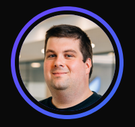
anny

CODE.TALKS 2026 · HAMBURG · 5 NOVEMBER

The Sovereign Stack

Building Beyond Hyperscalers in the European Cloud



Adriaan Wind
Co-Founder & CTO at anny





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

linkedin.com/in/adriaan-wind

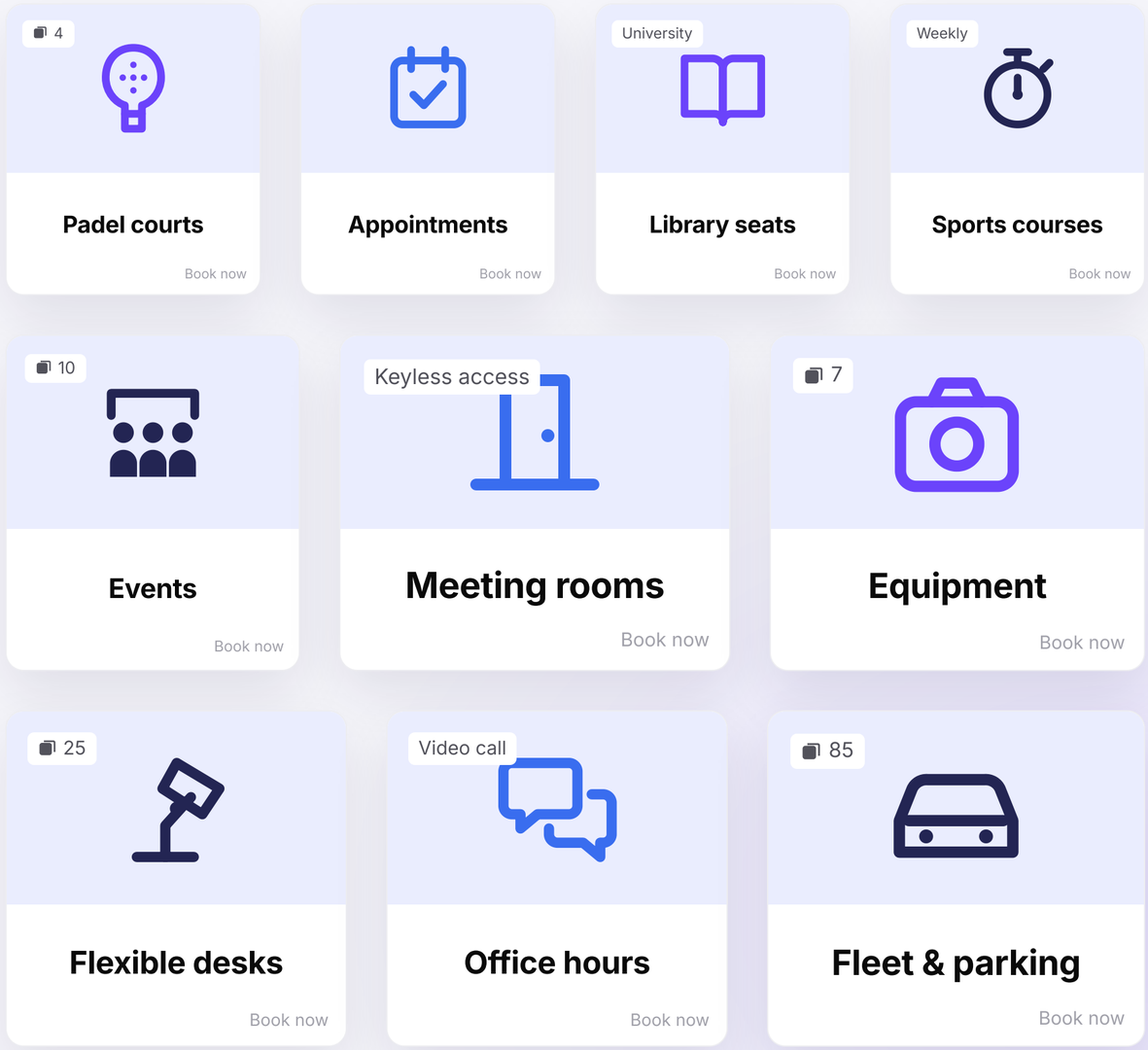
TODAY

Everybody in Europe talks about sovereignty.

CONTEXT

With anny, everything becomes bookable.

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



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 risk of losing access

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

PART 1 · THE LEGAL ROLLERCOASTER

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 · 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.

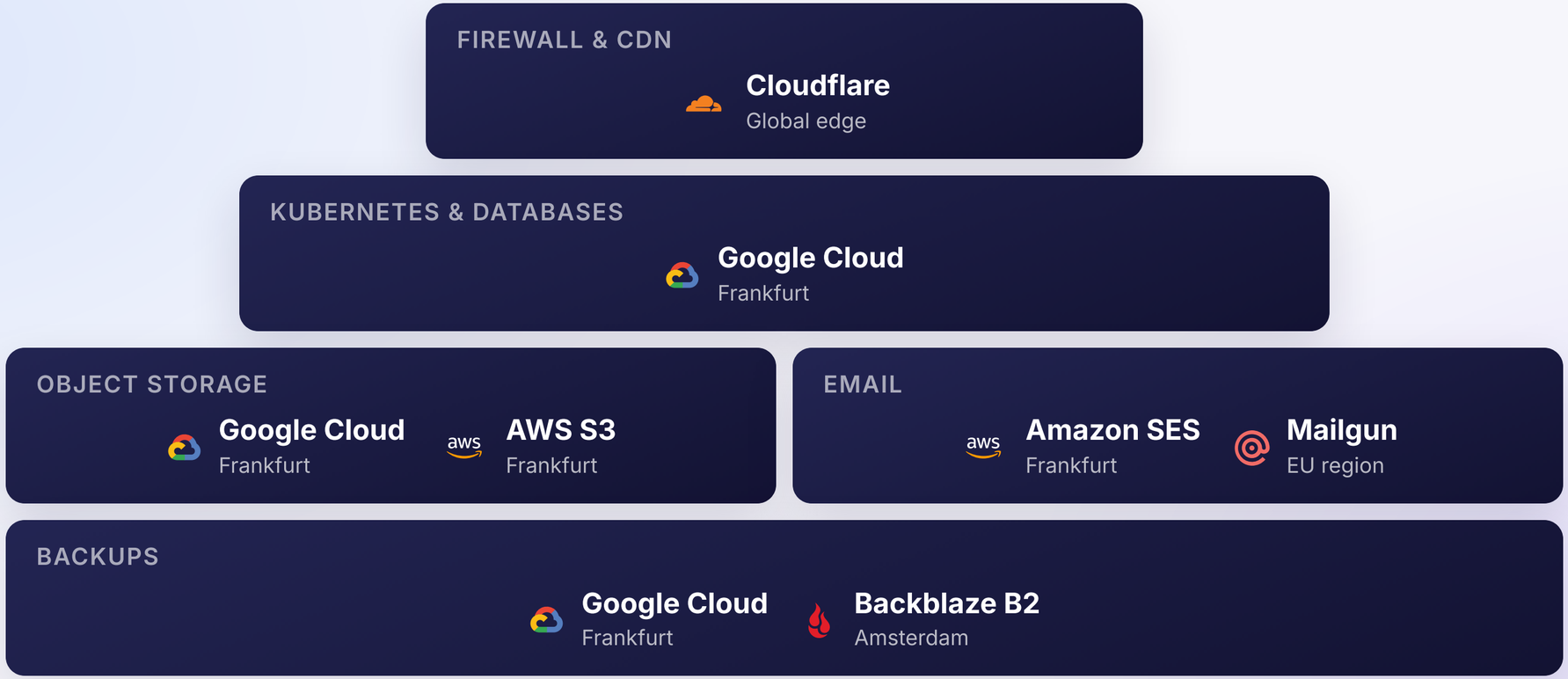
New US export controls. Access came back on 1 July. Roughly three weeks. Imagine your product depends on it.

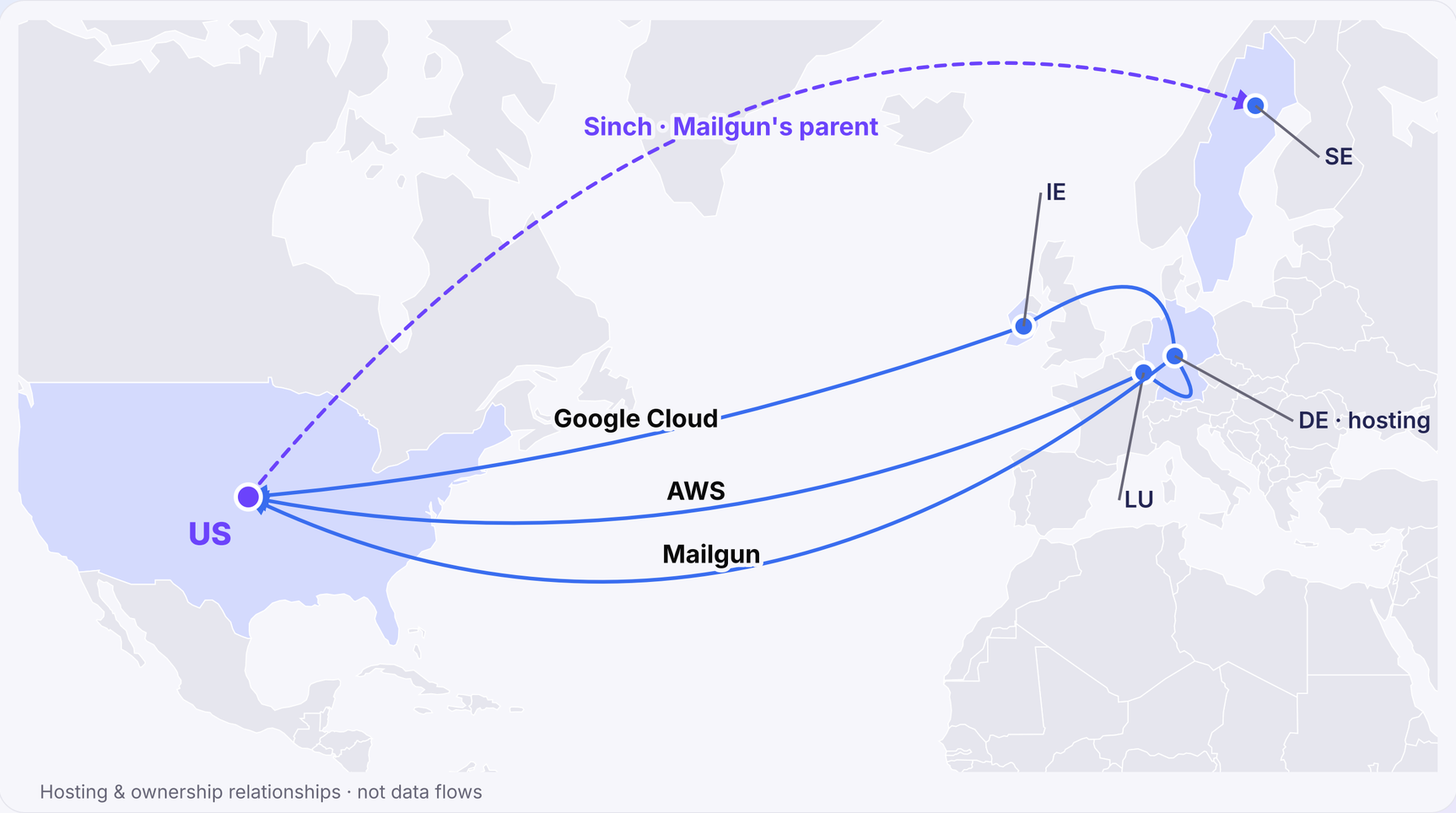
PART 2

European servers, US dependencies

PART 2 · OUR STARTING POINT

Status Quo




Sinch · Mailgun's parent
SE
IE
Google Cloud
AWS
Mailgun
US
LU
DE · hosting
Hosting & ownership relationships · not data flows

PART 2 · OUR STARTING POINT

One thing we did right by accident: standard technology

We build on
many providers speak these

- Kubernetes
- MySQL
- Redis
- S3 storage
- SMTP

We stay away from
one vendor speaks these

- AWS Lambda
- Cloud Run
- Supabase

PART 3

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**.

PART 3 · FINDING PROVIDERS

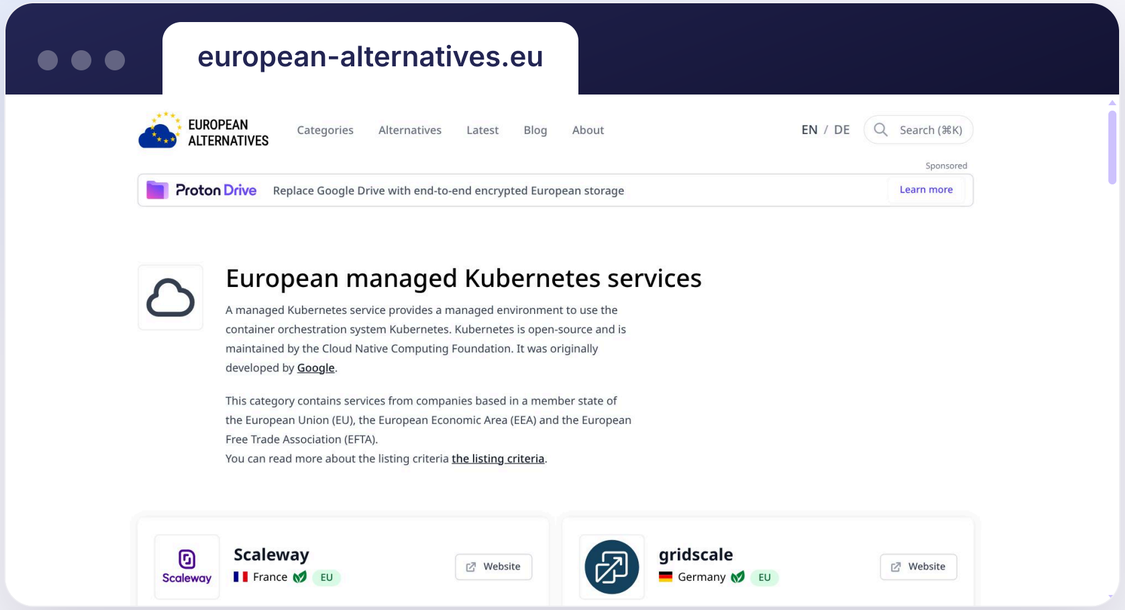
Where to find European providers

MY CURRENT FAVOURITE

european-alternatives.eu

Is this company European? Start here.

Replace a product | Filter by technology | Location & pricing

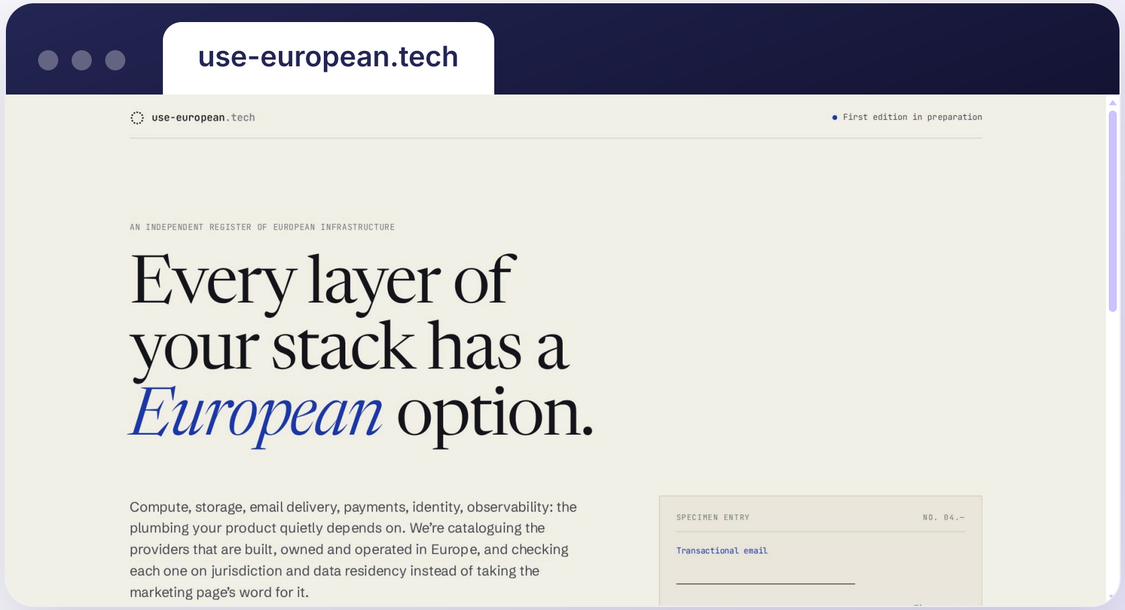


SNEAK PEEK · MY OWN PROJECT

use-european.tech

First edition in preparation. Scan to sign up.

HQ in Europe | Owned in Europe | Data in Europe



PART 3 · FINDING PROVIDERS

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

Is sovereignty pain?

PART 3 · WHERE THE ALTERNATIVES FELL SHORT

Three places where it hurt

Pricing & procurement

- Prices only on request
- Consultation call before a test account
- A long PDF to sign, then a "magic" price

Missing features

- Outdated Kubernetes & database versions
- Thin monitoring, no ISO 27001
- Terraform / OpenTofu providers late or beta

Stability & availability

- GPUs sold out, everybody needs them for AI
- Frequent small incidents
- Platform-wide outages, hours per year

PART 3 · LOOKING BEHIND THE LABEL

Not everything that says sovereign is sovereign.

PART 3 · 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 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

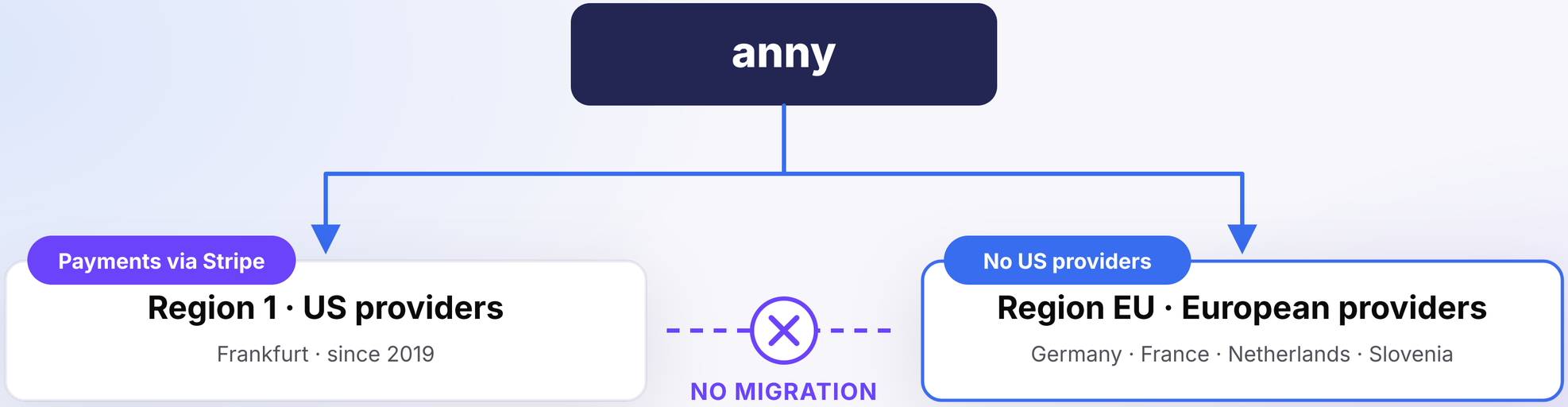
OBJECT STORAGE
- STACKIT — DE

EMAIL
- Scaleway TEM — FR
- Lettermint — NL

BACKUPS
- Scaleway — FR
- RelAix Networks — DE

PART 4 · 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

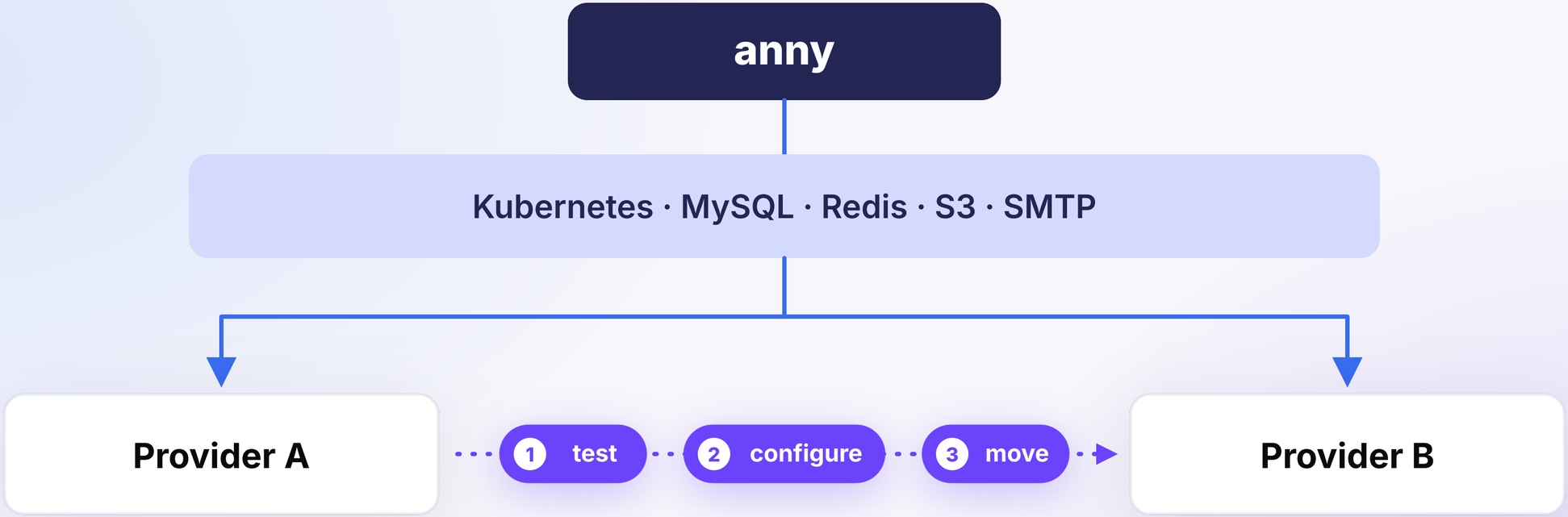
Uptime. A provider's bad day never takes all of anny down.

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

PART 5

So what does sovereignty really mean?

Sovereignty means having a practical way out



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 5 · WHAT SOVEREIGNTY MEANS

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

PART 5 · 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

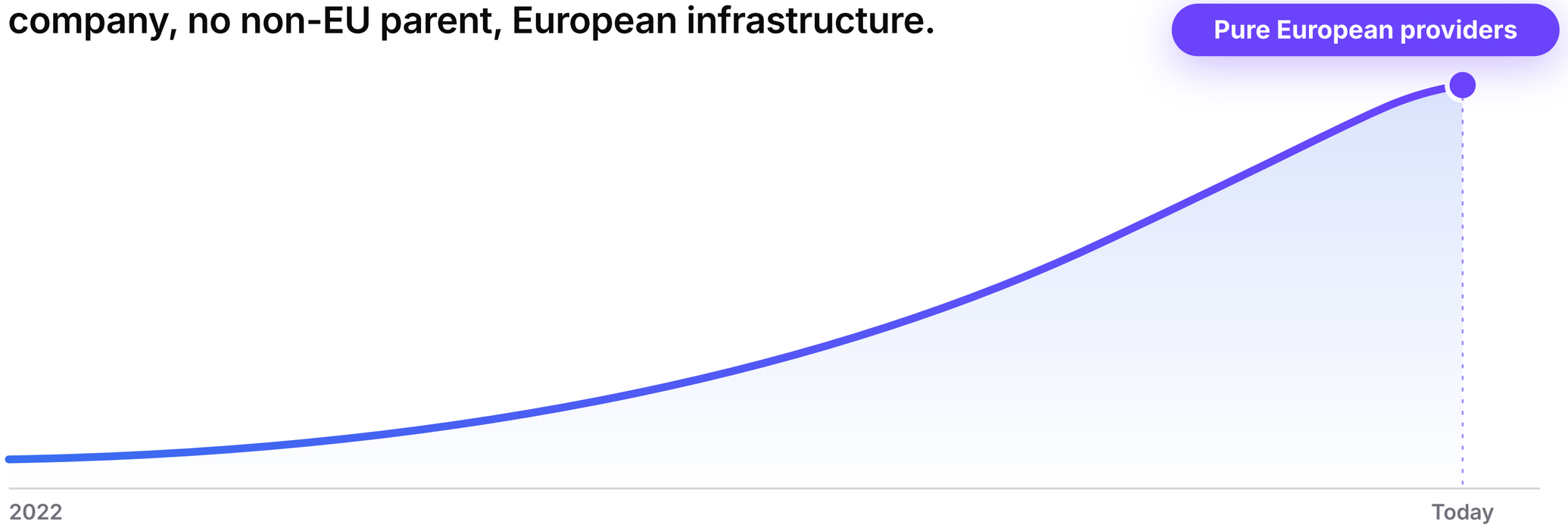
> 50 %

Of monthly bookings now in the European region

PART 5 · THE BRIGHT SIDE

Pure European providers are growing fast

More and more providers are European all the way down:
EU company, no non-EU parent, European infrastructure.



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.



Adriaan Wind

Co-Founder & CTO · anny.co

linkedin.com/in/adriaan-wind

THE ARTICLE

devtig.dev