

# Beyond Building Faster Horses, Changing Defra's Approach to Digital Delivery with CDP

**Allen Fensome**

*Platform Architect, DEFRA and Lead Associate, esynergy*

**Ian Williams**

*Product Owner, DEFRA and Lead Associate, esynergy*

**Tim Howard**

*Deputy Director Cross Cutting Services, Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)*

in

**DigiGov Expo**



**DIGIGOVEXPO**

SPONSORED BY

 **esynergy™**



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# **Beyond building faster horses: Changing DEFRA's approach to digital delivery with the core delivery platform**

Tim Howard  
Allen Fensome  
Ian Williams

## Speaker Intros



### **Tim Howard**

Deputy Director Cross  
Cutting Services, Defra



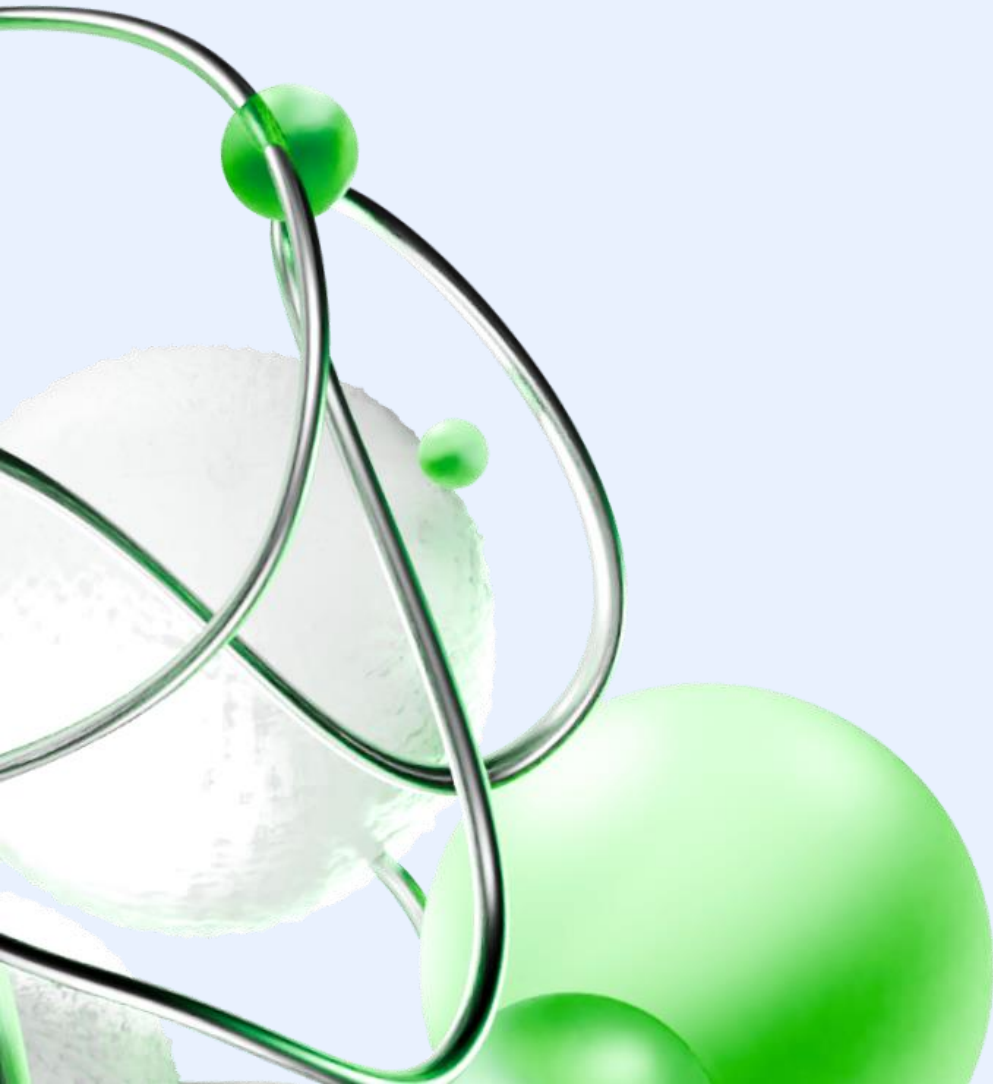
### **Ian Williams**

Product Owner, Defra  
Lead Associate, esynergy



### **Allen Fensome**

Platform Architect, Defra  
Lead Associate, esynergy



# Agenda

- Challenges
- Our approach
- Introducing Core Delivery Platform
- Successes and outcomes
- Key takeaways

# Key challenges



Handover to silo'd teams with distinct functions



Multiple tools to manage deliveries



Overly complex governance



Lack of automation & visibility across teams & processes



Lack of alignment to DEFRA and government standards



Poor ROI





# Removing false need



Single delivery team  
without handoffs



Reusable tools  
and patterns



Automatic  
governance



Visibility and  
automation 'baked in'



Aligned to  
standards



Reduce the  
barriers to entry

# What is CDP ?



**Multi-tenancy**



**Opinionated**



**Product  
not project**



**Standardized**



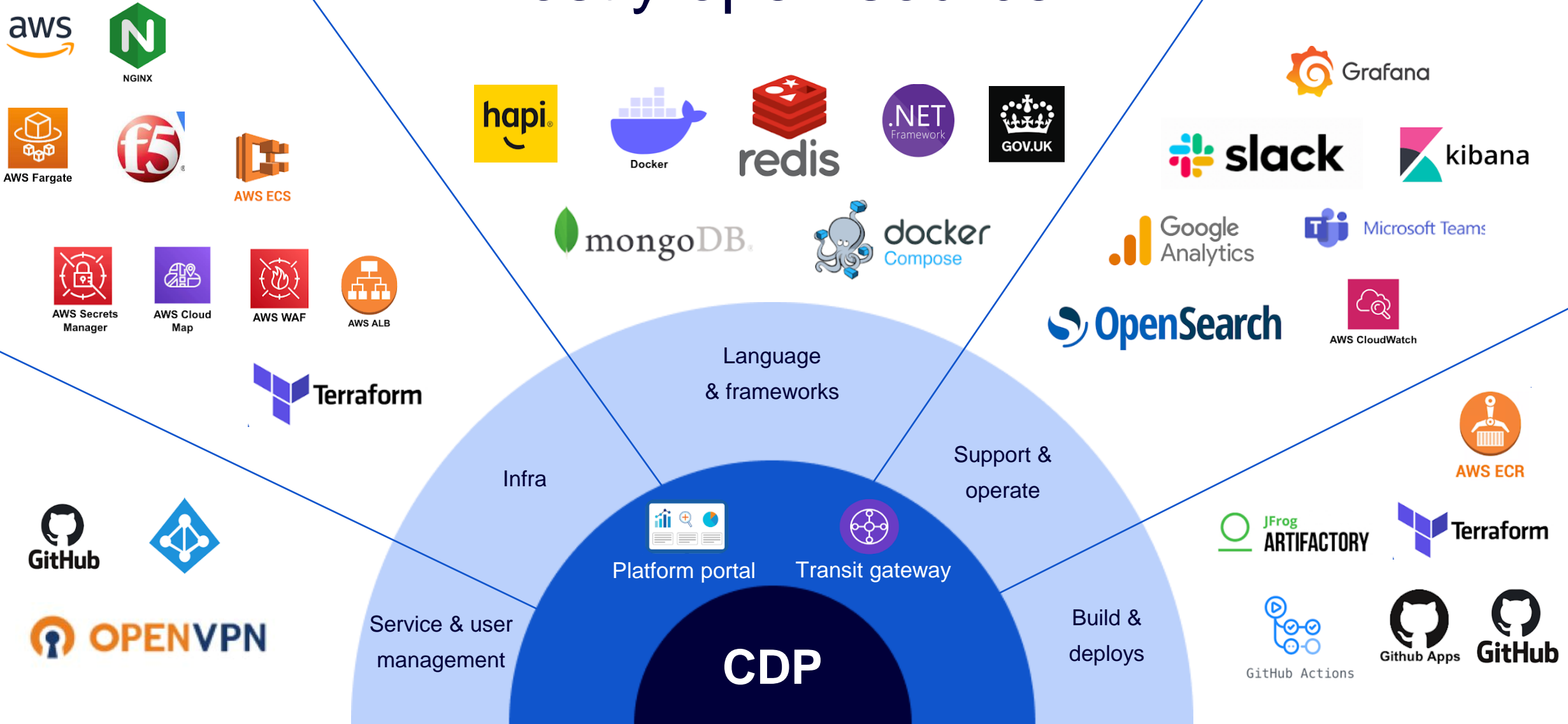
**Cloud  
agnostic**

The background of the slide is a soft-focus photograph of green foliage. It features several large, vibrant green leaves and thin, light-colored stems, creating a natural and fresh aesthetic. The lighting is bright, giving the leaves a slightly glowing appearance.

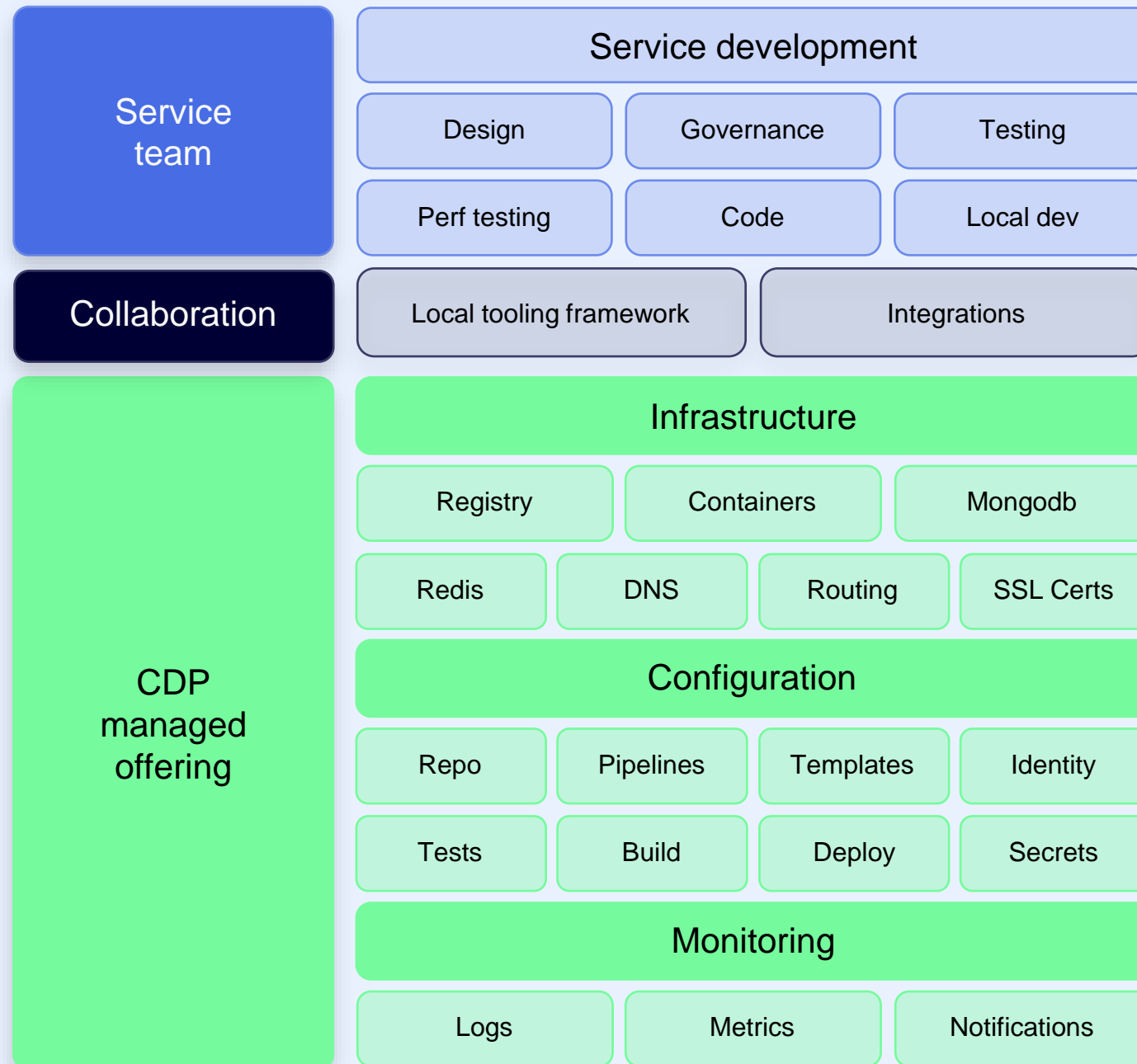
**What did we build?**



# The usual suspects – mostly open source.



# Abstract the platform workings away from teams...

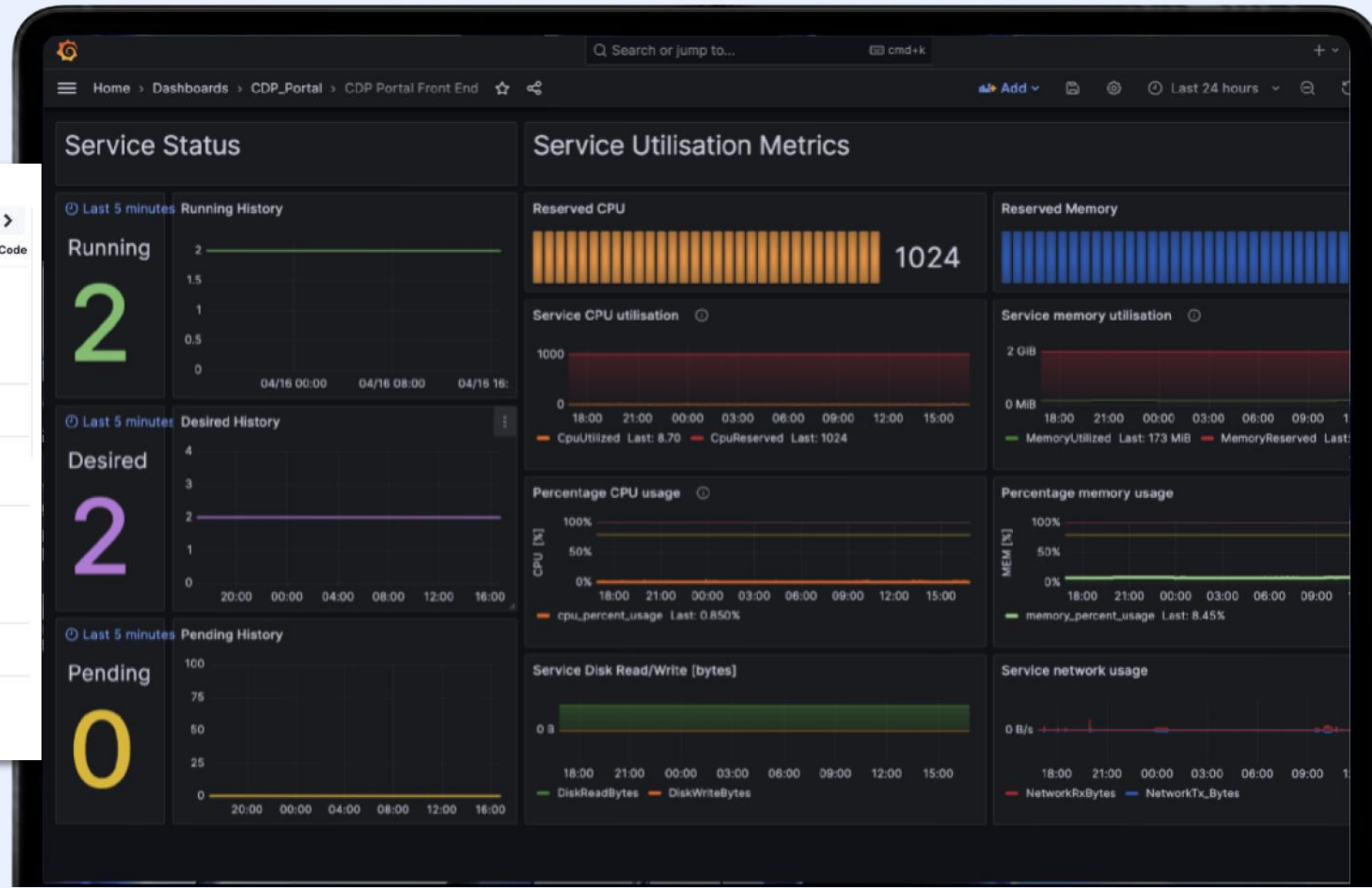


# Telemetry stack – comes out of the box

App Logs

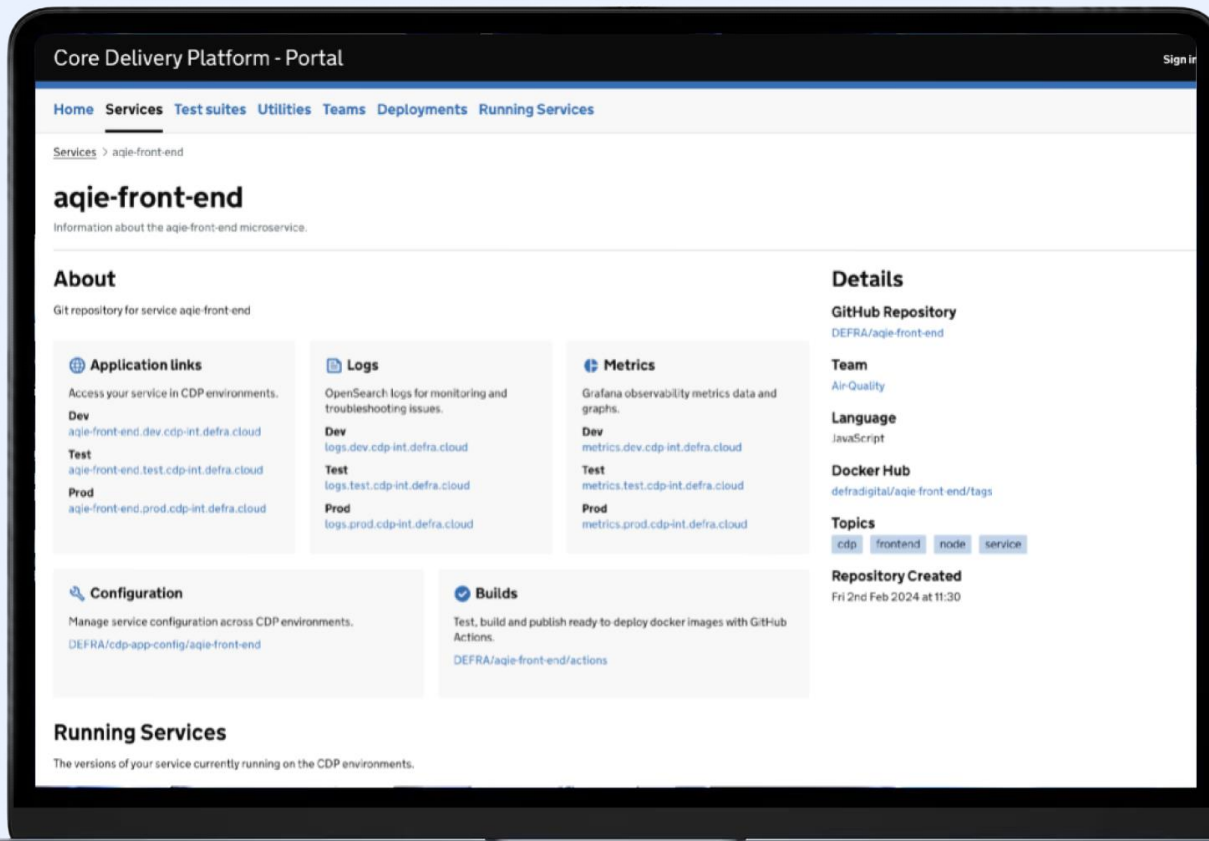
1–50 of 17449

Time	container_name	log_level	message	res.statusCode
> Apr 16, 2024 @ 16:51:37.973	cdp-portal-frontend	info	[response] get / deployments/dep/61054786-a3ac-44b9-9feb-51f3f5cde09c 200 (36ms)	200
> Apr 16, 2024 @ 16:51:36.972	cdp-portal-frontend	info	[response] get / health 200 (5ms)	200
> Apr 16, 2024 @ 16:51:36.972	cdp-portal-frontend	info	[response] get / health 200 (2ms)	200
> Apr 16, 2024 @ 16:51:33.989	cdp-portal-frontend	info	[response] get / deployments/dep/61054786-a3ac-44b9-9feb-51f3f5cde09c 200 (89ms)	200
> Apr 16, 2024 @ 16:51:33.729	cdp-portal-frontend	info	[response] get / health 200 (5ms)	200
> Apr 16, 2024 @ 16:51:33.729	cdp-portal-frontend	info	[response] get / health 200 (1ms)	200

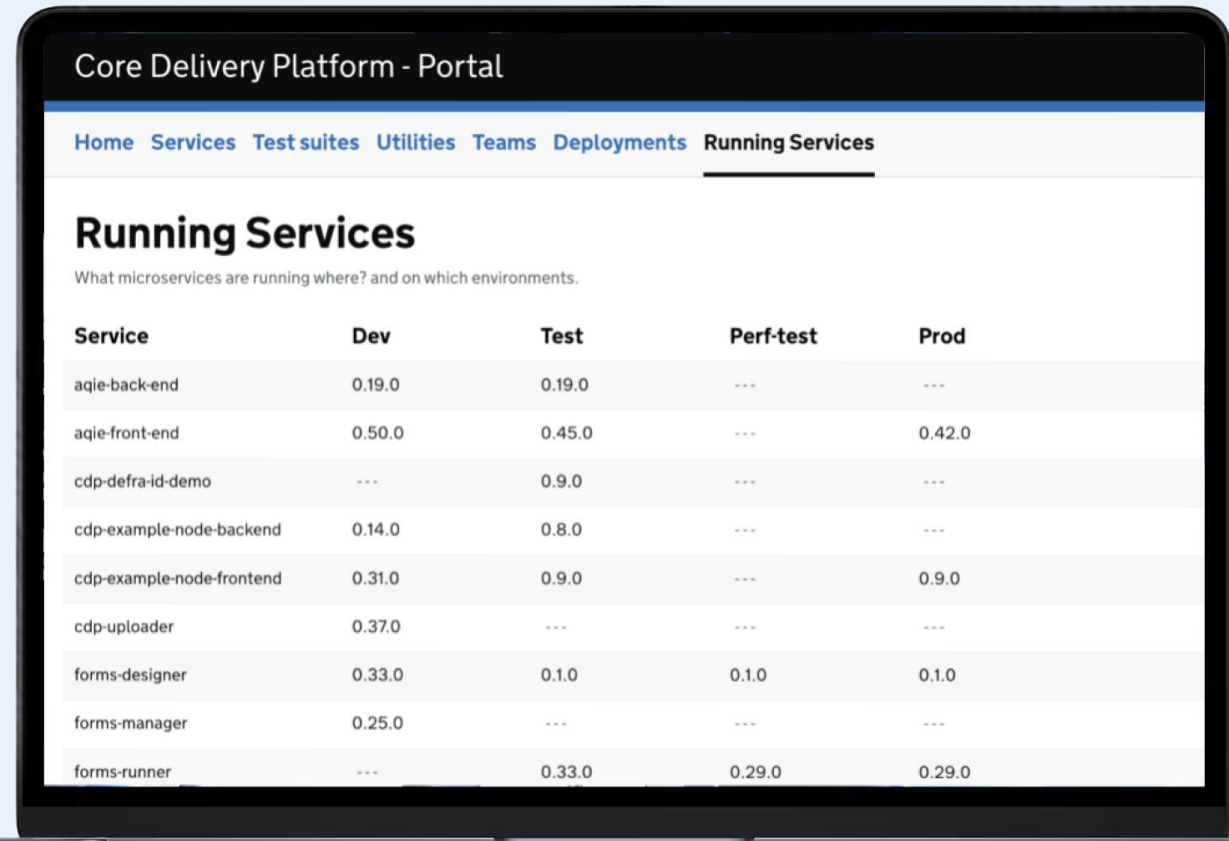


# CDP Portal

## Service creation (6 clicks, 6 minutes)



## Service deployment (11 clicks, 1 minute)



# Successes and outcomes

## Current landscape

 Time to deploy	c.3-6 Months
 Time to make changes	c.1-6 Weeks
 Team numbers	Multiple w/ hand offs
 Deployment frequency	Weekly/monthly
 Service failure recovery	c.1 Week or less

## Using CDP

Hours/ minutes..

Hours/ minutes..

Single delivery team w/  
platform support (if required)

Self-service & on demand

<1 hour, self-healing or  
rollbacks to previous version



# Key takeaways



People  
& process



Fail fast, be  
open to change



Keep it  
user centric



Feedback  
is key





# Thank you

Catch esynergy at **Stand C2A** on the exhibition floor to continue the conversation