


# A CONTAINER-CENTRIC METHODOLOGY FOR BENCHMARKING WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

**CLOSER 2016**

**Vincenzo Ferme**, Ana Ivanchikj,  
Prof. Cesare Pautasso  
Faculty of Informatics  
University of Lugano (USI), Switzerland

Marigianna Skouradaki,  
Prof. Frank Leymann   
Institute of Architecture of Application Systems  
University of Stuttgart, Germany

# The BenchFlow Project

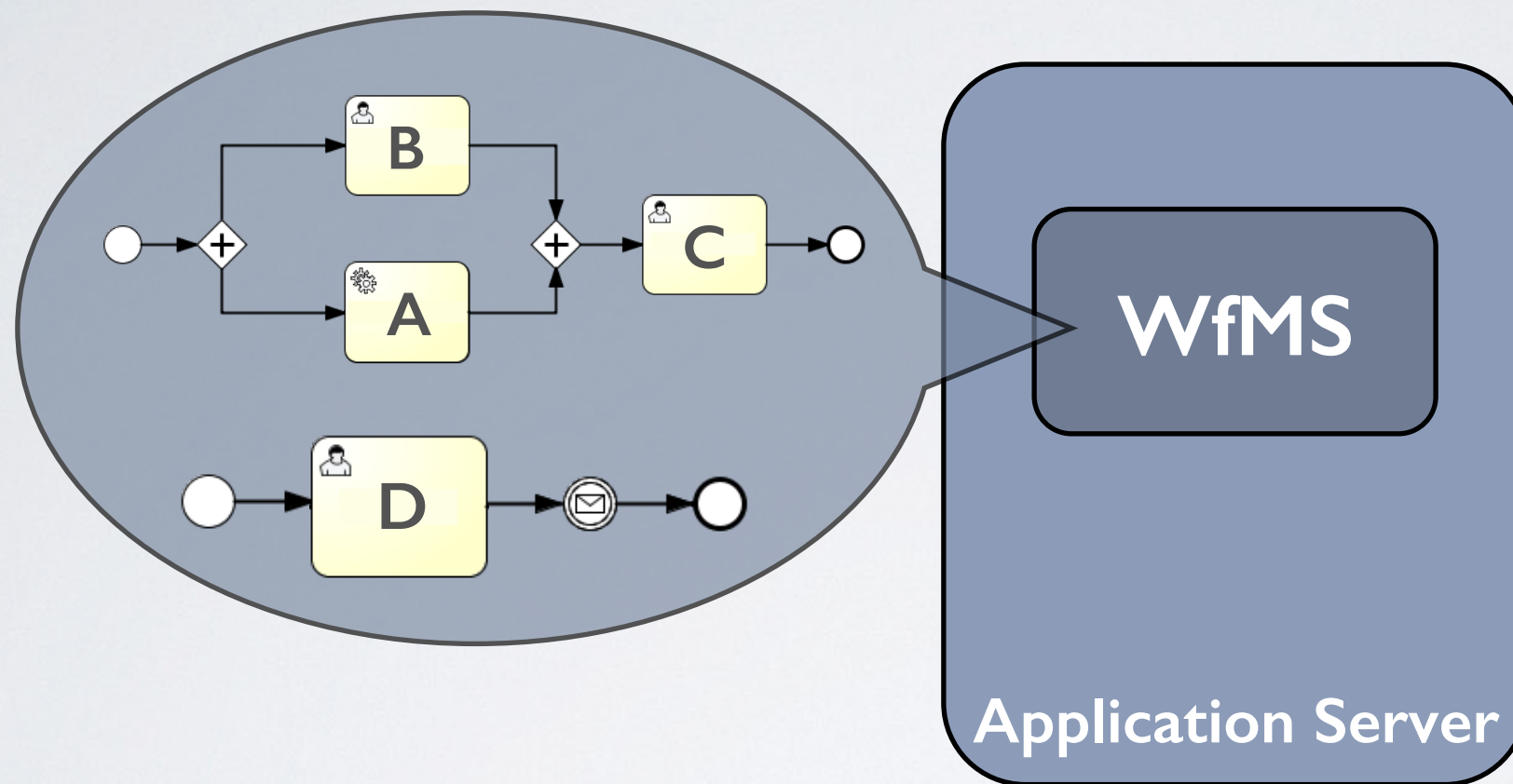
“Design and implement the first **benchmark** to assess and compare the **performance of WfMSs** that are compliant with Business Process Model and Notation 2.0 standard.”



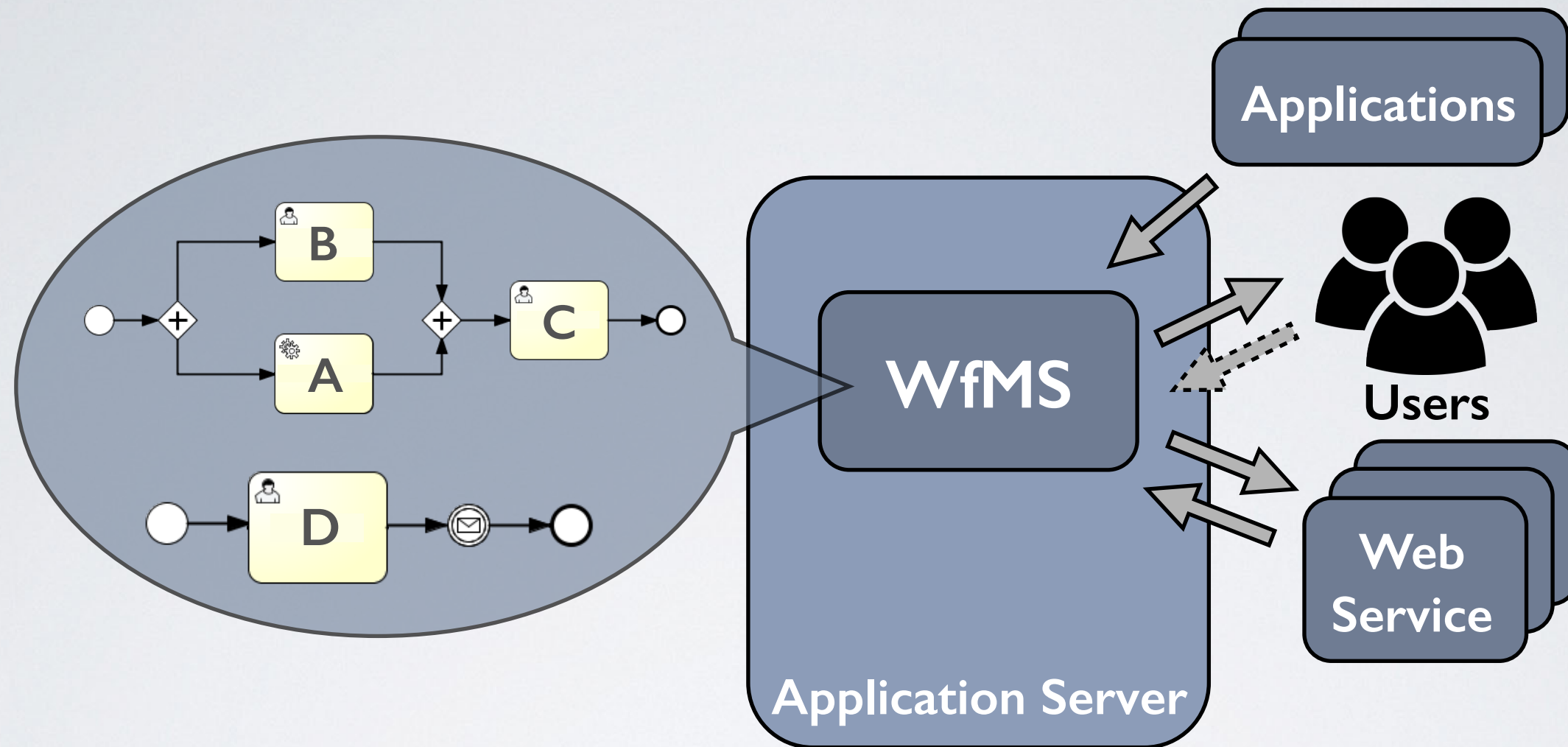
# What is a Workflow Management System?



# What is a Workflow Management System?

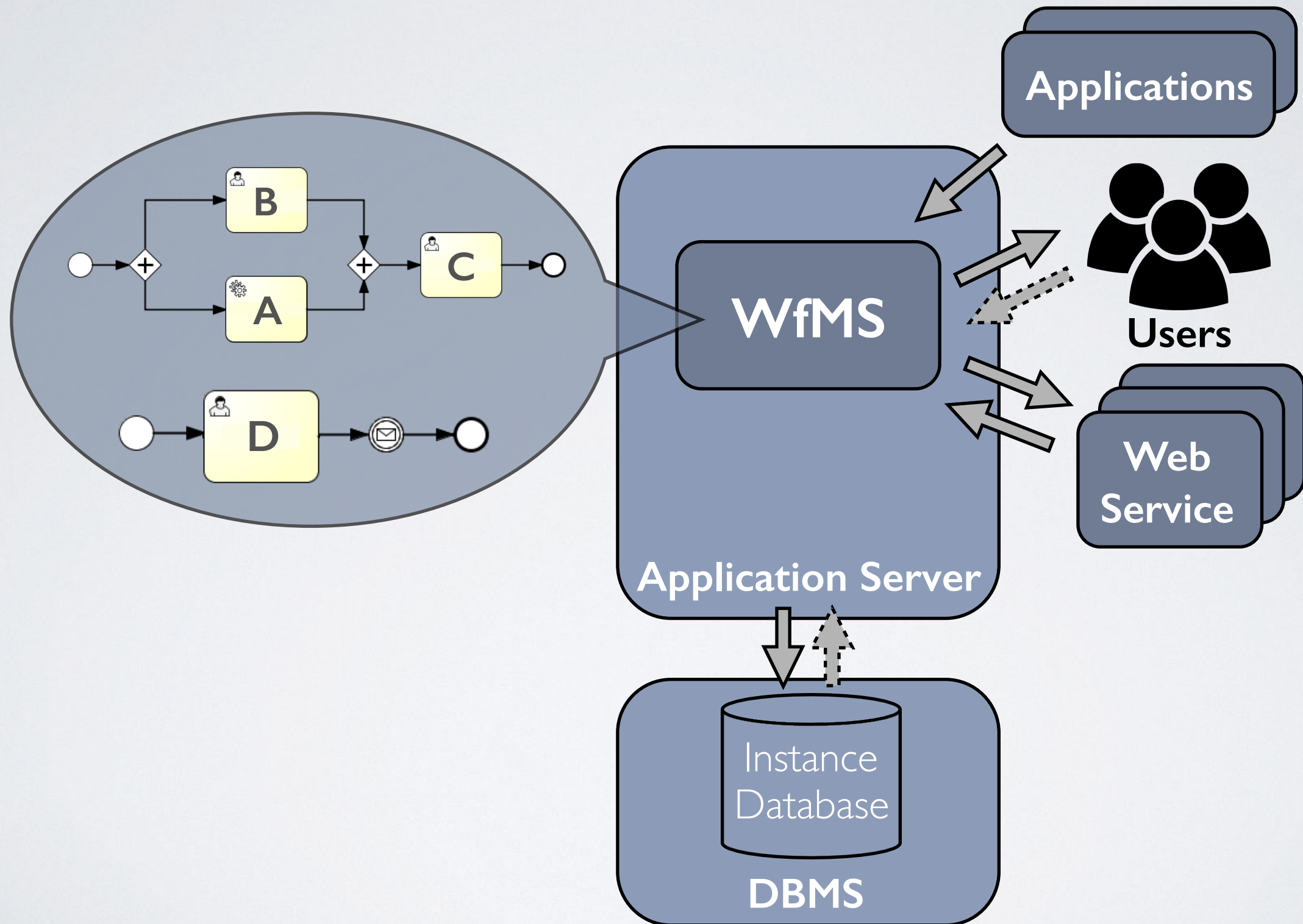


# What is a Workflow Management System?

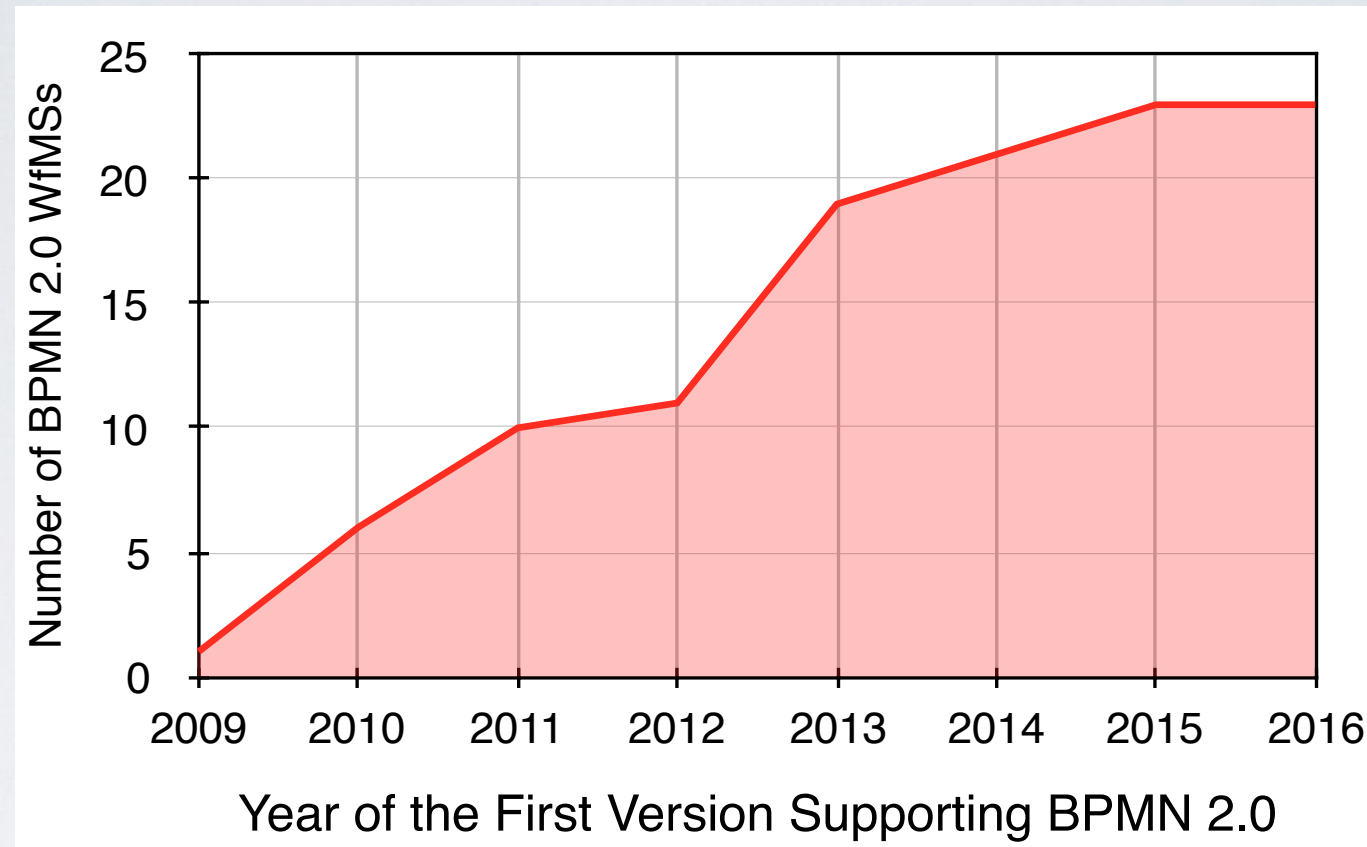




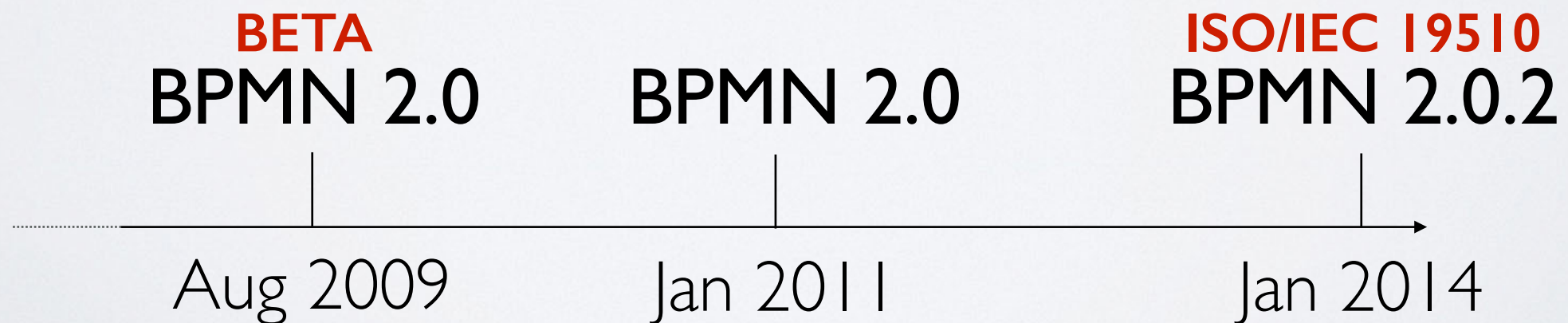
# What is a Workflow Management System?



# Many Vendors of BPMN 2.0 WfMSs



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_BPMN\\_2.0\\_engines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_BPMN_2.0_engines)



# Benchmarking Requirements

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

- K. Huppler, **The art of building a good benchmark**, 2009
- J. Gray, **The Benchmark Handbook for Database and Transaction Systems**, 1993
- S. E. Sim, S. Easterbrook et al., **Using benchmarking to advance research: A challenge to software engineering**, 2003



# Why a new Methodology?

No available methodologies **involving vendors**  
for both defining a **standard benchmark** and  
**benchmarking production systems**

# Why a new Methodology?

No available methodologies **involving vendors**  
for both defining a **standard benchmark** and  
**benchmarking production systems**

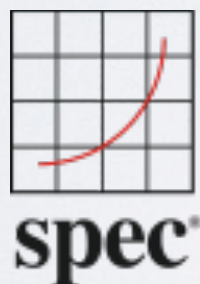


**Already standard benchmarks**



# Why a new Methodology?

No available methodologies **involving vendors**  
for both defining a **standard benchmark** and  
**benchmarking production systems**



TPC™

**Already standard benchmarks**



**Research**

**No interaction with Vendors**

# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

## Emerging Technology



# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

Emerging Technology  
Lightweight

# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

Emerging Technology

Lightweight

Negligible Performance Impact



# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- **Portable**
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

Emerging Technology

Lightweight

Negligible Performance Impact

# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- **Repeatable**
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

Emerging Technology

Lightweight

Negligible Performance Impact



# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- **Accessible**
- Efficient
- Affordable

Emerging Technology

Lightweight

Negligible Performance Impact

# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- **Efficient**
- Affordable

Emerging Technology

Lightweight

Negligible Performance Impact



# Why a Container-Centric Methodology?

- Relevant
- Representative
- **Portable**
- Scalable
- Simple
- **Repeatable**
- Vendor-neutral
- **Accessible**
- **Efficient**
- Affordable

Emerging Technology

Lightweight

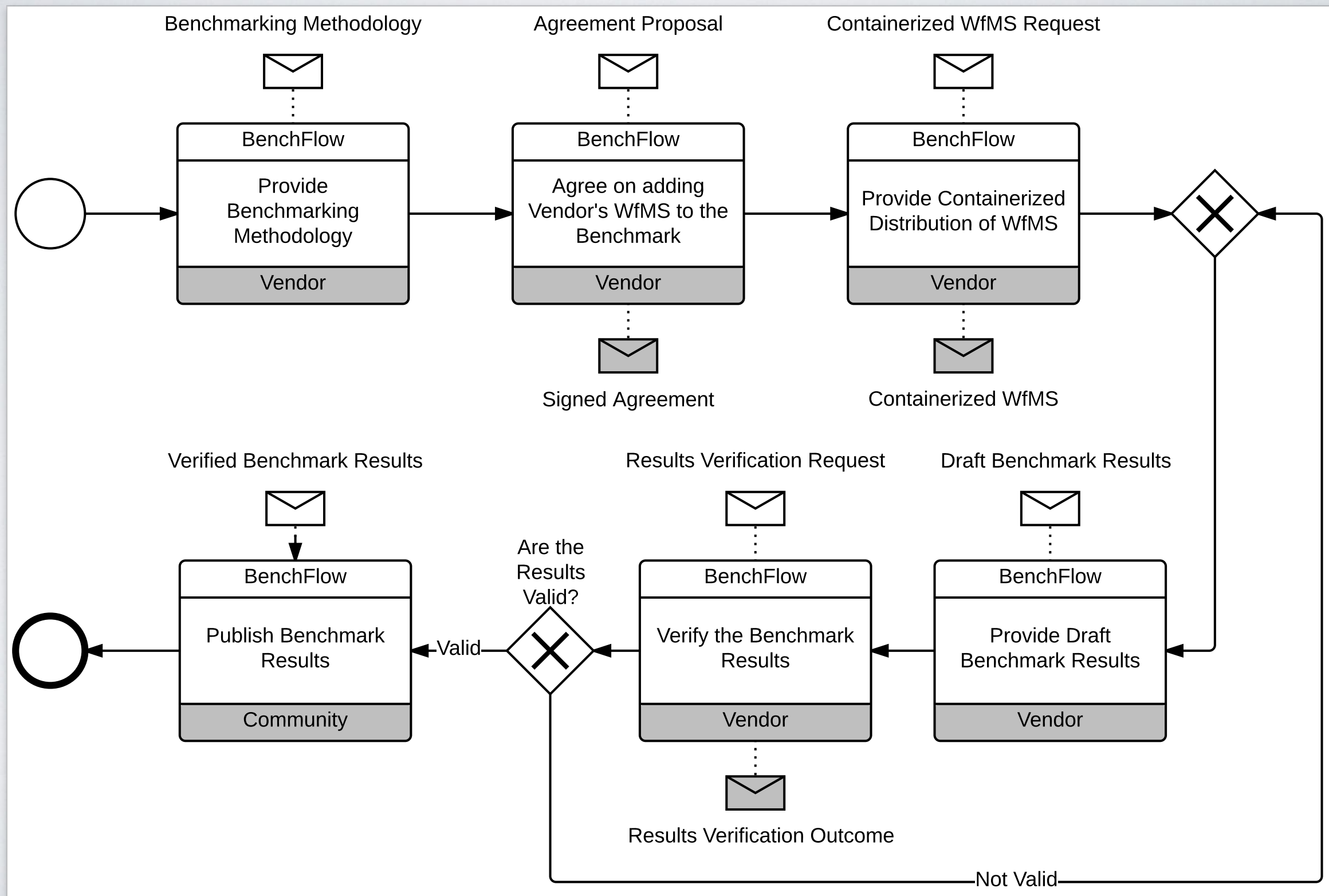
Negligible Performance Impact

# What about the other Requirements?

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple
- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

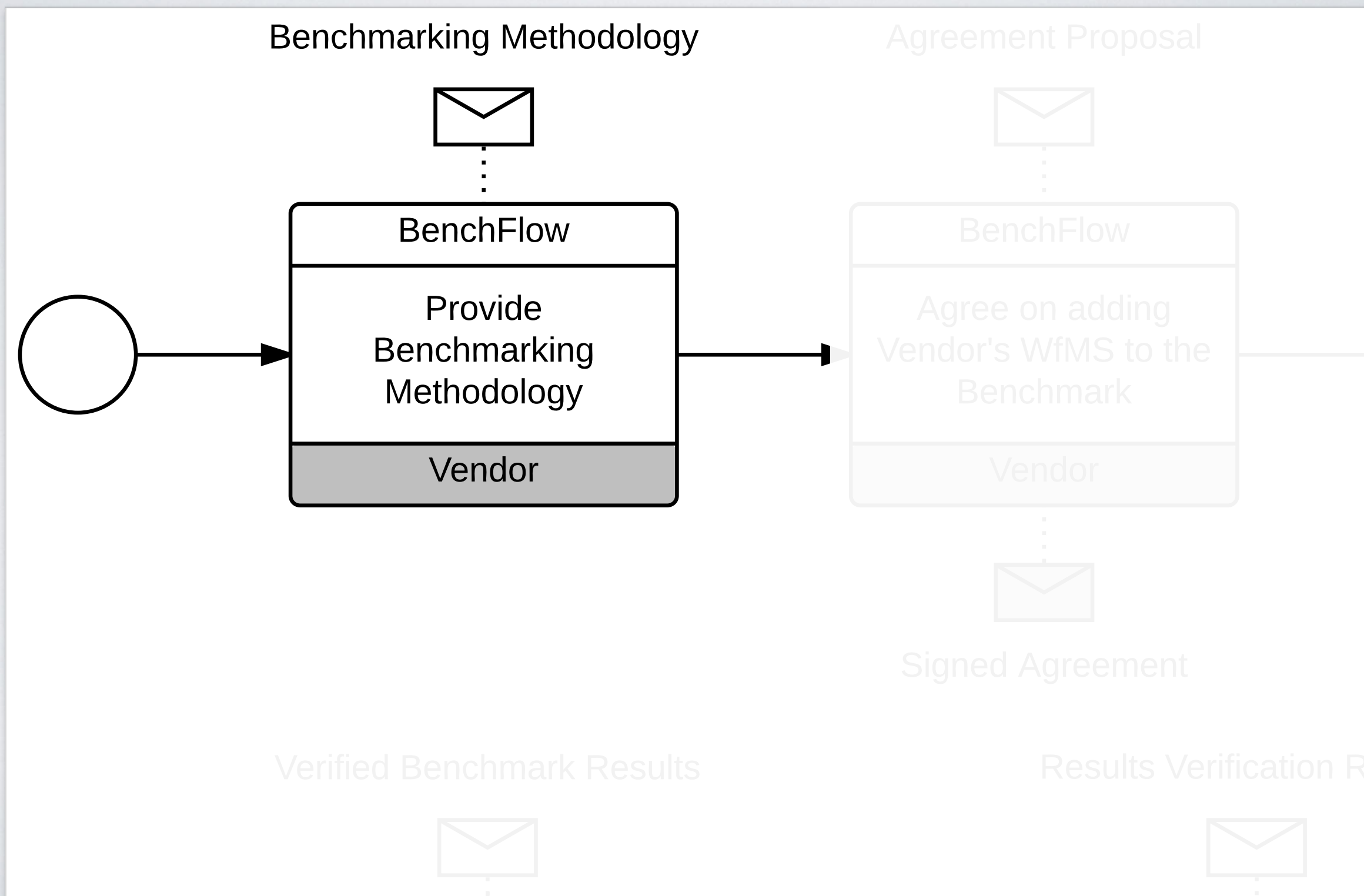


# Benchmarking Choreography



# Benchmarking Methodology

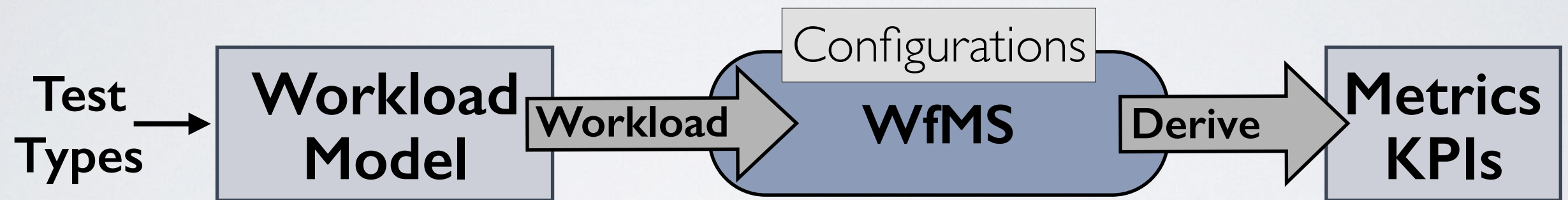
*provide the methodology*





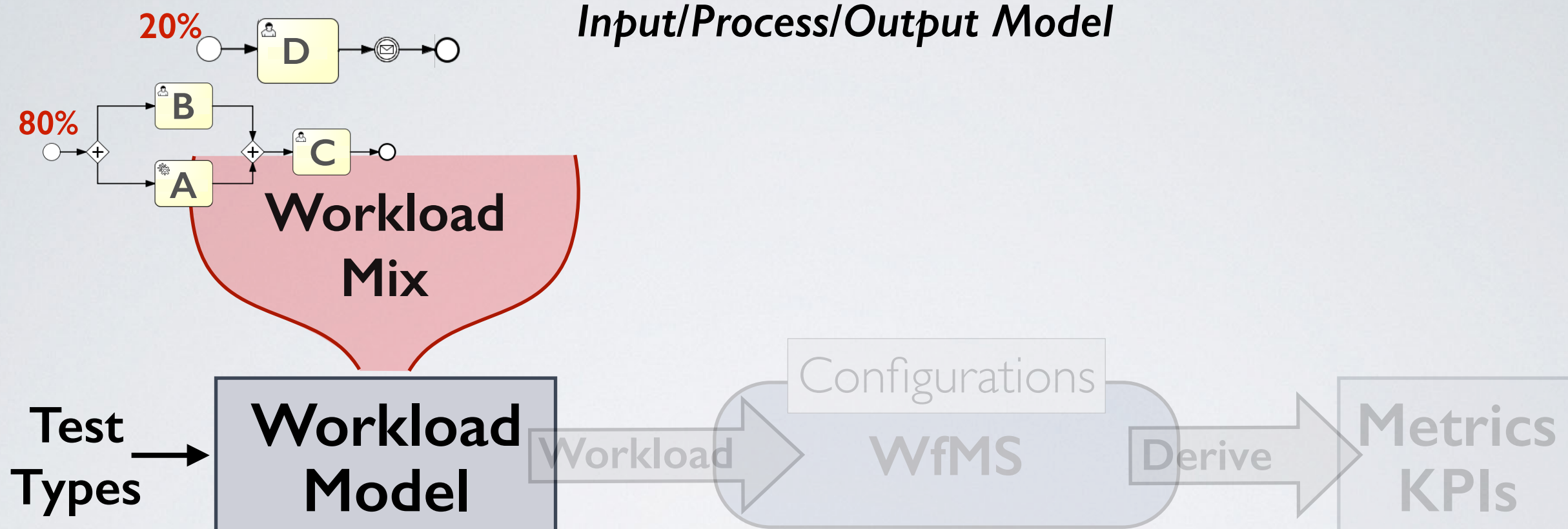
# The Benchmarking Process

## *Input/Process/Output Model*



# The Benchmarking Process

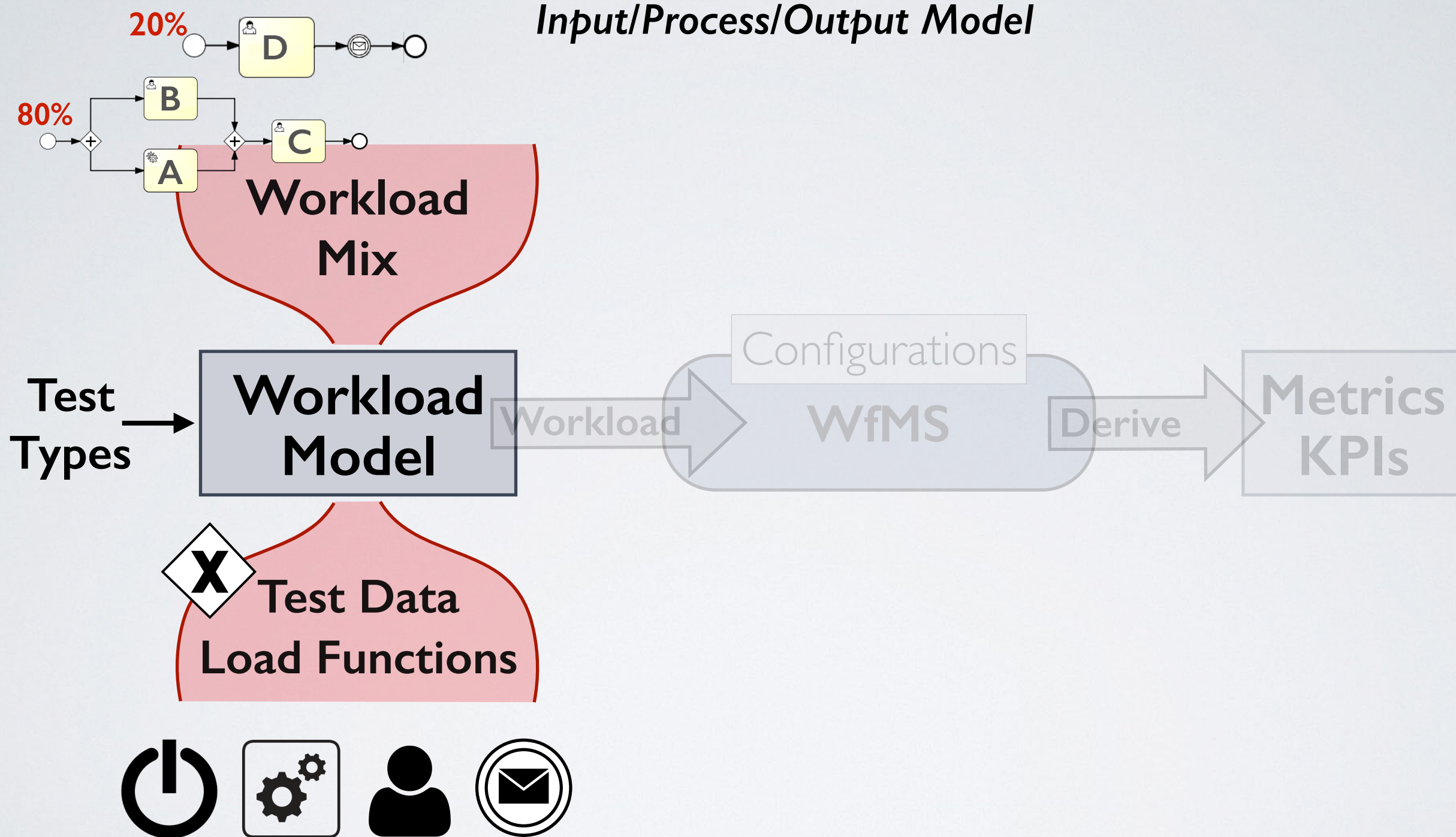
## Input/Process/Output Model





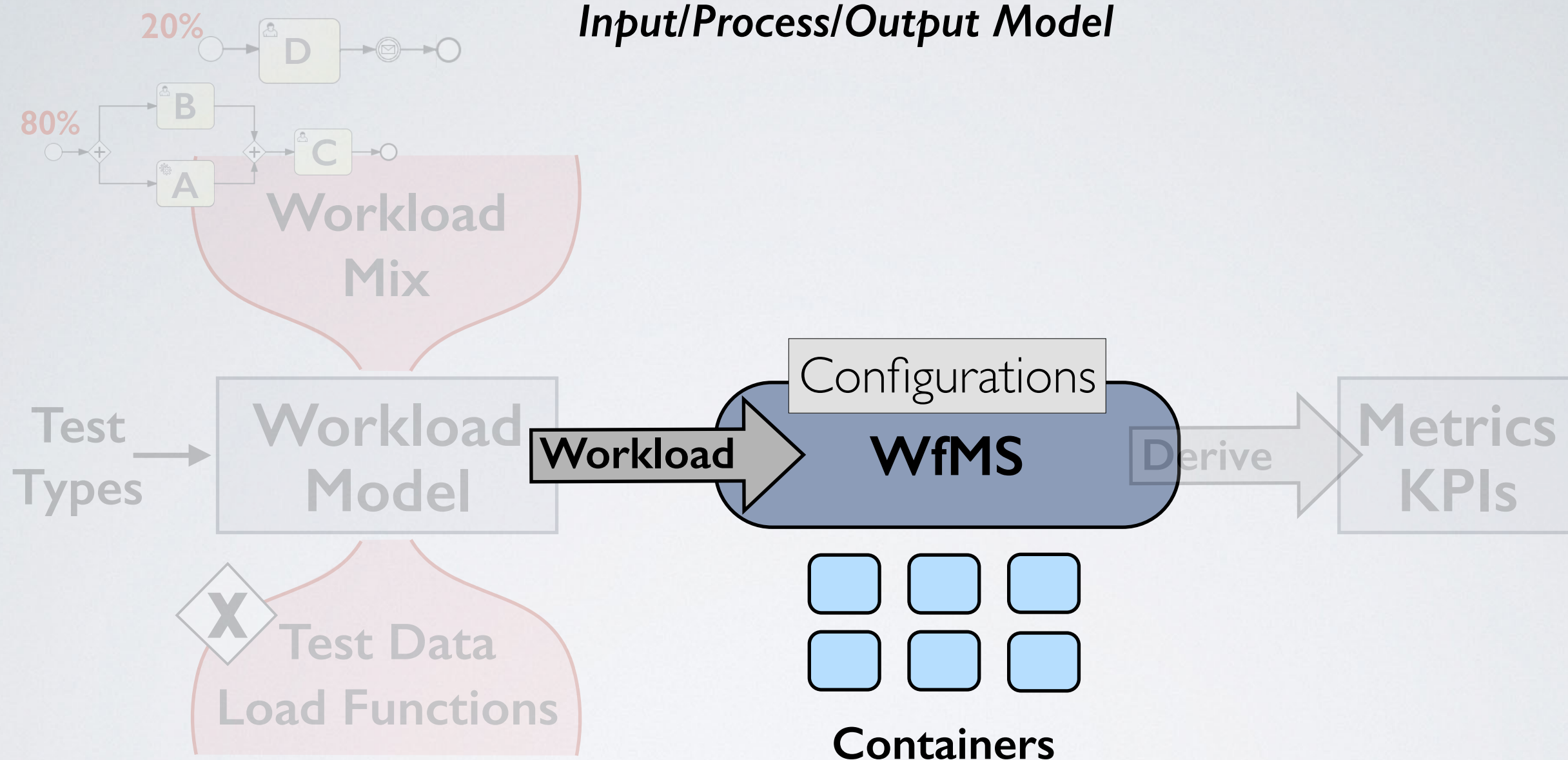
# The Benchmarking Process

## Input/Process/Output Model



# The Benchmarking Process

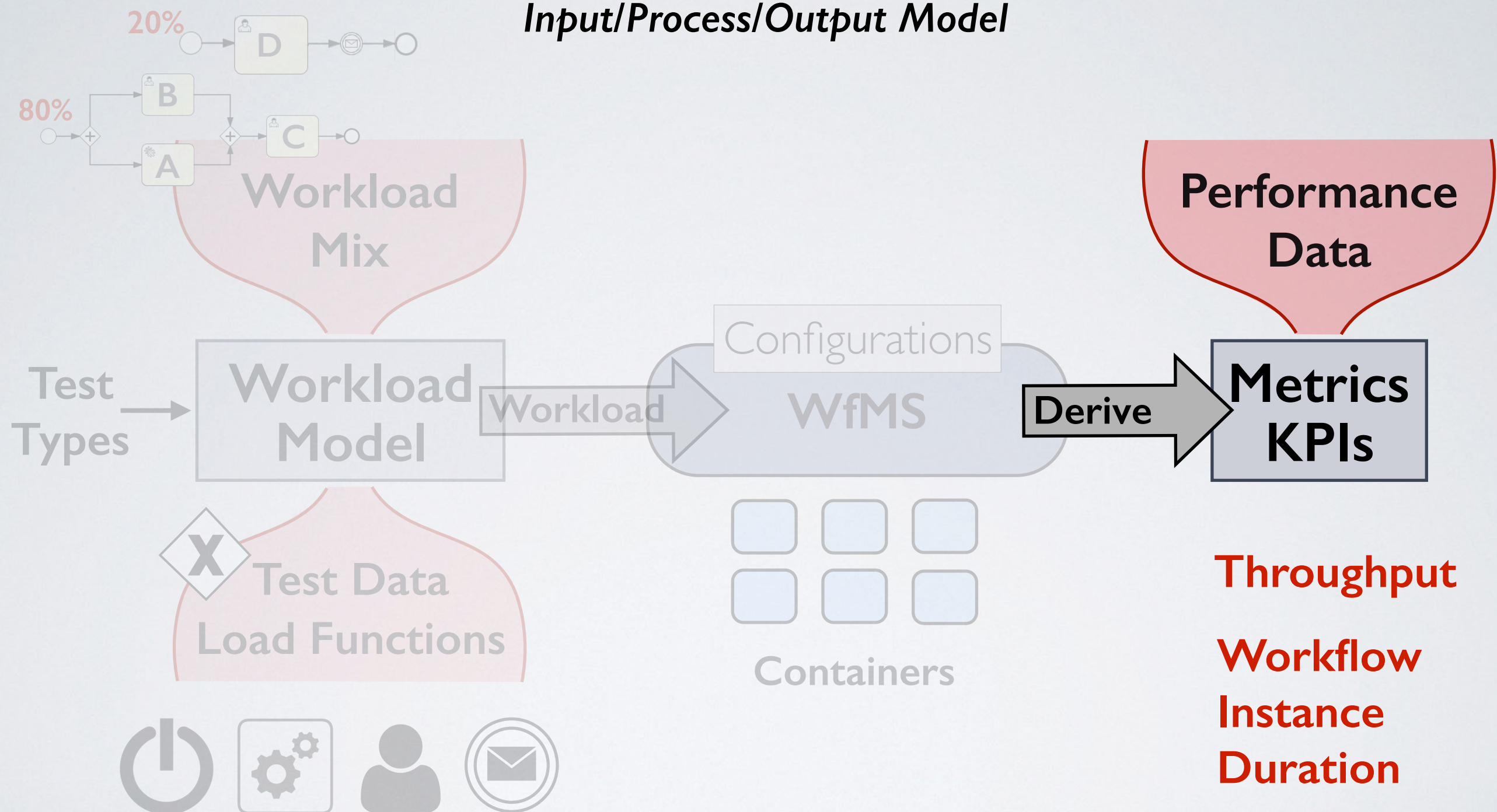
## Input/Process/Output Model





# The Benchmarking Process

## Input/Process/Output Model



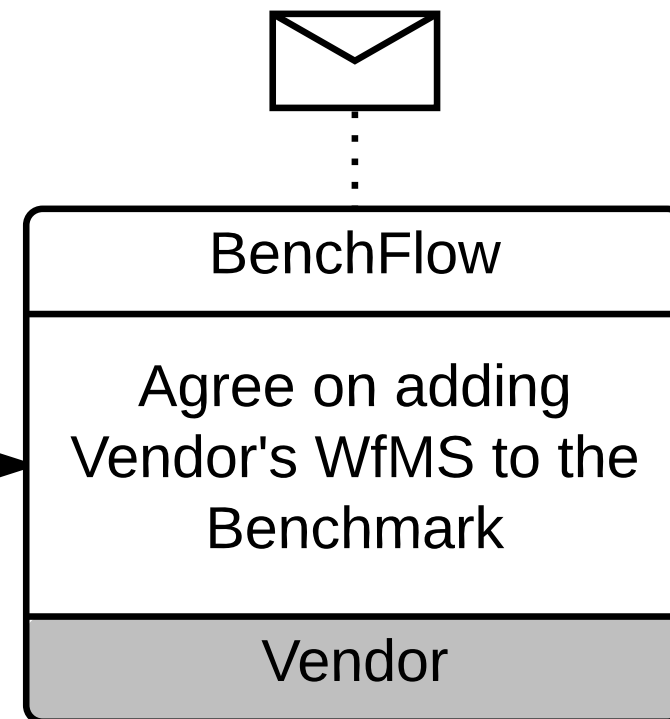
# Benchmarking Methodology

## *agreement with vendors*

### Main Agreement Points:

- Production Stable Release
- Provide defined APIs
- Share Containerised WfMS
- Authorise Publishing of Results

### Agreement Proposal



Signed Agreement

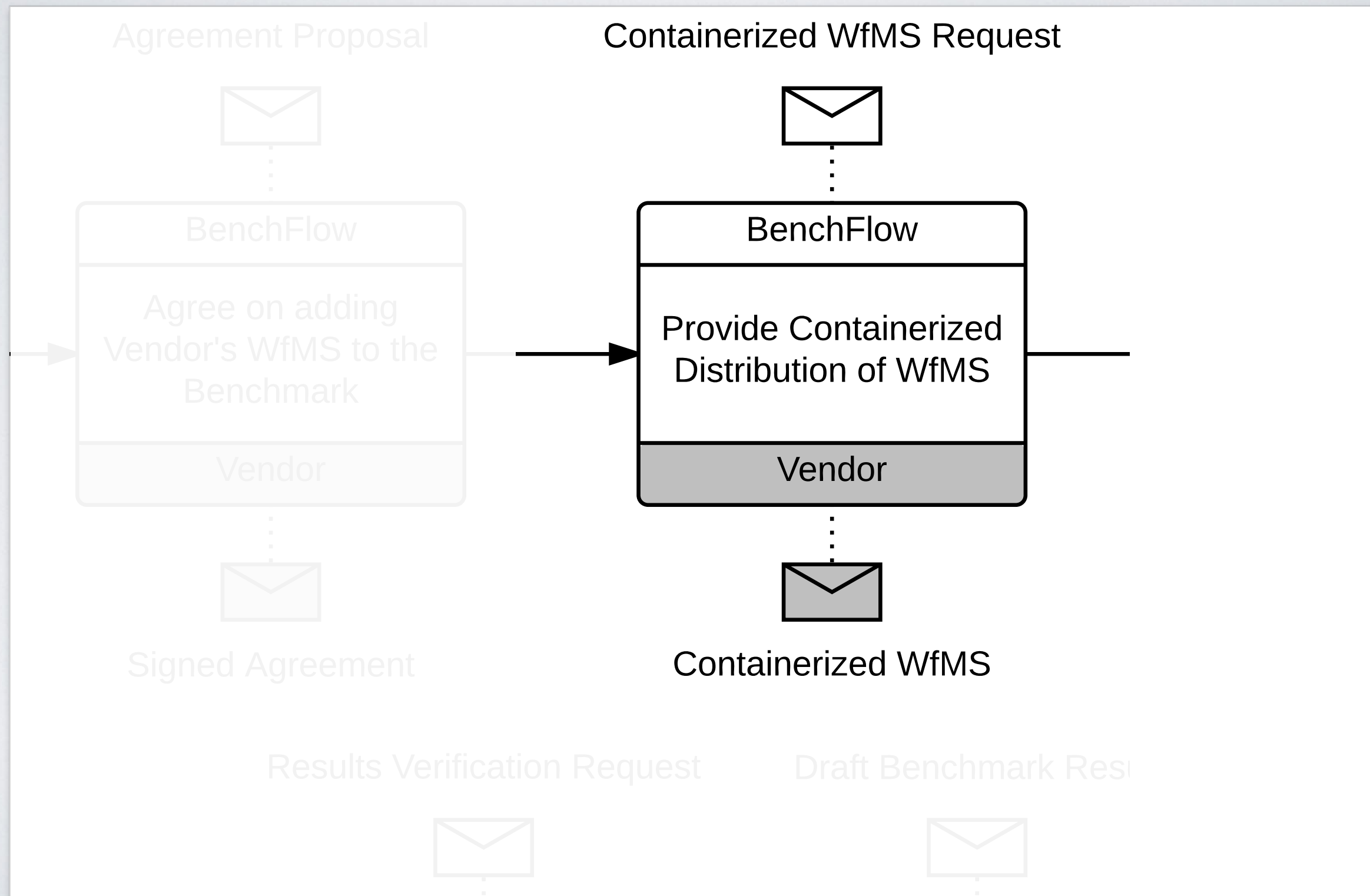
Verified Benchmark Results

Results Verification R



# Benchmarking Methodology

## *containerised WfMSs*



Configurations

WfMS

# Benchmarking Methodology

*requirements from the WfMS*

CORE

NON-CORE

Configurations

WfMS

# Benchmarking Methodology

*requirements from the WfMS*

## Initialisation APIs

Deploy Process



Start Process  
Instance

CORE

NON-CORE



Configurations

WfMS

# Benchmarking Methodology

*requirements from the WfMS*

## Initialisation APIs

Deploy Process



Start Process  
Instance

CORE

## User APIs

Create User

Create Group

Pending User Tasks



Claim Task

Complete Task

NON-CORE



Configurations

WfMS

# Benchmarking Methodology

*requirements from the WfMS*

## Initialisation APIs

Deploy Process



Start Process  
Instance

CORE

## User APIs Web Service APIs

Create User

Create Group

Pending User Tasks



Invoke WS

Claim Task

Complete Task

NON-CORE





Configurations

WfMS

# Benchmarking Methodology

*requirements from the WfMS*

## Initialisation APIs

Deploy Process



Start Process  
Instance

CORE

## User APIs Web Service APIs Event APIs

Create User Create Group

Pending User Tasks



Invoke WS

Claim Task Complete Task

Pending Event Tasks



Issue Event

NON-CORE



Configurations

WfMS

# Benchmarking Methodology

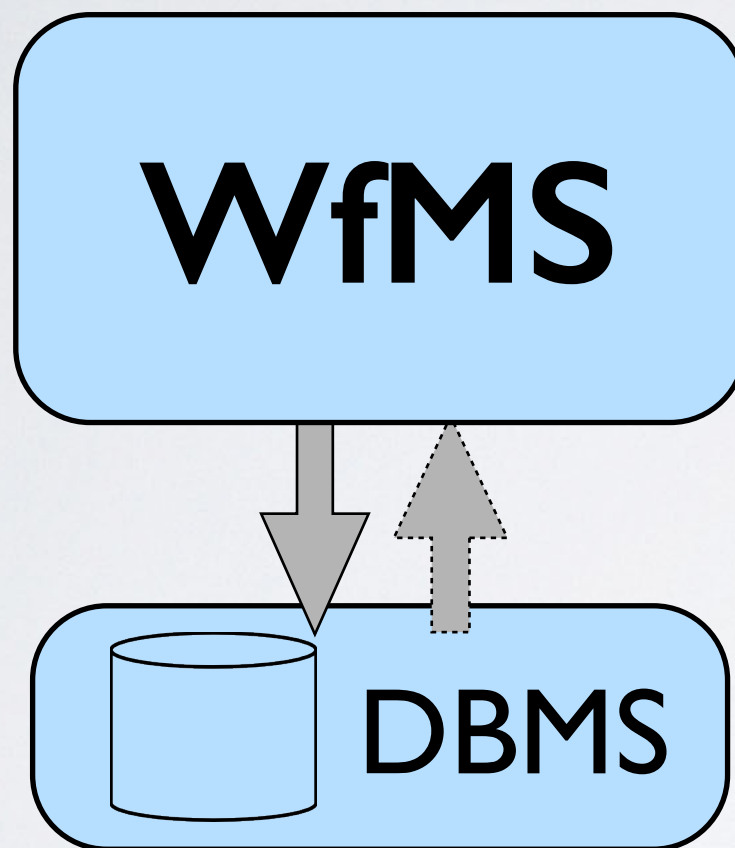
*requirements from the WfMS*

		Functionality	Min Response Data
Core APIs	Initialisation APIs	Deploy a process	Deployed process ID
		Start a process instance	Process instance ID
Non-core APIs	User APIs	Create a user	User ID
		Create a group of users	User group ID
		Access pending tasks	Pending tasks IDs
		Claim a task*	
		Complete a task	
	Event APIs	Access pending events	Pending events IDs
		Issue events	
	Web service APIs	Map tasks to Web service endpoints	

\*Optional depending on the WfMS implementation

# Benchmarking Methodology

## *containerised WfMSs*

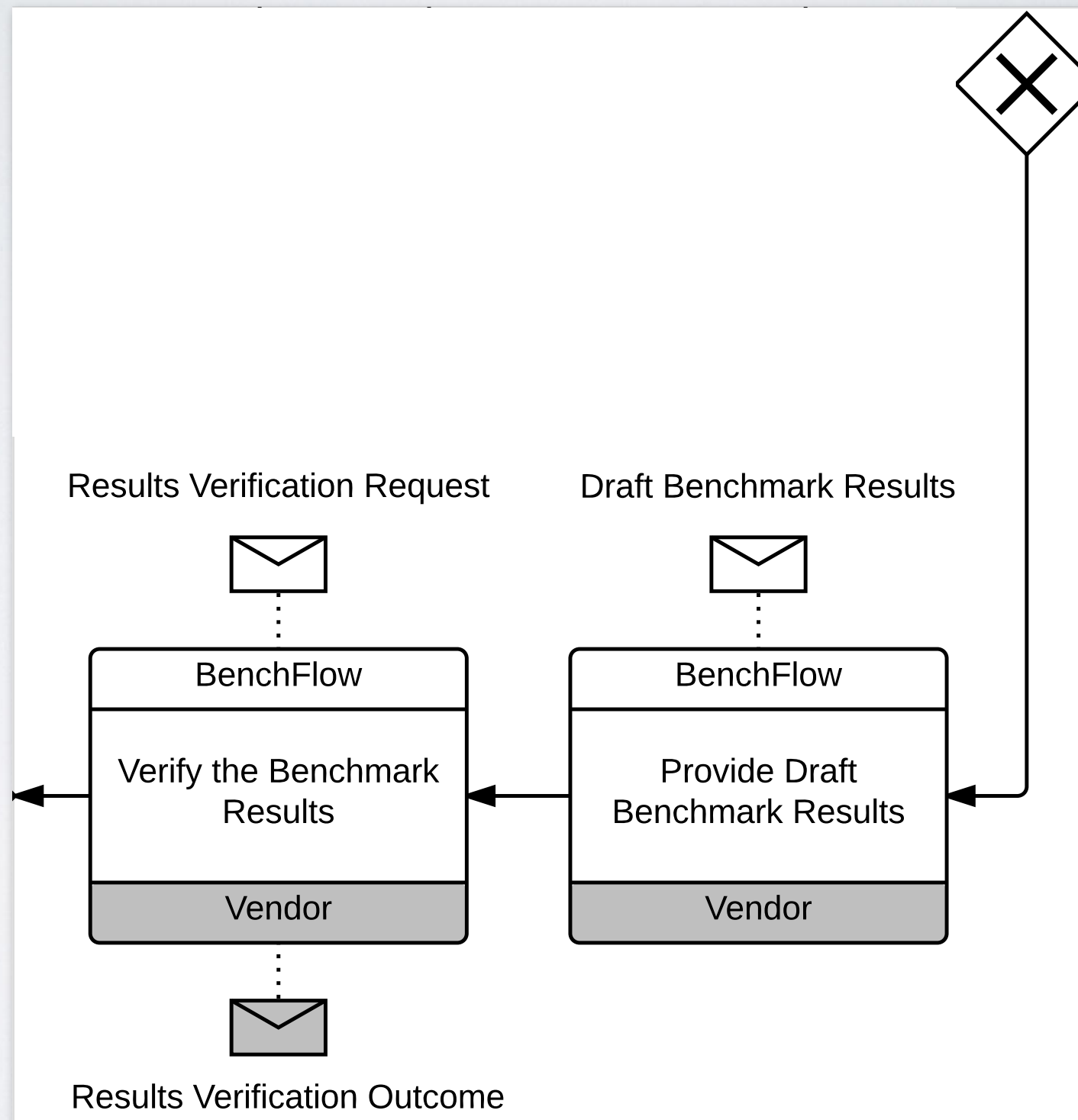


- At least two containers
- DBMS can refer to existing one publicly available
- Provide a ready to use default configuration (at least)
- Configurability of: DBMS, WfMS, Logging Level (at least)



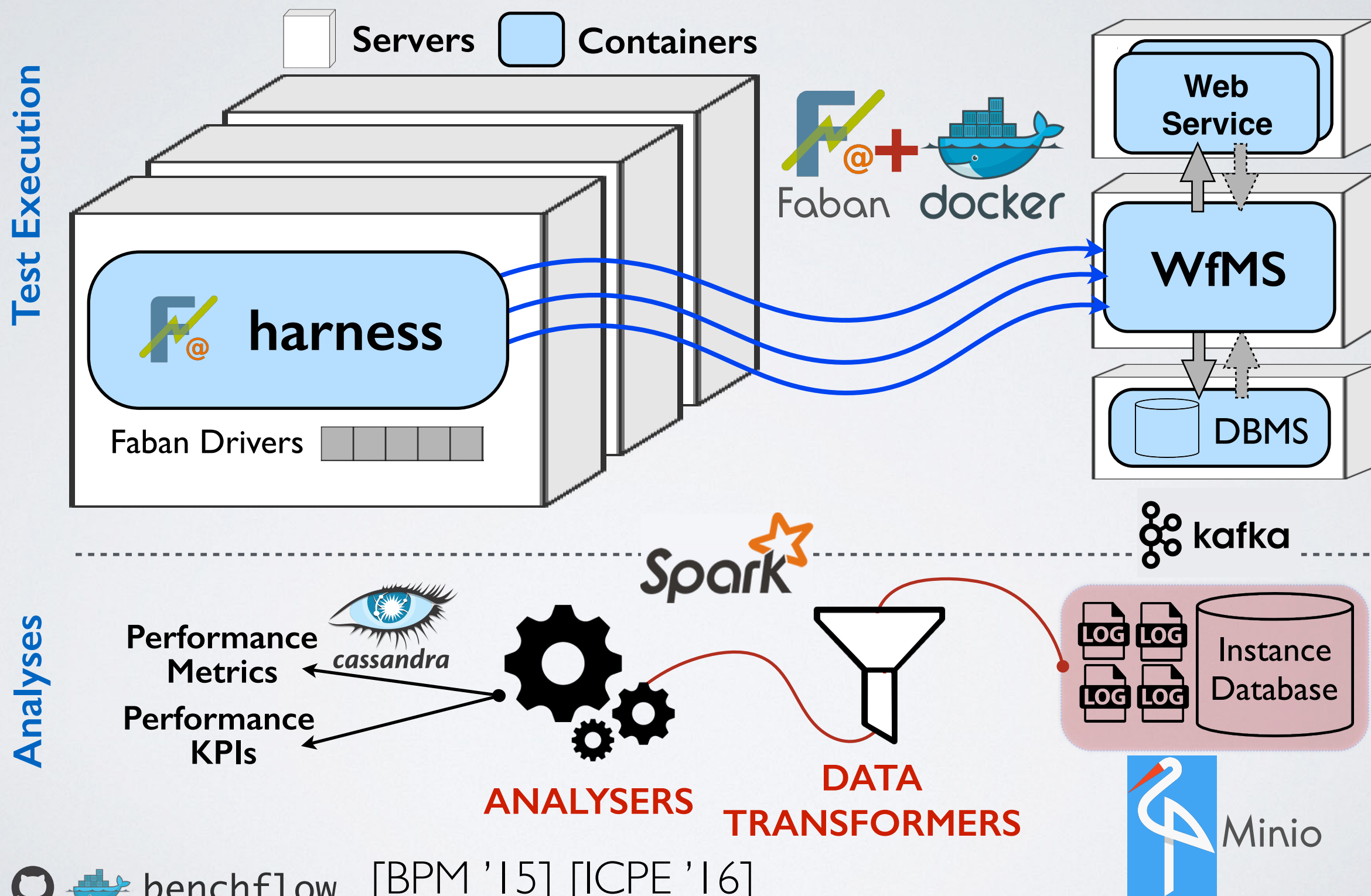
# Benchmarking Methodology

*executing the benchmark and providing results*

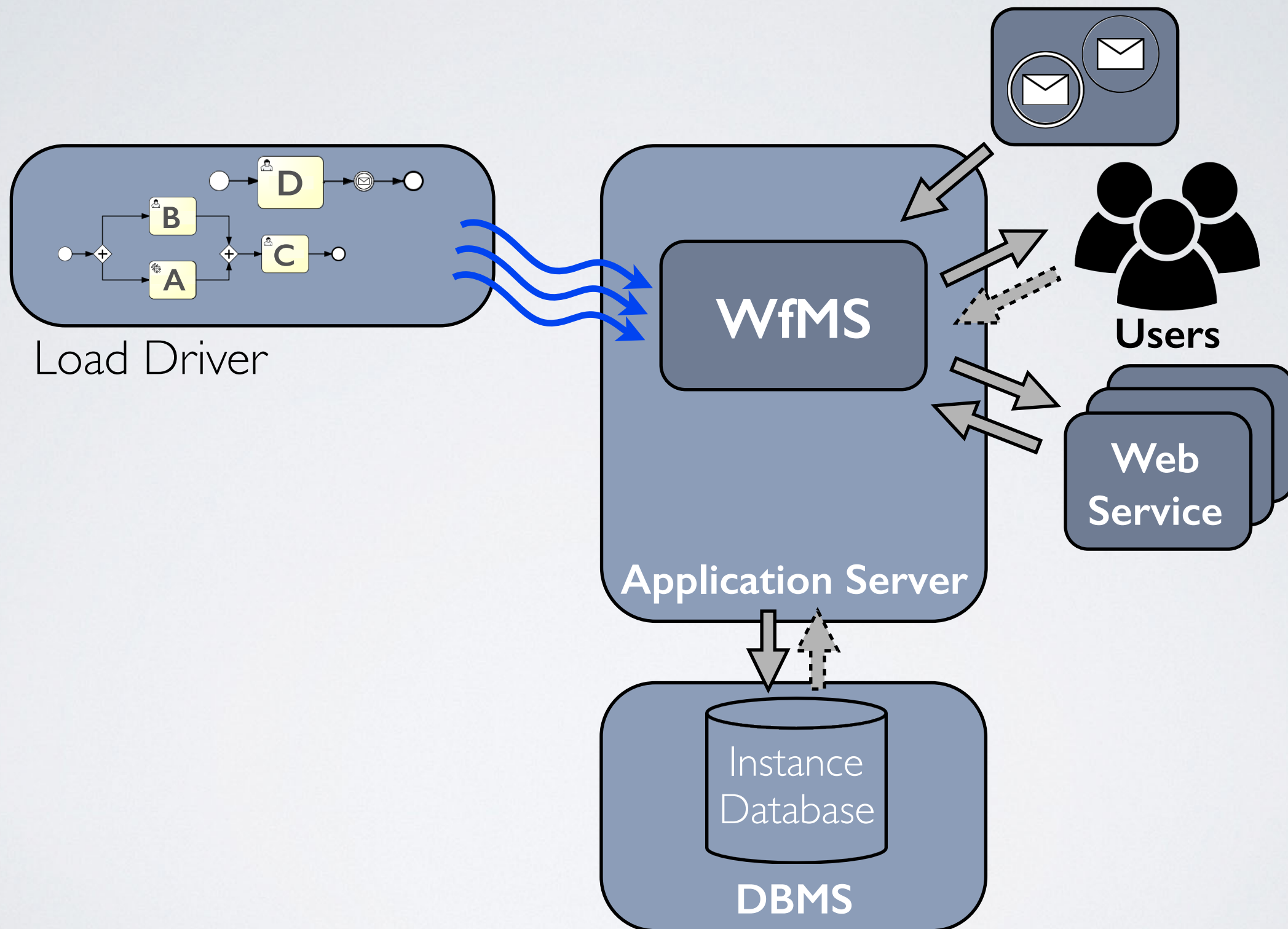




# BenchFlow Framework architecture

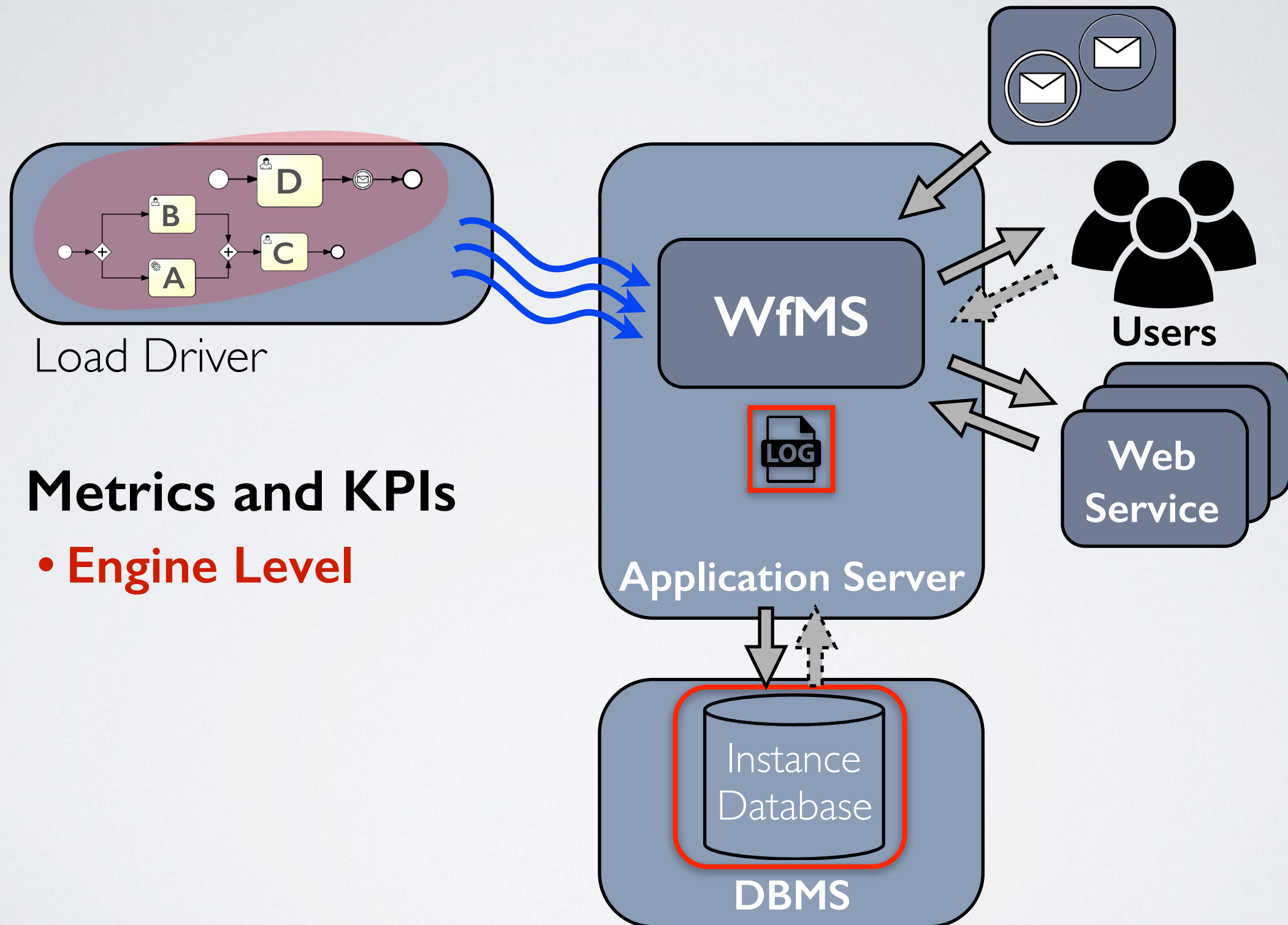


# Performance Metrics and KPIs





# Performance Metrics and KPIs

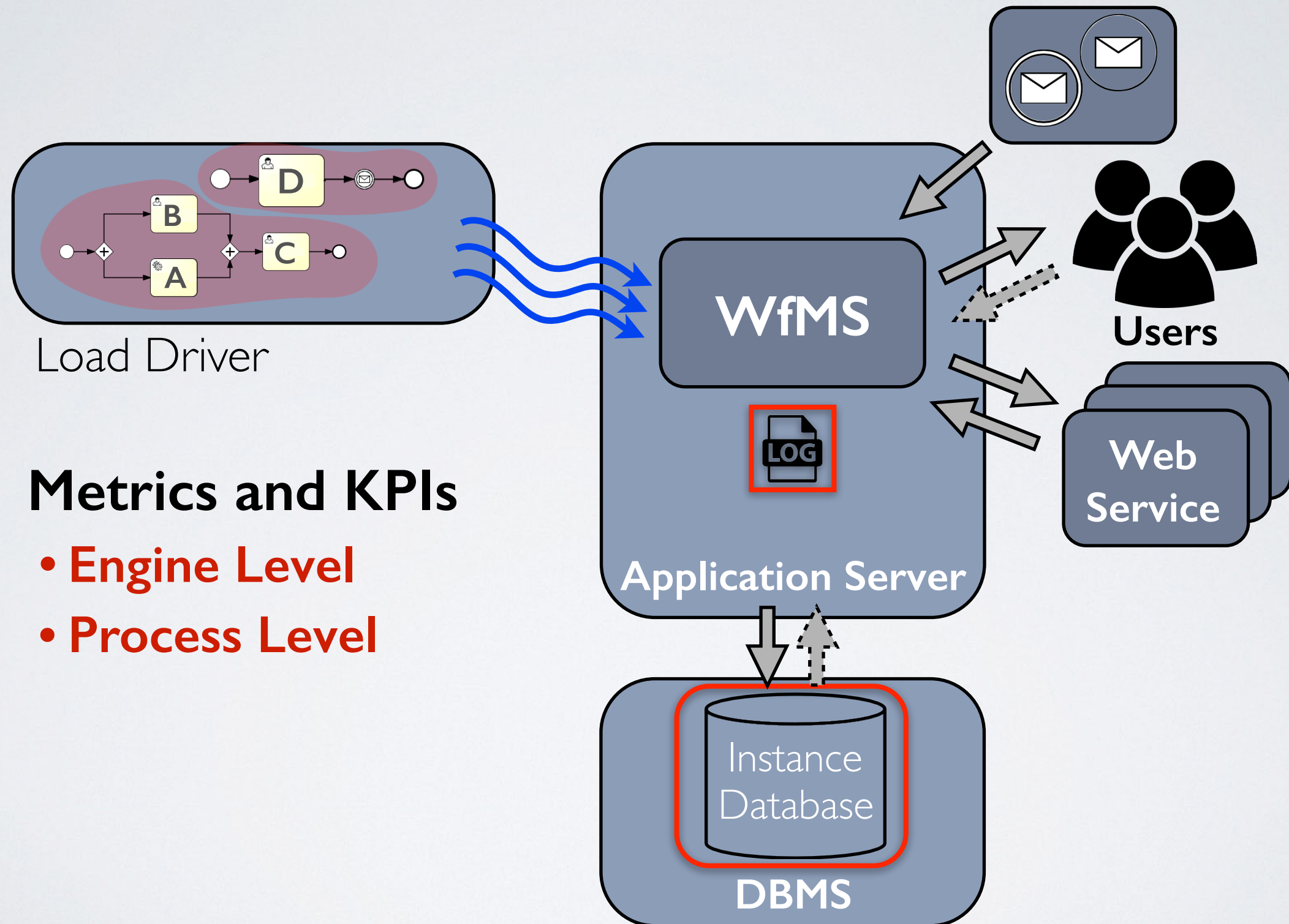


## Metrics and KPIs

- **Engine Level**



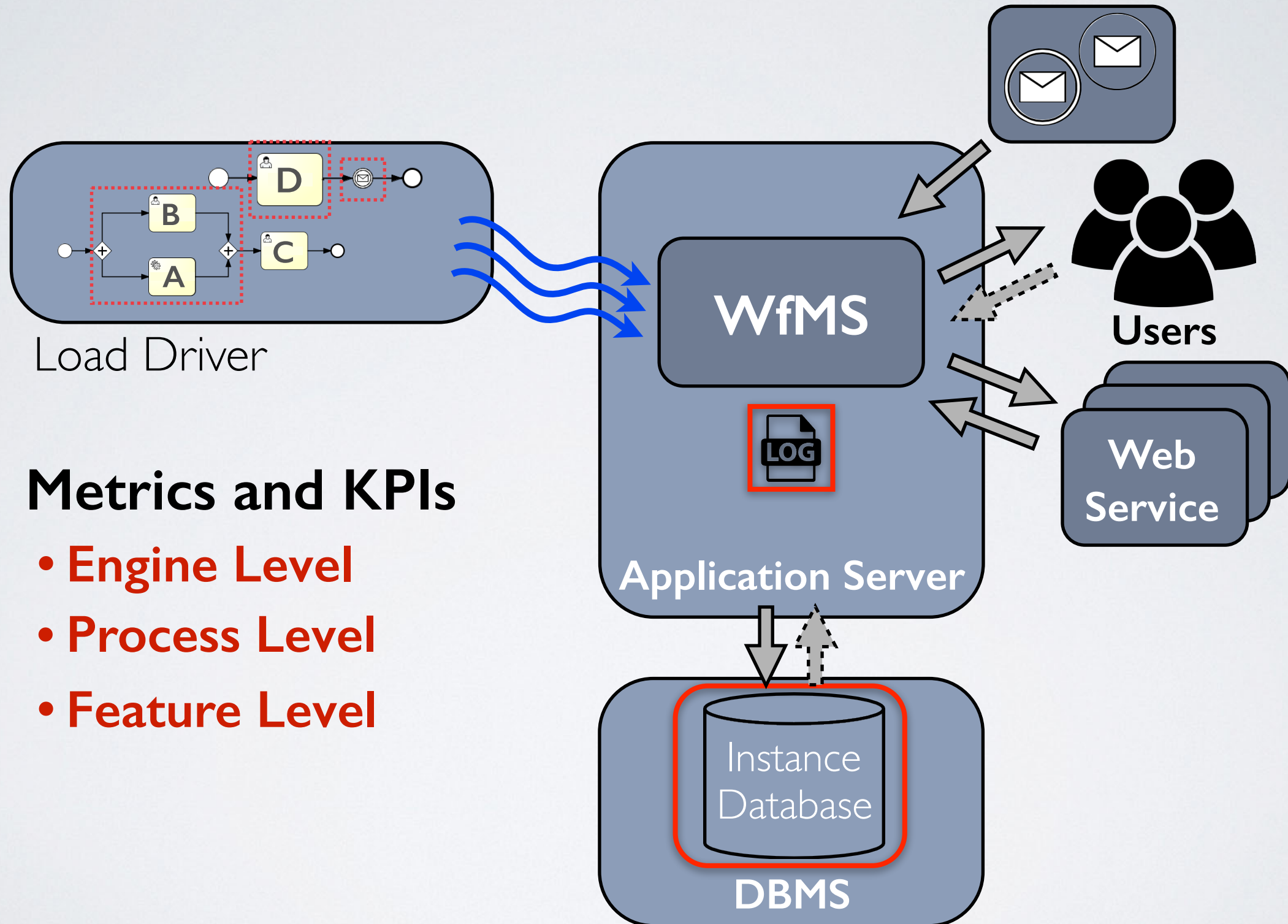
# Performance Metrics and KPIs



## Metrics and KPIs

- **Engine Level**
- **Process Level**

# Performance Metrics and KPIs

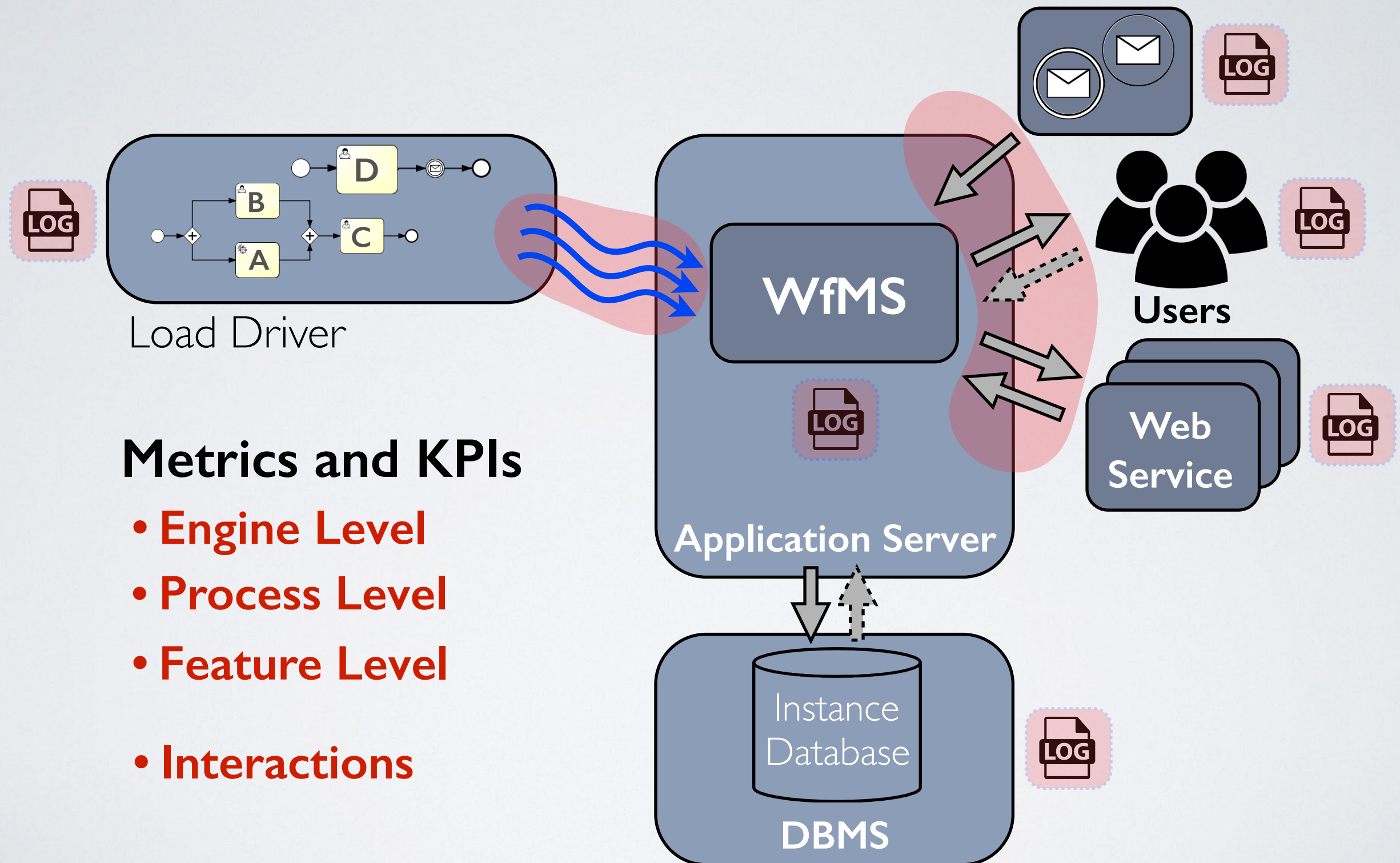


## Metrics and KPIs

- Engine Level
- Process Level
- Feature Level



# Performance Metrics and KPIs

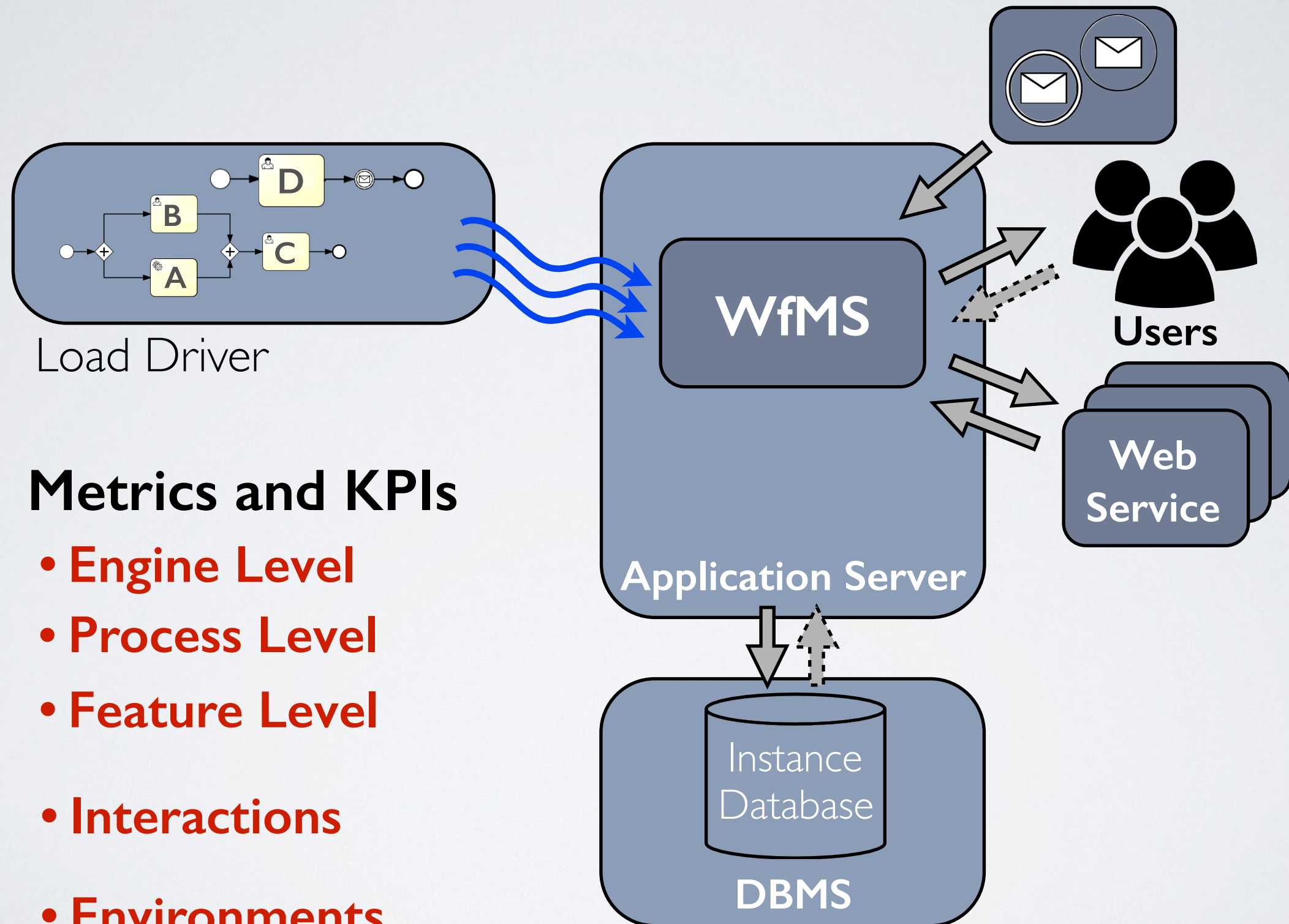


## Metrics and KPIs

- Engine Level
- Process Level
- Feature Level
- Interactions



# Performance Metrics and KPIs



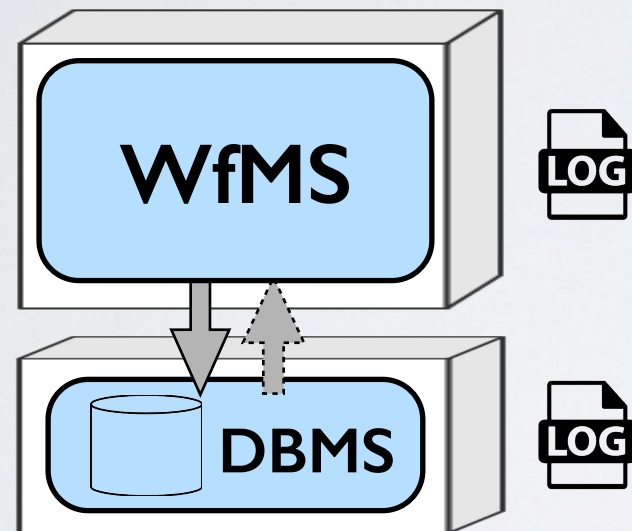
## Metrics and KPIs

- Engine Level
- Process Level
- Feature Level
- Interactions
- Environments

# Executing the Benchmark

*minimal data requirements*

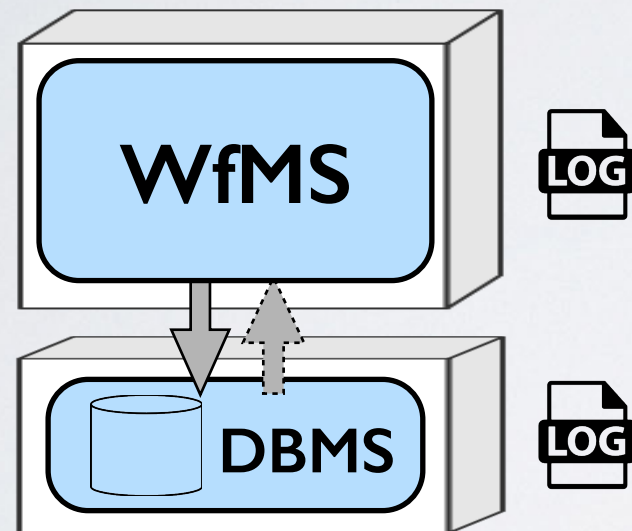
## Accessibility of the Data



# Executing the Benchmark

*minimal data requirements*

## Accessibility of the Data



## Availability of Timing Data

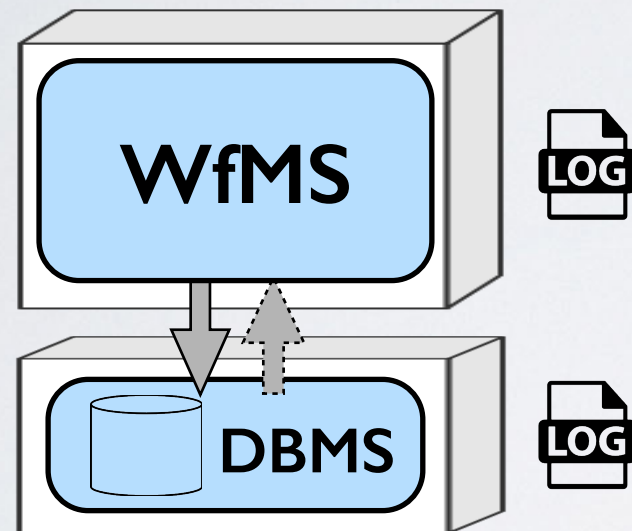
- **Workflow & Construct:**
  - Start Time
  - End Time
  - [Duration]



# Executing the Benchmark

*minimal data requirements*

## Accessibility of the Data



## Availability of Timing Data

- **Workflow & Construct:**
  - Start Time
  - End Time
  - [Duration]

## Availability of Execution State

State of the workflow execution. E.g., running, completed, error

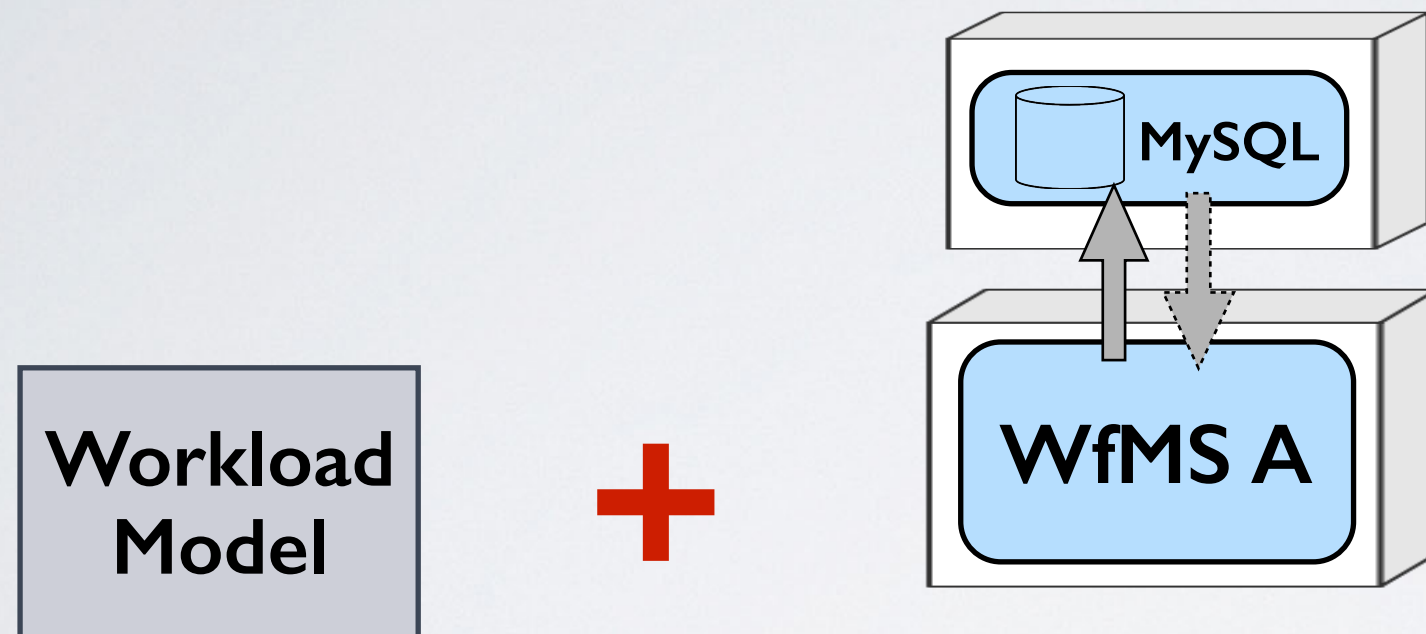
# Benchmarking Methodology

*mock example of benchmark results*

**Workload  
Model**

# Benchmarking Methodology

*mock example of benchmark results*



**O.S.:** Ubuntu 14.04.01

**J.V.M.:** Oracle Serv. 7u79

**App. Server:** Ap.Tomcat 7.0.62

**MySQL:** Community Server 5.6.26

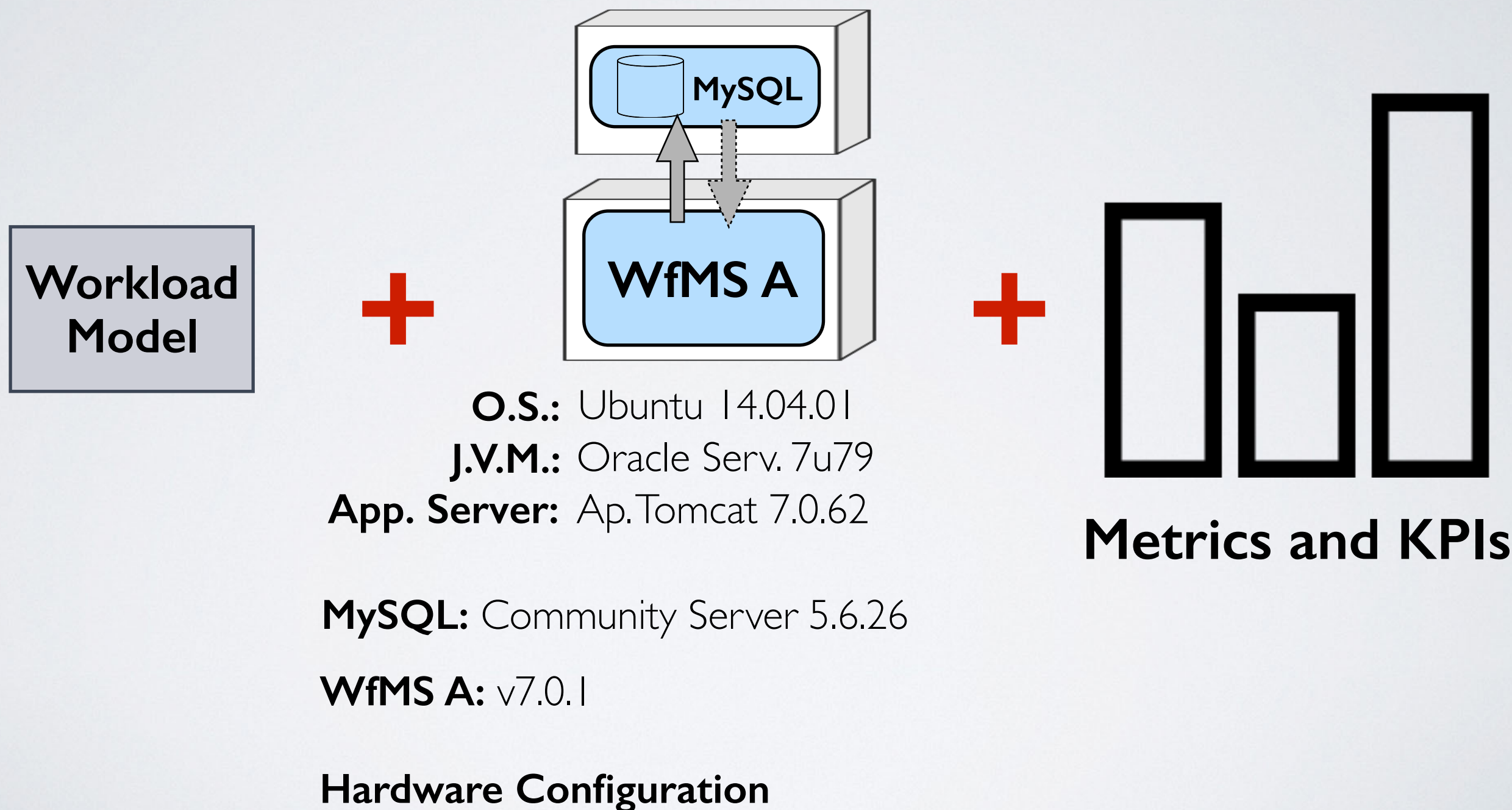
**WfMS A:** v7.0.1

**Hardware Configuration**



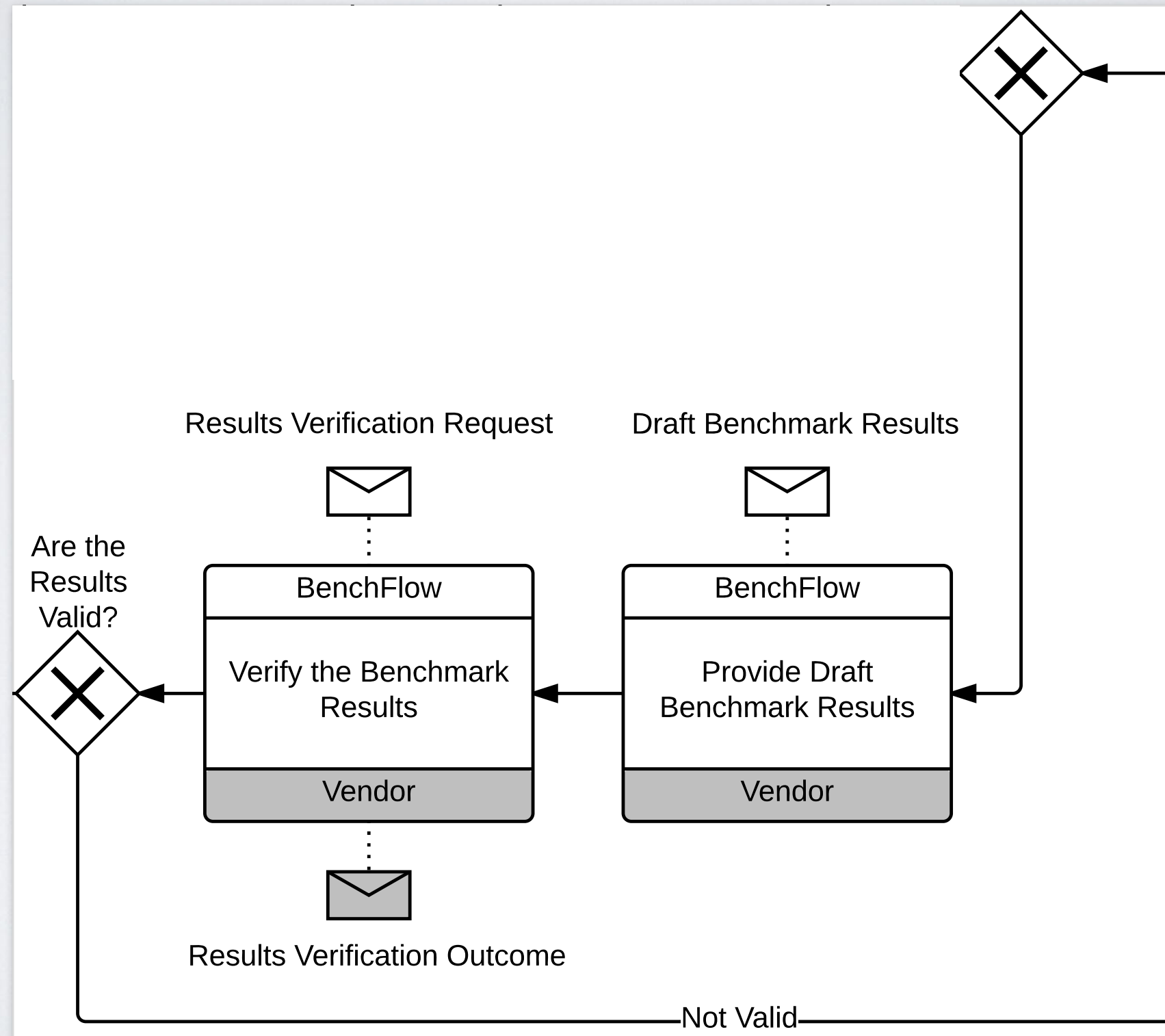
# Benchmarking Methodology

*mock example of benchmark results*



# Benchmarking Methodology

*executing the benchmark and providing results*

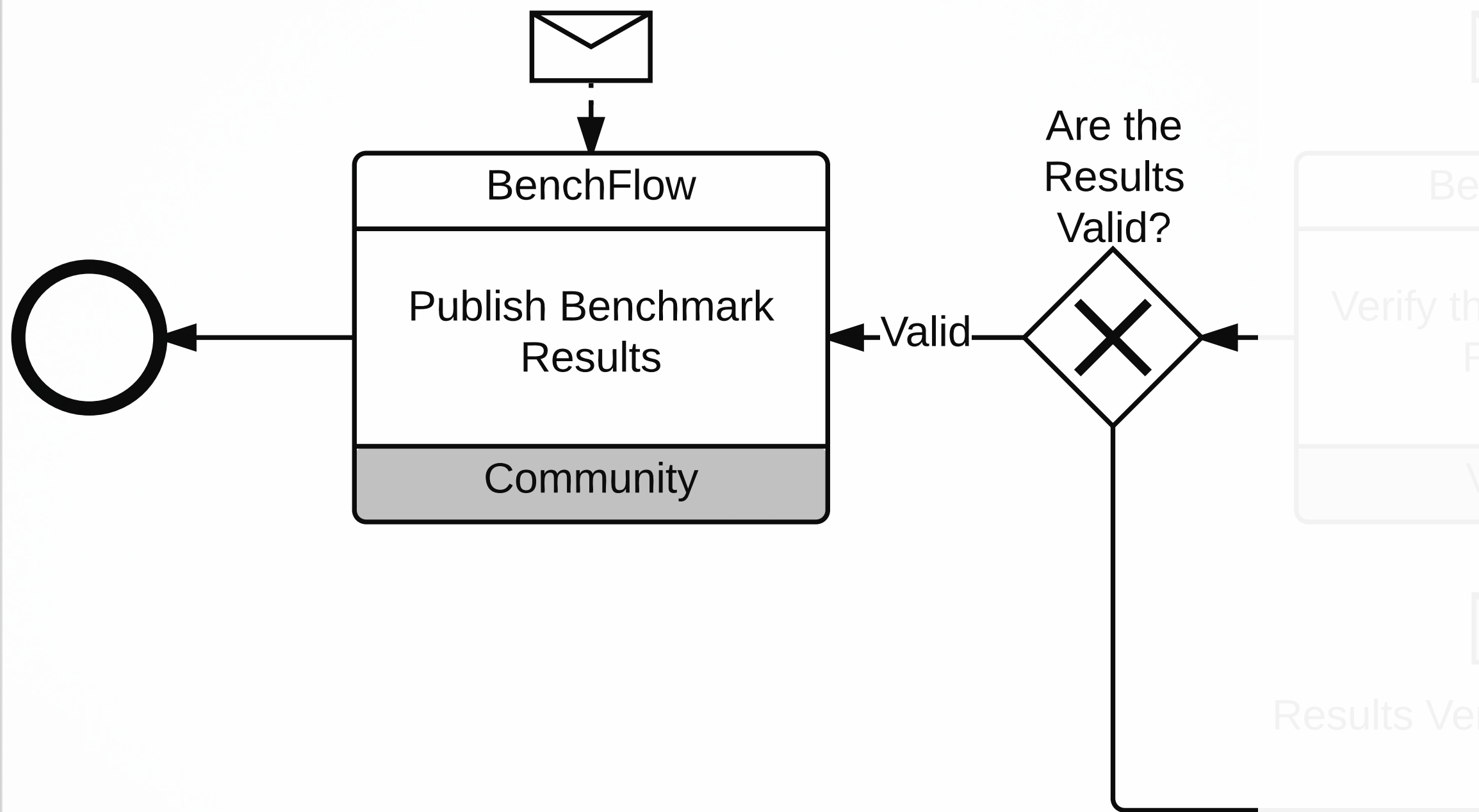


# Benchmarking Methodology

*publish benchmark results*

Verified Benchmark Results

Results Ver





# Advantages of using Containers

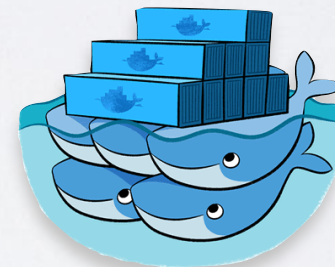
- Accomplish some Benchmarking Requirement:  
Portability, Repeatability, Accessibility, Efficiency

## Advantages of using Containers

- Accomplish some Benchmarking Requirement:  
**Portability, Repeatability, Accessibility, Efficiency**
- Common way to deploy systems provided by different vendors



**Docker Compose**



**Docker Swarm**

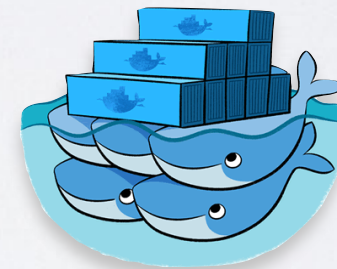


## Advantages of using Containers

- Accomplish some Benchmarking Requirement:  
**Portability, Repeatability, Accessibility, Efficiency**
- Common way to deploy systems provided by different vendors



**Docker Compose**



**Docker Swarm**

- Standard APIs to access Environment Metrics



# First Application of the Methodology

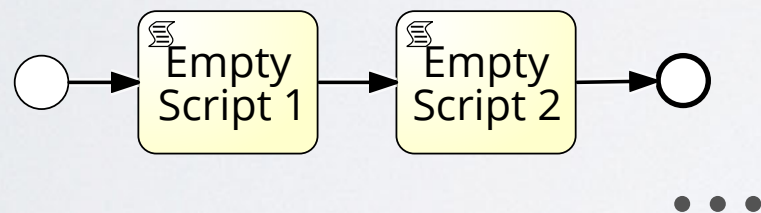
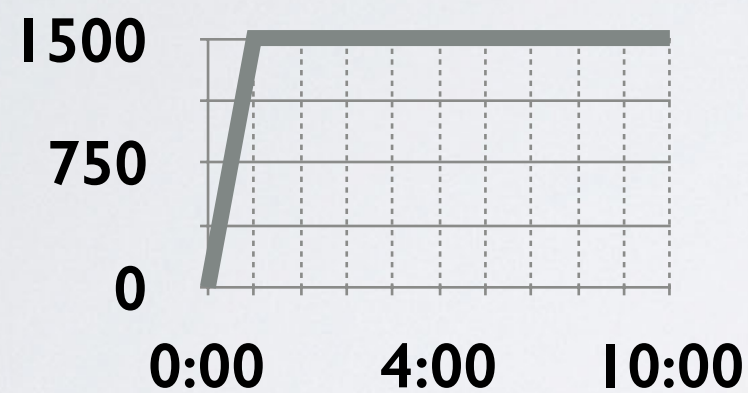
[CAiSE '16]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso, F. Leymann, A. van Hoorn. **Micro-Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems with Workflow Patterns** . In Proc. of CAiSE '16, June, 2016.

# First Application of the Methodology

[CAiSE '16]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso, F. Leymann, A. van Hoorn. **Micro-Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems with Workflow Patterns**. In Proc. of CAiSE '16, June, 2016.



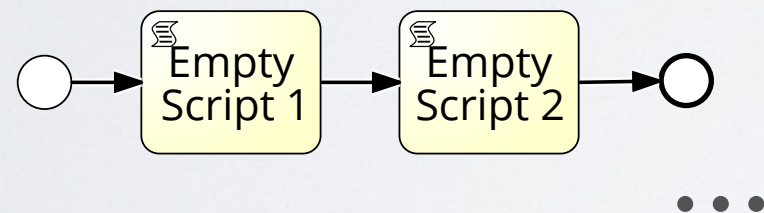
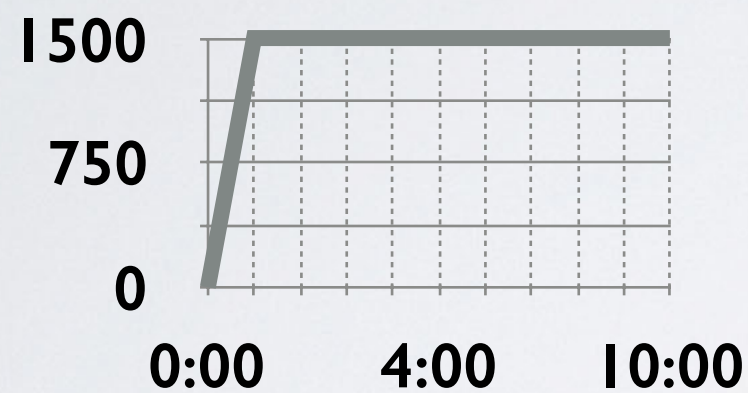
## Workload



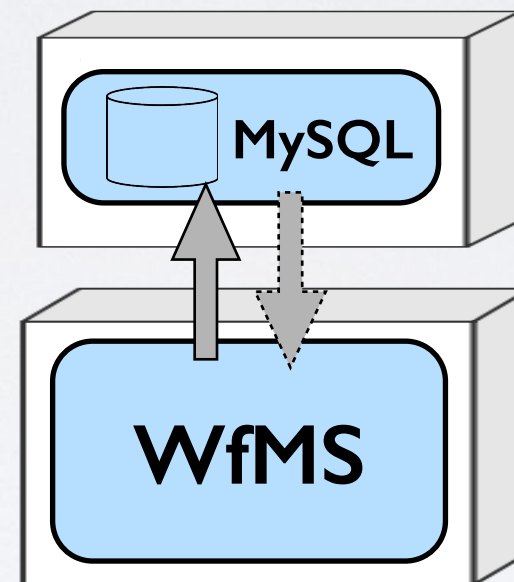
# First Application of the Methodology

[CAiSE '16]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso, F. Leymann, A. van Hoorn. **Micro-Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems with Workflow Patterns**. In Proc. of CAiSE '16, June, 2016.



**Workload**



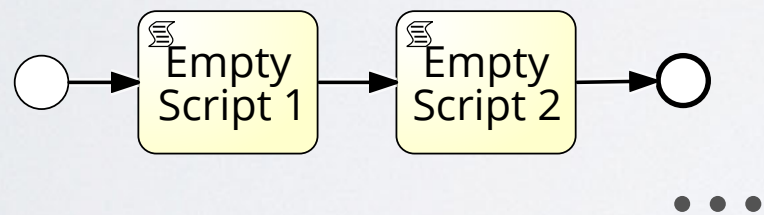
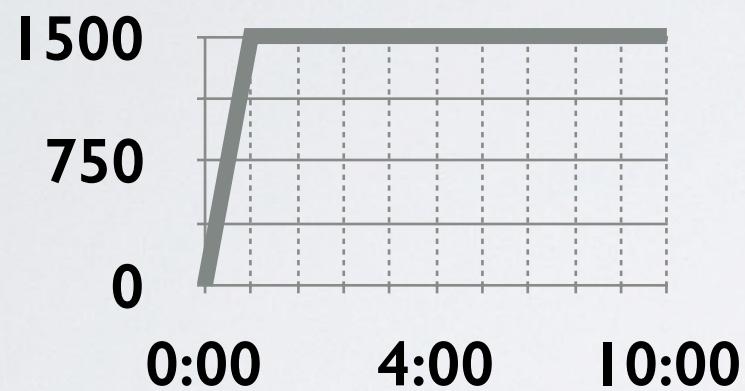
**3 WfMSs**



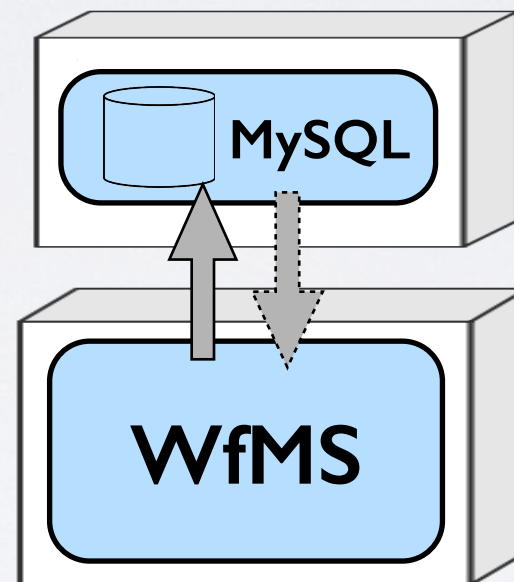
# First Application of the Methodology

[CAiSE '16]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso, F. Leymann, A. van Hoorn. **Micro-Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems with Workflow Patterns**. In Proc. of CAiSE '16, June, 2016.



**Workload**



**3 WfMSs**

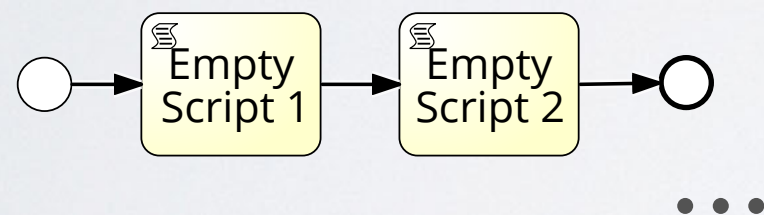
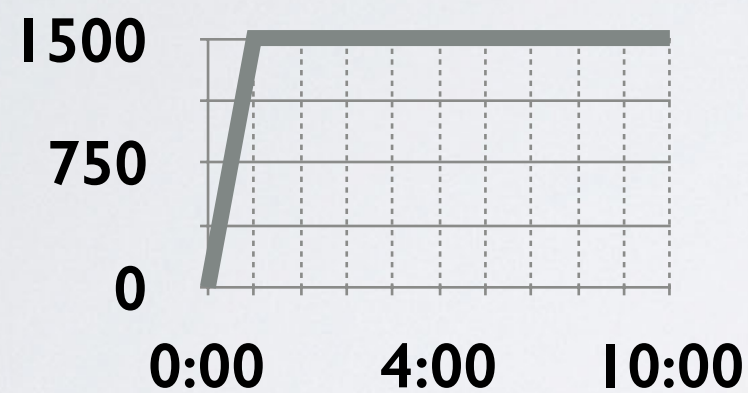
- **Engine Level**
- **Process Level**
- **Environment**

**Metrics**

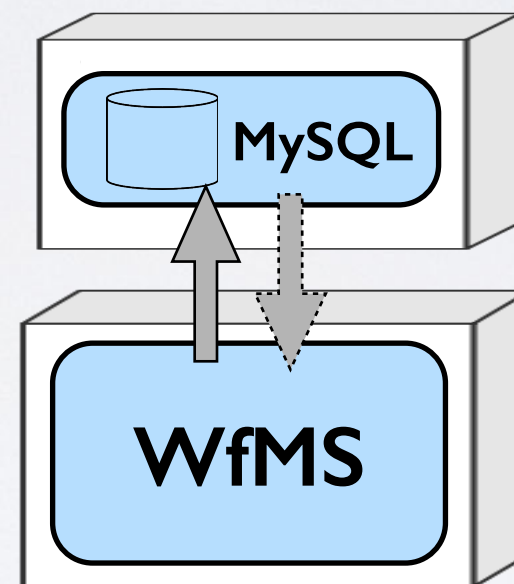
# First Application of the Methodology

[CAiSE '16]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso, F. Leymann, A. van Hoorn. **Micro-Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems with Workflow Patterns**. In Proc. of CAiSE '16, June, 2016.



**Workload**



**3 WfMSs**

- Engine Level
- Process Level
- Environment

**Metrics**

**Results: relevant differences among WfMSs**



## Future Work

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology



## Future Work

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology
- **Involve more Vendors and Researchers as part of the Benchmarking Effort**

## Future Work

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology
- Involve more **Vendors** and Researchers as part of the Benchmarking Effort



## Future Work

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology
- Involve more **Vendors** and Researchers as part of the Benchmarking Effort





## Future Work

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology
- **Involve more Vendors and Researchers as part of the Benchmarking Effort**

## Future Work

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology
- **Involve more Vendors and Researchers as part of the Benchmarking Effort**

**1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on  
Performance and Conformance of Workflow Engines**



**Workshop**  
September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**ESOCC 2016**  
Vienna, Austria

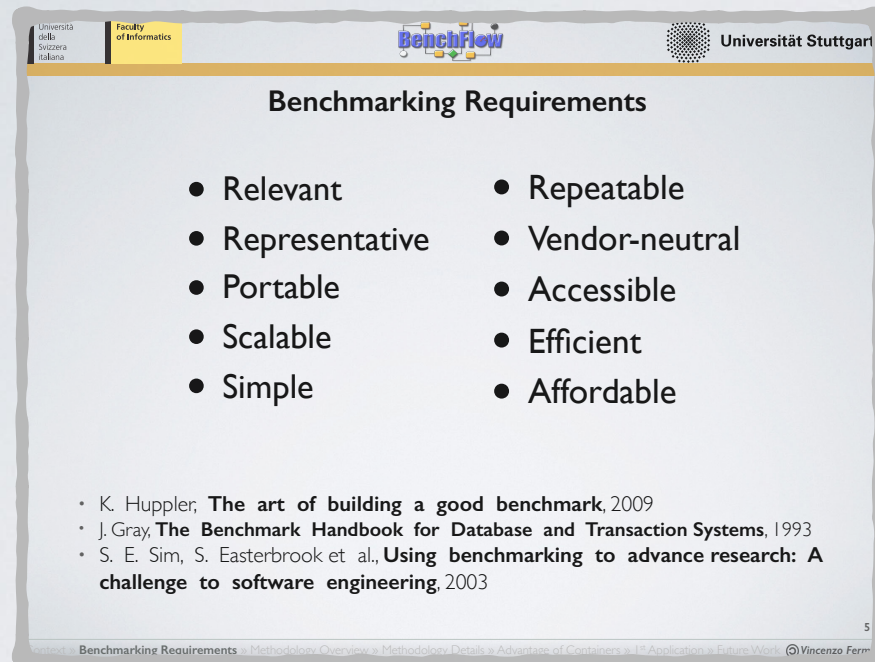
<http://uniba-dsg.github.io/peace-ws/>



# Highlights



# Highlights



The thumbnail shows a presentation slide with the title "Benchmarking Requirements". It lists ten requirements in two columns: Relevant, Repeatable, Representative, Vendor-neutral, Portable, Accessible, Scalable, Efficient, Simple, and Affordable. Below the list, it cites three sources: K. Hupler (2009), J. Gray (1993), and S. E. Sim et al. (2003). The slide has a header with logos for the University of Switzerland, Faculty of Informatics, BenchFlow, and Universität Stuttgart. A footer shows a navigation bar and the copyright notice "© Vincenzo Ferme".

**Benchmarking Requirements**

- Relevant
- Repeatable
- Representative
- Vendor-neutral
- Portable
- Accessible
- Scalable
- Efficient
- Simple
- Affordable

• K. Hupler, **The art of building a good benchmark**, 2009  
• J. Gray, **The Benchmark Handbook for Database and Transaction Systems**, 1993  
• S. E. Sim, S. Easterbrook et al., **Using benchmarking to advance research: A challenge to software engineering**, 2003

5

Context » Benchmarking Requirements » Methodology Overview » Methodology Details » Advantages of Containers » I\* Application » Future Work © Vincenzo Ferme

## Benchmarking Requirements

# Highlights

Università della Svizzera italiana

Faculty of Informatics

Universität Stuttgart

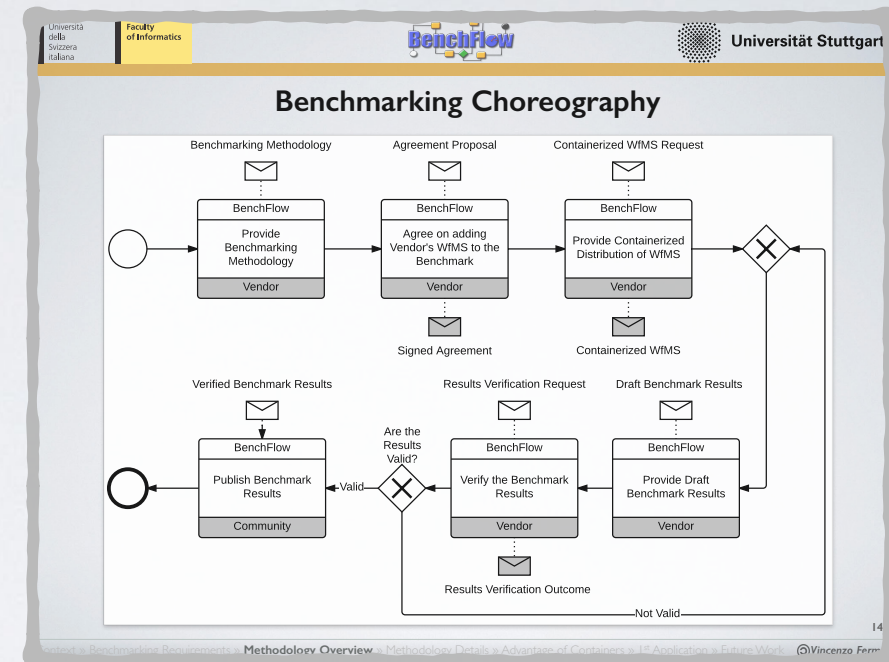
## Benchmarking Requirements

- Relevant
- Repeatable
- Representative
- Vendor-neutral
- Portable
- Accessible
- Scalable
- Efficient
- Simple
- Affordable

• K. Huppler, **The art of building a good benchmark**, 2009  
 • J. Gray, **The Benchmark Handbook for Database and Transaction Systems**, 1993  
 • S. E. Sim, S. Easterbrook et al., **Using benchmarking to advance research: A challenge to software engineering**, 2003

5

## Benchmarking Requirements



## Benchmarking Methodology



# Highlights

Università della Svizzera italiana Faculty of Informatics BenchFlow Universität Stuttgart

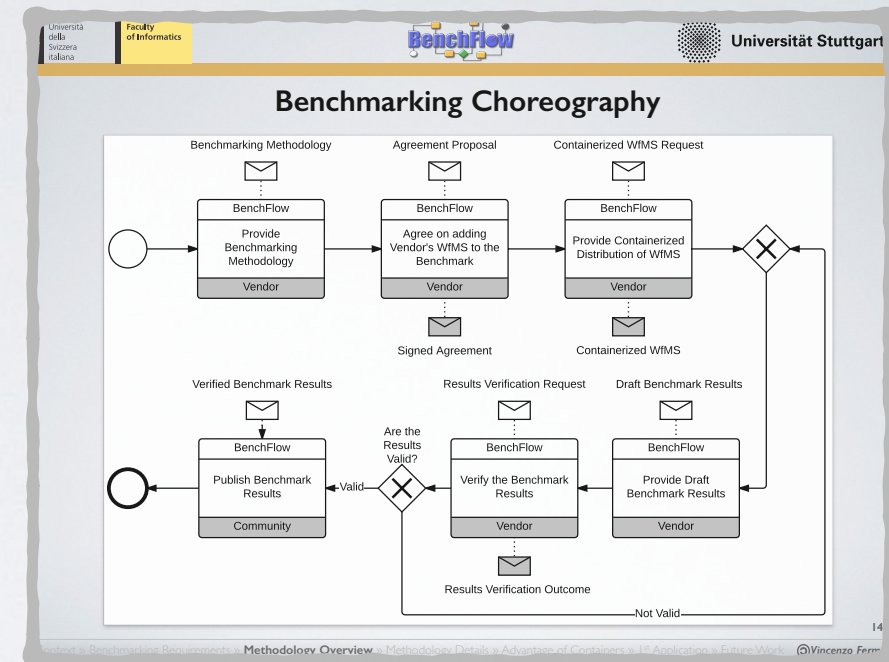
## Benchmarking Requirements

- Relevant
- Repeatable
- Representative
- Vendor-neutral
- Portable
- Accessible
- Scalable
- Efficient
- Simple
- Affordable

• K. Huppler, **The art of building a good benchmark**, 2009  
 • J. Gray, **The Benchmark Handbook for Database and Transaction Systems**, 1993  
 • S. E. Sim, S. Easterbrook et al., **Using benchmarking to advance research: A challenge to software engineering**, 2003

5

## Benchmarking Requirements



## Benchmarking Methodology

Università della Svizzera italiana Faculty of Informatics BenchFlow Universität Stuttgart

## Advantages of using Containers

- Accomplish some Benchmarking Requirement:  
**Portability, Repeatability, Accessibility, Efficiency**
- Common way to deploy systems provided by different vendors

Docker Compose

Docker Swarm

- Standard APIs to access Environment Metrics

29

## Advantages of Containers



# Highlights

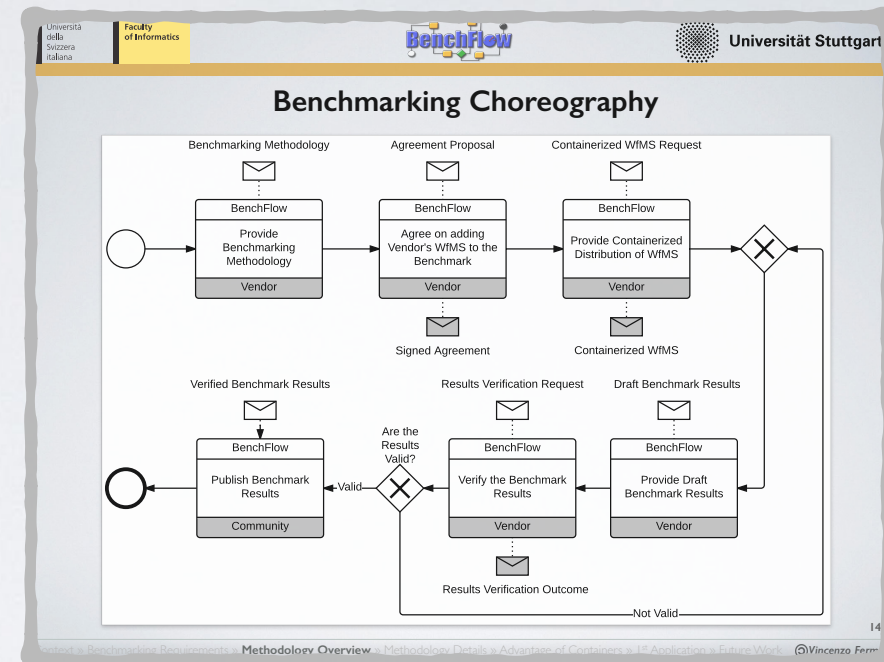
**Benchmarking Requirements**

- Relevant
- Repeatable
- Representative
- Vendor-neutral
- Portable
- Accessible
- Scalable
- Efficient
- Simple
- Affordable

• K. Huppler, **The art of building a good benchmark**, 2009  
 • J. Gray, **The Benchmark Handbook for Database and Transaction Systems**, 1993  
 • S. E. Sim, S. Easterbrook et al., **Using benchmarking to advance research: A challenge to software engineering**, 2003

5

## Benchmarking Requirements



## Benchmarking Methodology

**Advantages of using Containers**

- Accomplish some Benchmarking Requirement:  
**Portability, Repeatability, Accessibility, Efficiency**
- Common way to deploy systems provided by different vendors

Docker Compose

Docker Swarm

- Standard APIs to access Environment Metrics

29

## Advantages of Containers

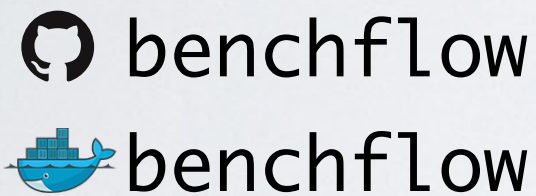
**Future Work**

- Continue to Apply and Improve the Methodology
- Involve more Vendors and Researchers as part of the Benchmarking Effort

31

## Future Work


# A CONTAINER-CENTRIC METHODOLOGY FOR BENCHMARKING WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



<http://benchflow.inf.usi.ch>

✉ [vincenzo.ferme@usi.ch](mailto:vincenzo.ferme@usi.ch)


**Vincenzo Ferme (@VincenzoFerme),**  
Ana Ivanchikj, Prof. Cesare Pautasso  
Faculty of Informatics  
University of Lugano (USI), Switzerland

Marigianna Skouradaki,  
Prof. Frank Leymann   
Institute of Architecture of Application Systems  
University of Stuttgart, Germany



# BACKUP SLIDES

**Vincenzo Ferme**, Ana Ivanchikj,  
Prof. Cesare Pautasso  
Faculty of Informatics  
University of Lugano (USI), Switzerland

Marigianna Skouradaki,  
Prof. Frank Leymann   
Institute of Architecture of Application Systems  
University of Stuttgart, Germany



## Published Work

[SSP '14]

M. Skouradaki, D. H. Roller, F. Leymann, V. Ferme, and C. Pautasso. **Technical open challenges on benchmarking workflow management systems**. In Proc. of the 2014 Symposium on Software Performance, SSP 2014, pages 105–112, 2014.

[BTW '15]

C. Pautasso, V. Ferme, D. Roller, F. Leymann, and M. Skouradaki. **Towards workflow benchmarking: Open research challenges**. In Proc. of the 16th conference on Database Systems for Business, Technology, and Web, BTW 2015, pages 331–350, 2015.

[ICPE '15]

M. Skouradaki, D. H. Roller, L. Frank, V. Ferme, and C. Pautasso. **On the Road to Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Engines**. In Proc. of the 6th ACM/SPEC International Conference on Performance Engineering, ICPE '15, pages 301–304, 2015.

## Published Work

[CLOSER '15]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, F. Leymann, C. Pautasso, and D. H. Roller. **“BPELanon”: Protect business processes on the cloud.** In Proc. of the 5th International Conference on Cloud Computing and Service Science, CLOSER 2015. SciTePress, 2015.

[SOSE '15]

M. Skouradaki, K. Goerlach, M. Hahn, and F. Leymann. **Application of Sub-Graph Isomorphism to Extract Reoccurring Structures from BPMN 2.0 Process Models.** In Proc. of the 9th International IEEE Symposium on Service-Oriented System Engineering, SOSE 2015, 2015.

[BPM '15]

V. Ferme, A. Ivanchikj, C. Pautasso. **A Framework for Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems.** In Proc. of the 13th International Conference on Business Process Management, BPM '15, pages 251-259, 2015.



## Published Work

[BPMD '15]

A. Ivanchikj, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso. **BPMeter: Web Service and Application for Static Analysis of BPMN 2.0 Collections**. In Proc. of the 13th International Conference on Business Process Management [Demo], BPM '15, pages 30-34, 2015.

[ICPE '16]

V. Ferme, and C. Pautasso. **Integrating Faban with Docker for Performance Benchmarking**. In Proc. of the 7th ACM/SPEC International Conference on Performance Engineering, ICPE '16, 2016.

[CAiSE '16]

M. Skouradaki, V. Ferme, C. Pautasso, F. Leymann, A. van Hoorn. **Micro-Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 Workflow Management Systems with Workflow Patterns**. In Proc. of the 28th International Conference on Advanced Information Systems Engineering, CAiSE '16, 2016.

# Docker Performance

[IBM '14]

W. Felter, A. Ferreira, R. Rajamony, and J. Rubio. **An updated performance comparison of virtual machines and Linux containers.** IBM Research Report, 2014.

“Our results show that **containers result in equal or better performance than VMs in almost all cases.**”

“Although **containers themselves have almost no overhead, Docker is not without performance gotchas.** Docker volumes have noticeably better performance than files stored in AUFS. Docker's NAT also introduces overhead for workloads with high packet rates. These **features** represent a **tradeoff between ease of management and performance** and should be considered on a case-by-case basis.”

**BenchFlow Configures Docker for Performance by Default**