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The Road to Full Automation: How We Implemented Continuous Delivery at Signal

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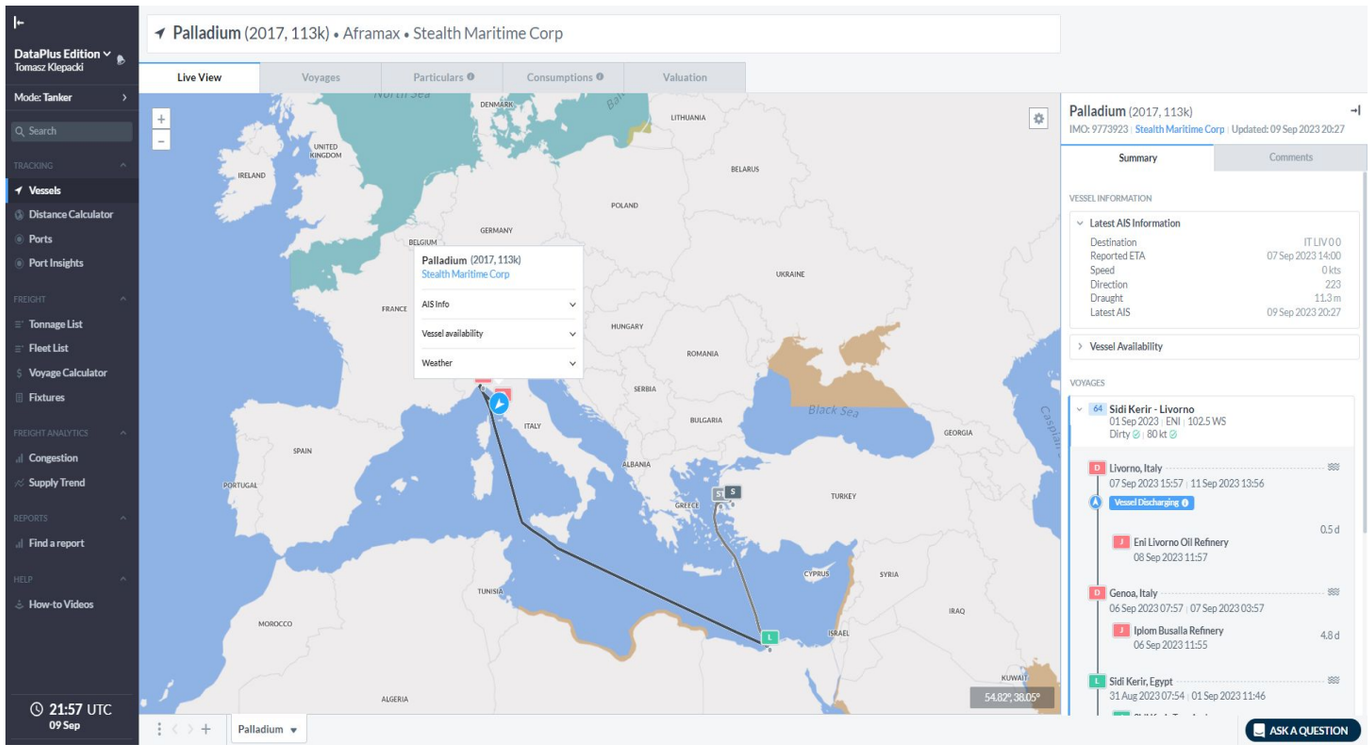
10/10/2024

The Signal Group

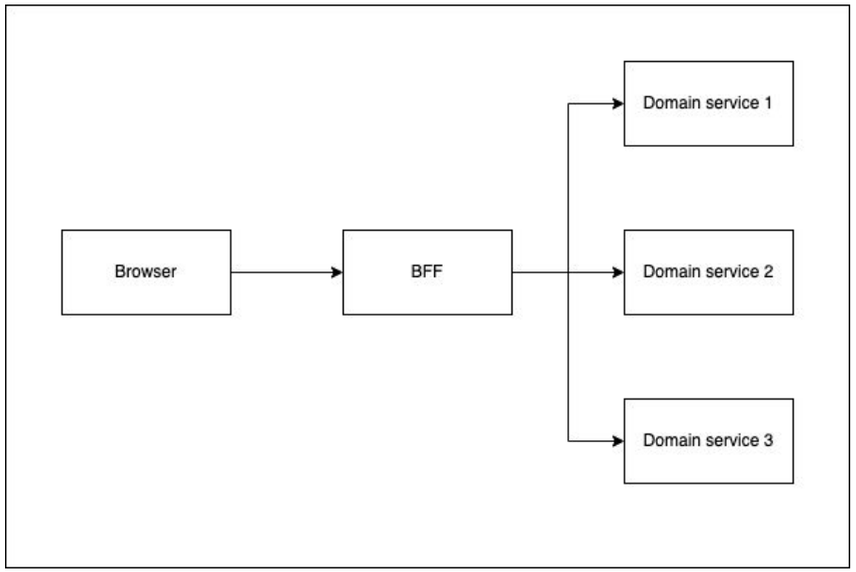
Signal Ocean Platform

- Fleet monitoring
- Freight market forecasting
- Shipping route optimization
- Data analysis
- Decision support



Signal Ocean Platform - Architecture

- Microservice architecture – **BFF** – **Backend for Frontend** – **.NET** or **Python** based API
- Frontend - **ReactJS**
- The entire infrastructure, both production and development, is based on Azure Cloud



Testing and CI/CD process at Signal – 2020

Why wasn't it enough?

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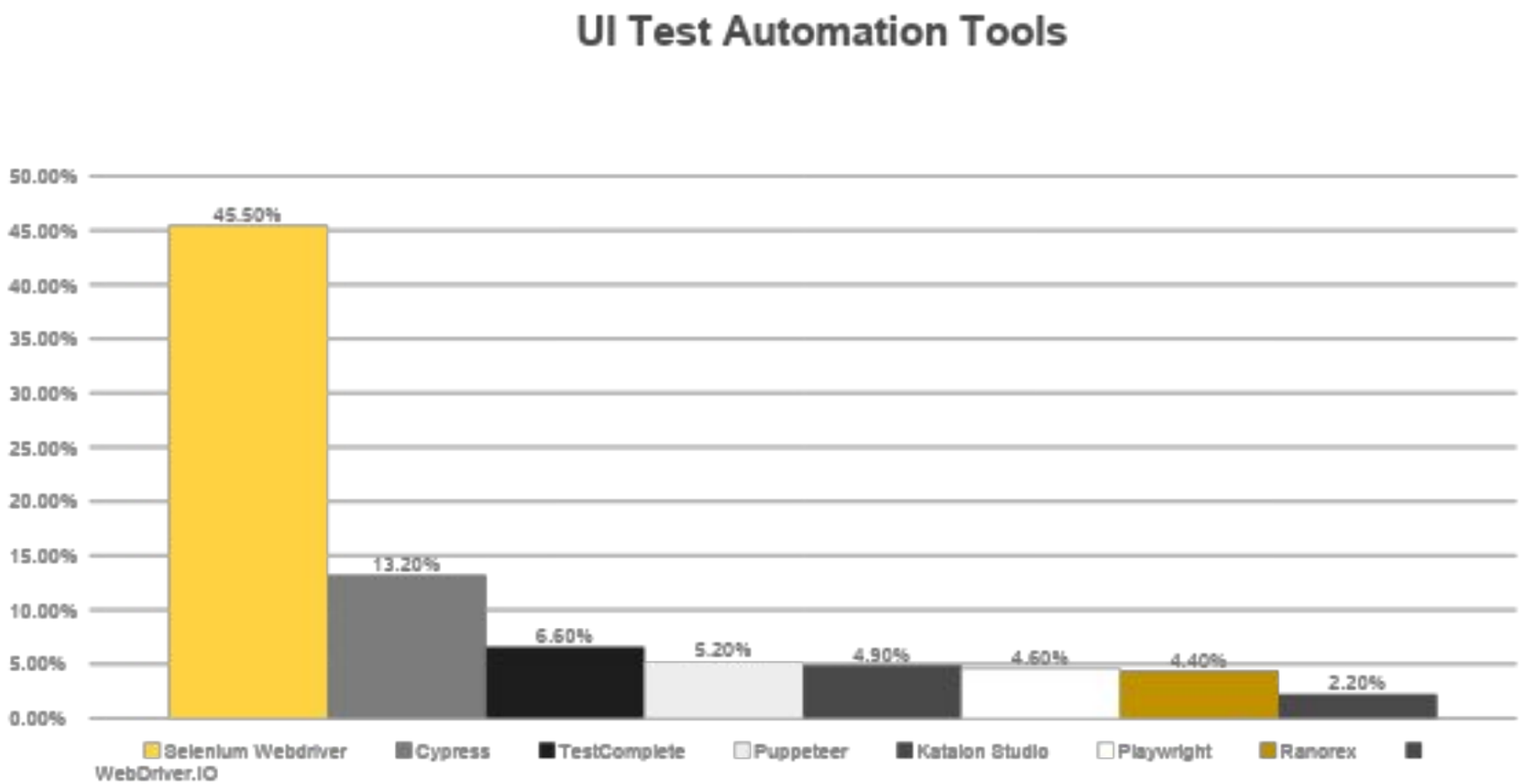
- Chaos - fixes added to the release branch, bypassing the unstable branch - frequent backmerges.

Signal – New UI Testing Tool Evaluation

Signal Ocean Platform UI Tests with TestCafe

- Hard to debug
- No solution for mocking the API layer of web applications
- Non-optimal test parallelization mechanism

State of Testing Report 2021



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UI Testing in the CI/CD process

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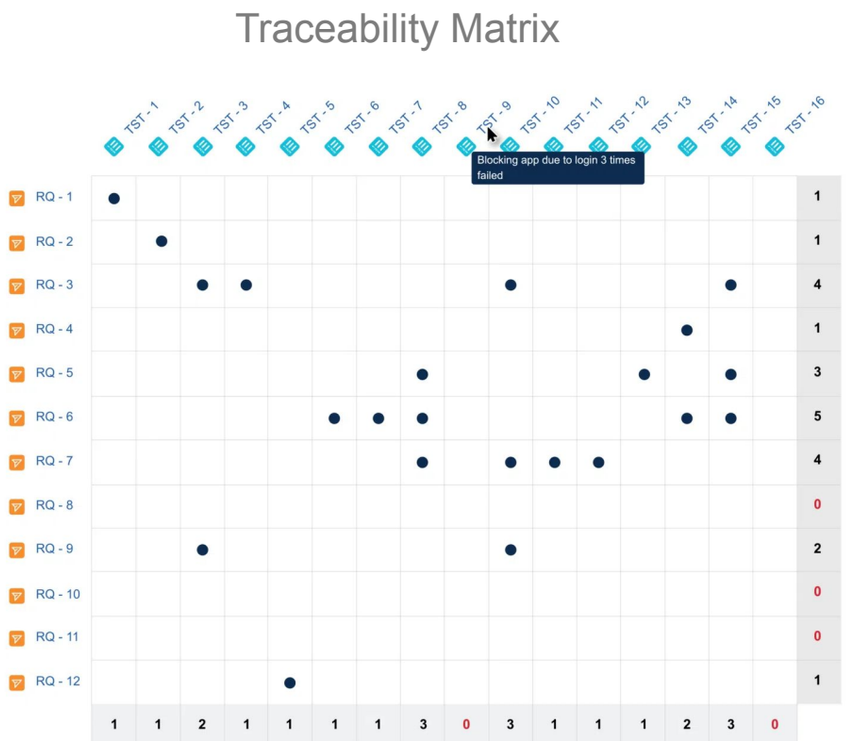
UI Test – Increasing functionality coverage with tests

- FEBE – 220 tests
- Mocked (Visual/Regression) - 620 tests



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UI Tests – Number of tests and test execution speed

PR Runner UI Tests/Slot Swap UI Tests:

- **UI Mock Tests**: **620** tests run in **14** min
- **UI FEBE Sanity Tests**: **22** tests run in **4** min

Other (run once a day on Unstable environment)

- **UI Unstable Mock Tests: 620** tests run in **14** min
- **UI FEBE Tests: 220** tests run in **11** min

UI Test Type	No. of Test Runs
UI Test Mock - PR Runner	67
UI Test FEBE Sanity - PR Runner	46
UI Test FEBE Sanity - Slot Swap Runner	72
UI Test Mock - Unstable Morning Run	30
UI Test FEBE - Unstable Morning Run	30

245 Test Runs - November

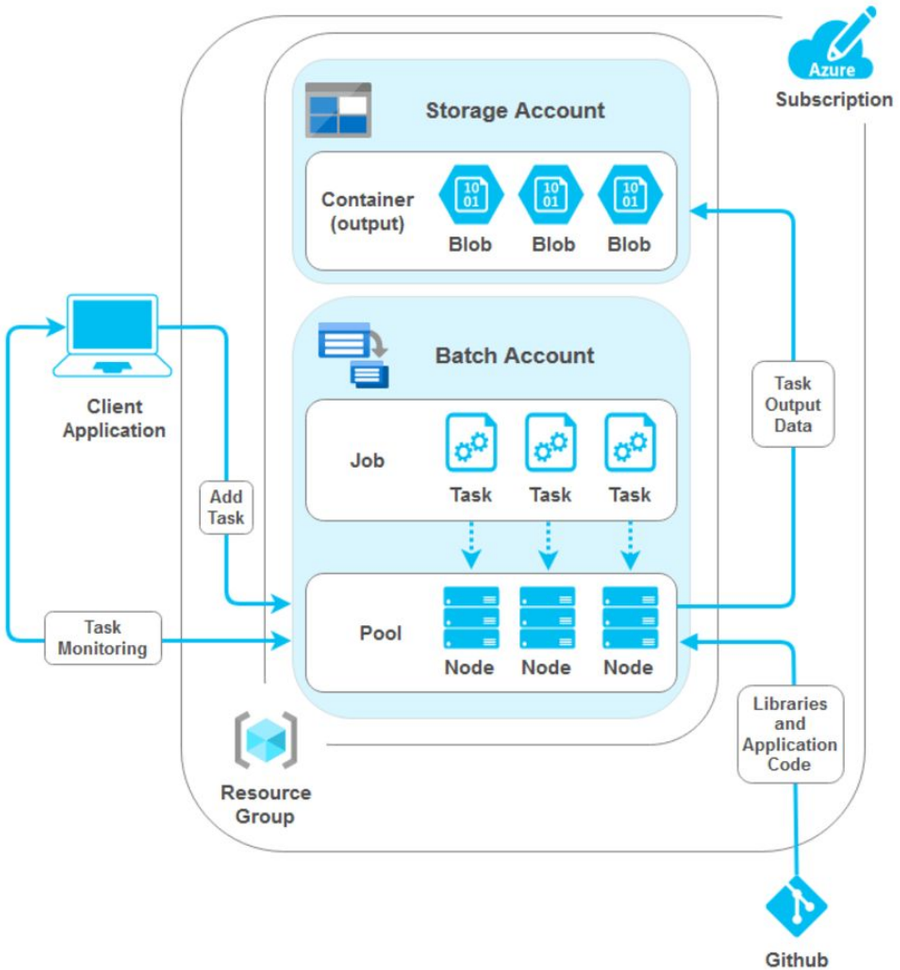
Two levels of test execution parallelism

- **Level I**: Simultaneous execution on 4 VMs (2 x Azure Cloud + 2 x VMWare) – parallelization mechanism provided by TeamCity (CI Server)
- **Level II:** Running multiple Cypress instances simultaneously on each VM – 4 instances – parallelization mechanism provided by NodeJS concurrently library
- The tests were run on 16 threads (browsers) simultaneously

Infrastructure for UI Tests - Limitations

- Too few virtual machines available
- Need to assign TC agent to VM (additional cost of buying TC agent licence)

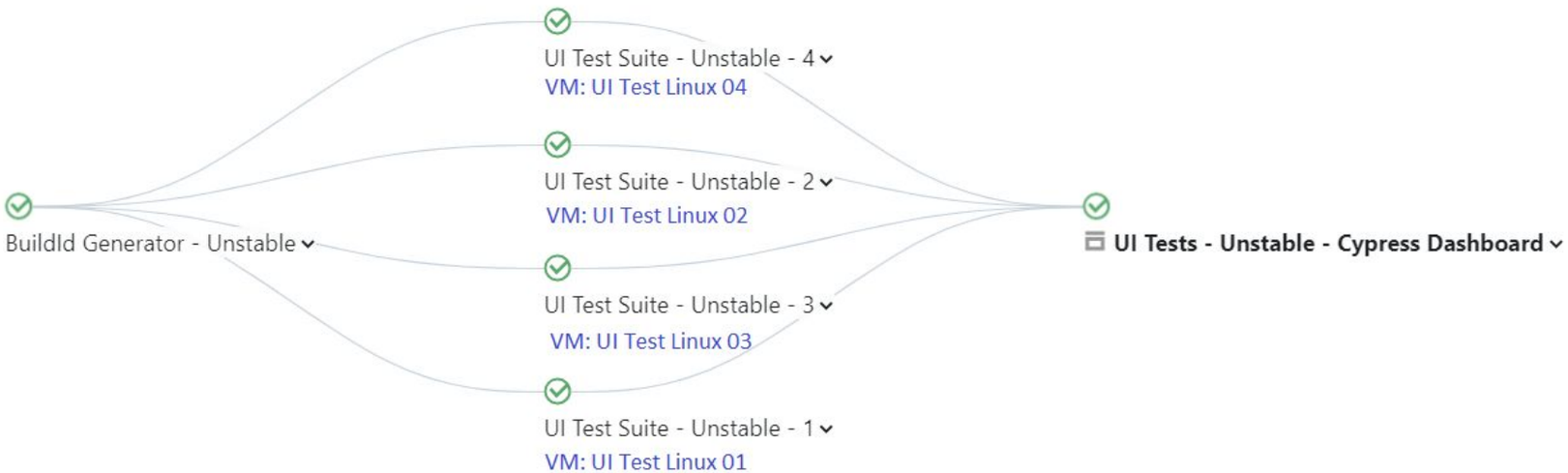
Azure Batch Service



Azure Batch as an infrastructure for UI Testing

Steps performed by the Azure Batch process:

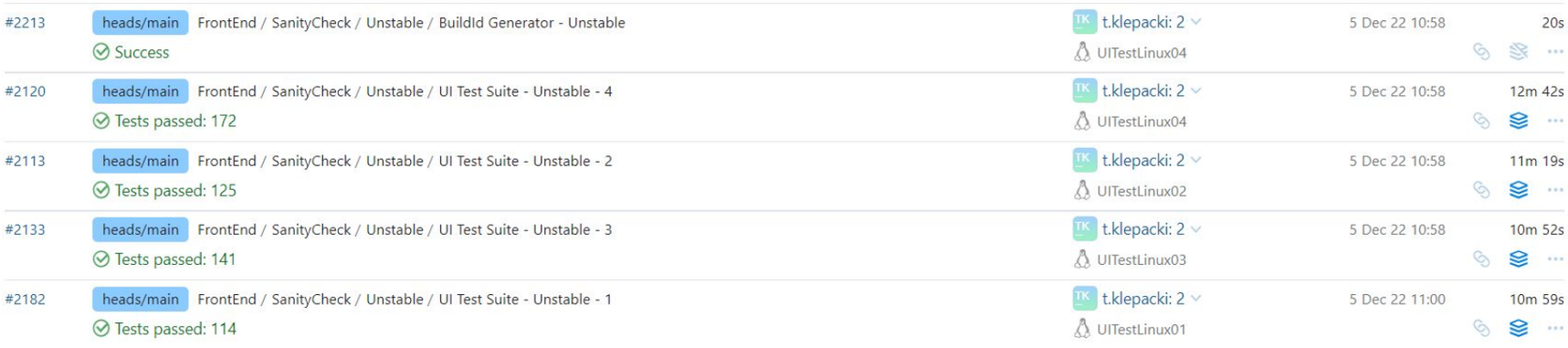
Standard Solution vs Azure Batch – TeamCity Agents



4 Agents vs 1 Agent

Only 1 Agent needed to run Azure Batch program and collect test results

Standard Solution vs Azure Batch – Test Durations



#2213	heads/main FrontEnd / SanityCheck / Unstable / BuildId Generator - Unstable Success	t.klepacki: 2 UITestLinux04	5 Dec 22 10:58	20s
#2120	heads/main FrontEnd / SanityCheck / Unstable / UI Test Suite - Unstable - 4 Tests passed: 172	t.klepacki: 2 UITestLinux04	5 Dec 22 10:58	12m 42s
#2113	heads/main FrontEnd / SanityCheck / Unstable / UI Test Suite - Unstable - 2 Tests passed: 125	t.klepacki: 2 UITestLinux02	5 Dec 22 10:58	11m 19s
#2133	heads/main FrontEnd / SanityCheck / Unstable / UI Test Suite - Unstable - 3 Tests passed: 141	t.klepacki: 2 UITestLinux03	5 Dec 22 10:58	10m 52s
#2182	heads/main FrontEnd / SanityCheck / Unstable / UI Test Suite - Unstable - 1 Tests passed: 114	t.klepacki: 2 UITestLinux01	5 Dec 22 11:00	10m 59s

1. VCS Root Checkout and Build .Net Solutions - **0:45**
2. Azure batch Script Run: **14:45**
   - Pool Node creation – 10VMs: **2:15**
   - VM's dependencies instalation (docker container, project build etc): **2:50**
   - Test Run 10 VM's at once per 3 Browser Threads: **8:40**
   - Pool Nodes deletion: **1:00**

Total Test Time Duration: **14m 12s**

VS

Total Test Time Duration: **15m 30s**

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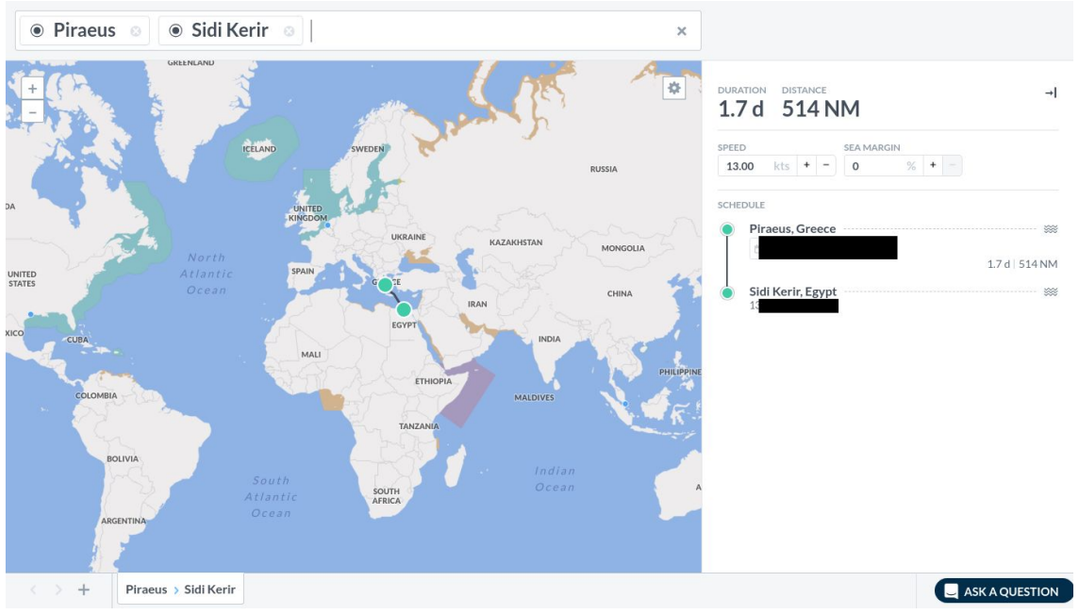
The important role of visual regression testing in the Platform

- The only effective way to verify that maps are displayed correctly
- Cypress + Cypress Image Snapshots
- Mocking responses to keep the same data in the test



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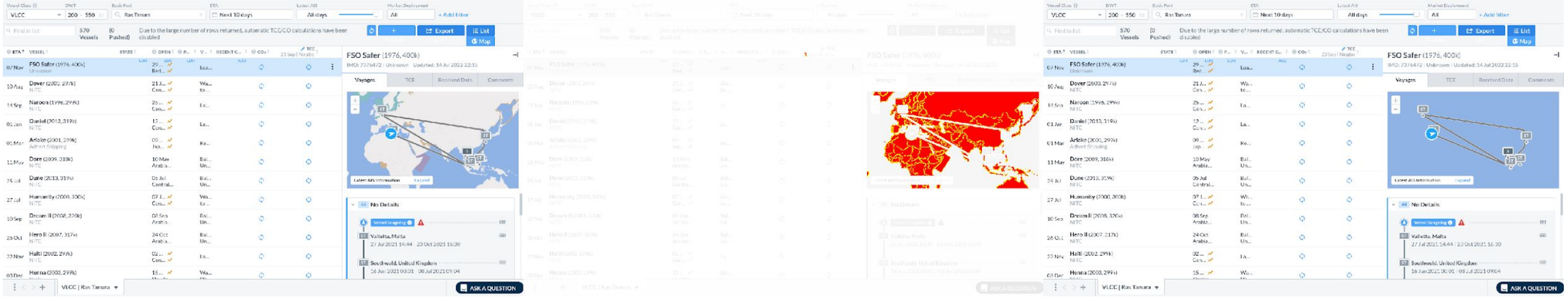
The important role of visual regression testing in the Platform

Expected

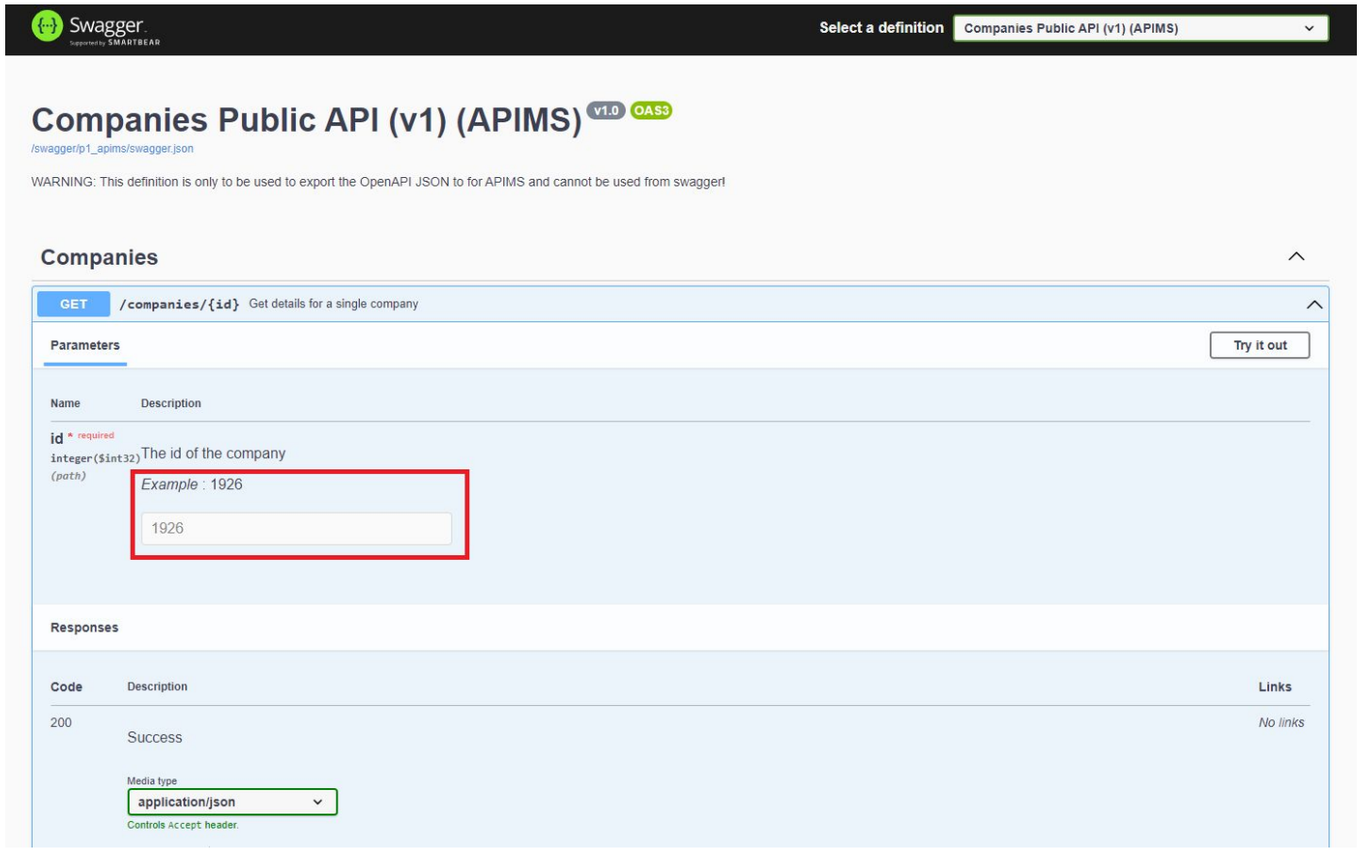
Difference

Actual



FEBE API/Backend Services tests

- Added Backend for Frontend layer API tests
- Added API tests for the most important Backend services: Postman + Swagger Examples



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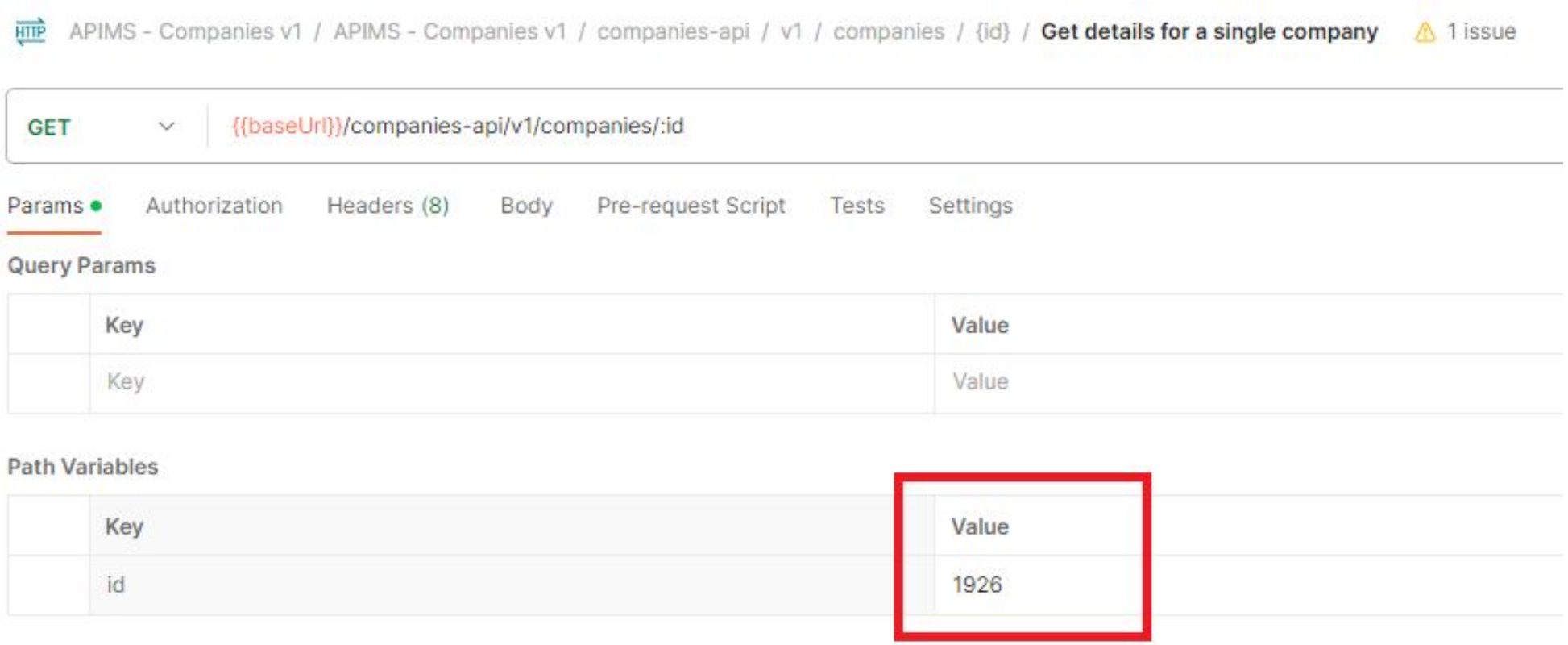
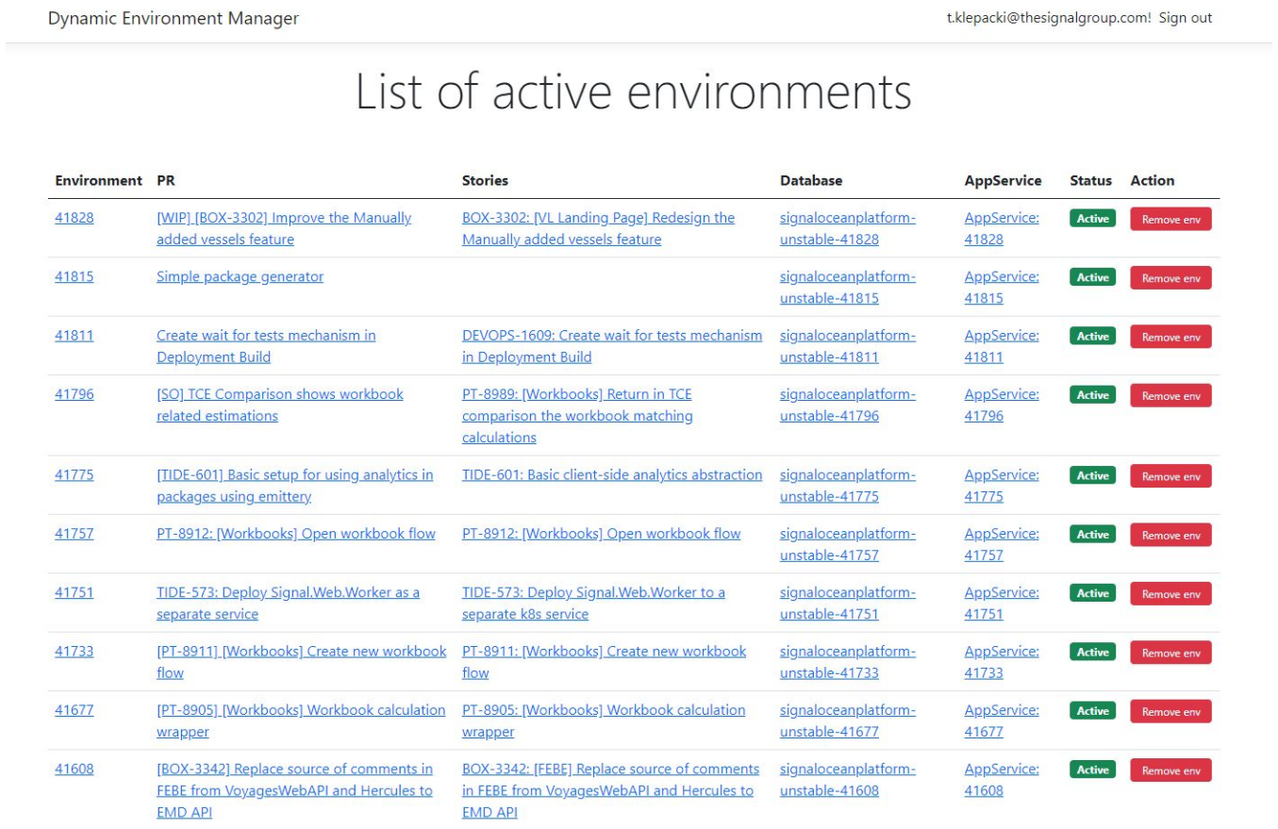
Backend Services Tests – Examples



Service monitoring and observability

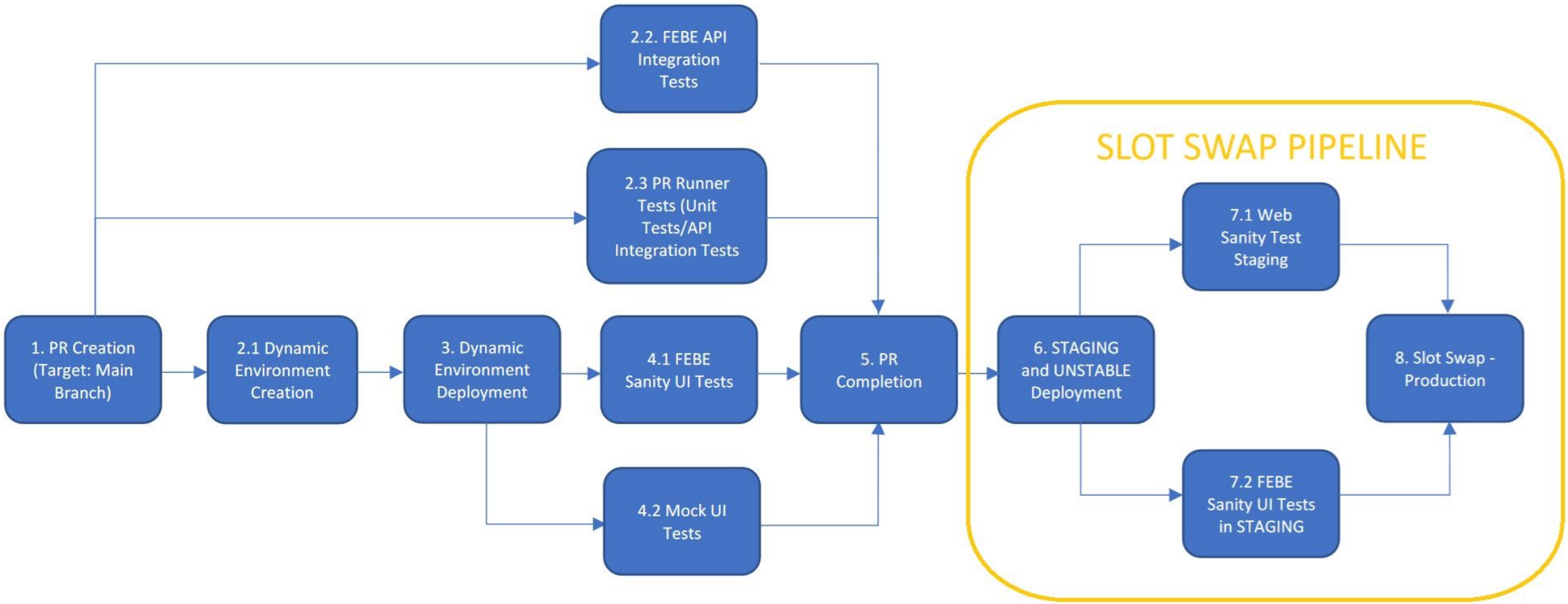
- SO Healthchecks/Alerts
- Azure Application Insight, Jaeger, Rapid7
- Monitoring the production environment with UI tests

Creating dynamic environments for every PR

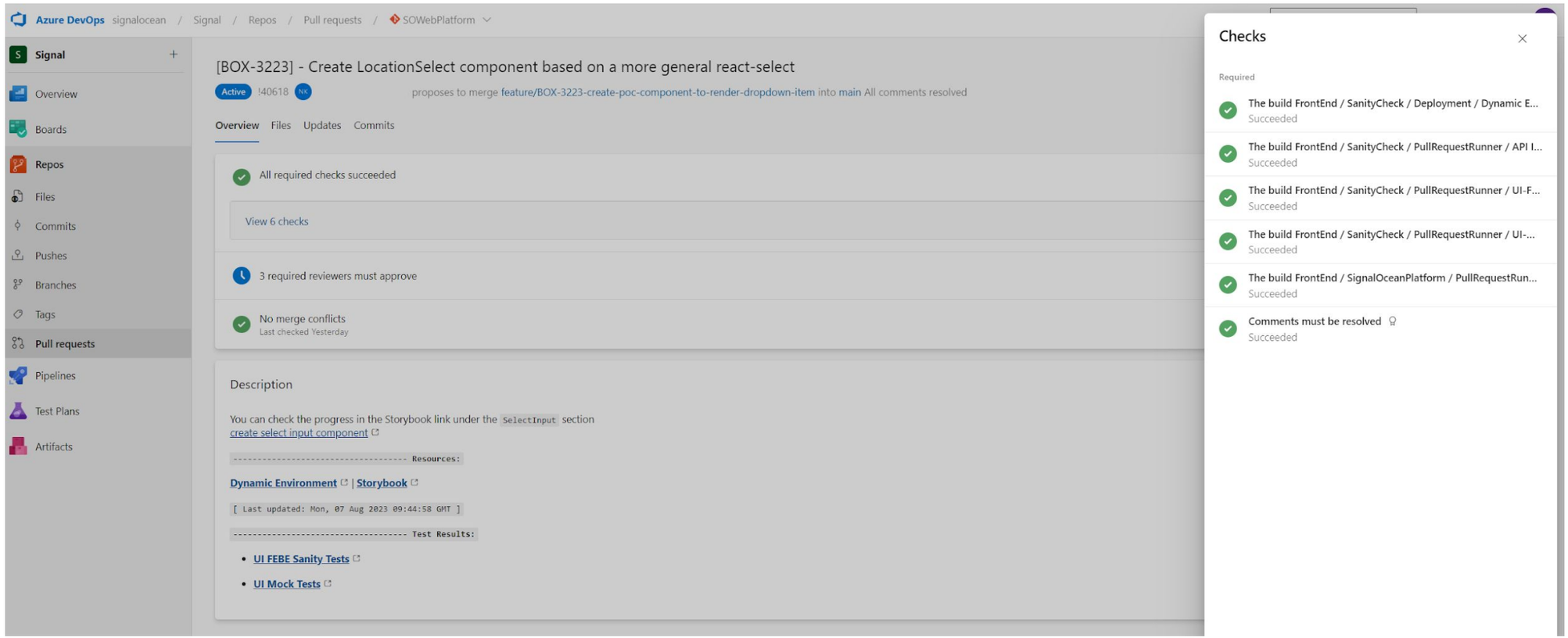


Environment	PR	Stories	Database	AppService	Status	Action
41828	[WIP] [BOX-3302] Improve the Manually added vessels feature	BOX-3302: [VL Landing Page] Redesign the Manually added vessels feature	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41828	AppService: 41828	Active	Remove env
41815	Simple package generator		signaloceanplatform-unstable-41815	AppService: 41815	Active	Remove env
41811	Create wait for tests mechanism in Deployment Build	DEVOPS-1609: Create wait for tests mechanism in Deployment Build	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41811	AppService: 41811	Active	Remove env
41796	[SO] TCE Comparison shows workbook related estimations	PT-8989: [Workbooks] Return in TCE comparison the workbook matching calculations	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41796	AppService: 41796	Active	Remove env
41775	[TIDE-601] Basic setup for using analytics in packages using emittery	TIDE-601: Basic client-side analytics abstraction	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41775	AppService: 41775	Active	Remove env
41757	PT-8912: [Workbooks] Open workbook flow	PT-8912: [Workbooks] Open workbook flow	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41757	AppService: 41757	Active	Remove env
41751	TIDE-573: Deploy Signal.Web.Worker as a separate service	TIDE-573: Deploy Signal.Web.Worker to a separate k8s service	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41751	AppService: 41751	Active	Remove env
41733	[PT-8911] [Workbooks] Create new workbook flow	PT-8911: [Workbooks] Create new workbook flow	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41733	AppService: 41733	Active	Remove env
41677	[PT-8905] [Workbooks] Workbook calculation wrapper	PT-8905: [Workbooks] Workbook calculation wrapper	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41677	AppService: 41677	Active	Remove env
41608	[BOX-3342] Replace source of comments in FEBE from VoyagesWebAPI and Hercules to EMD API	BOX-3342: [FEBE] Replace source of comments in FEBE from VoyagesWebAPI and Hercules to EMD API	signaloceanplatform-unstable-41608	AppService: 41608	Active	Remove env

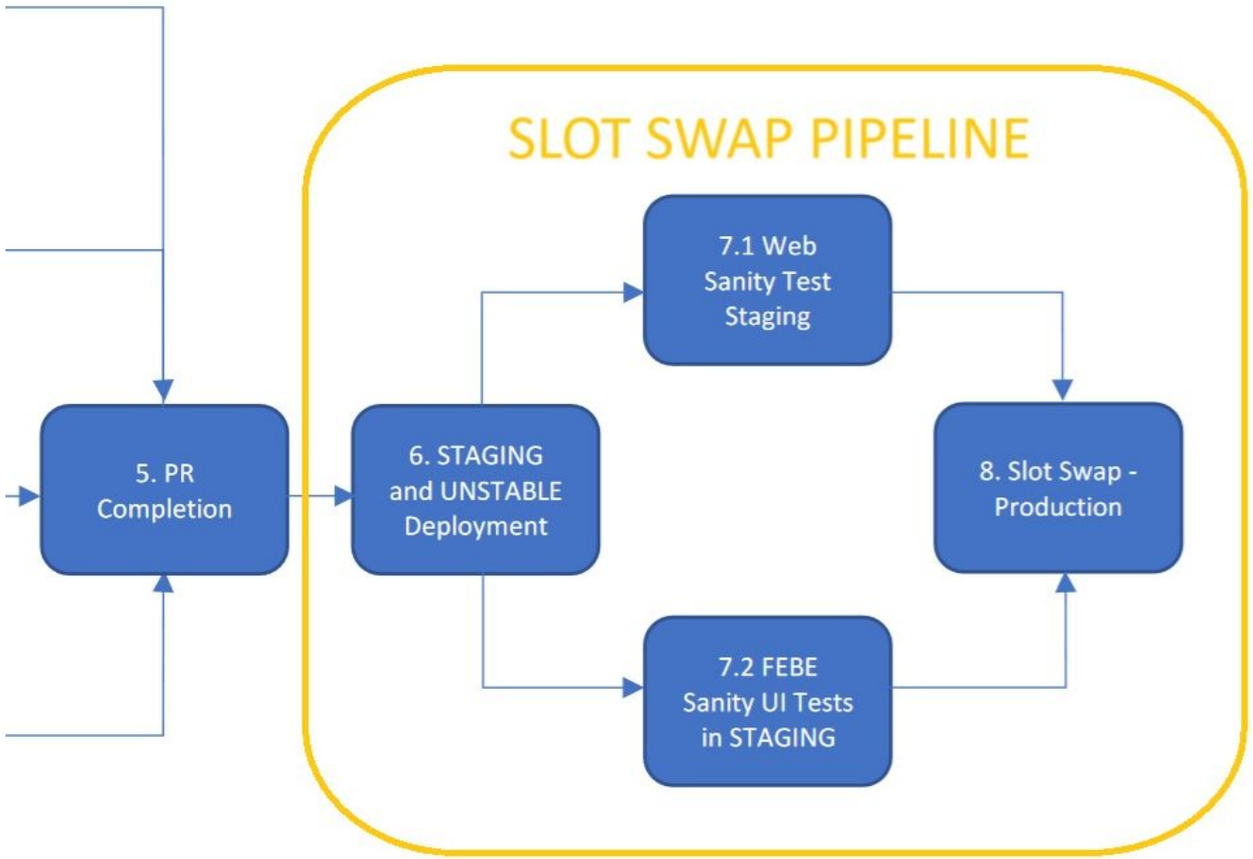
Continuous Delivery in Signal



Pull Request (Azure Devops)



Automatic Deployment to PROD – Slot Swap



Summary

- Continuous implementations to production—around 20 per week, rather than many at once weekly
- Improved platform quality through early error detection and comprehensive test coverage
- Improved efficiency for implementing and testing via dynamic creation of environments per PR
- Migrating UI tests to Cypress simplified error diagnosis, request mocking, and test parallelization
- Using Azure Batch for UI testing improved frequency and speed
- Enhanced monitoring and observability of dependent services

Thank you! ☺

Questions?