Observing Progressive Delivery

The Life of a Honeycomb Feature

Shelby Spees

Developer Advocate at Honeycomb.io

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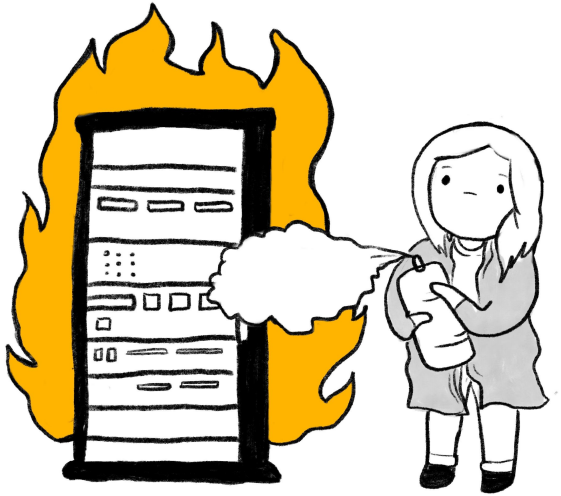

Friday Deploys

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Production is increasingly complex

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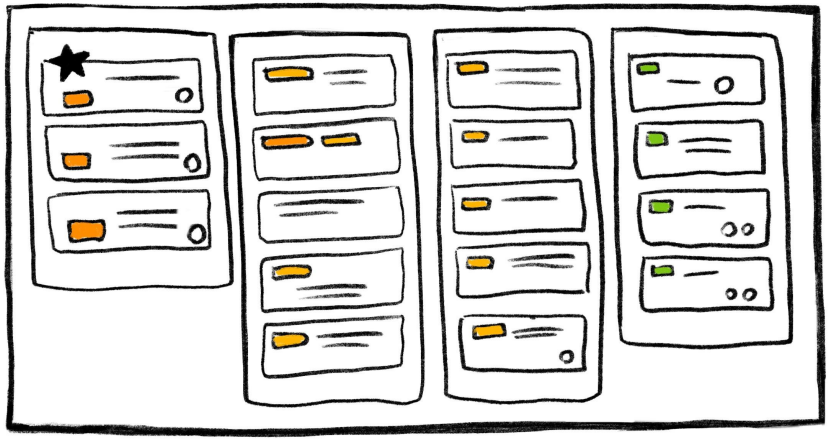

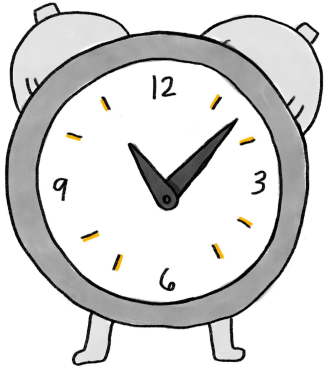

There’s always pressure to ship fast

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Safety enables speed

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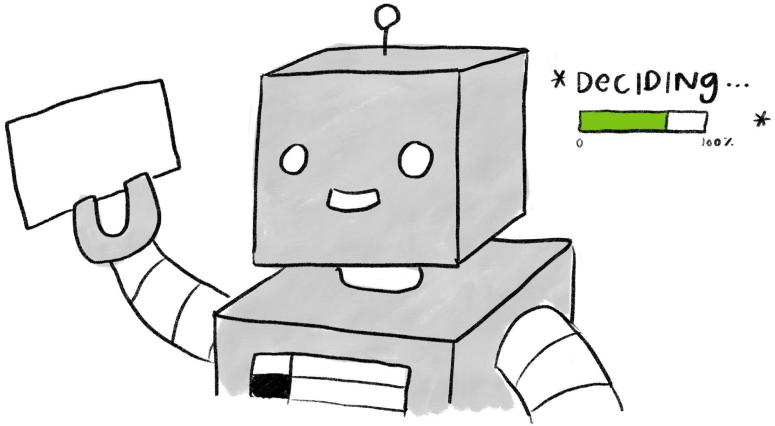
Progressive Delivery



Deploy != Release

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Release changes gradually

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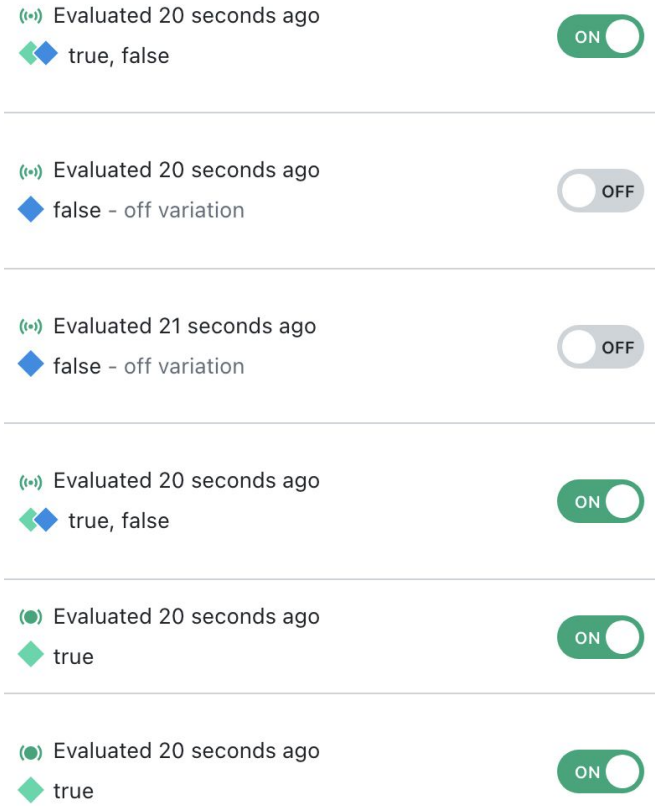
Feature Flags

Separate deploys from releases

- conditionally enable or disable a specific code path
- changes propagate faster than a deploy



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Teams that use feature flags

Deploy **9x more often**

Release new features **27% faster**

Time from commit to deploy **shrank by 76%**

46% of teams got their MTTR (mean time to recovery) down to <1hr

LaunchDarkly

Source: *The ROI of Feature Management*, LaunchDarkly

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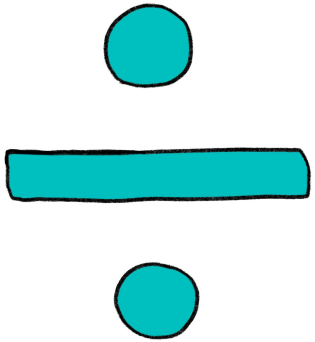

Velocity is only part of the equation

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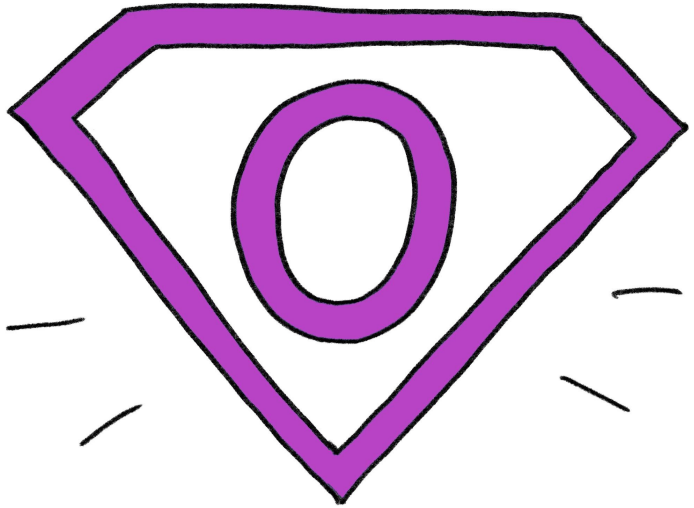
Observability-Driven Development

What is observability?

in software: the ability to understand and explain any state a system can get into, no matter how novel or bizarre, **without deploying new code**



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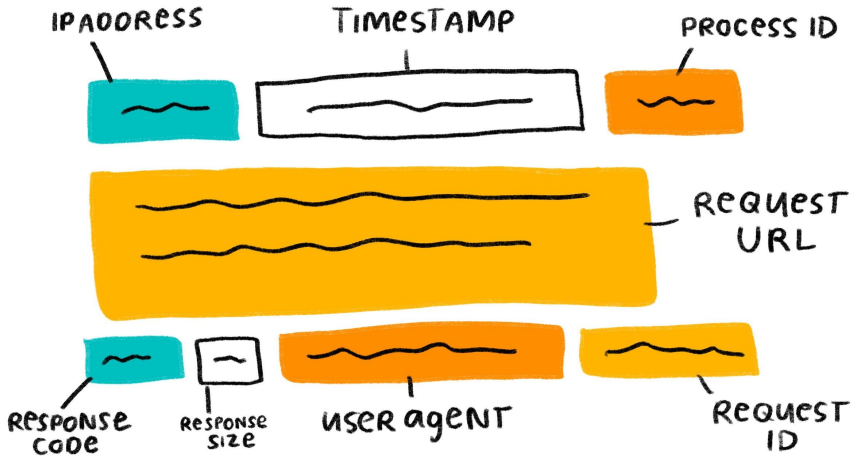
How to gain observability?

Observability requires

- capturing telemetry data with lots of runtime context
- interacting with that telemetry in near-real time



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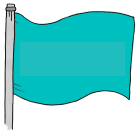
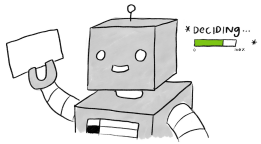
The Life of a Honeycomb Feature

Instrument as we code.

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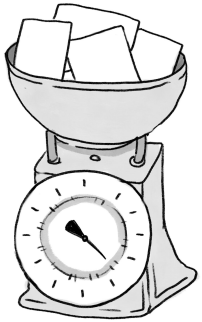
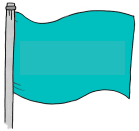
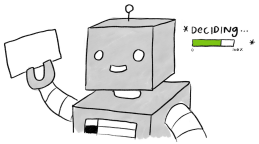


Functional and visual testing.

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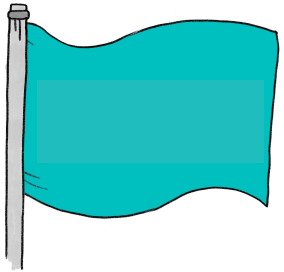
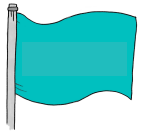
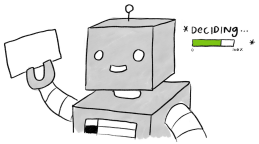


Design for feature flag deployment.

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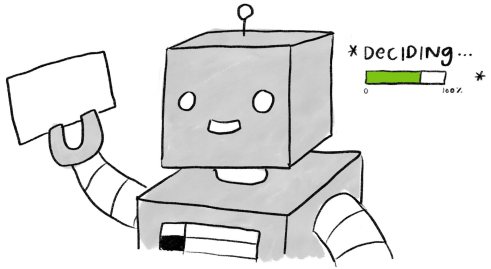
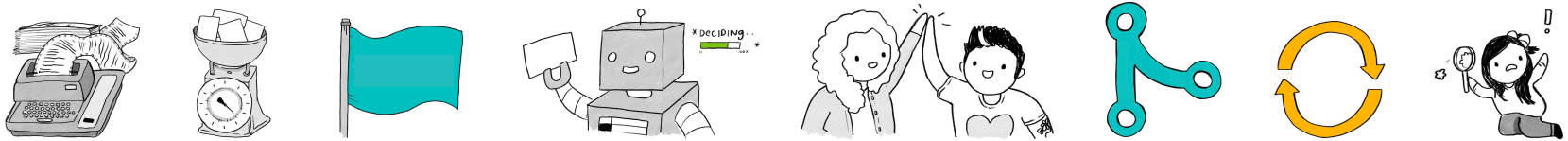


Automate integration.



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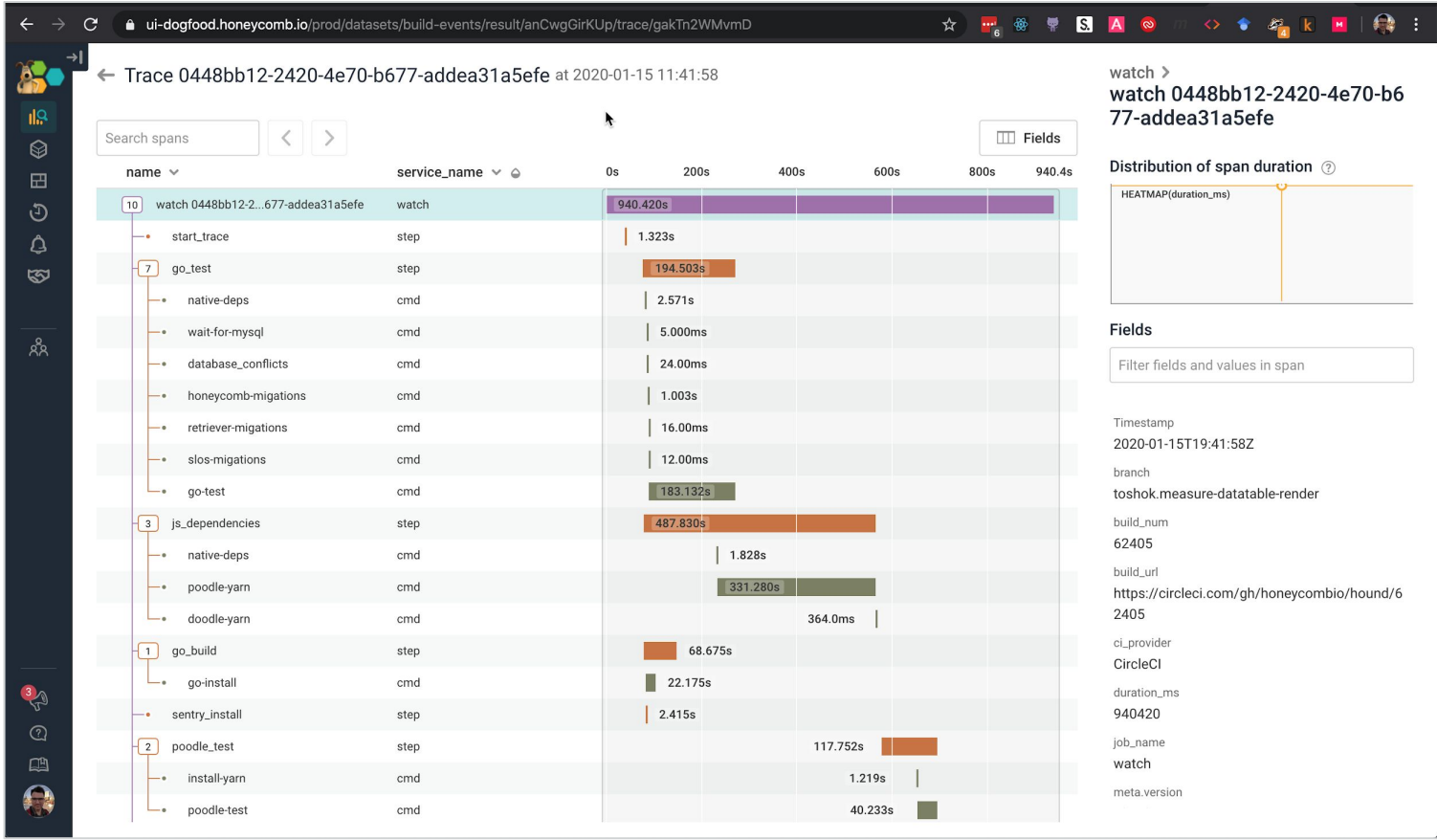
Trace of CircleCI build in Honeycomb



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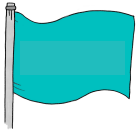
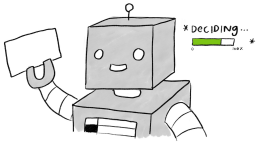
Human PR Review.

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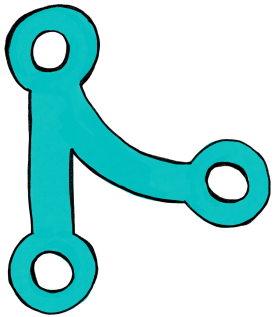

Green button merge.

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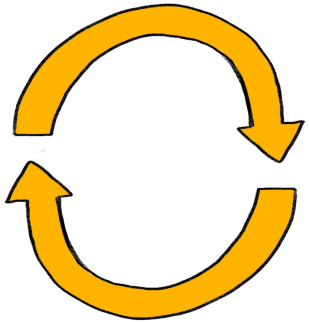

Auto-updates, rollbacks, & pins.

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Observe behavior in prod.

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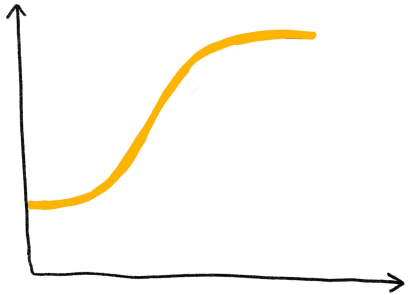

Prod: customers observe data.

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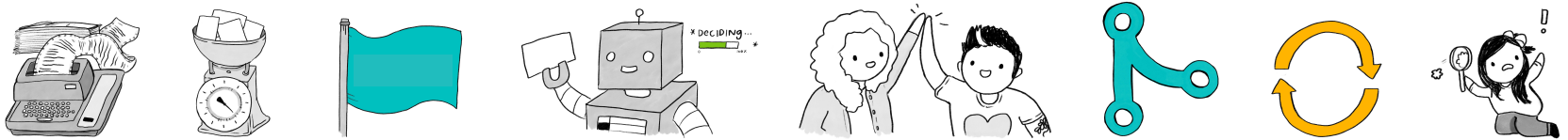
Dogfood observes prod.



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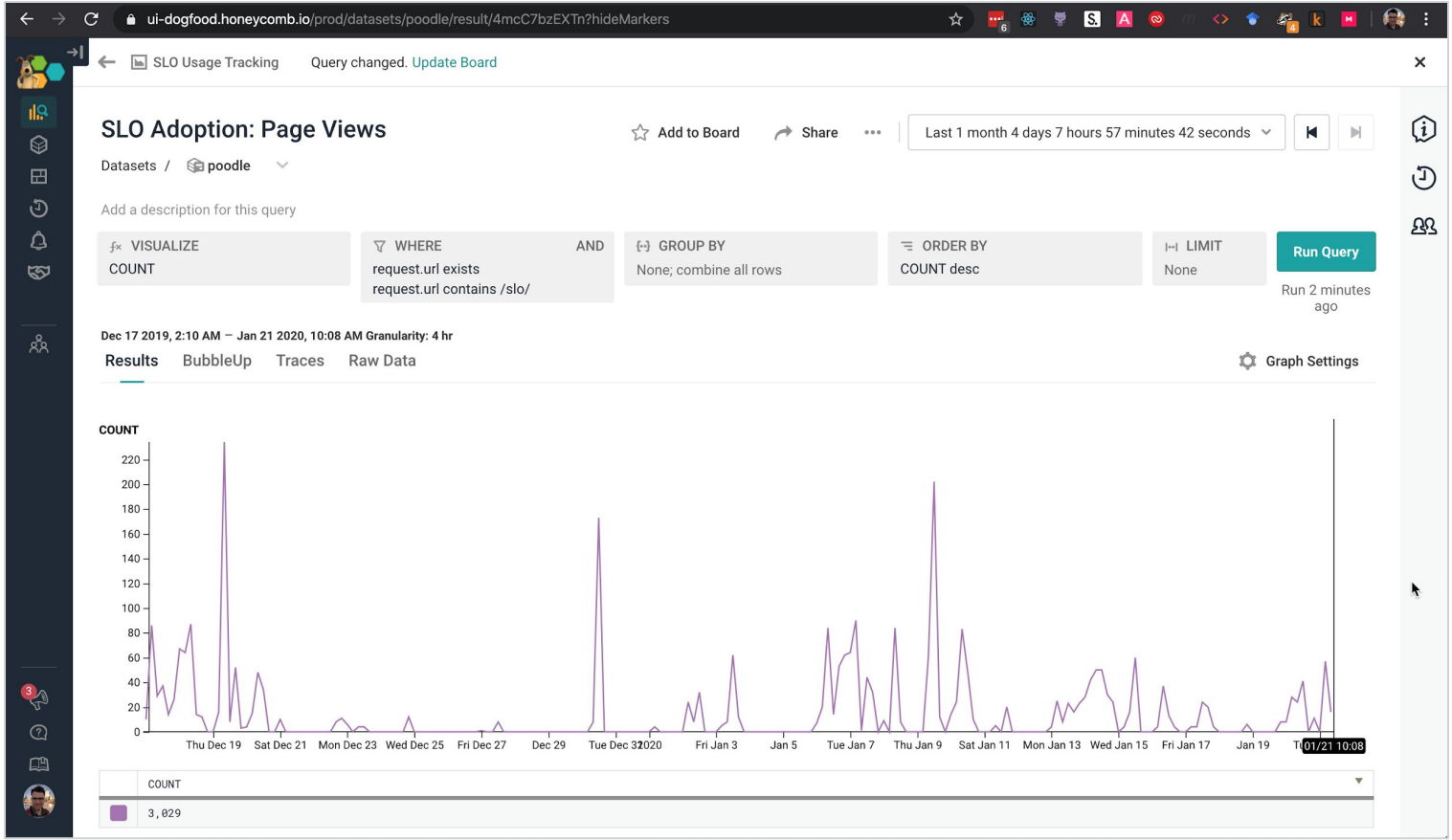

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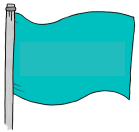
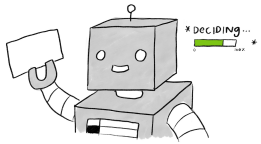
Kibble observes dogfood.





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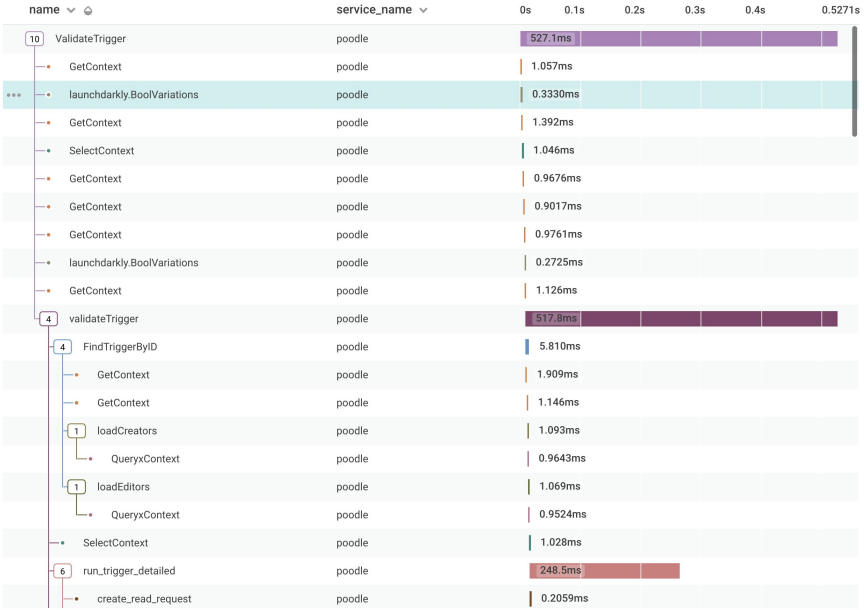
Progressive Delivery at Honeycomb

1. Enable for self in Dogfood
    - observe in Kibble
2. Enable for Honeycomb team in Dogfood
    - observe in Kibble
3. Enable for self in Prod
    - observe in Dogfood
4. Enable for Honeycomb team in Prod
    - observe in Dogfood
5. Enable for all Prod users 🎉
    - observe in Dogfood



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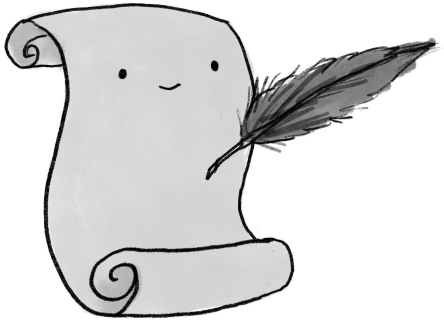

That's how we confidently deploy on Fridays!

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Want to hear more?

Blog

- “Using Honeycomb to remember to delete a feature flag”
  go.hny.co/delete-flag

Webinar

- Progressive Delivery, co-presented by LaunchDarkly and Honeycomb
  go.hny.co/LDxHNY2020

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Questions?

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