



**CRUX**

**Accelerate Source to  
Signal: Data  
Engineering Efficiency**

**Data Council NYC  
Mark Etherington**

November 2019 | **Confidential**



# Evolving to an Efficient, Data-driven Operating Model is an Imperative but Very Challenging for Companies.

1. We've moved firmly into a **data driven world**. Companies that can get their hands on **more data, quickly and efficiently, have an edge**.
2. The "first mile" of **data ingestion is frustrating**. Managing data suppliers, extracting datasets from hundreds of sources, validating and wrangling data, and delivering to multiple destinations is **challenging and inefficient**.
3. The **vast majority of companies are on their own** and require a **robust technology platform** and **experienced operations team**.
4. Maintaining this data supply is a process that, if it fails is harmful to their business and, if it succeeds, **doesn't differentiate them from competitors**.
5. While mission critical, these capabilities are **expensive to build** and **detract resources** from differentiated work causing a **resource drain at some companies** and a **capability gap** at others.
6. **Margin pressure** has placed a new **focus on costs** across the financial services industry.

# Major Data Trends

## 1. Evolving to a data-driven model is critical but hard

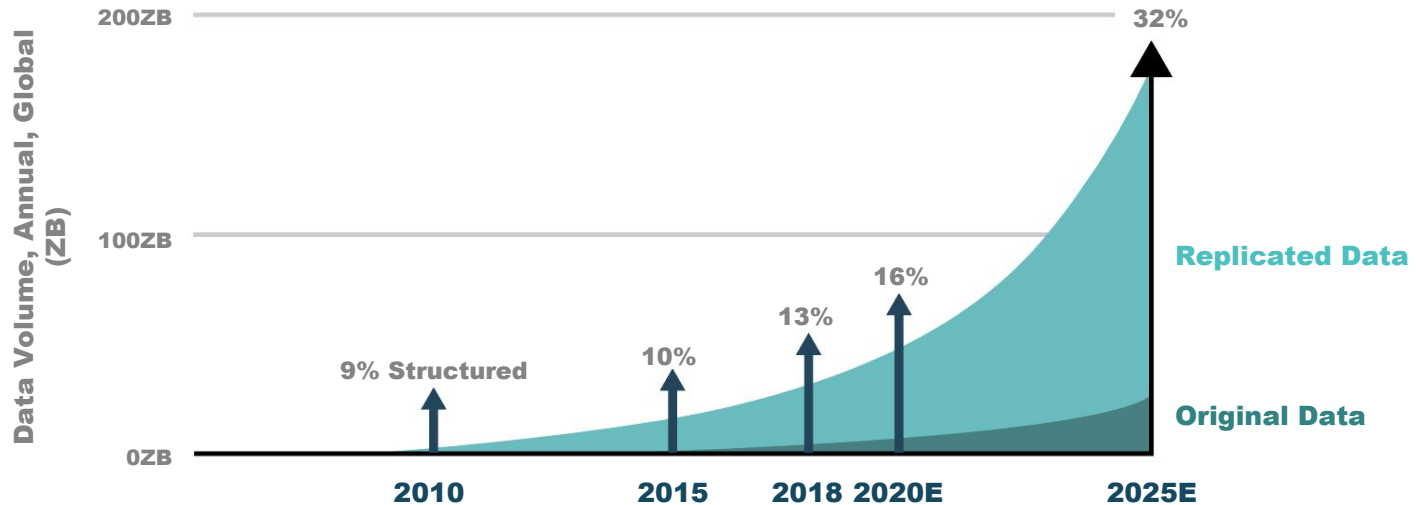
“Companies Are Failing in Their Efforts to Become Data-Driven”  
- Harvard Business Review, February 2019

## 2. Increasingly blurred lines b/w data creators and distributors

“London Stock Exchange clinches acquisition of Refinitiv for \$27Bn”  
- Financial Times, July 2019

## 3. Long path to monetization roadblock for new vendors.

“Hard times at Thasos might be sign of Alternative Data’s Future”  
- Business Insider, August 2019



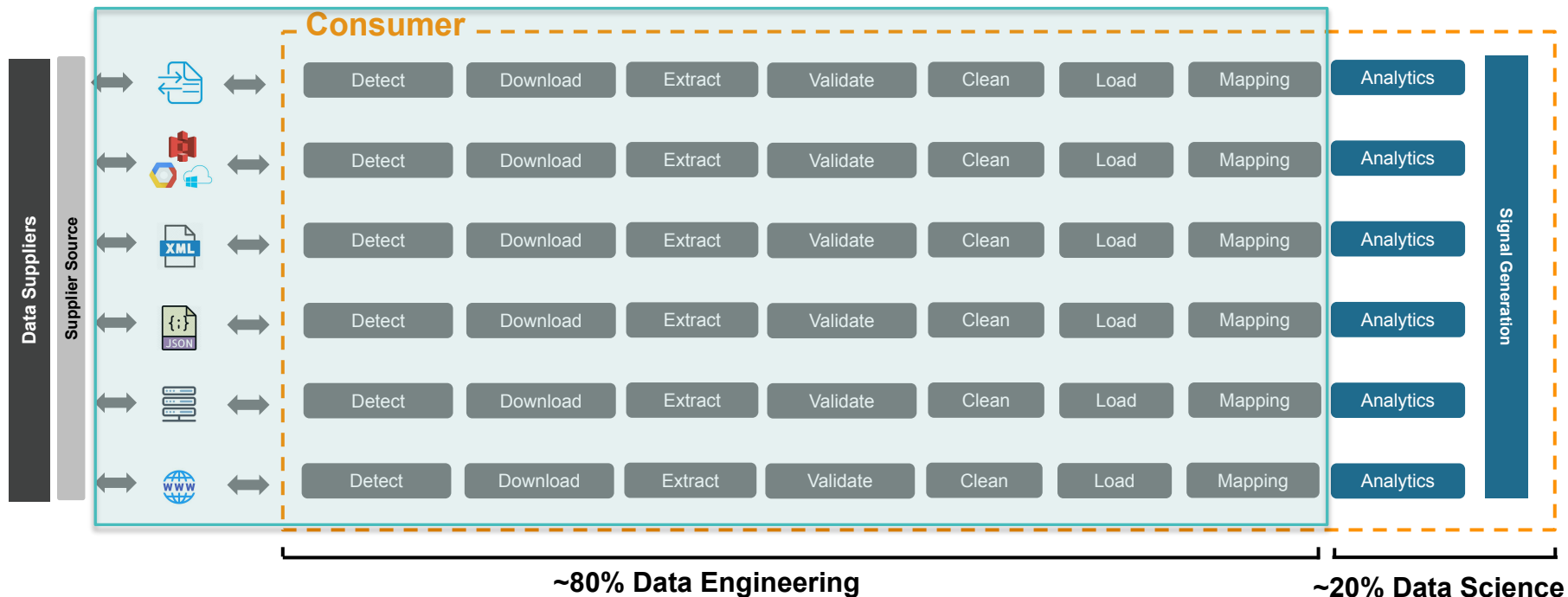
Source: IDC “Digitalization of the World From Edge to Core White Paper” developed in collaboration with Seagate (11/18), IDC DataSphere. Note: 1 petabyte = 1M gigabytes, 1 zettabyte = 1M petabytes of new data created/captured each year. The dark teal area in the graph represents data generated, not stored. Structured data indicates data that has been organized so that it is easily searchable and includes metadata & machine to machine (M2M) data. Replicated data = data that is a copy of the original.





# Massive Firmwide Inefficiency

## Non-Differentiating Data Tasks



# Pipelines Aren't Just A Technical Problem

## Supplier Connection

- **Contracts & Relationships**
- **Fast Ingestion**
- **Any Data Type & Source**
- **Ready-made Pipelines**

# A Puppy Pipeline Isn't Just For Christmas

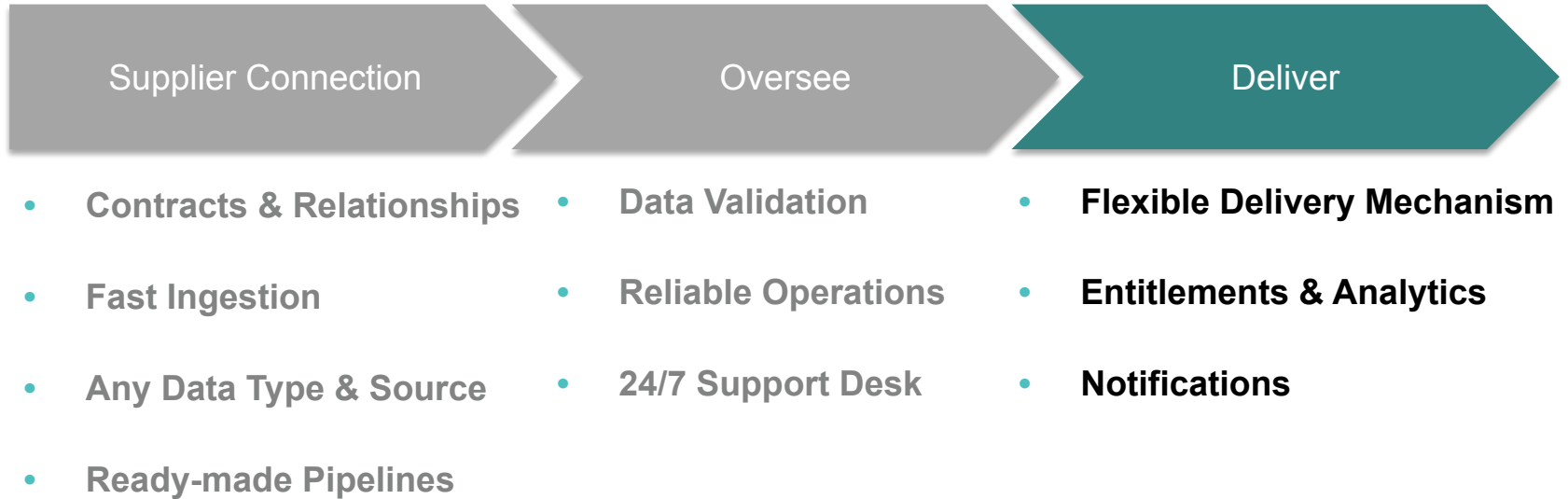
Supplier Connection

Oversee

- Contracts & Relationships
- Fast Ingestion
- Any Data Type & Source
- Ready-made Pipelines
- Data Validation
- Reliable Operations
- 24/7 Support Desk



# Delivery Is Not a Given



# Client's Are Different

Pull

- API
- Python client
- FTP

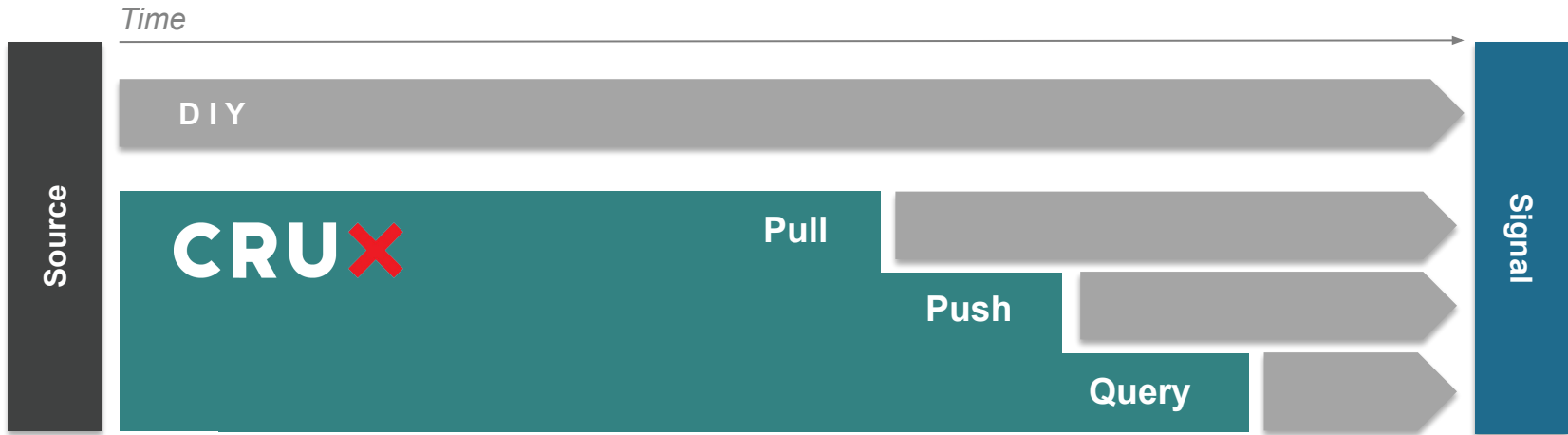
Push

- Client data lake
- Cloud warehouses  
(integrated with AWS,  
Snowflake, GCP)
- Analytics platforms

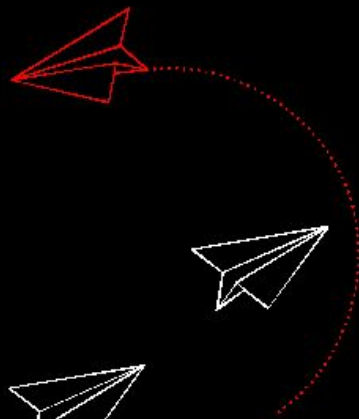
Query

- Query what you need

# Client's Need to Focus on the Signal



THINK  
DIFFERENTLY



CRUX

# The Ideal Solution

## For Data Suppliers:

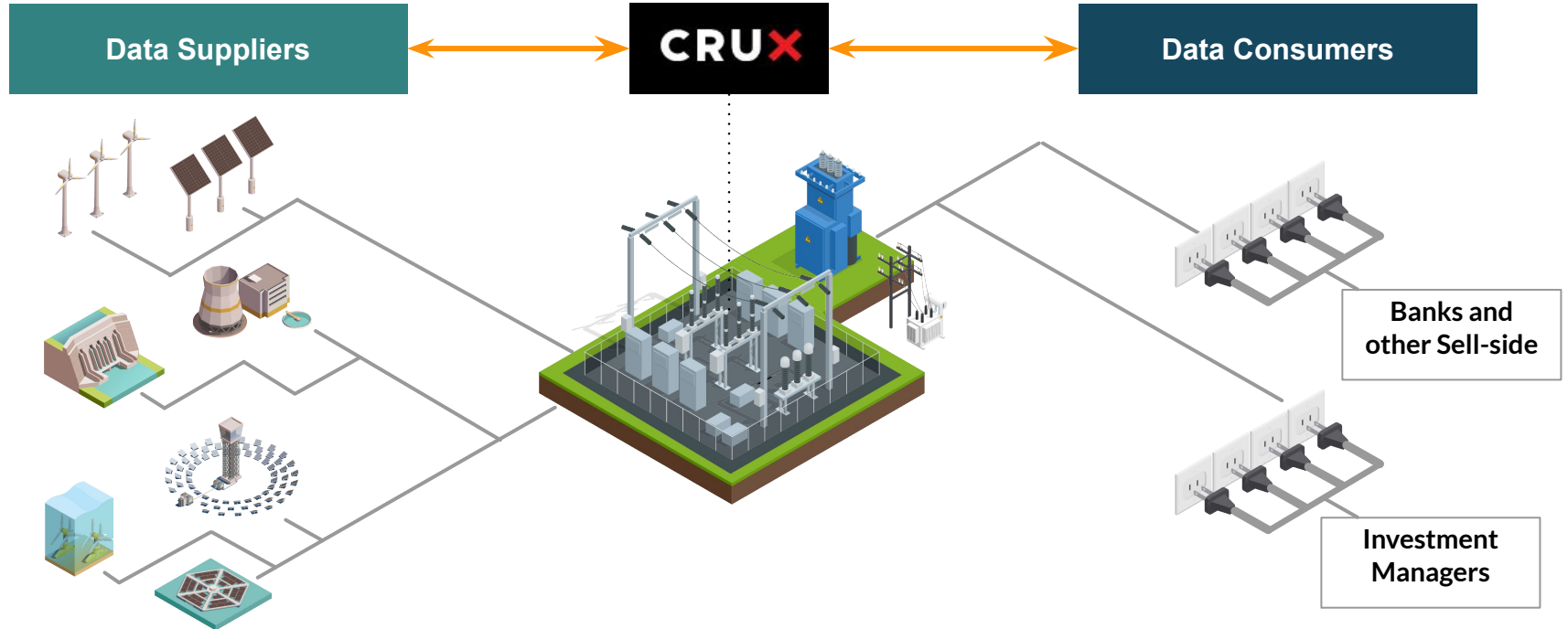
- Delivery for all formats to multiple destinations
- Technical expertise on data systems
- Neutrality from other data suppliers and brokers
- Meeting client expectations for their operations
- Reliable operations & support
- Future-proof technology
- Confidentiality & Security

## For Data Consumers:

- Single access point to all data sources
- Technical expertise on datasets
- Scalable onboarding and access to data
- Delivery to desired team at desired endpoint
- Reliable operations & support
- Future-proof technology
- Confidentiality & Security

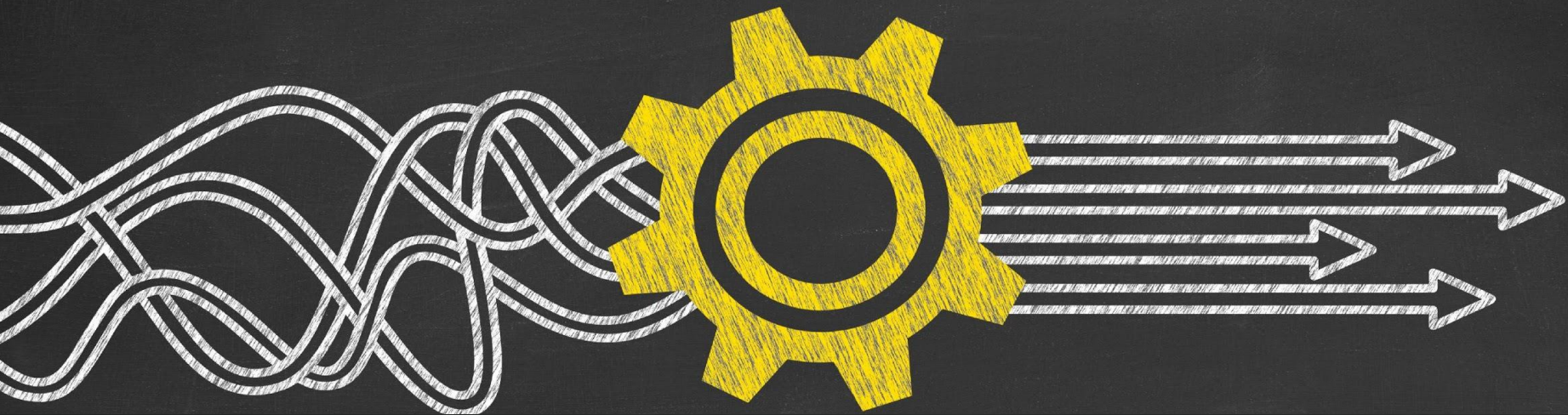


# Economies Are Needed Across the Data Supply Chain



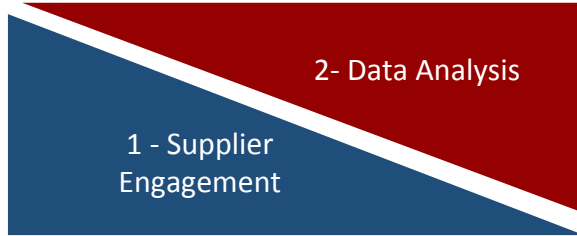
Crux has amassed the largest repository of supplier agreements across the entire data industry

As an industry utility, the value that Crux adds to each client is amplified across the entire client universe



# Time & Effort

## Acquisition & Definition



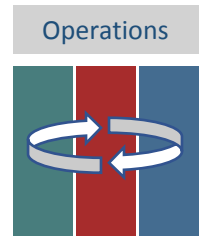
Approval

## Technical Onboarding and Testing



Approval

## Production



Function of

t

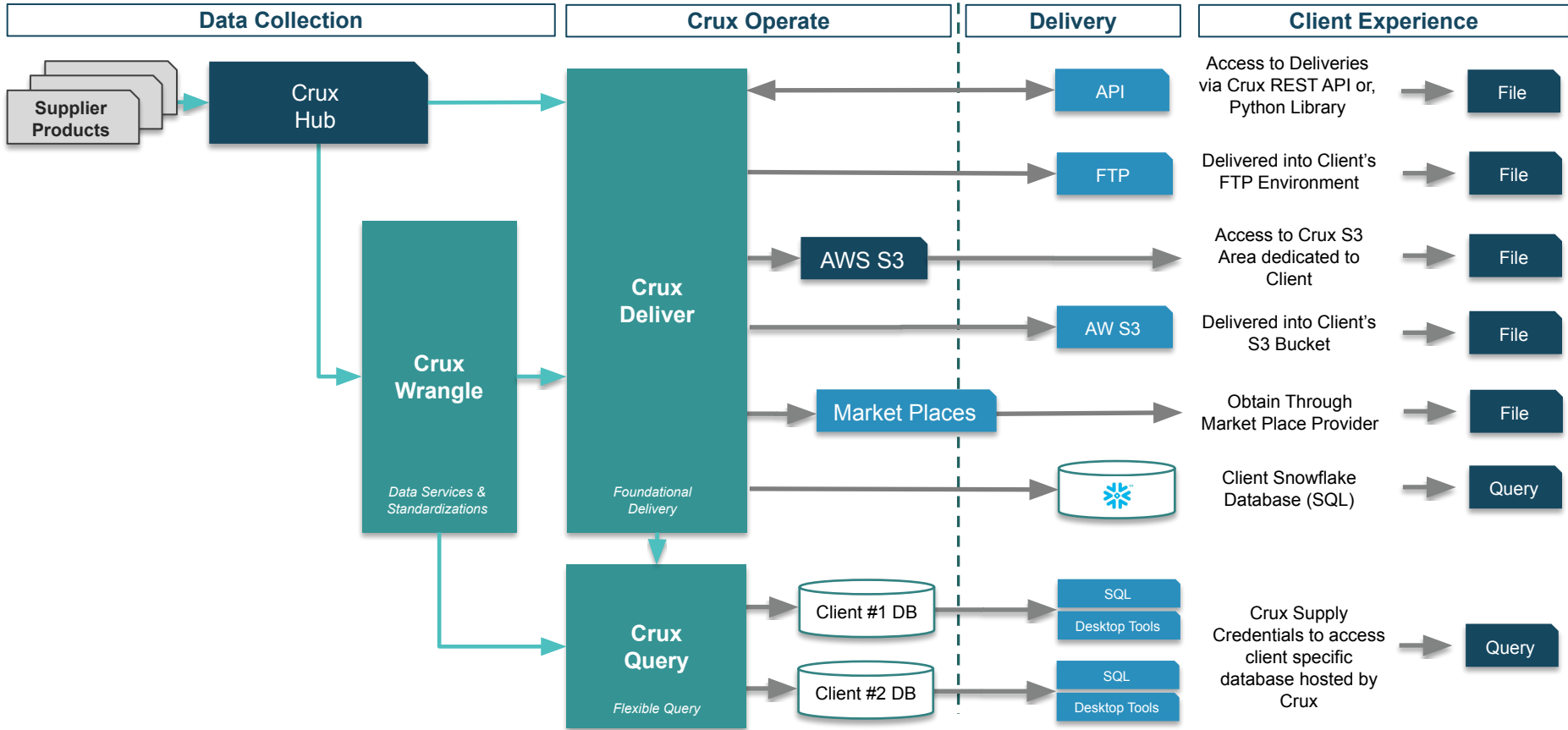
- Complexity & Size of “Dataset”
- Supplier Voracity
- Quality of Supplier Data & Infrastructure
- Client Participation

- Complexity & Size of “Dataset”
- Type of Source (File, Loader, API, Website)
- Encoding of Data (CSV, HTML, XLM, JSON)
- Quality of Definition

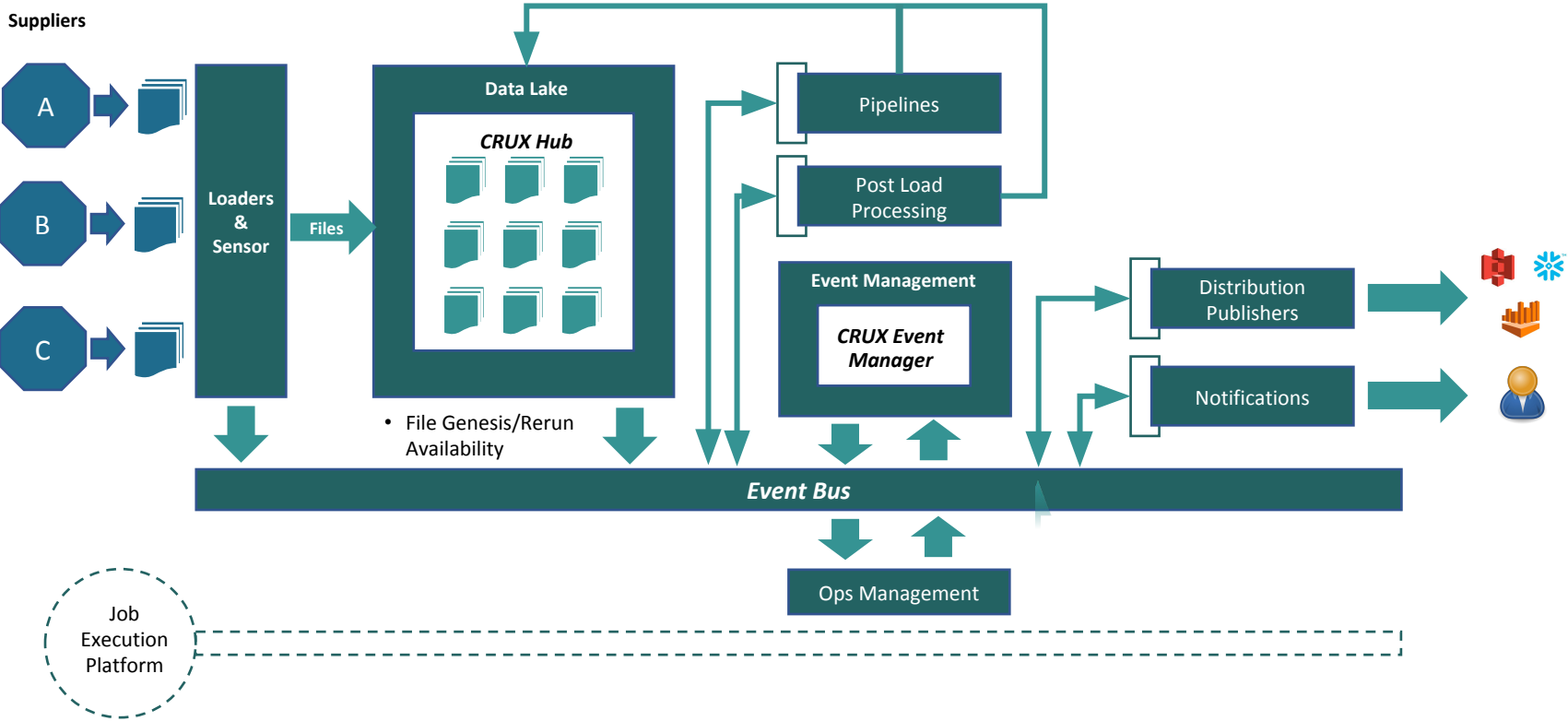
- Stability of:
  - Supplier Infra
  - Crux Infra
  - Data Schemas

- Resource Quantity
- Resource Quality
- Tooling
- Process Mgmt

# Crux Client Facing Products

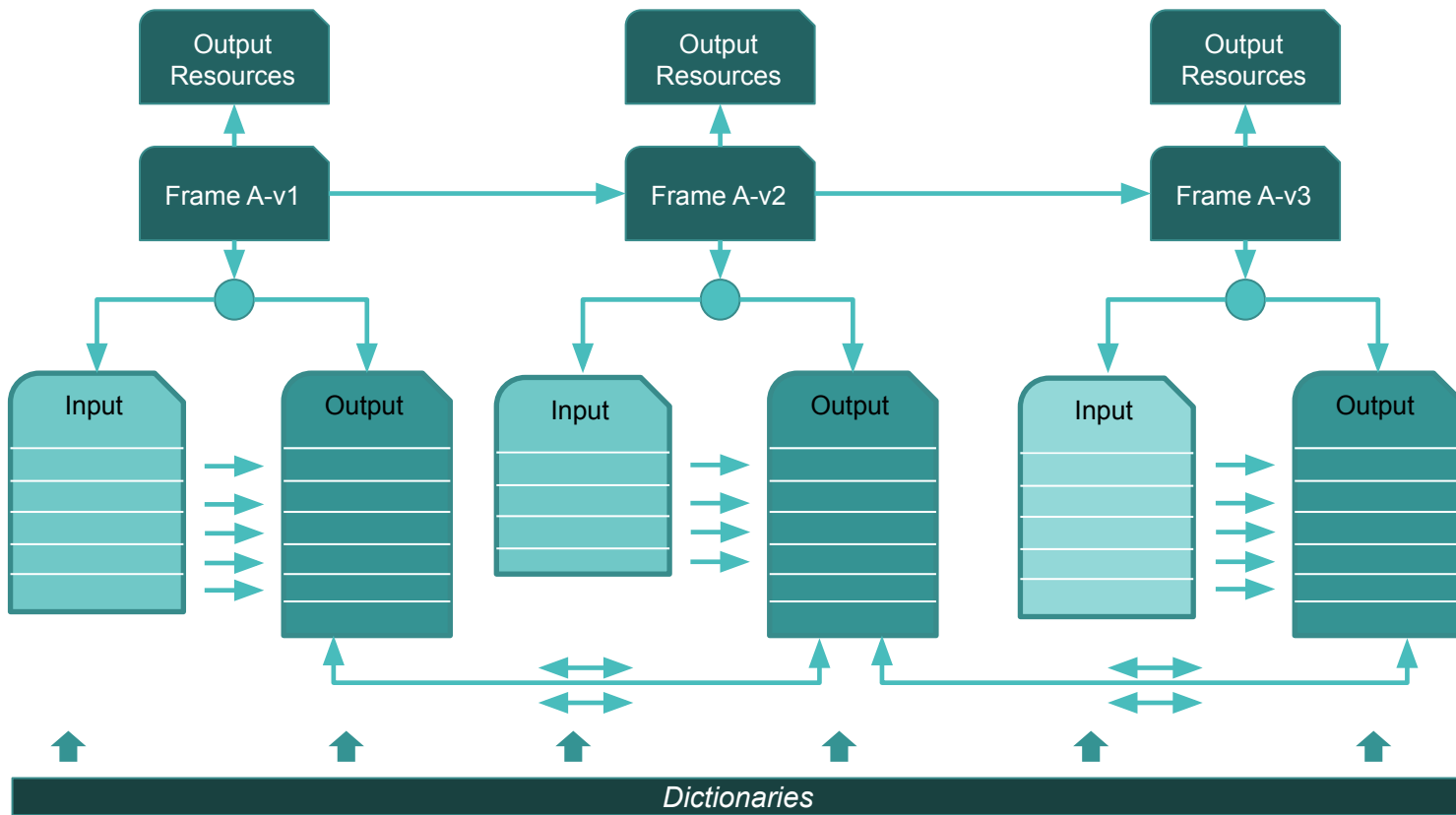


# Event Architecture





# Data Can Be Complex, Schemas are “Worse”



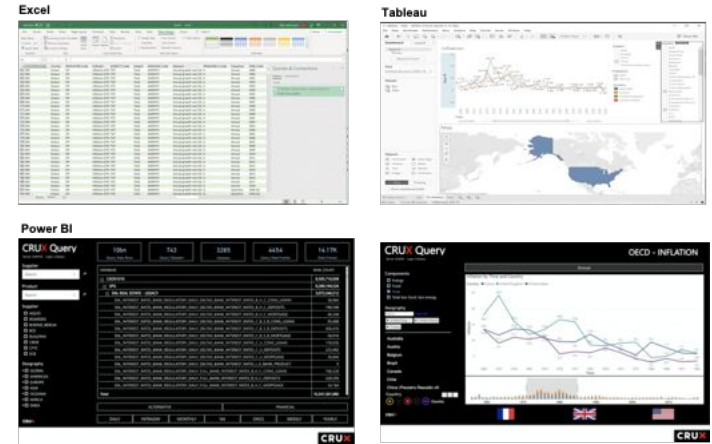


# Key Insights – Data 101

- Data pipelines are the start, not the end, of the solution
- There's no such thing as standard (if a behavior can happen, it will, twice!)
- Data insight is harder than data pipelining
- Supplier contracting can be harder than insight
- Distribution always has nuances

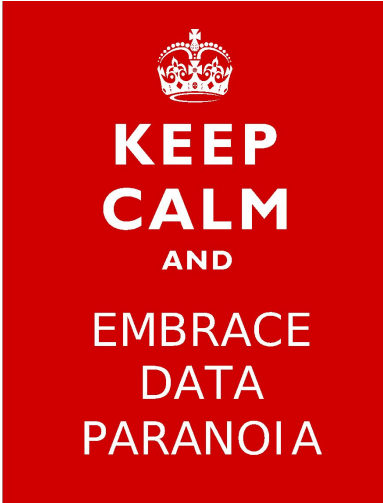
# Key Insights – Technology 102

- Not everything is a “Big Data” Problem
- Not every solution needs a “Big Data” Tool
- Mature Technologies have their place
- Focus on own data – Understand your atoms
- Name Early, Bind Late
- Lies, Damn lies and Column names
- Architecture cannot be brittle needs - roll with the punches
- Data duplication is not solving the client’s problem
- Dictionaries need to be Curated
- You can’t automate “stupidity”, but you can spot stupidity with automation





# Guide to Data Karma





# Thank You

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**Office Hours**  
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