

Practical!

FUNCTIONAL  
PROGRAMMING

IN **RUBY**  
ON **RAILS**

# Overview

- What is a Service Layer?
- Railway Oriented Programming
- Creating Beautifully Composable Services

What is a

**SERVICE**

**LAYER**

?

What is a

**SERVICE**

??

~~LAYER~~



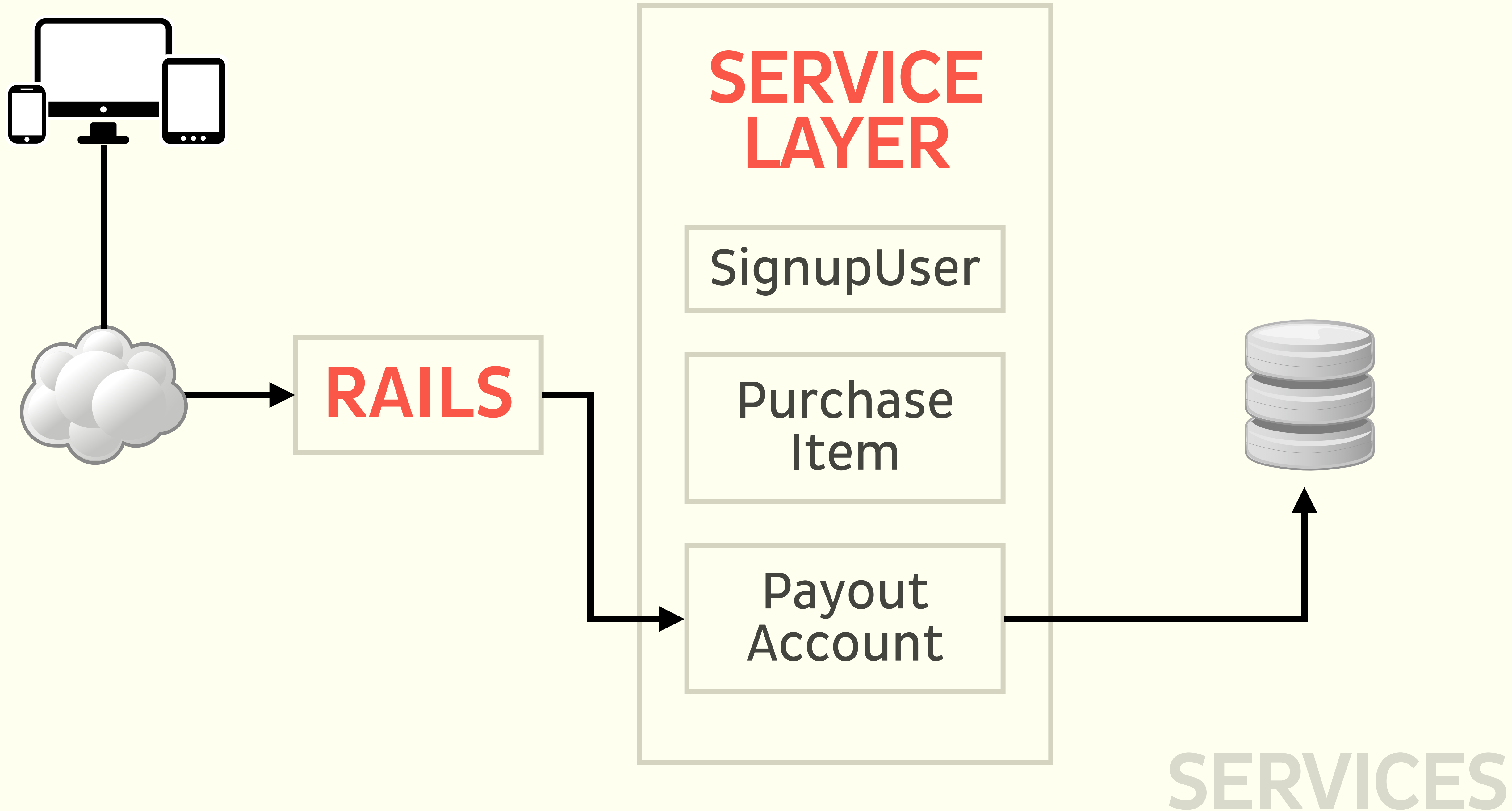


A Service is an **object**  
that represents a **process**.

A **process** is something you do.

- Typically initiated by the **user**
- Usually implemented as a **dedicated** class
- Named with **verbs**, not nouns
- **Examples:** SignupUser, PurchaseItem, etc.

SERVICES



## CODE EXAMPLE

# A Service in Rails

```
1 class PurchaseItem
2   def run(params)
3     item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
4     # Validation, db updates, etc...
5     return {
6       success?: true,
7       order: new_order
8     }
9   end
10 end
```

A Service

```
1 class OrdersController < ApplicationController
2   def create
3     result = PurchaseItem.new.run(params)
4     if result[:success?]
5       order = result[:order]
6       redirect_to order_path(order)
7     else
8       # Something went wrong
9     end
10  end
11 end
```

Usage in Controller

# SERVICES



# CODE EXAMPLE

## [Naive] Validations

```
1 class PurchaseItem
2   def run(params)
3     item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
4     # Validation, db updates, etc...
5     if item.nil?
6       return { :error => :item_does_not_exist }
7     end
8     order = Order.new(params[:order])
9     if !order.valid?
10      return { :error => :invalid_order,
11              :order => order }
12    end
13    # Etc.
14  end
15 end
```

A Service

```
1 def create
2   result = PurchaseItem.new.run(params)
3   if result[:success?]
4     # [clipped]
5   elsif result[:error] == :item_does_not_exist
6     # Strange error, is this a bot?
7   elsif result[:error] == :invalid_order
8     @order = result[:order]
9     render 'new'
10  end
11 end
```

Usage in Controller

# SERVICES

# Why a Service useful?

- It encapsulates **domain logic**
- It thins out your **models & controllers**
- It ties together cross-cutting concerns
- It makes your Rails app easier to **test**.

SERVICES

**A service layer is about clear separation.**

- Rails depends on the service layer
- The service layer knows nothing about Rails  
(routes, controllers, & views)
- Other things could depend on the service layer  
(REST API, web sockets, rake tasks, etc.)
- ActiveRecord is unavoidable, however.

SERVICES



**Kaoru Kohashigawa**

@DevKaoru



Follow

reduced one of our test times from  
1m 4s to 2.5s, testing outside of Rails  
#BOOM @mindeavor @MakerSquare  
thx for the lesson! #codejourney

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RETWEET FAVORITES

1

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6:05 PM - 12 Jul 2014

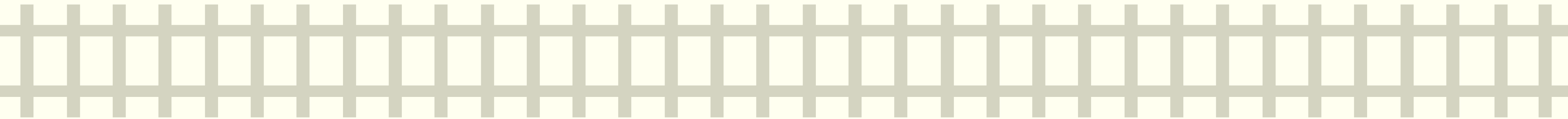
SERVICES

# Quick Recap

- A service is an object that represents a **process**
- Services encapsulate **domain logic** for specific processes
- No functional programming (yet).

SERVICES

# RAILWAY ORIENTED



# PROGRAMMING

<http://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/posts/recipe-part2/>

# Services: Another Perspective

A service is a sequence of steps

- They often involve a lot of setup
- Authentication, authorization, validation, etc.

Any one of these steps could fail

- How to handle failure??



## CODE EXAMPLE (REVISITED)

# Naive Validations

```
1 class PurchaseItem
2   def run(params)
3     item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
4     # Validation, db updates, etc...
5     if item.nil?
6       return { :error => :item_does_not_exist }
7     end
8     order = Order.new(params[:order])
9     if !order.valid?
10      return { :error => :invalid_order,
11              :order => order }
12    end
13    # Etc.
14  end
15 end
```

A Service

RAILWAY



Can we do **better**?

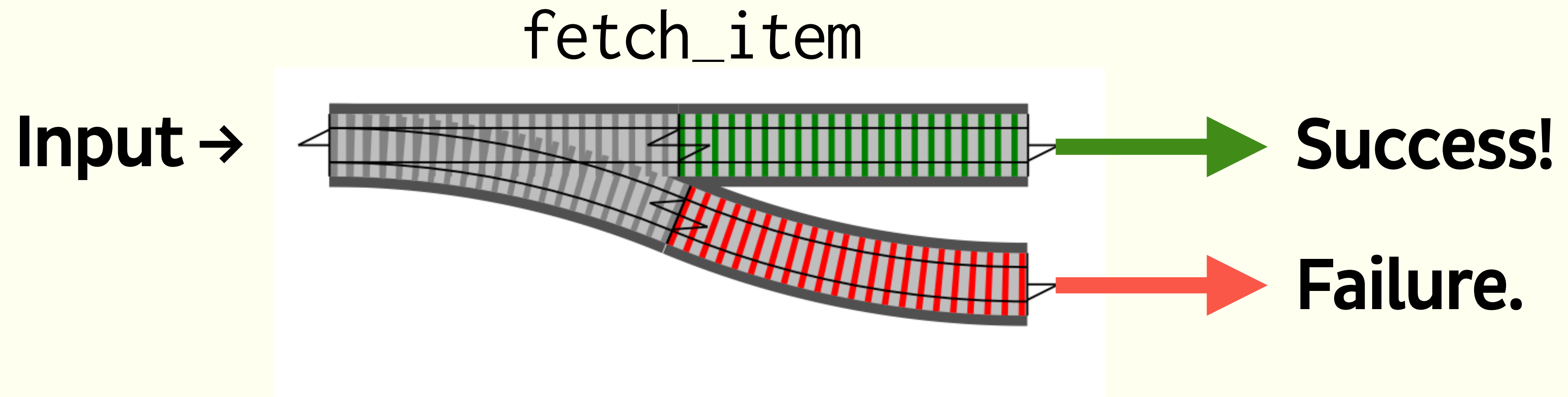
What if each step was an  
**independent method**?

How would each step  
**communicate**?

RAILWAY

# DIAGRAM

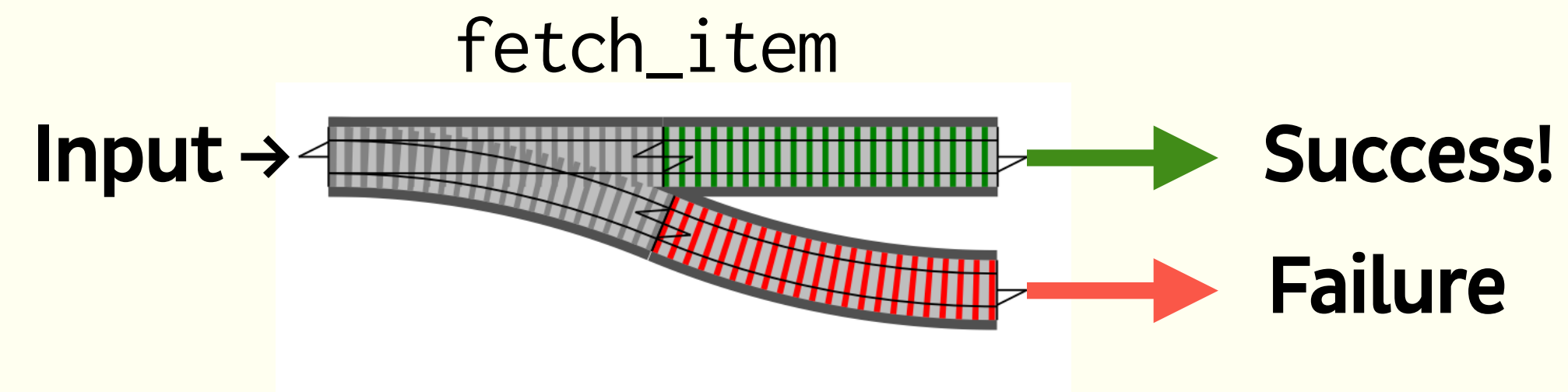
## The “Switch”



# CODE EXAMPLE

## The “Switch”

```
1 def fetch_item(params)
2   item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
3   if item.present?
4     params[:item] = item
5     Success.new(params)
6   else
7     Failure.new(:item_does_not_exist)
8   end
9 end
```



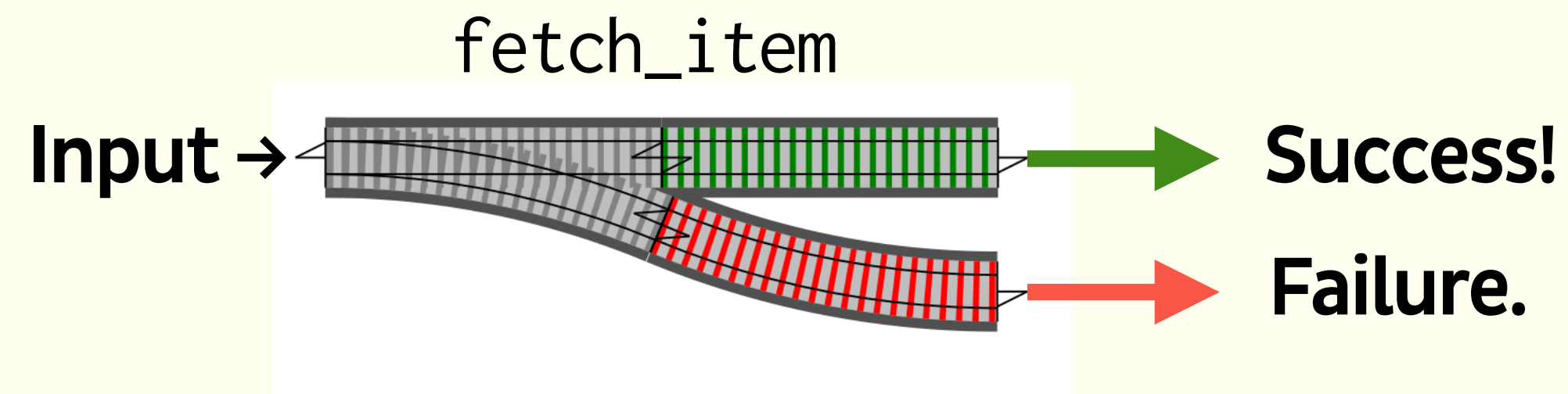
# CODE EXAMPLE

## The “Switch”

Success!

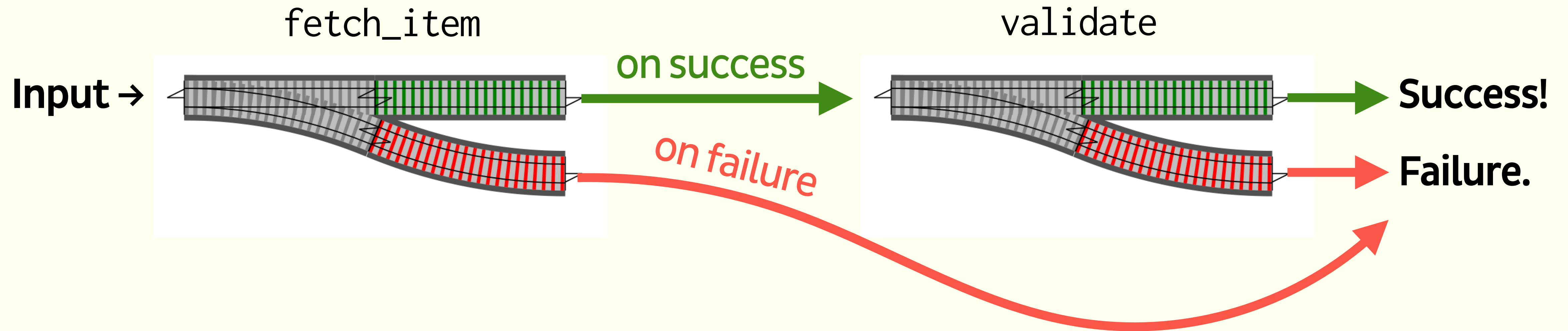
```
1 def fetch_item(params)
2   item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
3   if item.present?
4     params[:item] = item
5     Success.new(params)
6   else
7     Failure.new(:item_does_not_exist)
8   end
9 end
```

Failure.

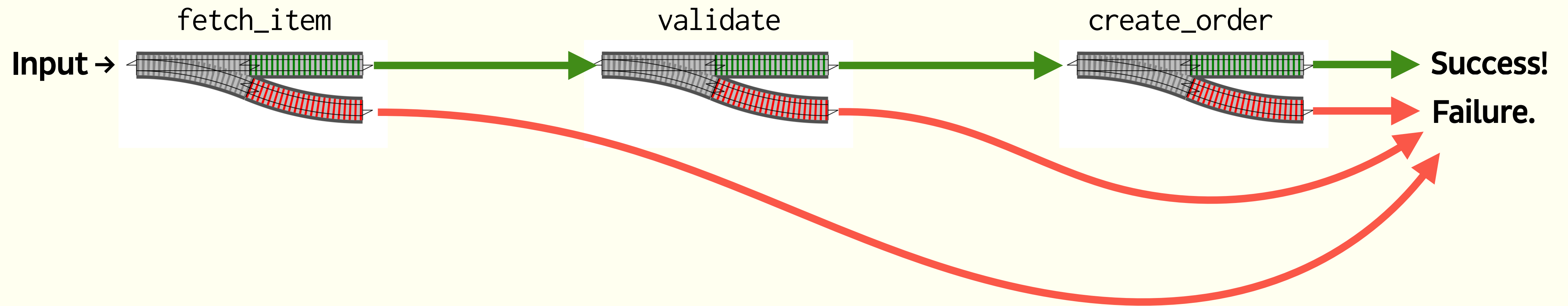


RAILWAY

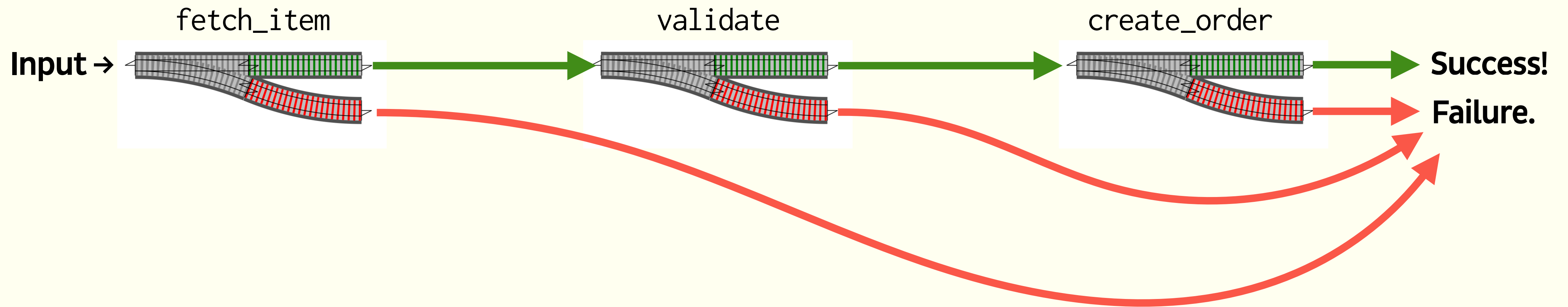
# Our Target Flow



# Our Target Flow

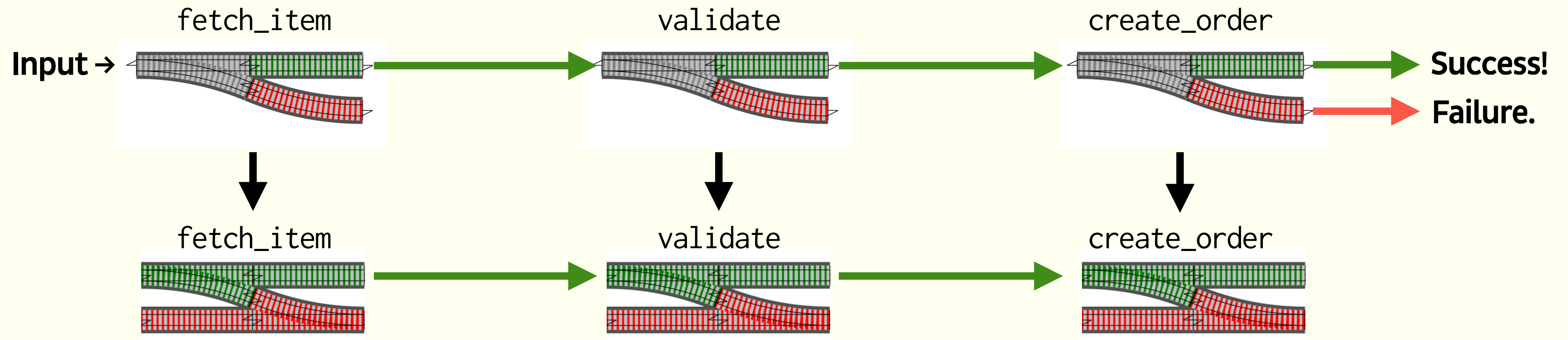


# Our Target Flow



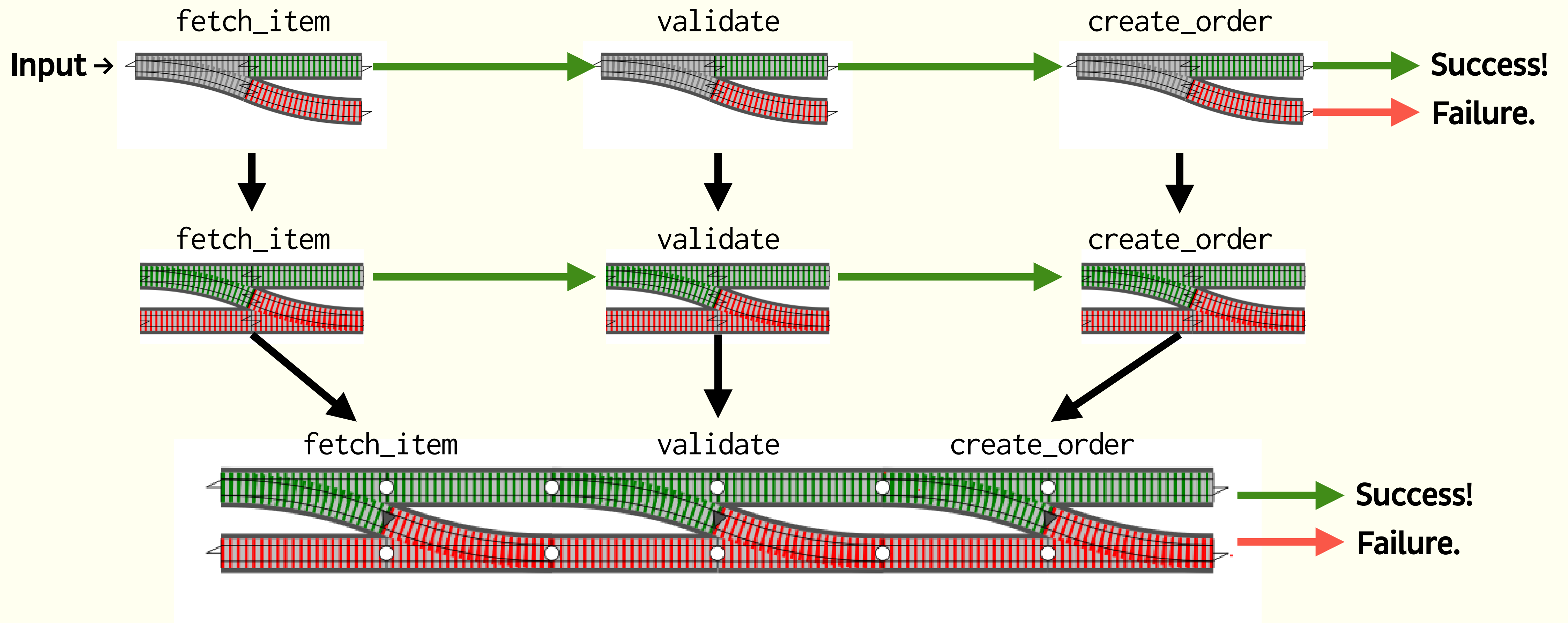
IT'D BE COOL IF WE COULD CONNECT THESE TOGETHER

# Connecting Switches





# Connecting Switches



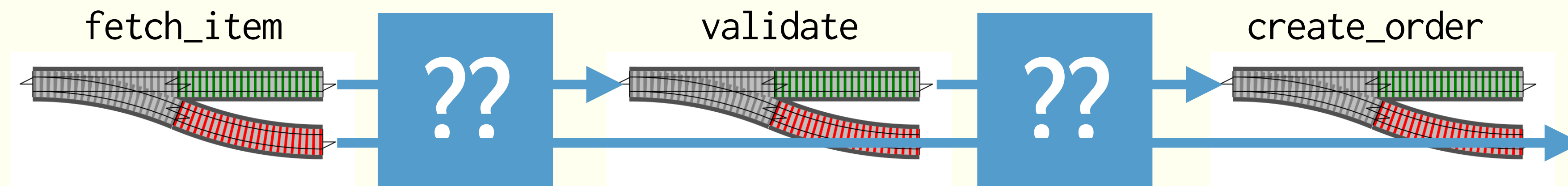
## CODE EXAMPLES

# Connecting Switches

```
1 def fetch_item(params)
2   item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
3   if item.present?
4     params[:item] = item
5     Success.new(params)
6   else
7     Failure.new(:item_does_not_exist)
8   end
9 end
```

```
1 def validate(params)
2   order = Order.new(params[:order])
3   if order.valid?
4     params[:order] = order
5     Success.new(params)
6   else
7     Failure.new(:invalid_order)
8   end
9 end
```

```
1 def create_order(params)
2   order = params[:order]
3   if order.save
4     Success.new(order)
5   else
6     Failure.new(:order_save_failed)
7   end
8 end
```

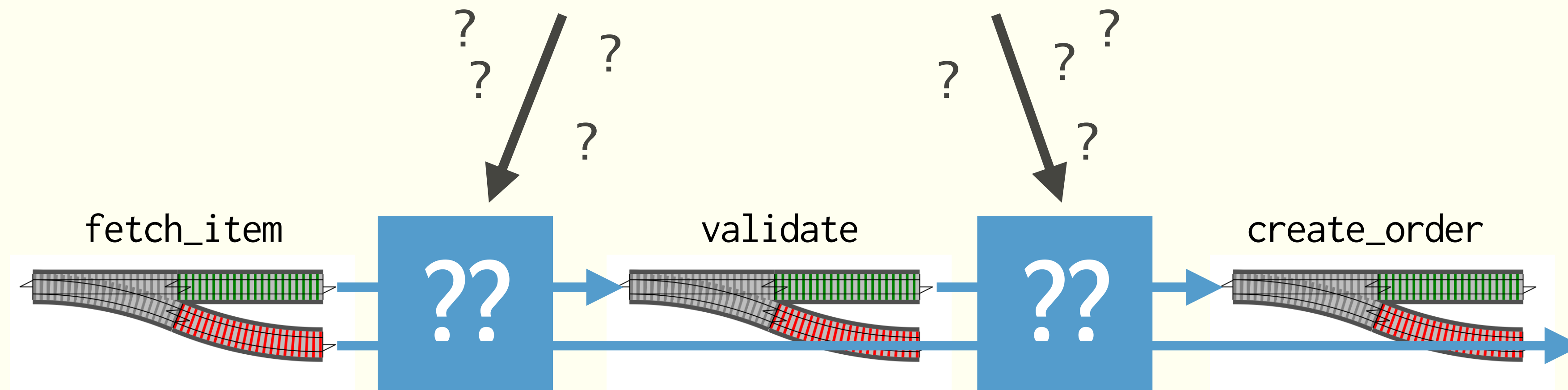


RAILWAY

## CODE EXAMPLES

# Connecting Switches

HOW DO WE CONNECT  
IT ALL TOGETHER?



Answer:

RAILWAY

Answer:



RAILWAY

Answer:



**IT DOESN'T MATTER!**

RAILWAY

Answer:



**IT DOESN'T MATTER!**

**:D**

RAILWAY

Answer:



**IT DOESN'T MATTER!**

**:D**

(actual answer: monads)

RAILWAY



```
1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate, :create_order
3
4   def fetch_item(params)
5     item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
6     if item.present?
7       params[:item] = item
8       continue(params)
9     else
10      fail :item_does_not_exist
11    end
12  end
13
14  def validate(params)
15    continue(params)
16  end
17  def create_order(params)
18    # etc.
19  end
20 end
```

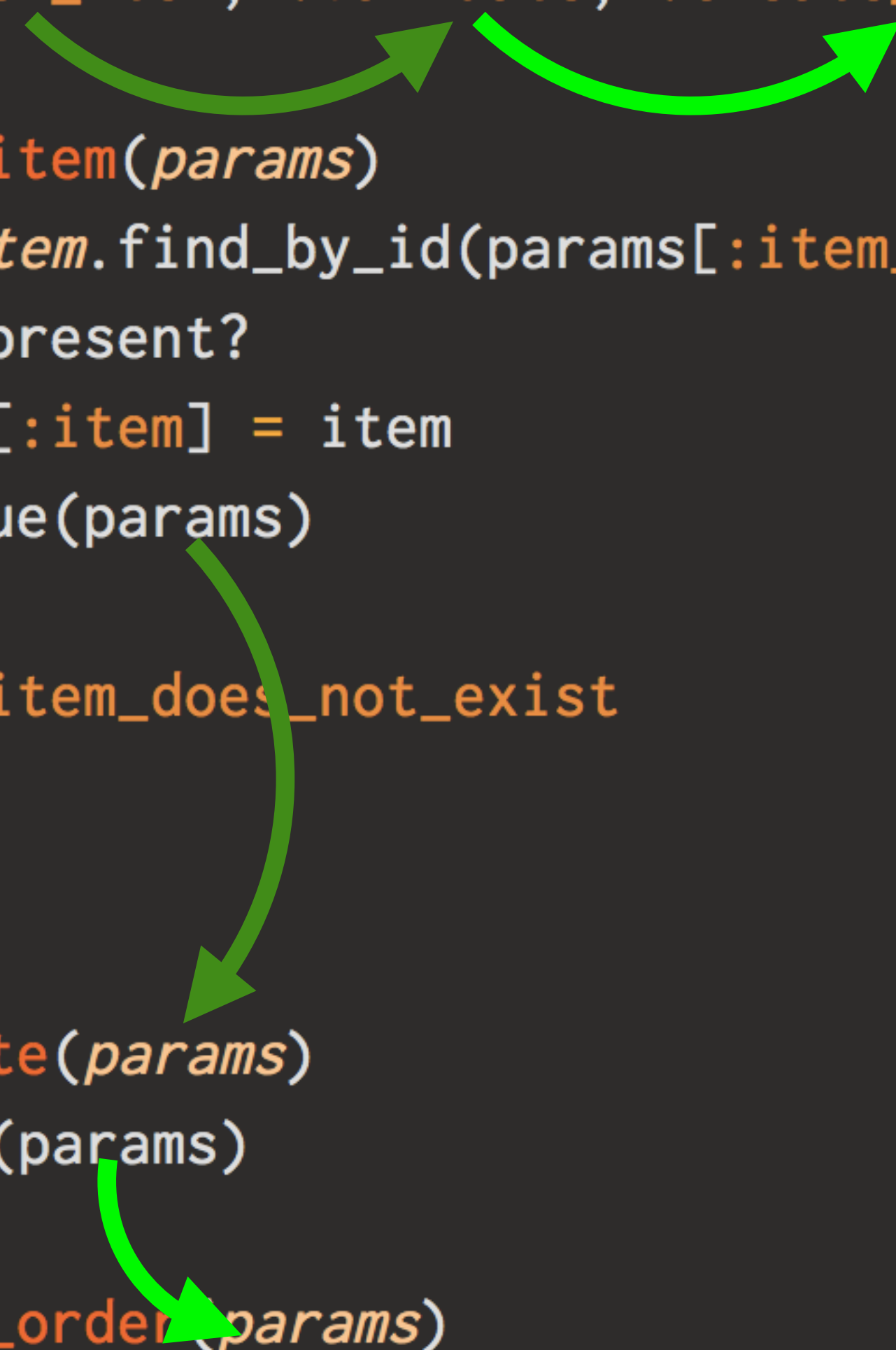
Doesn't matter.

# There's a gem for that!

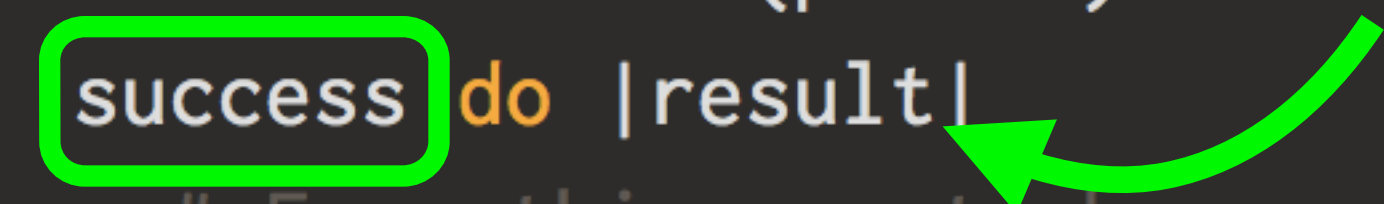
[github.com/mindeavor/solid\\_use\\_case](https://github.com/mindeavor/solid_use_case)

RAILWAY



```
1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate, :create_order
3
4   def fetch_item(params)
5     item = Item.find_by_id(params[:item_id])
6     if item.present?
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8       continue(params)
9     else
10      fail :item_does_not_exist
11    end
12  end
13
14  def validate(params)
15    continue(params)
16  end
17  def create_order(params)
18    # etc.
19  end
20 end
```



```
1 class OrdersController < ApplicationController
2
3   def create
4     PurchaseItem.run(params).match do
5       success do |result|
6         # Everything went ok.
7         redirect_to order_path(result.order)
8       end
9
10      # Pattern matching!
11      failure(:item_does_not_exist) do |error_data|
12      end
13      failure(:invalid_order) do |error_data|
14      end
15      # Catch-all
16      failure do |error|
17      end
18    end
19  end
20 end
```



```
1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate, :create_order
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4   def fetch_item(params)
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11    end
12  end
13
14  def validate(params)
15    continue(params)
16  end
17  def create_order(params)
18    # etc.
19  end
20 end
```



What about

# Handling failures?

[github.com/mindeavor/solid\\_use\\_case](https://github.com/mindeavor/solid_use_case)

RAILWAY



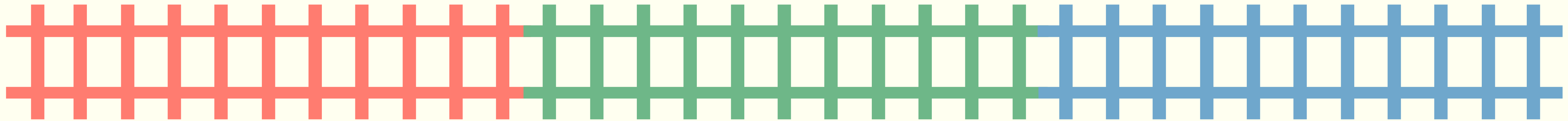
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1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate, :create_order
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4   def fetch_item(params)
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8       continue(params)
9     else
10      fail :item_does_not_exist
11    end
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14  def validate(params)
15    continue(params)
16  end
17  def create_order(params)
18    # etc.
19  end
20 end
```

```
1 class OrdersController < ApplicationController
2
3   def create
4     PurchaseItem.run(params).match do
5       success do |result|
6         # Everything went ok.
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9
10      # Pattern matching!
11      failure(:item_does_not_exist) do |error_data|
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13      failure(:invalid_order) do |error_data|
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15      # Catch-all
16      failure do |error|
17      end
18
19    end
20  end
```

# Quick Recap

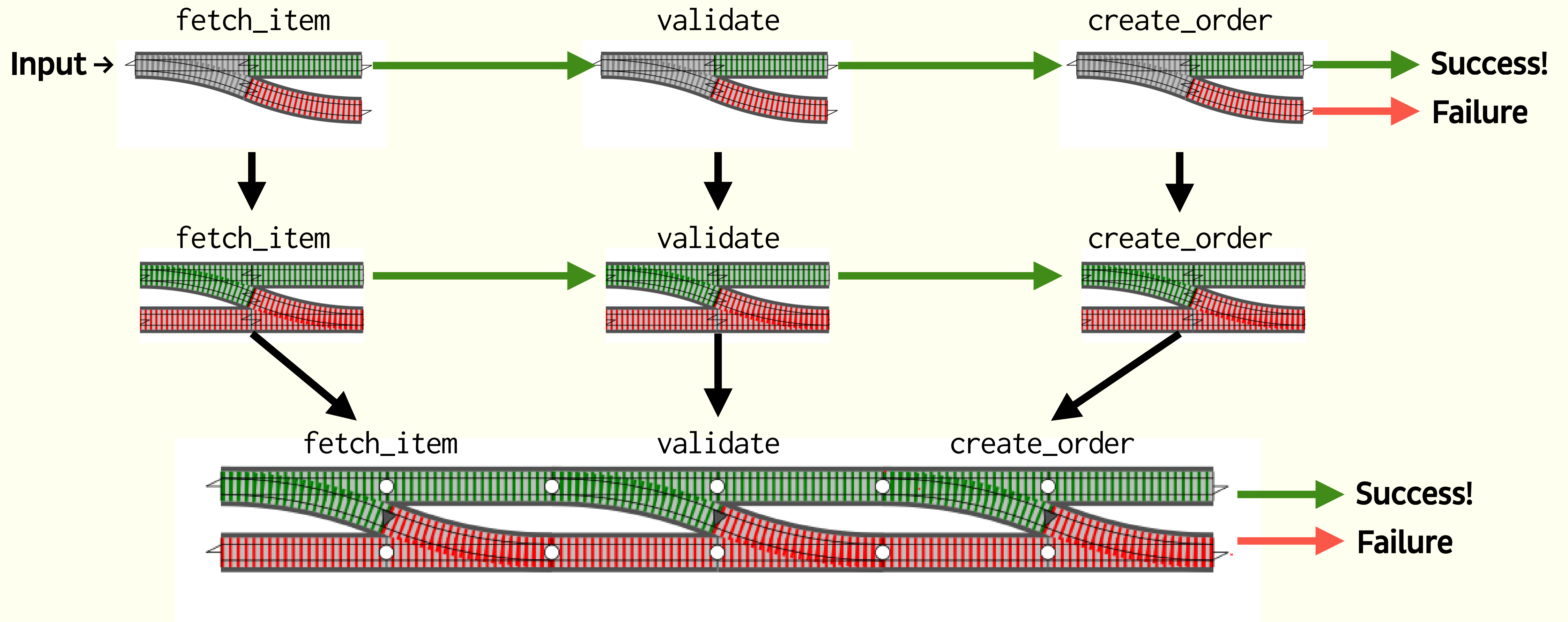
- Split steps into methods
- Return a success or failure in each one
- Elegant (with gem) error handling!
- Steps can be tested **independently**

# COMPOSING SERVICES

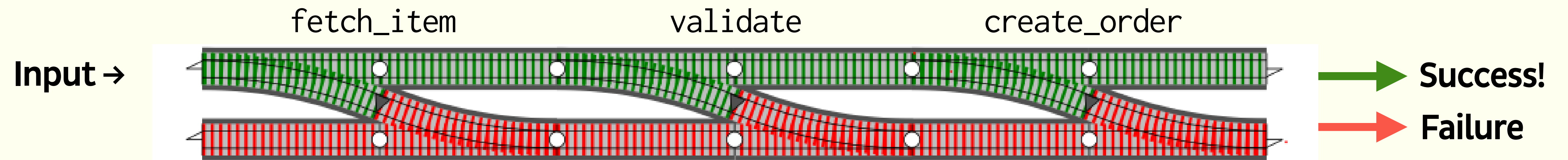


FOR MAXIMUM COOLNESS

# Remember This?



# What if we treat it like a single thing...





# What if we treat it like a single thing...



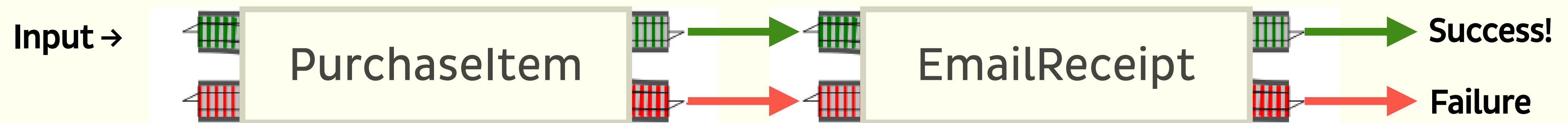
# What if we treat it like a single thing...



...and then connect it to other things??



...and then connect it to other things??



## CODE EXAMPLE

# Service Composition

```
1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate,
3         :create_order, EmailReceipt
4
5   def fetch_item(params)
6     # [clipped]
7   end
8   def validate(params)
9     # [clipped]
10  end
11  def create_order(params)
12    # [clipped]
13  end
14 end
```

COMPOSE

## CODE EXAMPLE

# Service Composition

```
1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate,
3         :create_order, EmailReceipt
4
5   def fetch_item(params)
6     # [clipped]
7   end
8   def validate(params)
9     # [clipped]
10  end
11  def create_order(params)
12    # [clipped]
13  end
14 end
```

Another  
Service!



# COMPOSE

## CODE EXAMPLE

# Service Composition

Another  
Service!

```
1 class PurchaseItem < SolidUseCase::Base
2   steps :fetch_item, :validate,
3         :create_order, EmailReceipt
4
5   def fetch_item(params)
6     # [clipped]
7   end
8   def validate(params)
9     # [clipped]
10  end
11  def create_order(params)
12    # [clipped]
13  end
14 end
```

# COMPOSE

# Recap

- We can compose services like we can steps  
(in fact we can compose anything that returns our success or failure)
- Functional programming rocks!

COMPOSE



# Conclusion

- Service layers are great for apps more complex than CRUD
- Railway oriented programming is great for seamless error handling
- Functional programming gives us composable services!

**In the end,  
don't take my word for it.**

**TRY IT YOURSELF!**

Hurrah!

Thanks!

- Gilbert (@mindeavor)

THE  
END.

# Further Reading

- <http://martinfowler.com/eaCatalog/serviceLayer.html>
- <https://gist.github.com/blaix/5764401>
- <http://fsharpforfunandprofit.com/posts/recipe-part2/>
- **The gem:** [https://github.com/mindeavor/solid\\_use\\_case](https://github.com/mindeavor/solid_use_case)