

APIs at scale

Matthew Clark
@matthew1000



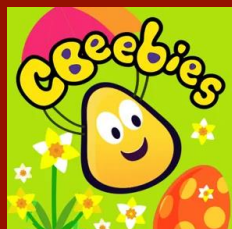
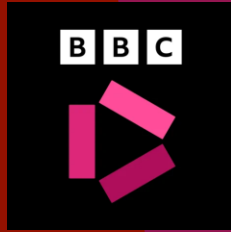
Paul Caporn
@drpacman72

Designing for **frontends**

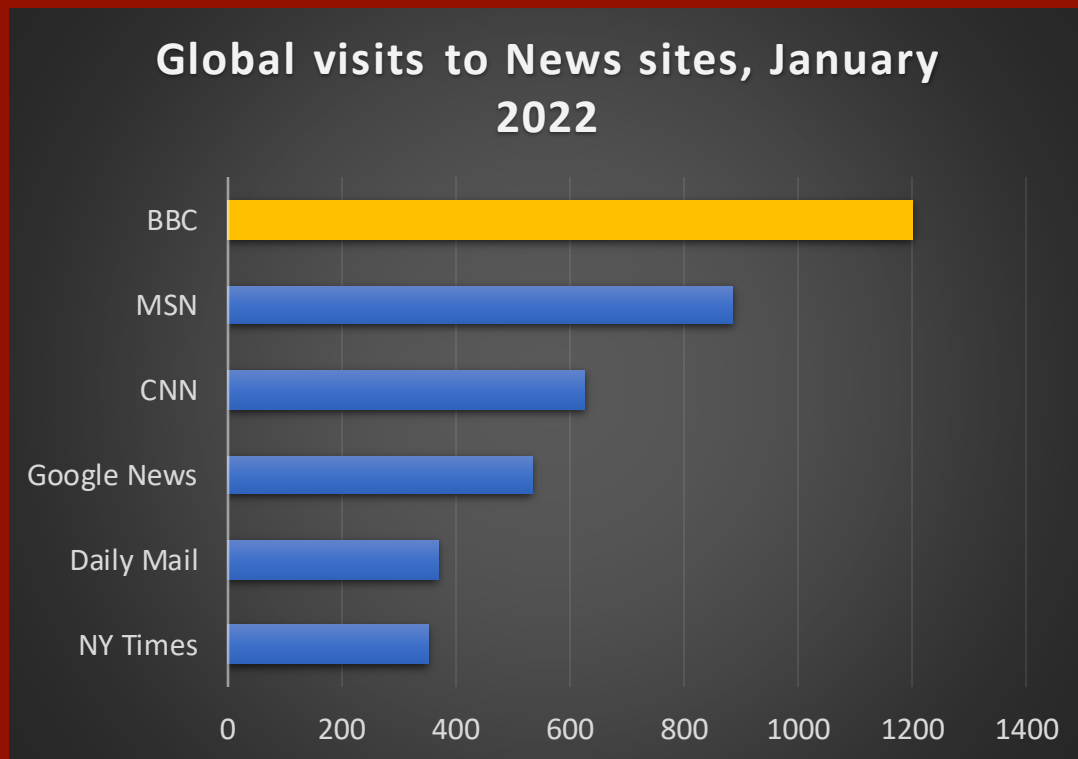
Designing for **change**

Designing for **scale**

Designing for **validation**

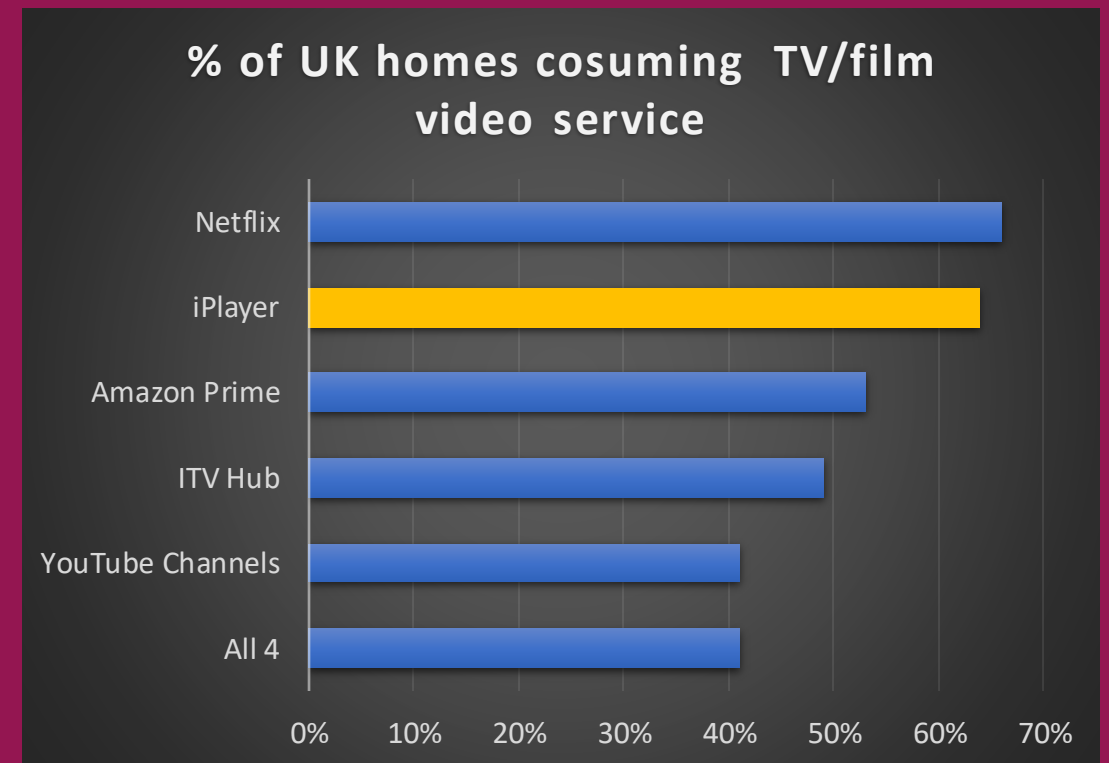


BBC News, the #1 most popular news site in the world



Source: Press Gazette / Similarweb
<https://tinyurl.com/most-popular-news>

BBC iPlayer, the #2 most popular online video service in the UK

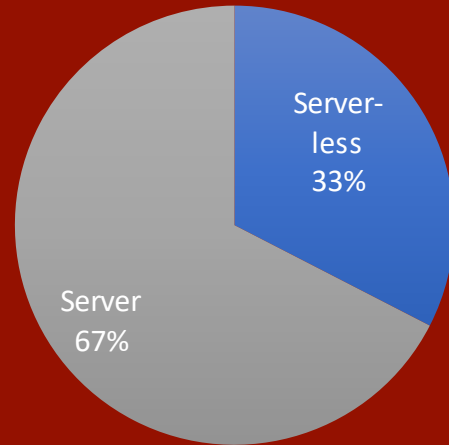


Source: Ofcom
<https://tinyurl.com/ofcom-report-2021>

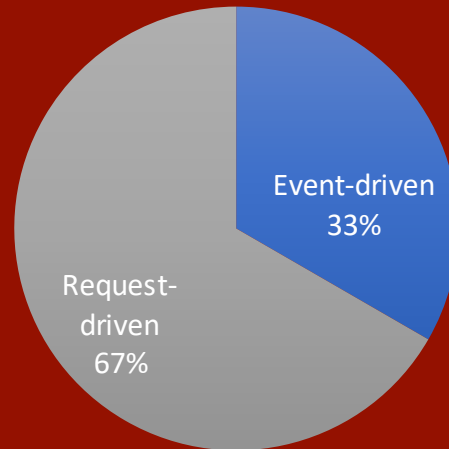
Over 100 APIs power BBC Online

API name	primary response type	Compute type	directly powers audienc experience?	Publicly advertised?	Open to world?	Access control	Request interface type	Has event-driven?
App Business Layer- News	JSON	FABL	Yes	No	Yes	None	HTTP	No
App Business Layer - Sport	JSON	FABL	Yes	No	Yes	None	HTTP	No
Account Identity Command Service	JSON	EC2	Yes	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	No
Account token	JSON	EC2	Yes	No	No	Cookie	HTTP	No
APPW	JSON	S3	No	No	No	IAM	S3	Yes
Archive Services API	JSON	Serverless	No	Yes	Yes	Key	HTTP	No
Ares	JSON	EC2	No	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	No
Article domain	JSON	FABL	No	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	No
Audiences Portal API	JSON	EC2	No	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	No
BBC Ideas	JSON	Morph	Yes	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	Yes
BBC Live	JSON	Morph	Yes	No	Yes	None	HTTP	Yes
Belfrage	Multiple	EC2	Yes	No	No	None	HTTP	Yes
Binary Store	Multiple	EC2	Yes	No	Yes	None	HTTP	No
Blocks (like Arts)	JSON	Morph	Yes	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	Yes
Broadcast interactive data	JSON	EC2	No	No	Yes	Certificate	HTTP	Yes
Camino (News recs)	JSON	EC2	No	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	Yes
Comments	JSON		Yes	No	Yes	Token	HTTP	No
Content Summaries	JSON	FABL	No	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	No
Cosmos API	JSON	EC2	No	No	No	Certificate	HTTP	No
Counting Service	JSON	Serverless	Yes	No	Yes	None	HTTP	Yes

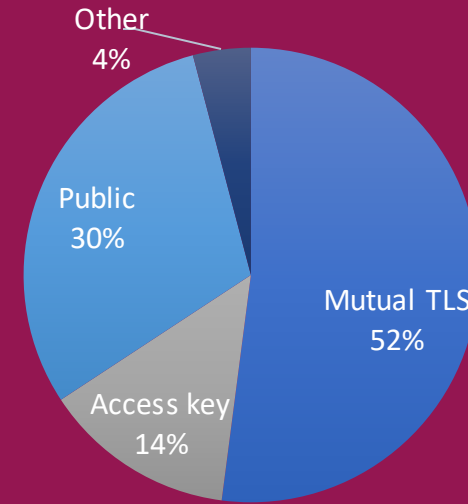
How many are serverless?



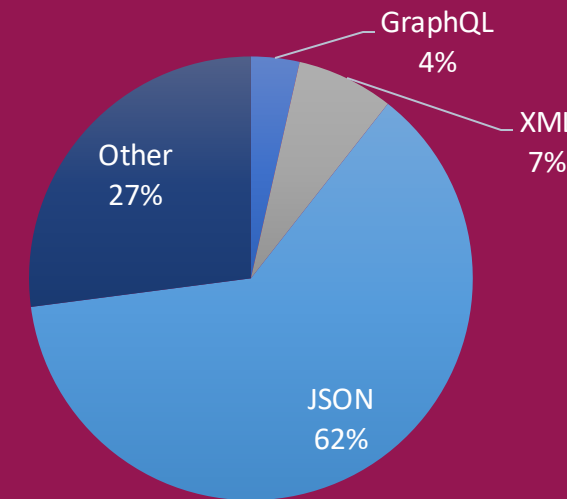
Event or request-driven?



What means of access control?



What response format?



Designing for **frontends**

Micro-frontend API for TV's

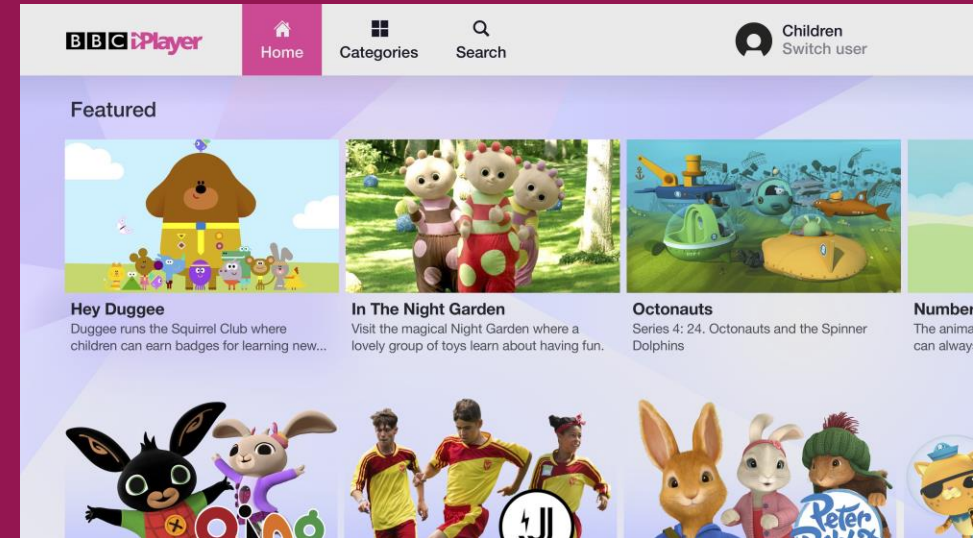
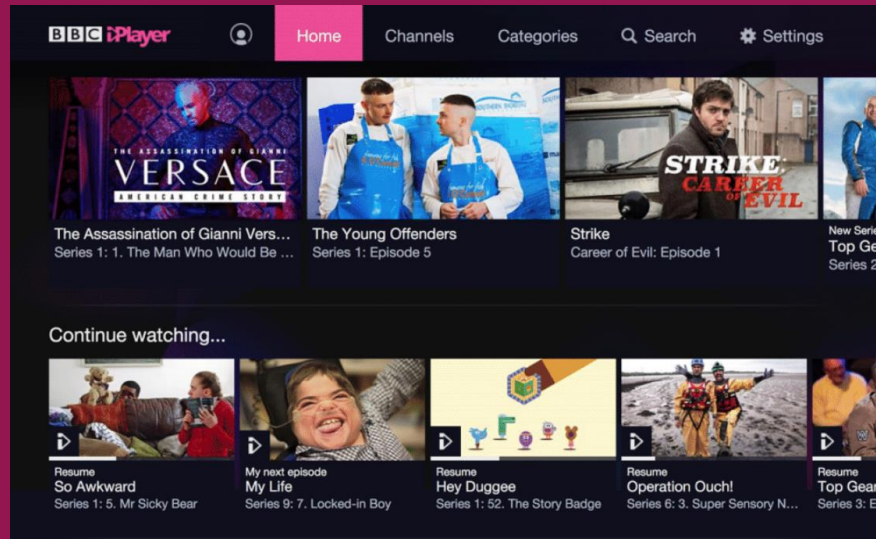
TV eco-system is fragmented (long tail)

Code using the API had sprawled...

Monolithic, spaghetti code



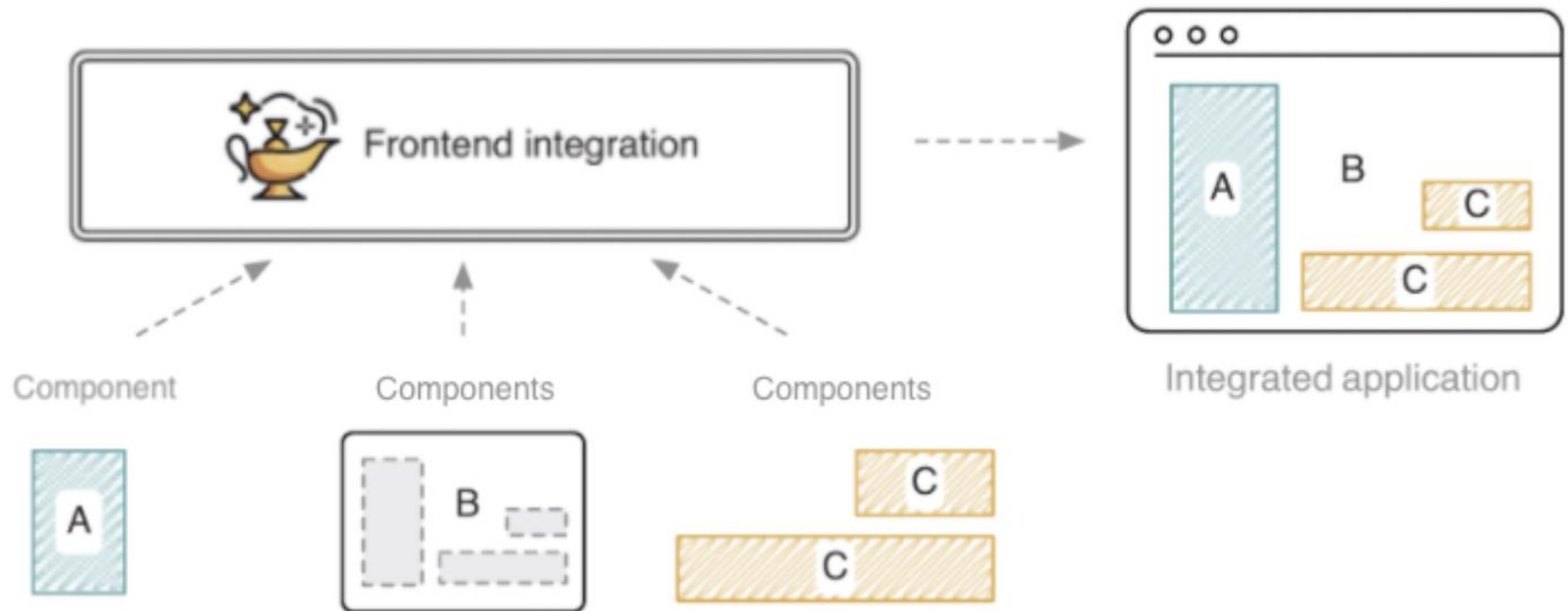
Micro-frontend API for TV's



- Launch a kids app!
- Renew and iterate on the UI!
- But unclear boundaries / lack of a clear API

Micro-frontend API for TV's

“One Love” project – enabling decoupled development



Micro-frontend API for TV's

Component API – A small surface, clear separation of concerns

```
const apiFactory = () => {  
  
  // Add (intialisation) logic and internal state here  
  
  const componentRuntimeAPI = {  
    blur: () => { /* called when component loses focus */ },  
    destroy: () => { /* called when component is discarded */ },  
    focus: () => { /* called when component becomes focused */ },  
    handleKeyDown: (keyCode) => { /* called with keyCode for keyDown event */ },  
  }  
  
  return componentRuntimeAPI  
}
```

Micro-frontend API for TV's

Enabler for development of rich, data driven UI components in isolation

```
const MyComponent = {
  id: 'myComponent',
  render: () => makeRequestTo('my/new/component')
    .then((body) => {
      return {
        html: JSON.parse(body).html,
        apiFactory: () => {
          return window.components[id](makeRequestTo, eventHandler)
        }
      }
    })
}
```

Micro-frontend API for TV's

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Micro-frontend API for TV's

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        }
      }
    })
}
```

◀ One Love ▶

Slide 9 / 15

How - components in the tv client

```
const MyComponent = {
  id: 'myComponent',
  render: () => makeRequestTo('my/new/component')
    .then((body) => {
      return {
        html: JSON.parse(body).html,
        apiFactory: () => {
          return window.components[id](makeRequestTo, eventHandler)
        }
      }
    })
}
```

- There is an *integration per component* in the main tv client application
- By convention, the HTML for components delivered from the backend includes a `<script>` tag that executes an IIFE exposing a constructor for the runtime API
- Components are passed local client capabilities via the constructor
- Components issue commands to the host by emitting (uni-directional) events via a passed in `eventHandler`
- The BFF services have versioned endpoints (HTTP APIs) to facilitate making breaking changes to the integration/runtime API

SPORT

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All Sport

Tennis > [Live Scores](#) [Results](#) [Calendar](#) [Video](#) [Tomorrow's Order of Play](#)

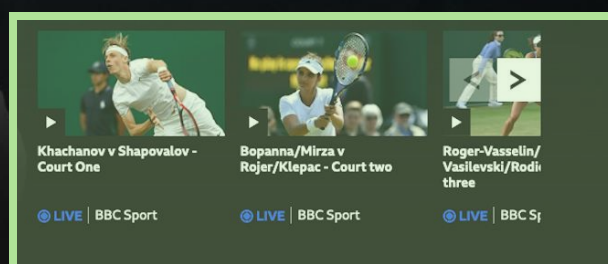


LIVE Wimbledon: Djokovic two sets up against Fucsovics - watch, listen & follow text

Djokovic v Fucsovics - Centre Court BBC Sport

[35,769](#) viewing this page

[Scores, results & order of play: Coverage details](#)



Summary

- Choose a TV stream at the top of this page (UK only)
- Men's singles quarter-finals day
- Centre Court: Novak Djokovic v Marton Fucsovics; Roger Federer v Hubert Hurkacz
- Court One: Karen Khachanov v Denis Shapovalov; Matteo Berrettini v Felix Auger-Aliassime
- Get involved: [#bbctennis](#)

Live Reporting

Alex Bysouth

NEW 15:35

Quarantined balls, please



Sonia Oxley
BBC Sport at Wimbledon

Even the used tennis balls are subject to Covid restrictions this year.

Normally they come straight from the court before being sold to the public for fans' chance to get their hands on a bit of yellow fluff hit by Roger Federer et al.

But this time they have to be put in quarantine for "a few days".

So by my reckoning, the ones on sale today could be ones hit by Andy Murray last week (maybe).



Related Stories



Wimbledon: Djokovic two sets up against Fucsovics - watch, listen & follow text



Watch: Djokovic v Fucsovics - Centre Court



Watch: Khachanov v Shapovalov - Court One



Watch: Bopanna/Mirza v Rojer/Klepac - Court two



Watch: Roger-Vasselin/Melichar v Vasilevski/Rodionova - Court three



Watch: Peers/Zhang v Dodig/Chan - Court 12



Watch: Kuzuhara/Quinn v Brits Blaydes/Jansen - Court 18

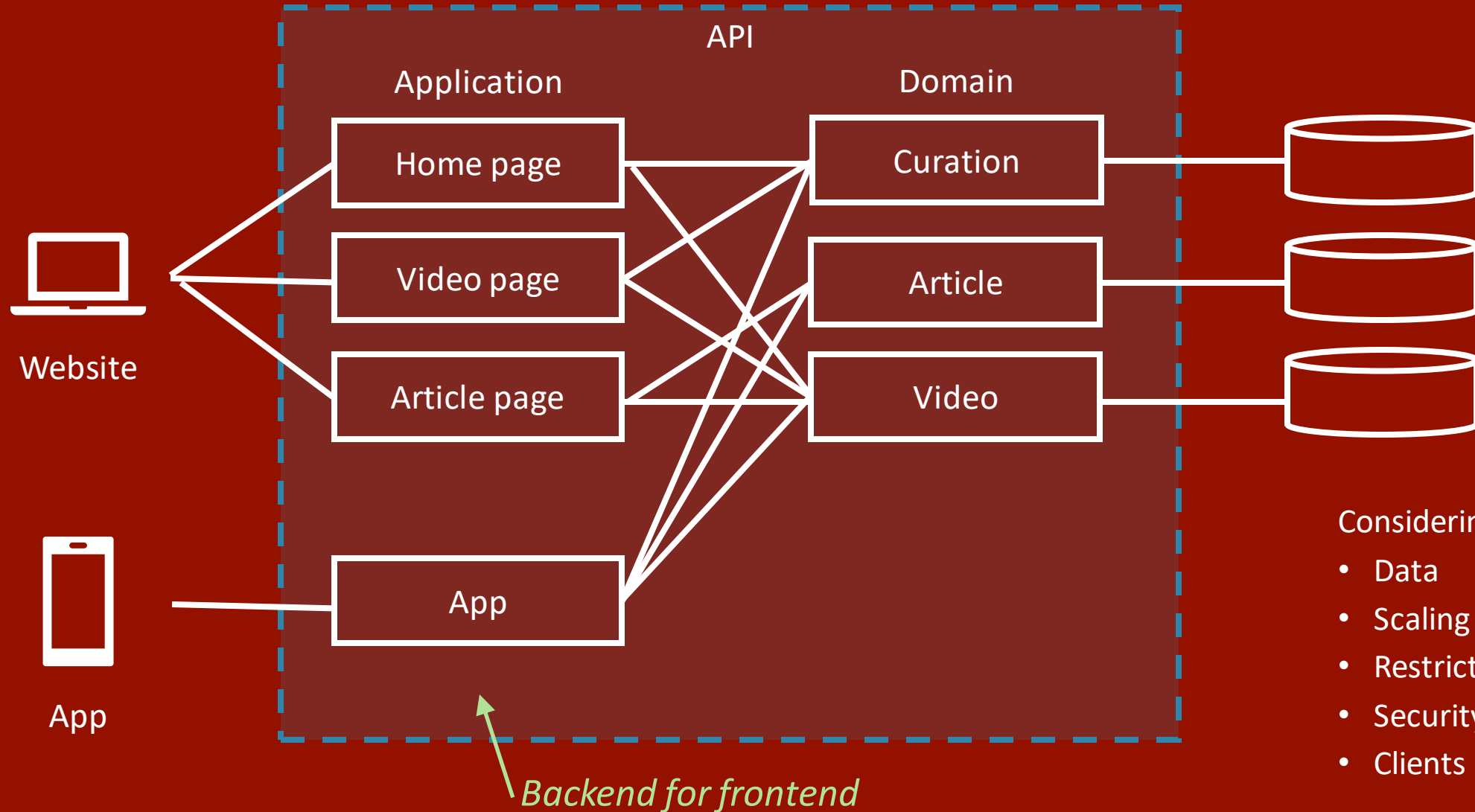


Watch: Cross/Xu v Guth/Middendorf - Court eight

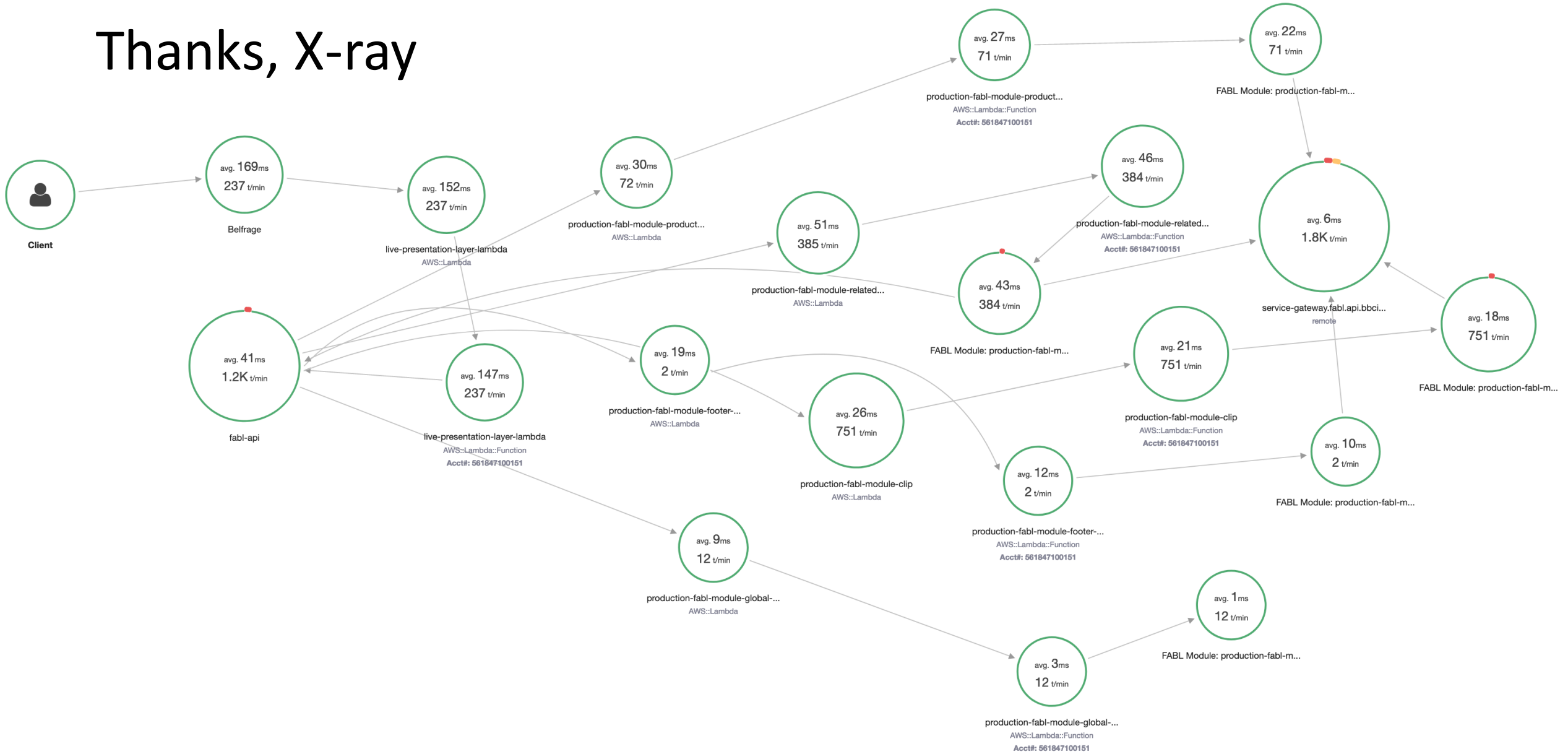


Watch: Dominko/Zhchenov v Bopanna - Court 14

APIs doing one thing well



Thanks, X-ray



Multiple teams → inconsistency

```
"title": "Penguins in Antarctic set up marching band"  
"headline": "Penguins in Antarctic set up marching band"
```

```
"timestamp": 1648399482000  
"firstPublished": "2022-03-27T11:49:00.000Z"
```

```
"link": "https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-60589511"  
"link": {  
  "url": "https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-60589511"  
}
```

→ Have conventions

Designing APIs for **change**

IBL – Product as an API

The iPlayer Business Layer (IBL) API is...

- The source of truth for all Product concepts
- The source of truth for content object presence and order
- Not opinionated about the UI

The personalised version of the API is exposed over GraphQL

IBL – Product as an API

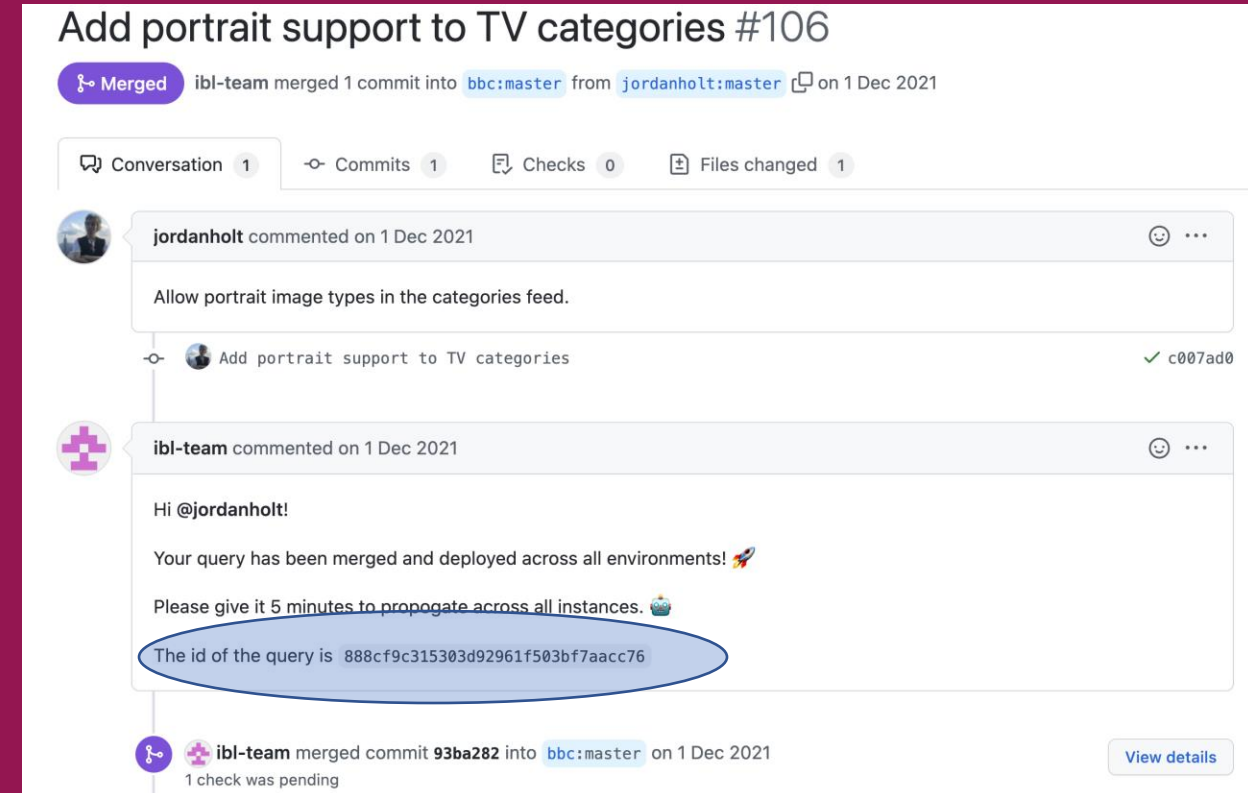
Every property exposed has a cost once published



Image - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmnevada/15519491237/in/photolist-pDps48>

IBL – Product as an API

- Know the purpose of your API
- Design explicitly for your clients use cases
- Limit your supported consumers to those use cases
- Persisted GraphQL queries can help manage evolution!



The screenshot shows a GitHub pull request interface. At the top, it says "Add portrait support to TV categories #106" and "Merged" with a link to the merge. Below this, there are tabs for "Conversation 1", "Commits 1", "Checks 0", and "Files changed 1". The main content area shows a comment from "jordanholt" on 1 Dec 2021: "Allow portrait image types in the categories feed." Below the comment is a commit summary: "Add portrait support to TV categories" with a green checkmark and the commit hash "c007ad0". Another comment from "ibl-team" on 1 Dec 2021 says: "Hi @jordanholt! Your query has been merged and deployed across all environments! 🚀 Please give it 5 minutes to propogate across all instances. 🌐 The id of the query is 888cf9c315303d92961f503bf7aacc76". The query ID is circled in blue. At the bottom, there is a merge summary: "ibl-team merged commit 93ba282 into bbc:master on 1 Dec 2021" with a "View details" button and "1 check was pending".

Handling API change

```
{  
  "id": "urn:bbc:article:123",  
  "url": "https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/123",  
  "firstPublished": "2022-03-27T11:49:00.000Z",  
  "title": "Duck swims around the world",  
  "category": "nature",  
  "categories": ["nature", "travel"],  
}
```

```
<image deprecated="true" deprecated_since="2014-07-09"  
replaced_by="mixin=images" url="http://..." />
```

```
image: String @deprecated(reason:  
"image is deprecated. Use imageUrl instead.")
```



Actual BBC API
example



GraphQL
schema

API versioning

Version the whole API...

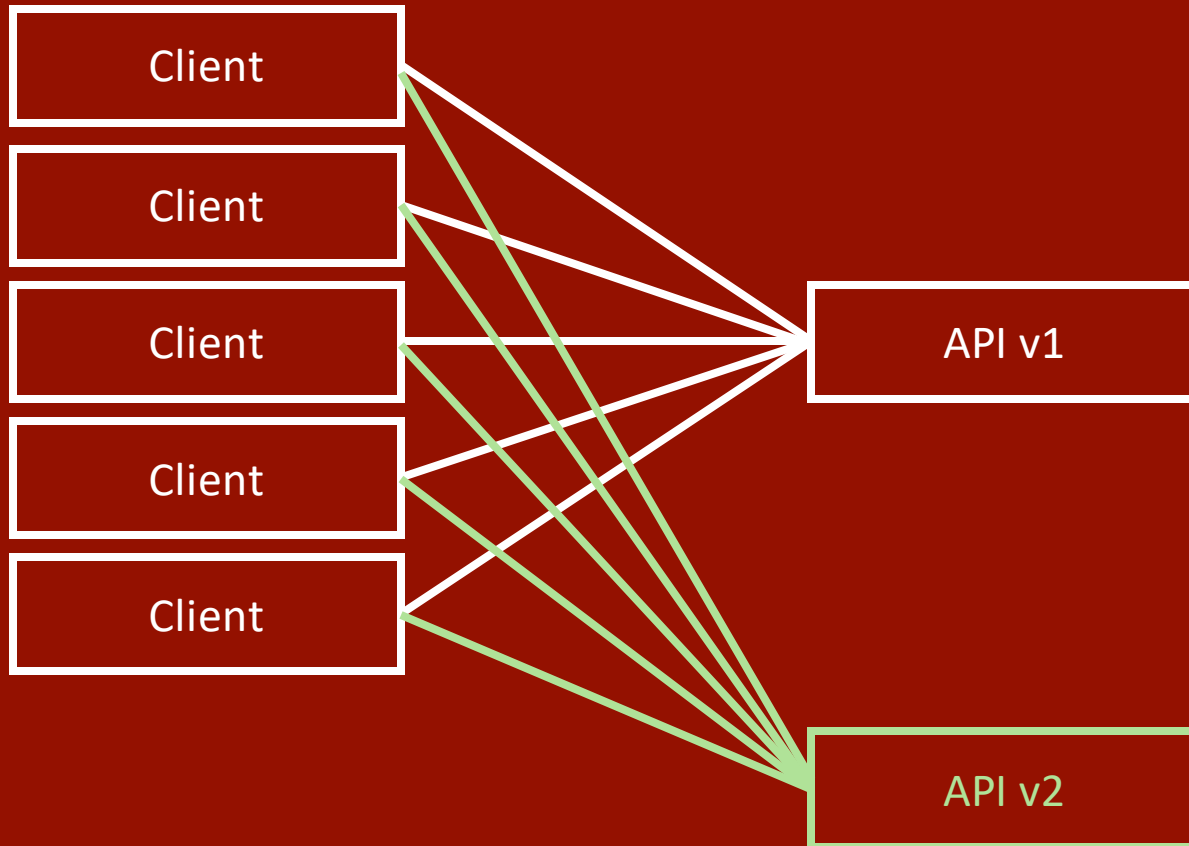
`https://api.twitter.com/1.1/statuses/lookup.json`
`https://api.twitter.com/2/tweets`

Or just one endpoint...

ListBuckets
ListMultipartUploads
ListObjects
ListObjectsV2
ListObjectVersions
ListParts

**Example from
AWS S3 API**

Many clients



From: Joe Developer

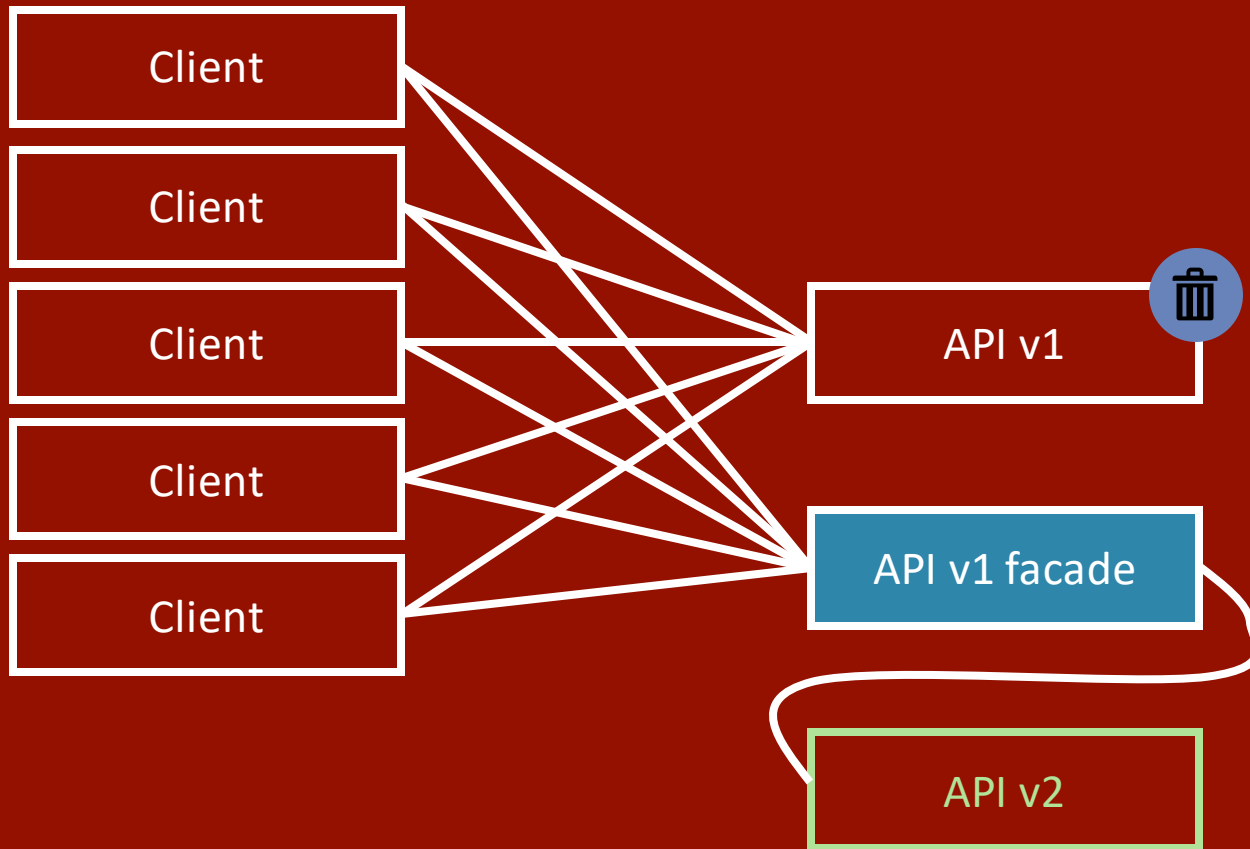
To: User d-list

Subject: New API Version

Don't worry!

The original API will
switched off, leaving 1
indefinitely.

Creating a facade



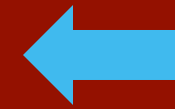
Know who's involved



Your
developers



Client's
developers



Suggested
priority



Your
stakeholders



Client's
stakeholders

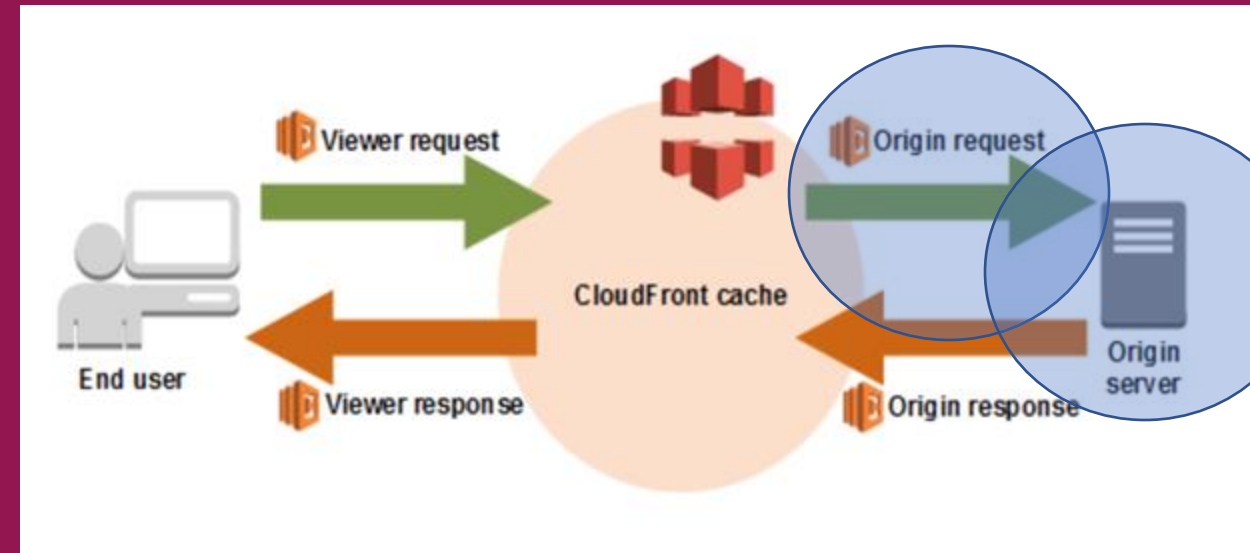
Designing APIs for **scale**

A broadcast Denial of Service attack



Serverless Launch

- Leverage CDN edge functions
- Statically pre-published responses per device to S3
- Device categorization in lambda@edge
- Augment with dynamic values
- But what about the next hop...?

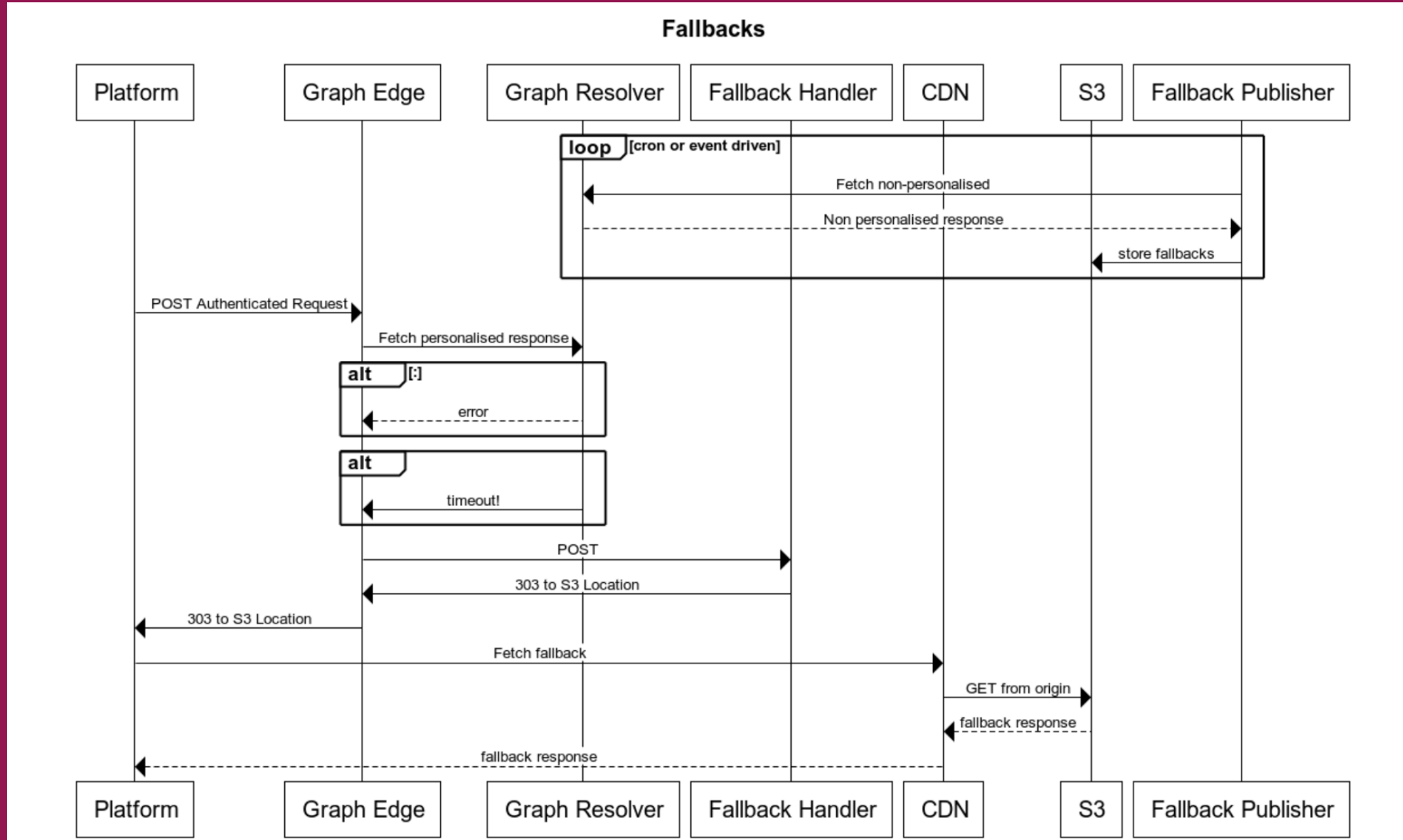


Source: <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/lambda/latest/dg/lambda-edge.html>

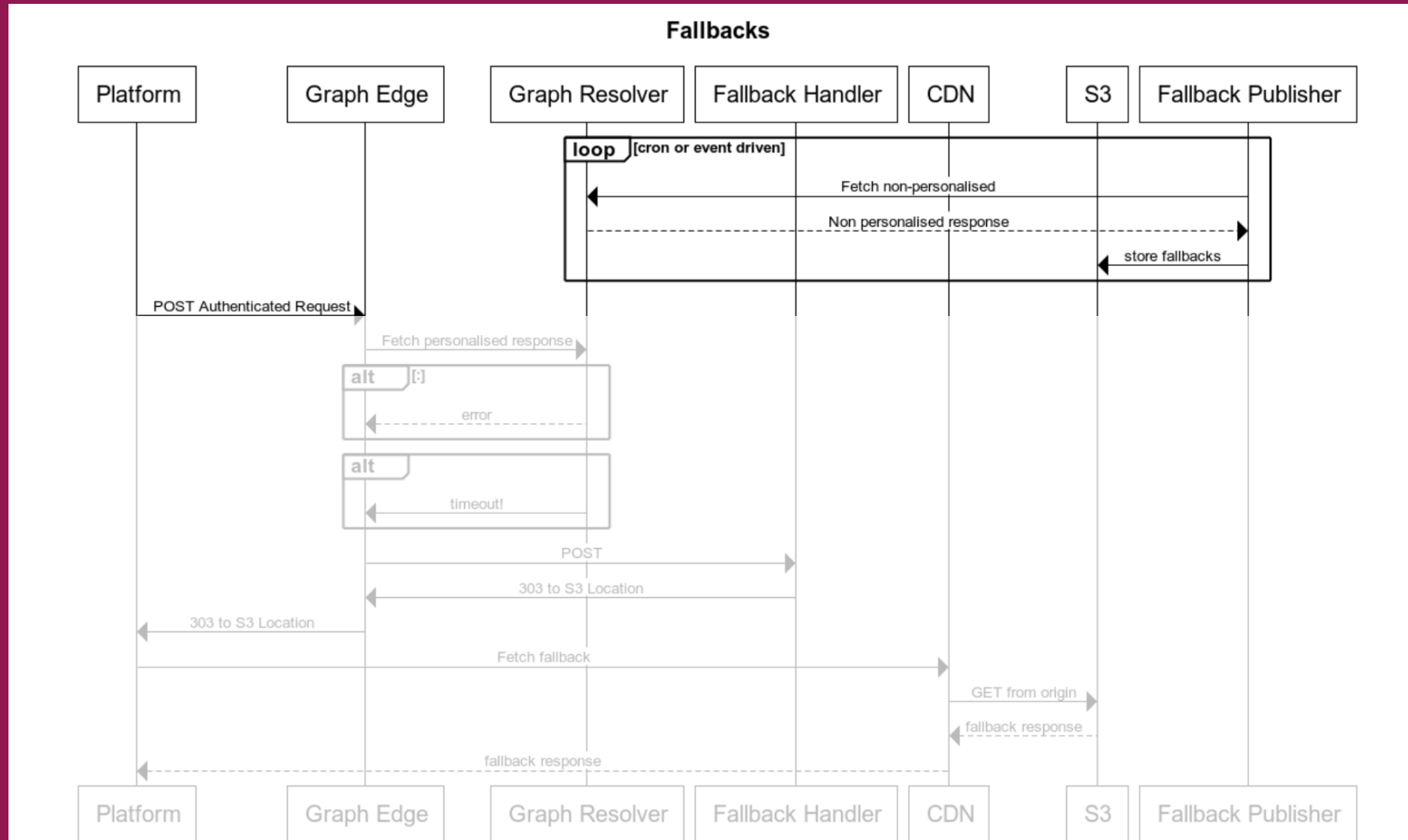
Fallbacks - failure as a first class citizen

- Fallbacks - planning for failure as a first class part of the API design, not an afterthought
- What do fallbacks need to do?
 - Provides schema compliant lighter responses
 - Supports context sensitivity
 - Enable scale by offloading
- Trade offs, trade offs everywhere
 - Availability over degraded features and timeliness of content
 - Polling vs event driven publishing

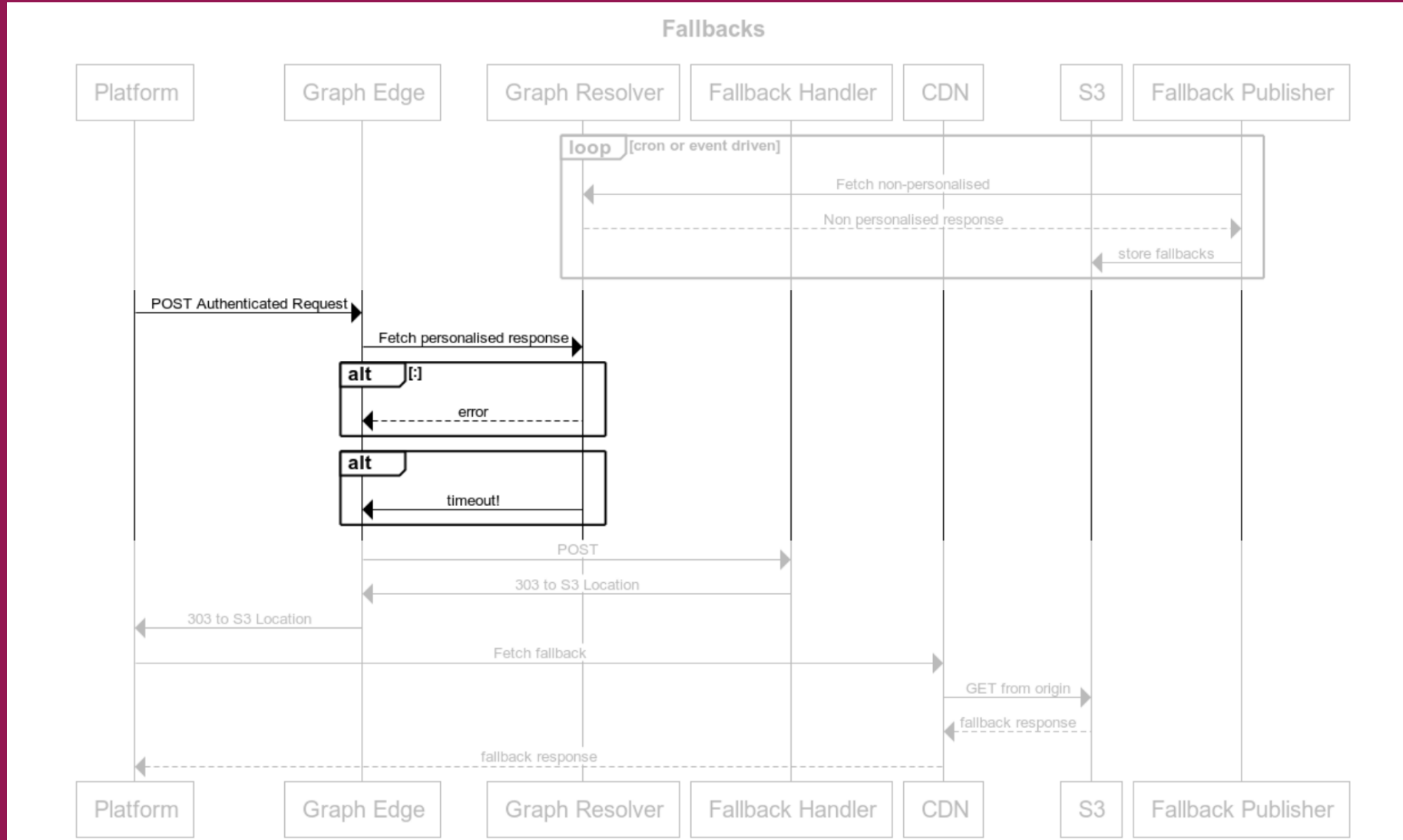
Serving Fallbacks



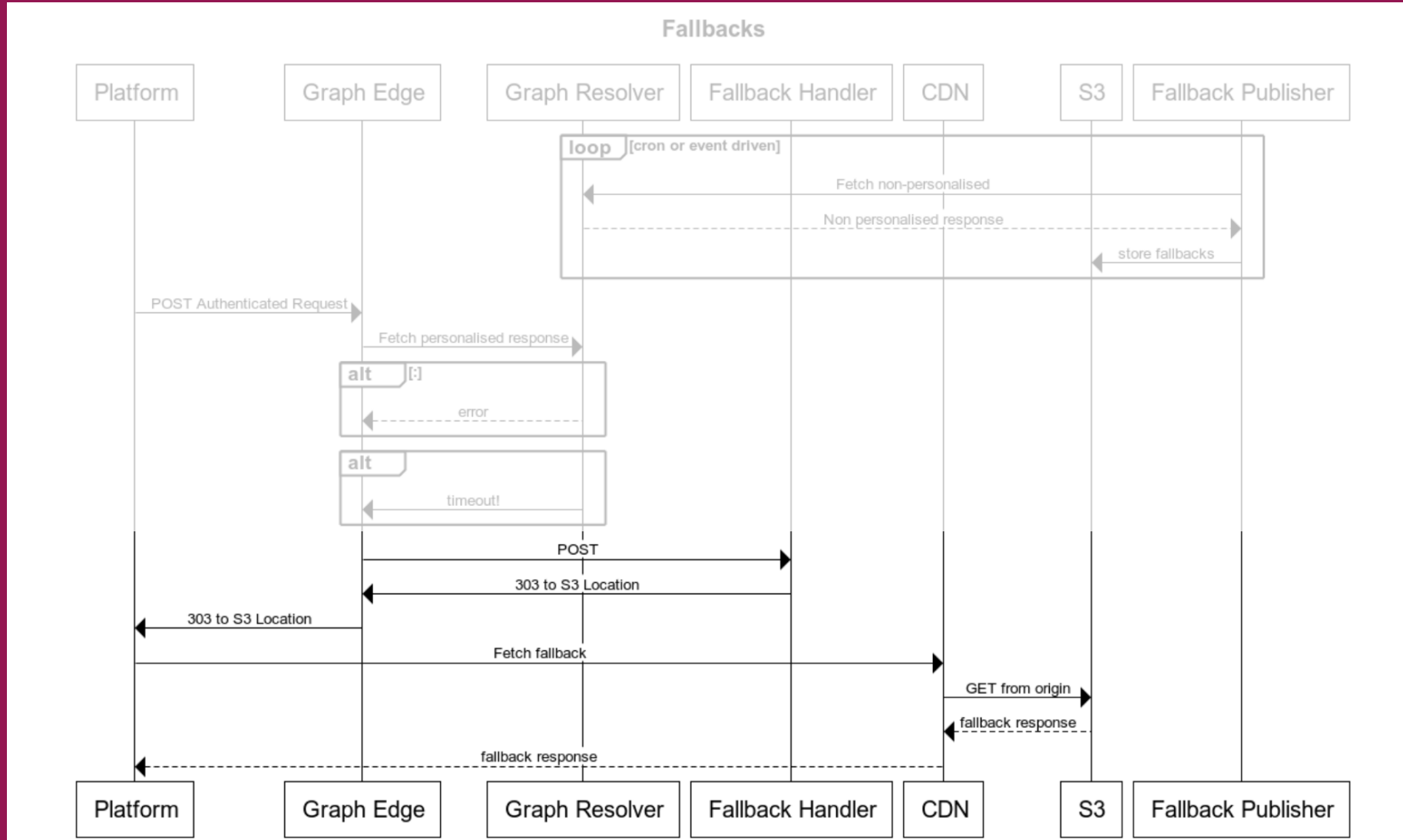
Serving Fallbacks



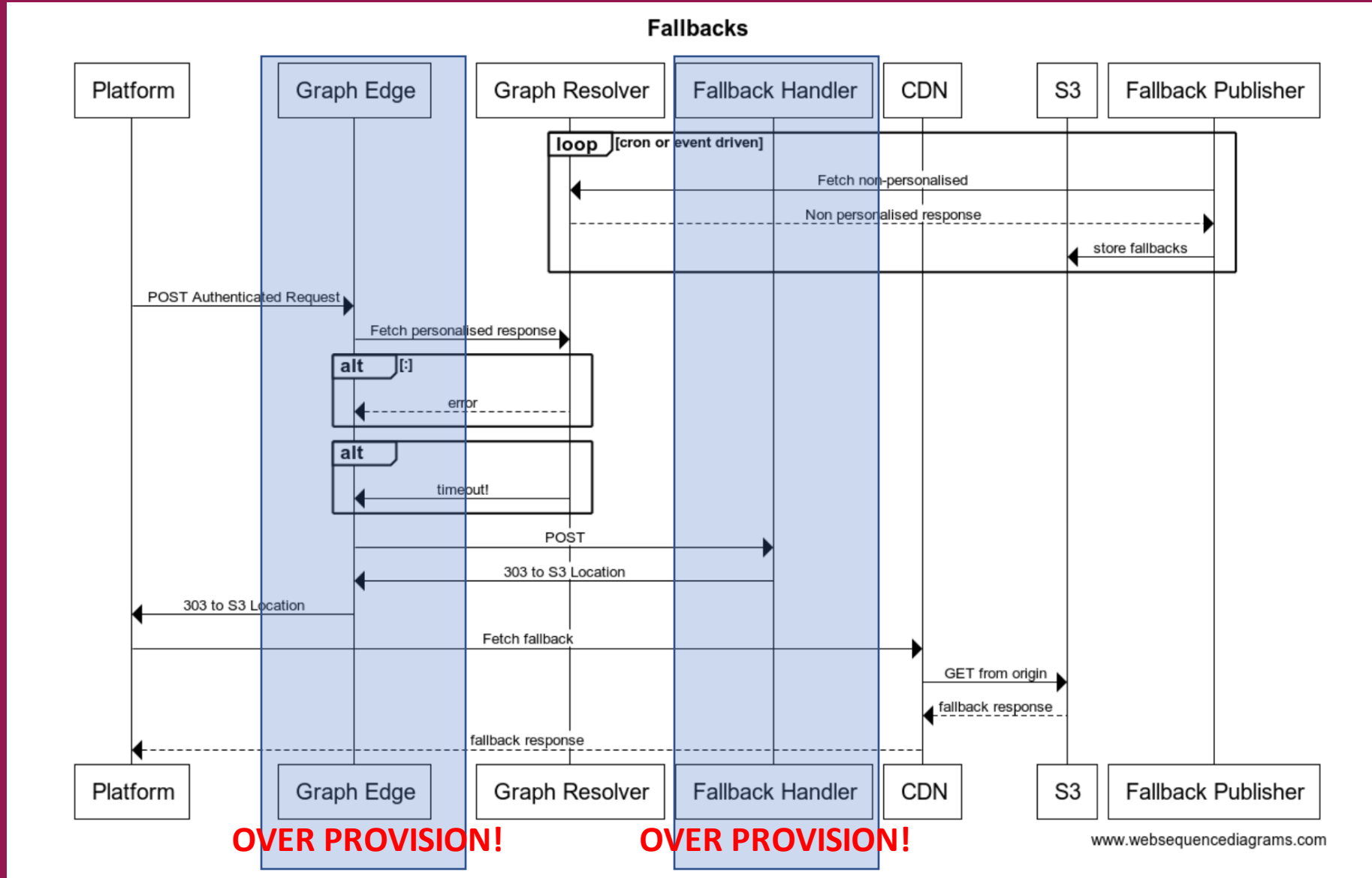
Serving Fallbacks



Serving Fallbacks



Serving Fallbacks



A third of the BBC's pages are rendered using serverless (including the APIs that power them)

NEWS

Home | War in Ukraine | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech | Science | Health

More

Entertainment & Arts

Anime: How Japanese animation has taken the West by storm

By Becky Padington & Ian Youngs
BBC News

2 days ago



GEGE AKUTAMI/SHUEISHA

Jujutsu Kaisen 0 was second in the UK and US box office charts last weekend, behind The Batman

Japanese animation Jujutsu Kaisen 0 has become a surprise box office hit, as anime enjoys a new global popularity in cinemas and on streaming services.

Last weekend, an animated Japanese high school student who is haunted by the spirit of his childhood sweetheart was second only to The Batman in the UK box office chart, and beat Catherine Tate and Sir Mark Rylance, who starred in other new releases.

Jujutsu Kaisen 0 - a prequel to a successful streaming TV series, itself based on popular manga comics - has become the latest successful anime export.

Top Stories

LIVE Ukraine ready to discuss neutral status - Zelensky

LIVE Stars hit red carpet for 2022 Oscars

No Russia regime change plans, says Blinken
13 hours ago

Features



'Our hospitals and schools are attacked on purpose'



Premature babies struggling for life in Ukraine



If using AWS, the CDK patterns make serverless API development straightforward

<https://github.com/cdk-patterns/serverless>

cdk-patterns / serverless Public

Code Issues 19 Pull requests 60 Discussions Actions Projects

main serverless / the-simple-graphql-service /

TheRobotCarlson Adds correct value in lambda response ... on 22 Aug 2021 History

- img add lower res arch images 2 years ago
- python Adds correct value in lambda response 7 months ago
- typescript update to v1.83.0 15 months ago
- README.md added a note to say not to print api key to logs 2 years ago

README.md

The Simple GraphQL Service

```
graph LR; Client[Client] --> AppSync[AWS AppSync]; subgraph AWS_Cloud [AWS Cloud]; AppSync --> Lambda[AWS Lambda]; AppSync --> DynamoDB[Amazon DynamoDB]; end
```

This is an example CDK stack to deploy The Simple GraphQL Service inspired by Thorsten Hoeger's contributions to the CDK AppSync Module example

An advanced version of this pattern was talked about by Heitor Lessa at re:Invent 2019 as "The Cherry Pick".

- Youtube Recording
- Static Slides

cdk-patterns / serverless Public

Code Issues 19 Pull requests 60 Discussions Actions Projects

main serverless / the-simple-webservice /

nideveloper Merge pull request #171 from cdktemp/feature/the-simple-we... on 21 Feb 2021 History

- csharp Merge pull request #171 from cdktemp/feature/the-simple-w... 13 months ago
- img add lower res arch images 2 years ago
- java Merge pull request #171 from cdktemp/feature/the-simple-w... 13 months ago
- python add simple webservice images 13 months ago
- typescript add simple webservice images 13 months ago
- README.md Merge branch 'master' into simple-webservice-java 2 years ago

README.md

The Simple Webservice

This is an example CDK stack to deploy The Simple Webservice stack described by Jeremy Daly here - <https://www.jeremydaly.com/serverless-microservice-patterns-for-aws/#simplewebservice>

An advanced version of this pattern was talked about by Heitor Lessa at re:Invent 2019 as The comfortable "REST"

- Youtube Recording
- Static Slides

Most of this code was borrowed from <https://cdkworkshop.com/>.

This is the most basic of implementations and would have to be hardened before production use. e.g. cognito added to the API Gateway

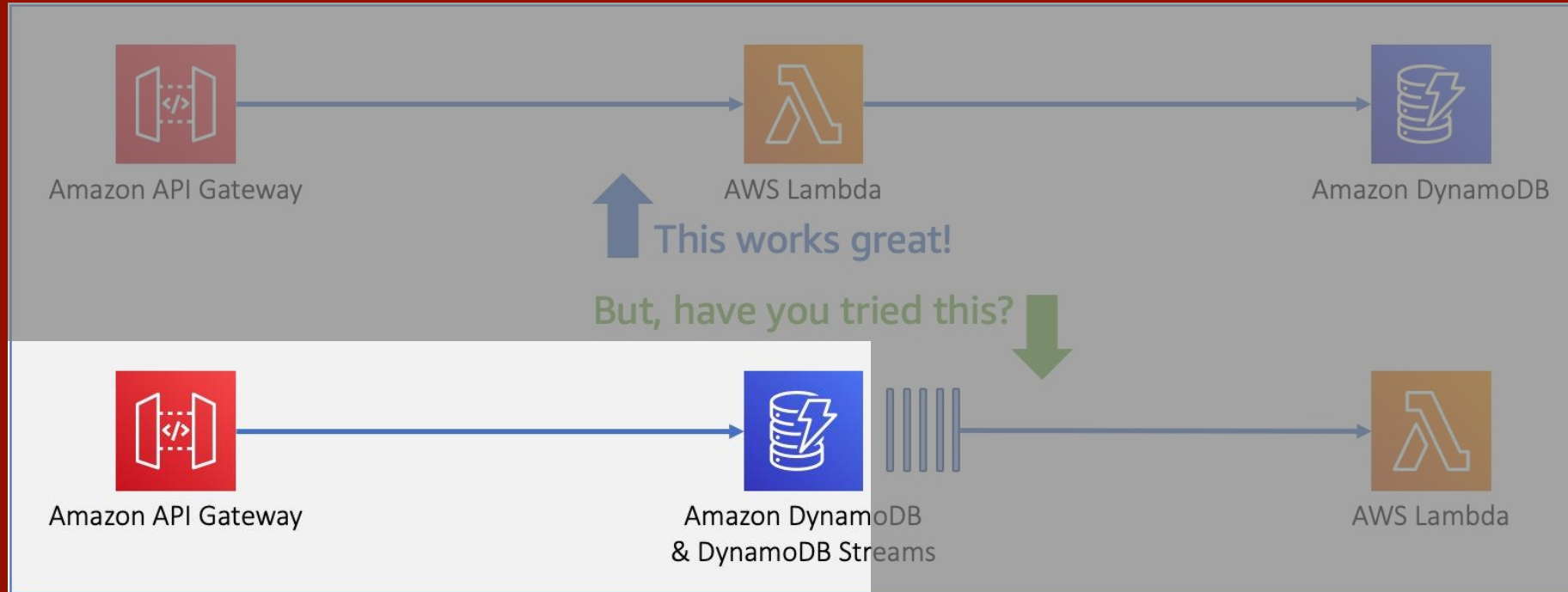
```
graph LR; Client[Client] <--> APIGateway[API Gateway]; APIGateway <--> Lambda[Lambda]; Lambda <--> DynamoDB[DynamoDB]
```

After deployment you should have a proxy api gateway where any url hits a lambda which inserts a record of the url into a dynamodb with a count of how many times that url has been visited.

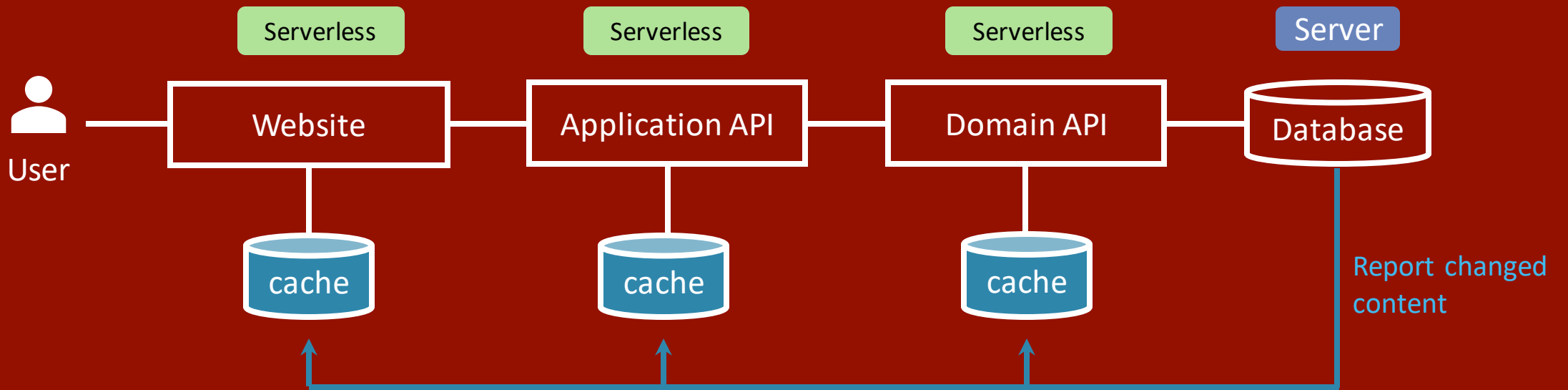
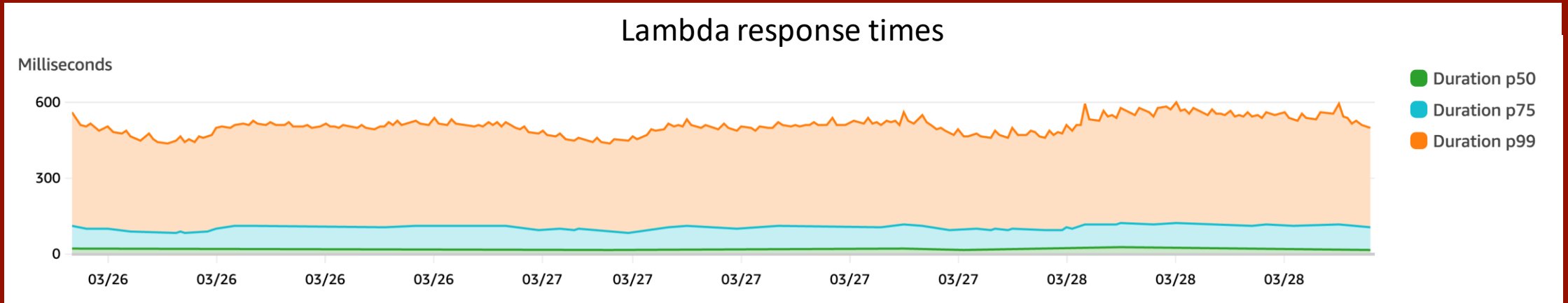
Available Versions

- TypeScript

Low-code / no-code APIs



Scaling instantly when you need it



The page and the onward journeys are cached separately

NEWS

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13 hours ago

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Manifest API

```
{
  "id" : "/news/123456",
  "lastUpdated" : 1648498767000,
  "title" : "Parrot learns seven times table"
},
{
  "id" : "/news/234567",
  "lastUpdated" : 1648496828000,
  "title" : "Studies show fish happier on Fridays"
},
{
  "id" : "/news/345678",
  "lastUpdated" : 1648497939000,
  "title" : "Herd of elephants found in Norway"
}
```



```
{
  "id" : "/news/123456",
  "lastUpdated" : 1648498767000,
  "body" : "A parot in Italy has learned to count in sevens. Billy, a female macaw, regularly recites the seven times table up to 105. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad
```

One fast-updating, minimally cached API can provide references to another API with more immutable data

Designing APIs for **validation**

Schemas for the win!

- Provide a contract
- Enable stubbing by client teams
- Enable value adds to be built...

The image shows the Swagger Editor interface on the left and the Swagger UI on the right. The editor displays a JSON OpenAPI specification for 'Radio & Music Services'. The specification includes details such as version (2.0.0), title, description, servers, and several endpoints under the 'Experience' group. The Swagger UI on the right provides a user-friendly view of the same API, showing the service name, a description, a server dropdown, and a list of endpoints with their methods and descriptions.

```
enum Platform {
  web
  tv
  mobile
}

type Programme {
  id: ID!
  title: ProgrammeTitle!
  synopsis: ProgrammeSynopsis!
  image: ProgrammeImage!
  count: Int!
  labels: ProgrammeLabels
  masterBrand: MasterBrand
  slices(live: Boolean!): [ProgrammeSlice]
  current(platform: Platform!, user: User!, language: Language, sliceId: ID, autoSlice: Boolean, live: Boolean!): ProgrammeCurrent
  entities(platform: Platform!, user: User!, language: Language, sliceId: ID, page: Int, perPage: Int, autoSlice: Boolean, live: Boolean!): ProgrammeEpisodeResults!
}

type ProgrammeCurrent {
  result: ProgrammeEpisode
}

union ProgrammeEpisode = EpisodeEntity | WatchingEntity

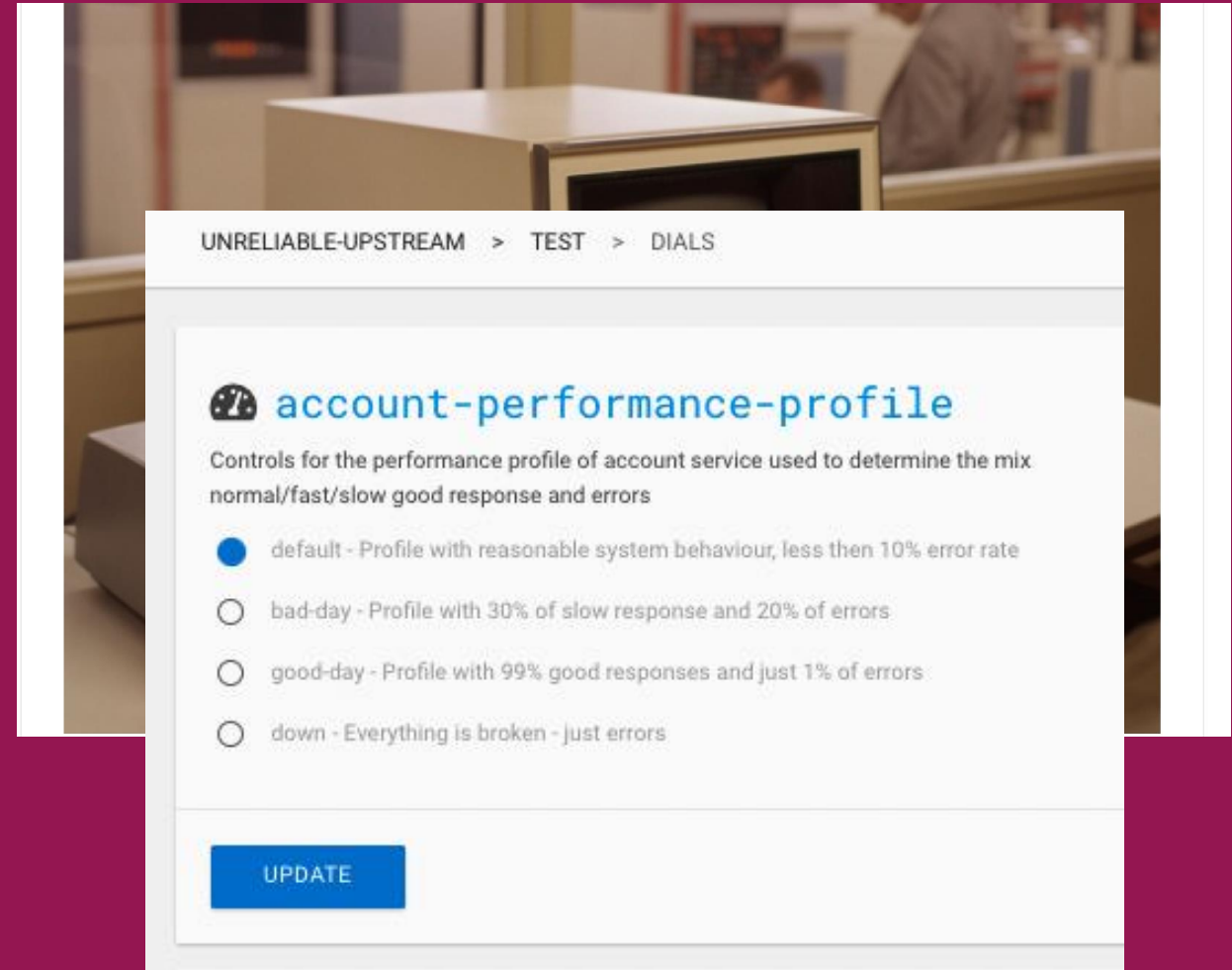
type ProgrammeEpisodePagination {
  count: Int!
  page: Int!
  perPage: Int!
  sliceId: ID
}

type ProgrammeEpisodeResults {
  results: [ProgrammeEpisode!]
  pagination: ProgrammeEpisodePagination
  preferences: ProgrammeEpisodesPreferences
}
```

Unreliable Upstream

Like your upstream services but worse...

- Data that meets their API
- Random response times and occasional errors
- Response profiles with configured delays and error rates.



Designing for **frontends**

Designing for **change**

Designing for **scale**

Designing for **validation**

Summary

Focus on doing one thing well

Serverless helps APIs with speed and scale

Know your clients

Treat failure as a first-class citizen

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