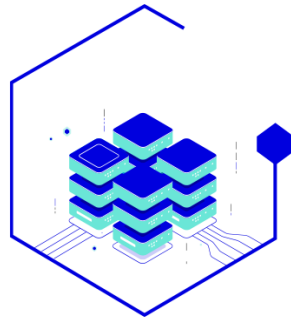




**SOTERIA, user-friendly secured  
personal data management platform**



# Towards a Decentralized ML-enabled Data Vault

Luis S. Luévano García, PhD

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Davide Frey, PhD

*Senior Researcher, WIDE team, Inria Rennes*

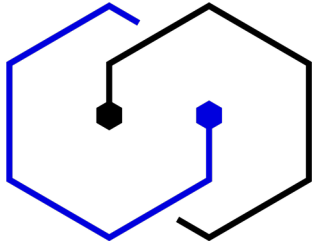
# Summary

01. Platform description
02. Decentralized version
03. Decentralized Data Vault for MPC/ML
04. Discussion
05. Conclusion

# 01

## Platform Description

# SOTERIA Objective



- To combine a **high-level identification tool** with a **decentralized secured data storage** tool
- To enable **all citizens to fully protect and control their personal data** with awareness on potential privacy risks

## **Versions:**

- Centralized and decentralized approaches

# SOTERIA Centralized version



High-level identification

- Allow the creation of a digital identity for a centralized authentication



Personal data protection

- Give citizens the control over their personal data.



Co-creation approach

- Develop a platform meeting European citizens' needs and expectations to maximize its acceptability

# In-cloud data wallet for MPC/ML

## Highlights

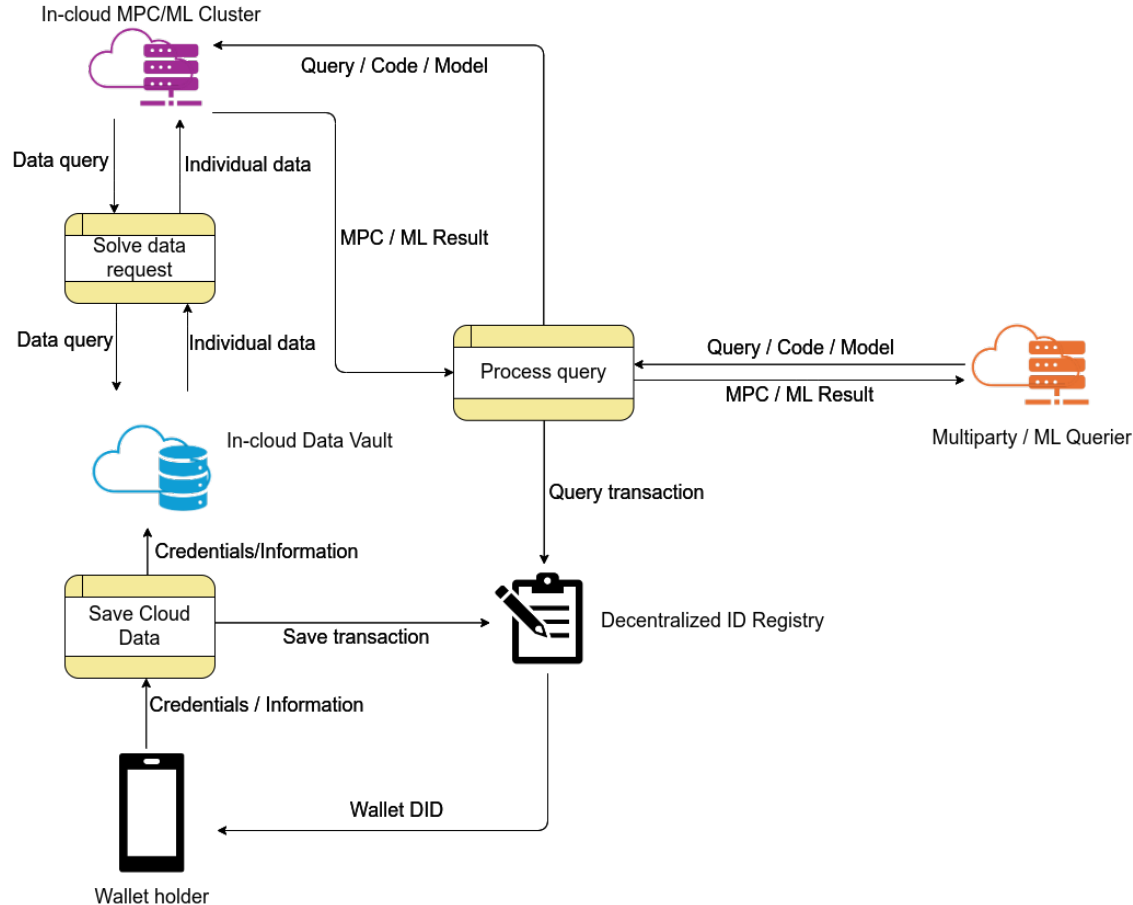
- Retain **pseudoanonymity** and **unlinkability**
- Empower **user control** over their data
- Minimize of the **data shared** with service providers
- Personal data protected by advanced **cryptography** and **privacy** techniques

# Centralized Design for MPC/ML tasks

## Entities and tasks

- **Wallet holder**
  - > Sends IDs and information to the In-Cloud Data Vault
- **In-Cloud Data Vault**
  - > Receives and stores information from Wallet Holder
  - > Responds requests from MPC / ML Cluster
- **In-Cloud Multiparty Computation / Machine Learning Cluster**
  - > Receives MPC / ML queries and performs computations
  - > Requests data from In-Cloud Data Vault
- **Multiparty Computation / Machine Learning Querier**
  - > Requests a Multiparty Computation or Machine Learning service
- **Decentralized ID registry**
  - > Holds registry to communicate, lookup, and register queries for Wallet holders.

# High-level centralized data flow





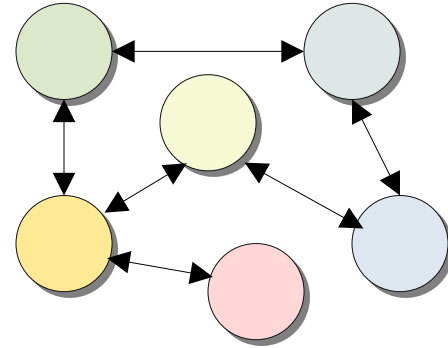
# 02

## Decentralized version

# Motivations for decentralization

## No central entity coordinating computations and data

- **Private data stays** in each individual's devices
- **Less** reliance on **external services**
- **No centralized target** for attackers
- **Less** reliance on **expensive** computing infrastructure



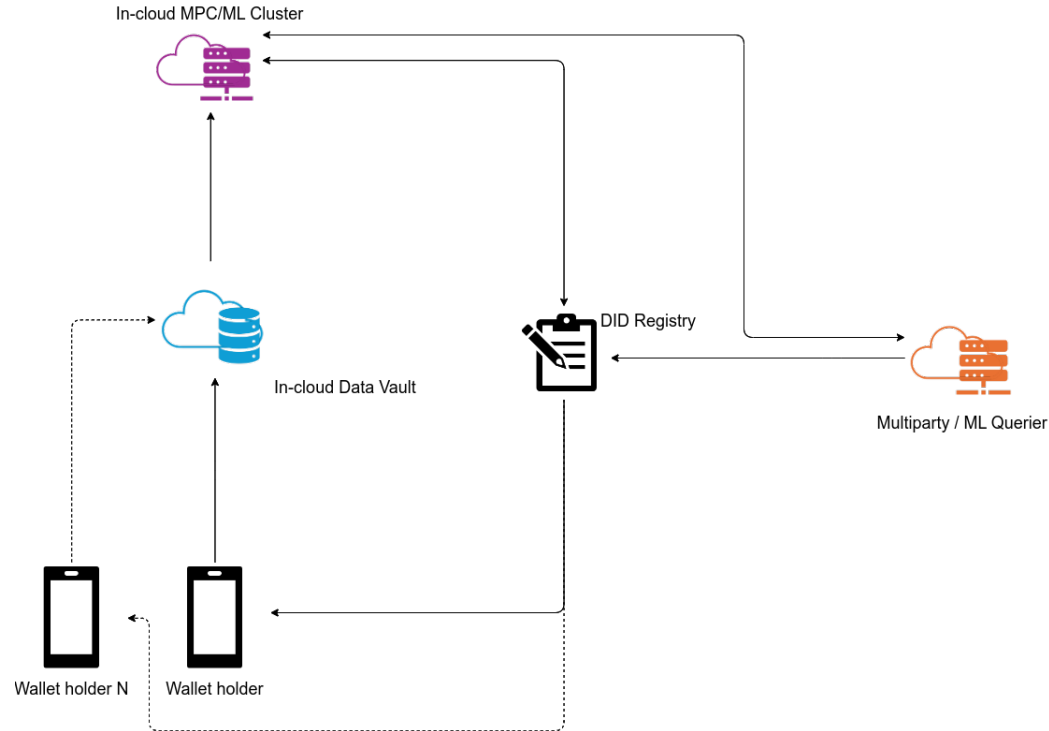
# Security & Privacy considerations

- **Communication protocol**
  - > Encryption and authentication
- **Neighbor selection and Topology**
  - > Logical neighbors and effective neighbors
- **TEE availability and alternatives**
  - > Secure hardware availability and encryption
  - > Protection from side-channel attacks
- **Aggregation / Learning algorithm**
  - > Secure aggregation
  - > Noise-based algorithms
- **Model parameter updates**
  - > Privacy, Accuracy, Efficiency
- **Metrics**
  - > Privacy, Accuracy, Efficiency
- **Training paradigms and models**
  - > Lightweight models, Knowledge Distillation, Quantization, Privacy-aware regularization
  - > Limiting computation layers

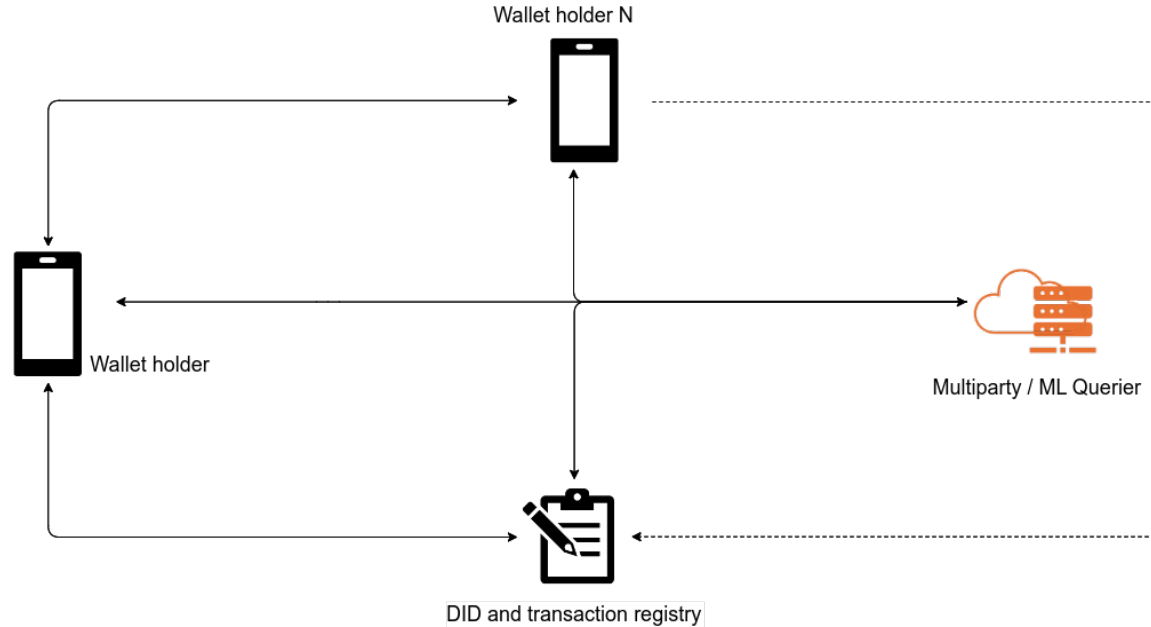
# 03

## Decentralized Data Vault for MPC/ML

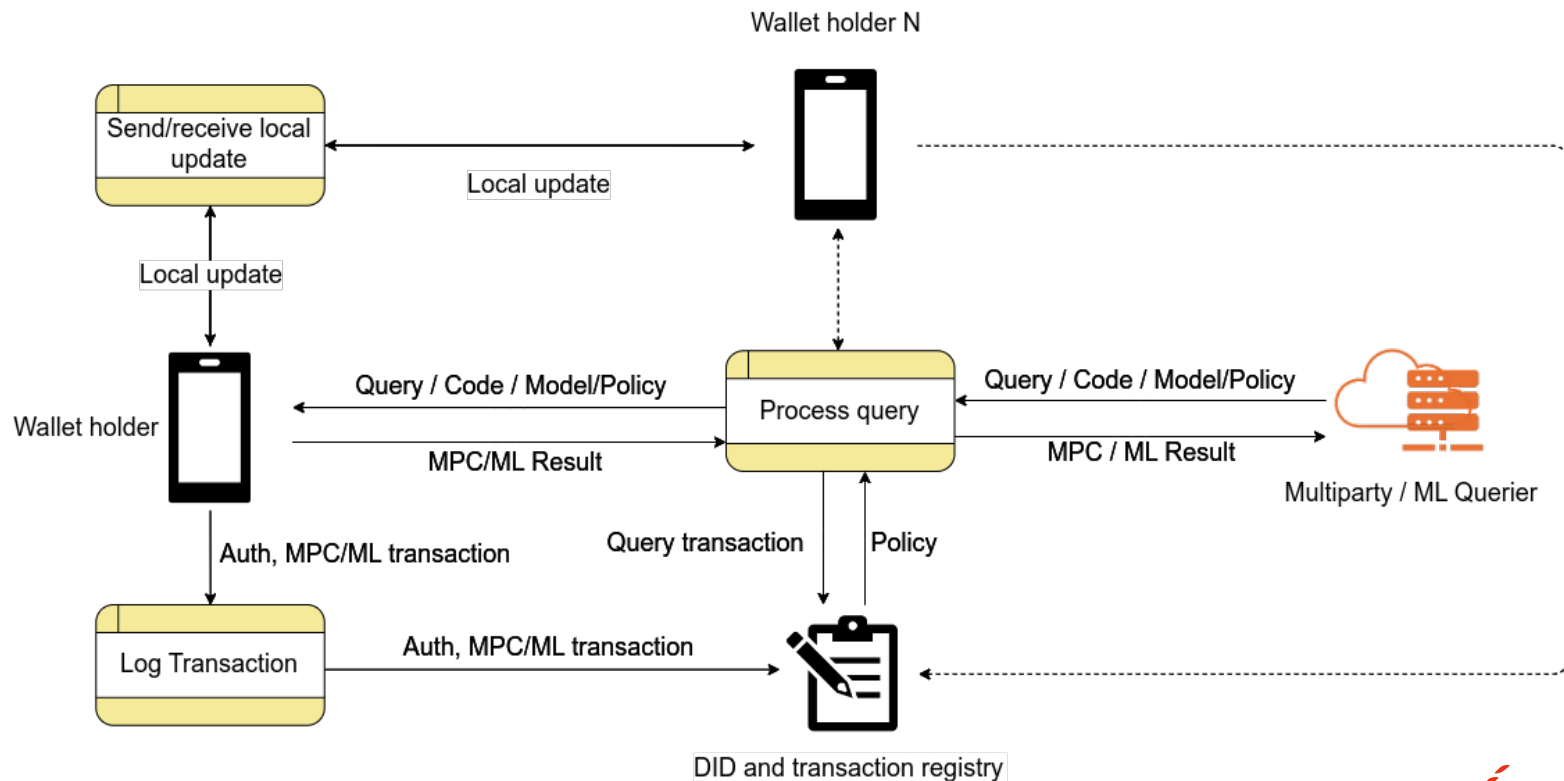
# Centralized scenario



# Decentralized scenario

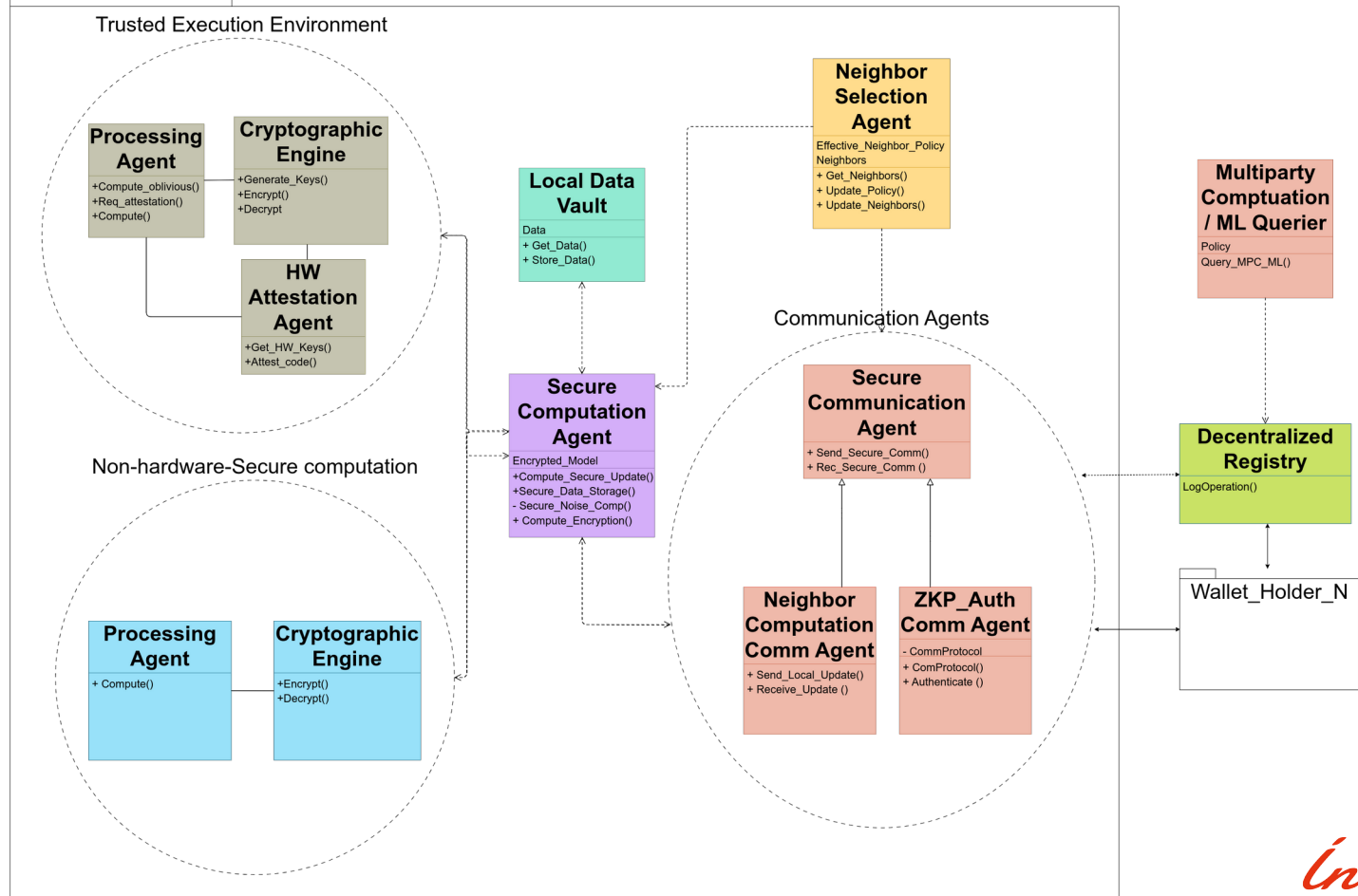


# Decentralized data flow



# Decentralized Data Vault for MPC/ML

Wallet





# Security & Privacy considerations (detailed)

## Possible approaches

- **Communication protocol**

- > Pseudoanonymization, DHT, ZKP, SSI

- Neighbor selection and Topology

- > Epidemic protocols, Dynamic topologies

- TEE availability and alternatives

- > Intel SGX & TXT, ARM TZ, AMD, Apple iOS Secure Enclave
  - > Encrypted layer computation, HME

- Aggregation / Learning algorithm

- > Secure Aggregation
  - > Noise-based algorithms

- Model parameter updates

- > Fine-tuning, hierarchical aggregation, random walks, convergence

- Metrics

- > Accuracy: Differential privacy
  - > Efficiency: FLOPs, Latency, No. Parameters
  - > Privacy: Differential privacy, attack precision

- Training paradigms and models

- > Lightweight Neural Networks
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# Communication protocol

## Authentication

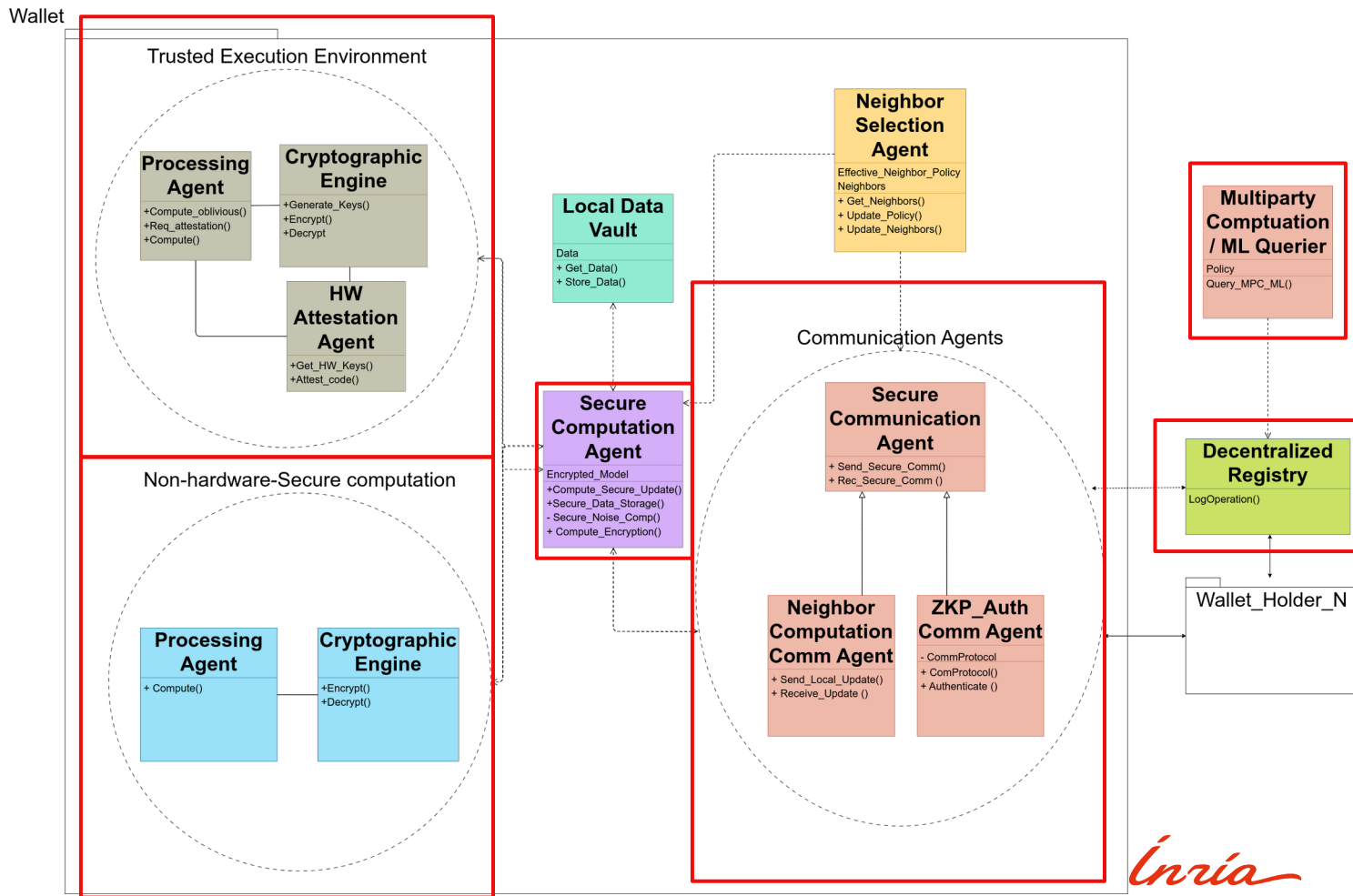
- TLS Encrypted communications
- Pseudoanonymity by:
  - > Distributed ID and registry
  - > Zero Knowledge Proof
  - > Self-Sovereign Identity with Access Control Lists<sup>(1)</sup>

## Distributed objects

- Access Control Lists
- Distributed Hash Tables
- May require consensus depending on the object
- Enables scenarios for :
  - > E-voting
  - > Key-management systems
  - > Money transfers

<sup>(1)</sup>D. Frey, M. Gustin, and M. Raynal. The Synchronization Power (Consensus Number) of Access-Control Objects: the Case of AllowList and DenyList. In 37th International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC 2023). Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics (LIPIcs), Volume 281, pp. 21:1-21:23, Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik (2023) <https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.DISC.2023.21>

## Communication protocol



# Security & Privacy considerations (detailed)

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# Neighbor selection and topology

## Neighbor selection

- Gossip/epidemic protocol-based communication<sup>(1)</sup>
- Dynamic view changes
- Balancing number of effective neighbors
- Policy for enforcing individual privacy

## Topology

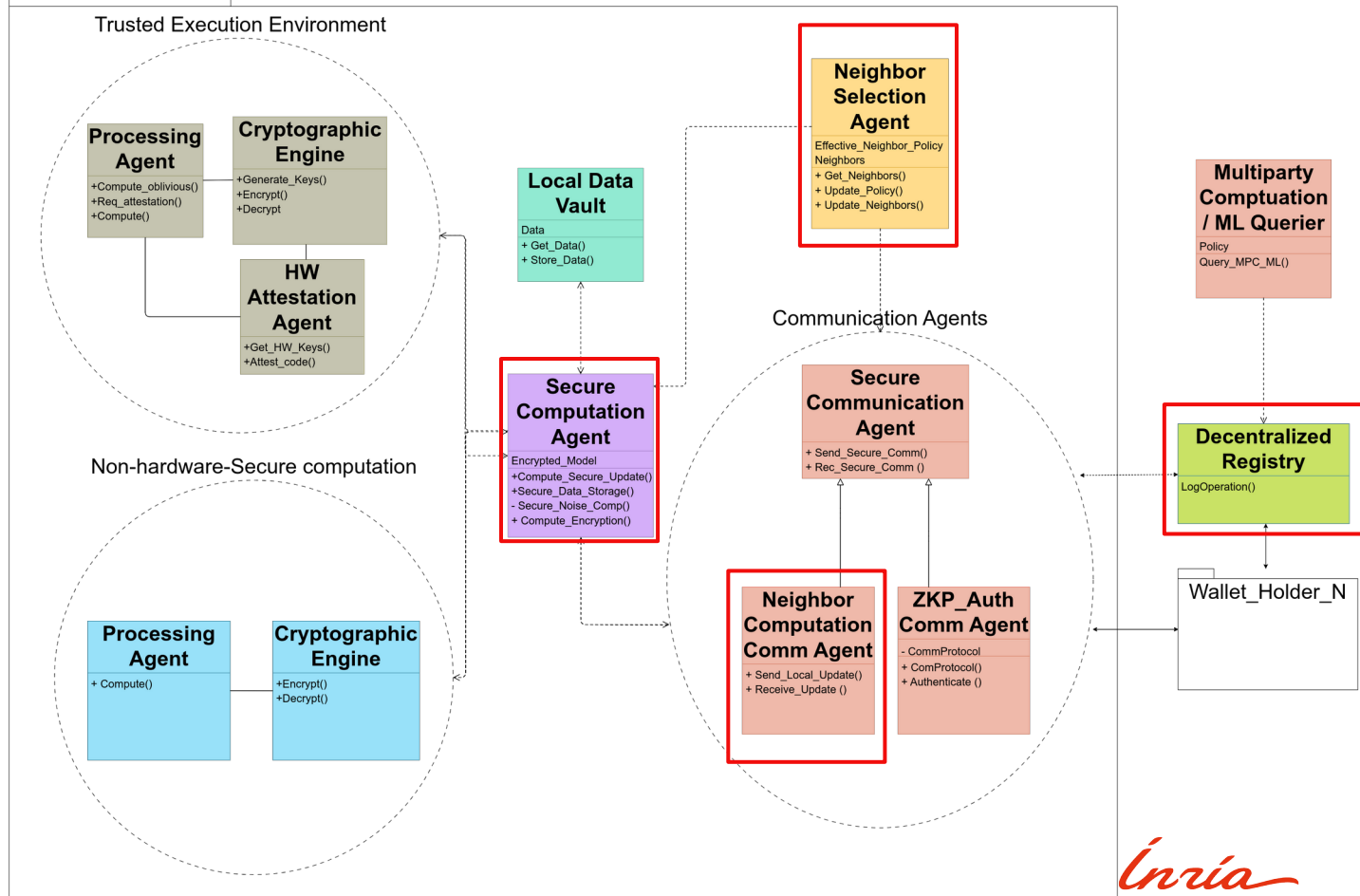
- Time Varying Exponential
- Dynamic addition of members
- Impact on:
  - > Accuracy and convergence<sup>(2)</sup>
  - > Privacy per number of connections
  - > Communication latency

<sup>(1)</sup> C. Georgiou et al. 2008. On the complexity of asynchronous gossip. In Proceedings of the twenty-seventh ACM symposium on Principles of distributed computing (pp. 135-144).

<sup>(2)</sup> T. Vogels et al. 2022. Beyond spectral gap: The role of the topology in decentralized learning. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 35, 15039-15050.

## Neighbor selection and Topology

Wallet



# Security & Privacy considerations (detailed)

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# Trusted Execution Environments and alternatives

## Implementations

- Intel SGX & TXT, ARM TZ, Apple iOS SE, AMD
- Applications
  - > Local and remote attestation<sup>(1)</sup>
  - > Isolated computation
  - > Cryptographic services
  - > Control Flow Attestation<sup>(3)</sup>

## Considerations

- Availability & platform restrictions
- Encryption-based alternatives on TEE unavailability<sup>(4)</sup>
- Continued research on vulnerabilities
  - > Mitigate side-channels<sup>(2)</sup>
- Trade-offs :
  - > Computation overhead
  - > Limited computing resources

<sup>(1)</sup>Intel. 2023. Attestation & Provisioning Services Intel Software Guard Extensions. <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/developer/tools/software-guard-extensions/attestation-services.html>

<sup>(2)</sup>K. Fumiyuki et al., 2023. OLIVE: Oblivious Federated Learning on Trusted Execution Environment against the risk of sparsification. arXiv:2202.07165 [cs.LG]

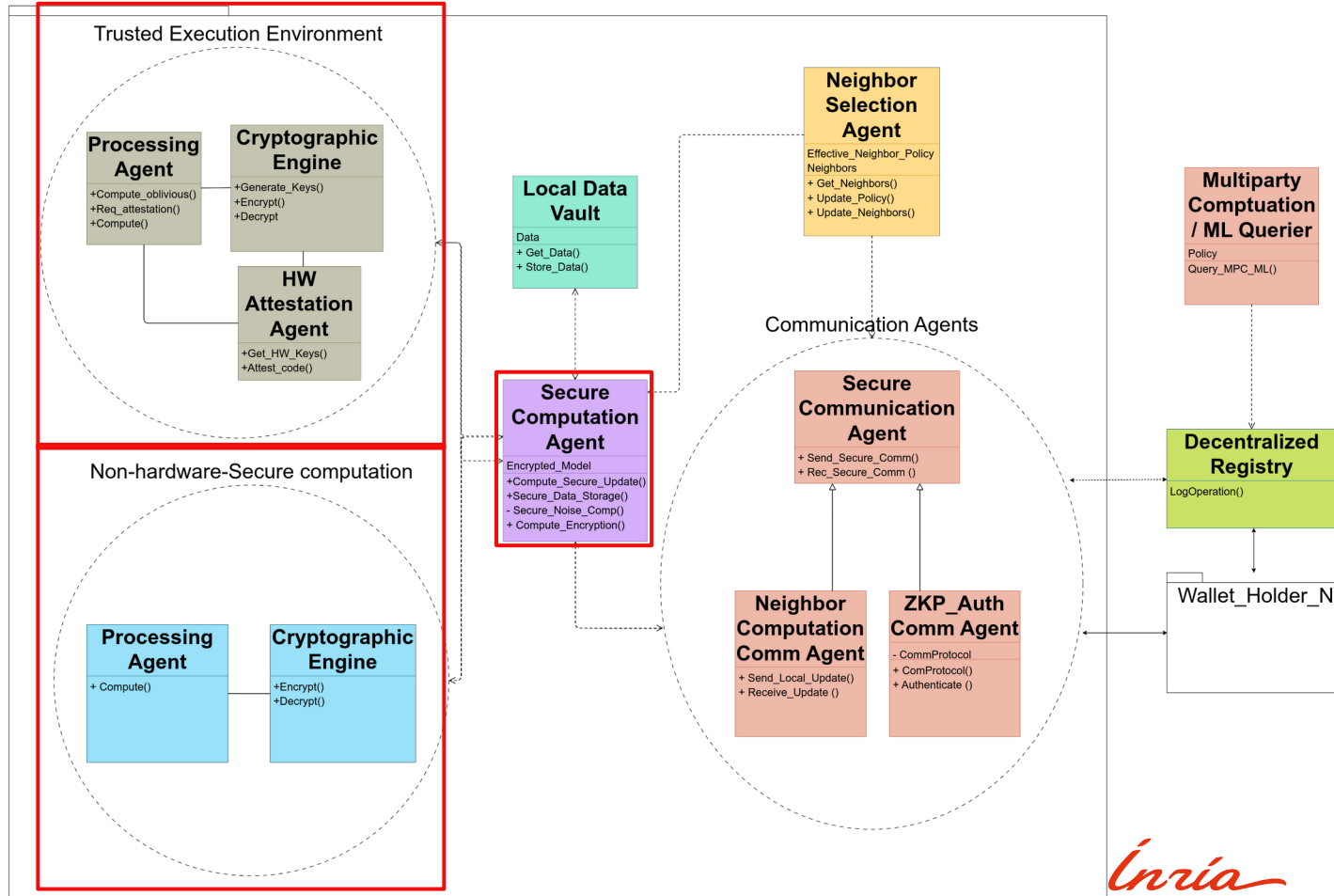
<sup>(3)</sup>M. Morbitzer et al. 2022. GuaranTEE: Introducing Control-Flow Attestation for Trusted Execution Environments. arXiv:2202.07380 [cs.CR]

<sup>(4)</sup>K. Cheng et al. 2023. Manto: A Practical and Secure Inference Service of Convolutional Neural Networks for IoT. IEEE Internet of Things Journal. PP. 1-1. 10.1109/JIOT.2023.3251982.



## TEE availability and alternatives

Wallet



# Security & Privacy considerations (detailed)

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# Aggregation / Learning algorithm

## Masking with Lossless noise

- No accuracy loss
- Global masking<sup>(1)</sup>
  - > Centralized scenarios.
  - > Requires cooperation by all nodes
- Local masking
  - > Additional communications
  - > Must trust neighbors

## Noise injection<sup>(2)</sup>

- SGD can manage noisy models
- Differential Privacy<sup>(3)</sup> as a "gold standard"
- Trade-offs :
  - > Lower accuracy
  - > Longer training times

## Secure aggregation

- Filtering updates from malicious clients<sup>(4)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup>Bonawitz, K.; Ivanov, V.; Kreuter, B.; Marcedone, A.; McMahan, H. B.; Patel, S.; Ramage, D.; Segal, A.; Seth, K. Practical Secure Aggregation for Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning. In ACM SIGSAC, 2017.

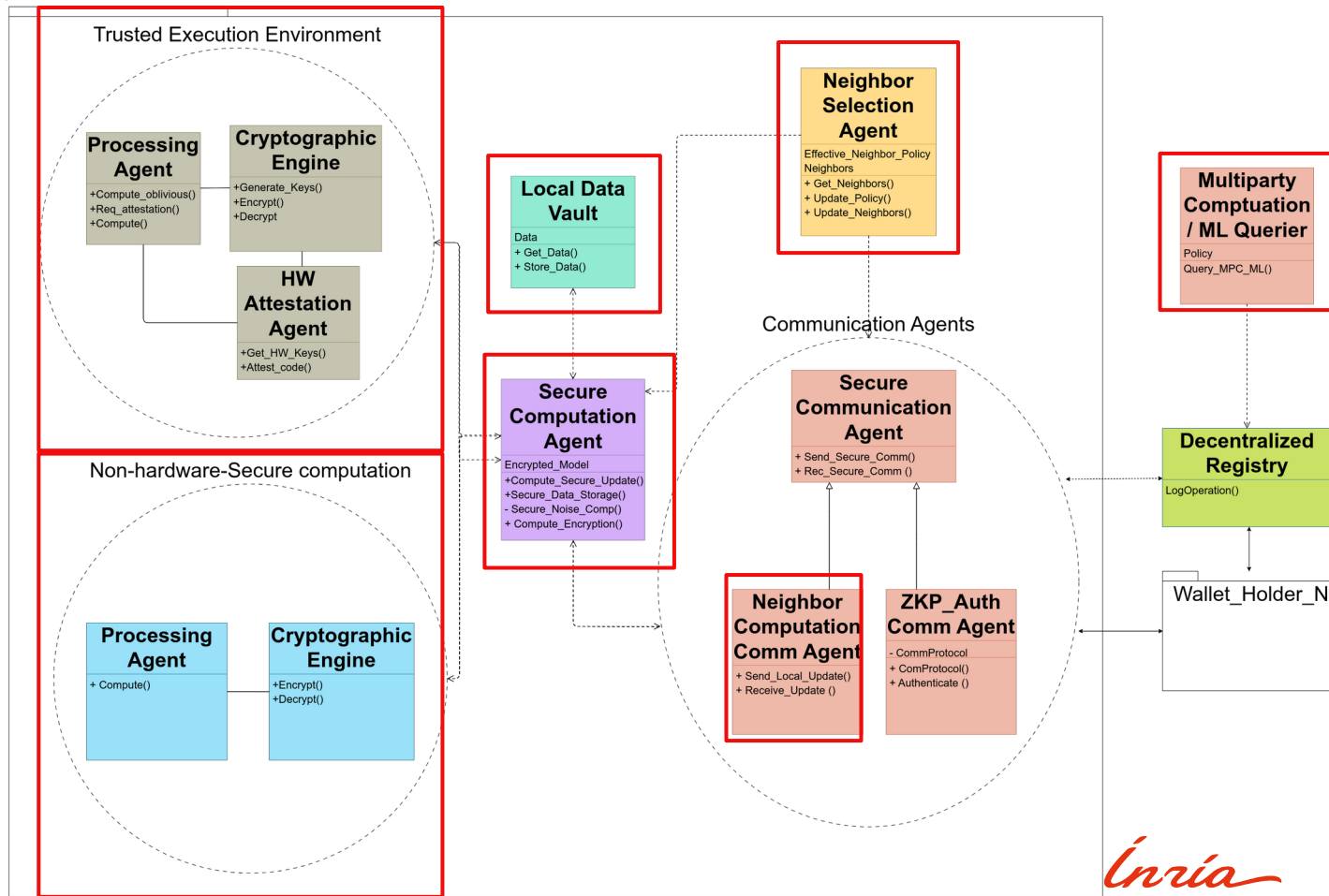
<sup>(2)</sup>Cyffers, E.; Even, M.; Bellet, A.; Massoulié, L. Muffliato: Peer-to-Peer Privacy Amplification for Decentralized Optimization and Averaging. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 2022, 35, 15889-15902.

<sup>(3)</sup>Dwork, C.; Smith, A.; Steinke, T.; Ullman, J. Exposed! A Survey of Attacks on Private Data. Annu. Rev. Stat. Appl. 2017, 4 (1), 61-84.

<sup>(4)</sup>Tramer, F., & Boneh, D. (2018). Slalom: Fast, verifiable and private execution of neural networks in trusted hardware. arXiv preprint arXiv:1806.03287.

## Aggregation / Learning algorithm

Wallet



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# Model parameter updates

## Fine-tuning updates

- Less risk of leakage in training
- Slower convergence
- Protects Querier intellectual property
- Ability to use GPUs in certain layers

## Update strategy

- Affected by neighbor selection and topology
- Random walk-based, gossip-based<sup>(1)</sup>

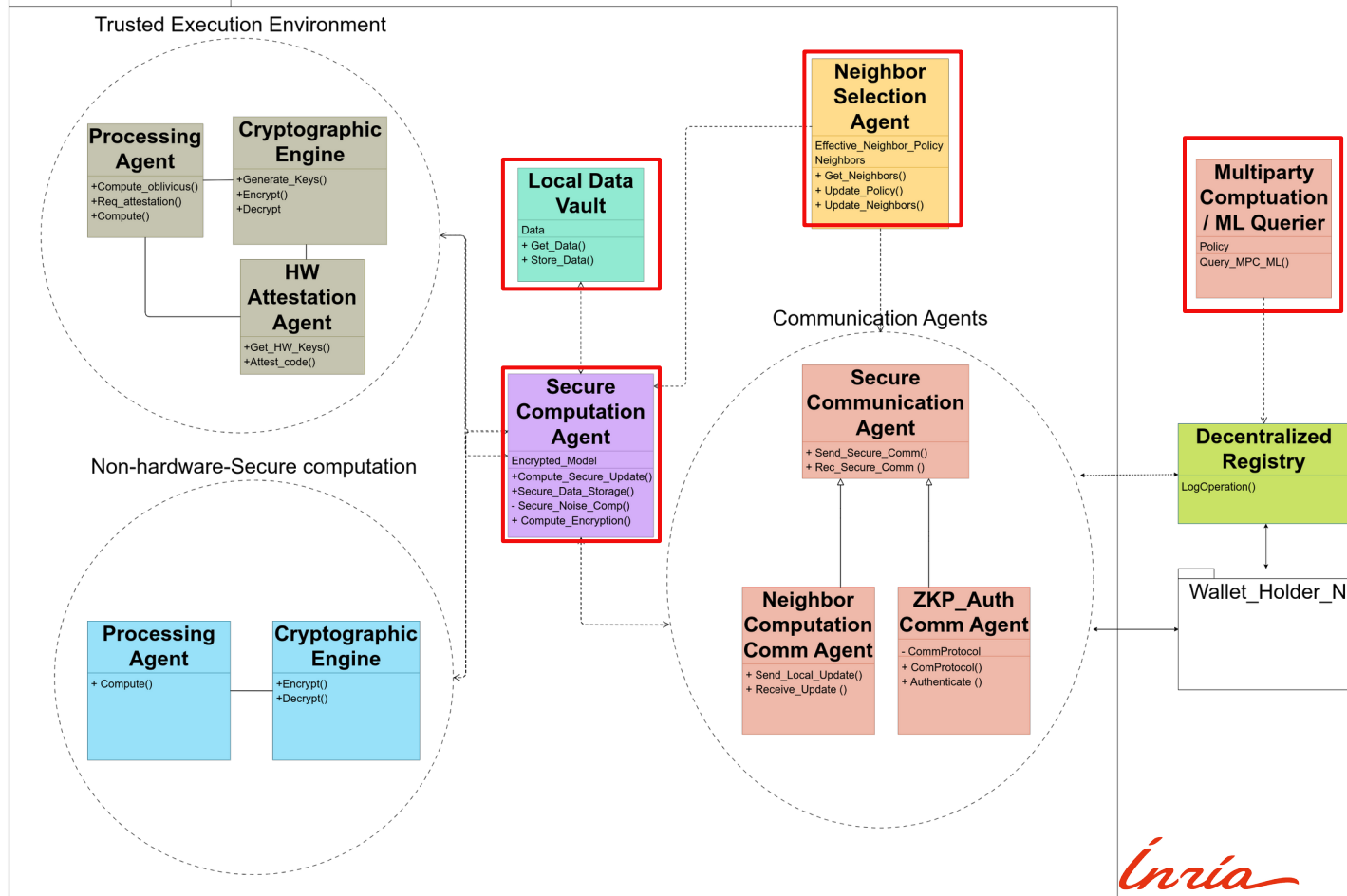
## Hierarchical aggregation

- Group-based strategy designing group leaders and bottom-up aggregation

<sup>(1)</sup>Cyffers, E., Bellet, A., & Upadhyay, J. (2024). Differentially Private Decentralized Learning with Random Walks. arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.07471.

## Model parameter updates

Wallet



# Security & Privacy considerations (detailed)

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# Metrics

## Performance metrics

- Introduce privacy to the performance metrics
- In terms of
  - > Accuracy (precision, recall, etc.)
  - > Efficiency (FLOPs, latency, # params.)
  - > Privacy (Differential privacy<sup>(1)</sup>, attack perf.)
  - > Network communication latency
  - > Model convergence (# rounds)

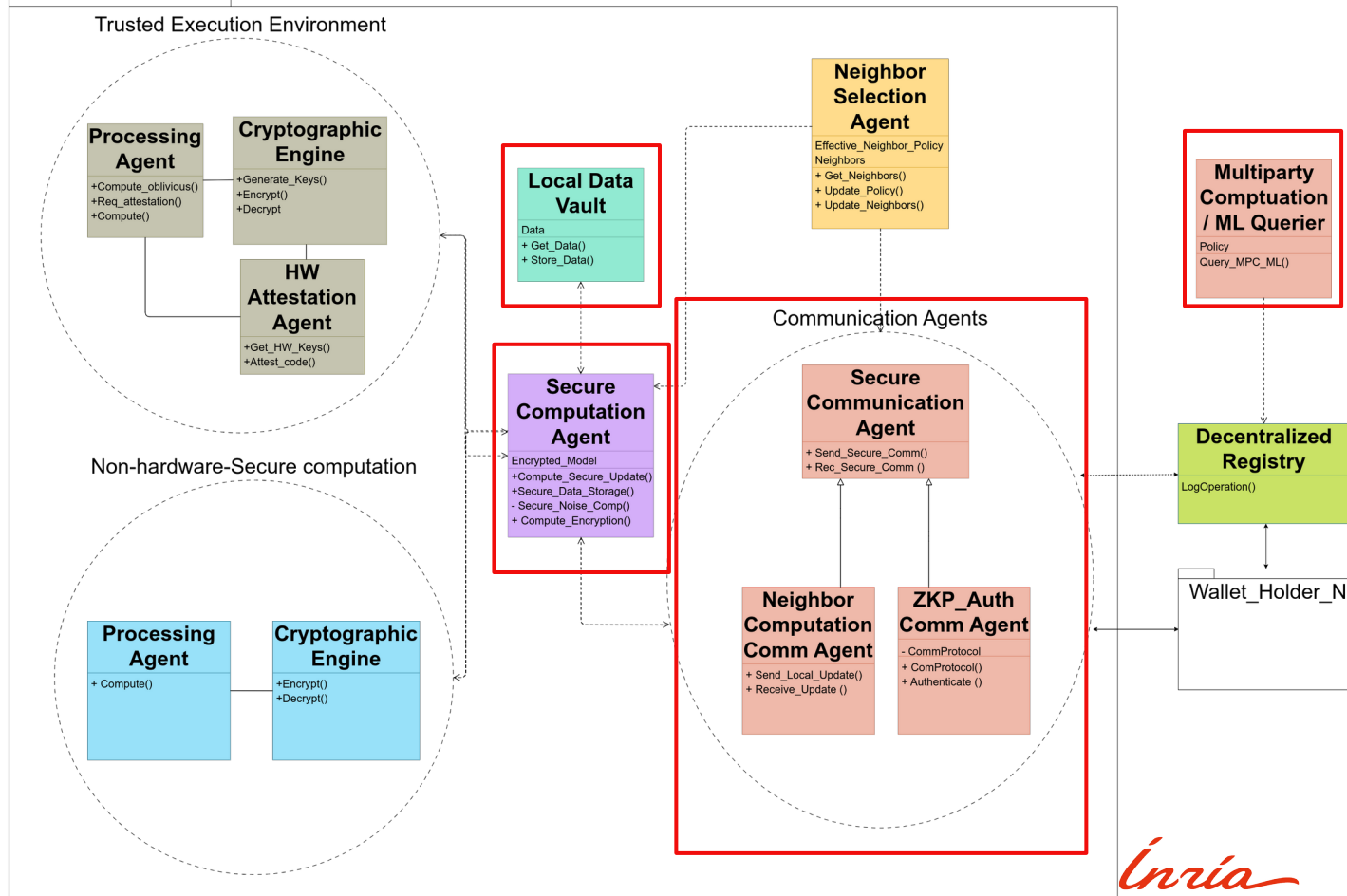
## Considerations

- Extensive evaluations needed to achieve best balance for the system and regulation compliance
- Measuring privacy mostly depends on attack performance

<sup>(1)</sup> I. Mironov, "Rényi Differential Privacy," 2017 IEEE 30th Computer Security Foundations Symposium (CSF), Santa Barbara, CA, USA, 2017, pp. 263-275, doi: 10.1109/CSF.2017.11. keywords: {Privacy;Standards;Tools;Databases;Additives;Computer security;Google;differential privacy;renyi divergence},

## Metrics

Wallet



# Security & Privacy considerations (detailed)

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# Training Paradigms and Models

## Efficient models

- Less parameters, smaller models, less leakage, less communication overhead
- Approaches
  - > Quantization (2 to 8 bits)<sup>(1)</sup>
  - > Lightweight DNNs<sup>(3)</sup>/Transformers
  - > Privacy-aware training regularization<sup>(2)</sup>
  - > Knowledge Distillation<sup>(1)</sup>

## Considerations

- Highly efficient and accurate
- Fine-tuning with fewer layers feasible
- Can be highly biased
  - > Adversarial training for bias mitigation
- Trade-offs :
  - > Balance accuracy, efficiency and privacy

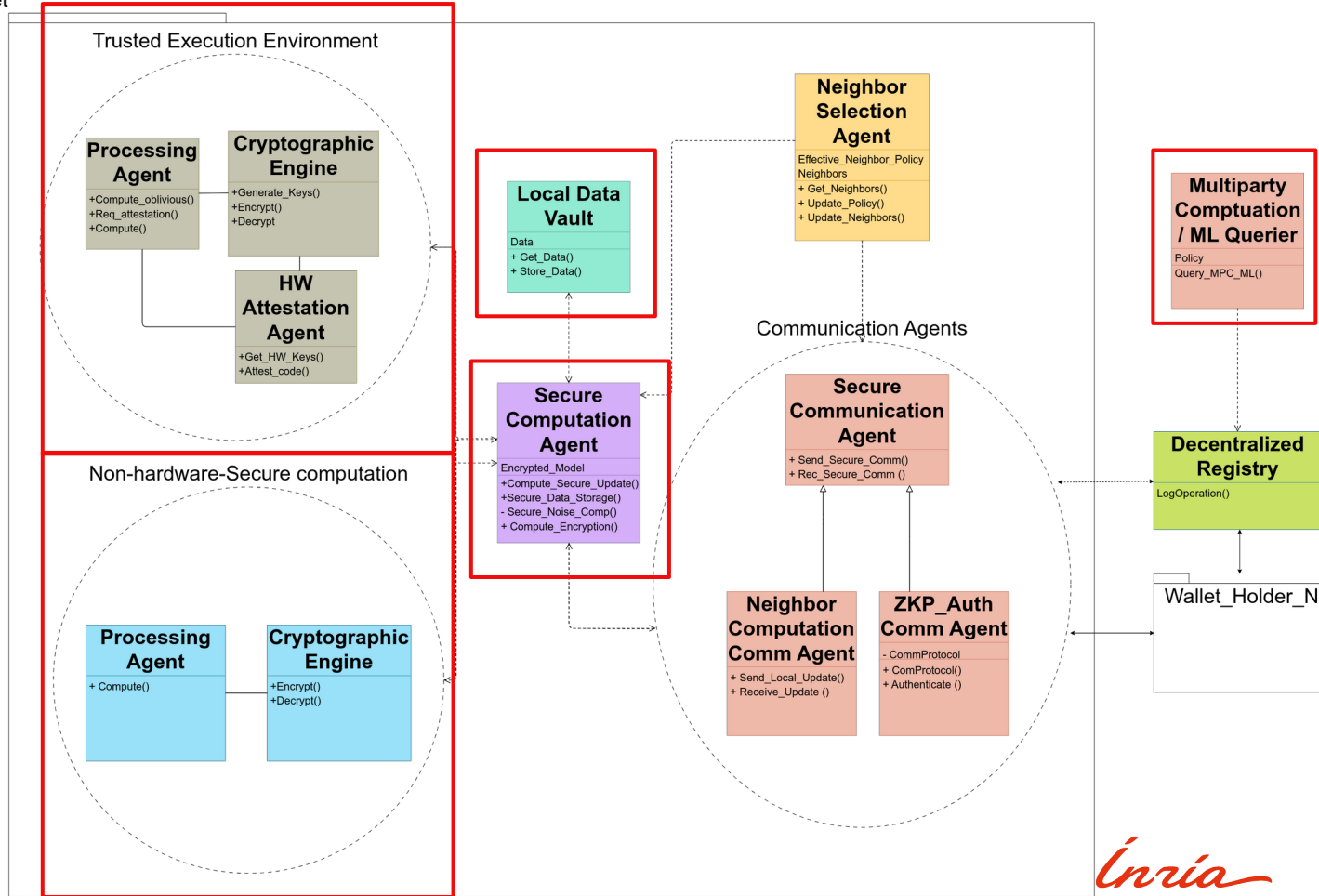
<sup>(1)</sup>Y. Choi et al. Data-Free Network Quantization With Adversarial Knowledge Distillation. Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) Workshops, 2020, pp. 710-711

<sup>(2)</sup>Y.Kaya et al. (2020). On the effectiveness of regularization against membership inference attacks. arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.05336.

<sup>(3)</sup>A.Howard et al. Searching for MobileNetV3. Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2019, pp. 1314-1324

## Training paradigms and models

Wallet



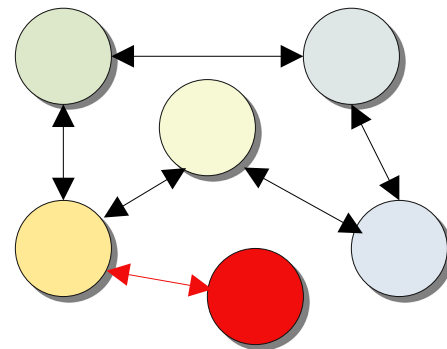
# 04

## Discussion

# Challenges

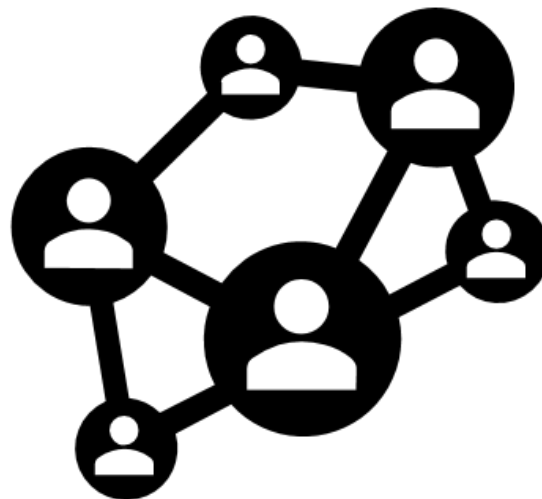
## Computation overhead, attacks, and performance

- Machine Learning attacks
  - > Inversion/Reconstruction, membership inference, etc.
- Communication overheads over large-scale systems
  - > Training paradigms, topology and neighbor selection, etc.
- Convergence and stability
- Balancing accuracy, efficiency, and privacy
- Active malicious neighbors



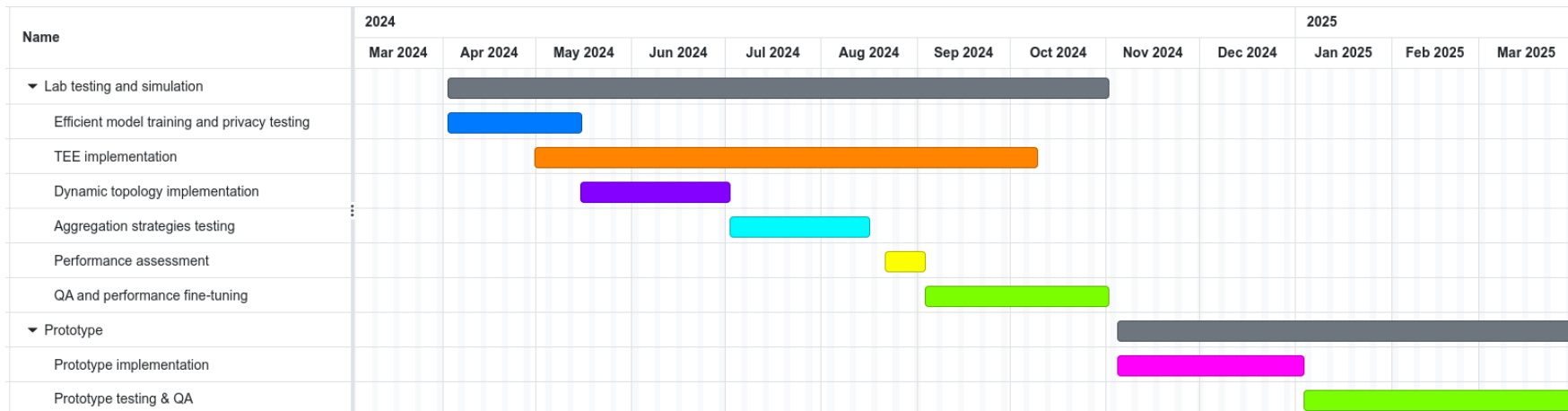
# Applications for decentralized MPC/ML

- **Fraud detection**
- **Healthcare Data Analysis**
- **Social networking**
- **Distributed biometrics authentication**
- **Privacy-Preserving Personalized Advertising**





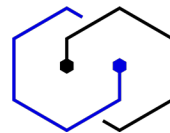
# Proposed timeline (1-year)



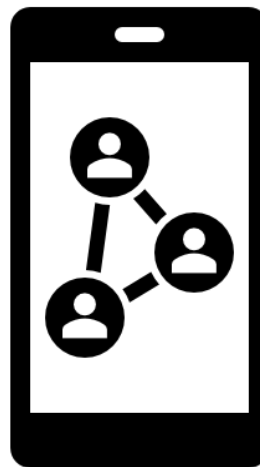
05

## Conclusion

# Conclusion



- Potential on **compelling** applications
- **Empowers** users' control of their local data
- **Mitigate risks** when computing with local data
- Increase in **complexity**
- Analyze and **prevent data leakage**
- **Performance** considerations
- Compliance with **GDPR** regulations



# Thank you !

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*davide.frey@inria.fr*