

***Vendor Management in the Era of Big  
Data and Machine Learning***

# Speaker

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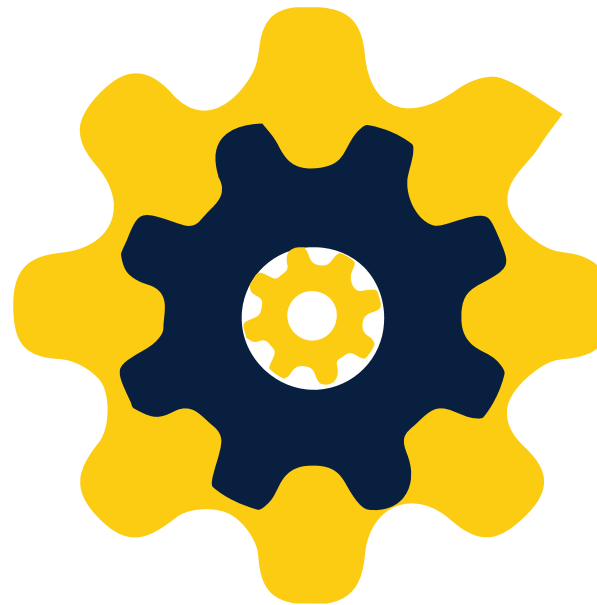
# Big Data and Machine Learning

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Predictive Analytics

Improve Care

Optimize Treatment



Machine Learning

Billing

Improve  
Treatment

Population  
Health

# Moving to the Cloud

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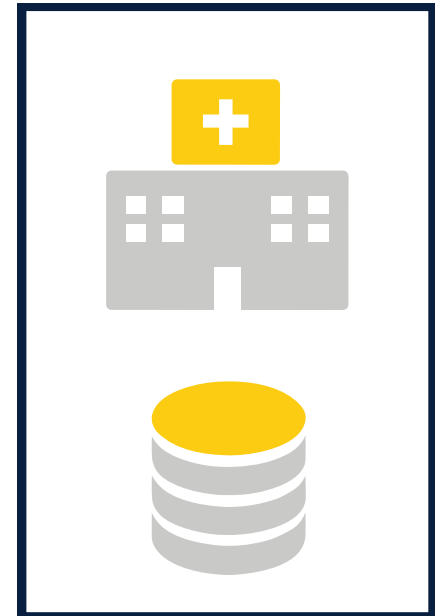
- Health information stored in the cloud doubled, 2014-2016
- Vendor's have data expertise: billing, population health, diagnostics
- Covered entities are still responsible for vendor's usage of their data

Source: [\*HIMSS Media: The Cloud Evolution in Healthcare\*](#)

# Background: Onsite Deployment

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- Application deployed within provider's firewall
- Strict data controls and high data visibility
- Lacks the cloud's scalability



# Background: Cloud Deployments

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## Covered Entity-Managed Cloud:

- CE controls environment
- CE have better visibility into data movement and controls
- Vendors must manage application in multiple locations

## Vendor-Managed Cloud:

- Vendor manages all resources
- CE loses visibility into their data once sent
- Economies of scale benefit the Vendor

# Background: NIST Supply Chain Risk

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*Supply chain risks are often associated with an “organization’s decreased visibility into, and understanding of, how the technology that they acquire is developed, integrated, and deployed.”*

**Does the lack of visibility put your organization at risk?**

# Risks of Vendors in the Cloud

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Data Mixing

Machine Learning Model Mixing

Data Repurposing



## Example In the News

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- Social media firm released user data to researchers
- Once user data left their servers, control was lost
- Data were used for unintended purposes

# Risks of Vendors in the Cloud

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## **Data Mixing**

Machine Learning Model Mixing

Data Repurposing

# Vendor-Hosted Solution

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## Shared Responsibility Model

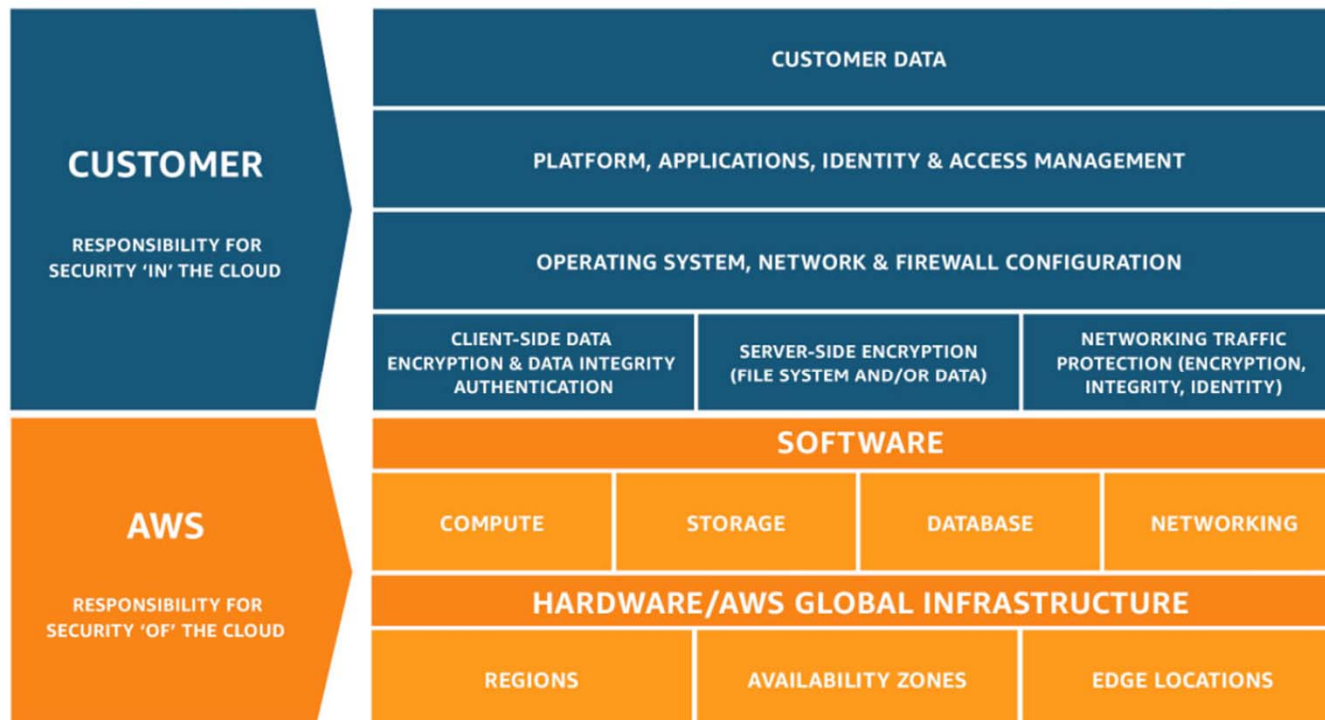
- Security **of** the cloud is managed by the cloud provider (e.g. AWS).
- Security **in** the cloud is the vendor's responsibility.
- Third party vendor controls data placement.

## Data Organizations **in** the Cloud:

- Single-tenant data storage
- Multi-tenant data storage

# Shared Responsibility Model

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Source: [Amazon AWS](#)

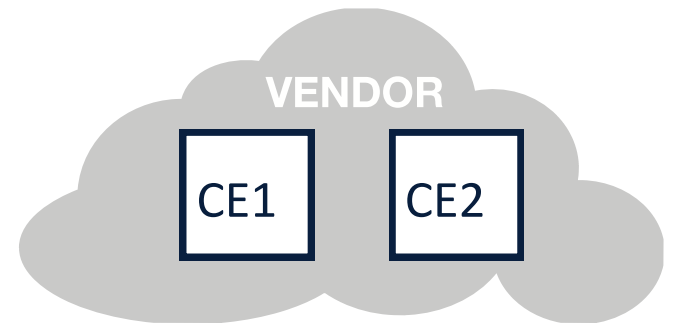
# Single-Tenant

- **Logical separation** between CE's data
- Data are never mixed in a database or other storage system
- **Dedicated Hardware:** Logical and physical separation



# Multi-Tenant

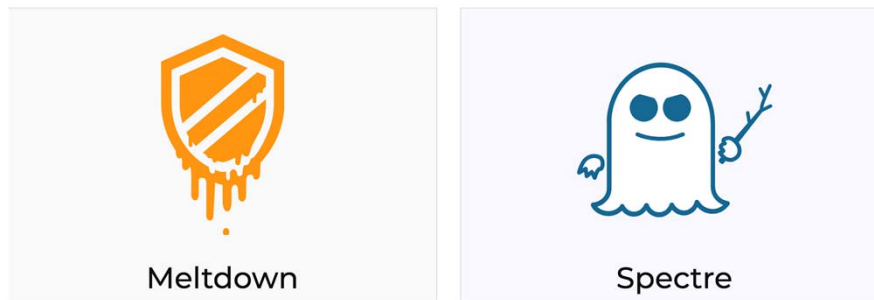
- Two or more CE's data in a single data storage system
- Software controls limit who can see what
- Bugs risks inadvertent exposure
- Vendors can prefer multi-tenant -- fewer systems to manage



# Reminders of Shared Hardware Risks

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Applications run on shared hardware



Compromised hardware / applications can leak sensitive data

Source: <https://meltdownattack.com/>

# Cloud Misconfiguration - Example

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## Data on 150,000 patients exposed in another misconfigured AWS bucket

Patient Home Monitoring failed to lock down public access to its online server, exposing personal data of 150,000 patients.

By [Jessica Davis](#) | October 12, 2017 | 02:02 PM



Source: [Healthcare IT News](#)



## Steps To Take

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- Ask if vendor deploys in single or multi-tenant environment
- Add contractual language to require specific tenancy

# Risks of Vendors in the Cloud

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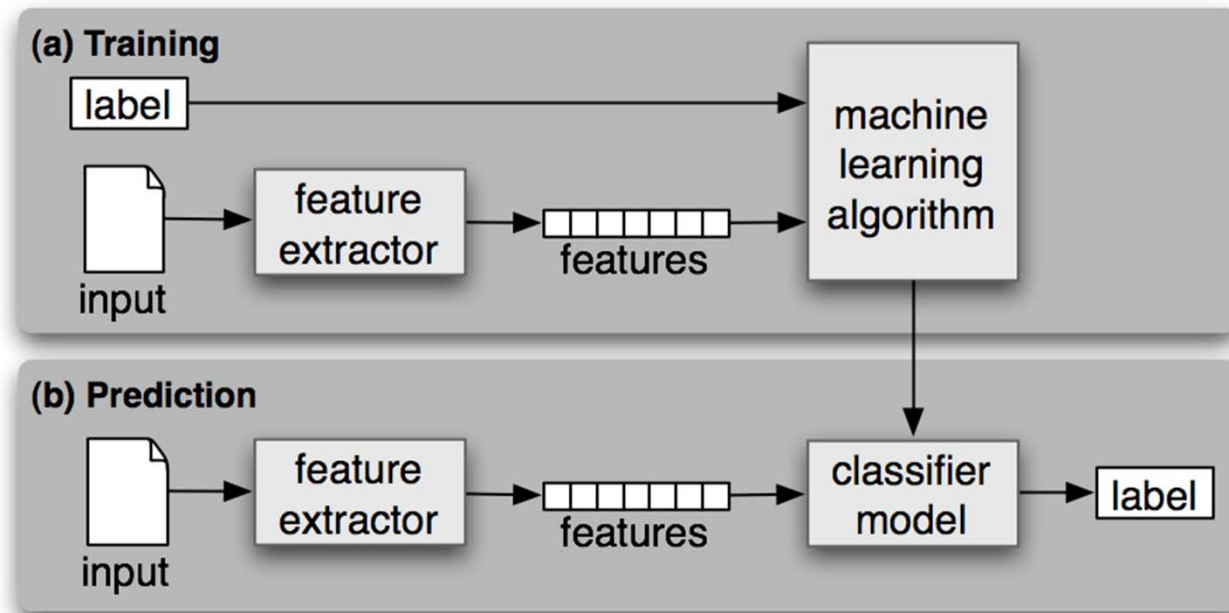
Data Mixing

**Machine Learning Model Mixing**

Data Repurposing

# Machine Learning Pipeline

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**Models benefit from more training data**

Source: <http://www.nltk.org/book/ch06.html>

# Training Data Set Construction

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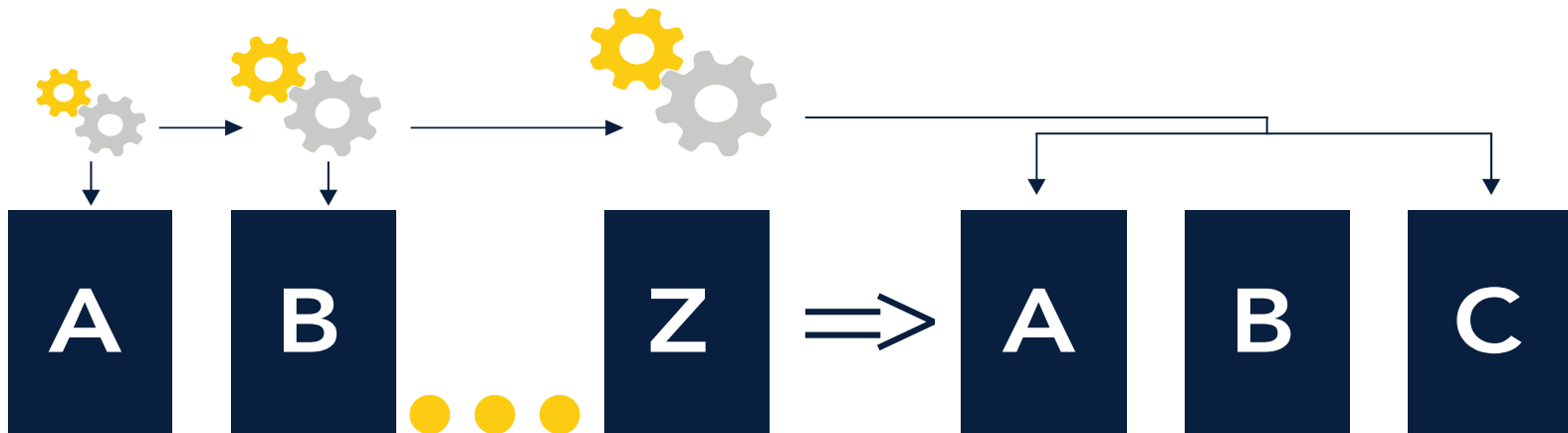
- **Multi-Tenant:** Data are already aggregated
- **Single-Tenant with Shared DB:** Copy to data warehouse and train
- **Single-Tenant:** Iterative training

# Iterative Machine Learning Training

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Train model at Covered Entity A's data, Transfer model to B

Train model at Covered Entity B's data, Transfer model to C

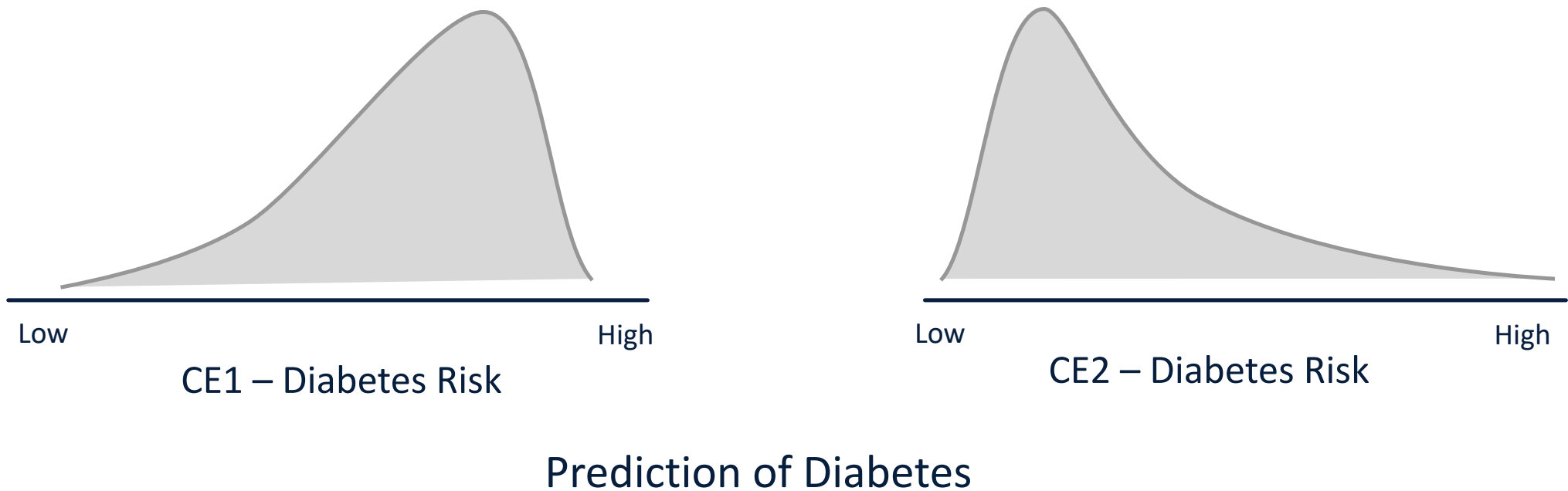


Apply the full model to Covered Entities A, B, C...

# Risks of Iterative Machine Learning Training

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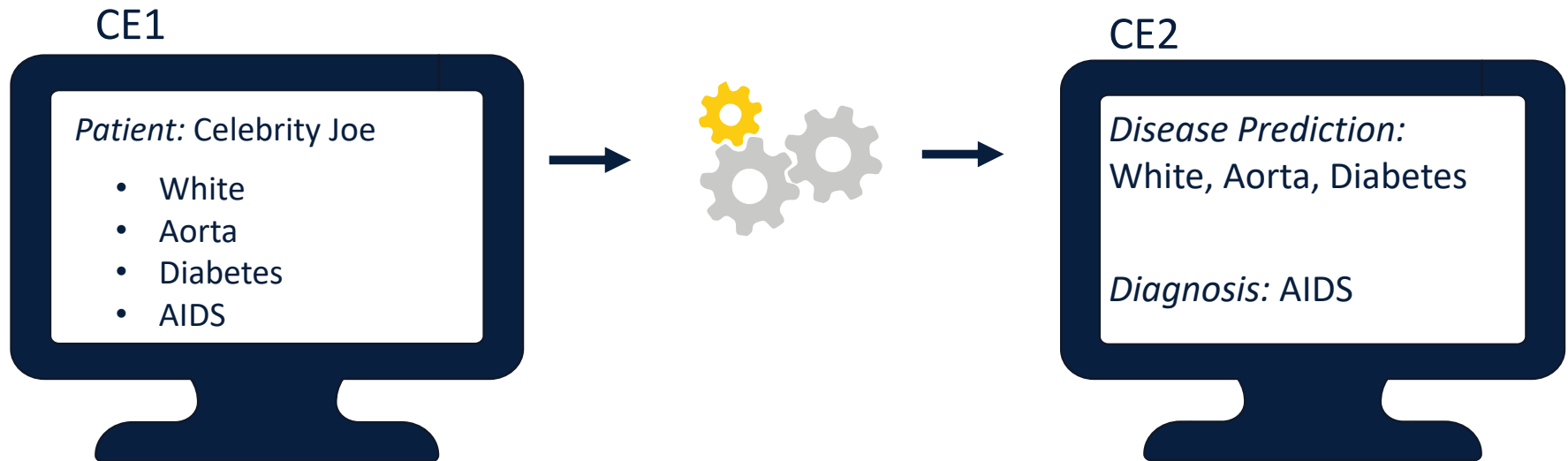
Incorrect prediction due to  
different data distributions between covered entities



# Risks of Iterative Machine Learning Training

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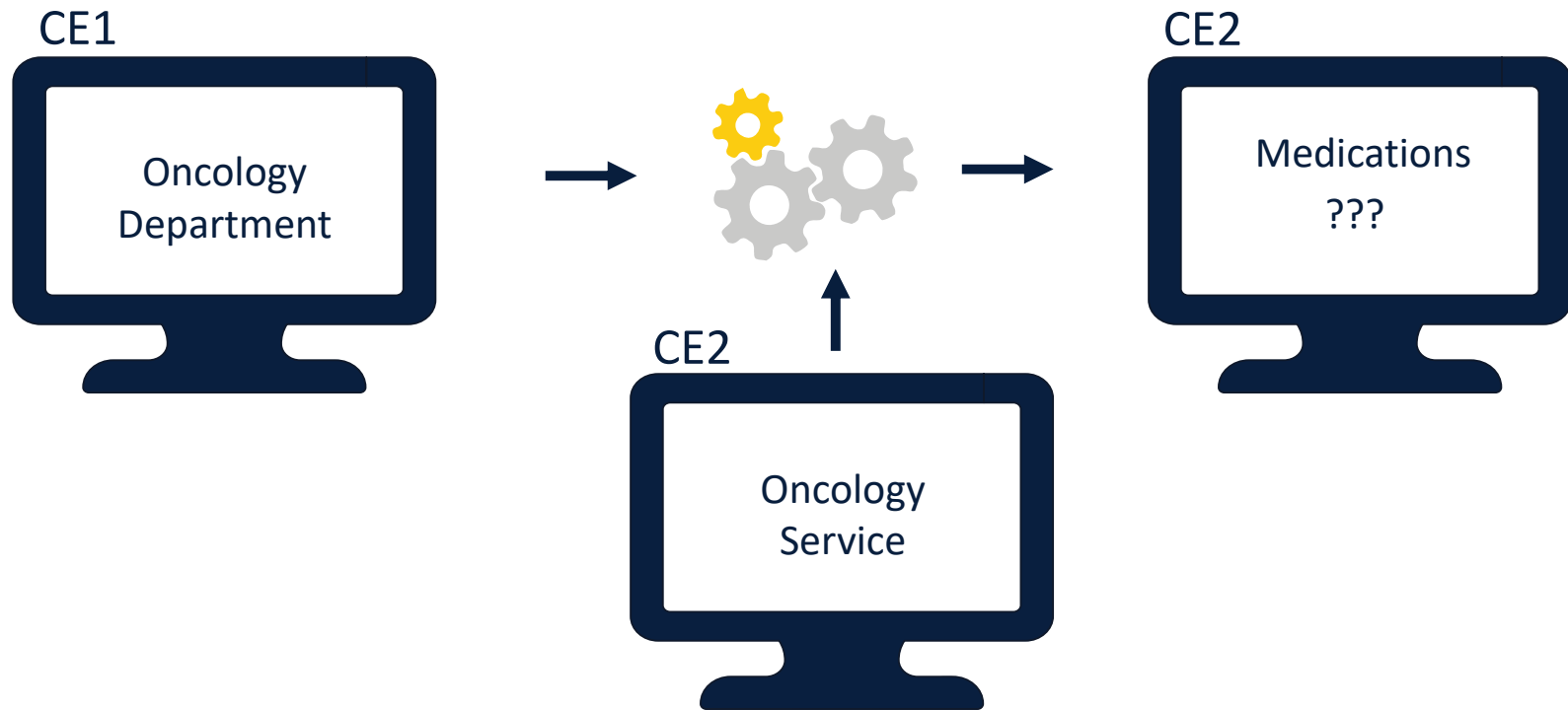
Inadvertent exposure of patient information



# Risks of Iterative Machine Learning Training

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Incorrect conclusions due to differing semantics

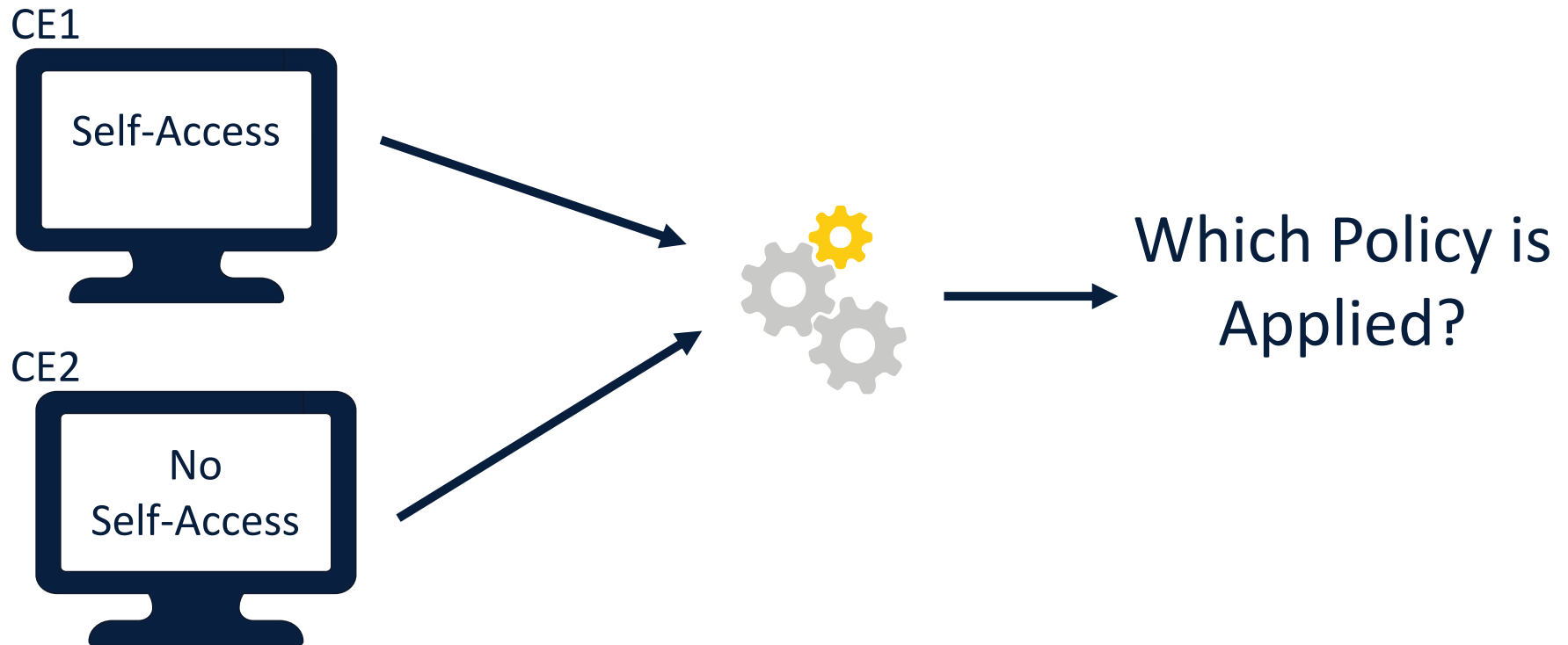




# Risks of Iterative Machine Learning Training

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Incorrect application of Covered Entities' policies



## Steps To Take

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- Ask if only your data or other CE data will be used to train
- Add contractual language to restrict model training / sharing

# Risks of Vendors in the Cloud

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Data Mixing

Machine Learning Model Mixing

**Data Repurposing**

# Data Repurposing

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- Vendors using data for non-contracted purposes
- Difficult to detect as CEs lack visibility into data usage

# Vendor Data Monitoring

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Covered entities need better visibility into vendors' data management

Visibility includes:

- What data are sent?
- Where are data stored?
- What operations are performed on the data?

# Types of Monitoring

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## Application Monitoring

- Accesses to applications by vendor employees

## Backend Monitoring

- Queries to backend data management system

## Data Governance Monitoring

- Data sent to each vendor

**Require access to these logs as part of your contracting process**

## Example: Vendor Breach Remediation

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- Covered entities have an obligation to notify each patient
- Need to identify what PHI data the Vendor held
- Manual retrospective reviews of feeds are slow and often inaccurate

**Would you benefit from knowing which MRNs Vendors receive?**

# Vendor Data Usage Monitoring

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- Legal requirements are not enough – **Trust, Monitor, Verify.**
- Need visibility into how vendors use data



## Steps To Take

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- Contractually require that data are not repurposed
- Contractually require access to vendor logs and monitor

# Vendor Management in Era of Big Data

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Manage Vendors through contracting:

- Data Mixing
- Machine Learning Model Mixing
- Data Repurposing

Trust but Monitor:

- Application Monitoring
- Back-end Query Monitoring
- Data Governance Monitoring

*Questions?*