

# Netflix and Open Source

April 2013

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# Cloud Native

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## NetflixOSS – Cloud Native On-Ramp

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## Netflix Open Source Cloud Prize

# We are Engineers

We solve hard problems

We build amazing and complex things

We fix things when they break

We strive for perfection

Perfect code

Perfect hardware

Perfectly operated



But perfection takes too long...

So we compromise

Time to market vs. Quality

Utopia remains out of reach

# Where time to market wins big

Web services

Agile infrastructure - cloud

Continuous deployment

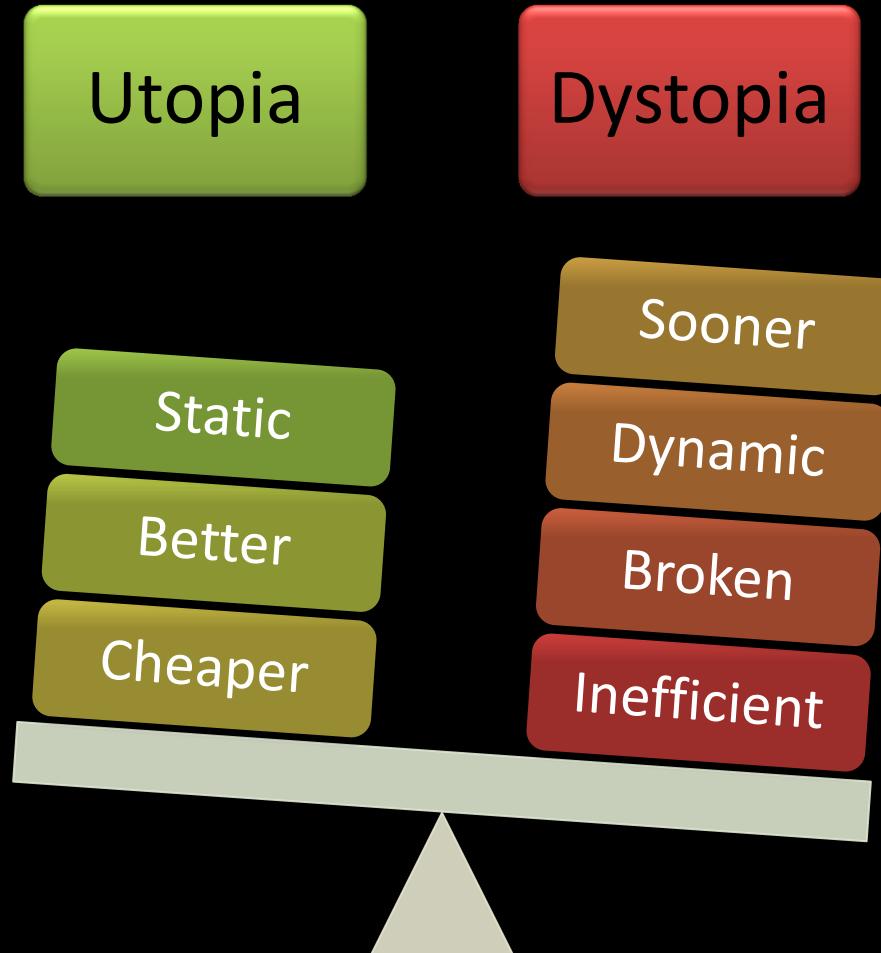
# How Soon?

Code features in days instead of months

Hardware in minutes instead of weeks

Incident response in seconds instead of hours

# Tipping the Balance



# A new engineering challenge

Construct a highly agile and highly available service from ephemeral and often broken components

# Cloud Native

How does Netflix work?

# Netflix Member Web Site Home Page

## Personalization Driven – How Does It Work?

NETFLIX

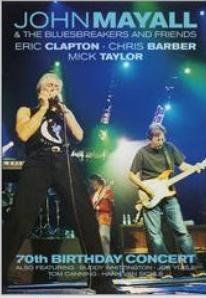
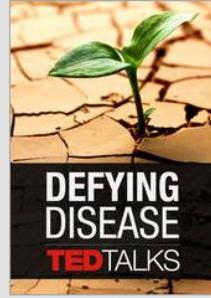
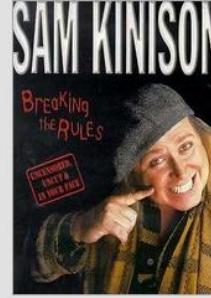
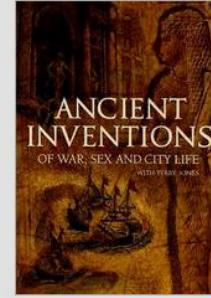
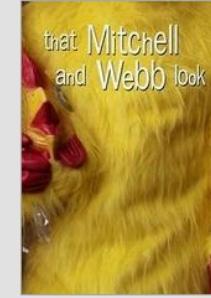
Adrian Cockcroft ▾ | Your Account & Help

Watch Instantly Just for Kids Browse DVDs Your Queue Taste Profile

Genres ▾ New Arrivals Instantly to your TV

Movies, TV shows, actors, directors, genres

Recently Watched Top 10 for Adrian

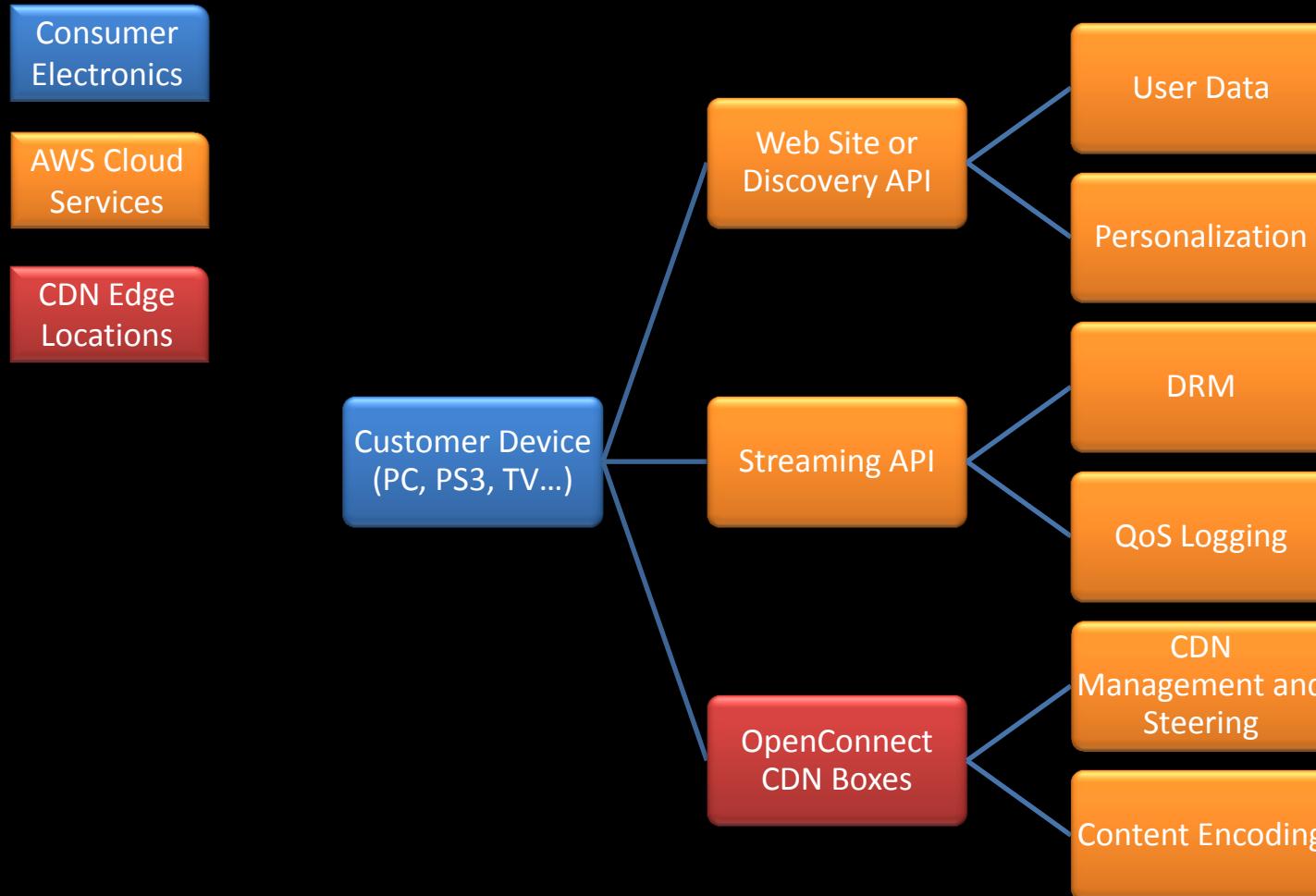
  
  
  
  
  
  


**f Friends' Favorites**

Based on these friends:



# How Netflix Streaming Works



# Content Delivery Service

Open Source Hardware Design + FreeBSD, bird, nginx

NETFLIX

Open Connect

Overview

FAQ

Peering Information

> **Hardware Design**

Software Design

Deployment Guide

ISP Inquiry

## Open Connect Appliance Hardware

### Objectives

When designing the Open Connect Appliance Hardware, we focused on these fundamental design goals:

- Very high storage density without sacrificing space and power efficiency. Our target was fitting 100 terabytes into a 4u chassis that is less than 2' deep.
- High throughput: 10 Gbps throughput via an optical network connection.
- Very low field maintenance: the appliance must tolerate a variety of hardware failures including hard drives, network optics, and power supply units.
- Simple racking and installation. Front mounted power and network ports are the only things to connect at install time.

Open Connect Appliances are servers based on commodity PC components (similar to the model used by all large scale content delivery networks). We were influenced by the excellent write-ups from the [Backblaze](#) team, and use a custom chassis due to a lack of ready made options for a compact unit.

To achieve over 100 TB of storage, spinning hard drives provide the highest affordable density, in particular 36 3TB SATA units. The hard drives are not hot swappable, as we wish to avoid the operational burden of field service. For lower power utilization and simpler sourcing we select commodity units from two vendors and use software to manage failure modes and avoid field replacement. Dead drives reduce the total storage available for the system, but don't take it offline. We also add 1 TB of flash storage (2 solid state drives) for system files, logs and popular content. To augment the motherboard attached controller, we use two 16 port LSI SAS controller cards that connect directly to the SATA drives. This avoids I/O bottlenecks of SATA multipliers or SAS expanders, and also reduces system complexity.

From a compute point of view, the system has modest requirements moving bits from the storage to network packets on the interface. To reduce the power usage and hence also cooling requirement (which in turn reduces vibration from case fans) we use a single low power 4 core Intel Sandy Bridge CPU on a small form factor [Supermicro](#) mATX board with the full 32 GB of RAM installed.

We use redundant, hot swappable power supply units that have interchangeable AC and DC options for maximum installation flexibility. [Zippy](#) reversed the fan rotation of the units to allow mounting at the front of the case, and thus allow network and power connects to be positioned here.

The network card has two 10 Gbps modules, which can power a variety of SR and LR optic modules, for installation flexibility and scalable interconnection.

The following systems were developed and first deployed at the end of 2014

# November 2012 Traffic

Rank	Upstream		Downstream		Aggregate	
	Application	Share	Application	Share	Application	Share
1	BitTorrent	36.8%	Netflix	33.0%	Netflix	28.8%
2	HTTP	9.83%	YouTube	14.8%	YouTube	13.1%
3	Skype	4.76%	HTTP	12.0%	HTTP	11.7%
4	Netflix	4.51%	BitTorrent	5.89%	BitTorrent	10.3%
5	SSL	3.73%	iTunes	3.92%	iTunes	3.43%
6	YouTube	2.70%	MPEG	2.22%	SSL	2.23%
7	PPStream	1.65%	Flash Video	2.21%	MPEG	2.05%
8	Facebook	1.62%	SSL	1.97%	Flash Video	2.01%
9	Apple PhotoStream	1.46%	Amazon Video	1.75%	Facebook	1.50%
10	Dropbox	1.17%	Facebook	1.48%	RTMP	1.41%
Top 10		68.24%	Top 10	79.01%	Top 10	76.54%

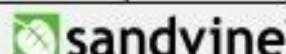


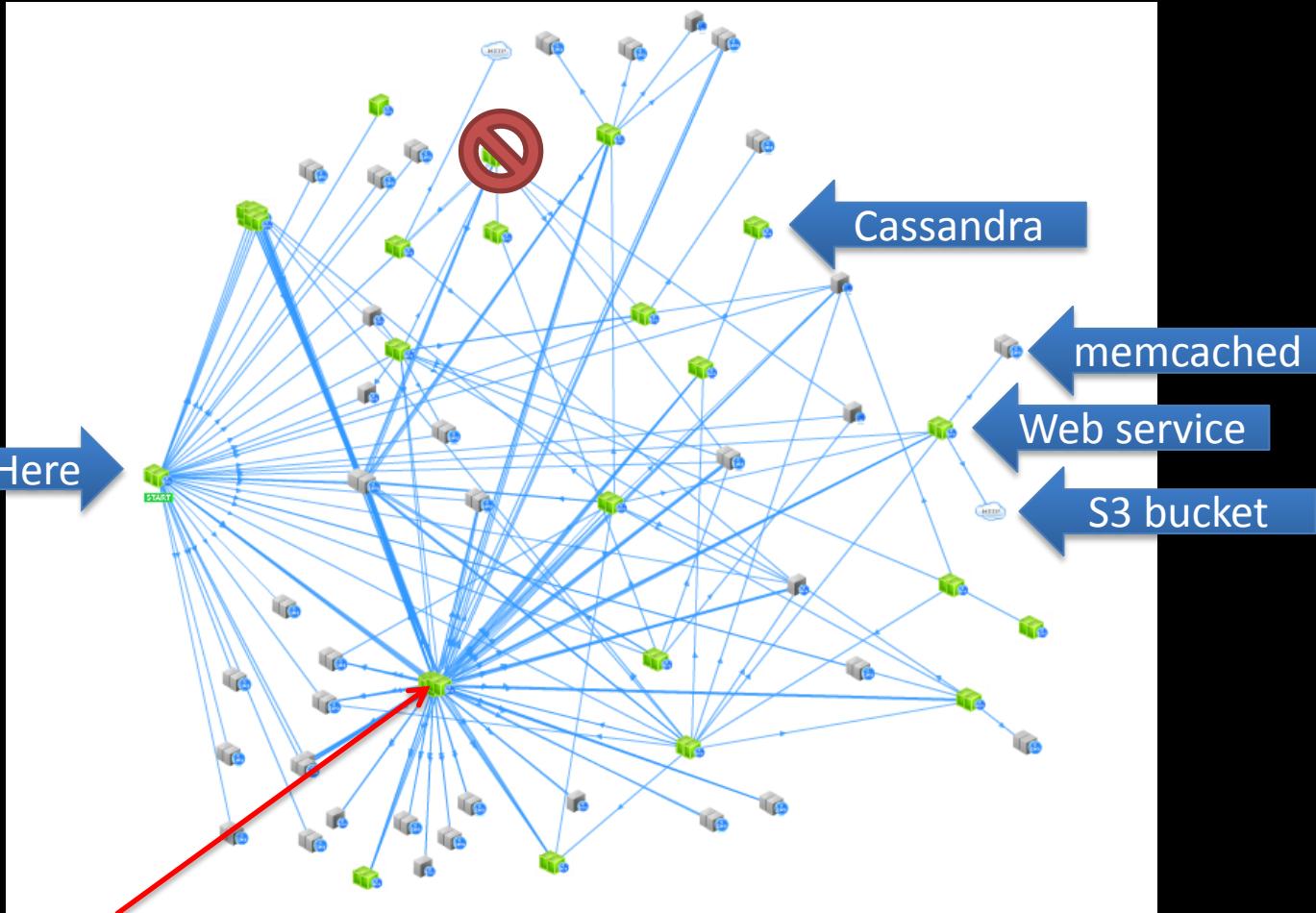
Table 3 - Top 10 Peak Period Applications (North America, Fixed Access)

# Real Web Server Dependencies Flow

(Netflix Home page business transaction as seen by AppDynamics)

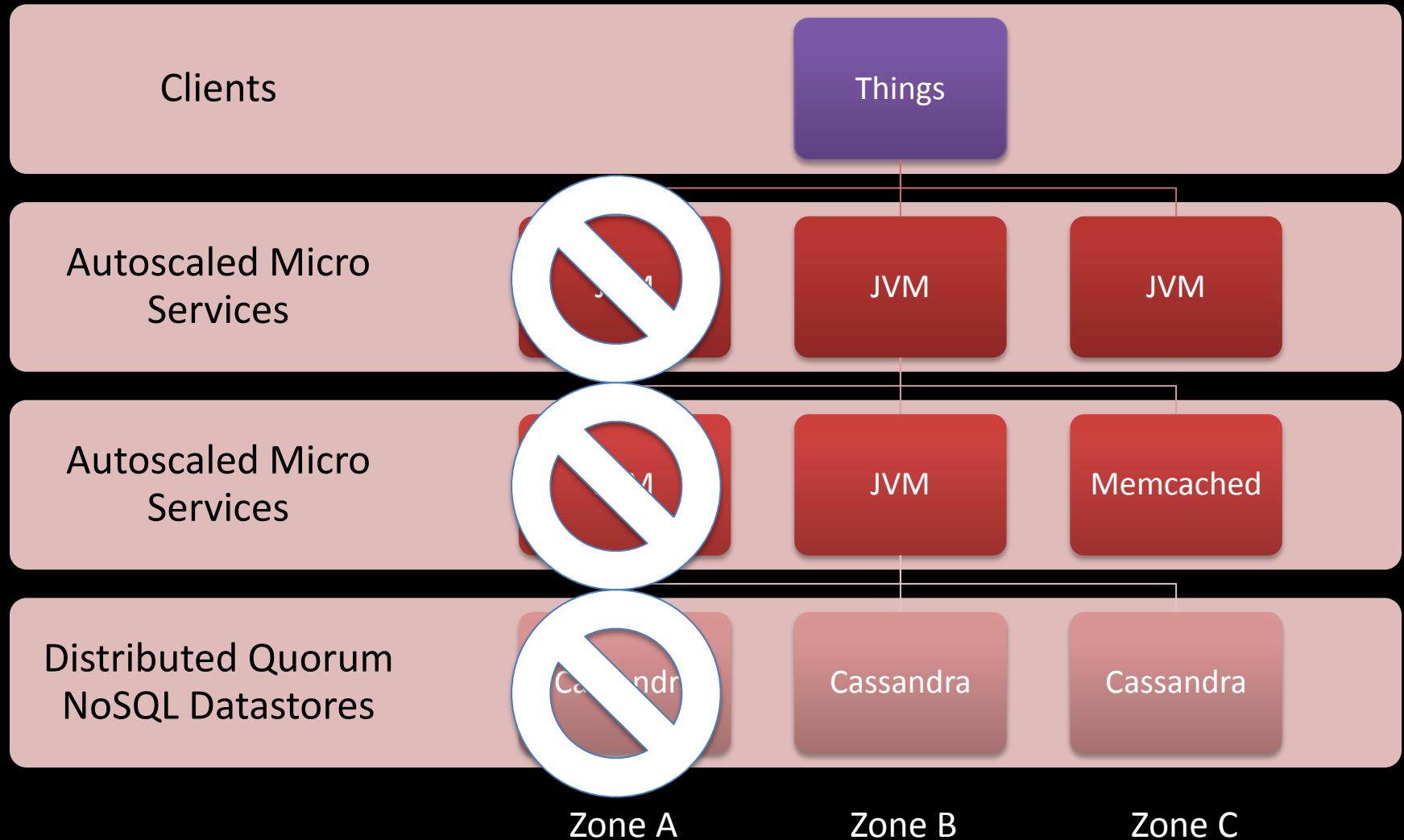
Each icon is  
three to a few  
hundred  
instances  
across three  
AWS zones

Start Here

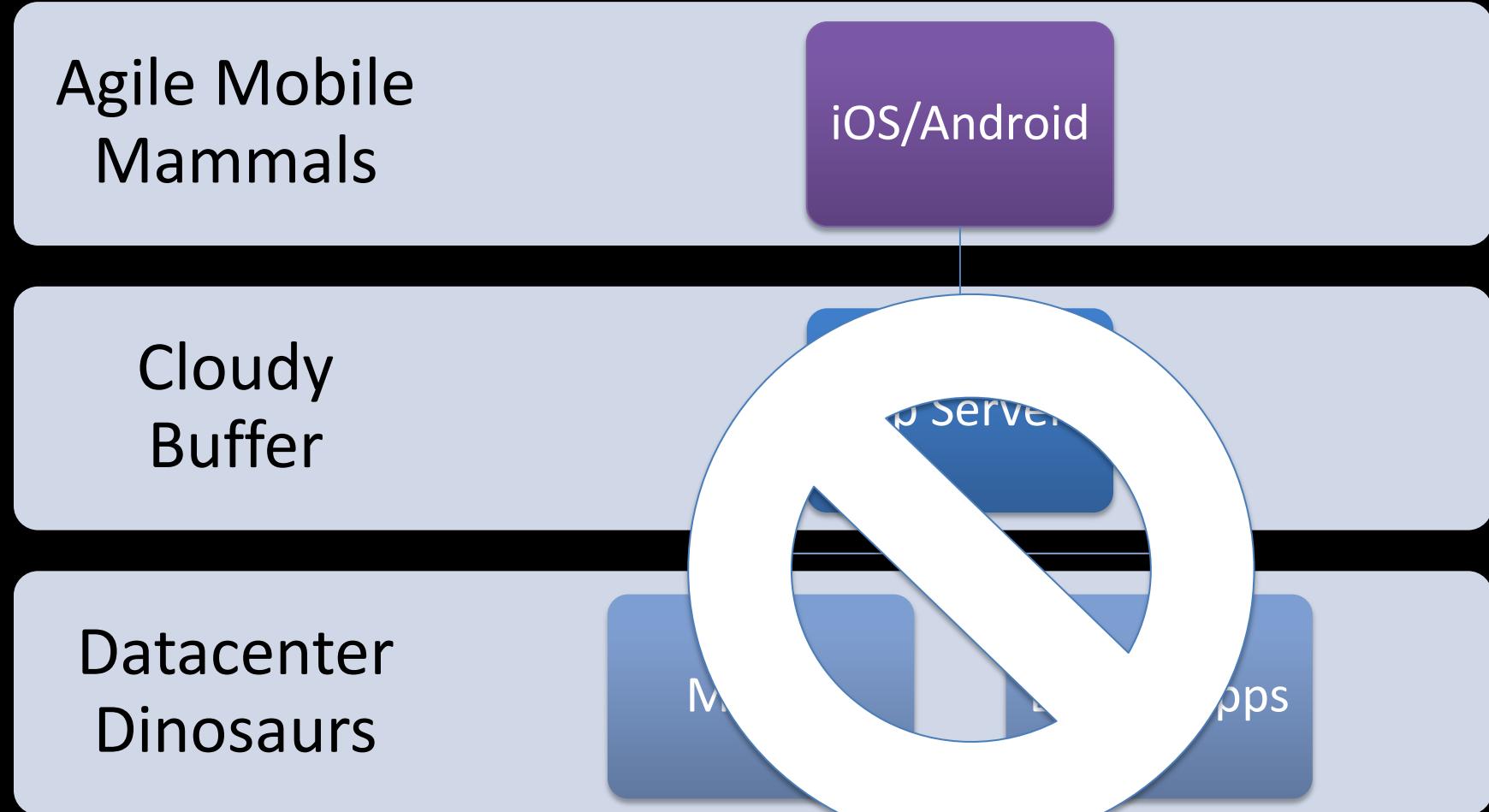


Three Personalization movie group  
choosers (for US, Canada and Latam)

# Cloud Native Architecture



# Non-Native Cloud Architecture



# New Anti-Fragile Patterns

Micro-services  
Chaos engines

Highly available systems composed  
from ephemeral components

# Stateless Micro-Service Architecture

## Linux Base AMI (CentOS or Ubuntu)

Optional  
Apache  
frontend,  
memcached,  
non-java apps

Monitoring  
Log rotation  
to S3  
AppDynamics  
machineagent  
Epic/Atlas

Java (JDK 6 or 7)

AppDynamics  
appagent  
monitoring

GC and thread  
dump logging

Tomcat

[Application war file](#), base  
servlet, platform, client  
interface jars, Astyanax

Healthcheck, status  
servlets, JMX interface,  
Servo autoscale

# Cassandra Instance Architecture

## Linux Base AMI (CentOS or Ubuntu)

Tomcat and  
Priam on JDK  
Healthcheck,  
Status

Monitoring  
AppDynamics  
machineagent  
Epic/Atlas

Java (JDK 7)

AppDynamics  
appagent  
monitoring

GC and thread  
dump logging

Cassandra Server

Local Ephemeral Disk Space – 2TB of SSD or 1.6TB disk  
holding Commit log and SSTables

# Cloud Native

Master copies of data are cloud resident  
Everything is dynamically provisioned  
All services are ephemeral

# Dynamic Scalability

# Asgard

<http://techblog.netflix.com/2012/06/asgard-web-based-cloud-management-and.html>

This cluster contains two ASGs

ASGARD prod

Manage Cluster of Sequential Auto Scaling Groups

Recommended next step: Switch traffic to the preferred group, then delete legacy group

obiwan-v063

Launch and Terminate are disabled

Resize to 9 min / 12 max

Delete Disable Enable

9 instances grouped by state

Count	State	Build	ELB	Disc
+ 9	InService	580	OUT_OF_SERVICE	

No traffic on old version

obiwan-v064

Resize to 9 min / 12 max

Delete Disable Enable

9 instances grouped by state

Count	State	Build	ELB	Disc
+ 9	InService	583	UP	

Live traffic on new version

Create Next Group: obivan-v065

Advanced Options

AMI Image ID: 179123456789/obivan-41.2-1417305

Show more AMIs

Instance Type: m1.large \$230.400/mo

Instance Counts: Min: 9 Desired: 9 Max: 12

After launch:  Wait for Discovery health check pass

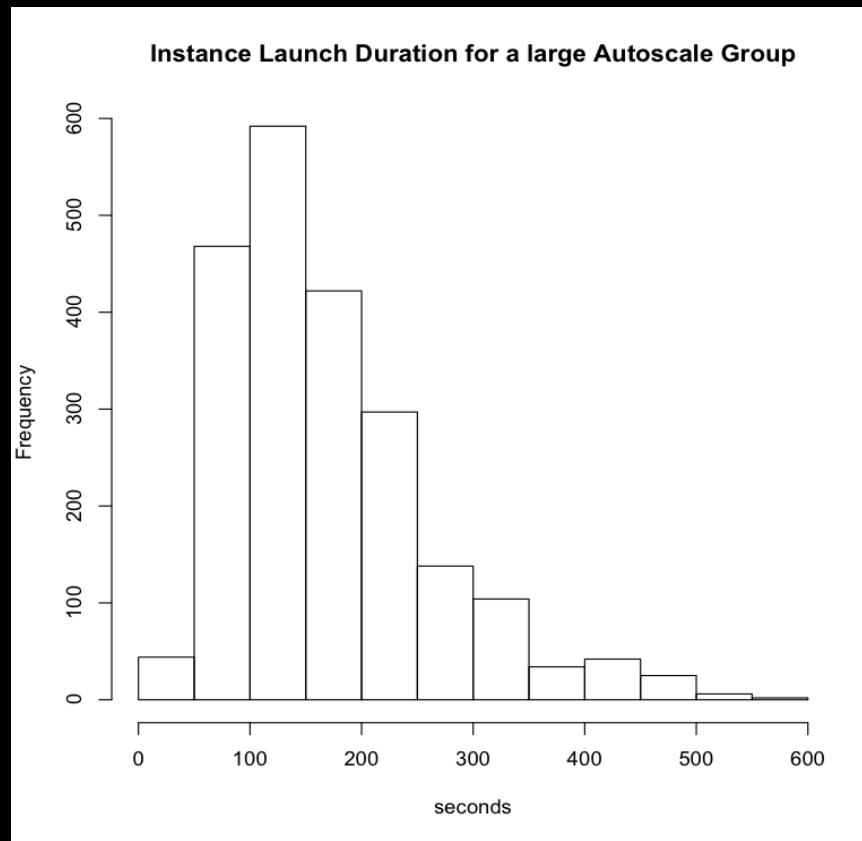
Create Next Group obivan-v065

# Cloud Deployment Scalability

New Autoscaled AMI – **zero to 500 instances** from 21:38:52 - 21:46:32, **7m40s**

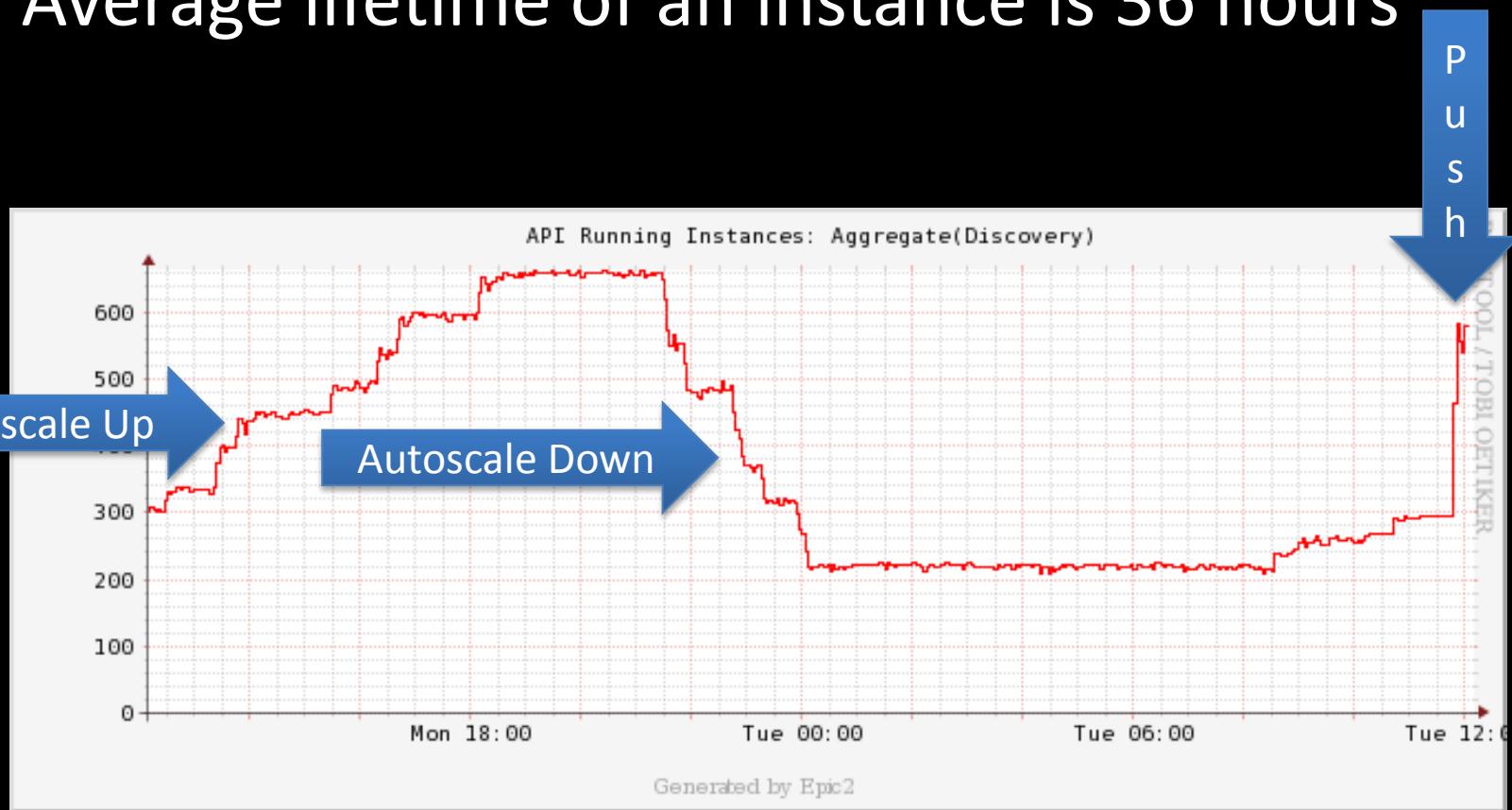
Scaled up and down over a few days, total 2176 instance launches, m2.2xlarge (4 core 34GB)

Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.	Max.
41.0	104.2	149.0	171.8	215.8	562.0

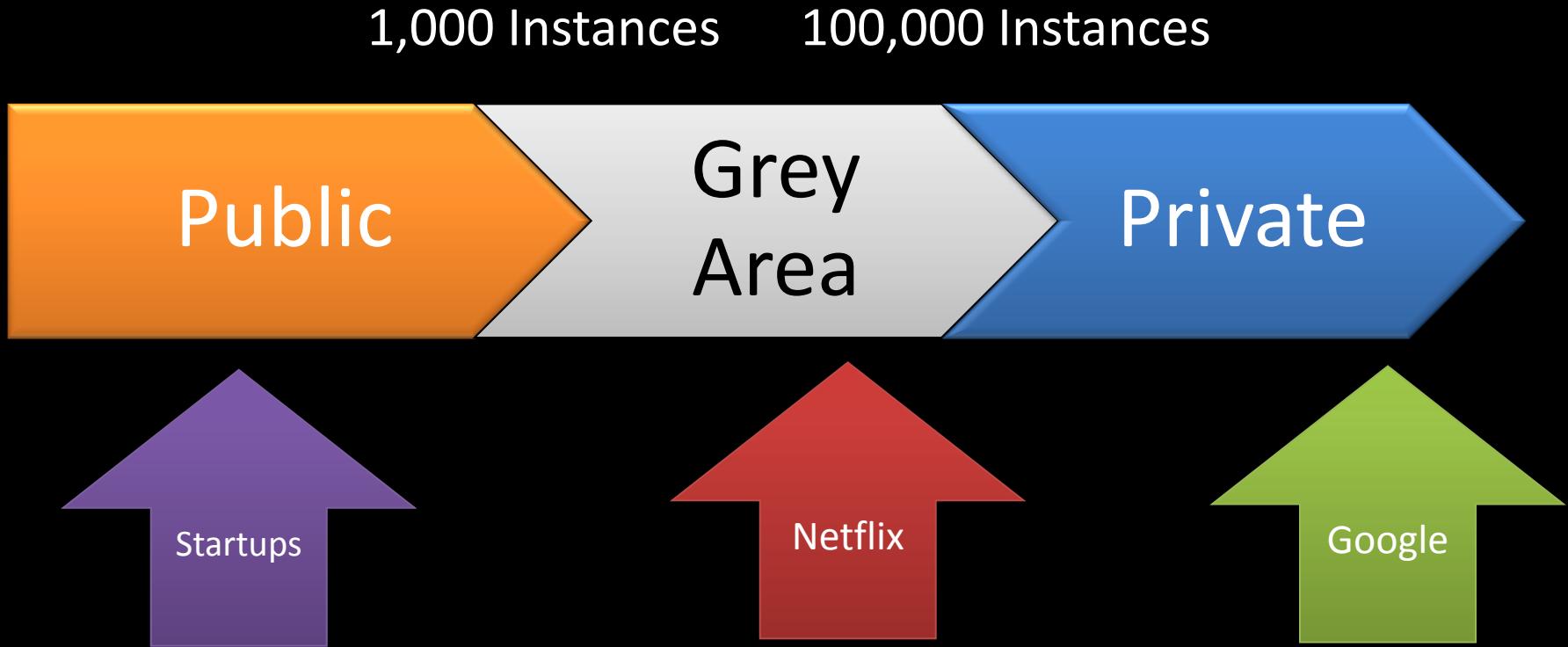


# Ephemeral Instances

- Largest services are autoscaled
- Average lifetime of an instance is 36 hours

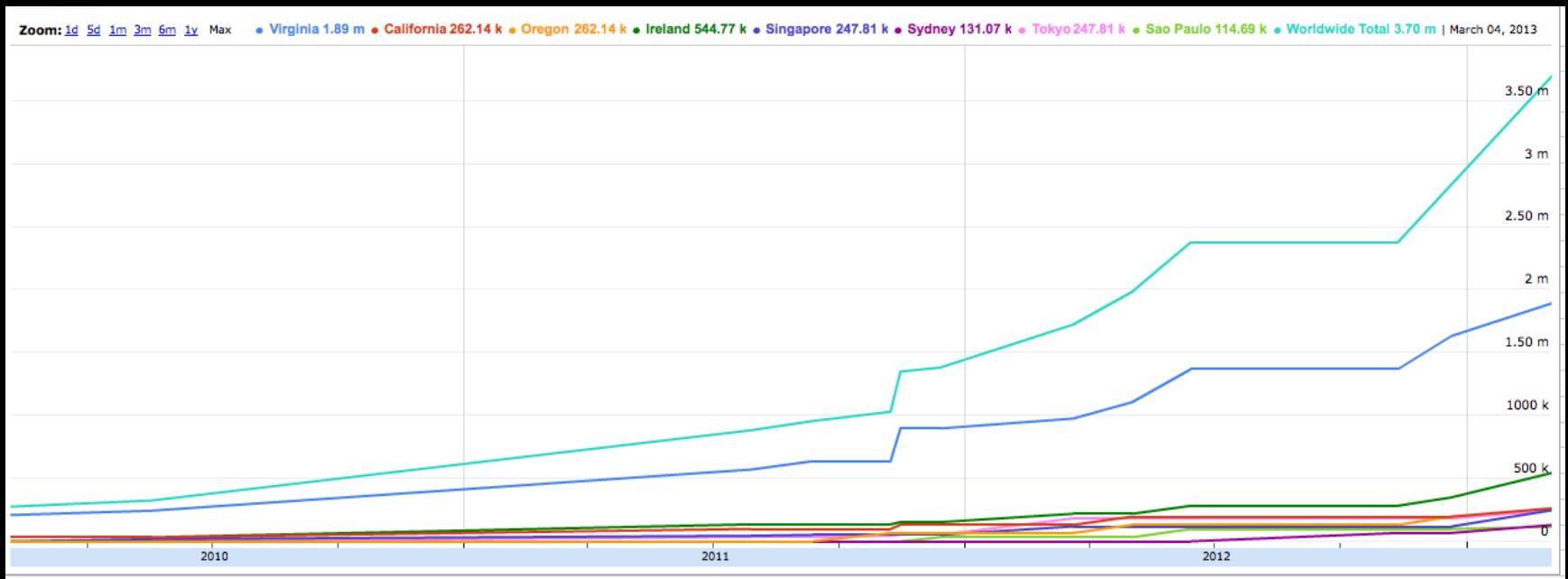


# Leveraging Public Scale



# How big is Public?

AWS Maximum Possible Instance Count 3.7 Million  
Growth >10x in Three Years, >2x Per Annum



AWS upper bound estimate based on the number of public IP Addresses  
Every provisioned instance gets a public IP by default

# Availability

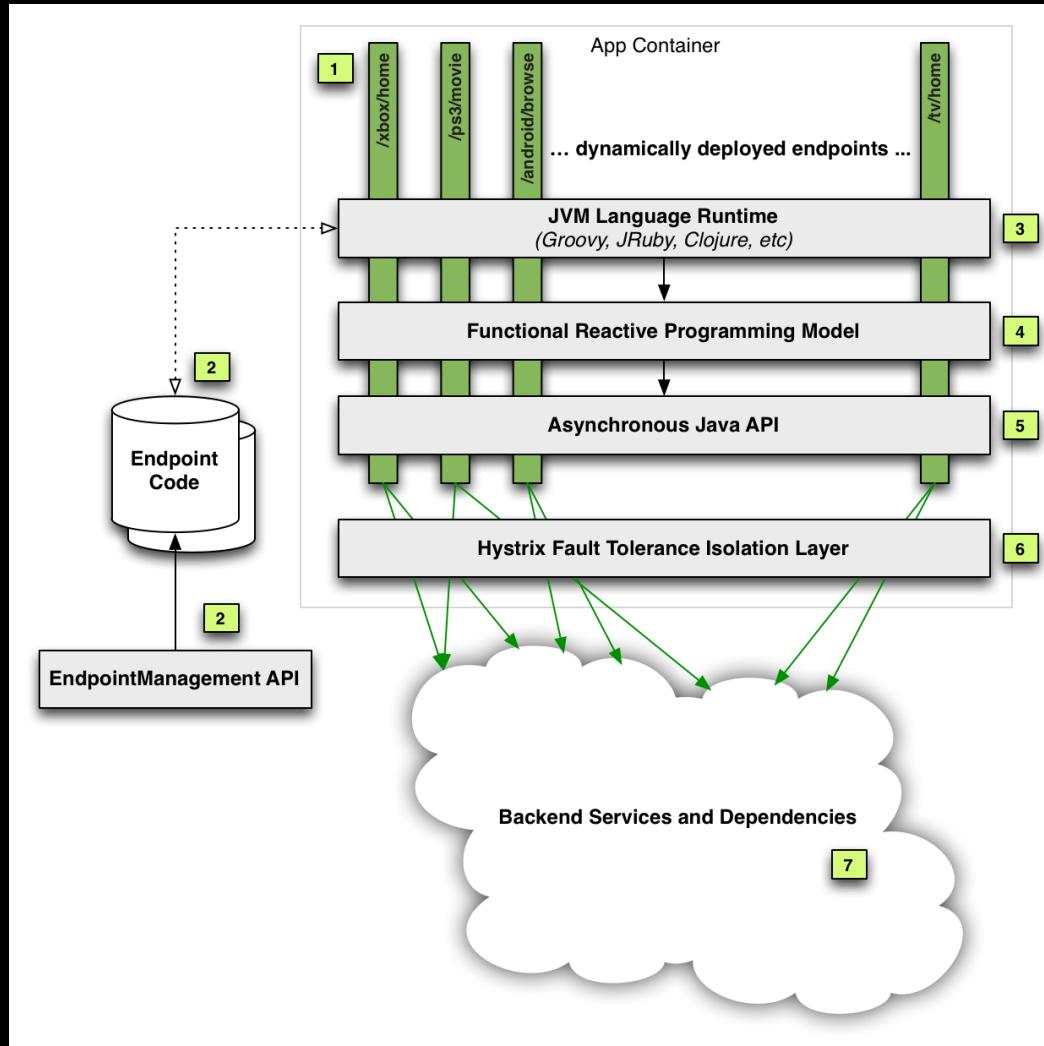
Is it running yet?

How many places is it running in?

How far apart are those places?

# Antifragile API Patterns

Functional Reactive with Circuit Breakers and Bulkheads



# The **STRANGE WORLD** of the FUTURE

*STRANDED without video!  
No way to fill their empty hours!  
They were victims of...*

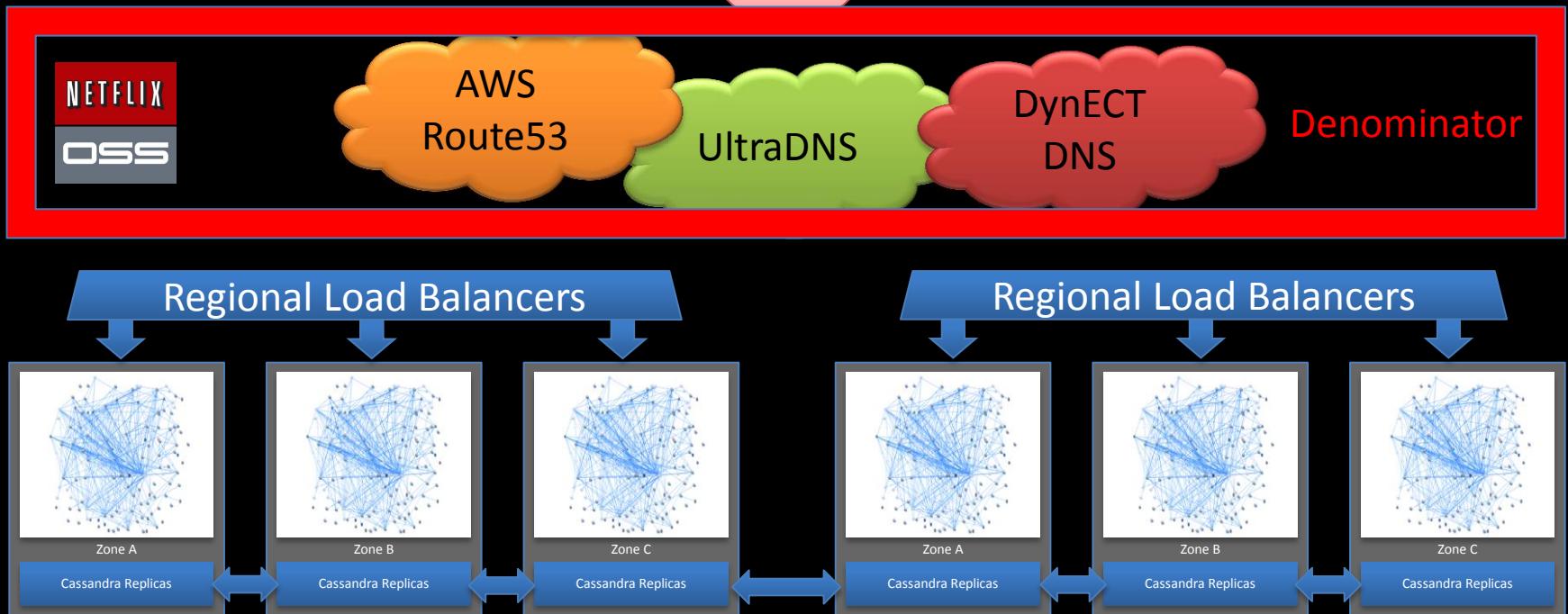
## **THE CLOUD OF BROKEN STREAMS**

CREATED WITH **PULP-O-MIZER** COVER MAKER

# Outages

- Running very fast with scissors
  - Mostly self inflicted – bugs, mistakes
  - Some caused by AWS bugs and mistakes
- Next step is multi-region
  - Investigating and building in stages during 2013
  - Could have prevented some of our 2012 outages

# Managing Multi-Region Availability



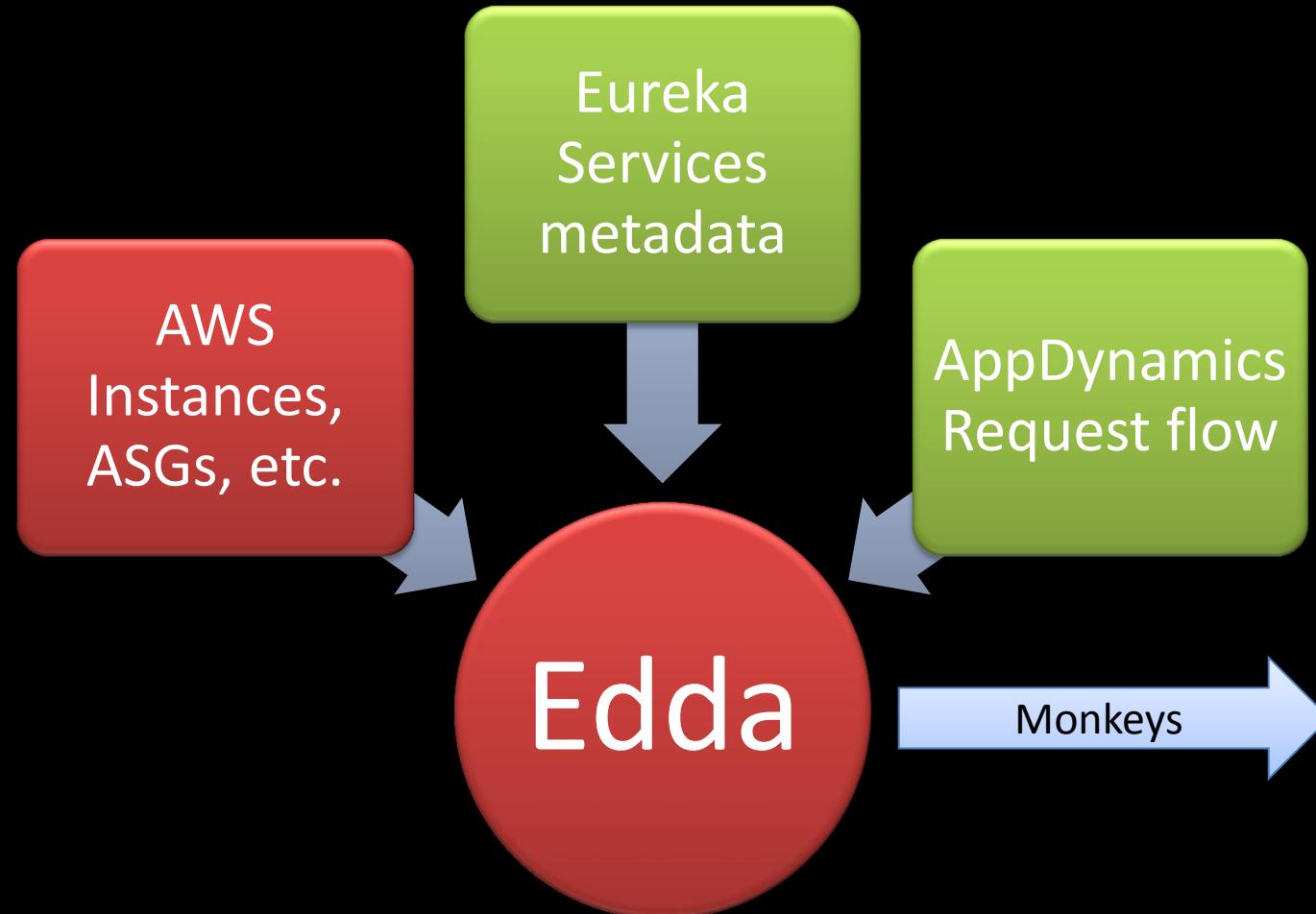
A portable way to manage multiple DNS providers from Java

# Configuration State Management

Datacenter CMDB's woeful  
Cloud native is the solution  
Dependably complete

# Edda – Configuration History

<http://techblog.netflix.com/2012/11/edda-learn-stories-of-your-cloud.html>



# Edda Query Examples

Find any instances that have ever had a specific public IP address

```
$ curl "http://edda/api/v2/view/instances;publicIpAddress=1.2.3.4;_since=0"  
["i-0123456789", "i-012345678a", "i-012345678b"]
```

Show the most recent change to a security group

```
$ curl "http://edda/api/v2/aws/securityGroups/sg-0123456789;_diff;_all;_limit=2"  
--- /api/v2/aws.securityGroups/sg-0123456789;_pp;_at=1351040779810  
+++ /api/v2/aws.securityGroups/sg-0123456789;_pp;_at=1351044093504  
@@ -1,33 +1,33 @@  
{  
...  
"ipRanges" : [  
    "10.10.1.1/32",  
    "10.10.1.2/32",  
+   "10.10.1.3/32",  
-   "10.10.1.4/32"  
...  
}
```



A Cloud Native Open Source Platform

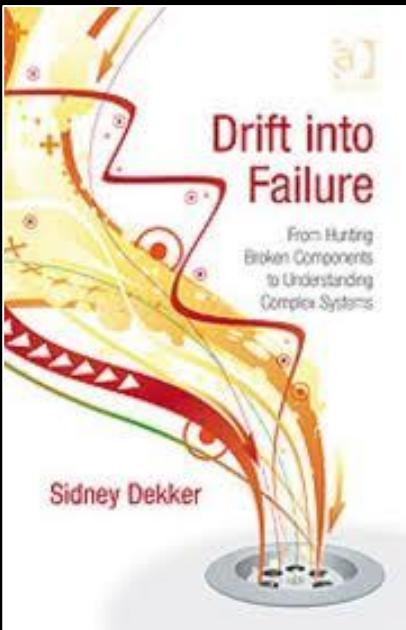
The Pragmatic  
Programmers

# Release It!

Design and Deploy  
Production-Ready Software



Michael T. Nygaard



# Inspiration

## Thinking in Systems

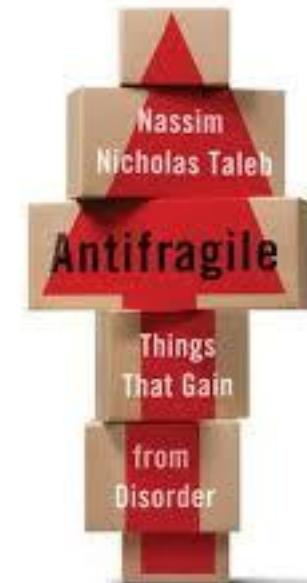
A Primer

Donella H. Meadows

Edited by Diana Wright,  
Sustainability Institute



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
**THE BLACK SWAN**



# EVERYTHING IS OBVIOUS\*

\*ONCE YOU KNOW THE ANSWER



Duncan Watts is...  
extremely clever...  
I have learned a lot...  
from his research.  
—HAROLD KELLOGG

How Common Sense Fails  
**DUNCAN J. WATTS**

# Three Questions

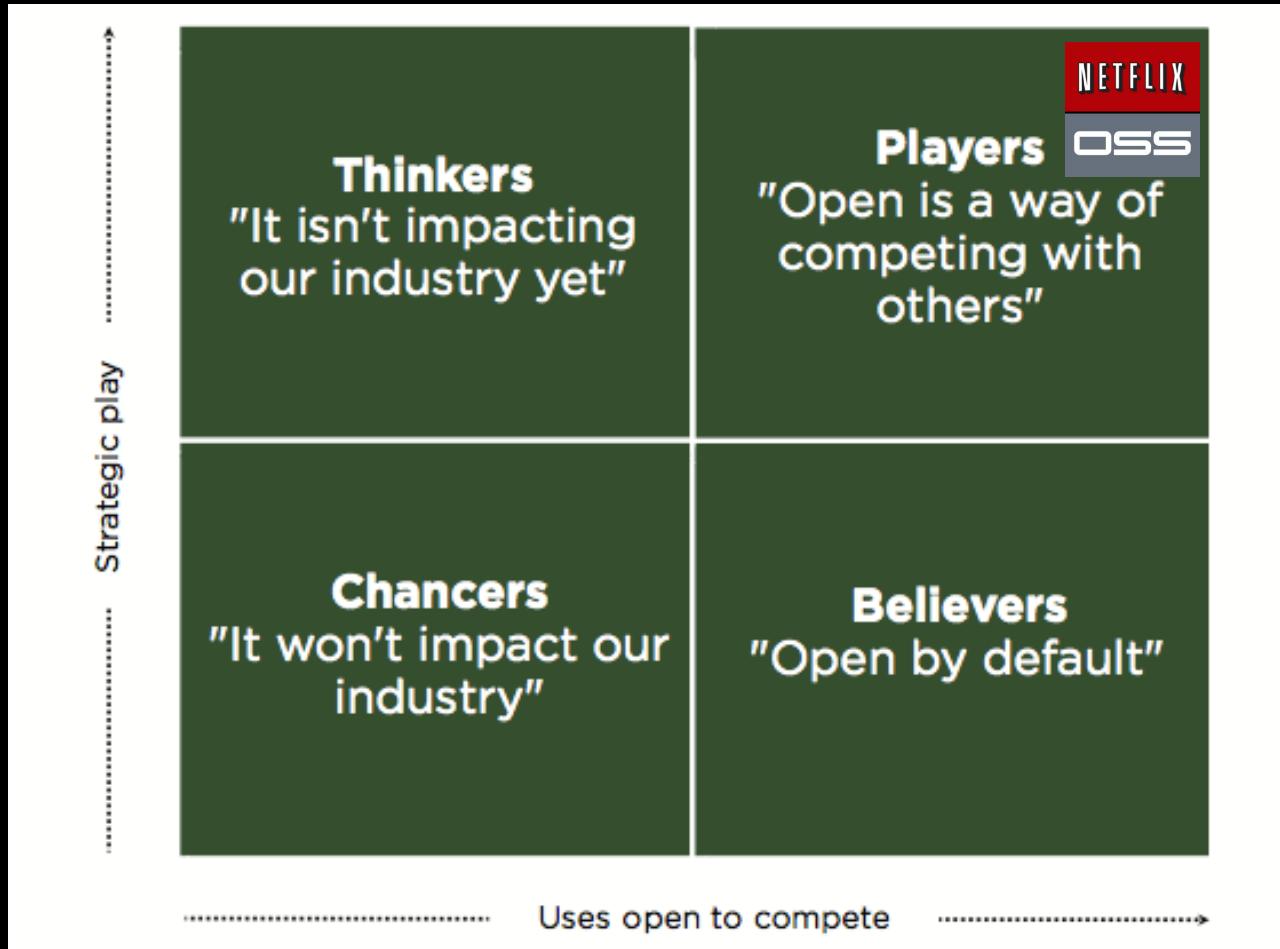
Why is Netflix doing this?

How does it all fit together?

What is coming next?

# Beware of Geeks Bearing Gifts: Strategies for an Increasingly Open Economy

*Simon Wardley - Researcher at the Leading Edge Forum*



# How did Netflix get ahead?

## Netflix Business + Developer Org

- Doing it right now
- SaaS Applications
- PaaS for agility
- Public IaaS for AWS features
- Big data in the cloud
- Integrating many APIs
- FOSS from github
- Renting hardware for 1hr
- Coding in Java/Groovy/Scala

## Traditional IT Operations

- Taking their time
- Pilot private cloud projects
- Beta quality installations
- Small scale
- Integrating several vendors
- Paying big \$ for software
- Paying big \$ for consulting
- Buying hardware for 3yrs
- Hacking at scripts



# Netflix Platform Evolution

2009-2010

2011-2012

2013-2014

Bleeding Edge  
Innovation

Common  
Pattern

Shared  
Pattern

Netflix ended up several years ahead of the industry, but it's not a sustainable position

# Making it easy to follow

Exploring the wild west each time    vs. laying down a shared route



Establish our  
solutions as Best  
Practices / Standards

Hire, Retain and  
Engage Top  
Engineers

Goals

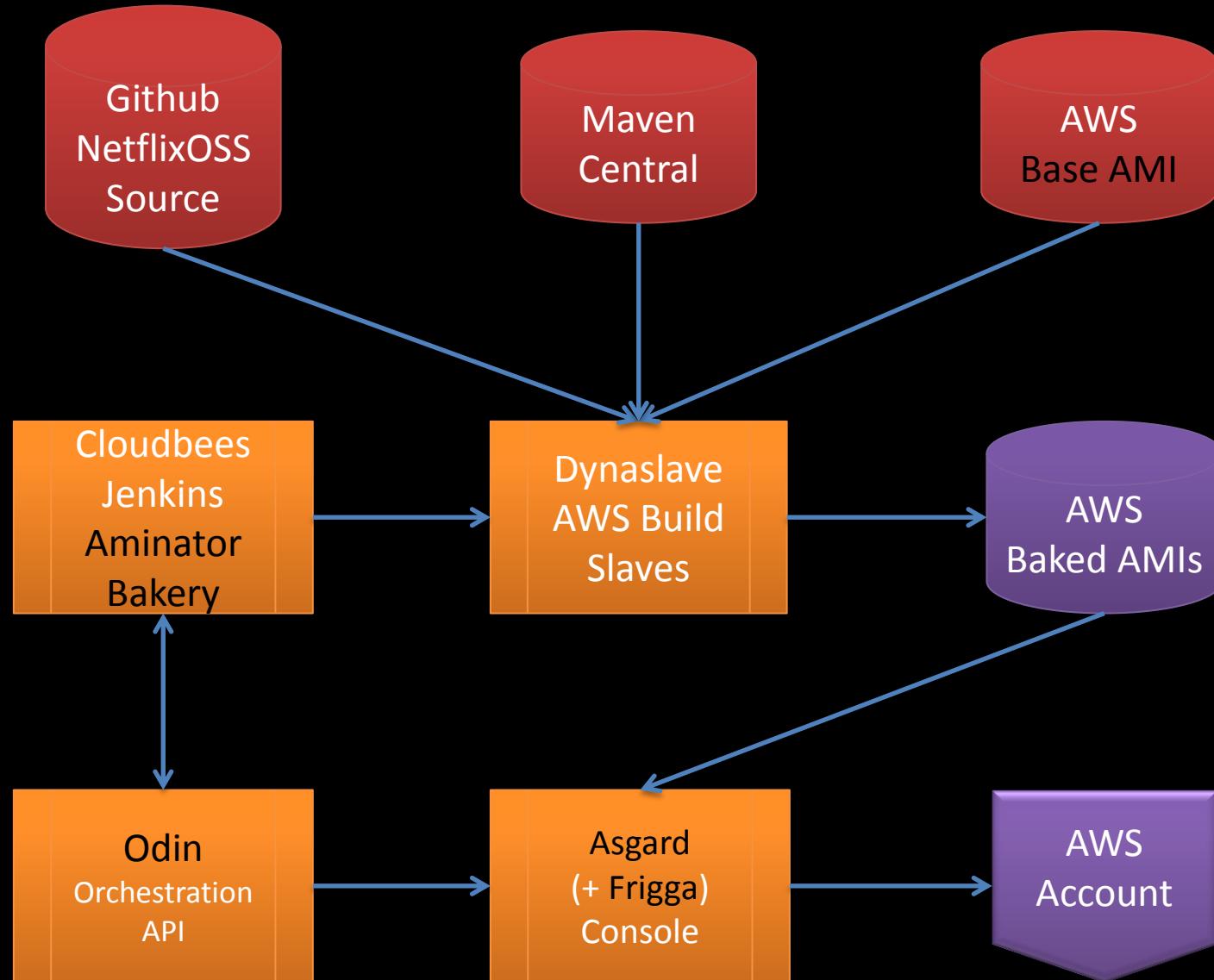
Build up Netflix  
Technology Brand

Benefit from a  
shared ecosystem

# How does it all fit together?



# NetflixOSS Continuous Build and Deployment



# NetflixOSS Services Scope

## AWS Account

Asgard Console

Archaius Config Service

Cross region  
Priam C\*

Explorers  
Dashboards

Atlas  
Monitoring

Genie Hadoop  
Services

## Multiple AWS Regions

Eureka Registry

Exhibitor ZK

Edda History

Simian Army

## 3 AWS Zones

Application  
Clusters  
Autoscale Groups  
Instances

Priam  
Cassandra  
Persistent Storage

Evcache  
Memcached  
Ephemeral Storage

# NetflixOSS Instance Libraries

## Initialization

- Baked AMI – Tomcat, Apache, your code
- Governator – Guice based dependency injection
- Archaius – dynamic configuration properties client
- Eureka - service registration client

## Service Requests

- Karyon - Base Server for inbound requests
- RxJava – Reactive pattern
- Hystrix/Turbine – dependencies and real-time status
- Ribbon - REST Client for outbound calls

## Data Access

- Astyanax – Cassandra client and pattern library
- Evcache – Zone aware Memcached client
- Curator – Zookeeper patterns
- Denominator – DNS routing abstraction

## Logging

- Blitz4j – non-blocking logging
- Servo – metrics export for autoscaling
- Atlas – high volume instrumentation

# NetflixOSS Testing and Automation

## Test Tools

- CassJmeter – Load testing for Cassandra
- Circus Monkey – Test account reservation rebalancing

## Maintenance

- Janitor Monkey – Cleans up unused resources
- Efficiency Monkey
- Doctor Monkey
- Howler Monkey – Complains about expiring certs

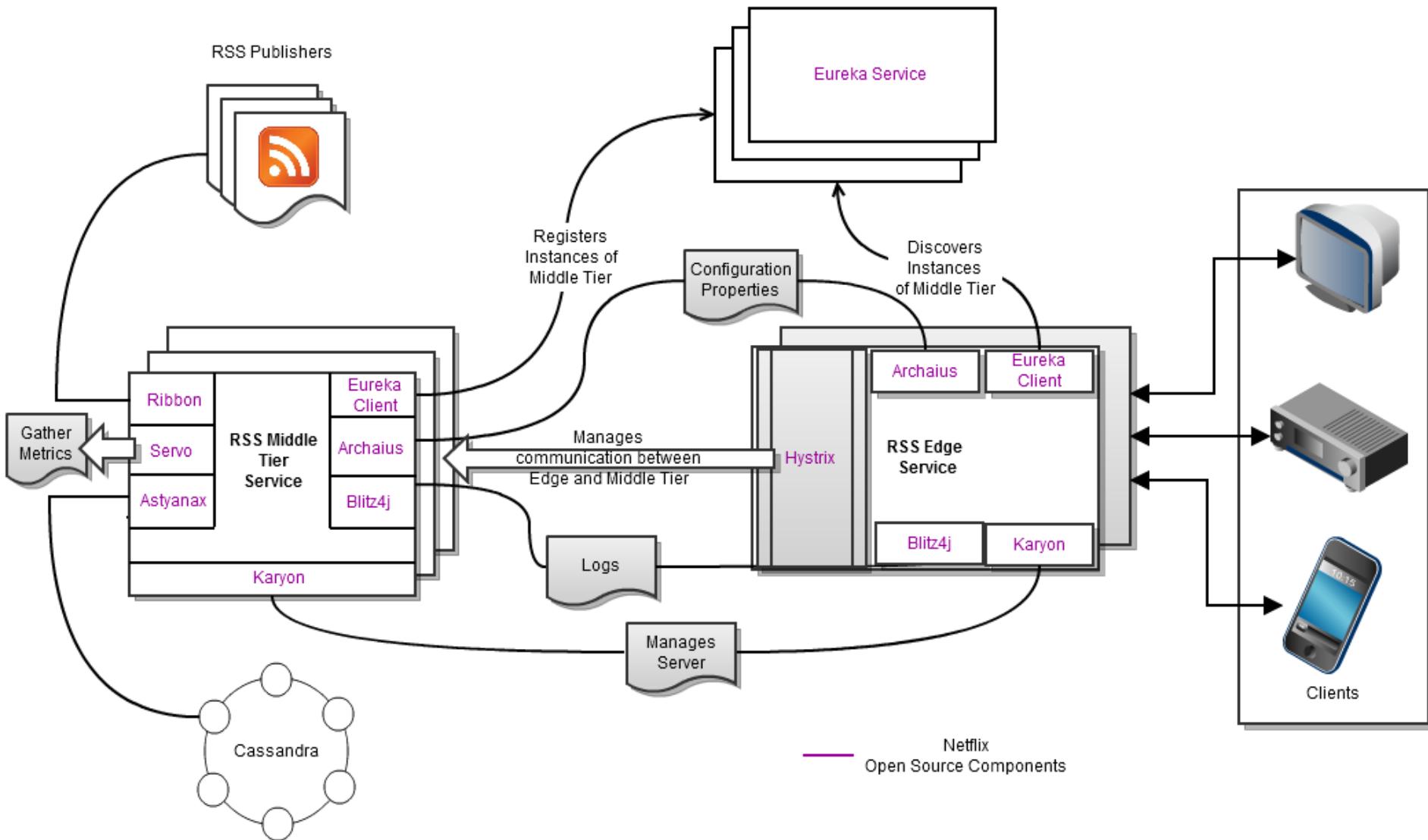
## Availability

- Chaos Monkey – Kills Instances
- Chaos Gorilla – Kills Availability Zones
- Chaos Kong – Kills Regions
- Latency Monkey – Latency and error injection

## Security

- Security Monkey
- Conformity Monkey

# Example Application – RSS Reader



# What's Coming Next?

More  
Features

Better portability

Higher availability

Easier to deploy

Contributions from end users

Contributions from vendors

NETFLIX

OSS

More Use Cases

# Vendor Driven Portability

Interest in using NetflixOSS for Enterprise Private Clouds



"It's done when it runs Asgard"  
Functionally complete  
Demonstrated March  
Release 3.3 in 2Q13

Some vendor interest  
Needs AWS compatible Autoscaler

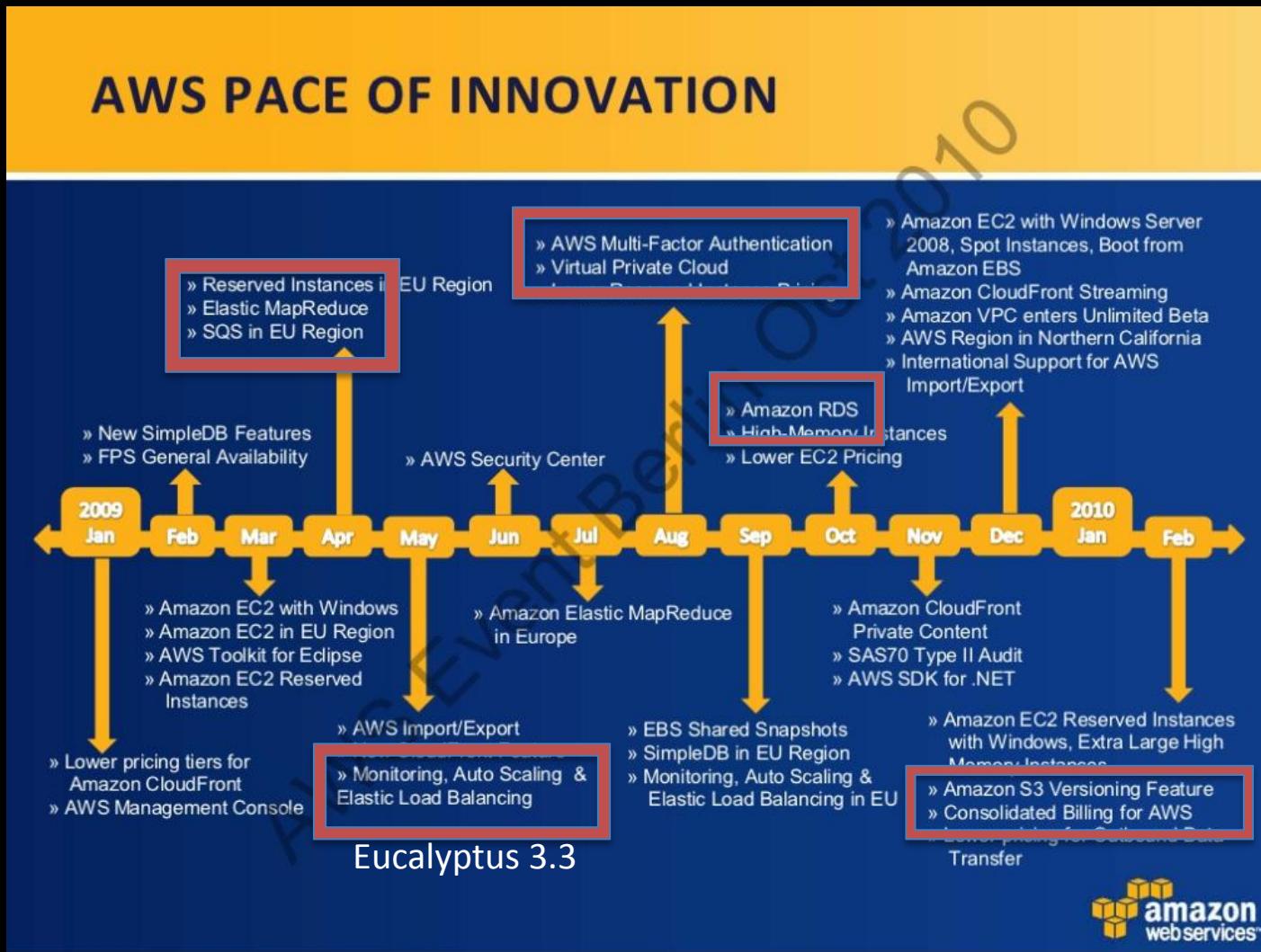


Some vendor interest  
Many missing features  
Bait and switch AWS API strategy



# AWS 2009

## Baseline features needed to support NetflixOSS



# Netflix Cloud Prize

Boosting the @NetflixOSS Ecosystem

In 2012 Netflix Engineering won this..



We'd like to give out prizes too

But what for?

Contributions to NetflixOSS!

Shared under Apache license

Located on github

**Judges choice award**

**Best example application mash-up**

**Best usability enhancement**

**Best portability enhancement**

**Best new monkey**

**Best new feature**

**Best datastore integration**

**Best contribution to code quality**

**Best contribution to operational tools**

**Best contribution to performance**

# How long do you have?

Entries open March 13<sup>th</sup>

Entries close September 15<sup>th</sup>

Six months...

# Who can win?

Almost anyone, anywhere...

Except current or former Netflix or  
AWS employees

# Who decides who wins?

Nominating Committee  
Panel of Judges



Aino Corry  
Program Chair for Qcon/GOTO



Simon Wardley  
Strategist



Martin Fowler  
Chief Scientist Thoughtworks



Werner Vogels  
CTO Amazon



Joe Weinman  
SVP Telx, Author "Cloudonomics"



Yury Izrailevsky  
VP Cloud Netflix

# What are Judges Looking For?

Eligible, Apache 2.0 licensed

Original and useful contribution to NetflixOSS

Code that successfully builds and passes a test suite

A large number of watchers, stars and forks on github

NetflixOSS project pull requests

Good code quality and structure

Documentation on how to build and run it

Evidence that code is in use by other projects, or is running in production

# What do you win?

One winner in each of the 10 categories

Ticket and expenses to attend AWS  
Re:Invent 2013 in Las Vegas

A Trophy

**\$10,000 cash and \$5,000 in AWS  
Credits**



# How do you enter?

Get a (free) github account

Fork [github.com/netflix/cloud-prize](https://github.com/netflix/cloud-prize)

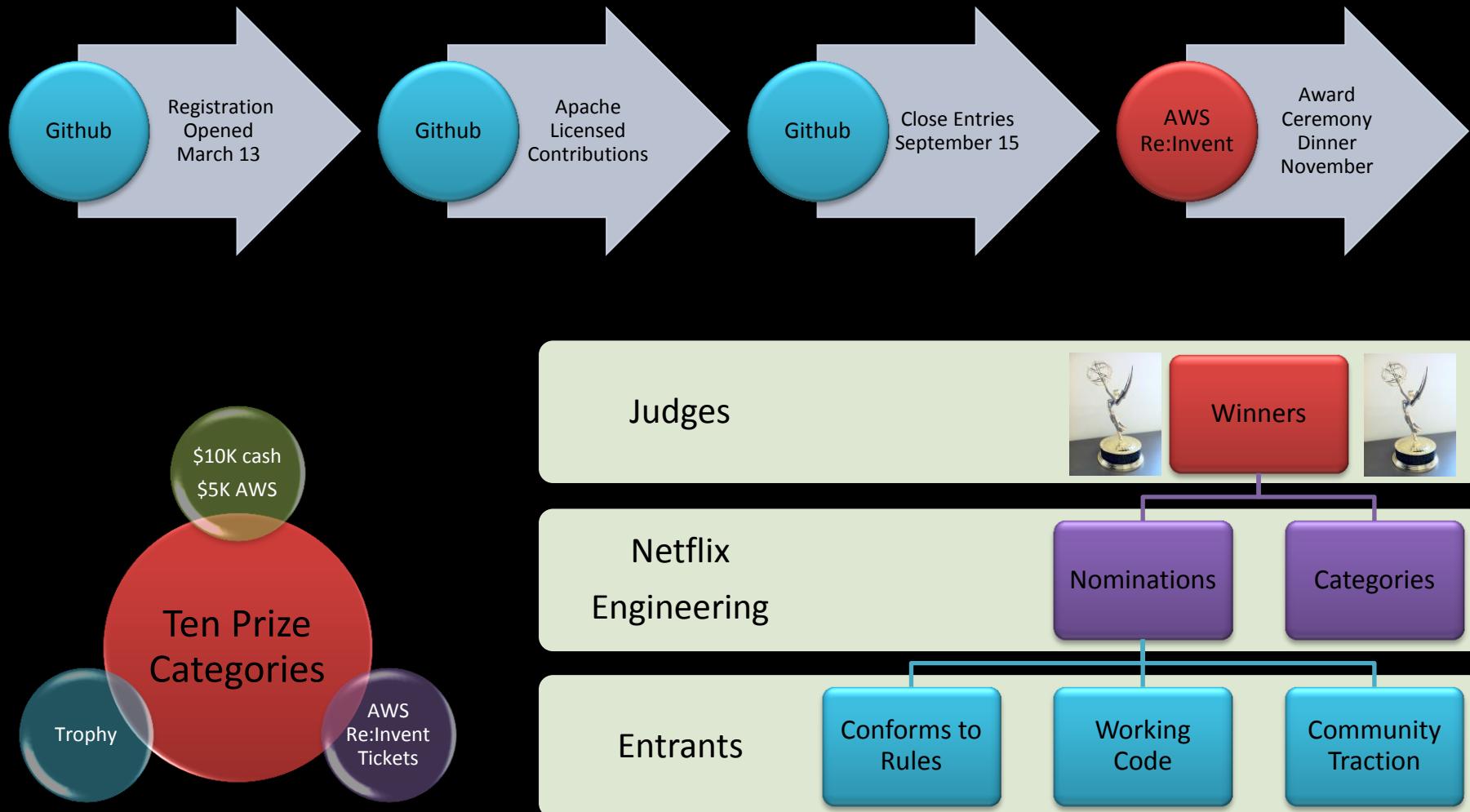
Send us your email address

Describe and build your entry

Twitter #cloudprize



## OSS CLOUD PRIZE



NETFLIX

OSS

OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

Functionality and scale now, portability coming

Moving from parts to a platform in 2013

Netflix is fostering an ecosystem

Rapid Evolution - Low MTBIAMSH

(Mean Time Between Idea And Making Stuff Happen)

# Takeaway

*Netflix is making it easy for everyone to adopt Cloud Native patterns.*

*Open Source is not just the default, it's a strategic weapon.*

<http://netflix.github.com>

<http://techblog.netflix.com>

<http://slideshare.net/Netflix>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/adriancockcroft>

@adrianco #netflixcloud @NetflixOSS

