

API Governance for AsyncAPI

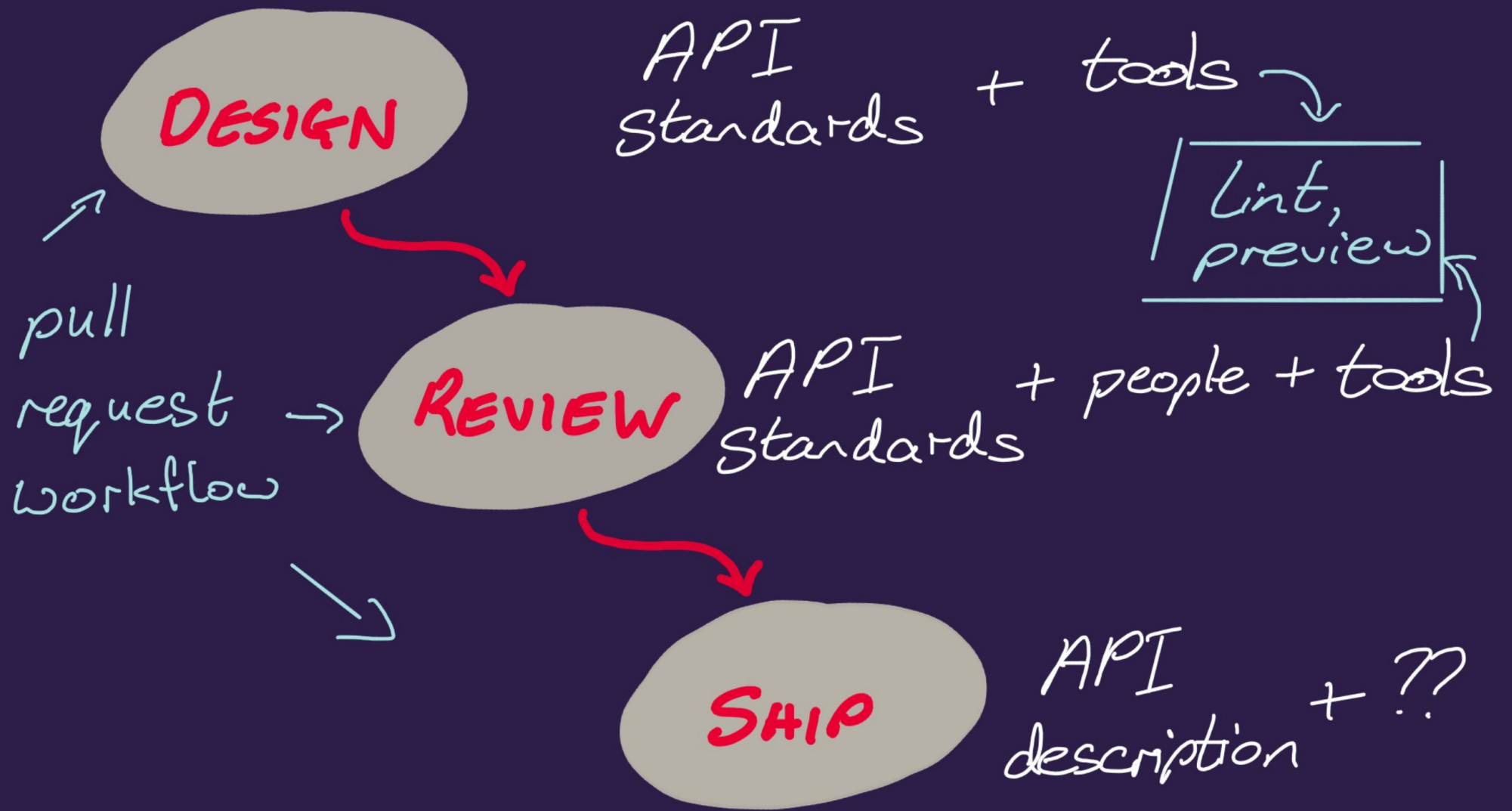
Lorna Mitchell, Redocly

API governance

Good API governance is invisible

Without it:

- designing changes is more difficult
- changes get rejected and need repeat work
- APIs become inconsistent
- more difficult to adopt an API



AsyncAPI and Governance

AsyncAPI is complex! (it's a feature, not a bug)

- Many protocols
- Often multiple API descriptions
- Multiple tech stacks

Start with standards

Written standards define your API identity.

Design good governance

Start small, and formalise existing practices.

Outputs are a written standards set, and linting rules.

One size does not fit all!

Consider multiple standards and apply as appropriate

Designing rulesets

- Level 0: Is the document valid?
- Level 1: Does it meet basic (compliance) standards?
- Level 2: Is it consistent with the rest of the API?
- Level 3: Is it a joy to work with?

Governance processes

Change management, done well

Non-lintable standards

The machines cannot do everything *

Humans must review changes too

- would you want to use this API?
- is the naming sensible and intuitive?
- is the change consistent with the existing API?

*Try asking an AI "does this naming make sense?"

Reviews matter

In software we can iterate. In published interfaces, that's harder.

Build an API council

- Product specialists
- Technical experts
- Customer advocates (UX, tech writers, DevRel)

Tools for API Governance

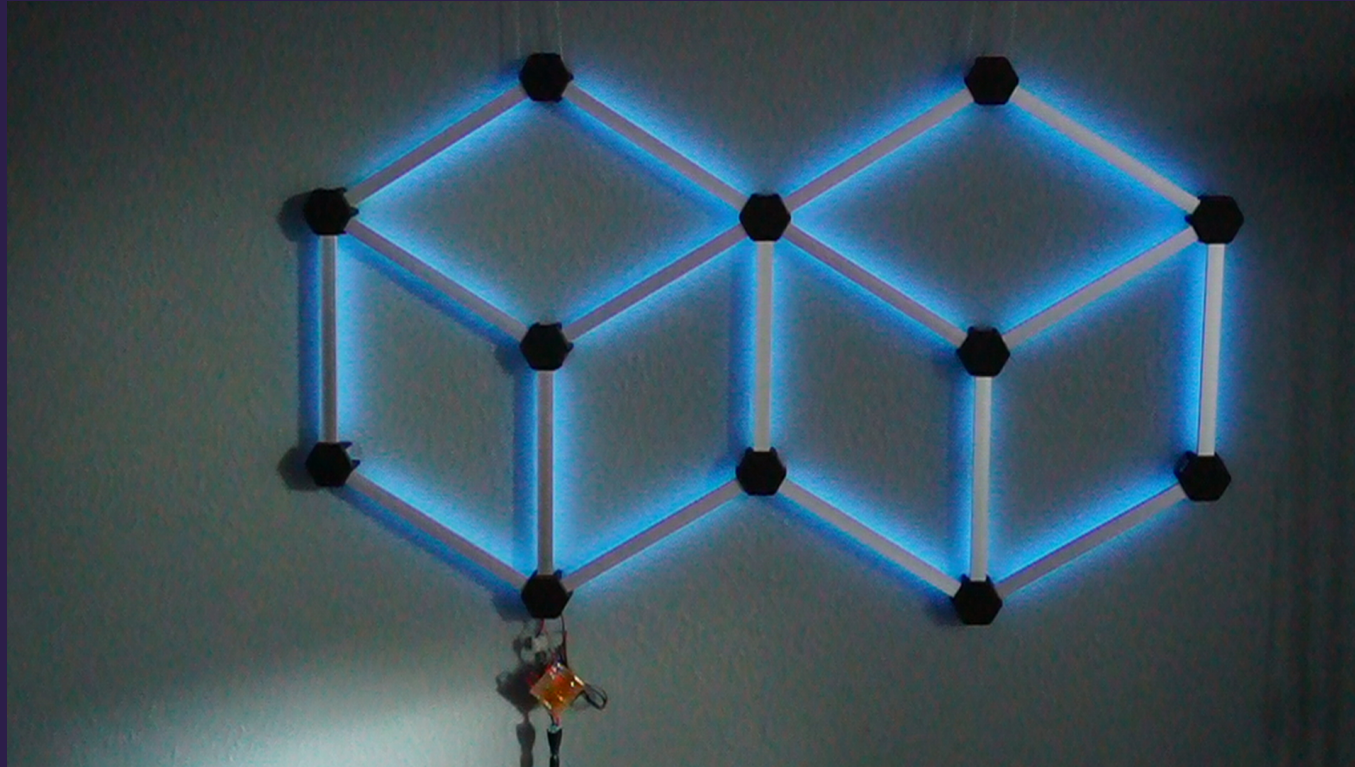
<https://www.asyncapi.com/tools>

Redocly CLI: AsyncAPI

Redocly CLI v1.2 and later
has support for linting AsyncAPI

Lint AsyncAPI

LED wall: <https://github.com/magicmonkey/ledwall>



Lint AsyncAPI

LED wall: <https://github.com/magicmonkey/ledwall>



Lint AsyncAPI

Configure the tool

```
rules:  
  spec: error  
  channels-kebab-case: error
```

Run the command:

```
$ redocly lint ledwall.yaml  
  
validating ledwall.yaml...  
ledwall.yaml: validated in 5ms  
  
Woohoo! Your API description is valid.
```

Good API governance (without tears)

Resources

- <https://lornajane.net>
- <https://redocly.com>
- <https://www.asyncapi.com/tools>
- <https://github.com/magicmonkey/ledwall>