Performative Benchmarking of Unidata MetPy with ASV

Jaye Norman 7/23/2025

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Why should we benchmark?

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C++ification

- Linfeng has created C++ to help MetPy run faster through bottlenecks like CAPE calculation
- We needed a way to quantify his and future changes

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Other Benefits

- Benchmarking also identifies bottlenecks and shows us when merges change the performance of the code

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Where can I see the results?

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unidata.github.io/MetPy-benchmark

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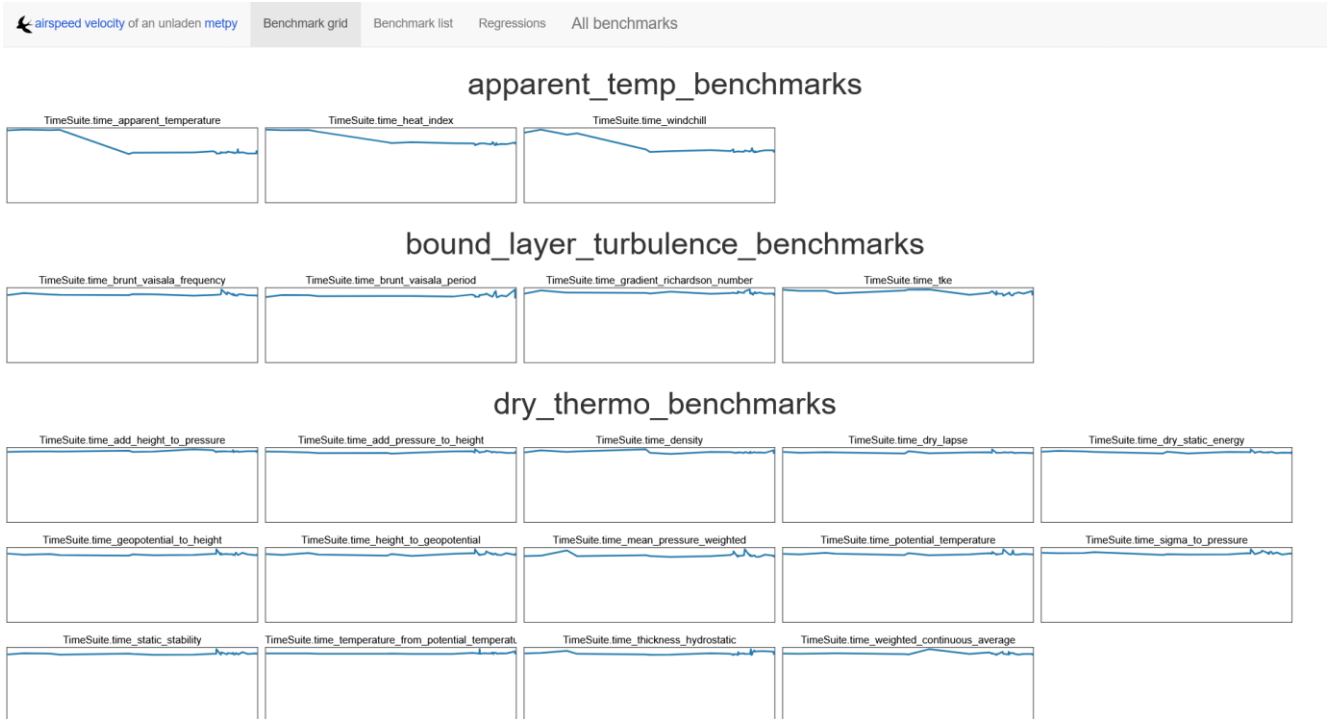
ASV Webpage



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What software did we use?

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GitHub

- Provides a home for the MetPy source code
- The MetPy repo holds the benchmarking functions and configs for CI/CD
- The MetPy-benchmark repo holds the results of the benchmark runs

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Airspeed Velocity

- ASV is an open-source python benchmarking package
- Creates environments based on historical states of a repo, runs the benchmark functions, and returns them in a pretty html format

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Jenkins

- Unidata's Jenkins instance is used for CI/CD workflows
- Runs on a machine owned by UCAR and ensures that the machine specs are the same between each benchmark run

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Docker

- Within Jenkins, the benchmarks run in a Docker container from a Dockerfile
- Improves consistency between runs and is portable to many devices for local benchmarking

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GitHub Actions

- The MetPy-benchmark repo has a GHA that uses ASV to generate the html from the results
- Action also deploys files to a static page

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How does benchmarking with ASV work?

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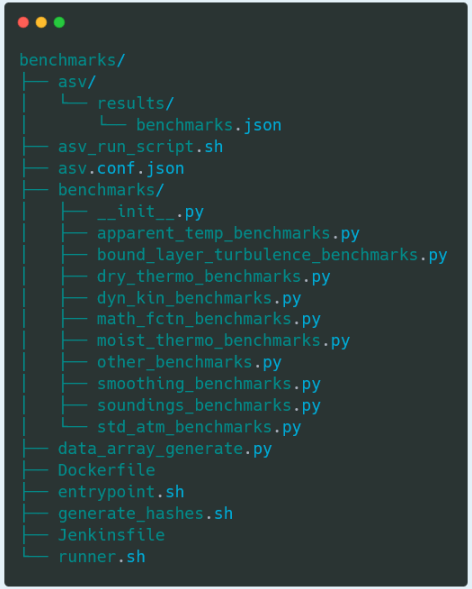
File Tree

- asv.conf.json: configuration file for ASV
- asv/results: where the results are stored
- benchmarks/.py files: benchmarking snippets



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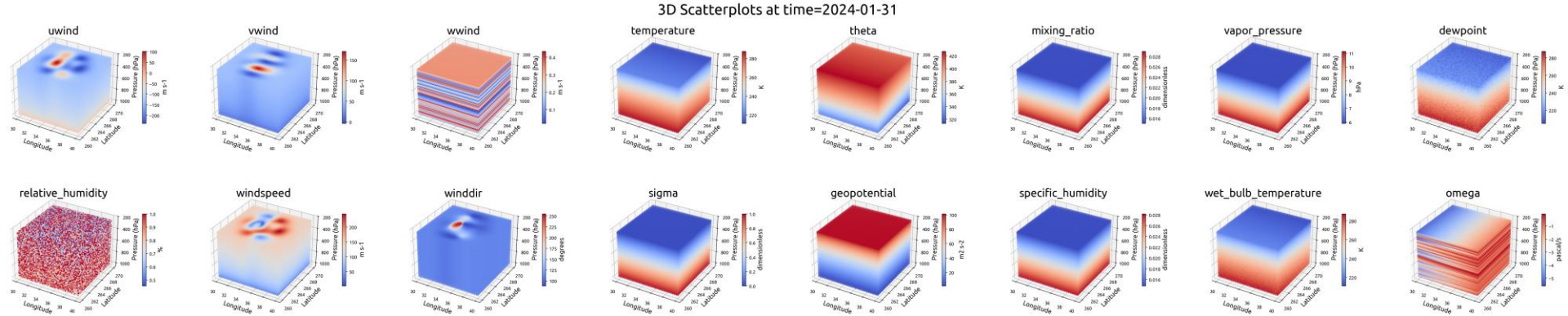
Benchmark Dataset



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Benchmark setup_cache

```
    def setup_cache(self):
        """Collect the sample dataset from the filepath and opens it as an
xarray.

        Returns
        -------
        ds
            Dataset with artificial meteorology data for testing
        """
        base_path = os.path.dirname(__file__)  # path to current file
        file_path = os.path.join(base_path, '..', 'data_array_compressed.nc')
        file_path = os.path.abspath(file_path)
        ds = xr.open_dataset(file_path)
        return ds
```

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Benchmark setup

```python
def setup(self, ds):
    """Set up the appropriate slices from the sample dataset for testing.

    Parameters
    ----------
    ds : dataset
        The dataset made in setup_cache which contains the testing data
    """
    self.timeslice = ds.isel(time=0)
    self.pressureslice = ds.isel(time=0, pressure=0)
```

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Example Benchmark

```python
def time_lcl(self, timeslice):
    """Benchmarks the LCL function over a 3d cube of data"""
  mpcalc.lcl(self.timeslice.pressure, self.timeslice.temperature,
             self.timeslice.dewpoint)
```

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How does the workflow run?

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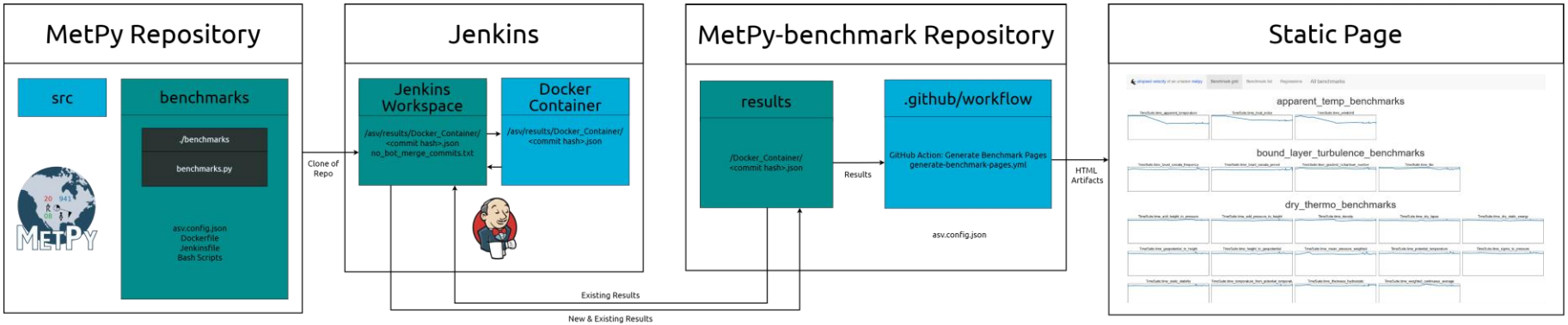
Jenkins Trigger

1) Jenkins is triggered Saturday morning



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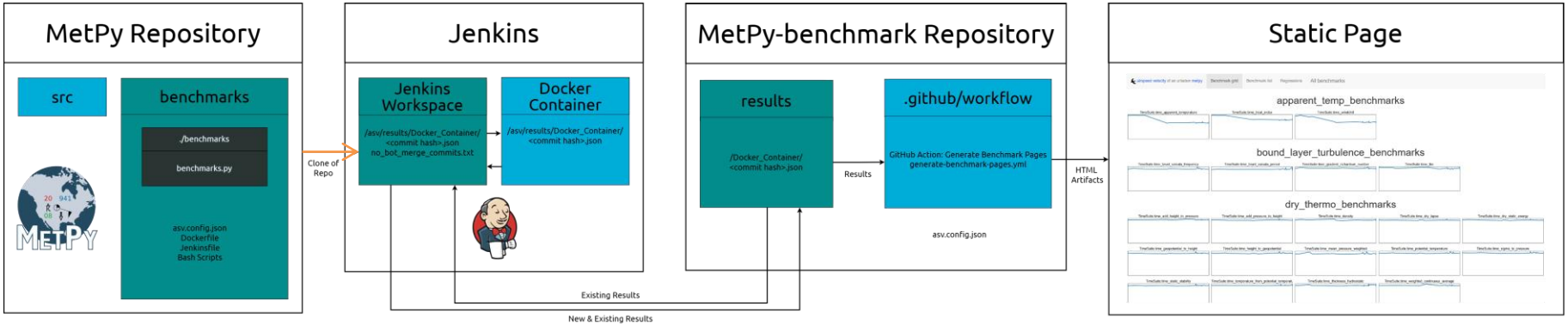
Jenkins Setup

2) Jenkins clones MetPy



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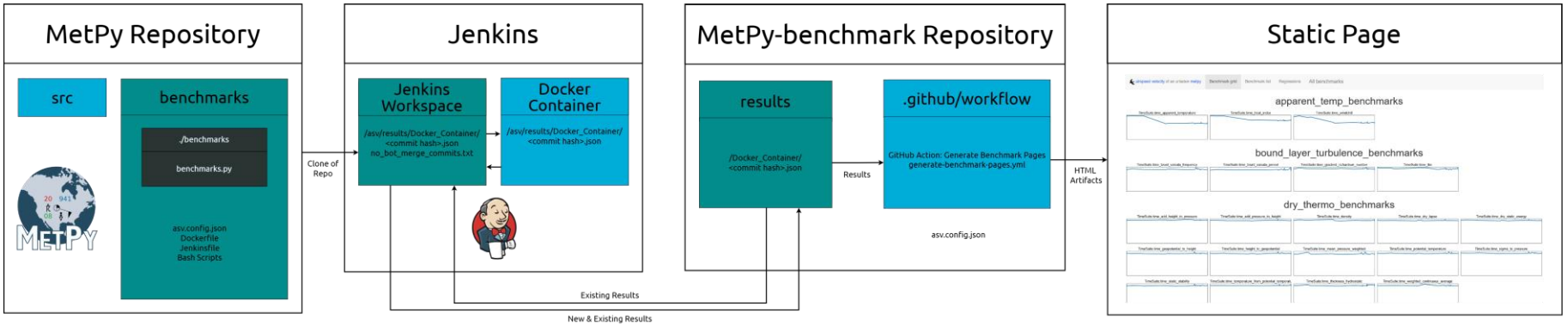
Jenkins Setup

3) Jenkins searches MetPy's history for minor version commits and recent merges



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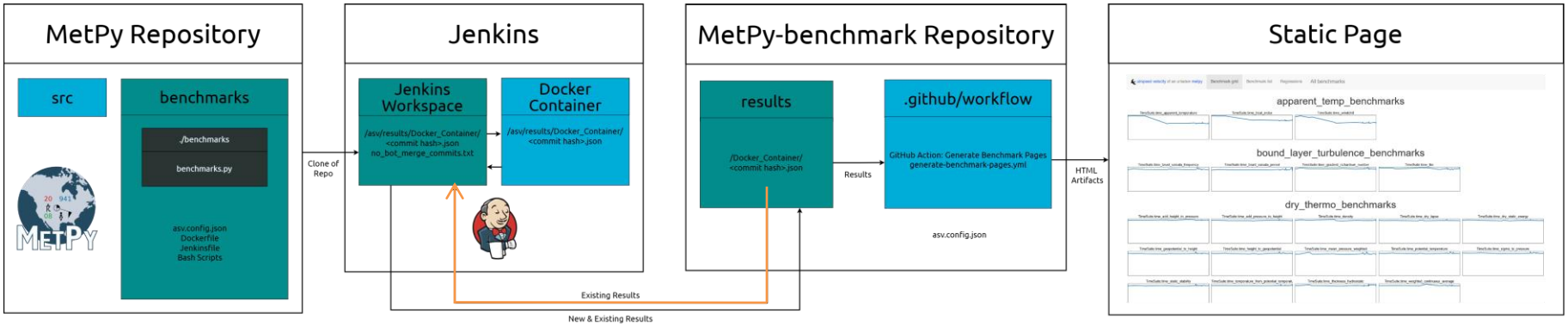
Jenkins Setup

4) From MetPy-benchmark, Jenkins copies the existing results



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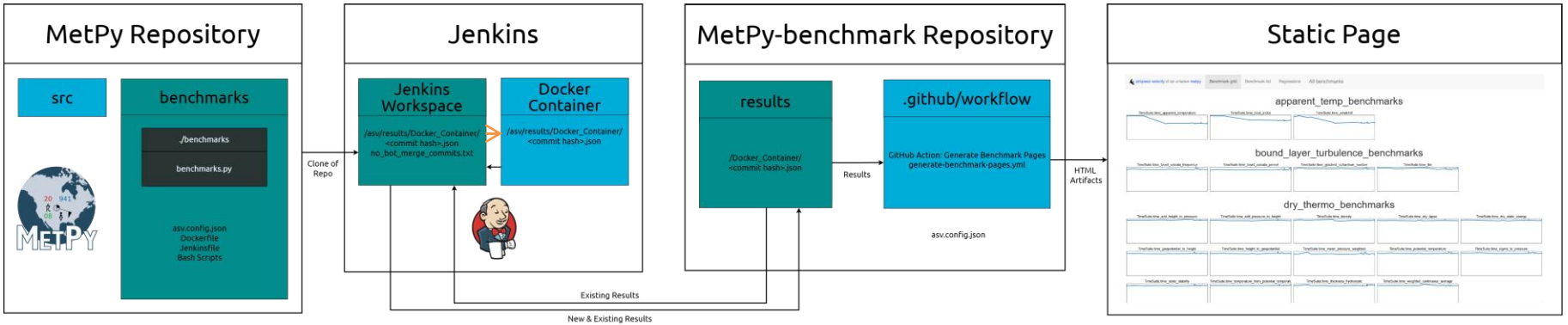
Jenkins Setup

5) Jenkins builds a docker container from the Dockerfile



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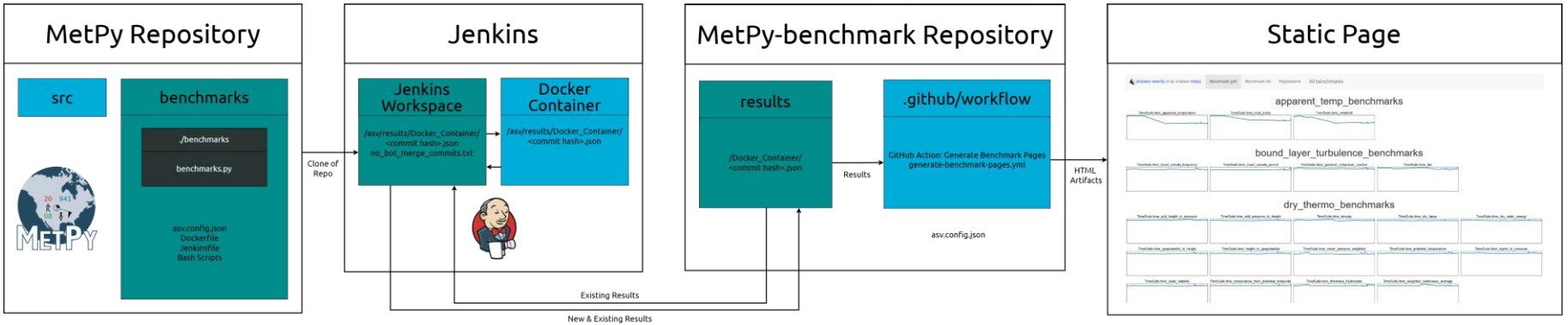
Docker runs Benchmarks

1) With a docker run command, the docker file runs benchmarks on the commit file



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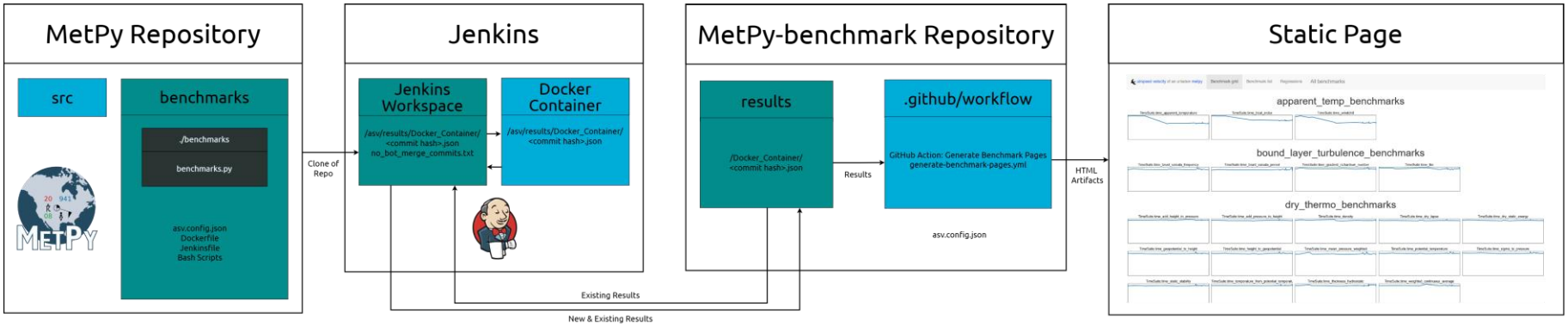
Docker runs Benchmarks

2) If there are already successful results for a certain commit, the benchmarks are skipped



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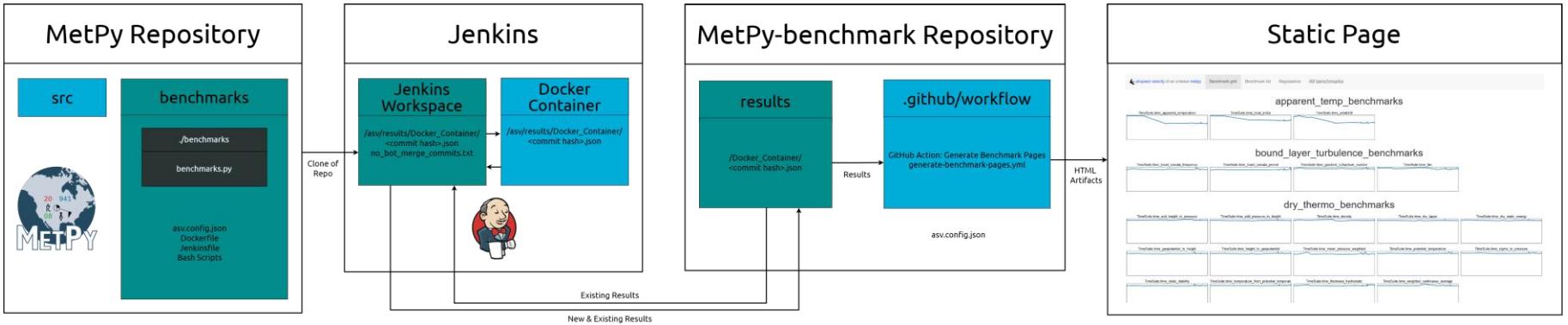
Docker runs Benchmarks

3) If there are not, like for a new commit, the benchmarks are run for this commit



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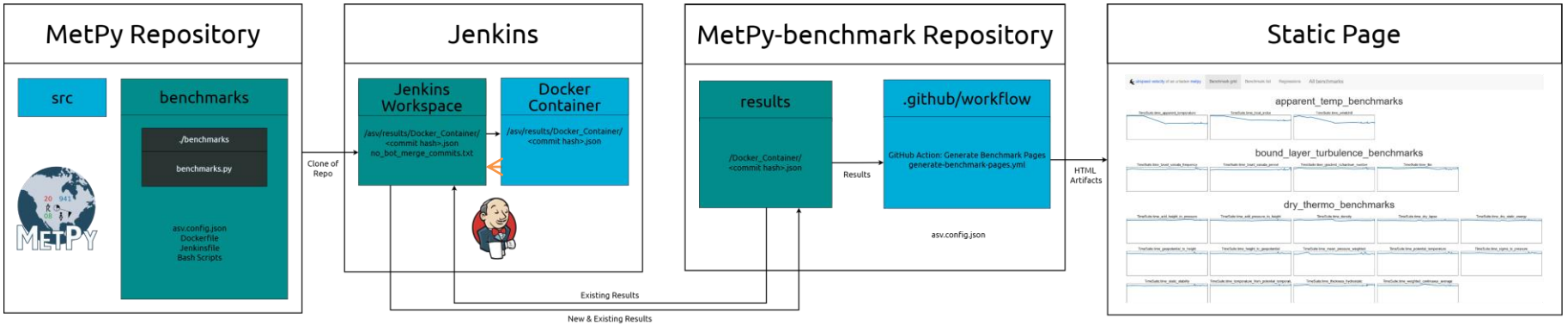
Jenkins saves results

1) The docker container terminates when it's finished



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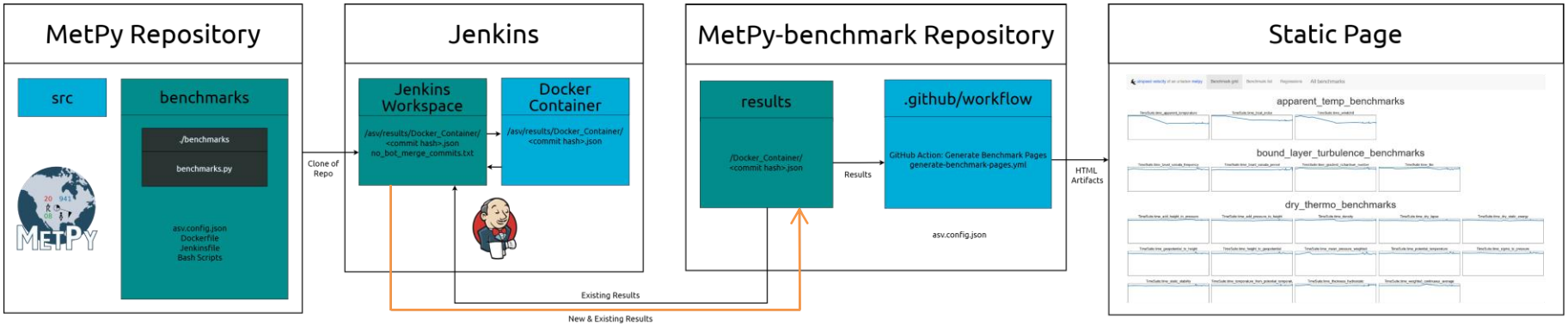
Jenkins saves results

2) Jenkins pushes the results, old and new, to the Metpy-benchmark repository



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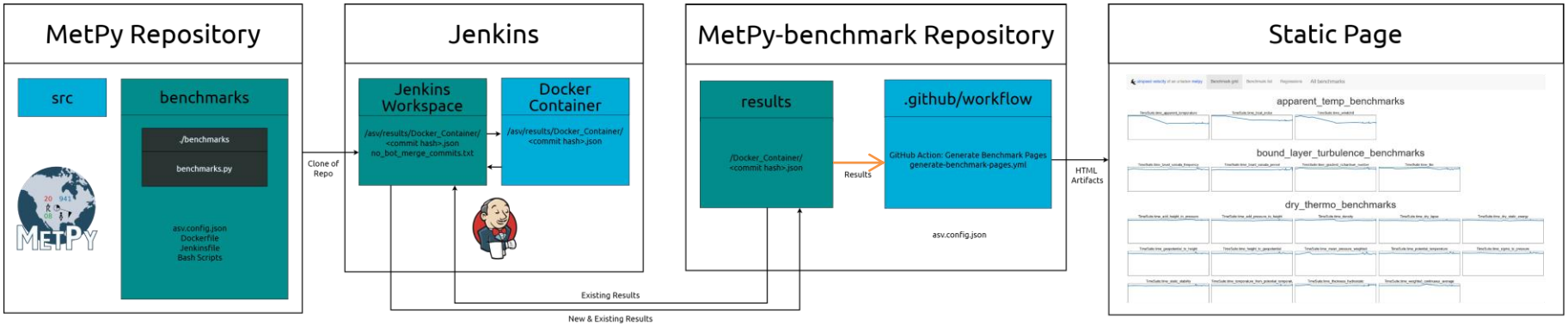
Metpy-benchmark Deployment

1) Upon push to Metpy-benchmark, a GitHub Action creates the html for the static page



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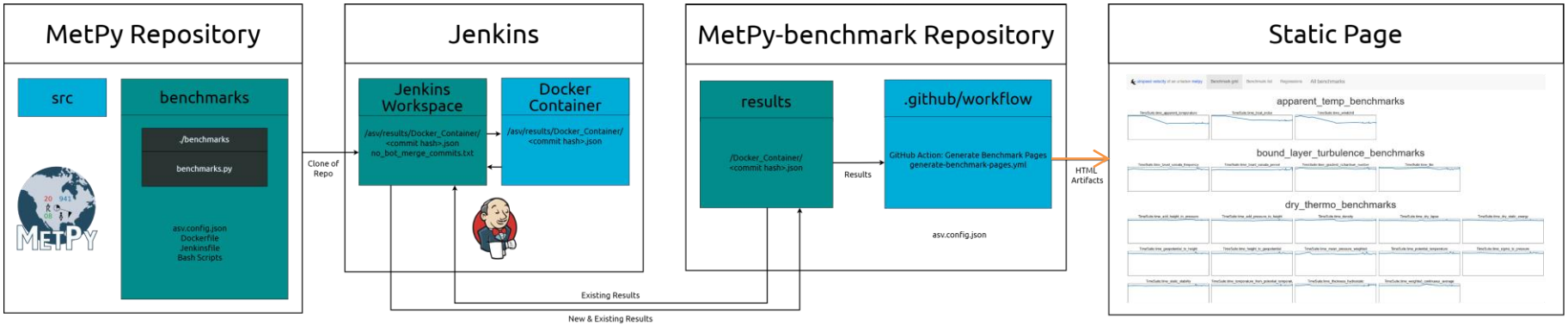
Metpy-benchmark Deployment

2) The GitHub action deploys the html to the static page



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Can we see performance changes before we merge commits?

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Comparative Benchmarking

- Comparative benchmarking is when you compare the performance of two branches
- ASV has a built-in function for this, and when combined with GHA, can do it automatically on pull requests

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Comparative GitHub Action

- We can compare the current main branch to the pull request branch using their commit hashes if the PR is labelled.
- Currently a failure occurs when a benchmark is 10% slower, but this is customizable

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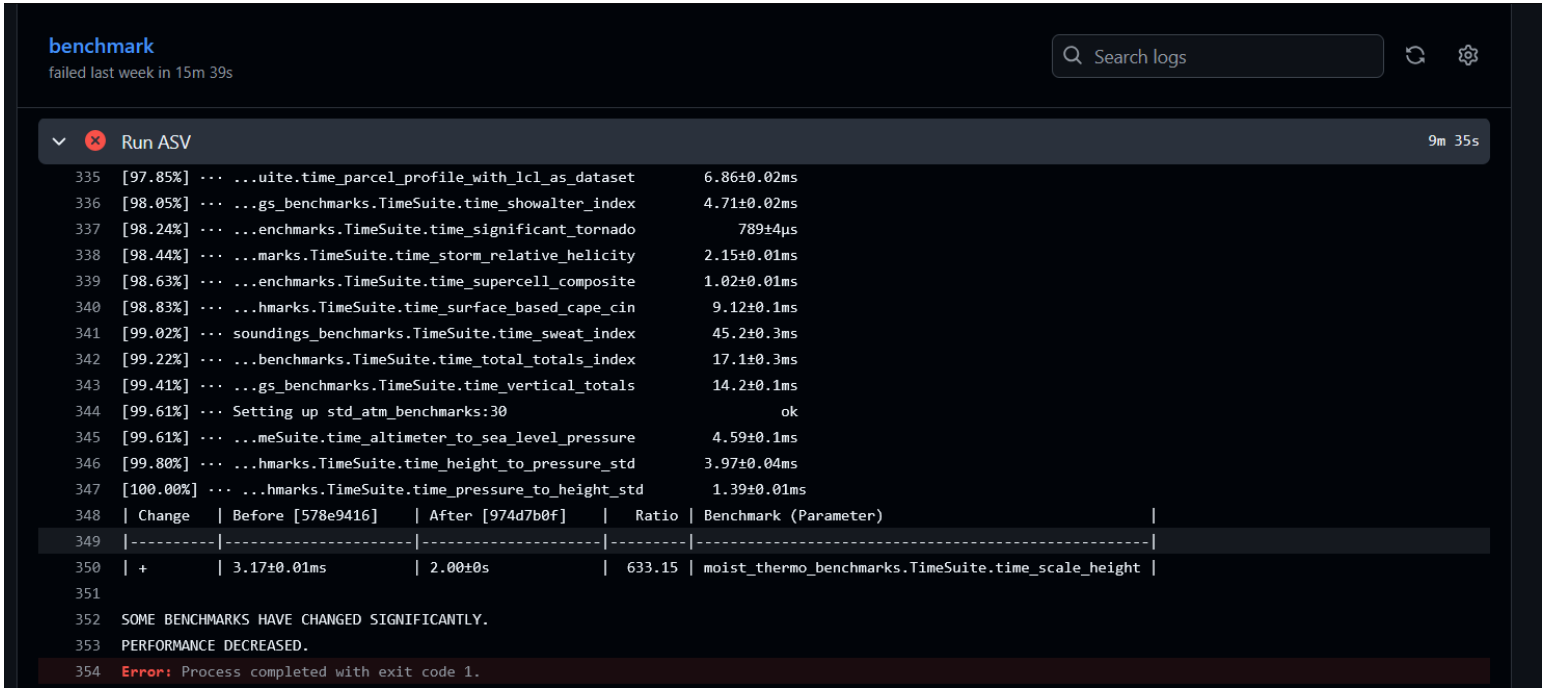
Example GitHub Action



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Local Comparisons

- You can also locally run a comparison assuming you have an untouched local main branch and have ASV installed
- This allows you to see if your changes are working as you anticipate

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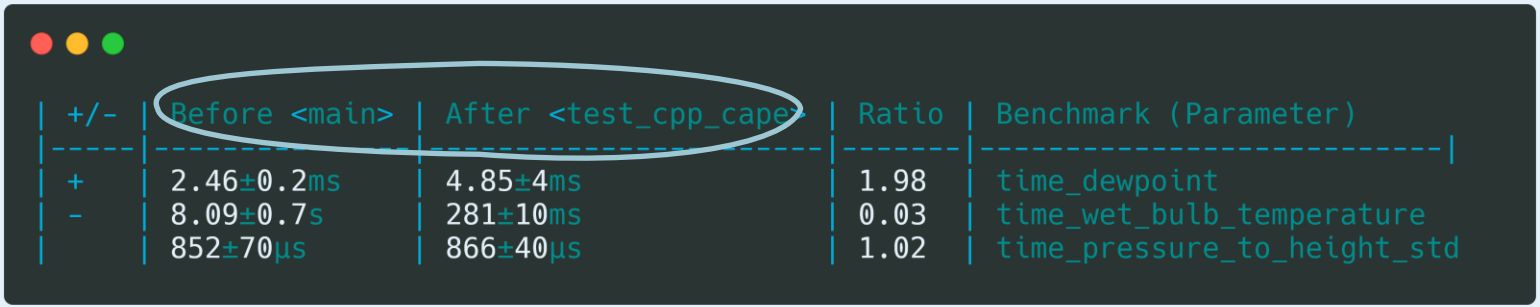
Example Local Comparison

- This compares main and test_cpp_cape



+/-	Before <main>	After <test_cpp_cape>	Ratio	Benchmark (Parameter)
+	2.46±0.2ms	4.85±4ms	1.98	time_dewpoint
-	8.09±0.7s	281±10ms	0.03	time_wet_bulb_temperature
	852±70µs	866±40µs	1.02	time_pressure_to_height_std

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Example Local Comparison

- The dewpoint function is 98% slower

+/-	Before <main>	After <test_cpp_cape>	Ratio	Benchmark (Parameter)
+	2.46±0.2ms	4.85±4ms	1.98	time_dewpoint
-	8.09±0.7s	281±10ms	0.03	time_wet_bulb_temperature
	852±70µs	866±40µs	1.02	time_pressure_to_height_std

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Example Local Comparison

- The wet_bulb function is 97% faster

+/-	Before <main>	After <test_cpp_cape>	Ratio	Benchmark (Parameter)
+	2.46±0.2ms	4.85±4ms	1.98	time_dewpoint
-	8.09±0.7s	281±10ms	0.03	time_wet_bulb_temperature
	852±70µs	866±40µs	1.02	time_pressure_to_height_std

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Example Local Comparison

- The p_to_h function hasn't changed much

+/-	Before <main>	After <test_cpp_cape>	Ratio	Benchmark (Parameter)
+	2.46±0.2ms	4.85±4ms	1.98	time_dewpoint
-	8.09±0.7s	281±10ms	0.03	time_wet_bulb_temperature
	852±70µs	866±40µs	1.02	time_pressure_to_height_std

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