



Inmanta

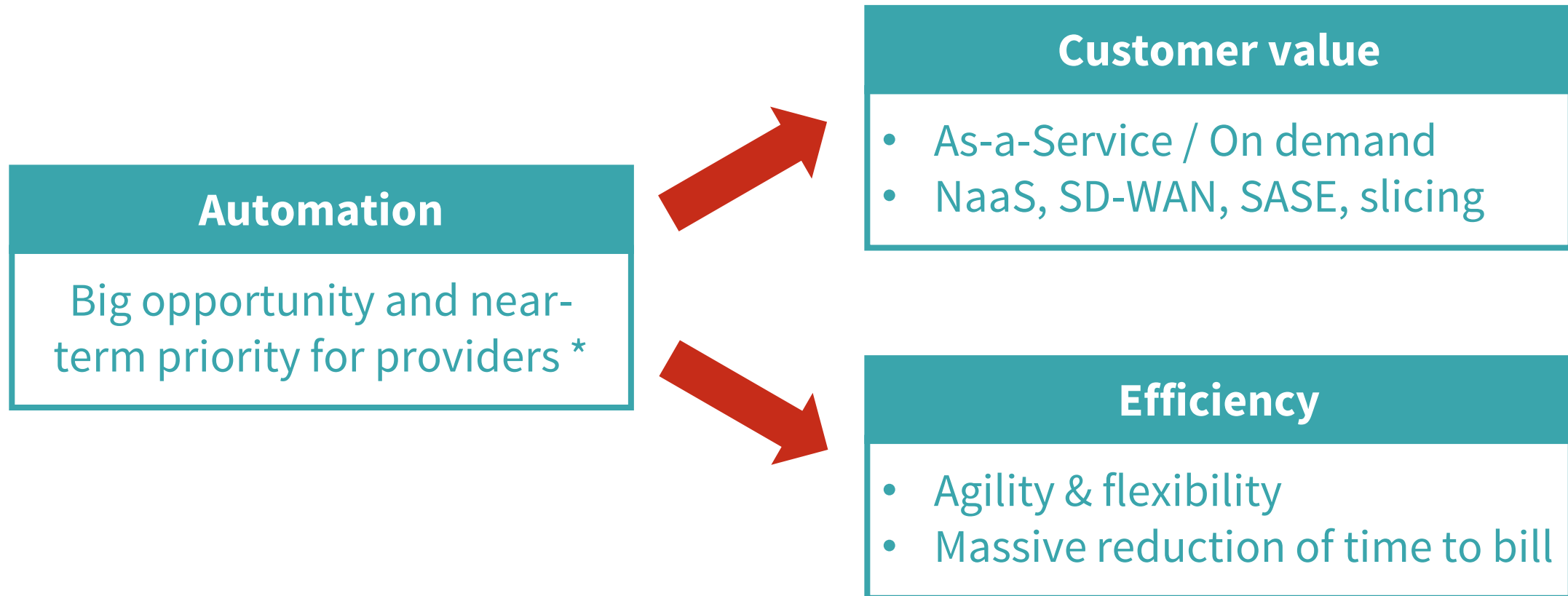
Why automation projects fail and how to win big

Stefan Walraven
Co-founder & CEO

The background is a dark, almost black, space filled with intricate, ethereal patterns of light. These patterns resemble smoke or ink trails, with vibrant colors of cyan, magenta, and red. The trails are thin and wispy, creating a sense of movement and depth. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous small, bright yellow and orange particles, some of which appear to be glowing or moving. The overall effect is one of dynamic, organic complexity.

Automation, a Mixed Story

Automation is not an option..



... but also a disappointment

“Still has to prove itself”

“Long way ahead”

“Not delivering the results we (as provider) expected”

“Only partial automation ⇔ end-to-end”

“Not able to deliver what we (as customer) need or within the time frame we require”

Why do automation projects fail?



Risk posture

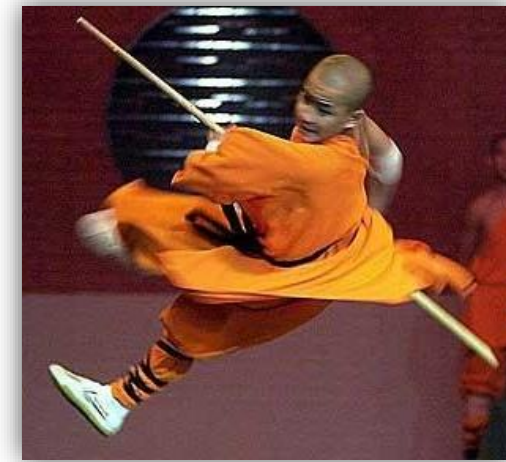
Sumo Posture



Issue 1:
Automation = change

Issue 2:
No middle ground

Kung Fu Posture



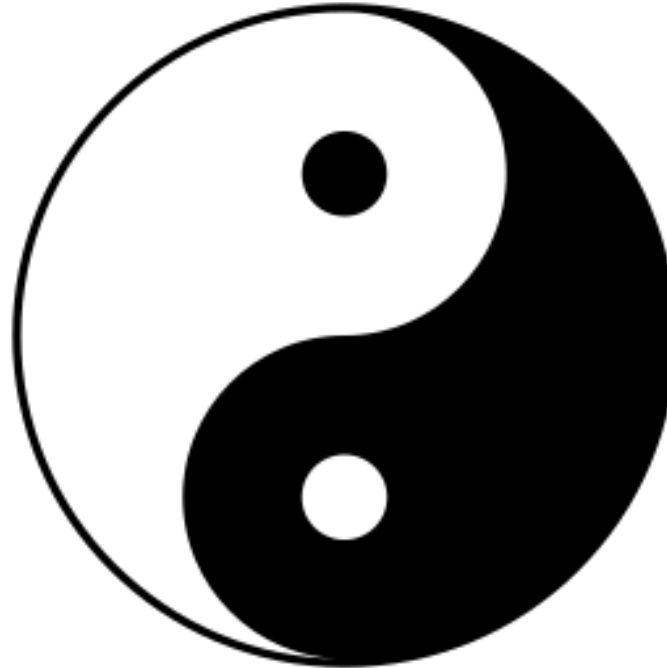
Solid: control and resist change

Agile: use change to his advantage

Yin and Yang of automation

Short Time To Market

- Fast delivery
- MVP*
- New features



Extensive testing

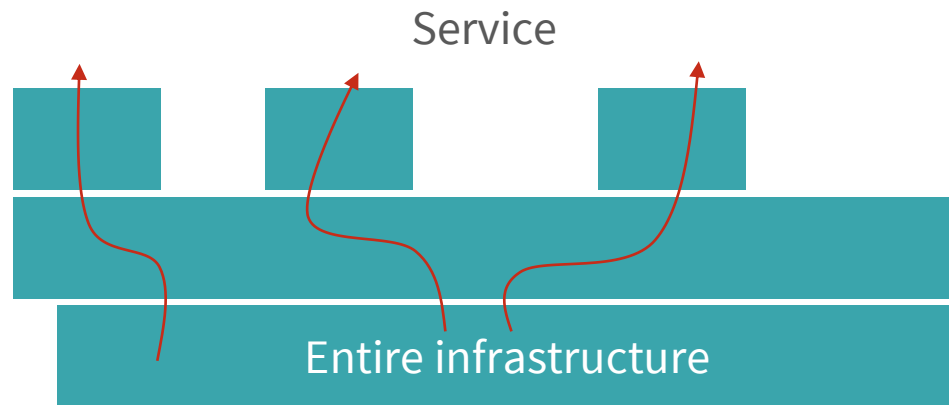
- Structured
- Continuously
- Automated

Issue 3: Too much focus on TTM

Approach defines scope

Bottom-up

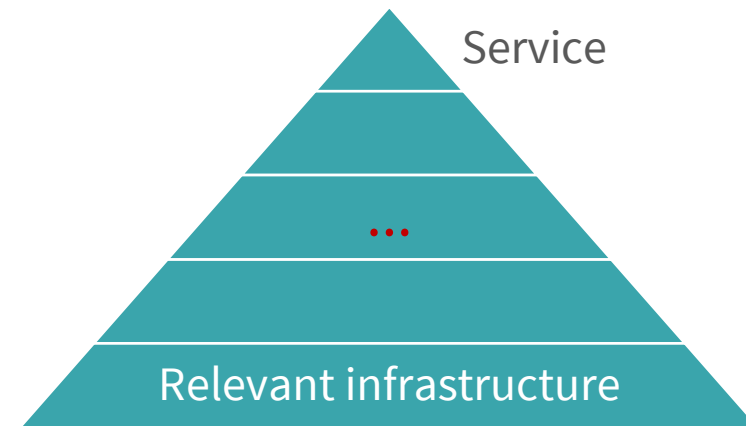
Small beginnings,
re-use existing building blocks



Issue 4: No focus, organic growth resulting in tangle, local optimization

Top-down

Stepwise refinement,
good understanding of system



Issue 5: Over-specification, never getting started

Ecosystem influence



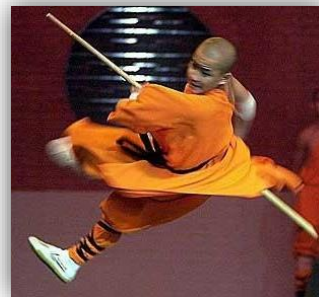
**Issue 6: Technology choices
driven by external opinions**



**ENGINE
START
—
STOP**

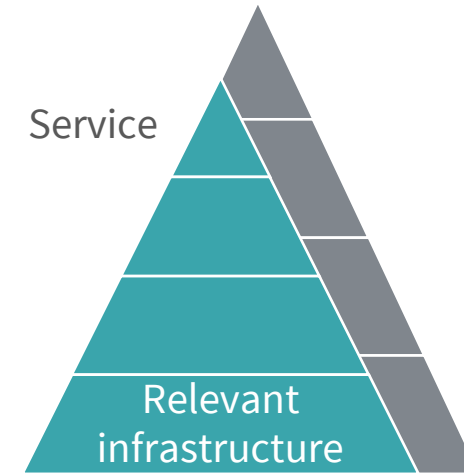
1. We're in this together

- There is no middle ground risk posture
 - Applicable to **all** stakeholders, incl. vendors, suppliers, system integrators...
 - Also across all relevant departments within each organisation
- Build cross-functional & cross-org automation team
 - Common goal
 - People who make things happen
- Pick agile partners
 - Who embrace change
 - Who can coach you



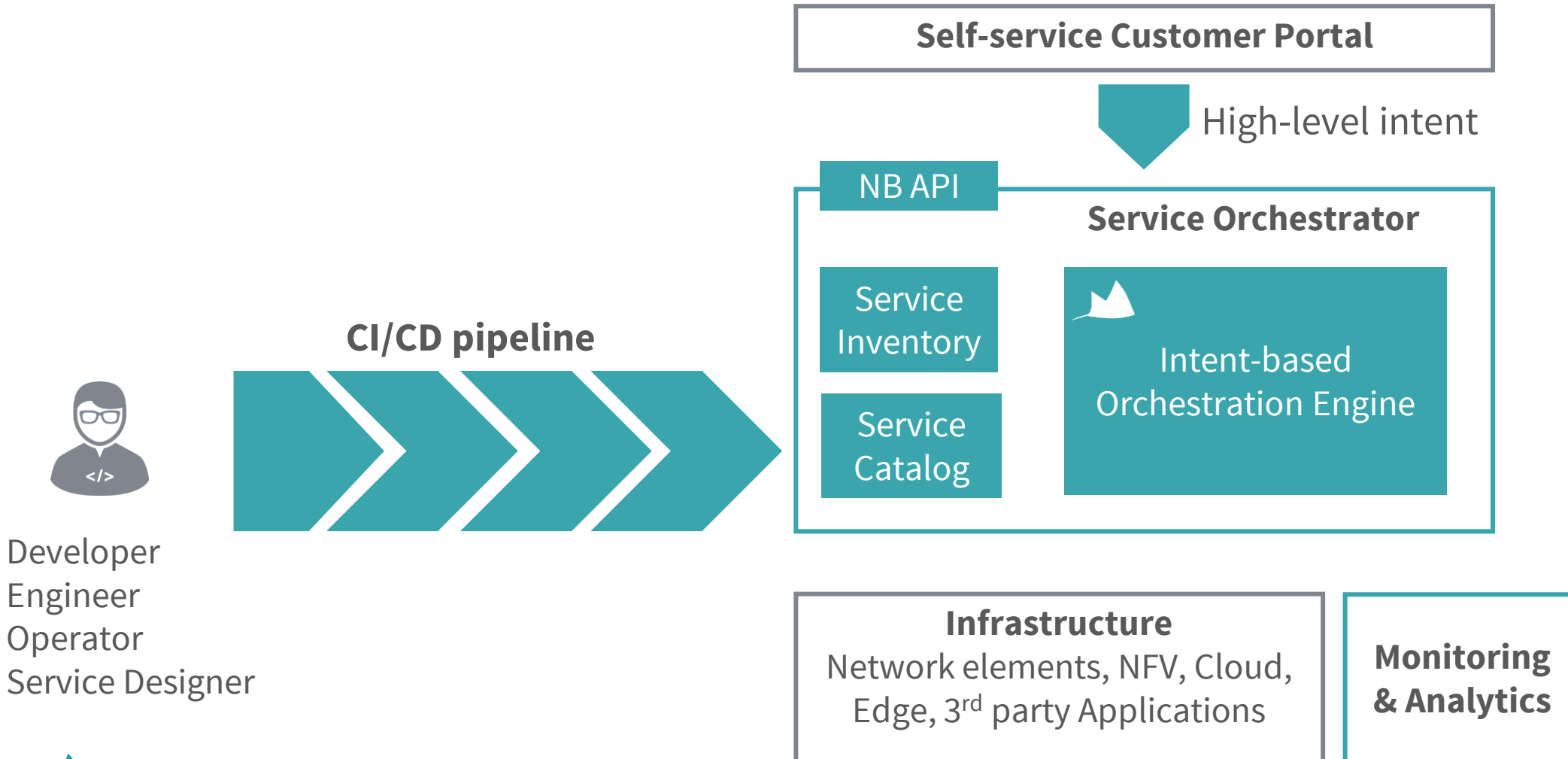
2. Fierce automation per service

- Scope: one E2E service at a time (business case!)
 - Use MVP approach to further limit scope
 - Top-down in iterative approach (cf. modern software development)
- Automate **everything**, incl. all dependencies
 - Service & integrations
 - Infrastructure (incl. lab and test environment)
 - Testing
 - Credentials, firewall rules
 - ...

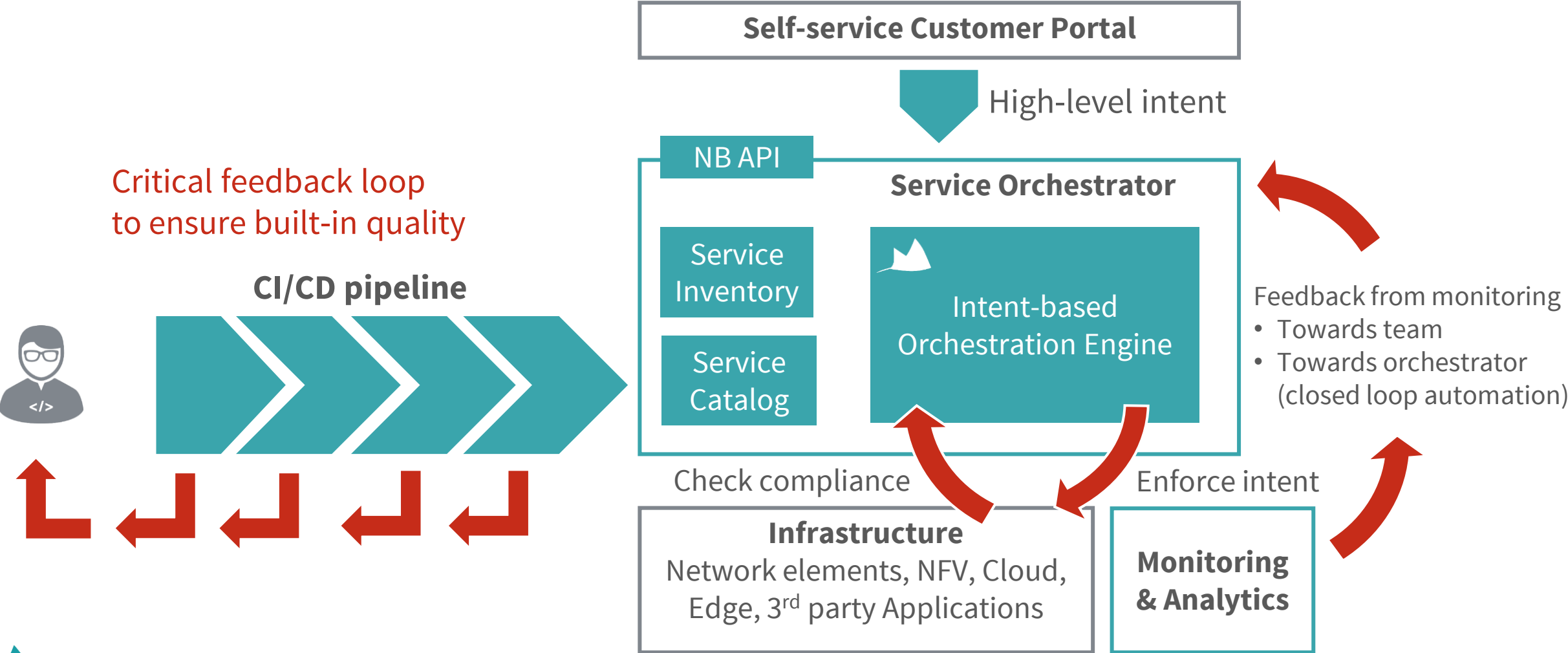


- Requires cross-funct & cross-org team
- Often requires more effort than forecasted
- Pays back very quickly

3. Kung Fu automation toolbox

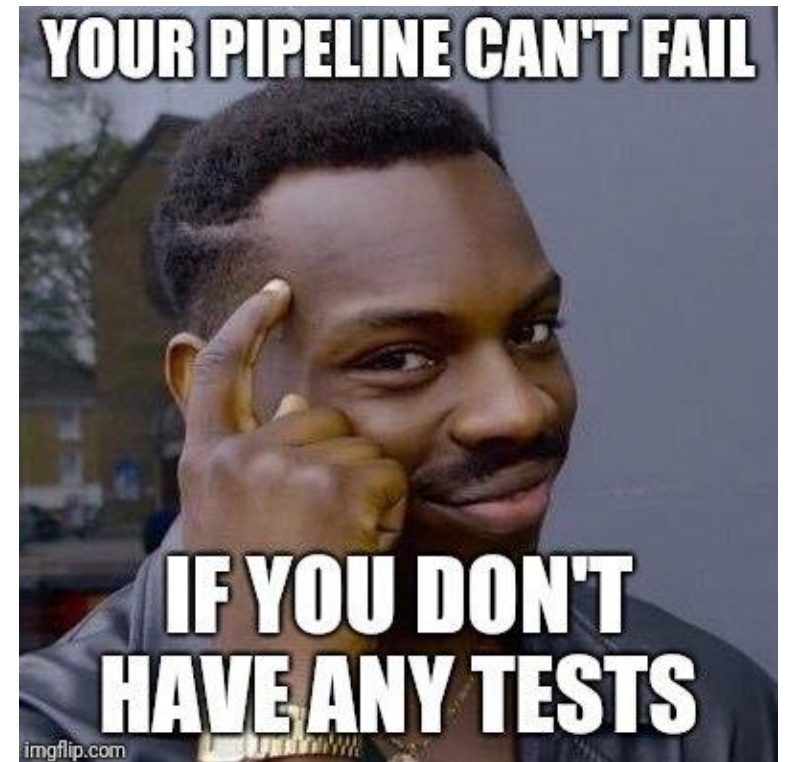


Reliability & quality comes from feedback

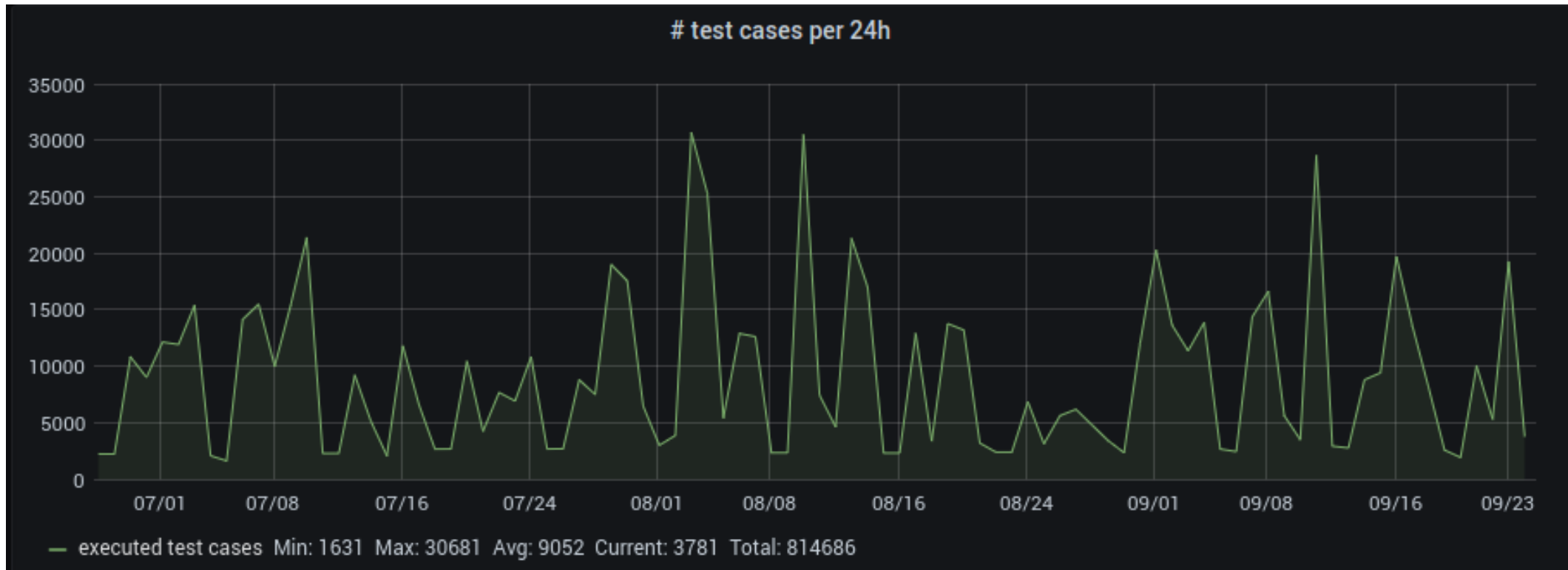


4. Restore balance: Testing, testing, testing

- Fierce automation requires fierce testing
 - If you can automate it, you can automate the testing
 - Services, integrations, lab setups, inventory ...
 - **Fail fast**
- Structured
 - Do it once decently, use forever
 - **No quick fixes**
- Go for true Infrastructure as **Code**
 - Easy to write tests for code
 - How to test so-called no/low-code platforms?

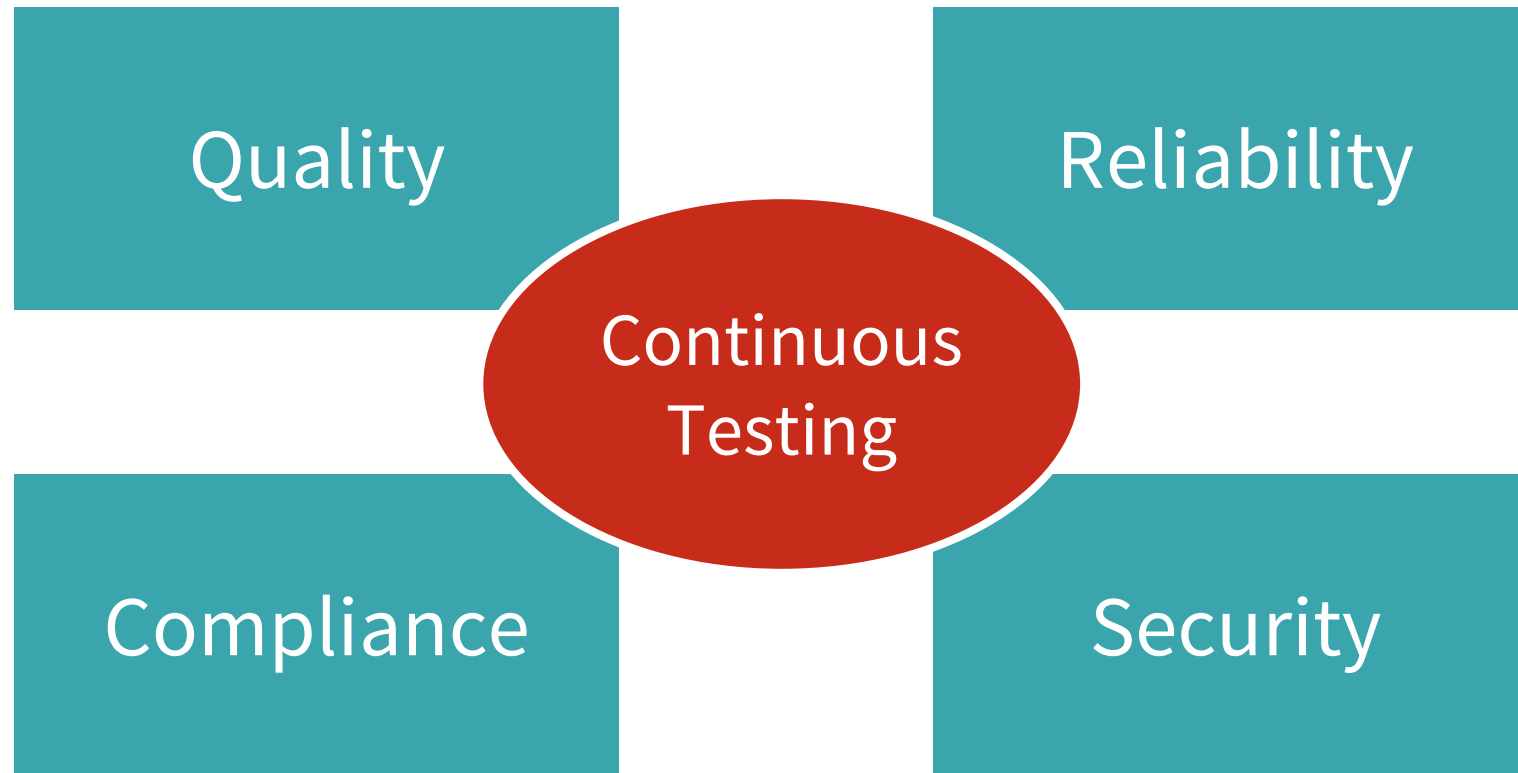


The proof of the pudding is in the eating: Testing at Inmanta



The number of test cases executed on our Jenkins per 24h in the past 90 days.
On average more than 9000 tests per day and more than 800k in the last 90 days.

Long-term benefits



Key takeaways

- Team & mindset are critical
- Automate & test brutally
- Testing does not hinder fast delivery
 - Slow is smooth, smooth is fast
- Trust the process
 - Build confidence by practice
 - Continuous improvement



Becoming a Kung Fu master is not easy, but it's worth it!

Thank you



Stefan Walraven

stefan.walraven@inmanta.com

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