

Network Control Language(NCL)

----Make network as “What you want is what you get”

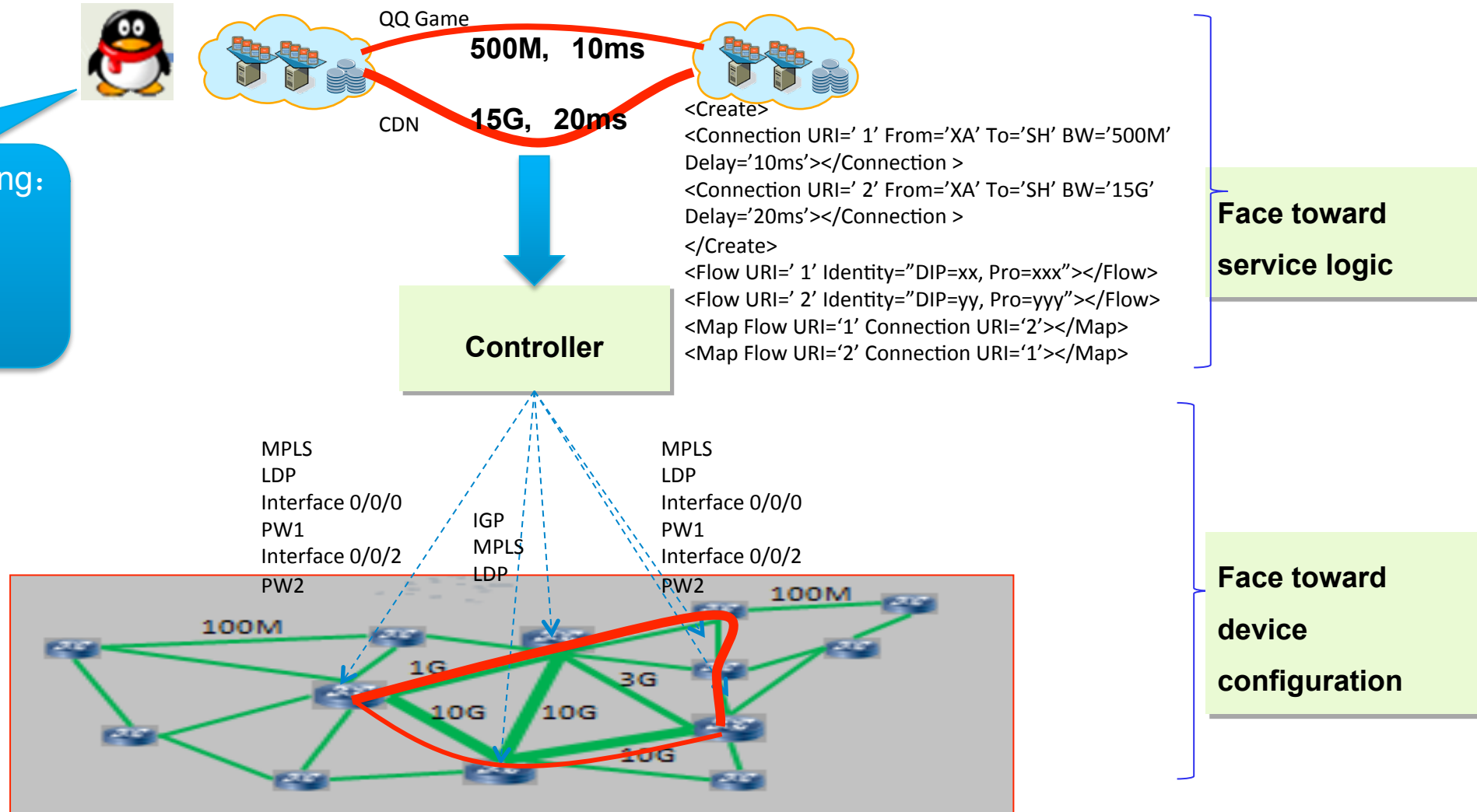
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Gap between APP and Network

- **APP wants**
 - A connection between two sites
 - A service flow with SLA
 - A customer network service chain
- **APP doesn't want**
 - Configurations of each device between two sites
 - Flow entries in each device
 - Tunnel, ACL, PBR configurations of different devices

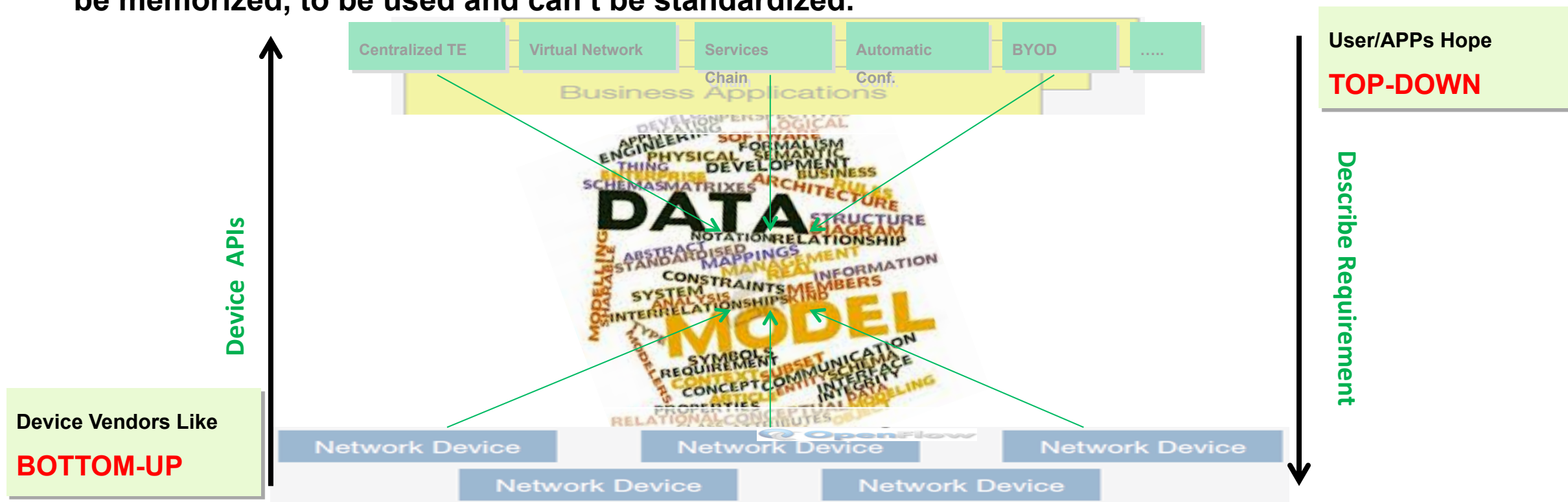
Device Interface is not Network Interface

Datacenters from xian to beijing:
1, two kinds of service flows with distinct SLA
2, need two connections to bear the two flows



What should NBI be?

- NBI should be used to simplify the network operation of APP
- NBI should be describing the network requirements
- **It seems above is a simple answer of this question, but present NBI is hundreds of APIs. It is hard to be memorized, to be used and can't be standardized.**



YANG is design for Devices

- IETF NETMOD WG
- YANG is a **data modeling language** used to model **configuration and state** data manipulated by the Network Configuration Protocol (NETCONF)----RFC6020

```
+--rw interfaces
| +--rw interface* [name]
| | +--rw name string
| | +--rw description? string
| | +--rw type identityref
| | +--rw enabled? boolean
| | +--rw link-up-down-trap-enable? enumeration
+--ro interfaces-state
  +--ro interface* [name]
  | +--ro name string
  | +--ro type identityref
  | +--ro admin-status enumeration
  | +--ro oper-status enumeration
  | +--ro last-change? yang:date-and-time
  | +--ro if-index int32
  | +--ro phys-address? yang:phys-address
  | +--ro higher-layer-if* interface-state-ref
  | +--ro lower-layer-if* interface-state-ref
  | +--ro speed? yang:gauge64
  +--ro statistics
    +--ro discontinuity-time yang:date-and-time
    +--ro in-octets? yang:counter64
    +--ro in-unicast-pkts? yang:counter64
    +--ro in-broadcast-pkts? yang:counter64
    +--ro in-multicast-pkts? yang:counter64
    +--ro in-discards? yang:counter32
    +--ro in-errors? yang:counter32
    +--ro in-unknown-protos? yang:counter32
    +--ro out-octets? yang:counter64
```

YANG focus on device, hard to describe global network information, e.g., connection, flow.

YANG models configuration and status data, hard to describe service logic, e.g., service chain.

YANG is a tree structure. For multidimensional association structure(a interface bear multiple service flow) need to put the object on multiple tree, which is hard to maintenance and synchronization.

YANG is not directly used by APP. It needs more effort for APP to learn

New explorations from the industry

- **From Product**

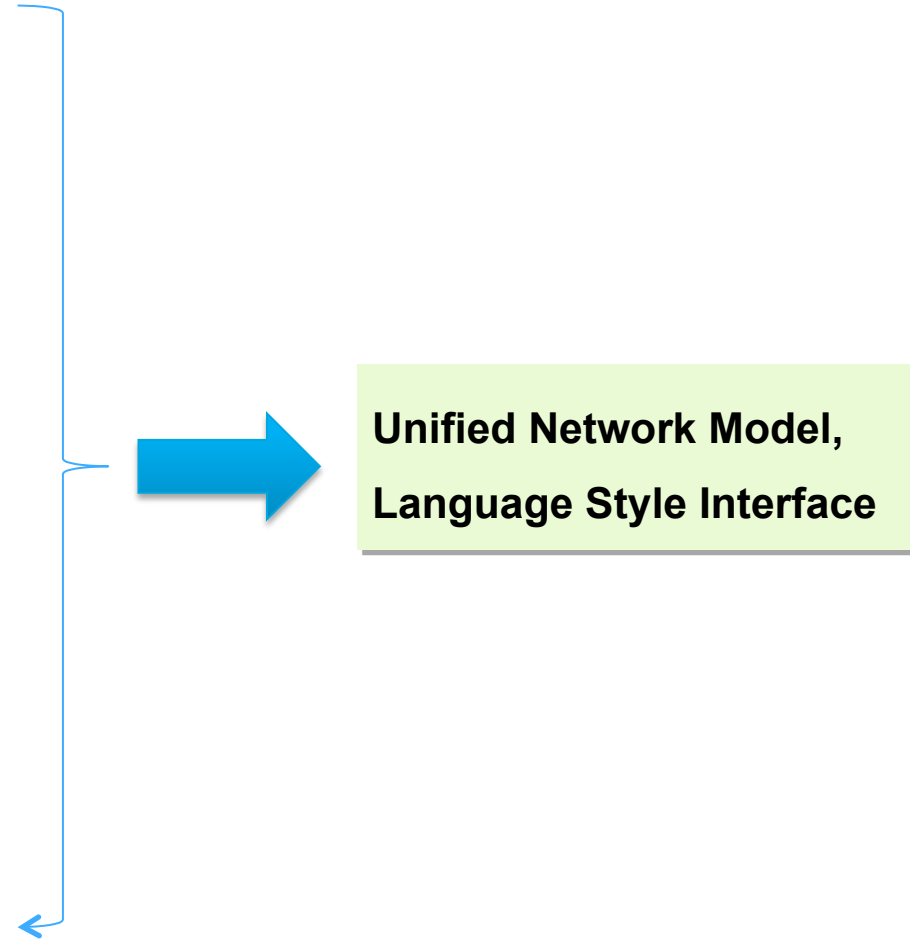
- API based Interface
- Use case specific interface

- **From Organization**

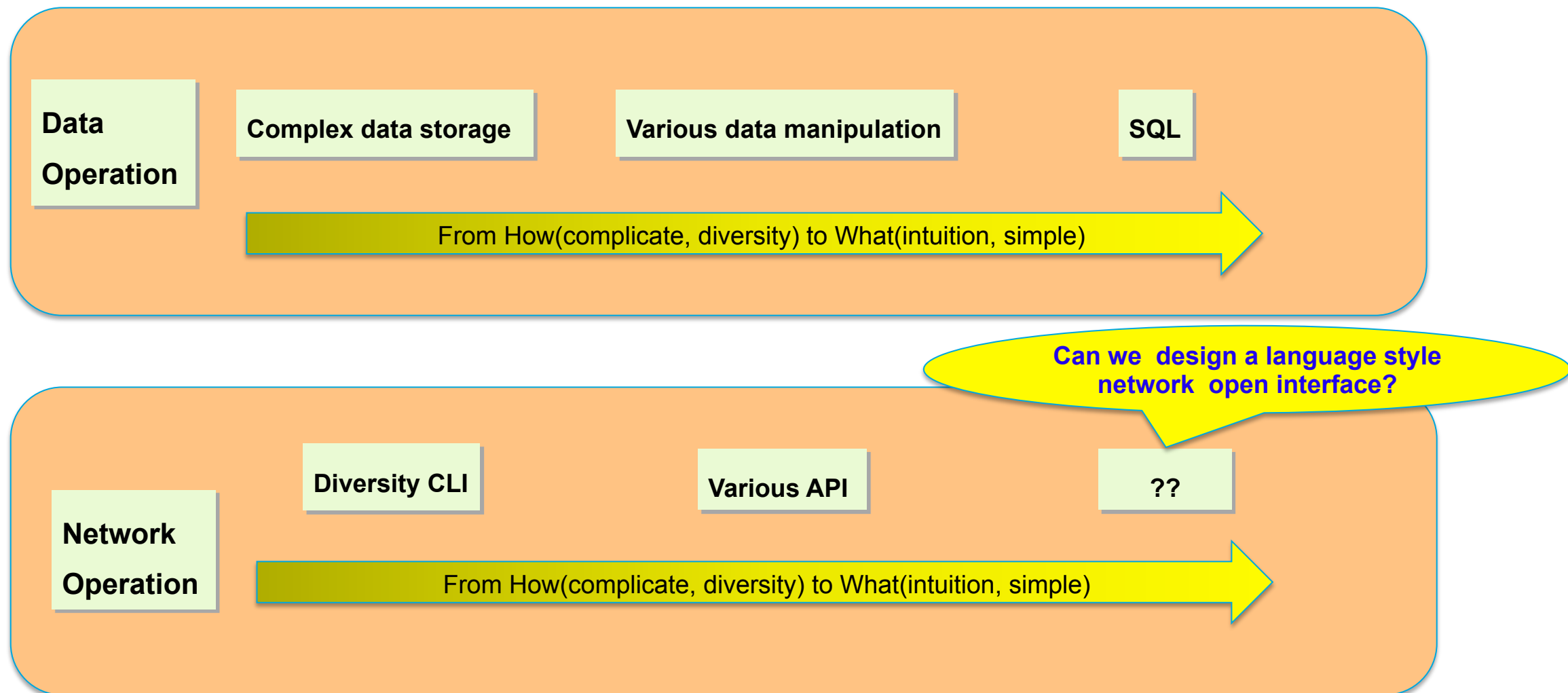
- NBI WG in ONF
- I2RS in IETF

- **From Academic**

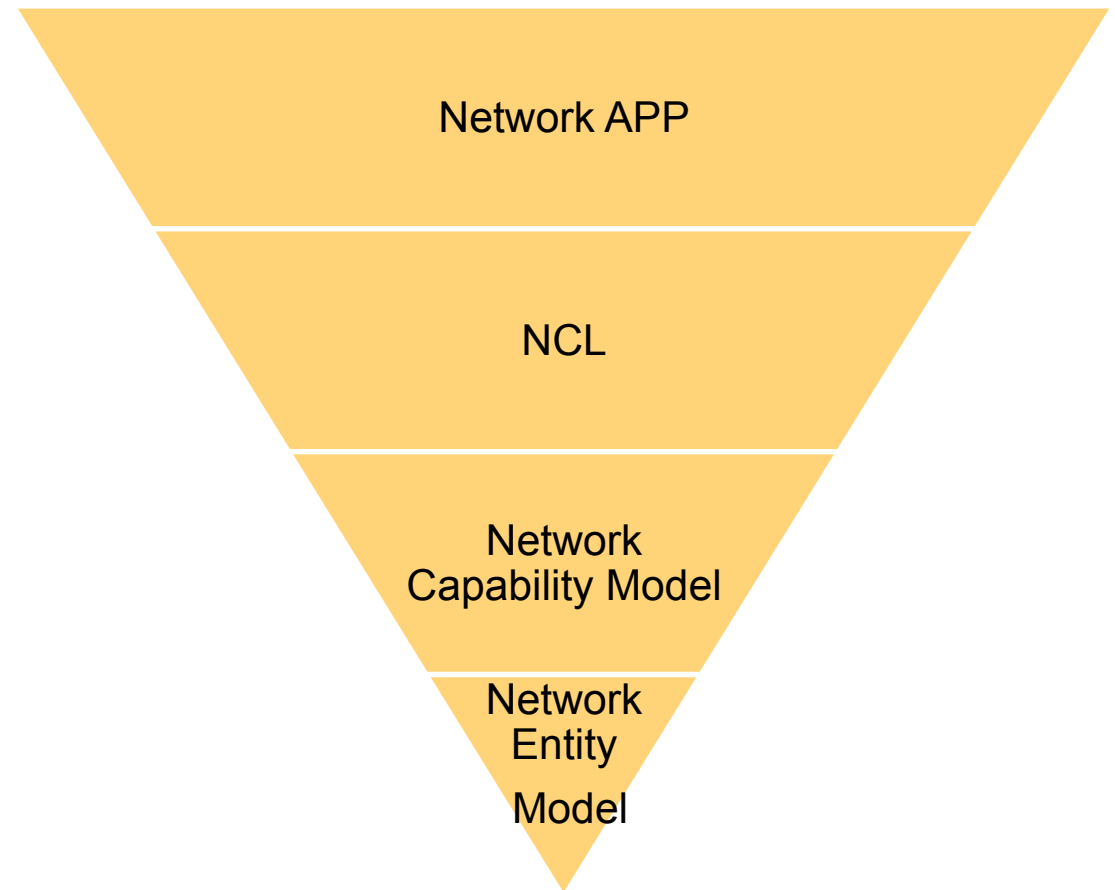
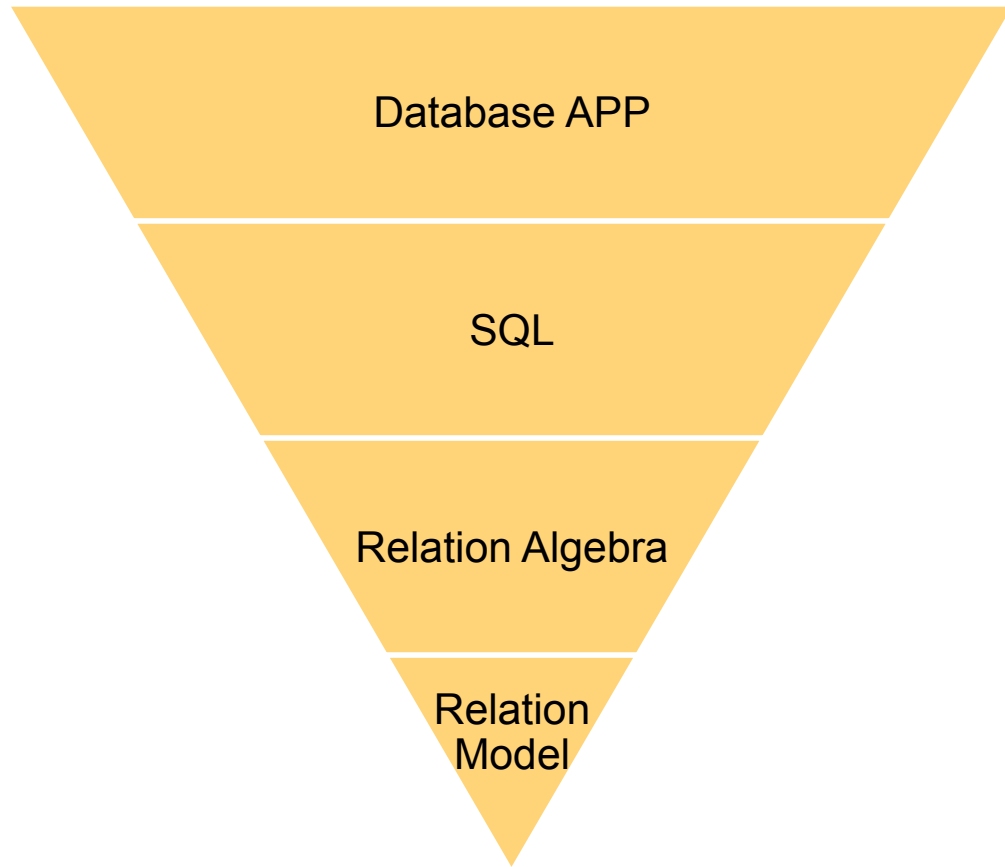
- Flow Programming Language---Frenetic
- Chip programming Language---P4



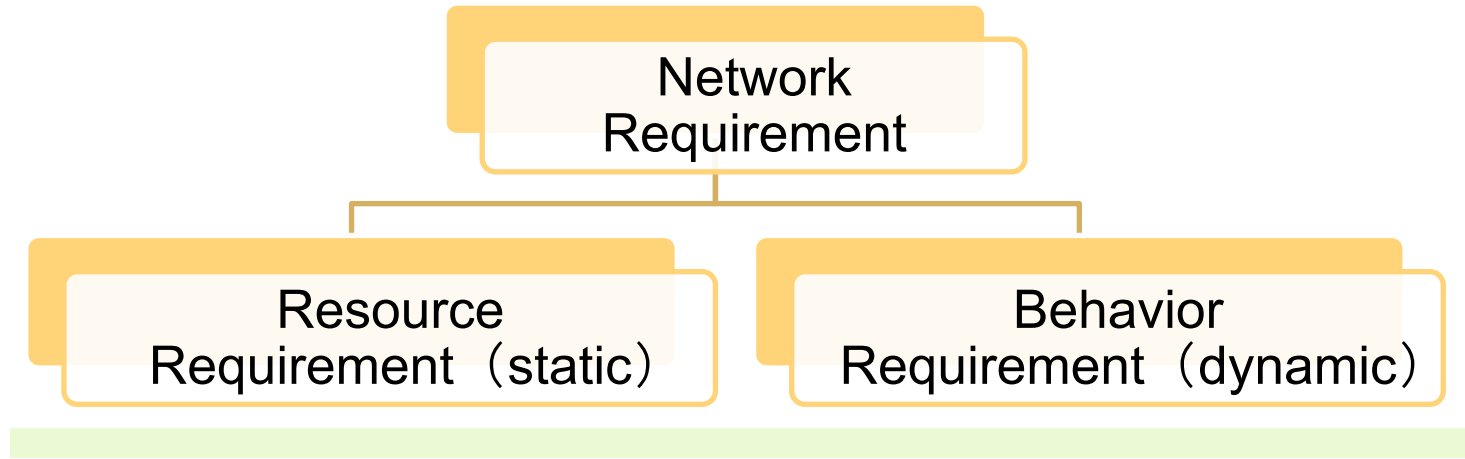
What can we Learn from another successful story – SQL?



How to design a language like SQL

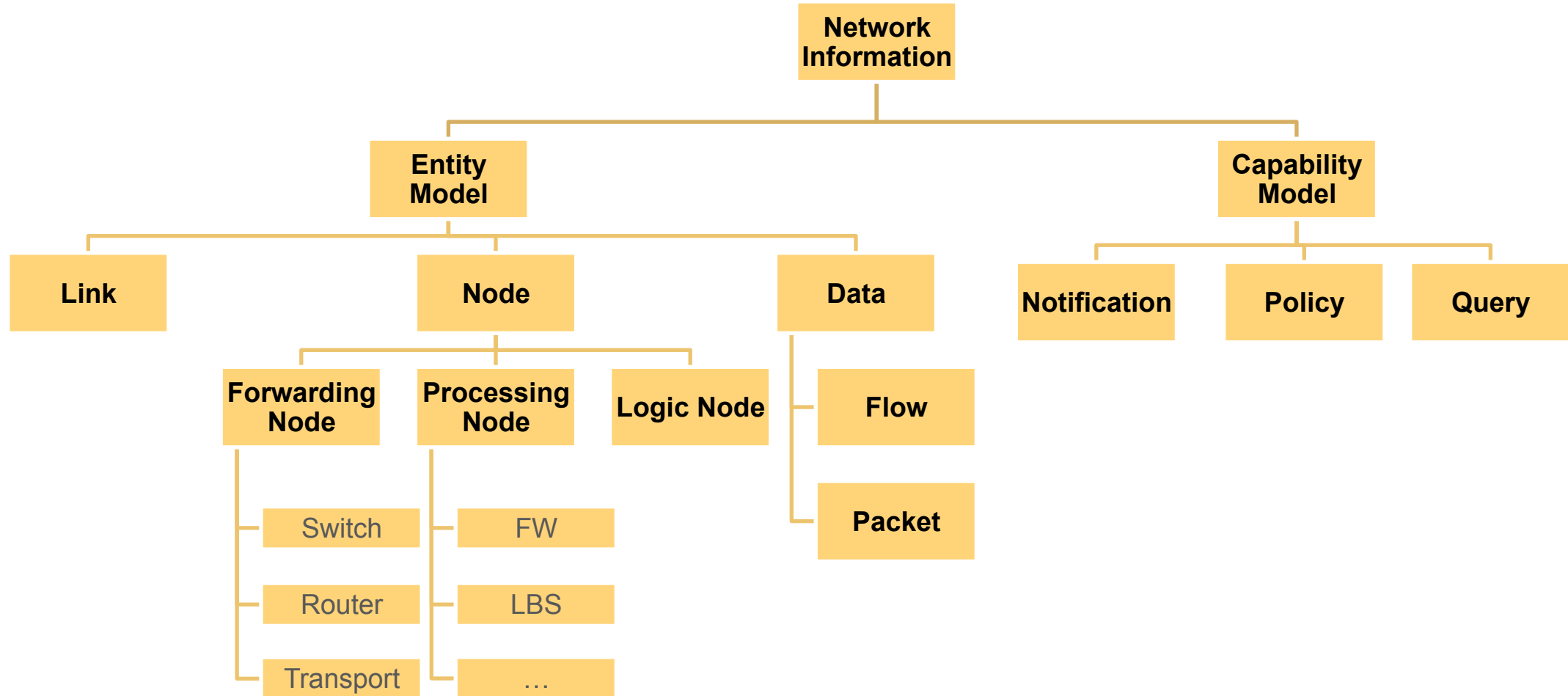


NCL is a Language style NBI



- **NCL is a domain specific language (DSL), which is used to describe network resource and behavior requirements by APP/User. It defines network open entity model and network open capability model.**
- **A compiler resolves NCL to understand APP/User requirements and execute them in network.**

Top-Down design Network Abstraction Model



Resource Access

Entity Model	node	Node/UnNode entity_id Type {FN PN LN} Owner node_id Properties key1 ,value1
	link	Link/UnLink entity_id Endnodes (node1_id,node2_id) SLA key,value Properties key1 ,value1
	flow	Flow/UnFlow entity_id Match/UnMatch key1, value1 Range (value, value) Mask (value, value) Properties key1 ,value1

Policy and Notification

Capability Model	Query	Query key Value {value} From entity_id
	Policy	Policy/UnPolicy policy_id Appliesto entity_id Condition {expression} Action { “forwardto” “drop” “gothrough” “bypass” “guaranteeSLA” “Set” “Packetout” Node UnNode Link Unlink } Commit Withdraw
	Notification	Notification entity_id On key Every period RegisterListener callbackfunc

Connection Management

Connection Management	ConnectController conn_id Address ip_address Port port_num
	Disconnect conn_id

Eclipse plug-in support NCL

- Embed NCL into Java
 - Application development code is Java
 - Network operation use NCL, which is embed into java
 - Exchange parameters between java and NCL
 - Describe Simplify and intuitivly what APP want, don't care device implementation

•Example

```
...
String srcip_1 = "10.0.0.1";
String dstip_1 = "10.0.0.2";
int in_port = 1;
URI flow_id = null;

#NML {flow_id = Flow "fname" Match "srcip",srcip_1, "dstip",dstip_1, "inport",in_port}

Calendar c = Calendar.getInstance();
int currentHour = c.get(Calendar.HOUR_OF_DAY);
if( currentHour >= 6 && currentHour <= 18){

#NML {Policy flow_id Do "DENY" }
    System.out.println("deny policy is applied");

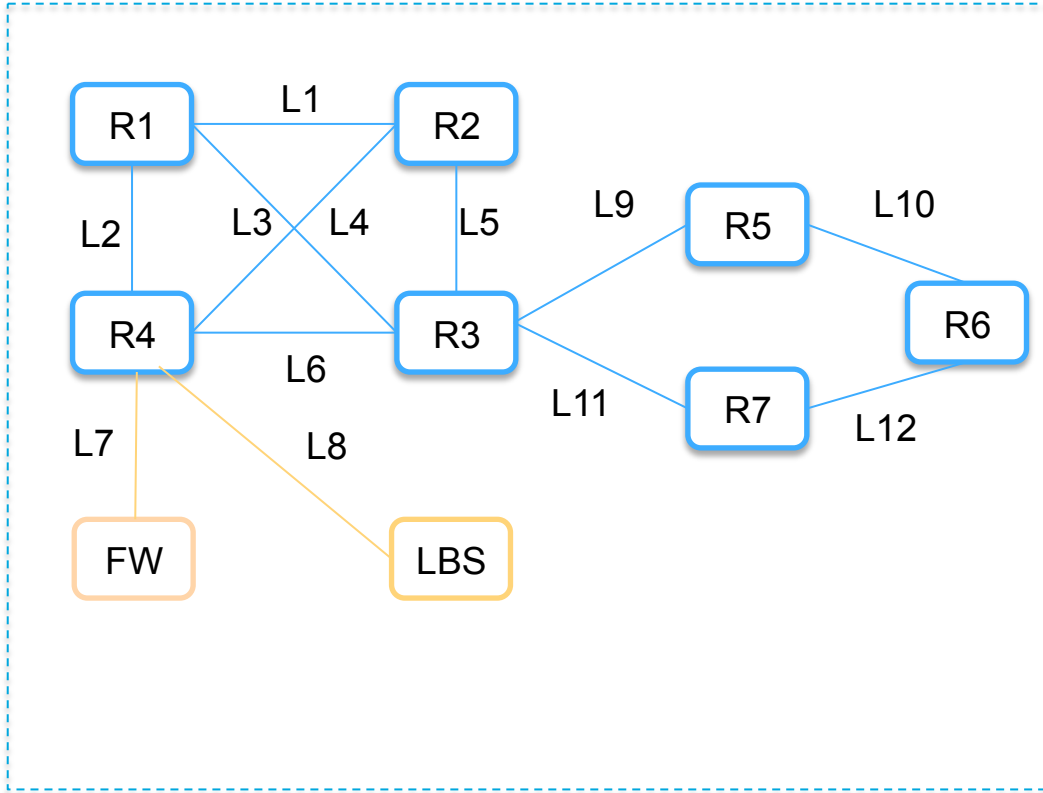
}else{

#NML {Policy flow_id Do "MODIFY", "dstip", "10.0.0.4" AndDo "ALLOW"}
    System.out.println("allow policy is applied");

}

...
```

Examples: Create Virtual Network



```
class VNDemo {
    public URI flow_id = null;
    ...
    public URI node_lbs_id = null;
    public URI[] Link_ids= new URI[12];
    public URI[] policy_ids = new URI[12];

    void constructNetWorkNode() {
        //generate node instaces
        #NML {
            Node node_r1_id Type "Forwarding" Owner null Items "NAME","R1"
            ...
            Node node_fw_id Type "Processing" Owner null Items "ServiceType", "FW" NAME,"Firewall"
            Node node_lbs_id Type "Processing" Owner null Items "ServiceType",
            "LBS", "NAME","Loadbance"
        }
    }
    void BuildTopo(){
        //generate links to form the network topology
        #NML{
            Link Link_ids[0] Endnodes (node_r1_id,node_r1_id) Layer "L3" Owner null Items
            "NAME","node1_link_node2", "Bandwith",5.0
            ....
        }
    }
}
```

Examples: Policy and Notification

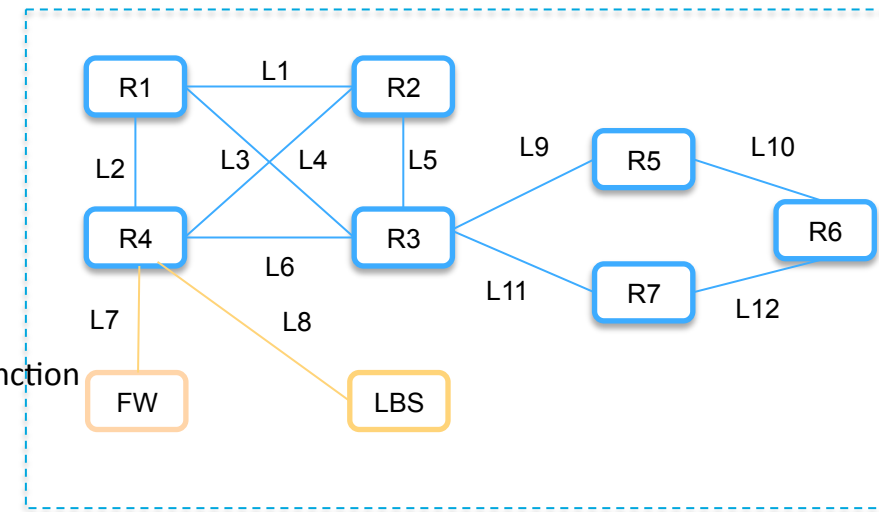
```

.....
    if (ret_code == 0) {
#NML      {
            Query "Qos" Value {pe.ActualQos} From pe.flowspec.flow_id
            Notification media.flow.flow_id On "Qos" , "AveBand" Every 60 RegisterListener callbackFunction
        }
    } else {
        pe.error = getErrorMsg(ret_code);
    }
    return;

} else {
    return;
}
}

public void callbackFunction(Uri media_id, GrantedQoS realQos, String reason){
    Media media = (Media) currentSession.medialist.get(j);
    if( media.media_id == media_id){
#NML        Policy policy_ids[2] Appliesto node_r1_id Condition {Utiliz_L1 >= Utiliz_L2} Action "forwardto", link_ids[1] With flow_id
#NML        Commit policy_ids[2], policy_ids[3]
            return;
        }
    }
}
}

```



Examples: Query Topology

```
void QueryNetworkTopo (URI vn_id){  
    List<URI> nodeidlist = null;
```

```
#NML { Query "NodeList" Value {nodeidlist} From vn_id}
```

```
    for(int i = 0; i < nodeidlist.size(); i++){  
        String nodename = "";  
        List<URI> linkidlist = null;
```

```
#NML    { Query "Name" Value {nodename} From nodeidlist.get(i) }
```

```
        System.out.println("node %d : id is %s, name is %s", i, nodeidlist.get(i).toString(), nodename);
```

```
#NML    { Query "LinkidList" Value {linkidlist} From nodeidlist.get(i) }
```

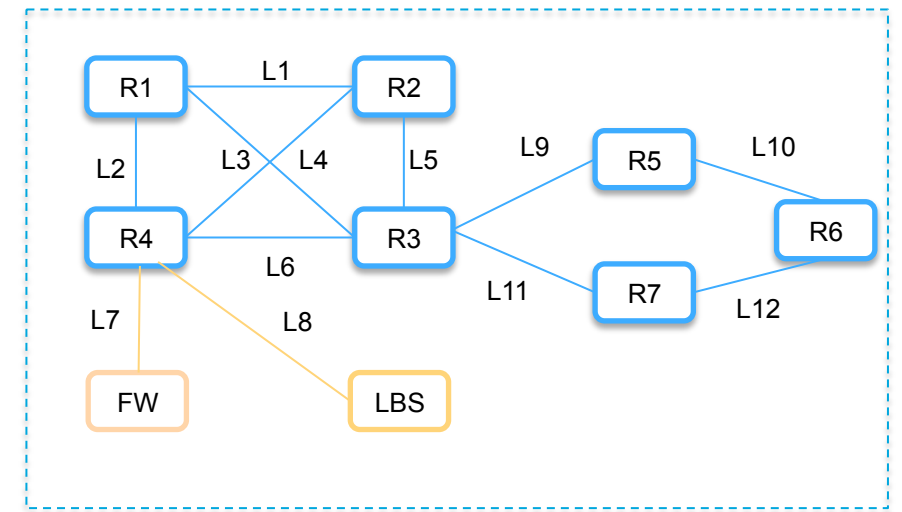
```
        for(int j = 0; j < linkidlist.size(); j++){  
            String linkname = "";
```

```
#NML        { Query "Name" Value {linkname} From linkidlist.get(j) }  
        System.out.println("link %d : id is %s, name is %s ", i, linkidlist.get(j).toString(), linkname);
```

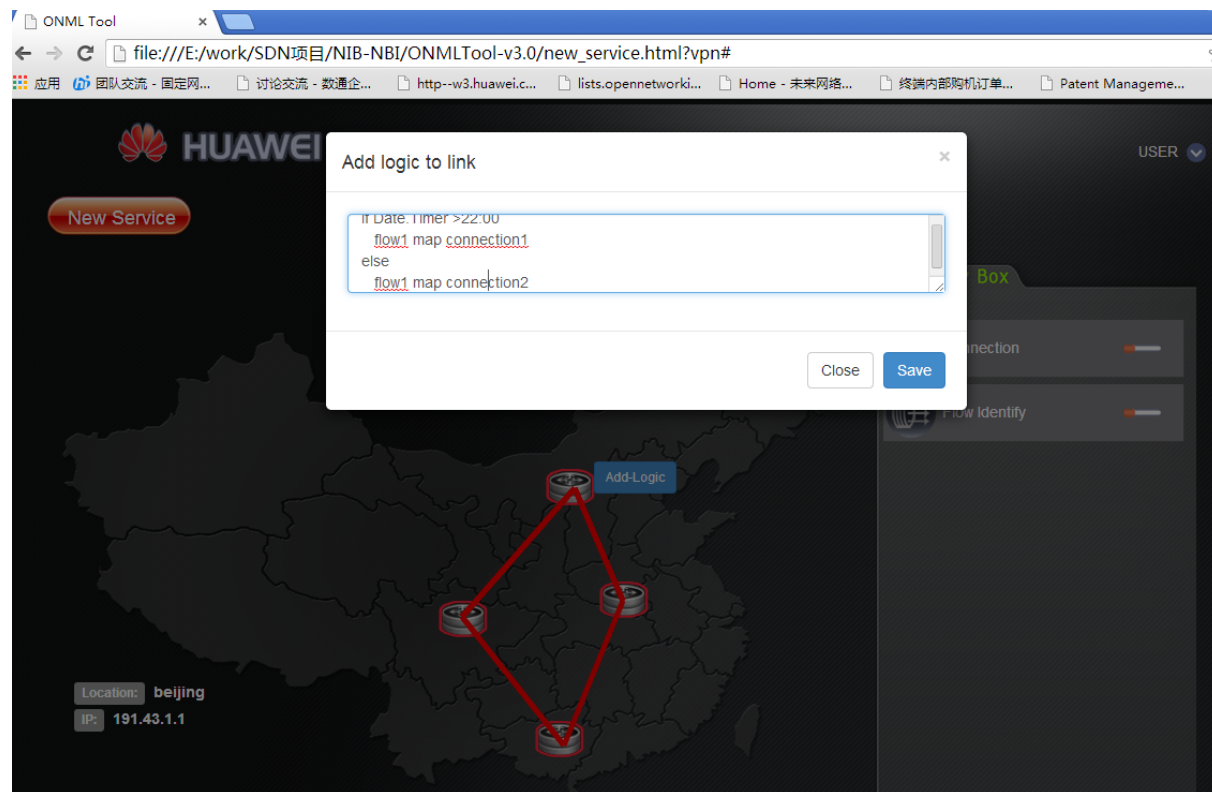
```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

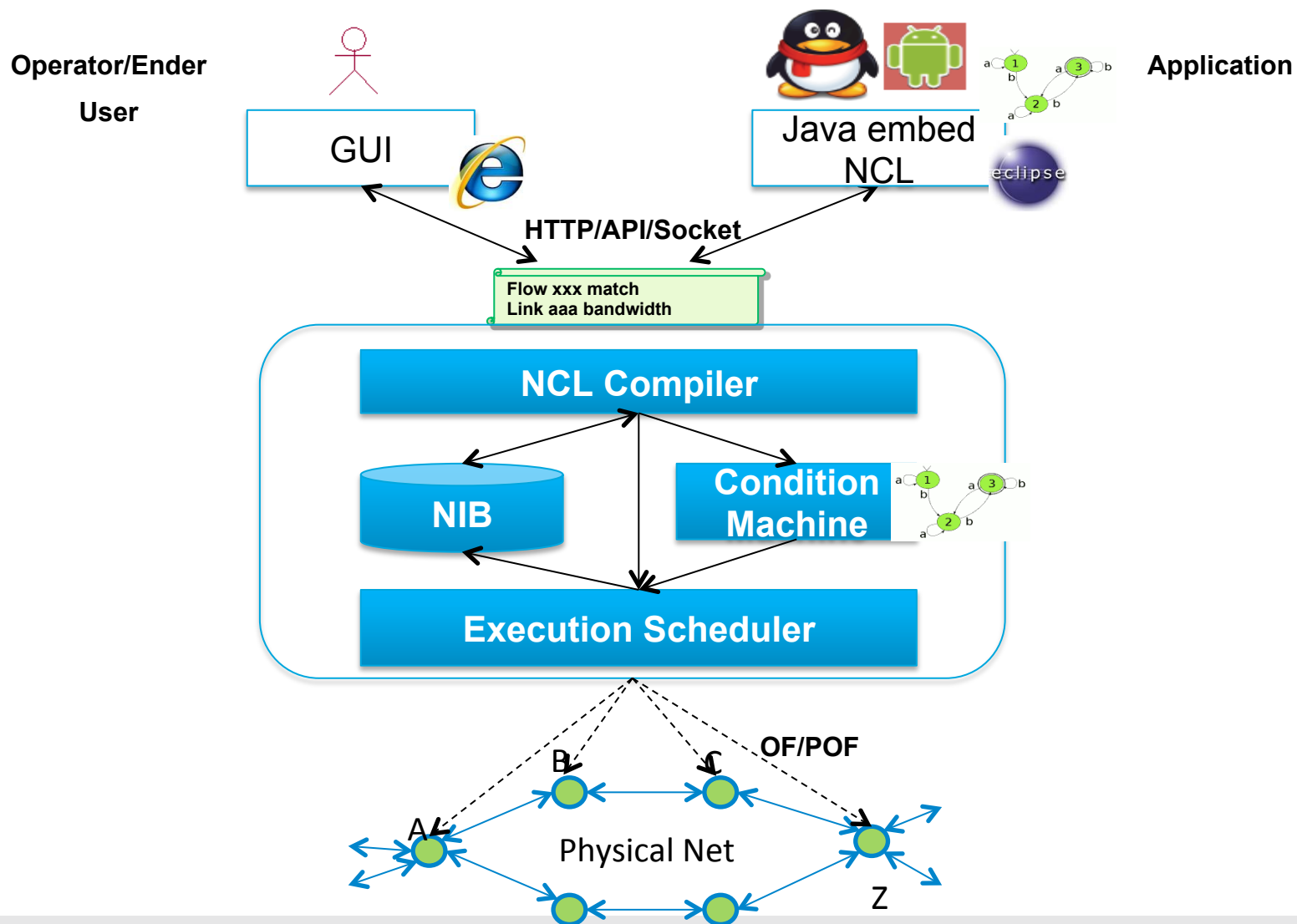


An Integrate Tool for NCL



```
<NML>
<User ID=001,Name="Tencent", UserGroup="OTT",Passwd=MD5("XXXX")>
</User>
/* 创建虚拟网络*/
<Create>
"links":[
  {"id":"L1", "endnodes": ["R1", "R2"], "layer":3, "bandwidth":"10G"},
  {"id":"L2", "endnodes": ["R1", "R4"], "layer":3, "bandwidth":"10G"},
  {"id":"L3", "endnodes": ["R1", "R3"], "layer":3, "bandwidth":"10G"},
  {"id":"L4", "endnodes": ["R2", "R4"], "layer":3, "bandwidth":"10G"},
  {"id":"L5", "endnodes": ["R2", "R3"], "layer":3, "bandwidth":"10G"},
  {"id":"L6", "endnodes": ["R3", "R4"], "layer":3, "bandwidth":"10G"},
]
</Create>
/* 标示流*/
"policies":[
  {"id":"p1", "owner": {"type":"flow", "id":"Austin2Chicago"},
   "conditions":[{"type":"time", "from":"7:00", "to":"18:00"}], "actions":
  [{"type":"forward", "path": ["R1", "R4", "R3"]}
  ],
  {"id":"p2", "owner": {"type":"flow", "id":"Chicago2Austin"},
   "conditions":[{"type":"time", "from":"7:00", "to":"18:00"}], "actions":
  [{"type":"forward", "path": ["R3", "R4", "R1"]}
  ],
]
/*特定流策略*/
<script>
  If  Date.timer<22:00 and Date.timer >4:00
    flow1 map connection1
  else
    flow1 map connection2
</script>
</NML>
```

NCL work

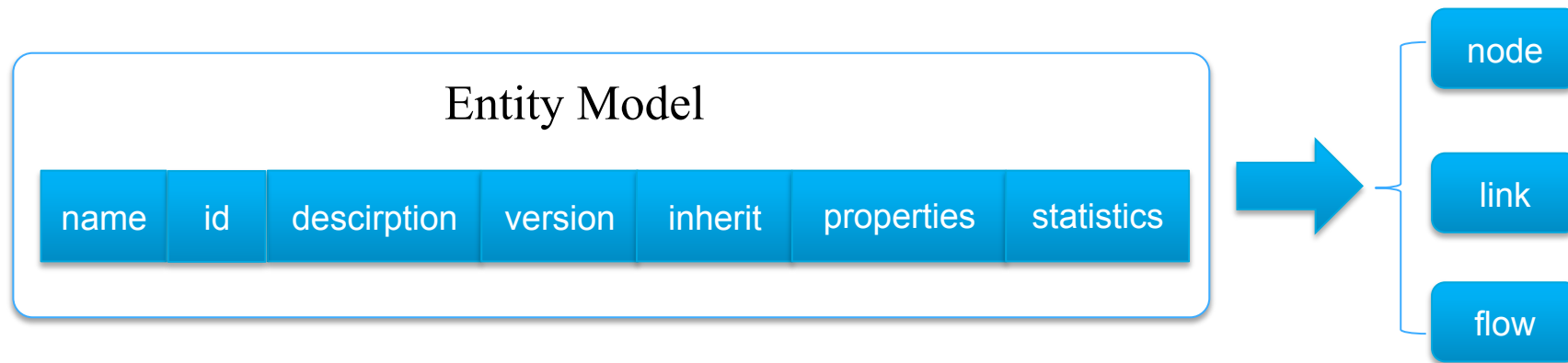


Thank You

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Entity Model

- The entity model provides a fundamental abstraction for both basic network objects (such as basic network element, link, and flow) and extended objects (such as firewall, load-balancer, and DPI).



Entities derived from the entity model

Entities

- **Node**

- Forwarding node
 - deal with L2/3 forwarding.
 - forward packets according to the forwarding table and modifies packet heads.
- Processing node
 - provide L4-7 network services, and will modify the body of packets
- Logical node
 - conceal internal topology of a network and exposes properties as one entity

- **Link**

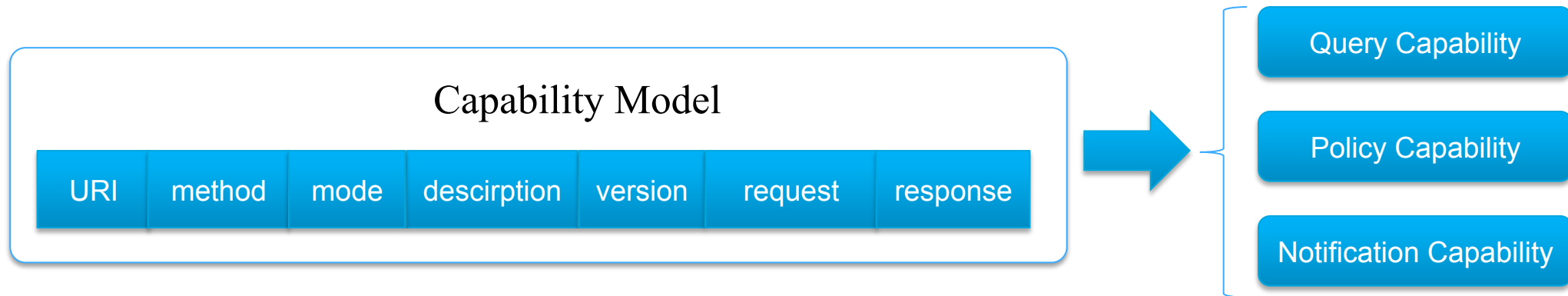
- describe the connectivity between nodes.

- **Flow**

- describe a sequence of packets with certain common characters

Capability Model

- **Capability model describes a set of network functions and operations that is opened to the user**
- **Two operation modes are defined in the capability model:**
 - Synchronous mode: e.g. a creation of virtual network.
 - Asynchronous mode: e.g. port failure notification.



Capabilities derived from the capabilities model

Reference Capabilities

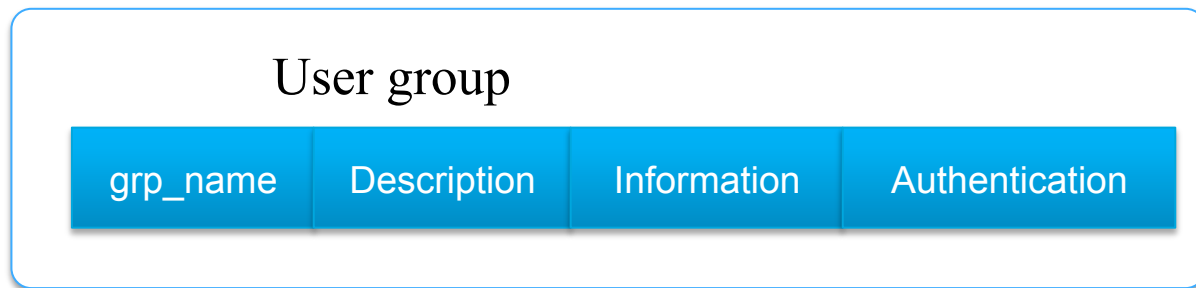
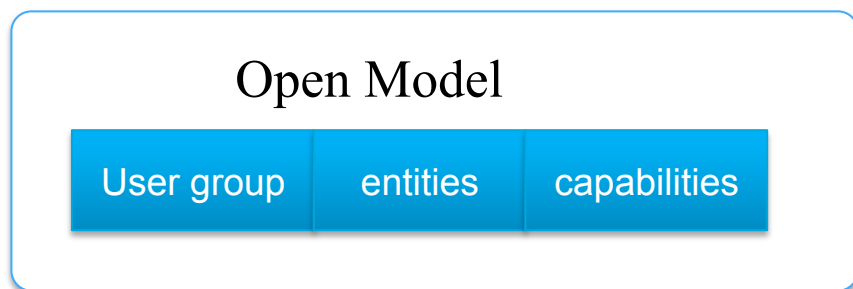
- **Query capability**
 - Query entities and their properties and statistics
- **Notification capability**
 - capability of notifying App about the information change of entities
 - in asynchronous mode
- **Policy capability**
 - capability of programing the behavior of specific entities
 - Policies can be applied to any entity
 - All the policies follow the same pattern "with <condition>, to execute <action>"

Condition: time, utilization, load,
other keywords in "statistics" (?)

action: drop, forward(line, in-path, off-path, chain); mirror(same as forward),
set(bandwidth, QoS, capacity, other keywords in "entity para" (?)) ,modify(?),

Open Model

- describe information about user group including authentication and account information
- define visibility of entity and capability which opened for different user groups.



Setup Information Model Using Meta Models

- **Identify entities to be used in the use-case**
- **Specialize entity models with parameters and statistics**
 - Customize parameters and statistics base on inheritance.
 - For example, a processing node model is derived from the basic entity model, a router model then is derived from the forwarding node model, and a customized router model is derived from the router model.
- **Specialize capabilities**
 - Define capabilities to be provided to users, and how to provide
 - Including: uri, request format, response format, ...