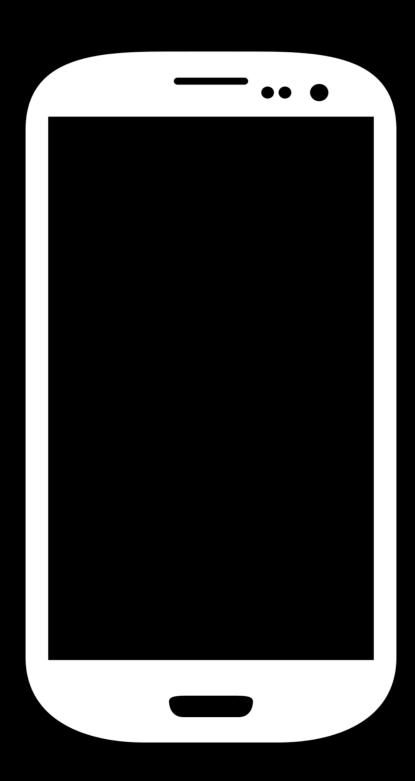


## **Improving Visitor Experience with Edge Computing** @AndyDavies, July 2020

https://www.flickr.com/photos/yoyo\_hick/2423655297



#### Where is the Edge?

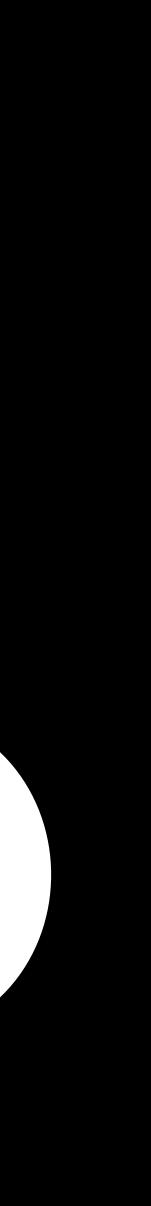






Network?

#### Cloud?





What We Do

Screen Web Experiences

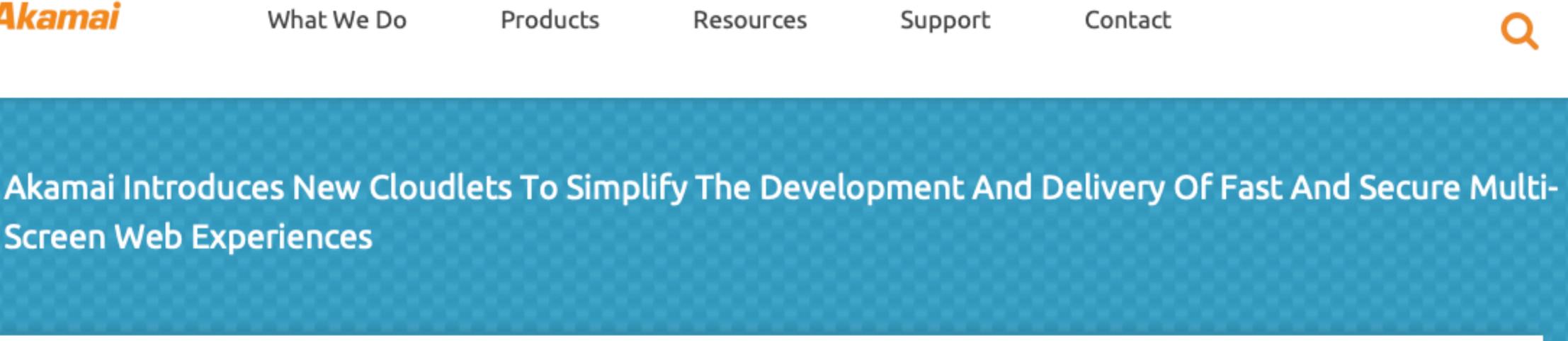
#### Cambridge, MA | September 29, 2014

Akamai Technologies, Inc. (NASDAQ: AKAM), the leading provider of cloud services for delivering, optimizing and securing online content and business applications, today announced availability of Cloudlets, extensions to Akamai solutions that are designed to speed time to market for developers and offload infrastructure demand, each providing a specific and useful functionality that is accessed via the Akamai Intelligent Platform™.

Instead of relying on resource intensive internal or third-party IT projects, Cloudlets allow customers to do more with the Akamai Intelligent Platform, in a way that is self-serviceable, alleviating the need for further infrastructure investment or the development of custom tooling. By offloading business logic to one of the world's most pervasive, performant and scalable delivery networks, as well as incorporating "click to buy" and "click to

## Edge computing isn't really a new concept

Akamal Cloudlets are being introduced with the availability of Edge Redirector, visitor Prioritization and image Converter. The company plans to continue to introduce new Cloudlets regularly, ultimately forming a marketplace of extensions where customers can choose which capabilities are best suited to help simplify the development and delivery of their web sites and applications.



#### Fully self-serviceable business logic for the Akamai Intelligent Platform improves developer time to market, infrastructure scale and page load times.

development,





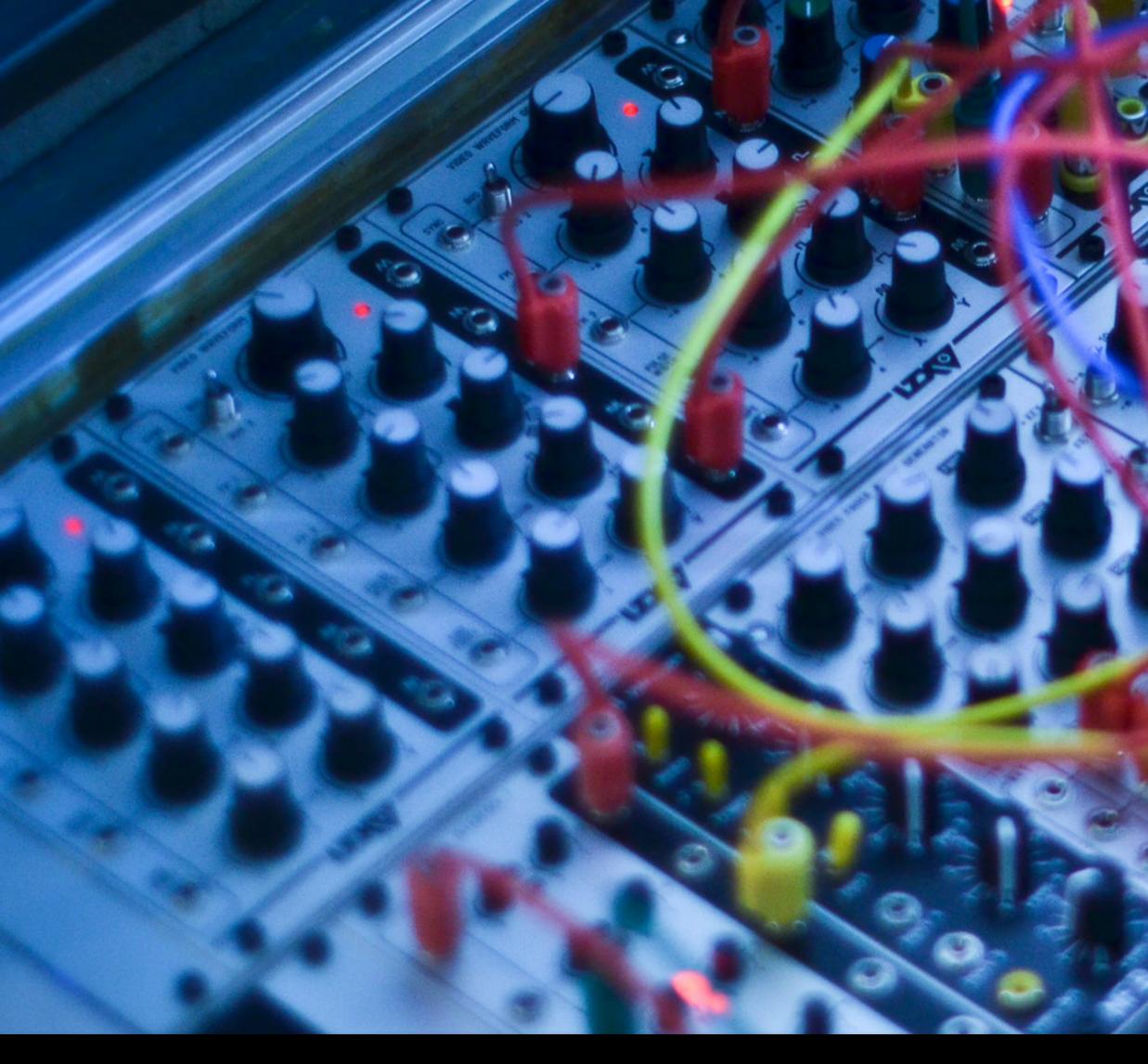
## Safely deploying customer code has been a challenge



https://www.flickr.com/photos/edenpictures/36796298946



### Configuration languages have got us a long way



https://www.flickr.com/photos/chrisrandall/6136814248



#### But what could we do with greater power and flexibility?



https://www.flickr.com/photos/qubodup/14750352671



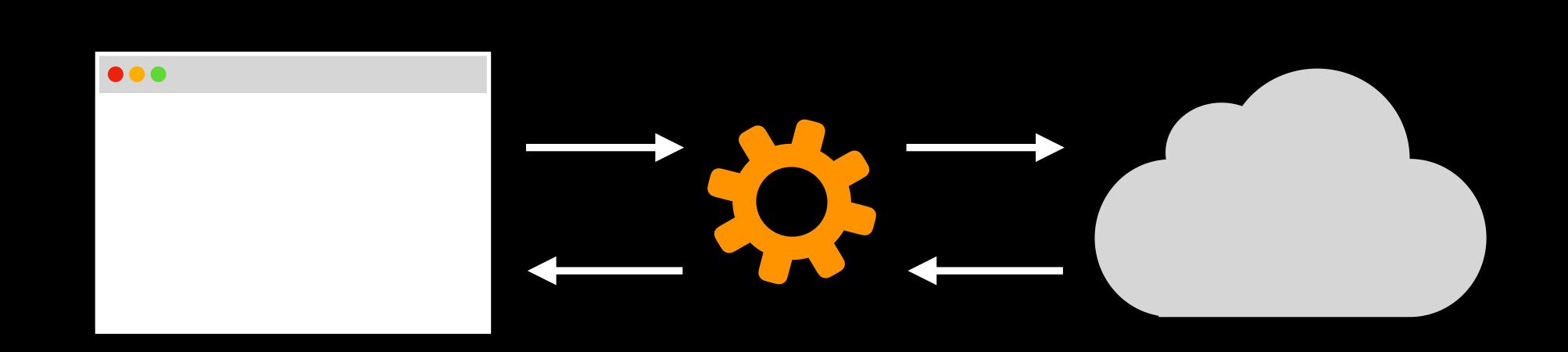
#### Advantages of processing at the edge

- Faster responses as endpoint is closer to the visitor
- Reduced load at the origin
- Orchestrate data from 3rd-parties

#### Improvements in several areas made it feasible

- ServiceWorker API provided a model for programmable proxies
- Overhead of isolation between processes reduced •
- Serverless programming became common

#### Service Workers are in-browser network proxy...



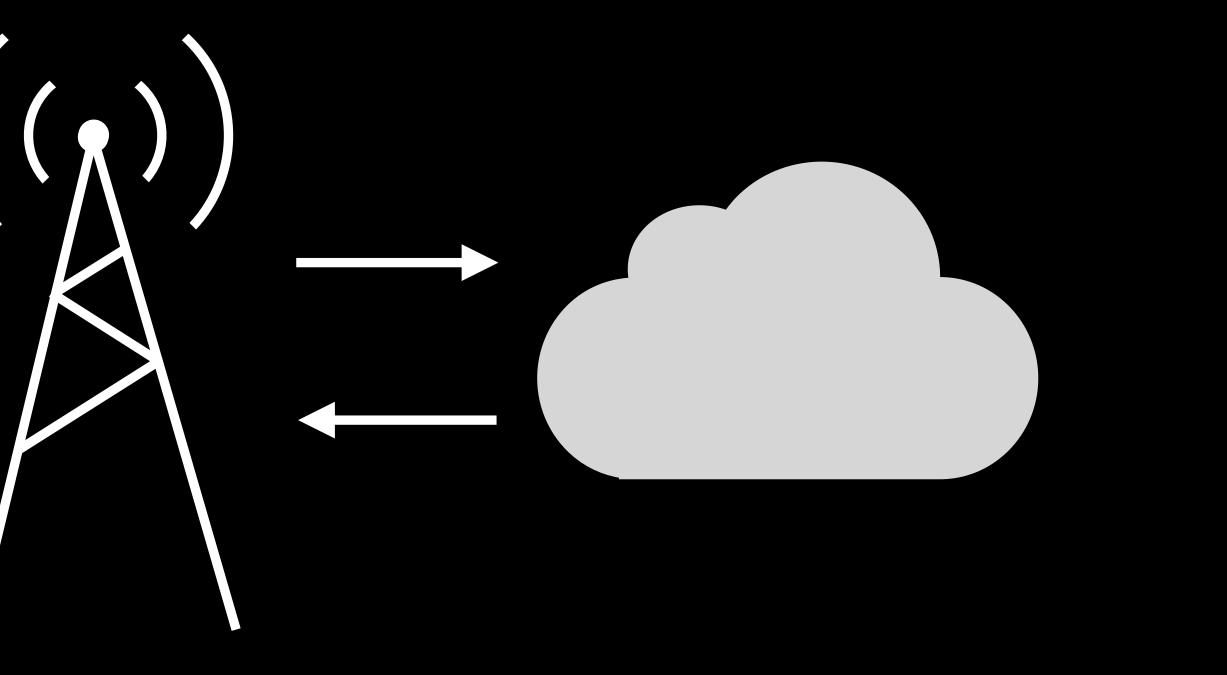
#### ...can intercept and rewrite both requests and responses



#### Edge Workers are a similar concept...



#### ... it's just the proxy is in a different place



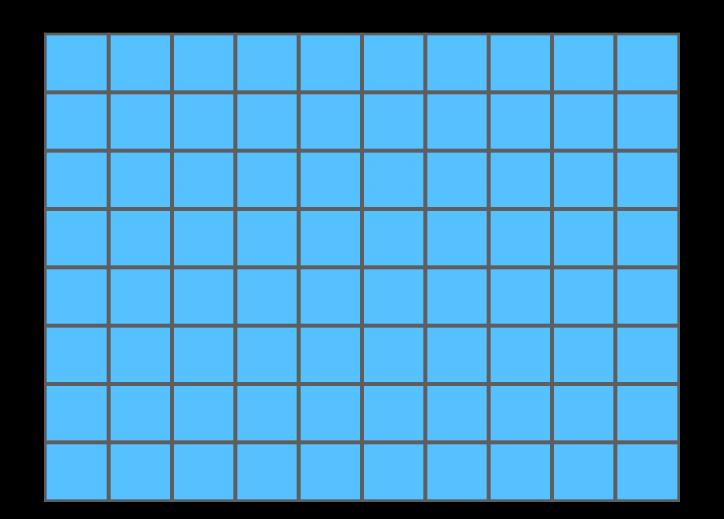


#### New isolation techniques reduced resource overhead

- Micro Virtual Machines (VMs)
- V8 Isolates
- Web Assembly (WASM)

## Resource requirements vary by approach

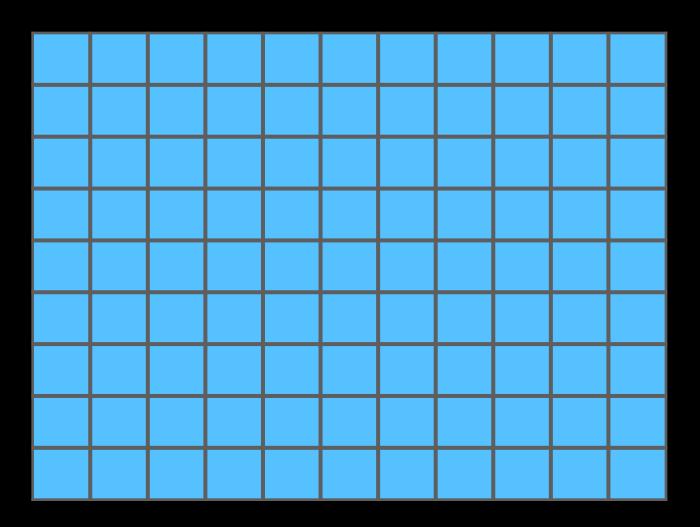
#### Virtual Machines





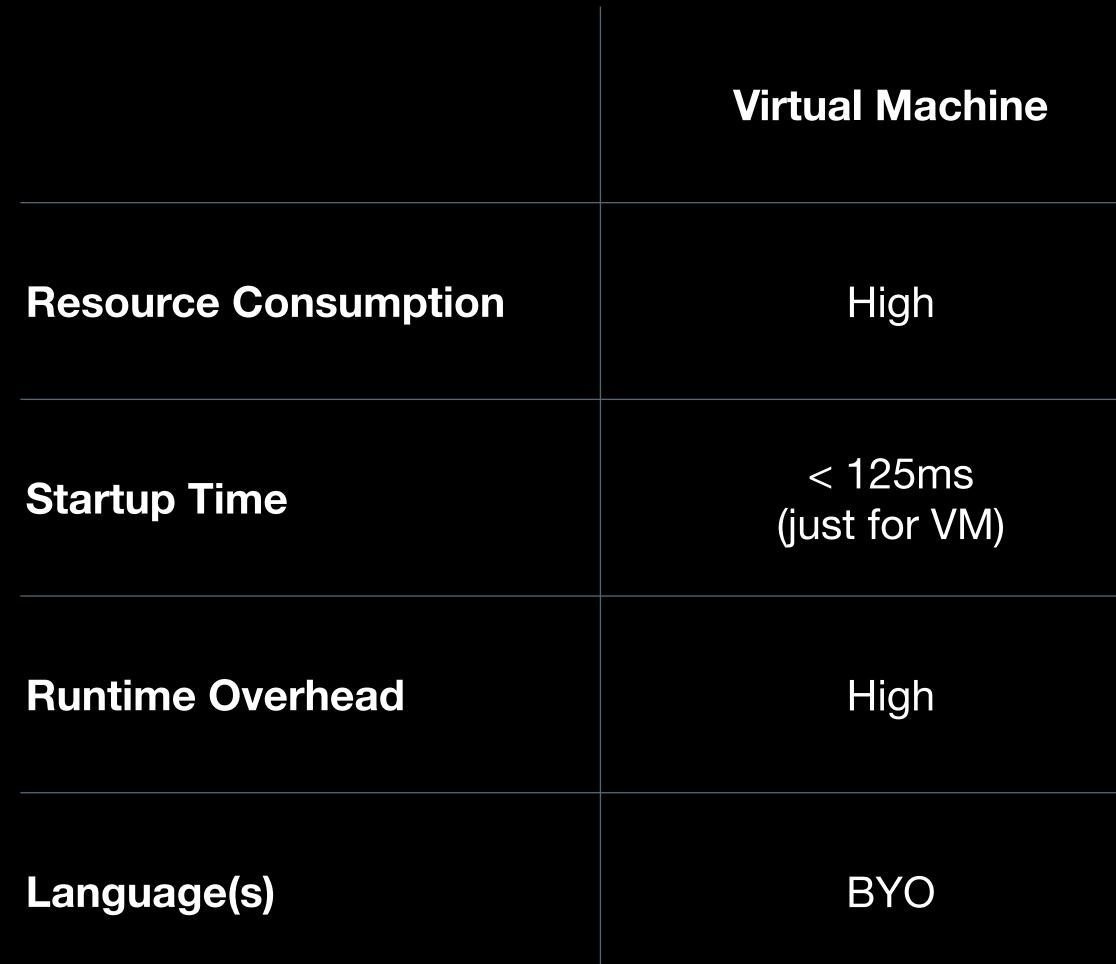
#### V8 Isolates

#### Web Assembly



#### Reducing overhead

#### Some approaches are faster than others



V8 Isolates	Web Assembly
Low	Low
< 5ms	< 40µs
Low	Low
JavaScript / WASM	C, Rust, Go, AssemblyScript

## Using JavaScript makes it very familiar

// Hello World Example

export function onClientRequest(request) { request.respondWith( 200, {}, '<html><body><h1>Hello World From Akamai EdgeWorkers</h1></body></html>'); }

export function onClientResponse(request, response) { response.setHeader('X-Hello-World', 'From Akamai EdgeWorkers');



## Using JavaScript makes it very familiar

// Hello World Example

addEventListener('fetch', event => { event.respondWith(handleRequest(event.request)) })

/\*\* \* Fetch and log a request \* @param {Request} request \*/ async function handleRequest(request) {

```
return new Response('Hello worker!', { status: 200 })
```

### YMMV with other languages (Rust for example)

```
#[macro_use]
extern crate http_guest;
use http_guest::{Request, Response};
    Response::builder()
        status(200)
        .body("Hello, world!".as_bytes().to_owned())
        .unwrap()
}
```

guest\_app!(user\_entrypoint);

pub fn user\_entrypoint(\_req: &Request<Vec<u8>>) -> Response<Vec<u8>> {

Either executed as binary on VM, or compiled to WASM



## Text representation of WASM looks something like this

(module (type \$t0 (func (param i32) (result i32))) (func \$add\_one (export "add\_one") (type \$t0) (param \$p0 i32) (result i32) get\_local \$p0 i32.const 1 i32.add) (table \$T0 1 1 anyfunc) (memory \$memory (export "memory") 17))

Note: this is an example NOT the code from the previous slide







#### WASI The WebAssembly System Interface

WASI is a modular system interface for WebAssembly. As described in <u>the initial</u> <u>announcement</u>, it's focused on security and portability.

WASI is being standardized in <u>a subgroup of the WebAssembly CG</u>. Discussions happen in <u>GitHub issues</u>, <u>pull requests</u>, and <u>bi-weekly Zoom meetings</u>.

For a quick intro to WASI, including getting started using it, see the intro

#### WASI allows WASM to access system functions

and <u>Rust</u>. The resulting .wasm modules can be run in any WASI-compliant runtime.

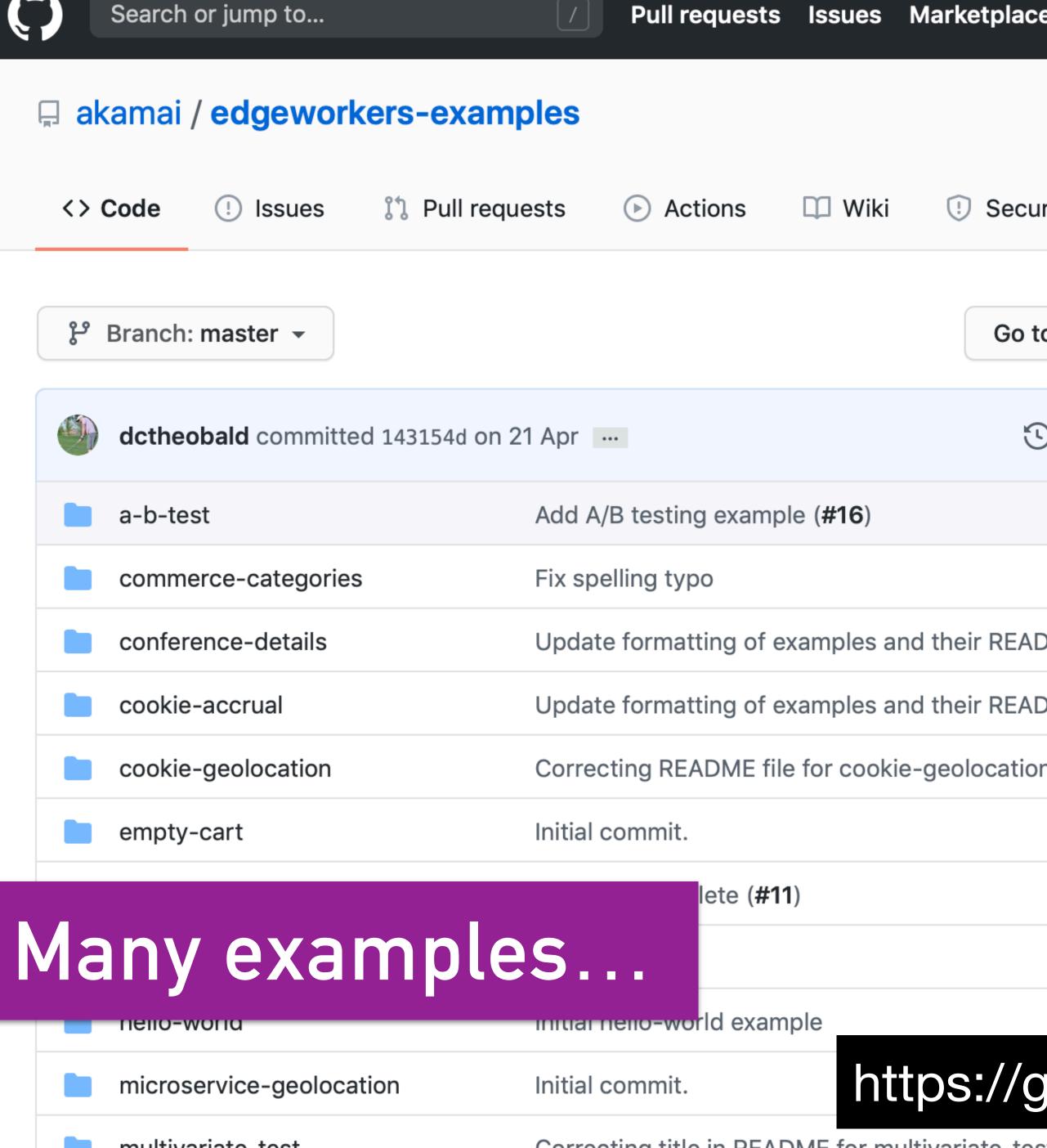
For more documentation see the documents guide



## Managed and deployed as code

## What might we do with these new capabilities?

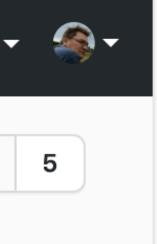




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#### https://github.com/akamai/edgeworkers-examples

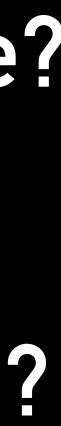
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#### What activities can be moved from...

#### ...the origin to the edge?

#### ...the client to the edge?



#### Examples

- More responsive user interactions
- Preserving privacy
- Proxying 3rd Parties
- Experiment with Performance Optimisations

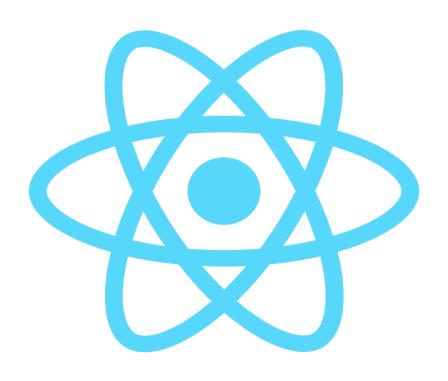
## **Responsive User Interactions**

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#### Clientside frameworks rely on fast APIs









# Svelte



#### **3rd Parties as Content**

Continue



#### **Reviews**

5.0 Design **5.0 5.0 Features** Overall rating \*\*\*\* Based on 2 reviews

Write a review

★★★★★ MuKhu · 18 days ago

#### For a budget smartphone, I'm impressed.

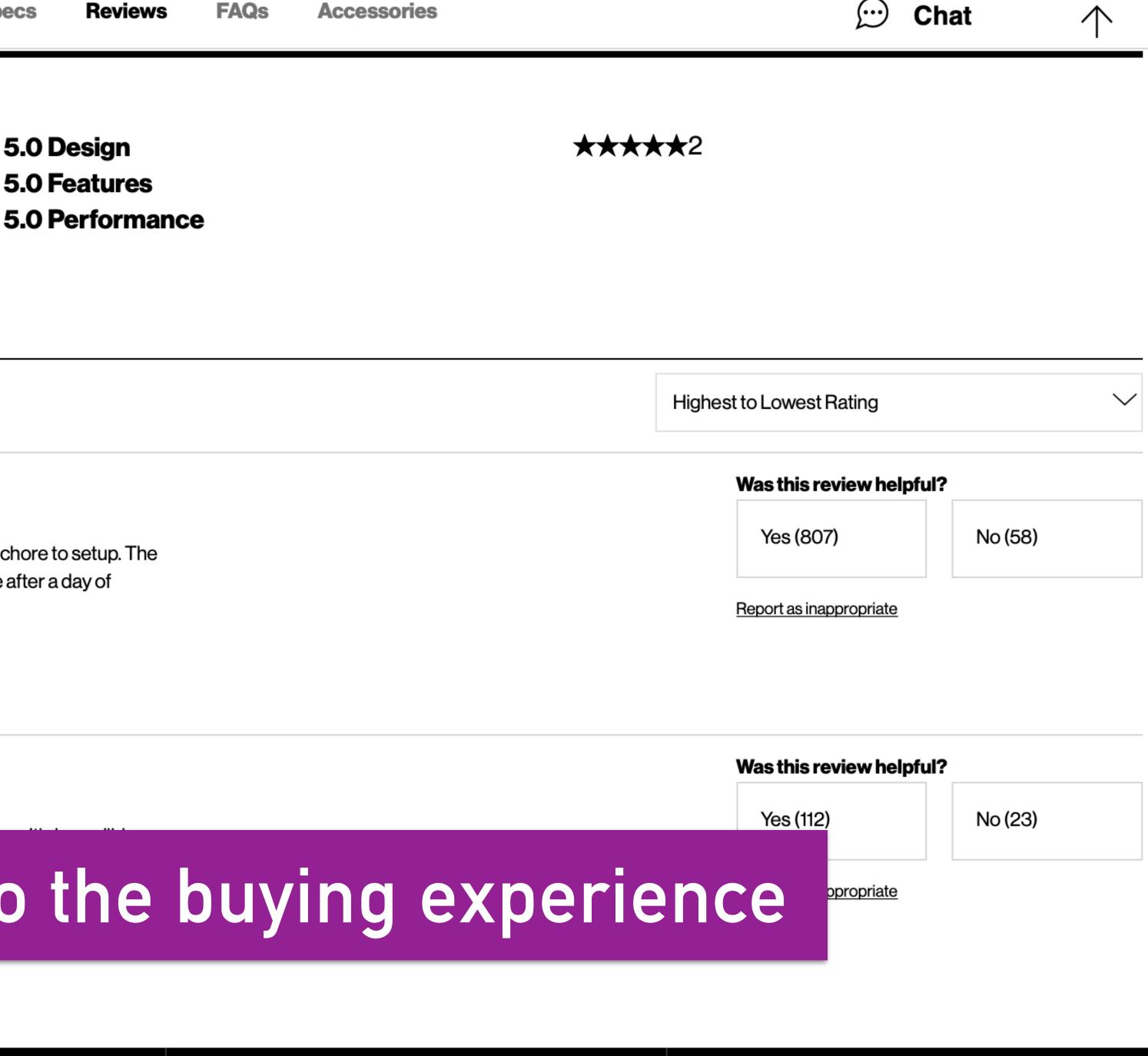
I've had this phone a few days and so far it is quick to boot-up, easy to navigate and not too much of a chore to setup. The camera is excellent, compared to my previous phone which was good. Battery life seems reasonable after a day of setting up, phone calls and texting, I didn't feel the battery (read more)

Yes, I'd recommend this product

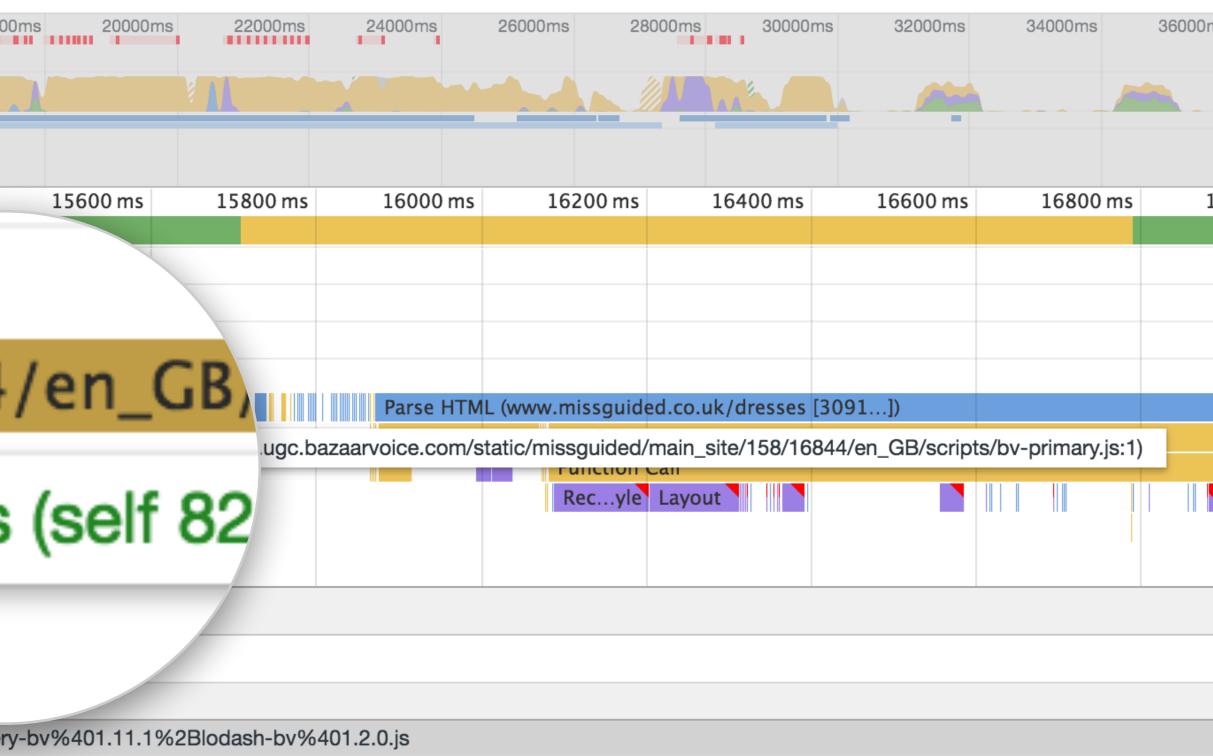
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#### **Great Phone!**

#### Reviews are essential to the buying experience

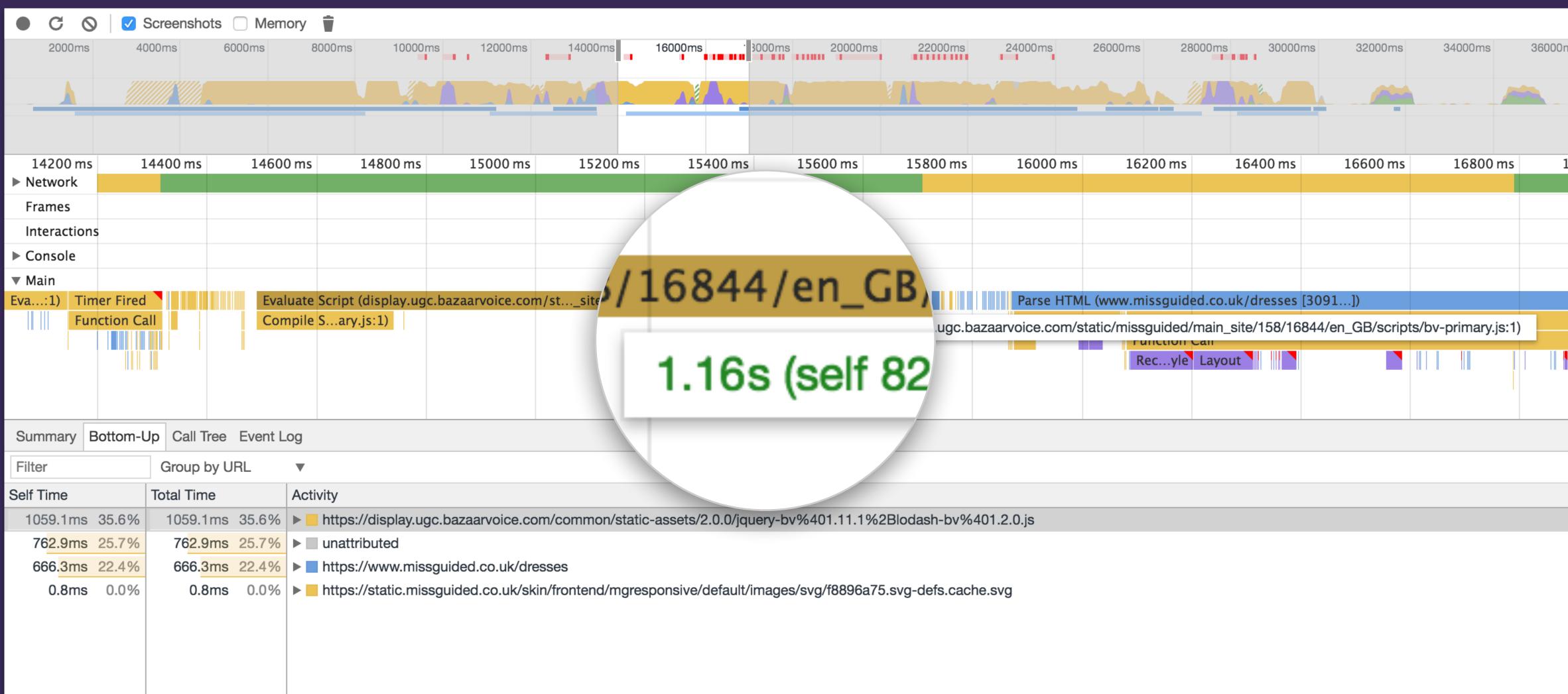


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## How could an edge worker mitigate this issue?

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#### Move client-side experimentation to the edge

- Delays while downloading •
- Delays while executing
- Often use 'anti-flicker' scripts to hide the page while it reflows Moving the experimentation off the client reduces these issues

But...

- Most AB / MV Testing services rely on large JavaScript bundles





#### Move client-side experimentation to the edge

AB / MV Testing services are not just a large JavaScript bundle!

They also provide

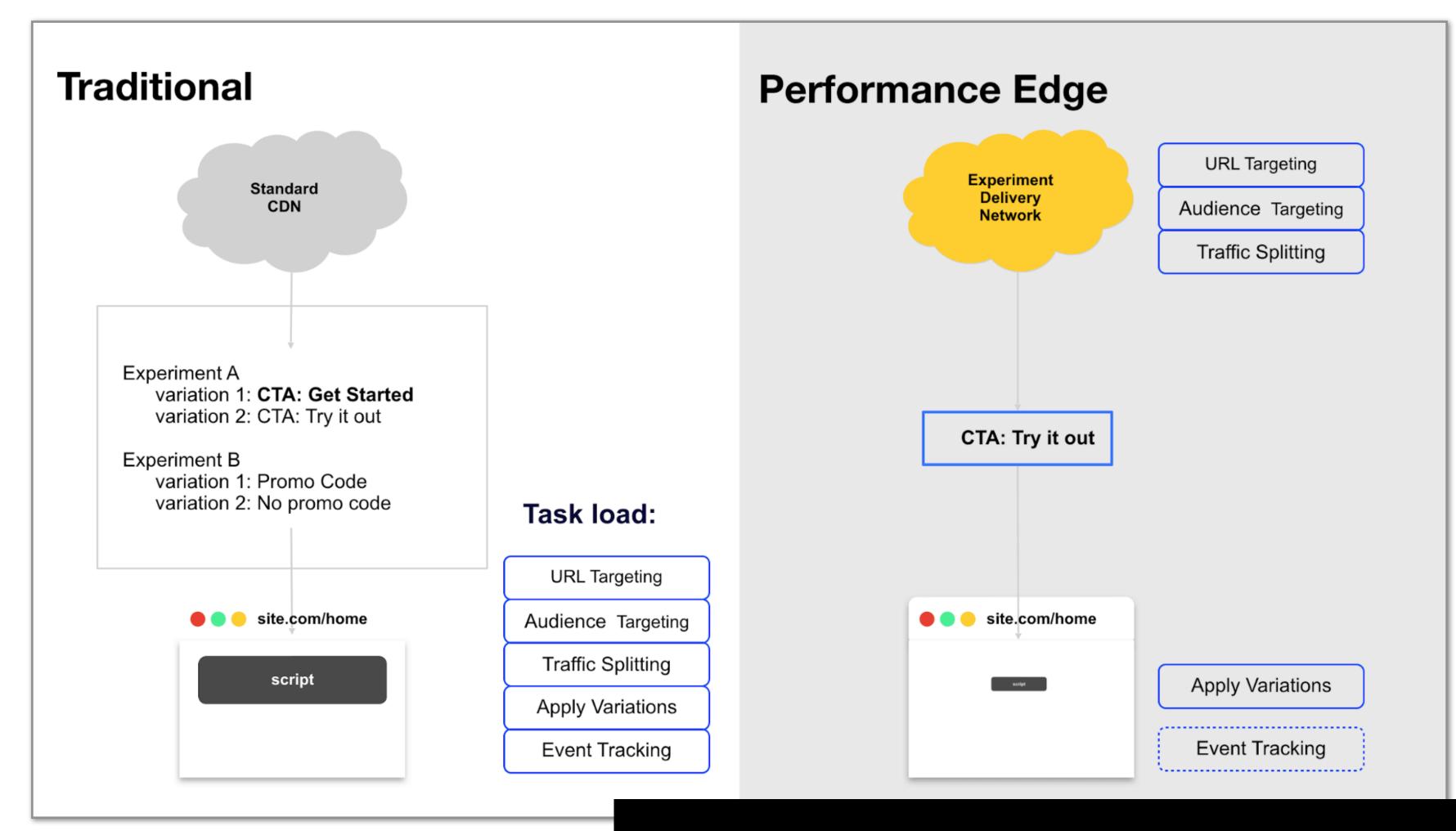
- Cohort mangement
- Experiment creation
- Analytics

What do we need to solve these challenges with edge workers?





## Optimizely supports moving snippet processing at edge



https://man.gl/optimizely-experimenting-at-the-edge





## Many other client-side 3rd-parties slow the experience

- Personalisation
- Faceted search
- Chat ullet
- Feedback

## Could implementing these at the edge improve that?





## **Preserving Privacy**

# **Chiefmartec.**com Marketing Technology Landscape ("Martech 5000")

## **Advertising & Promotion**



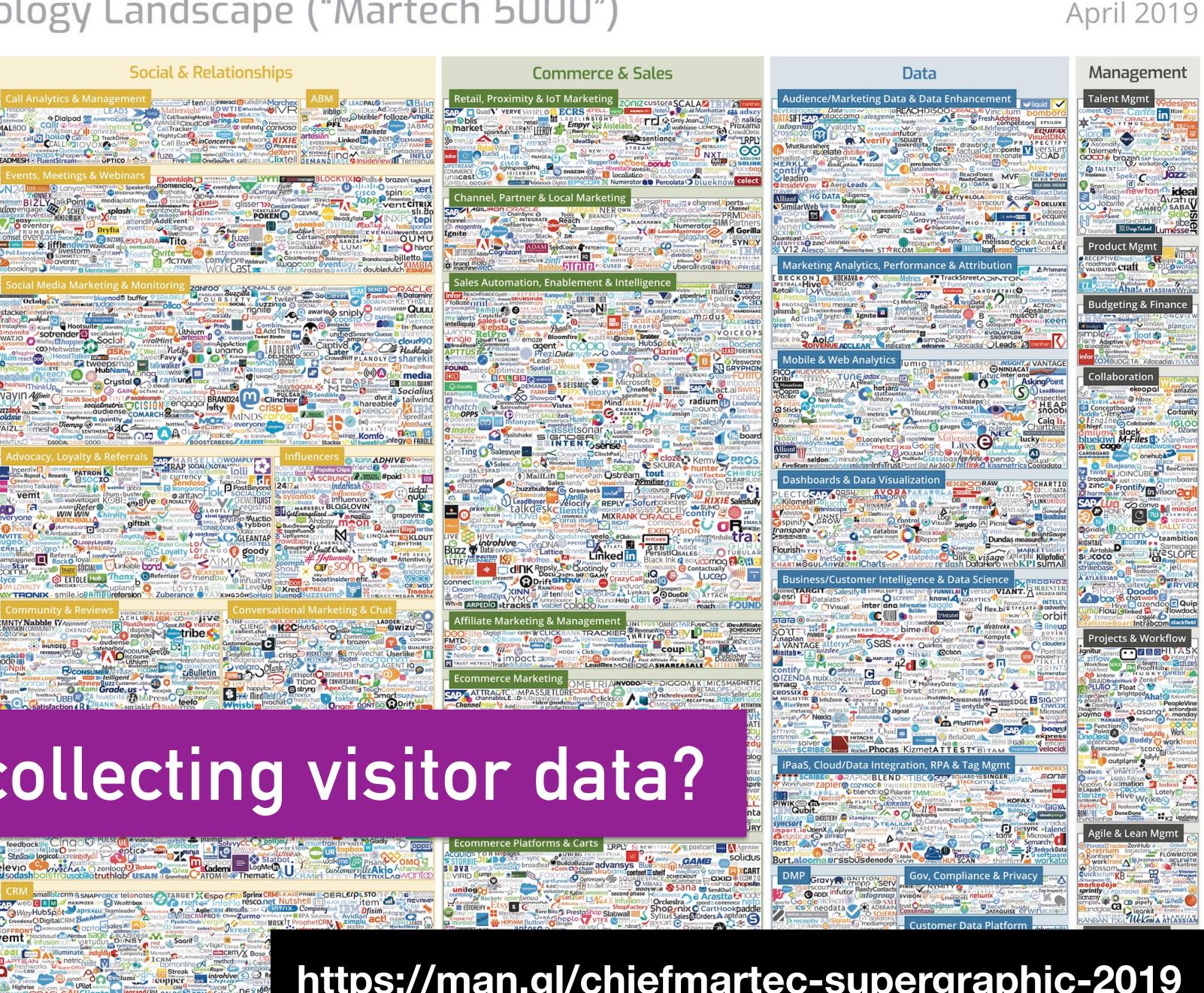


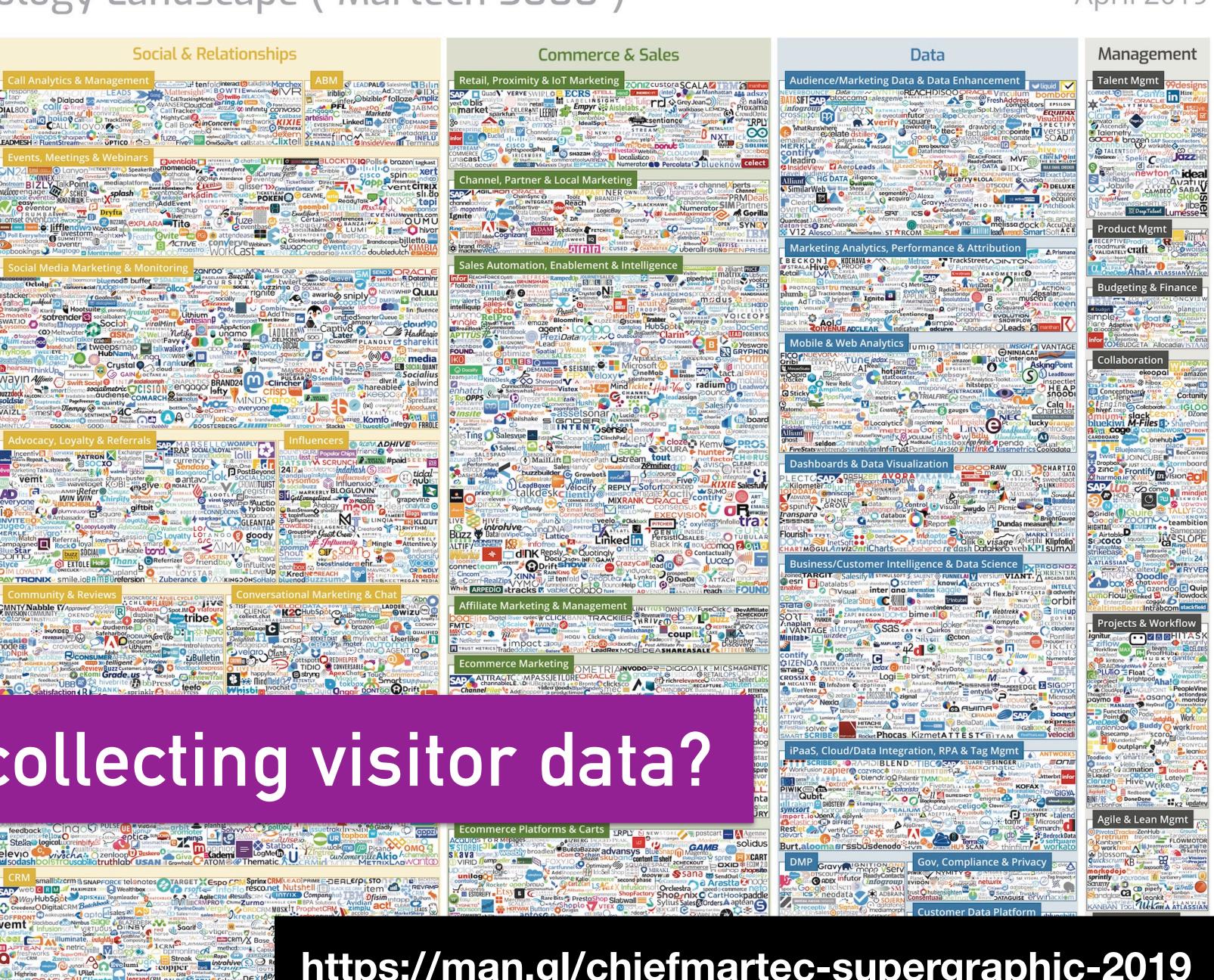


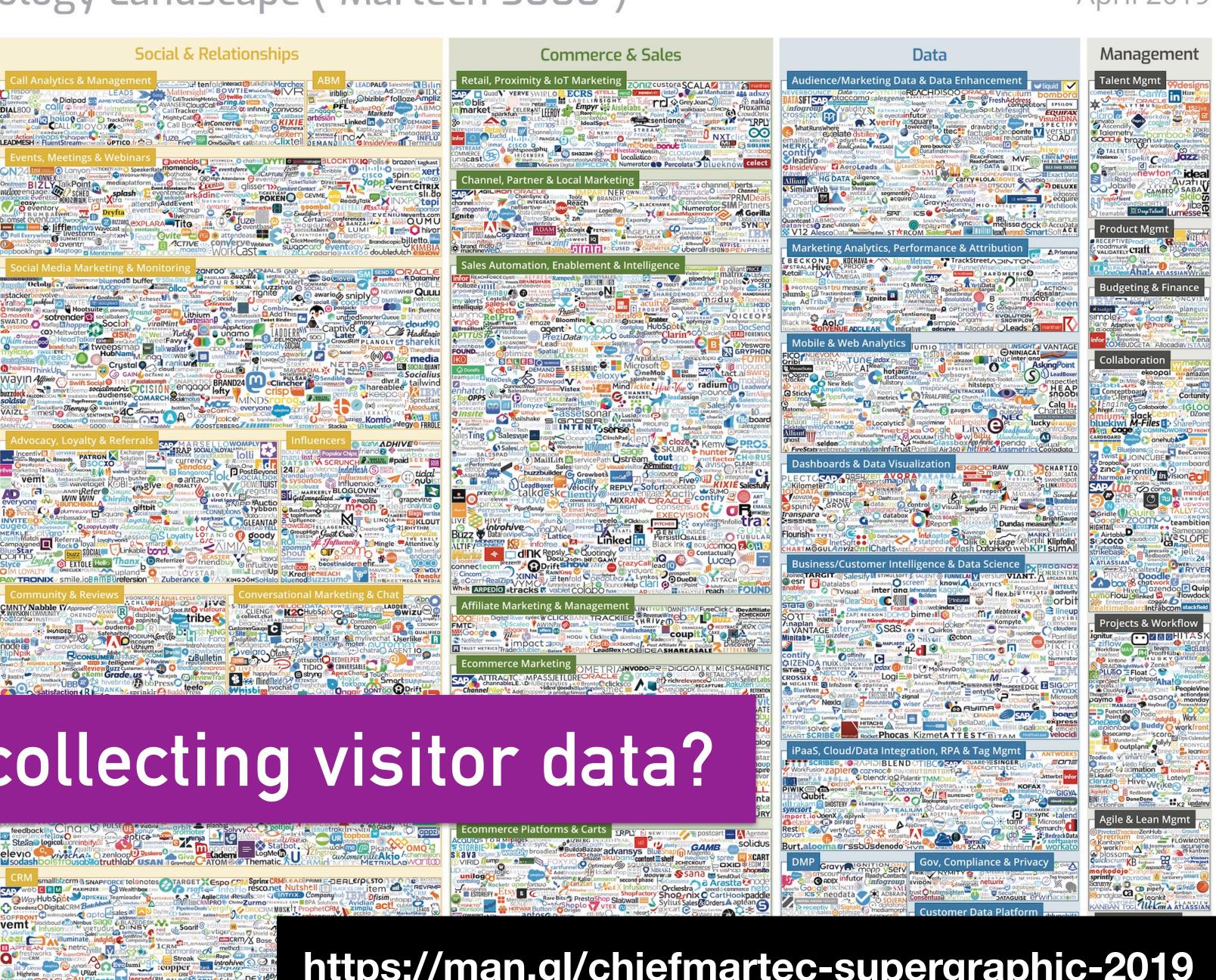








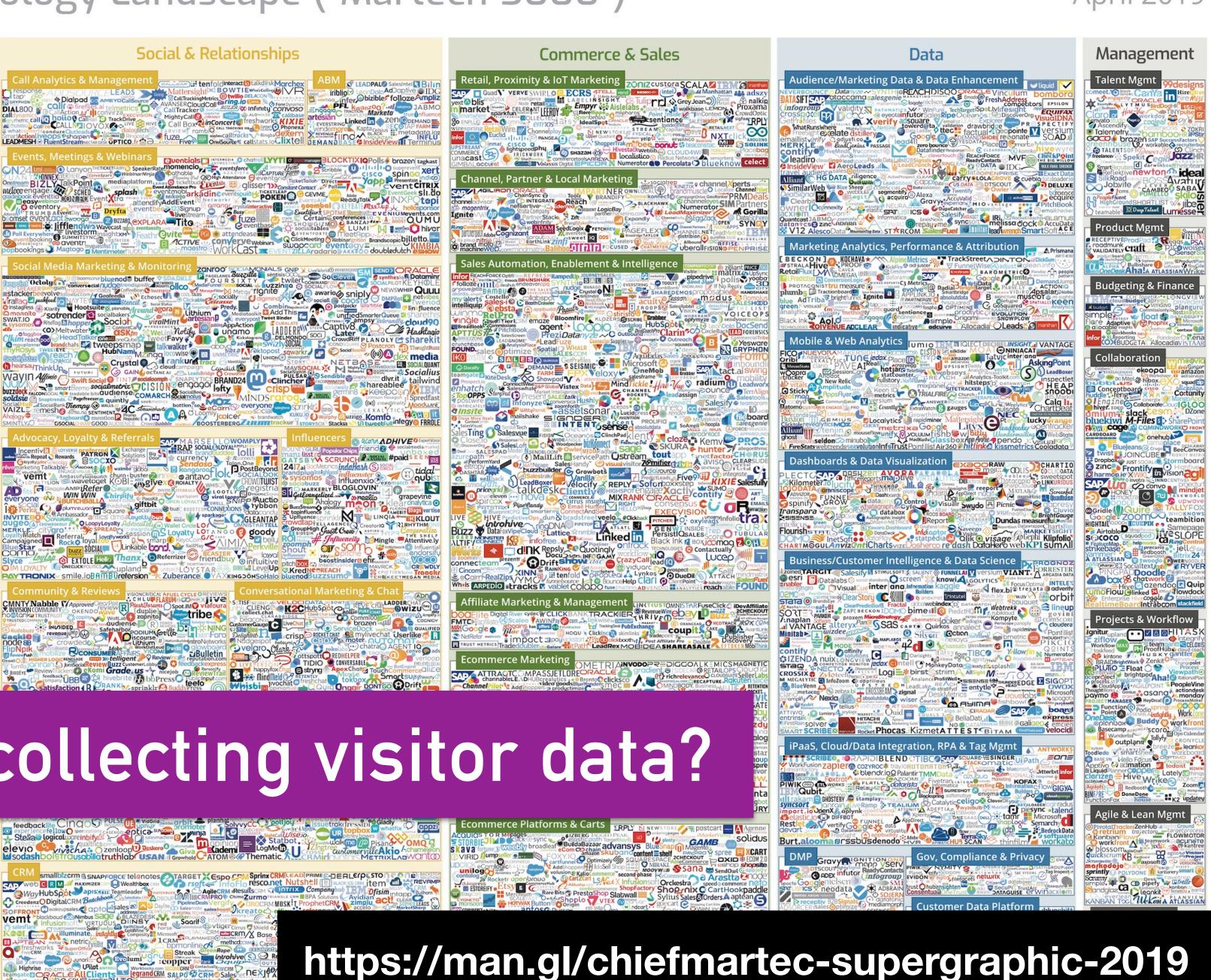




# How many tags are collecting visitor data?

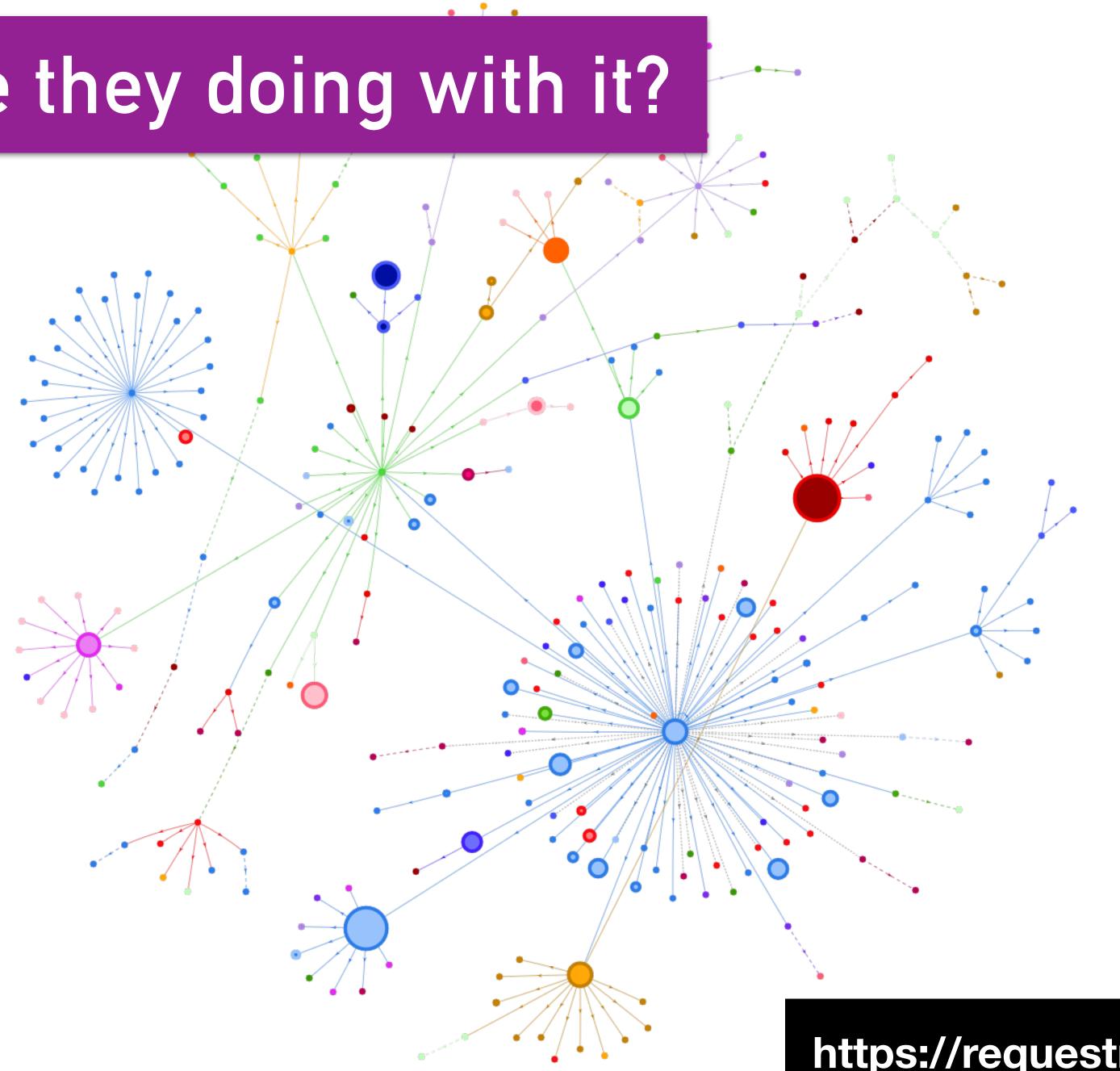






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# And what are they doing with it?



https://requestmap.herokuapp.com



# Preserve privacy by proxying analytics



Join the 20,000+ companies using the Segment platform





# How do we get 3rd-Party Tags to offer their features via the edge?

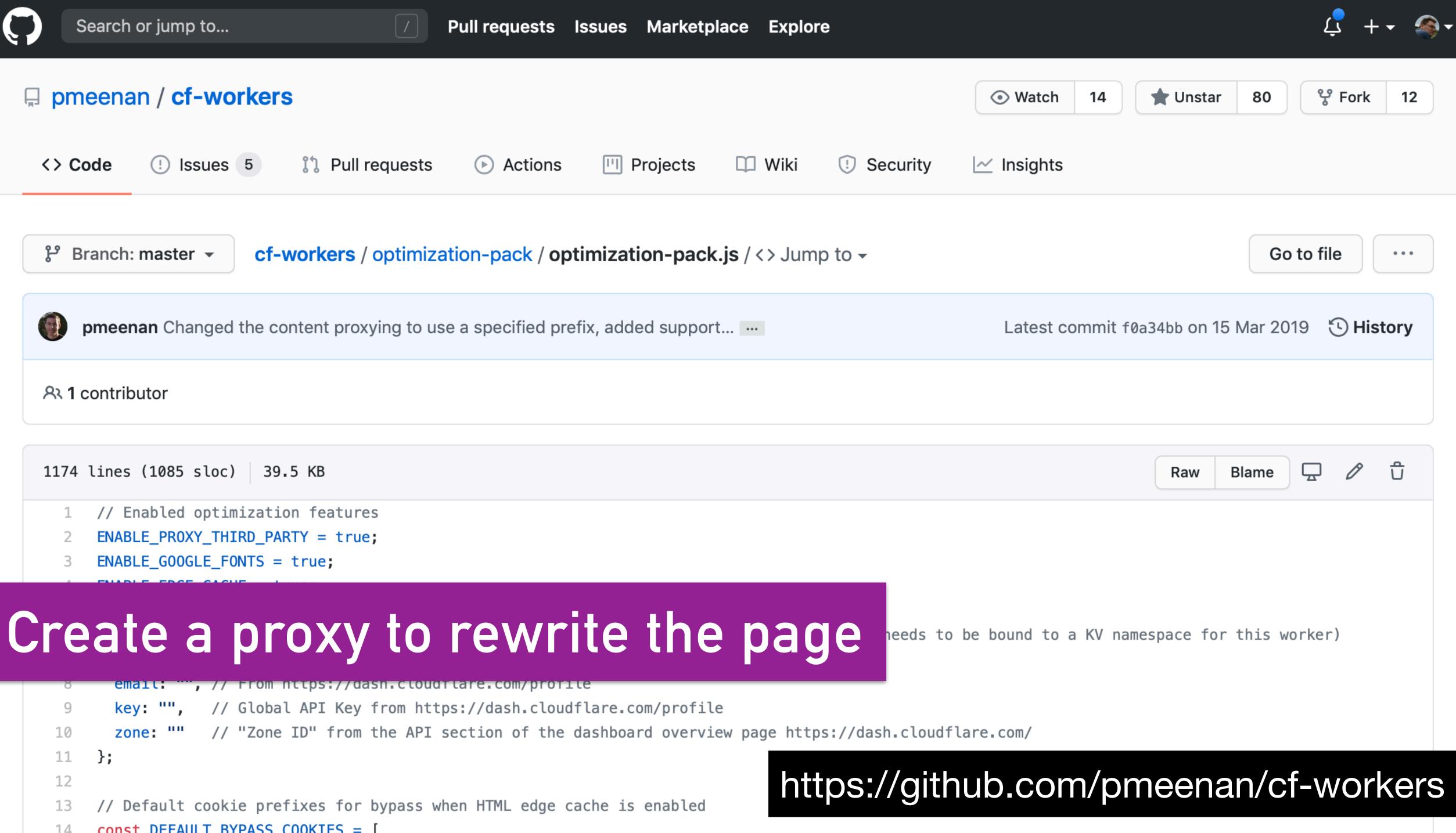
# **Experiment with Performance Optimisations**

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## DevTools give us the ability to experiment with code locally





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# **WEBPAGETEST**

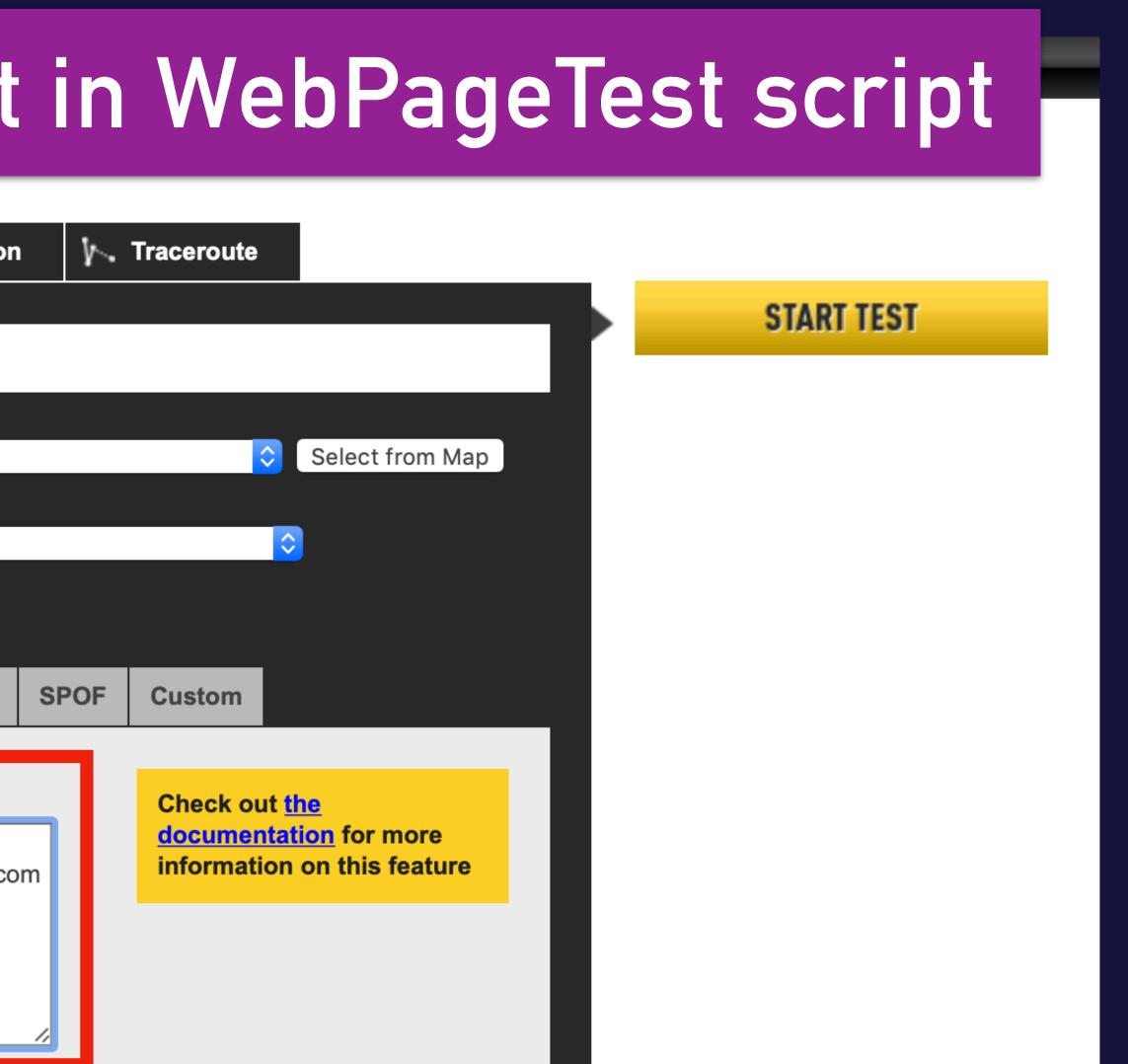
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overrideHost fitc.ca proxy.perftests.com overrideHost fitc.ca fepassfcasq-wpengein.netdna.com proxy.perftests.c navigate fitc.ca										

## https://www.slideshare.net/patrickmeenan/getting-the-most-out-of-webpagetest

**Discard all HTTP headers** 

Welcome, andydavies | Logout





# Where's the appropriate place to carry out the work?

Some workloads may be unsuitable for network edge

- Machine Learning on device may be better for privacy reasons
- Overhead of uploading client generated data may be prohibitive
- What needs to remain on the origin?

# Challenges

# Technical

Debugging, profiling code in environments we don't control

## Mindset

• It's new, many services are still in beta, need to think about how we architect our services

# Closing Thoughts

Edge computing gives us new capabilities to improve our site's reliability, and our visitors experience and privacy

Vendors are adopting slightly different approaches

We haven't worked out how to make the most of them yet



## hello@andydavies.me

## http://noti.st/andydavies



## @andydavies

