Open liberty

Cognitive Software Delivery – Quality, Scale & Intelligence in Open Liberty

May 25th 2022, | 11:00am EST

By *Kevin Smith – STSM, CI/CD Architect, IBM Application Platform*

Introduction

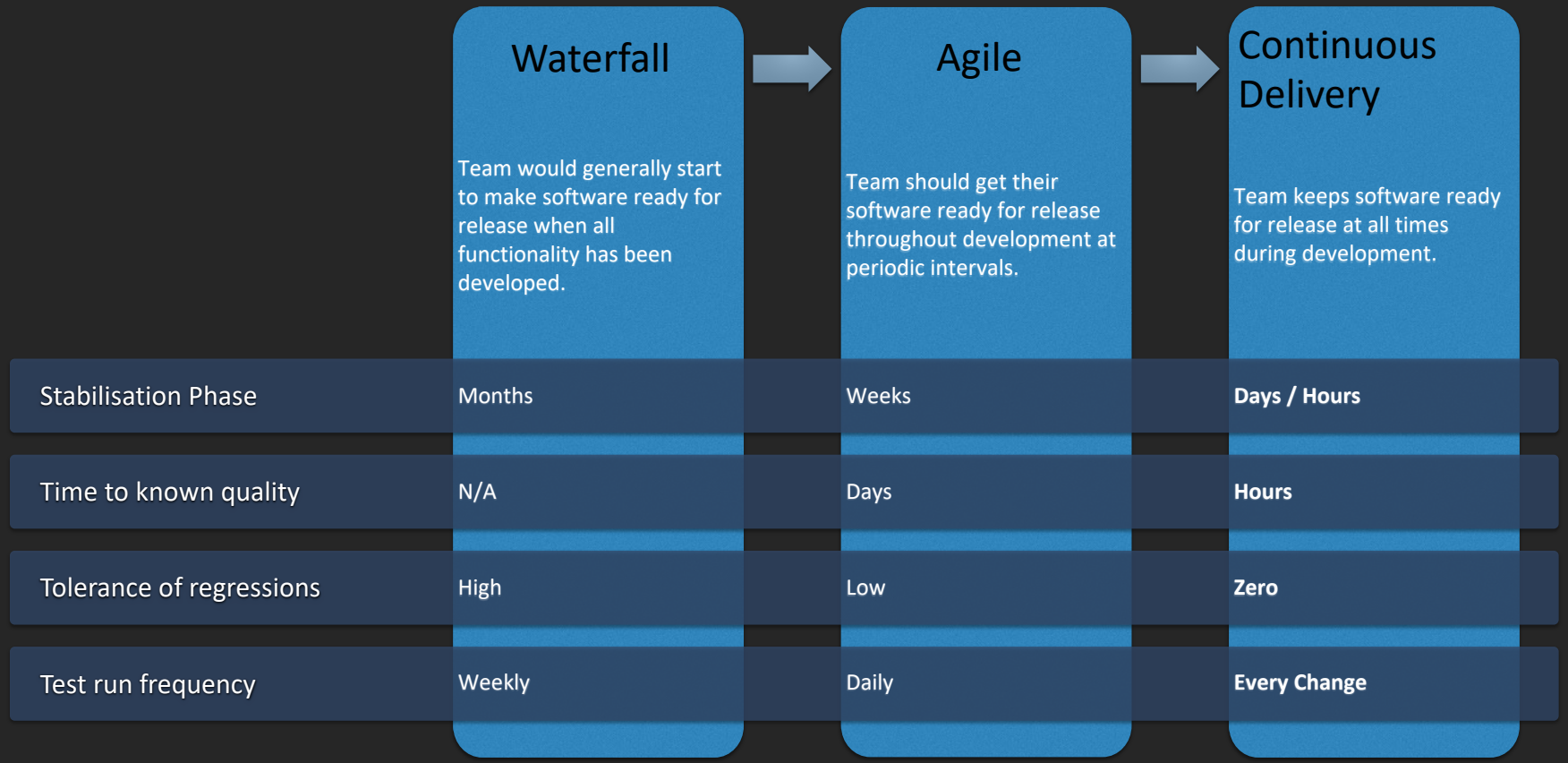
Over the last 8 years we have been building up a highly scalable, intelligent CI/CD pipeline in support of Open Liberty.

- Microservice architecture built on top of a Kafka event backbone
- One of IBM's largest CI/CD pipelines
  - Up to 20,000 machines created and configured each week
  - 3+ million Kafka events per week
  - Executes over 2 years of testing daily (machine time)
  - Supports over 200 platform/JDK runtime environments including Docker and Open Shift
  - Each weekend, 4 years of testing executed to verify product on all supported platforms: 20+ million tests
- Realtime insights into product quality and infrastructure
- Over 60% of test failures automatically triaged

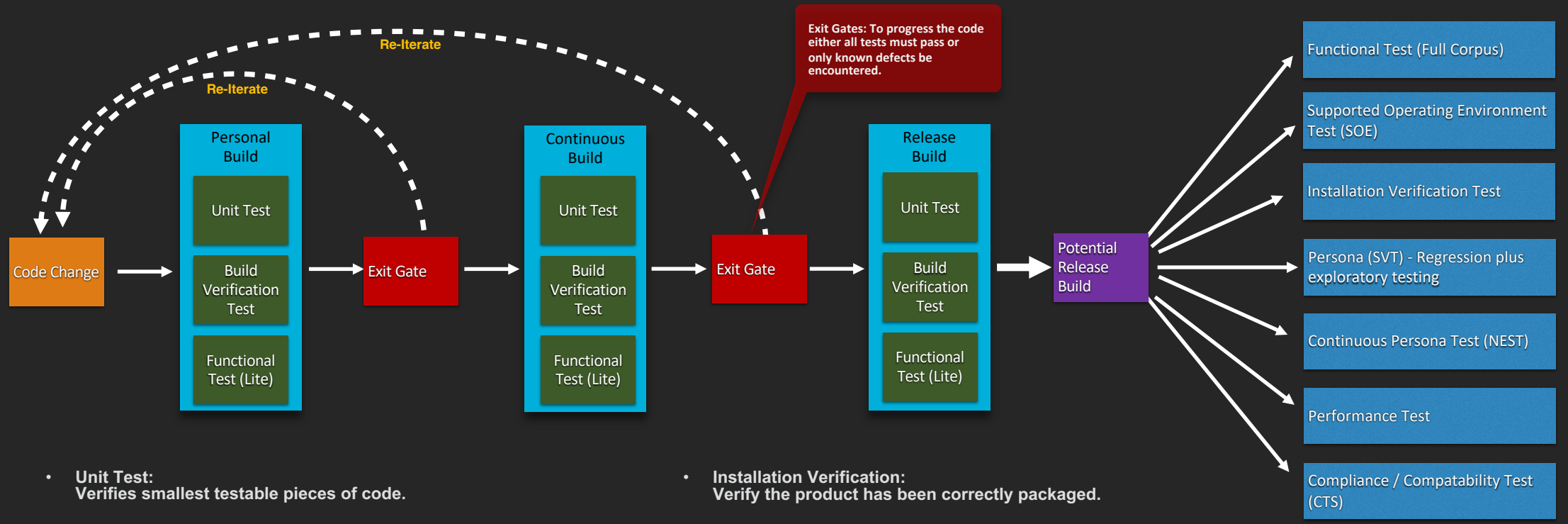
Our Journey...

Open Liberty

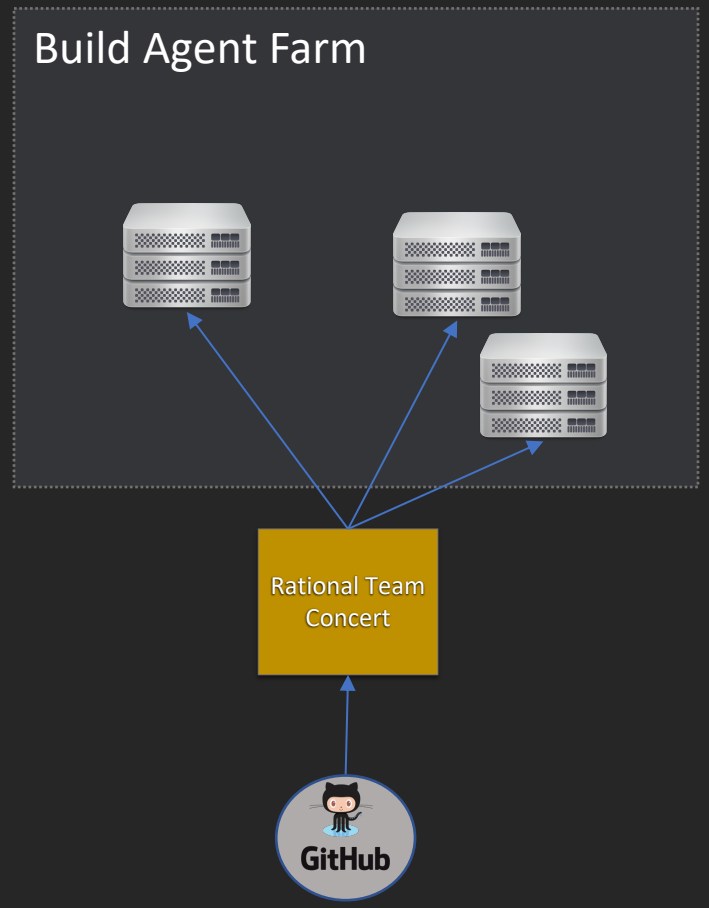
Evolution of product lifecycles



Software Delivery Pipeline

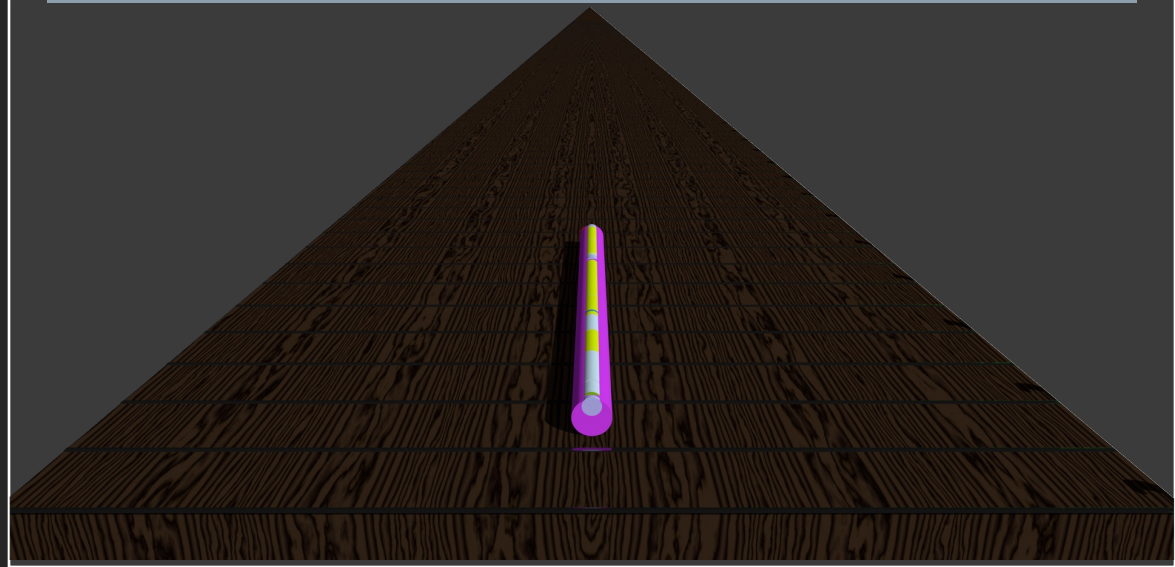


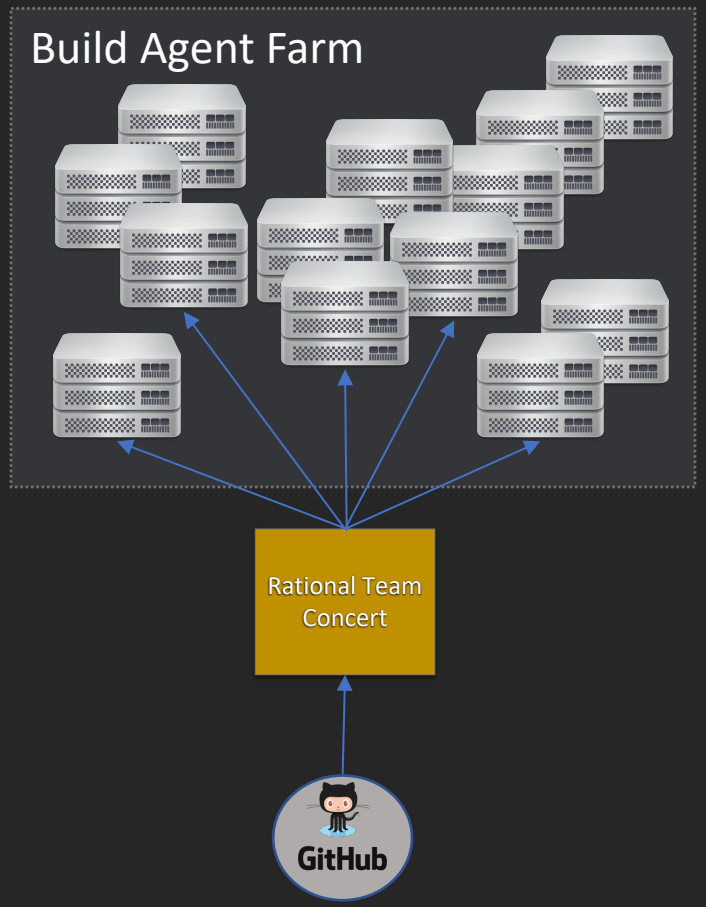
- **Unit Test:**
  Verifies smallest testable pieces of code.
- **Build Verification Test:**
  Small set of tests used to initially validate the build.
- **Functional Test (Lite):**
  Verifies correct behaviour of functions. The "Lite" version is around 70% of the entire corpus, focusing on golden path testing and common error paths.
- **Functional Test (Full Corpus):**
  Entire corpus of functional tests. A superset of the "Lite" functional tests adding in uncommon code paths, long running tests and rare error paths.
- **Supported Operating Environment Test**
  Runs the Entire corpus of functional tests against a large matrix of OS/JDK combinations supported by the product.
- **Installation Verification:**
  Verify the product has been correctly packaged.
- **Persona (SVT):**
  Large scale testing including customer like scenarios, load, scalability, recoverability tests. Majority are run manually to include some exploratory testing.
- **Continuous Persona Test (NEST):**
  24/7 test environment running customer like scenarios constantly, updated using DevOps principles.
- **Performance Test**
  Designed to identify performance issues and bottlenecks as well as verify the throughput of the product.
- **Compliance/Compatibility Test (CTS):**
  A set of tests and tools to confirm the product performs to an industry standard specification (J2EE).



- Software delivery lifecycles often begin when a product or set of deliverables are small and easily verified
- Initially, a CI Tool (e.g. Jenkins or Rational Team Concert) will connect to a set of agents to run builds or tests
- With each release more function is added, and the challenge to verify this function starts to increase
- Testing and triage can grow exponentially compared to the product size

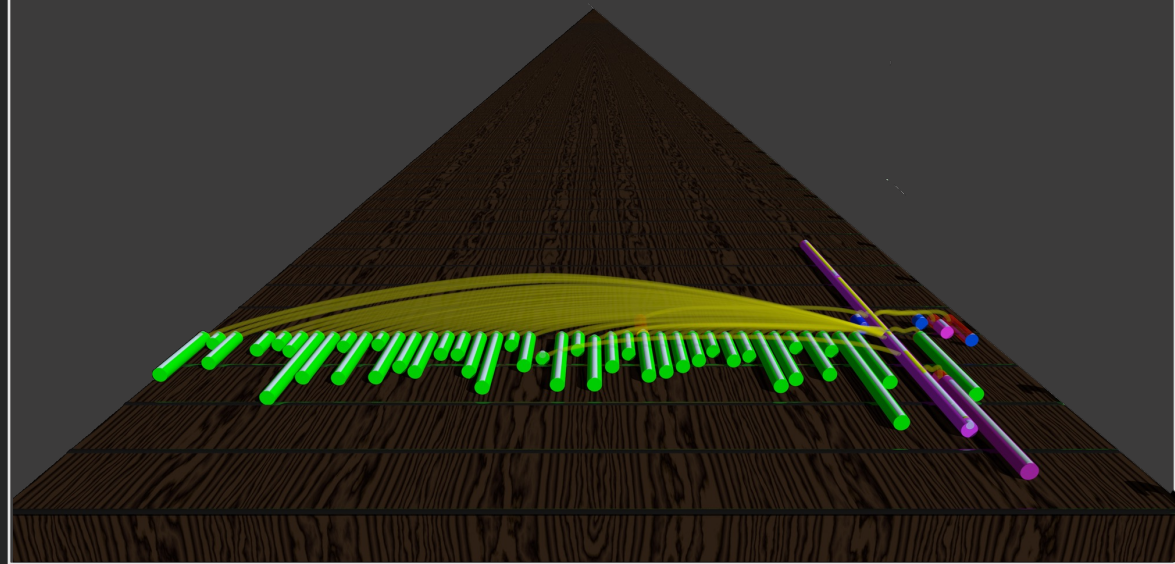
Small applications can use a single end to end build to compile and verify the product as total execution time is small.



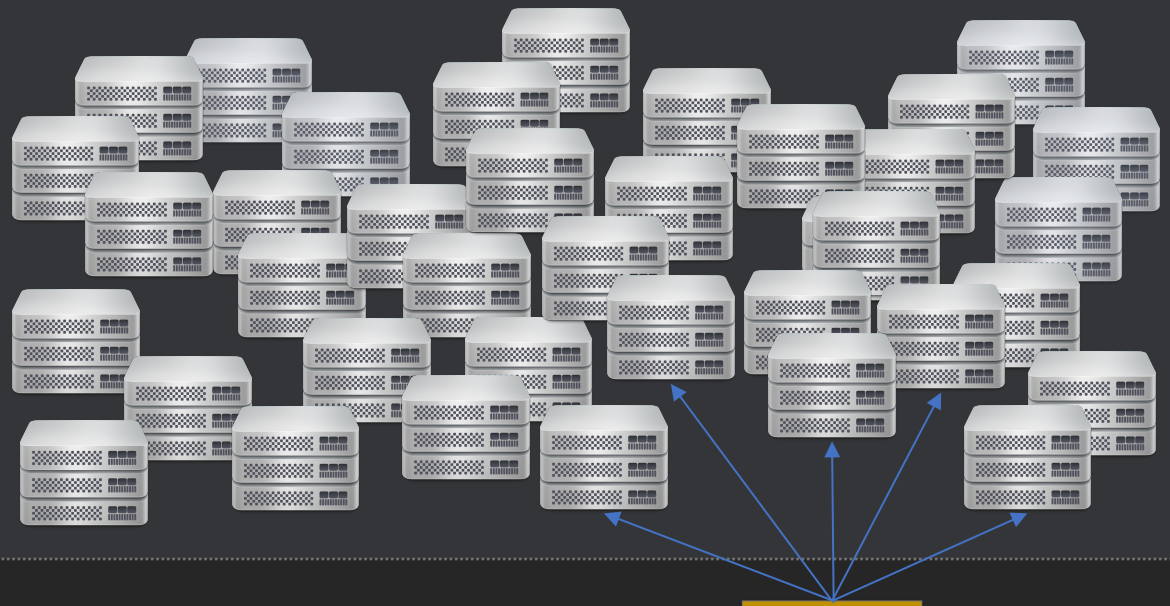


- Software delivery lifecycles often begin when a product or set of deliverables are small and easily verified
- Initially, a CI Tool (e.g. Jenkins or Rational Team Concert) will connect to a set of agents to run builds or tests
- With each release more function is added, and the challenge to verify this function starts to increase
- Testing and triage can grow exponentially compared to the product size

As function grew, so did testing. Eventually testing needed to be done in parallel. Currently we use 30 parallel builds to run 80+ hours of testing on a release build.



Build Agent Farm

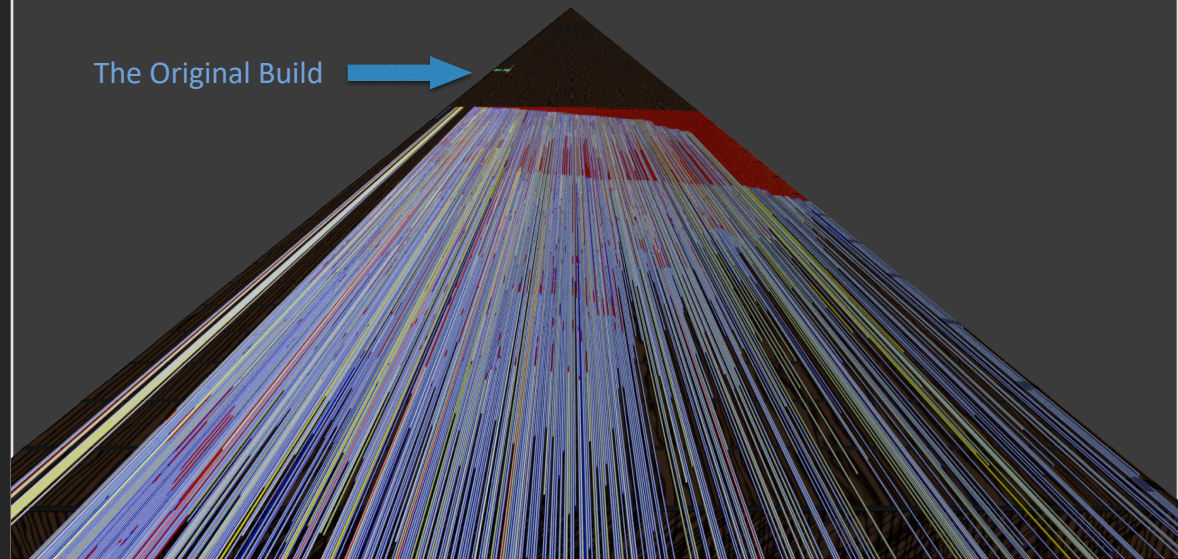


Rational Team Concert

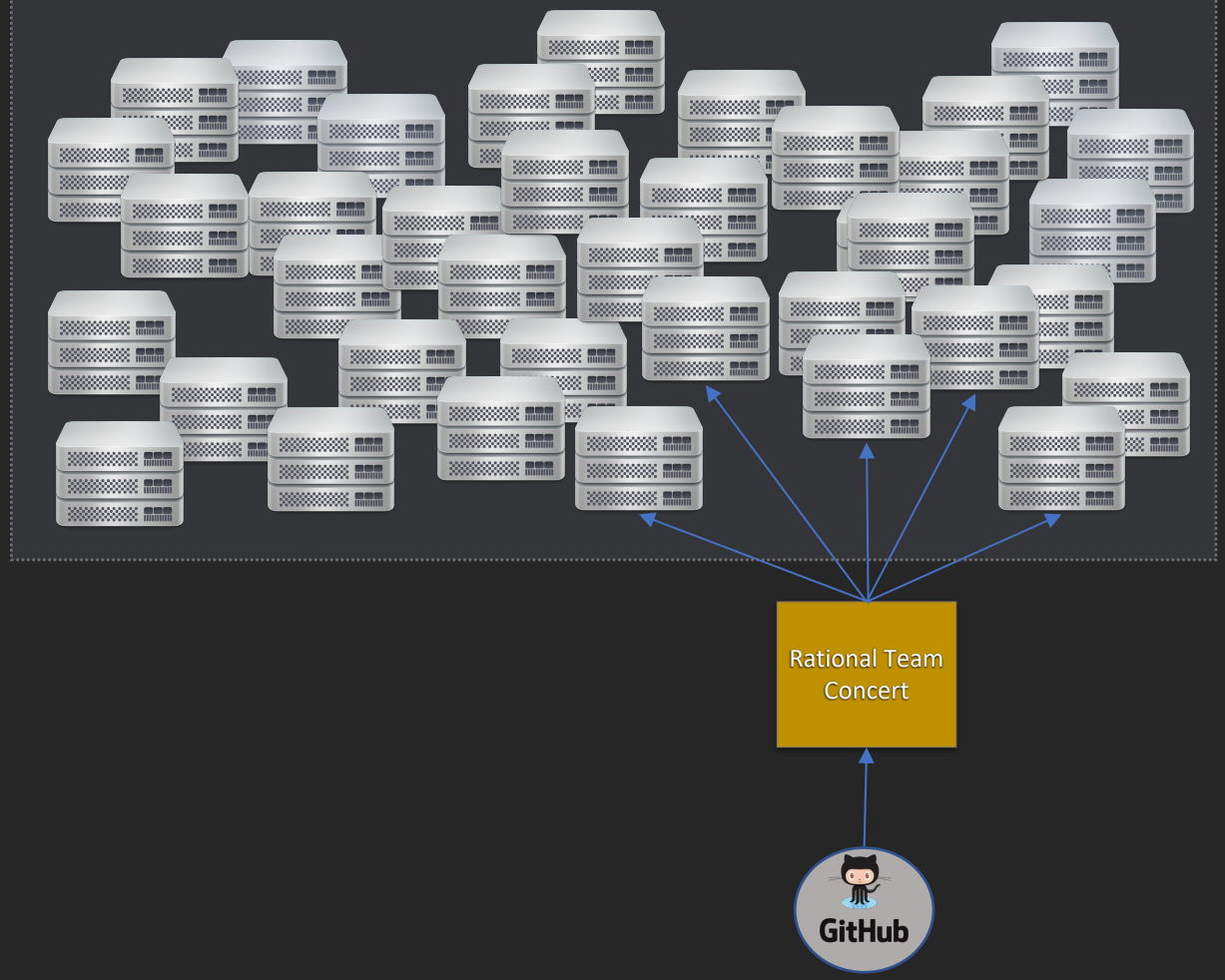
GitHub

- Software delivery lifecycles often begin when a product or set of deliverables are small and easily verified
- Initially, a CI Tool (e.g. Jenkins or Rational Team Concert) will connect to a set of agents to run builds or tests
- With each release more function is added, and the challenge to verify this function starts to increase
- Testing and triage can grow exponentially compared to the product size

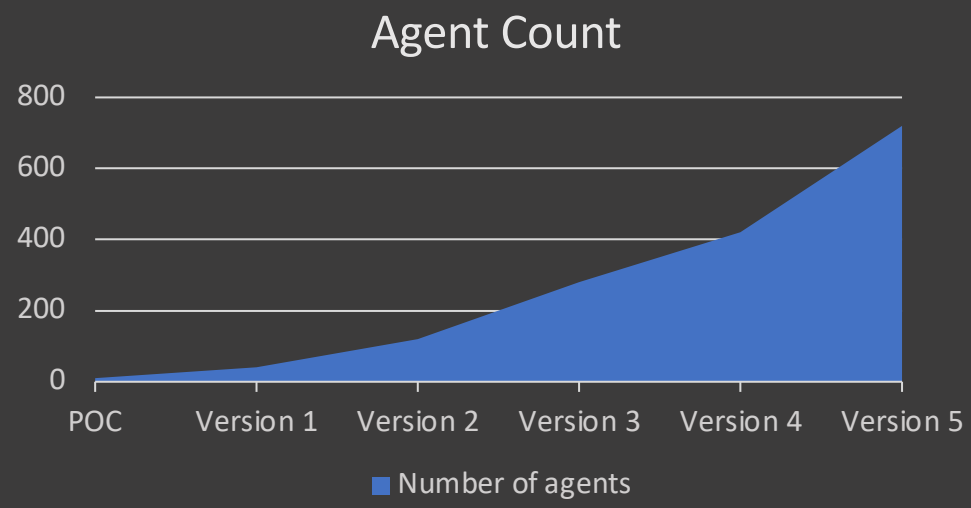
Once you add in cross platform testing, things scale up rapidly. We run cross platform testing each weekend and currently it requires over 4 years of machine time to complete.



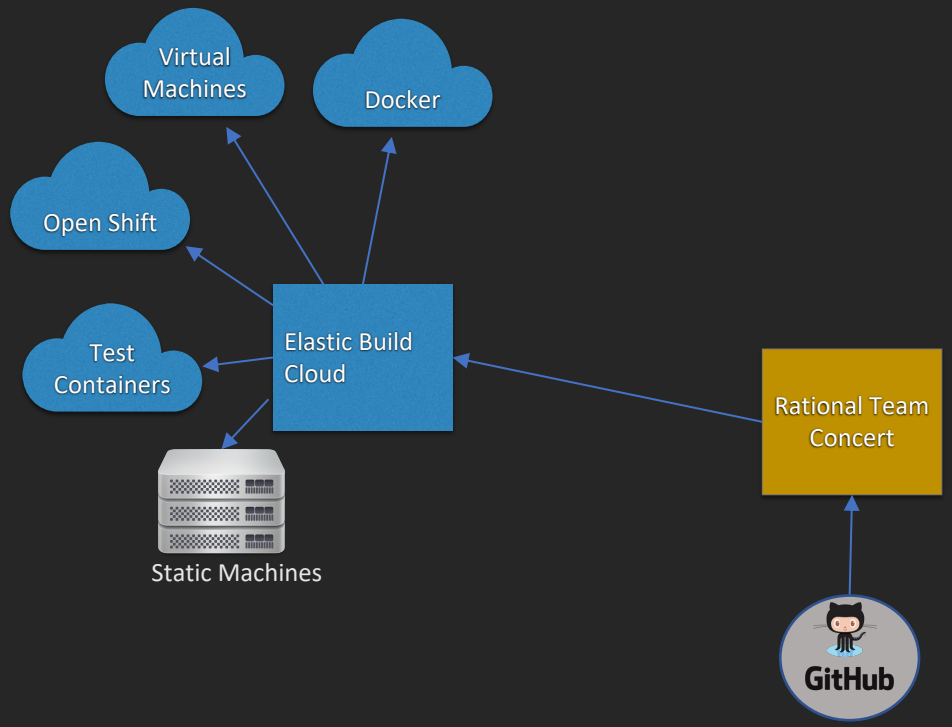
Build Agent Farm



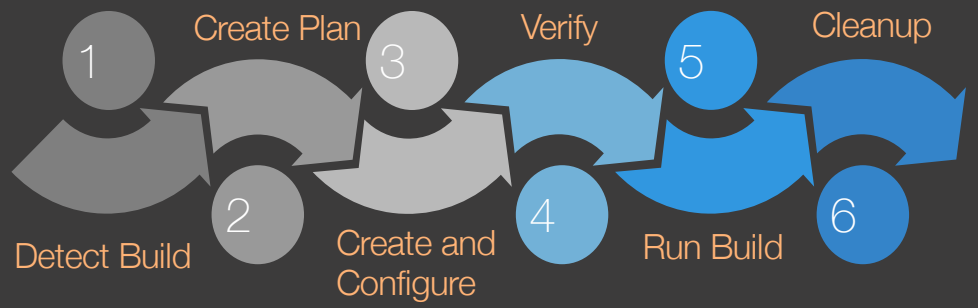
- Software delivery lifecycles often begin when a product or set of deliverables are small and easily verified
- Initially, a CI Tool (e.g. Jenkins or Rational Team Concert) will connect to a set of agents to run builds or tests
- With each release more function is added, and the challenge to verify this function starts to increase
- Testing and triage can grow exponentially compared to the product size
- Managing and maintaining agents quickly becomes costly and unreliable
- A better approach was needed…

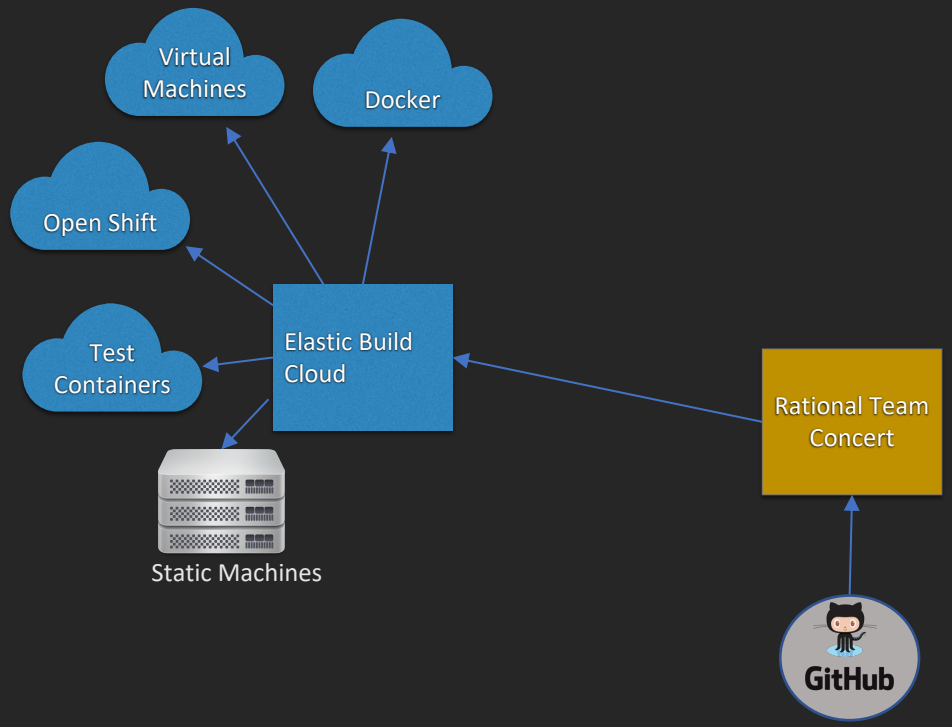


Pipeline Key Requirements

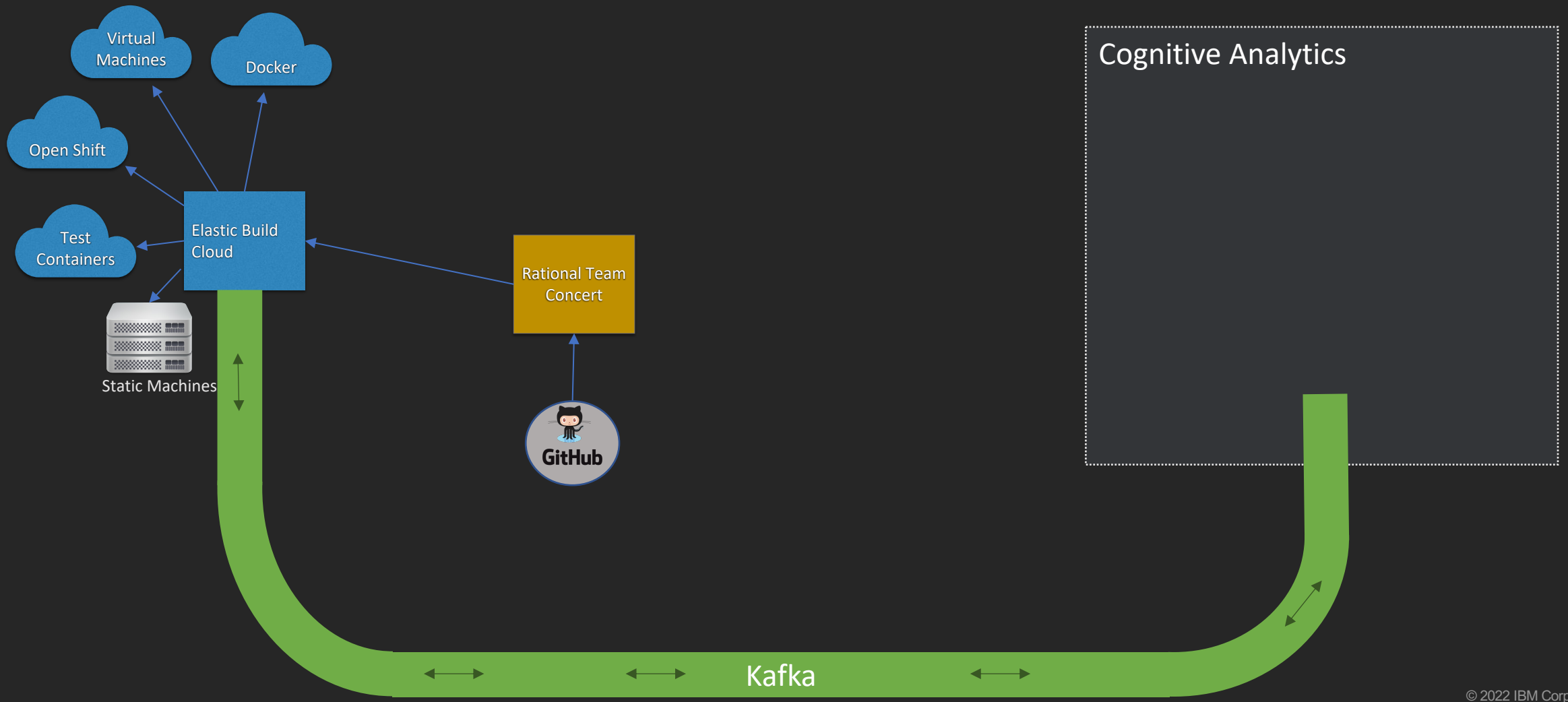


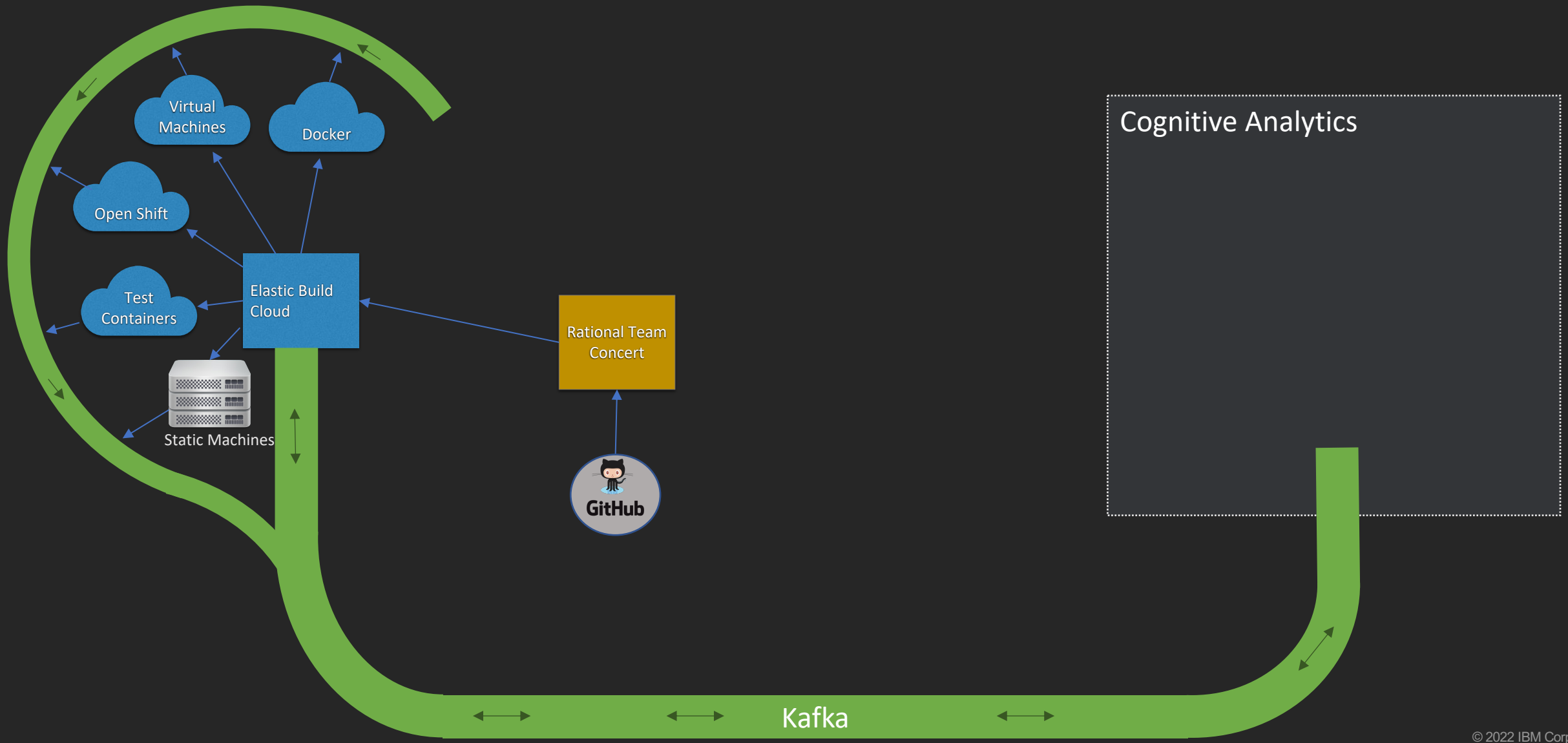
- Switch to infrastructure as code
- Our Elastic Build Cloud was created to provision and configure systems as and when needed, utilizing Ansible
- Over time, expanded to support many different target environments
- Infrastructure lives only as long as the work requested
- Every build or test run gets a freshly created machine, custom configured for its needs
- Extreme scaling – can create up to 20,000 custom configured systems each week!

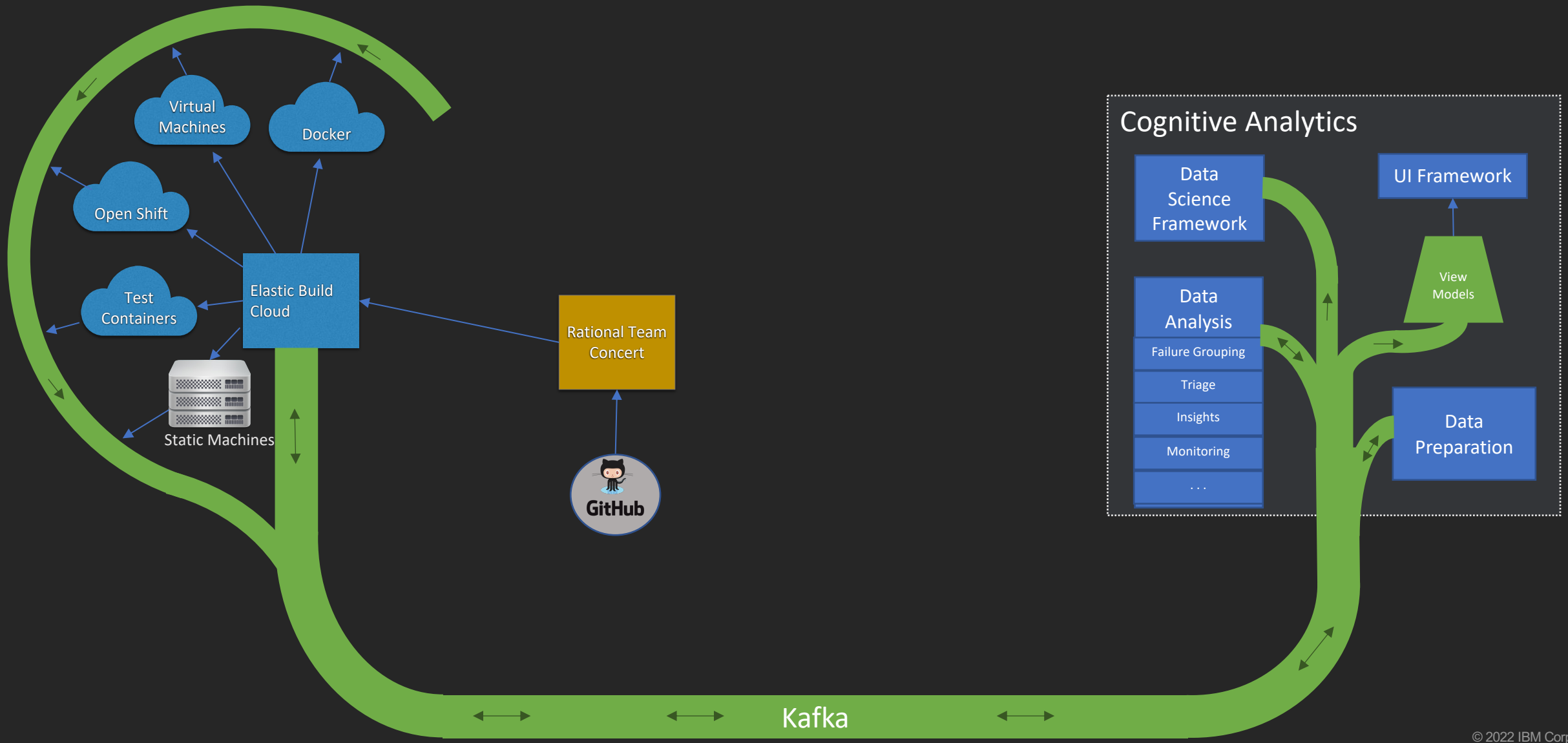


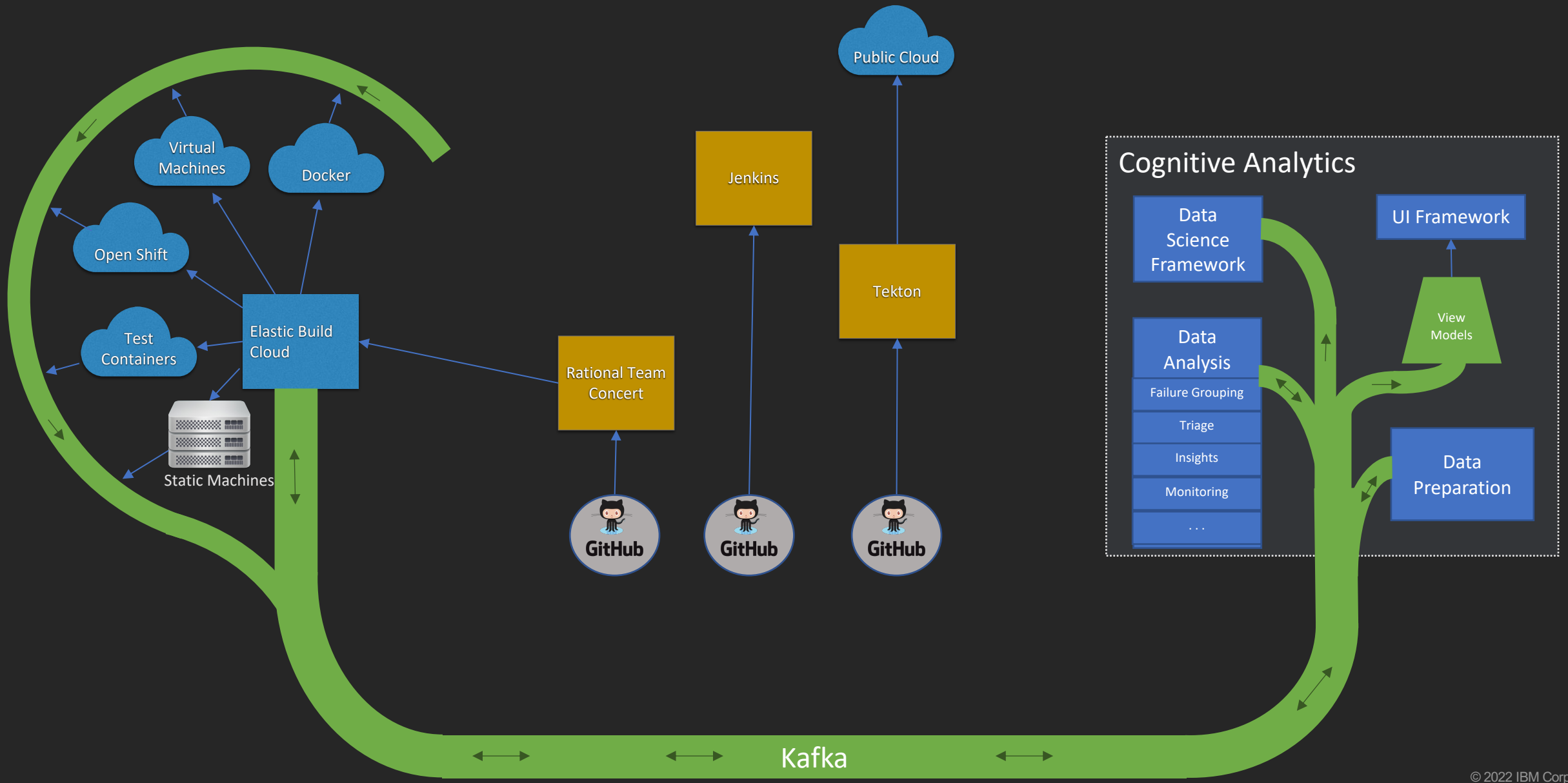


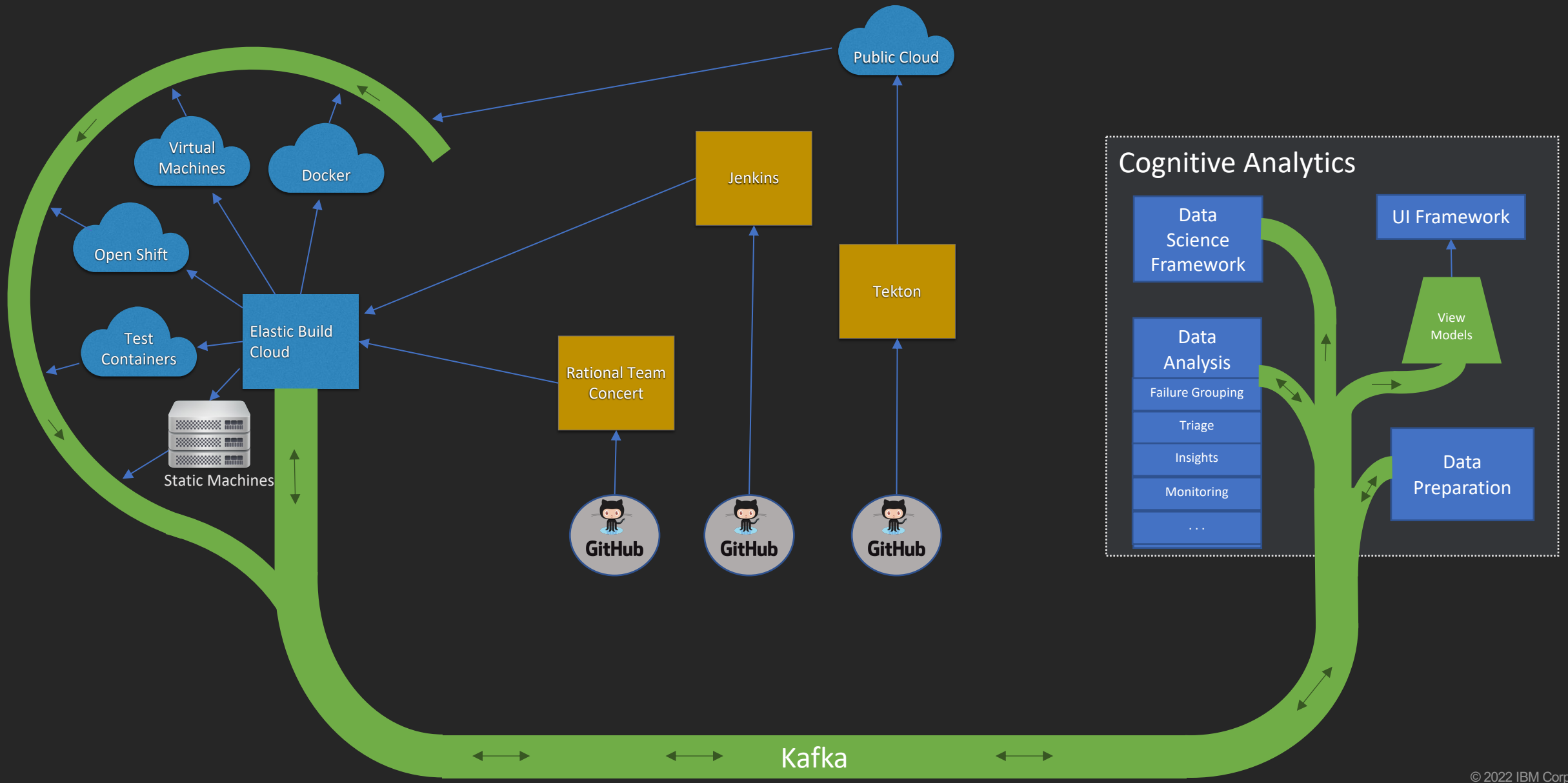
- Having a powerful environment to run our build and test workload is only part of the solution
- How do we manage it and how do we triage any issues found by the system?
  - Costs were increasing exponentially
  - Failures were getting skipped in favor of newer issues.
  - Data overload
- Needed to move to a model where test results were considered transient
  - Defects should be system of record for test failures, not a test result database
  - A test failure should result in an action
  - All test failures needed to be actioned or information would be lost
- That is where the Cognitive Analytics system comes in…

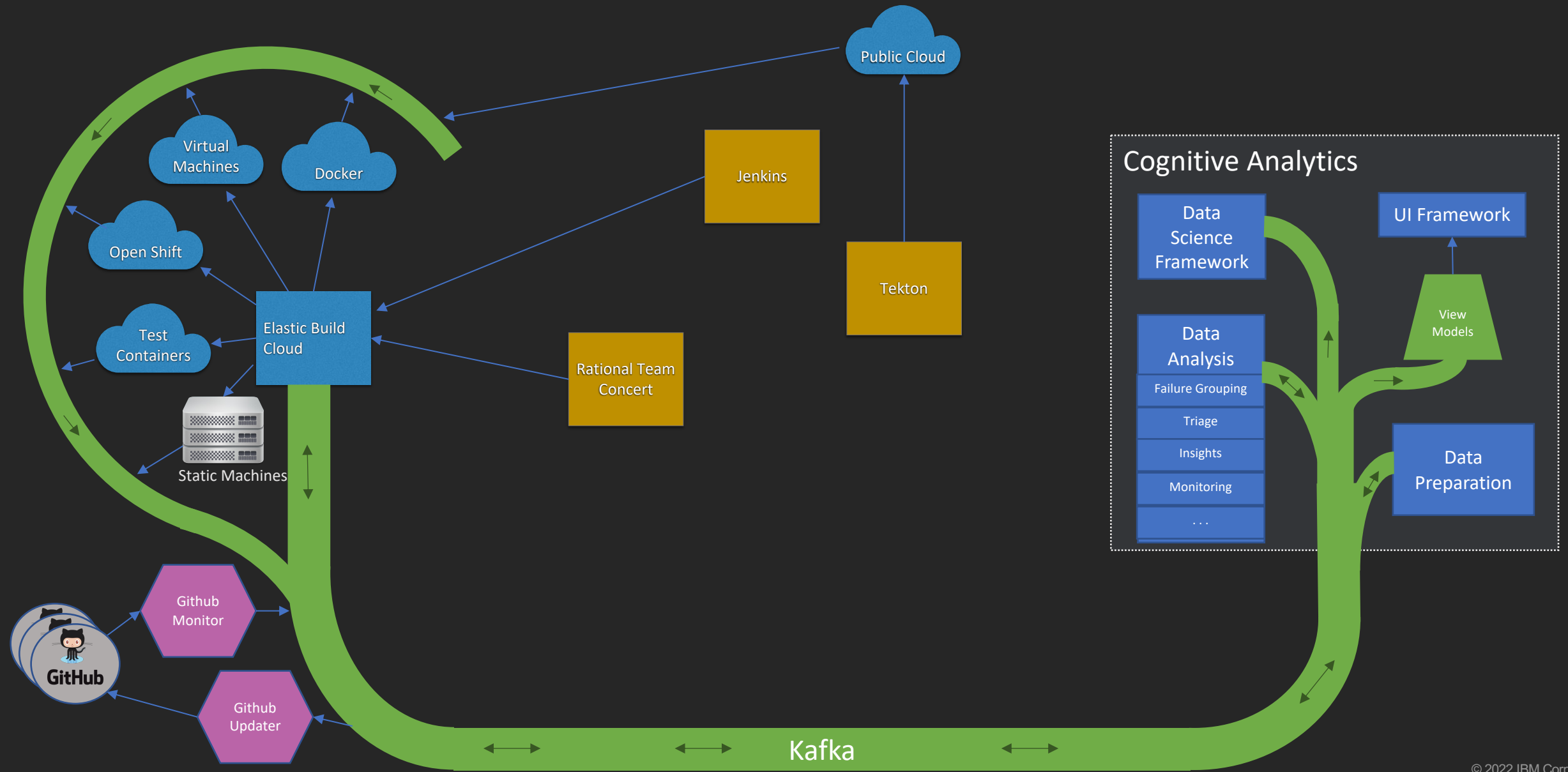


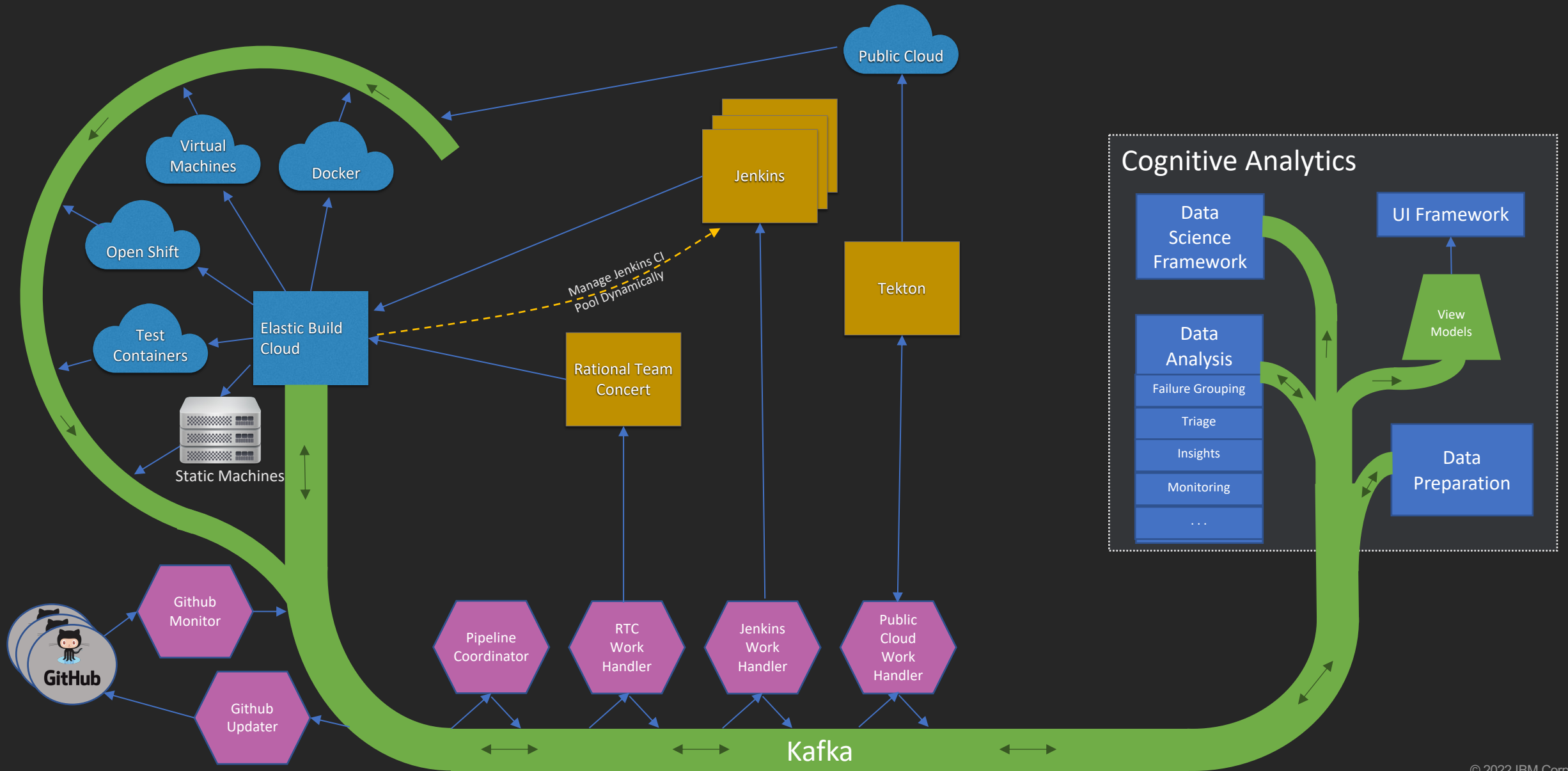








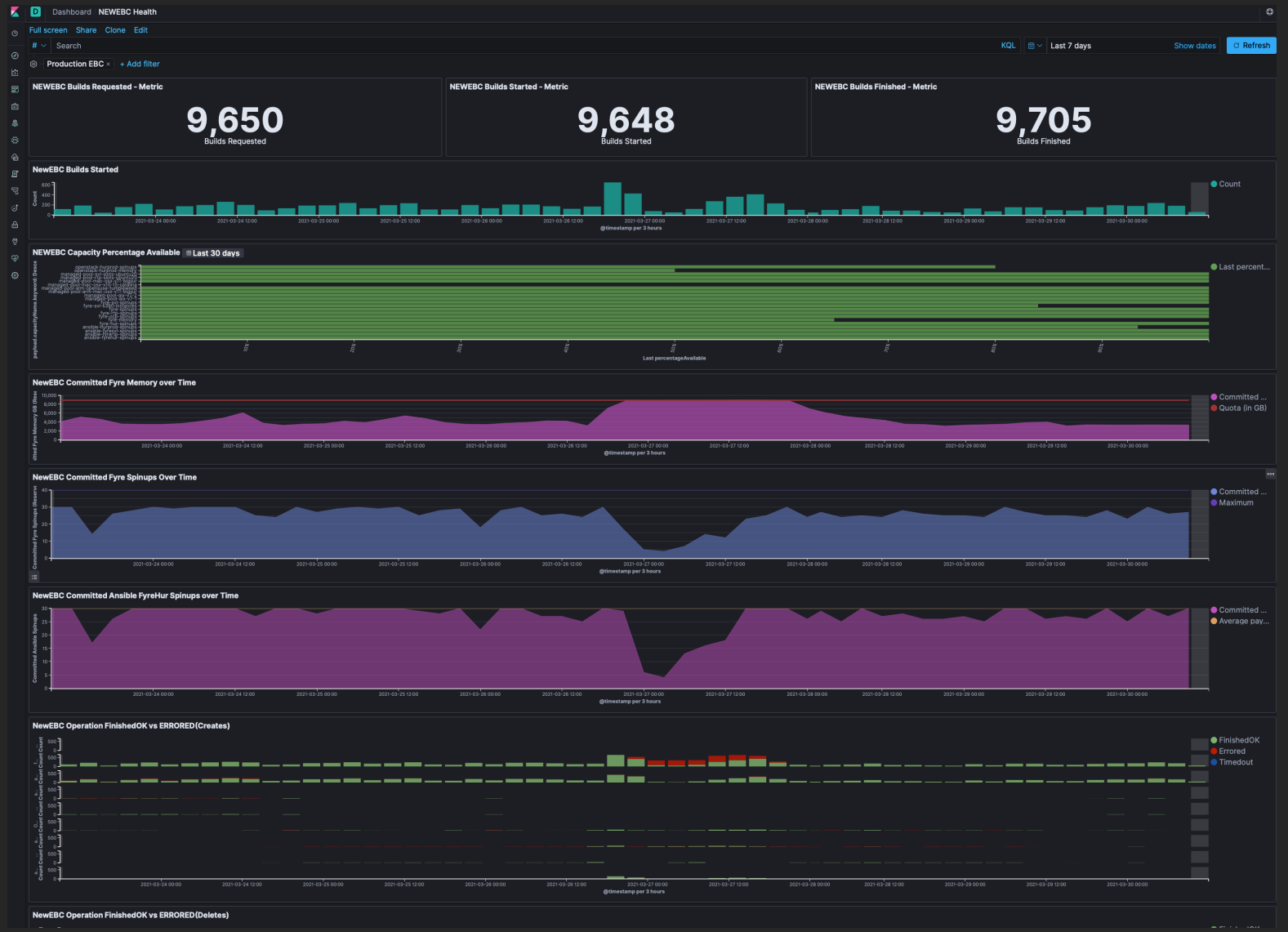




So what does all this technology give us?

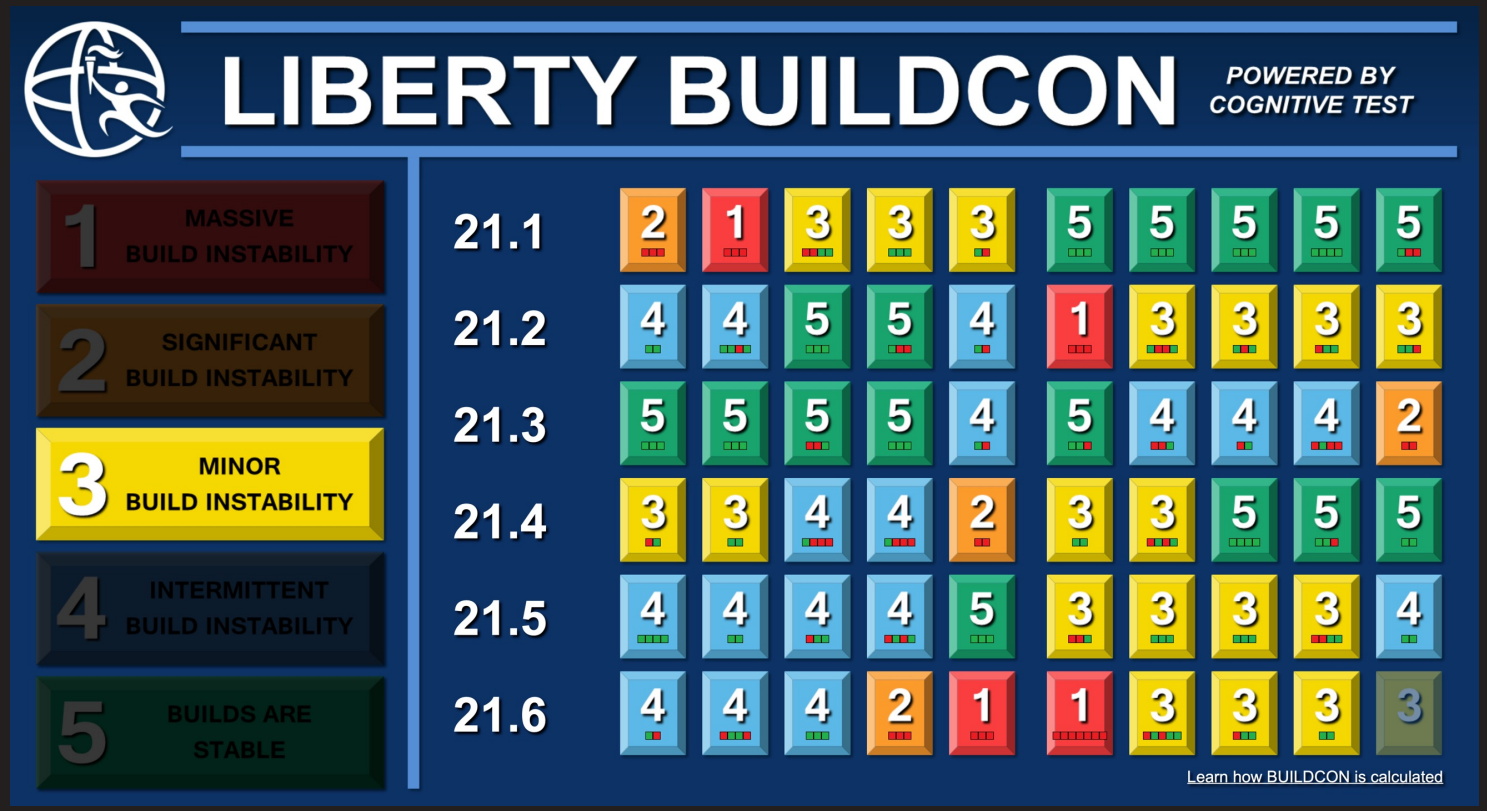
Open Liberty

Real Time Monitoring

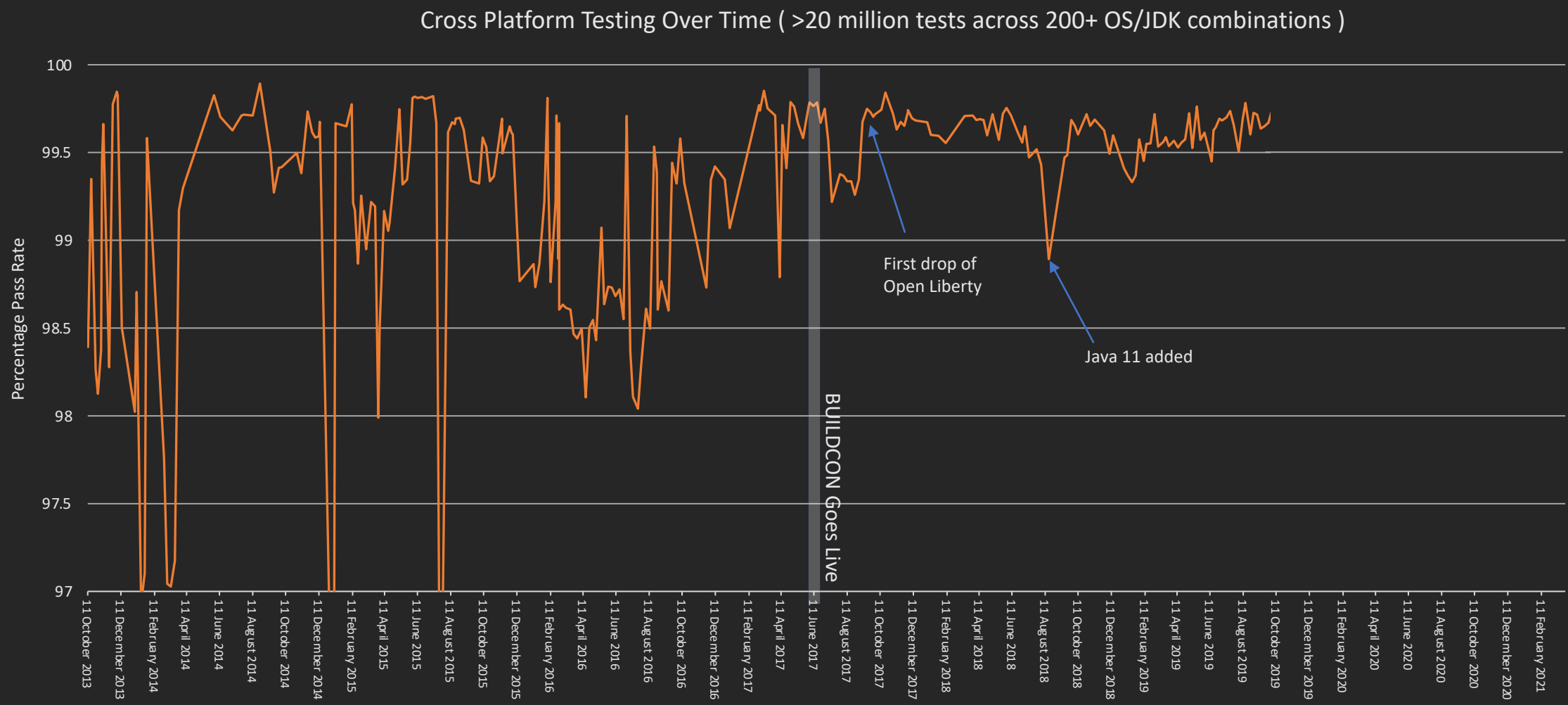


Managing Technical Debt

- Over time our build and test system rots and intermittent issues build, this impacts our ability to create green release drivers (100% tests passing)
- BUILDCON introduced to address this:
  - BUILDCON 5: Green release driver likely most of the time
  - BUILDCON 4: Green release driver likely more than once a day on average
  - BUILDCON 3: Green release driver once per day
  - BUILDCON 2: All squads **SHOULD** be working on technical debt as currently can't guarantee green release driver each day
  - BUILDCON 1: All squads **MUST** be working on technical debt. Delivery of code automatically blocked for anything other than defect/technical debt work

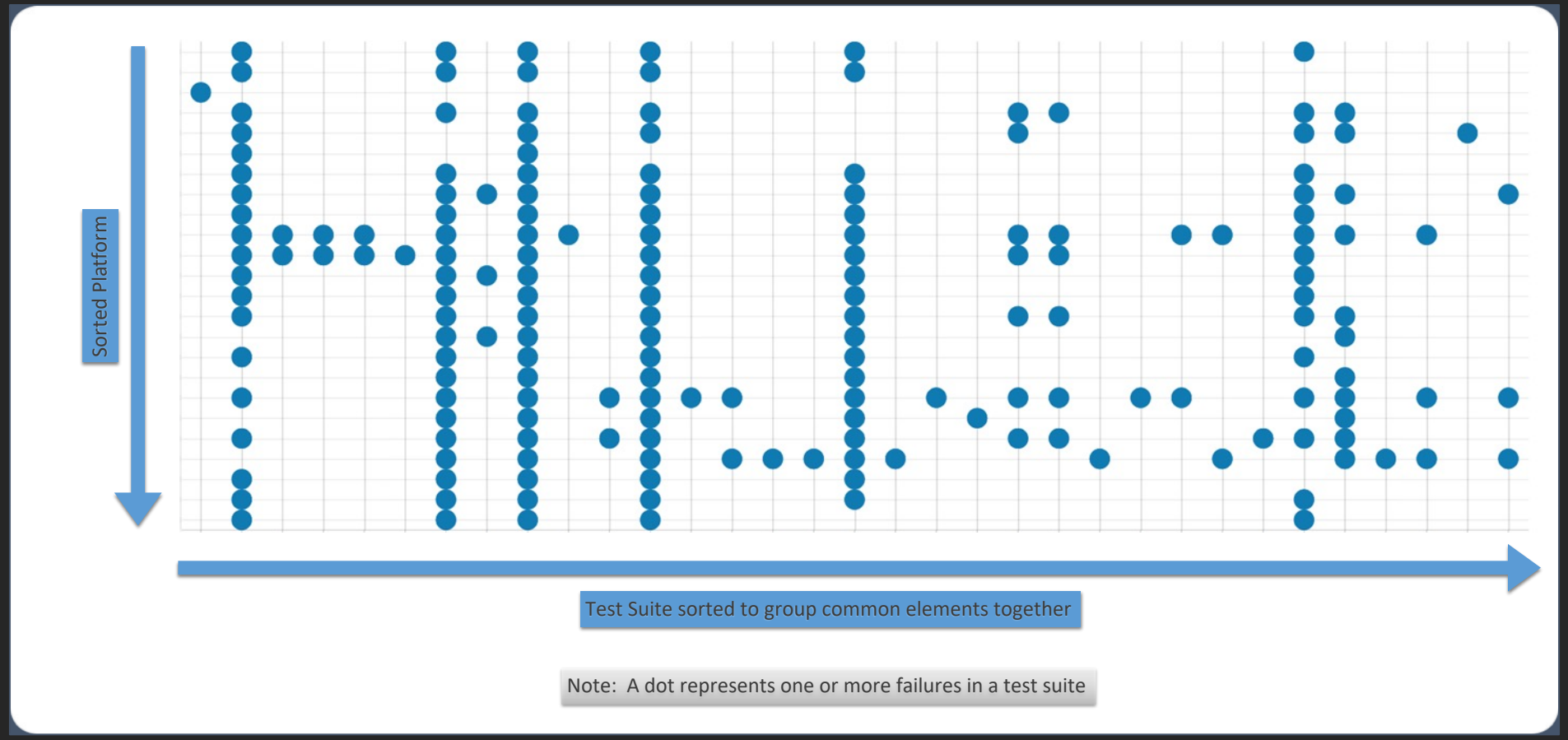


Highlighting the impact

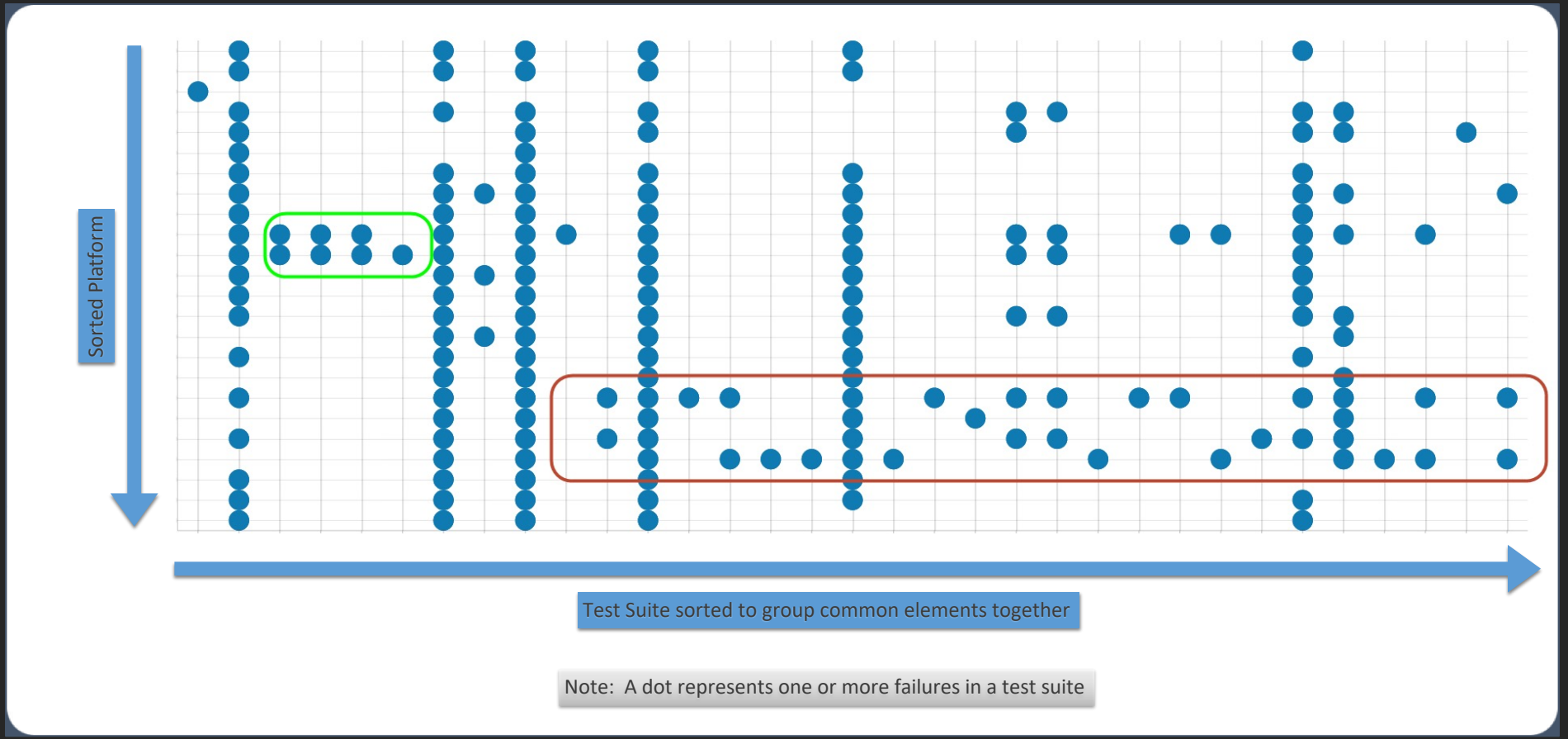


And most importantly…
Powerful triage and insights.

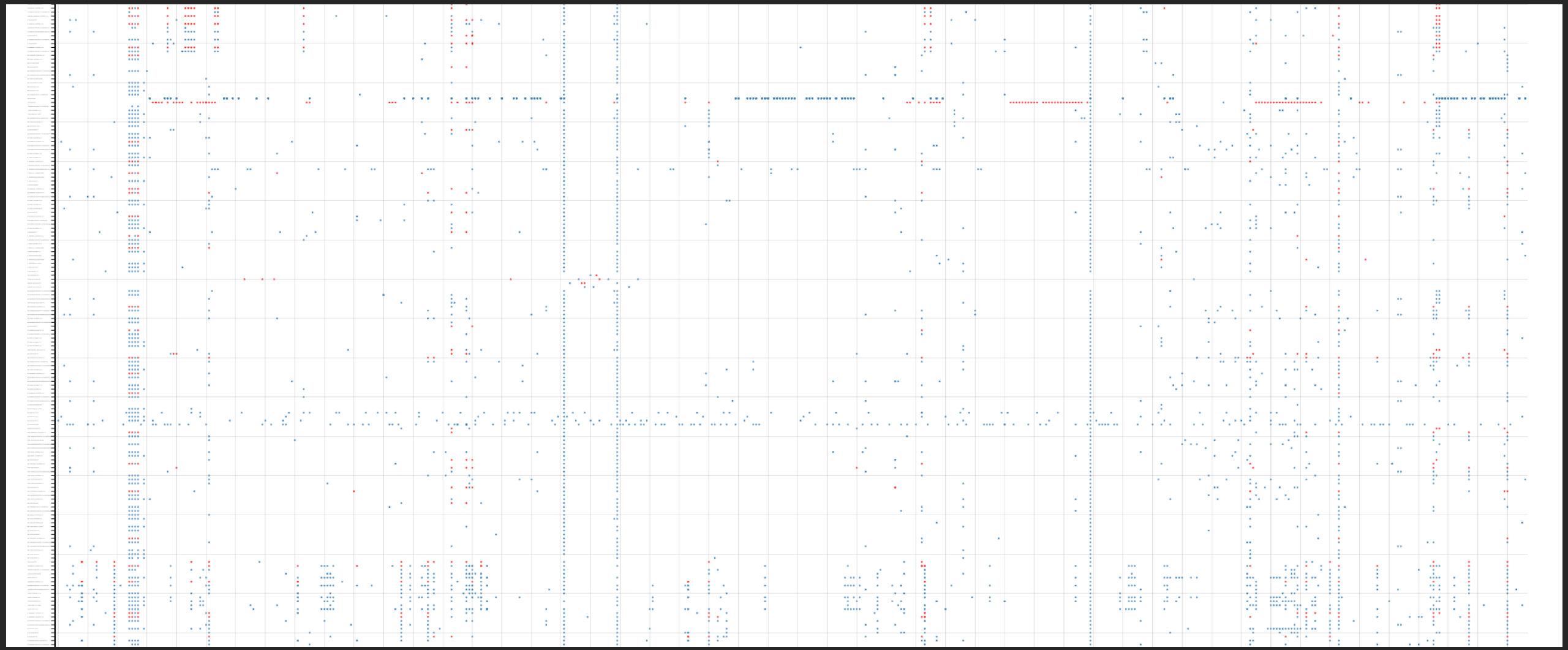
Introducing the Dot Plot



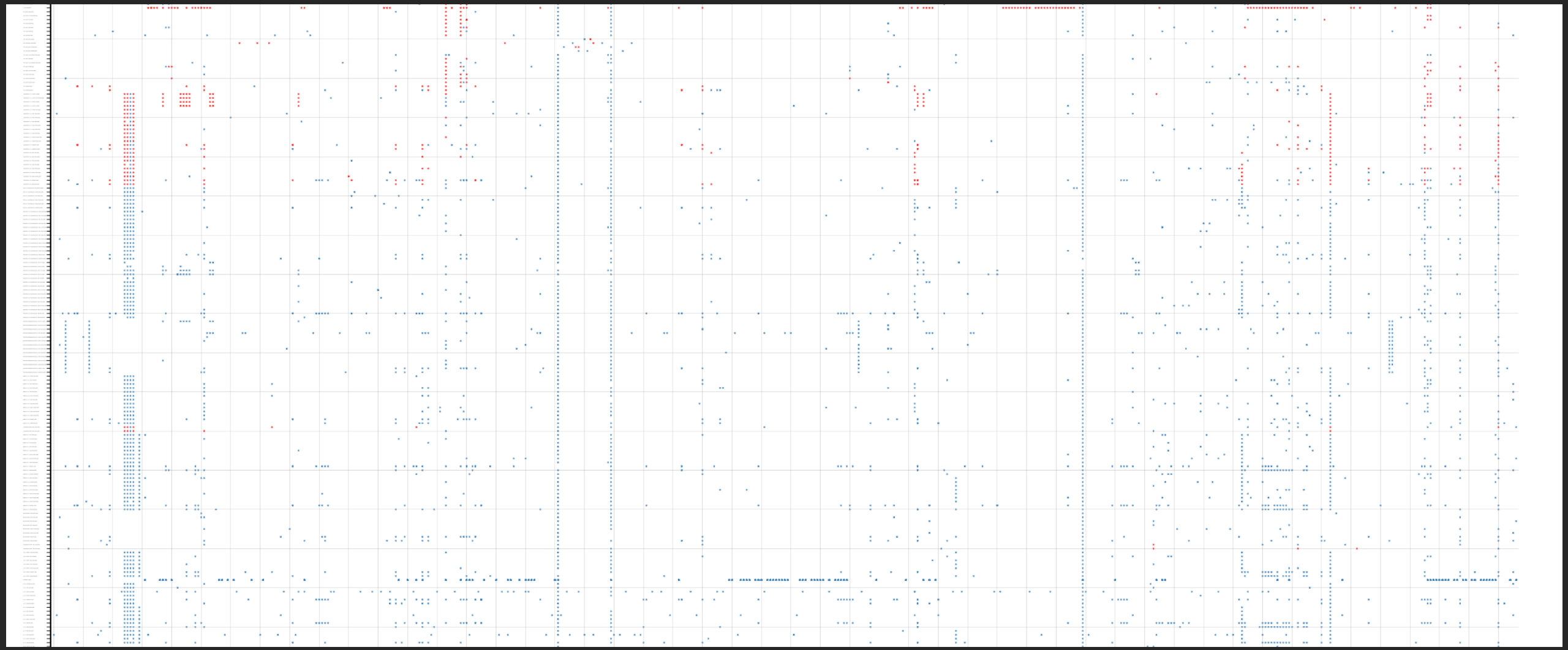
Introducing the Dot Plot



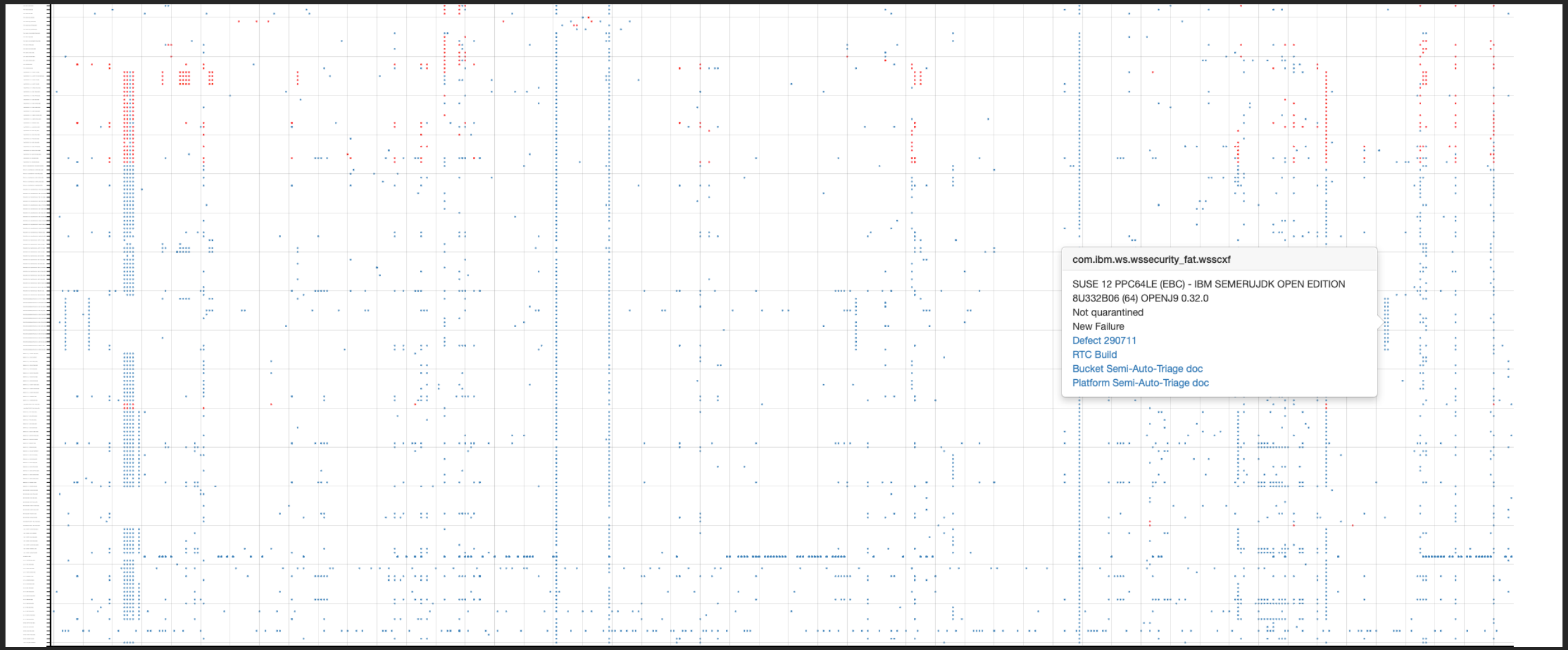
Recent Example – OS Sorting (99.91% pass rate)



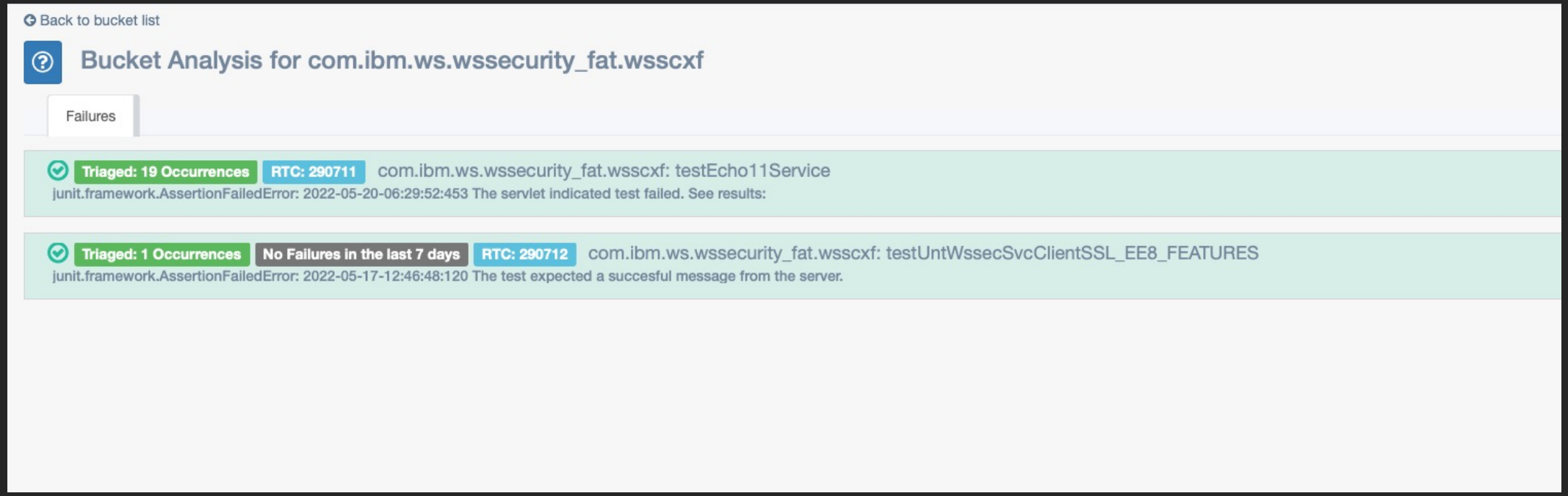
Recent Example – JDK Sorting (99.91% pass rate)



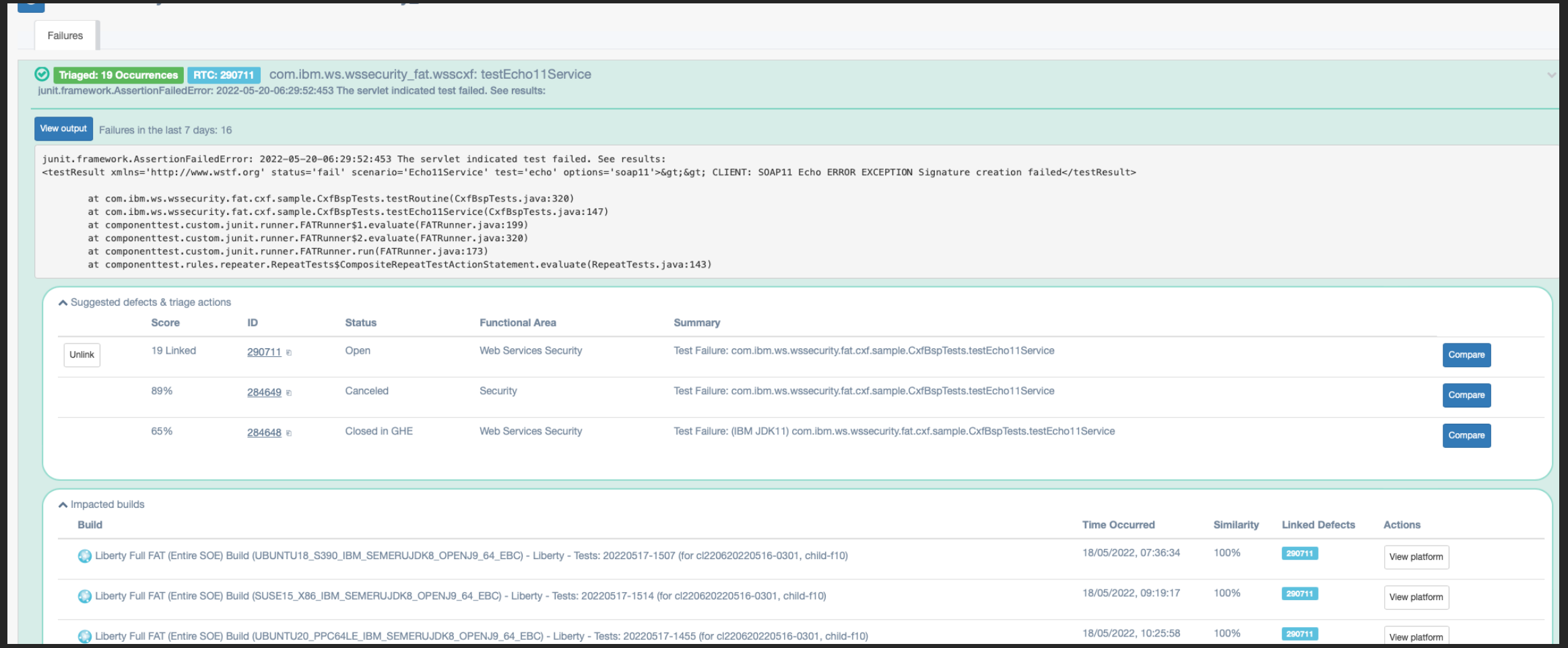
Select dots and request auto-triage



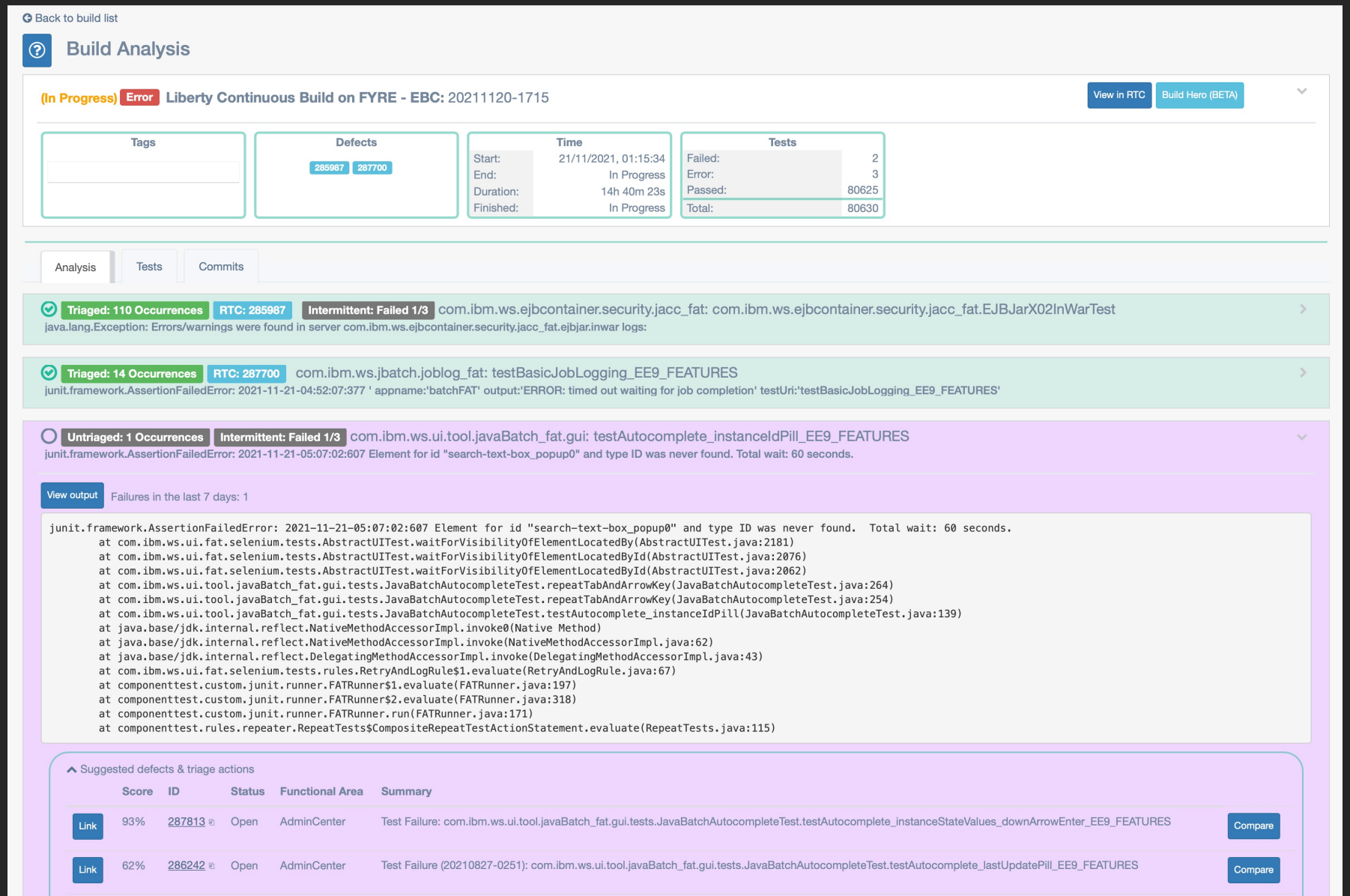
Analysis identifies multiple issues



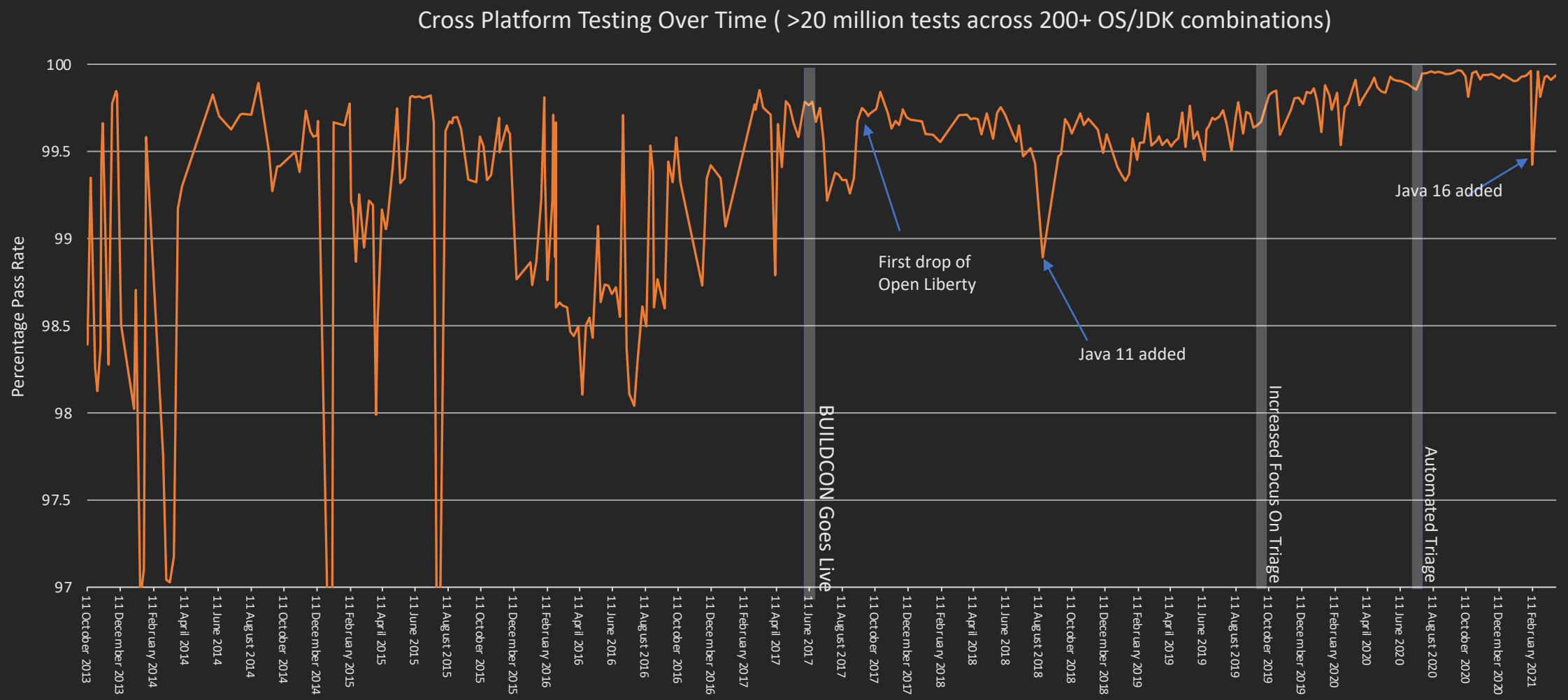
Guided Triage and Defect Linking



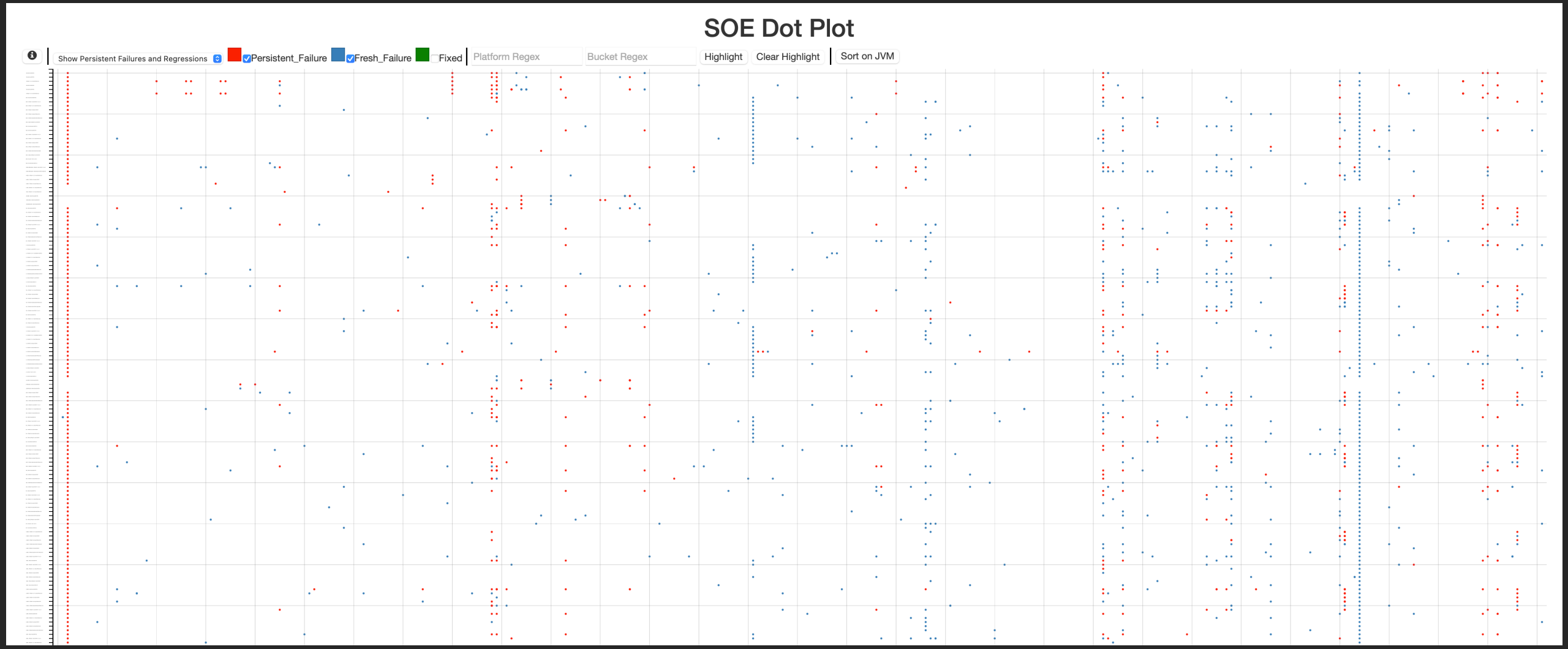
Build Monitoring: Automated Triage



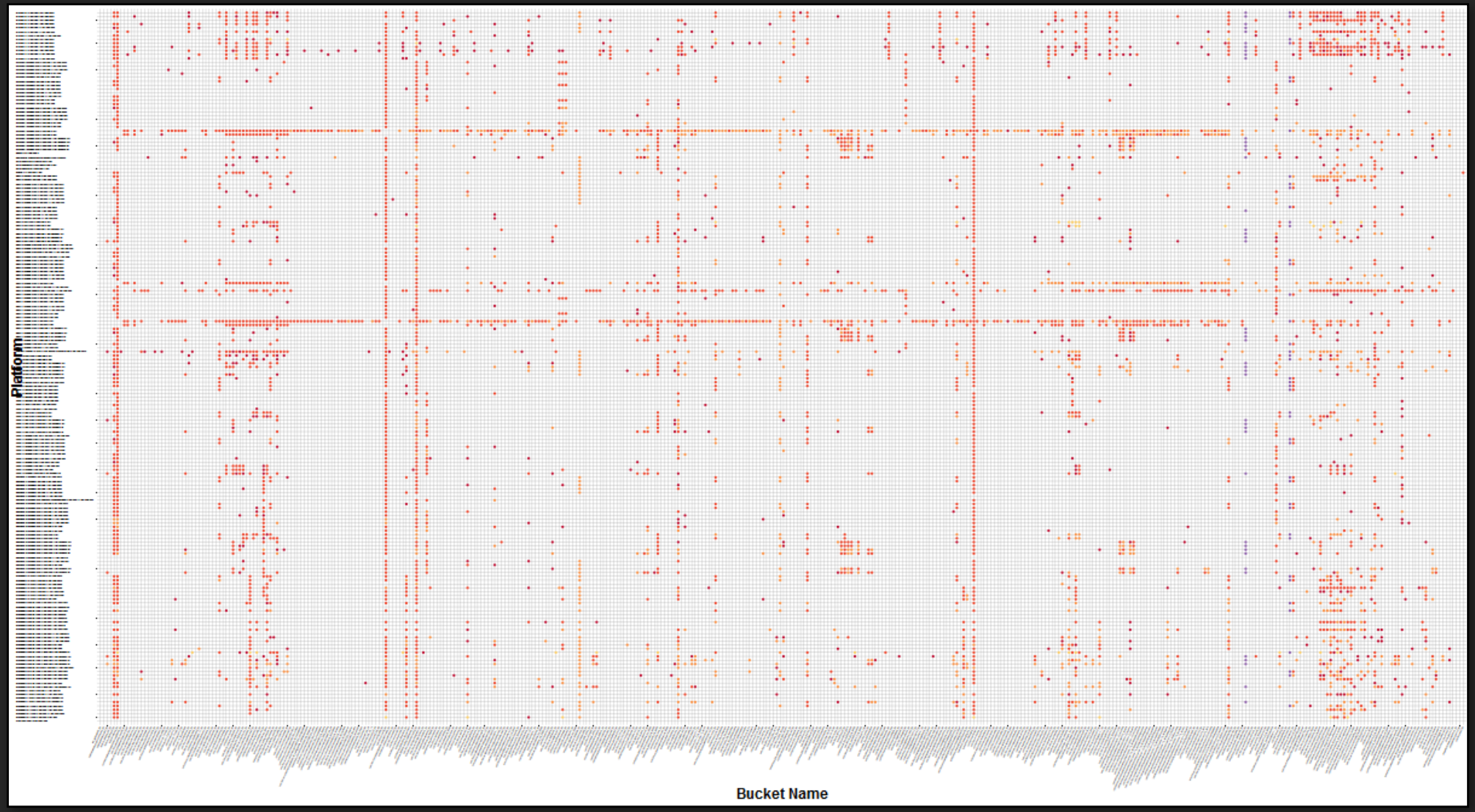
Highlighting the impact



Recent Example (99.93% pass rate)



Older example (99.5% pass rate)



Open Liberty

Useful Links

Why choose Liberty for Microservices
https://ibm.biz/6ReasonsWhyLiberty

Choosing the right Java runtime
https://ibm.biz/ChooseJavaRuntime

How to approach application modernization
https://ibm.biz/ModernizeJavaApps

Open Liberty Site
https://www.openliberty.io

Open Liberty Guides
https://www.openliberty.io/guides

https://openliberty.io →

Questions?

Open Liberty