Using WebAssembly to run, extend, and secure your .NET application

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WebAssembly Design

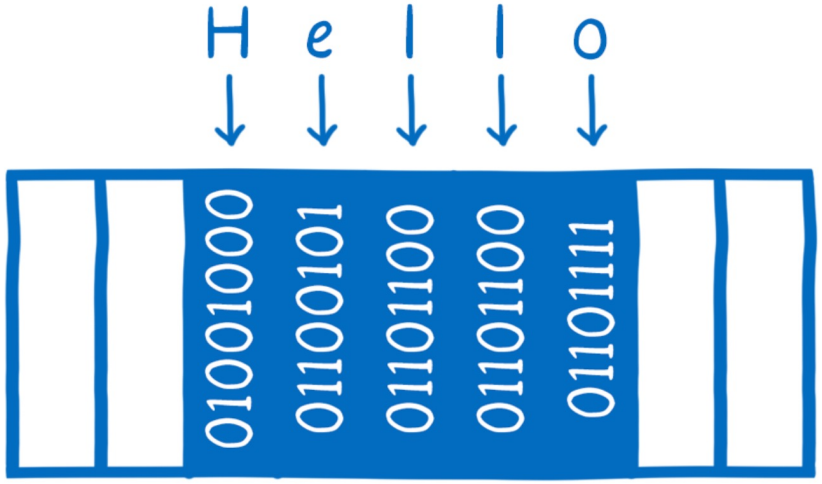
- **Be fast, efficient, and portable**
  - Executed in near-native speed across different platforms
- **Be readable and debuggable**
  - In low-level bytecode but also human readable
- **Keep secure**
  - Run on sandboxed execution environment
- **Don't break the web**
  - Ensure backwards compatibility

WebAssembly

- Binary instruction format for stack-based virtual machine similar to .NET running MSIL
- Designed as a portable compilation target
- The security model of WebAssembly:
  - Protect users from buggy or malicious modules
  - Provide developers with useful primitives and mitigations for developing safe applications

WebAssembly Memory

- Isolated per WASM module
- A contiguous, mutable array of uninterpreted bytes



WebAssembly Control-Flow Integrity

```
int number = Convert.ToInt32(Console.ReadLine());
Console.WriteLine($"Number {number}");
if (number>5)
{
      Console.WriteLine("Number is larger than 5");
}
else
{
      Console.WriteLine("Number is smaller than 5");
}
Console.WriteLine(”Done!");
```

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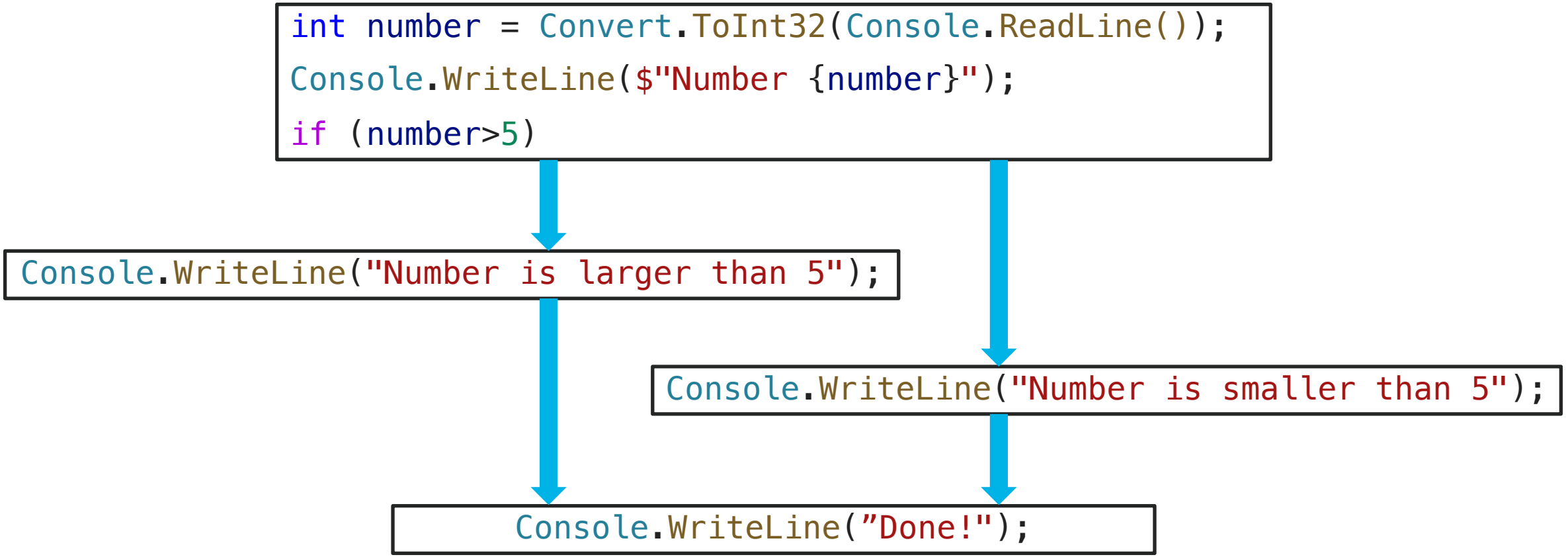
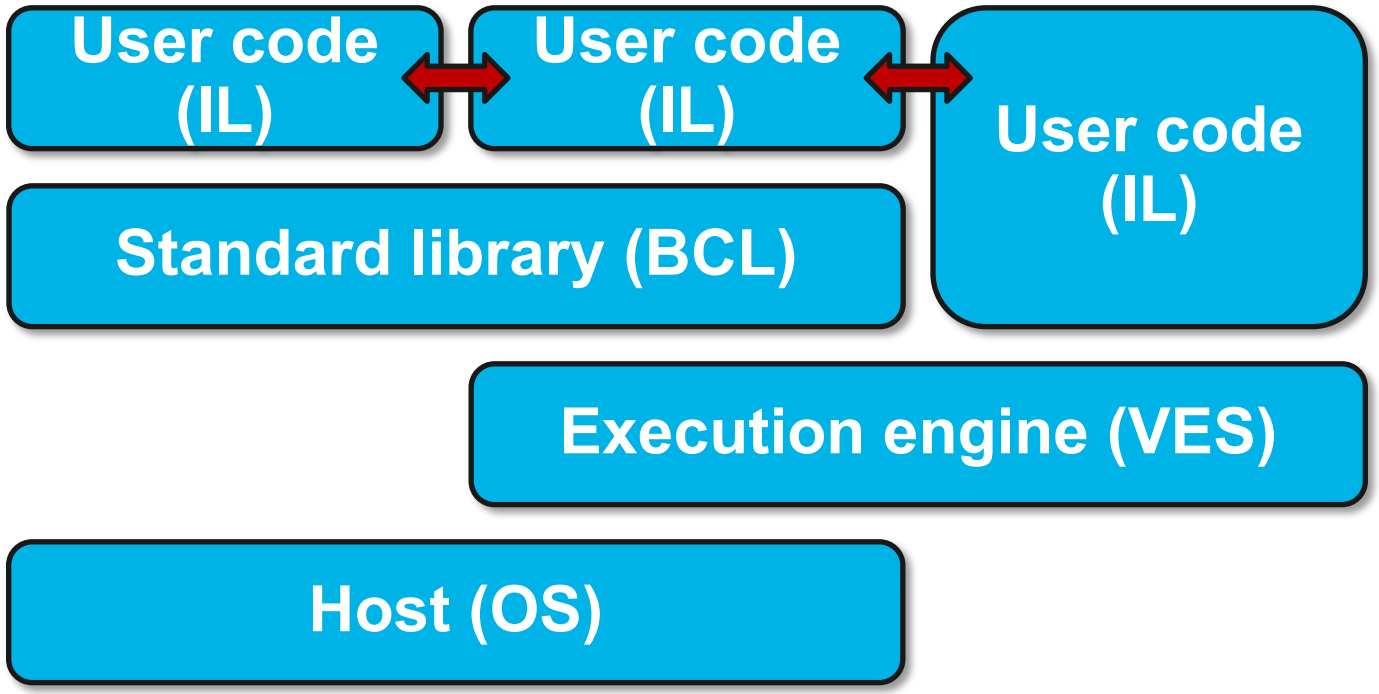
WebAssembly Control-Flow Integrity



Running .NET on WebAssembly



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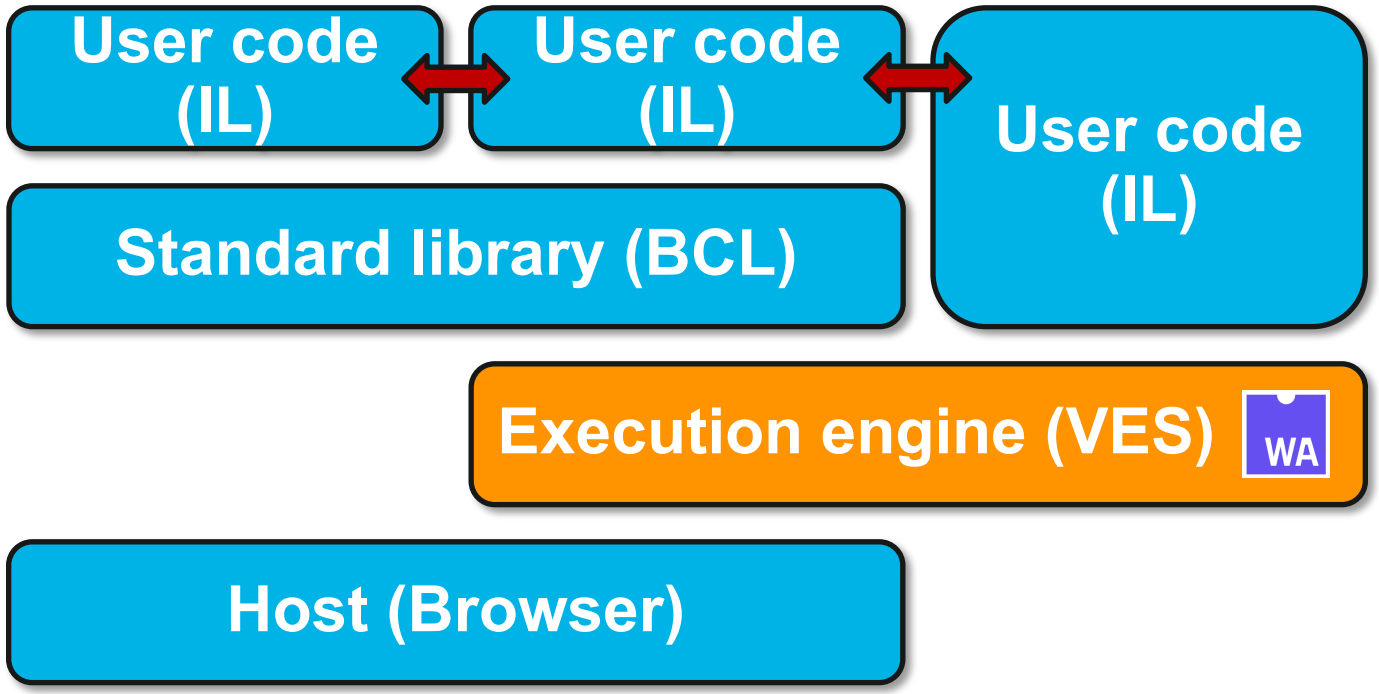
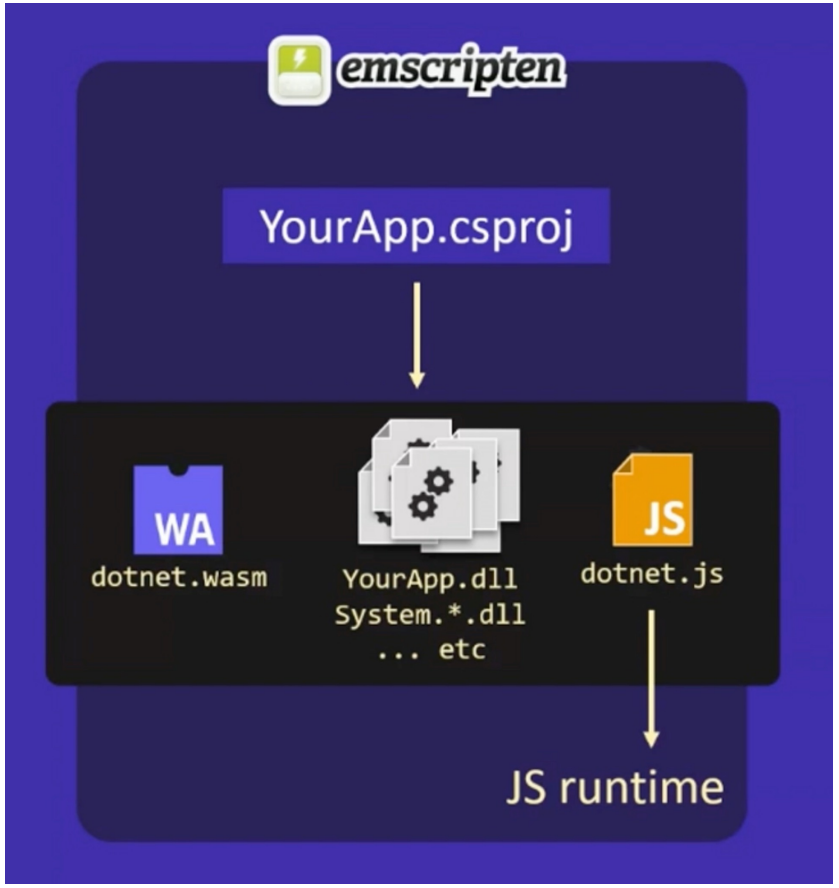
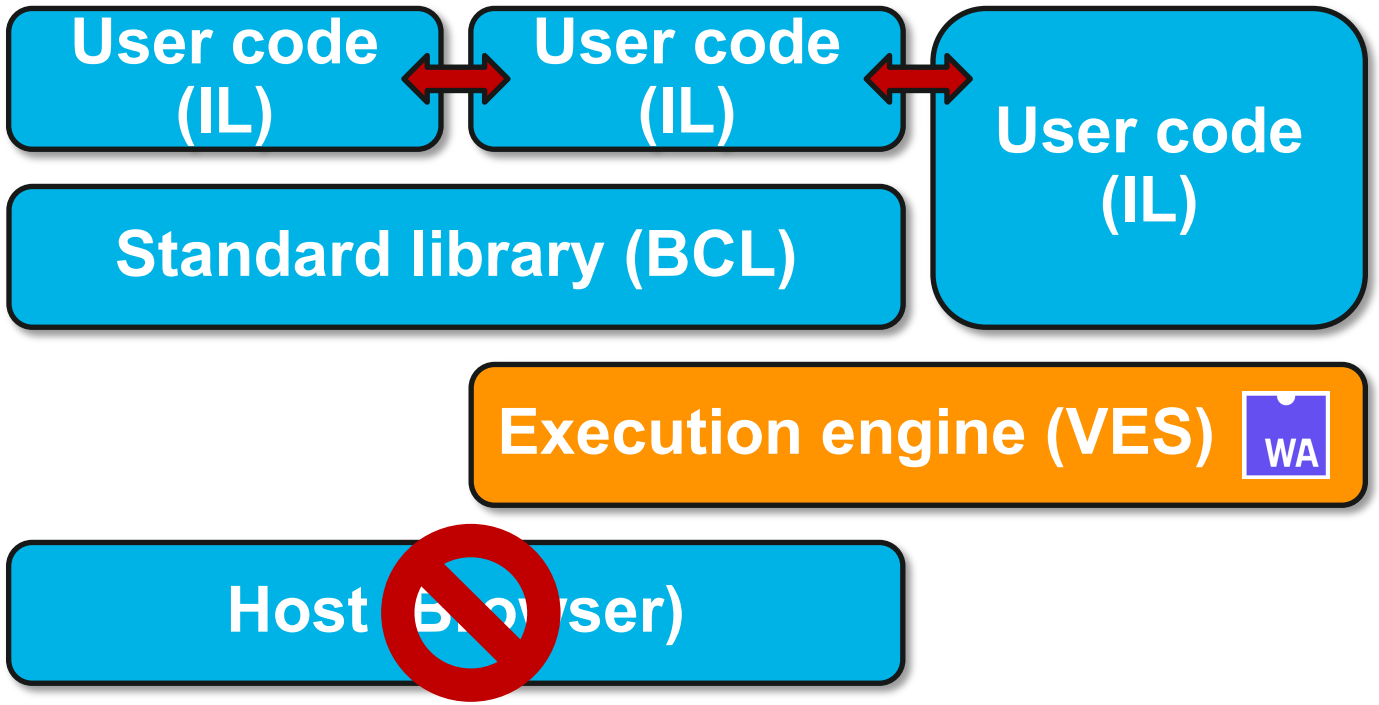


Blazor WebAssembly



Running .NET on WebAssembly



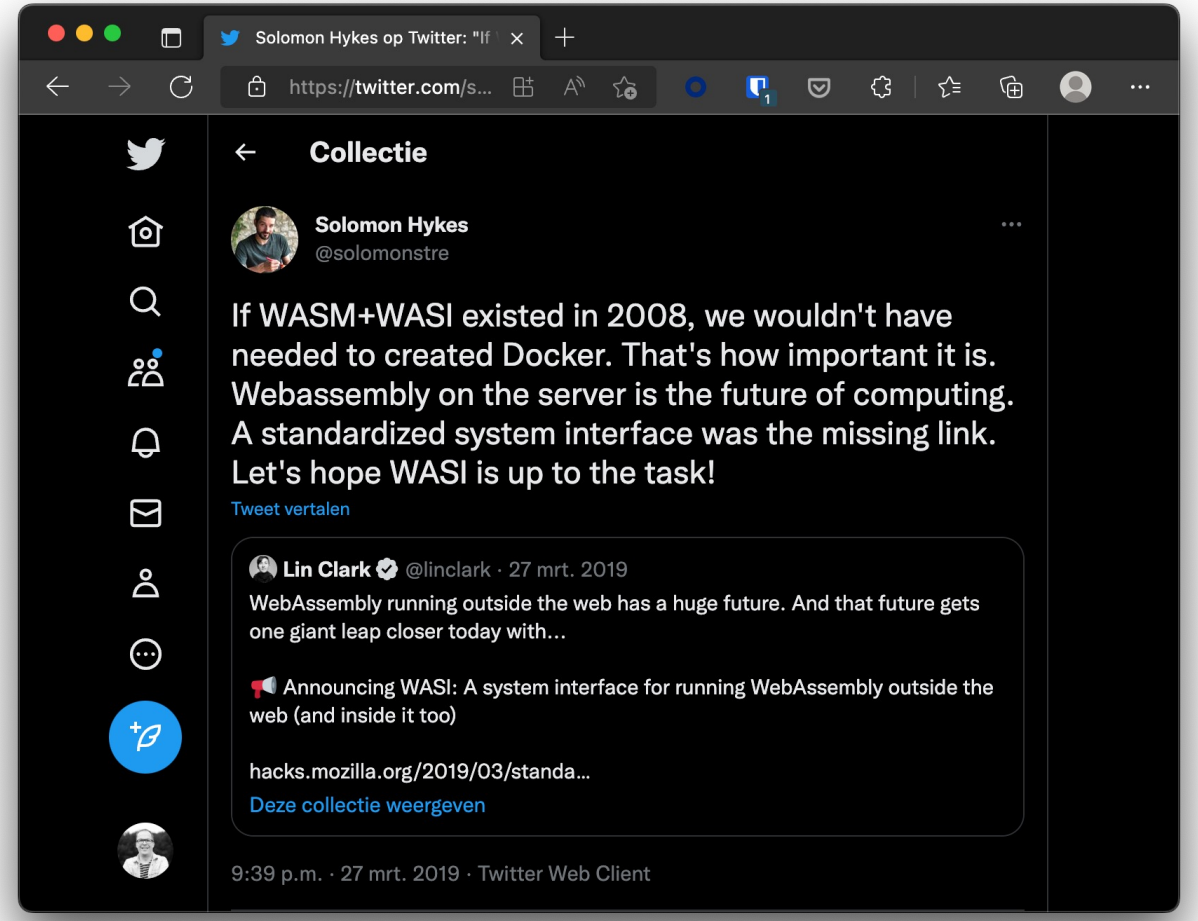
WebAssembly System Interface WASI

- Introduced in March 2019 by Bytecode Alliance
- WasmTime implementation as reference
- POSIX inspired, engine-independent, non-Web system-oriented API for WebAssembly

WebAssembly System Interface WASI

- Strong sandbox with Capability Based Security
- Right now, supports e.g. FileSystem actions
- Future support for sockets and other system resources.
- Anyone recall .NET Standard? ☺

Docker vs WASM & WASI



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Docker vs WASM & WASI

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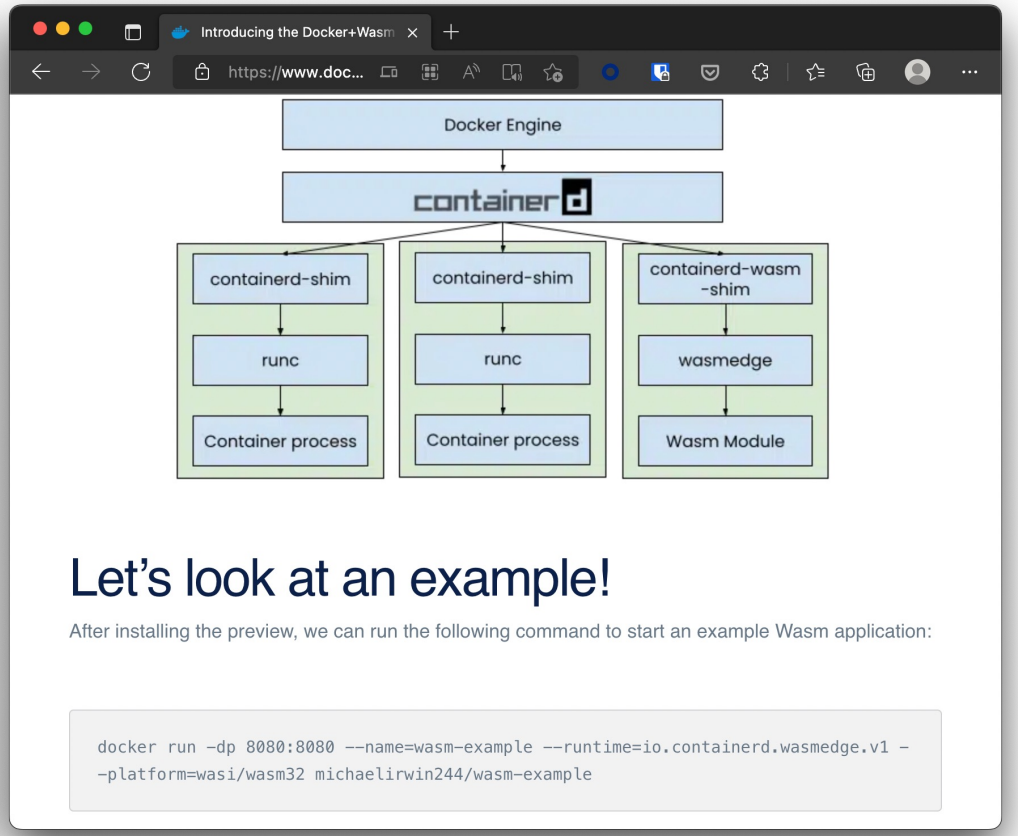
Docker & WASM



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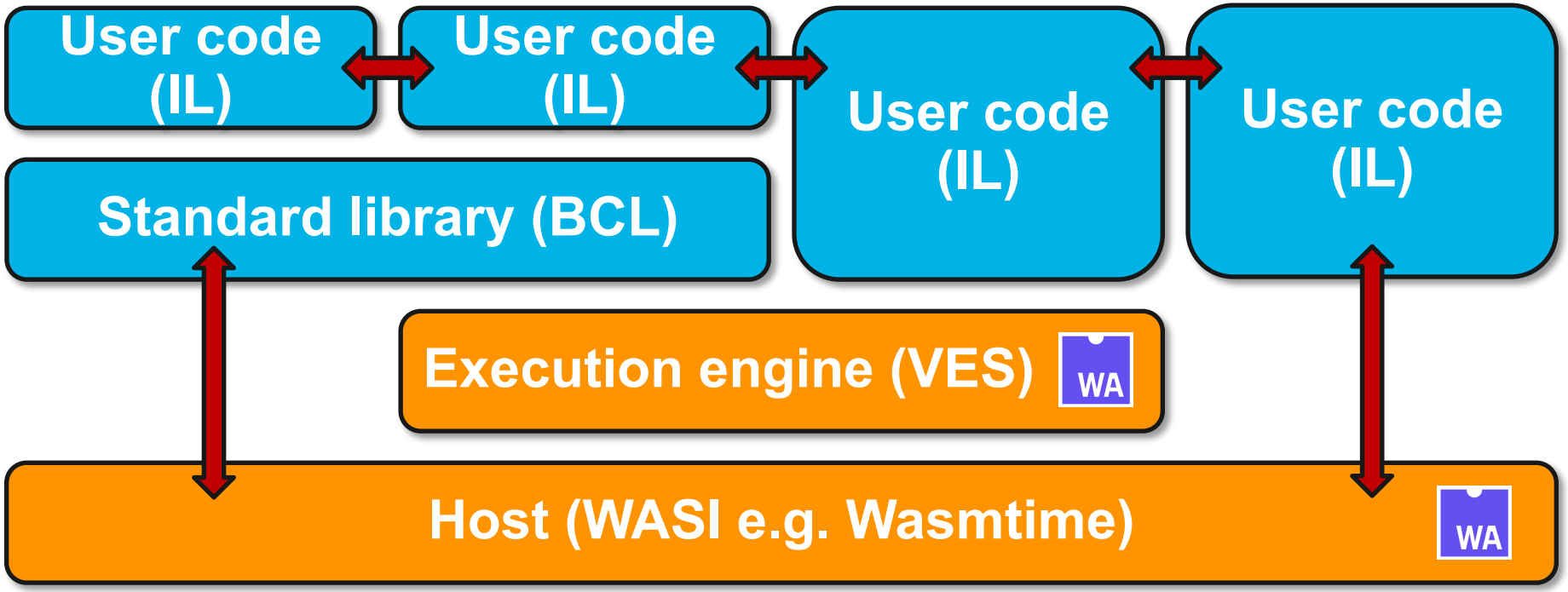
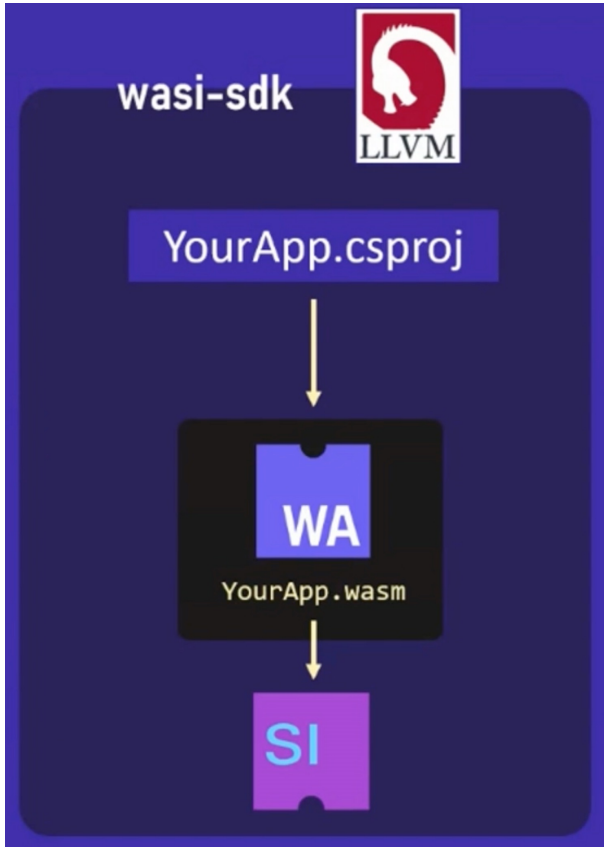


Experimental WASI SDK for .NET



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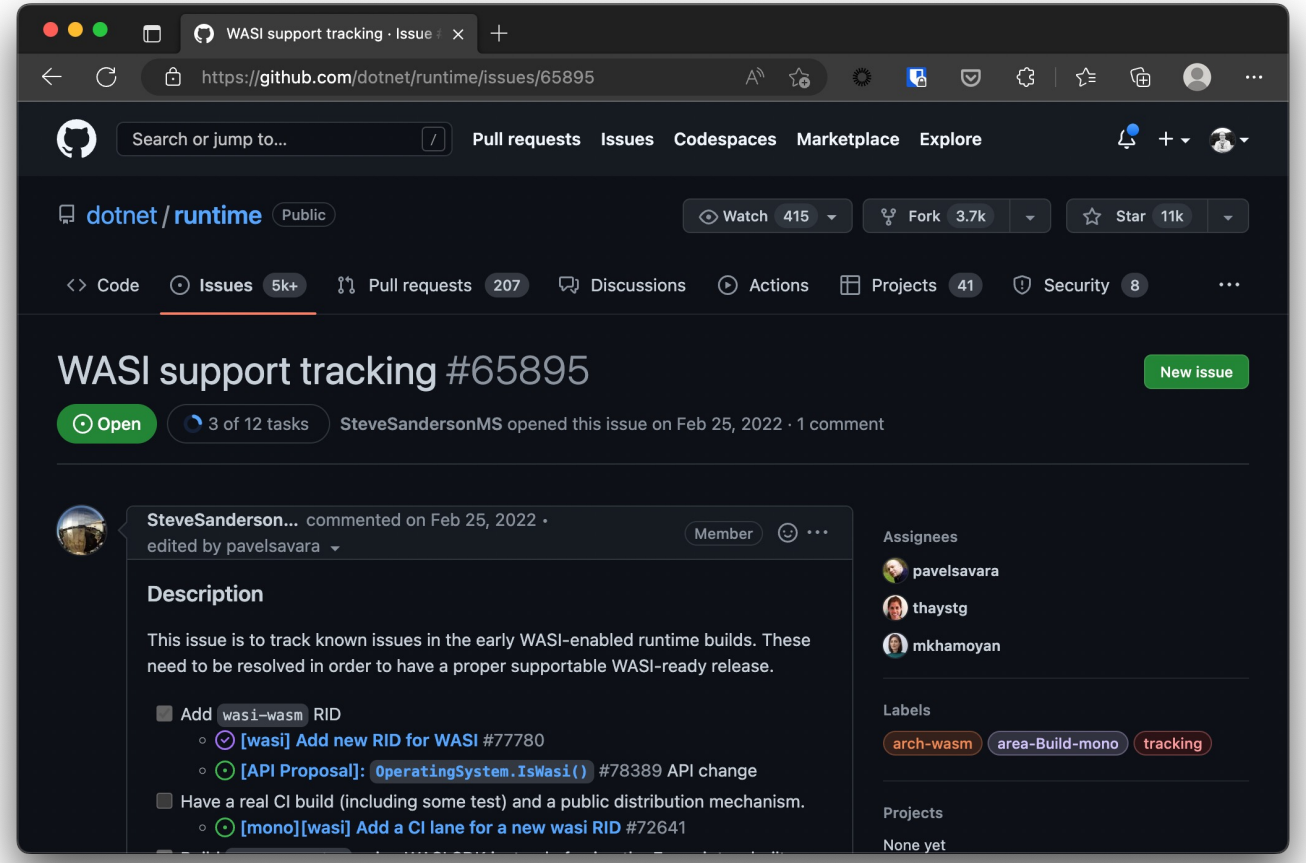

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Extending .NET with WASM

- WasmTime.NET NuGet package
- Can run WASM inside of any .NET application
- Extend with Rust based WASM module
- Demo time!

Runtimes and Security

- Most security research published focusses on correctness of WASM runtimes/VM's

- Bytecode Alliance Blogpost September 2022:
  - "Security and Correctness in Wasmtime"
  - Written in Rust → Using all it's LangSec features
  - Continues Fuzzing & formal verification
  - Security process & vulnerability disclosure

Conclusion

- Cloud Native ❤️ WebAssembly
- WebAssembly has a lot of potential to be used to run, extend, and secure your .NET applications
- Its as secure as the WebAssembly runtime implementation!
- I like top-down approach Bytecode Alliance is taking in moving forward, feedback will change

Questions?

- https://github.com/nielstanis/dotnetflix2023
- ntanis at Veracode.com
- @nielstanis@infosec.exchange
- https://blog.fennec.dev
- Bedankt! Thank you!