

Turn-Based Gaming with Game Center

Session 506

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iOS Engineering Manager

These are confidential sessions—please refrain from streaming, blogging, or taking pictures

What You Will Learn

Turn-based multiplayer

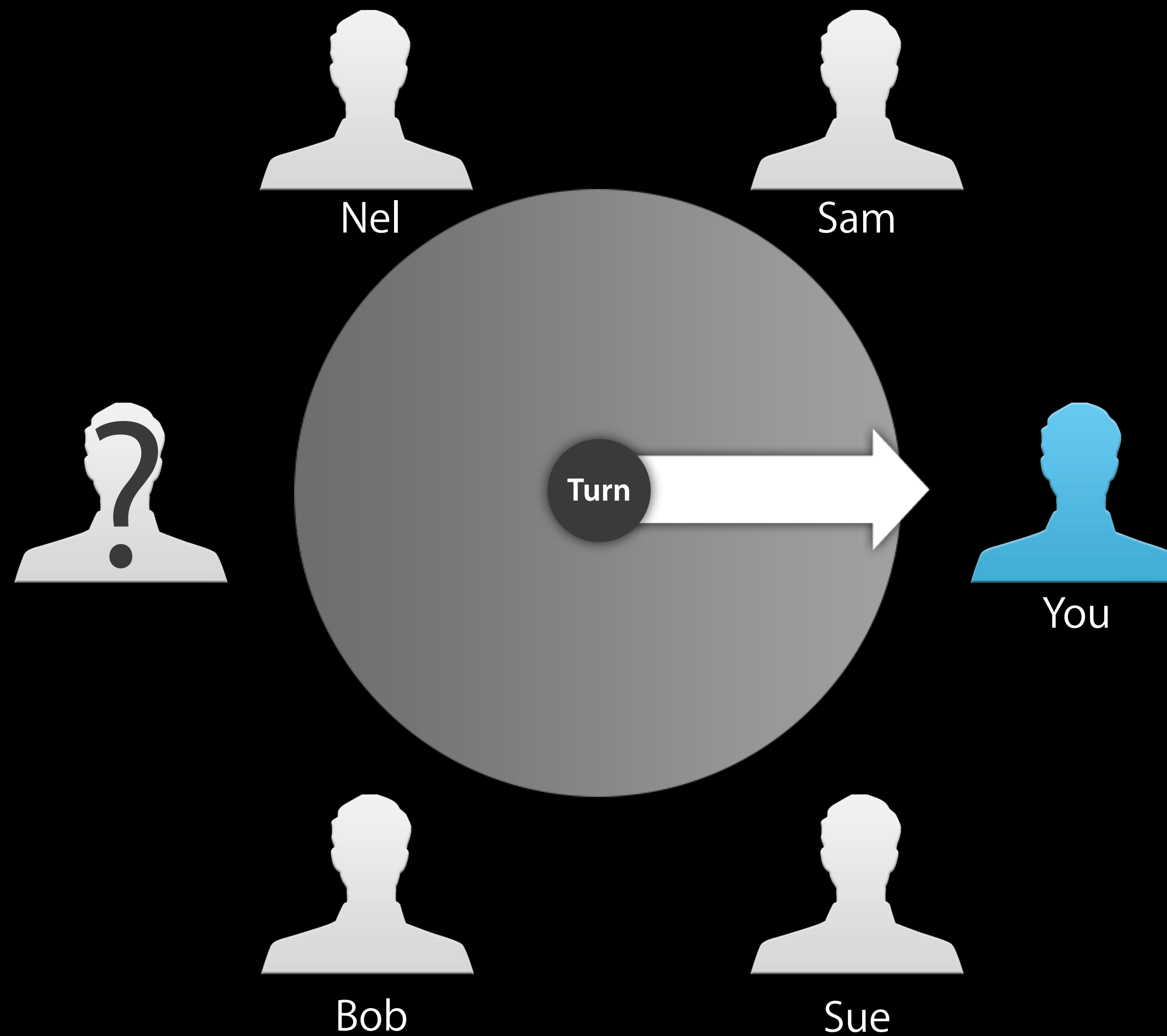
- Overview
- New features
- Basic scenarios
- Advanced scenarios

Game Center Multiplayer Options

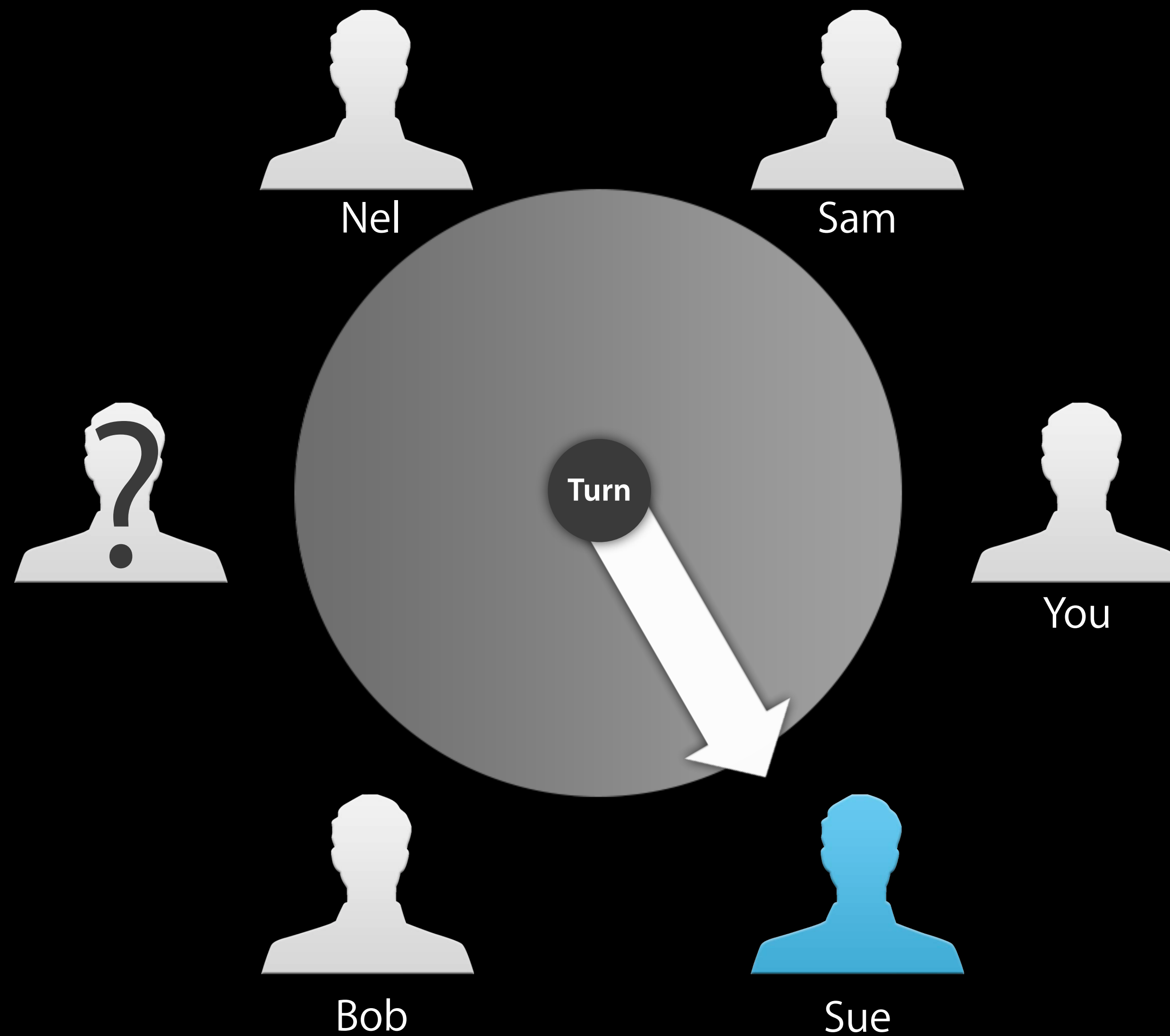
Three ways to play with friends

- Peer-to-peer
- Server-hosted
- Turn-based

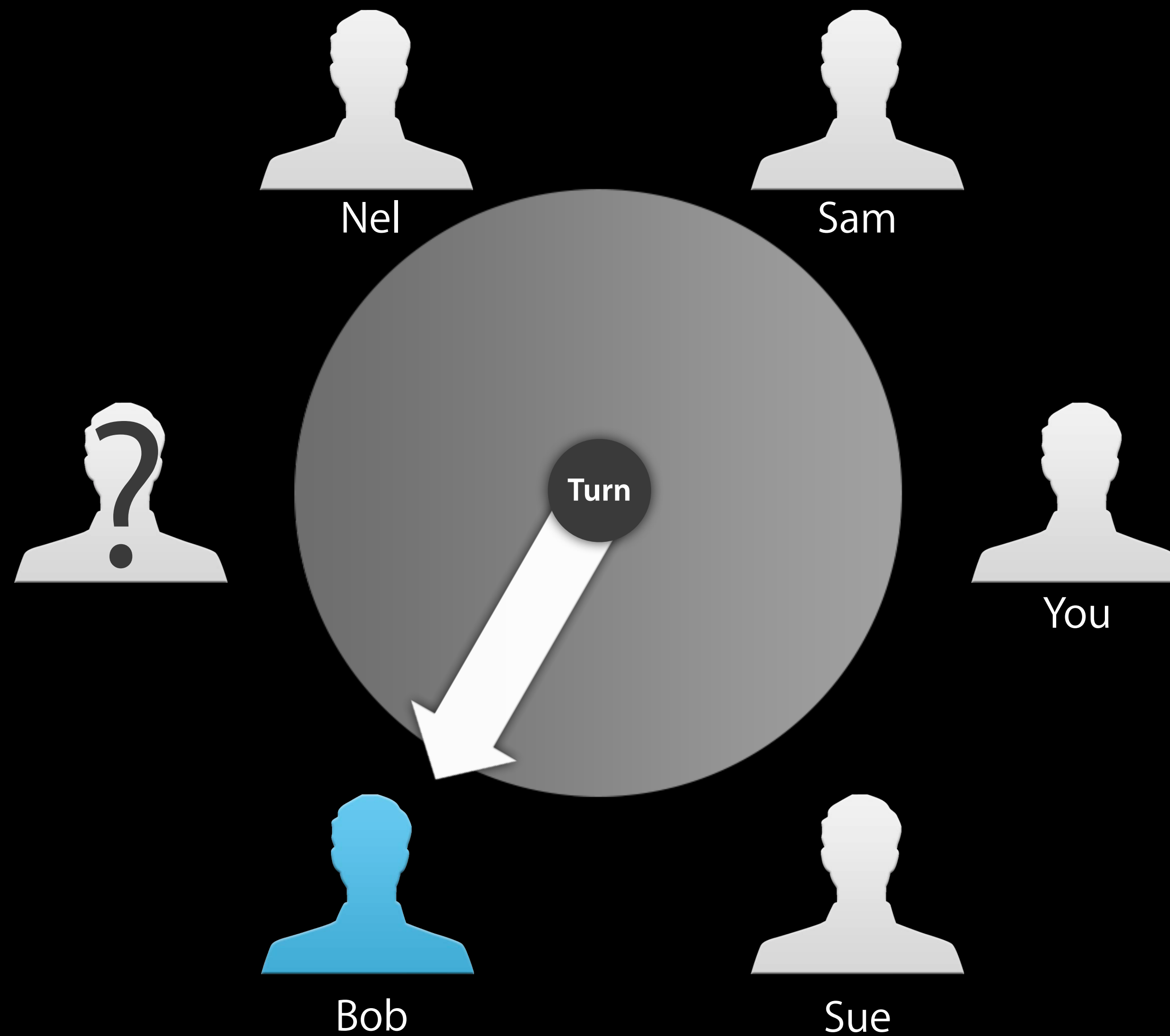
Turn-Based Multiplayer



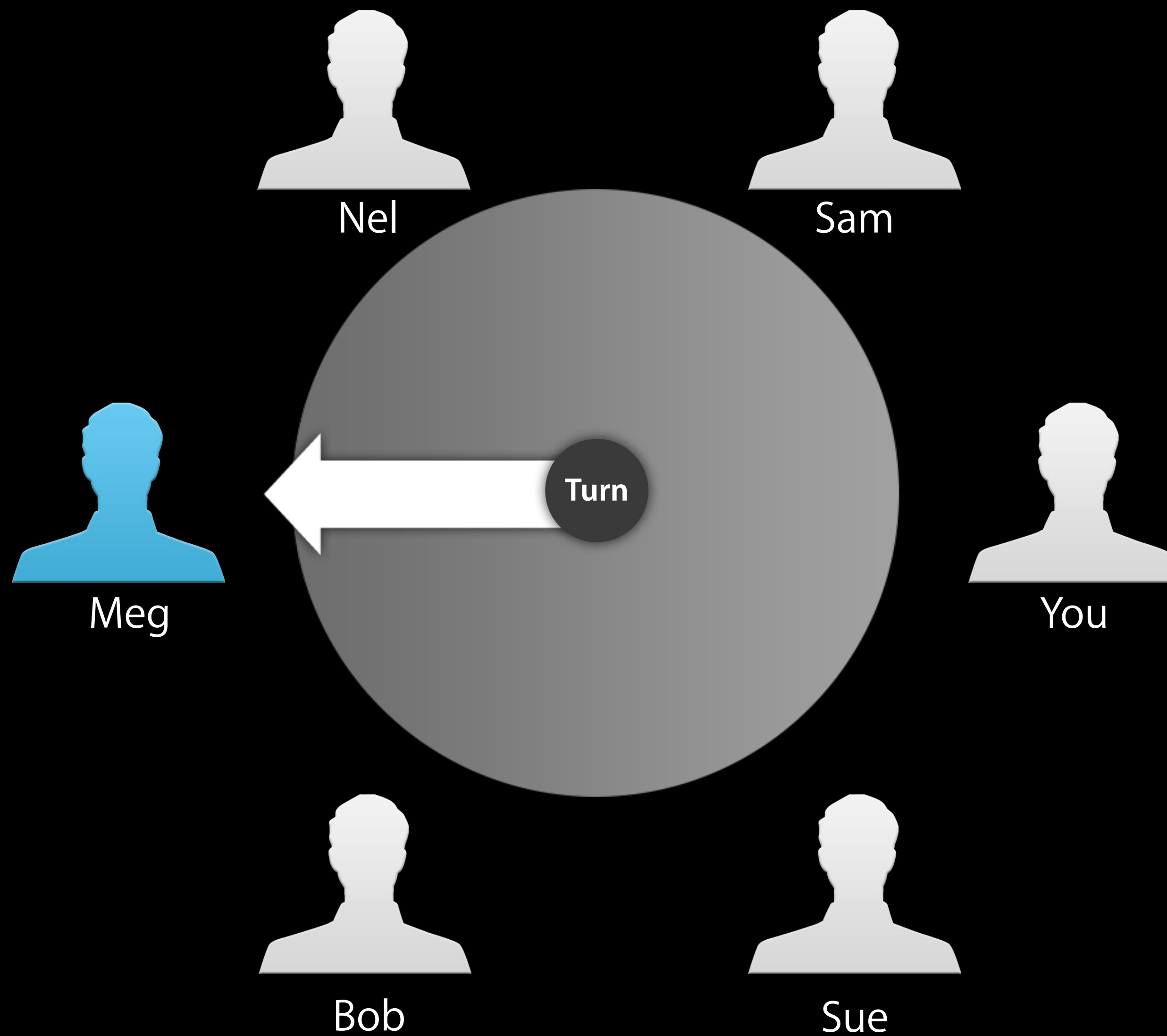
Turn-Based Multiplayer



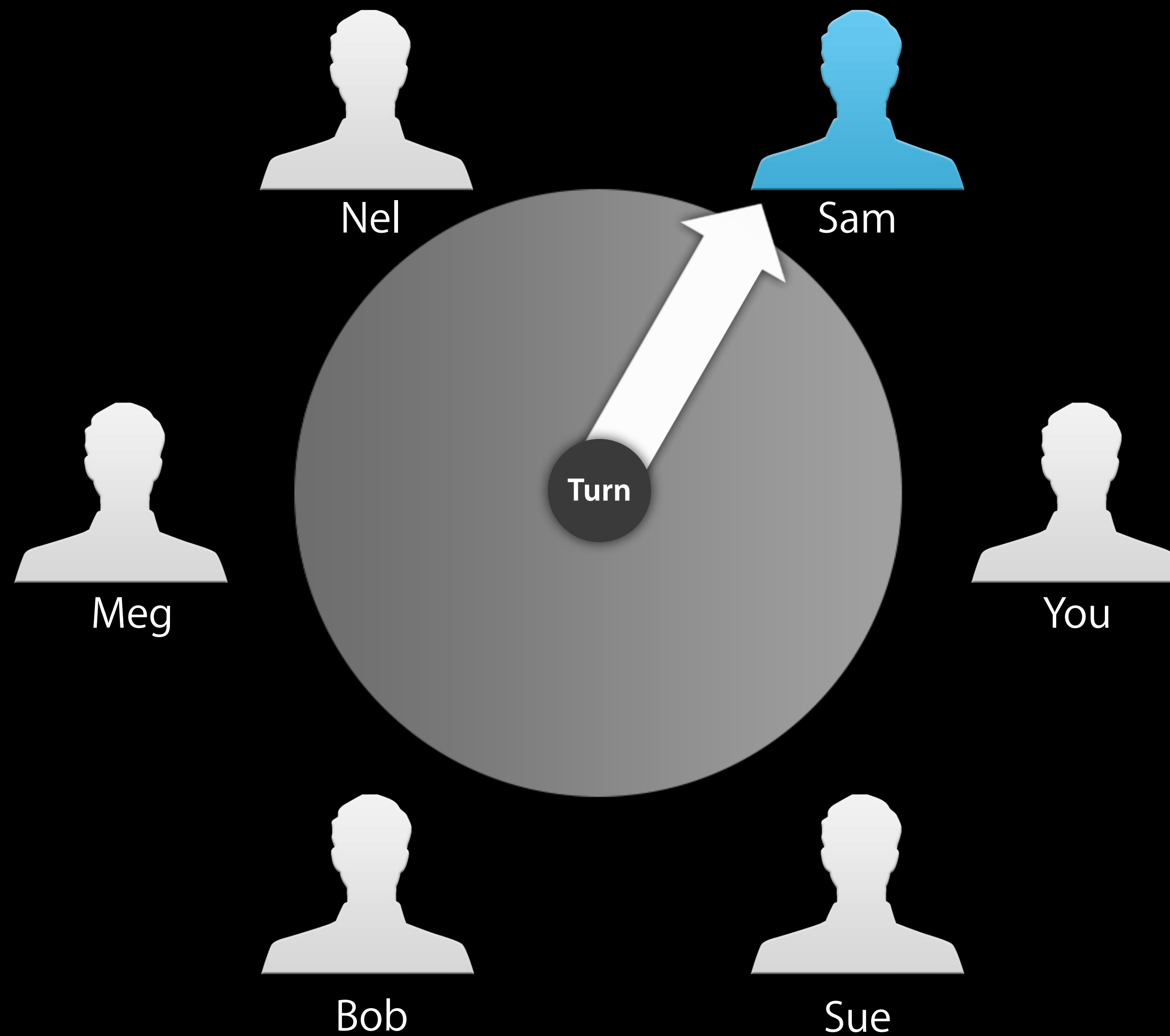
Turn-Based Multiplayer



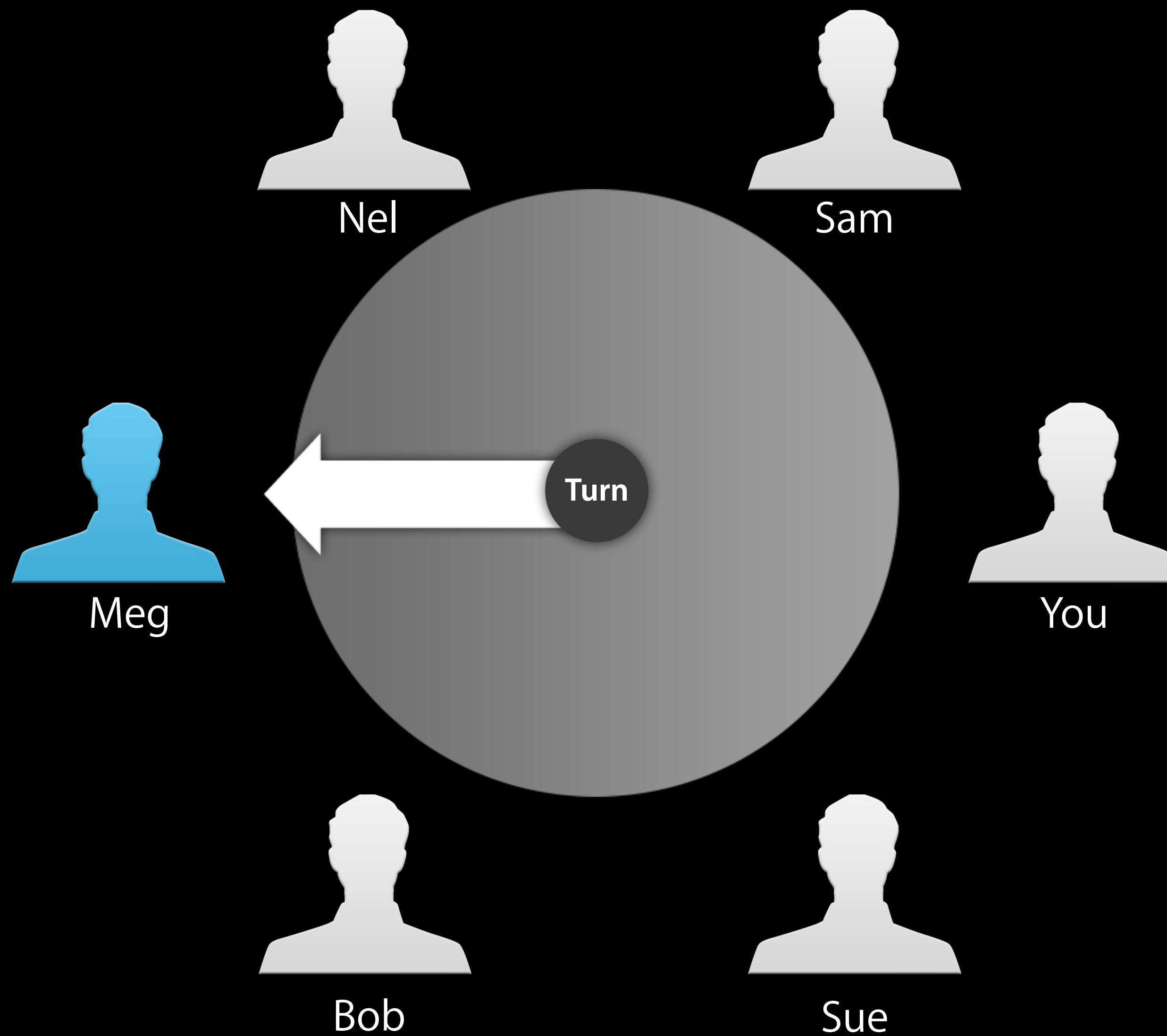
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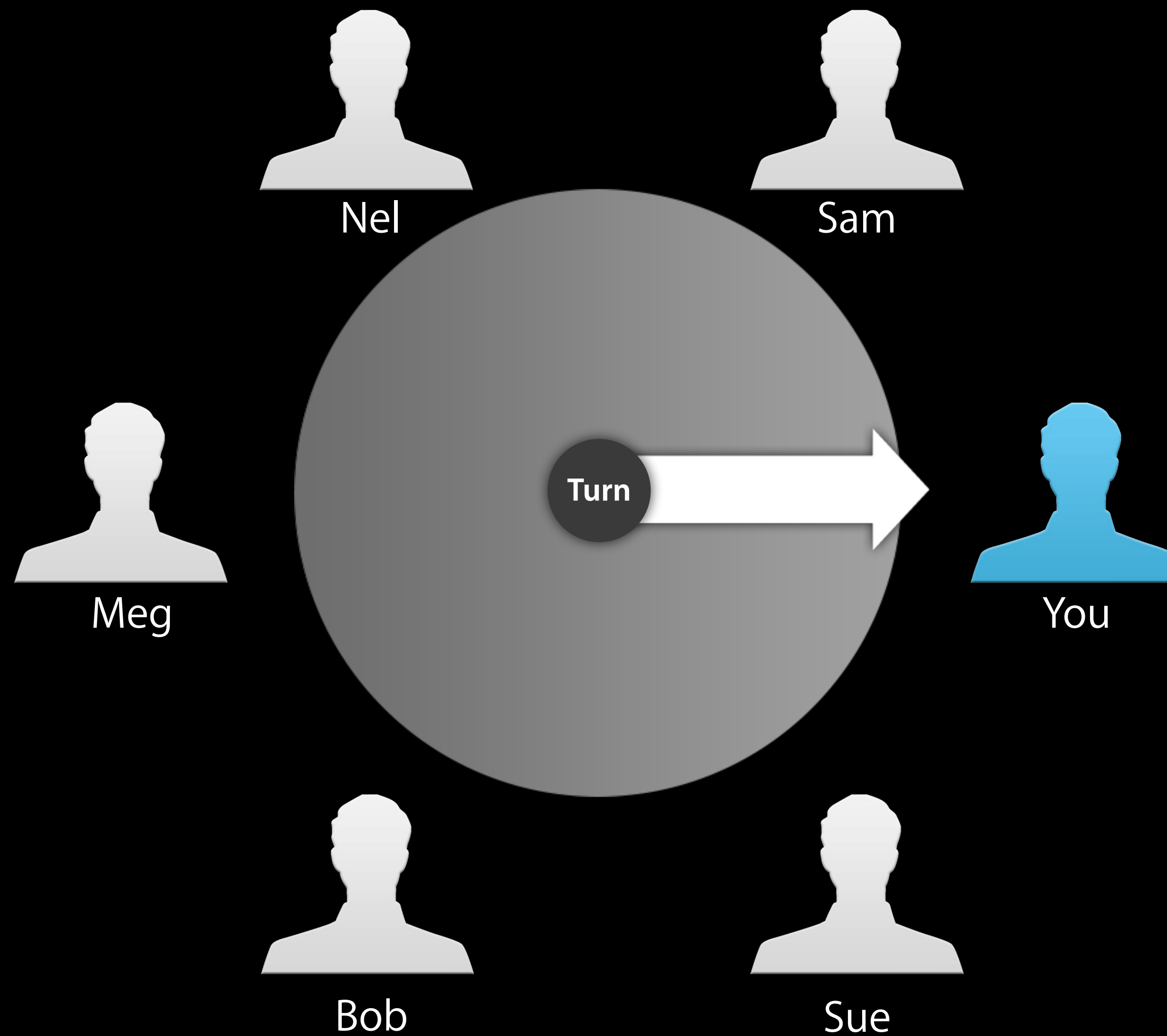
Turn-Based Multiplayer



Turn-Based Multiplayer



Turn-Based Multiplayer



Turn-Based Multiplayer

- Game Center provides matchmaking and invitation services
 - Asynchronous
- Game Center server stores the game state
 - Updates clients via push notifications
 - Provides synchronization of the game state
 - Manages player status
- Ideal for mobile
 - Users can play a short turn when available

Turn-Based Games

Capabilities

Turn-Based Games

Capabilities

Simultaneous Matches

Up to 30

Turn-Based Games

Capabilities

Simultaneous Matches

Up to 30

Players per Match

Up to 16

Turn-Based Games

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Turn Order	Developer defined

Turn-Based Games

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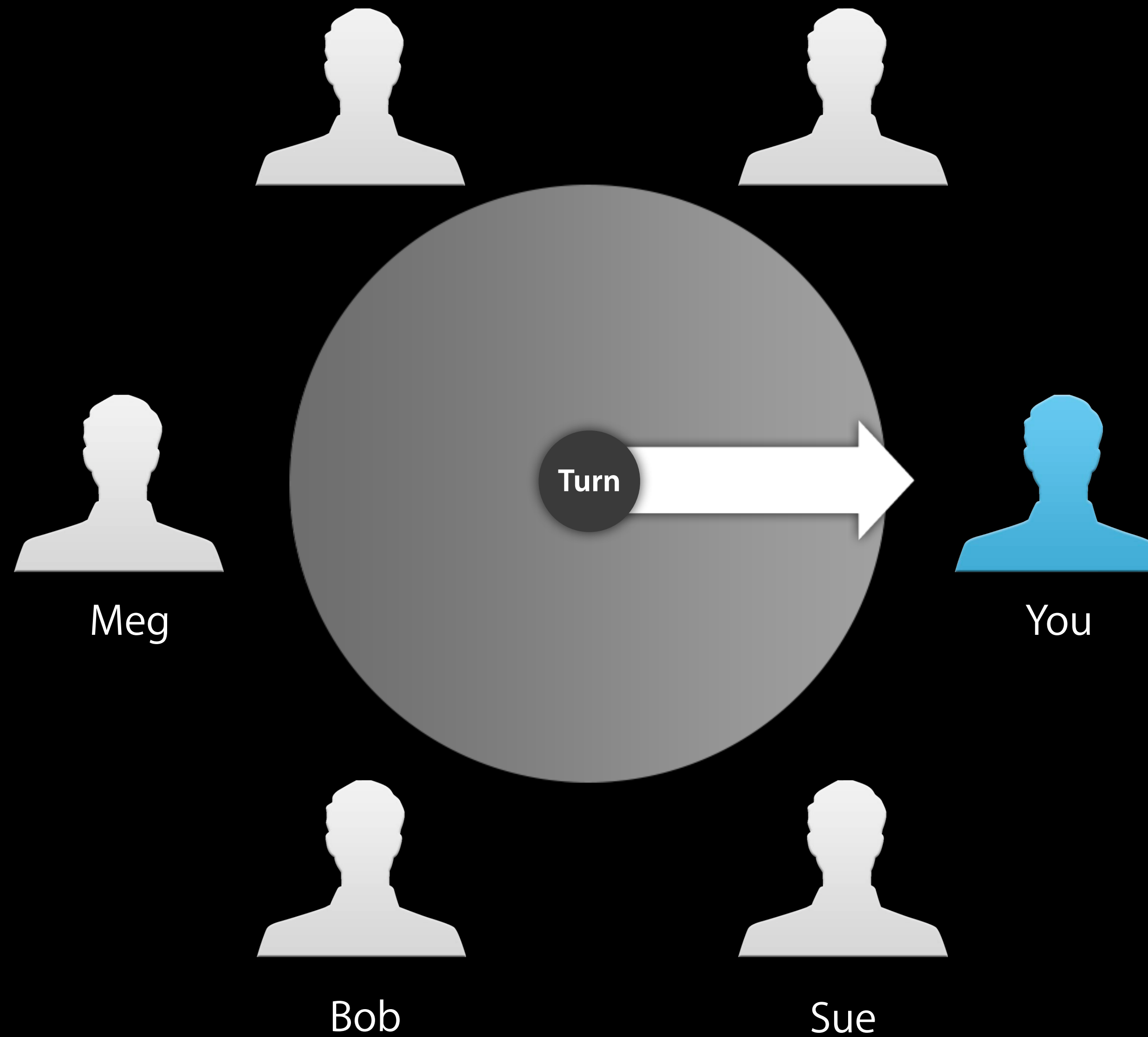
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Gameplay	Asynchronous
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Turn Order	Developer defined
Missed Turns	Fallback list

Turn-Based Games

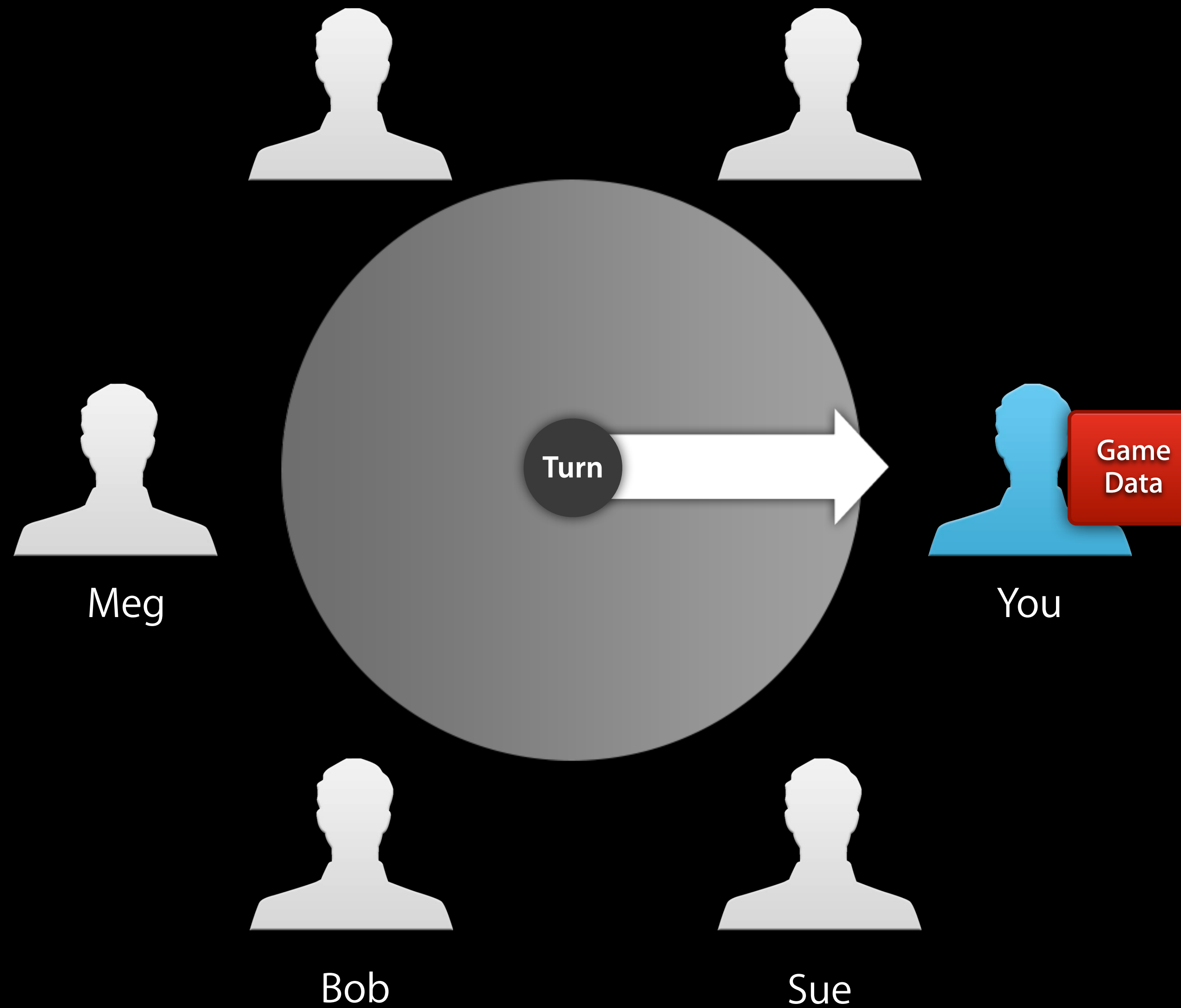
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Game Data	Up to 64K bytes
Seats Filled	Invitations or Auto-Match
Turn Order	Developer defined
Missed Turns	Fallback list
Turn Time Out	Default is 2 Weeks

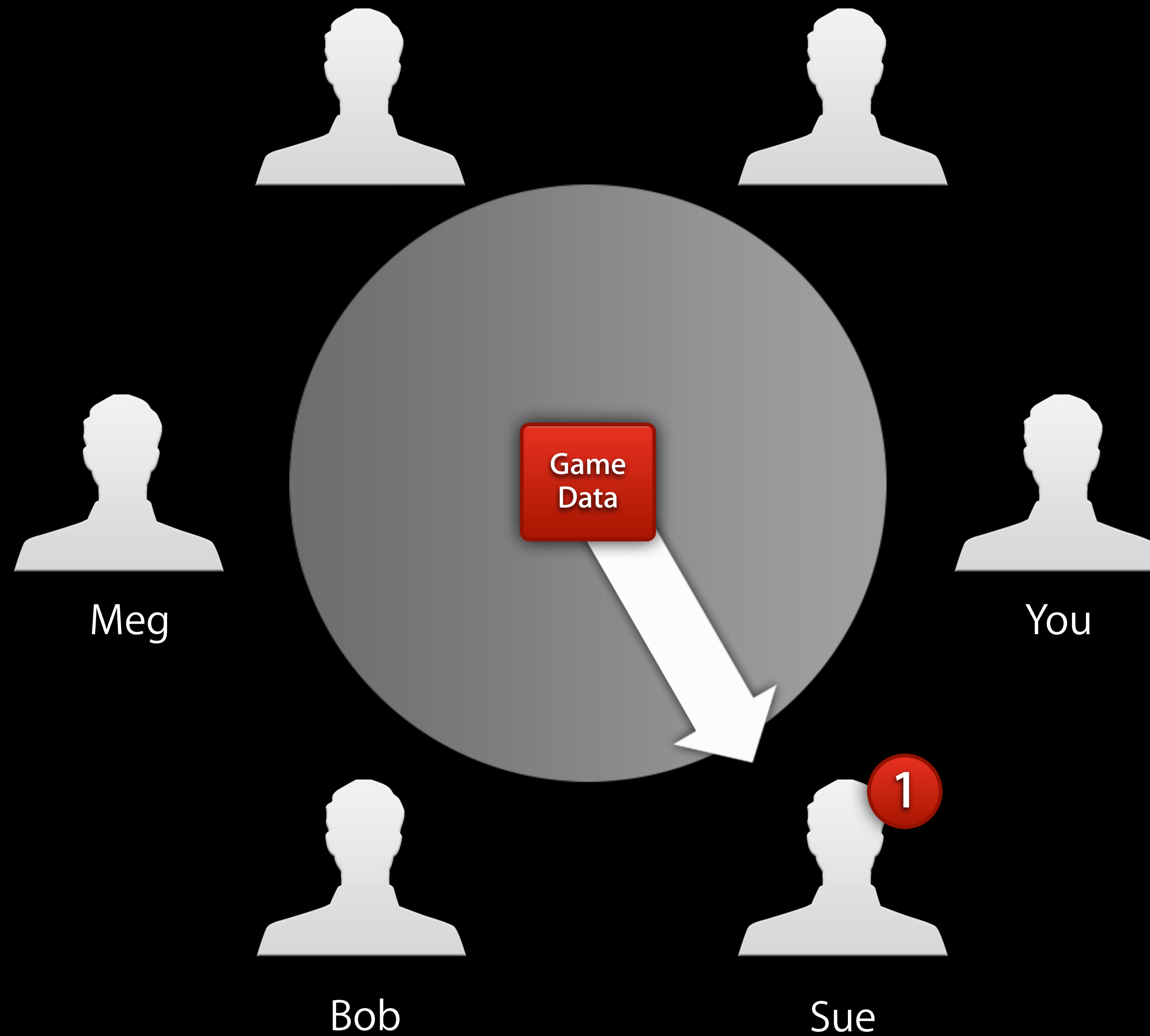
Turn Flow Details



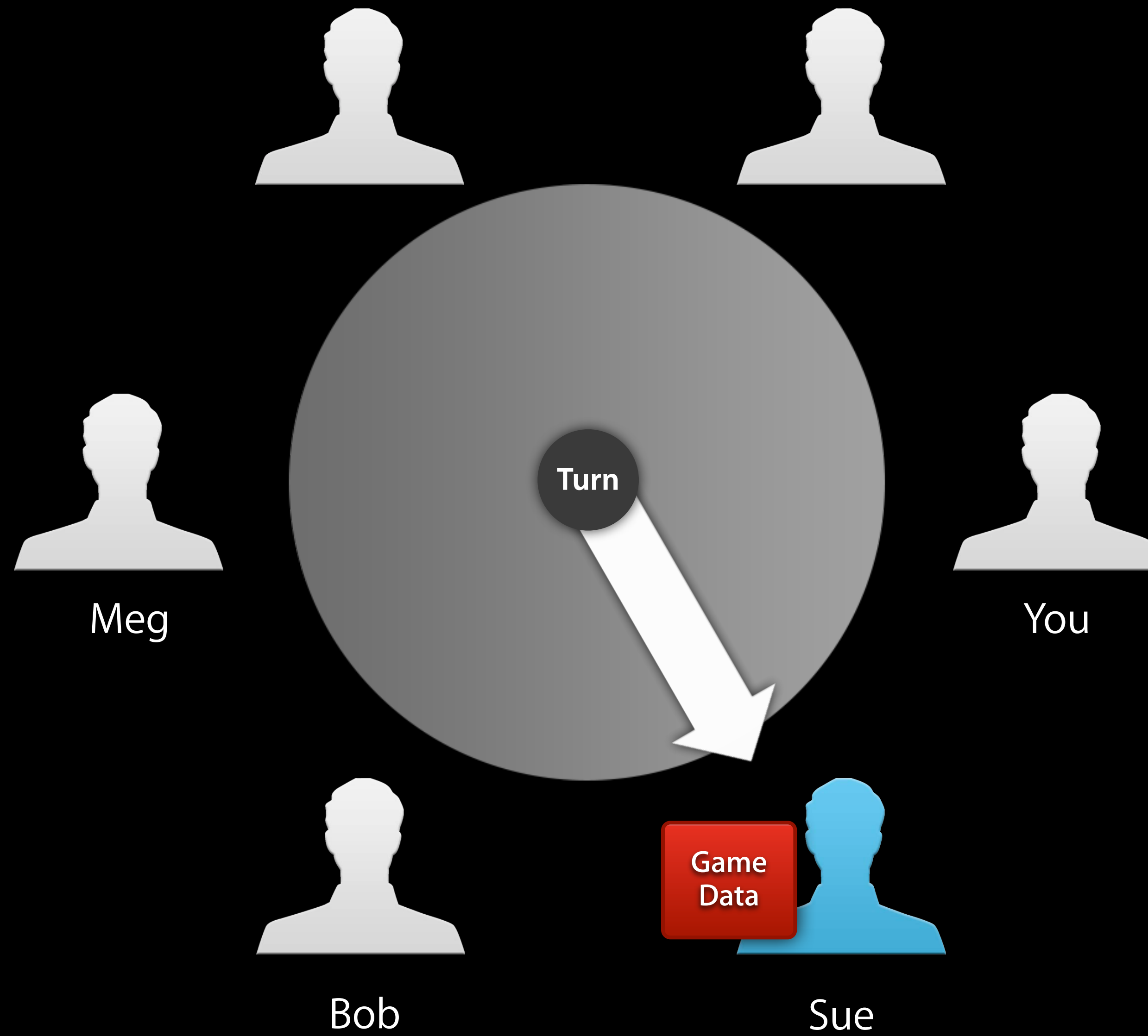
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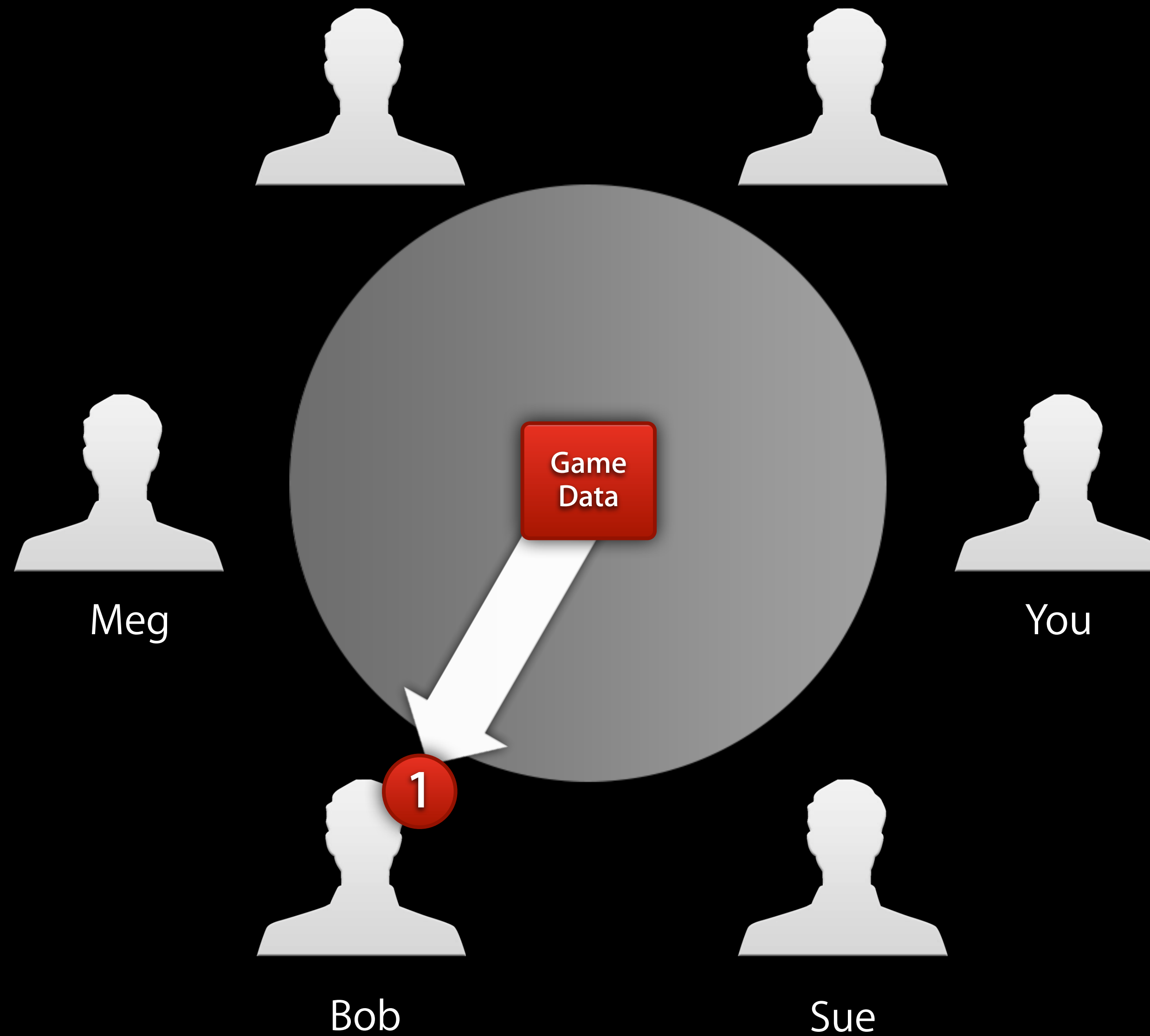
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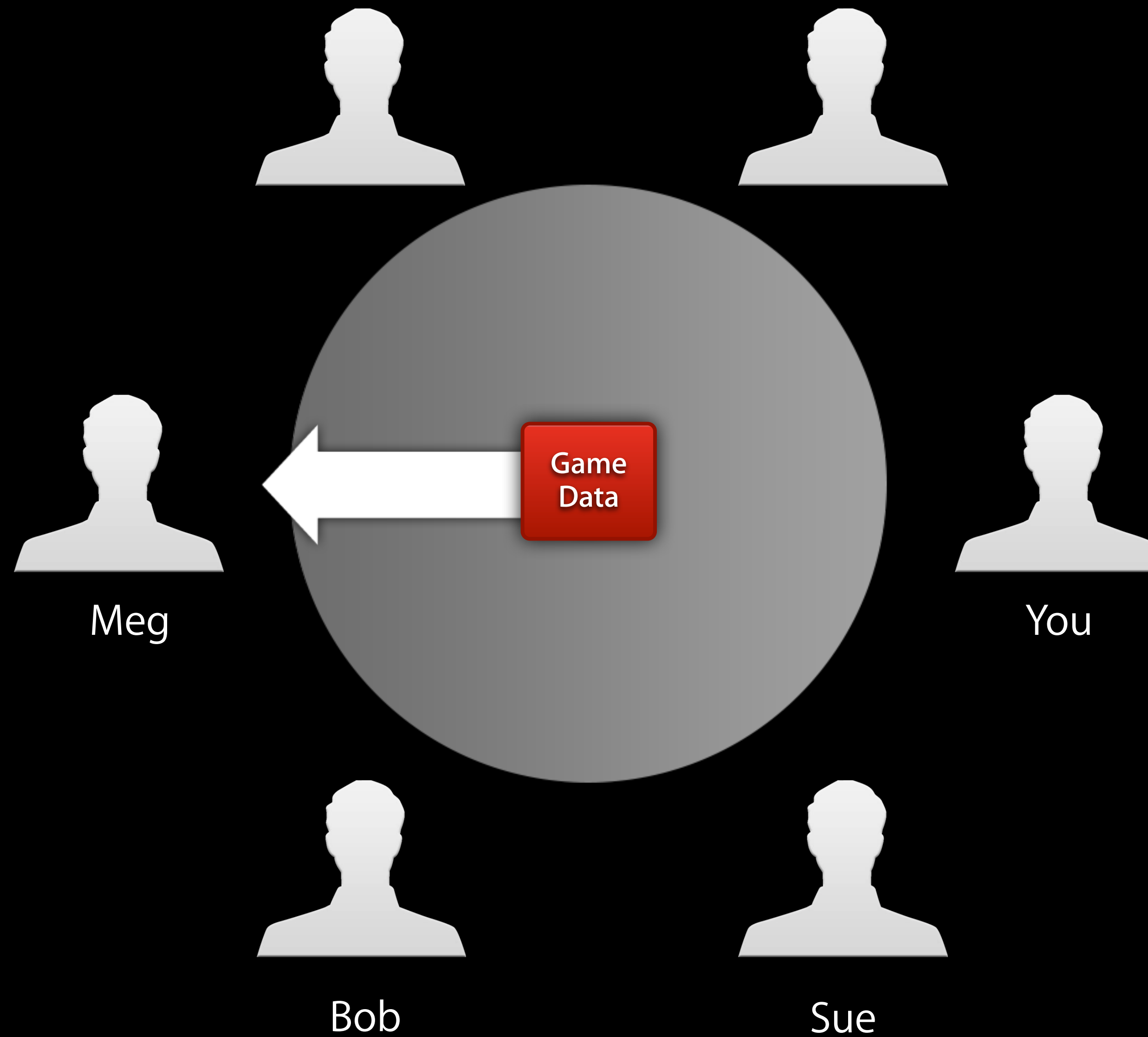
Turn Flow Details



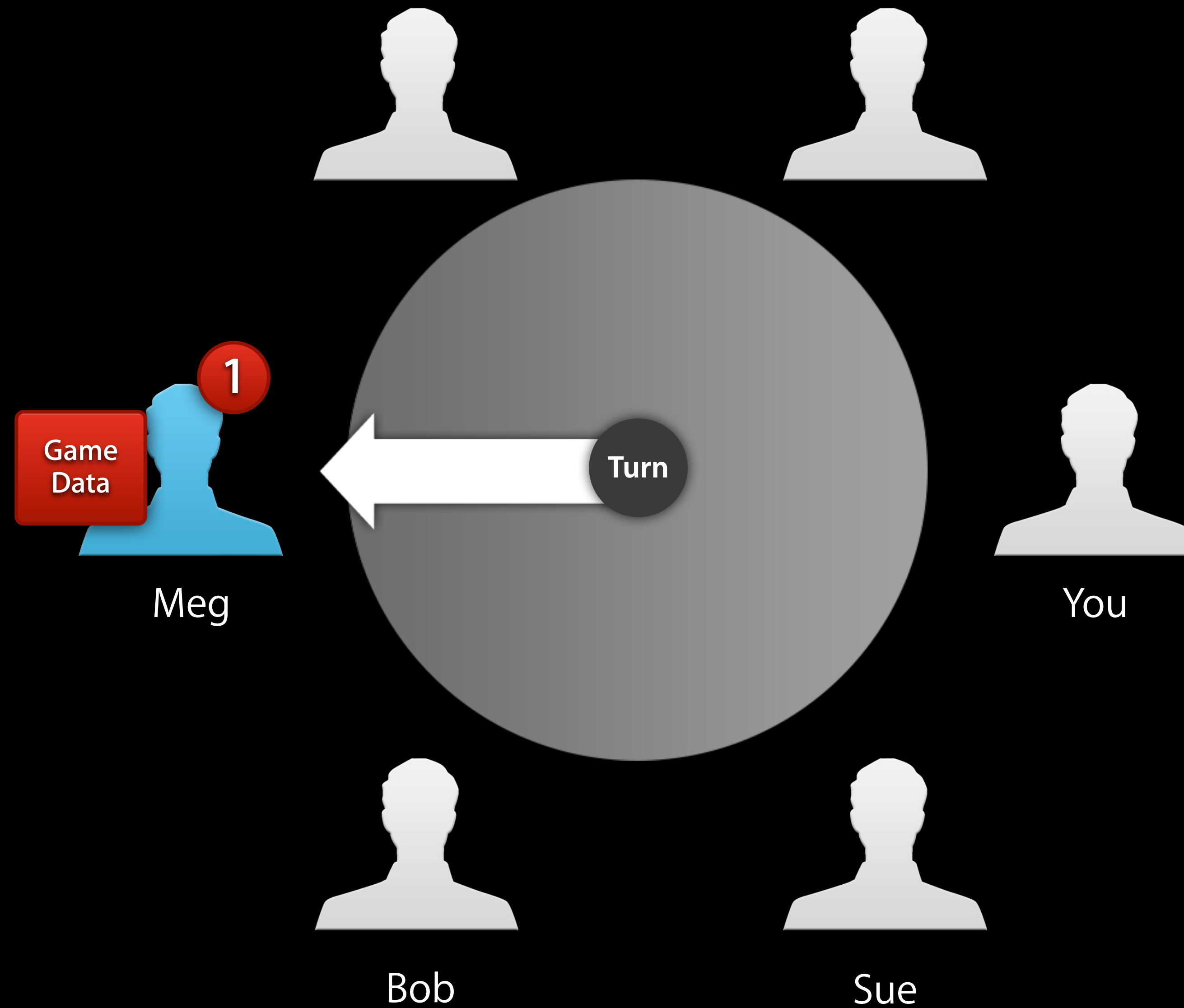
Turn Flow Details



Turn Flow Details



Turn Flow Details



Match Data

Current state of the match

- NSData
 - Contents are developer-defined
- Stored online
 - Only current player can update
 - Others can read
- Limited size: **64K bytes**
 - Apply data packing strategies
 - Point to server stored data

Expectations of Turn-Based Games

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- Multiple simultaneous matches
 - Each with its own state, players, outcome

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- Not always running
 - Choose match, takes turn, and exits

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 - Each with its own state, players, outcome
- One player at a time
 - Other players just observe until it is their turn
- Not always running
 - Choose match, takes turn, and exits
- Anywhere in app
 - Receive notifications when player takes turn in one match while taking our own turn in another

New Features



- Reporting scores and achievements for match
- Localizable turn messages
- Reminders
- Improved event handling
- Turn-based exchanges
- Improved parameter checking and error reporting

GKTurnBasedMatch

Game instances

- List of participants
- The current game state
- The player whose turn it is now
- All exchanges

GKTurnBasedParticipant

Seats for players

- Player ID
 - May be a player or an open position
- Status
 - Invited, matching, active, done
- Outcome
 - Filled when game over or player quits

GKTurnBasedMatchmakerViewController

Game Center interface

- Manage matches
 - Choose a match to play
 - Quit from a match
- Create new matches
 - Invite friends
 - Auto-match

Basic Scenarios

- Create a match
- Invite friends
- Play a turn
- End the match
- Quit the match
- List open matches
- Remove a match

Creating a Match

- Use GKTurnBasedMatchMakerViewController
 - Manage available matches
 - Auto-match and invitations
 - Create with a match request
- Programmatically
 - Auto-match and invitations

Creating a Match

```
// Get the friends to invite
NSArray *friendIDs = [self chooseFriendsToInvite];

// Set up match request
GKMatchRequest *request = [[GKMatchRequest alloc] init];
request.minPlayers = 4;
request.maxPlayers = 4;

request.playersToInvite = friendIDs;
request.inviteMessage = @"Let's play";

// Use the request to find or create a new match
[GKTurnBasedMatch findMatchForRequest: request
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Creating a Match

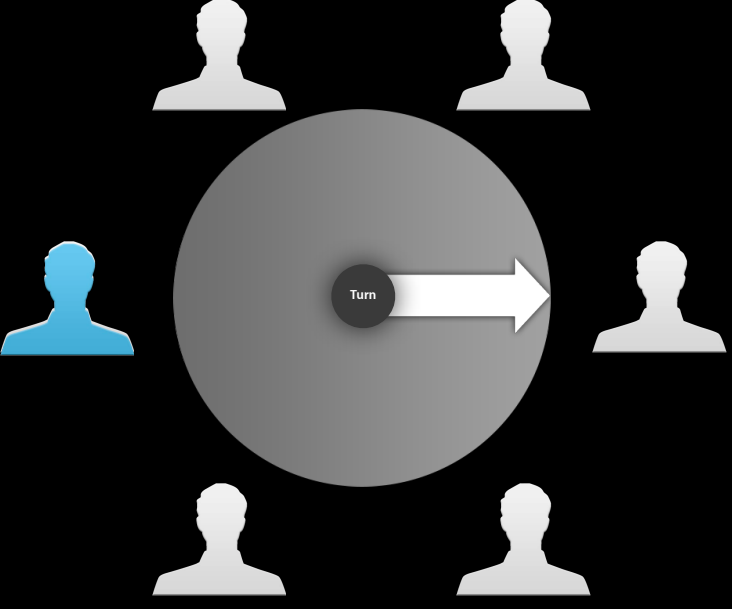
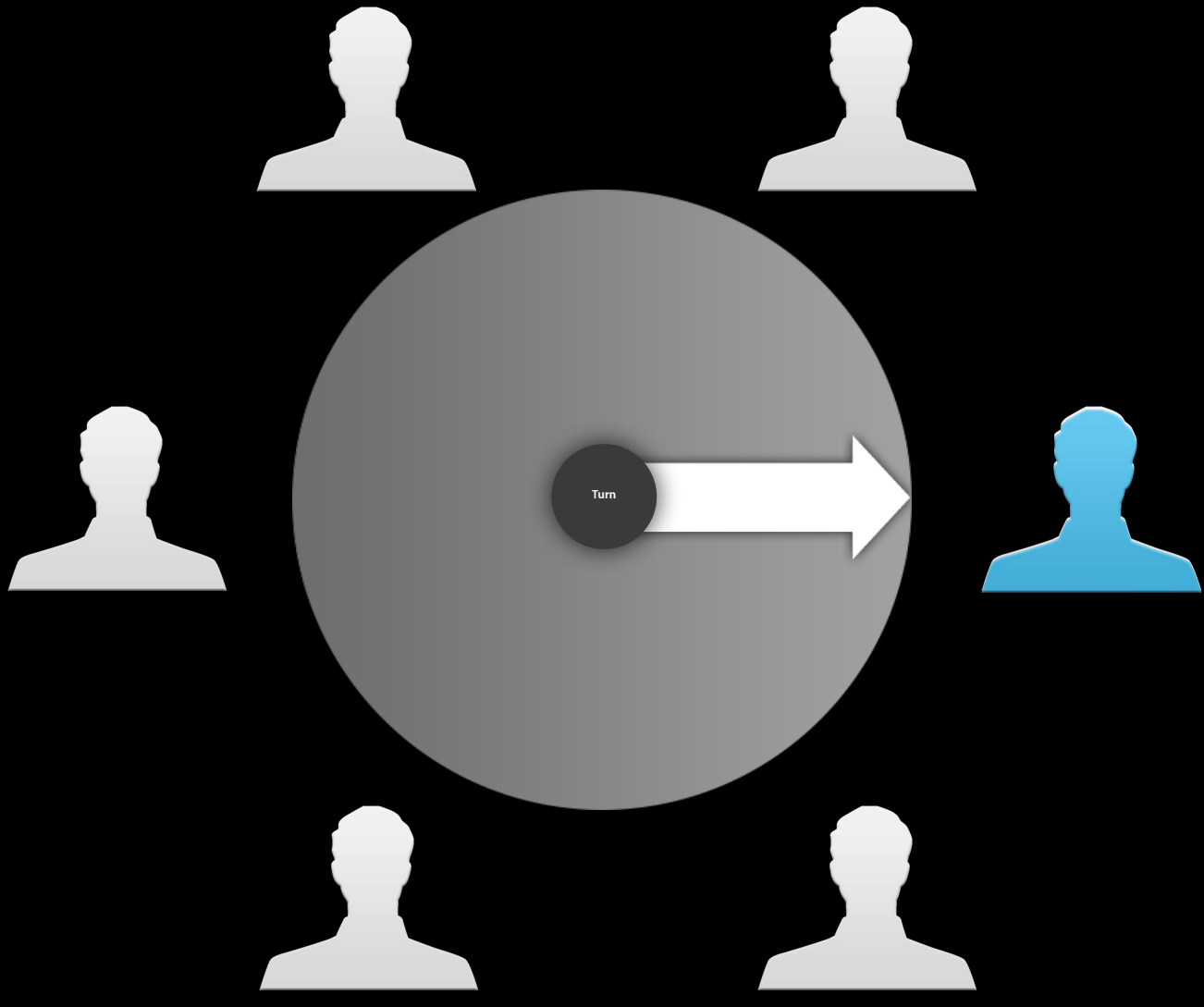
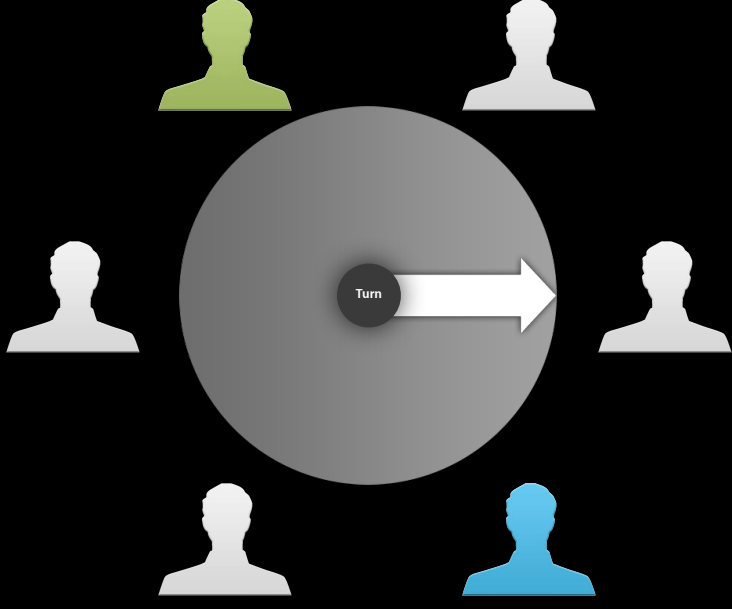
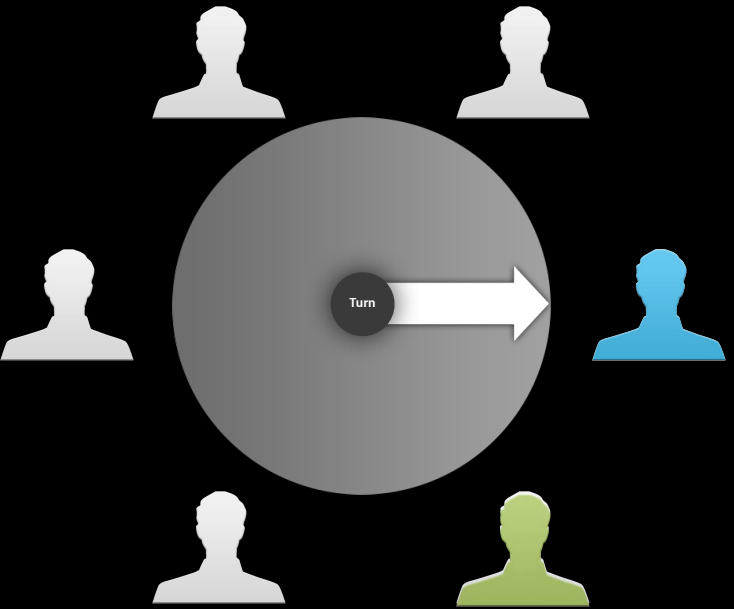
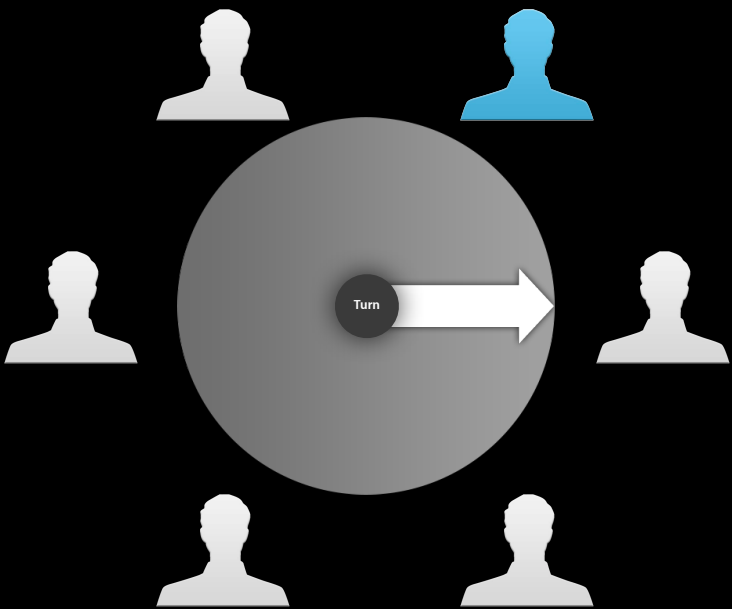
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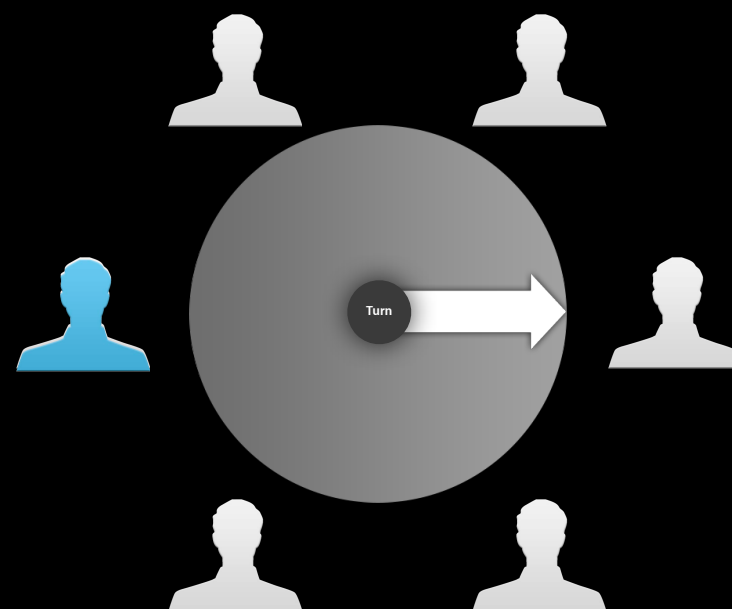
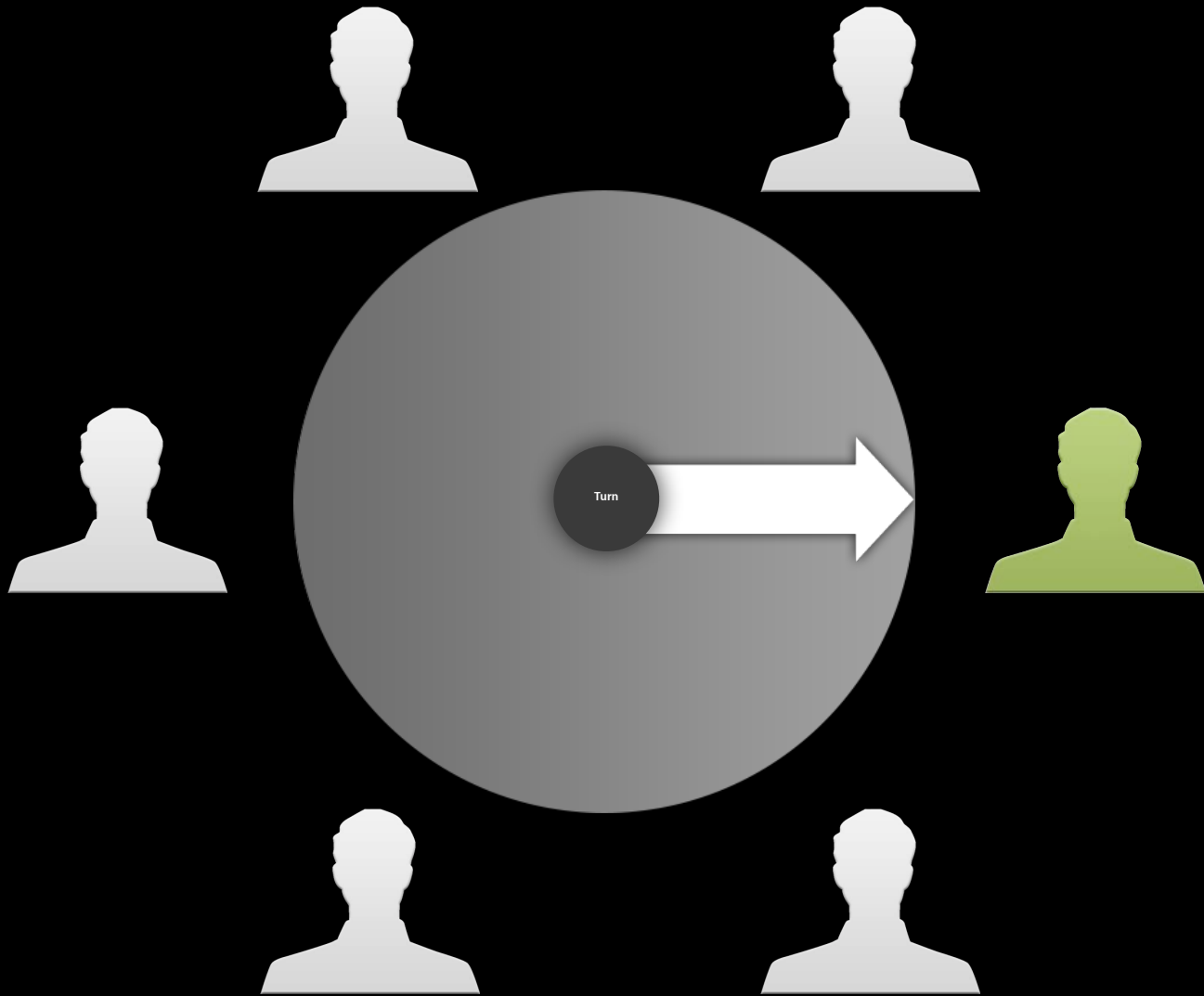
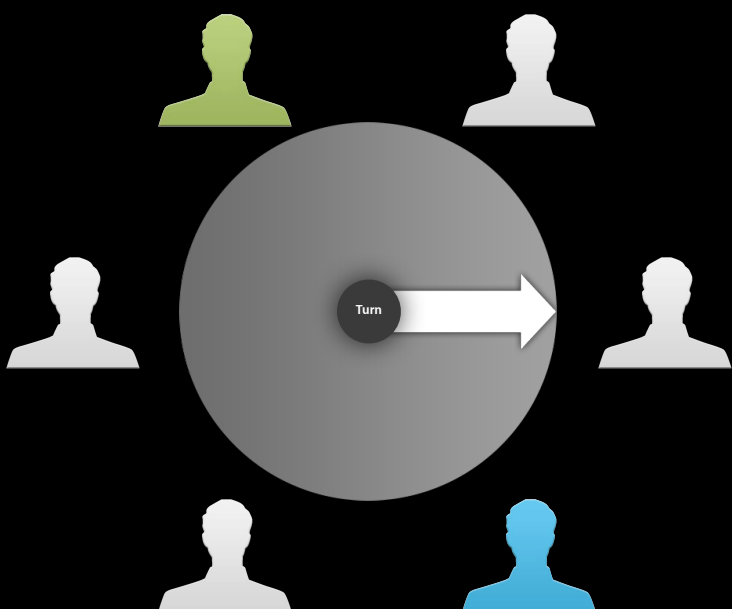
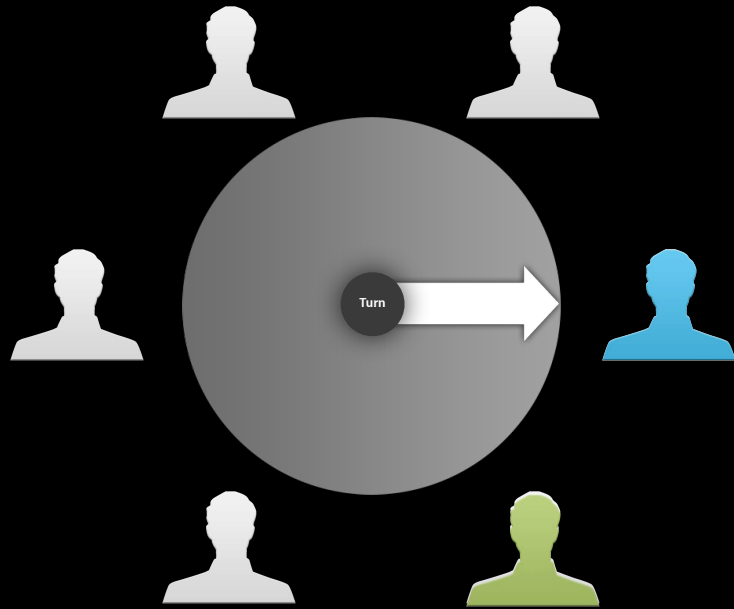
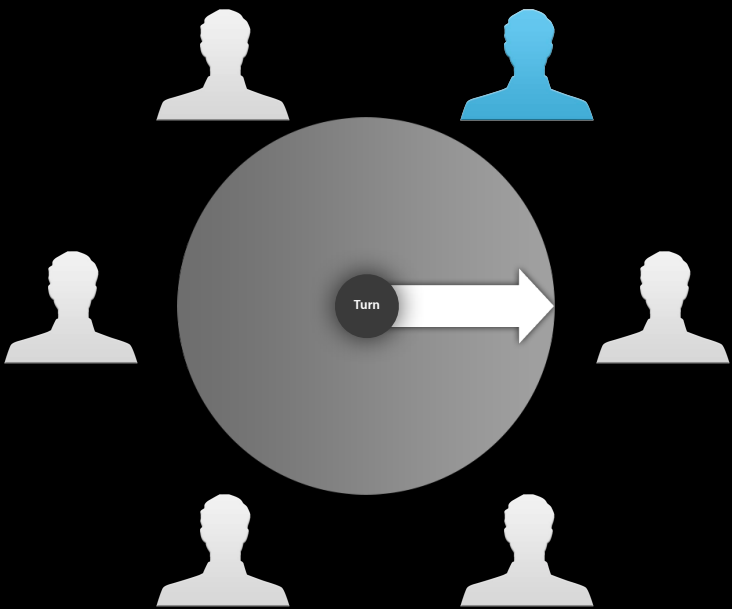
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Multiple Matches



Multiple Matches



Managing Multiple Matches

- Listing matches

```
[GKTurnBasedMatch loadMatchesWithCompletionHandler: ^(NSArray  
*existingMatches, NSError *error) { ... }];
```

- Removing a match

```
[match removeWithCompletionHandler: ^(NSError *) { ... }];
```

- Use GKTurnBasedMatchmakerViewController

Managing Multiple Matches

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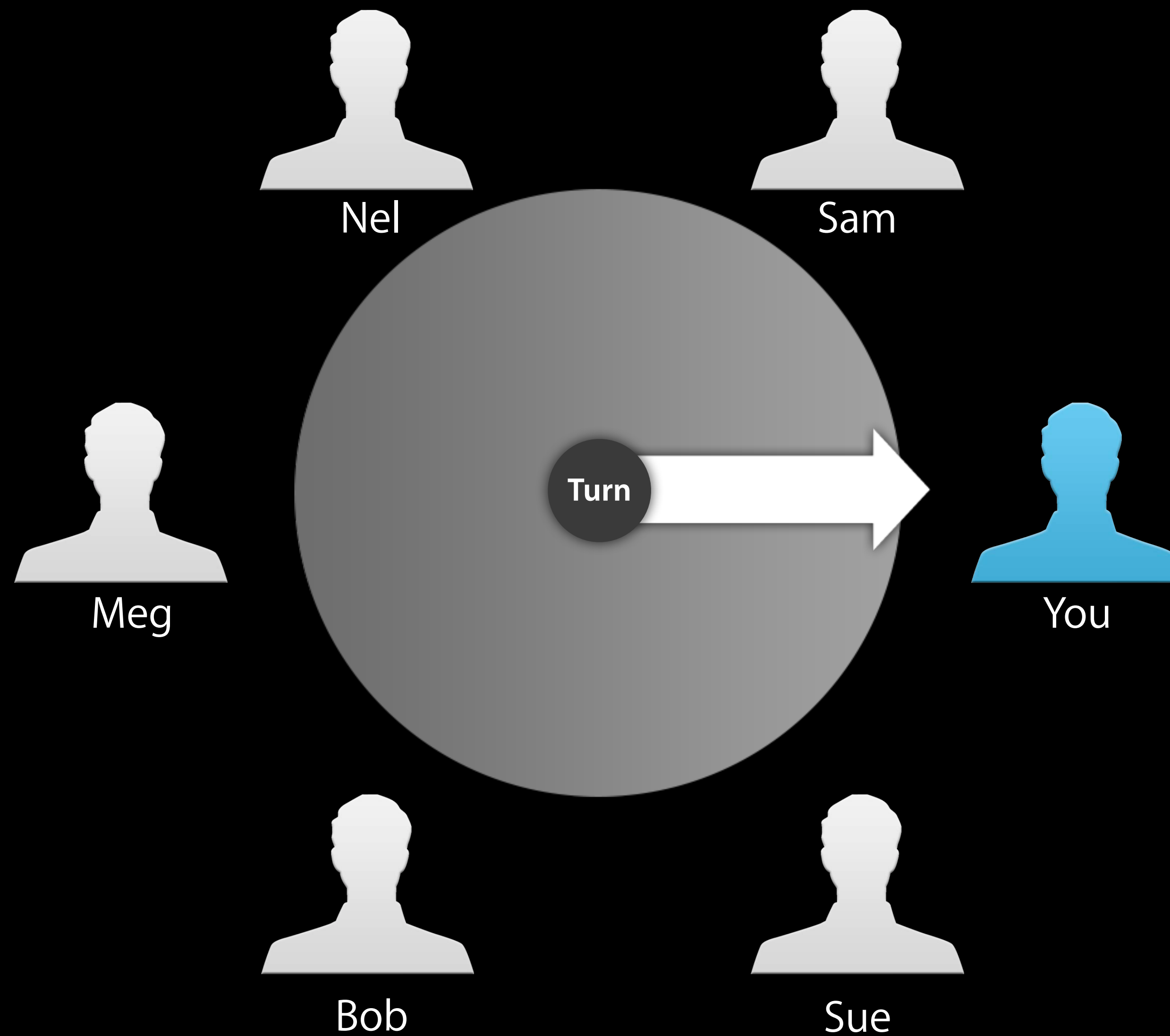
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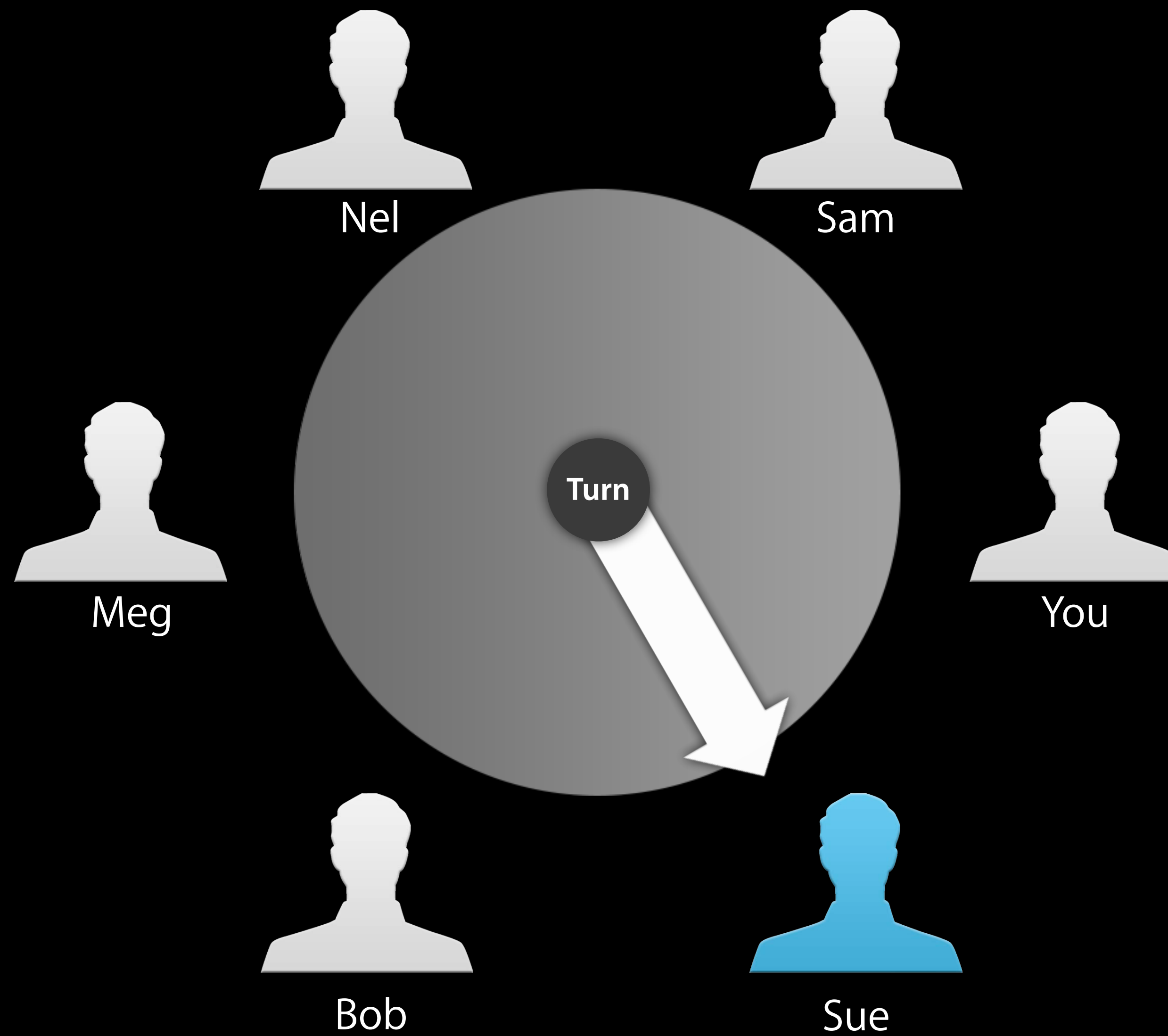
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Taking a Turn

Taking a Turn



Taking a Turn



Taking a Turn

Sequence

Taking a Turn

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- Load the current state

Taking a Turn

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- Apply game logic

Taking a Turn

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- Load the current state
- Apply game logic
- Save intermediate state

Taking a Turn

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- Load the current state
- Apply game logic
- Save intermediate state
- Choose the next player sequence

Taking a Turn

Sequence

- Load the current state
- Apply game logic
- Save intermediate state
- Choose the next player sequence
- Submit turn

Taking a Turn

Load the current state

```
// Load the latest match data and match state
[activeMatch loadMatchDataWithCompletionHandler:
    ^(NSData *matchData, NSError *error) {

    // Present the latest match state to the user
    if (matchData) {
        self.currentMatchData = matchData;
    }
    else if (error) {
        // Handle the error
    }
}];
```

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Taking a Turn

Save intermediate state

```
// Build the new match data for the intermediate state
newMatchData = [self updateMatchData:currentMatchData];

// Save the current state to the server
[match saveCurrentTurnWithMatchData: newMatchData
      completionHandler: ^(NSError *error) { ... }];

// Continued...
```

Taking a Turn

Save intermediate state

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// Build the new match data for the intermediate state  
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```
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Taking a Turn

Choose the next participants

- Based on your game rules
- Select only active players
- Guard against missed turns
 - Provide a list of multiple next participants
 - Use time outs
 - Last participant on list does not time out
 - Include yourself last

Taking a Turn

Submitting turn

```
// Update the state of the match
newMatchData = [self updateMatchData:currentMatchData];

// Determine the next participants
nextParticipants = [self chooseNextParticipants:match];

// Set the turn message...
```

Taking a Turn

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```
// Set the turn message...
```

Localizable Message



- Provided by the game bundle as a localizable string
- Game Center localizes string from game bundle
- Localized on the sender device as fallback
- Two items needed
 - A localizable string key
 - Optionally format arguments as array

Taking a Turn

Localizable message



```
// Assemble the message key and arguments
messageKey = [self turnMessageKey];
messageArguments = @[ playerName, wordPlayed ];

// Set the localizable message on the match
[match setLocalizableMessageWithKey: messageKey
      arguments: messageArguments];

// Send new game state to Game Center & pass turn to next participant
[match endTurnWithNextParticipants: nextParticipants
      turnTimeout: GKTurnBasedTimeoutDefault
      matchData: newMatchData
      completionHandler: ^(NSError *error) { ... } ];
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Reminders



- Turn-based gaming is asynchronous
- Game proceeds only as fast as slowest player
 - Timeouts and fallbacks help
- Sometimes need to remind a player to play
- Reminders are a single one-way push with message

Reminders

Sending a localizable reminder



```
// Assemble the reminder message key and arguments
messageKey = [self reminderMessageKey];
messageArguments = [self reminderMessageArguments];

// Send the reminder message
[match sendReminderToParticipants: @[match.currentParticipant]
      localizableMessageKey: messageKey
      arguments: messageArguments
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Ending the Game

Ending the Game

What to do when it's all over

- Players finish the game
- Player quits the game
 - In turn
 - Out of turn
- Game is ended by the last player instead of taking a turn

Ending the Game

Outcomes

```
// Assemble the final match data after the last player takes the final turn
lastMatchData = [self updateMatchData: currentMatchData];

// Set the status and outcome for each active participant.
for (GKTurnBasedParticipant *participant in match.participants) {
    if (participant.status == GKTurnBasedParticipantActive) {
        participant.status = GKTurnBasedParticipantDone;
        participant.outcome = [self outcomeForParticipant: participant
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    }
}

// Continued...
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Ending the Game

Reporting final scores and achievements



```
// Determine the scores and achievements earned for all players
```

```
scores = [self scoresForMatch:match data:lastMatchData];
```

```
achievements = [self achievementEarnedForMatch:match data:lastMatchData];
```

```
// End the match and report scores and achievements
```

```
[match endMatchInTurnWithMatchData: lastMatchData
```

```
        scores: scores
```

```
        achievements: achievements
```

```
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Handling Events

Handling Events

GKTurnBasedEventListener



- Protocol for events
 - Match state changed: Invitation, new turn, turn passed
 - Match ended
 - Exchange requested, cancelled, and completed
- GKLocalPlayer is the event producer
 - Replaces GKTurnBasedEventHandler and delegate
- Can have multiple listeners for each event

Handling Events

Setting the listener



- Adopt the GKTurnBasedEventListener protocol
- Register with GKLocalPlayer

```
[[GKLocalPlayer localPlayer] registerListener: self]
```
- Register multiple listeners
 - AppDelegate for new turn and activations
 - Match view controller for updates to the current match

Handling Events

Setting the listener



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GKEventListenerProtocol



Basic turn events

- Turn events

- (void)**player:** (GKPlayer *)player
receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive

- Match requests from Game Center

- (void)**player:** (GKPlayer *)player
didRequestMatchWithPlayers: (NSArray *)playerIDsToInvite

- Match ended

- (void)**player:** (GKPlayer *)player
matchEnded: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match

GKEventListenerProtocol



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GKEventListenerProtocol



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GKEventListenerProtocol



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GKEventListenerProtocol



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- (void)**player:** (GKPlayer *)player
didRequestMatchWithPlayers: (NSArray *)playerIDsToInvite

- Match ended

- (void)**player:** (GKPlayer *)player
matchEnded: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match

New Turn Event

Activation

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // This event activated the application. This means that the user
    // tapped on the notification banner and wants to see or play this
    // match now.
    if (didBecomeActive) {
        [self switchToMatch:match];
        return;
    }

    // Handle the event more selectively
    ...
}
```

New Turn Event

Activation

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
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    if (didBecomeActive) {
        [self switchToMatch:match];
        return;
    }

    // Handle the event more selectively
    ...
}
```

New Turn Event

Match updated

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // continued...

    // Handle the event more selectively
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual:match]) {
        // This is the match the user is currently playing,
        // update to show the latest state
        [self refreshMatch:match];
    }
    else { ... }
}
```

New Turn Event

Match updated

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // continued...

    // Handle the event more selectively
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual:match]) {
        // This is the match the user is currently playing,
        // update to show the latest state
        [self refreshMatch:match];
    }
    else { ... }
}
```

New Turn Event

Match updated

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // continued...

    // Handle the event more selectively
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual:match]) {
        // This is the match the user is currently playing,
        // update to show the latest state
        [self refreshMatch:match];
    }
    else { ... }
}
```

New Turn Event

Turn received for different match

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // continued...
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual:match]) { ... }
    else {
        // It became the player's turn in a different match
        if ([match.currentParticipant.playerID isEqual:player.playerID]) {
            // Prompt the player to switch to the new match
            [self notifyUserOfNewTurn:match];
        }
        else { ... }
    }
}
```

New Turn Event

Turn received for different match

```
- (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player
  receivedTurnEventForMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // continued...
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual:match]) { ... }
    else {
        // It became the player's turn in a different match
        if ([match.currentParticipant.playerID isEqual:player.playerID]) {
            // Prompt the player to switch to the new match
            [self notifyUserOfNewTurn:match];
        }
        else { ... }
    }
}
```


New Turn Event

Turn received for different match

```
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  didBecomeActive: (BOOL)didBecomeActive
{
    // continued...
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual:match]) { ... }
    else {
        // It became the player's turn in a different match
        if ([match.currentParticipant.playerID isEqual:player.playerID]) {
            // Prompt the player to switch to the new match
            [self notifyUserOfNewTurn:match];
        }
        else { ... }
    }
}
```


Match Request

// Triggered by the user choosing to play with a friend from Game Center

– (void)player: (GKPlayer *)player

didRequestMatchWithPlayers: (NSArray *)playerIDsToInvite

{

// Set up match request

GKMatchRequest *request = [[GKMatchRequest alloc] init];

request.minPlayers = 2;

request.maxPlayers = 2;

request.playersToInvite = playerIDsToInvite;

request.inviteMessage = @"Let's play";

// Use the request to find or create a new match

[GKTurnBasedMatch findMatchForRequest: request

withCompletionHandler: ^(GKTurnBasedMatch *match,
NSError *error) { ... }];

}

Turn-Based Exchanges

Turn-Based Exchanges



- Out-of-band exchange of data between players
 - A single request and a reply from each player
- Current player in control of turn duration
 - Specify timeout
 - Can be cancelled when no longer needed
- Fully asynchronous

Why Exchanges?

Solve difficult scenarios

- Trading resources
 - Initiated by current player
 - Initiated by other player with current player
 - Between non-current players
- Auctions of properties
- Simultaneous turns
- Simple messages: Taunts, kibitz

Difficult Scenarios

Before exchanges

- Start turn
- Set special turn mode
- Pass turn between players
 - Short time out
- Return turn to original player
- Resolve special mode
 - Duration of turn not under player's control
 - Long time to resolve
- End turn

Difficult Scenarios

With exchanges

- Start turn
- Request exchange
- Receive replies
- Resolve exchange into match data
- End turn

GKTurnBasedExchange

Out-of-band request

- Sender
- Recipients
 - Can have multiple recipients
 - Can send to open seats
- Status
 - Active, cancelled, completed, resolved
- Message
- Data: 1K bytes
- Replies



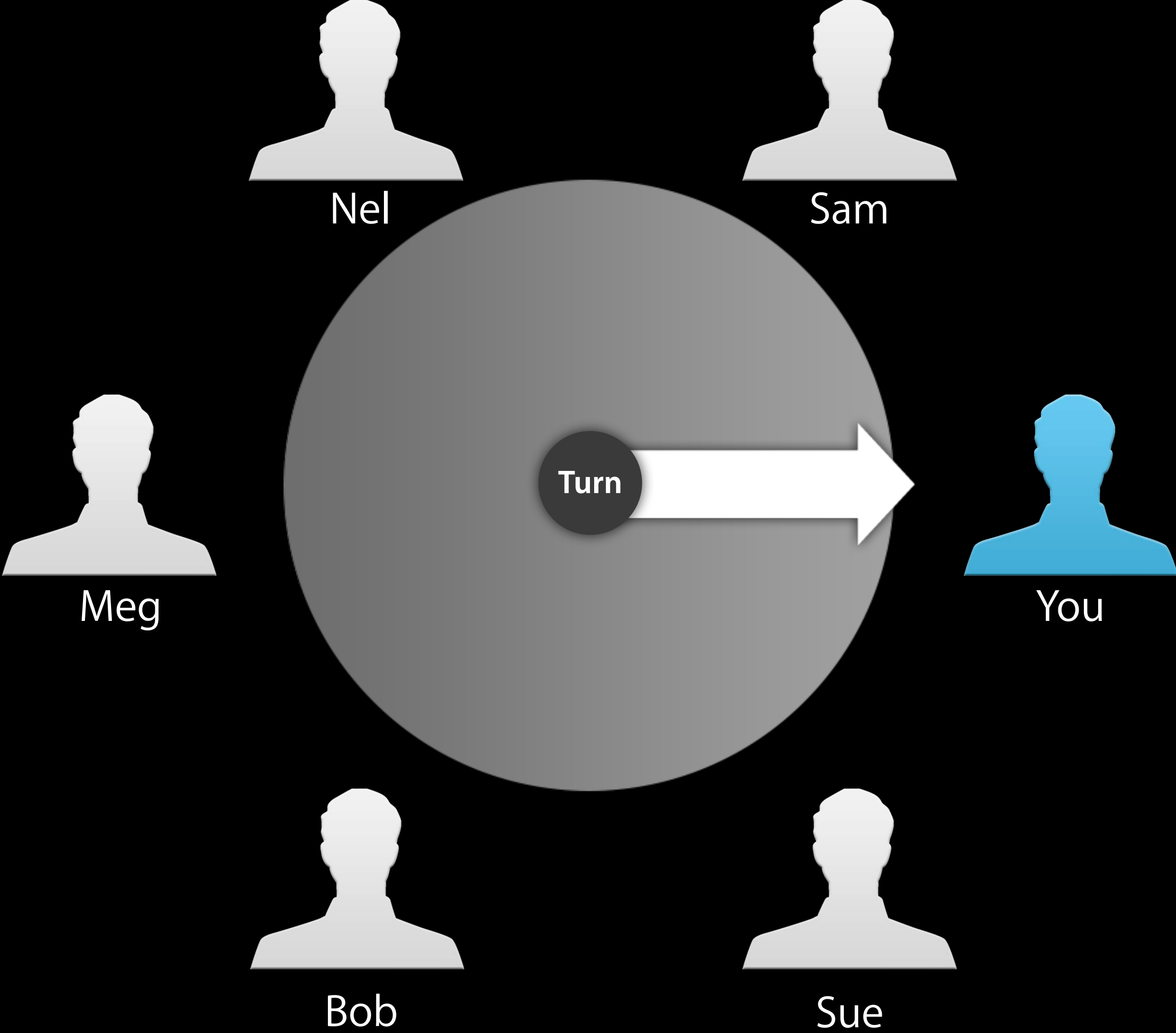
GKTurnBasedExchangeReply

Reply to an exchange

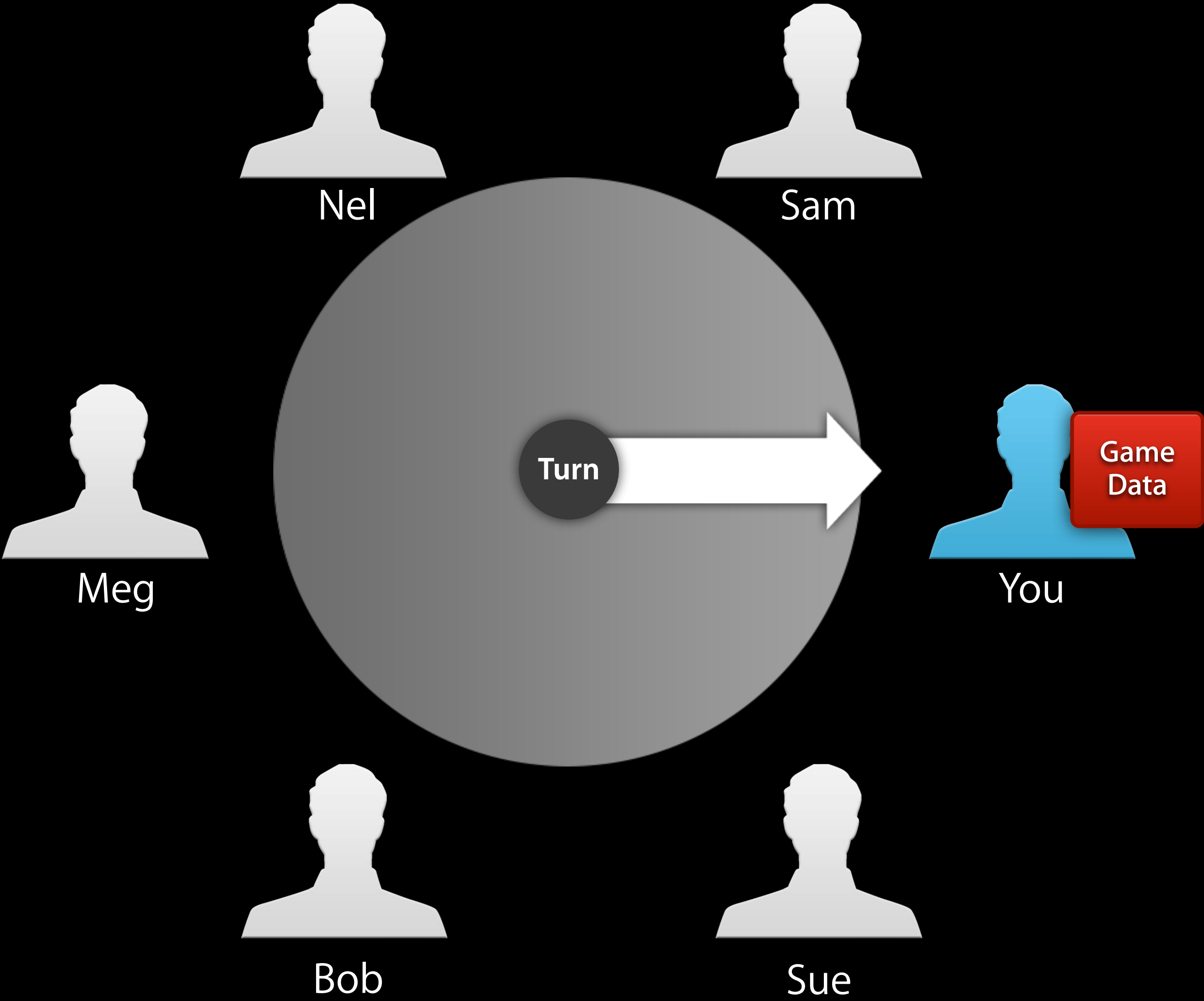
- Recipient
- Message
- Data: 1K bytes



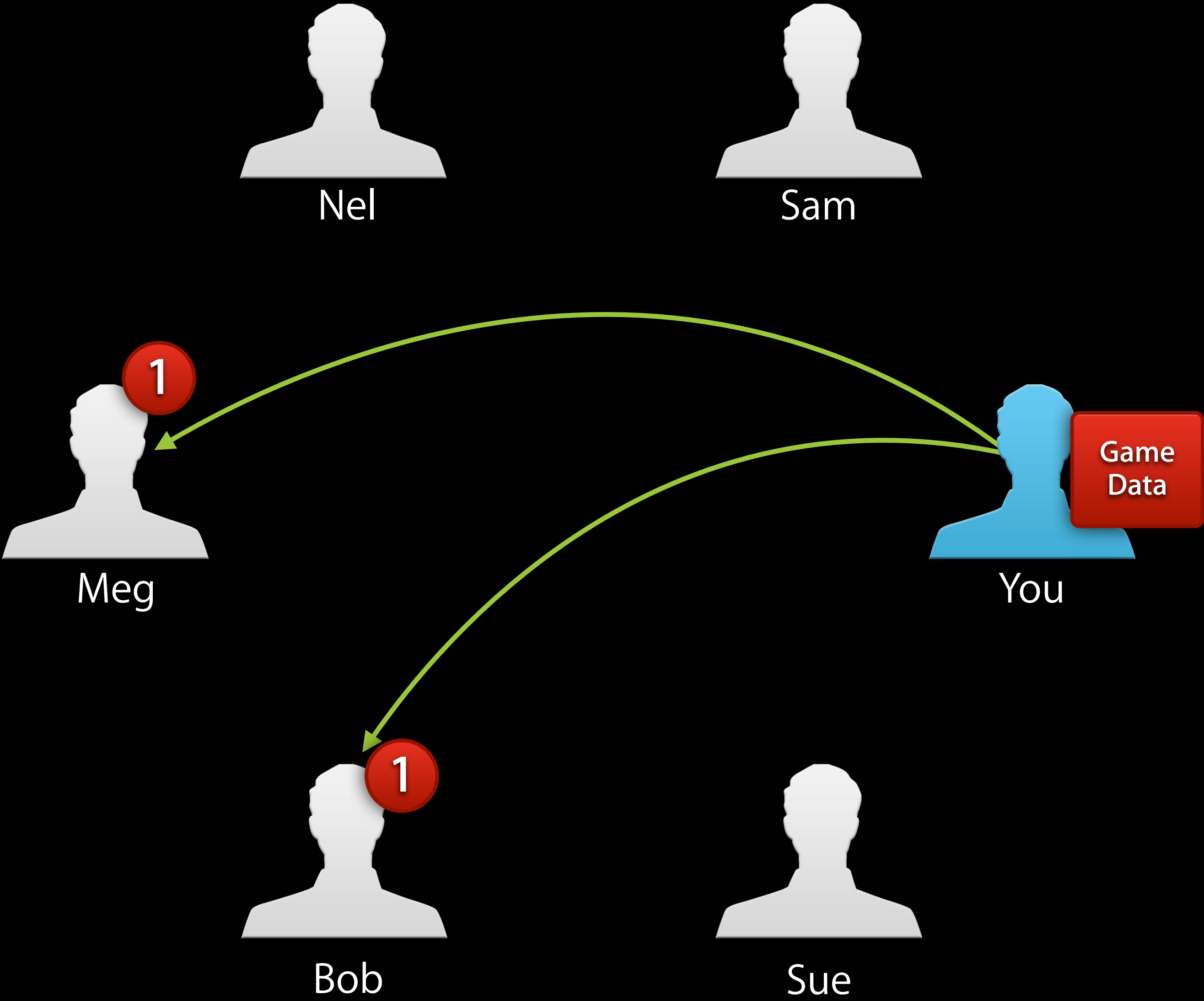
Exchange Flow



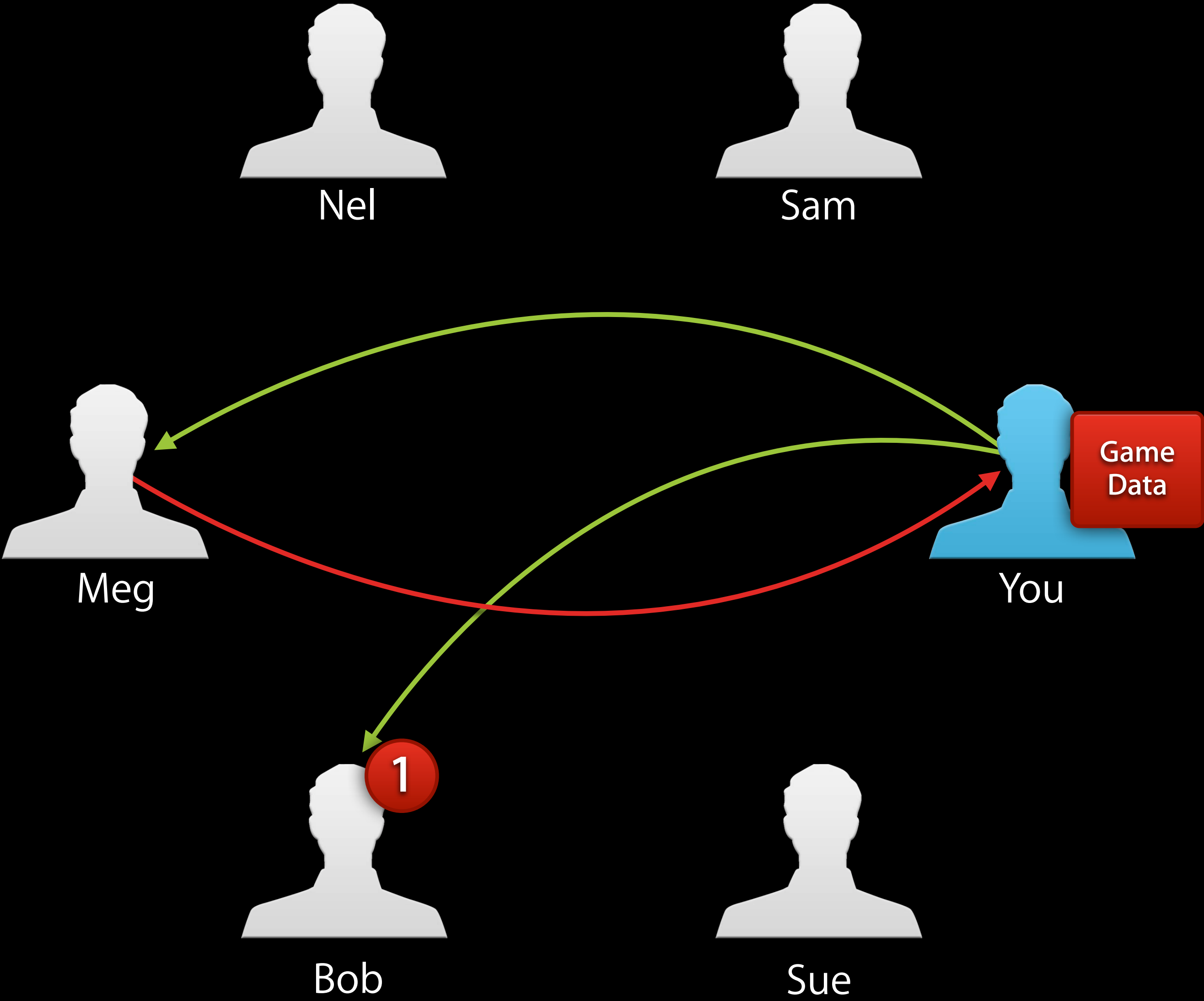
Exchange Flow



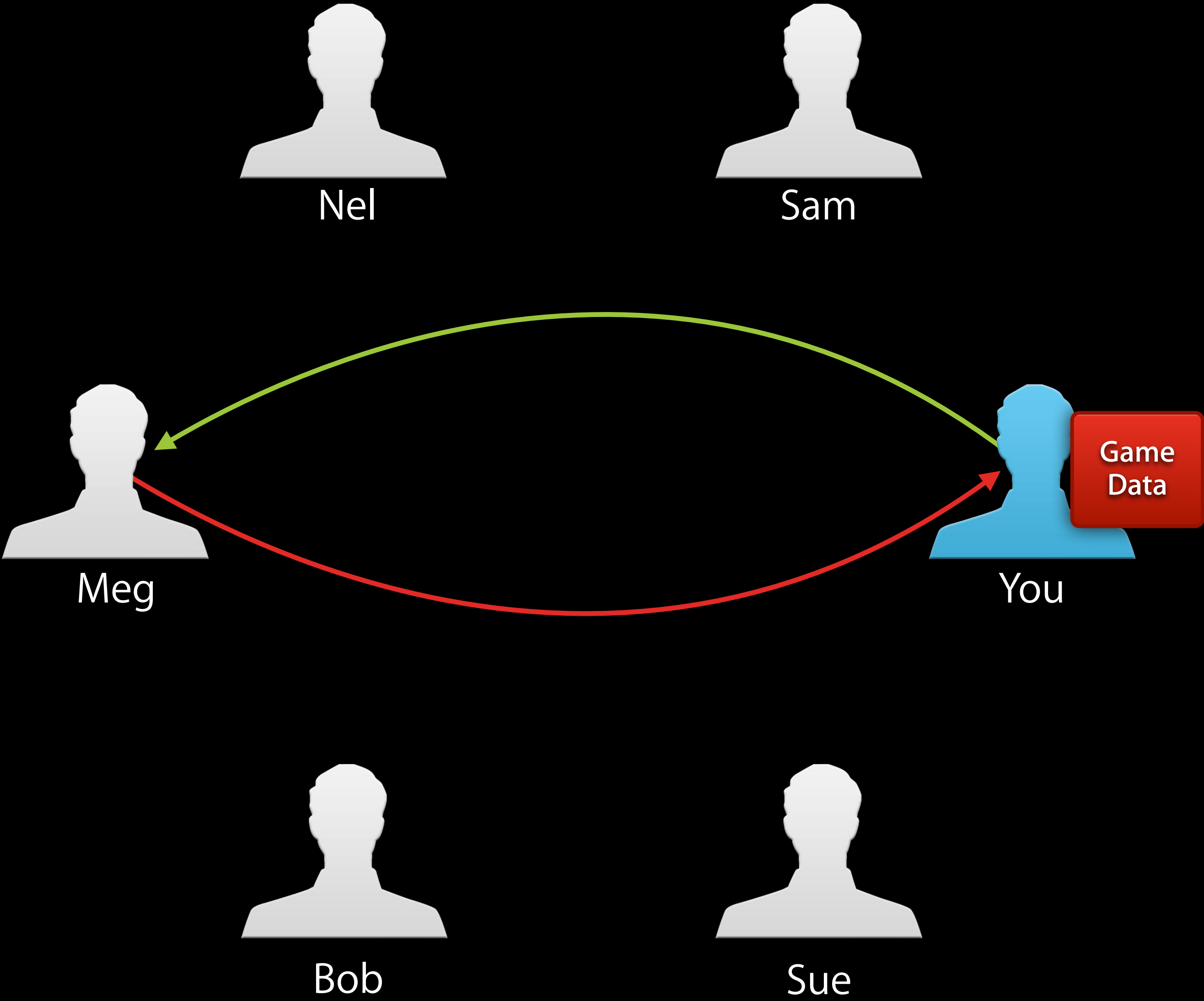
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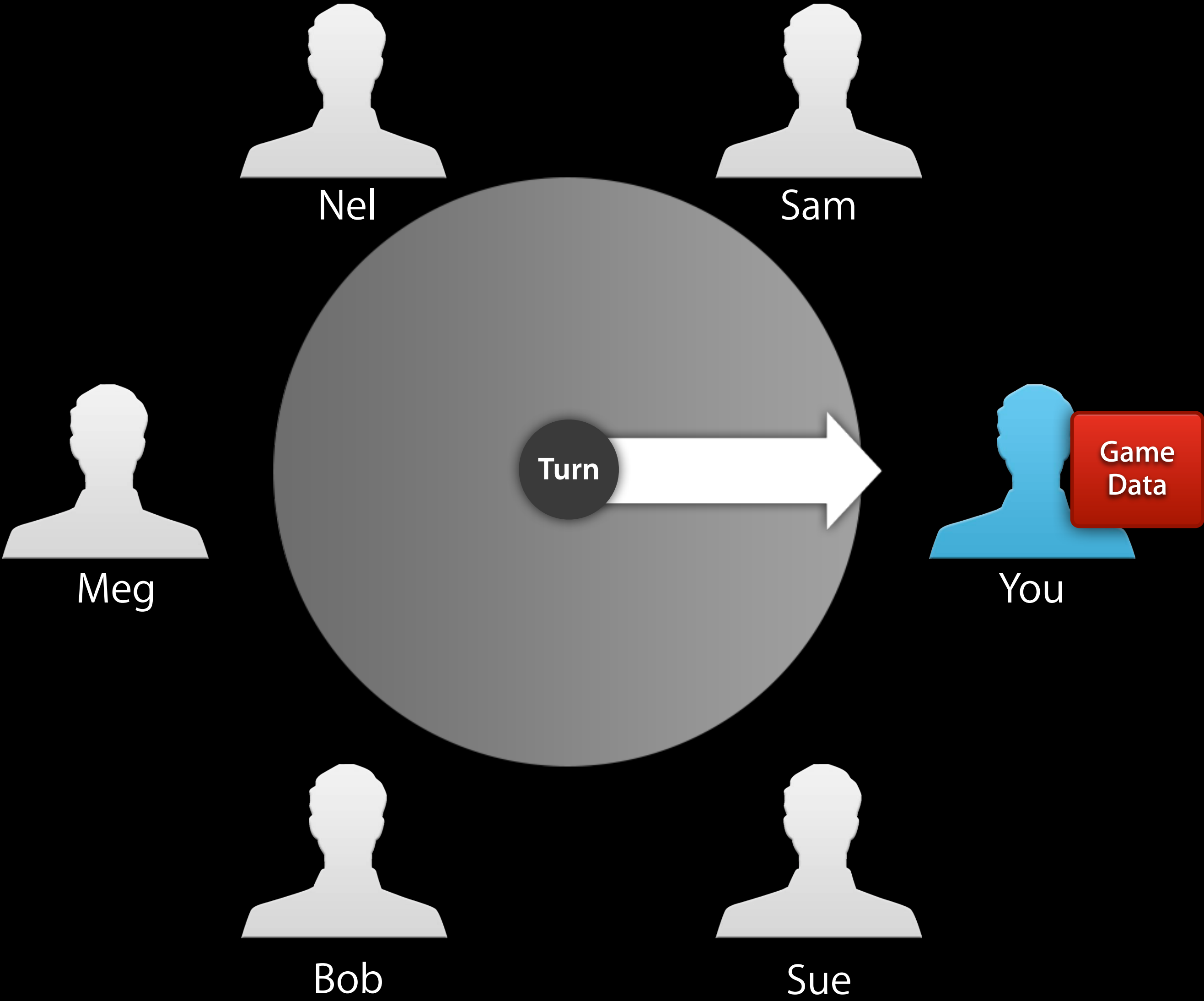
Exchange Flow



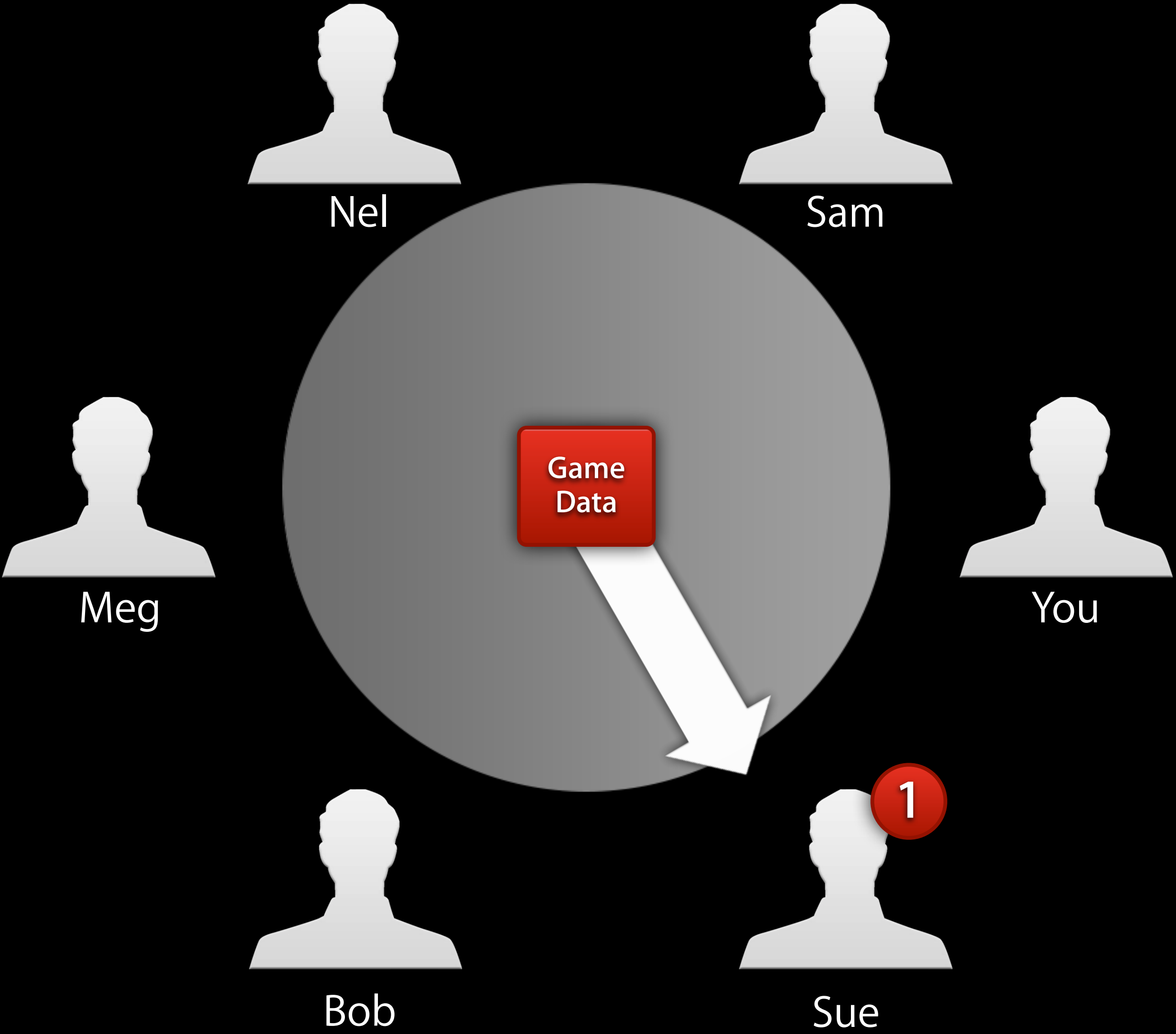
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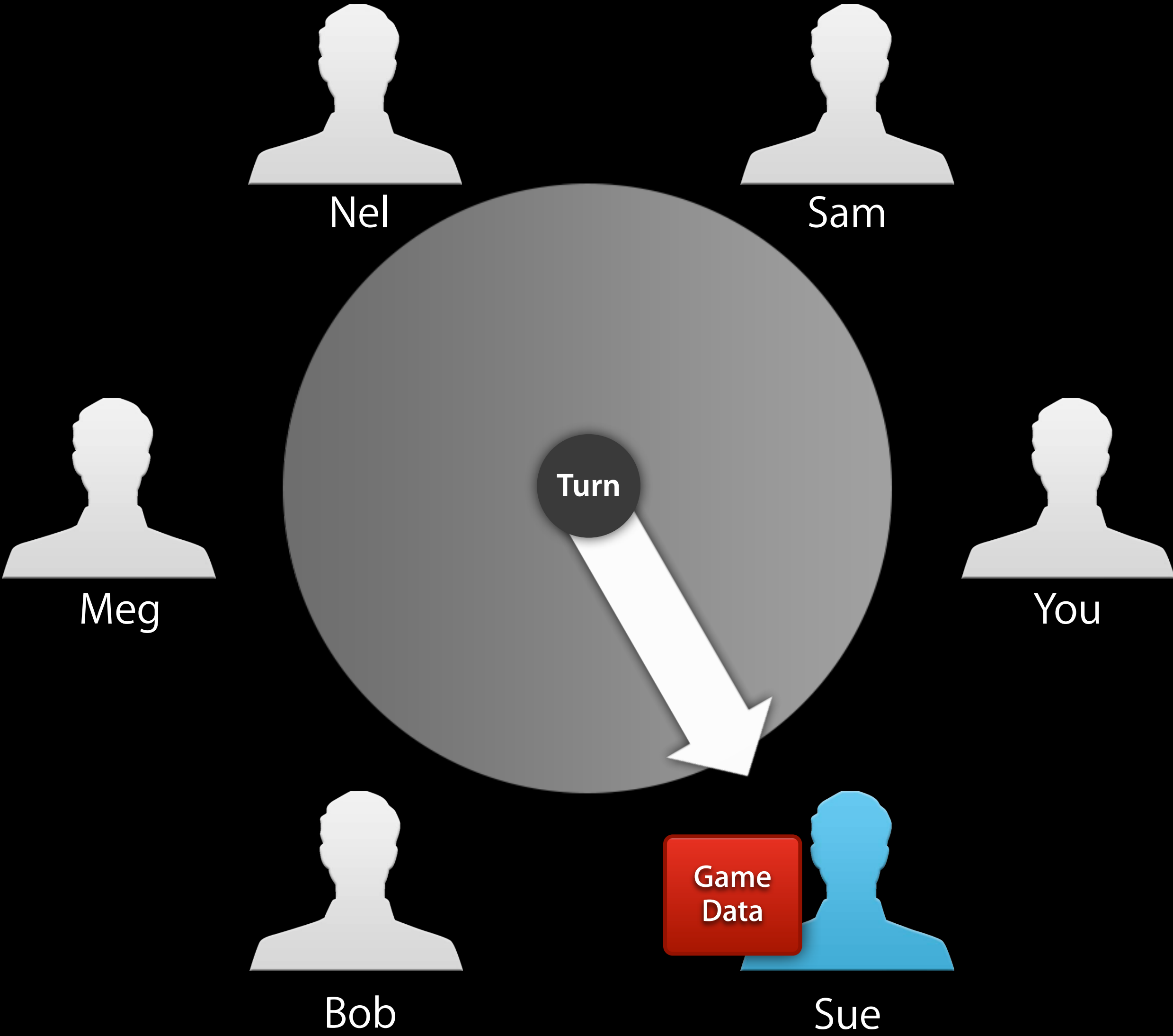
Exchange Flow



Exchange Flow



Exchange Flow



The Three **R**s of Exchanges

- **Request** an exchange
 - Started by any player
 - Sent at any time
 - Can target multiple players
 - Includes a small payload
- **Reply** to exchange
- **Resolve** exchange into match state

Request an Exchange

- Requests can be sent to one or more participants
- Can be sent to empty participants
- For each participant a request is sent to a single reply is required

```
[match sendExchangeToParticipants: participantsForTrade
      data: tradeData
      localizableMessageKey: messageKey
      arguments: messageArguments
      timeout: GKTurnBasedExchangeTimeoutDefault
      completionHandler: ^(GKTurnBasedExchange *exchange,
                              NSError *error) { ... }
```

Request an Exchange

- Requests can be sent to one or more participants
- Can be sent to empty participants
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Reply to an Exchange

- Exchanges have a single reply per participant
- Completed once a reply is received from each participant

```
[exchange replyWithLocalizableMessage: replyMessage
          arguments: replyArguments
          data: replyData
          completionHandler: ^(NSError *error) { ... }];
```

Reply to an Exchange

- Exchanges have a single reply per participant
- Completed once a reply is received from each participant

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[exchange replyWithLocalizableMessage: replyMessage
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Cancel an Exchange

- When user no longer wants to wait for further replies
- Can cancel active or completed exchanges
- Canceling an exchange removes it from the match

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[exchange cancelWithLocalizableMessage: cancelMessage  
          arguments: cancelArguments  
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[exchange cancelWithLocalizableMessage: cancelMessage  
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                completionHandler: ^(NSError *error) { ... }];
```

Resolving Exchanges

- Exchange completed once all replies received
- All completed exchanges must be resolved
 - Including exchanges not involving the current player
 - Gather data from exchange and replies
 - Merge request and reply data into match data
- Once resolved, the exchange will be removed from the match

Resolving Exchanges

```
currentMatchData = match.matchData;
```

```
exchangesToResolve = match.completedExchanges;
```

```
// Merge the data from the completed exchanges into the current match state  
mergedMatchData = [self mergeResolvedExchanges: exchangesToResolve  
                   matchData: currentMatchData];
```

```
// Save the new match state to the server and indicate the exchanges resolved  
[match saveMergedMatchData: mergedMatchData  
  withResolvedExchanges: exchangesToResolve  
  completionHandler: ^(NSError *error) { ... }];
```

```
// Continue with the turn
```

Resolving Exchanges

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Exchange Event Handling

GKTurnBasedEventListener protocol



- Request

- (void) **player:** (GKPlayer *)player
receivedExchangeRequest: (GKTurnBasedExchange *)exchange
forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match

- Cancelled

- (void) **player:** (GKPlayer *)player
receivedExchangeCancellation: (GKTurnBasedExchange *)exchange
forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match

- Completed

- (void) **player:** (GKPlayer *)player
receivedExchangeReplies: (NSArray *)replies
forCompletedExchange: (GKTurnBasedExchange *)exchange
forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match

Exchange Event Handling

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```

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Exchange Requested

Event handling



```
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    forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
{
    // Is this the match we are currently viewing?
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual: match]) {
        // Allow the user to act on this exchange
        [self showExchange:exchange match:match];
    }
    else {
        // Prompt user to change to this match
        [self showNotificationForExchange:exchange match:match];
    }
}
```

Exchange Requested

Event handling



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Exchange Requested

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```

Exchange Cancelled

Event handling



```
- (void) player: (GKPlayer *)player
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    forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
{
    // Is this the match we are currently viewing?
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual: match] &&
        [self.currentExchange isEqual: exchange]) {
        // Indicate that the other player has cancelled this request.
        [self returnToMatch:match];
    }
    else {
        // Clear any notification for the exchange
        [self clearNotificationForExchange:exchange match:match];
    }
}
```

Exchange Cancelled

Event handling



```
- (void) player: (GKPlayer *)player
    receivedExchangeCancellation: (GKTurnBasedExchange *)exchange
    forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
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Exchange Cancelled

Event handling



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        [self clearNotificationForExchange:exchange match:match];
    }
}
```


Exchange Completed

Event handling



```
- (void) player: (GKPlayer *)player
    receivedExchangeReplies: (NSArray *)replies
    forCompletedExchange: (GKTurnBasedExchange *)exchange
    forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
{
    // Is this the match we are currently viewing?
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual: match] &&
        [self.currentExchange isEqual: exchange]) {
        // Indicate that the exchange completed and show the user the
        // pertinent reply
        [self showReplies:replies forExchange:exchange];
    }
    else {
        // Clear any notification for the exchange
        [self clearNotificationForExchange:exchange match:match];
    }
}
```

Exchange Completed

Event handling



```
- (void) player: (GKPlayer *)player
    receivedExchangeReplies: (NSArray *)replies
    forCompletedExchange: (GKTurnBasedExchange *)exchange
    forMatch: (GKTurnBasedMatch *)match
{
    // Is this the match we are currently viewing?
    if ([self.currentMatch isEqual: match] &&
        [self.currentExchange isEqual: exchange]) {
        // Indicate that the exchange completed and show the user the
        // pertinent reply
        [self showReplies:replies forExchange:exchange];
    }
    else {
        // Clear any notification for the exchange
        [self clearNotificationForExchange:exchange match:match];
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}
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Exchange Completed

Event handling



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- (void) player: (GKPlayer *)player
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}
```

Difficult Scenarios

Solved with exchanges

- Trading resources
- Simultaneous turns
- Auctions of properties

Trading

Using exchanges

Trading

Using exchanges

- User decides what they are going to offer to trade

Trading

Using exchanges

- User decides what they are going to offer to trade
- Send one request per potential trade partner

Trading

Using exchanges

- User decides what they are going to offer to trade
- Send one request per potential trade partner
- Cancel outstanding exchanges when user gets a reply that they like

Trading

Using exchanges

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- Resolve the completed exchanges into the match

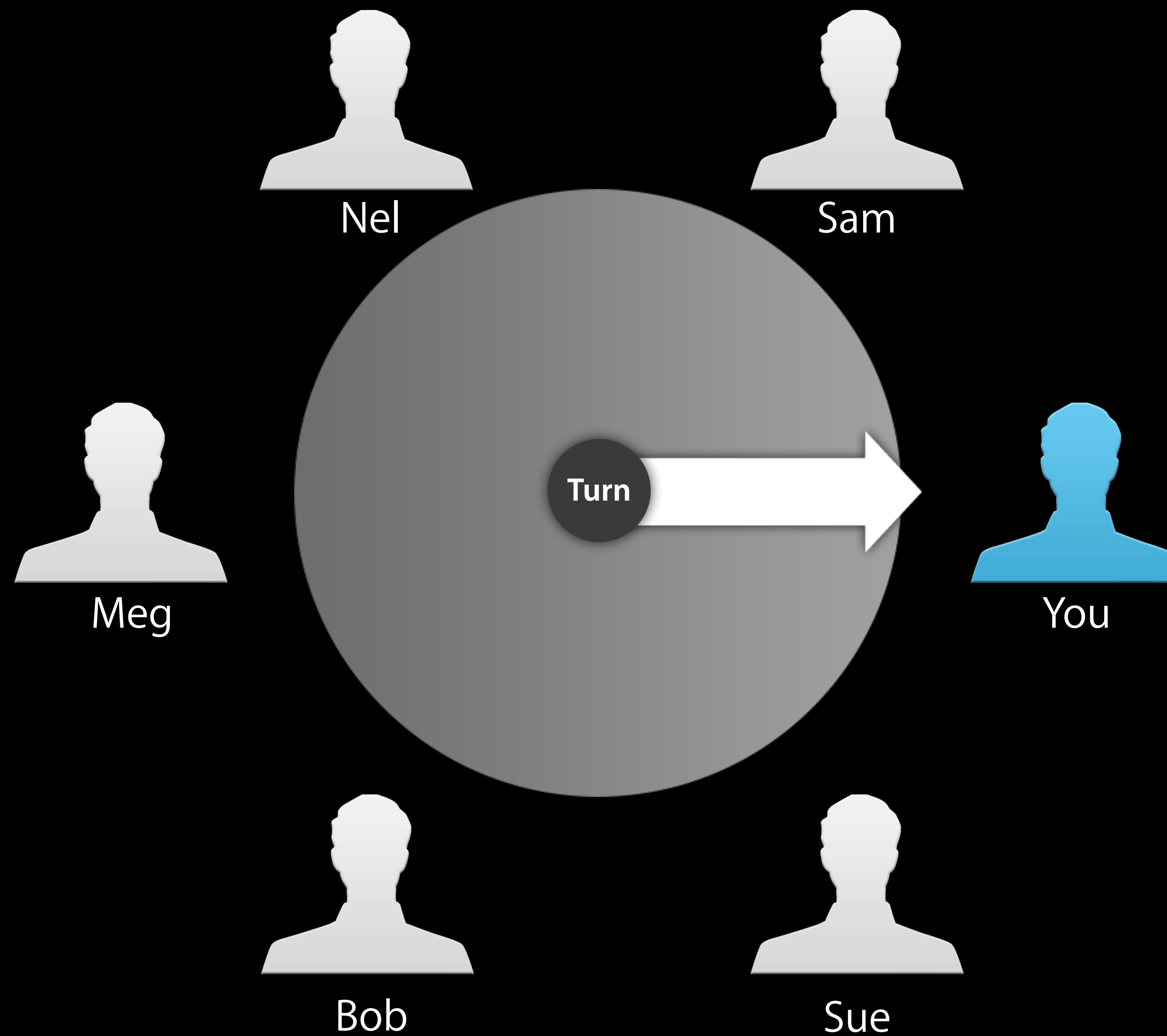
Trading

Using exchanges

- User decides what they are going to offer to trade
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- Cancel outstanding exchanges when user gets a reply that they like
- Resolve the completed exchanges into the match
- Finish the turn

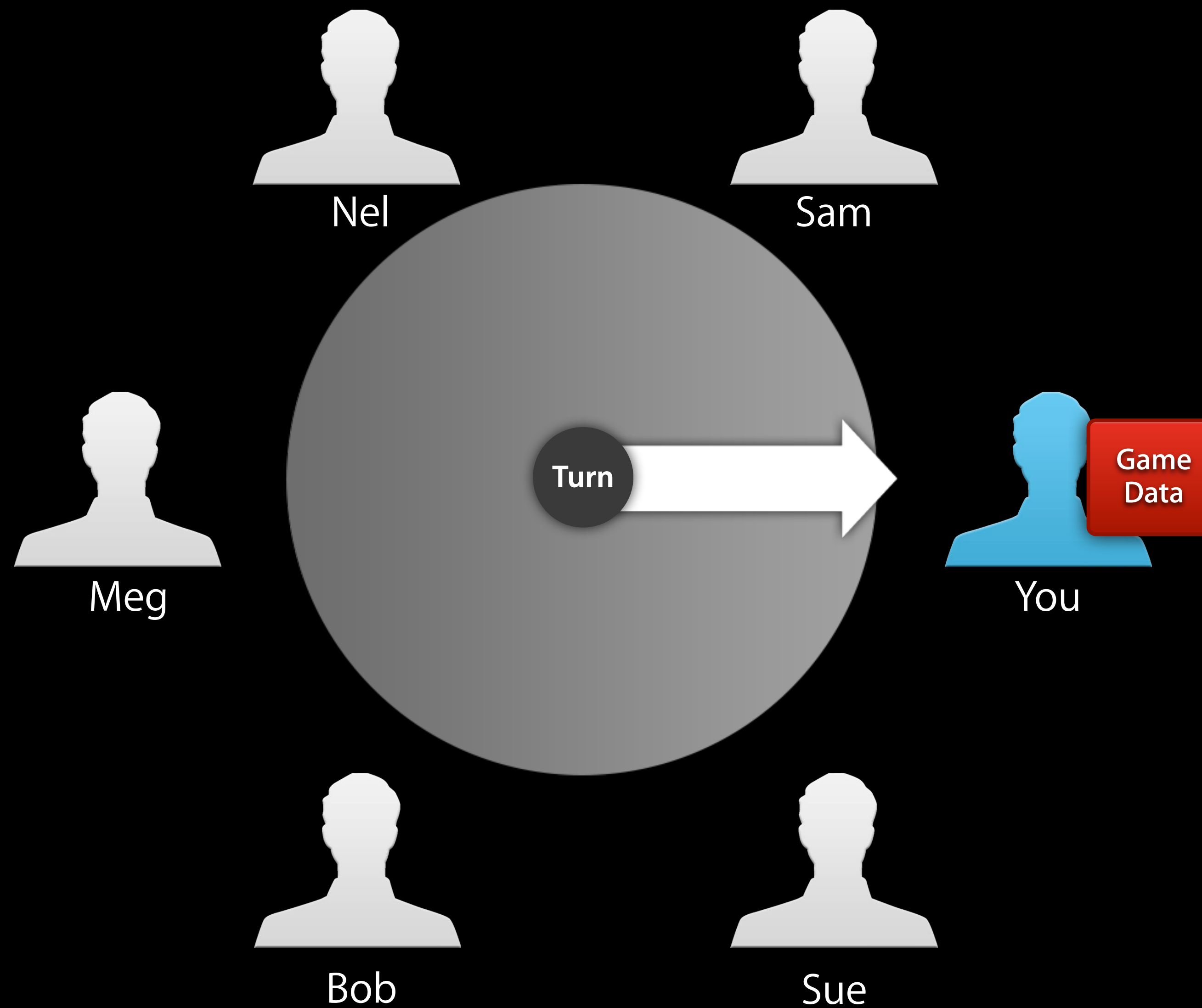
Trading

Using exchanges



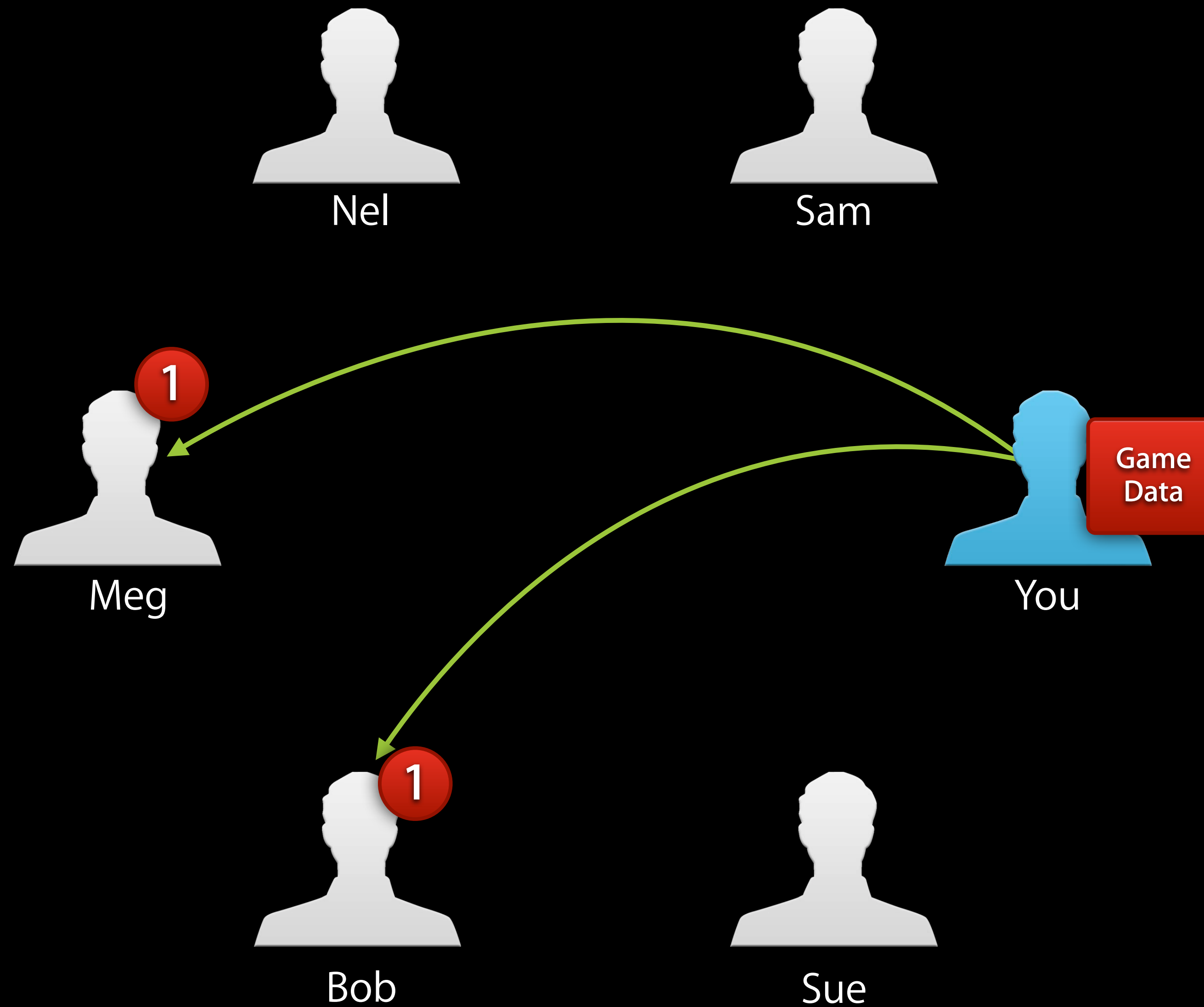
Trading

Using exchanges



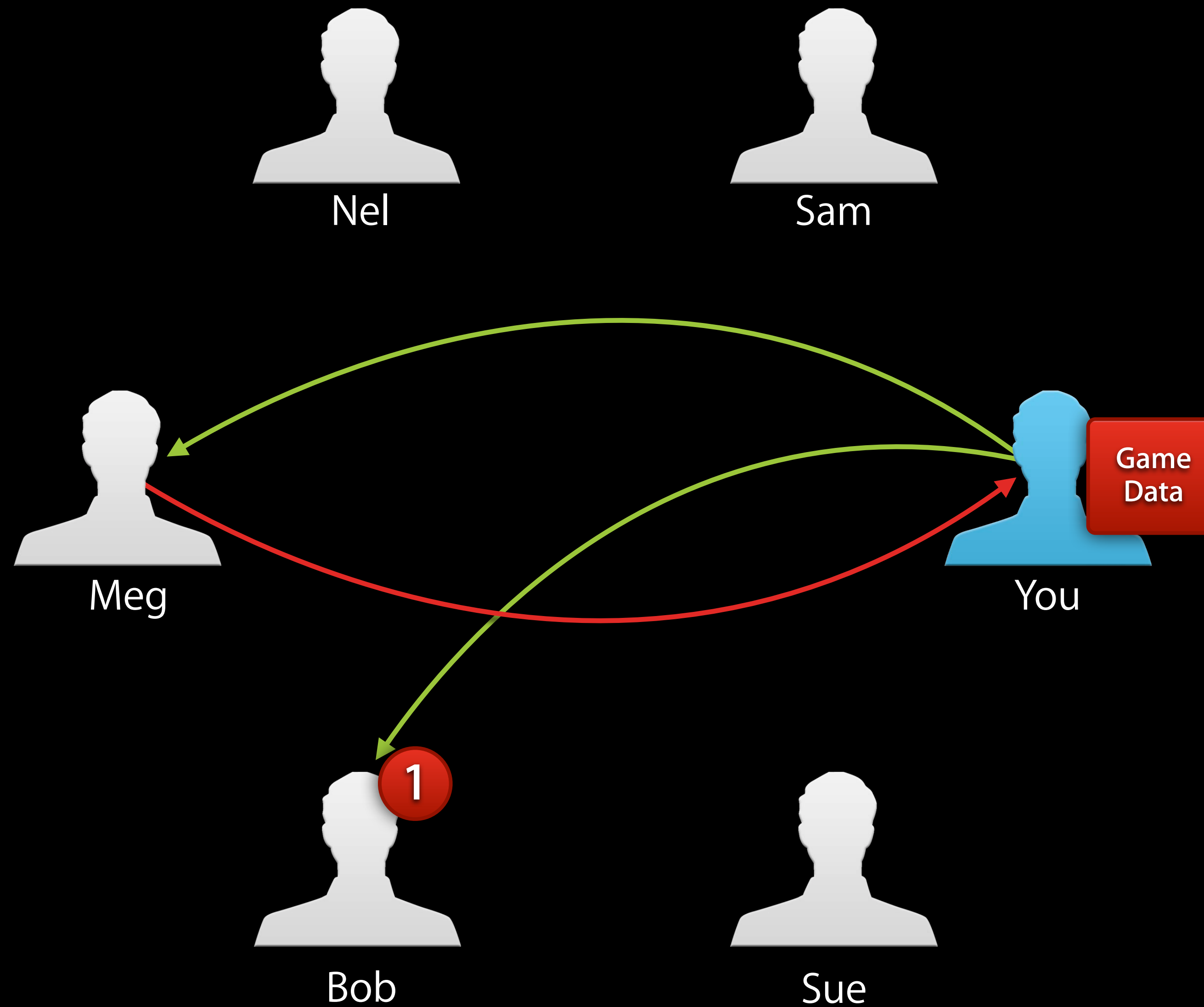
Trading

Using exchanges



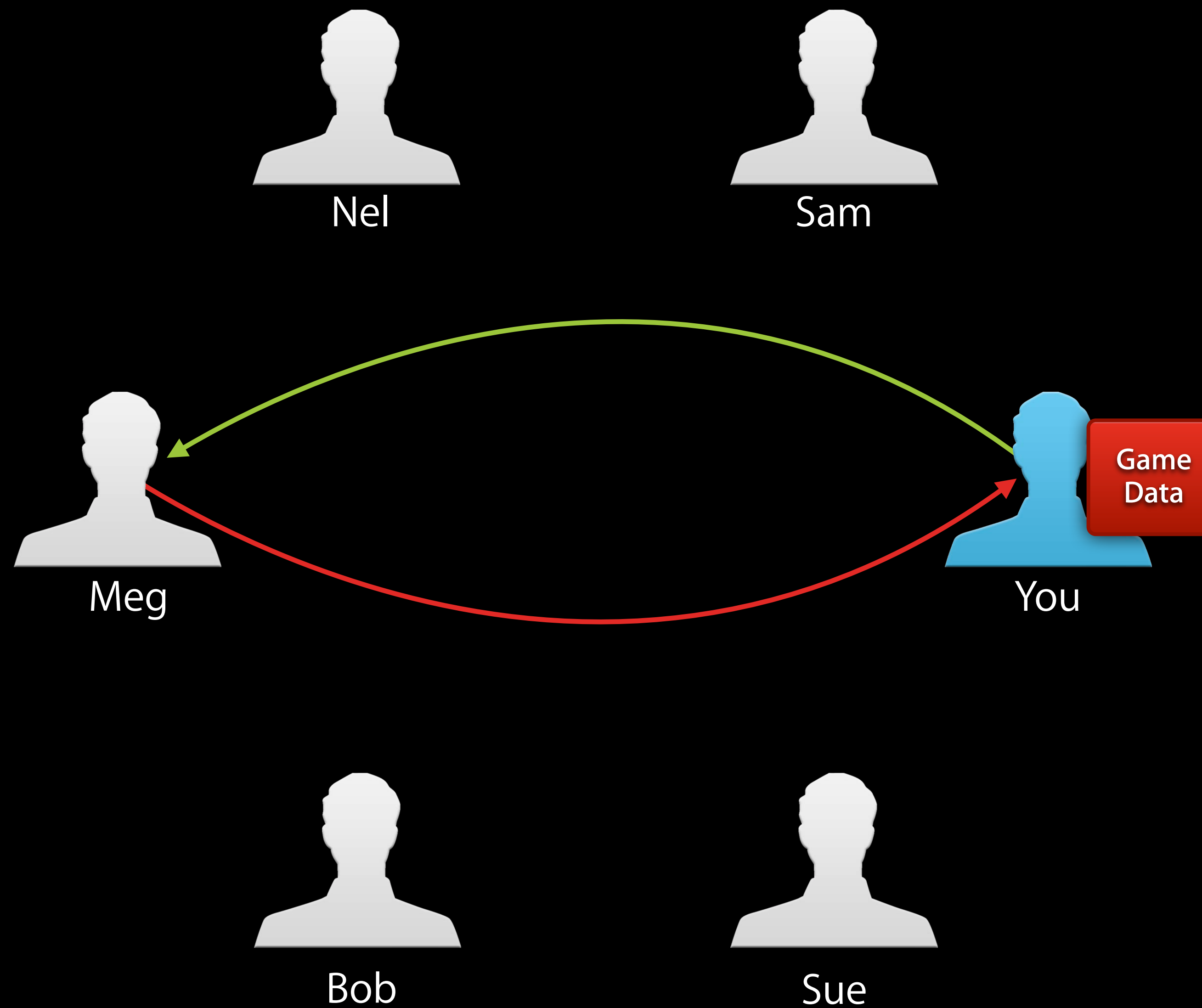
Trading

Using exchanges



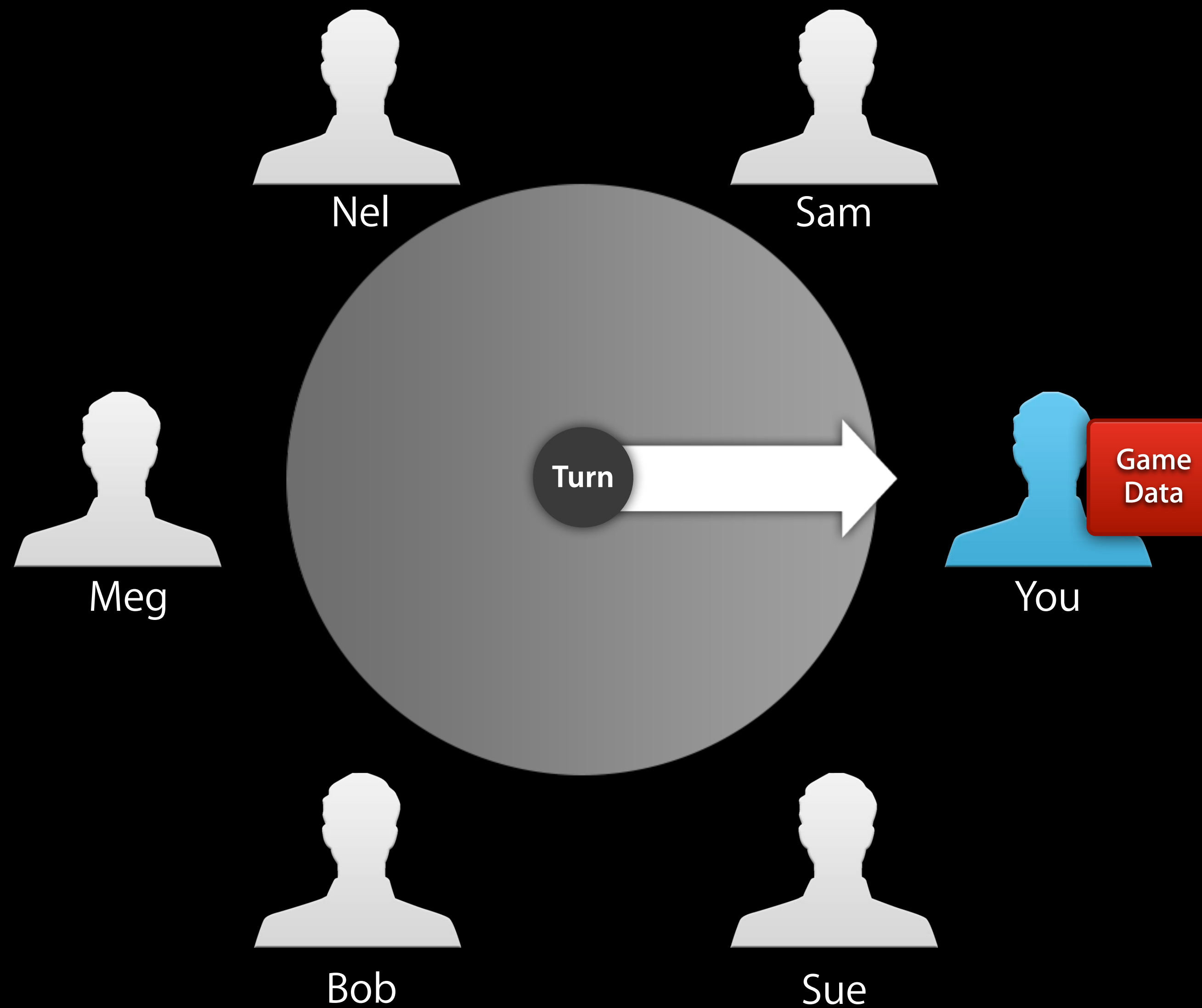
Trading

Using exchanges



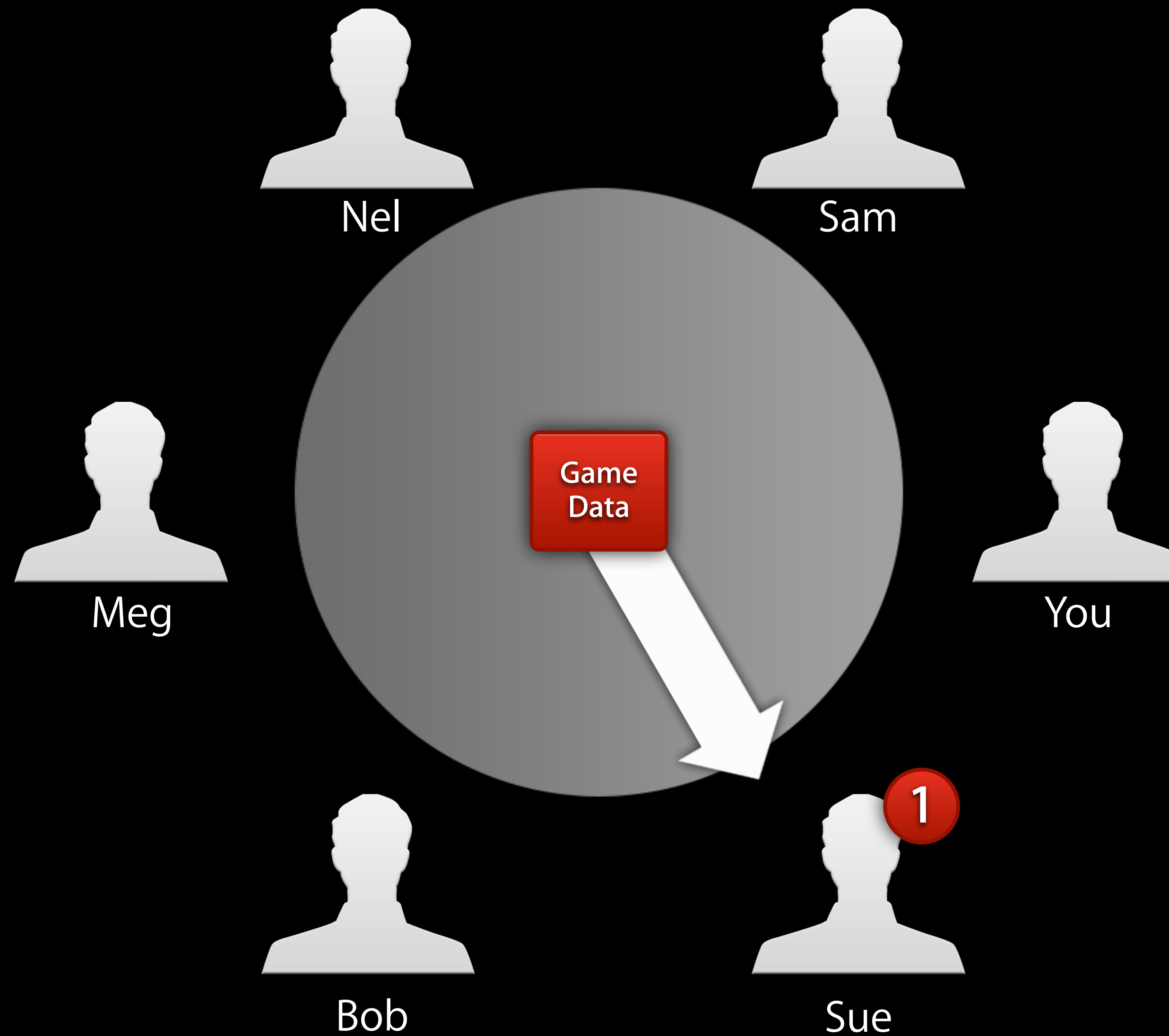
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Using exchanges



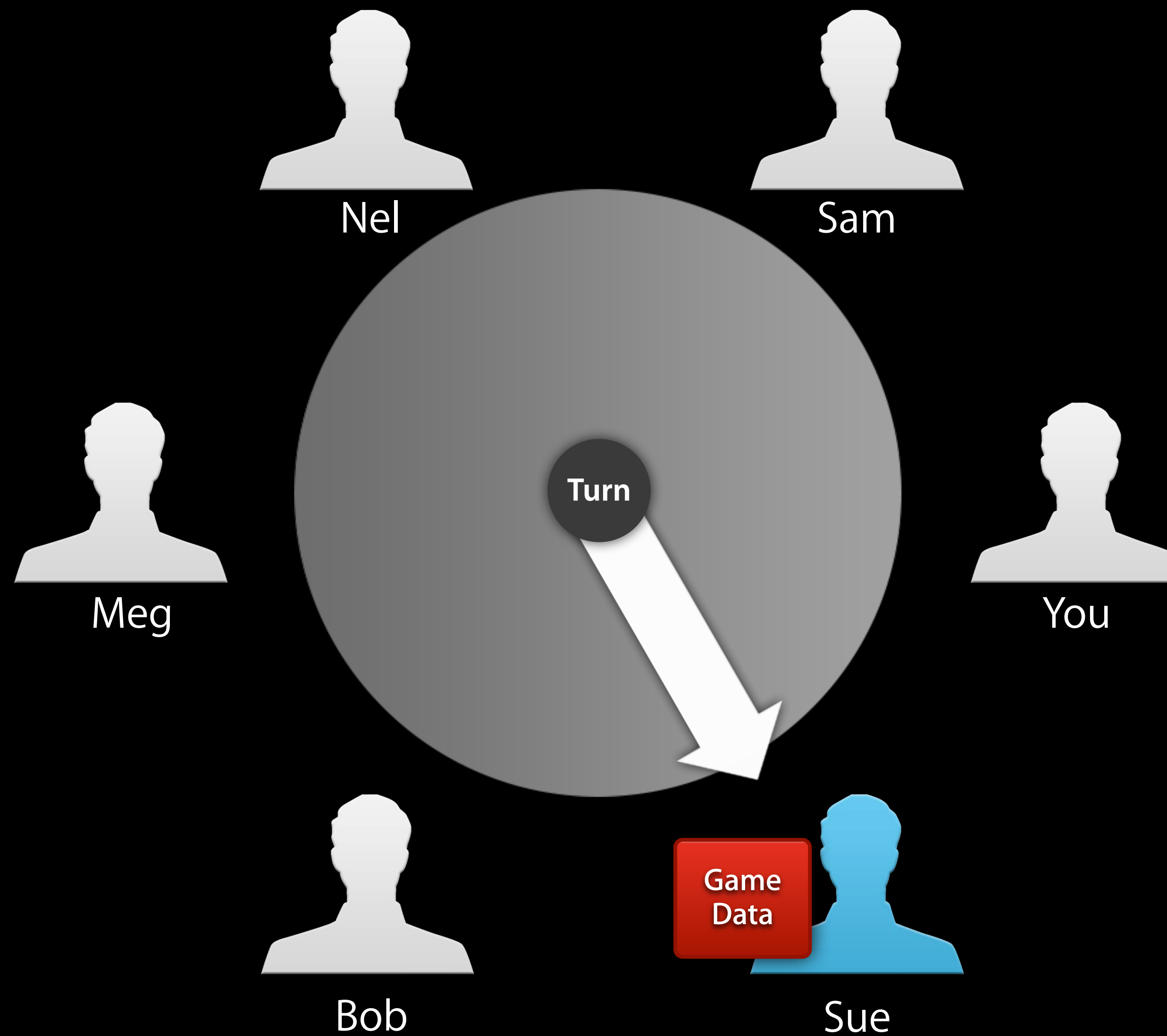
Trading

Using exchanges



Trading

Using exchanges



Simultaneous Turns

Using exchanges

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Using exchanges

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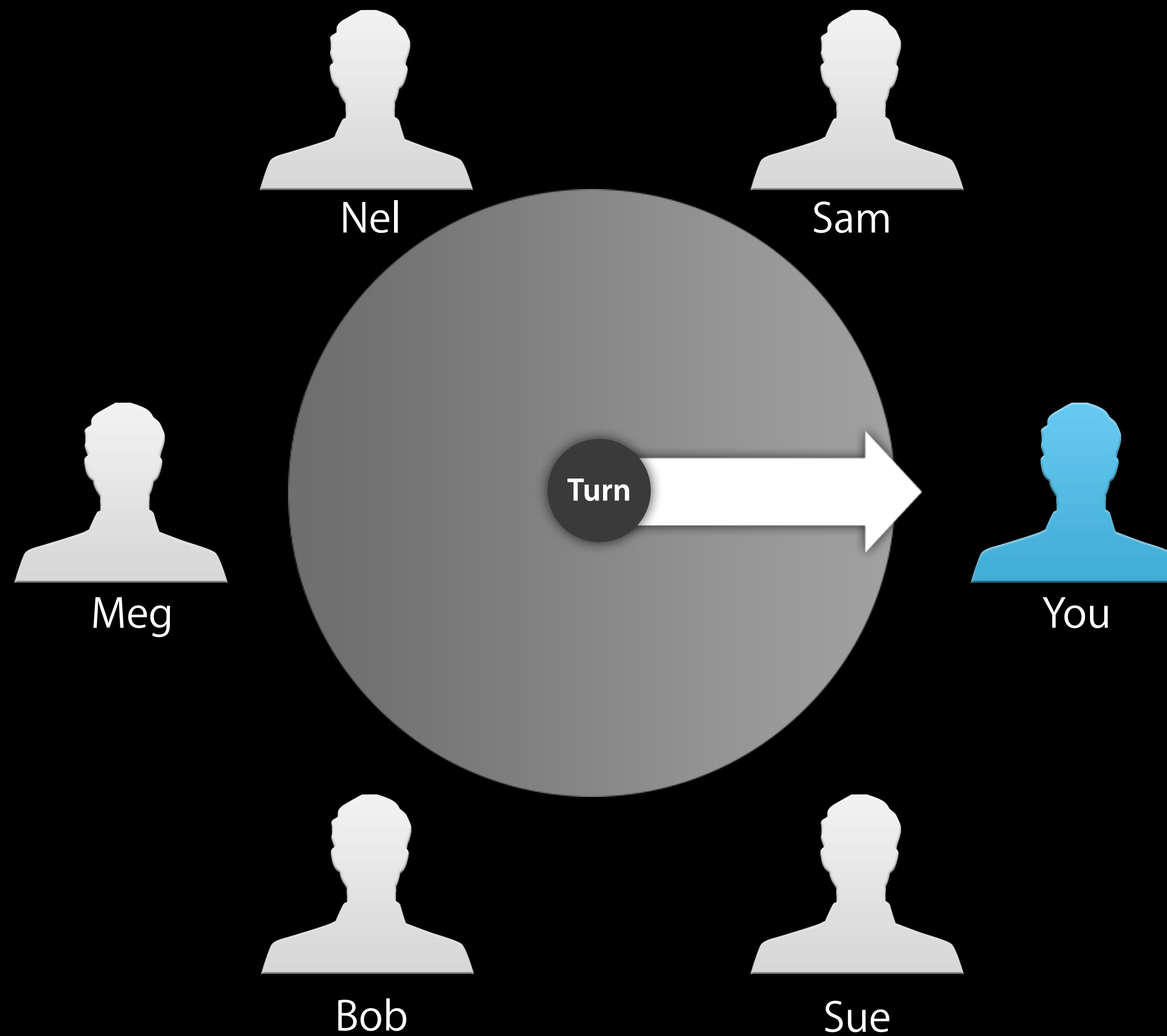
Auctions

Using exchanges

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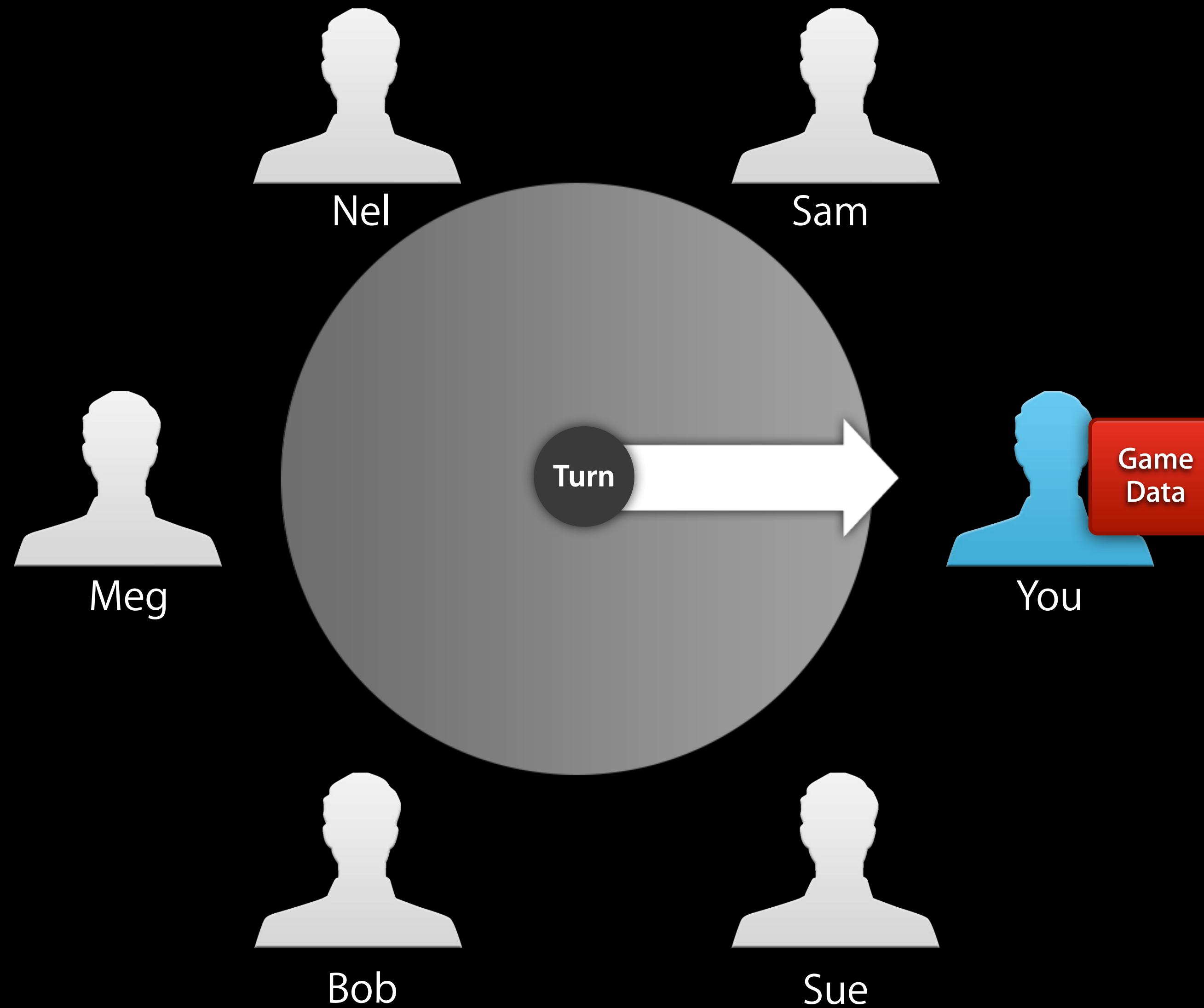
Trading

Using exchanges



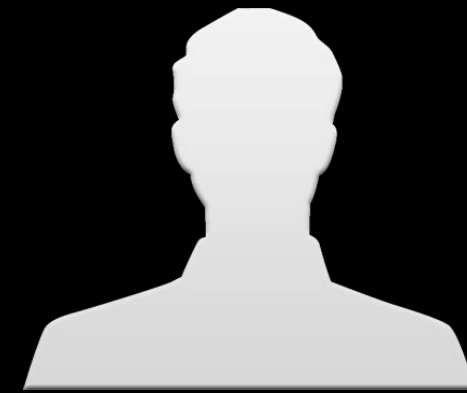
Trading

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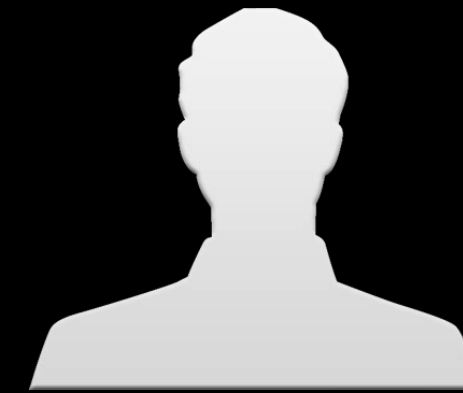


Trading

Using exchanges



Nel



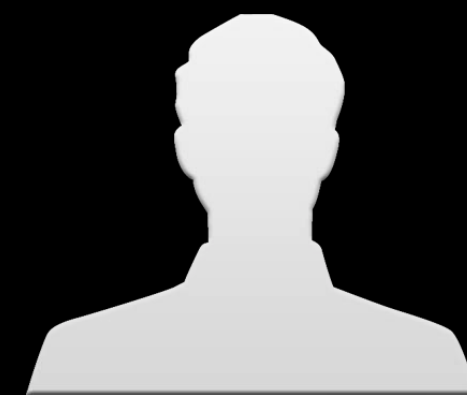
Sam



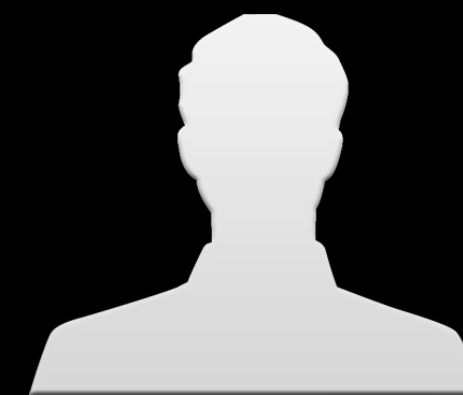
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You



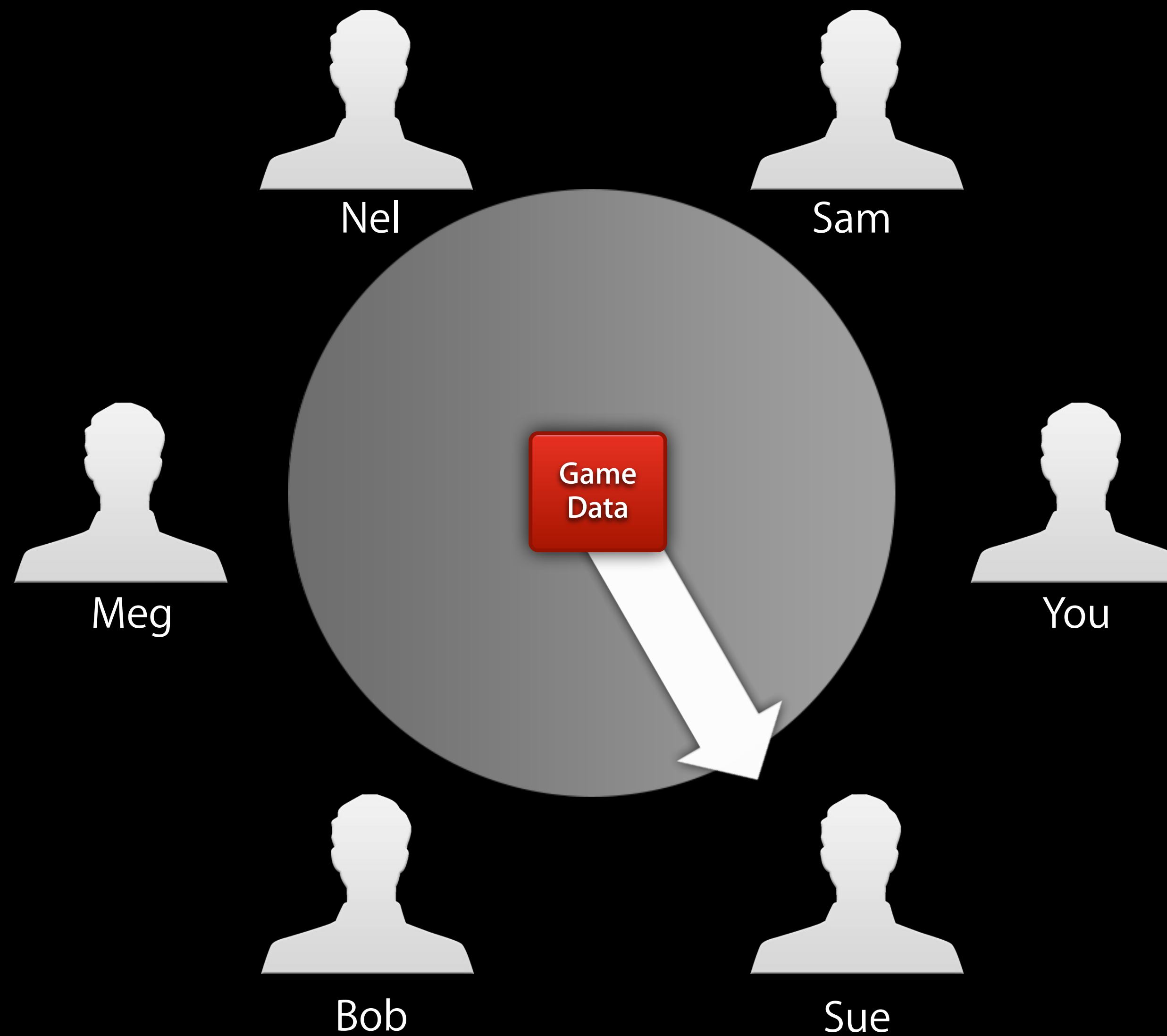
Bob



Sue

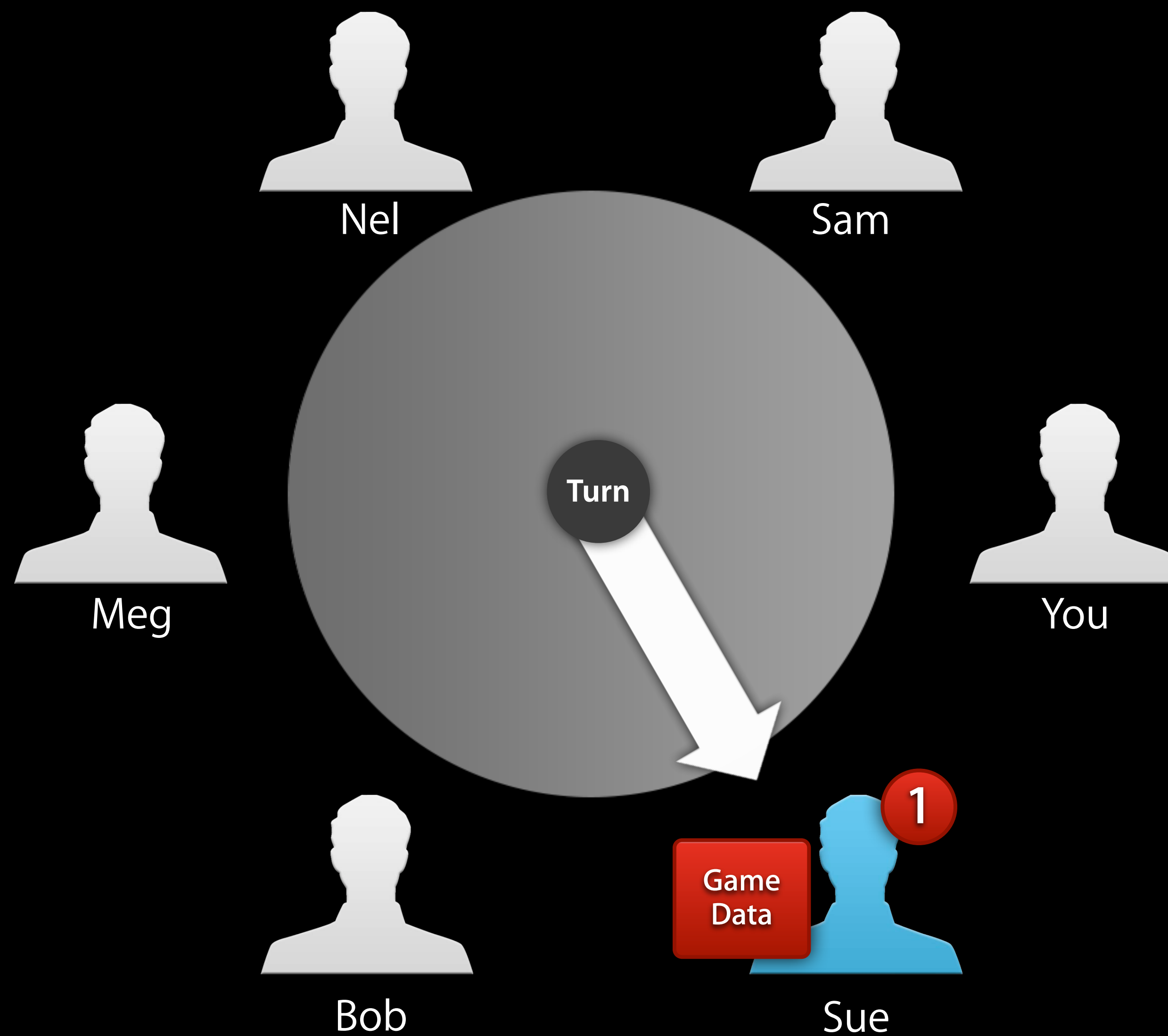
Trading

Using exchanges



Trading

Using exchanges



Summary

User Expectations

- Allow multiple sessions
 - Create match
 - List existing matches
 - Manage matches (quit in turn, quit out of turn, remove)
- Everything is asynchronous
- Switching current match
 - New invite
 - New turn/exchange

Wrap Up

- Turn-based games
 - Optimized for mobile
 - Multiple sessions
 - Simple structure
- Exchanges
 - Very difficult made easy
 - Opens up new game modes
 - Three **R**s of exchanges: **Request, Reply, Resolve**

More Information

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aschaffer@apple.com

Documentation

Game Center for Developers
<http://developer.apple.com/game-center>

Apple Developer Forums

<http://devforums.apple.com>

Related Sessions

What's New in Game Center

Mission
Wednesday 3:15PM

What's New in iTunes Connect

Pacific Heights
Thursday 10:15AM

Labs

Game Center Lab

Graphics and Games Lab B
Thursday 12:45PM



 WWDC2013