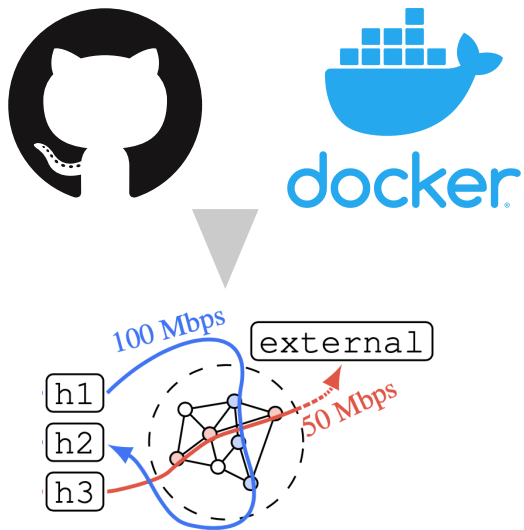


# Generating representative, live network traffic out of millions of code repositories



Tobias Bühler, Roland Schmid,  
Sandro Lutz, Laurent Vanbever  
ETH Zürich [nsg.ee.ethz.ch](https://nsg.ee.ethz.ch)

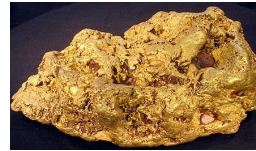
ACM HotNets

Nov 14 2022



Today, we only have a few **gold nuggets** of network data available

CAIDA



Intrusion Detection  
Evaluation Dataset  
(CIC-IDS2017)

RIPE Atlas



MAWI

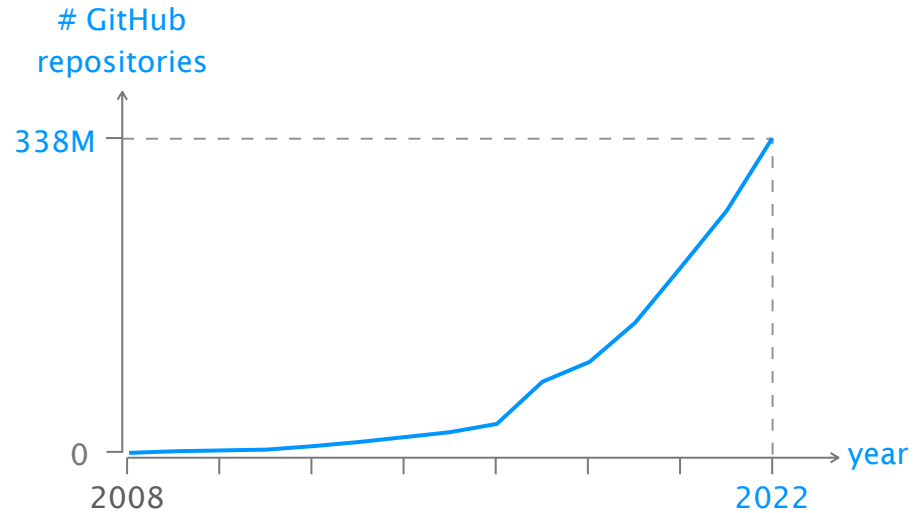
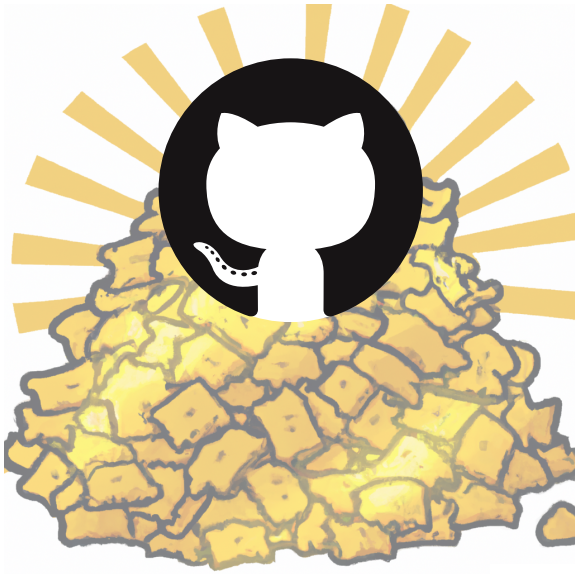


We believe there exists an entire **gold mine/pile** of network data



Picture: <https://labs.openai.com/s/zD0NTe1h8FPJPCsjSikZvKMv>

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In order to tap into this gold mine,  
we have to **bridge the gap** from static text/code to actual network data

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Static code analysis

Analyze usage of network functions

Extracts high-level traffic insights

Running the code

Compile and run each open-source project

Generates live traffic which reacts to network events

???

The next crazy idea

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The next crazy idea

However, executing arbitrary open-source projects is **challenging**

**Arbitrary code**

How do we build the projects?

Arbitrary code, language and APIs

**Missing documentation**

How do we run the projects?

Missing commands, dependencies and support

**Unexpected errors**

How do we handle bugs and errors?

Unexpected crashes, inputs and runtime



We leverage the **rise of automation frameworks**  
which allow to compile and run arbitrary code

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### Docker containers

Are a standalone, executable package

Contain all the code and its dependencies

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Docker containers

Are a standalone, executable package

Contain all the code and its dependencies

Orchestration files

Define how multiple containers are configured

A single command builds and starts all of them

Our vision is to combine **big data** and **container** solutions to generate **representative, live network traffic**

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with respect to a  
given user specification

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traffic/applications that  
react to network events

Input

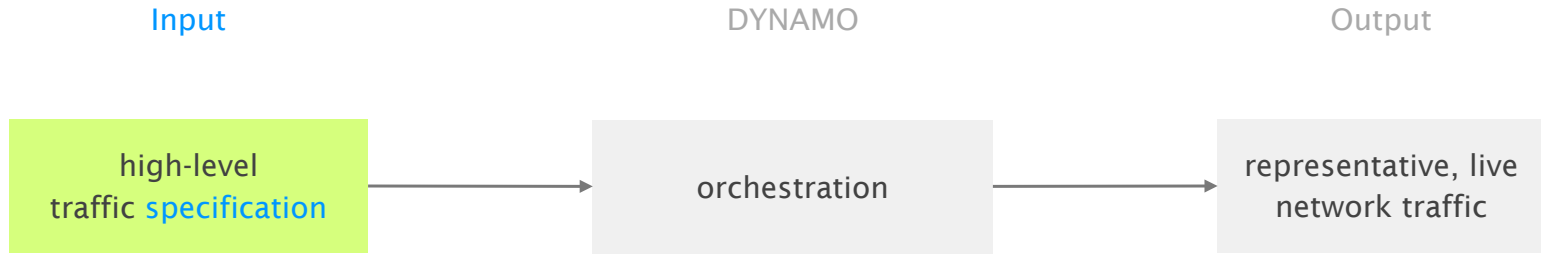
DYNAMO

Output

high-level  
traffic specification

orchestration

representative, live  
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```
generate database traffic  
  from h3 to external  
  with 50 Mbps  
  using ≥ 5 flows ;
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Input

DYNAMO

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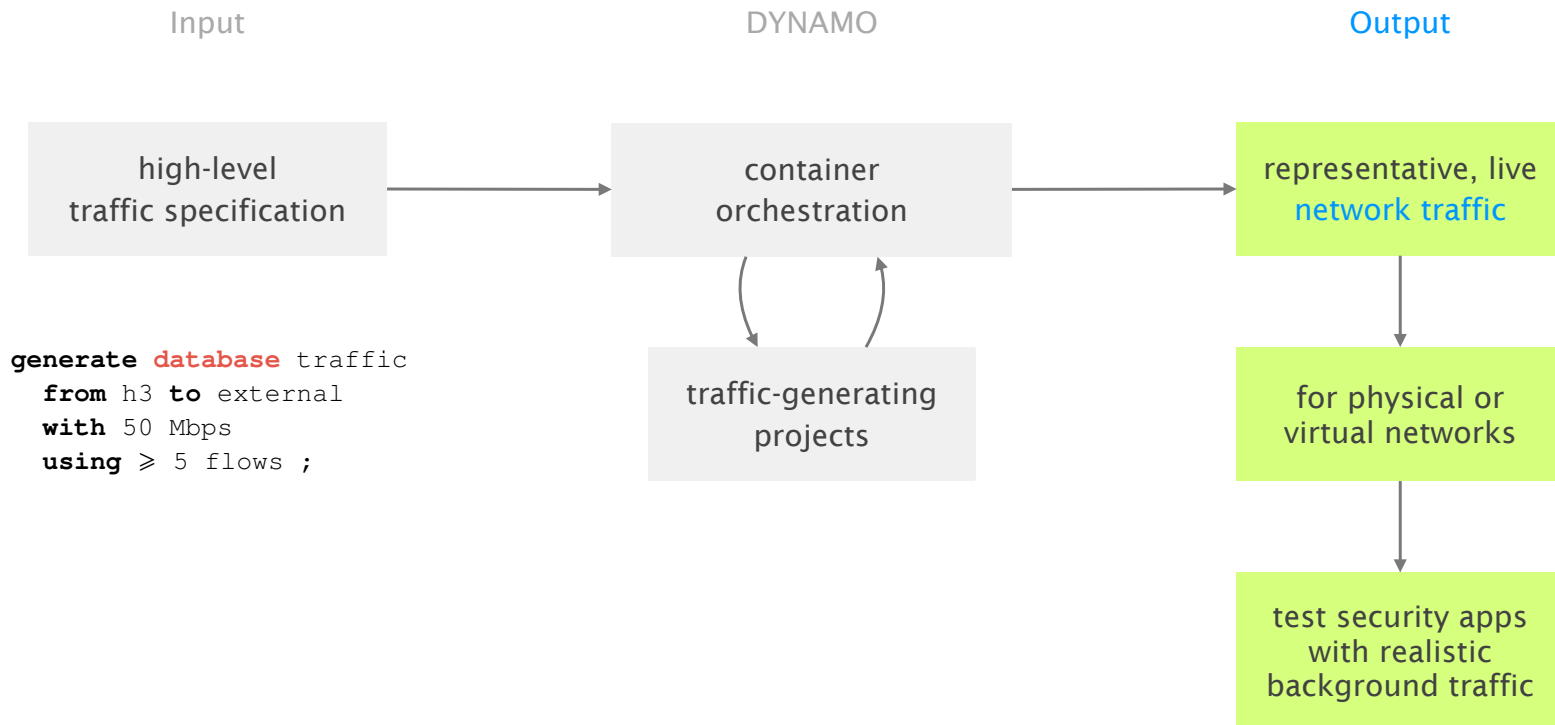
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traffic-generating  
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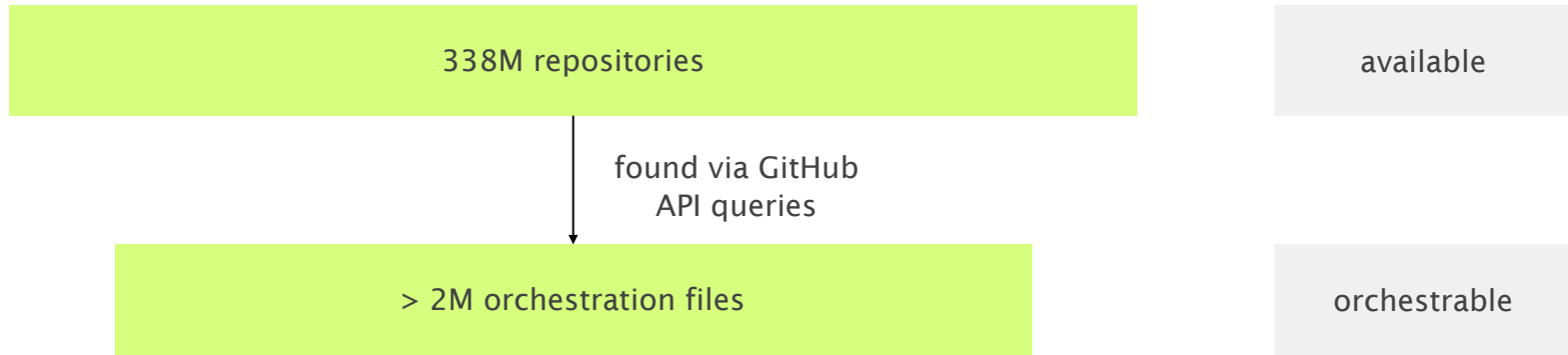
DYNAMO first searches for **traffic-generating** projects

## DYNAMO first searches for traffic-generating projects

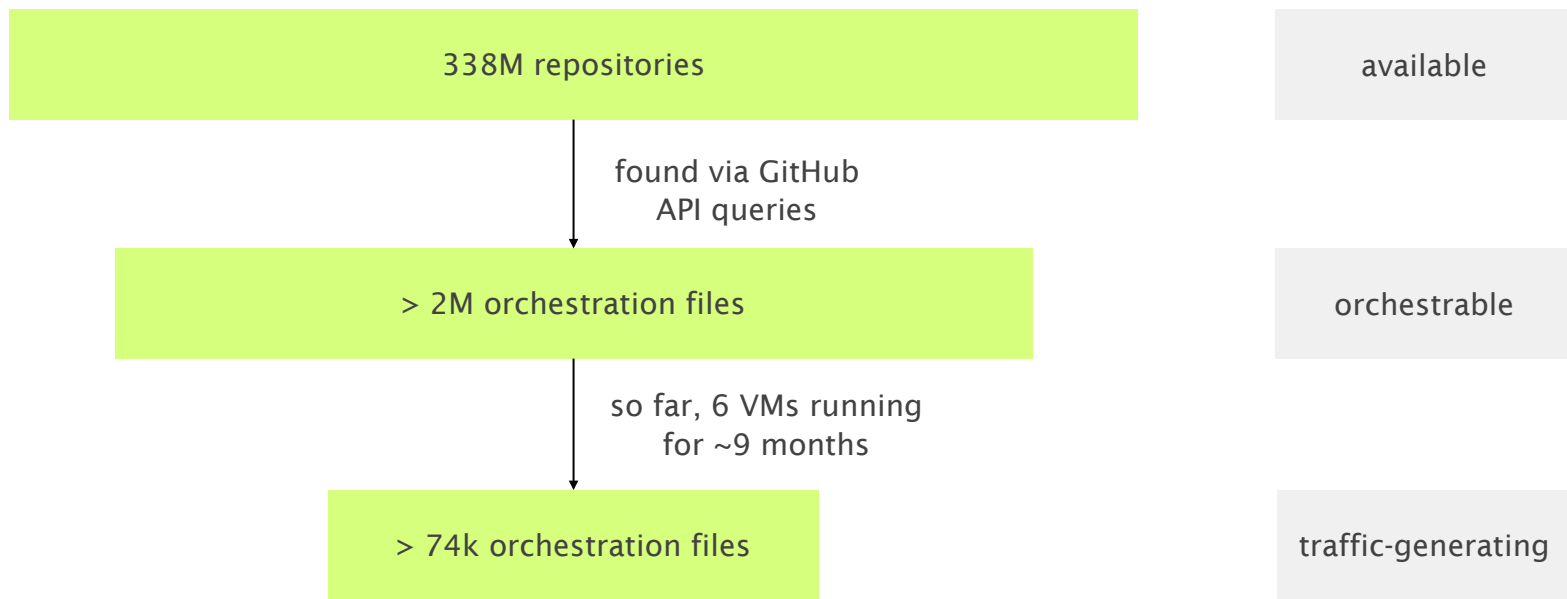
338M repositories

available

## DYNAMO first searches for traffic-generating projects



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# Users then specify traffic requirements in a Declarative Traffic Specification Language

What kind of traffic?

Between which hosts?

How much traffic?

## Example specification

```
generate web traffic
  from h1 to h2
  with 100 Mbps ;
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Given a specification,  
DYNAMO generates matching live traffic

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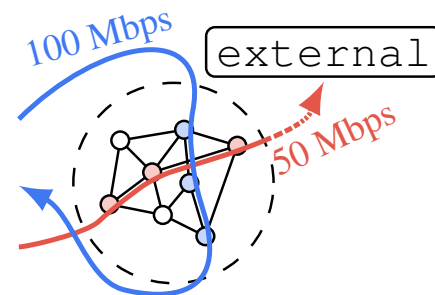
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## Traffic generation



Send live traffic through  
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# To achieve that, DYNAMO needs to **orchestrate** matching containers

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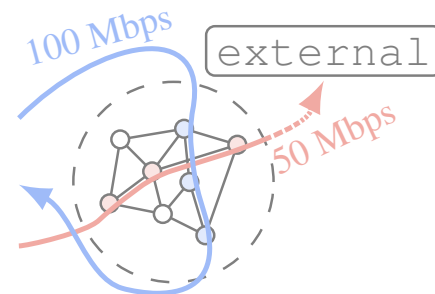


## Identified projects

2× Project #5:  
100 Mbps **web** traffic

Projects #7 and #18:  
50 Mbps **database**  
traffic using 7 flows

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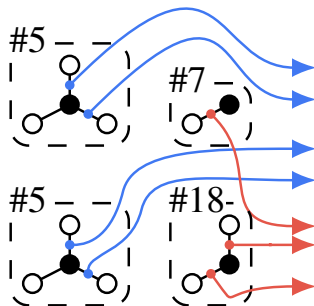
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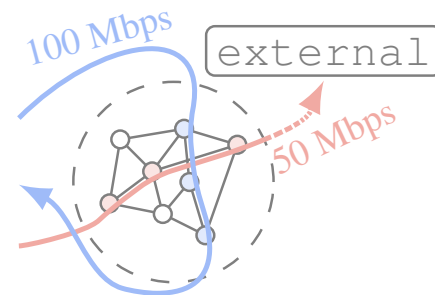
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## Setup



Run the correct  
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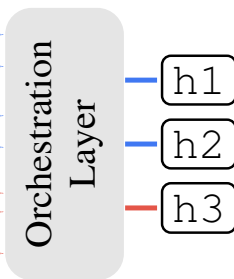
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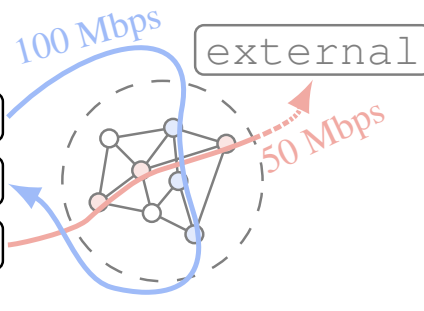
Run the correct  
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## Orchestration



Combine to  
virtual hosts

## Traffic generation



Send live traffic through  
a given user network



DYNAMO enables many use cases

And we'd love to hear more from you!

Security testing

DYNAMO generates real background traffic  
E.g., to combine with attack traffic

Network design

DYNAMO tests applications under different designs  
E.g., impact of packet loss on Bitcoin traffic

Trace generation

DYNAMO creates data sets with specific properties  
E.g., to complement skewed ML training data

Our **preliminary trace analysis** shows  
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web (HTTP, HTTPS)

database (MongoDB, MySQL)

crypto (Bitcoin, IPFS)

message-broker (RabbitMQ, Apache Kafka)

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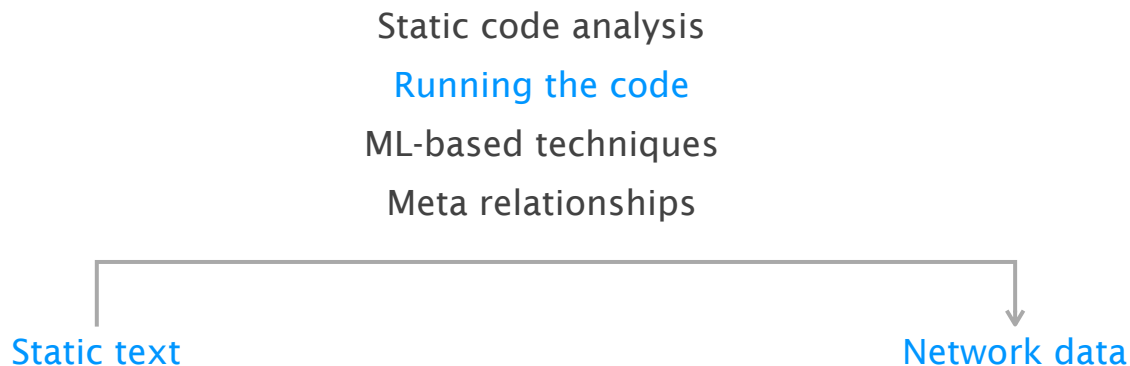
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Some of the applications generate *a lot of traffic*

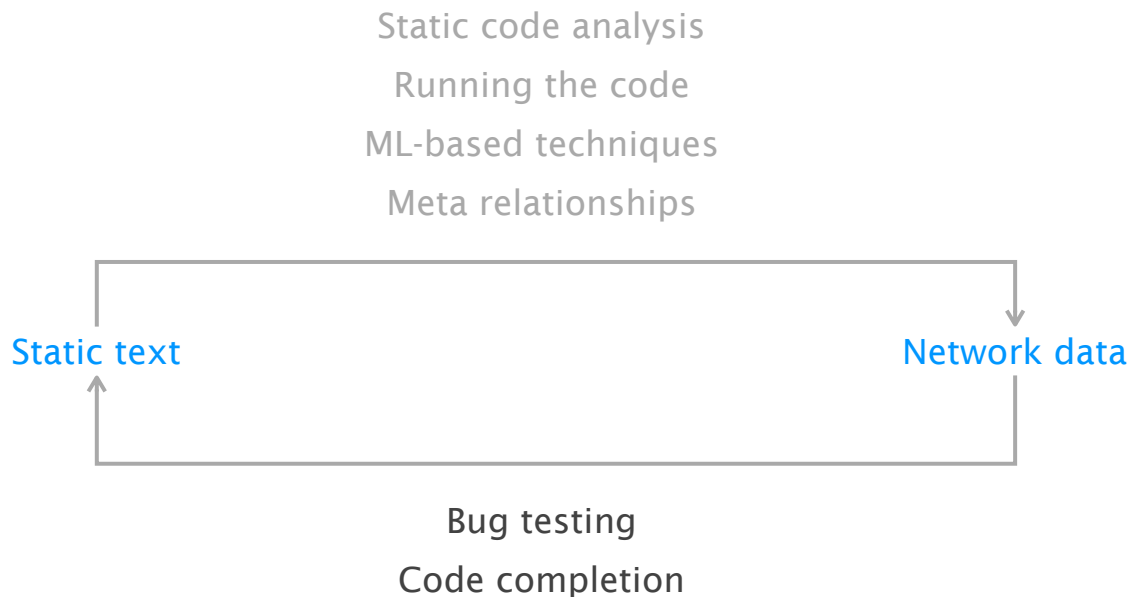
> 13M pkts (~417 Mbps), a multi-paxos implementation: `thibmeu/imperial-multi-paxos-in-elixir`

> 367k flows (~4 Mbps), a Telegram proxy: `squizduos/docker-server`

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[Traffic-generating projects](#)

