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# Introducing “Kirvis” OSS Security Chaos Engineering for Kubernetes

Aaron Rinehart, Verica.io  
Matas Kulkovas, Cast AI





PromCon  
North America 2021



## Aaron Rinehart

CTO & Co-Founder at Verica

Pioneer of Security Chaos Engineering

O'Reilly Author

@aaronrinehart



## Matas Kulkovas

Engineer, CAST AI



O'REILLY®

# Chaos Engineering

Building Confidence in Systems  
through Experiments



Compliments of  
**NETFLIX**

O'REILLY®

# Chaos Engineering

System Resiliency in Practice



O'REILLY®

# Security Chaos Engineering

Gaining Confidence in Resilience



DEVOPS  
DAYS  
TAMPA BAY



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# why will you learn?

- Complexity in Modern Software
- Chaos Engineering
- Security Chaos Engineering (SCE)
- Use Cases
- New K8s Open Source Tool
- How to get started!





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# In this Session we will cover

OBVERT ACTIVITY BAFFLING CHALLENGING CURIOUS INVESTIGATE LEFT-FIELD CONNECTION WISDOM GENESIS PROTEAN BECOMING DREAMING GIVING HACK JUMP OFFSHOOTS NATURAL PASSION LUCKY IMPROVISE EXPLORING ASTONISHING PHASE-SHIFT ACTIVATING OPPORTUNITY DISORDER VULNERABLE EXPERIMENTING HAPPENSTANCE CREATIVITY CONSTRUCTIVIST BEATING TIMISTIC RIGIDITY EXISTIBILITY EXFECTION VENTURING CERTAIN ORDINARY INNER-EYES FLUX CE CHAOS @JIMBRIGHT2012 ODDITIES JAZZ DYNAMIC AMAZING ABANDON GERMINATE GENERATING FLUCTUATING GROWTH BUILDING FRACtAL CONFIDENCE INVESTIGATE DOING BEING BOLD HUNCH HUNCH JOLTING FREELY BRAVE PLAYING ENGAGING EVERYDAY BREATHING OPEN-MINDED RE-THINK OPPITIONAL EXPERIMENTAL JIG





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# We're Not Getting Better

**Southwest Airlines says 'nationwide system outage' affected nationwide, including Houston-area**

The airline says the outage is resolved, however, passengers could still face delays

Healthcare IT News

TOPIC

Global Edition [Electronic Health Records \(EHR, EMR\)](#)

**EHR outage takes down federal Cerner systems**

Clinicians at dozens of Defense Department, Coast Guard and Veterans Affairs sites were unable to update medical records for hours this past Wednesday.

Bloomberg  
Technology

Technology Politics Wealth Pursuits Opinion Businessweek Equality Green

**Apple Resolves Outage That Hobbled Apps and Internal Systems**

- Music, iCloud and maps didn't work for some users Monday
- Problems prevented corporate staff from working from home

**Google suffers another Outage as Google Cloud servers in the us-east1 region are cut off**

By Amrata Joshi - July 3, 2019 - 9:55 am 200 0

**Apple iCloud services recover from nationwide outage**

Service outages are increasingly becoming a headache for tech companies and consumers alike

By Humza Aamir on July 5, 2019, 8:18 AM

**The PlayStation Network recovers from an outage affecting players on PS5 and PS4**

*The outage began around 8:30AM ET*

By Emma Roth | Updated Mar 23, 2022, 12:44pm EDT



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# Why is this? What are we doing wrong?





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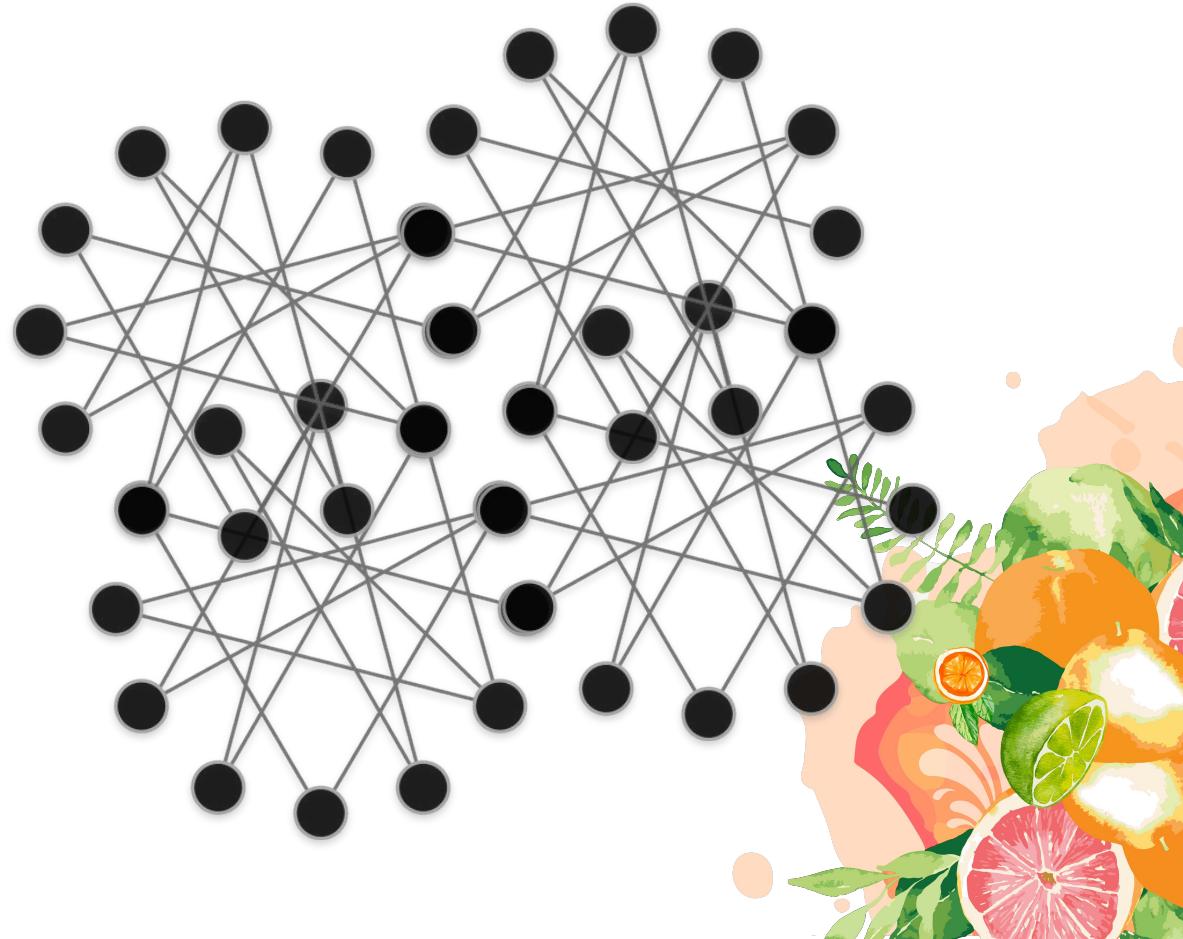
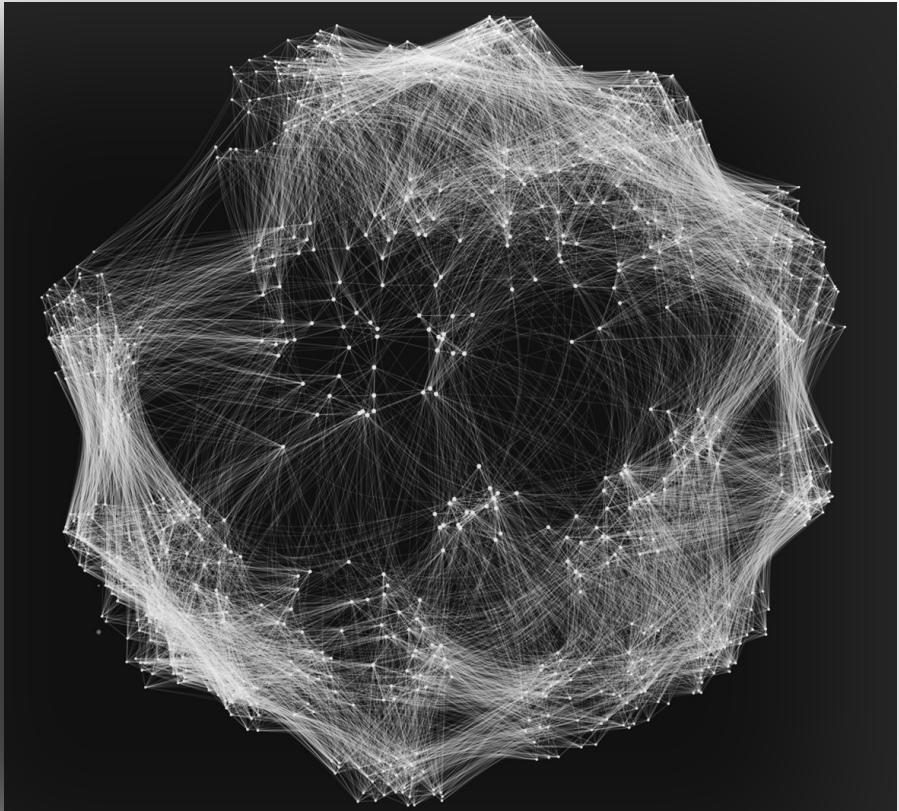


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*“Our systems have evolved beyond our human ability to mentally model their behavior.”*

# Speed, Scale, & Complexity of Modern Software is Challenging



# Where does it come from?



Continuous Delivery

Blue/Green Deployments

Infracode

Service Mesh

Circuit Breaker Patterns

Distributed Systems

Containers

Immutable Infrastructure

DevOps

Auto Canaries

API

Microservice Architectures

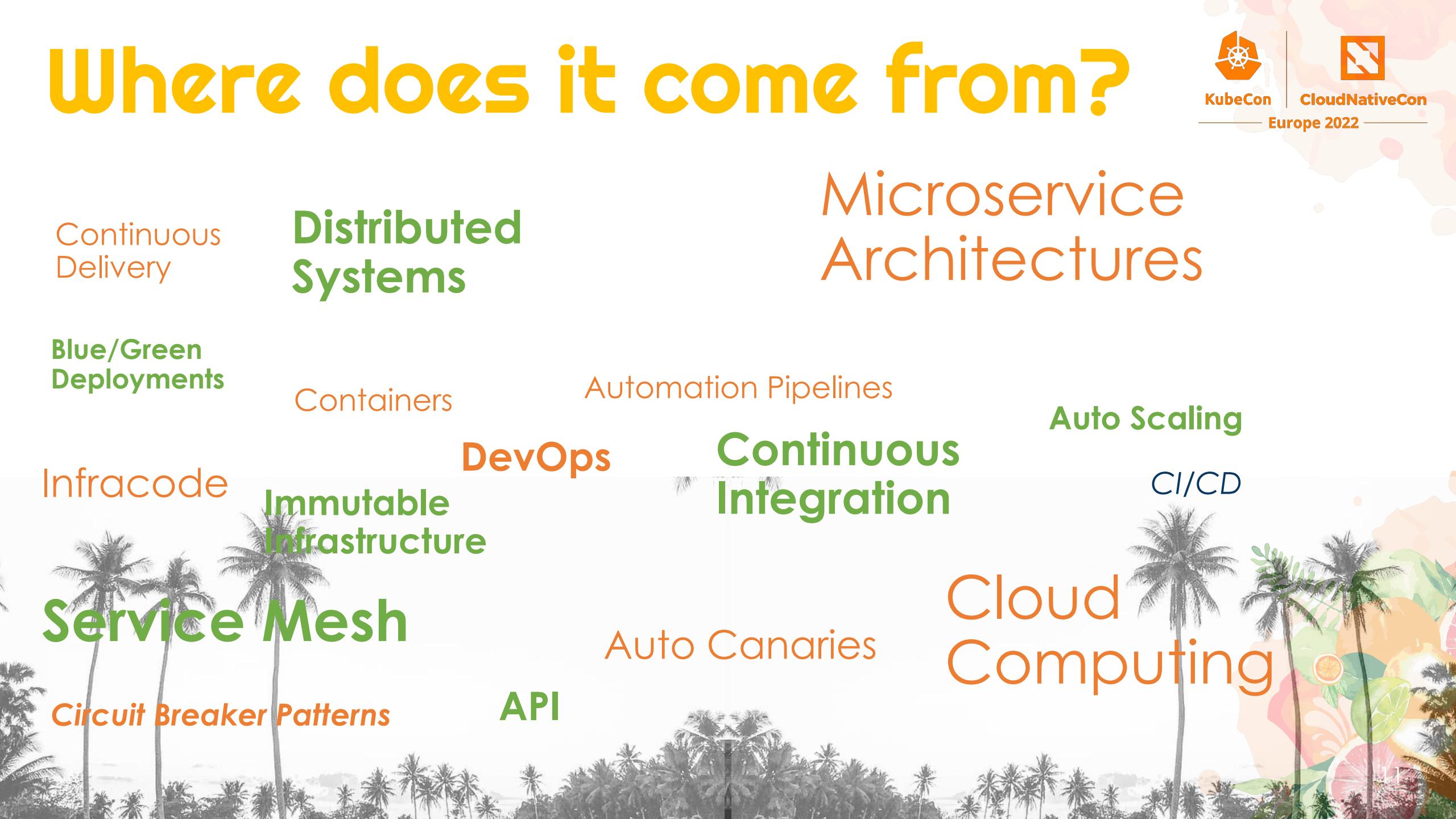
Automation Pipelines

Continuous Integration

Auto Scaling

CI/CD

Cloud Computing



# Software has officially taken over



Justin Garrison  
@rothgar

Following

The new OSI model is much easier to understand



11:22 AM - 18 Jul 2017

2,754 Retweets 3,895 Likes



93

2.8K

3.9K

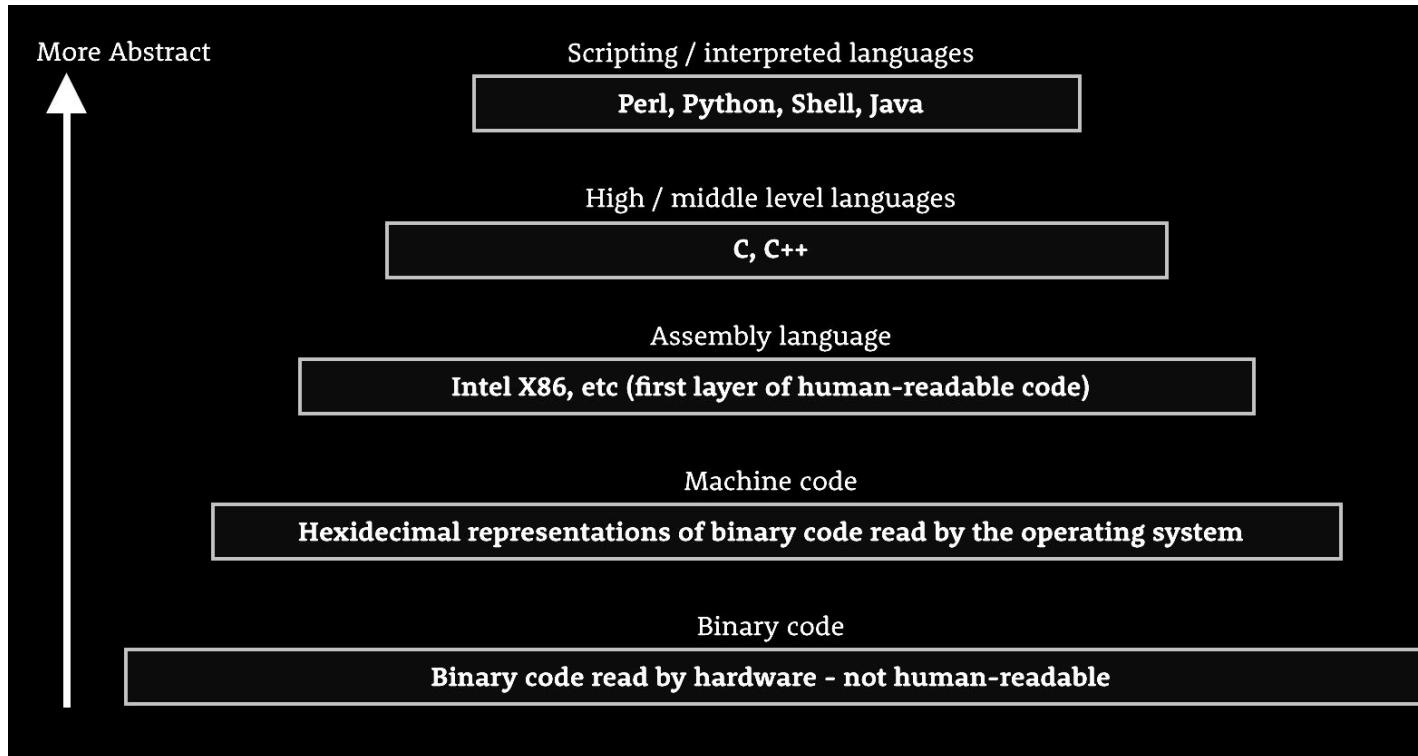


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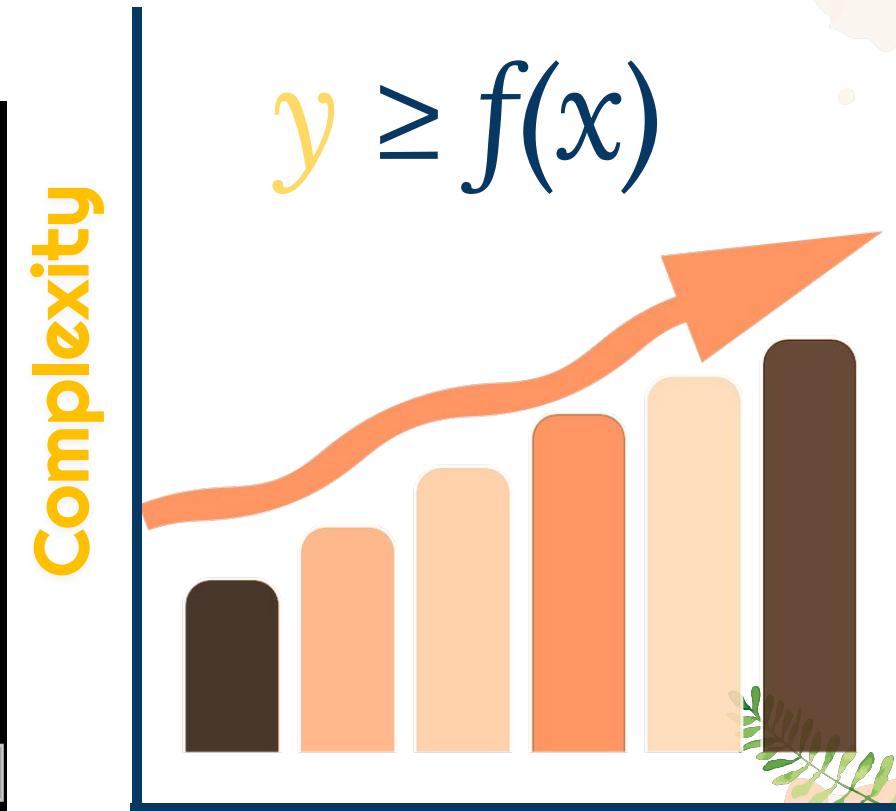


# Software ONLY Increases in Complexity



↑ Change(x)

Complexity(y)

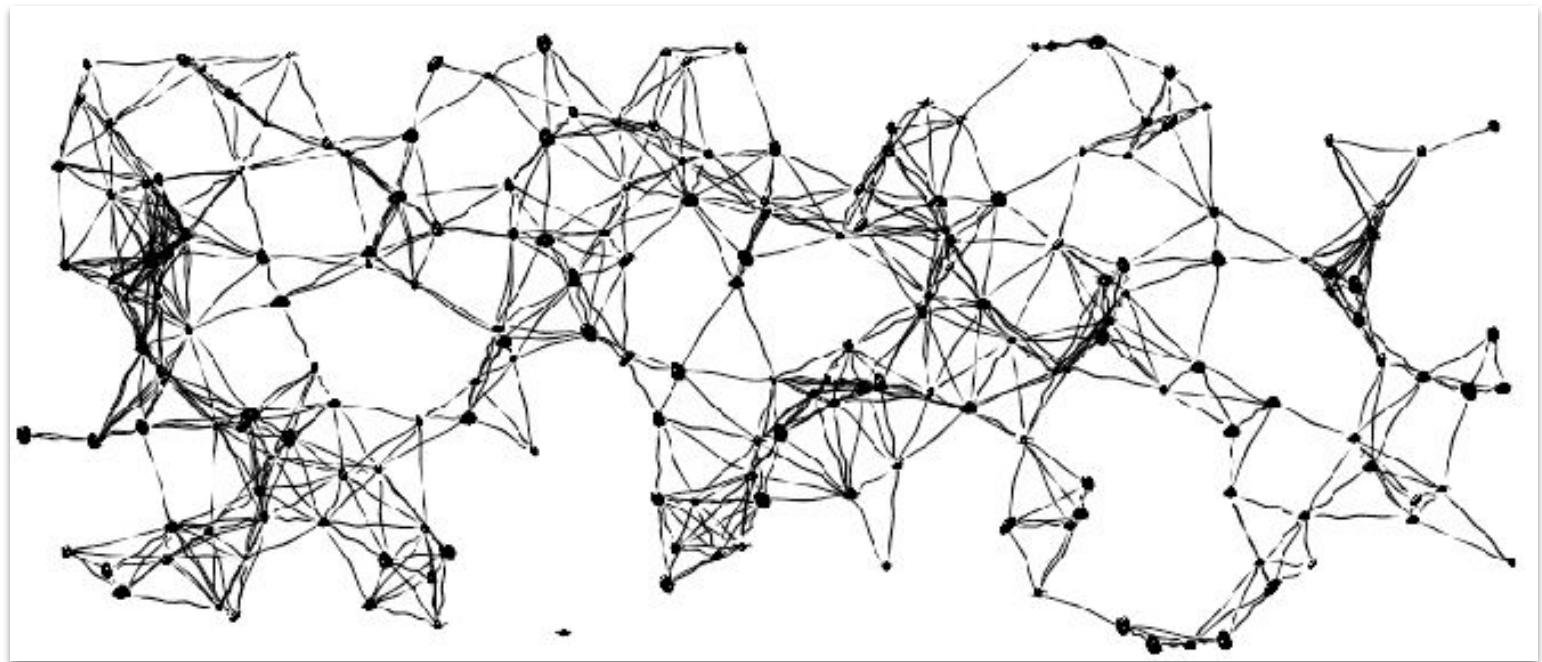


# of Software Changes

# Software Complexity

*Accidental  
Complexity*

*Essential  
Complexity*



# Learn to Navigate Complexity with Chaos Engineering





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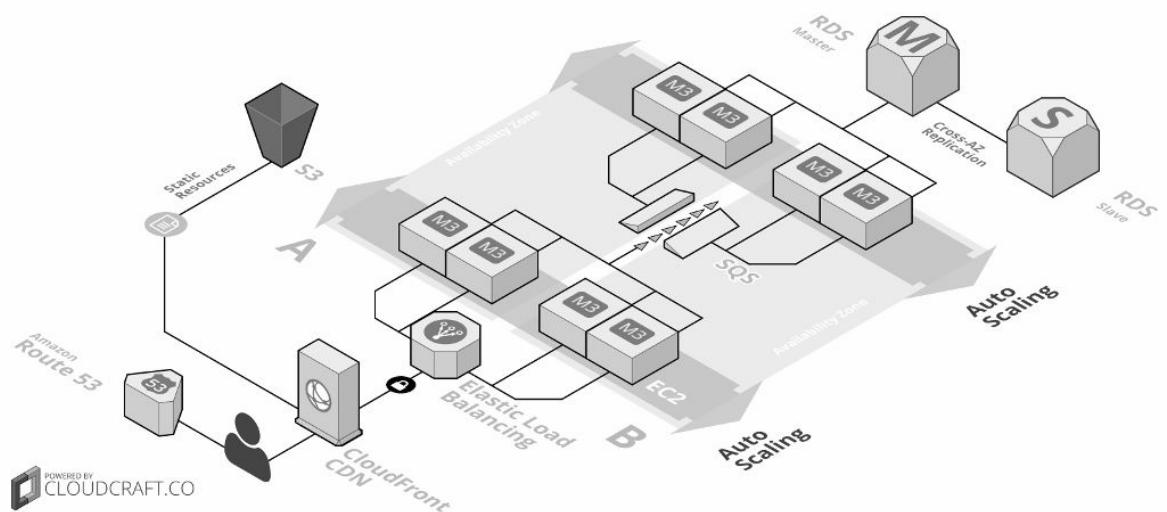
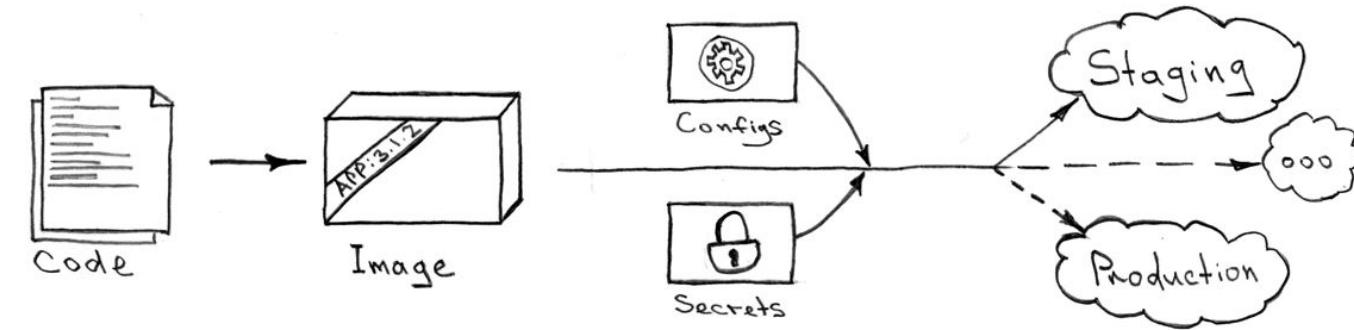
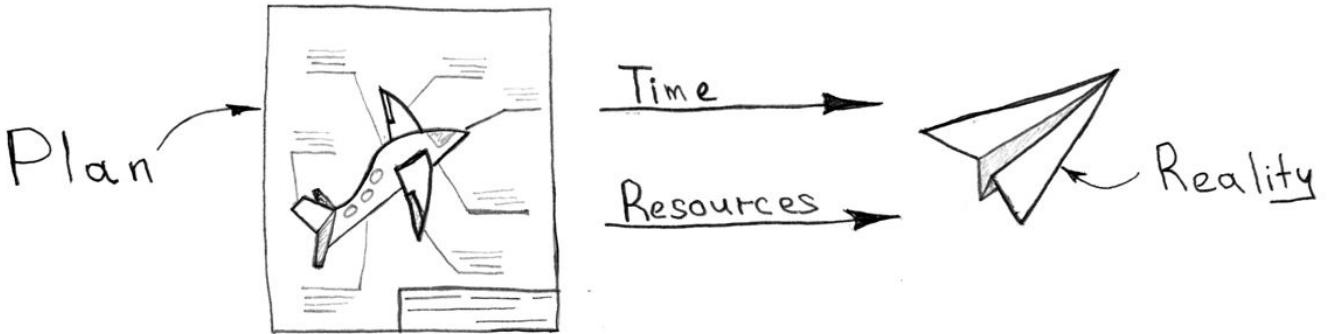
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We forget  
that.....  
**Systems  
Engineering is  
messy**



# In the beginning...we think it looks like





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## Network is Unreliable

Autoscaling Keeps  
Breaking

Refactor Pricing

Cloud Provider API Outage

DNS Resolution  
Errors

300 Microservices  $\Delta \rightarrow$  850 Microservices

WAF Outage  $\rightarrow$  Disabled

Large Customer Outage

# After a few months....

Hard Coded Passwords

New Security Tool

Identity Conflicts

Regulatory  
Audit

Rolling Svc Outage on  
Portal

Code Freeze

Expired Certificate

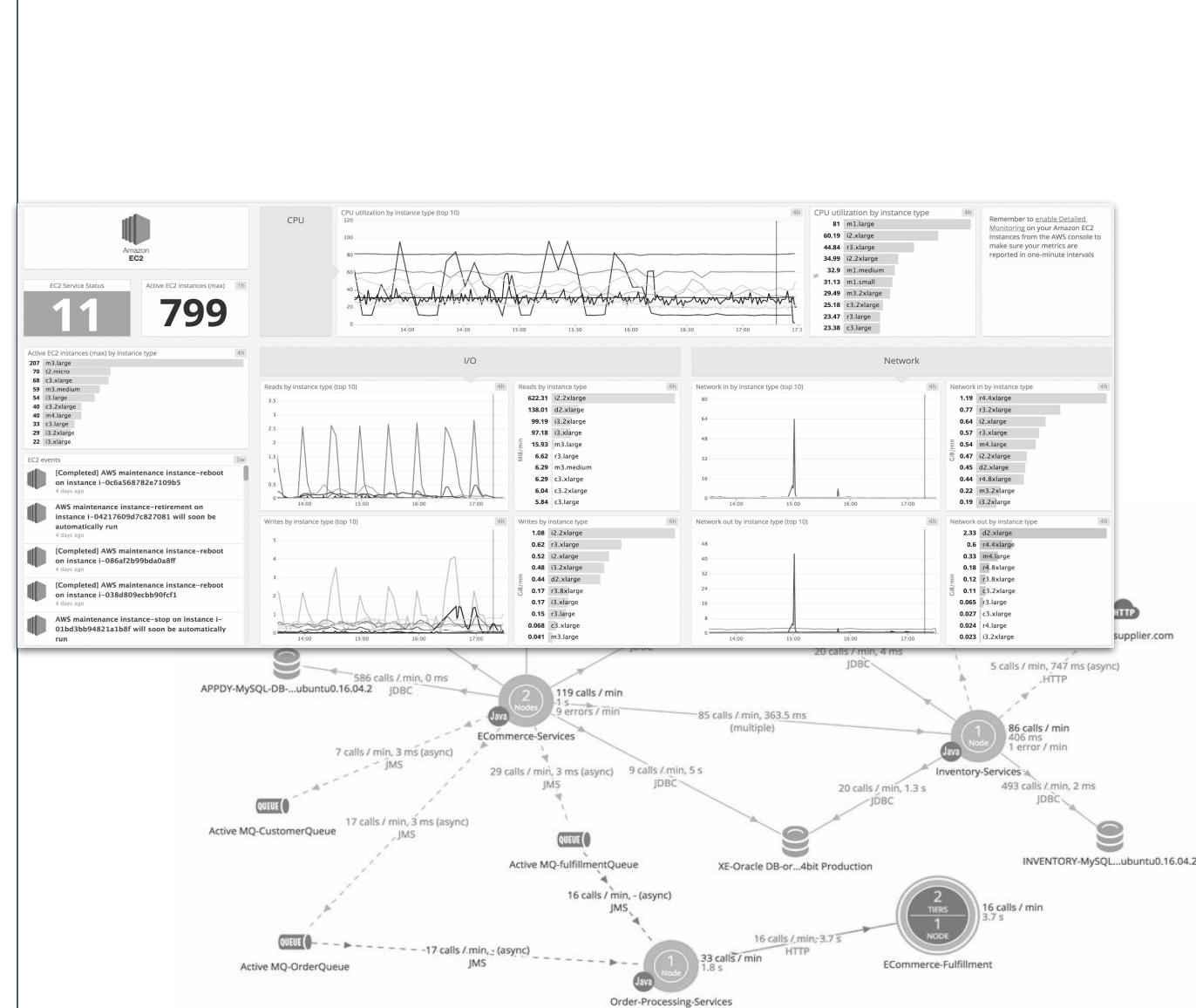
Scalability Issues

Delayed Features

# Years?....



# Our systems have become more complex and messy than we remember



# What does this \$€%\* have to do with Security?

*Putting off critical tasks until everyone forgets about them*



Getting Around to  
Security Next Month

*If there's time*

O RLY?

@ThePracticalDev





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# Cyber Security is Context Dependent

**Flexibility to  
Change System  
Rapidly**

**vs.**

**Ability to Apply  
Secure Context to  
System Changes**

# Instrumenting Chaos



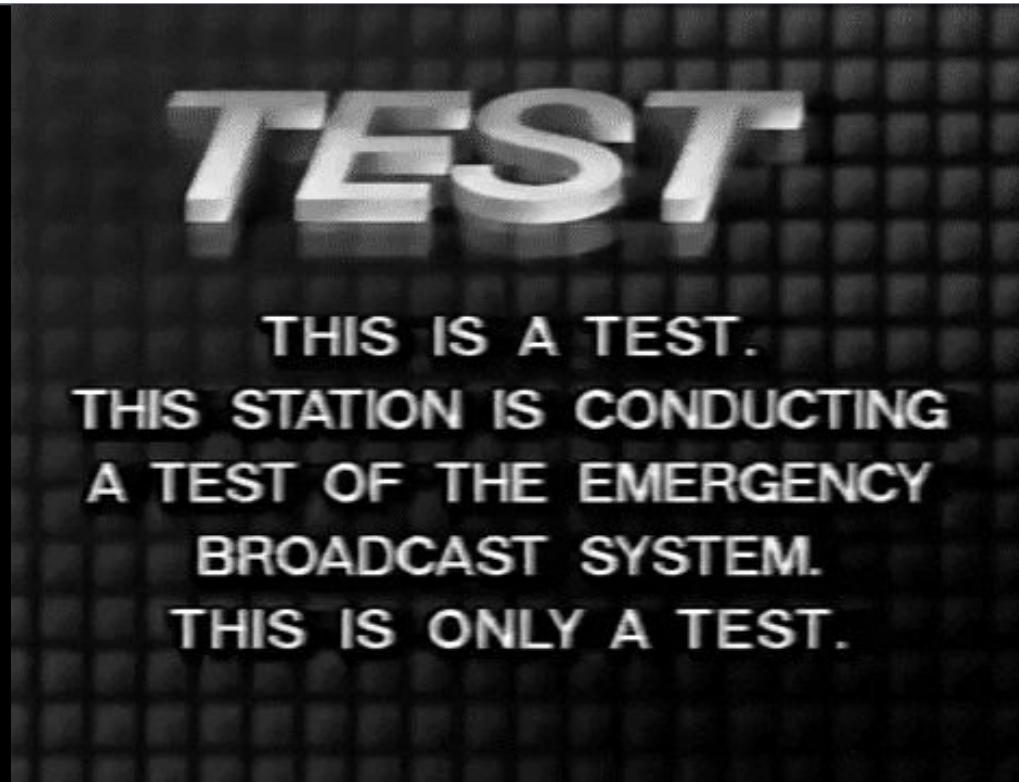
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## Testing vs Experimentation



# chaos Engineering



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# Chaos Engineering

“Chaos Engineering is the discipline of experimenting on a distributed system in order to **build confidence** in the system’s ability to withstand turbulent conditions”

# Chaos Monkey Story



# NETFLIX

- During Business Hours
- Born out of Netflix Cloud Transformation
- Put well defined problems in front of engineers.
- Terminate VMs on Random VPC Instances

*The purpose of Chaos  
Engineering is NOT to  
“Break Things on  
Purpose”.*

*If anything we are  
trying to “Fix them  
on Purpose”!*

**CHAOS ENGINEERING  
IS ABOUT CONTINUOUS  
VERIFICATION + ORDER**



*“I’m pretty sure I won’t have a  
very long if I break things on  
purpose all day.”*  
**-CASEY ROSENTHAL**

*Reference: Nora Jones 8 Traps of Chaos Engineering*

# Who is doing Chaos?

NETFLIX





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# SECURITY CHAOS ENGINEERING





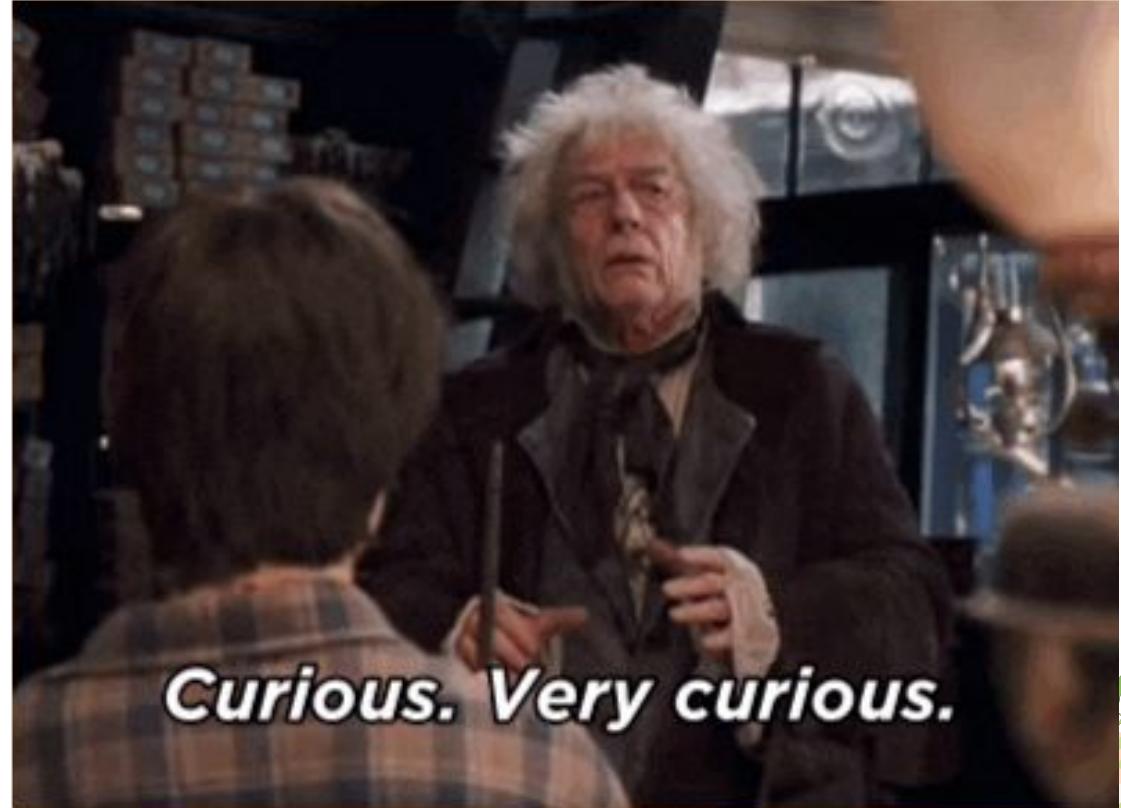
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# How do I know if my Security Really Works???



# *Hope is Not*



## *an Effective Strategy*



*“It worked in Star Wars but it won’t work here”*



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*“Understand your system  
and its security gaps before  
an adversary does”*



# Use Cases

- Incident Response
- Security Control
- Validation
- Security Observability
- Compliance Monitoring





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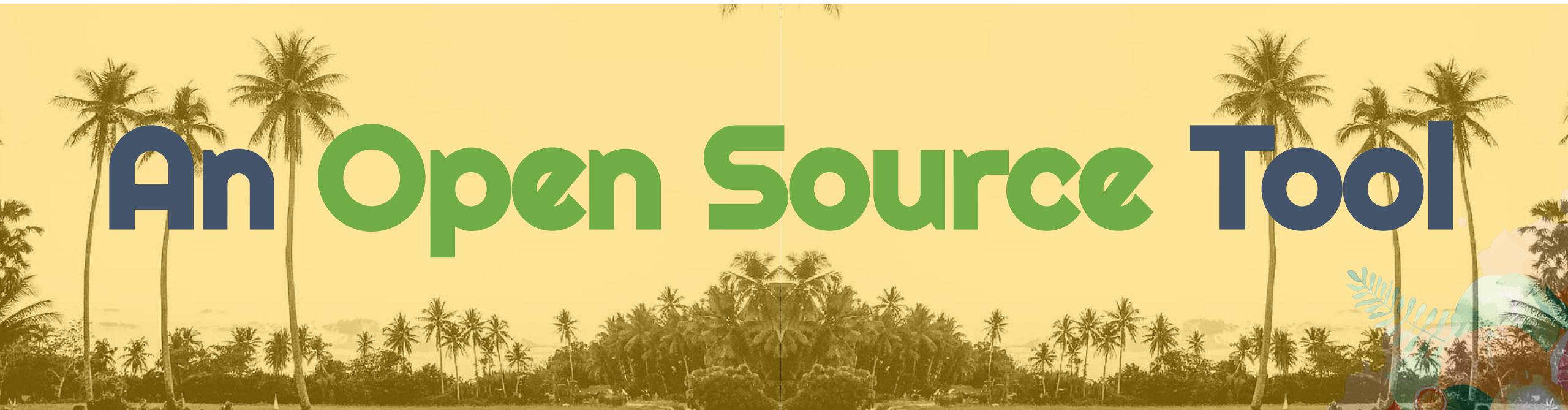
# So how does it work?





# ChaoSlingr

An Open Source Tool.



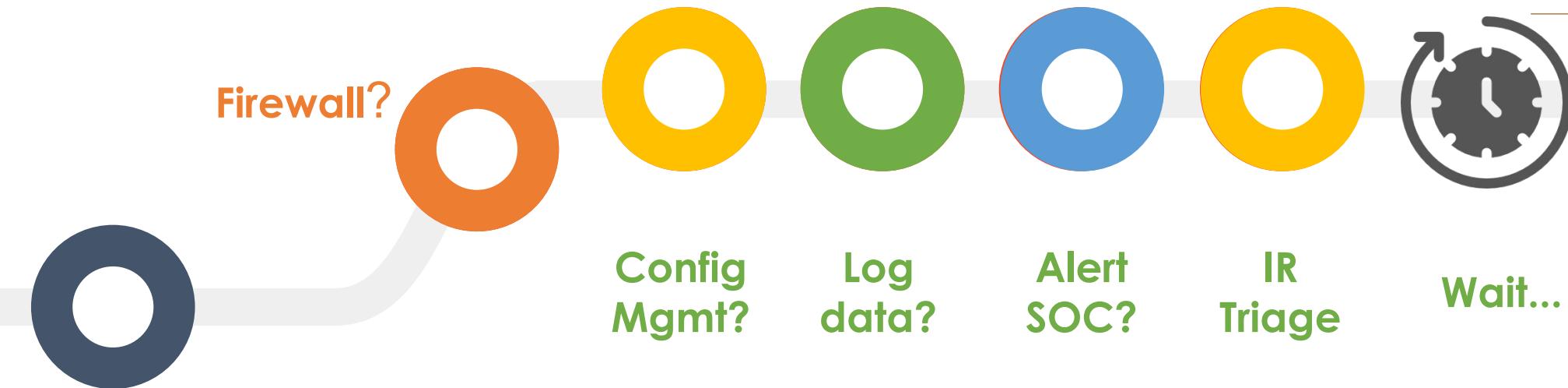


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## Misconfigured Port Injection

### Hypothesis:

If someone accidentally or maliciously introduced a misconfigured port then we would immediately detect, block, and alert on the event.



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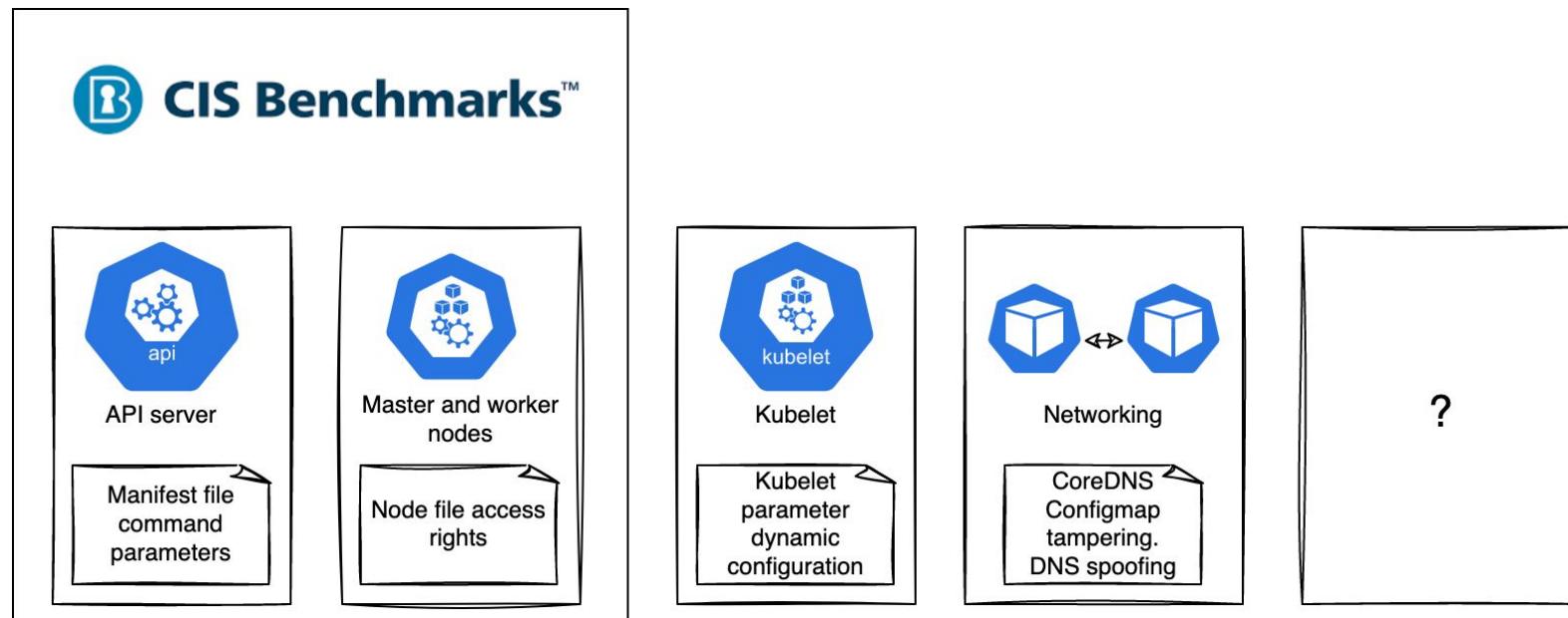
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# “Kirvis”

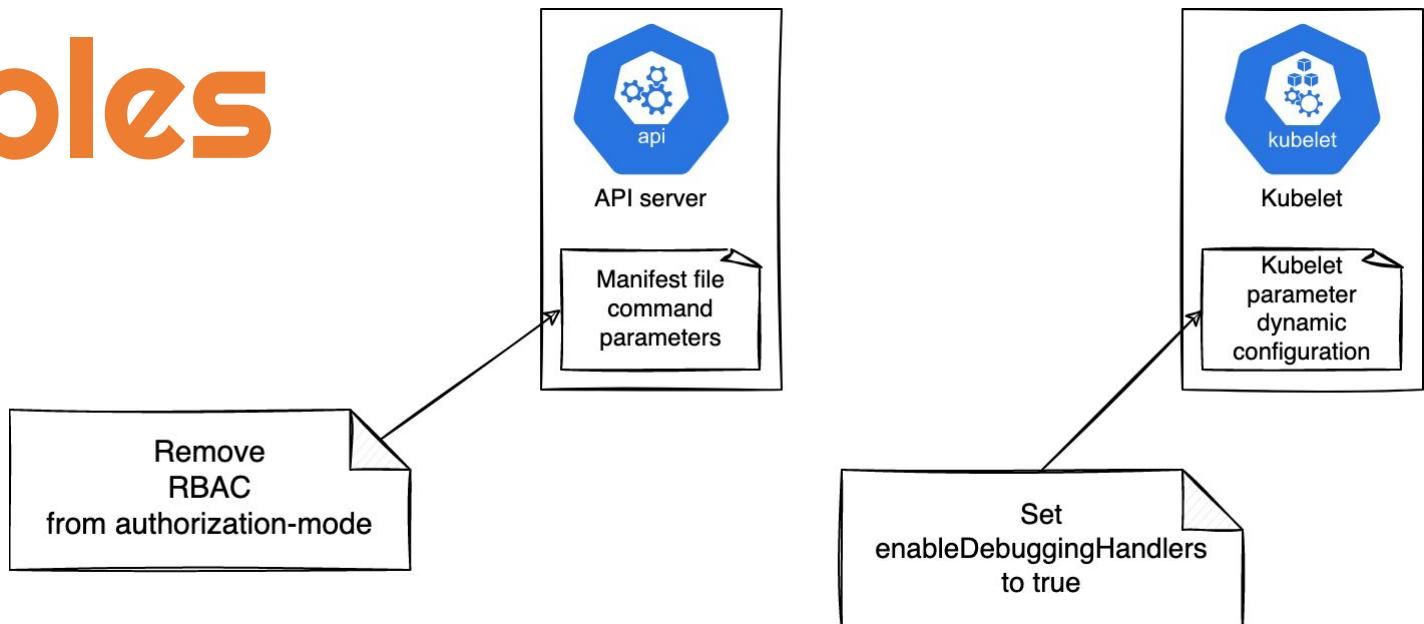
An Open Source Tool.

# Targets

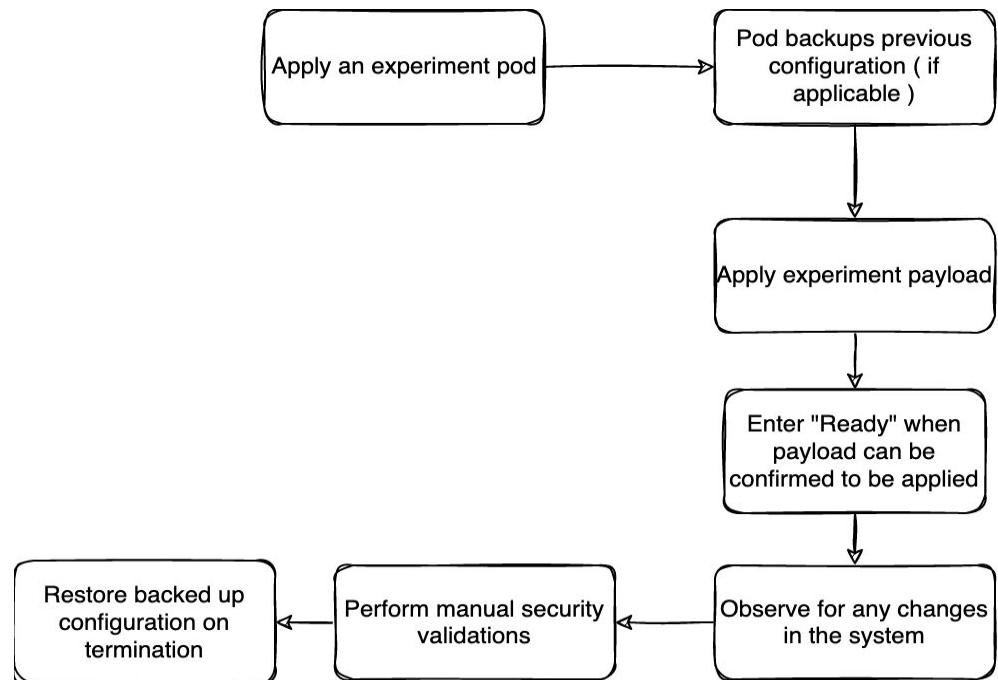


# Experiment

## examples



# Experiment usage





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# Demo Overview





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# Demo video





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# Summary

- Learn to navigate complexity with Chaos Engineering
- Use SCE to build confidence in your security
- Chaos Engineering & Security CE are about being proactive
- Email A.A.Ron for a FREE copy of the SCE Report



# Q&A

- How is it different than the other Security Crayons (Red/Blue/Purple/)?
- What's the best way to get started?
- Can you share an example of an SCE Experiment in Kubernetes?





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# The End