

The Why of Go

21st Century Programming Languages Track, Qcon SF

Carmen Andoh

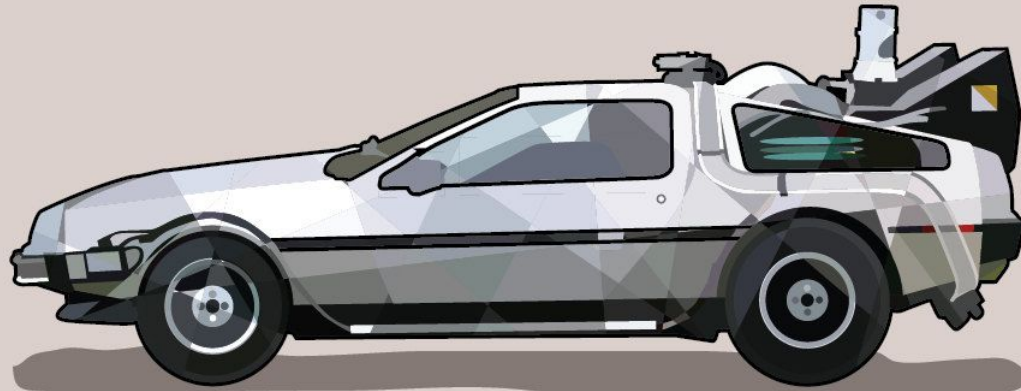
1983



Thank you, fellow time travelers from the Future

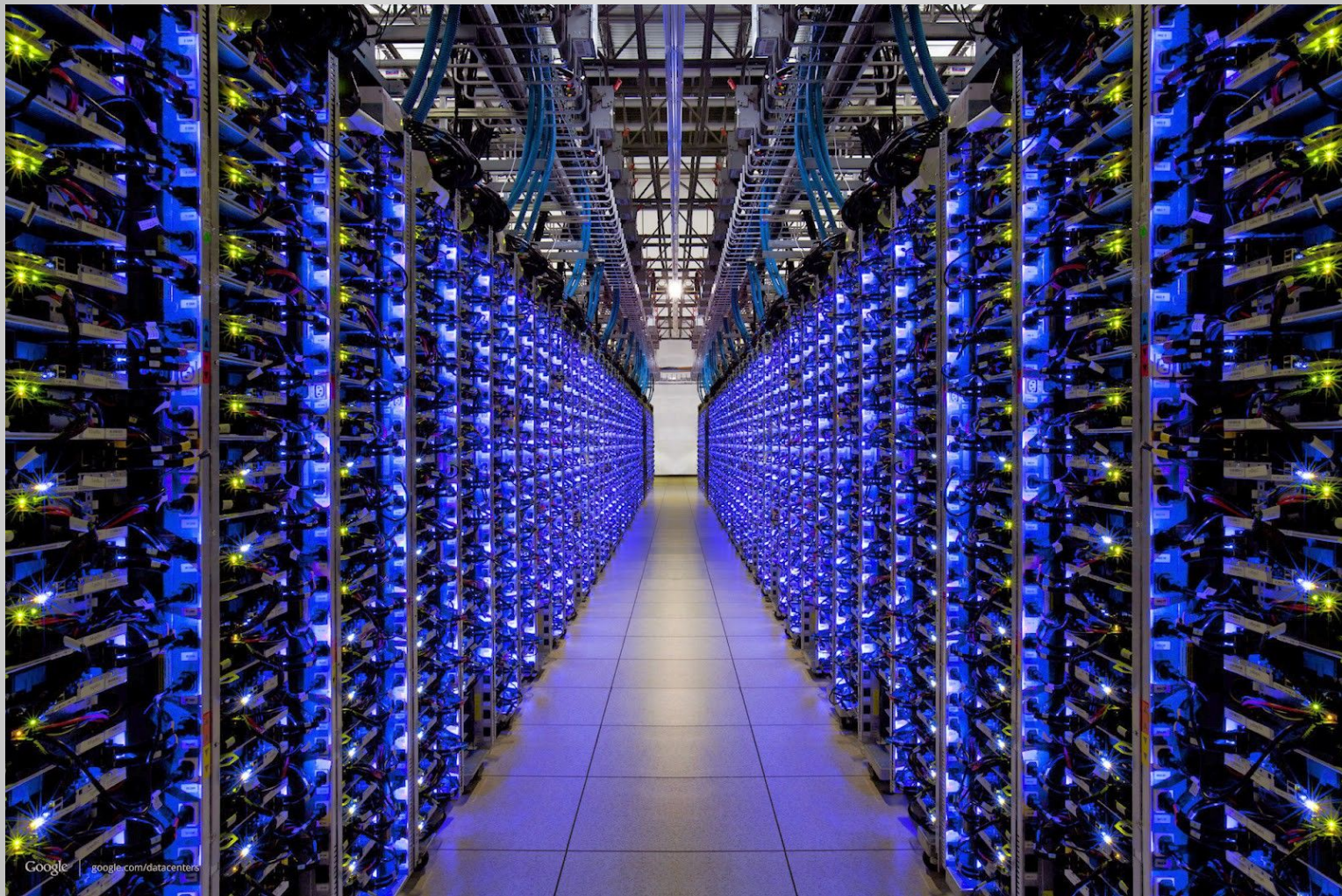
- *Dave Cheney*
- *Alan Donovan*
- *Steve Francia*
- *Jérôme Pettazoni*

Back to 1983 ... (from 1985, but whetev, 80s rule)



FANTASY. POWER. DESTINY.

The 80s
ARE COOL
IN 2017





Lougle

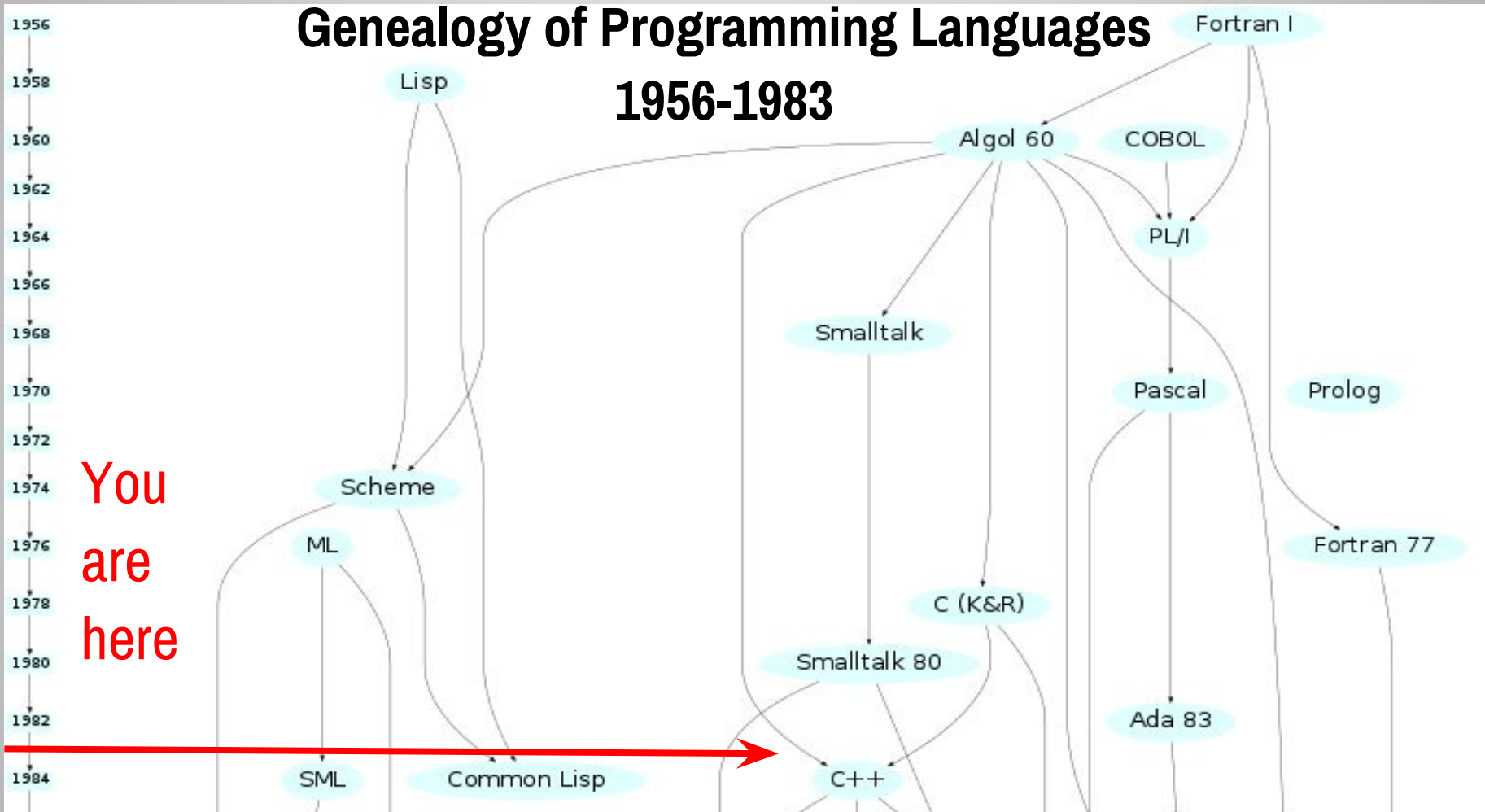
[Make Lougle your homepage](#)

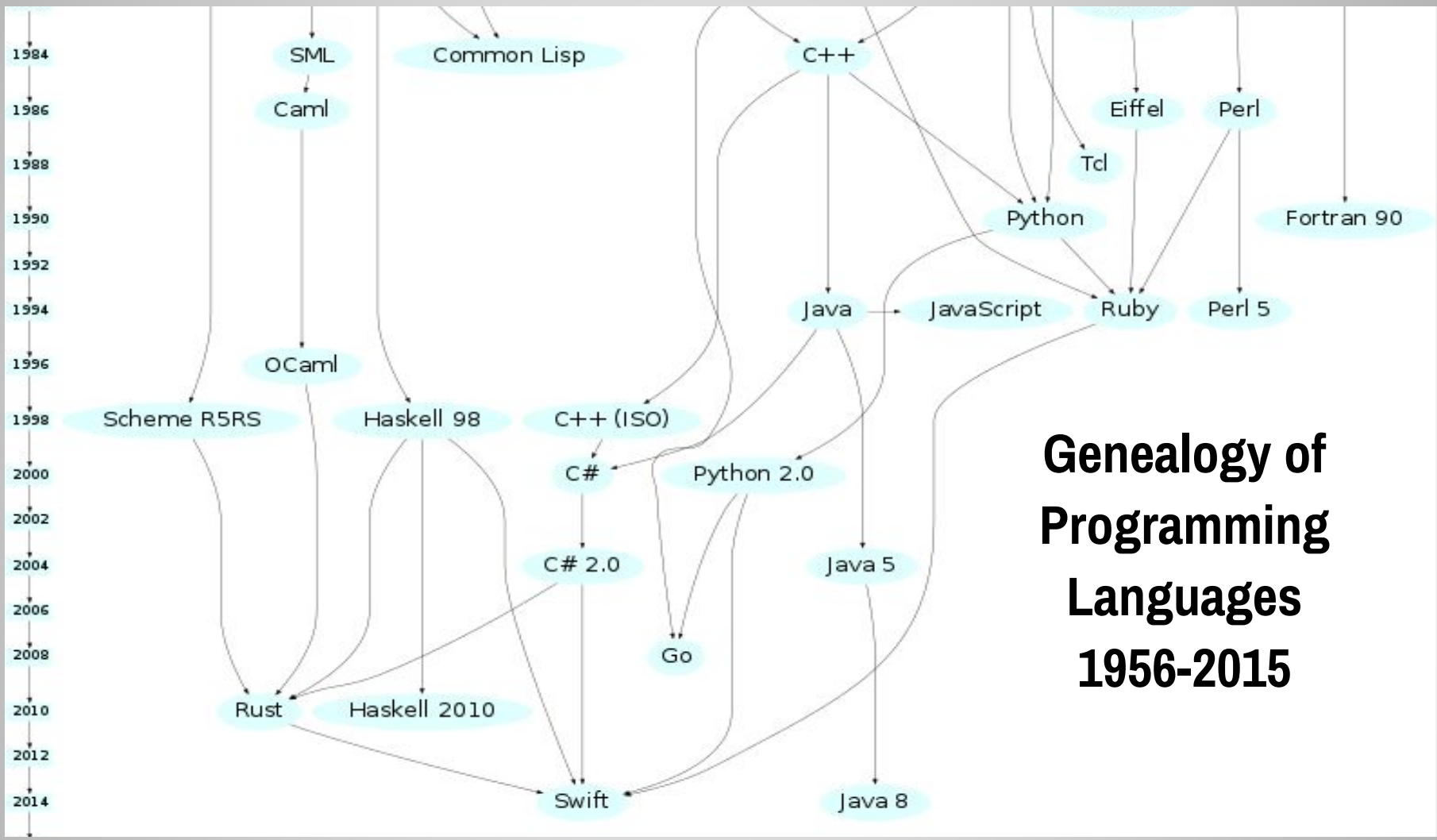
[Advertising Programs](#)

[Business Solutions](#)

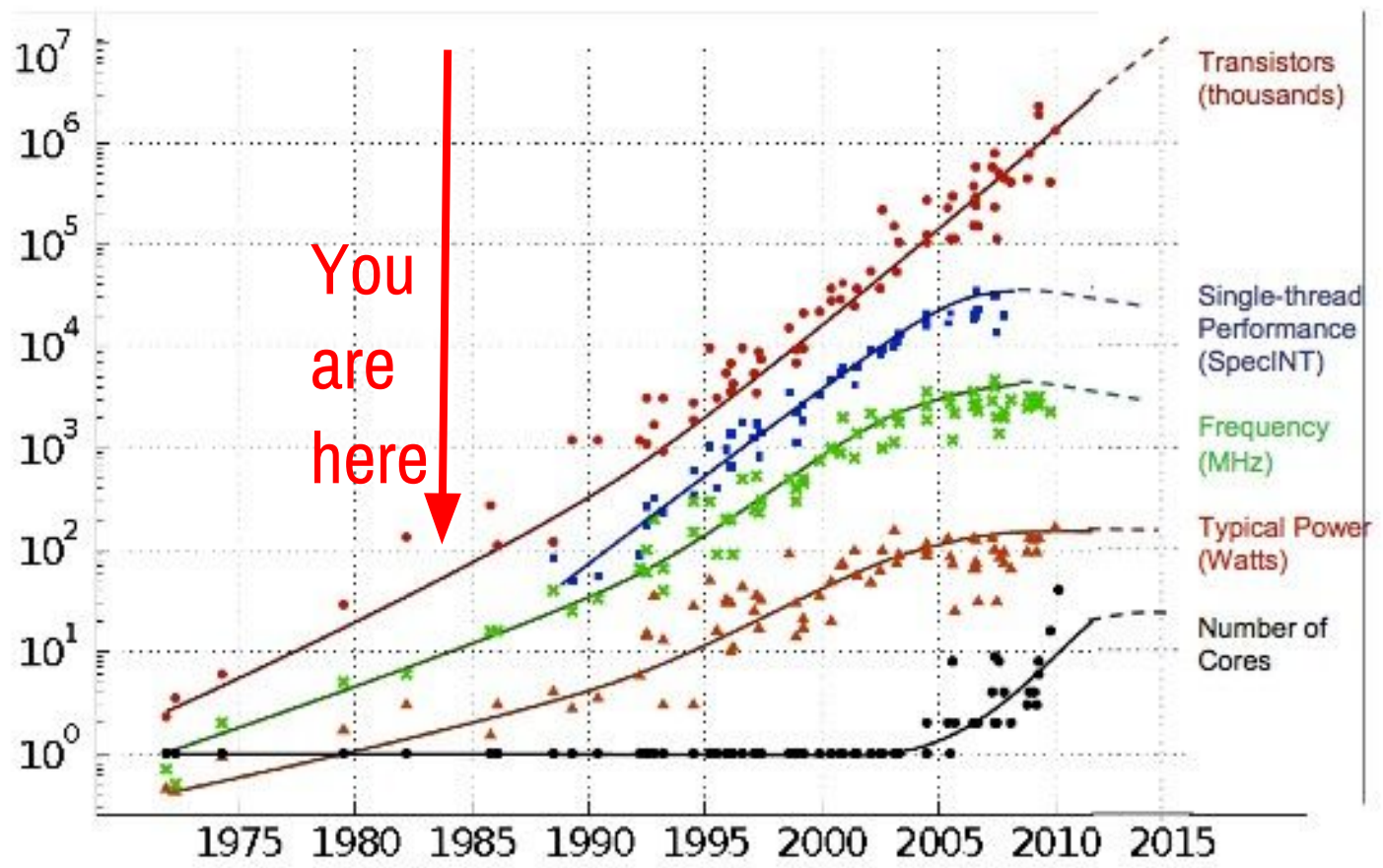
[About Lougle](#)

Genealogy of Programming Languages 1956-1983





Genealogy of Programming Languages 1956-2015



Original data collected and plotted by M. Horowitz, F. Labonte, O. Shacham, K. Olukotun, L. Hammond and C. Batten
 Dotted line extrapolations by C. Moore

Unix[®]

Operating System



Programming
Techniques

S. L. Graham, R. L. Rivest
Editors

Communicating Sequential Processes

C.A.R. Hoare
The Queen's University
Belfast, Northern Ireland

This paper suggests that input and output are basic primitives of programming and that parallel composition of communicating sequential processes is a fundamental program structuring method. When combined with a development of Dijkstra's guarded command, these concepts are surprisingly versatile. Their use is illustrated by sample solutions of a variety of familiar programming exercises.

Key Words and Phrases: programming, programming languages, programming primitives, program structures, parallel programming, concurrency, input, output, guarded commands, nondeterminacy, coroutines, procedures, multiple entries, multiple exits, classes, data representations, recursion, conditional critical regions, monitors, iterative arrays

CR Categories: 4.20, 4.22, 4.32

SECOND EDITION

THE

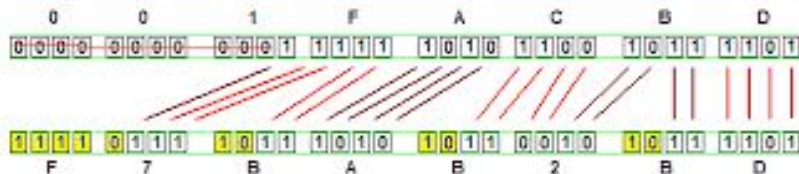
C

PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGE

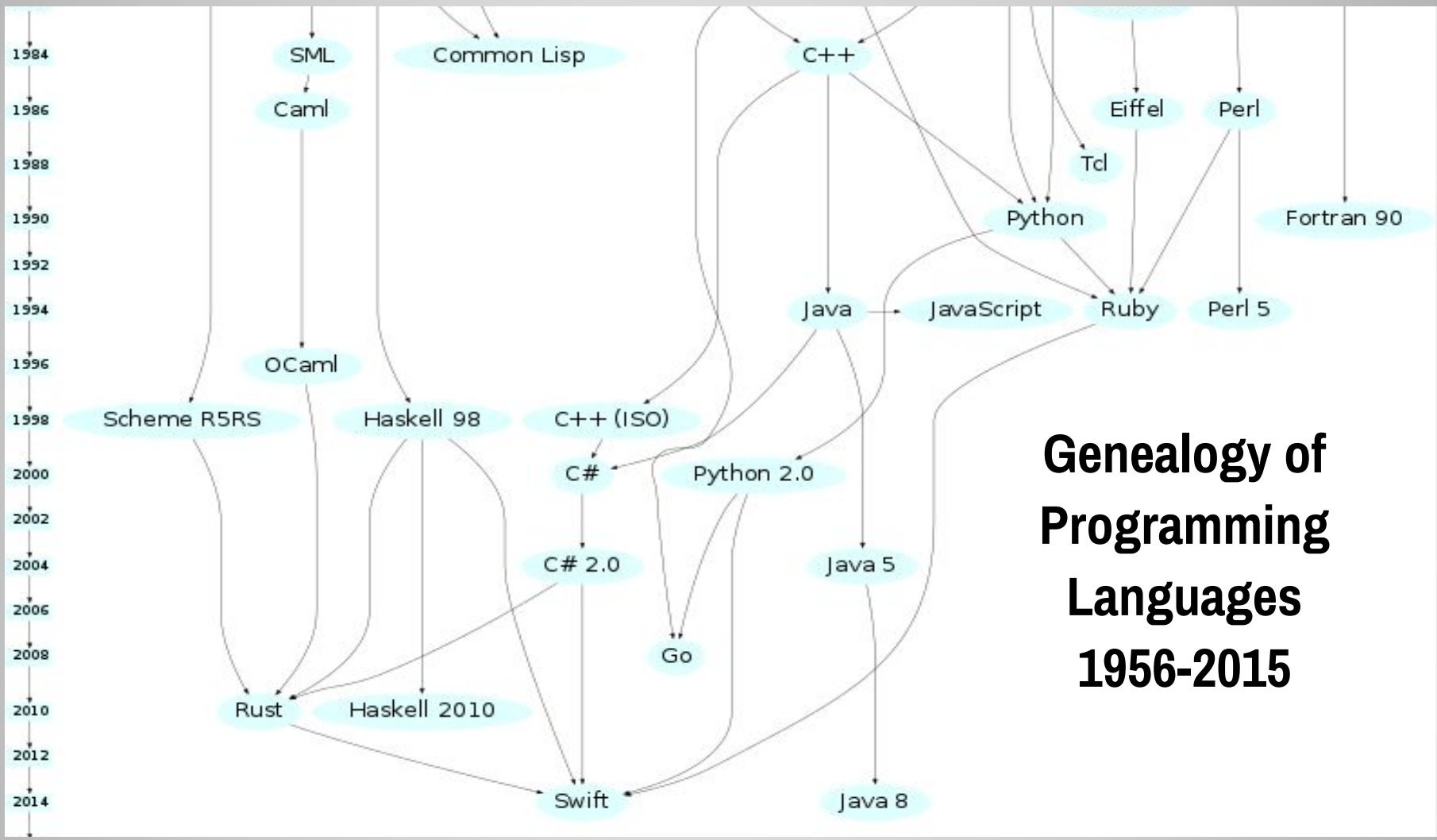
BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN
DENNIS M. RITCHIE

PRENTICE HALL SOFTWARE SERIES

Original Value



In UTF-8



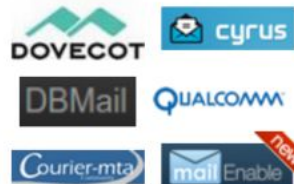
Genealogy of Programming Languages 1956-2015

"What's that?" snapped the King,
And he looked down the stack,
And he saw at the bottom, a turtle named Mack.



PROTOCOLS

IMAP/POP3



HTTP



CLOUD AND VIRTUALIZATION

CLOUD COMPUTING



CLOUD ORCHESTRATION



STORAGE

CLONING



BACKUPS



MONITORING

STATISTICS



MONITORING



PROTOCOLS

IMAP/POP3



HTTP



SMTP

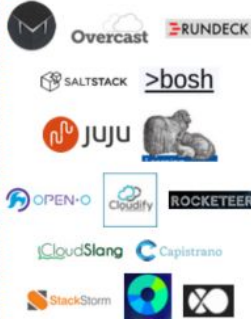


CLOUD AND VIRTUALIZATION

CLOUD COMPUTING



CLOUD ORCHESTRATION



STORAGE

CLONING



BACKUPS



MONITORING

STATISTICS



MONITORING



SUPPORT SOFTWARE

CONTROL PANELS



WEBMAILS



ESSENTIALS

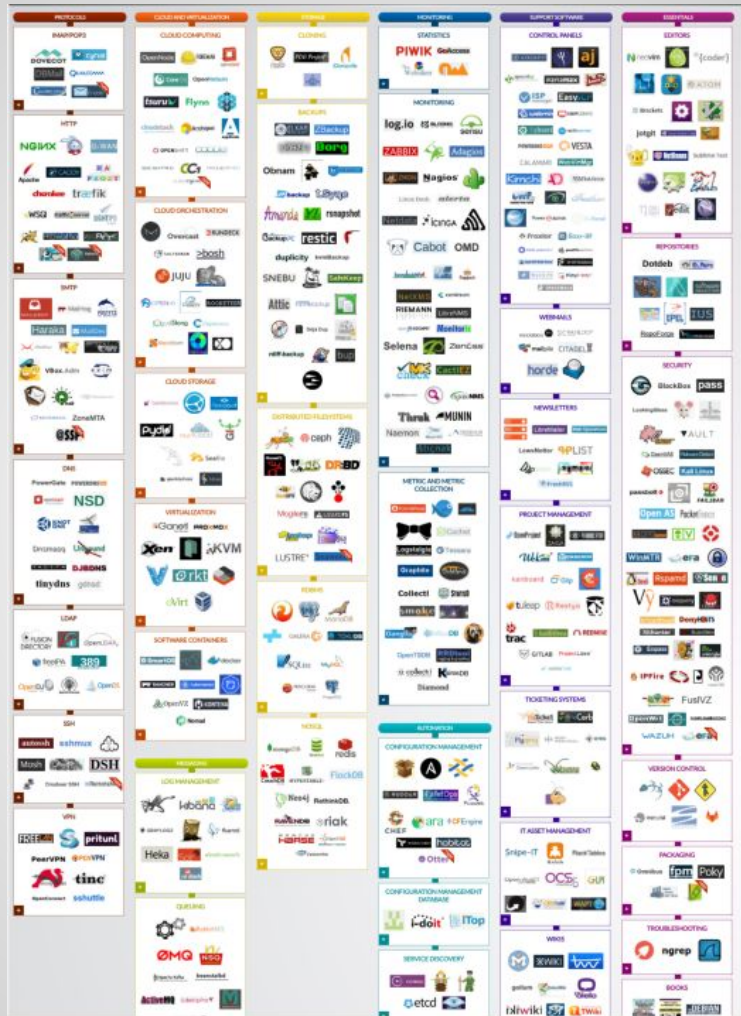
EDITORS



REPOSITORIES



SECURITY



GNU

GNU's Not Unix Project

Started in **1983**



Vague but exciting ...

CERN DD/OC

Tim Berners-Lee, CERN/DD

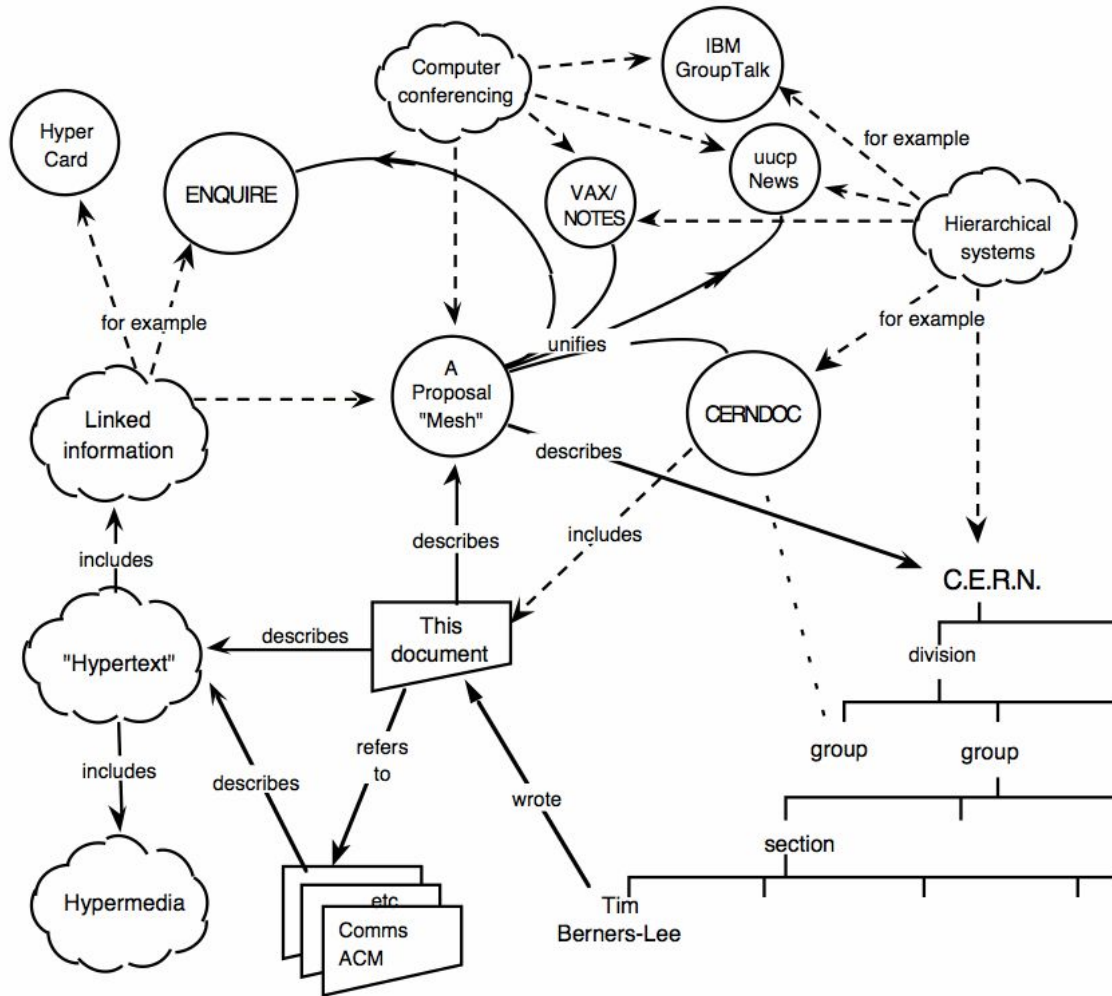
Information Management: A Proposal

March 1989

Information Management: A Proposal

Abstract

This proposal concerns the management of general information about accelerators and experiments at CERN. It discusses the problems of loss of information about complex evolving systems and derives a



THE CATHEDRAL

AND THE

BAZAAR

ERIC S. RAYMOND



Splendid isolation

TOO MANY PROGRAMMERS WORK ON PROJECTS THEY NEITHER **NEED** NOR **WANT**

EVERY GOOD PIECE OF WORK STARTS BY SCRATCHING

PERSONAL ITCH



RELEASE EARLY
RELEASE OFTEN

EGLESSS

IT'S A CULTURE IDEOLOGY METHODOLOGY @ourbase

OPEN

LISTEN

PROBLEM FINDING

WITH ENOUGH EYEBALLS ALL BUGS ARE SHALLOW



@giniaforsthe #toped12

Bell Labs: A Hive of Invention

A selection of its most important innovations in the decades leading up to the breakup of its parent company, AT&T, in 1984, and how they helped lead to some of the latest technologies.

1940s

1946 First long-distance computing Remote operation of a computer, Bell Labs in New York, by a teletypewriter in New Hampshire.

1947 The transistor A landmark invention. Replaced vacuum tubes and mechanical relays; transformed electronics.

1946 First commercial mobile phone service At most, three subscribers per city could make calls at one time; each user's phone apparatus weighed almost 80 pounds.

1948 Information theory Calculates maximum capacity for any communications system and shows how to send digital messages essentially error-free. Enabled data compression and cryptography.

1947 Cellular telephone technology Bell Labs paper was the first to propose a network of interlocking cell sites serving users as they move, routing their calls from one site to another without dropping the connection.

The Murray Hill, N.J., buildings opened in 1941.



1950s

1951 Direct-distance dialing No operator necessary for long-distance calls.

1954 Solar cells First use of the sun's energy to create a practical level of electricity.

1956 First transatlantic telephone cable Designed and implemented by Bell Labs; could carry up to 36 simultaneous calls.

1957 Digitized music First demonstrations of digitized and computer-synthesized music.

1958 The laser "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation" was described in a Bell Labs paper. It is crucial for communications, surgical and DVD technologies.

1960s

1962 Digital transmission, switching First digital transmission of multiple voice signals.

1960-62 First communications satellites Echo is first to reflect a voice signal from coast to coast; Telstar I shows an orbiting relay can amplify and resend multiple phone and TV transmissions.

1962 Paging system Bellboy pager is introduced at the Seattle World's Fair.

1963 Touch-tone telephone Enables voice mail and call centers.

1965 Evidence of the Big Bang Discovery of cosmic background radiation from beyond the Milky Way.

1969 Charge-coupled device A solid-state chip that transforms patterns of light into information. Vital to digital cameras, high-definition television, medical endoscopes and video conferencing.

Bell Labs opened in Holmdel, N.J., in 1962. It was vacated in 2007.



1970s and '80s

1969-72 UNIX operating system and C programming language Makes large-scale networking of varied computing systems, and the Internet, practical.

1976 Fiber-optic network The first test of Bell Labs' experimental lightwave communication system begins in Atlanta. Information is carried by pulses of light.

1978 First commercial cellular network Installed by Bell Labs in Chicago.

1979 Digital signal processor An essential component of cellphones, modems, PCs and video game systems.

1980 Digital cellular phone Better sound quality, greater channel capacity, lower cost.

1982 Fractional quantum Hall effect Discovery of a new state of subatomic matter that wins the Nobel Prize.

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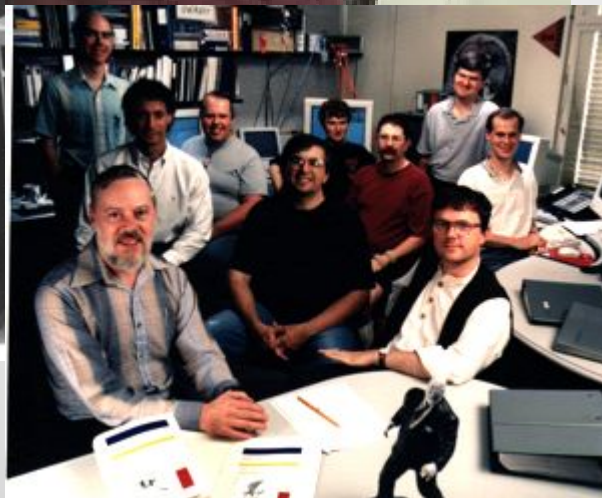
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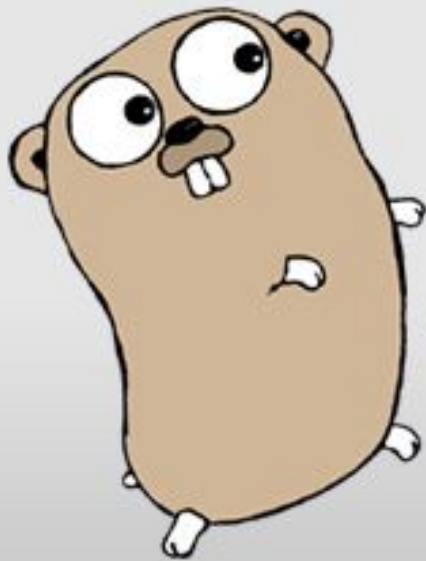
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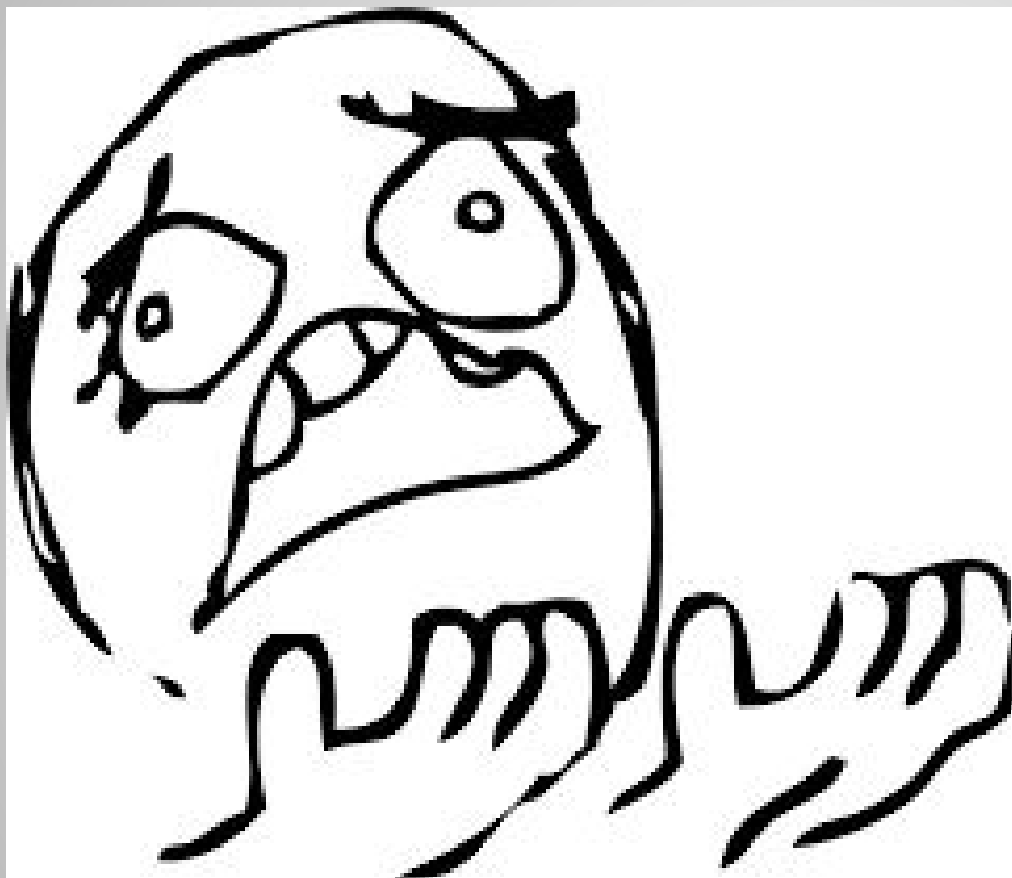


== GO

Galang
IS COOL
IN 2017

- too simple / lack of syntactic sugar
- no generics
- bad dependency management
- stuck in 70/80's
- error handling
- no unused imports
- too opinionated
- too verbose
- no ternary operator
- no macros or templates

<https://github.com/ksimka/go-is-not-good>





WHERE
WE'RE
GOING,
WE DON'T
NEED
ROADS

“Go programming language was conceived as an answer to some of the problems we were seeing developing software infrastructure at Google. The computing landscape today is almost unrelated to the environment in which the languages being used, mostly C++, Java, and Python, had been created. The problems introduced by **multicore processors**, **networked systems**, **massive computation clusters**, and the **web programming model** were being worked around rather than addressed head-on.

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- **multicore processors**
- **networked systems**
- **massive computation clusters**
- **web programming model**

- **hundreds or even thousands of programmers**
- **large compilation clusters**

80s

90s

2000

2005

2010

2017

Go



Software |
Languages

80s

90s

2000

2005

2010

2017

Go



Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute

80s

90s

2000

2005

2010

2017

Go



Context

Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute

Go



80s

90s

2000

2005

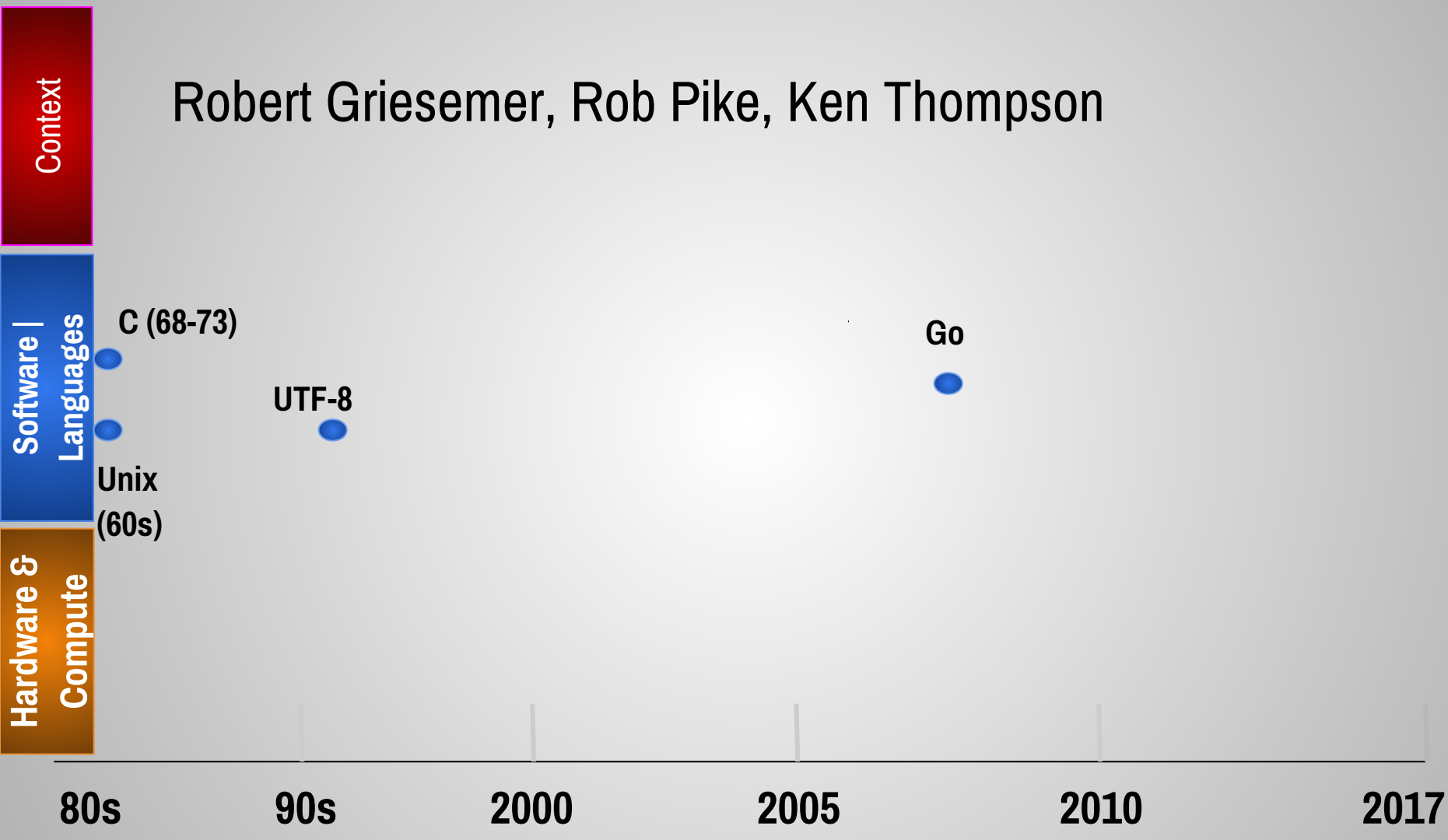
2010

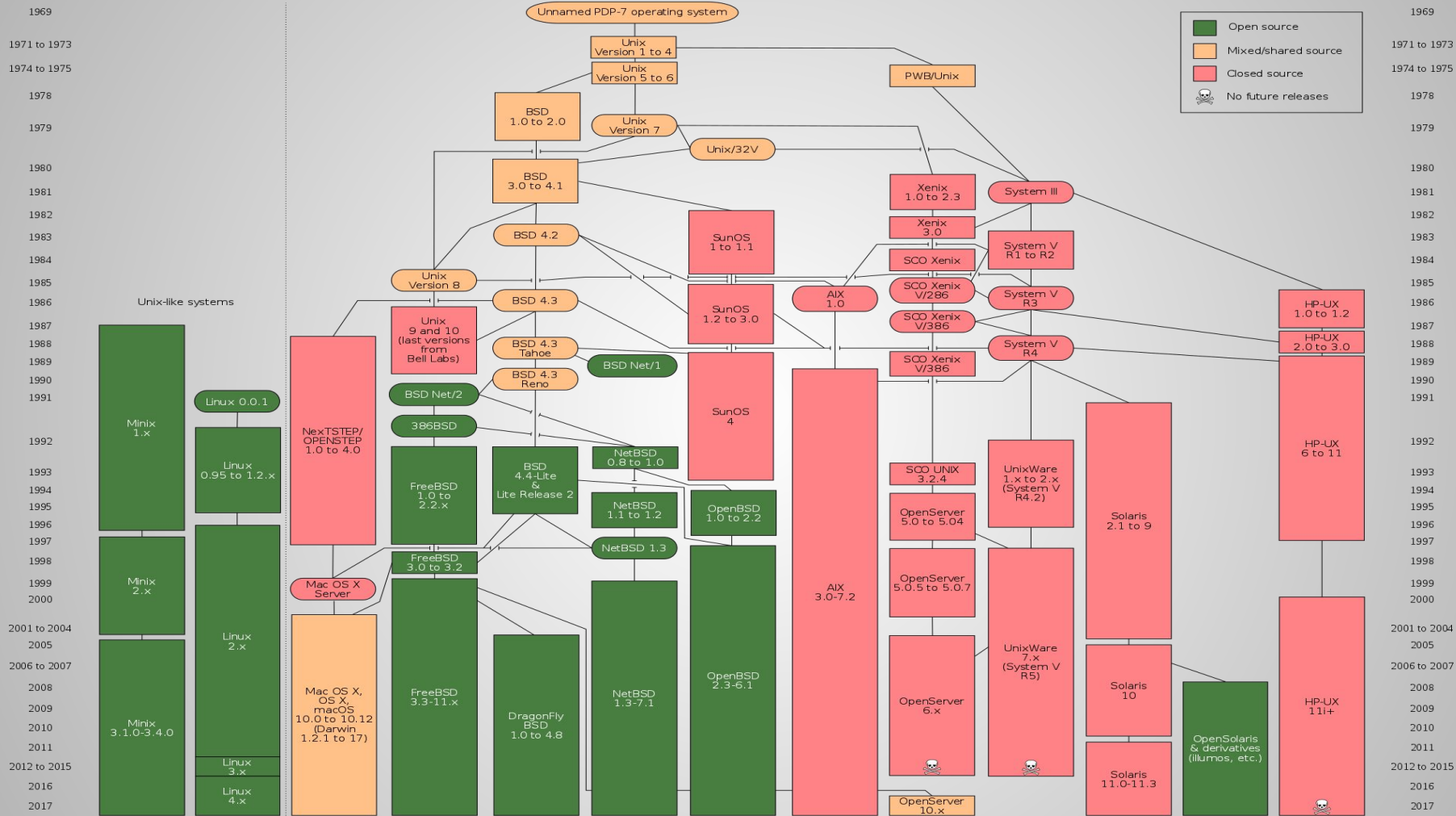
2017



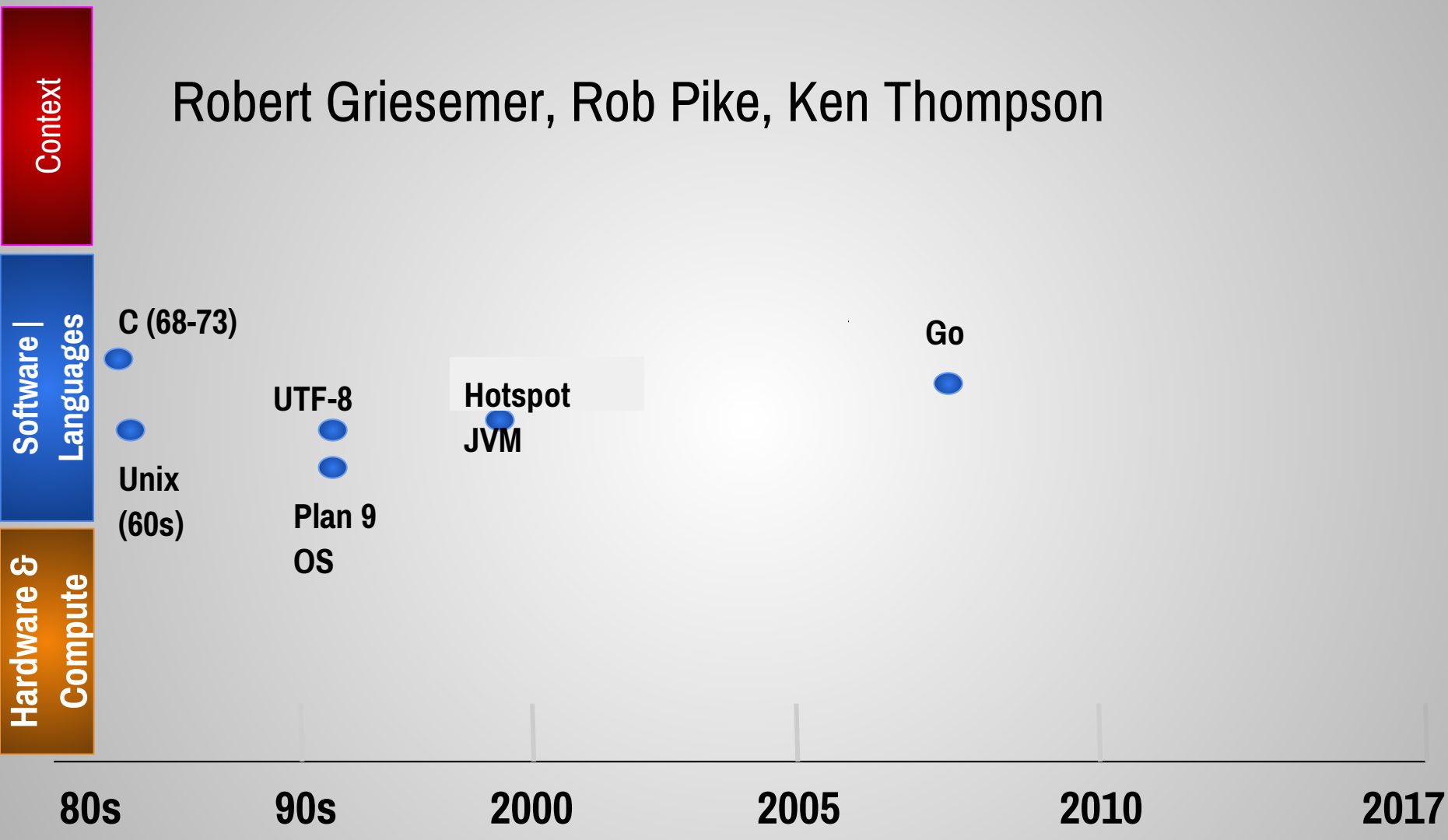
Robert Griesemer, Rob Pike and Ken Thompson

Robert Griesemer, Rob Pike, Ken Thompson



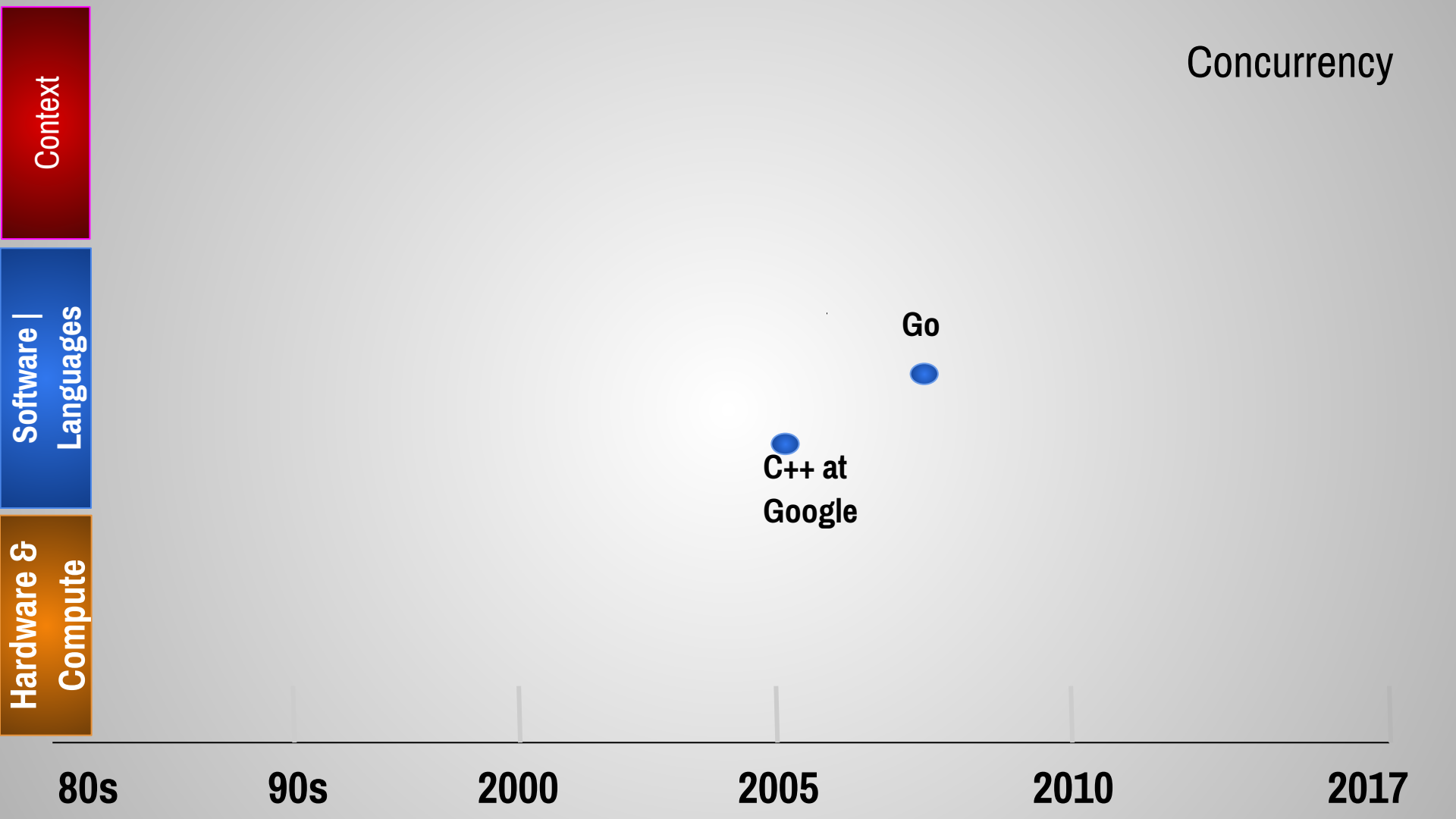


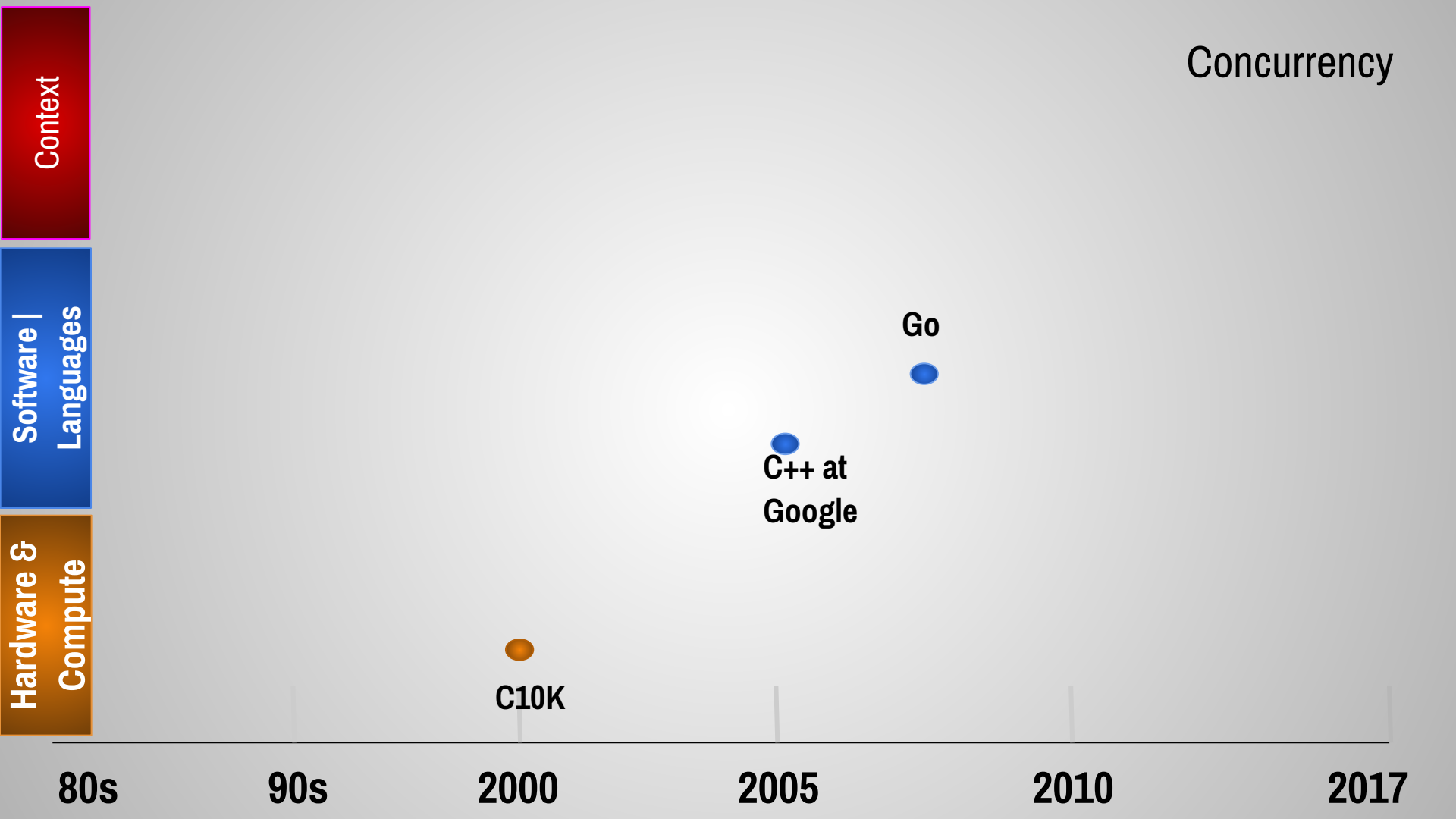
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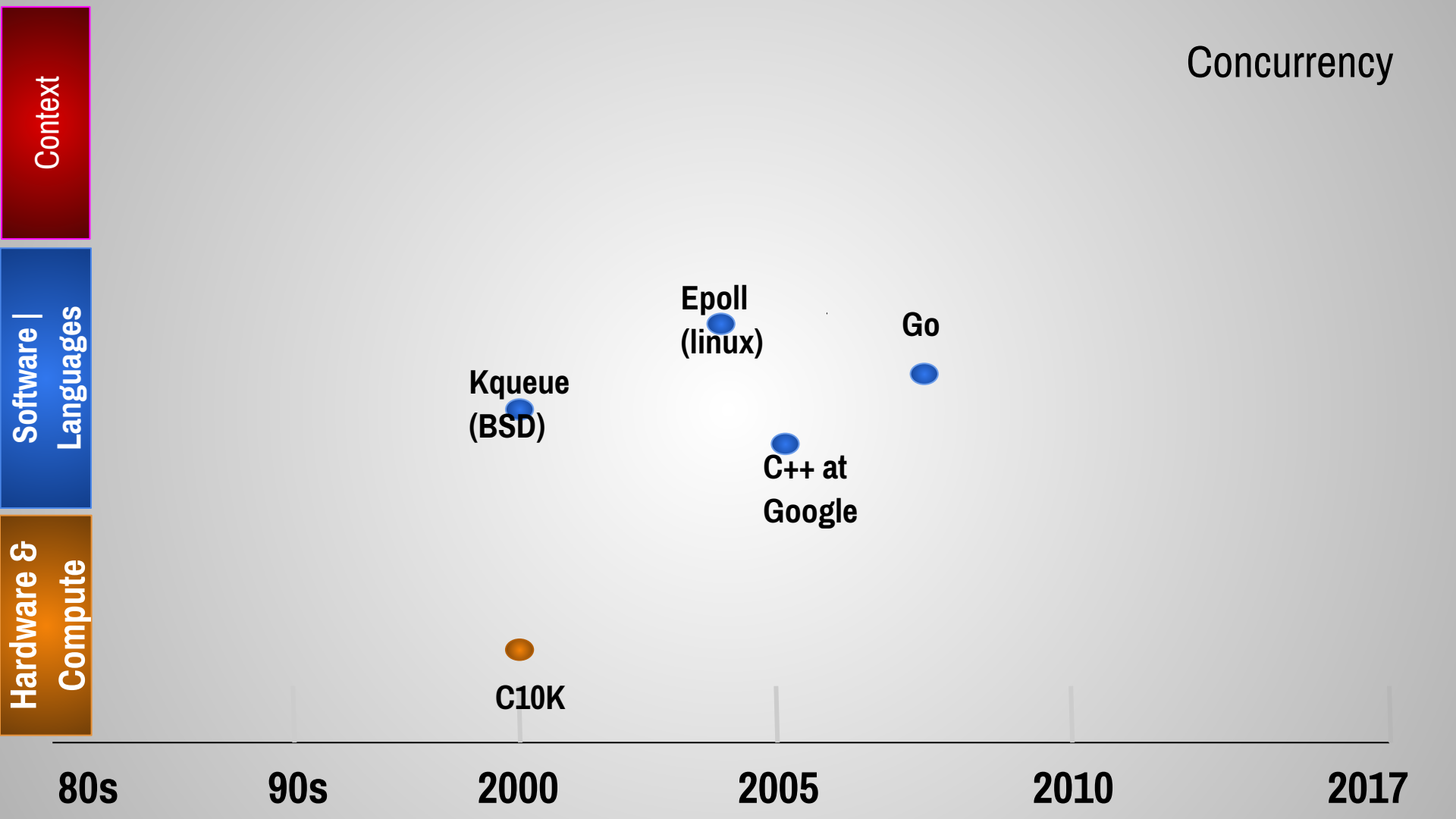


Go's 21st Century Characteristics

- Concurrency
- Distributed Systems
- Garbage Collection
- Memory Locality
- Readability







Concurrency

Context

Software Languages

Hardware & Compute

80s

90s

2000

2005

2010

2017

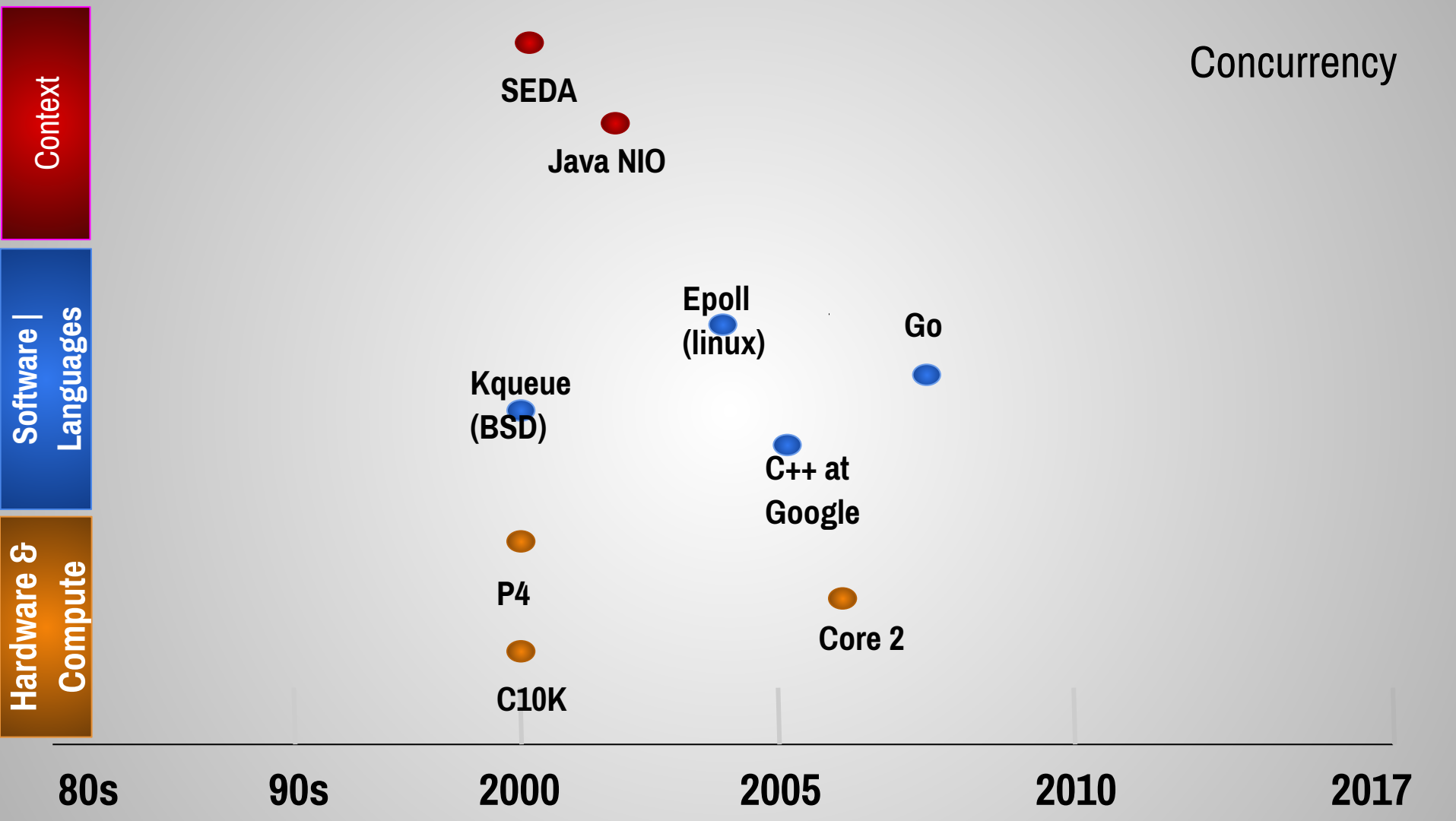
Kqueue (BSD)

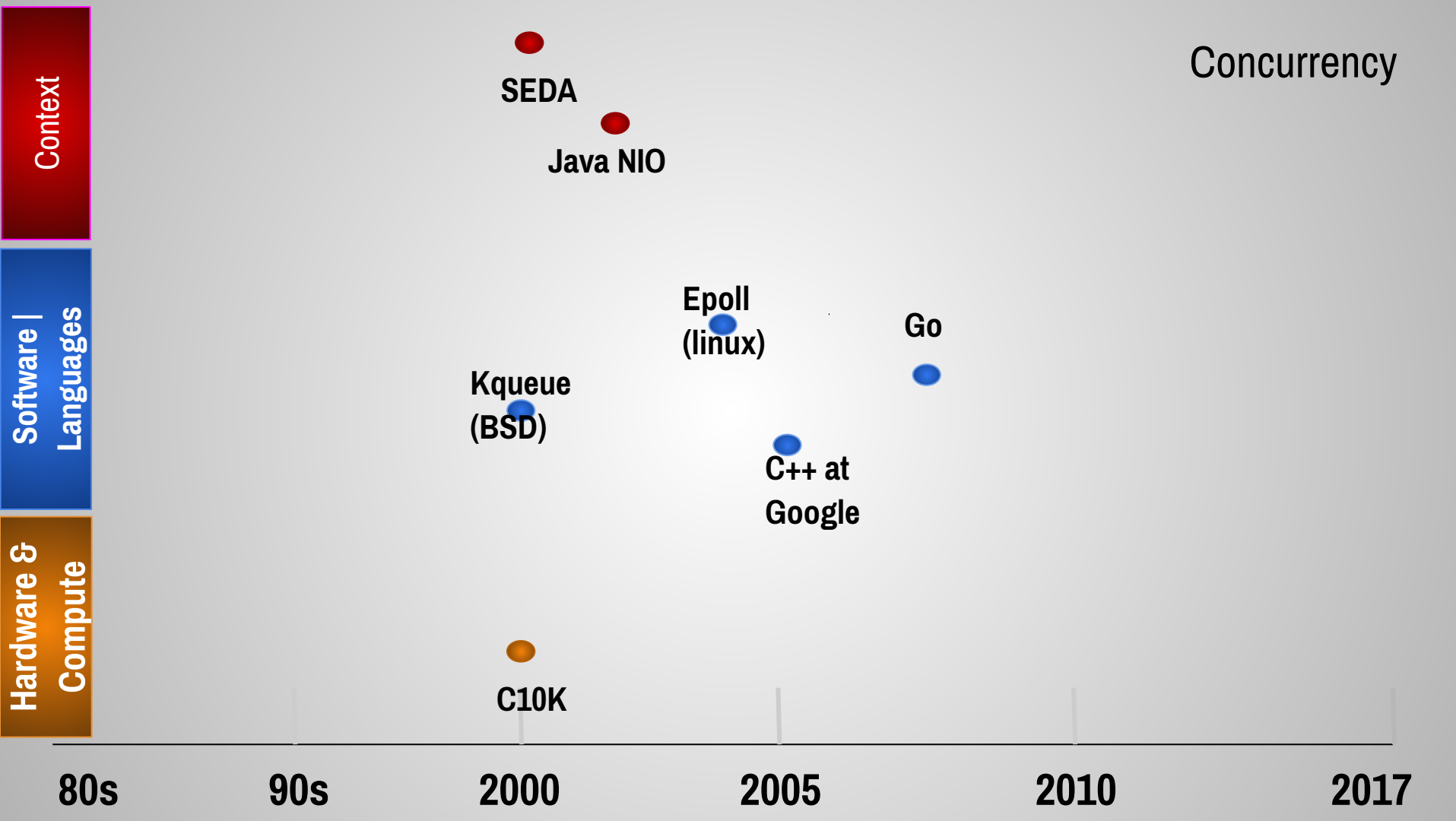
Epoll (linux)

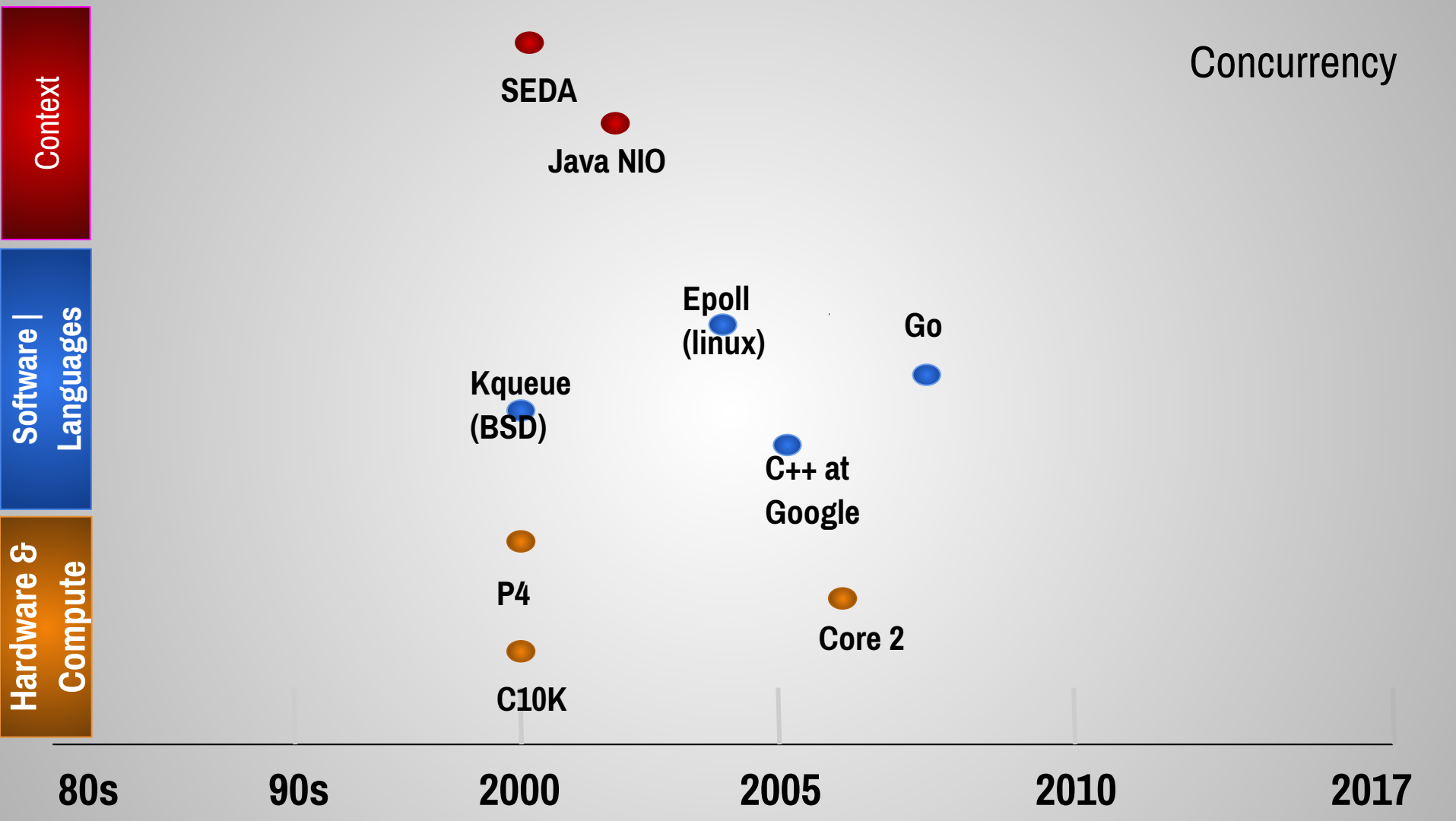
C++ at Google

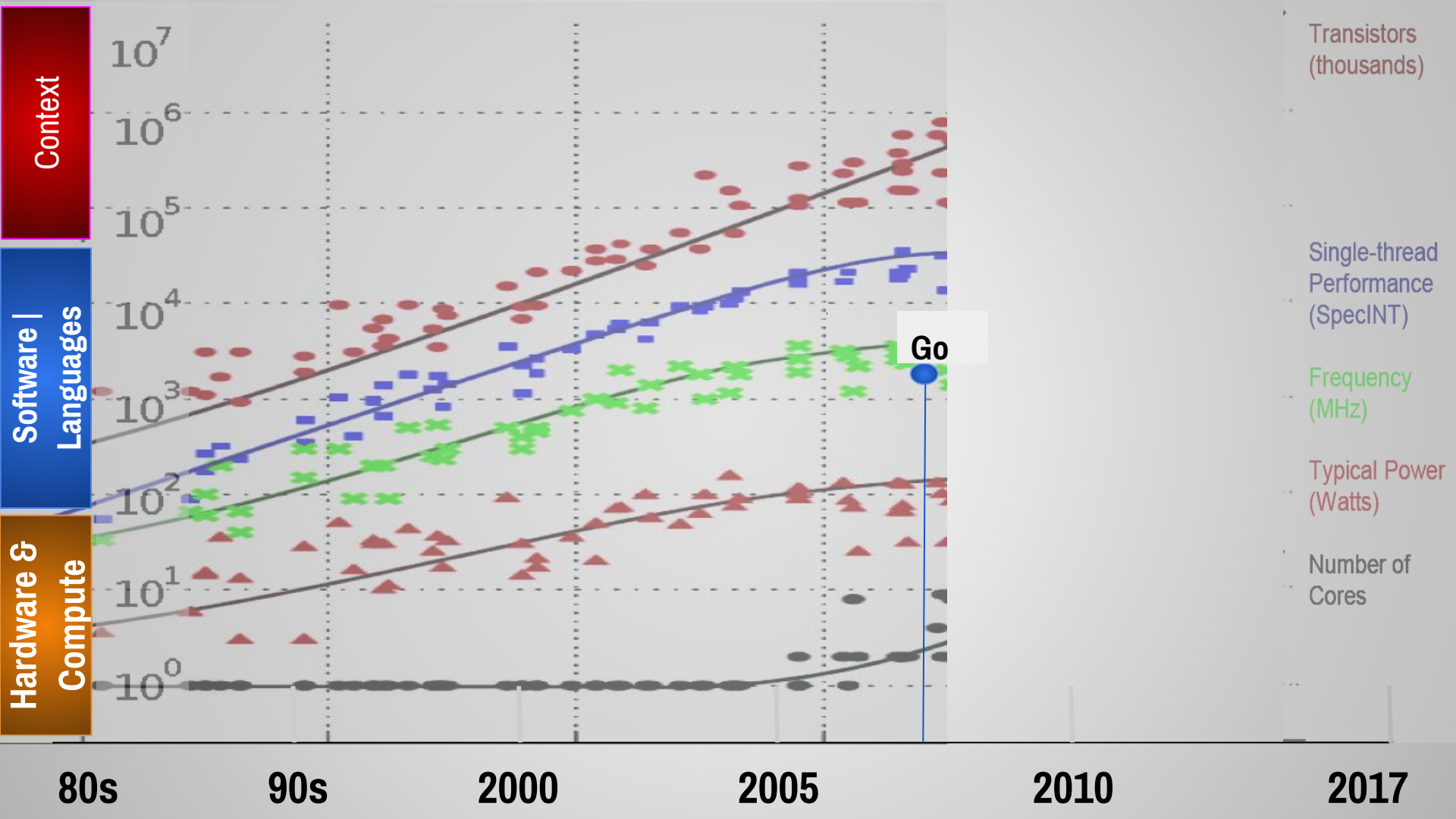
Go

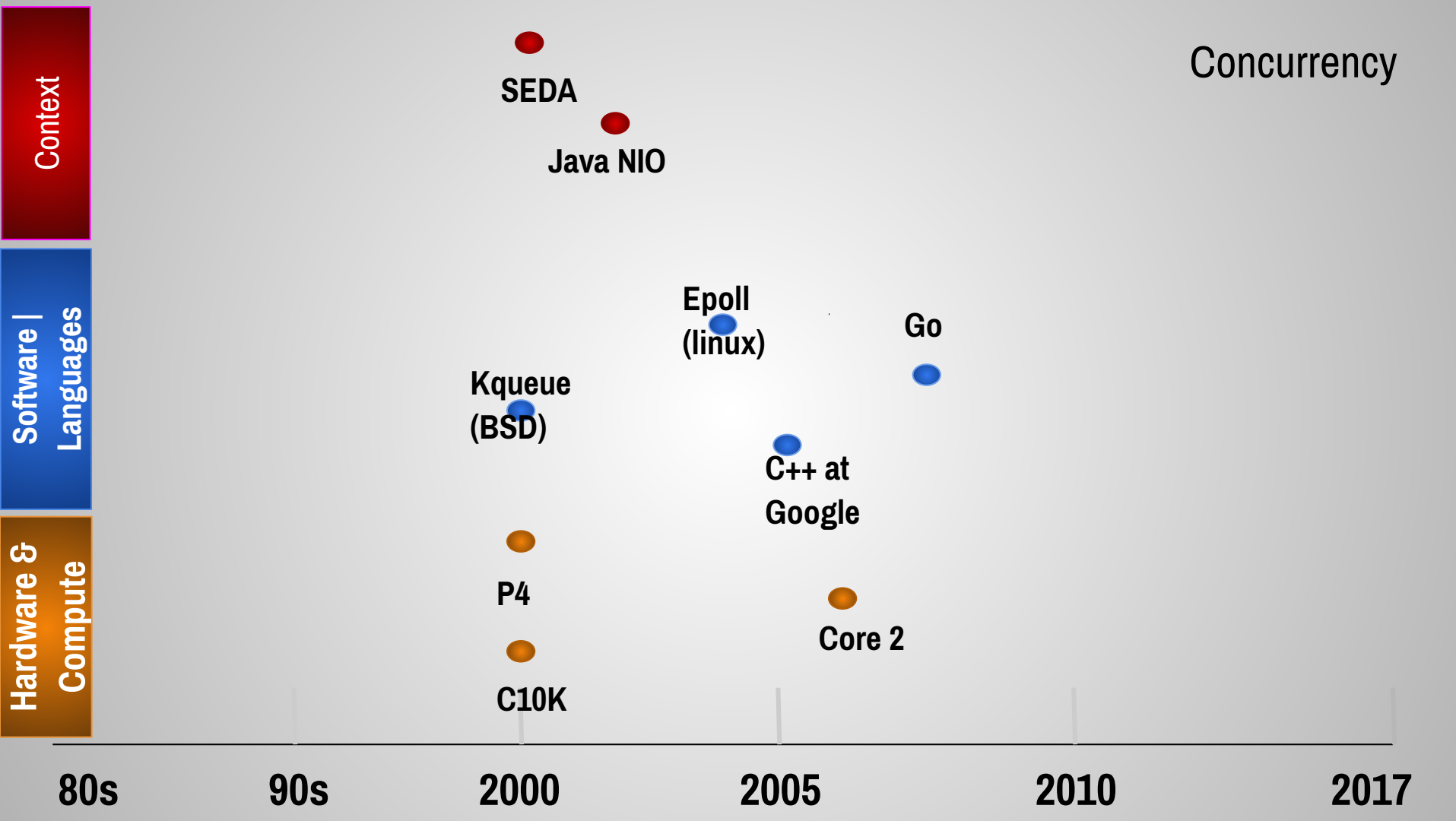
C10K

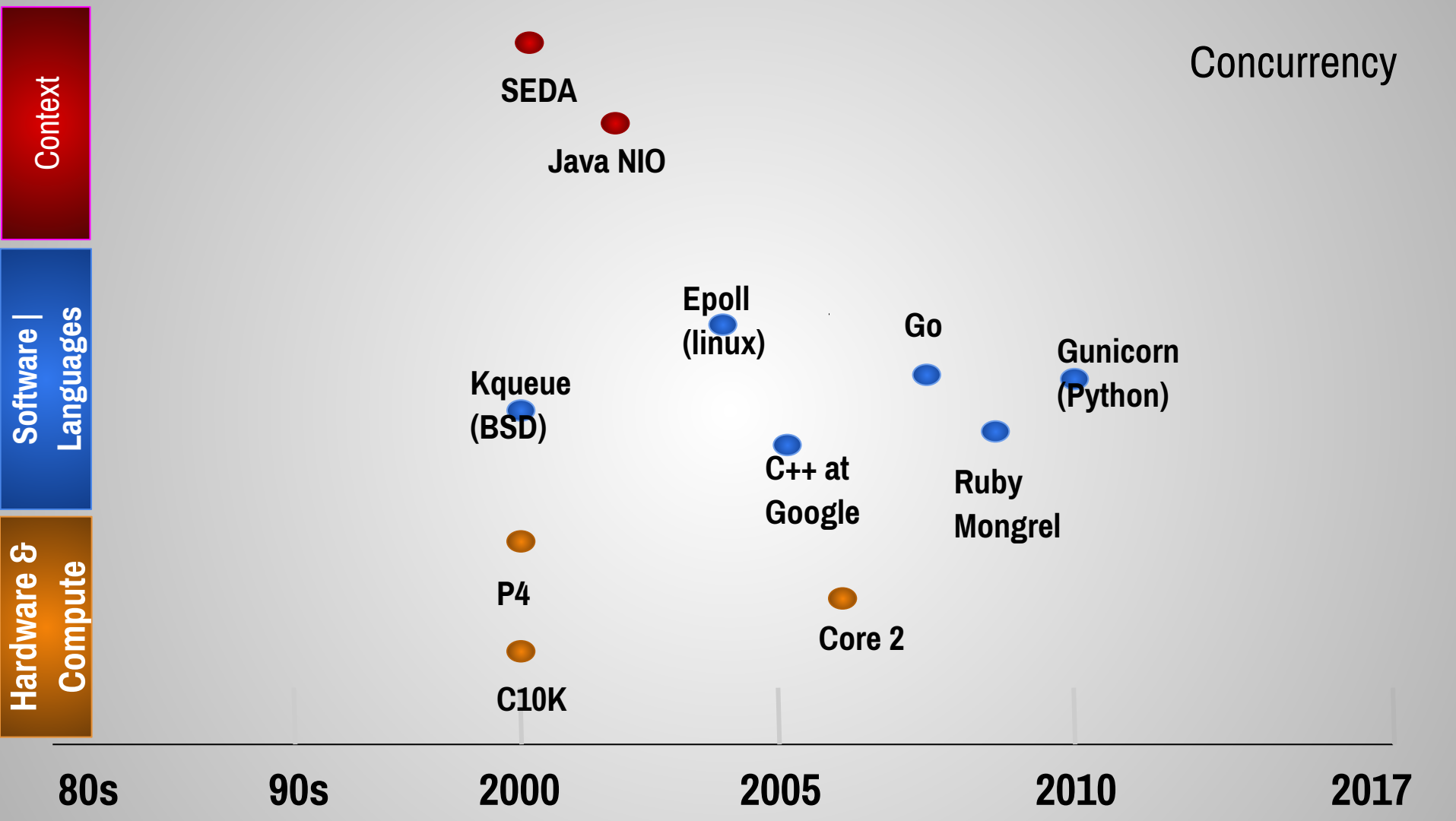












Concurrency

Context

Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute

SEDA

Java NIO

Epoll
(linux)

Go

Gunicorn
(Python)

Kqueue
(BSD)

C++ at
Google

Ruby
Mongrel

P4

Core 2

C10K

80s

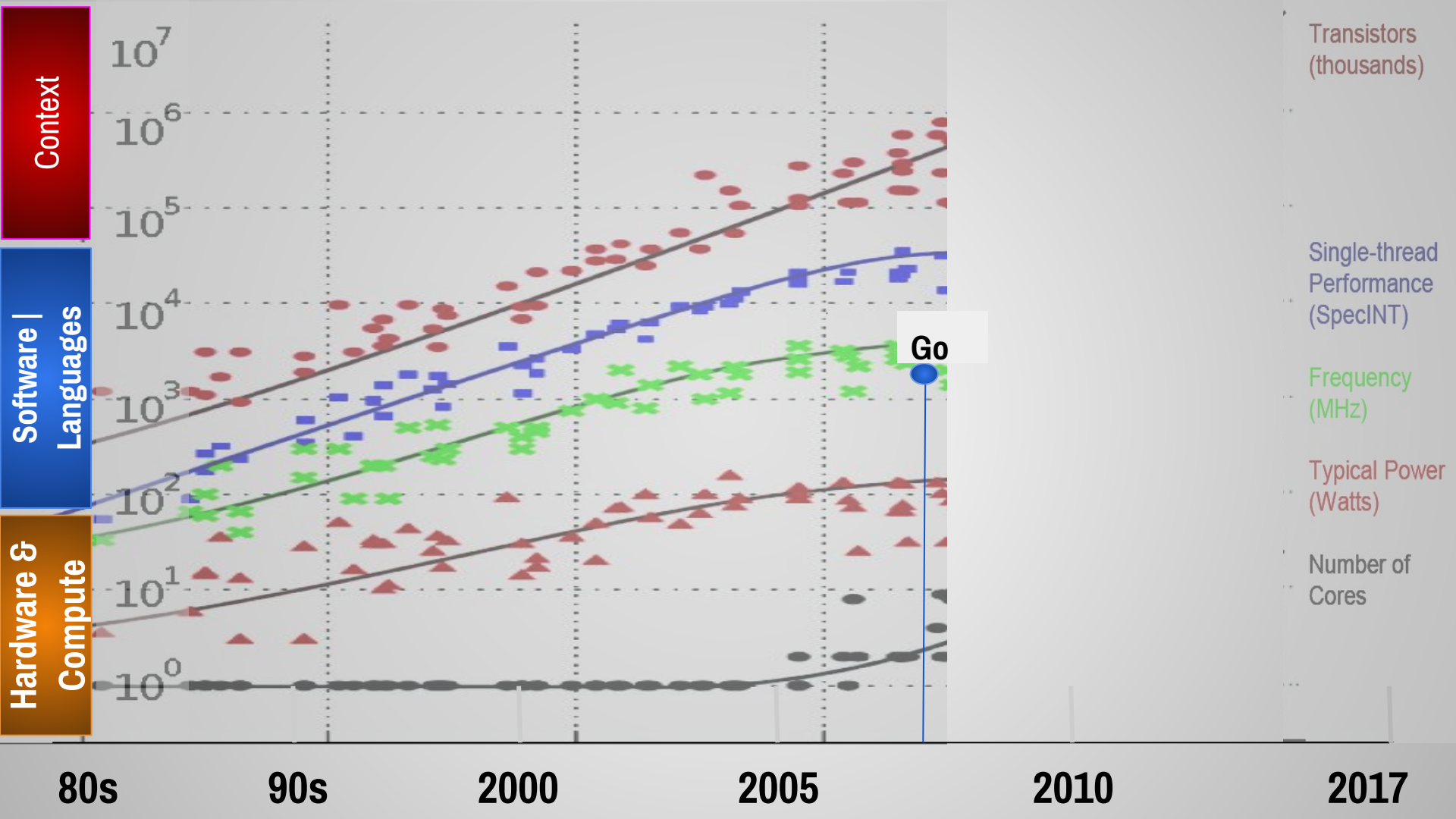
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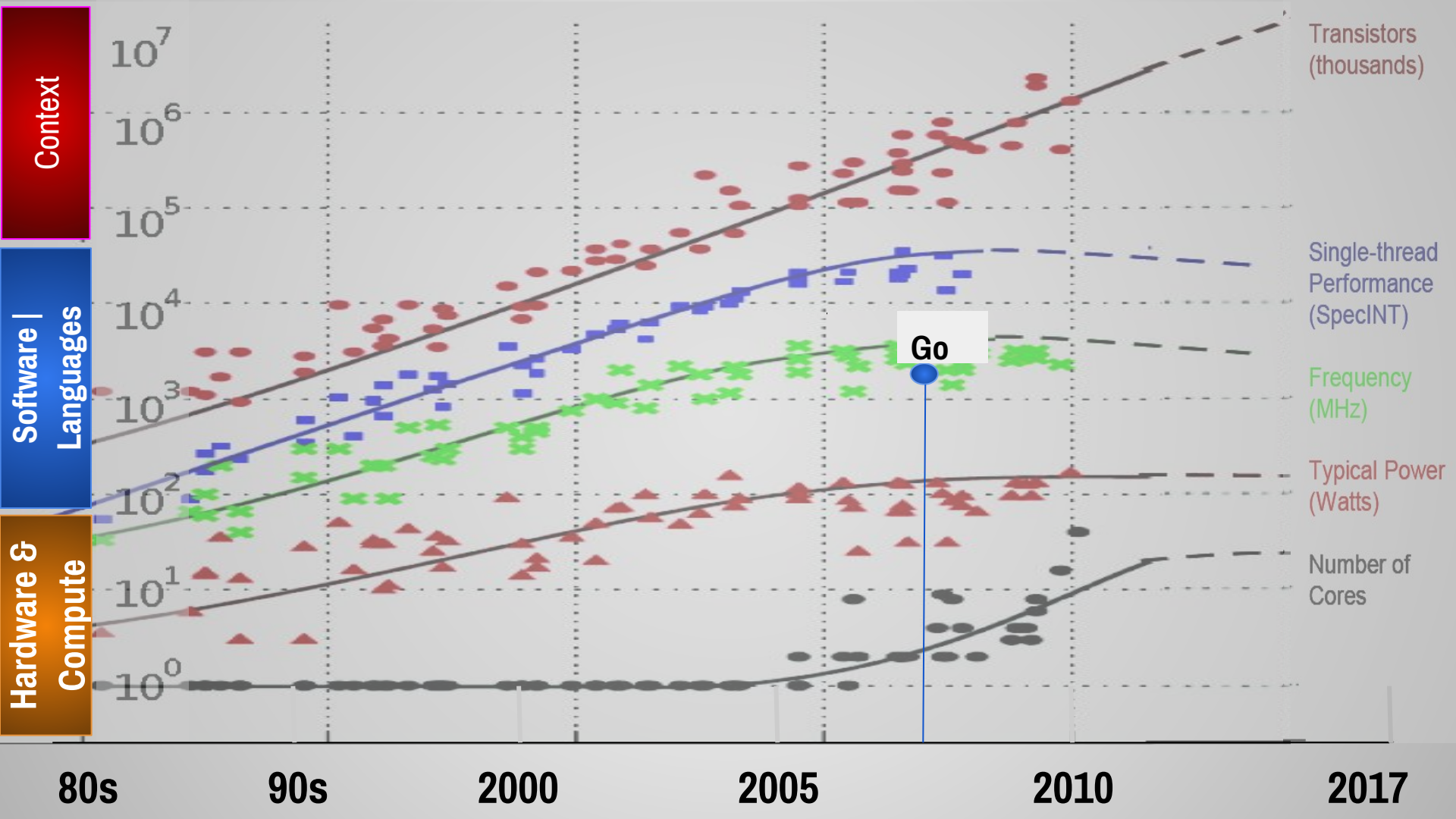
2000

2005

2010

2017





Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model

Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model



Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model



Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model



App



Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model



Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model



App

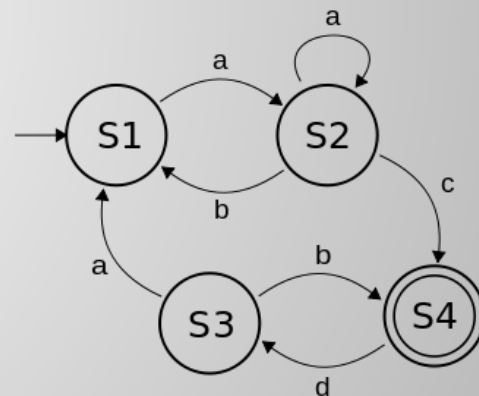


Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model



App

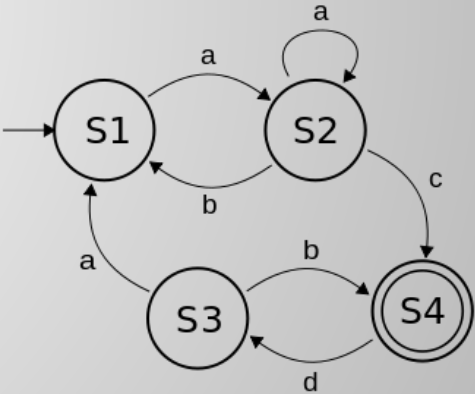


Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model

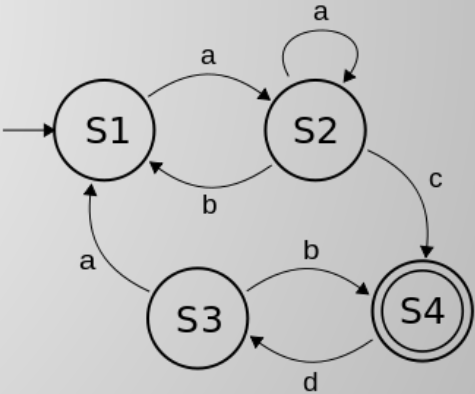


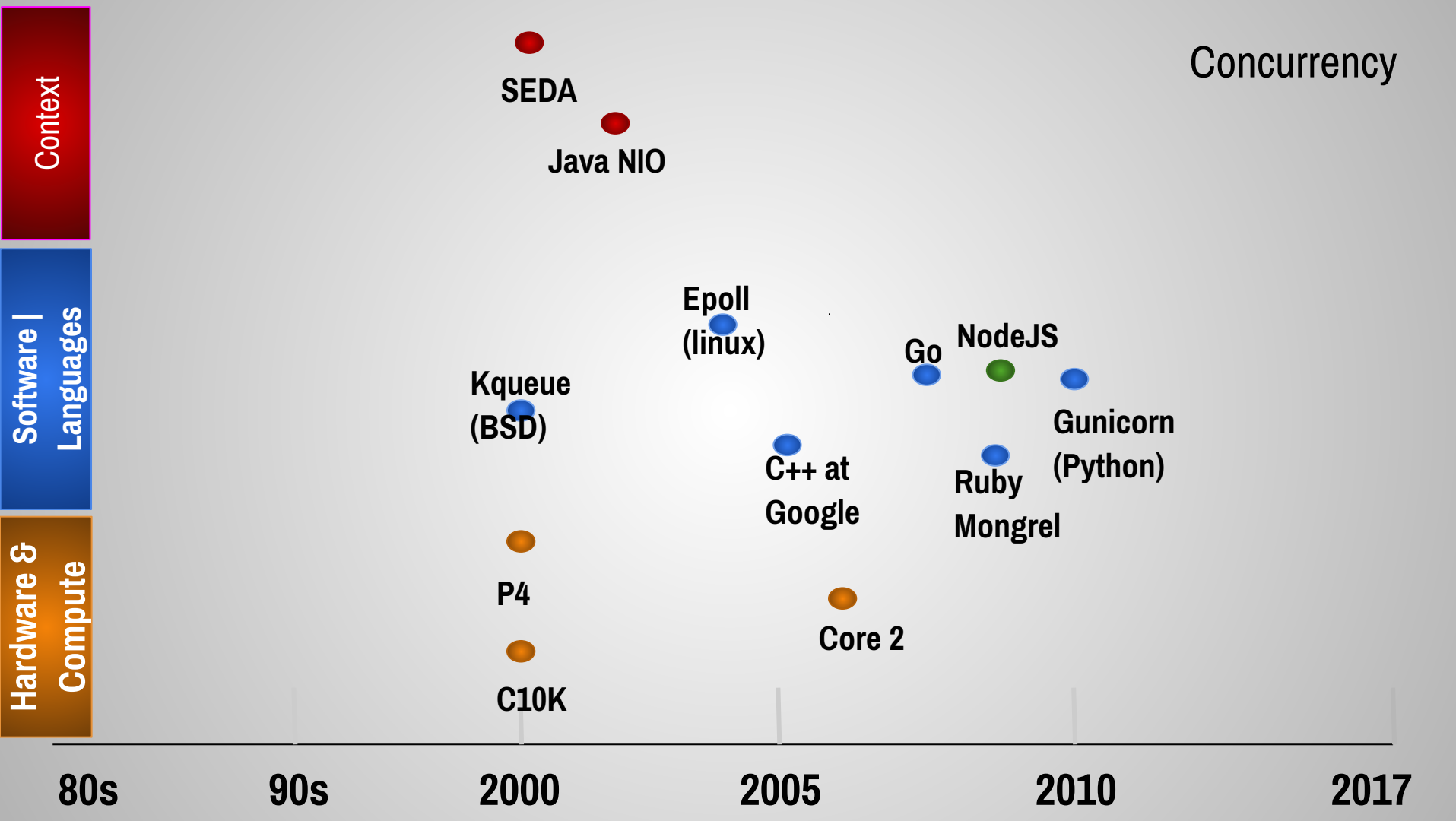
App

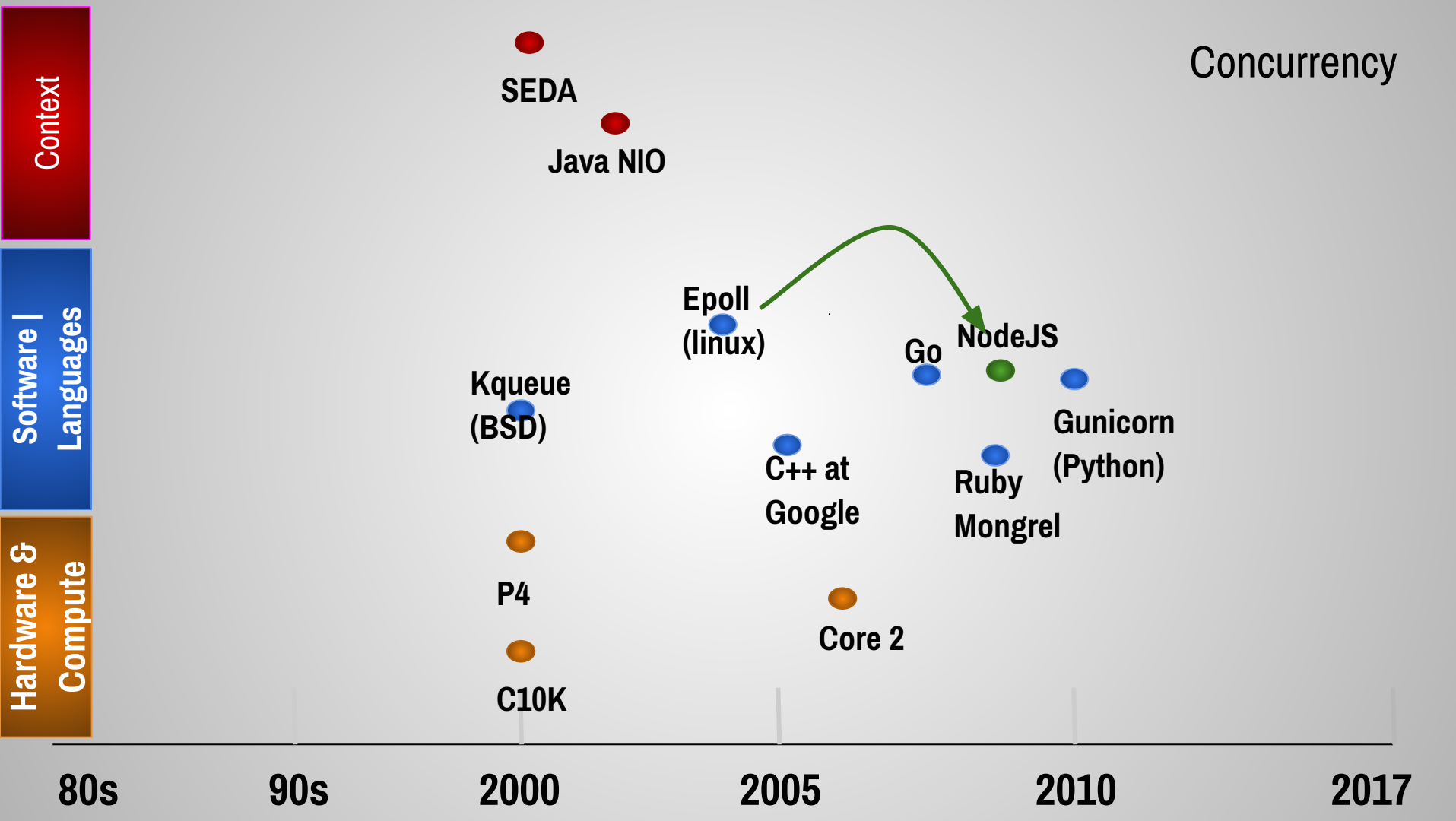


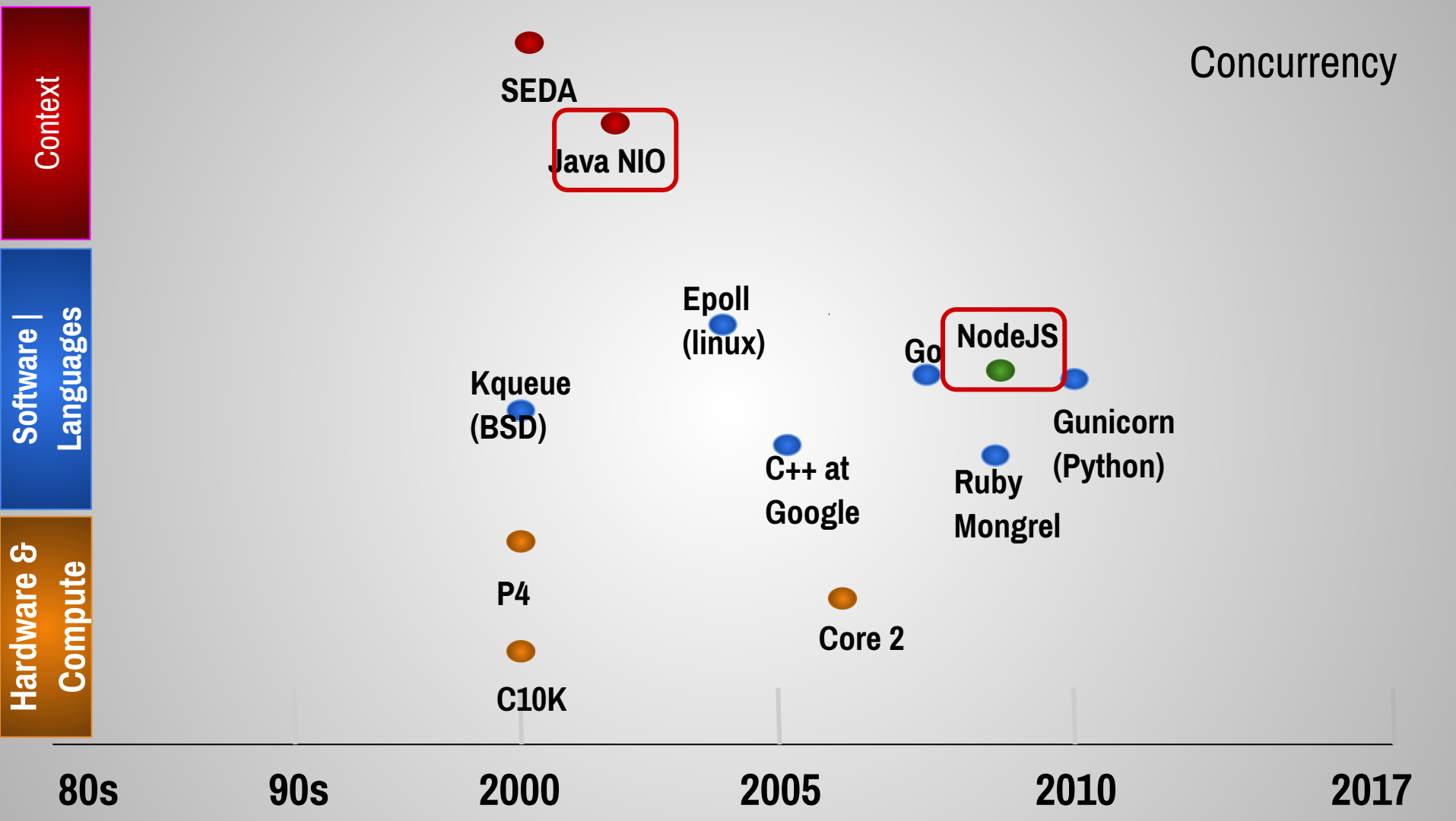
Events, Threads and Goroutines

Nginx - event loop plus state machine model

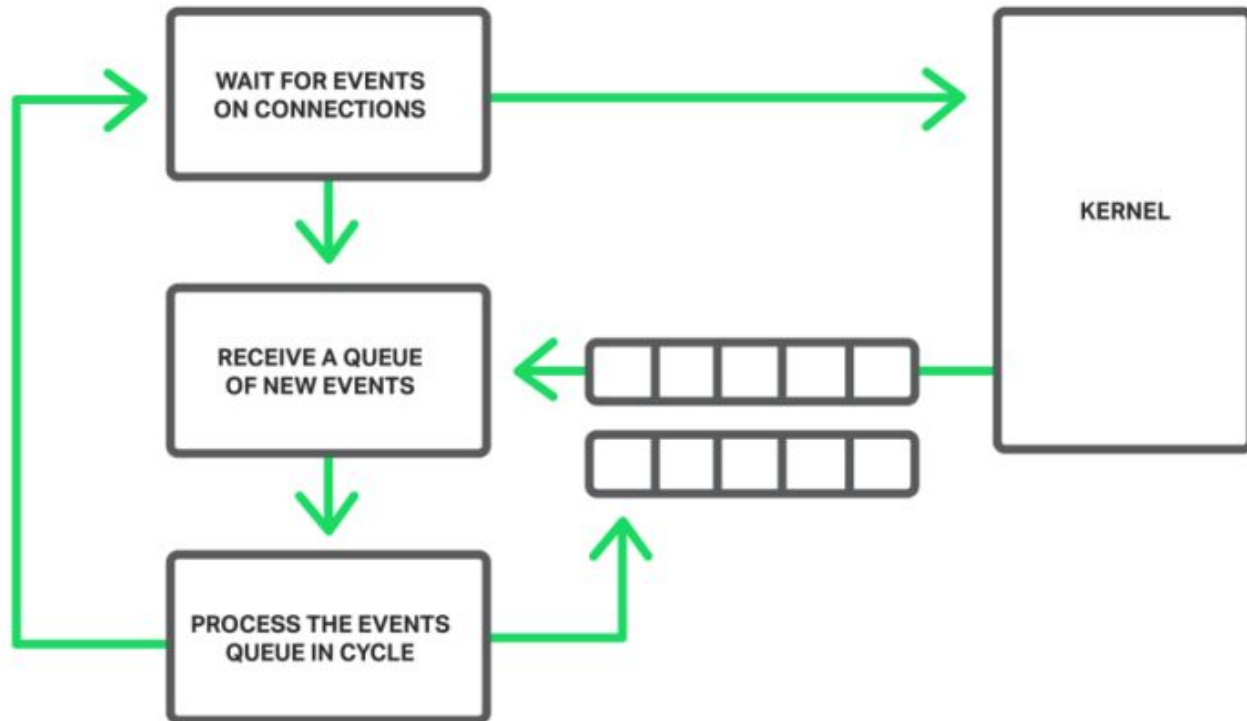


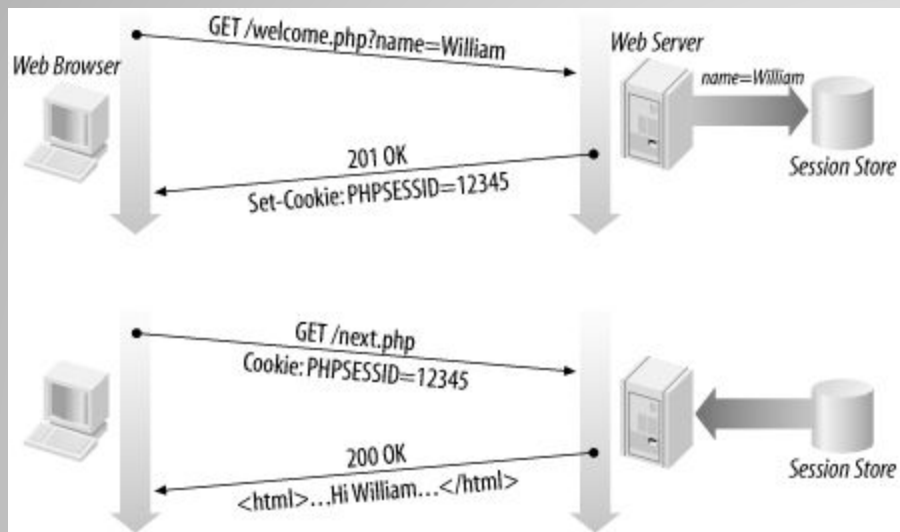


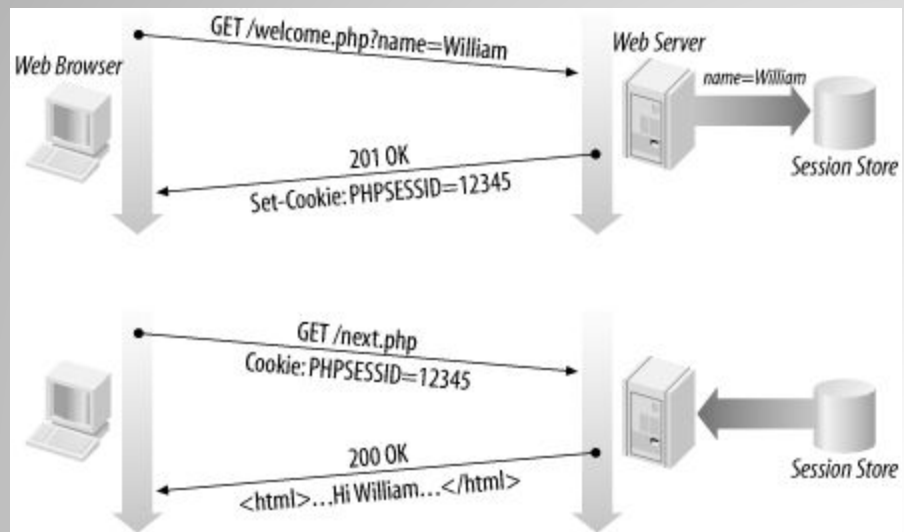


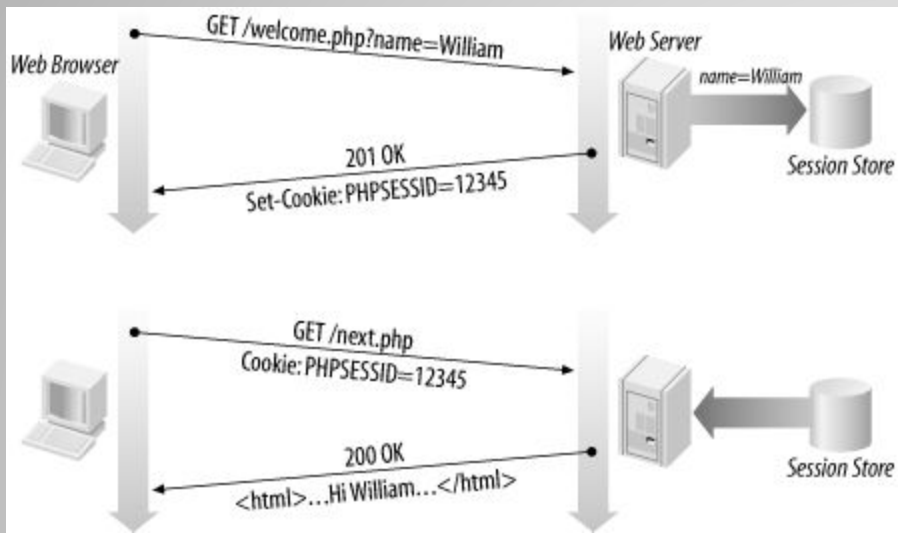


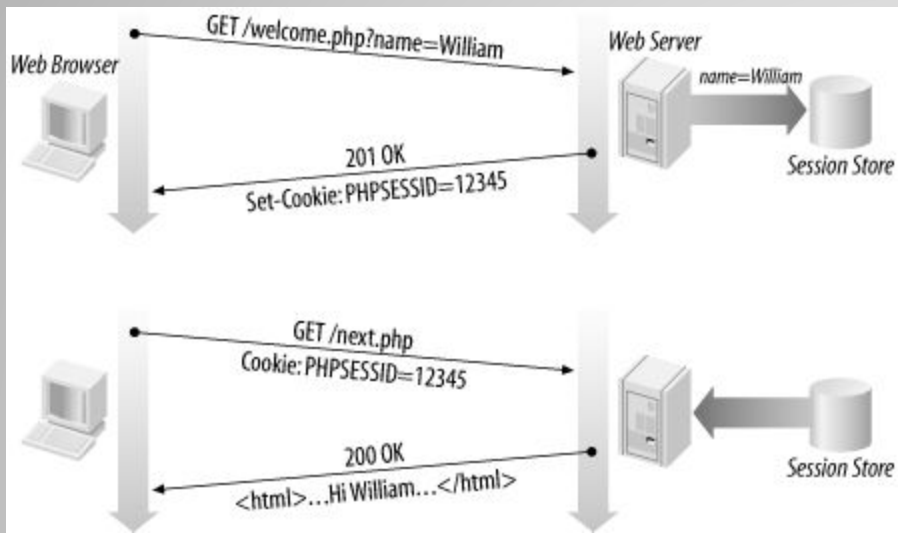
NGINX EVENT LOOP

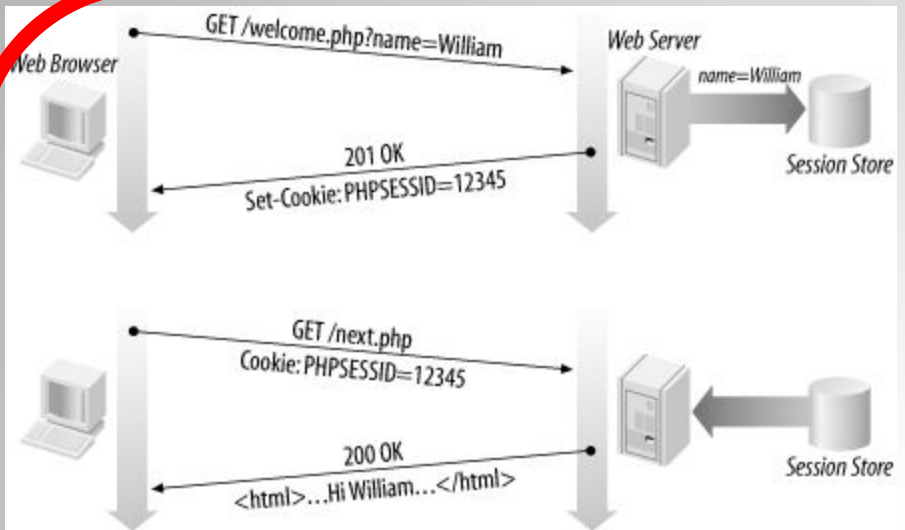




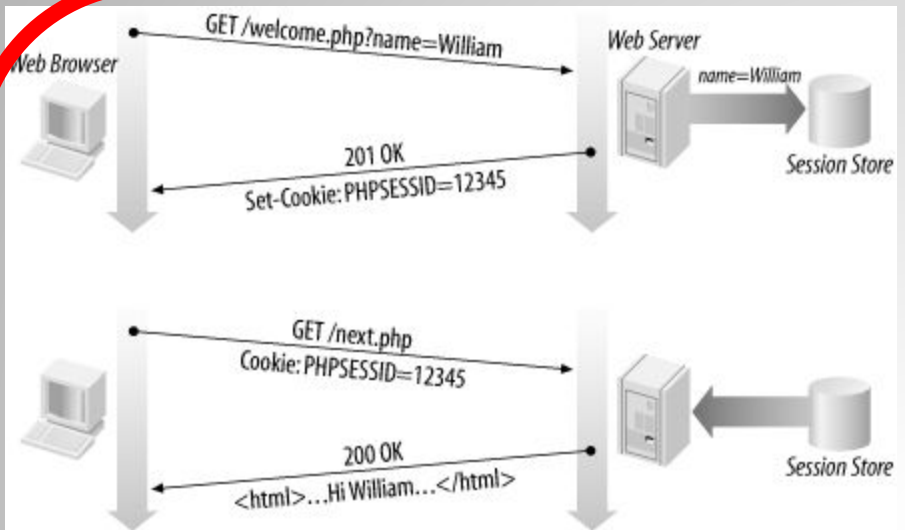








App



= Threads



App

REQUESTS, ETC

EVENT LOOP
(single thread)

Register Callback

INTENSIVE OPERATION

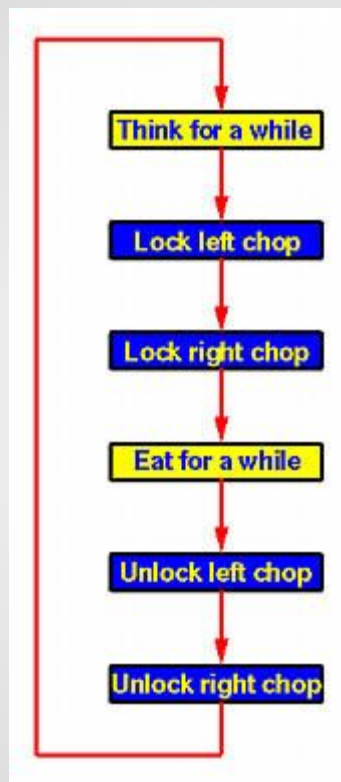
File System

Database

Computation

Trigger Callback

Operation Complete



Syscall impact on user-mode IPC



Context

Distributed Systems

Software | Languages

Hardware & Compute

SEDA
Java NIO

Kqueue (BSD)
Epoll (linux)

P4
C10K

C++ at Google

Core 2

Go
NodeJS
Ruby
Mongrel
Gunicorn (Python)

The rise of containers + cloud-native+ ecosystem
Microservices
serverless

80s

90s

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Context

Garbage
Collection

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The rise of
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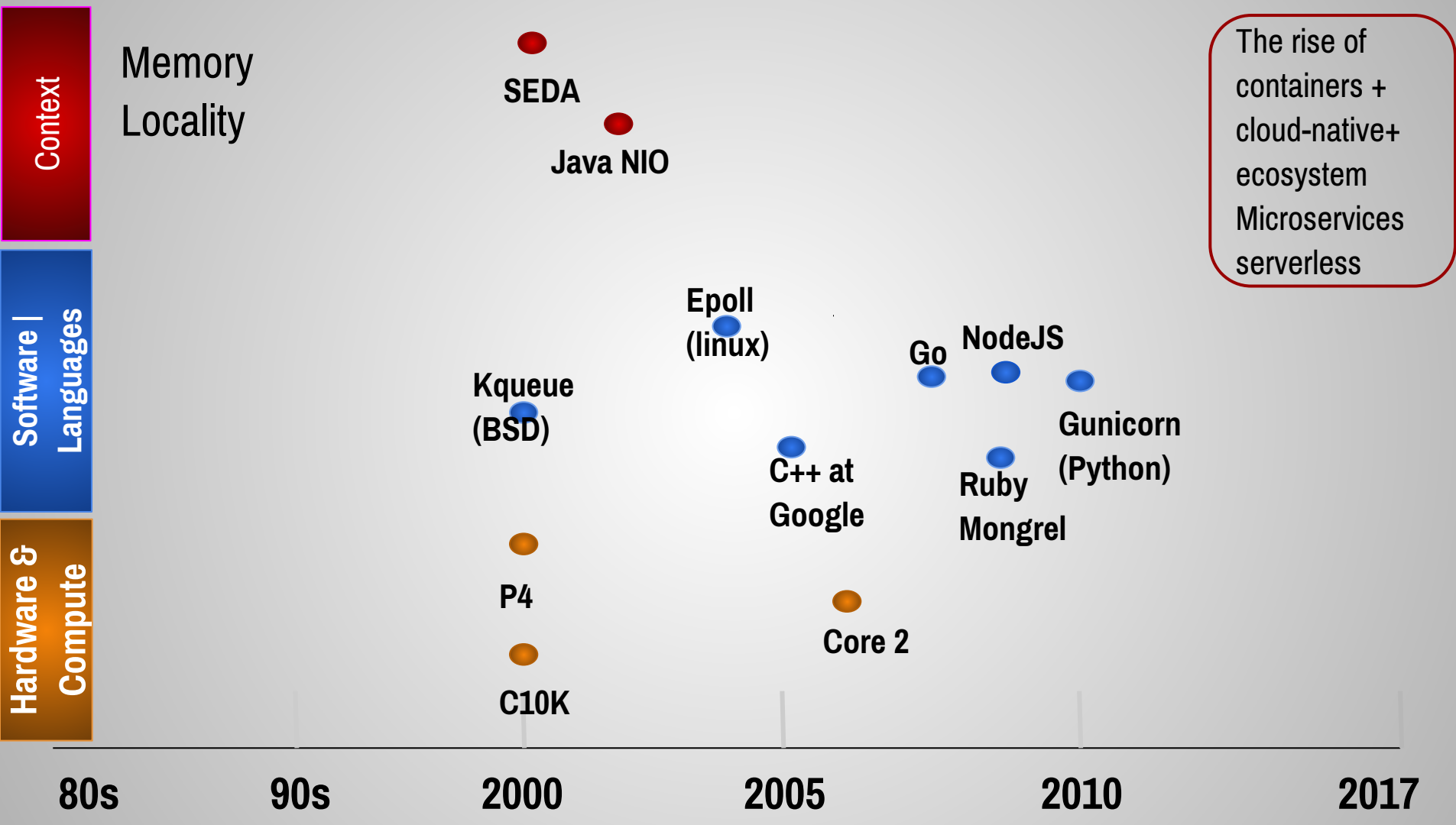
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Memory
Locality

SEDA

Java NIO

The rise of
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Microservices
serverless

Software |
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Hardware &
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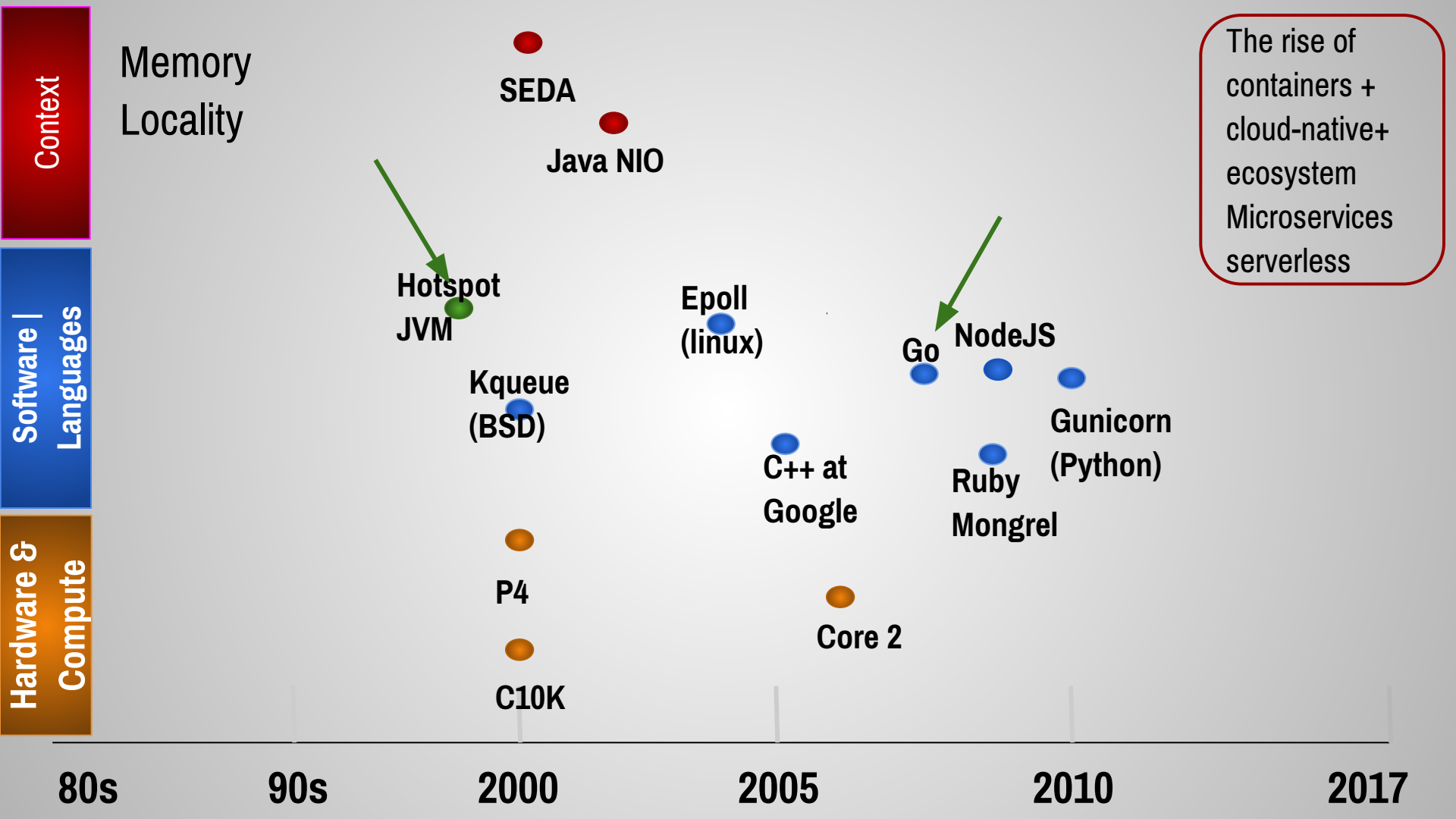
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Context

Memory
Locality

The rise of
containers +
cloud-native+
ecosystem
Microservices
serverless

Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute

80s 90s 2000 2005 2010 2017

Memory Locality

Memory Locality

Java

Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Go

Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Go

Structs

True Value types

Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

Structs

True Value types

Context

Memory
Locality

Software |
Languages



Hardware &
Compute

The rise of
containers +
cloud-native+
ecosystem
Microservices
serverless

80s 90s 2000 2005 2010 2017

SEDA
Java NIO

Hotspot
JVM

Epoll
(linux)

Kqueue
(BSD)

Go
NodeJS

Go GC
1.8

C++ at
Google

Ruby
Mongrel

Gunicorn
(Python)

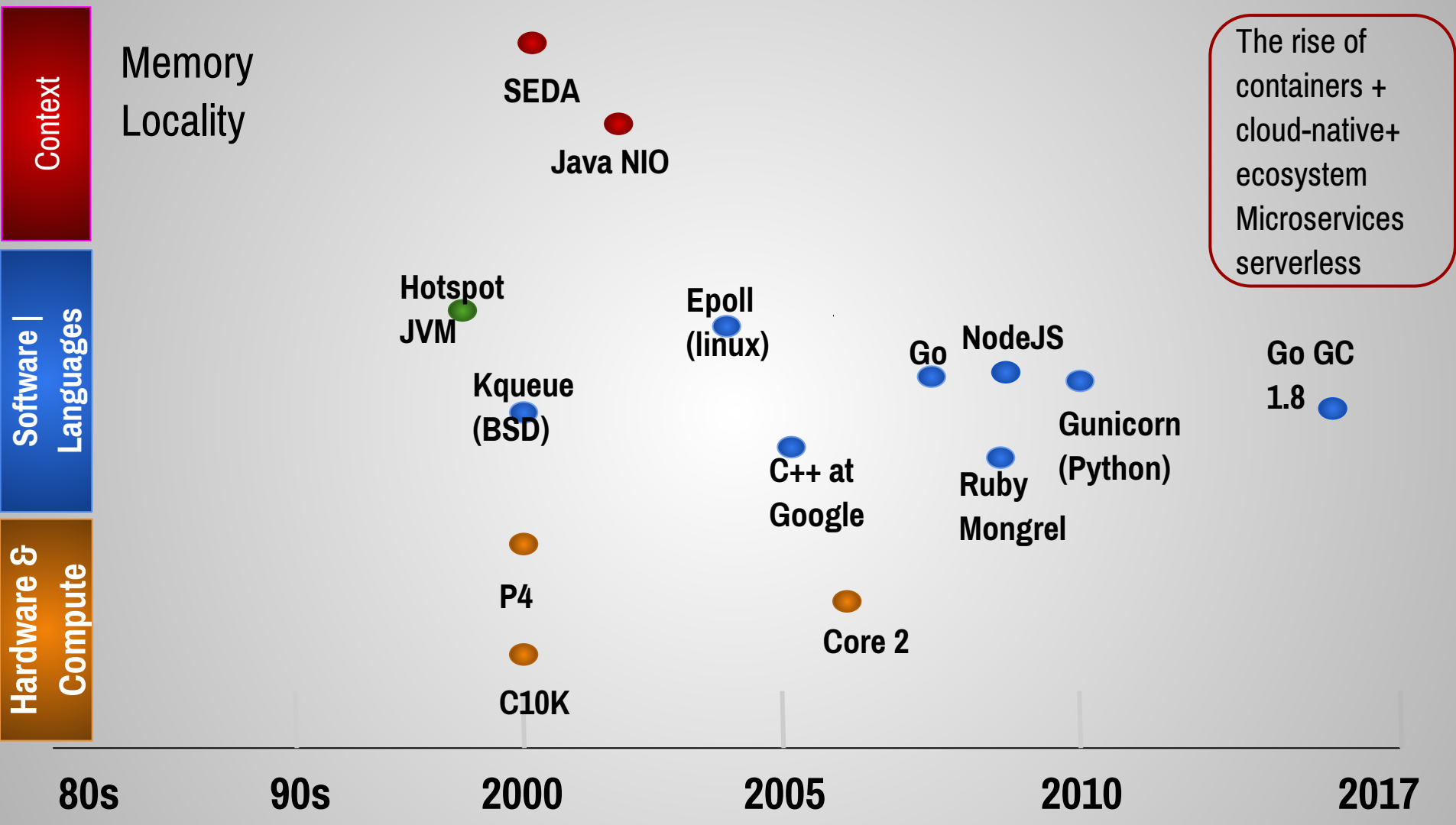
P4

Core 2

C10K

Ruby
Mongrel

When the three of us [[Ken Thompson](#), [Rob Pike](#), and [Robert Griesemer](#)] got started, it was pure research. The three of us got together and decided that we hated C++. [laughter] ... [Returning to Go,] we started off with the idea that all three of us had to be talked into every feature in the language, so there was no extraneous garbage put into the language for any reason.



Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

Structs

True Value types

Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

Structs

True Value types

compact object layout

No object headers

Memory Locality

Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

UTF-8

Structs

True Value types

compact object layout

No object headers

Memory Locality

Java

UTF-16

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

UTF-8

Structs

True Value types

compact object layout

No object headers

Memory Locality

Java

UTF-16

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

UTF-8

Structs

True Value types

Compact object layout

No object headers

Lazy initialization of

collections

Memory Locality (conclusion)

Memory Locality (conclusion)

- Go gives programmers the tools to talk about memory efficiently *if they need it.*

Memory Locality (conclusion)

- Go gives programmers the tools to talk about memory efficiently *if they need it.*
- Flexible

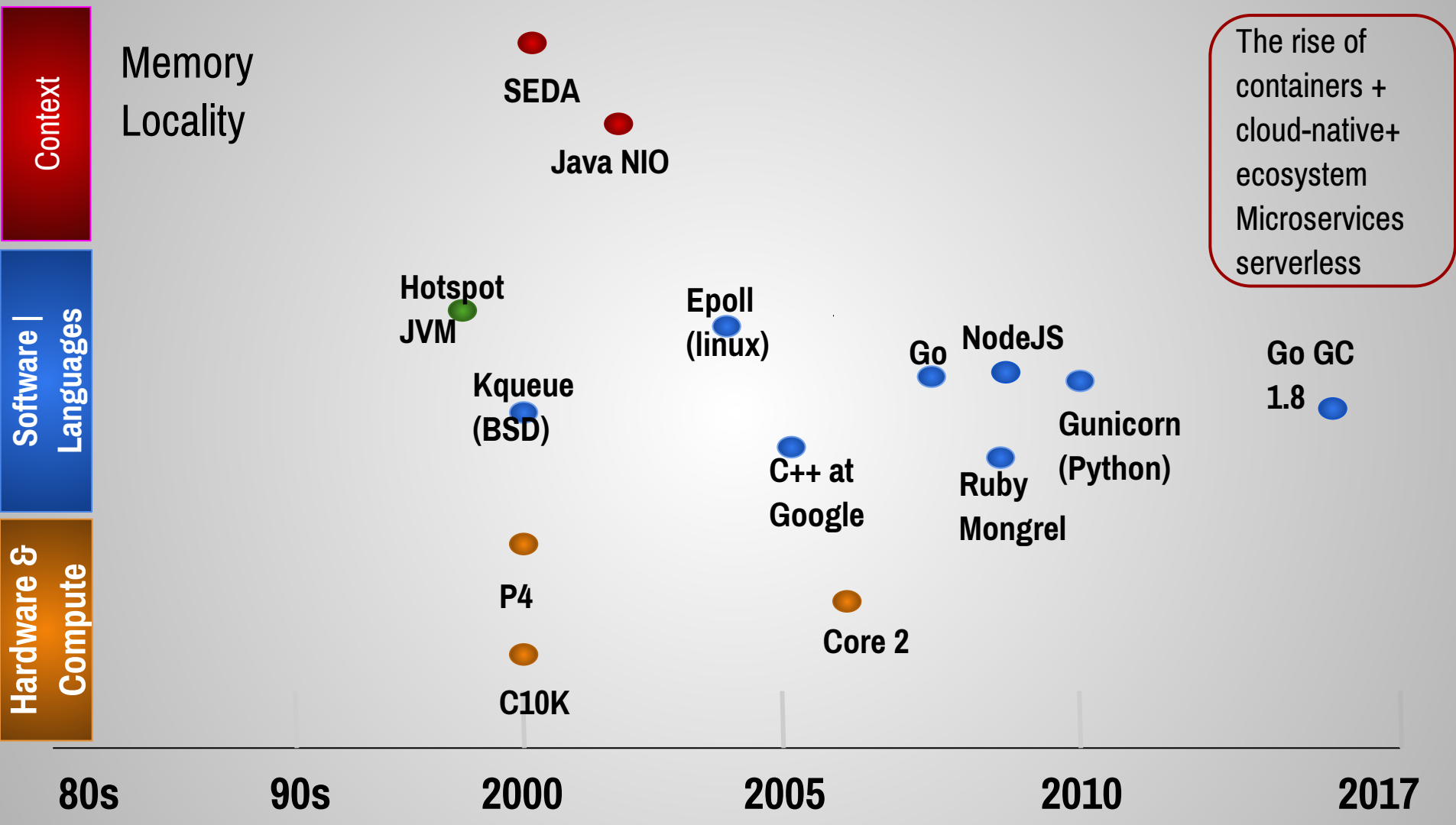
Memory Locality (conclusion)

- Go gives programmers the tools to talk about memory efficiently *if they need it.*
- Flexible
- Memory management (not an all-or-nothing like in C++ or Rust)

Readability

Readability

“ Debugging is twice as hard as writing the code in the first place. Therefore, if you write the code as cleverly as possible, you are, by definition, not smart enough to debug it. ” —Brian Kernighan



Context

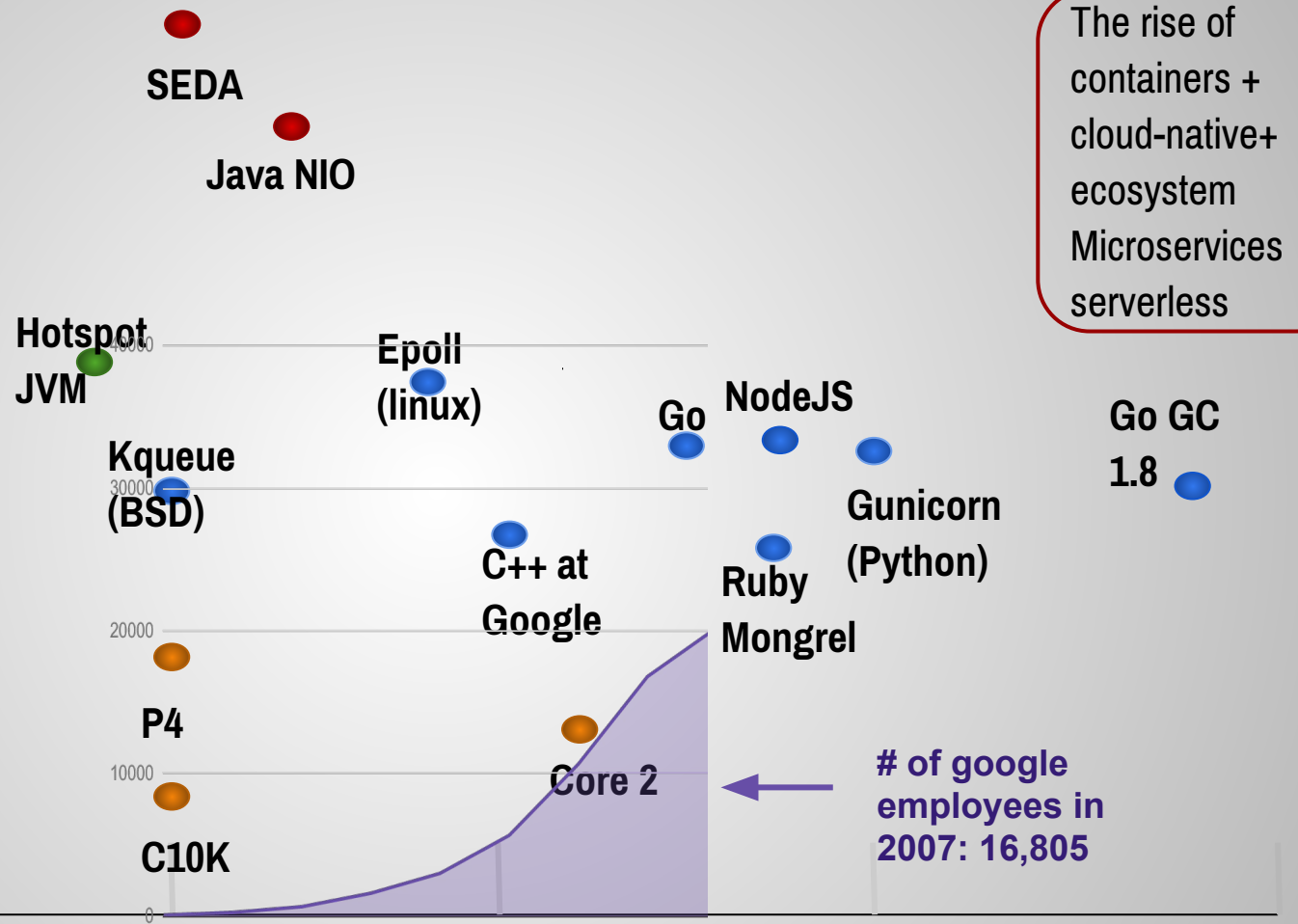
Memory
Locality

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Languages

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80s 90s 2000 2005 2010 2017



Context

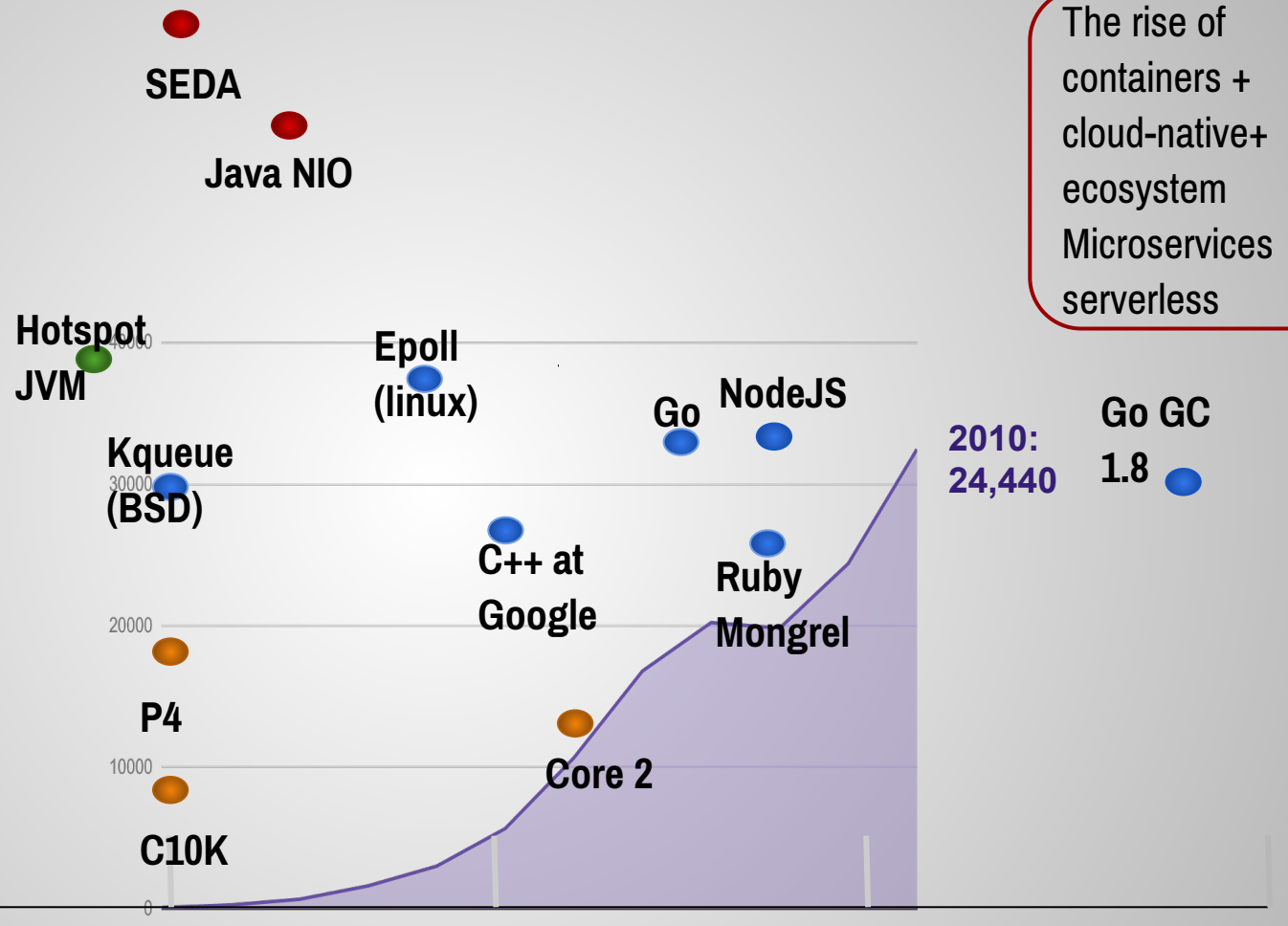
Memory
Locality

Software |
Languages

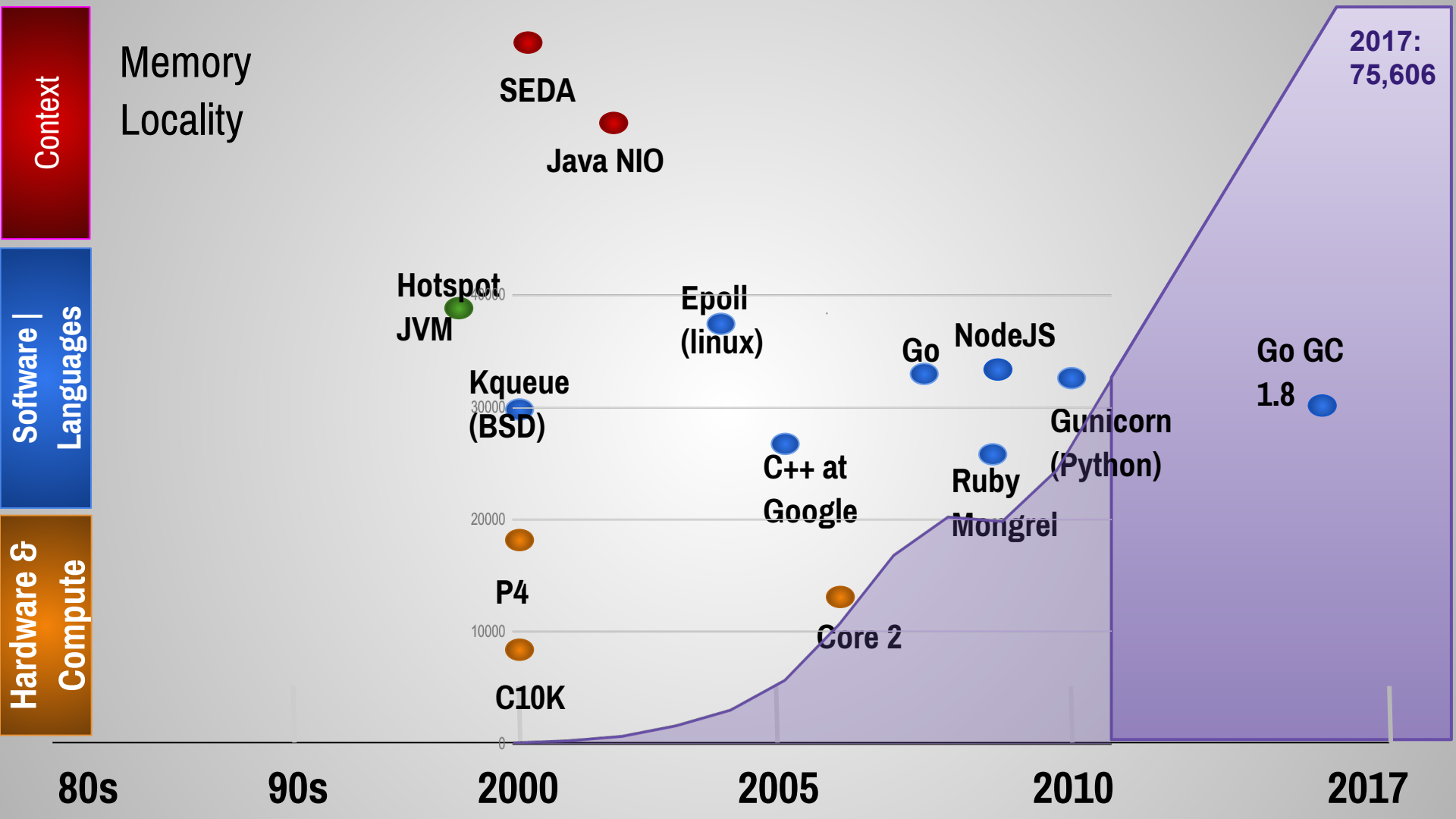
Hardware &
Compute

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80s 90s 2000 2005 2010 2017



2010:
24,440



Readability

simplicity

Readability

simplicity

“simple is better”

Readability

simplicity

“simple is better”

“this is an insult to
intelligent programmers”

Readability

simplicity

“simple is better”

“you’re trying to commodify programming and create a situation where our bosses can replace us at will”

“You’re not paid to program, you’re not even paid to maintain someone else’s program, you’re paid to deliver solutions to the business.”

- Dave Cheney

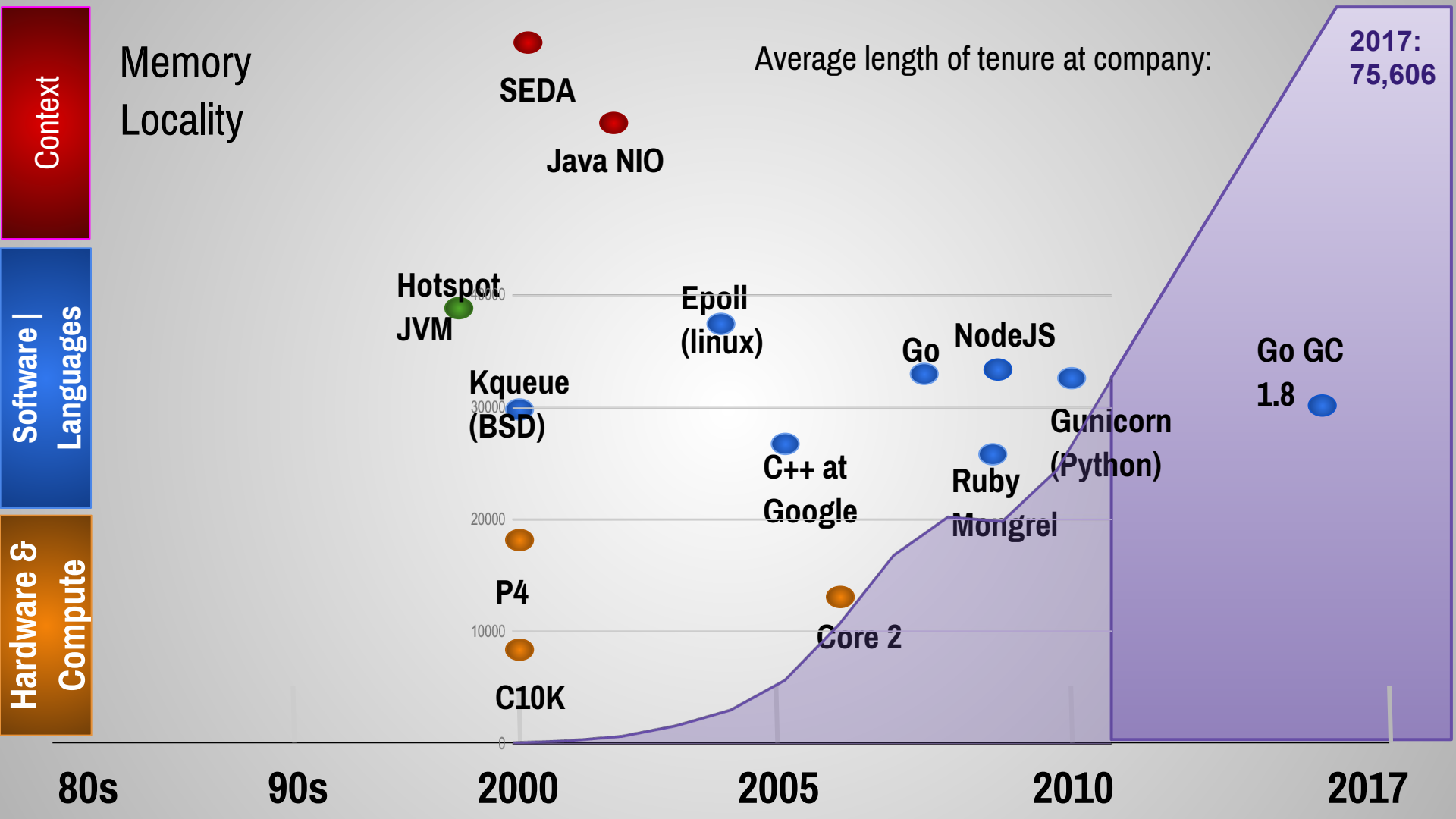
Readability

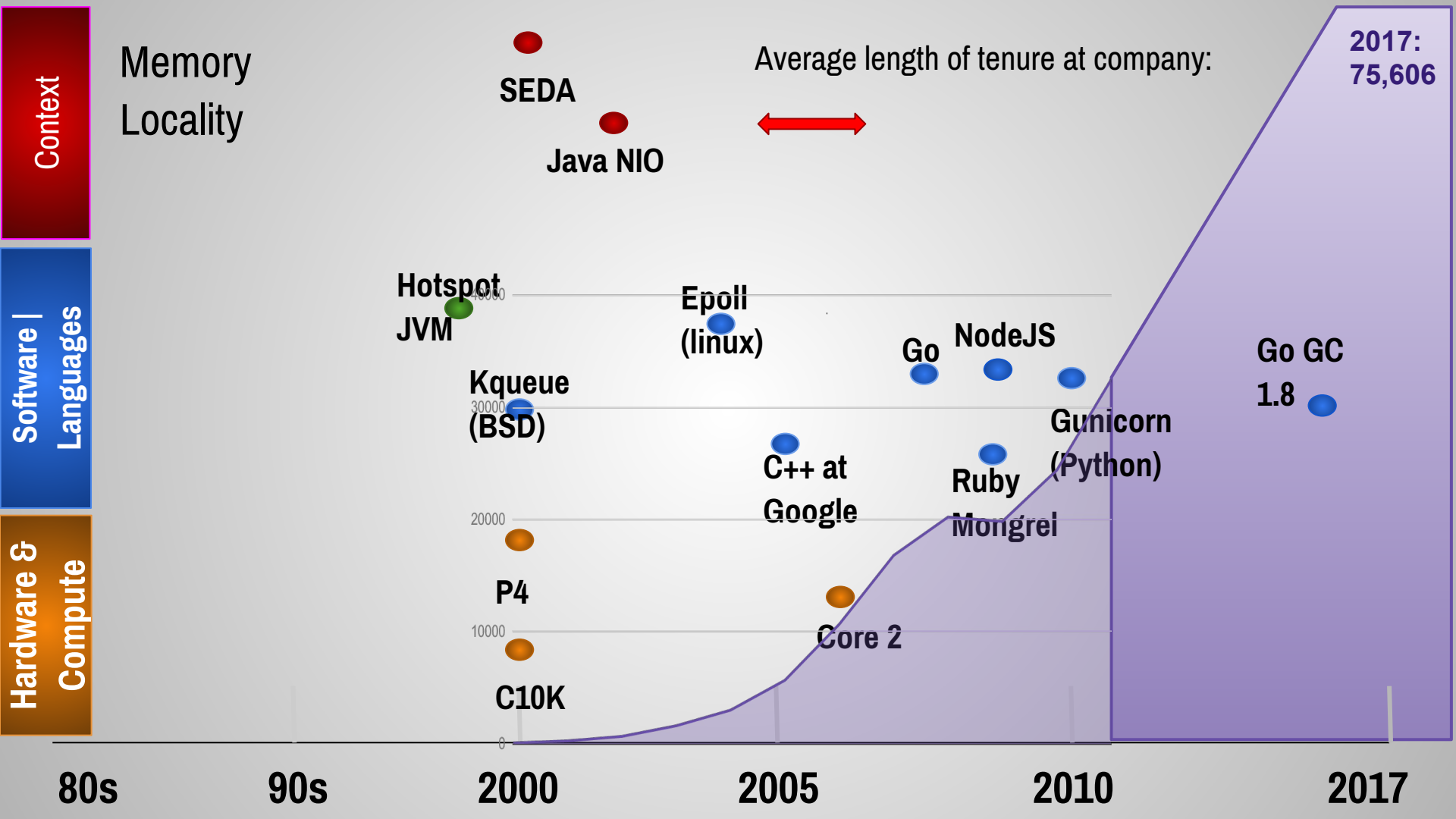
Programs which cannot be maintained will be rewritten

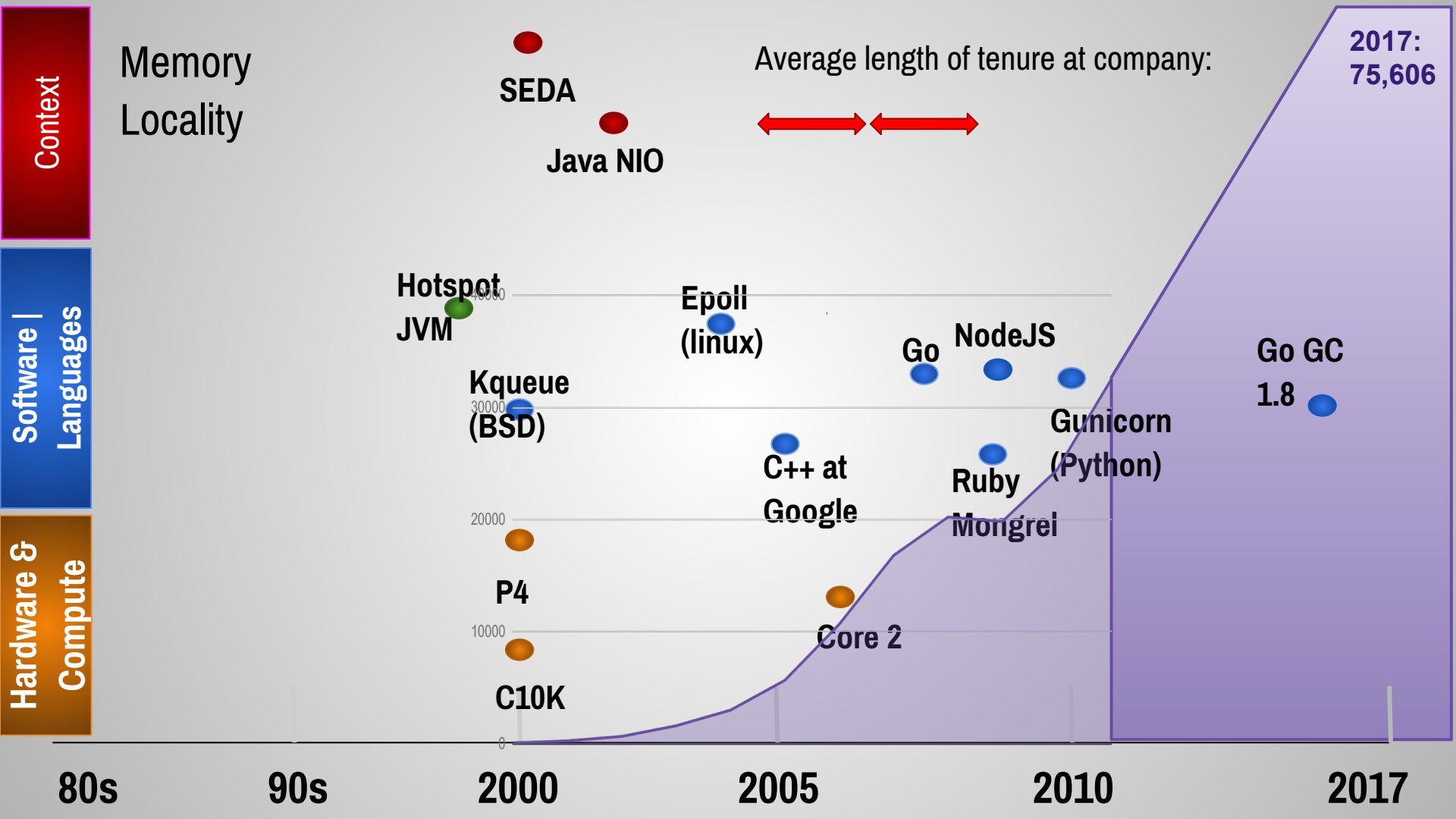
Readability

Programs which cannot be maintained will be rewritten

“If you can't be replaced, you cannot be promoted”







Memory
Locality

Average length of tenure at company:

2017:
75,606



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80s

90s

2000

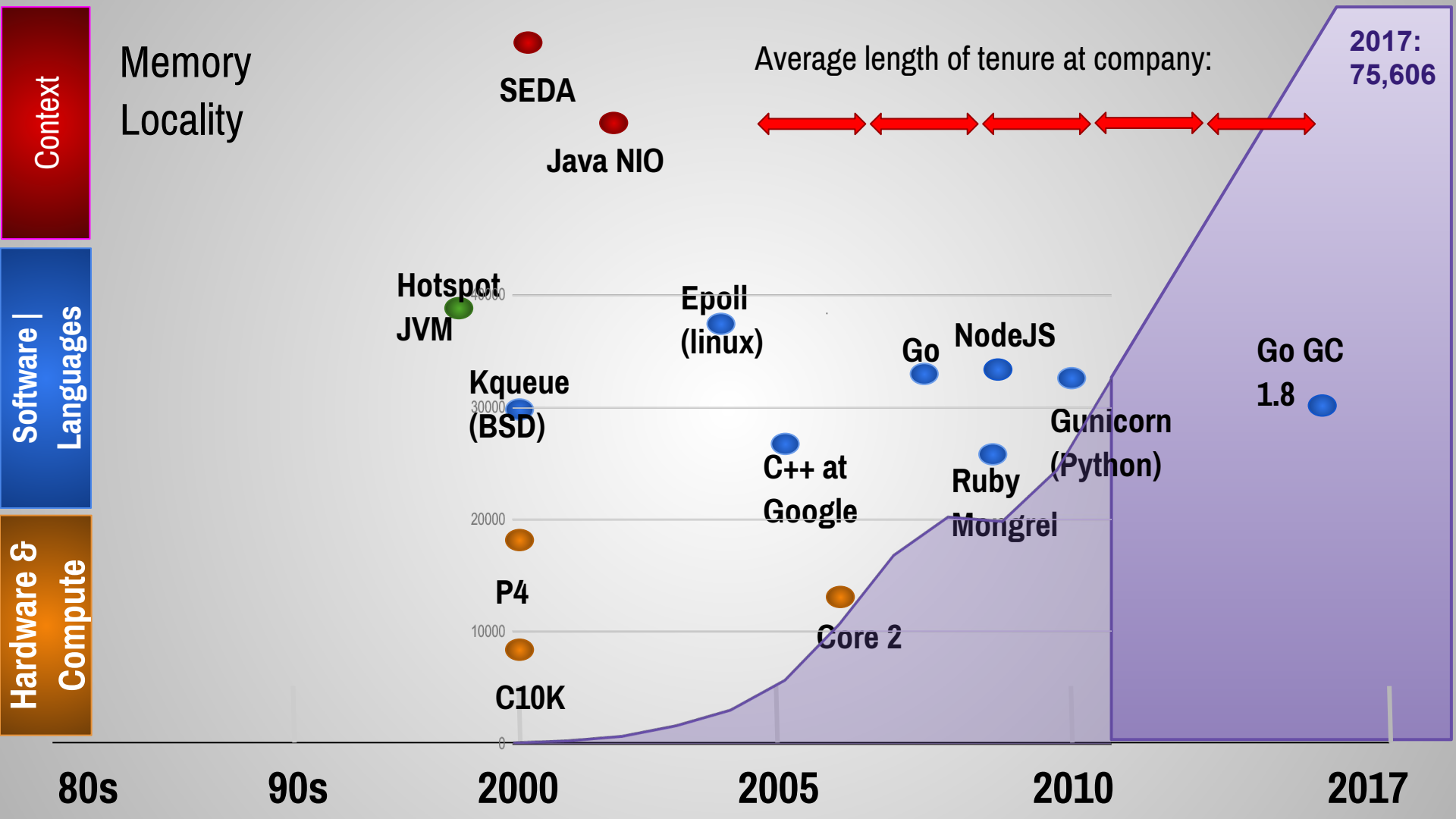
2005

2010

2017

Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute



Software Engineering

Software Engineering

Software Engineering vs Programming

Software Engineering

Software Engineering vs Programming

Software Engineering = Programming integrated over time.

Software Engineering

Software Engineering vs Programming

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Engineering is what happens when things need to live longer and influence of time starts creeping in. -Titus Winters

Software Engineering

Software Engineering vs Programming

Software Engineering = Programming integrated over time.

Engineering is what happens when things need to live longer and influence of time starts creeping in. -Titus Winters

All this complexity is fundamentally a different flavor than programming.

Software Engineering

focus on sustaining engineering (readability)

Software Engineering

focus on sustaining engineering (readability)

continuance of many different engineers over a long period of time

Software Engineering

focus on sustaining engineering (readability)

continuance of many different engineers over a long period of time

clear module boundaries

Software Engineering

focus on sustaining engineering (readability)

continuance of many different engineers over a long period of time

clear module boundaries

keeping import dependencies between packages linear, thus keeping compile times down.

Simplicity and the Greater Good



Stop Sign



Yield Right of Way



No Left Turn



Straight Only



Turn Left



Turn Right



Parking Permitted



Speed Limit



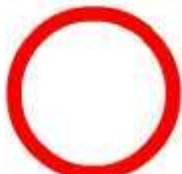
End of Speed Limit



Clearway



Taxi Rank



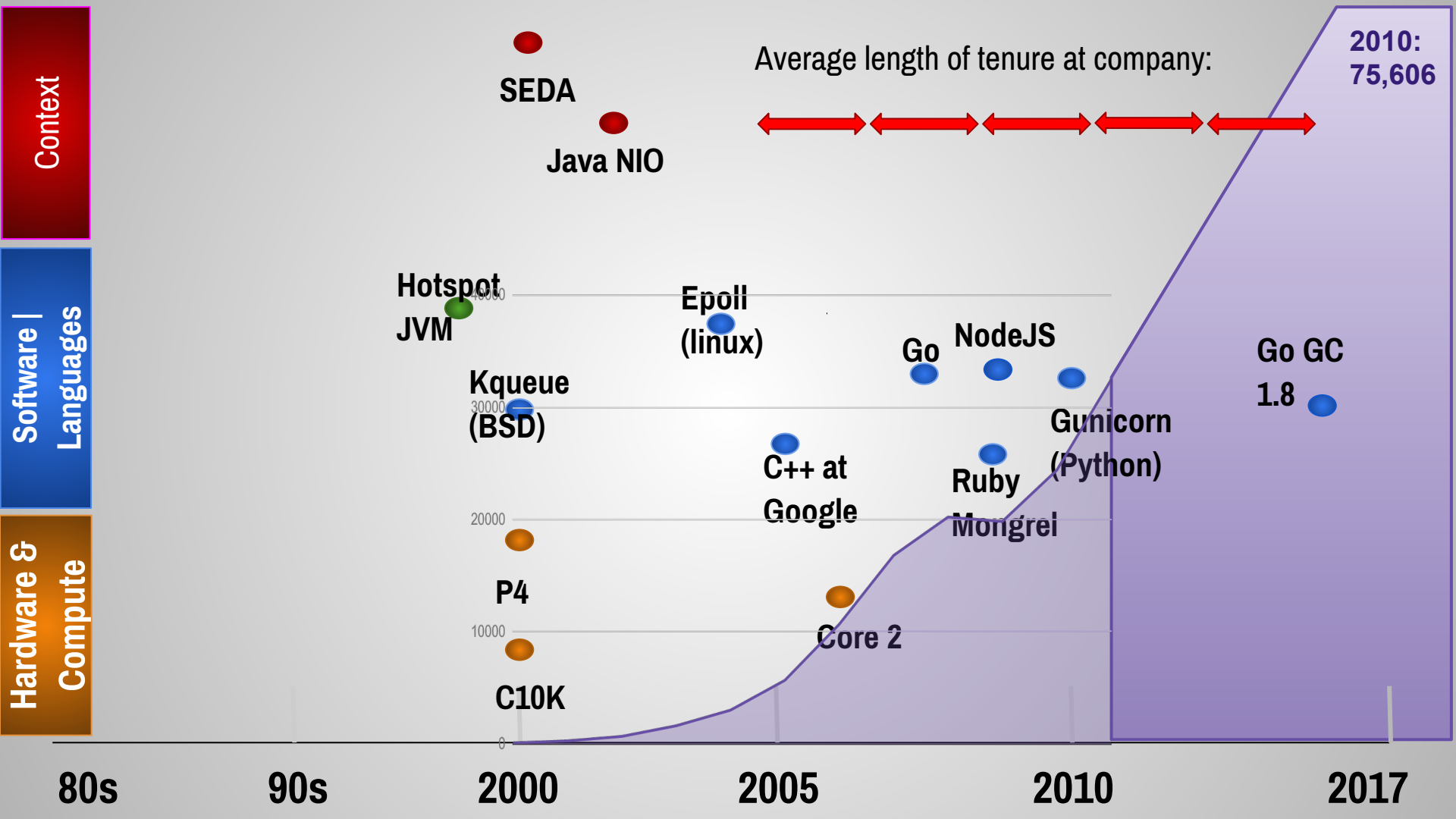
Pedestrian Street



“Simplicity is a great virtue but it requires hard work to achieve it and education to appreciate it. And to make matters worse: complexity sells better.”

— **Edsger W. Dijkstra**

The Future



The Future?

Context

Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute

2017

2020

2025

2030

2035

2040

The Future?

The problems we have today were not there 20 years ago, nor will be problems we face 20 years from now.

2017

2020

2025

2030

2035

2040

Context

Software |
Languages

Hardware &
Compute

The Future?

...it may surprise you

2017

2020

2025

2030

2035

2040

Thank you!

Carmen Andoh @carmatocity

QCon San Francisco

21st Century Languages Track

November 2017