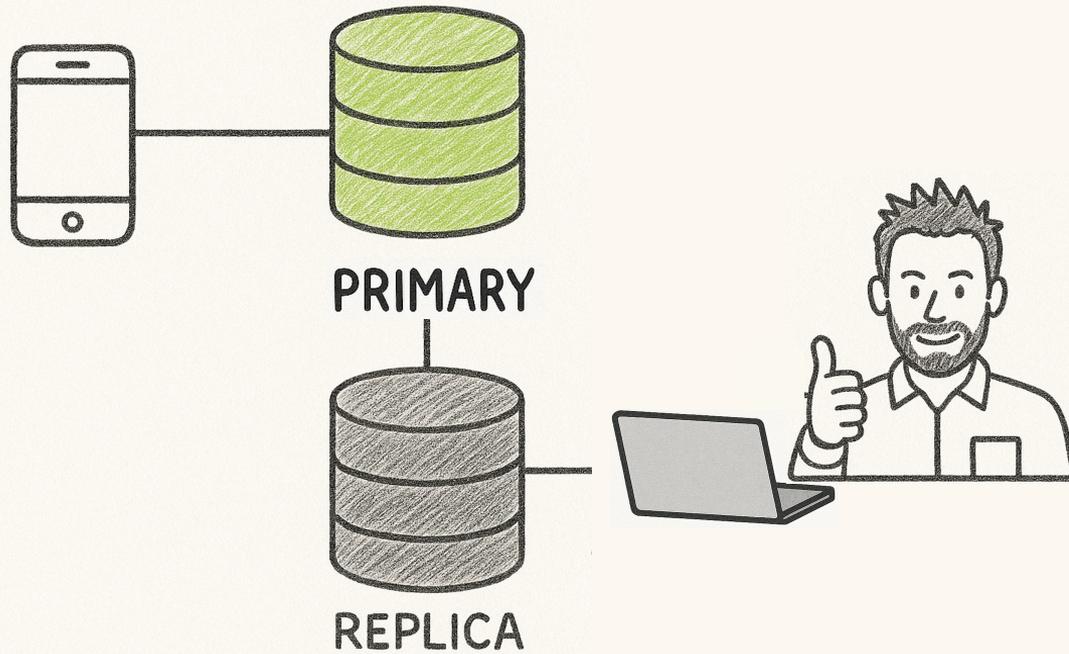
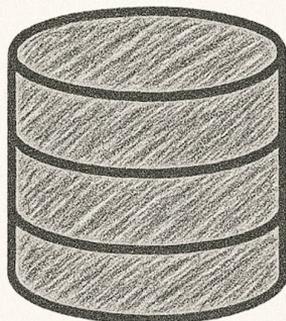


Using Post Mortems to Break out of Infinite Loops



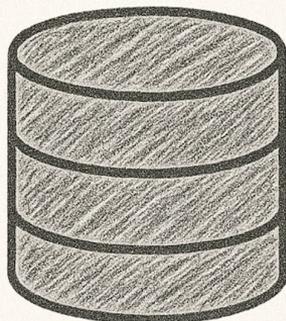
a_very_large_money
transaction_table



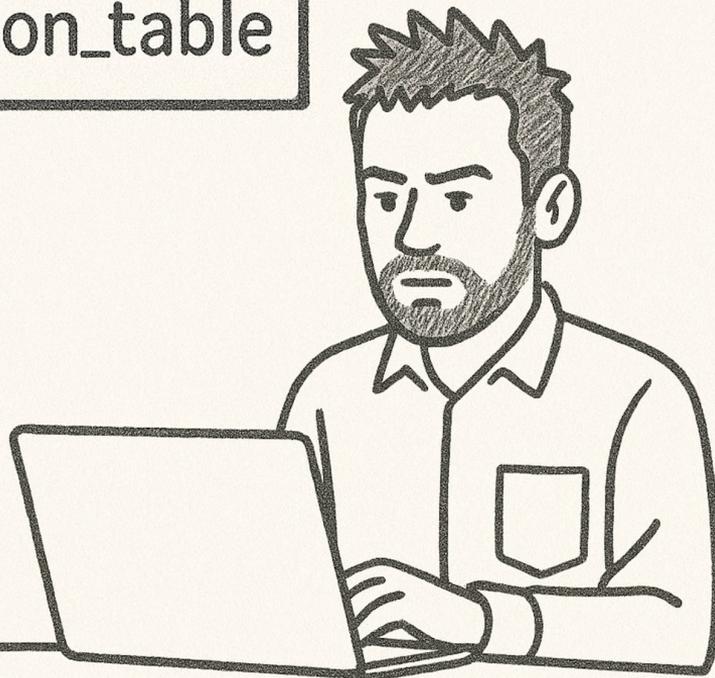
REPLICA



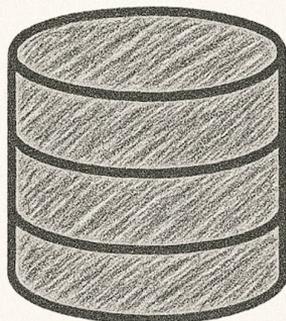
```
SELECT COUNT(*)  
FROM a_very_large  
money_transaction_table
```



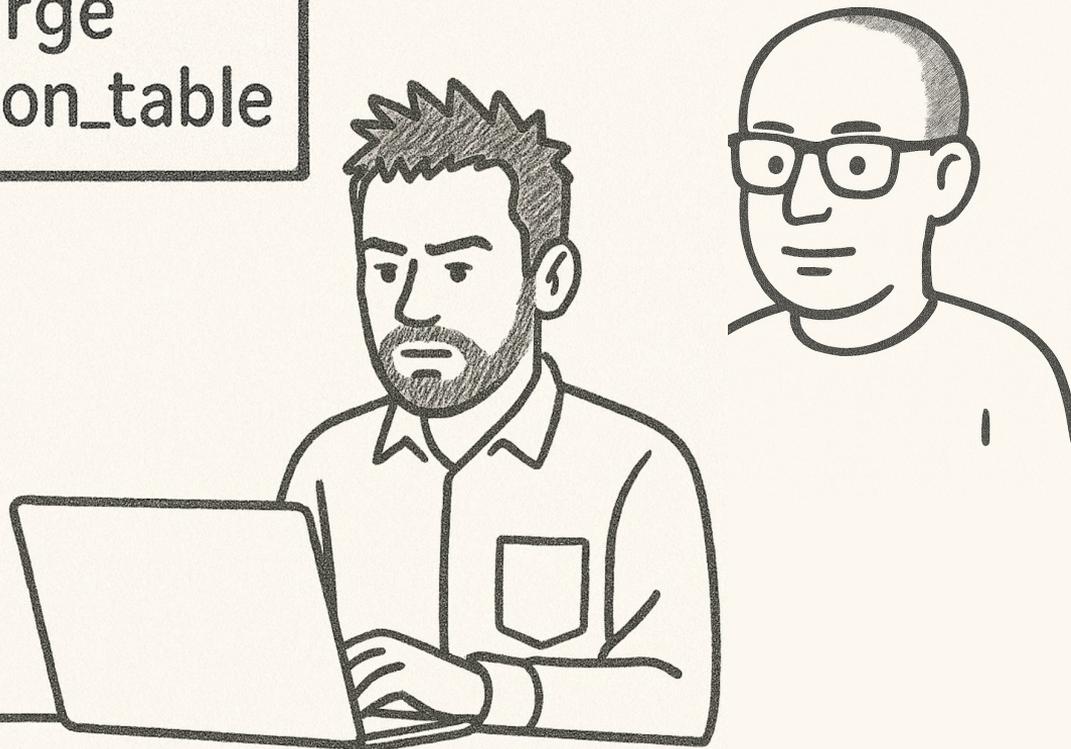
REPLICA



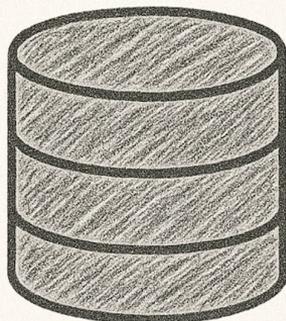
`SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM a_very_large
money_transaction_table`



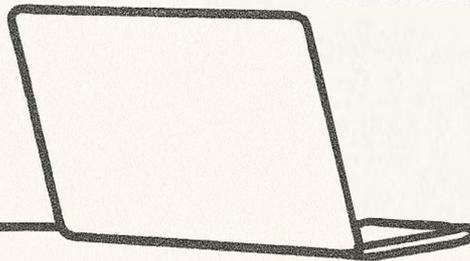
REPLICA

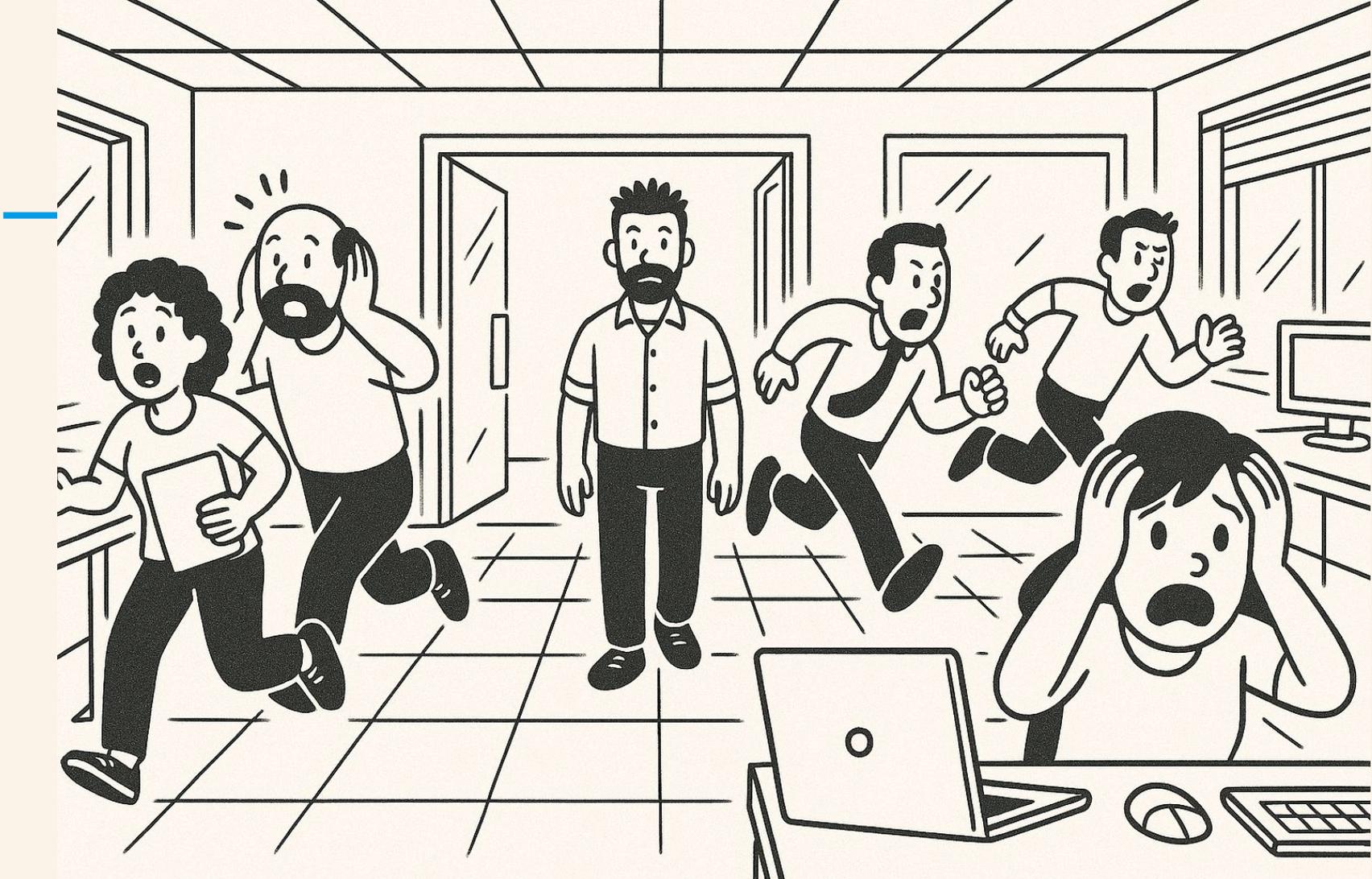


```
SELECT COUNT(*)  
FROM a_very_large  
money_transaction_table
```



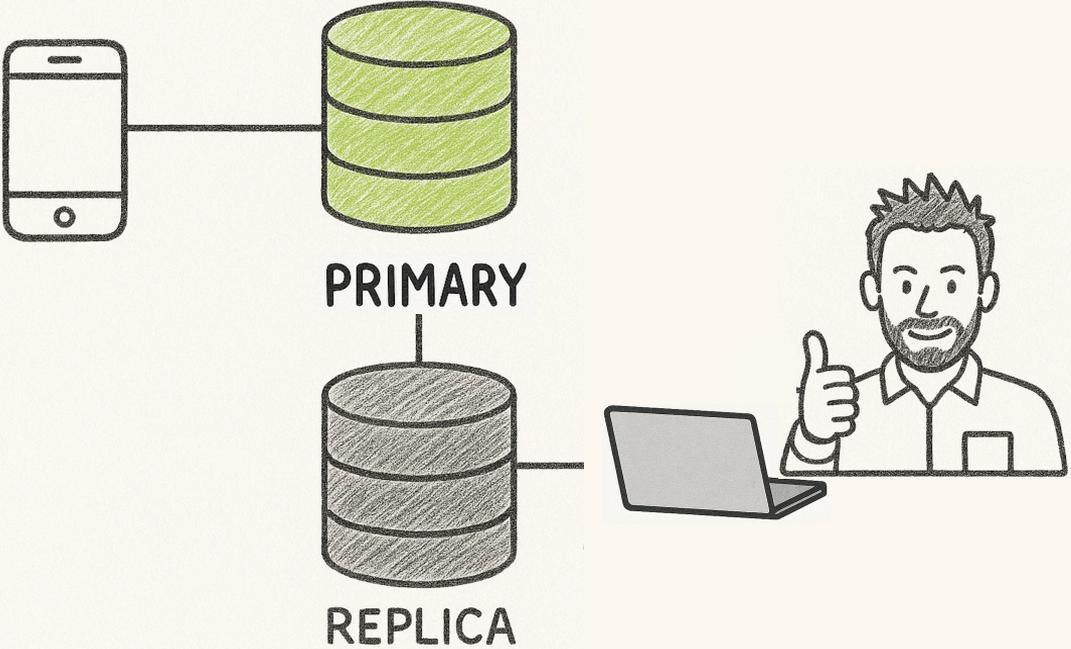
REPLICA



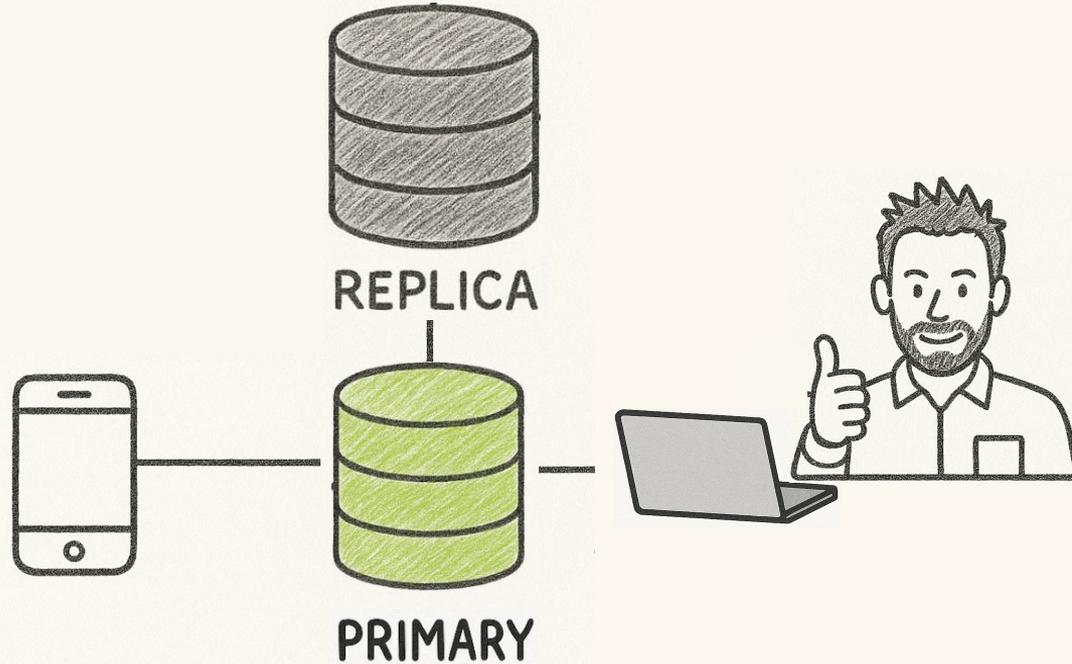




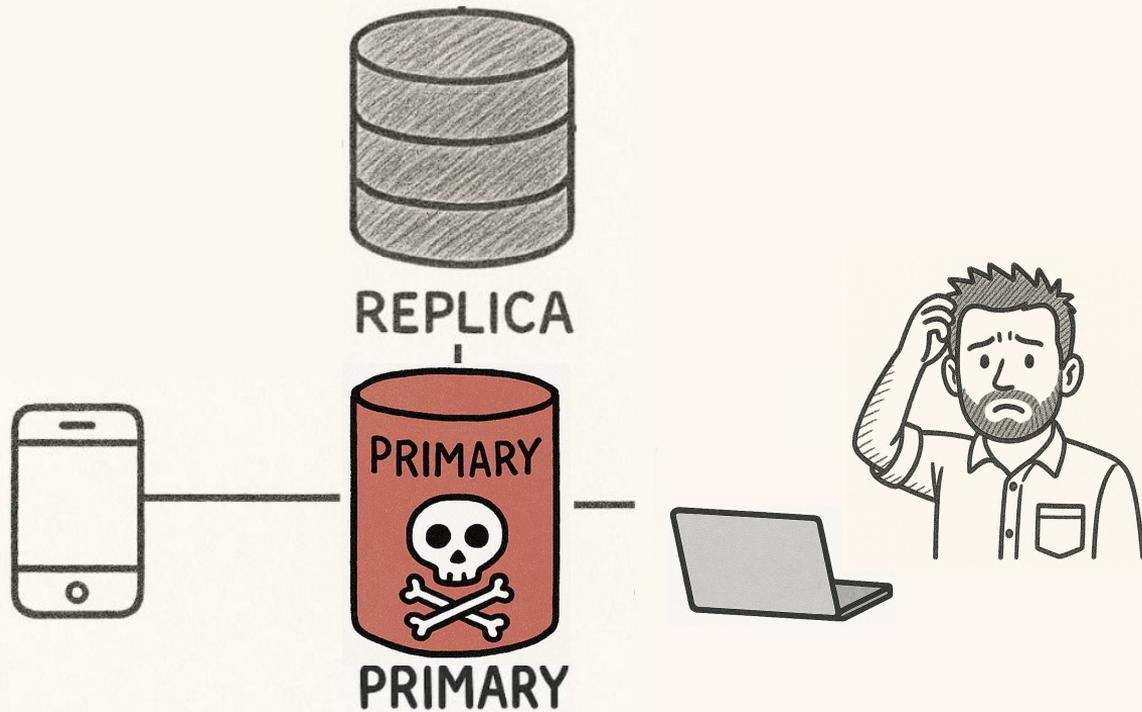
What we thought we were doing



What we really were doing



How it ended



What's Really a Post-Mortem?

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- Figure out WHAT went wrong and WHY (a.k.a. Root cause(s))

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- Figure out **WHAT** went wrong and **WHY** (a.k.a. Root cause(s))
- Think what can you do about it, so that it doesn't happen again (a.k.a Action items)

What's Really a Post-Mortem?

- Figure out WHAT went wrong and WHY (a.k.a. Root cause(s))
- Think what can you do about it, so that it doesn't happen again (a.k.a Action items)
- Do your best not to be an a**hole about it

POST MORTEM



Post-Mortem (first draft)

Root Cause: A large analytics query was run on the primary database.

Post-Mortem (first draft)

Root Cause: A large analytics query was run on the primary database.

Action Items: Don't run large queries on the primary DB in the future!

POST MORTEM



Why was this
possible in the
first place?

Root Cause (take two)

After the switch, the data team stayed connected to the same DB, which became primary.

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After the switch, the data team stayed connected to the same DB, which became primary. We forgot to switch their access.

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Action Items (take two)

Add switching DB access to Data team to the DB switch **checklist**

POST MORTEM



Which property of
the SYSTEM made
this possible?

Root Cause (Take Three)

Lack of safeguards to prevent running queries on the primary DB.

Action Items (take three)

Automate revoke access on the primary DB within switch procedure

THE END



One thing to take away from this

One thing to take away from this

Do it as if you're writing it for yourself

~~One~~ Two things to take away from this

Do it as if you're writing it for yourself

Shift focus from humans to the SYSTEM and PROCESSES

Adnan,
Staff Engineer @Vinted

Thank you!