

# **The Next Stop(s) in Db2 Pacemaker HA Solution Journey**

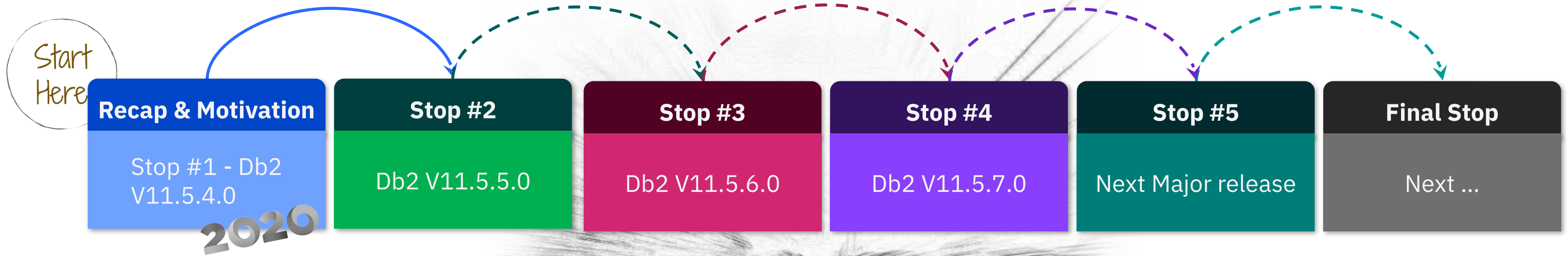
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*Speaker*

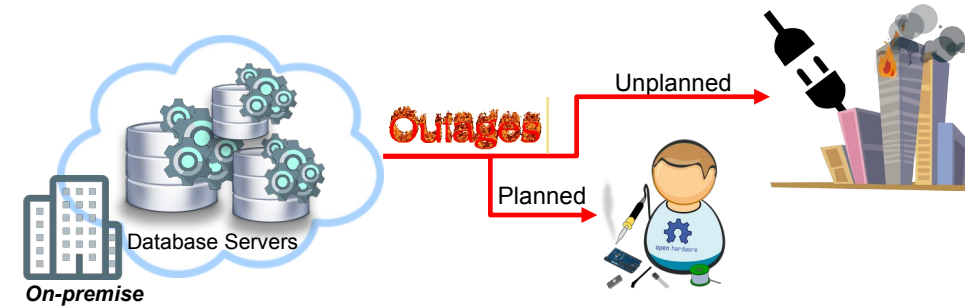
**Toby Haynes**  
Senior Technical Manager for  
Db2 pureScale Development



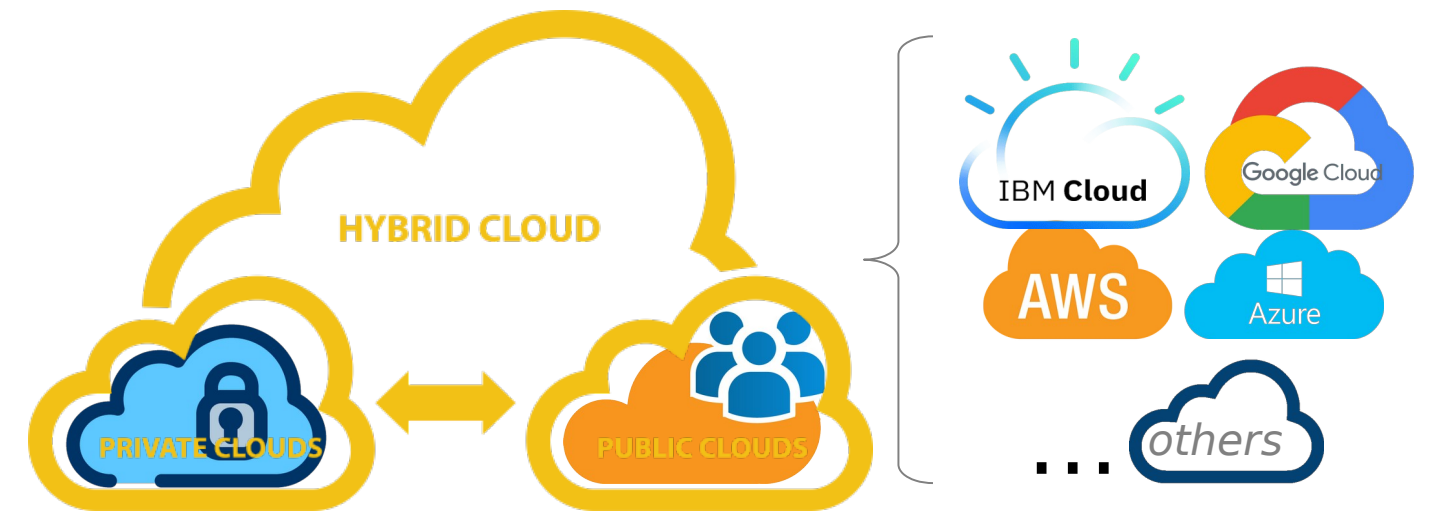
# The Next Stop(s) in Db2 Pacemaker HA Solution Journey - AGENDA



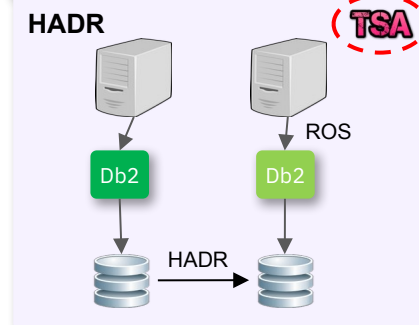
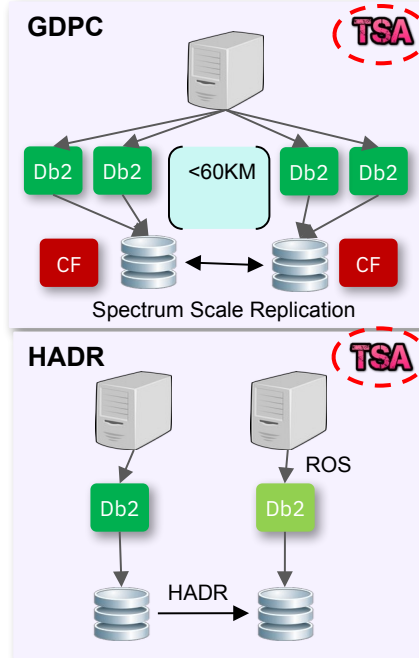
# Recap & Motivation



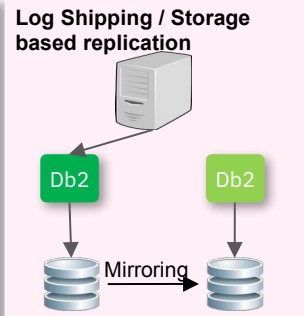
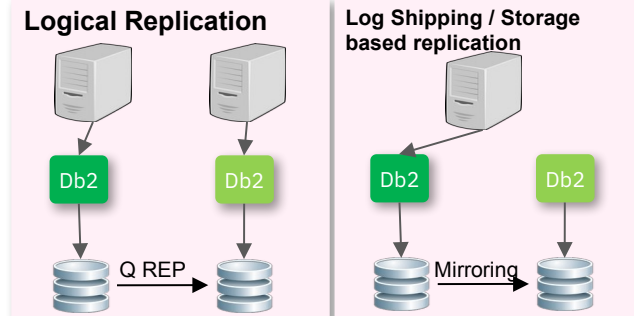
Recovery Time Objective (RTO)  
Recovery Point Objective (RPO)



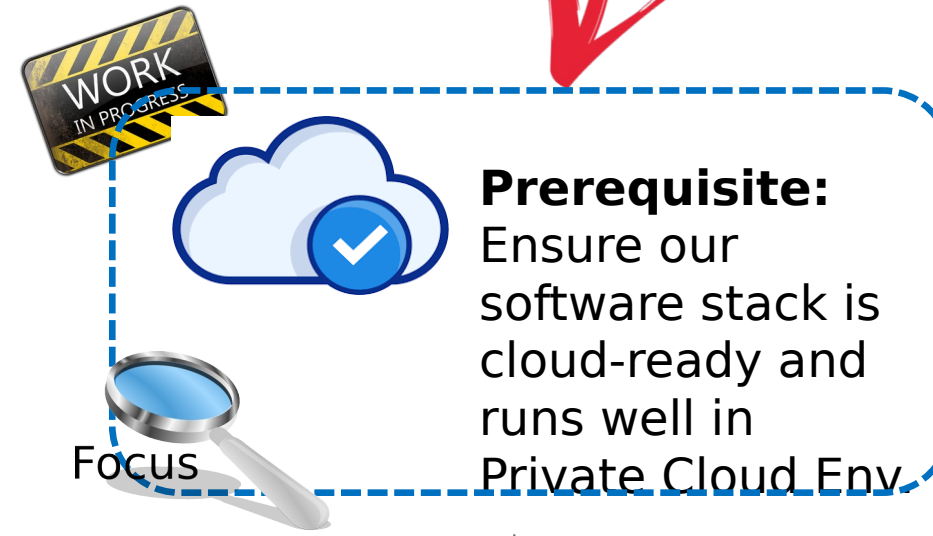
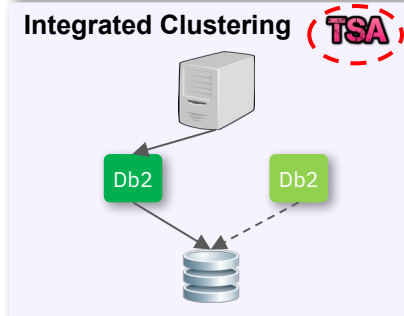
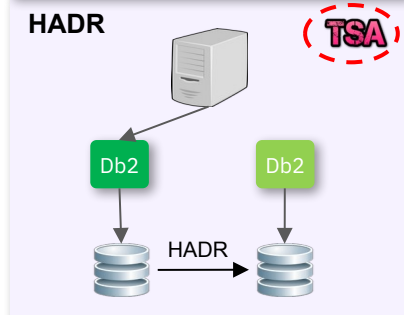
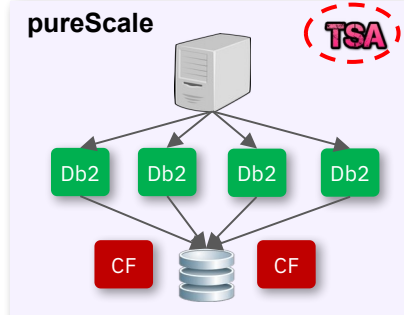
## Db2 Integrated DR Strategies



## Non-Db2 Integrated DR Strategies

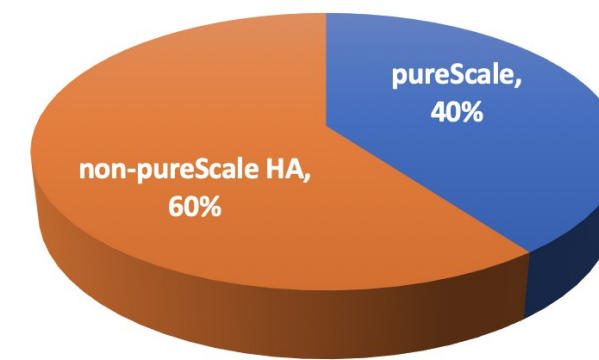


## Db2 Integrated HA Strategies



## IMPACT

Db2 pureScale Vs non-pureScale HA Systems World Wide - All



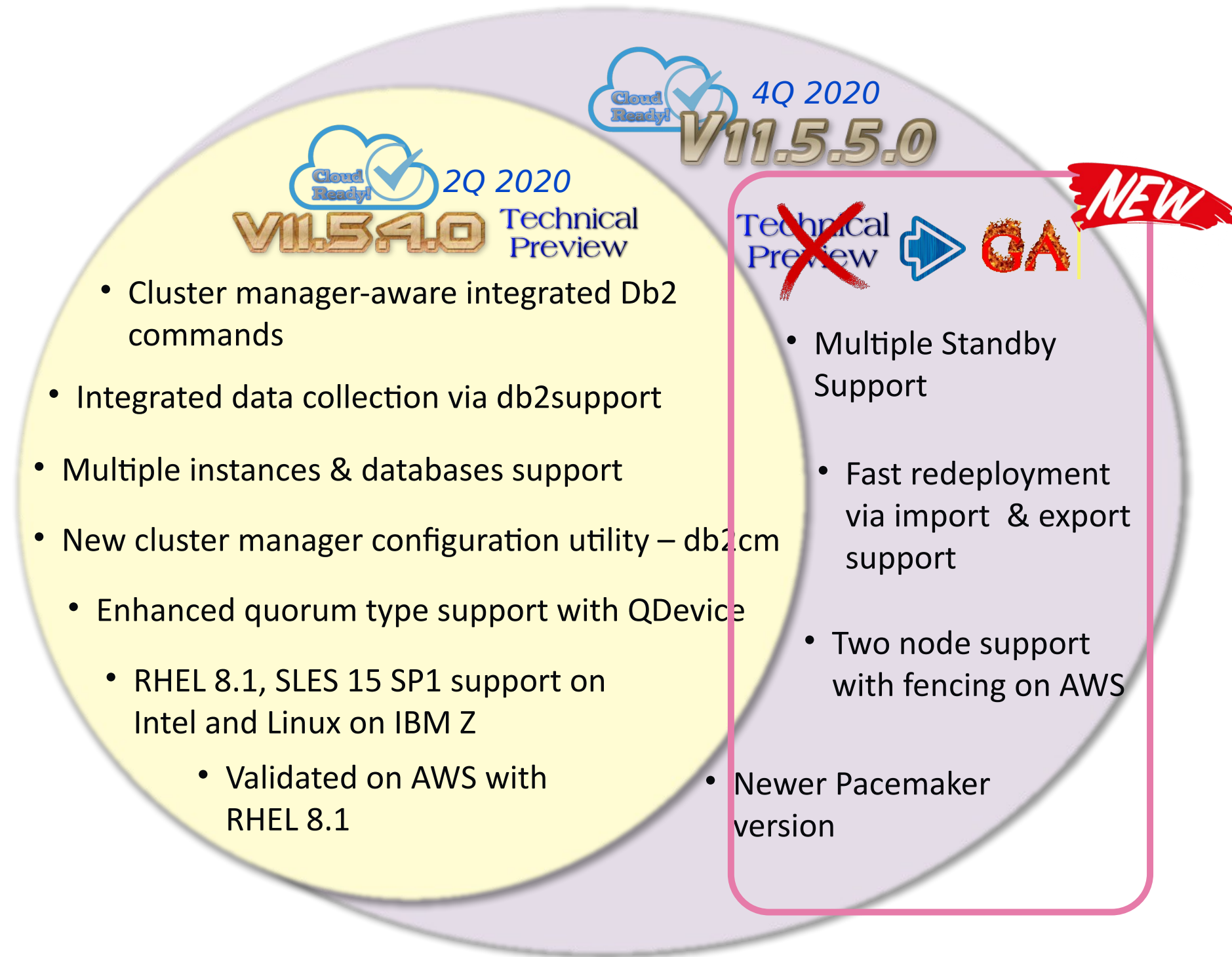
## COMPLEXITY

- From non-pureScale (HADR, etc.) to pureScale

## 2021 Key Topics:

- From technical Preview to GA
- Key enhancements & focus areas
- What's next ?

## Our Journey ... Stop #3



# Fast re-deployment on same hardware

## Backup configuration

```
[root@jesting1]$ /home/db2inst1/sqllib/adm/db2cm -export /tmp/backup.conf
Exporting configuration to /tmp/backup.conf
```

```
[root@jesting1]$ ls -la /tmp/backup.conf
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 12888 Sep 1 14:22 /tmp/backup.conf
```

**Restore configuration** (need to clean up existing environment via db2cm -delete -cluster first)

```
[root@jesting1]$ /home/db2inst1/sqllib/adm/db2cm -import /tmp/backup.conf
Importing configuration from /tmp/backup.conf
Cluster created successfully.
```

Fast deployment on NEW hardware is possible:

- Requires manual changes to exported file
- Example available in [technote](#) off Db2 documentation

Db2 / 11.5 /

Feedback | Produ

Db2 11.5

## Maintaining a Pacemaker cluster domain

Refer to the following topics on how to maintain your Pacemaker cluster domain.

**Important:** Starting from Version 11.5 Mod Pack 6, the Pacemaker cluster manager for automated fail-over to HADR standby databases is packaged and installed with Db2®. In Version 11.5 Mod Pack 5, Pacemaker is included and available for production environments. In Version 11.5 Mod Pack 4, Pacemaker is included as a technical preview, and should be restricted to development, test, and proof-of-concept environments.

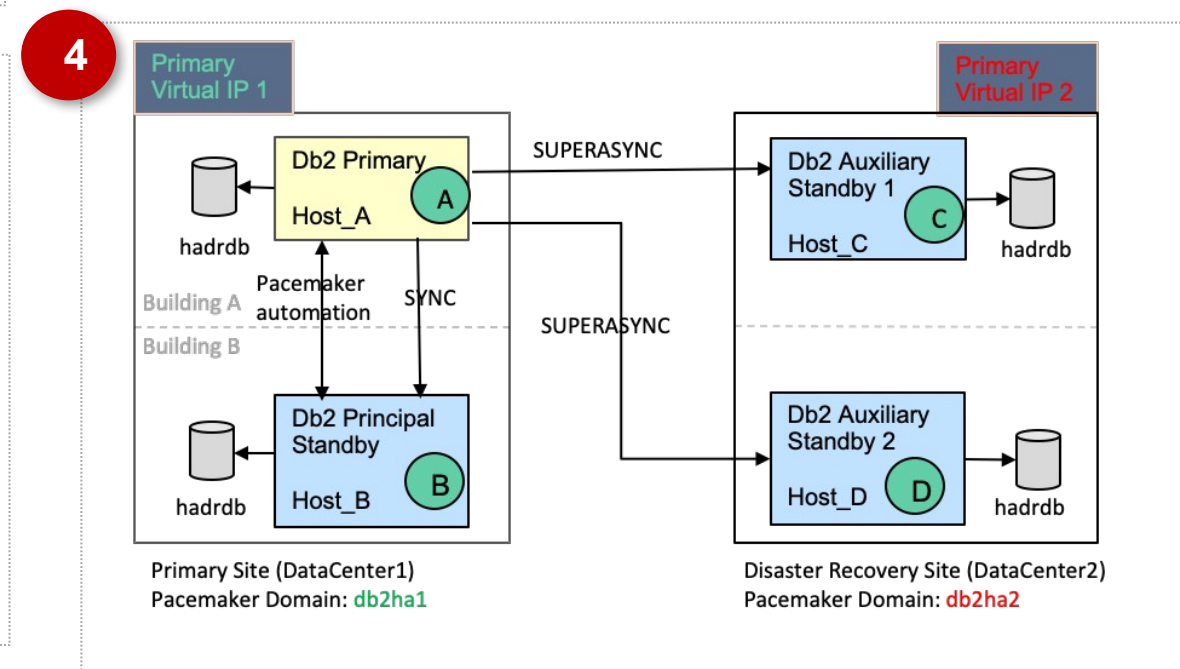
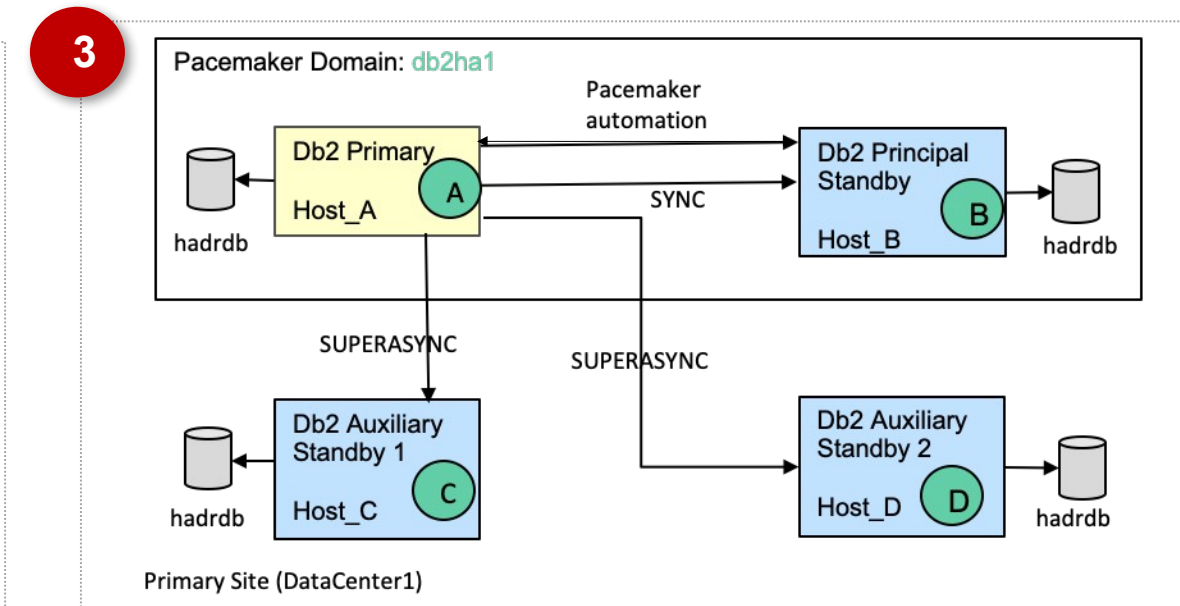
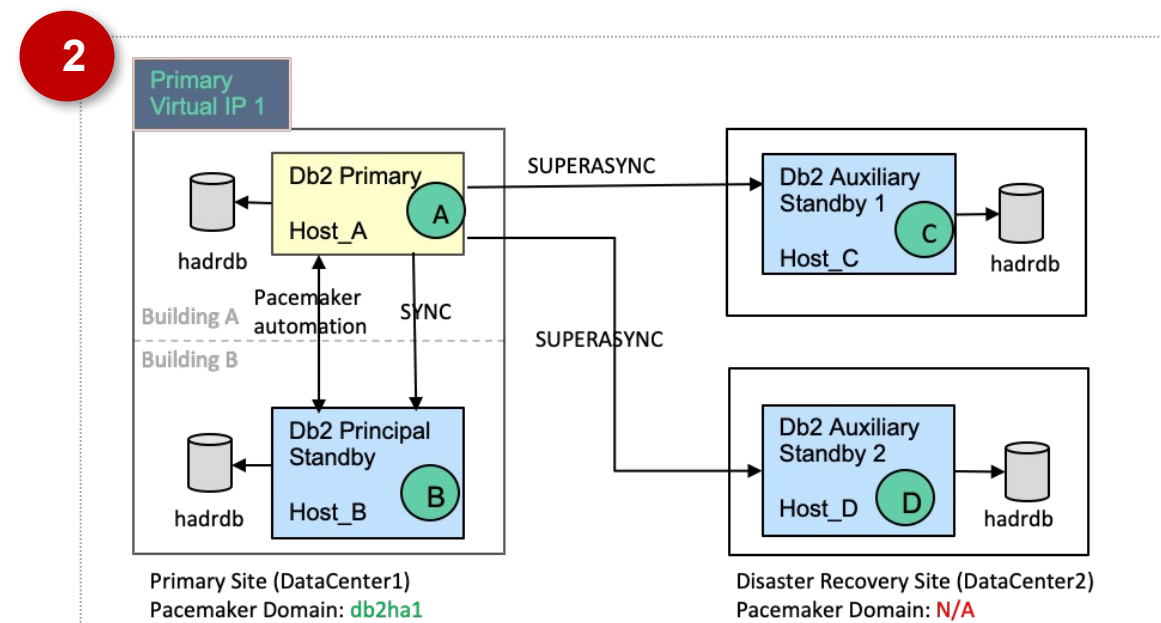
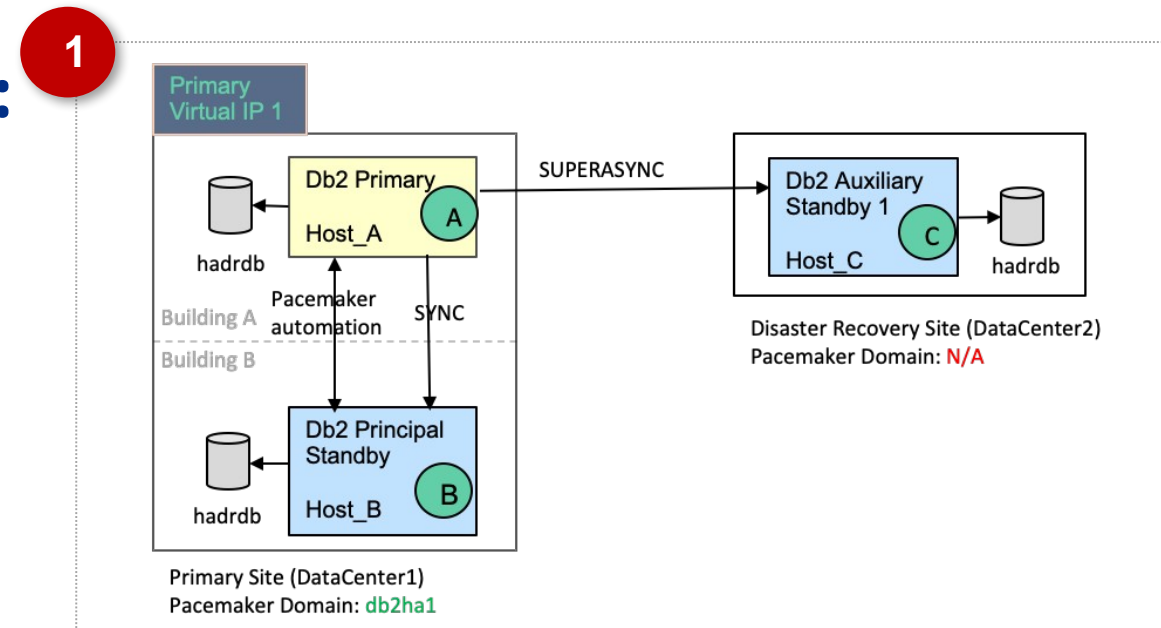
- [User initiated takeover](#)  
Follow the procedure to initiate a user takeover.
- [User initiated takeover by force](#)  
Follow the procedure to initiate a user takeover by force. Expect the Pacemaker cluster to reintegrate the old primary as the new standby.
- [Add a HADR database resource to the resource model](#)  
Perform the following procedure to create a new database resource to an existing database in the instance.
- [Delete an existing HADR database resource from the resource model](#)  
This procedure is mandatory when dropping an HADR enabled database from the instance. Perform this procedure only after the database is dropped.
- [Associate a primary VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance](#)  
Follow the procedure to associate a primary VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance.
- [Disassociate a primary VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance](#)  
Follow the procedure to disassociate a primary VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance.
- [Associate a standby VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance for read-on-standby](#)  
Follow the procedure to associate a standby VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance for read-on-standby.
- [Disassociate a standby VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance](#)  
Follow the procedure to disassociate a standby VIP with an existing HADR database of an instance.
- [Remove all resources related to the public Ethernet adapter device on a host in the resource model](#)  
Follow the procedure to remove all resources related to the public Ethernet adapter device on a host in the resource model.
- [Remove all resources related to an instance in the resource model](#)  
Follow this procedure to keep the cluster intact but have all resources (instance, database, Ethernet) along with all constraints removed.
- [Remove an automated HADR cluster with Pacemaker](#)  
Follow the procedure to remove an automated HADR cluster with Pacemaker.
- [Backup cluster configuration information](#)  
The following procedure can be used to save a valid cluster configuration to a backup file.
- [Restore from a saved Pacemaker cluster configuration](#)  
In situations where the cluster needs to be recreated, a saved Pacemaker configuration, based on the current hardware, can be restored.

Link to [Db2 Doc](#)

# Multiple Standby Support

## Flexible deployments:

- Up to 3 standbys for each HADR DB: 1 principal standby and up to 2 auxiliary standby.
- Auxiliary standbys can be in 1 or 2 sites that is same or different than the primary
- Automatic failover supported between Principal Primary and Principal Standby
- Manual takeover required from auxiliary standby
- Same support as with TSA today



**Best Practice Configuration**

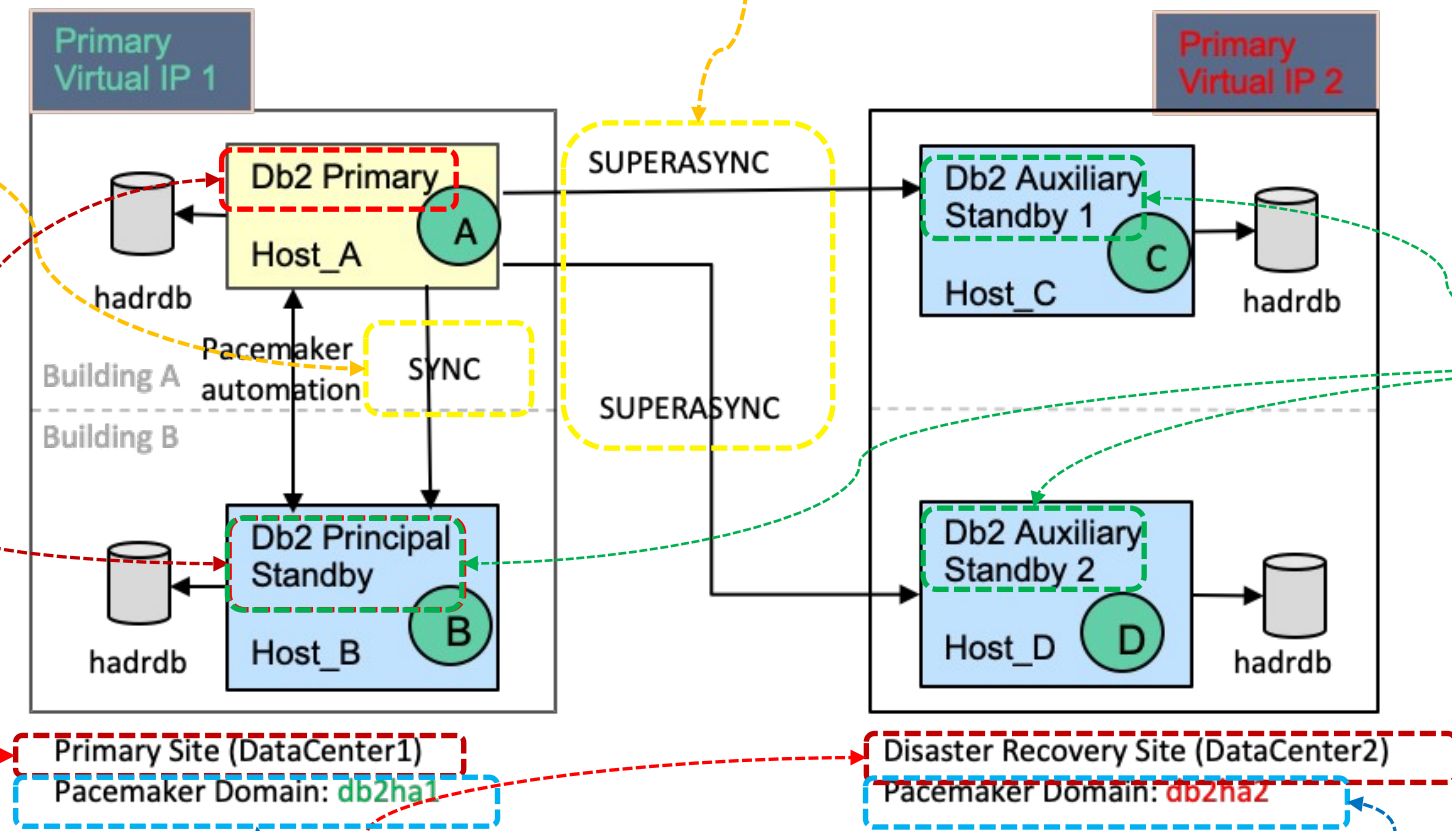
# Detail on Best Practice 2-sites 3 Standbys setup

SUPERASYNC is the effective mode for all auxiliary standbys

Principal Standby can use any either SYNC or NEARSYNC modes

Principal Primary and Principal Standby always reside in the same domain

Two sites with two hosts in each



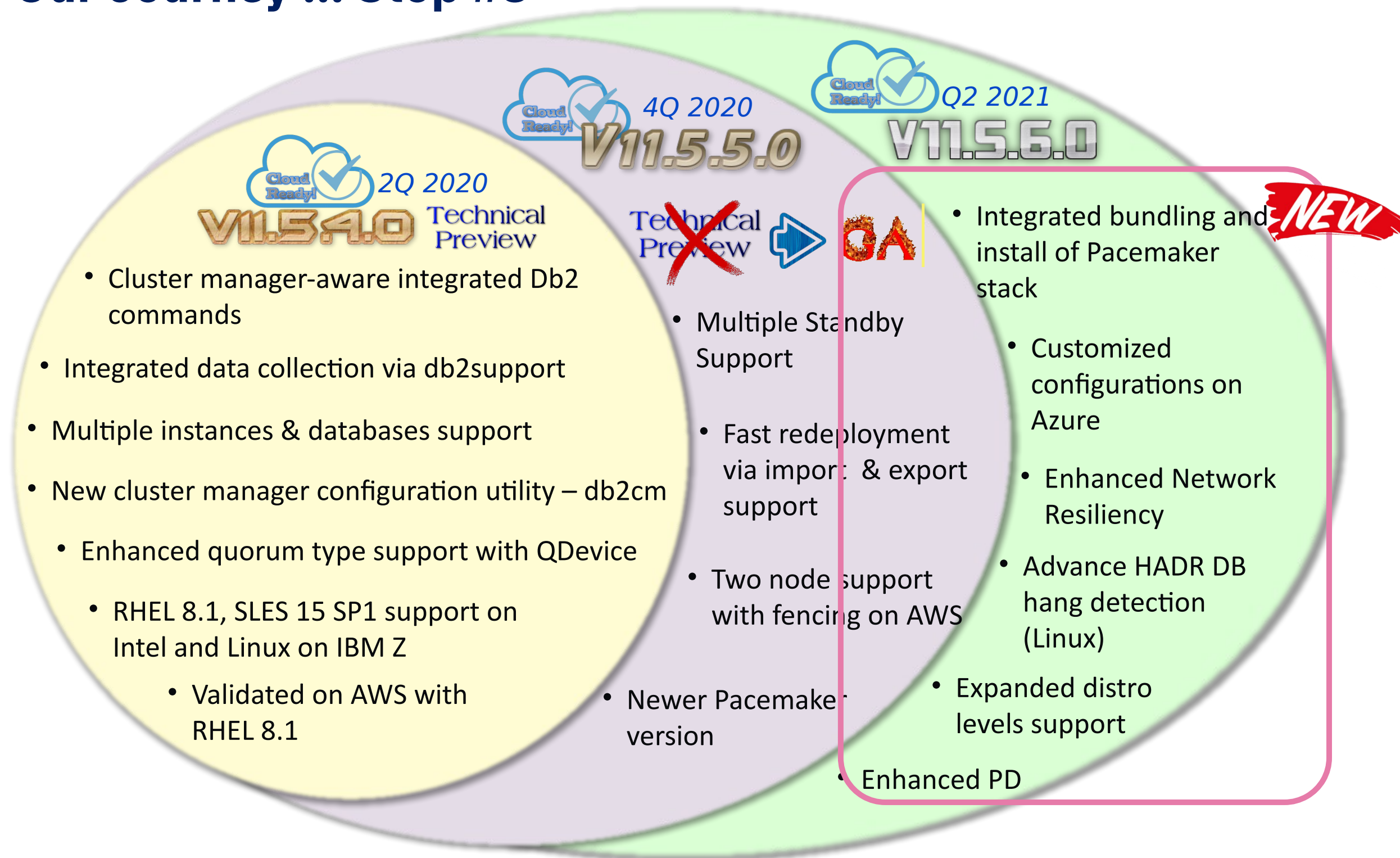
- Reads on standby is supported on all 3 standbys (DB2\_HADR\_ROS=ON)
- Time-delayed log replay supported on all 3 standbys (db cfg - hadr\_replay\_delay)

Two disjoint Pacemaker domains with automated failover enabled within each, but not across

Allows DR site to completely replace primary site with automation enabled by default when a manual takeover is issued on any of the auxiliary standbys.



# Our Journey ... Stop #3



## Pacemaker Stack + Db2 Software – ALL in ONE

from

### V11.5.4.0 + V11.5.5.0:

- Separate download of Pacemaker software stack
  - available via the IBM hosted – [Market Registration Site \(MRS\)](#)
- Separate installation
  - With guided procedures in Db2 documentation.

TO

### V11.5.6.0:

- Integrated bundling of Pacemaker software stack with Db2
- Integrated installation via command line utility – *db2\_install* and *installfixpack*
  - silent install and GUI to follow in future release
- MRS only hosts cloud specific RPMs – e.g. cloud vendor specific fencing agent
  - this may change in future

# Integrated Pacemaker Install

## Single command to install Db2 and Pacemaker

*no change to existing syntax*

- **New install:** `db2_install -y -b /opt/ibm/db2/V11.5 -p SERVER`
- **Update:** `installFixPack -y -b /opt/ibm/db2/V11.5 -p /opt/ibm/db2/V11.5.6`

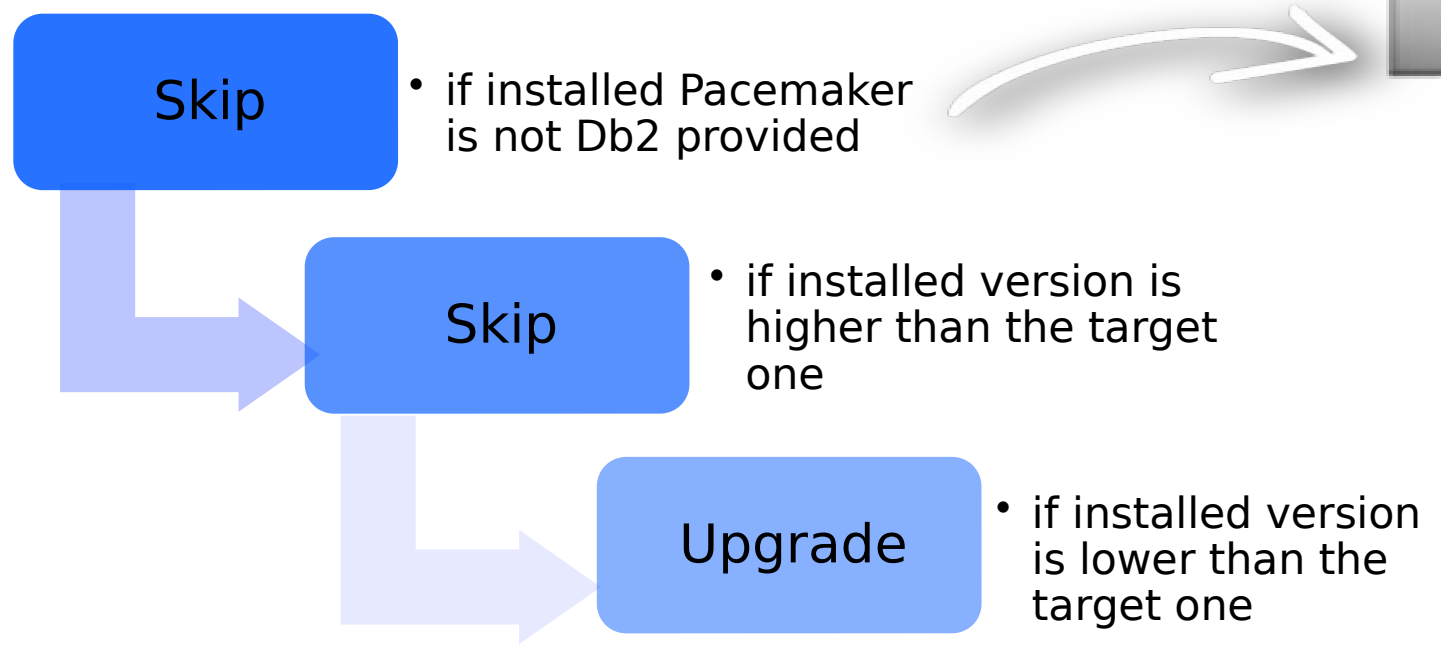
## Skip and install Pacemaker later!

- **Skip:** `db2_install -p server -b /opt/ibm/db2/V11.5 -NOPCMK`
- **Install later:** `Db2_install_image>/universal/db2/<platform>/pcmk/db2installPCMK`

```
Task #33 start
Description: TSA
Estimated time 300 second(s)
Task #33 end

Task #34
start Description: Pacemaker
Estimated time 300 second(s)
Task #34 end
.
.
.
The execution completed Successfully
```

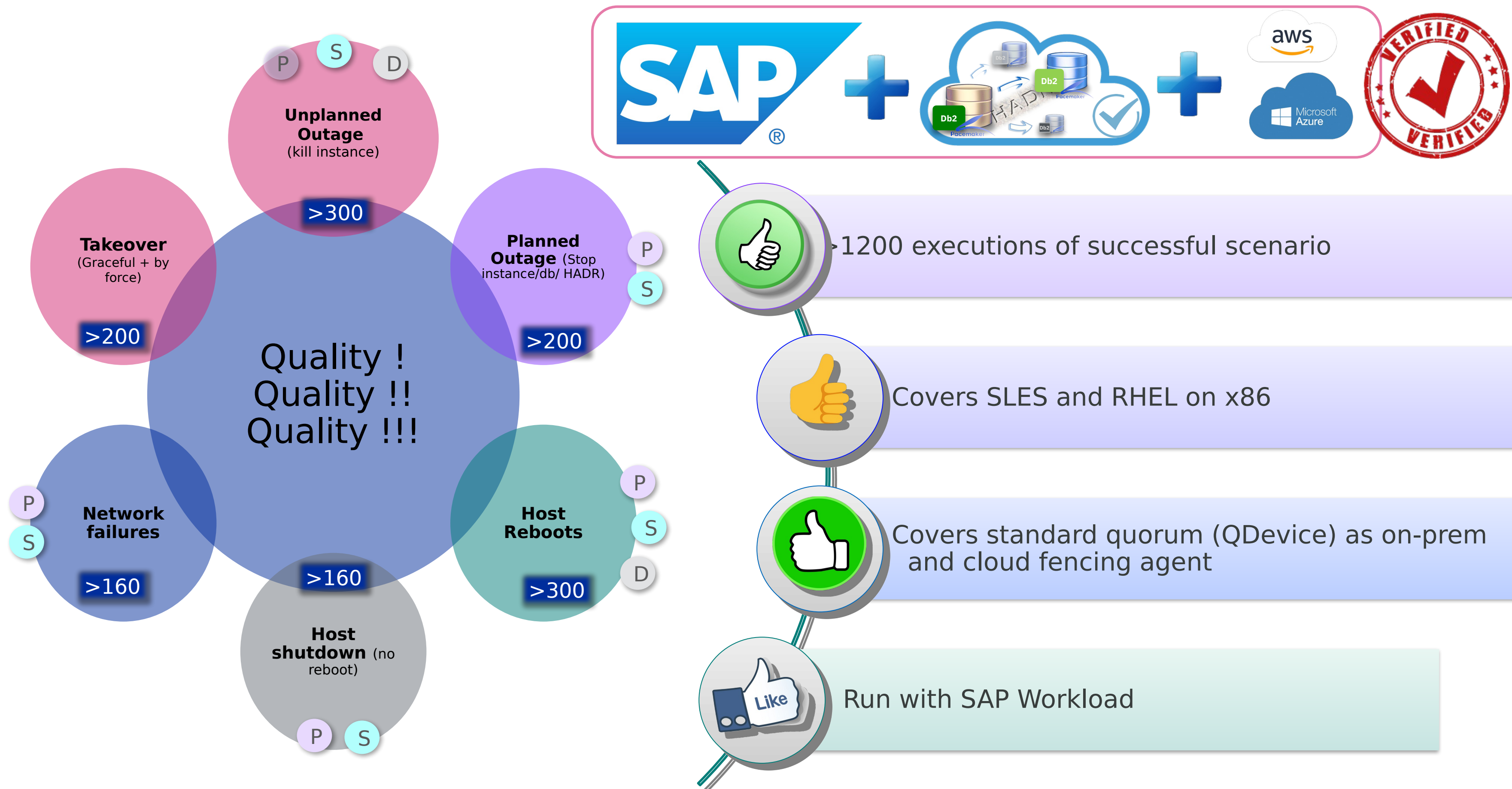
## Handle Pacemaker Upgrade automatically:



```
> installFixPack -y -b /opt/ibm/db2/V11.5 -p /opt/ibm/db2/V11.5.6

WARNING: DBI1986E There is already a Pacemaker cluster manager installed on the system that is not provided by IBM. Remove the current installation of Pacemaker before proceeding with your IBM-provided Pacemaker installation.

>
```



# Cloud Exploration: Motivation and Results

## Solution goal:

- Ensure all Db2 LUW HA solutions can be deployed anywhere

Instructions applicable to deployments on all form factors (on-premises and cloud)

## Cloud specific section

- Augment overall configuration to run optimally on cloud
- Focus on Quorum alternatives and Virtual IP setup

The screenshot shows the IBM Db2 documentation interface for version 11.5. On the left is a table of contents with a search filter. The main content area is titled 'Configuring a clustered environment using the db2cm utility'. It includes an 'Important' note about Pacemaker support in different mod packs, a 'Before you begin' section with a note about the Pacemaker software stack, an 'About this task' section with a note about host names, and a 'Procedure' section with two steps. A terminal window at the bottom shows the command to create a cluster.

**Change version**  
11.5  
Version 11.5

Show full table of contents

Filter on titles

**Configuring a clustered environment using the db2cm utility**

- Install and configure a QDevice quorum
- Public cloud vendors supported with Db2 Pacemaker
  - Alternate or additional configurations available on Amazon Web Services (AWS)
  - Alternate or additional configurations available on Microsoft Azure
- Removing a cluster domain
- Maintaining a Pacemaker cluster domain
- Restrictions on Pacemaker
- Converting an existing Tivoli SA MP cluster to a Pacemaker cluster
- Converting an existing Pacemaker cluster to a Tivoli SA MP cluster

**Db2 11.5**

## Configuring a clustered environment using the Db2 cluster manager (db2cm) utility

You can configure and administer your databases in a clustered environment managed by Pacemaker using the Db2® cluster manager (**db2cm**) utility.

### Before you begin

**Important:** Starting from Version 11.5 Mod Pack 6, the Pacemaker cluster manager for automated fail-over to HADR standby databases is packaged and installed with Db2. In Version 11.5 Mod Pack 5, Pacemaker is included and available for production environments. In Version 11.5 Mod Pack 4, Pacemaker is included as a technical preview, and should be restricted to development, test, and proof-of-concept environments.

The Pacemaker cluster software stack must be installed on all hosts in the cluster. For more information, refer to [Installing the Pacemaker cluster software stack](#).

The Db2 instances and HADR database should be configured and online before performing the following procedure outlined.

### About this task

**Note:** The example host names and user IDs referenced in the procedure are a continuation of the sample from [Installing the Pacemaker cluster software stack](#).

### Procedure

1. The following steps are only required to run once on any one of the hosts by root. There is no need to run them in both hosts. Choose one of the hosts to perform all actions on the same host.
2. Create the Pacemaker cluster and the public network resources by running the following command. This is only required to be run once.

**Note:** For this example, hadom was chosen as the domain name and eth0 was chosen as the device name on each host. The short hostname is used in the -host option.

```
INSTANCE-HOME/sqlllib/bin/db2cm -create -cluster -domain hadom
-host ip-172-31-15-79 -publicEthernet eth0
-host ip-172-31-10-145 -publicEthernet eth0
```

[Link to Db2 doc](#)

# Azure Exploration #1: Alternate quorum mechanism on Azure via Fencing

## End-to-end setup overview

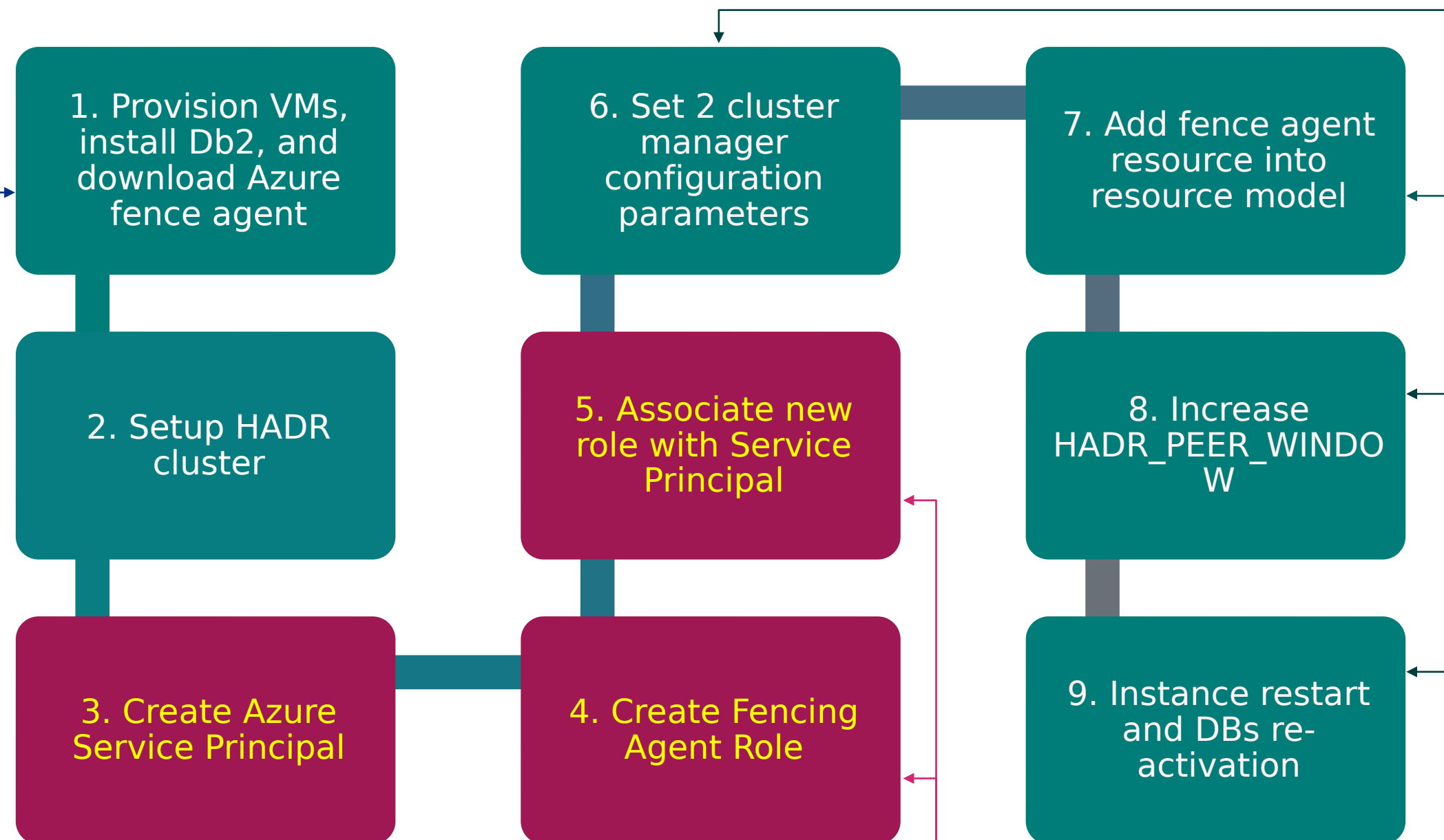
### Fence agent available in [MRS](#)

- `Db2_Azure_fence_agents_4.7.1-3_noarch.tar.gz`

### Azure VM & Account Configurations

- Create ID (use as username for service principal)
- Create a custom role to execute fence agent on your Azure VMs.
- Assign the role to the service principle created (role) for both VMs

This effectively allows Azure to execute the fence agent installed to power on/off your VMs (as part of fencing)



### Pacemaker config changes

- set `wait_for_all` to 0 – allow 1 host to be online without majority in a 2-hosts setup
- set heartbeat loss toleration to 30 seconds (due to Azure non-reboot maintenance limitation)

### Db2 DB config param:

- Set `HADR_PEER_WINDOW` to  $\geq 300$  seconds due to longer fencing time required

# Azure Exploration #1: Fencing Internal Workings

**1**

- Fencing agent setup and activated in resource model.
- symmetric cluster setting allow this resource to be online on any one host (not BOTH) without any bias towards any

**2**

- All heartbeat rings are broken – two hosts lost communication

**3**

1. STONITH request sent

2. reboot action

Azure centralized VM control

**4**

- The fencing action as a result of the reboot action may take some time to complete due to Azure infrastructure
- In-house lab testing show it can be up to 6x the time needed with 3<sup>rd</sup> VM with Qdevice quorum

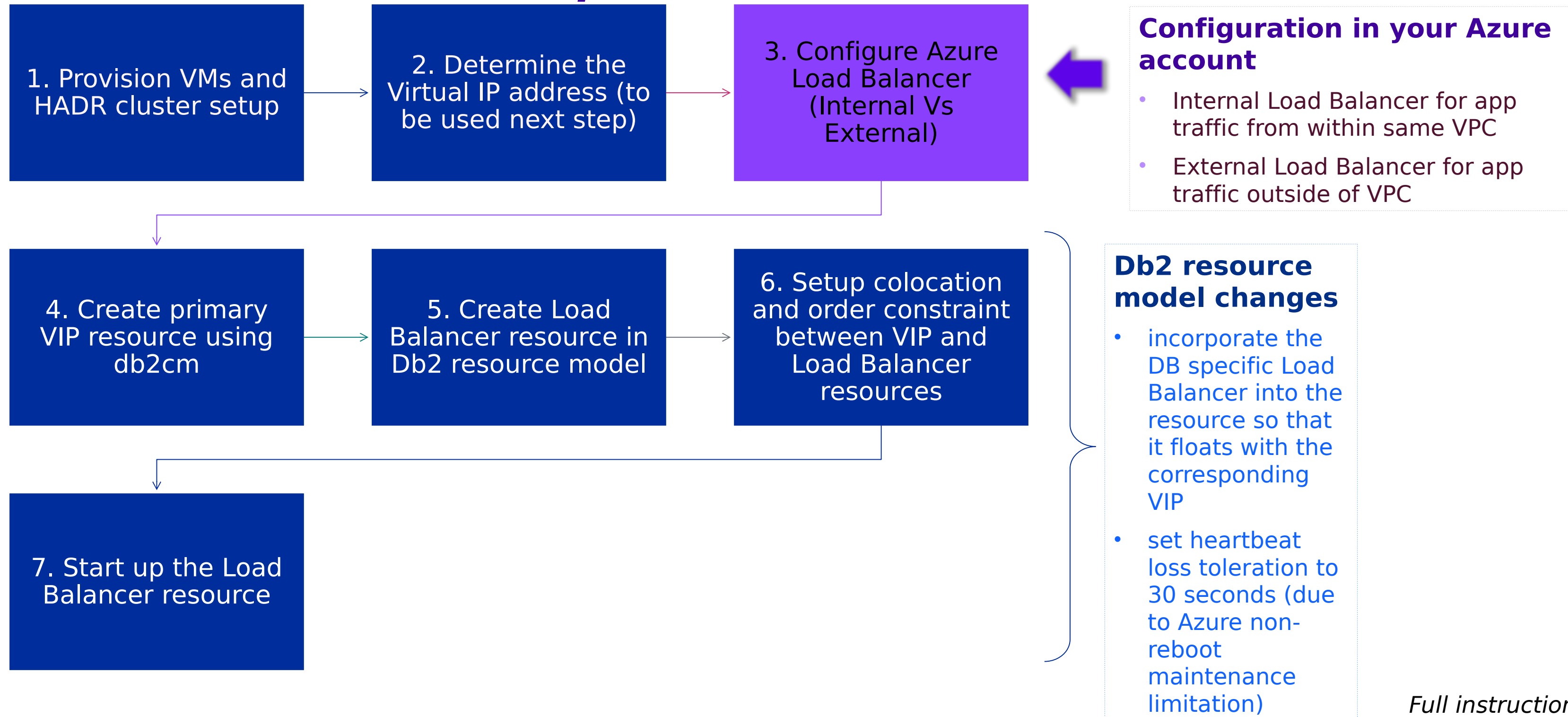
Qdevice Vs Fencing ?

**RULES** ✓

Based your decision on the need for faster recovery from primary host failure Vs on-going cost of maintaining a small 3<sup>rd</sup> VM.

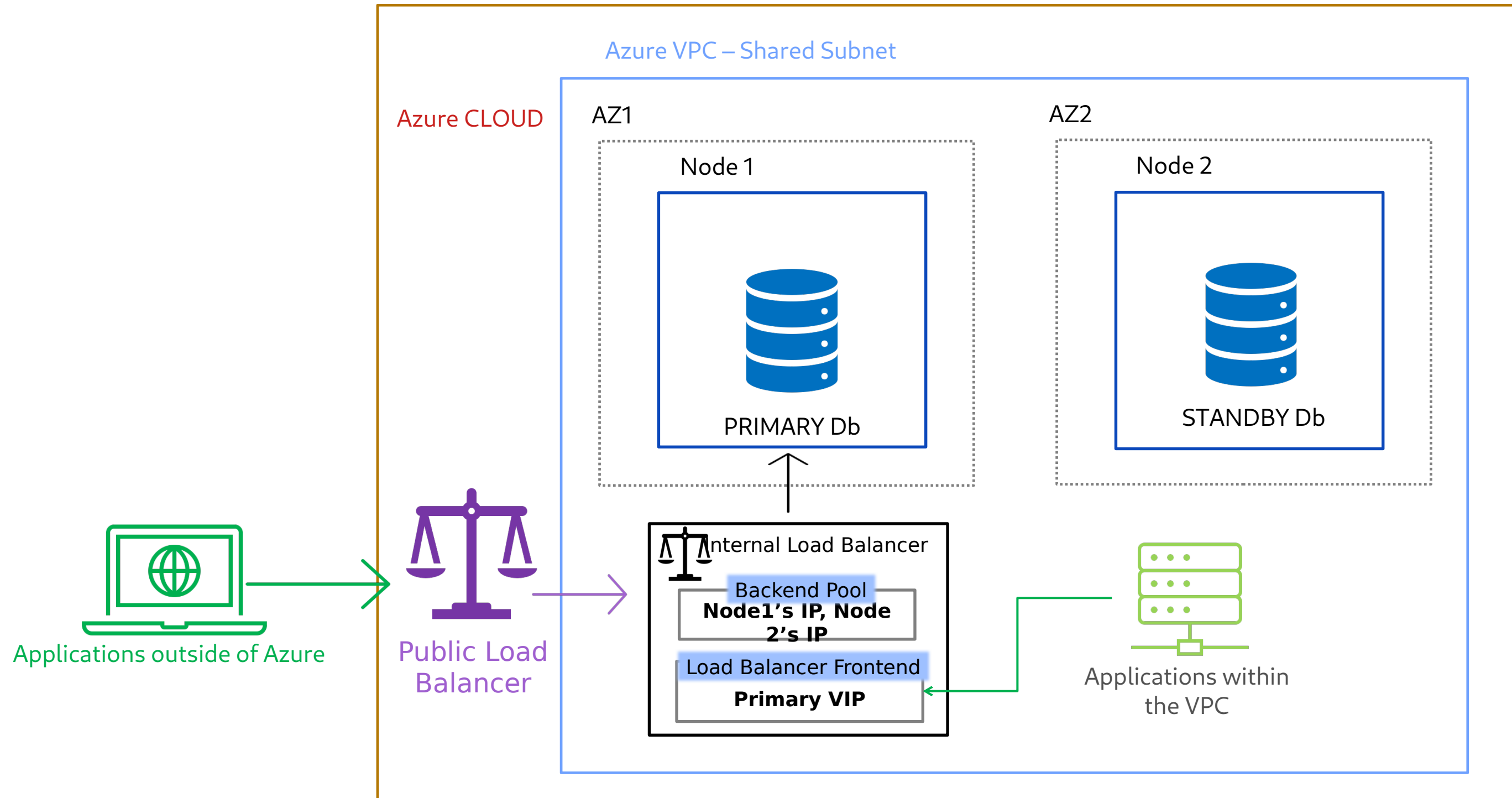
# Azure Exploration #2: Virtual IP setup with Azure Load Balancer

## End-to-end setup overview

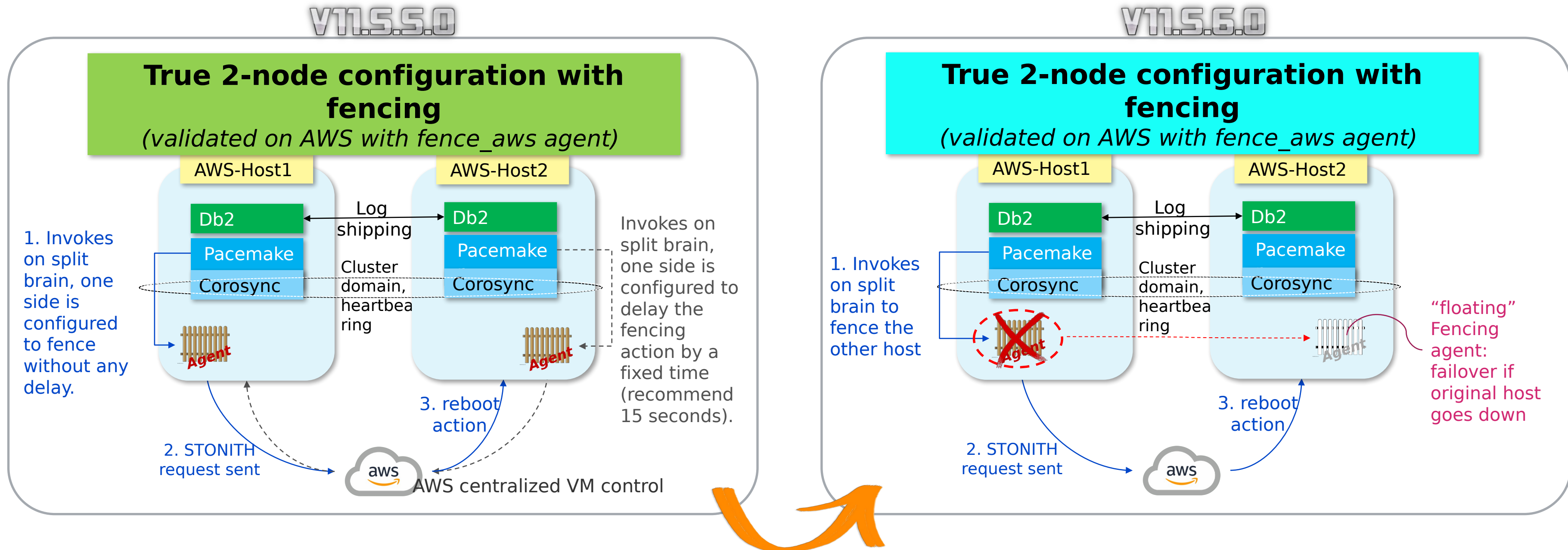




# Azure Exploration #2: Azure with Load Balancer Topology



# AWS Fencing Setup Optimization: From 2 fencing agents to 1



Instead of setting up the fencing agents as 2 separate independent resources, setup only 1 and allow the resource to failover to the other host naturally on host failure.

## Enhanced Problem Determination

- Added millisecond resolution in the Pacemaker log. (similar to /var/log/message)
- Imperative to reconstruct timeline of events in any scenario



Example: /var/log/pacemaker/pacemaker.log

**Before**

```
Jan 13 10:50:02 talkers1.fyre.ibm.com pacemakerd [3829732] (qb_ipcs_us_withdraw) info: withdrawing server sockets
Jan 13 10:50:02 talkers1.fyre.ibm.com pacemakerd [3829732] (crm_xml_cleanup) info: Cleaning up memory from libxml2
Jan 13 10:50:02 talkers1.fyre.ibm.com pacemakerd [3829732] (crm_exit) info: Exiting pacemakerd | with status 0
```

**After**

```
Jan 13 11:04:46.555 talkers1.fyre.ibm.com pacemakerd [1889531] (crm_log_init) info: Changed active directory to /var/...
Jan 13 11:04:46.564 talkers1.fyre.ibm.com pacemakerd [1889531] (get_cluster_type) info: Detected an active 'corosync' cluster
Jan 13 11:04:46.564 talkers1.fyre.ibm.com pacemakerd [1889531] (mcp_read_config) info: Reading configure for stack: corosync
```



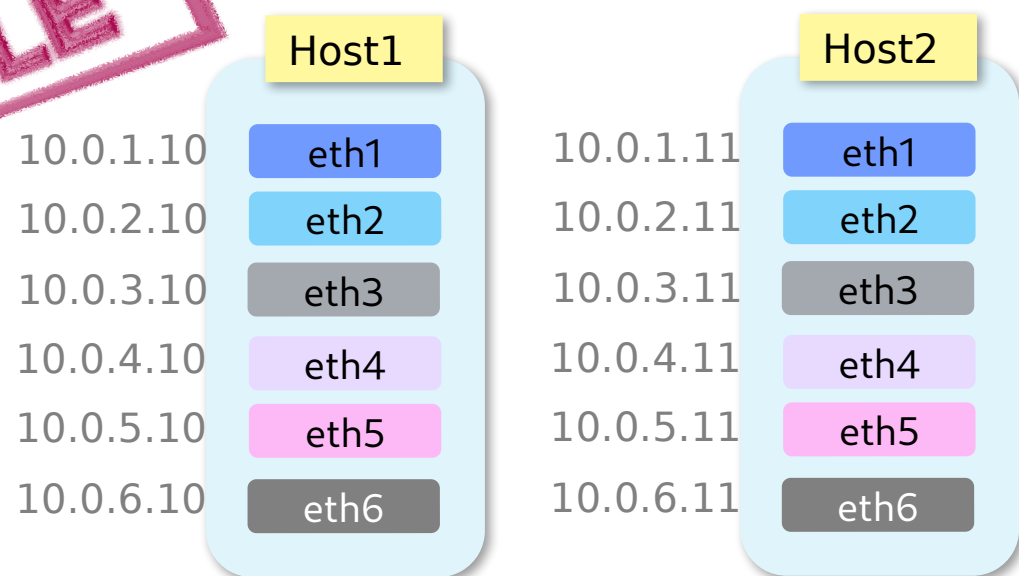
- First contribution made from Db2 development to the open-source Pacemaker community



# “Db2-aware” Network Resiliency

- Cluster Membership – who’s in and who’s out – relies on “Node Liveliness Test”
  - RSCT: Communication Group (a.k.a. CG)
  - Corosync: Heartbeat Ring (a.k.a. HBR)

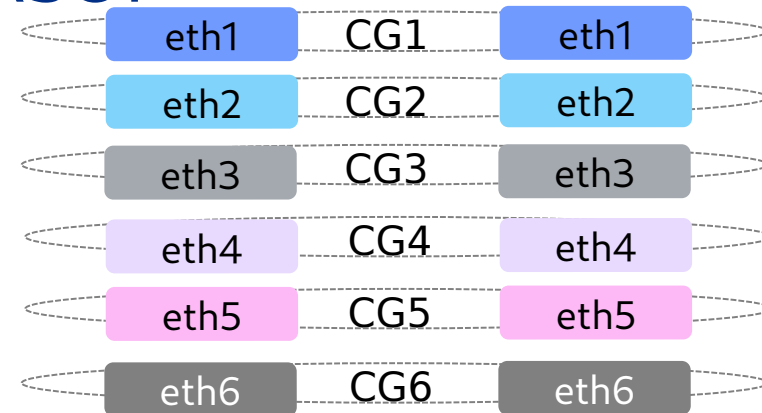
**EXAMPLE**



## Description

- Each adapter within a host has unique IP subnet 10.0.x.0
- The two hosts have the same set of IP subnets (6 in total).
- Assumption: each IP in the same subnet can ping each other.

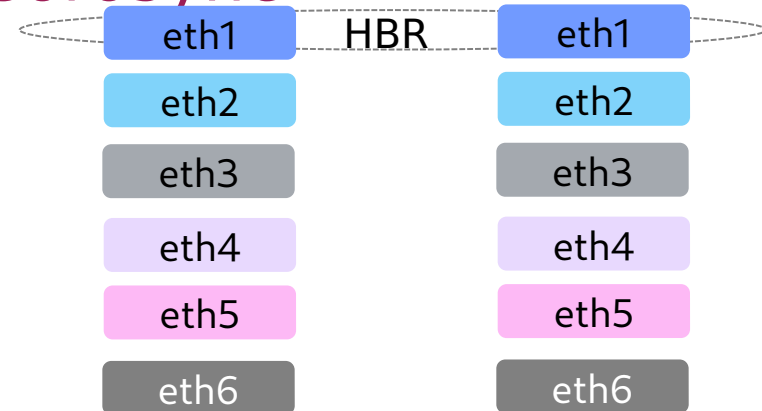
## RSCT



## RSCT Node liveliness Test

- 6 CGs created due to 6 different unique IP subnets
- A host is only deemed “dead” if **ALL** 6 CGs are broken at the same time and last longer than the preset grace period.

## Corosync



## Corosync Node liveliness Test

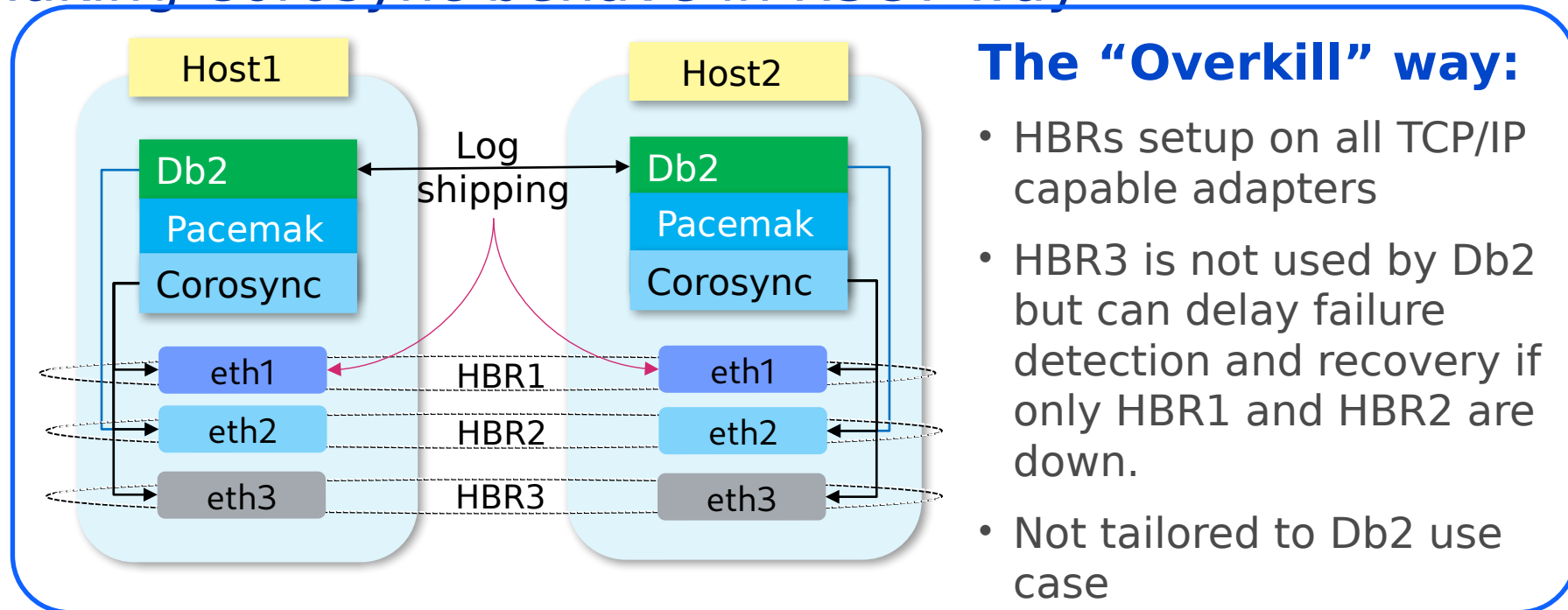
- By default, only hostname’s IP is included
- A host is deemed “dead” if eth1 lost the heartbeat regardless of the state of the other 5 NICs.

**Observation:** Neither default logic is ideal for Db2 ...

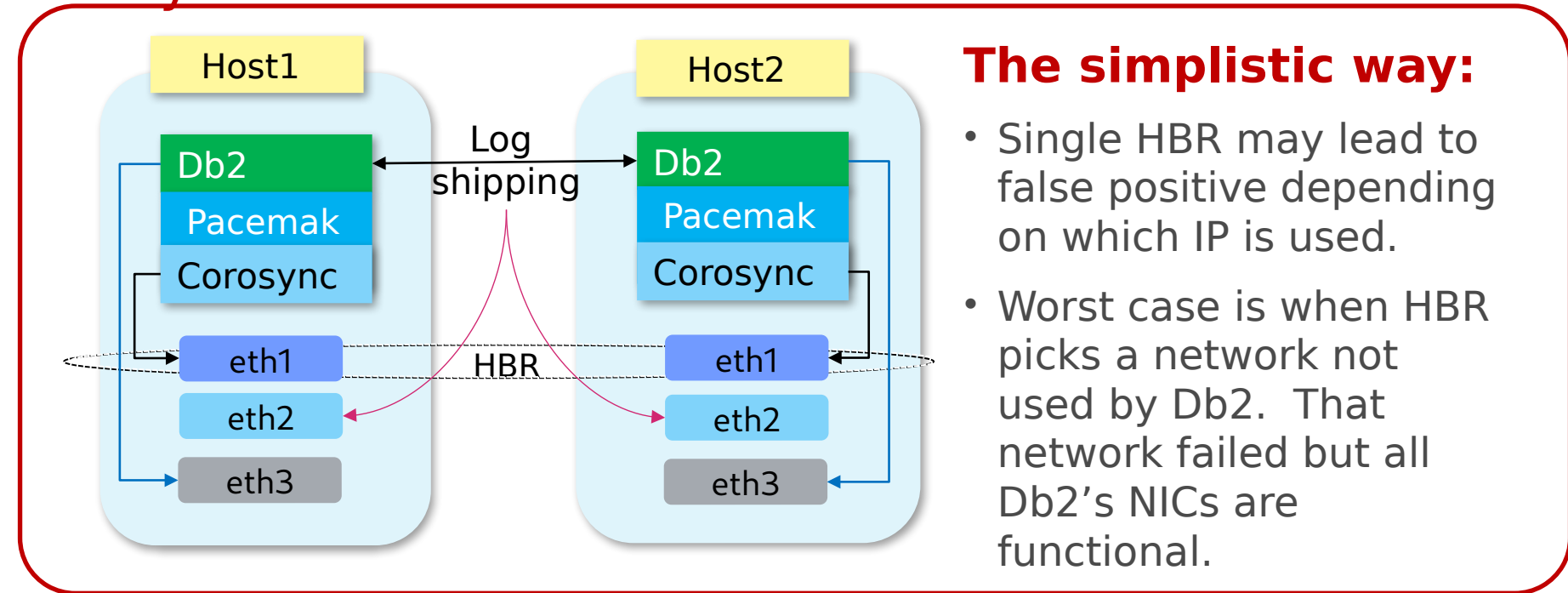
## “Db2-aware” Network Resiliency (cont’d)

- **Problem:** One is overkill, the other is too simplistic

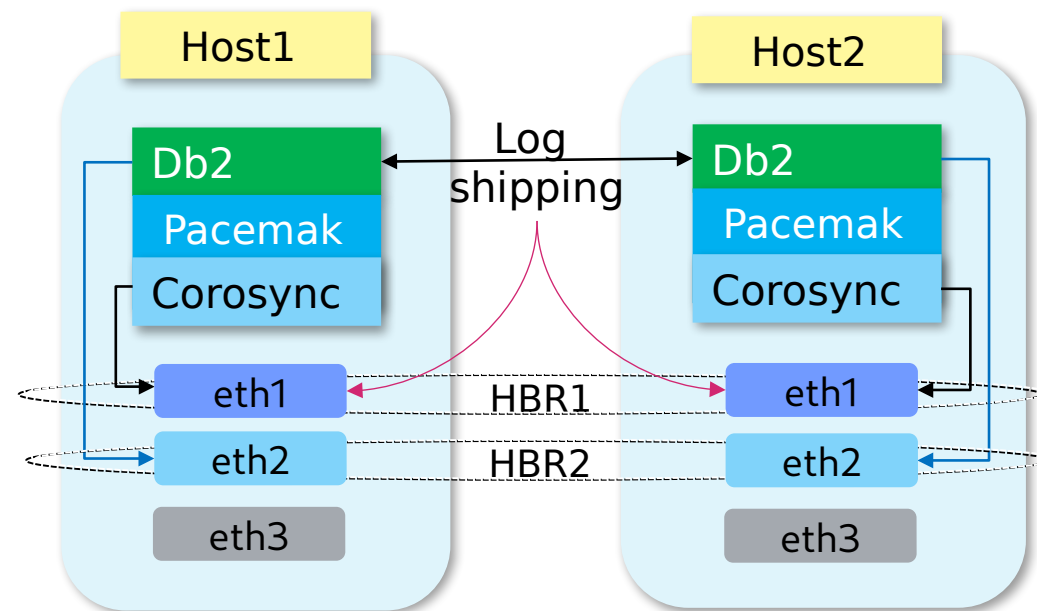
### Making Corosync behave in RSCT way



### Corosync default behaviour



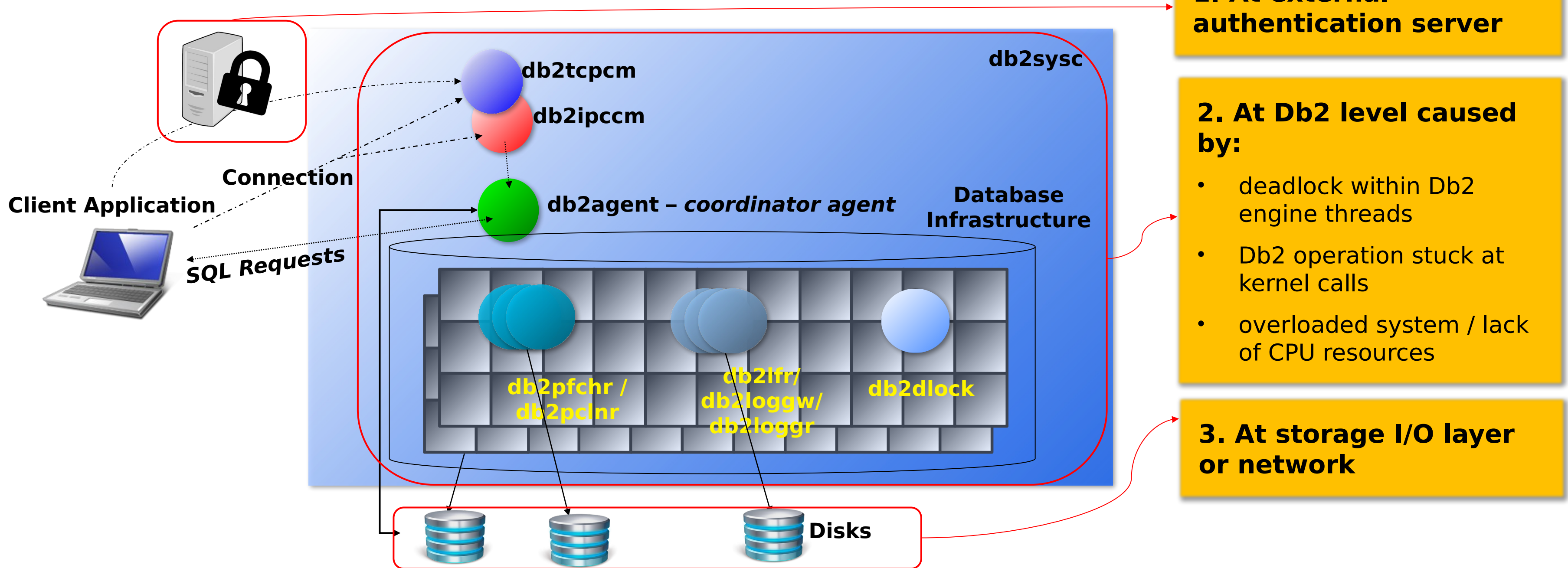
A better approach  
... config HBR to  
only include Db2’s  
relevant NICs



### Note

- Only setup HBR on NICs used by Db2.
- In 11.5.6.0, HBR1 is setup by default
- Instructions [available](#) to setup additional HBRs with other NICs for each log shipping network
- Future: automatic discovery of Db2 relevant NICs and creation of HBR(s)

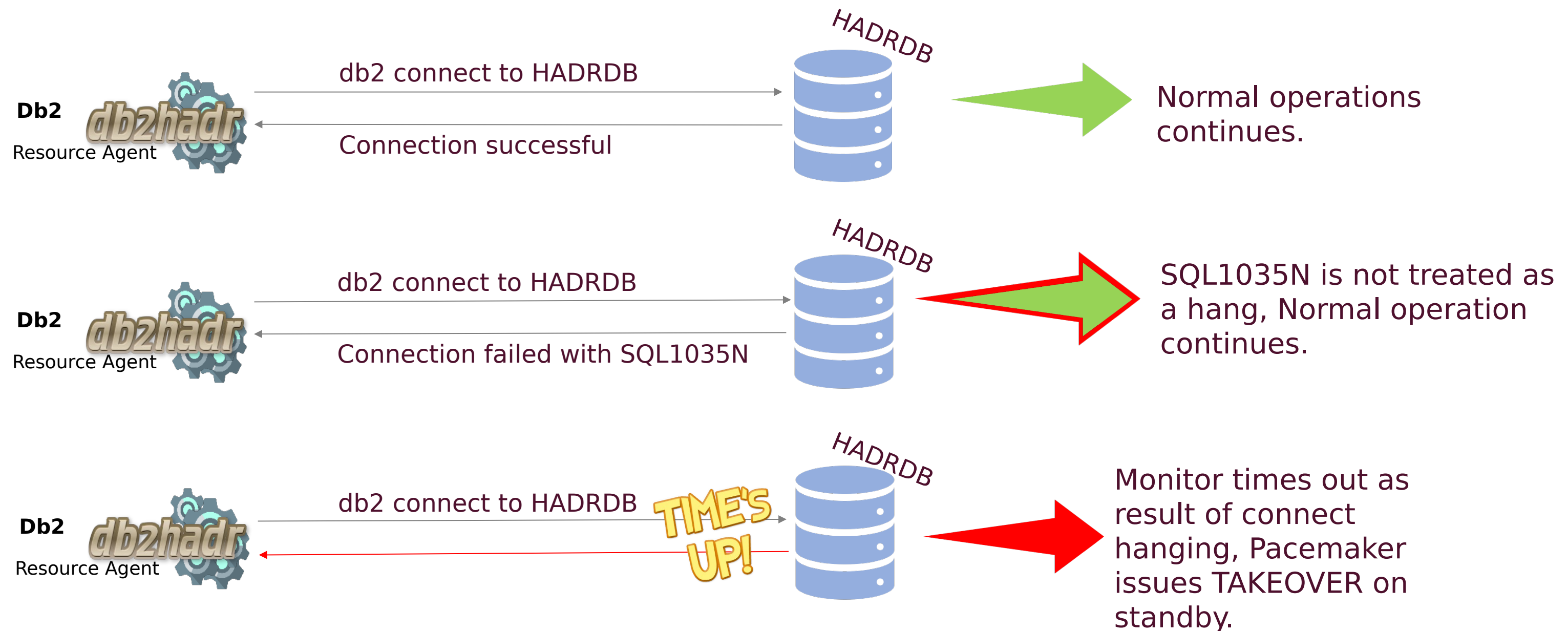
# Advance HADR DB hang detection on Linux – *Potential of hang*



**Approach: Focus on the database connect**

## Advance HADR DB hang detection on Linux (cont'd)

Database monitoring via the db2hadr resource agent is now capable of detecting hangs while connecting to the primary database.



## Advance HADR DB hang detection on Linux (cont'd)

### Enablement

- Off by default, enabled via environment variable. Effective immediately, no instance restart required.
- Add the following to instance user's \$HOME/.profile

```
export DB2_HADR_HANG_DETECTION=CONNECT
```

### Users can specify additional SQL codes to be ignored by the monitor

- `export DB2_HADR_HANG_SQL_BYPASS=SQL1040N,SQL1035N,SQL1060N`
- Ignored codes will not result in the monitor returning a failed state (i.e. no TAKEOVER issued)
- Current list of SQL codes ignored by default:

Maximum  
Applications

Maximum  
Connections

SQL1040N, SQL1226N, SQL1245N, SQL1035N, SQL1060N,  
SQL20157N...

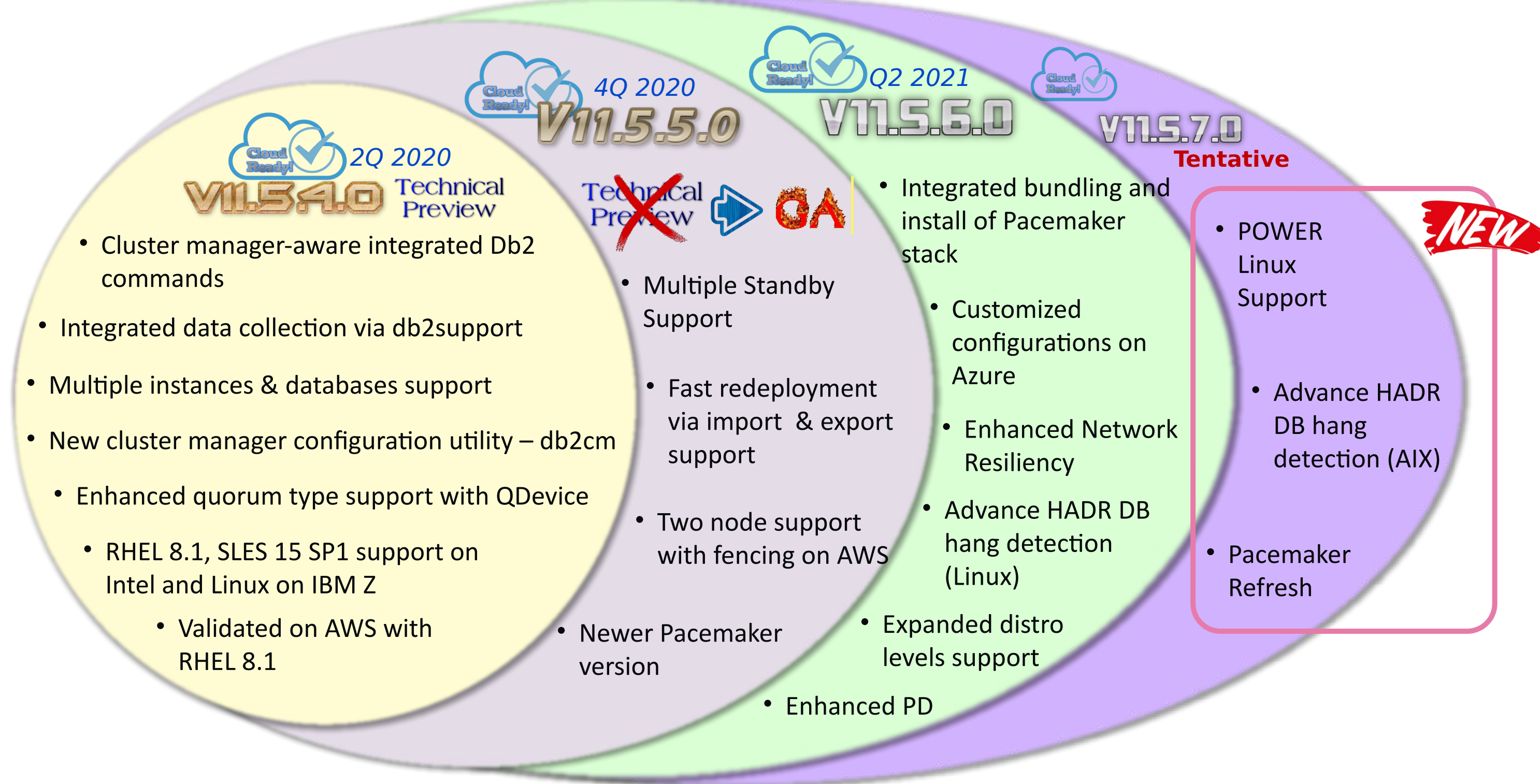


## Supported Platforms Update

Additional platforms supported on-premise and cloud.

- RHEL 8.2 on Intel x86\_64
- RHEL 8.2 on IBM Z s390x
- SLES 15 SP2 on Intel x86\_64
- SLES 15 SP2 on IBM Z s390x

# Our Journey ... Stop #4 (not there yet)



# Expanded Platform, OS levels Coverage, and Change of Support Statement

1   Starting from RHEL 8.4 & SLES 15 SP3

- 2 Change OS level support from specific release to:
- RHEL 8.x and up
  - SLES 15 SPy and up



1  

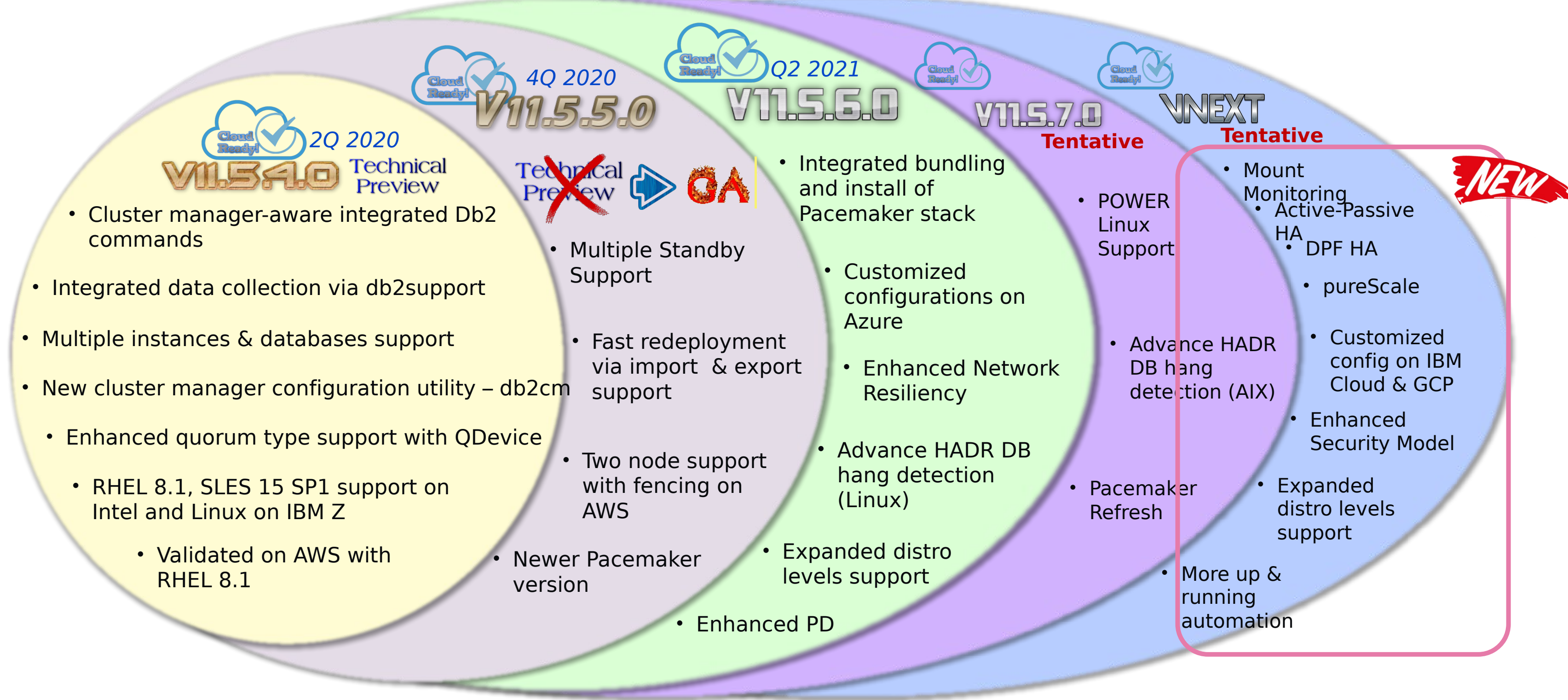
2  



Frequent Pacemaker stack refresh

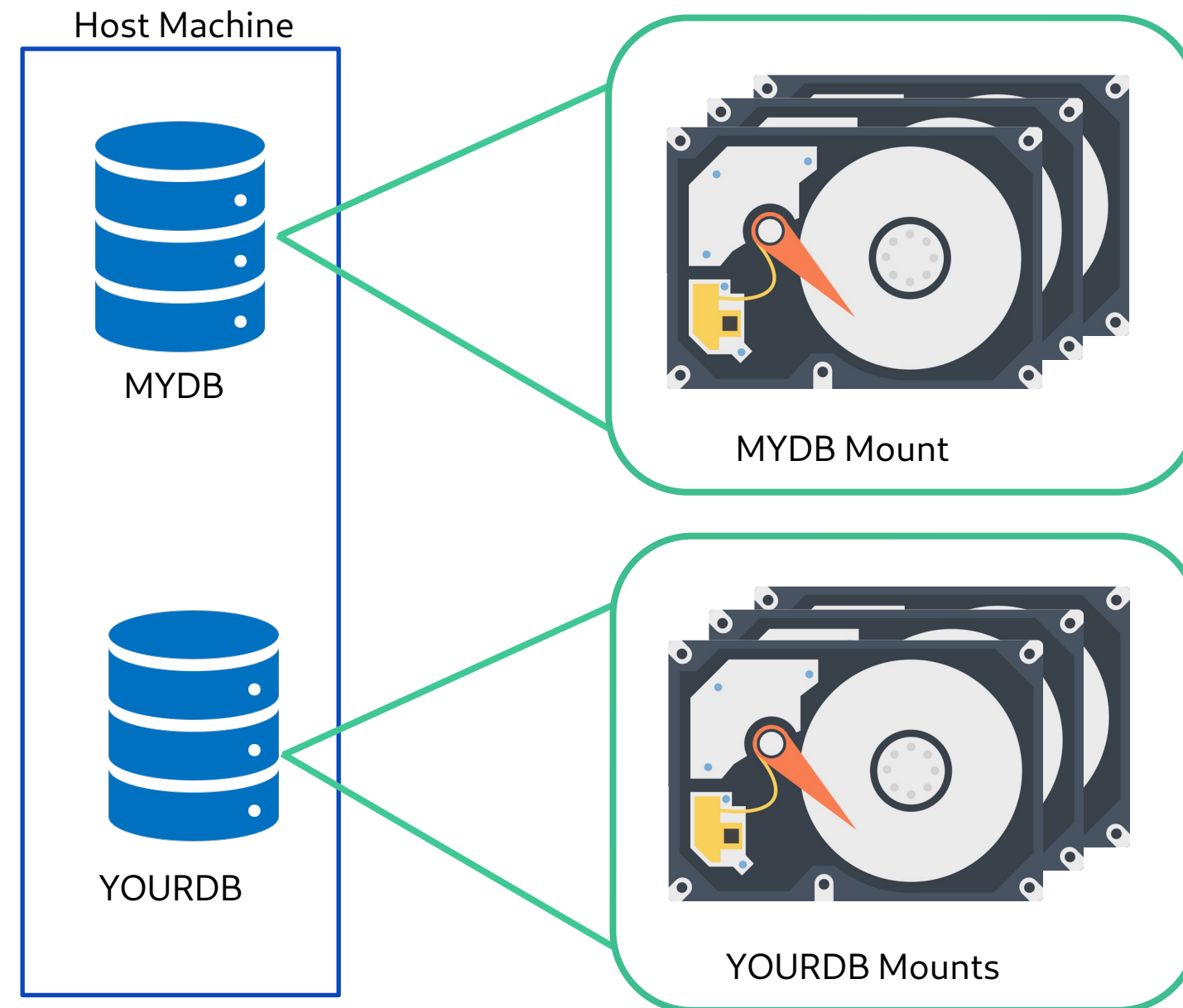
- at least once per year

# Our Journey ... Stop #5 (2022 tentative)

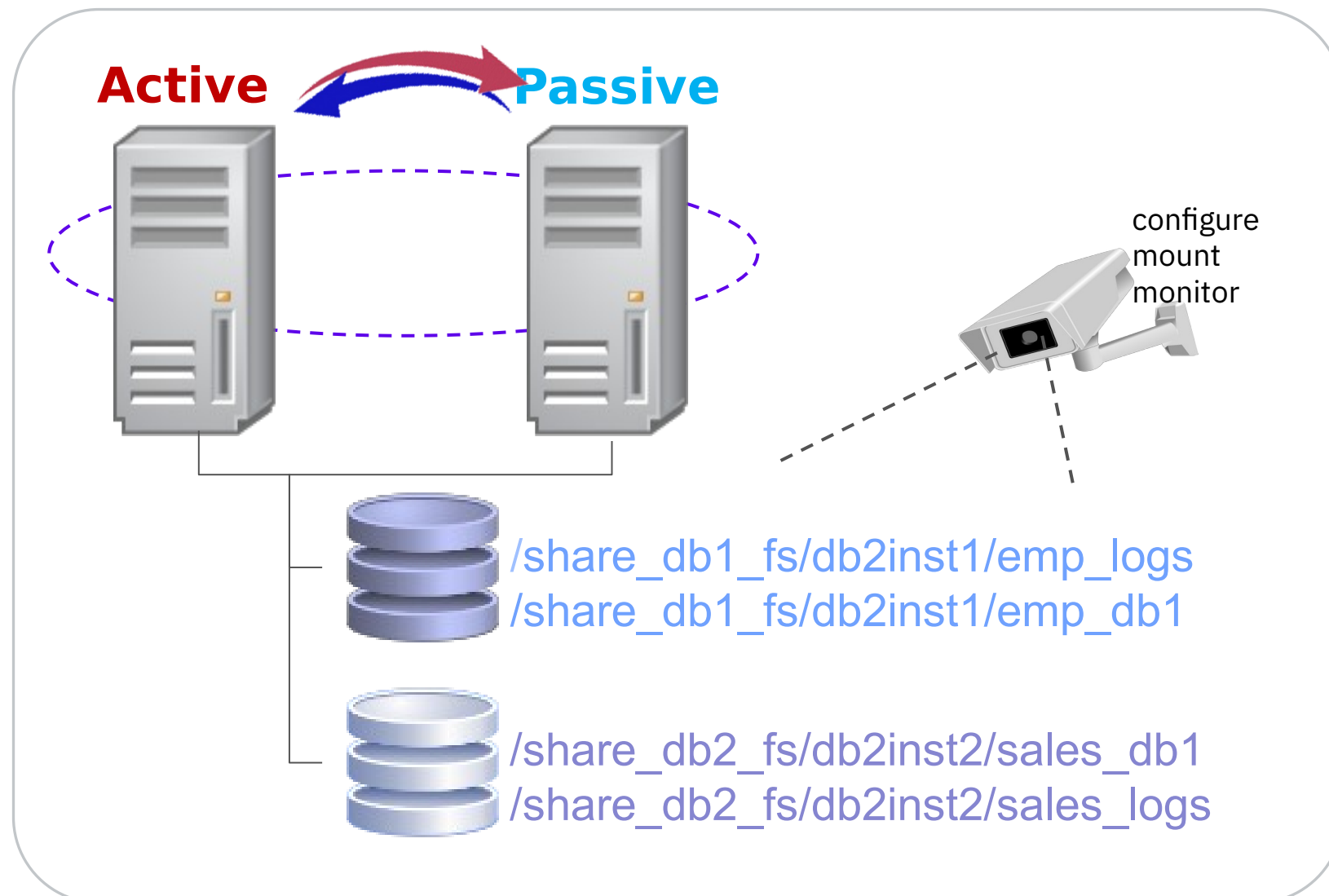


## Mount Automation

- Make file-systems highly available
- Adds order constraint between the database and its associated file-systems.
- Ensures the database file-systems are operational before a database is activated.
- Attempt to automatically bring file-systems back online in failure scenarios.
- Used in various topologies.



## Active-Passive HA – Existing behaviour with TSA/RSCT



### Setup:

- Database on shared file system
- Configure mount monitoring on the DB file system mounts
- Cluster manager ensure the shared FS is only active on one of the hosts at any given time.
- Automated file system mount point failover

### With RSCT:

#### Key to success: RSCT's Critical Resource Protection Feature

- Defined at resource level
- Configurable actions (reboot, shutdown, none, etc) on failure
- Db2 sets action to reboot on all resources in this HA configuration

### A mount point failure results in:

- mount monitor detects the failure and marks the corresponding mount resource as failed
- Critical Resource Protection is triggered to reboot the host.
- TSA detects the Db2 instance failure on ACTIVE hosts and fails over to the PASSIVE host.
- The rest of the resource model (mounts, DB, and instance) will be brought online on the passive host automatically

## Active-Passive HA – *New behaviour with Pacemaker/Corosync*

### With Corosync:

- Lack of disk/IP tiebreaker support means split brain scenario needs to be handled differently
- No 1-1 mapping of RSCT's Critical Resource Protection feature. This means node fencing (prevents data corruption) needs additional setup

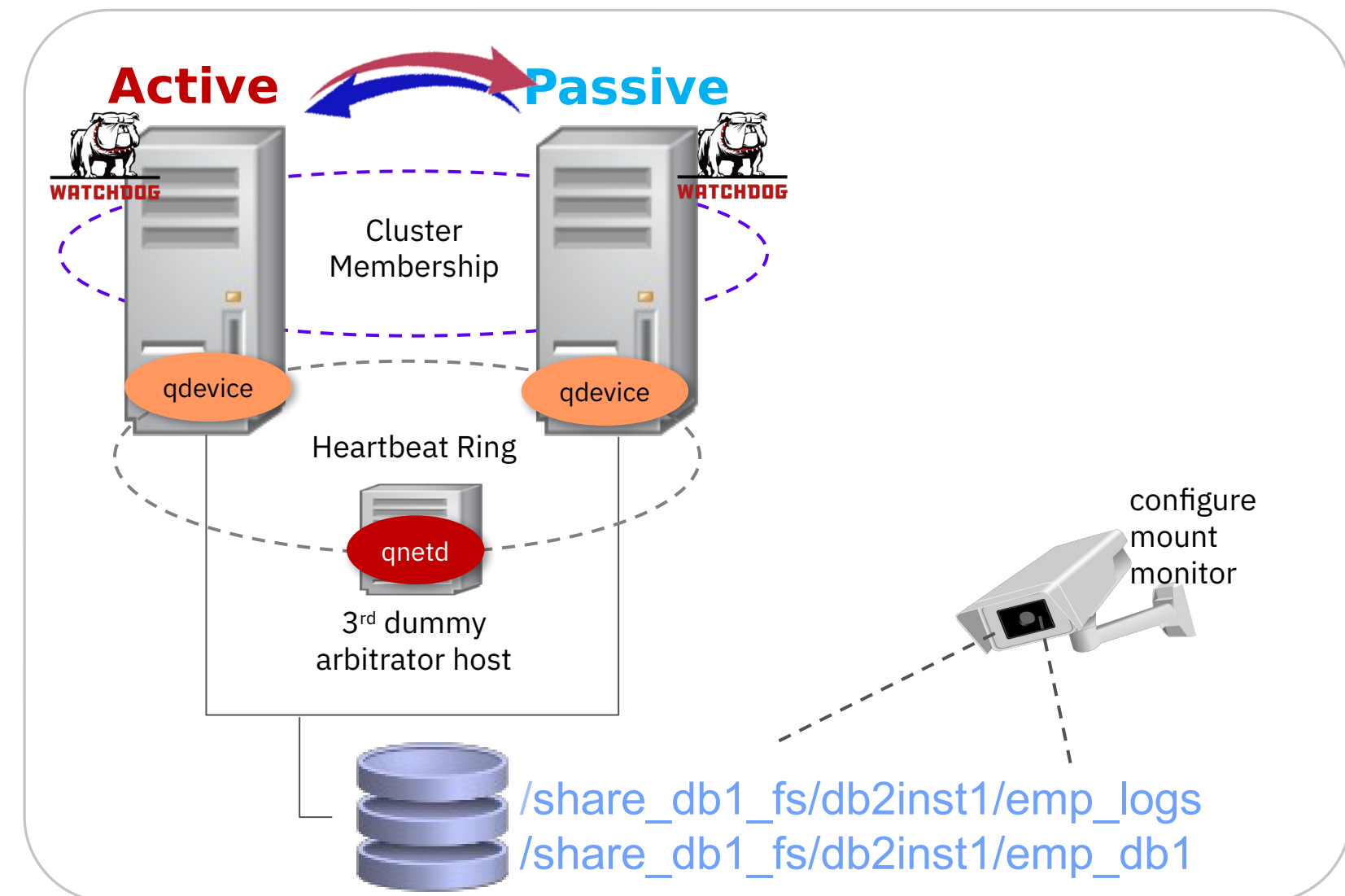
### Potential Solutions:

#### Split brain prevention:

- Use QDevice (with a 3<sup>rd</sup> arbitrator host)
- Or use Storage-Based Death (SBD) with a shared disk across hosts

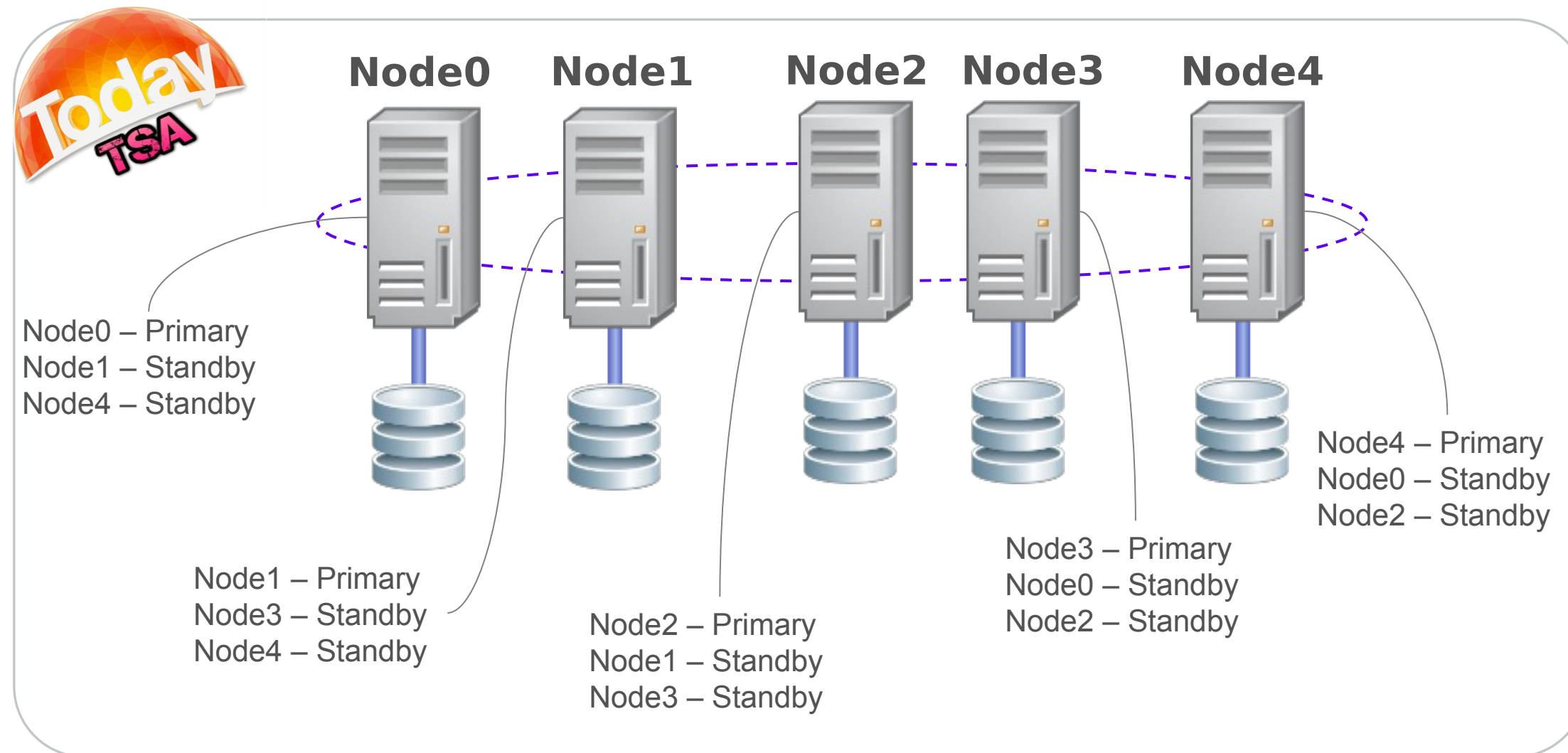
#### Node fencing:

- Utilize Software Watchdog (default or separate install)
- Use in combination with QDevice to trigger a reboot when a node eviction action is deemed necessary.



*Sample configuration with Qdevice*  
(subjected to change)

# Database Partition Feature (DPF) HA configuration



**FUTURE**  
Pacemaker

- **Goal:**
  - Consolidate & Simplify Configuration by aligning support with most common use case
- **Potential design:**
  - One standby host dedicated for a few partitions
  - Multiple “micro-cluster” with separate automation within the same DPF instance
  - Roving Standby Support



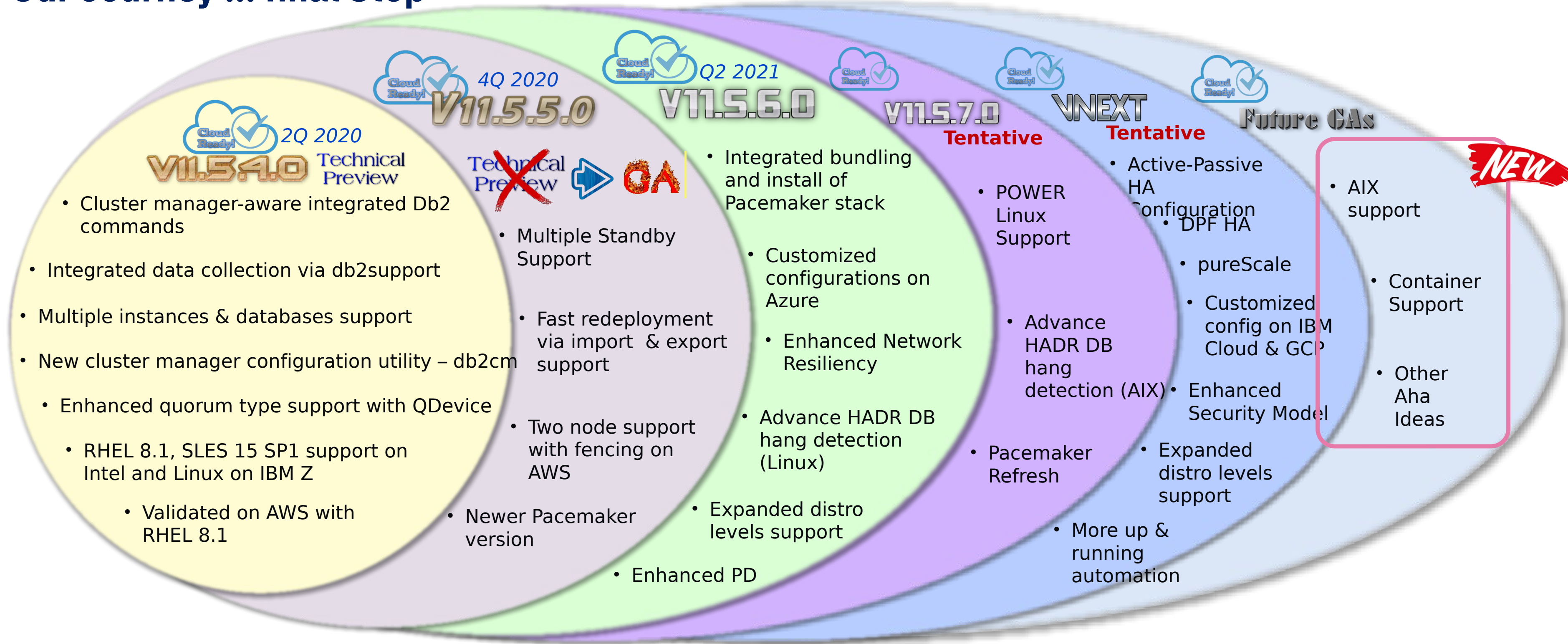
## pureScale ... a teaser



- Cloud-Ready !!!!!
- New & Simplified Resource Model
- Different quorum mechanism (fewer shared disk requirement)
- Db2-optimized node-liveliness test
- More accurate RDMA network liveliness test
- Built-in RDMA network performance evaluation and aggregate history
- Smarter unified cluster management utility interface
- Reduced dependency in support infrastructure
- ... and many others



# Our Journey ... final Stop



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