VERACODE

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

Niels Tanis
Sr. Principal Security Researcher

SWETUGG GÖTEBORG

Who am I?

- Niels Tanis
- Sr. Principal Security Researcher
  - Background .NET Development, Pentesting/ethical hacking, and software security consultancy
  - Research on static analysis for .NET apps
  - Enjoying Rust!
- Microsoft MVP – Developer Technologies

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MVP Microsoft® Most Valuable Professional

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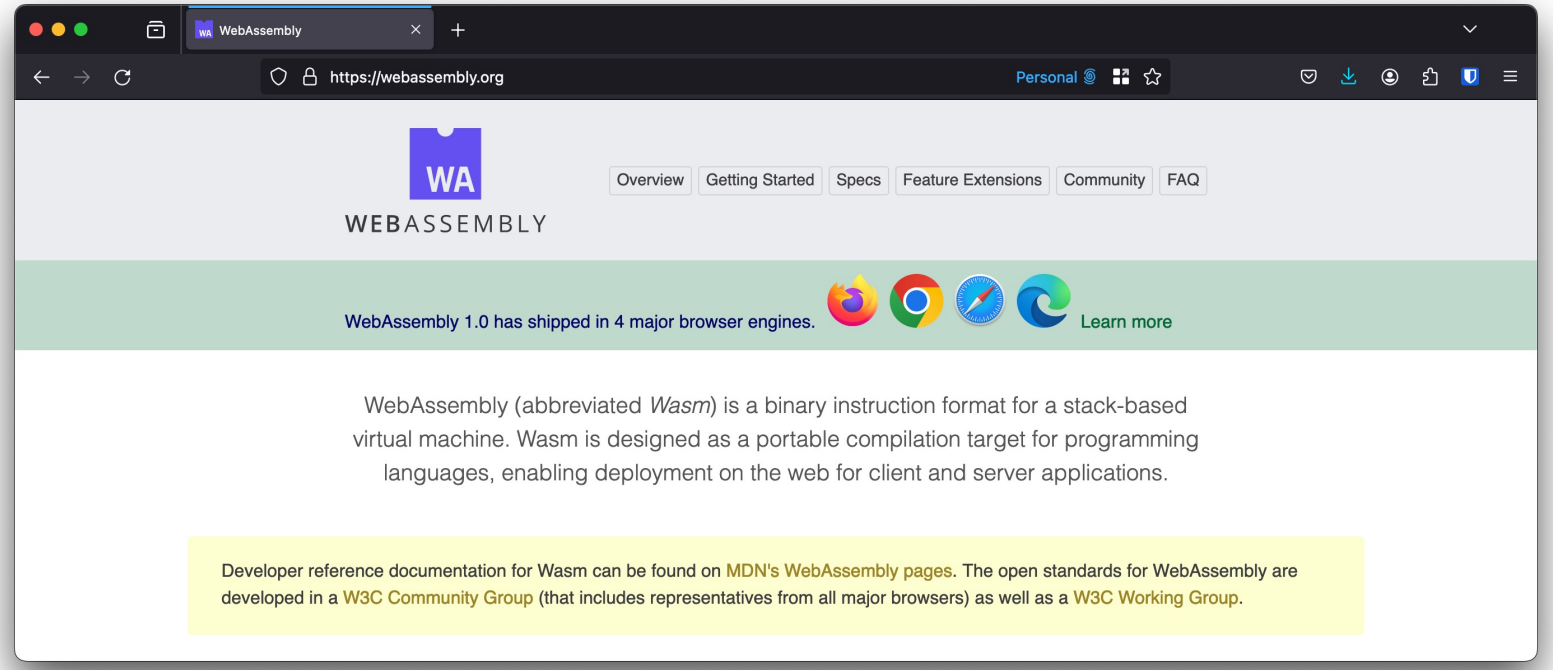
WebAssembly



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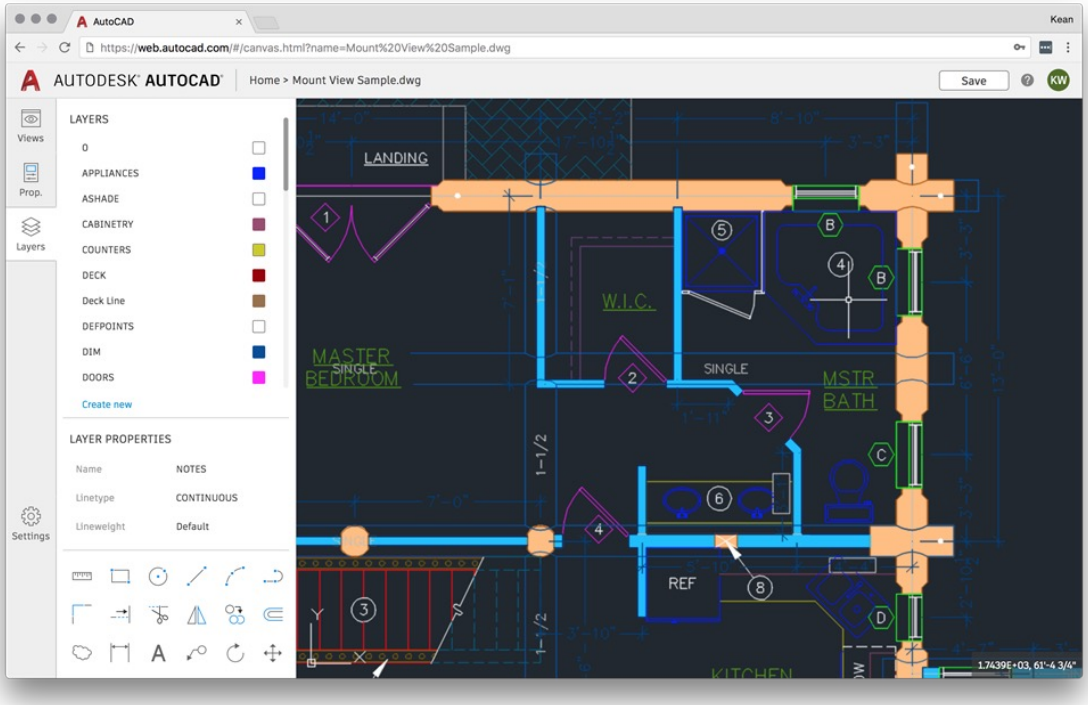
WebAssembly - AutoCAD



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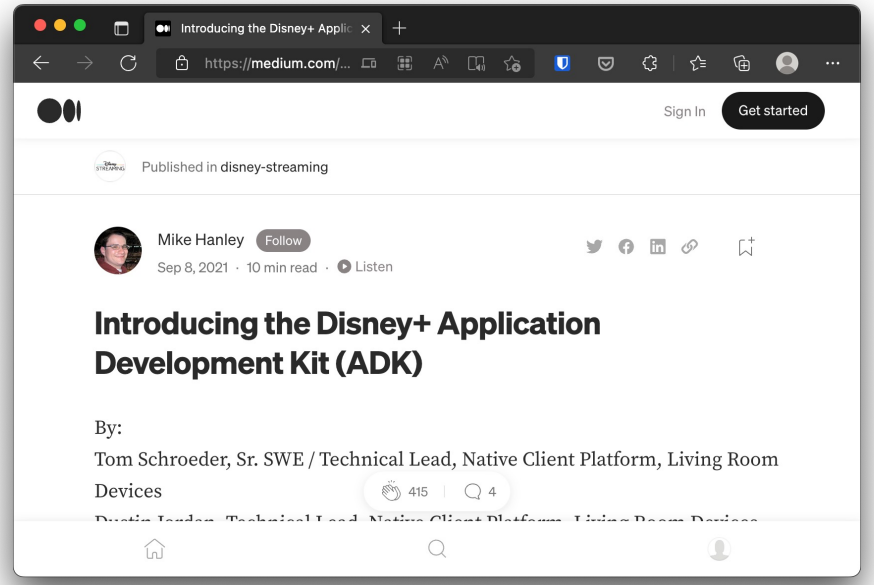
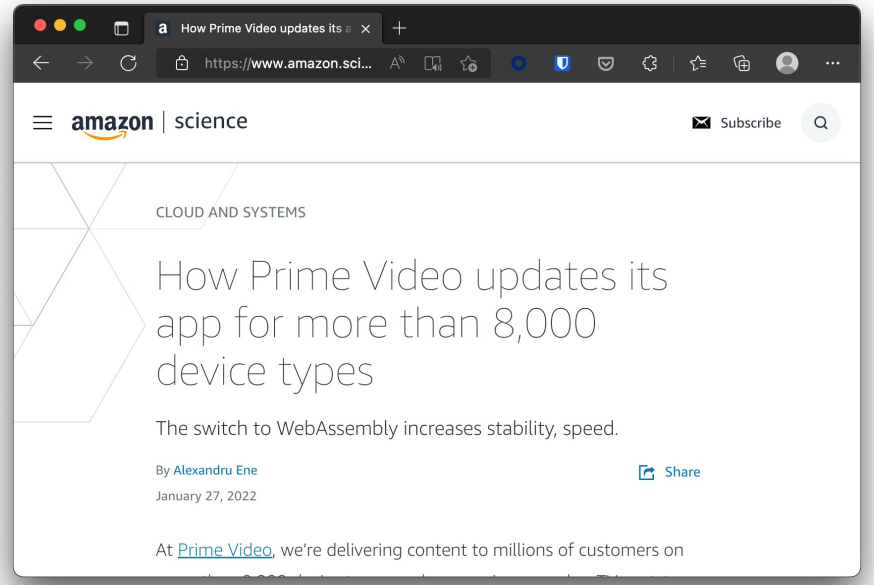
WebAssembly - SDK's





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Agenda

- Introduction
- WebAssembly Design & Internals
- Running .NET on WebAssembly
- Extending .NET with WebAssembly
- Securing .NET with WebAssembly
- Conclusion
- Q&A

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

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WebAssembly

- Binary instruction format for stack-based virtual machine similar to .NET CLR running MSIL or JVM running bytecode
- Designed as a portable compilation target

WEBASSEMBLY

WebAssembly

- The security model of WebAssembly:
  - Protect users from buggy or malicious modules
  - Provide developers with useful primitives and mitigations for developing safe applications

WEBASSEMBLY

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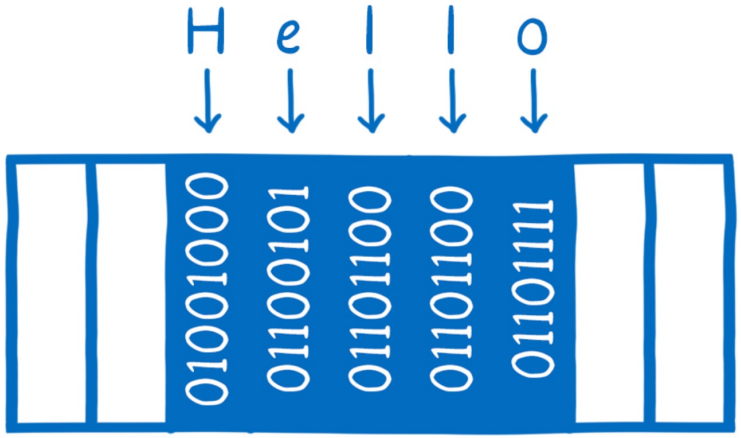
WebAssembly Memory

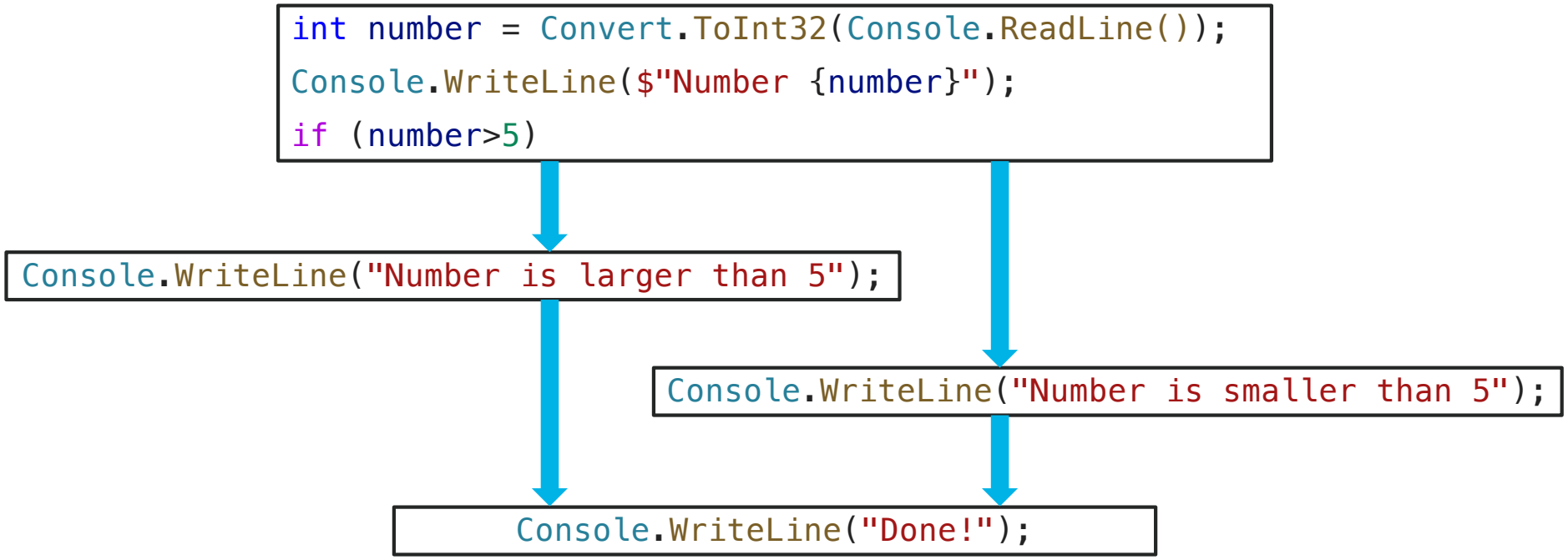
- Isolated per WASM module
- A contiguous, mutable array of uninterpreted bytes



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!");
```

WebAssembly Control-Flow Integrity



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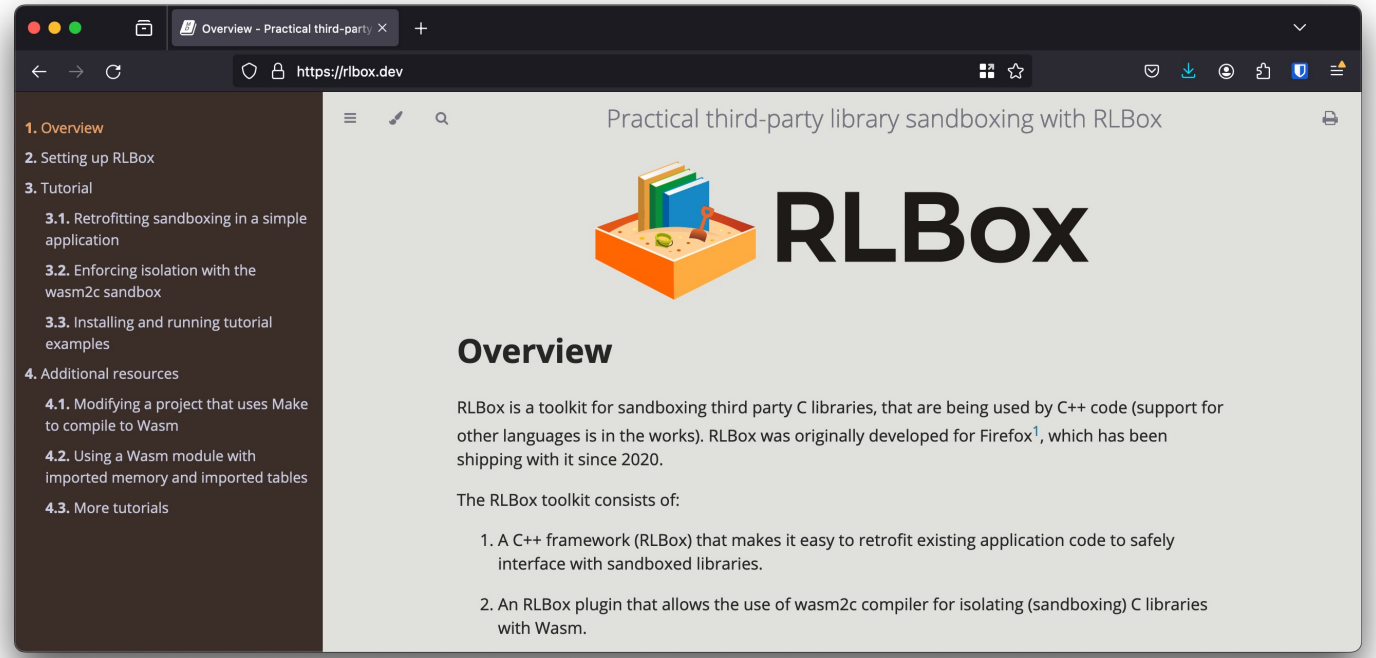
FireFox RLBox



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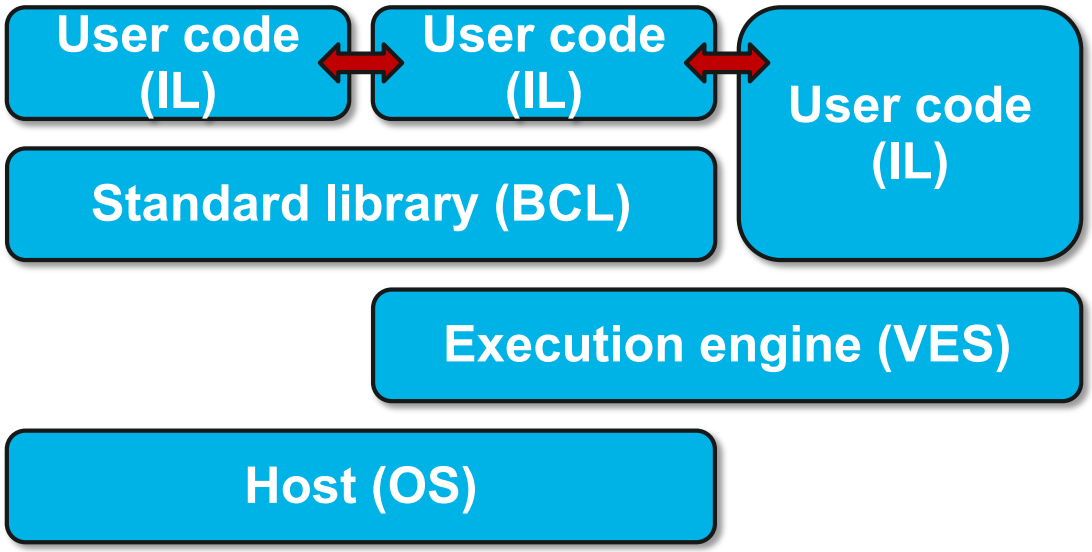
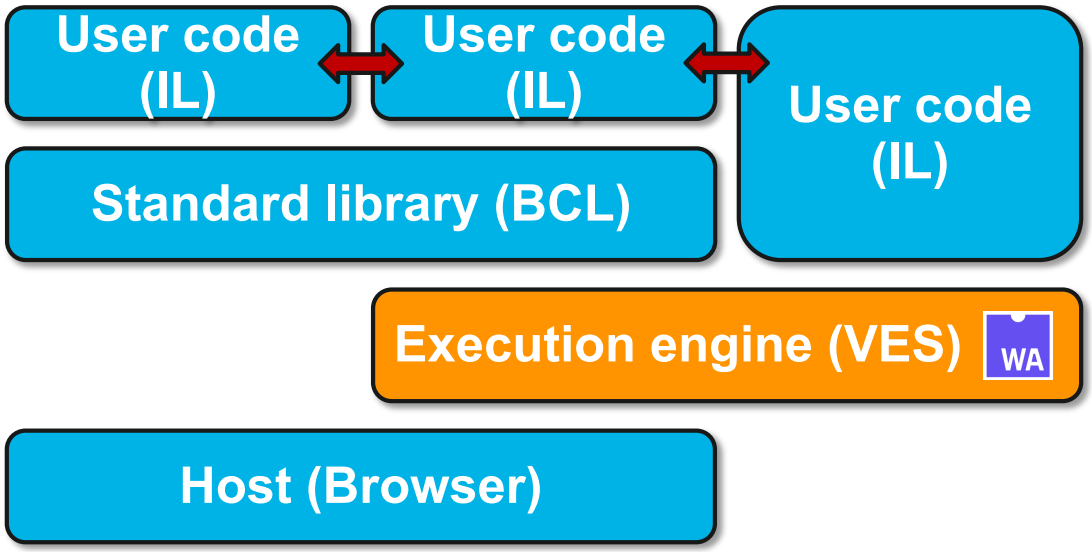
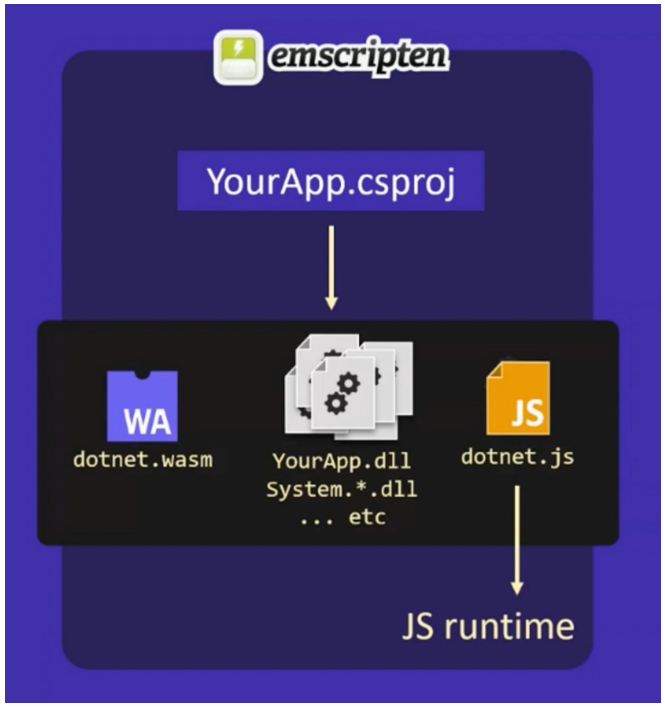
Running .NET on WebAssembly



Running .NET on WebAssembly



Blazor WebAssembly



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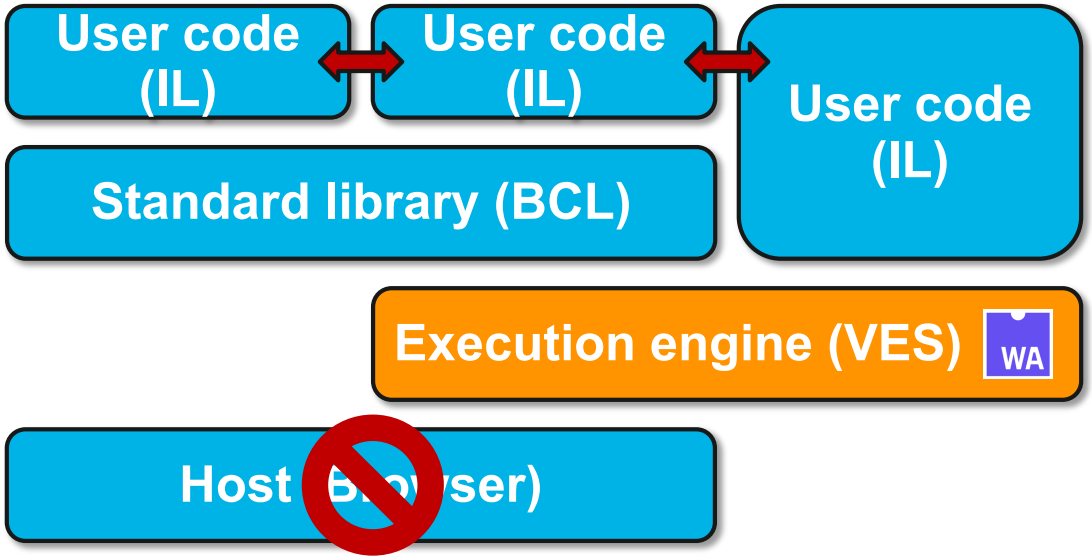
Running .NET on WebAssembly



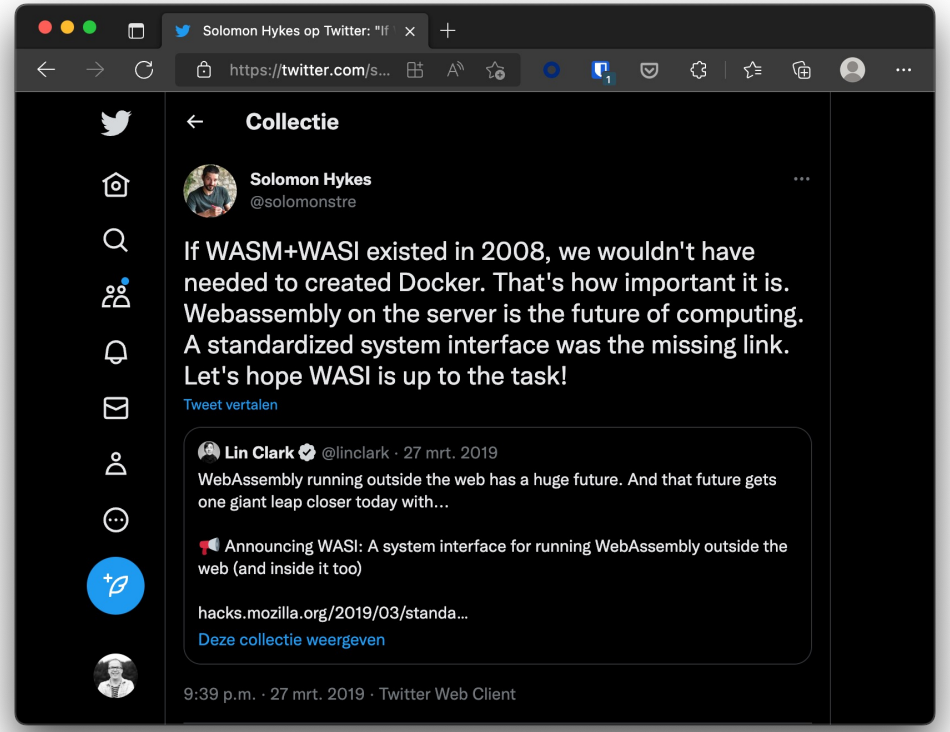
WebAssembly System Interface WASI

- 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
- Preview1, supports e.g. FileSystem actions
- Preview2 supports a lot more!
- Anyone recall .NET Standard? ☺

Docker vs WASM & WASI



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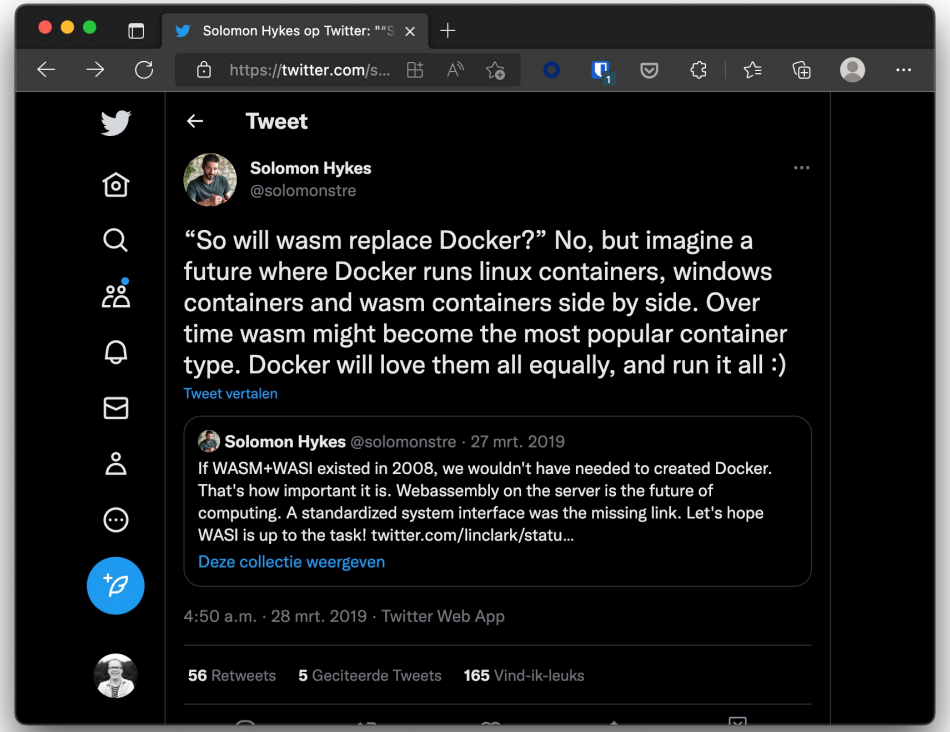
Docker vs WASM & WASI



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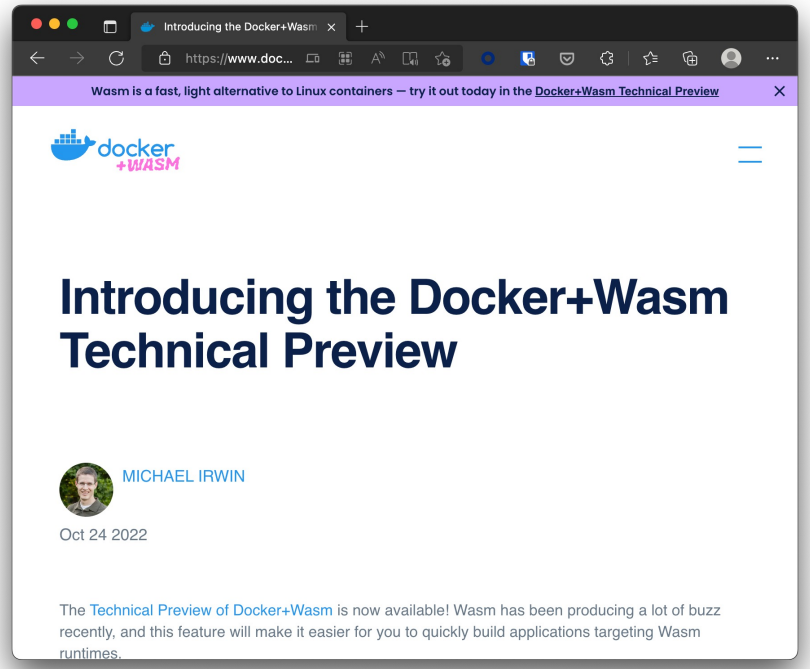
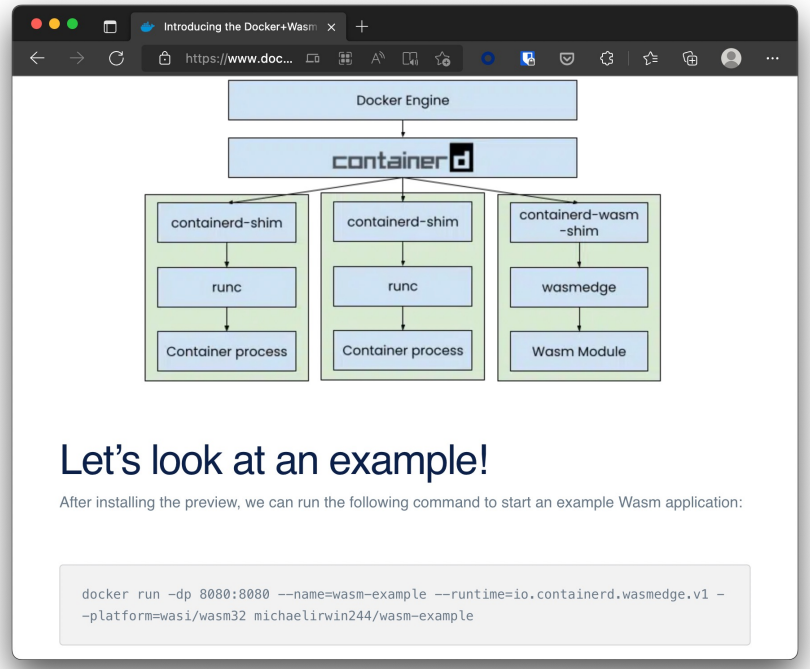
Docker & WASM





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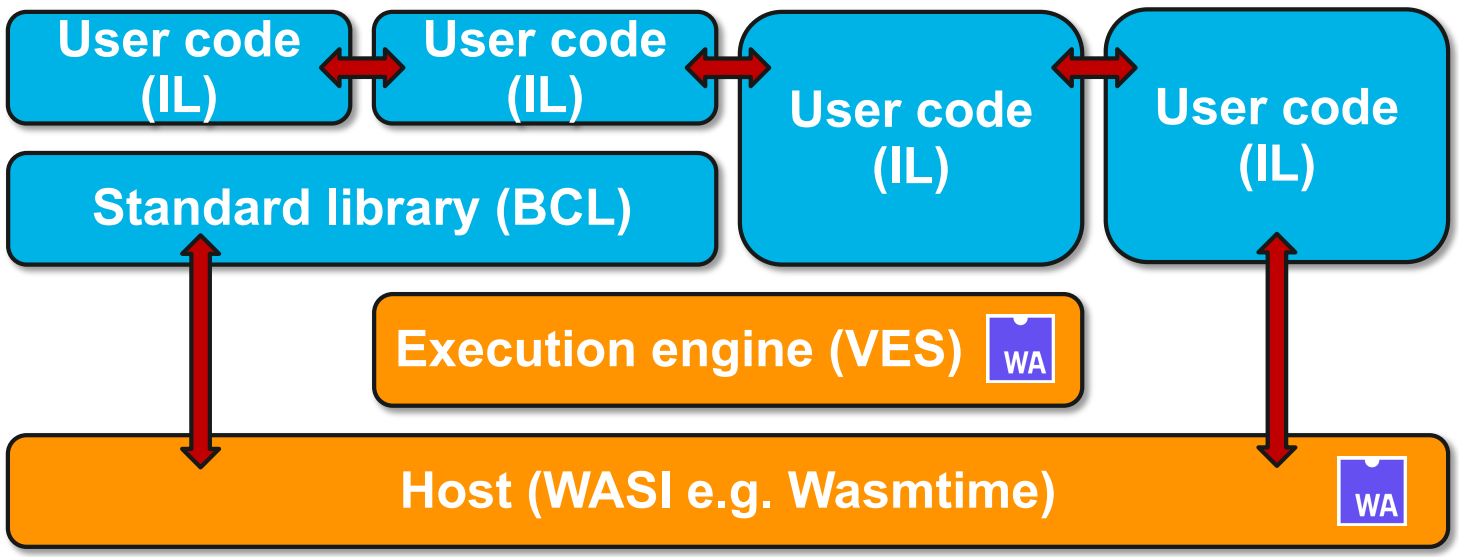
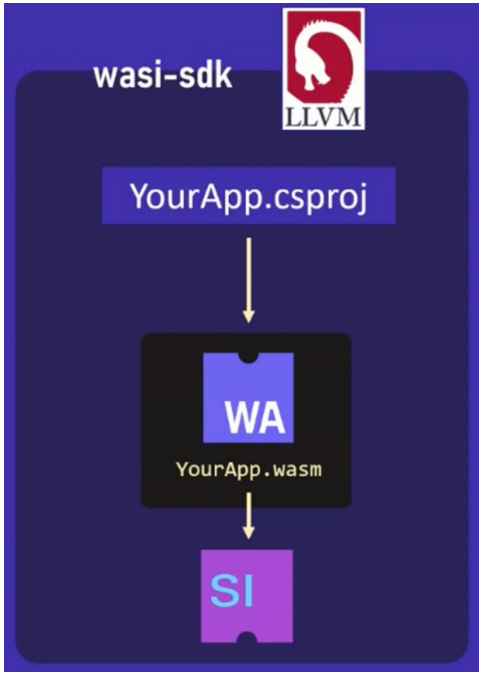
WebAssembly System Interface WASI



Experimental WASI SDK for .NET



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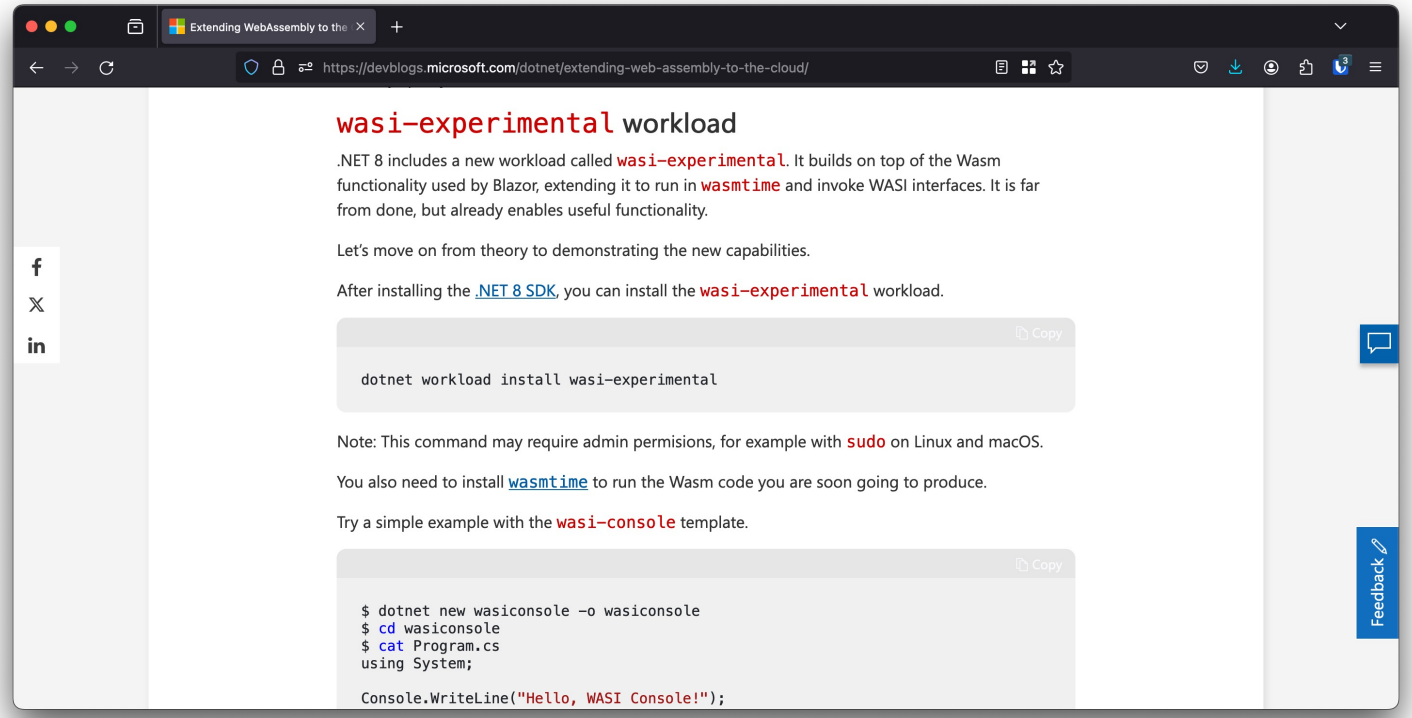
.NET 8 WASI-Experimental



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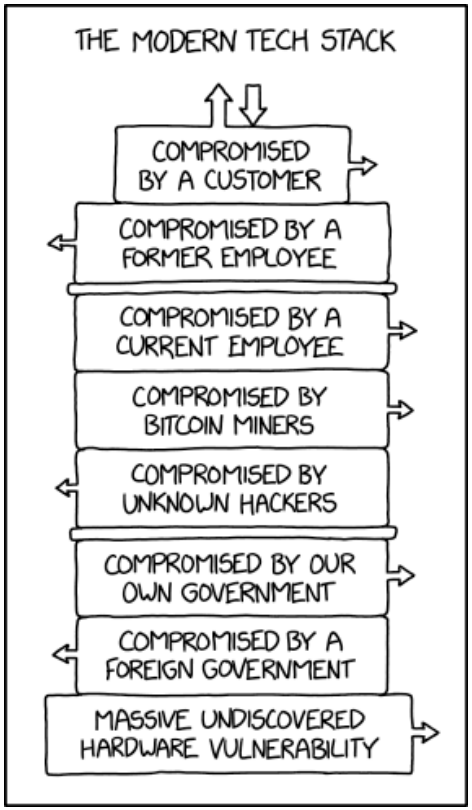
Extending .NET with WASM

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

Trusted Computing – XKCD 2166



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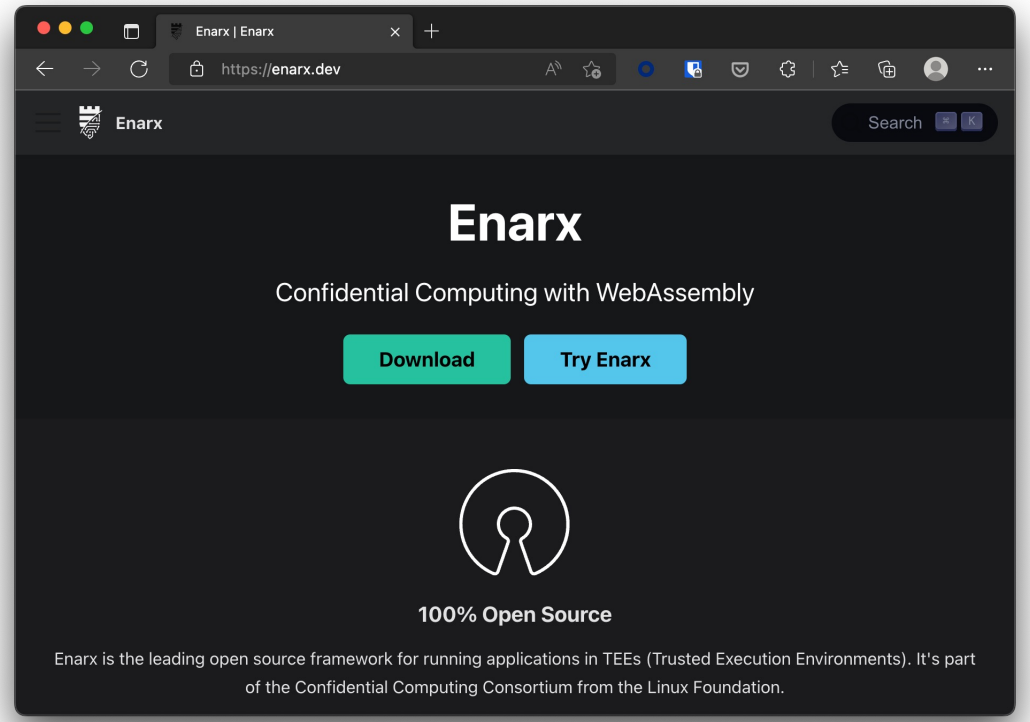
Enarx



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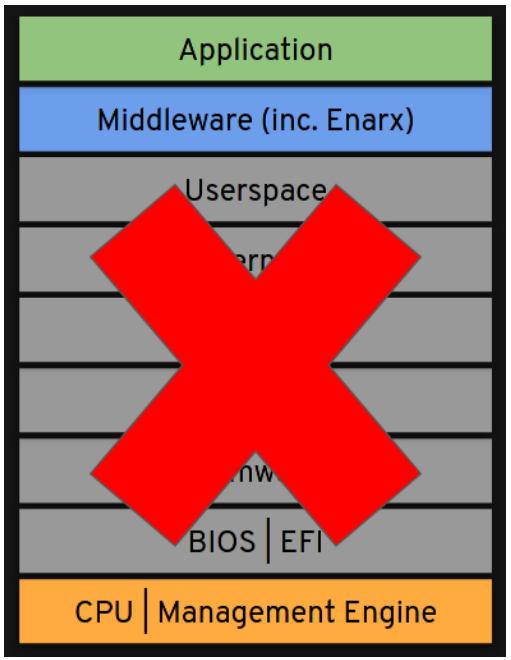
Enarx Threat Model

- Don’t trust the host
- Don’t trust the host owner
- Don’t trust the host operator
- Hardware cryptographically verified
- Software audited and cryptographically verified



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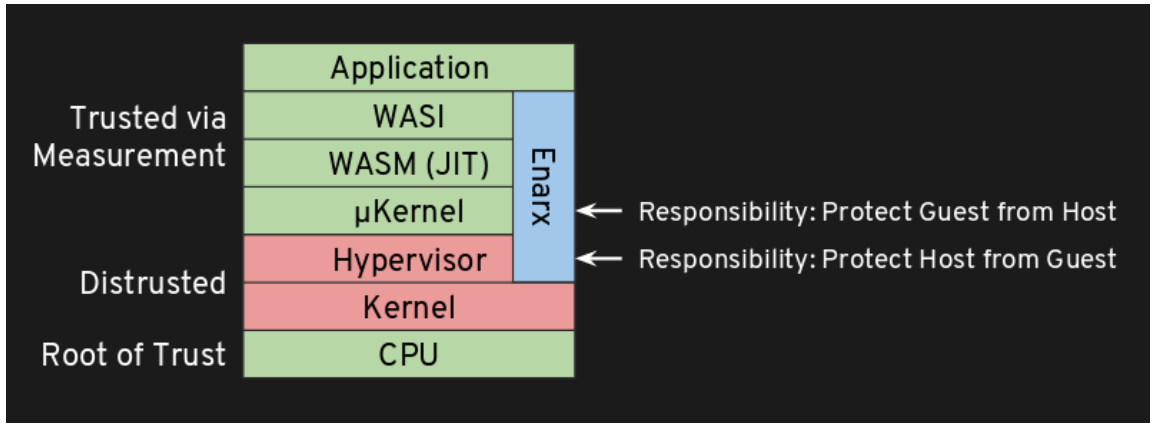
Enarx

- Leverages Trusted Execution Environment (TEE) direct on processor
  - AMD's SEV, Intel's SGX and IBM's PEF
- Attestation of hardware and Enarx runtime



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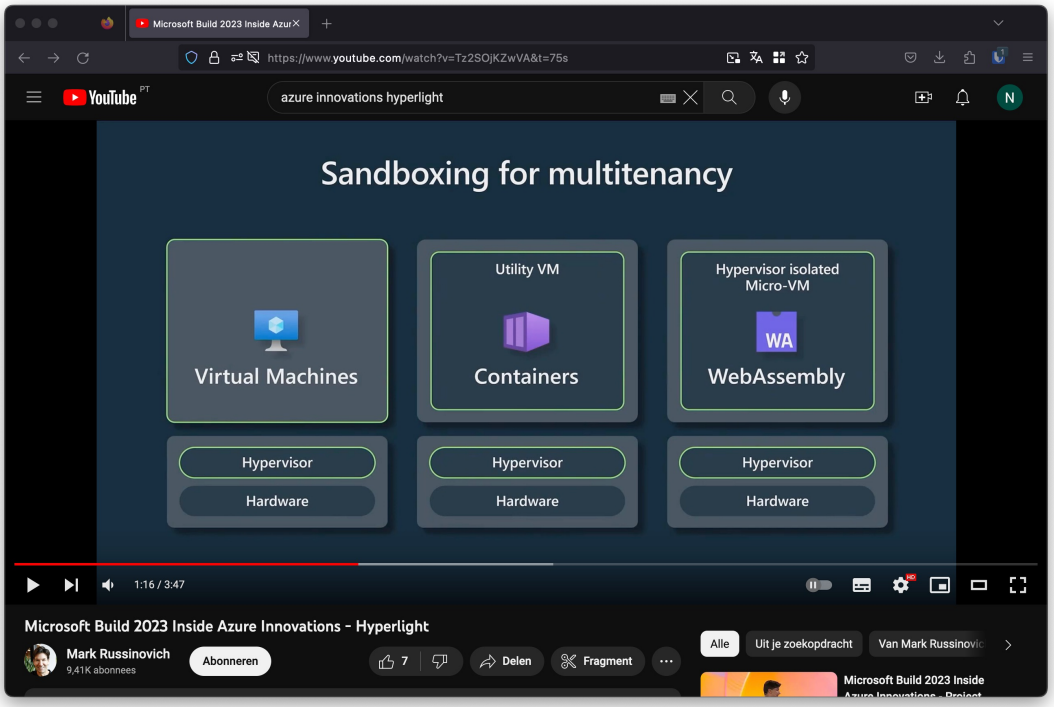
Project Hyperlight



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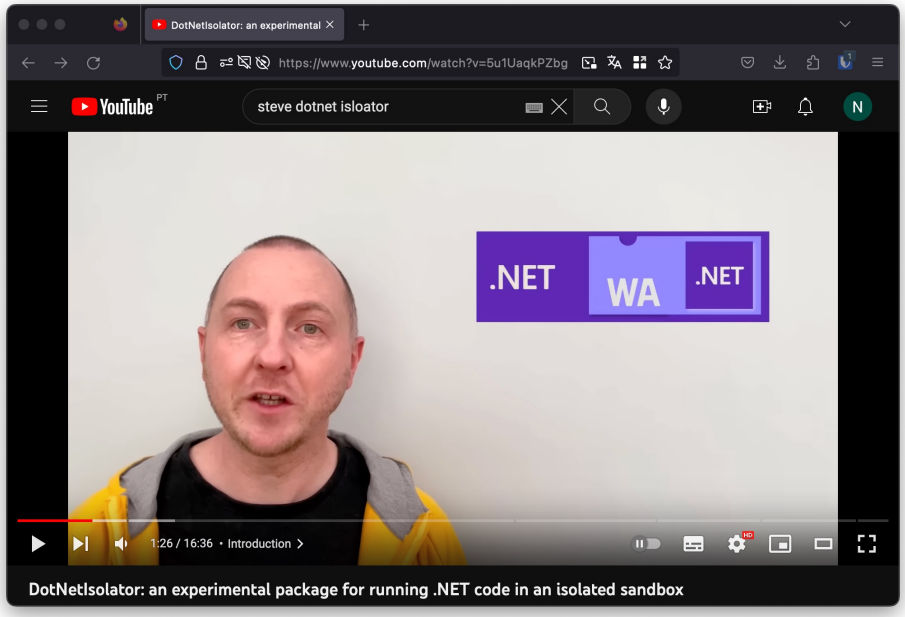
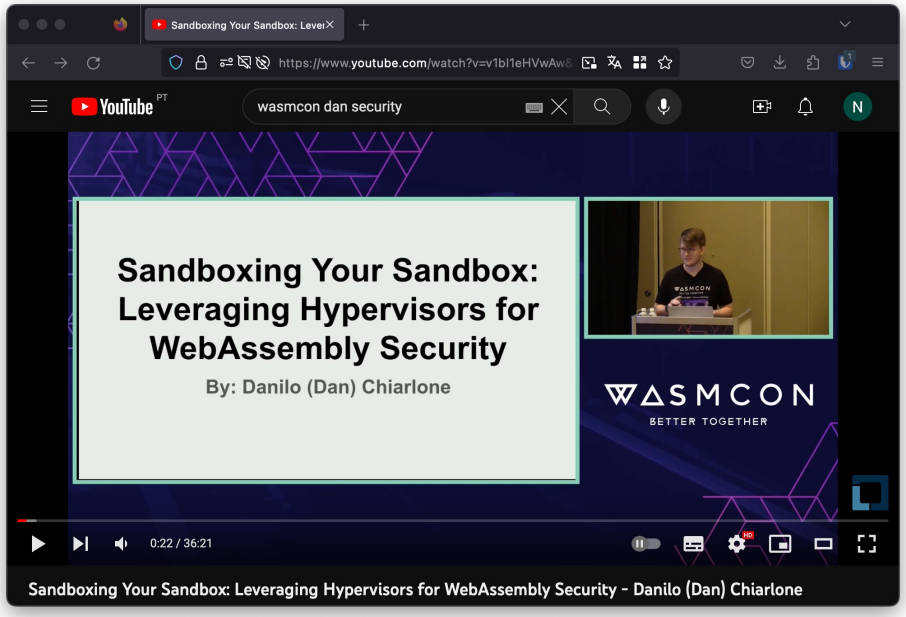
DotNetIsolator & Project Hyperlight





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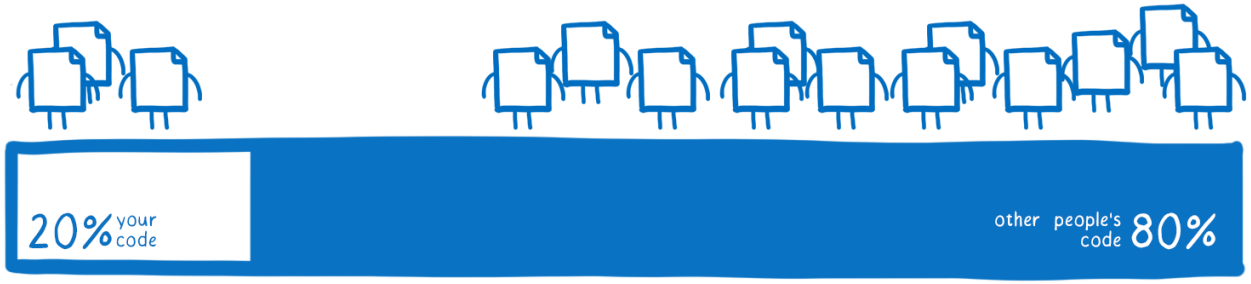
WASM – What's next?

composition of an
average code base



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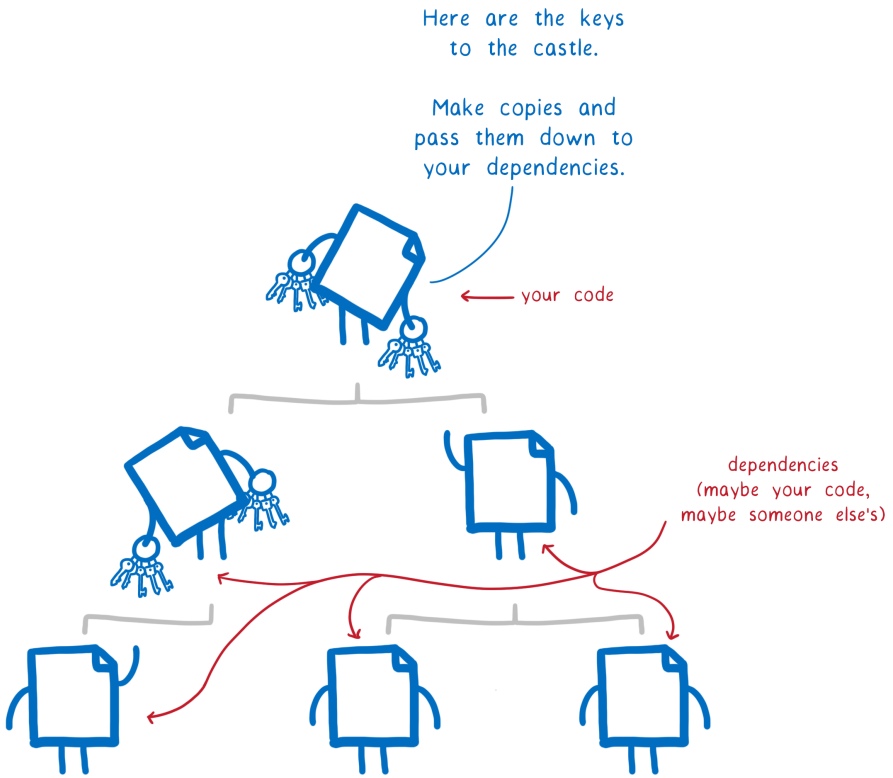
Dependencies



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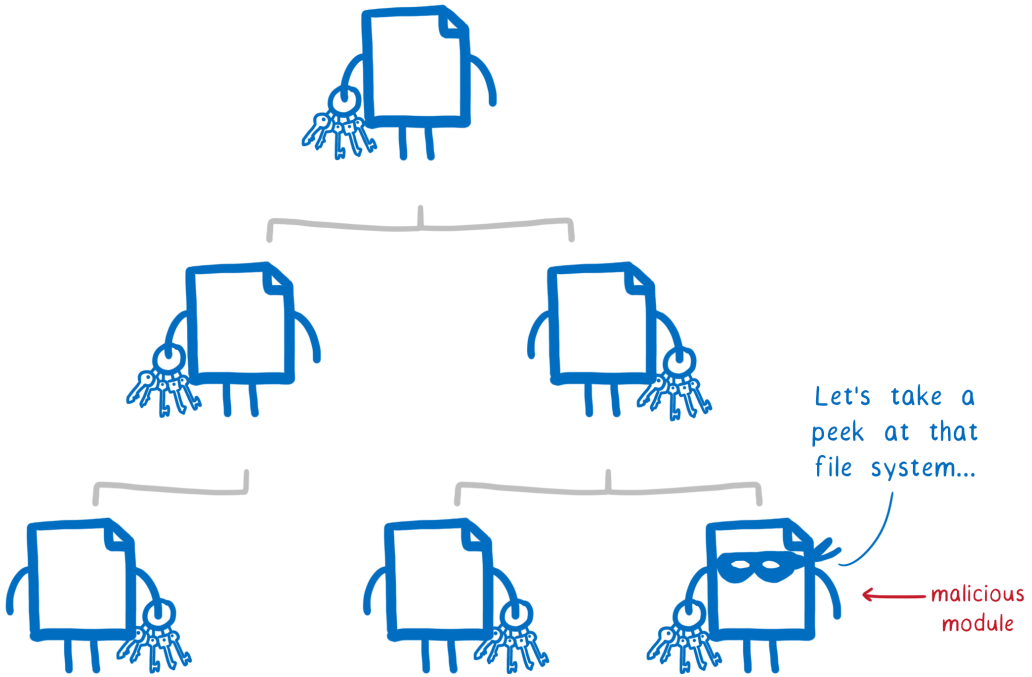
Malicious module



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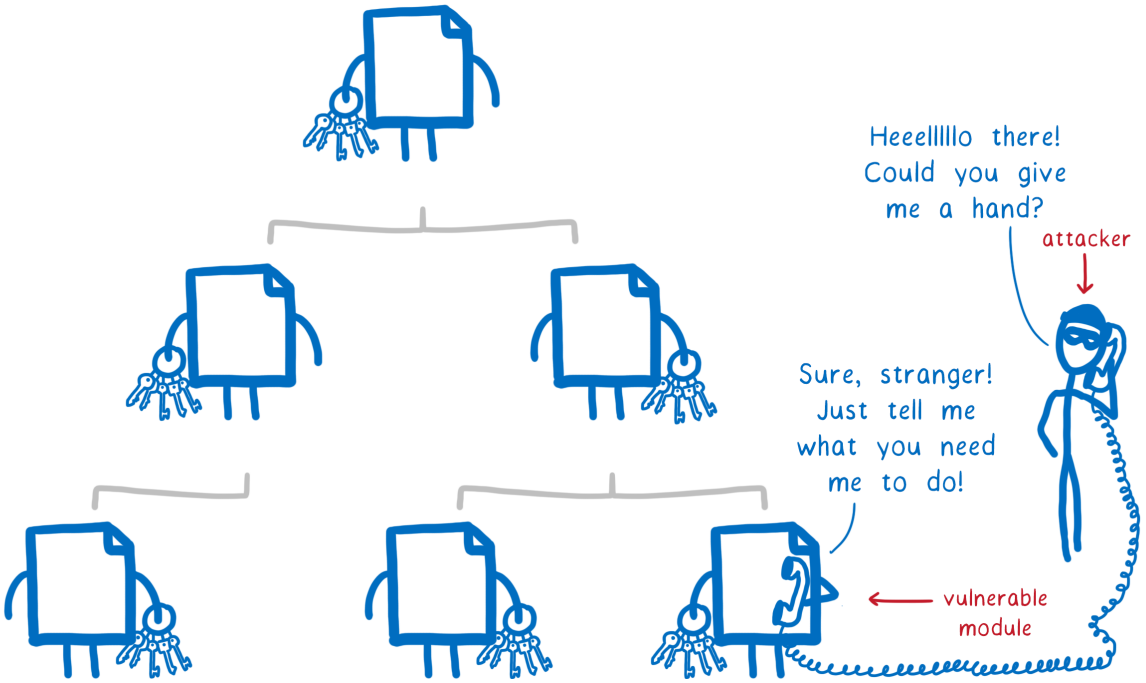
Vulnerable module



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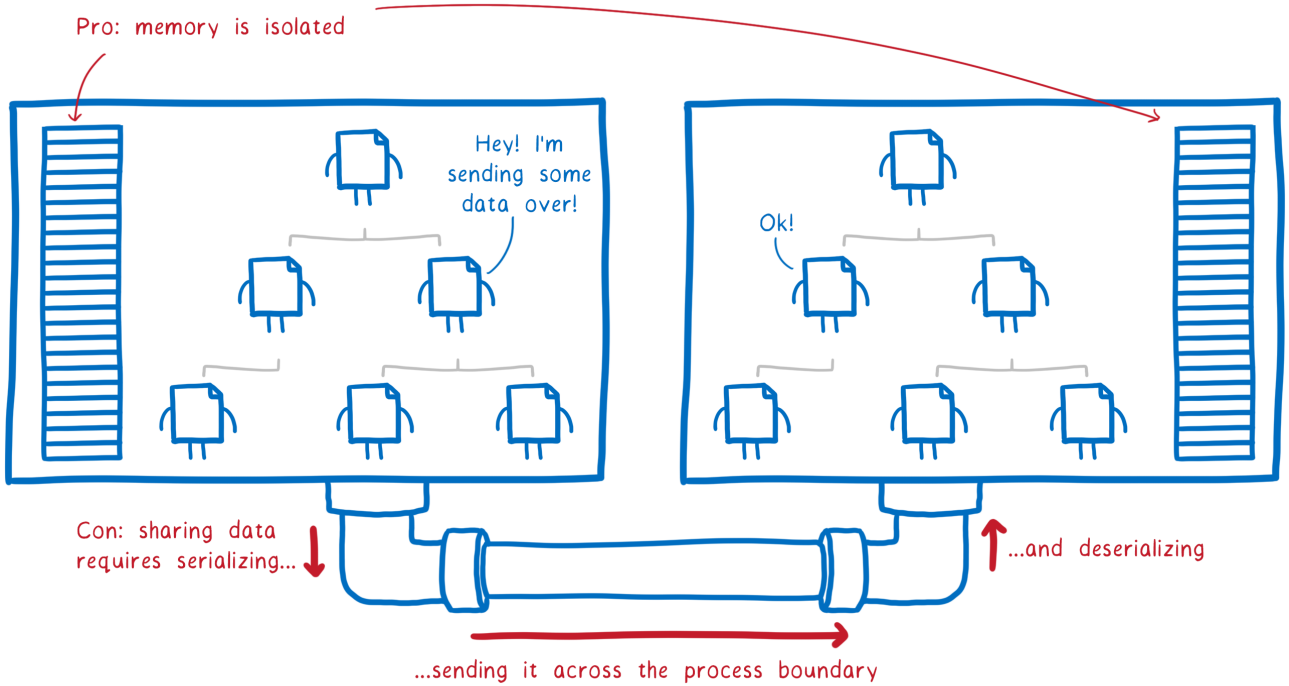
Process Isolation



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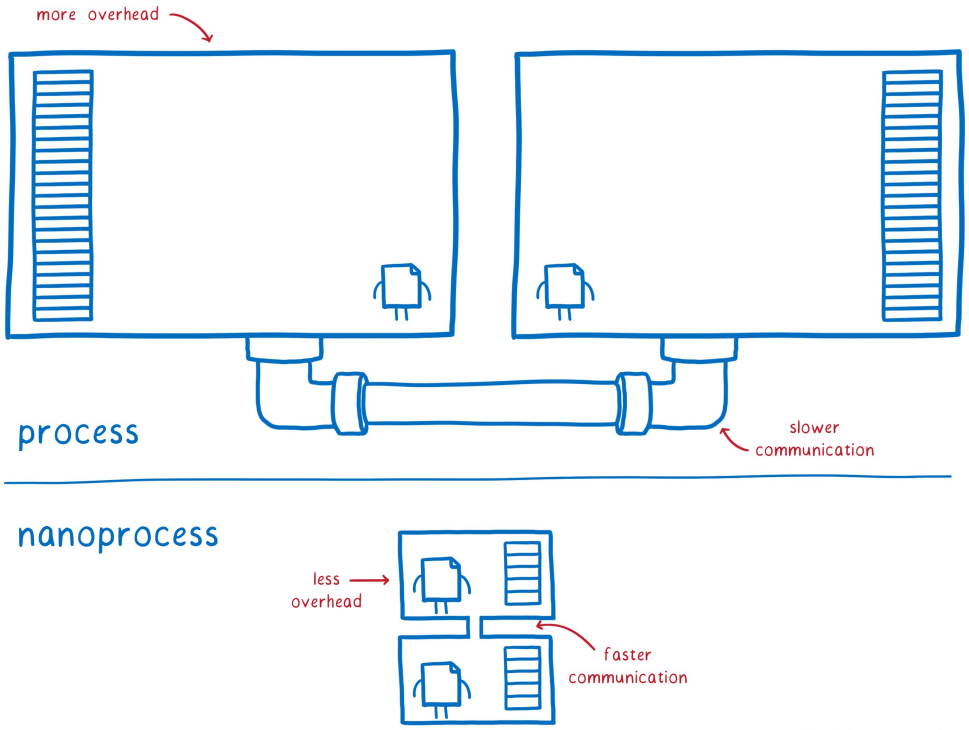
WebAssembly Nano-Process



* not drawn to scale

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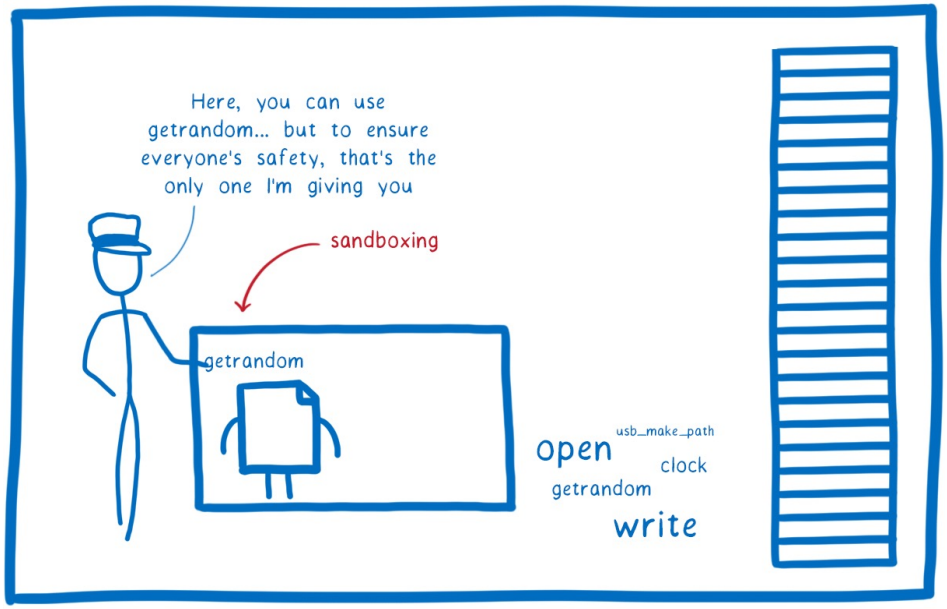
WebAssembly Nano-Process

1. Sandboxing



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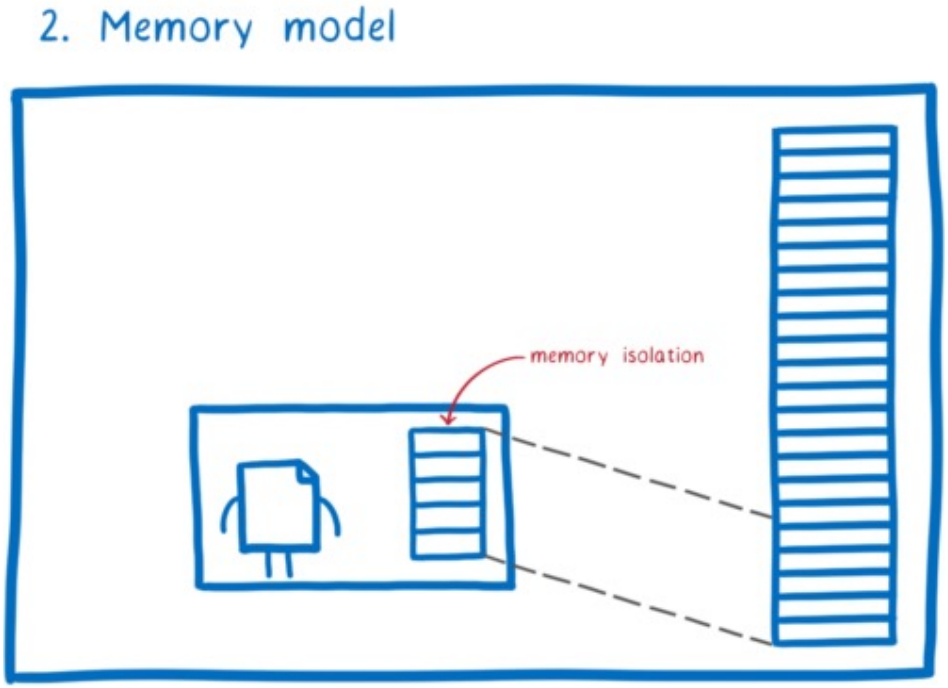
WebAssembly Nano-Process



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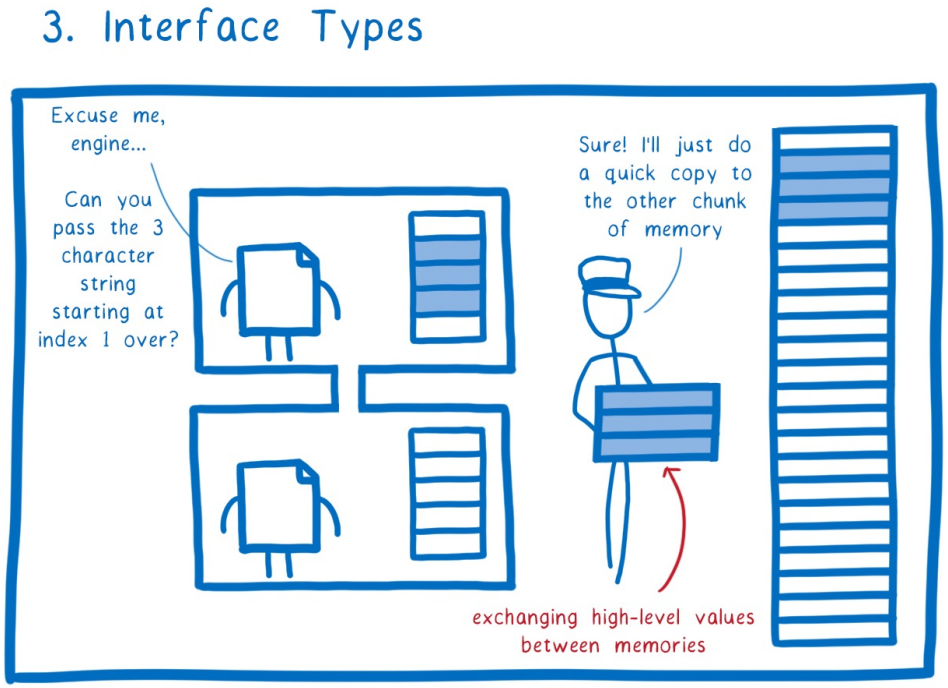
WebAssembly Nano-Process



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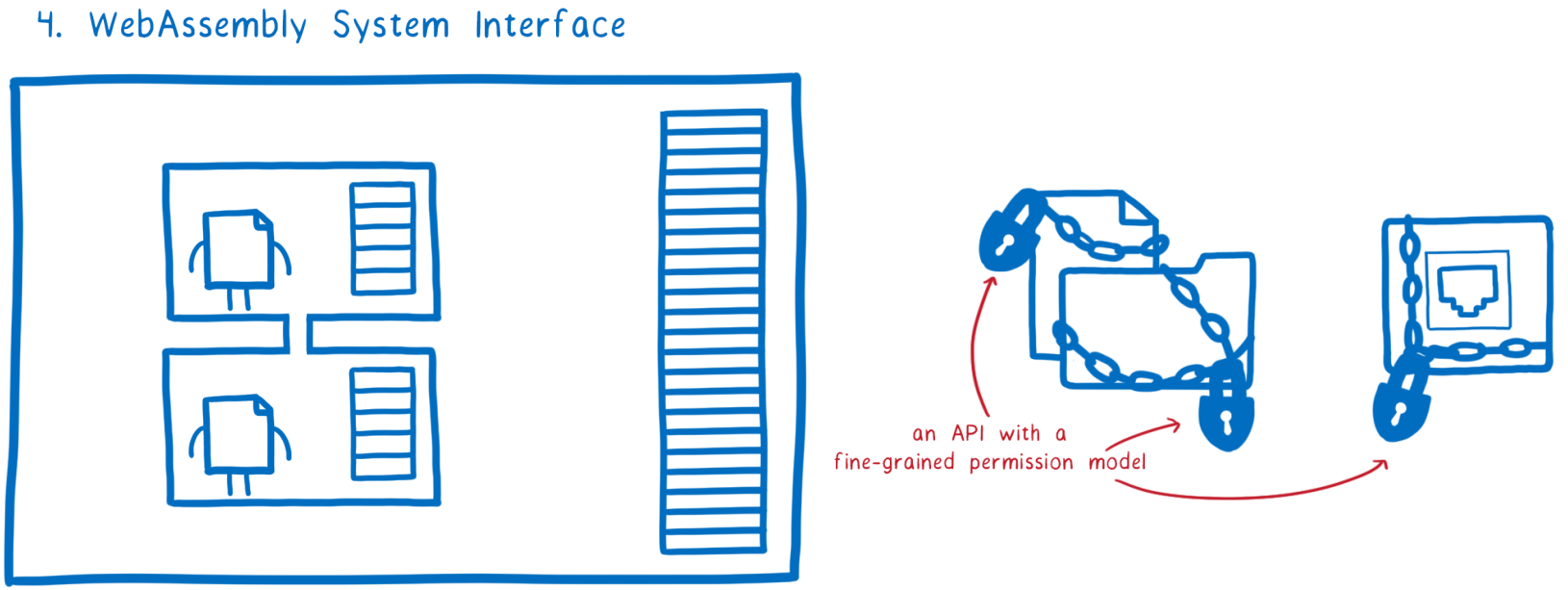
WebAssembly Nano-Process



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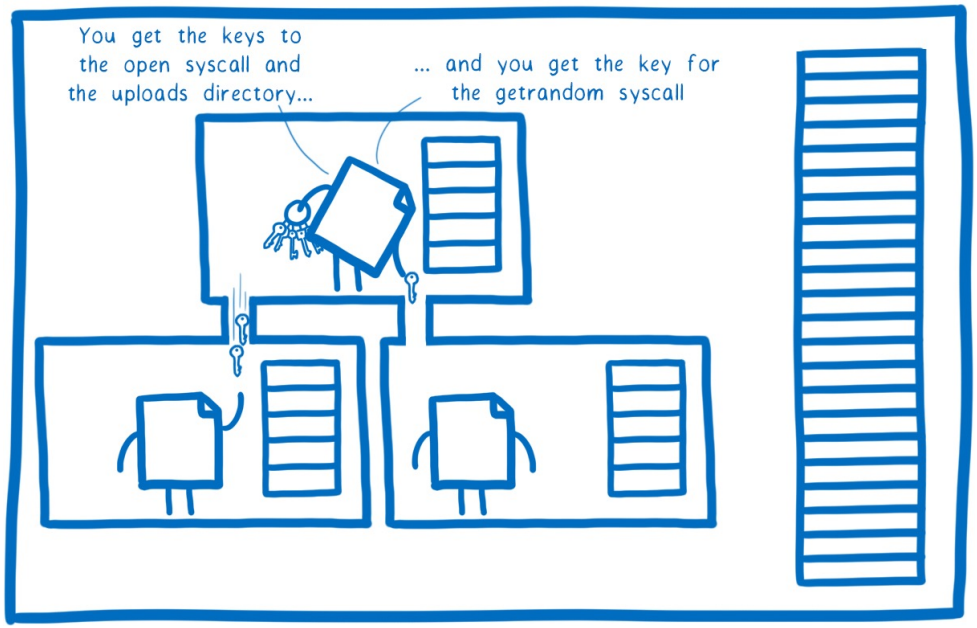
WebAssembly Nano-Process

5. The missing link



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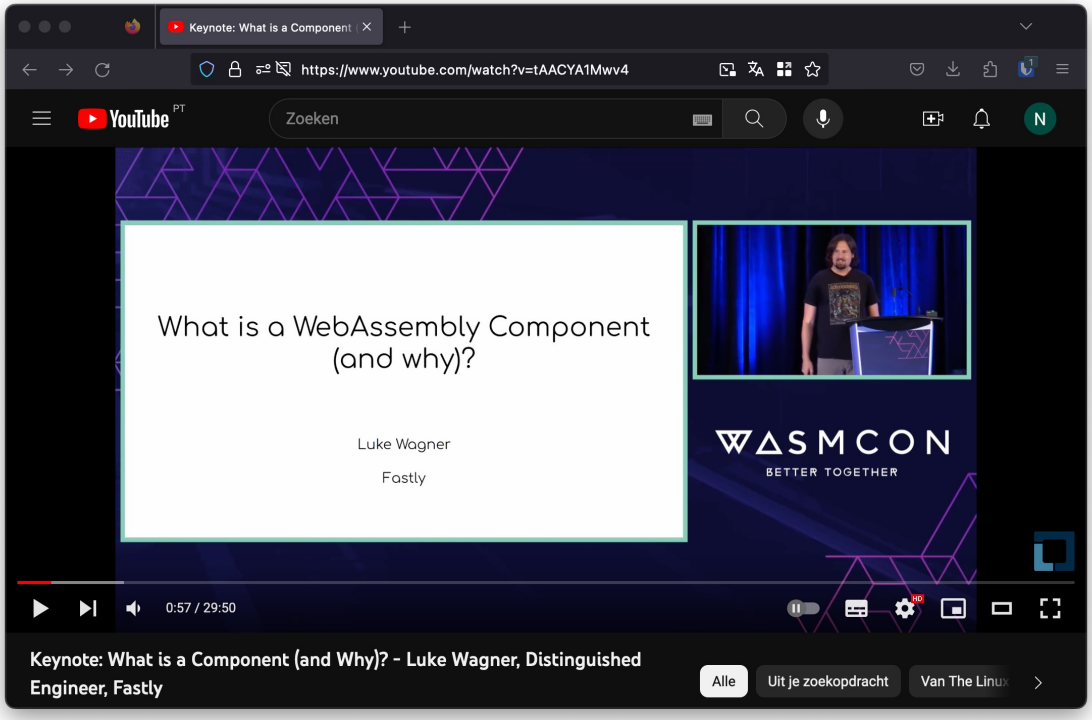
WebAssembly Component Model



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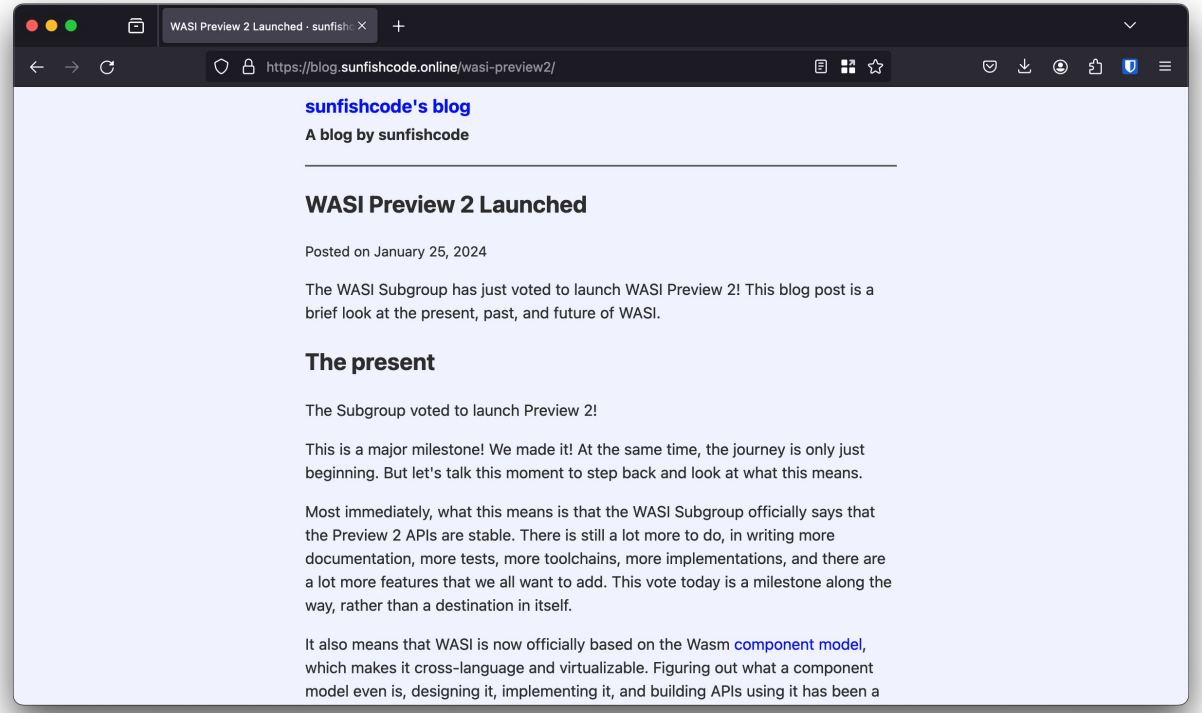
WASI Preview 2



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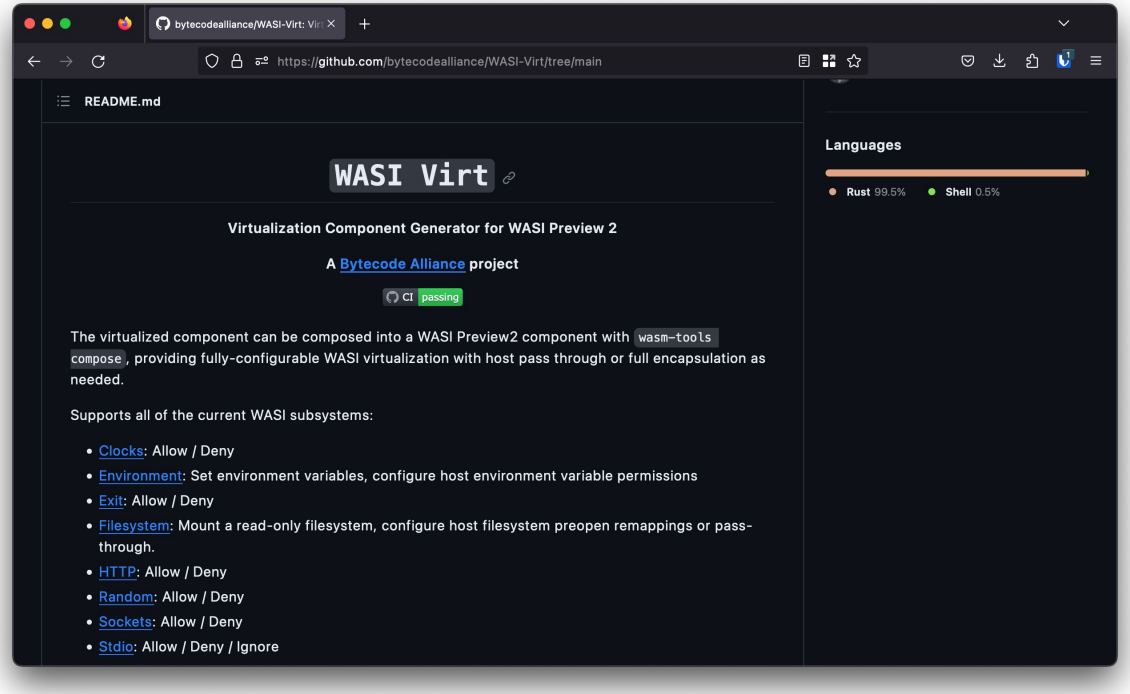
WASI Virt



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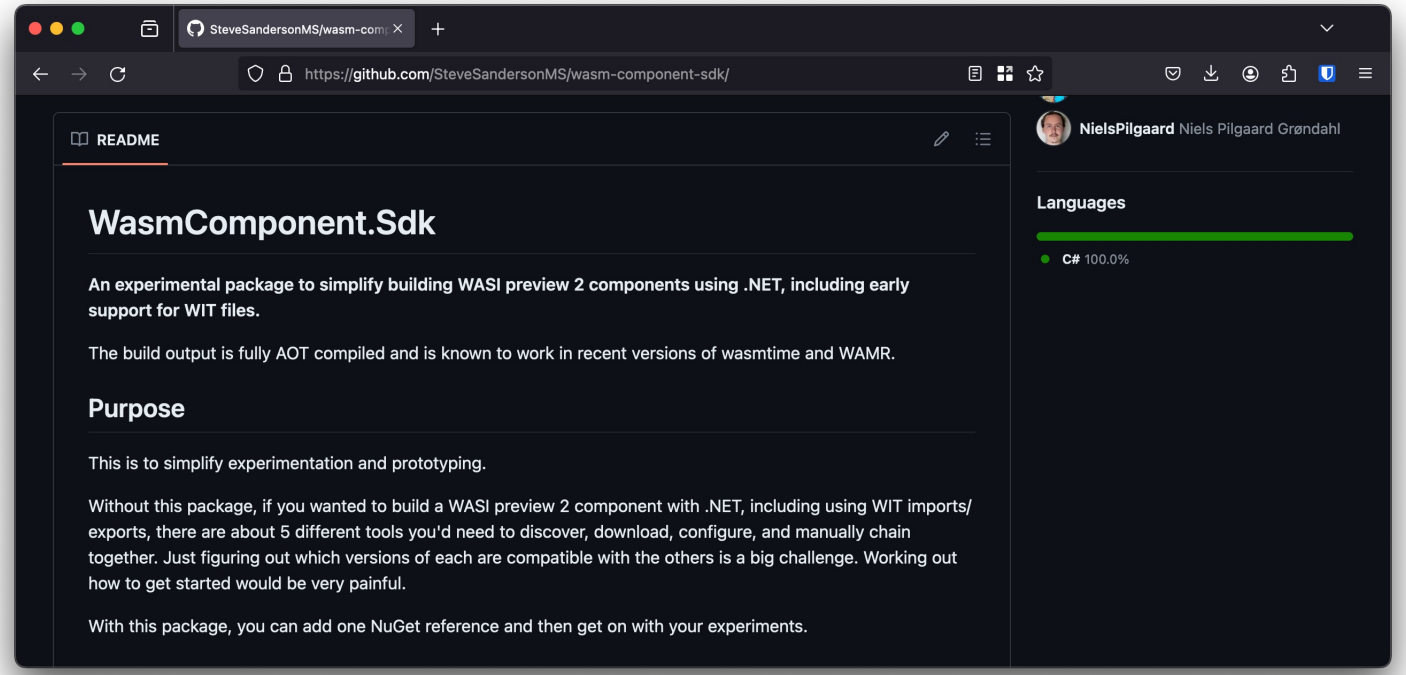
WasmComponent.SDK



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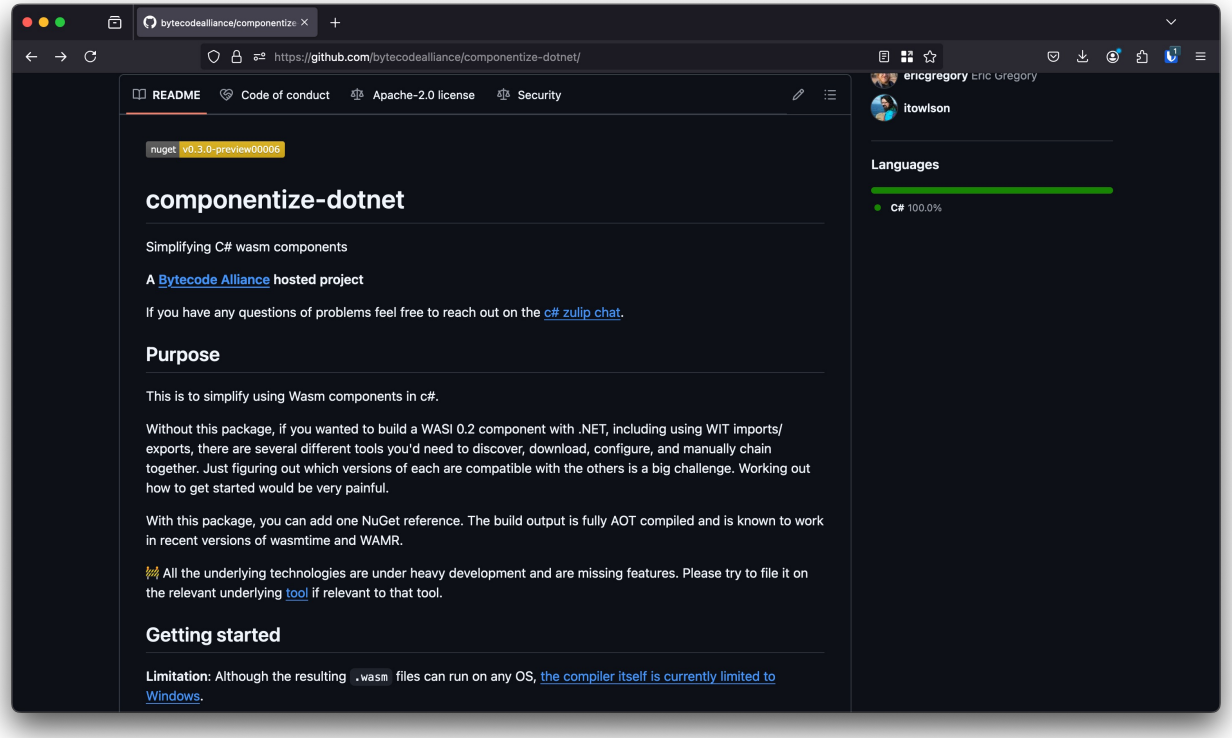
Componentize-dotnet



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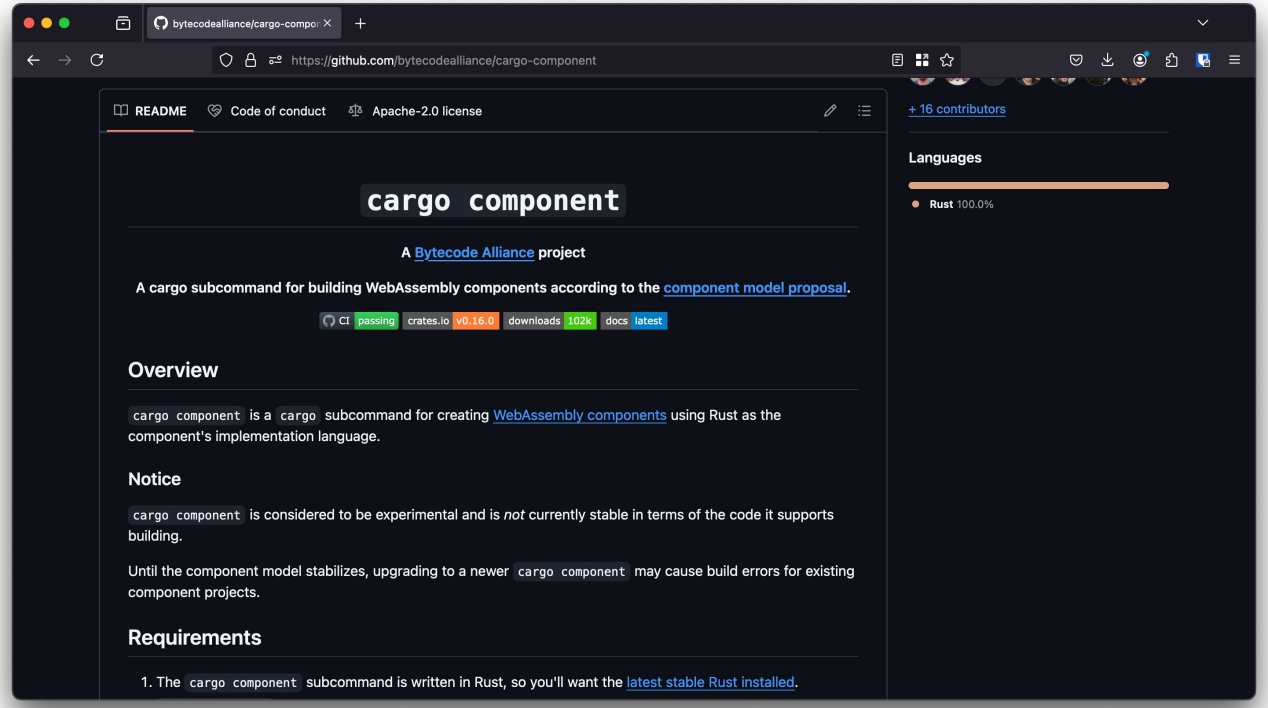
Demo WASI Preview 2 in Rust



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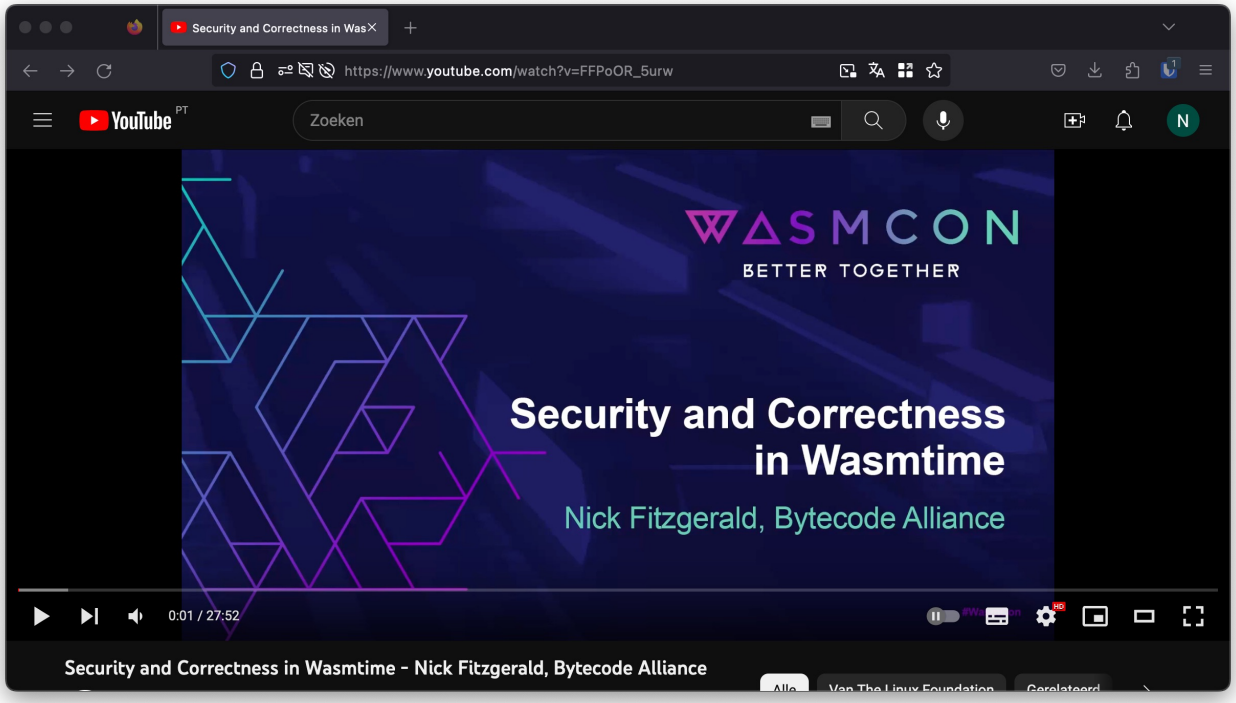
Runtimes and Security

- 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

Runtimes and Security



SWETUGG

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Conclusion

- Cloud Native ❤️ WebAssembly
- WebAssembly has a lot of potential to be used to run, extend, and secure your applications!
- Its as secure as the WebAssembly runtime implementation!
- WASI Preview 2 big milestone! `componentize-dotnet` good step forward for .NET ecosystem

Questions?

- https://github.com/nielstanis/swetugg2024wasm/
- ntanis at Veracode.com
- @nielstanis@infosec.exchange
- https://blog.fennec.dev
- Tack! Thank you!