

# API-First Architecture Transformation at Etsy

Stefanie Schirmer  
[@linse](#)



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From the shop **BigStuffed**

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Handknitted lace shawl - rainbo...  
KnittyStories €69.00



Glow in the dark scale mail neck...  
Silmarilclothing **Sold**



Miniature Crystal Terrarium Nec...  
JasmineDragonStudio **Sold**



Raven Tshirt Grey Crow Bird Got...  
celticfantasy €22.65



Hedron Geometric Art Print  
LuckySkye €13.59



SIERPINSKI Double-Knitting Bab...  
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Our picks for Stefanie



BLACK BUNNY COSTUME - Adul...  
BlamoToys €204.75



Plague Doctor mask in black lea...  
TomBanwell €194.78



SOCKY BALACLAVA - Black and ...  
HeathenClothing €58.89



wooden marionette tights  
beadborg €43.49



Black Pixie Hood. Cosplay Hat. L...  
HandlCraftKate €190.25



Metric Raven Hip, Holster, Waist...  
JungleTribe €316.18

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# First problem





# # Consumers

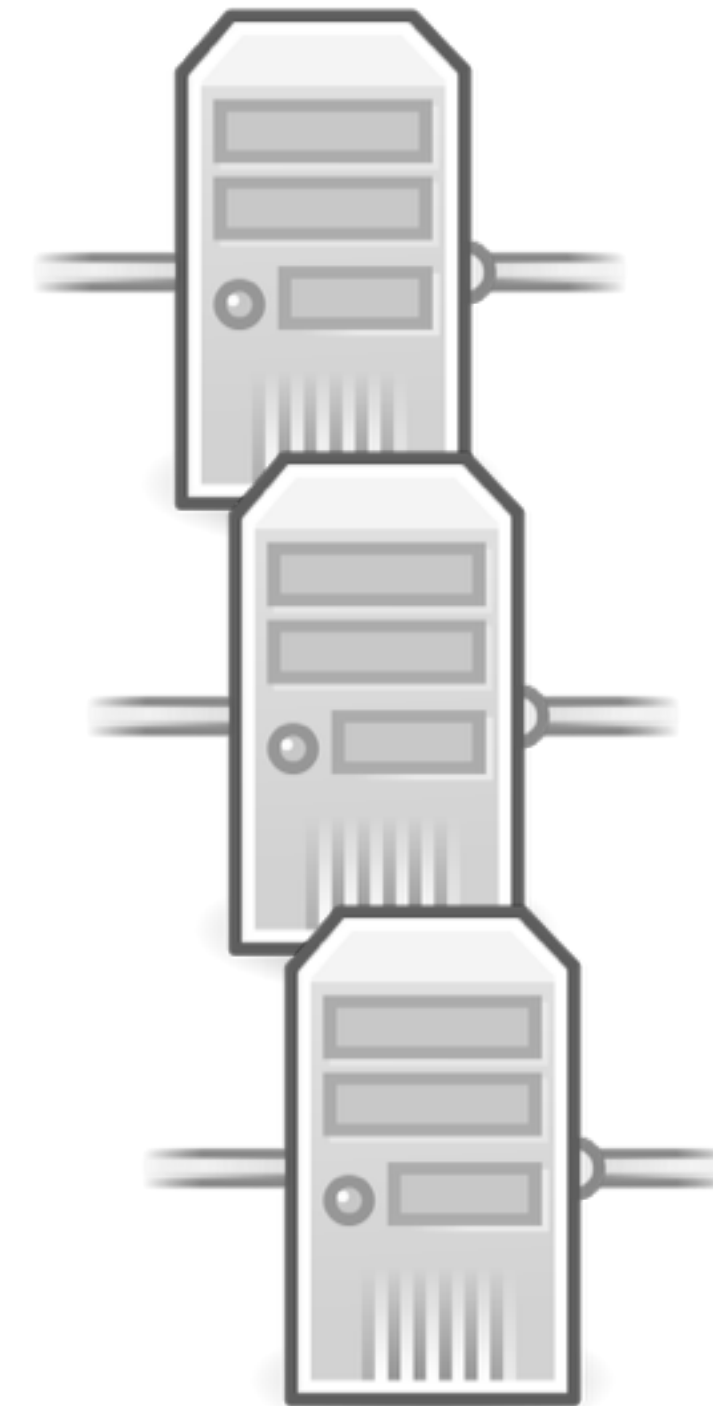
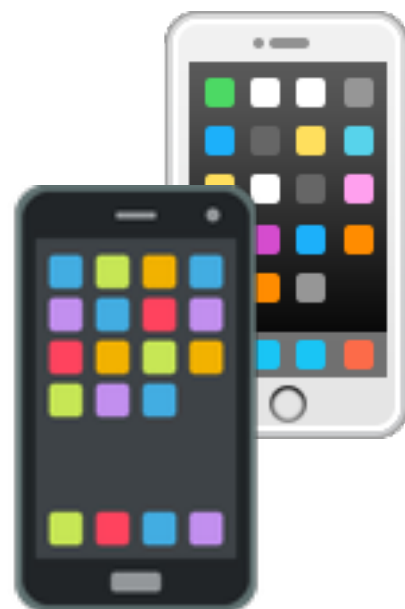


**public web: PHP & JavaScript**

**administrative apps**

**infrastructure**

**mobile apps**





**... emerging trend in ca. 2013:**

**API first**

**development**



A close-up photograph of a snail moving across a dark, textured surface. The snail's shell is a light brown color with darker, reddish-brown spiral patterns. Its body is a pale, translucent yellowish-green. Two long, thin eye stalks are extended forward. The text "Second problem" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**Second problem**



# Performance

## time to device

## non-concurrent PHP





# Shaping our mental model



# Ideas we kept

keep it **REST** (as in v2)

**services**

declaration of endpoints **in code**

**input** validation



# New ideas

**decouple** endpoints from framework

**auto-generate** routes, clients: PHP, JS

**meta**-endpoints that consume our API



# New ideas

**decouple** endpoints from framework

auto-**generate** routes, clients: PHP, JS

**meta**-endpoints that **consume** our API





**cURL**





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curl\_multi\_info\_read() is my new event loop.

RETWEETS

3

LIKES

3



7:54 AM - 17 May 2013



3



3



**Paul Wright**

@wrighty

Infrastructure a

Englishman in Brooklyn. Finder of links.



Joined March 2007

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## NAME

curl\_multi\_info\_read - read multi stack informationals

## SYNOPSIS

```
#include <curl/curl.h>
```

```
CURLMsg *curl_multi_info_read( CURLM *multi_handle,  
                               int *msgs_in_queue);
```

## DESCRIPTION

Ask the multi handle if there are any messages/informationals from the individual transfers. Messages may include informationals such as an error code from the transfer or just the fact that a transfer is completed. More details on these should be written down as well.

Be aware that this function will not return any data about the



```
public static function desc() {  
    return 'Endpoint for SellOnEtsy app shop home.';  
}  
  
public static function route() {  
    return "GET /home";  
}  
  
...  
  
public static function handle(Api_Client $client, Api_Input $input, Api_Response $response) {  
    $proxies = [  
        'shop_about' => $client->shop->aboutGet(),  
        'faq' => $client->shop->faqGet(),  
        'seller_details' => $client->shop->sellerDetailsGet(),  
    ];  
  
    return Curl_Callback_Orchestrator::runAndExtract($proxies, __CLASS__);  
}
```

```
}
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```



```
public static function desc() {
    return 'Endpoint for Sell0nEtsy app shop home.';
}

public static function route() {
    return "GET /home";
}

...

public static function handle(Api_Client $client, Api_Input $input, Api_Response $response) {
    $proxies = [
        'shop_about' => $client->shop->aboutGet(),
        'faq' => $client->shop->fAQGet(),
        'seller_details' => $client->shop->sellerDetailsGet(),
    ];

    return Curl_Callback_Orchestrator::runAndExtract($proxies, __CLASS__);
}
```

```
}
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```



```
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}
```

```
}
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

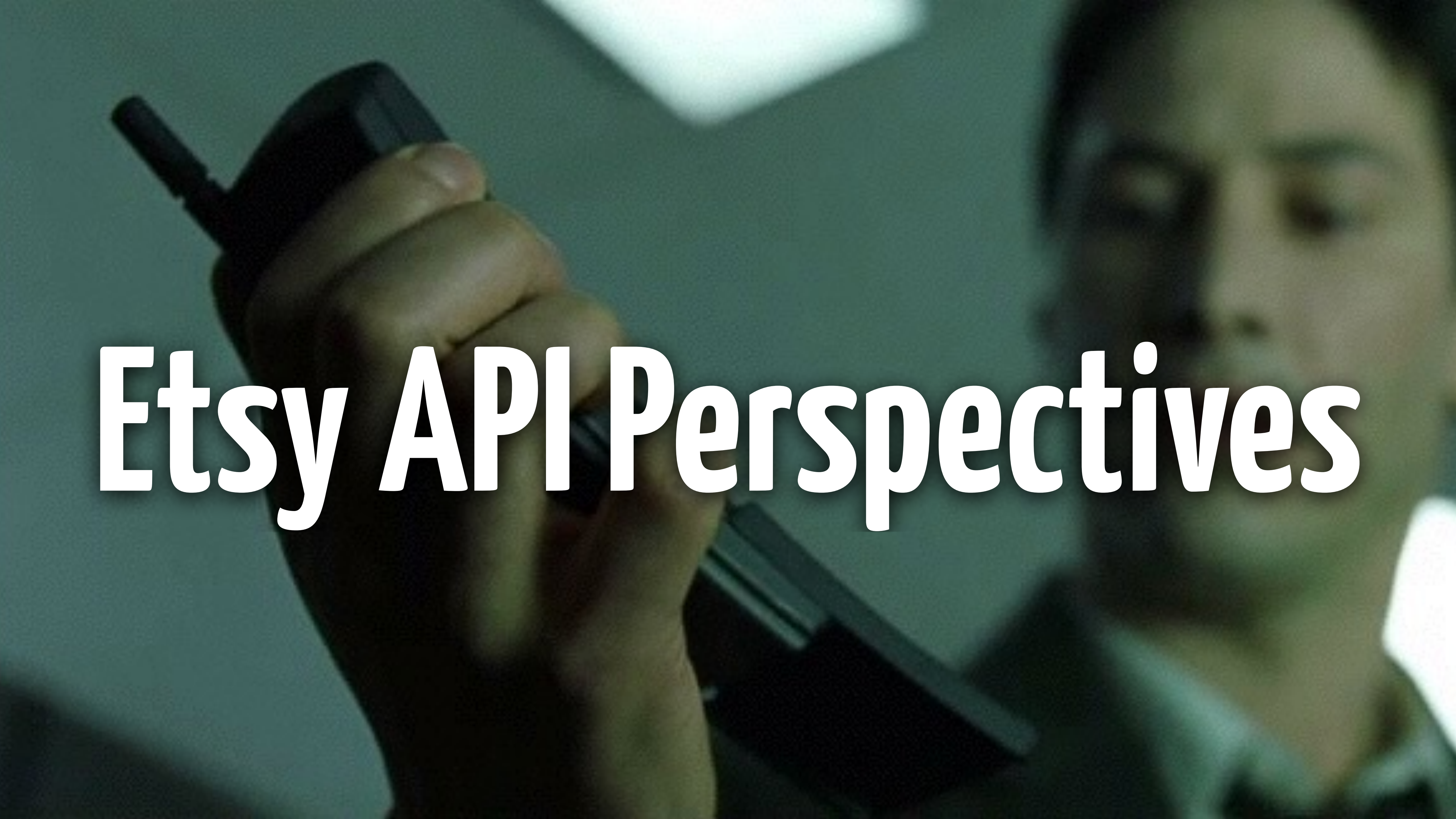
```
~
```

```
~
```



**How we built it**





# Etsy API Perspectives



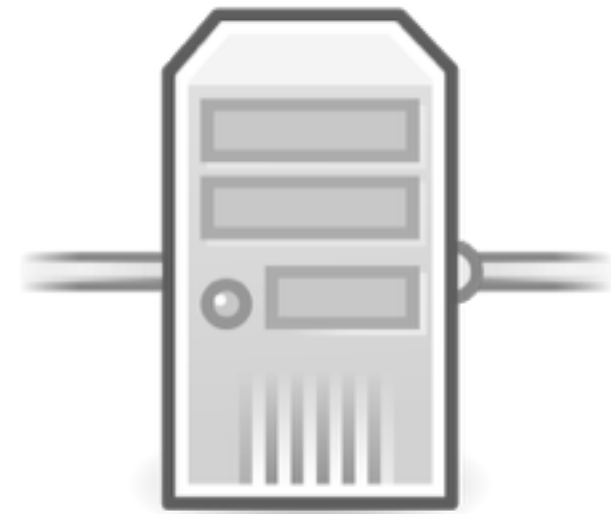
[https://www.etsy.com/api/v3/ajax/public/teams  
/member/  
/shop/  
/admin/  
/infrastructure/  
/application/](https://www.etsy.com/api/v3/ajax/public/teams/member/shop/admin/infrastructure/application/)



# Etsy API Services







**Ajax**  
**Atlas**

**Internal**

**EtsyApps**

**OpenAPI**

**DataFeeds**

**...**





**Example request**



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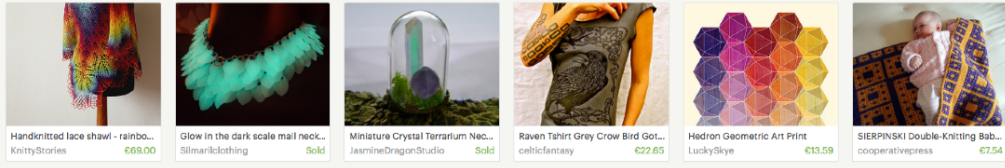
What are you shopping for?

Search



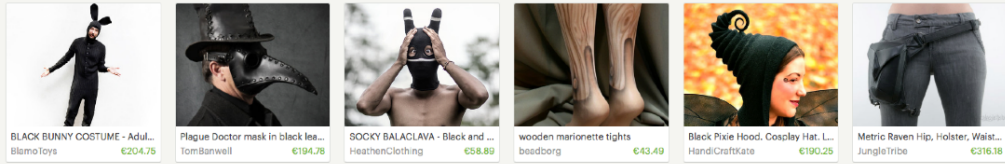
From the shop BigStuffed

Recently favoredited



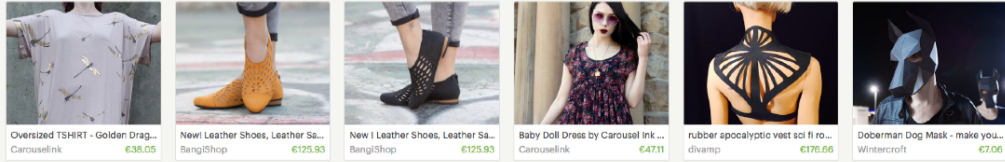
See more

Our picks for Stefanie



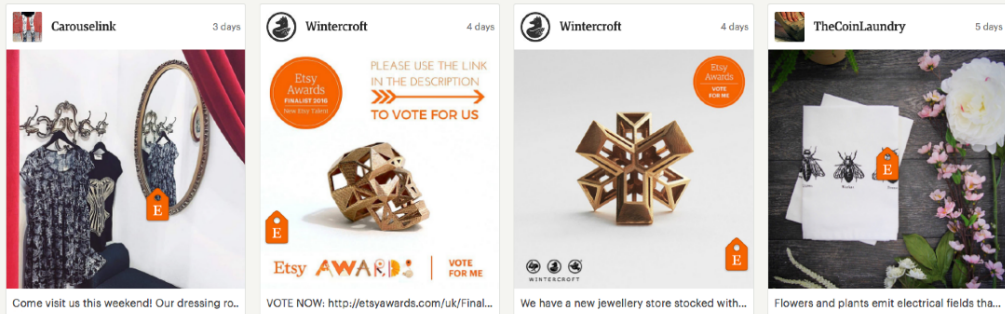
See more

New from your favorite shops



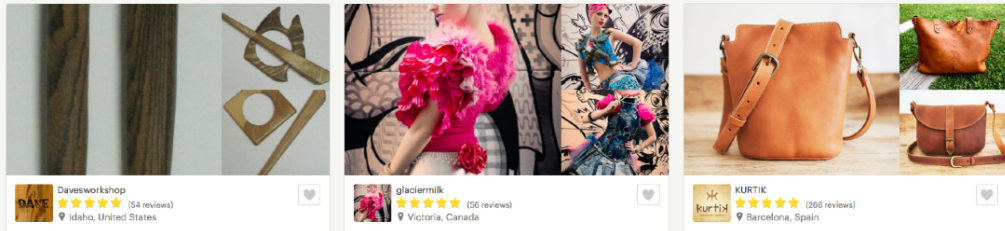
See more

Updates from shops you like

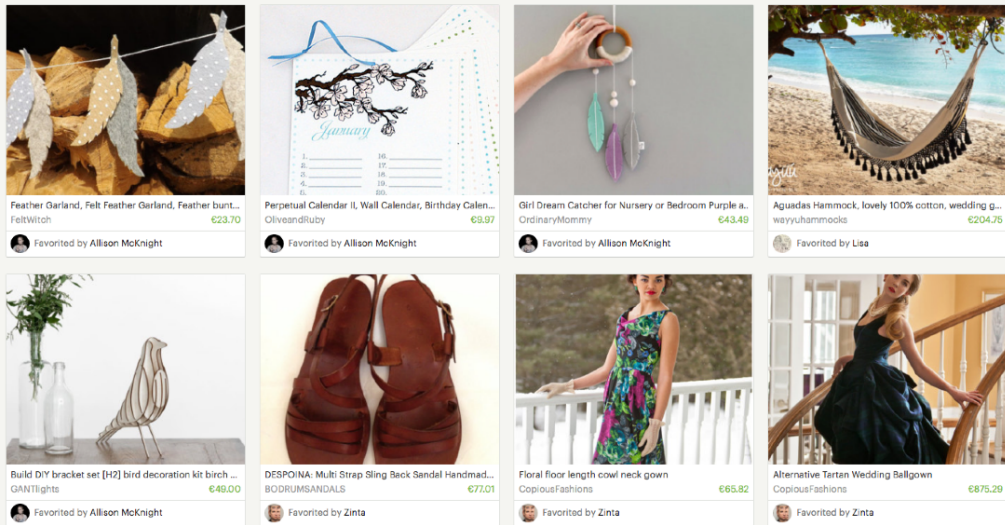


See more

Shops worth exploring



From people you follow



See more activity

Fresh from the blog



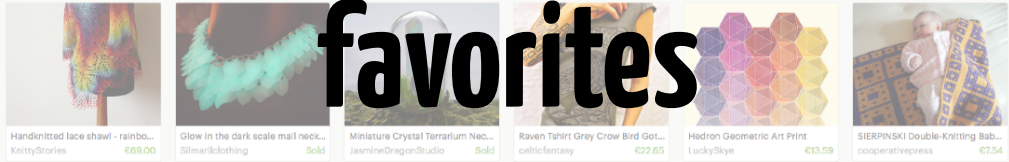


Whoever you are, find whatever you're into

What are you shopping for?

Search

Recently favorited



favorites

Our picks for Stefanie



picks for you

See more

New from your favorite shops



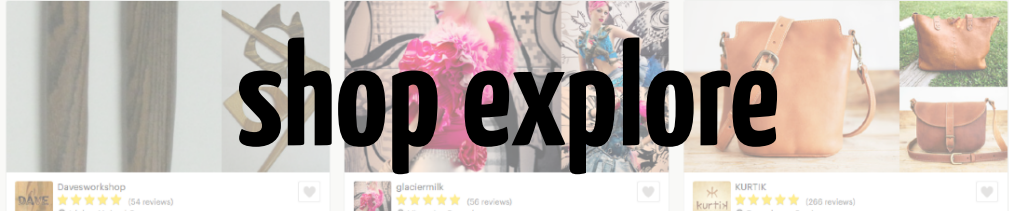
favorite shops

Updates from shops you like



shop updates

Shops worth exploring



shop explore



friends activity

See more activity

Fresh from the blog



from blog



Whoever you are, find whatever you're into

What are you shopping for?

Search

Recently favoredited



favorites

Our picks for Stefanie



picks for you

See more

New from your favorite shops



favorite shops

Updates from shops you like



shop updates

Shops worth exploring



shop explore



friends activity

Fresh from the blog



from blog

favorites

listing card

listing card

listing card

favorite shops

shop card

shop card

...

friends activity

story card

story card

from blog

featured shop



# Web



# API







Three tiers







# bespoke

favorites

listing card

listing card

listing card

favorite shops

shop card

shop card

...

friends activity

story card

story card

from blog

featured shop



**bespoke**

**concurrent**

favorites

favorite shops

friends activity

from blog

listing card

listing card

listing card

shop card

shop card

...

story card

story card

featured shop



**bespoke**

```
graph LR;
    bespoke[bespoke] --- favorites[favorites];
    bespoke --- favorite_shops[favorite shops];
    bespoke --- friends_activity[friends activity];
    bespoke --- from_blog[from blog];
    favorites --- lc1[listing card];
    favorites --- lc2[listing card];
    favorites --- lc3[listing card];
    favorite_shops --- sc[shop card];
    friends_activity --- stc1[story card];
    friends_activity --- stc2[story card];
    from_blog --- fs[featured shop];
```

**concurrent**

**component**



**bespoke**

```
graph LR;
  bespoke[bespoke] --- concurrent[concurrent];
  bespoke --- component[component];
  concurrent --- favorites[favorites];
  concurrent --- favorite_shops[favorite shops];
  concurrent --- friends_activity[friends activity];
  concurrent --- from_blog[from blog];
  component --- listing_card[listing card];
  component --- shop_card[shop card];
  component --- story_card[story card];
  component --- featured_shop[featured shop];
```

**concurrent**

favorites

favorite shops

friends activity

from blog

**component**

listing card

listing card

listing card

shop card

...

story card

story card

featured shop



ommanenspezifische Sprache von

Endpunkten

language dédi

メイン固有言語

**DSL of Etsy endpoints**

Język dziedziczny

زبان مختص به دامنه



**route()**

**desc()**

**resultType()**

**handle(\$client, \$input, \$response)**

**required**



**declareInput(\$input)** optional

**includedServices()**

**cacheTtlSeconds()**



# Validation of input







# Output types





# **Tooling: Route compiler & Auto-client generation**

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/192043815/1880s-vintage-toolbox-full-of-tools>



**Operations:**  
**Architecture implications**





**PHP:**  
**short lived**  
**single threaded**  
**shared nothing**





**pain point of shared nothing:**

**bootstrap**



**Problem:**

# **PHP time to request**

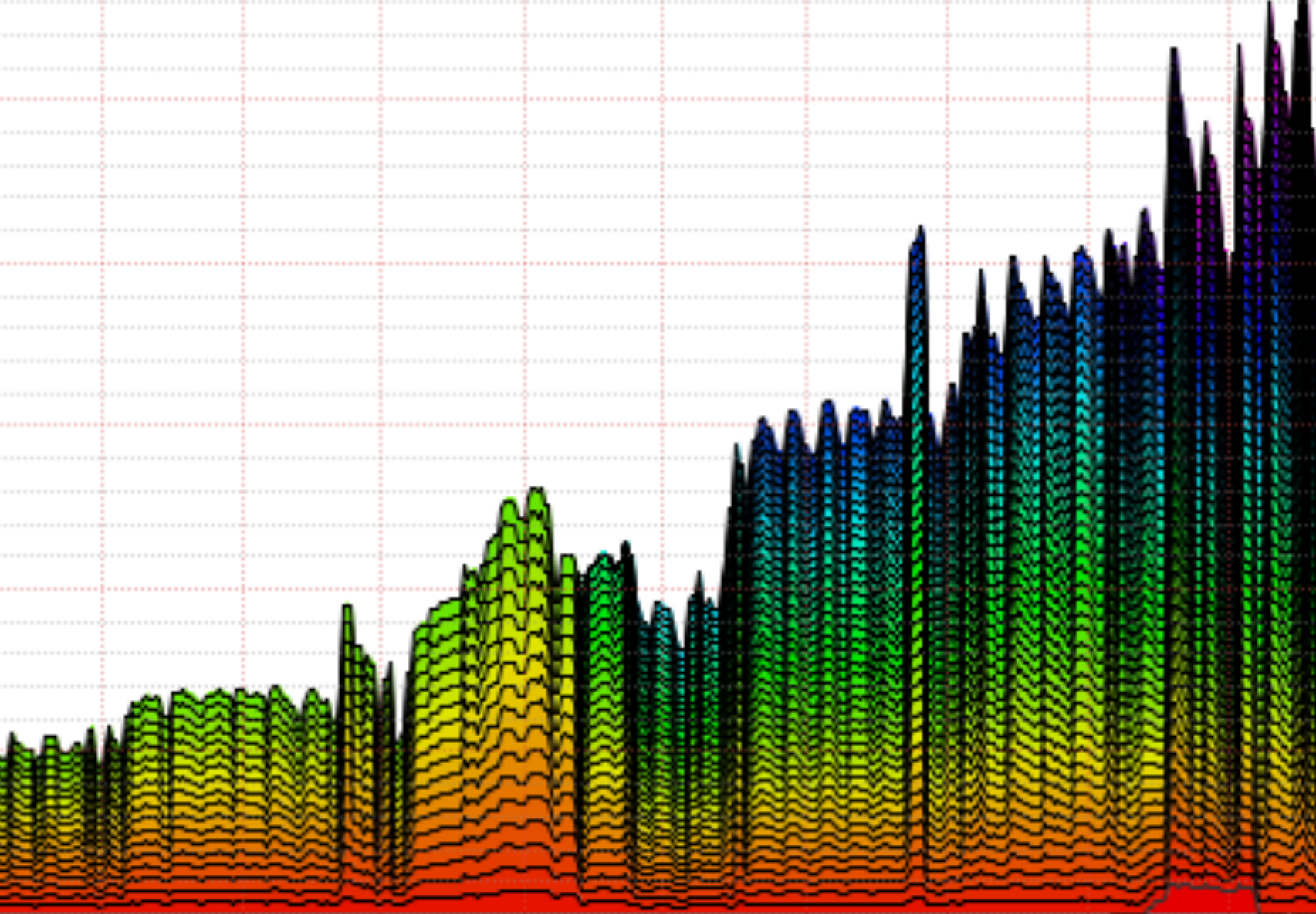




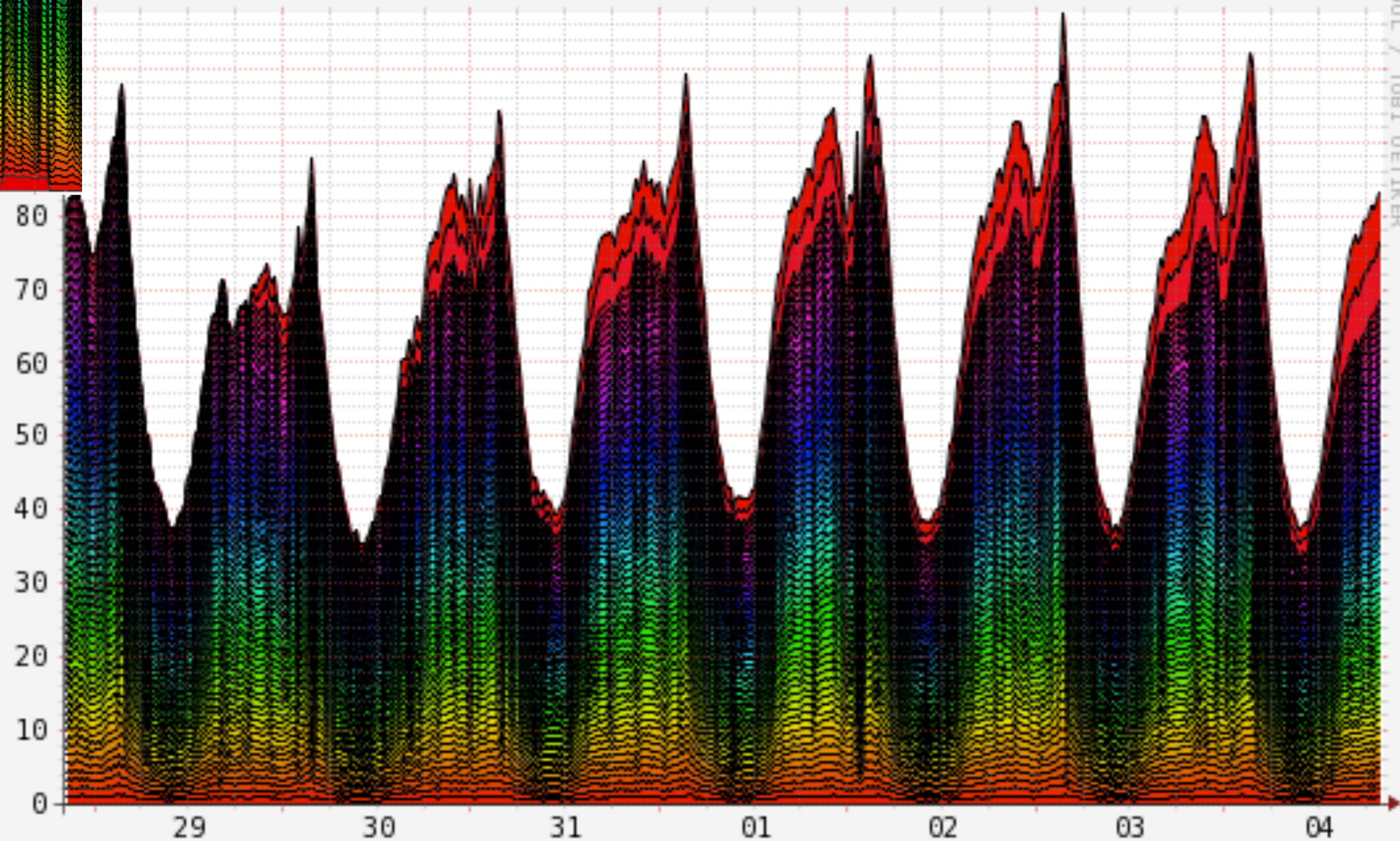
# Experiment: HHVM







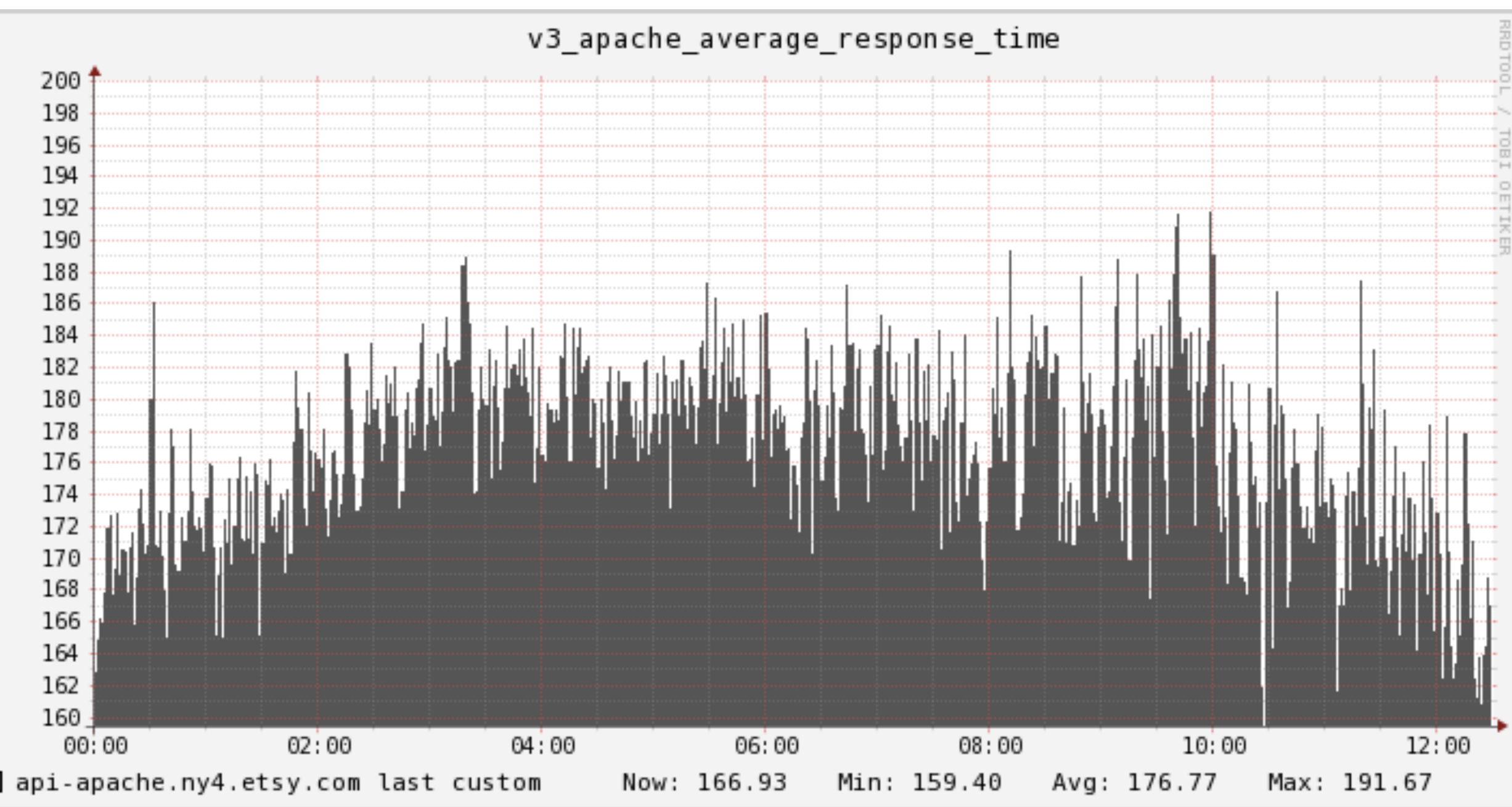
API aggregated load\_one last week





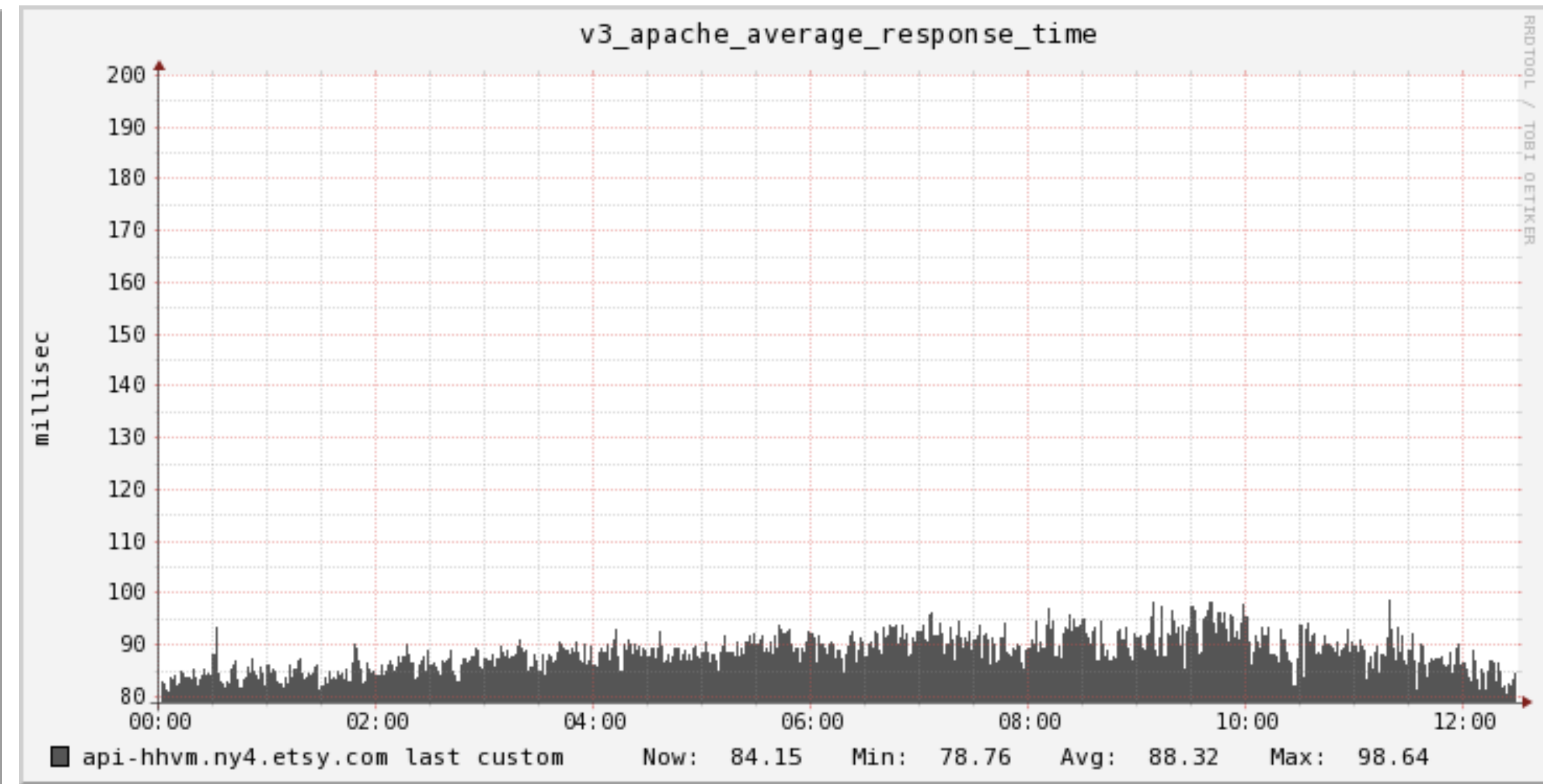
# PHP 5 / Zend

Average Response Time  
12 Hour



# HHVM

Average Response Time  
12 Hour







**Problem:**

**Balancing load**

**on cluster**



**Where wouldn't  
this work?**



# Operations: Tooling





# Tooling: CrossStitch

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/192043815/1880s-vintage-toolbox-full-of-tools>



# CrossStitch - Waterfall

## Legend

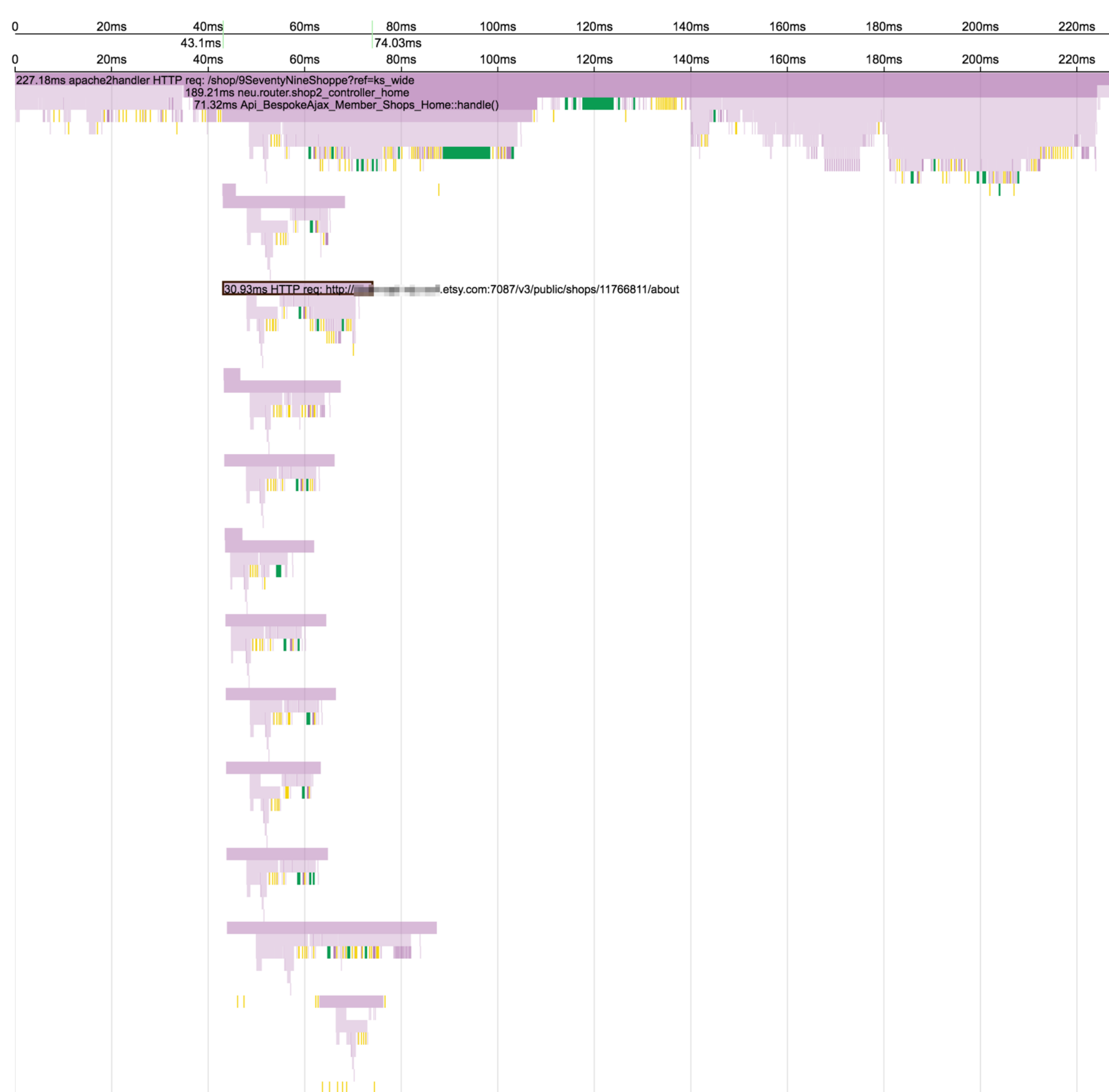
- HTTP (17, 566.39ms)
- Memcached (216, 36.53ms)
- DB Query (38, 35.38ms)
- Thrift Query
- Gearman Job
- Redis
- Arizona

```
30.93ms HTTP req: http://[REDACTED].etsy.com:7087/v3/public/shops/11766811/about{
  "span_id": "cwBrWkhSJrb7Xbgg5R-IQGycbebD",
  "service": null,
  "binary_annotations": [
    {
      "curl.url": "http://[REDACTED].etsy.com:7087/v3/public/shops/11766811/about",
      "endpoint": "[REDACTED].etsy.com/10.96.81.23:80"
    },
    {
      "curl.method": "GET",
      "endpoint": "[REDACTED].etsy.com/10.96.81.23:80"
    }
  ]
}
```

[Download PNG](#) | [View Trace In Zipkin](#)











# **Tooling: Fanout-Manager**

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/192043815/1880s-vintage-toolbox-full-of-tools>





# Tooling: datafindr

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/192043815/1880s-vintage-toolbox-full-of-tools>



ENDPOINTS

- Public
- Member
- Shop
- Application
- BespokeOpenApi
- AppUser
- BespokeEtsyApps
- Admin
- BespokeAjax
- BespokeAtlas
- Infrastructure
- BespokeCraftAjax

RESOURCES

- Public
- Shop
- Member
- ServerDrivenLayout
- Admin
- Search
- Staff
- Infrastructure

Public / Teams / List

Public

List of active teams.

GET /api/v3/ajax/public/teams

Arguments

| name    | type   | required | default |
|---------|--------|----------|---------|
| keyword | String |          |         |

Resource

Returns resource: [Public / Team](#)

Quantity: one

| name              | type    |
|-------------------|---------|
| group_id          | ID      |
| name              | String  |
| group_type        | String  |
| status            | String  |
| avatar_url        | String  |
| short_description | String  |
| long_description  | String  |
| is_juried         | Boolean |
| is_private        | Boolean |

Example Request

Locale: Country: United States Language: English Currency: USD

GET request parameters:


keyword:

```
curl /api/v3/ajax/public/teams
```

Example Response

```
[
  {
    "group_id": 29885,
    "name": "paranormal experiences",
    "group_type": "NORMAL",
    "status": "ACTIVE",
    "create_date": 1465830325,
    "avatar_url": "https://img0.etsystatic.com/123/0/29885/iga_170x100.4080",
    "membership_count": 9,
    "active_thread_count": 2,
    "last_post_date_formatted": "6 hours ago",
    "last_poster_real_or_login_name": "amanda wood",
    "is_juried": false,
    "is_private": false,
    "is_closed": false,
    "url": "/teams/29885/paranormal-experiences",
    "new_thread_url": "/teams/29885/paranormal-experiences/discuss/new/",
    "active_member_count": 9,
    "short_description": "paranormal experiences\r\n what paranormal experi",
    "long_description": "paranormal experiences\r\n\r\n\r\nwhat paranormal expe"
```





# **Tooling: (wanted)**

# **Identify unused endpoints**

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/192043815/1880s-vintage-toolbox-full-of-tools>



**Developer adoption**



How did we “sell” it?





**..too fast to keep up!**



**White space**

**gets filled with code**





# Documentation!!



<https://www.etsy.com/listing/275337876/eclectic-elements-documentation-half>





# Pockets of patterns



kguessner: unsample API **type errors** and make them more prominent to enforce guarantees.

sbirksted: wants **contract** between set of items an **endpoint** will **return**, set of items that the **app** knows how to **format**.

jdonato: code organization: compiler in same space as endpoints ಠ\_ಠ

stan: we can compose **endpoints**, but for composable **views** we still have to repeat things.  
Can we **lift** composability into the view?

cconstable: can we **mock** a typed resource?  
Can we **automatically traverse** it?



# Trust + Guidance







**Work in  
progress**



**Versioning?**

**Edge?**

**Caching?**

**ACI?**

**3rd party?**



# Conclusion



**What did we learn?**



**What did we learn?**

**Did we succeed?**



**“We desperately need to figure out a scheme for allowing concurrency or else we’re going to have performance problems forever.”**

**- Andrew Morrison (Etsy)**



**“We desperately need to figure out a scheme for allowing concurrency or else we’re going to have performance problems forever.”**

**- Andrew Morrison (Etsy)**



Where we are **NOW**:

**Responsibility**

**division** between

**device** and **server**



Thank you <3

I'm Stefanie Schirmer

@linse