

Lessons learned after 18 months of Micro Frontends adoption in a large scale application

Eder Ignatowicz

Principal Software Engineer

@ederign

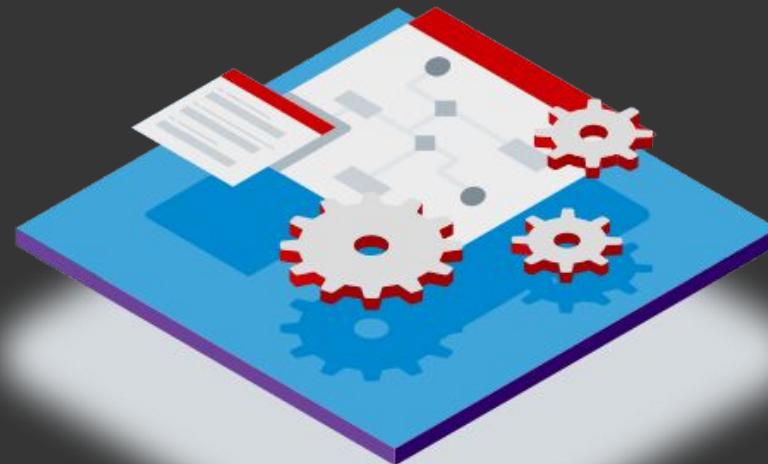
Alex Porcelli

Senior Principal Software Engineer

@porcelli



jBPM

The jBPM logo features a stylized orange 'J' shape icon followed by the lowercase letters 'jbpm' in a white, sans-serif font.

Drools

The Drools logo features a stylized red and blue 'D' shape icon followed by the word 'Drools' in a large, grey, sans-serif font.

Kogito

The Kogito logo features a blue and orange cartoon character with a beard and a mask, followed by the word 'Kogito' in a large, white, sans-serif font.

OptaPlanner

The OptaPlanner logo features the word 'OptaPlanner' in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a green circular icon containing a white 'G' shape to the right.

localhost:8080/business-central/kie-wb.jsp#HomePerspective%7Corg.kie.workbench.common.screens.home.client.HomePresenter

Business Central Menu krisv

Welcome to Business Central

Business Central offers a set of flexible tools that support the way you need to work. Select a tool below to get started.

Design

Create and modify [projects](#) and [pages](#).

Deploy

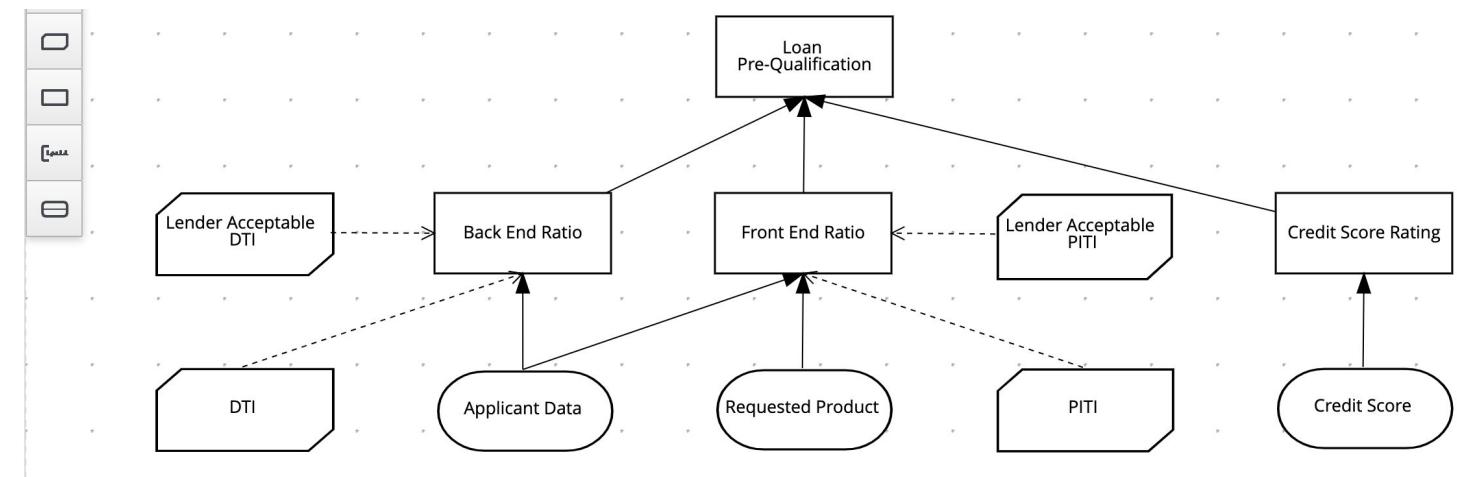
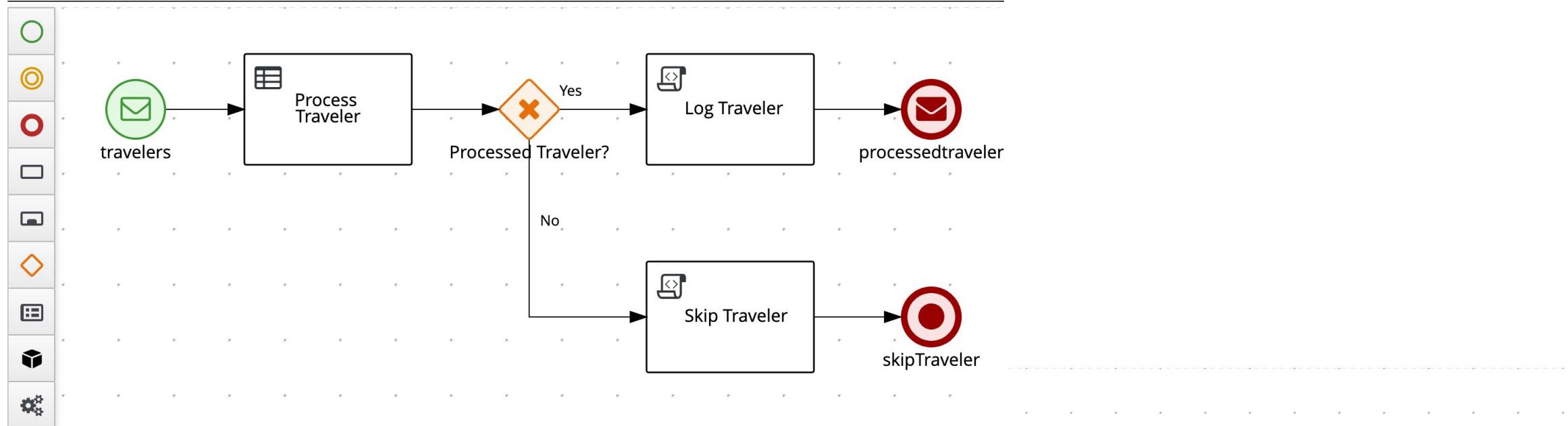
Administer [provisioning](#) and [servers](#).

Manage

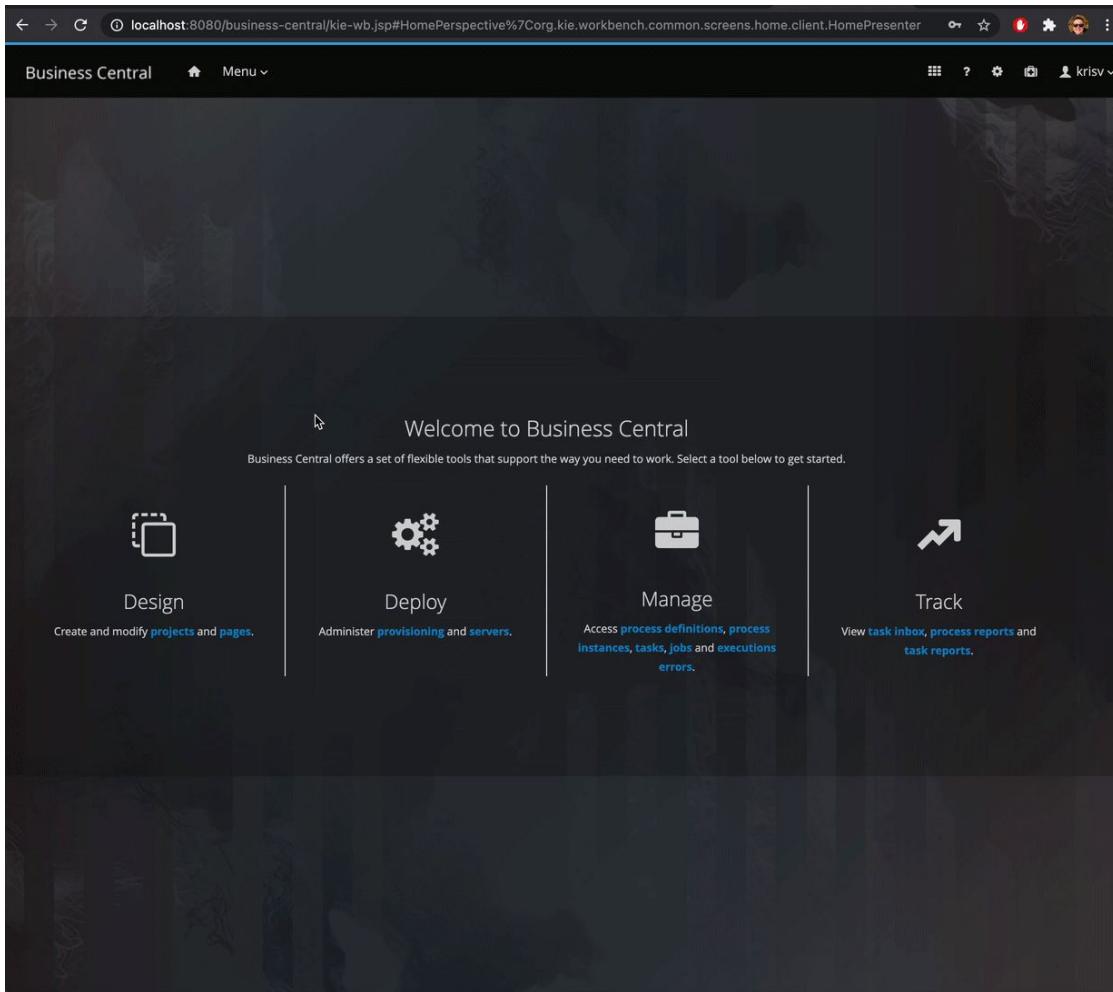
Access [process definitions](#), [process instances](#), [tasks](#), [jobs](#) and [executions](#) [errors](#).

Track

View [task inbox](#), [process reports](#) and [task reports](#).







QCon
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Kogito ergo automate

CLOUD-NATIVE BUSINESS AUTOMATION FOR BUILDING INTELLIGENT
APPLICATIONS, BACKED BY BATTLE-TESTED CAPABILITIES.

How to adapt a 10 years old legacy
to modern web development?

From a handful of engineers to
6 different fullstack teams working
independently on different fronts
on this new initiative?

How to breakup my frontend
monolith into many smaller
manageable pieces?

Micro frontends

"An architectural style where independently deliverable frontend applications are composed into a greater whole"

—
Cam Jackson

<https://martinfowler.com/articles/micro-frontends.html>

Incremental upgrades

Simple, decoupled codebases

Each micro frontend can run as standalone

Independent deployment and releases

Autonomous Teams

Example

DMN Powered by  Kogito

Microfrontend A / Team A

Save & Download Share ...

Decision Navigator

Editor Documentation Data Types

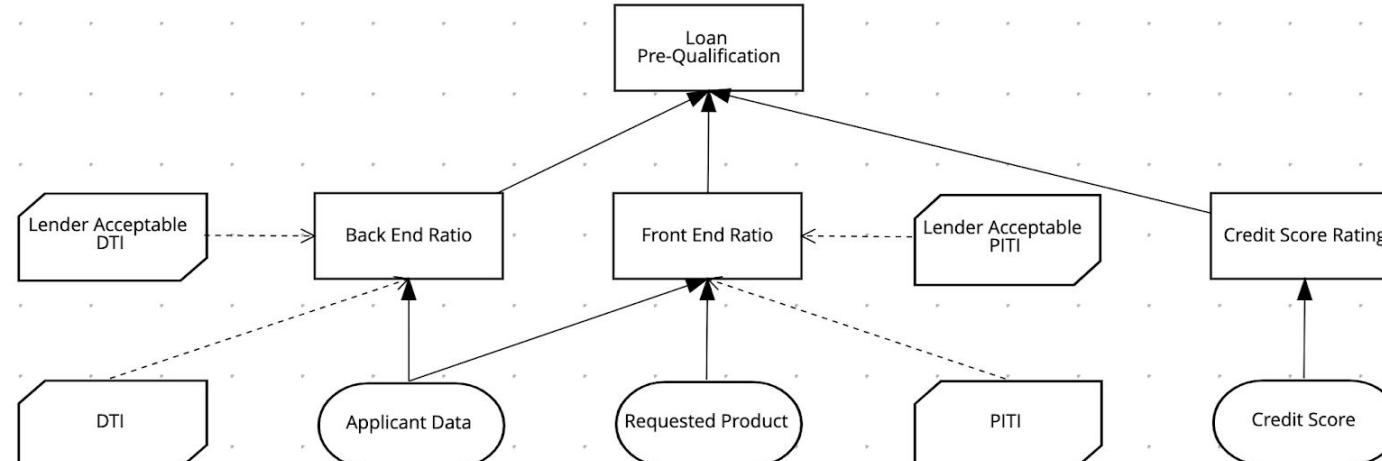
Decision Graphs

- loan_pre_qualification
 - Applicant Data
 - Back End Ratio
 - Context
 - Credit Score Rating
 - Decision Table
 - Credit Score
 - DTI
 - f() Function
 - Front End Ratio
 - Context
 - Lender Acceptable DTI
 - f() Function
 - Lender Acceptable PITI
 - f() Function
 - Loan Pre-Qualification
 - Decision Table
 - PITI
 - f() Function
 - Requested Product

Micro Frontend B Team B

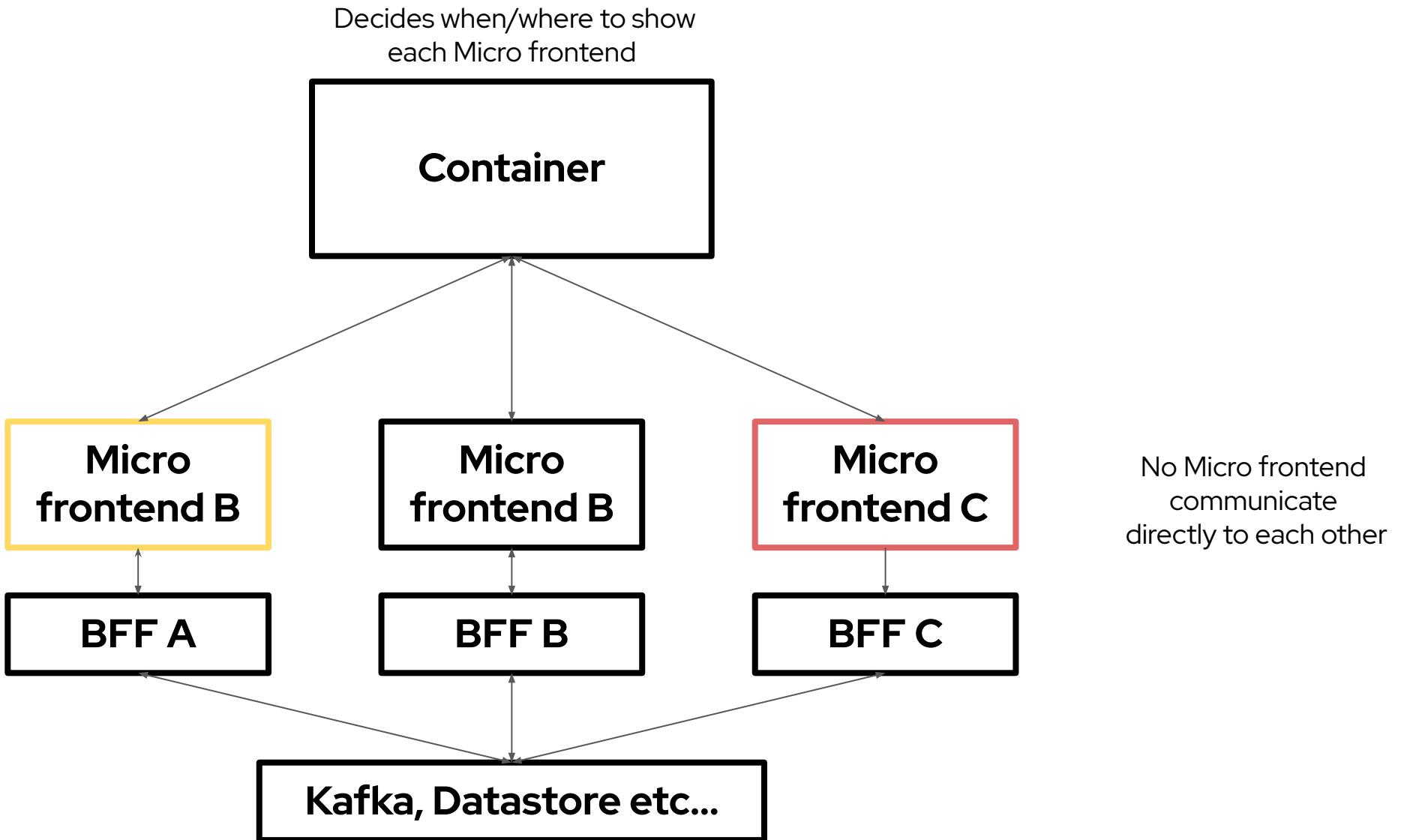
Micro Frontend C Team B

Container App



```
graph TD; DTI[DTI] --> LDTI[Lender Acceptable DTI]; DTI --> APD[Applicant Data]; DTI --> RP[Requested Product]; DTI -.-> LBR[Back End Ratio]; DTI -.-> FER[Front End Ratio]; DTI -.-> LPTI[PITI]; DTI -.-> CSR[Credit Score Rating]; LDTI --> LBR; APD --> LBR; RP --> LBR; LBR --> LPQ[Loan Pre-Qualification]; LPTI --> FER; CSR --> FER; FER --> LPQ;
```

The diagram illustrates a decision graph for 'Loan Pre-Qualification' (Team A). The graph consists of several nodes: 'Lender Acceptable DTI', 'Back End Ratio', 'Front End Ratio', 'Lender Acceptable PITI', 'Credit Score Rating', 'DTI' (data type), 'Applicant Data', 'Requested Product', and 'PITI' (data type). Solid arrows indicate causal relationships between nodes, while dashed arrows indicate dependencies from data types to their respective rules or functions.



Types of Integration

Run-Time integration

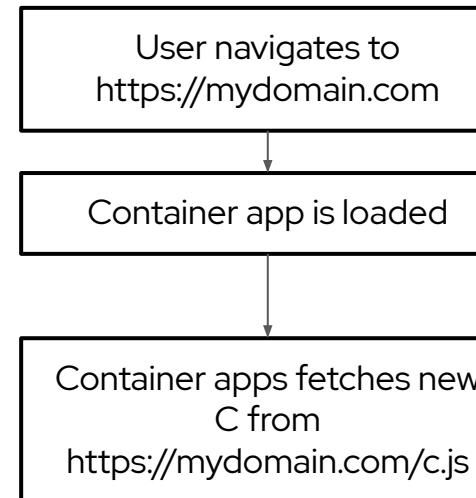
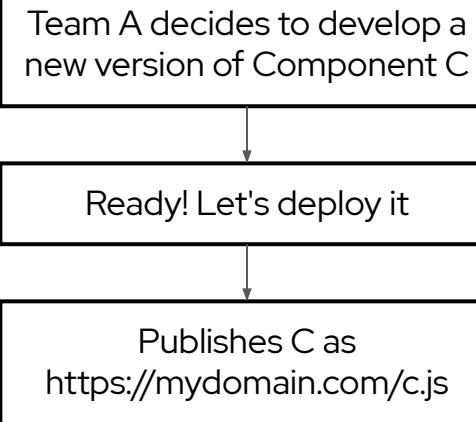
aka client-side integration:

After the container gets loaded in the browser, it gets access to micro front end source code

Pros: A can be deployed independently at any time and can deploy different versions of it, and Container can decide which one to use

Cons: tooling + setup is far more complicated

Independent deployment makes it challenging to test/verify (build a good test suite for it)



Types of Integration

Build-time integration

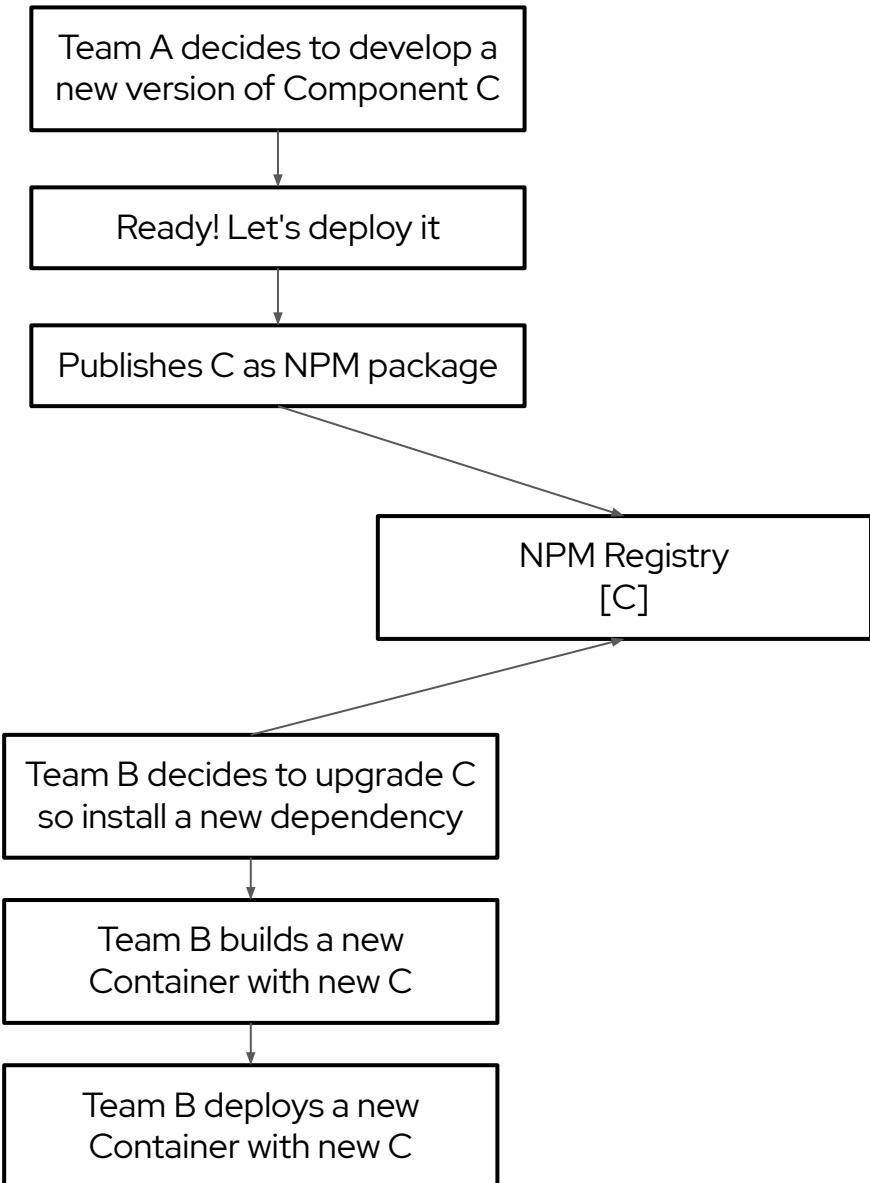
aka compile-time integration:

Before the container gets loaded in the browser, it gets access to micro frontend source code;

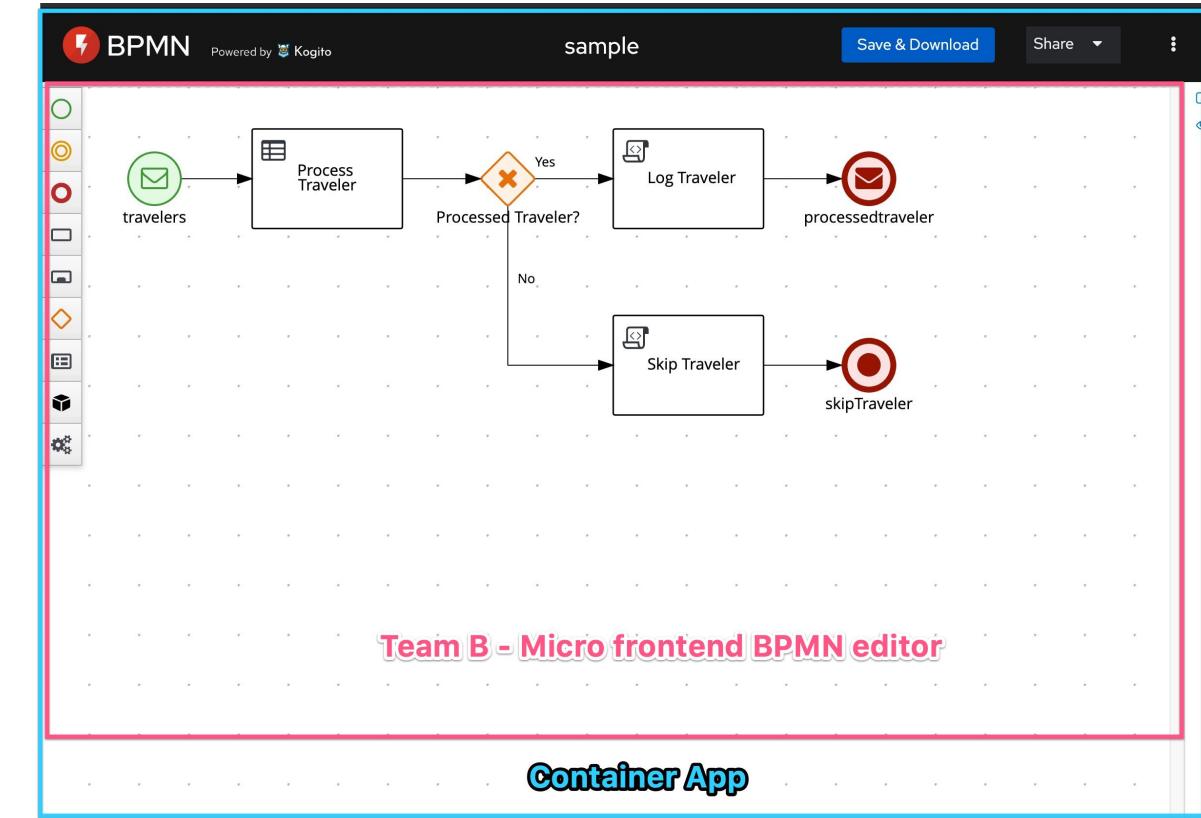
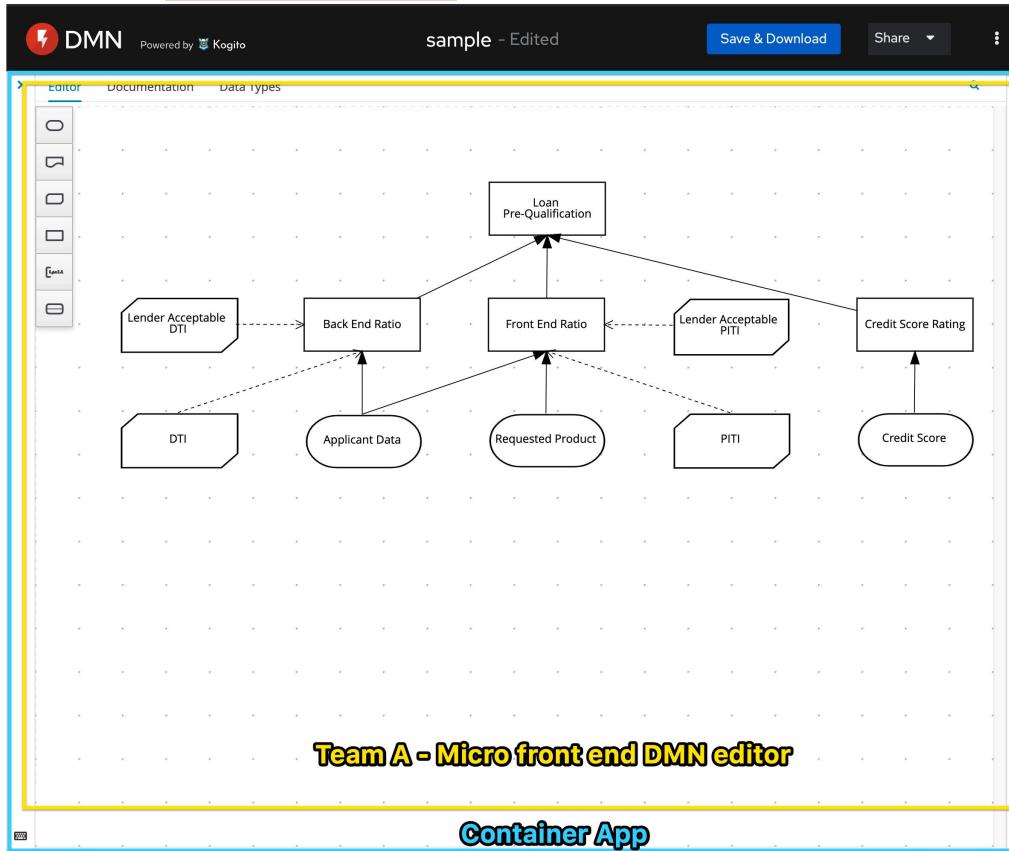
Foreign modules are accessible during build

Pros: Easy to setup and understand

Cons: Container has to be re-deployed every time child has updated and tempting to tightly coupled Container + child together;



Build-time integration



Another concerns - Autonomous Teams

Autonomous teams

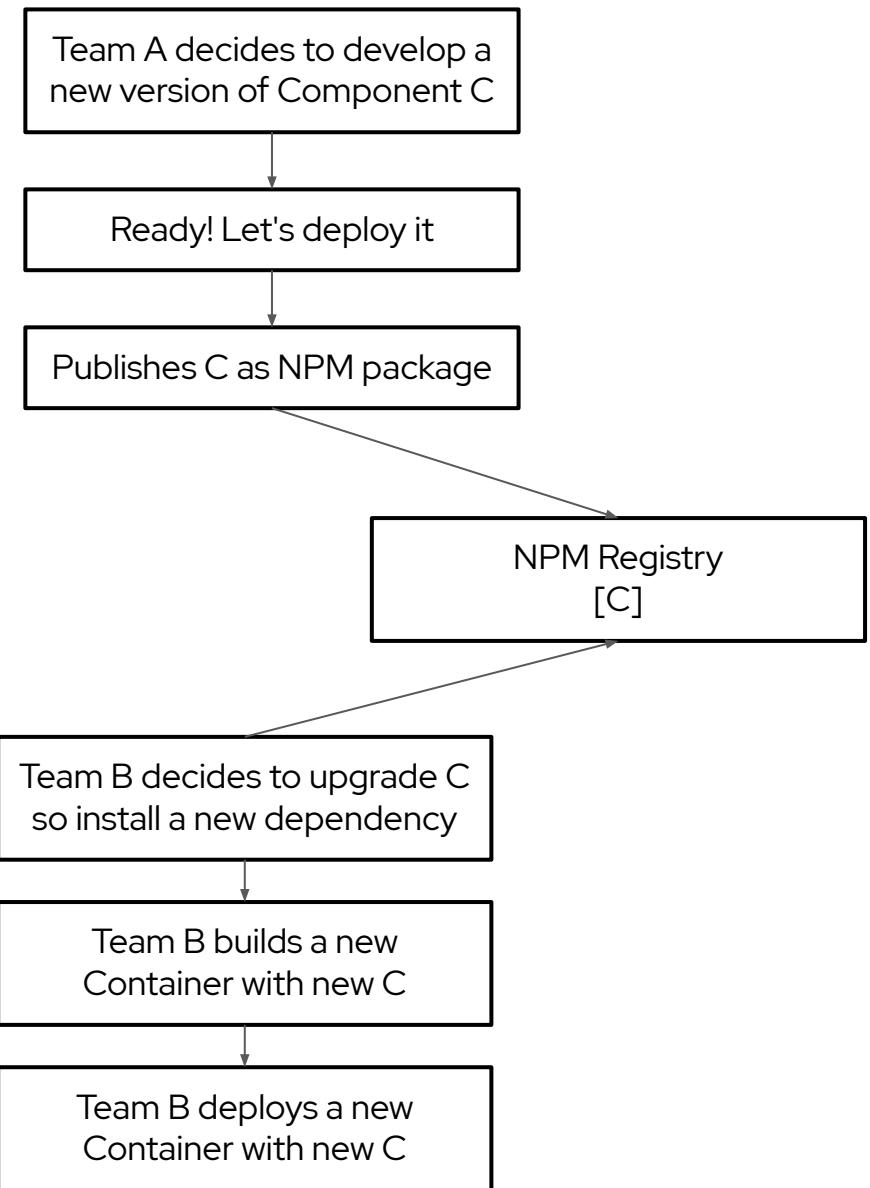
- Each team can run its micro frontend in isolation

Pros

- Smaller/quicker build;
- Focus just on the problem;
- Less distraction, noise

Cons

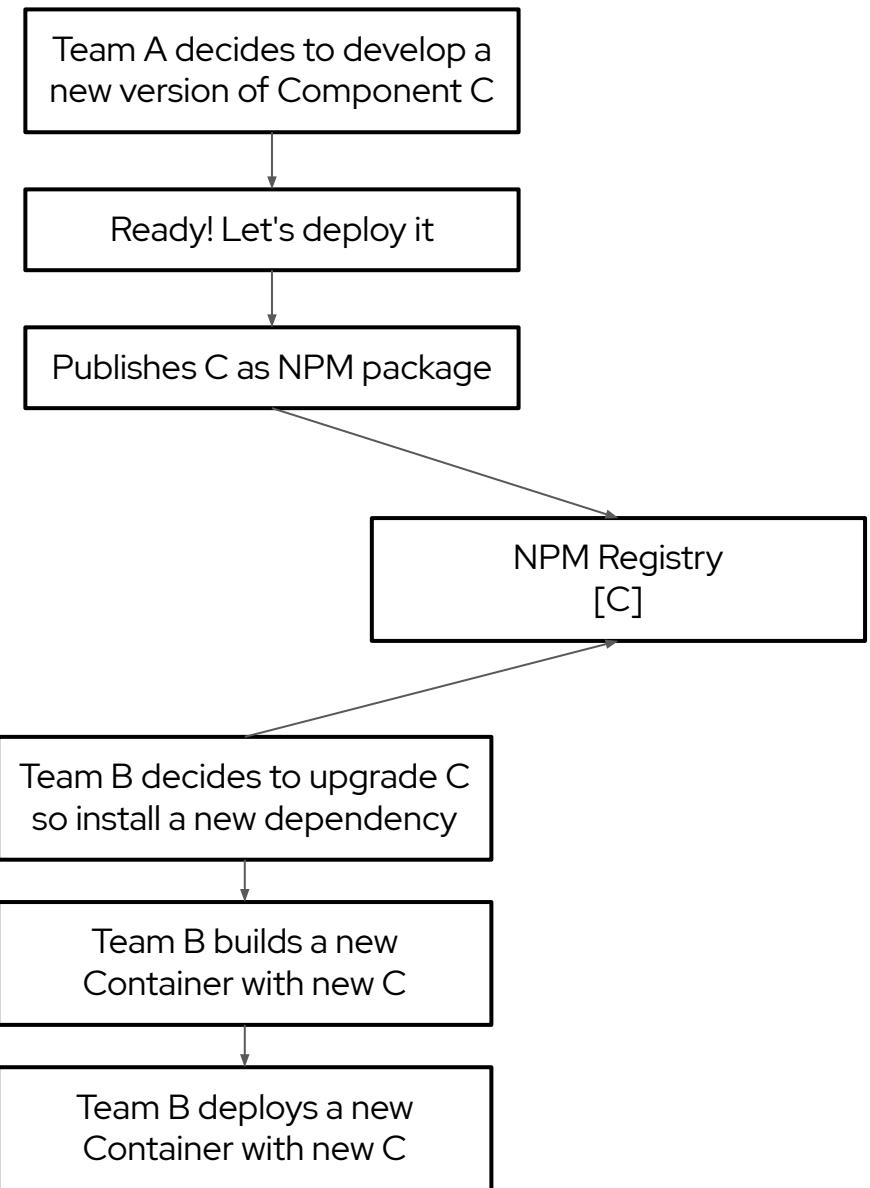
- Bugs can appear just on container app
- Hard to run the complete experience;
- Hard to debug problems across entire system;
- Incoherent experiences;
- Our project:
 - Tricky issues can appear only on production



Another concerns – Styling

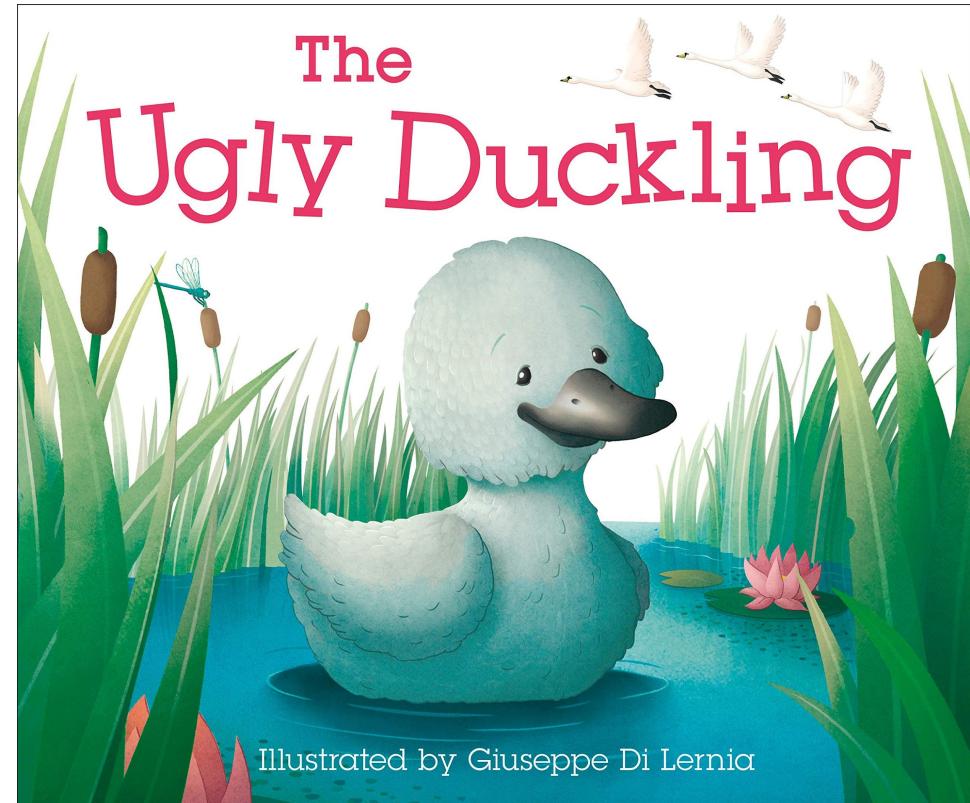
What you should do:

- *Custom CSS from your project:*
 - Use CSS-in-JS library
 - Use frameworks built-in component style scoping
 - Vue's and Angular has good ones
 - "Namespace" all your CSS
- *CSS coming from other libraries*
 - Use a component library that does css-in-js
 - Manually build the css library and apply namespacing techniques to it
 - Scope-it
 - Shadow DOM or **iframes!**



Context Isolation via iframes

- Nothing new, exciting, even a bit of 'yuck"
- **Pros**
 - Great degree of isolation;
 - Styling
 - Global variables
 - Shadow DOM was not a option in 2019
- Some libraries play directly with body of the page
- We only use it when necessary
- **Cons:**
 - Makes your app feel 'old'
 - Less flexible than other options
 - Hard to integrate routing, history;
 - Challenging to make the app responsive
 - Not Content-Security-Policy friendly
 - Harder to make apps communicate



```
<> index.html
```

```
Raw
```

```
1  <html>
2    <head>
3      <title>Feed me!</title>
4    </head>
5    <body>
6      <h1>Welcome to Feed me!</h1>
7
8      <iframe id="micro-frontend-container"></iframe>
9
10     <script type="text/javascript">
11       const microFrontendsByRoute = {
12         '/': 'https://browse.example.com/index.html',
13         '/order-food': 'https://order.example.com/index.html',
14         '/user-profile': 'https://profile.example.com/index.html',
15       };
16
17       const iframe = document.getElementById('micro-frontend-container');
18       iframe.src = microFrontendsByRoute[window.location.pathname];
19     </script>
20   </body>
21 </html>
```

The screenshot shows the DMN online editor interface. A modal window titled "Welcome to this 5-minute tour" is displayed in the center. The modal contains a purple book icon, the text "Welcome to this 5-minute tour", and "Learn more about the DMN online editor by taking this brief and interactive tour.", with "Let's go" and "Skip tour" buttons. The background shows the editor's navigation bar with "Editor" selected, and a sidebar with various icons.

The right side of the screen shows the Chrome DevTools Elements panel. The "Elements" tab is active, displaying the DOM structure of the page. A specific element, the "kogito-iframe" (with ID #kogito-iframe), is highlighted in blue. The DOM tree includes the main application container, header, and the iframe itself, which contains the envelope.html content. The Styles tab shows the CSS styles applied to the highlighted element, including flex properties and border settings. The bottom of the DevTools shows the Console and What's New panels.

A screenshot of the Gmail mobile application. The top navigation bar includes the Google logo, the word "Gmail", a search bar with the query "is:starred", and standard navigation icons. Below the search bar is a toolbar with a compose button, a square icon with a downward arrow, a circular icon with a letter 'C', and a three-dot menu icon. The main content area shows a message stating "No starred messages. Stars let you give messages a special status to make them easier to find. To star a message, click on the star outline beside any message or conversation." On the left side, there is a sidebar with links for "Compose", "Inbox" (with a count of 4), "Starred" (which is highlighted with a grey bar), "Snoozed", "Sent", "Drafts", and "More". Below this is a "Meet" section with "New meeting" and "Join a meeting" options. Further down is a "Hangouts" section showing a contact "Kie" with a green dot indicating availability, and a message from "ignatowicz@gmail.com" saying "Hello there!". At the bottom, there is a footer with icons for profile, messages, and phone, and a URL "div.nH.aJl.nn 267 x 745".

The screenshot shows the Chrome DevTools interface with the 'Elements' tab selected. The top status bar indicates the page has 155 resources and 2 JavaScript errors. The DOM tree on the left shows a nested structure of div elements, with one iframe node expanded to reveal its source URL. The 'Styles' panel on the right displays the CSS rules applied to the selected element, including styles for classes like .a7A and .aAl, and specific styles for the iframe itself. The bottom of the screen features a navigation bar with 'Console', 'What's New', and a 'Highlights' section for the Chrome 89 update.

... nH div.no div.nH.aJl.nn div.aJn div#:il div.nH.aAl iframe.a7A ...

Styles Computed Layout Event Listeners DOM Breakpoints >

Filter :hov .cls + □

```
element.style {  
}  
.aAl .a7A, .aAl.nH {  
    border-top-left-radius: 8px;  
    border-top-right-radius: 8px;  
}  
.a7A, .Jc iframe {  
    display: block;  
}  
iframe[Attributes Style] {  
    border-top-width: 0px;  
    border-right-width: 0px;  
    border-bottom-width: 0px;  
    border-left-width: 0px;  
    width: 262px;  
    height: 380px;  
}
```

Console What's New ×

Highlights from the Chrome 89 update

Debugging support for Trusted Type violations
Breakpoint on Trusted Type violations and link to more information in the Issues tab.

Capture node screenshot beyond viewport
Capture node screenshot for a full node including content below the fold.

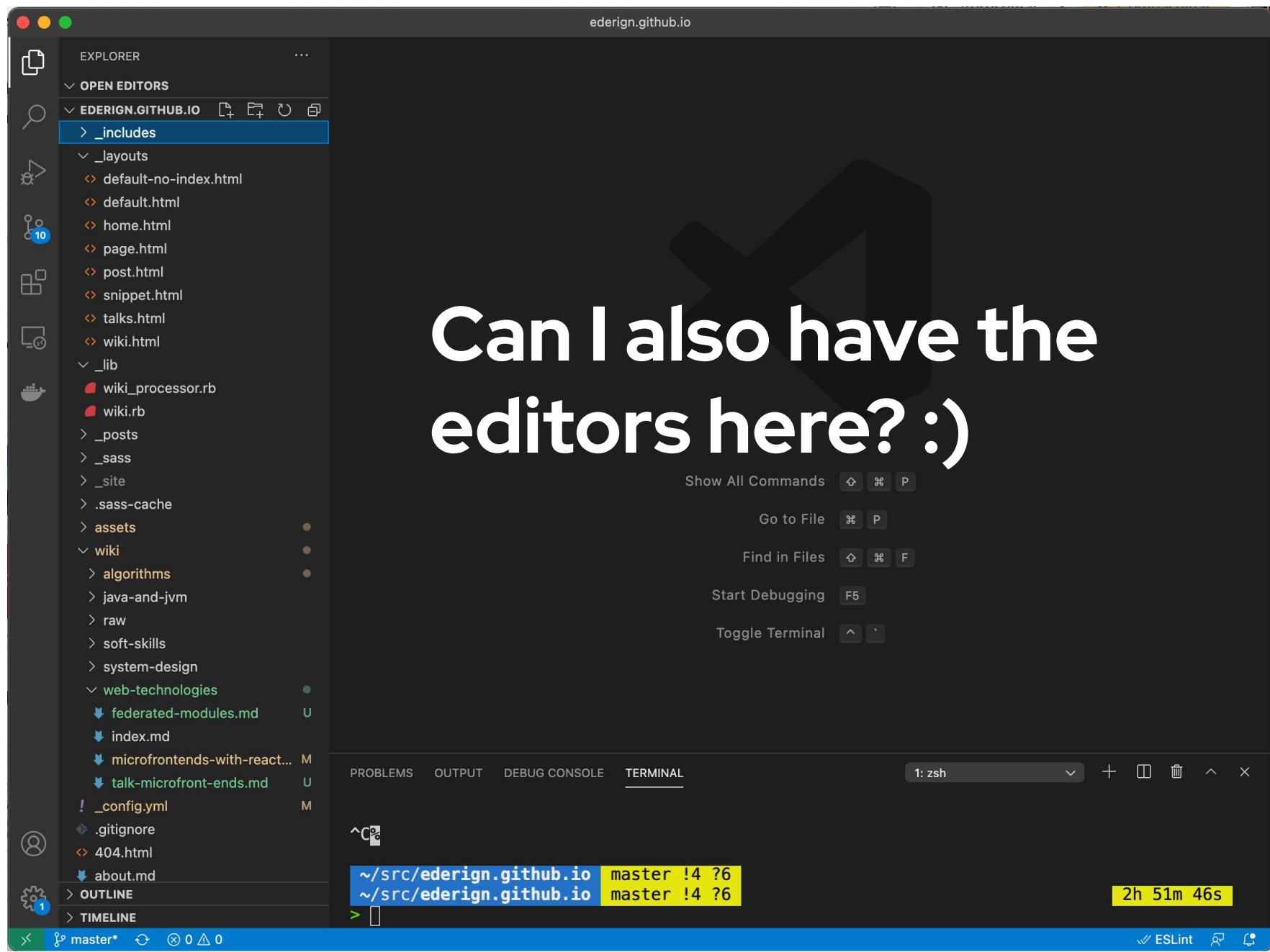
Kogito ergo automate

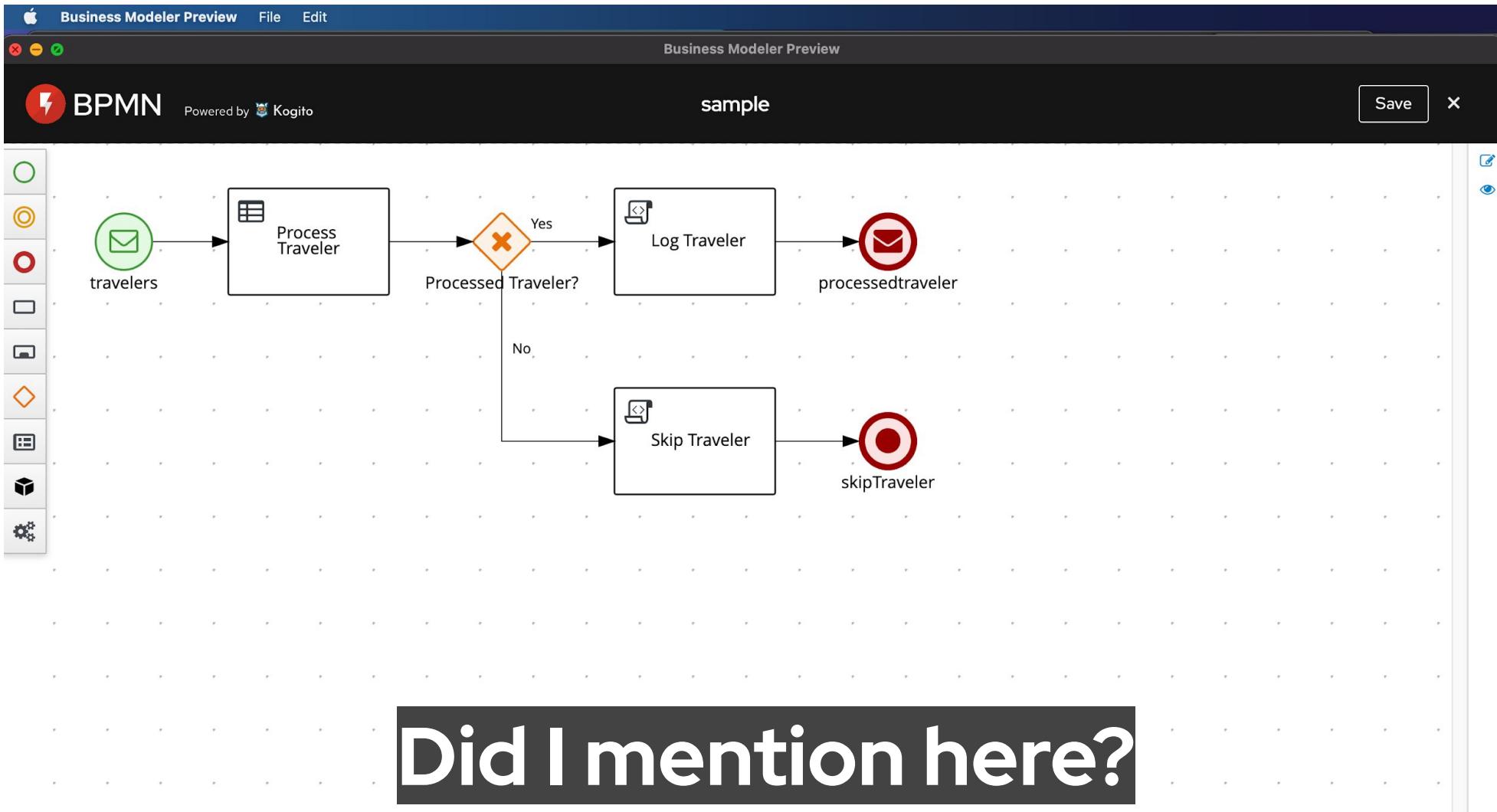
CLOUD-NATIVE BUSINESS AUTOMATION FOR BUILDING INTELLIGENT
APPLICATIONS, BACKED BY BATTLE-TESTED CAPABILITIES.

The screenshot shows the 'Business Modeler Preview' interface at dmn.new. At the top right, there are icons for a hand, a owl, a puzzle piece, and a person. Below the header, a link 'Get Business Modeler Hub Preview' and a help icon are visible. The main content area features a section titled 'Asset Editor for Kogito and Process Automation' with a sub-section 'Welcome to Business Modeler!'. It describes the editors as simple BPMN and DMN editors for collaboration and introduces the new tools and capabilities of Process Automation. A 'Powered by Kogito' logo is at the bottom right.

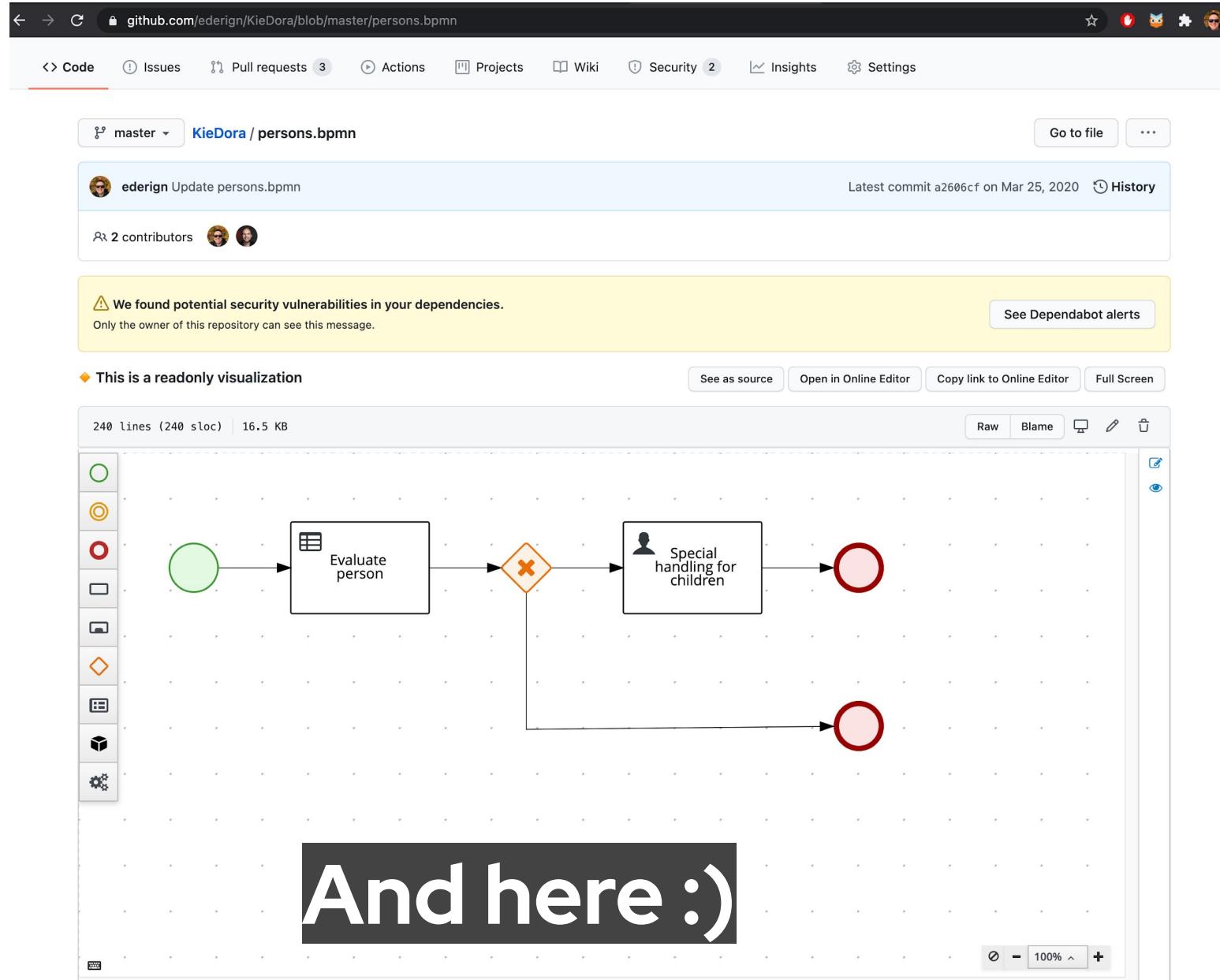
The screenshot shows the 'Business Modeler Preview' interface at dmn.new. The page is divided into several sections:

- Workflow (.BPMN)**: BPMN files are used to generate business processes. Includes a 'Try Sample' button and a 'Create new workflow' button.
- Decision model (.DMN)**: DMN files are used to generate decision models. Includes a 'Try Sample' button and a 'Create new decision model' button.
- Edit existing file**: Upload your BPMN or DMN file here to start making new edits! Includes a file upload input field with placeholder 'Drag a file or browse for it.', a 'Browse...' button, and a 'Clear' button. Below the input field is a note: 'Upload a .bpmn, .bpmn2 or .dmn file'.
- Open from source**: Paste a URL to a source code link (GitHub, Dropbox, etc.). Includes a 'URL' input field and an 'Open from source' button.
- A large central callout box contains the text: **Can I've my editor here?**



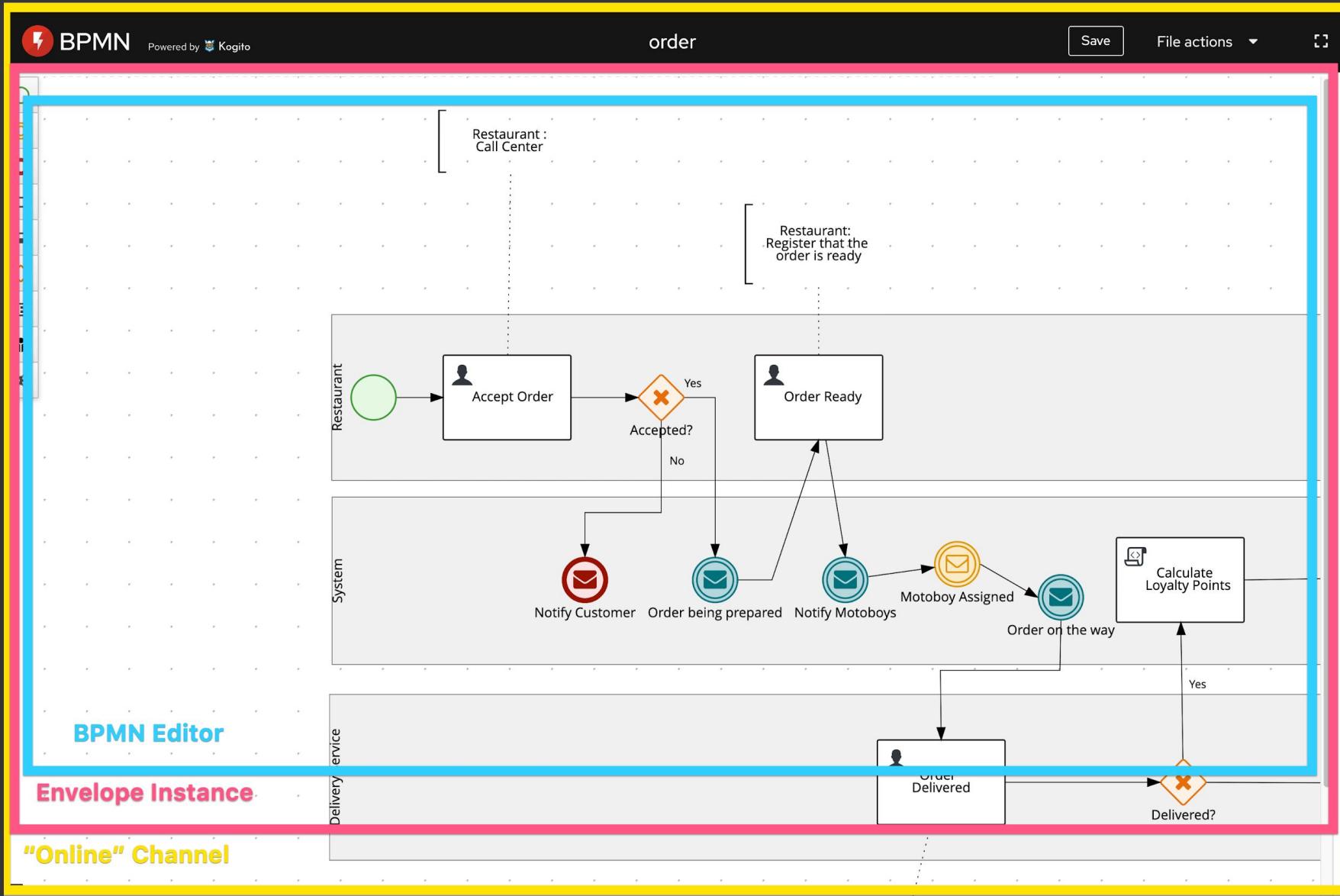


Did I mention here?

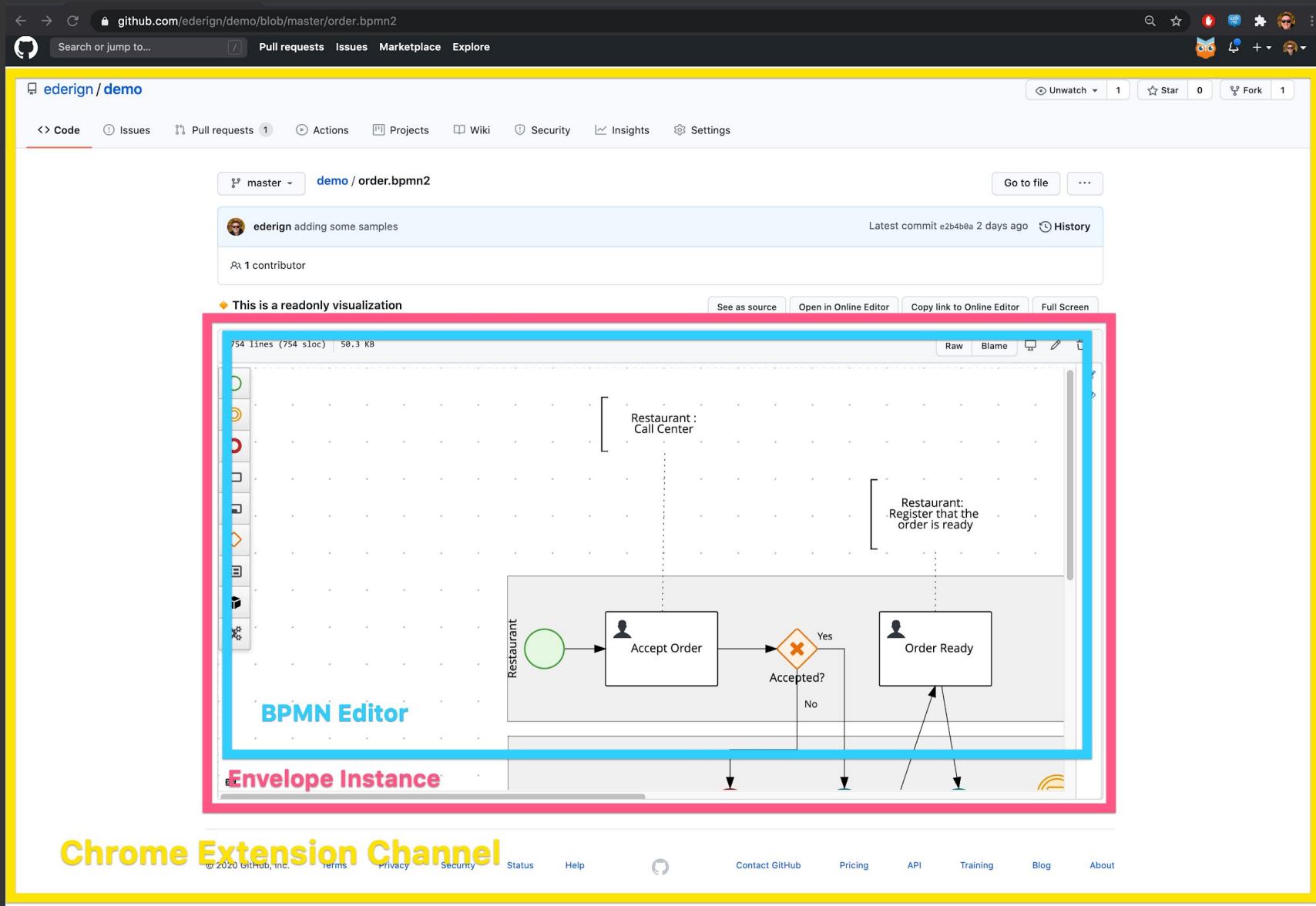


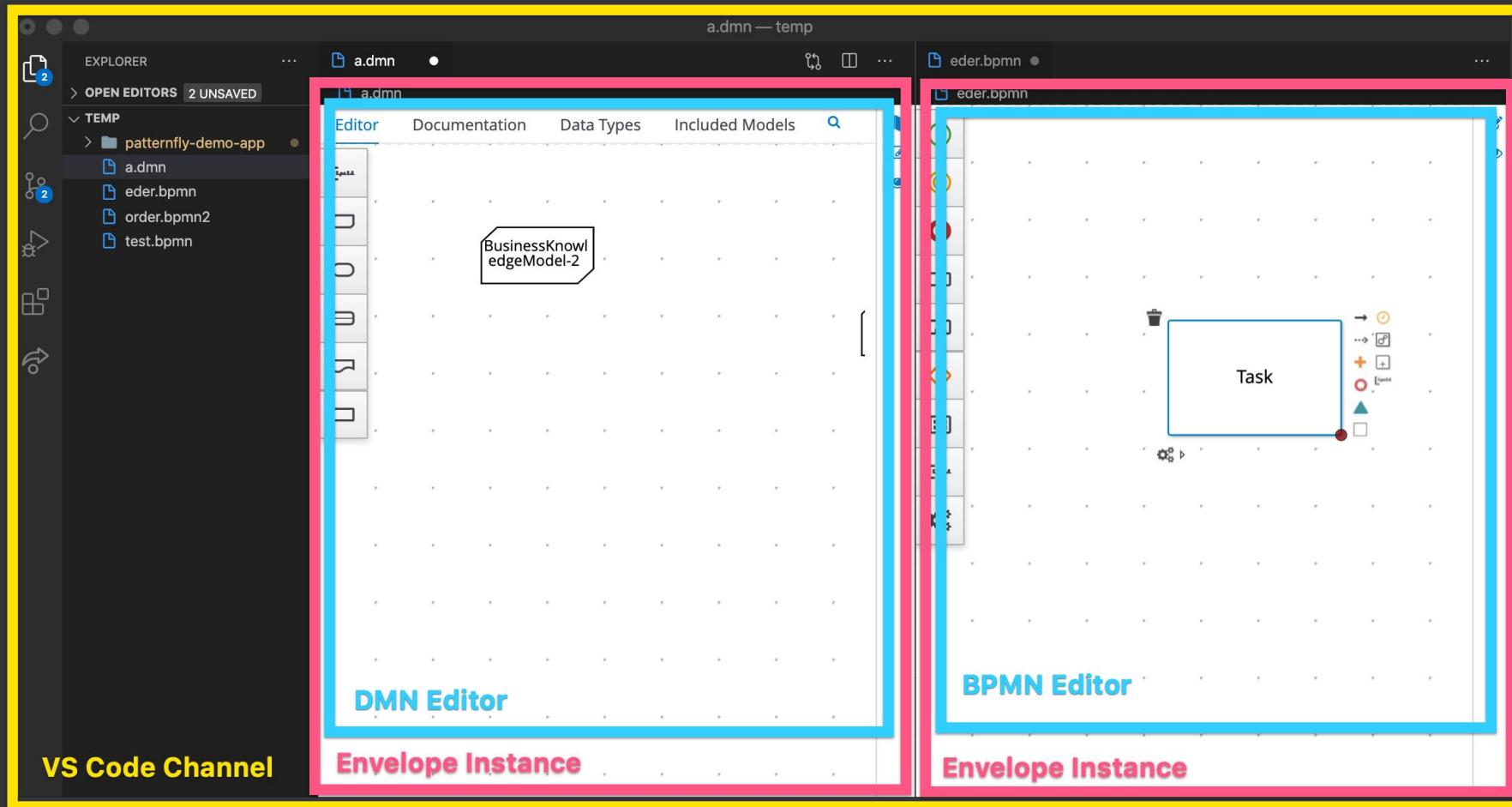
Introducing Multiplying Architecture

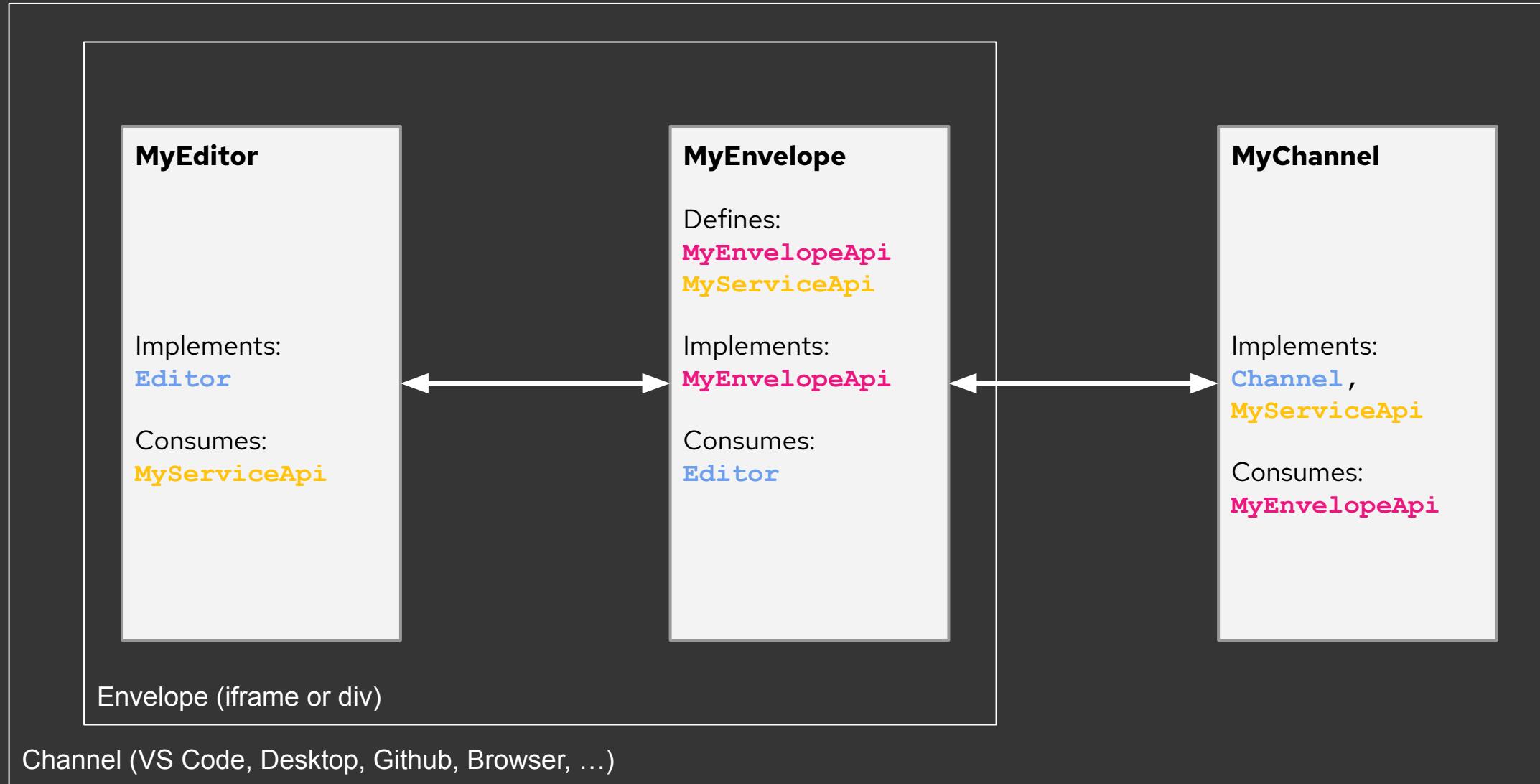
Online Channel



VSCode Channel



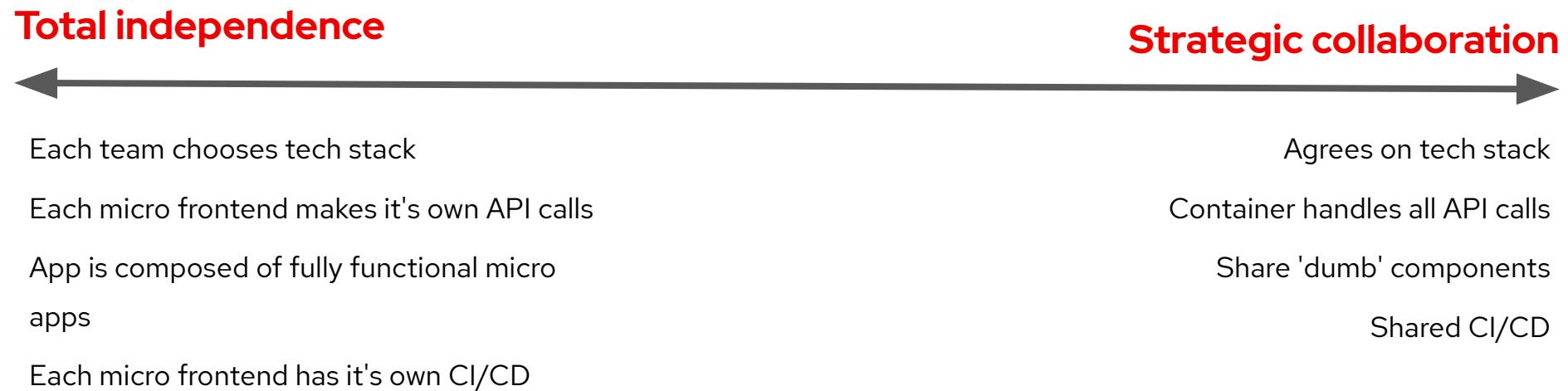






More on:
Google for
"Kie Live multiplying
architecture"

Micro frontend Spectrum



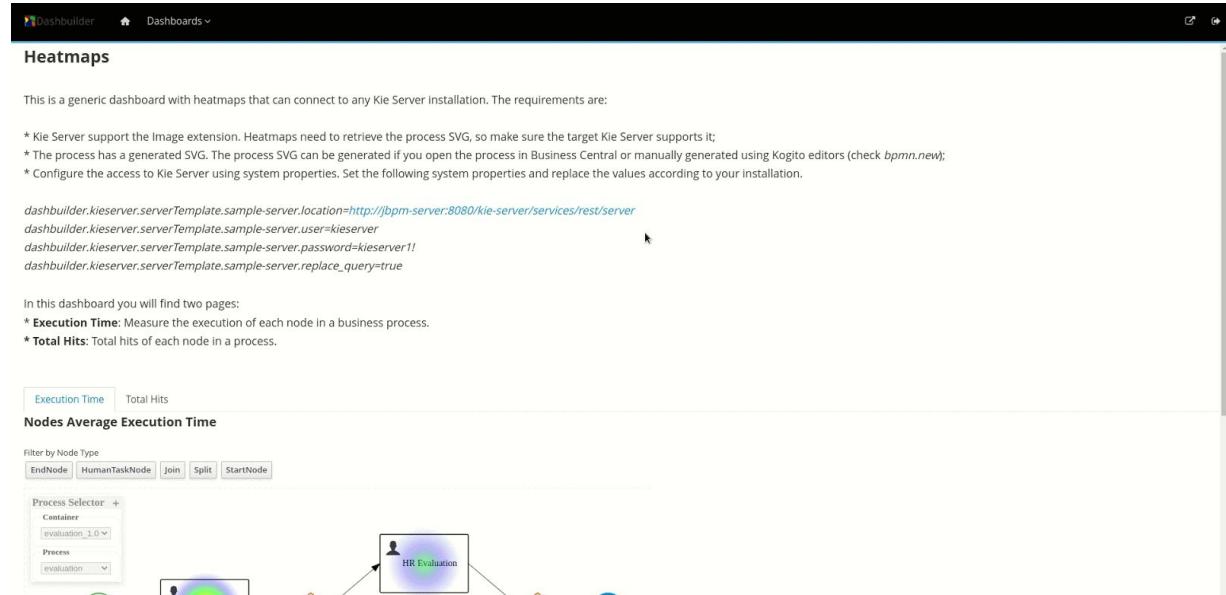
<https://twitter.com/housecor/status/1139504822930092033/photo/1>

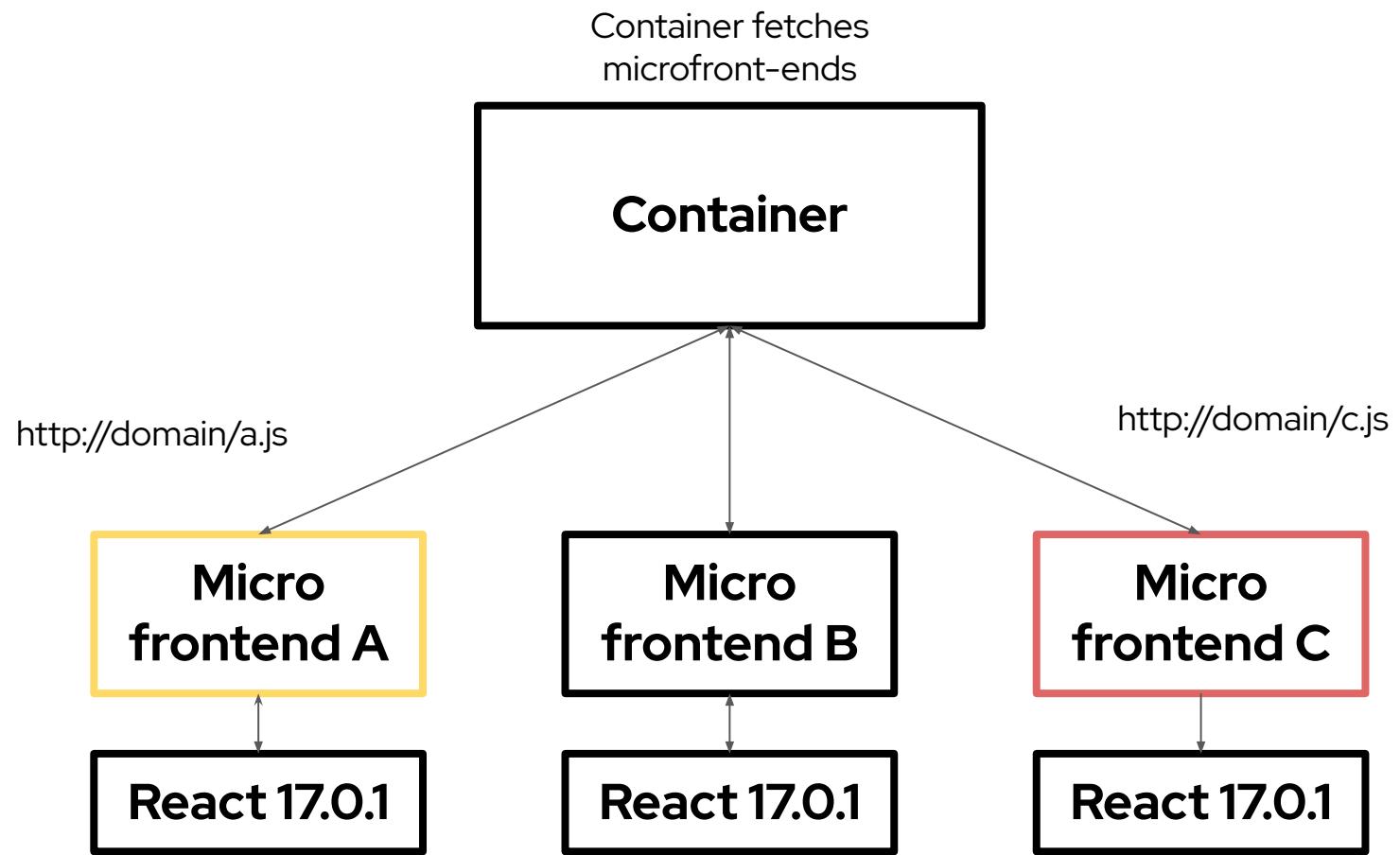
Where we are going?

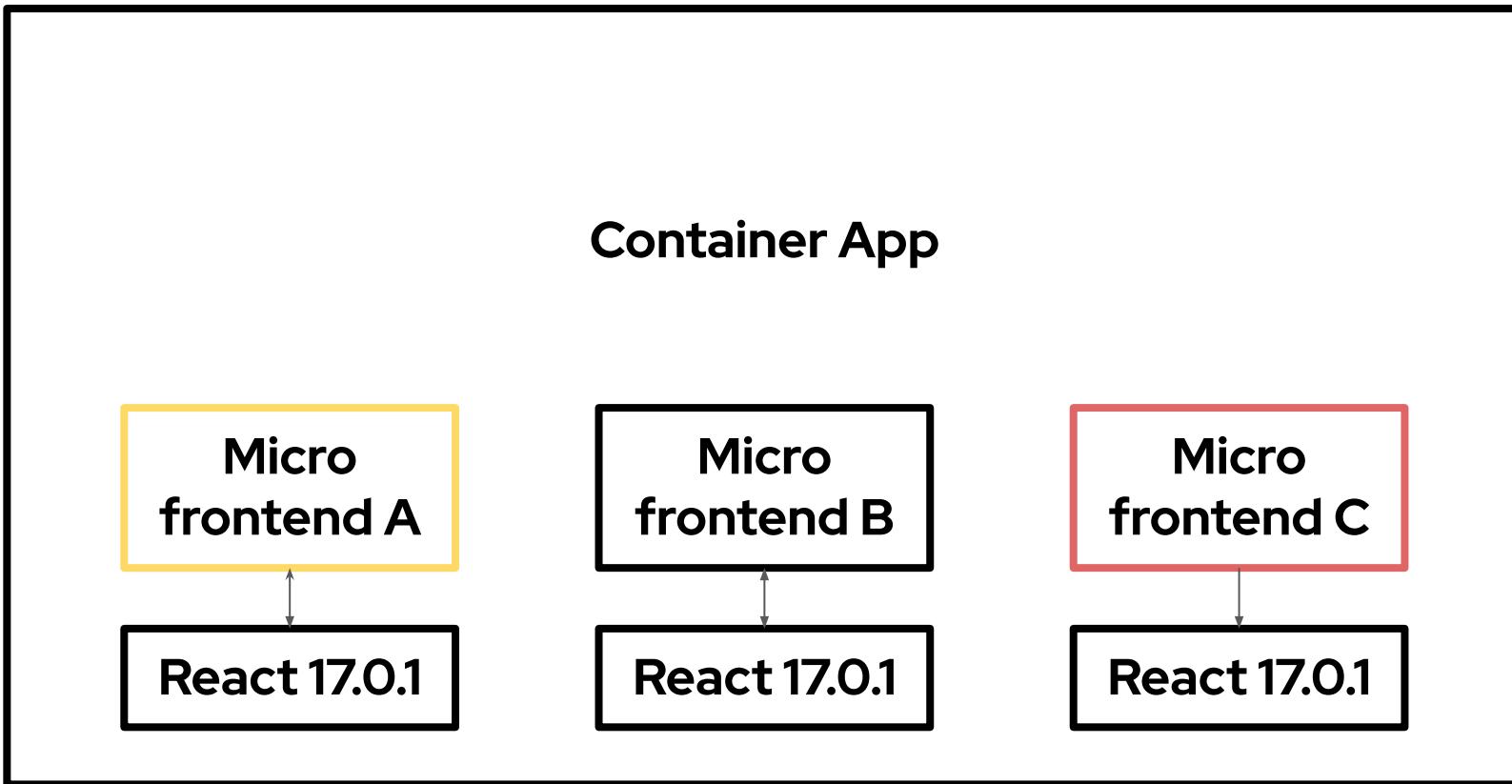
Built time x Runtime Integration

Build-time issues

- Foreign modules are accessible during build
- Container has to be **re-deployed** every time child has updated and tempting to tightly coupled Container + child together;
- One single change to prod. requires full a long rebuild
- Dependency versions alignment
- No clear app/team isolation
- **Duplication of library loading**

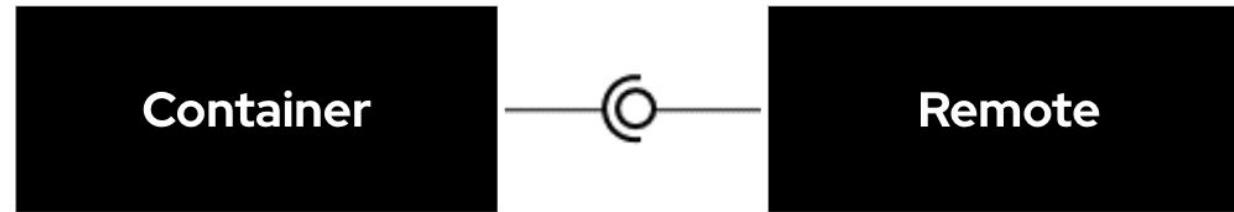


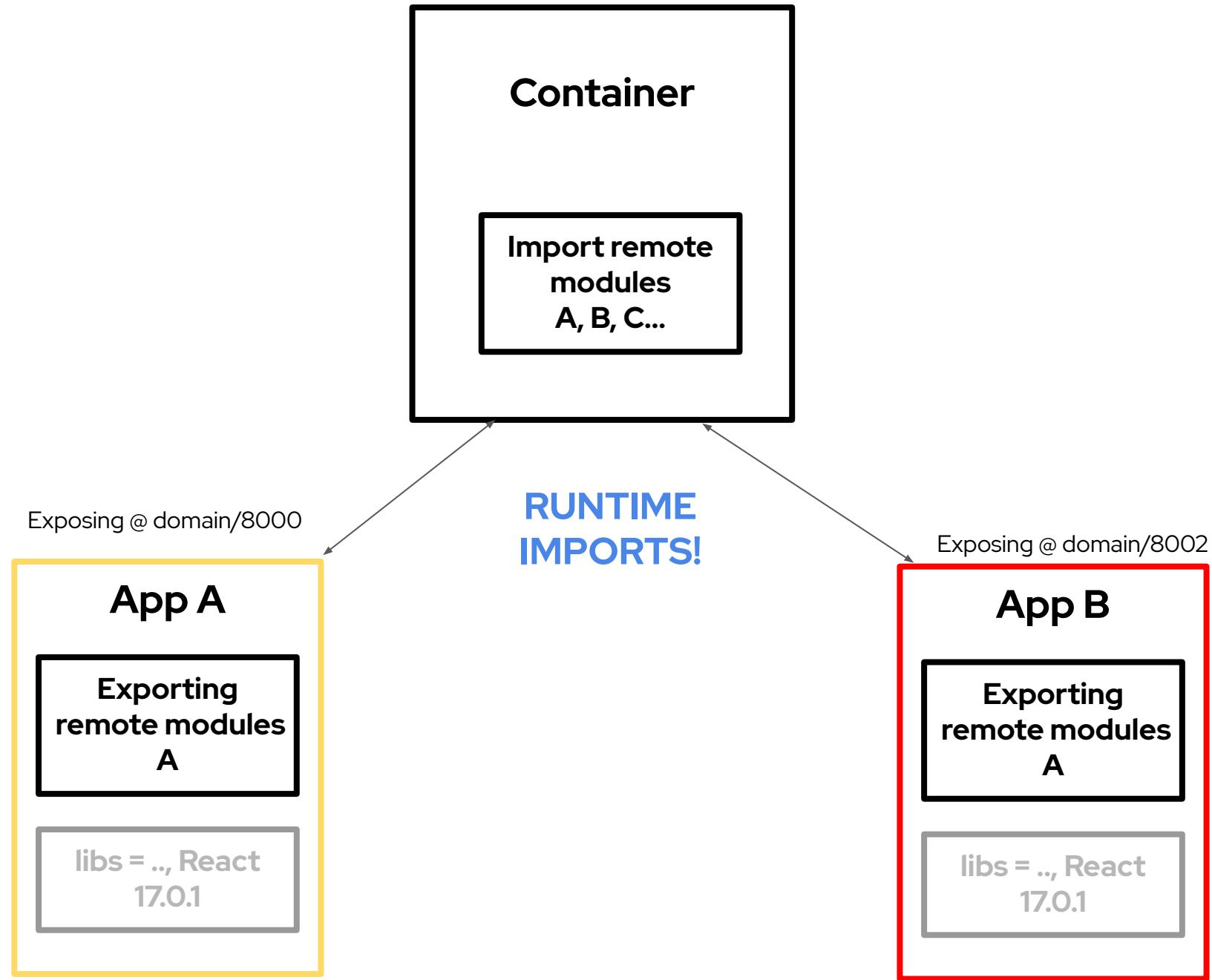




Federated Modules to the Rescue!

-
- Part of Webpack 5
 - Allows loading separately compiled programs parts
 - Solution for runtime integration of Micro frontends?
 - Allow referencing program parts that are not yet known at compile time.
 - Each micro frontend can run in isolation





App

LOGIN

Home Page 123

Something short and leading about the collection below—its contents, the creator, etc. Make it short and sweet, but not too short so folks don't simply skip over it entirely.

PRICING

DASHBOARD



Heading

This is a media card. You can use this section to describe the content.

[VIEW](#) [EDIT](#)



Heading

This is a media card. You can use this section to describe the content.

[VIEW](#) [EDIT](#)



Heading



Heading



Sign in

Email Address*

|

Password *

SIGN IN

[Sign Up](#)

Home Page 123

Something short and leading about the collection below—its contents, the creator, etc. Make it short and sweet, but not too short so folks don't simply skip over it entirely.

PRICING

DASHBOARD



Heading

This is a media card. You can use this section to describe the content.

[VIEW](#) [EDIT](#)



Heading

This is a media card. You can use this section to describe the content.

[VIEW](#) [EDIT](#)

```
JS App.js ●
  1 import React, { lazy, Suspense, useState, useEffect } from "react";
  2 import { Router, Route, Switch, Redirect } from "react-router-dom";
  3 ...
  4 const MarketingLazy = lazy(() => import("./components/MarketingApp"));
  5 const AuthLazy = lazy(() => import("./components/AuthApp"));
  6 const DashboardLazy = lazy(() => import("./components/DashboardApp"));
  7 ...
  8 ...
  9 return (
10   <Router history={history}>
11     <StylesProvider generateClassName={generateClassName}>
12       <div>
13         <Header
14           isSignedin={isSignedIn}
15           onSignOut={() => setIsSignedIn(false)}
16         />
17         <Suspense fallback=<Progress />>
18           <Switch>
19             <Route path="/auth">
20               <AuthLazy onSignIn={() => setIsSignedIn(true)} />
21             </Route>
22             <Route path="/dashboard">
23               {!isSignedIn && <Redirect to="/" />}
24               <DashboardLazy />
25             </Route>
26             <Route path="/" component={MarketingLazy} />
27           </Switch>
28         </Suspense>
29       </div>
30     </StylesProvider>
31   </Router>
32 );
33 ...
34
```

-> Import of Federated Modules

-> Lazy loading via Route

```
1 const { merge } = require("webpack-merge");
2 const HtmlWebpackPlugin = require("html-webpack-plugin");
3 const ModuleFederationPlugin = require("webpack/lib/container/ModuleFederationPlugin");
4 const commonConfig = require("./webpack.common");
5 const packageJson = require("../package.json");
6
7 const domain = process.env.PRODUCTION_DOMAIN;
8
9 const prodConfig = {
10   mode: "production",
11   output: {
12     filename: "[name].[contenthash].js",
13     publicPath: "/container/latest/",
14   },
15   plugins: [
16     new ModuleFederationPlugin({
17       name: "container",
18       remotes: {
19         marketing: `marketing@${domain}/marketing/latest/remoteEntry.js`,
20         auth: `auth@${domain}/auth/latest/remoteEntry.js`,
21         dashboard: `dashboard@${domain}/dashboard/latest/remoteEntry.js`,
22       },
23       shared: packageJson.dependencies,
24     }),
25   ],
26 };
27
28 module.exports = merge(commonConfig, prodConfig);
29
```

-> **ModuleFederation Plugin**

-> **Remote Routes**



Sign in

Email Address *

Password *

Remember me

SIGN IN

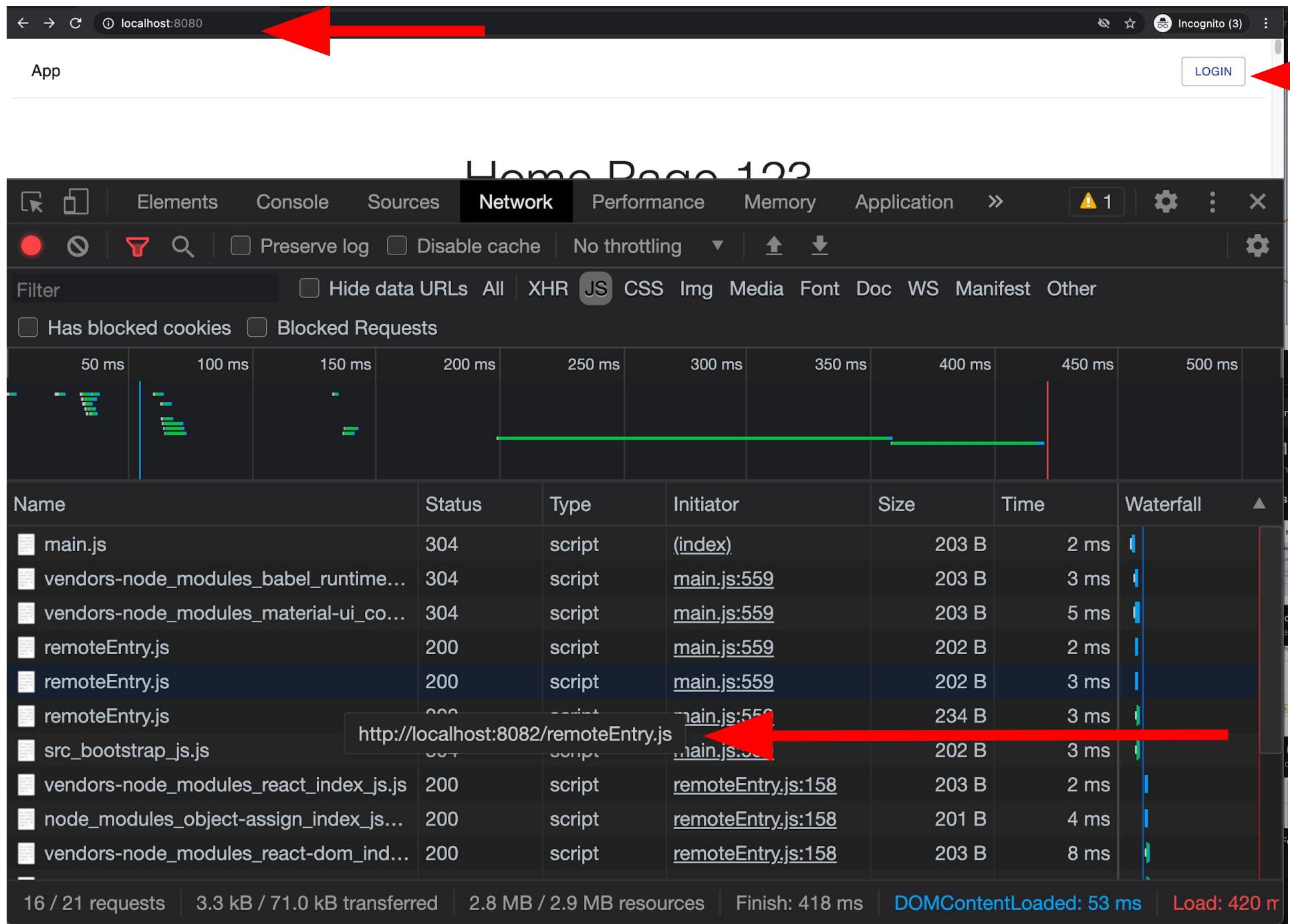
[Don't have an account? Sign Up](#)

Copyright © Your Website 2021.

```
1 const { merge } = require("webpack-merge");
2 const ModuleFederationPlugin = require("../../../lib/container/Modu
3 const packageJson = require("../package.json");
4 const commonConfig = require("./webpack.common");
5
6 const prodConfig = {
7   mode: "production",
8   output: {
9     filename: "[name].[contenthash].js",
10    publicPath: "/auth/latest/",
11  },
12  plugins: [
13    new ModuleFederationPlugin({
14      name: "auth",
15      filename: "remoteEntry.js",
16      exposes: {
17        "./AuthApp": "./src/bootstrap",
18      },
19      shared: packageJson.dependencies,
20    }),
21  ],
22};
23
24 module.exports = merge(commonConfig, prodConfig);
25
```

→ **ModuleFederation Plugin**

→ **Exposed routes
(used by Container)**



A screenshot of a browser window showing a 'Sign in' form with fields for 'Email Address' and 'Password'. Below the form, the browser's developer tools Network tab is open, displaying network requests. The 'JS' filter is selected in the Network tab. The table shows four requests:

Name	Status	Type	Initiator	Size	Time	Waterfall
src_componentsAuthApp_js.js	304	script	main.js:559	201 B	3 ms	
vendors-node_modules_babel_runtime...	200	script	remoteEntry.js:160	203 B	3 ms	
vendors-node_modules_material-ui_co...	200	script	remoteEntry.js:160	203 B	14 ms	
src_bootstrap_js.js	200	script	remoteEntry.js:160	202 B	7 ms	

A large red arrow points to the URL 'http://localhost:8082/src_bootstrap_js.js' in the fourth row of the table.

At the bottom of the Network tab, it says '4 requests 809 B transferred 1.1 MB resources'.

localhost:8080/auth/signin localhost:8082/auth/signin

Sign in

Sign in

Auth micro front-end running as fed. module (8080)

Name	Status	Type	Initiator	Size
src_componentsAuthApp.js	304	script	main.js:559	203 B
vendors-node_modules_babel_runtime...	200	script	remoteEntry.js:160	203 B
vendors-node_modules_material-ui_co...	200	script	remoteEntry.js:160	203 B
src_bootstrap_js.js	200	script	remoteEntry.js:160	203 B

http://localhost:8082/src_bootstrap_js.js

Where is react?

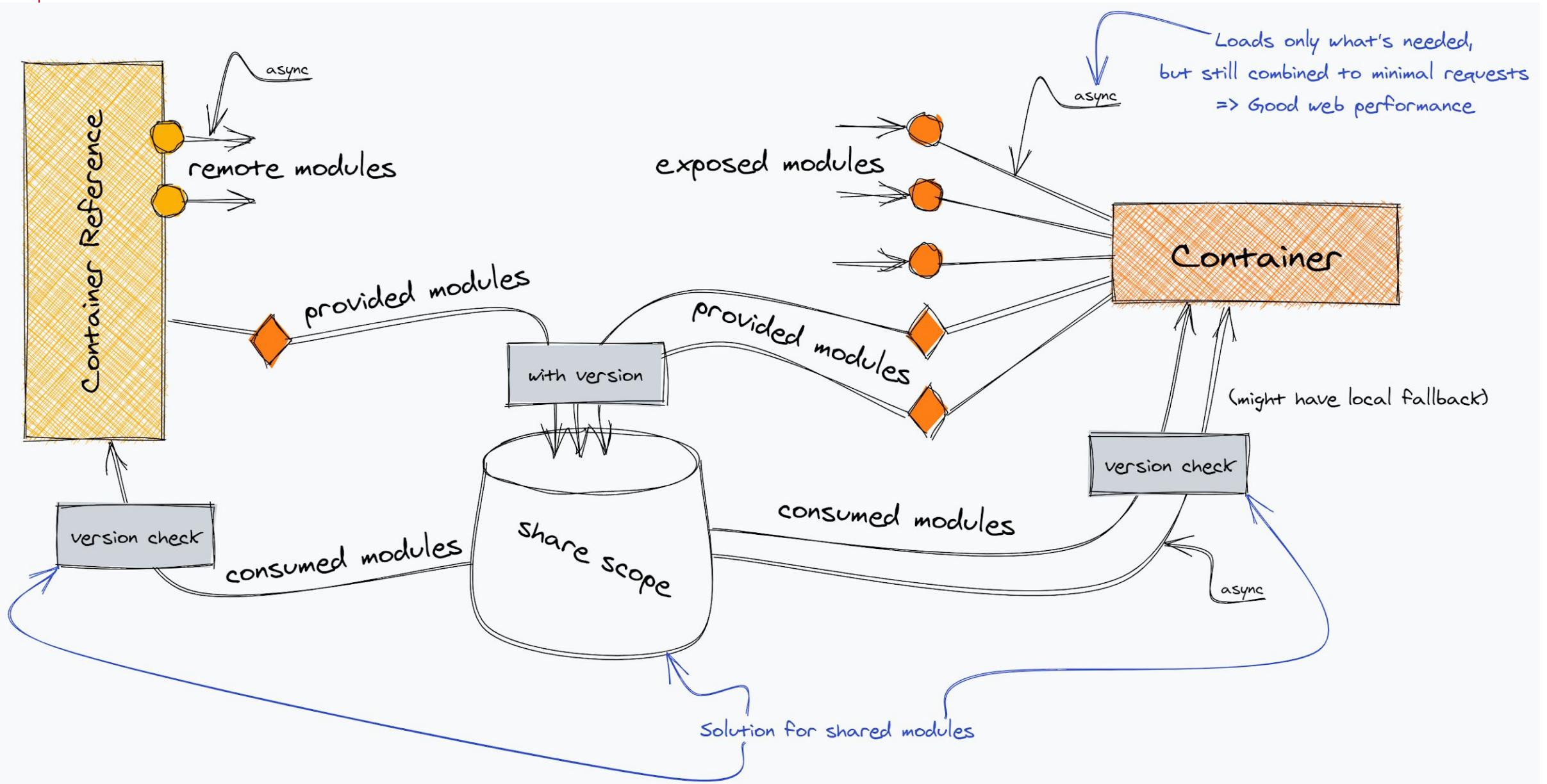
Auth micro front-end running isolated (8082)

Name	Status	Type	Initiator	Size	Time	Waterfall
main.js	200	script	signin	203 B	4 ms	
remoteEntry.js	200	script	signin	202 B	5 ms	
vendors-node_modules_babel_runtime...	200	script	main.js:559	203 B	12 ms	
vendors-node_modules_material-ui_co...	200	script	main.js:559	203 B	27 ms	
vendors-node_modules_react_index_js.js	200	script	main.js:559	203 B	17 ms	
node_modules_object-assign_index_js...	200	script	main.js:559	201 B	18 ms	
vendors-node_modules_react_Co...	200	script	main.js:559	203 B	40 ms	
node_modules_object-assign_index_js...	200	script	main.js:559	201 B	15 ms	
vendors-node_modules_react-router-d...	200	script	main.js:559	203 B	18 ms	
src_bootstrap_js.js	200	script	main.js:559	202 B	9 ms	

4 requests | 809 B transferred | 1.1 MB resources | 10 / 13 requests | 2.0 kB / 2.6 kB transferred | 2.6 MB / 2.6 MB resources | Finish: 107 ms | DOMContentLoaded: 81 ms | Load: 232 ms

```
1 const { merge } = require("webpack-merge");
2 const ModuleFederationPlugin = require("webpack/lib/container/Modu
3 const packageJson = require("../package.json");
4 const commonConfig = require("./webpack.common");
5
6 const prodConfig = {
7   mode: "production",
8   output: {
9     filename: "[name].[contenthash].js",
10    publicPath: "/auth/latest/",
11  },
12  plugins: [
13    new ModuleFederationPlugin({
14      name: "auth",
15      filename: "remoteEntry.js",
16      exposes: {
17        "./AuthApp": "./src/bootstrap",
18      },
19      shared: packageJson.dependencies,
20    }),
21  ],
22};
23
24 module.exports = merge(commonConfig, prodConfig);
25
```

→ shared dependencies



Federated Modules

Pros in our case

- **Microservices architecture**
- Able to finally take advantage of runtime integration
- Each team can build/deploy their own micro frontend
- No duplication of library loading
- Ability to deploy multiple pieces of your application to different servers without iframes
- Have a portion of an application getting too big and wants a dedicated team? Split it out.
- That split you just made was a bad idea? Merge it back together.
- Finally we are able to real decoupling.
- Be able to evolve tech stack independently

Federated Modules

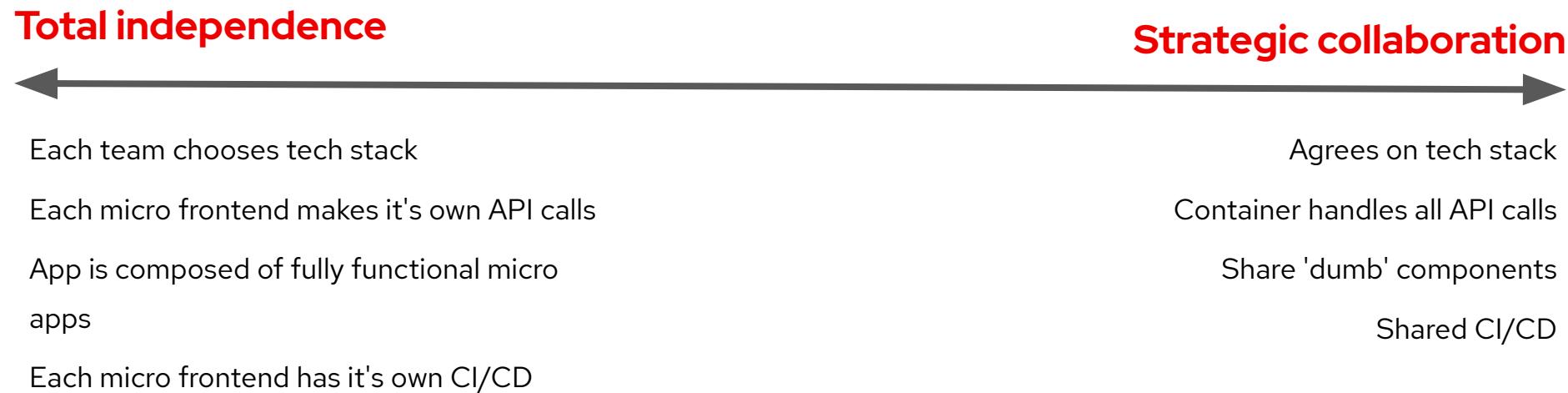
Possible Con's for us

- **Microservices architecture**
- Distributed systems are hard
- Bleeding edge technology
- Complexity of deployment
 - If you don't have a pretty solid CI/CD this will probably be a foot-gun for you
- Requires unbreakable API boundary that everyone agrees

Good frontend development is
hard.

React will not be here forever

Micro frontend Spectrum



<https://twitter.com/housecor/status/1139504822930092033/photo/1>

Thank you

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