

Fuzz Testing Web APIs: Overview of Existing Tools

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REST APIs are used everywhere...

Google Drive APIs > REST v2

GUIDES REFERENCE SAMPLES SUPPORT SWITCH TO V3

API Reference

This API reference is organized by resource type. Each resource type has one or more data representations and one or more methods.

Resource types

Files

For Files Resource details, see the [resource representation](#) page.

Method	HTTP request	Description
get	GET /files/{fileId}	
insert	POST https://www.googleapis.com/upload/drive/v2/files and POST /files	
patch	PATCH /files/{fileId}	
update	PUT https://www.googleapis.com/upload/drive/v2/files/{fileId} and PUT /files/{fileId}	
copy	POST /files/{fileId}/copy	

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reddit API DOCUMENTATION

This is automatically-generated documentation for the reddit API. The reddit API and code are [open source](#). Found a mistake or interested in helping us improve? Have a gander at [api.py](#) and send us a pull request.

Please take care to respect our [API access rules](#).

overview

listings

Many endpoints on reddit use the same protocol for controlling pagination and filtering. These endpoints are called Listings and share five common parameters: `after` / `before`, `limit`, `count`, and `show`.

Listings do not use page numbers because their content changes so frequently. Instead, they allow you to view slices of the underlying data. Listing JSON responses contain `after` and `before` fields which are equivalent to the "next" and "prev" buttons on the site and in combination with `count` can be used to page through the listing.

The common parameters are as follows:

- `after` / `before` - only one should be specified. these indicate the `fullname` of an item in the listing to use as the anchor point of the slice.
- `limit` - the maximum number of items to return in this slice of the listing.
- `count` - the number of items already seen in this listing. on the html site, the builder uses this to determine when to give values for `before` and `after` in the response.

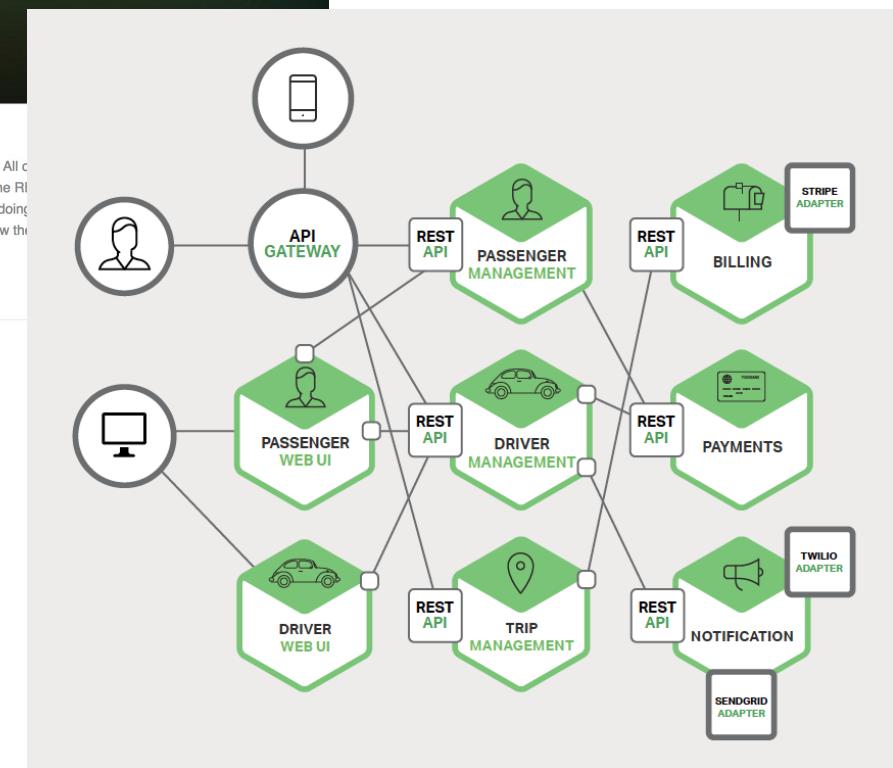
LinkedIn Developers

Home Docs Support Partners Blog Legal My Apps REST Console

Getting started with the REST API

The foundation of all digital integrations with LinkedIn

The REST API is the heart of all programmatic interactions with LinkedIn. All clients, such as the JavaScript and Mobile SDKs, are simply wrappers around the REST API. Even if you are doing something completely different, it's likely that you will need to interact with the REST API. Even if you are doing something completely different, it's likely that you will need to interact with the REST API.



REST API Testing Challenges

- How to choose **query** and **path** parameters?
- How to prepare **body payloads** (e.g. JSON)?
- How to choose data to insert into **SQL** databases?
- Goals:
 - **Finding faults** (eg crashes, security issues)
 - **Maximize schema coverage**
 - **Maximize code coverage**
- Writing high coverage tests *by hand* for every single endpoint is time consuming

What about Automated Test Generation for RESTful APIs?

- Automatically write all the test cases
- Not just execution, but choice of all the inputs
- Hard, complex problem

2 Uses of Generated Tests

- If automated oracles: **automatically detect faults**
 - e.g., HTTP response giving 500, schema mismatches, security vulnerability
- No oracles / faults: **regressing testing**
 - Tests can be added to Git, to capture current behavior of system
 - If in future introduce new bug that breaks functionality, regression tests will start to fail

Fuzzers

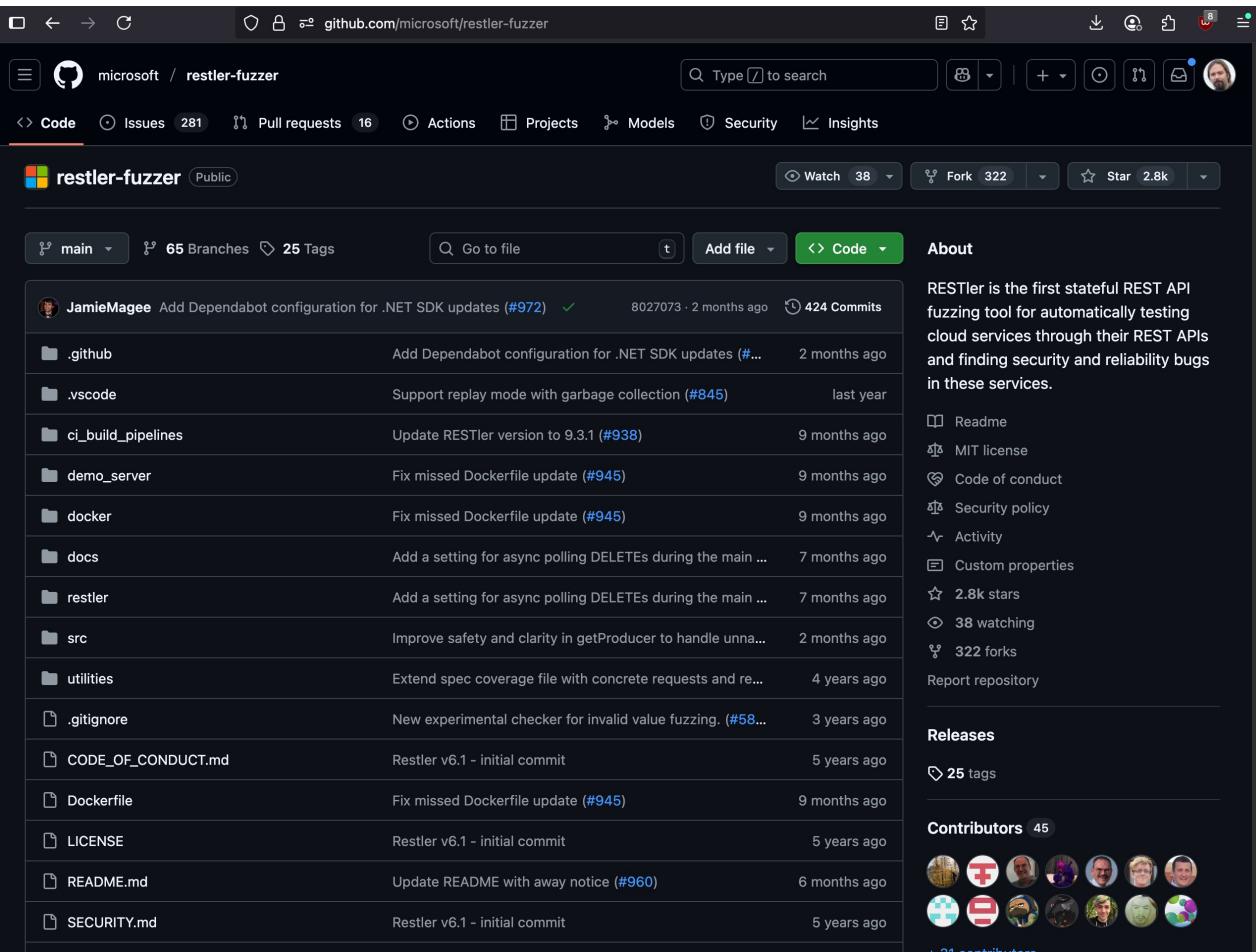
- Tools that automatically generate test inputs
- Different strategies: from **random** inputs to advanced **AI** techniques
- Can automatically create and evaluate **millions** of test cases
- Used in many different domains
 - eg, parser libraries and unit testing
- REST fuzzing is a more recent development
 - eg, Restler, Schemathesis, RESTest, Fuzz-Lightyear and EvoMaster

Fuzzers for REST APIs

- There are at least **25** open-source fuzzers out there for REST APIs
 - but many are just academic proof-of-concept
 - few have been discontinued (eg Dredd)
- Top 4 *currently maintained* fuzzers on **GitHub**
 - as of October 2025
- **RESTler** (+2800⭐)
- **Schemathesis** (+2700⭐)
- **CATS** (+1300⭐)
- **EvoMaster** (+600⭐)

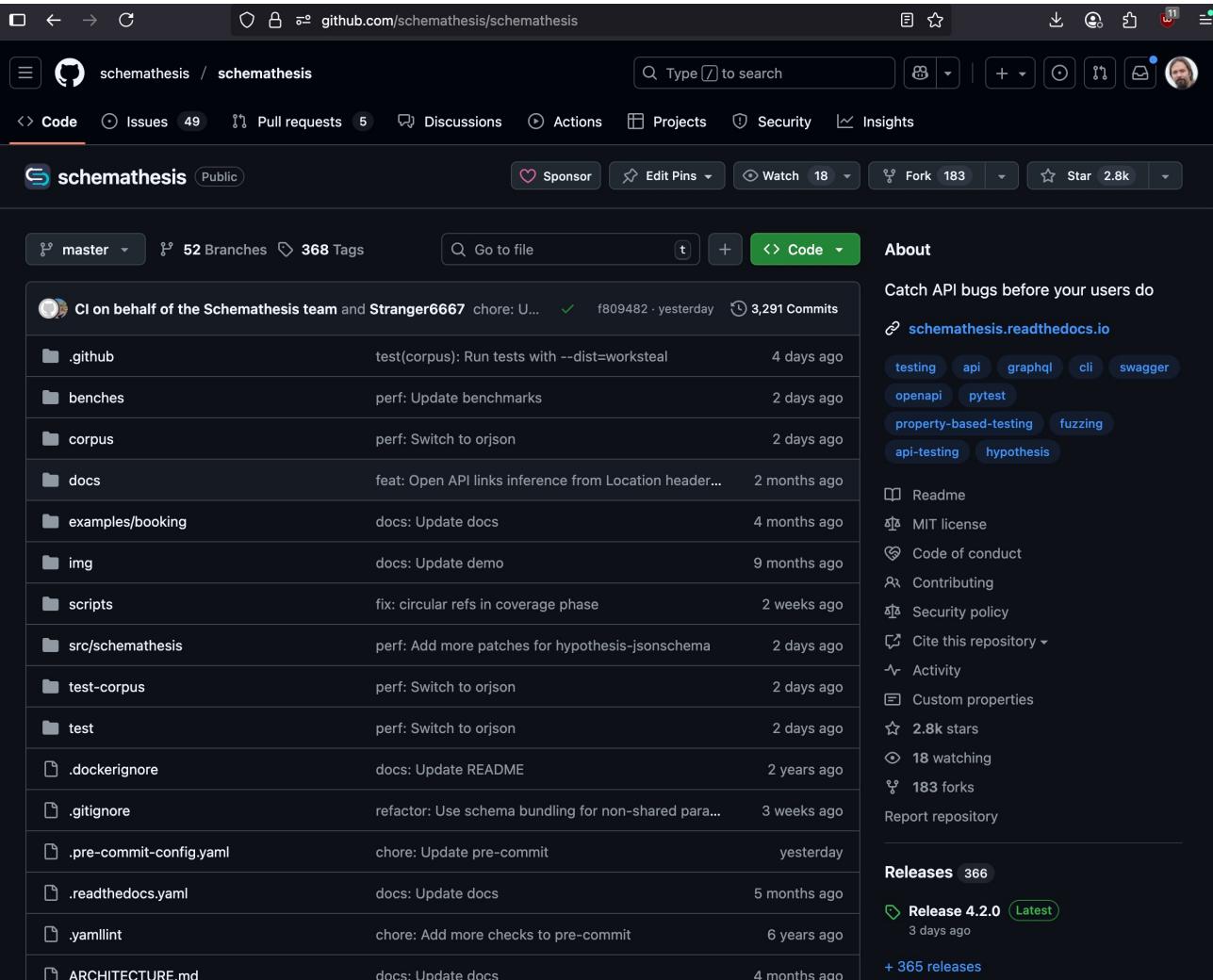
RESTler

- Made by Microsoft Research
- Open-source since 2020
- Written in Python
- Requires cloning Git repository to build locally
- +2800⭐



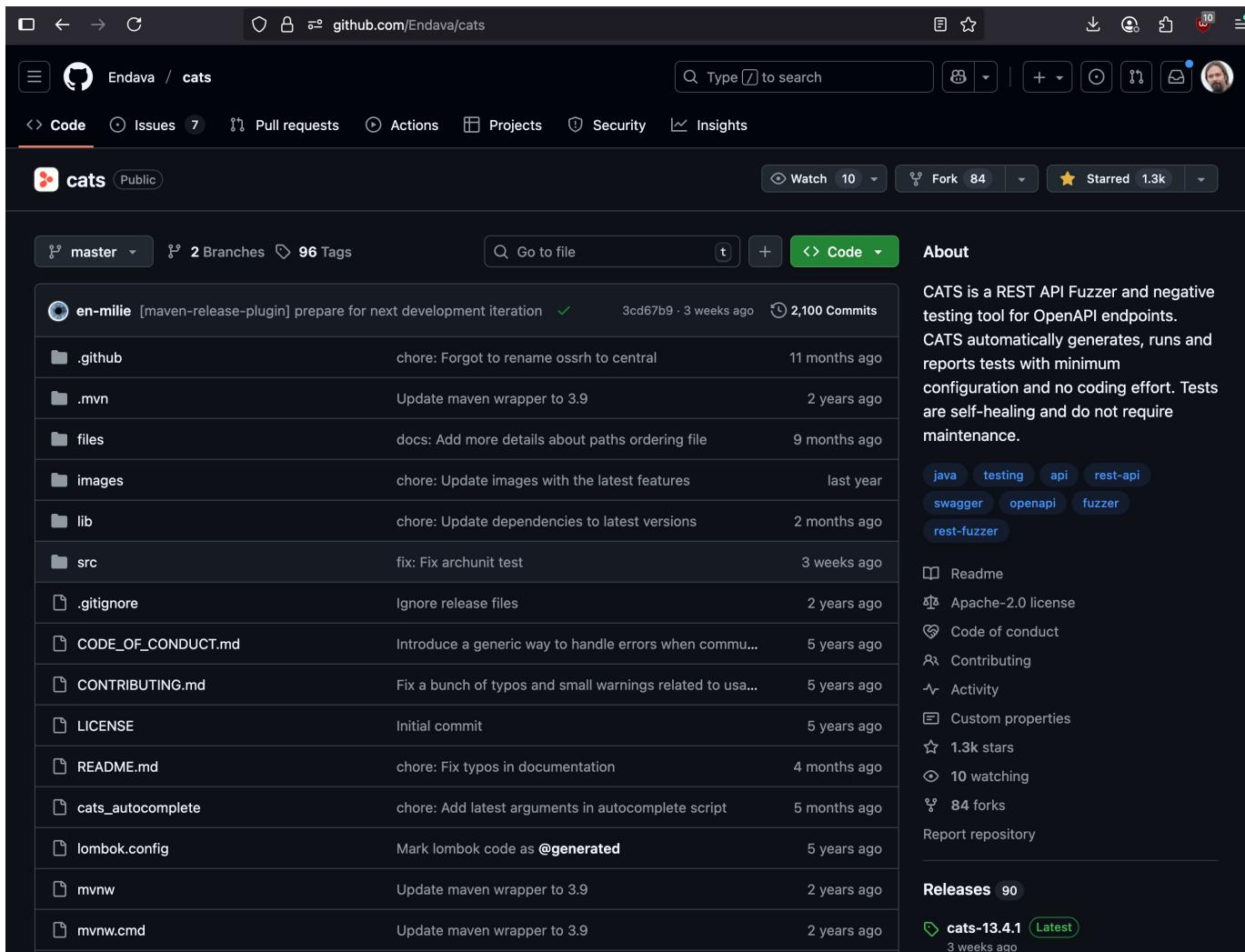
SchemaThesis

- Made by a Software Engineer: Dmitry Dygalo
- Open-source since 2019
- Written in Python
- Available via pip
 - eg, “`pip install schemathesis`”
- +2700⭐



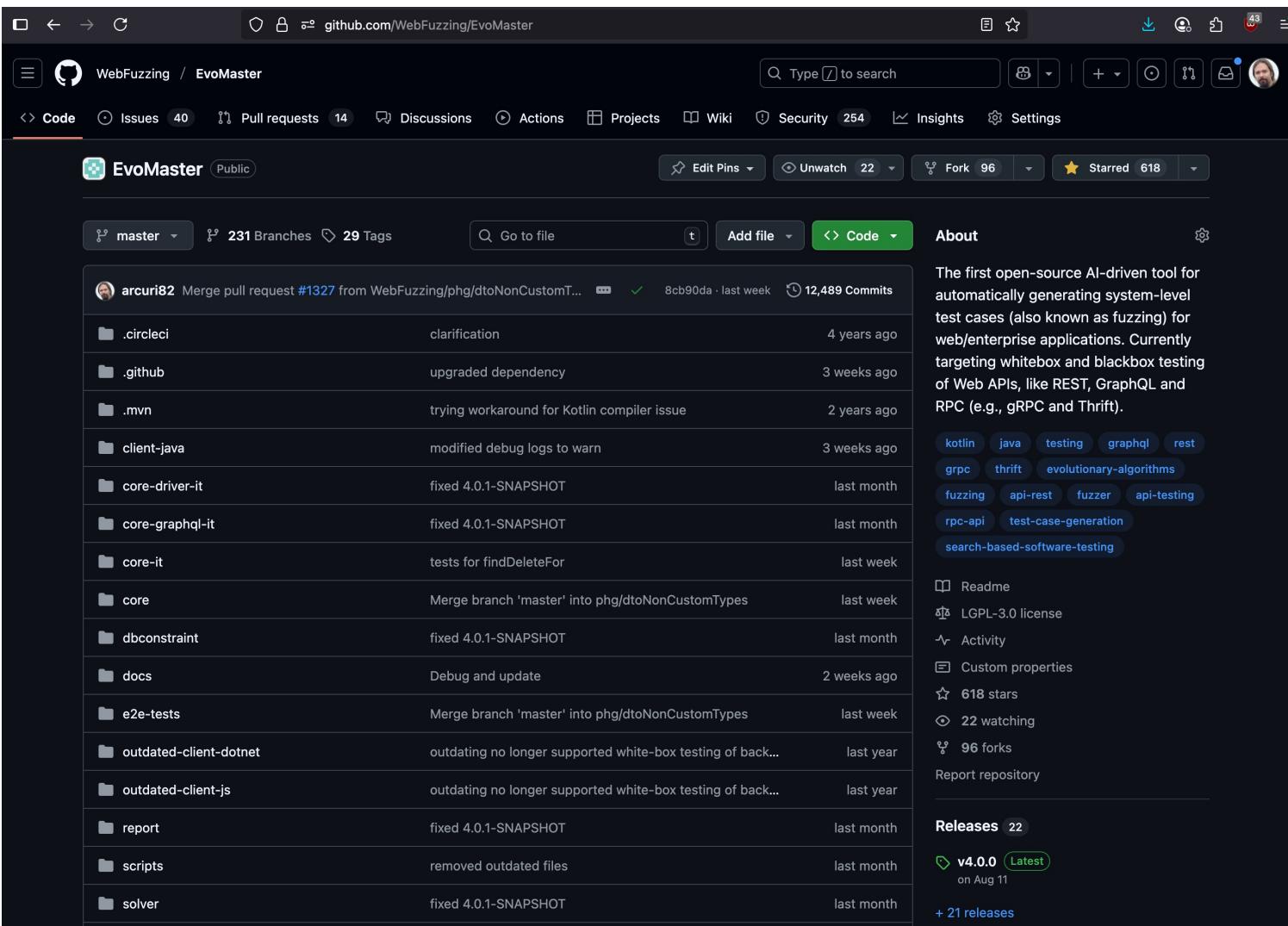
CATS

- Made by Endava.com
- Open-source since 2020
- Written in Java
- Available via installers and **brew**
- +1300⭐



EvoMaster

- Made by me (and a team of academics)
- Open-source since 2016
- Written in Kotlin
- Available via installers and Docker
- +600⭐

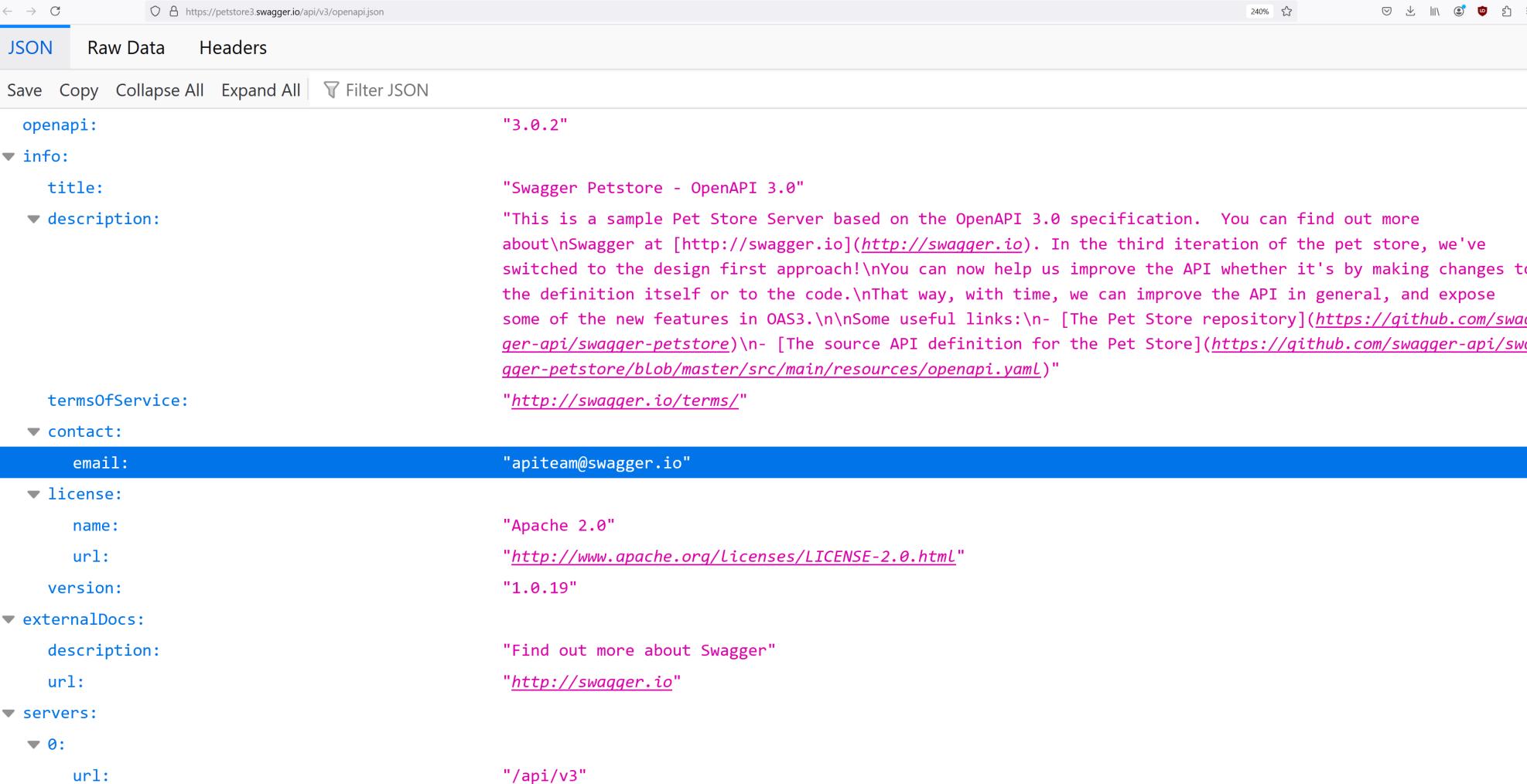


Input: OpenAPI/Swagger Schema

- Need to know what endpoints are available, and their parameters
- Schema defining the APIs
- OpenAPI is the most popular one
- Defined as JSON file, or YAML

Example: PetStore

- Online schema at <https://petstore3.swagger.io/api/v3/openapi.json>



The screenshot shows a browser window displaying the OpenAPI 3.0 schema for the PetStore API. The URL in the address bar is <https://petstore3.swagger.io/api/v3/openapi.json>. The JSON tab is selected, showing the following schema:

```
openapi: "3.0.2"
info:
  title: "Swagger Petstore - OpenAPI 3.0"
  description: "This is a sample Pet Store Server based on the OpenAPI 3.0 specification. You can find out more about\nSwagger at [http://swagger.io](http://swagger.io). In the third iteration of the pet store, we've switched to the design first approach!\nYou can now help us improve the API whether it's by making changes to the definition itself or to the code.\nThat way, with time, we can improve the API in general, and expose some of the new features in OAS3.\n\nSome useful links:\n- [The Pet Store repository](https://github.com/swagger-api/swagger-petstore)\n- [The source API definition for the Pet Store](https://github.com/swagger-api/swagger-petstore/blob/master/src/main/resources/openapi.yaml)"
  termsOfService: "http://swagger.io/terms/"
  contact:
    email: "apiteam@swagger.io"
  license:
    name: "Apache 2.0"
    url: "http://www.apache.org/Licenses/LICENSE-2.0.html"
    version: "1.0.19"
  externalDocs:
    description: "Find out more about Swagger"
    url: "http://swagger.io"
  servers:
    0:
      url: "/api/v3"
```

The contact information is highlighted with a blue background.

What Can Expect?

- All these tools will analyze the schema
- Send requests with many different strategies
 - there is lot of research in academia on this
- Check if any error in the API can be identified
- Output executable test cases
 - in different formats, eg Python, Java, Kotlin and JavaScript

```
docker run
  -v "$(pwd)/generated_tests":/generated_tests
webfuzzing/evomaster
  --blackBox true
  --maxTime 30s
  --ratePerMinute 60
  --bbSwaggerUrl https://petstore.swagger.io/v2/swagger.json
```


example --zsh --135x50

Success Calls: Random but Valid Data

```
# Calls:  
# (200) GET:/v2/pet/findByTags  
@timeout_decorator.timeout(60)  
def test_1_get_on_findByTags_returns_empty_list(self):  
  
    headers = {}  
    headers['Accept'] = "application/json"  
    res_0 = requests \  
        .get(self.baseUrlOfSut + "/v2/pet/findByTags?tags=lPADDnRL0wnjsdW&tags=chS0o&tags=Vff5S_j7W&tags=Ps",  
              headers=headers, timeout=60)  
  
    assert res_0.status_code == 200  
    assert "application/json" in res_0.headers["content-type"]  
    assert len(res_0.json()) == 0
```

Schema Mismatch (eg undeclared 200)

```
# Calls:  
# (200) PUT:/v2/user/{username}  
# Found 1 potential fault of type-code 101  
@timeout_decorator.timeout(60)  
def test_8_put_on_user_returnsMismatchResponseWithSchema(self):  
  
    # Fault101. Received A Response From API With A Structure/Data That Is  
    # Different From What Was Expected.  
    headers = {}  
    headers["content-type"] = "application/json"  
    body = {}  
    body = " { " + \  
        " \"firstName\": \"t3PeK1x\", " + \  
        " \"lastName\": \"1x_eQMjnWztpWGj\", " + \  
        " \"email\": \"c0xQmHfJJU40jPXp\", " + \  
        " \"phone\": \"vSlgsZ\", " + \  
        " \"userStatus\": 649 " + \  
        " } "  
    headers['Accept'] = "*/*"  
    res_0 = requests \  
        .put(self.baseUrlOfSut + "/v2/user/VDJDKy",  
              headers=headers, data=body, timeout=60)  
  
    assert res_0.status_code == 200  
    assert "application/json" in res_0.headers["content-type"]  
    assert res_0.json()["code"] == 200.0  
    assert res_0.json()["type"] == "unknown"  
    assert res_0.json()["message"] == "0"  
  
    # Cleanup actions  
    headers = {}  
    headers['Accept'] = "*/*"
```



The screenshot shows the Swagger UI interface for the `petstore.swagger.io/v2/swagger.json` API. The URL bar at the top indicates the API endpoint. The main area displays the JSON schema for the `/user/{username}` endpoint. The schema includes:

- `get`:
 - `summary: "Get user by user name", operationId: "getUser"`
 - `tags: ["user"]`
 - `parameters: [{ "name: "username", "in: "path", "description: "name that need to be updated", "required: true, "type: "string" }, { "name: "body", "in: "body", "description: "Updated user object", "required: true, "schema: { "$ref: "#/definitions/User" } }]`
 - `responses: { 400: { "description: "Invalid user supplied" }, 404: { "description: "User not found" } }`
- `put`:
 - `tags: ["user"]`
 - `consumes: ["application/json"]`
 - `produces: ["application/json", "application/xml"]`
 - `parameters: [{ "name: "username", "in: "path", "description: "name that need to be updated", "required: true, "type: "string" }, { "name: "body", "in: "body", "description: "Updated user object", "required: true, "schema: { "$ref: "#/definitions/User" } }]`
 - `responses: { 400: { "description: "Invalid user supplied" }, 404: { "description: "User not found" } }`

Interactive Test Reports

http://localhost:8000 80% ☆

WEB FUZZING COMMONS

Creation Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2025 09:28:13 GMT Tool: EvoMaster-4.0.0 Schema Version: 0.0.1

REST Report

Test cases cover 7 endpoints returning 4XX HTTP codes out of 20 endpoints.

Endpoints: 20

2XX: 13/20 (Green)

3XX: 0/20 (Orange)

4XX: 7/20 (Orange)

5XX: 0/20 (Orange)

Generated Test Files: 3
Generated Tests Cases: 21
HTTP Calls: 21

Test Files

- EvoMaster_faults_Test.py (# 14)
- EvoMaster_successes_Test.py (# 4)
- EvoMaster_others_Test.py (# 3)

Total Faults: 14
Distinct Fault Types: 1

Codes	Name	Ratio	#
101	Received A Response From API With A Structure/Data That Is Not Matching Its Schema	13/20	13

WEB FUZZING COMMONS

Creation Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2025 09:28:13 GMT

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Overview

Endpoints

Filter by HTTP Status Code

H200 H404 H415

Filter by Fault Code

F101

Click to toggle: Default → Active → Removed → Default

Code Documentation

Endpoints: 20 / 20

POST:/v2/pet/{petId}/uploadImage

H415 F101

POST:/v2/pet

H200 F101

PUT:/v2/pet

H200 F101

GET:/v2/pet/findByStatus

H200

GET:/v2/pet/findByTags

H200HTTP CODES: H200

FAULT CODES: No faults recorded for this endpoint.

Click to show test cases.

< > EvoMaster_successes_Test.py#test_1_get_on_findByTags_returns_empty_list

200 >

GET:/v2/pet/{petId}

H404 F101

POST:/v2/pet/{petId}

H404 F101

DELETE:/v2/pet/{petId}

H404 F101

What about authentication?

Configuration files in YAML, using WFC format

```
external_auth.yaml ×

1 auth:
2   - name: "foo"
3     loginEndpointAuth:
4       payloadRaw: "{\"username\": \"foo\", \"password\": \"123\"}"
5
6 authTemplate:
7   loginEndpointAuth:
8     verb: POST
9     externalEndpointURL: "http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1"
10    contentType: application/json
11    token:
12      extractFromField: /access_token
13      httpHeaderName: Authorization
14      headerPrefix: ""|
```

Automatically fetch and extract tokens in generated tests (eg in Java)

```
/**  
 * Calls:  
 * (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check  
 */  
@Test(timeout = 60000) no usages  
public void test_1_getOnCheckReturnsContent() throws Exception {  
  
    final String token_foo = "" + given()  
        .contentType("application/json")  
        .body(" { " +  
            " \"username\": \"foo\", " +  
            " \"password\": \"123\" " +  
            " } ")  
        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1")  
        .then().extract().response().path("access_token");  
  
    given().accept("*/*")  
        .header("Authorization", token_foo) // foo  
        .get(baseUrlOfSut + "/api/externalauth/check")  
        .then()  
        .statusCode(200)  
        .assertThat()  
        .contentType("text/plain")  
        .body(containsString("token1"));  
}
```

Or Kotlin...

```
/**  
 * Calls:  
 * (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check  
 */  
@Test @Timeout(60)  
fun test_1_getOnCheckReturnsContent() {  
  
    val token_foo : String = "" + given()  
        .contentType("application/json")  
        .body(" { " +  
            " \"username\": \"foo\", " +  
            " \"password\": \"123\" " +  
            " } ")  
        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1")  
        .then().extract().response().path("access_token")!!  
  
    given().accept("*/*")  
        .header("Authorization", token_foo) // foo  
        .get("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/externalauth/check")  
        .then()  
        .statusCode(200)  
        .assertThat()  
        .contentType("text/plain")  
        .body(containsString("token1"))  
}
```

Or JavaScript...

```
/**  
 * Calls:  
 * (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check  
 */  
  
test("test_1_GetOnCheckReturnsContent", async () :Promise<void> => {  
  
    let token_foo :string = "";  
    await superagent  
        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1")  
        .set("content-type", "application/json")  
        .send(" { " +  
            " \"username\": \"foo\", " +  
            " \"password\": \"123\" " +  
            " } ")  
        .redirects(0)  
        .then(res => {token_foo += res.body.access_token;},  
              error => {console.log(error.response.body); throw Error("Auth failed.")});  
  
    const res_0 = await superagent  
        .get(baseUrlOfSut + "/api/externalauth/check").set('Accept', '*/*')  
        .set("Authorization", token_foo) // foo  
        .ok(res => res.status);  
  
    expect(res_0.status).toBe(expected: 200);  
    expect(res_0.header["content-type"].startsWith("text/plain")).toBe(expected: true);  
    expect(res_0.text).toBe(expected: "token1");  
});
```

Or Python...

```
# Calls:  
# (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check  
@timeout_decorator.timeout(60)  
def test_1_get_on_check_returns_content(self):  
  
    token_foo = ""  
    headers = {}  
    headers["content-type"] = "application/json"  
    body = " { " + \  
           " \"username\": \"foo\", " + \  
           " \"password\": \"123\" " + \  
           " } "  
    res_foo = requests \  
              .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1",  
                    headers=headers, data=body, allow_redirects=False)  
    token_foo = token_foo + res_foo.json()["access_token"]  
  
    headers = {}  
    headers["Authorization"] = token_foo # foo  
    headers['Accept'] = "*/*"  
    res_0 = requests \  
              .get(self.baseUrlOfSut + "/api/externalauth/check",  
                   headers=headers, timeout=60)  
  
    assert res_0.status_code == 200  
    assert "text/plain" in res_0.headers["content-type"]  
    assert "token1" in res_0.text
```

Access Policies Validation Example

- Forbidden to delete a resource of another user (403)...
- ... but allowed (204) to modify it with a PUT???
- Excepted behavior?
- Or misconfigured authorization in the PUT???

```
* Found 1 potential fault of type-code 206
*/
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_7_putOnResourcMissedAuthorizationCheck() {

    given().accept("*/")
        .header("Authorization", "BAR") // BAR
        .header("x-EMextraHeader123", "")
        .put("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/forbiddendelete/resources/214")
    .then()
        .statusCode(201)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())

    given().accept("*/")
        .header("Authorization", "FOO") // FOO
        .header("x-EMextraHeader123", "")
        .delete("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/forbiddendelete/resources/214")
    .then()
        .statusCode(403)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())

    // Fault206]. Allowed To Modify Resource That Likely Should Had Been Protected.
    val res_2: ValidatableResponse = given().accept("*/")
        .header("Authorization", "FOO") // FOO
        .header("x-EMextraHeader123", "")
        .put("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/forbiddendelete/resources/214")
    .then()
        .statusCode(204)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())
}
```

What about some more advanced cases?

White-box testing on JVM using Evolutionary Computation (eg Genetic Algorithms)

Dealing With SQL Databases

- Bytecode instrumentation to intercept all JDBC calls
- Find all SQL SELECT queries that return no data
 - eg due to WHERE clauses that are not satisfied
- Insert data directly into DB as part of the test case
 - Not always possible to create data with REST endpoints (eg POST/PUT)
 - using a JDBC connection
 - need to analyze DB's schema
- *Goal:* insert data such that SELECT are not empty
- *Challenges:* WHERE clauses might have complex constraints. Need search
- *Why?* Can have impact on code execution flow

Java Example Using Spring

```
@RequestMapping(  
    path = "/{x}/{y}",  
    method = RequestMethod.GET,  
    produces = MediaType.APPLICATION_JSON  
)  
public ResponseEntity get(@PathVariable("x") int x, @PathVariable("y") int y) {  
  
    List<DbDirectIntEntity> list = repository.findByXIsAndYIs(x, y);  
    if (list.isEmpty()) {  
        return ResponseEntity.status(400).build();  
    } else {  
        return ResponseEntity.status(200).build();  
    }  
}
```

Generated Test

```
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_1() {
    val insertions = sql().insertInto("DB_DIRECT_INT_ENTITY", 14L)
        .d("ID", "-65536")
        .d("X", "-67108182")
        .d("Y", "0")
        .dtos()
    val insertionsresult = controller.execInsertionsIntoDatabase(insertions)

    given().accept("*/*")
        .get("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/db/directint/-67108182/0")
        .then()
        .statusCode(200)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())
}

}
```

Taint Analysis

- Inputs can have constraint checks
 - eg, strings matching a regex, numbers in a certain range and strings representing dates
- Constraints might be in code and NOT in the OpenAPI schema
- Can evolve inputs till satisfy constraints... eg using SBST heuristics
- ... but what if inputs are not modified and used as they are? Can we do better?

Java Example Using Spring

```
@GetMapping(  
    path = "/{date:\d{4}-\d{1,2}-\d{1,2}}/{number}/{setting}",  
    produces = MediaType.APPLICATION_JSON_VALUE)  
public String getSeparated(  
    @PathVariable("date") String date,  
    @PathVariable("number") String number,  
    @PathVariable("setting") String setting  
{  
  
    LocalDate d = LocalDate.parse(date);  
    int n = Integer.parseInt(number);  
    List<String> list = Arrays.asList("Foo", "Bar");  
  
    if(d.getYear() == 2019 && n == 42 && list.contains(setting)){  
        return "OK";  
    }  
  
    return "ERROR";  
}
```

Solution

- Using bytecode instrumentation, check all JDK API usages
- Checking if input from HTTP is used without modification in a JDK call
- If yes, tell the search how input should be evolved
 - eg strings only representing valid dates, like for `LocalDate.parse(date)`
 - eg strings evolved always matching a particular regex
- Still need search to evolve the inputs
 - eg to handle constraints like `d.getYear() == 2019`
- Can dramatically boost the search efforts

Generated Test

```
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_4() {

    given().accept("application/json")
        .get("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/testability/2019-12-10/42/Bar")
        .then()
        .statusCode(200)
        .assertThat()
        .contentType("application/json")
        .body(containsString("OK"))

}
```

Applications and Success Stories

Experience With EvoMaster

- Author's of EvoMaster
- Academic tool, started in 2016
 - Around 3 millions Euro in funding from ERC and NFR
- Applied on many open-source APIs
 - found thousands of bugs
- Only tool supporting *white-box* testing for JVM
- Academic collaborations with industry

Open-Source Projects

- Found hundreds of faults in open-source projects
- Many APIs out there are not robust to receive invalid inputs, and so crashes
- Currently using 36 open-source APIs for experiments comparing fuzzers
- <https://github.com/WebFuzzing/Dataset>
- EvoMaster gives best results on those APIs

Table 4. Average results, out of 10 runs, for 2xx endpoint coverage percentage over the 6 compared fuzzers, on all the 36 APIs. On each API, tools are compared by rank, where rank 1 is the best. Rank values are presented in ‘()’ parentheses after the average values. In case of ties, ranks are averaged. The best fuzzers on each API are highlighted in bold.

SUT	ARAT-RL	EmRest	EvoMaster	LLamaRestTest	RESTler	Schemathesis
<i>bibliothek</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.9 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	12.5 (1.0)
<i>blogapi</i>	15.1 (3.5)	20.9 (2.0)	21.8 (1.0)	6.9 (6.0)	15.1 (3.5)	9.9 (5.0)
<i>catwatch</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	38.7 (3.0)	0.0 (5.0)	39.1 (1.5)	39.1 (1.5)
<i>cwa-verification</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	60.0 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	20.0 (2.0)
<i>erc20-rest-service</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.7 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.9 (1.0)
<i>familie-ba-sak</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	2.2 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	1.9 (2.0)
<i>features-service</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	88.9 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	29.2 (2.0)
<i>genome-nexus</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	72.5 (1.0)	0.0 (5.0)	47.8 (3.0)	64.3 (2.0)
<i>gestaohospital</i>	57.5 (2.0)	0.0 (5.5)	66.0 (1.0)	35.5 (3.0)	0.0 (5.5)	4.4 (4.0)
<i>http-patch-spring</i>	22.9 (3.0)	0.0 (6.0)	100.0 (1.0)	16.7 (4.0)	66.7 (2.0)	14.8 (5.0)
<i>languagetool</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	90.0 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	50.0 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>market</i>	13.8 (4.0)	0.0 (6.0)	70.2 (1.0)	15.4 (2.5)	15.4 (2.5)	5.4 (5.0)
<i>microcks</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	46.9 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	19.1 (2.0)
<i>ocvn</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	80.2 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.7 (2.0)
<i>ohsome-api</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	19.6 (1.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>pay-publicapi</i>	0.0 (3.5)	0.0 (3.5)	0.0 (3.5)	0.0 (3.5)	0.0 (3.5)	0.0 (3.5)
<i>person-controller</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	44.4 (1.0)	0.0 (5.0)	25.0 (3.0)	25.9 (2.0)
<i>proxyprint</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	75.1 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	20.4 (2.0)
<i>quartz-manager</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	63.6 (1.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>reservations-api</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	25.4 (1.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>rest-ncs</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	100.0 (1.0)	0.0 (5.0)	83.3 (2.0)	45.0 (3.0)
<i>rest-news</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	85.7 (1.0)	0.0 (5.0)	28.6 (2.5)	28.6 (2.5)
<i>rest-scs</i>	87.5 (3.5)	0.0 (6.0)	100.0 (1.0)	87.5 (3.5)	90.0 (2.0)	77.8 (5.0)
<i>restcountries</i>	0.0 (5.0)	100.0 (1.0)	87.4 (2.0)	0.0 (5.0)	8.0 (3.0)	0.0 (5.0)
<i>scout-api</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	91.4 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	16.3 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>session-service</i>	88.9 (2.0)	0.0 (6.0)	50.0 (3.5)	93.8 (1.0)	50.0 (3.5)	22.5 (5.0)
<i>spring-actuator-demo</i>	80.0 (5.0)	0.0 (6.0)	100.0 (1.5)	90.0 (3.0)	100.0 (1.5)	87.5 (4.0)
<i>spring-batch-rest</i>	71.1 (1.0)	0.0 (5.5)	60.0 (2.5)	53.3 (4.0)	0.0 (5.5)	60.0 (2.5)
<i>spring-commerce</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	40.7 (1.0)	0.0 (5.0)	22.2 (2.0)	16.7 (3.0)
<i>spring-rest-example</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	44.4 (1.5)	0.0 (4.5)	44.4 (1.5)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>swagger-petstore</i>	0.0 (5.0)	78.9 (3.0)	81.6 (2.0)	0.0 (5.0)	89.5 (1.0)	0.0 (5.0)
<i>tiltaksgjennomføring</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	8.9 (1.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>tracking-system</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	72.1 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	19.6 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>user-management</i>	60.7 (3.0)	0.0 (6.0)	68.3 (1.0)	67.1 (2.0)	38.1 (4.0)	21.2 (5.0)
<i>webgoat</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	75.4 (1.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>youtube-mock</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	12.5 (1.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
Average	13.8 (4.1)	5.6 (4.6)	57.2 (1.4)	12.9 (4.2)	23.6 (3.3)	17.8 (3.4)
Median	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	64.8 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	11.5 (3.5)	8.4 (4.0)
Friedman Test				$\chi^2 = 90.170$, $p\text{-value} = < 0.001$		

Experiments in the *lab* on open-source APIs gives you info on coverage and fault detection...

... but not on whether practitioners find it useful

Industry Collaborations

- We are university **scientists**, not tool vendors
- **Anyone** can use open-source tools
- Benefits **for industry**: priority on **feature requests** and bug fixing
- Benefits **for us**: access to industrial **case studies**

Industry Collaborations: EvoMaster at Meituan

- Large Chinese e-commerce enterprise
- EvoMaster used **daily** on **1700 microservices**, for millions of lines of code
- White-box testing Thrift RPC APIs



Table 5: Mean of Line%, Critical Line%, and #Detected Faults achieved by tests generated by SM EVO-MASTER with 1-hour time budget for 10 repetitions, and results of comparing with Base 1-hour using Relative% and Vargha-Delaney \hat{A}_{12}

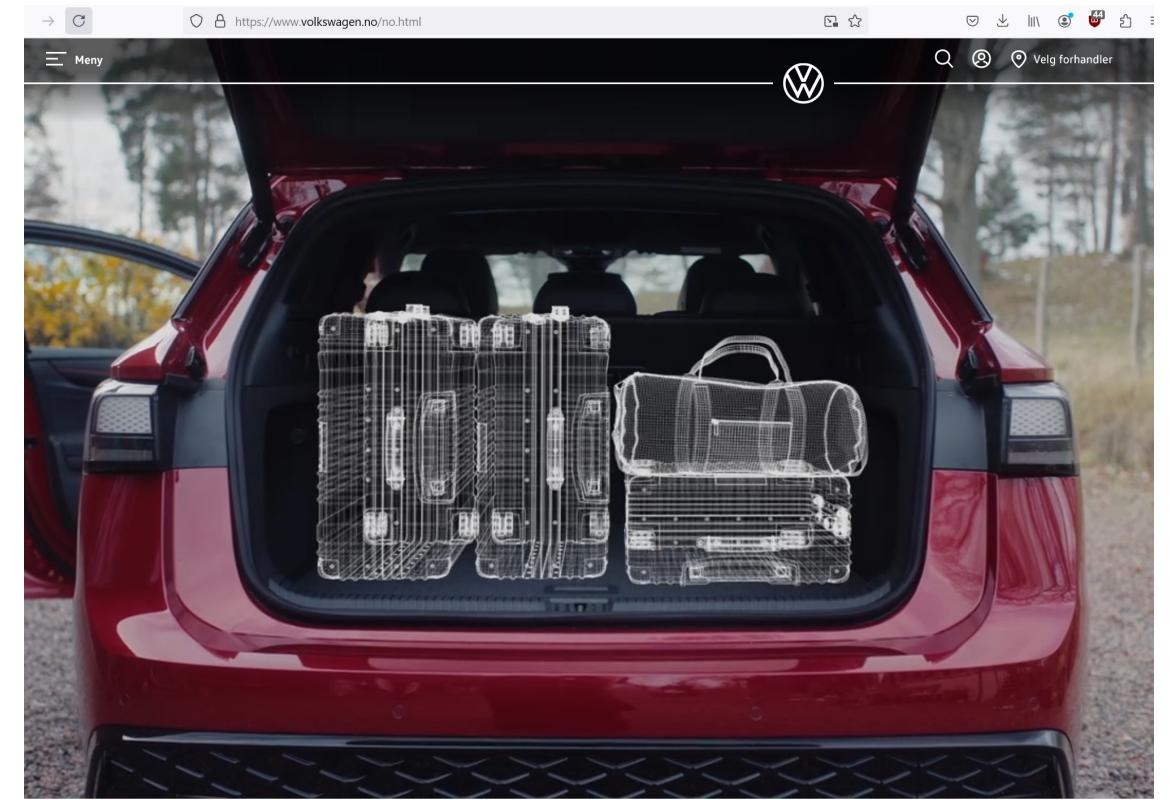
SUT	Budgets	Line%	Critical Line%	#Detected Faults			
	by seeds	Mean	Relative%(\hat{A}_{12})	Mean	Relative%(\hat{A}_{12})	Mean	Relative%(\hat{A}_{12})
cs01	6.6%	16.6	+26.7 (0.78)	15.4	+36.6 (1.00)	17.2	+2.1 (0.42)
cs02	0.2%	19.3	+0.0 (0.53)	45.4	-1.5 (0.42)	26.4	-4.8 (0.38)
cs03	3.8%	7.1	+1.4 (0.40)	2.4	+1.6 (0.57)	7.0	+0.0 (0.50)
cs04	0.3%	13.0	+1.0 (0.57)	10.5	+1.7 (0.59)	43.8	+1.3 (0.64)
cs05	1.8%	22.6	+6.5 (0.77)	18.1	+7.1 (0.71)	63.2	-7.1 (0.27)
cs06	0.5%	8.5	+6.1 (0.97)	4.8	+9.6 (0.96)	13.0	+0.0 (0.50)
cs07	1.5%	17.6	+44.9 (0.99)	16.3	+44.7 (0.99)	79.7	+6.5 (0.72)
cs08	59.2%	10.1	-28.8 (0.05)	10.8	-23.5 (0.06)	38.8	-36.8 (0.04)
cs09	1.4%	15.3	+2.8 (0.65)	11.2	+9.4 (0.73)	35.1	+3.4 (0.75)
cs10	7.0%	9.2	+39.1 (1.00)	4.6	+83.6 (1.00)	5.0	+0.0 (0.50)
cs11	9.7%	16.0	+76.1 (1.00)	13.2	+101.4 (1.00)	46.9	+4.0 (0.66)
cs12	31.3%	12.4	+24.6 (1.00)	9.0	+50.8 (1.00)	56.1	+6.9 (0.77)
cs13	12.9%	24.6	+25.8 (1.00)	24.0	+23.8 (1.00)	36.6	-1.1 (0.33)
cs14	0.2%	14.6	+1.8 (0.52)	24.1	+5.9 (0.62)	67.6	+3.8 (0.59)
cs15	11.6%	15.9	+118.1 (1.00)	15.9	+153.5 (1.00)	33.7	+1.0 (0.55)
cs16	1.6%	16.7	+17.1 (0.94)	15.1	+19.4 (0.92)	45.4	+1.6 (0.59)
cs17	22.0%	15.8	+7.4 (0.71)	11.3	+15.8 (0.82)	60.9	-6.3 (0.23)
cs18	0.6%	6.9	+18.5 (0.88)	6.4	+89.3 (0.97)	70.6	+17.2 (0.83)
cs19	2.1%	10.8	+11.6 (0.84)	6.9	+16.3 (0.83)	63.9	+1.1 (0.54)
cs20	28.8%	21.8	+14.8 (0.85)	19.0	+14.9 (0.82)	35.8	-17.8 (0.30)
cs21	1.7%	10.3	+25.7 (0.99)	8.8	+40.3 (0.99)	47.8	+0.5 (0.50)
cs22	9.9%	16.3	+18.1 (0.97)	8.4	+103.5 (1.00)	56.8	-2.7 (0.39)
cs23	36.6%	10.2	+134.3 (1.00)	6.7	+135.6 (0.93)	110.7	-16.8 (0.31)
cs24	8.8%	10.4	+11.1 (0.77)	11.2	+24.9 (0.94)	93.2	+3.1 (0.60)
cs25	6.3%	10.0	+2.1 (0.69)	9.9	+4.3 (0.69)	61.2	-2.6 (0.31)
cs26	6.1%	12.8	+42.7 (0.96)	12.9	+56.0 (0.92)	106.8	+6.5 (0.60)
cs27	1.0%	22.1	+17.3 (0.84)	14.3	+15.8 (0.83)	69.0	+10.2 (0.76)
cs28	83.8%	23.1	+92.7 (1.00)	21.6	+119.0 (1.00)	48.6	-28.2 (0.07)
cs29	0.2%	2.4	+9.5 (0.59)	3.9	-8.0 (0.38)	42.6	-3.4 (0.24)
cs30	6.5%	8.7	+66.5 (1.00)	12.5	+136.7 (1.00)	69.0	+4.4 (0.88)
cs31	18.1%	9.6	+11.5 (0.77)	8.2	+10.3 (0.72)	72.4	-16.0 (0.12)
cs32	4.0%	9.4	+24.9 (0.91)	7.4	+32.2 (0.94)	84.9	+6.0 (0.59)
cs33	47.8%	9.7	+4.7 (0.61)	6.2	+16.9 (0.77)	105.1	-14.2 (0.34)
cs34	0.9%	9.8	+14.9 (0.99)	6.4	+17.4 (0.98)	77.4	+1.1 (0.57)
cs35	31.5%	10.1	+16.5 (0.85)	7.0	+28.6 (0.93)	111.3	+4.4 (0.59)
cs36	29.2%	11.8	+58.1 (0.95)	18.5	+98.1 (1.00)	129.1	+12.4 (0.80)
cs37	34.6%	9.1	+35.6 (0.93)	6.7	+47.0 (0.96)	104.7	-33.9 (0.11)
cs38	5.1%	18.7	+30.1 (0.99)	14.9	+36.0 (1.00)	101.0	+1.7 (0.58)
cs39	16.5%	8.0	+9.0 (0.62)	3.6	+13.2 (0.68)	96.4	+9.7 (0.61)
cs40	4.3%	12.6	+34.4 (0.91)	7.9	+47.1 (0.91)	100.0	+13.8 (0.68)
Mean		13.2	+26.9 (0.8)	12.0	+40.9 (0.8)	63.4	-1.7 (0.5)

#Relative > 0	39	37	23
#SM > Base	30	31	7
#Base > SM	1	1	8

- ASE'24: “Seeding and Mocking in White-Box Fuzzing Enterprise RPC APIs: An Industrial Case Study”
- 40 APIs at Meituan
- More than 5M LOC
- Automatically found hundreds of faults

Industry Collaborations: EvoMaster at Volkswagen

- Large German car manufacturer
- EvoMaster used for black-box testing of REST APIs



ID.7 GTX stasjonsvogn med fire-hjulstrekk: Fra kr 579 400

Les mer

Bygg din ID.7 GTX stasjonsvogn

Introducing Black-Box Fuzz Testing for REST APIs in Industry: Challenges and Solutions

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Abstract—REST APIs are widely used in industry, in all different kinds of domains. An example is Volkswagen AG, a German automobile manufacturer. Established testing approaches for REST APIs are time consuming, and require expertise from professional test engineers. Due to its cost and importance, in the scientific literature several approaches have been proposed to automatically test REST APIs. The open-source, search-based fuzzer EVOMASTER is one of such tools proposed in the academic literature. However, how academic prototypes can be integrated in industry and have real impact to software engineering practice requires more investigation. In this paper, we report on our experience in using EVOMASTER at Volkswagen. We share our learnt lessons, and identify real-world research challenges that need to be solved.

Index Terms—SBST, REST, API, black-box, industry, fuzzing

I. INTRODUCTION

REST APIs are used everywhere, to provide all different kinds of data and functionalities over a network (e.g., internet) [1], [2]. They are also common when developing backend applications, particularly when using microservice architectures [3], [4]. Nowadays, when interacting with a web page or a mobile app, often one or more REST APIs are involved. Therefore, the validation and verification of this type of web service is of paramount importance.

Volkswagen AG is a German automobile manufacturer.¹ As for many enterprises, its IT services rely on REST APIs. Due to the high cost of thorough testing from professional test engineers, significant effort has been spent to modernize their processes, and leverage what novel techniques and research outputs can provide in this context. In particular, the use of novel Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques seems promising. To enhance the quality of their testing processes and reduce cost, different AI techniques available to the public, like based on LLM (e.g., StarCoder [5]) and Evolutionary Computation (e.g., EVOMASTER [6]), have already been evaluated at Volkswagen [7], with some initial success.

In the scientific literature, in the last few years there has been a lot of work on test automation for REST APIs [8]. “Fuzz testing” [9]–[11] (also known as “fuzzing”) is a term used to refer to the automated generation of test cases, typically with random or unexpected inputs, to find crashes and

security issues in the tested applications. Several techniques can be used to improve performance (e.g., to cover more parts of the code of the tested application), e.g., based on AI techniques. In the literature, several tools (i.e., fuzzers) have been proposed, like the aforementioned EVOMASTER. Most of these tools are open-source, like for example Restler [12] and RestTestGen [13]. Any enterprise in the world can download and try out those tools on their REST APIs.

Usually, though, in the scientific literature these tools have been evaluated only in the “lab”. Researchers might design and develop some novel techniques, implement them in a tool, and then carry out experiments on some APIs to evaluate the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of their novel techniques. Real-world APIs might be used for these experiments, but usually no engineers or QA specialist in industry would be involved in using and evaluating those tools. In other words, no “human aspects” of introducing fuzzing techniques in industry [14] has been studied so far in literature of testing REST APIs [8].

To fill this important gap in the scientific literature, the authors of EVOMASTER were eager to start working with the test engineers at Volkswagen AG. The first interaction happened in October 2023 when the test engineers at Volkswagen contacted the maintainers of EVOMASTER with questions about more advanced use cases.

This is what started the “open exchange” between the authors of EVOMASTER and the test engineers at Volkswagen AG, in particular with the Quality innovation Network (QiNET) of the Group IT, which focus on innovations about IT quality management and engineering [15], [16]. In the literature, there are many types of academia-industry collaborations [17]–[20]. Bridging the gap between academia and industry is an important research endeavour, that can provide benefits for both parties. As such, this is explicitly mentioned in the documentation of EVOMASTER regarding how people can contribute².

In this paper, we report on the first year of this exchange between the developer team of EVOMASTER and QiNET at Volkswagen AG. The Volkswagen engineers evaluated EVOMASTER in an industrial setup which opened additional usage scenarios for the EVOMASTER team. We discuss all the technical details and features that have been implemented

¹<https://www.volkswagen.de>

²<https://github.com/WebFuzzing/EvoMaster/blob/master/docs/contribute.md>

- Wrote on the experience of applying EM at VW
- Features needed
- Open challenges

Challenges

- Lot of research in academia for better test generation strategies
- Cover larger parts of API code
- Find more faults (and fault types)
 - not all faults have same severity
- Test readability
 - testers still need to look at generated tests

Hmmmm... why not just using a LLM?

- Input: OpenAPI schema
- Output: test cases
- Can work, but poor results
- You would miss all information from the responses of API
- No way to tell if a test case has found a fault
- You must interact with the API

Conclusion

- Many success stories about fuzzing
- REST fuzzing (and partially GraphQL and RPC) is getting momentum
- *Several open-source tools are available, to try out, today!*
 - we are biased about EvoMaster, but Schemathesis and CATS are good alternatives

Q/A

Thanks!



linkedin.com/in/arcuri82/

Tools: on GitHub:

- **WebFuzzing/EvoMaster**
- schemathesis/schemathesis
- Endava/cats
- microsoft/restler-fuzzer