



Backstage

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# Keeping the Show Running: Backstage Maintenance from a Platform Engineer's Lens



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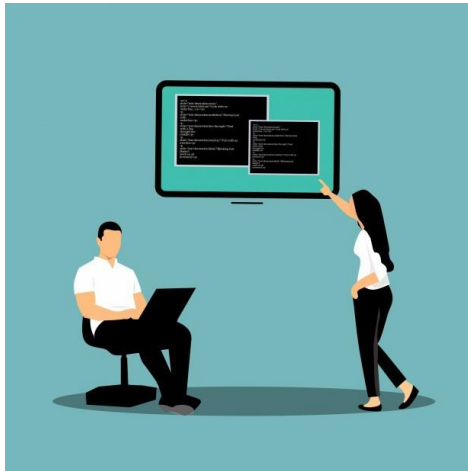
**November 12, 2024**  
**Salt Lake City**



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Software Engineer  
*Red Hat*

## Keeping Backstage Running Smoothly

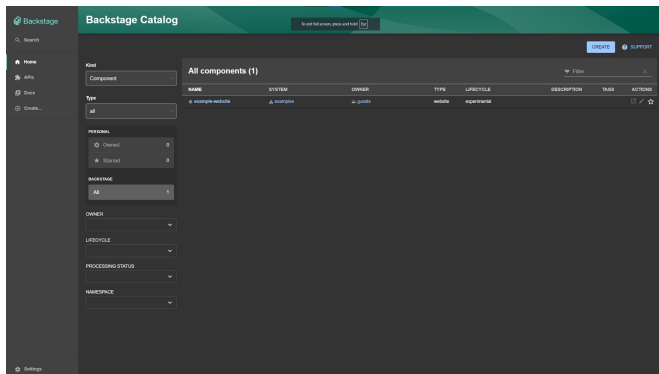
- Backstage is a powerful tool for developers.
- But who keeps it running?
- A look at the challenges and solutions from a platform engineer's viewpoint.



# The Platform Engineer's Perspective

## The Unsung Heroes of Backstage

- Platform engineers work "behind the scenes" to ensure Backstage runs smoothly for everyone.
- We focus on performance, stability, and security across all development teams.
- Understanding Backstage's dependencies and their impact is crucial.



## Strategies for Success

- **Version pinning:** Locking down specific dependency versions.
- **Automated updates:** Using tools like Renovate to stay current.
- **Regular dependency audits:** Identifying and addressing potential problems.



# The Dreaded npm Dependency Issues



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## Navigating the npm Jungle

- Backstage has a complex web of dependencies.
- Version conflicts can cause unexpected errors and breakages.
- Security vulnerabilities are a constant concern.
- Platform engineers must carefully manage these dependencies to prevent issues.



## Building a Secure Foundation for Backstage

- Staying informed about security vulnerabilities.
- Prompt patching and updates.
- Implementing security best practices for Backstage and its infrastructure.



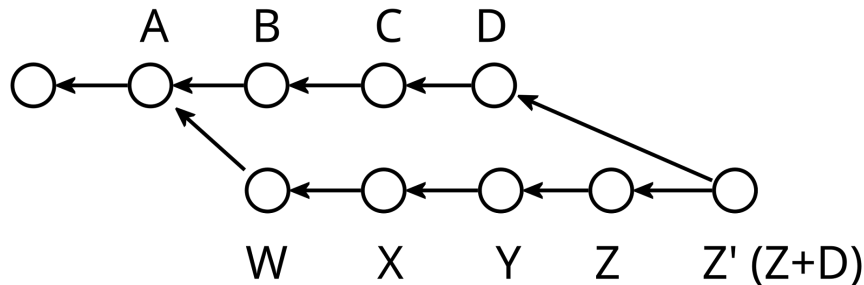
# Maintaining Stability with Backporting



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## Smooth Upgrades Through Strategic Backporting

- Backporting allows us to apply critical fixes to our current Backstage version.
- Minimize disruptions by avoiding unnecessary full upgrades.
- Develop a clear backporting strategy for your team.





## The Show Must Go On!

- Effective Backstage maintenance is essential for developer productivity.
- Platform engineers play a vital role in ensuring its smooth operation.
- By understanding the challenges and implementing the right strategies, we can keep Backstage running flawlessly.





# Keeping the Show Running: Backstage Maintenance from a Platform Engineer's Lens

*Paul Schultz*