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# Towards a Benchmark for BPMN Engines

#### **Credits**



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Abdil Cakal, Andreia Faria Carvalho

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Nagarjuna Siddam

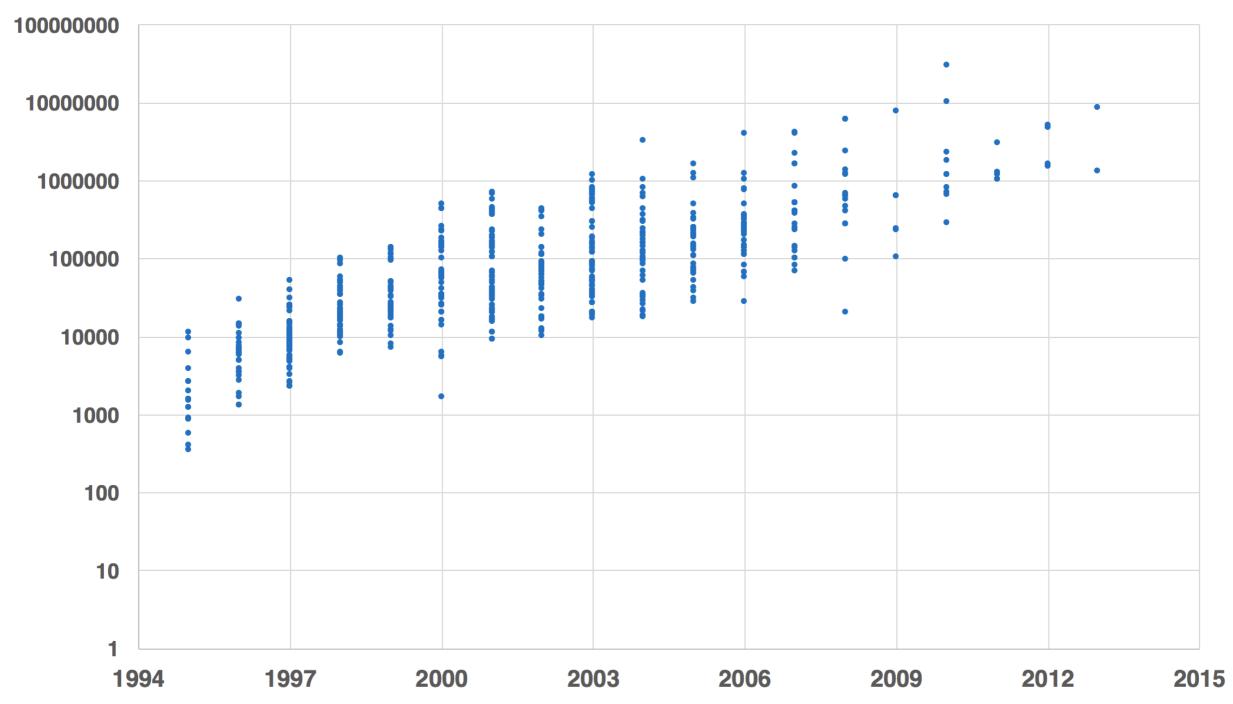
Tayyaba Azad

Balu Venu Thayil

University of Stuttgart (IAAS)
Germany

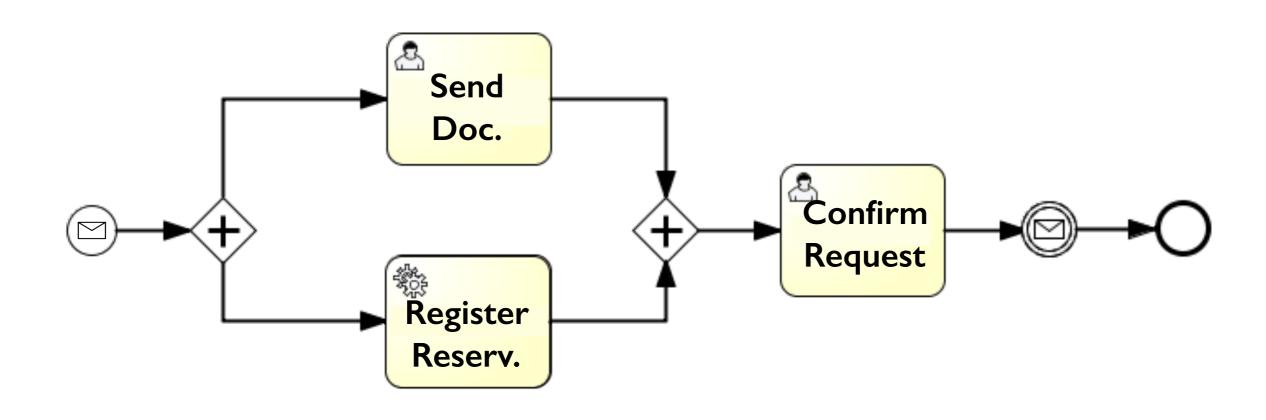
## The Impact of TPC Benchmark on DBMS Performance

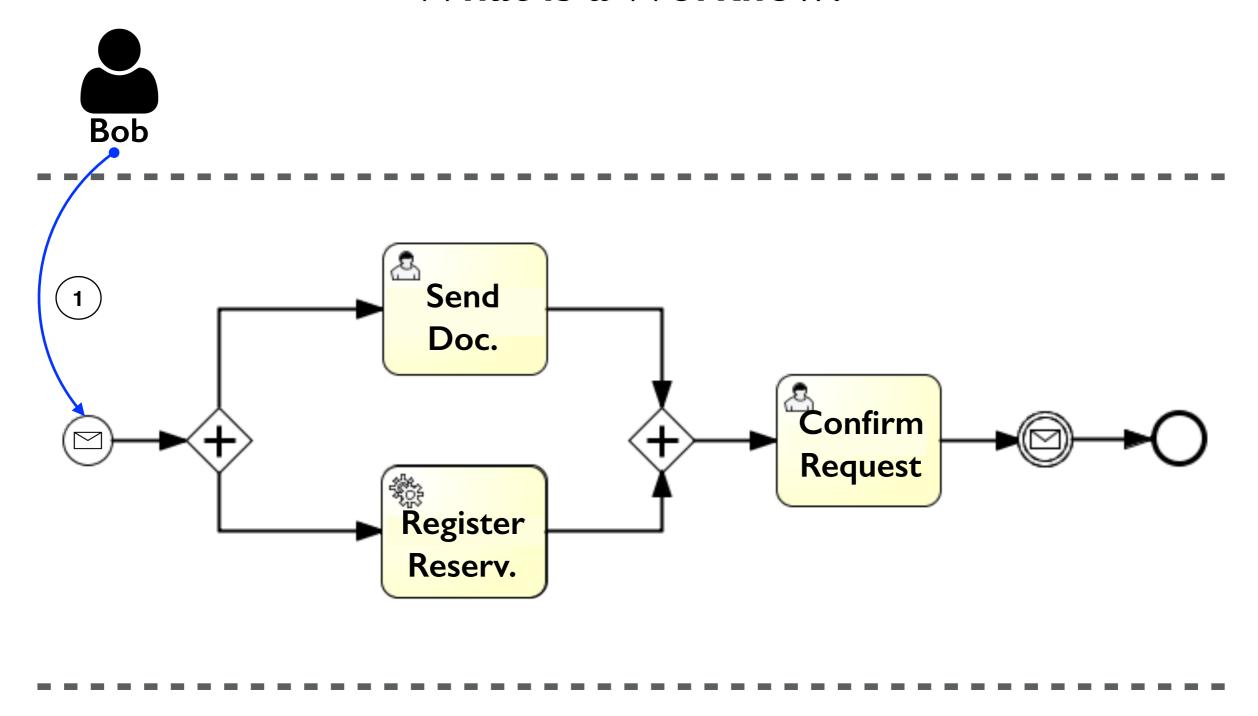
**TPC-C: Performance (TpmC)** 

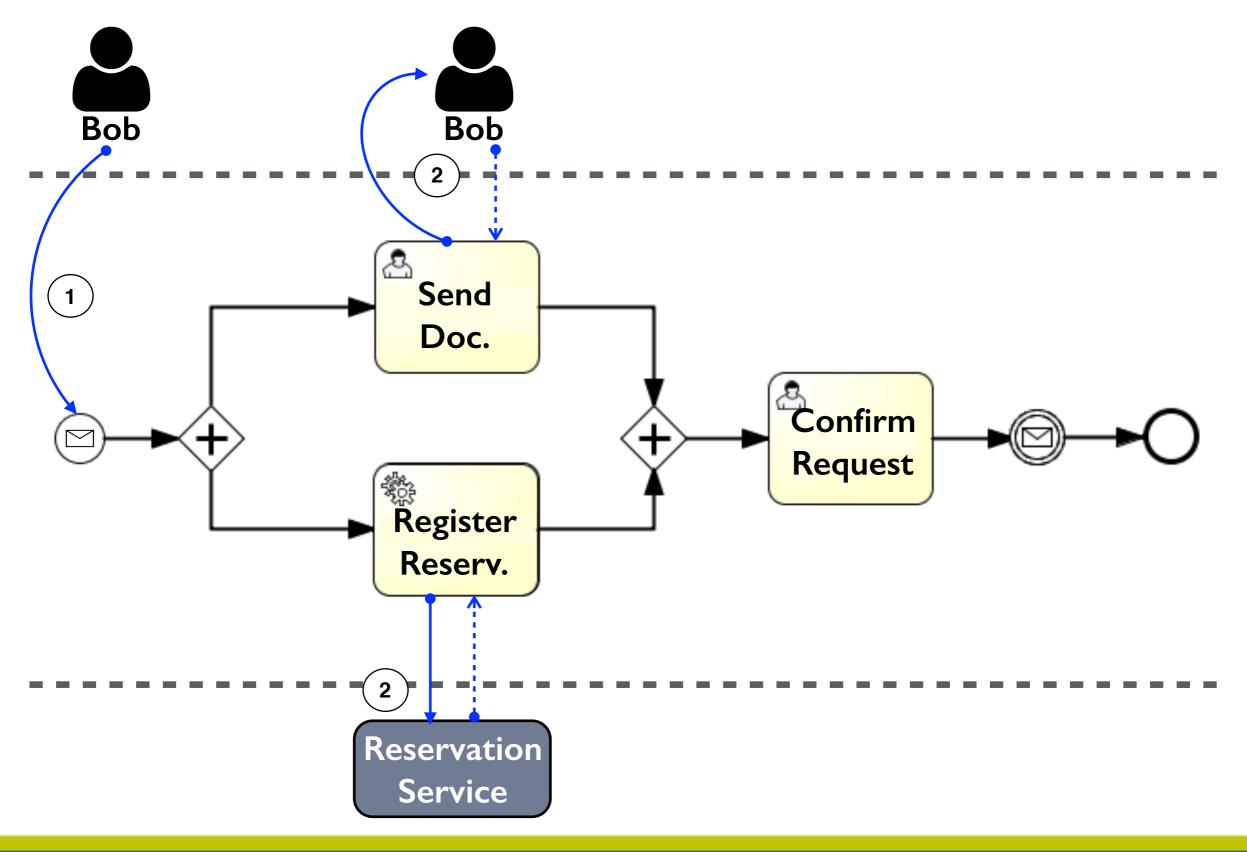


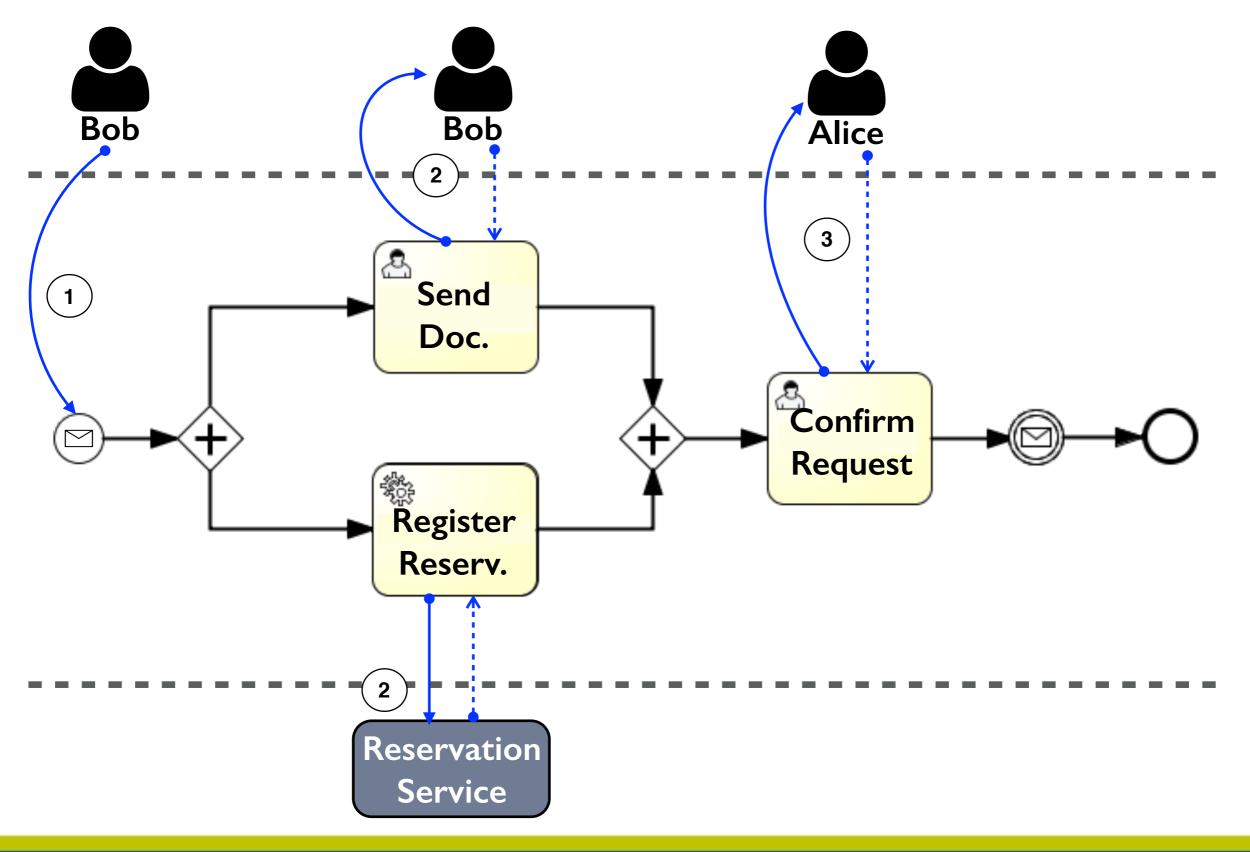
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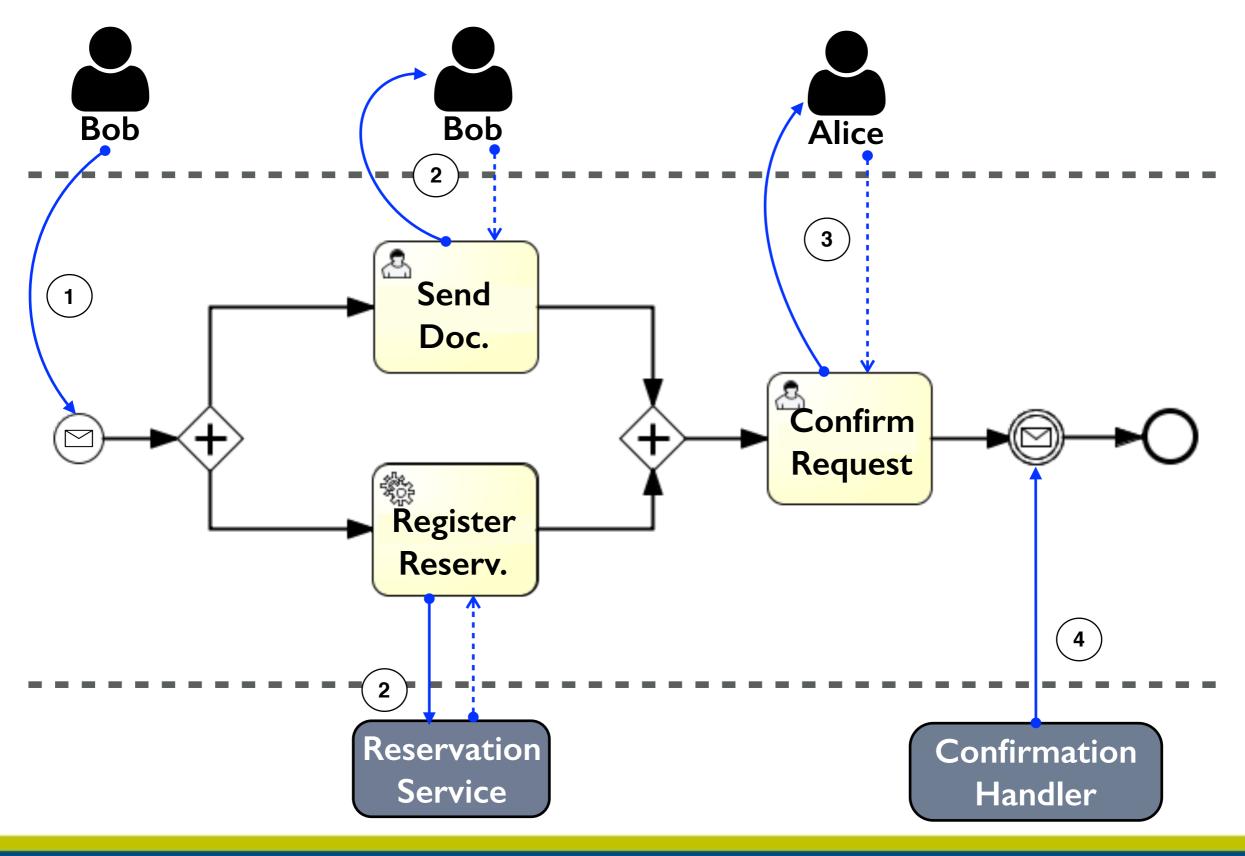


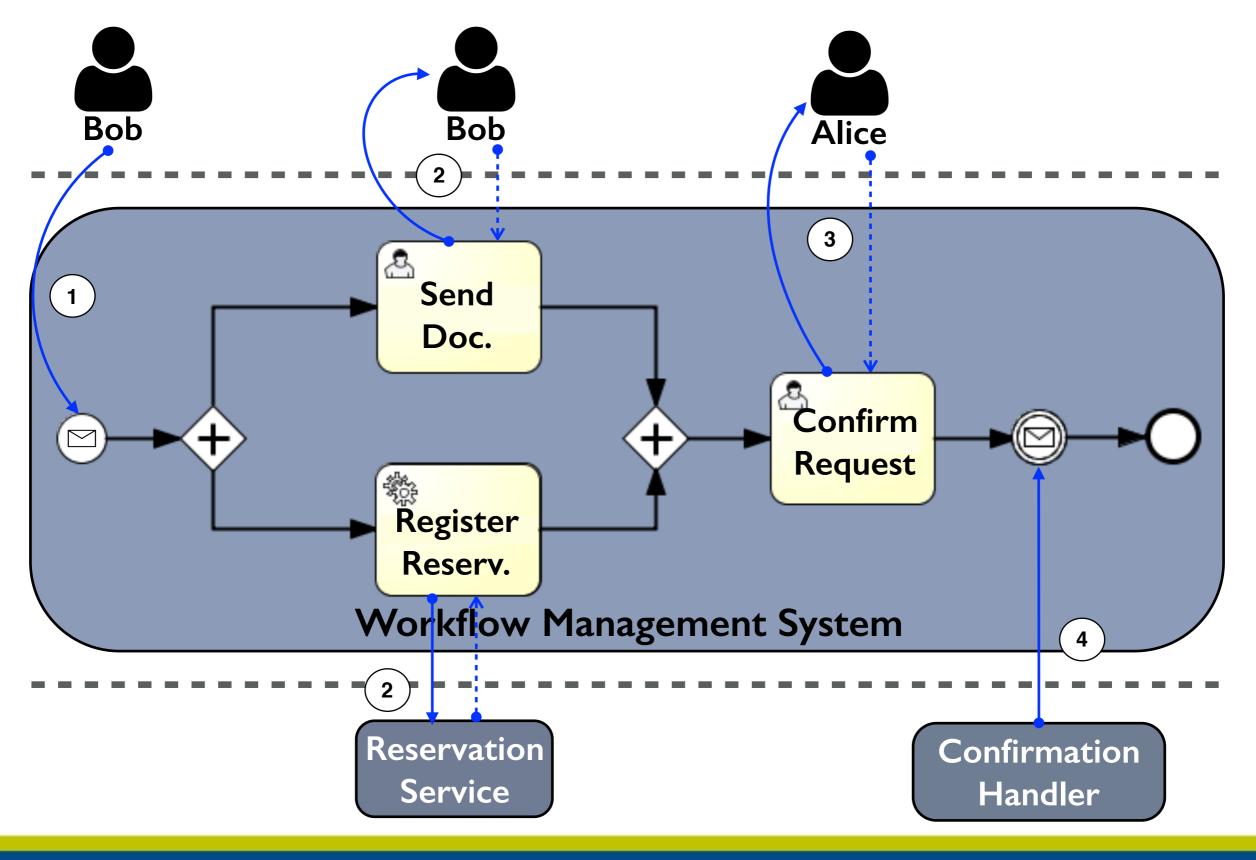




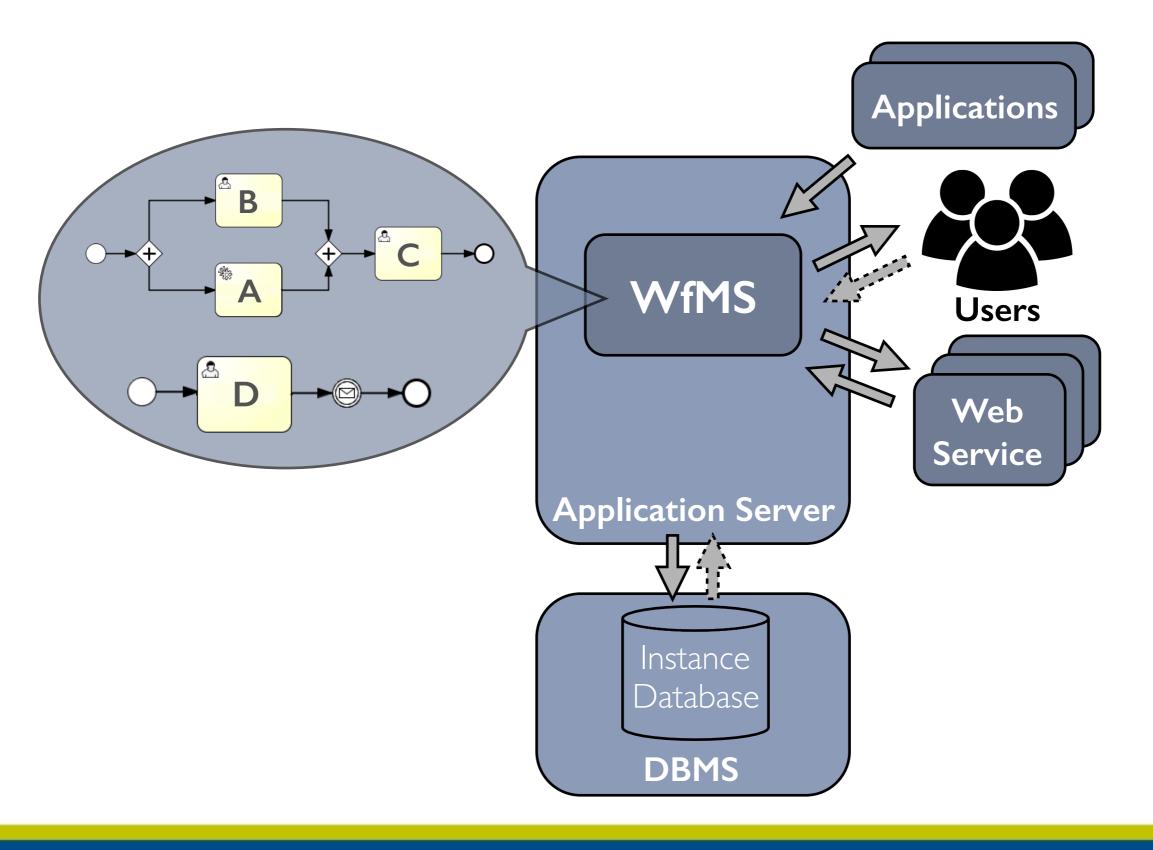


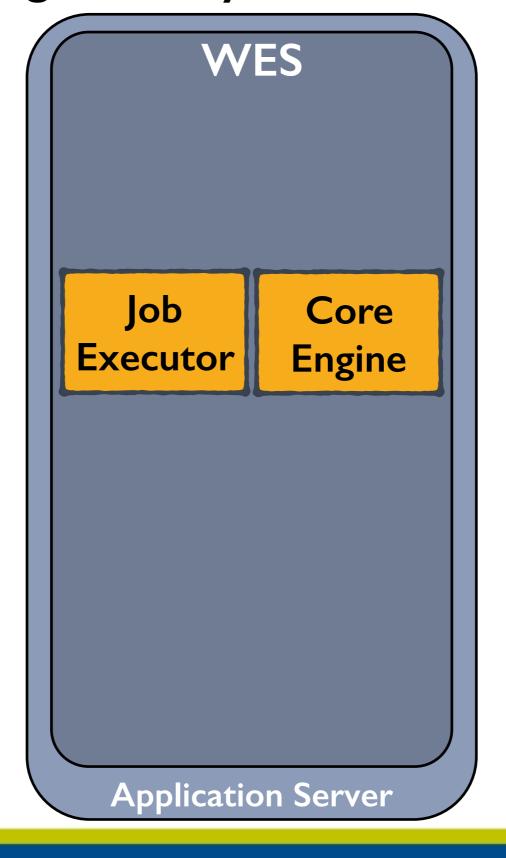


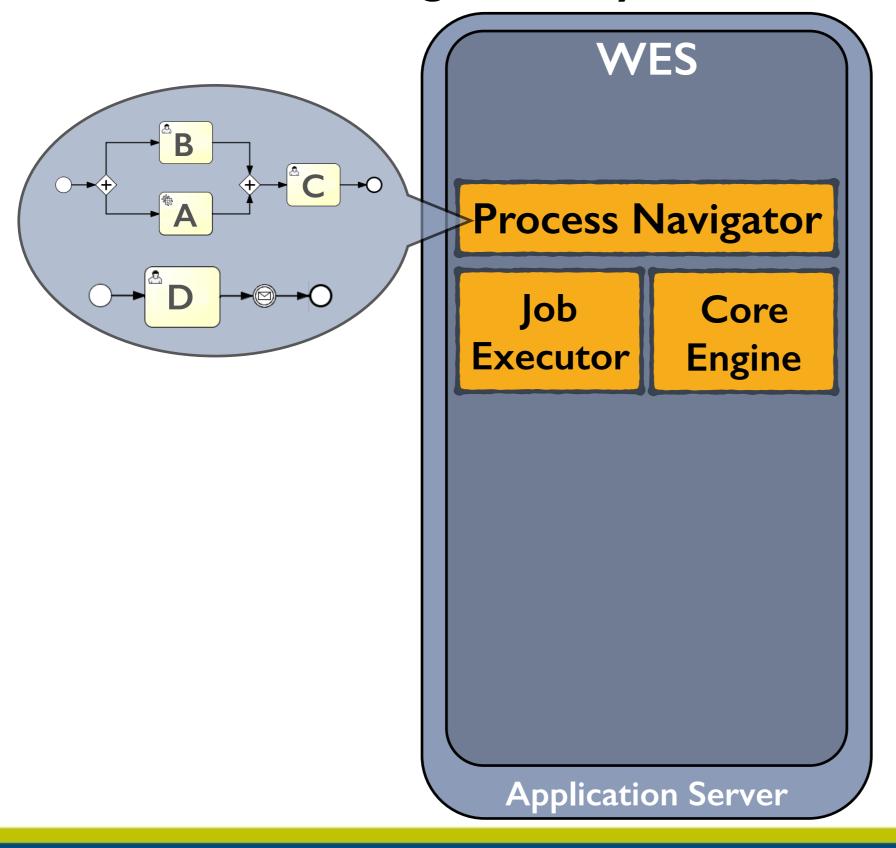


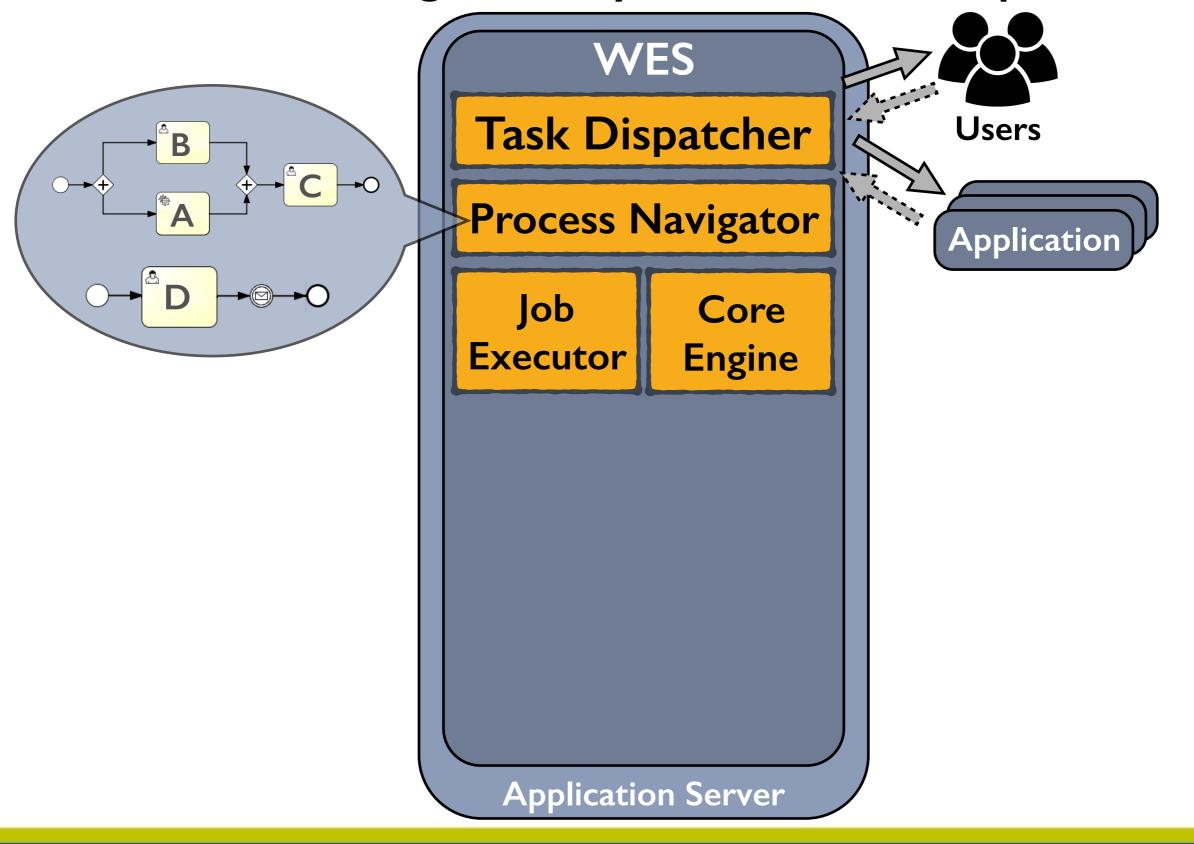


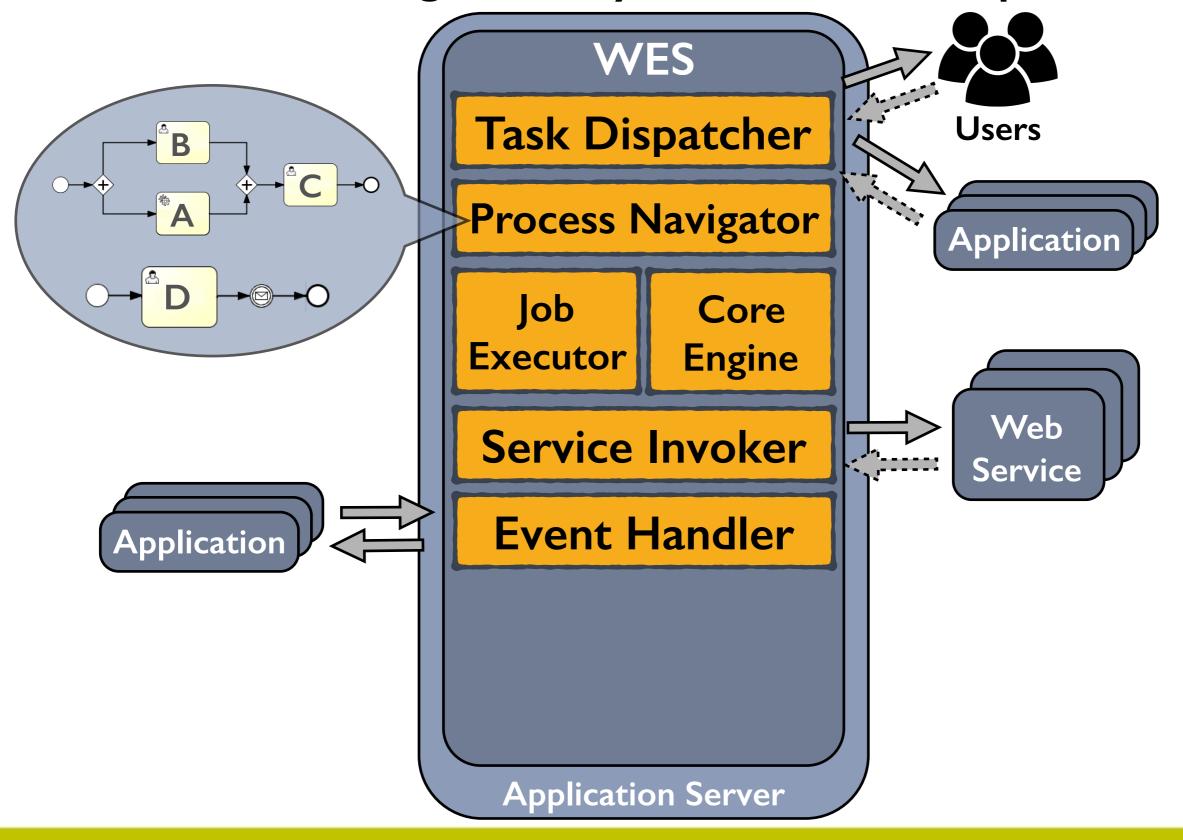
## What is a Workflow Management System (WfMS)?

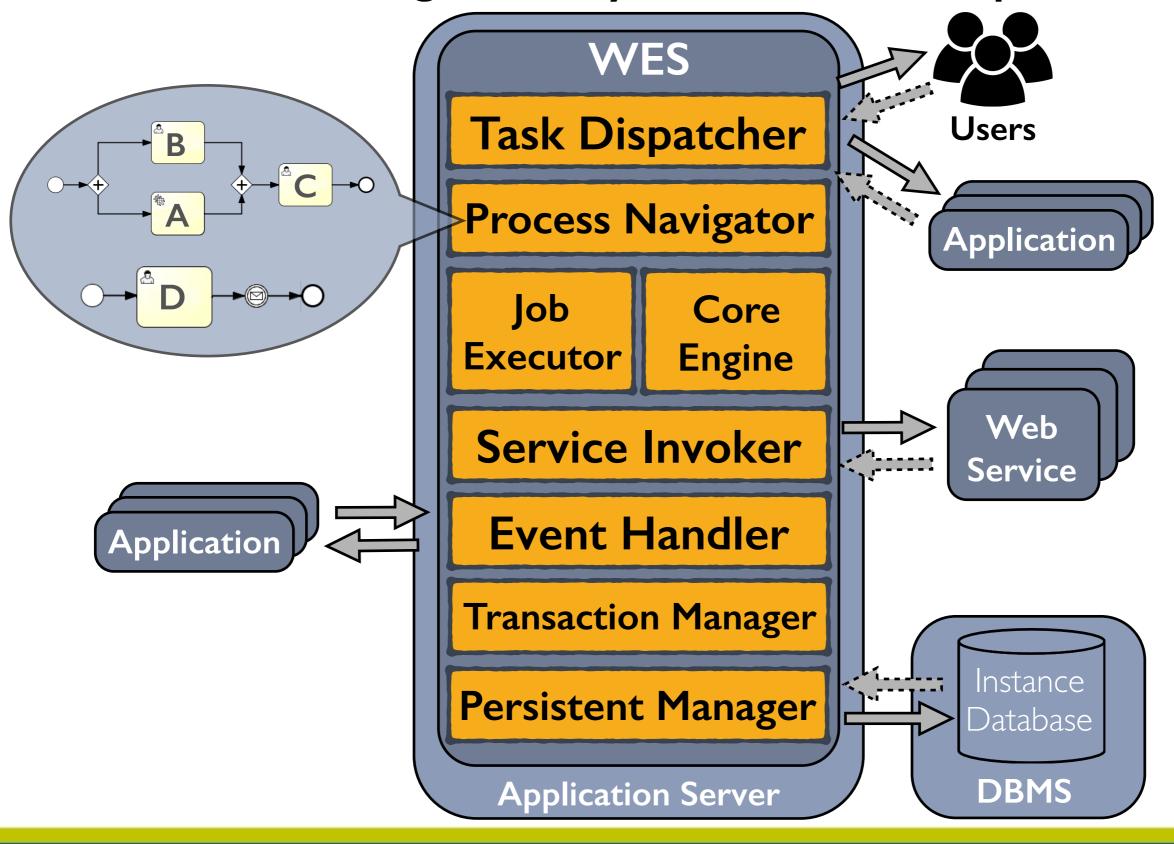












## **Functionality**

- Dynamic handling of Workflows
- Integration capabilities

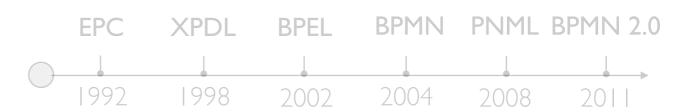
## System's Architecture

- Distributed workflow support
- Migrating workflow objects support
- Transactional workflow support

## Deployment Infrastructure

- Standalone
- Cluster deployment
- Cloud deployment
- Mobile deployment

## Supported Languages



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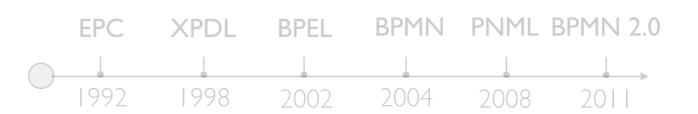
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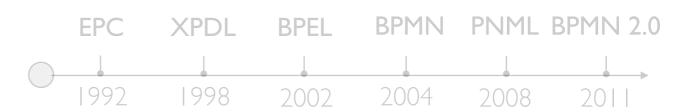
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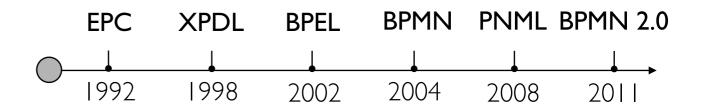
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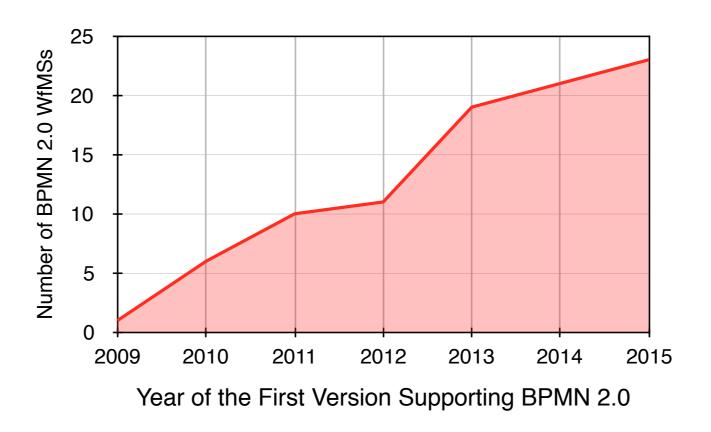
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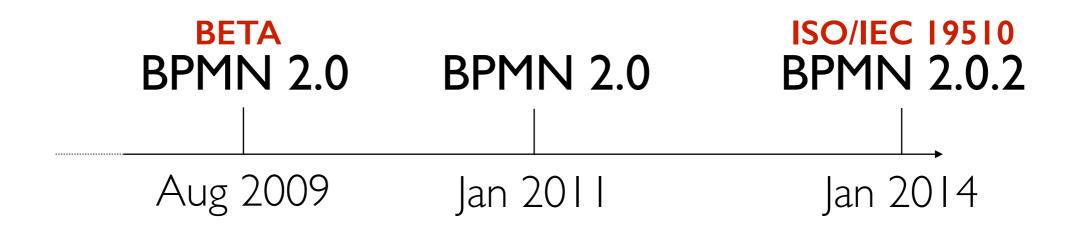




## BPMN 2.0: A Widely Adopted Standard (?)

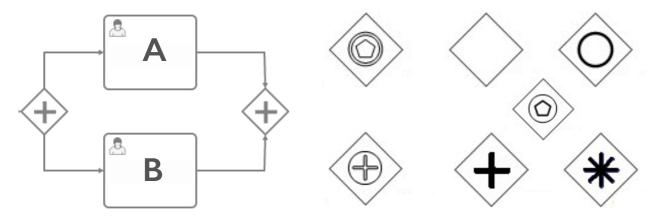


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_BPMN\_2.0\_engines

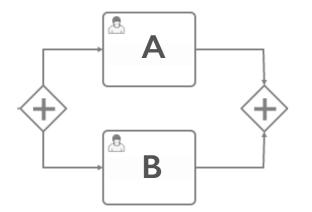




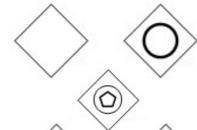
#### **Control Flow**

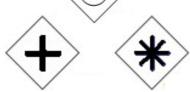


#### **Control Flow**

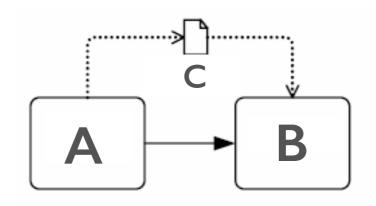


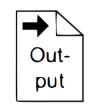






#### **Data Flow**



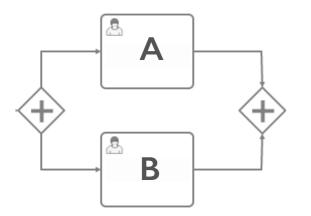




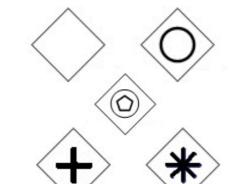




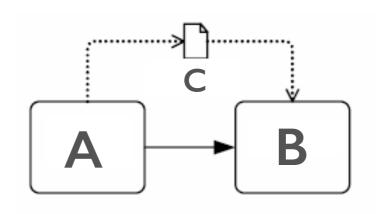
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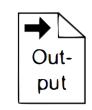






#### **Data Flow**











#### **Events**







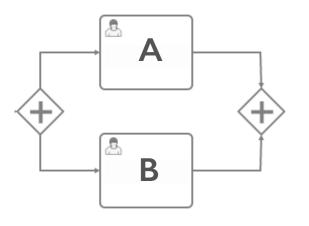




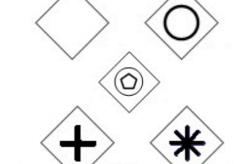




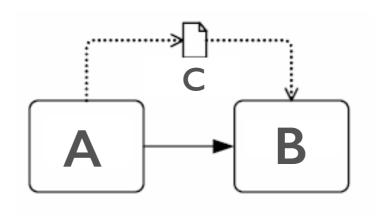
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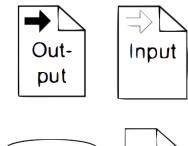






#### **Data Flow**







#### **Events**













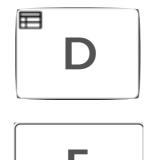
#### **Activities**







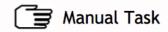




#### **Task Types**







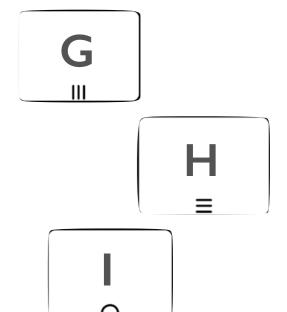


Script Task

**Receive Task** 



#### **Execution Behaviour**



## BenchFlow Project the goal

Design and implement the first benchmark to assess and compare the performance of WfMSs that are compliant with Business Process Model and Notation 2.0 standard.



http://benchflow.inf.usi.ch



## Why do we Need a Benchmark?

end-users, vendors, developers



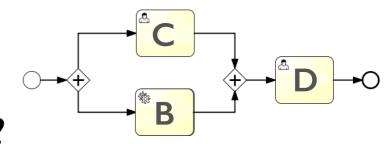
## Why do we Need a Benchmark?

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I. How to choose the best WfMS in accordance with the company's technical requirements?



2. How to choose the best WfMS in accordance with the company's business process models (workflows)?



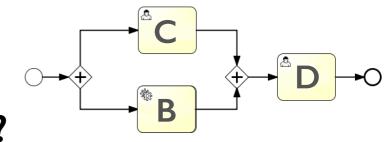
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3. How to evaluate performance improvements during WfMS's development?



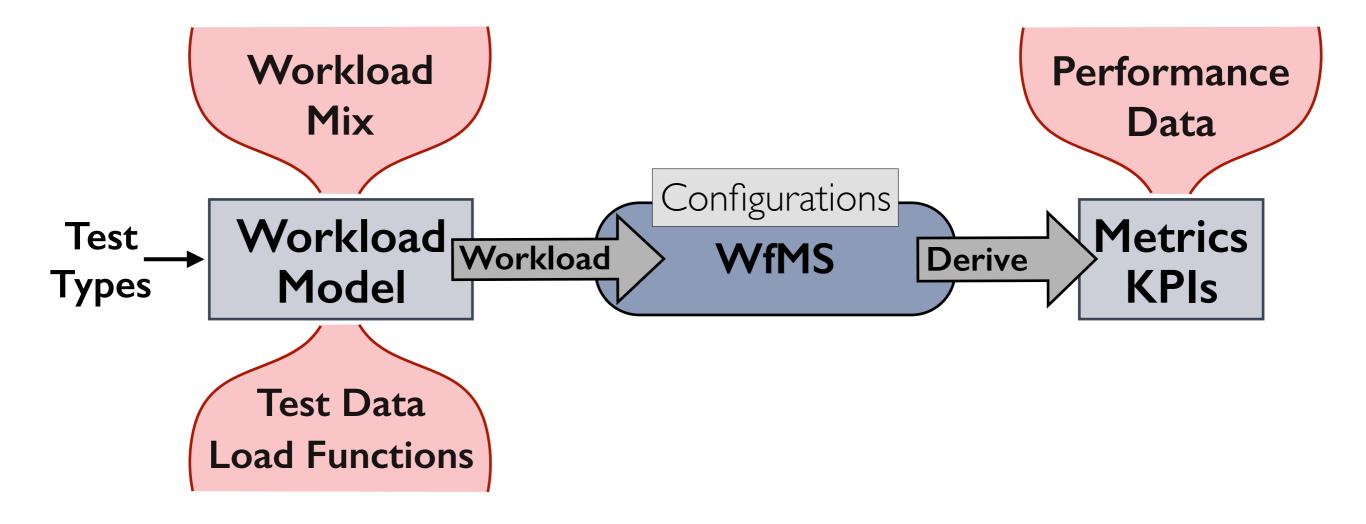
4. How to identify WfMS's bottlenecks?







#### **Benchmark Elements for BenchFlow**



**Benchmark Element** Limitations

Test Types Load Test, Stress Test



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Test Types Load Test, Stress Test

**Morkload Model** 

Workload Mix Unclear Definition

Load Functions Simplistic

Test Data Not Realistic

**Benchmark Element Limitations** 

Test Types Load Test, Stress Test

**Workload Model** 

Workload Mix Unclear Definition

Load Functions Simplistic

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Number of WfMS 2-5

WfMS Configurations Not Extensive

**Benchmark Element Limitations** 

Test Types Load Test, Stress Test

Work

Load

Load

Test [

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ystems

Number of WfMS 2-5

WfMS Configurations Not Extensive

Analyses

Metrics Too General

KPIs Too General

## **Benchmarking Requirements**

- Relevant
- Representative
- Portable
- Scalable
- Simple

- Repeatable
- Vendor-neutral
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Affordable

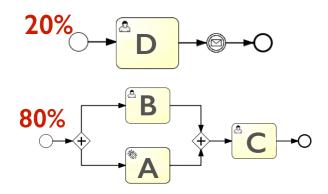
#### **References:**

- K. Huppler, The art of building a good benchmark, 2009
- J. Gray, The Benchmark Handbook for Database and Transaction Systems, 1993
- S. E. Sim, S. Easterbrook et al., Using benchmarking to advance research: A challenge to software engineering, 2003

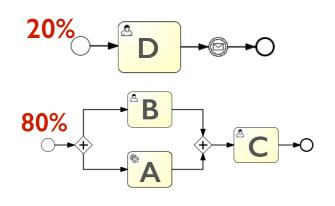


## Main Challenges in Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 WfMSs

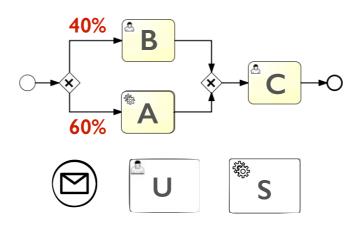




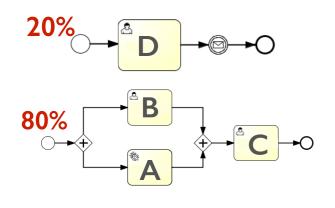
**Workload Mix** 



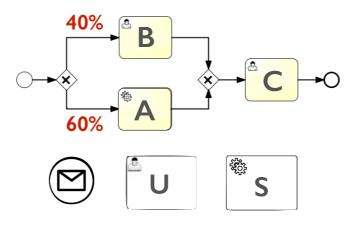
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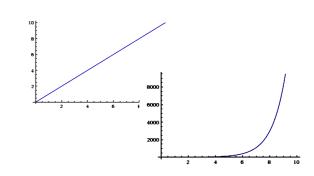
**Test Data** 



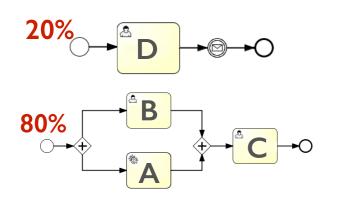
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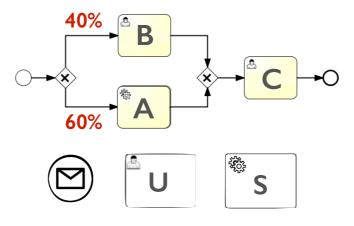
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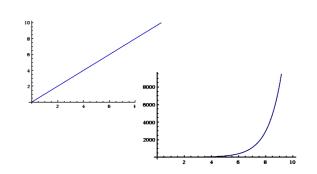
**Load Functions** 



**Workload Mix** 



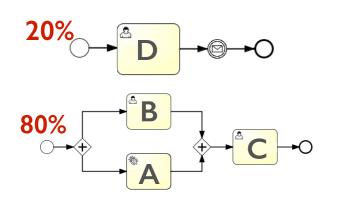
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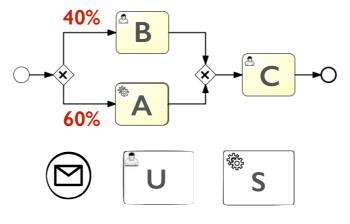
**Load Functions** 

**WORKLOAD MODEL** 

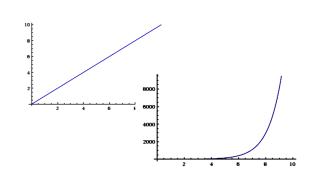
#### BENCHMARK EXECUTION



**Workload Mix** 



**Test Data** 



**Load Functions** 

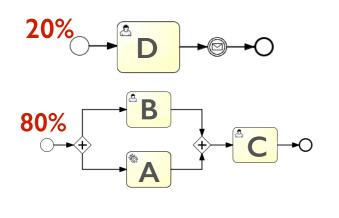
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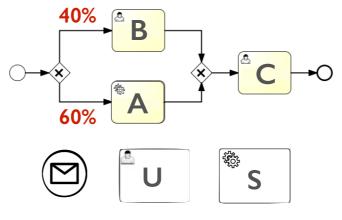
WfMS-specific APIs and BPMN 2.0 Customisations

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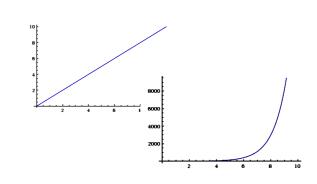




Workload Mix

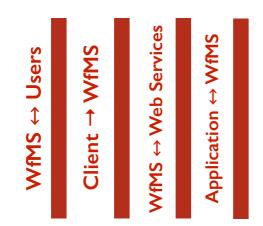


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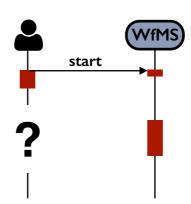


**Load Functions** 

#### **WORKLOAD MODEL**



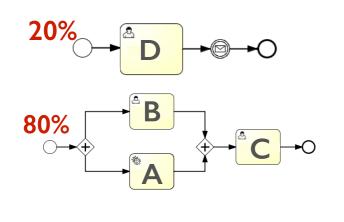
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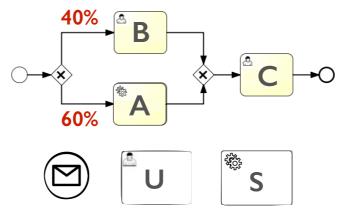
Asynchronous Execution of Workflows

BENCHMARK EXECUTION

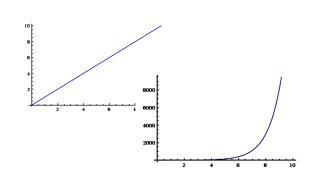




Workload Mix



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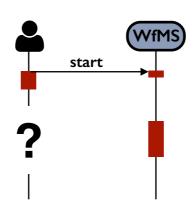


**Load Functions** 

#### **WORKLOAD MODEL**



WfMS-specific APIs and BPMN 2.0 Customisations

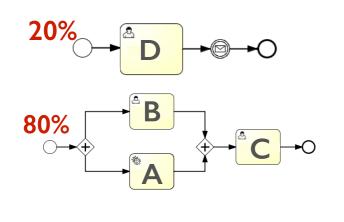


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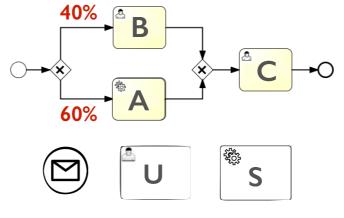
BENCHMARK EXECUTION

**ANALYSES** 

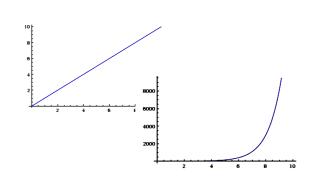




Workload Mix



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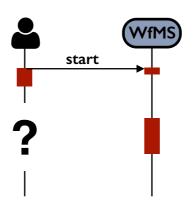


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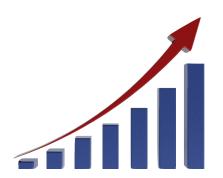
#### **WORKLOAD MODEL**



WfMS-specific APIs and BPMN 2.0 Customisations



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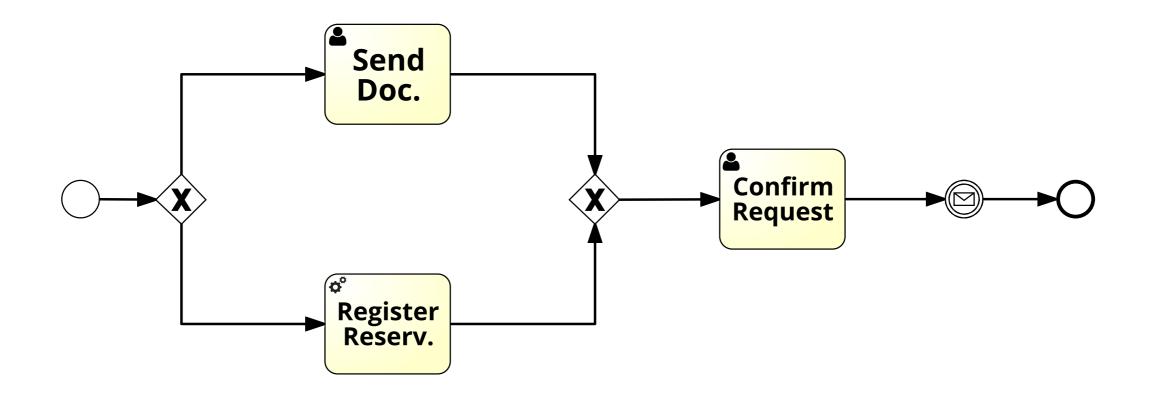
Performance Metrics and KPIs

BENCHMARK EXECUTION

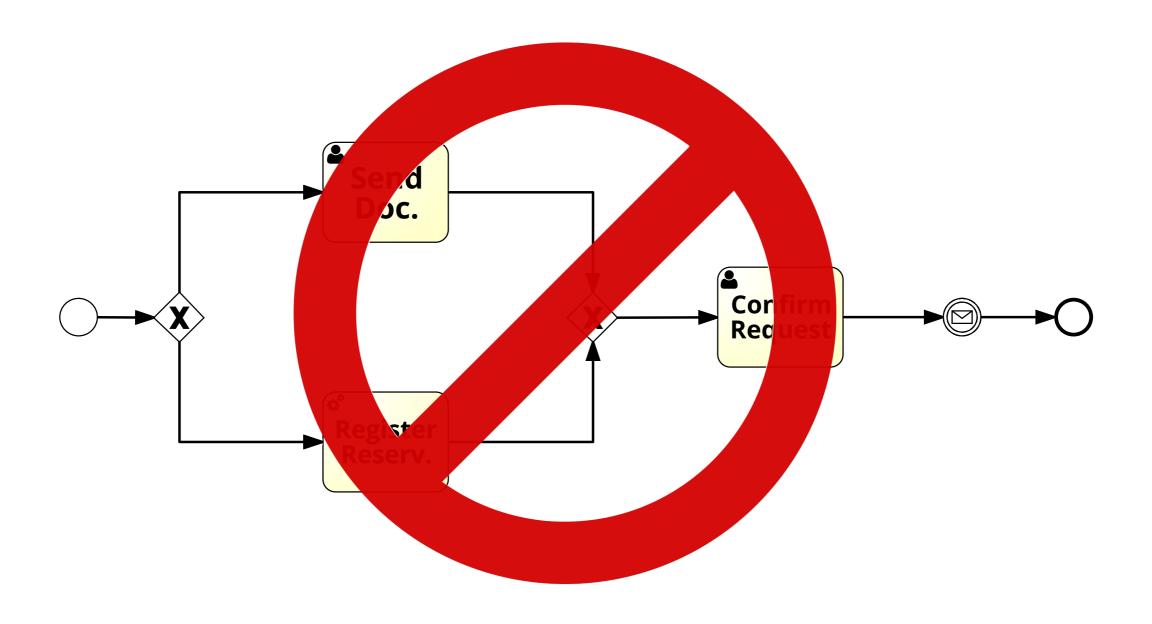
**ANALYSES** 



based on real-world BPMN 2.0 process models



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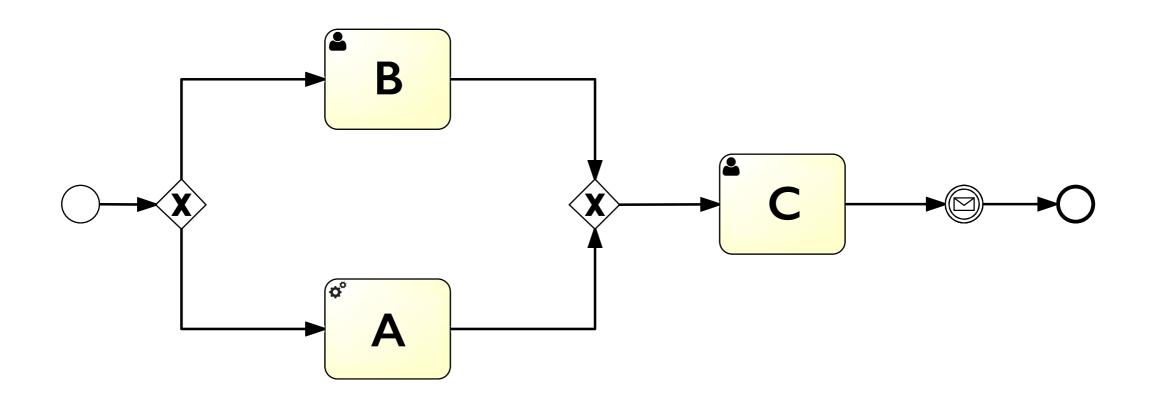


#### **MAIN CHALLENGE:**

Obtain Real-World BPMN 2.0 Process Models



based on real-world BPMN 2.0 process models



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Obtain Real-World BPMN 2.0 Process Models



characterise real-world BPMN 2.0 process models collections

#### **BPMeter:**

Web Service and application for static analysis of BPMN 2.0 collections

#### > 100 METRICS:

Size, Structure, External Interaction, Data Handling, Complexity





http://benchflow.inf.usi.ch/bpmeter



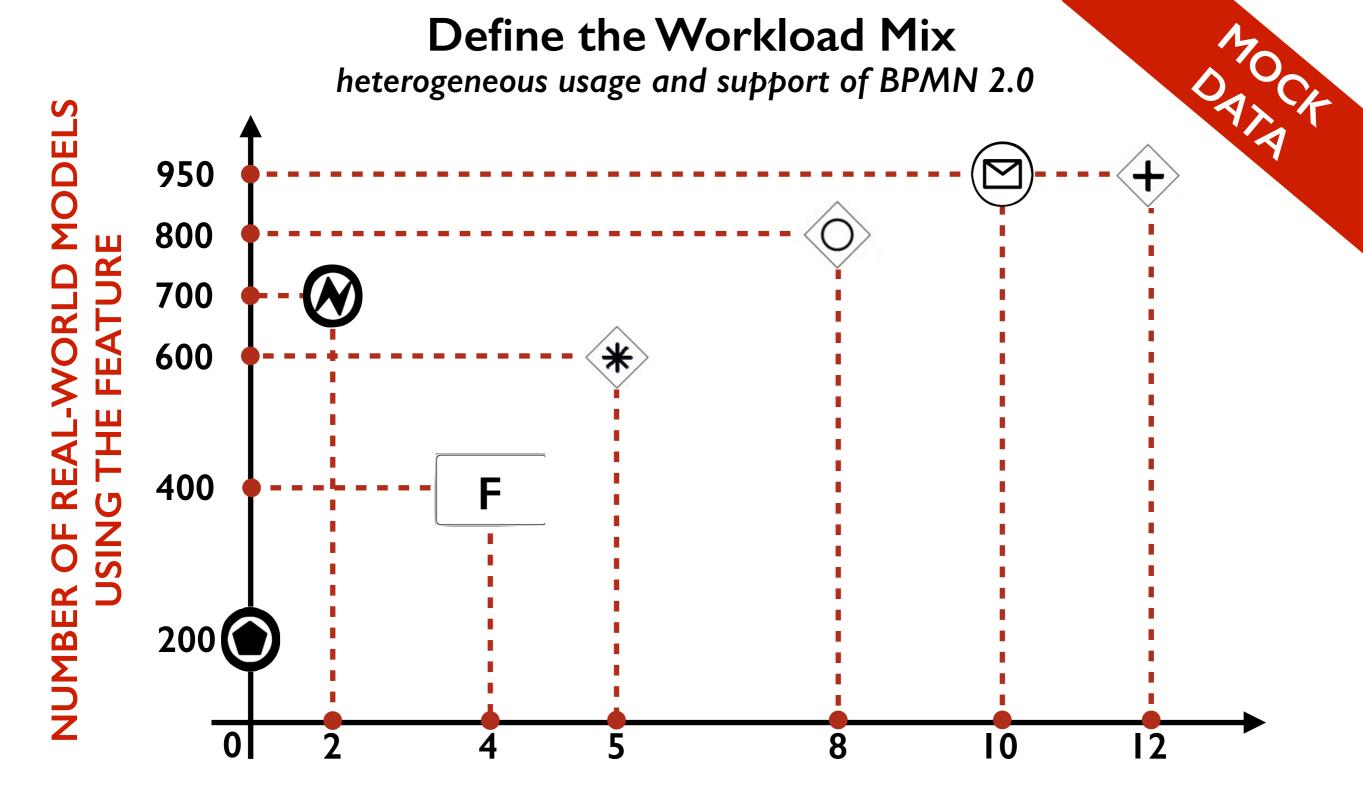
heterogeneous usage and support of BPMN 2.0



# NUMBER OF REAL-WORLD MODELS USING THE FEATURE

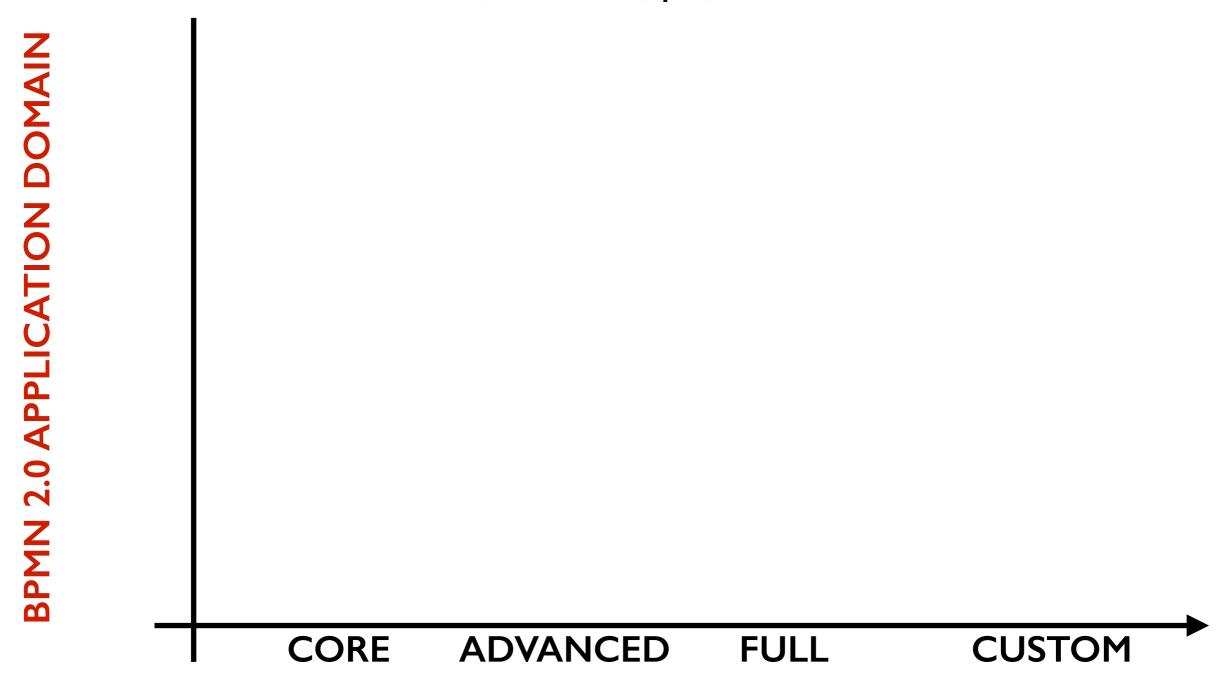
NUMBER OF WfMSs SUPPORTING THE FEATURE

21



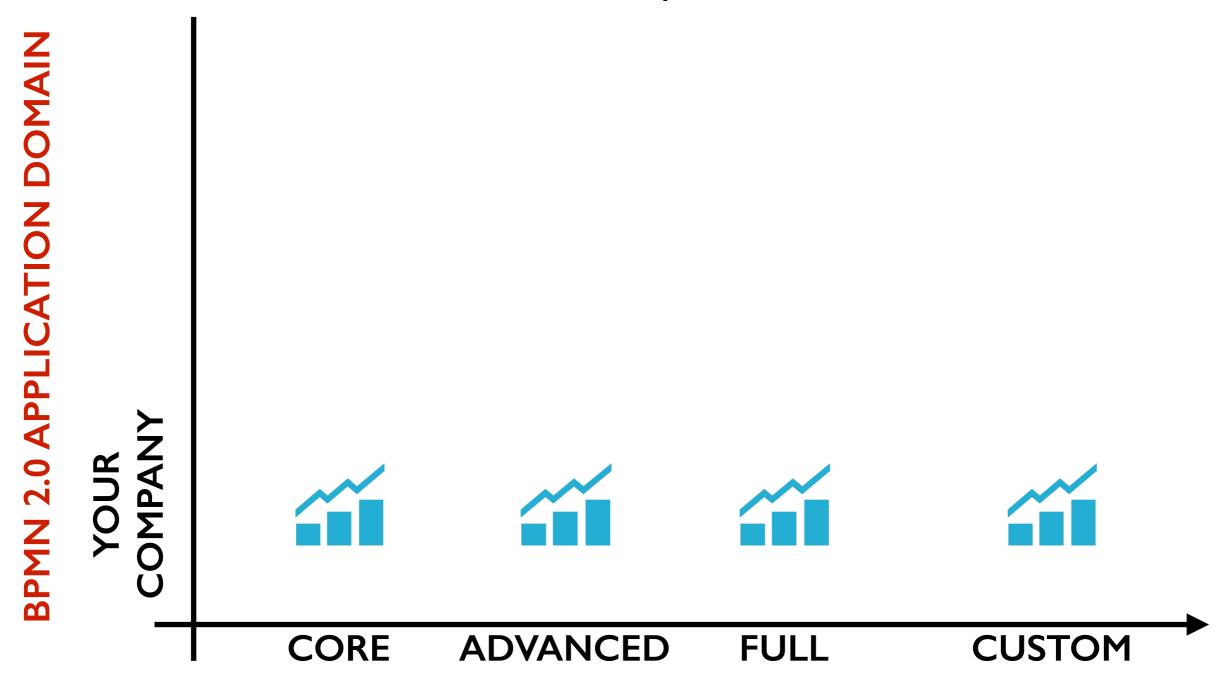
**NUMBER OF WfMSs SUPPORTING THE FEATURE** 

core, advanced, full, custom



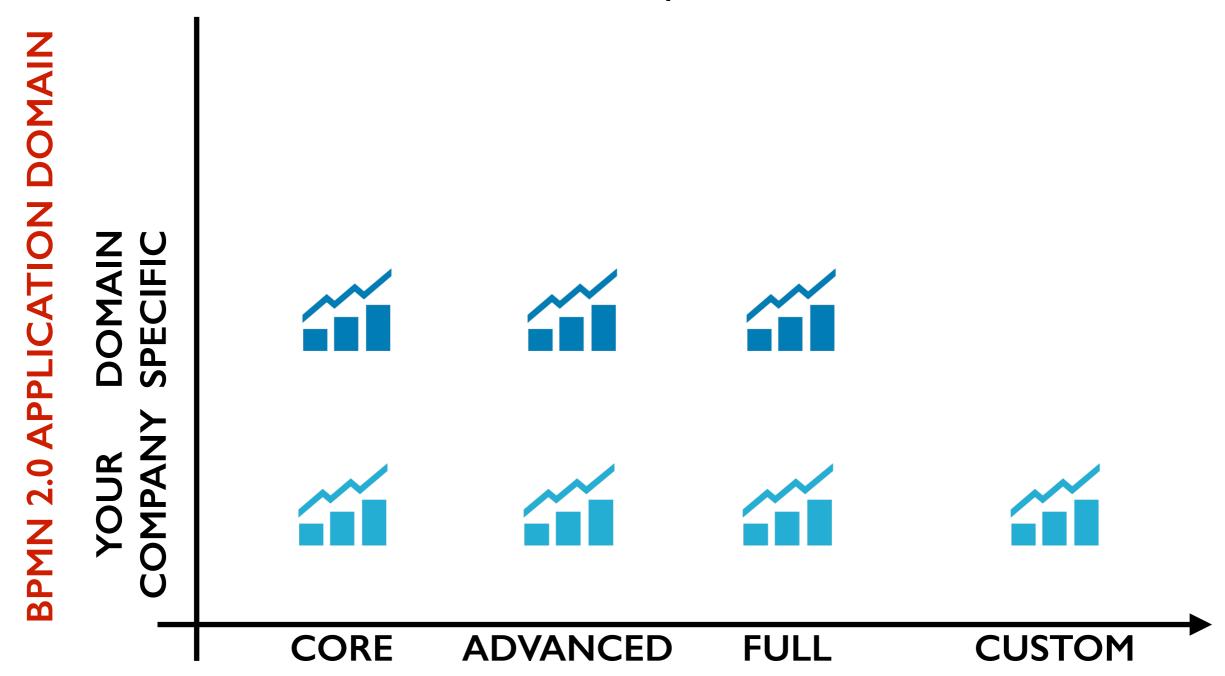


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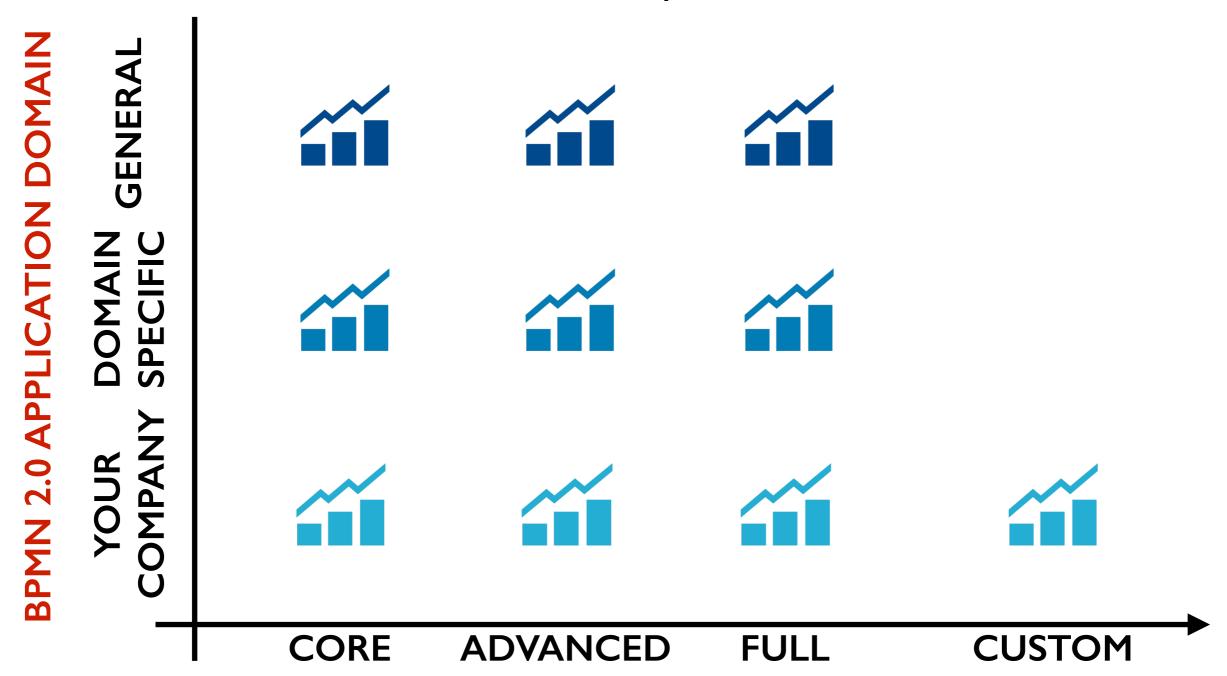


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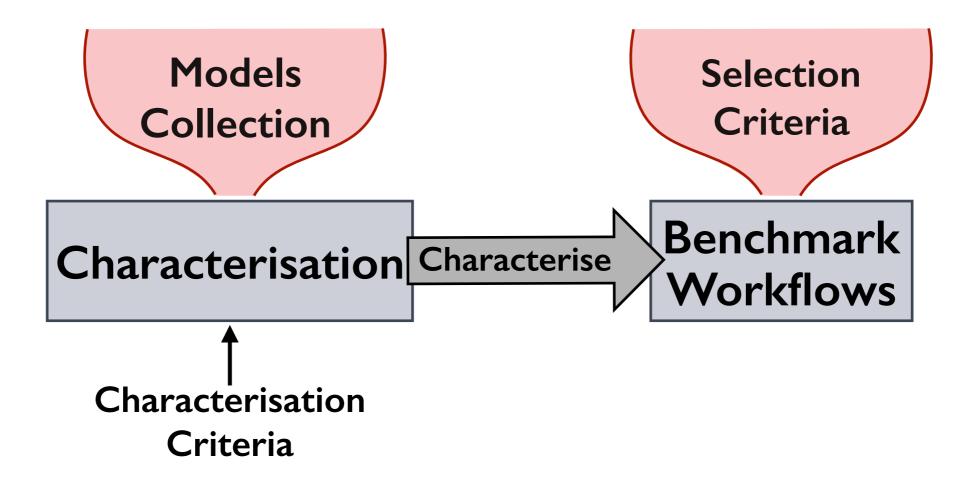


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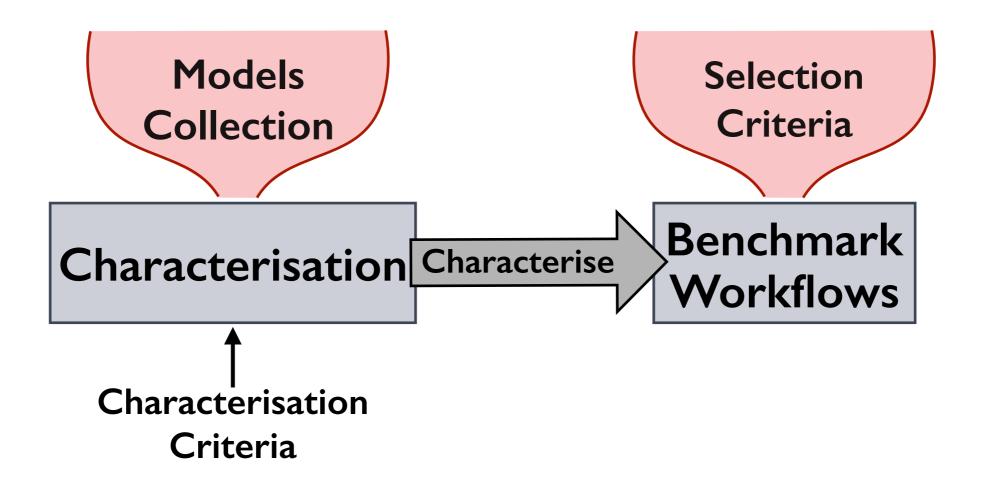




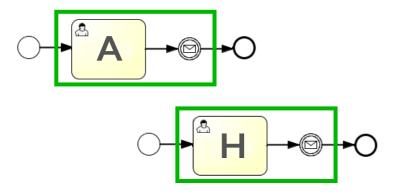
## Workload Mix Characterisation Overview



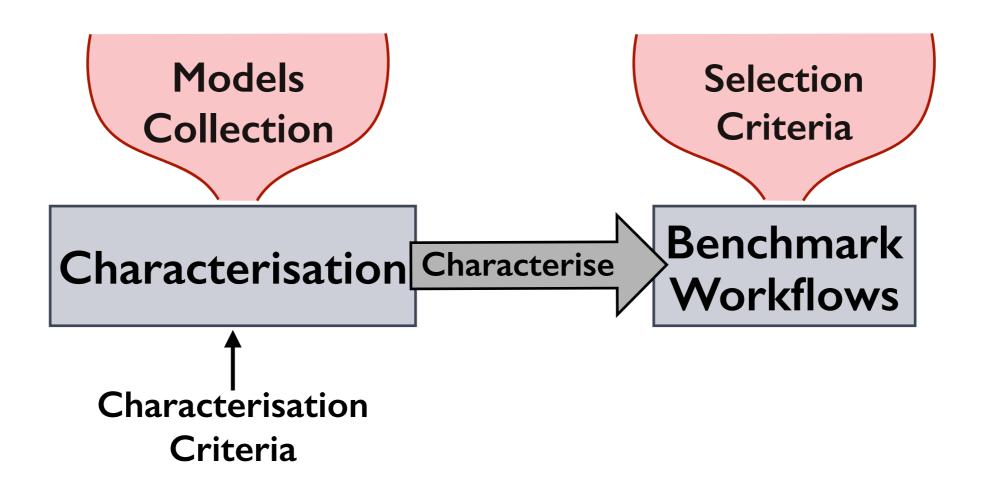
## Workload Mix Characterisation Overview



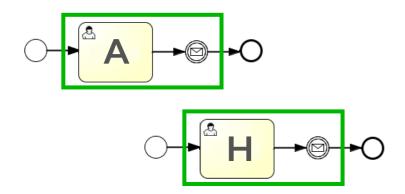
## **Reoccurring Structures**



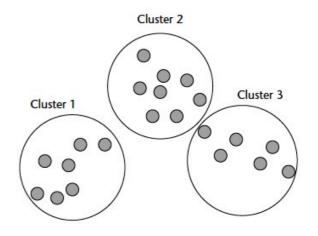
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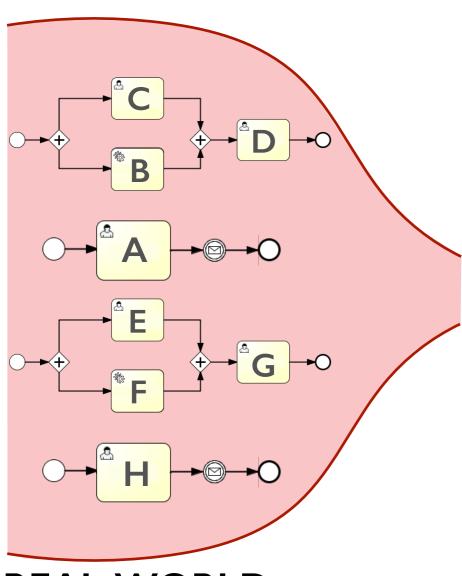
## **Reoccurring Structures**



## **Clusters of Models**

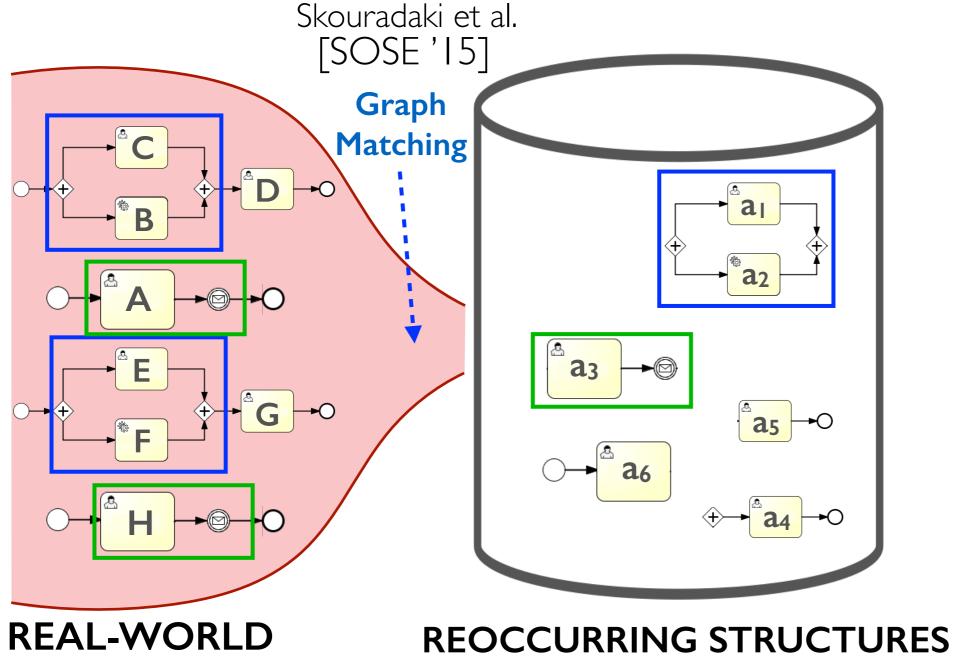


discover reoccurring structural patterns



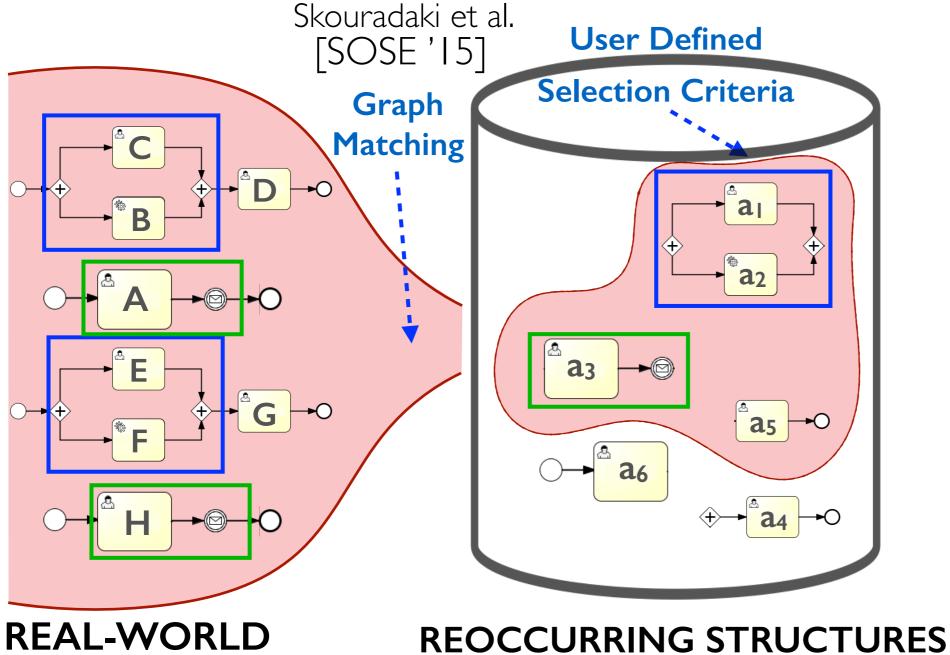
REAL-WORLD PROCESSES

discover reoccurring structural patterns



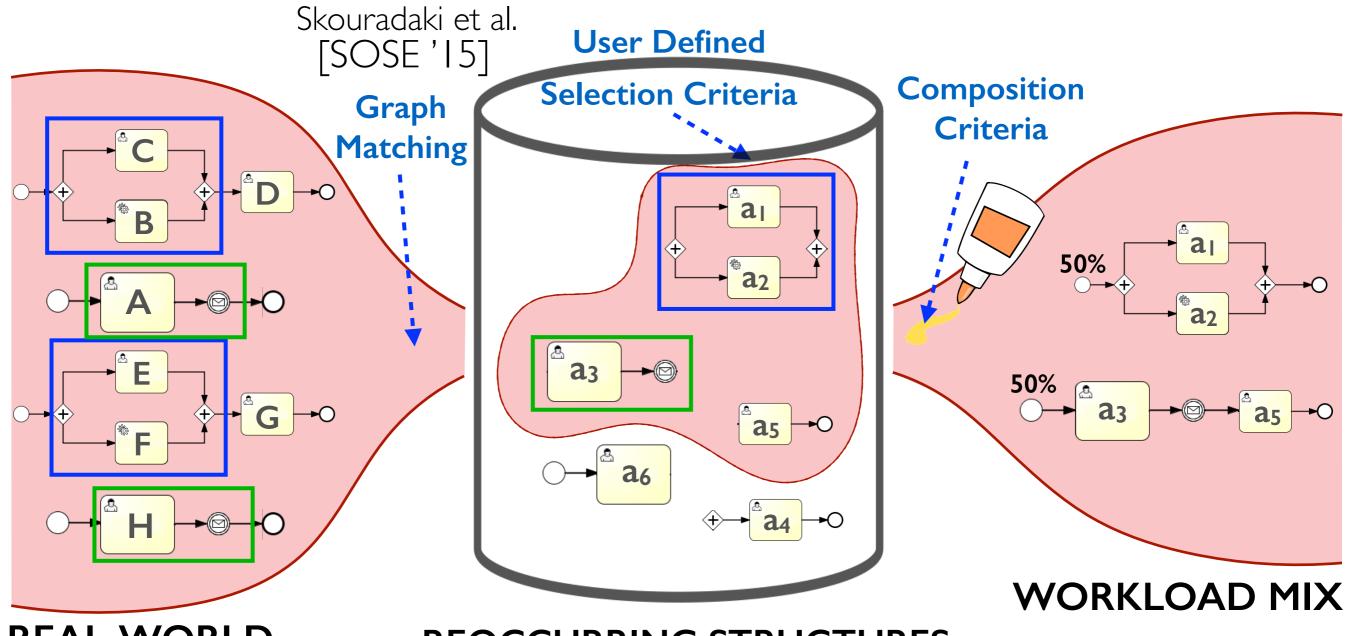
**PROCESSES** 

discover reoccurring structural patterns



**PROCESSES** 

discover reoccurring structural patterns

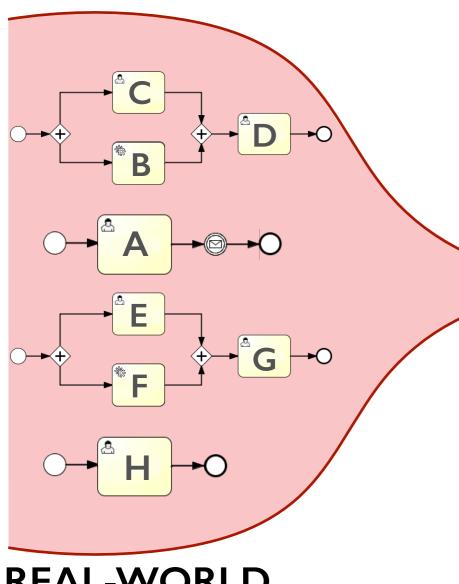


REAL-WORLD PROCESSES

**REOCCURRING STRUCTURES** 

w.jax 15 Business Technology Days

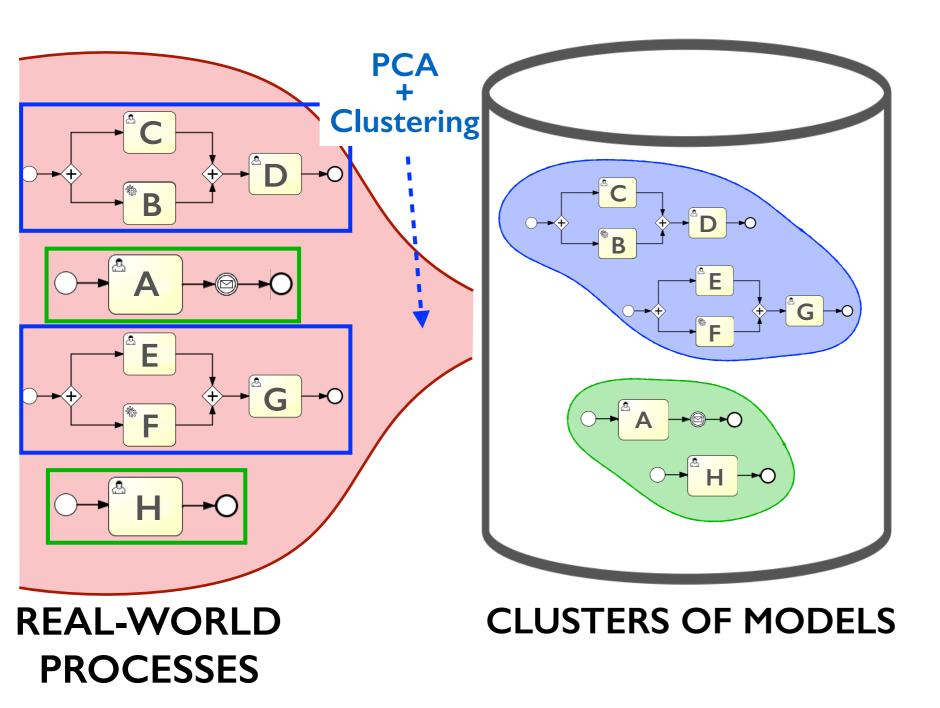
discover clusters of models



REAL-WORLD PROCESSES

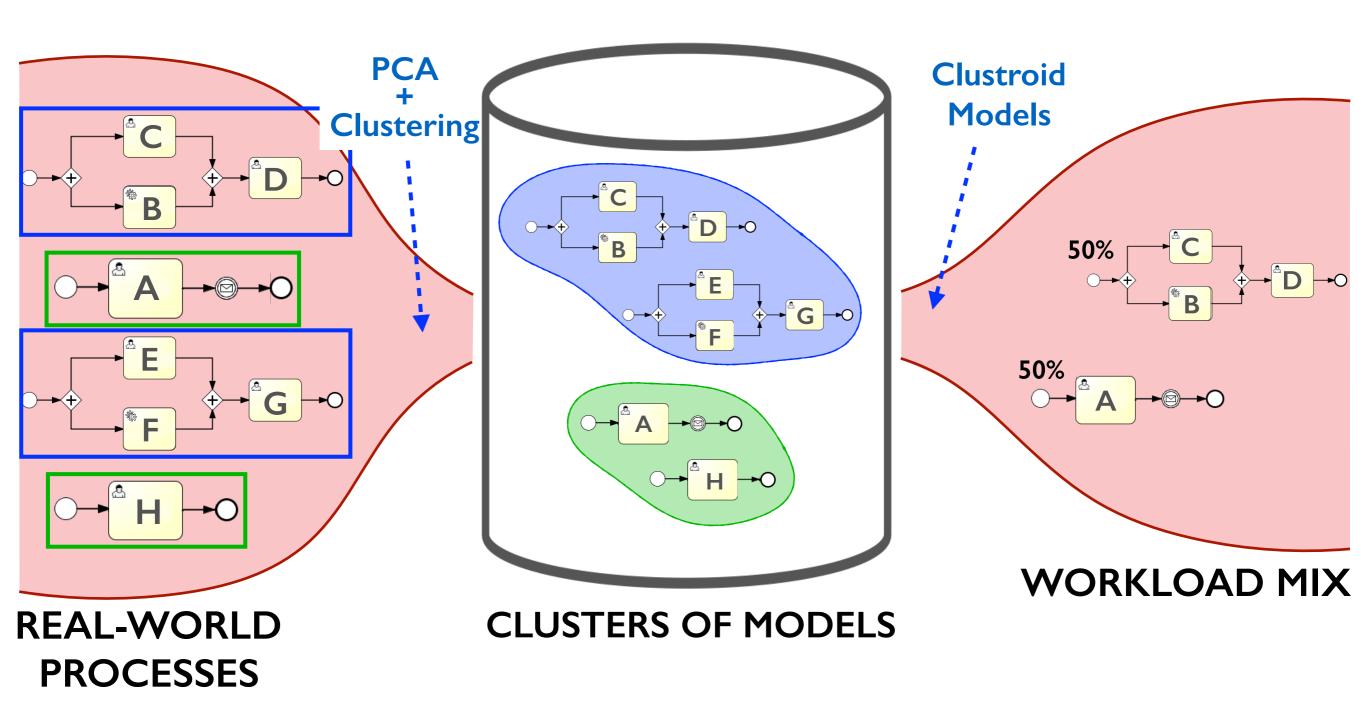


discover clusters of models

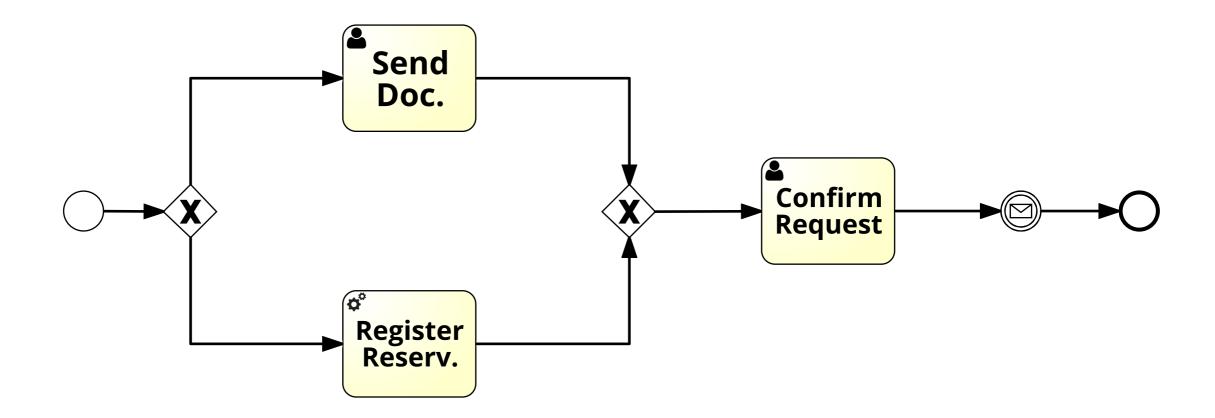


> 100 METRICS: Size, Structure, External Interaction, Data Handling, Complexity

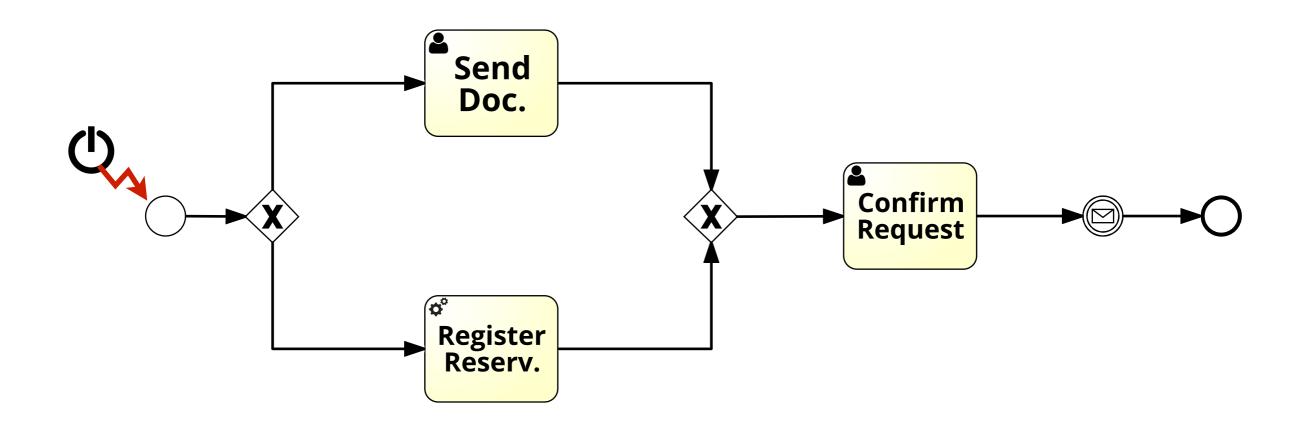
discover clusters of models



> 100 METRICS: Size, Structure, External Interaction, Data Handling, Complexity



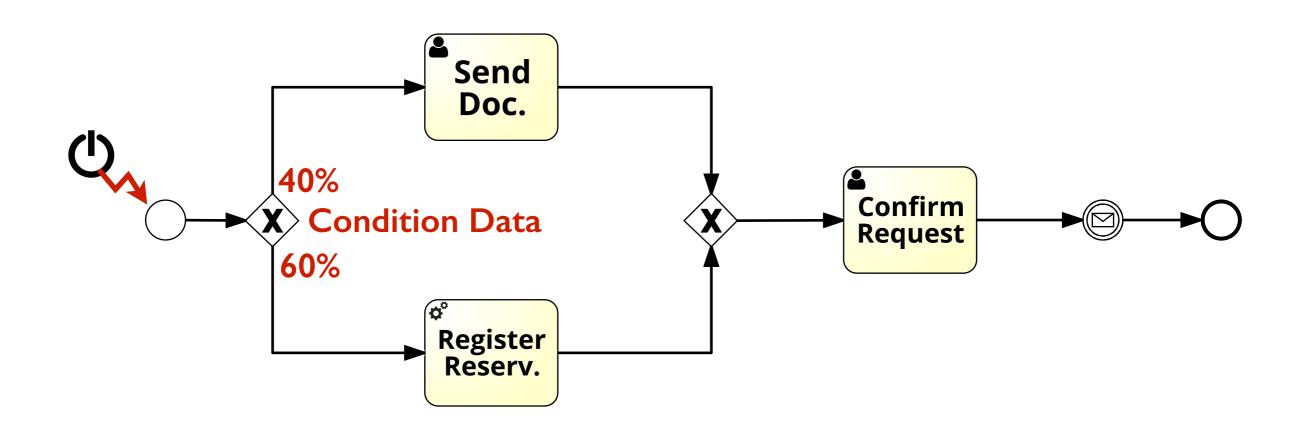
different types of test data



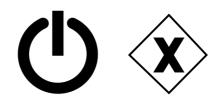
Test Data:

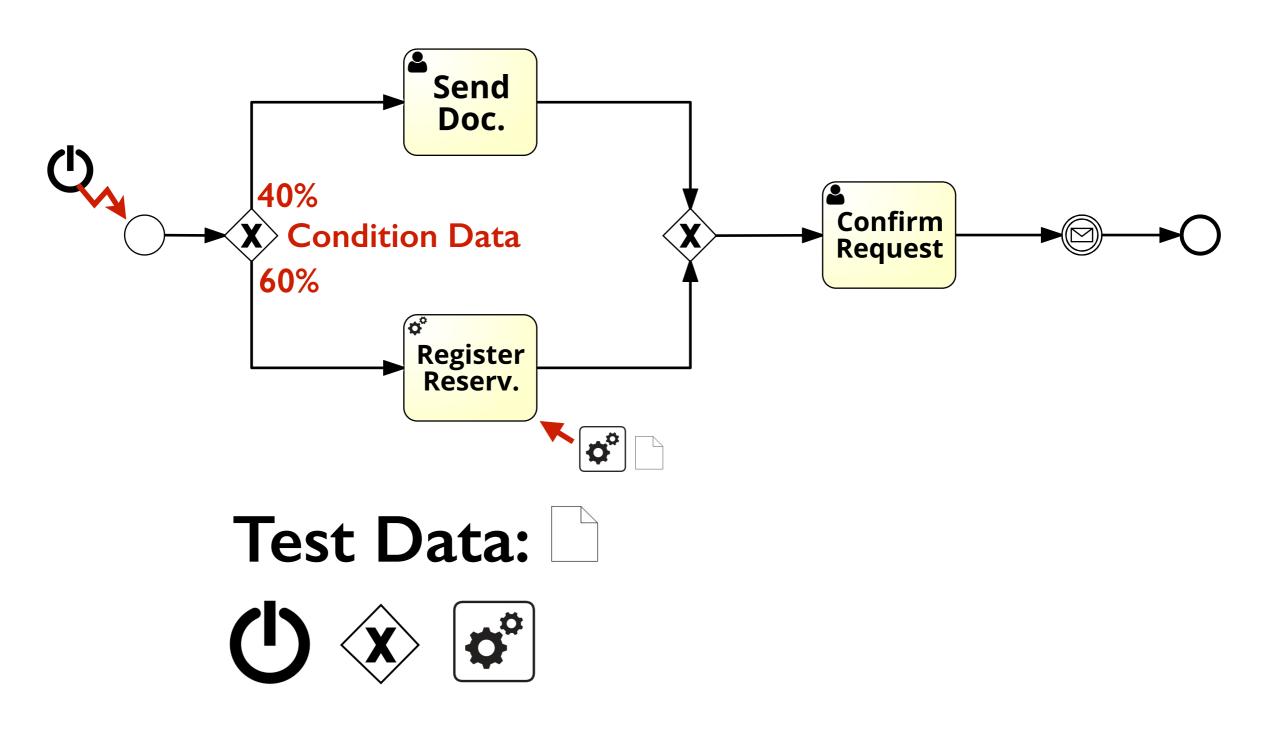


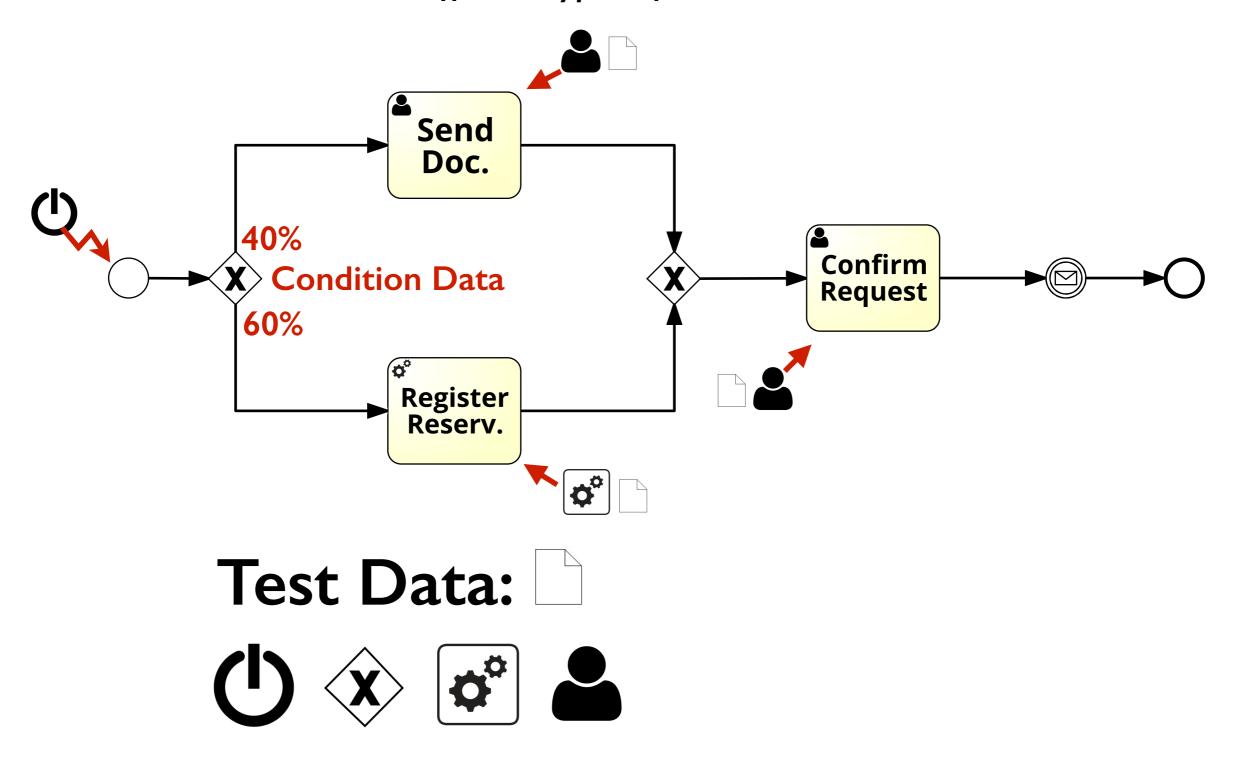
different types of test data

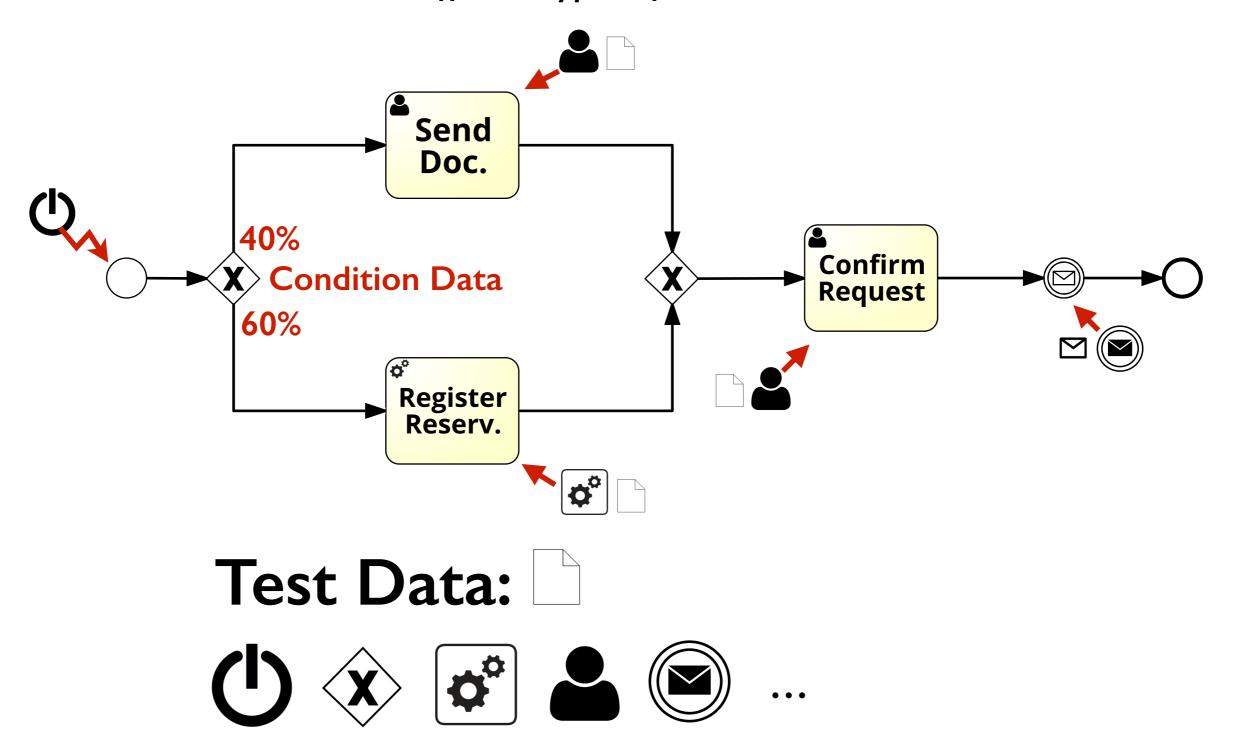


Test Data:



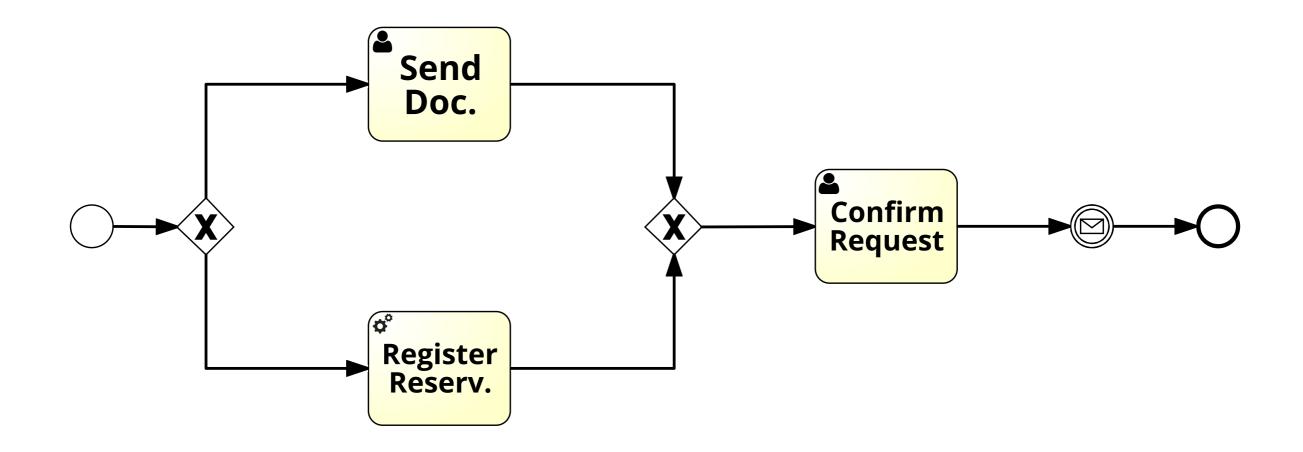


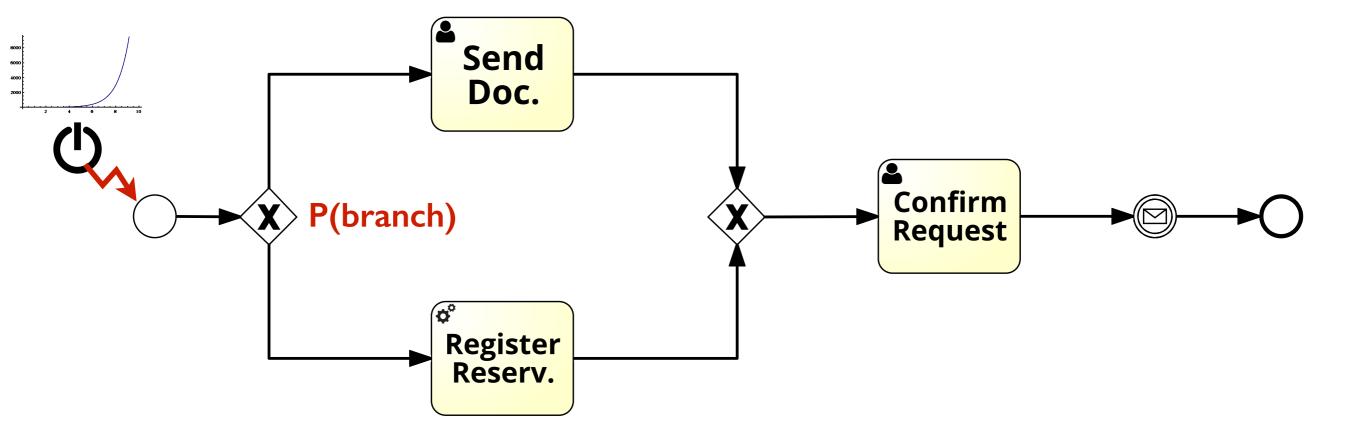


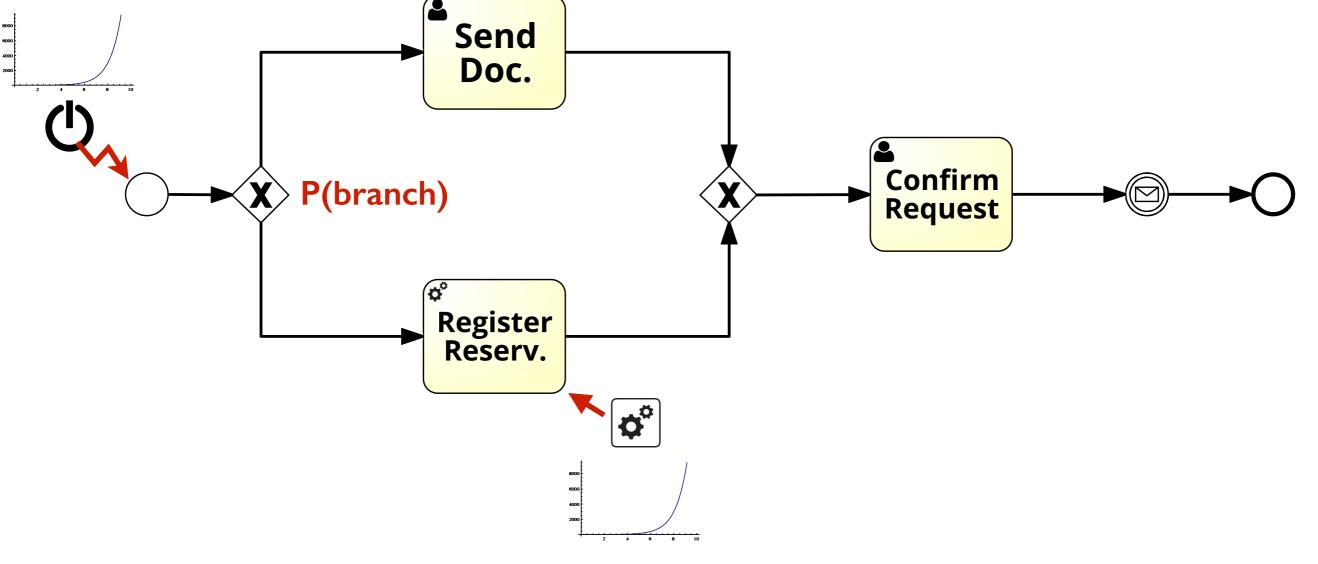


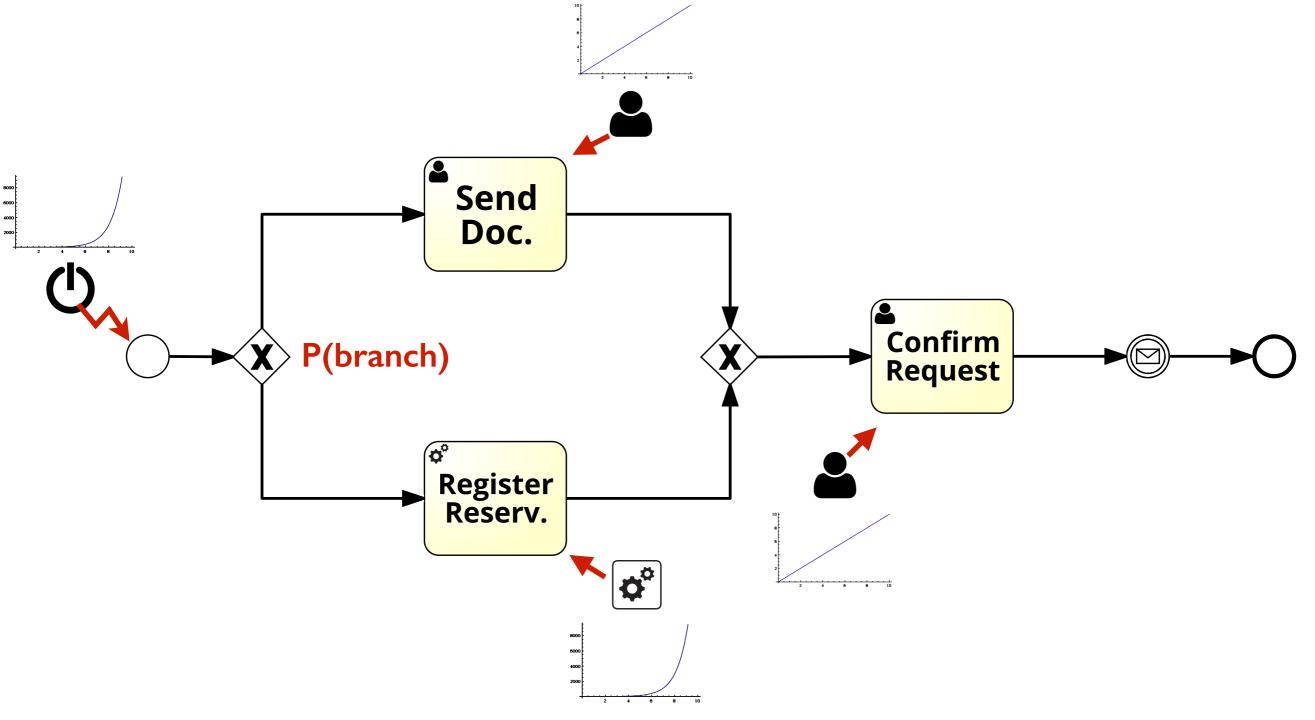
## **Define the Load Functions**

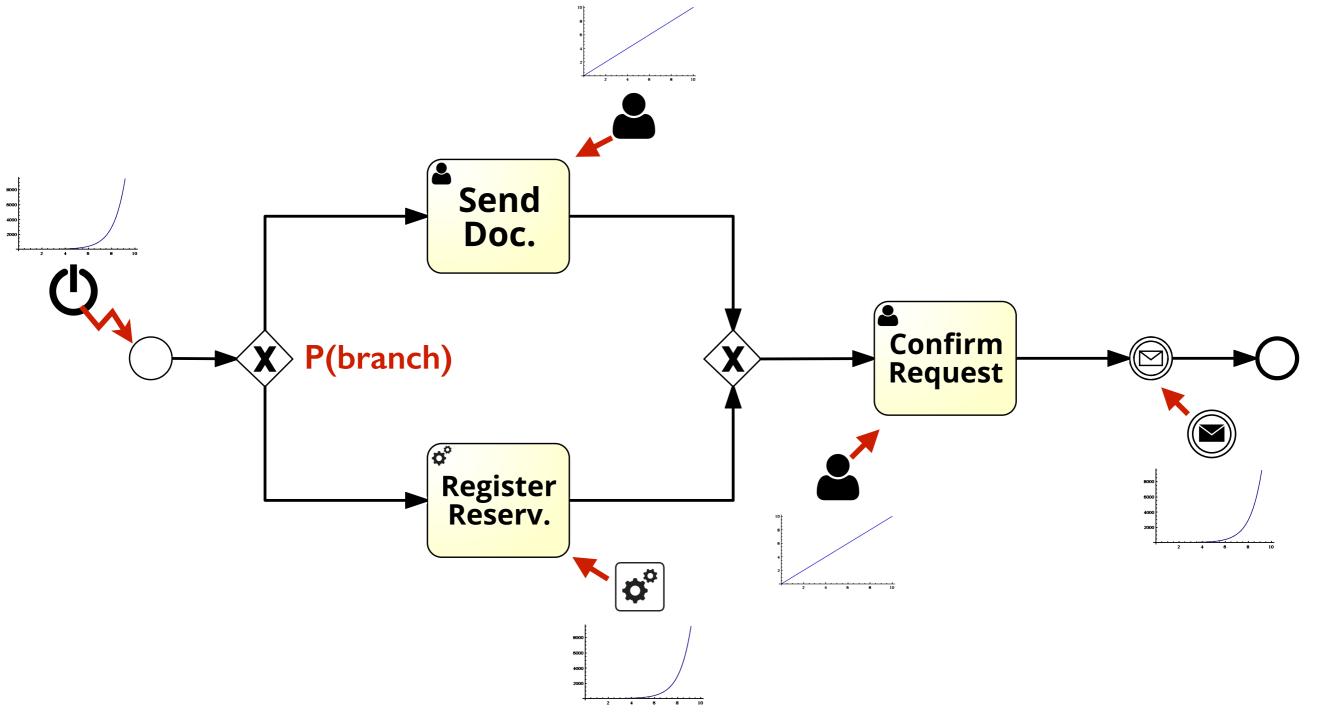
different types of load functions





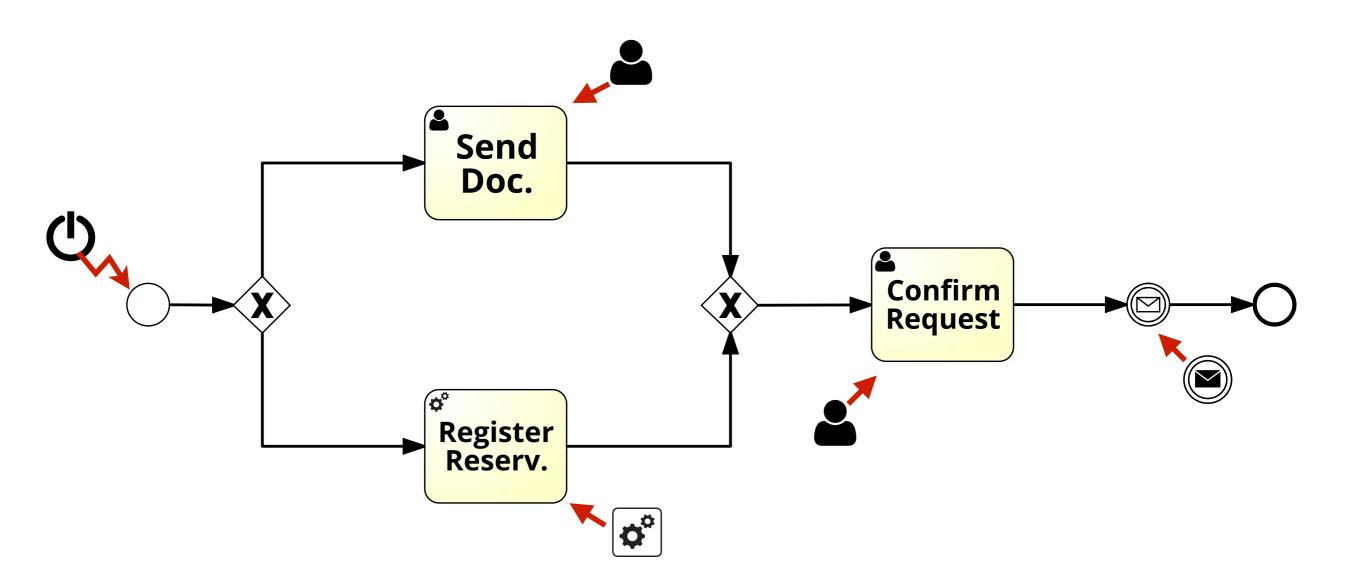






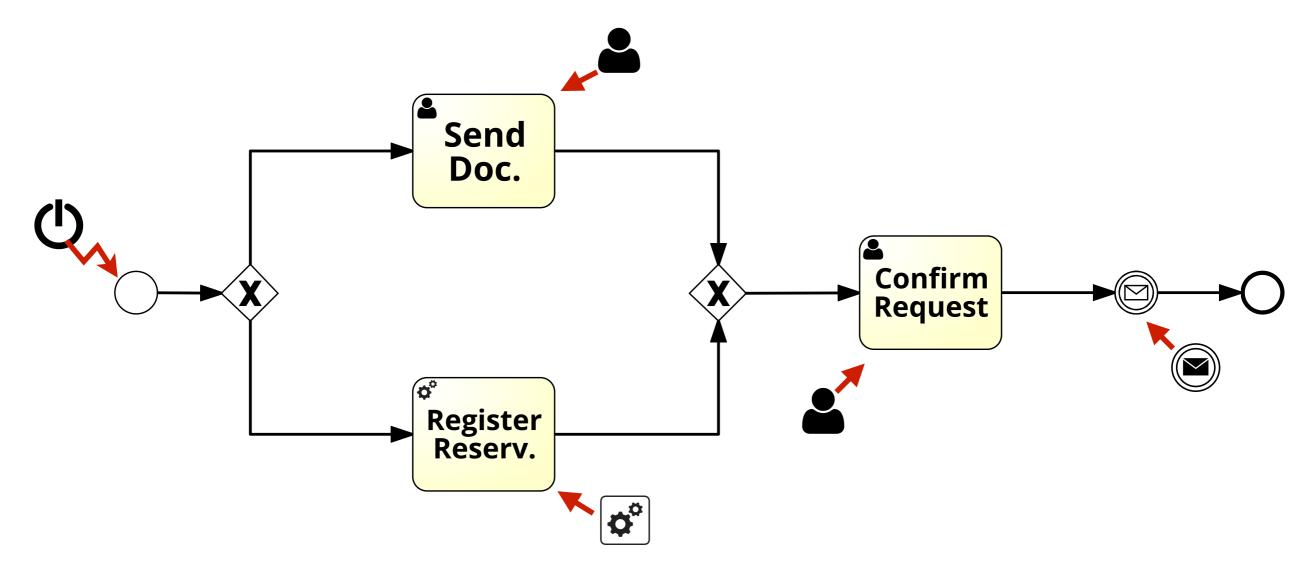


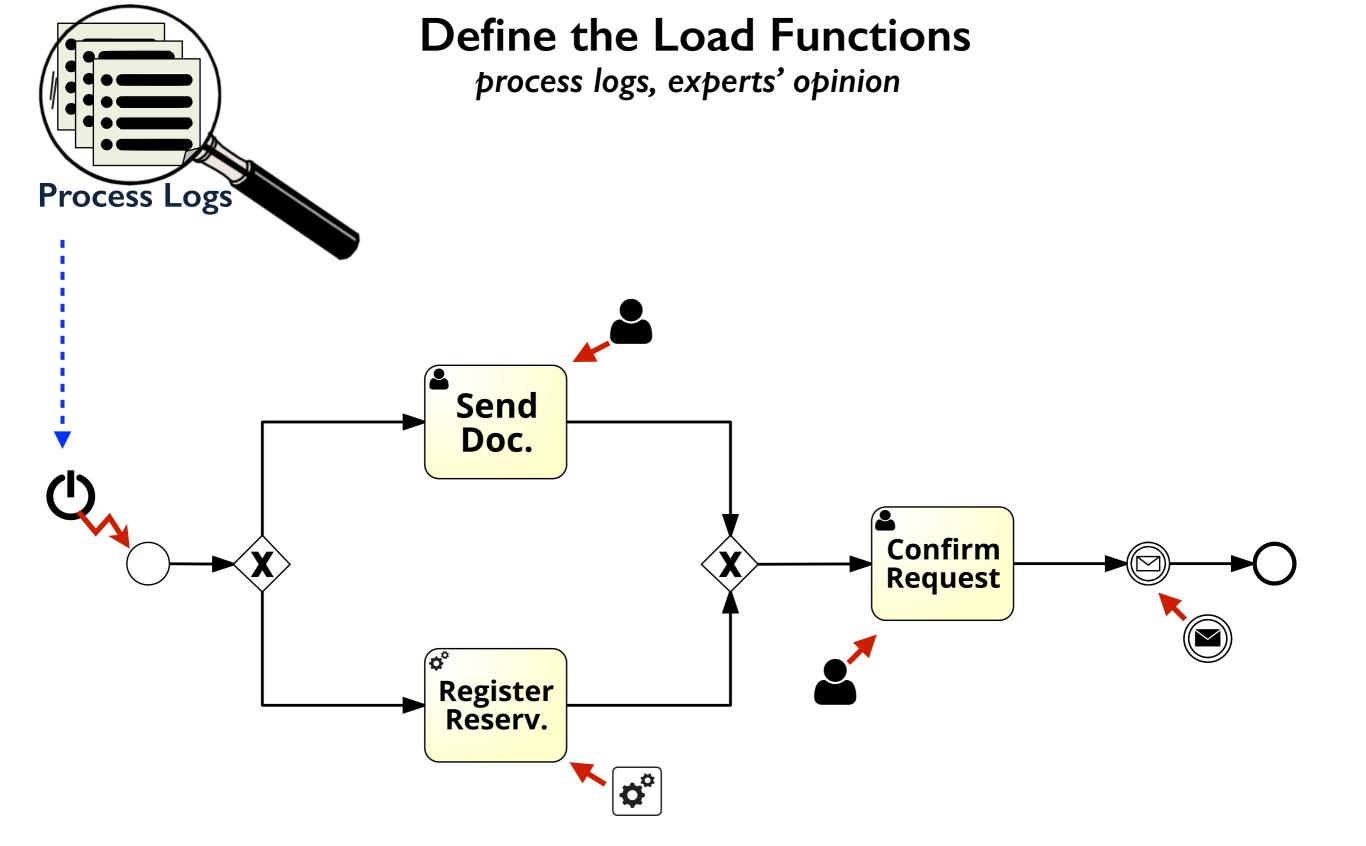
process logs, experts' opinion

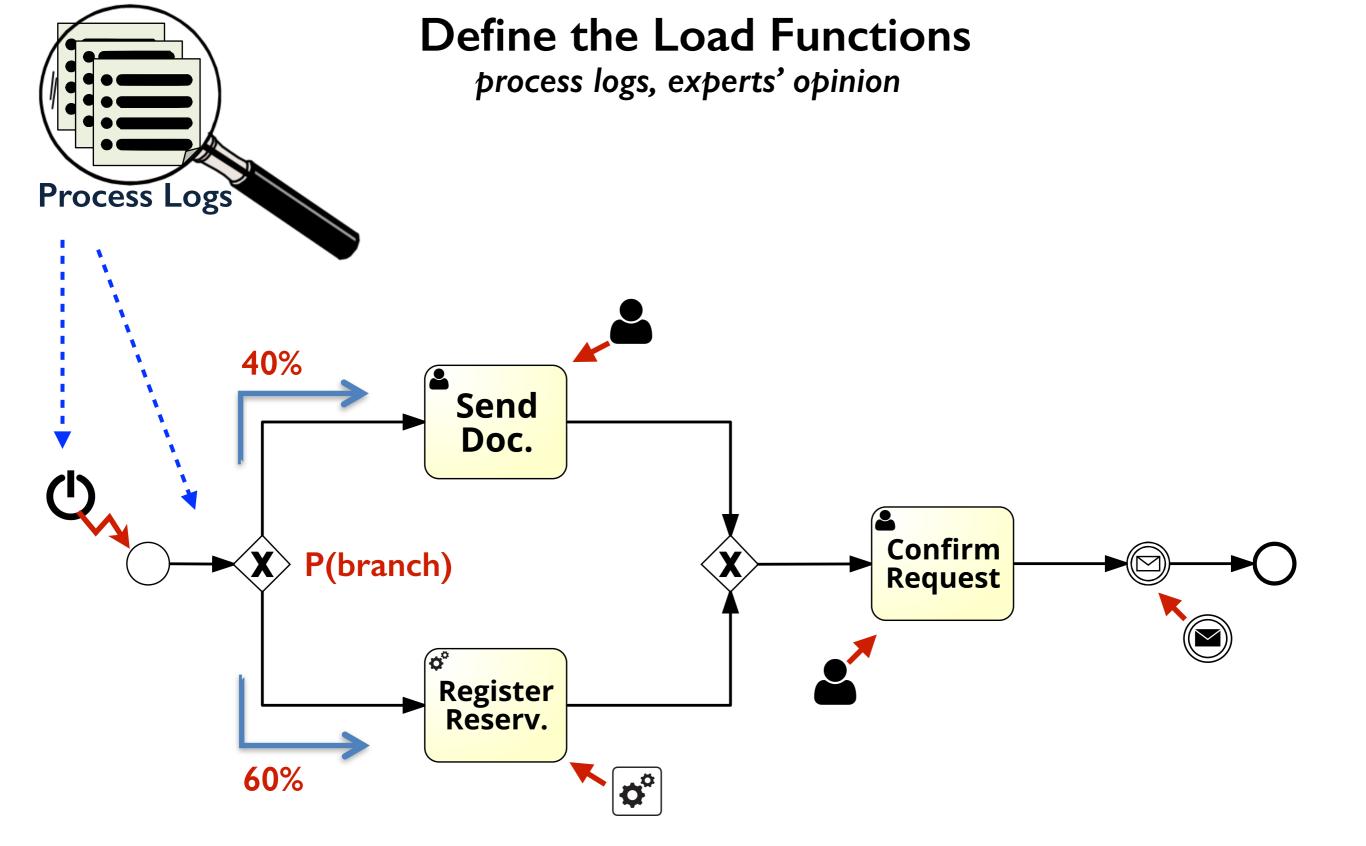


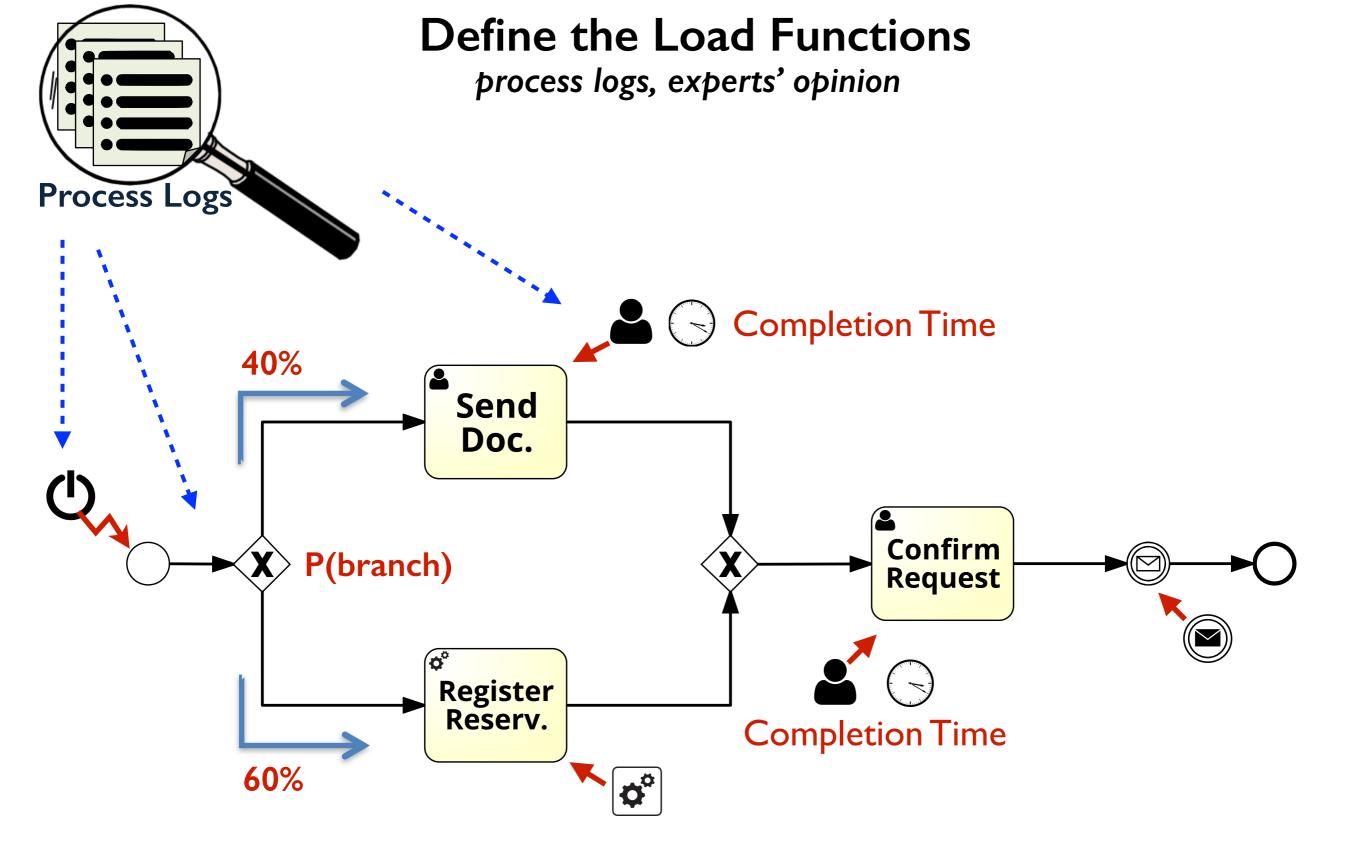


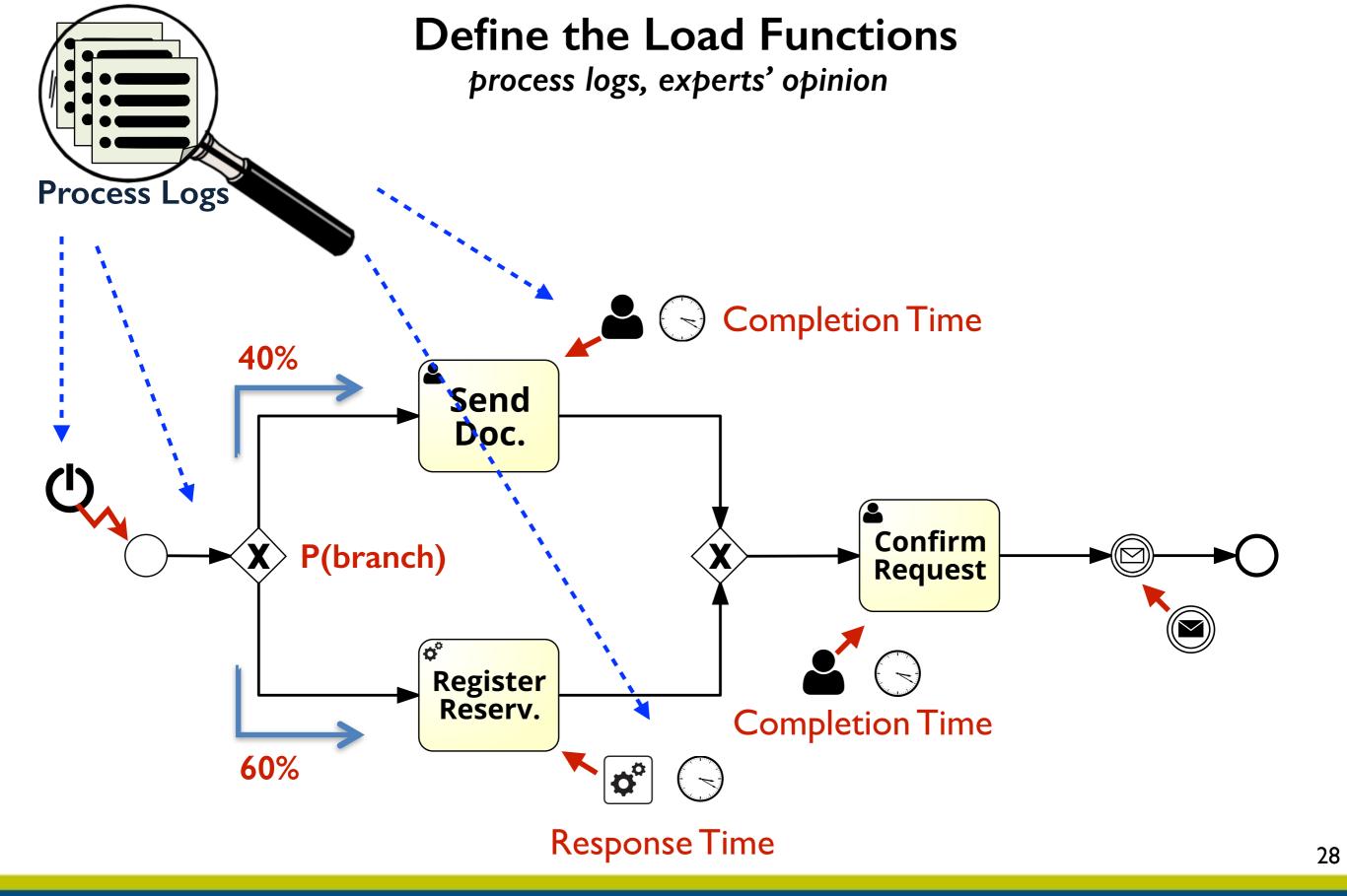
process logs, experts' opinion



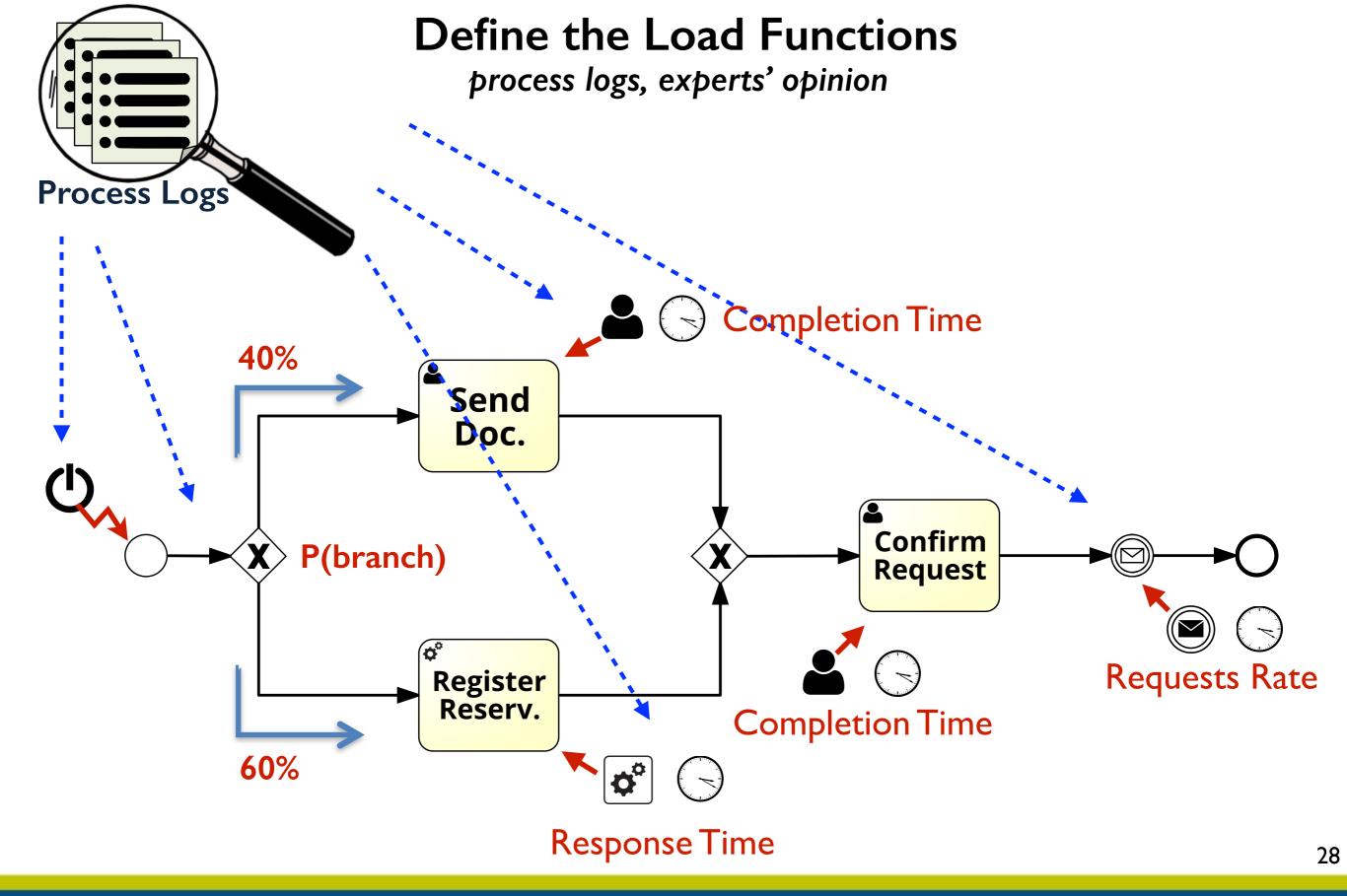


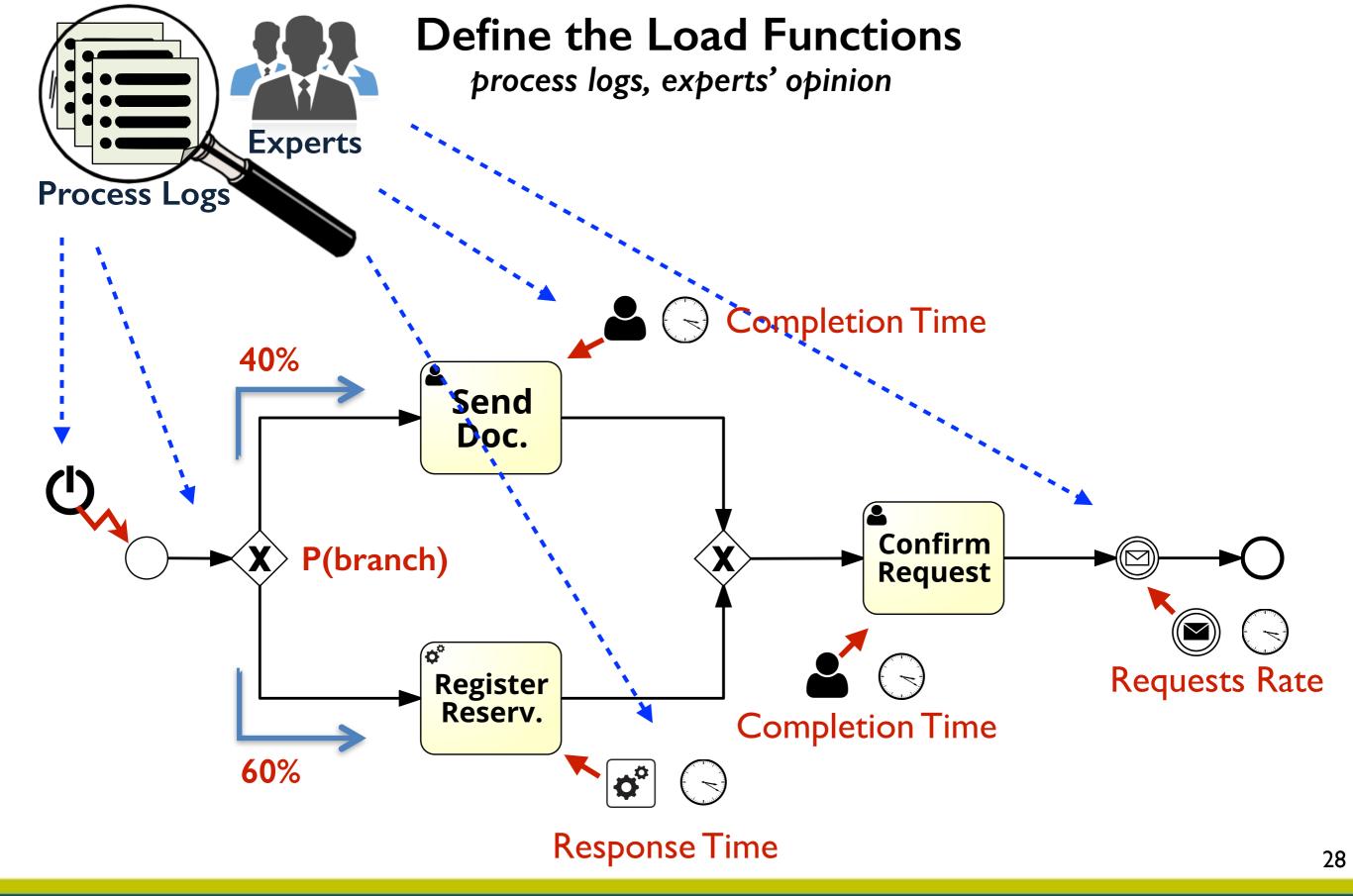












### **Performance Test Types**

Workload Model

- Load testing
- Stress testing
- Soak testing
- Spike testing
- Scalability testing
- Capacity testing
- Configuration testing
- Isolation testing

•

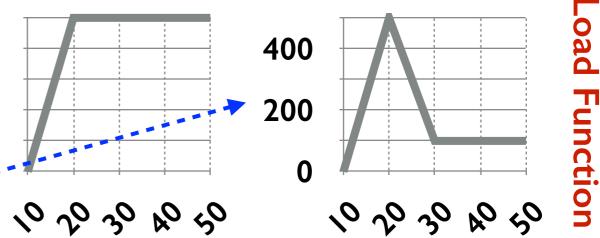
80

40

## **Performance Test Types**

# Load testing

- Stress testing
- Soak testing
- Spike testing
- Scalability testing
- Capacity testing
- Configuration testing
- Isolation testing



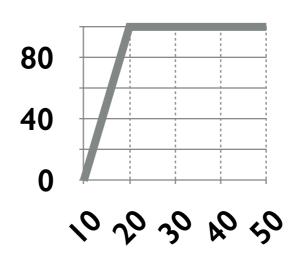
Workload Model

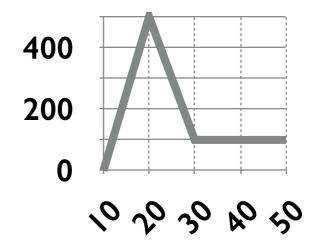
## **Performance Test Types**

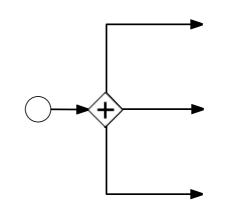
- Load testing
- Stress testing
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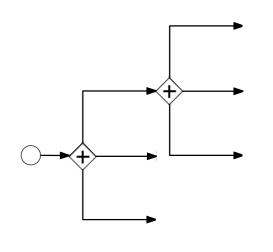
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#### Workload Model







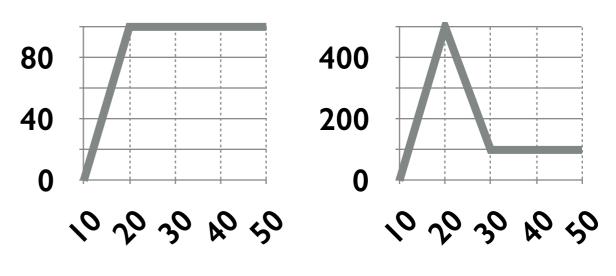


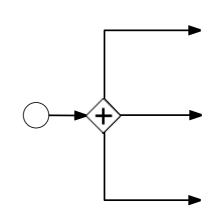
### **Performance Test Types**

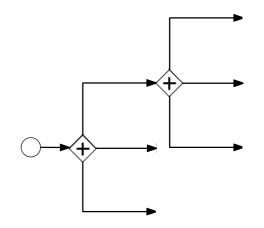
- Load testing
- Stress testing
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•

#### **Workload Model**













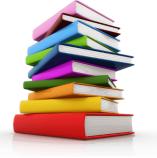








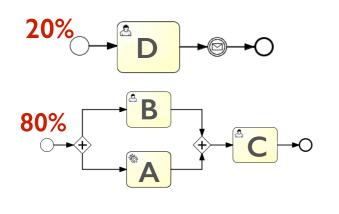




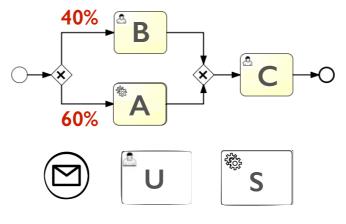
nction Workload

Test Dat

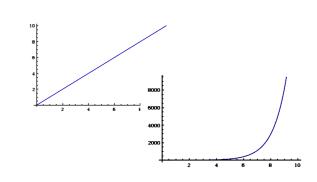
# Main Challenges in Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 WfMSs



Workload Mix



**Test Data** 

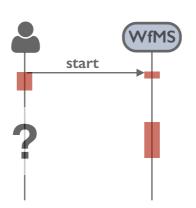


**Load Functions** 

#### **WORKLOAD MODEL**



WfMS-specific APIs and BPMN 2.0 Customisations



Asynchronous Execution of Workflows



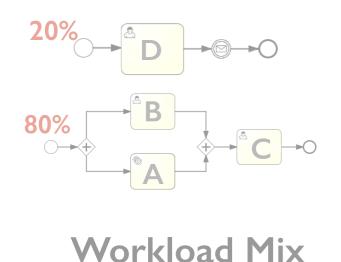
Performance Metrics and KPIs

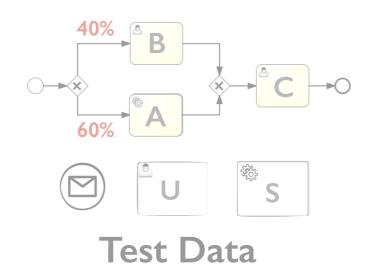
ANALYSES

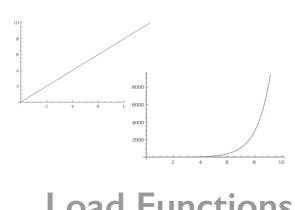
BENCHMARK EXECUTION



# Main Challenges in Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 WfMSs



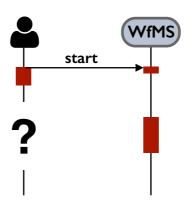




**Load Functions** 

#### WORKLOAD MODEL







WfMS-specific APIs and BPMN 2.0 Customisations

**Asynchronous Execution** of Workflows

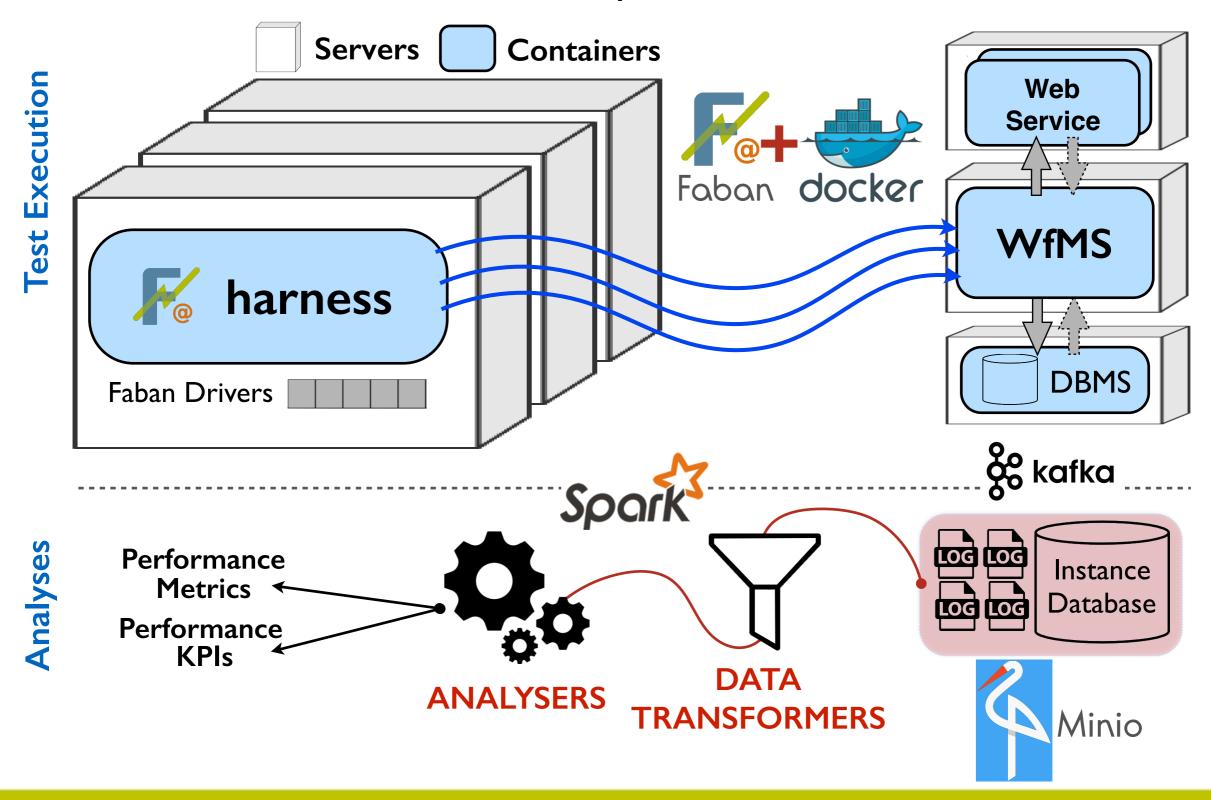
**Performance** Metrics and KPIs

BENCHMARK EXECUTION

**ANALYSES** 

# Enabling the Benchmark Execution and Analyses

BenchFlow framework



core requirements & functionalities

System Under Test (SUT)

**Performance Benchmark** 

core requirements & functionalities

### System Under Test (SUT)

**Performance Benchmark** 

- Automate the SUT deployment
- Simplify the SUT's deployment configuration



core requirements & functionalities

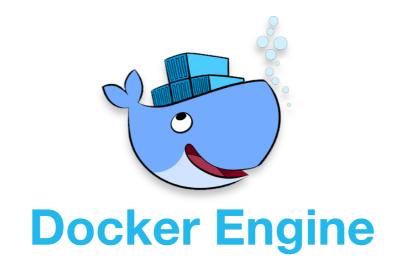
### System Under Test (SUT)

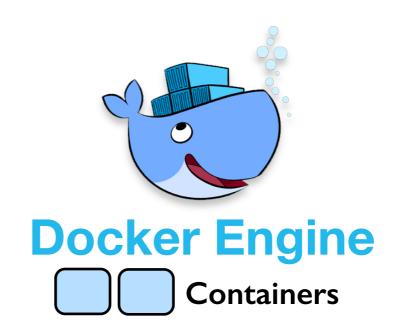
- Automate the SUT deployment
- Simplify the SUT's deployment configuration

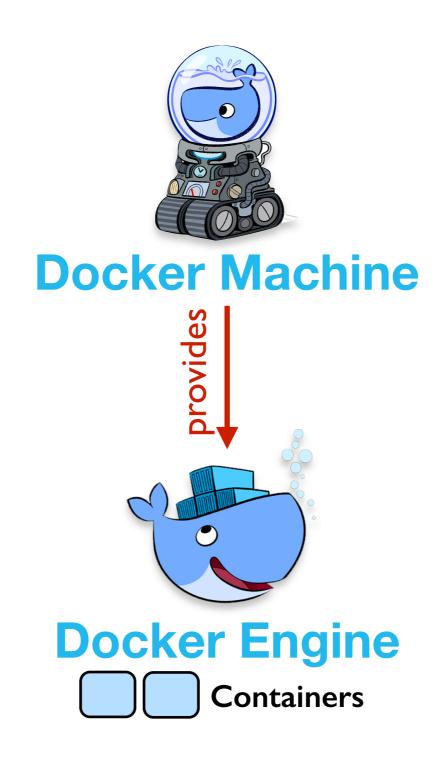
#### **Performance Benchmark**

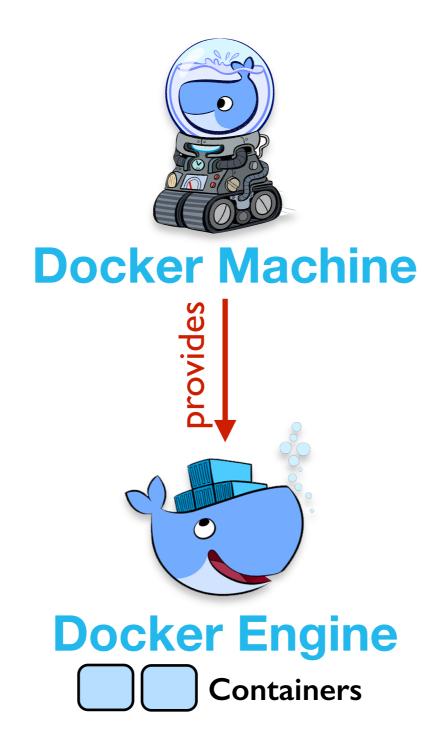
- Manage the benchmark lifecycle
- Simulate the entities interacting with the WfMS
- Accommodate and automate different kinds of performance tests
- Ensure reliable execution
- Ensure repeatability

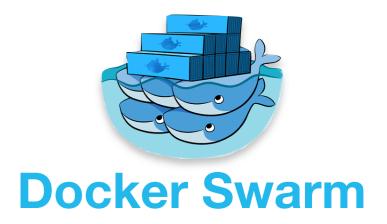


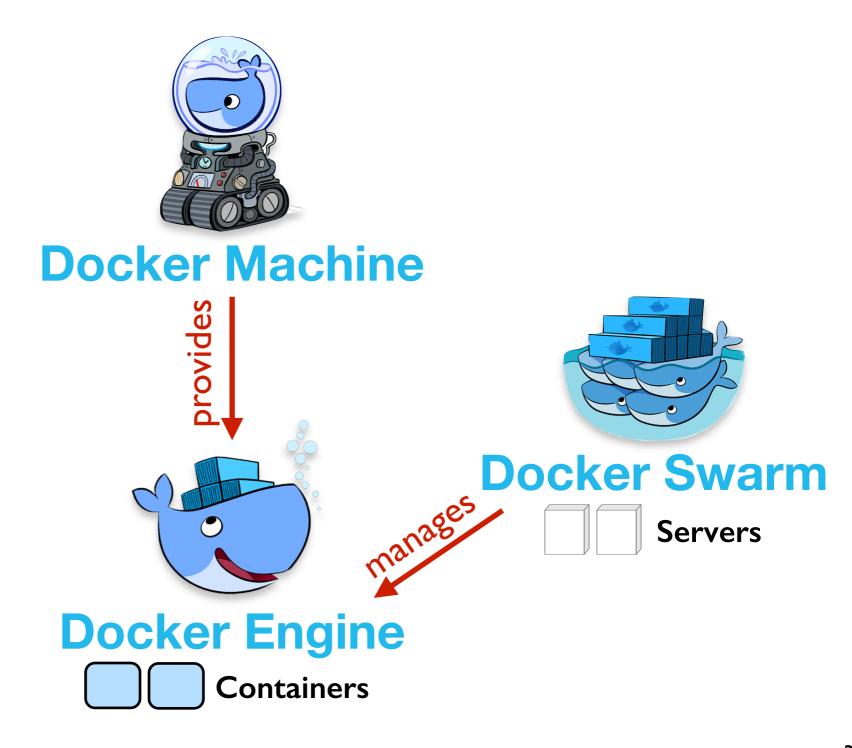


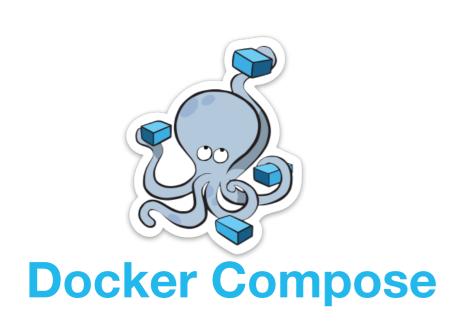


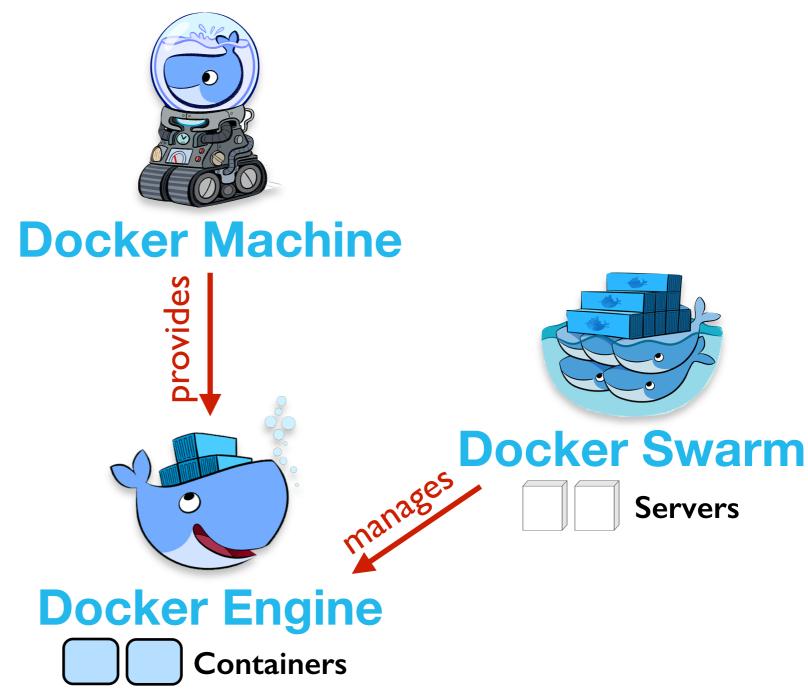


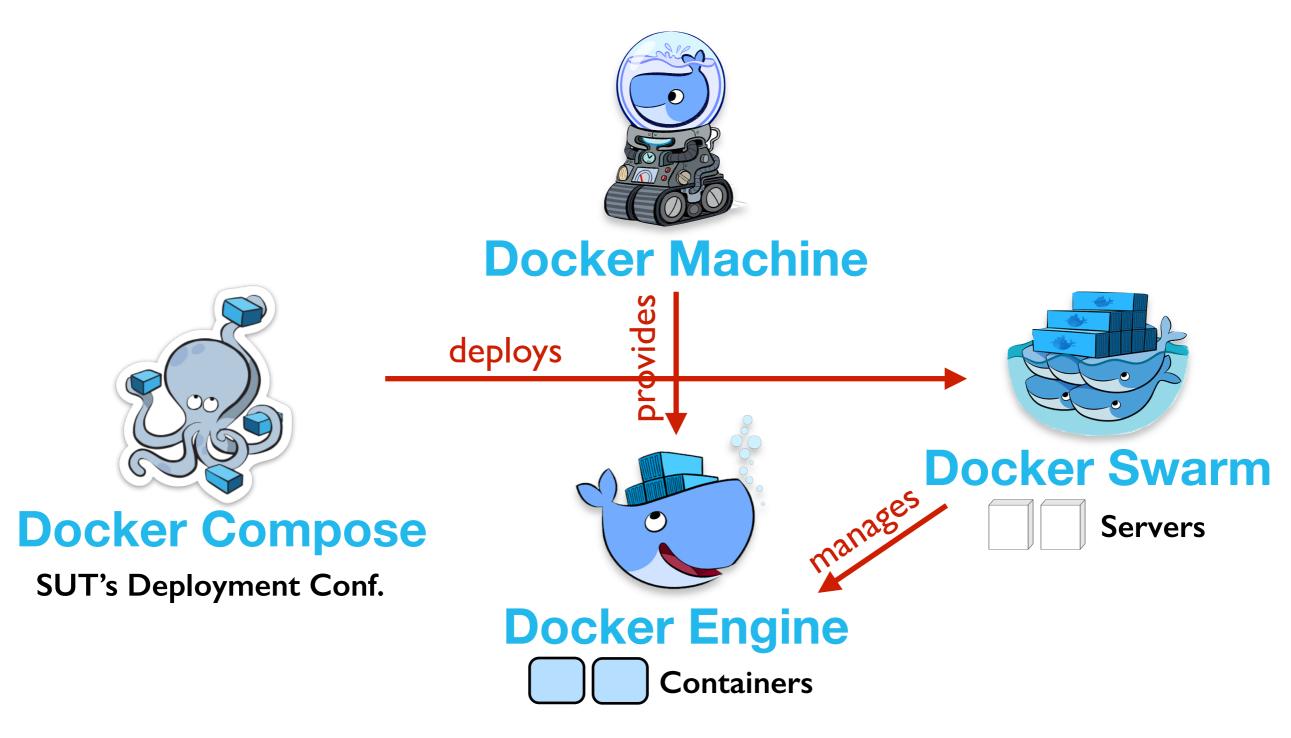








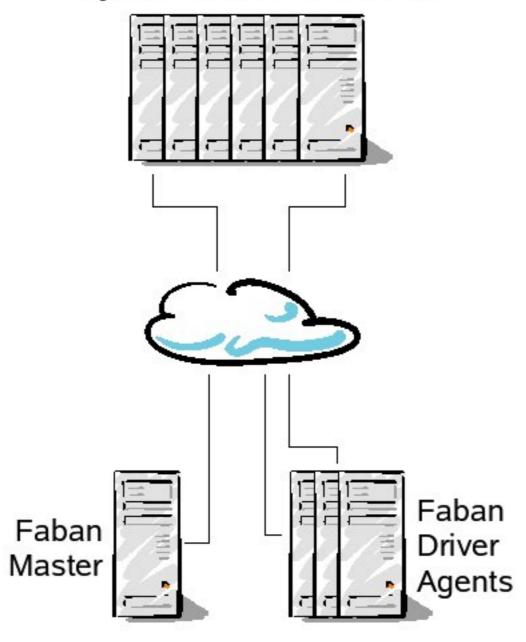






performance benchmark

System Under Test (SUT)



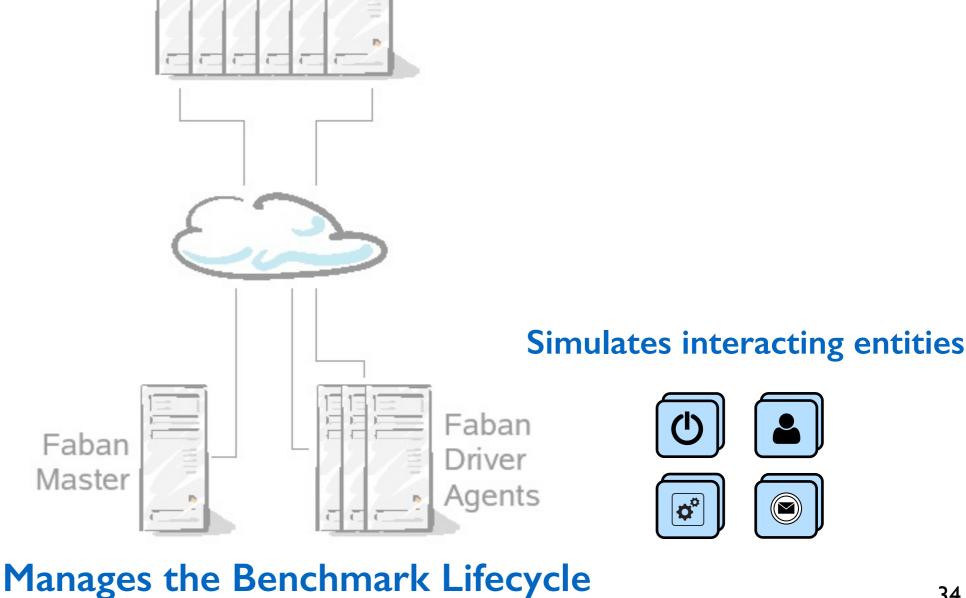
Manages the Benchmark Lifecycle





performance benchmark

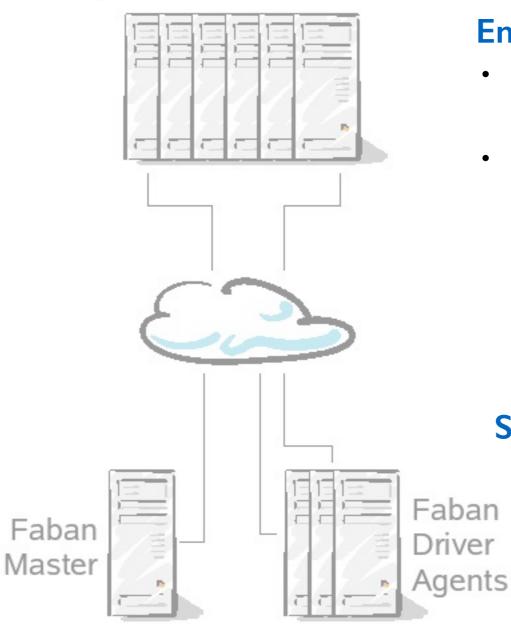
System Under Test (SUT)





performance benchmark

System Under Test (SUT)



#### **Ensures repeatability**

- the behaviour of a load driver is described using code
- load drivers can be released

Simulates interacting entities









Manages the Benchmark Lifecycle

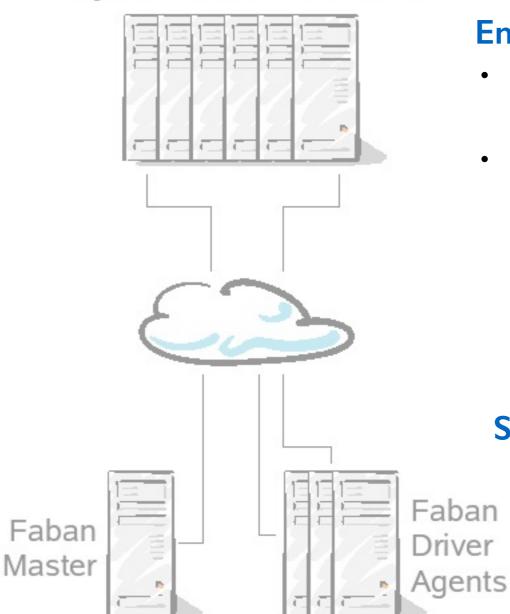
34

Faban



performance benchmark

System Under Test (SUT)



#### **Ensures repeatability**

- the behaviour of a load driver is described using code
- load drivers can be released
  - paired with Docker:
    SUT's initial state is

Simulates interacting entities





frozen in the container





Manages the Benchmark Lifecycle

w.jax'15 Business
Technology|Days

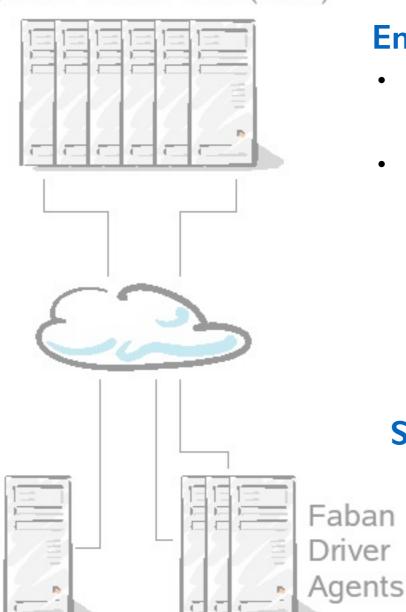


#### performance benchmark

System Under Test (SUT)

#### Ensures reliable execution

- checks the environment condition
- validates the benchmark execution
- ensures as few interferences as possible on the SUT during measurements



#### **Ensures repeatability**

- the behaviour of a load driver is described using code
- · load drivers can be released
  - paired with Docker:
    SUT's initial state is frozen in the container

Simulates interacting entities









Manages the Benchmark Lifecycle

34

Faban

Master



#### performance benchmark

System Under Test (SUT)

#### Ensures reliable execution

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- validates the benchmark execution
- ensures as few interferences as possible on the SUT during measurements



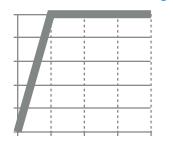


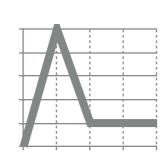


#### **Ensures repeatability**

- the behaviour of a load driver is described using code
- load drivers can be released
  - paired with Docker: SUT's initial state is

#### Automates performance tests

















frozen in the container



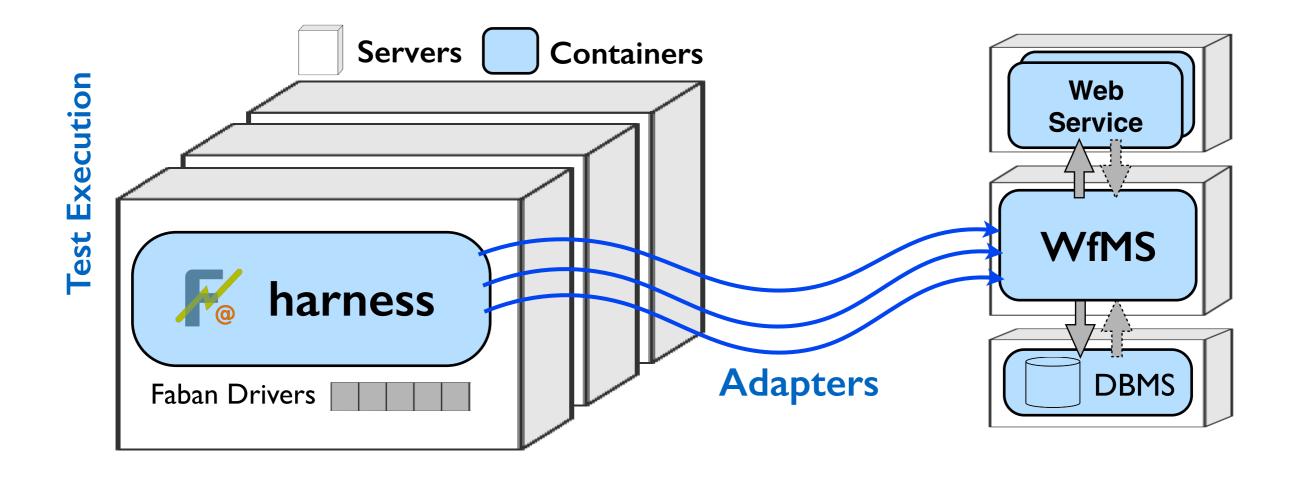


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Manages the Benchmark Lifecycle

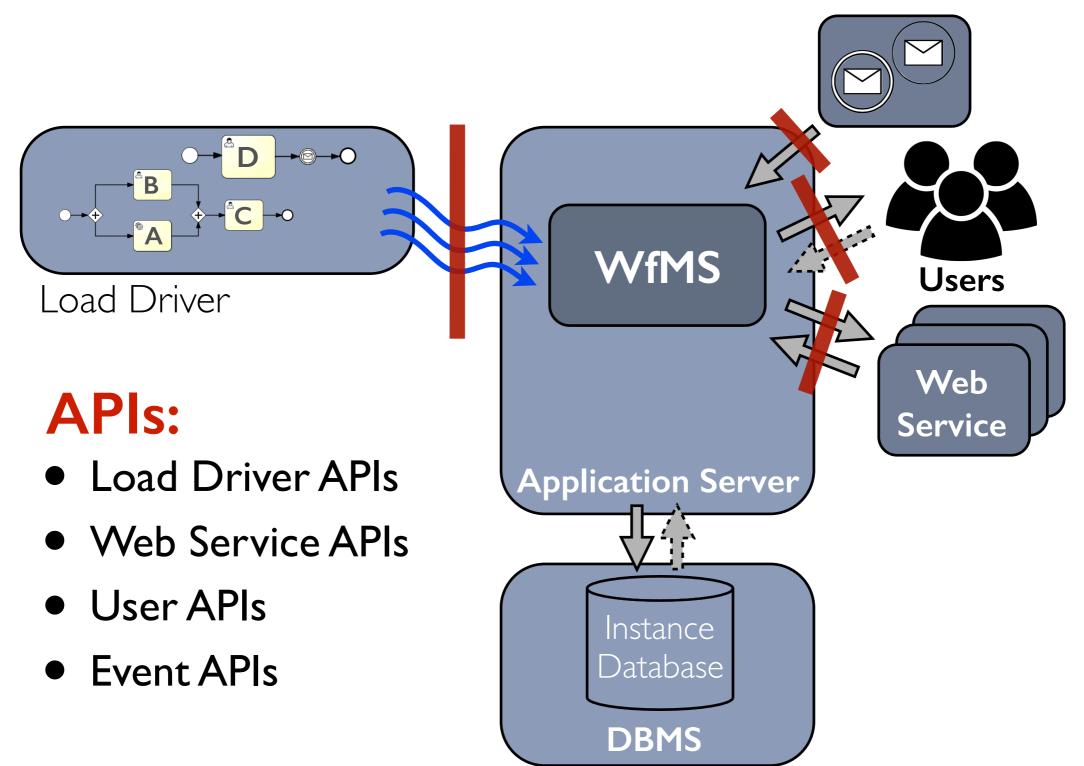
# WfMS-specific APIs

software adapters



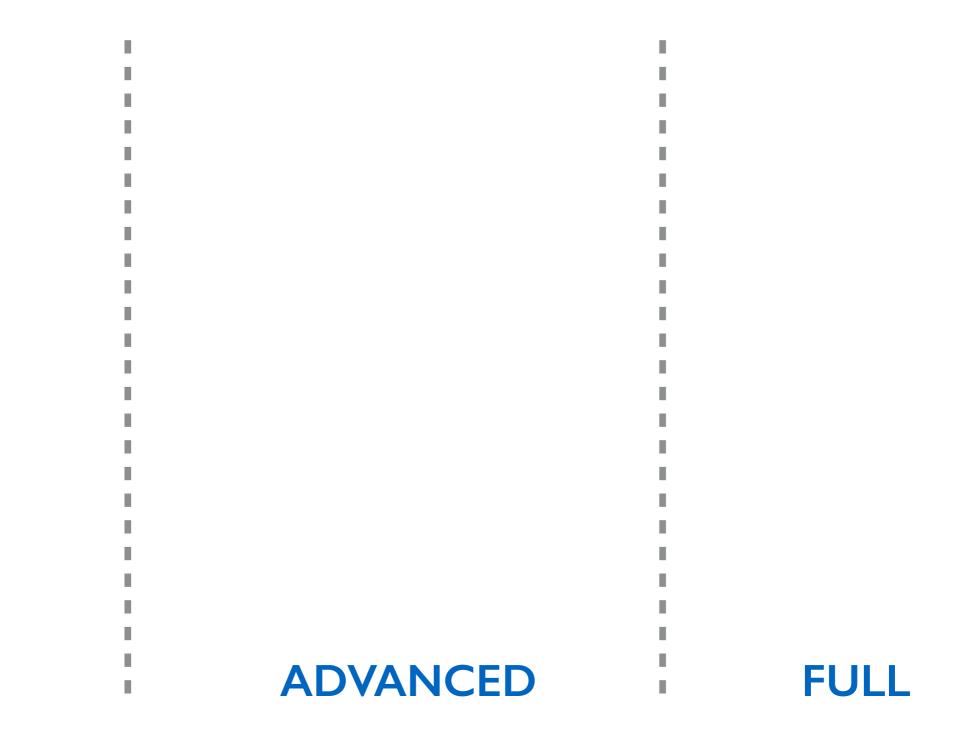
# WfMS-specific APIs

custom APIs



# WfMS-specific APIs

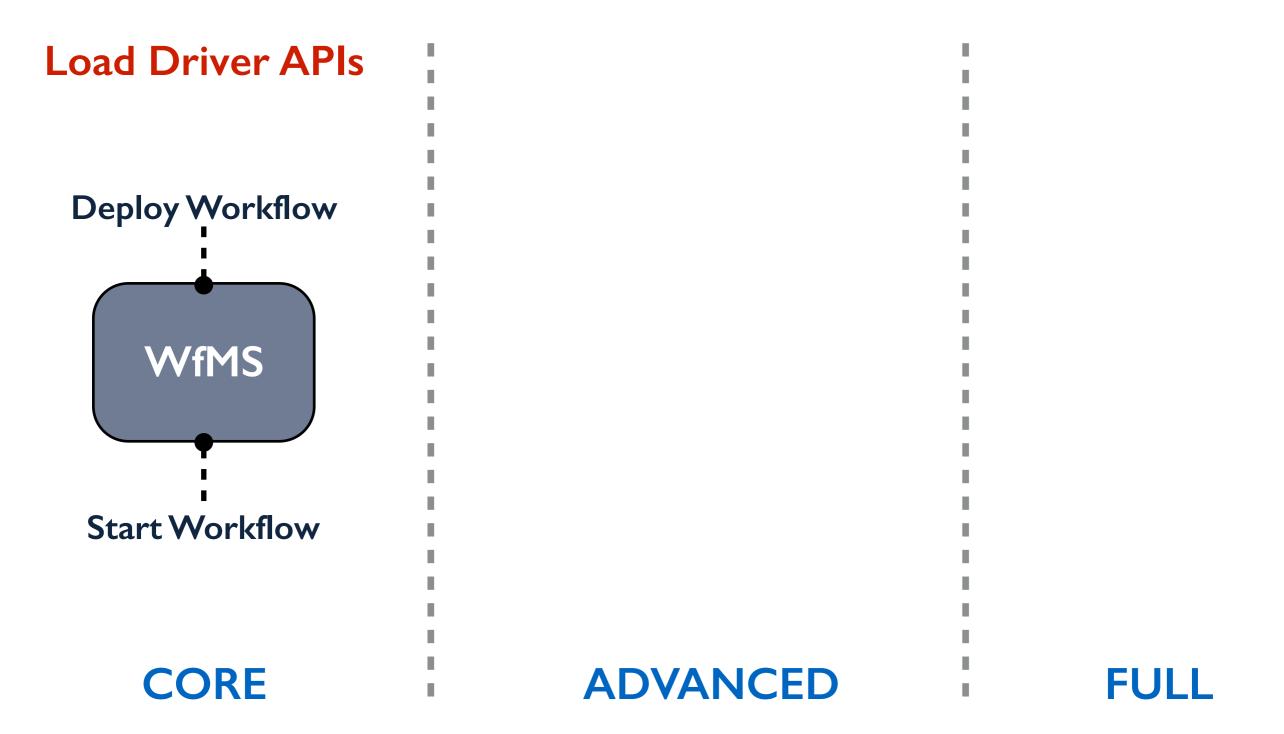
requirements from the WfMS





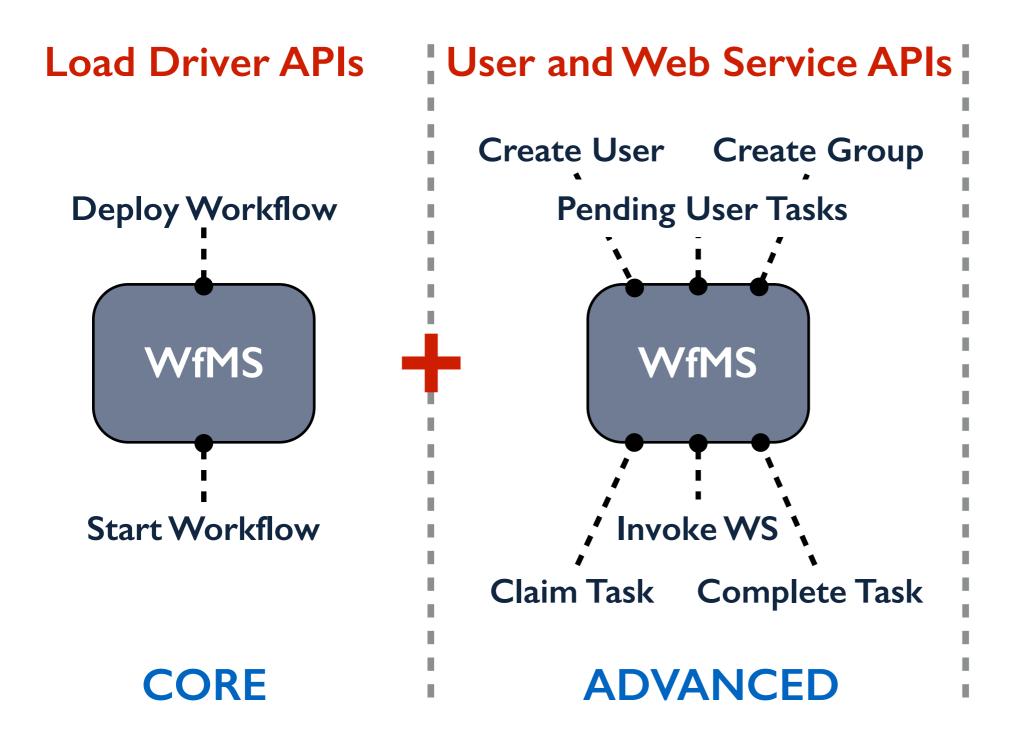
**CORE** 

# WfMS-specific APIs requirements from the WfMS





# WfMS-specific APIs requirements from the WfMS

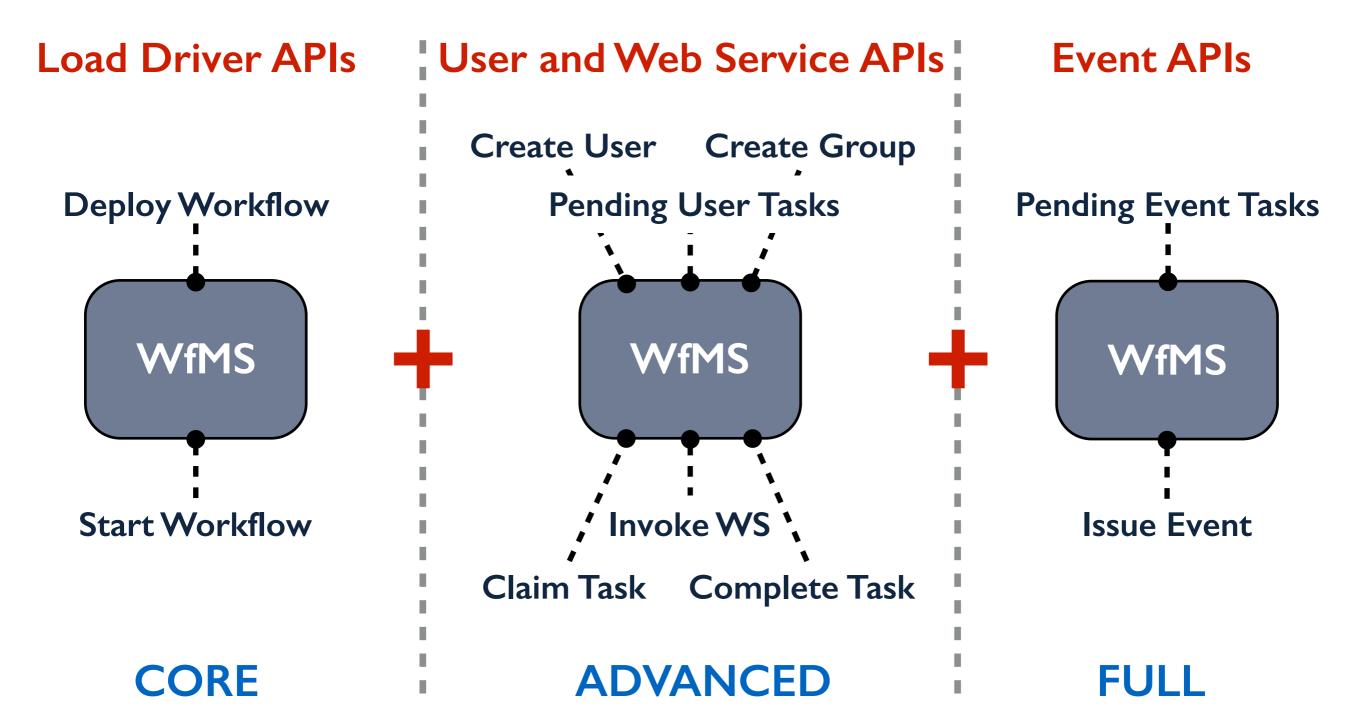


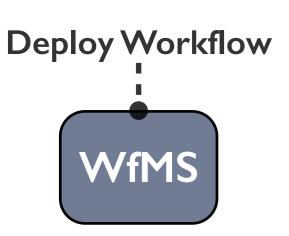
**FULL** 



# WfMS-specific APIs

requirements from the WfMS





# **BPMN 2.0 Customisations**



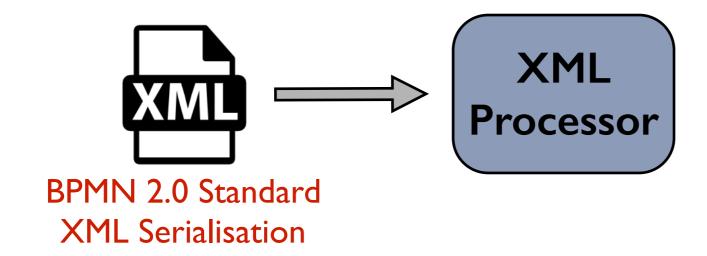
## **BPMN 2.0 Customisations**







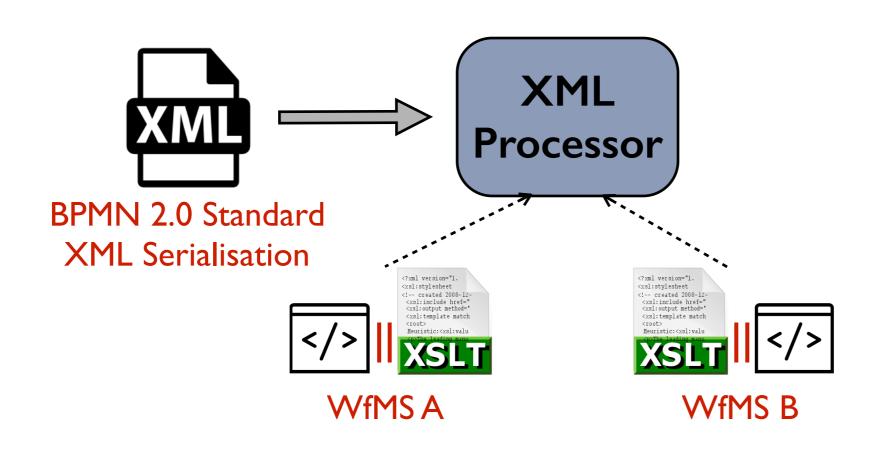
## **BPMN 2.0 Customisations**







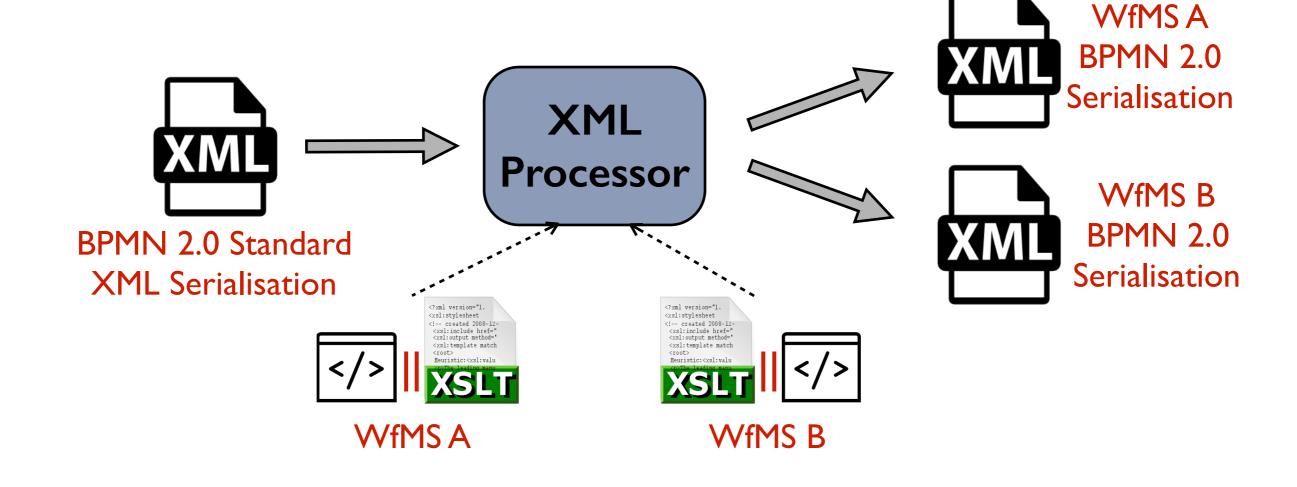
## **BPMN 2.0 Customisations**



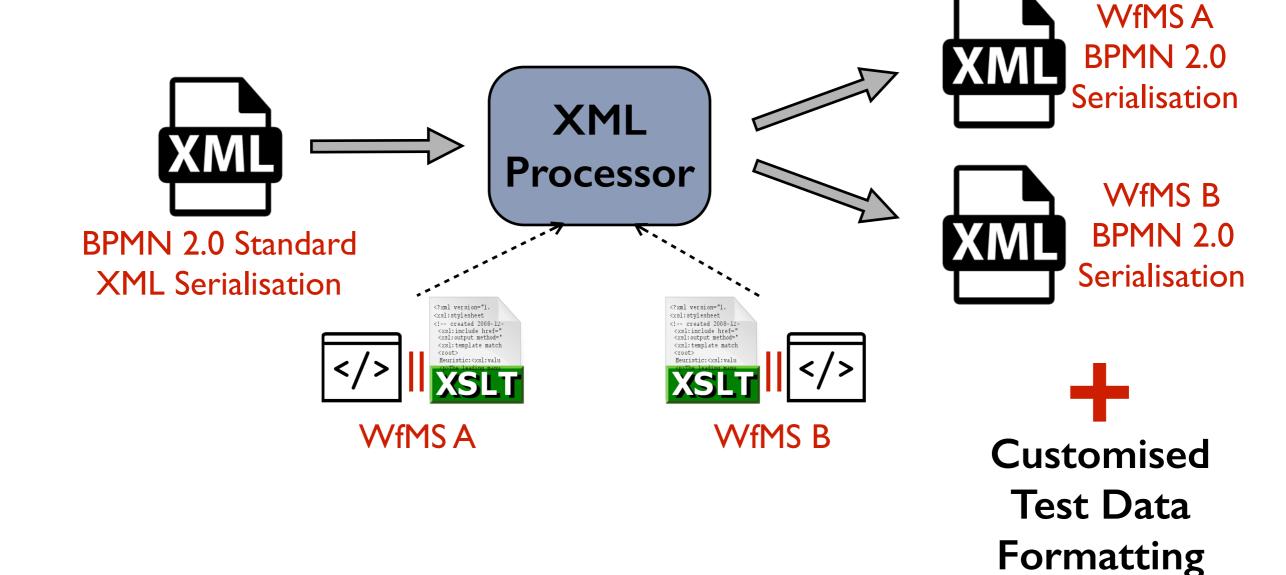




### **BPMN 2.0 Customisations**



## **BPMN 2.0 Customisations**

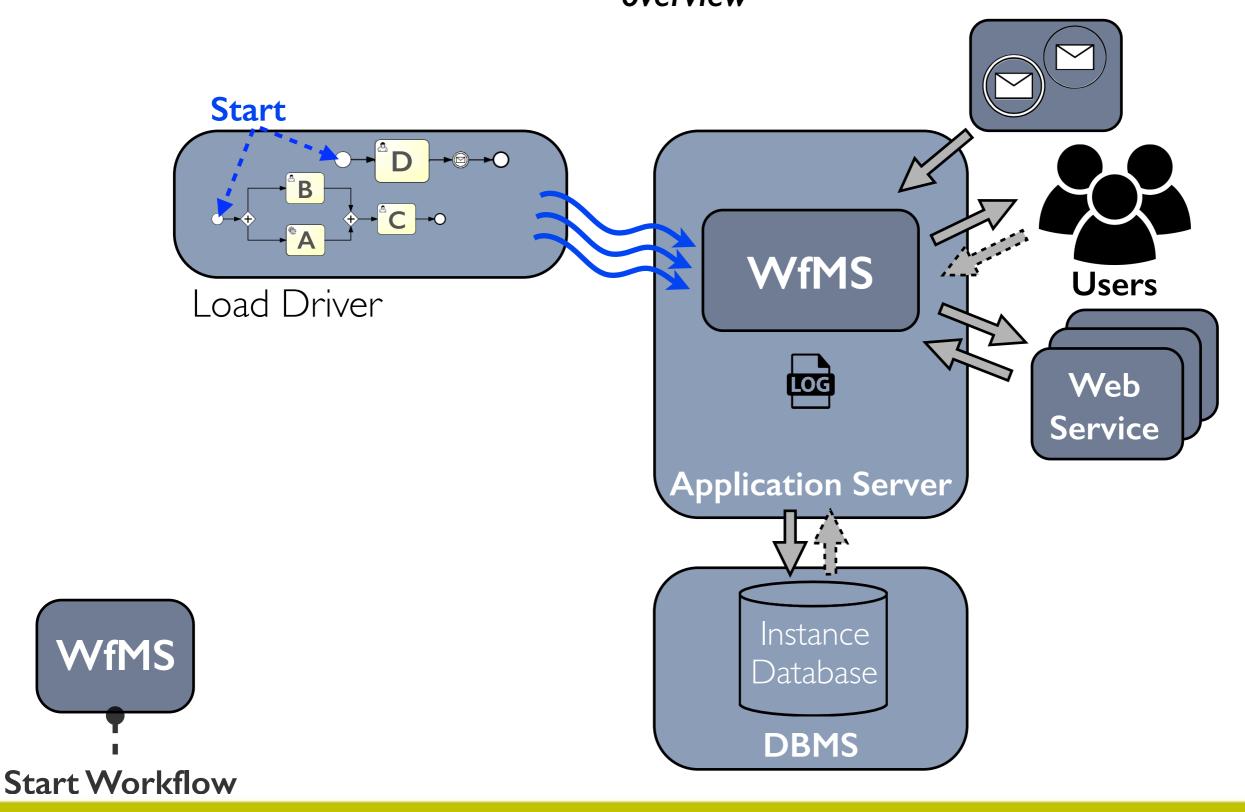


# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows overview



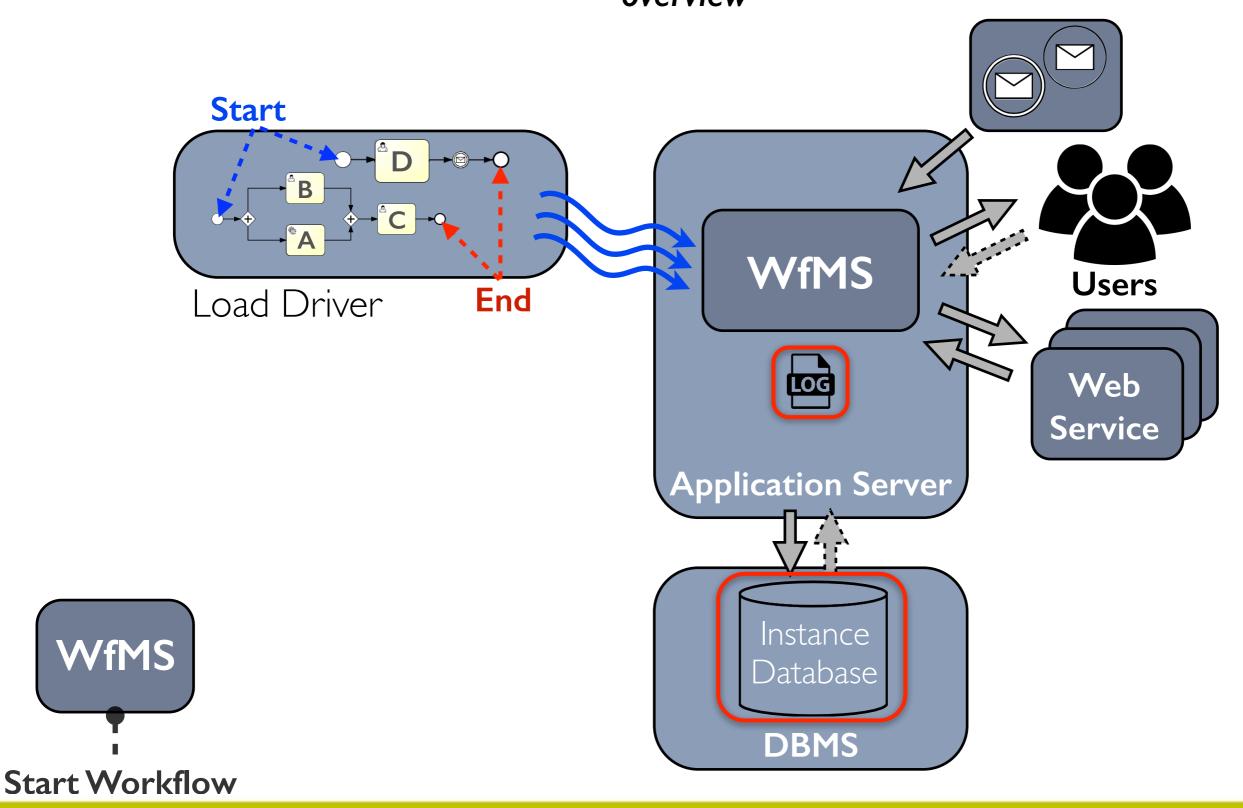


# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows overview



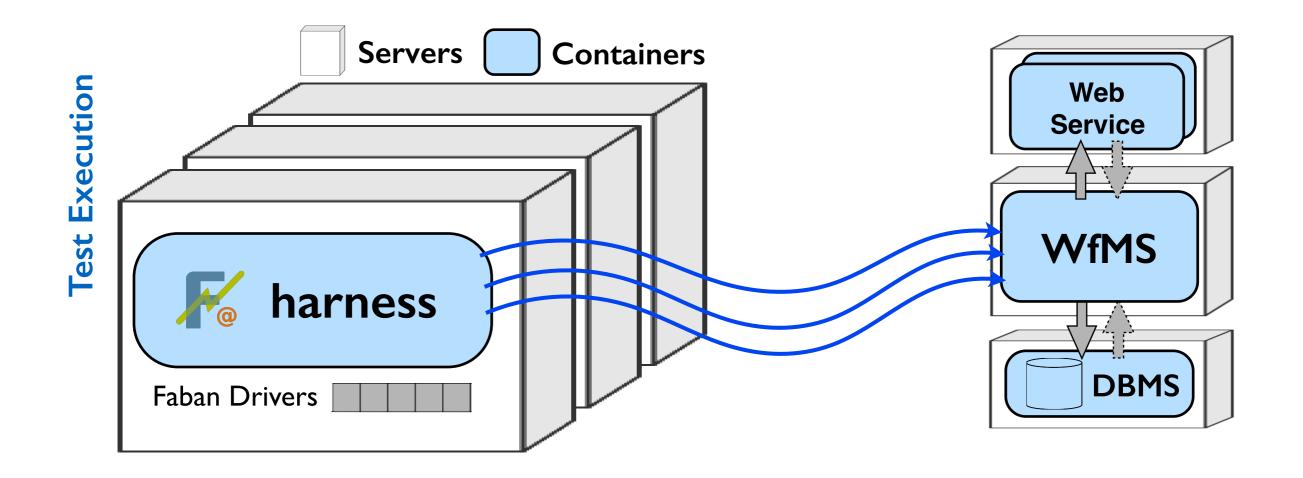
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# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows overview

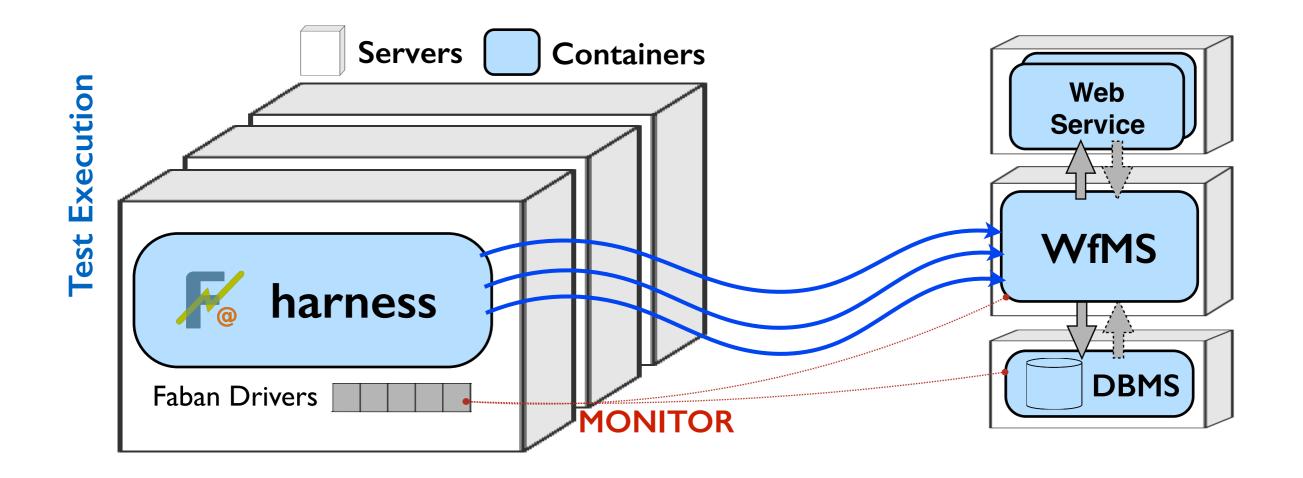


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# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows monitors

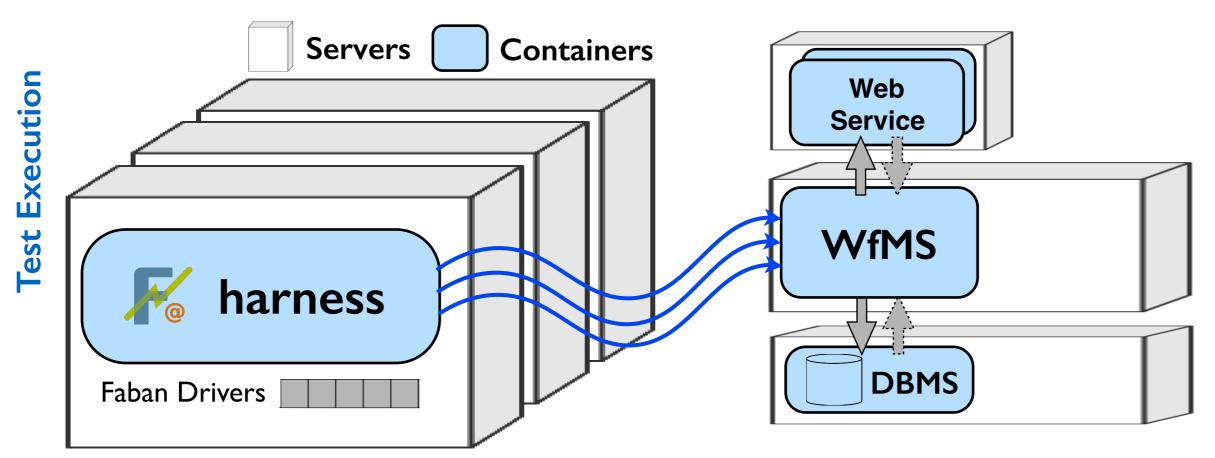


# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows monitors



# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows

#### monitors



#### **Monitors' Characteristics:**

- Microservices
- Lightweight (written in Go)
- As less invasive on the SUT as possible
- Expose REST APIs towards the Drivers

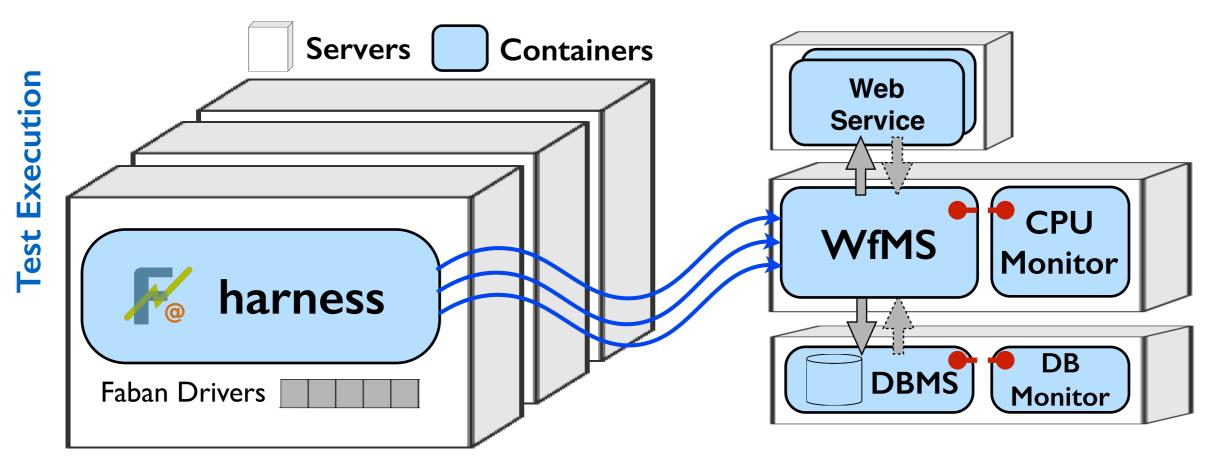
#### **Examples of Monitors:**

- CPU usage
- Database state



# Asynchronous Execution of Workflows

#### monitors



#### **Monitors' Characteristics:**

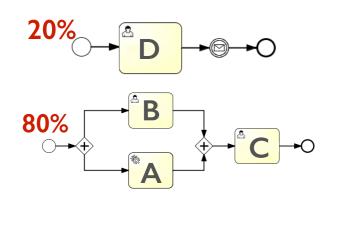
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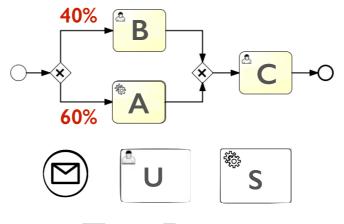
- CPU usage
- Database state



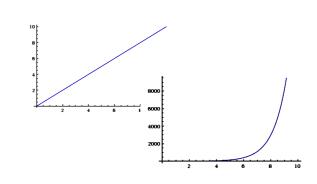
# Main Challenges in Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 WfMSs



**Workload Mix** 



**Test Data** 

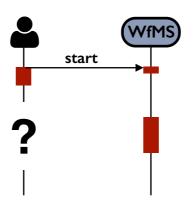


**Load Functions** 

#### **WORKLOAD MODEL**



WfMS-specific APIs and BPMN 2.0 Customisations



Asynchronous Execution of Workflows

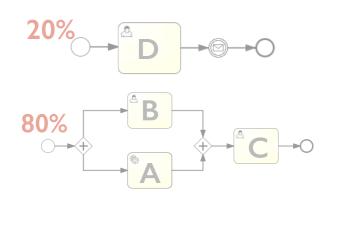


Performance Metrics and KPIs

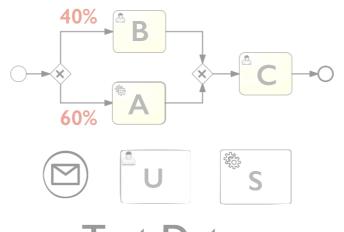
BENCHMARK EXECUTION

**ANALYSES** 

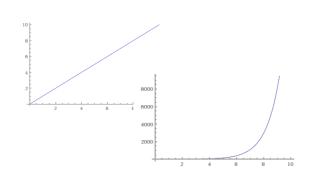
# Main Challenges in Benchmarking BPMN 2.0 WfMSs



Workload Mix

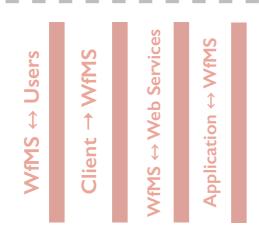


**Test Data** 

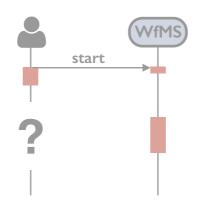


**Load Functions** 

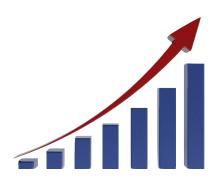
#### WORKLOAD MODEL



and BPMN 2.0 Customisations



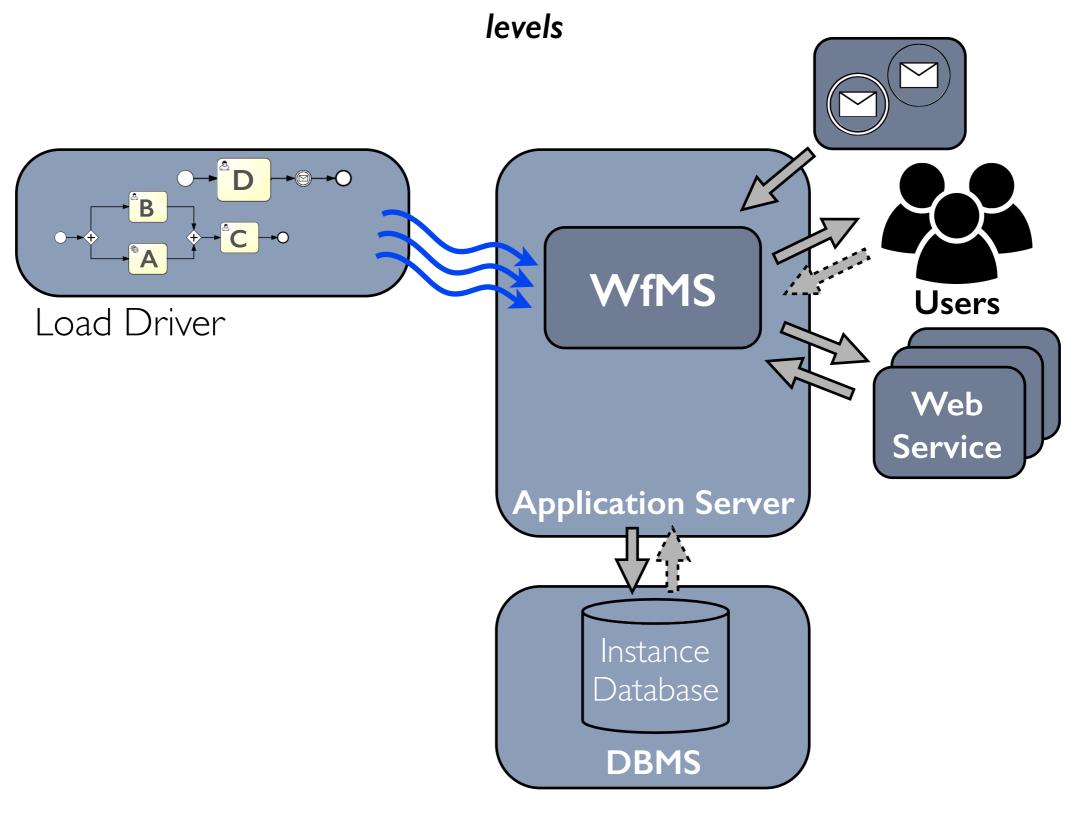
WfMS-specific APIs Asynchronous Execution of Workflows

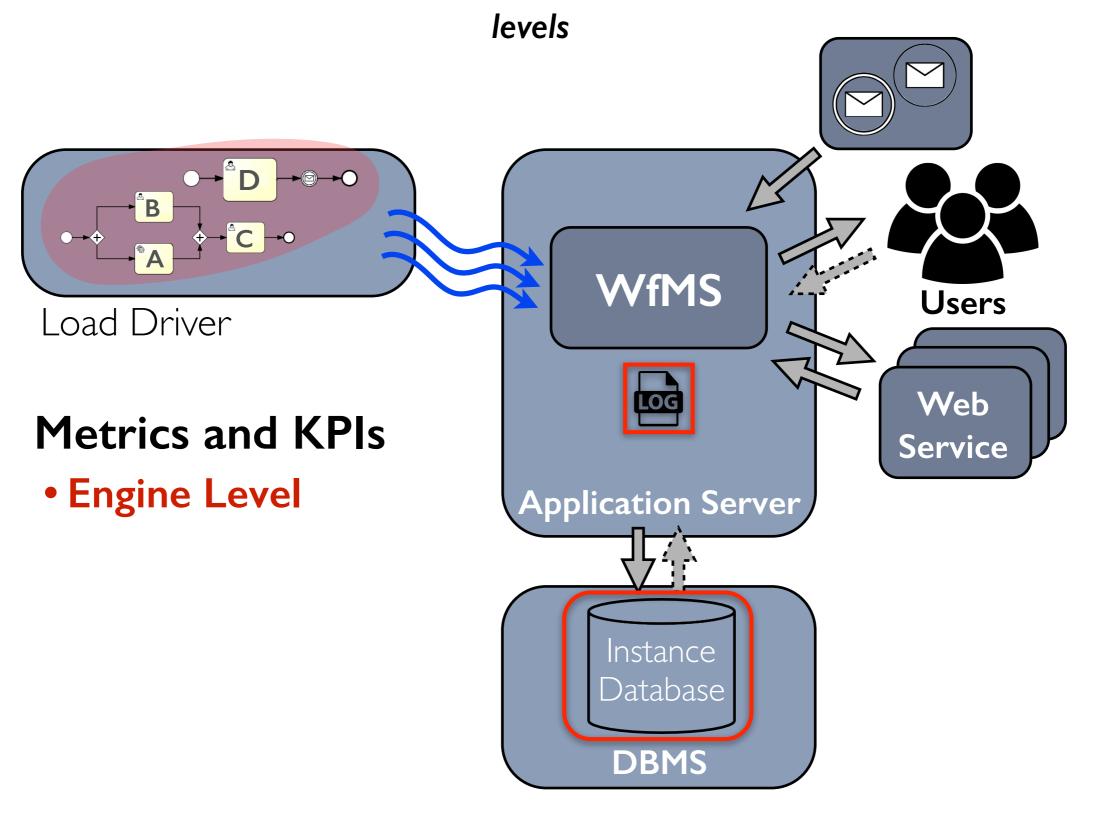


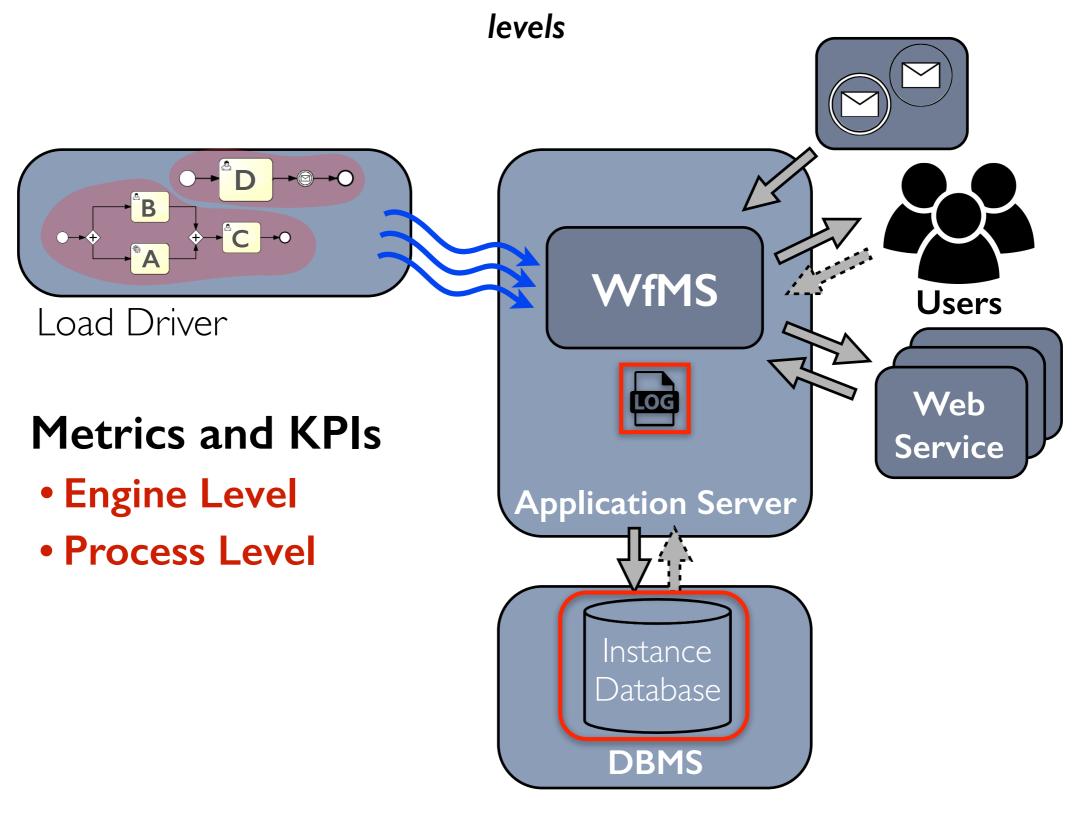
**Performance Metrics and KPIs** 

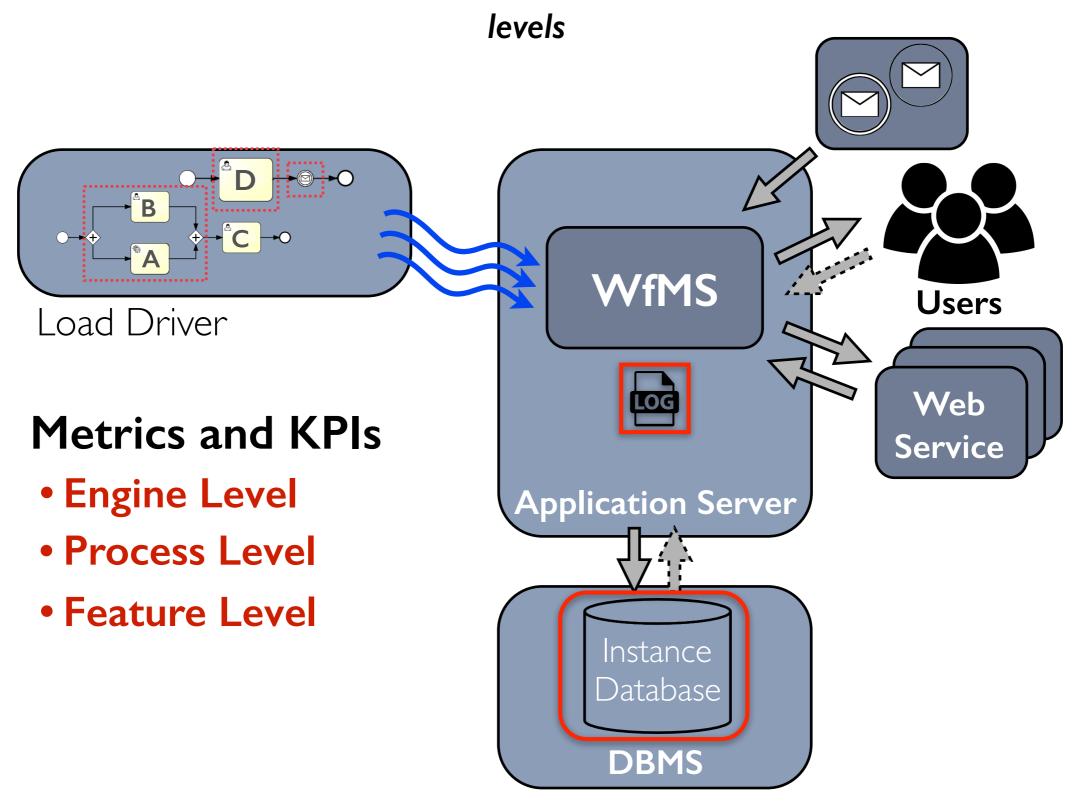
**ANALYSES** 

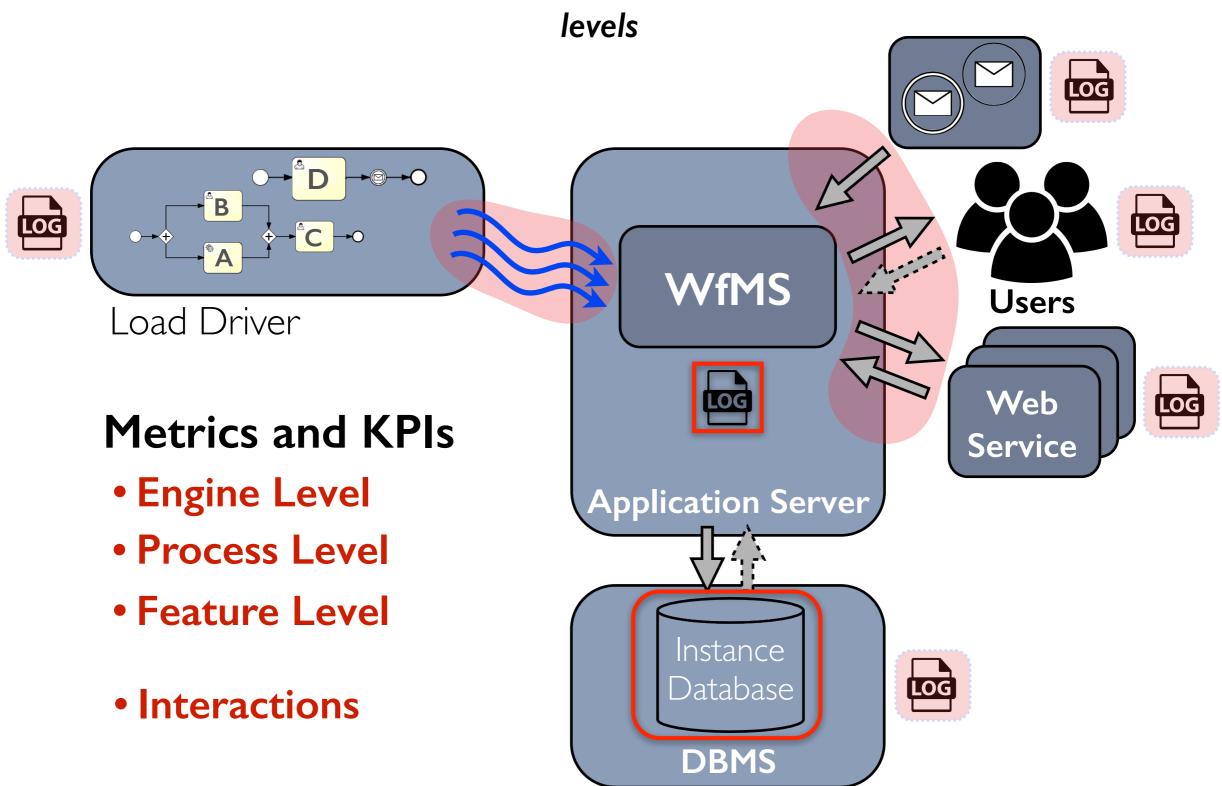
BENCHMARK EXECUTION













examples and relevant users

**ENGINE LEVEL** 

PROCESS LEVEL

**FEATURE LEVEL** 



examples and relevant users



Throughput

Capacity

Flexibility to Spike

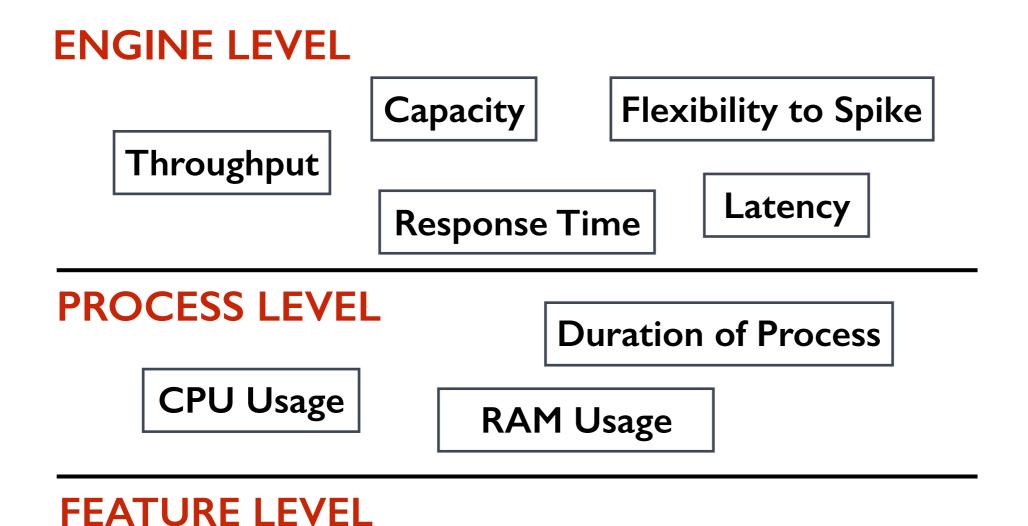
**Response Time** 

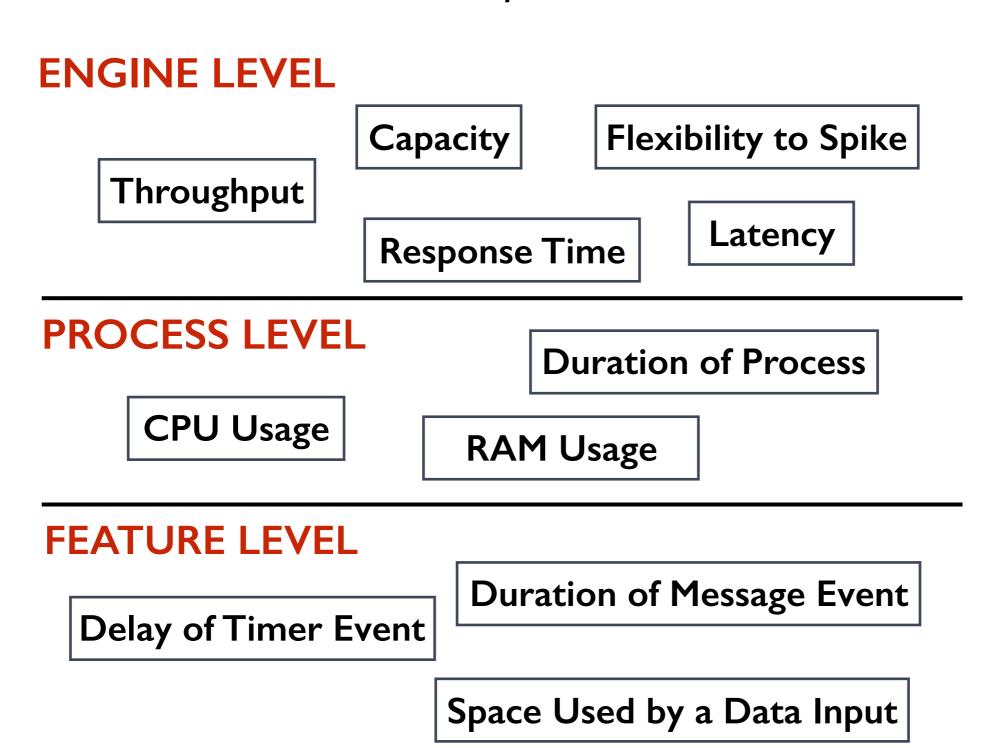
Latency

**PROCESS LEVEL** 

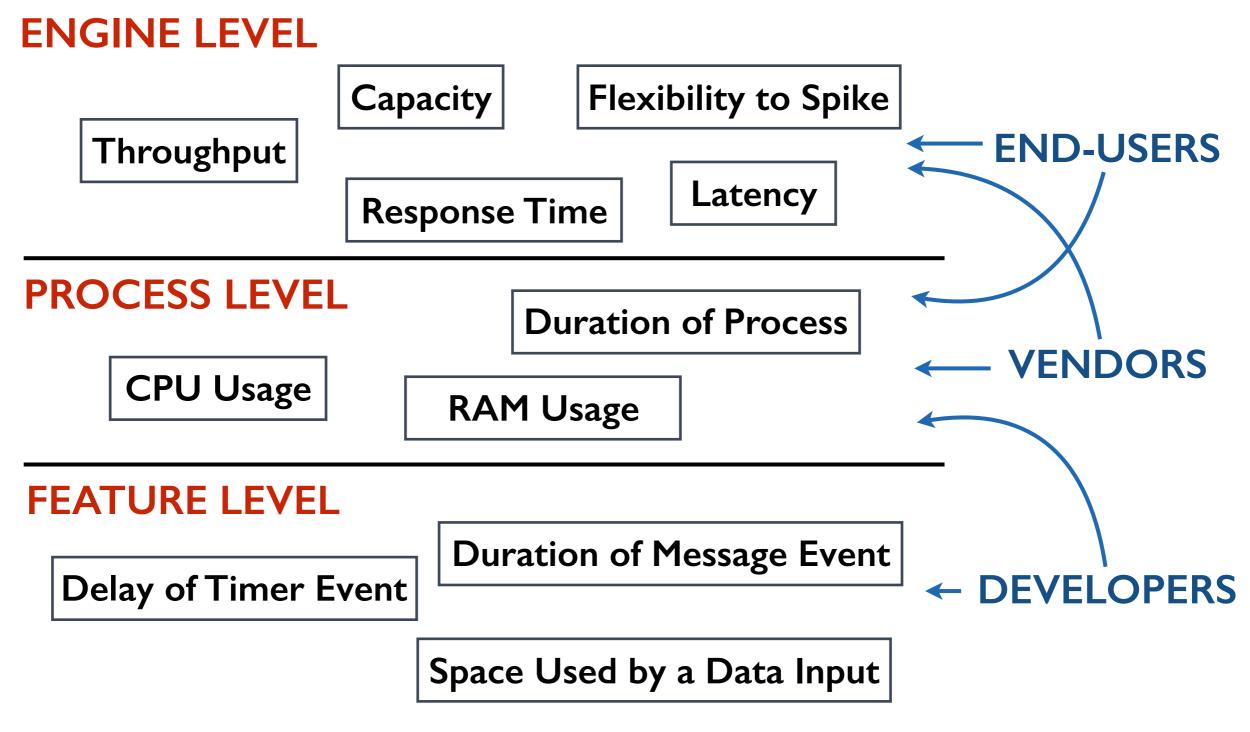
**FEATURE LEVEL** 





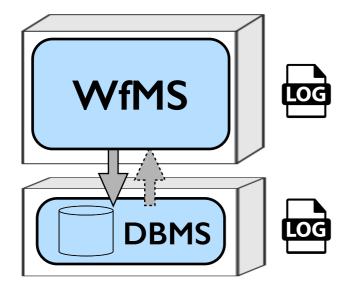






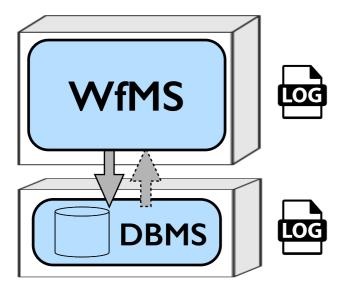
minimal data requirements

# Accessibility of the Data



minimal data requirements

## Accessibility of the Data



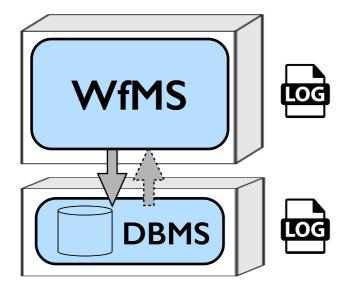
# **Availability of Timing Data**

- Workflow & Construct:
  - Start Time
  - End Time
  - [Duration]



minimal data requirements

## Accessibility of the Data



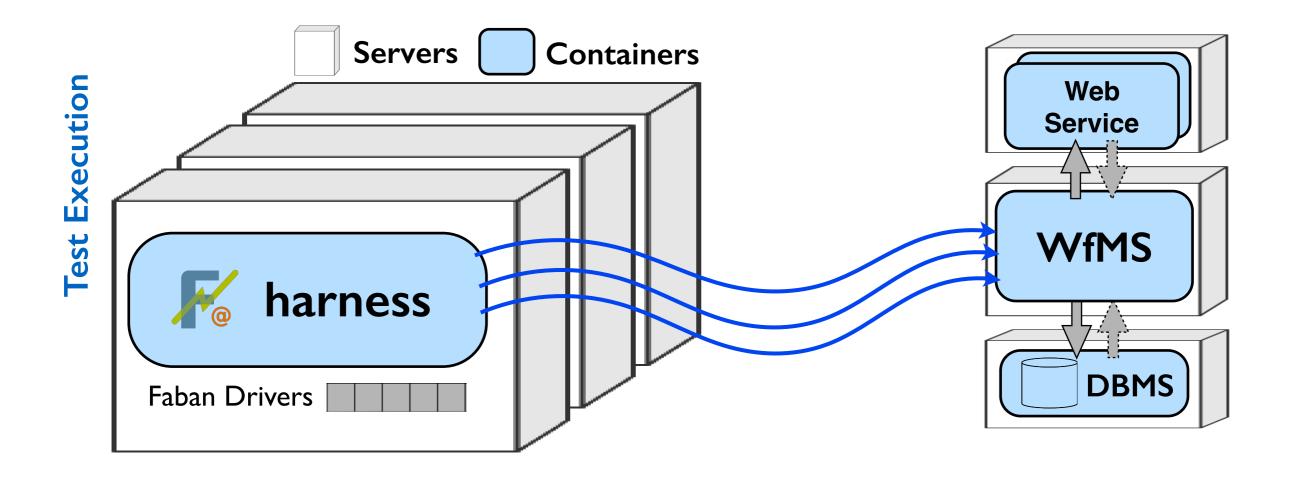
# **Availability of Timing Data**

- Workflow & Construct:
  - Start Time
  - End Time
  - [Duration]

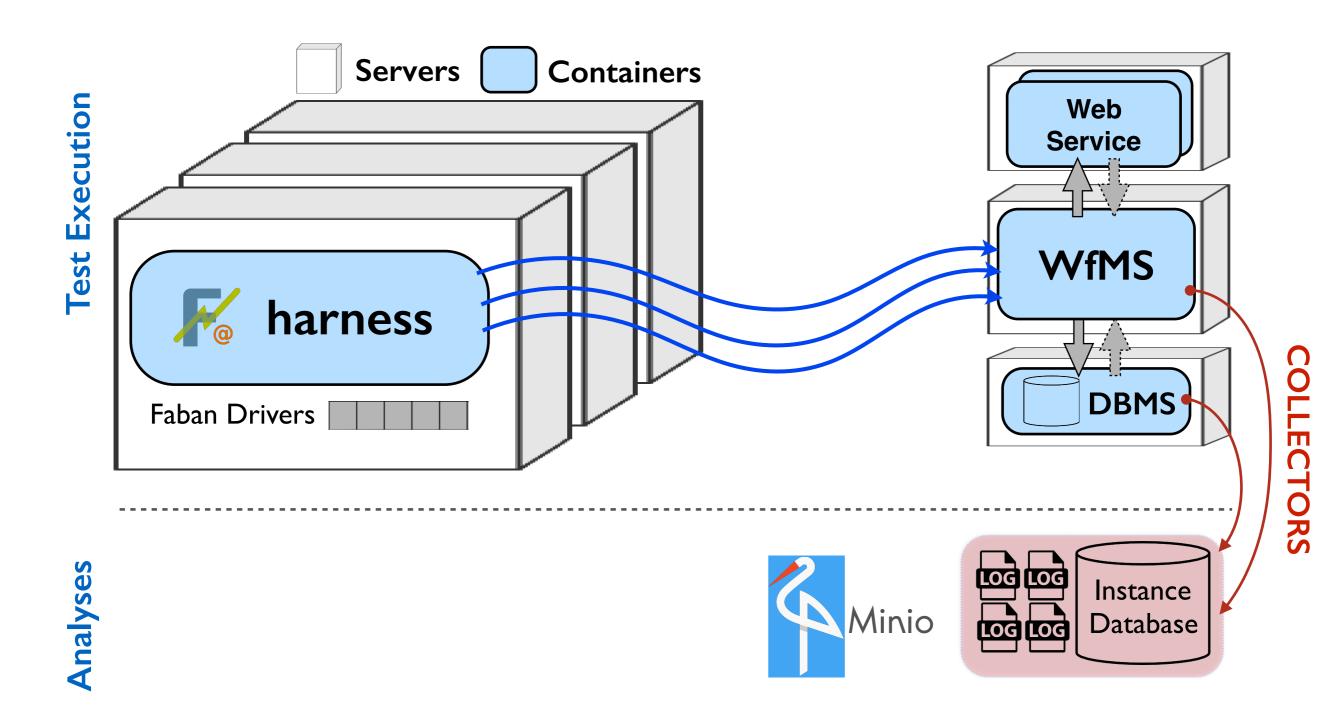
# **Availability of Execution State**

State of the workflow execution. E.g., running, completed, error

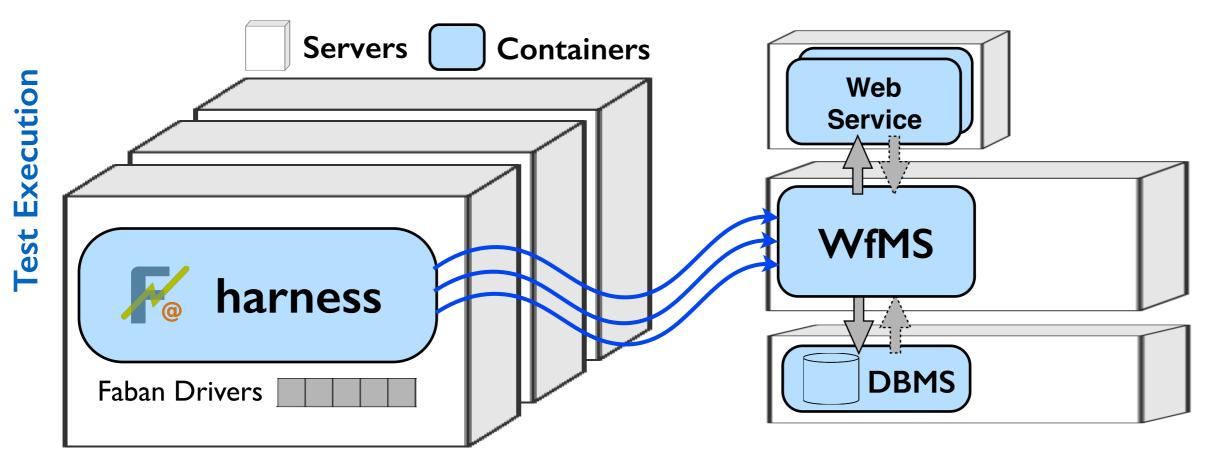
collect data



collect data



collect data



#### **Collectors' Characteristics:**

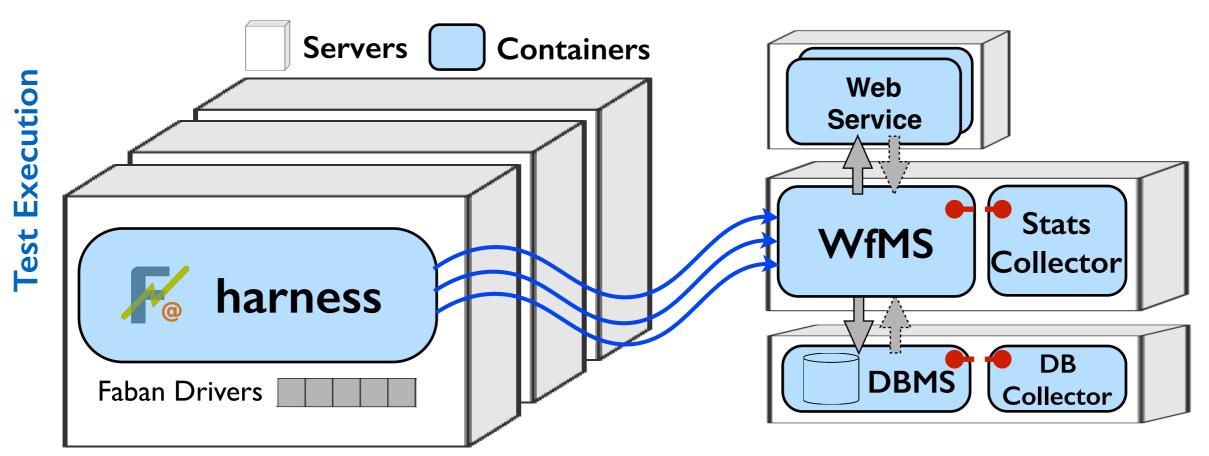
- Microservices
- Lightweight (written in Go)
- Two types: online and offline
- Buffer data locally
- Expose REST APIs towards Drivers

#### **Examples of Collectors:**

- Container's Stats (e.g., CPU usage)
- Database dump
- Applications Logs



collect data



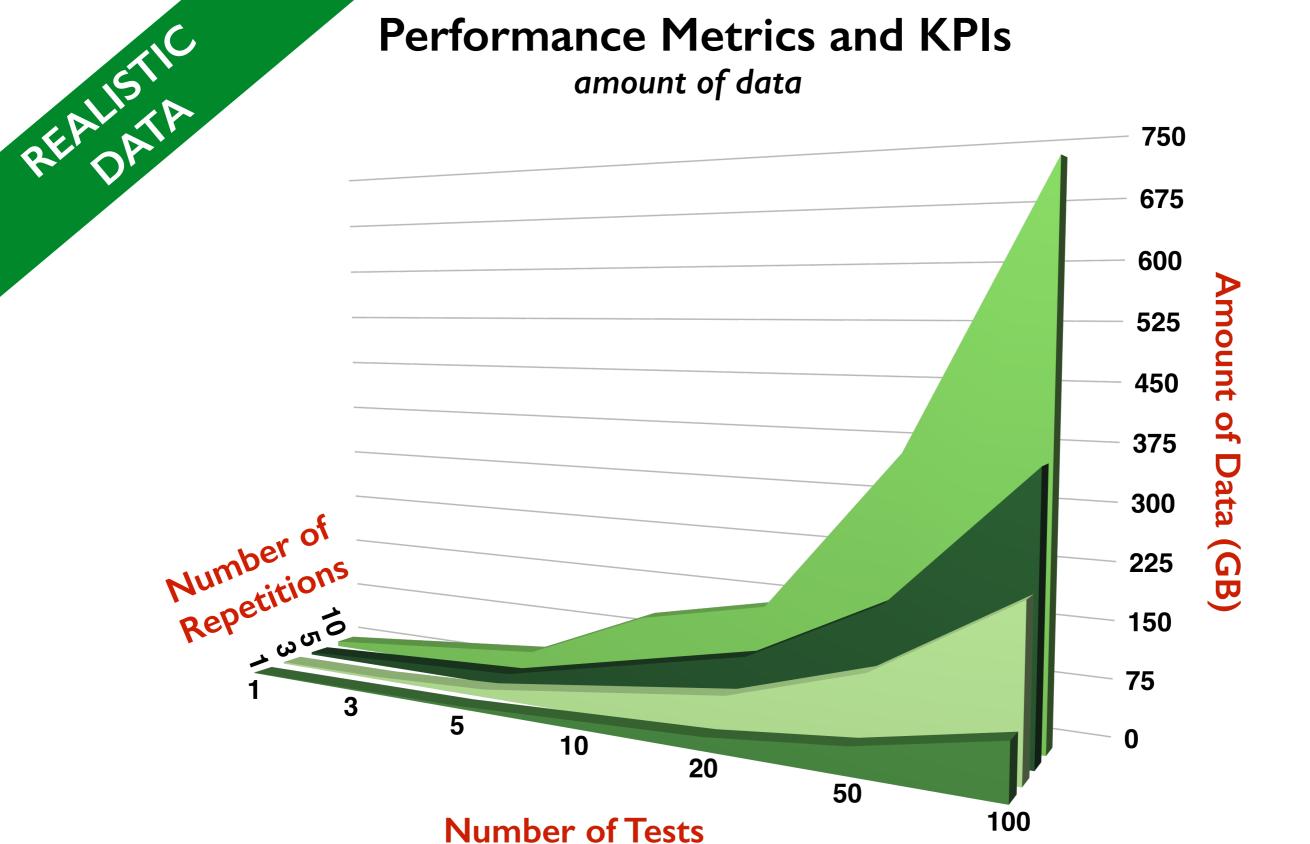
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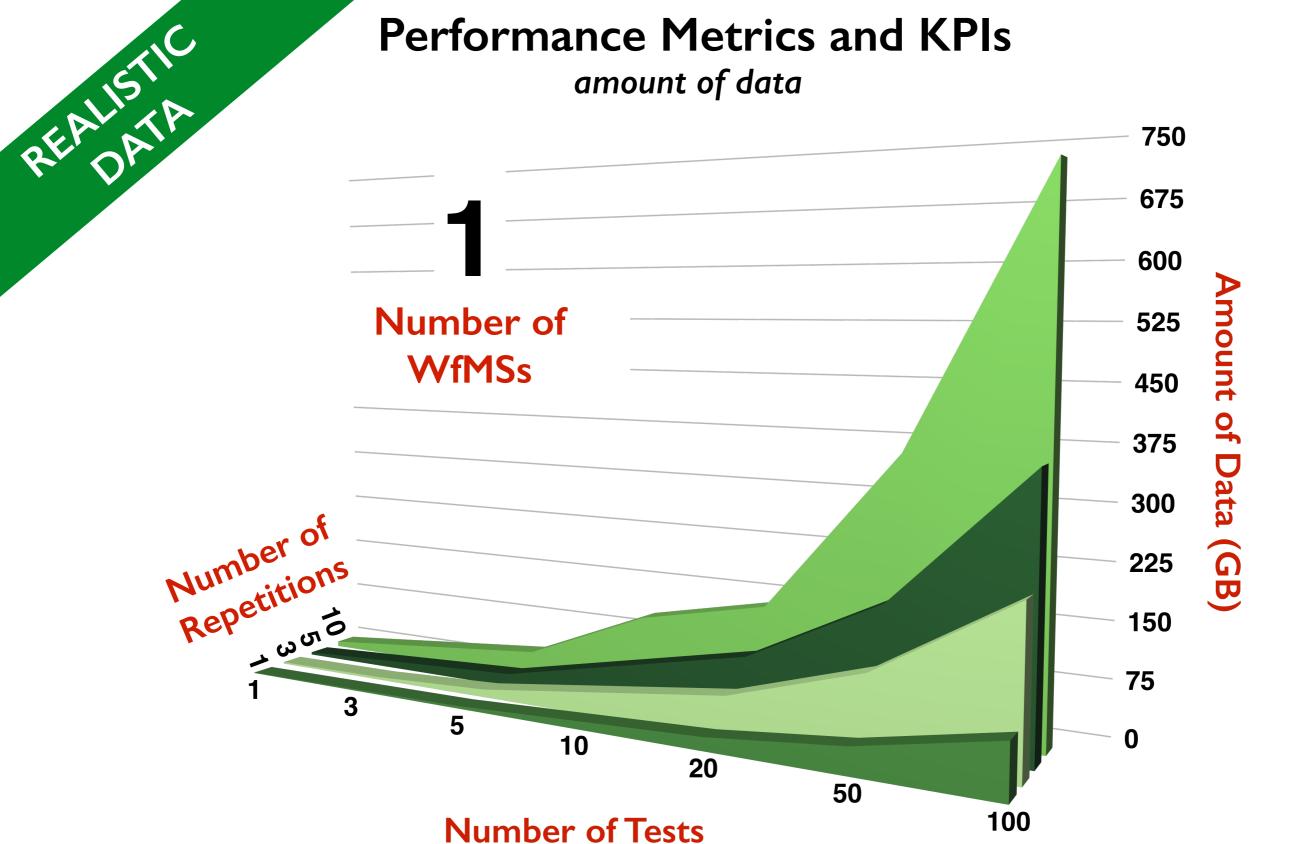
#### **Examples of Collectors:**

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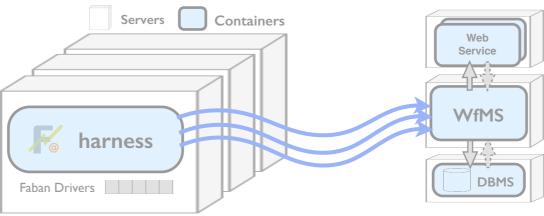






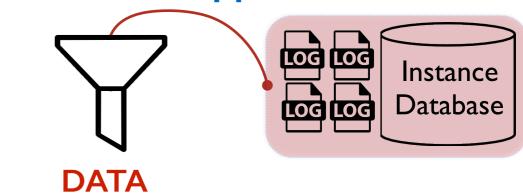
transform data

Test Execution



**Data Mappers** 

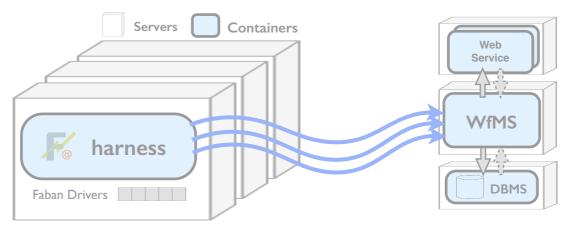
**TRANSFORMERS** 



Analyses

transform data

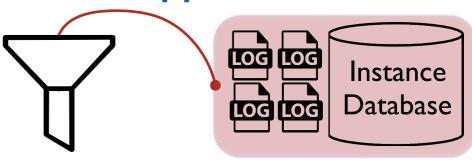
**Test Execution** 



..... Data Mappers

Analyses

- custom DB format
- unstructured logs
- •

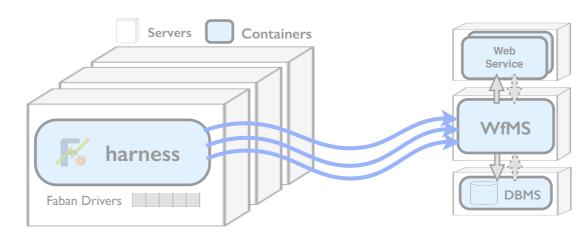


DATA TRANSFORMERS

### Performance Metrics and KPIs transform data

**Test Execution** 

Analyses



**Data Mappers** 





unstructured logs





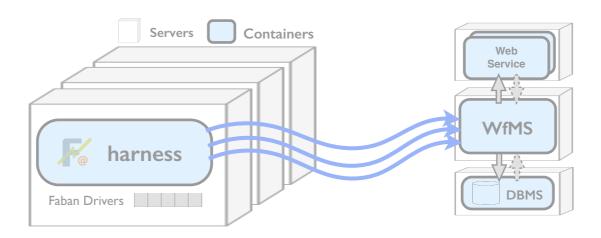




Instance

Database

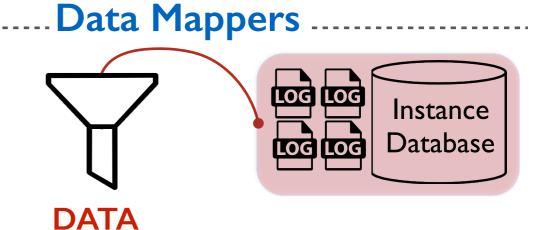
transform data



Analyses

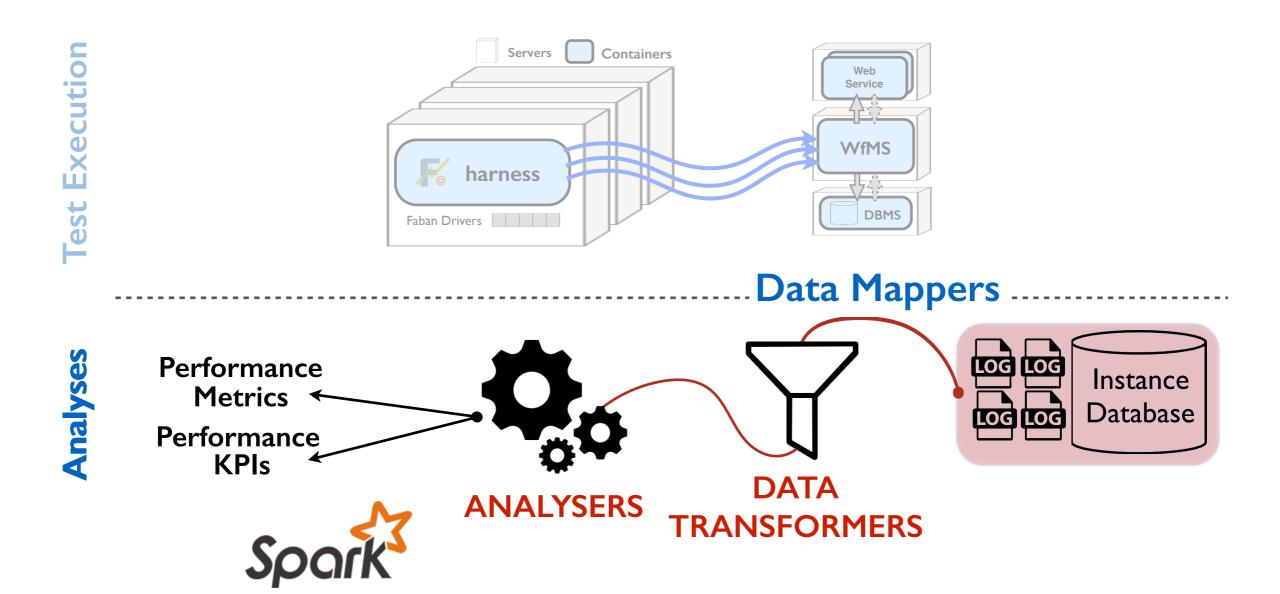


fast and general engine for large-scale data processing

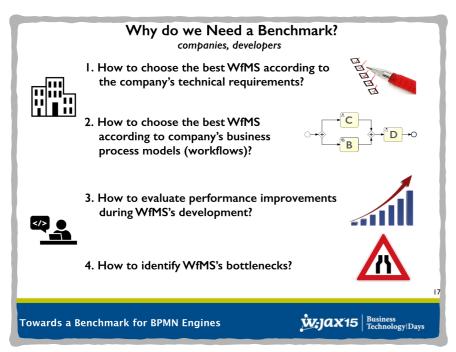


**TRANSFORMERS** 

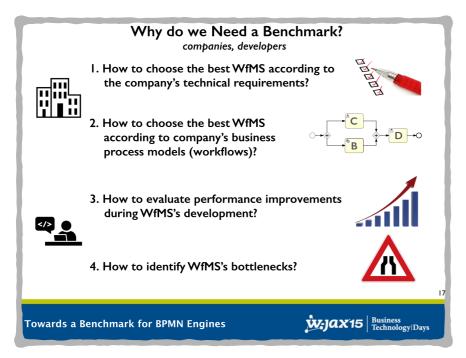
analyse data



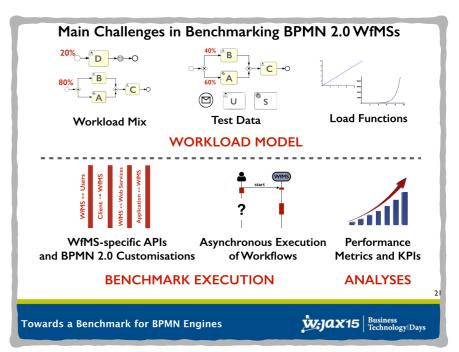




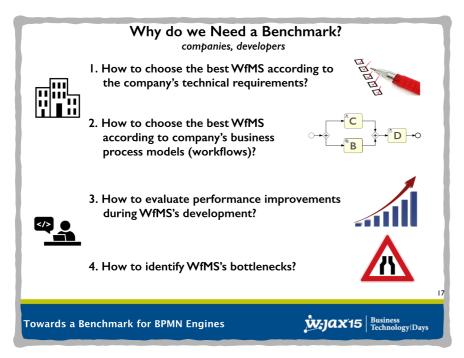
Why a Benchmark for WfMSs



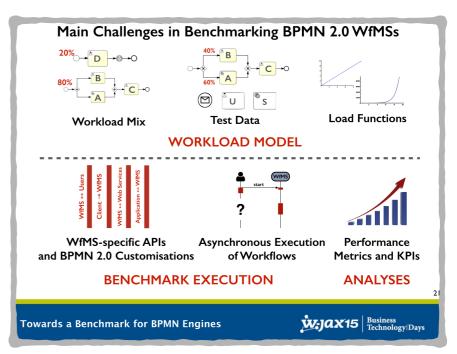
Why a Benchmark for WfMSs



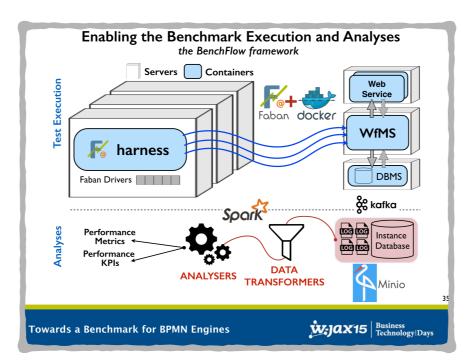
Benchmark's Main Challenges



Why a Benchmark for WfMSs



Benchmark's Main Challenges



**BenchFlow Framework** 



### **Future Work**

BenchFlow framework

I. Finalise the release of the BenchFlow framework as an open-source project on GitHub and DockerHub;

https://github.com/benchflow



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BenchFlow framework

I. Finalise the release of the BenchFlow framework as an open-source project on GitHub and DockerHub;

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**benchflow** 

2. Simplify and automate the execution of common performance tests: load test, spike test, scalability test, ...

I. Perform the first real-world experiments



# I. Perform the first real-world experiments

### **Execute Different Test Types**

- Stress testing
- Spike testing
- Scalability testing
- Configuration testing

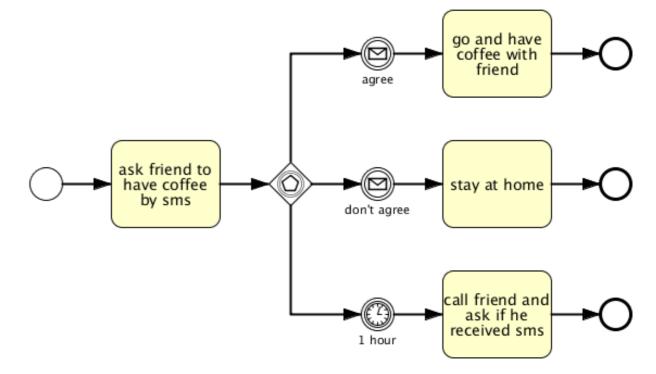


# I. Perform the first real-world experiments

### **Execute Different Test Types**

- Stress testing
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### **Use Real-World Workflows**

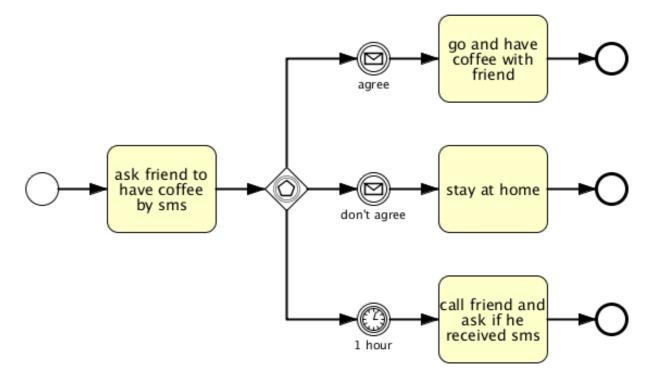


# I. Perform the first real-world experiments

### **Execute Different Test Types**

- Stress testing
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### **Use Real-World Workflows**



**Production-like Configurations** 



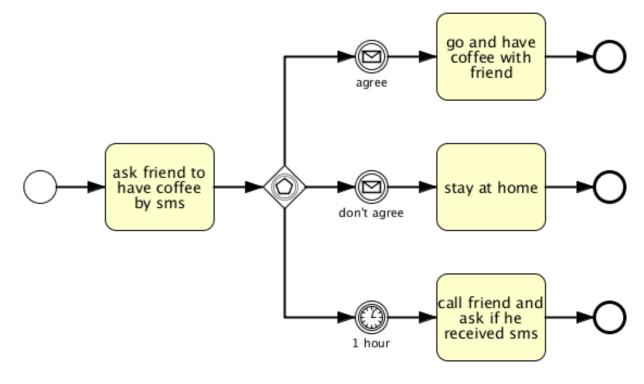
# I. Perform the first real-world experiments

### **Execute Different Test Types**

- Stress testing
- Spike testing
- Scalability testing
- Configuration testing

### **Production-like Configurations**

### **Use Real-World Workflows**



### **Realistic:**

- Load Functions
- Test Data



2. Increase the number of supported WfMSs

**APIs:** 

**CORE:** Load Driver APIs

**ADVANCED:** User and Web

Service APIs

+ FULL: Event APIs

2. Increase the number of supported WfMSs

**APIs:** 

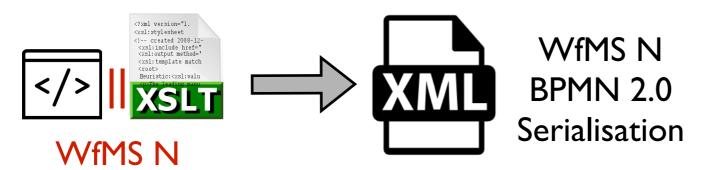
**CORE:** Load Driver APIs

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### Deployable BPMN 2.0 Models:





customised test data formatting



2. Increase the number of supported WfMSs

### **APIs:**

**CORE:** Load Driver APIs

\_ ADVANCED: User and Web

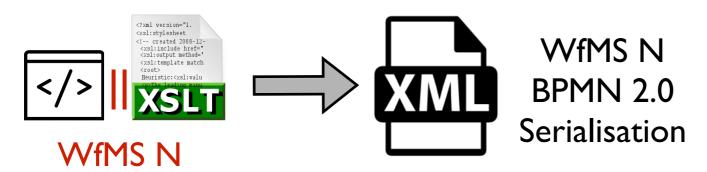
Service APIs

+ FULL: Event APIs

### Data:

- Accessibility of the data
- Availability of timing data
- Availability of execution state

# Deployable BPMN 2.0 Models:





customised test data formatting



### Call for Collaboration

#### WfMSs, process models, process logs

#### **WfMSs**

- We want to add more and more WfMSs to the benchmark
- Contact us for collaboration, and BenchFlow framework support

#### **Process Models**

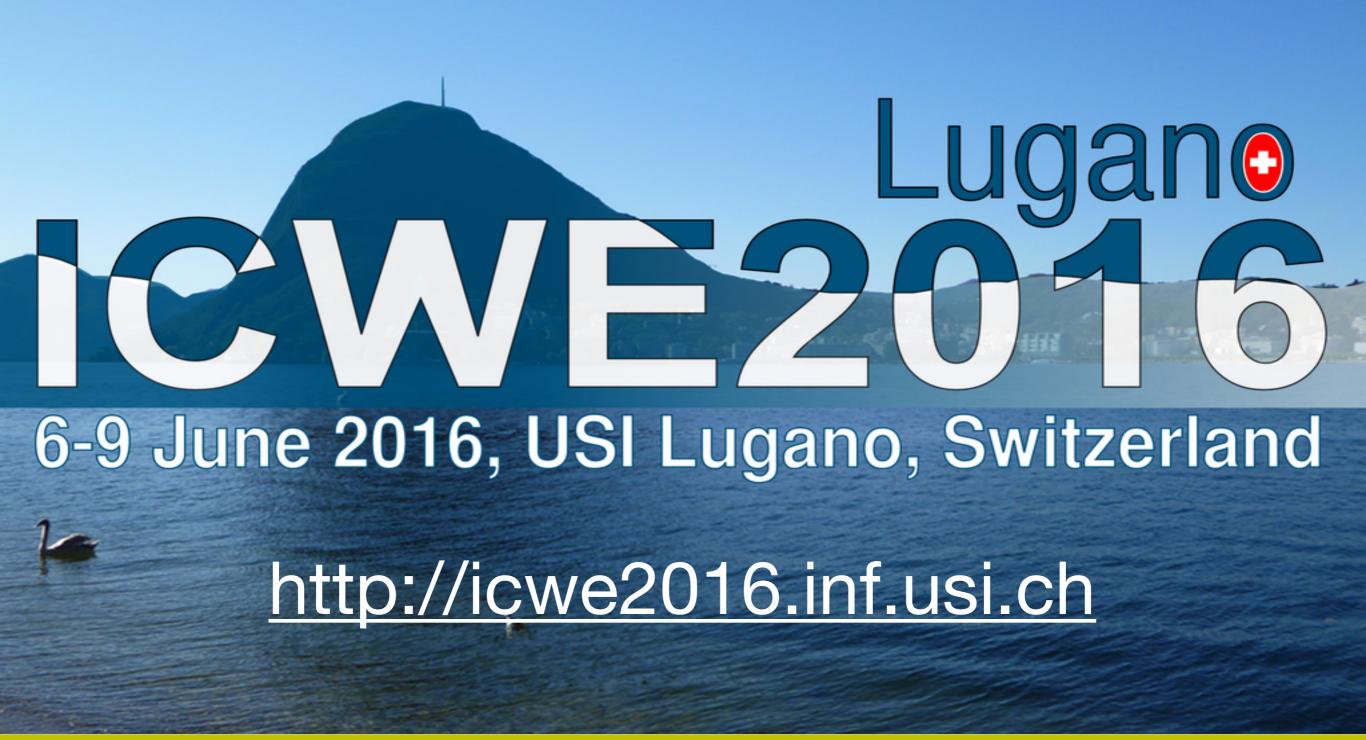
- We want to characterise the Workload Mix using Real-World process models
- Share your executable BPMN 2.0 process models, even anonymised

### **Execution Logs**

- We want to characterise the Load Functions using Real-World behaviours
- Share your execution logs, even anonymised



Join Us @ ICWE 2016 in Lugano!





### Towards a Benchmark for BPMN Engines

Vincenzo Ferme, Cesare Pautasso | University of Lugano (USI)

http://benchflow.inf.usi.ch

(2) benchflow



benchflow

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