

When metrics are not
enough, and everyone
is on-call

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Chris Riley
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1995 -
2003

Was an IT Pro

2003 -
2009

Tried to be a developer &
product manager

2009 -
now

Became an Advocate

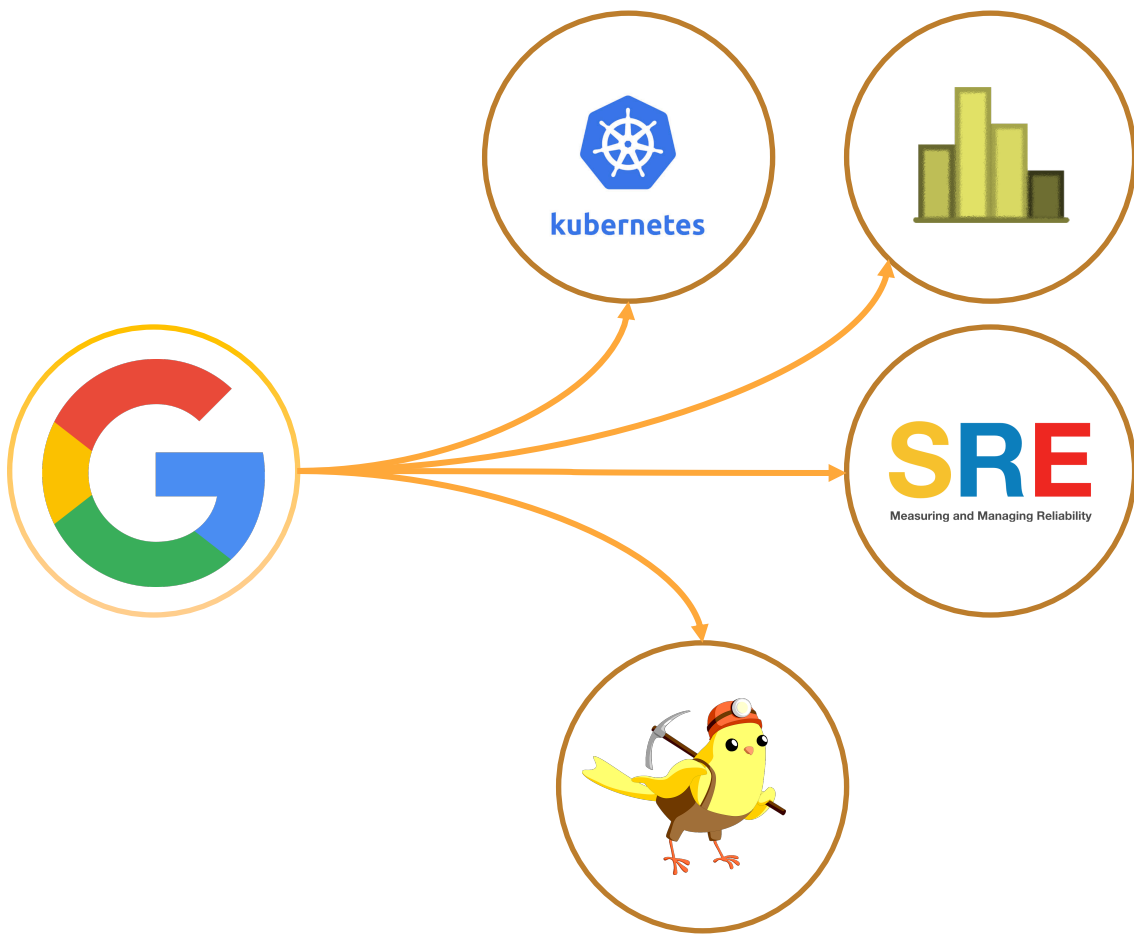
If you can't do it, talk about it

- Community engagement
- Increase understanding of market

Agenda

- The unicorn told me to do it
- Why should I care?
- What is “SRE” and “Observability”?
- On-Call for Modern Apps

The Unicorn Told Me To Do It





What Really Drives Change?

Why?



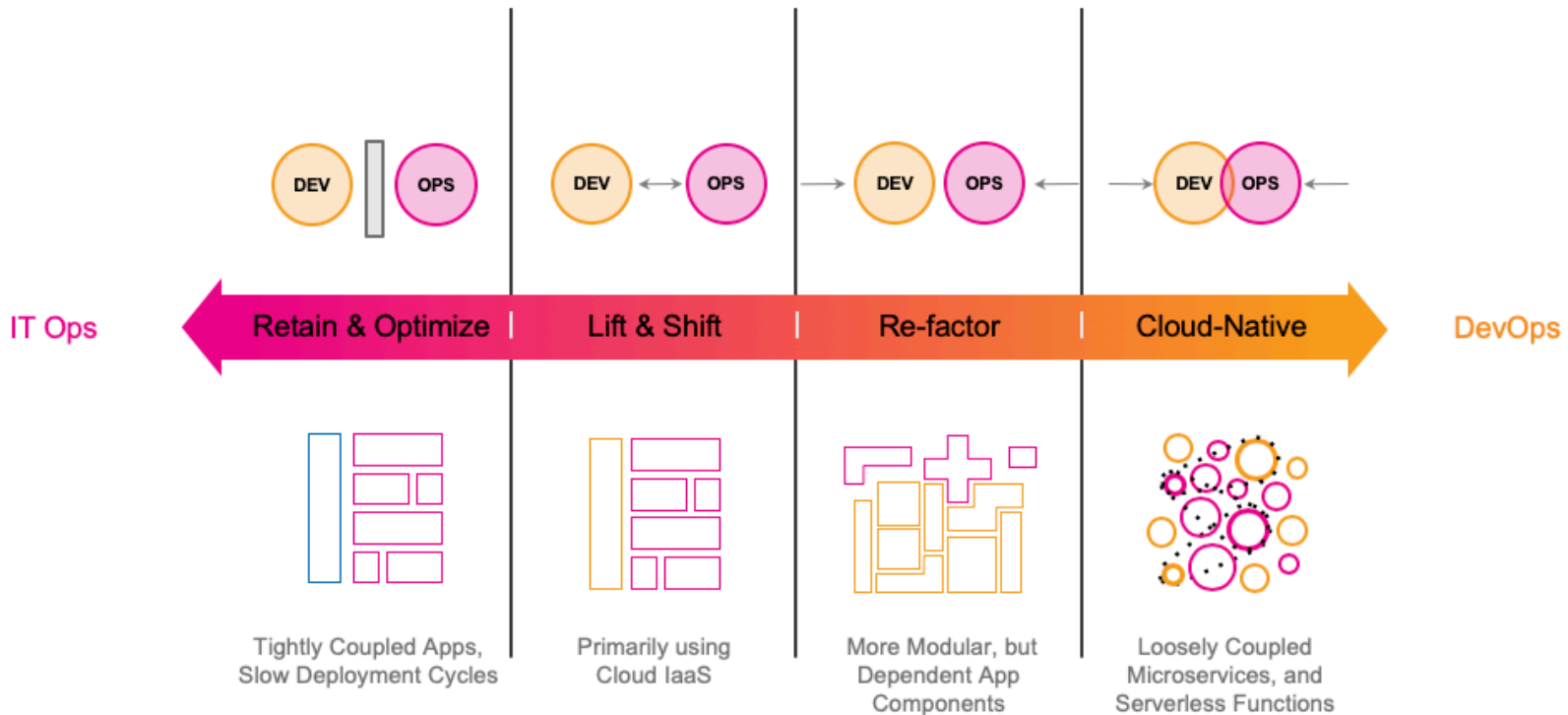
Gene Kim DOES 2019

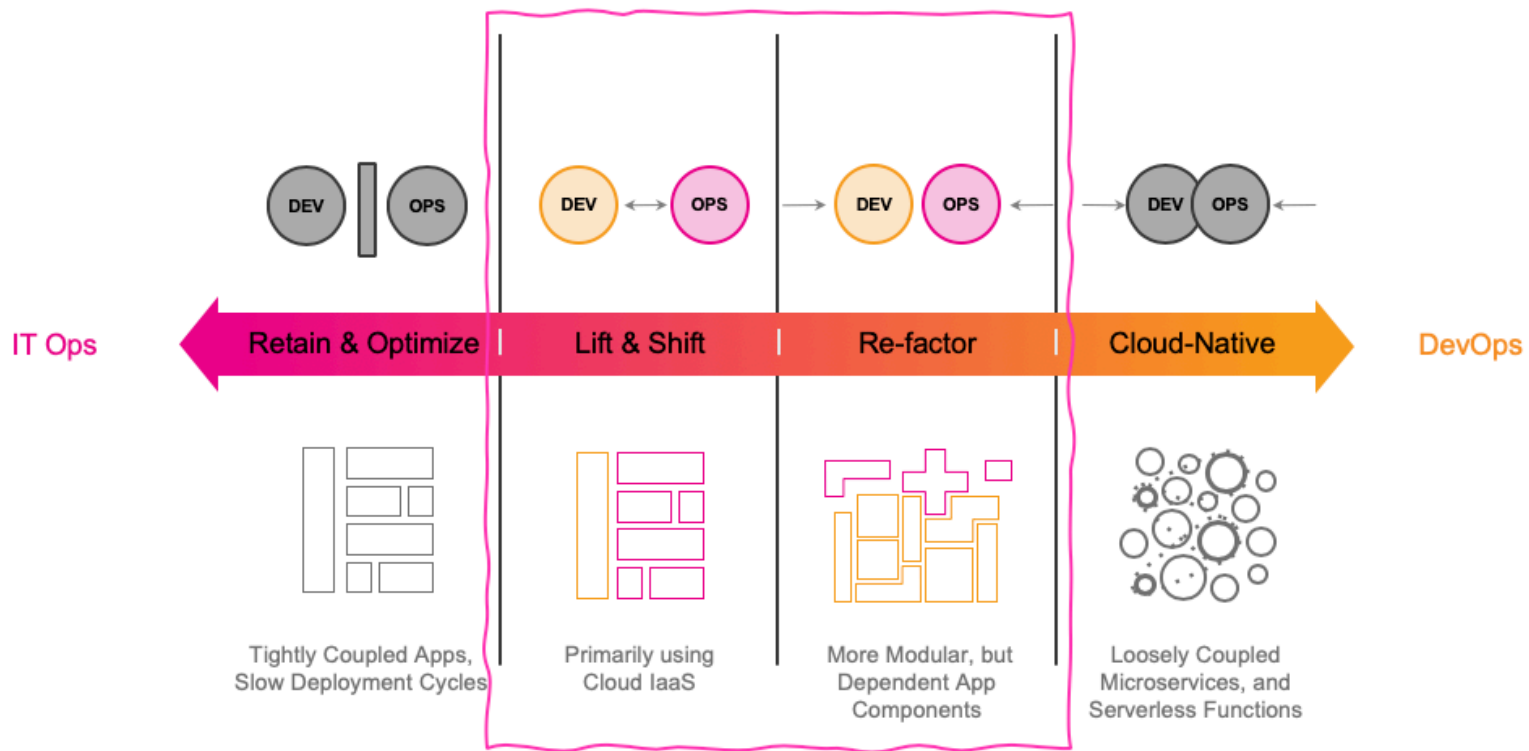
To Be Google?

Become a Unicorn?



The Unicorn Project

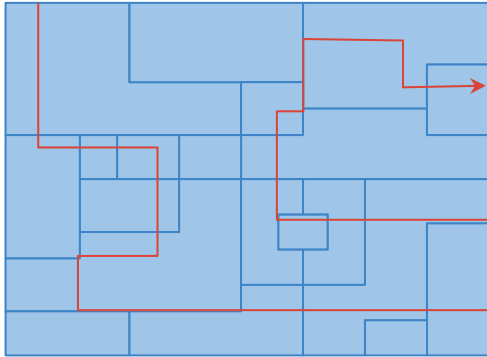




How Applications Are Being Built Is Changing



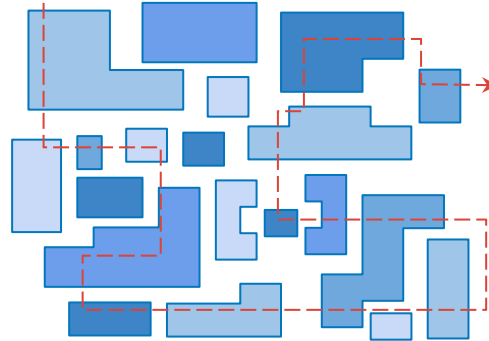
Monolithic Architecture



Monitored Environment

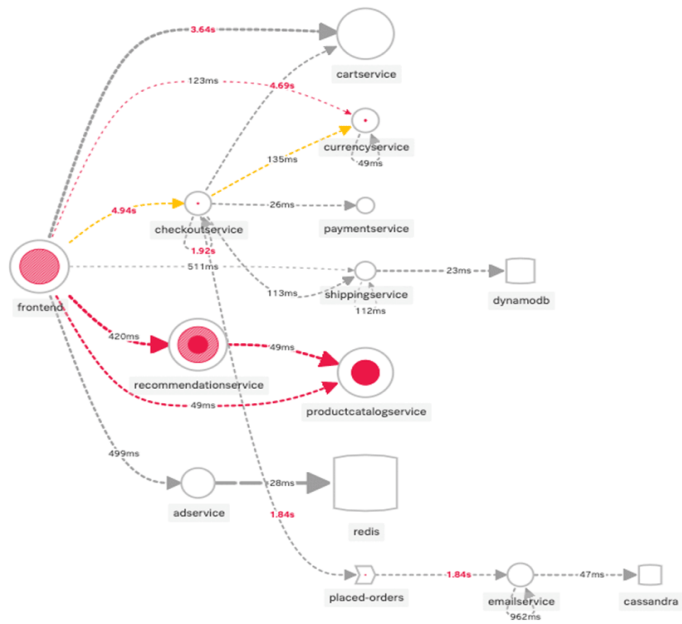
- Slow moving
- Infrequently changed
- Limited user transactions

Microservices Architecture




Monitored Environment

- Distributed services (10s to 100s)
- Many hosts, Multi-Cloud
- High transaction volume
- Frequent code-pushes (CI/CD)




Aggressive Drive to Modernize

- The cost of downtime is going up
 - Latent data is a huge opportunity cost
 - Traditional infrastructure is impacting enterprises ability to compete
 - Organizations want confidence they can respond to future crisis
 - Technical talent requires it
- 


I give you ... “Monitoring” I
mean “Observability”

O11y

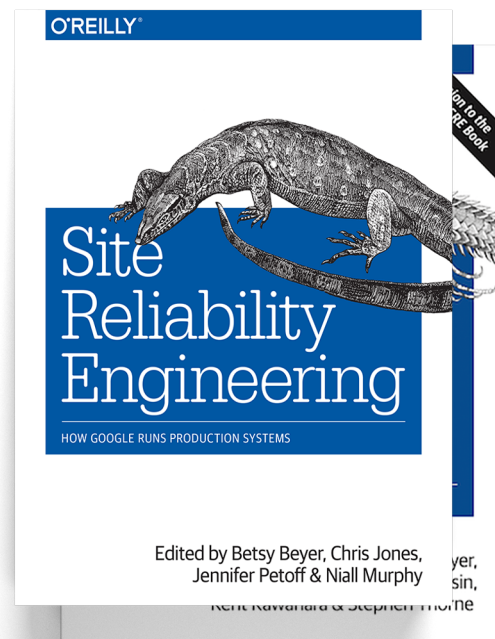
Observability Is:

1. Development and deployment strategy
 2. Approach to monitoring applications
 3. Tooling to make the added complexity easier
- 

Observability When:

1. Infra, Config, and Code are tied together
 2. Metrics are not enough
 3. Applications are increasingly distributed
 4. Application components are stateless and ephemeral
- 

The SRE is Observability's best friend




“SRE is about being customer
obsessed.”



Because latency is the
new down.




1. Modernize the NOC
 2. Keep pace with release velocity
 3. Customers demand more
 4. Development teams need an operational partner
- 

Before and After the NOC

Network Operations Model

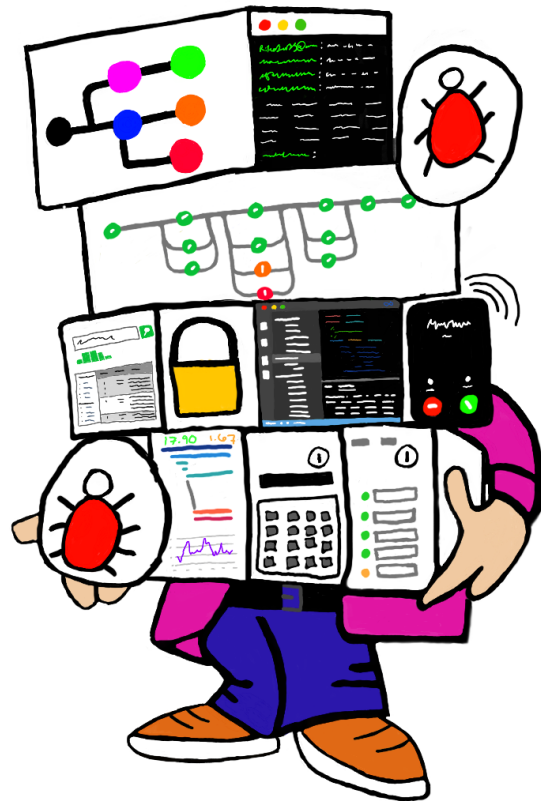
- Spreadsheets managed who to call
- 24x7 staffed operations centers
- NOCs abilities were limited to infra
- IT focused with little dev experience
- Spray and pray OR lazy mobilization

SRE Model

- Automation is mandatory
 - Application layer is part of production support
 - “Anyone” can be on-call
 - Both a Strategy and a Role
- 

Responsibility of SRE

- Strategy
 - Metrics (RED, USE, Etc.)
 - Deploy Prep
- Stewardship
- Operations
- Owners of On-Call



Your app just called... it
wants its resources back

Observability

Alert & Context

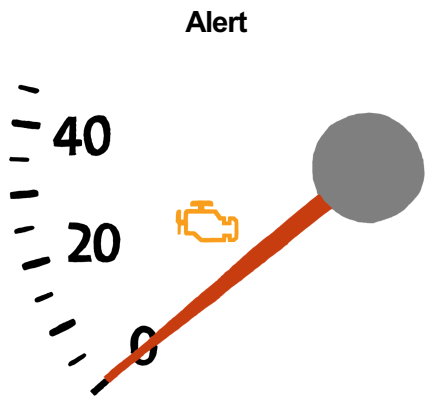
Incident Response

Mobilization and Action

Incident Management

Record and Track





Incident Management

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Powertrain | | | |
| Transmission | ✓ | Engine | ⚠ |
| Safety | | | |
| Air Bag | ✓ | Anti-Lock Braking System | ✓ |
| Electrical | | | |
| Electronic Power Brake | ✓ | Smart Cruise Control | ✓ |
| Electronic Power Steering | ✓ | | |

Monitoring / Observability Tool

Alert Fired

(alert payload)

Incident Response

Rules Engine

(enrich)

Routing Key

Incident Created

Escalation Policy

Rotation

App User

Paging Policy

Notifications

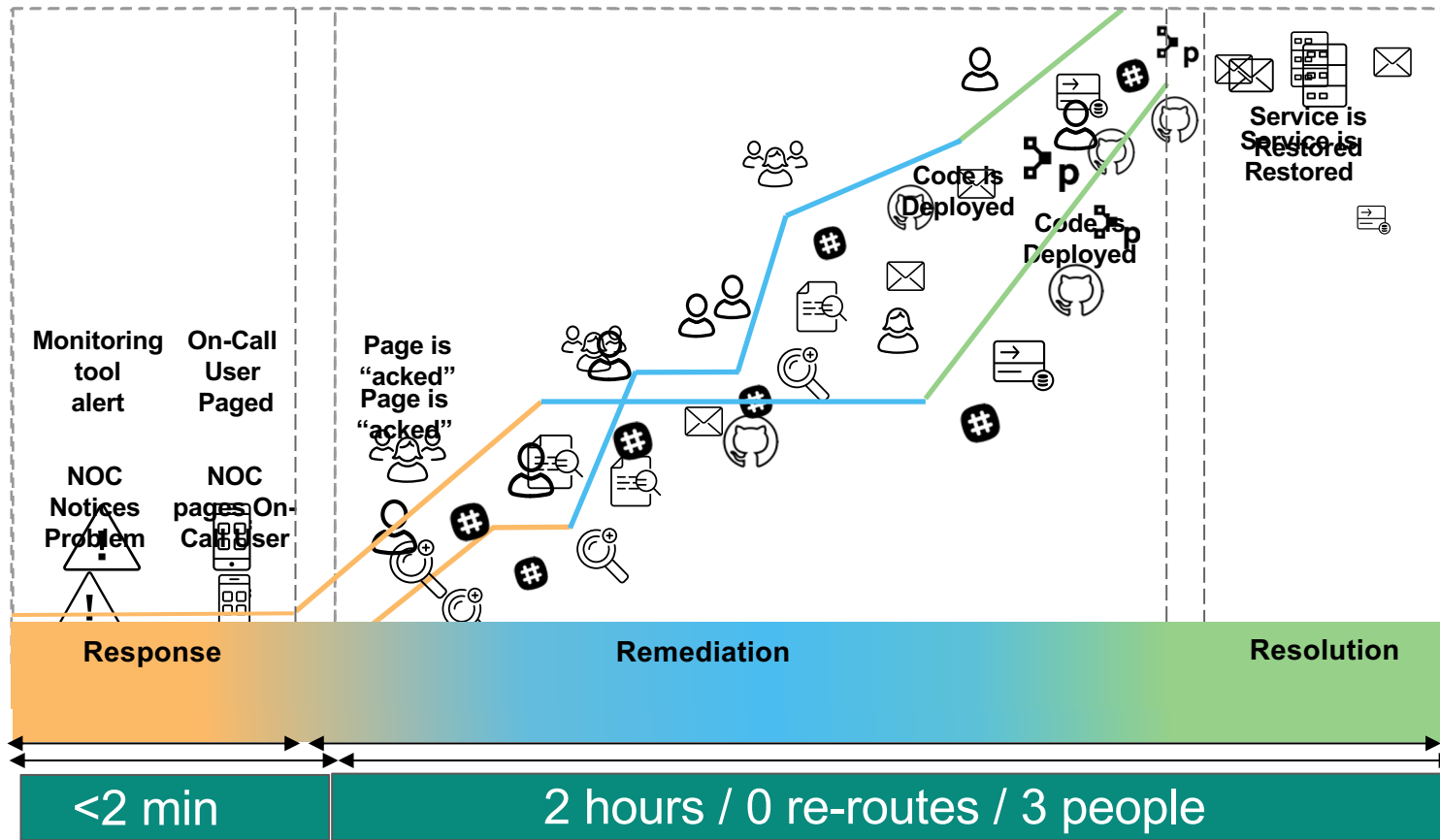
ITSM

Collaboration

Webhook / Automation

Page

Simplify Incident Response Cycle Is Confusing and Slow

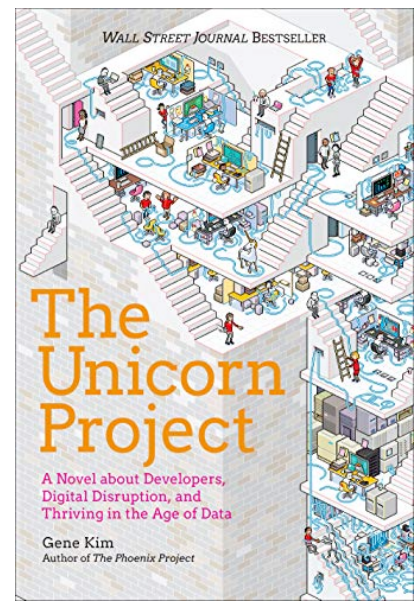


Before
25-45 min

Before
6 hours / 5 re-routes / 8 people

Resources

- How Splunk Does SRE: https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/it/the-sre-dogfood-series-signalfx-sre-team.html
- Modernize The NOC: <https://devops.com/moving-from-noc-to-the-sre-model/>
- SRE Strategy Webinar: <https://victorops.hubs.vidyard.com/watch/bqyuTmgC48kj9wQizSZ91K>
- Developers Eating the World: www.sweetcode.io/detw
- OpenTelemetry Project: <https://opentelemetry.io/>



THANK YOU!

Meet Me in the Network
Chat Lounge for Questions