SPIDER WEB SYSTEMS

a presentation by
W H Inmon
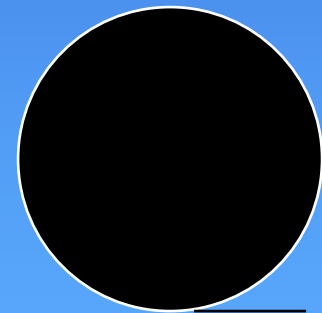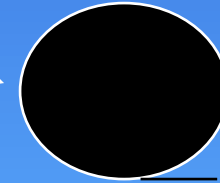
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in the beginning there was paper tape

then there were punched cards
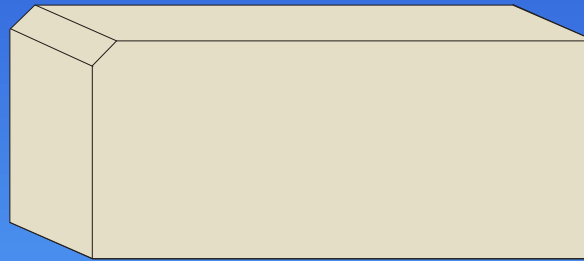
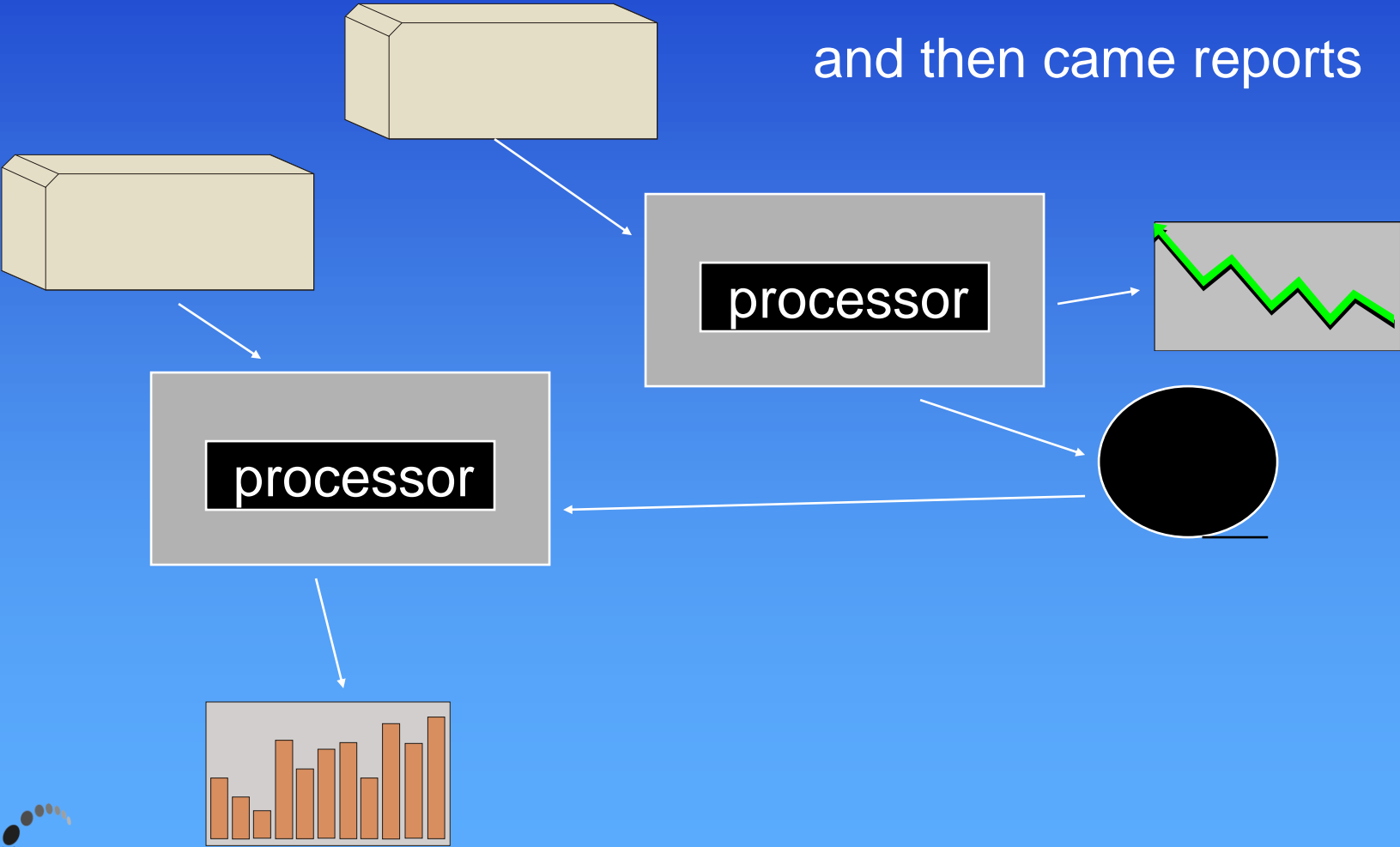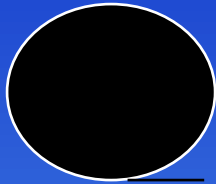then there was magnetic tape

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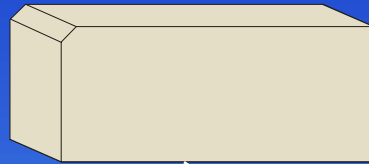
processor

then came
batch processing
and master files

and then came reports

processor
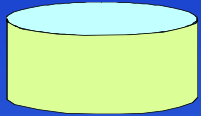
processor

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but it turned out that there were major problems with magnetic tape as the predominant storage media

- oxide fell off the tapes
- to get to 1 record you had to access 100% of all records
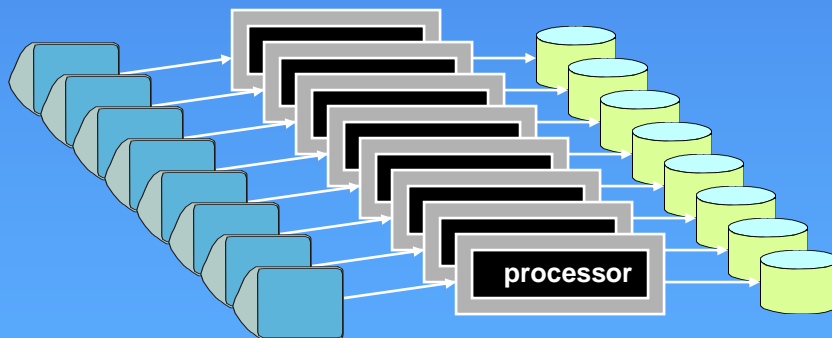
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soon magnetic disk storage replaced disk storage
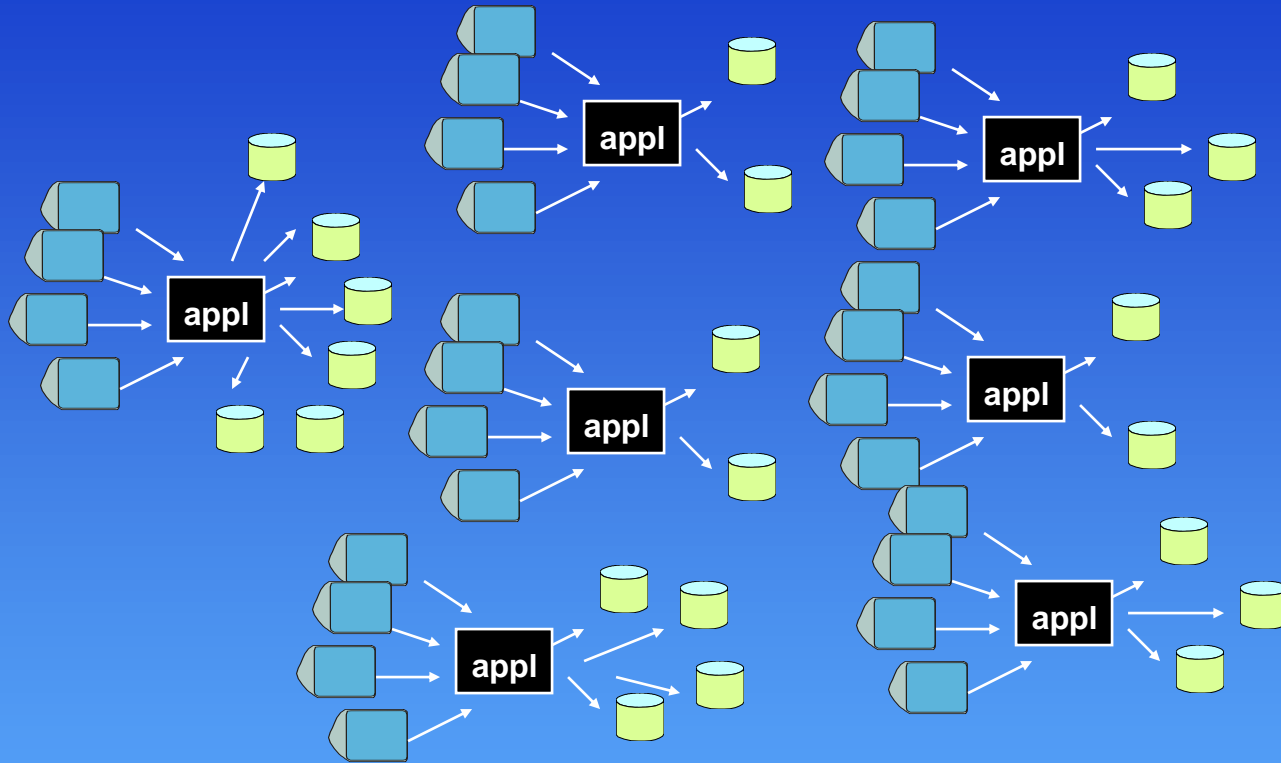
with disk storage, data could be accessed directly

processor

and with the advent of dbms,
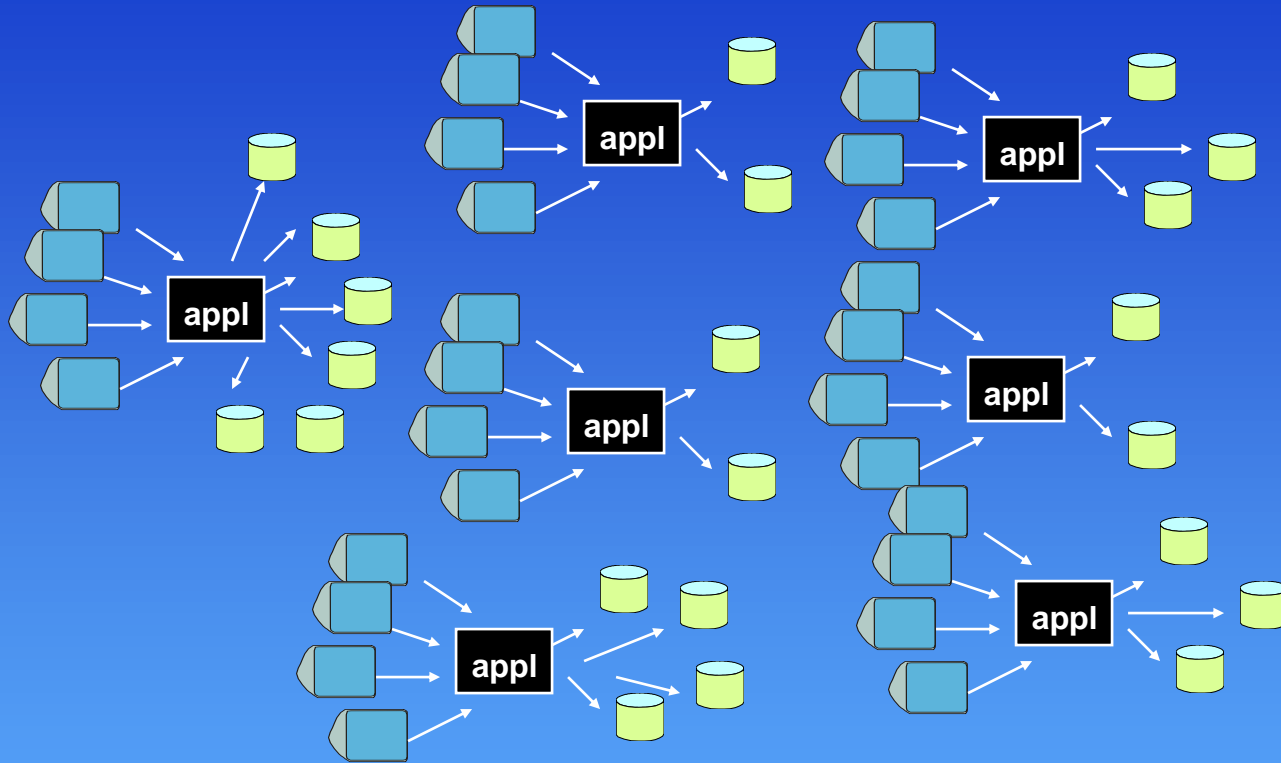online applications were born

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soon online applications
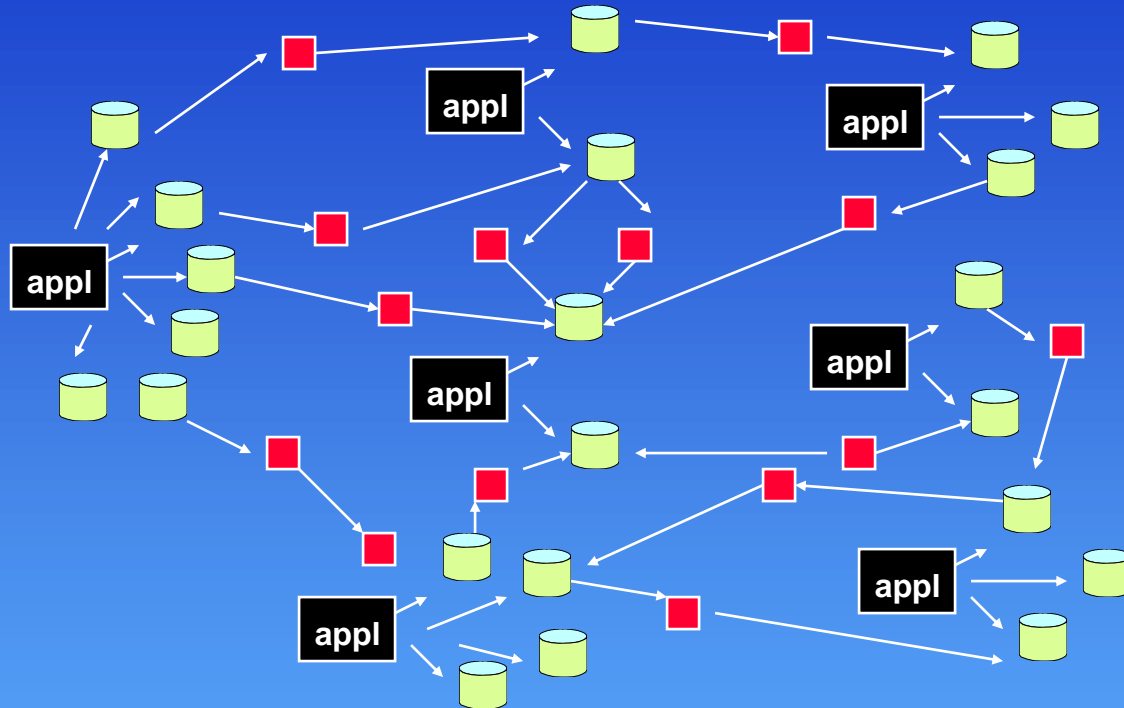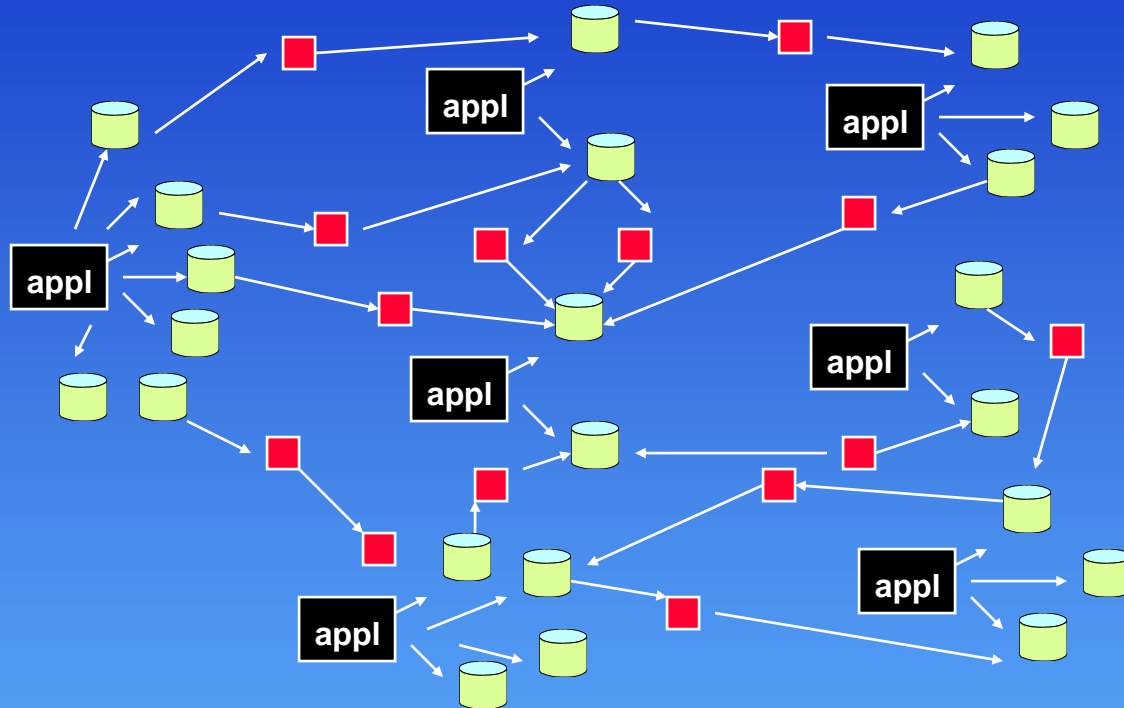sprang up everywhere

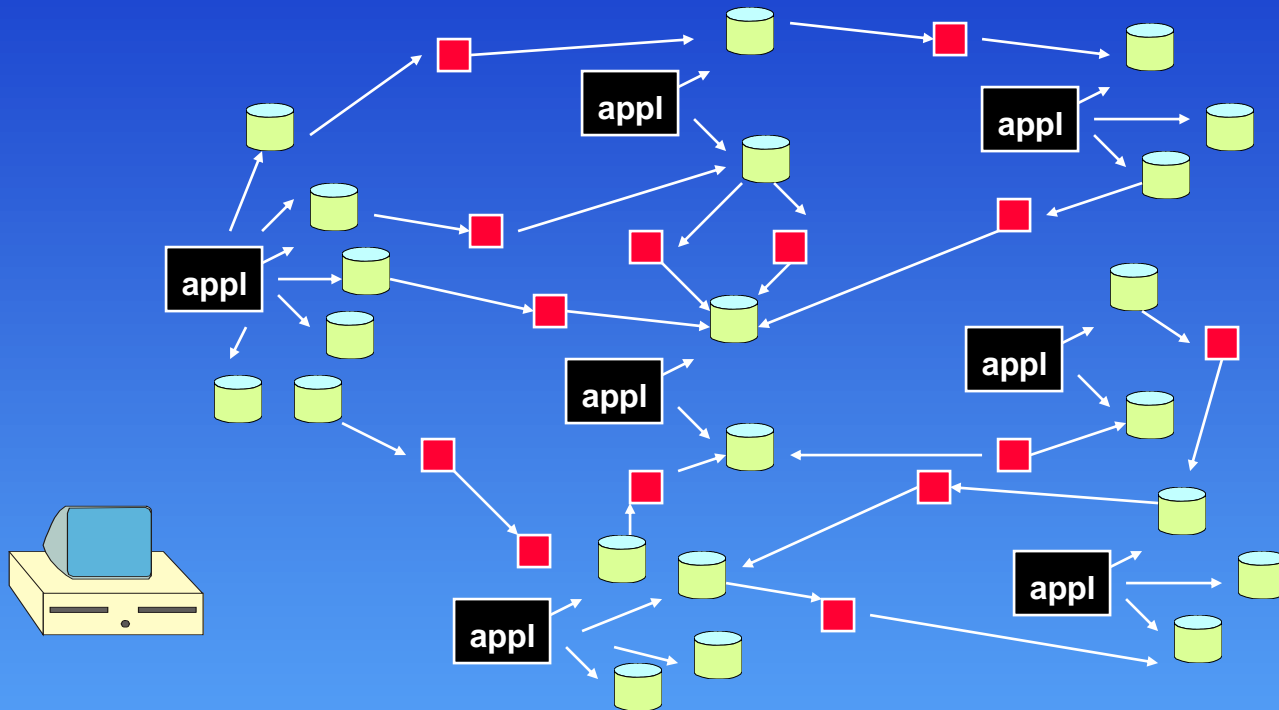and for a while end users were happy

but soon it became obvious that data in one application
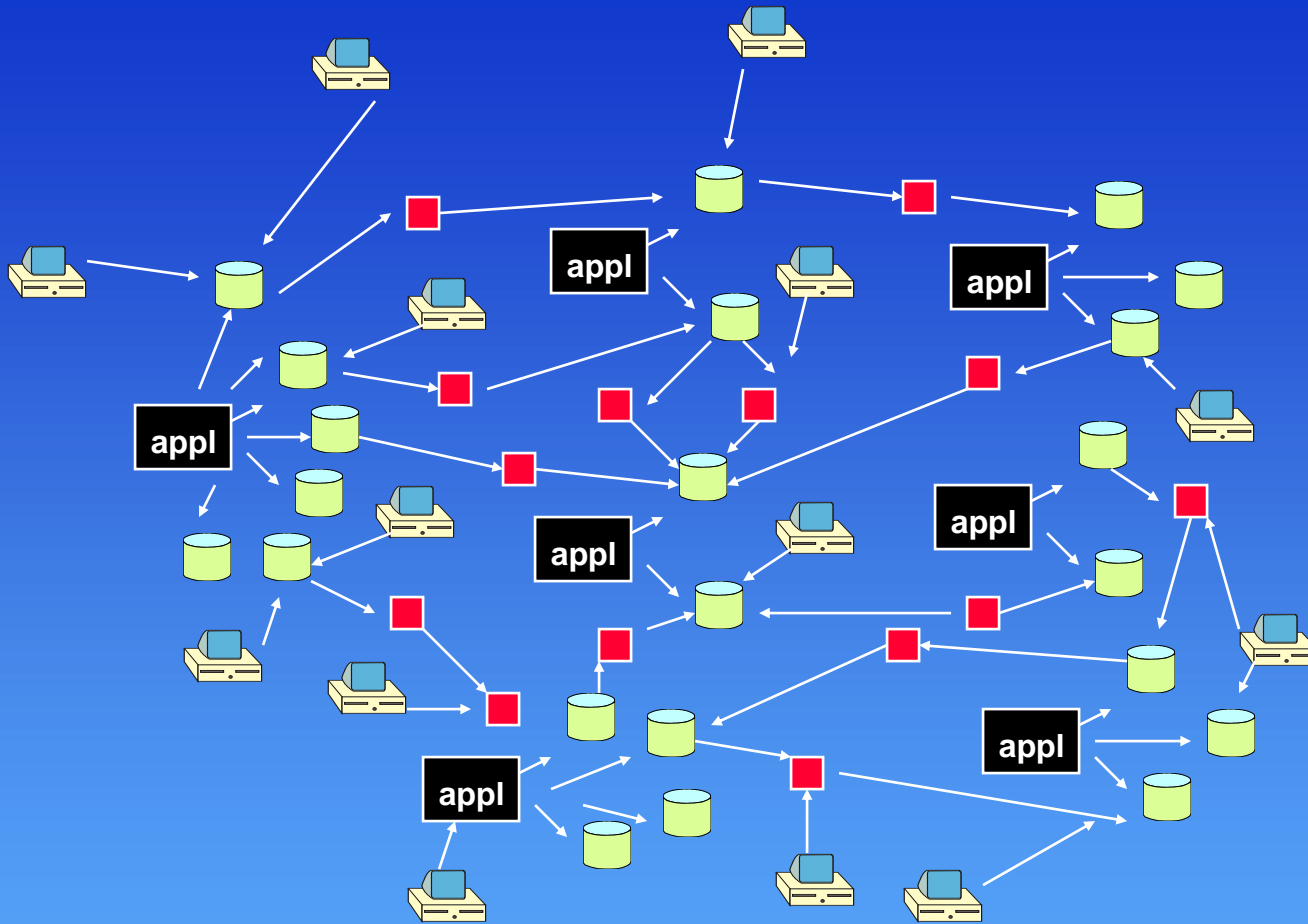was needed in another application

and soon individual elements of data began to be passed among applications
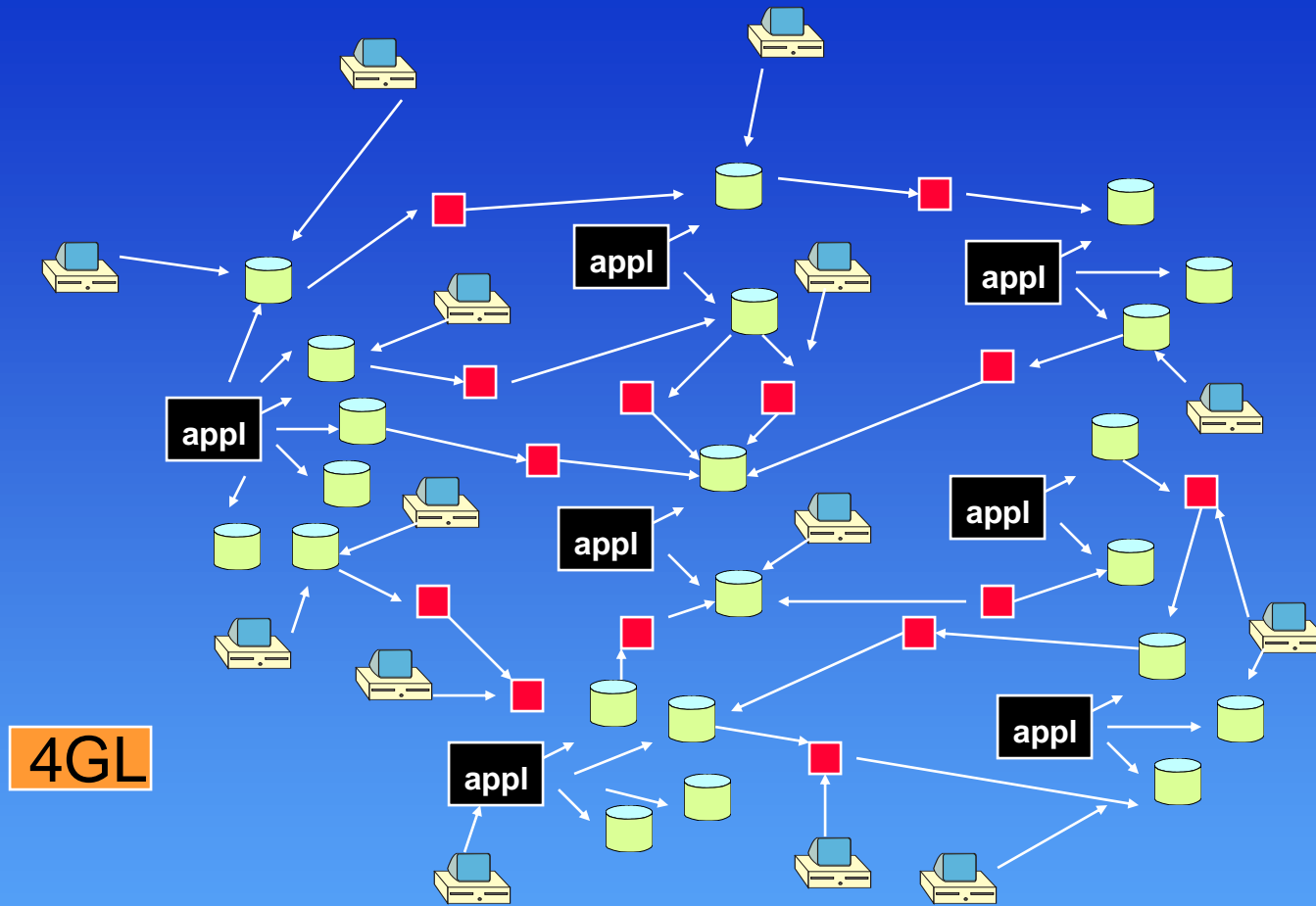
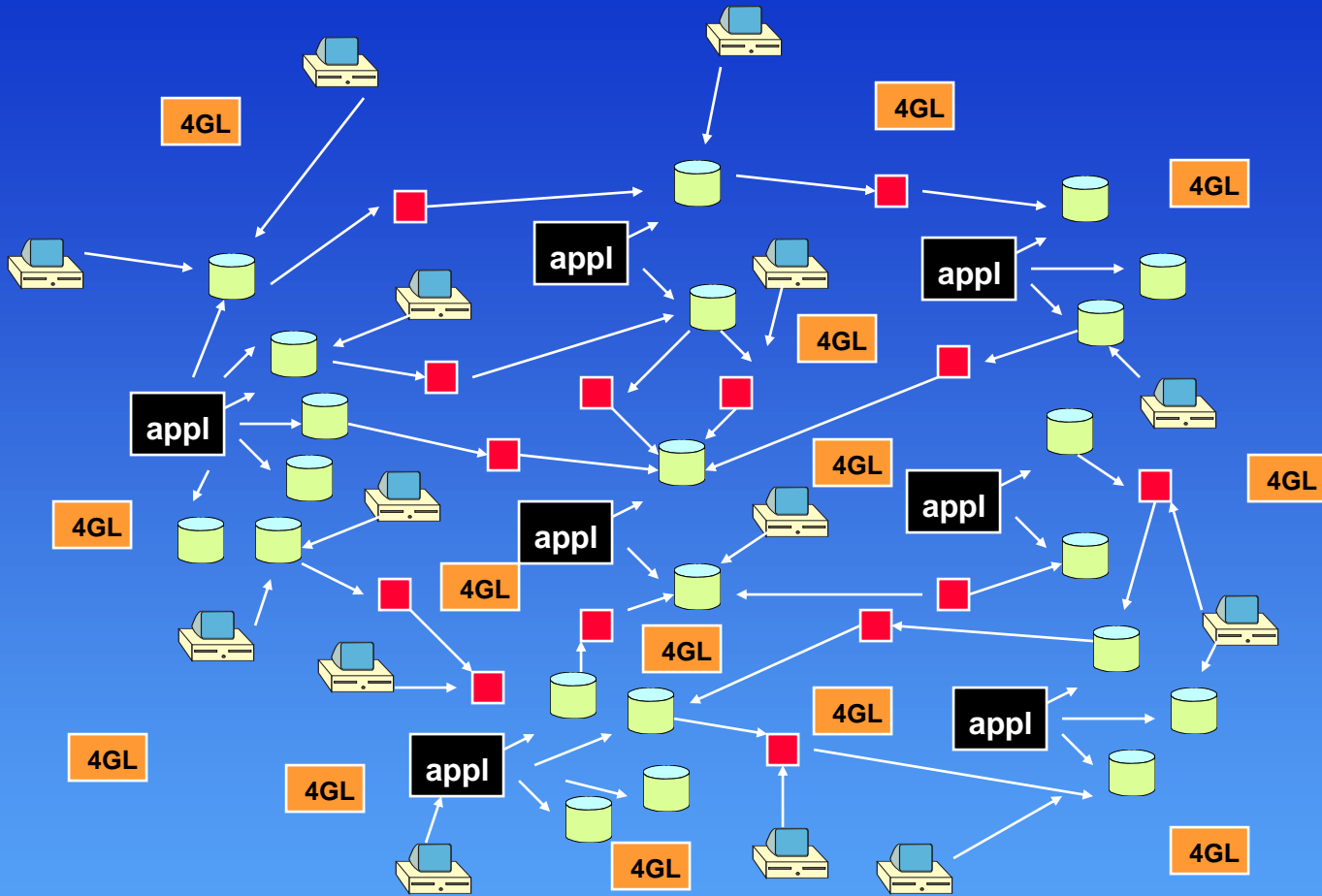but through all of this the end user was still not satisfied

it was suggested that the end user could take his/her destiny in his/her own hands by taking data and using a pc
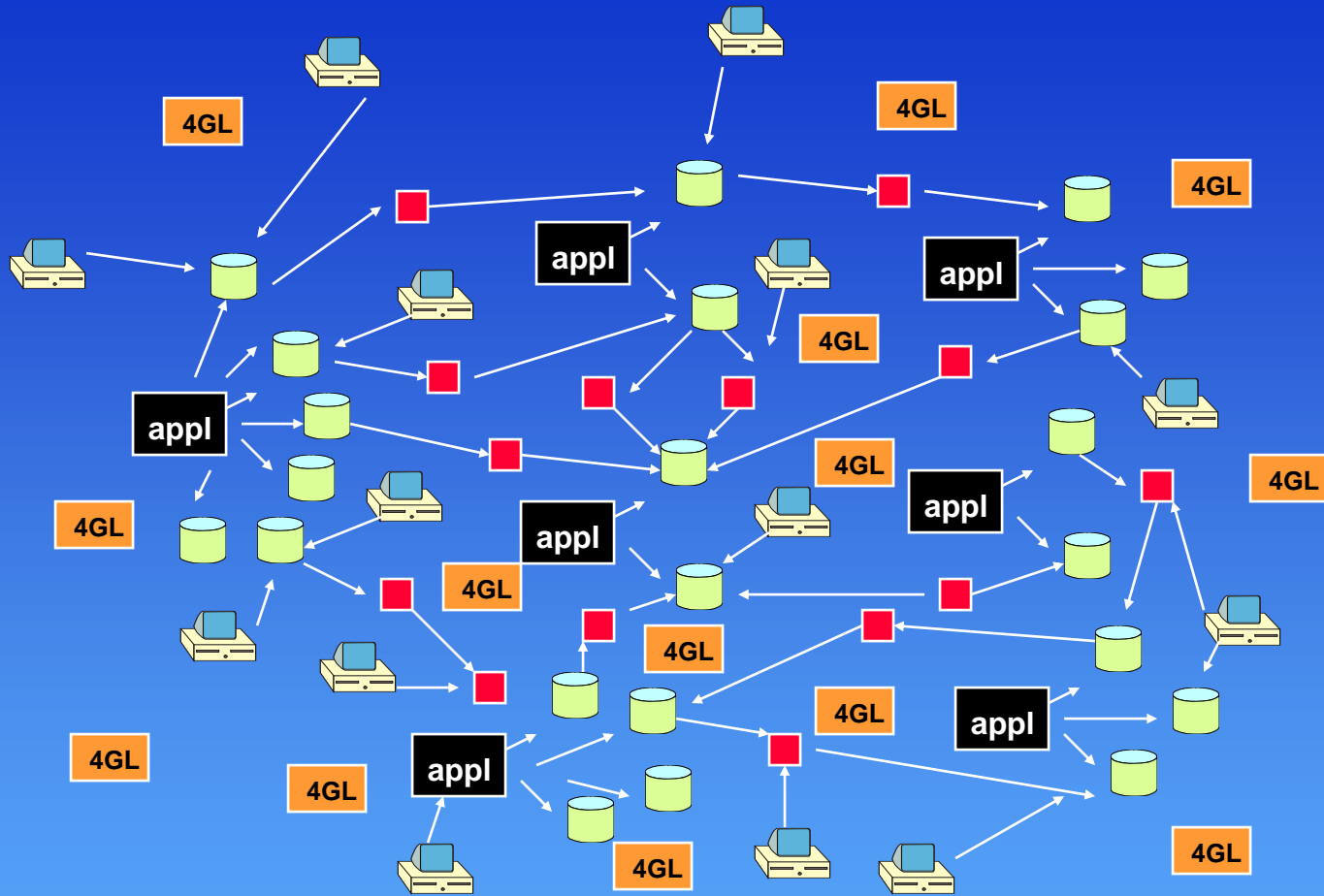
soon personal computers found their way into
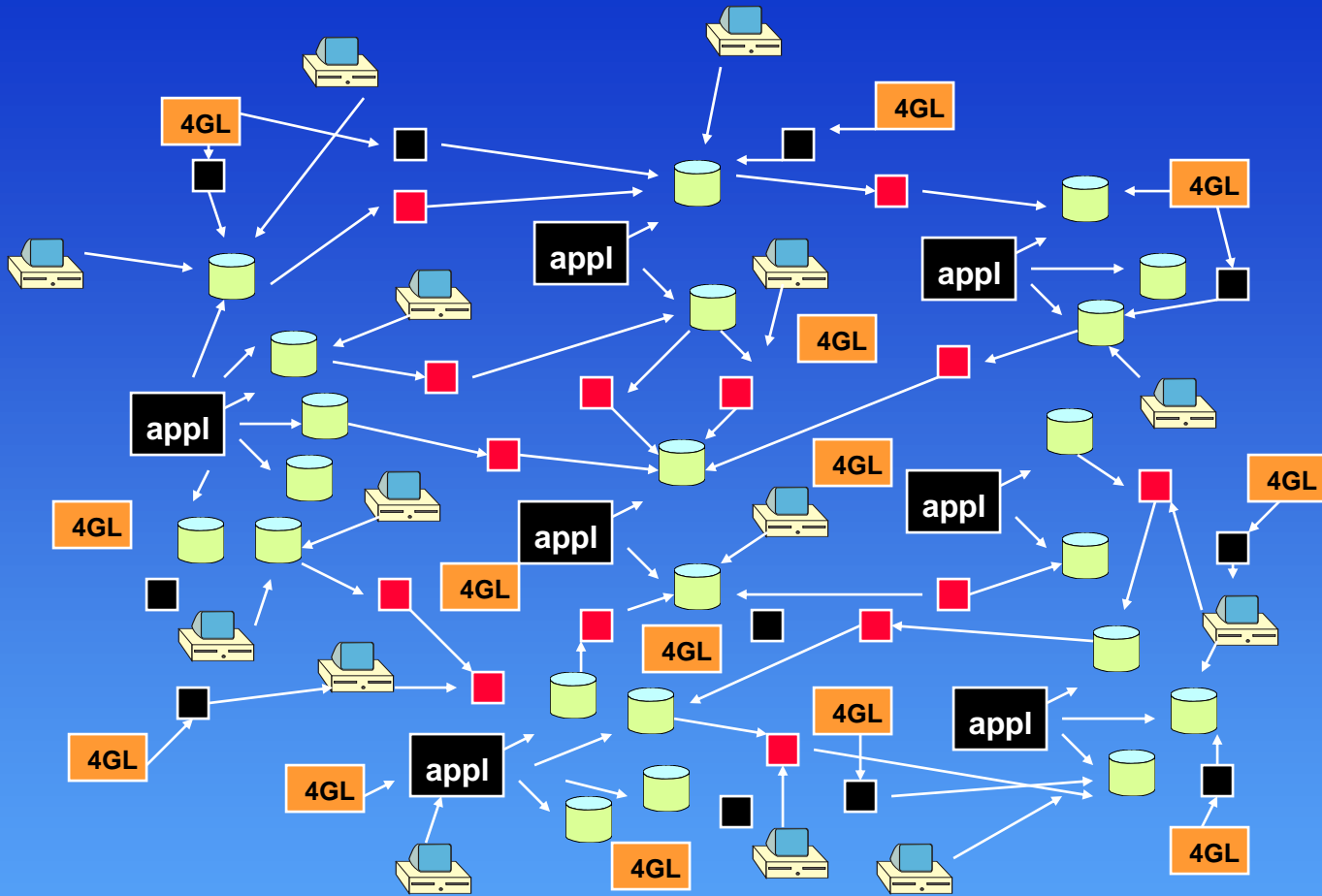the information processing landscape

4GL

and at the corporate level it was suggested that the end users could take control with a 4GL
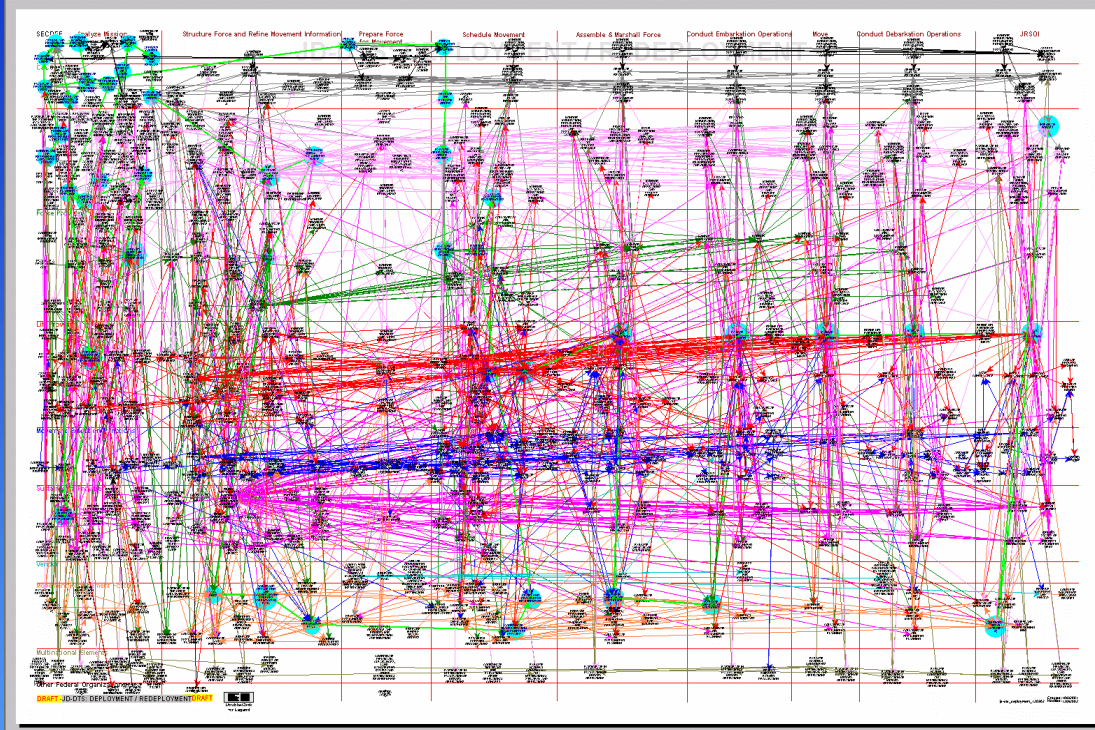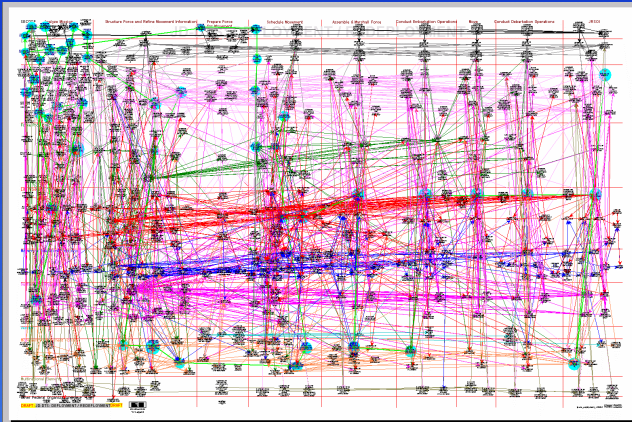
and soon 4GL's were everywhere

and soon it was discovered that 4GL processing needed data. Data was extracted by means of an extract program
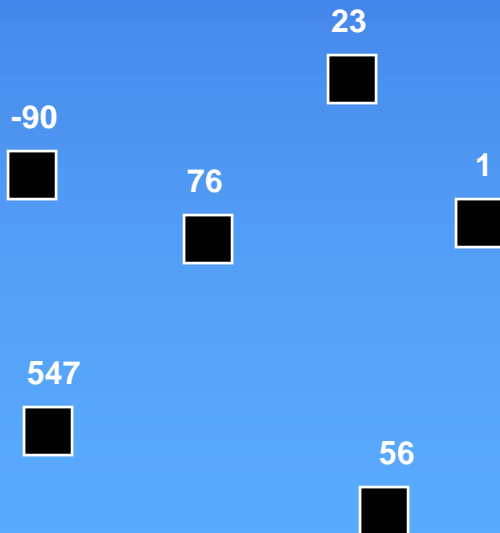
and one day the organization woke up and discovered
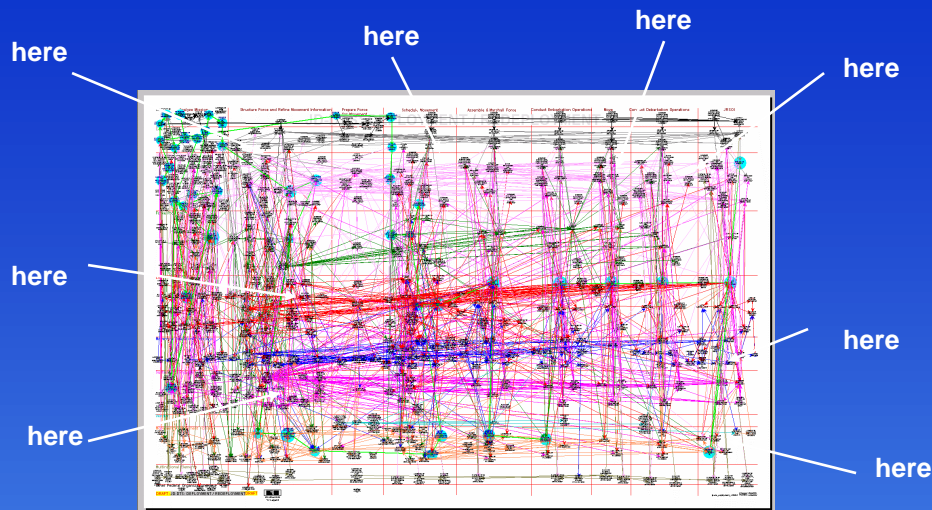it had a big mss on its hands – the spider web environment

a real spider's web environment
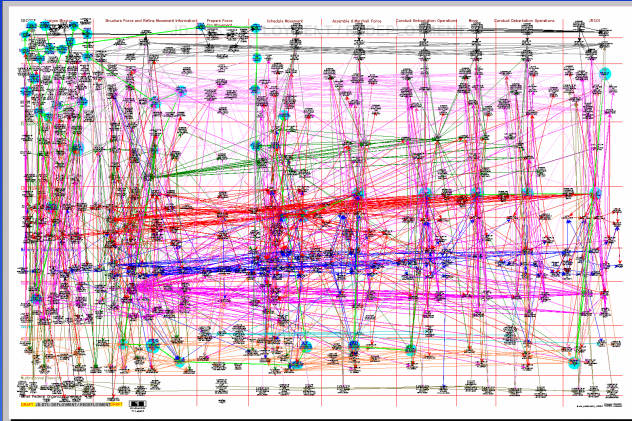
what's so bad about a spider web?

23

-90

76

1

the same data is found everywhere – no one really knows what the correct value of data is

547
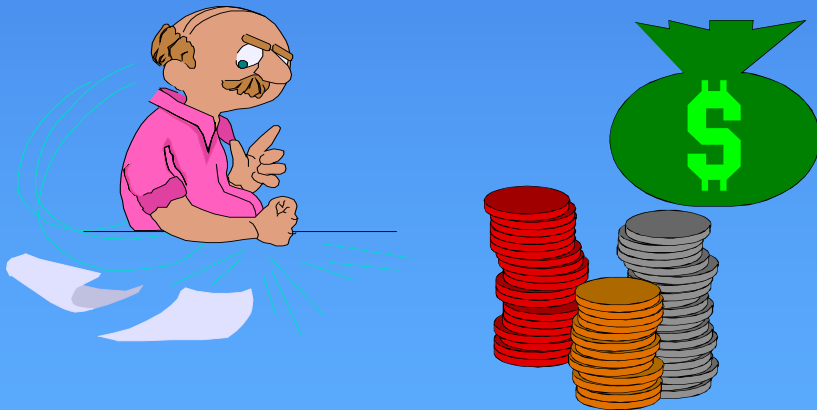
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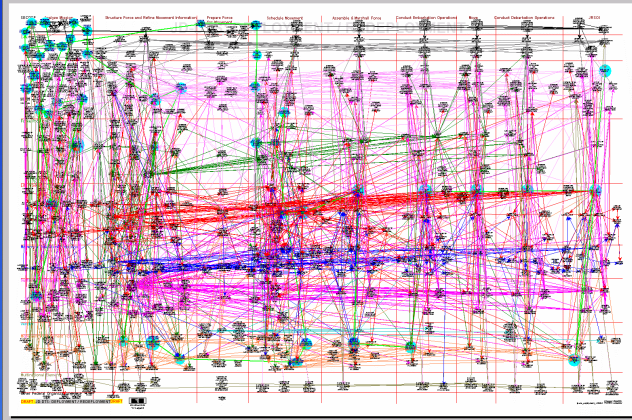what's so bad about a spider web?

let's make a change to data

not only do we have to make changes everywhere,
we have to coordinate those changes as well

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what's so bad about a spider web?

the cost of maintenance
spirals out of control

the spiders web environment is no foundation
for information systems to build on