WebSphere MFT
MFT and Usage

Smarter Process

WebSphere MQ Best Practices

Who is this guy ??????????????????

- Bobbee Broderick (1970)
- Experience
  - Wall St Consultant 25+ years (z, CICS, DB2) (MQ, MQSI)
  - MQ/MQSI/WMB since 1998
- IBM – ISSW 8 years
  - Healthchecks
  - Crit Sits
  - Architecture, programming, etc
- Tech Lead for ISSW for MQ and MQFTE (MFT)
  Also for MQAMS/ WMB
- Star of "***The Good Shepherd"***
- **BB Photography**
  www.bb-photography.org
- **Email – rkbroder@us.ibm.com**

WebSphere MQ Industry Practices

Credits

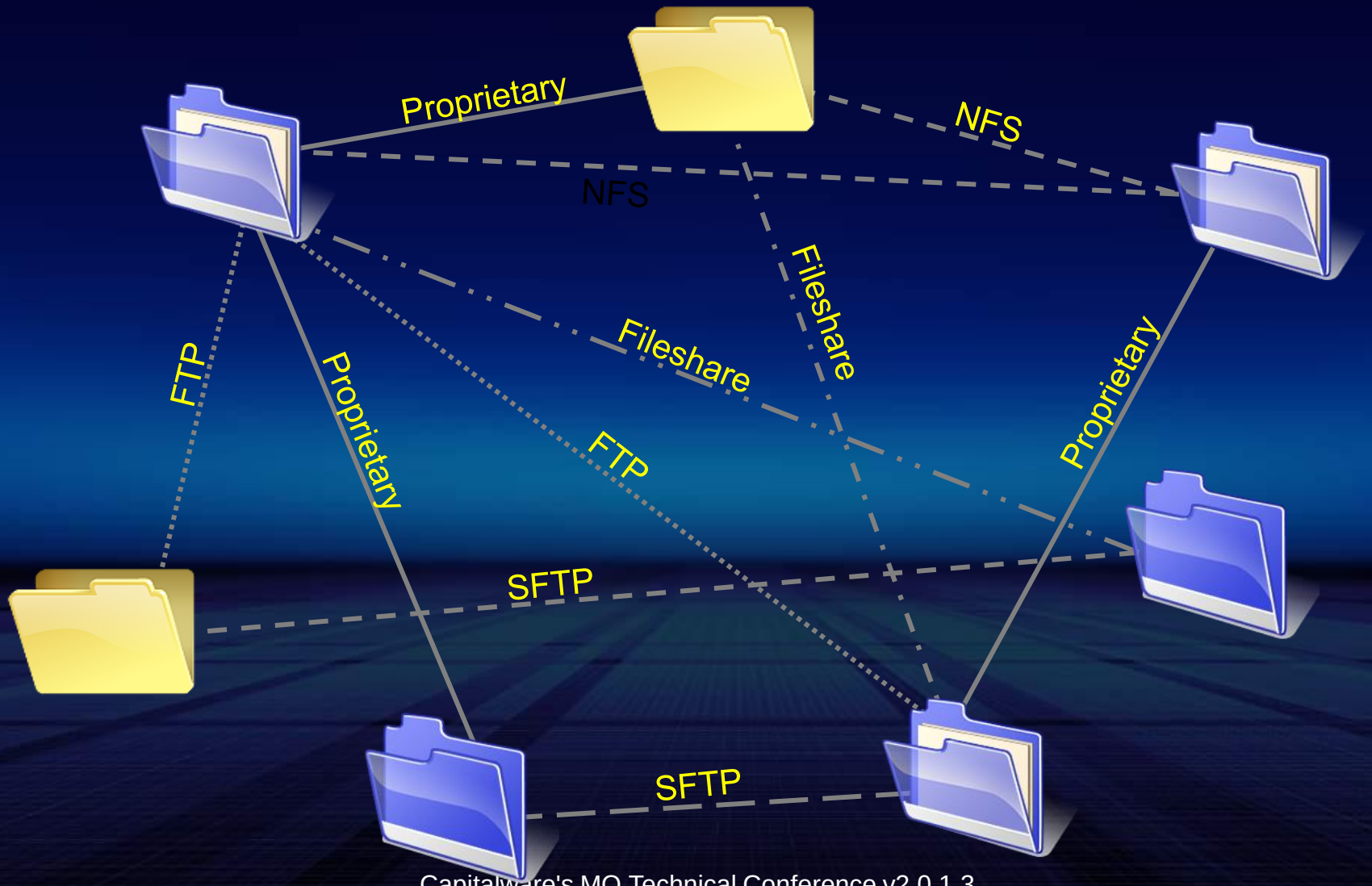
- Talk to your IBM representative
- Talk to your collegues
- Visit The Capitalware site

http://www.capitalware.biz/

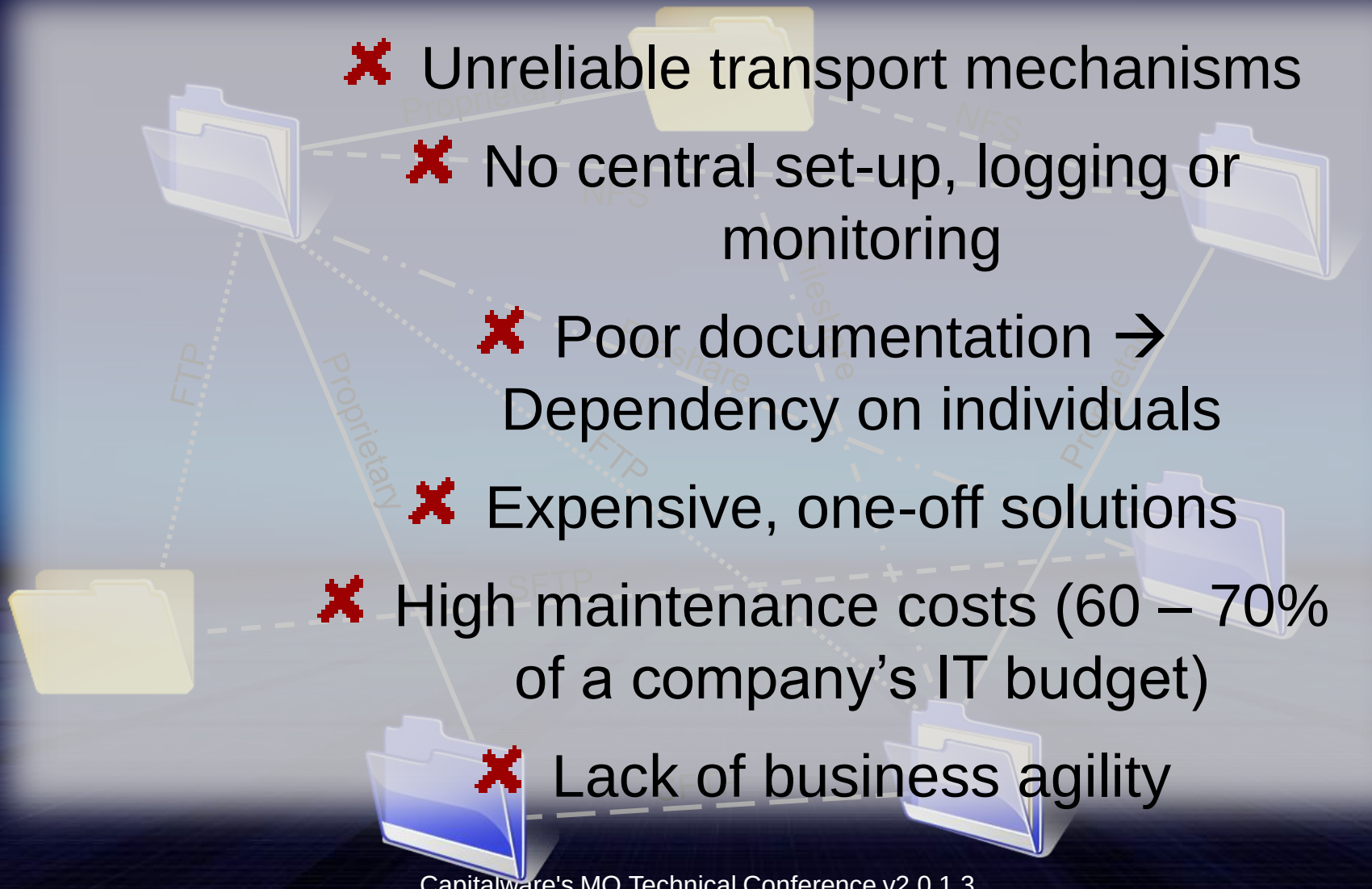
Agenda

- Common problems transferring file data
- Introduction to MQ Managed File Transfer
- IBM's Managed File Transfer Portfolio
  - Introducing IBM Sterling Commerce products
- Key MQ Managed File Transfer concepts
- Usage scenarios for MQ Managed File Transfer

Typical File Movement Implementations

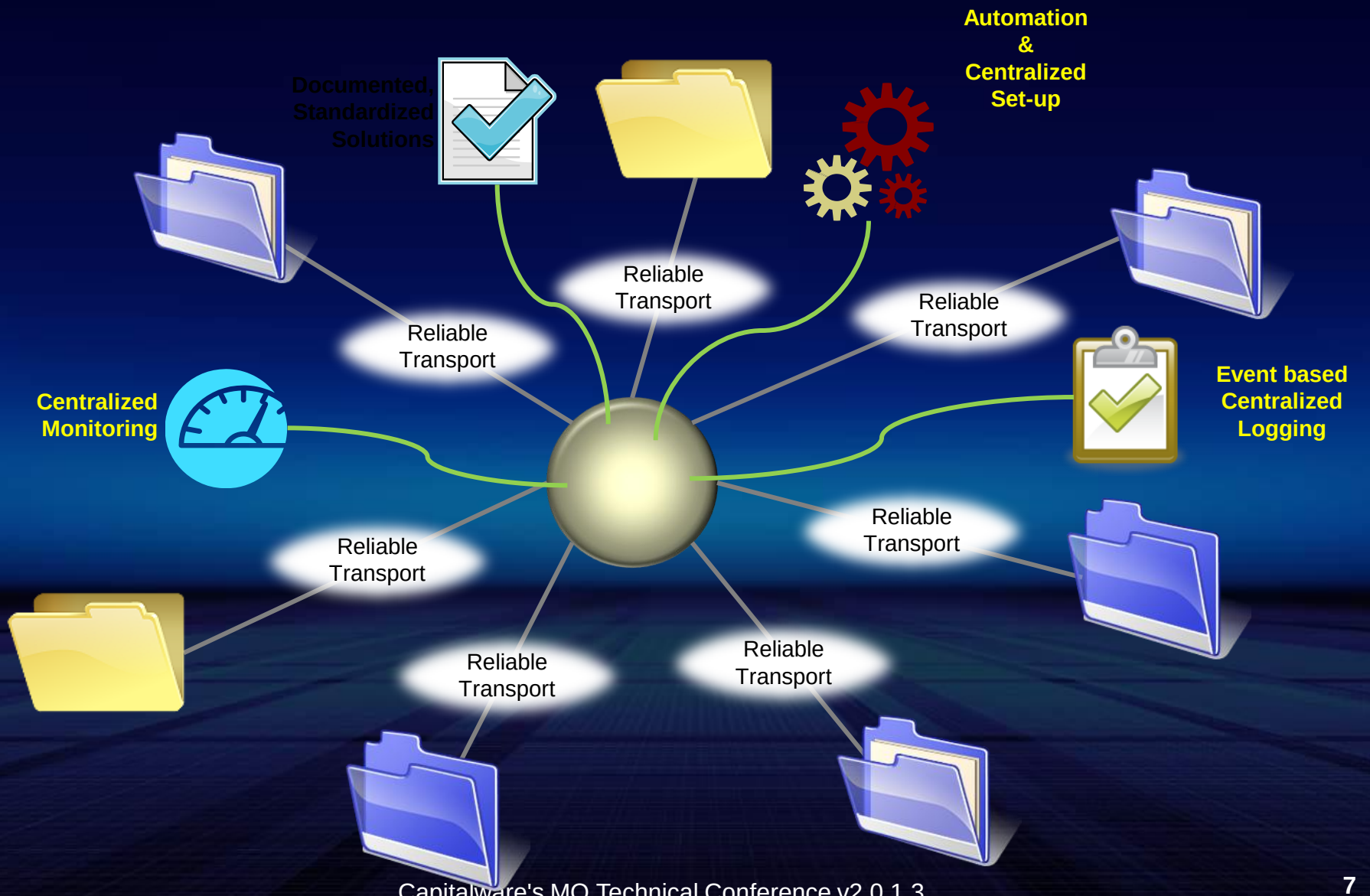


Typical File Movement Implementations



- ✘ Unreliable transport mechanisms
- ✘ No central set-up, logging or monitoring
- ✘ Poor documentation → Dependency on individuals
- ✘ Expensive, one-off solutions
- ✘ High maintenance costs (60 – 70% of a company's IT budget)
- ✘ Lack of business agility

Ideal File Transfer Infrastructure

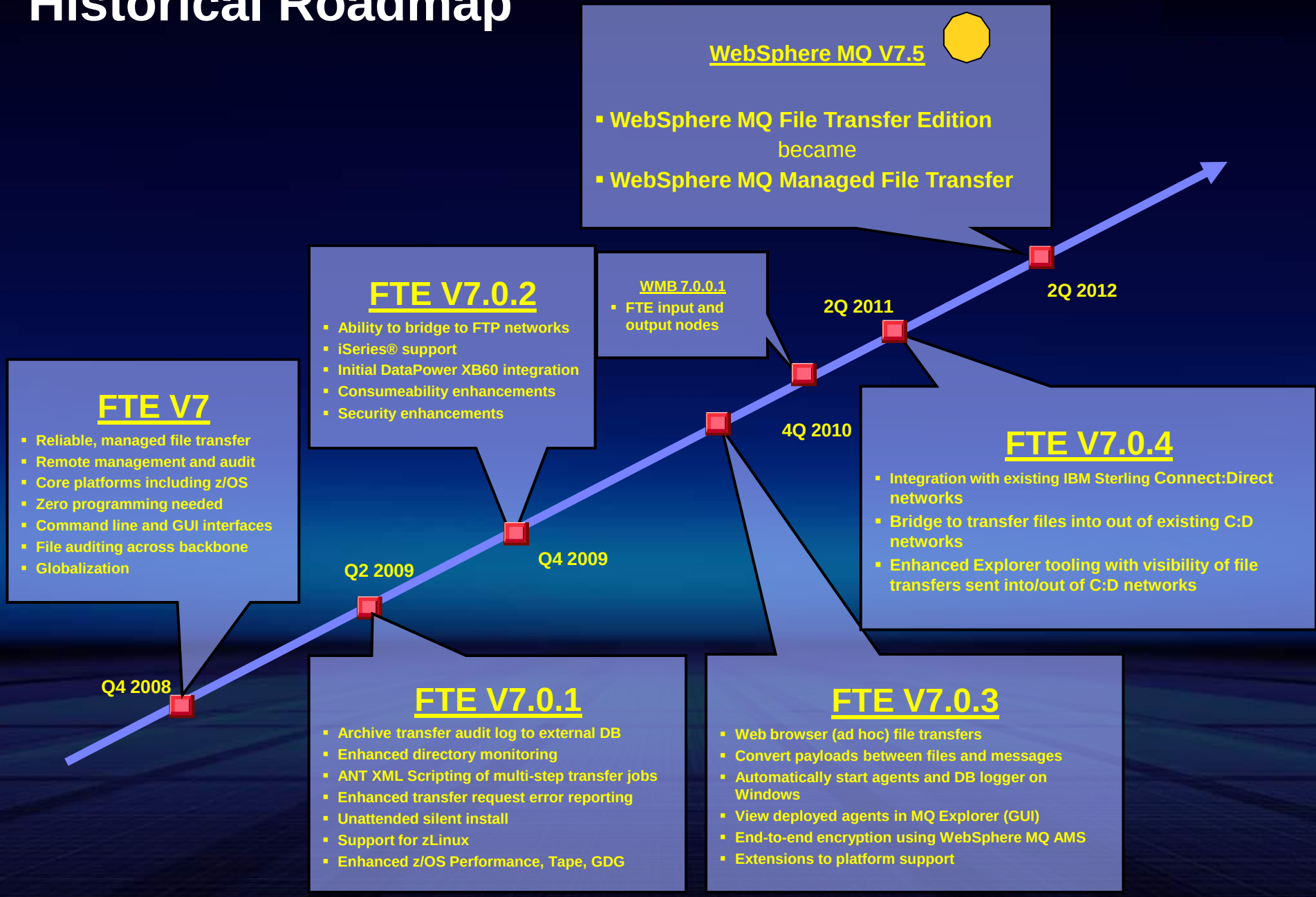


WebSphere Messaging Foundation

Portfolio of messaging capabilities optimized for a range of connectivity challenges

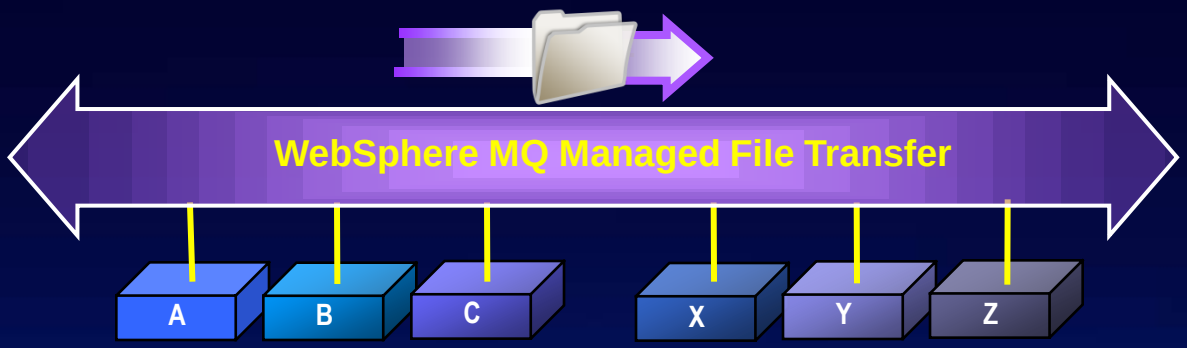
WebSphere MQ	for mission critical data
WebSphere MQ for z/OS	for System z investment
WebSphere Managed File Transfer	for managed file transfer
WebSphere Adv. Message Security	for maximum security
WebSphere MQ Telemetry	for sensors and devices
WebSphere MQ Low Latency	for high speed delivery
WebSphere MQ Message Sight	Near-Instantaneous Messaging for the Interconnected World

Historical Roadmap



What is WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer?

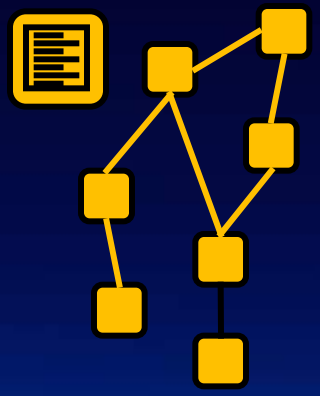
Adds managed file transfer capabilities to WebSphere MQ



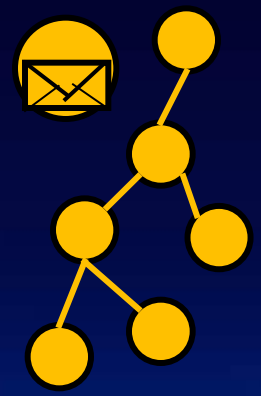
☑ **Auditable**	Full logging, auditing of file transfers + archive audit data to a database
☑ **Reliable**	Checkpoint restart. Exploits solid reliability of WebSphere MQ
☑ **Secure**	Protects file data in transit using SSL. Provides end-to-end encryption using AMS
☑ **Automated**	Providing scheduling and file watching capabilities for event-driven transfers
☑ **Centralized**	Provides centralized monitoring and deployment of file transfer activities
☑ **Any file size**	Efficiently handles anything from bytes to terabytes
☑ **Integrated**	Integrates with WMB, WSRR, ITCAMs for Apps, DataPower + Connect:Direct
☑ **Cost Effective**	Reuses investment in WebSphere MQ. Wide range of support (inc. z/OS and IBM i)

A consolidated transport for both files and messages

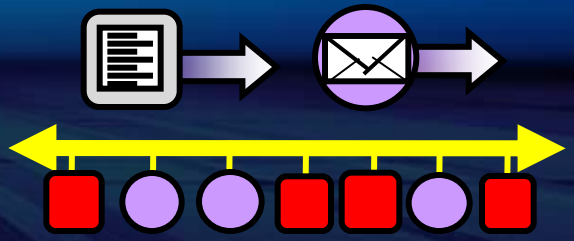
- Traditional approaches to file transfer result in parallel infrastructures
  - One for files – typically built on FTP
  - One for application messaging – based on WebSphere MQ, or similar
- High degree of duplication in creating and maintaining the two infrastructures
- Managed File Transfer reuses the MQ network for managed file transfer and yields:
  - Operational savings and simplification
  - Reduced administration effort
  - Reduced skills requirements and maintenance



File Transfers



Application Messaging



Consolidated Transport for Messages & Files

With Sterling Commerce, IBM offers comprehensive MFT Capabilities

Addressing multiple use cases and scenarios for both internal and multi-enterprise file transfer

- **WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer** provides file transfer optimized for data delivery across WebSphere MQ networks
- **Sterling Connect Direct** provides peer-to-peer file transfer optimized for data delivery within and between enterprises across Connect:Direct protocol
- **Sterling File Gateway** provides trading partner on-boarding, broad protocol support, management and visibility
- **For comprehensive file transfer needs** IBM provides integration between WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer, Sterling Connect:Direct, and Sterling File Gateway

IBM MFT Vision

Accelerate and simplify governance of the growing volume of business-critical data movement within and beyond the enterprise with Smarter MFT

Maximize the agility and performance of dynamic business networks by reducing the complexity, risk, and cost of file transfer

Visibility
- Single view of transfer activity
- Transaction and business monitoring
- Dashboards, analytics, and scorecards

Security & Performance
- Assured delivery and high availability
- Protection of file data in transit and at rest
- Accelerated transport and low latency

Usability & Management
- Persona-based, easy-to-use interfaces
- Unified control and configuration of infrastructure
- Community on-boarding and coordination

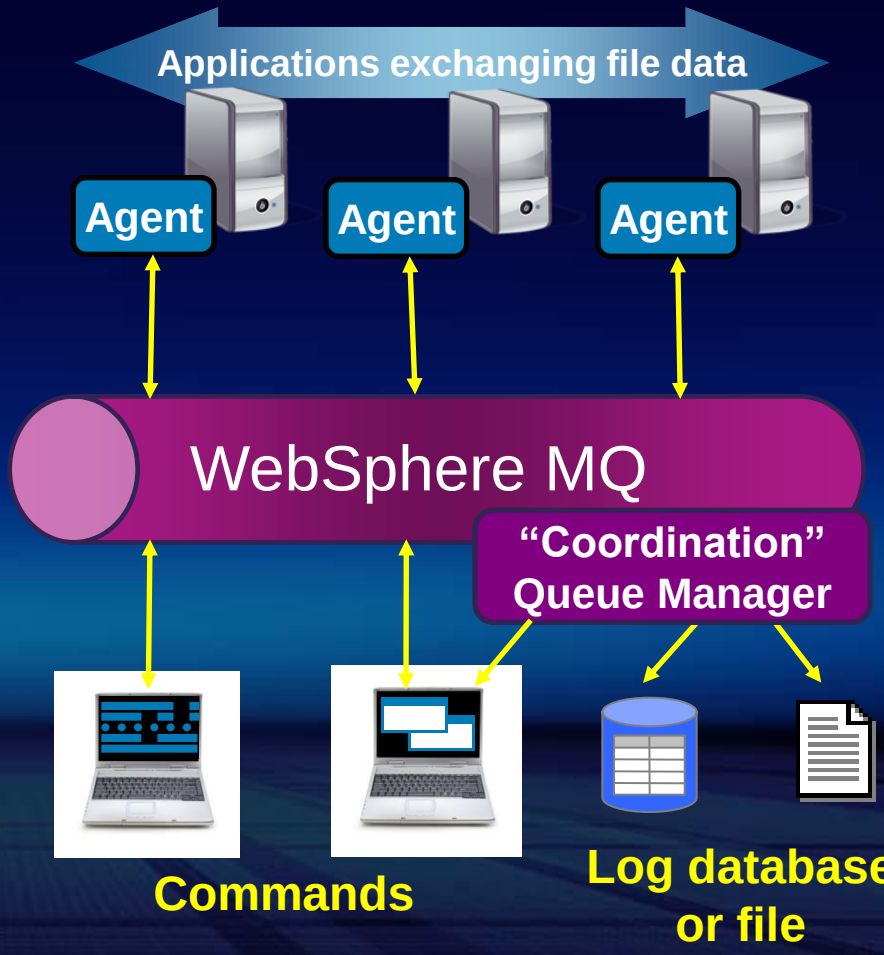
Universal
- Any transport, any protocol, and any partner
- Global and cloud-enabled deployment
- Broad platform coverage and industry standards

Connectivity
- Integration with BPM to drive business processes
- Leveraging ESBs to enable service orientation
- SOA Registry/Repository for lifecycle governance

Components of a typical WMQ MFT network

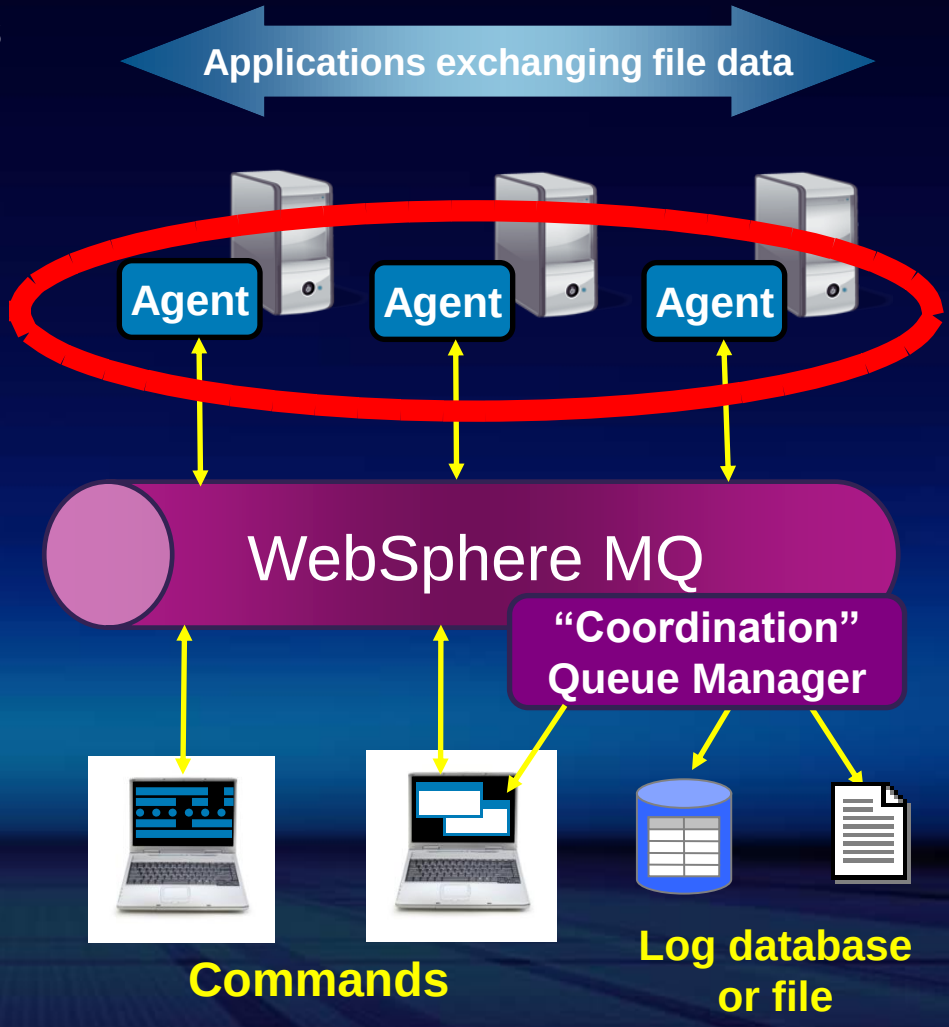
- Coordination queue manager
  - Gathers together file transfer events
- Command Queue Manager
  - Processes WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition commands
- Agent Queue Manager
  - Direct Transfer for Agent Files

- Agents
  - The endpoints for managed file transfer operations
- Commands
  - Send instructions to agents
- Log database or file
  - A historical record of file transfers



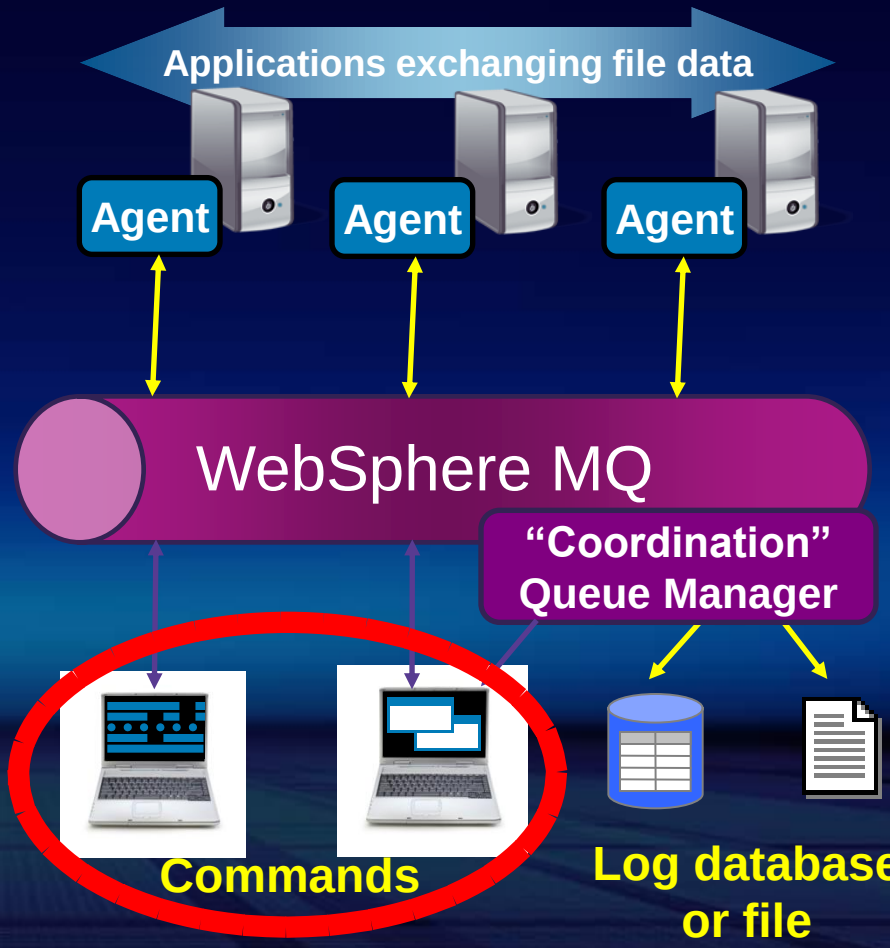
Agents

- Act as the end points for file transfers
- Long running MQ applications that transfer files by splitting them into MQ messages
  - Efficient transfer protocol avoids excessive use of MQ log space or messages building up on queues
- Multi-threaded file transfers
  - Can both send and receive multiple files at the same time
- Generate a log of file transfer activities which is sent to the “coordination queue manager”
  - This can be used for audit purposes
- Associated with one particular queue manager (either v6 or v7)
  - Agent state on queues



Commands

- Send instructions to agents and display information about agent configuration
  - Via MQ messages
- Many implementations of commands:
  - MQ Explorer plug-in
  - Command line programs
  - Open scripting language
  - JCL
  - Documented interface to program to

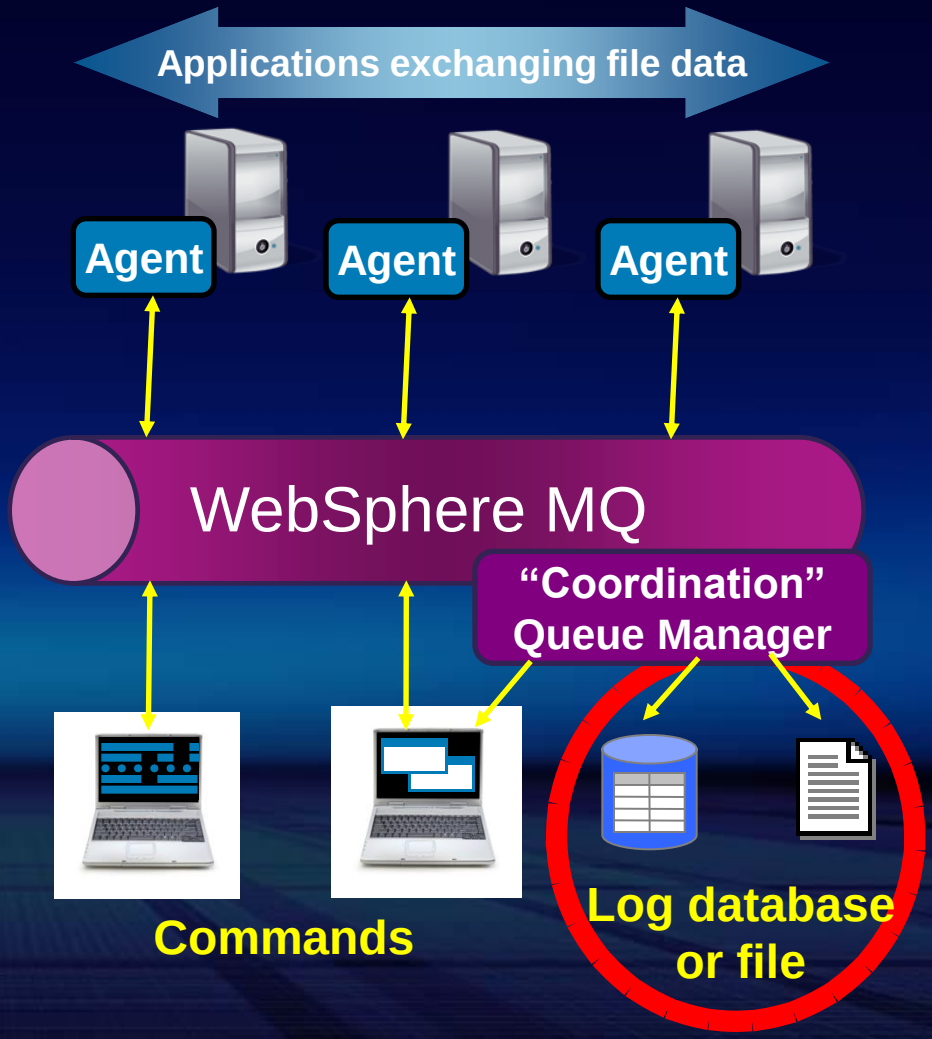


Log Database & File

- Keeps a historical account of transfers that have taken place
  - Who, where, when… etc.
- Implemented by the 'logger' component which connects to the coordination queue manager
  - Stand alone application

  - Can log to database or file
  - Or JEE application

  - Can log to database only
- Queryable via Web Gateway
  - Also a documented interface

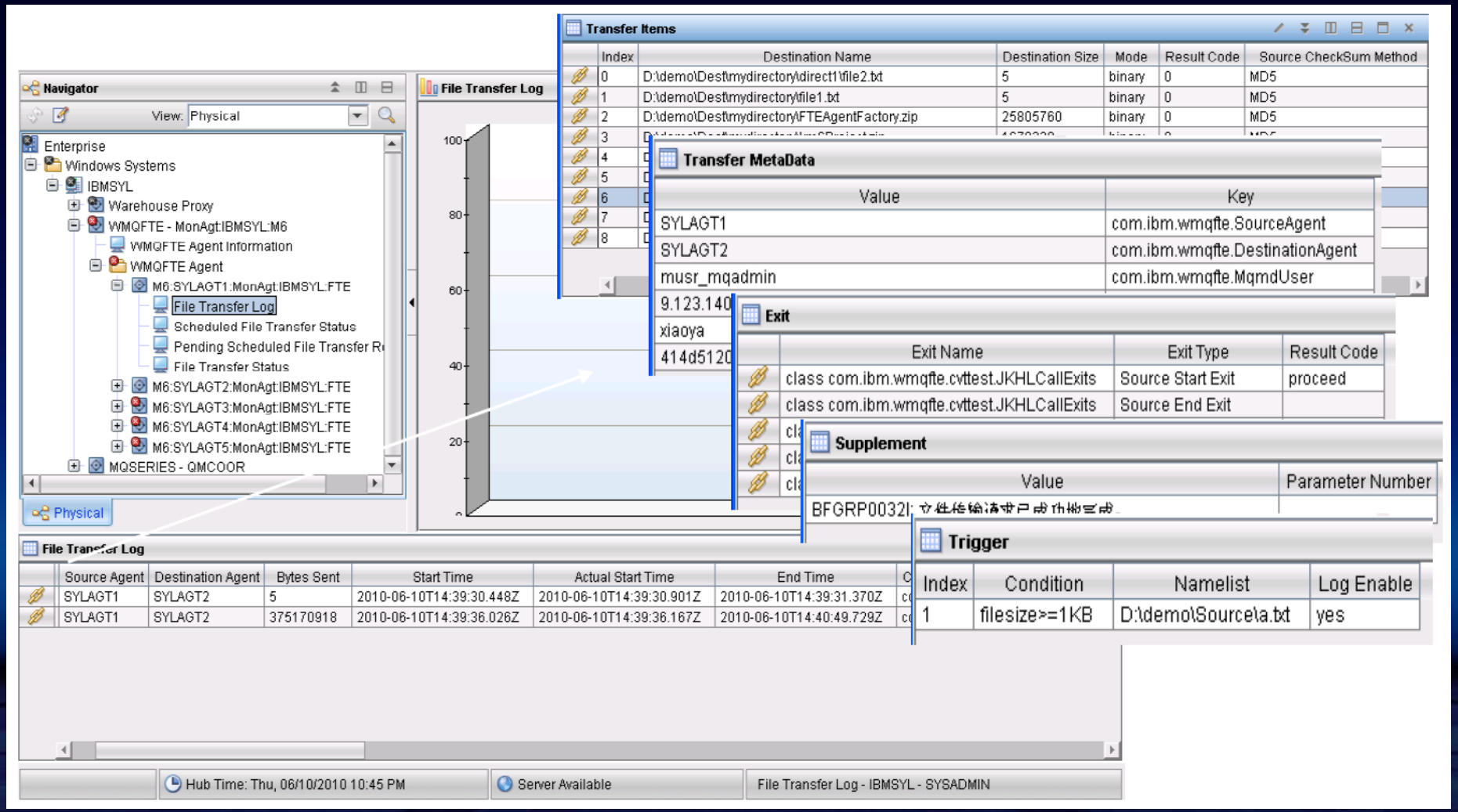


There are notes that accompany this

Tivoli MFT Monitoring Agent

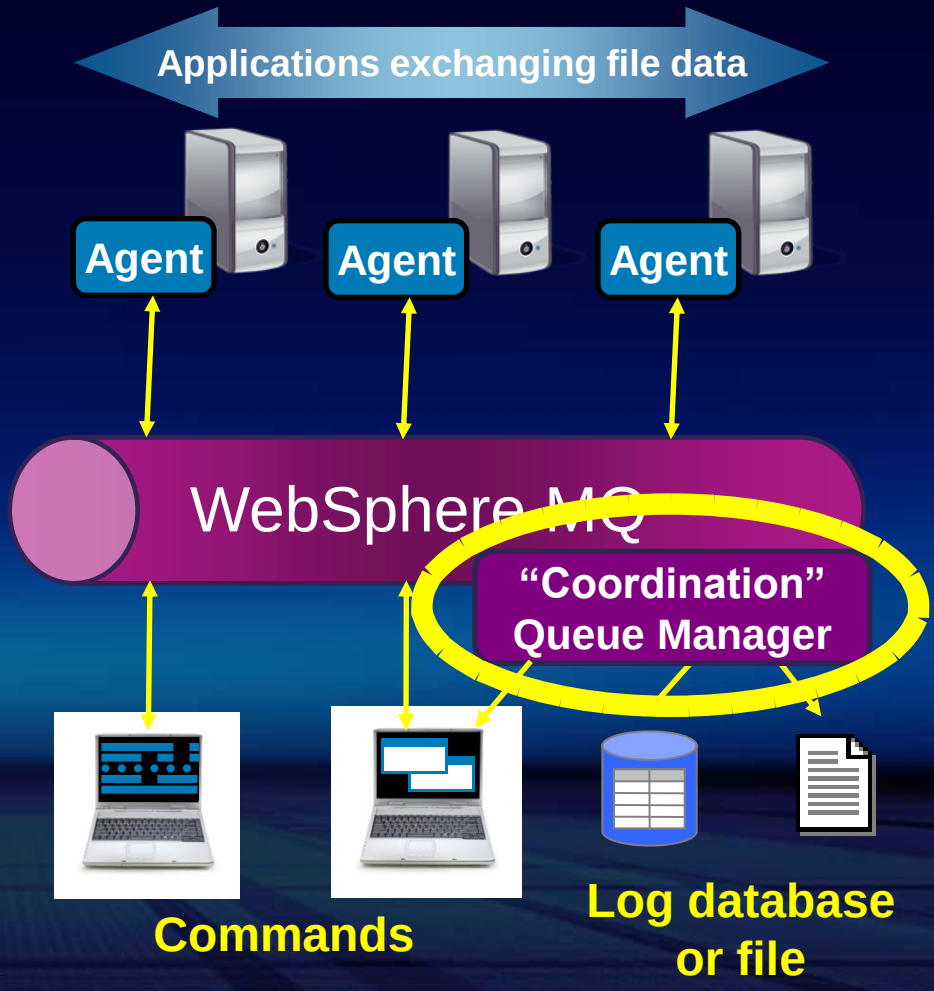
- Keeps a historical account of transfers that have taken place
  - Who, where, when… etc.
- Implemented subscribing to the FTE Topics that are published by the Coordination Queue Manager.
- Integrated into ITCAM
  - Dashboard - Tivoli Enterprise Portal
  - Can view all events within FTE
  - Custom Event monitoring
  - Process Implementation

Tivoli MFT Monitoring Agent



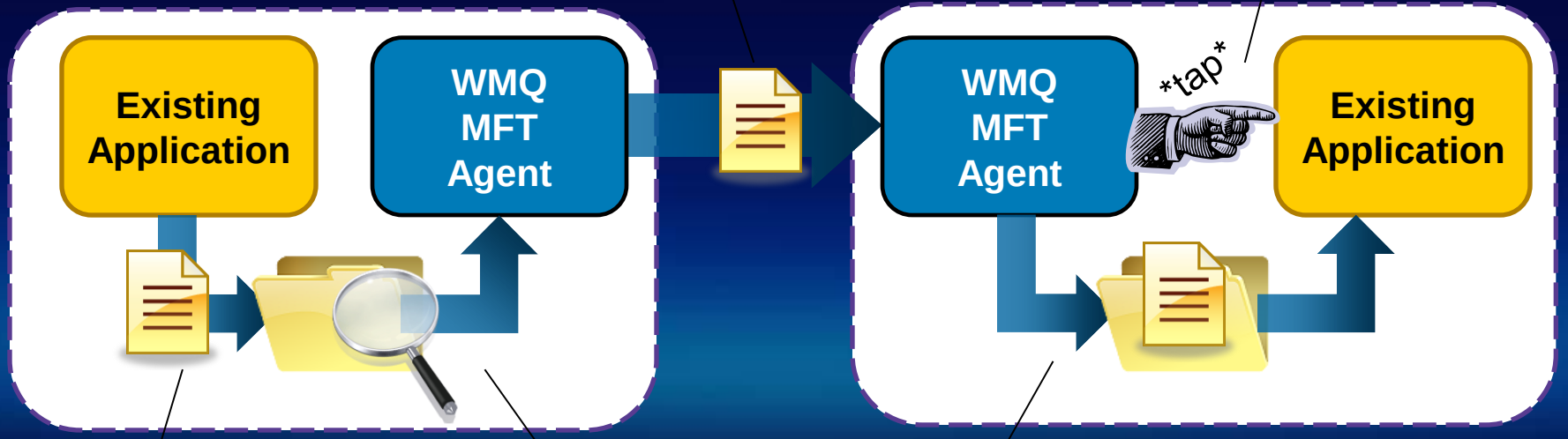
Coordination Queue Manager

- Gathers together information about events in the file transfer network
- Not a single point of failure
  - Can be made highly available
  - Messages stored + forwarded
- MQ v7 publish / subscribe
  - Allows multiple log databases, command installs
  - Documented interface



There are notes that accompany this

Example usage of monitoring + program execution



3. MFT transports file to destination

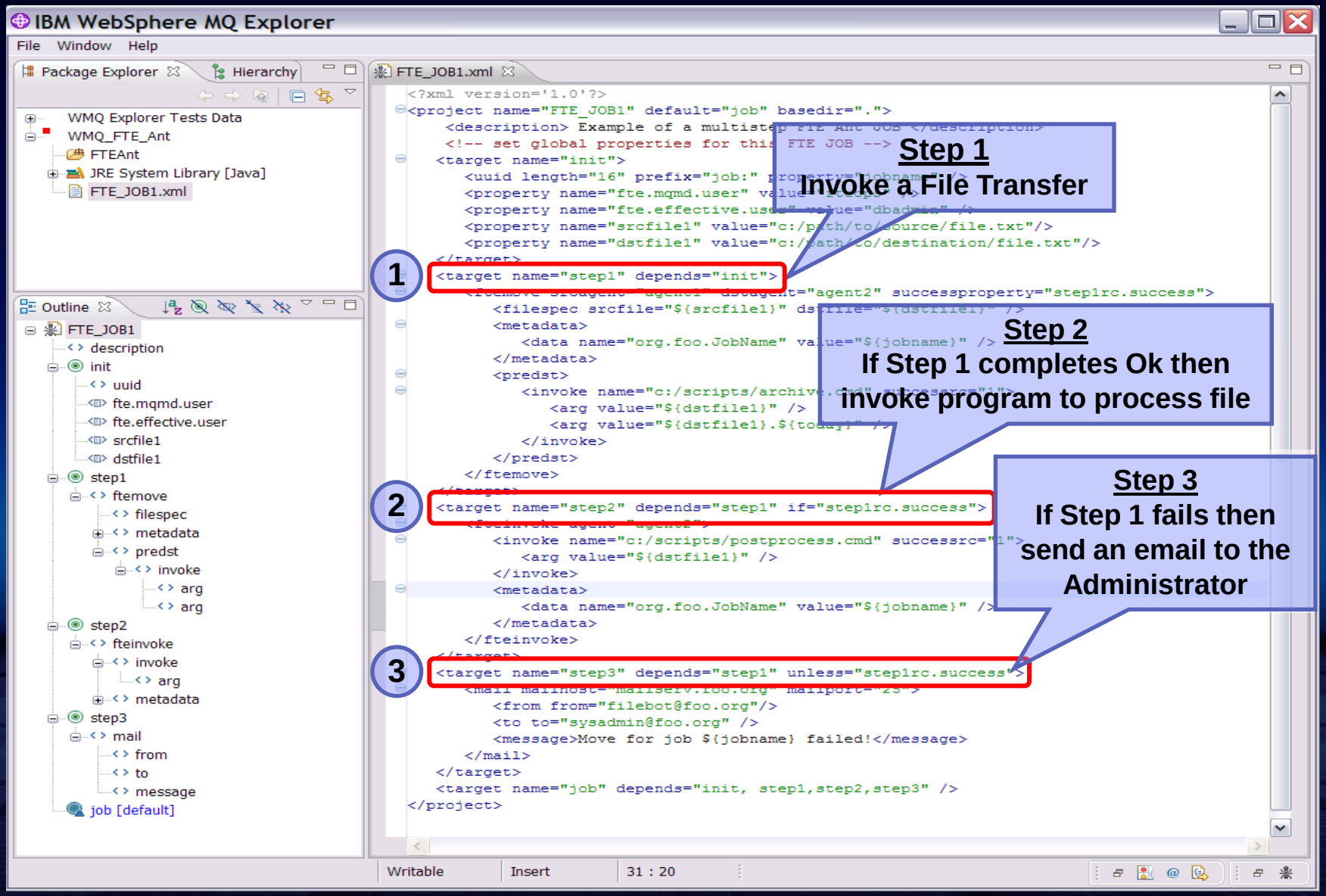
5. MFT can also start another application to process the file

1. Application writes file to file system

2. Agent monitors file system, spots arrival of file and based on rules, transfers the file

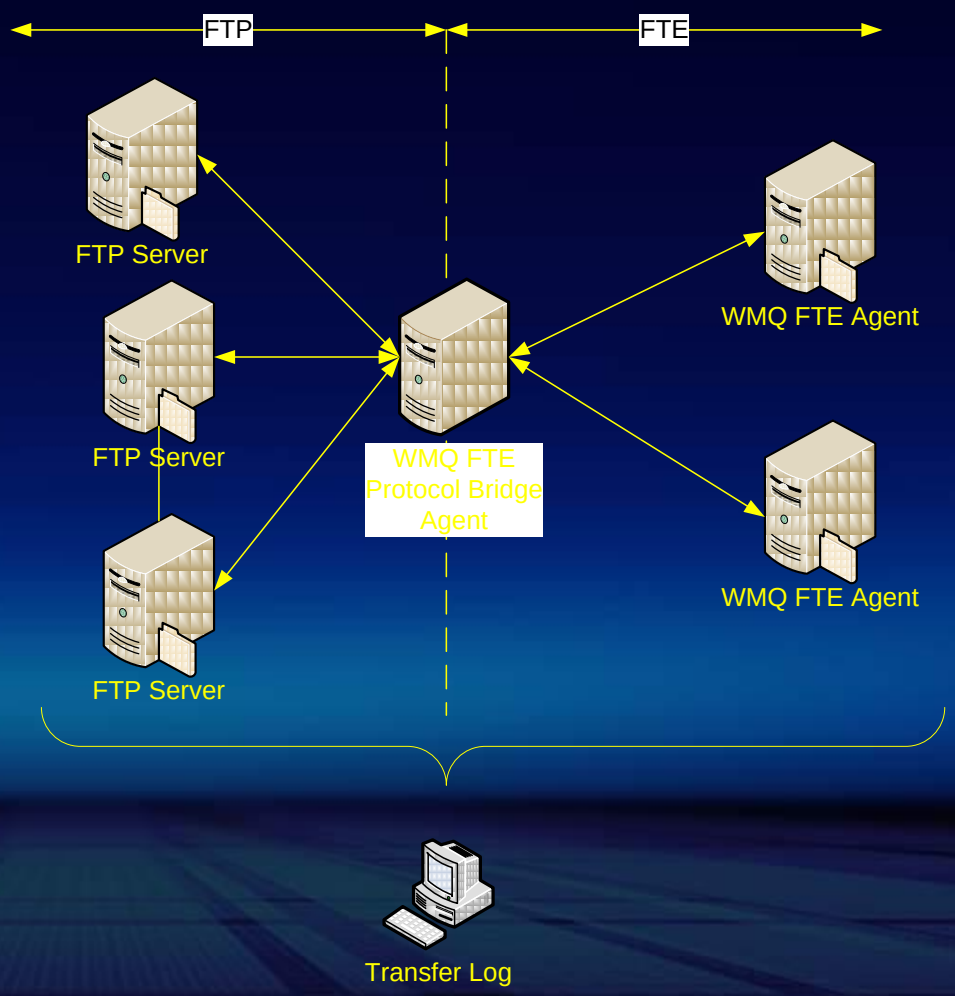
4. At destination MQ MFT writes file to file system

XML Scripting using Apache Ant



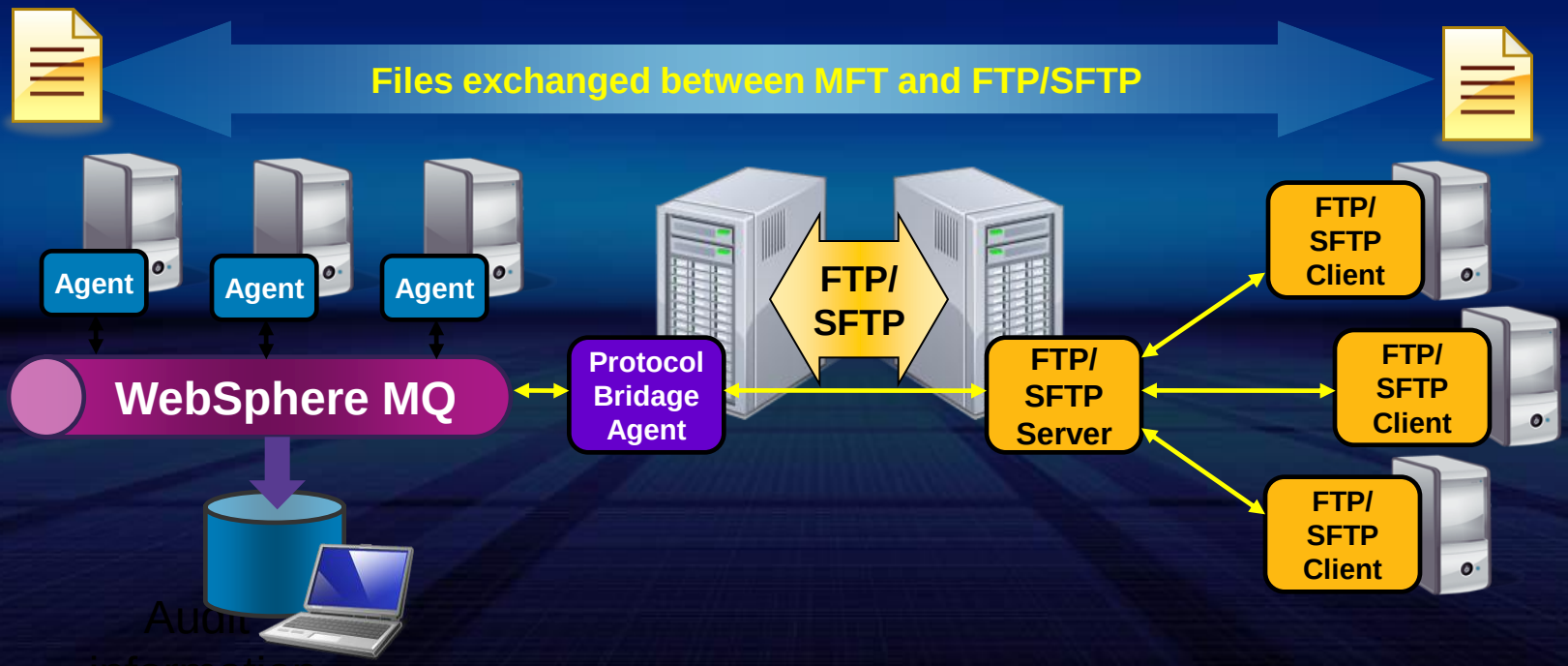
What is a WMQ FTE Protocol Bridge?

- The protocol bridge is specialized type of WMQFTE agent.
- This agent gets (downloads) and puts (uploads) files using FTP, SFTP, FTPS protocols.
- File transfer requests are initiated like any other transfer
- Supports one or more FTP Servers (v7.0.4.1)
- Transfers are streamed thru the Protocol Bridge Agent
- End to end visibility of transfer in Transfer Log

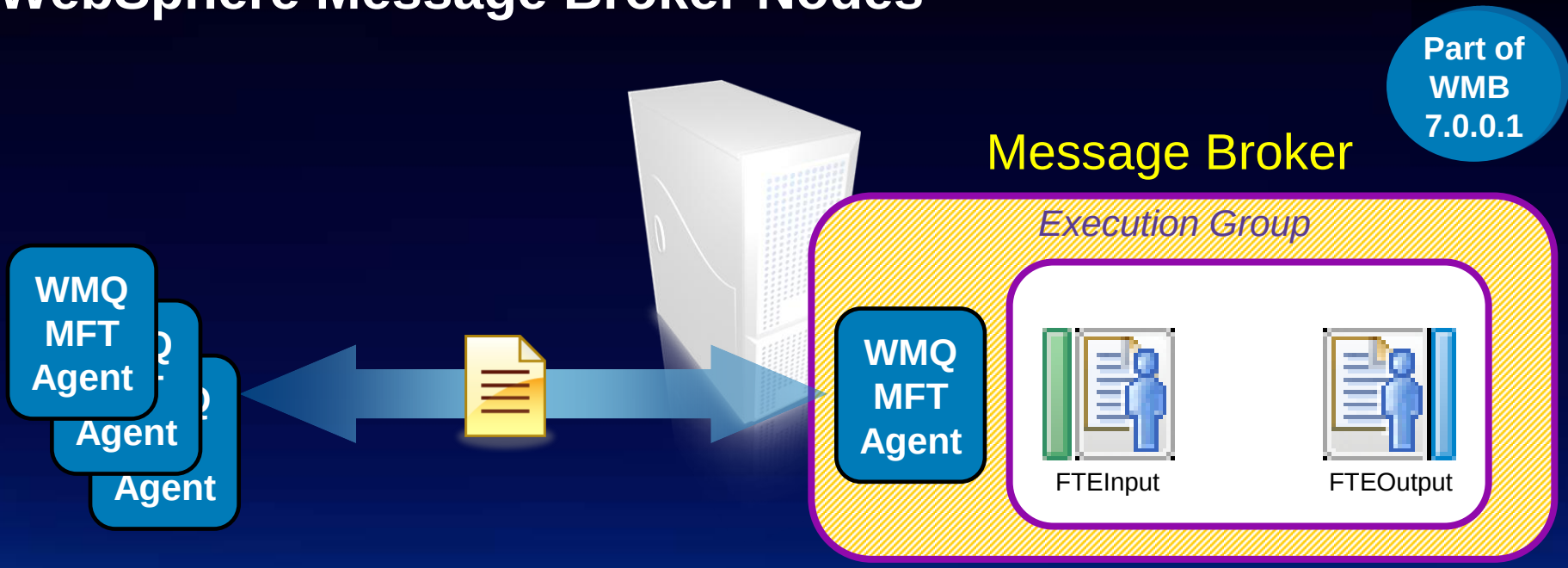


Protocol Bridging Agents

- Support for transferring files located on FTP and SFTP servers
  - The source or destination for a transfer can be an FTP or an SFTP server
- Enables incremental modernization of FTP-based home-grown solutions
  - Provides auditability of transfers across FTP/SFTP to central audit log
  - Ensures reliability of transfers across FTP/SFTP with checkpoint restart
- Fully integrated into graphical, command line and XML scripting interfaces
  - Just looks like another MFT agent…

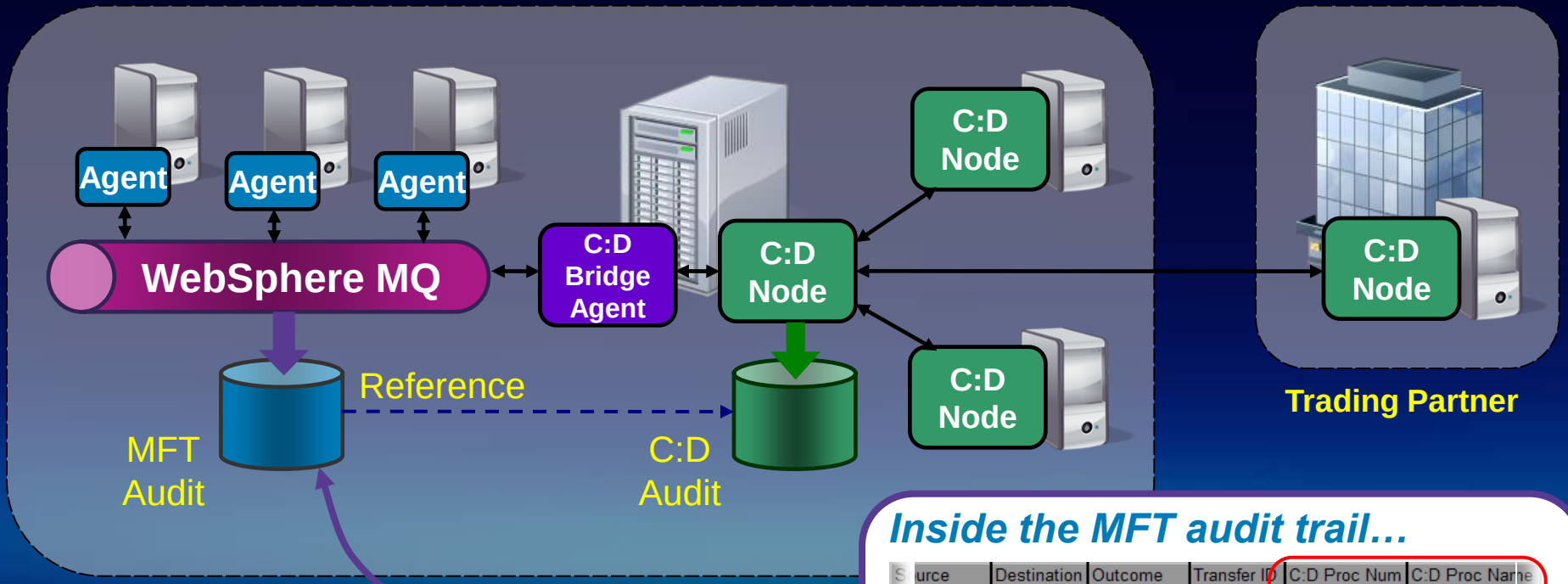


WebSphere Message Broker Nodes



- FTEInput node
  - Build flows that accepts file transfers from the WMQ MFT network
- FTEOutput node
  - Build flows that are designed to send a file across a WMQ MFT network
- When WMQ MFT nodes are used in a flow an MFT agent is automatically started in the Message Broker Execution Group

Integration with IBM Sterling Connect:Direct



- The Connect:Direct Bridge capability supports managed file transfers that span MFT and C:D with a joined up audit trail

Inside the MFT audit trail…

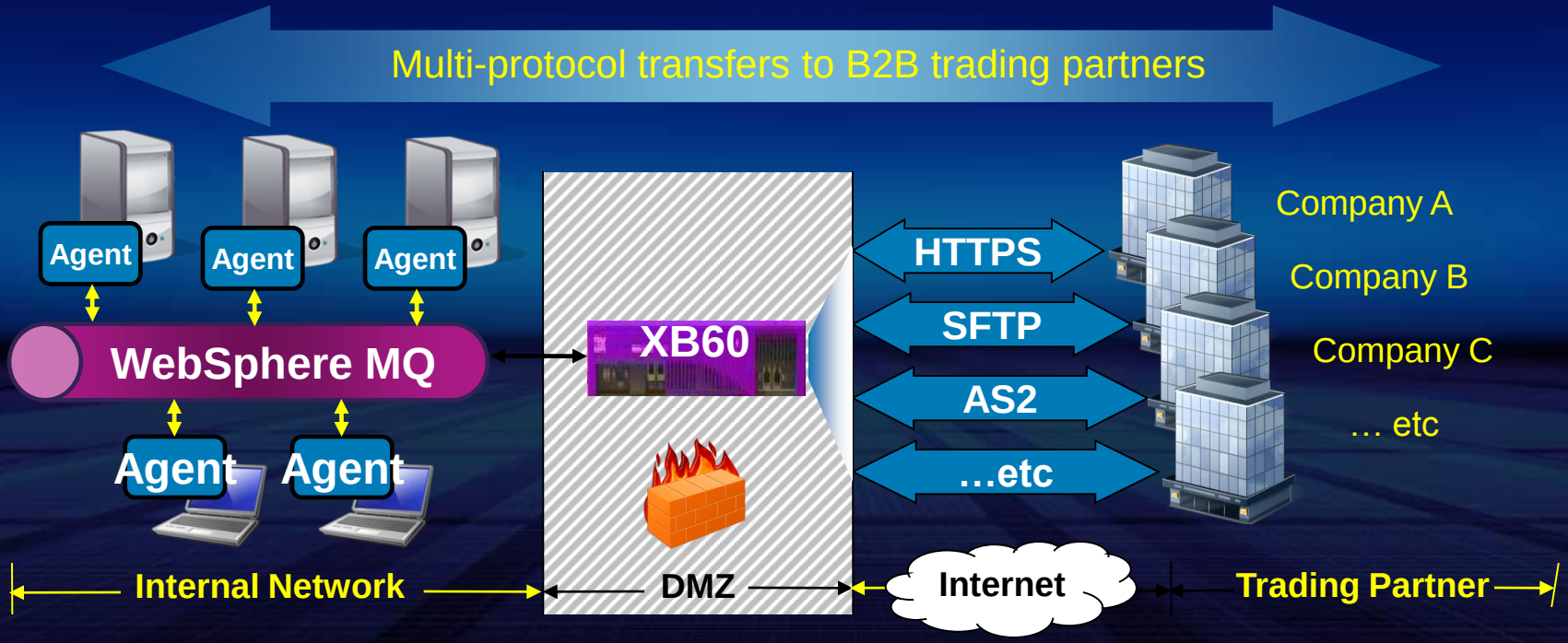
urce	Destination	Outcome	Transfer ID	C:D Proc Num	C:D Proc Name
EAgent1	CDNode6	Success	0A9B43F…	34	FTE0934
EAgent1	CDNode6	Success	1CF3B73…	39	FTE92B6
Node2	FTEAgent4	Success	D1839F2…	42	FTE13C9
Node4	FTEAgent2	In Progress			

The audit information for each MFT transfer references related C:D audit information

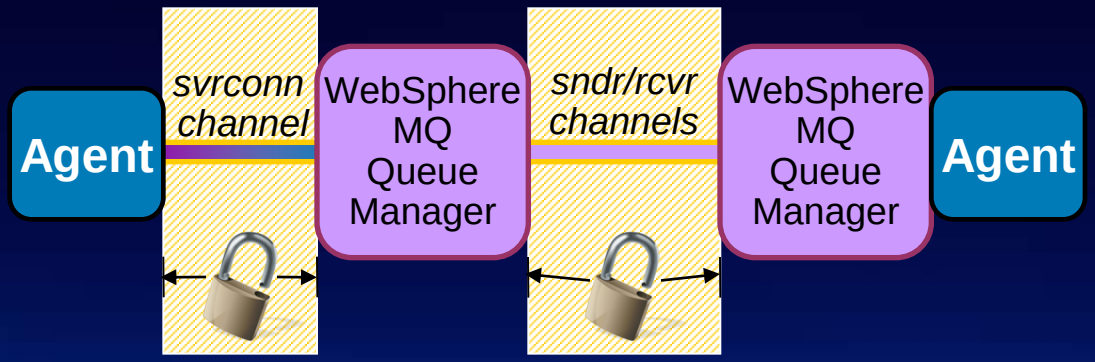
Interoperation with DataPower B2B Appliance XB60

- Documented and tested configurations for integrating with DataPower Appliances
  - WebSphere DataPower XB60 B2B Appliance – for B2B connectivity
  - WebSphere DataPower IX50 Integration Appliance – for ESB connectivity

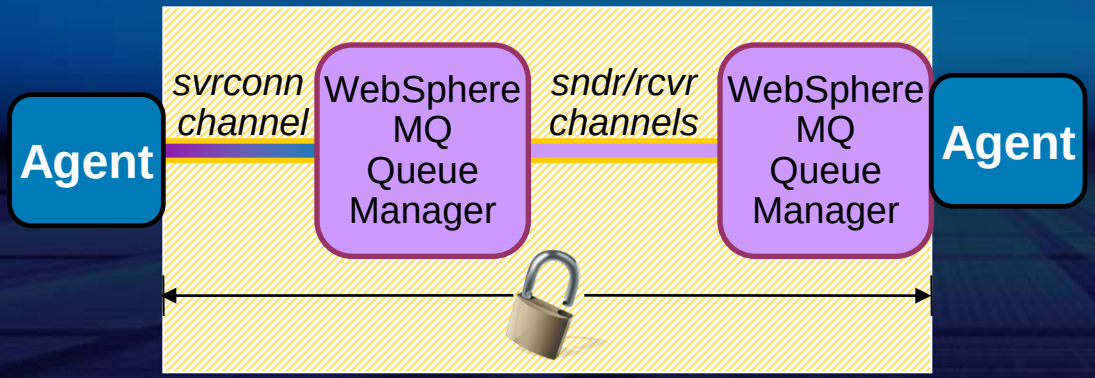
- Enables sending files to trading partners over a range of protocol transports
  - via DataPower Appliances acting as B2B gateways



Securing file data with SSL and WMQ AMS



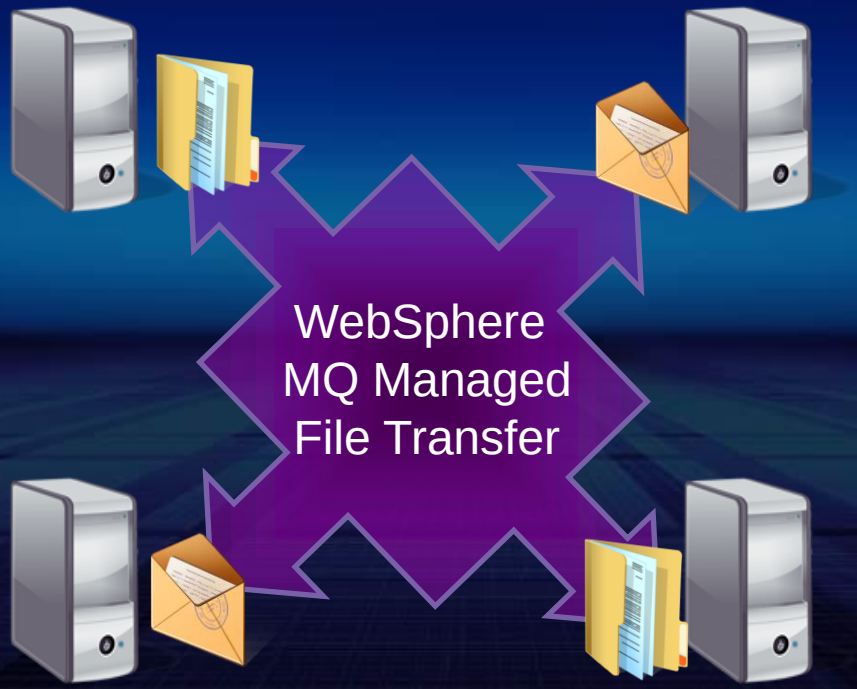
- WMQ MFT supports transport level encryption using SSL
- Data is encrypted before it is sent over a channel and decrypted when it is received



- When combined with WMQ Advanced Message Security
  - Allows file data to be encrypted at the source system and only decrypted when it reaches the destination system
  - Data is secure even when at rest on a queue

Staged migration to messaging

- Pain-point:
  - Hard to migrate to an event driven architecture as lots of applications communicate by transferring files
- Managed File Transfer Helps:
  - Deliver files as message payloads and vice versa
  - Monitor queues and transfer message payloads to files



Options for converting data between files and messages

One file to one message

- One file becomes one message

One file to a group of messages

- The file can be split based on:
  - Size
  - Binary delimiter
  - Regular expression

One message to one file

- One message becomes one file

A group of messages (or all messages on the queue) to one file

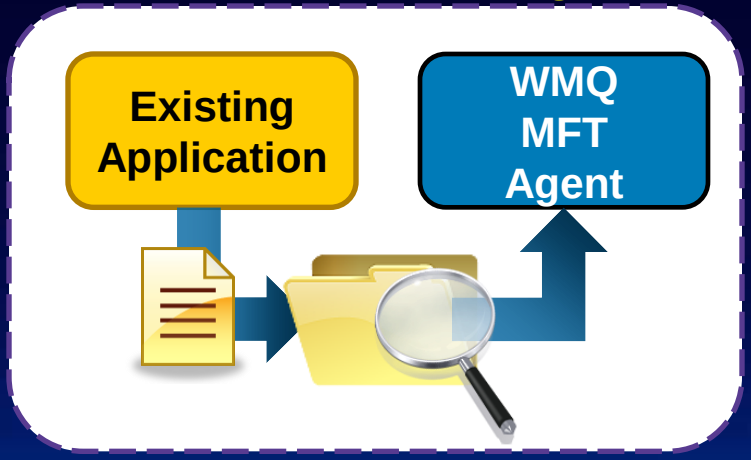
- Optionally, a delimiter can be inserted between each message used to compose the file

Monitoring queues for the arrival of messages

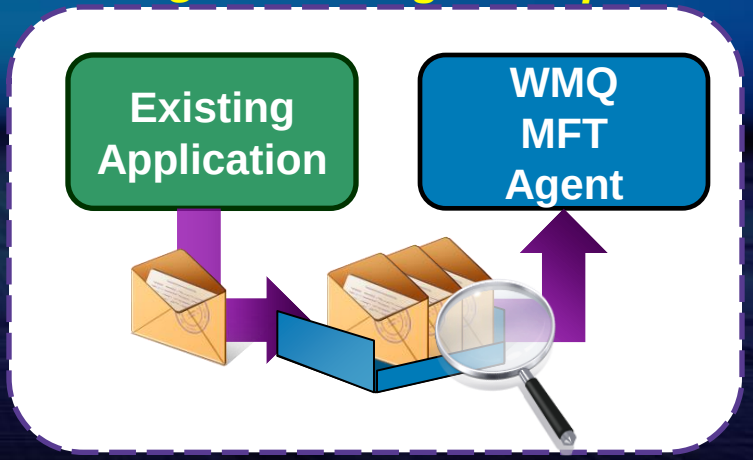
- The WMQ MFT agent can monitor queues for the arrival of messages, then perform an action, such as transferring the payload fro the messages as a file (as per the previous slide)

- Conditions that can be monitored for:
  - Queue not empty
  - Complete group of messages

Remember we said MFT can monitor for files arriving…



Well, it can also monitor for messages arriving on a queue…

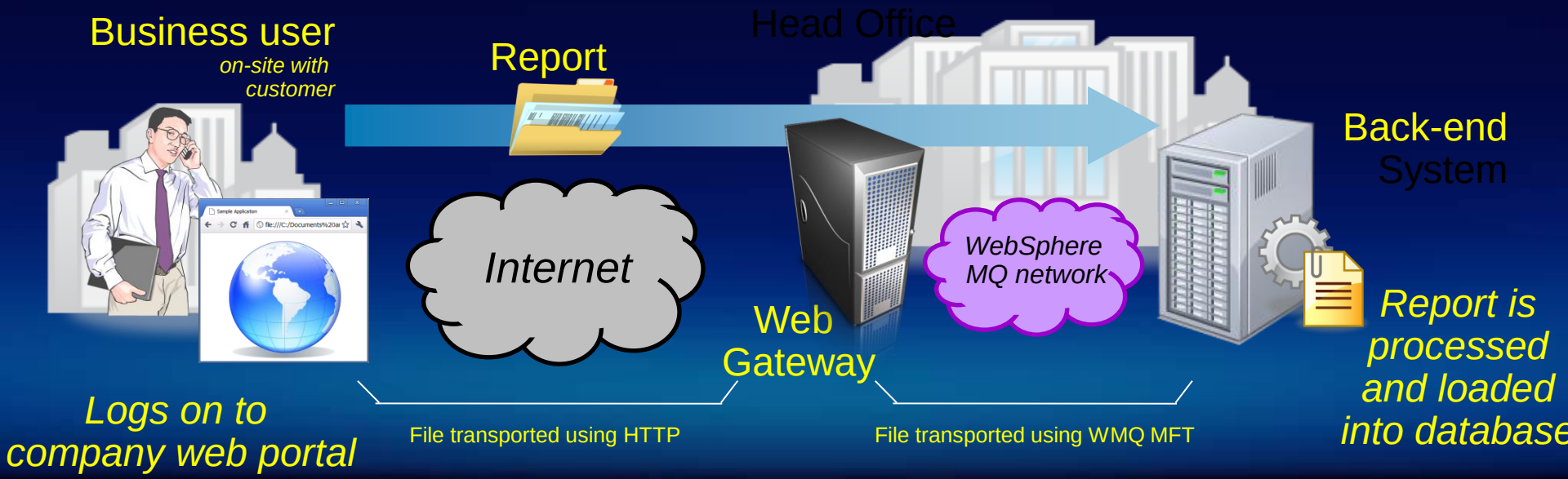


Web-based managed file transfers

- Pain-points:
  - Difficult to mix human imitated file transfers with existing infrastructure for machine-to-machine managed file transfer
  - Managed file transfers to zero-install, small-footprint devices
- MQ Managed File Transfer Helps:
  - A RESTful API for exchange files with an WMQ MFT network
  - Example web 2.0 applications to use as a starting point

Enabling business users to upload files from a remote location

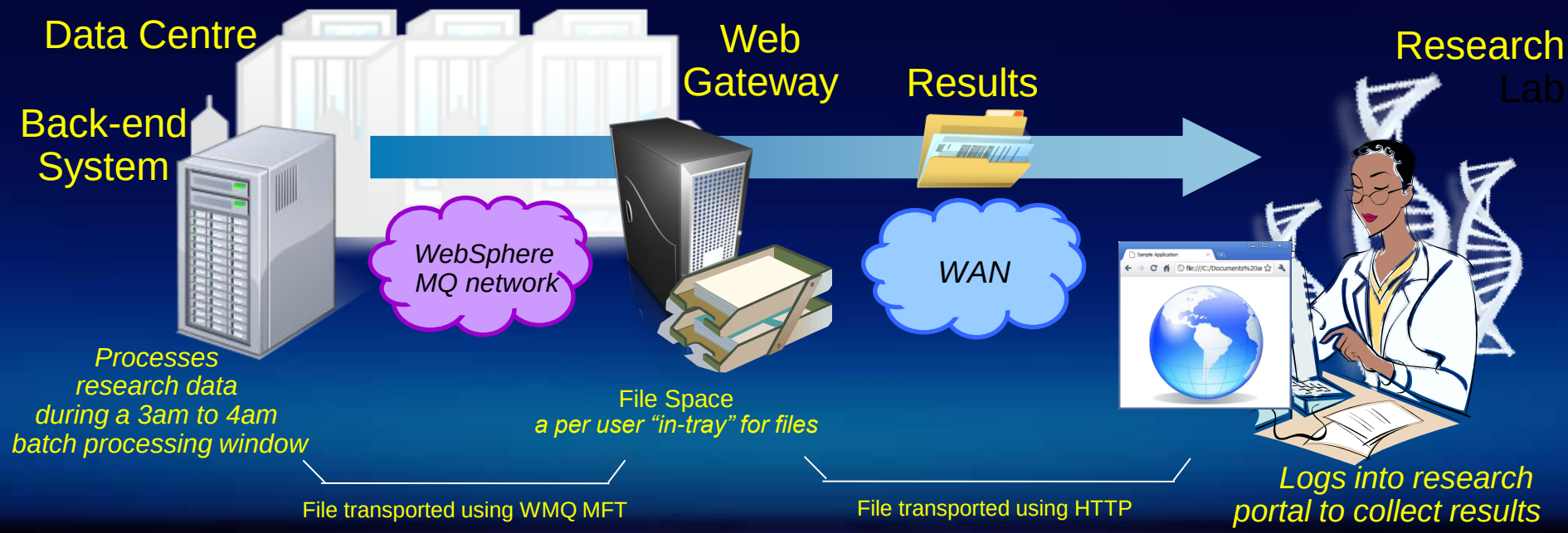
- In this example usage scenario the Web Gateway allows a business user to upload a file (via the company web portal) to a back-end system where it can be processed



1. The business user logs onto the company web portal using a web browser and is prompted to select a file to upload
2. The portal uses the RESTful API provided by the Web Gateway to upload the file using HTTP
3. The Web Gateway transfers the file, using WMQ MFT, to a back-end system
4. At the back-end system WMQ MFT starts a program to process the data from the file

Enabling researchers to pick up the results of a batch process

- In this example usage scenario the Web Gateway is used to enable a researcher to pick up files that have been produced (hours earlier) by batch processing at a back-end system



1. A batch process running at the data centre produces a set of results which it sends, using WMQ MFT, to the web gateway
2. The Web Gateway system places the data into a *file space* where it awaits collection by the user
3. The user logs in to the research portal using her web browser and is shown a list of files waiting for her attention
4. The user selects a file to download and the Web Gateway transfers the file to her computer

Components used for uploading to a back-end system

User

Logical path for file data

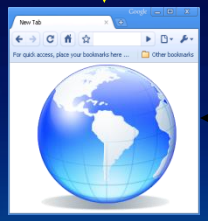
Back-end System

File Processed

MFT Agent

RESTful Web Interface

Web Gateway System



Web Browser

HTTP(S)

JEE Application Server

WMQ Queue Manager

WebSphere MQ Network

MFT Agent

Web Gateway Application

Filesystem

Coordination Queue Manager

Database Logger

Database

Audit information

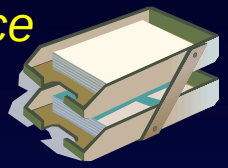
The database logger could, alternatively, be run in the JEE container

Components used for sending a file to a web-user

Back-end System

Logical path for file data

File space



Logical path for file data

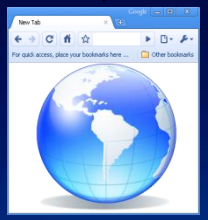
User

MFT Agent

Web Gateway System

JEE Application Server

HTTP(S)



Web Browser

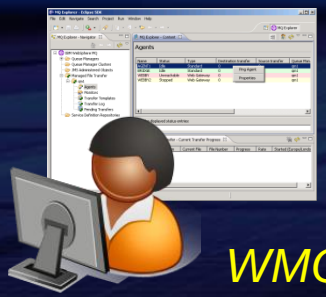
WebSphere MQ Network

WMQ Queue Manager

Web Gateway Application

MFT Agent

From the perspective of an MFT user, the transfer to the Web Gateway system is similar to any other transfer



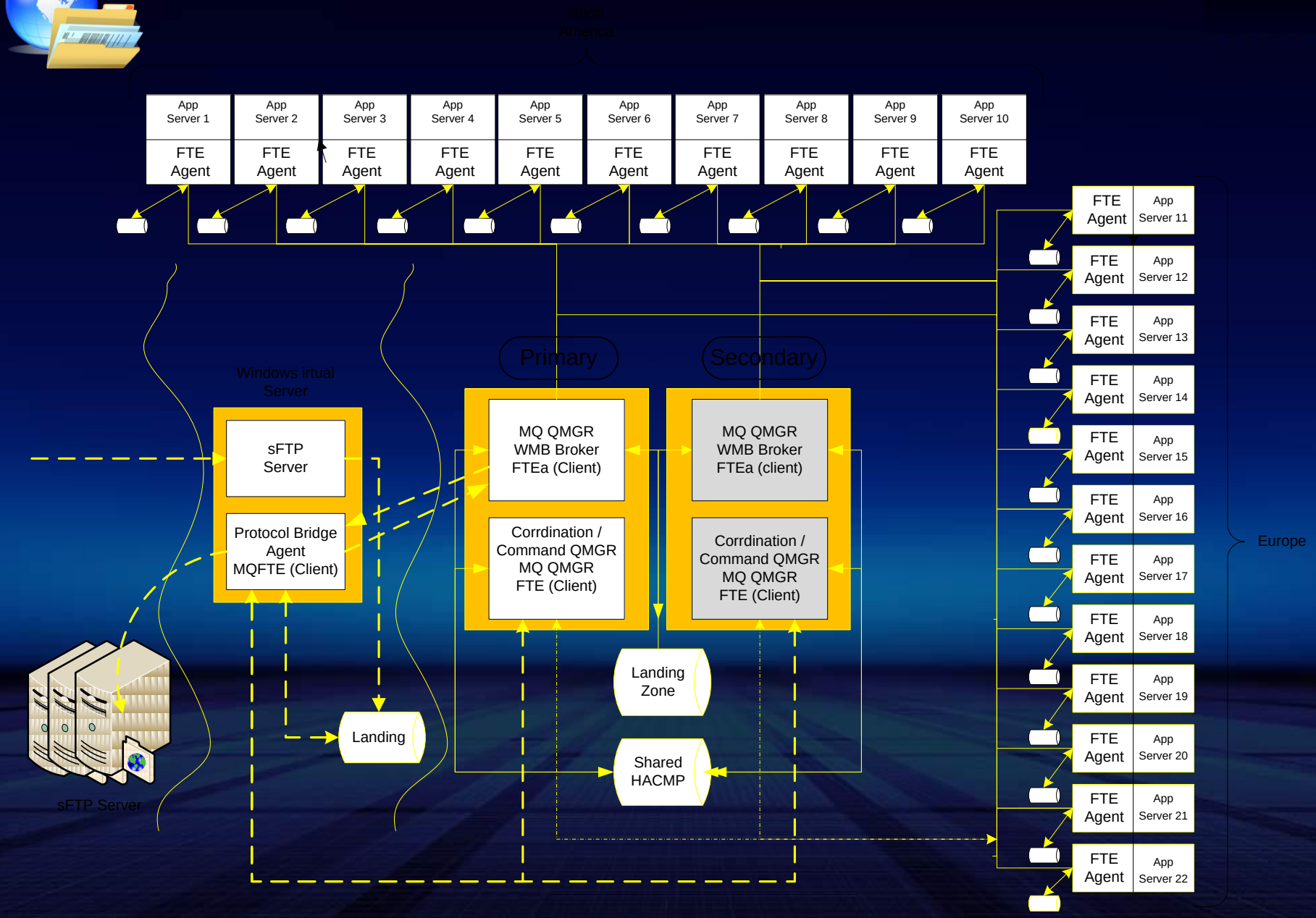
WMQ MFT Administrator

Filesystem

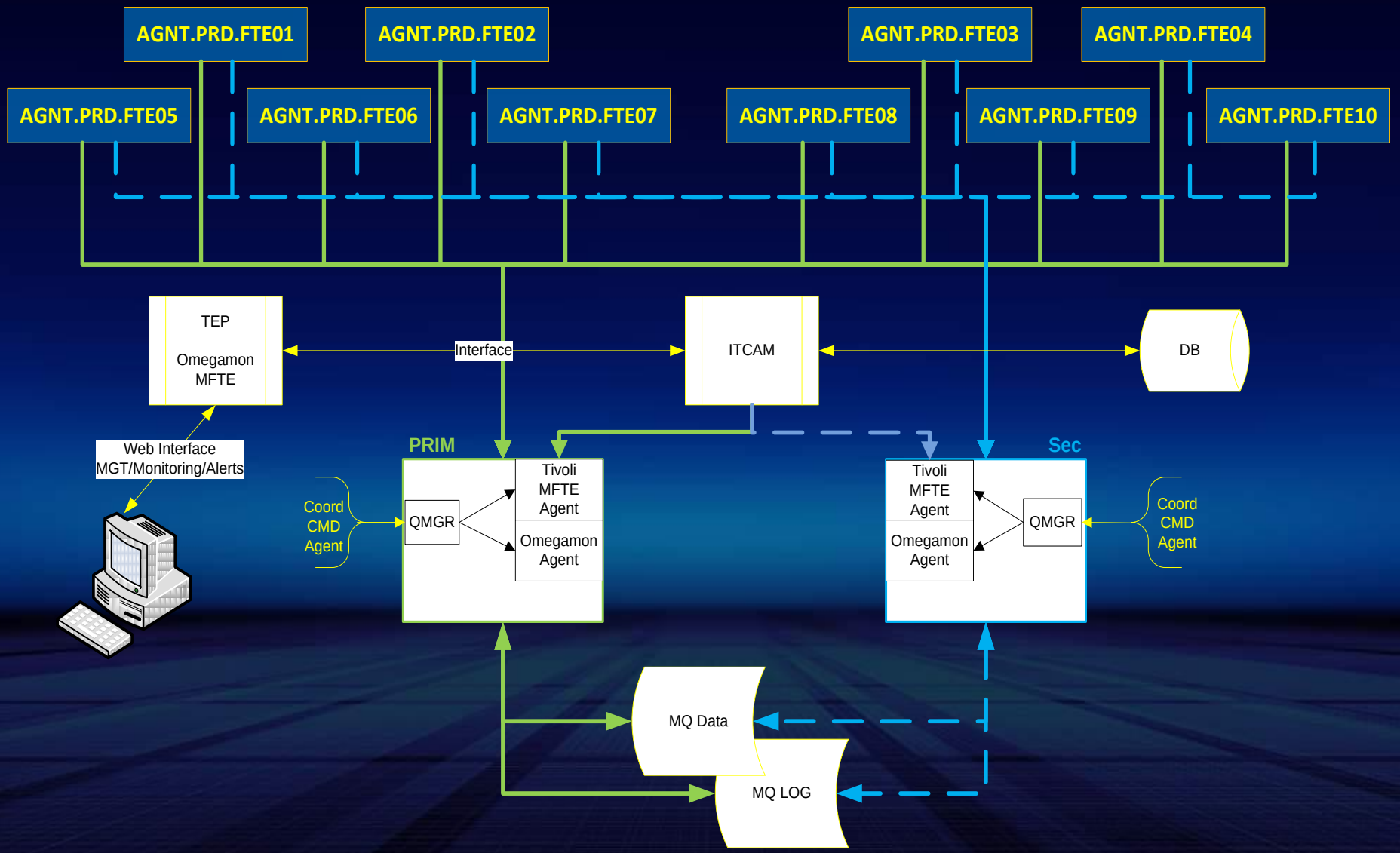
Database

The file system and database are used together to implement the 'file space'

Customer Usage 1

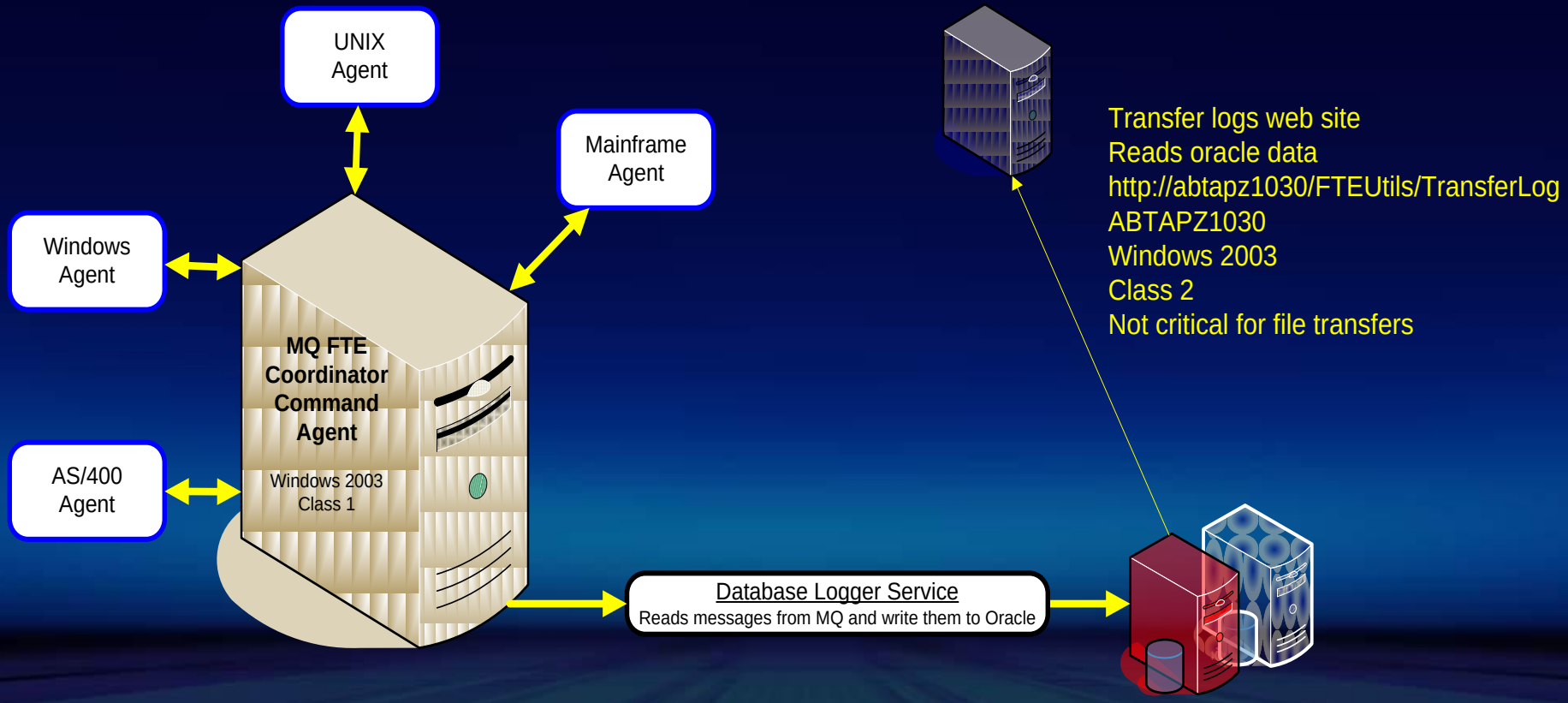


Customer Usage 2



Customer Usage 3

Production Enterprise MQ FTE Environment



Resources

- Information Center:
  - http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/wmqfte/v7r0/index.jsp
- Redbooks / Redguides / Redpapers:
  - Getting Started with WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer V7
    - http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247760.html
  - IBM WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer Solution Overview
    - http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp4532.html
  - Managed File Transfer for SOA using IBM WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer
    - http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp4533.html
  - B2B Enabled Managed File Transfer using WebSphere DataPower B2B Appliance XB60 and WebSphere MQ Managed File Transfer
    - http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp4603.html
  - IBM Sterling Managed File Transfer Integration and WebSphere Connectivity for a Multi-Enterprise Solution
    - http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247927.html
- Trial Download:
  - http://www.ibm.com/software/integration/wmq/filetransfer/
- Early Design Program
  - Interested in participating in the development of future versions of MFT?
    - Ask your local IBM representative to nominate you for the MFT EDP program

WebSphere MQ Industry Practices