



# Security Architecture in a Distributed World

ISABELLEMAUNY

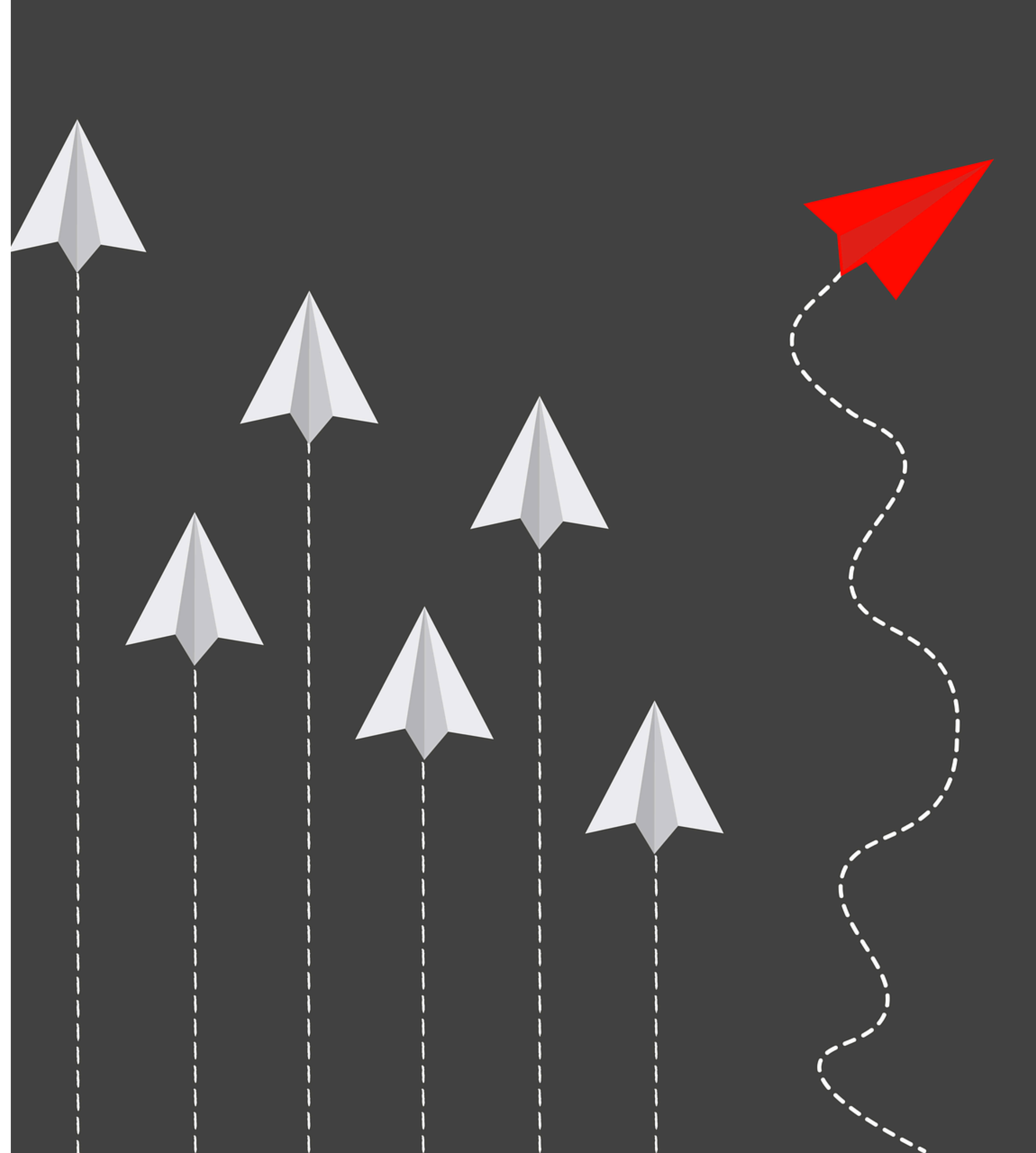
Field CTO - 42Crunch



# Interactive Design Ahead

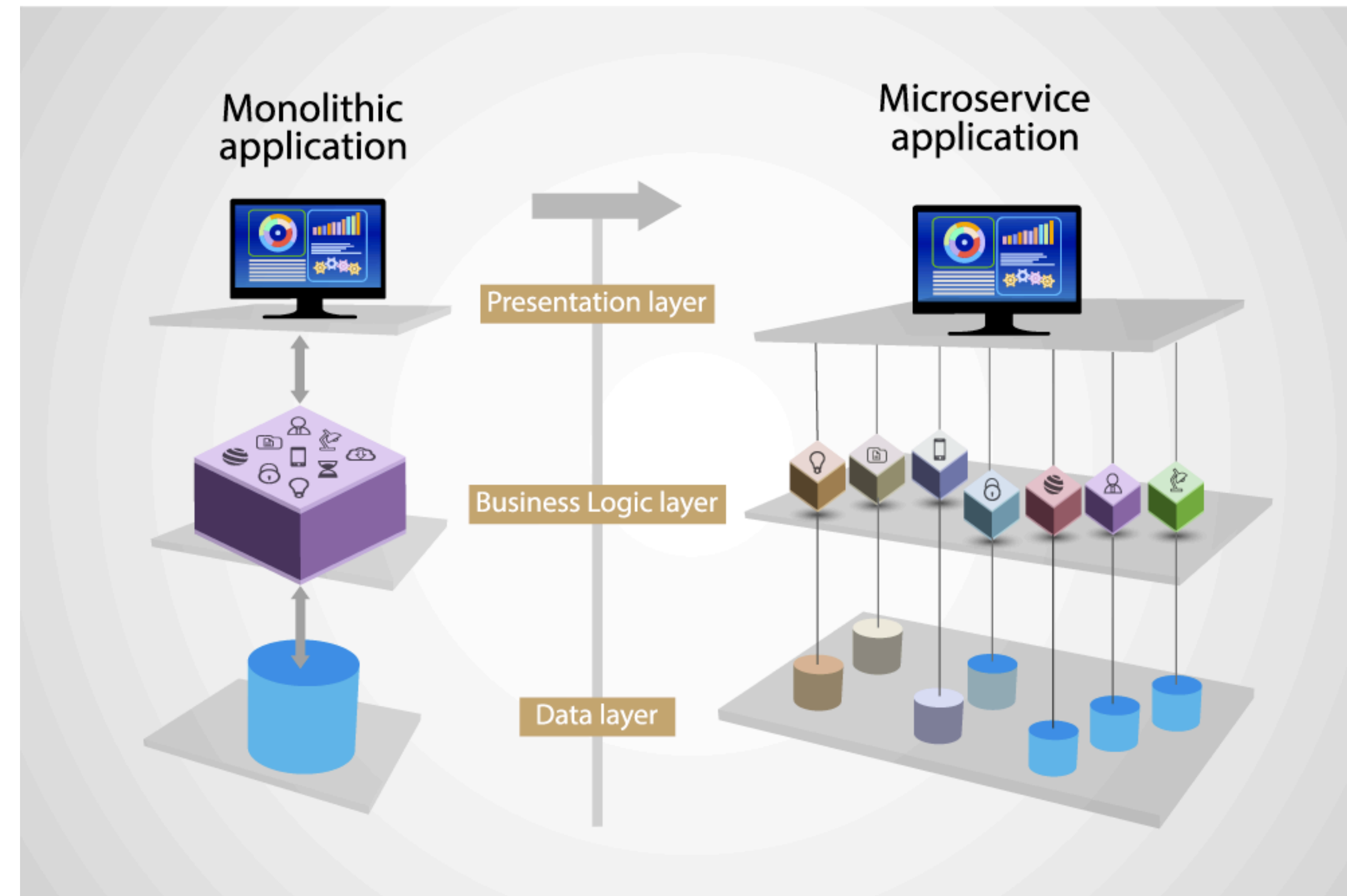
---

Be ready to participate!



# Fictitious Design Co

From our (not so) loved monolith to the moon !





A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a mechanical keyboard. The background is a dark blue surface with a faint, glowing binary code pattern. A large, semi-transparent purple circle is centered over the keyboard. The text "Some guiding principles first!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the purple circle and the keyboard. The person's left hand is on the left side of the keyboard, and their right hand is on the right side. They are wearing a silver watch on their left wrist and a black bracelet on their right wrist. A laptop is visible on the left side of the frame, and a pair of red headphones is on the right side. A smartphone is also visible on the right side, near the keyboard.

**Some guiding principles first!**



An API **must not blindly trust**  
anything it receives or uses.



And that includes

---

- Request payloads
- Headers
- JSON Web Tokens
- IP addresses (X-Forwarded-For)
- Libraries
- Docker Images
- 3rd party APIs
- Anything, really...



**STAY  
PARANOID  
AND  
TRUST  
NO ONE**





# OWASP API Security Top 10 2023

- ➔ API1:2023 Broken Object Level Access Control (aka *BOLA*)
- ➔ API2:2023 Broken Authentication
- ➔ API3:2023 Broken Object Property Level Authorization (**Updated**) (aka *BOPLA*)
- ➔ API4:2023 Unrestricted Resources Consumption
- ➔ API5:2023 Broken Function Level Authorization (aka *BFLA*)
- ➔ API6:2023 Server Side Request Forgery (**New**)
- ➔ API7:2023 Security Misconfiguration
- ➔ API8:2023 Lack of Protection from Automated Threats (**New**)
- ➔ API9:2023 Improper Assets Management
- ➔ API10:2023 Unsafe Consumption of APIs (**New**)

BAD PROBLEMS USUALLY OCCUR WHEN MULTIPLE OF THESE ARE COMBINED



# Authorization Levels

```
"/user/{userid}": {  
  "put": {  
    Scan | Try it  
    "tags": [  
      "users"  
    ],  
    "summary": "edit user information",  
    "description": "user supplies valid token and updates all user info",  
    "operationId": "edituserinfo",  
    "parameters": [...]  
  ],  
  "requestBody": {  
    "description": "userobject",  
    "content": {  
      "application/json": {  
        "schema": {  
          "$ref": "#/components/schemas/UserUpdateData"  
        }  
      }  
    },  
    "required": true  
  }  
},
```

**API 5: BFLA** →

→ **API 1: BOLA**

→ **API 3: BOPLA**



# Parler Social Network (January 2021)

<https://apisecurity.io/issue-116-facebook-parler-api-vulnerabilities-clairvoyance/>

- The Attack
  - Not sure we can call this an attack, more like “write a loop and get the data”
- The Breach
  - 70 **TB** of user’s data
- Core Issues
  - No Authentication to access public posts
  - No Rate limiting
  - Sequential IDs
  - Leaked raw data about posts, including location
  - Deleted data was not deleted, just hidden in the UI

API1

API2

API3

API4

API5

API6

API7

API8

API9

API10

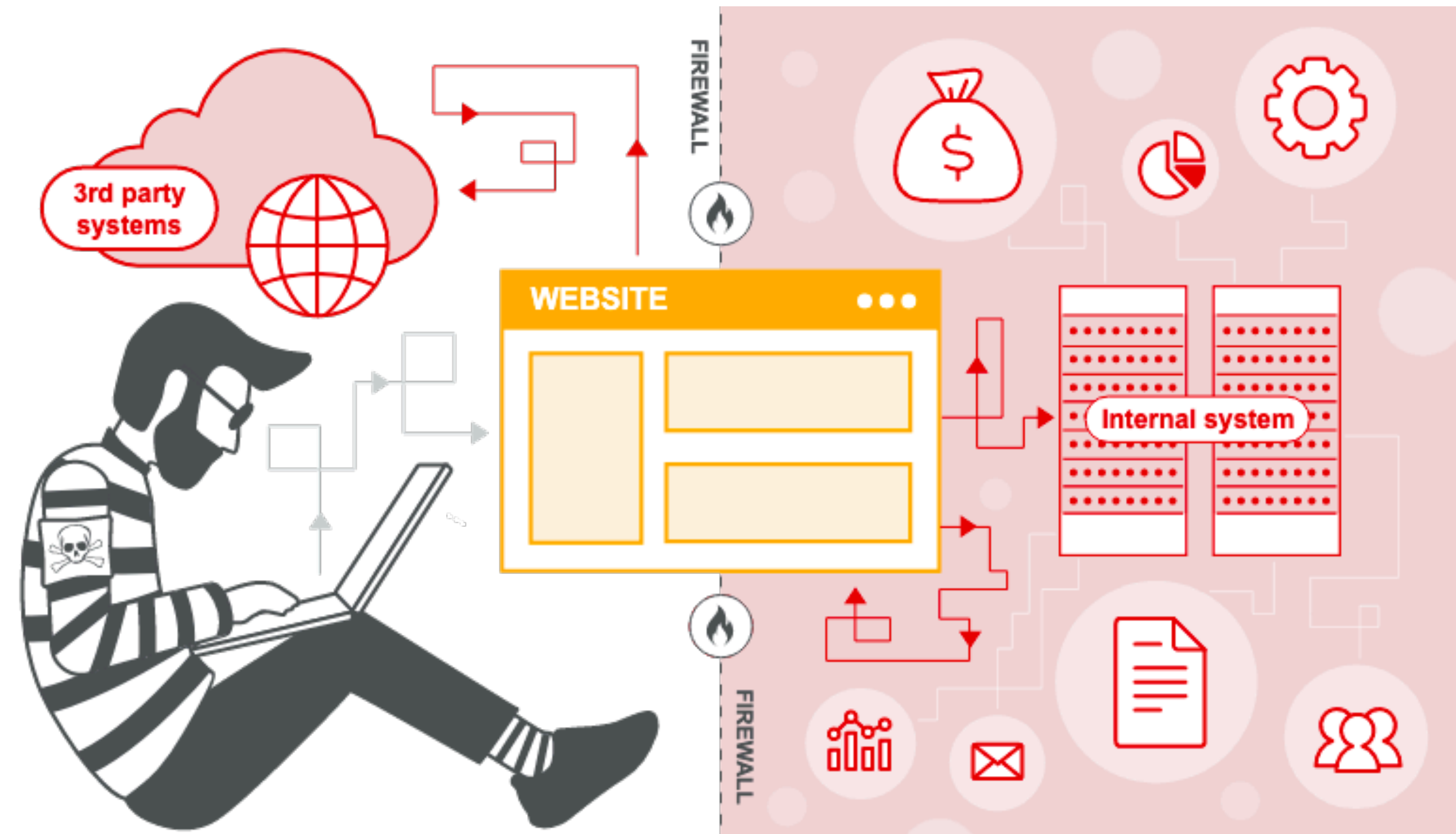


# New kid on the block: SSRF

Server-side request forgery is a web security vulnerability that allows an attacker to **induce the server-side application to make requests to an unintended location**.

Great intro: <https://danaepp.com/exploiting-ssrf-in-an-api>

Recent example:  
<https://ermetic.com/blog/azure/when-good-apis-go-bad-uncovering-3-azure-api-management-vulnerabilities/>

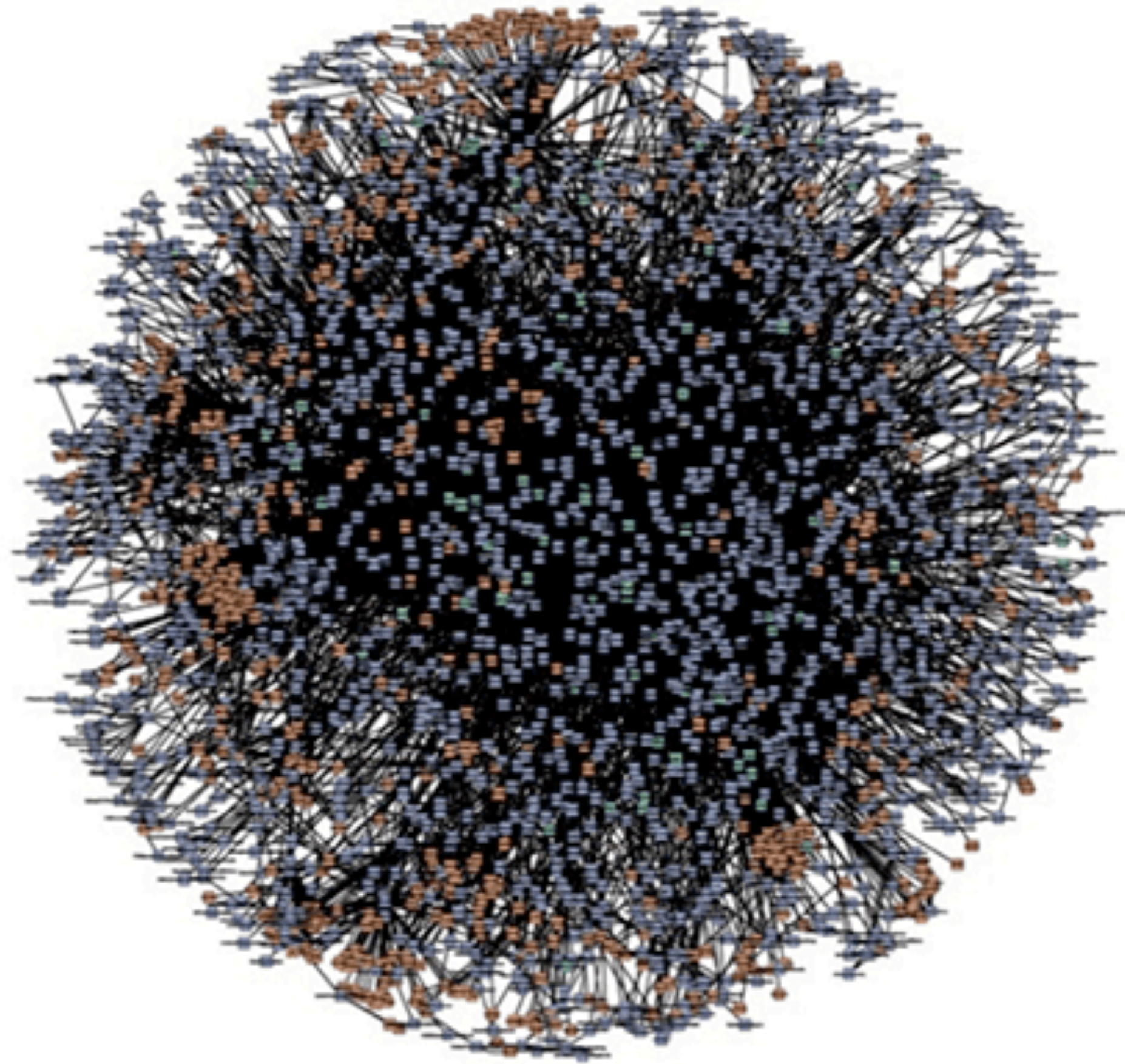




A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a mechanical keyboard. The background is a dark blue surface with a pattern of glowing green binary code (0s and 1s). A large, semi-transparent purple circle is centered over the keyboard. The person's left hand is on the left side of the keyboard, and their right hand is on the right side. They are wearing a silver watch on their left wrist and a black bracelet on their right wrist. A laptop is visible on the left side of the frame, and a pair of red headphones is on the right side. The text "So shall we use microservices ?!" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**So shall we use microservices ?!**





amazon.com®



Will you build your own Death star ?



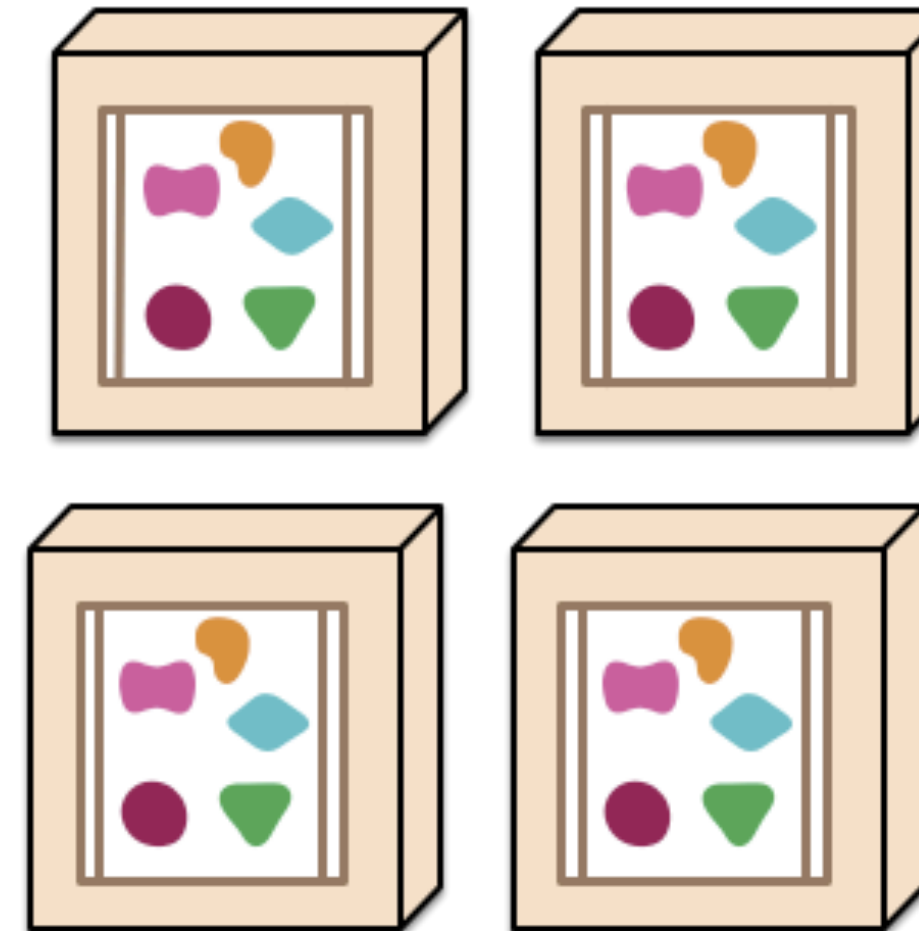
# Reasons to **use** micro/ macro/mini services

- Independent development of microservices
- Independent scaling of microservices
- Choice of development framework, even within the same application
- Cloud ready!

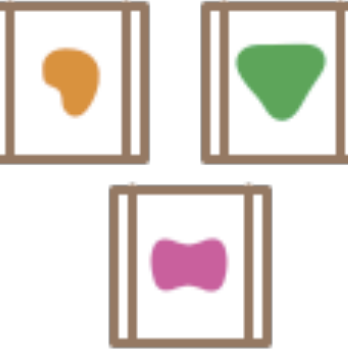
*A monolithic application puts all its functionality into a single process...*



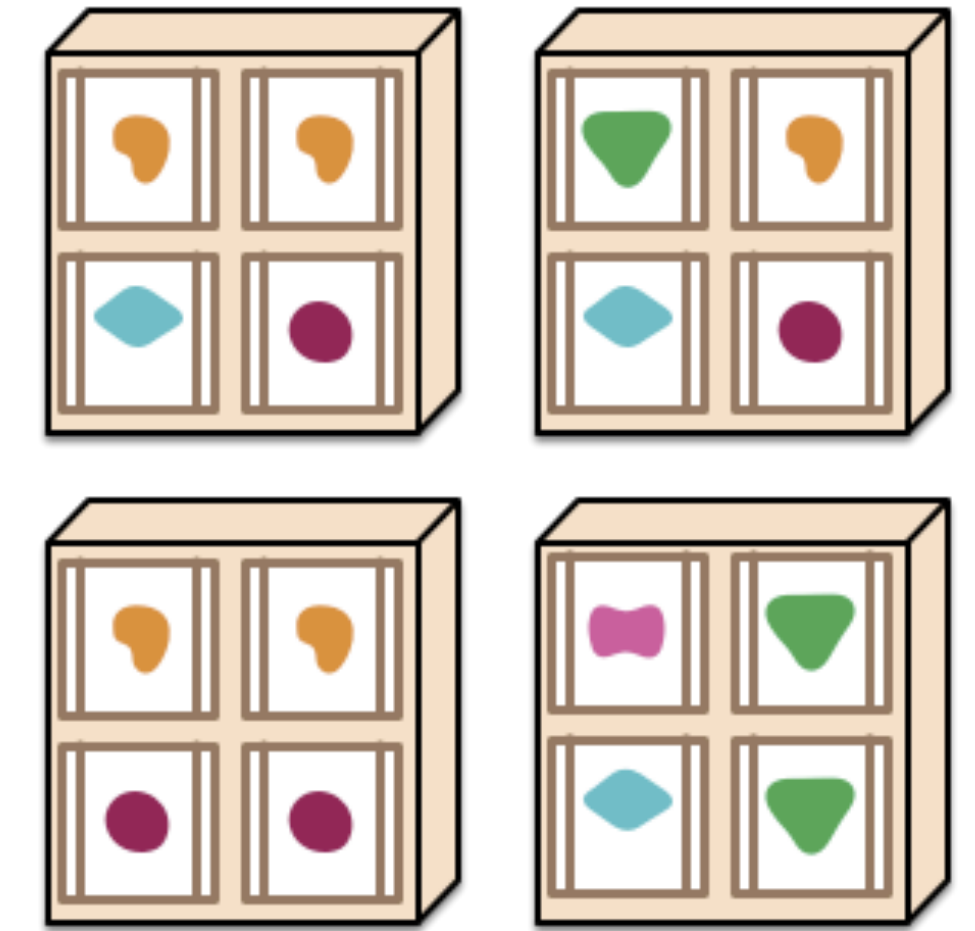
*... and scales by replicating the monolith on multiple servers*



*A microservices architecture puts each element of functionality into a separate service...*



*... and scales by distributing these services across servers, replicating as needed.*





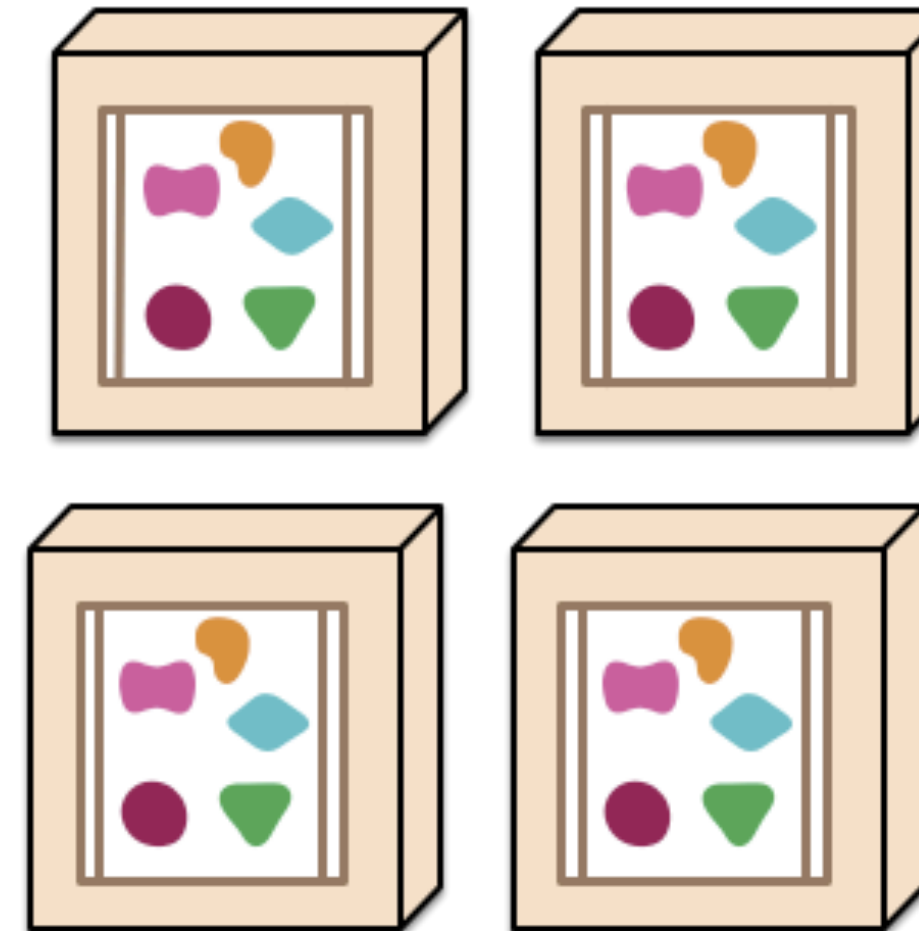
# Reasons to **not use** micro/macro/mini services?

- Independent development of microservices
- Independent scaling of microservices
- Choice of development framework, even within the same application
- Not Cloud ready...
- **None of this is coming for free...**
- **In particular, your attack surface is going to explode!**

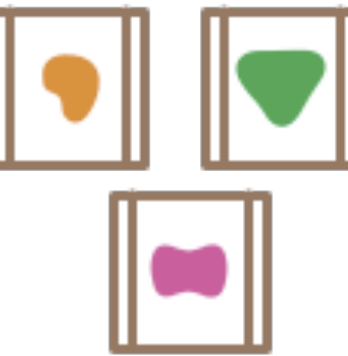
*A monolithic application puts all its functionality into a single process...*



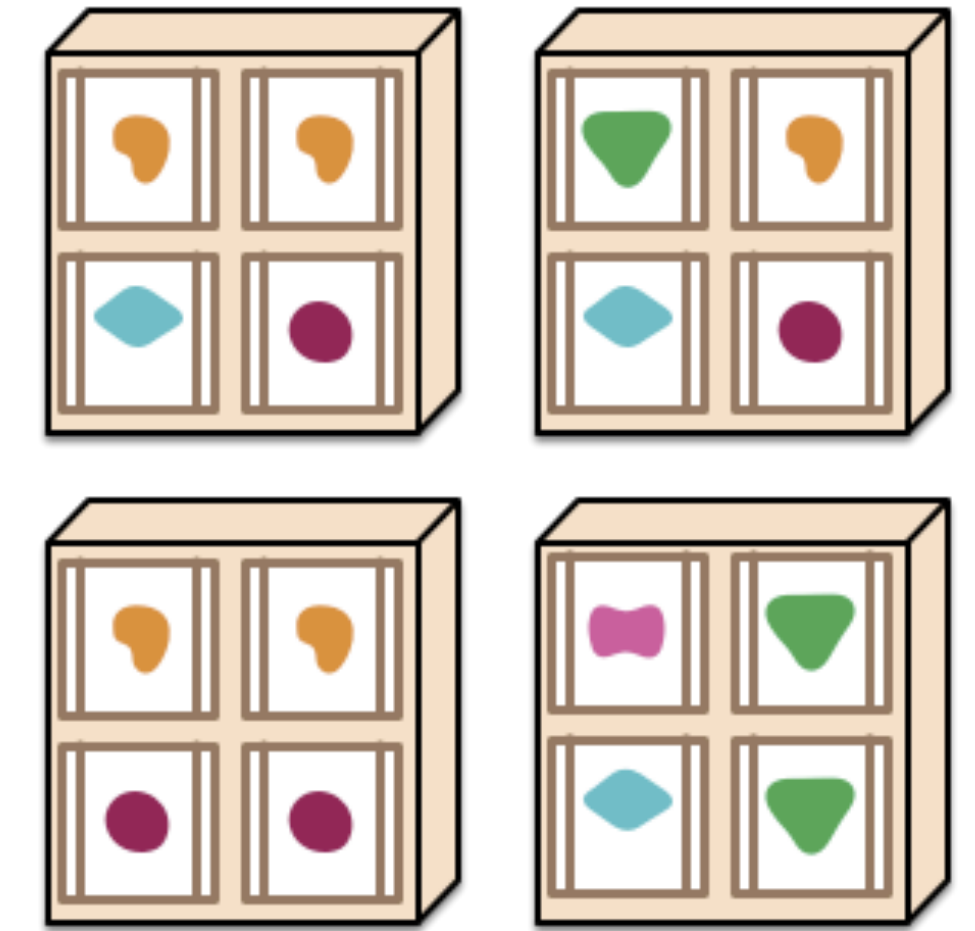
*... and scales by replicating the monolith on multiple servers*



*A microservices architecture puts each element of functionality into a separate service...*



*... and scales by distributing these services across servers, replicating as needed.*





# What could go wrong ?

---

- **API 4:** Microservices talk over network, not over process calls - So now you need to manage:
  - Timeouts
  - Availability
- **API 4 / API 3:** Data layer exposed as a service - We need defense in depth
- **API 7:** Multiples languages/frameworks being used: need to master the supply chain across all of these plus the infrastructure.







## Operations Challenges

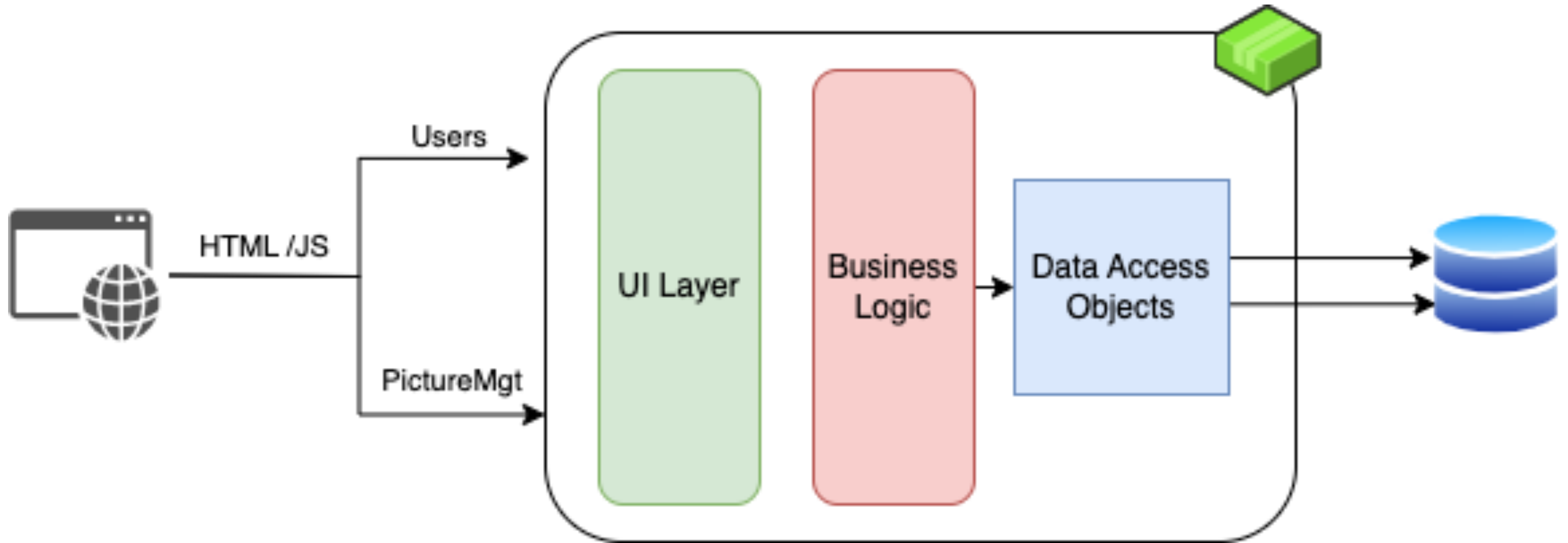
Automating (and securing) dozens of deployment per day.



A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a mechanical keyboard. The left hand is on the left side of the keyboard, and the right hand is on the right side. The person is wearing a silver watch on their left wrist and a black bracelet on their right wrist. In the background, there is a laptop on the left, a pair of red headphones on the right, and a smartphone in the center. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple circle in the center, and a background of green binary code (0s and 1s) is visible. The text "Ok - We have decided... Let's do this!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**Ok - We have decided...**  
**Let's do this!**

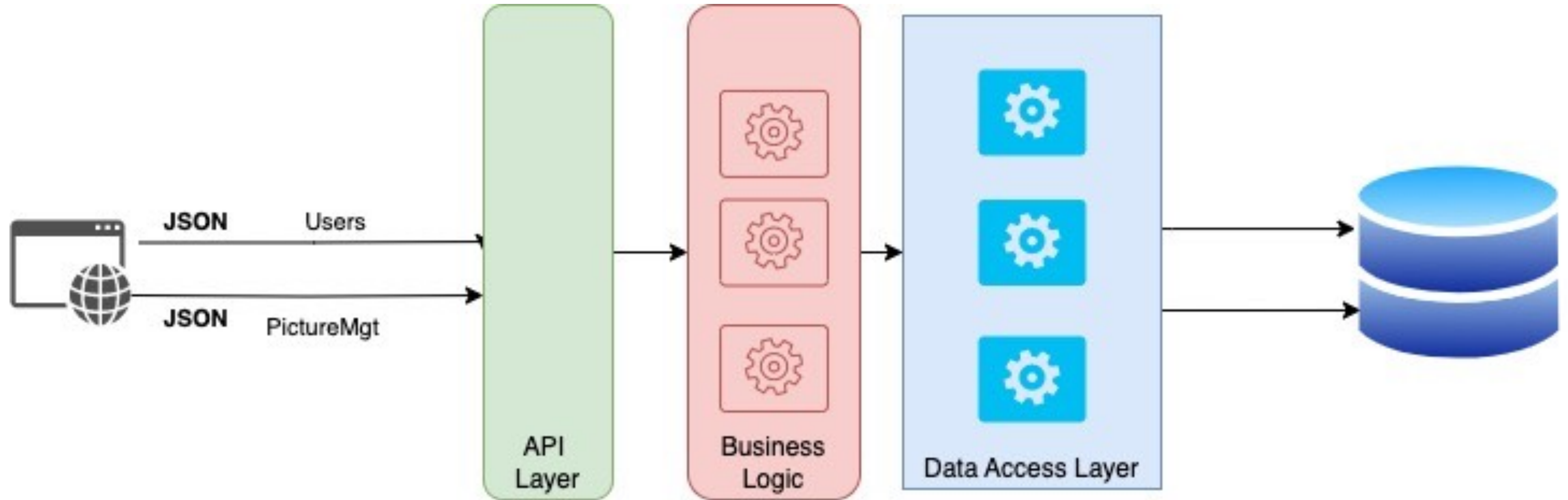




Our scenario

Picture Sharing Application

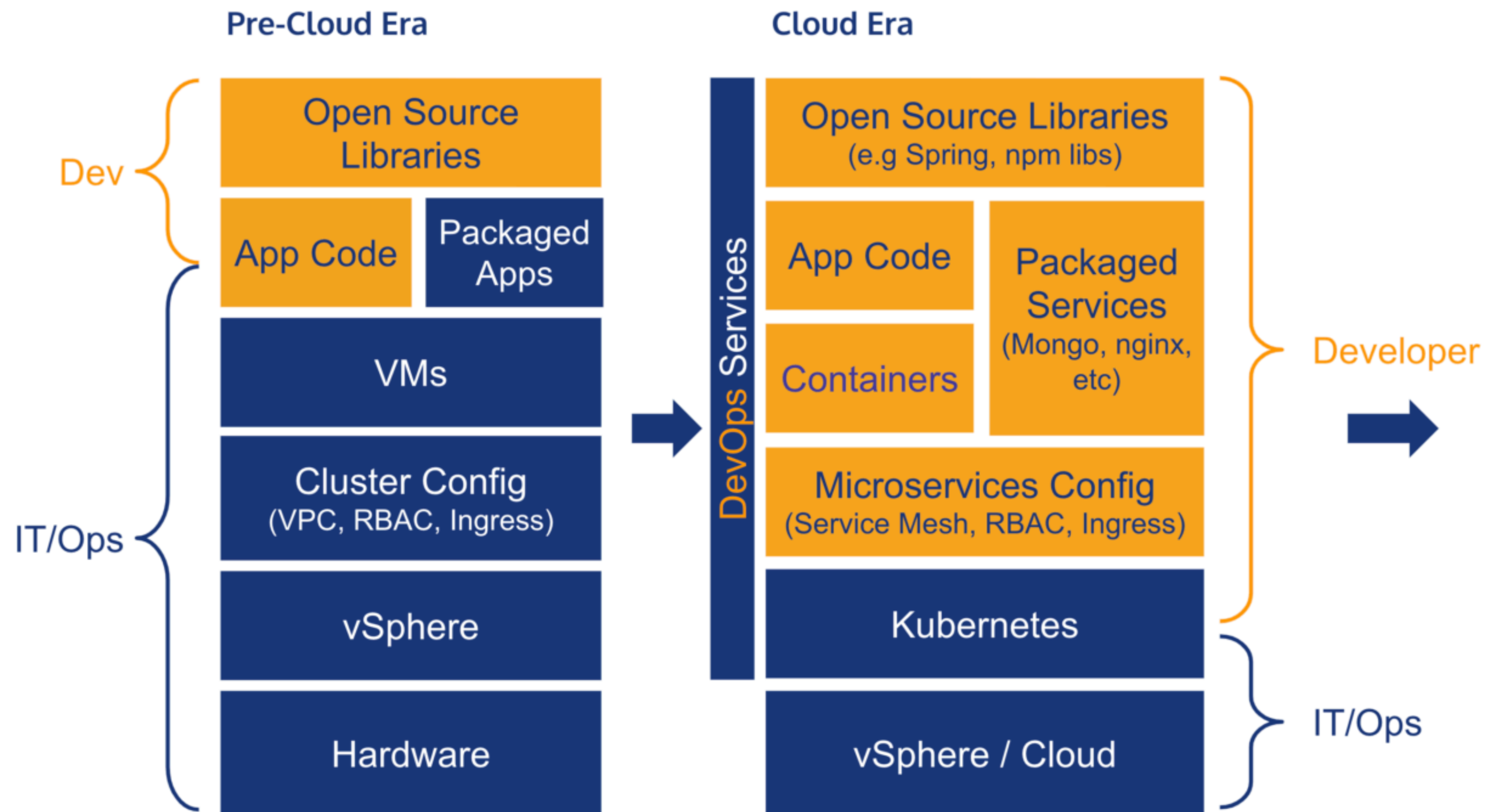




Target Architecture

Picture Sharing Application





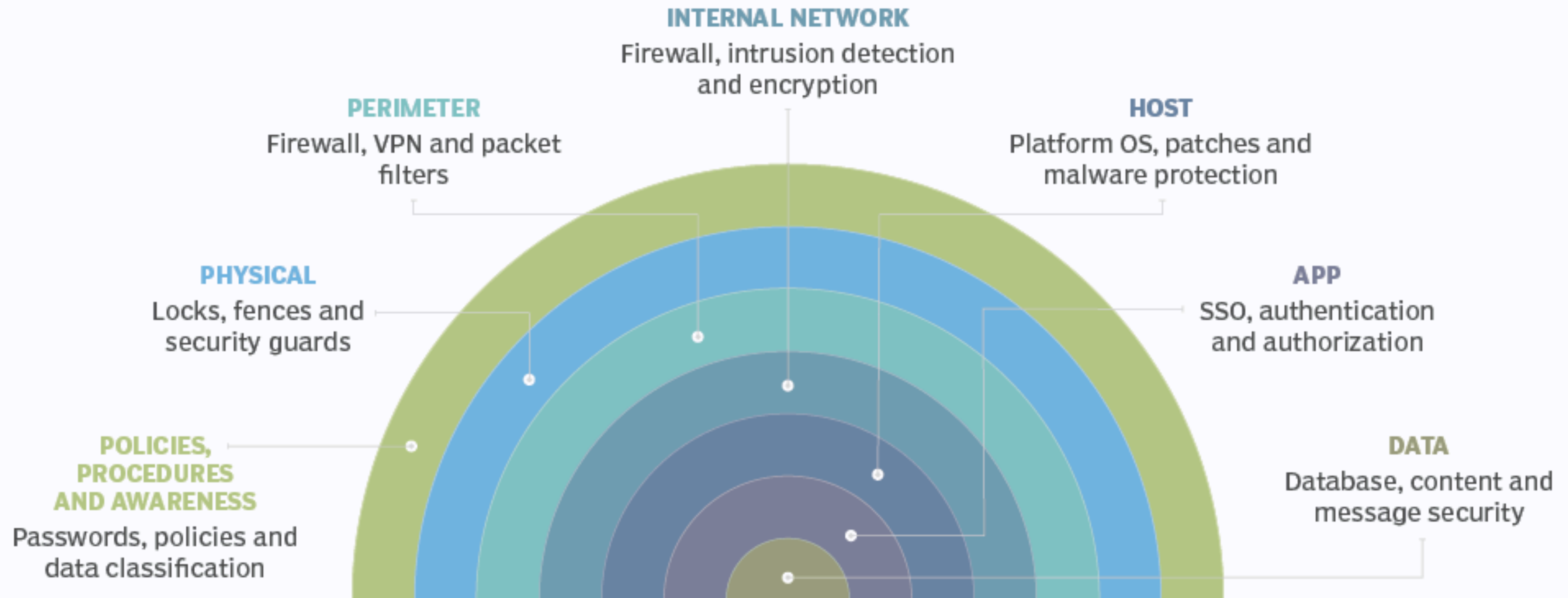
## The AppSec stack

Increased role/responsibility of developers.

From: <https://snyk.io/blog/cloud-transforms-it-security-appsec/>



# Defense-in-depth layers







Something like this...

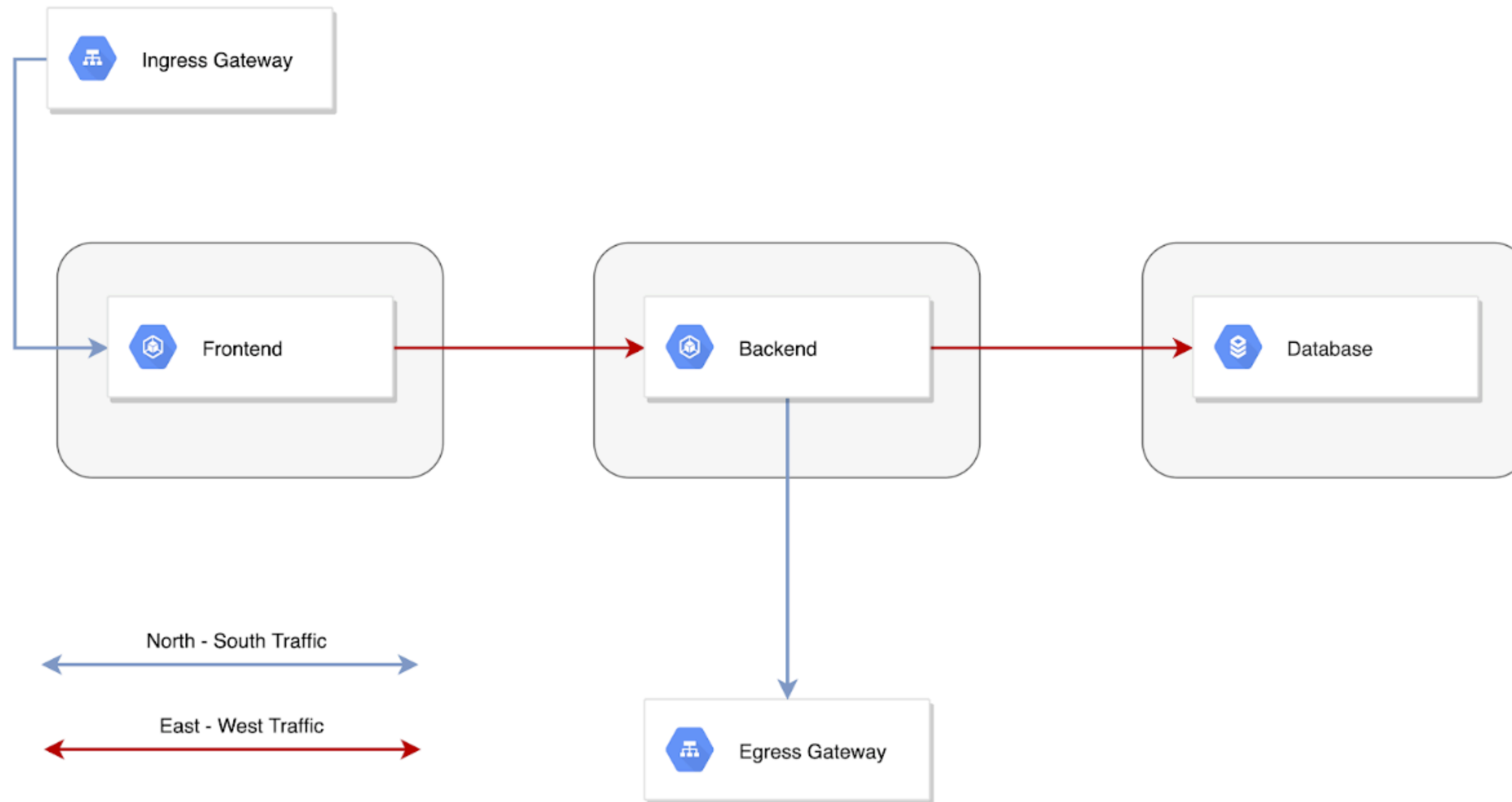


A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a mechanical keyboard. The background is a dark blue surface with a pattern of glowing green binary code (0s and 1s). A large, semi-transparent purple circle is centered over the keyboard. The person's left hand is on the left side of the keyboard, and their right hand is on the right side. They are wearing a silver watch on their left wrist and a black bracelet on their right wrist. A laptop is visible on the left side of the frame, and a pair of red headphones is on the right side. The text "Underlying Infrastructure" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# Underlying Infrastructure



# Traffic overview

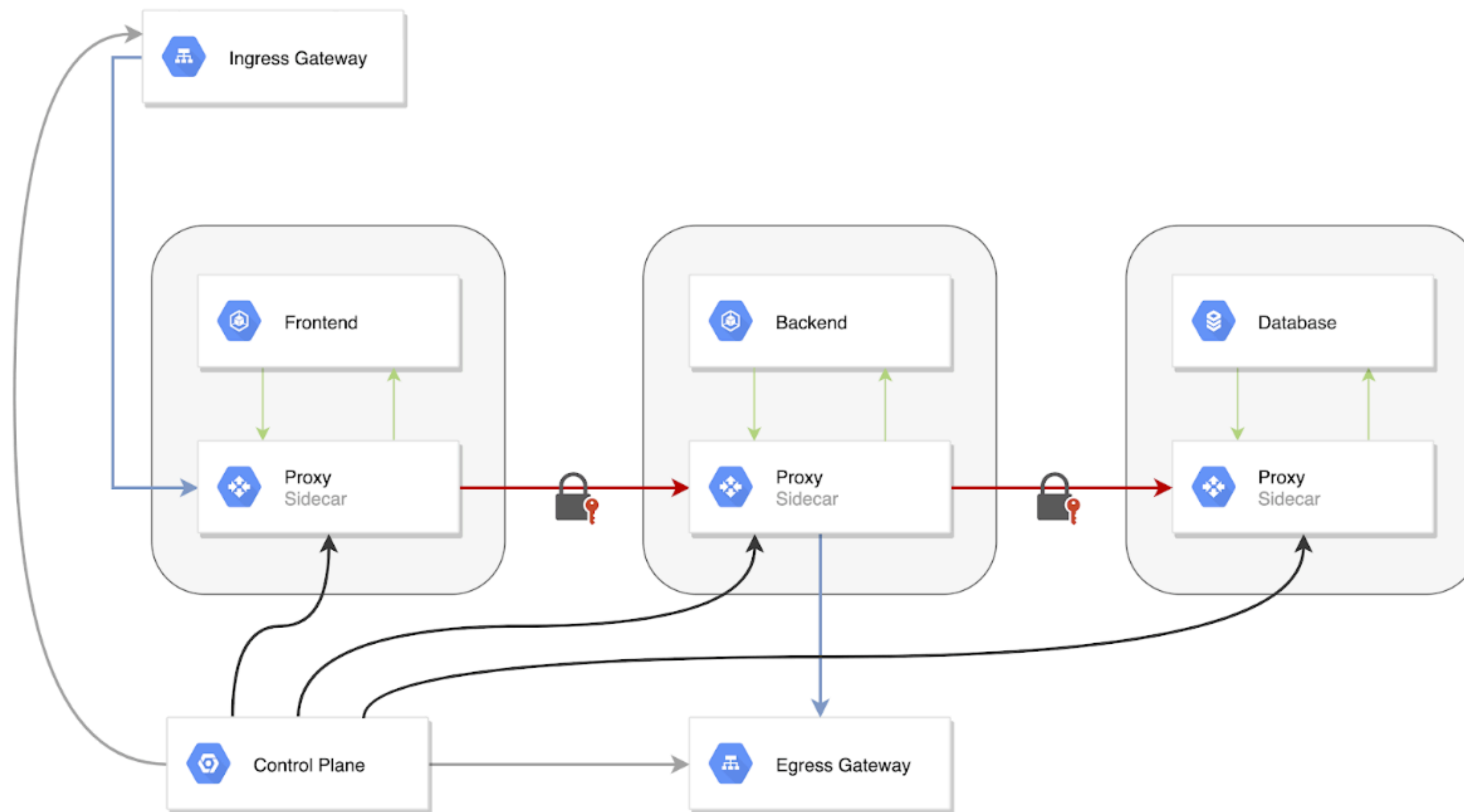


Why a service mesh?

- Traffic Routing / Encryption
- Scalability
- Resiliency
- Observability
- Service Discovery



# Service Mesh Traffic overview



Implementing a service mesh

Traffic is intercepted and enforced according to centrally managed policies



A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a mechanical keyboard. The background is a dark, blue-toned image of a desk with a laptop, a smartphone, and a tablet. A semi-transparent purple circle is centered over the keyboard. Overlaid on the entire image is a pattern of glowing green binary code (0s and 1s).

# Supply Chain Security



✓ Closed

5 tasks done

alex-drocks opened this issue on Oct 22, 2021 · 6 comments



alex-drocks commented on Oct 22, 2021 · edited



## Bug Report

ua-parser-js version 0.7.29 and higher contain malware  
[faisalman/ua-parser-js#536](#) (comment)

### Prerequisites

- ☒ I'm using the latest version of Docusaurus.
- ☒ I have tried the `npm run clear` or `yarn clear` command.
- ☒ I have tried `rm -rf node_modules yarn.lock package-lock.json` and re-installing packages.
- ☒ I have tried creating a repro with <https://new.docusaurus.io>
- ☒ I have read the console error message carefully (if applicable)

### Description

one of the dependency installed with npm install of the latest docusaurus version was hijacked by a malware executable file.  
See above mentioned github issue link where you will get more details.

#### Assignees

No one assigned

#### Labels

bug

#### Projects

None yet

#### Milestone

No milestone

#### Development

No branches or pull requests

#### Notifications

Customize

## UA Parser Hijacked

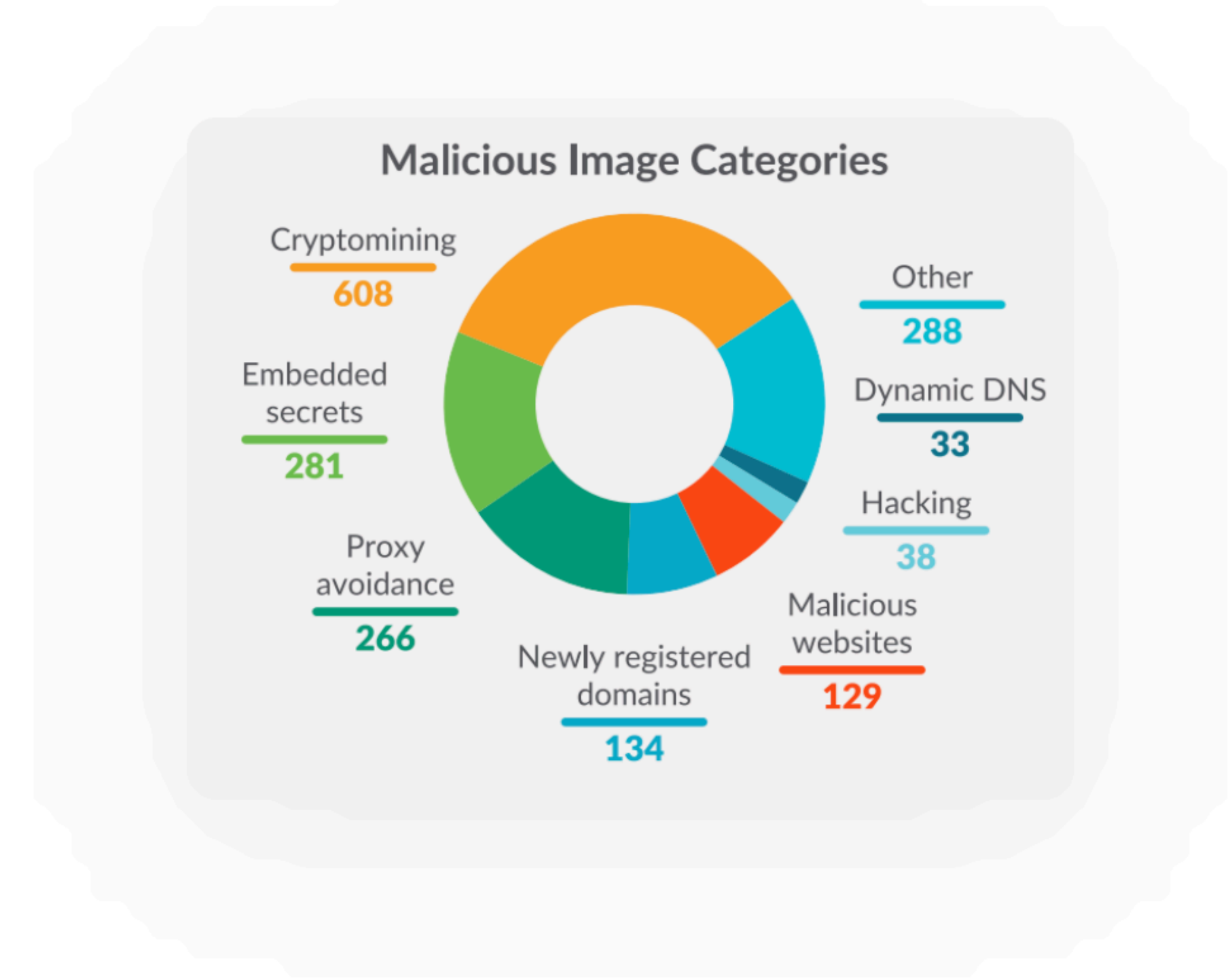
1600 NPM packages depend on this.  
<https://github.com/ua-parser/uap-core/blob/master/regexes.yaml>



# Analysis on Docker Hub malicious images: Attacks through public container images

BY STEFANO CHIERICI - NOVEMBER 23, 2022

SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)



CONTENT:

DOCKER HUB

TYPOSQUATTING, CRYPTOMINERS, AND KEYS

FINAL WORDS

HIDE –

[Supply Chain attacks](#) are not new, but this past year they received much more attention due to high profile vulnerabilities in popular dependencies. Generally, the focus has been on the dependency attack vector. This is when source code of a dependency or product is [modified by a malicious actor](#) in order to compromise anyone who uses it in their own

Also true of Docker images





Mike Pittenger

Vice President, Security Strategy, Black Duck



Last week, the consumer reporting agency Equifax [disclosed a major cybersecurity incident](#) potentially affecting approximately 143 million US consumers.

The breach should never have happened.

Equifax acknowledged on Wednesday, Sept. 13, that a patch for the [Apache Struts CVE-2017-5638 vulnerability](#)—the culprit—was available in March, well before the attacks began. However, Equifax had not updated the vulnerable software at the time of the breach, more than two months later.

As a result, criminals were able to exploit the vulnerability and gain access to Equifax files from mid-May through July of this year, more than four months after the vulnerability had been disclosed publicly.

Keeping up with all changes is  
**hard**



### More on Information Security



Stronger together

**RSA Conference 2023: Unity + Basics = Security**

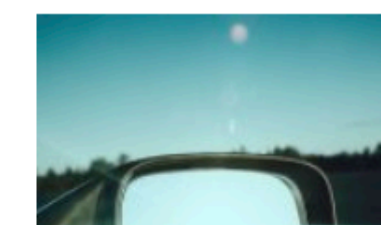
by Rik Ferguson



Up close and personal

**The Case for ISO 27701-Compliant PII Management**

by Mitesh Karamchandani, Vishwameet Chawla



Everything everywhere

**The Blind Spots of Data-Regulation Compliance**



A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a mechanical keyboard. The background is a dark blue surface with a pattern of glowing green binary code (0s and 1s). A large, semi-transparent purple circle is centered over the keyboard. The person's left hand is on the left side of the keyboard, and their right hand is on the right side. They are wearing a silver watch on their left wrist and a black bracelet on their right wrist. A laptop is visible on the left side of the frame, and a pair of red headphones is on the right side. The text "Authentication/Authorization" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image, partially overlapping the purple circle.

# Authentication/Authorization



# BrewDog Brewery

## Full Vulnerability Report

- The Attack
  - Complete take over.
- The Breach
  - Hard to tell.... Been like this for 18months+
- Free beers!!
- Core Issues
  - Authentication token hardcoded in application. All calls come with the **same token**



```
getUser:function(t){return
o.default.get("https://www.brewdog.com/uk/rest/uk/V1/customers/" + t, {headers: {'Cache-
Control': 'no-cache, no-store, must-revalidate', Pragma: 'no-cache', Expires: 0, Authorization: "bearer
y99a5p6dhqspwr51h5z9r6h7t0zuaw5x"}})},

getUserWithUsername:function(t){return
o.default.get("https://www.brewdog.com/uk/rest/uk/V1/customers/search?searchCriteria[filterGro
ups][0][filters][0][field]=email&searchCriteria[filterGroups][0][filters][0][value]="+t+"&searchCriteria
[filterGroups][0][filters][0][conditionType]=equals", {headers: {'Cache-Control': 'no-cache, no-store,
must-revalidate', Pragma: 'no-cache', Expires: 0, Authorization: "bearer
y99a5p6dhqspwr51h5z9r6h7t0zuaw5x"}})},

setMyLocal:function(t,s,n){return
o.default.put("https://www.brewdog.com/uk/rest/uk/V1/customers/" + t.id, {customer: {id: t.id, group
_id: t.group_id, email: t.email, firstname: t.firstname, lastname: t.lastname, store_id: t.store_id, website_i
d: t.website_id, custom_attributes: [{attribute_code: 'my_local_id', value: s}, {attribute_code: 'my_local
reset_date', value: n}]}}, {headers: {Authorization: "bearer y99a5p6dhqspwr51h5z9r6h7t0zuaw5x"}});
```

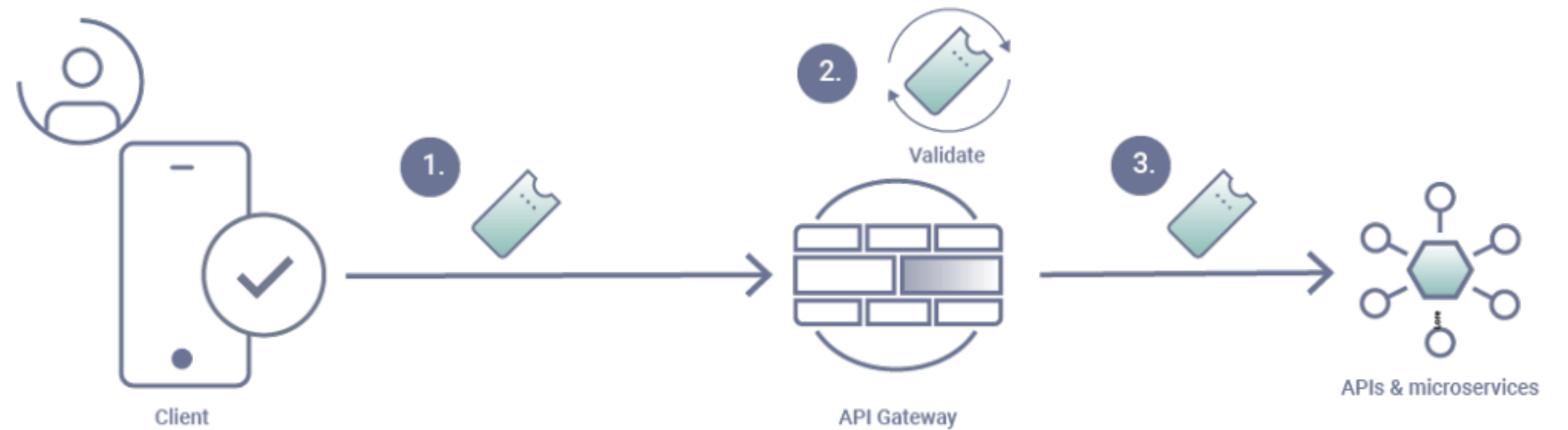


Your most sensitive endpoints are  
**authentication and password reset**  
endpoints.

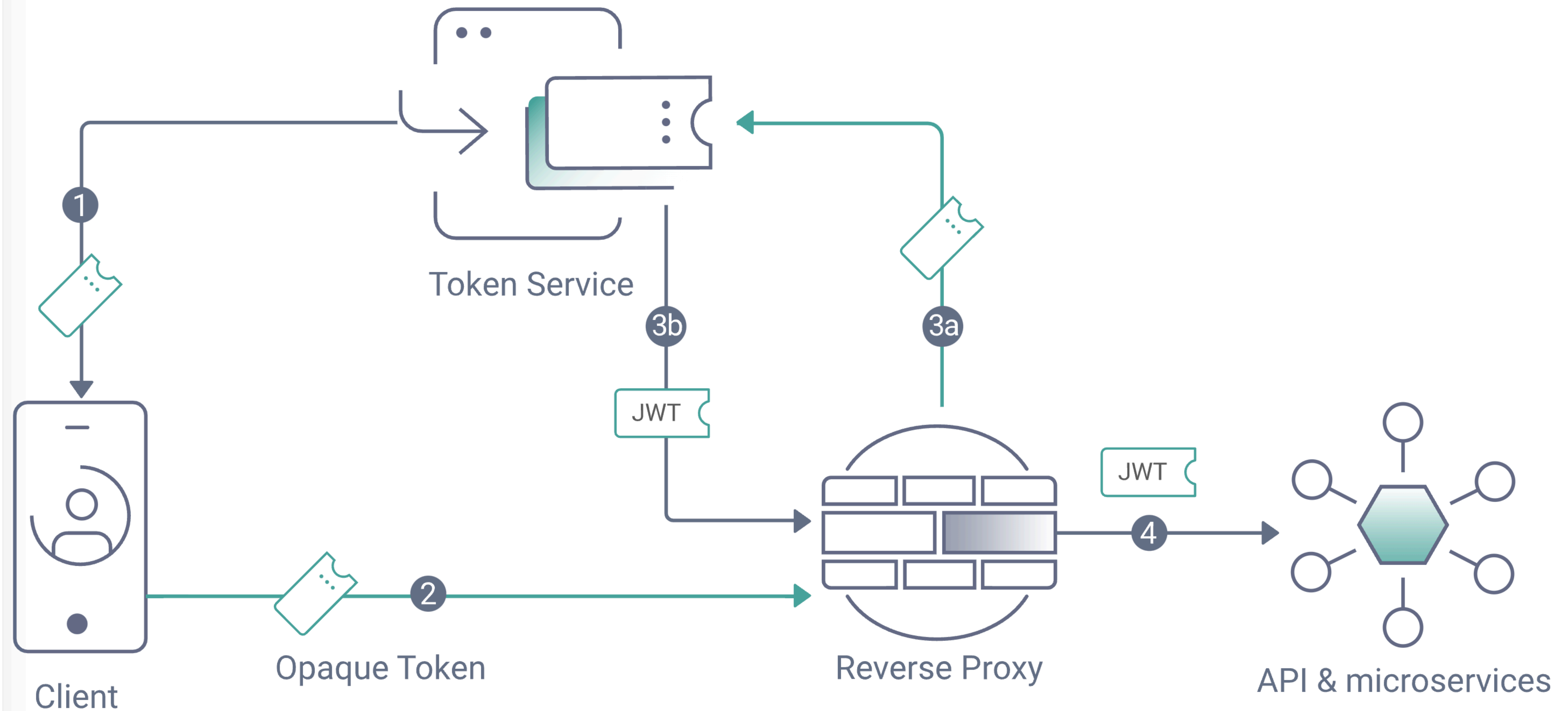


# Need Application Authentication

- Service Mesh gives micro service to microservice communication policies
- Knows nothing about the API traffic itself.
- Need to design how we are going to pass authentication information and authorization information to downstream services.







Phantom Token Pattern



# JWT Claims for Authorization

- Common pattern is to consume JWT claims to take authorization decisions
  - User role
  - Partner tier level
- **Before** anything else
  - Check the JWT contents against a JSON schema, both headers and claims
  - Token services/libraries will most likely test the obvious, but not custom data.
  - See **RFC 8725** for a complete check list

Algorithm

HS256

Encoded

PASTE A TOKEN HERE

Decoded

EDIT THE PAYLOAD AND SECRET

```
eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJzdWIiOiIxMjM0NTY3ODkwIiwibmFtZSI6IkpvaG4gRG9lIiwiaWF0IjoxNTE2MjM5MDIyLCJleHAiOiE1MTYyNDAwMDAsInVzZXIiOi0sIcm9sZSI6ImRldmVsb3BlciIsIkjVIjoimTIzNCJ9fQ.UH0RG32irMo2hL1E-pzUs93QdqZwHvinTtc0cIdbf2k
```

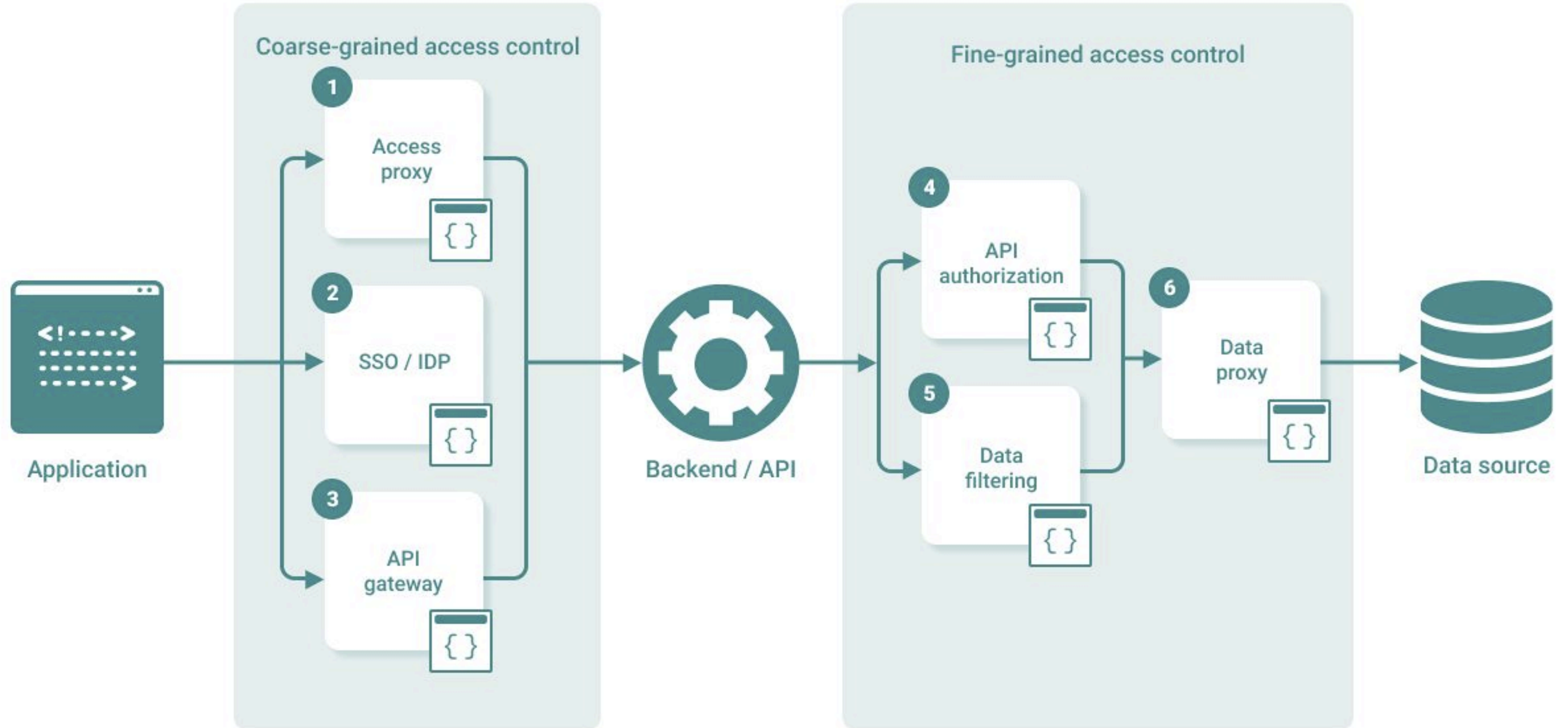
HEADER: ALGORITHM & TOKEN TYPE

```
{  "alg": "HS256",  "typ": "JWT"}
```

PAYLOAD: DATA

```
{  "sub": "1234567890",  "name": "John Doe",  "iat": 1516239022,  "exp": 1516240000,  "user": {    "role": "developer",    "BU": "1234"  }}
```





Authorization at every layer

In general, don't do this in the API/App code!



**OVERWHELMED BY THE  
AMOUNT OF MOVING PARTS ?**

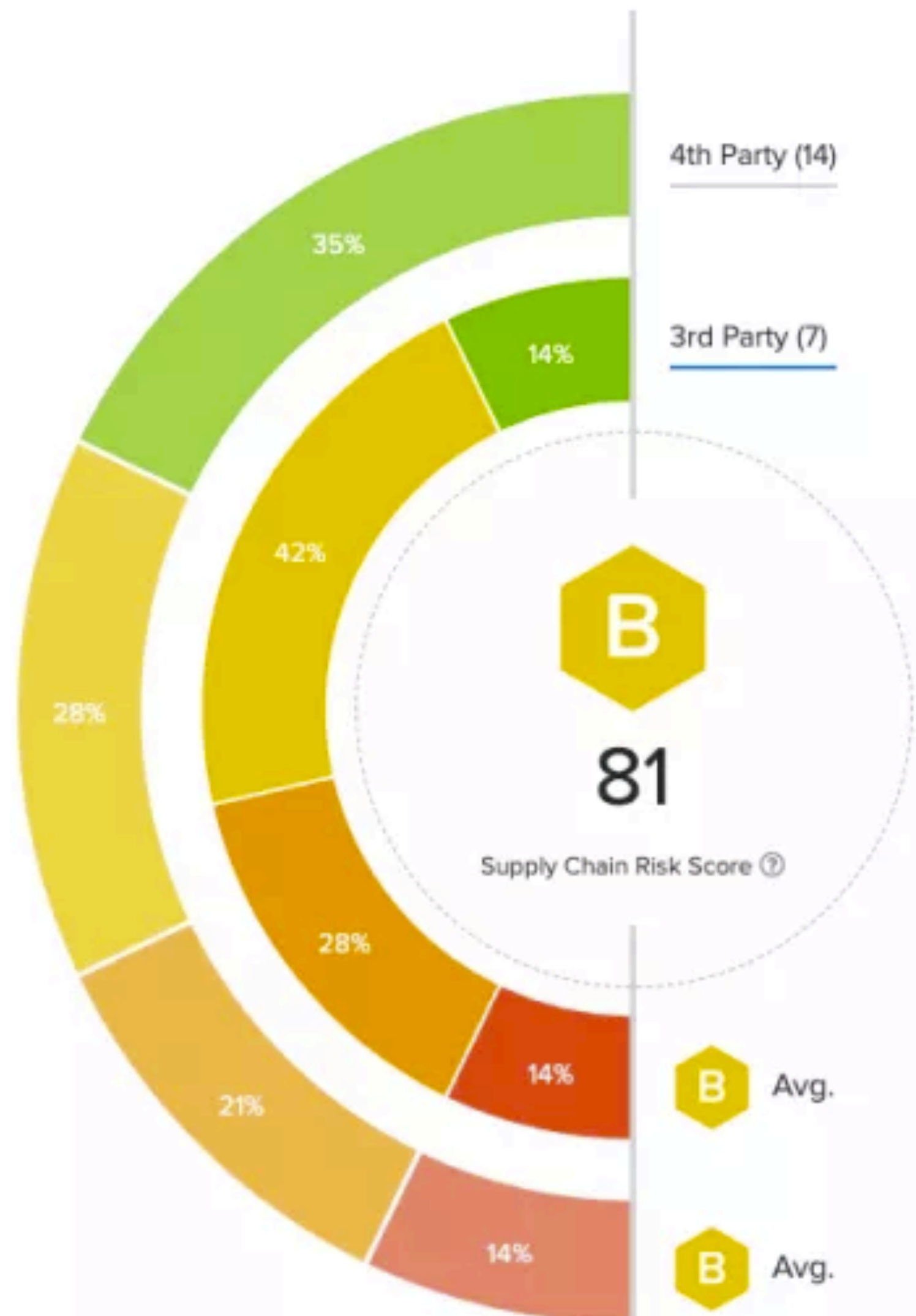






**YOU NEED  
PROACTIVE  
SECURITY**

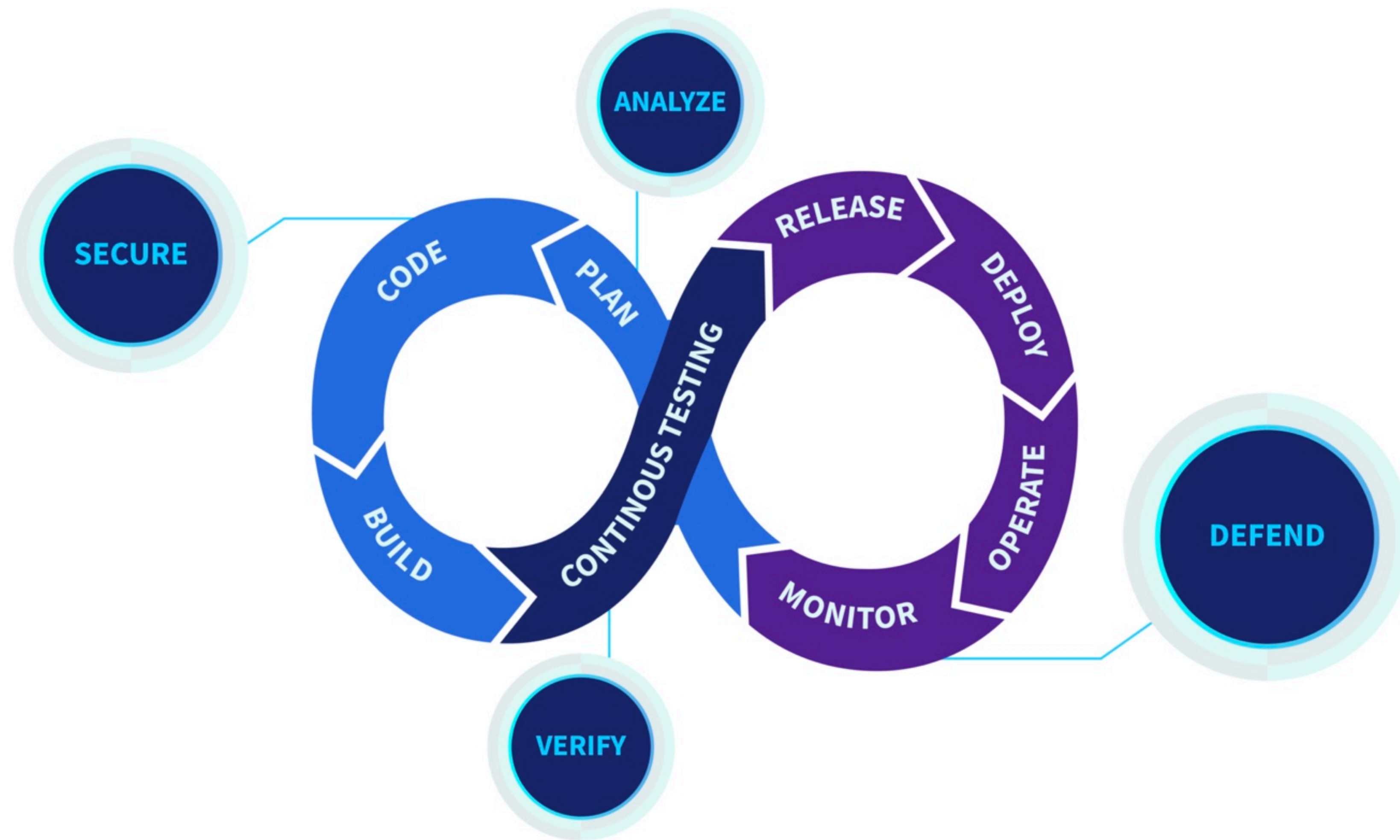




Columns Filters Search connections				
8 Send Atlas Questionnaire Export Add to portfolio				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Company	Score	Party	Linkage Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	MyGRC	D 65	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	EverLegal	C 79	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	CloudHosting LLC	C 79	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	PeopleOps Tools Inc	B 80	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	OvoMarketing	B 85	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acme Corporation	B 89	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago
<input type="checkbox"/>	Globex Corporation	A 90	3rd	Web Crawl 43 days ago

Automated vigilantes!





Security embedded in API Lifecycle



Thank  
you!

Code and Slides available at: <https://github.com/isamauny/secappdev2023>



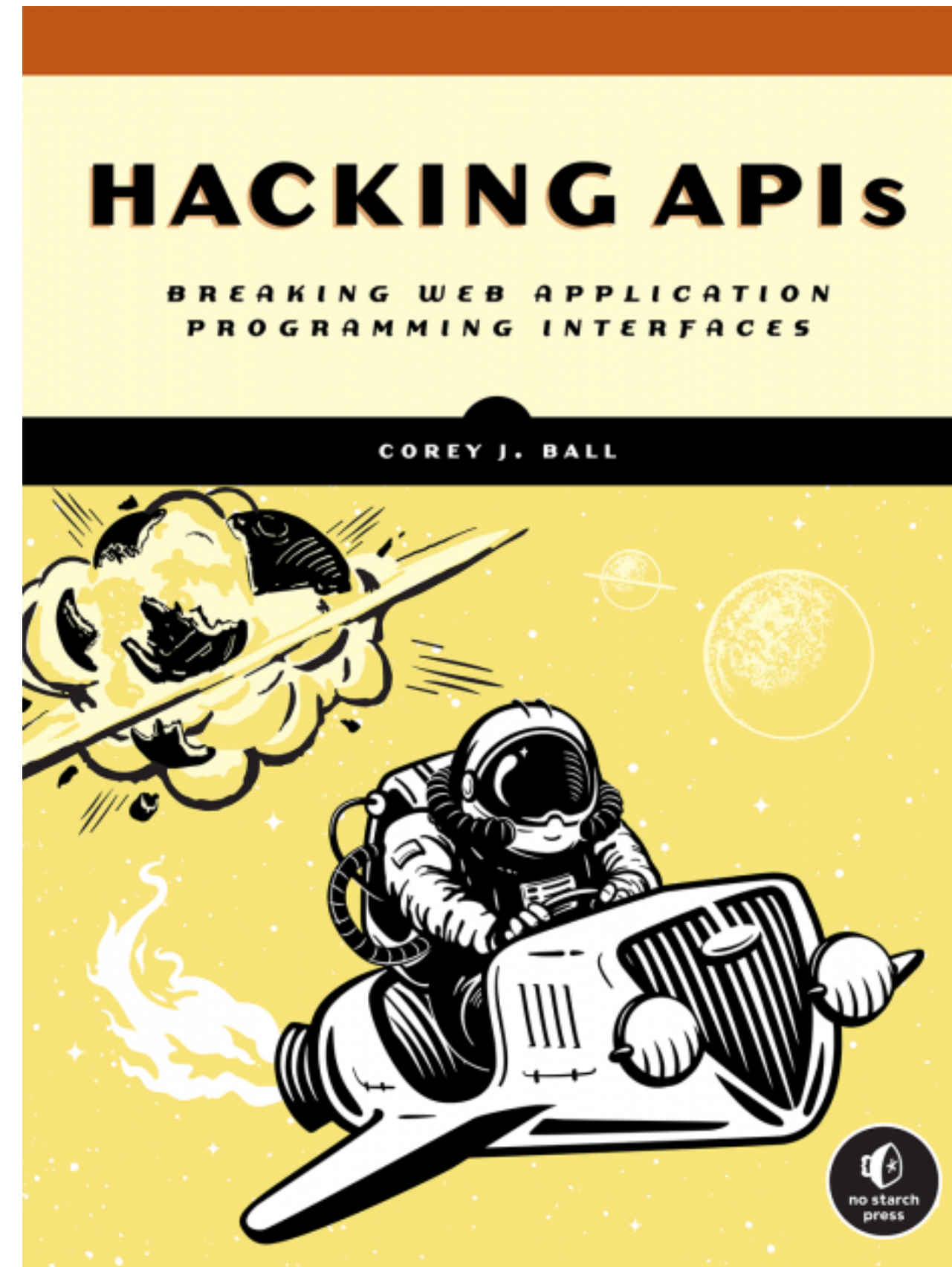
Learning more

APISecurity.io



<https://apisecurity.io/>

“Hacking APIs” - Corey Ball



<https://nostarch.com/hacking-apis>

Learning Application Security



[Buy the book](#)