

# Screaming Fast API Clients

Moshe Zadka – <https://cobordism.com>

2020

# Acknowledgement of Country

San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula  
Ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone

# Latency is the Site Killer

Every 100ms of latency in your site lose more customers

# (Micro)service Architecture

Layers

# (Micro)service Architecture

Fan-out

# Lognormal Black Swans

- ▶ Lognormal:  $1/x$  (kinda)
- ▶ Normal:  $e^{-x^2}$

# Averages Lie

Only good for normal distributions

# Your Backend is Slow

Lognormal, not normal



# Multiplicity Magnifies Outliers

With 5 queries:

- ▶ P90 becomes P50
- ▶ P99 becomes P90

# Measure

Histograms, not averages

# Measure

All layers

## Let's Write Some Code

```
@app.route('/')
def hello_world():
    all_values = sum(
        CLIENT.get(URL).json()["value"]
        for x in range(FANOUT)
    )
    return json.dumps(dict(total=all_values))
```

## Let's Write Some Code

```
@app.route('/')
async def hello_world(request):
    all_values = await defer.gatherResults([
        CLIENT.get(URL).addCallback(treq.json_content)
        for x in range(FANOUT)
    ])
    total = sum(res["value"] for res in all_values)
    return f'Total {total}'
```

# Let's Simulate

With fanout of 10:

- ▶ P50: each: 0.04 seq: 0.82 par 0.3
- ▶ P90: each: 0.23 seq: 1.8 par 0.98
- ▶ P99: each: 1.04 seq: 4.33 par 3.05

# Timing Out and Retry

Temporary slow-downs

## Let's Write Some Code

```
def get_with_timeout(url):  
    def try(_ign=None):  
        return CLIENT.get(URL).addCallback(treq.json)  
    d = try()  
    d.addTimeout(0.1)  
    d.addErrback(try)  
    return d
```



# Let's Simulate

- ▶ P50: 0.18
- ▶ P90: 0.51
- ▶ P99: 1.66

# Let's Simulate

Retried requests: 25

## Let's Write Some Code

```
def get_with_timeout(url):  
    def try(_ign=None):  
        return CLIENT.get(URL).addCallback(treq.json)  
    d = try()  
    d.addTimeout(0.1)  
    d.addErrback(try)  
    d.addTimeout(0.4)  
    return d
```

# Let's Simulate

- ▶ P50: 0.19
- ▶ P90: 0.53
- ▶ P99: 0.6

# Summary

- ▶ Latency
- ▶ Backend latency
- ▶ SLA
- ▶ Measurement
- ▶ Simulation