

The System Integration Problem

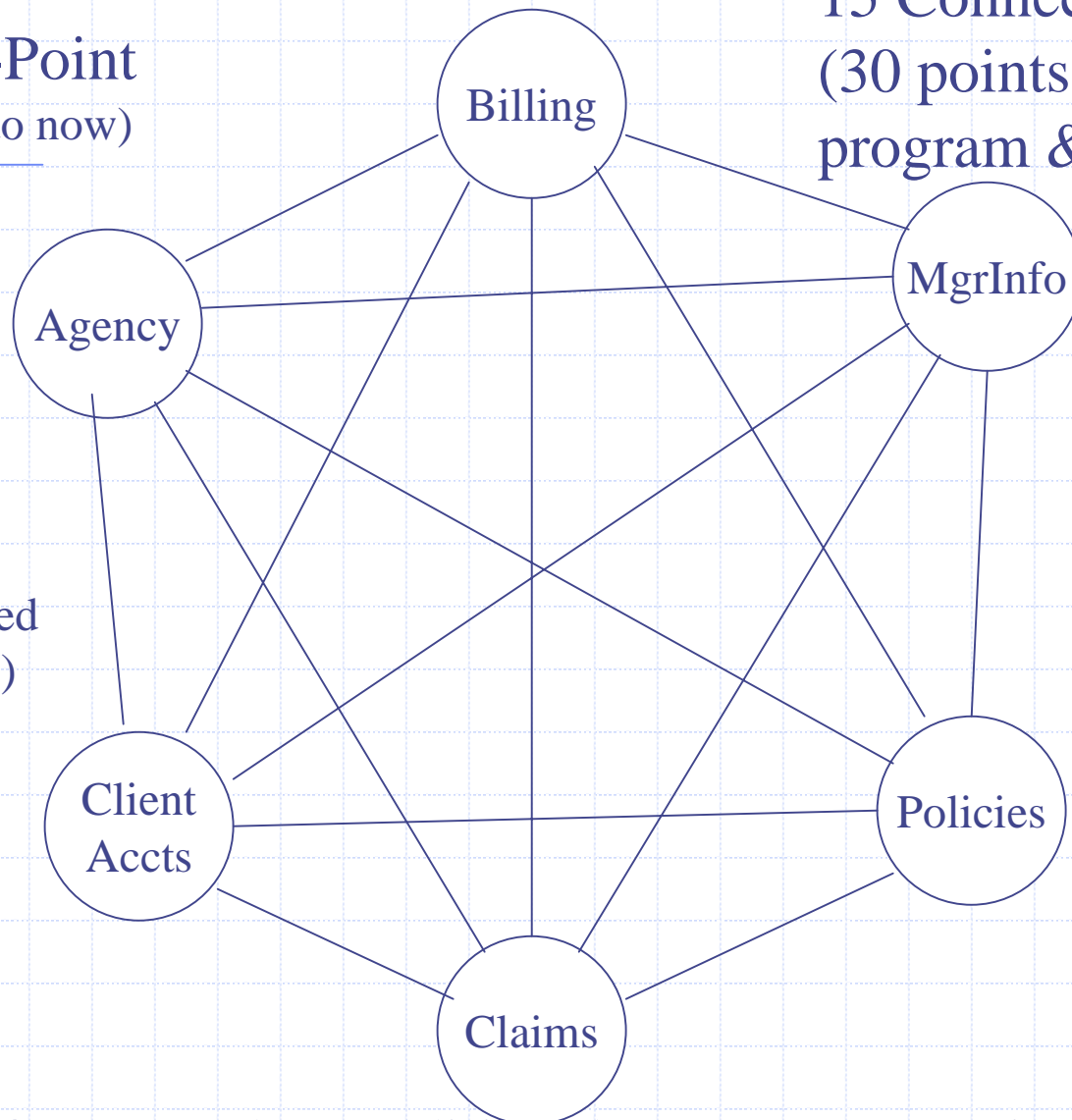
All of your
sub-sustems
must be able
to “talk” to
each other.



Point-to-Point
(What we do now)

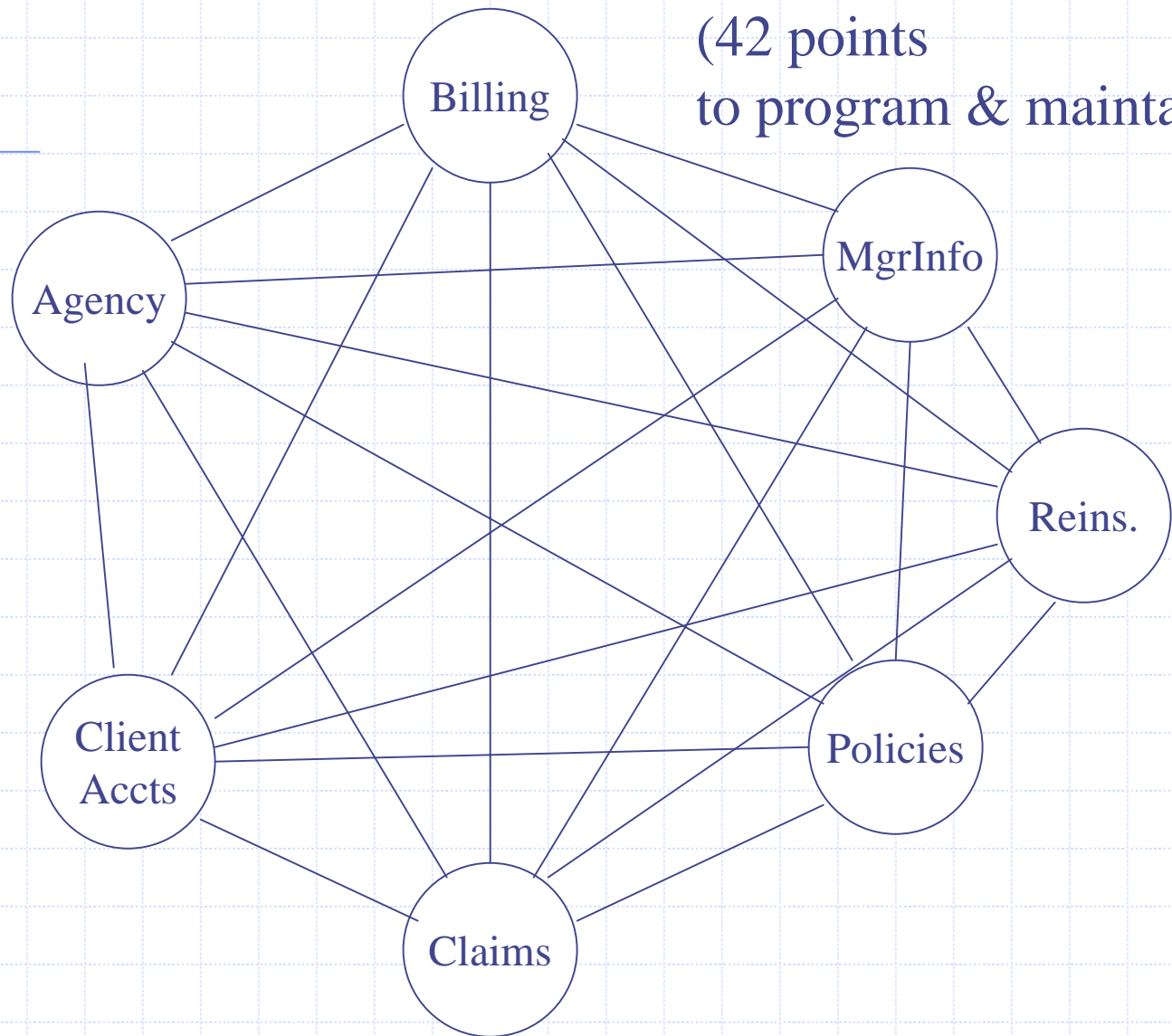
15 Connections!
(30 points to
program & maintain)

(Very Simplified
Representation)



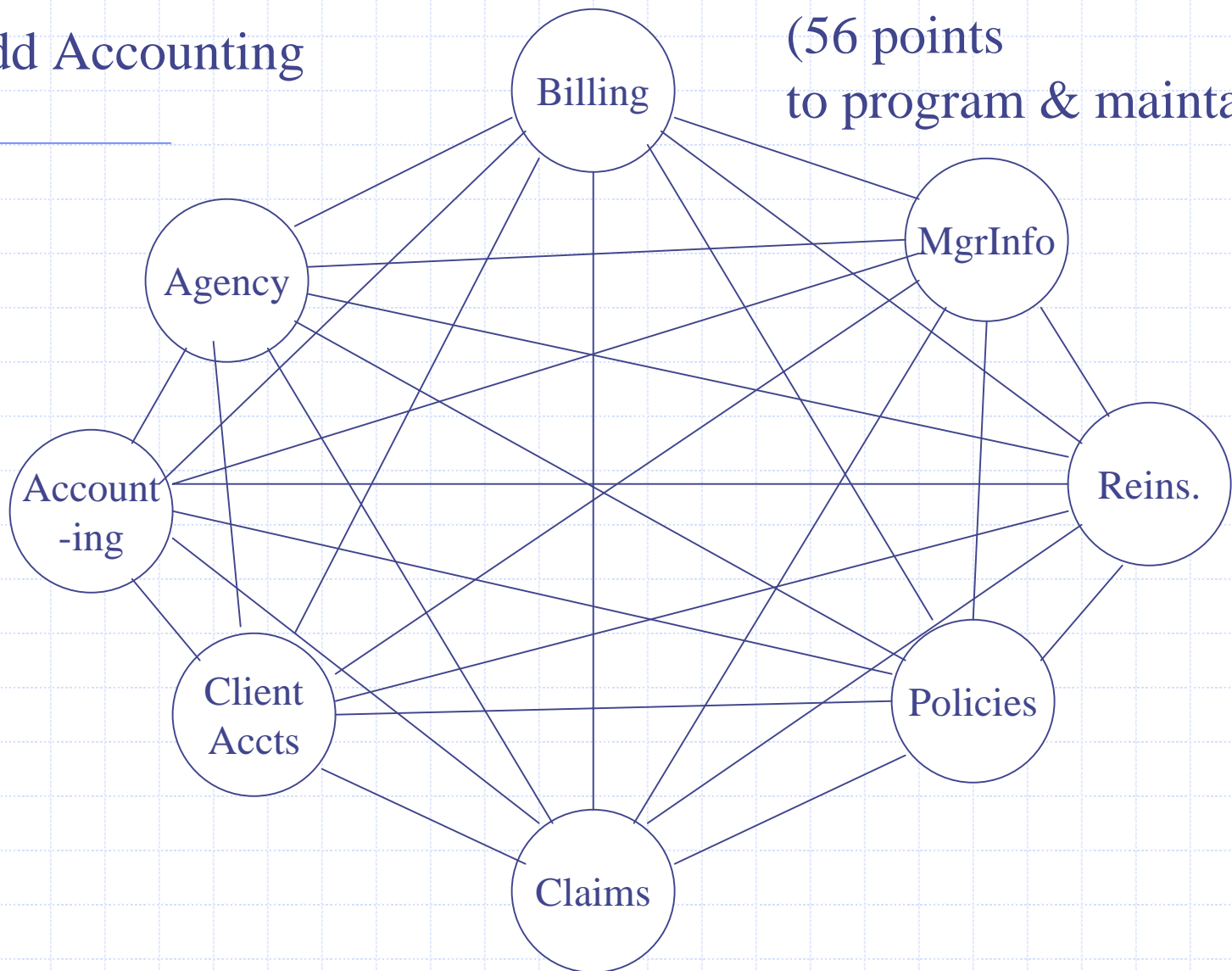
What if you need an additional system (e.g. Reinsurance)?

21 Connections
(42 points
to program & maintain



Add Accounting

28 Connections
(56 points
to program & maintain)



(Still a very simplified example)

Home-Owners

P.P. Auto

Actuary

Stat. Reporting

Assigned Risk

Dwelling

A little more realistic:
231 Connections
(462 points to
Program & maintain)

Billing

Acctng

BOP

Agency

Comm. Auto

Mgr. Info

Umbrella



You draw the lines!

Reins.

Workers Comp.

CMP

Claims

Human Resourc

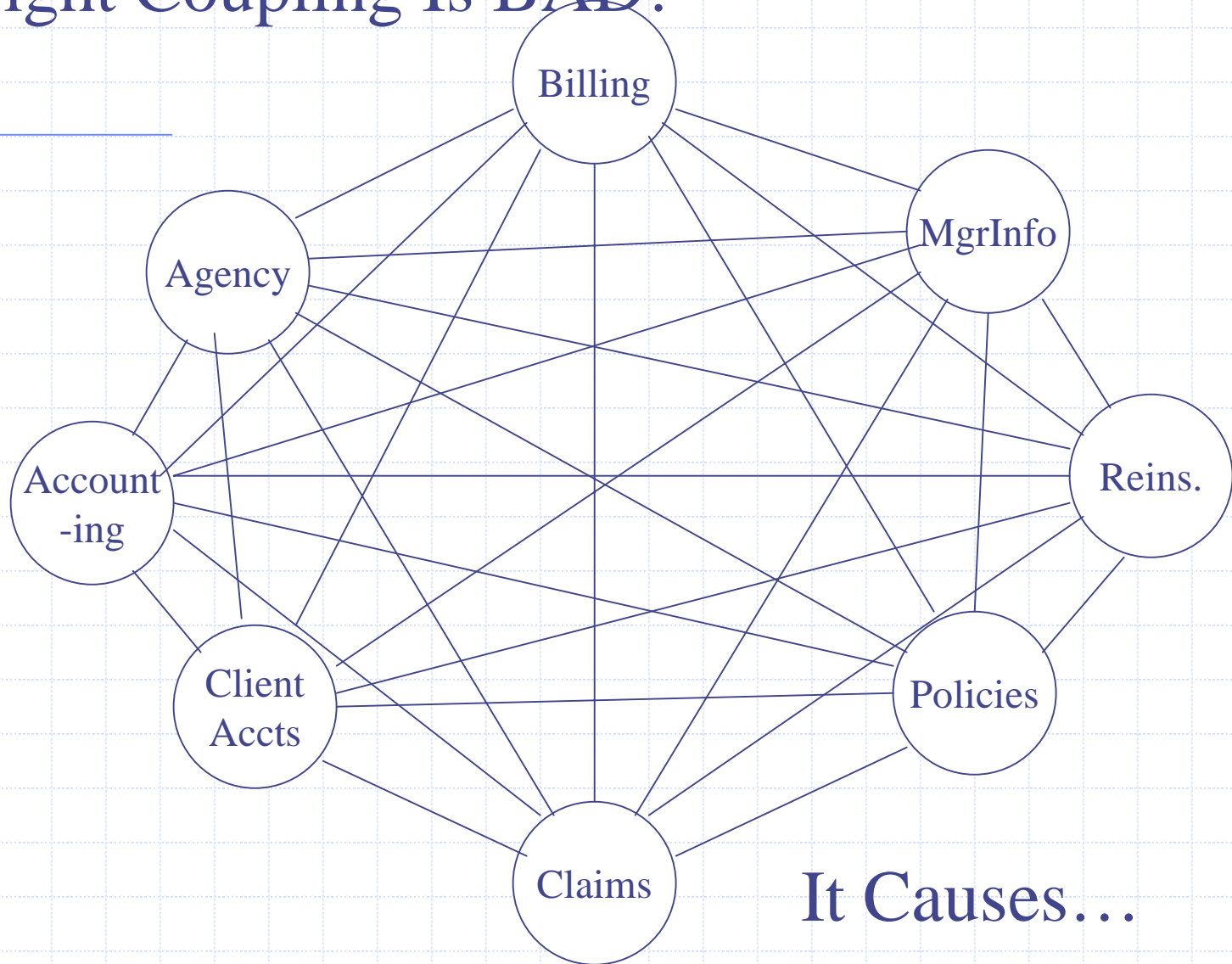
Property

ManCom

General Liab.

Client Accts

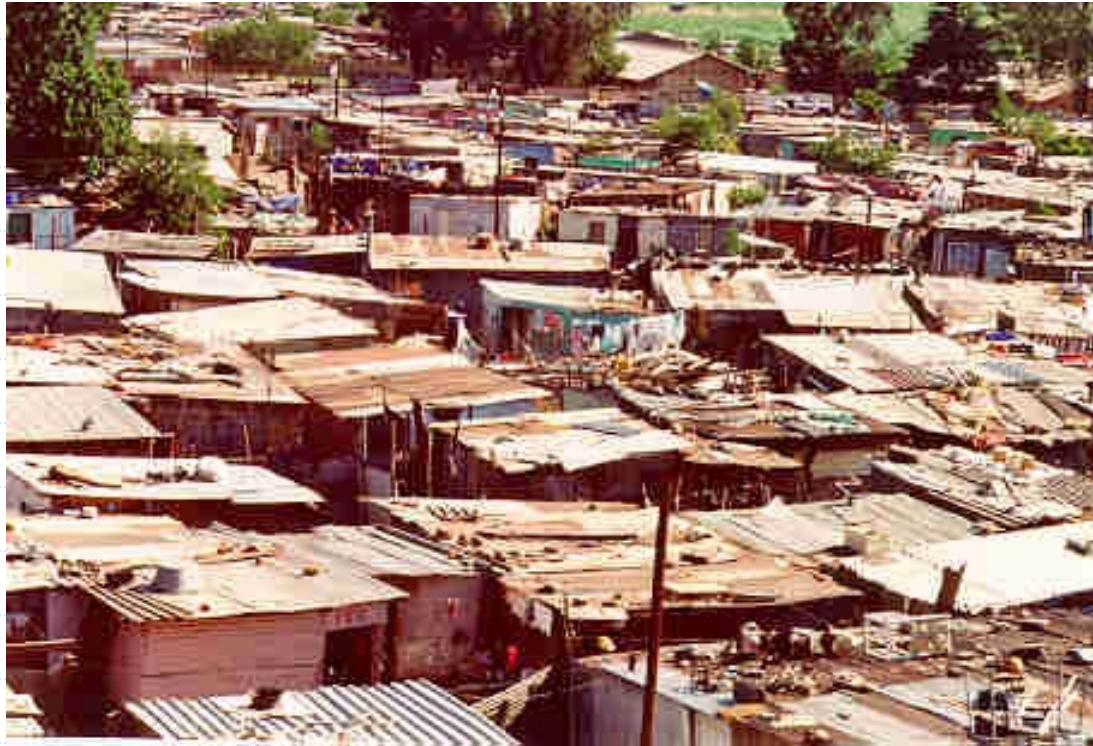
Tight Coupling Is BAD!



“Ball of Mud” or “Shantytown” Architecture

As Described by Brian Foote & Joseph Yoder

Of the University of Illinois – (www.laputan.org/mud)

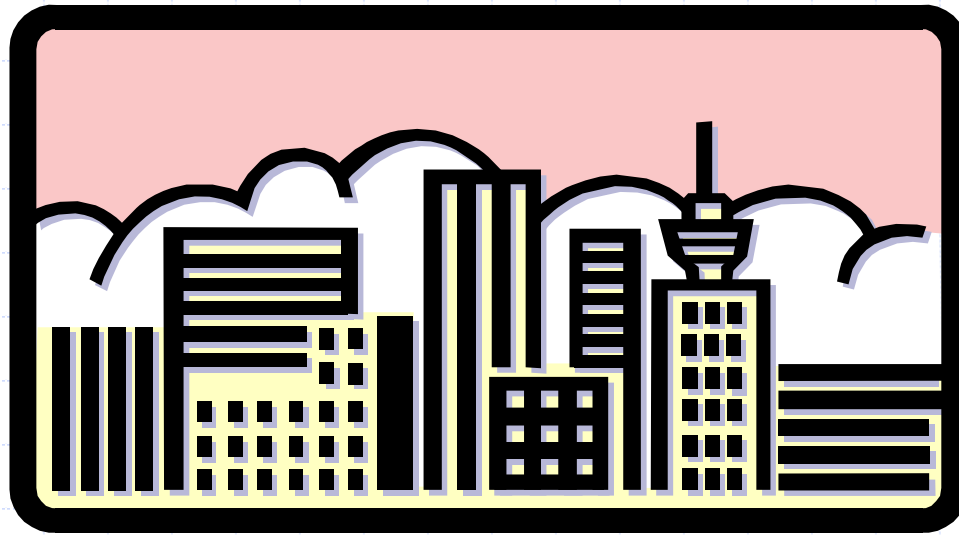


This is the most common “Architecture”
used by most large companies.

Characteristics of a “Shantytown”

- Built with whatever materials & tools are available
- Builders are all “Jacks of all trades”
- Very \$labor intensive
- Little or no specialization
- Must improvise repairs with materials on hand
- Ad hoc sanitation
- Little concern for infrastructure (no time & no \$money)
- Problems in one area erode and pollute adjacent areas
- Little overall planning or regulation of growth

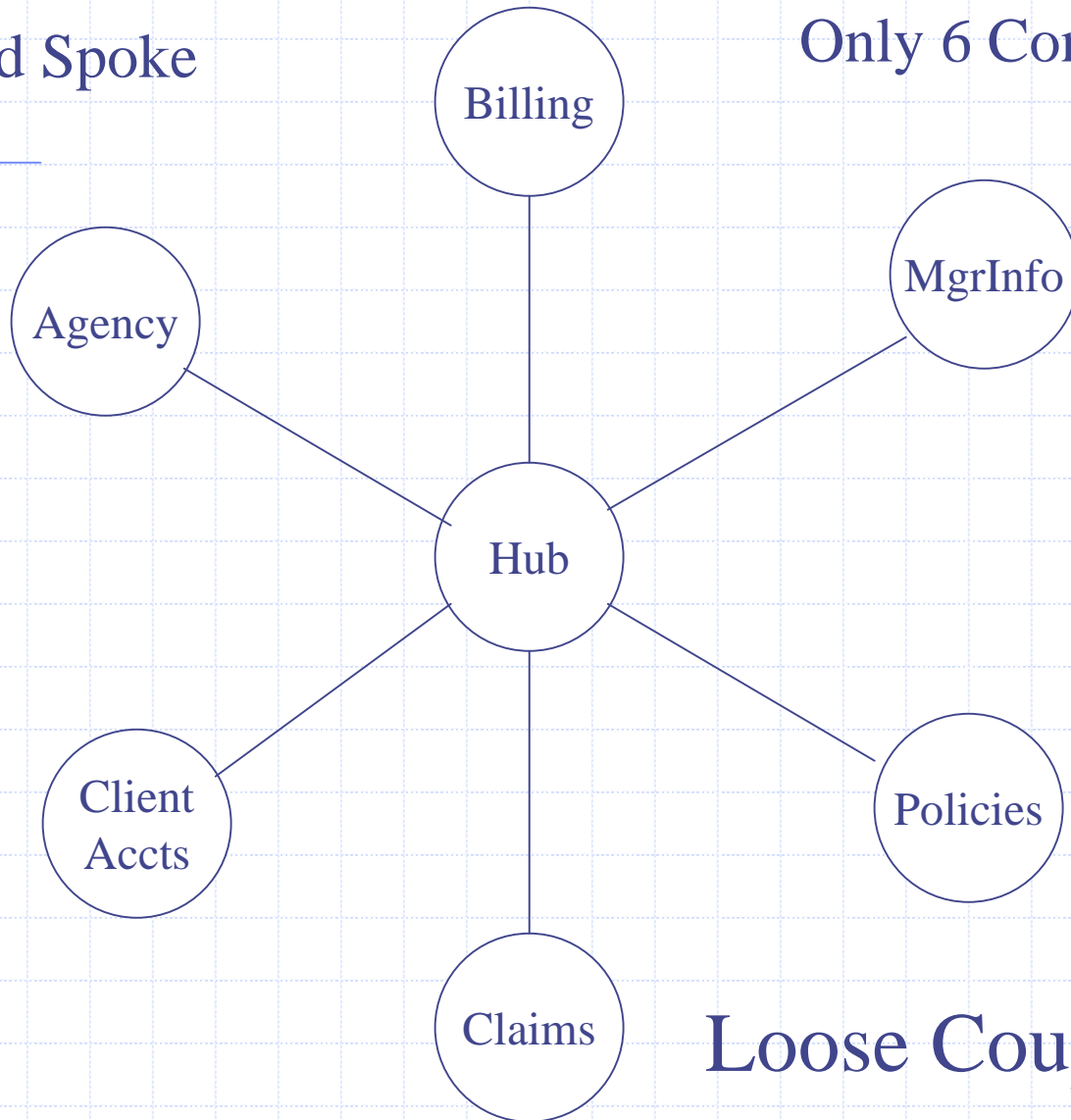
The only way to rise above the level
of a “shantytown” is to...



Invest in Infrastructure

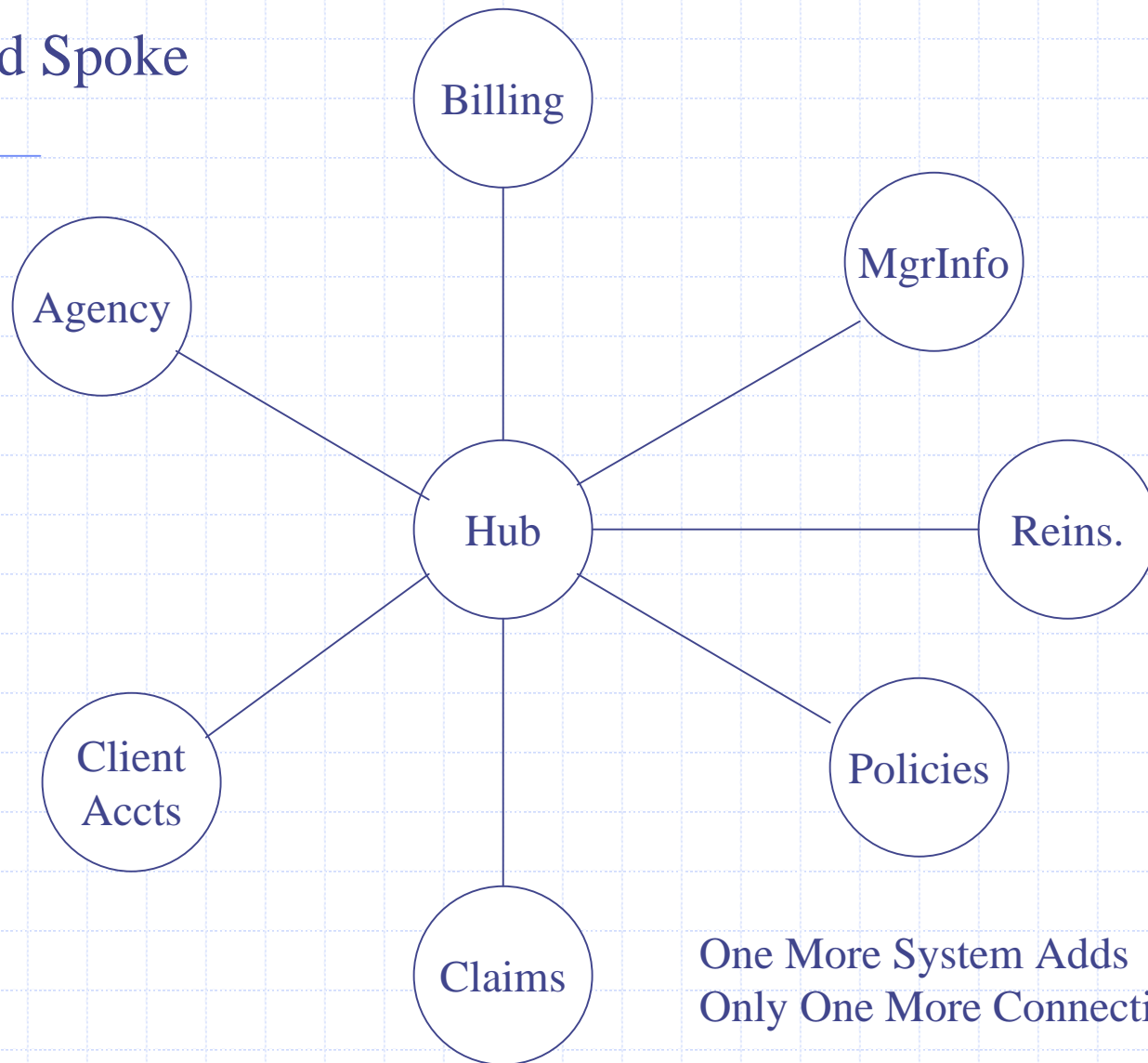
Hub and Spoke

Only 6 Connections



Loose Coupling

Hub and Spoke



One More System Adds
Only One More Connection!

Loose Coupling is Good!

