Platform Engineering

The Sovereign Stack: Building Beyond Hyperscalers in the European Cloud

Adriaan Wind | Co-Founder & CTO at anny

bit summit



anny | Co-Founder & CTO

ABOUT ME

Hi, I'm Adriaan

Co-Founder & CTO at **anny**, the booking platform for desks, rooms, events and library seats.

> **Building scalable software on Kubernetes.**

Kubernetes · DevOps · Containers

European digital sovereignty

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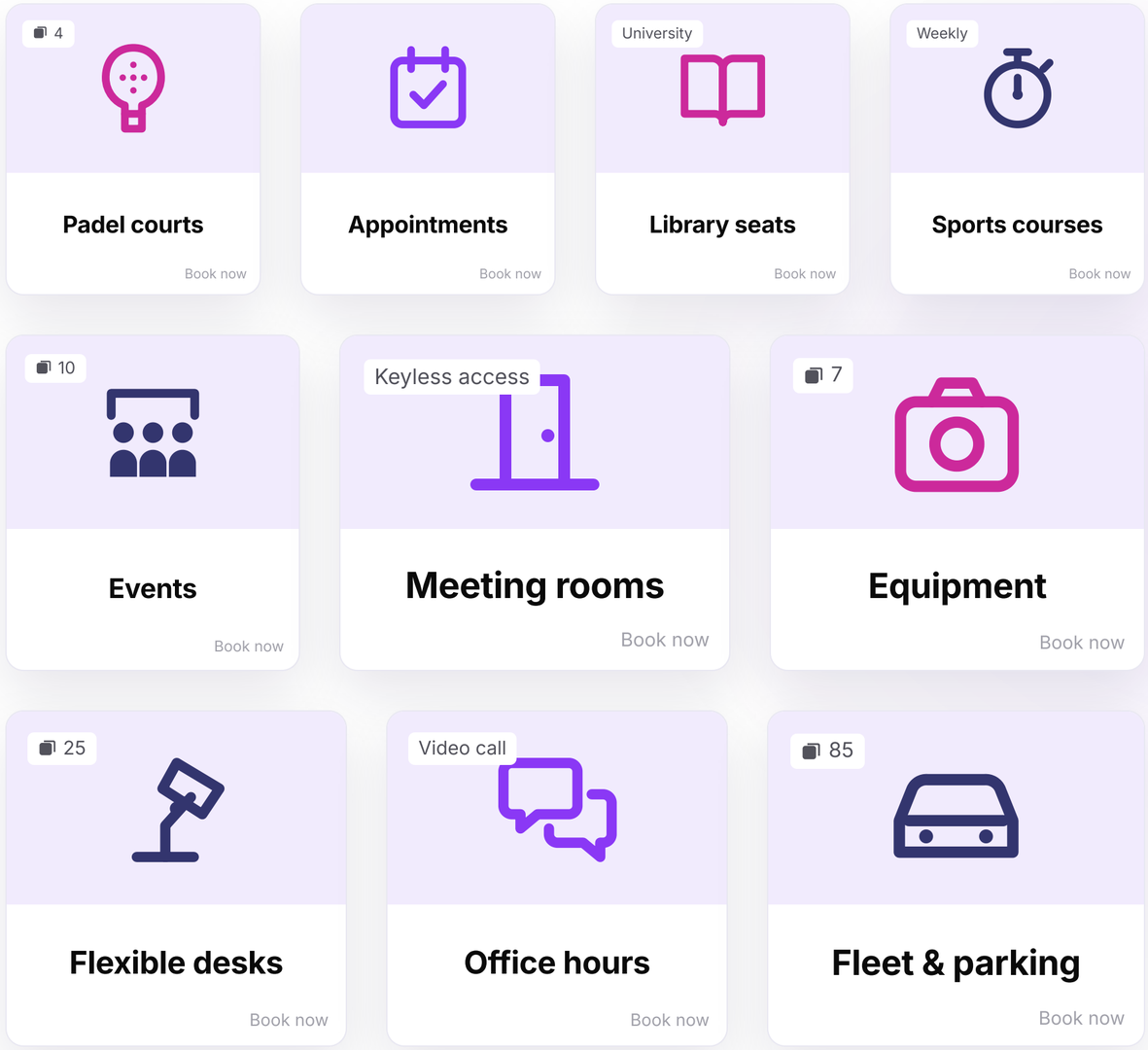
TODAY

Everybody in Europe talks about sovereignty.

CONTEXT

With anny, everything becomes bookable.

- Companies
- Cities, clubs & venues
- Universities & public institutions



2022 · THE FIRST ANSWER

Our first answer: Docker Compose on their server

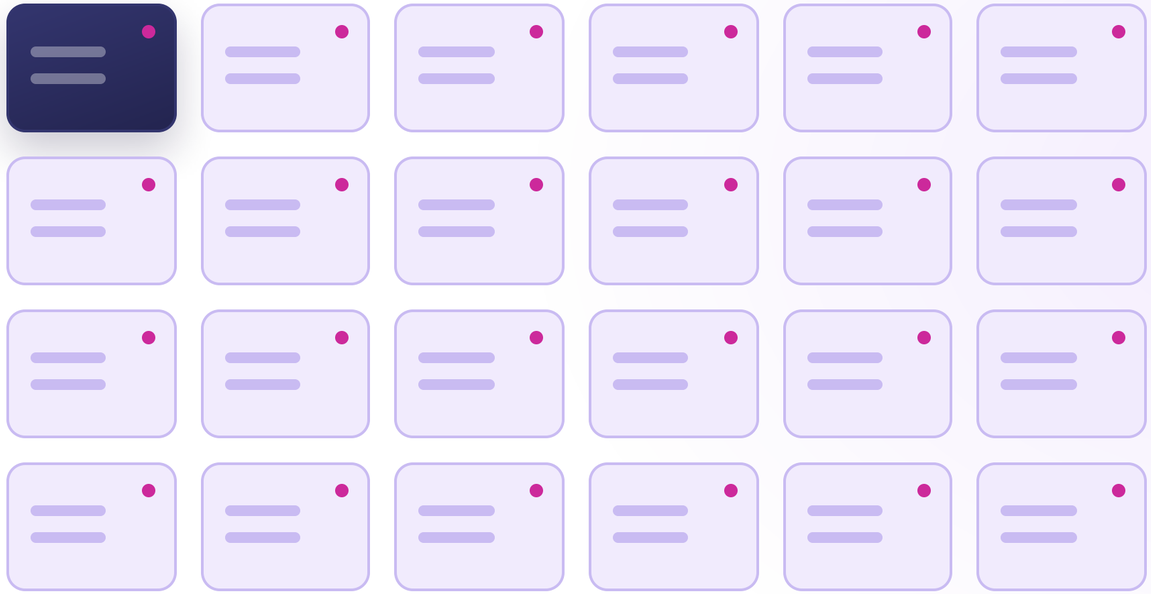
```
ssh admin@customer-server

$ docker compose up -d
```

Wait for server & credentials
weeks, sometimes months

Set up and firewall by hand
every port, every ticket

Update manually
every three months



× every customer

And more kept asking.

THE GOAL

anny should run on purely European infrastructure

DEFINITION

What "purely European" means for us

Infrastructure owned by companies incorporated in the EU or the EEA, and with no parent company outside the EU.

01

Incorporated in Europe

EU 27 + Iceland Liechtenstein Norway

The European Economic Area: all EU members plus three.

02

No parent company outside the EU



An EU subsidiary of a non-EU group does not count.

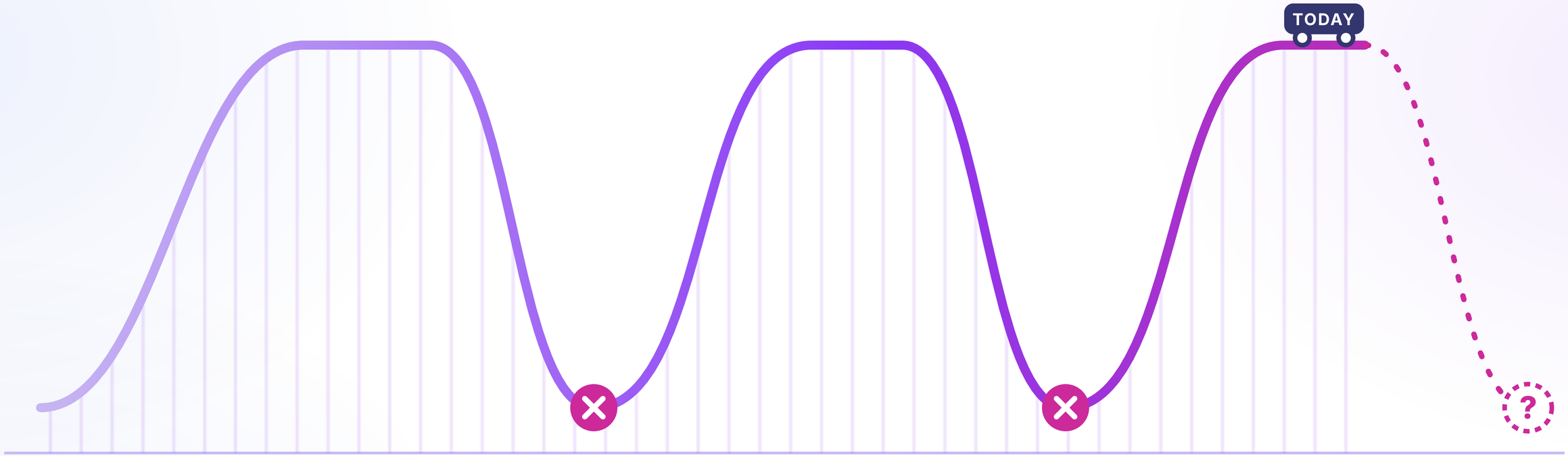
PART 1

From Safe Harbor to the Data Privacy Framework

Safe Harbor
2000 – 2015

Privacy Shield
2016 – 2020

Data Privacy Framework
2023 – ?

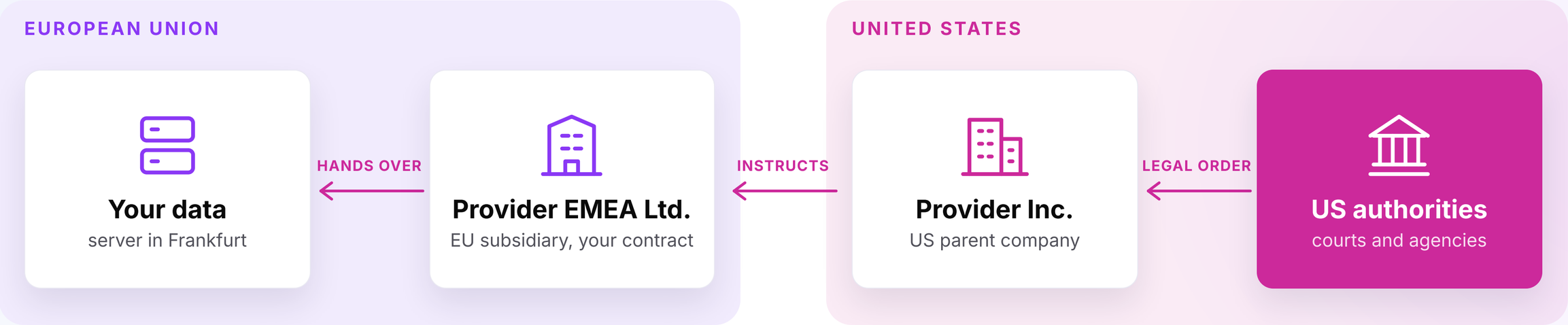


Schrems I · 2015
struck down

Schrems II · 2020
struck down

Schrems III?
appeal filed at the ECJ

The law follows the company, not the server



FISA 702 · EO 12333

US agencies may collect data of non-Americans, and Europeans have no effective way to challenge it in court. **That is why both agreements were struck down.**

CLOUD ACT · 2018

A provider under US law can be ordered to hand over data it controls, **even if that data is stored abroad.**

PART 1 · THE LEGAL ROLLERCOASTER

"The data is stored in Europe" is only part of the answer.

PART 2

From data privacy to the risk of losing access

PART 2 · FROM PRIVACY TO ACCESS

The question changed in 2025

2018 – 2024

Who can access our data who shouldn't?

Data privacy · GDPR · Transfers · Adequacy



SINCE 2025

Who can take away our access to our own data?

Sanctions · Export controls · Executive orders

May 2025

SANCTIONS

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The chief prosecutor loses his Microsoft mailbox

Reported by AP after US sanctions. Microsoft disputed it had cut the court off. Responsibility stayed disputed, the question did not.

June 2025

JURISDICTION

FRENCH SENATE HEARING

Microsoft France cannot guarantee anything

Asked whether French data would never be handed to US authorities, the answer was: no guarantee.

June 2026

EXPORT CONTROLS

ANTHROPIC · CLAUDE MYTHOS 5 & FABLE 5

Released. Suspended three days later.

New US export controls. Access came back on 1 July. Roughly three weeks. Imagine your product depends on it.

PART 2 · FROM PRIVACY TO ACCESS

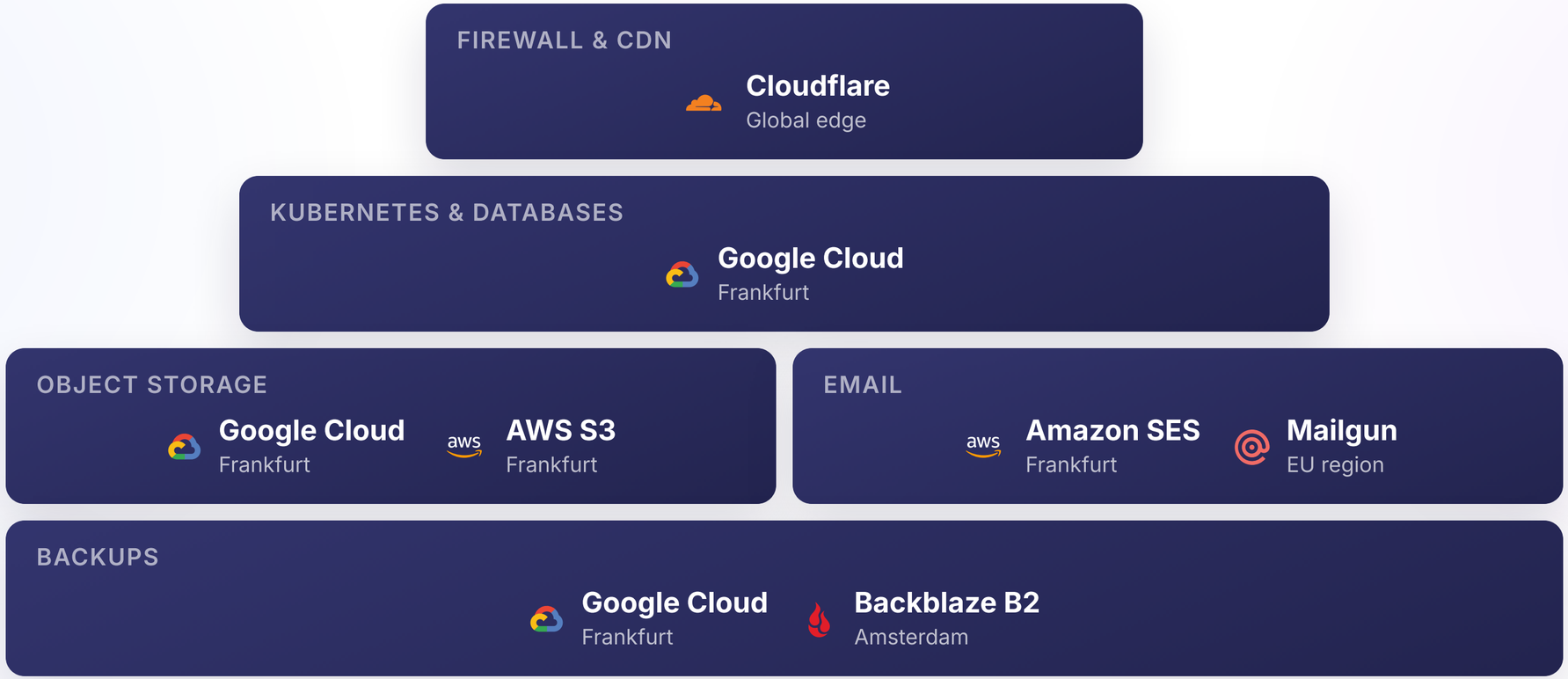
Sanction, export control or executive order: if your provider falls under US law, a decision in Washington can take your service offline.

PART 3

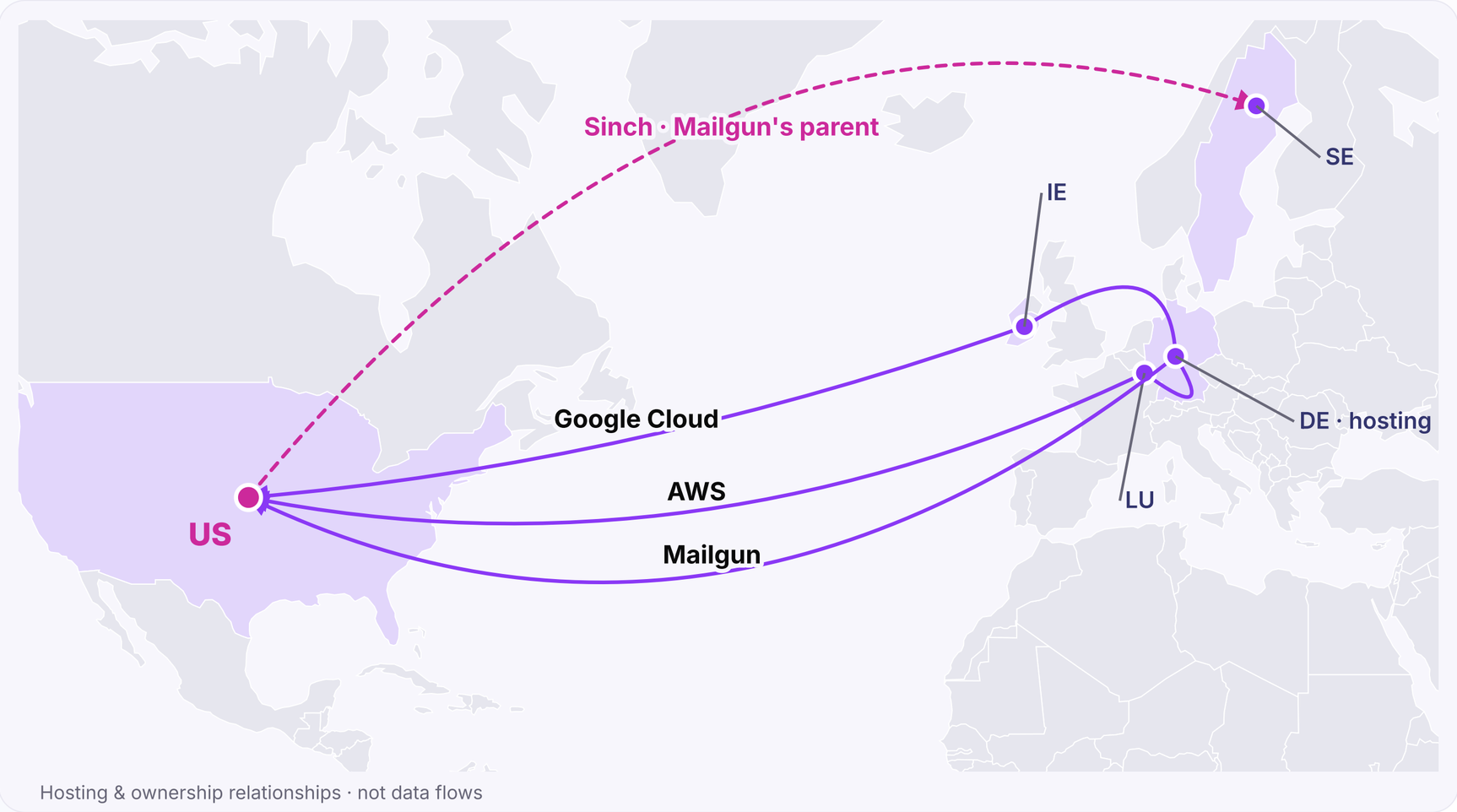
European servers, US dependencies

PART 3 · OUR STARTING POINT

Status Quo



PART 3 · OUR STARTING POINT



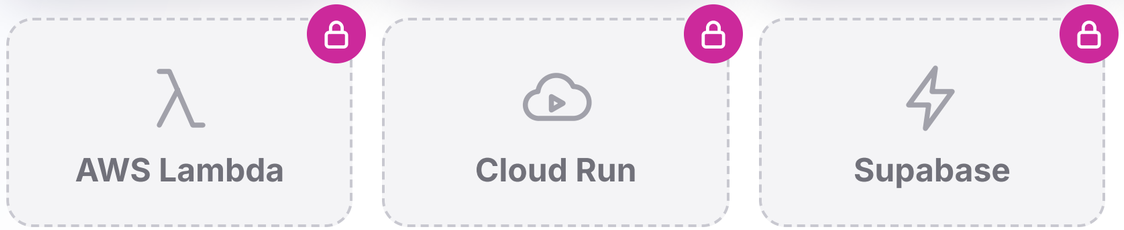
PART 3 · OUR STARTING POINT

One thing we did right by accident: boring technology

We build on
many providers speak these



We stay away from
one vendor speaks these



Standard parts are what make the exit path real.

PART 4

Finding purely European providers

How we picked providers



Purely European

Incorporated in the EU. No parent company outside of it.



Modern tech

Current Kubernetes and database versions. We saw plenty that were not.



Fair pricing

Flexible, like a hyperscaler. No setup fee, no "from €1,000 a month".



Germany first

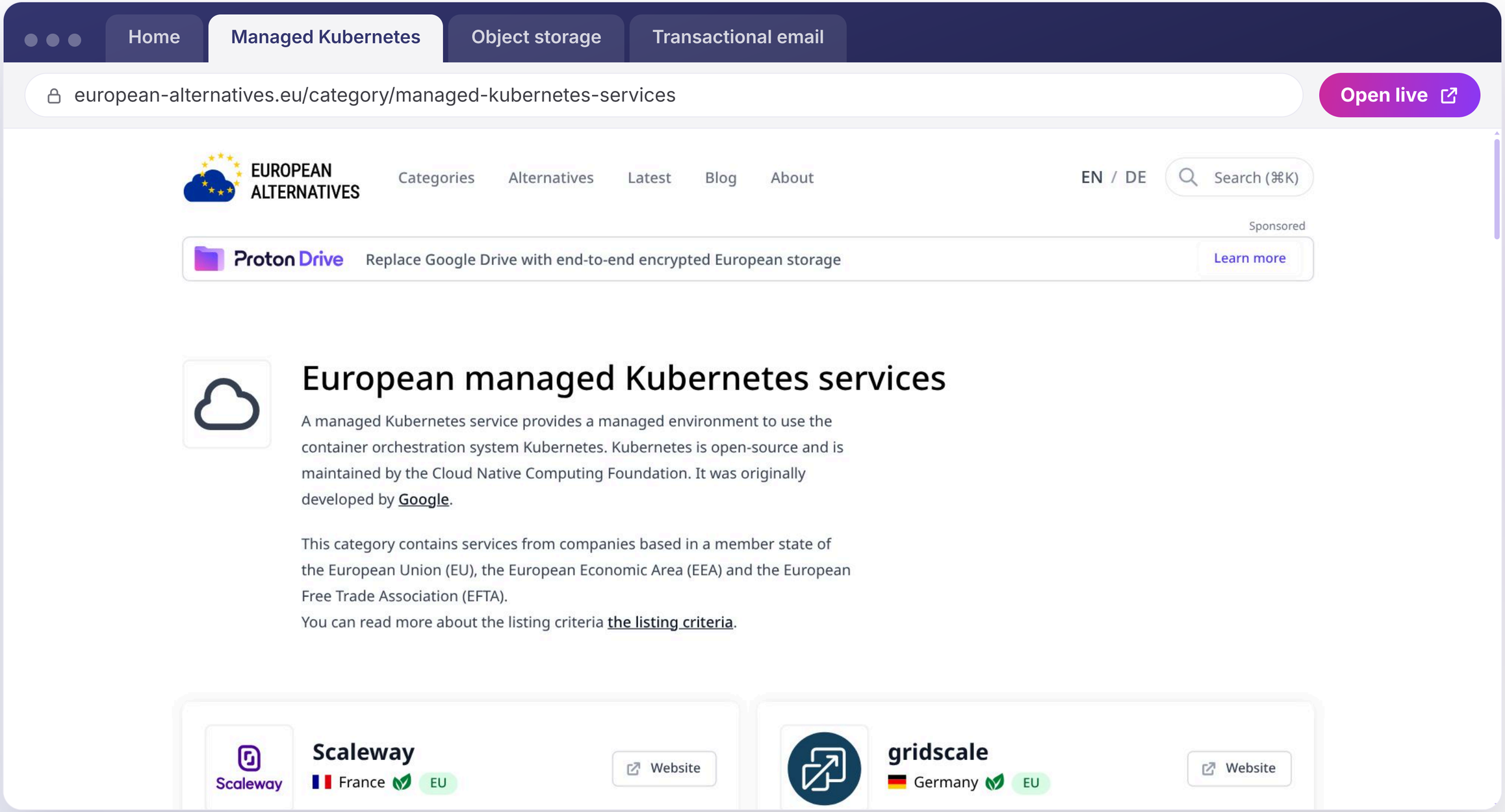
Most customers are German. Germans love German products.

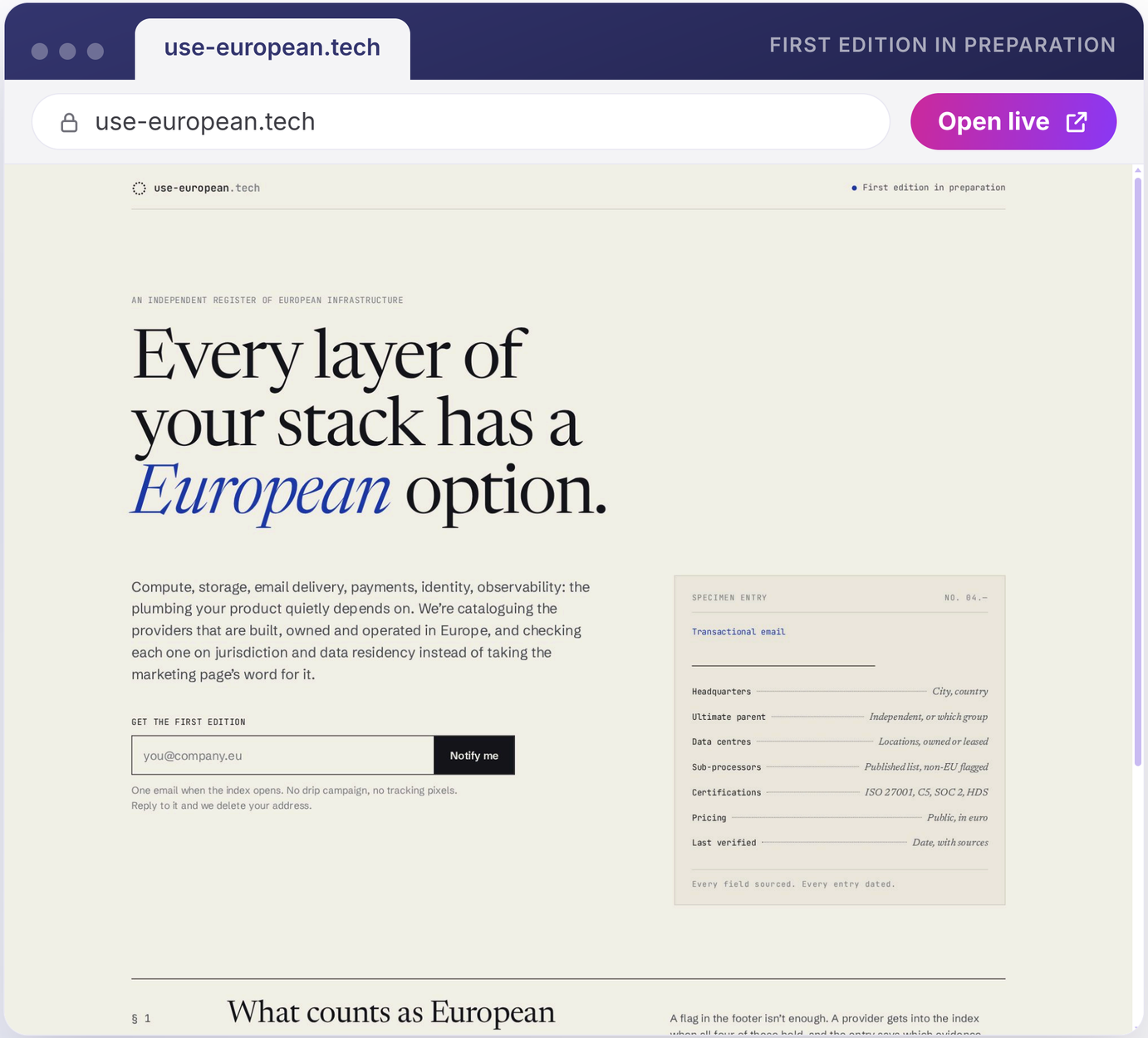


Taste

Our own experience and recommendations. And we don't like **magenta**.


european-alternatives.eu


Home
Managed Kubernetes
Object storage
Transactional email
european-alternatives.eu/category/managed-kubernetes-services
Open live
EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES
Categories
Alternatives
Latest
Blog
About
EN / DE
Search (⌘K)
Sponsored
Proton Drive
Replace Google Drive with end-to-end encrypted European storage
Learn more
European managed Kubernetes services
A managed Kubernetes service provides a managed environment to use the container orchestration system Kubernetes. Kubernetes is open-source and is maintained by the Cloud Native Computing Foundation. It was originally developed by Google.
This category contains services from companies based in a member state of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
You can read more about the listing criteria the listing criteria.
Scaleway
Scaleway
France
EU
Website
gridscale
Germany
EU
Website



SNEAK PEEK · MY OWN PROJECT

Every layer of your stack has a European option.

1. **Headquartered in Europe**
   A sales office in Dublin does not count.
2. **Owned in Europe**
   No parent that the CLOUD Act can reach.
3. **Data stays in Europe**
   Published sub-processor list, read line by line.

Get the first edition

One email when the index opens. No tracking, no drip campaign.

use-european.tech

PART 4 · FINDING PROVIDERS

Finding a provider is the easy part. Testing it is where the time goes.

Is sovereignty pain?

Pricing and procurement friction

1 Price on request

2 Consultation call

3 Long PDF to sign

4 "Magic" price

Test account

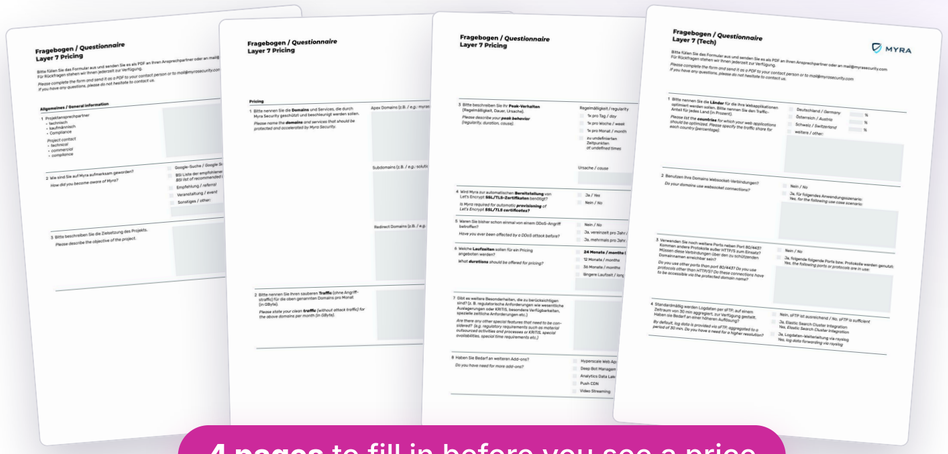
Impossible to compare. And we all hate these calls.

FOR EXAMPLE

Myra Firewall & CDN · Germany

No prices without a consultation call.

Today: at least a pricing calculator.



4 pages to fill in before you see a price

Missing features and operational limits

✕	Current Kubernetes version	MISSING
✕	Newest database versions	MISSING
–	Monitoring	THIN
–	Terraform / OpenTofu provider	BETA
✕	ISO 27001	MISSING

FOR EXAMPLE

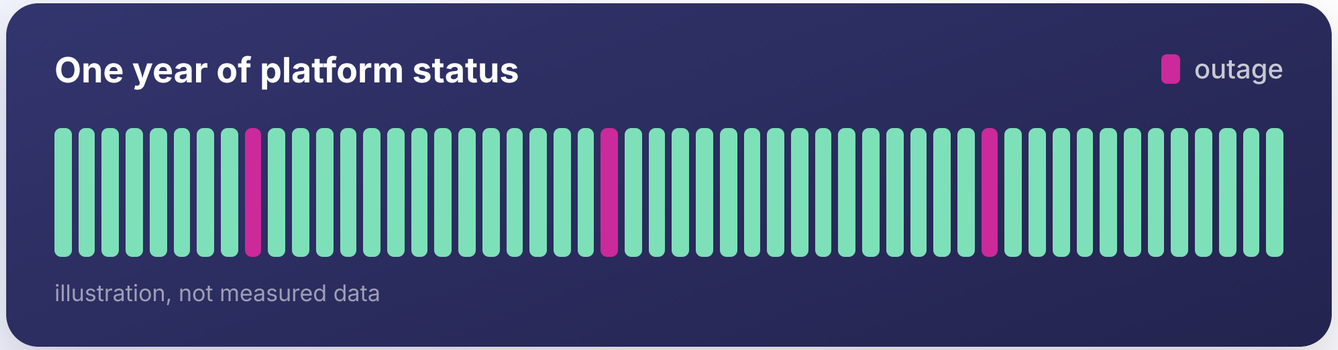
bunny.net

Took a long time to ship a Terraform / OpenTofu provider.

STACKIT

Changes made through their Terraform provider did not show up in the UI.

Stability and availability



GPUs: sold out

everybody needs them for AI

FOR EXAMPLE

Scaleway

A lot of incidents.

But good communication, every single time.

STACKIT "The new European hyperscaler"

Still takes its whole platform down for multiple hours per year.

PART 4 · LOOKING BEHIND THE LABEL

Not everything that says sovereign is sovereign.

PART 4 · LOOKING BEHIND THE LABEL

A European email provider. Read Annex 2.

Brevo — **Terms of Service · Annex 2: List of Sub-Processors**

French company · Paris

COMPANY	SUB-PROCESSED ACTIVITY	COMPANY LOCATION	SERVER LOCATION
OVH	Hosting	France	France
Google Cloud Platform	Hosting	France (parent company: Alphabet, USA)	Belgium
Cloudflare	Content delivery network & WAF	**USA**	USA / EU
Zendesk	Ticketing / support tool	**USA**	EU / USA
Omni	Dashboards	**USA**	EU

OPTIONAL, ONLY IF YOU USE THE FEATURE

Integry USA · Convrrt USA · Vonage USA · Twilio SMS USA · Telnyx IRELAND · Anthropic IRELAND · Sinch UK · iBasis LIECHTENSTEIN · Open AI EU · Google Gemini EU · Langfuse EU · Eldar IT SERBIA

Source: brevo.com/legal/termsofuse · Annex 2 · version 1 October 2025 · retrieved 21 September 2026

PART 4 · LOOKING BEHIND THE LABEL

Three flavours of "sovereign"

EUROPEAN COMPANY

+ US subprocessors

Brevo
France · no non-EU parent

↓ runs on

Google Cloud
US

Cloudflare
US

- ✓ Incorporated in the EU
- ✗ Infrastructure subprocessors in the US

"SOVEREIGN CLOUD"

+ US parent company

Amazon.com, Inc.
United States

↓ 100 % owner of

AWS European Sovereign Cloud
Brandenburg · GA 15 Jan 2026

- ✓ Separate region, EU-resident operations
- ✓ German subsidiaries
- ✗ Parent company outside the EU

EUROPEAN OPERATOR

+ US technology

Google · Microsoft
United States

↓ software, updates, licences

T-Systems
Sovereign Cloud

Delos Cloud
Microsoft stack

- ✓ Operator is European
- ✗ Can they still deliver when the US says no?

PART 4 · THE BRIGHT SIDE

And some really stand out

Scaleway

A big portfolio at affordable prices. Compute, storage, databases, transactional email.

Bunny

Great pricing, and features that Cloudflare locks behind an enterprise plan.

UpCloud

Great uptime, and pricing that stays fair as you grow.

STACKIT

All the certifications that enterprise customers ask for.

Lettermint

An outstanding email service. Simply great at what it does.

Growing market

Demand is rising, and so is the number of European providers worth testing.

PART 5

The stack behind our European region

Same layers, different owners

US providers

FIREWALL & CDN
- Cloudflare — US

KUBERNETES & DATABASES
- Google Cloud — IE → US

OBJECT STORAGE
- Google Cloud — IE → US
- AWS S3 — LU → US

EMAIL
- Amazon SES — LU → US
- Mailgun — US → SE

BACKUPS
- Google Cloud — IE → US
- Backblaze B2 — US

European providers

FIREWALL & CDN
- Bunny — SI

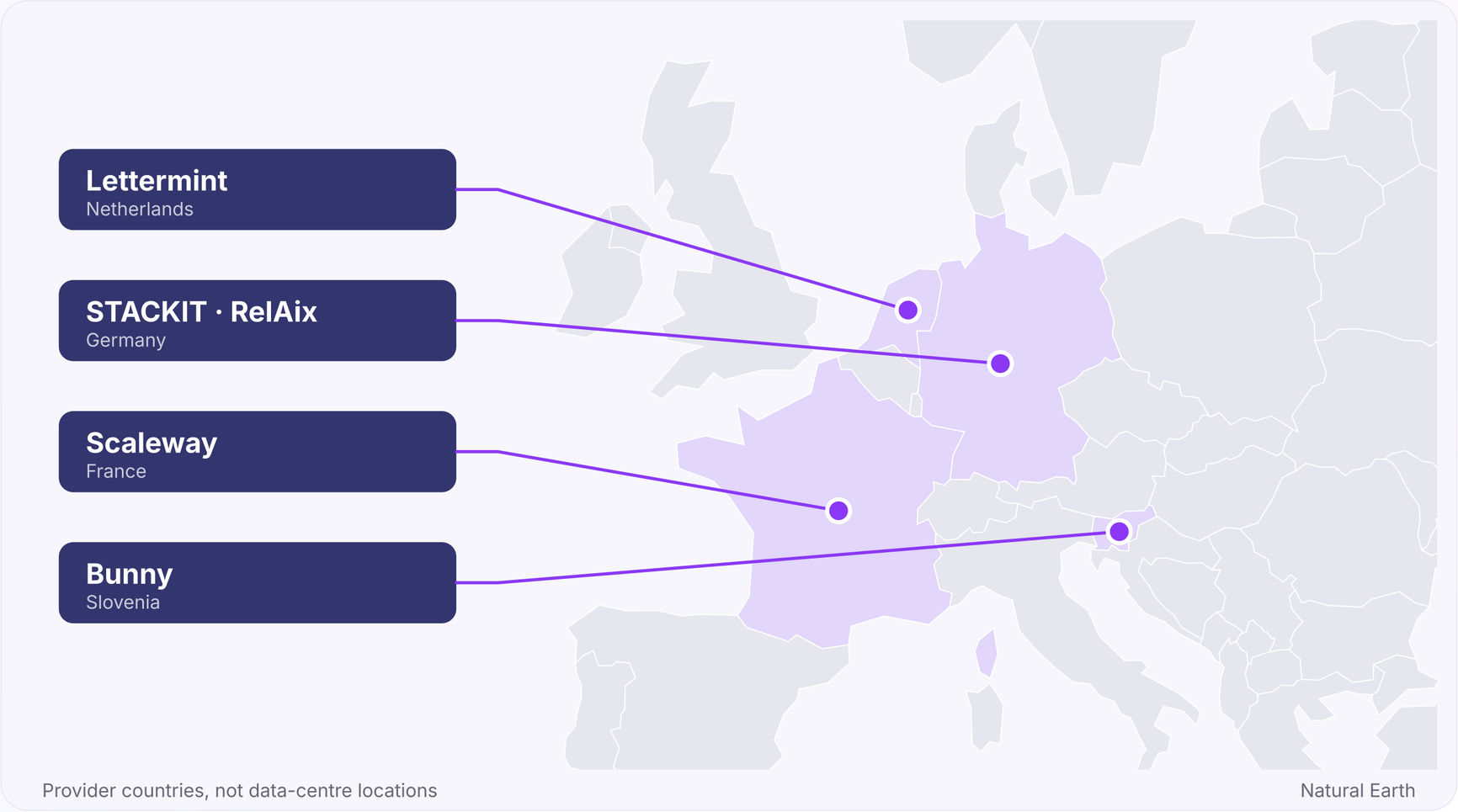
KUBERNETES & DATABASES
- STACKIT — DE

OBJECT STORAGE
- STACKIT — DE

EMAIL
- Scaleway TEM — FR
- Lettermint — NL

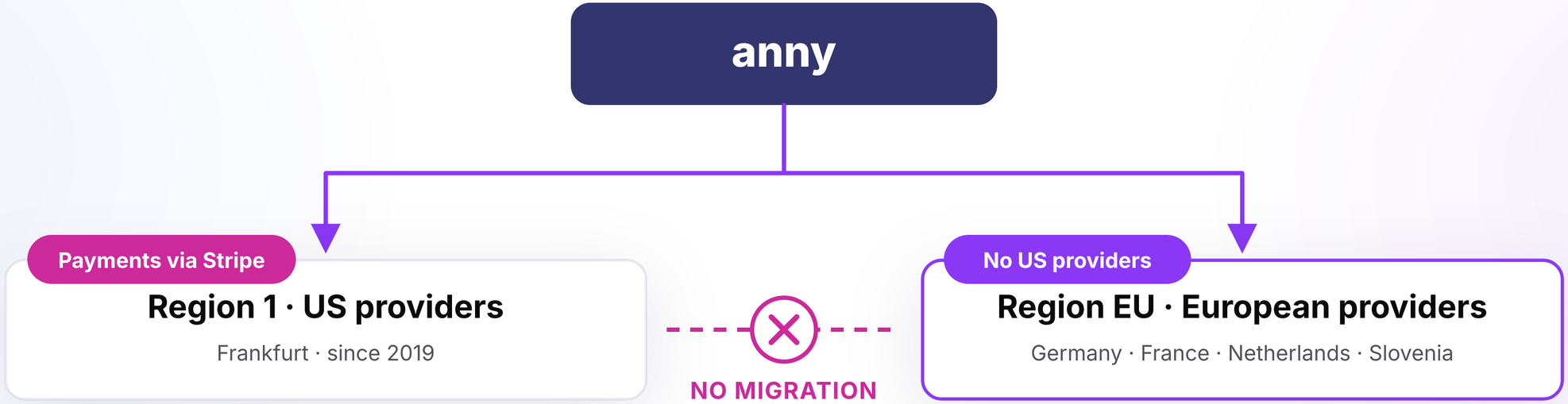
BACKUPS
- Scaleway — FR
- RelAix Networks — DE

All of them incorporated in Europe



PART 5 · THE EUROPEAN REGION

A second region, not a migration



WHY

We did not trust the providers yet.

THE PAIN

Two regions to run, patch and monitor.

THE PAYOFF

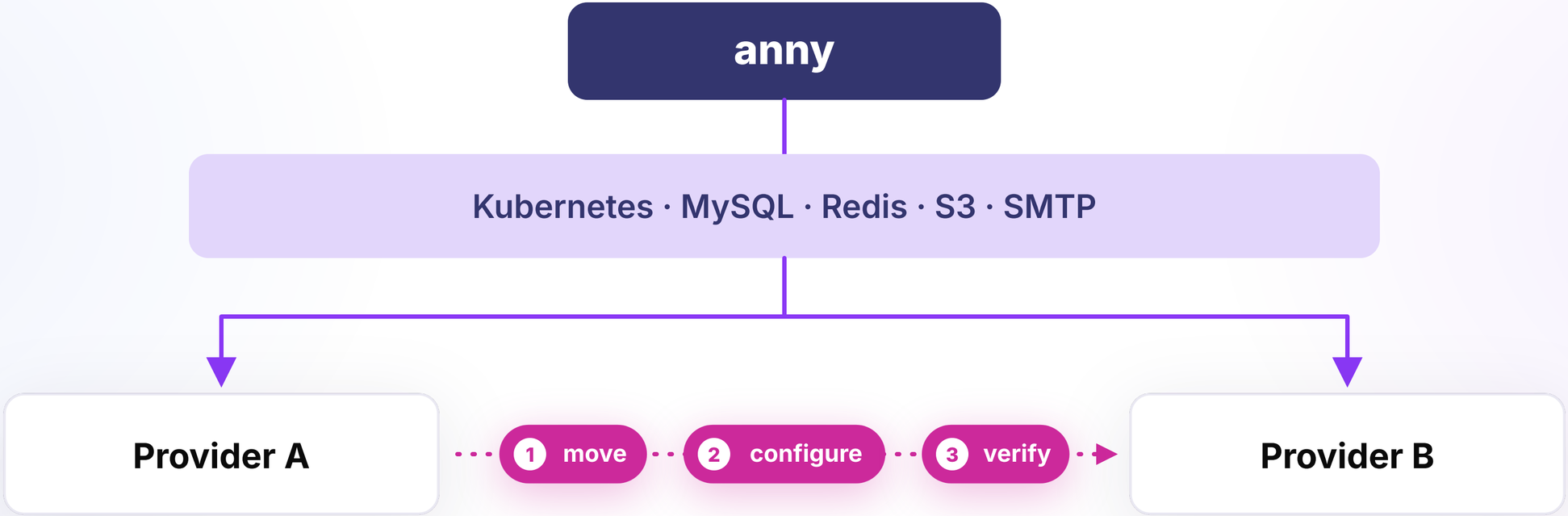
Uptime. A provider's bad day never takes all of anny down.

Payments. Stripe is not European, so it lives in region 1 only.

PART 6

So what does sovereignty really mean?

Sovereignty means having a practical way out



Still work. Never a rebuild of the product around a provider.

AWS S3 → **Cloudflare R2**
US → US, same freedom

EmailLabs → **Scaleway TEM**
SMTP stayed SMTP

Mailgun → **Scaleway TEM**
US → EU

PART 6 · WHAT SOVEREIGNTY MEANS

Switching is never effortless. But we had a choice, and we could act on it.

PART 6 · WHAT IT CHANGED FOR ANNY

What the European region changed for anny

2
Data regions, run in parallel

5
European providers, zero non-EU parents

> 50 %
Of monthly bookings now in the European region

THE LESSON

You don’t need to be the best solution. You need to be the best European solution.

TAKEAWAYS

Four things to take home



Define it first

Sovereignty is not a server location. Write down what it means for you before you buy it.



Look behind the label

Check ownership, subprocessors and who ships the software. "Sovereign" is a marketing word.



Build on standards

Kubernetes, MySQL, S3, SMTP. Standard building blocks are what make the exit path real.



Test before you trust

Finding a provider is easy. Budget the time for pricing, features and stability.



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YOUR FEEDBACK

sfeedback.com/L659rA

THE ARTICLE

devtig.dev