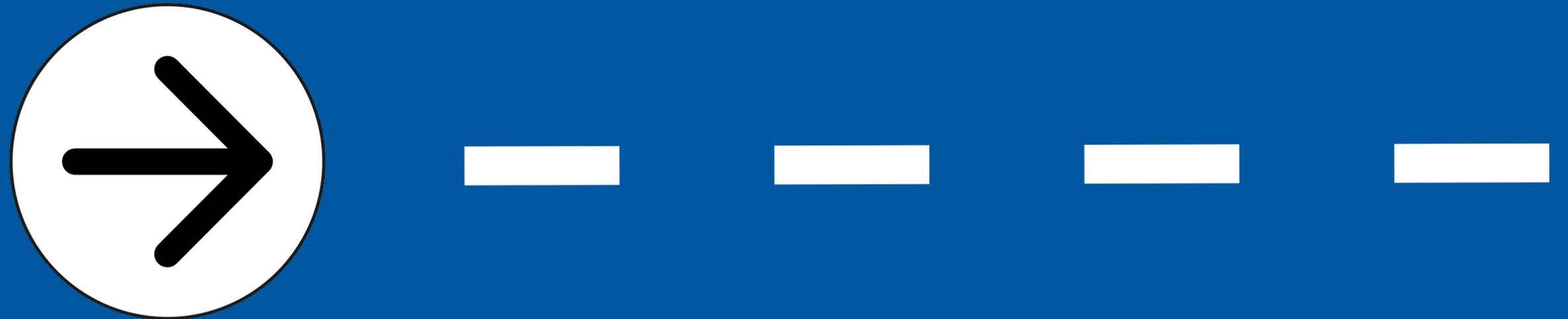


# Ingka's Observability Journey

Timothy Mahoney  
Senior Systems Engineer  
Ikea Retail



London Observability Engineering Meetup  
February 27, 2025

**INGKA<sup>®</sup>**

# Hej!

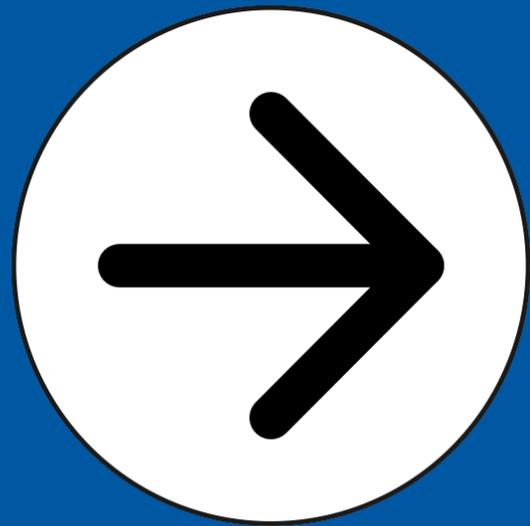
# Operational Intelligence

219000  
Coworkers



479 Stores  
45.1 Billion  
Euro

## Observability Enablement



# Observability Journey



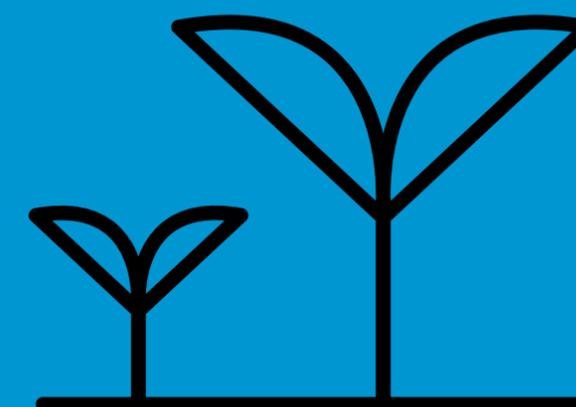
How do we stay relevant to our stakeholders?



How do we grow in maturity?



How do we avoid drowning in technical debt?



# A little history...

Ingka Group  
IKEA Retail

1982



# Security Incident and Event Management

## Security Tooling

Collect as many logs as possible.  
With great data comes great insight.



A platform  
looking for a  
purpose

Junk drawer for  
unstructured  
data



Write once read  
never database

Open ended use  
case for  
ingesting data

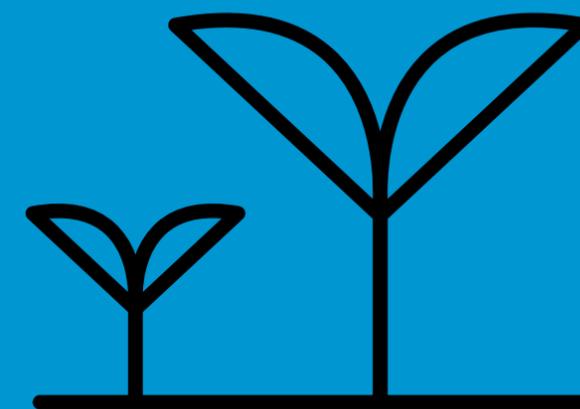
# Challenges in Maturity

Silos and  
Correlation  
Issues

Metrics as  
Logs as  
Metrics

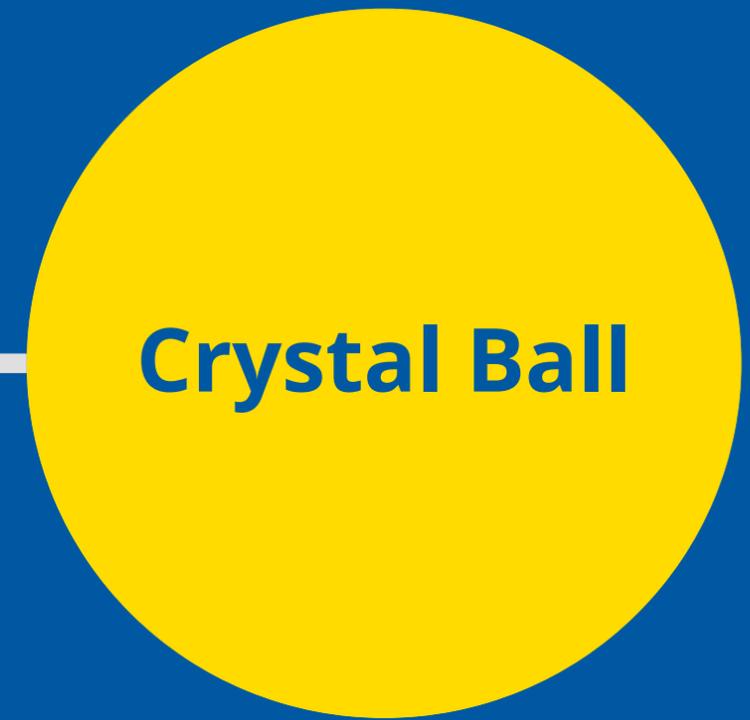
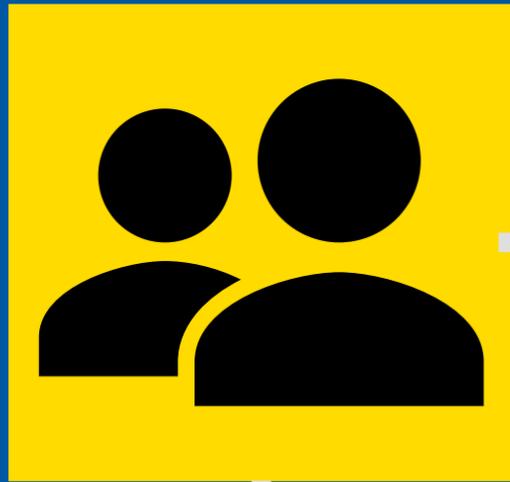
Function  
synonymous  
with Tooling

Dunning  
Kruger

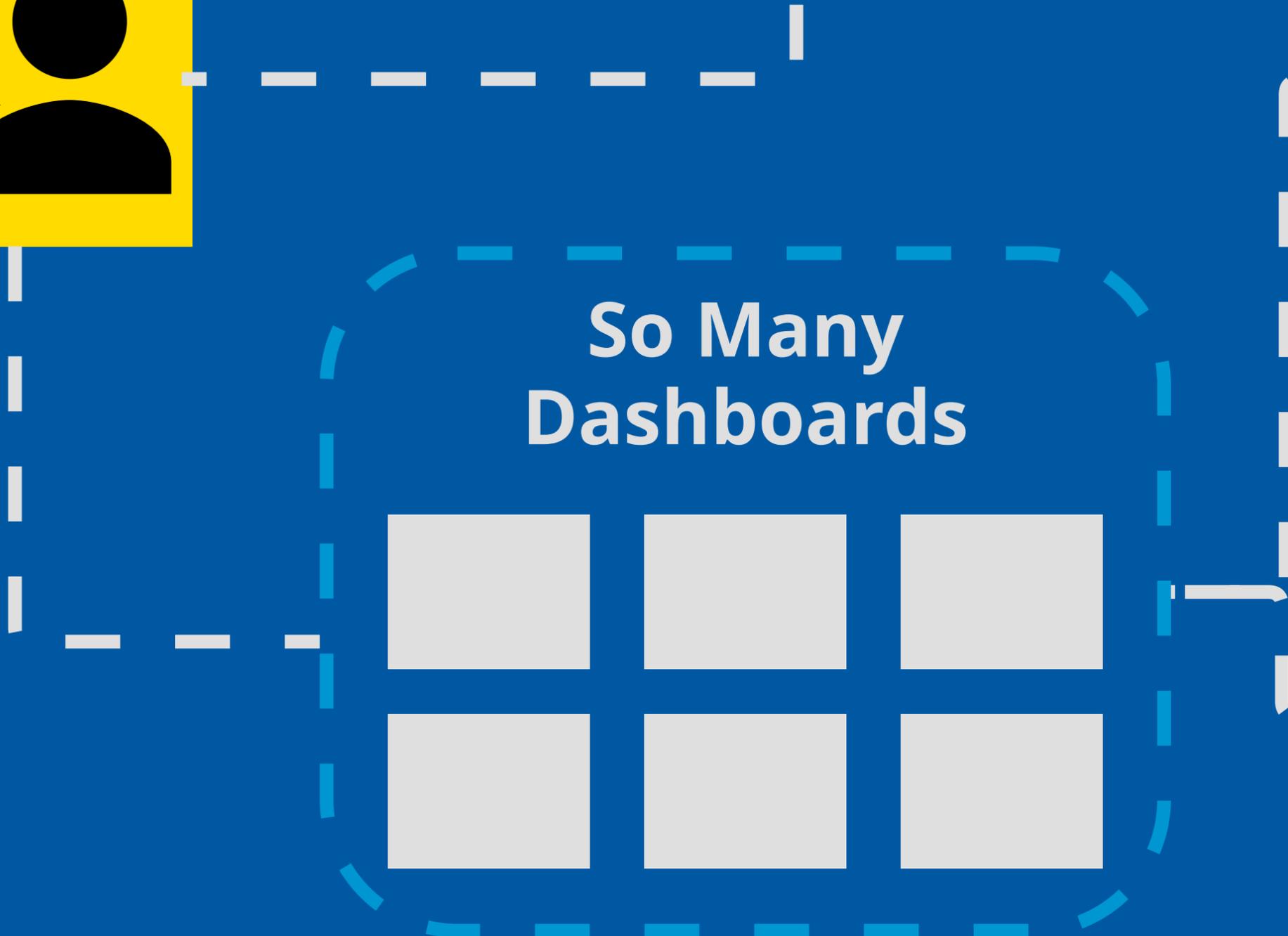


# Flygtorget

Control Tower View



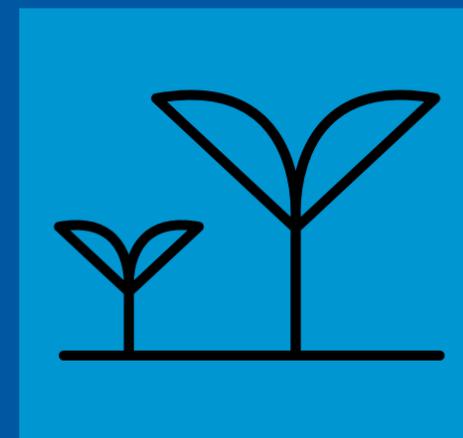
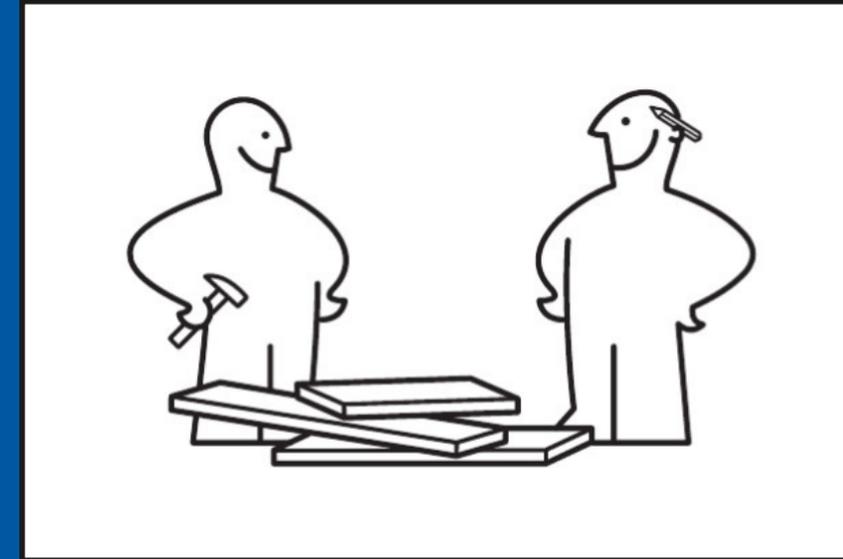
So Many  
Dashboards



**Observability  
Framework**

**Observability  
ADRs**

**Observability  
1.0**



# Aligning with OpenTelemetry

**Collector**

**Semantic  
Conventions**

**Data  
Model**

**Mandatory  
attributes**

**Data Ownership and  
Democratised Data**

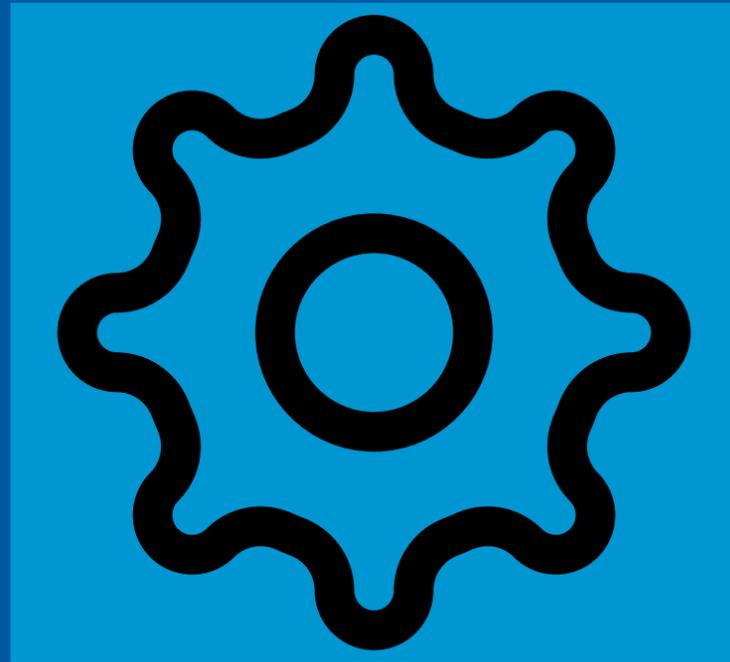
**Single Sources  
of Truth**

**Structured  
Events**

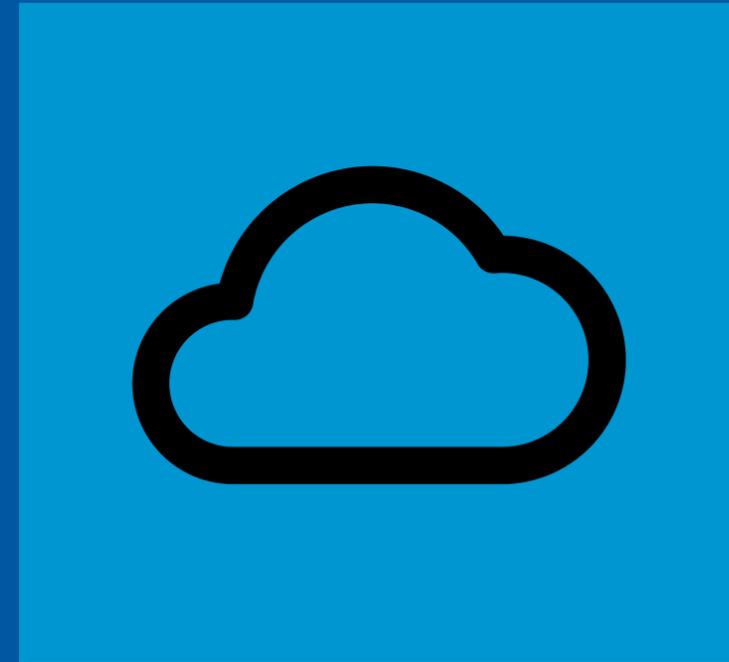
**Business  
Glossary**

**System Master  
Catalog**

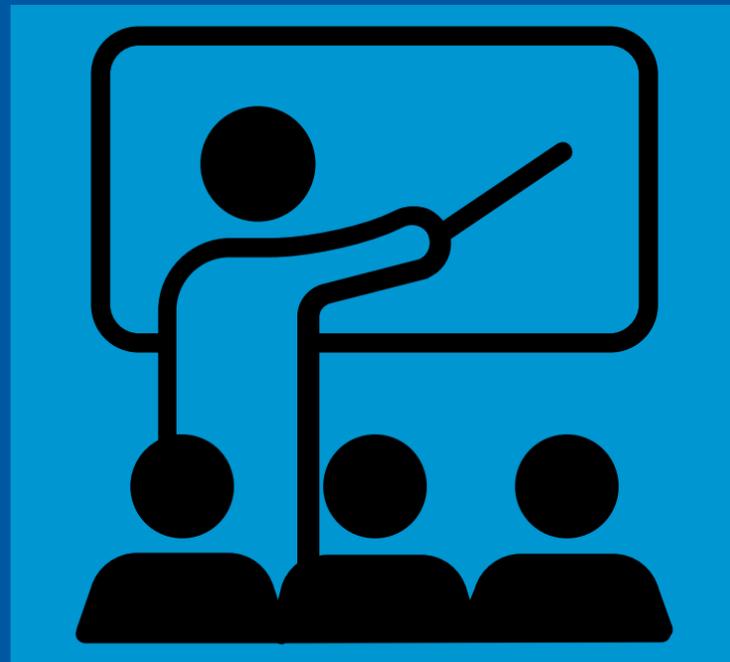




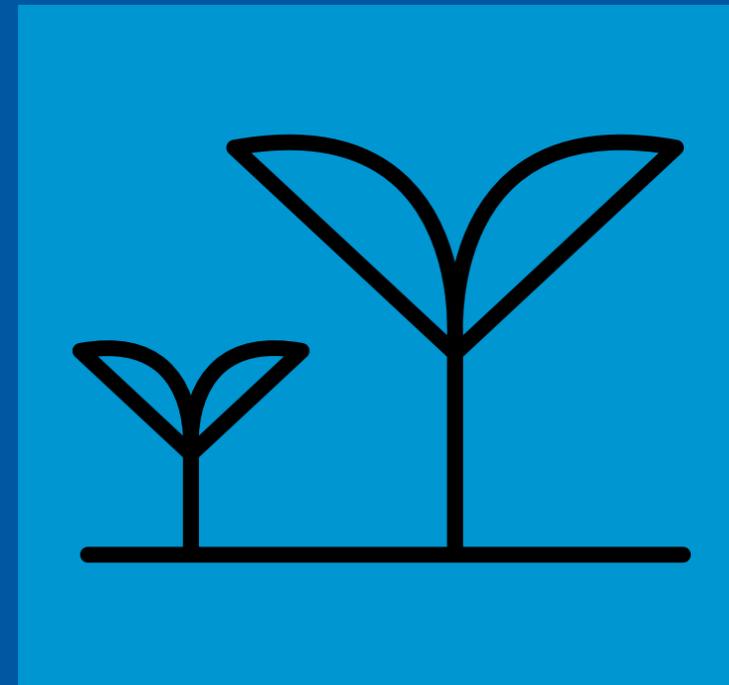
**Engineering Baseline**



**Native Clouders**



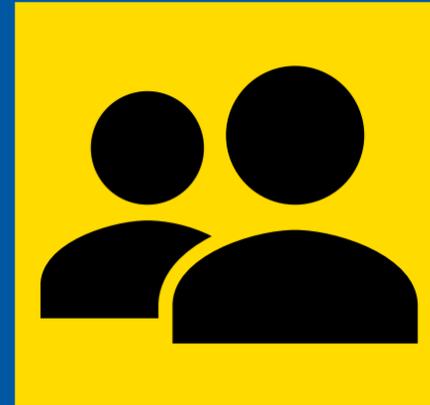
**ADR Workshops**



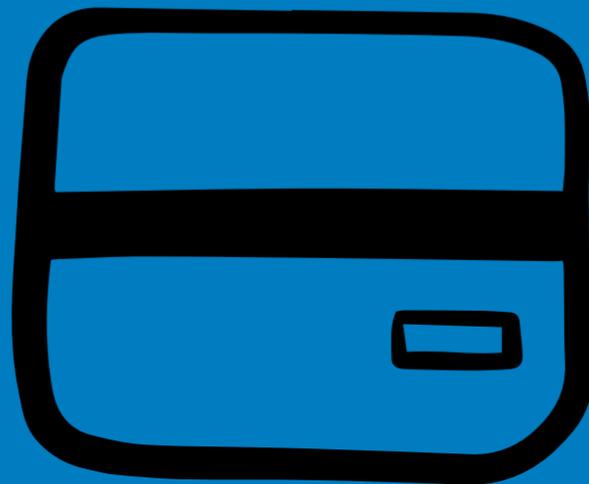
**Availability**



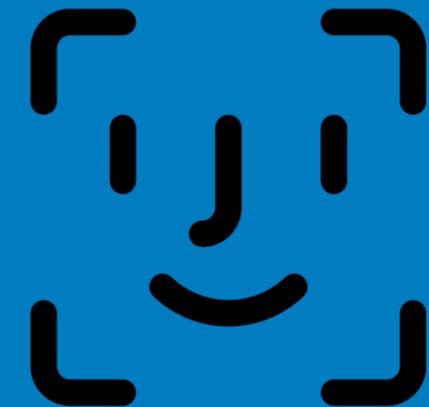
**Order Flow**



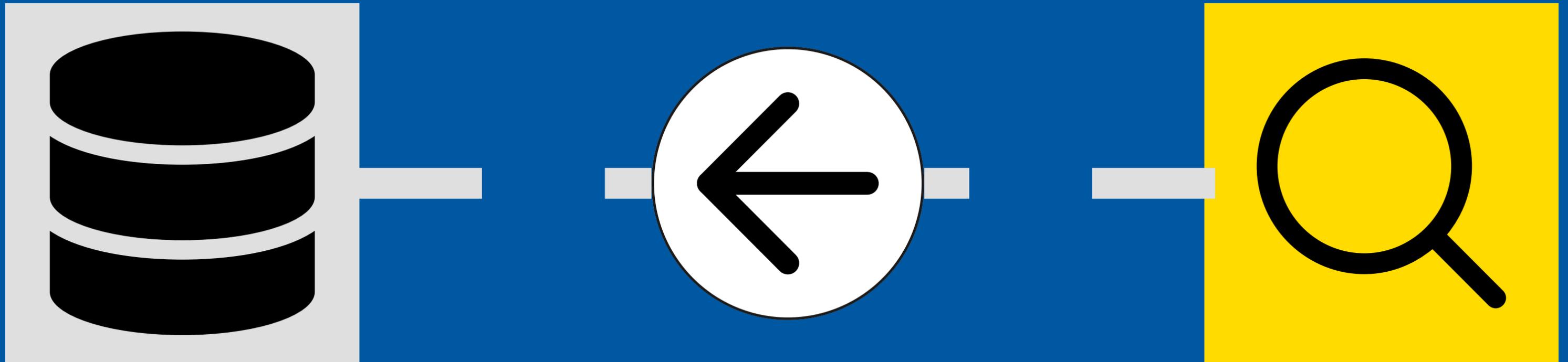
**Payment**



**Privacy**



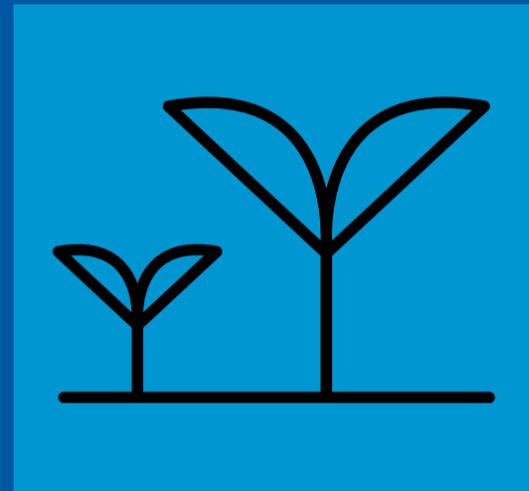
# Data Observability



# Pillars of Data Observability

- **Quality**
- **Schema**
- **Lineage**
- **Freshness**
- **Volume**

Events can  
be fragile!



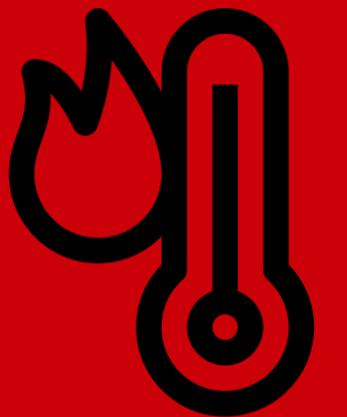
**Most things still remain to be  
done - glorious future!**

-Ingvar Kamprad

# Towards O11y 3.0

Observability is the process through which one develops the ability to ask meaningful questions, get useful answers, and act effectively on what you learn.

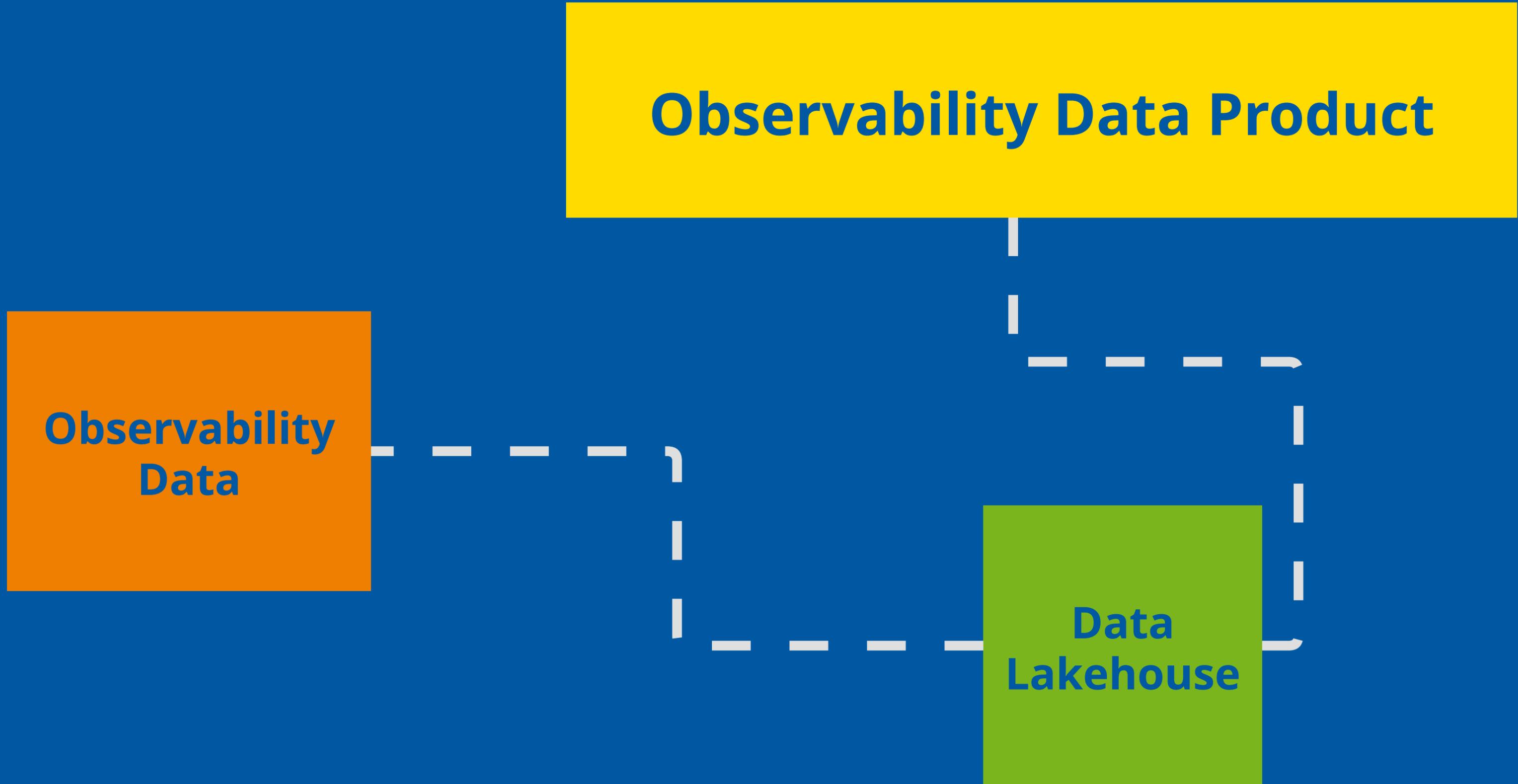
– Hazel Weakly



# Observability Data Product

Observability  
Data

Data  
Lakehouse

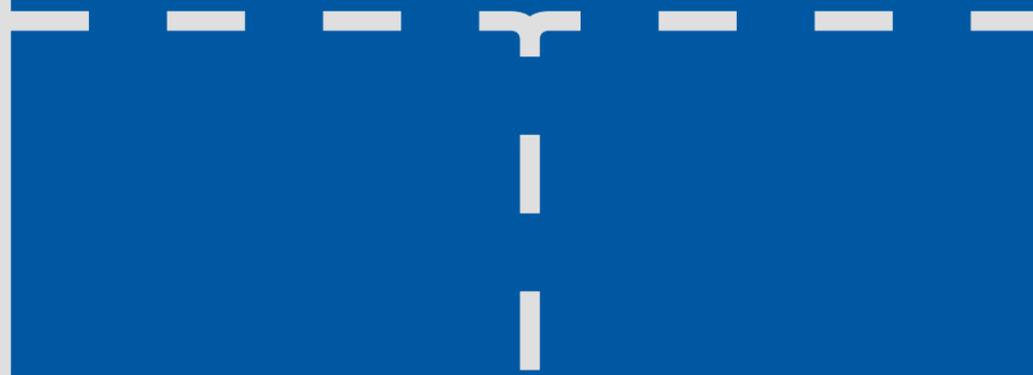


# Schema Driven Observability

**OpenTelemetry  
Semantic  
Conventions**

**Ingka/IKEA  
Schema**

**OpenTelemetry  
Weaver and  
Resolved  
Schema**



Loosely Coupled  
Systems not  
undocumented  
hobby fixes.

A common data  
platform instead  
of clunky  
integrations to  
the tooling.

"Giga-chad scale  
json parser with  
a fancy search  
engine"



The future of Observability is secured through the engagement of the organisation and not solely the engineers.

How many Billy  
bookshelves is  
that?

**Data Contracts**



**OpenTelemetry Weaver and Resolved Schema**

**Structured Events**



**Data Mesh with External Consumers**

**Coherent Examples from Instrumentation to Collection to Visualisation to Alerting**

**Tack!**