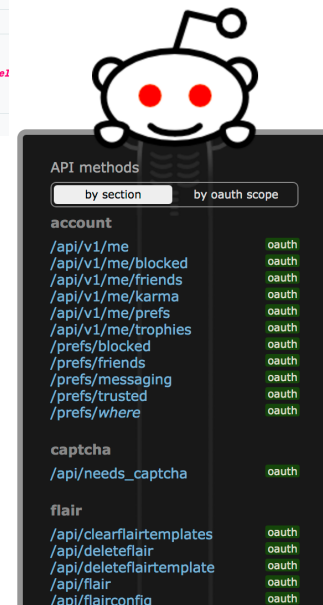
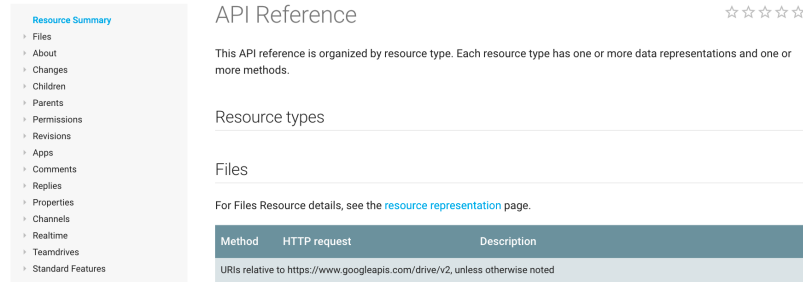
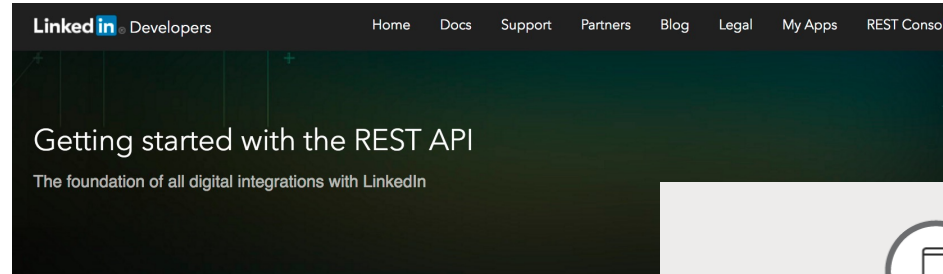


# Fuzz Testing Web APIs: Overview of Existing Tools

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and OsloMet

# REST APIs are used everywhere...



This is automatically-generated documentation for the reddit API.

The reddit API and code are [open source](#). Found a mistake or interested in helping us improve? Have a gander at [api.py](#) and send us a pull request.

Please take care to respect our [API access rules](#).

## overview

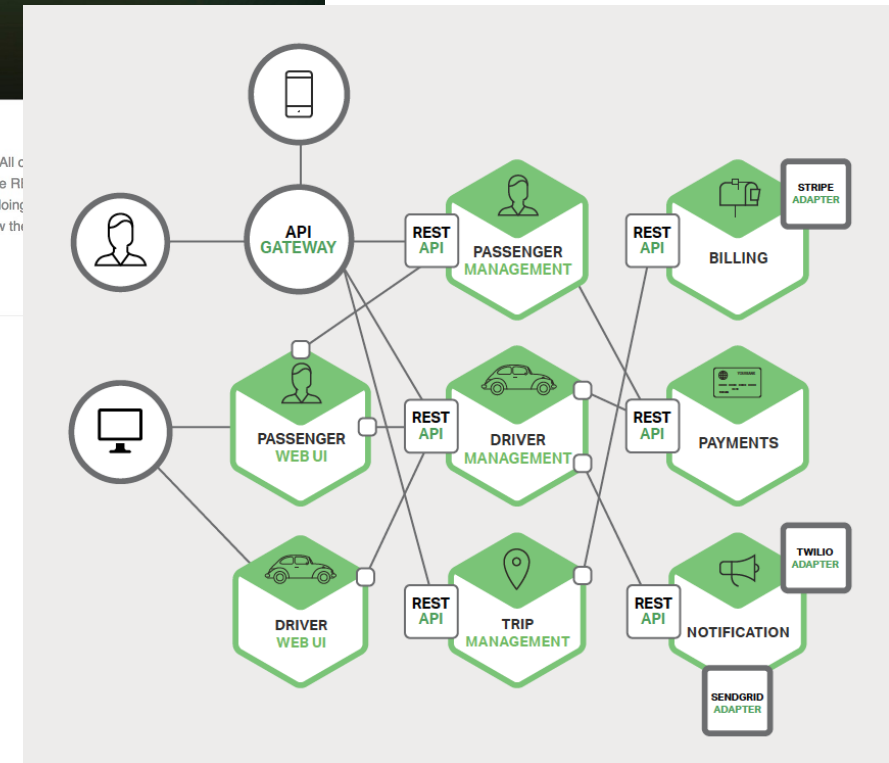
### listings

Many endpoints on reddit use the same protocol for controlling pagination and filtering. These endpoints are called Listings and share five common parameters: `after`, `before`, `limit`, `count`, and `show`.

Listings do not use page numbers because their content changes so frequently. Instead, they allow you to view slices of the underlying data. Listing JSON responses contain `after` and `before` fields which are equivalent to the "next" and "prev" buttons on the site and in combination with `count` can be used to page through the listing.

The common parameters are as follows:

- `after` / `before` - only one should be specified. these indicate the `fullname` of an item in the listing to use as the anchor point of the slice.
- `limit` - the maximum number of items to return in this slice of the listing.
- `count` - the number of items already seen in this listing. on the html site, the builder uses this to determine when to give values for `before` and `after` in the response.



# REST API Testing Challenges

- How to choose **query** and **path** parameters?
- How to prepare **body payloads** (e.g. JSON)?
- How to choose data to insert into **SQL** databases?
- Goals:
  - **Finding faults** (eg crashes, security issues)
  - **Maximize schema coverage**
  - **Maximize code coverage**
- Writing high coverage tests *by hand* for every single endpoint is time consuming

# What about **Automated Test Generation** for RESTful APIs?

- Automatically write all the test cases
- Not just execution, but choice of all the inputs
- Hard, complex problem



## 2 Uses of Generated Tests

- If automated oracles: **automatically detect faults**
  - e.g., HTTP response giving 500, schema mismatches, security vulnerability
- No oracles / faults: **regressing testing**
  - Tests can be added to Git, to capture current behavior of system
  - If in future introduce new bug that breaks functionality, regression tests will start to fail

# Fuzzers

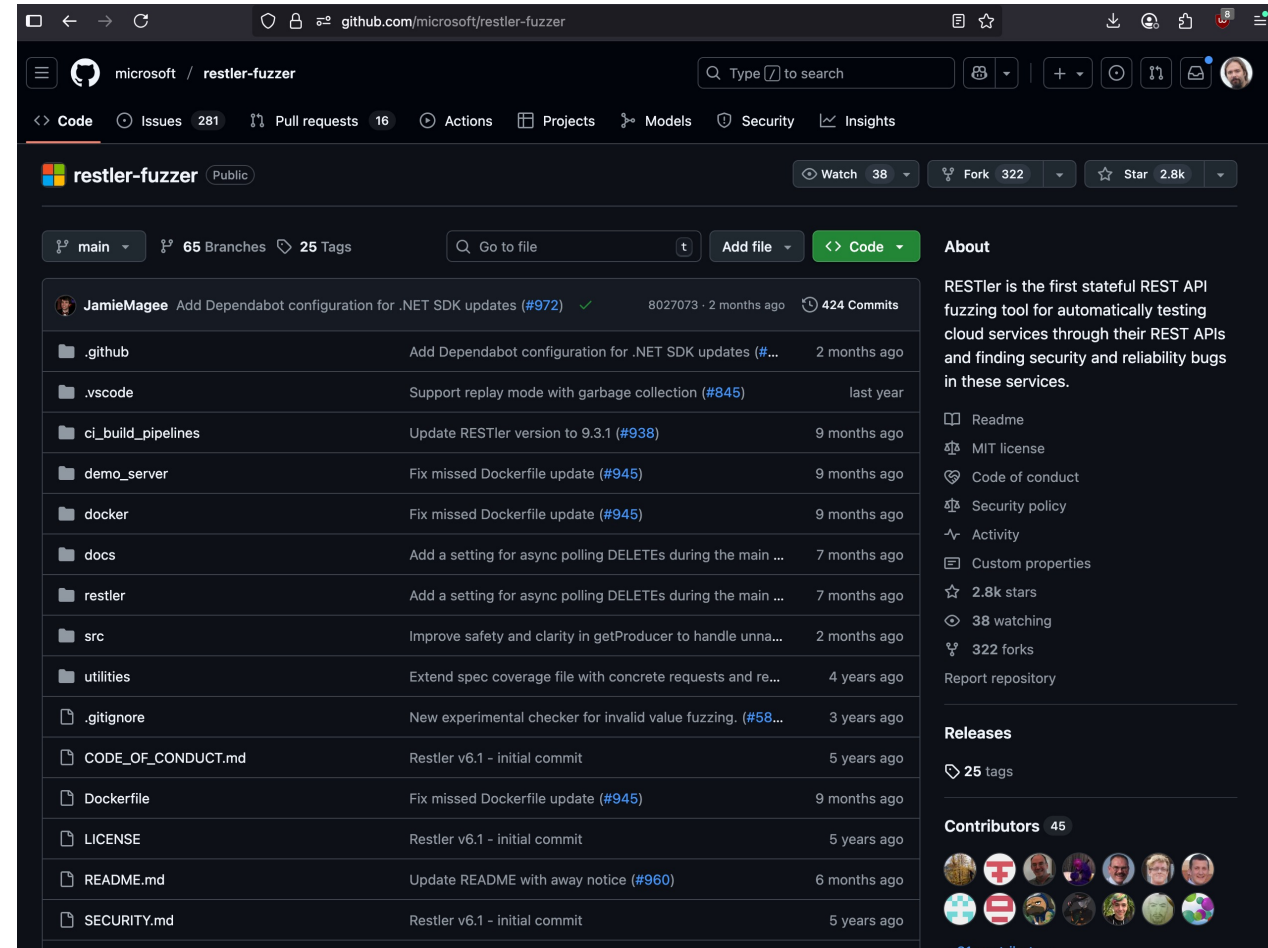
- Tools that automatically generate test inputs
- Different strategies: from **random** inputs to advanced **AI** techniques
- Can automatically create and evaluate **millions** of test cases
- Used in many different domains
  - eg, parser libraries and unit testing
- REST fuzzing is a more recent development
  - eg, Restler, Schemathesis, RESTest, Fuzz-Lightyear and EvoMaster

# Fuzzers for REST APIs

- There are at least **25** open-source fuzzers out there for REST APIs
  - but many are just academic proof-of-concept
  - few have been discontinued (eg Dredd)
- Top 4 *currently maintained* fuzzers on **GitHub**
  - as of October 2025
- **RESTler** (+2800🌟)
- **Schemathesis** (+2700🌟)
- **CATS** (+1300🌟)
- **EvoMaster** (+600🌟)

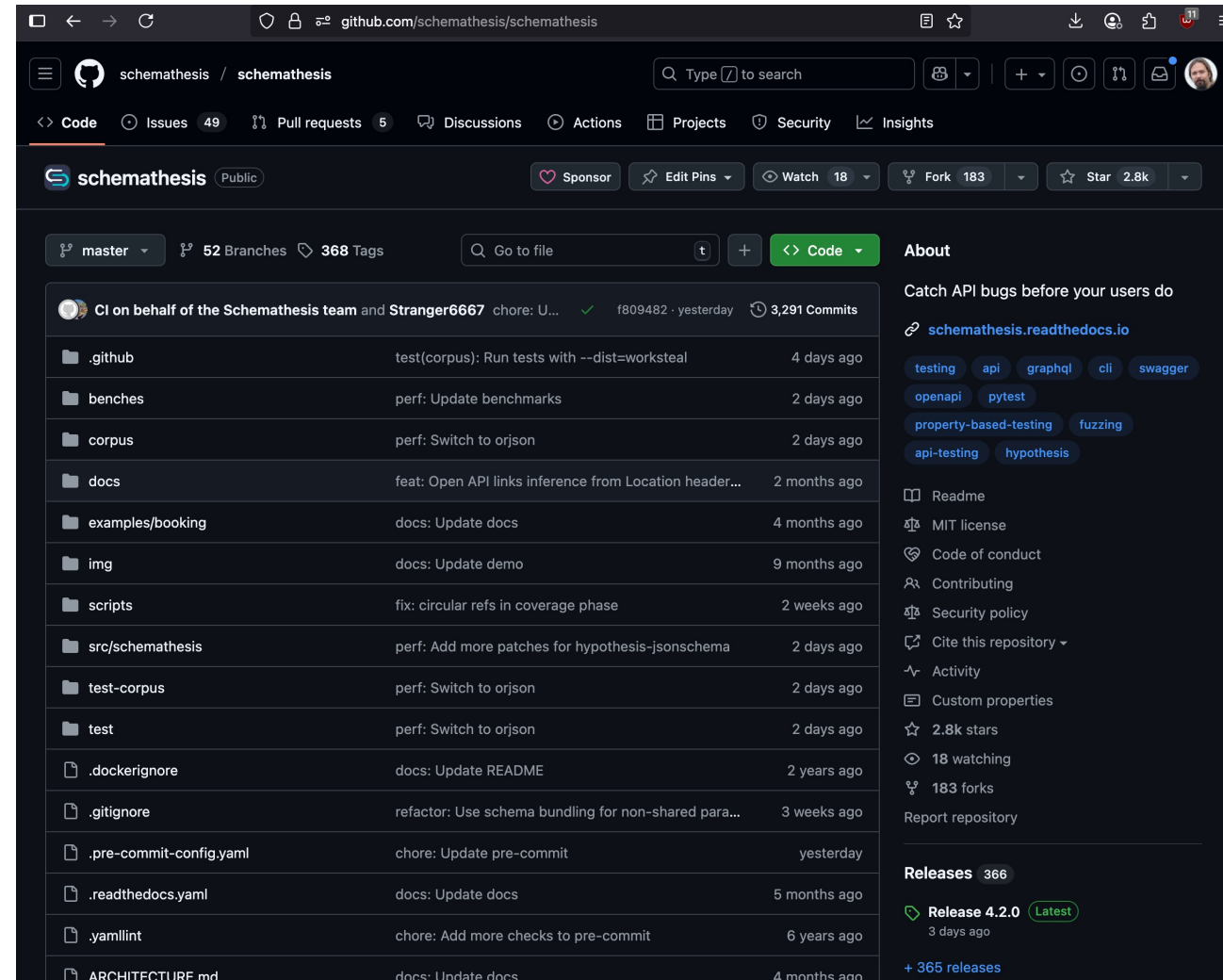
# RESTler

- Made by Microsoft Research
- Open-source since 2020
- Written in Python
- Requires cloning Git repository to build locally
- +2800★



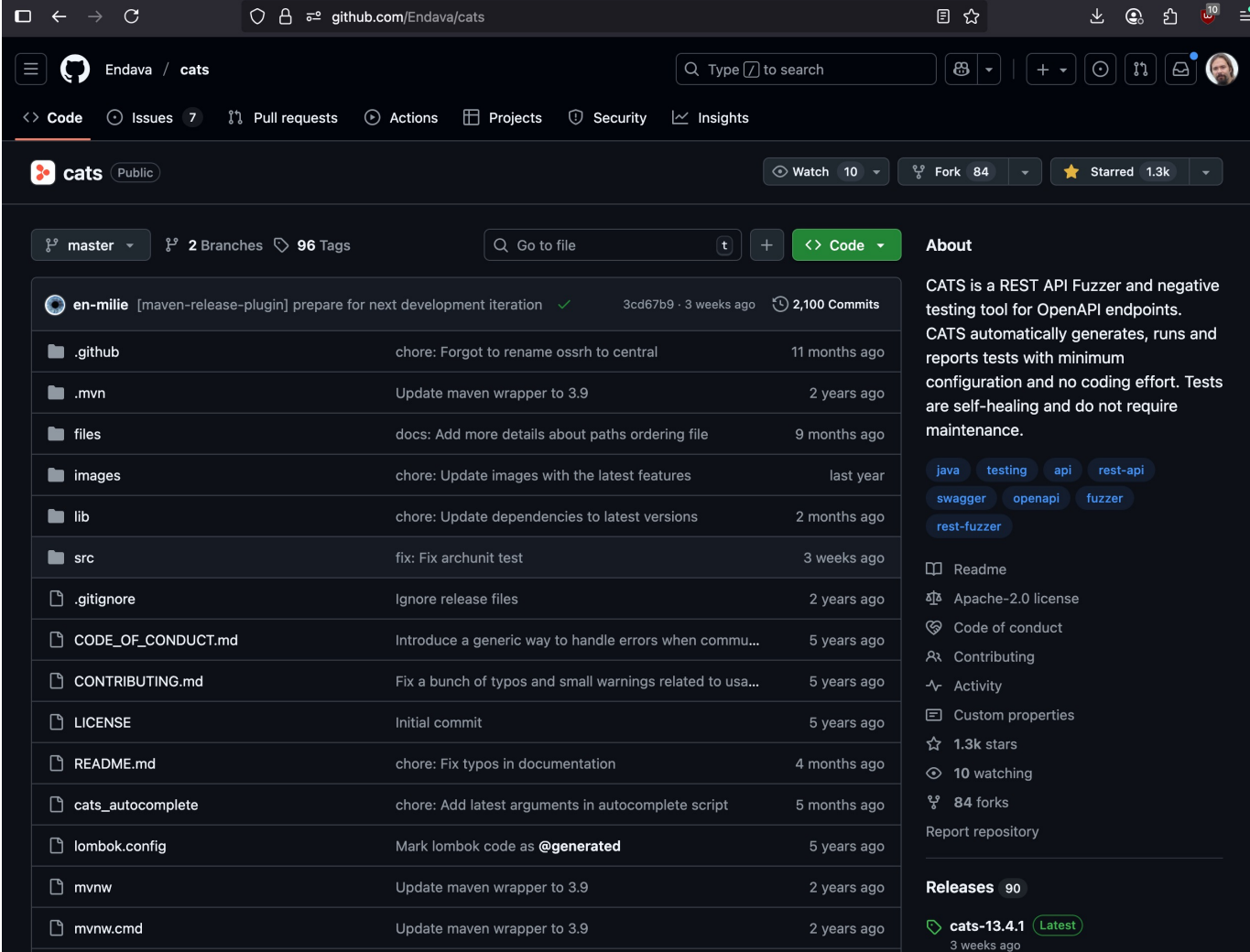
# SchemaThesis

- Made by a Software Engineer: Dmitry Dygalo
- Open-source since 2019
- Written in Python
- Available via **pip**
  - eg, “pip install schemathesis”
- +2700🌟



# CATS

- Made by Endava.com
- Open-source since 2020
- Written in Java
- Available via installers and **brew**
- +1300🌟



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `Endava/cats`. The repository is public and has 10 watchers, 84 forks, and 1.3k stars. The main branch is `master`, with 2 branches and 96 tags. The repository is described as a REST API Fuzzer and negative testing tool for OpenAPI endpoints. The commit history shows a recent commit by `en-milie` [maven-release-plugin] prepare for next development iteration, 3 weeks ago, with 2,100 commits. The file list includes `.github`, `.mvn`, `files`, `images`, `lib`, `src`, `.gitignore`, `CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md`, `CONTRIBUTING.md`, `LICENSE`, `README.md`, `cats_autocomplete`, `lombok.config`, `mvnw`, and `mvnw.cmd`. The right sidebar shows the repository's about section, including the README, Apache-2.0 license, Code of conduct, Contributing, Activity, Custom properties, 1.3k stars, 10 watching, 84 forks, and 90 releases. The latest release is `cats-13.4.1`, released 3 weeks ago.

Endava / cats

Type to search

Code Issues 7 Pull requests Actions Projects Security Insights

cats Public Watch 10 Fork 84 Starred 1.3k

master 2 Branches 96 Tags Go to file Code

en-milie [maven-release-plugin] prepare for next development iteration 3cd67b9 · 3 weeks ago 2,100 Commits

.github	chore: Forgot to rename ossrh to central	11 months ago
.mvn	Update maven wrapper to 3.9	2 years ago
files	docs: Add more details about paths ordering file	9 months ago
images	chore: Update images with the latest features	last year
lib	chore: Update dependencies to latest versions	2 months ago
src	fix: Fix archunit test	3 weeks ago
.gitignore	Ignore release files	2 years ago
CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md	Introduce a generic way to handle errors when commu...	5 years ago
CONTRIBUTING.md	Fix a bunch of typos and small warnings related to usa...	5 years ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	5 years ago
README.md	chore: Fix typos in documentation	4 months ago
cats_autocomplete	chore: Add latest arguments in autocomplete script	5 months ago
lombok.config	Mark lombok code as @generated	5 years ago
mvnw	Update maven wrapper to 3.9	2 years ago
mvnw.cmd	Update maven wrapper to 3.9	2 years ago

About

CATS is a REST API Fuzzer and negative testing tool for OpenAPI endpoints. CATS automatically generates, runs and reports tests with minimum configuration and no coding effort. Tests are self-healing and do not require maintenance.

java testing api rest-api swagger openapi fuzzer rest-fuzzer

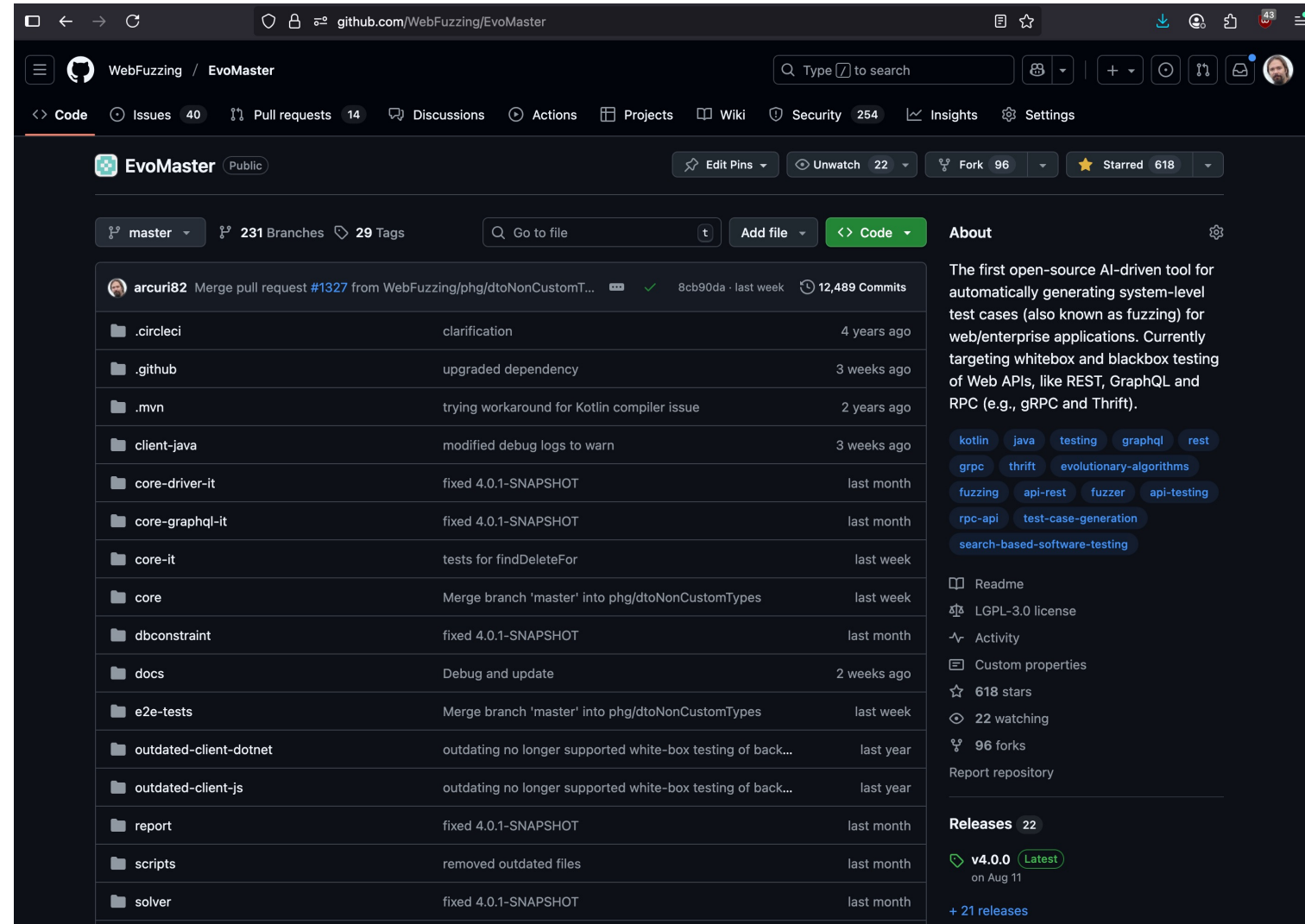
Readme Apache-2.0 license Code of conduct Contributing Activity Custom properties 1.3k stars 10 watching 84 forks Report repository

Releases 90

cats-13.4.1 Latest 3 weeks ago

# EvoMaster

- Made by me (and a team of academics)
- Open-source since 2016
- Written in Kotlin
- Available via installers and **Docker**
- +600🌟



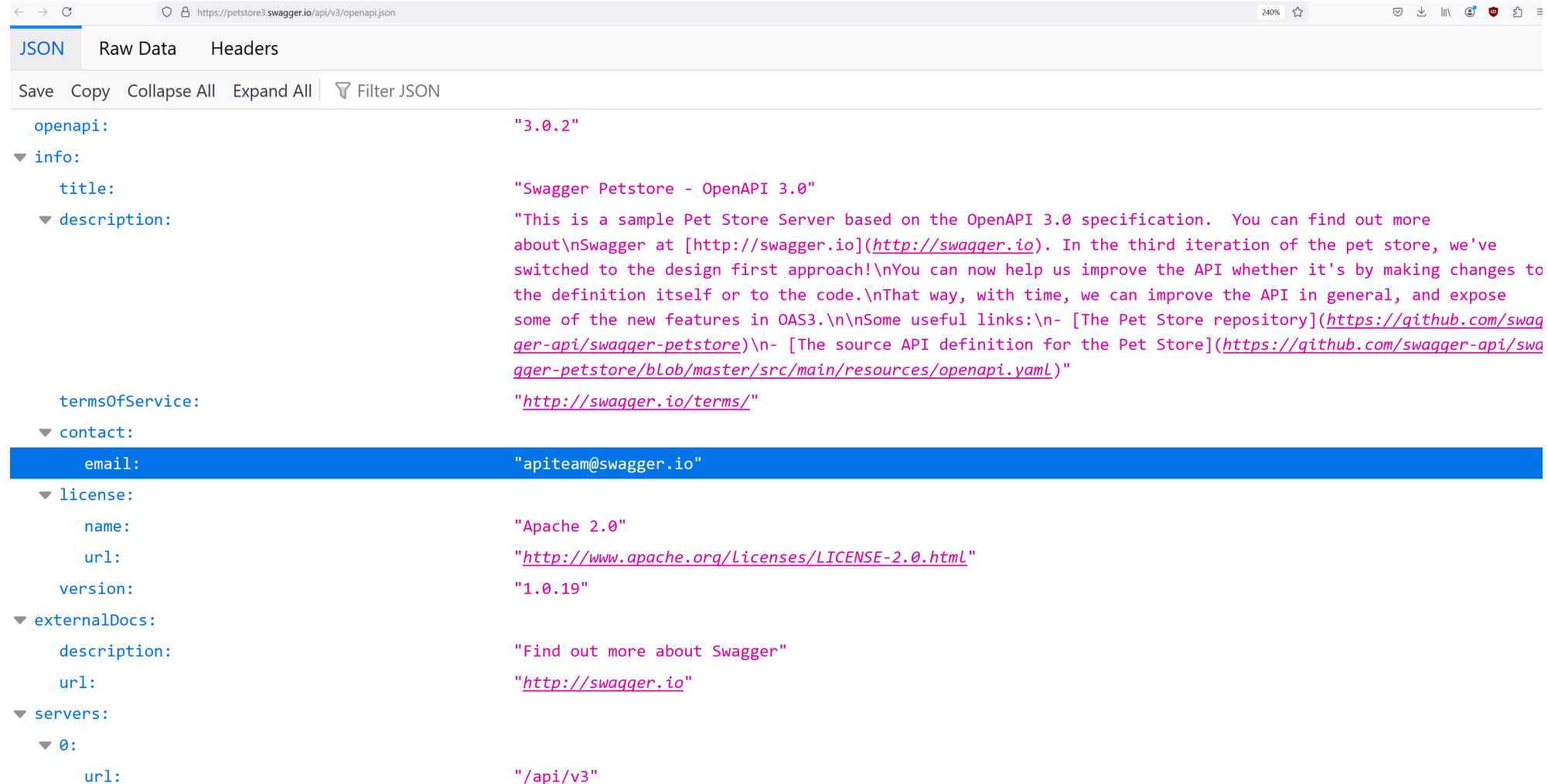
# Input: OpenAPI/Swagger Schema

- Need to know what endpoints are available, and their parameters
- Schema defining the APIs
- OpenAPI is the most popular one
- Defined as JSON file, or YAML



# Example: PetStore

- Online schema at <https://petstore3.swagger.io/api/v3/openapi.json>



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Swagger PetStore OpenAPI 3.0 schema. The browser address bar shows the URL `https://petstore3.swagger.io/api/v3/openapi.json`. The page is rendered in a JSON viewer format with tabs for 'JSON', 'Raw Data', and 'Headers'. The 'JSON' tab is active, and the schema is displayed in a collapsible tree structure. The 'info' section is expanded, showing the following details:

- `openapi`: "3.0.2"
- `info`:
  - `title`: "Swagger Petstore - OpenAPI 3.0"
  - `description`: "This is a sample Pet Store Server based on the OpenAPI 3.0 specification. You can find out more about Swagger at [http://swagger.io](http://swagger.io). In the third iteration of the pet store, we've switched to the design first approach! You can now help us improve the API whether it's by making changes to the definition itself or to the code. That way, with time, we can improve the API in general, and expose some of the new features in OAS3. Some useful links: - [The Pet Store repository](https://github.com/swagger-api/swagger-petstore) - [The source API definition for the Pet Store](https://github.com/swagger-api/swagger-petstore/blob/master/src/main/resources/openapi.yaml)"
  - `termsOfService`: "http://swagger.io/terms/"
- `contact`:
  - `email`: "apiteam@swagger.io"
- `license`:
  - `name`: "Apache 2.0"
  - `url`: "http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0.html"
  - `version`: "1.0.19"
- `externalDocs`:
  - `description`: "Find out more about Swagger"
  - `url`: "http://swagger.io"
- `servers`:
  - `0`:
    - `url`: "/api/v3"

# What Can Expect?

- All these tools will analyze the schema
- Send requests with many different strategies
  - there is lot of research in academia on this
- Check if any error in the API can be identified
- Output executable test cases
  - in different formats, eg Python, Java, Kotlin and JavaScript

**docker run**

**-v "\$(pwd)/generated\_tests":/generated\_tests**

**webfuzzing/evomaster**

**--blackBox true**

**--maxTime 30s**

**--ratePerMinute 60**

**--bbSwaggerUrl https://petstore.swagger.io/v2/swagger.json**





# Success Calls: Random but Valid Data

```
# Calls:
# (200) GET:/v2/pet/findByTags
@timeout_decorator.timeout(60)
def test_1_get_on_findByTags_returns_empty_list(self):

    headers = {}
    headers['Accept'] = "application/json"
    res_0 = requests \
        .get(self.baseUrlofSut + "/v2/pet/findByTags?tags=LPADYDnRLQwnjsdW&tags=chS0o&tags=Vff5S_j7W&tags=Ps",
            headers=headers, timeout=60)

    assert res_0.status_code == 200
    assert "application/json" in res_0.headers["content-type"]
    assert len(res_0.json()) == 0
```

# Schema Mismatch (eg undeclared 200)

```
# Calls:
# (200) PUT:/v2/user/{username}
# Found 1 potential fault of type-code 101
@timeout_decorator.timeout(60)
def test_8_put_on_user_returnsMismatchResponseWithSchema(self):

    # Fault101. Received A Response From API With A Structure/Data That
    headers = {}
    headers["content-type"] = "application/json"
    body = {}
    body = " { " + \
        " \"firstName\": \"t3PeK1x\", " + \
        " \"lastName\": \"1x_eQMjnWztpWGj\", " + \
        " \"email\": \"c0xQmHfJJU40jPXp\", " + \
        " \"phone\": \"vS1gsZ\", " + \
        " \"userStatus\": 649 " + \
        " } "

    headers['Accept'] = "*/*"
    res_0 = requests \
        .put(self.baseUrl + "/v2/user/VDJDKy",
            headers=headers, data=body, timeout=60)

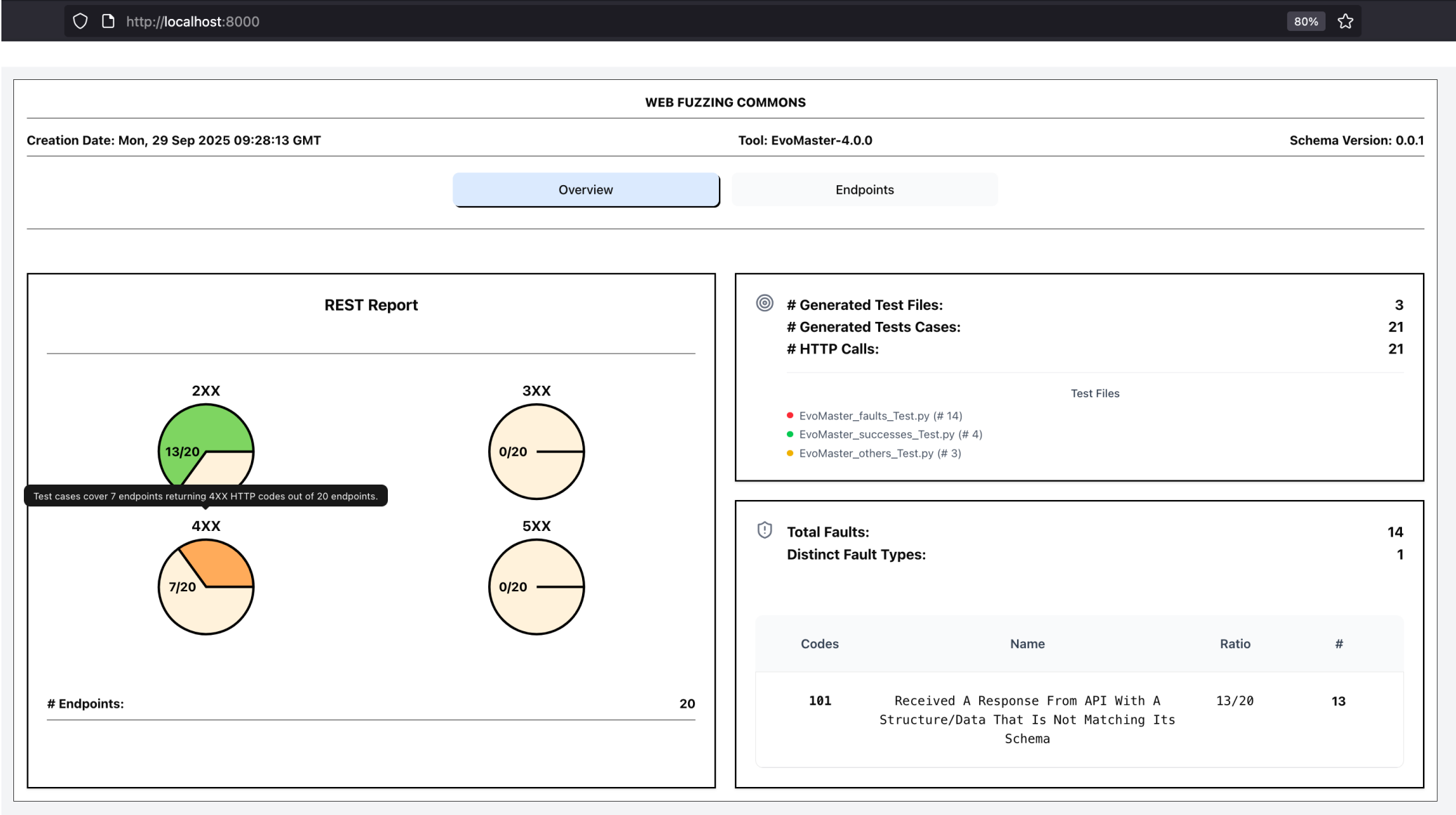
    assert res_0.status_code == 200
    assert "application/json" in res_0.headers["content-type"]
    assert res_0.json()["code"] == 200.0
    assert res_0.json()["type"] == "unknown"
    assert res_0.json()["message"] == "0"

    # Cleanup actions
    headers = {}
    headers['Accept'] = "*/*"
```

The screenshot displays the Swagger UI interface for a petstore API. The top navigation bar includes icons for a home page, back, forward, and refresh, along with the URL `petstore.swagger.io/v2/swagger.json`. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for "JSON", "Raw Data", and "Headers", with "JSON" being the active tab. A toolbar contains buttons for "Save", "Copy", "Collapse All", "Expand All", and a "Filter JSON" dropdown. The main content area shows the JSON definition for the `/user/{username}` endpoint, which is expanded. The definition includes a `get` method with a summary of "Get user by user name" and a `put` method with a summary of "Updated user". The `put` method has several properties: `tags` (["user"]), `summary` ("Updated user"), `description` ("This can only be done by the logged in user."), `operationId` ("updateUser"), `consumes` (["application/json"]), `produces` (["application/json", "application/xml"]), `parameters` (including a required `username` path parameter and a required `body` parameter), and `responses` (including a 400 response for "Invalid user supplied" and a 404 response for "User not found").

```
{
  "/store/order/{orderId}": {
    "get": {
      "summary": "Get user by user name",
      "operationId": "getOrderById",
      "parameters": [
        {
          "name": "orderId",
          "in": "path",
          "description": "id of order that needs to be fetched",
          "required": true,
          "type": "string"
        }
      ],
      "responses": {
        "200": {
          "description": "OK"
        },
        "404": {
          "description": "Order not found"
        }
      }
    }
  },
  "/user/createWithList": {
    "post": {
      "summary": "Create user with list of users",
      "operationId": "createUsersWithList",
      "parameters": [
        {
          "name": "body",
          "in": "body",
          "description": "List of user objects",
          "required": true,
          "type": "array"
        }
      ],
      "responses": {
        "201": {
          "description": "User created"
        }
      }
    }
  },
  "/user/{username}": {
    "get": {
      "summary": "Get user by user name",
      "operationId": "getUserByName",
      "parameters": [
        {
          "name": "username",
          "in": "path",
          "description": "name that need to be updated",
          "required": true,
          "type": "string"
        }
      ],
      "responses": {
        "200": {
          "description": "OK"
        },
        "400": {
          "description": "Invalid user supplied"
        },
        "404": {
          "description": "User not found"
        }
      }
    },
    "put": {
      "summary": "Updated user",
      "operationId": "updateUser",
      "tags": [
        "user"
      ],
      "description": "This can only be done by the logged in user.",
      "operationId": "updateUser",
      "consumes": [
        "application/json"
      ],
      "produces": [
        "application/json",
        "application/xml"
      ],
      "parameters": [
        {
          "name": "username",
          "in": "path",
          "description": "name that need to be updated",
          "required": true,
          "type": "string"
        },
        {
          "name": "body",
          "in": "body",
          "description": "Updated user object",
          "required": true,
          "type": "object"
        }
      ],
      "responses": {
        "200": {
          "description": "OK"
        },
        "400": {
          "description": "Invalid user supplied"
        },
        "404": {
          "description": "User not found"
        }
      }
    }
  }
}
```

# Interactive Test Reports







## WEB FUZZING COMMONS

Creation Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2025 09:28:13 GMT

Tool: EvoMaster-4.0.0

Schema Version: 0.0.1

Overview

Endpoints

Filter by HTTP Status Code

H200 H404 H415

Filter by Fault Code

F101

Click to toggle: Default → Active → Removed → Default

[Code Documentation](#)

# Endpoints: 20 / 20

POST:/v2/pet/{petId}/uploadImage

H415 F101



POST:/v2/pet

H200 F101



PUT:/v2/pet

H200 F101



GET:/v2/pet/findByStatus

H200



GET:/v2/pet/findByTags

H200



HTTP CODES:

H200

FAULT CODES: No faults recorded for this endpoint.

Click to show test cases.

<> EvoMaster\_successes\_Test.py#test\_1\_get\_on\_findByTags\_returns\_empty\_list

200 >

GET:/v2/pet/{petId}

H404 F101



POST:/v2/pet/{petId}

H404 F101



DELETE:/v2/pet/{petId}

H404



What about authentication?

# Configuration files in YAML, using WFC format

```
external_auth.yaml x
1  auth:
2    - name: "foo"
3      loginEndpointAuth:
4        payloadRaw: "{\"username\": \"foo\", \"password\": \"123\"}"
5
6  authTemplate:
7    loginEndpointAuth:
8      verb: POST
9      externalEndpointURL: "http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1"
10     contentType: application/json
11     token:
12       extractFromField: /access_token
13       httpHeaderName: Authorization
14       headerPrefix: ""
```

# Automatically fetch and extract tokens in generated tests (eg in Java)

```
/**
 * Calls:
 * (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check
 */
@Test(timeout = 60000) no usages
public void test_1_getOnCheckReturnsContent() throws Exception {

    final String token_foo = "" + given()
        .contentType("application/json")
        .body(" { " +
            "  \"username\": \"foo\", " +
            "  \"password\": \"123\" " +
            " } ")
        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1")
        .then().extract().response().path("access_token");

    given().accept("*/*")
        .header("Authorization", token_foo) // foo
        .get(baseUrlOfSut + "/api/externalauth/check")
        .then()
        .statusCode(200)
        .assertThat()
        .contentType("text/plain")
        .body(containsString("token1"));
}
```

# Or Kotlin...

```
/**
 * Calls:
 * (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check
 */
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_1_getOnCheckReturnsContent() {

    val token_foo : String = "" + given()
        .contentType("application/json")
        .body(" { " +
            " \"username\": \"foo\", " +
            " \"password\": \"123\" " +
            " } ")

        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1")
        .then().extract().response().path("access_token")!!

    given().accept("*/*")
        .header("Authorization", token_foo) // foo
        .get("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/externalauth/check")
        .then()
        .statusCode(200)
        .assertThat()
        .contentType("text/plain")
        .body(containsString("token1"))
}
```

# Or JavaScript...

```
/**
 * Calls:
 * (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check
 */
test("test_1_GetOnCheckReturnsContent", async () : Promise<void> => {

    let token_foo : string = "";
    await superagent
        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1")
        .set("content-type", "application/json")
        .send(" { " +
            " \"username\": \"foo\", " +
            " \"password\": \"123\" " +
            " } ")
        .redirects(0)
        .then(res => {token_foo += res.body.access_token;},
            error => {console.log(error.response.body); throw Error("Auth failed.")});

    const res_0 = await superagent
        .get(baseUrlOfSut + "/api/externalauth/check").set('Accept', "*/*")
        .set("Authorization", token_foo) // foo
        .ok(res => res.status);

    expect(res_0.status).toBe( expected: 200 );
    expect(res_0.header["content-type"].startsWith("text/plain")).toBe( expected: true );
    expect(res_0.text).toBe( expected: "token1" );
});
```

# Or Python...

```
# Calls:
# (200) GET:/api/externalauth/check
@timeout_decorator.timeout(60)
def test_1_get_on_check_returns_content(self):

    token_foo = ""
    headers = {}
    headers["content-type"] = "application/json"
    body = " { " + \
        " \"username\": \"foo\", " + \
        " \"password\": \"123\" " + \
        " } "
    res_foo = requests \
        .post("http://localhost:8080/api/externalauth/login1",
              headers=headers, data=body, allow_redirects=False)
    token_foo = token_foo + res_foo.json()["access_token"]

    headers = {}
    headers["Authorization"] = token_foo # foo
    headers['Accept'] = "*/*"
    res_0 = requests \
        .get(self.baseUrlOfSut + "/api/externalauth/check",
              headers=headers, timeout=60)

    assert res_0.status_code == 200
    assert "text/plain" in res_0.headers["content-type"]
    assert "token1" in res_0.text
```

# Access Policies Validation Example

- Forbidden to delete a resource of another user (403)...
- ... but allowed (204) to modify it with a PUT???
- Excepted behavior?
- Or misconfigured authorization in the PUT???

```
* Found 1 potential fault of type-code 206
*/
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_7_putOnResourceMissedAuthorizationCheck() {

    given().accept("*/*")
        .header("Authorization", "BAR") // BAR
        .header("x-EMextraHeader123", "")
        .put("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/forbiddendelete/resources/214")
        .then()
        .statusCode(201)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())

    given().accept("*/*")
        .header("Authorization", "F00") // F00
        .header("x-EMextraHeader123", "")
        .delete("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/forbiddendelete/resources/214")
        .then()
        .statusCode(403)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())

    // Fault206. Allowed To Modify Resource That Likely Should Had Been Protected.
    val res_2: ValidatableResponse = given().accept("*/*")
        .header("Authorization", "F00") // F00
        .header("x-EMextraHeader123", "")
        .put("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/forbiddendelete/resources/214")
        .then()
        .statusCode(204)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())
```



What about some more advanced cases?

**White-box** testing on JVM using **Evolutionary Computation** (eg Genetic Algorithms)

# Dealing With SQL Databases

- Bytecode instrumentation to intercept all JDBC calls
- Find all SQL SELECT queries that return no data
  - eg due to WHERE clauses that are not satisfied
- Insert data directly into DB as part of the test case
  - Not always possible to create data with REST endpoints (eg POST/PUT)
  - using a JDBC connection
  - need to analyze DB's schema
- *Goal:* insert data such that SELECT are not empty
- *Challenges:* WHERE clauses might have complex constraints. Need search
- *Why?* Can have impact on code execution flow

# Java Example Using Spring

```
@RequestMapping(  
    path =("/{x}/{y}",  
    method = RequestMethod.GET,  
    produces = MediaType.APPLICATION_JSON  
)  
public ResponseEntity get(@PathVariable("x") int x, @PathVariable("y") int y) {  
  
    List<DbDirectIntEntity> list = repository.findByXIsAndYIs(x, y);  
    if (list.isEmpty()) {  
        return ResponseEntity.status(400).build();  
    } else {  
        return ResponseEntity.status(200).build();  
    }  
}
```

# Generated Test

```
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_1() {
    val insertions = sql().insertInto("DB_DIRECT_INT_ENTITY", 14L)
        .d("ID", "-65536")
        .d("X", "-67108182")
        .d("Y", "0")
        .dtos()
    val insertionsresult = controller.execInsertionsIntoDatabase(insertions)

    given().accept("*/*")
        .get("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/db/directint/-67108182/0")
        .then()
        .statusCode(200)
        .assertThat()
        .body(isEmptyOrNullString())
}
```

# Taint Analysis

- Inputs can have constraint checks
  - eg, strings matching a regex, numbers in a certain range and strings representing dates
- Constraints might be in code and NOT in the OpenAPI schema
- Can evolve inputs till satisfy constraints... eg using SBST heuristics
- ... but what if inputs are not modified and used as they are? Can we do better?

# Java Example Using Spring

```
@GetMapping(  
    path =("/{date:\\d{4}-\\d{1,2}-\\d{1,2}}/{number}/{setting}",  
    produces = MediaType.APPLICATION_JSON_VALUE)  
public String getSeparated(  
    @PathVariable("date") String date,  
    @PathVariable("number") String number,  
    @PathVariable("setting") String setting  
)  
{  
  
    LocalDate d = LocalDate.parse(date);  
    int n = Integer.parseInt(number);  
    List<String> list = Arrays.asList("Foo", "Bar");  
  
    if(d.getYear() == 2019 && n == 42 && list.contains(setting)){  
        return "OK";  
    }  
  
    return "ERROR";  
}
```

# Solution

- Using bytecode instrumentation, check all JDK API usages
- Checking if input from HTTP is used without modification in a JDK call
- If yes, tell the search how input should be evolved
  - eg strings only representing valid dates, like for *LocalDate.parse(date)*
  - eg strings evolved always matching a particular regex
- Still need search to evolve the inputs
  - eg to handle constraints like *d.getYear() == 2019*
- Can dramatically boost the search efforts

# Generated Test

```
@Test @Timeout(60)
fun test_4() {

    given().accept("application/json")
        .get("${baseUrlOfSut}/api/testability/2019-12-10/42/Bar")
        .then()
        .statusCode(200)
        .assertThat()
        .contentType("application/json")
        .body(containsString("OK"))

}
```



# Applications and Success Stories

# Experience With EvoMaster

- Author's of EvoMaster
- Academic tool, started in 2016
  - Around 3 millions Euro in funding from ERC and NFR
- Applied on many open-source APIs
  - found thousands of bugs
- Only tool supporting *white-box* testing for JVM
- Academic collaborations with industry

# Open-Source Projects

- Found hundreds of faults in open-source projects
- Many APIs out there are not robust to receive invalid inputs, and so crashes
- Currently using 36 open-source APIs for experiments comparing fuzzers
- <https://github.com/WebFuzzing/Dataset>
- EvoMaster gives best results on those APIs

Table 4. Average results, out of 10 runs, for 2xx endpoint coverage percentage over the 6 compared fuzzers, on all the 36 APIs. On each API, tool are compared by rank, where rank 1 is the best. Rank values are presented in ‘()’ parentheses after the average values. In case of ties, ranks are averaged. The best fuzzers on each API are highlighted in bold.

SUT	ARAT-RL	EmRest	EvoMaster	LLamaRestTest	RESTler	Schemathesis
<i>bibliothek</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.9 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>12.5 (1.0)</b>
<i>blogapi</i>	15.1 (3.5)	20.9 (2.0)	<b>21.8 (1.0)</b>	6.9 (6.0)	15.1 (3.5)	9.9 (5.0)
<i>catwatch</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	38.7 (3.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>39.1 (1.5)</b>	<b>39.1 (1.5)</b>
<i>cwa-verification</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>60.0 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	20.0 (2.0)
<i>erc20-rest-service</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.7 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>6.9 (1.0)</b>
<i>familie-ba-sak</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>2.2 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	1.9 (2.0)
<i>features-service</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>88.9 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	29.2 (2.0)
<i>genome-nexus</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>72.5 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.0)	47.8 (3.0)	64.3 (2.0)
<i>gestaohospital</i>	57.5 (2.0)	0.0 (5.5)	<b>66.0 (1.0)</b>	35.5 (3.0)	0.0 (5.5)	4.4 (4.0)
<i>http-patch-spring</i>	22.9 (3.0)	0.0 (6.0)	<b>100.0 (1.0)</b>	16.7 (4.0)	66.7 (2.0)	14.8 (5.0)
<i>languagetool</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>90.0 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	50.0 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>market</i>	13.8 (4.0)	0.0 (6.0)	<b>70.2 (1.0)</b>	15.4 (2.5)	15.4 (2.5)	5.4 (5.0)
<i>microcks</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>46.9 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	19.1 (2.0)
<i>ocvn</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>80.2 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	6.7 (2.0)
<i>ohsome-api</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	<b>19.6 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>pay-publicapi</i>	<b>0.0 (3.5)</b>	<b>0.0 (3.5)</b>	0.0 (3.5)	<b>0.0 (3.5)</b>	<b>0.0 (3.5)</b>	<b>0.0 (3.5)</b>
<i>person-controller</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>44.4 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.0)	25.0 (3.0)	25.9 (2.0)
<i>proxyprint</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>75.1 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	20.4 (2.0)
<i>quartz-manager</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	<b>63.6 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>reservations-api</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	<b>25.4 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>rest-ncs</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>100.0 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.0)	83.3 (2.0)	45.0 (3.0)
<i>rest-news</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>85.7 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.0)	28.6 (2.5)	28.6 (2.5)
<i>rest-scs</i>	87.5 (3.5)	0.0 (6.0)	<b>100.0 (1.0)</b>	87.5 (3.5)	90.0 (2.0)	77.8 (5.0)
<i>restcountries</i>	0.0 (5.0)	<b>100.0 (1.0)</b>	87.4 (2.0)	0.0 (5.0)	8.0 (3.0)	0.0 (5.0)
<i>scout-api</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>91.4 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	16.3 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>session-service</i>	88.9 (2.0)	0.0 (6.0)	50.0 (3.5)	<b>93.8 (1.0)</b>	50.0 (3.5)	22.5 (5.0)
<i>spring-actuator-demo</i>	80.0 (5.0)	0.0 (6.0)	<b>100.0 (1.5)</b>	90.0 (3.0)	<b>100.0 (1.5)</b>	87.5 (4.0)
<i>spring-batch-rest</i>	<b>71.1 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.5)	60.0 (2.5)	53.3 (4.0)	0.0 (5.5)	60.0 (2.5)
<i>spring-ecommerce</i>	0.0 (5.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>40.7 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.0)	22.2 (2.0)	16.7 (3.0)
<i>spring-rest-example</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>44.4 (1.5)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	<b>44.4 (1.5)</b>	0.0 (4.5)
<i>swagger-petstore</i>	0.0 (5.0)	78.9 (3.0)	81.6 (2.0)	0.0 (5.0)	<b>89.5 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (5.0)
<i>tiltaksgjenomforing</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	<b>8.9 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>tracking-system</i>	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	<b>72.1 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.5)	19.6 (2.0)	0.0 (4.5)
<i>user-management</i>	60.7 (3.0)	0.0 (6.0)	<b>68.3 (1.0)</b>	67.1 (2.0)	38.1 (4.0)	21.2 (5.0)
<i>webgoat</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	<b>75.4 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
<i>youtube-mock</i>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	<b>12.5 (1.0)</b>	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)	0.0 (4.0)
Average	13.8 (4.1)	5.6 (4.6)	57.2 (1.4)	12.9 (4.2)	23.6 (3.3)	17.8 (3.4)
Median	0.0 (4.5)	0.0 (4.5)	64.8 (1.0)	0.0 (4.5)	11.5 (3.5)	8.4 (4.0)
Friedman Test				$\chi^2 = 90.170, p\text{-value} = < 0.001$		

Experiments in the *lab* on open-source APIs gives you info on *coverage* and *fault* detection...

... but not on whether practitioners find it *useful*

# Industry Collaborations

- We are university **scientists**, not tool vendors
- **Anyone** can use open-source tools
- Benefits **for industry**: priority on **feature requests** and bug fixing
- Benefits **for us**: access to industrial **case studies**

# Industry Collaborations: EvoMaster at Meituan

- Large Chinese e-commerce enterprise
- EvoMaster used **daily** on **1700 microservices**, for millions of lines of code
- White-box testing Thrift RPC APIs



Table 5: Mean of Line%, Critical Line%, and #Detected Faults achieved by tests generated by SM EVO MASTER with 1-hour time budget for 10 repetitions, and results of comparing with Base 1-hour using *Relative%* and Vargha-Delaney  $\hat{A}_{12}$

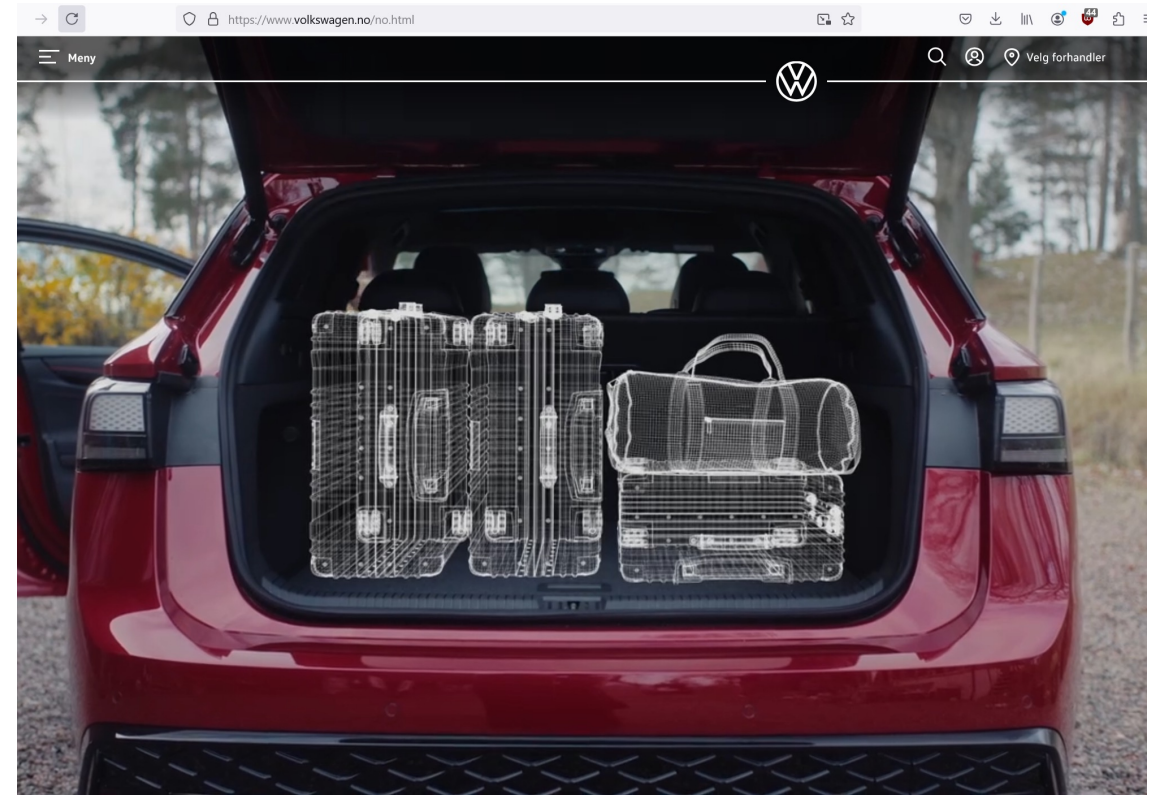
SUT	Budgets by seeds	Line%		Critical Line%		#Detected Faults	
		Mean	Relative%( $\hat{A}_{12}$ )	Mean	Relative%( $\hat{A}_{12}$ )	Mean	Relative%( $\hat{A}_{12}$ )
cs01	6.6%	16.6	+26.7 ( 0.78)	15.4	+36.6 (1.00)	17.2	+2.1 (0.42)
cs02	0.2%	19.3	+0.0 ( 0.53)	45.4	-1.5 (0.42)	26.4	-4.8 (0.38)
cs03	3.8%	7.1	+1.4 ( 0.40)	2.4	+1.6 (0.57)	7.0	+0.0 (0.50)
cs04	0.3%	13.0	+1.0 ( 0.57)	10.5	+1.7 (0.59)	43.8	+1.3 (0.64)
cs05	1.8%	22.6	+6.5 ( 0.77)	18.1	+7.1 (0.71)	63.2	-7.1 (0.27)
cs06	0.5%	8.5	+6.1 ( 0.97)	4.8	+9.6 (0.96)	13.0	+0.0 (0.50)
cs07	1.5%	17.6	+44.9 ( 0.99)	16.3	+44.7 (0.99)	79.7	+6.5 (0.72)
cs08	59.2%	10.1	-28.8 ( 0.05)	10.8	-23.5 (0.06)	38.8	-36.8 (0.04)
cs09	1.4%	15.3	+2.8 ( 0.65)	11.2	+9.4 (0.73)	35.1	+3.4 (0.75)
cs10	7.0%	9.2	+39.1 ( 1.00)	4.6	+83.6 (1.00)	5.0	+0.0 (0.50)
cs11	9.7%	16.0	+76.1 ( 1.00)	13.2	+101.4 (1.00)	46.9	+4.0 (0.66)
cs12	31.3%	12.4	+24.6 ( 1.00)	9.0	+50.8 (1.00)	56.1	+6.9 (0.77)
cs13	12.9%	24.6	+25.8 ( 1.00)	24.0	+23.8 (1.00)	36.6	-1.1 (0.33)
cs14	0.2%	14.6	+1.8 ( 0.52)	24.1	+5.9 (0.62)	67.6	+3.8 (0.59)
cs15	11.6%	15.9	+118.1 ( 1.00)	15.9	+153.5 (1.00)	33.7	+1.0 (0.55)
cs16	1.6%	16.7	+17.1 ( 0.94)	15.1	+19.4 (0.92)	45.4	+1.6 (0.59)
cs17	22.0%	15.8	+7.4 ( 0.71)	11.3	+15.8 (0.82)	60.9	-6.3 (0.23)
cs18	0.6%	6.9	+18.5 ( 0.88)	6.4	+89.3 (0.97)	70.6	+17.2 (0.83)
cs19	2.1%	10.8	+11.6 ( 0.84)	6.9	+16.3 (0.83)	63.9	+1.1 (0.54)
cs20	28.8%	21.8	+14.8 ( 0.85)	19.0	+14.9 (0.82)	35.8	-17.8 (0.30)
cs21	1.7%	10.3	+25.7 ( 0.99)	8.8	+40.3 (0.99)	47.8	+0.5 (0.50)
cs22	9.9%	16.3	+18.1 ( 0.97)	8.4	+103.5 (1.00)	56.8	-2.7 (0.39)
cs23	36.6%	10.2	+134.3 (1.00)	6.7	+135.6 (0.93)	110.7	-16.8 (0.31)
cs24	8.8%	10.4	+11.1 ( 0.77)	11.2	+24.9 (0.94)	93.2	+3.1 (0.60)
cs25	6.3%	10.0	+2.1 ( 0.69)	9.9	+4.3 (0.69)	61.2	-2.6 (0.31)
cs26	6.1%	12.8	+42.7 ( 0.96)	12.9	+56.0 (0.92)	106.8	+6.5 (0.60)
cs27	1.0%	22.1	+17.3 ( 0.84)	14.3	+15.8 (0.83)	69.0	+10.2 (0.76)
cs28	83.8%	23.1	+92.7 ( 1.00)	21.6	+119.0 (1.00)	48.6	-28.2 (0.07)
cs29	0.2%	2.4	+9.5 ( 0.59)	3.9	-8.0 (0.38)	42.6	-3.4 (0.24)
cs30	6.5%	8.7	+66.5 ( 1.00)	12.5	+136.7 (1.00)	69.0	+4.4 (0.88)
cs31	18.1%	9.6	+11.5 ( 0.77)	8.2	+10.3 (0.72)	72.4	-16.0 (0.12)
cs32	4.0%	9.4	+24.9 ( 0.91)	7.4	+32.2 (0.94)	84.9	+6.0 (0.59)
cs33	47.8%	9.7	+4.7 ( 0.61)	6.2	+16.9 (0.77)	105.1	-14.2 (0.34)
cs34	0.9%	9.8	+14.9 ( 0.99)	6.4	+17.4 (0.98)	77.4	+1.1 (0.57)
cs35	31.5%	10.1	+16.5 ( 0.85)	7.0	+28.6 (0.93)	111.3	+4.4 (0.59)
cs36	29.2%	11.8	+58.1 ( 0.95)	18.5	+98.1 (1.00)	129.1	+12.4 (0.80)
cs37	34.6%	9.1	+35.6 ( 0.93)	6.7	+47.0 (0.96)	104.7	-33.9 (0.11)
cs38	5.1%	18.7	+30.1 ( 0.99)	14.9	+36.0 (1.00)	101.0	+1.7 (0.58)
cs39	16.5%	8.0	+9.0 ( 0.62)	3.6	+13.2 (0.68)	96.4	+9.7 (0.61)
cs40	4.3%	12.6	+34.4 ( 0.91)	7.9	+47.1 (0.91)	100.0	+13.8 (0.68)
Mean		13.2	+26.9 (0.8)	12.0	+40.9 (0.8)	63.4	-1.7 (0.5)
#Relative > 0			39		37		23
#SM > Base			30		31		7
#Base > SM			1		1		8

- ASE’24: “Seeding and Mocking in White-Box Fuzzing Enterprise RPC APIs: An Industrial Case Study”
- 40 APIs at Meituan
- More than 5M LOC
- Automatically found hundreds of faults



# Industry Collaborations: EvoMaster at Volkswagen

- Large German car manufacturer
- EvoMaster used for black-box testing of REST APIs



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# Introducing Black-Box Fuzz Testing for REST APIs in Industry: Challenges and Solutions

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**Abstract**—REST APIs are widely used in industry, in all different kinds of domains. An example is Volkswagen AG, a German automobile manufacturer. Established testing approaches for REST APIs are time consuming, and require expertise from professional test engineers. Due to its cost and importance, in the scientific literature several approaches have been proposed to automatically test REST APIs. The open-source, search-based fuzzer EVOMASTER is one of such tools proposed in the academic literature. However, how academic prototypes can be integrated in industry and have real impact to software engineering practice requires more investigation. In this paper, we report on our experience in using EVOMASTER at Volkswagen. We share our learnt lessons, and identify real-world research challenges that need to be solved.

**Index Terms**—SBST, REST, API, black-box, industry, fuzzing

## I. INTRODUCTION

REST APIs are used everywhere, to provide all different kinds of data and functionalities over a network (e.g., internet) [1], [2]. They are also common when developing backend applications, particularly when using microservice architectures [3], [4]. Nowadays, when interacting with a web page or a mobile app, often one or more REST APIs are involved. Therefore, the validation and verification of this type of web service is of paramount importance.

Volkswagen AG is a German automobile manufacturer.<sup>1</sup> As for many enterprises, its IT services rely on REST APIs. Due to the high cost of thorough testing from professional test engineers, significant effort has been spent to modernize their processes, and leverage what novel techniques and research outputs can provide in this context. In particular, the use of novel Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques seems promising. To enhance the quality of their testing processes and reduce cost, different AI techniques available to the public, like based on LLM (e.g., StarCoder [5]) and Evolutionary Computation (e.g., EVOMASTER [6]), have already been evaluated at Volkswagen [7], with some initial success.

In the scientific literature, in the last few years there has been a lot of work on test automation for REST APIs [8]. “Fuzz testing” [9]–[11] (also known as “fuzzing”) is a term used to refer to the automated generation of test cases, typically with random or unexpected inputs, to find crashes and

security issues in the tested applications. Several techniques can be used to improve performance (e.g., to cover more parts of the code of the tested application), e.g., based on AI techniques. In the literature, several tools (i.e., fuzzers) have been proposed, like the aforementioned EVOMASTER. Most of these tools are open-source, like for example Restler [12] and RestTestGen [13]. Any enterprise in the world can download and try out those tools on their REST APIs.

Usually, though, in the scientific literature these tools have been evaluated only in the “lab”. Researchers might design and develop some novel techniques, implement them in a tool, and then carry out experiments on some APIs to evaluate the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of their novel techniques. Real-world APIs might be used for these experiments, but usually no engineers or QA specialist in industry would be involved in using and evaluating those tools. In other words, no “human aspects” of introducing fuzzing techniques in industry [14] has been studied so far in literature of testing REST APIs [8].

To fill this important gap in the scientific literature, the authors of EVOMASTER were eager to start working with the test engineers at Volkswagen AG. The first interaction happened in October 2023 when the test engineers at Volkswagen contacted the maintainers of EVOMASTER with questions about more advanced use cases.

This is what started the “open exchange” between the authors of EVOMASTER and the test engineers at Volkswagen AG, in particular with the Quality innovation Network (QiNET) of the Group IT, which focus on innovations about IT quality management and engineering [15], [16]. In the literature, there are many types of academia-industry collaborations [17]–[20]. Bridging the gap between academia and industry is an important research endeavour, that can provide benefits for both parties. As such, this is explicitly mentioned in the documentation of EVOMASTER regarding how people can contribute.<sup>2</sup>

In this paper, we report on the first year of this exchange between the developer team of EVOMASTER and QiNET at Volkswagen AG. The Volkswagen engineers evaluated EVOMASTER in an industrial setup which opened additional usage scenarios for the EVOMASTER team. We discuss all the technical details and features that have been implemented

- Wrote on the experience of applying EM at VW
- Features needed
- Open challenges

<sup>1</sup><https://www.volkswagen.de>

<sup>2</sup><https://github.com/WebFuzzing/EvoMaster/blob/master/docs/contribute.md>

# Challenges

- Lot of research in academia for better test generation strategies
- Cover larger parts of API code
- Find more faults (and fault types)
  - not all faults have same severity
- Test readability
  - testers still need to look at generated tests

# Hmmmm... why not just using a LLM?

- Input: OpenAPI schema
- Output: test cases
  
- Can work, but poor results
- You would miss all information from the responses of API
- No way to tell if a test case has found a fault
- You must interact with the API

# Conclusion

- Many success stories about fuzzing
- REST fuzzing (and partially GraphQL and RPC) is getting momentum
- *Several open-source tools are available, to try out, today!*
  - we are biased about EvoMaster, but Schemathesis and CATS are good alternatives



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# Q/A

Thanks!

Tools: on GitHub:

- **WebFuzzing/EvoMaster**
- [schemathesis/schemathesis](#)
- [Endava/cats](#)
- [microsoft/restler-fuzzer](#)