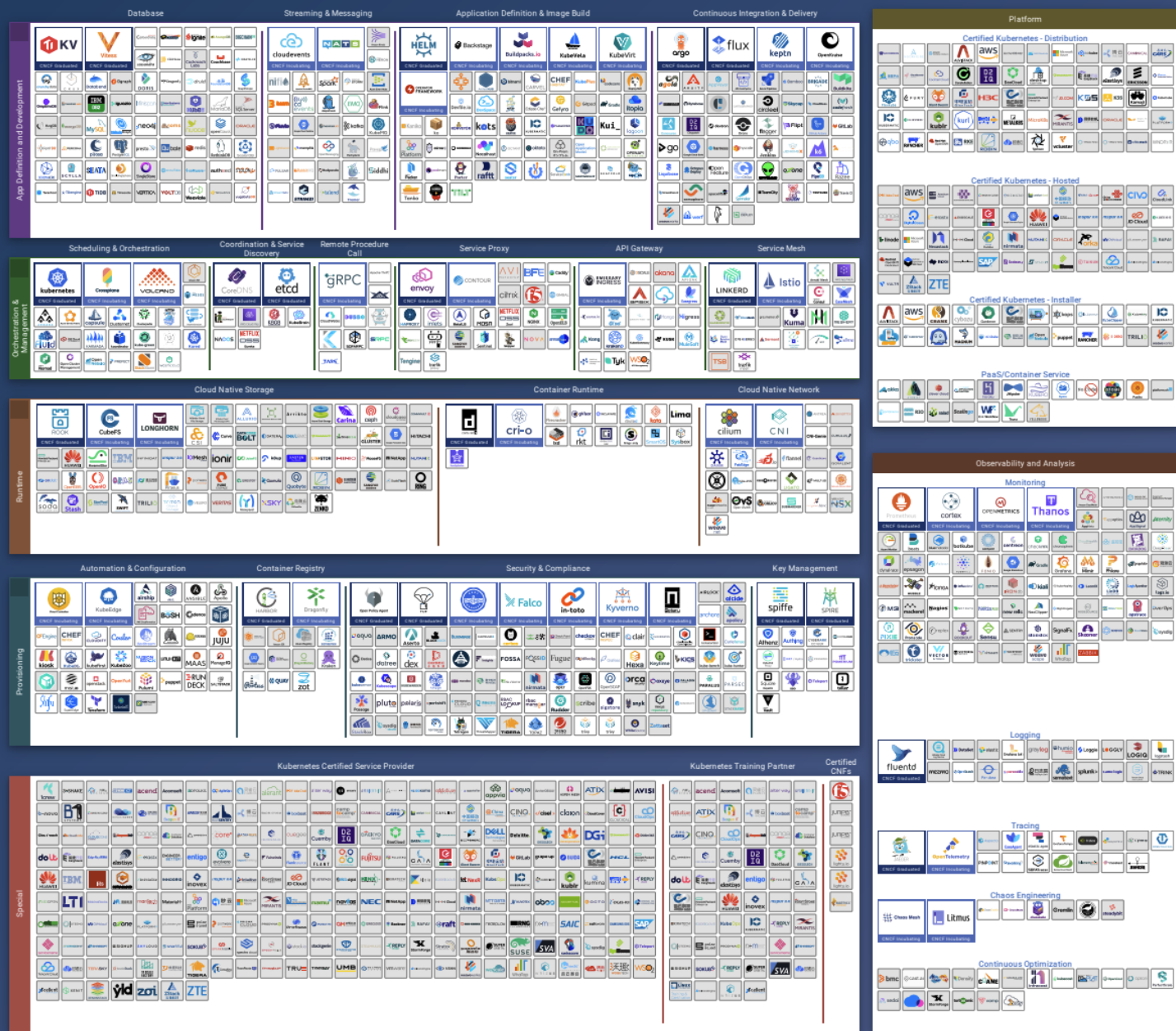


Continuous Delivery, High-performing Engineering Teams, and the Holy Grail







Jeremy Meiss

DevRel & Community professional

Open to work



So back to the tech industry..





YOU SEEK THE HOLY GRAIL.

Continuous Delivery

*the ability to get changes—features, configuration changes, bug fixes, experiments—into production or into the hands of users, **safely** and **quickly** in a **sustainable** way.*

– **Jez Humble**. DevOpsDays Seattle 2017. *Continuous Delivery Sounds Great But It Won't Work Here*

Modern Software Delivery

1. engineers **owning their own code** in production
2. practicing **observability-driven development**
3. **testing in production**
4. separate deploys from releases with **feature flags**
5. **continuous deployment/delivery**

– Charity Majors, Fintech DevCon 2023

Deploy as fast as possible, as automated as possible

– Charity Majors, Fintech DevCon 2023



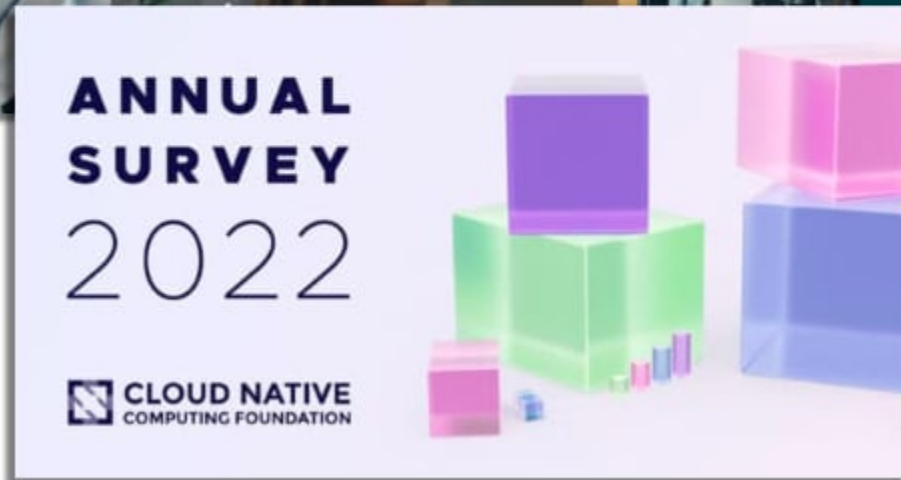
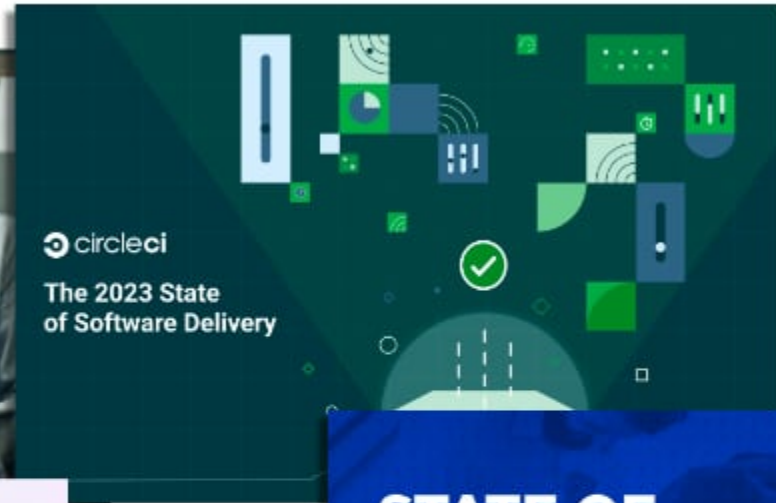




Image: Consumer Choice Center

CI/CD Benchmarks for high-performing teams



Duration



Mean time to resolve



Success rate



Throughput



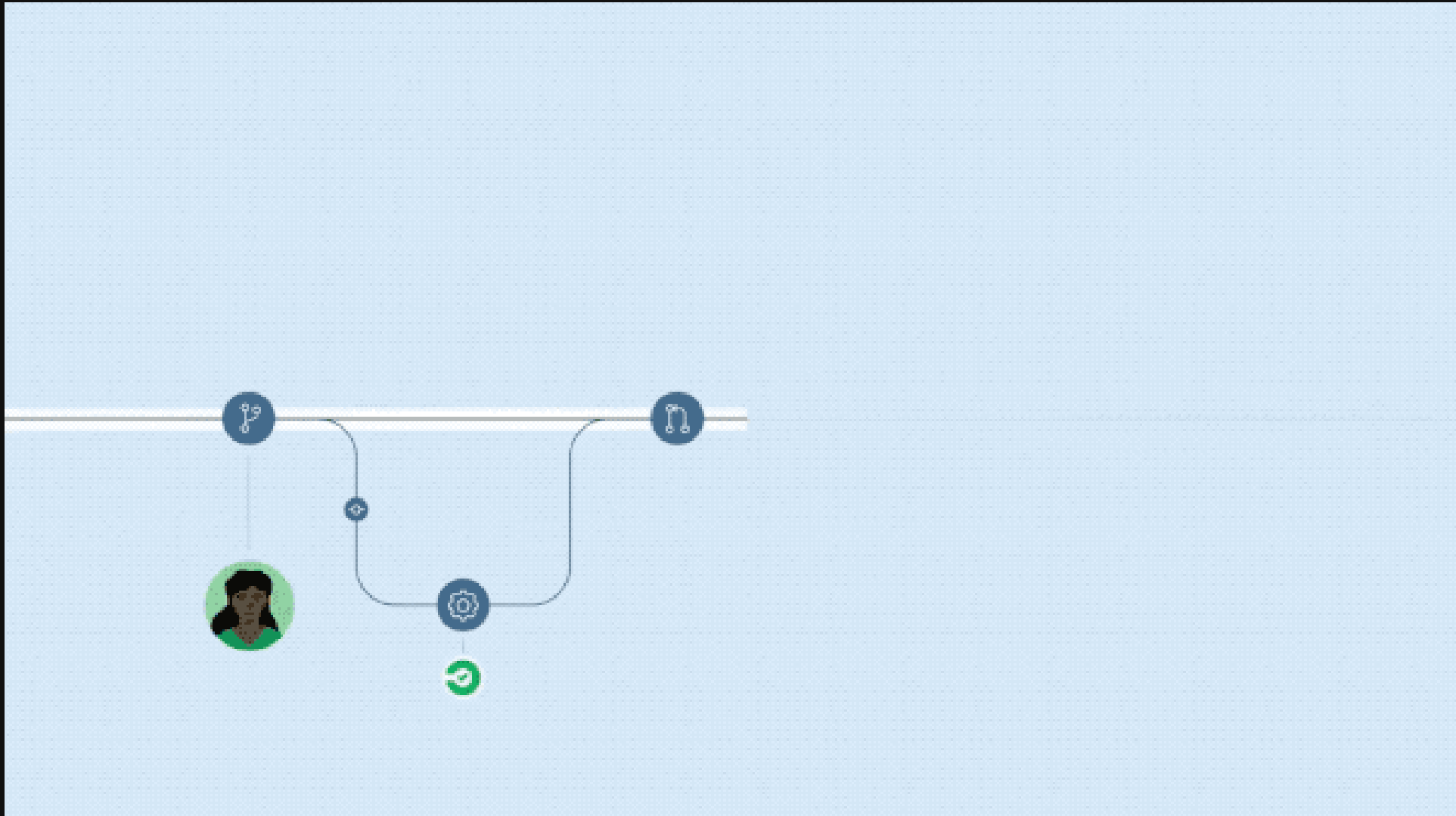
Duration

the foundation of software engineering velocity, measures the average time in minutes required to move a unit of work through your pipeline



And There Was Much Rejoicing





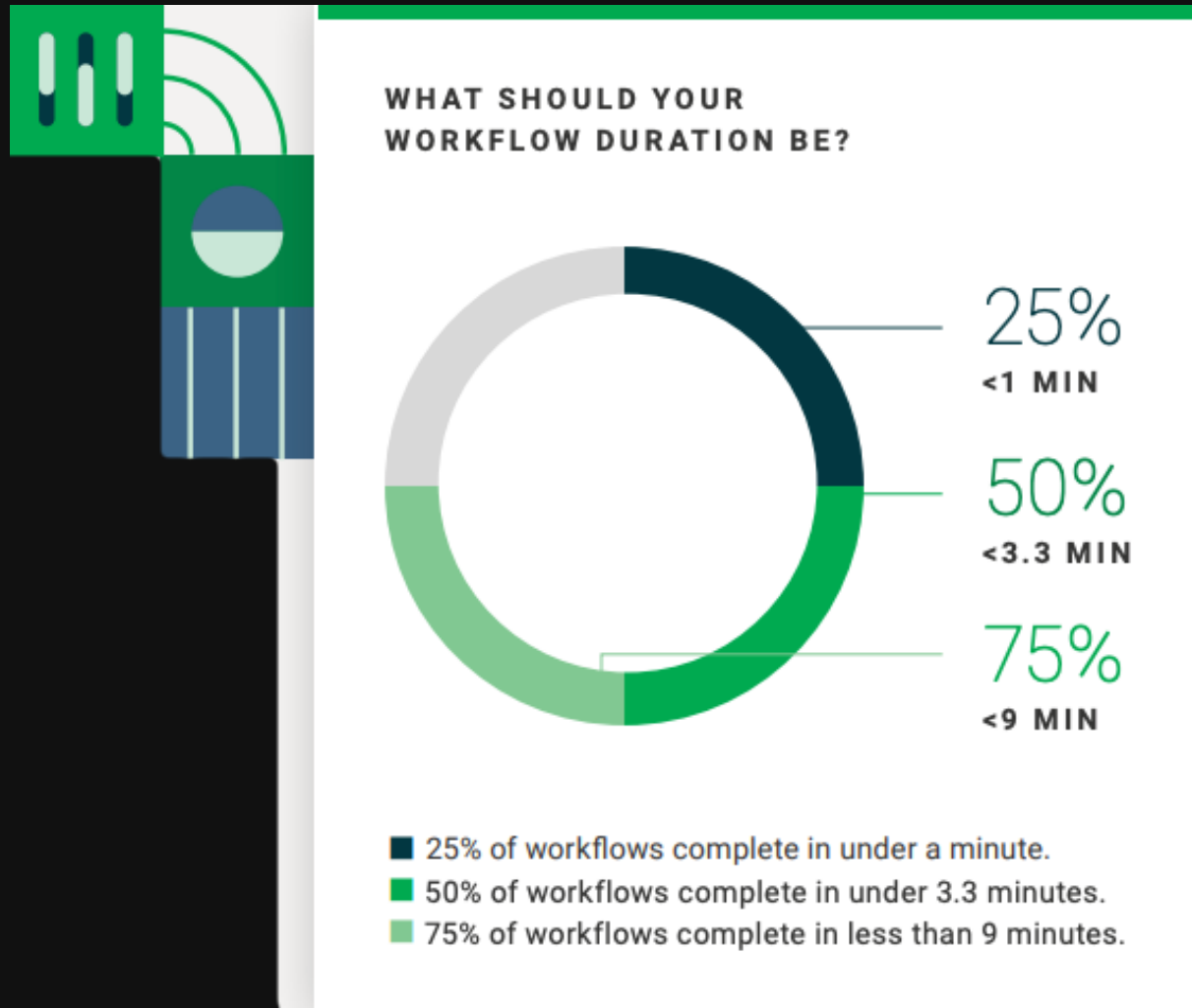
Duration Benchmark

≤ 10 minute builds

"a good rule of thumb is to keep your builds to no more than ten minutes. Many developers who use CI follow the practice of not moving on to the next task until their most recent check-in integrates successfully. Therefore, builds taking longer than ten minutes can interrupt their flow."

– **Paul M. Duvall (2007)**. *Continuous Integration: Improving Software Quality and Reducing Risk*

Duration: What the data shows



Benchmark: 5-10mins

Improving test coverage

- Add unit, integration, UI, end-to-end testing across all app layers
- Add code coverage into pipelines to identify inadequate testing
- Include static and dynamic security scans to catch vulnerabilities
- Incorporate TDD practices by writing tests during design phase

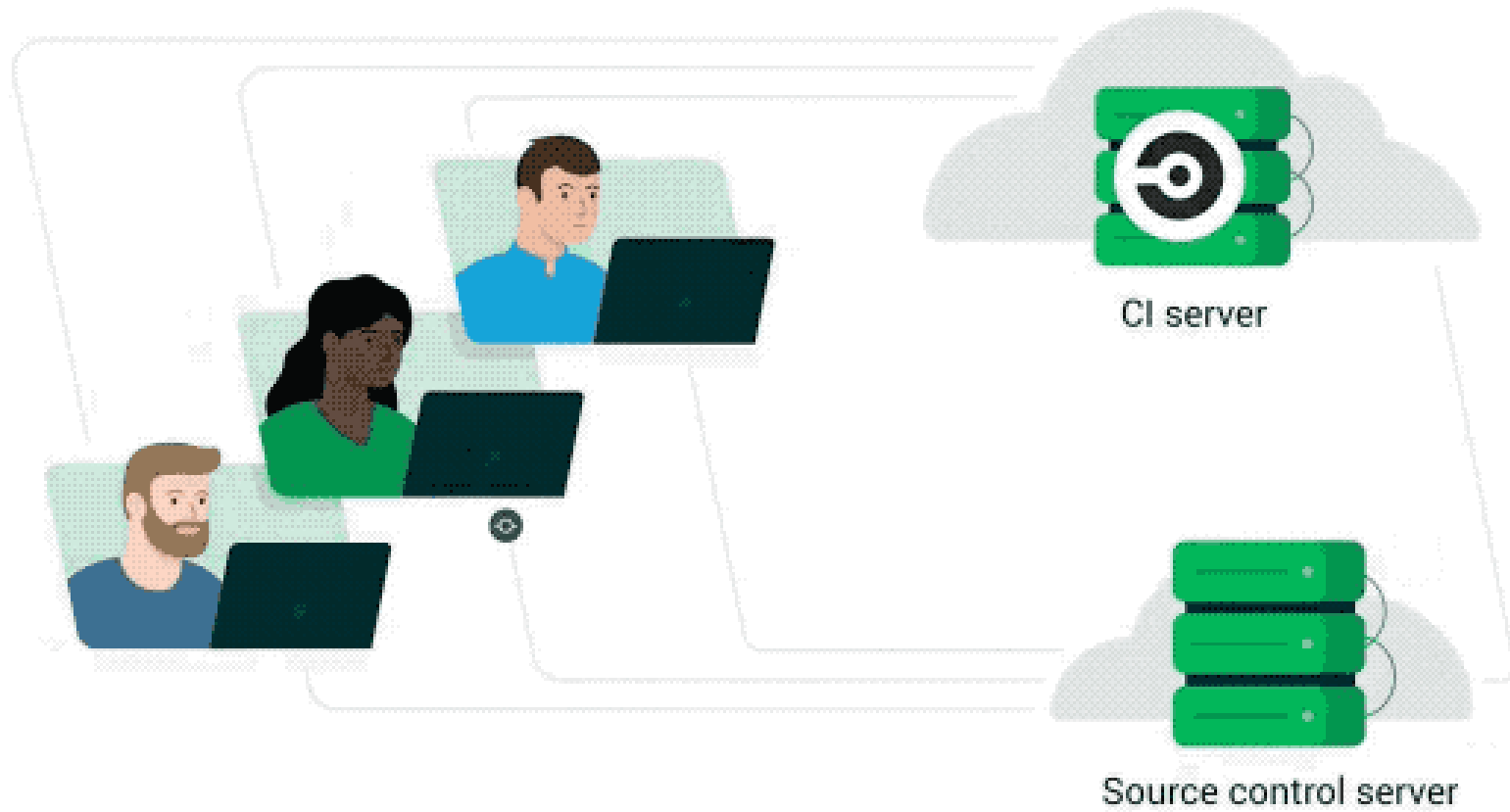
Optimizing your pipelines

- Use test splitting & parallelism for simultaneous multiple tests
- Cache dependencies & data to avoid rebuilding unchanged code
- Use Docker images custom made for CI environments
- Choose the right machine size for your needs



Mean time to Recovery

the average time required to go from a failed build signal to a successful pipeline run



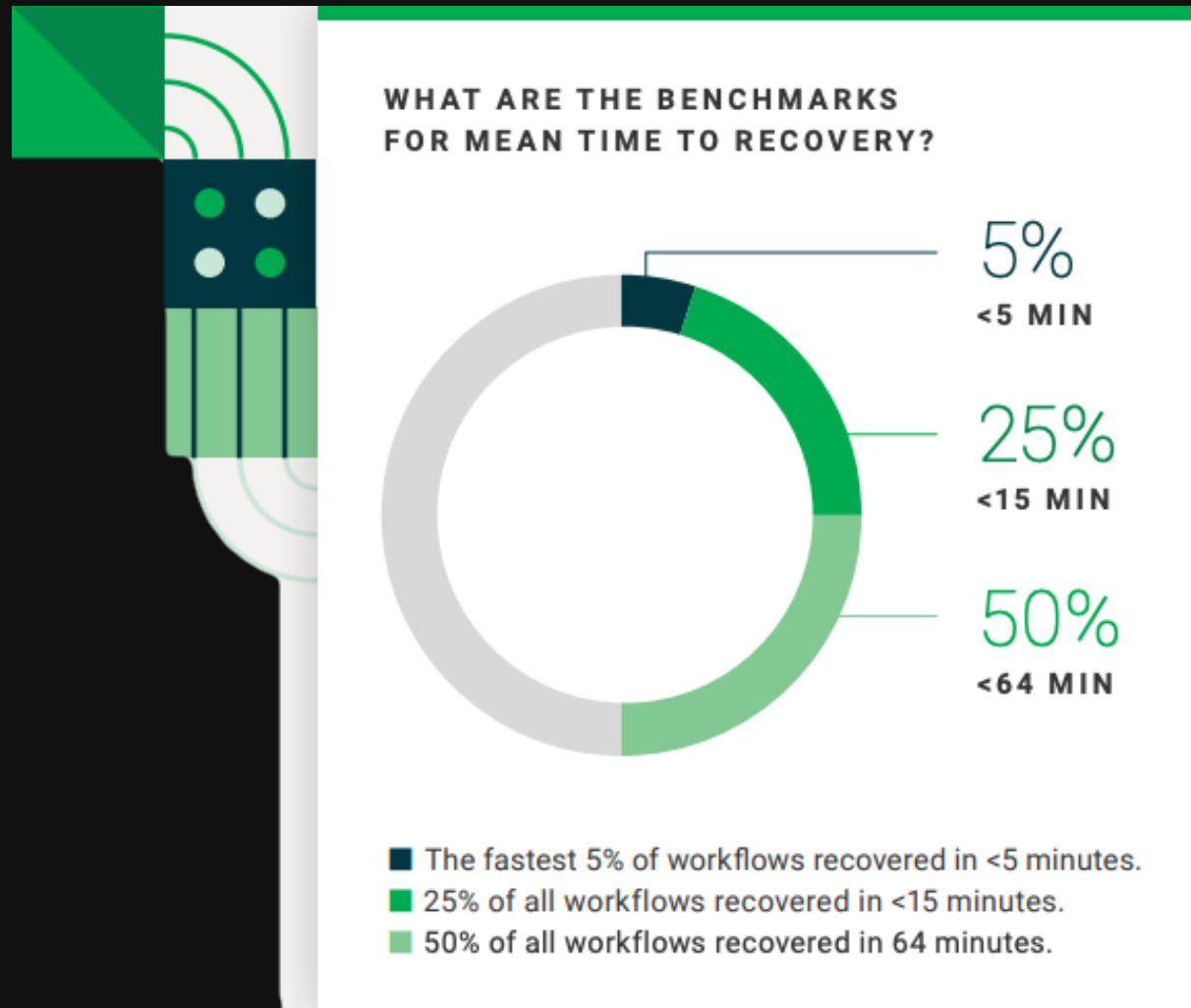
"A key part of doing a continuous build is that if the mainline build fails, it needs to be fixed right away. The whole point of working with CI is that you're always developing on a known stable base."

– **Martin Fowler (2006)**. *"Continuous Integration."* Web blog post. MartinFowler.com

MTTR Benchmark

≤ 60 min MTTR on default branches

MTTR: What the data shows



Benchmark: 60 mins

**Treat your default branch as the
lifeblood of your project**



Getting to faster recovery times

- Treat default branch as the lifeblood of your project
- Set up instant alerts for failed builds (Slack, Pagerduty, etc.)
- Write clear, informative error messages for your tests
- SSH into the failed build machine to debug remote test env

Success rate

number of passing runs divided by the total number of runs over a period of time

Failed signals are not all bad

now go away...



...or i will
taunt you a
second time!

Success rate benchmark

90%+ success rate on default branches

Success rate: What the data shows



Benchmark: 90%+ on default

Throughput

average number of workflow runs that an organization completes on a given project per day



**“Look, in order to maintain high velocity,
your pipelines must be optimized.”**



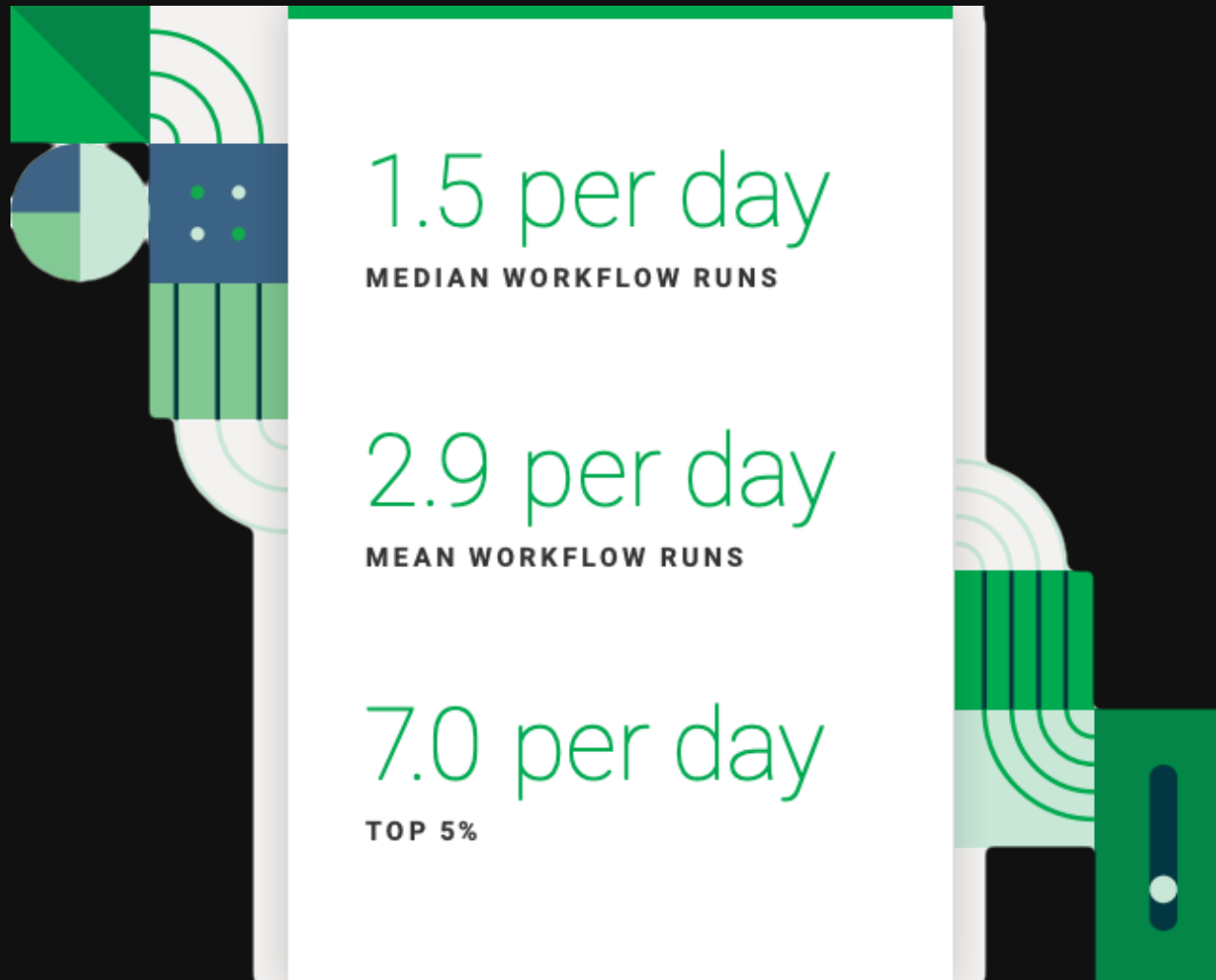
It's only a model.

Throughput benchmark

Throughput benchmark

It depends.

Throughput: What the data shows



Benchmark: at the speed of your business

Throughput is the most dependent on the other metrics



High-performing teams in 2023

Metric	2020	2022	2023	Benchmark
Duration	4.0 minutes	3.7 minutes	3.3 minutes	10 minutes
TTR	72.9 minutes	73.6 minutes	64.3 minutes	<60 minutes
Success Rate	Avg 78% on default	Avg 77% on default	Avg 77% on default	Average >90% on default
Throughput	1.46 times per day	1.43 times per day	1.52 times per day	As often as your business requires - not a function of your tooling

2023 State of Software Delivery Report



go.jmeiss.me/SoSDR2023

**Thank
You.**



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