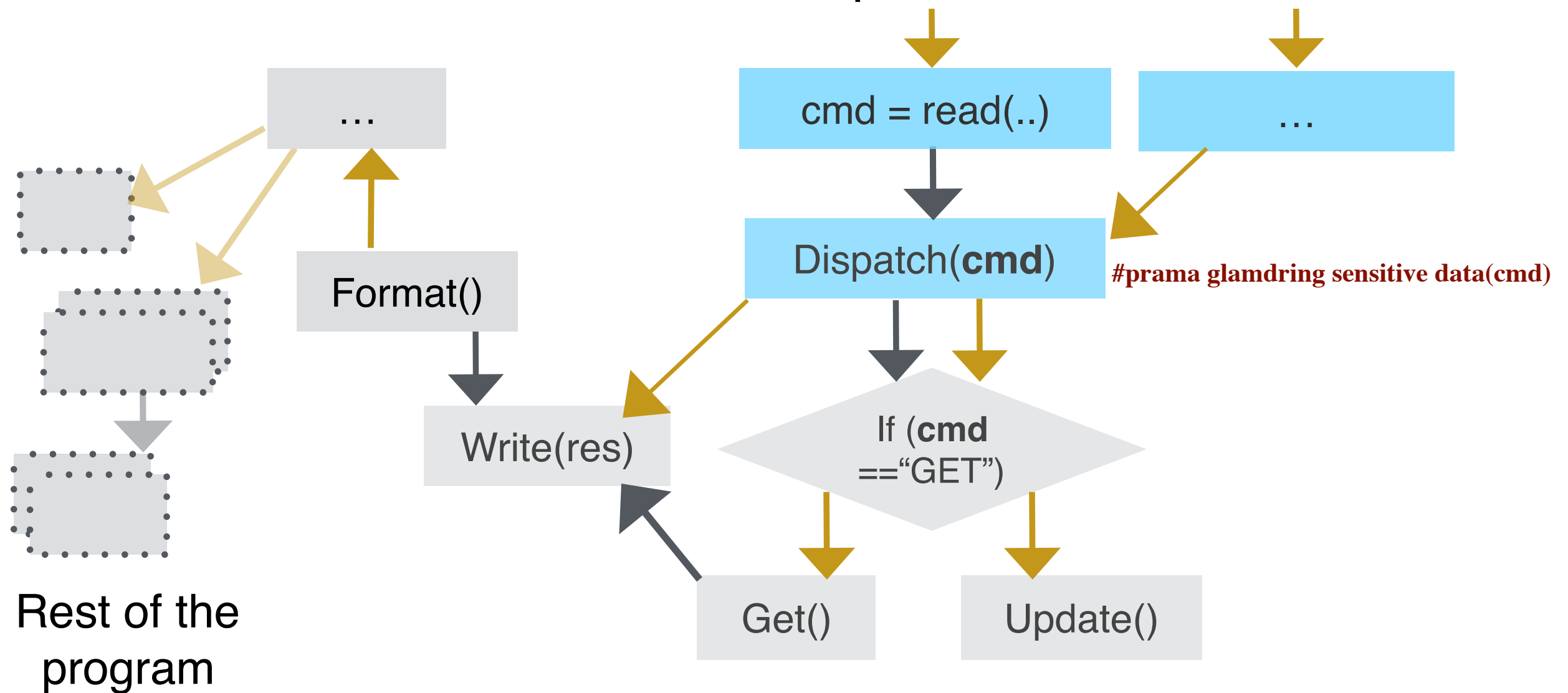
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**Integrity** Using Graph Reachability identify all nodes that are transitive control/data dependent on annotated node



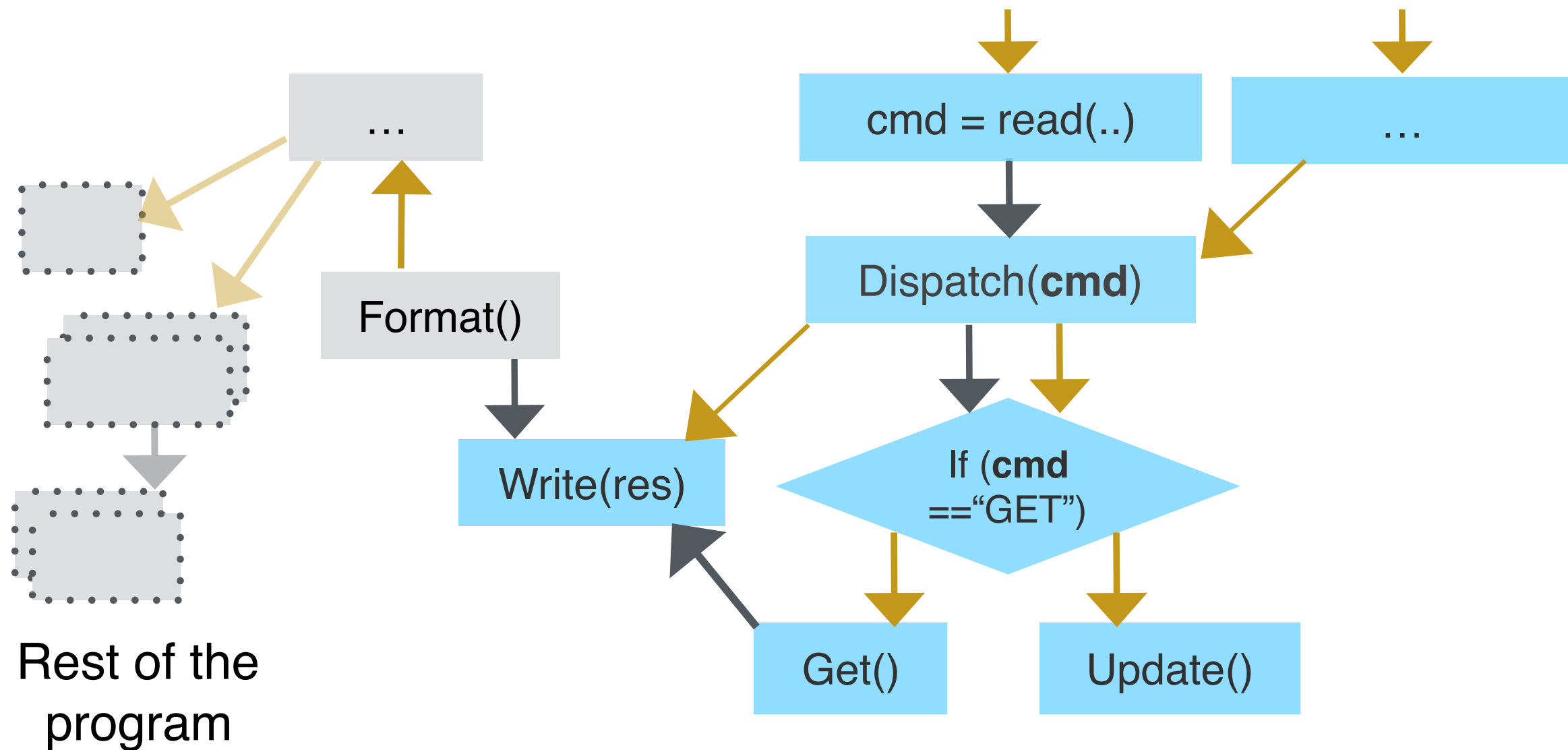
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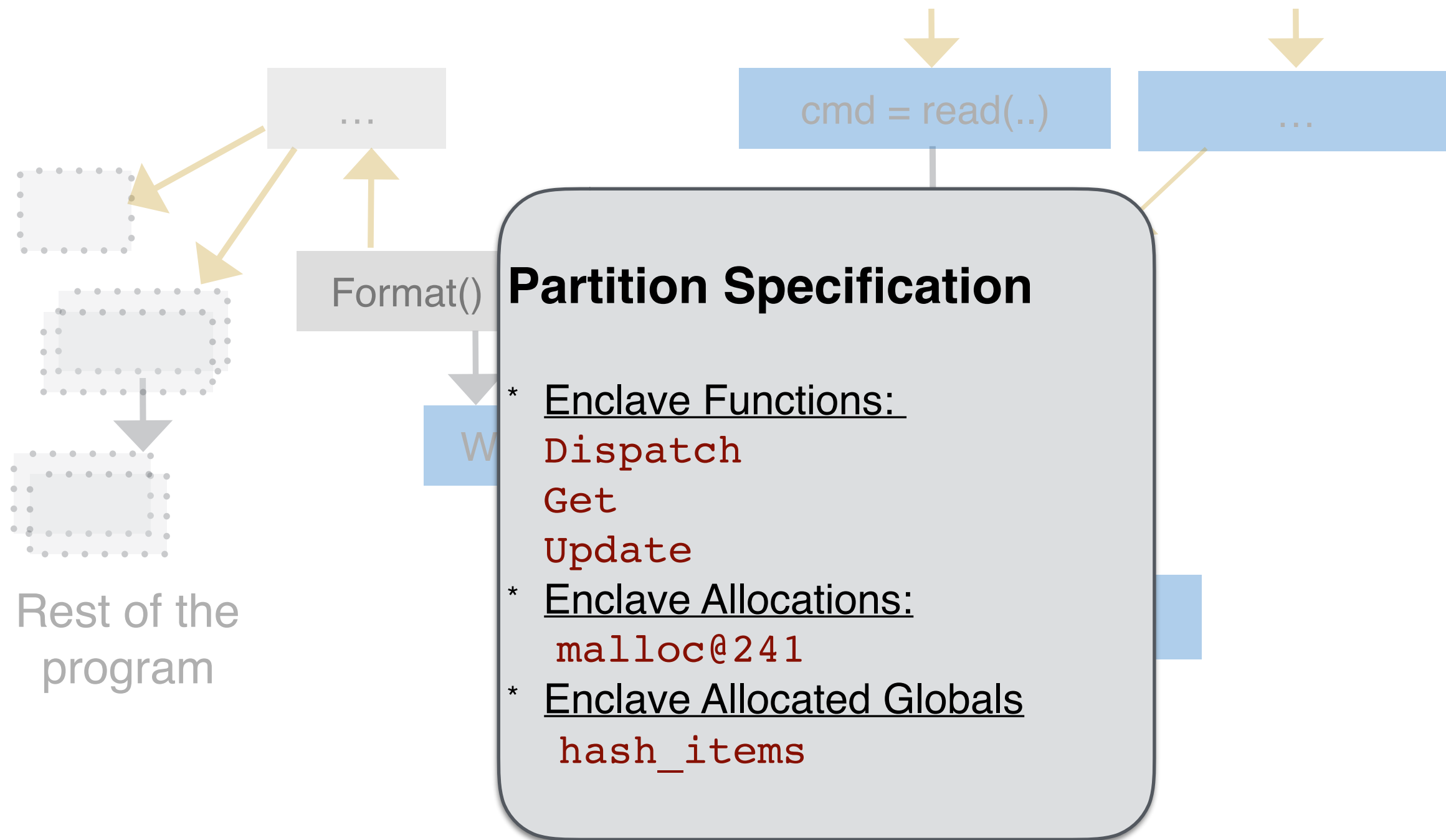


# Security Sensitive Code

**Union** of nodes found with forwards and backwards analyses



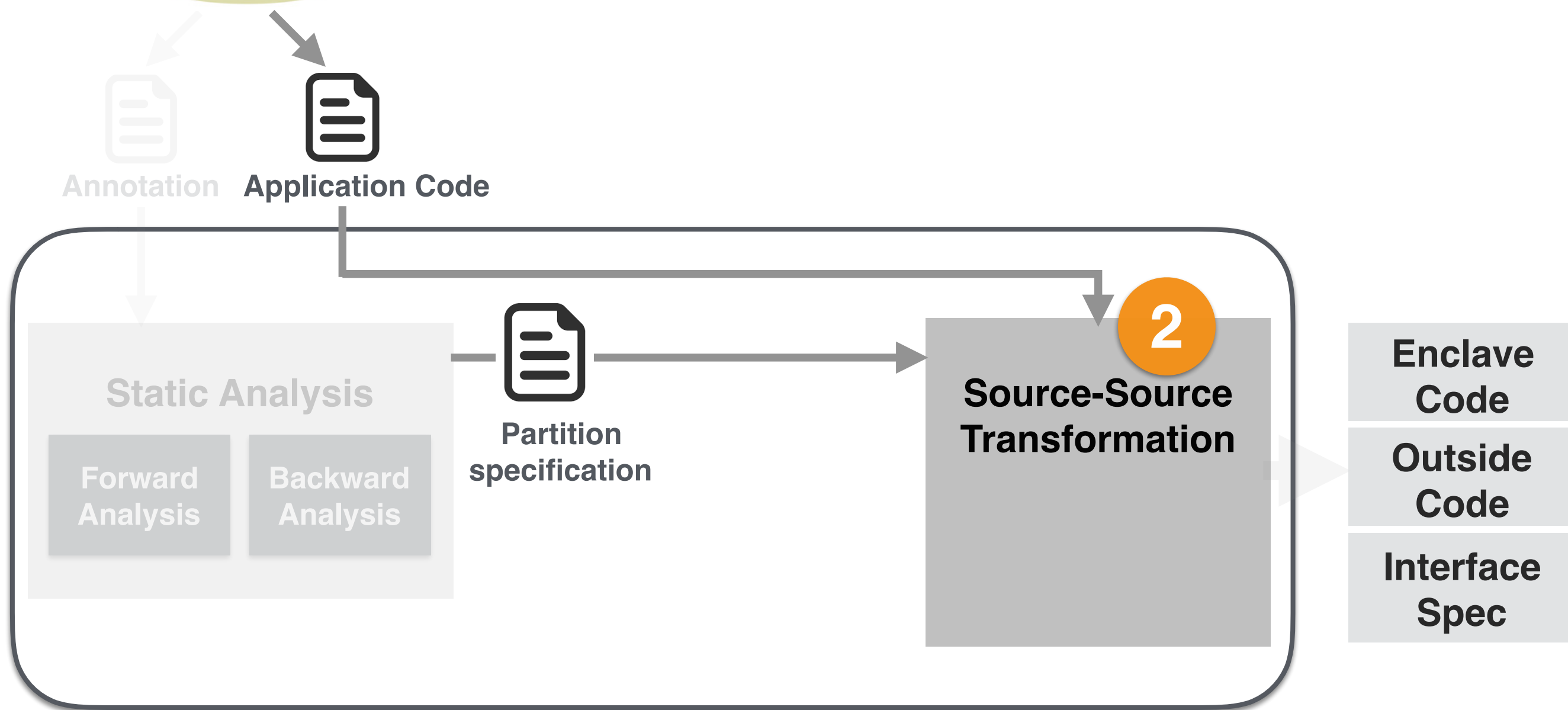
# Produce Partition Specification



## 2. Producing a Partitioned Application



Automatically move code into enclave and outside codebases; Generate interface specification for SDK



# Source-Source Transformation

## Partition Spec

- \* Enclave Functions:  
Dispatch,  
Get,  
Update
- \* Enclave Allocations:  
malloc@241
- \* Enclave Allocated Globals  
hash\_items

```
void Read(...) {  
    Dispatch();  
}  
  
void Dispatch(...) {  
    ...  
}  
  
void Get(...) {  
    ...  
}  
  
void Put(...) {  
    ...  
}
```



# Source-Source Transformation

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- \* Enclave Functions:  
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## Outside

```
void Read(...) {  
    ecall__Dispatch();  
}
```

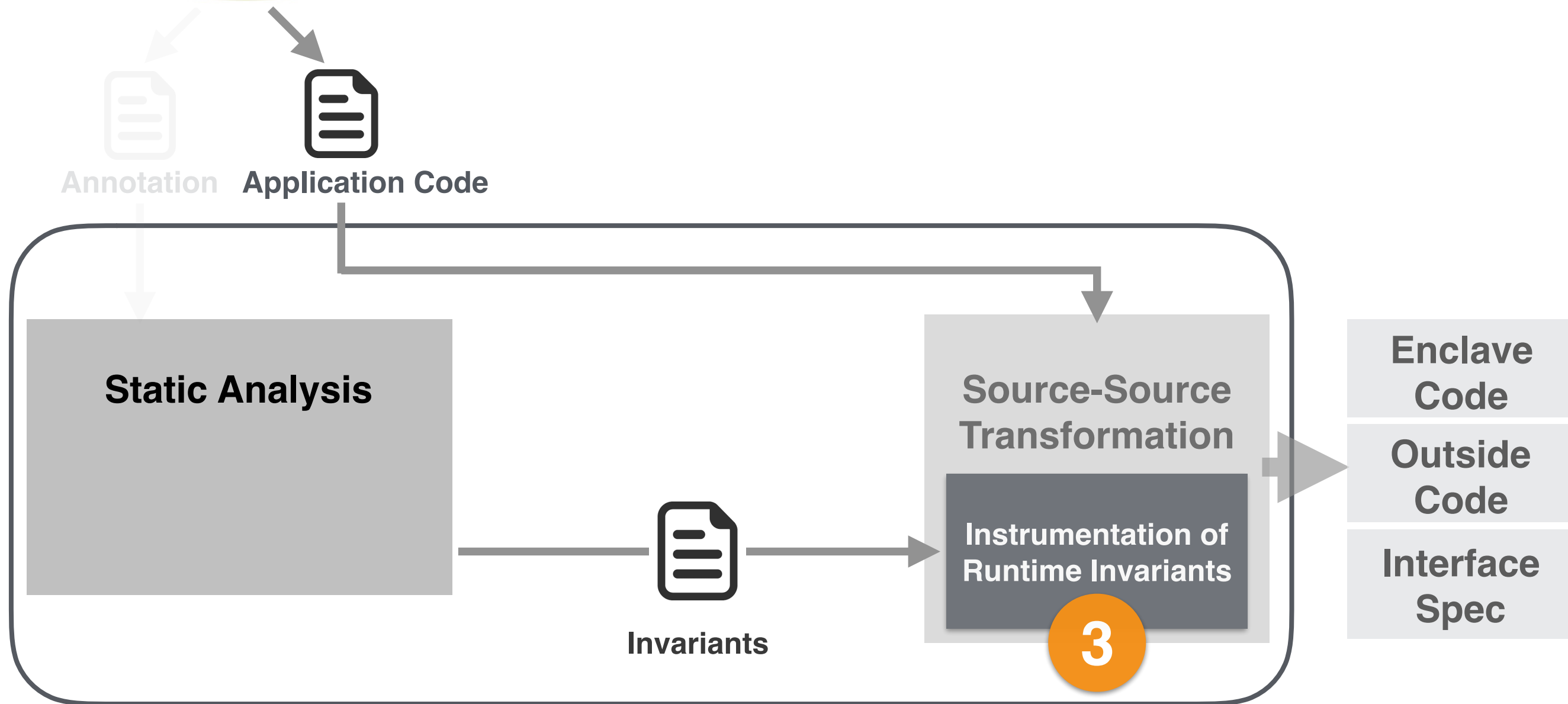
## Enclave

```
void ecall__Dispatch(...) {  
    ...  
}  
  
void Get(...) {  
    ...  
}  
  
void Put(...) {  
    ...  
}
```

# 3. Upholding Static Analysis Invariants



Ensure that invariants on program state used by the static analysis are enforced at runtime



# Infeasible Program Paths

## Problem

Static Analysis prunes infeasible paths by inferring invariants on program state

```
int flag = 0;

int SomeFunc() {
    if(flag == 1)
        memcpy(data, sensitive_data);
    else
        memcpy(data, declassify(sensitive_data));
    Write(data);
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# Violating Static Analysis Invariants

## Problem

Attacker controlling untrusted code can violate the assumptions made by static analysis after partitioning

`int flag = 0;` 

```
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}
```


**Enclave**

# Adding Runtime Invariant Checks

## Solution

Add assertions to enforce statically inferred invariants on program state

```
int flag = 0;
```



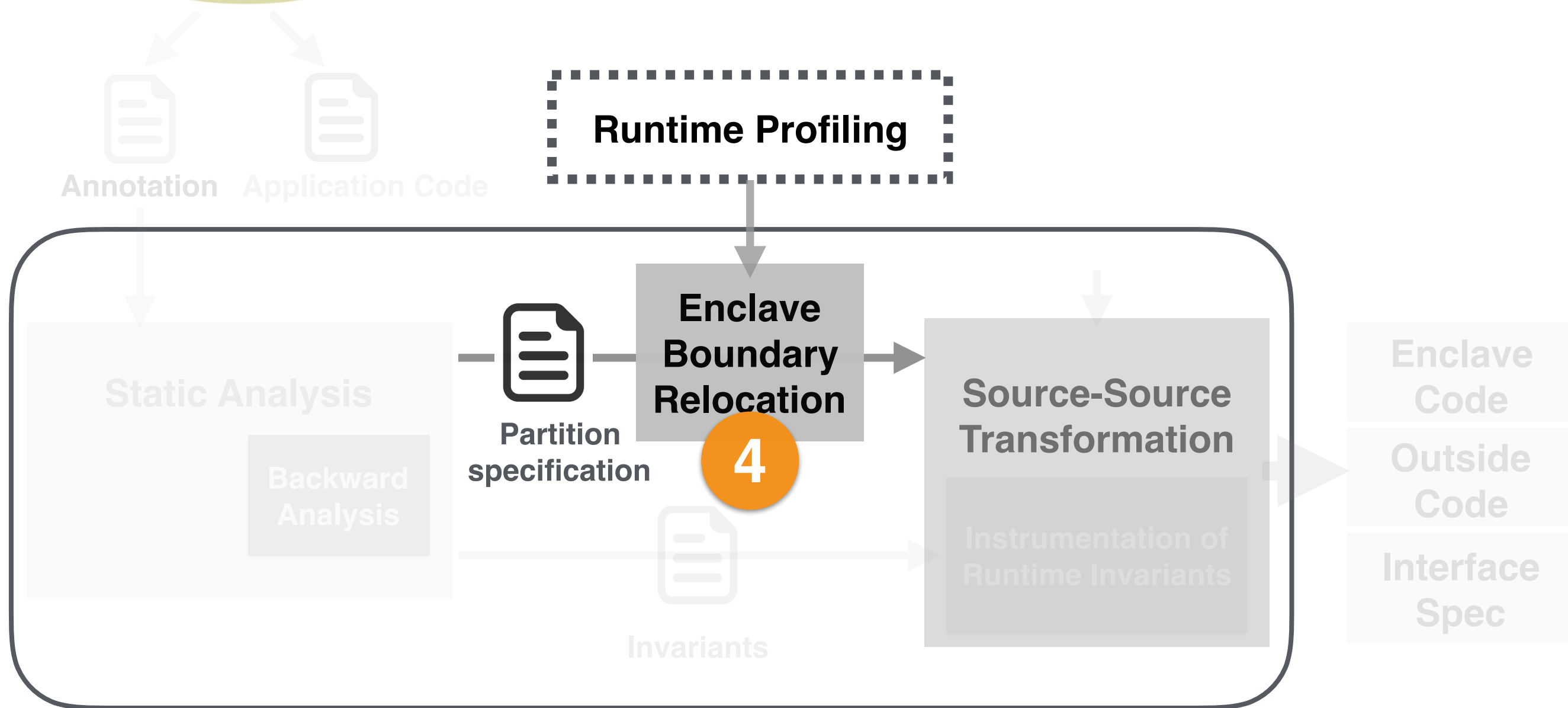
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}
```

**Enclave**

# 4. Improving Performance After Partitioning



Use results of runtime profiling to remove expensive functions from enclave interface

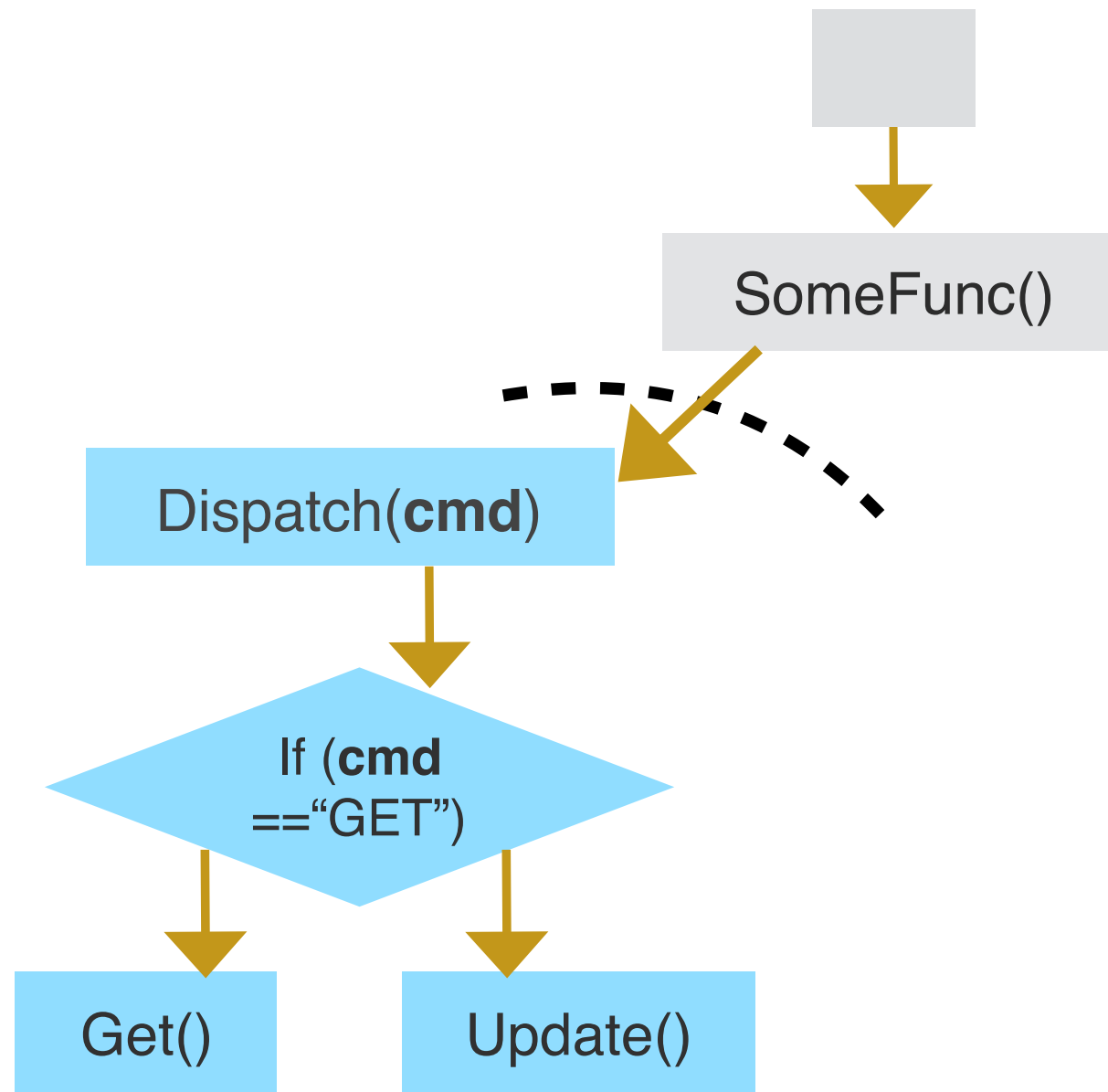




# Performance of Partitioned Applications

## Expensive Interface Functions

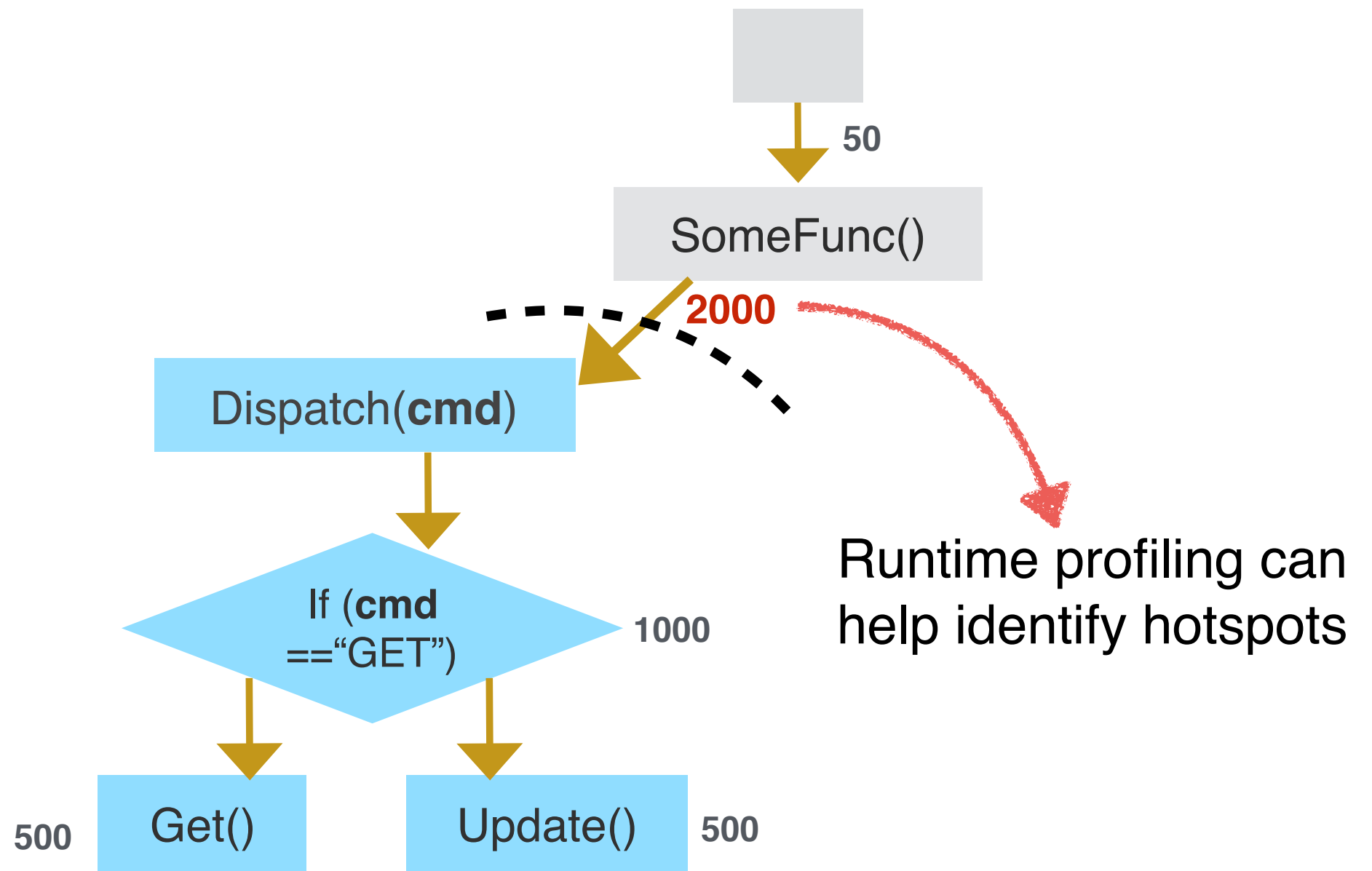
Some of the interface functions may be 'hotspots' called too frequently



# Performance of Partitioned Applications

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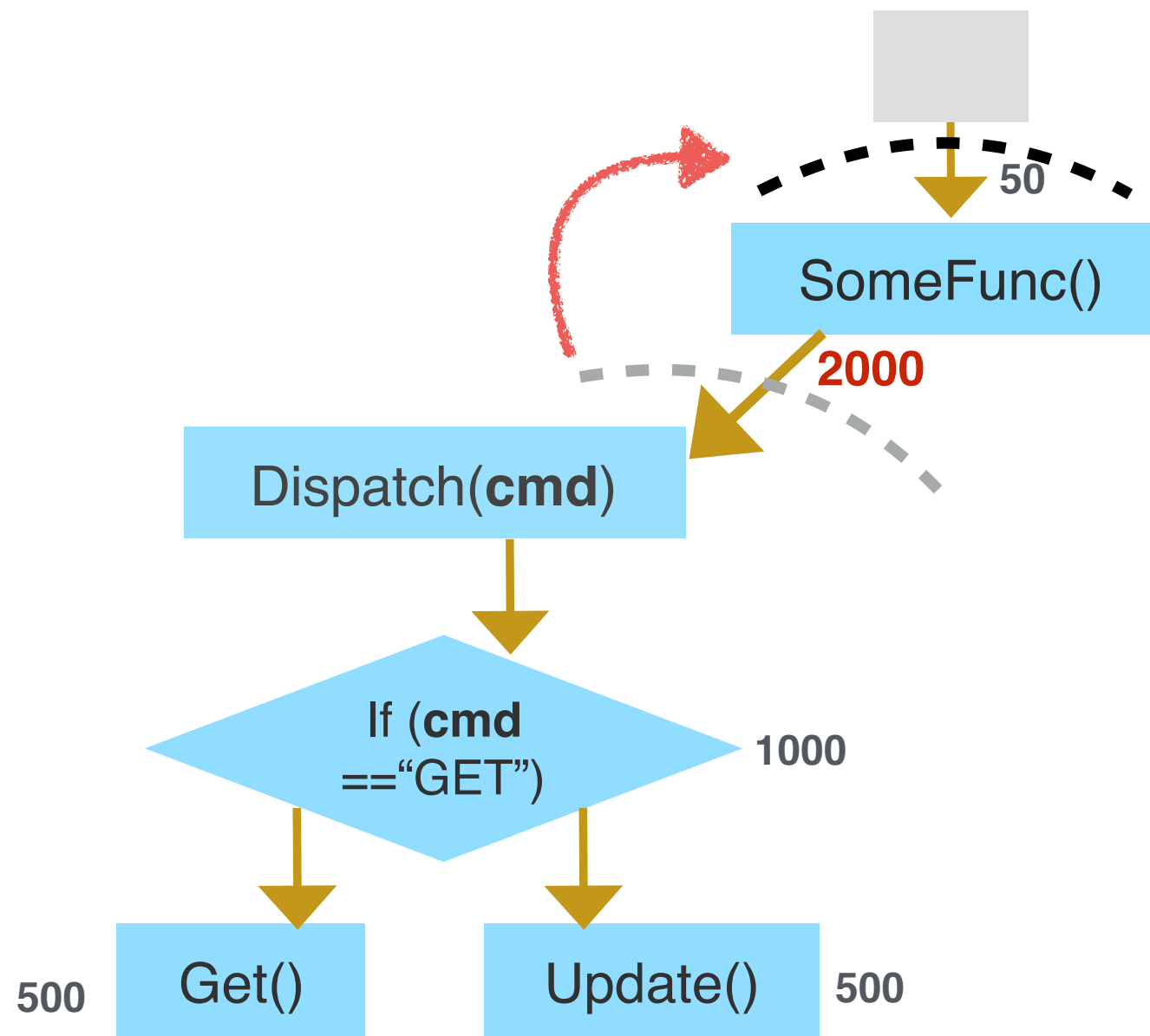
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# Enclave Boundary Relocation

## Adding Functions to Enclave

Move additional functions into enclave to create a new interface that avoid 'hotspots'



# Evaluation Goals

- **How does Glamdring compare to other design choices**
  - **Security: Size of TCB**
  - **Performance: Throughput**

# Applications and Implementation

Application	Data	Confidentiality	Integrity
Memcached	Key-Value pairs	Yes	Yes
LibreSSL	CA Root certificate	Yes	Yes
Digital Bitbox	Private Keys	Yes	Yes

## Implementation

- **Static Analysis:**
  - Existing tools
- **Code Generation:**
  - LLVM/Clang 3.9 — around 5000 LoC

# Security Evaluation - TCB size

How big is the TCB of applications?

Applications	Code Size (kLoC)	TCB size
Memcached	31	12 ( <b>40%</b> )
DigitalBitbox	23	8 ( <b>38%</b> )
LibreSSL	176	38 ( <b>22%</b> )

TCB is less than 40% of the application size

# Security Evaluation - TCB size

TCB size comparison with Graphene and SCONE

Applications	TCB size (kLoC)	Binary Size
Memcached (Glamdring)	42	770 kB
Memcached (SCONE)	149	3.3 MB
Memcached (Graphene)	746	4.1 MB

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1/3 size of TCB when using SCONE





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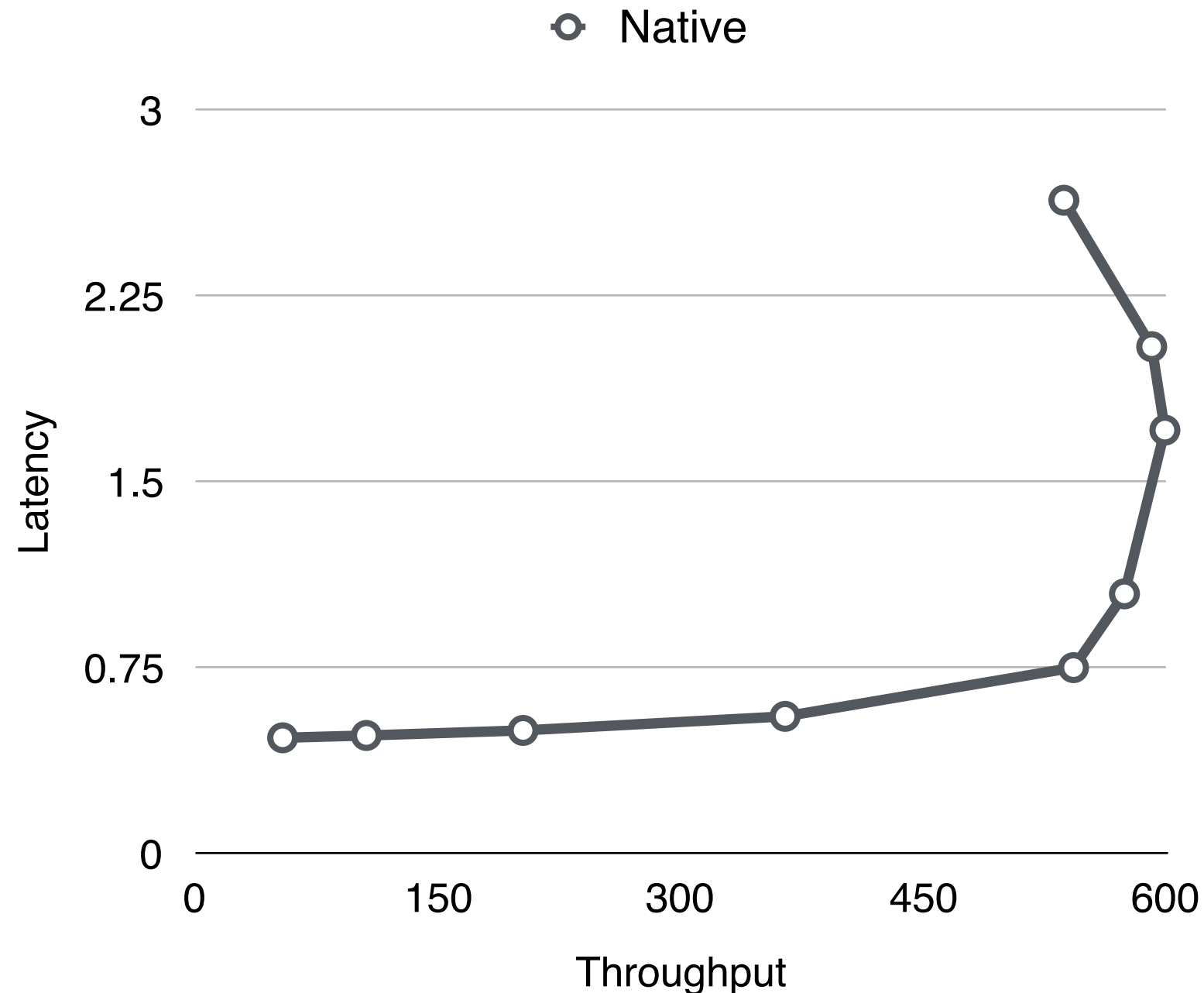
Order of magnitude less than with Graphene

# Comparing Performance of Design Approaches

Throughput of Memcached ported using Glamdring  
with native, SCONE and Graphene

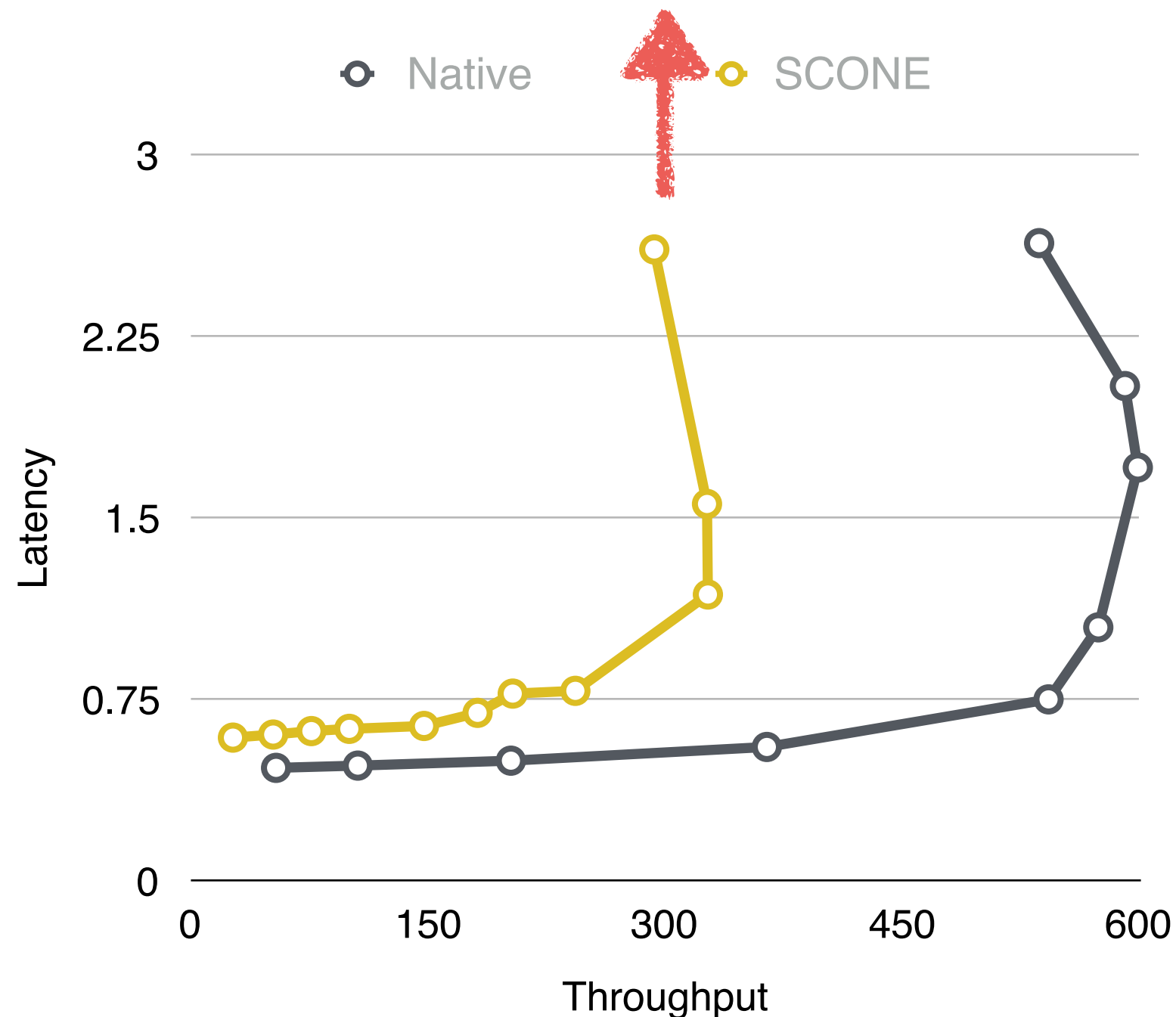
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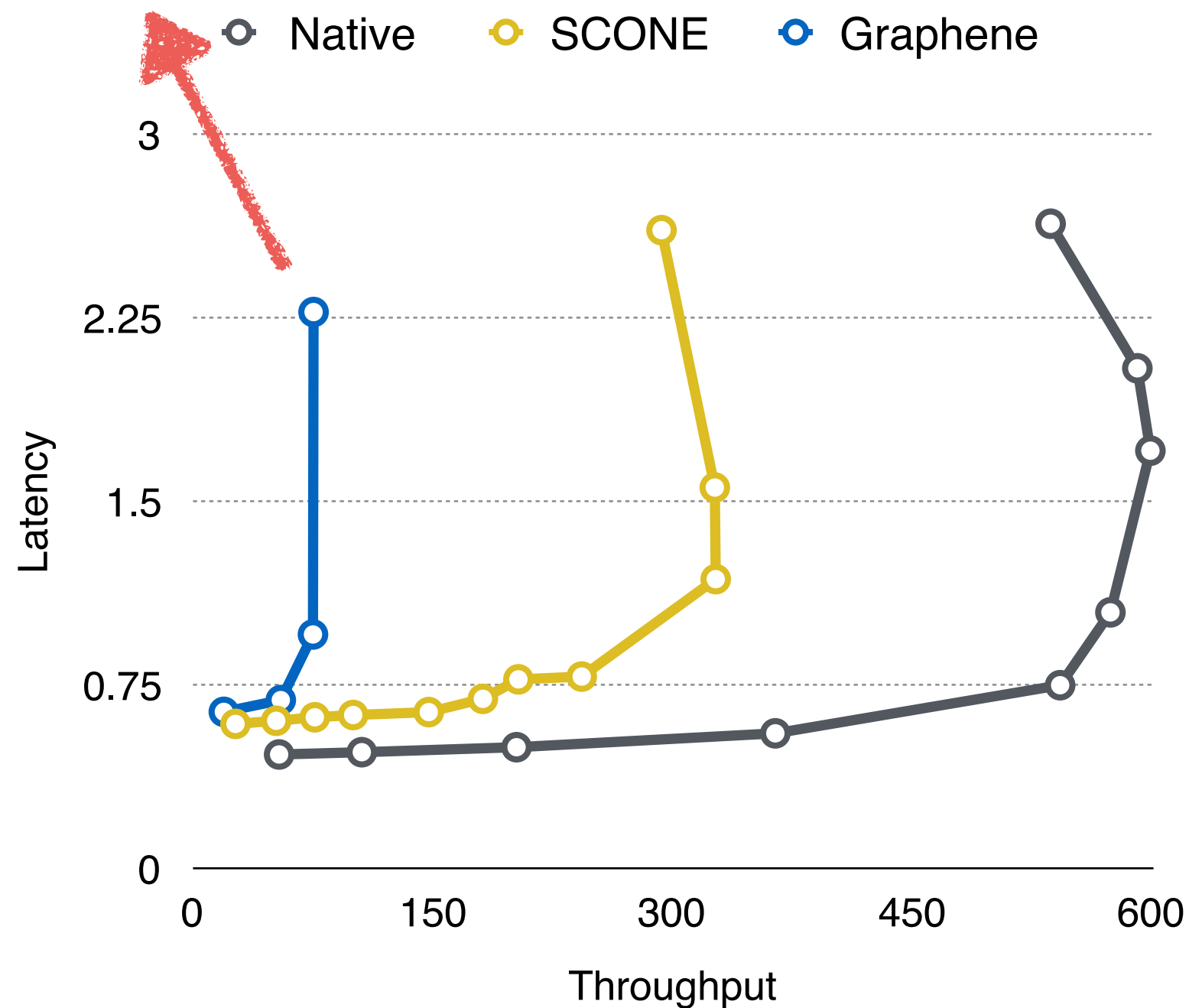
# Throughput vs Latency

Avoids enclave transitions with user-level threading;  
higher TCB than Glamdring

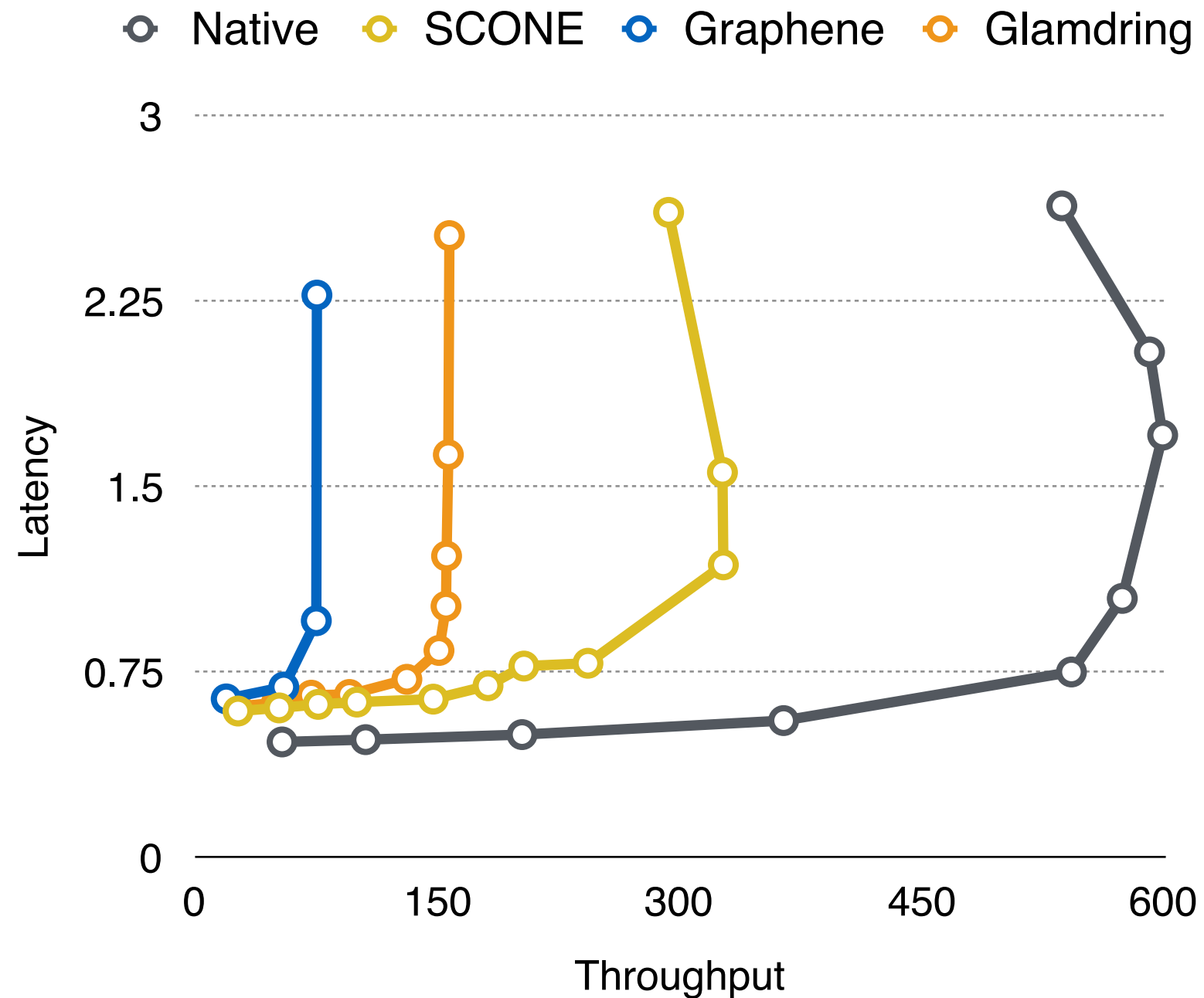


# Throughput vs Latency

Entire Library OS inside enclave

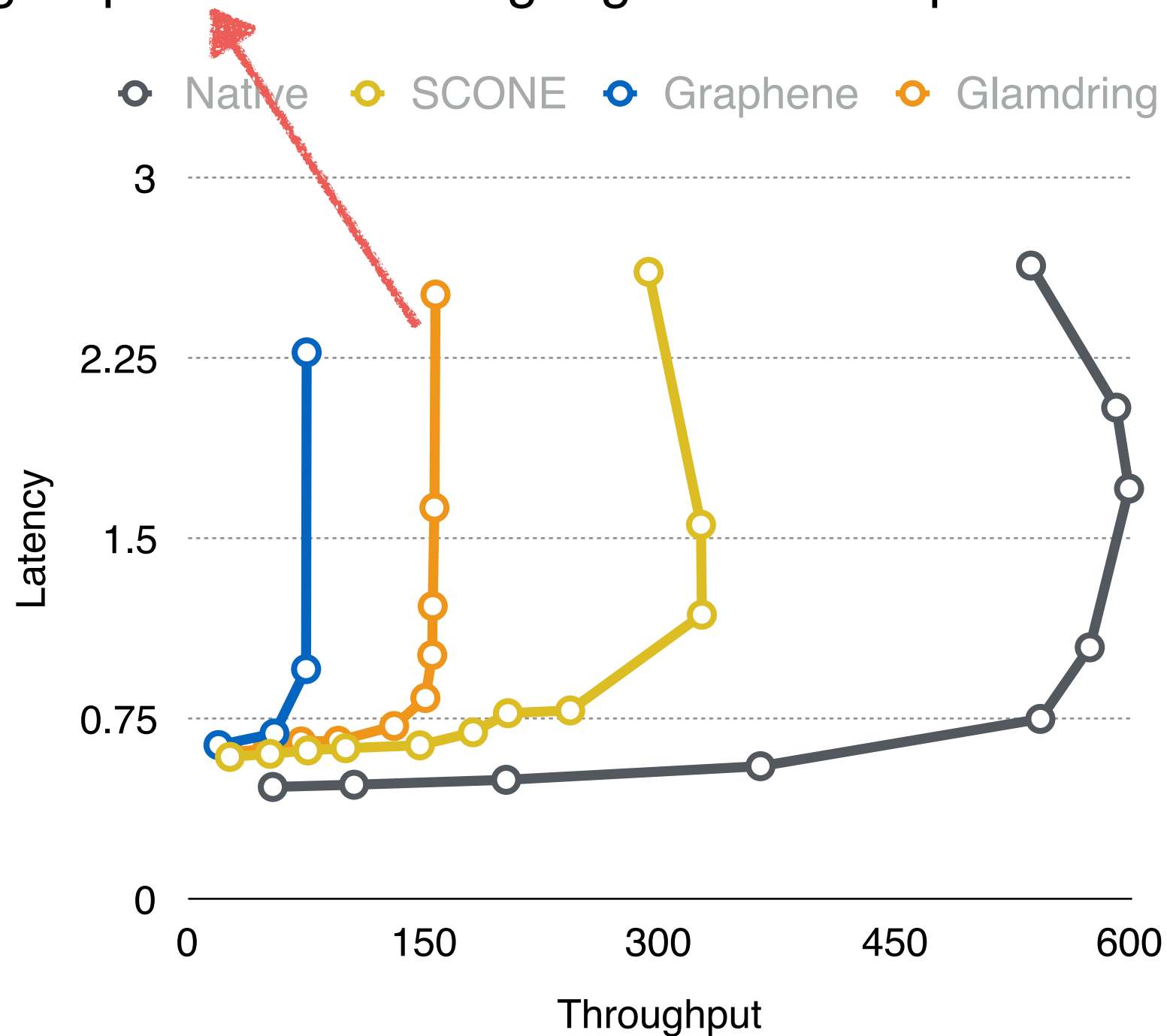


# Throughput vs Latency



# Throughput vs Latency

Enclave transitions dominate the cost of request handling;  
batching requests into multi-get gets 210k req/sec



# Conclusions

- Port applications into Intel SGX enclaves with minimal TCB
- **Glamdring** — Automated program partitioning using static analysis
  - Identifies minimum TCB, produces partitioned code, enforces program state invariants, uses
- Evaluated three applications - smaller TCB than prior approaches with acceptable performance



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# Security Evaluation - Attacks and Defences

- **Enclave Call Ordering Attacks:** By construction. EBR does not affect this.
- **lago Attacks:** By enforcing invariants
- **Replay Attacks:** Freshness counter
- **Enclave Code Vulnerabilities:** TCB is reduced — enables code analysis

# Evaluation - Impact of EBR

How many functions were moved into the enclave, and what was the impact on enclave crossings

Application	EBR Enclave Functions	Enclave Crossings (No EBR)	Enclave Crossings (With EBR)
Memcached	1	54	6
LibreSSL	2	24,780	6727
Digital Bitbox	4	10,943	38

# Evaluation - Impact of EBR

Even **few functions** inside....

reduced enclave crossings by orders of magnitude

Application	EBR Enclave Functions	Enclave Crossings (No EBR)	Enclave Crossings (With EBR)
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