



Data Enrichment for data pipelines at scale

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Who/What is Sophron?

- From Ancient Greek σώφρων (sôphrôn, “sane, moderate, prudent”) (from σῶς (sôs, “safe, sound, whole”) + φρήν (phrén, “mind”)) = Of Sound Mind
- Our culture stems from our name, we are a trusted partner.
- What started as a mobile device management startup in 2014 has transformed into a boutique technology consulting firm focused on providing innovative technology solutions to government agencies and private companies.

Who/What is Richard?

- Richard is the founder and CTO of Sophron Networks LLC, which was transformed in 2017 to provide consulting services to government agencies. He is currently consulting with the CDC on their DCMS Cloud and COLO hosting contract.

Before starting Sophron, Richard spent 8 years with HPE as a Chief Technologist in the Federal Healthcare sector providing DevOps and Cloud consulting to federal agencies. During that time, Richard led modernization and DevOps transformation efforts at multiple agencies.

Prior to HPE, Richard was a Software Development manager at ADP. Richard led the successful development of divisional data marts, ETL pipelines, and reporting services that delivered business insights to internal teams and reporting to over 10,000 businesses.

Before that, he joined EDS, and in 1996 started his first 8 year tenure with the CDC as a contractor supporting GRASP and was part of the team that built the first Internet mapping system in CDC in 2000. Before joining EDS Richard worked as a federal employee/civil servant with the United States Probation Office/ US Courts... And his first full time job was as a mainframe and client-server programmer in a county Board of Education.

Who am I really?

- The COBOL guy.
- The PERL guy.
- The ETL guy.
- The DevOps guy.
- The Gitlab guy.
- The geocode guy.
- The boat guy.

Internship Program – R&D

- Our Research and Development activities center around our internship program, giving our interns opportunities to learn and grow, while giving our consultants the opportunity to learn new things and mentor young informaticians, scientists, and technologists.

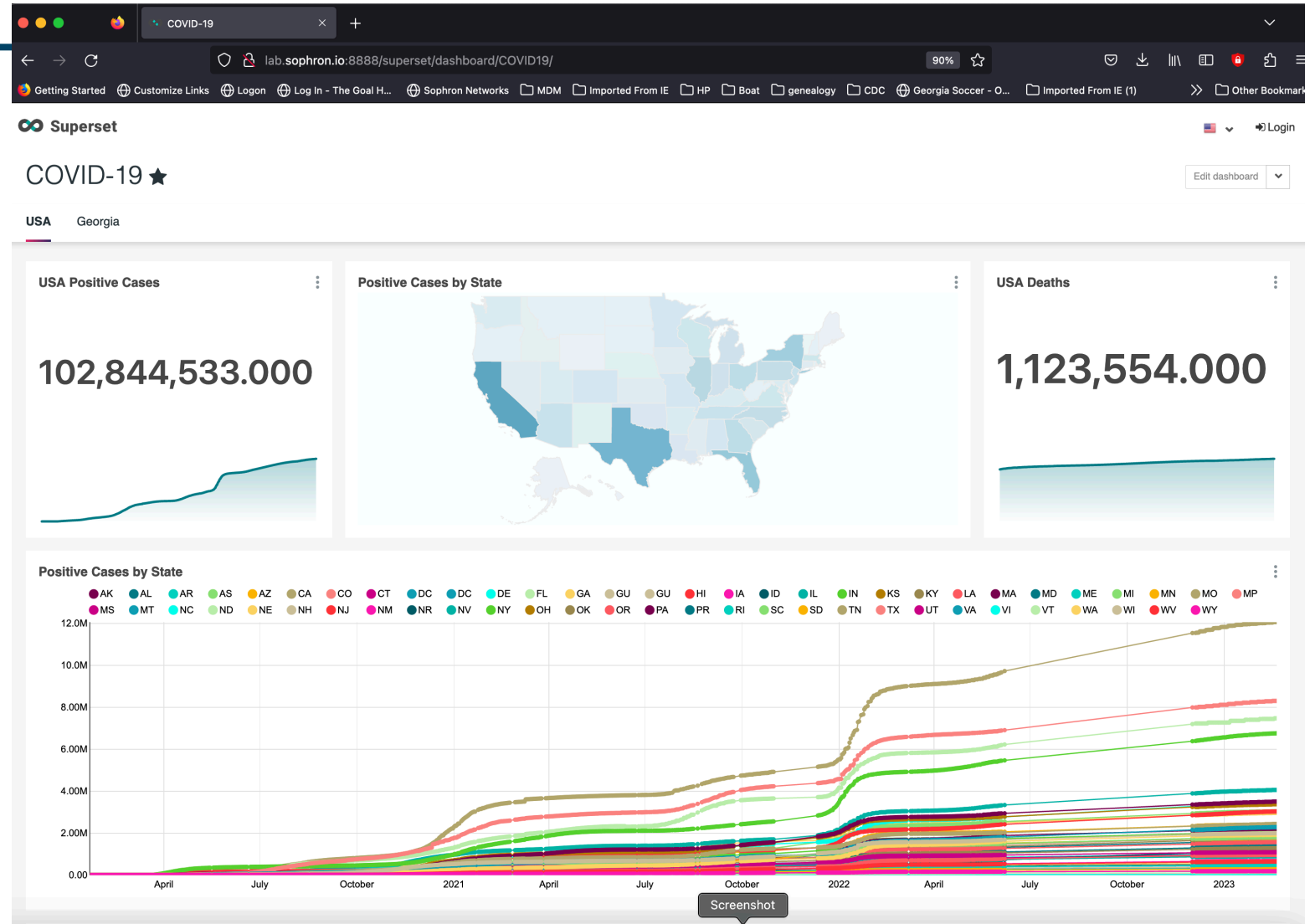
Most recent past project was SLINK, a record linking interface for use in R Studio.



Early project was COVID data tracker.
Recent projects have included data pipelines with Azure Logic Apps, Functions, and Liquid templates.

COVID Tracker

COVID tracker was the first intern group project. Utilizing ETL jobs to gather data from different sources and visualize using open source software. (retired last year, data no longer monitored)



SLINK

SLINK is an R Shiny program which provides a GUI interface to the fastLink package.

<https://github.com/sophronio/SLINK>

The screenshot displays the SLINK web application interface, which is a Shiny R program. The browser address bar shows the URL `http://127.0.0.1:7763`. The application title is "Sophron Record Linkage" with navigation tabs for "Main", "Review", and "Results".

The interface is divided into two main sections for dataset input:

- Left Dataset:** "Please input the first dataset." The file `diffDOBSSN_0.csv` is selected. Headers are set to "Full_Name", "DOB", and "SSN".
- Right Dataset:** "Please input the second dataset." The file `diffDOBSSN_1.csv` is selected. Headers are also set to "Full_Name", "DOB", and "SSN".

Below the dataset inputs, there are controls for linking and deduplication:

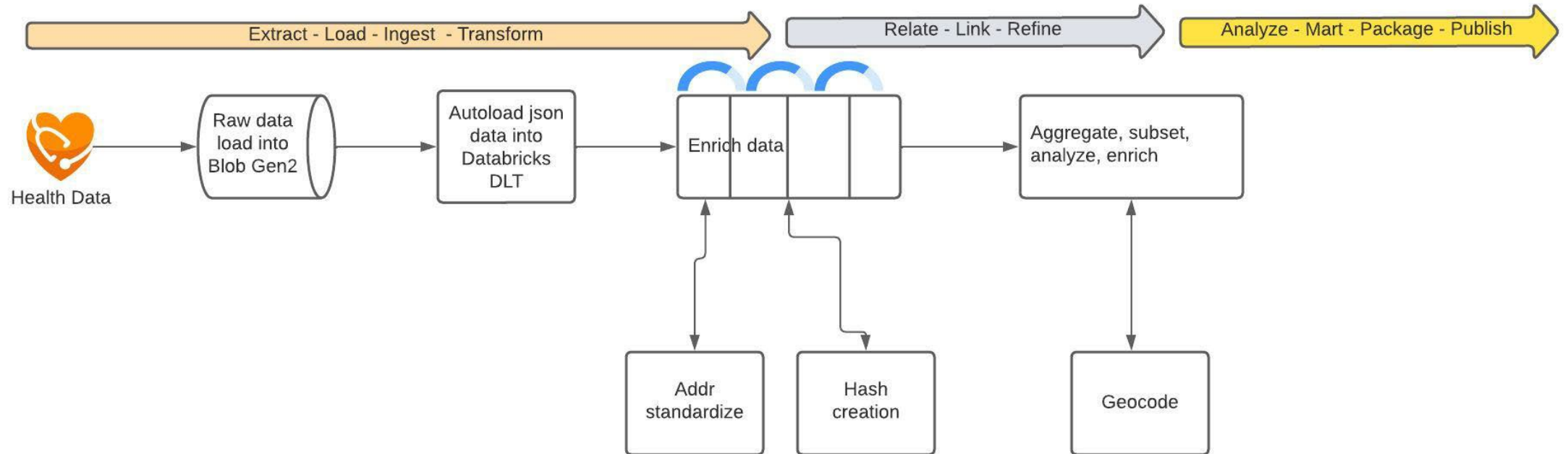
- Linking:** A "Link" button is present. A section titled "Variable Types" shows "Full_Name", "DOB", and "SSN" all set to "stringdist match".
- Thresholds:** A text input field shows a threshold of `0.0001`. Two sliders are visible: one for "cut.a" (set to 0.94) and one for "cut.p" (set to 0.88).
- Deduplication:** A radio button selection for "Would you like to deduplicate the matches?" is set to "No".

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with a temperature of 55°F, a search bar, and various application icons. The system clock indicates 1:30 AM on 2/16/2023.

Current Project -Data Enrichment(services)

- Create Address and record linking services that can be of use in a data pipeline
 - Address standardization- convert addresses to USPS standard
 - Hashing service- create identifying hash based on name,DOB,address to enable fast deterministic matching
 - Geocoding- geocoding addresses to lat/lon to be used in analysis; we are not storing lat/lon as part of record because results from geocoding are not absolute
 - Record Linking- de-duplicating records and associating like records with one another; primarily *patient*

Data Flow





Geocoding

- Custom REST service built with Python/FastAPI which fronts a PostGIS server loaded with TIGERLine 2020 data.
- ArcGIS geocoding API
- Azure Maps geocoding API
- Precisely geocoding service (formerly Pitney Bowes Geostan)

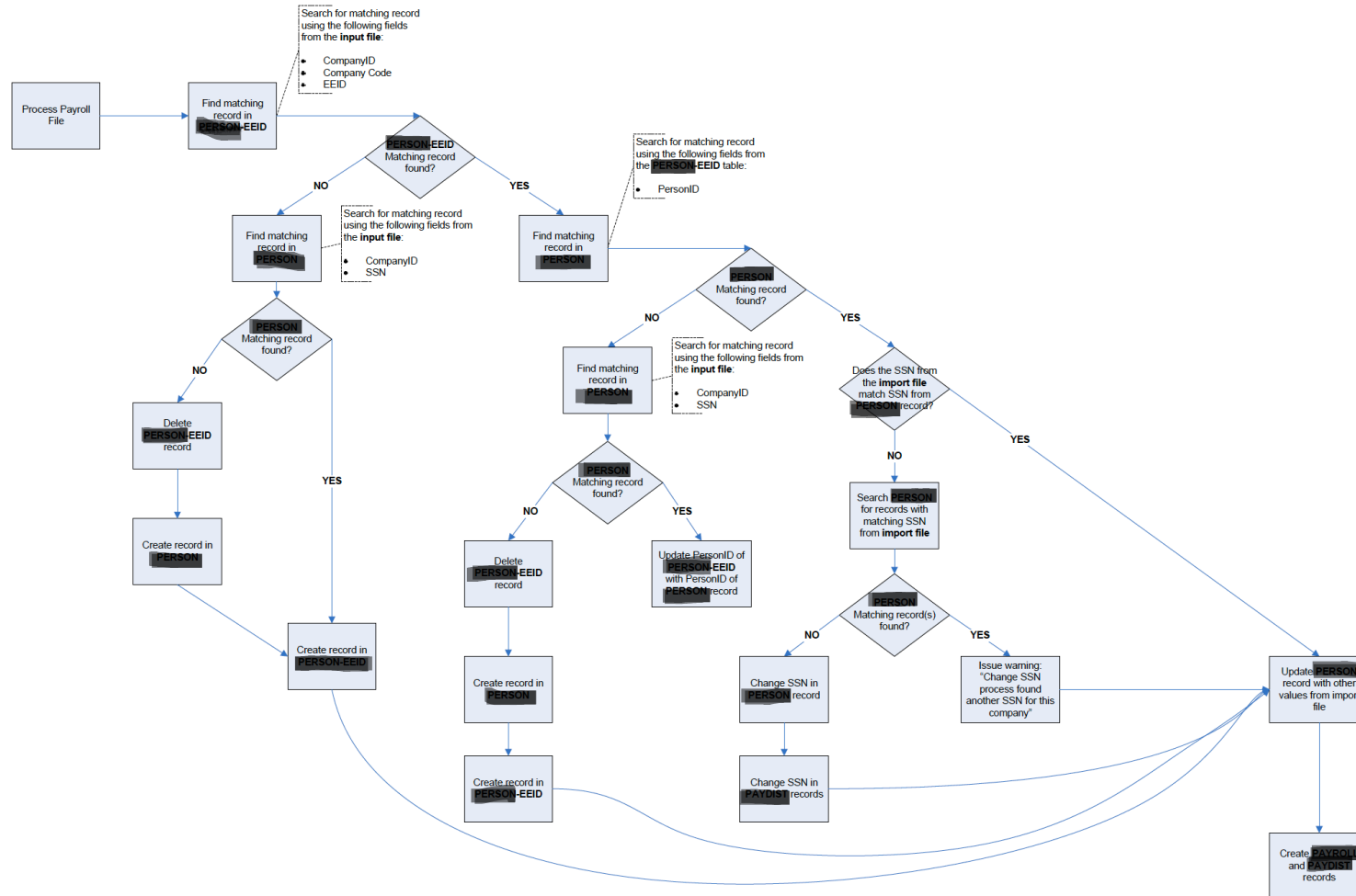
Geocoding Considerations

- Accuracy – many data sets are updated with new streets, street ranges but do not contain point data
 - Some data sets are more accurate- TeleAtlas, Navteq are more accurate and updated more frequently than TIGER
 - Engines that use these rely on interpolation algorithms to approximate lat/lon
 - Most geocoding is done with these data sets
 - Some data sets also include their own points database
 - Precisely offers their own points database
- How accurate does it need to be? How fast does it need to be?
- Lat/lon calculated from geocoding is not absolute, can change based on updates to data sets, updates to interpolation algorithms, results should be annotated with metadata on the date, software, data set used

Record Linking

Record linkage (also known as **data matching**, **data linkage**, **entity resolution**, and many other terms) is the task of finding [records](#) in a data set that refer to the same [entity](#) across different data sources (e.g., data files, books, websites, and databases). Record linkage is necessary when [joining](#) different data sets based on entities that may or may not share a common identifier (e.g., [database key](#), [URI](#), [National identification number](#)), which may be due to differences in record shape, storage location, or curator style or preference. A data set that has undergone RL-oriented reconciliation may be referred to as being *cross-linked*. - Wikipedia

Record Linking – Financial Services Person Use Case



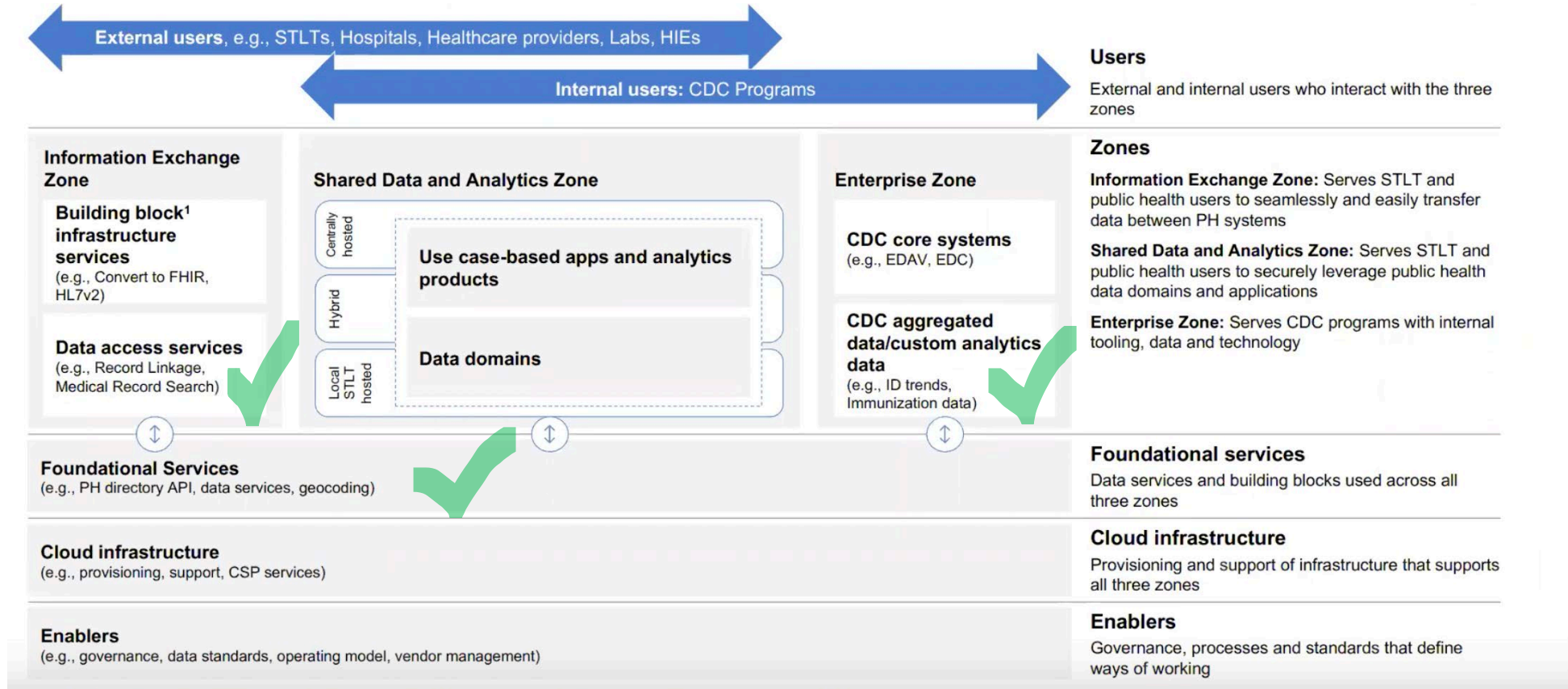
Two Phased Linking

- Before 'linking' takes place, but after raw data is ingested into 'rare' tables, a job will run that utilizes the hashing service to create a hash based on name, address, DOB. This hash is then stored along with the record in the patient table.
- The 'linking' job will then run as one of the jobs in the next part of the pipeline. This job will first perform a deterministic linking of the new record against the patient table to see if there is a match utilizing the value of the new 'hash' field previously calculated.
- If there is no match, then the second phase of linking will occur and a probabilistic algorithm will be executed and any possible matches will be placed into a 'possible_match' table, along with the score, for further review.

Project Status

- Custom TIGER geocoding service is built and undergoing testing
- Geocoding testing is underway with Azure Maps, Google Maps, Precisely, ESRI
 - Comparing accuracy, standardization, speed
- Hashing service is built and undergoing testing
- Linking system is in development
- Noodling on Machine Learning for Record Linking

Relation to Northstar Architecture



Closing & Questions

- Themes: Flexibility, modularity, KISS, Enterprise, Prototype
- Results? <http://sophron.io/>
- Questions?
- Feel free to reach out: Richard.murphy@sophronnet.com