



AWS  
re:Invent

**D O P 3 4 0 - R**

# Debugging serverless applications

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Solutions Architect  
Amazon Web Services

# Agenda

1. How should I develop serverless applications?
2. How do I improve developer productivity?
3. How do I trace and find root causes of errors?
4. How do I identify performance issues?

# 1. How should I develop serverless applications?

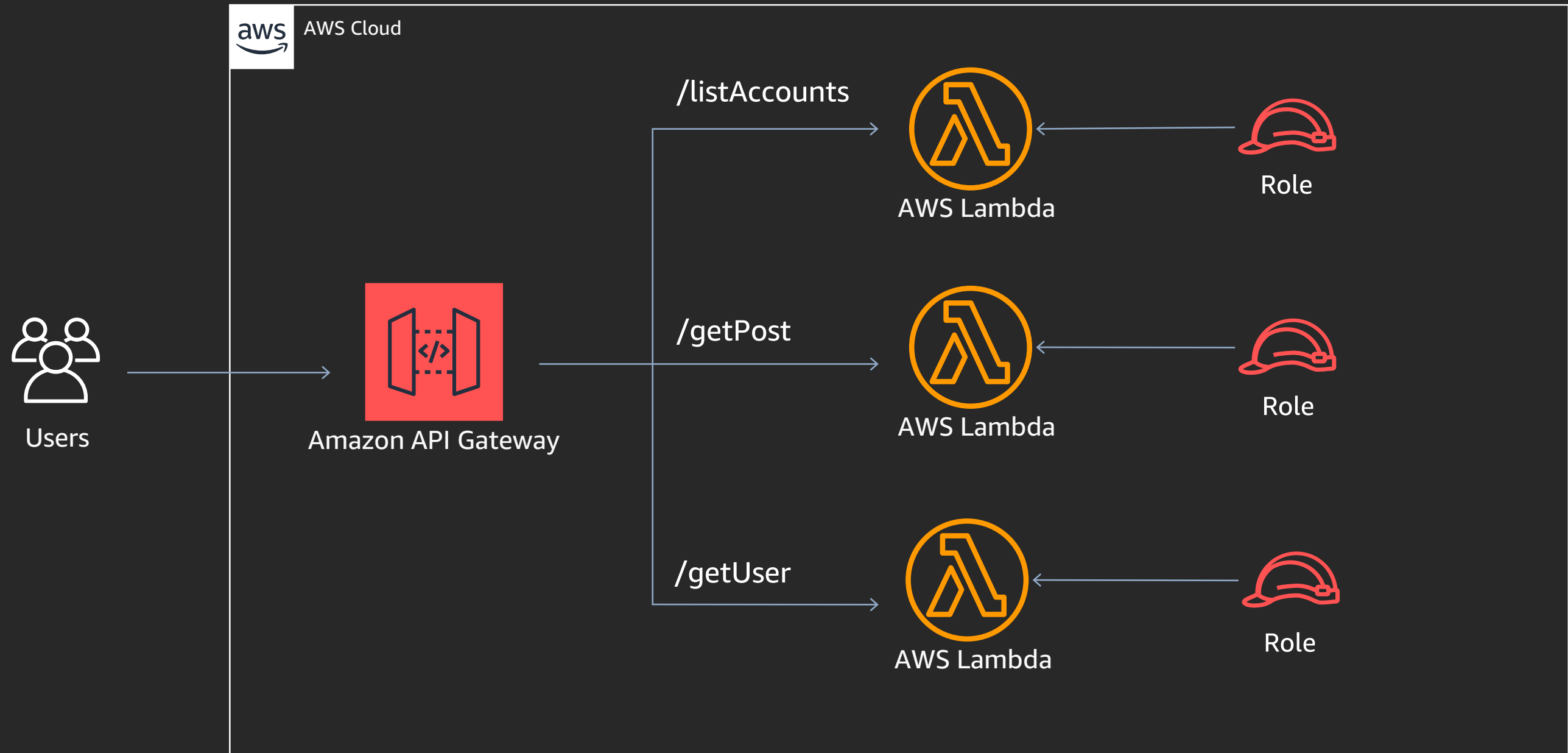
How are *you* developing serverless applications currently?



# Challenges of serverless development

- AWS Lambda console restrictions
- Resources usually exist only during execution
- Can't install agents for monitoring
- Latency in collecting, aggregating, and collating logs in real time
- Events need to be correlated across services
- Difficult to manage versions, deployment, and rollbacks

# Application vs. functions



# Serverless development stages



Write code  
directly in Lambda  
console



Zip packages  
and upload



Use serverless  
frameworks



# Serverless frameworks

## AWS



AWS Amplify



AWS SAM

## Third-party

APEX

Claudia.js

Sparta



Serverless  
Framework

Zappa

# AWS Serverless Application Model (SAM)



<https://github.com/aws-labs/serverless-application-model>

- AWS CloudFormation extension, optimized for serverless
- Serverless resource types: **Functions, APIs, tables, layers, and applications**
- AWS CloudFormation supports (e.g., Amazon Kinesis)
- Supports parameters, mappings, outputs, global variables, intrinsic functions, and some import values
- YAML or JSON

# SAM template

`AWSTemplateFormatVersion: '2010-09-09'`

`Transform: AWS::Serverless-2016-10-31`

`Resources:`

`calculatorAdd:`

`Type: AWS::Serverless::Function`

`Properties:`

`Handler: calculator`

`Runtime: go1.x`

`Events:`

`Add:`

`Type: Api`

`Properties:`

`Path: /`

`Method: get`

# SAM template

```
AWSTemplateFormatVersion: '2010-09-09'
```

```
Transform: AWS::Serverless-2016-10-31
```

```
Resources:
```

```
  calculatorAdd:
```

```
    Type: AWS::Serverless::Function
```

```
    Properties:
```

```
      Handler: calculator
```

```
      Runtime: go1.x
```

```
      Events:
```

```
        Add:
```

```
          Type: Api
```

```
          Properties:
```

```
            Path: /
```

```
            Method: get
```

# Transformed template

```
{
  "AWSTemplateFormatVersion": "2010-09-09",
  "Resources": {
    "AwesomeCalculatorRole": {
      "Type": "AWS::IAM::Role",
      "Properties": {
        "ManagedPolicyArns": [
          "arn:aws:iam::aws:policy/service-role/AWSLambdaBasicExecutionRole"
        ],
        "AssumeRolePolicyDocument": {
          "Version": "2012-10-17",
          "Statement": [
            {
              "Action": [
                "sts:AssumeRole"
              ],
              "Effect": "Allow",
              "Principal": {
                "Service": [
                  "lambda.amazonaws.com"
                ]
              }
            }
          ]
        }
      }
    },
    "AwesomeCalculatorAddPermissionTest": {
      "Type": "AWS::Lambda::Permission",
      "Properties": {
        "Action": "lambda:invokeFunction",
        "Principal": "apigateway.amazonaws.com",
        "FunctionName": {
          "Ref": "AwesomeCalculator"
        },
        "SourceArn": {
          "Fn::Sub": [
            "arn:aws:execute-api:${AWS::Region}:${AWS::AccountId}:${AWS::StackName}/${AWS::Stage}/${AWS::ApiId}",
            {
              "__Stage__": "*",
              "__ApiId__": {
                "Ref": "ServerlessRestApi"
              }
            }
          ]
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```
"ServerlessRestApiProdStage": {
  "Type": "AWS::ApiGateway::Stage",
  "Properties": {
    "DeploymentId": {
      "Ref": "ServerlessRestApiDeployment9bcc4dec0"
    },
    "RestApiId": {
      "Ref": "ServerlessRestApi"
    },
    "StageName": "Prod"
  }
},
"AwsomeCalculator": {
  "Type": "AWS::Lambda::Function",
  "Properties": {
    "Code": {
      "S3Bucket": "sydney-summit-sam",
      "S3Key": "001f1d29dc238636e2b94fe7a71aa00c"
    },
    "Handler": "index.handler",
    "Role": {
      "Fn::GetAtt": [
        "AwesomeCalculatorRole",
        "Arn"
      ]
    },
    "Runtime": "nodejs6.10",
    "Tags": [
      {
        "Value": "SAM",
        "Key": "lambda:createdBy"
      }
    ]
  }
},
"ServerlessRestApi": {
  "Type": "AWS::ApiGateway::RestApi",
  "Properties": {
    "Body": {
      "info": {
        "version": "1.0",
        "title": {
          "Ref": "AWS::StackName"
        }
      },
      "paths": {
        "/": {
          "get": {
```

```
      "x-amazon-apigateway-integration": {
        "httpMethod": "POST",
        "type": "aws_proxy",
        "uri": {
          "Fn::Sub": "arn:aws:apigateway:${AWS::Region}:lambda::integration/${AWS::Stage}/${AWS::ApiId}"
        },
        "responses": {}
      }
    },
    "swagger": "2.0"
  }
},
"AwsomeCalculatorAddPermissionProd": {
  "Type": "AWS::Lambda::Permission",
  "Properties": {
    "Action": "lambda:invokeFunction",
    "Principal": "apigateway.amazonaws.com",
    "FunctionName": {
      "Ref": "AwesomeCalculator"
    },
    "SourceArn": {
      "Fn::Sub": [
        "arn:aws:execute-api:${AWS::Region}:${AWS::AccountId}:${AWS::StackName}/${AWS::Stage}/${AWS::ApiId}",
        {
          "__Stage__": "Prod",
          "__ApiId__": {
            "Ref": "ServerlessRestApi"
          }
        }
      ]
    }
  }
},
"ServerlessRestApiDeployment9bcc4dec0": {
  "Type": "AWS::ApiGateway::Deployment",
  "Properties": {
    "RestApiId": {
      "Ref": "ServerlessRestApi"
    },
    "Description": "RestApi deployment id: 9bcc4dec055b4dac489"
    "StageName": "Stage"
  }
}
}
```

# SAM template

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`Properties:`

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`Method: get`



Lambda function

# SAM template

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`Events:`

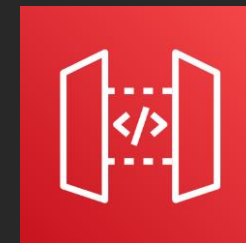
`Add:`

`Type: Api`

`Properties:`

`Path: /`

`Method: get`



API Gateway

# SAM commands

## Package

- Creates a deployment **package** (.zip file)
- **Uploads** deployment package to an Amazon S3 bucket
- Adds a **CodeUri** property with S3 URI

## Deploy

- Calls AWS CloudFormation "**CreateChangeSet**" API
- Calls AWS CloudFormation "**ExecuteChangeSet**" API



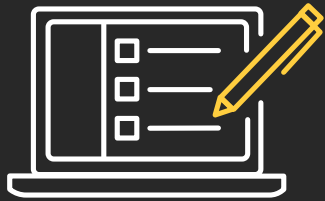
# Demo: AWS SAM templates

# 2. How do I improve developer productivity?

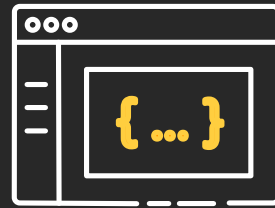
# What do developers want in their IDE?



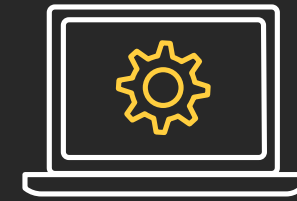
# Typical developers' needs



Lightning fast, no-frills code editor



Dark background



Easy debugging and testing



Beautiful code linting



CI/CD integration

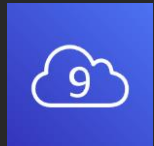


Full-featured, easily consumable SDK

# AWS developer tools at a glance

## IDE integration

AWS Toolkit



AWS Cloud9

PC IJ



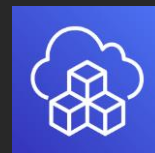
Microsoft Visual Studio

## Programmable SDK

AWS SDK



AWS CDK



## Command line tools

AWS CLI



AWS SAM



AWS Amplify

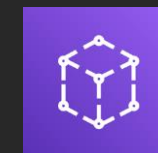


## DevOps & automation

AWS code\*

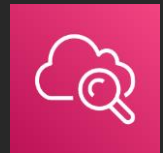


AWS App Mesh

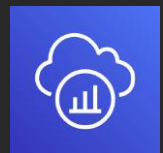


## Monitoring & tracing

Amazon CloudWatch



AWS X-Ray

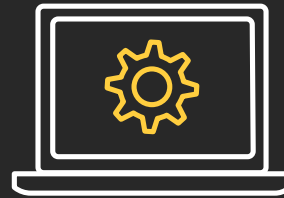


# AWS Toolkit for Visual Studio Code

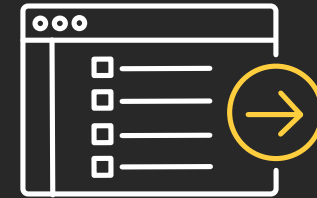
Integrated experience targeting development of serverless applications in **Node.js**, **Python**, or **.NET**



“Getting started”  
project template



Step-through  
debugging



Deployment  
from the IDE

# Demo: AWS Toolkit for Visual Studio Code

# AWS SAM Command Line Interface (CLI)



<https://aws.amazon.com/serverless/sam>

- CLI tool for **local development, debugging, testing, deploying**, and **monitoring** of serverless applications
- Supports API Gateway “proxy-style” and Lambda service API testing
- Response object and function logs available on your local machine
- Uses open-source docker-lambda images to mimic Lambda’s execution environment
- Can tail production logs from CloudWatch logs
- Can help you build in native dependencies



# AWS SAM CLI

- `sam build` – install dependencies
- `sam deploy` – deploy AWS SAM application with AWS CloudFormation
- `sam init` – initialize a serverless application
- `sam local`:
  - `generate-event` – generate sample payloads from event sources
  - `invoke` – invokes a Lambda function once
  - `start-api` – set up local endpoint to test your API
  - `start-lambda` – start a local endpoint to test your local Lambda
- `sam logs` – fetch logs for a function
- `sam package` – package an AWS SAM application

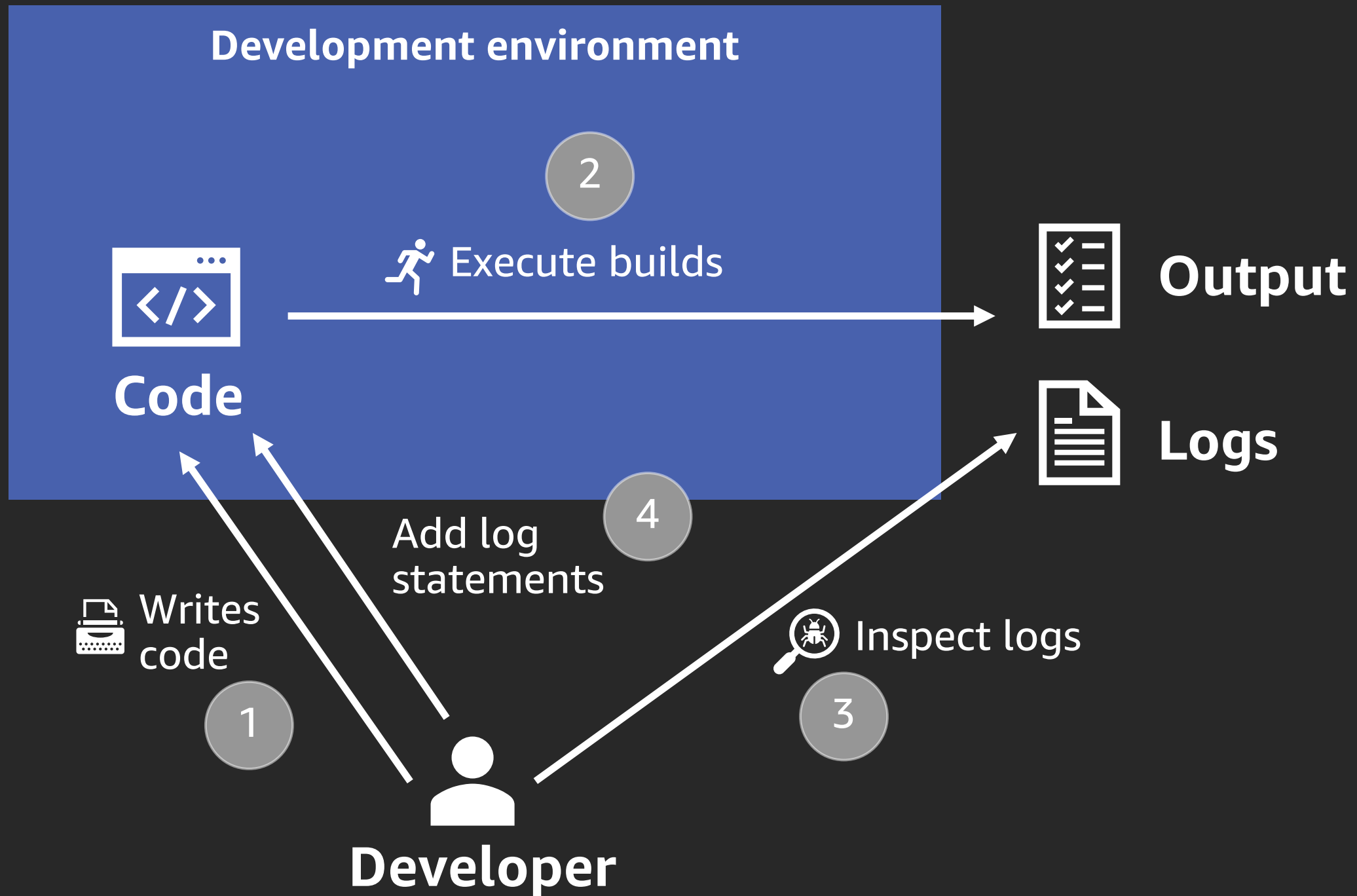
# Demo: AWS SAM CLI

# **3. How do I trace and find root causes of errors?**

“When the going gets tough, the tough gets debugging.”

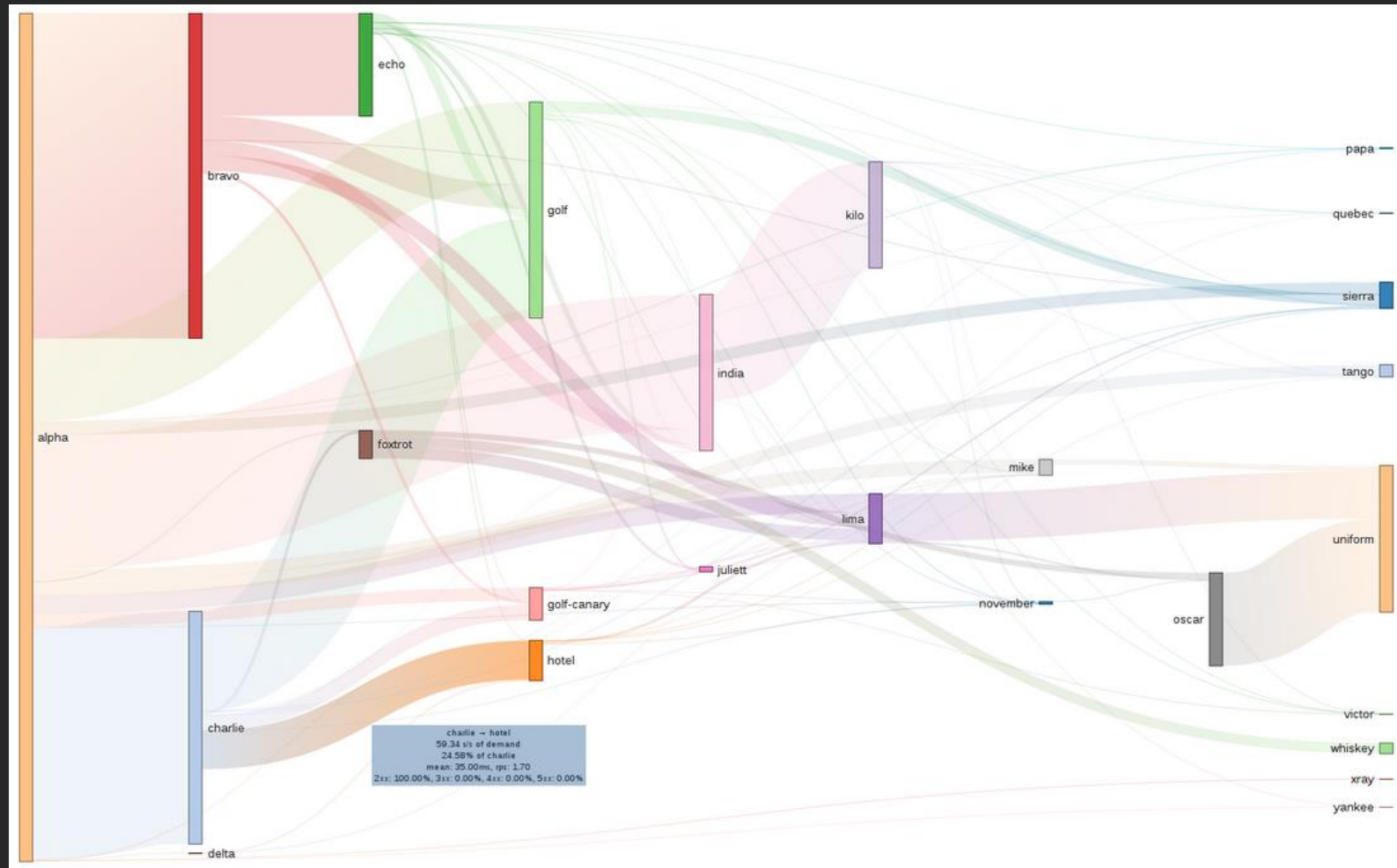
**Any developer**

# Traditional debugging



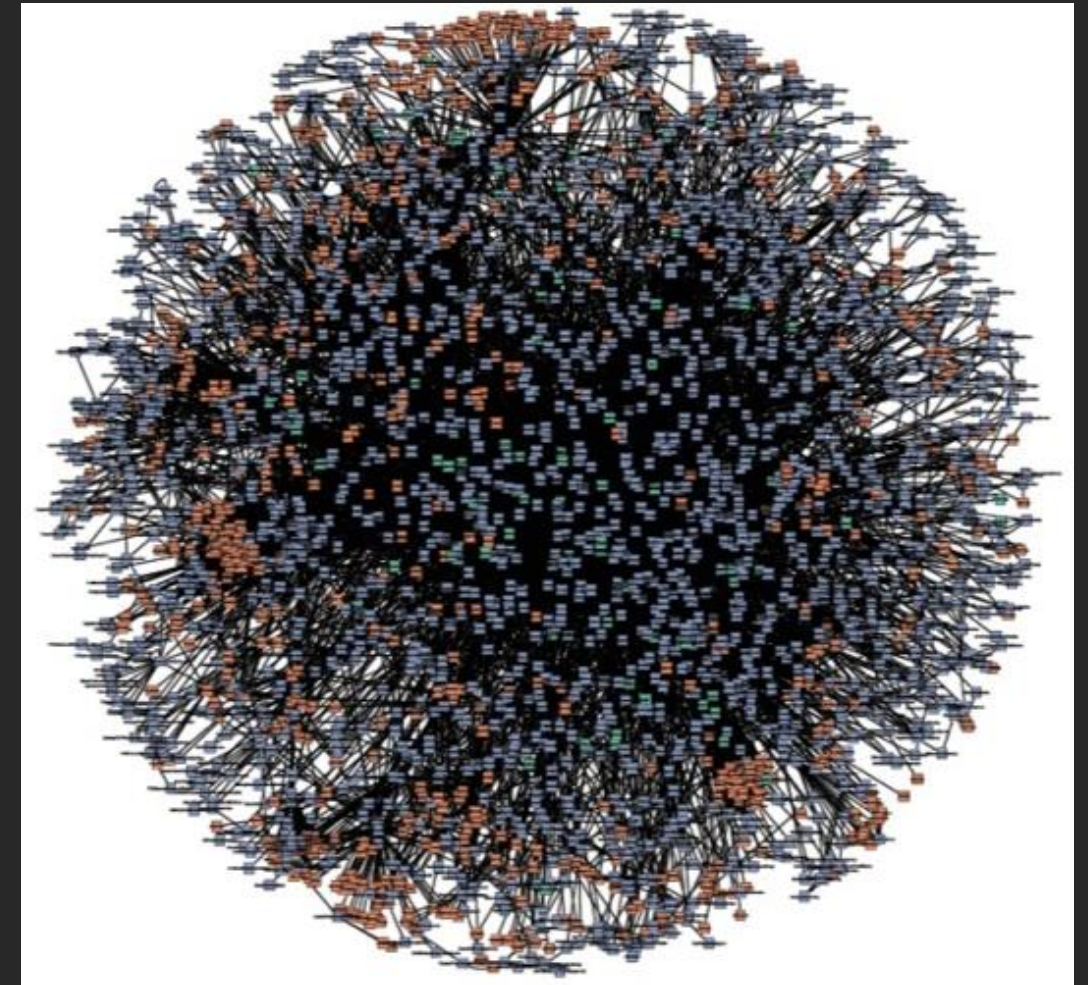


# Reality of microservices environment



Request flow

Source: <https://medium.com/netflix-techblog/a-microscope-on-microservices-923b906103f4>



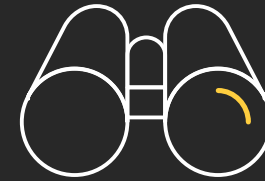
Dependency visualization

Source: <https://medium.com/@LachlanEvenson/practicing-microservices-ac43c8b3b712>

# AWS X-Ray



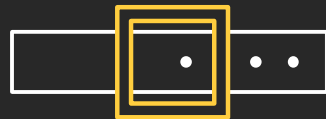
Analyze and debug  
issues quickly



End-to-end view of  
individual services



Visualize  
service calls



Identify performance  
bottlenecks



Pinpoint  
issues



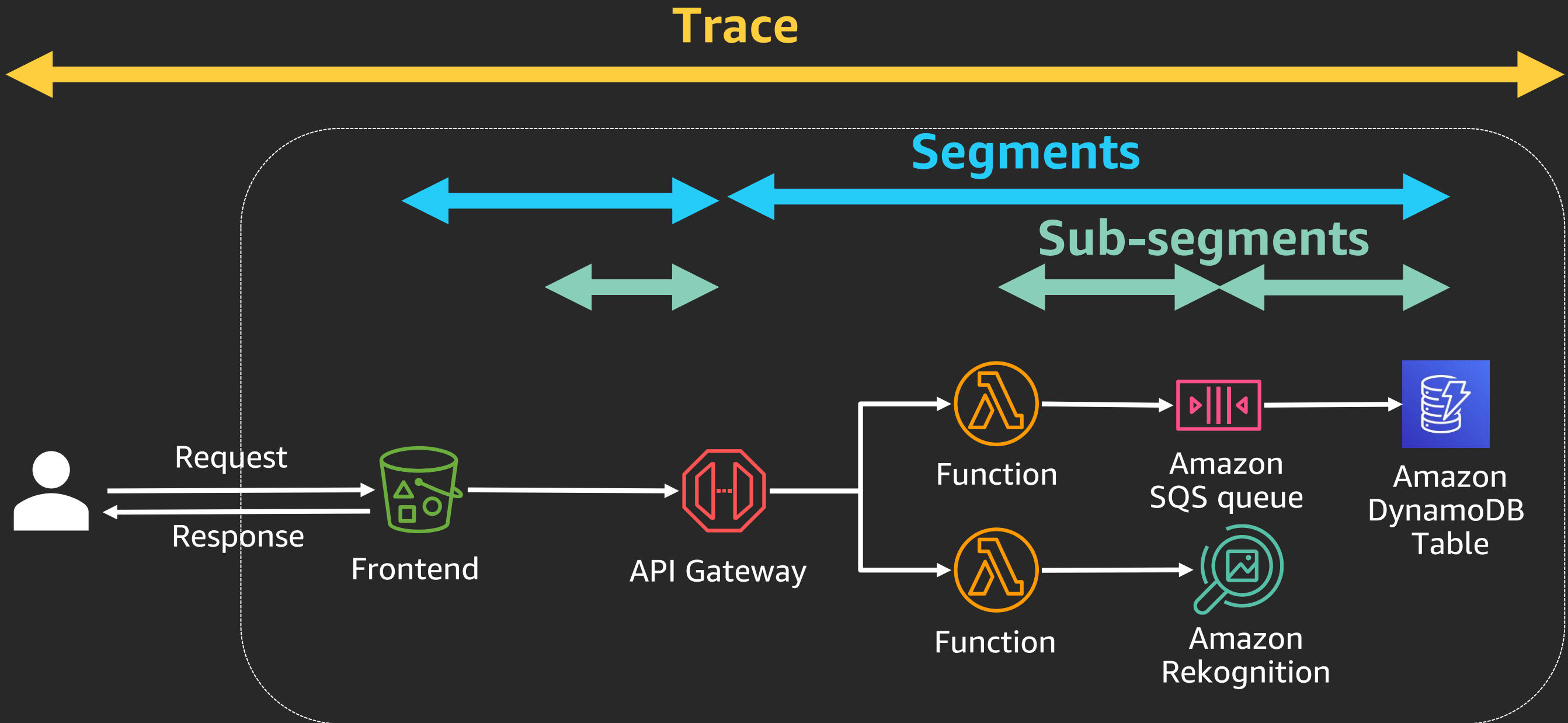
Identify  
errors

# AWS X-Ray + Lambda

- X-Ray agent is natively built into Lambda
- Identify initialization and cold starts in Lambda
- Pinpoint issues in downstream services called from your Lambda function
- Happens with low latency in real time; can see traces in seconds



# AWS X-Ray concepts



# X-Ray SDK

Available for Java, .NET, .NET Core, Ruby, Python, Go, and Node.js

Adds filters to automatically capture metadata for calls to

- AWS services using the AWS SDK
- Non-AWS services over HTTP and HTTPS (third-party APIs)
- Databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL, and Amazon DynamoDB)
- Queues (Amazon SQS)

Enables you to get started quickly without having to manually instrument your application code to log metadata about requests

# App instrumentation

```
//Add aws-xray-sdk package to package.json
```

```
var XRay = require('aws-xray-sdk');  
var AWS = captureAWS(require('aws-sdk'));
```

```
...
```

```
XRay.config([XRay.plugins.EC2]);  
XRay.captureHTTPs(http);  
XRay.setDefaultName('myfrontend-dev');
```

```
...
```

```
app.use(XRay.express.openSegment());
```

```
app.get('/', function(req, res)
```

```
...
```

```
app.get('/blog', function(req, res)
```

```
...
```

```
app.use(XRay.express.closeSegment());
```

# Add business data

//Example showing how to add business data to traces

```
app.post('/signup', function(req, res) {  
    var item = {  
        'email': {'S': req.body.email},  
        'name': {'S': req.body.name},  
        'preview': {'S': req.body.previewAccess},  
        'theme': {'S': req.body.theme}  
    };  
  
    var seg = XRay.getSegment();  
    seg.addAnnotation('email', req.body.email);  
    seg.addAnnotation('theme', req.body.theme);  
    seg.addAnnotation('previewAccess', req.body.previewAccess);  
  
    //Store item to DB  
    //Send sign-up notification to user  
}
```

# X-Ray pricing

## Free tier

- The first **100,000** traces recorded are **free**
- The first **1,000,000** traces retrieved or scanned are **free**

## Additional charges

- Beyond the free tier, traces recorded cost **\$5.00 per million traces**
- Beyond the free tier, traces retrieved or scanned cost **\$0.50 per million traces**

# Demo: Using AWS X-Ray for tracing

# 4. How do I Identify performance issues?

# Demo: AWS X-Ray – Visualize for Performance



# Amazon CloudWatch ServiceLens

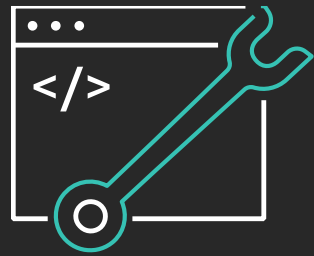
- Fully managed observability solution
- Consolidates **logs**, **metrics**, and **traces** in a single place
- Visualise and analyse the **health**, **performance**, and **availability** of applications
- Easily isolate endpoints and resources that are experiencing issues
- Correlate metrics, logs, and application traces
- Understand the relationships and dependencies within your applications to quickly isolate faults

# Demo – CloudWatch ServiceLens

# Hands-on

# Learn DevOps with AWS Training and Certification

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Validate expertise with the **AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional** or **AWS Certified Developer - Associate** exams

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# Thank you!

**Loh Yiang Meng**

ymloh@amazon.com



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survey in the mobile app.