

<C'T WEBDEV> / COLOGNE / 2024-11-14

# We don't talk about Bruno

The Open Source HTTP Client  
Alternative to Postman and  
Insomnia



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**"Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away."**

*— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

## **JOSHUA TÖPFER**

**Senior Consultant at INNOQ**

Joshua is a seasoned web developer and mob programming advocate and maintainer of mob.sh. He is passionate about building pragmatic self-contained systems.



**The *history* of http clients?**

# History of http clients



# History of http clients



**1990**

WorldWideWeb


# History of http clients



# wget & curl

## The first command line http clients

- Initially for saving web resources
- Used until today



```
curl --request POST \  
  --url http://dev.todo.local/todos \  
  --header 'Authorization: Bearer eyJh...' \  
  --header 'content-type: application/json' \  
  --data '{  
    "title": "Clean the car"  
  }'
```

# History of http clients





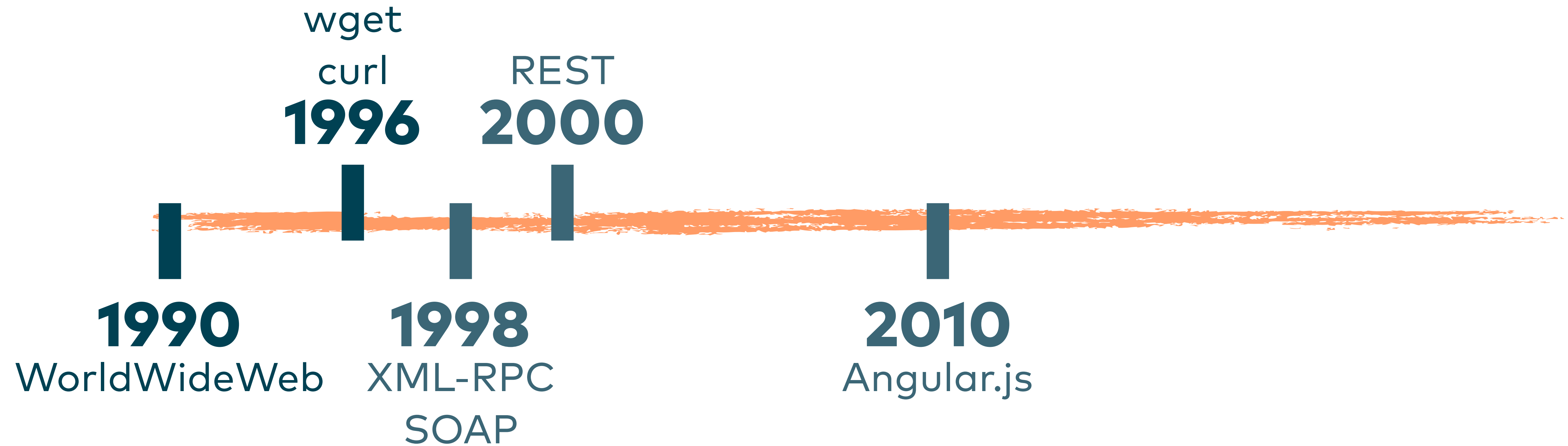
# History of http clients



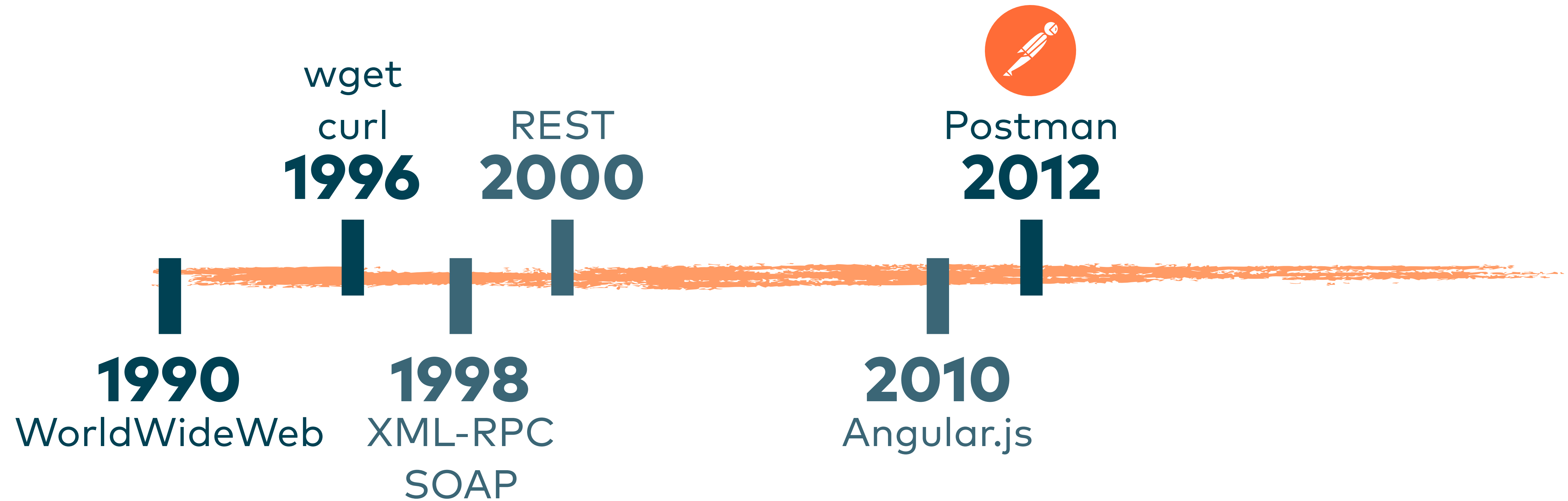
# History of http clients



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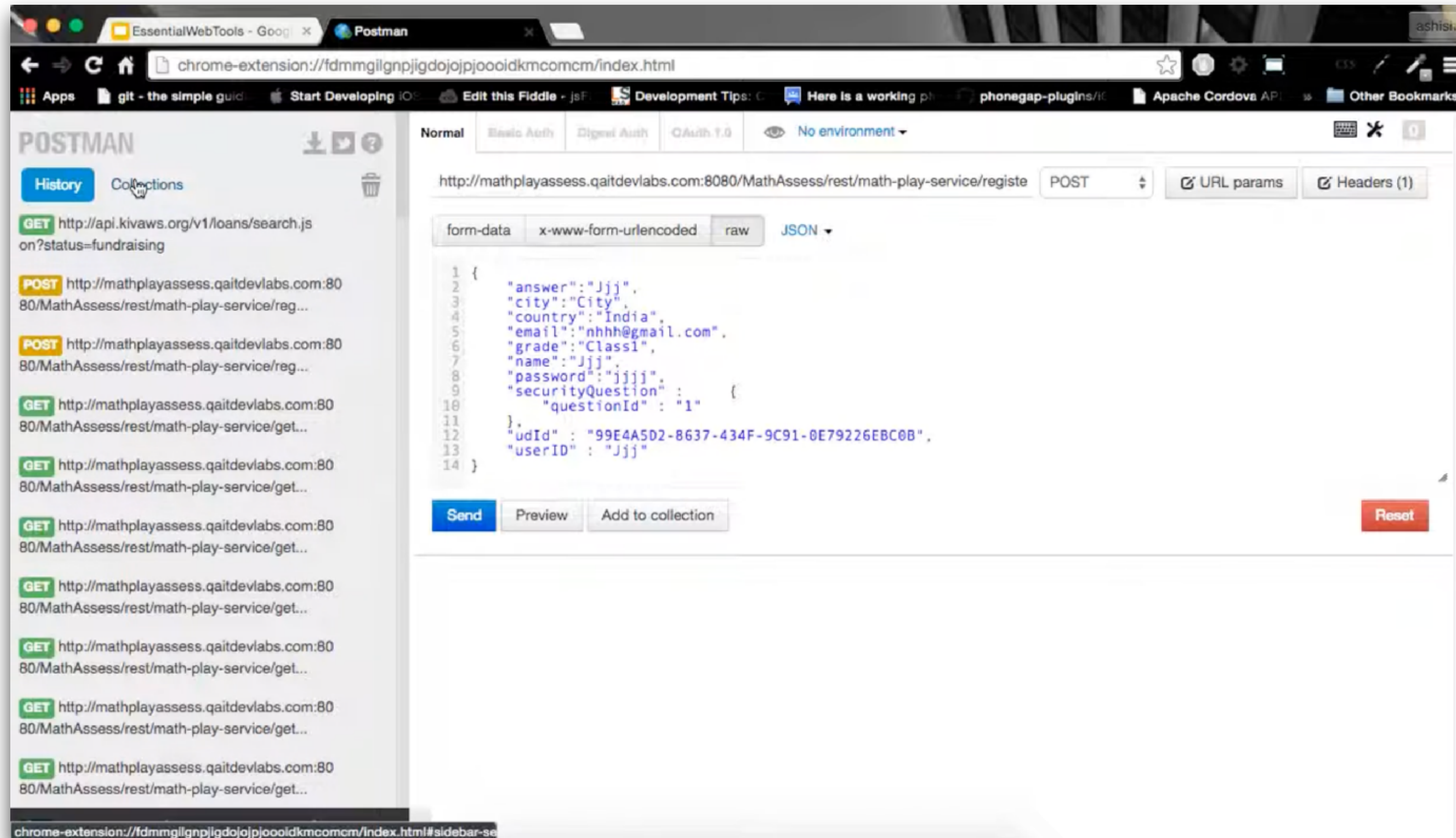
# Postman

- Started 2012 by Abhinav Asthana
- Chrome Plugin
- Make API testing easier





# Postman Chrome Plugin in 2015



# Postman Today

- Cloud Synchronisation
- More collaboration feature
- Much more than just an http client (API governance, API builder, API catalog and documentation, API testing, mock servers, monitoring, etc.)

# You don't want cloud sync!

Your data in the Postman cloud, like ...

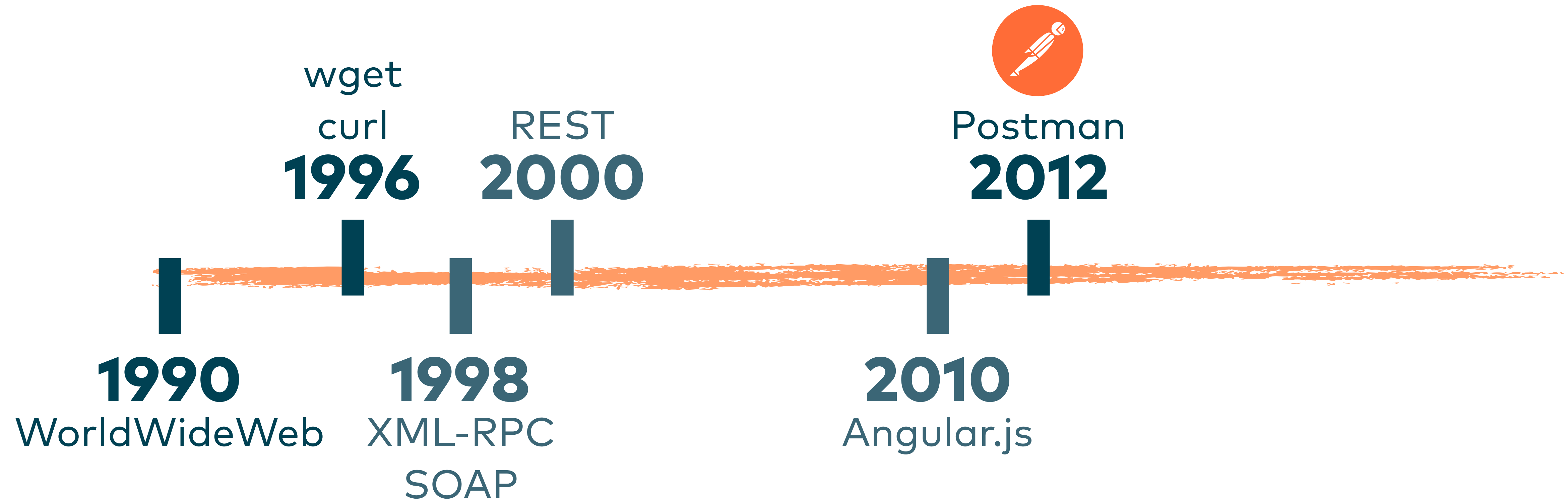
- API requests
- API credentials
- API documentation

**... are a security risk!**

# Postman in offline mode

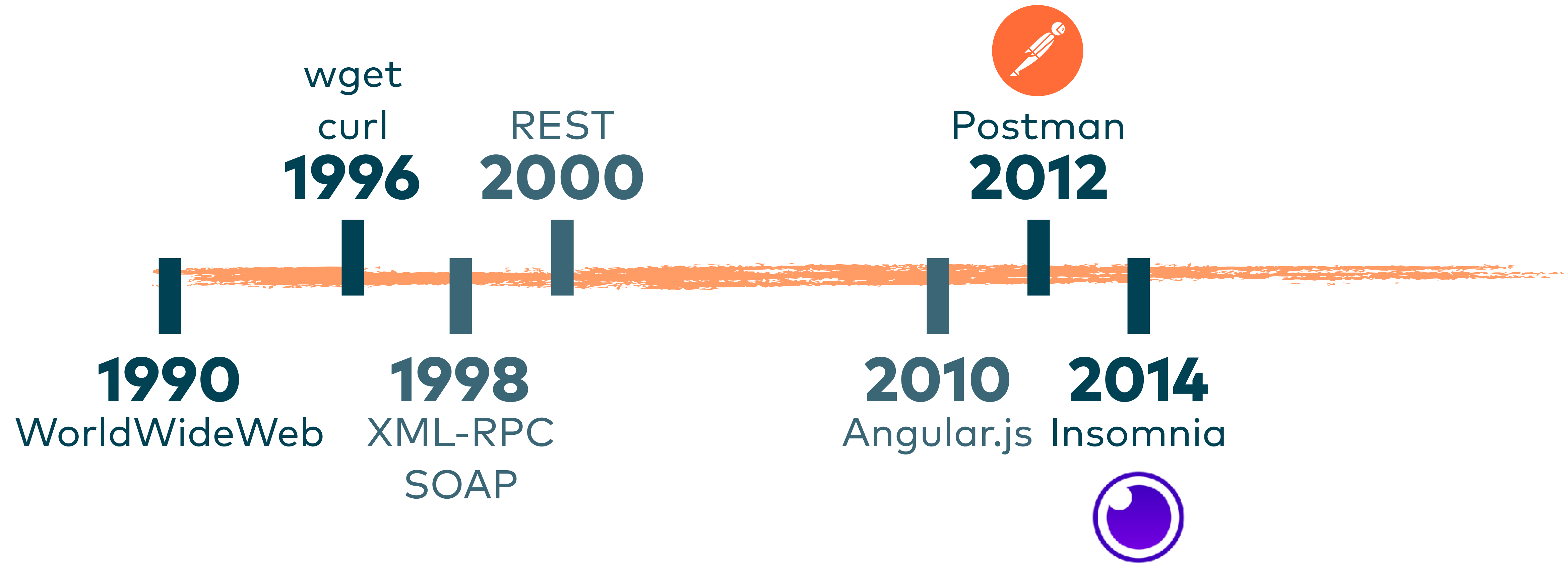
- Restriction of features
- Bad user experience
- Discontinued local scratchpad in Sep. 2023

# History of http clients





# History of http clients



# Insomnia

- Started 2014 by Gregory Schier

## Motivation

- Inspired by Postman
- No autosave of requests
- Environments and collections not tied together
- Cluttered and unintuitive UI



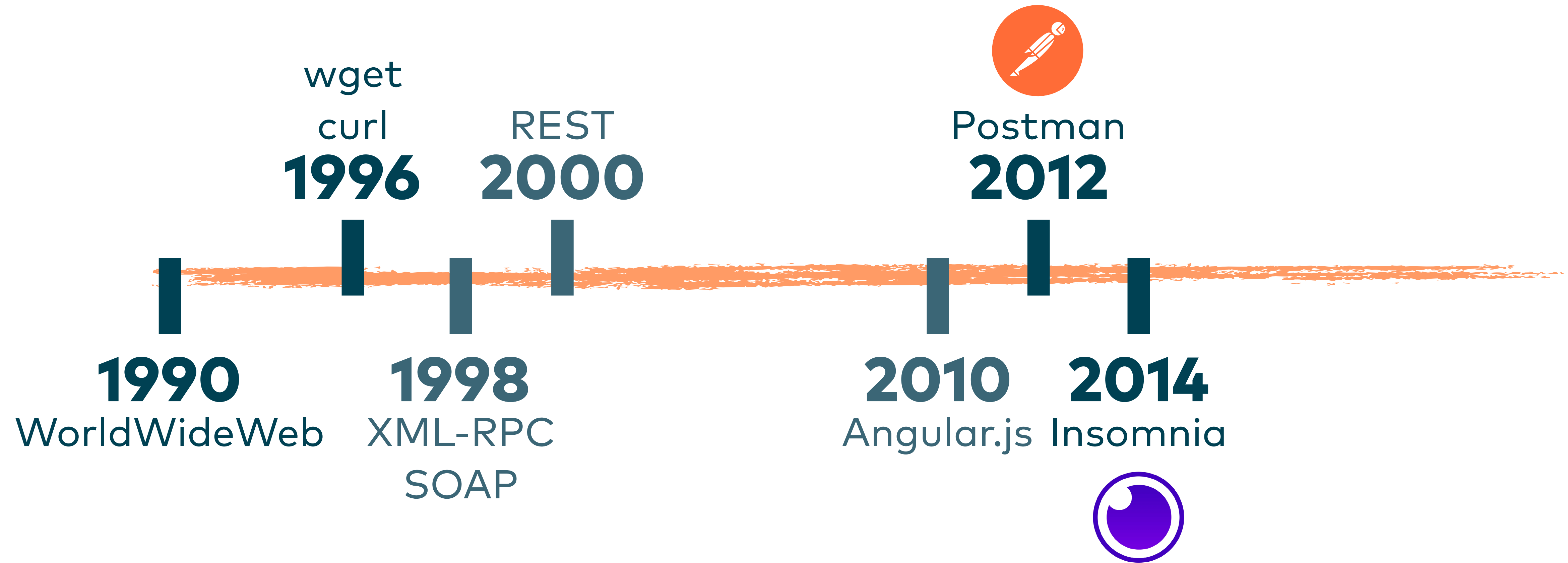
# Insomnia Today

- Got acquired by Kong in 2019
- Cloud Synchronisation
- More collaboration feature
- Much more than just an http client (API designer, API testing, mock servers)

# Insomnia in offline mode

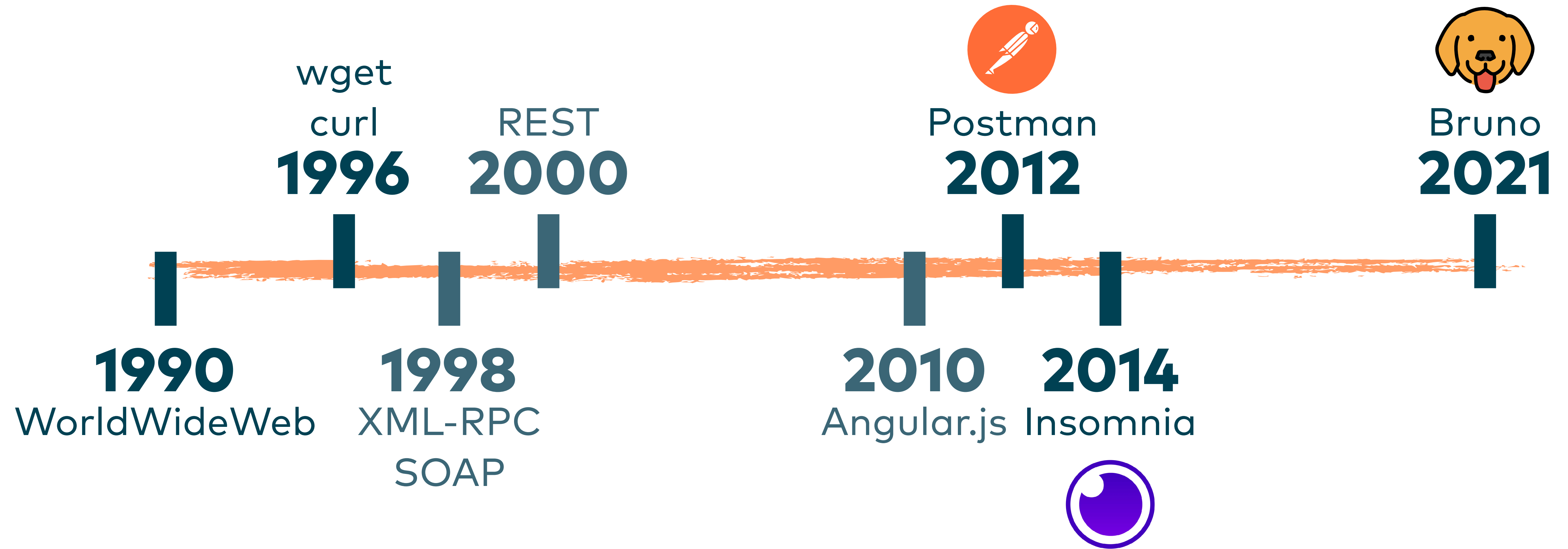
- Restriction of features
- Bad user experience
- Local Scratchpad with one Collection

# History of http clients

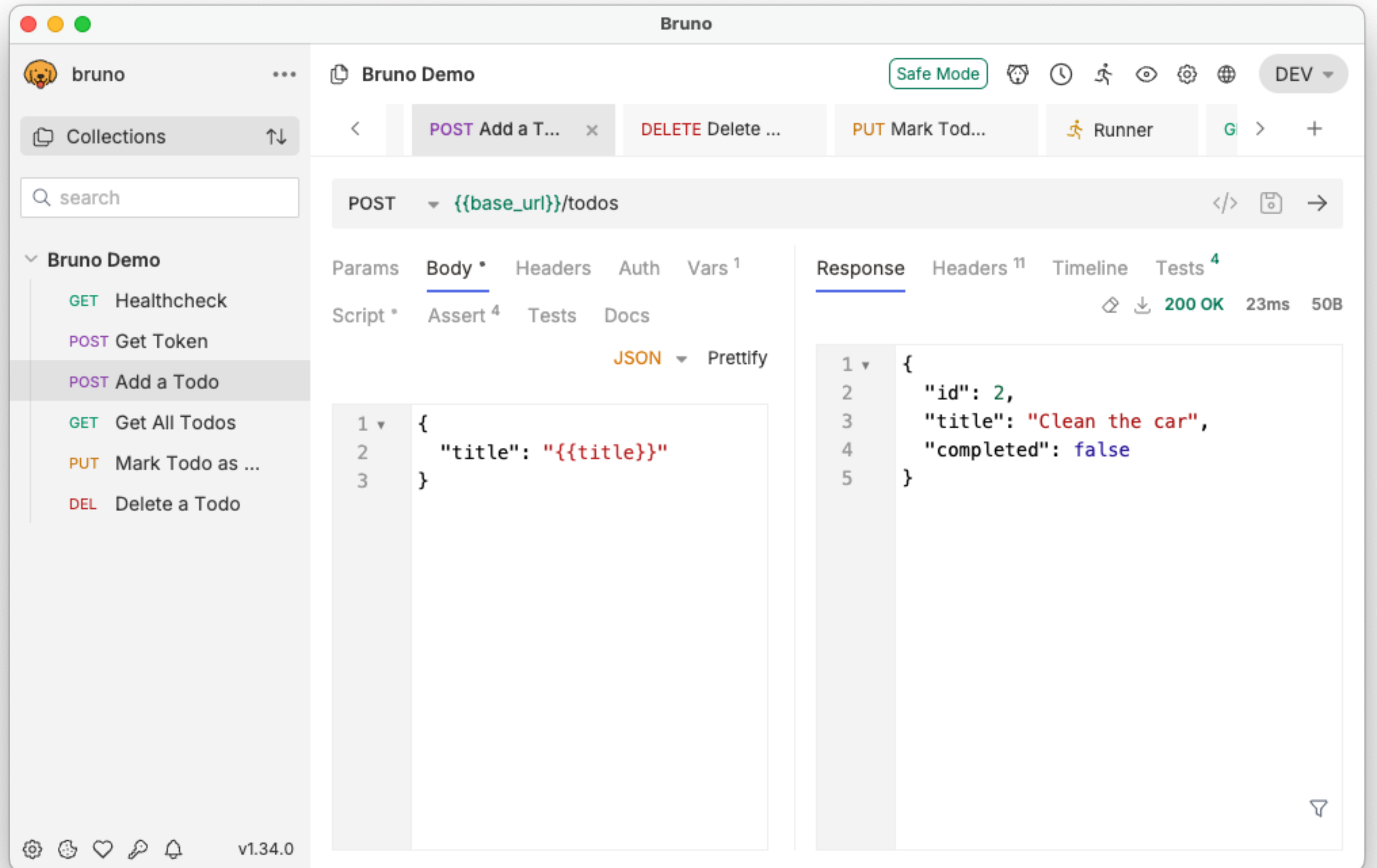




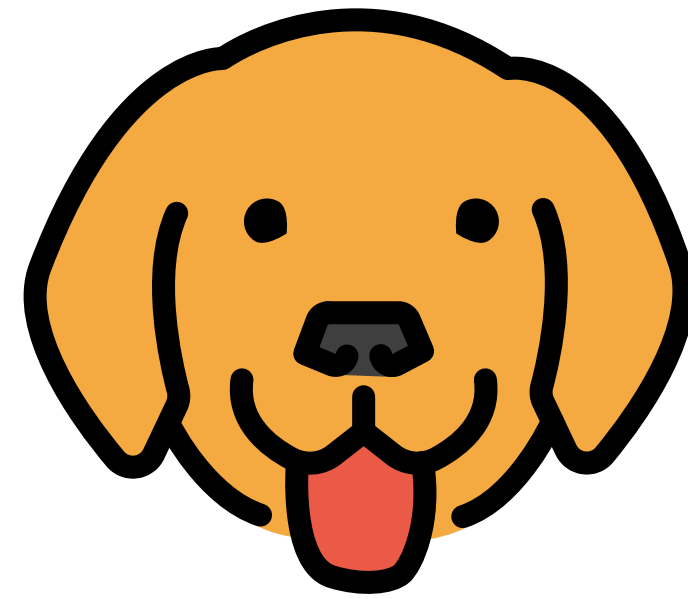
# History of http clients



# Bruno



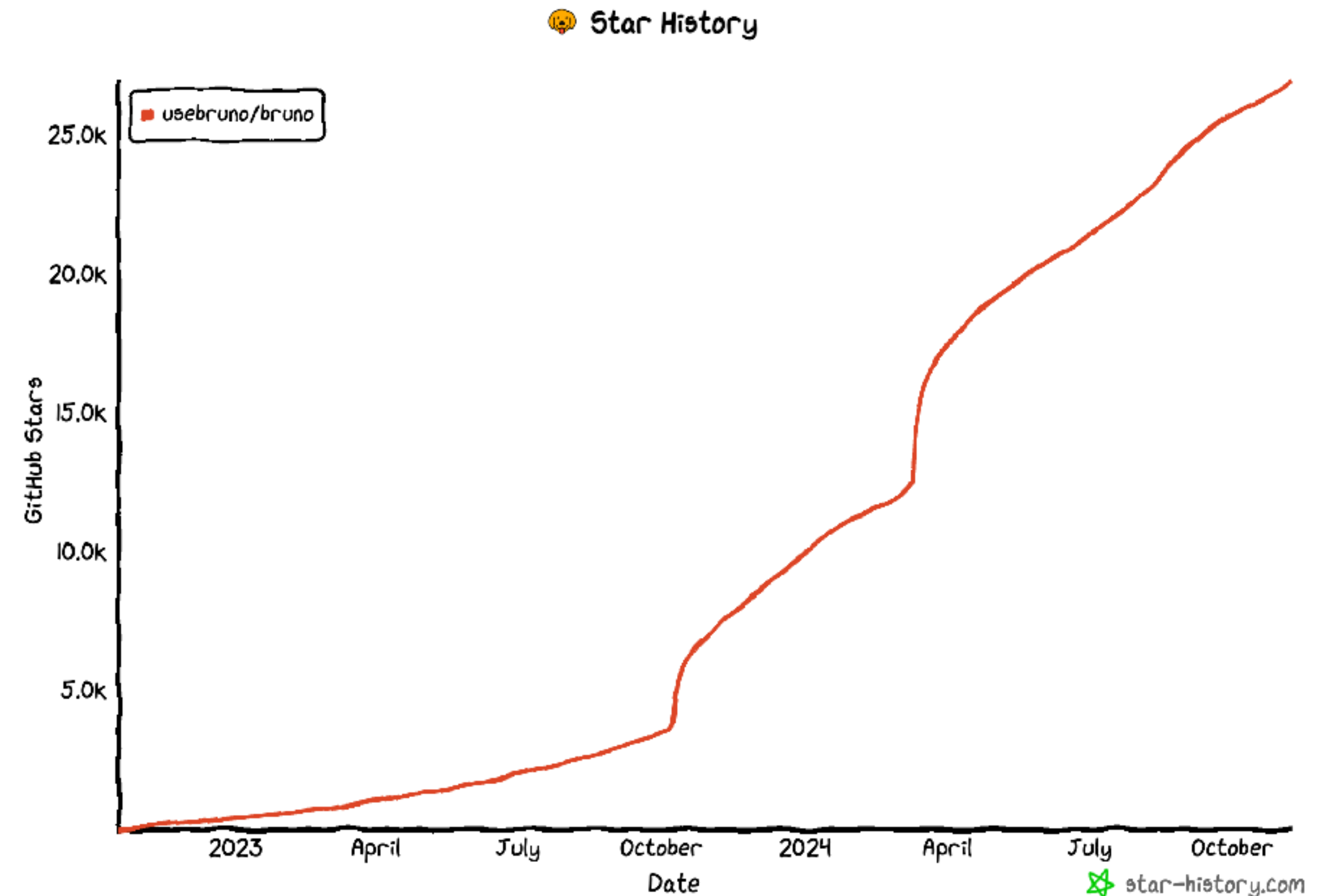
# Bruno



- Started 2021

## Motivation:

- No real open Source alternative
- More basic feature restrictions
- No offline only anymore



# Bruno's Manifesto

- Collection within the projects repository
- No proprietary version control system
- Requests in files which are human readable
- No plans to add cloud-sync ever

# Bru Markup Language

- Human readable
- One request per file
- Usage of variables and secrets



# Different Versions of Bruno

- **Open Source Edition** (Free and open source forever)
  - Basic Features (which I will show today and more)
- **Golden Edition** (19\$ for two years of updates afterwards renewable with 60% off)
  - Builtin Bru File Explorer
  - Visual Git
  - Load Data from file for Collection Run
  - Dev Tools
  - OpenAPI Designer
- **Versions for organizations** with priority support & secret manager support

**Let's have a look at Bruno!**

# Case Study „Todo List“

Spring Boot Application with Keycloak for Authentication

<https://github.com/hollesse/bruno-demo>

## Features:

- See all todos
- See all open todos
- Add a todo
- Mark a todo as complete
- Delete a todo



# Benefits of Bruno

- Requests can be shared via git and diffs are easy to understand
- Free version is good enough
- Scripting gives a lot of opportunities
- Cli tooling is available
- Most of the time easy to use

# Problems with Bruno

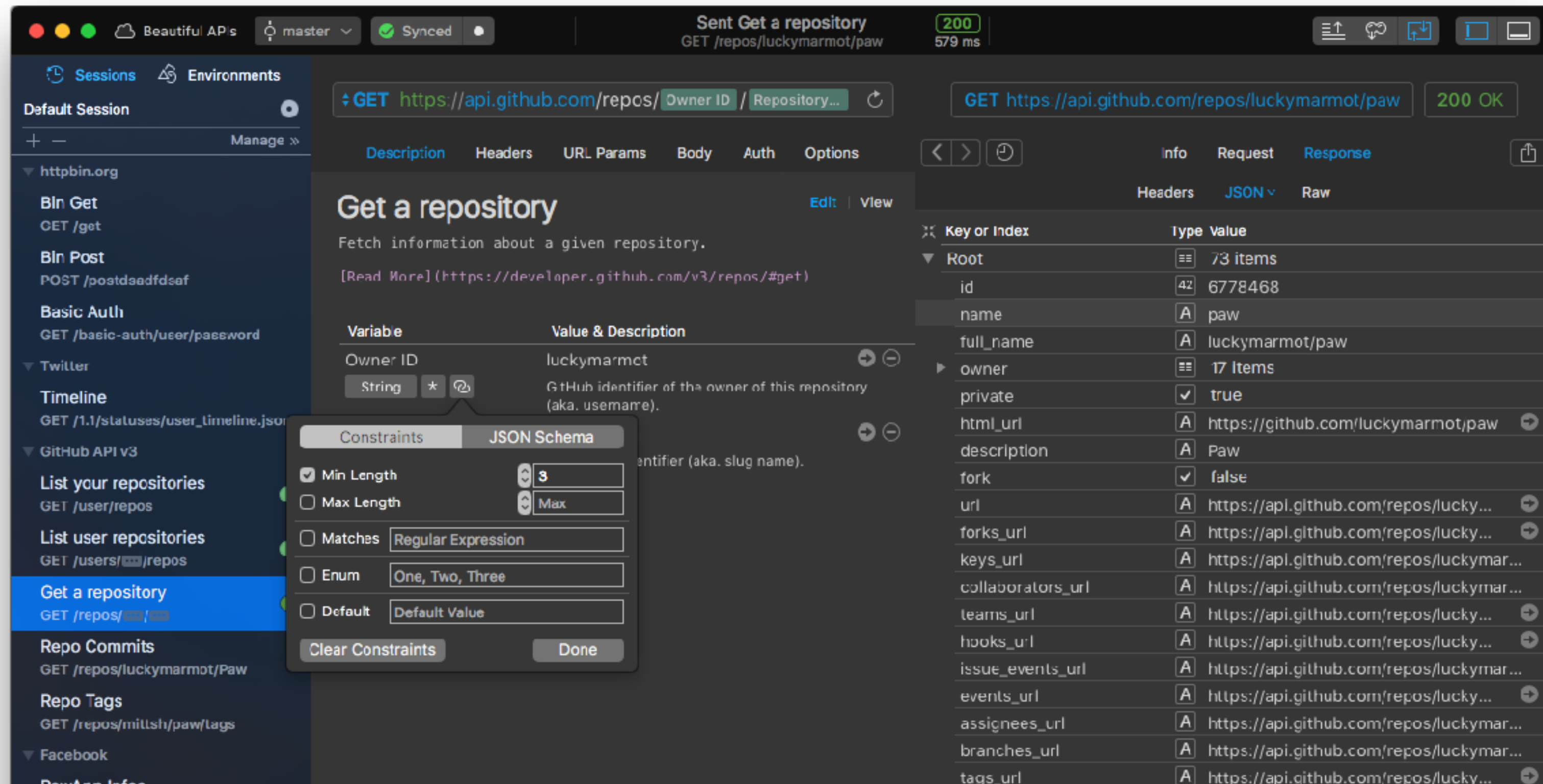
- Authentication with OAuth2 need scripting & sending a token request
- No usage of builtin secrets within scripts, but real env variables
- No request chaining

**Are there other alternatives?**



# RapidAPI (formerly Paw)

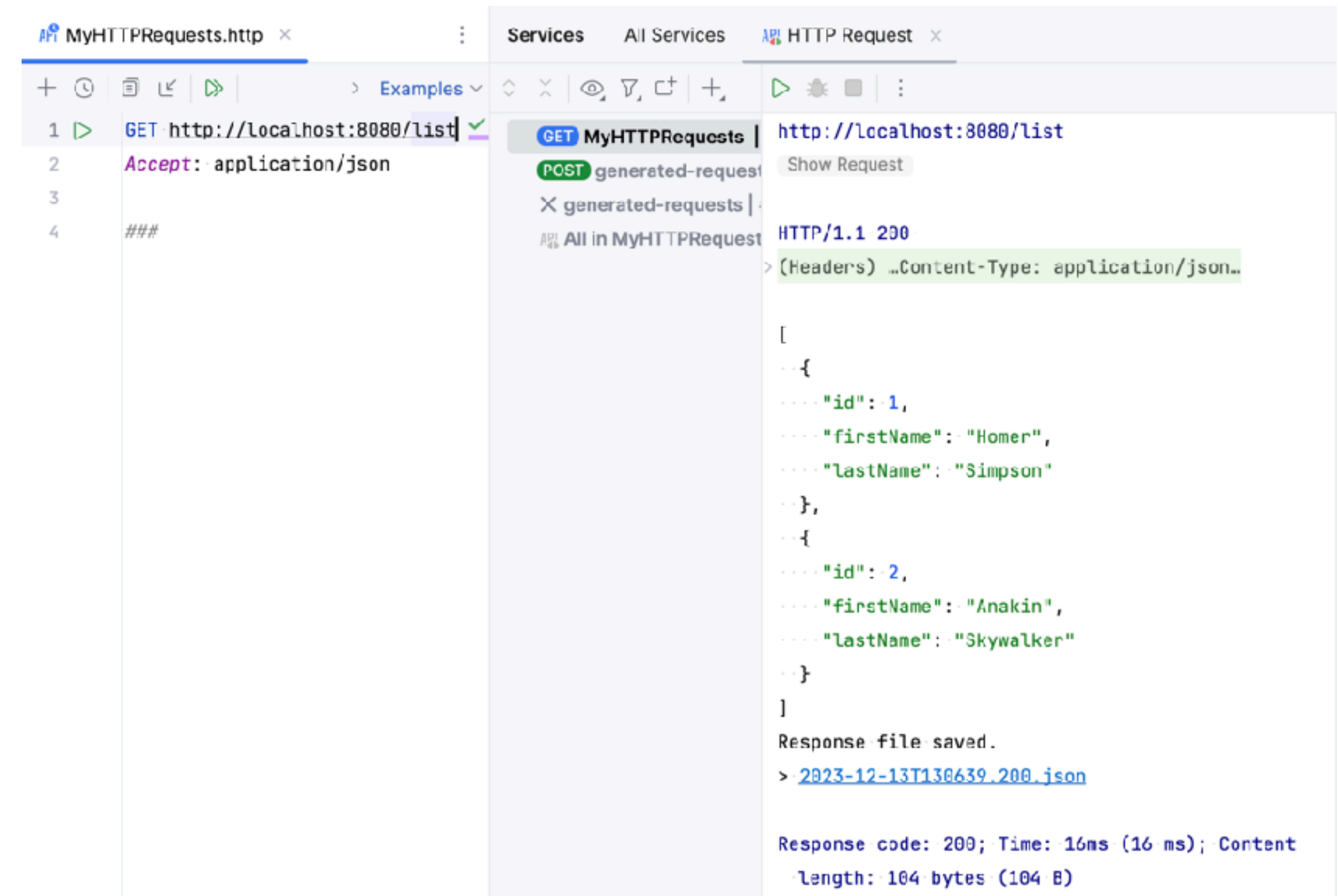
- macOS only
- Got acquired in 2022
- Free for individuals
- Subscription for teams





# JetBrains HTTP Client

- Very simple UI, but not many UI features
- More a extended curl
- Need an JetBrains IDE

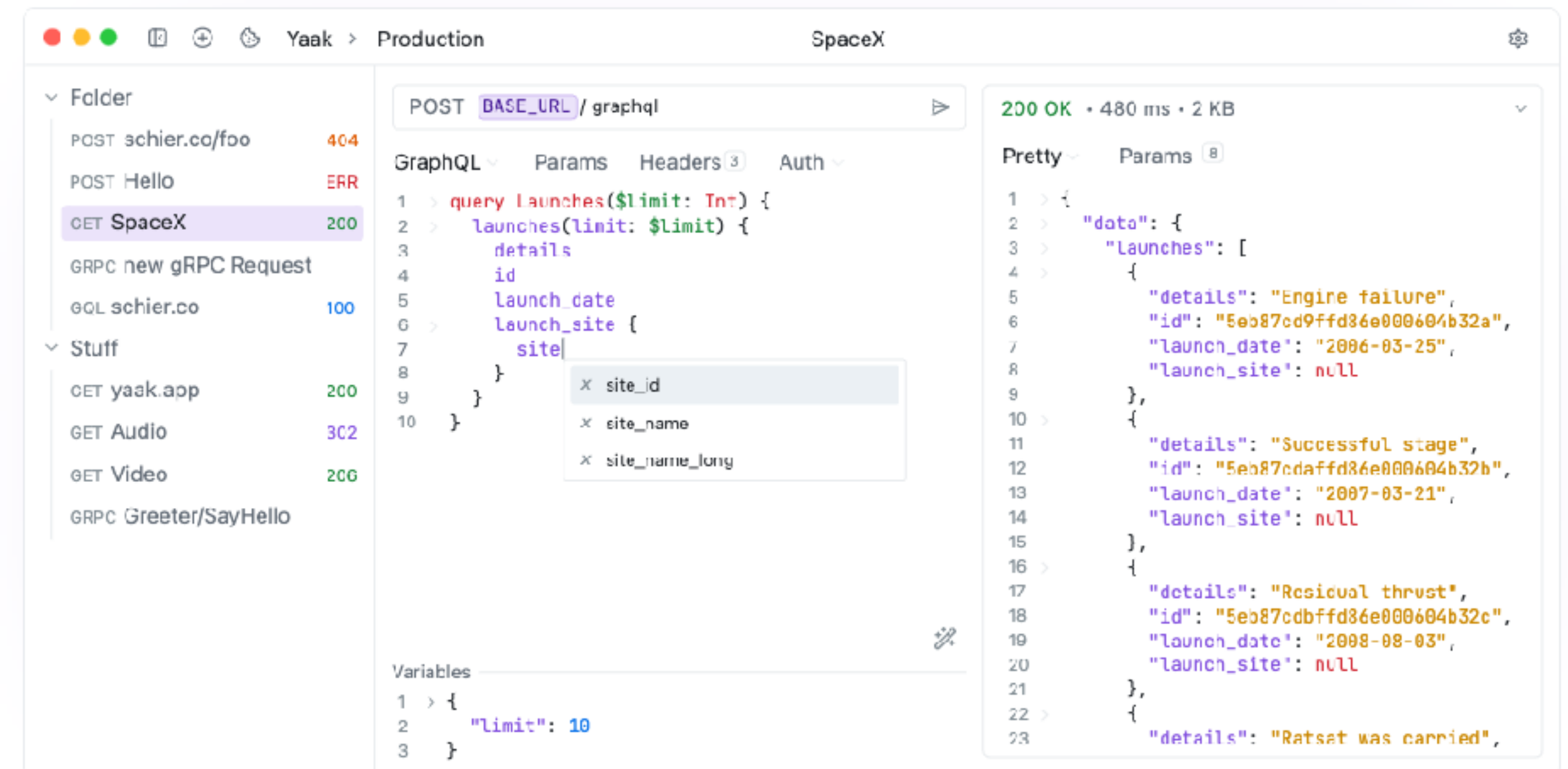


# Yaak (Not recommended yet, but has potential for future updates)

- Started 2024 by the Insomnia founder Gregory Schier



- Focus on simplicity
- In a very early stage
- Directory Sync is going to come
- Offline mode will be free forever



# Conclusion

- Postman and Insomnia became a universe of tools
- More and more data are on their servers
- User experience for free user without cloud sync & data collection got worse
- Free & open source tools exist with focus on **just being an HTTP client**

# Conclusion

- Bruno is such a simple HTTP client
- Easily synchronize request within the team with data privacy
- Have Yaak in mind, it could bring a even simpler UI & less pitfalls in the future
- JetBrains HTTP Client can be an option for developers too

# Thanks! Any Questions?



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