



# Planet-Scale Database and Blockchain for the Masses

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**A globally distributed database is a database where the data can be stored physically stored in multiple data centers across the globe**

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## Benefits of Globally Distributed Database

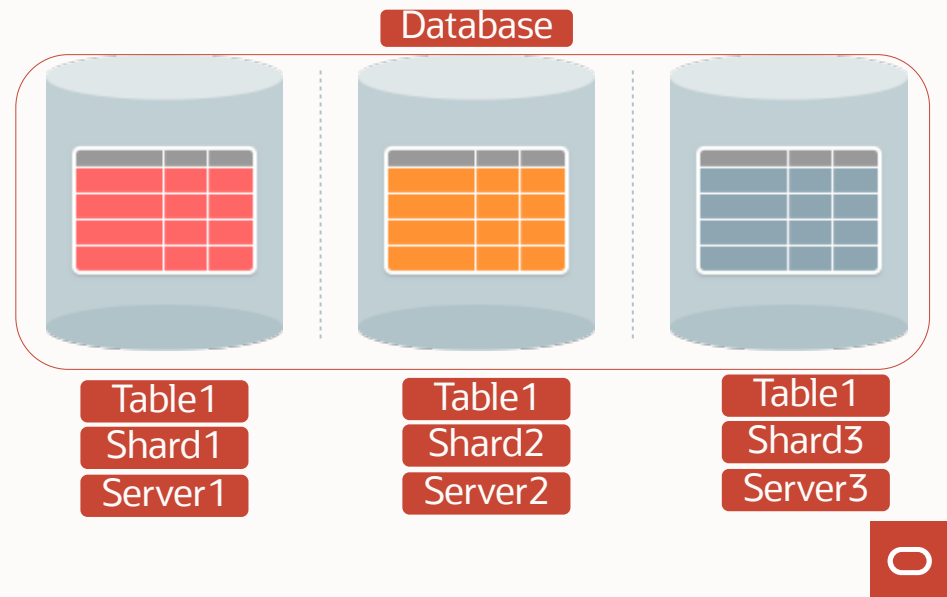
- In a global research consortium, labs are distributed around the world
- Labs stores their own data, but want all the members to see all the data
- Similar to how multi-national companies need to handle Data Residency – data for citizens of a country must be stored within that country, but still want to see the data across the globe
- Disaster Recovery – primary and standby(s) can be far apart
- Low latency for reads – data replicated to multiple regions. Clients in each region read from nearest replica
- Low latency for writes – for example, if we locate European data in European data center
- Single logical database – application and administrator sees one database (e.g., one service) even though physically there are N databases and replicas

# What Is Database Sharding?

Dominant approach for scaling Internet applications

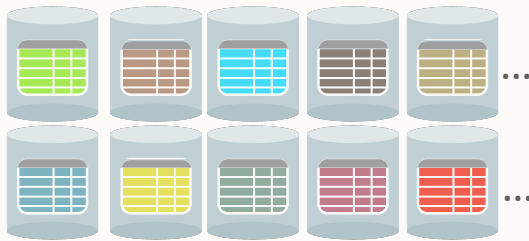
- **Horizontal partitioning** of data across independent databases (shards)
  - Each shard holds a subset of the data
  - Can be single-node or RAC or PDB
  - Replicated for high availability
- **Shared-nothing** architecture:
  - Shards don't share any hardware (CPU, memory, disk), or software (clusterware)

A single **logical DB** sharded into N physical Databases



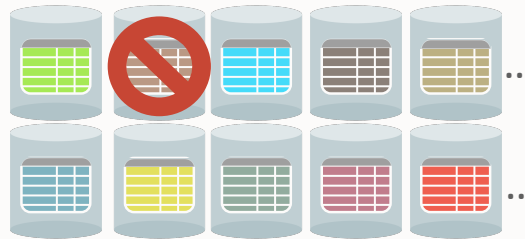
# Oracle Database Sharding – Benefits

## Linear Scalability



Add shards online to increase database size and throughput. Online split and rebalance.

## Extreme Availability



Shared-nothing architecture. Fault of one shard has no impact on others.

## Geographic Distribution



User defined data placement for performance, availability, DR or to meet regulatory requirements.

# Composite Sharding

## Geographic Distribution and Linear Scalability



# One Logical Database Using Sharding

Use 'country' ( 'region', or 'institution') as the top-level sharding key

In-country applications connect to local database as usual

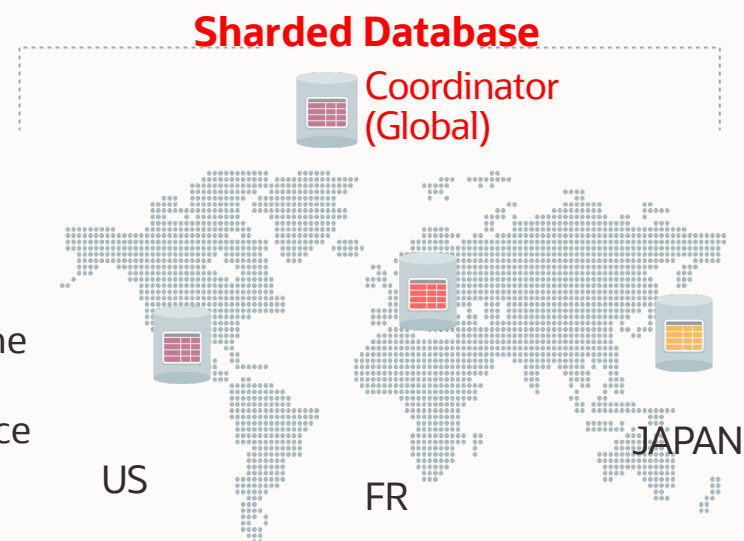
- All data stored locally and processed locally

Multi-shard queries directed to the Coordinator DB

- Coordinator DB rewrites query and sends to each shard (country) that has data
- Coordinator processes and aggregates the results from all the countries and returns result
- Coordinator can be replicated for availability and performance

*Think globally, store where needed*

- In-country data storage plus supports global view of all the data



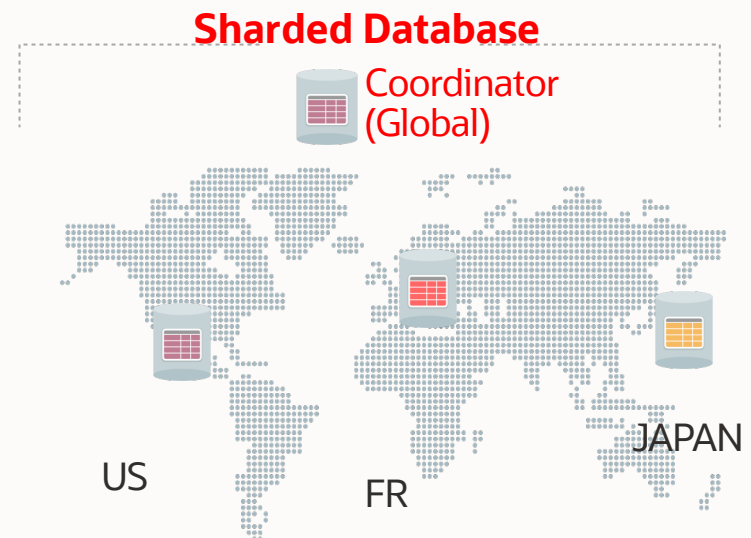
# Sharded Database Support for this Architecture

1. Direct-to-shard routing for in-country queries and multi-shard queries for queries that access data across countries
2. User defined sharding to allow you to use range or list of countries to partition data among shards
3. Automatic configuration of replication and control where the replicas are located
4. Data federation support for adding existing databases to a sharded database



## This Architecture Supports Multi-Cloud

- Each shard can be in a cloud or on-premises within the country
- Shards can use different cloud providers (multi-cloud strategy)
- Replica of a shard can be in a different cloud or on-premises
- Online resharding allows you to move data between clouds, or to/from cloud and on-premises
- And supports *real* standards-based SQL



# Why You Need Crypto-Secure Data Management

## Blockchain for the Masses



# Protecting Data from Illicit Changes

Existing data security technologies focus on **keeping criminals out**



Passwords



Privileges



Encryption



Firewalls

# Protecting Data from Illicit Changes

Existing data security technologies focus on **keeping criminals out**



Passwords



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Encryption



Firewalls

Blockchain adds another layer of data security

- Protects data from being illicitly modified or deleted



Uses cryptographic digests, cryptographic signatures, and distributed systems to implement **crypto-secure data management**

# Blockchain is Compelling but Difficult to Implement



According to Deloitte's Global Blockchain Survey<sup>1</sup>:

“Blockchain's standing as a **top-five strategic priority** continued in 2020”

“Some 86% of respondents ... said that blockchain offers a compelling business case”

However, blockchain projects have a notoriously high failure rate. IDC says<sup>2</sup>:

“the technical complexities and costs connected to the creation and configuration of a blockchain and to maintain the infrastructure are often seen as a barrier”

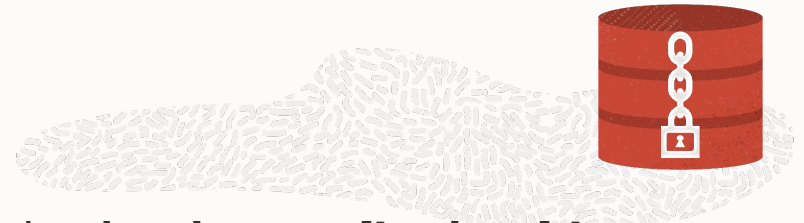
To realize the promise of blockchain, it needs to be much **easier to implement**

<sup>1</sup>[Deloitte's Global Blockchain Survey 2020](#)

<sup>2</sup>[IDC Report: Barriers to Blockchain Adoption in Europe, March 2020, Doc # EUR145773720](#)



# Blockchain for the Masses



Up to now, blockchain has mainly been used to develop **decentralized multi-party apps**

- Blockchain required new applications, new development methodologies, new data management products, and new business processes

Oracle has now released breakthrough technology that deeply integrates blockchain into the Oracle database

- Makes it possible to implement blockchain in **mainstream** applications with **minimal application changes**
- Provides the full functionality of the world's leading database on crypto-protected data

The benefits of blockchain are now available beyond decentralized multi-party apps

# Preventing Illicit Changes to Data



Oracle blockchain focuses on **preventing illicit changes** to data that records important actions, assets, entities, and documents



# Preventing Illicit Changes to Data

Oracle blockchain focuses on **preventing illicit changes** to data that records important actions, assets, entities, and documents

- Examples: contracts, property titles, payments, transfers, ledgers, account statements
- Data that must be **preserved and never modified**
- Data that can be deleted only when it is **obsolete**

Illicit changes to important records can have dire consequences

- Loss of assets, legal exposure, loss of reputation, etc.

Oracle crypto-security is not limited to providing change ledgers

- It can directly protect reference data as well





## New Security Hacks are Unavoidable

There were **2,709** critical security vulnerabilities (CVSS 9-10) published in 2020 alone

<https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/search/>



## **Stolen Insider Credentials are Unavoidable:**

“Dozens of seniors at Gadsden High School used a logon that is normally assigned to a teacher, to change their grades.”

<https://cbs4local.com/news/local/dozens-of-gadsden-high-school-students-caught-changing-grades-some-wont-graduate>



## Phishing of Insiders is Unavoidable:

“Hackers gained access to Sony's network after a series of **phishing emails** aimed at system engineers and network administrators who were asked to verify their Apple IDs”

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/2913805/sony-hackers-targeted-employees-with-fake-apple-id-emails.html>





TESLA

## **Bribing of Insiders is Unavoidable:**

“Employee is offered \$500,000 to insert malware into Tesla system”

To his credit, the employee reported the bribe attempt

<https://www.teslarati.com/tesla-employee-fbi-thwarts-russian-cybersecurity-attack/>

# Limiting the Damage from Unavoidable Vulnerabilities

Although we can never eliminate these vulnerabilities

- We can **limit the damage** they cause



Blockchain will not prevent your data from being **stolen**

- But it provides an additional layer of defense that can prevent the dire consequences of your data being **changed**

Which is worse:

- Someone seeing my bank account
- Someone stealing the money in my bank account



# Use Cases for Blockchain in the Oracle Database

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# Oracle Blockchain Use Cases

Because Oracle makes it so easy to adopt blockchain technology, it is now usable in every industry and in a majority of applications



**Financial data** - accounting, assets, payments, insurance



**Logistics data** - distribution, supply chain, shipment, recalls



**Education data** – Degrees, certifications, and professional history



**Government data**- legal, trial, tax, permits, citizenship, title



**Scientific data** – secure notebooks, experimental configurations, results, hypotheses, , intellectual property

# Prevent Illicit Changes by **Insiders\*** using **Immutable Tables**

\*Or Criminals Using Insider Credentials

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# Preventing Illicit Changes Using Insiders Credentials



Oracle **Immutable Tables** prevent illicit modifications by insiders using the database (SQL)

- For example, changes by rogue employees or employees whose credentials were stolen



Immutable tables allow new data to be added, but existing data **cannot be changed or deleted by anyone using the database**

- Even Database Administrators



# Oracle **Immutable** Tables

```
CREATE IMMUTABLE TABLE  
trade_ledger (...);
```

## TRADE LEDGER

ID	User	Value
1	Tom	500
2	Carol	176
3	Wang	500
4	Eve	25

Create an insert-only Immutable Table by simply adding “Immutable” to a table creation statement

- Allows relational data and JSON or LOB documents
- Not restricted to ledgers, can store reference data

Behaves like any other table except that Immutable Table users **cannot**:

- Update or delete rows
- Change table definition
- Convert immutable table to updatable or vice-versa
- Modify table metadata in database dictionary

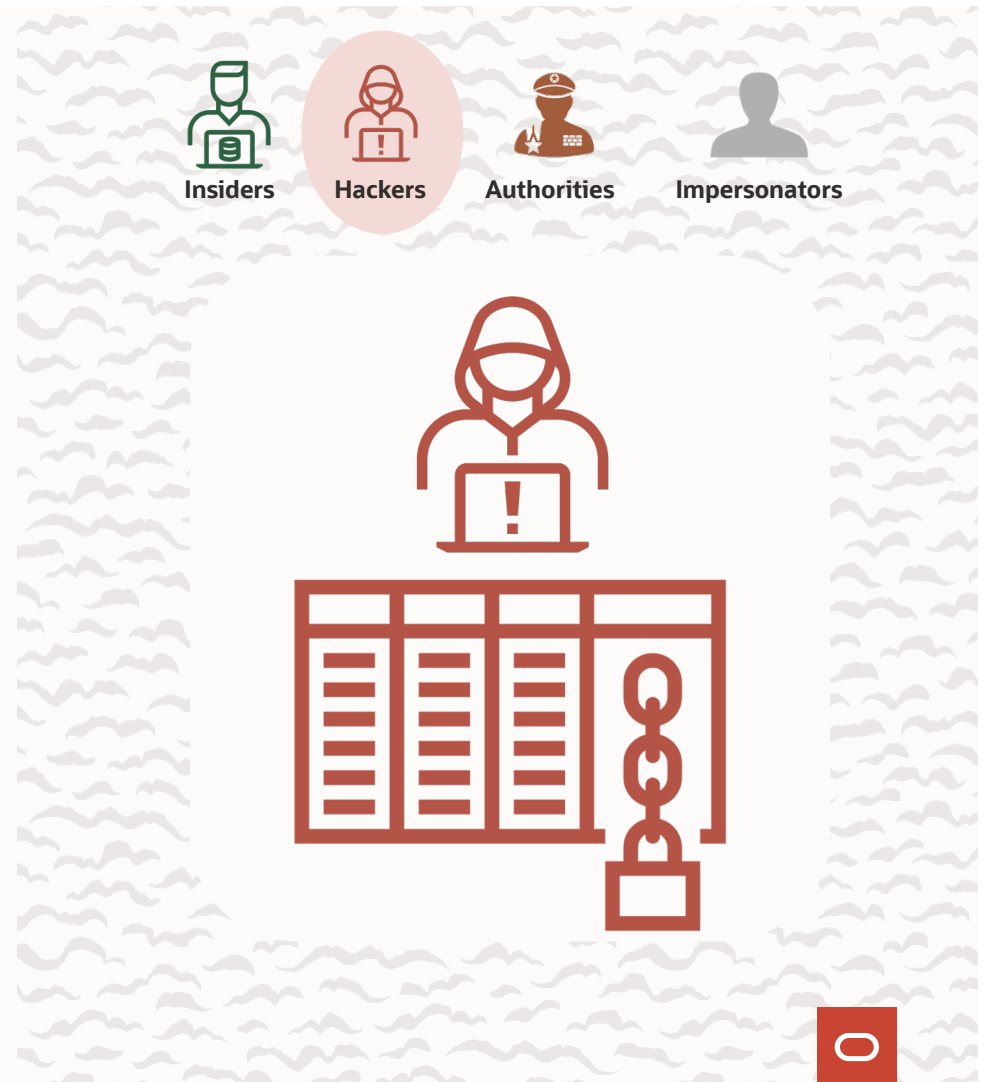
Available in Database 19.11, 21.3

Using Immutable Tables requires no App changes

**Detect Illicit Changes  
by Hackers  
using**

**Cryptographic Data  
Chaining**

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# Detecting Illicit Changes that Bypass Database Software

What if the database software that enforces immutability is **bypassed**

- For example, by a hacker using a new security vulnerability
- Or by a rogue or compromised **system administrator** who uses OS credentials to modify or bypass the database software (inside hacker)



Blockchain **detects** changes to data by computing and safely storing a small cryptographic digest of the data

- If the data is changed, then the the cryptographic digest of the changed data will differ from the previous digest




Detects illicit changes, even if attackers take over full control of the OS or database


# Oracle Blockchain Table Verification

```
DBMS_BLOCKCHAIN_TABLE.  
VERIFY_ROWS ( )
```

TRADE LEDGER



ID	User	Value	Created	CryptoDigest
1	Tom	500	1-Feb	ADSJS
2	Carol	176	8-Mar	%10S
3	Wang	500	3-Aug	SH31
4	Eve	25	14-Oct	LRO\$



Chains are verifiable by users:

- Call `DBMS_BLOCKCHAIN_TABLE.VERIFY_ROWS ( )`


Chains can also be **independently validated** without depending on the database

- Open Standard cryptographic algorithms are used
- Allows users to read the chained data and verify the crypto-digest from outside the database


## Easy to Use

```
CREATE BLOCKCHAIN TABLE  
trade_ledger (...);
```

TRADE LEDGER



ID	User	Value	Created	CryptoDigest
1	Tom	500	1-Feb	ADSJS
2	Carol	176	8-Mar	%SHS
3	Wang	500	3-Aug	SH@1
4	Eve	25	14-Oct	LIO\$



Available in Database 19.10, 21.1



Immutable and Blockchain Tables are Oracle Converged Database **features**

- Not tied to **blockchain-only database** like AWS QLDB

Requires no application changes

- Accessed with standard declarative SQL
- Supports full analytics and transactions on table data
- Highly scalable and available using
  - Oracle RAC scale-out clusters
  - Data Guard geographic disaster protection

**FREE** in all Oracle Database Editions

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Because Oracle makes it so easy to adopt blockchain technology, it is now usable in every industry and in a majority of applications



**Financial data** - accounting, assets, payments, insurance



**Logistics data** - distribution, supply chain, shipment, recalls



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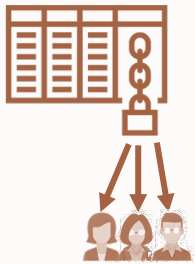
**Scientific data** – secure notebooks, experimental configurations, results, hypotheses, , intellectual property

# Comparison to Peer-to-Peer Blockchain





## How Blockchain Tables Compare to Peer-to-Peer Blockchain



A Blockchain Table with **publicly distributed signed digests** is a distributed blockchain but not a **peer-to-peer** blockchain

- It is simpler to use and has many of the benefits of full **peer-to-peer**

Blockchain Tables **prevent** illicit changes made **using the database**, and **detect** illicit changes that **bypass the database**



Directly preventing all forms of illicit changes provides stronger protection

- However, detection of illicit changes also indirectly prevents most fraud
- Criminals won't commit fraud if they know they will be caught
  - For example, a criminal won't take a bribe while being video-recorded

## Peer-to-Peer Blockchain Complexity



To **prevent** illicit changes that bypass the database requires a **Peer-to-Peer** Blockchain architecture

- With **consensus-based** multi-party agreements for every change
- Peer-to-Peer consensus prevents the takeover of a single database from compromising the entire system
- However, peer-to-peer is still vulnerable to a common bug across all peers

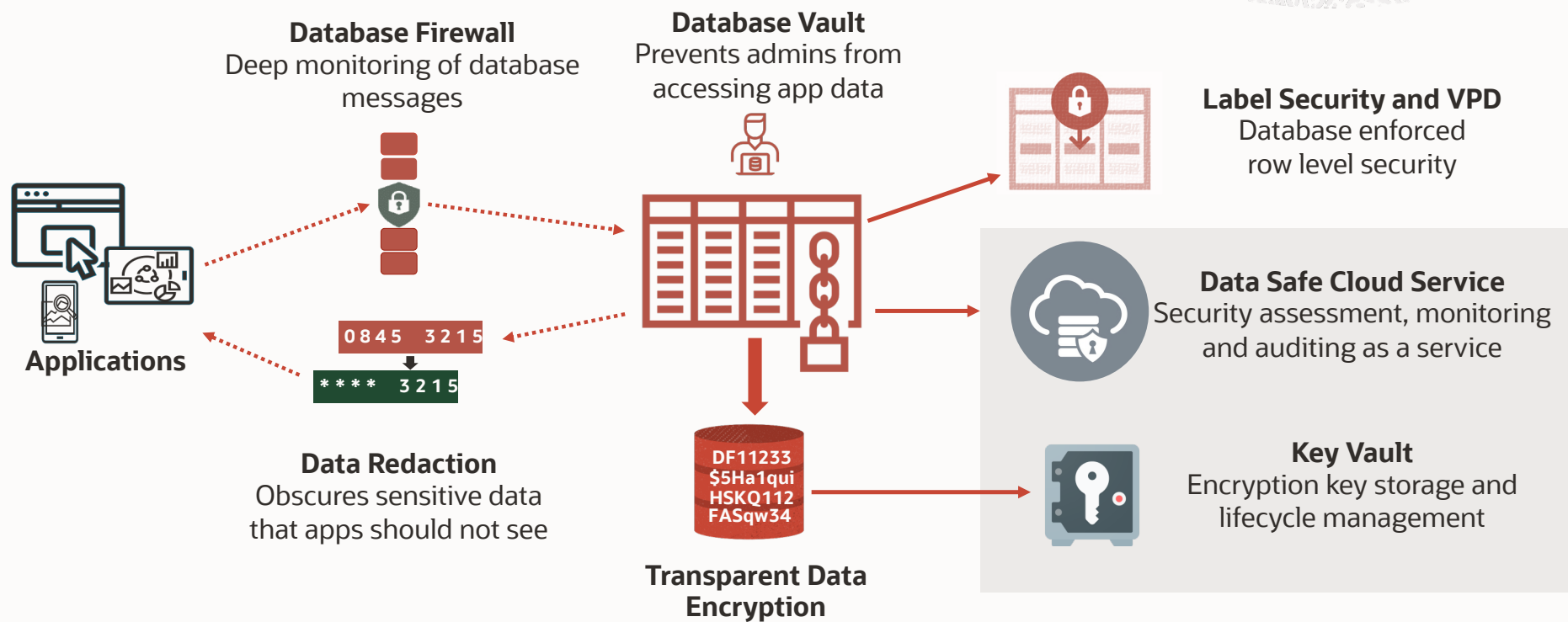
Peer-to-Peer consensus requires new app development methodologies

Also, consensus requires major changes to **businesses processes** and how businesses interact with customers and partners

- **Consensus requires sacrificing autonomy and privacy**

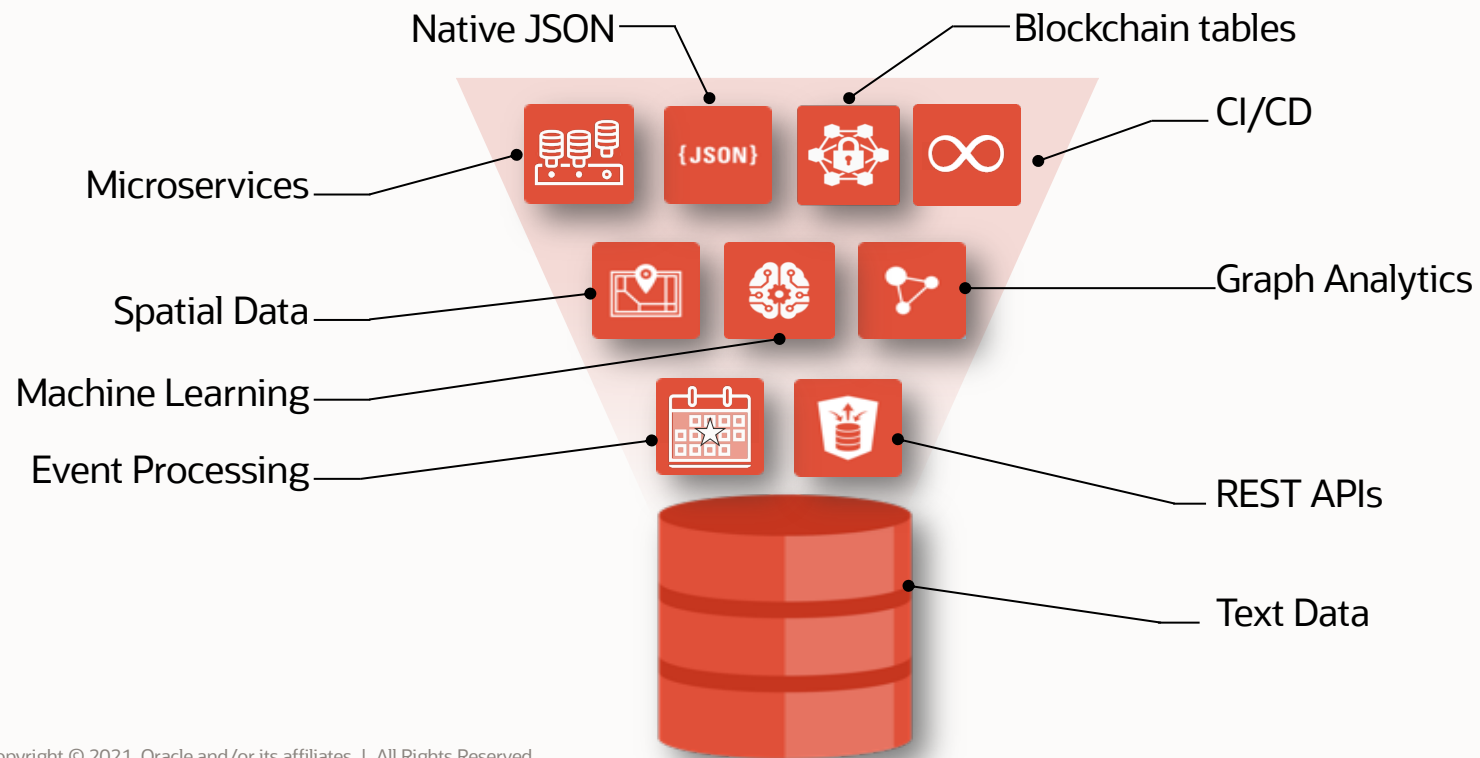
Overall, peer-to-peer provides very effective illicit change prevention, but at the expense of significant complexity for mainstream use-cases

# Blockchain Adds to Oracle's Unique **Maximum Security Architecture**

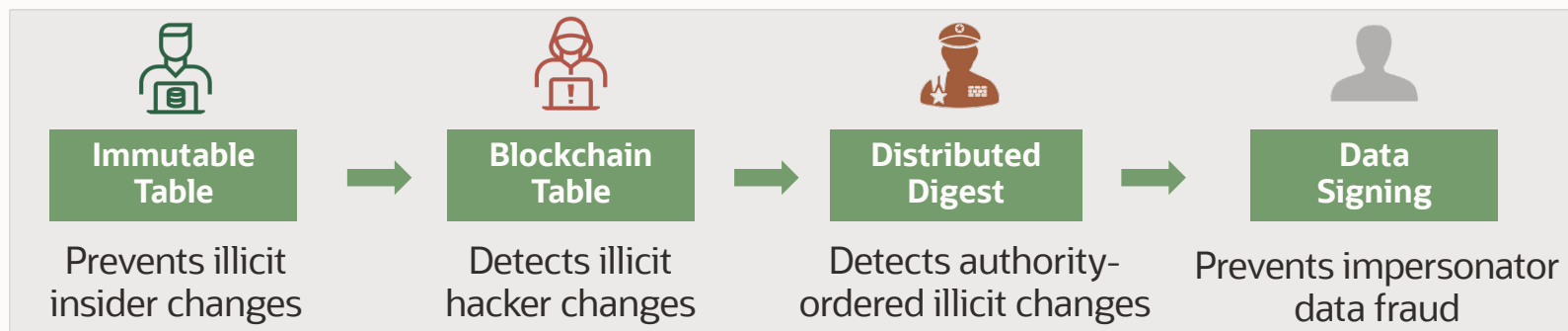


# Oracle **Converged** Database Supports all Leading-Edge Data and Workloads

Dramatically Simpler Development and Management



# Blockchain in the Oracle Database Addresses Real-World Data Protection Challenges



**Free features of Oracle Converged Database  
Deploy Incrementally with Minimal App Changes**



## More Information:

# Blockchain Blog

<https://blogs.oracle.com/blockchain/>

# Blockchain Hands-on-Lab

<https://apexapps.oracle.com/pls/apex/dbpm/r/livelabs>

# Blockchain Documentation

<https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/21/nfcon/oracle-blockchain-table-268779556.html>



# Oracle for Research

Connecting cutting edge research with the power of cloud computing



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