

# Do you speak my language?

Make Static Analysis Engines Understand Each Other

Ibrahim Mohamed  
Security Engineer

FACEBOOK     

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = $_REQUEST['page_name'];  
    $qry = "select * from pages where  
           name = '$x'";  
    return mysql_query($qry);  
  }  
}
```

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    return wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```



SQL injection!



## SQL injection!



```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    ...  
    $client = new PageServiceClient(...);  
    $client->fetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
class PageServiceHandler:  
  def __init__(self):  
    self.db = MySQLdb.connect(...)  
  
  def fetchData(self, clause):  
    cursor = db.cursor()  
    query = "select * from pages" + clause  
    return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()  
  
if __name__ == '__main__':  
  server = TSimpleServer(PageServiceHandler)  
  print('Starting the server...')  
  server.serve()
```



# Ibrahim Mohamed

>= 2016 - now: Security engineer @ Facebook

< 2016: Security consultant

# Agenda

Motivation

Single-repo analysis

Cross-repo analysis

Example flows

Looking forward



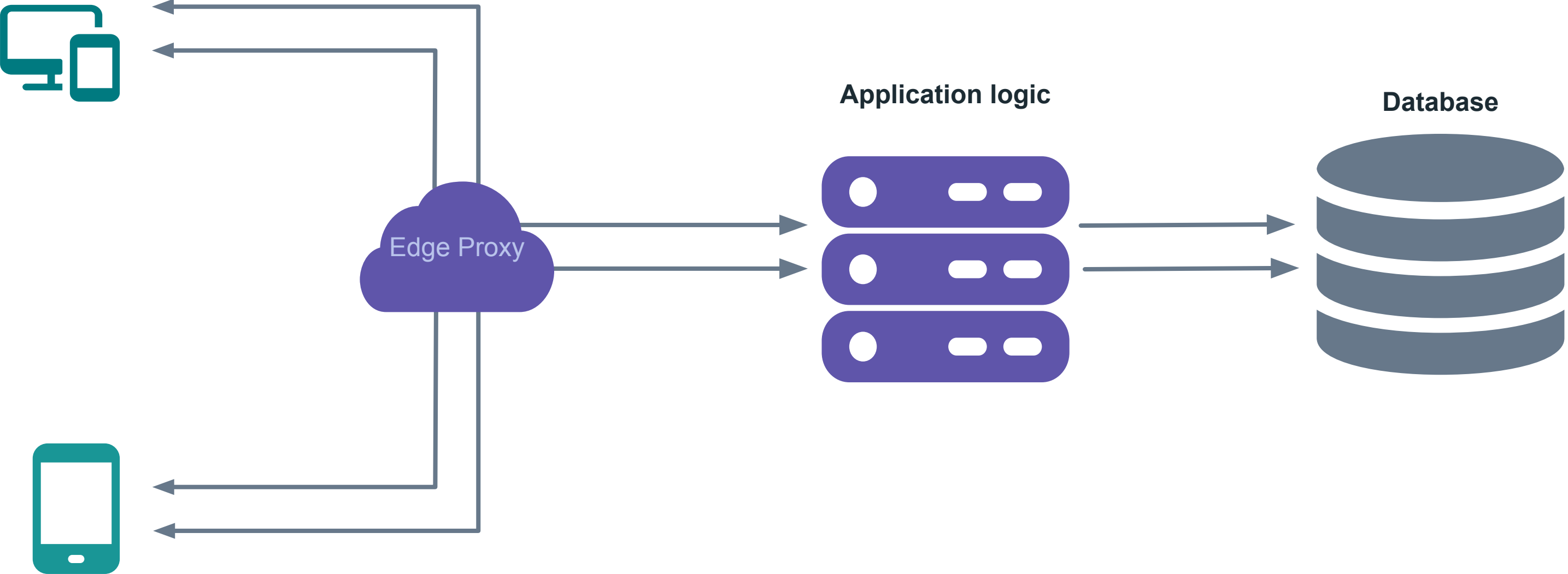
## SQL injection!



```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    ...  
    $client = new PageServiceClient(...);  
    $client->fetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

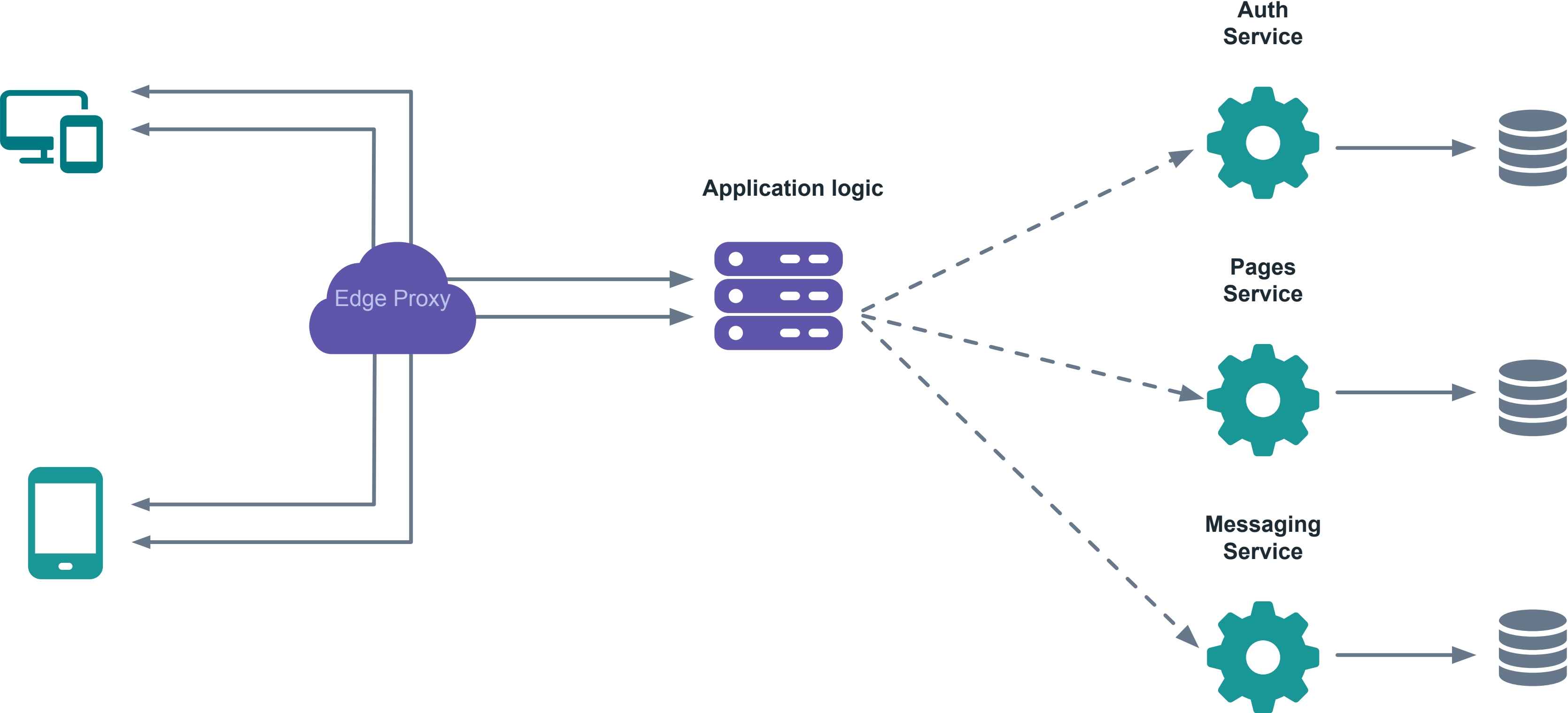
```
class PageServiceHandler:  
  def __init__(self):  
    self.db = MySQLdb.connect(...)  
  
  def fetchData(self, clause):  
    cursor = db.cursor()  
    query = "select * from pages" + clause  
    return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()  
  
if __name__ == '__main__':  
  server = TSimpleServer(PageServiceHandler)  
  print('Starting the server...')  
  server.serve()
```

Motivation: Service-oriented architecture

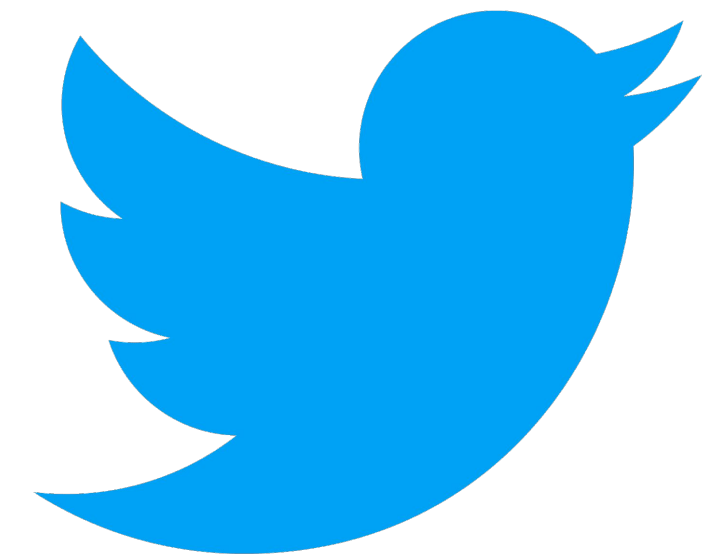
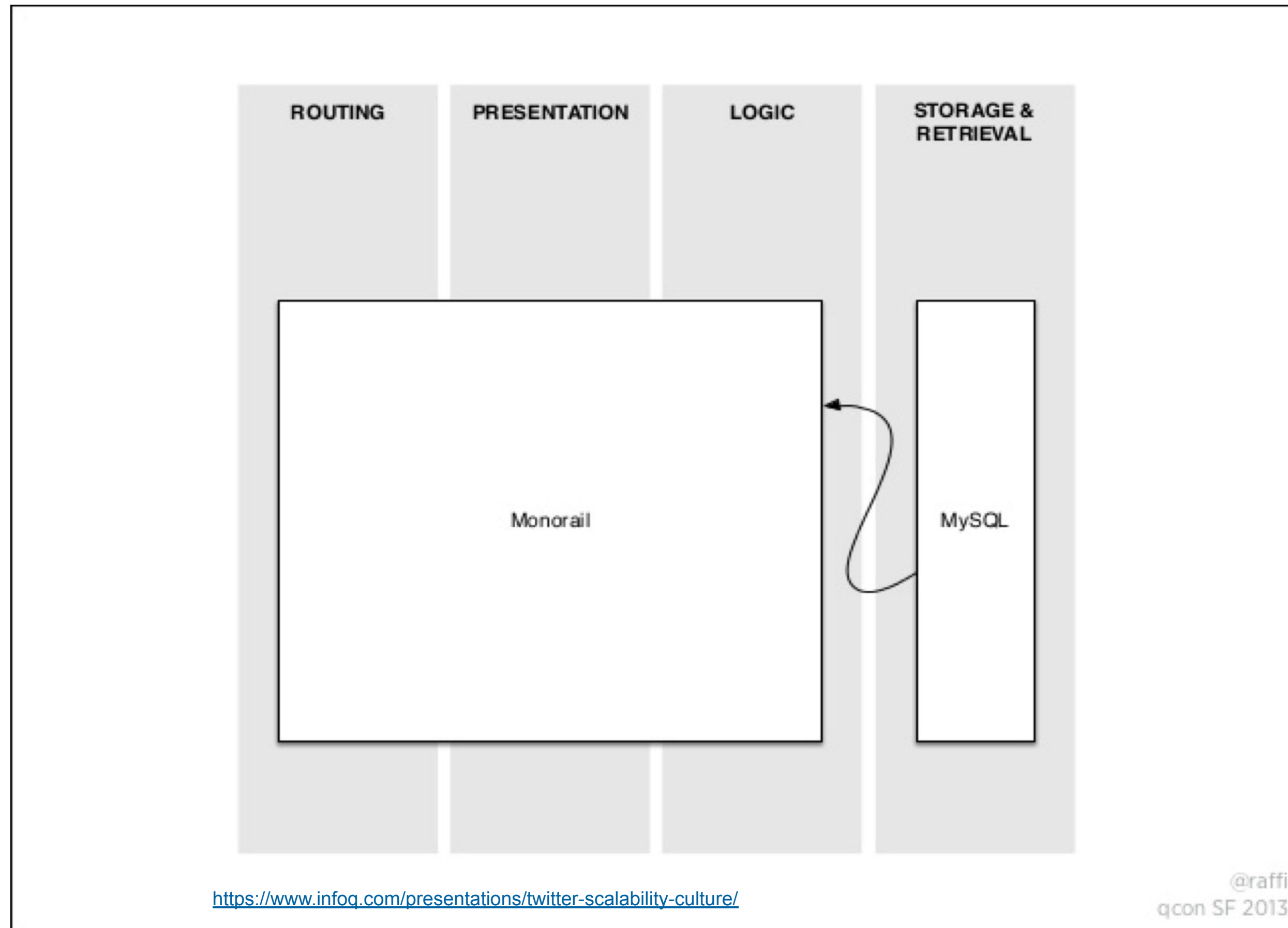




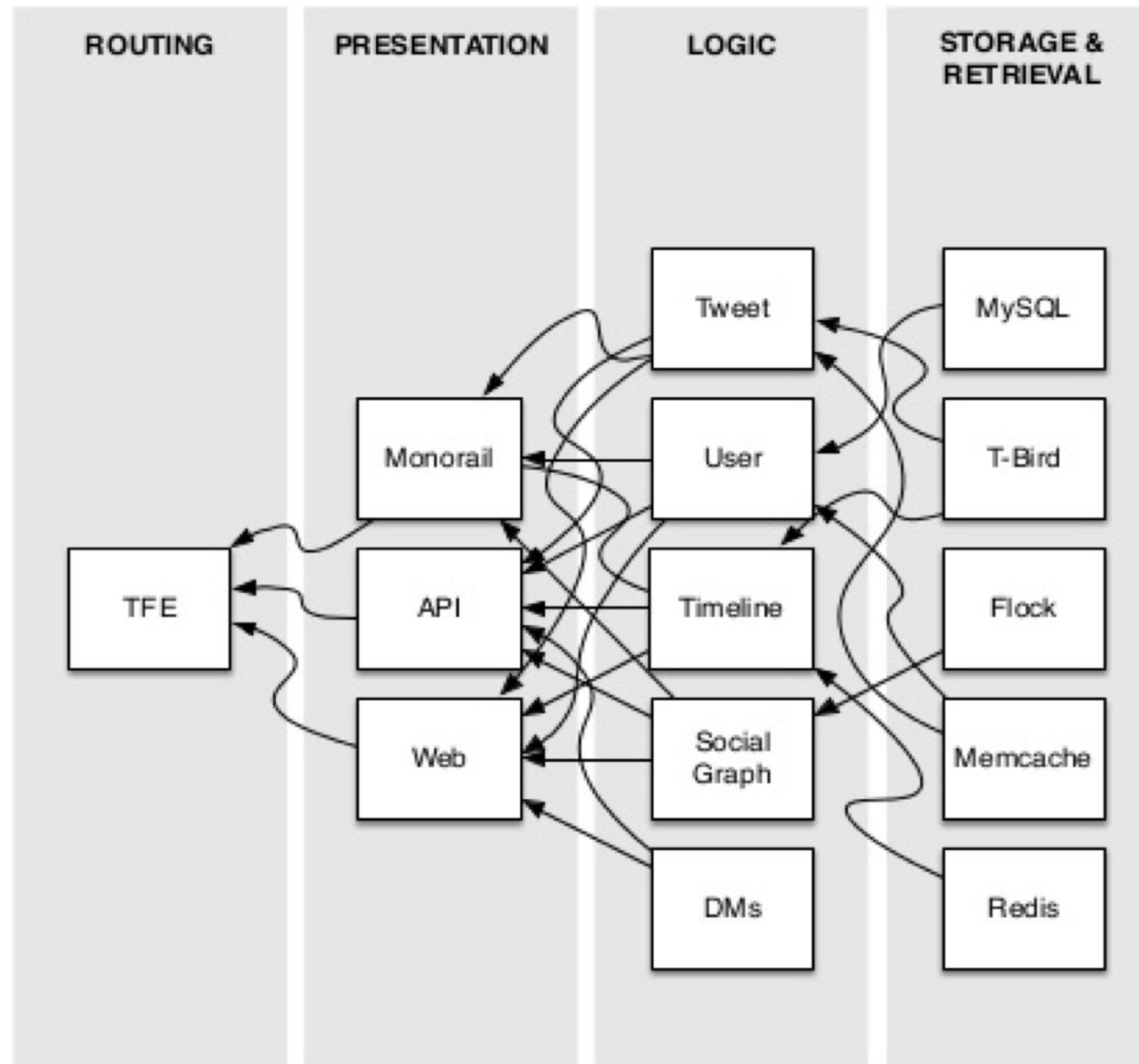
Motivation: Service-oriented architecture



## Motivation: Service-oriented architecture

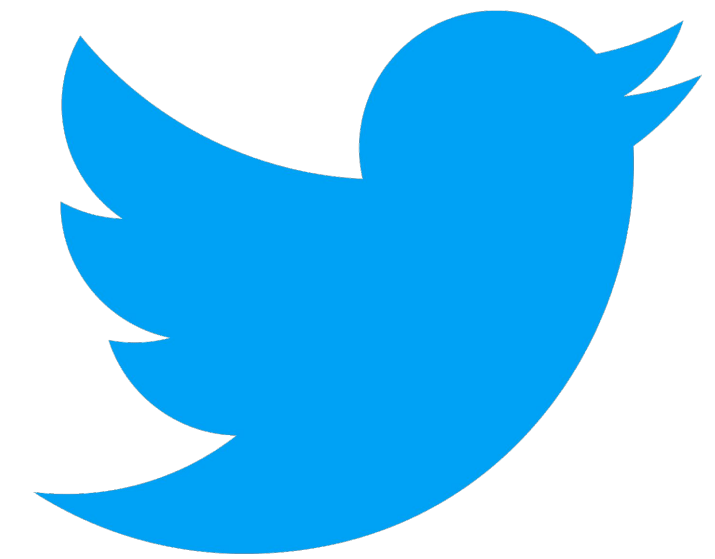


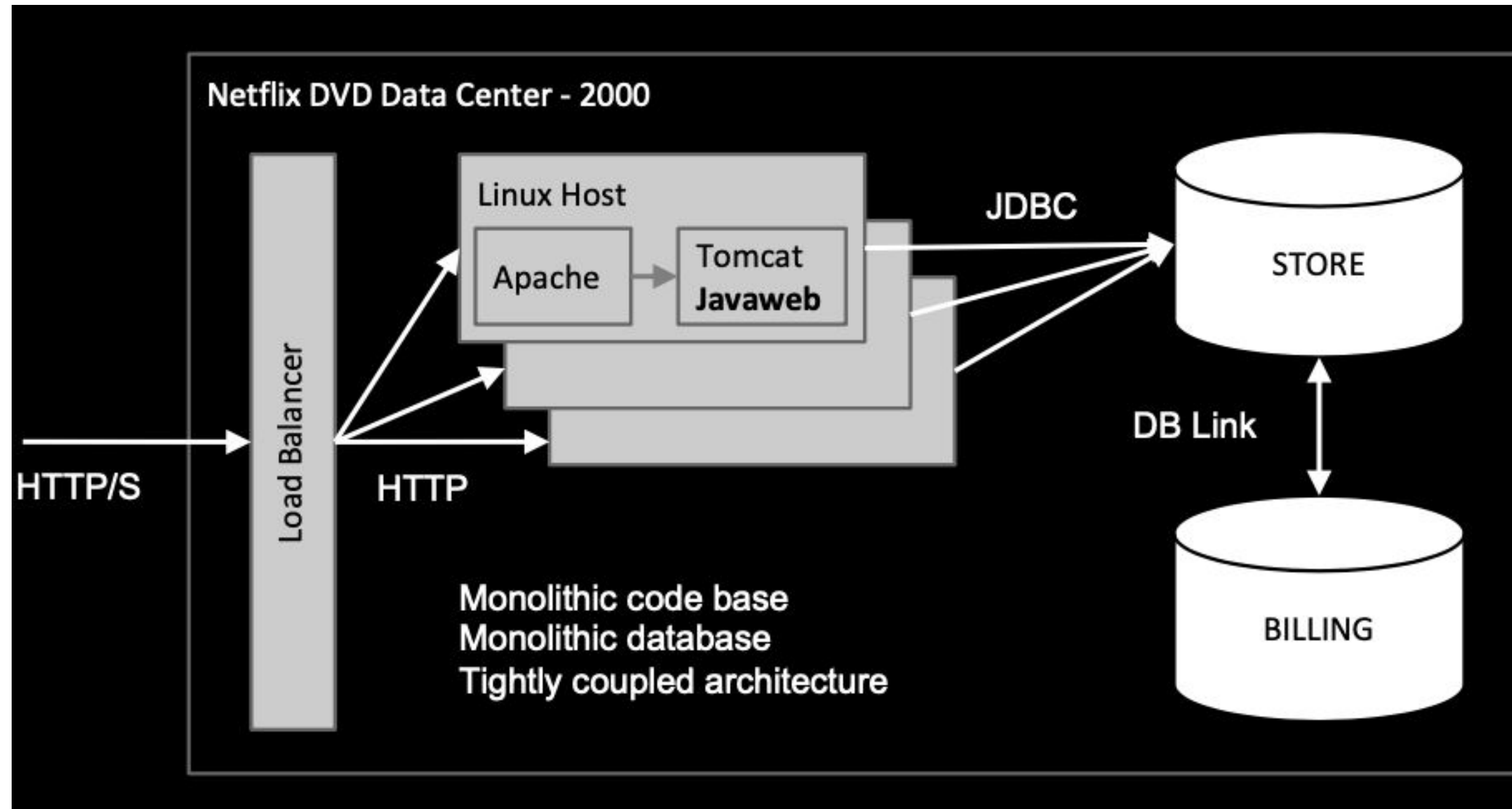
## Motivation: Service-oriented architecture



<https://www.infoq.com/presentations/twitter-scalability-culture/>

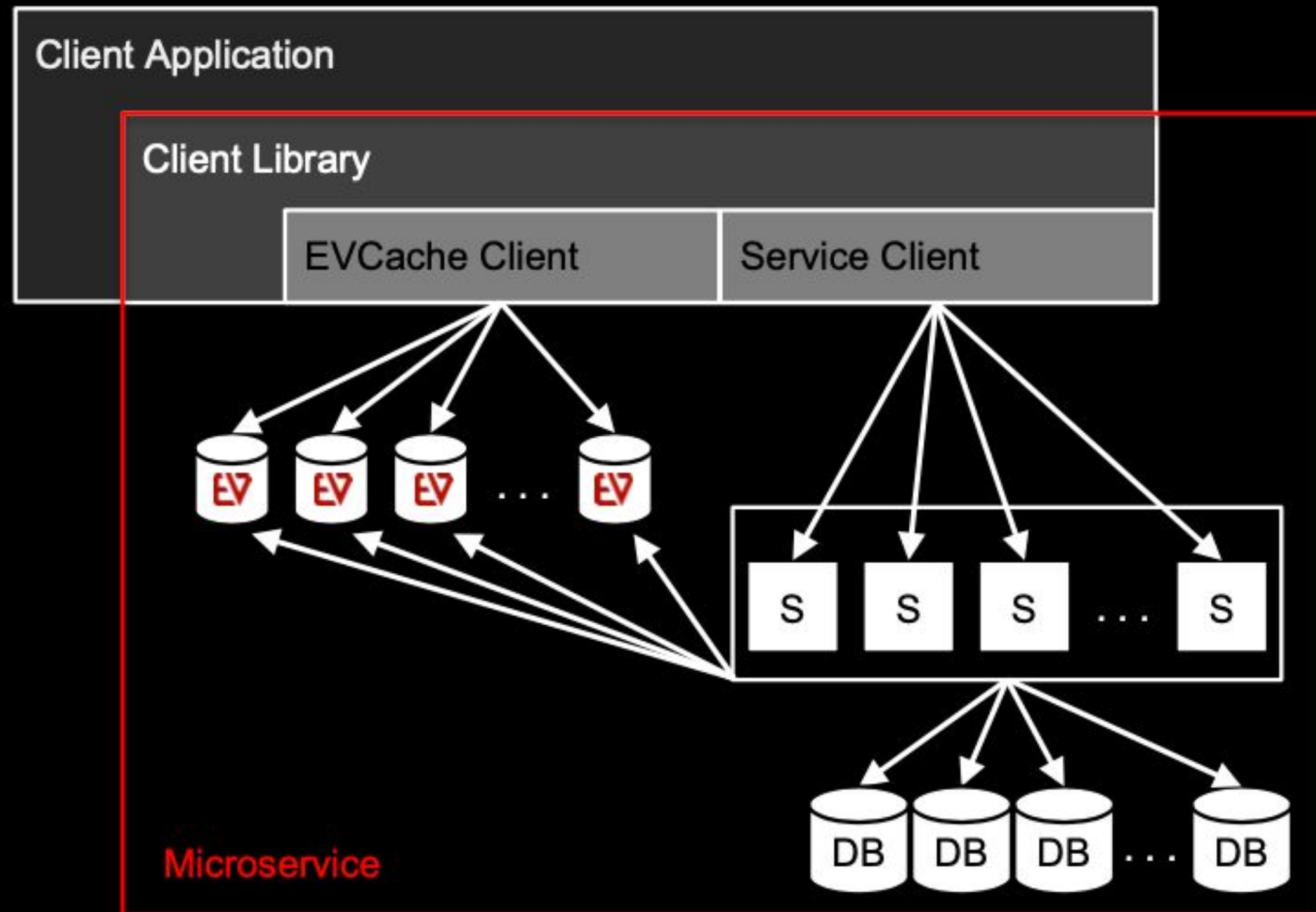
@raffi  
qcon SF 2013



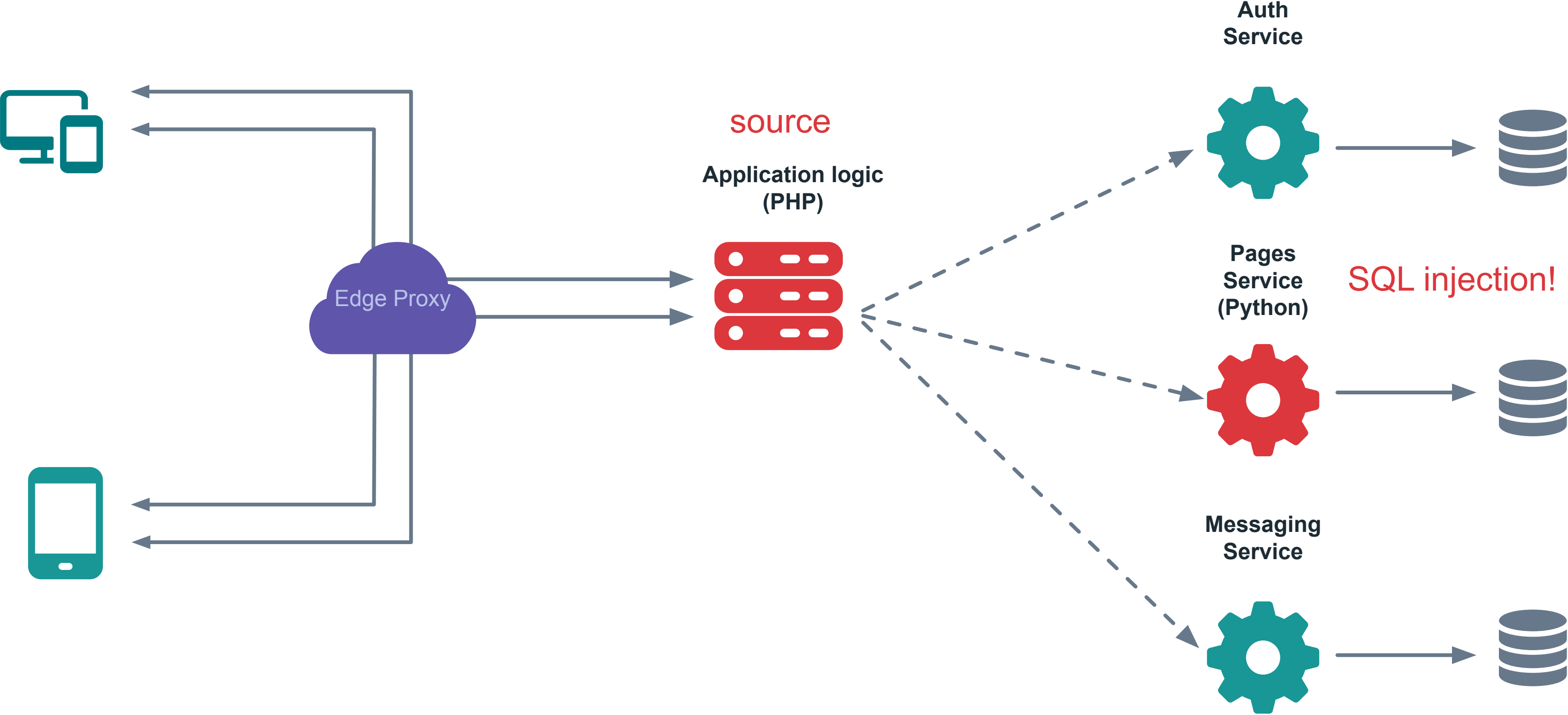


<https://www.infoq.com/presentations/netflix-chaos-microservices/>

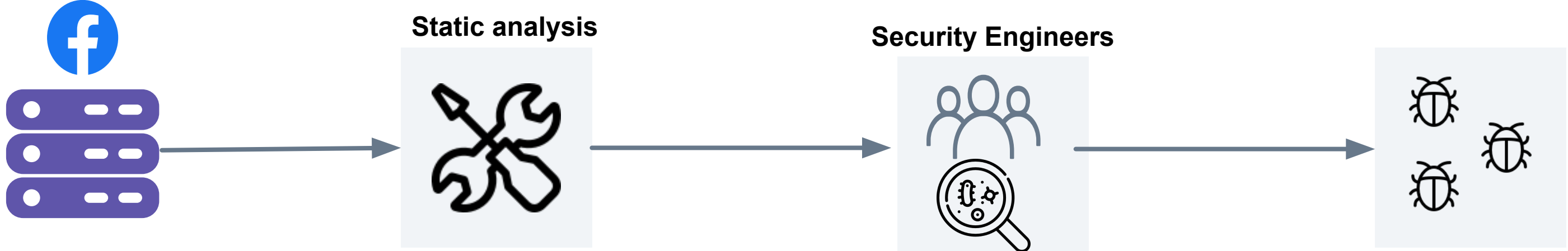
## Microservices are an abstraction

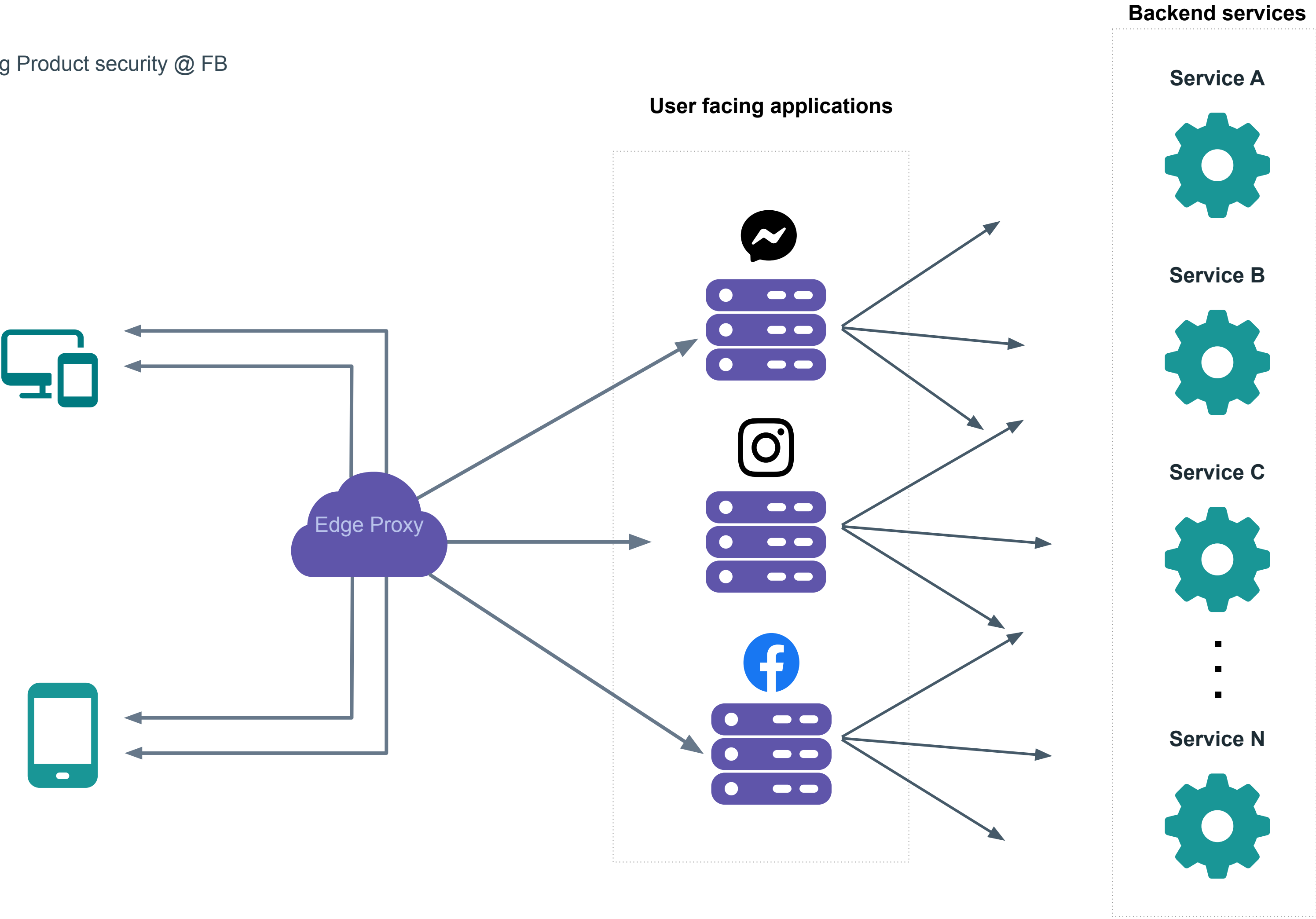


Motivation: Service-oriented architecture



Scaling Product security @ FB







# Static Analysis @ Facebook

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    return wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
function wrapGetPageName(): string {  
    return getPageName();  
}
```

1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
    function getResponse(): void {  
        $x = wrapGetPageName();  
        $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
        wrapFetchData($clause);  
    }  
}
```

```
function getPageName(): string {  
    return request()['page_name'];  
}
```

2

```
function wrapGetPageName(): string {  
    return getPageName();  
}
```

1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
    function getResponse(): void {  
        $x = wrapGetPageName();  
        $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
        wrapFetchData($clause);  
    }  
}
```

```
request():{  
  return $_REQUEST;  
}
```

3

```
function getPageName(): string {  
  return request()['page_name'];  
}
```

2

```
function wrapGetPageName(): string {  
  return getPageName();  
}
```

1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
function wrapFetchData(  
  string $clause,  
): {  
  return fetchData($clause);  
}
```

1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    $x = wrapGetName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
function fetchData(  
  string $clause,  
) {  
  return mysql_query(  
    'select ...' . $clause  
  );  
}
```

2

```
function wrapFetchData(  
  string $clause,  
) {  
  return fetchData($clause);  
}
```

1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```



**SQL injection!**



```
function request() {  
  return $_REQUEST;  
}  
request(): UserControlled source
```

3

sources: functions/methods that **return tainted data** which the static analysis tool **should track across the call graph**.

sources usually map to places where **untrusted input is returned**

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {
```

```
    PageName();
```

```
    $name = ' . $x;
```

```
    $data($clause);
```

```
}
```

```
function request(){  
  return $_REQUEST;  
}  
request():UserControlled source
```

3

```
function getPageName(): string {  
  return request()['page_name'];  
}  
getPageName():UserControlled source
```

2

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
function request(){
  return $_REQUEST;
}
request():UserControlled source
```

3

```
function getPageName(): string {
  return request()['page_name'];
}
getPageName():UserControlled source
```

2

```
function wrapGetPageName(): string {
  return getPageName();
}
wrapGetPageName():UserControlled source
```

1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {
  function getResponse(): void {
    $x = wrapGetPageName();
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;
    wrapFetchData($clause);
  }
}
```

2

```
function fetchData(  
  string $clause,  
) {  
  return mysql_query(  
    'select ...' $clause  
  );  
}  
fetchD
```

sinks: functions/methods that if **tainted data flows into**, we want to **create issues** and see the full flow

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    PageName();  
    ne = ' . $x;  
    ta($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
function fetchData(  
    string $clause,  
) {  
    return mysql_query(  
        'select ...' . $clause,  
    );  
}  
  
fetchData($clause:SQLi sink)
```

2

```
function wrapFetchData(  
    string $clause,  
) {  
    return fetchData($clause);  
}  
  
wrapFetchData($clause:SQLi sink)
```

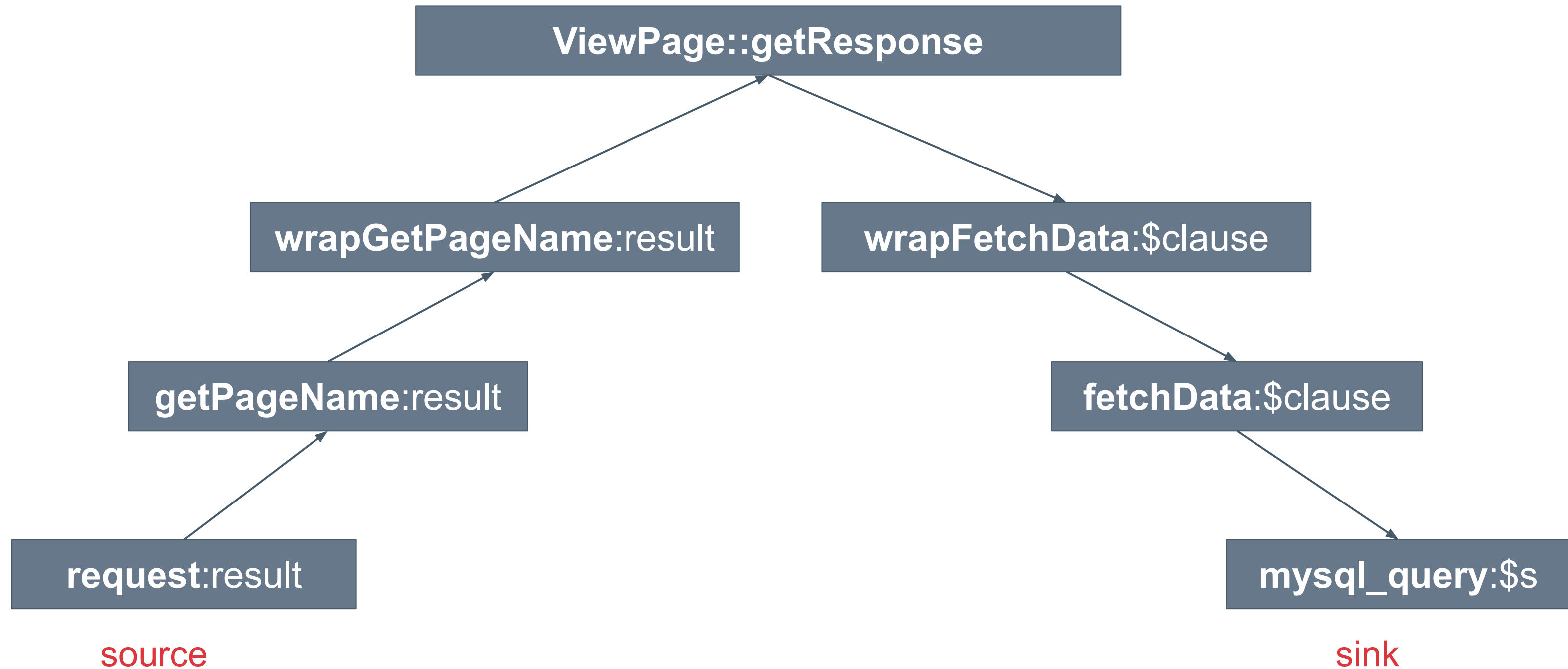
1

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
    function getResponse(): void {  
        $x = wrapGetPageName();  
        $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
        wrapFetchData($clause);  
    }  
}
```

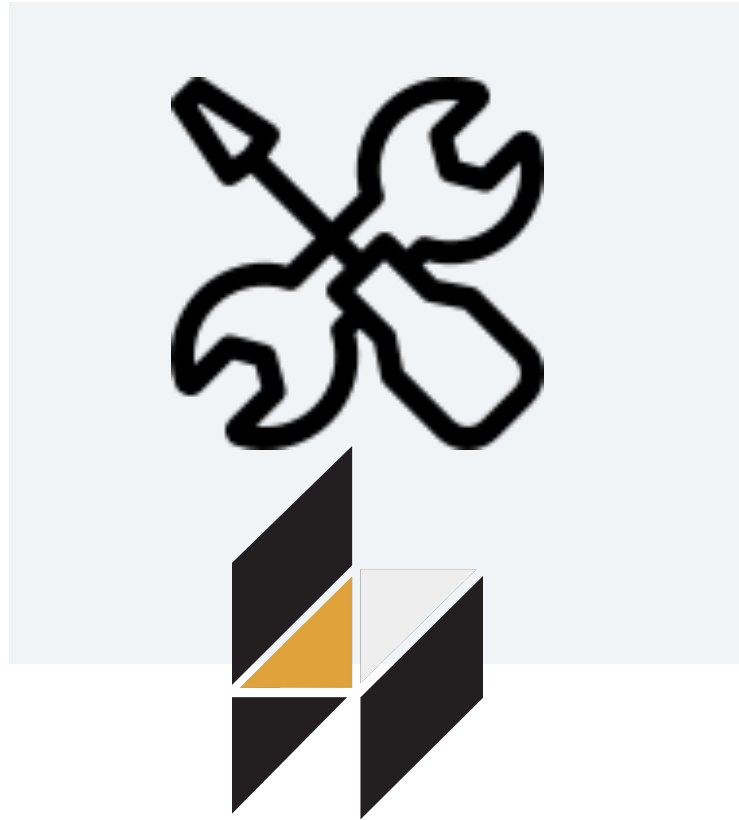
```
rule: {  
  sources: [UserControlled],  
  sinks: [SQLi],  
  message: "SQL injection"  
}
```

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse(): void {  
    $x = wrapGetName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    wrapFetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

# Trace in our Example



## Facebook Taint-flow analysis engines



Zoncolan

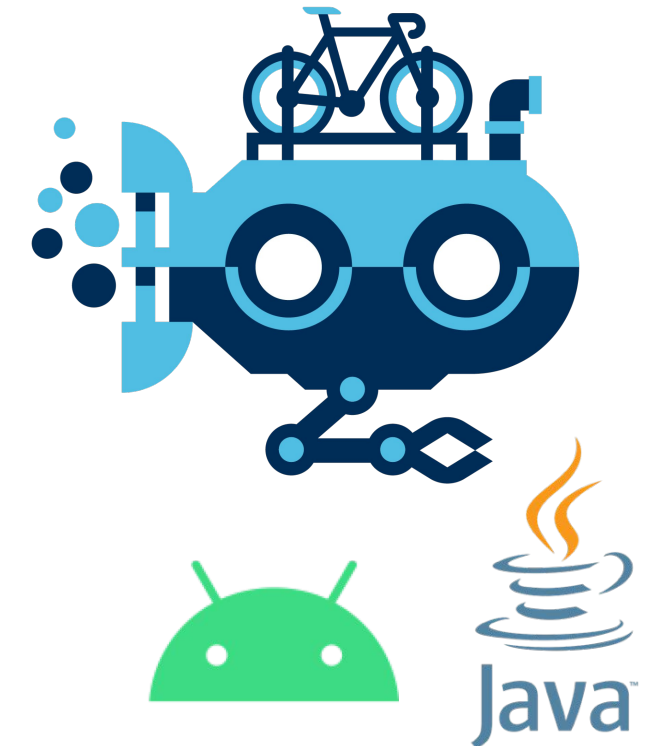
Taint-flow analysis for **Hack**



Pysa

Taint-flow analysis for **Python**

<https://pyre-check.org/docs/pysa-basics/>



Mariana Trench (MT)

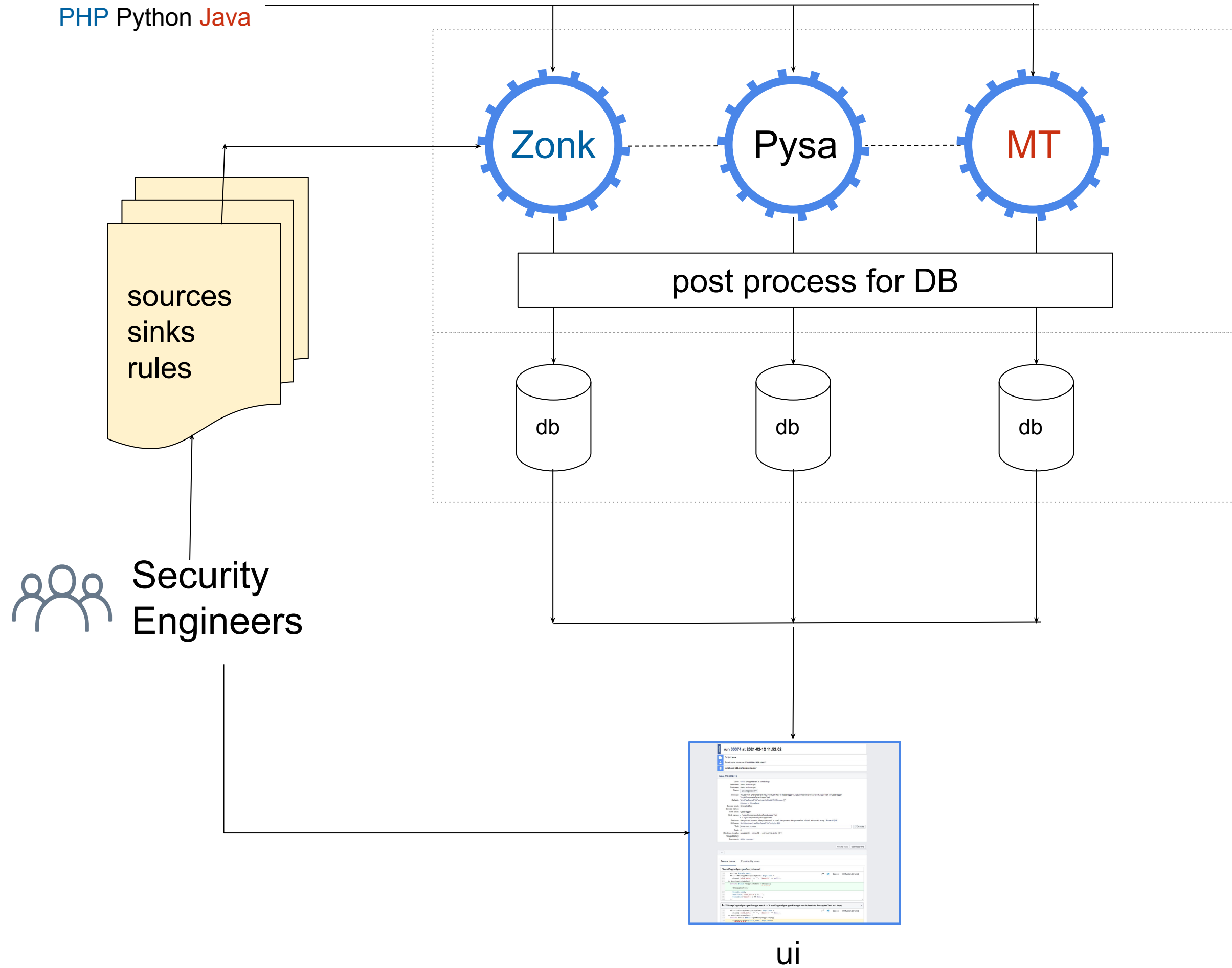
Taint-flow analysis for **Java** and **Android** code

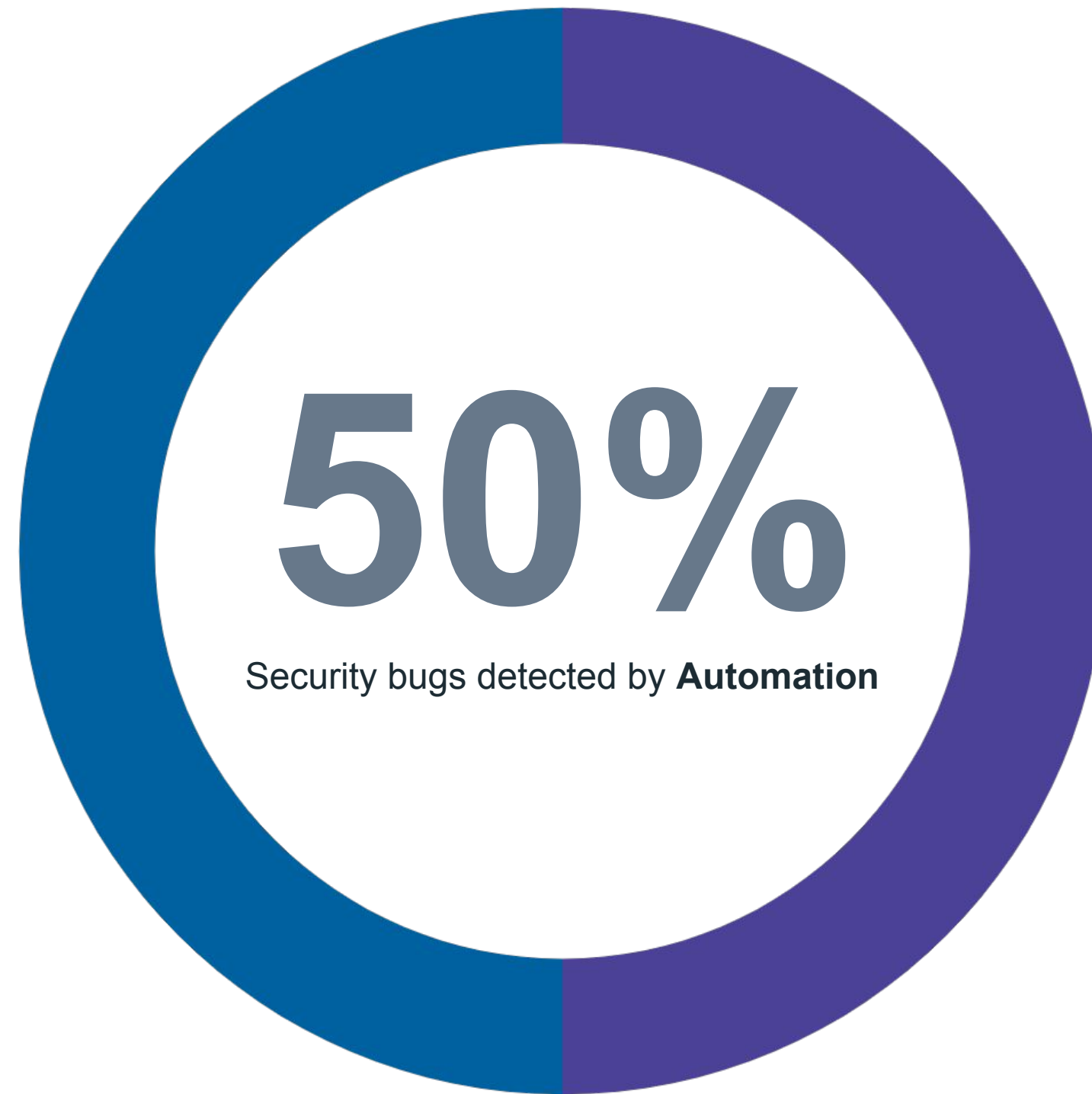
<https://github.com/facebook/mariana-trench>



# Codebase

PHP Python Java





# Cross-repo taint-flow analysis



## SQL injection!



```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    ...  
    $client = new PageServiceClient(...);  
    $client->fetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
class PageServiceHandler:  
  def __init__(self):  
    self.db = MySQLdb.connect(...)  
  
  def fetchData(self, clause):  
    cursor = db.cursor()  
    query = "select * from pages" + clause  
    return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()  
  
if __name__ == '__main__':  
  server = TSimpleServer(PageServiceHandler)  
  print('Starting the server...')  
  server.serve()
```

```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;
```



**RETURN** data from \$\_REQUEST

Thrift: lightweight, language-independent software stack for point-to-point RPC implementation. Thrift provide abstractions for data transport, data serialization, and application level processing.

src: <https://github.com/apache/thrift>

```
$client = new PageServiceAsyncClient($protocol);
```

```
$client->fetchData($clause);
```



**Call** to a thrift service

```
import MySQLdb
class PageServiceHandler:
    def __init__(self):
        self.log = {}
        self.db = MySQLdb.connect("host","user","pwd","db")

    def fetchData(self, clause):
        cursor = db.cursor()
        query = "select * from pages where" + clause
        return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    handler = PageServiceHandler()
    processor = PageService.Processor(handler)
    server = TSimpleServer(processor)
    print('Starting the server...')
    server.serve()
```

```
...  
def fetchData(self, clause):  
    cursor = db.cursor()  
    query = "select * from pages where" + clause  
    return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()  
...
```



**THRIFT** arguments



**Argument flows into SQLi sink**



## SQL injection!



```
class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {  
  function getResponse() {  
    $x = wrapGetPageName();  
    $clause = 'name = ' . $x;  
    ...  
    $client = new PageServiceClient(...);  
    $client->fetchData($clause);  
  }  
}
```

```
class PageServiceHandler:  
  def __init__(self):  
    self.db = MySQLdb.connect(...)  
  
  def fetchData(self, clause):  
    cursor = db.cursor()  
    query = "select * from pages" + clause  
    return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()  
  
if __name__ == '__main__':  
  server = TSimpleServer(PageServiceHandler)  
  print('Starting the server...')  
  server.serve()
```



# How to find this with static analysis?

- If we have PHP static analysis tool - Zoncolan!
  - Review the code
  - Identify calls to thrift services
- If we have Python static analysis tool - Pysa!
  - Review the code
  - Identify thrift server implementation
- Automagically make both share the information to find the SQLi

```

class ViewPage extends FacebookEndpoint {
    function getResponse() {
        $x = wrapGetPageName();
        $clause = 'name = ' . $x;
        ...
        $client = new PageServiceClient(...);
        $client->fetchData($clause);
    }
}
    
```

1. Analyze code normally

2. Identify flows to thrift RPC calls

3. resolve canonical connection point and store partial flow



canonical_name	Kind	Producer	Model
<b>PageService::fetchData</b>	fbthrift_handler	<b>Zonk</b>	[{"from":{"port":"arg(0)","sources":["ExternalUserControlled"]}]}]

canonical_name	Kind	Producer	Model
PageService::fetchData	fbthrift_handler	Zonk	[{"from":{"port":"arg(0)","sources":["ExternalUserControlled"]}]

```
class PageServiceHandler:  
    ...  
    ...  
    def fetchData(self, clause):  
        cursor = db.cursor()  
        query = "select * from pages where" + clause  
        return cursor.execute(query).fetchone()  
    ...
```



- 4. Identity thrift service implementations
- 5. Look up canonical point information PageService:FetchData
- 6. Engine augments initial models with producers information



canonical_name	Kind	Producer	Model
PageService::fetchData	fbthrift_handler	Zonk	[{"from":{"port":"arg(0)","sources":["ExternalUserControlled"]} } ]



```
...  
def fetchData(self, clause):  
    cursor = db.cursor()  
    query = "select * from pages where" +  
           clause;  
    return cursor.execute(query)  
...
```

3. We see thrift handler, look up db and augment initial models

4. Cross-language SQL injection!

Producer run - storing partial flows



```
"ViewController::getResponse": {
  "taint": [
    {
      "from": {
        "name": "wrapGetPageName",
        "port": "return",
        "sources": [
          "ExternalUserControlled"
        ],
        "features": []
      }
    },
    {
      "to": {
        "name": "PageServiceAsyncClient:fetchData",
        "port": "arg(0)",
        "sinks": [
          "FBThriftRPC"
        ],
        "features": ["string_concatenation"]
      }
    }
  ]
}
```



```
"PageService::fetchData": {
  "taint": [
    {
      "from": {
        "name": "PageService::fetchData",
        "port": "arg(0)",
        "sources": [
          "ExternalUserControlled"
        ],
        "features": ["string_concatenation"]
      }
    }
  ]
}
```



```
function getResponse() {
  $x = wrapGetPageName();
  $clause = 'name = ' . $x;
  ...
  ...
  $client->fetchData($clause);
}
```

canonical_name	Kind	Producer	Model
PageService::fetchData	fbthrift_handler	Zonk	[{"from":{"port":"arg(0)","sources":["ExternalUserControlled"]}}

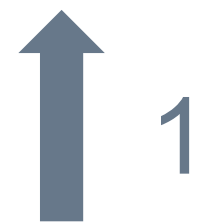
# Cross-repo Taint flows - Loading partial flows

```
"PageServiceHandler::fetchData": {  
  "taint": [  
    {  
      "from": {}  
    },  
    {  
      "to": {}  
    }  
  ]  
}
```



```
"PageServiceHandler::fetchData": {  
  "taint": [  
    {  
      "from": {  
        "name": "PageService::fetchData",  
        "port": "arg(1)",  
        "sources": [  
          "ExternalUserControlled"  
        ],  
        "features": ["string_concatenation"]  
      }  
    },  
    {  
      "to": {}  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

```
...  
def fetchData(self, clause):  
  cursor = db.cursor()  
  query = "select * from pages where" + clause  
  return cursor.execute(query)  
...
```



canonical_name	Kind	Producer	Model
PageService::fetchData	fbthrift_handler	Zonk	[{"from":{"port":"arg(0)","sources":["ExternalUserControlled"]}}

# Cross-repo Taint flows - Full analysis view

```
"PageServiceHandler::fetchData": {
  "taint": [
    {
      "from": {}
    },
    {
      "to": {}
    }
  ]
}
```



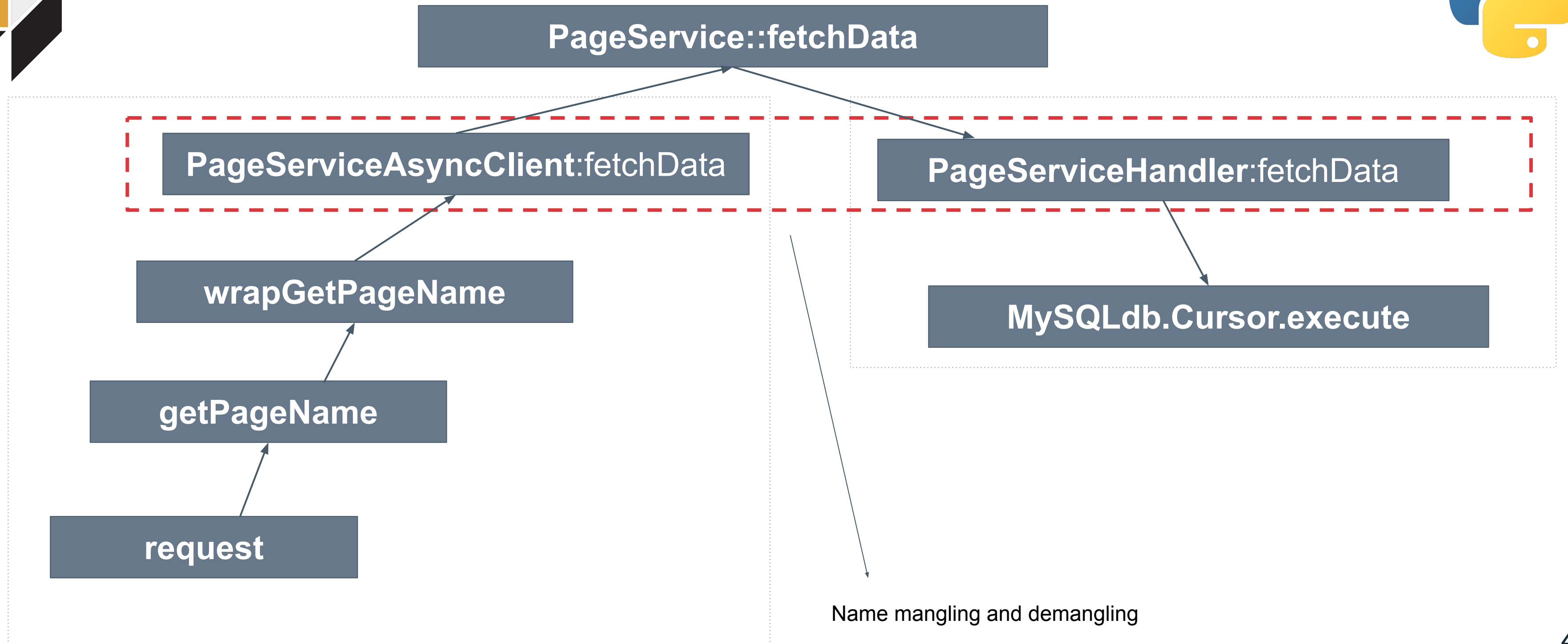
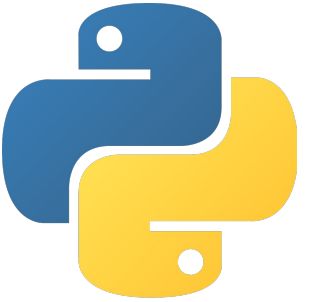
```
"PageServiceHandler::fetchData": {
  "taint": [
    {
      "from": {
        "name": "PageService::fetchData",
        "port": "arg(1)",
        "sources": [
          "ExternalUserControlled"
        ],
        "features": ["string_concatenation"]
      }
    },
    {
      "to": {}
    }
  ]
}
```



```
"PageServiceHandler::fetchData": {
  "taint": [
    {
      "from": {
        "name": "PageService::fetchData",
        "port": "arg(1)",
        "sources": [
          "ExternalUserControlled"
        ],
        "features": ["string_concatenation"]
      },
      "to": {
        "name": "MySQLdb.cursors.BaseCursor.execute",
        "port": "arg(1)",
        "sinks": [
          "SQLi"
        ],
        "features": [""]
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

canonical_name	Kind	Producer	Model
PageService::fetchData	fbthrift_handler	Zonk	[{"from":{"port":"arg(0)","sources":["ExternalUserControlled"],"features":["string_concatenation"]}}

# Trace in our Example



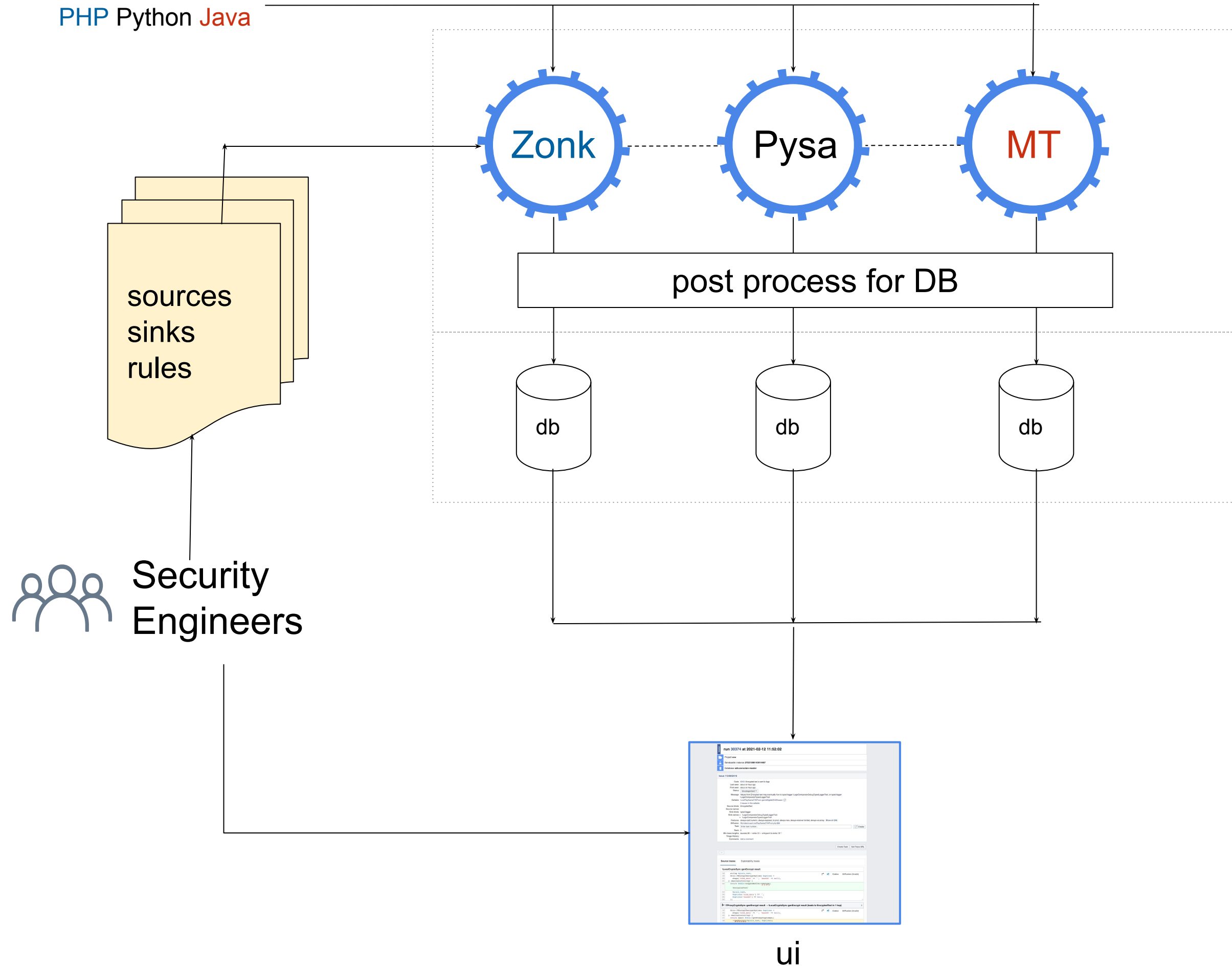


# Cross-Repo Taint Analysis

- Mark all RPC calls as sinks
- Defines canonical connection points (e.g. Fbthrift, Thrift, gRPC)
- Allow engines to store partial flows (e.g. UserControlled to Thrift) - Producers
- Allow engines to load partial flows augmenting initial models (e.g. UserControlled via Thrift) - Consumers
- Define format to visualize cross-repo traces

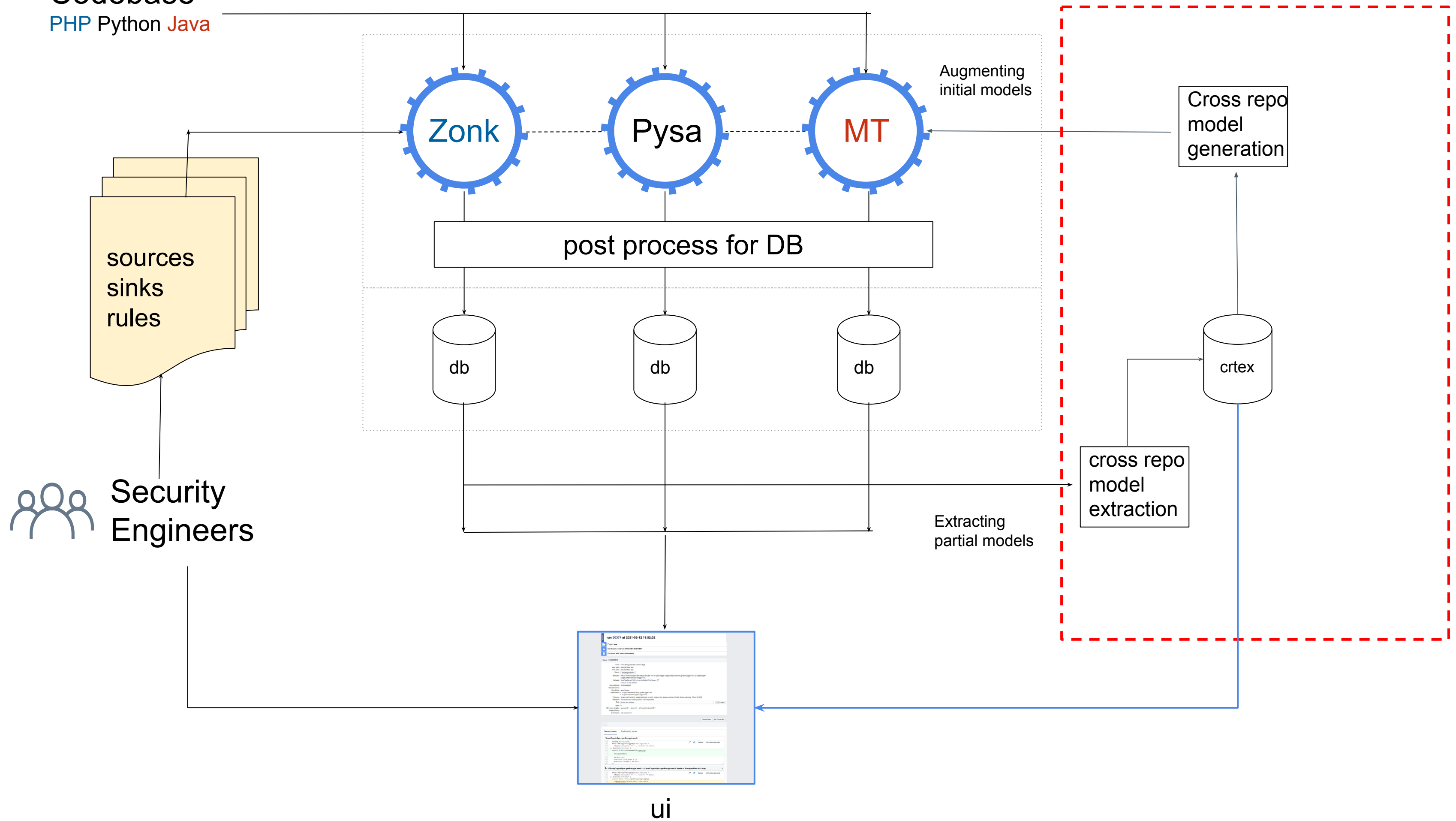
# Codebase

PHP Python Java



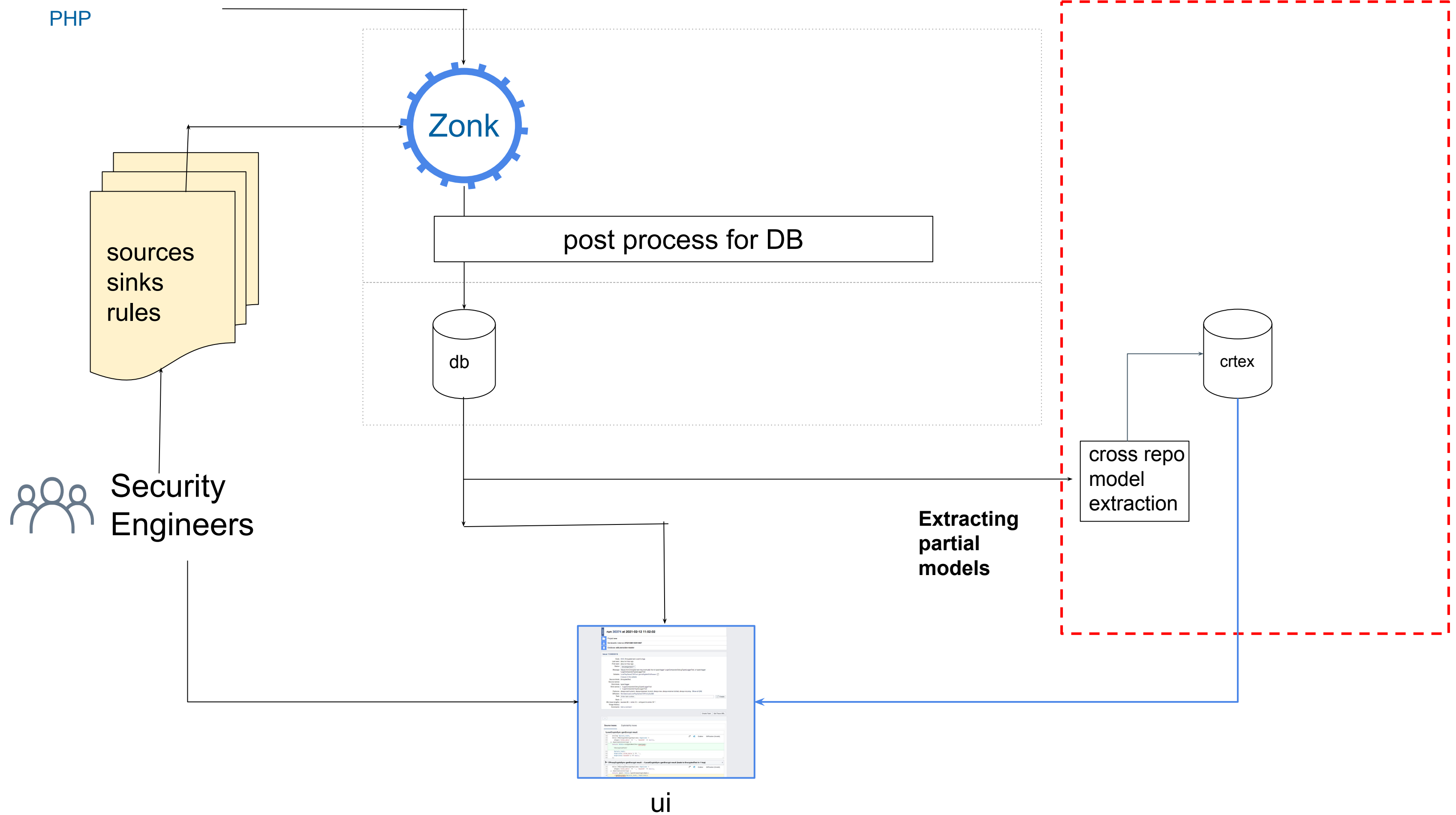
# Codebase

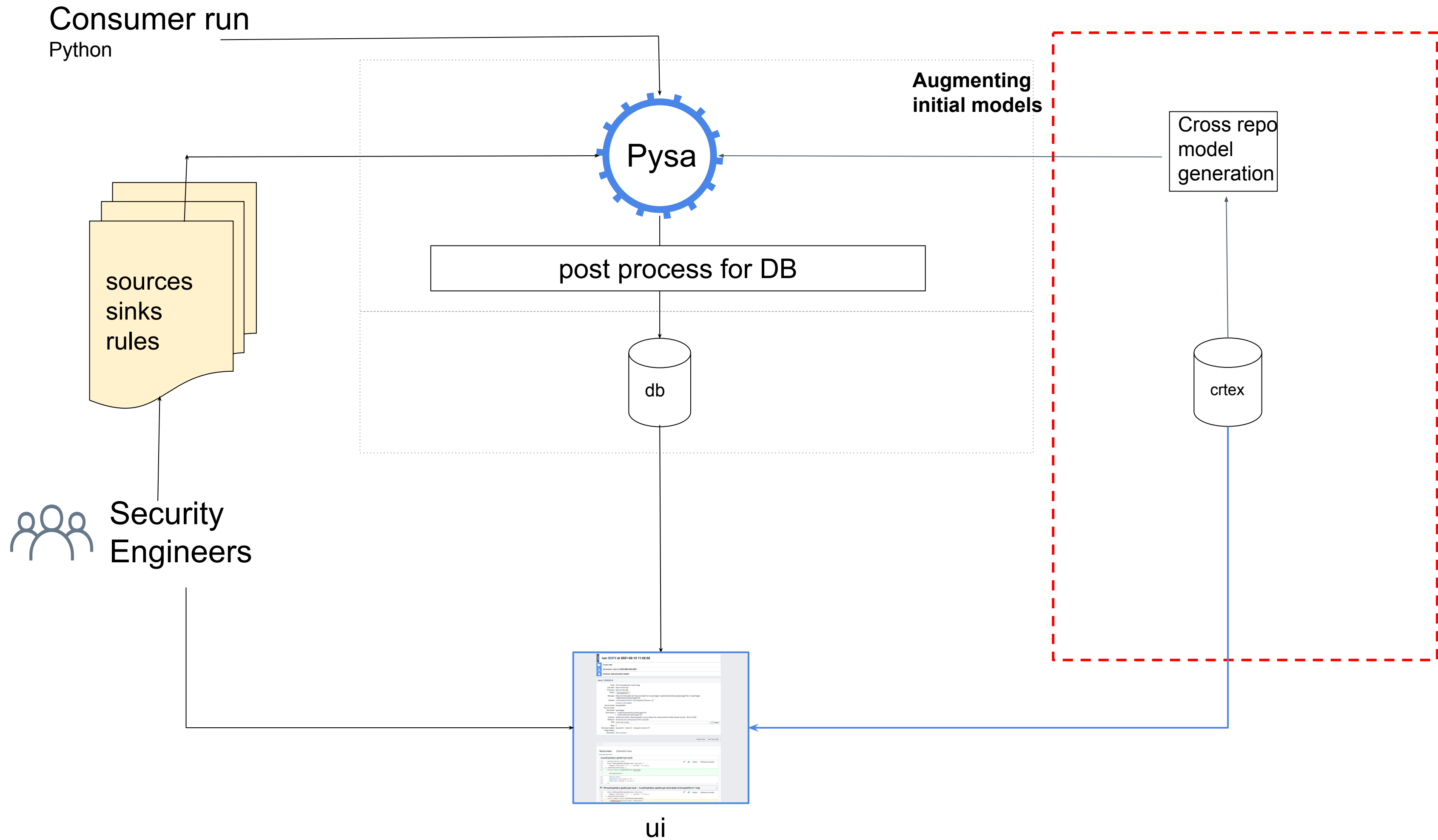
PHP Python Java



# Producer Run

PHP



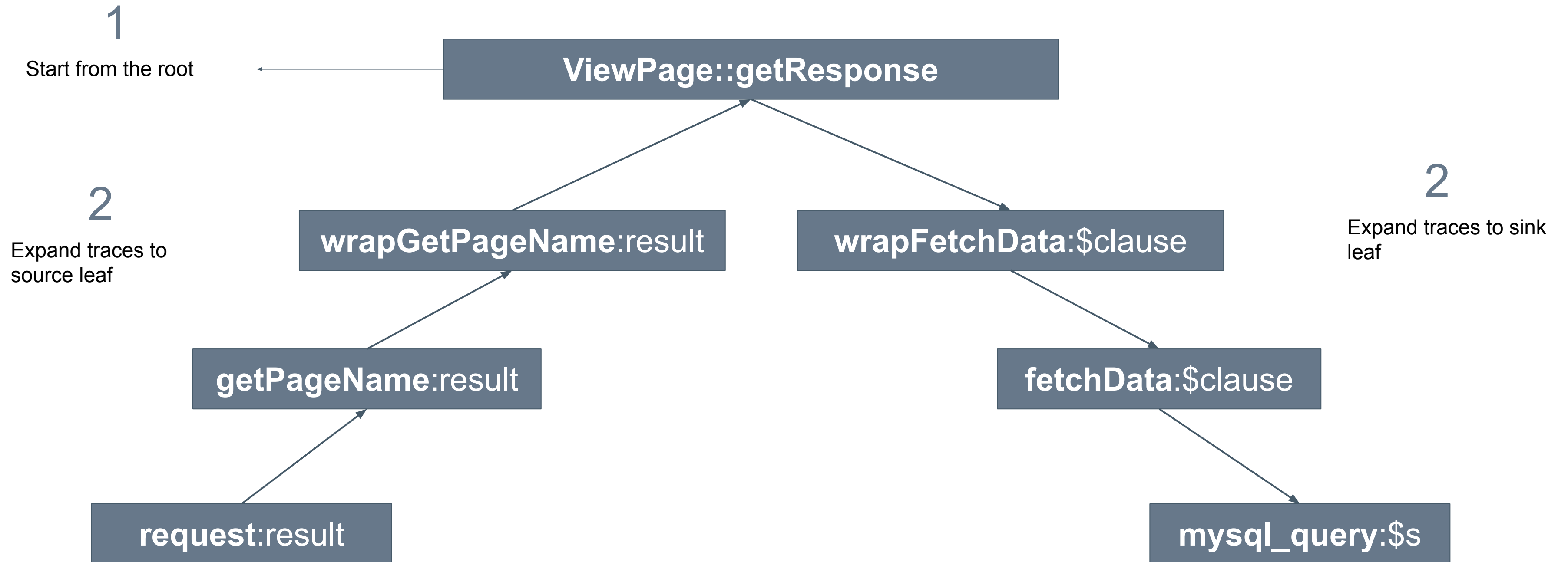


Cross-Repo Taint-Exchange (CRTEX)

A **tool-independent** store of **taint information** (in a tool agnostic format). The store provides a **push/pull model** which static analysis tools can use to extend their capabilities and analyze flows cross-language

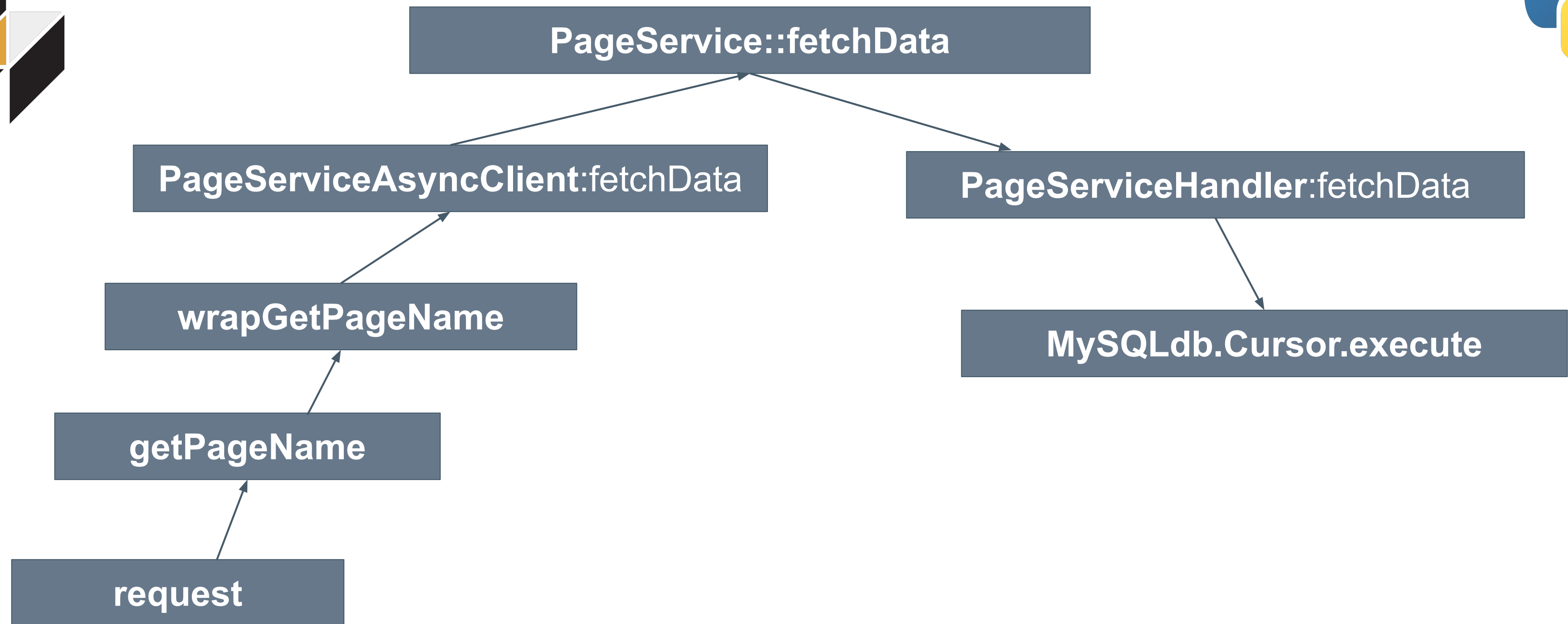
# Viewing traces

# Viewing single repo traces

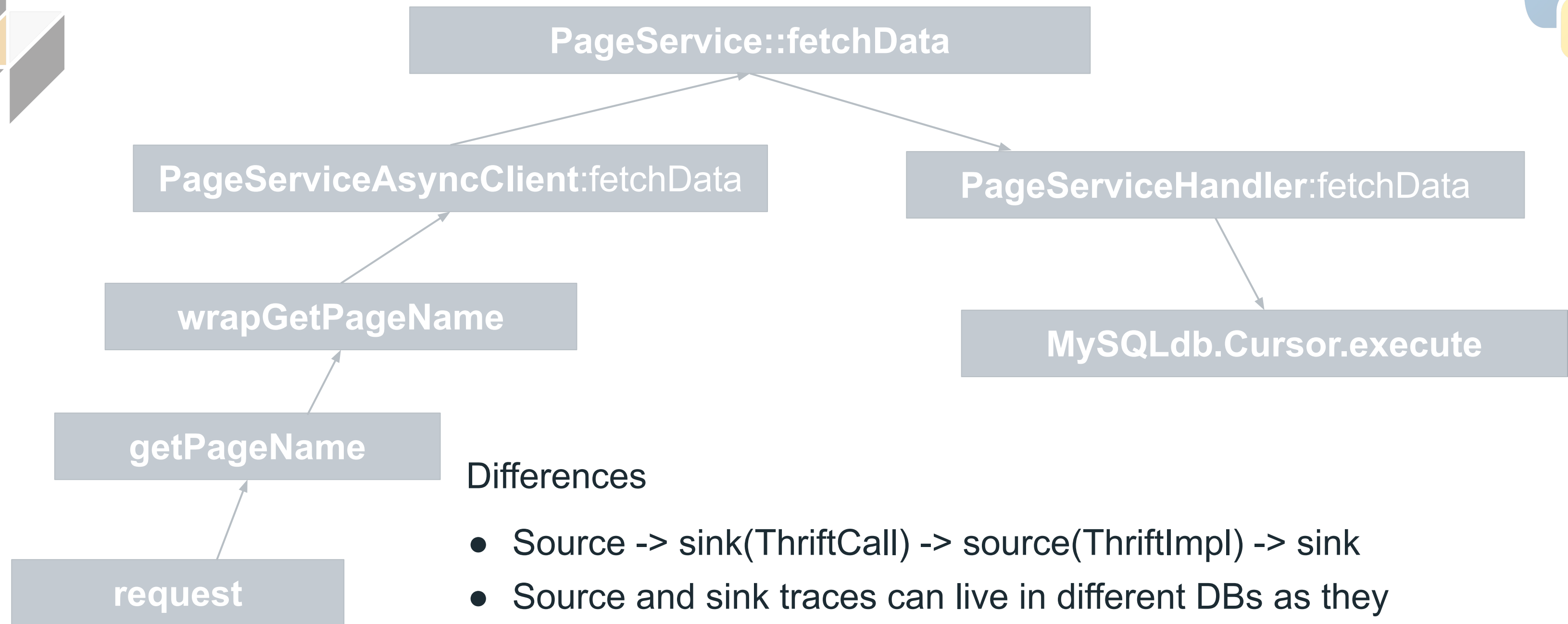
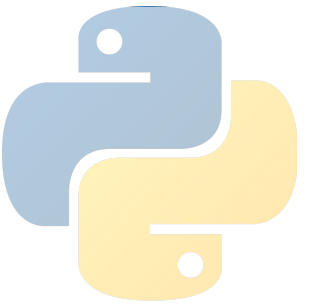




# Viewing the cross-repo traces



# Viewing the cross-repo traces

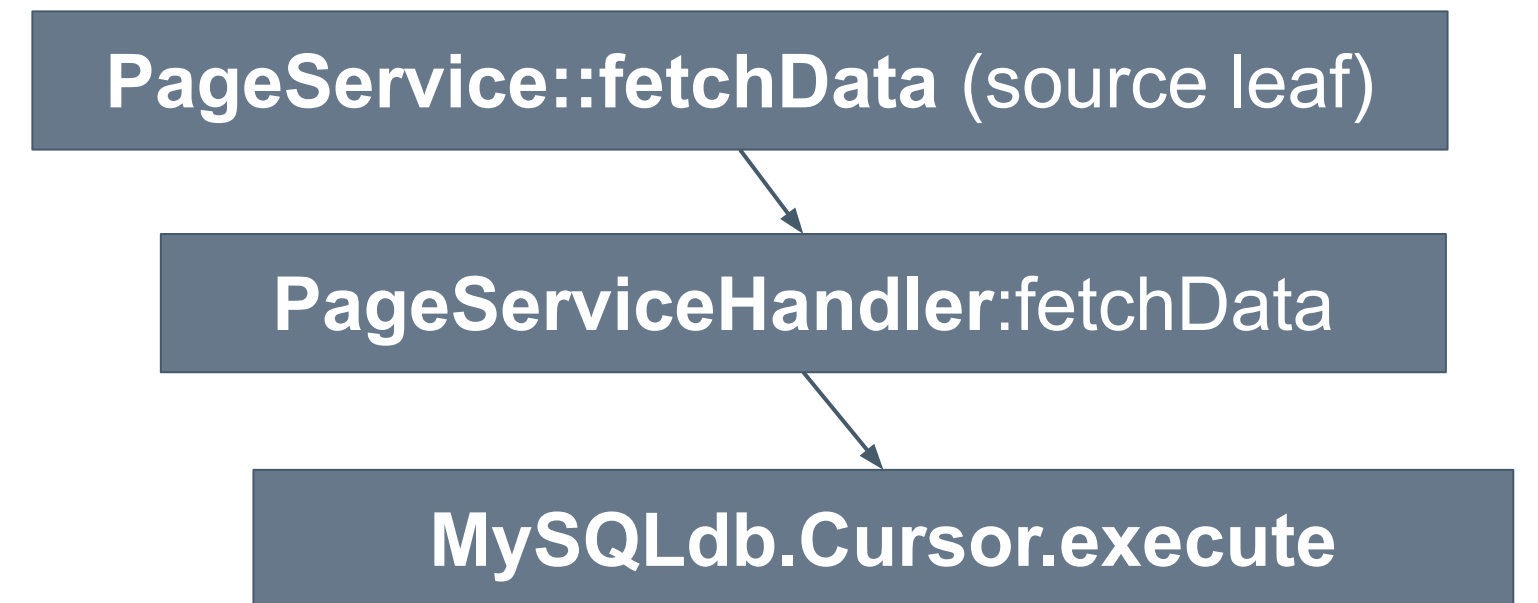


## Differences

- Source -> sink(ThriftCall) -> source(ThriftImpl) -> sink
- Source and sink traces can live in different DBs as they belong to different engines

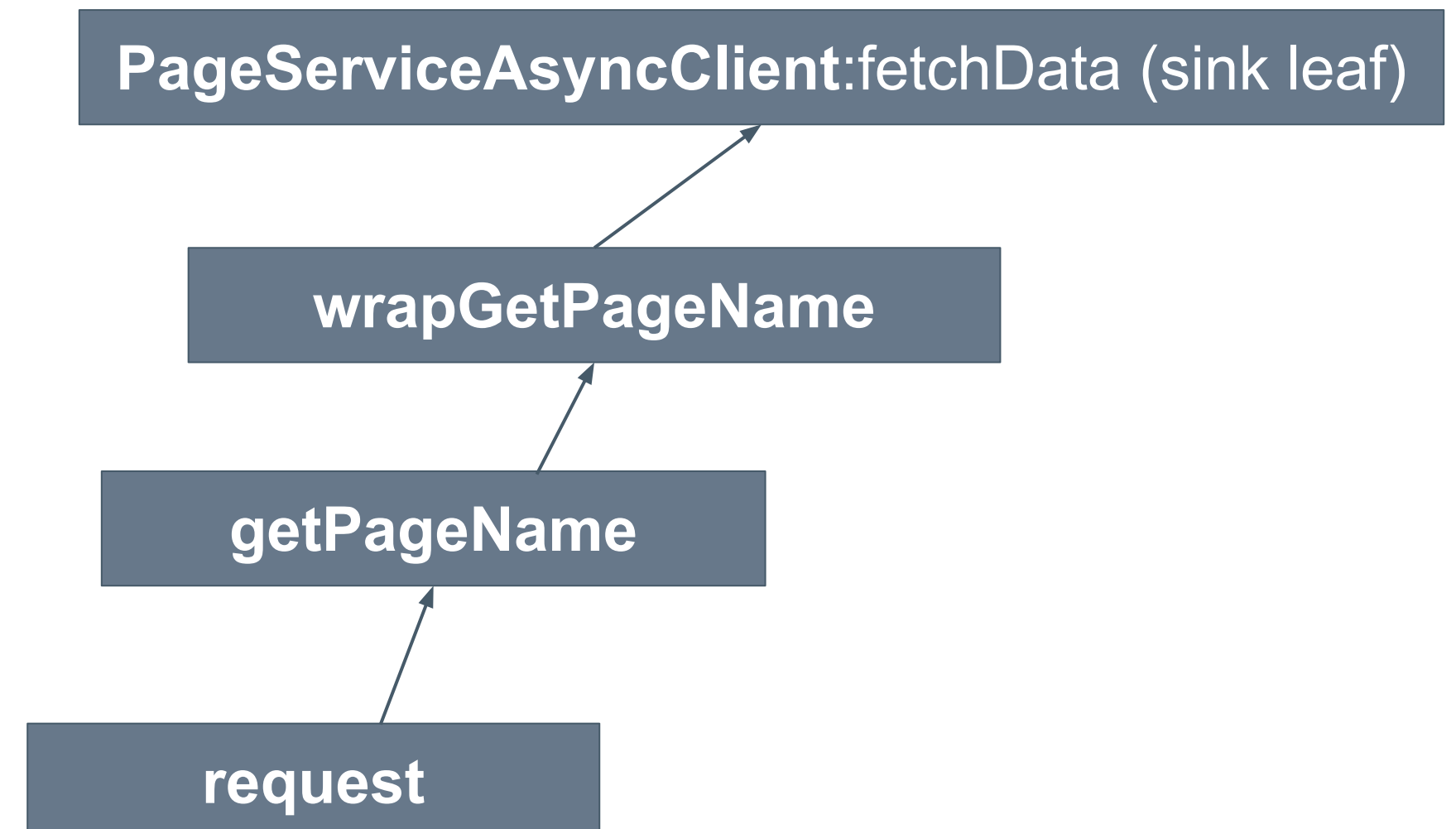
# Viewing the cross-language traces

- Expand the source/sink traces normally
- Once you hit the source leaf
  - query CRTEX with canonical points for information about producer runs
- That can be a list of traces



# Viewing the cross-language traces

- Switch to the right tool's db, and run based on CRTEX
- Start with the thrift sink leaf
- Traverse backward



# Deployment at facebook

## Producers

- facebook.com (WWW)
  - Zoncolan
- instagram.com
  - Pysa
- Android mobile apps
  - Mariana Trench

## Consumers

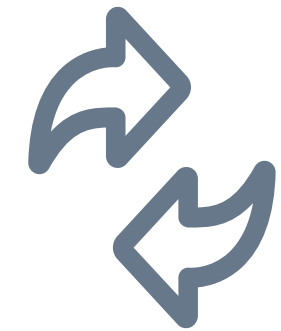
- Backend fbthrift services
  - PHP (Zoncolan)
  - Python (Pysa)
  - Java (Mariana Trench)

## Master



- Periodically - multiple times a day
- File tasks for new findings

## Pull requests

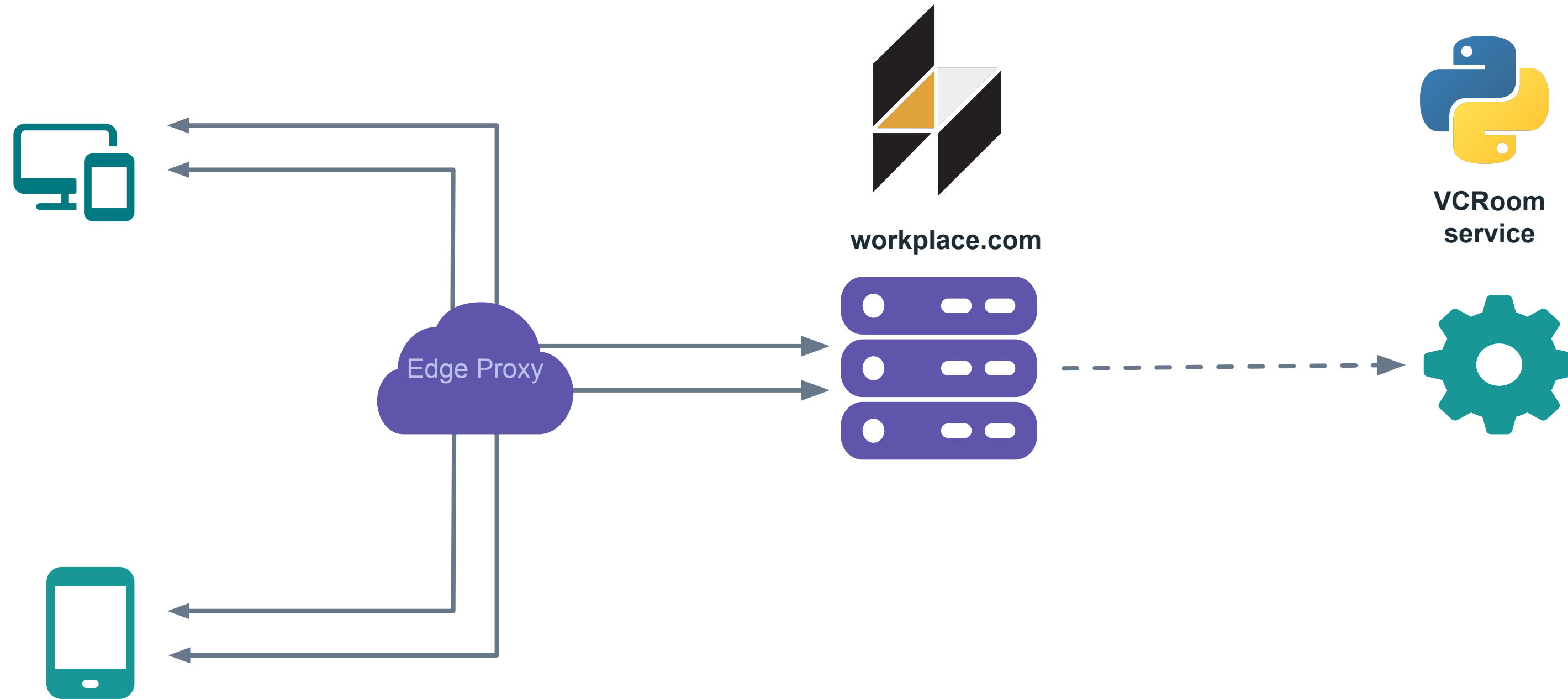


- Analyze the codebase with/without the pull request
- Check for findings
- new?
  - High confidence -> auto-comment
  - Lower confidence -> security oncall

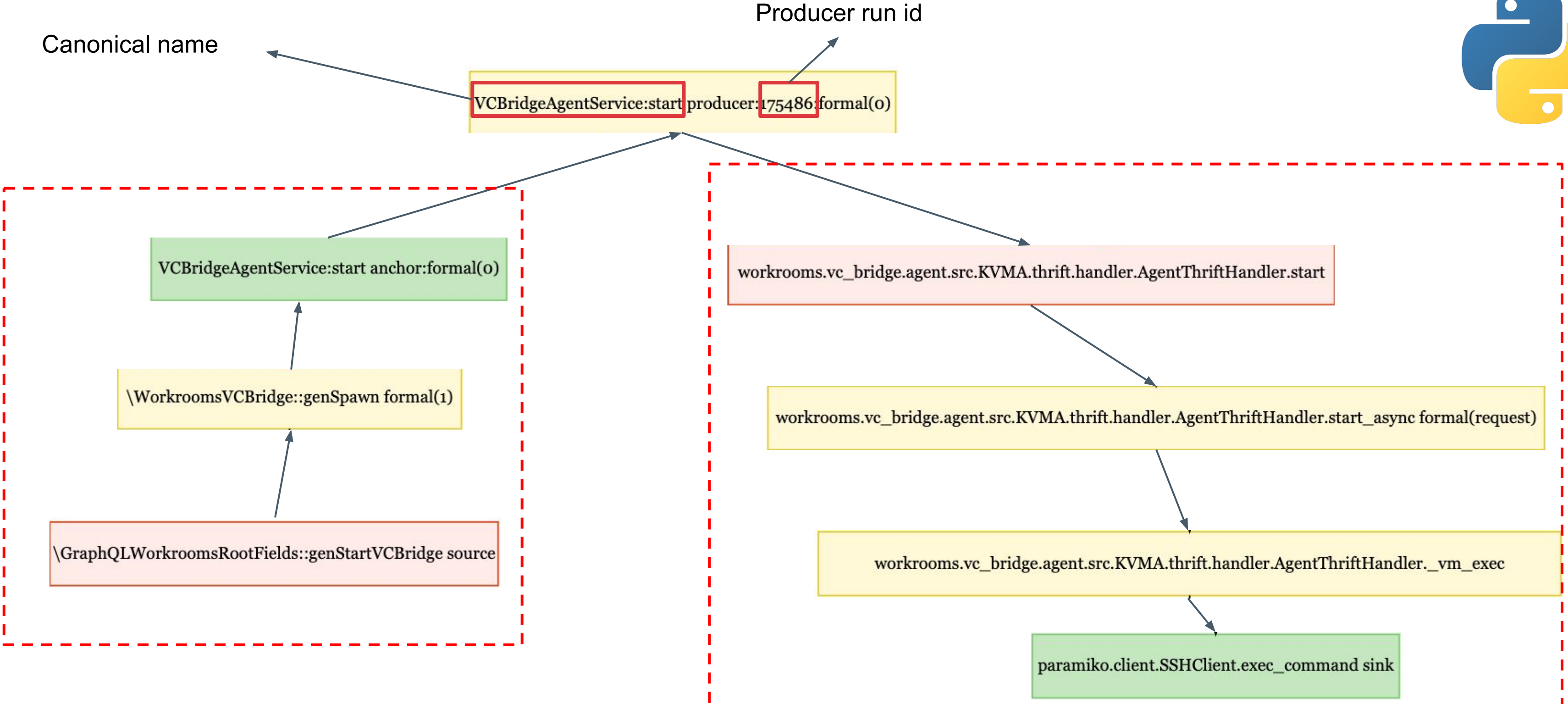
# Example finding



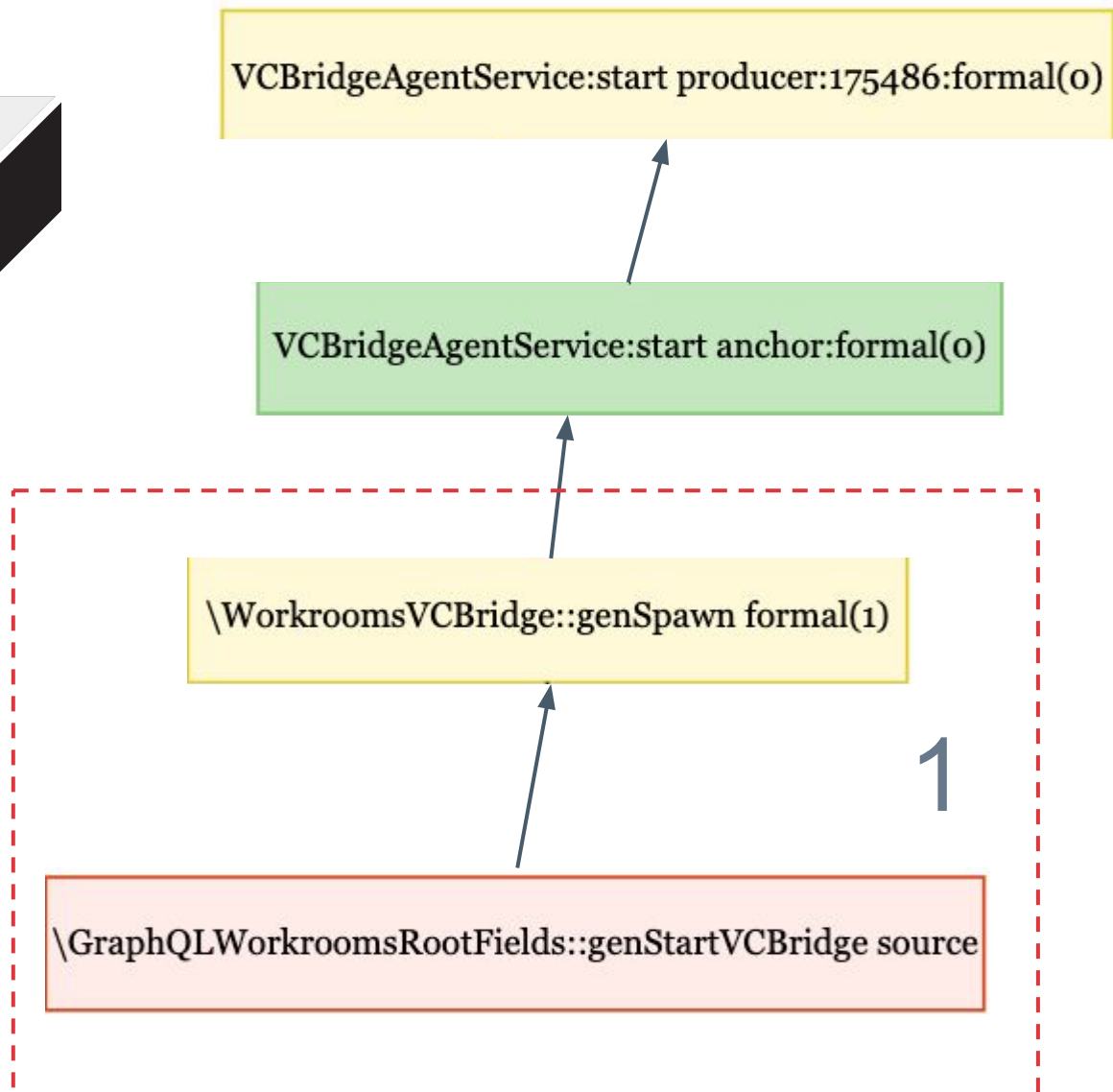
Example - Remote command execution



# Example - Remote Command Execution



# Example - Remote command execution



Source traces    Exploitability traces

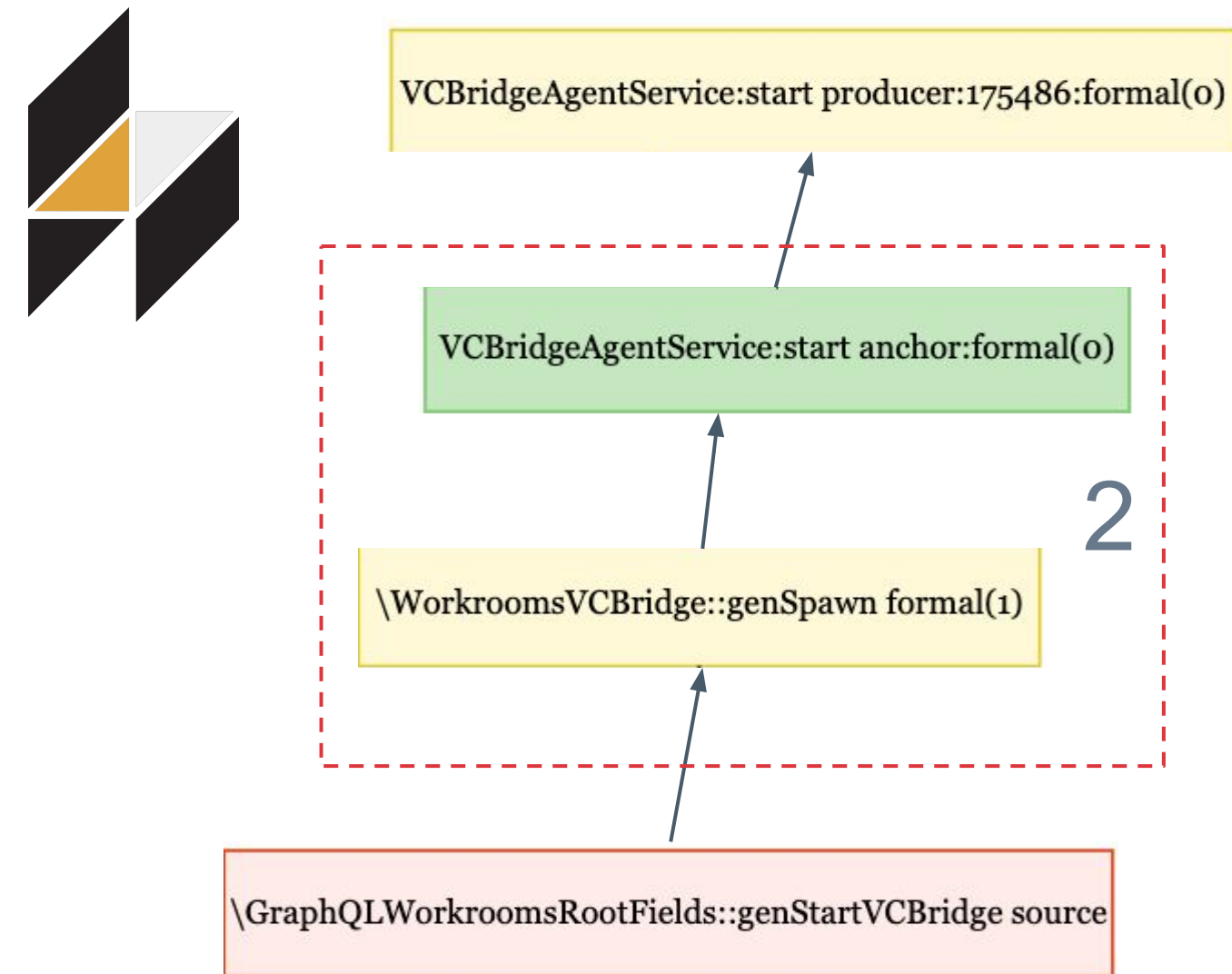
## \GraphQLWorkroomsRootFields::genStartVCBridge root

Features: always-via:array, always-exposed\_to:prod

```
758 GraphQLMutationRootField(  
759   'workrooms_start_vc_bridge',  
760   'Start the VC Bridge for a meeting.',  
761 ),  
762 Oncalls('workrooms_meetings'),  
763 GraphQLLegacyNamingScheme,  
764 >>  
765 public static async function genStartVCBridge(  
766   IViewerContext $vc,  
767   shape(  
768     ?'user_id' => ?FBID,  
769     'client_mutation_id' => StrID,  
770     ?'actor_id' => ?StrID,  
771     'route' => string,  
772   ) $data,  
773   'UserControlled'  
774 ): Awaitable<shape(  
775   'client_mutation_id' => StrID,  
776   'launch_id' => ?string,  
777   'task_ip' => ?string,  
778 )> {  
779   if (!await GK::forVC($vc)->gen('workrooms_spawn_vc_bridge')) {  
780     GraphQLEnforce::violation(  
781       ErrorCode::GRAPH_QL_UNAUTHORIZED_QUERY,  
782       'The current user is not authorized to run this query',  
783     );  
784   }  
785   $result = await WorkroomsVCBridge::genSpawn($vc, $data['route']);
```

Primary run issue 2127615841

## Example - Remote command execution



### \WorkroomsVCBridge::genSpawn formal(1)

Features: always-via:tito, always-via:array, always-exposed\_to:prod

```
17   };
18
19   public static async function genSpawn(
20     IViewerContext $vc,
21     string $route,
22     ?string $tier = null,
23   ): Awaitable<?WorkroomsVCBridgeSpawnResult> {
```

Hiding 38 lines. Click to expand.

```
64   }
65
66   await WorkroomsVCBridgeBuildTracker::genBumpBuildUse($manifold_key);
67
68   $request = self::startRequest($route, null, "", $manifold_key);
69   $response = await $client->start($request);
70
71   'UserControlled'
```

## Example - Remote command execution



3

VCBridgeAgentService:start producer:175486:formal(o)

workrooms.vc\_bridge.agent.src.KVMA.thrift.handler.AgentThriftHandler.start

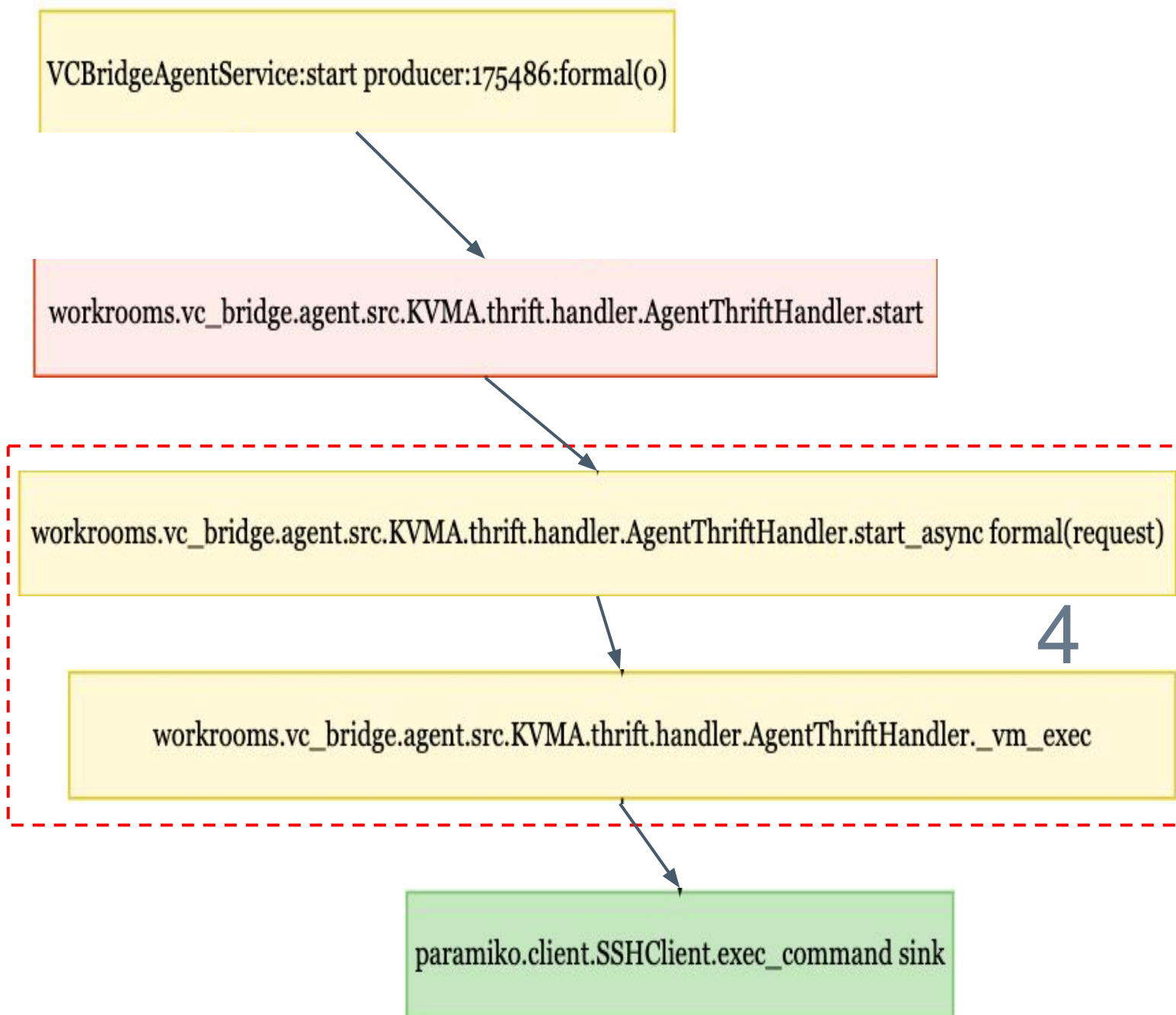
workrooms.vc\_bridge.agent.src.KVMA.thrift.handler.AgentThriftHandler.start\_async formal(request)

workrooms.vc\_bridge.agent.src.KVMA.thrift.handler.AgentThriftHandler.\_vm\_exec

paramiko.client.SSHClient.exec\_command sink

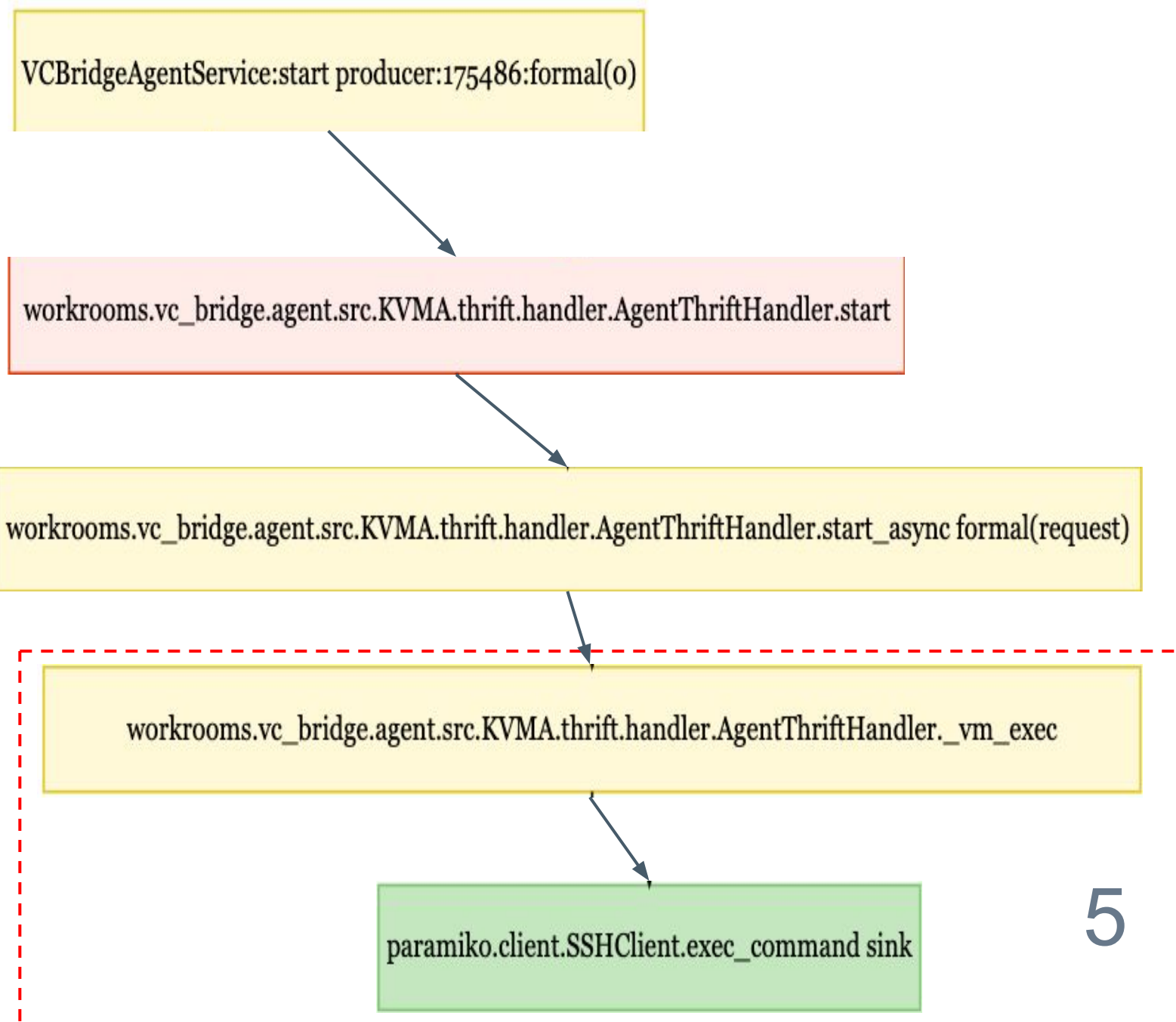
```
92
93  async def start(self, request: StartRequest) -> StartResponse:
94      leading to 'UserControlled'
95      launch_id = uuid.uuid4().hex
96      logger.info(f"Thrift StartRequest: {request}, launch_id={launch_id}")
97
98  Hiding 7 lines. Click to expand.
99
105  asyncio.ensure_future(self.start_async(request, launch_id))
106  leading to 'RemoteCodeExecution'
```

# Example - Remote command execution



```
workrooms.vc_bridge.agent.src.KVMA.thrift.handler.AgentThriftHandler.start_async formal(request)[route]
107
108 async def start_async(self, request: StartRequest, launch_id: str) -> None:
109     try:
110         preload_request = PreloadRequest(manifold_key = request.manifold_key)
111
112         Hiding 7 lines. Click to expand.
116         channel = {k:v for (k,v) in parse_qs(urlparse(request.route).query)}['channel_']
117         args = " ".join([
118             "--player-configuration-type VC BRIDGE",
119             f"--route \"{request.route}\"",
120             f"--workplace-user-id-override {self._secrets['user_id']}",
121
122         Hiding 11 lines. Click to expand.
131         exec_cmd = f"(echo {application} & echo {args}) > {tmpfile} & move {tmpfile} {cmdfile}"
132         loop = asyncio.get_running_loop()
133         await loop.run_in_executor(SSH_EXECUTOR, self._vm_exec, exec_cmd)
```

## Example - Remote command execution

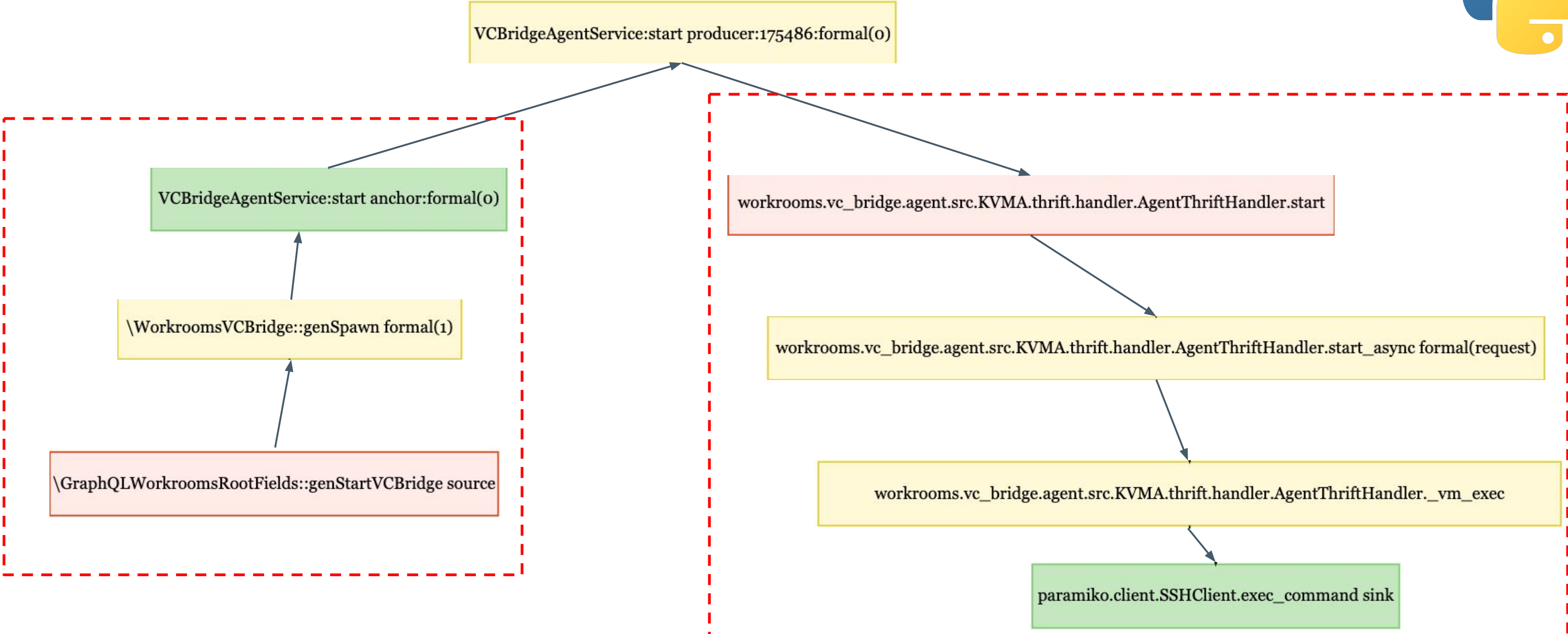


```
workrooms.vc_bridge.agent.src.KVMA.thrift.handler.AgentThriftHandler._vm_exec formal(command)

201
202     def _vm_exec(self, command: str):
203         logger.info(f"_vm_exec({command})")
204         ssh_client = self._vm_ssh_client()
205         stdin, stdout, stderr = ssh_client.exec_command(command)

'RemoteCodeExecution'
```

# Example - Remote Command Execution





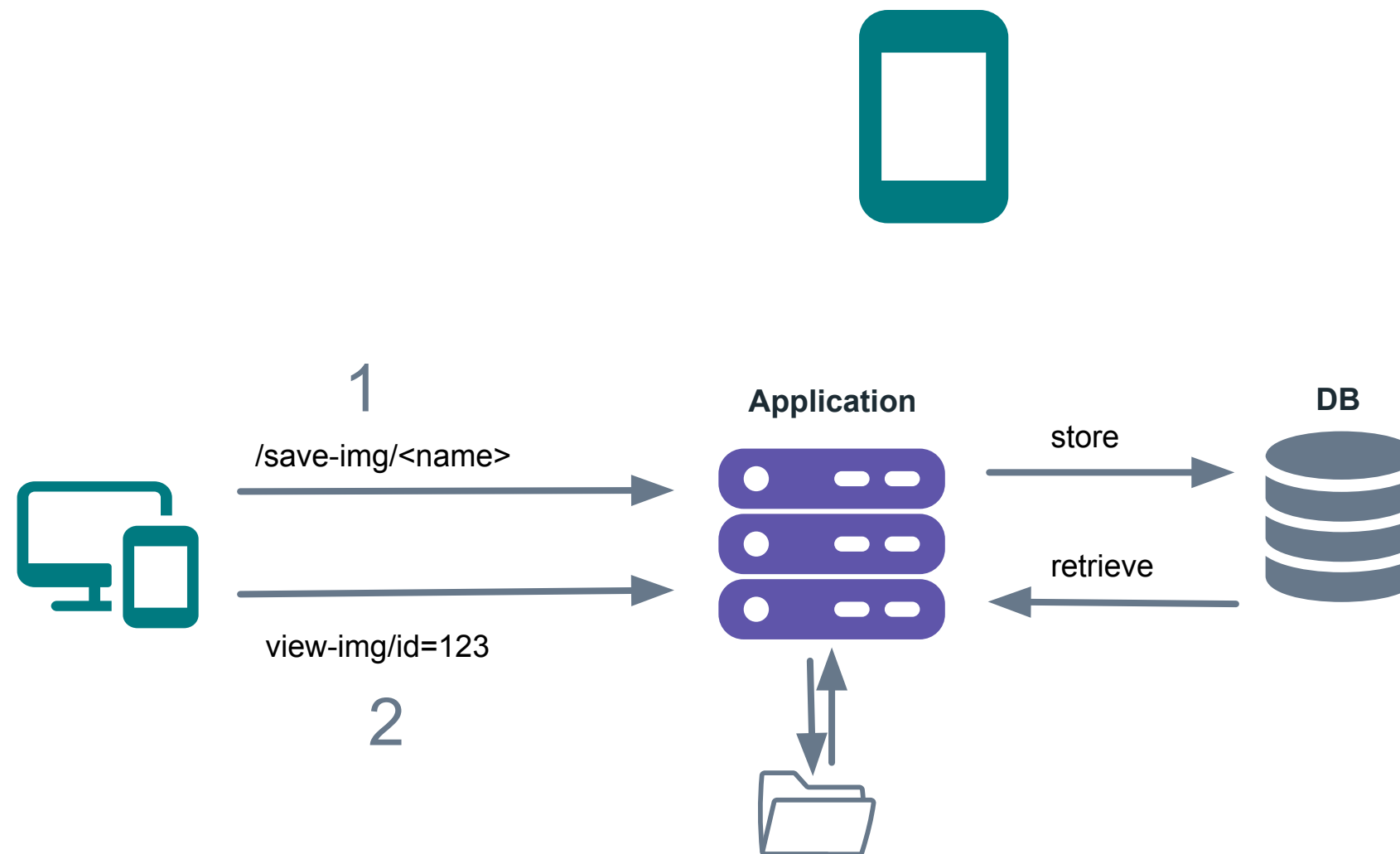
RCE in 2021 🙄(ò\_ó~)

# Challenges and improvements areas

- False positives due to sanitization/validation in one language
- Simplify the creation of connection points
- Simplifying complex and long traces for security and software engineers
- Fix ownership

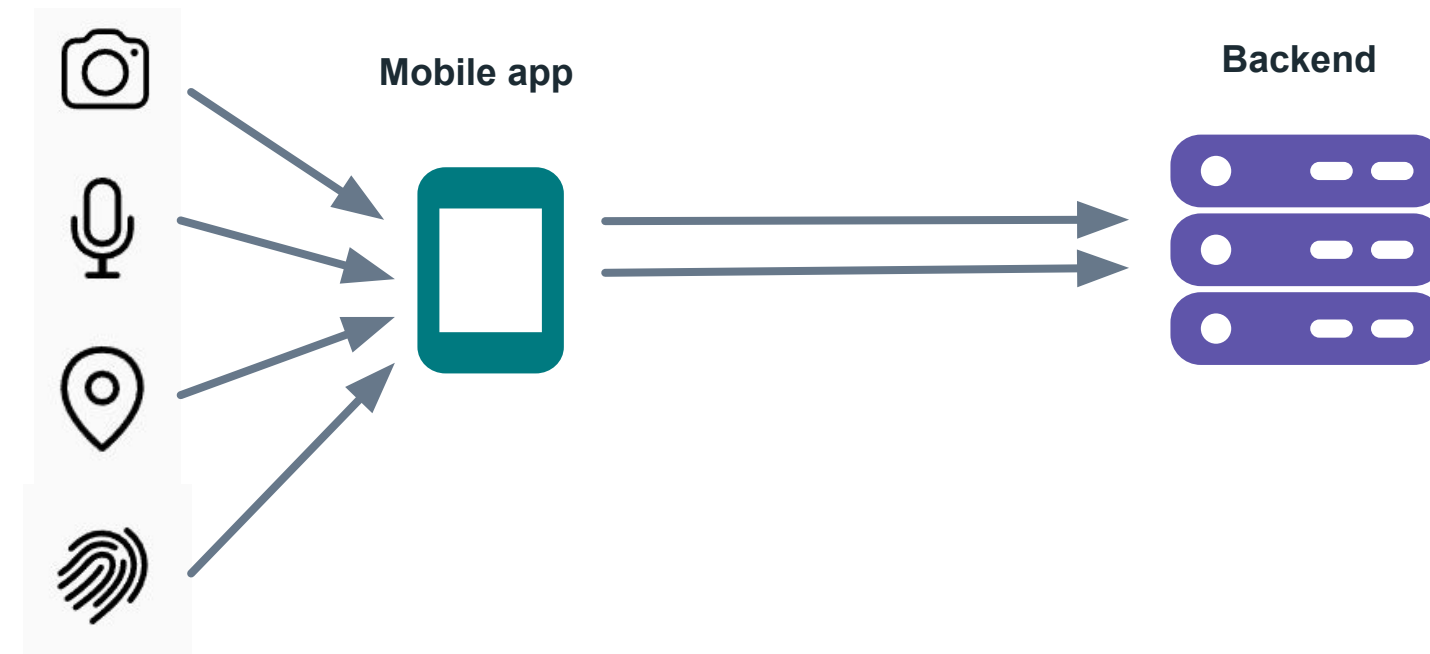
# Looking forward

- Research standardise the taint-flow summaries - let's all speak the same language!
- Expand mobile attack surface
  - Exported components
  - Requests from Backend
- Backend storages



# Looking forward

- Privacy-relevant flows
  - Better understanding for clients (mobile applications)
  - Marking sensors e.g. GPS, fingerprint, camera as sources
  - Find flows that go to the backend?



## Application security teams

- Scale through static analysis
  - **Pysa** for Python applications  
[github.com/facebook/pyre-check](https://github.com/facebook/pyre-check)
  - **Mariana-Trench** for Android/Java  
[github.com/facebook/mariana-trench](https://github.com/facebook/mariana-trench)
- Go deeper with Cross-repo analysis

## Security consultants

- Optimize your security reviews with our **open source configurations**
  - Pysa
  - Mariana trench
- Found more ways to get SQLi/RCE?
  - Contribute to our configurations!
- Want to see everything in action? **Come join us! (fb.com/careers)**

## Static analysis researchers

- Research on tool-agnostic taint summaries
- Our tools are open source!
  - [github.com/facebook/mariana-trench](https://github.com/facebook/mariana-trench)
  - [github.com/facebook/pyre-check](https://github.com/facebook/pyre-check)
  - [github.com/facebook/sapp](https://github.com/facebook/sapp)

# Thank you

Dominik Gabi

Manuel Fahndrich

Otto Ebeling

David Molnar

Graham Bleaney

Jim O'Leary

Dan Gurfinkel

Chris Rohlf

Sinan Cepel

# Questions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

FACEBOOK     