Presenting Presenters

on Rails

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The Problem

Either:

Cluttering views with logic.

or

View logic in business logic.

```ruby
class UsersController
  def show
    @user = User.find(params[:id])
  end
end
```

```erb
<div>
  <% if CONFIG.date_format == :us %>
    <%= @user.created_at.strftime('%m/%d/%y') %>
  <% elsif CONFIG.date_format == :rest_of_the_world %>
    <%= @user.created_at.strftime('%d/%m/%y') %>
  <% end %>
</div>
```

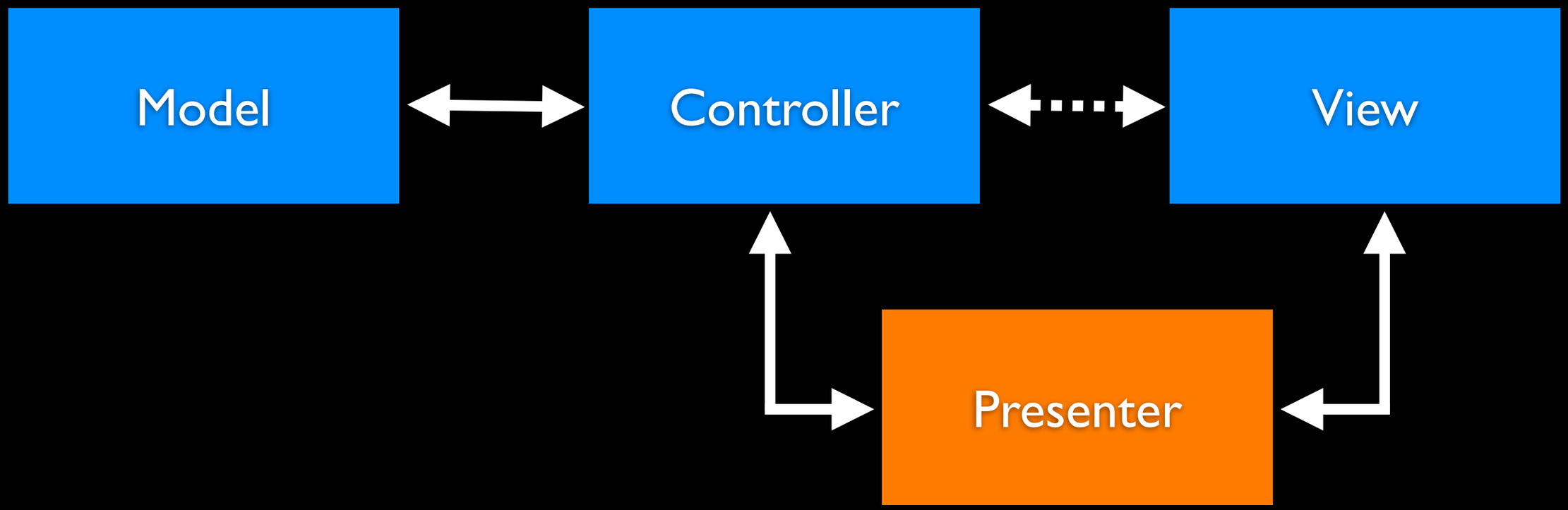
```ruby
class UsersController
  def show
    @user = User.find(params[:id])

    if CONFIG.date_format == :us
      @user_signup_date = @user.created_at.strftime('%m/%d/%y')
    elsif CONFIG.date_format == :rest_of_the_world
      @user_signup_date = @user.created_at.strftime('%d/%m/%y')
    end
  end
end
```

```erb
<div>
  <%= @user_signup_date %>
</div>
```

Presenters

Presenters



```ruby
class UserPresenter
  def initialize
    @user = user
  end
  attr_reader :user

  def signup_date
    if CONFIG.date_format == :us
      self.user.created_at.strftime('%m/%d/%y')
    elsif CONFIG.date_format == :rest_of_the_world
      self.user.created_at.strftime('%d/%m/%y')
    end
  end
end
```

```ruby
class UsersController
  def show
    @user = User.find(params[:id])
    @user_presenter = UserPresenter.new(@user)
  end
end
```

```erb
<div>
  <%= @user_presenter.signup_date %>
</div>
```

Disadvantages

- Contrived example
  - move the logic into the model
    - should the model really handle data representation
  - move the logic into a helper
  - helpers are ugly

```
@user_presenter.signup_date
```

or

```
format_date(@user.created_at)
```

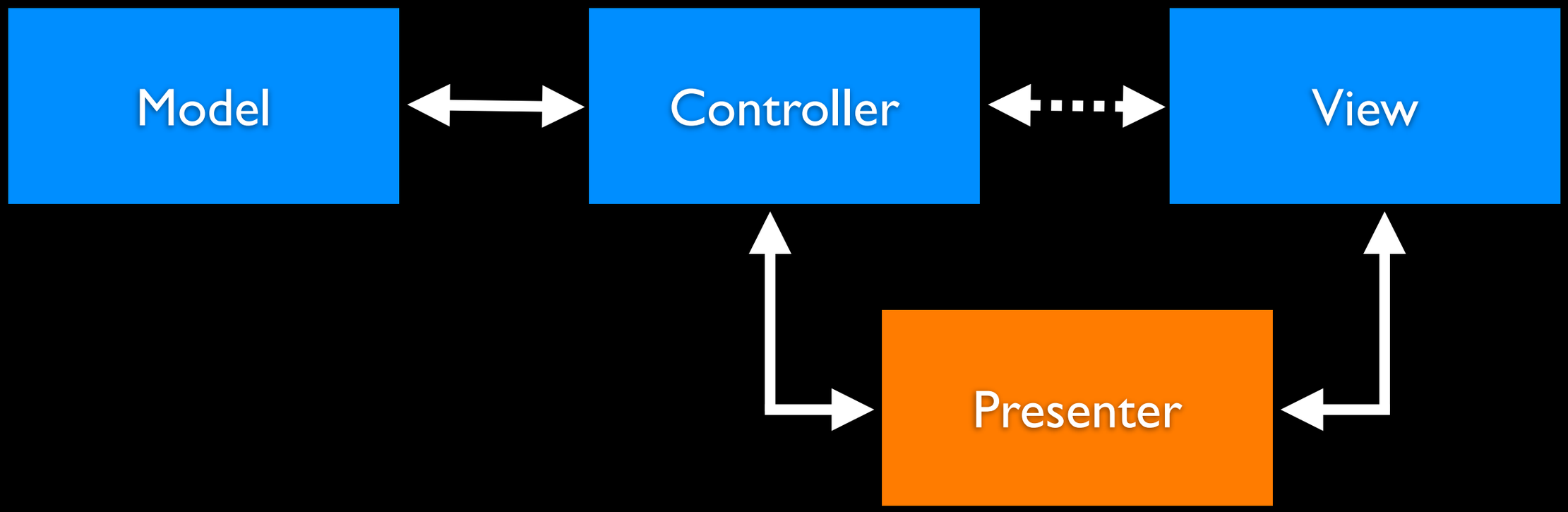
Disadvantages

- Accessibility for designers
  - it's only a convention. Especially if the variables are suffixed with "presenter" for example.
- Current templating language is Ruby anyway.
  - a presenter is just a view without angle brackets

My Views on Presenters

- Overkill in most cases.
- Best used in applications, with a lot of configuration that governs the view.

Conductors : the Anti-Presenter



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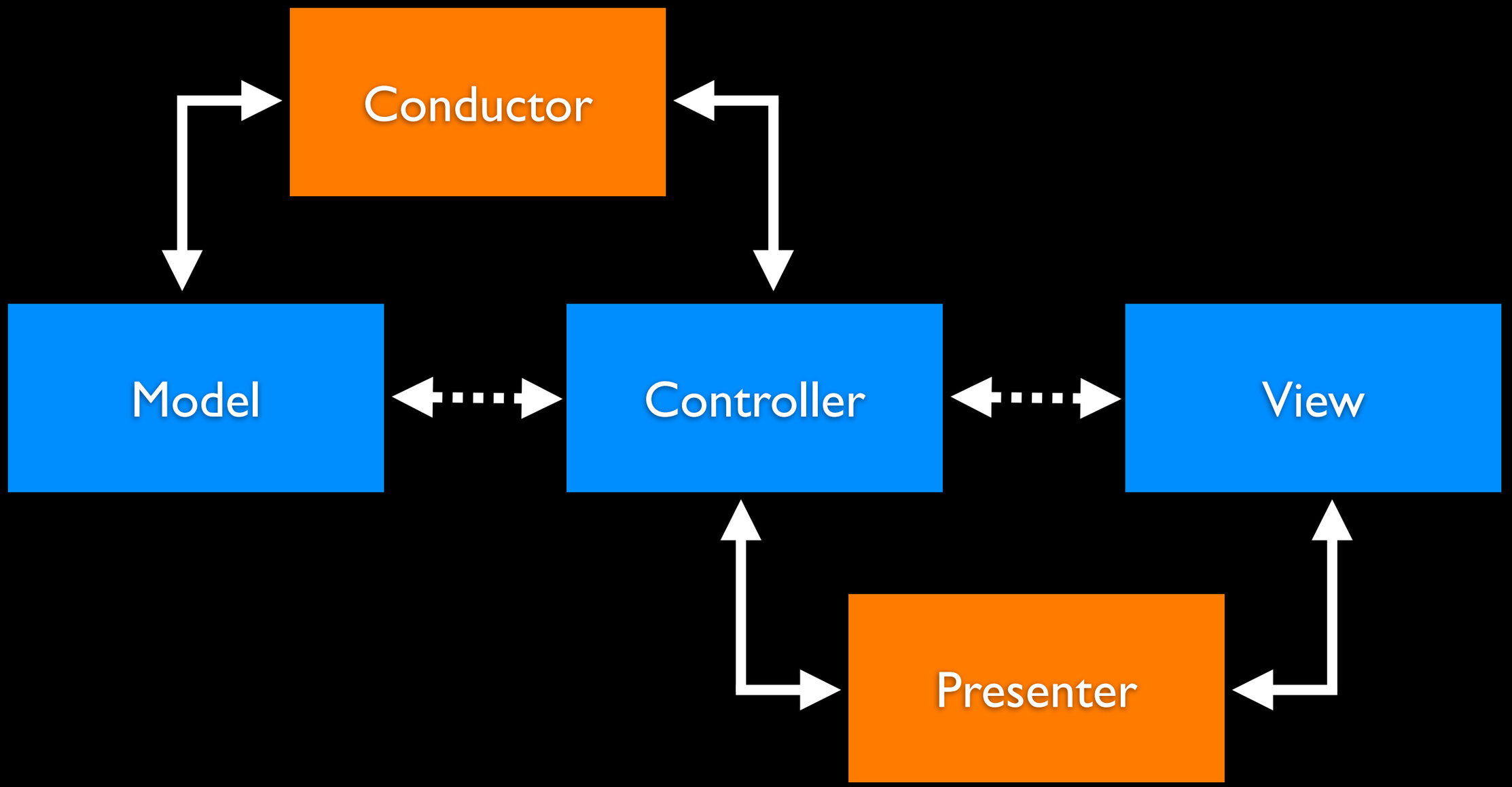
Conductors : the Anti-Presenter



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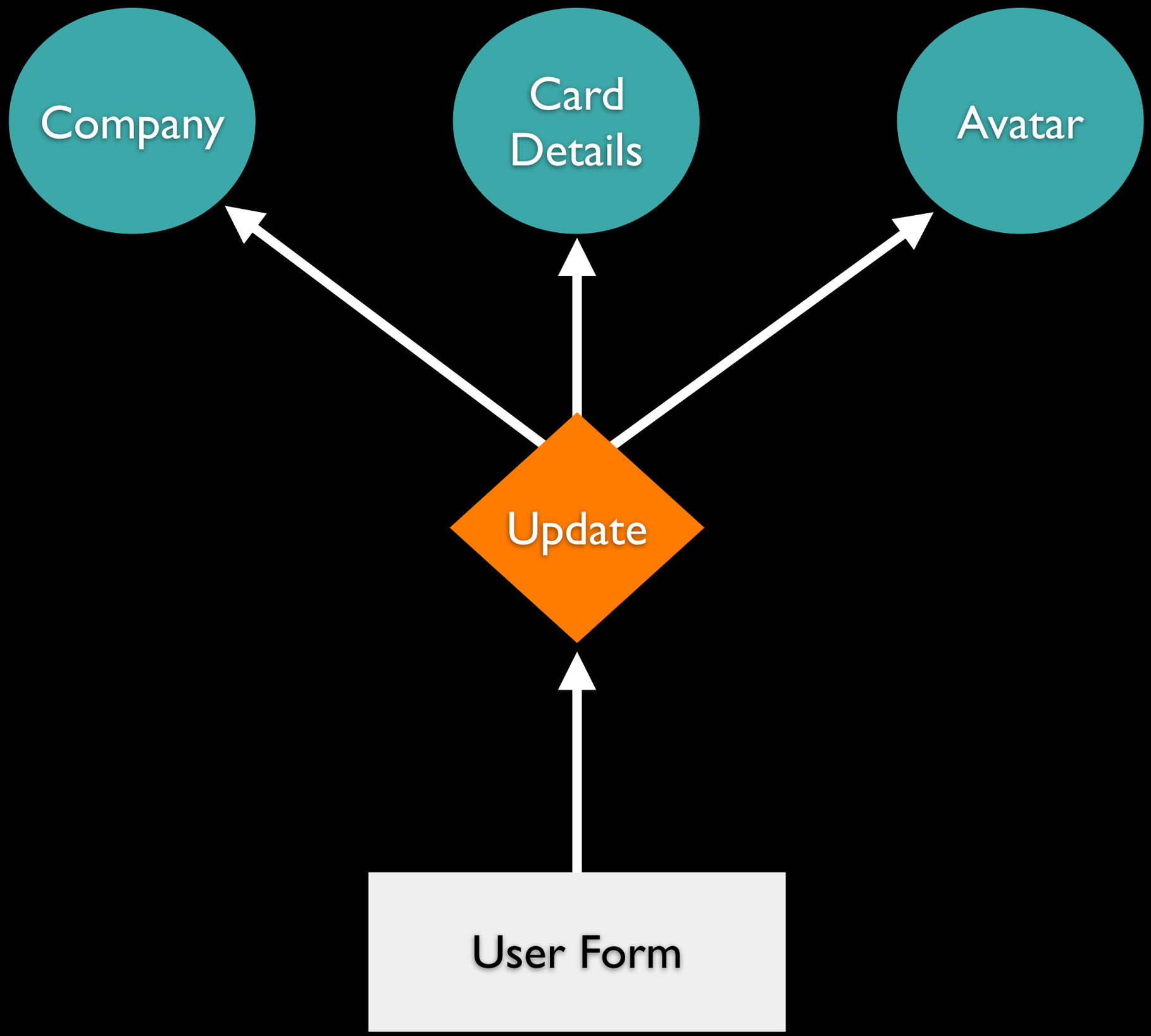
Multiple Objects, One Form



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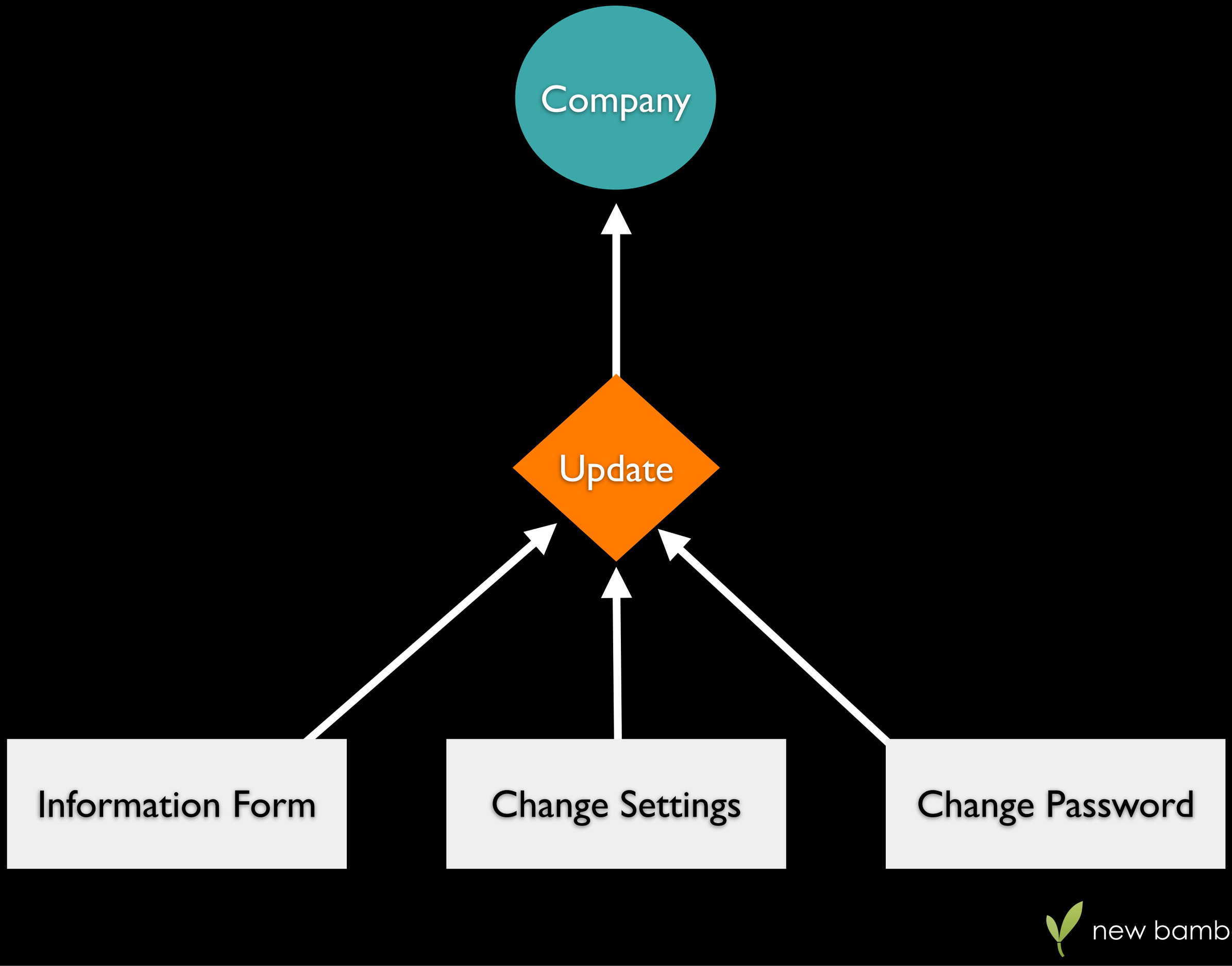
One Object, Multiple Forms


Company
Update
Information Form
Change Settings
Change Password

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Limitations

- Doesn't handle has_many associations
  - quite trivial to implement

My Opinions of Conductors

- Extremely useful, in the right situations
  - connecting associated objects
    - DRY's the controller code
- Potential for abuse
  - probably not worth it if there is only one associated model

Notable Mentions

- Blueprint CSS Framework
  - an easy, but pretty demo app
  - http://code.google.com/p/blueprintcss/
- Model - Conductor - Controller (MMC)
  - heavyweight
  - http://mcc.rubyforge.org/svn/trunk/