SOFAS,
SOFTWARE ANALYSIS AS A SERVICE

Giacomo Ghezzi

University of Zurich[UZH]

Department of Informatics

s.e.a.l.
software evolution & architecture lab

RED QUEEN'S HYPOTHESIS

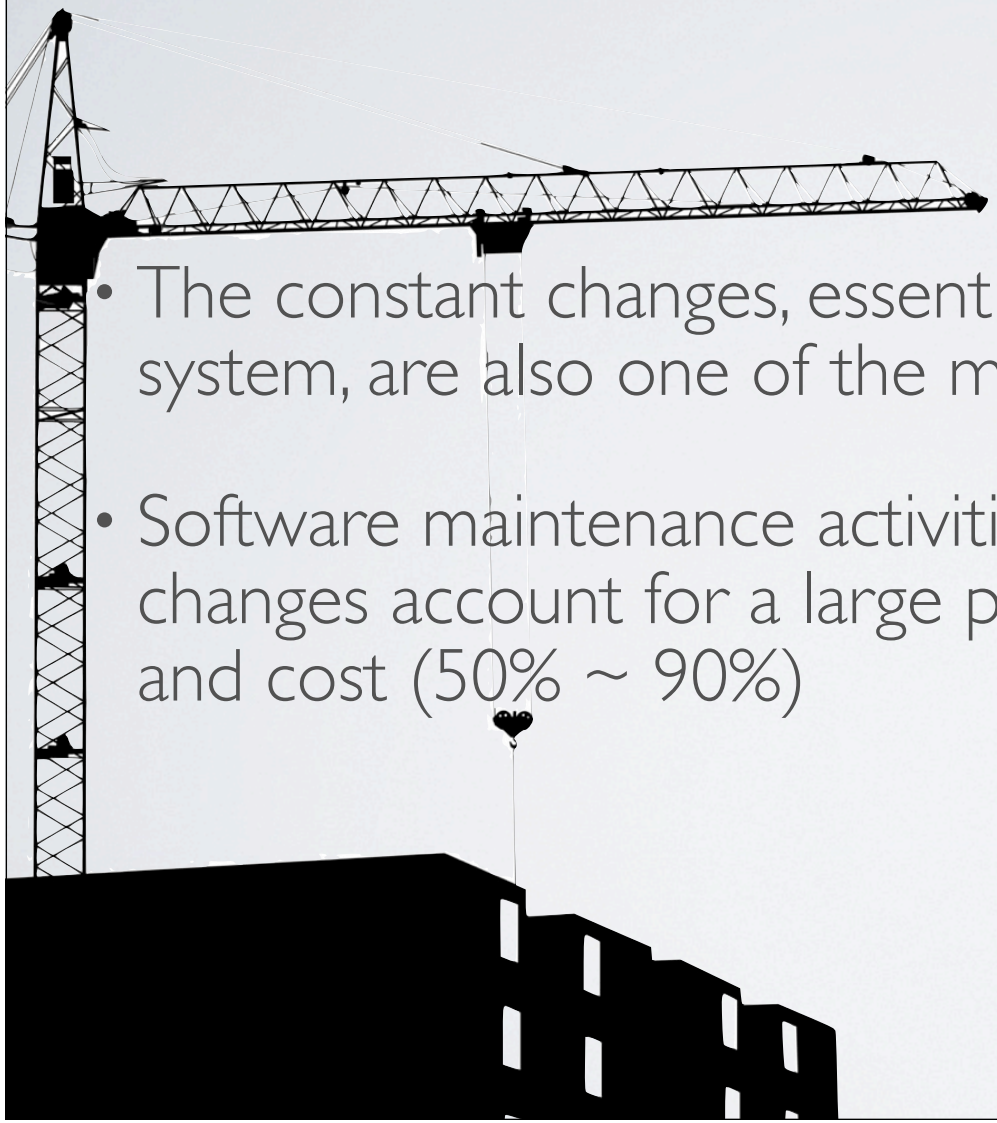
"It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."

"Through the Looking Glass", L. Carroll

"For an evolutionary system, continuing development is needed just in order to maintain its fitness relative to the systems it is co-evolving with."

L. van Valen

THE CHANGE PROBLEM



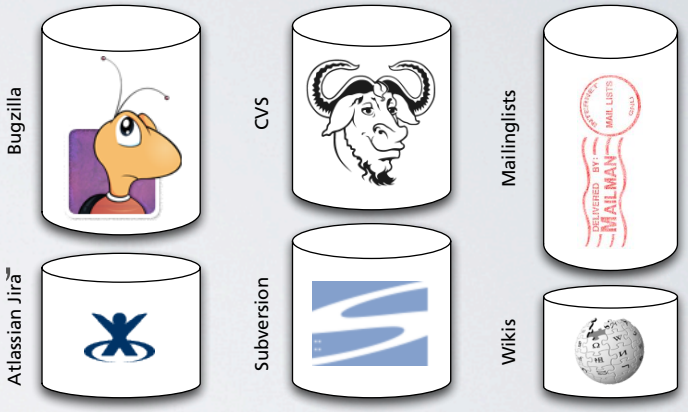
- The constant changes, essential for the success of a software system, are also one of the main causes of its dismissal
- Software maintenance activities aimed at controlling these changes account for a large portion of the development effort and cost (50% ~ 90%)

SOFTWARE EVOLUTION ANALYSIS

- Having an always up to date and thorough view of a software system, its health and history is key
- **Software repositories** can provide a huge amount of data useful for that purpose

SOFTWARE EVOLUTION ANALYSIS

- **Software repositories** were used primarily for historical records
- **Gold rush** to exploit this data to support software evolution, improve software design/reuse, understand and support development, etc.
- Mining software archives have come up for many types of analyses:
  - change types
  - change couplings
  - defect prediction
  - developer networks



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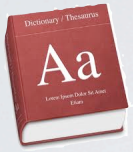

Analyses lack a clear and uniform data representation

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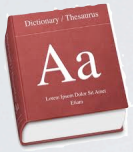

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No straight forward integration between different analyses exists.

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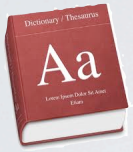

Analyses lack a clear and uniform data representation

No straight forward integration between different analyses exists.

People keep reinventing the same wheels

THE NEED FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH

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1. How can we offer the functionalities of this plethora of evolution analyses in a consistent and efficient way?

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4. **What is the impact of this new approach?**

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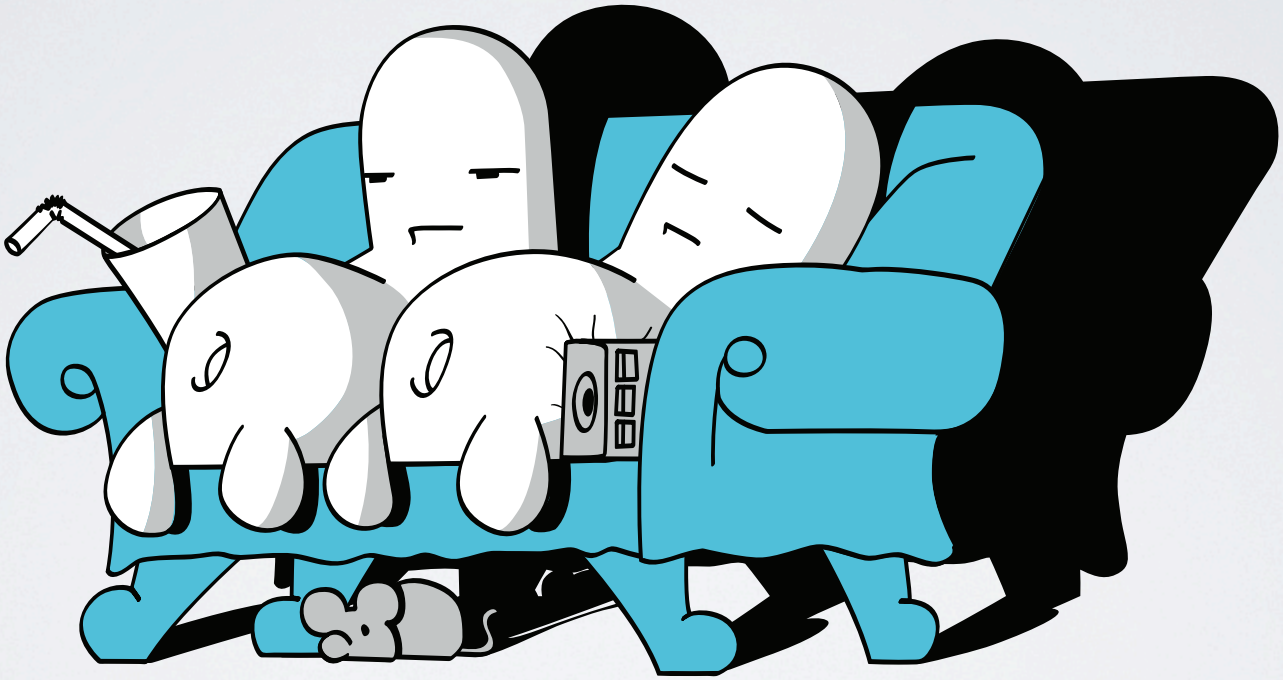

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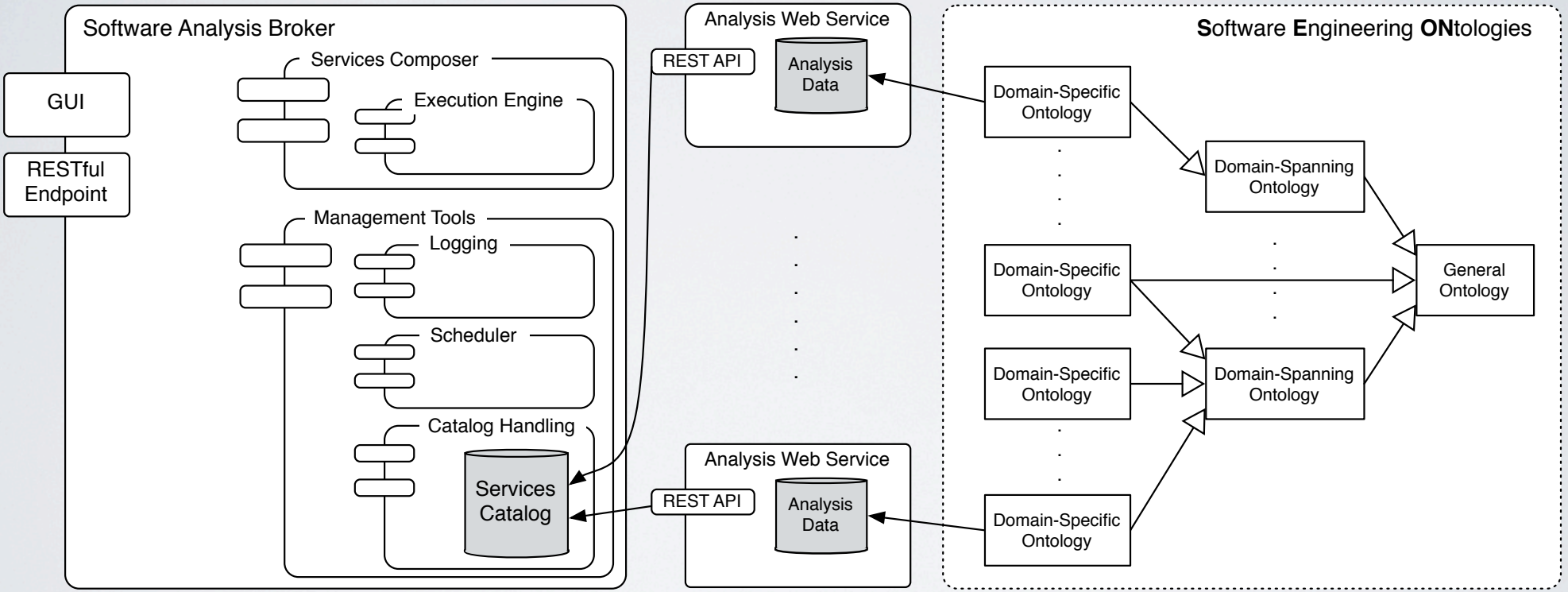
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GUI
RESTful Endpoint
Services Composer
Execution Engine
Management Tools
Logging
Scheduler
Catalog Handling
Services Catalog
Analysis Web Service
REST API
Analysis Data
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Analysis Data
Software Engineering ONtologies
Domain-Specific Ontology
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Domain-Spanning Ontology
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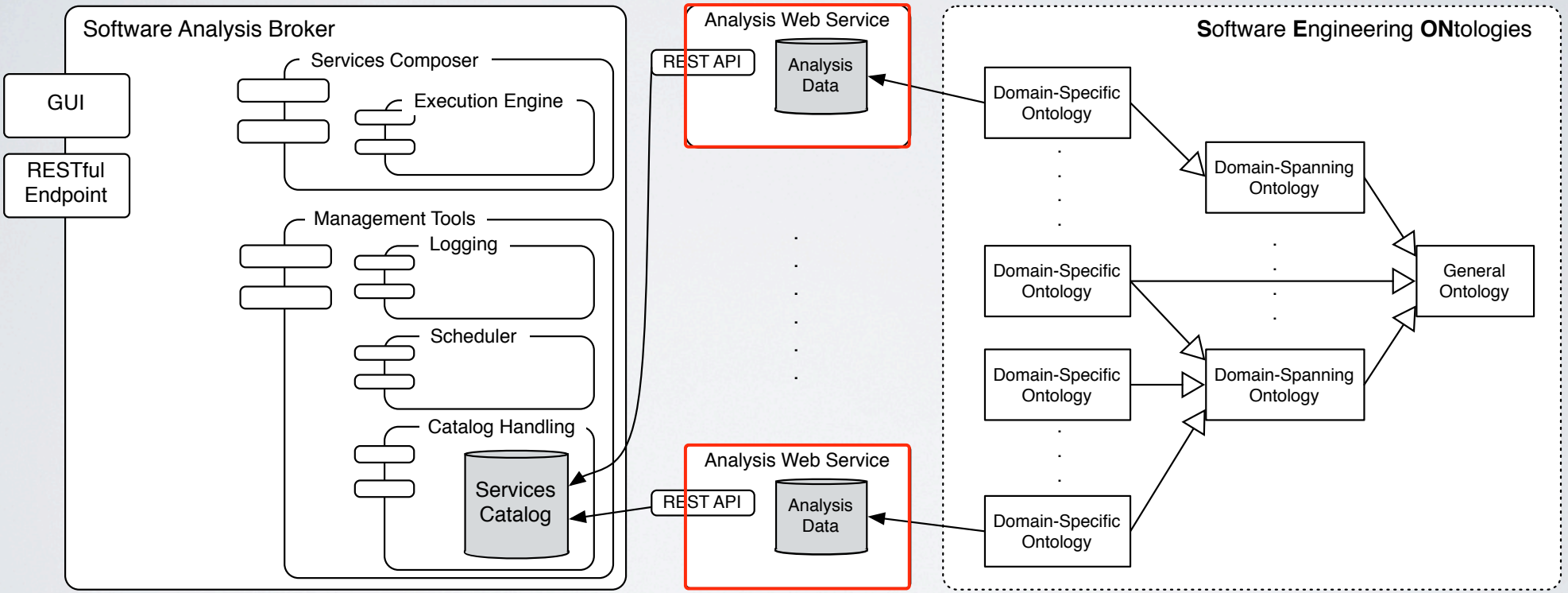
General Ontology

ENTER SOFAS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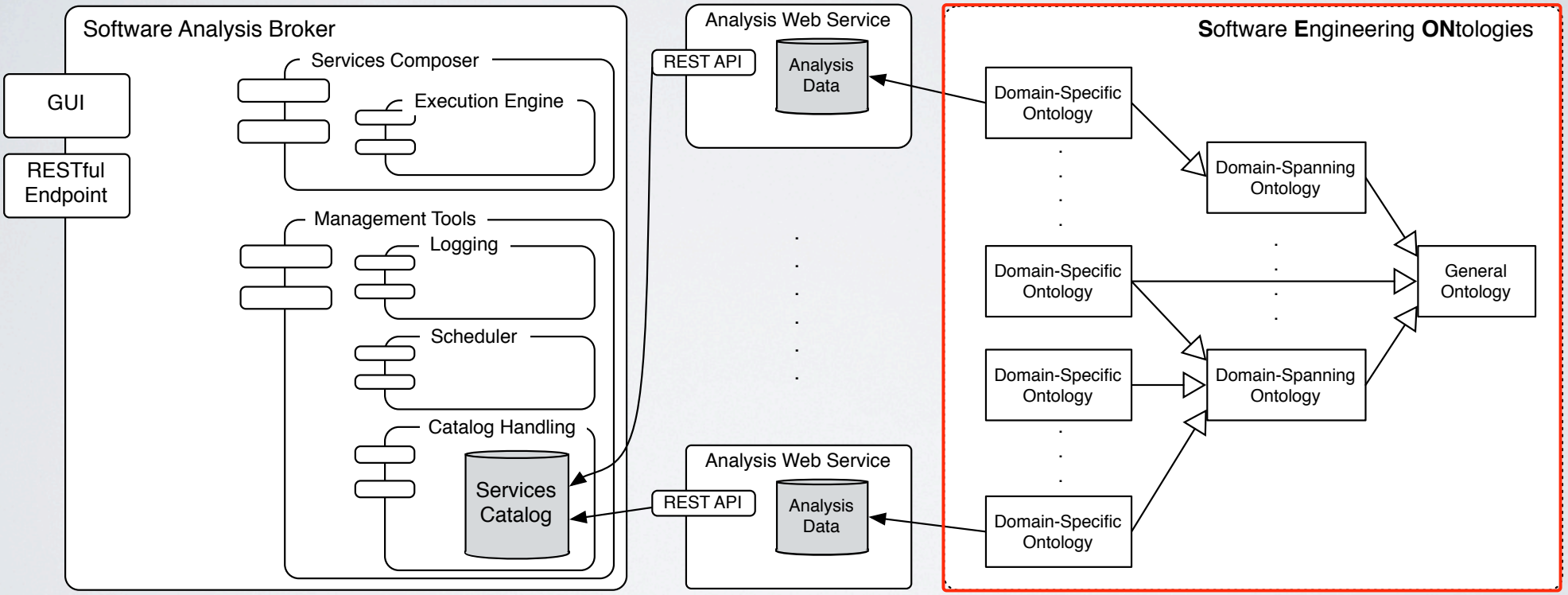
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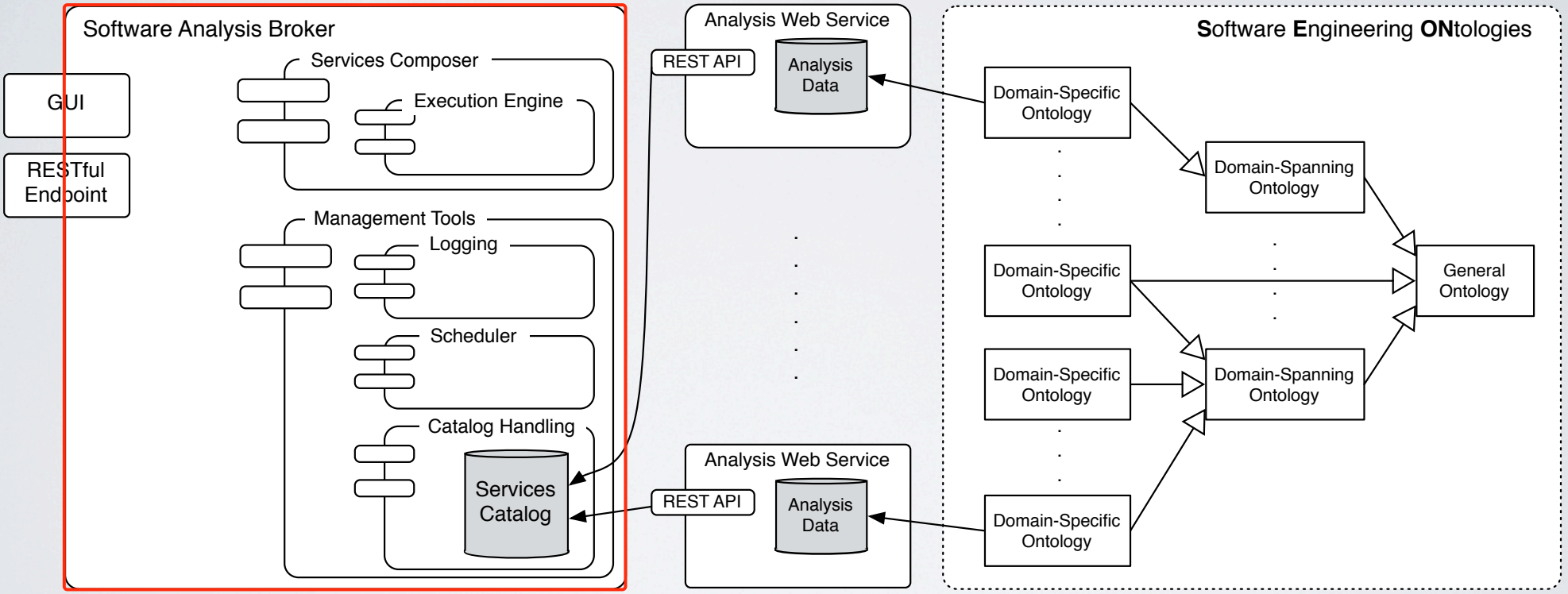
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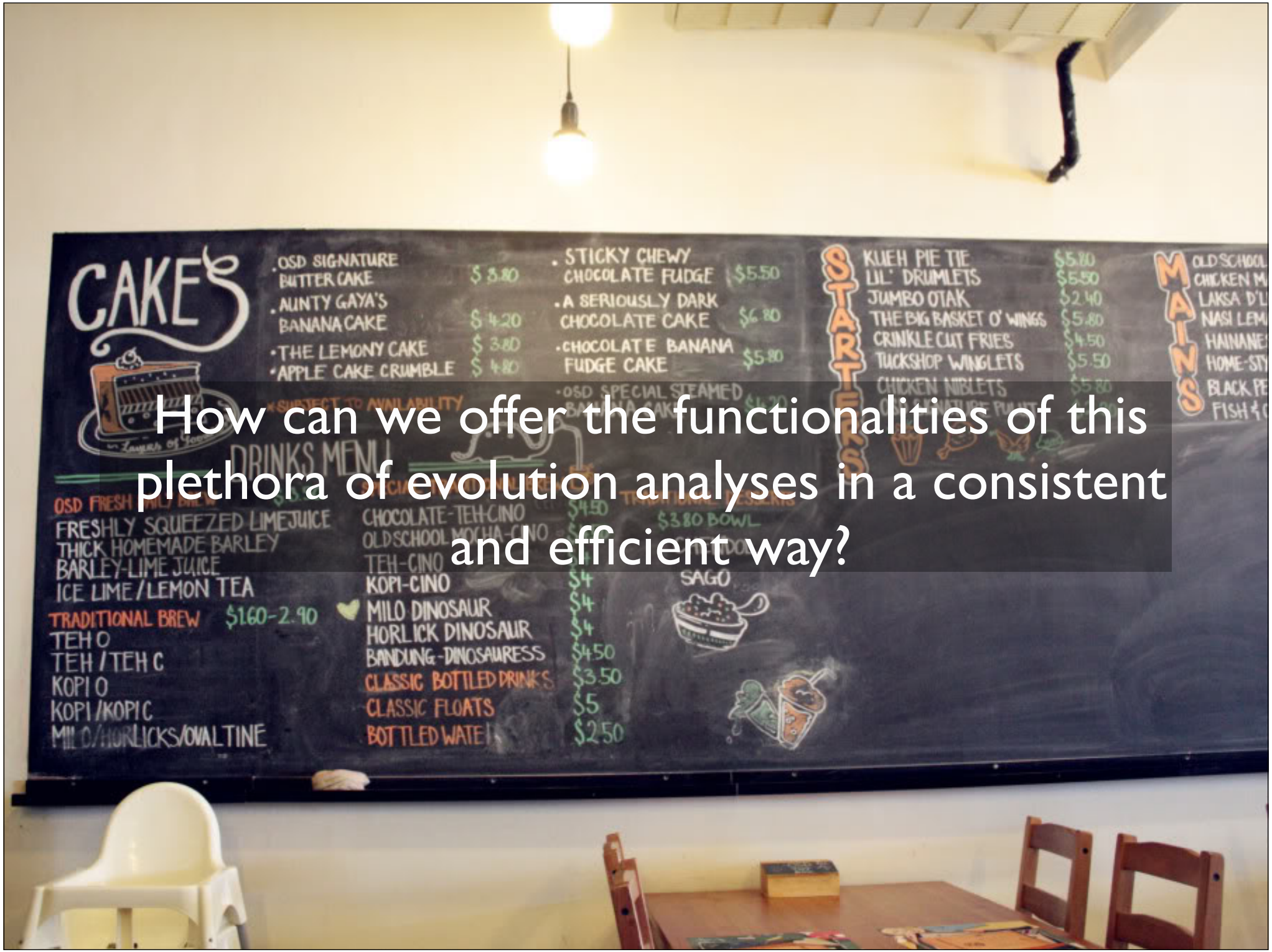

How can we offer the functionalities of this plethora of evolution analyses in a consistent and efficient way?

SOFTWARE ANALYSIS AS A SERVICE

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ANALYSIS WEB SERVICES

- Analysis service (habanero.ifi.uzh.ch/svnImporter/analyses)
  - **GET** - Lists al the existing analyses
  - **POST** - Creates and runs a new analysis
- Individual analysis (habanero.ifi.uzh.ch/svnImporter/analyses/analysis_1)
  - **GET** - Returns the complete analysis data or the results of a SPARQL query encoded in the analysis URI (SPARQL Endpoint)
  - **HEAD** - Checks if the analysis exists and is available
  - **PUT** - Replaces the analysis
  - **DELETE** - Deletes the analysis

ANALYSIS WEB SERVICES

- More than 30 services:
  - Data gatherers
    - **version control history** extractors
    - **issue tracking history** extractors
  - Basic analyses
    - **metrics** calculators
    - **source code model** extractors
    - **code clones** calculator
    - **change types** distiller
  - Composite analyses
    - **issue-revision** linkers
    - **code disharmonies** detector
    - **defect** predictors

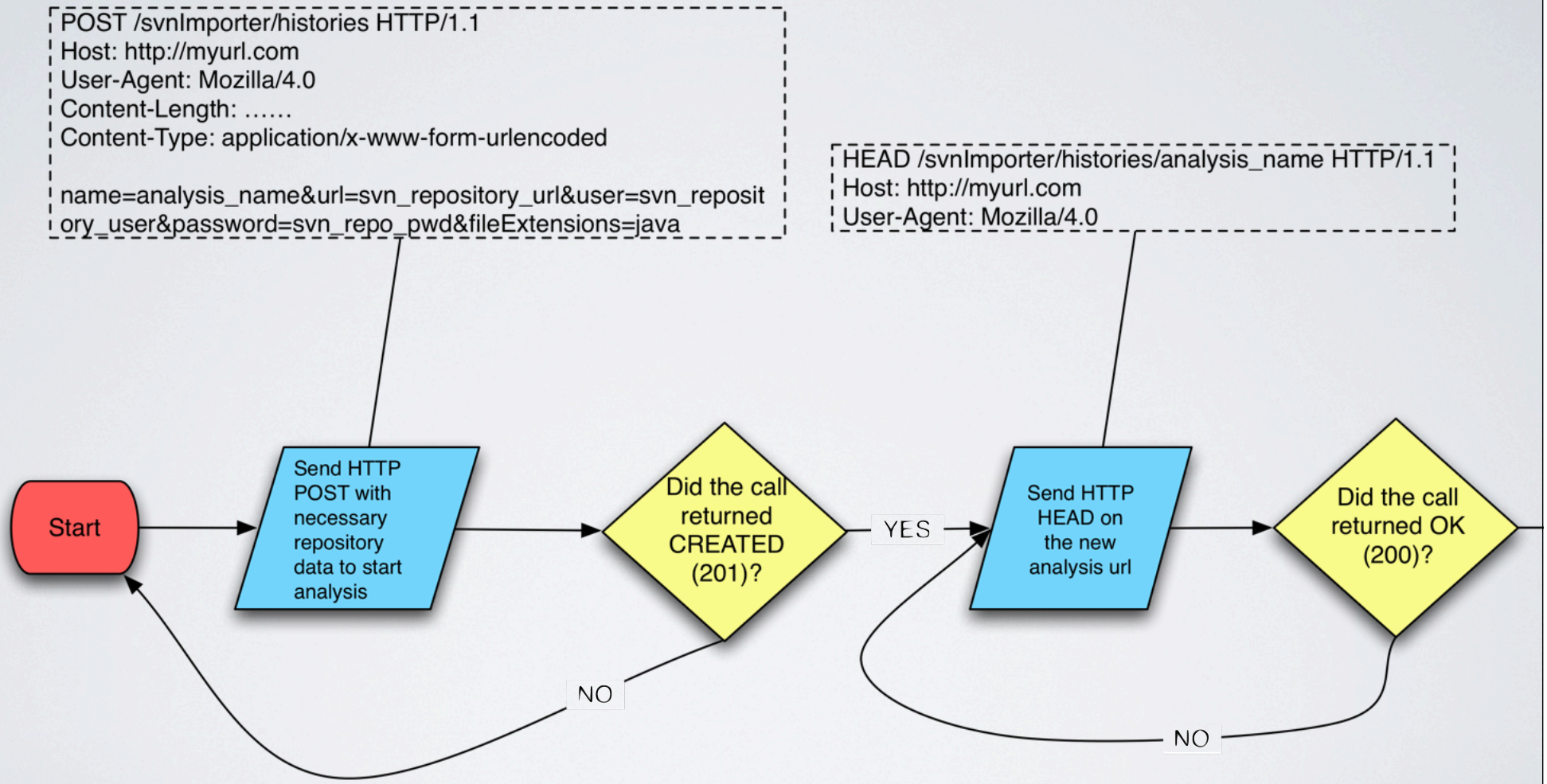
HOW TO USE SOFAS' RESTFUL SERVICES (1)

- Starting an analysis
  - access via HTTP, cURL, or Java/Jersey
  - **send a post** request to habanero.ifi.uzh.ch/svnImporter/ histories together with the data needed in XML format or in an HTML form
  - **returns the URL** of the newly created analyses (through which its data can then be fetched)
  - the actual data will be available only when the entire analysis completed
  - the service will send an email when the analysis is completed (however, a program can periodically send an HTTP HEAD request on the analysis URL)

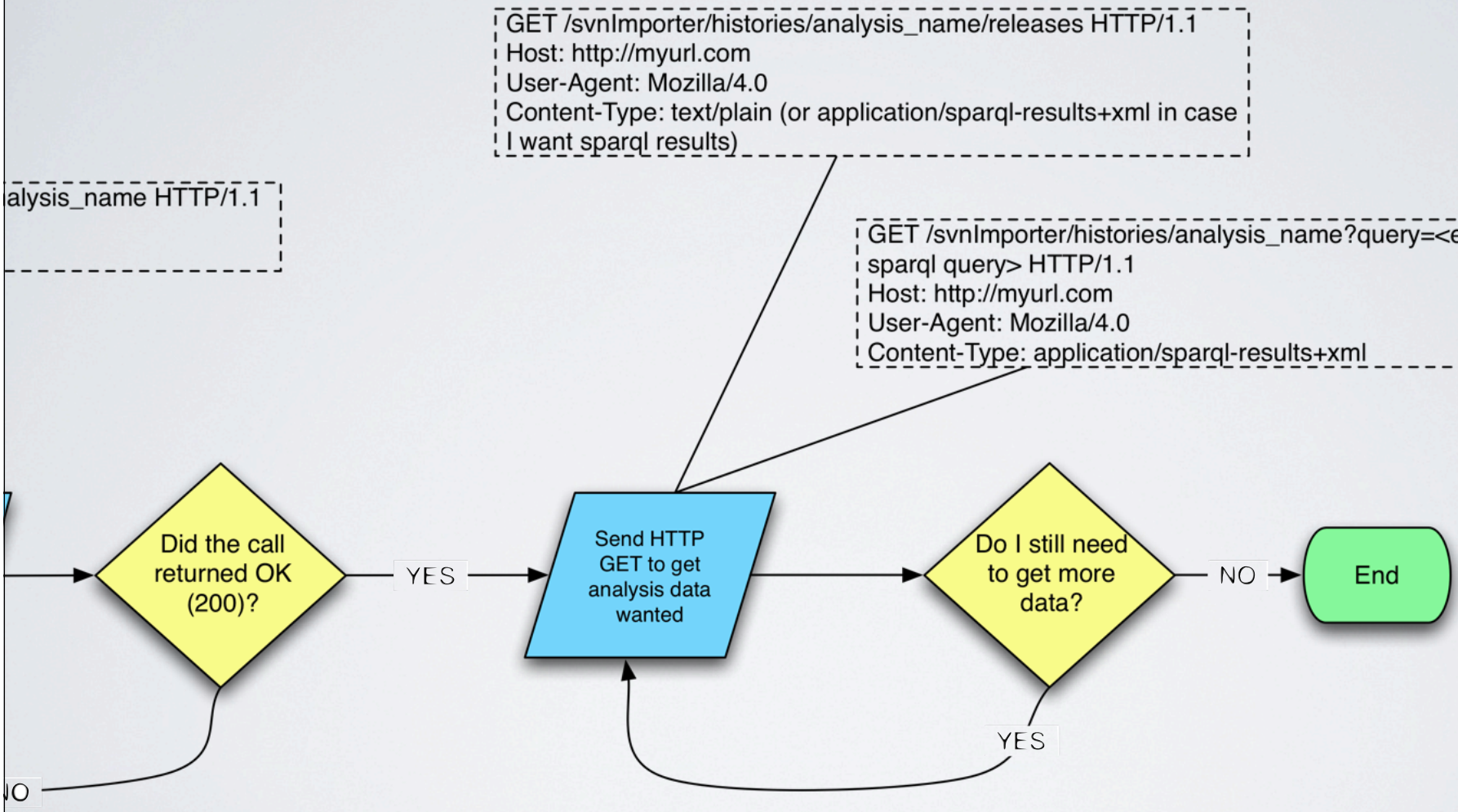
HOW TO USE SOFAS' RESTFUL SERVICES (2)

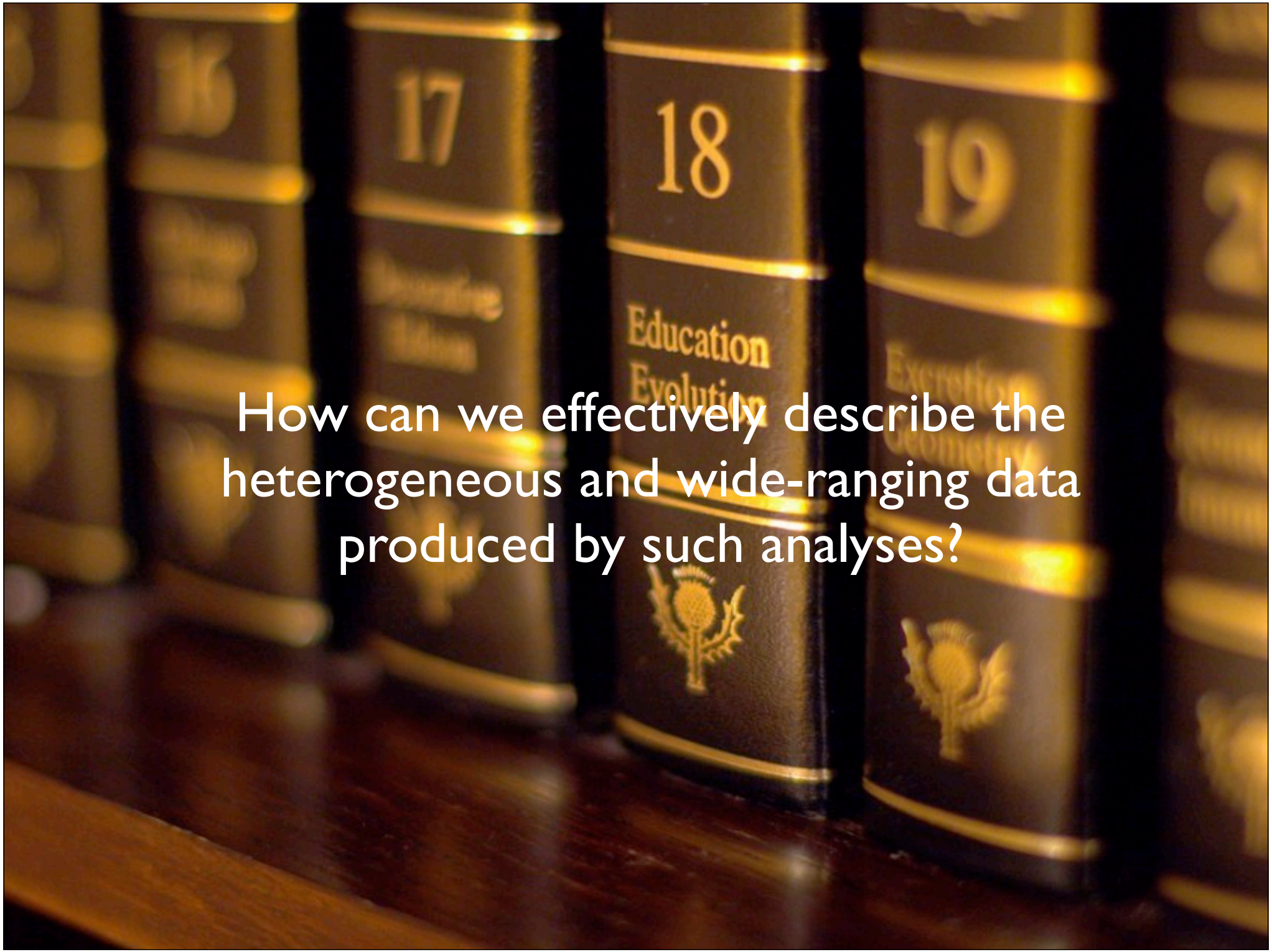
- Fetching the data
  - Fetching the data is all about URLs and SPARQL
  - All the **data produced**, since its based on RDFs ontologies, has a unique **URI**
  - Results come either in **plain text** (more for 'human consumption') or as **SPARQL** results
- Further querying the data
  - For that all the services also offer a SPARQL **endpoint** for each existing analysis.
  - SPARQL **queries** can be directly sent to the analyses, returning the results as SPARQL Results XML

SOFAS FLOW (I)


POST /svnImporter/histories HTTP/1.1
Host: http://myurl.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0
Content-Length: ……
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
name=analysis_name&url=svn_repository_url&user=svn_repository_user&password=svn_repo_pwd&fileExtensions=java
HEAD /svnImporter/histories/analysis_name HTTP/1.1
Host: http://myurl.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0
Start
Send HTTP POST with necessary repository data to start analysis
Did the call returned CREATED (201)?
YES
NO
Send HTTP HEAD on the new analysis url
Did the call returned OK (200)?
NO

SOFAS FLOW (2)


GET /svnImporter/histories/analysis_name/releases HTTP/1.1
Host: http://myurl.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0
Content-Type: text/plain (or application/sparql-results+xml in case I want sparql results)
alysis_name HTTP/1.1
GET /svnImporter/histories/analysis_name?query=<encoded sparql query> HTTP/1.1
Host: http://myurl.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0
Content-Type: application/sparql-results+xml
Did the call returned OK (200)?
YES
Send HTTP GET to get analysis data wanted
Do I still need to get more data?
NO
End
YES
NO



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SEON

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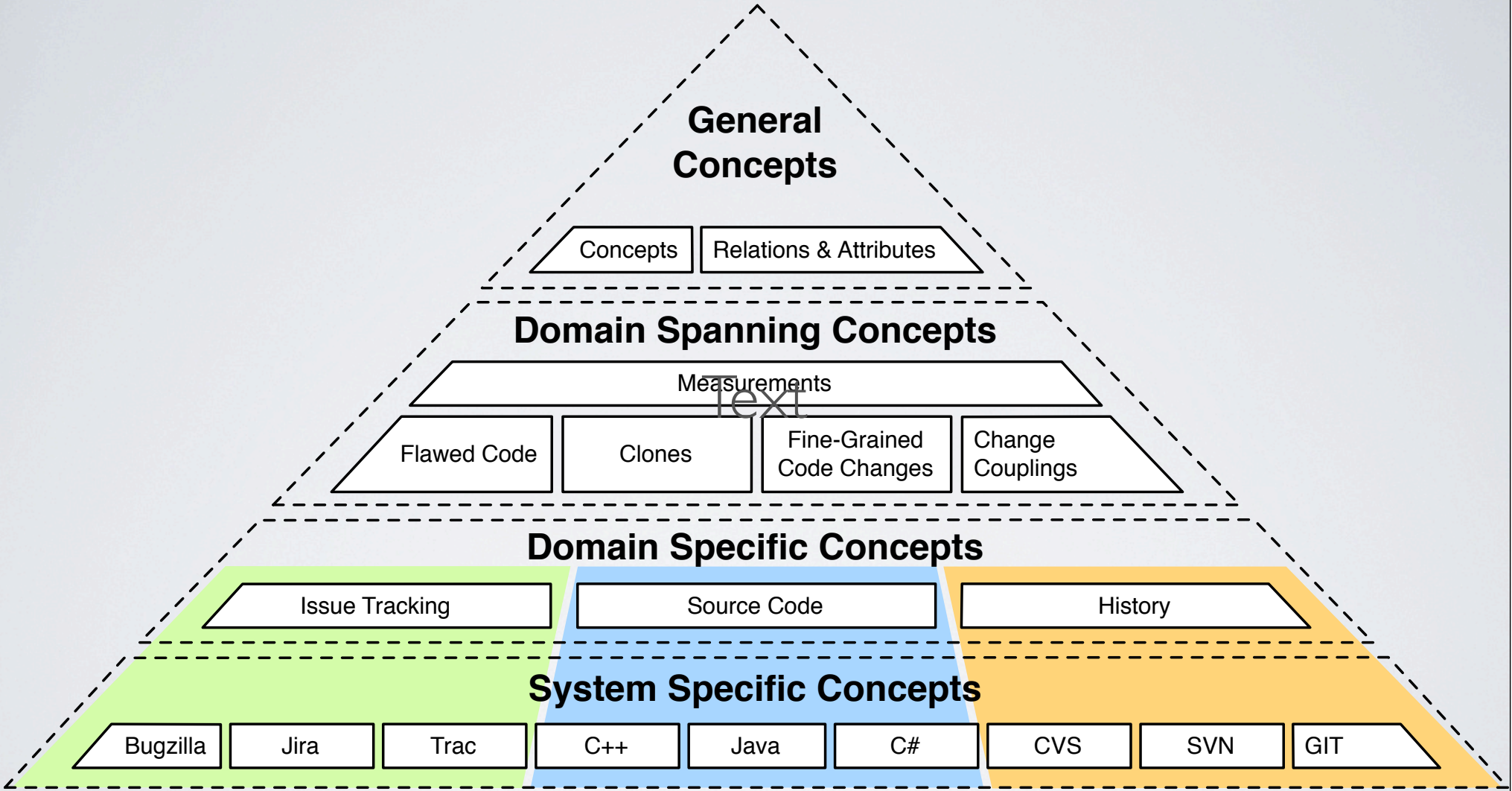

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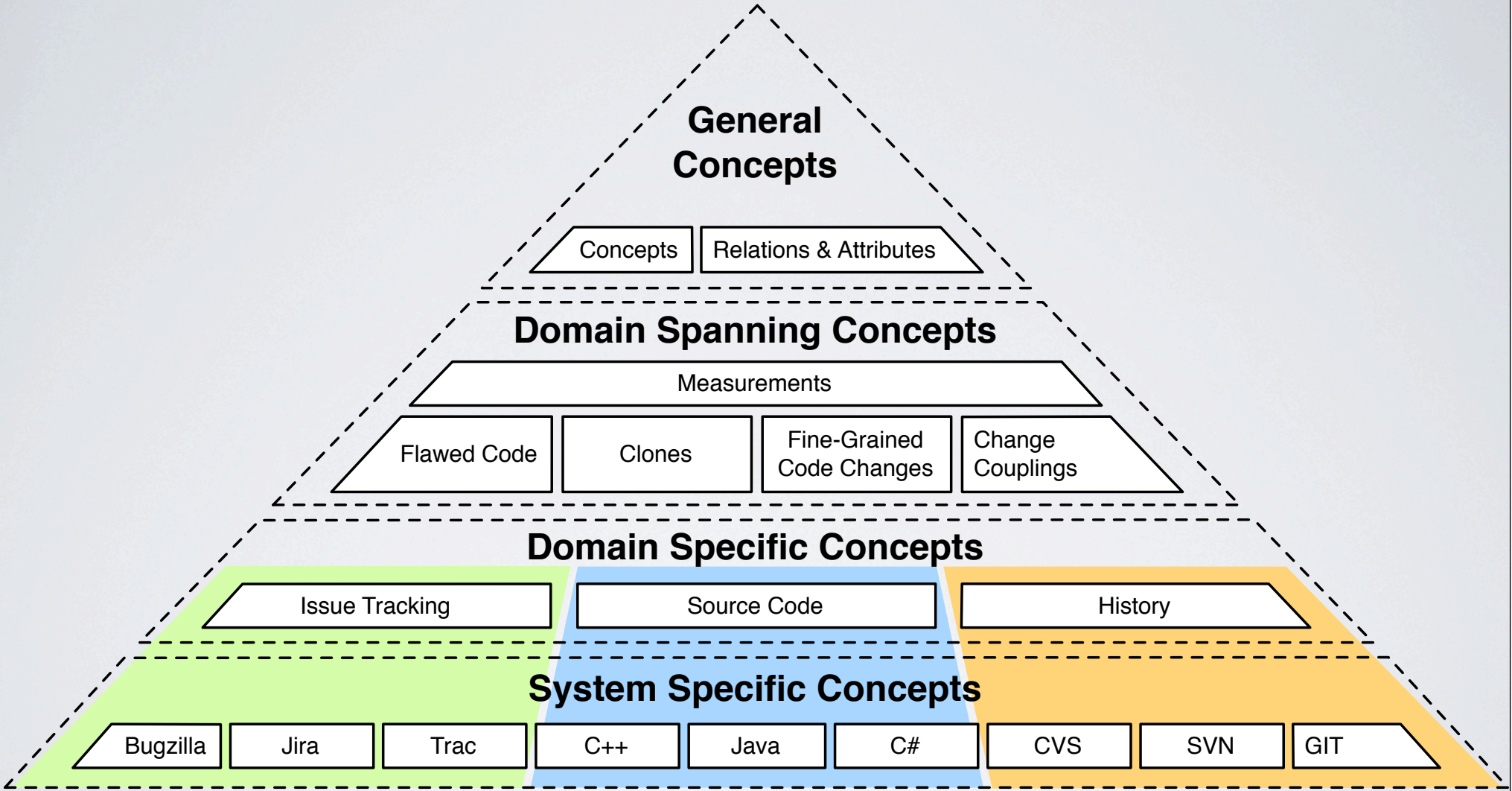

SEON

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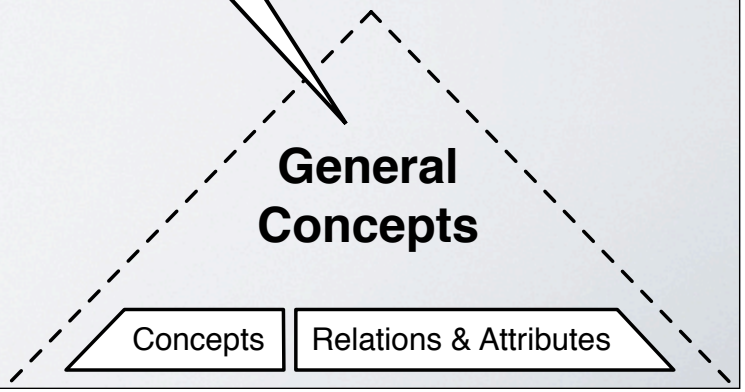
Classes:
Activity, Stakeholder, Artifact, File,...

Properties:
hasSize,createdOn, hasAuthor, dependsOn...



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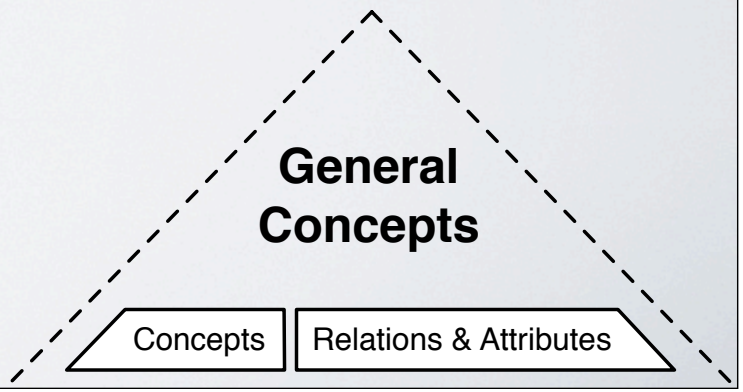

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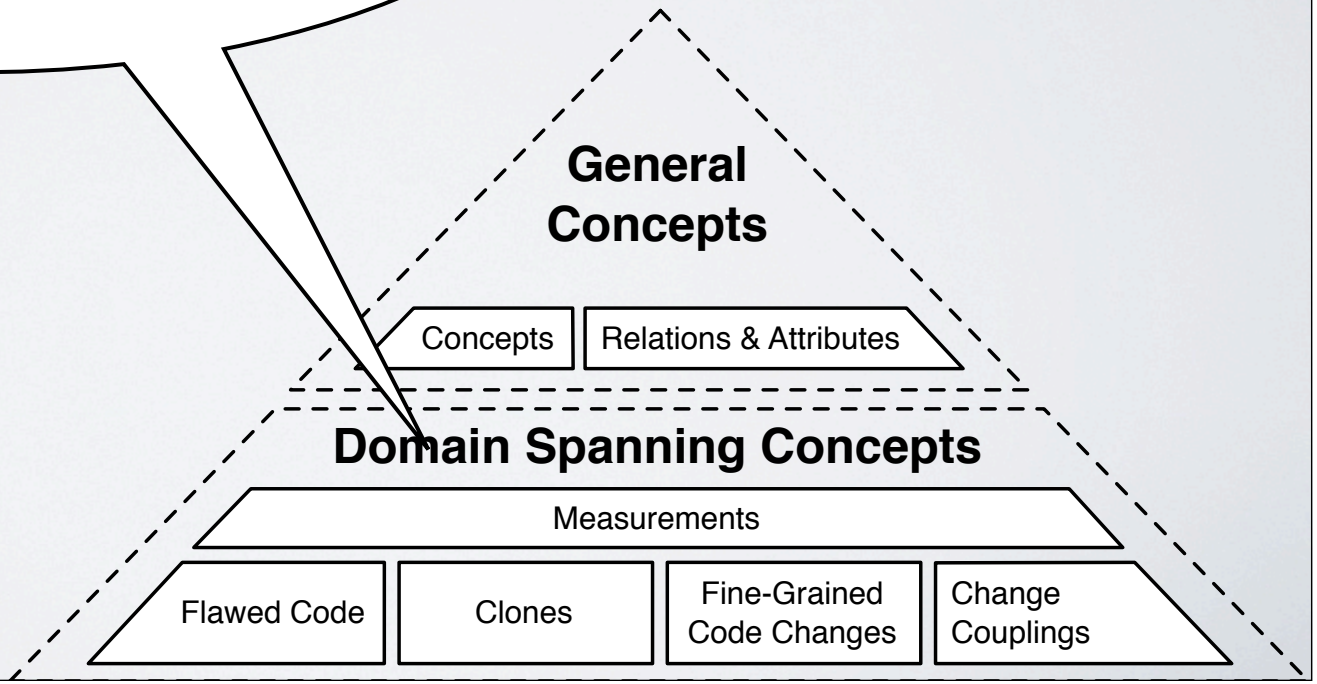
Classes:
Measure, TypeOfCoupling, Clone,...
Properties:
fixesIssue,isFixedIn, isCoupledWith...



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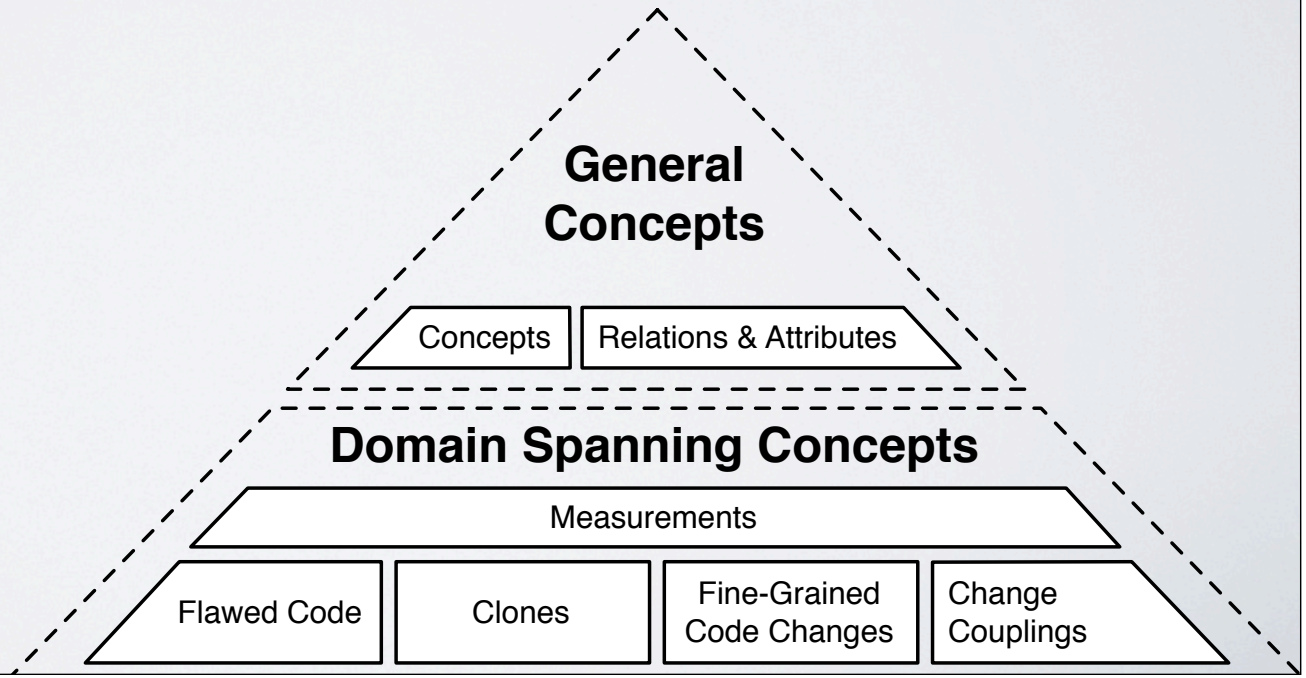

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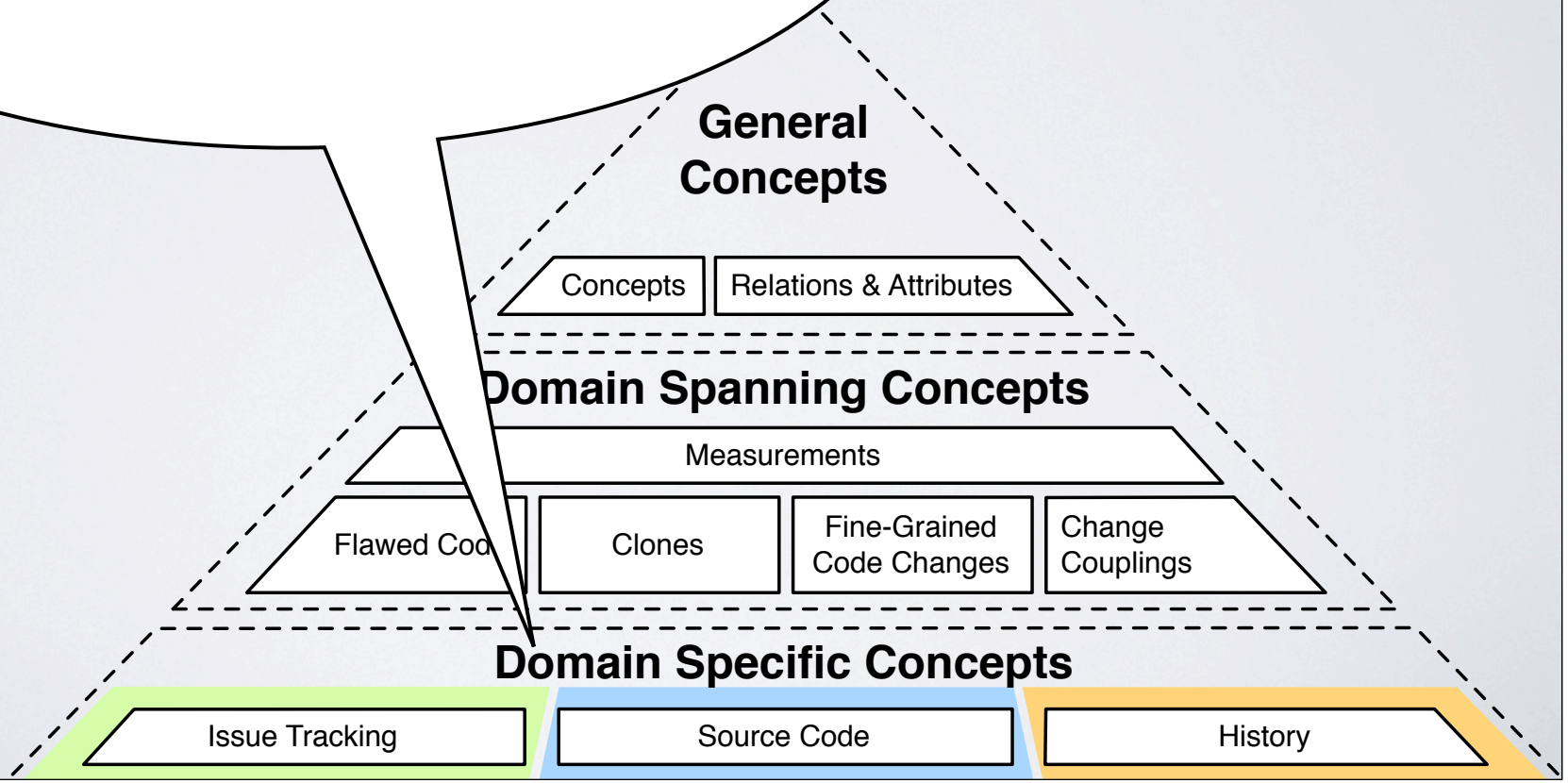
Classes:
Issue, Release, Class, Method...
Properties:
commits,reports, hasMethod...



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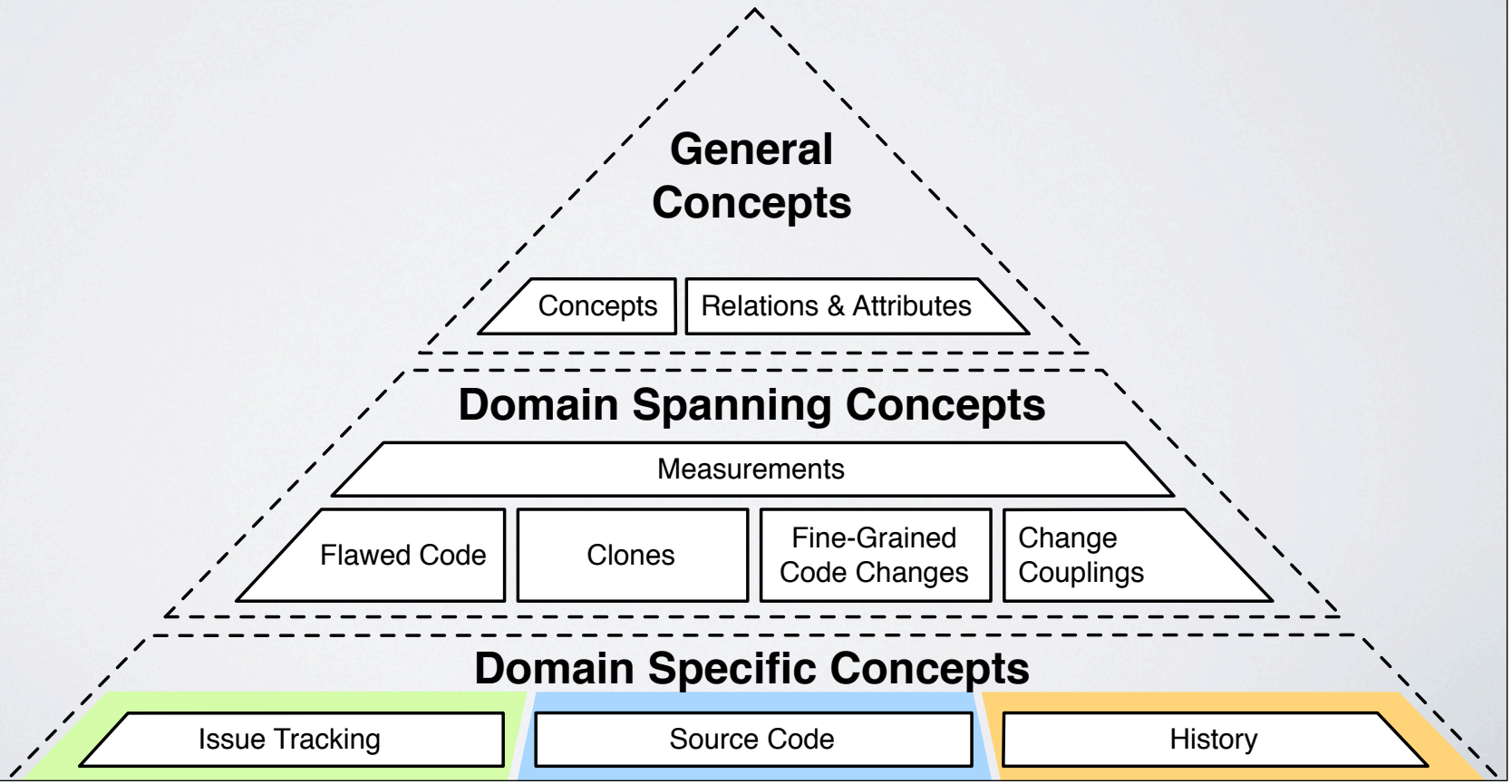

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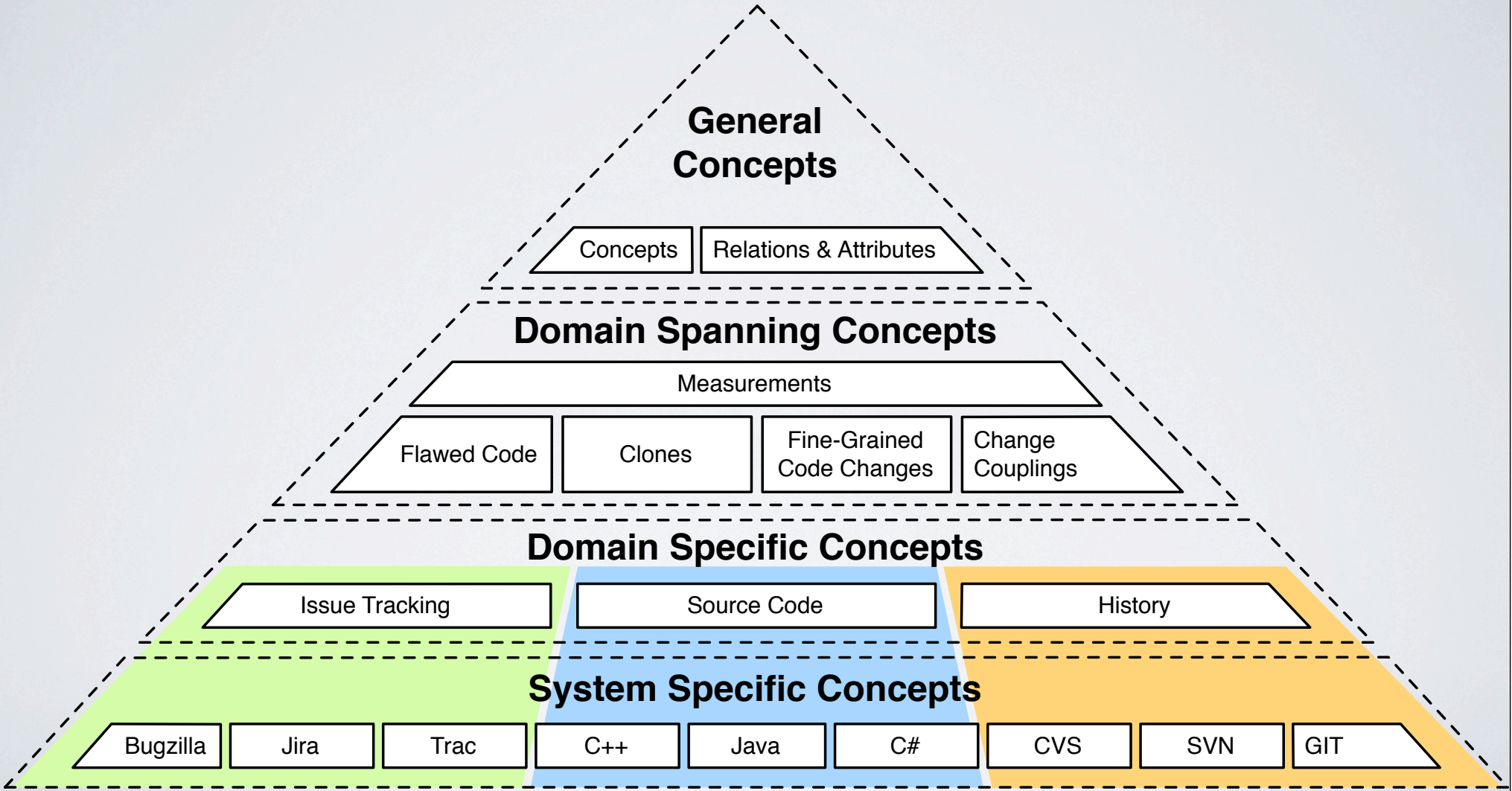

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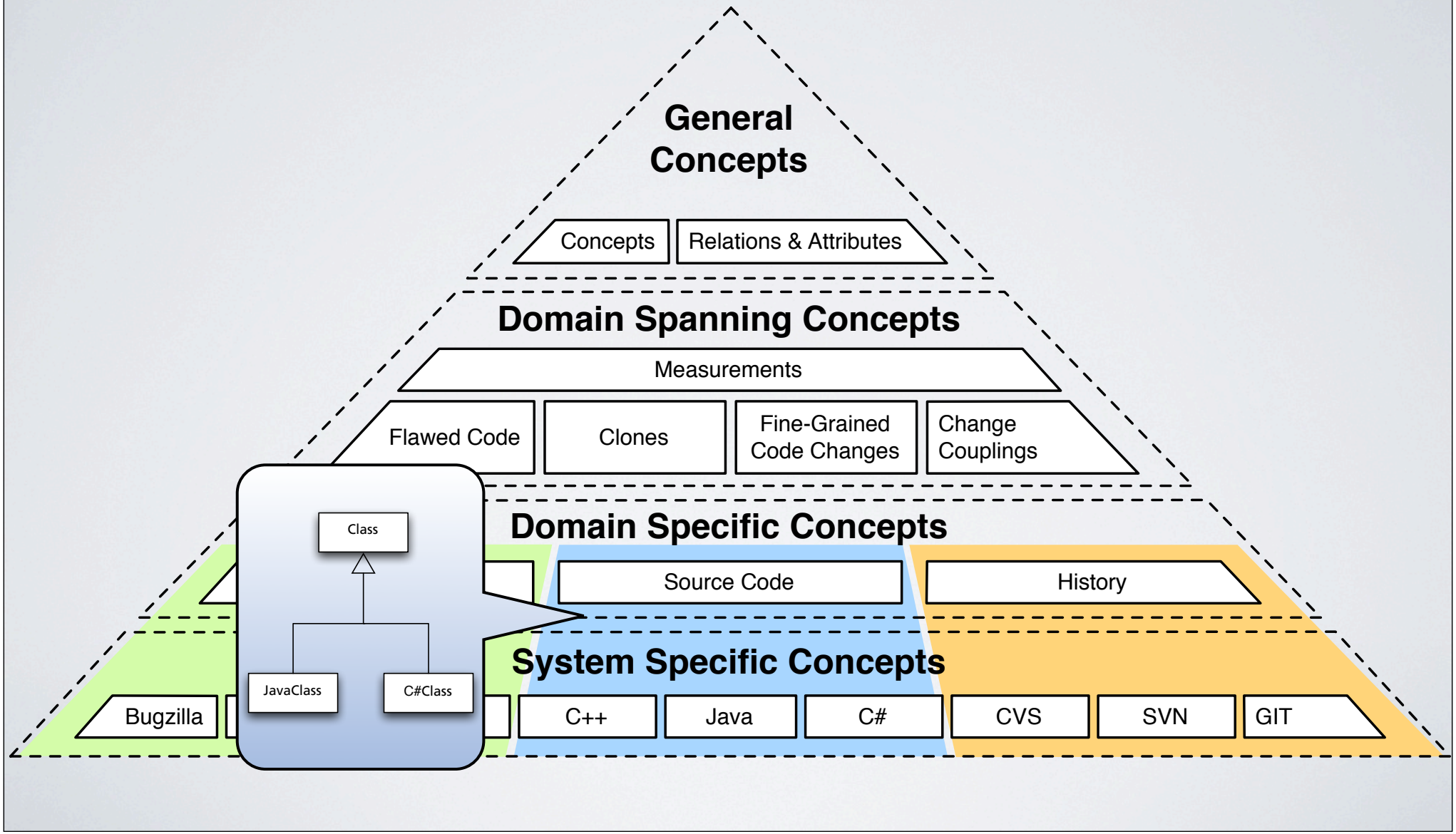

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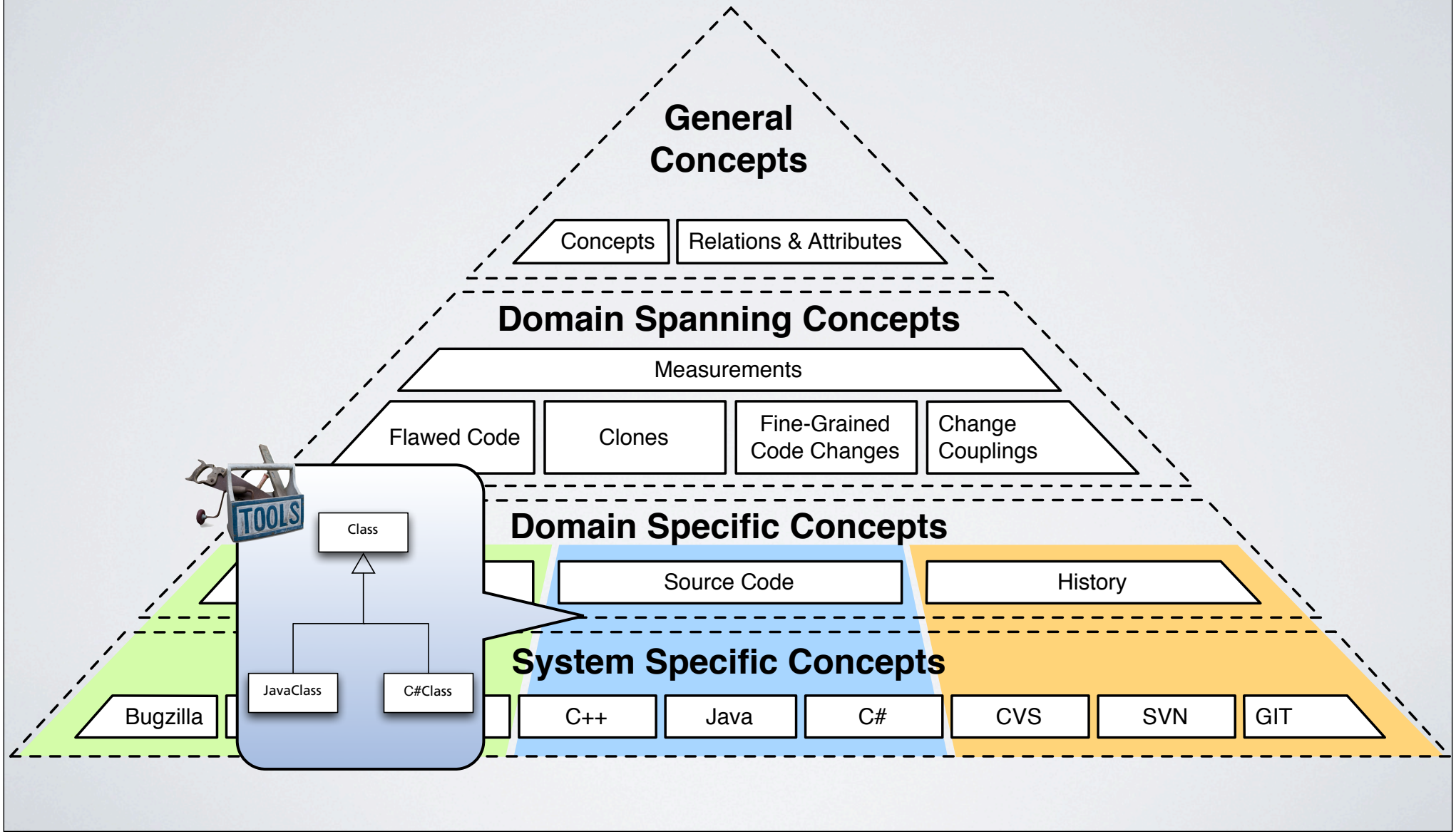

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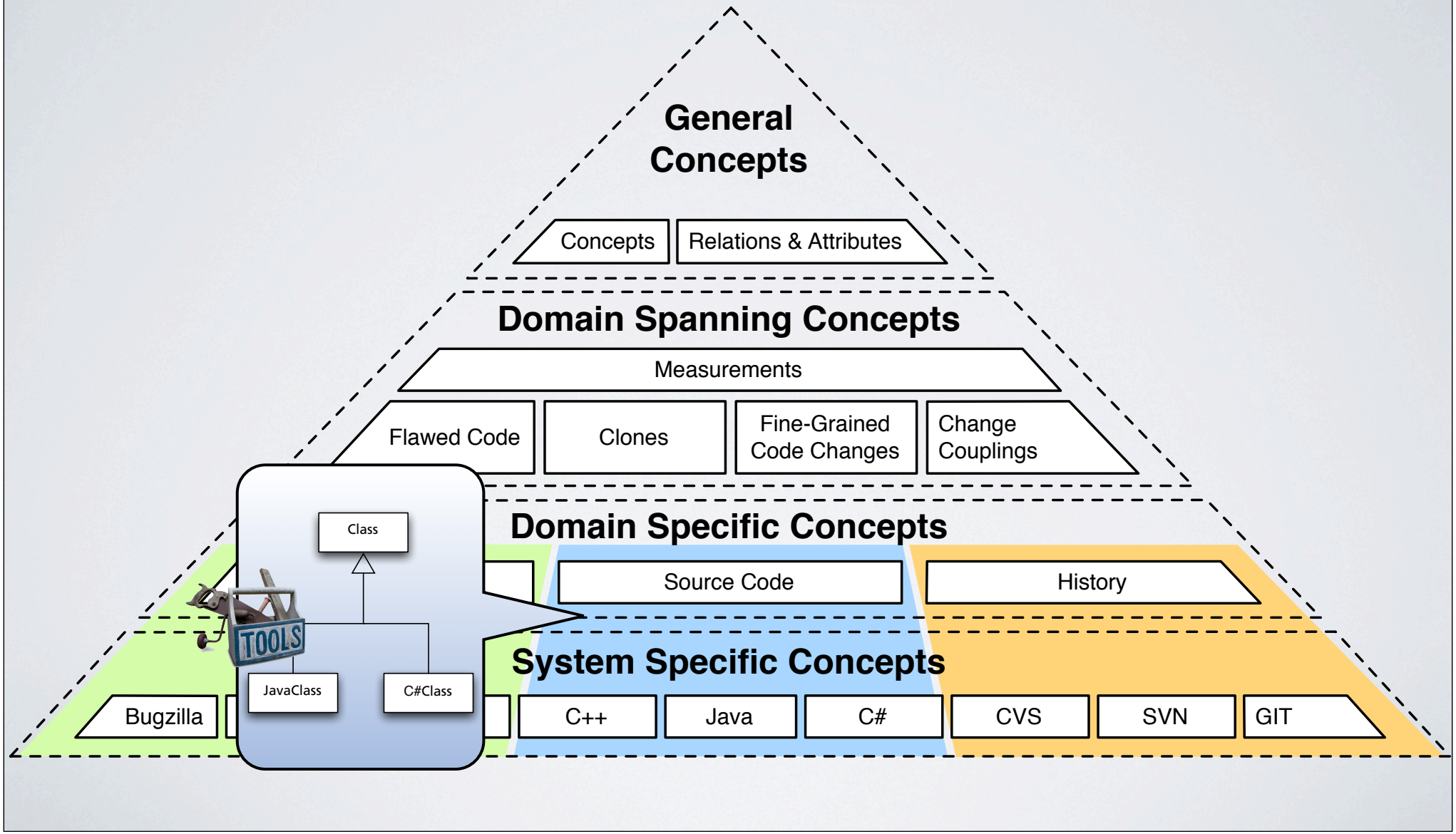

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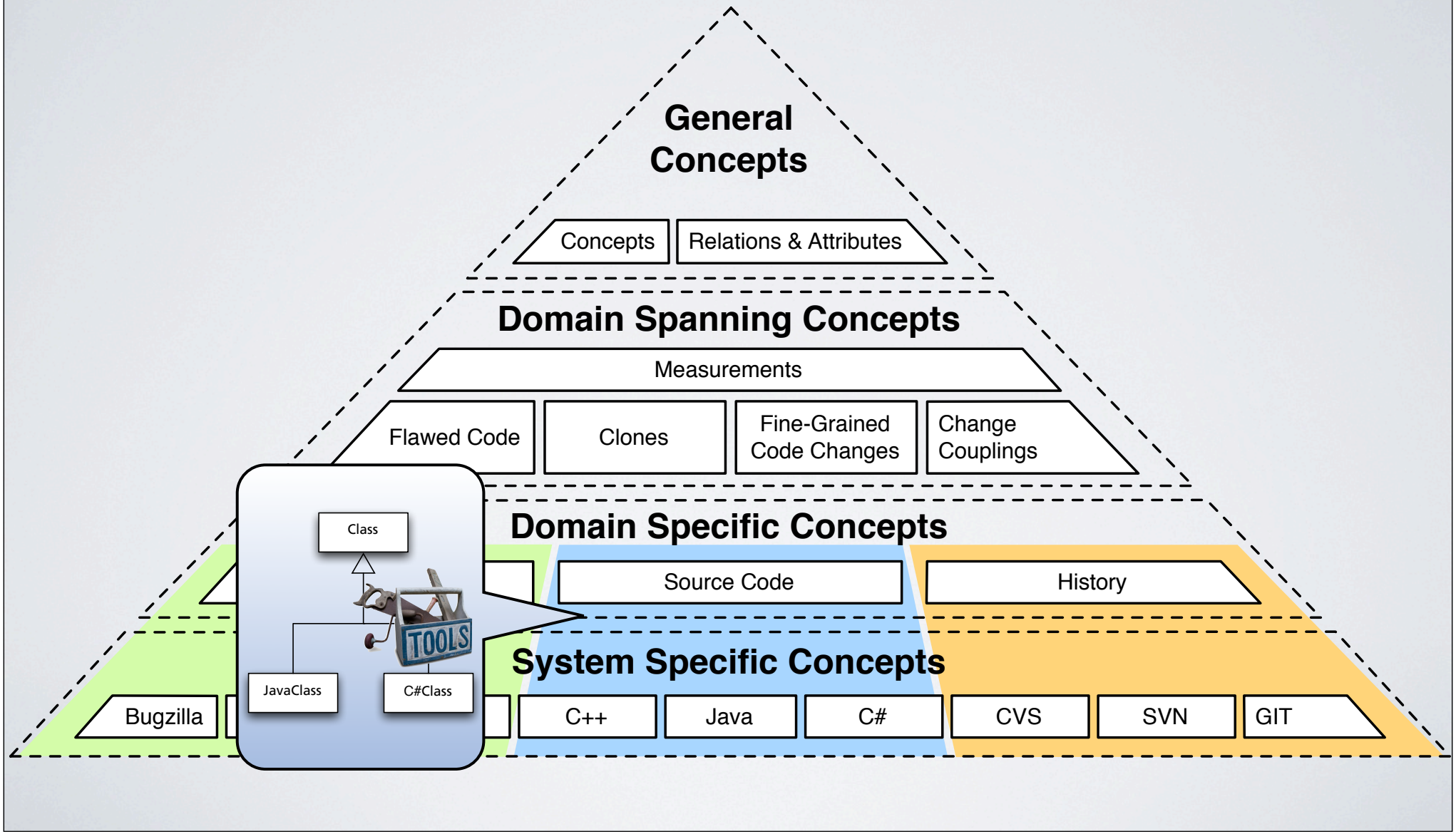

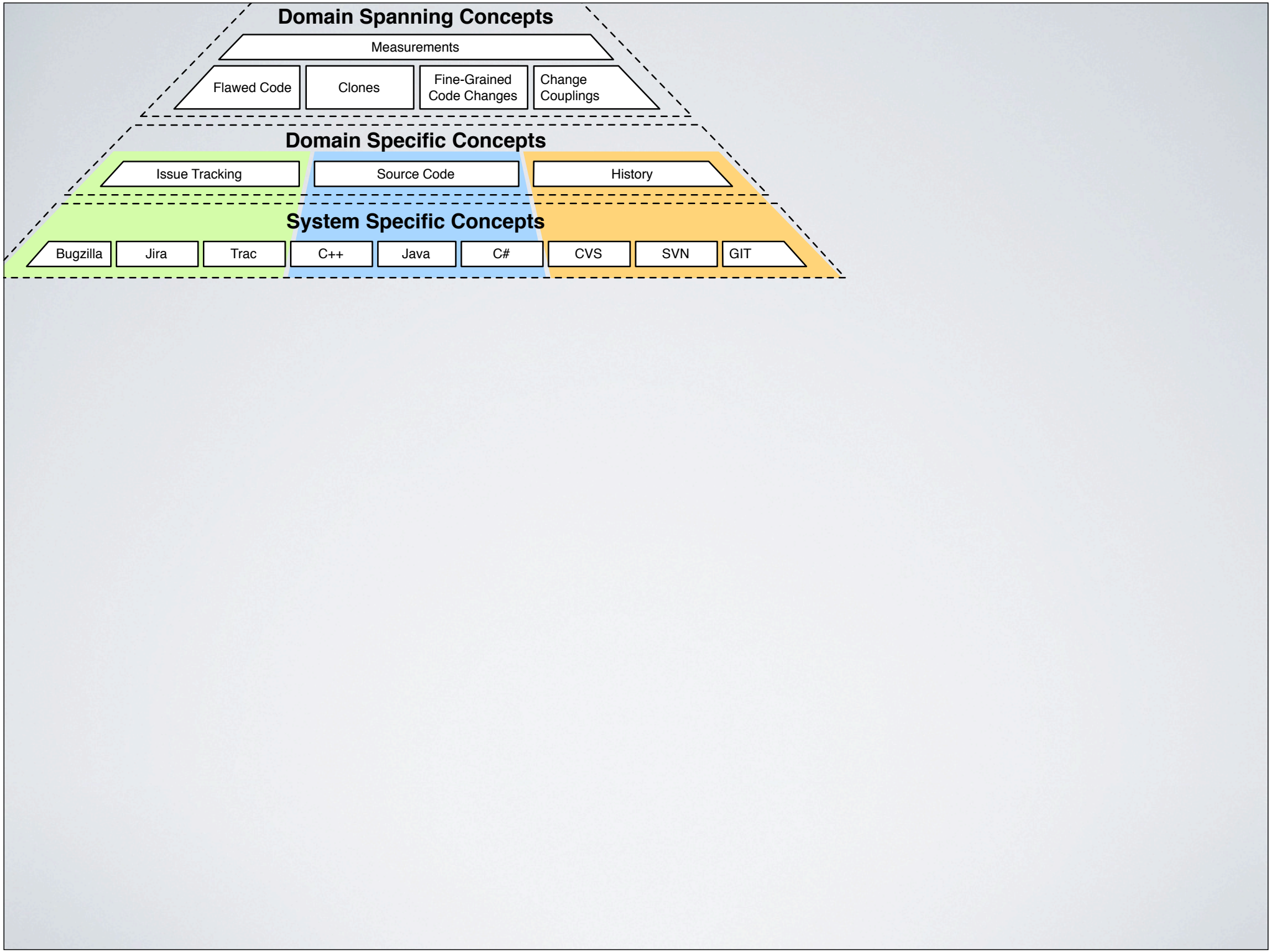
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Fine-Grained Code Changes
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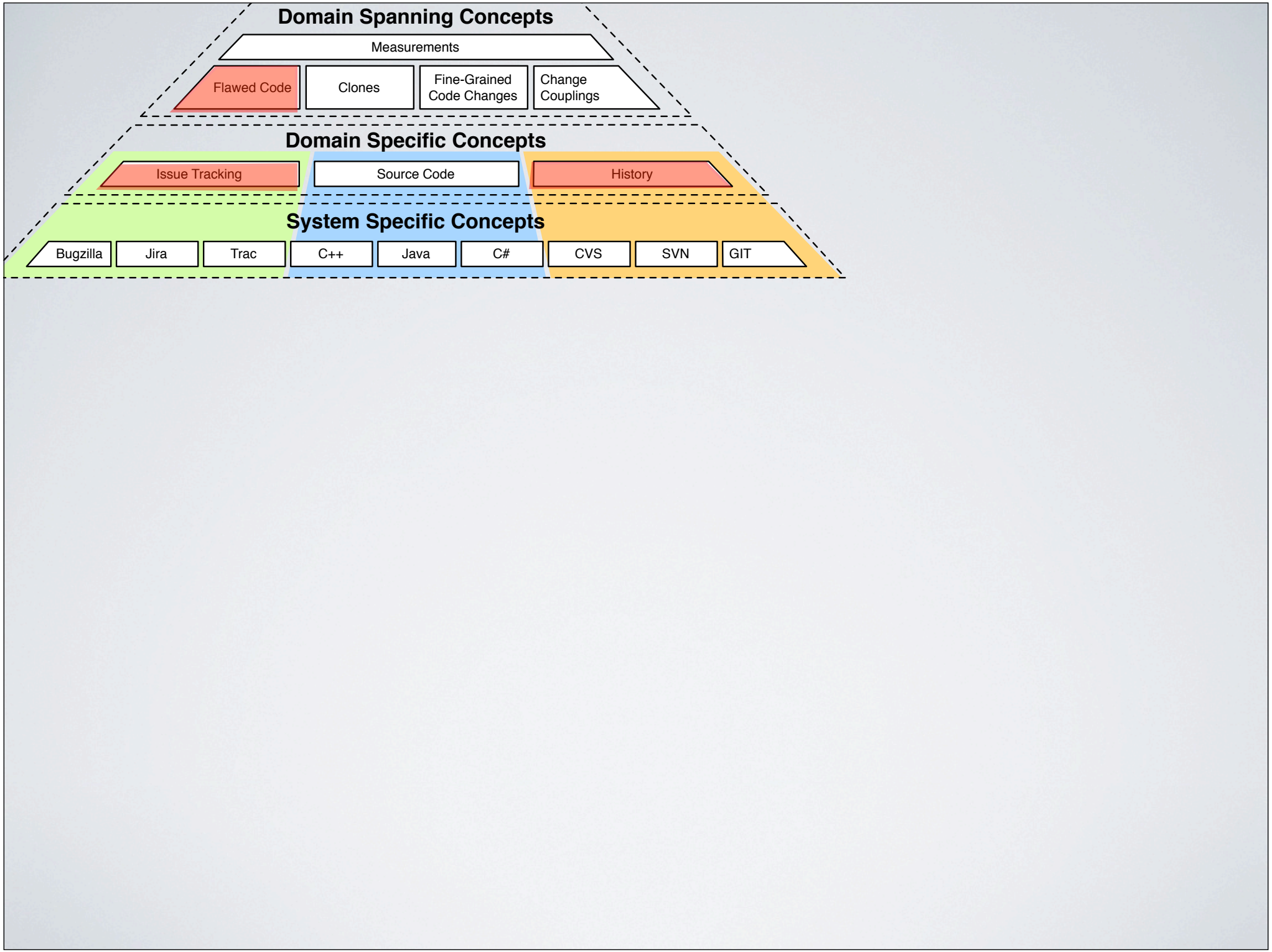
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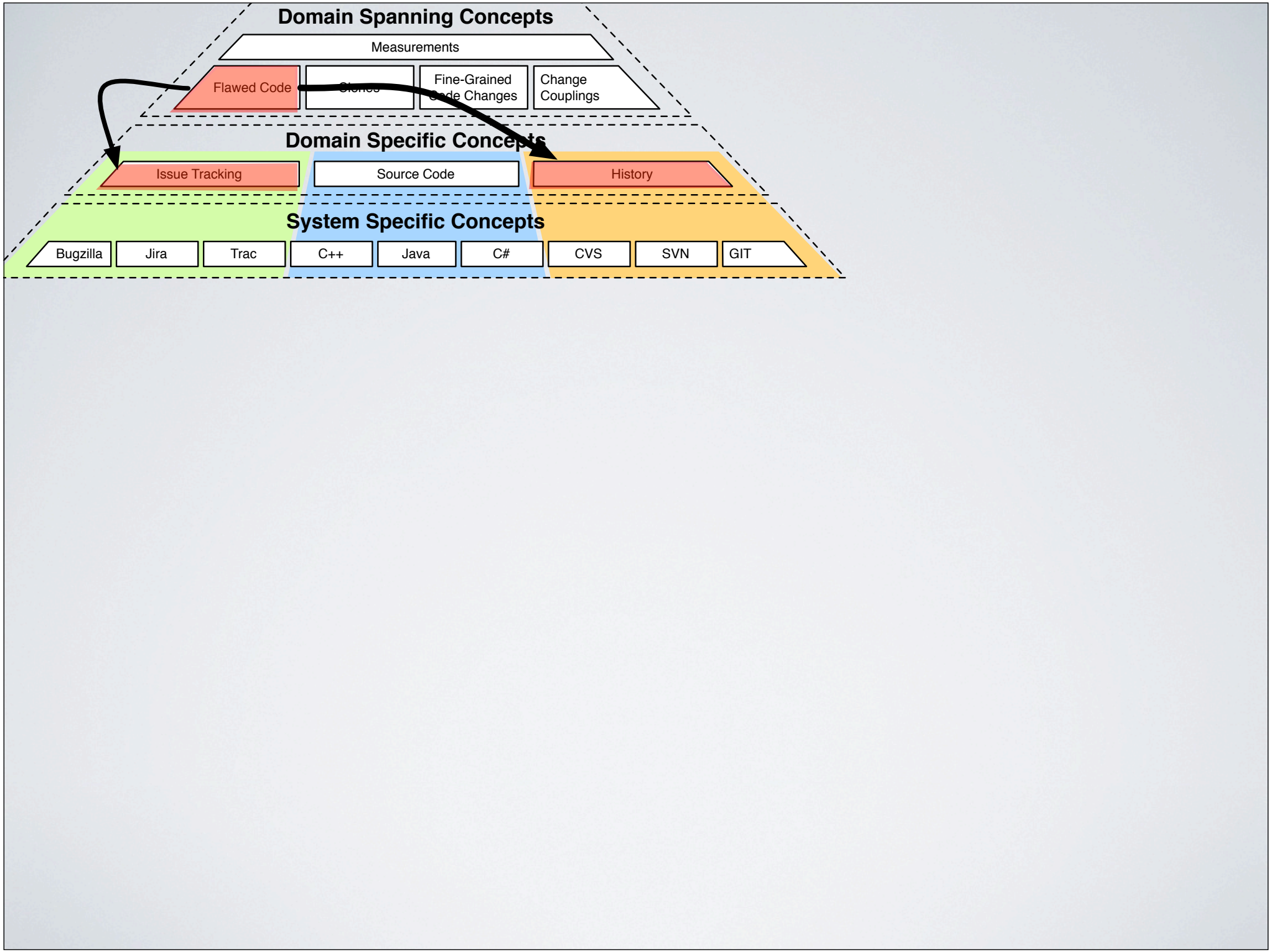
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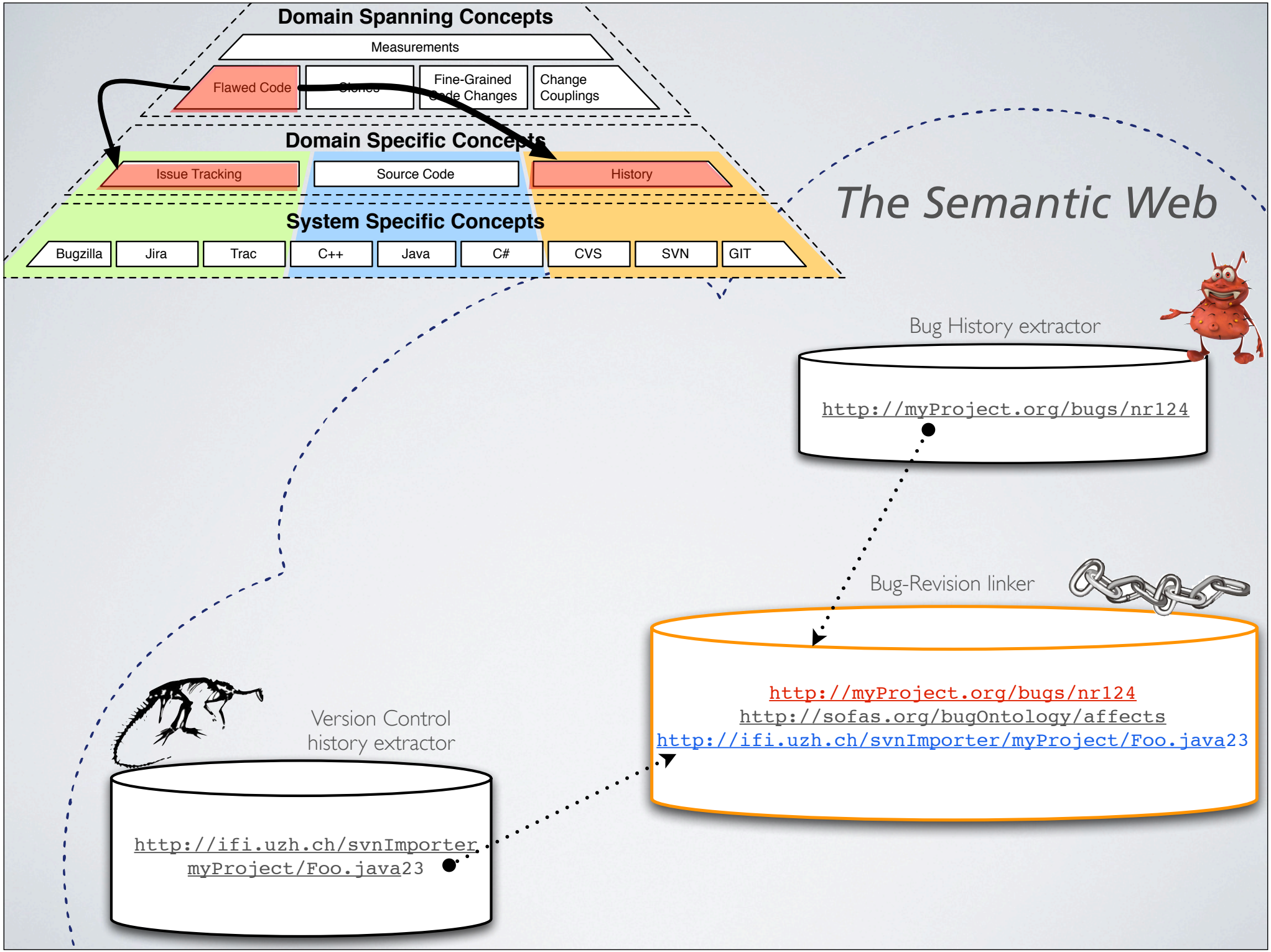
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The Semantic Web
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Bug-Revision linker
http://myProject.org/bugs/nr124
http://sofas.org/bugOntology/affects
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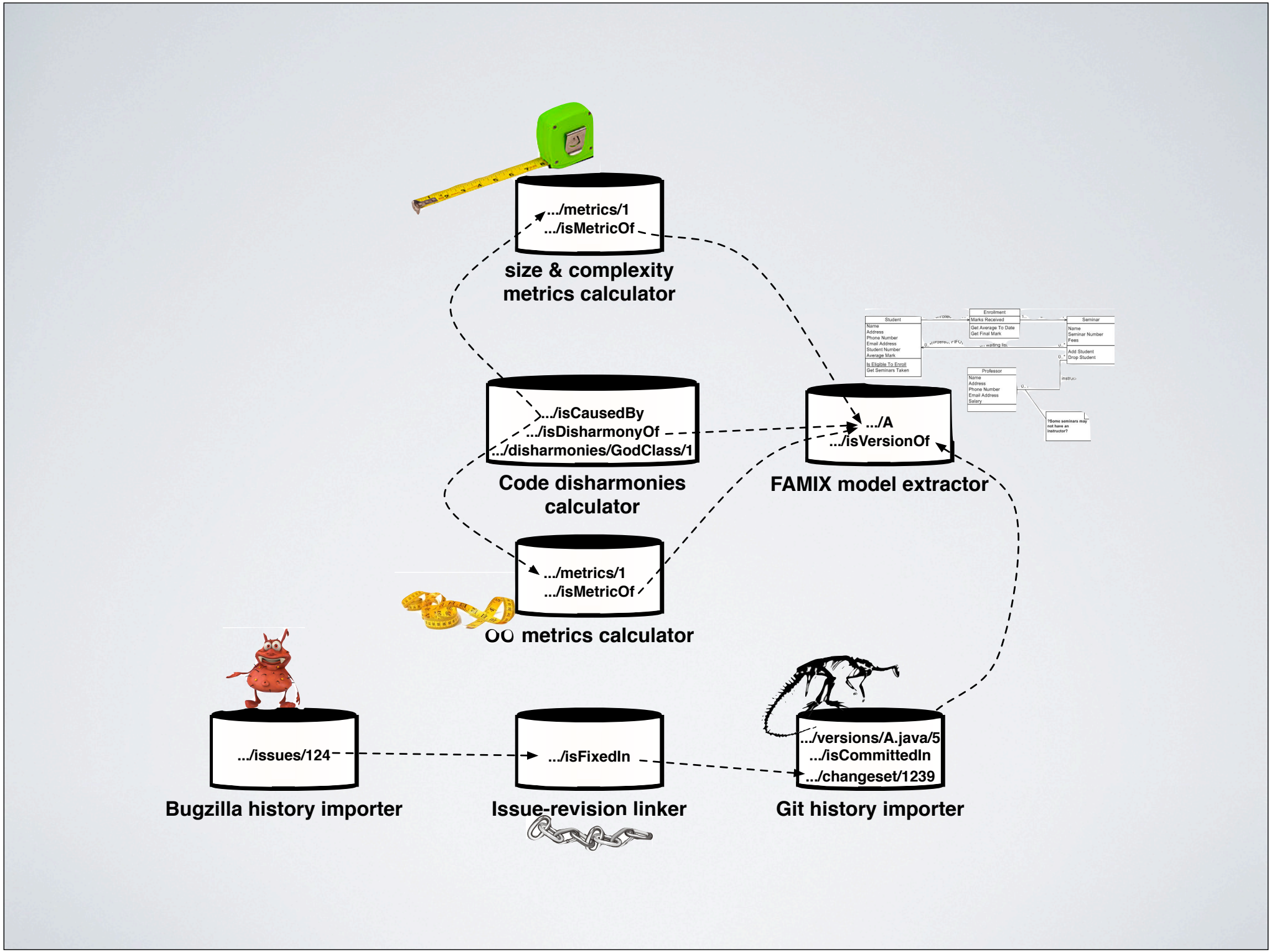
Version Control history extractor
http://ifi.uzh.ch/svnImporter myProject/Foo.java23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size & complexity metrics calculator
.../isCausedBy
.../isDisharmonyOf
.../disharmonies/GodClass/1
Code disharmonies calculator
.../A
.../isVersionOf
FAMIX model extractor
.../metrics/1
.../isMetricOf
OO metrics calculator
.../issues/124
Bugzilla history importer
.../isFixedIn
Issue-revision linker
.../versions/A.java/5
.../isCommittedIn
.../changeset/1239
Git history importer

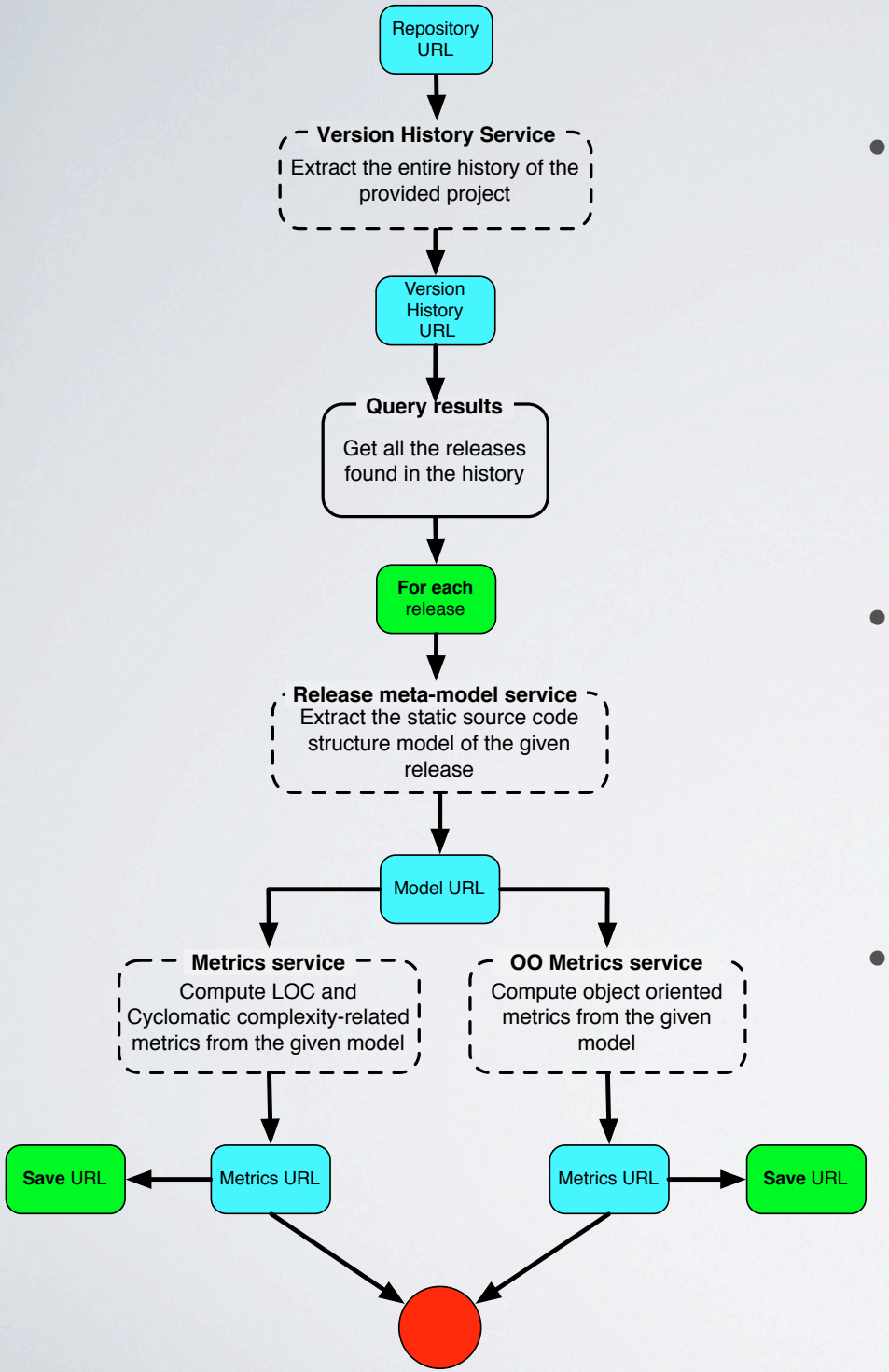
THE BENEFITS OF OWL ONTOLOGIES

- Clear semantics and precise syntax of input and output data
- Heterogenous domain ontologies can be semantically "linked" to each other by means of upper ontologies, describing general concepts across a wide range of domains
- Automatic reasoning and possibility to infer additional knowledge
- A standard, powerful query language already exists (SPARQL)
- No backwards compatibility problems upon data model extension

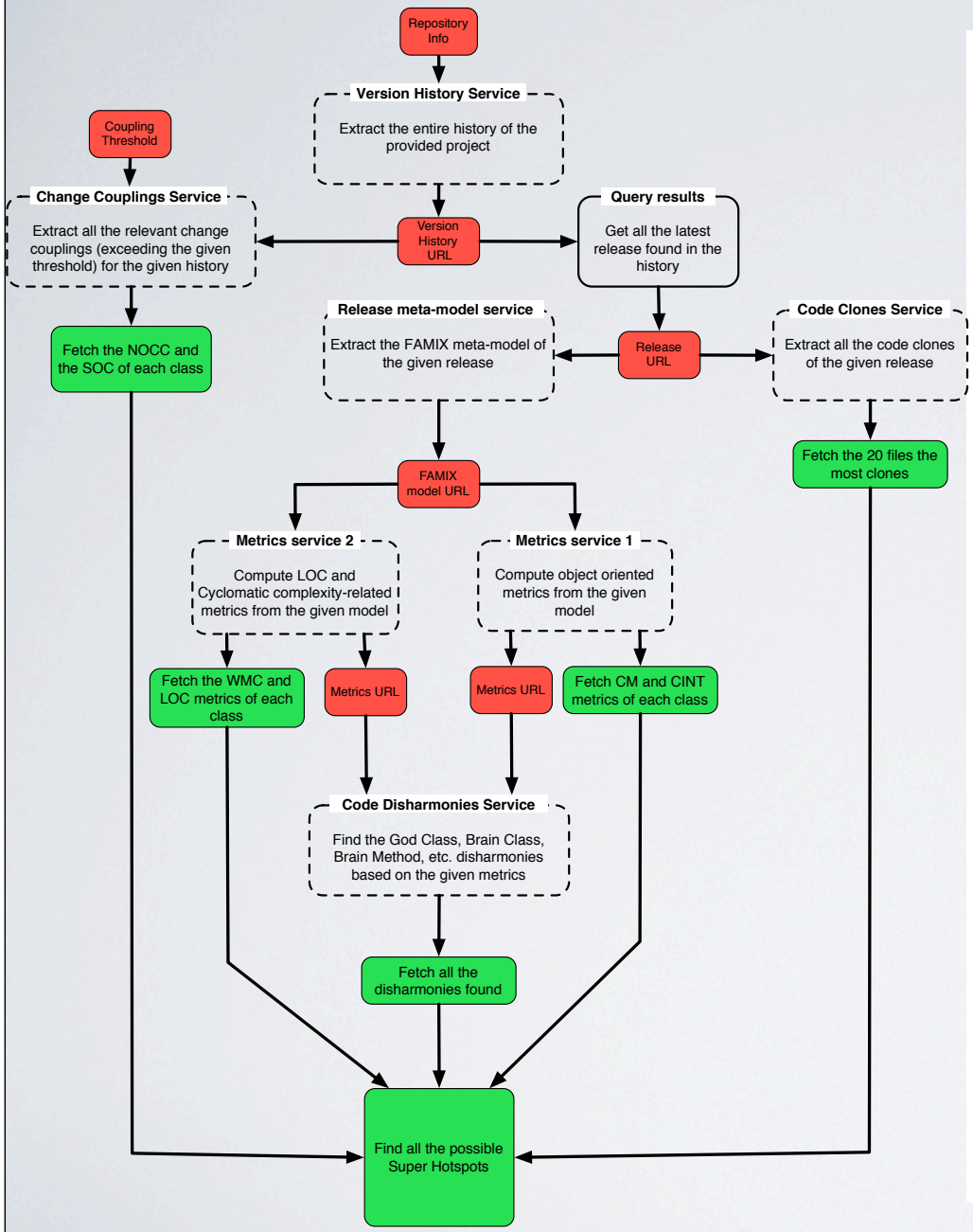

How can we (semi)-automatically compose these analyses to provide more complex higher-level analyses?

SCOLA

- **S**OFAS **Co**mposition **La**nguage
- A custom service composition language (based on WS-BPEL) to can be used by outsiders
- Existing languages are mainly for classic web services and add unneeded complexity
- The way SOFAS services behave and can be used allowed us to simplify the language



- **variables**
  - ➡ to define data passed to services by the user
  - ➡ to maintain information between service calls
  - ➡ to pass data between services
- **primitive activities**
  - ➡ to interact with services: *invoke* and *query*
  - ➡ to perform simple atomic actions: *exit*, *empty* and *save*
- **structured activities**
  - ➡ to define the execution flow: *sequence*, *flow*, *for each*, *if*, *link*.
  - ➡ can be nested and composed with each other




```
<links>
      <link name="versionHistory_to_changeCoupling"/>
      <link name="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
</links>
<sequence>
      <invoke analysis="http://habanero.ifi.uzh.ch/sofas/abstractVersionHistory"
            inputVariable="repositoryData"
           outputVariable="historyUrl">
        <sources>
            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_changeCoupling"/>
            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
        </sources>
     </invoke>
     <assign>
        <copy>
            <from>$historyUrl</from>
            <to>$changeCouplingInput/customerInfo</to>
        </copy>
        <copy>
            <from>$historyUrl</from>
            <to>$inputUrl</to>
        </copy>
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            </targets>
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            outputVariable="lastReleaseUrl">
            <targets>
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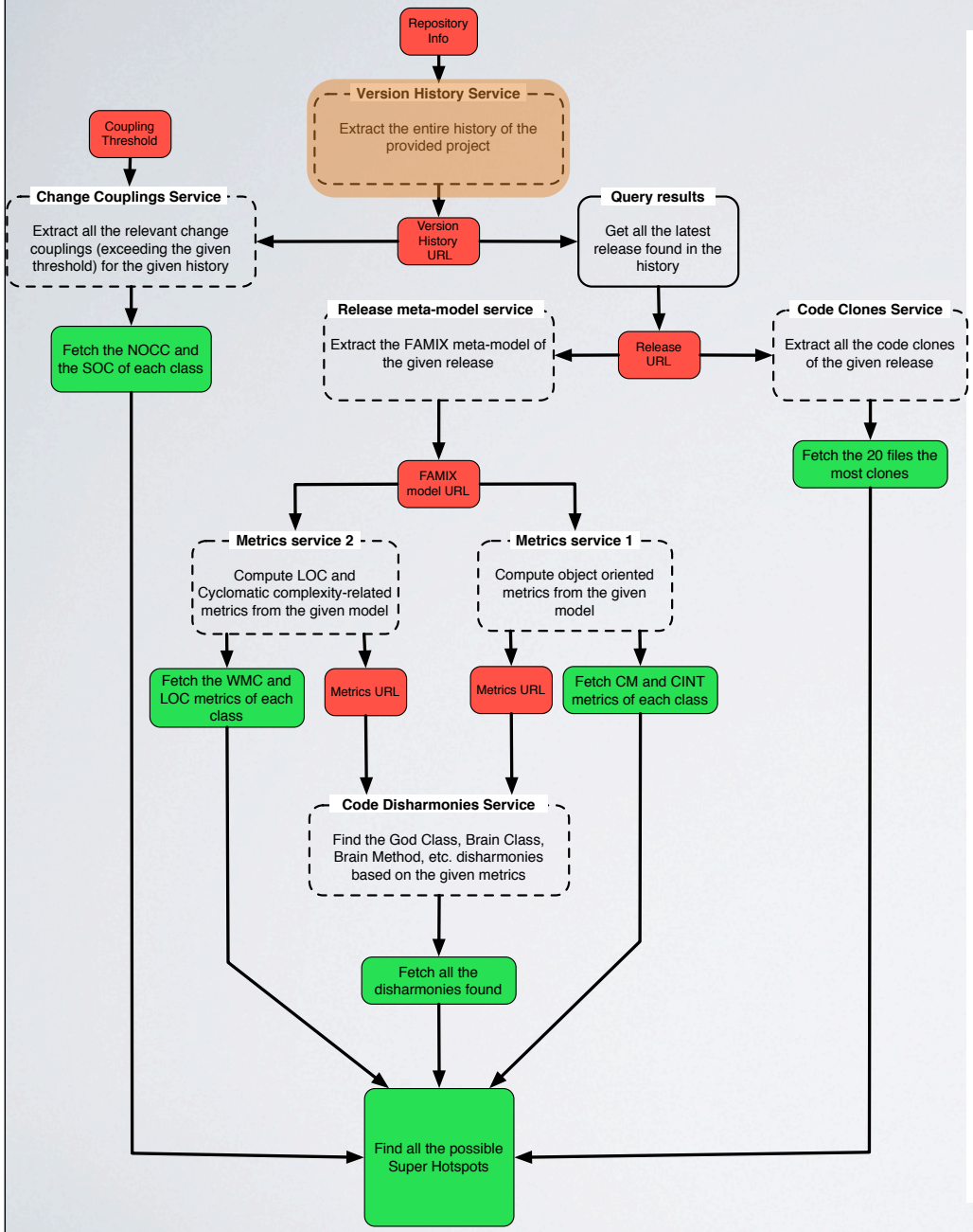
            </targets>
        </query>
     </flow>
</sequence>
```

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     </flow>
</sequence>
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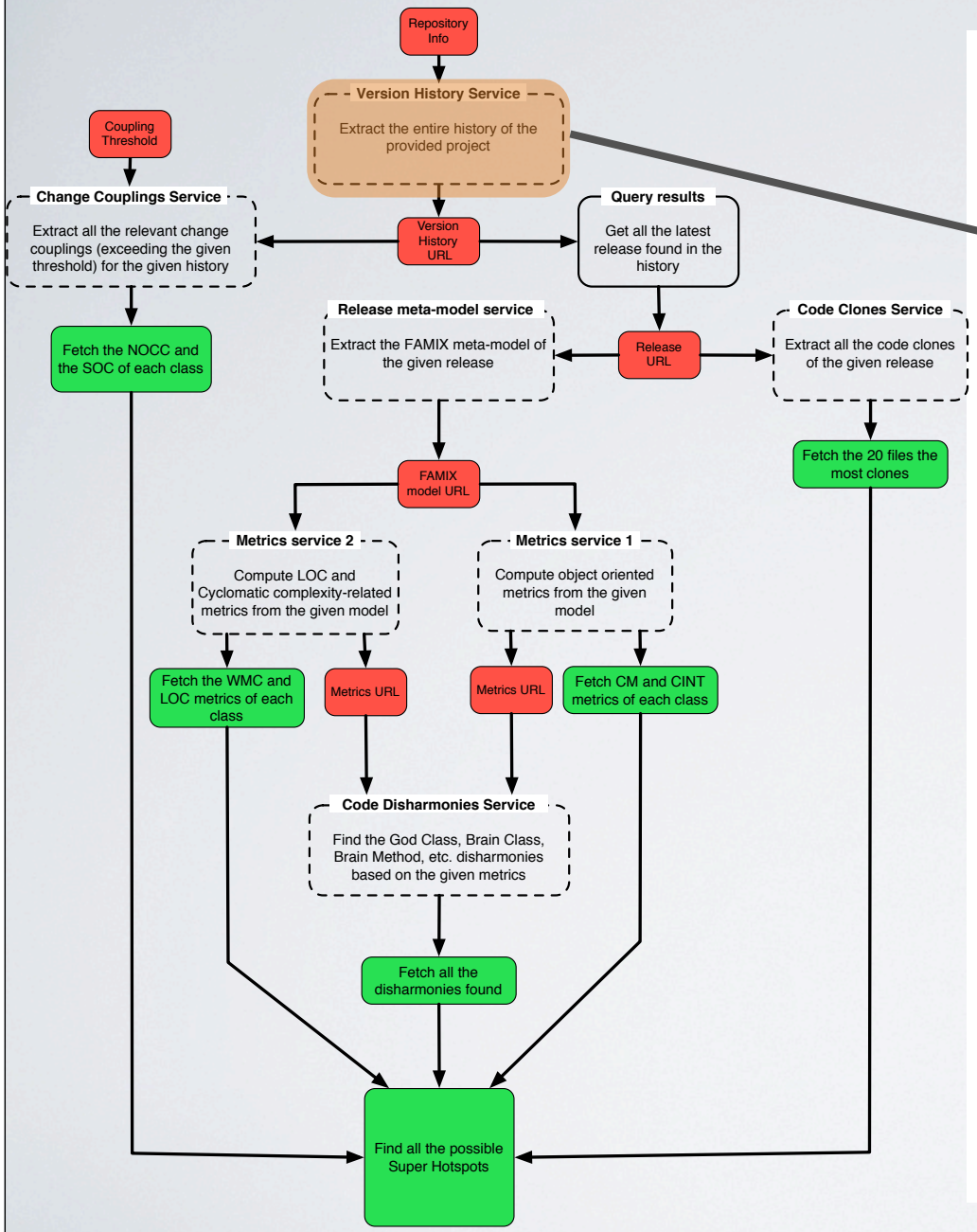


```
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          outputVariable="historyUrl">
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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
        </sources>
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        <query sparqlQuery="SELECT ?x WHERE ?x rdf:type v:Release . . . . . "
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</sequence>
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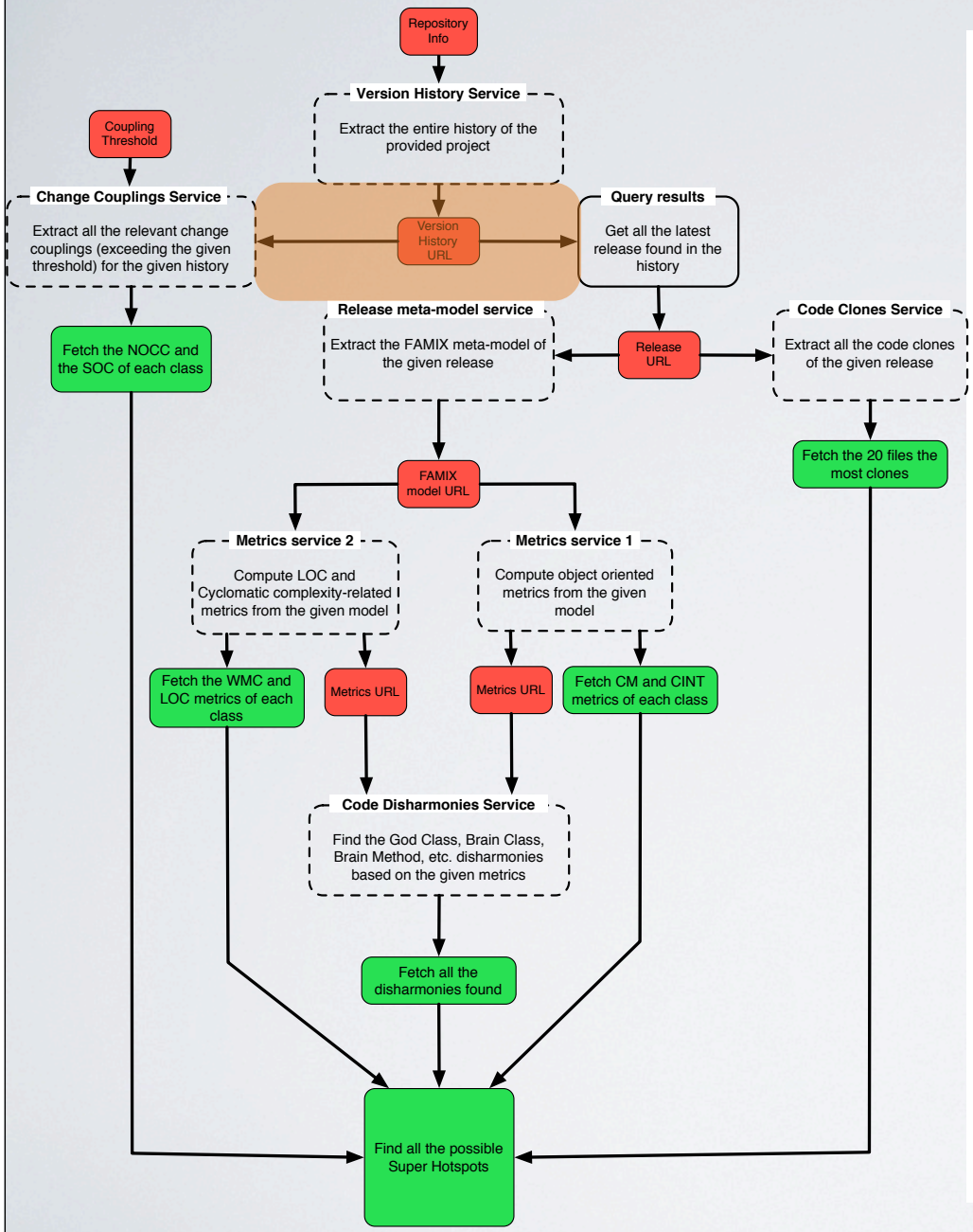


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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
        </sources>
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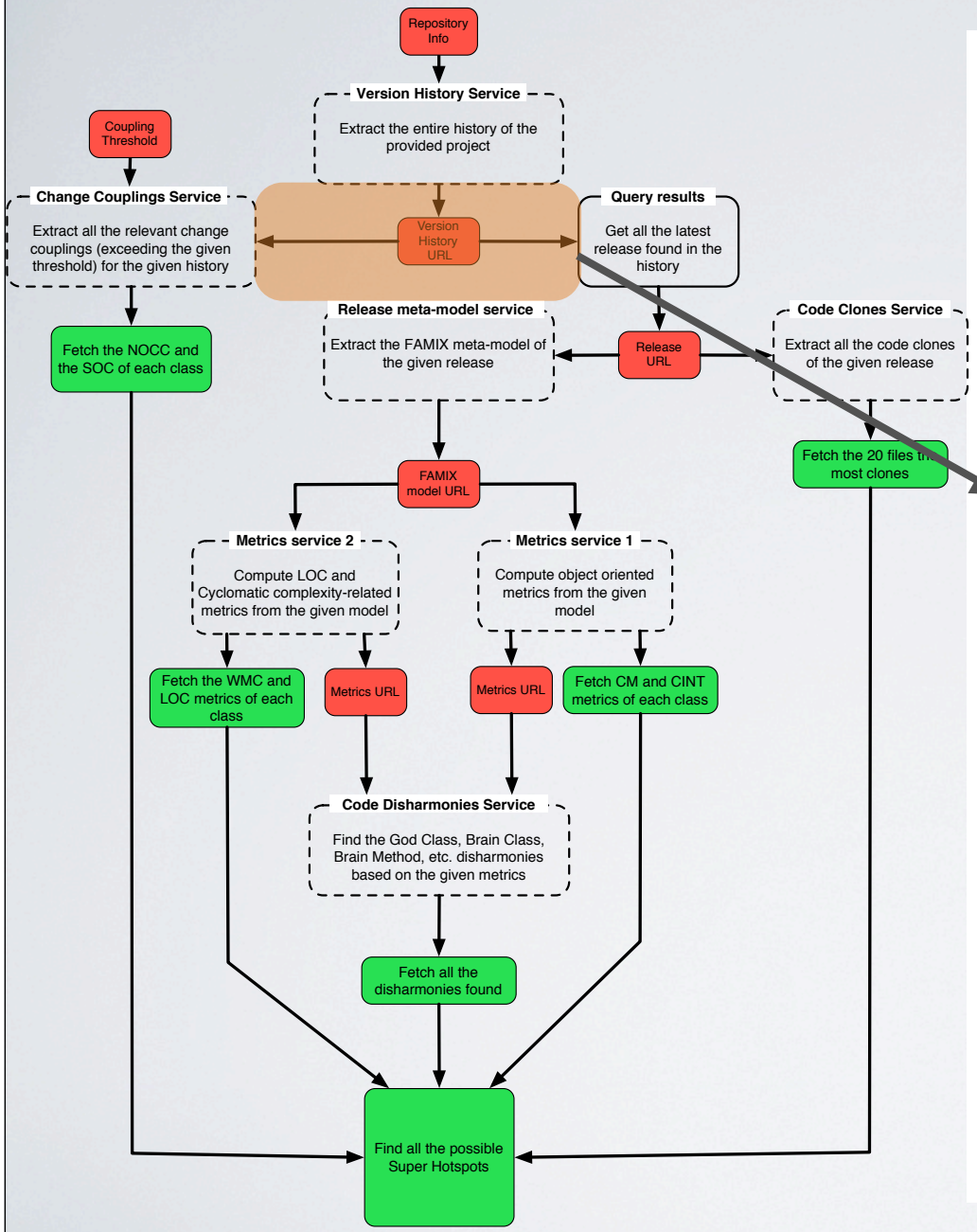


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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
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</sequence>
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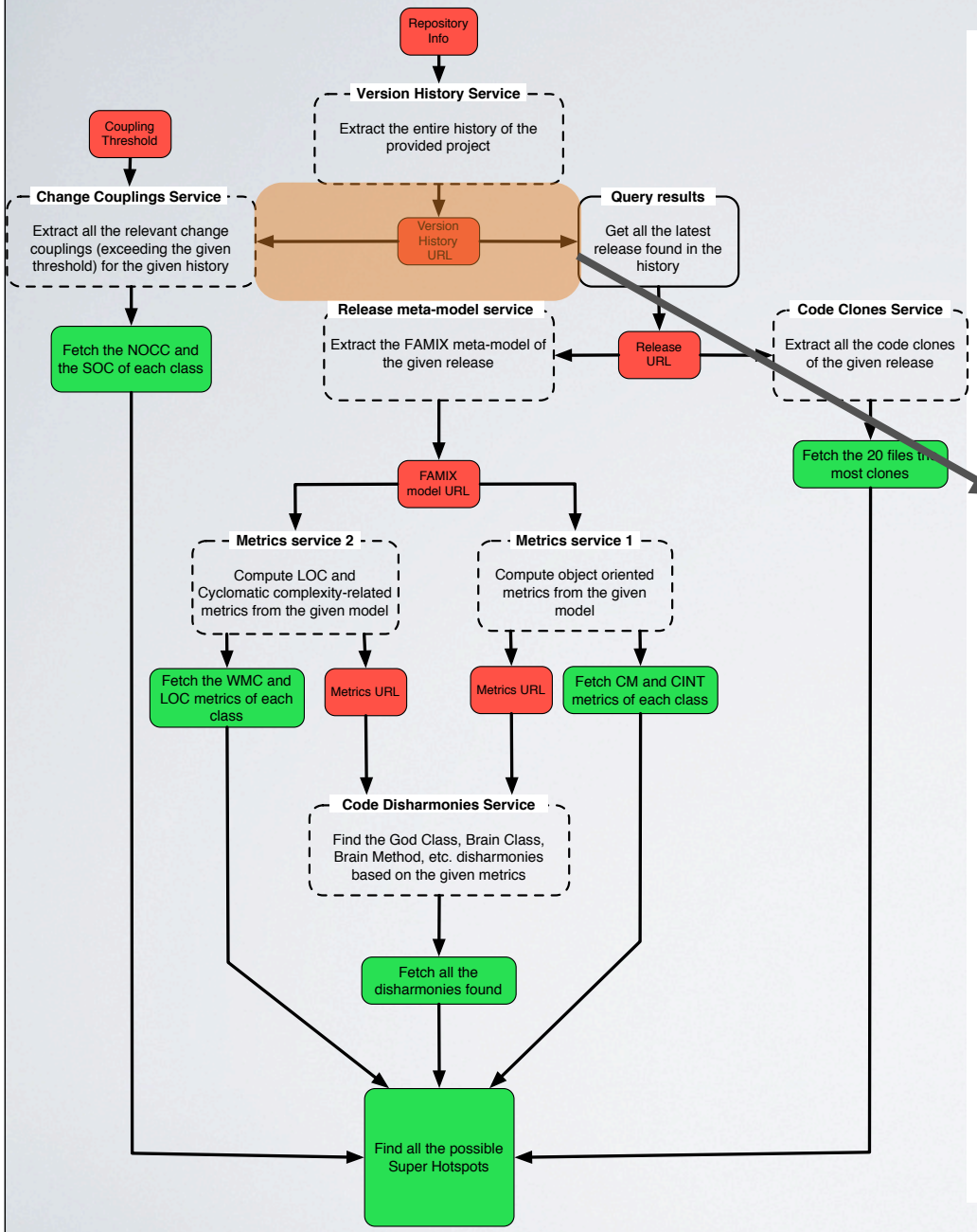


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<links>
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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
         </sources>
      </invoke>
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         <copy>
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         <copy>
            <from>$historyUrl</from>
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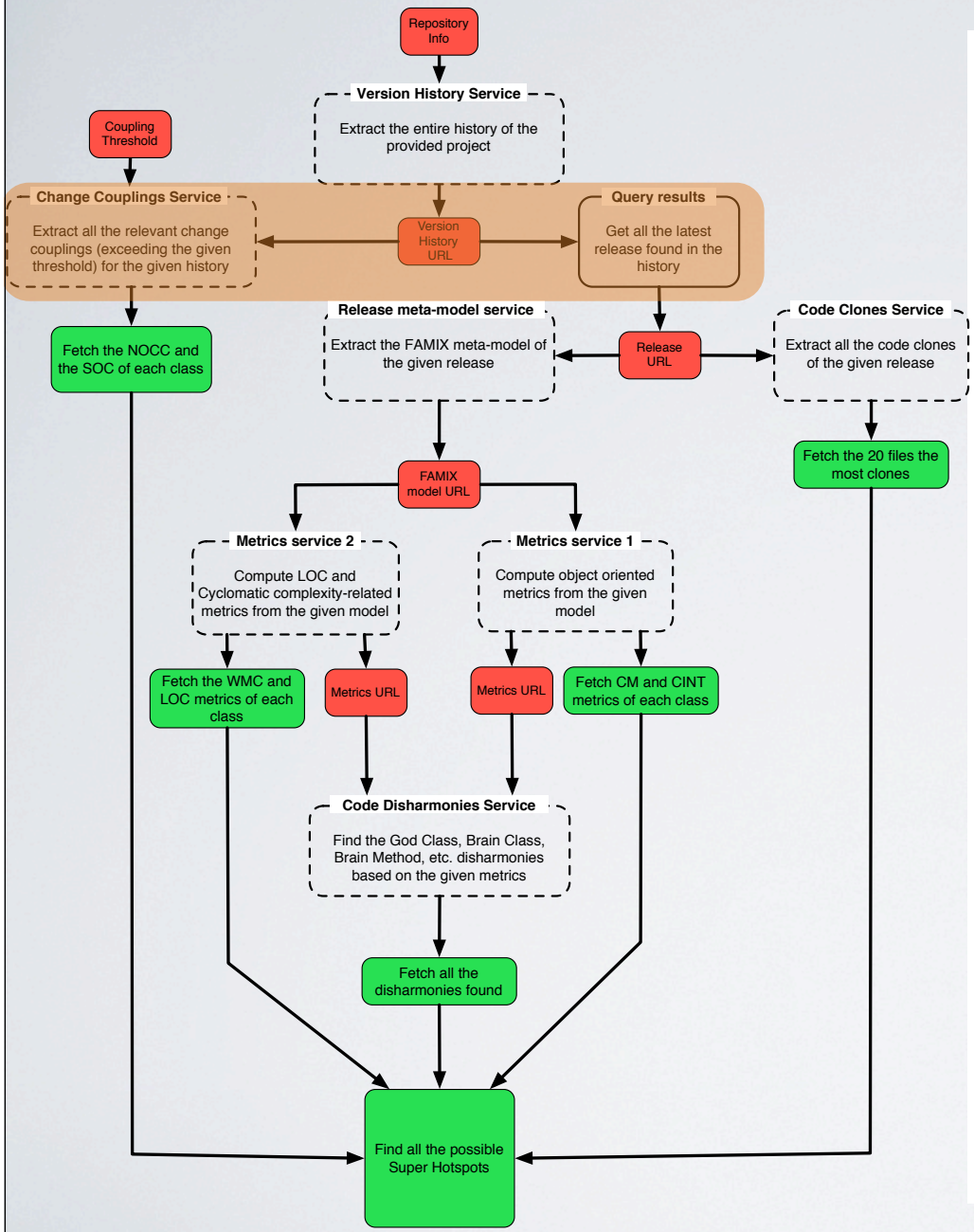


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        </sources>
     </invoke>
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            <to>$inputUrl</to>
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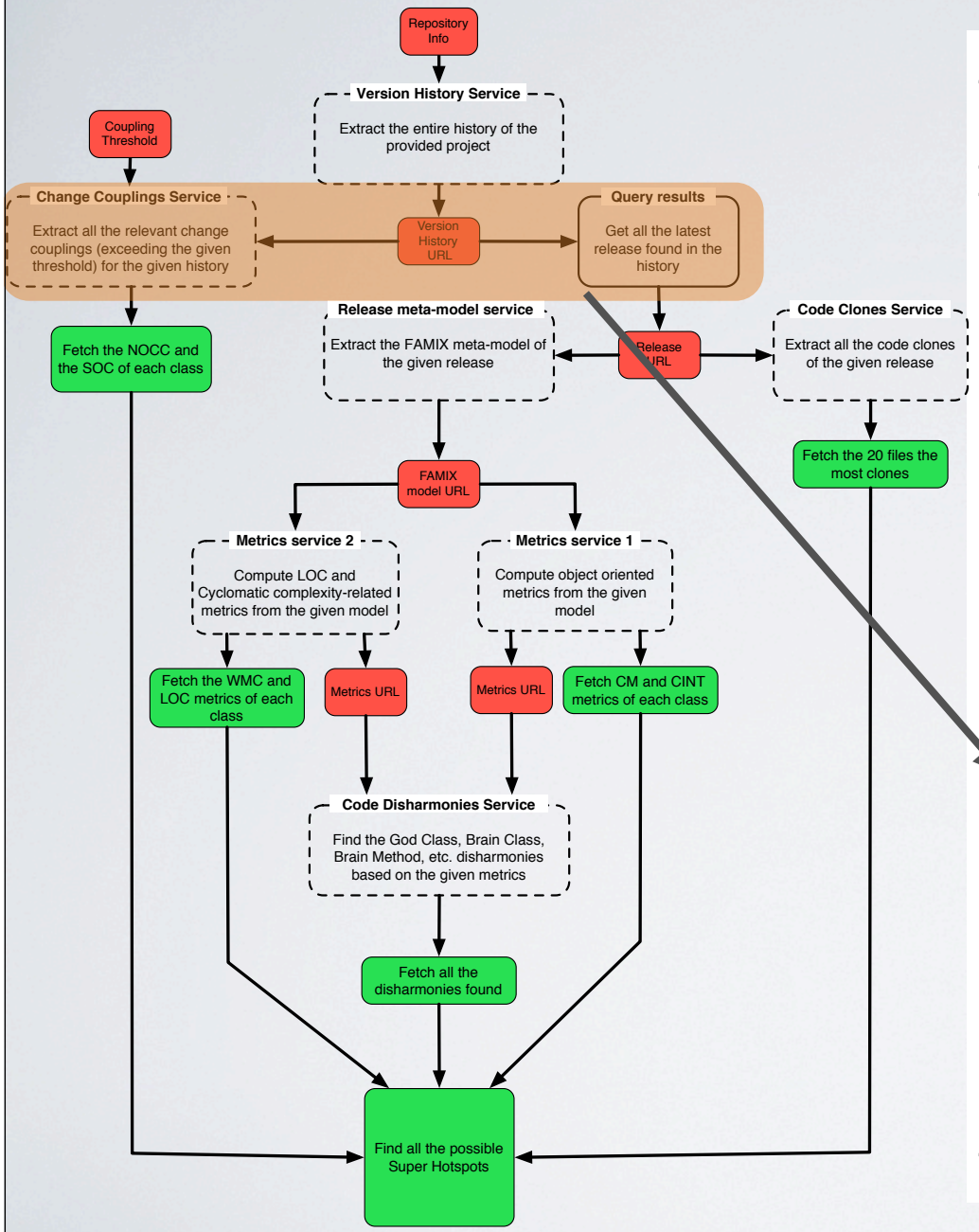


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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
        </sources>
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            <to>$changeCouplingInput/customerInfo</to>
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            <to>$inputUrl</to>
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            outputVariable="lastReleaseUrl">
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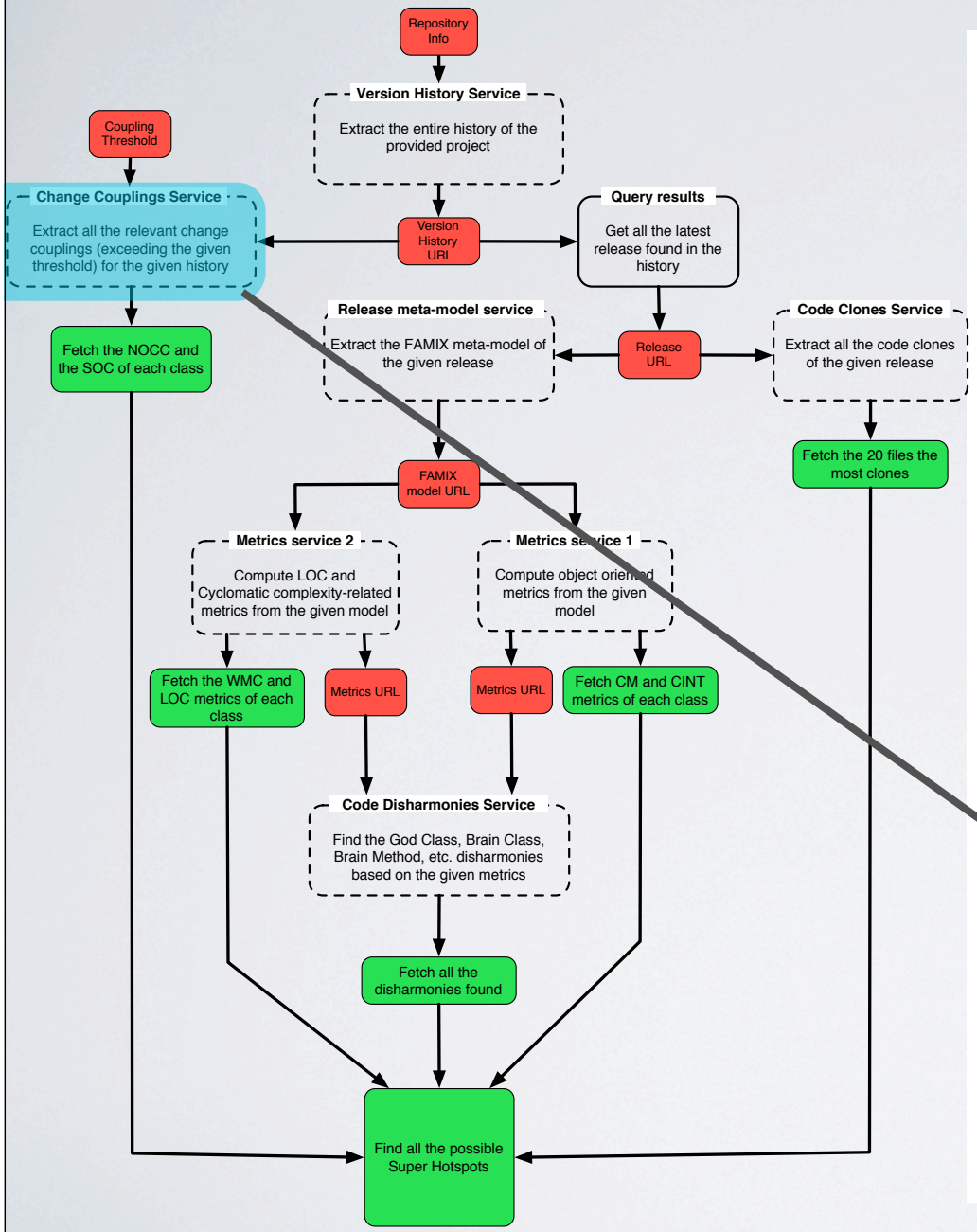


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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
         </sources>
      </invoke>
      <assign>
         <copy>
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            <to>$changeCouplingInput/customerInfo</to>
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         <copy>
            <from>$historyUrl</from>
            <to>$inputUrl</to>
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      <flow>
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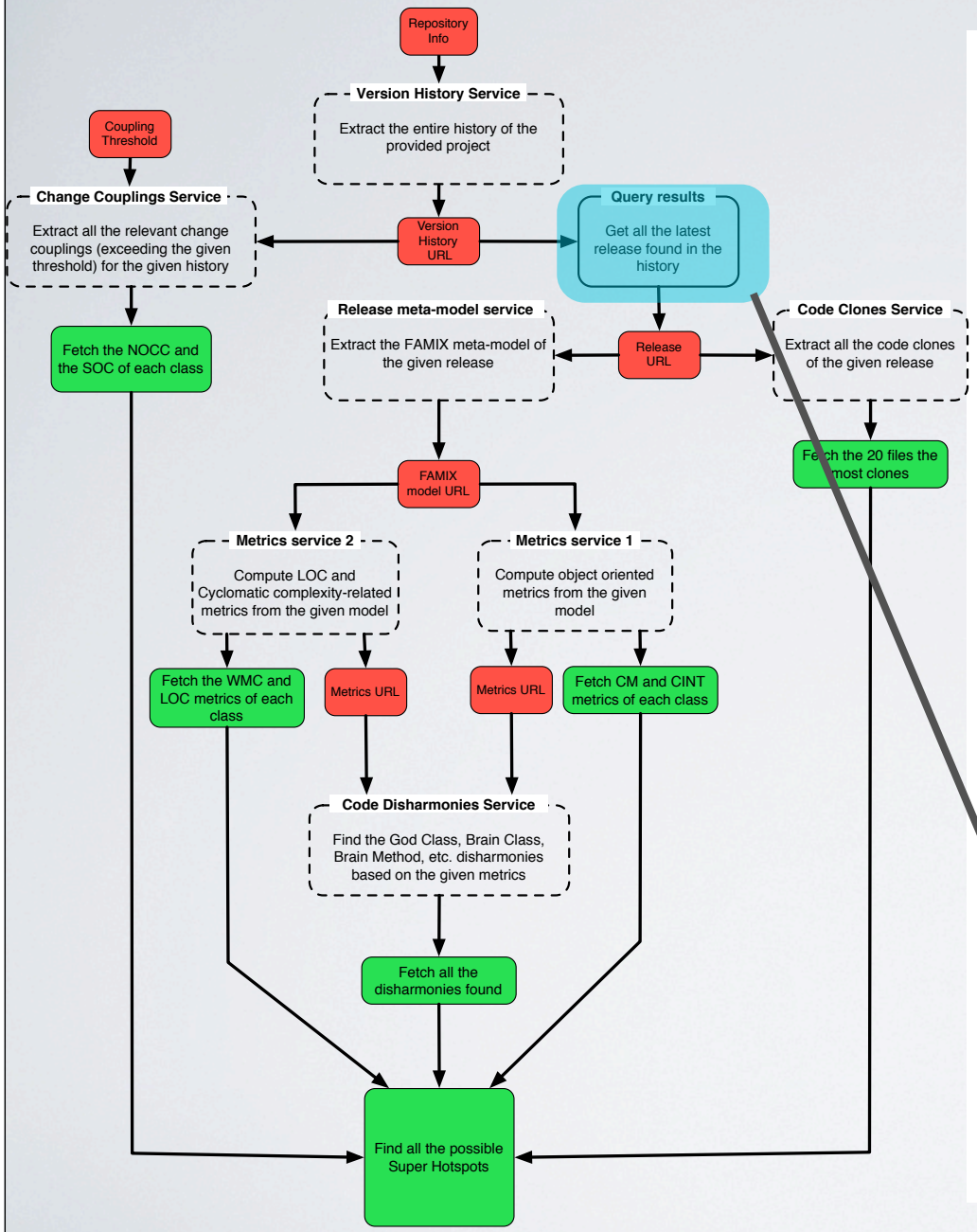


```
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            outputVariable="historyUrl">
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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
         </sources>
      </invoke>
      <assign>
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            <to>$changeCouplingInput/customerInfo</to>
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         <copy>
            <from>$historyUrl</from>
            <to>$inputUrl</to>
         </copy>
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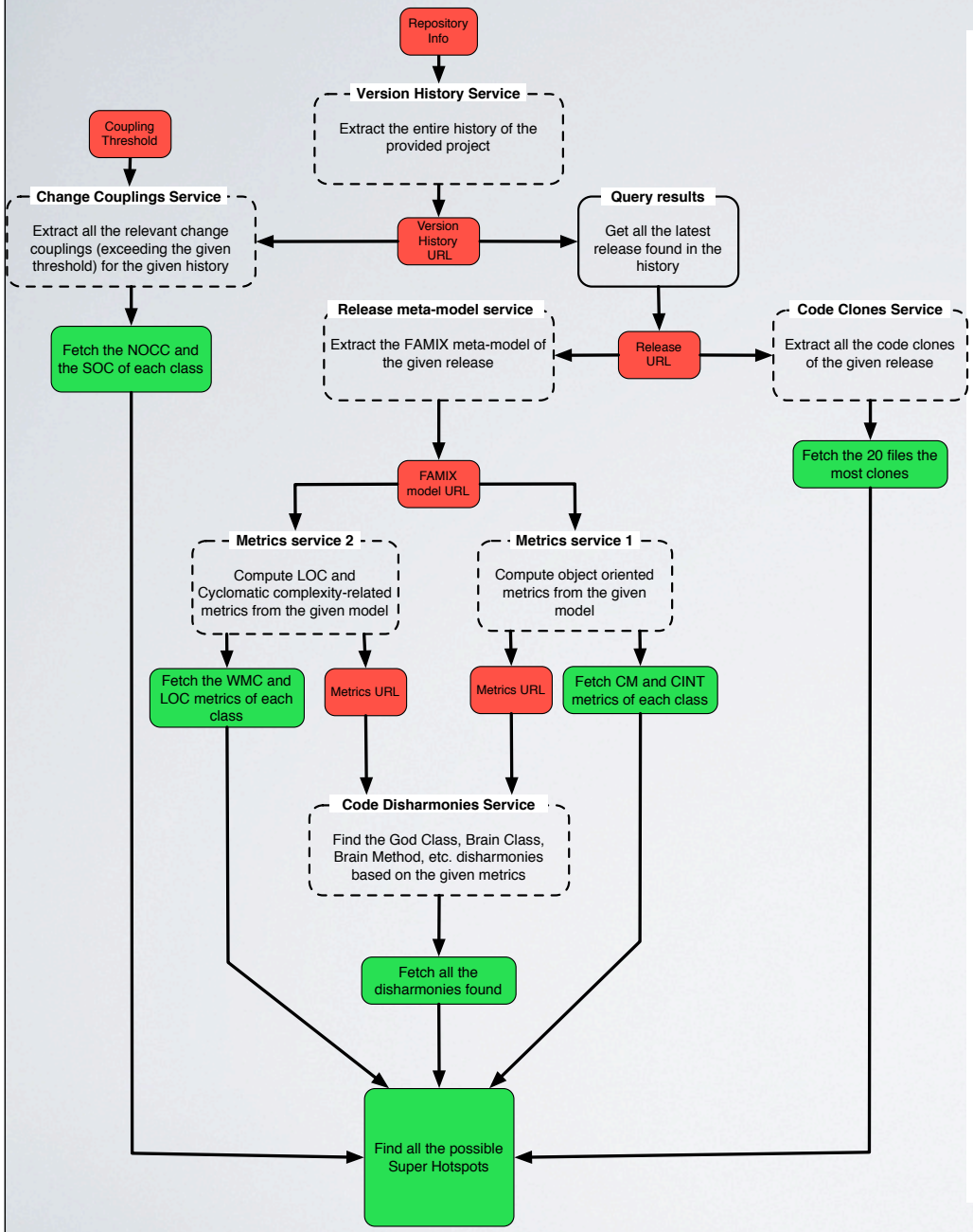


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      <link name="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
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            outputVariable="historyUrl">
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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
        </sources>
     </invoke>
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        <copy>
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            <to>$changeCouplingInput/customerInfo</to>
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        <copy>
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            <to>$inputUrl</to>
        </copy>
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            outputVariable="lastReleaseUrl">
            <targets>
                <target linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
            </targets>
        </query>
     </flow>
</sequence>
```

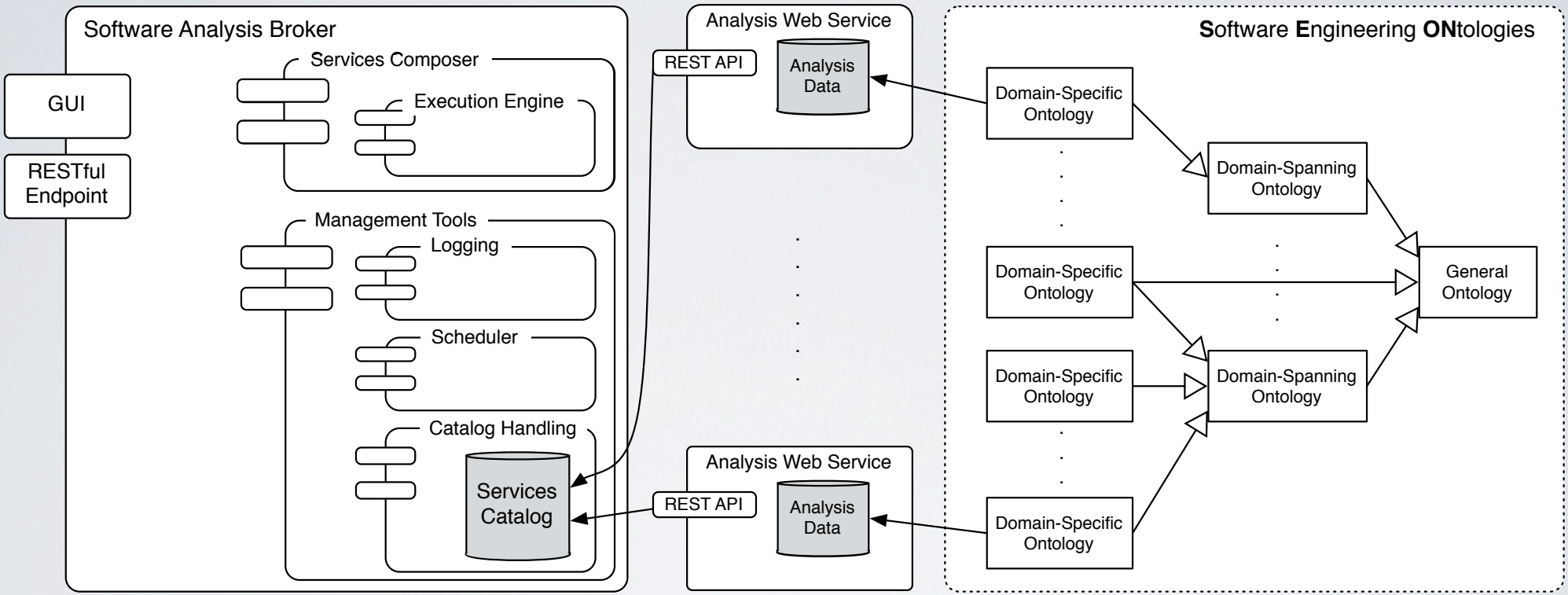
WORKFLOW VALIDATION

- Syntactical correctness is checked and enforced using the constraints defined in the description (XML schema restrictions)
- Semantical correctness based on annotated WADL: any input and output of a service method, may be annotated with a URI to an ontology

➡ Very useful in guiding the composition

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8">
<application xmlns="http://evolizer.org/wadl"
                    xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
   <resources base="http://habanero.ifi.uzh.ch/releaseFamix/">
      <resource path="/analyses">
         <method id="createHistoryWithForm" name="POST">
                        The method to start the analysis
            <request>
               <representation mediaType="application/x-www-form-urlencoded">
                  <param name="name" style="query" type="xs:string">
                                    The name of the new analysis
                   </param>
1                  <param name="url"
                              style="query"
                              type="xs:string"
                              ontologyClass="http://se-on.org/ontologies/domain-specific/2012/02/history.owl#Release" />
                              The url of the release to extract the FAMIX model of
                   </param>
               </representation>
            </request>
2           <response>
               <representation mediaType="text/html"
                                 ontology="http://se-on.org/ontologies/domain-specific/2012/02/code.owl" />
            </response>
         </method>
         . . . .
         <resource path="{name}">
            . . . .
         </resource>
      </resource>
   </resources>
</application>
```

SCOLA IN PRACTICE



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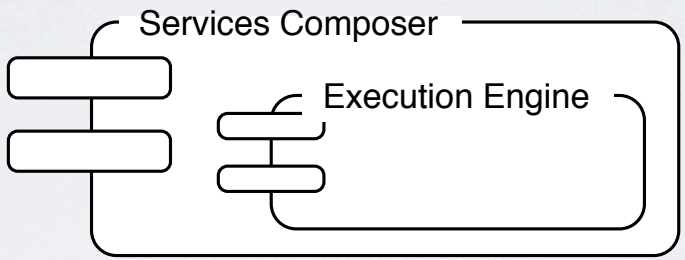
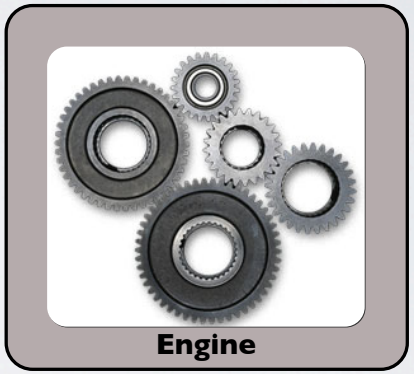
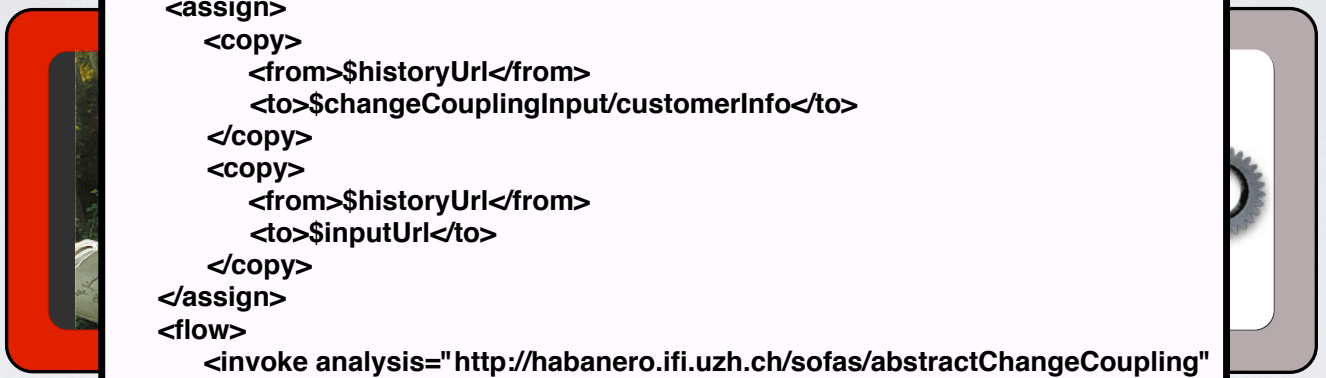


SCOLA IN PRACTICE



S TICE



```
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      <link name="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
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            <source linkName="versionHistory_to_fetchReleaseQuery"/>
         </sources>
     </invoke>
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            <to>$changeCouplingInput/customerInfo</to>
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         <query sparqlQuery="SELECT ?x WHERE ?x rdf:type v:Release . . . . . ."
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                outputVariable="lastReleaseUrl">
                <targets>
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                </targets>
         </query>
    </flow>
</sequence>
```

SCOLA IN PRACTICE

Composer

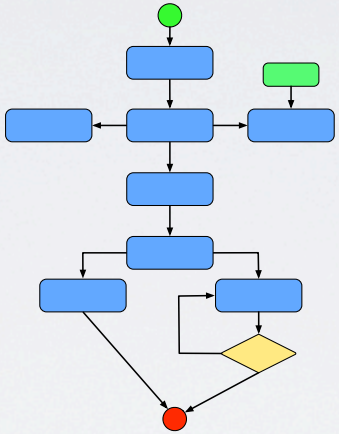
Engine

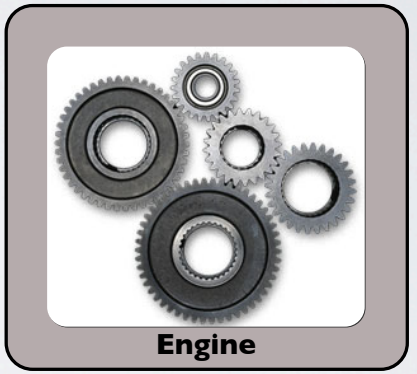
SCOLA IN PRACTICE

Composer

Engine

SCOLA IN PRACTICE



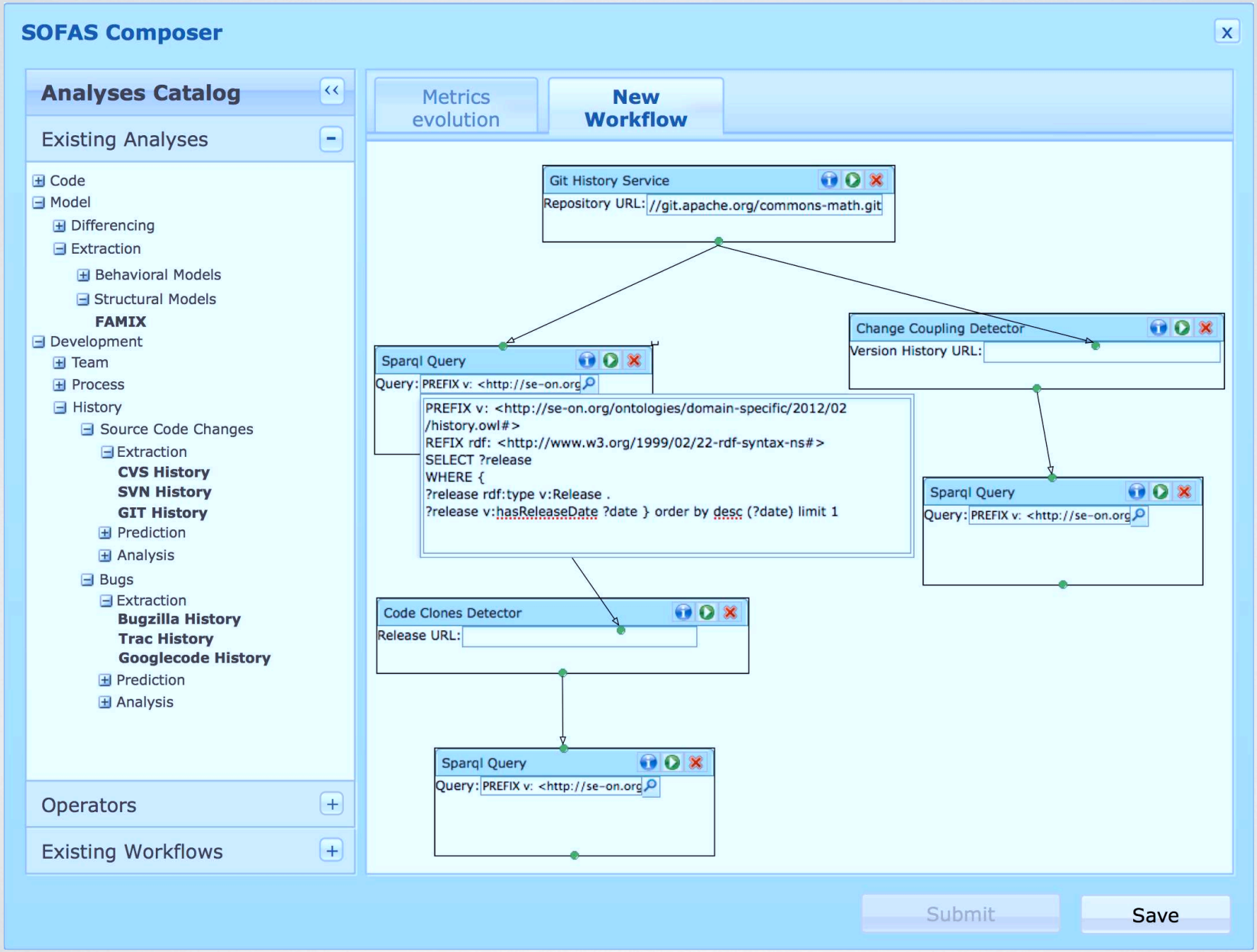


SCOLA IN PRACTICE

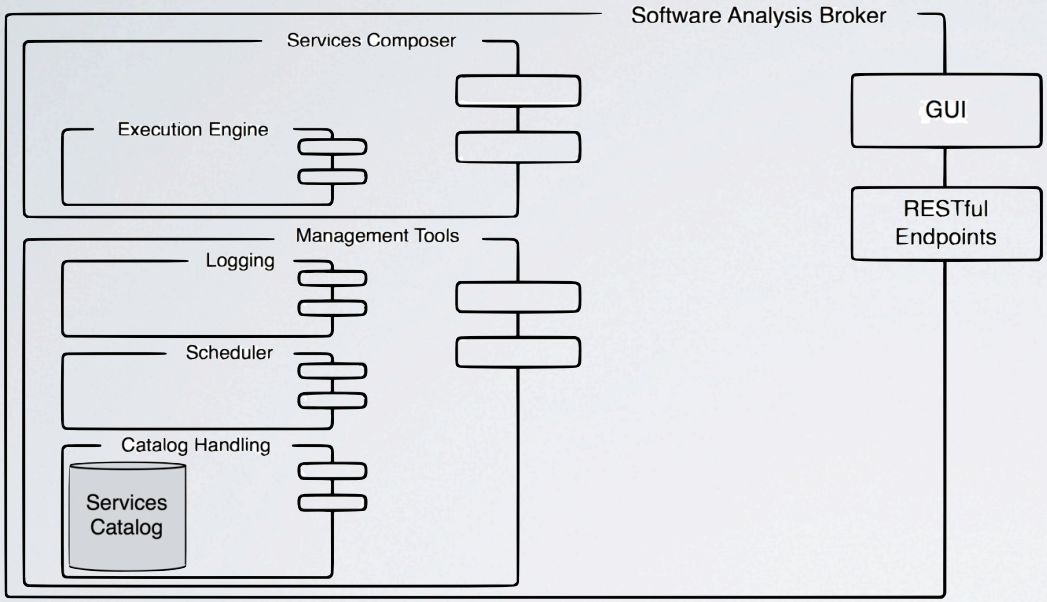
Composer

Engine

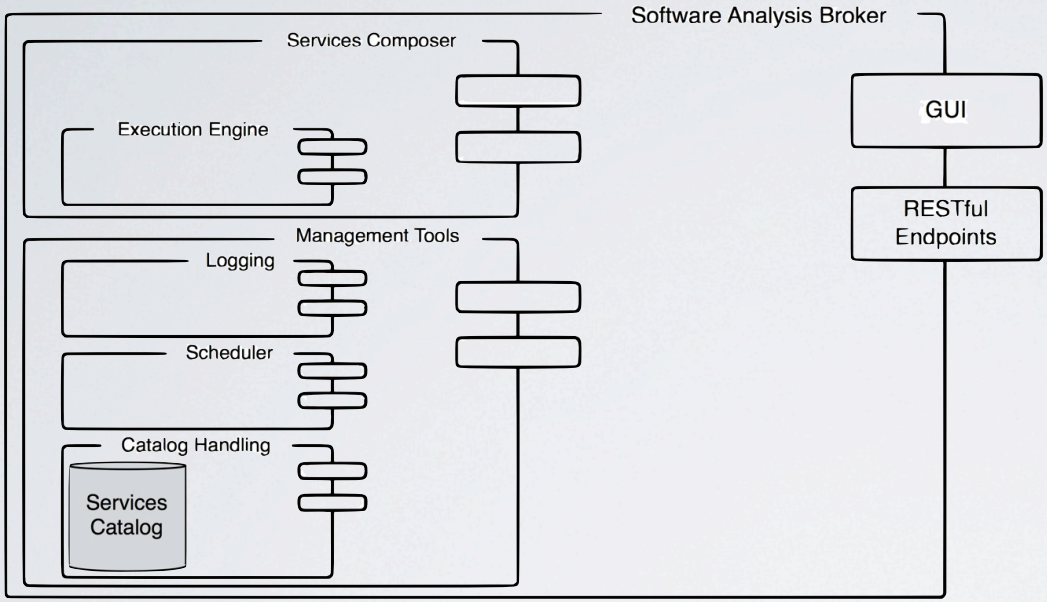
SCOLA FOR HUMANS

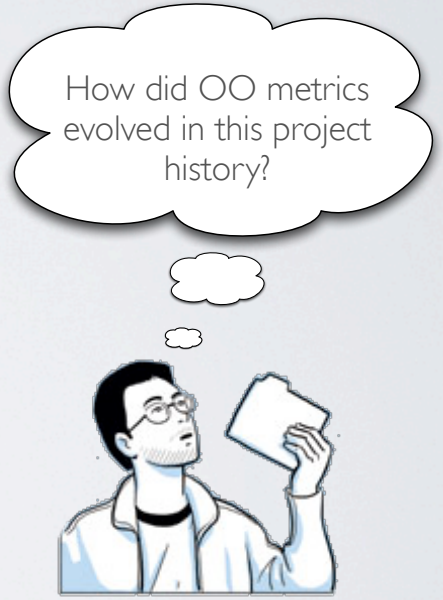


COMPOSITION IN A NUTSHELL

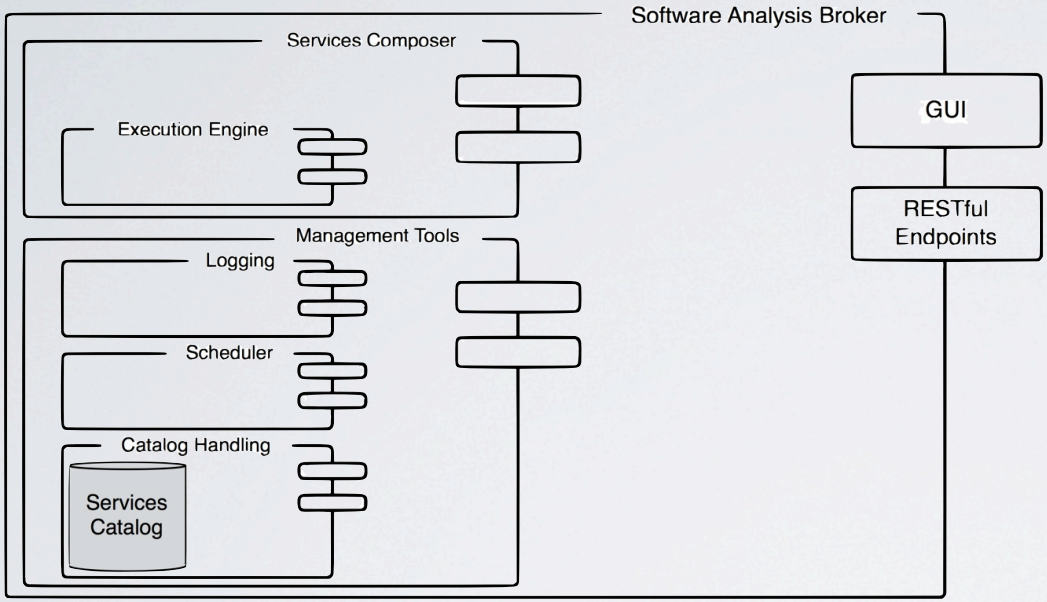


COMPOSITION IN A NUTSHELL

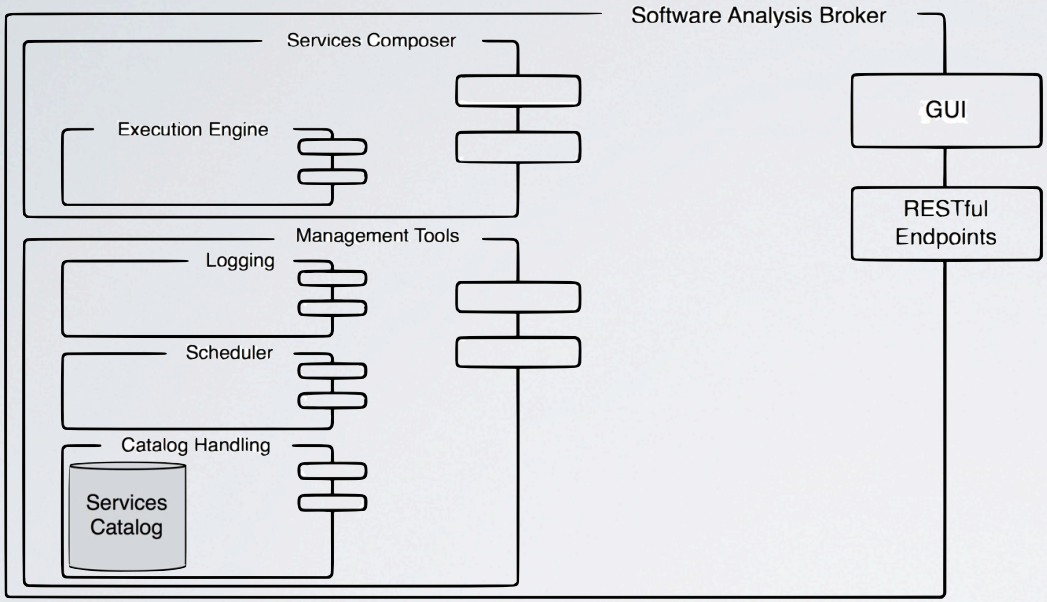


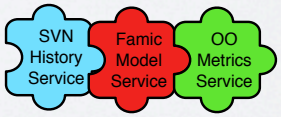


COMPOSITION IN A NUTSHELL



COMPOSITION IN A NUTSHELL





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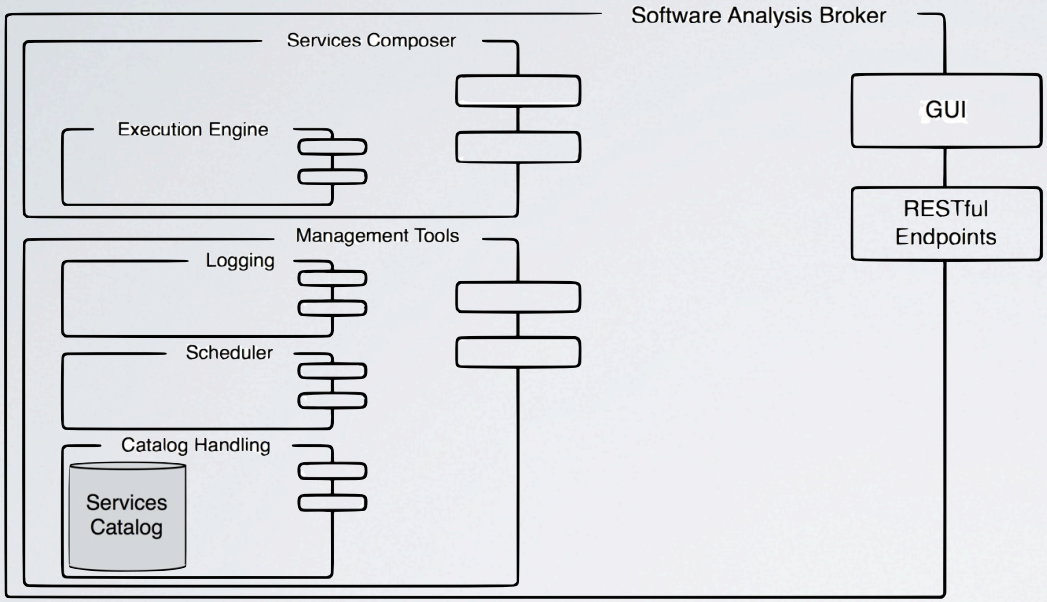

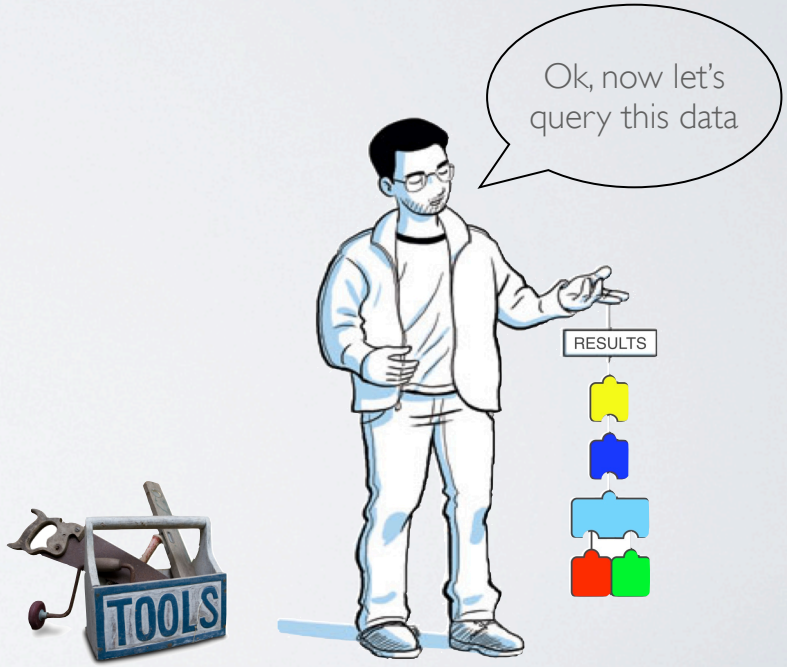

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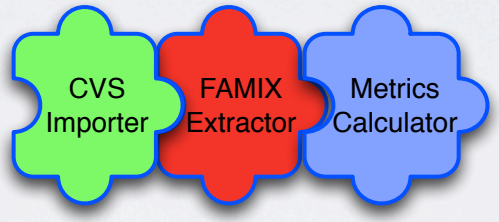

AUTOMATIC COMPOSITION

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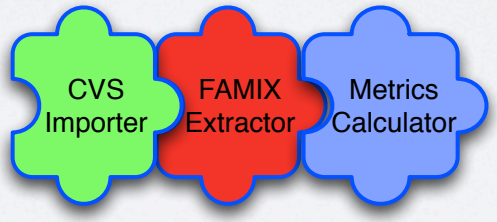

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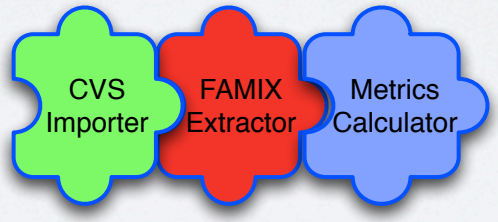



What is the impact of the proposed approach?

EVALUATION

- Focused on the 3 major milestones, assessing 3 main properties:
    1. Applicability
    2. Flexibility
    3. Relevance
- Mainly based on use cases

EVALUATION

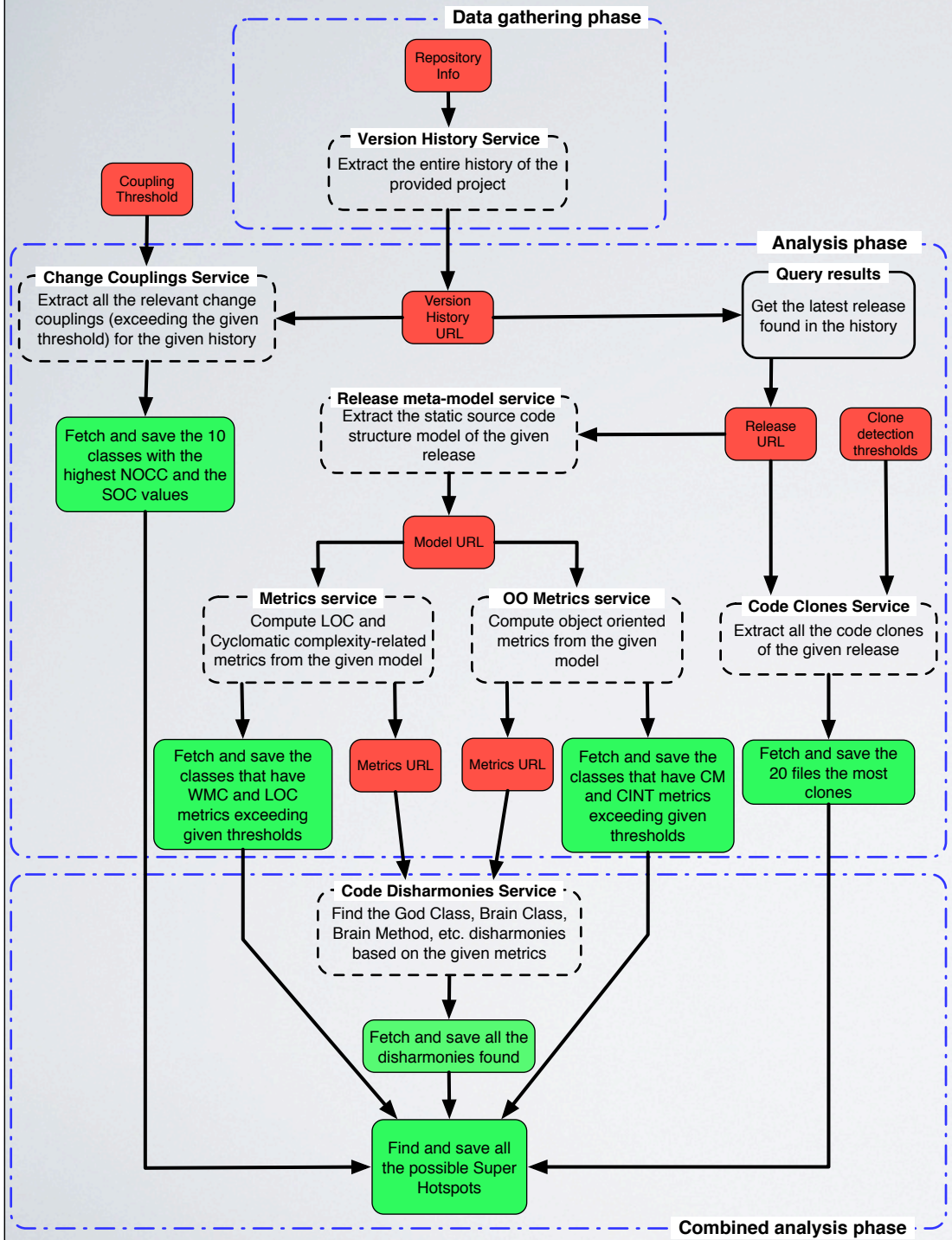
- Two use cases based on the quality audit of a commercial, mission critical system (~400k LOC):

1. We conceptually prove that our framework can be used to address relevant evolution analysis questions

   ➡We answer the question "*Which are the hotspots and evolution anomalies for a project?*"

2. We demonstrate how tools can harness SCoLa to automatically gather a wide range of varied yet interlinked information about a software system and use it

   ➡**Software Evolution Facets**



- *"Which are the hotspots and evolution anomalies for a project?"*
  - *Which entities have high or abnormal values of known code quality metrics?*
  - *Which entities present specific code smells?*
  - *Which entities have a high change coupling?*
  - *Which entities have a lot of copied code (code clones)?*
  - *Which entities are super hotspots?*

DEMO

PERFORMANCE

- **Apache HTTPD** history ~2h:15m (~1g of vca data)
- **Commercial system** study (~400K LOC) ~3hrs
  - history: ~30min
  - meta-model extraction of 12 releases: 2 hrs
  - metrics calculation for every selected release: 30min
  - code disharmonies calculation for every selected release:10 min

SYSTEMS STUDIED

- The history of the entire Apache foundation codebase (336 projects)
- The metrics history of some of the most popular Java OSS projects
  - **Azureus, ArgoUML, Eclipse**
- Some of the most popular OSS projects (based on OHLOH stats)
  - **Mozilla, Linux kernel, PostgreSQL, Python, Ruby,** etc.

RELATED WORK

- Tool-based systems: **Kenyon**, **Evolizer**, **softChange**
  - ad-hoc developed tools and techniques
  - no composition and usage of different, independent analyses
  - no combination into custom combinations
- **OASIS**
  - allow an analysis available in one tool to use the fact-base of another one
  - domain ontology to describe a set of representational concepts that the different tools to be integrated require and support
- Data repositories
  - **Flossmole** => more high-level development information and dynamics and is offered "as-is"
  - **Ultimate Debian DB** => system specific information

RELATED WORK

- Online analysis platforms
  - **FOSSology**
    - framework to analyze source code with different, custom analyses that can be created by users to fulfill their specific needs
    - currently it only features an agent that detects the code license
  - **Alitheia Core**
    - plugin-based
    - still highly centralized approach => similar to Kenyon or Evolizer but online accessible

SOFAS' OFFSPRING

- Interest in solutions enabling the sharing and/or combination of analyses and their results both from researchers and the industry
- Plugin-based VCS
- SOFAS 2.0, a.k.a applied SOFAS
- Software Evolution Facets

A Plugin-based Version Control System for Software (Evolution) Analysis

Motivation (the good)

- VCSes greatly evolved since their introduction in the 70s
- Their core functionality and rationale has stayed the same (check in, check out, commit, view the history...)
- They are good for forward engineering activities
- However, there is much to be learnt from the history they contain (MSR teaches)

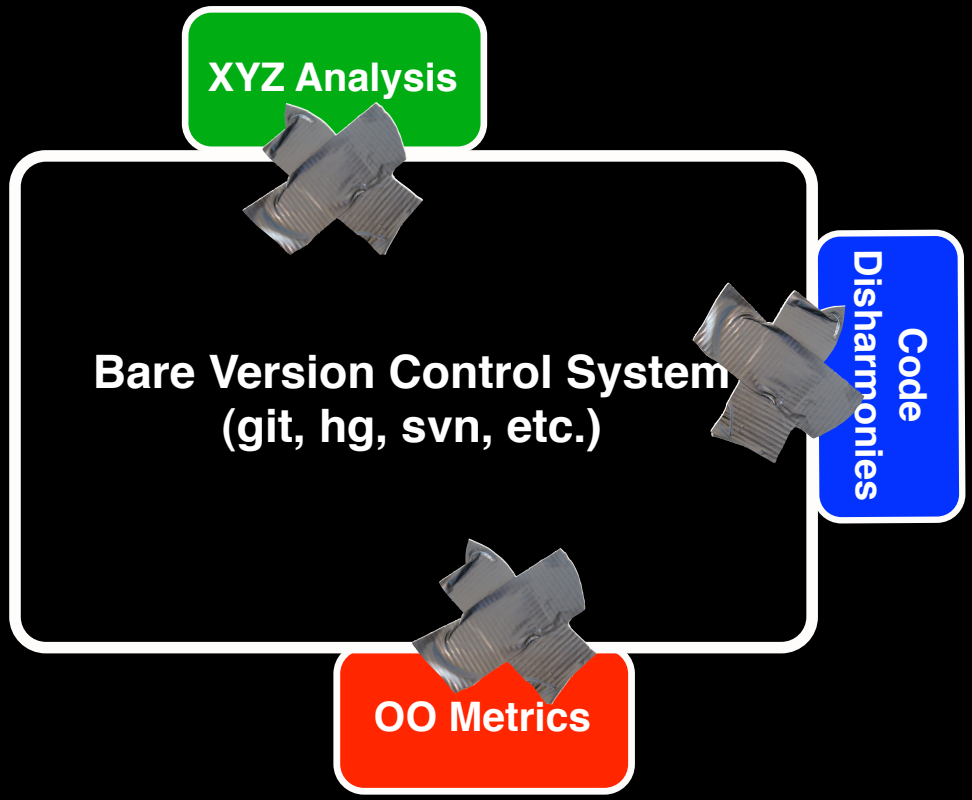
Motivation (the bad)

- Version Control systems are NOT meant to be systematically analyzed
- They still are “backup” systems
- Analyses interface with them through the bare history log
- The software miners rushed for the “gold” but forgot to improve the working conditions in the mines

The Current Situation

Bare Version Control System
(git, hg, svn, etc.)

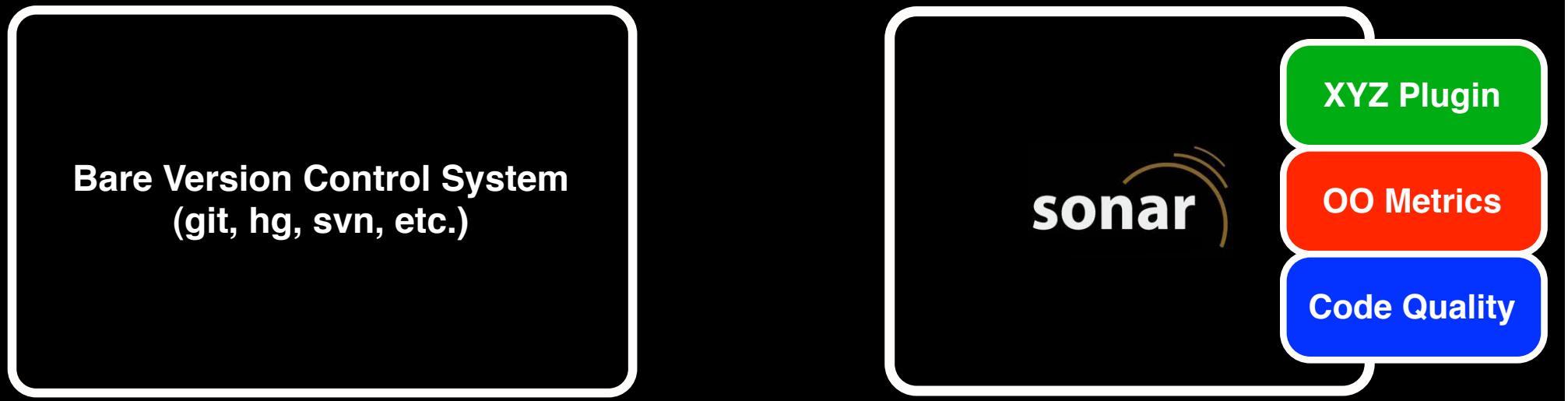
The Current Situation



An Existing Solution

Bare Version Control System
(git, hg, svn, etc.)

An Existing Solution



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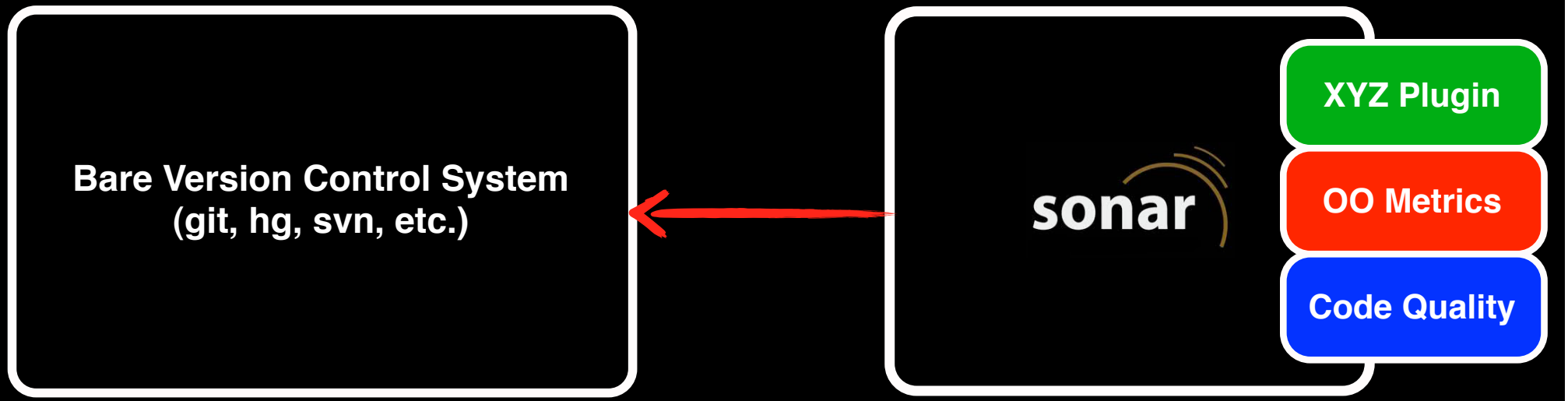

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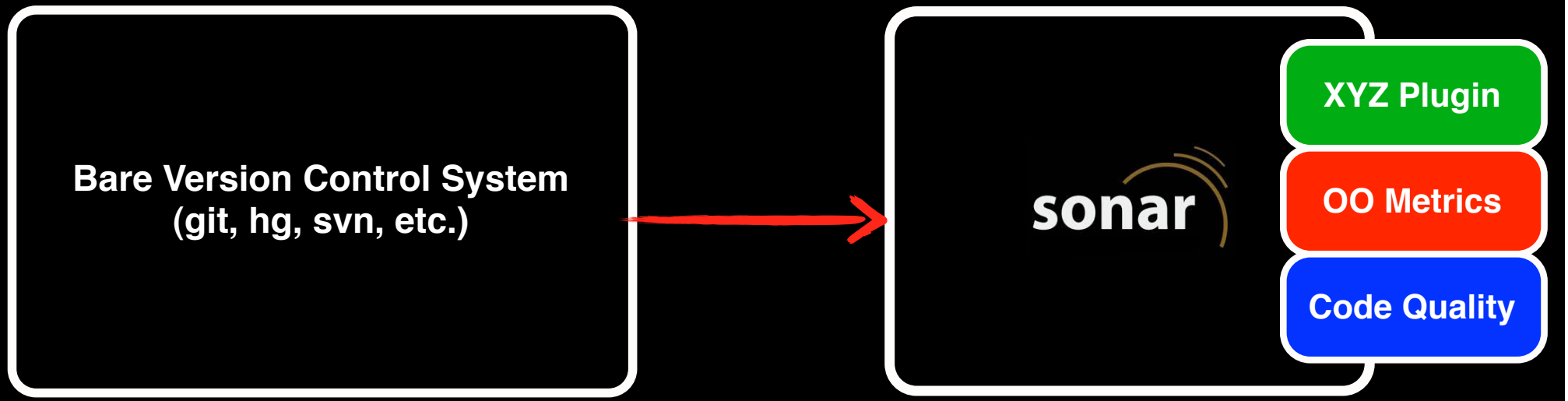

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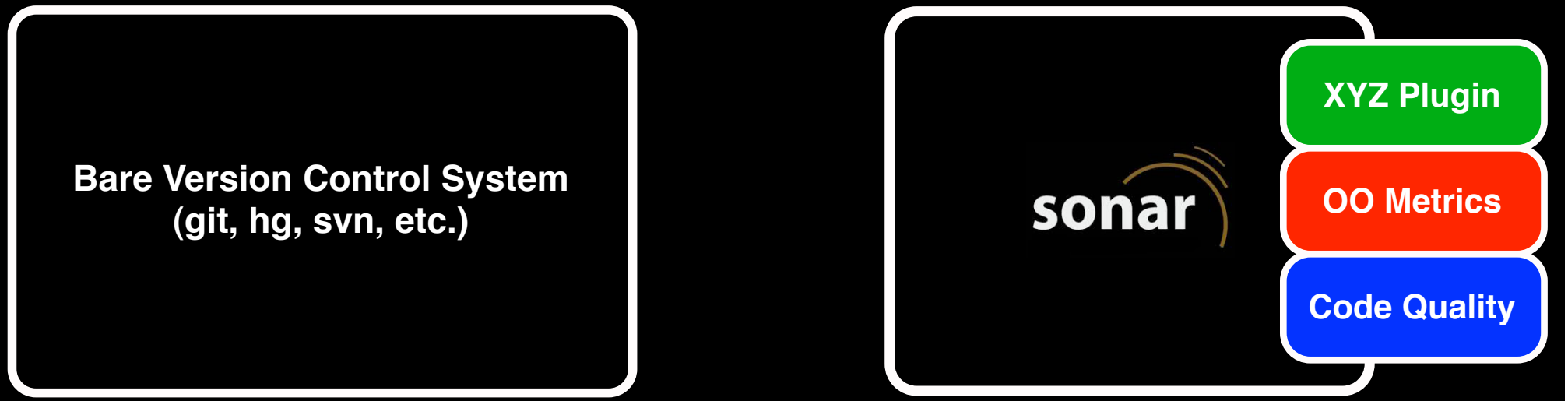

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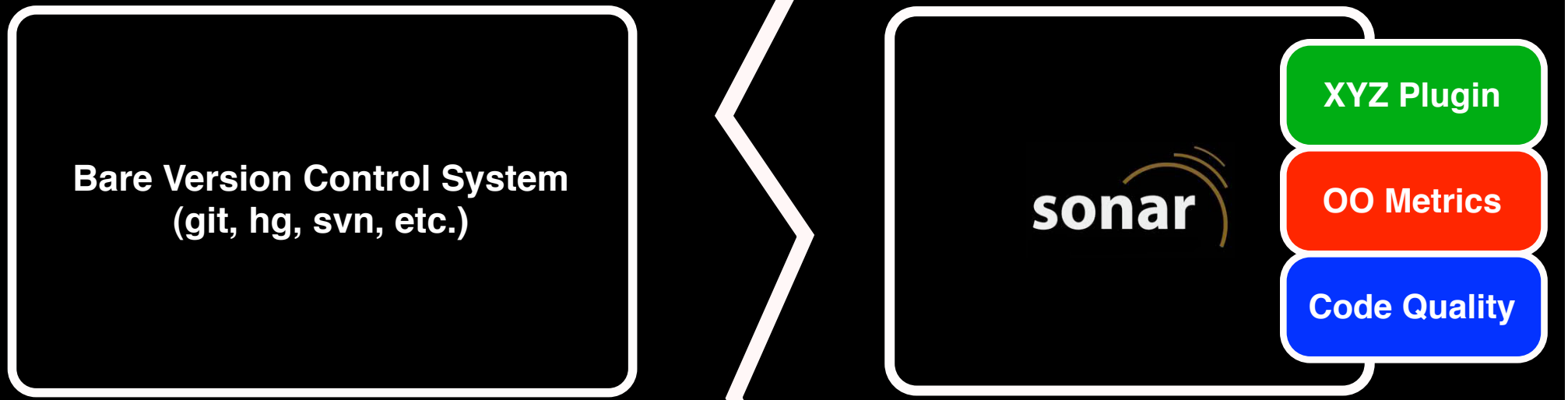
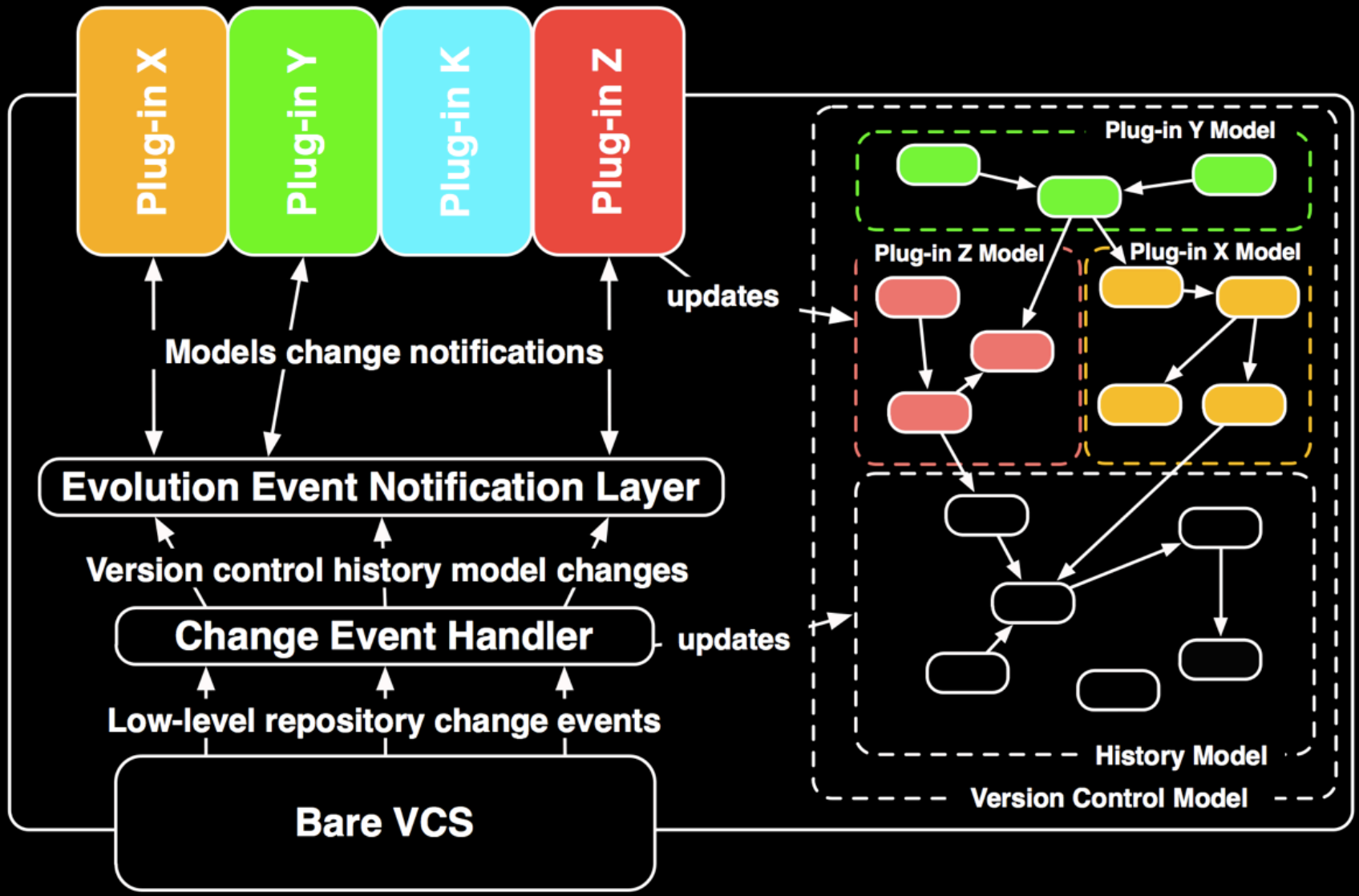
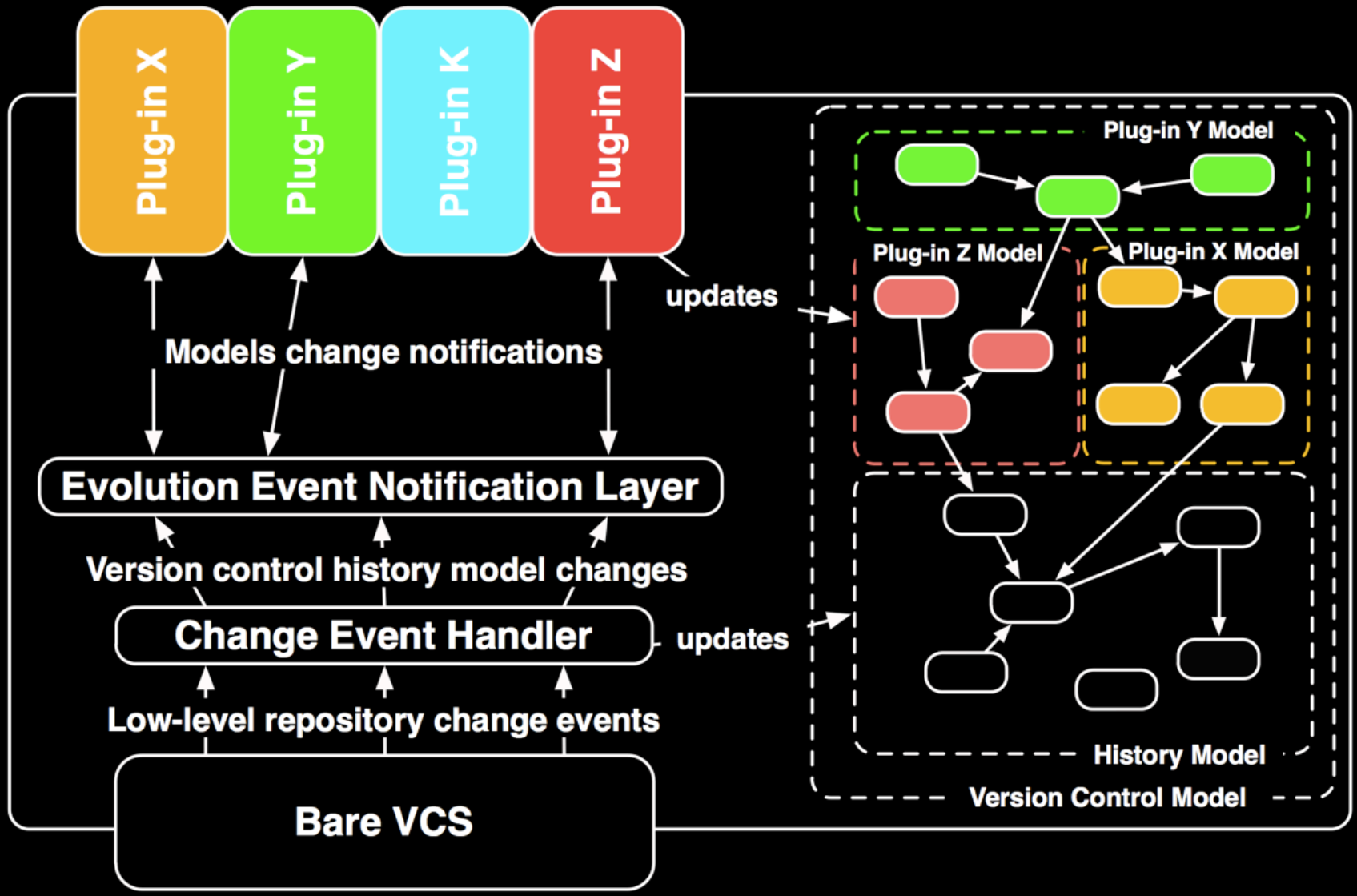


Architecture



Change Event Handler



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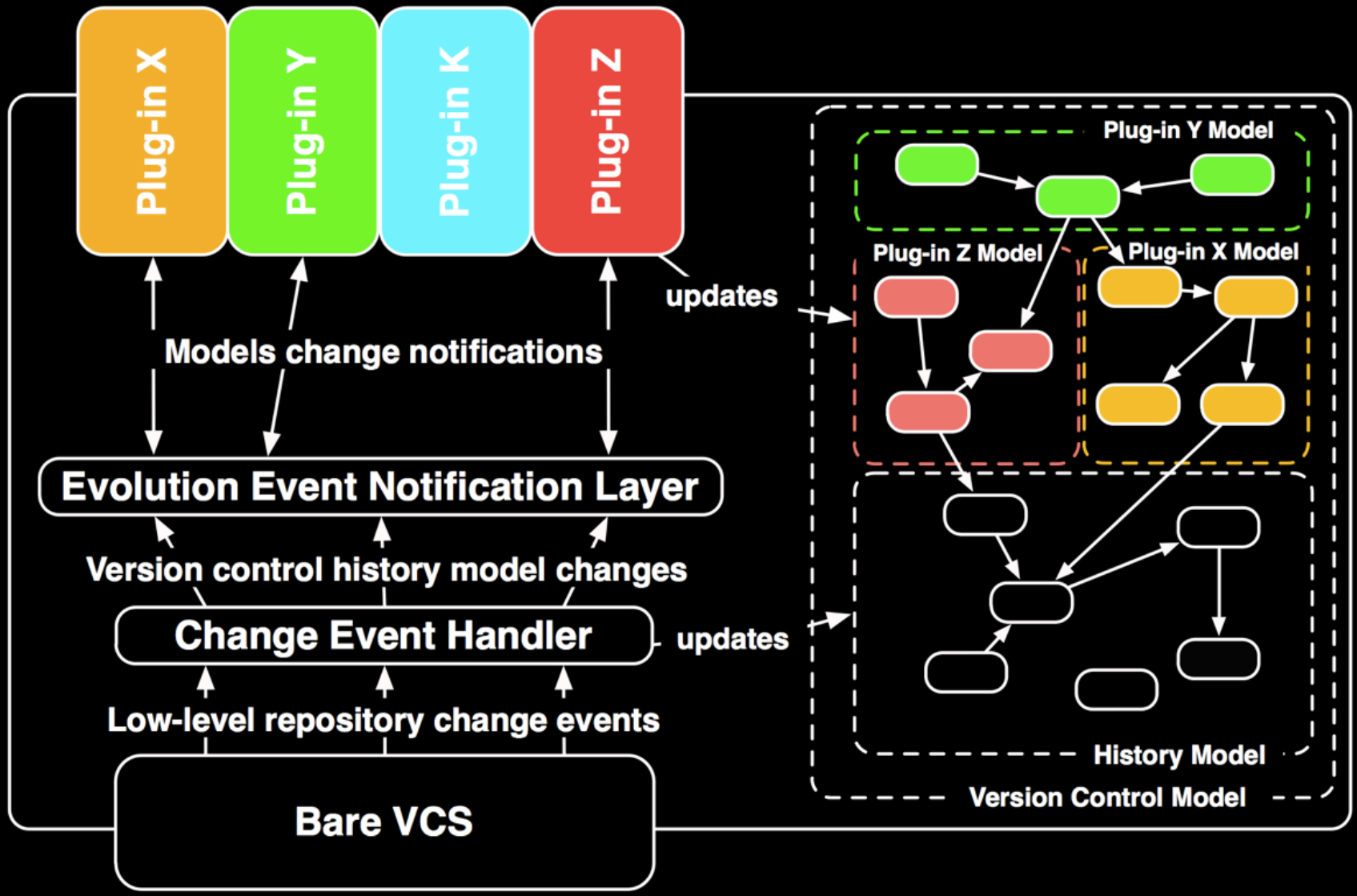

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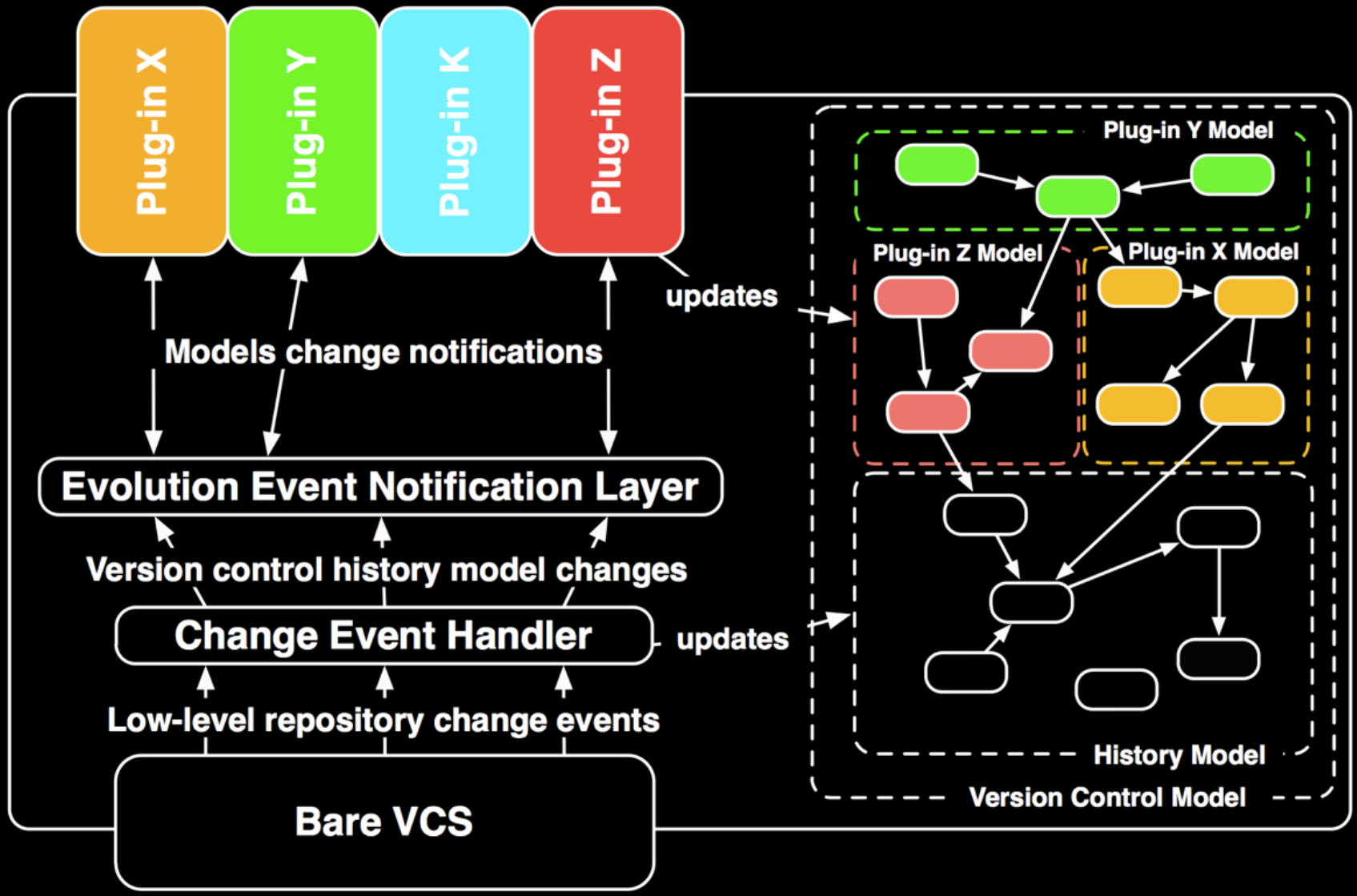

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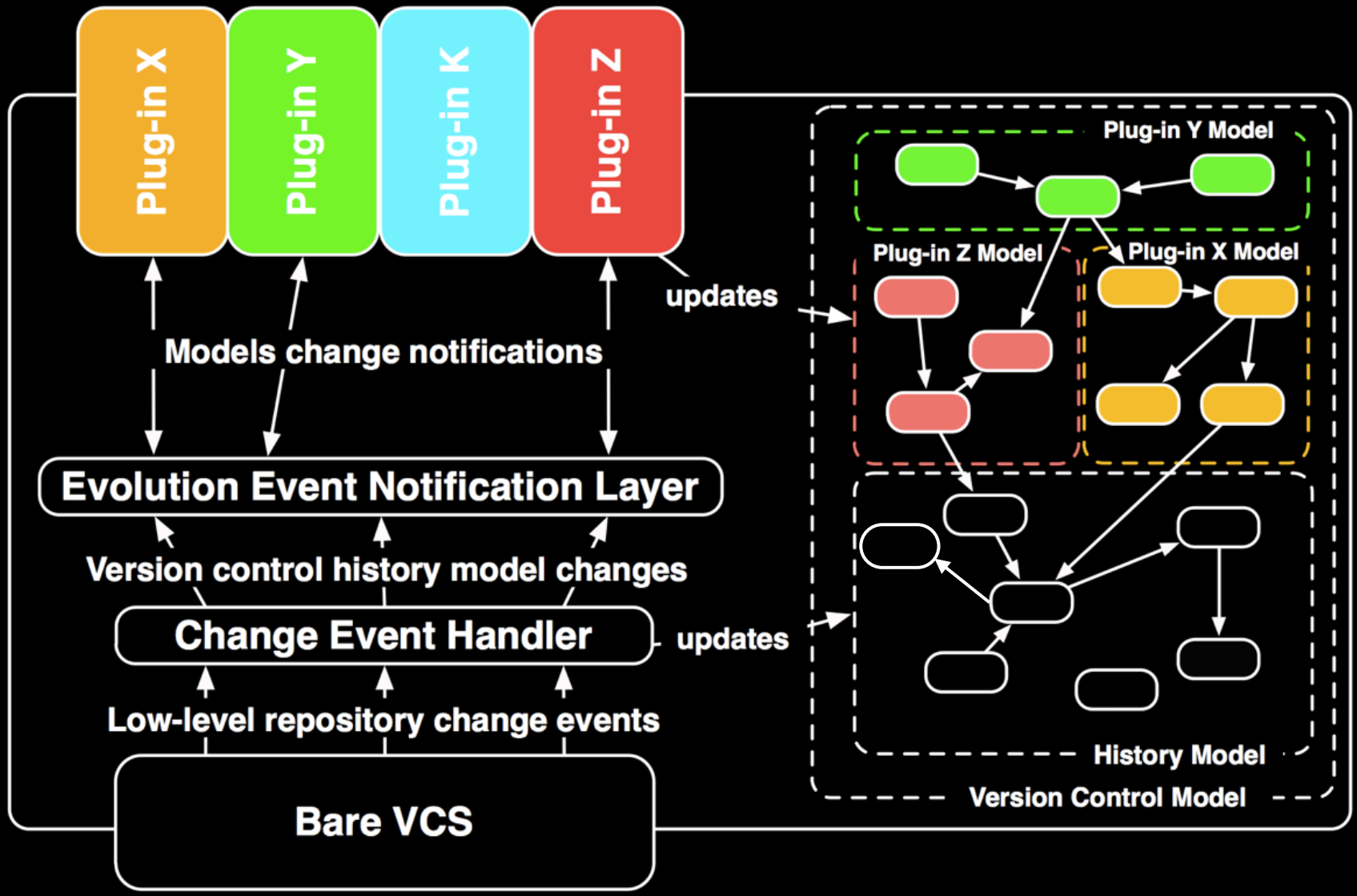
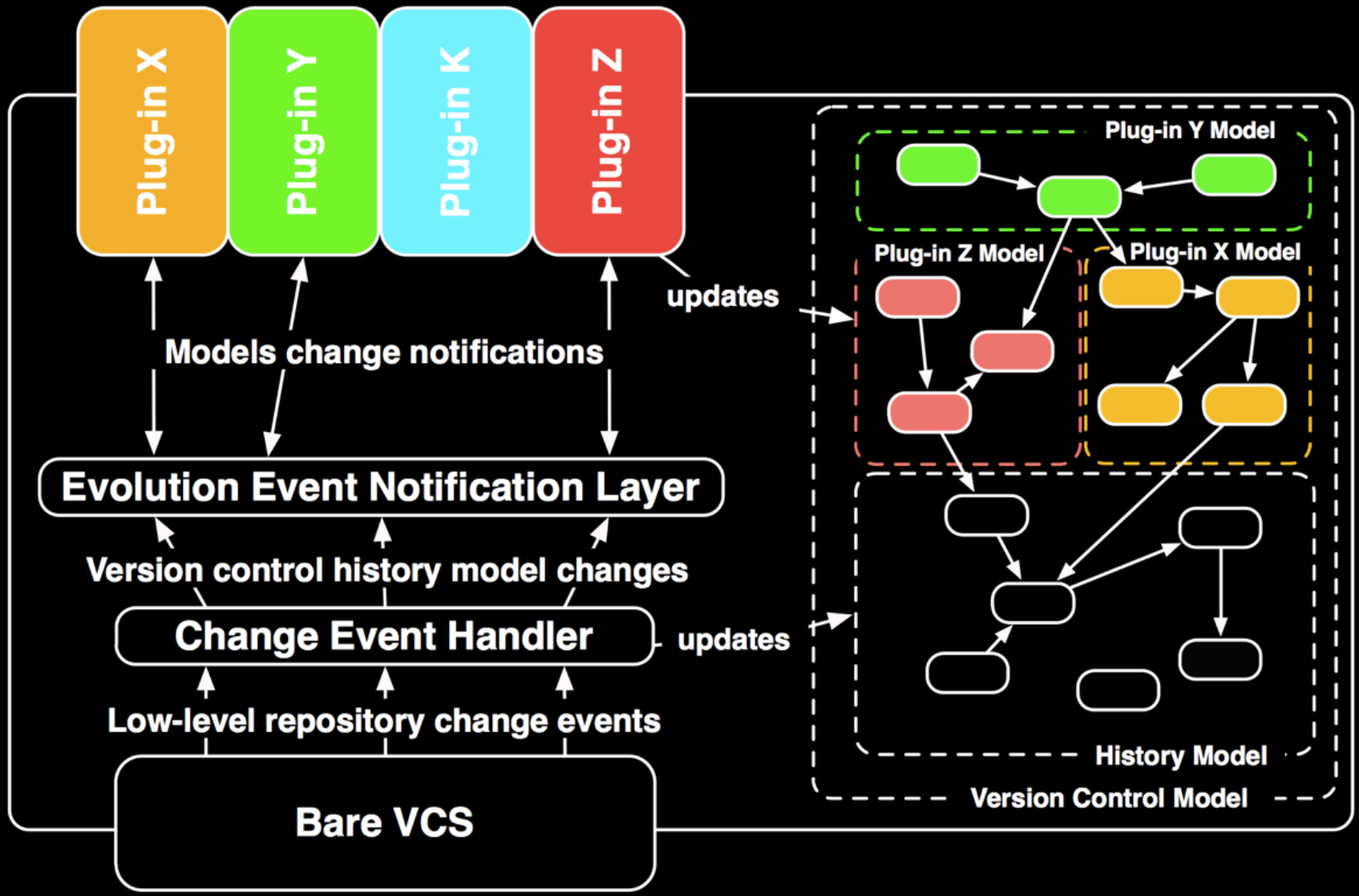
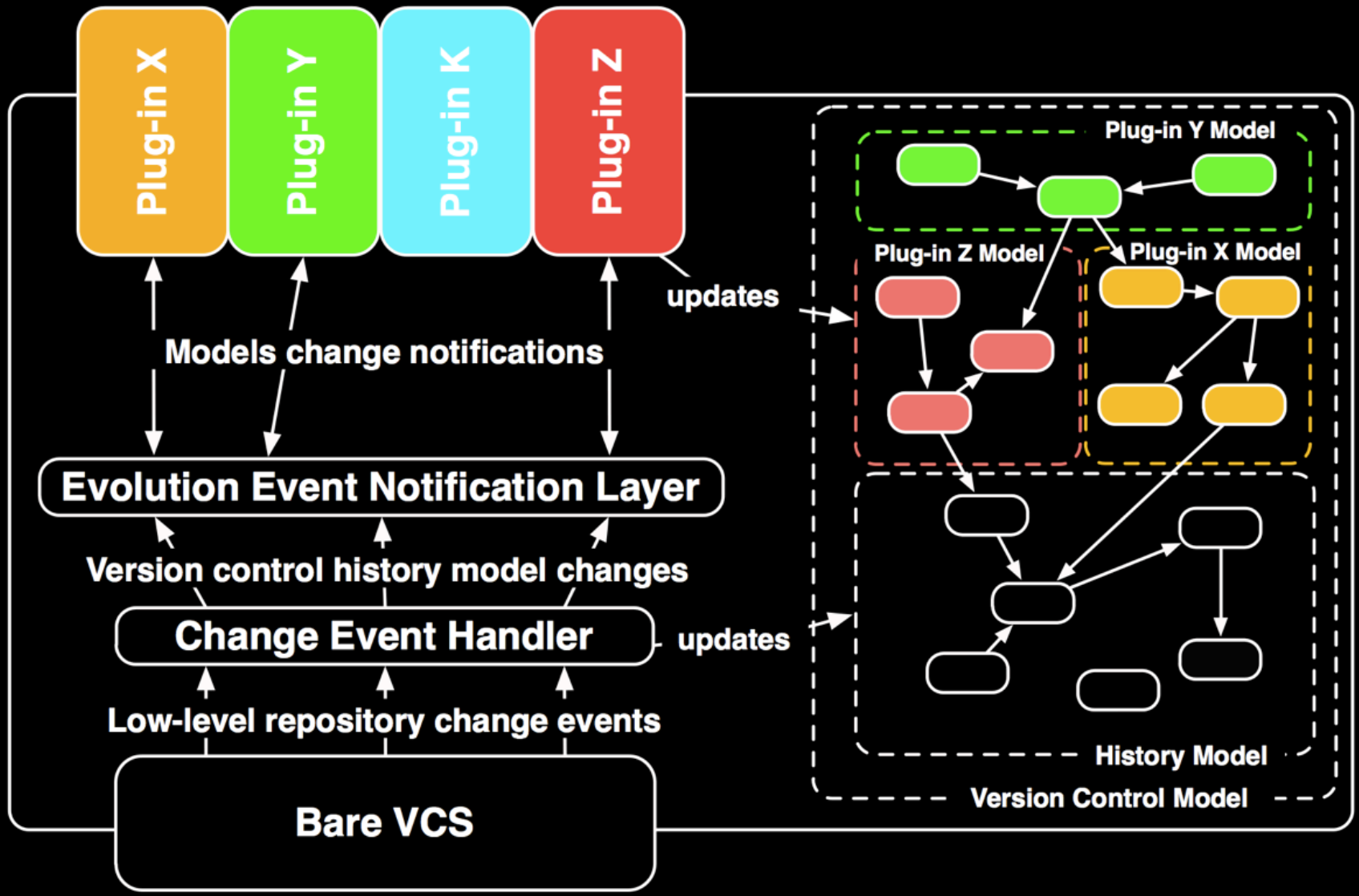


Version Control History Model



Version Control History Model

Event Notification Layer



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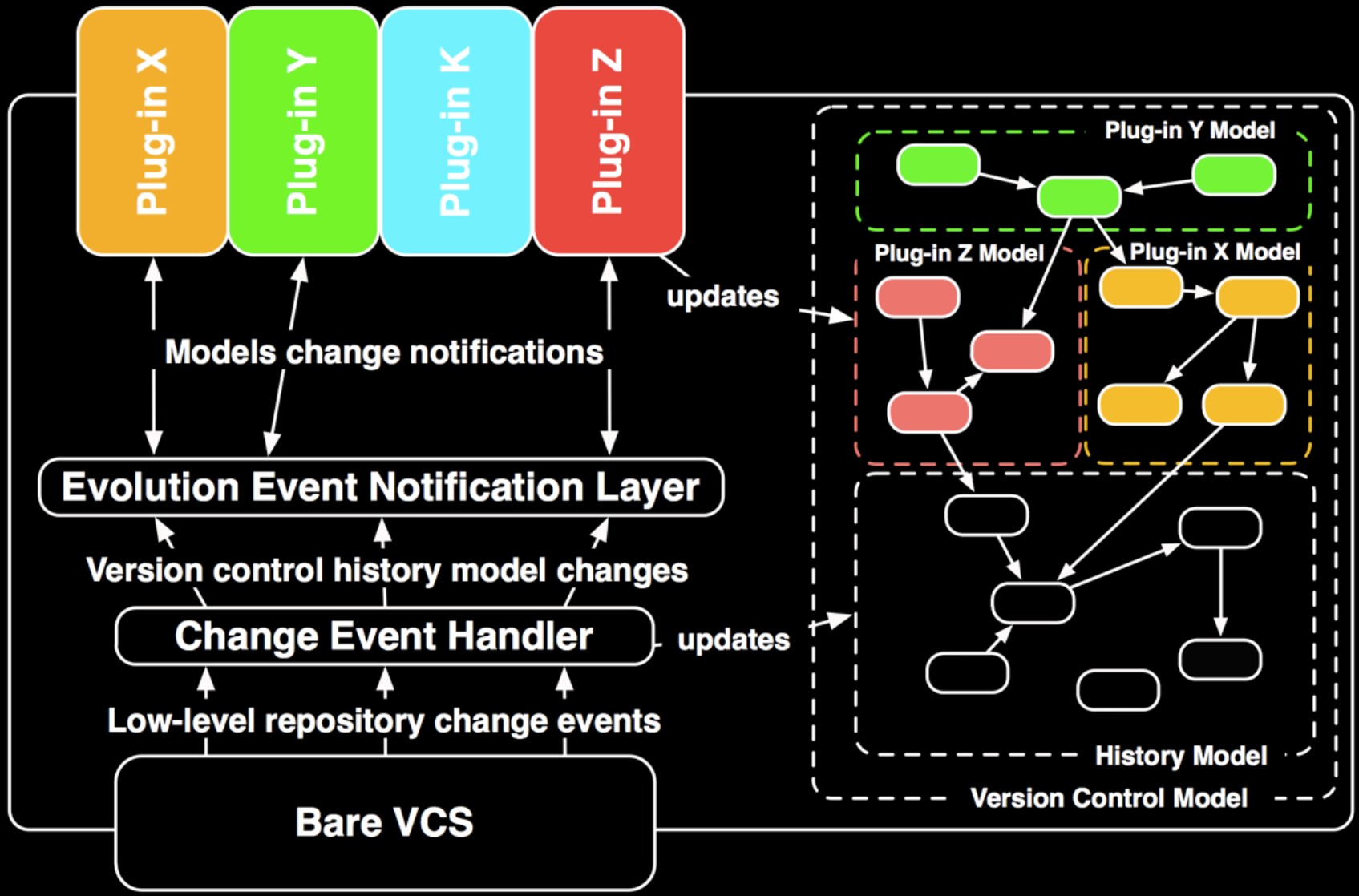
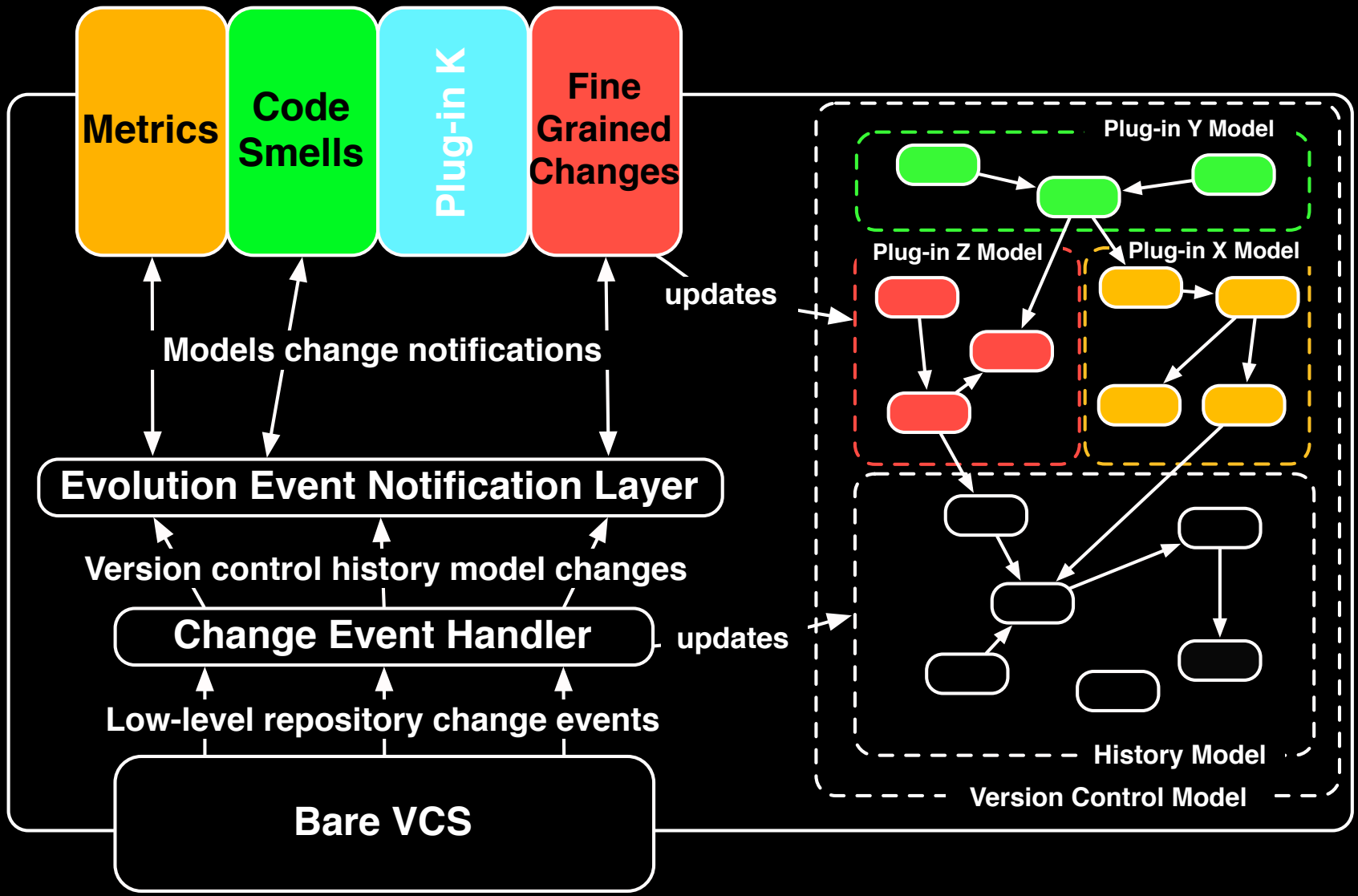


Plug-Ins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Code Smells
Plug-in K
Fine Grained Changes
updates
Models change notifications
Evolution Event Notification Layer
Version control history model changes
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Low-level repository change events
Bare VCS
Plug-in Y Model
Plug-in Z Model
Plug-in X Model
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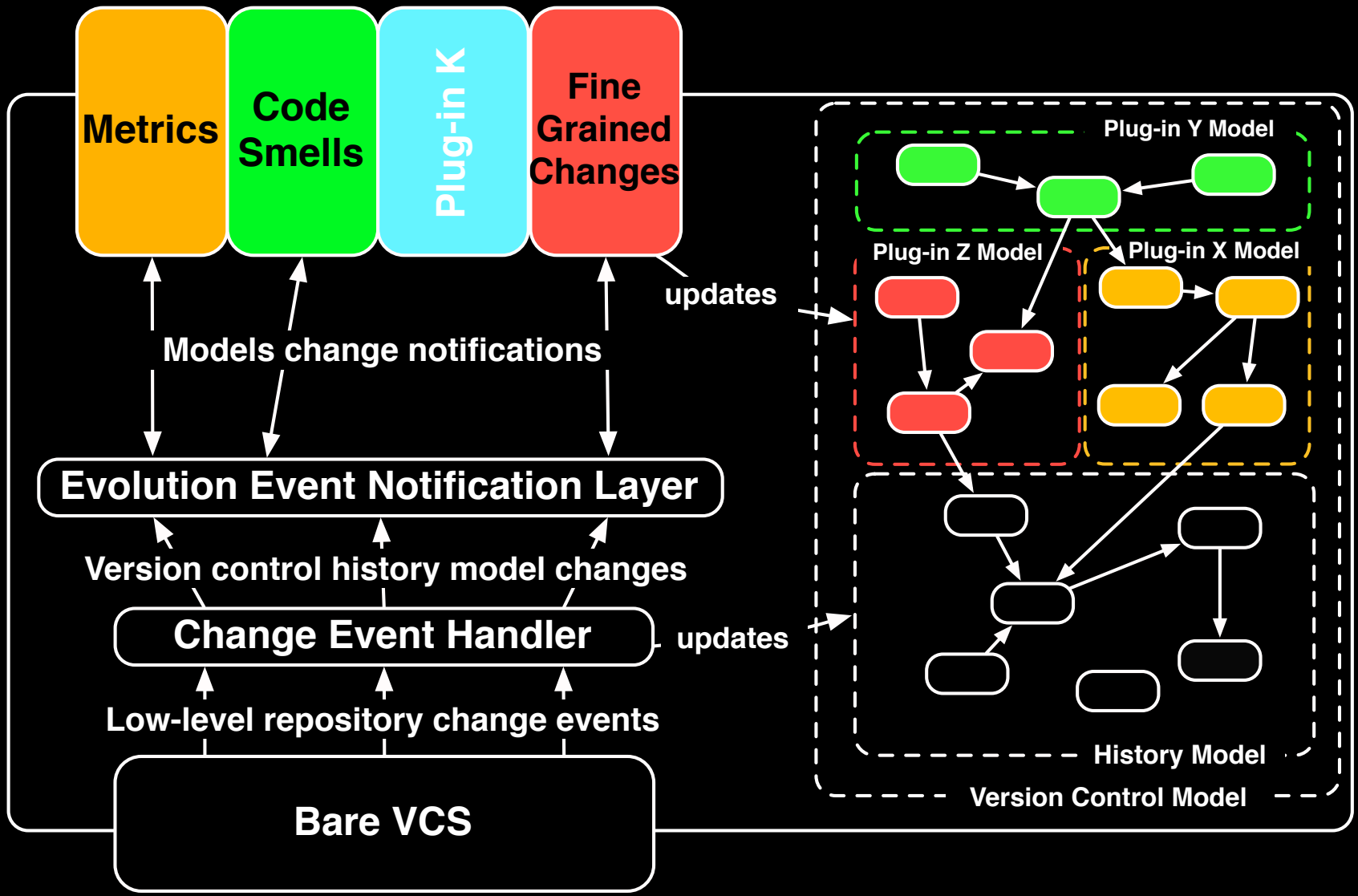
Plug-Ins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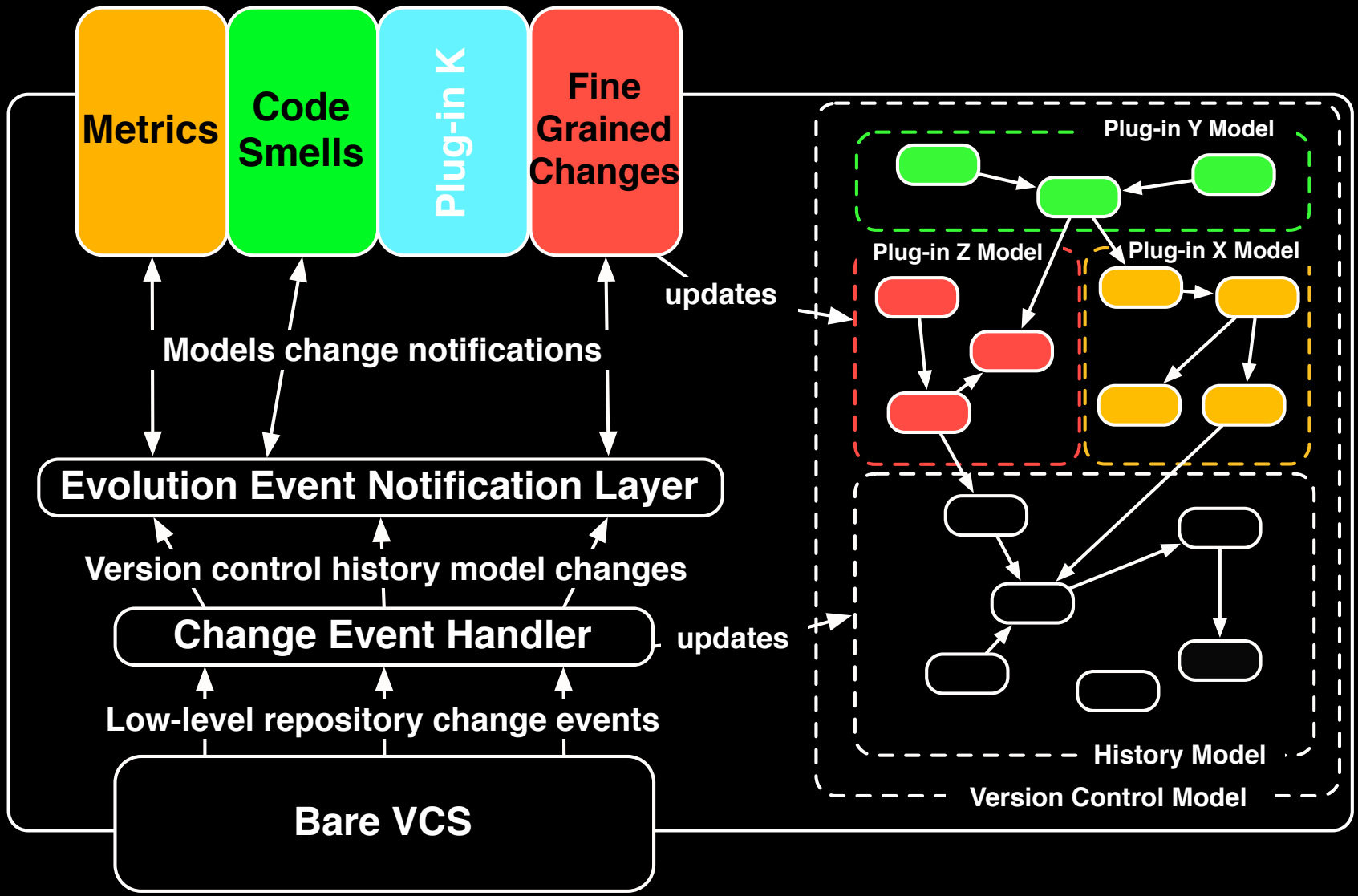
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Usage Scenario 1

- Continuous code quality
  - Source code metrics are calculated as soon as a change is committed
  - Enriches the version control history model with metrics data
  - Additional plugins can exploit such data, e.g. Code Disharmonies calculator

Usage Scenario 2

- Fine grained source code changes
  - VCS keep track of changes in a simplistic way: no change semantic!
  - Existing solution are “a posteriori” and time consuming
  - Change Distiller plugin activated by every commit

Usage Scenario 3

- Querying the historical data from the outside
  - VCSes have UI to navigate the repositories
  - No way to programmatically query them
  - Query interface plugins to query the repository with different languages

Conclusions

- A first proof of concept prototype has been developed with 2 plugins
- A more sound implementation is on the way for a possible first case study
- We do not want to re-invent the wheel but to enhance it
- We want to bridge the practice-software evolution analysis gap