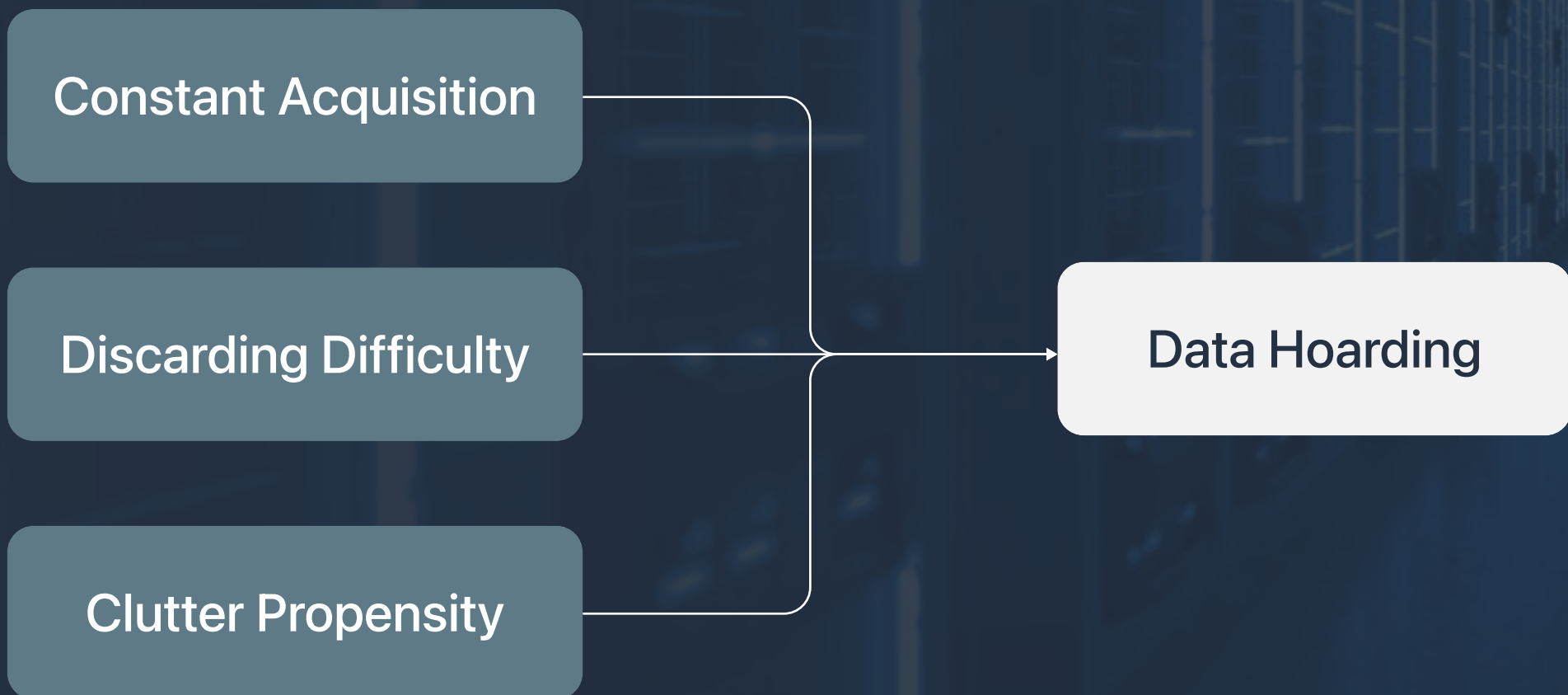


Providing Workflow Contexts To Reduce Data Hoarding for End-Users

What is Data Hoarding?

Data hoarding refers to the practice of accumulating large amounts of data without a clear purpose or strategy for its use or management. This can involve collecting vast quantities of digital information, such as files, documents, emails, photos, videos, or other types of digital content, often without organizing or categorizing it effectively.



Factors Motivating Data Hoarding

- Retaining data for future use (“just in case” scenarios)
- Retaining data as evidence
- Emotional value associated with data
- Laziness and time constraints

90% of participants cited lack of time as the main factor*
*20 participants were involved in this study

Consequences Of Data Hoarding

- 🔥 Increased stress and anxiety
- ⚙️ Reduced productivity

How Might We help college students with discarding unwanted files to avoid data hoarding resulting from laziness and lack of time?

Introducing Workflow Mode

A workflow can be created for an **assignment, project, or a specific activity involving the creation of multiple files**. A workflow will have a beginning and an end (time-bound).

Workflow mode **tracks files downloaded or created** across different applications (local & online applications), and storage locations (local & cloud storage)

01

Enter the workflow manager from the Mac OS dock

02

Select an existing workflow or create a new workflow in the workflow manager. Previously complete workflows can also be accessed from here

03

The top menu bar will indicate the current workflow, and can be used to exit or end the workflow. It also indicates workflows that were started or switched proactively based on predefined conditions

04

When the user ends a workflow, a detailed file report is generated showing all the files that were created (both locally on the device and online by various web apps) during the workflow, and the user is prompted to delete all the unwanted files

How it works?

Workflow mode enables the user to see files based on workflows which also acts as a single source of truth making it easier for the user to review & delete files. Further by encouraging users to delete unwanted files after ending a workflow, the design intervention can avoid data hoarding in the first place.