CLOUD STRATEGY · THE ARCHITECT

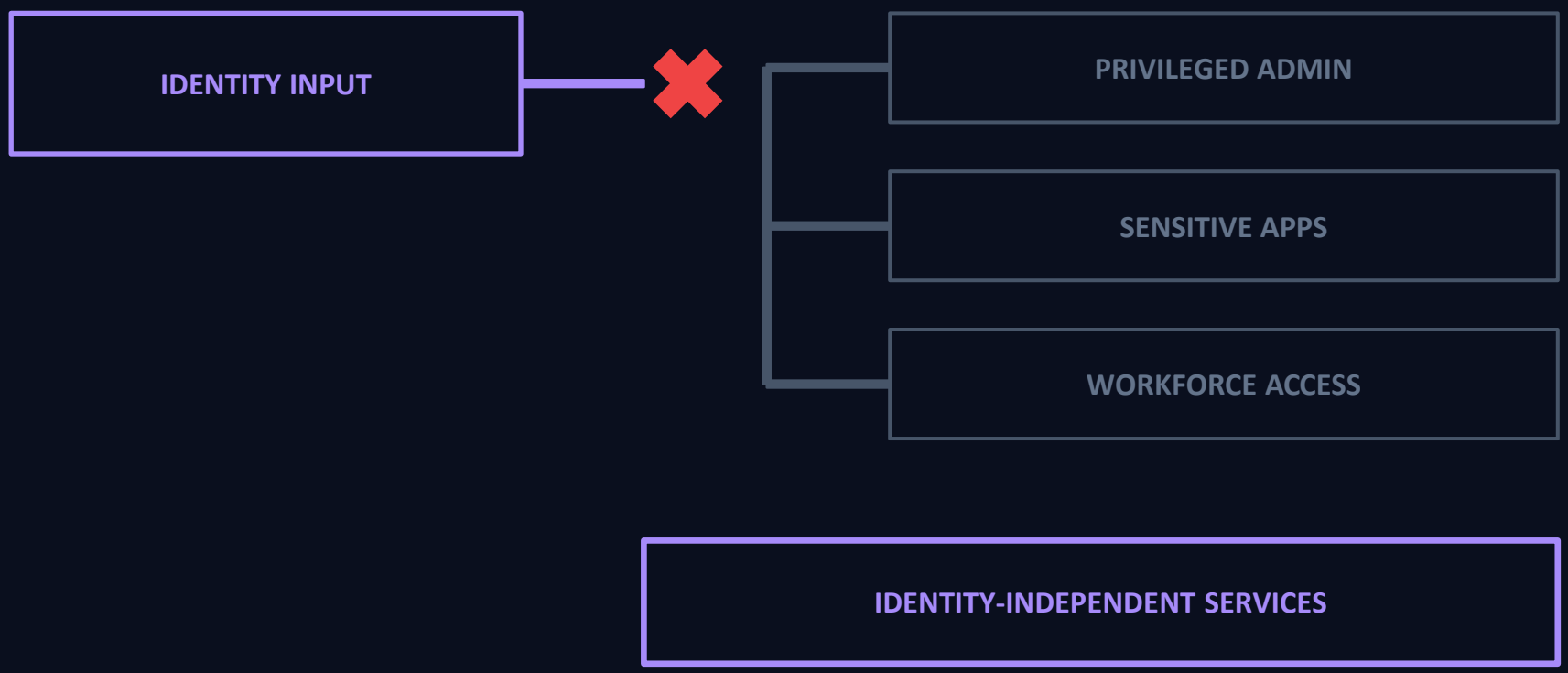
Policy Fail Mode: A Decision, Not a Default

What an identity-conditioned rule does when identity can’t be be evaluated



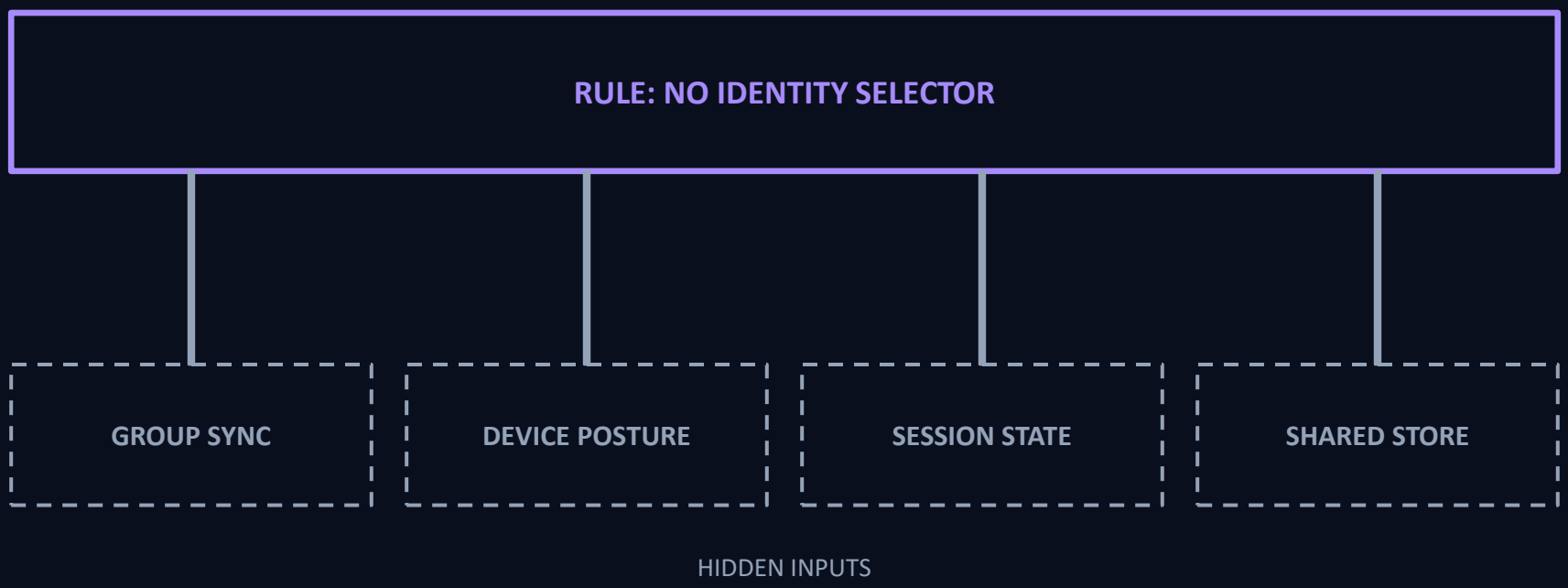
RACK2CLOUD
THINK LIKE AN ARCHITECT.
BUILD LIKE AN ENGINEER.

Identity-Conditioned Rules Fail Together



Rules with no identity condition keep working. The rule set decides what fails. what fails.

Identity-Free by Selector Is Not Identity-Independent



Map every input the rule needs and where it is fetched from.

Choose the Failure Behavior Per Traffic Class

TRAFFIC CLASS	WHEN IDENTITY CAN'T BE EVALUATED
Privileged administration	DENY
Sensitive applications	DENY
Standard workforce access	DEFINED RESTRICTED
Identity-independent services	CONTINUE

Proposed design examples, not any vendor's implementation.

Name the Fallback Scope and the the Authority

CLASS	FALLBACK SCOPE	RECOVERY AUTHORITY
Privileged administration	Break-glass path only	Named break-glass holders
Sensitive applications	None by default	Designated security authority
Standard workforce access	Named allowlist, time-boxed	Approved operator
Identity-independent services	Unchanged	Normal operations

Proposed design examples, not any vendor's implementation.

Every Fallback Needs a Boundary and an Exit

BOUNDARY

Which destinations. Which traffic.

EXIT

Restoration, a time limit, or a named closer.

OWNER

One named role that that can end it.

No exit means a permanent exception.

An Identity-Free Policy Is Not a Safe Policy

01 — NARROWER BOUNDARY

Tighter than the policy it replaces

02 — NAMED TRAFFIC

Destinations, not categories

03 — EXPIRY

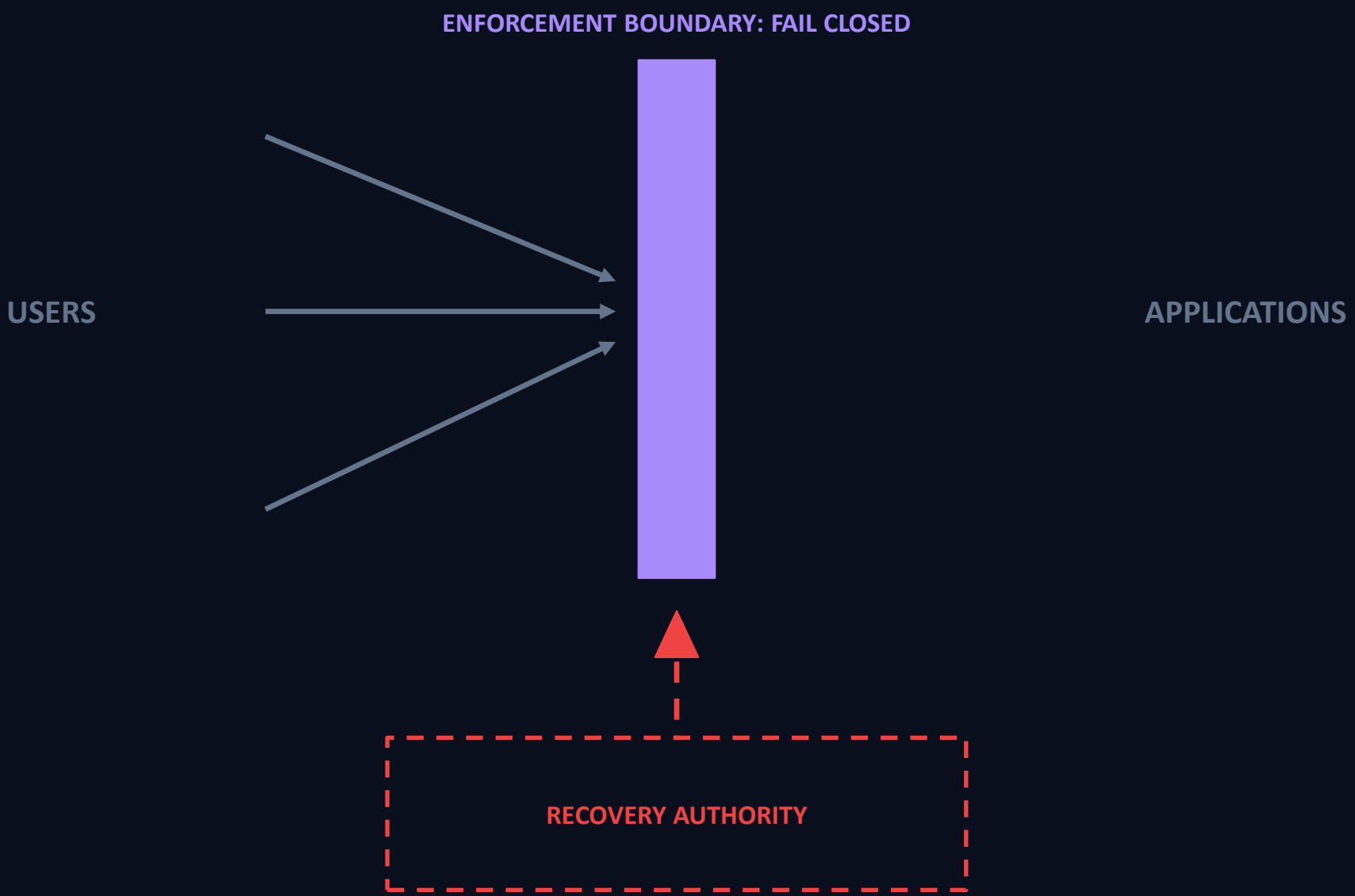
Ends without anyone remembering remembering

04 — AUDIT TRAIL

Who activated it. What it allowed.

It is the available state, not the safe state.

Fail-Closed Doesn’t Restore Availability



The boundary holds. Someone still has to open it.

No Silent Widening
No Shared Dependency
No Ambiguous Authority

Three constraints turn a default into a design.

rack2cloud.com | Follow The Architect for more

RACK2CLOUD
THINK LIKE AN ARCHITECT.
BUILD LIKE AN ENGINEER.