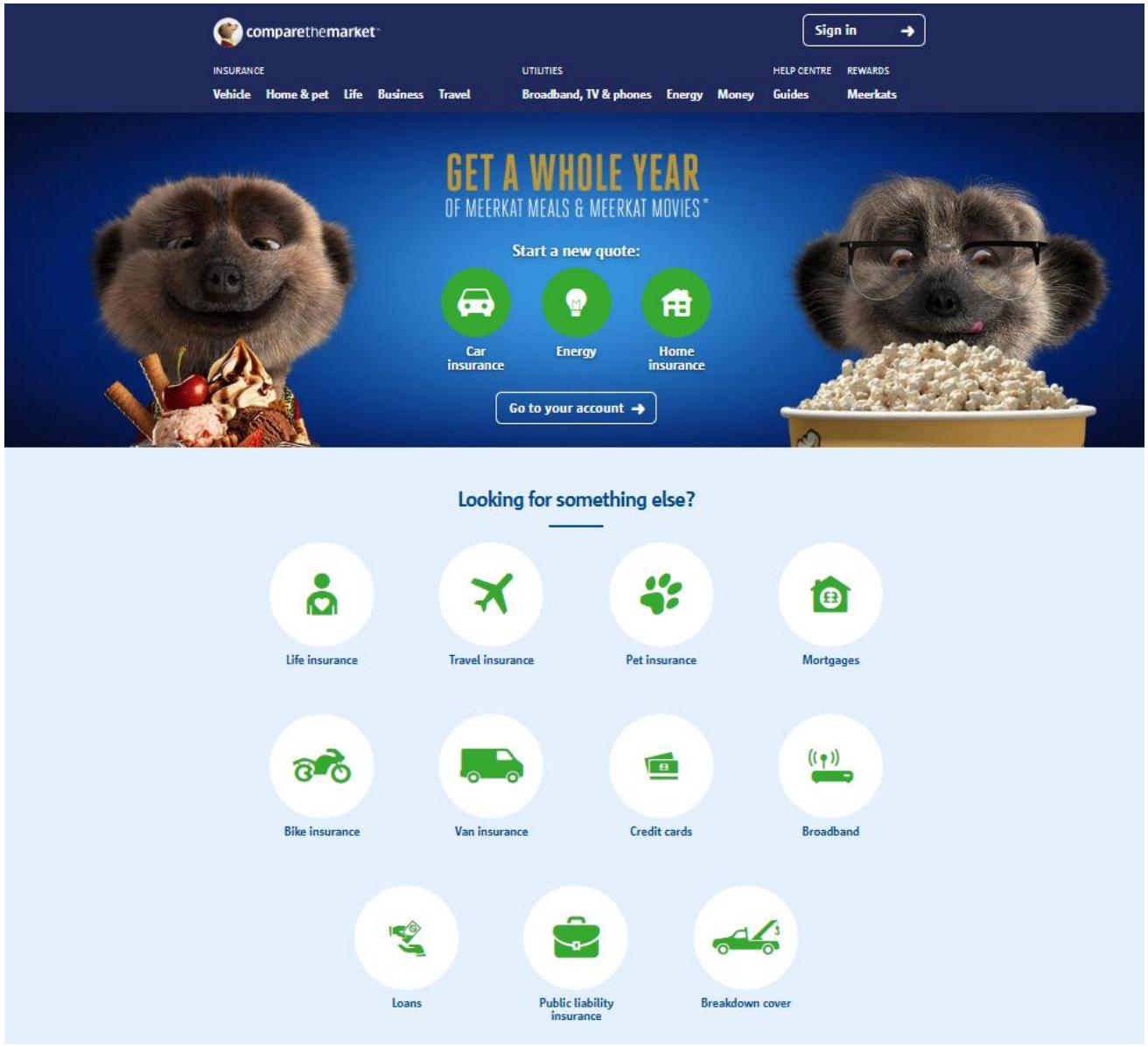

• Why microservices?
• Essence of microservices
• Refactoring microservice-based architectures
• Concluding remarks
• Case studies
• comparethemarket.com



UK’s most popular (insurance) price comparison website

comparethemarket.com

comparethemarket.com

- *Price comparison web site, various product verticals*
- *Initially one team, one system*
- *Rapid growth of customer numbers and staff*
- *Change*
  - *from monolith architecture to microservices with single responsibility*
  - *from relational DB (point of contention, changes breaking other teams'apps) to Docker-based approach with mongoDB EE*
- *Achievement*
  - *ability to change quickly to catch new consumer trends and tech adoption trends*

comparethemarket.com

- Issues of monolith
  - coordinate releases amongst teams
  - long feature cycles
  - changes negatively impacting other product teams
  - not being able to expose their functionality for partners through APIs
  - inability to scale a single database with 200+ tables and a single point of failure any other way but vertically
- Solution

  Change the layout of the internal teams from groups of specialists (UI, DBA, MW) to **autonomous product teams** that could change what was theirs through **microservices**, a set of smaller applications chained together instead of a single, master application

The pros and cons of microservices: Lessons learned as Comparethemarket.com moves away from a single, monolithic application. ComputerWorldUK. June 2016.

Benefits

1 More manageable

"By taking a single complicated thing and breaking it into smaller things, they become easier to reason about." (Unix design philosophy)

2. Flexible tech stack

"We haven't had to commit to a tech stack, we use the right tools for the problem e.g. if we have a machine learning problem we use Python as there is a wealth of open source libraries we can make use of. If we just want to do a restful API we use Node.js."

3. Reduced cost of failure

"Big services tend fail in a big way. If your monolithic application isn't working you aren't making money. In a microservice world if a service stops working it doesn't take down the entire businesses ability to make money. It drives innovation and shortens the build, measure, learn cycle so people feel more empowered to experiment and it is freeing to build things that don't have to last ten years."

4. More specialized

"You can use microservices to specialise what you do. So if you have customer data you can put that into a single microservice, wrap that in layers of additional security and not burden the rest of your services with that same constraint. In a monolithic world there needs to be that highest common denominator."

5. Independence

"Teams can have their own backlog of change and scale and release independently which allows the organisation as a whole to move faster."

Drawbacks

1. Complexity

"By splitting one large thing into small bits you end up having more bits."

2. Disparate data sources

"You end up with many data sources and so how do you deal with that data?"

3. Creating a distributed monolith

"You have to put some effort into design upfront. Just taking a monolith and breaking it into microservices won't cut it if those bits were tightly coupled to start with, you will just end up with tightly coupled microservices, which is a distributed monolith, which is the worst of all worlds."

To minimise these drawbacks:

- **investment in automation**

  ”Trying to realise **continuous delivery** by making releases reliable and repeatable and the whole process a non-event, rather than a 4am in the morning cold sweat process.”

- **ensure that all monitoring and alerting frameworks looked the same**

  “all of our microservices emit a standard set of metrics for latency, throughput etc. All of these metrics have a standardised threshold.”

- **realistic approach to faults and failures**

  “by accepting the fact that computers break and networks fail we have focused on becoming fault tolerant.”

  if a non-critical dependency goes down a service will still **respond in a degraded form**

  if the failure is a critical dependency like the database, it **fails fast** “so that the client doesn’t expend lots of resources waiting for a response that doesn’t come back”

- **data management**

  “Each microservice emits data in the form of a JSON object. This gives us a real-time view of what is happening across our estate and is scalable.”

  “Each microservice has a private data store so no one else relies on the structure of the data which aligns with the Mongo no-schema metadata approach. The **team can change the structure of the data in that store without having to coordinate**.”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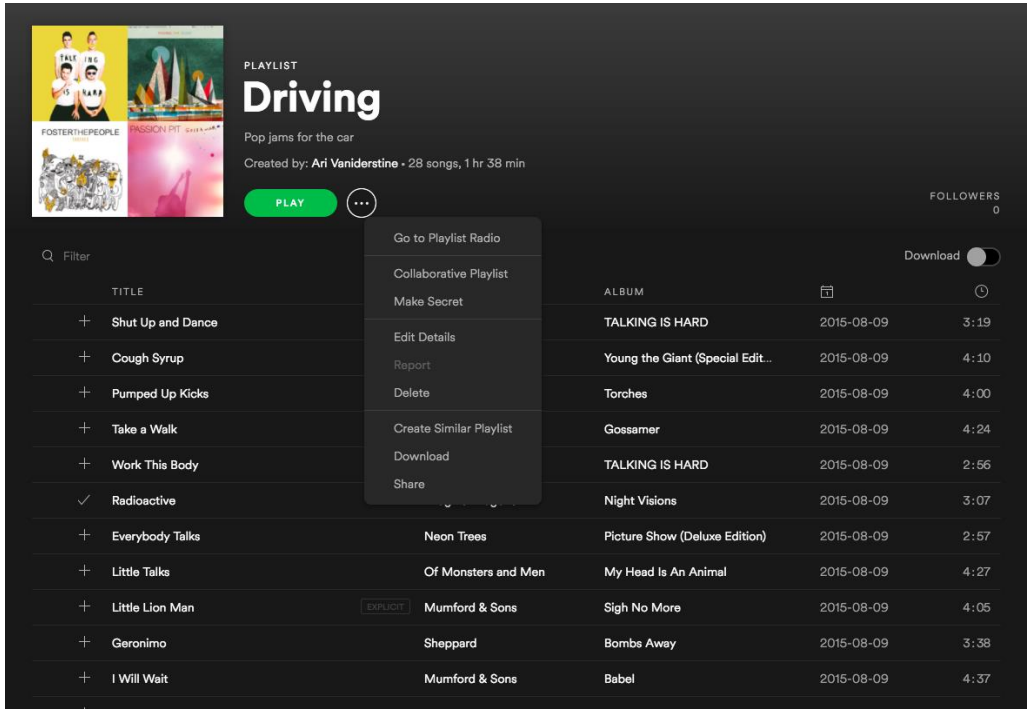
• Spotify


Spotify®


21:40
Artist, song or playlist
Charts
New Releases
Radio
Videos
Podcasts
Discover
Concerts
Pop
Rolling In The Deep • Adele
Devices Available
Home
Search
Your Library


PLAYLIST
Driving
Pop jams for the car
Created by: Ari Vanderstine • 28 songs, 1 hr 38 min
PLAY
FOLLOWERS
0
Filter
Download
Go to Playlist Radio
Collaborative Playlist
Make Secret
Edit Details
Report
Delete
Create Similar Playlist
Download
Share
TITLE
ALBUM
Shut Up and Dance
TALKING IS HARD
2015-08-09
3:19
Cough Syrup
Young the Giant (Special Edit...
2015-08-09
4:10
Pumped Up Kicks
Torches
2015-08-09
4:00
Take a Walk
Gossamer
2015-08-09
4:24
Work This Body
TALKING IS HARD
2015-08-09
2:56
Radioactive
Night Visions
2015-08-09
3:07
Everybody Talks
Neon Trees
Picture Show (Deluxe Edition)
2015-08-09
2:57
Little Talks
Of Monsters and Men
My Head Is An Animal
2015-08-09
4:27
Little Lion Man
EXPLICIT
Mumford & Sons
Sigh No More
2015-08-09
4:05
Geronimo
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Bombs Away
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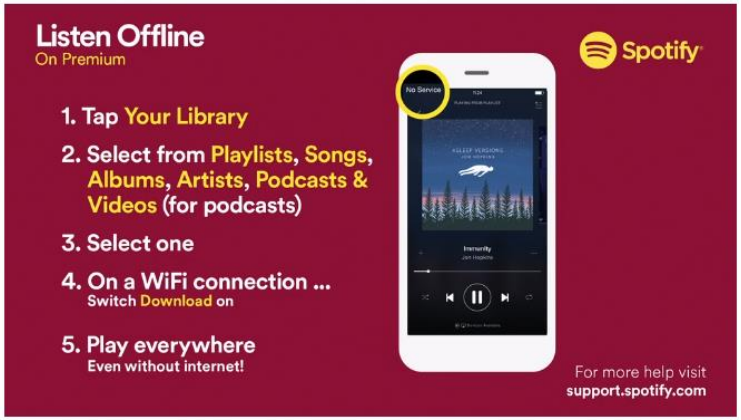
3:38
I Will Wait
Mumford & Sons
Babel
2015-08-09
4:37


Listen Offline
On Premium
Spotify
1. Tap Your Library
2. Select from Playlists, Songs, Albums, Artists, Podcasts & Videos (for podcasts)
3. Select one
4. On a WiFi connection ...
Switch Download on
5. Play everywhere
Even without internet!
No Service
For more help visit
support.spotify.com

Some requirements

- Scale to **millions of users**
- Support **multiple platforms**
  - Web, mobiles, laptops, embedded devices, game platforms, …
- Handle **complex business rules**
- **Be competitive** in a fast moving market
  - React quickly
  - Innovate

K. Goldsmith. Microservices at Spotify. GOTO 2015.

Some numbers

- 75M+ Monthly Active Users
  - Long user sessions (average 23 mins), white noise all night
- 58 countries
- >20K songs added per day
- >2B user-generated playlists (+ 75M playlists created by Spotify)
- Incredibly complex business rules
  - choice of which version of track is served depends on business rules
  - different licensing agreements & contracts across different countries and labels
- Lots of competition

How do you support these requirements while moving fast and innovating?

Solution

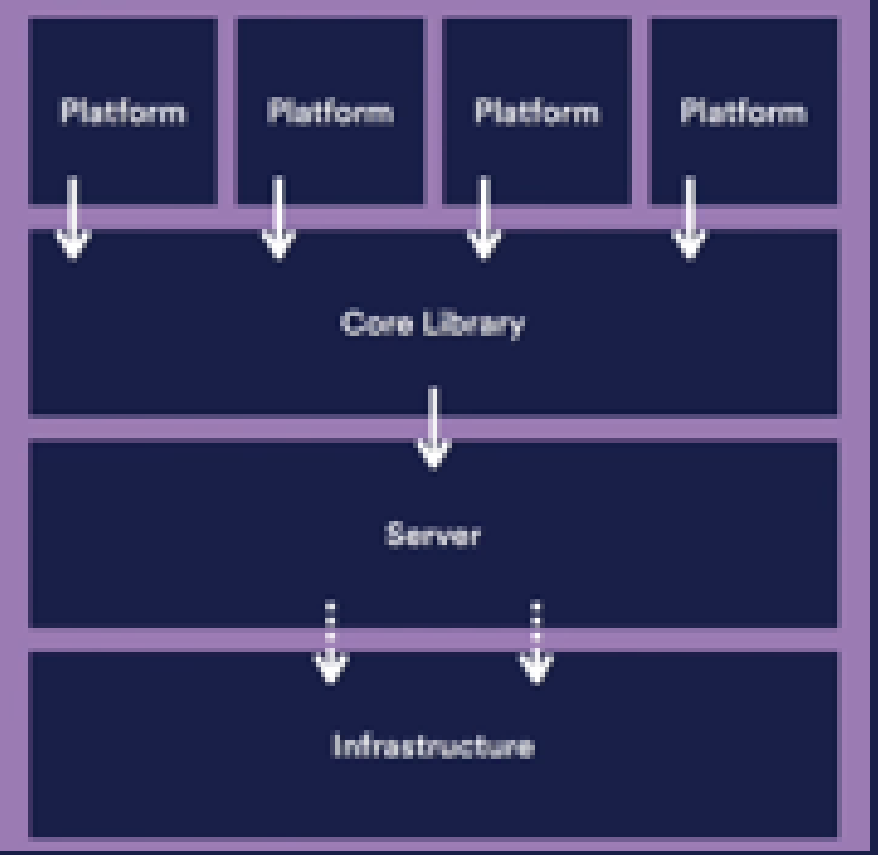
Autonomous full-stack teams

Autonomous

adjective
au·ton·o·mous - \ȯ-ˈtä-nə-məs\

(of a country or region) having the freedom to govern itself or control its own affairs.
"the federation included sixteen autonomous republics"

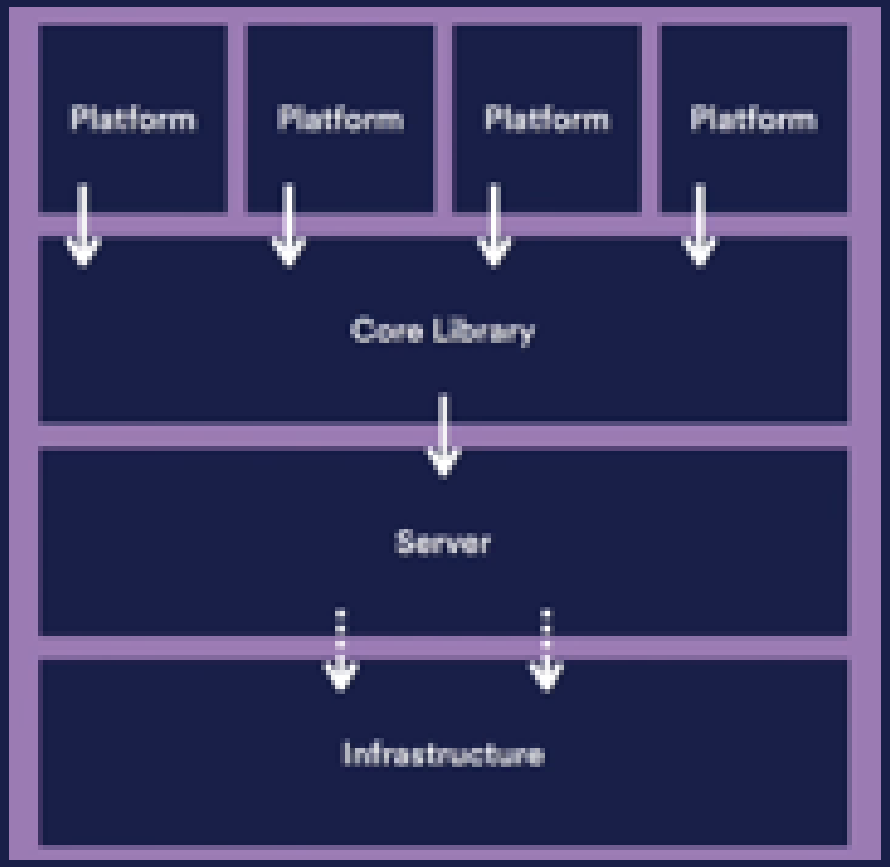
having the freedom to act independently.
"school governors are legally autonomous"
synonyms: *self-governing, independent, sovereign, free, self-ruling, self-determining, autarchic; self-sufficient*
"an autonomous republic"

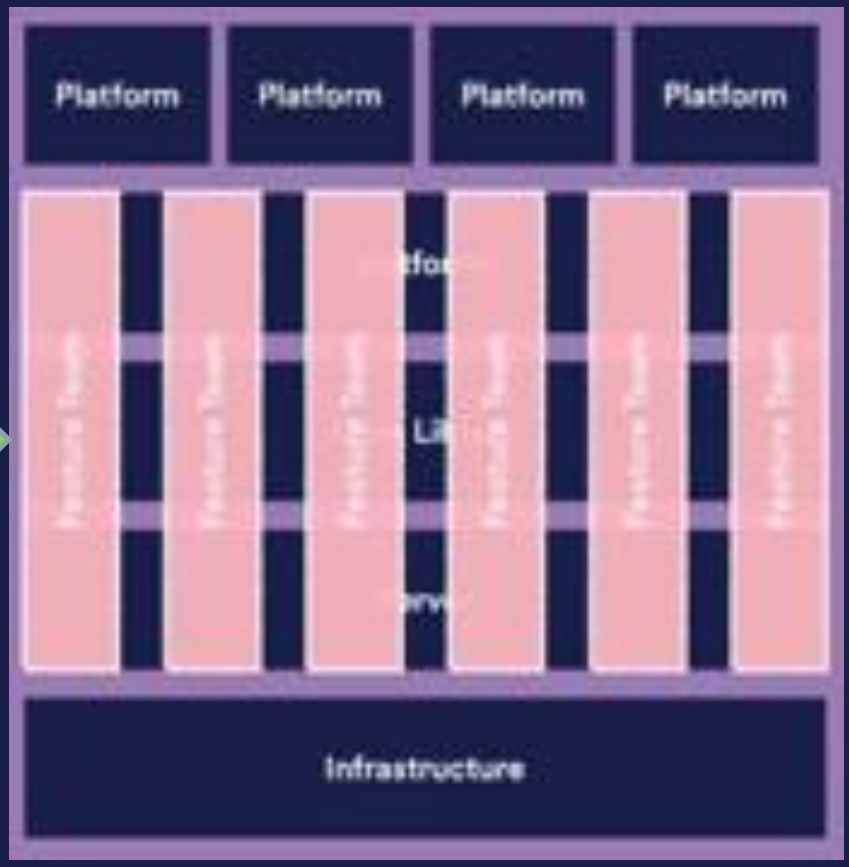


- Standard way of building connected apps
- «Horizontal» teams
- Hard to build new feature: lots of asking to other teams

Client UX implementation *depends on*
Core Library implementation *depends on*
Server implementation *depends on*
Infrastructure implementation

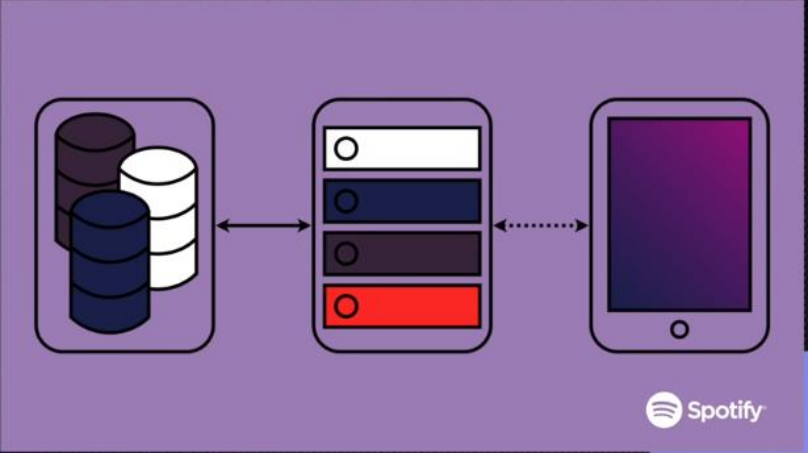
Full–stack autonomous teams

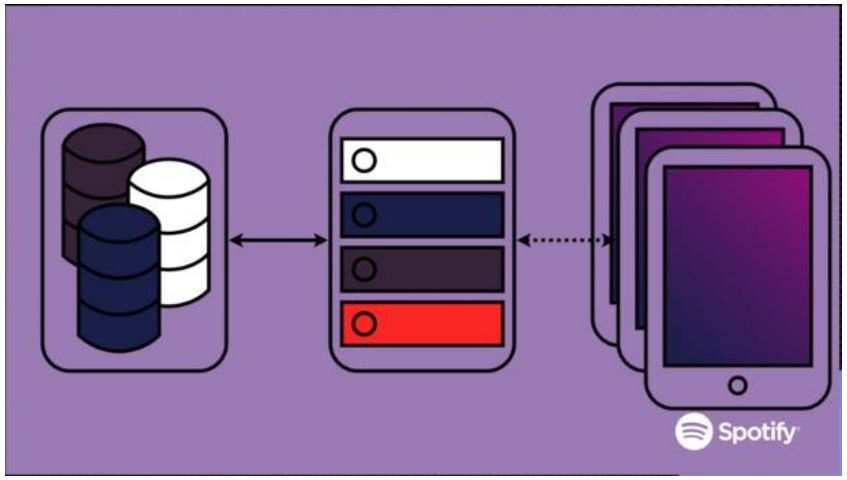




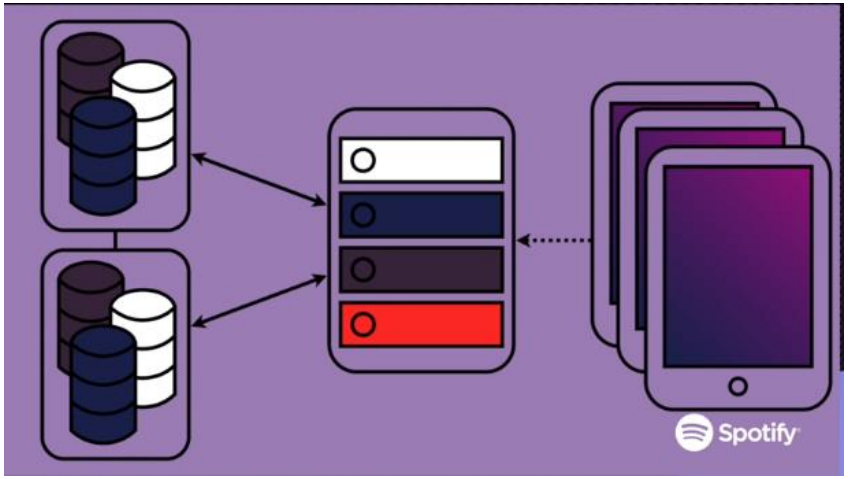
Full-stack autonomous teams

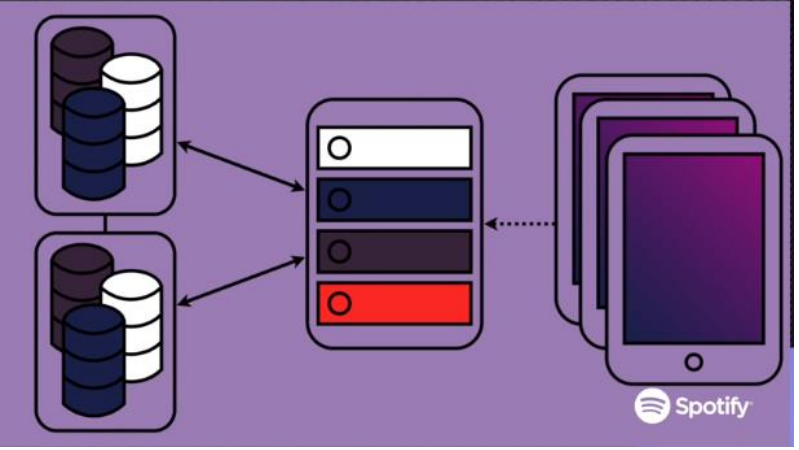
Requires you to structure your application in loosely coupled parts

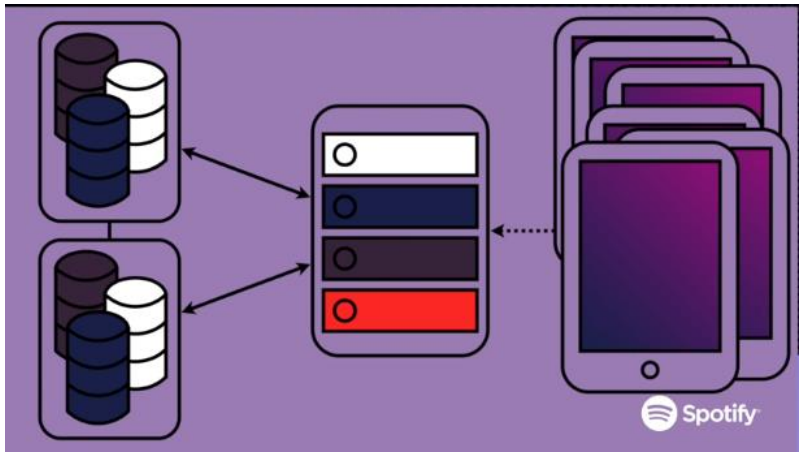




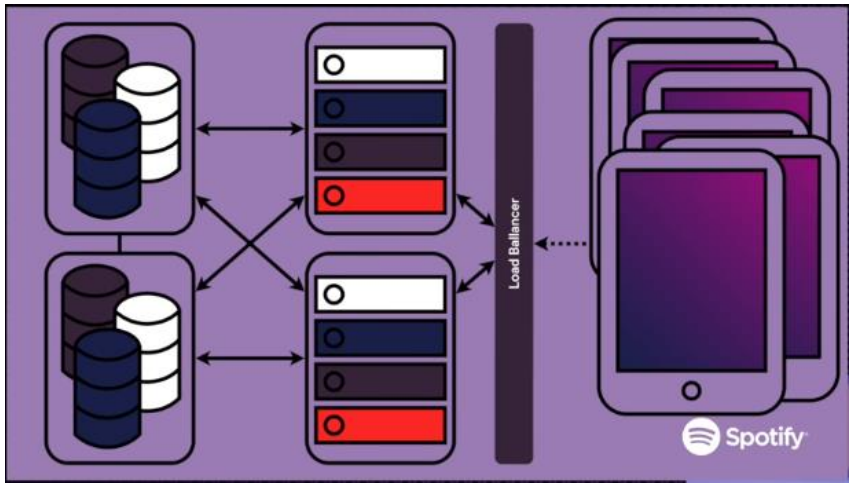
Datastore slow …





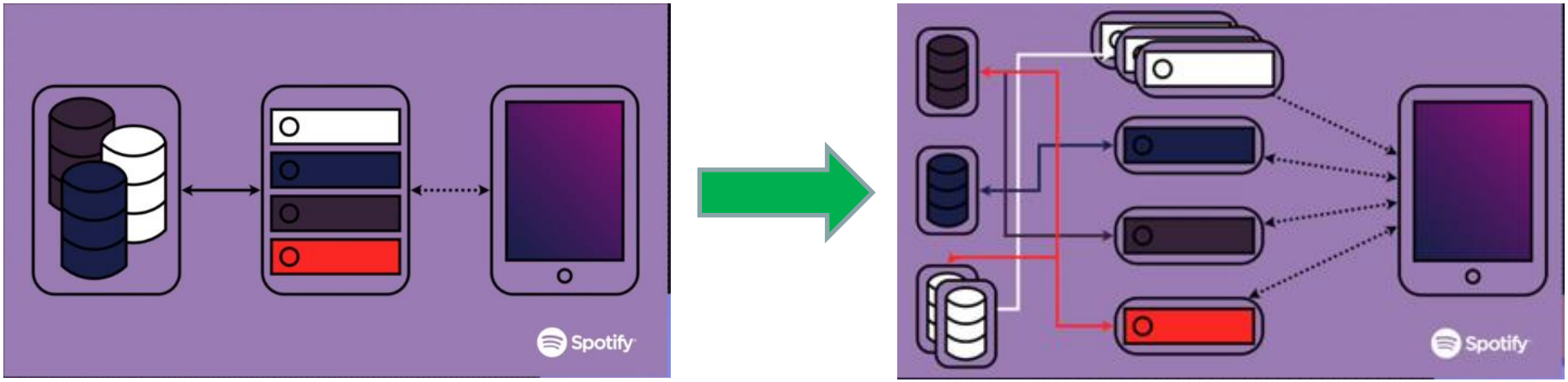


Server is slow …



Scaling?

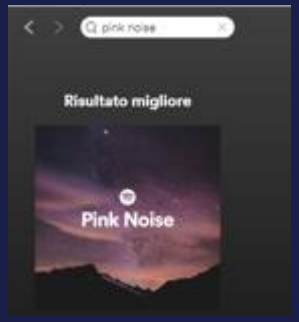
Changing?


Spotify
Spotify

Microservices yay!

- **Easier to scale** based on real-world bottlenecks
- **Easier to test**
- **Easier to deploy**
- **Easier to monitor**
- Can be **versioned independently**
- Are **less susceptible to large failures**

Crucial for embedded devices.
Manufacturers will not update device ever, lamp will always use (old) API version



Users do no realize if «suggest service» fails

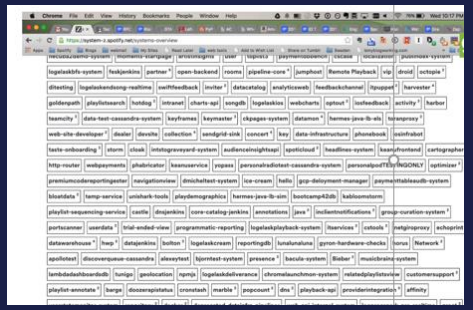
Microservices boo!

- Are harder to monitor

  Thousands of instances running together

- Need good documentation / discovery tools

  Many services named by developers out of context



- Create increased latency

  Lots of services calling other services

Netflix view aggregation model

- Microservices for years now
- Production environment running in Spotify DCs (test environments run on AWS)
- Super happy of architecture
  - great for **scaling**
  - great for **rewriting** when needed
  - developers **deploying** by themselves whenever they want to

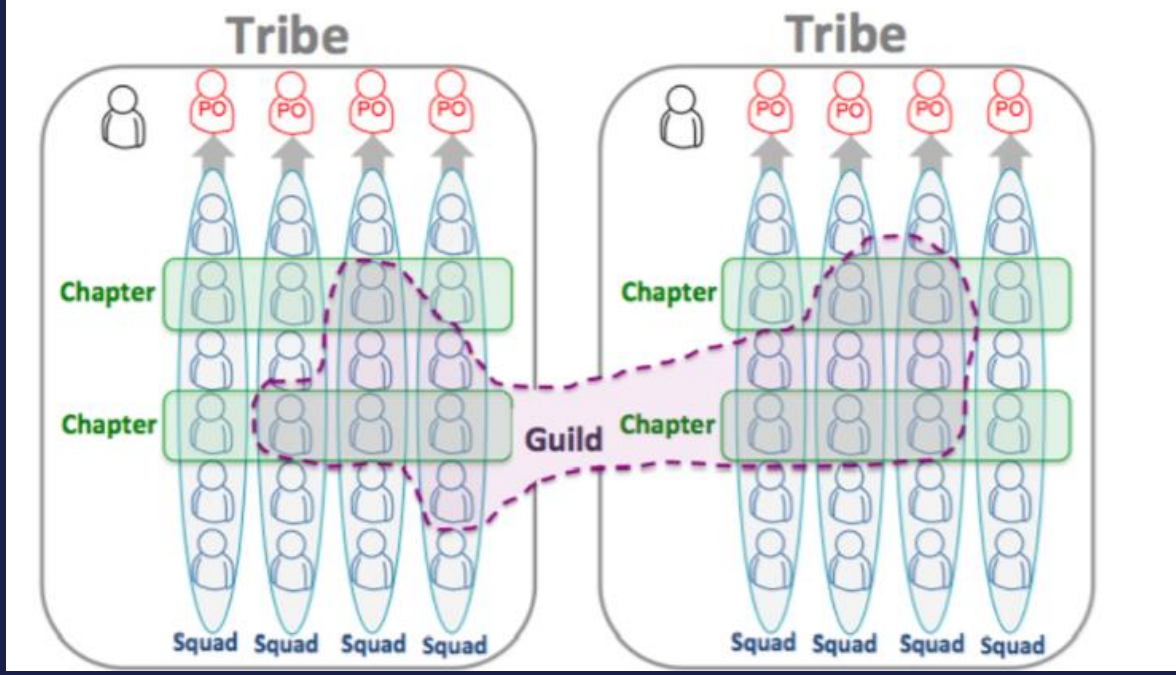
Some numbers

- 90+ teams (squads)
- 600+ developers
- 5 development offices in 2 continents
- 1 product!

- 810 active services
- ~10 services per squad

Q: «squads»?

A: Agile team organization …

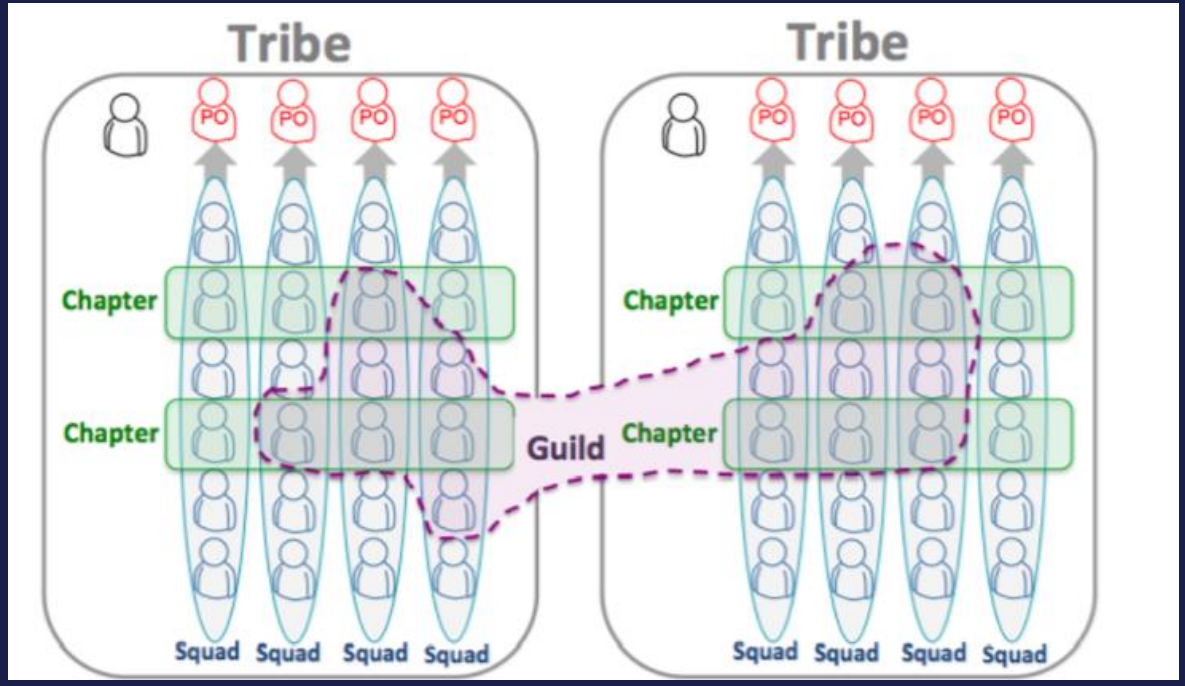


A **squad** has a dedicated Product Owner who feeds user stories to build. Squads have all the skills and tools needed to design, develop, test and release to production, being an autonomous, self-organising team, experts in their product area.

A **tribe** is a collection of squads within the same business area (e.g., mobile). The squads within a tribe sit in the same area. Spotify implements shared lounges to create inter-squad interaction, and regular informal team events and get together where squads share what they are working on. Tribe Leader is responsible for providing the right environment for all the squads.

Chapters are team members working within a special area (e.g., front office developers, back office developers, database admins, testers). Chapter members exchange ideas to promote innovation and 'cross pollination' across teams.

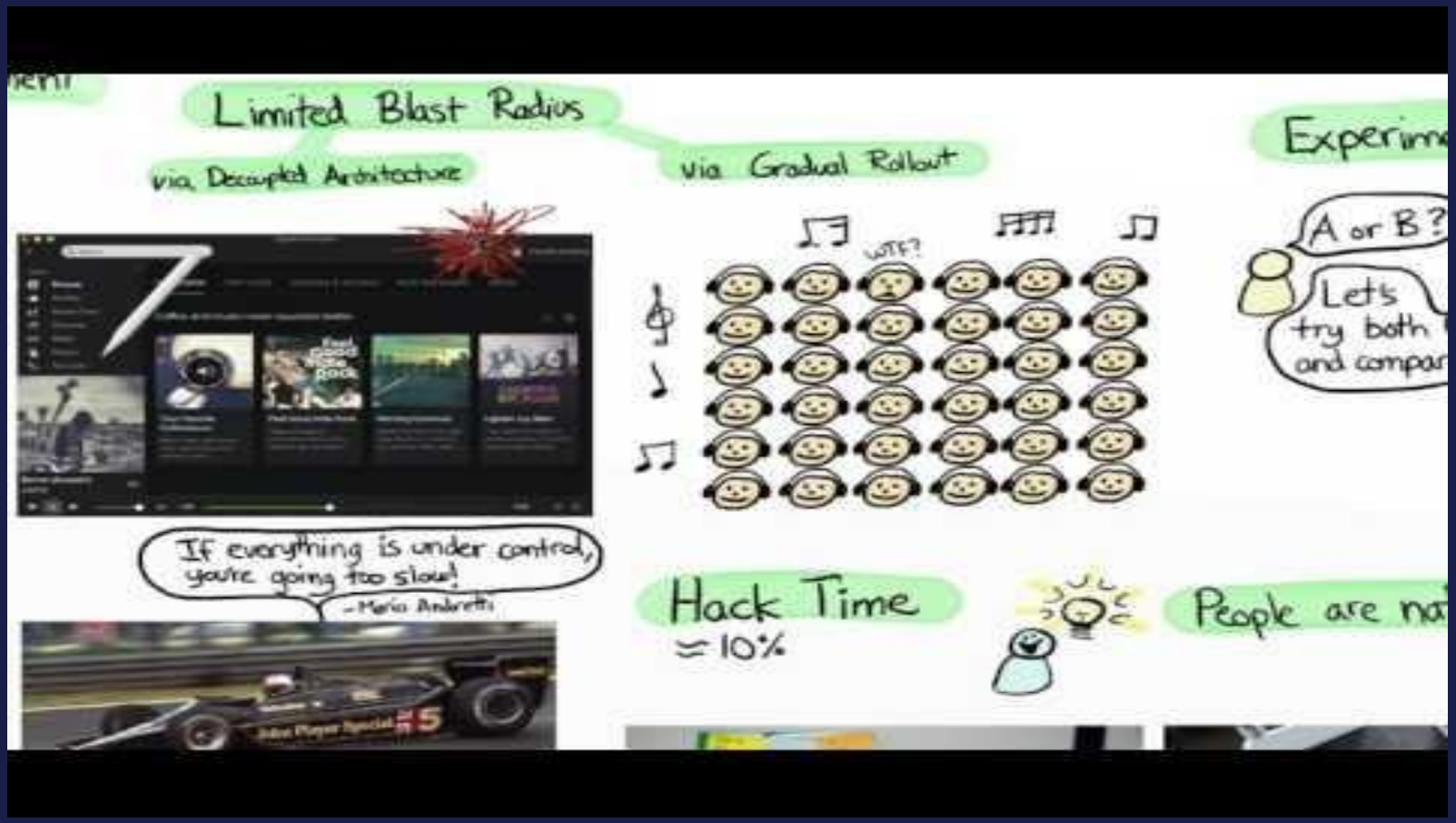
A **guild** is a community of members across the organization with shared interests (e.g., web technology, test automation), who want to share knowledge, tools code and practices.



Q: How is code reviewing performed at Spotify?

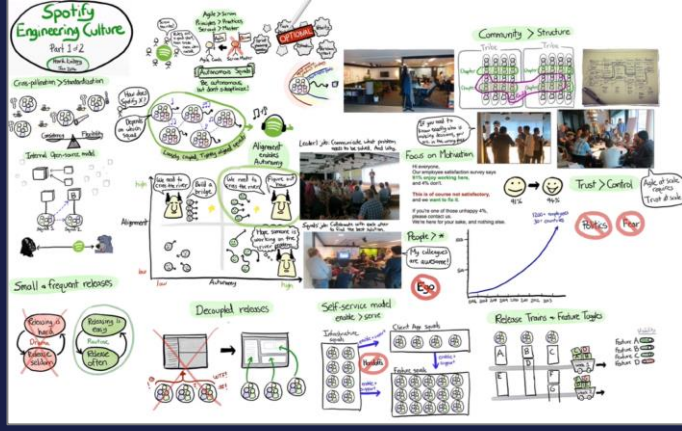
A: Chapters (sometimes guilds) do code reviews for squads.
Two «+1» required to merge.

Spotify engineering culture



[Part I]

- Agile principles
  - Loosely coupled, tightly aligned squads
  - Cros- pollination
  - Internal open-source model for code
  - Frequent releases, enabled by decoupling
- Focus on people: motivation, community, trust



- Fail fast → learn fast → improve fast
  - Spotify is a fail-friendly environment
    - Fail walls, post-mortems, retrospectives
  - Failure recovery (rather than failure avoidance)
  - Limited blast radius via decoupled architecture and gradual rollout
- Product development approach
  - Lean startup principles (think|build|ship|tweak)
  - Impact > Velocity
  - Innovation > Predictability
  - Value delivery > Plan fullfillment
- 10% hack time
- Experiment-friendly culture

- Waste-repellent culture
  - «if it wroks, keep it, otherwise dump it»
  - Minimize need of big projects
  - Minimal bureaucracy to avoid chaos
  - Improvement boards, Toyota improvement «kata»
- «Health culture heals broken process»
  - Culture-focused roles (agile coaches)
  - Boot camps
  - Story telling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NETFLIX

Leader in subscription internet tv service
Hollywood, indy, local
Growing slate of original content

86 million members
~190 countries, 10s of languages
1000s of device types

Microservices on AWS

GLOBAL APPLICATION TRAFFIC SHARE

1

NETFLIX

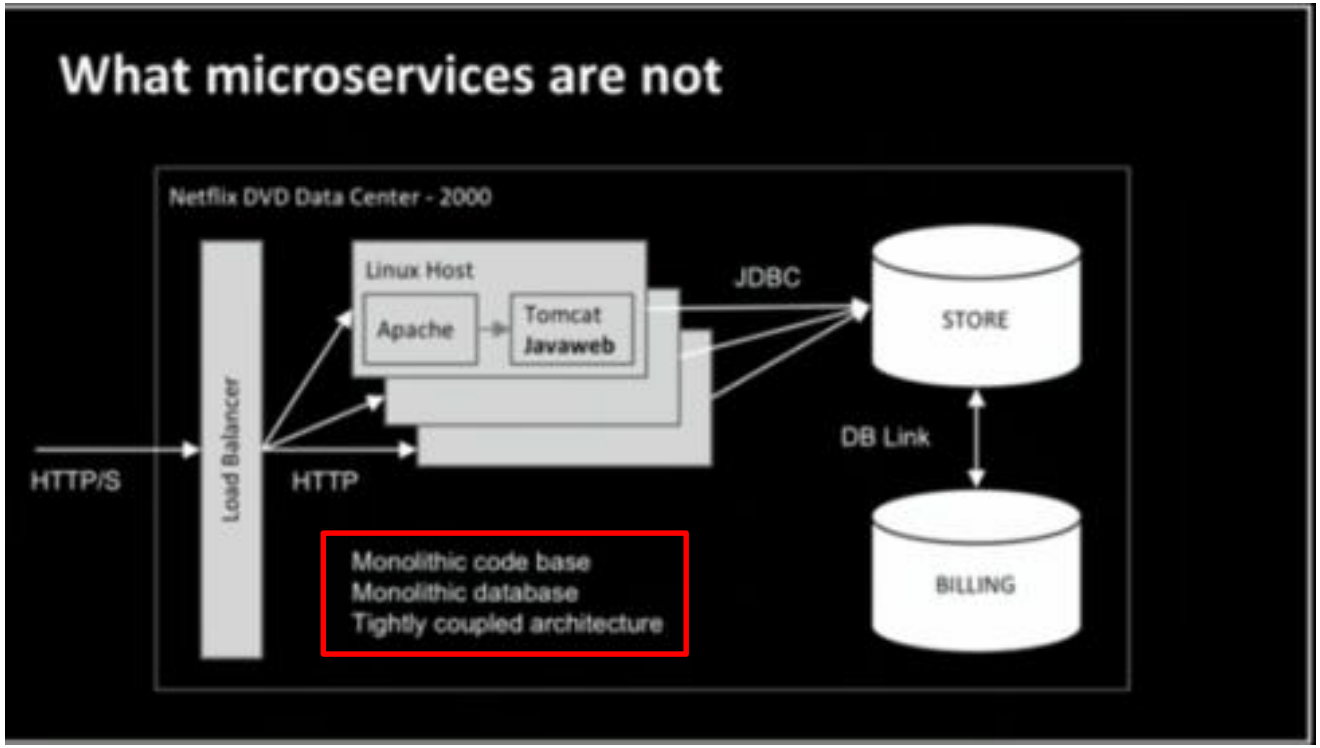
14.97% ↓

2.92% ↑


Neil Hunt
CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, NETFLIX
re:Invent

- Netflix figures
  - 86M members
  - 150M hours of streaming per day
  - 100,000+ AWS instances
- Migration to AWS
  - [2008, 2016]
  - improved productivity and scalability
- 500+ microservices
- Many tools
  - Spinnaker (CICD)
  - Atlas (monitoring)
  - Simian Army (testing reliability)
  - …
- Shift to containers
  - Titus (container management environment)
  - then AWS Blox …

- **Microservices**



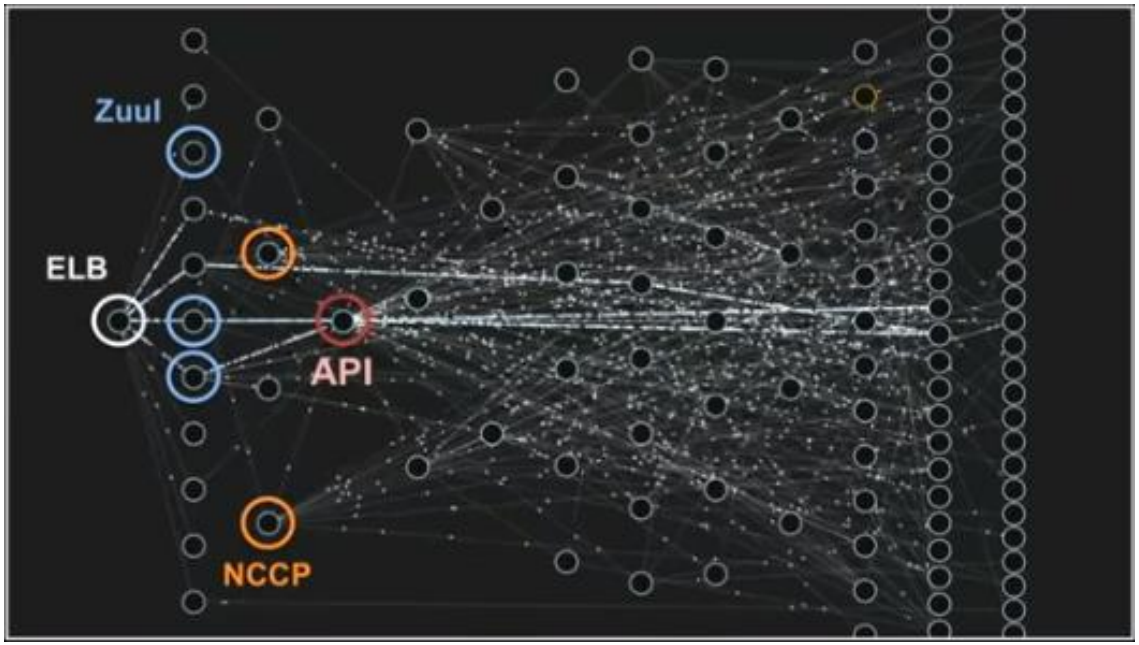
Hard to scale
Hard to modify

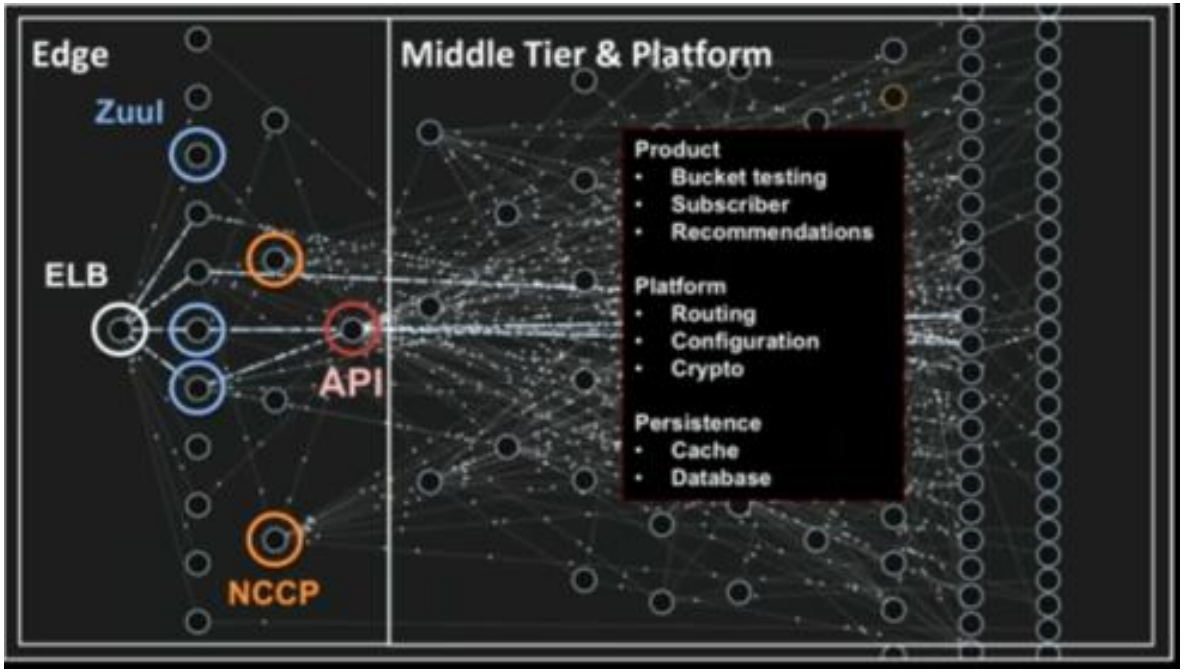
What is a microservice?

...the microservice architectural style is an approach to developing a single application as a suite of small services, each running in its own process and communicating with lightweight mechanisms, often an HTTP resource API.

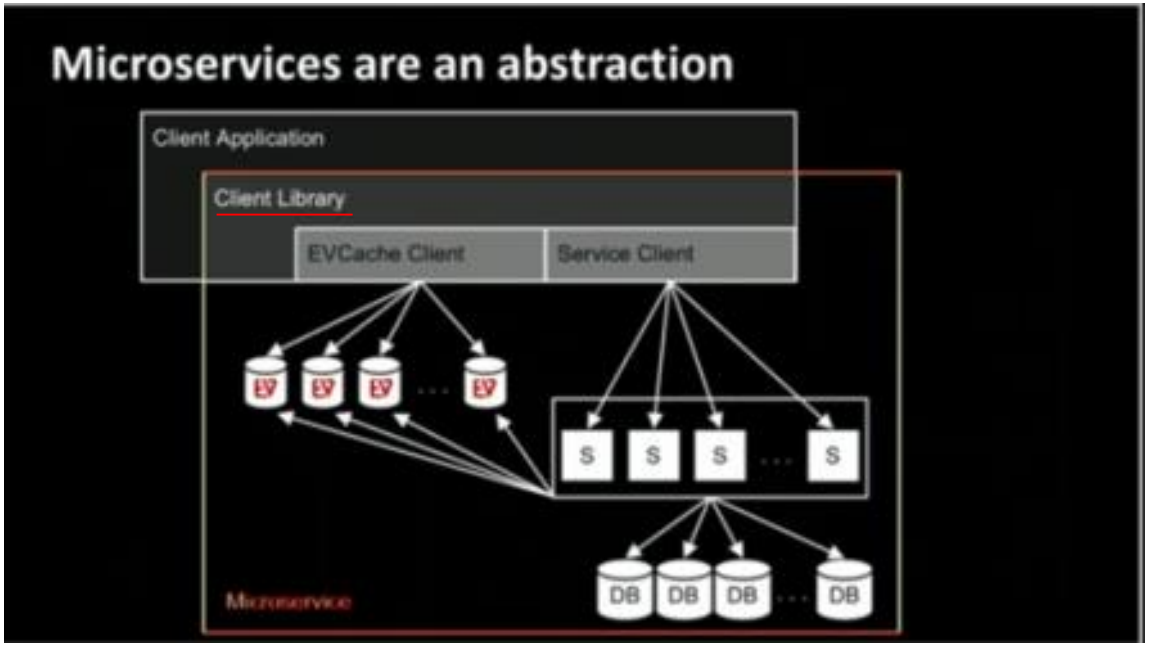
- Martin Fowler

What is a microservice?


Zuul
ELB
API
NCCP



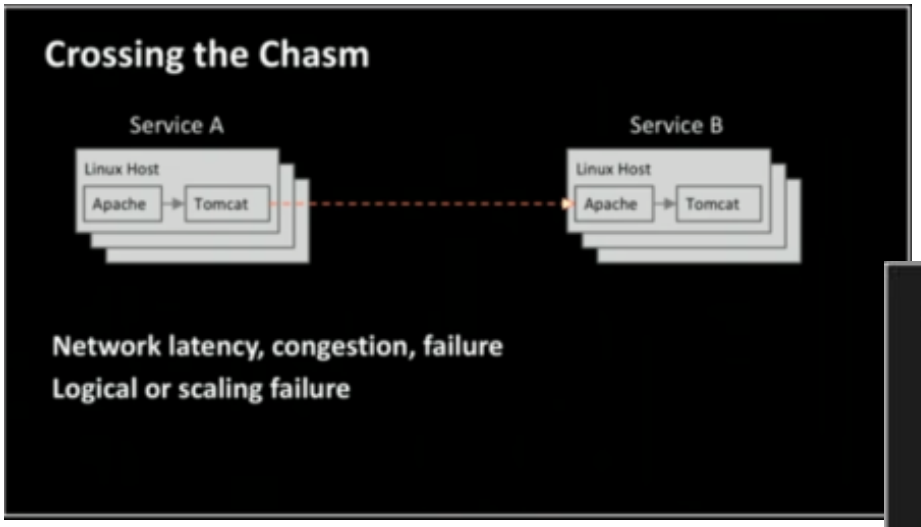
- **ELB**: AWS Elastic Load Balancing
- **Zuul**: proxy layer, performs dynamic routing
- **NCCP**: legacy tier, supporting earlier devices
- Netflix's **API** gateway, calling all other services

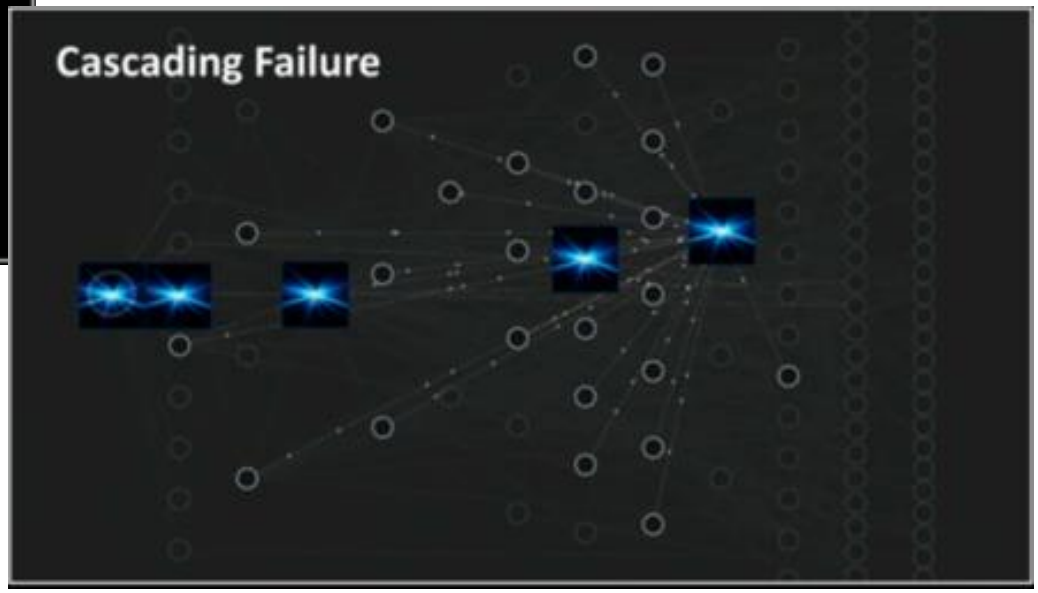


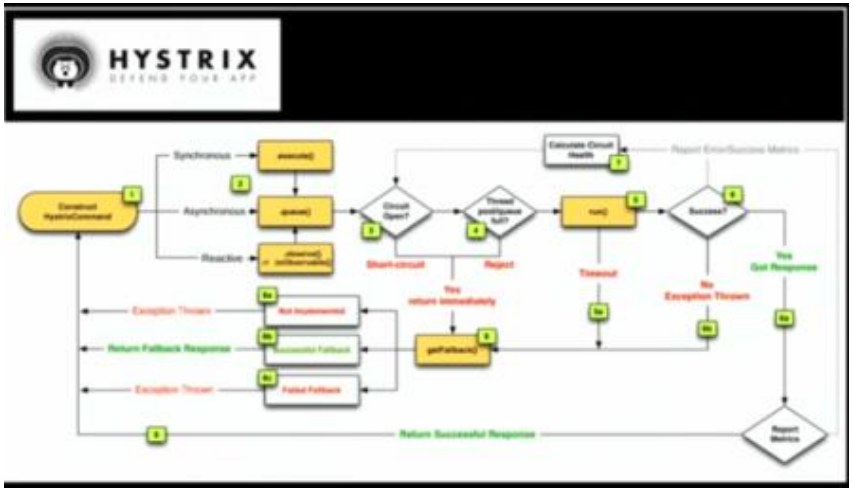
… microservices are not always small

- Microservices
- Challenges
  - **Dependecy**
  - Scale
  - Variance
  - Change

Dependency: Inter-service requests



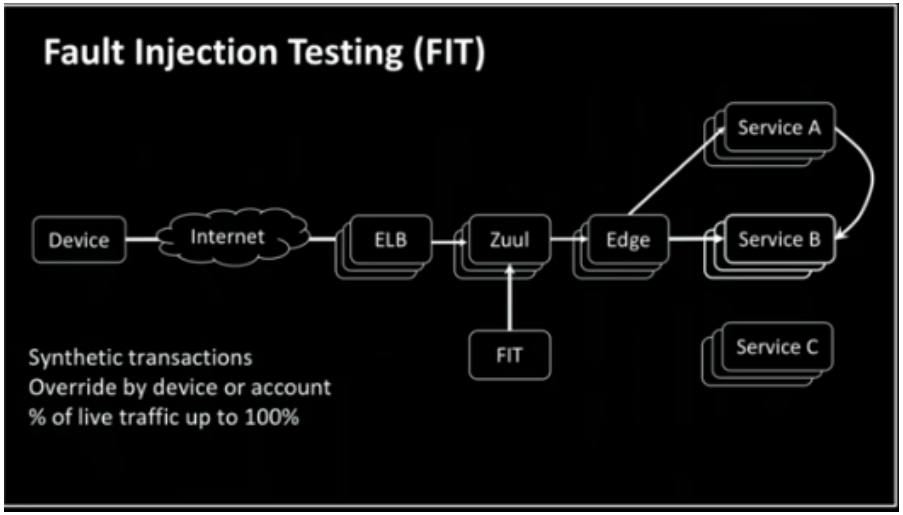


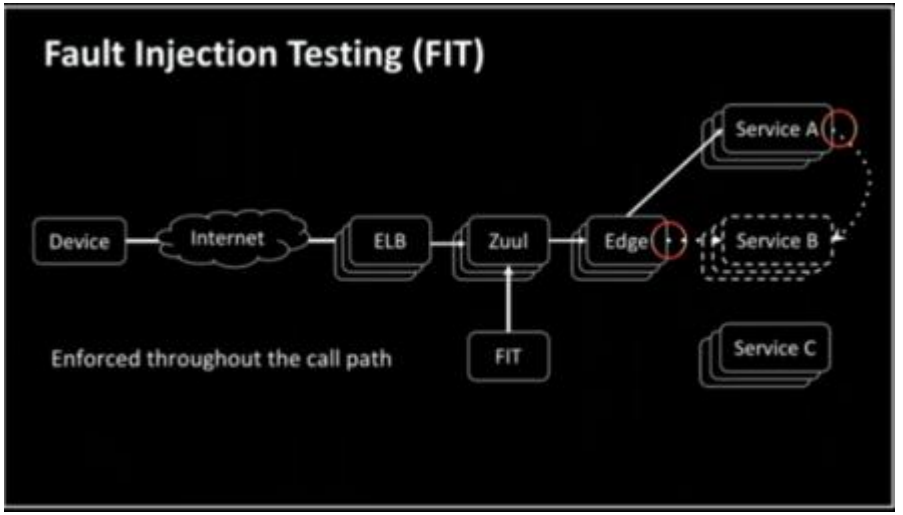


Timeouts and retries
Fallback (to allow customers to continue)
Isolated thread pools and circuits

Dependency: Inter-service requests (cont.)

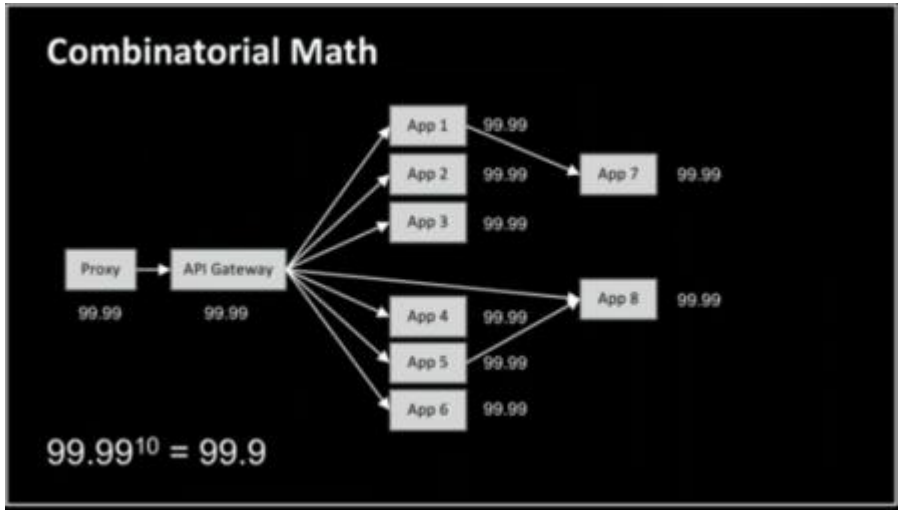
How do you know if it works?



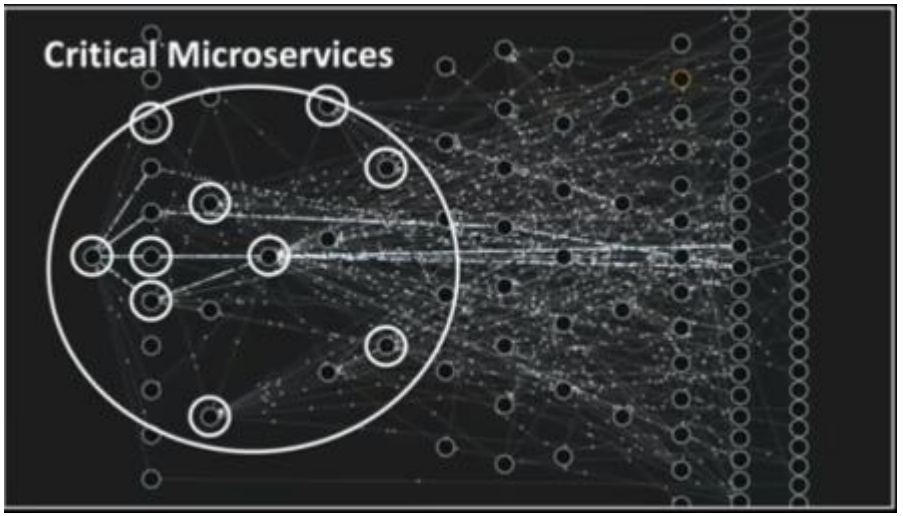


Dependency: Inter-service requests (cont.)

How to constrain testing scope?

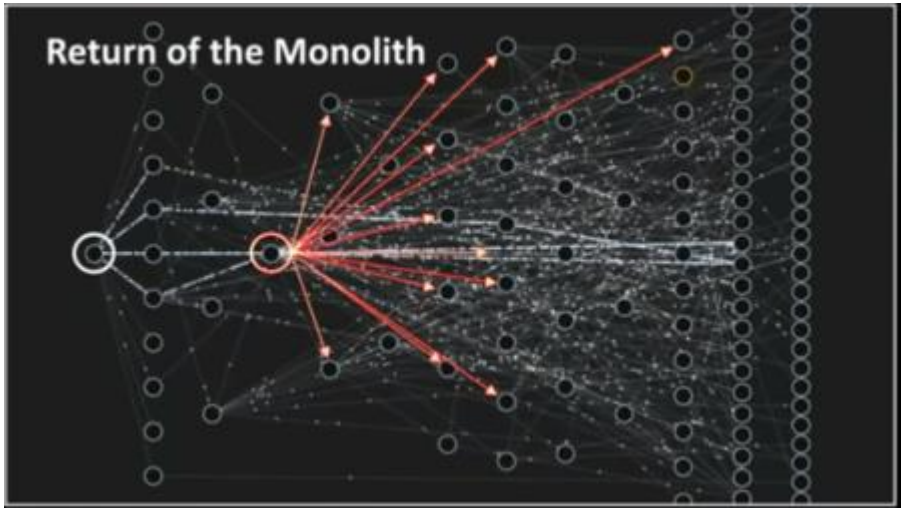


8-9 hours a year



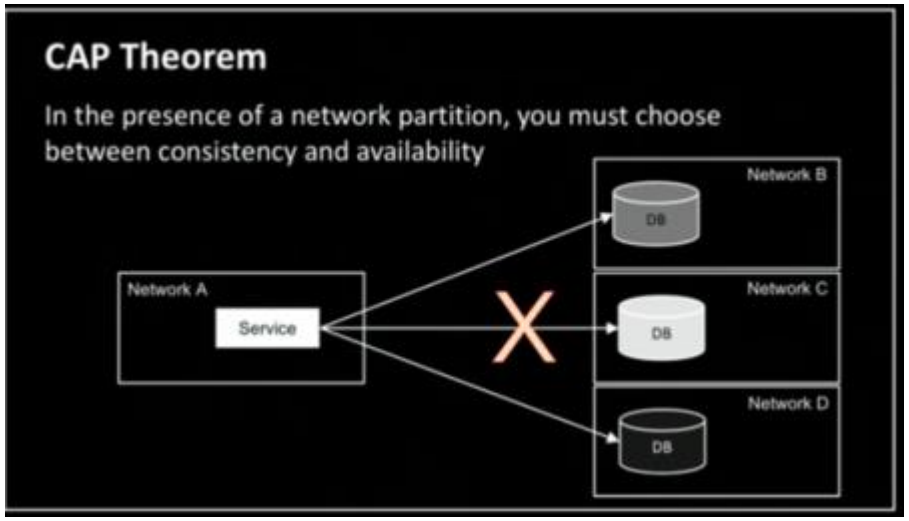
Dependency: Client libraries

Client libraries are useful



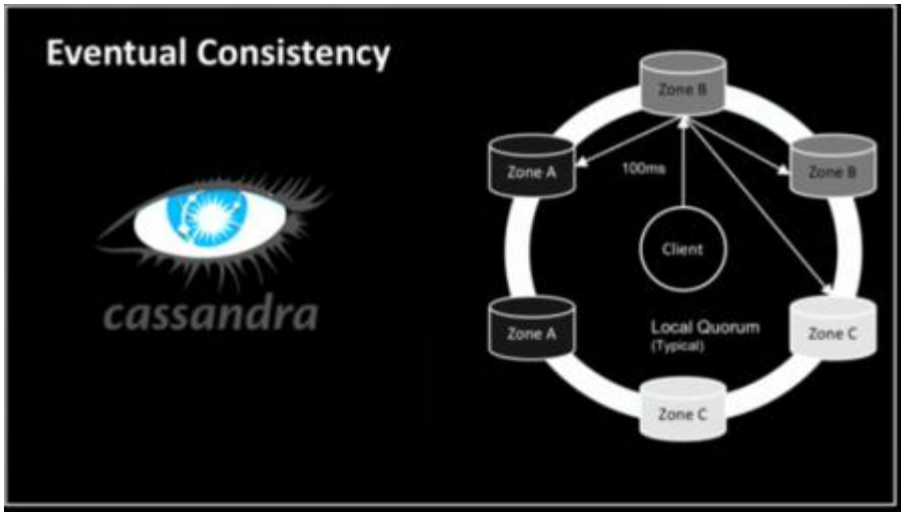
→ simplify client libraries

Dependency: Persistence



Service wants to write copy of same data in 3 DBs.

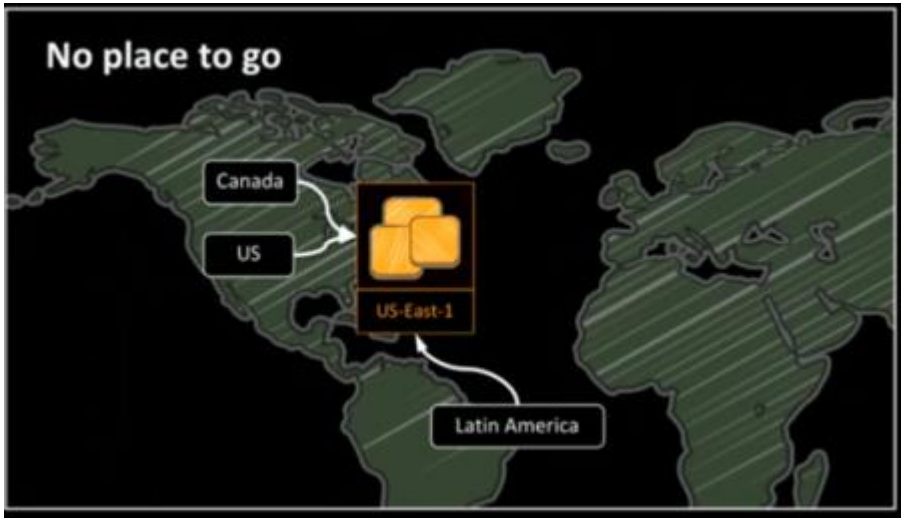
What if it cannot write in one of them? Fail?



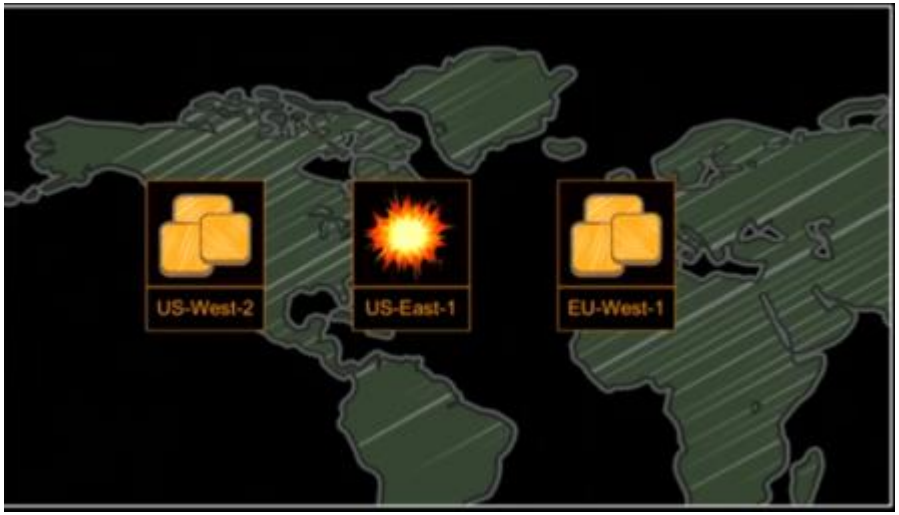
«write to the ones you can ge to, and then fix it up afterwards»

Local quorum

Dependency: Infrastructure



All in Us East 1



Multi region strategy

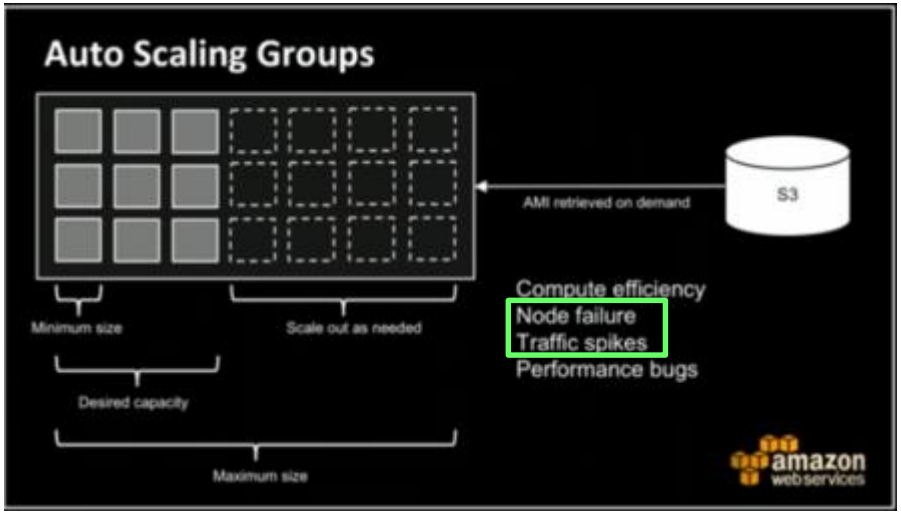
- Microservices
- Challenges
  - Dependecy
  - **Scale**
  - Variance
  - Change

Scale: Stateless services

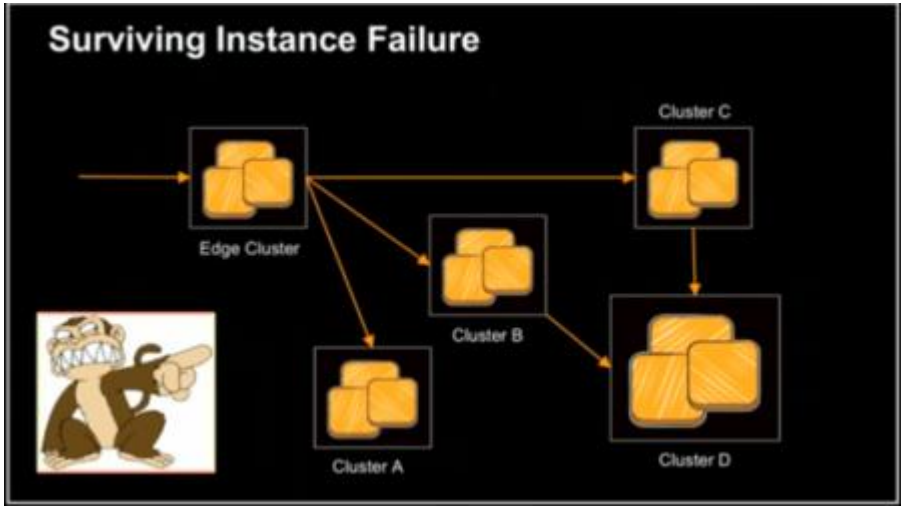
What is a stateless service?

- Not a cache or a database
- Frequently accessed metadata
- No instance affinity
- Loss a node is a non-event

replicate



and test with Chaos Monkey



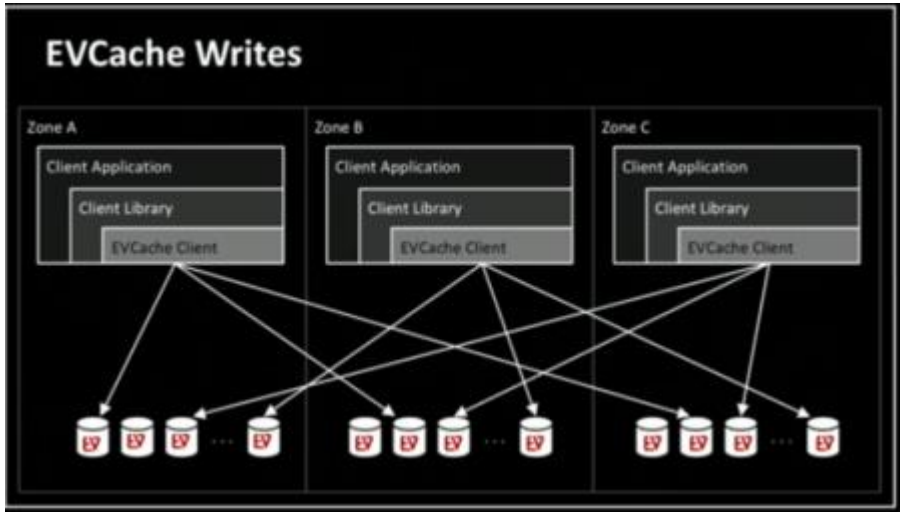
Scale: Stateful services

What is a stateful service?

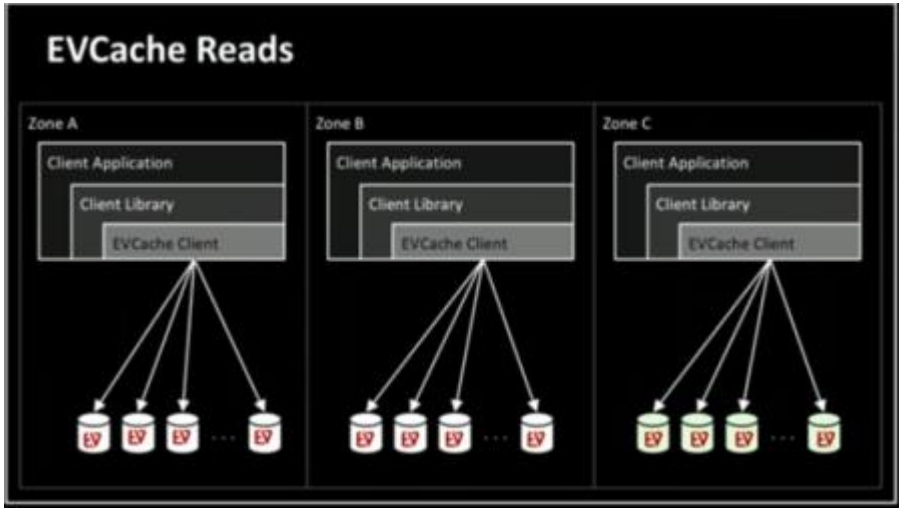
Databases & caches

Custom apps which hold large amounts of data

Loss of a node is a notable event



Multiple copies written out to multiple nodes,
in different availability zones



Local reads, but app can fall back
to reading across availability zones

30 million requests/sec
2 trillion requests per day globally

Hundreds of billions of objects
Tens of thousands of memcached instances

Milliseconds of latency per request Good scaling!

- Microservices
- Challenges
  - Dependecy
  - Scale
  - **Variance**
  - Change

(Unintentional) Variance: Operational drift

Operational Drift

Over time

- Alert thresholds
- Timeouts, retries, fallbacks
- Throughput (RPS)

need tuning

Across microservices

- Reliability best practices

Continuous Learning & Automation

Best practices (checklist)

Production Ready

- Alerts
- Apache & Tomcat
- Automated canary analysis
- Autoscaling
- Chaos
- Consistent naming
- ELB config
- Healthcheck
- Immutable machine images
- Squeeze testing
- Staged, red/black deployments
- Timeouts, retries, fallbacks

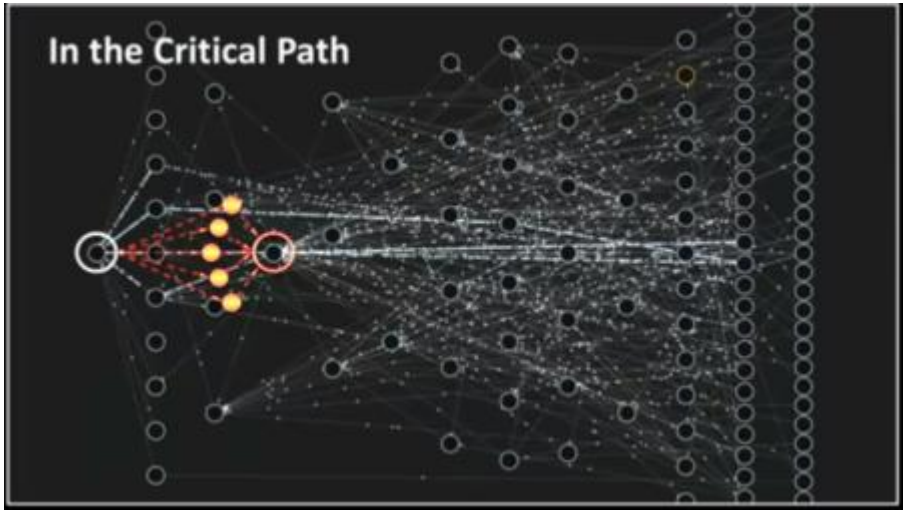
(Intentional) Variance: Polyglot & Containers

Engineering clients were going off road

(Intentional) Variance: Polyglot & Containers

Problems in putting these technologies in the critical path
API gateway integrating scripts that can act as endpoints → monolith pattern

Solution: Push endpoints out of API service
(into nodejs apps in Docker containers)



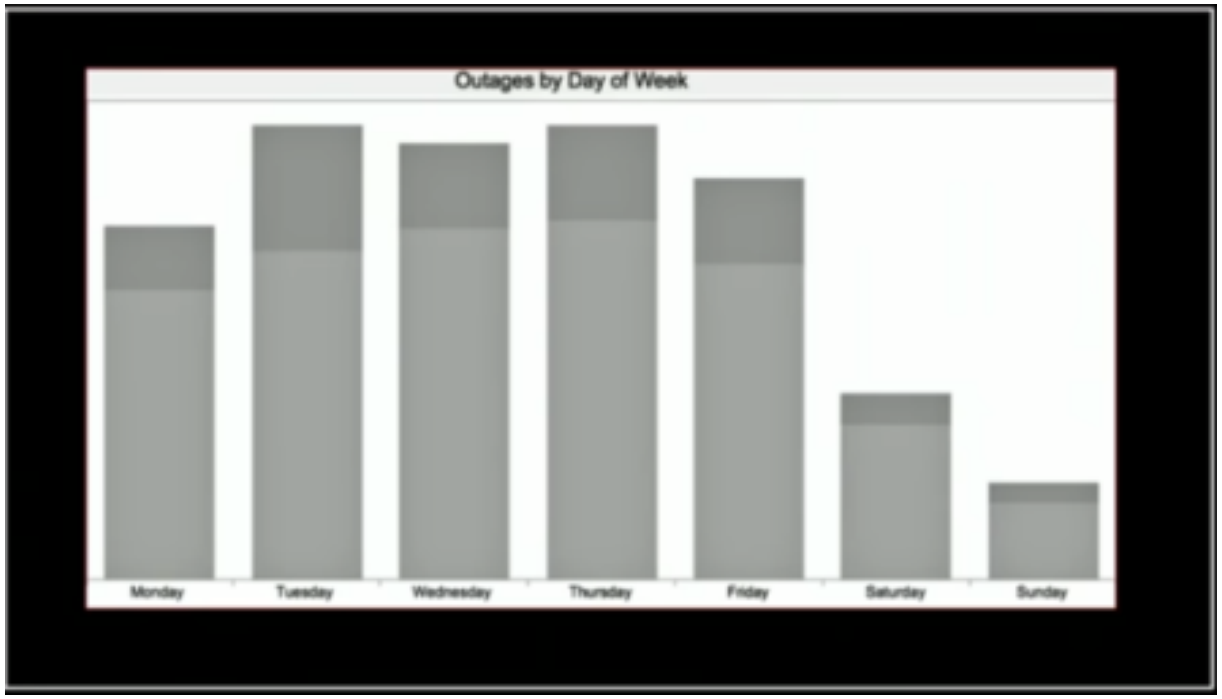
Cost of Variance

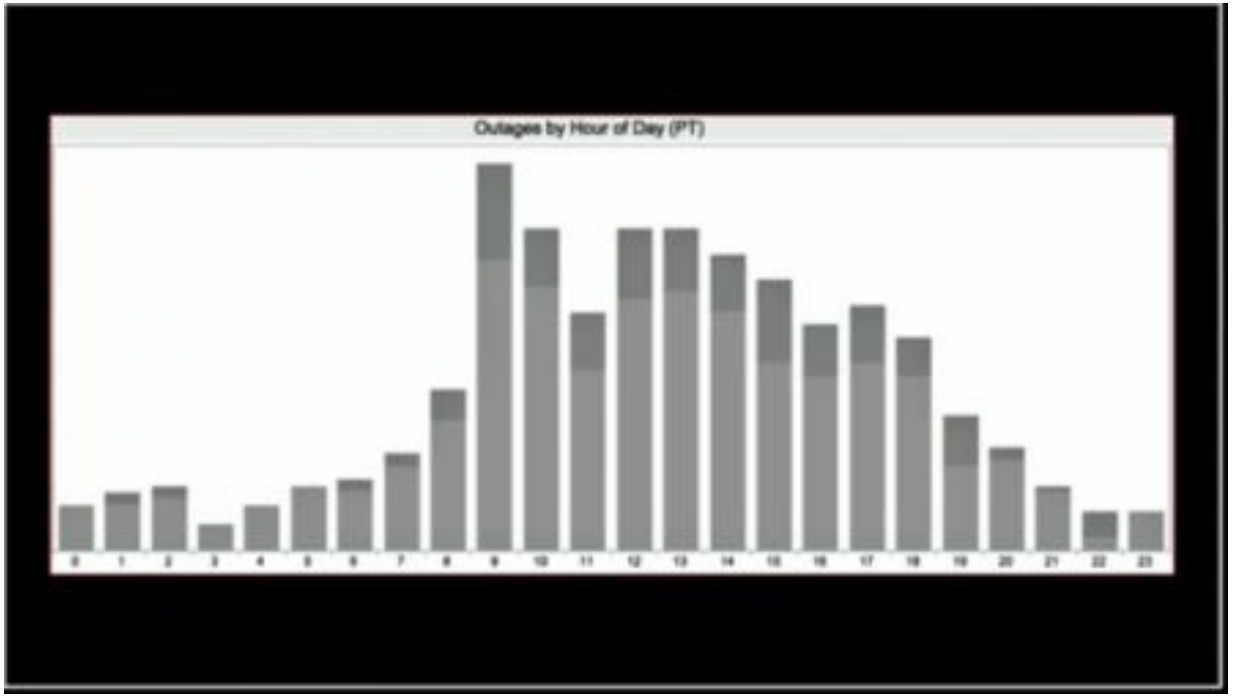
Productivity tooling
Insight & triage capabilities
Base image fragmentation
Node management → new Titus tier for workload mgmt, autoscaling, node replacement …
Library/platform duplication
Learning curve - production expertise

Strategic Stance

Raise awareness of costs
Constrain centralized support
Prioritize by impact
Seek reusable solutions

- Microservices
- Challenges
  - Dependecy
  - Scale
  - Variance
  - **Change**

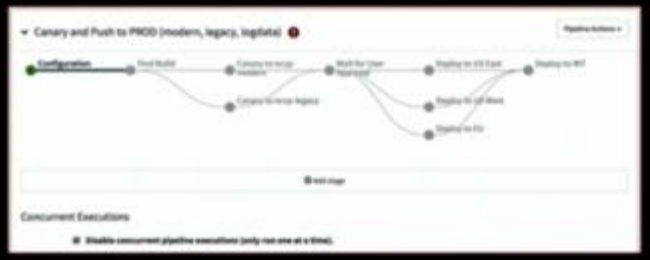

Outages by Day of Week
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday


Outages by Hour of Day (PT)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

How do we achieve velocity with confidence?

Spinnaker

Integrated, Automated Practices



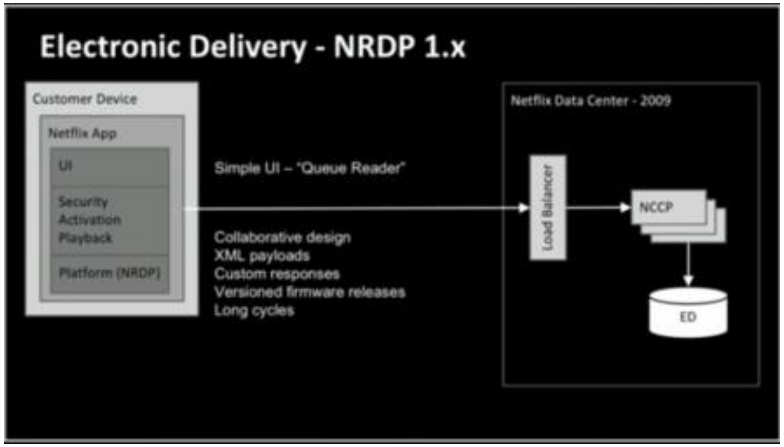
Conformity checks
Red/black pipelines
Automated canaries
Staged deployments
Squeeze tests

live production traffic into new code one region at a time

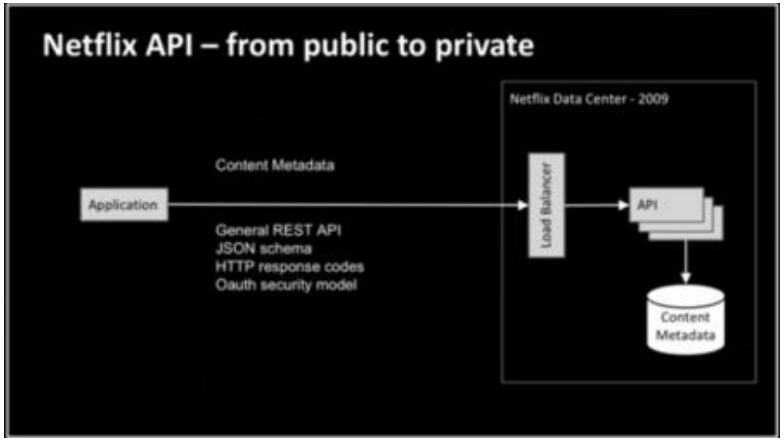
Production Ready

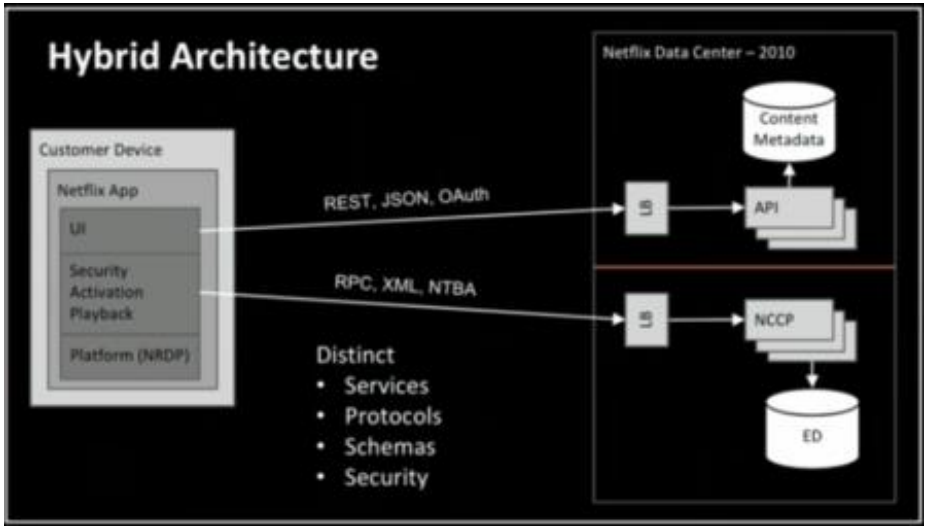
Alerts
Apache & Tomcat
Automated canary analysis
Autoscaling
Chaos
Consistent naming
ELB config
Healthcheck
Immutable machine images
Squeeze testing
Staged, red/black deployments
Timeouts, retries, fallbacks

- Microservices
- Challenges
  - Dependecy
  - Scale
  - Variance
  - Change
- **Organization & architecture**


Electronic Delivery - NRDP 1.x
Customer Device
Netflix App
UI
Security
Activation
Playback
Platform (NRDP)
Simple UI – "Queue Reader"
Collaborative design
XML payloads
Custom responses
Versioned firmware releases
Long cycles
Netflix Data Center - 2009
Load Balancer
NCCP
ED


Netflix API - let a 1000 flowers bloom!
instantwatcher.com
DVD Corral
BOXEE
Flixster
flixfamily
FeedFliks
get your money's worth from Netflix
jazzed
plaxo
Rotten Tomatoes
by Flixster


Netflix API – from public to private
Netflix Data Center - 2009
Content Metadata
Application
General REST API
JSON schema
HTTP response codes
Oauth security model
Load Balancer
API
Content Metadata


Hybrid Architecture
Customer Device
Netflix App
UI
Security
Activation
Playback
Platform (NRDP)
REST, JSON, OAuth
RPC, XML, NTBA
Distinct
• Services
• Protocols
• Schemas
• Security
Netflix Data Center – 2010
Content Metadata
LB
API
LB
NCCP
ED

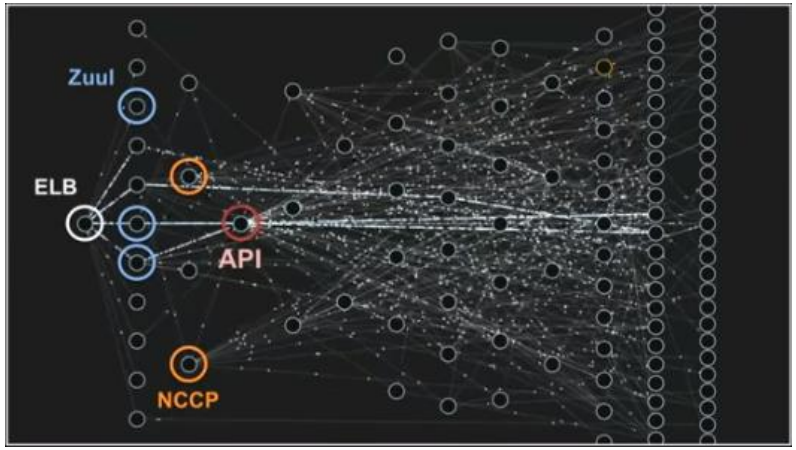
Josh: what is the right long term architecture?

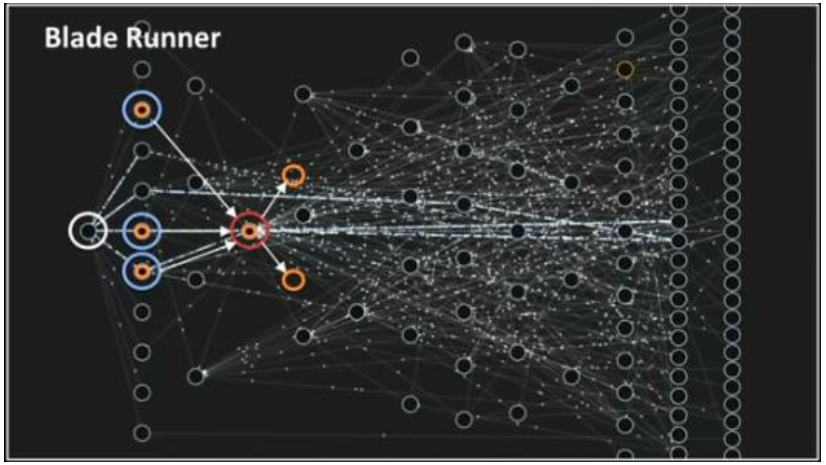
Peter: do you care about the organizational implications?

Conway's Law

Organizations which design systems are constrained to produce designs which are copies of the communication structures of these organizations.

Any piece of software reflects the organizational structure that produced it.





NCCP capabilities decomposed into smaller microservices and integrated into Zuul proxy layer and API gateway

Outcomes & Lessons

Outcomes

- Productivity & new capabilities
- Refactored organization

Lessons

- Solutions first, team second
- Reconfigure teams to best support your architecture

Summary

Dependency
- Circuit breakers, fallbacks, chaos
- Simple clients
- Eventual consistency
- Multi-region failover

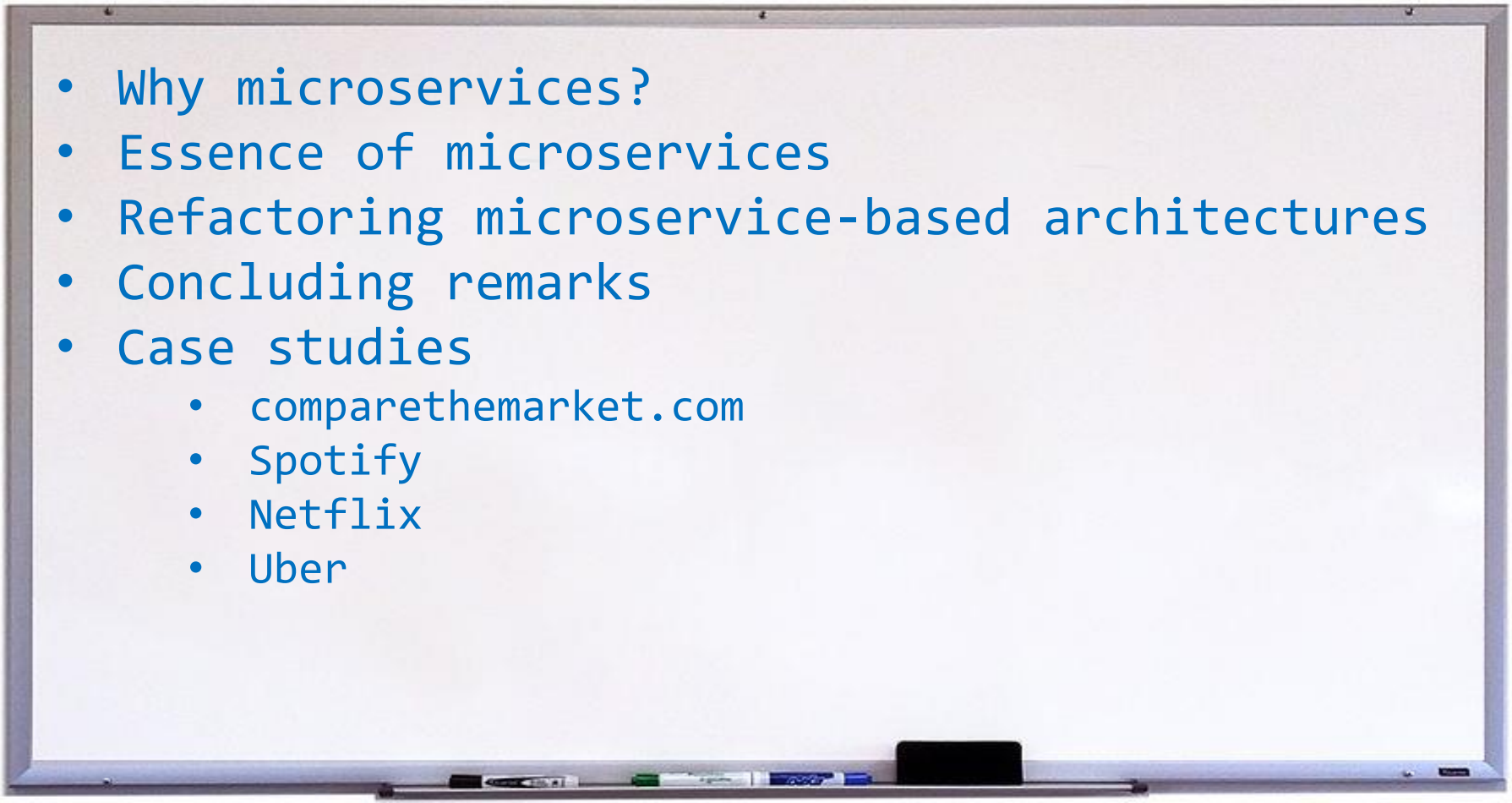
Variance
- Engineered operations
- Understood cost of variance
- Prioritized support by impact

Organization & Architecture
- Solutions first, team second

Scale
- Auto-scaling
- Redundancy – avoid SPoF
- Partitioned workloads
- Failure-driven design
- Chaos under load

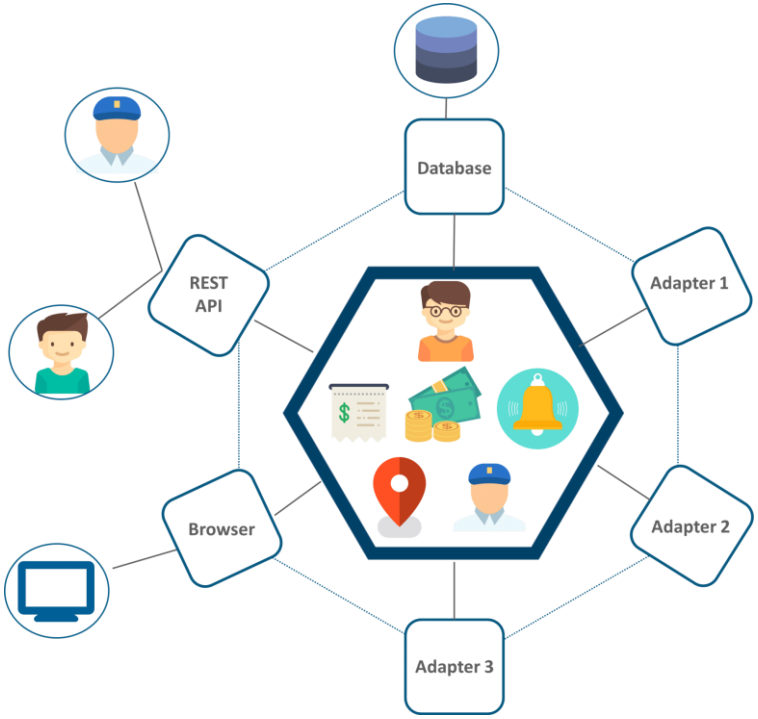
Change
- Automated delivery
- Integrated practices


NETFLIX
DEVICE PARTNER LIFECYCLE TEAM


• Why microservices?
• Essence of microservices
• Refactoring microservice-based architectures
• Concluding remarks
• Case studies
  • comparethemarket.com
  • Spotify
  • Netflix
  • Uber

Uber’s initial architecture

- Monolithic architecture built for a single offering in a single city
  - a REST API with which passenger and driver connect
  - three different adapters used to perform billing, payments, sending emails/messages
  - a MySQL database to store all data
- Problems when expanding worldwide
  - all the features had to be re-built, deployed and tested again and again to update a single feature
  - fixing bugs became extremely difficult in a single repository as developers had to change the code again and again
  - scaling the features simultaneously with the introduction of new features worldwide was quite tough to be handled together



Uber's solution

- Break monolith into microservices
  - introduction of API Gateway through which all the drivers and passengers are connected. From the API Gateway,
  - all the internal points (passenger management, driver management, trip management, etc.) connected from API Gateway
- Individual separate deployable units performing separate functionalities
  - E.g., billing microservices can be deployed independently from the rest
- All features can now scale individually
  - e.g., people searching for cabs > people actually booking & paying cabs