

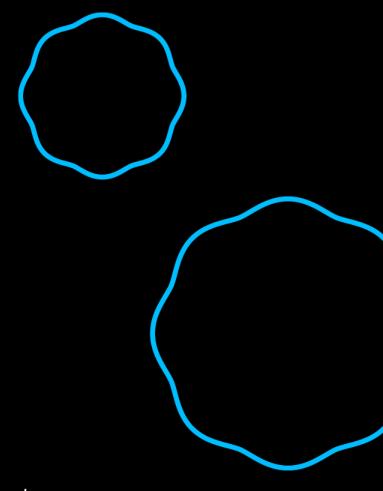
Invincible SRE Workflows with Temporal

Apr 08, 2025: SRE KL User Group

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Code: https://github.com/cheelim1/go-temporal-sre

Disclaimer: Talks is opinion of speaker; does not reflect position of employer.



Agenda

What is Temporal?

Getting Rid of Cron Forever for long-running jobs

Granting Superpowers to your humble scripts

Just In Time (JIT) Access Demo

Alternatives to Temporal

Q&A



01 What is Temporal



What is Temporal

Durable Execution Platform: An abstraction for building simple, sophisticated, resilient applications



Code like it never fails

Write your business logic as code. Create Workflows that guarantee execution; idempotency guaranteed. Code Activities to handle and retry failure-prone logic



Cross-Platform Support

Write business logic using native SDKs. Inter-communicate + mix-match as needed. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia Teams can securely communicate across namespaces via Nexus



Testing + Observability

; including time travel. Event ReplayExcepteur sin; audit logs are auto and can be archivedt occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.



Open Source + Commercial Managed

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02 Trouble with Cron



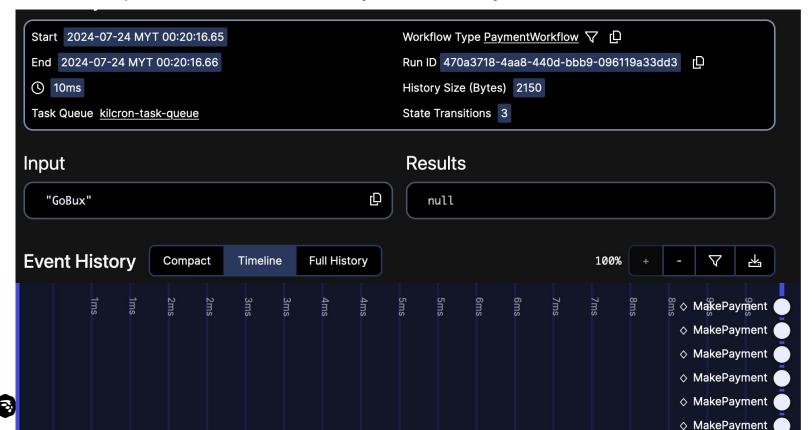
Problems with Cron

- Scene: Startup getting traction
- Any long running day-to-day process: (e.g reports, payments, data processing)
- Don't: Extend your web server timeout!
- Cron to the rescue!!
- Now got more problems



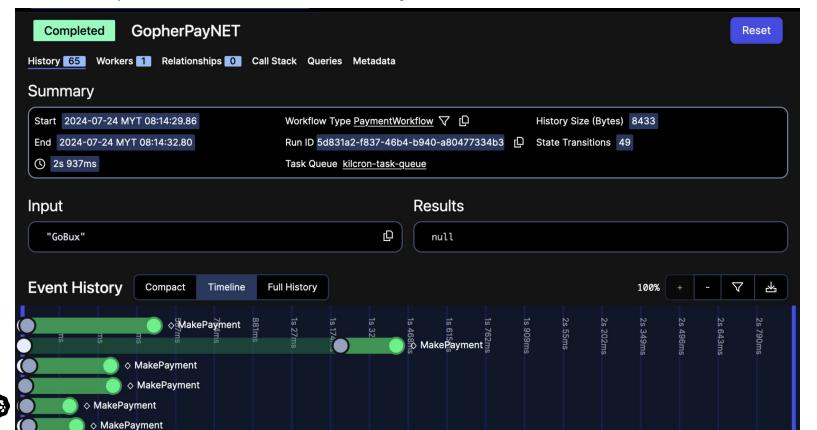
Cron - Wishful Thinking

Cron jobs start immediately; no latency, no failure!



Cron - Closer to Reality

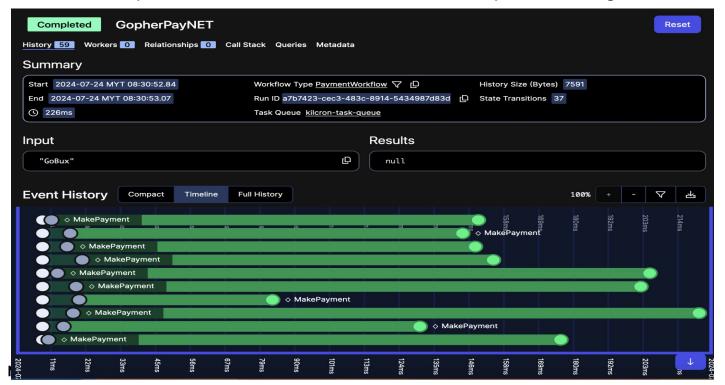
Cron jobs have variable latency; no failure!





Cron - Reality/Demo

- Cron jobs handling latency + failures; seamlessly!
- Use Temporal Schedules instead. Can start, pause or signal





03 Granting Super Powers to your **Humble Scripts**



Real Life is Messy (as a SRE)

- Real life; anything can happen! Not deterministic
- Bash or Python scripts used for automation are flaky
- Many dependencies out of control: network, vendors, cosmic-rays
- Consequence: Double billing of customers, Unnecessary cloud resources activated, Database upgrade left in unrecoverable state
- **Solution:** Idempotency allows safe retries. An operation that can be applied multiple times without changing the result

Traditional non-Idempotent

• Each time the script runs it is different! Not deterministic

```
go-temporal-sre git:(main) x make superscript-demo-2
Running SuperScript Demo 2: Traditional Non-Idempotent Script
                                                                                                              Processing OrderID: 6606 (9/10)
                                                                                                              Starting payment processing for OrderID: 6606
Script Run from IP: 14.1.247.54
                                                                                                               Starting processing step 1...
                                                                                                              Step 1 failed: FAILED: Processing Step 1 for OrderID 6606
                                                                                                              Cleaning up resources...
                                                                                                               ERROR: Script terminated with exit code: 1 - Step 1 failed: FAILED: Pro
Starting batch processing of 10 OrderIDs
_______
                                                                                                              Processing OrderID: 8448 (10/10)
                                                                                                              SUCCESS: OrderID 8448 processed successfully in 4s
                                                                                                              Starting payment processing for OrderID: 8448
                                                                                                              Starting processing step 1...
Processing OrderID: 7307 (1/10)
                                                                                                               Step 1 completed successfully: Step1 8448
ERROR: OrderID 7307 failed with exit code 1 in Os
                                                                                                               Starting processing step 2...
                                                                                                               Step 2 completed successfully: Step2 8448
                                                                                                              Payment processing completed successfully for OrderID: 8448
  Starting payment processing for OrderID: 7307
                                                                                                              Cleaning up resources...
  Starting processing step 1...
  Step 1 failed: FAILED: Processing Step 1 for OrderID 7307
                                                                                                              ========= Starting payment processing for OrderID: 3078
                                                                                                                              Starting processing step 1..
  Cleaning up resources...
                                                                                                             Total OrderIDs proces
                                                                                                                               Step 1 completed successfully: Step1 3078
                                                                                                                               Starting processing step 2...
  ERROR: Script terminated with exit code: 1 - Step 1 failed: FAILED: Proceedings
                                                                                                                               Step 2 completed successfully: Step2 3078
                                                                                                                              Payment processing completed successfully for OrderID: 3078
                                                                                                                              Processing OrderID: 8577 (7/10)
Processing OrderID: 5493 (2/10)
                                                                                                                              Starting payment processing for OrderID: 8577
                                                                                                                              Starting processing step 1...
SUCCESS: OrderID 5493 processed successfully in 5s
                                                                                                                              Step 1 failed: FAILED: Processing Step 1 for OrderID 8577
                                                                                                                              Cleaning up resources...
  Starting payment processing for OrderID: 5493
                                                                                                                              ERROR: Script terminated with exit code: 1 - Step 1 failed: FAILED: Processing Step 1
  Starting processing step 1...
  Step 1 completed successfully: Step1 5493
                                                                                                                              Starting payment processing for OrderID: 5479
                                                                                                                              Starting processing step 1...
  Starting processing step 2...
                                                                                                                              Step 1 completed successfully: Step1 5479
                                                                                                                              Starting processing step 2...
  Step 2 completed successfully: Step2 5493
                                                                                                                              Step 2 failed: ERROR: Timeout occurred after 3s for OrderID 5479
                                                                                                                              ERROR: Script terminated with exit code: 2 - Step 2 failed: ERROR: Timeout occurred af
  Payment processing completed successfully for OrderID: 5493
  Clearing up resources...
                                                                                                                                                                            13
```

```
# Process each OrderID in the list
for order_id in "${ORDER_IDS[@]}"; do
    TOTAL_COUNT=$((TOTAL_COUNT + 1))
    echo -e "\n${YELLOW}Processing OrderID: $order_id (${TOTAL_COUNT}/${#ORDE
   # Record start time
   start_time=$(date +%s)
   # Call the single payment collection script and capture output
   # We use set +e to prevent the loop from exiting if the script fails
    set +e
   output=$($SOURCE_DIR/single_payment_collection.sh "$order_id" 2>&1)
   exit_code=$?
    set -e
   # Record end time and calculate duration
    end_time=$(date +%s)
    duration=$((end_time - start_time))
    # Display result based on exit code
```

Single Workflow made Deterministic

- From chaos to order; now idempotent
- Ensure WorkflowID no reuse; retry for free





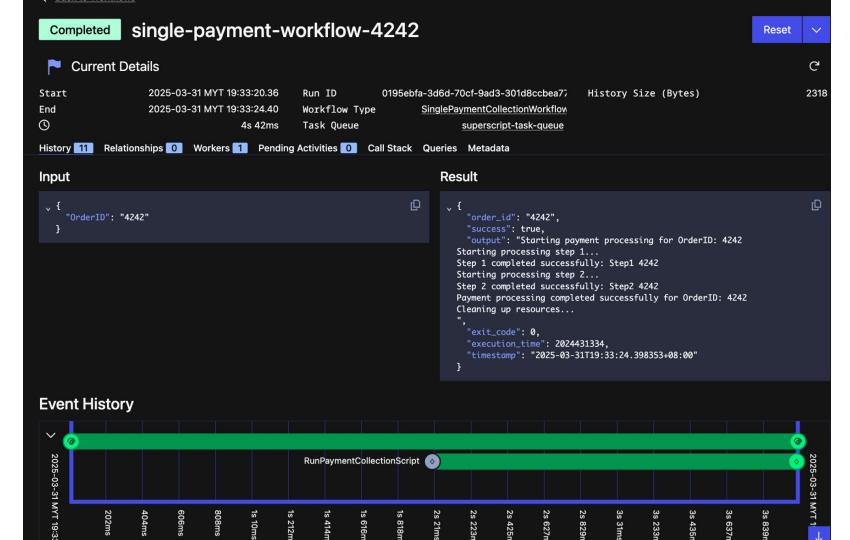
```
echo "Starting payment processing for OrderID: $ORDER_ID"
                                                         # Process Step 2
# Process Step 1
                                                         echo "Starting processing step 2..."
echo "Starting processing step 1..."
                                                         # Turn off errexit temporarily to capture the output and re
# Turn off errexit temporarily to capture the output and ret
                                                         set +e
set +e
                                                         step2_result=$(process_step2 "$ORDER_ID")
step1_result=$(process_step1 "$ORDER_ID")
                                                         step2_code=$?
step1_code=$?
                                                         set -e
set -e
                                                         if [[ $step2_code -ne 0 ]]; then
if [[ $step1_code -ne 0 ]]; then
                                                             LAST_ERROR_MSG="Step 2 failed: $step2_result"
   LAST_ERROR_MSG="Step 1 failed: $step1_result"
                                                             echo "$LAST_ERROR_MSG" >&2
                                                             exit $step2_code
   echo "$LAST_ERROR_MSG" >&2
                                                         fi
   exit $step1_code
                                                         echo "Step 2 completed successfully: $step2_result"
echo "Step 1 completed successfully: $step1_result"
                                                         # All steps completed successfully
                                                         echo "Payment processing completed successfully for OrderID
                                                         exit 0
```

Reuse Policy: WORKFLOW_ID_REUSE_POLICY_REJECT_DUPLICATE

// Create a workflow ID based on the order ID

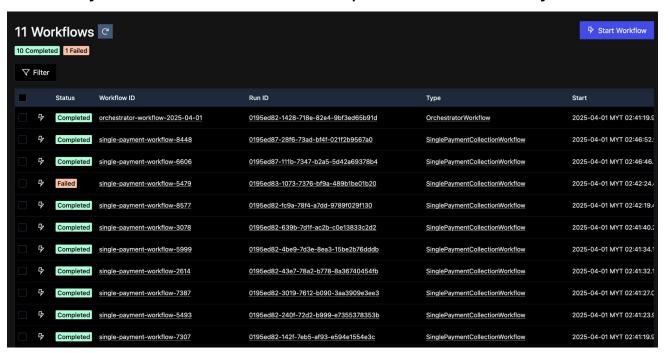
ActivityOptions to Retry

```
workflowID := fmt.Sprintf( format: "%s-%s", superscript.SinglePaymentWorkflowTy
   This workflow wraps a potentially non-ide
func SinglePaymentCollectionWorkflow(ctx wor
                                                  // Start the workflow with idempotency quaranteed by Temporal
    logger := workflow.GetLogger(ctx)
                                                  workflowOptions := client.StartWorkflowOptions{
    logger.Info( msg: "Starting SinglePayment
                                                     ID:
                                                              workflowID,
                                                     TaskQueue: superscript.SuperscriptTaskQueue,
    startTime := workflow.Now(ctx)
                                                     // Reject duplicate ensures idempotency
                                                     WorkflowIDReusePolicy: enums.WORKFLOW_ID_REUSE_POLICY_REJECT_DUPLICATE,
    // Define activity options
    ao := workflow.ActivityOptions{
        StartToCloseTimeout: 2 * time.Minute,
         RetryPolicy: &temporal.RetryPolicy{
             InitialInterval:
                                   time. Second,
             BackoffCoefficient: 2.0,
             MaximumInterval:
                                   30 * time. Second,
             MaximumAttempts:
                                   5.
        },
    ctx = workflow.WithActivityOptions(ctx, ao)
    var activityResult PaymentResult // Activity should return this structure or similar
    err := workflow.ExecuteActivity(ctx, activity: "RunPaymentCollectionScript", params.OrderID).Get(ctx
    MONEYLION
```



Superscript Demo

- Real world is messy; but now under control idempotent + auto-retry
- It may take time but run to completion successfully

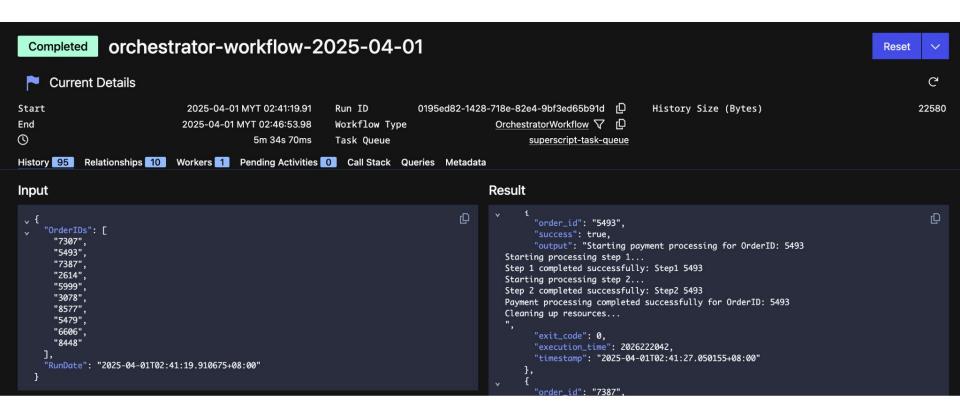




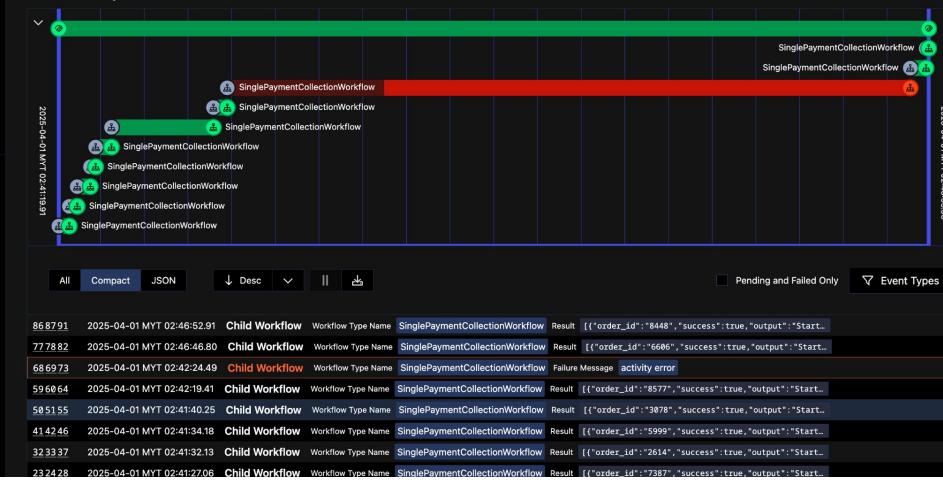
Superscript - Code / Flow

Straight-forward, composable; calls earlier SinglePaymentWorkflow

```
func OrchestratorWorkflow(ctx workflow.Context, params OrchestratorWorkflowParams) (*BatchResult, error) {
     if len(params.OrderIDs) == 0 {...}
     selector := workflow.NewSelector(ctx)
     sem := workflow.NewSemaphore(ctx, int64(concurrency))
     numScheduled := 0
     numCompleted := 0
     futuresMap := make(map[workflow.Future]int) // Map future to original index
     logger.Info( msg: "Starting concurrent child workflow execution", keyvals...: "concurrency", concurrency)
                                                                      workflowID := fmt.Sprintf( format: "%s-%s", SinglePaymentWorkflowType, orderID)
                                                                      childCtx := workflow.WithChildOptions(ctx, workflow.ChildWorkflowOptions{
     for numCompleted < len(params.OrderIDs) {</pre>
                                                                        WorkflowIDReusePolicy: enums.WORKFLOW_ID_REUSE_POLICY_REJECT_DUPLICATE,
          // Schedule new workflows if concurrency l
                                                                         TaskQueue:
                                                                                          SuperscriptTaskQueue,
          // Reverting to standard TryAcquire(1) bas
          if numScheduled < len(params.OrderIDs) &&</pre>
                                                                     exFuture := workflow.ExecuteChildWorkflow(childCtx, SinglePaymentWorkflowType, SinglePaymentWorkflowParams{Order
                                                                      futuresMap[exFuture] = idx // Store mapping
                                                                      selector.AddFuture(exFuture, func(f workflow.Future) {
                                                                         completedIdx := futuresMap[f]
                                                                        completedOrderID := params.OrderIDs[completedIdx]
                                                                         completedWorkflowID := fmt.Sprintf( format: "%s-%s", SinglePaymentWorkflowType, completedOrderID)
                                                                         var result PaymentResult
                                                                        err := f.Get(ctx, &result)
```



Event History



04 Just In Time (JIT) Access + Demo



What is JIT?

Is it the same as break glass?



JIT vs Break glass



Use Cases of Just In Time(JIT)



Temporary AWS IAM Access

Gaining a temporary elevated role to perform a certain access on a Resource in AWS.



Temporary K8s Access

Temporary access to access k8s using IAM to perform elevated troubleshooting in the production environment cluster.



Temporary Access to approve Github Deployments

Temporary access to approve deployments when no one in the team is available to review and approve.



Temporary Database Access

Temporary access to a certain database (most likely production) to perform a certain change while being audited.

- *Every JIT request must be audited & comply to the audit requirements.*
 - Ticket Tracked
 - 2. Required Approvers to approve requests
 - 3. Audit trail
 - 4. Access is automatically revoked after specific period of time.



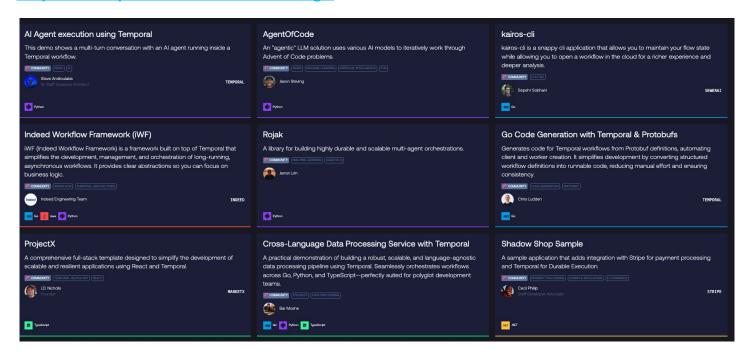
DEMO

05 Temporal Universe Expanded



Introducing: Temporal Code Exchange

Marketplace of ideas to study + learn from. Open to submission! https://temporal.io/code-exchange





O6 Alternatives to Temporal





Restate (Rust)

https://docs.restate.dev/



DBOS (Typescript + Python)

https://www.dbos.dev/

Alternatives - Temporal

Crowded market ... who wins? Who has the best DX?



Littlehorse (Rust/Kafka)

https://littlehorse.io/



Golem Cloud (WASM)

https://www.golem.cloud/



Inngest (JS)

https://www.inngest.com/



07 Q&A



Thank you

