



*Security Precognition: Crafting Secure & Resilient Systems using Chaos Engineering*

Name: Aaron Rinehart  
Title: CTO, Founder  
Organization: Verica  
Twitter: aaronrinehart  
Email: aaron@verica.io

## Aaron Rinehart, CTO, Founder

- Former Chief Security Architect @UnitedHealth
- Former DoD, NASA Safety & Reliability Engineering
- Frequent speaker and author on Chaos Engineering & Security
- O'Reilly Author: Chaos Engineering, Security Chaos Engineering Books
- Pioneer behind Security Chaos Engineering
- Led ChaoSlingr team at UnitedHealth



@aaronrinehart @verica\_io #chaosengineering

**VERICA**



*Incidents, Outages, &  
Breaches are **Costly***



**Be right back.**

We're making updates to the Apple Store. Check back soon.

[Update: Back to work!] Google Calendar is down, so forget about your next meeting and go to the beach instead

36

## Facebook's image outage reveals how the company's AI tags your photos



'Oh wow, the AI just tagged my profile picture as basic'

By James Vincent |

GOOGLE



## Apple iCloud services recover from nationwide outage

Service outages in Ireland have become a headache for tech companies and consumers alike

By Humza Aamir on July 10, 2019, 8 AM

- App Store
- Apple Books
- Apple Business Manager
- Apple ID

### System Status

- Cloud Account & Sign In - Issue
- iWork
- iBooks
- iCloud Bookmarks
- iCalendar

3 min res

Yesterday, Google Cloud servers in the us-east1 world as there was an issue reported with Cloud east1.

Home => Science & Technology => TweetDeck suffers outage, reason unknown

Science & Technology

## TweetDeck suffers outage, reason unknown

6 days ago



Popular

I could have do  
december 25th  
Jersey

16 hours ago

Sept 21 morenz,  
injury wholesal  
17 hours ago

# An Obvious

# Problem

## Cloudflare suffers another major outage

this major outage in a matter of weeks

Complete our short survey and you could win one of ten \$50 Amazon vouchers.

Image may contain: 1 person, outdoor

Image may contain: 1 person, sky, outdoor

Image may contain: 2 people, people

*Why* do they  
seem to be  
happening more  
often?

# Combating Complexity in Software

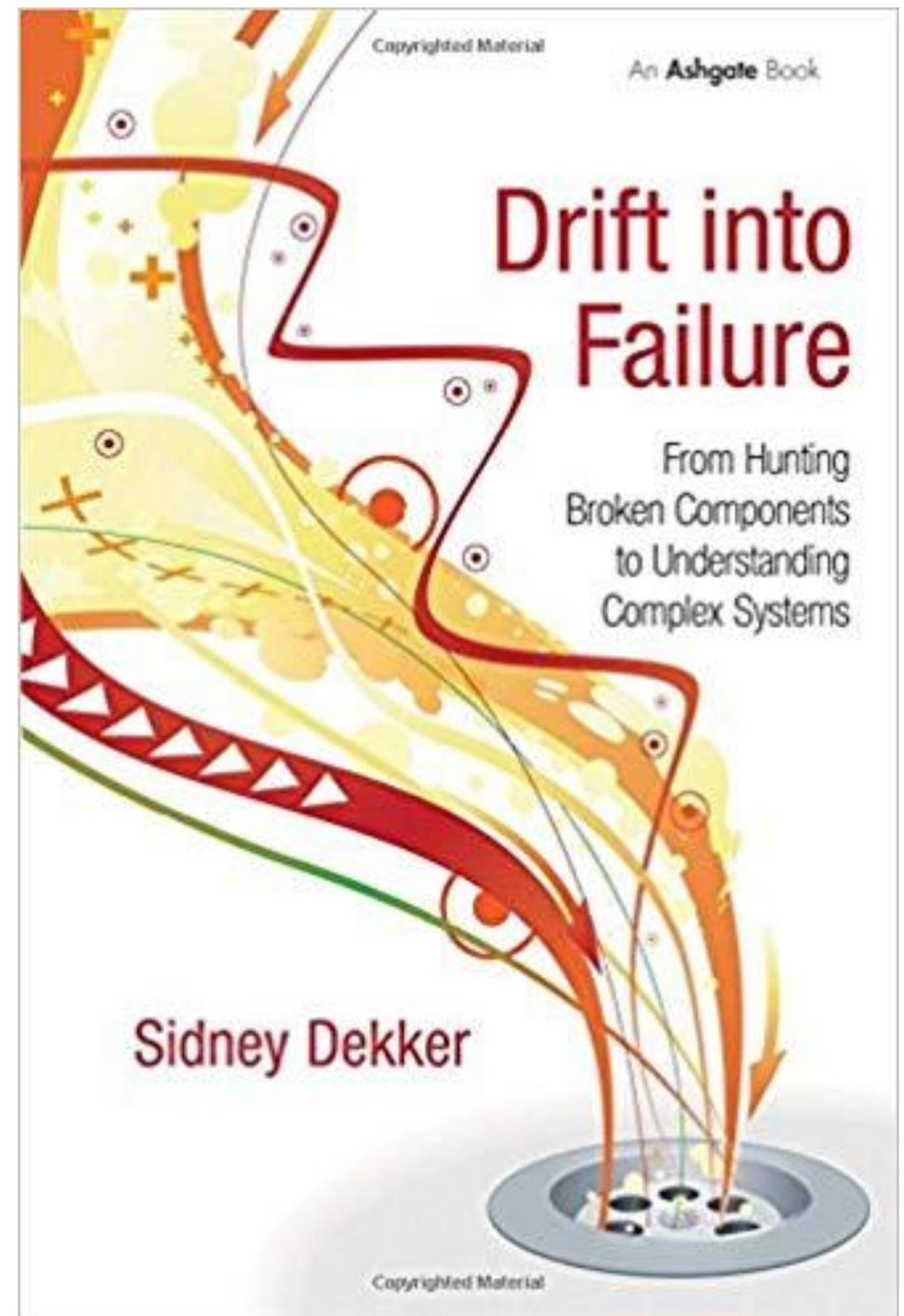


@aaronrinehart

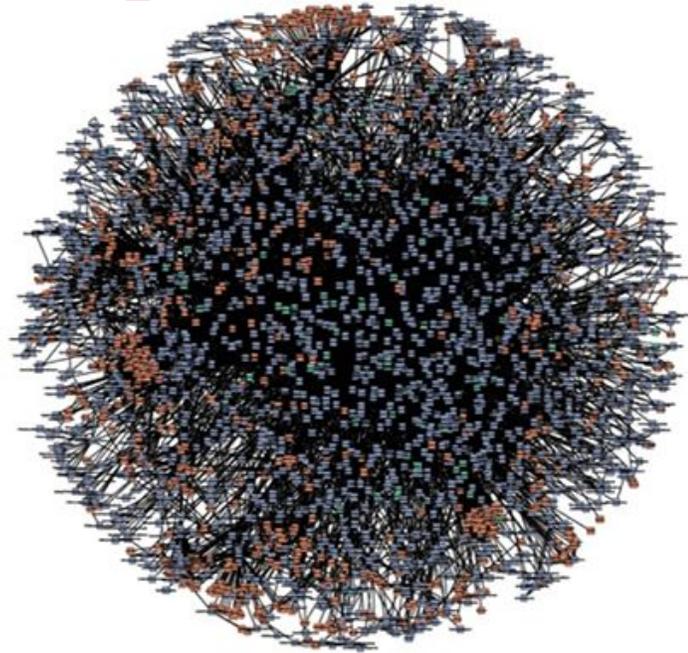
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*“The growth of complexity in society has got ahead of our understanding of how complex systems work and fail”*

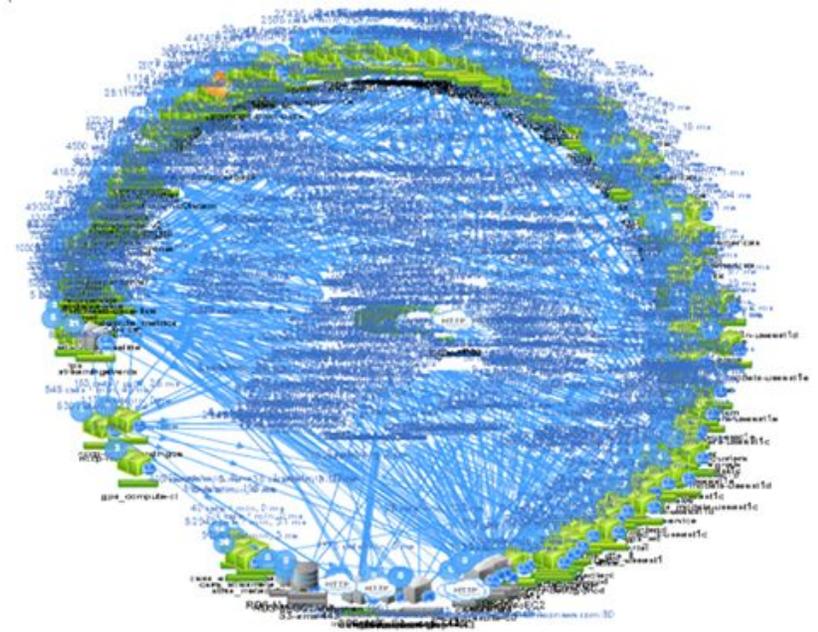
**-Sydney Dekker**



*Our systems have evolved beyond human ability to mentally model their behavior.*

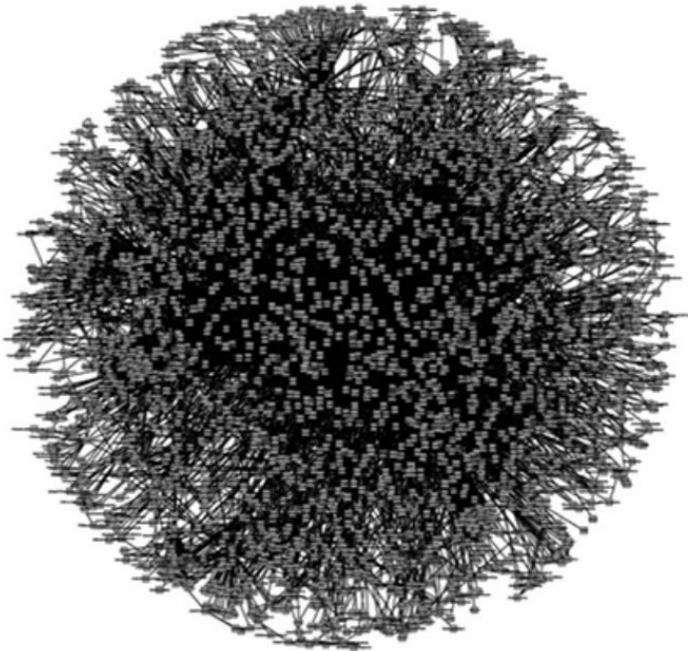


amazon.com

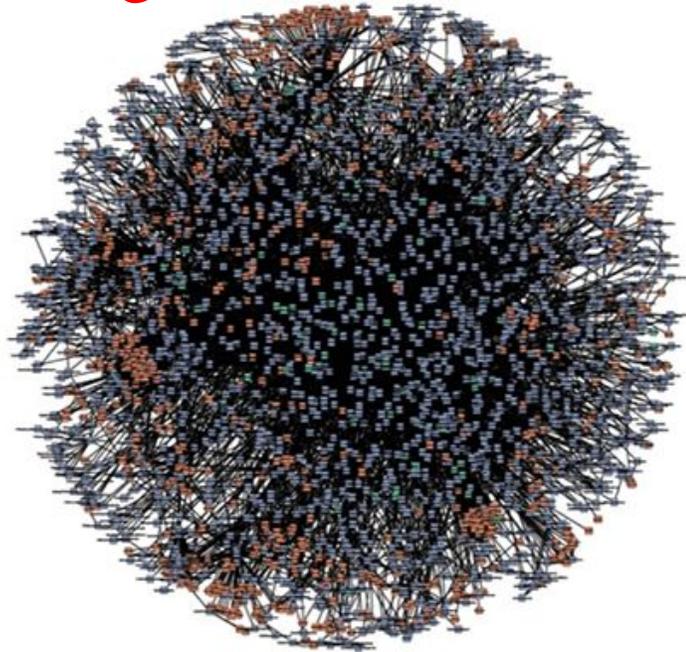


NETFLIX

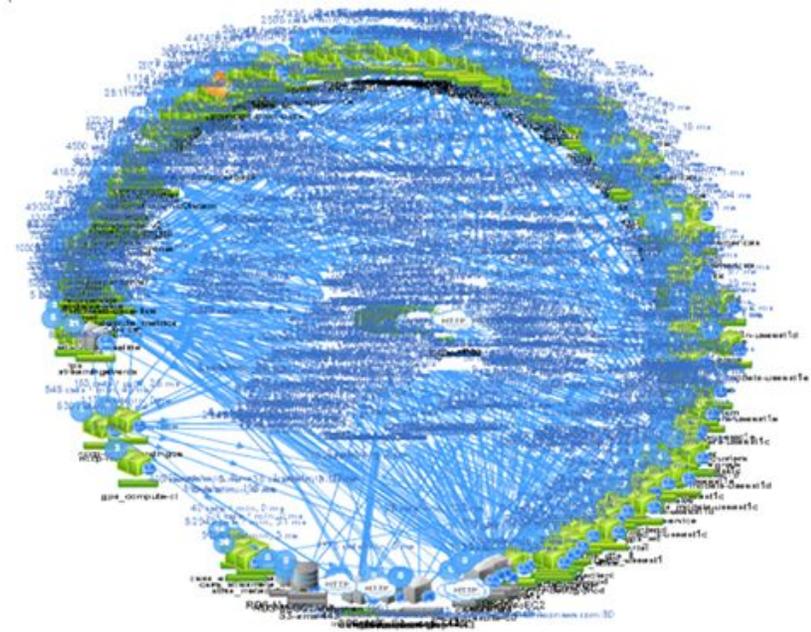
*Our systems have evolved beyond human ability to mentally model their behavior.*



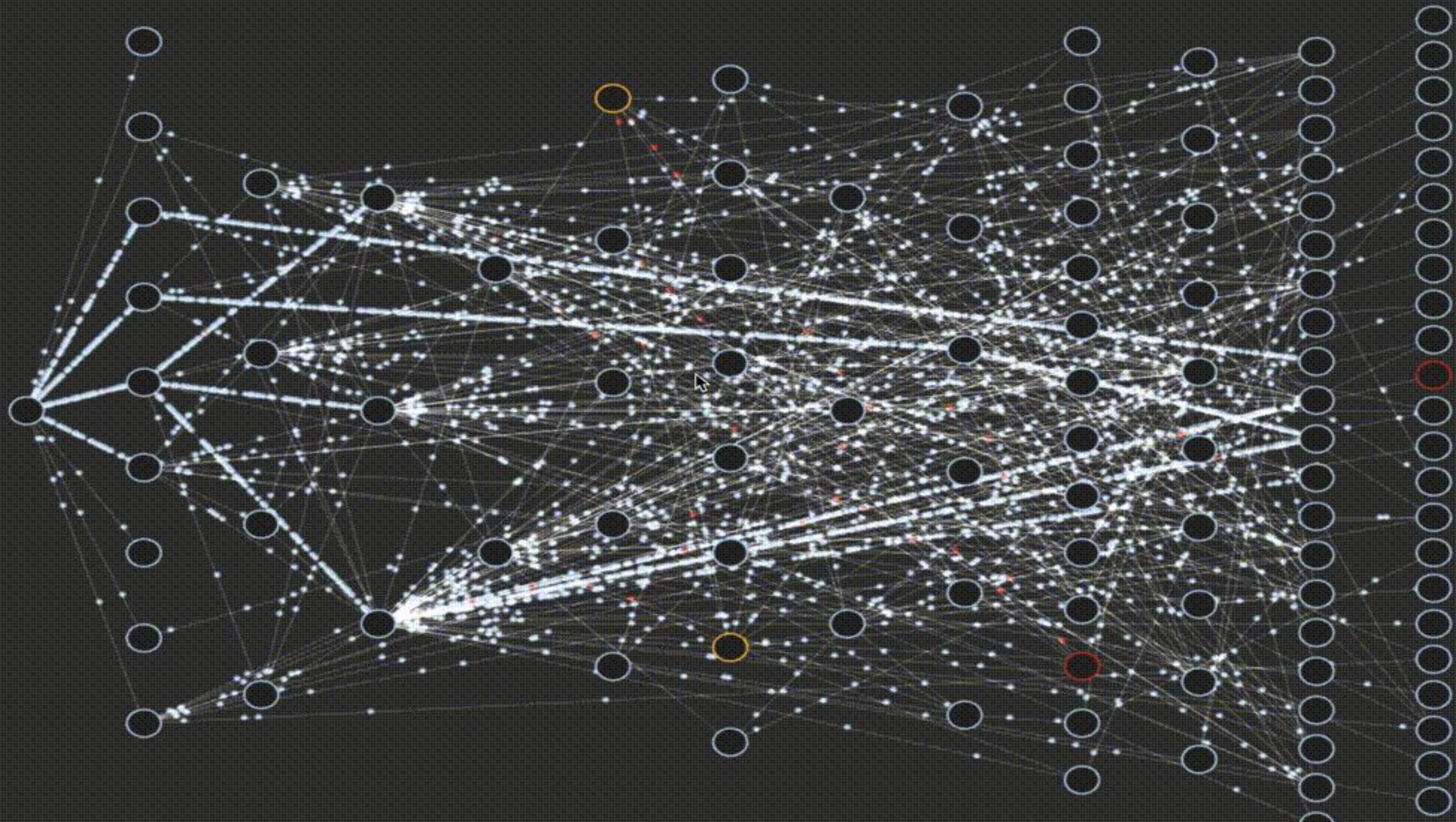
everyone else



amazon.com



NETFLIX



# Complex?

Continuous Delivery  
Distributed Systems

Blue/Green  
Deployments

Containers

Infracode

DevOps

Immutable  
Infrastructure

Service Mesh

Circuit Breaker Patterns

API

# Microservice Architectures

Automation Pipelines

Continuous  
Integration <sup>CI/CD</sup>

Cloud

Computing

Auto Canaries

# Security?

Mostly  
Monolithic

Prevention  
focused

Defense in  
Depth

Expert  
Systems

Poorly Aligned

Requires  
Domain  
Knowledge

Stateful in  
nature

Adversary Focused

DevSecOps not  
widely adopted

*Simplify?*



*Software has  
officially  
taken over*

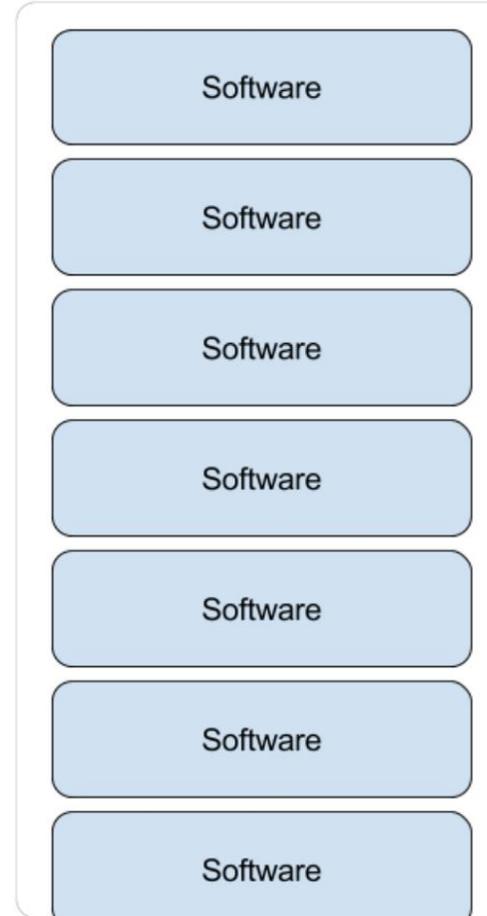


Justin Garrison  
@rothgar

Following



The new OSI model is much easier to understand



11:22 AM - 18 Jul 2017

2,754 Retweets 3,895 Likes



93 2.8K 3.9K

# Software Only Increases in Complexity

More Abstract

Scripting / interpreted languages

Perl, Python, Shell, Java

High / middle level languages

C, C++

Assembly language

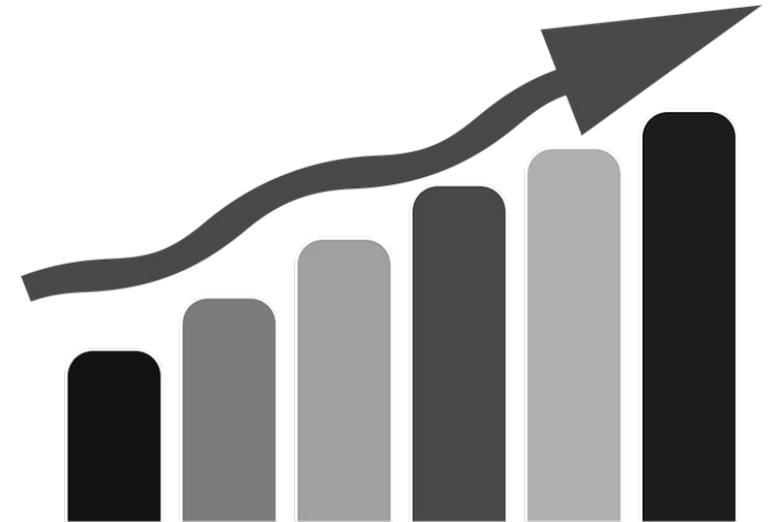
Intel X86, etc (first layer of human-readable code)

Machine code

Hexidecimal representations of binary code read by the operating system

Binary code

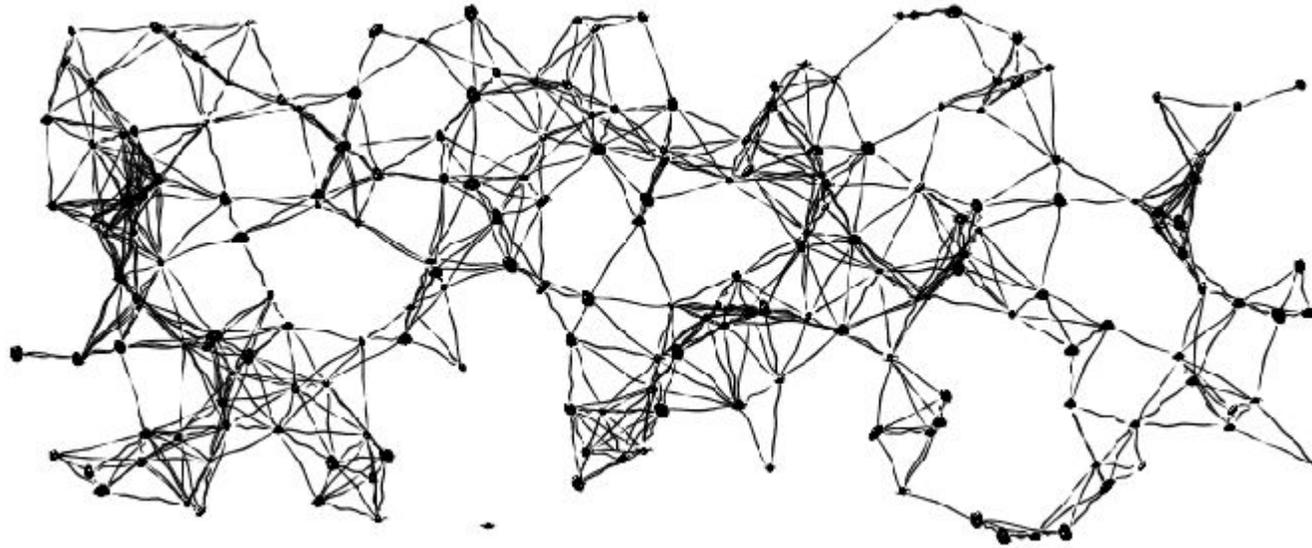
Binary code read by hardware - not human-readable



# Software Complexity

*Accidental*

*Essential*



# ***Woods Theorem:***

*“As the complexity of a system increases, the accuracy of any single agent’s own model of that system decreases”*

***- Dr. David Woods***

*What does this have to do  
with my systems?*

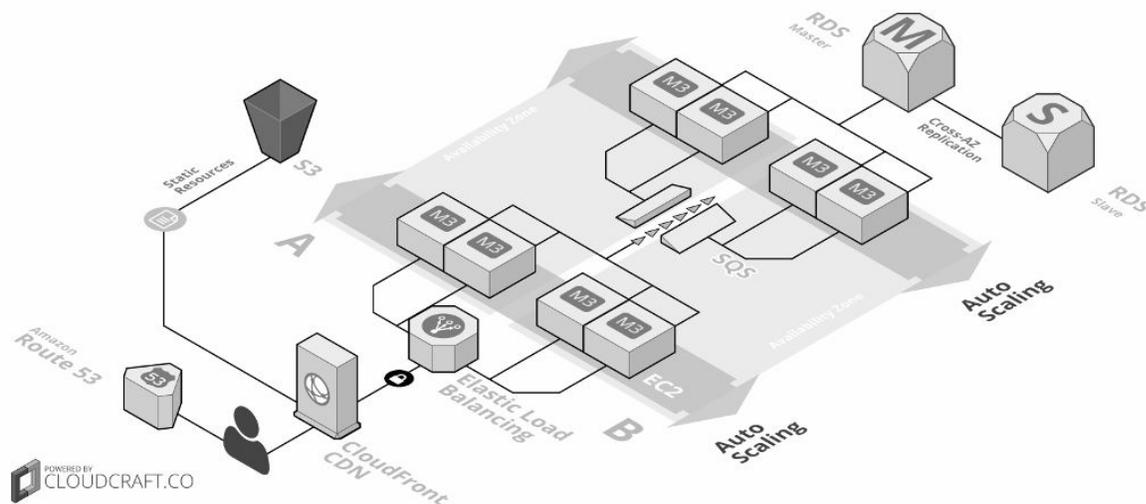
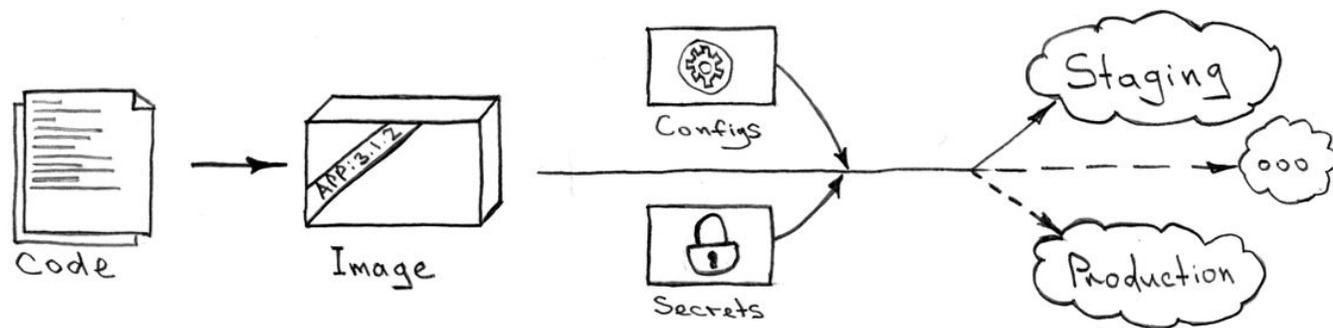
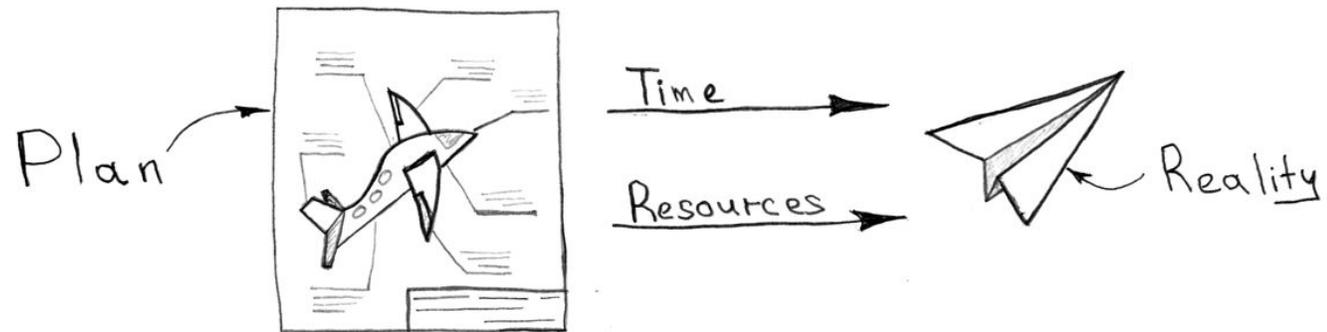


*Question - How well do you really understand how your system works?*





*In the beginning...we think it looks like*



# After a few months....

Hard Coded Passwords Network is Unreliable

New Security Tool Autoscaling Keeps Breaking

Identity Conflicts

Refactor Pricing

Rolling Sevl  
Outage on Portal

Regulatory  
Audit

Lead Software  
Engineering finds a new  
job at Google

Cloud Provider API  
Outage

Code Freeze

Expired Certificate

DNS Resolution  
Errors

300 Microservices  $\Delta$ -> 850 Microservices

Scalability Issues

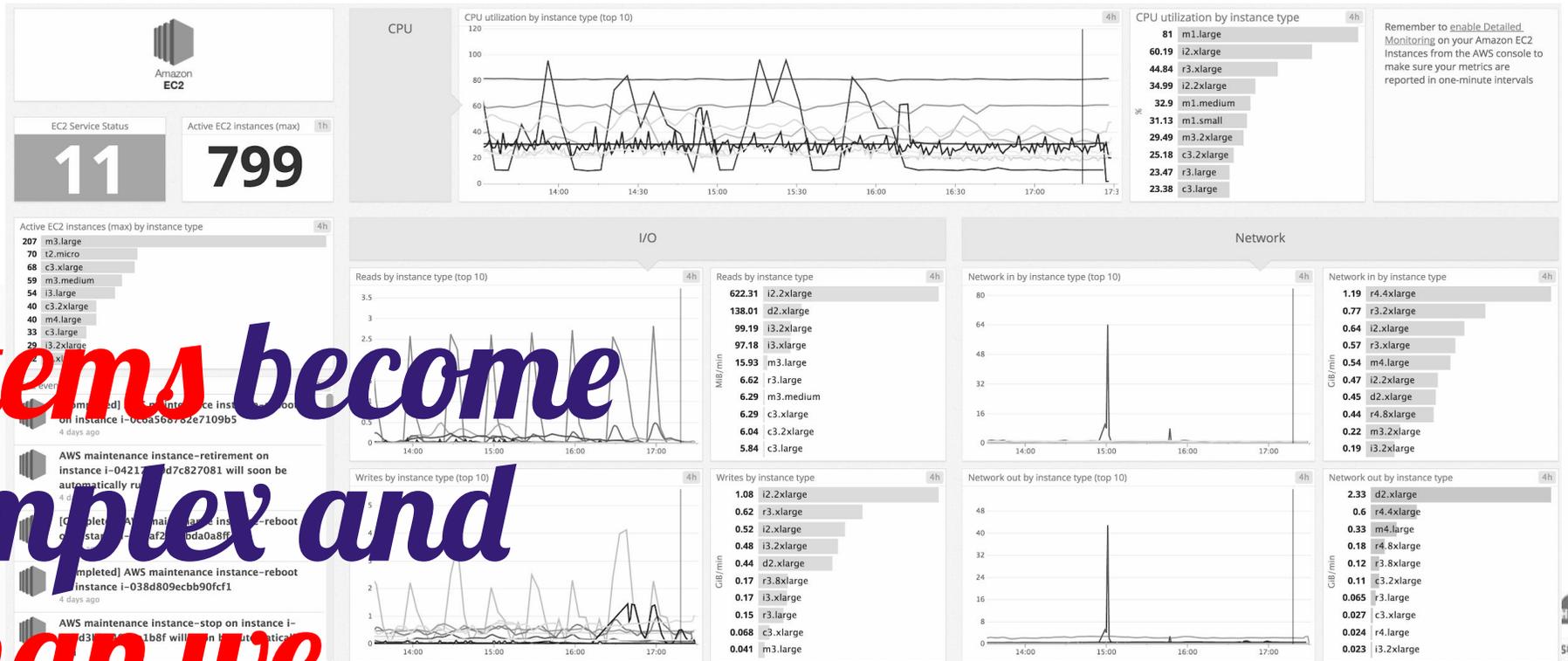
WAF Outage -> Disabled

Delayed Features

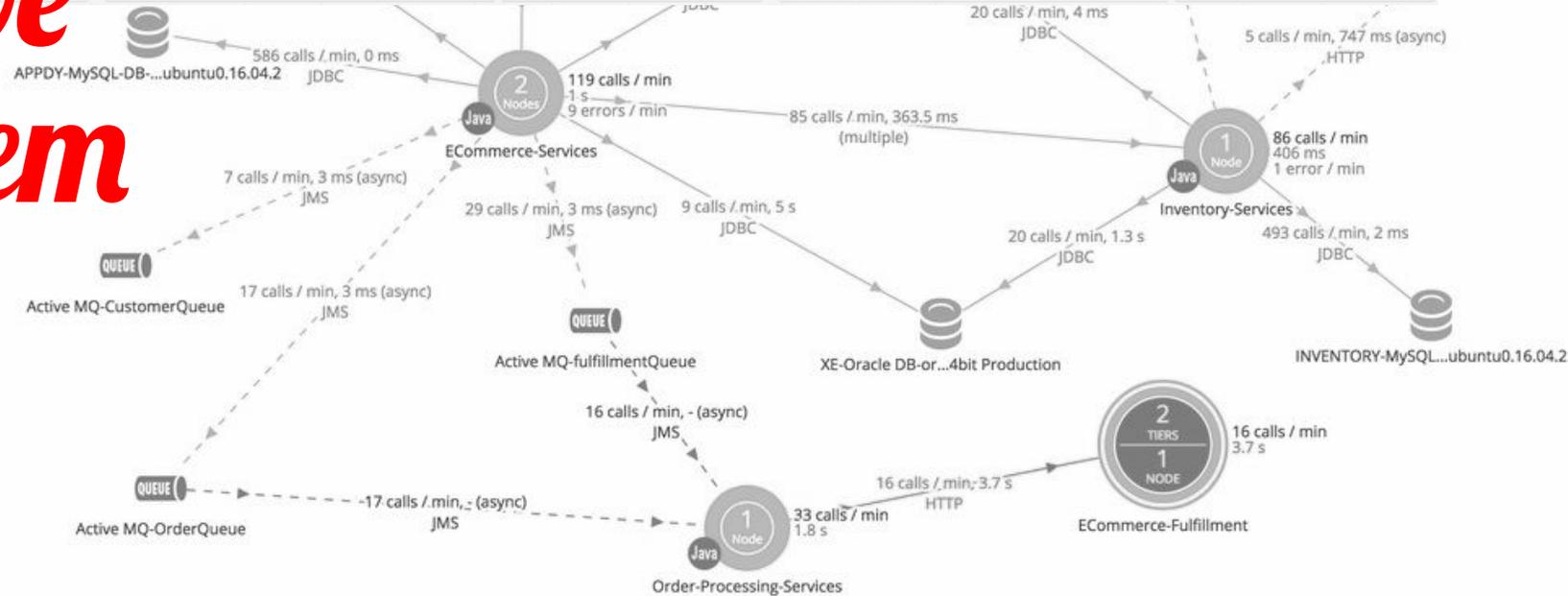
Large Customer  
Outage

# Years?....

Orphaned Documentation  
Hard Coded Passwords  
Network is Unreliable  
Portal Retry Storm  
New Security Tool  
Autoscaling Keeps Breaking  
Rolling Sev1 Outages on Portal  
Regulatory Audit  
Lead Software Engineering finds a new job at Google  
Refactor Pricing  
Cloud Provider API Outage  
Code Freeze  
Expired Certificate  
DNS Resolution Errors  
Budget Freeze  
Database Outage  
Outsource overseas development  
Hard Coded Passwords  
Network is Unreliable  
Autoscaling Keeps Breaking  
New Security Tool  
Scalability Issues  
Corporate Reorg  
Delayed Features  
300 Microservices  $\Delta$  -> 4000 Microservices  
Migration to New CSP  
Identity Conflicts  
Misconfigured FW Rule Outage  
Firewall Outage -> Disabled  
Refactor Pricing  
Lead Software Engineering finds a new job at Google  
Cloud Provider API Outage  
Large Customer Outage  
Expired Certificate  
Upgrade to Java SE-12  
DNS Resolution Errors  
Merge with competitor  
Code Freeze  
300 Microservices  $\Delta$  -> 850 Microservices  
Regulatory Audit  
Scalability Issues  
WAF Outage -> Disabled  
Delayed Features  
Large Customer Outage  
Rolling Sev1 Outage on Portal



*Our systems become more complex and messy than we remember them*



# *Difficult to Mentally Model*



*So what does all of this \$&%\* have to do with Security?*



*Putting off critical tasks until everyone forgets about them*



Getting Around to Security Next Month

*If there's time*

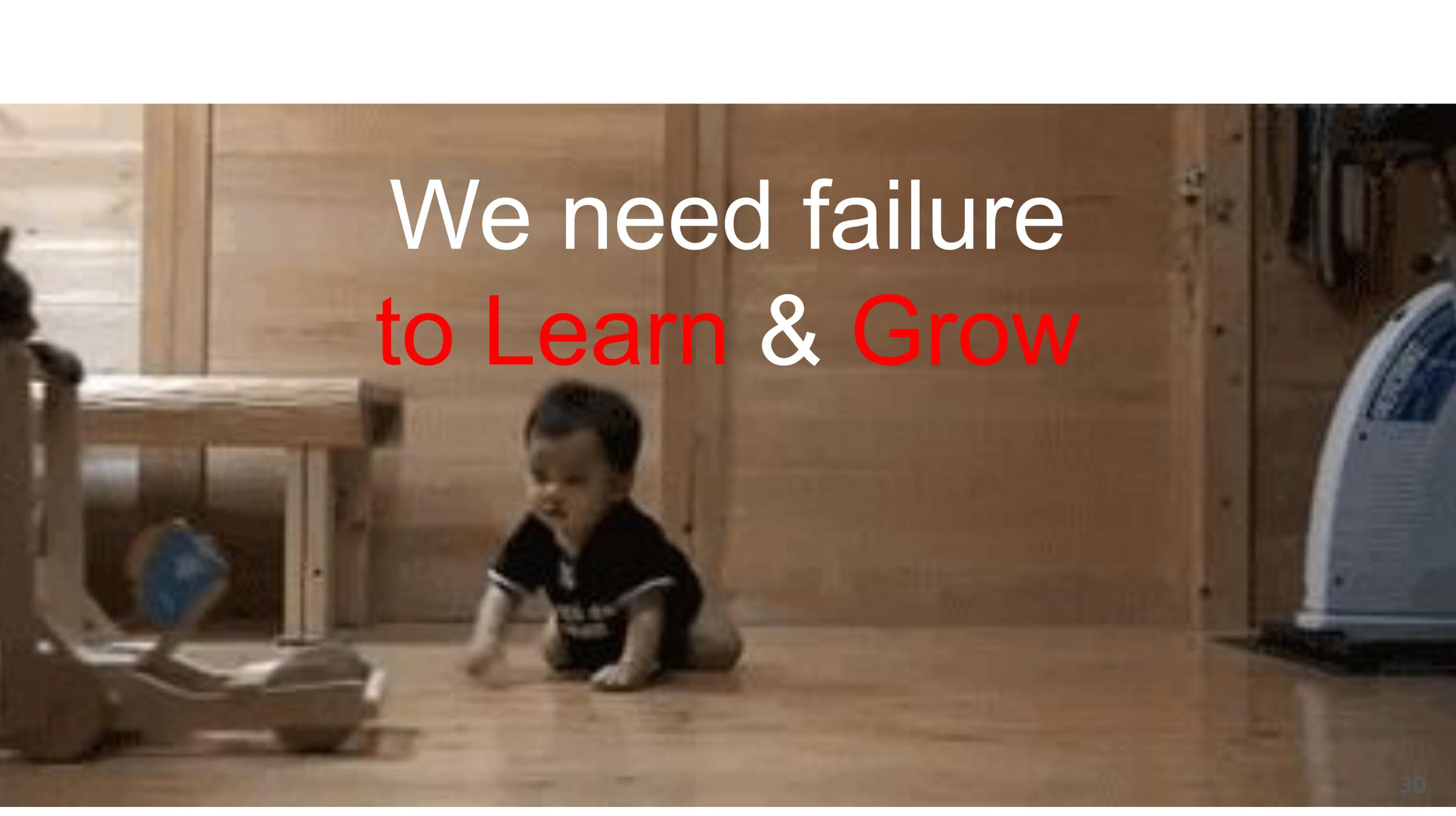
# Failure Happens Alot



The  
Normal  
Condition  
is to



**FAIL**

A photograph of a baby crawling on a wooden floor in a room with wooden walls. The baby is wearing a dark shirt and is looking towards the left. In the background, there is a wooden table and a blue object on the floor. The text "We need failure to Learn & Grow" is overlaid on the image.

We need failure  
to Learn & Grow

*“things that have never  
happened before happen all the  
time”*

*-Scott Sagan “The Limits of Safety”*

*How do we typically  
discover when our  
security measures  
fail?*

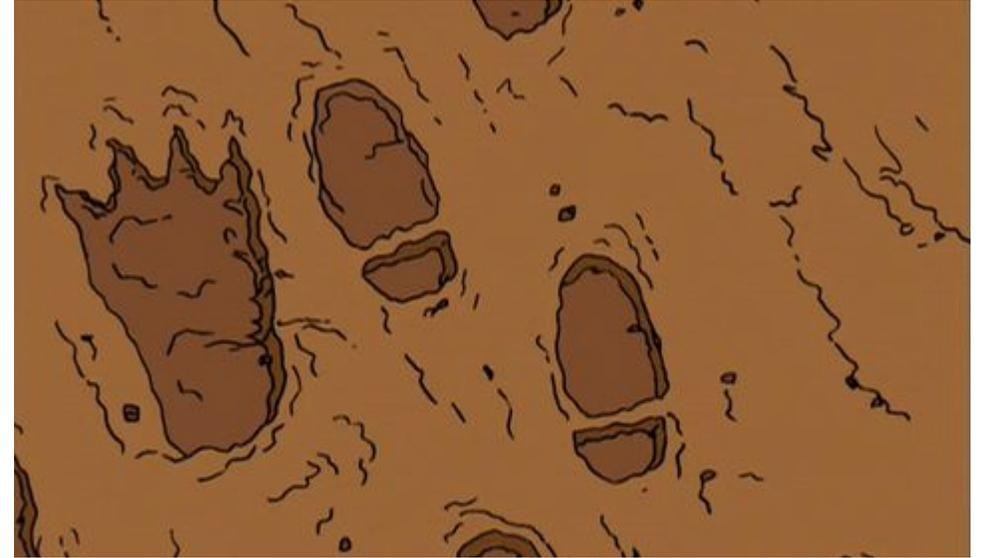
# *Security Incidents*



*Typically **we dont find out our security is failing until there is an security incident.***

# *Vanishing Traces*

*Logs, Stack Traces,  
Alerts*



*All we typically ever see is the  
Footsteps in the Sand  
-Allspaw*

Security incidents are  
not effective measures of  
detection

because at that point  
it's already too late



*No System is inherently Secure by Default, its Humans that make them that way.*

People Operate Differently  
when they expect things to  
fail



**OMG!**



*What are your robot serial numbers?*



**Awesome!**



# Chaos Engineering



@aaronrinehart

@verica\_io #chaosengineering

# Chaos Engineering

“Chaos Engineering is the discipline of experimenting on a distributed system in order to build confidence in the system’s ability to withstand turbulent conditions”

# Who is doing Chaos?

# NETFLIX



Bloomberg



ENDGAME.



Adobe





# PRINCIPLES OF CHAOS ENGINEERING

Last Update: 2017 April

*Chaos Engineering is the discipline of experimenting on a distributed system in order to build confidence in the system's capability to withstand turbulent conditions in production.*

O'REILLY®

# Chaos Engineering

Building Confidence in System Behavior  
through Experiments

Compliments of  
**NETFLIX**

O'REILLY®

# Chaos Engineering

System Resiliency in Practice



# Use Chaos to Establish Order



# Testing vs. Experimentation

**THIS IS A TEST.**  
This station is  
conducting a test  
of the Emergency  
Broadcast System.  
**THIS IS ONLY A TEST.**



# Chaos Monkey Story



# NETFLIX

- *During Business Hours*
- *Born out of Netflix Cloud Transformation*
- *Put well defined problems in front of engineers.*
- *Terminate VMs on Random VPC Instances*

# Chaos Pitfalls: Breaking things on Purpose

*The purpose of Chaos Engineering is **NOT** to “Break Things on Purpose”.*

*If anything we are trying to “Fix them on Purpose”!*



*“I’m pretty sure I won’t have a job very long if I break things on purpose all day.”  
-Casey Rosenthal*

# Security Chaos Engineering



@aaronrinehart

@verica\_io #chaosengineering

*Continuous*  
*Security*  
*Verification*

*Proactively*  
*Manage & Measure*

*Reduce Uncertainty by  
Building Confidence in  
how the system  
actually functions*



# Security Chaos Engineering Use Cases



@aaronrinehart

@verica\_io #chaosengineering



# Use Cases

- Incident Response
- Solutions Architecture
- Security Control Validation
- Security Observability
- Continuous Verification
- Compliance Monitoring



@aaronrinehart @verica\_io #chaosengineering

# *Incident Response*

*Security Incidents*  
*are Subjective in*  
*Nature*

*We really don't know  
very much*

*Where?*

*Why?*

*Who?*

*How?*

*What?*

*“Response” is the problem  
with Incident Response*



*Lets face it, **when outages happen.....***

*Teams spend too much time **reacting to outages** instead of **building more resilient systems.***



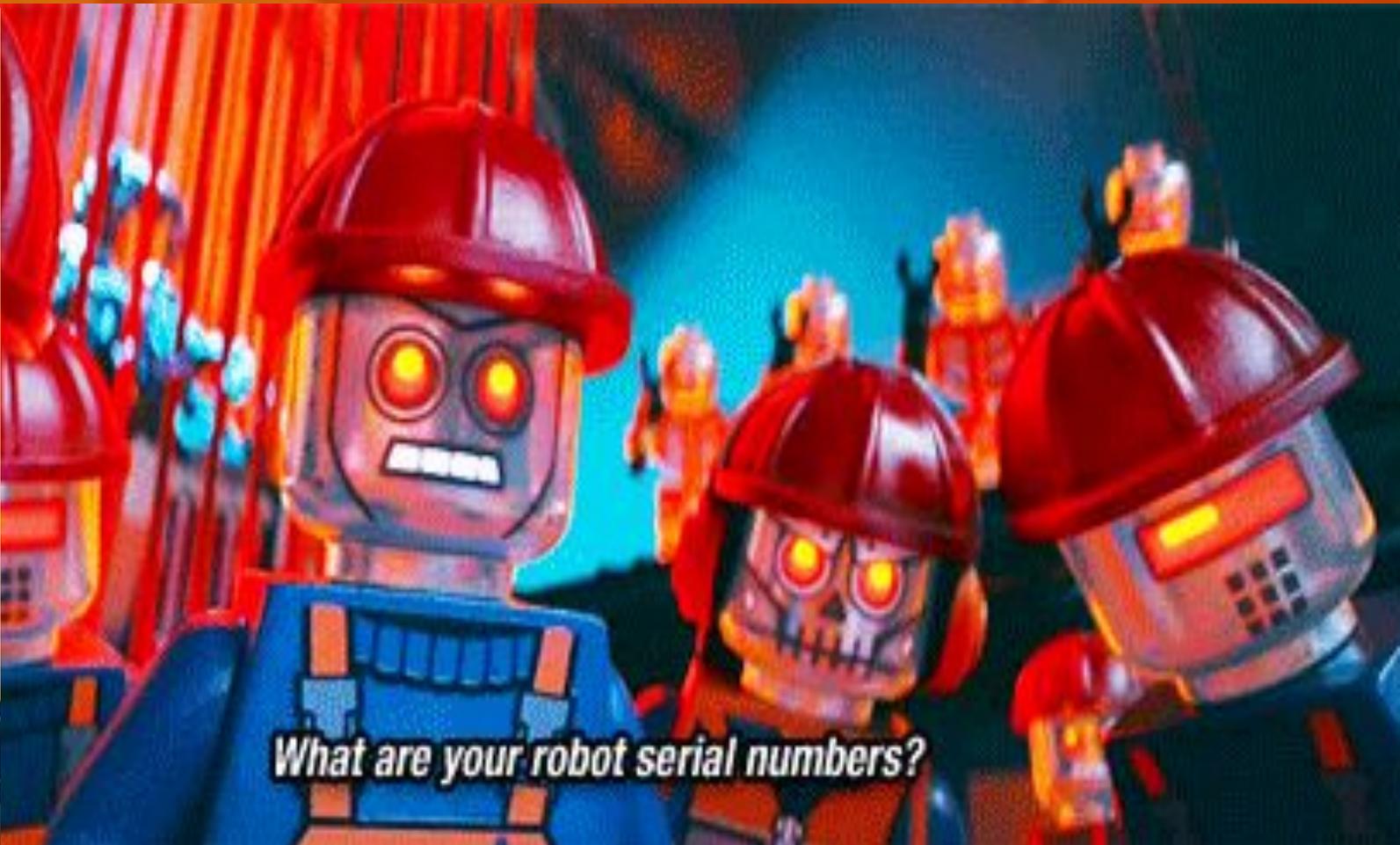
Lets **Flip the Model**



**Post Mortem = Preparation**



**OMG!**



*What are your robot serial numbers?*



# ChaosSlingr

An **Open Source**  
Tool

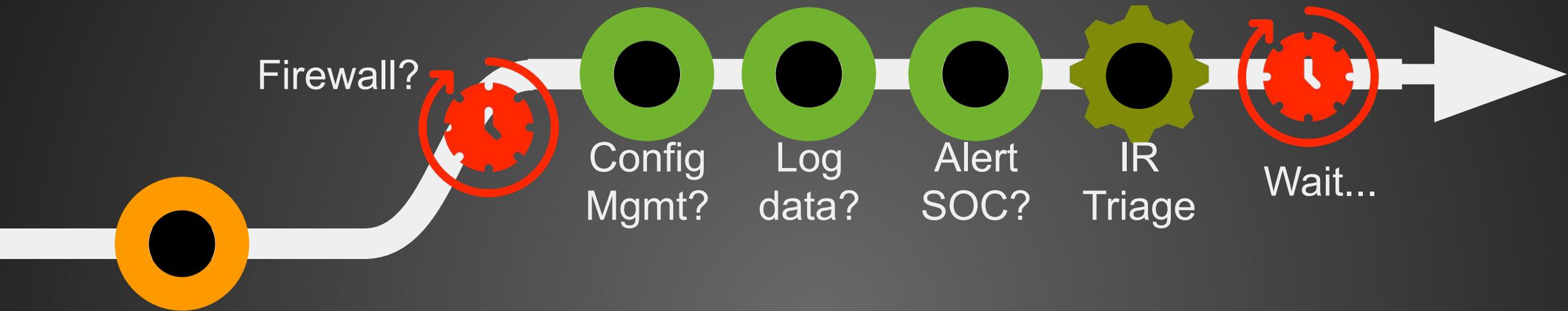
# ChaoSlingr Product Features

- ChatOps Integration
- Configuration-as-Code
- Example Code & Open Framework
- Serverless App in AWS
- 100% Native AWS
- Configurable Operational Mode & Frequency
- Opt-In | Opt-Out Model



HashiCorp  
**Terraform**





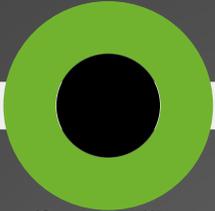
Misconfigured  
Port Injection



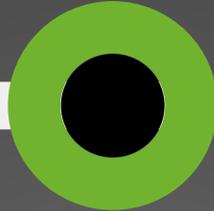
**Hypothesis: If someone accidentally or maliciously introduced a misconfigured port then we would immediately detect, block, and alert on the event.**



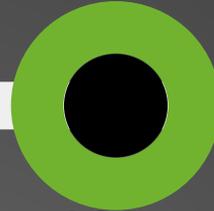
Firewall?



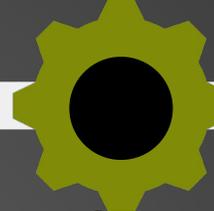
Config  
Mgmt?



Log  
data?



Alert  
SOC?



IR  
Triage



Wait...



Misconfigured  
Port Injection

**Result: Hypothesis disproved. Firewall did not detect or block the change on all instances. Standard Port AAA security policy out of sync on the Portal Team instances. Port change did not trigger an alert and log data indicated successful change audit. However we unexpectedly learned the configuration mgmt tool caught change and alerted the SoC.**



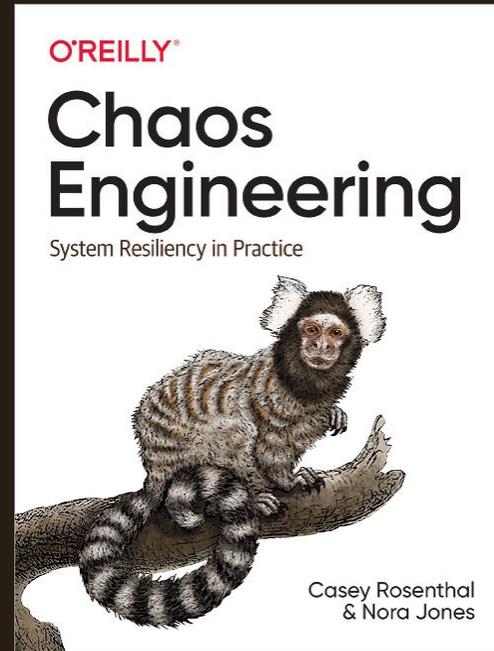
*Stop looking for better  
answers and start asking  
better questions.*

*- John Allspaw*



Free copy mailed to you  
complements of Verica

**VERICA**



[cutt.ly/verica-book](https://cutt.ly/verica-book)

# THANK YOU!

Meet me in the Network  
Chat Lounge for questions





# Agenda

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- Combating Complexity in Software
- Chaos Engineering
- Resilience Engineering & Security
- Security Chaos Engineering

## Headshot

**Name**

Title

**Twitter Handle**

Brief Bio