

# Testing in Near-Production Shifted Left

Leverage Past User Activity to Prevent API Regressions

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# **Continuous Testing driven by DevOps & Shift-Left**

Engineers taking on responsibility of  
test automation

# **Microservices adoption increasing...**

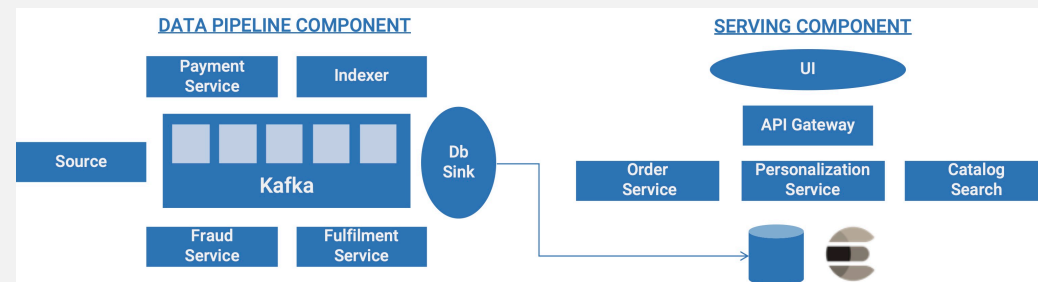
Variety of interactions need much higher  
functional test coverage

# Typical Testing Goals

TG1 – Preventing regressions to current usage

TG2 – Testing, debugging, and automation for new functionality

TG3 – Infrastructure testing: performance, resilience, security, ...



# Current Testing Approaches

**Engineers must  
create automation**

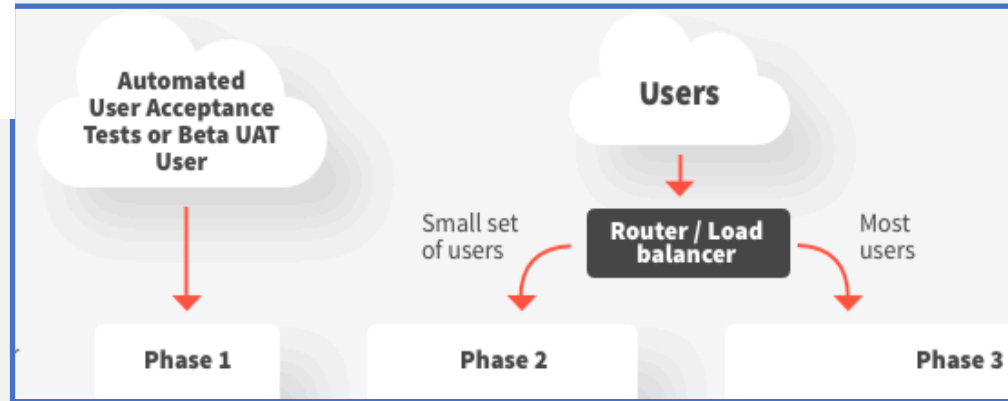
- Very demanding on engineering time (>25%)
- Limited regression test coverage due to resource constraints

- ☐ **Slows velocity**
- ☐ **Regressions in production**
- ☐ **Bugs reduce customer satisfaction**

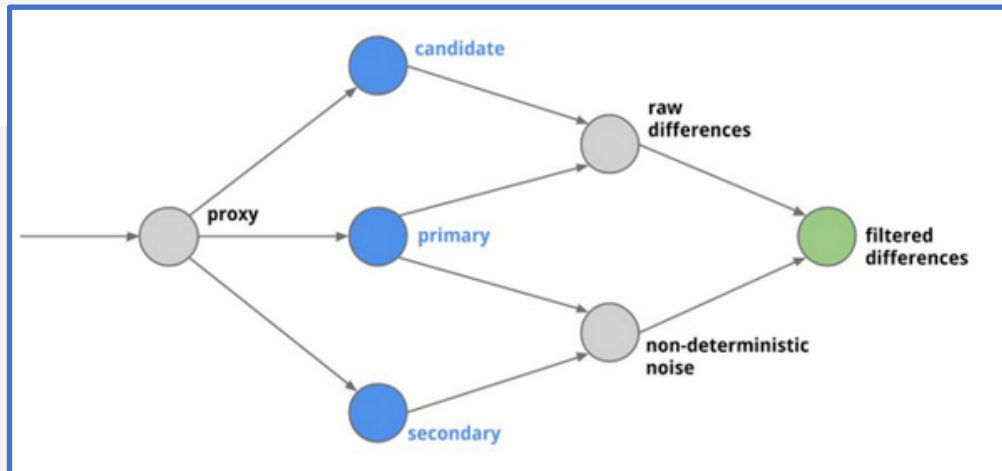
# Newer Approaches: Testing in Production

Leverage ongoing user activity to validate new version

## Canary



## Diffy



BUT

- Late in the dev cycle
- Still requires upfront functional testing
- If traffic is low, we need time to converge
- High infrastructure cost

# Can we leverage past user activity to Shift-left Testing in Production?

## Massive Benefits

- ❑ 100% functional regression test coverage in CI pipeline
- ❑ High engineering velocity

## Main Challenge

Keeping state consistent between capture & test

# Reconciling State Mismatch: Options

## Snapshot data just before capturing traffic

Capture must be uninterrupted.  
High infra cost during testing.

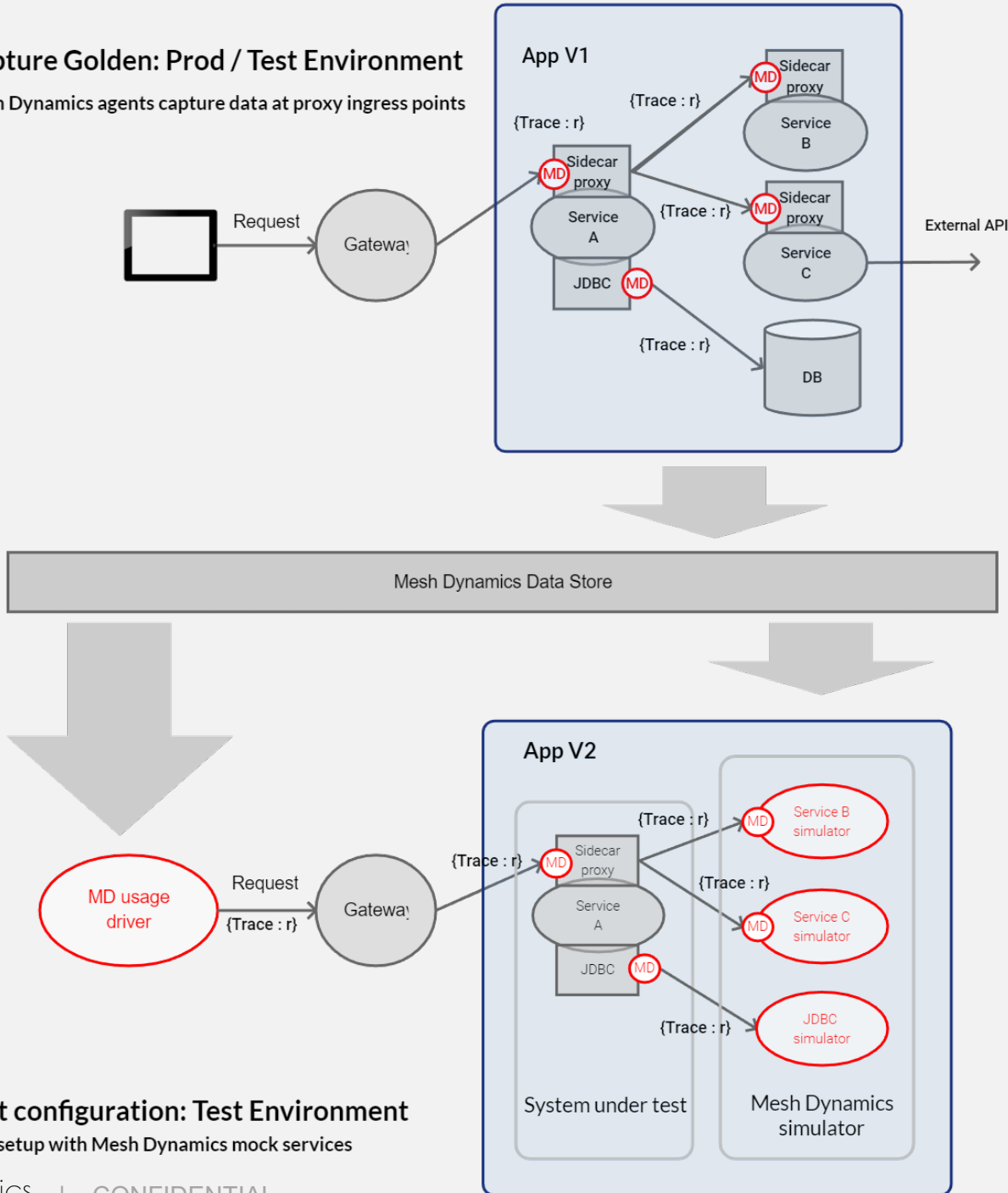
## Simulate state with 100% fidelity

Is this even possible, especially with

- non-idempotent responses

## Capture Golden: Prod / Test Environment

Mesh Dynamics agents capture data at proxy ingress points

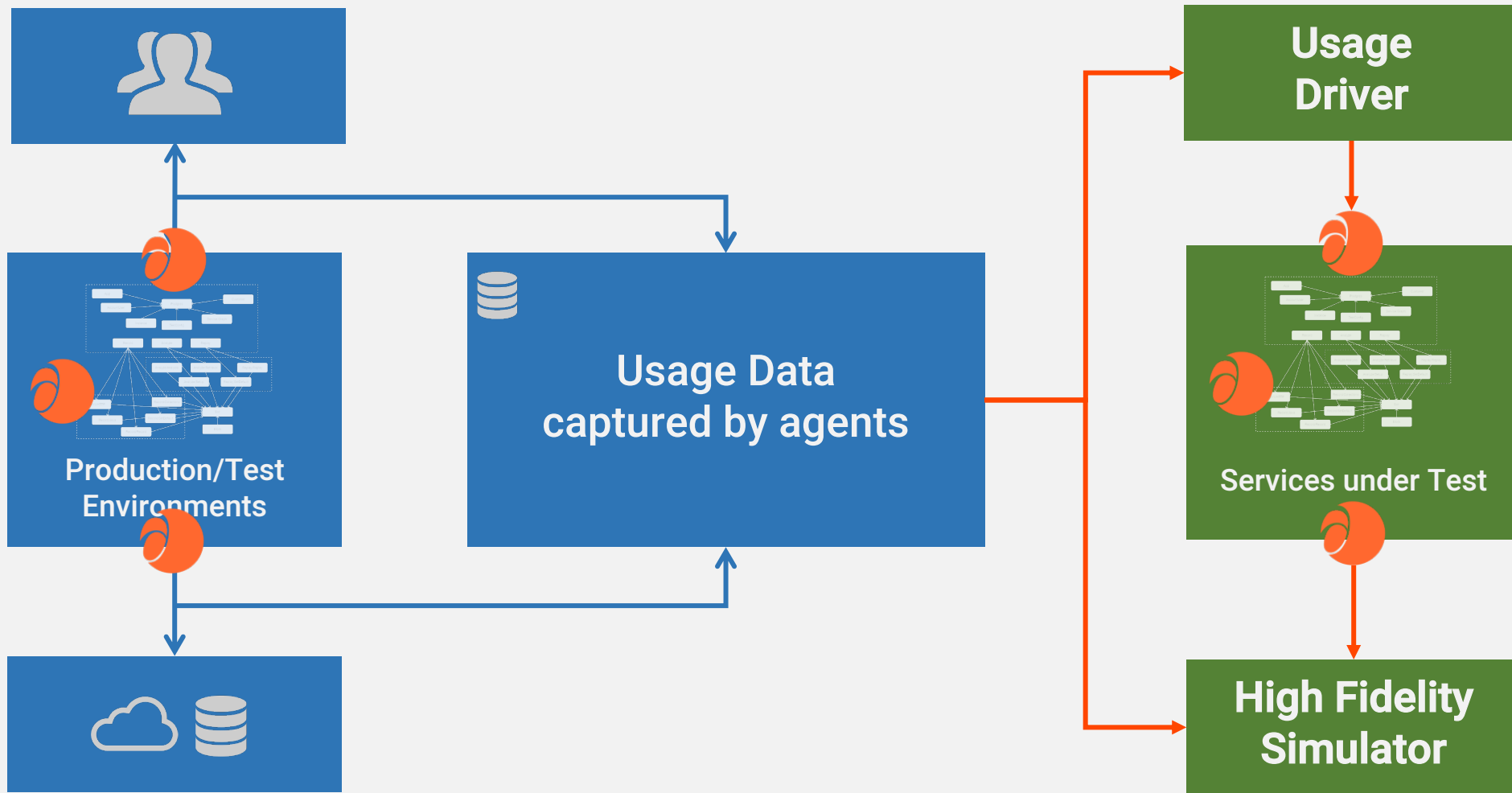


Open-Tracing  
across services to  
the rescue!  
Enables  
simulation with  
100% fidelity



# Testing in Near-Production Shifted Left with low effort

## Prevent API regressions with 100% coverage of usage

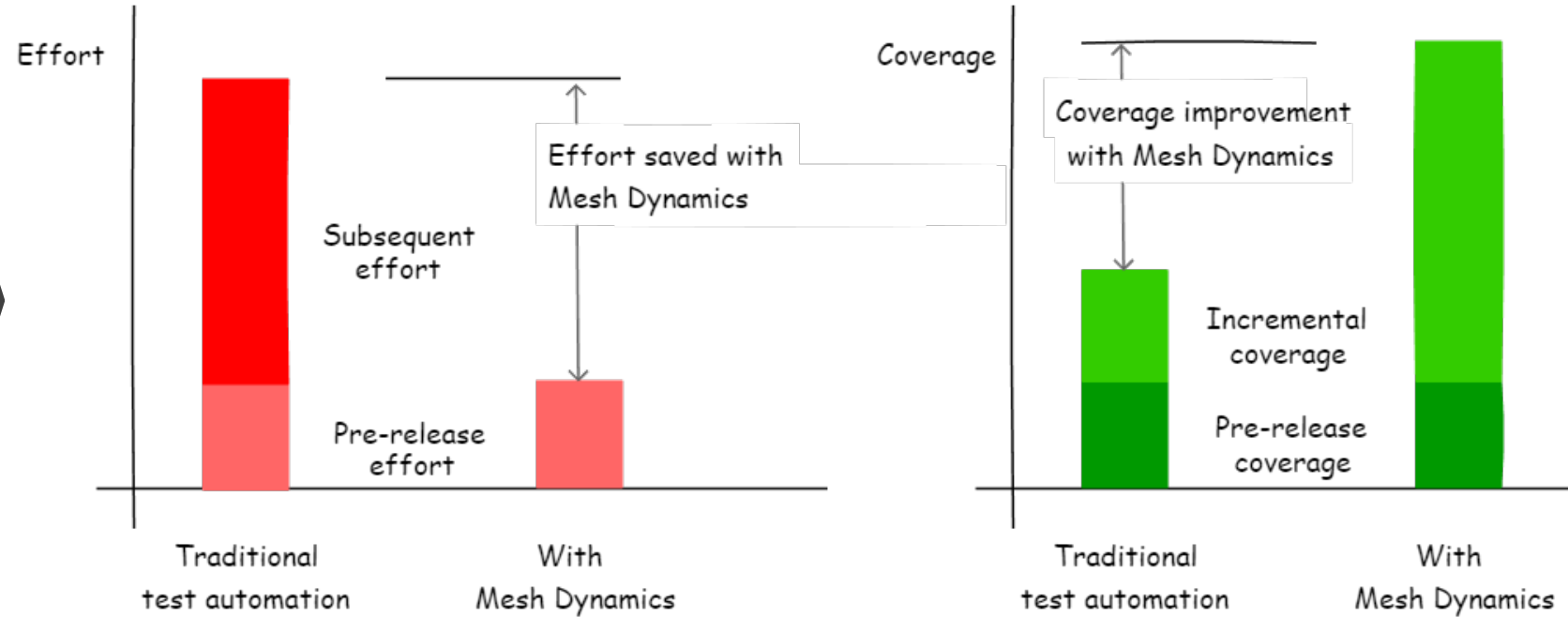


```

graph TD
    User[User] -- 1 --> Form[Form]
    Form -- 2 --> Name[Name]
    Form -- 3 --> FormHandler[FormHandler]
    FormHandler -- 4 --> Name
    FormHandler -- 5 --> DatabaseHandler[DatabaseHandler]
    DatabaseHandler -- 6 --> Name
    DatabaseHandler -- 7 --> Database[Database]
    Database -- 8 --> Name
    Database -- 9 --> Results[Results]
    Results -- 10 --> DatabaseHandler
    DatabaseHandler -- 11 --> Results
    Results -- 12 --> FormHandler
    FormHandler -- 13 --> Results
    Results -- 14 --> User
  
```

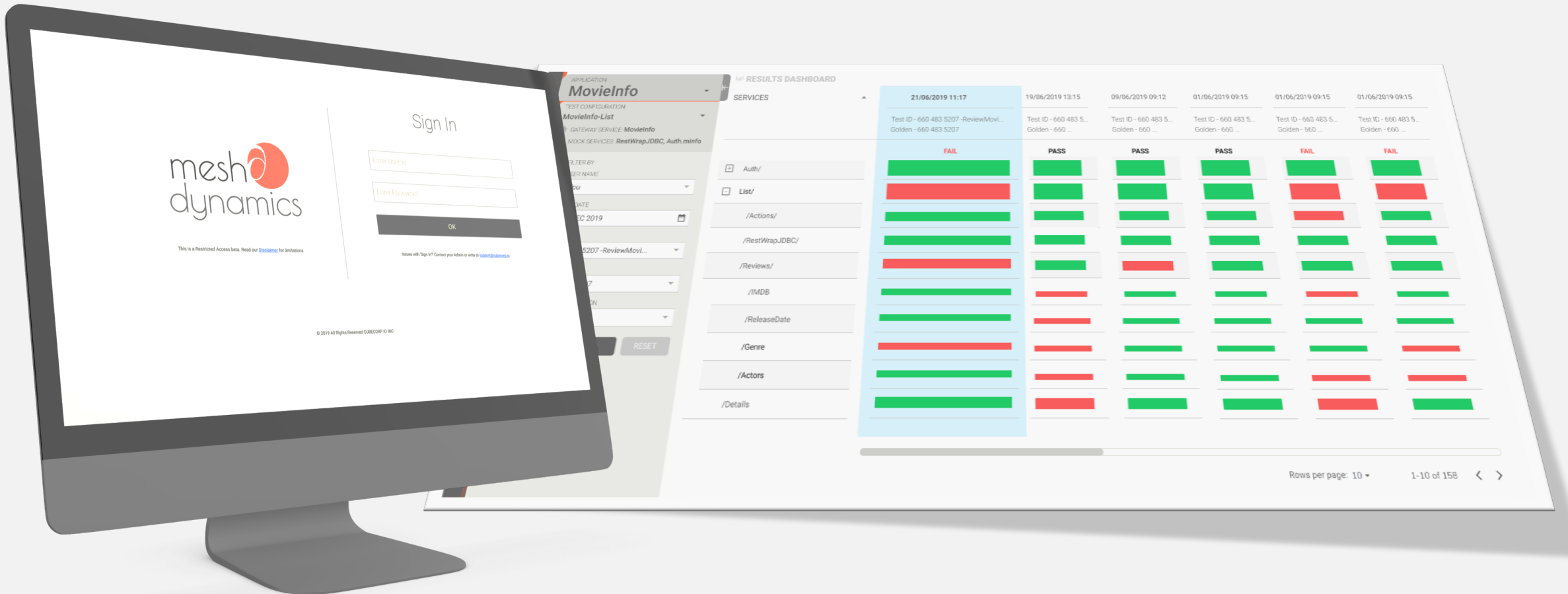
The diagram illustrates the flow of data from a user's input to a database query. The flow starts with 'User' (1) entering 'Name' (2) into a 'Form' (3). The 'Form' (3) sends 'Name' (4) to 'FormHandler' (5). 'FormHandler' (5) sends 'Name' (6) to 'DatabaseHandler' (7). 'DatabaseHandler' (7) sends 'Name' (8) to 'Database' (9). 'Database' (9) returns 'Results' (10) to 'DatabaseHandler' (7). 'DatabaseHandler' (7) returns 'Results' (11) to 'FormHandler' (5). 'FormHandler' (5) returns 'Results' (12) to 'Form' (3). 'Form' (3) returns 'Results' (13) to 'User' (1).

# High Velocity and Quality with Low Engineering Effort



# Demo

## Testing with Mesh Dynamics



# Conventional Process

## 1. Define several use cases, e.g.

Test results page API returns summary results of last 20 test runs

## 2. Enumerate several test cases for each use case, e.g.

- Did the API request return an OK status?
- Was the count of results set returned 20 or less?
- Did the actual data sets returned match the number?

## 3. Create test data for each test case, e.g.

- Create table with the right schema
- Populate at least 20 rows with representative data
- Populate 1st and 10th row with data to indicate failure

## 4. Write assertions for each test case, e.g.

```
tests["response code is 401"] = responseCode.code === 401;
tests["response has WWW-Authenticate header"] =
(postman.getResponseHeader('WWW-Authenticate'));
var authenticateHeader = postman.getResponseHeader('WWW-Authenticate'),
    realmStart = authenticateHeader.indexOf('\"',authenticateHeader.indexOf("realm"))+1,
    realmEnd = authenticateHeader.indexOf('\"',realmStart),
    realm = ...
```

## 5. Test scripting for each test

- Create input request
- Call test results service
- Identify data items to validate
- Add asserts for data items to validate

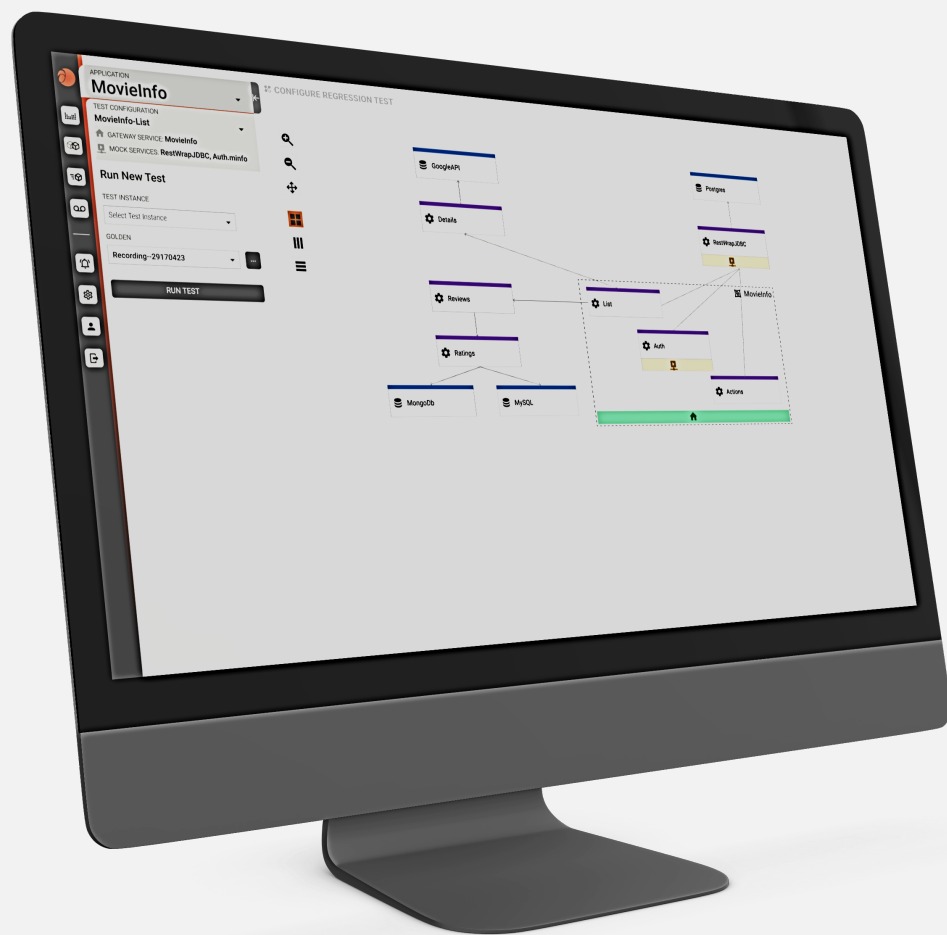
# Mesh Dynamics



Replaced by:

- Application usage capture
- Automated assertions
- Replay driver

# Testing with Mesh Dynamics



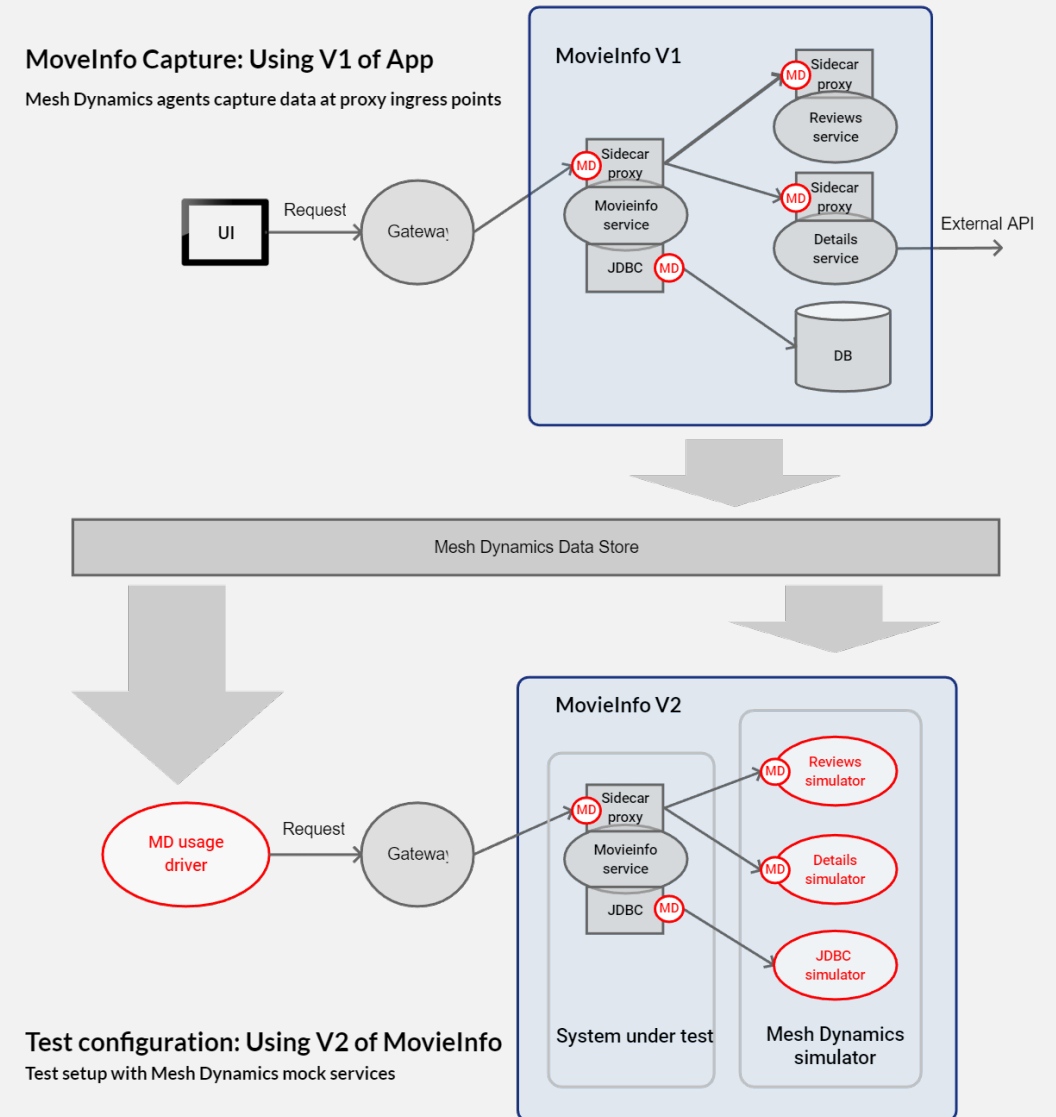
1. Create test
2. Run test + review test results
3. Update goldens

# Mesh Dynamics Demo Setup

Microservices application instrumented with OpenTracing libraries and MD listeners

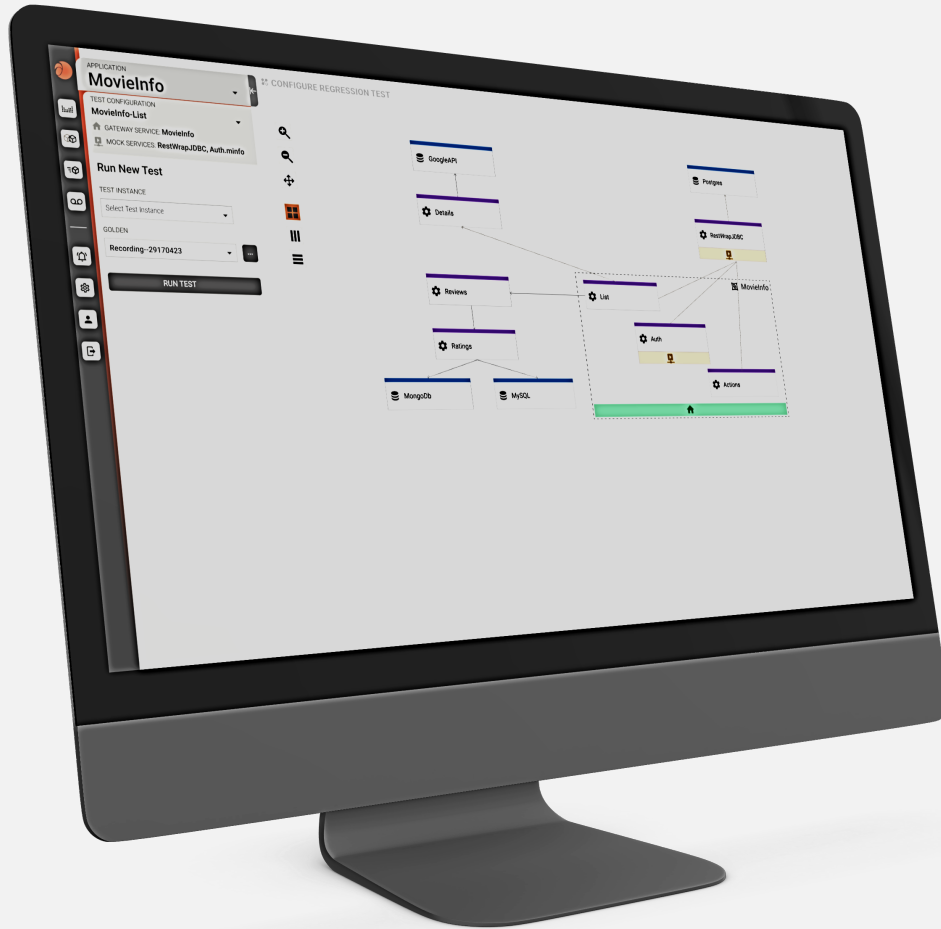
Step 1: Use V1 of MovieInfo app to capture usage

Step 2: Test V2 of MovieInfo app by replaying captured traffic



# Demo

## Testing with Mesh Dynamics



### 1. Create tests

- Actual usage becomes test cases
- No manual test case enumeration
- No test data preparation
- No test scripting

### 2. Run test + review test results

- Review differences
- File bugs + Notify people

### 3. Update goldens

- No assertion scripting
- No traditional test maintenance
- Test maintenance through data updates

# Benefits

## Testing with Mesh Dynamics

### Conventional Process

1. Define several use cases, e.g.
  - Cube test results page API returns the summary results of the last 20 test runs
2. Enumerate several test cases for each use case, e.g.
  - Did the API request return an OK status?
  - Was the count of results set returned 20 or less?
  - Did the actual data sets returned match the number?
  - Validate the data structure of the response
3. Create test data for each test case, e.g.
  - Create table with the right schema
  - Populate at least 20 rows with representative data
  - Populate 1st and 10th row with data to indicate failure
4. Write several test assertions for each test case, e.g.

```
tests["response code is 401"] = responseCode.code === 401; tests["response has WWW-Authenticate header"] = (postman.getResponseHeader('WWW-Authenticate')) > 0; var authenticateHeader = postman.getResponseHeader('WWW-Authenticate'), realmStart = authenticateHeader.indexOf('realm=') + 1, realmEnd = authenticateHeader.indexOf(';', realmStart), nonceStart = authenticateHeader.indexOf('nonce=') + 1, nonceEnd = authenticateHeader.indexOf(';', nonceStart); postman.setGlobalVariable('echo_digest_realms', realm); postman.setGlobalVariable('echo_digest_nonce', nonce);
```
5. Test scripting for each test
  - Create input request
  - Call test results service
  - Identify data items to validate
  - Add asserts for data items to validate



1. Comprehensive regression test of microservices
2. Low engineering effort
  - No extensive test case enumeration
  - No test data preparation
  - No test scripting
  - No test maintenance
3. Based on actual usage