

Fun With Forensics

*Using SQL to Find
Needles in Haystacks*

Core Database Technology

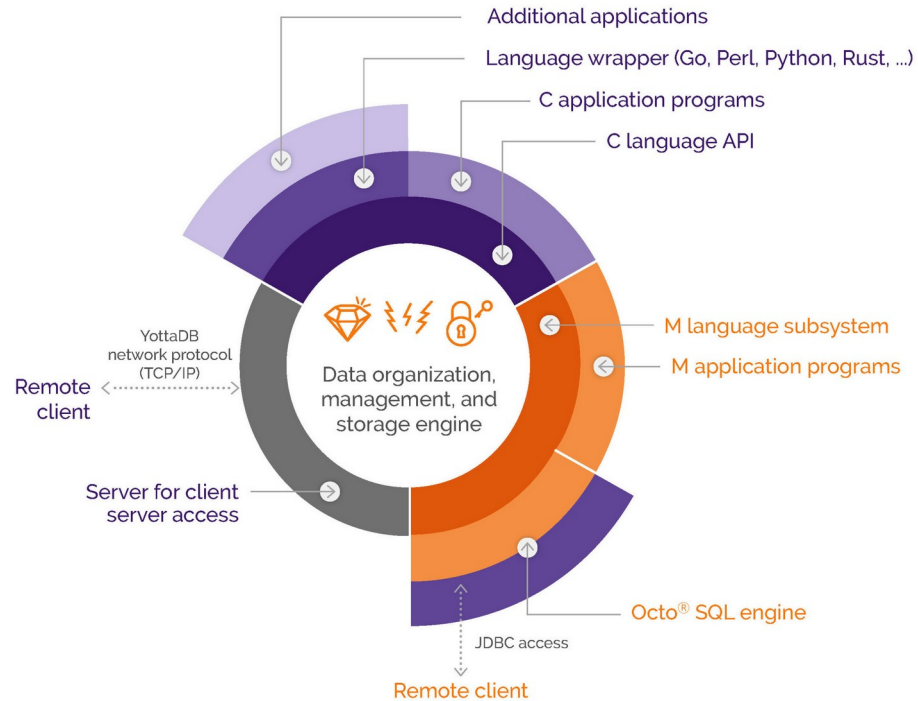


- Mature, high performance, hierarchical key-value, *language-agnostic*, NoSQL database whose code base scales up to mission-critical applications like large real-time core-banking and electronic health records, and also *scales down* to run on platforms like the Raspberry Pi Zero, as well as *everything in-between*.
- *Rock Solid. Lightning Fast. Secure. Pick any three.*

YottaDB is a registered trademark of YottaDB LLC

Architecture

YOTTADB DATA-CENTRIC ARCHITECTURE



Supported & Supportable Platforms

	x86_64	AARCH64 (ARM v8)	ARM-HF (ARM v7)
Debian	✓	✓	✓
Ubuntu	✓		
RHEL	✓		
SUSE	✓		

Supportable Platforms

- Debian derivatives: All CPU architectures
- RHEL & SUSE derivatives and other: x86_64
- Build from Source: All CPU architectures on contemporary Linux distributions

Octo – SQL too

- Octo is a SQL database engine whose tables are mapped to YottaDB hierarchical key-value nodes
- Octo runs on YottaDB on 64-bit platforms

Octo is a registered trademark of YottaDB LLC

Querying Octo

- Terminal session
- YottaDB GUI
- PostgreSQL drivers
 - ODBC driver: Microsoft Excel, PowerBI tools
 - JDBC driver: Dbeaver, Squirrel SQL, SQL Workbench/J
 - Others reported as working, but not tested by us, e.g., Microsoft SSRS, R

Database State Changes

What Changed and When

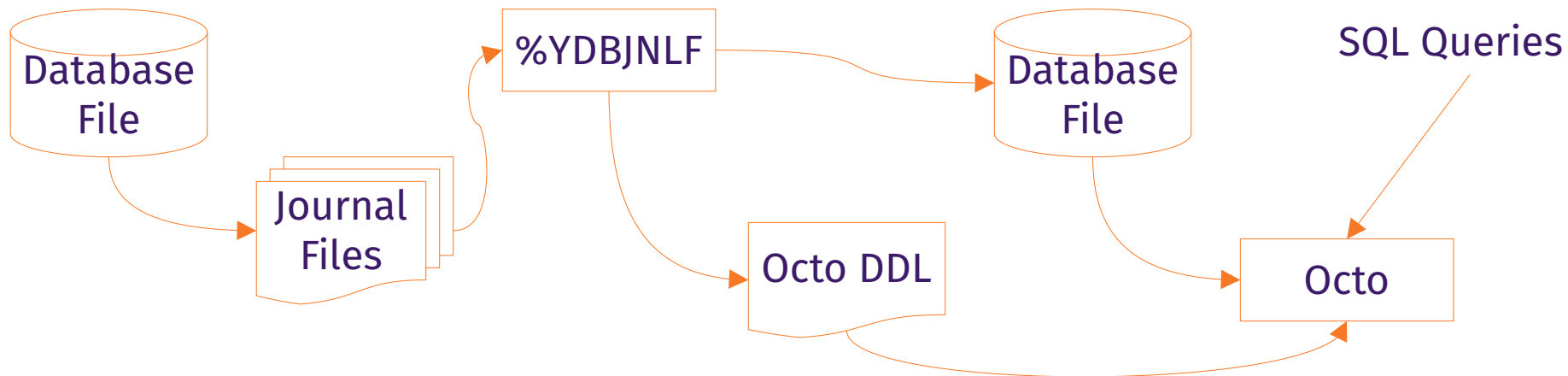


State Machines and State Changes

- Databases are state machines, e.g., a brain transplant has been ordered for Bhaskar
- But the path through state space is also important, e.g., who ordered said brain transplant, and when
 - Journal files capture database state changes
- Yabut... database state changes can outnumber database state
 - How do you find a needle in a haystack?

%YDBJNLF + Octo

- YottaDB databases store large amounts of data
- Octo SQL can query large amounts of data



%YDBJNLF

- Standard YottaDB utility routine
 - <https://docs.yottadb.com/ProgrammersGuide/utility.html#ydbjnlf>
- `INGEST ^%YDBJNLF(jnlfile[, label])` reads *jnlfile* into ^%YDBJNLF
- `OCTO ^%YDBJNLF` produces a DDL that Octo can read
- Automatically creates YDBJNLF region if needed

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `docs.yottadb.com/ProgrammersGuide/utility.htm...`. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Routine Utilities, Internationalization Utilities, System Management Utilities (expanded), %DUMPFHEAD, %FREECNT, %PEEKBYNAME(), %XCMD, %YDBJNLF (expanded), Utility Labels, Octo DDL, %YDBPROCSTUCKEXEC, %YGBLSTAT(), UTF-8 Mode Utility Routines, Miscellaneous utilities, and Utilities Summary Table. The main content area is titled **%YDBJNLF** and contains the following text:

The %YDBJNLF utility routine loads journal extracts into global variables, allowing software to answer questions such as which process(es) updated a certain global, in what sequence and when; that global variable updates a process made; etc.

Utility Labels

INGEST[^]%YDBJNLF(jnlfile[,label]) uses [MUIP JOURNAL EXTRACT FORWARD SHOW=ALL FENCES=NONE DETAIL FULL NOVERIFY](#) to extract journal file jnlfile into global variables as described below. Since troubleshooting and forensics may need damaged journal files to be ingested, %YDBJNLF uses the NOVERIFY option.

- If `label` is specified, it is used to identify the extract; otherwise the journal file name `jnlfile` is the identifying label.
- INGEST deletes any existing `^%ydbJNLF*(label)` global variables. Use a unique label for each call to INGEST if the journal file name is not unique, e.g., current

Demo %YDBJNLF + Octo

- *Never call a pool shot with anything other than “Watch this!”*

Syslogs

Computers are where
Software lives



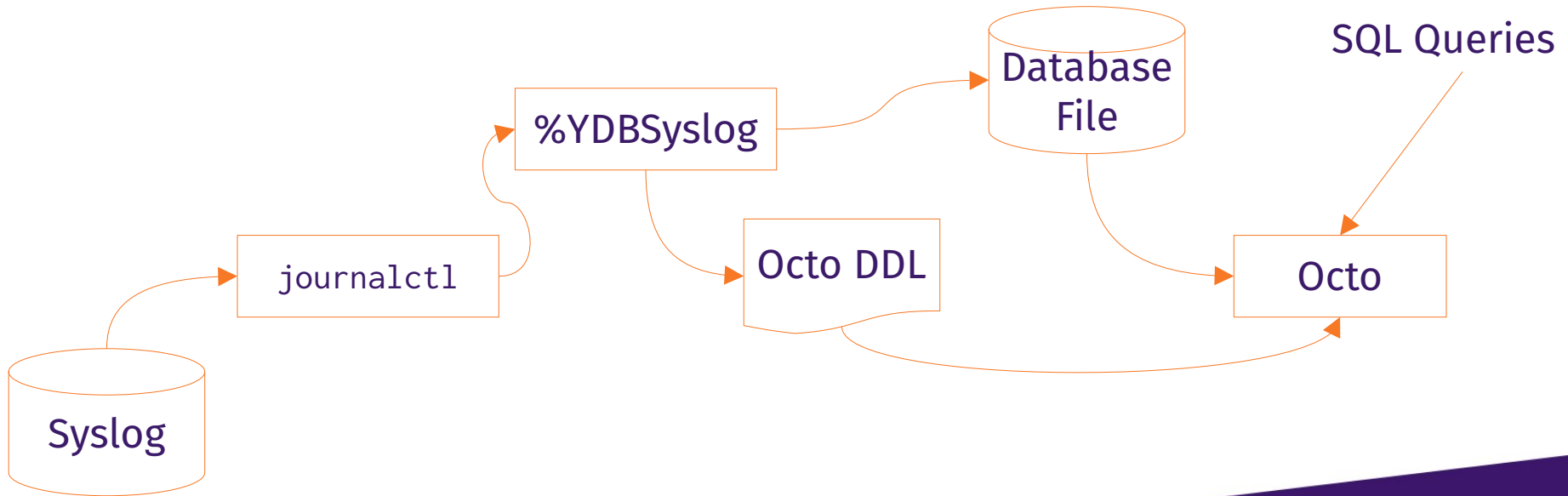
Syslogs

- Computers are bigger state machines than databases
- Networks of computers are bigger yet
- Forensics and troubleshooting often requires looking across multiple computers for events

%YDBSyslog

- YottaDB plugin <https://gitlab.com/YottaDB/Util/YDBSyslog>
- Documented in plugins manual
<https://docs.yottadb.com/Plugins/ydbsyslog.html>

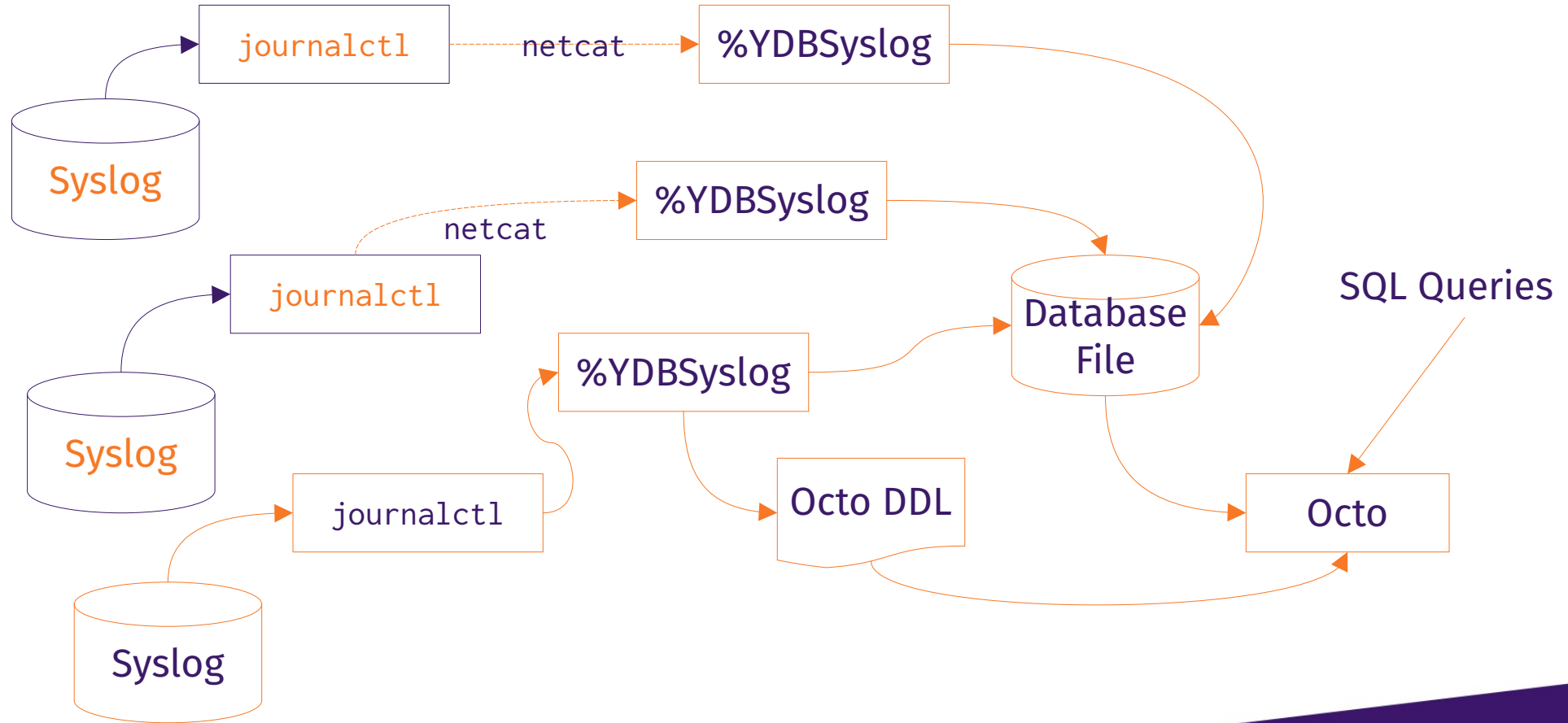
%YDBSyslog + Octo



Demo %YDBSYSLOG + Octo



Multiple Machines





YottaDB

Thank You!

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