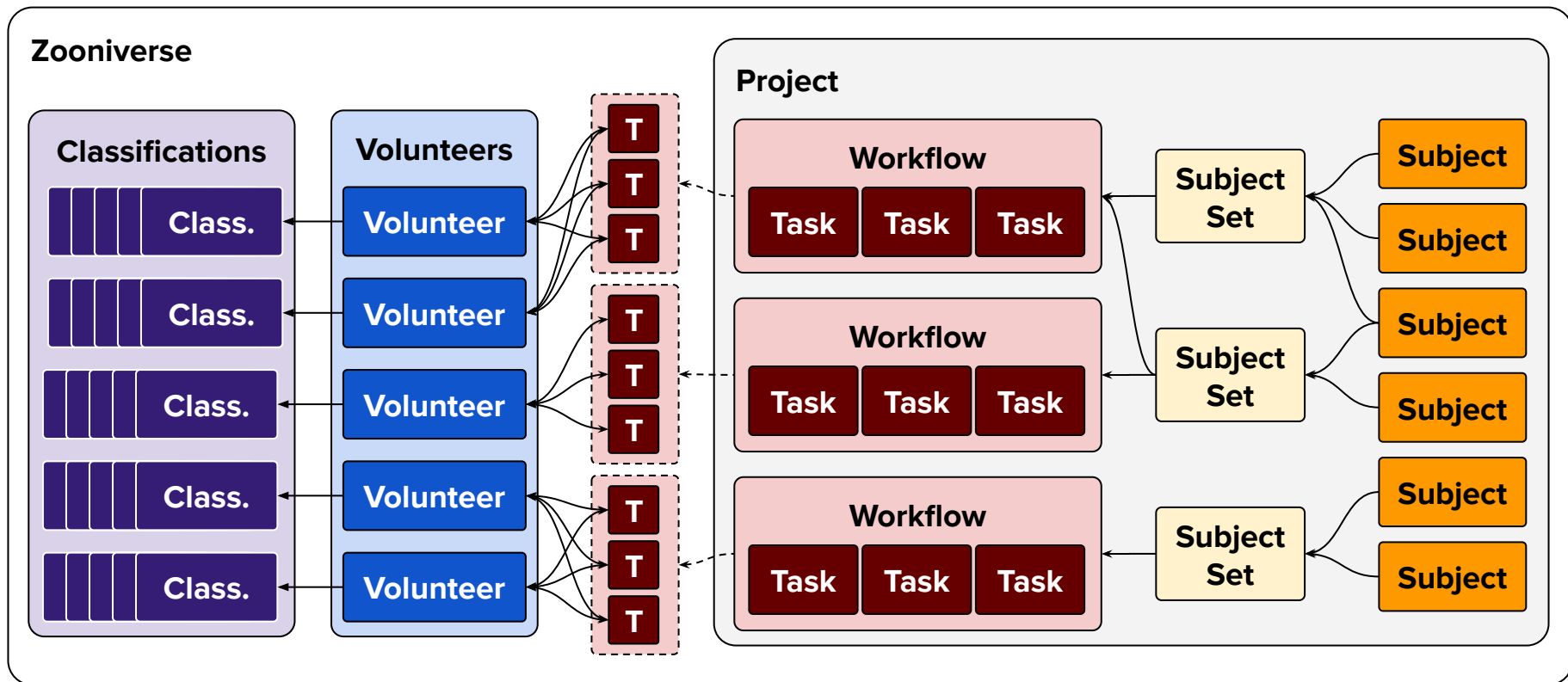# Building a Zooniverse Project

A gentle introduction to the *Zooniverse Project Builder*

A few definitions
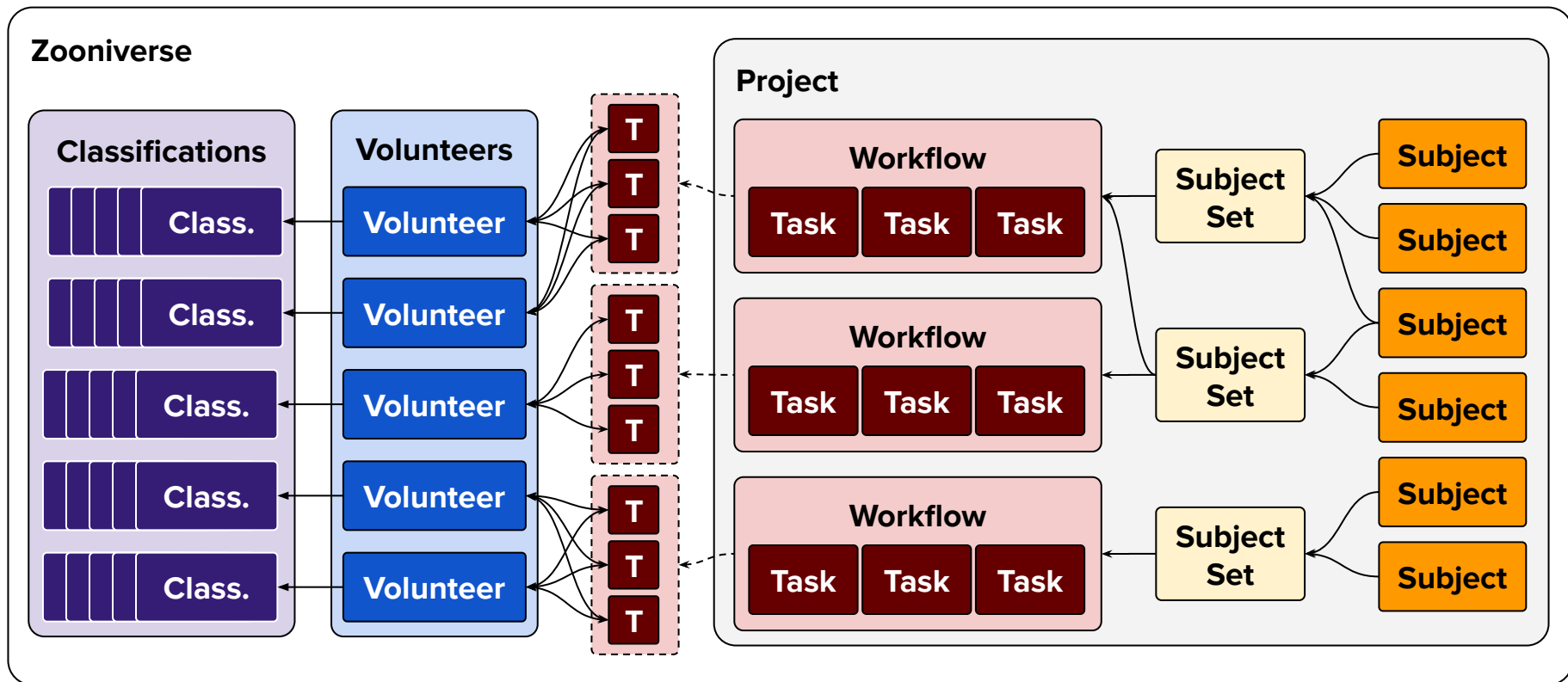
The large scale structure of the Zooniverse

Definitions - Subjects

A Zooniverse **subject** is a **single item of data** that a volunteer on a Zooniverse project will be asked to review and analyze.

It can be an **image**, a **graph**, a **photo**, and **audio recording**, a **video**, or an **assortment** of these things.
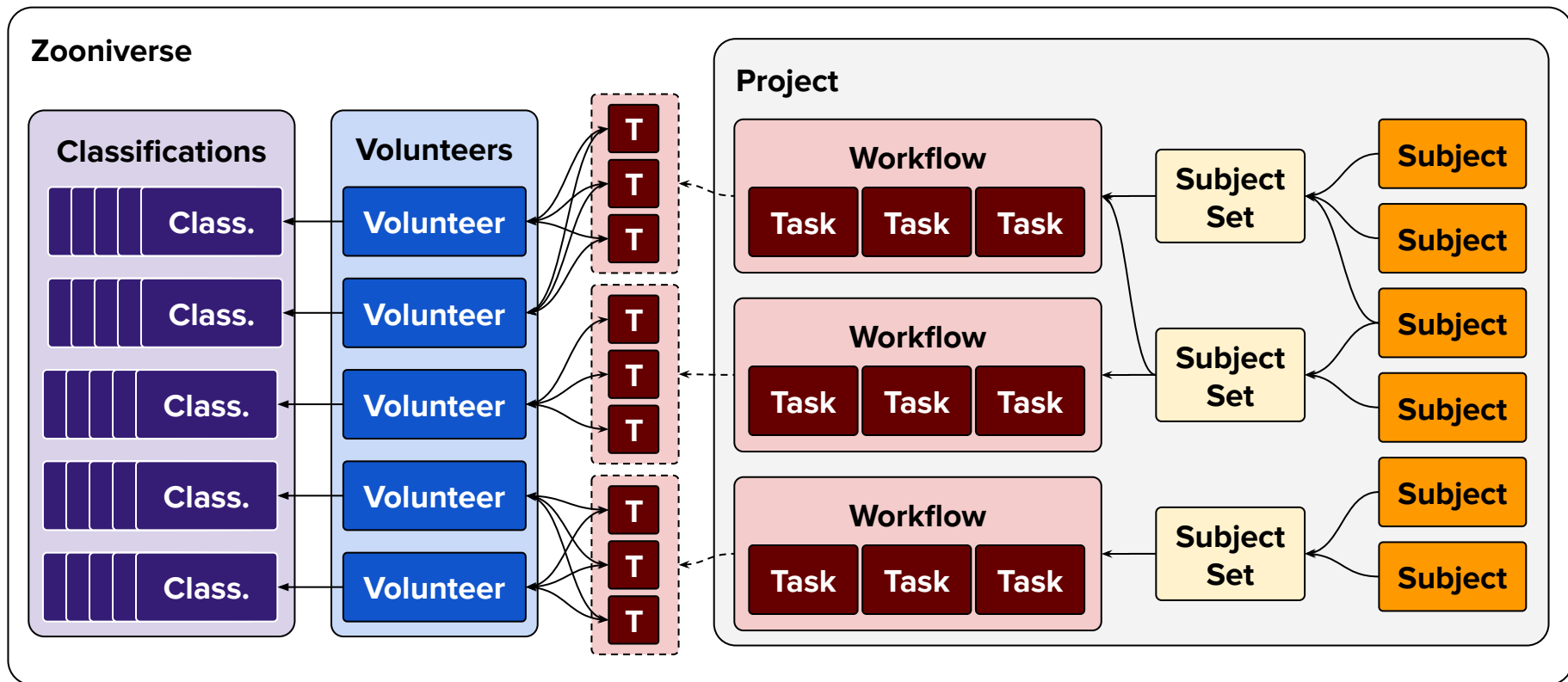
The large scale structure of the Zooniverse

Definitions - Subject Sets

A Zooniverse **subject set** is a just a named group of subjects. You can group subjects into subject sets however you wish.

Subjects may be associated with **one or more** subject sets,

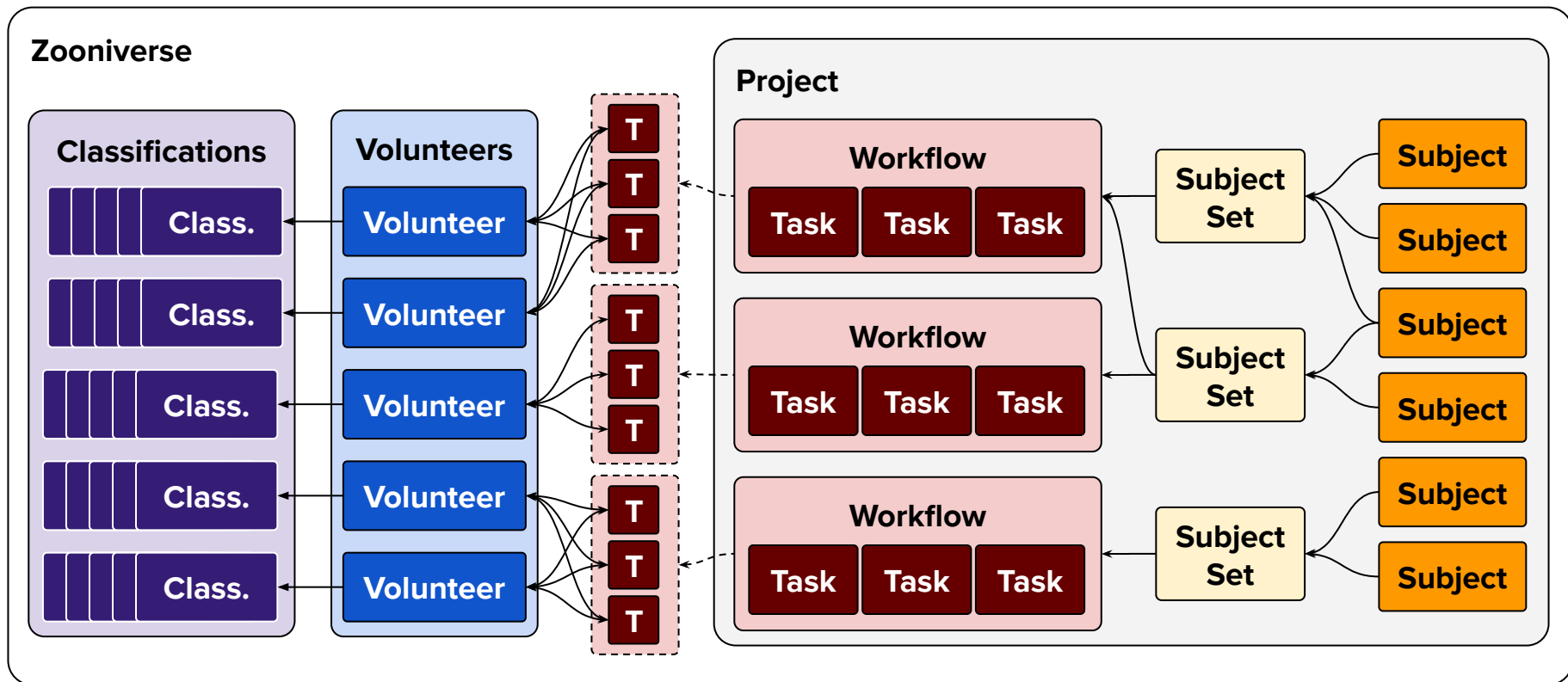# The large scale structure of the Zooniverse

Definitions - Tasks

A Zooniverse **task** is a distinct unit of analysis that a volunteer working on a zooniverse project. The ***Project Builder*** provides a wide variety of tools to help create a wide variety of different tasks.

Examples of available tasks include answering questions about subjects or marking specific points or regions on images.

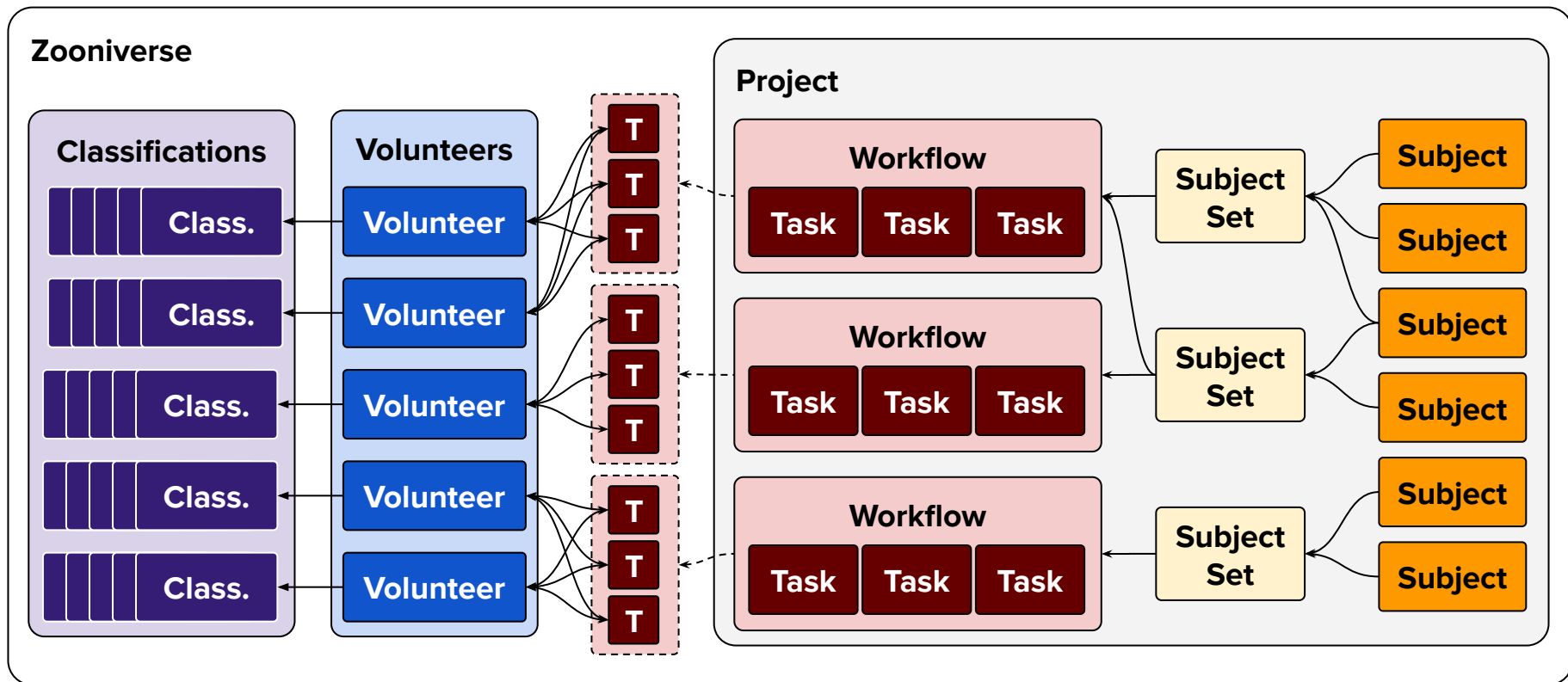# The large scale structure of the Zooniverse

Definitions - Workflows

A Zooniverse **workflow** groups tasks together in a **specific order**. Volunteers interacting with a workflow execute **some or all** of its tasks for each subject they analyse.

One or more subject sets may be linked to a workflow. The subjects that each volunteer sees are selected **randomly** from the linked subject sets.

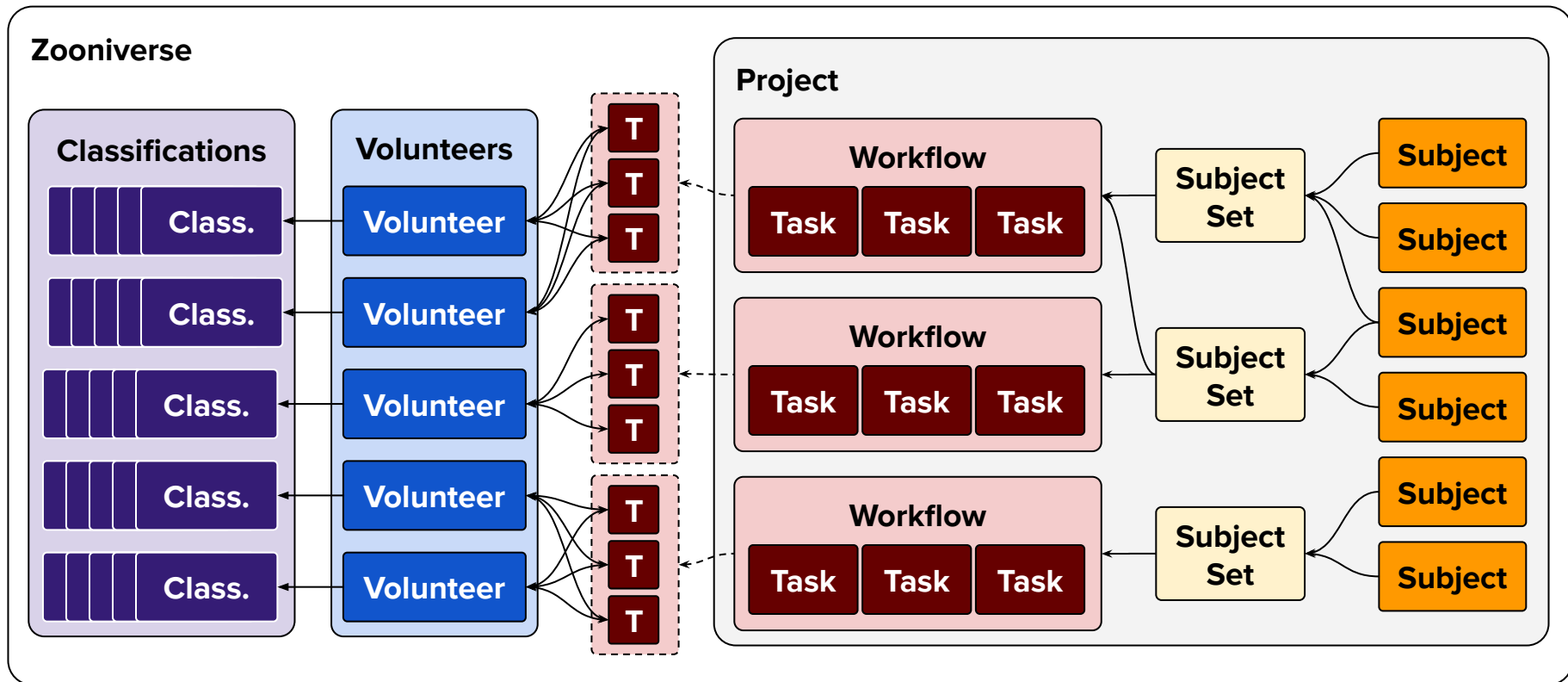# The large scale structure of the Zooniverse

Definitions - Volunteers

Volunteer is the Zooniverse's prefered term for a **member of the public** who is participating in and **contributing** to a Zooniverse project.

Volunteers are *normally* **non-experts**, but many are **scientifically engaged**, **highly motivated** and **keen to improve their knowledge**.

The large scale structure of the Zooniverse

Definitions - Classifications

A classification is all the data associated with a volunteer's **analysis of a single subject**. A classification is the fundamental unit of human effort produced by the **Zooniverse community**.

Talk

Community is Everything

- One of the **great strengths** of the Zooniverse is its **large and vibrant community** of engaged volunteers.
- Volunteers enjoy the **opportunity to discuss the science** they're enabling and the subjects they're classifying and they appreciate the opportunity to **meet and engage with professional scientific researchers**.
- To enable these discussions and interactions, Zooniverse provides the ***Talk interface***.
- Talk provides **message boards** for **discussions** and **conversations**.
- The Zooniverse team recommends that all projects provide **three "standard" message boards**: ***General***, ***Help*** and ***Science***.
- Of course, you can add as many others as you like!

Community is Everything

- Additionally, **each subject has a dedicated page** on its project *Talk* where a registered volunteer can **write a comment**, add **searchable Twitter-like hashtags**, or **link multiple subjects together** into groups called *Collections*.
- Remember! **Talk is not just for the volunteers**!
- The **most successful** projects are those with researchers who maintain an **active presence** on their project's Talk boards and **respond** to volunteers questions and observations.
- Not only does this build an **enthusiastic** and **engaged** volunteer **community**, it can also **improve the accuracy** of your volunteers' classifications!
- You can set up your project's Talk boards using the **Zooniverse Project Builder**.

More resources

You can find more help and resources about the Zooniverse, including a full glossary of many other terms and phrases you may encounter by visiting:

https://help.zooniverse.org

The Project Builder

The Zooniverse Project Builder

- The **Zooniverse Project Builder** is a **web interface** that lets you **quickly** and **straightforwardly create**, **deploy** and **manage** a citizen science project.
- You can **define workflows**, **specify tasks**, **upload subjects** and **build subject sets**.
- You can also create **pedagogical materials** like **tutorials**, **FAQ pages**, and **embedded help**.
- You can **request exports** of your volunteers' **classification data** for analysis, as well as the data that Zooniverse maintains about the subjects that you have uploaded.
- You can set up and manage **access rights** for **collaborators** and **team members**.

Project Builder Demo

SuperWASP Variable Stars (Lite)